

Supporting Information

A Unique Annulation of 7-Azaindoles with Alkenyl Esters to Produce π -Conjugated 7-Azaindole Derivatives

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Table of Contents

1. General Methods	S2
2. General Procedure for Synthesis of 7-Azaindole Derivatives and Characterization Data	S2-S8
3. Mechanism Study	S8-S11
4. NMR Spectra of 7-Azaindole Derivatives and Structure Determination	S12-S43

1. General Methods

NMR data were obtained for ^1H at 400 MHz or 600 MHz, and for ^{13}C at 101 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in CDCl_3 solution. ESI HRMS was recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2 and Water XEVO G2 Q-ToF. UV detection was monitored at 220 nm. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether. All 7-azaindoles were commercially available. *N*-substituted 7-azaindoles were prepared according to the literature procedures.^[1] Some electron-rich alkenes (**2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**) were commercially available. Other electron-rich alkenes were prepared according to the literature procedures.^[2]

2. General Procedure for Synthesis of Annulated 7-Azaindole Derivatives and Characterization Data

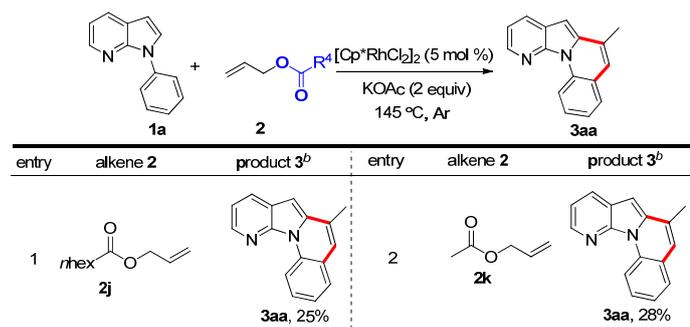
a. Synthesis of annulated 7-azaindole derivatives: 1-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine **1a** (0.1 mmol, 19.4 mg), isopropenyl acetate **2a** (0.8 mL, 7 mmol), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %) and KOAc (38.8 mg, 2 equiv) were stirred in seal tube at 145 °C for 80 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:200) to give the product **3aa** as a yellow solid (18.6 mg, 80%).

b. Synthesis of C-3 alkylated 7-azaindole derivative **4**: 6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline **3aa** (0.05 mmol, 11.6 mg), nitorstyrene (14.9 mg, 2 equiv), AlCl_3 (2 mg, 0.3 equiv) were stirred in 0.6 mL DCM at room temperature for 36 h under air. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:40) to give the product **4** as a yellow solid (12.4 mg, 65%).

c. Synthesis of C-3 arylated 7-azaindole derivative **5**: 6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline **3aa** (0.05 mmol, 11.6 mg), **1**, 4-benzoquinone (10.8 mg, 2 equiv), 1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-diyl hydrogen-phosphate (1.7 mg, 0.1 equiv) were stirred in 0.6 mL DCM at room temperature for 6 h under air. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:8) to give the product **5** as a yellow solid (13.6 mg, 80%).

d. Synthesis of C-3 iodo-7-azaindole derivative **6**: 6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline **3aa** (0.05 mmol, 11.6 mg), N-iodosuccinimide (12.3 mg, 1.1 equiv), KOH (8.4 mg, 3 equiv) were stirred in 0.6 mL CH_3CN at room temperature for 6 h under air. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:200) to give the product **6** as a yellow solid (17.5 mg, 98%).

SI 1 Scope of allyl acetates



^a General reaction conditions unless otherwise specified: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.8 mL of **2**, 5 mol % of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂, 2 equiv of KOAc, 145 °C, Ar atmosphere. ^b Isolated yield.

Allyl acetate **2j** and **2k** as coupling partners were also tolerated, giving **3aa** in 25% and 28% yields, respectively.

6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3aa**). 80 h, yellow solid, 80% yield; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.4, 140.5, 136.2, 134.0, 127.2, 127.1, 126.2, 125.8, 122.7, 122.6, 122.3, 121.0, 116.9, 116.6, 90.9, 17.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂N₂+H 233.1079, found 233.1071.

2,6-dimethylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ba**). 75 h, yellow solid, 94% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.95 (s, 1H), 8.57–8.55 (m, 1H), 8.11–8.08 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.4, 140.3, 137.5, 136.4, 134.0, 126.9, 126.0, 124.5, 123.4, 122.6, 121.0, 120.3, 117.0, 116.5, 90.6, 21.2, 17.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄N₂+H 247.1235, found 247.1236.

2-chloro-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ca**);

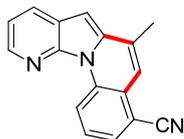
2-chloro-5-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ca'**); (**3ca/3ca'** = 5:1). 60 h, yellow solid, 71% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.26 (m, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.4, 141.9, 136.8, 135.3, 133.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 127.1, 124.0, 123.6, 122.7, 122.2, 122.0, 119.3, 117.9, 117.9, 116.7, 92.6, 92.5, 18.5, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁ClN₂+H 267.0689, found 267.0690.

6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-2-carbonitrile (**3da**);

5-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-2-carbonitrile (**3da'**); (**3da/3da'** = 1.4:1). 90 h, yellow solid, 61% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.29 (d, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 8.51–8.46 (m, 2H), 8.07–8.01 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C

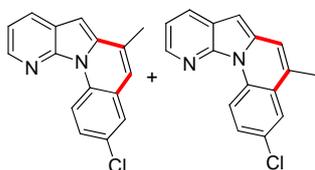
NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3, 146.0, 142.6, 141.9, 136.1, 135.5, 134.8, 134.3, 130.8, 130.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 127.3, 127.0, 126.0, 125.9, 124.8, 122.2, 122.1, 121.8, 121.7, 121.0, 119.4, 119.2, 118.2, 118.2, 111.3, 110.4, 93.9, 93.7, 19.2, 18.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₁N₃+H 258.1031, found 258.1038.

6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-4-carbonitrile (**3da''**). 90 h, yellow solid, 36% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.32–10.30 (m, 1H), 8.56–8.54 (m, 1H), 8.14–8.12 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.5, 142.5, 136.1, 135.1, 130.9, 128.9, 127.6, 127.6, 125.4, 122.3, 122.0, 119.4, 118.3, 117.7, 108.9, 93.8, 18.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₁N₃+Na 280.0851, found 280.0855.



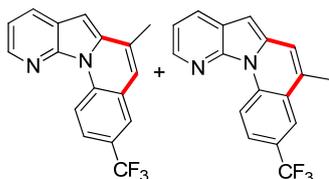
3-chloro-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ea**);

3-chloro-5-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ea'**); (**3ea/3ea'** = 3:2). 80 h, yellow solid, 74% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.03 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 9.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.53–8.51 (m, 1H), 8.48–8.47 (m, 1H), 8.09–8.07 (m, 1H), 8.04–8.02 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 2.41 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.2, 145.9, 141.8, 141.2, 136.6, 135.3, 133.3, 130.3, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 126.2, 125.5, 125.1, 124.0, 122.3, 121.9, 119.5, 119.2, 118.9, 117.8, 92.8, 92.5, 19.2, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁ClN₂+H 267.0689, found 267.0692, 269.0668.



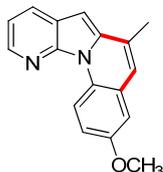
6-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3fa**);

5-methyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3fa'**); (**3fa/3fa'** = 3:2). 75 h, yellow solid, 73%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 10.12 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.82–7.75 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 2H), 2.43–2.40 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.5, 146.2, 142.1, 141.4, 137.9, 136.7, 135.4, 130.6, 128.5, 128.1, 125.7, 125.6, 125.3 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 125.0 (q, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 124.4 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 123.9, 123.4, 122.9, 122.6, 122.5, 122.1, 121.4 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 119.1, 118.4, 118.2, 118.1, 93.5, 93.1, 19.2, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₁F₃N₂+Na 323.0772, found 323.0764.



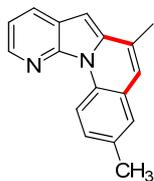
3-methoxy-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ga**). 50 h, yellow solid, 50% yield;

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.02 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.55–8.53 (m, 1H), 8.12–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.05 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 3.93–3.91 (m, 3H), 2.49–2.47 (m, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3, 145.0, 140.5, 135.8, 128.5, 127.1, 126.4, 123.9, 122.4, 120.7, 118.1, 116.3, 114.3, 109.2, 90.5, 54.5, 17.1 ppm. ESI HRMS:

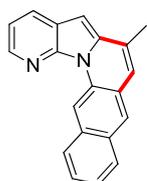


calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O+H 263.1184, found 263.1183.

3,6-dimethylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ha**). 90 h, yellow solid, 68% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.56–8.54 (m, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0, 150.2, 143.8, 142.9, 142.3, 136.7, 134.0, 130.7, 128.9, 128.0, 127.8, 126.5, 126.1, 124.6, 122.5, 116.8, 108.5, 94.0, 64.4, 45.3, 42.5, 30.3, 27.5, 18.9, 13.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄N₂+H 247.1235, found 247.1233.

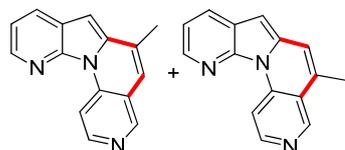


6-methylbenzo[g]pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ia**). 80 h, yellow solid, 99% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.89–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.61–6.60 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.4, 142.2, 137.0, 133.3, 132.9, 129.8, 128.3, 128.1, 127.4, 127.0, 126.0, 125.8, 124.8, 124.3, 123.9, 122.1, 117.4, 114.7, 94.0, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₄N₂+H 283.1235, found 283.1237.



6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,6]naphthyridine (**3ja**);

4-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,6]naphthyridine (**3ja'**); (**3ja**/**3ja'** = 2:1). 100 h, yellow solid, 30% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.84 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 9.78 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.74 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.2, 148.8, 148.3, 146.8, 146.7, 142.5, 141.8, 139.5, 136.7, 135.3, 132.1, 132.0, 131.9, 129.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 122.5, 120.4, 119.3, 119.2, 118.5, 118.5, 111.8, 111.7, 94.2, 94.0, 18.6, 18.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁N₃+H 234.1031, found 234.1023.



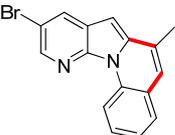
1-(5-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolin-7-yl)ethanone (**3ka'**). 80 h, yellow solid, 77% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.37 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H) 2.64 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.0, 146.6, 141.9, 139.8, 139.0, 135.0, 130.1, 128.8, 124.7, 124.6, 124.4, 121.2, 119.7, 119.5, 117.9, 105.2, 31.7, 20.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₈H₁₄N₂O+H 275.1184, found 275.1186.

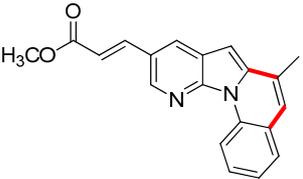


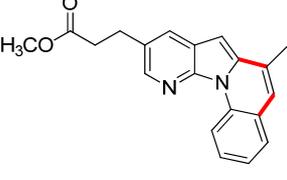
8-chloro-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ma**). 80 h, yellow solid, 55% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.04 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.5, 137.6, 135.1, 134.8, 128.4, 127.4, 126.7, 124.4, 123.8, 123.8, 121.4, 118.0, 117.6, 90.4, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS:

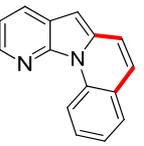


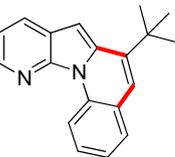
calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁ClN₂+H 267.0689, found 267.0693, 267.0664.

9-bromo-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3na**). 80 h, yellow solid, 60% yield;  ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.24 (m, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.5, 141.8, 138.4, 134.6, 129.8, 128.4, 127.4, 126.5, 124.4, 123.6, 123.6, 117.8, 113.7, 91.3, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁BrN₂+H 311.0184, found 311.01753, 313.0160.

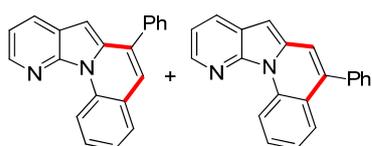
(E)-methyl 3-(6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolin-9-yl)acrylate (**3oa**). 90 h, yellow solid, 92% yield;  ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.99 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.59 (t, *J* = 19.6 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.4, 146.9, 143.1, 142.1, 138.5, 134.6, 128.4, 127.4, 126.7, 126.7, 124.2, 124.1, 123.8, 121.9, 118.0, 117.1, 92.4, 51.7, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂+H 317.1290, found 317.1284.

methyl 3-(6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolin-9-yl)propanoate (**3pa**). 90 h, yellow solid, 82% yield;  ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.61–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.17–3.13 (m, 2H), 2.76–2.72 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.1, 145.5, 142.1, 137.6, 135.0, 129.6, 128.2, 127.4, 127.3, 126.8, 123.6, 123.6, 123.2, 122.0, 118.0, 117.7, 91.8, 91.6, 51.7, 36.2, 28.5, 18.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂+H 319.1447, found 319.1447.

pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ab**). 75 h, yellow solid, 42% yield;  ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.1, 141.6, 136.1, 135.8, 129.2, 128.2, 128.0, 125.4, 123.5, 123.4, 122.2, 118.8, 118.2, 117.7, 93.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₅H₁₀N₂+H 219.0922, found 219.0915.

6-(tert-butyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ac**). 90 h, yellow oil, 45% yield;  ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.20 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.57–8.56 (m, 1H), 8.14–8.12 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 1.61–1.56 (m, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.6, 141.6, 139.0, 134.9, 128.6, 128.0, 123.5, 123.3, 121.6, 121.2, 117.9, 117.6, 95.9, 35.5, 29.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈N₂+H 275.1548, found 275.1540.

6-phenylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ad**);
5-phenylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ad'**); (**3ad/3ad'** = 18:1). 90 h, yellow solid, 44% yield; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.19 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H),



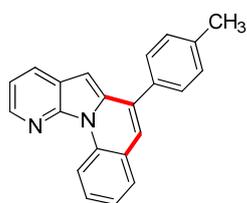
8.08 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (dt, $J = 7.1, 3.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 7.8, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.5, 141.8, 138.3, 135.9, 135.4, 132.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 124.3, 123.7, 123.5, 122.0, 118.1, 117.7, 94.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2+\text{H}$ 295.1235, found 295.1239.

6-(4-chlorophenyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3ae**). 90 h, yellow solid, 38% yield;



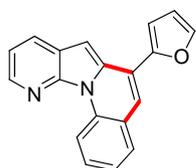
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.18 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.60–8.58 (m, 1H), 8.09–8.07 (m, 1H), 7.70–7.65 (m, 4H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.5, 142.0, 136.7, 135.6, 135.4, 134.2, 131.0, 129.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 124.5, 123.6, 123.5, 122.0, 118.1, 117.9, 94.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2+\text{H}$ 329.0846, found 329.0838, 331.0824.

6-(p-tolyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**3af**). 90 h, yellow solid, 42% yield; ^1H NMR



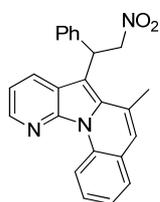
(400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.18 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.59–8.58 (m, 1H), 8.09–8.07 (m, 1H), 7.69–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.5, 141.8, 138.2, 136.1, 135.4, 135.4, 132.2, 129.4, 128.9, 128.3, 128.3, 128.1, 124.1, 123.8, 123.5, 122.1, 118.1, 117.7, 94.3, 21.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2+\text{H}$ 309.1392, found 309.1382.

6-(furan-2-yl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3ag**). 50 h, yellow solid, 35% yield; ^1H NMR



(400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.60–8.58 (m, 1H), 8.15 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.62–6.61 (m, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 150.9, 146.3, 142.4, 142.0, 135.3, 132.8, 129.3, 128.5, 128.4, 123.6, 123.1, 122.1, 122.0, 120.9, 118.1, 117.9, 111.6, 108.6, 94.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ 285.1028, found 285.1026.

6-methyl-7-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**4**). 36 h, yellow solid,

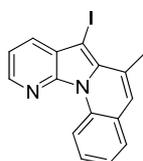


65% yield; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.24 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.56–8.54 (m, 1H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.18 (m, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.15 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 1H), 5.42–5.37 (m, 1H), 5.27–5.22 (m, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.1, 142.1, 139.6, 135.2, 134.1, 129.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.5, 127.2, 127.1, 126.5, 123.6, 123.3, 120.5, 118.4, 117.5, 103.5, 99.9, 79.2, 40.0, 22.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2+\text{H}$ 382.1556, found 382.1543.



2-(6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolin-7-yl)benzene-1,4-diol (**5**). 24 h, yellow solid, 80% yield; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 10.12 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.80–6.78 (m, 1H),

6.71–6.68 (m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO): δ 149.7, 149.2, 145.2, 142.6, 134.9, 132.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 124.8, 124.0, 123.7, 123.0, 121.8, 119.4, 118.4, 117.7, 116.4, 116.0, 105.7, 19.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{H}$ 341.1290, found 341.1288.

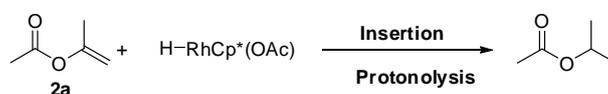


7-iodo-6-methylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolone (**6**). 1.5 h, yellow solid, 98% yield; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.56–8.55 (m, 1H), 7.99–7.97 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.2, 143.0, 135.8, 134.4, 129.8, 128.5, 127.2, 127.1, 126.7, 125.7, 123.8, 123.4, 118.5, 118.2, 48.1, 22.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2+\text{H}$ 359.0045, found 359.0039.

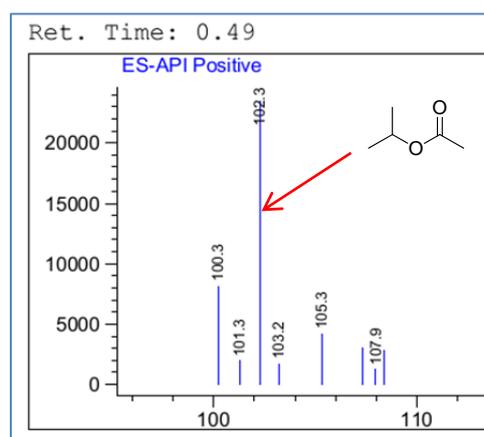
3. Mechanism Study

a. Parallel experiments

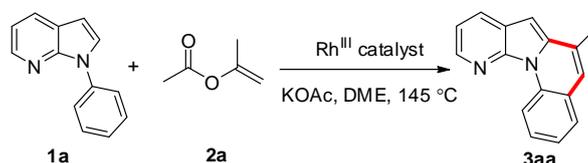
1) Alkyl acetate was detected.



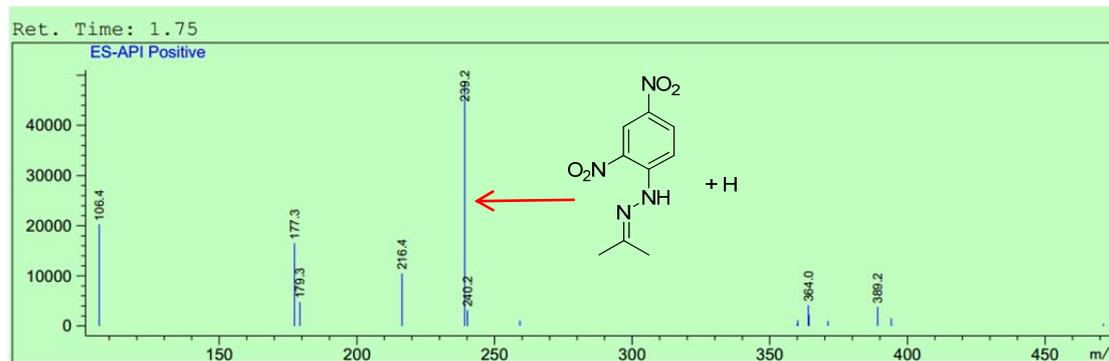
Alkyl acetate was detected by LCMS, which might be the possibility of H-Rh species reacts with isopropenyl acetate and followed by protonolysis of Rh-C bond.



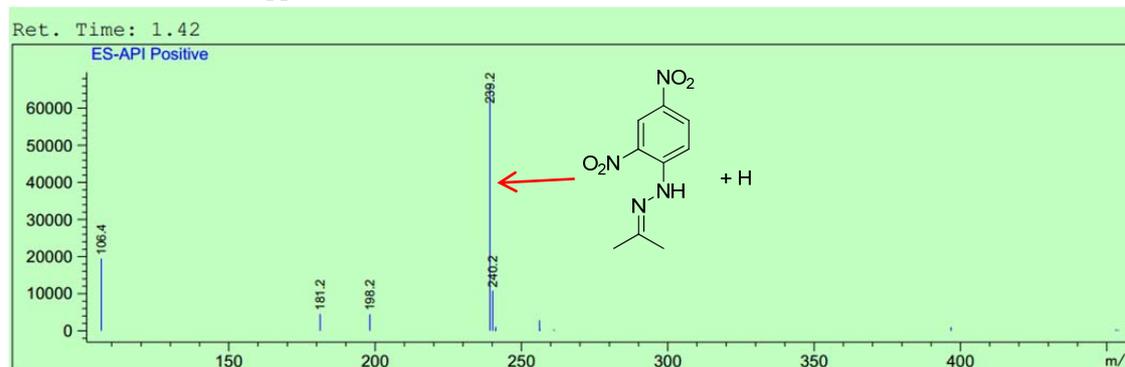
2) Acetone was detected



1-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine **1a** (0.1 mmol, 19.4 mg), isopropenyl acetate **2a** (0.5 mL), $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), KOAc (19.4 mg, 2 equiv) were stirred in seal tube at 145 °C for 80 h. After completion 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (19.8 mg, 1.0 equiv) was added in the mixture to stir for another 6 h. As a result, the released acetone was trapped by 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine. The corresponding product 1-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)-2-(propan-2-ylidene)hydrazine was detected by LCMS.



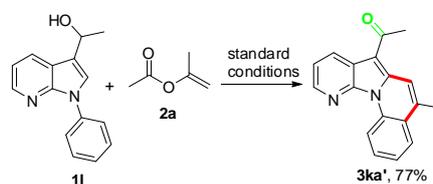
To illustrate the relationship between substrates and the released acetone, we took another reaction: Isopropenyl acetate **2a** (0.5 mL), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), KOAc (19.4 mg, 2 equiv) were stirred in seal tube at 145 °C for 80 h without **1a**. After completion 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (19.8 mg, 1.0 equiv) was added in the mixture to stir for another 6 h. As a result, we also trapped the released acetone.



These results indicates that the formation of acetone without any relation with substrate **1a**. Acetone would be formed from the decomposition or hydrolysis of the vinyl acetate when isopropenyl acetate **2a** was applied in these standard conditions, which is still unclear right now.

Moreover, hydroxyl group in substrate **11** can be oxidized in the reaction, probably due to the decomposed products of alkyl acetate could act as the oxidant.

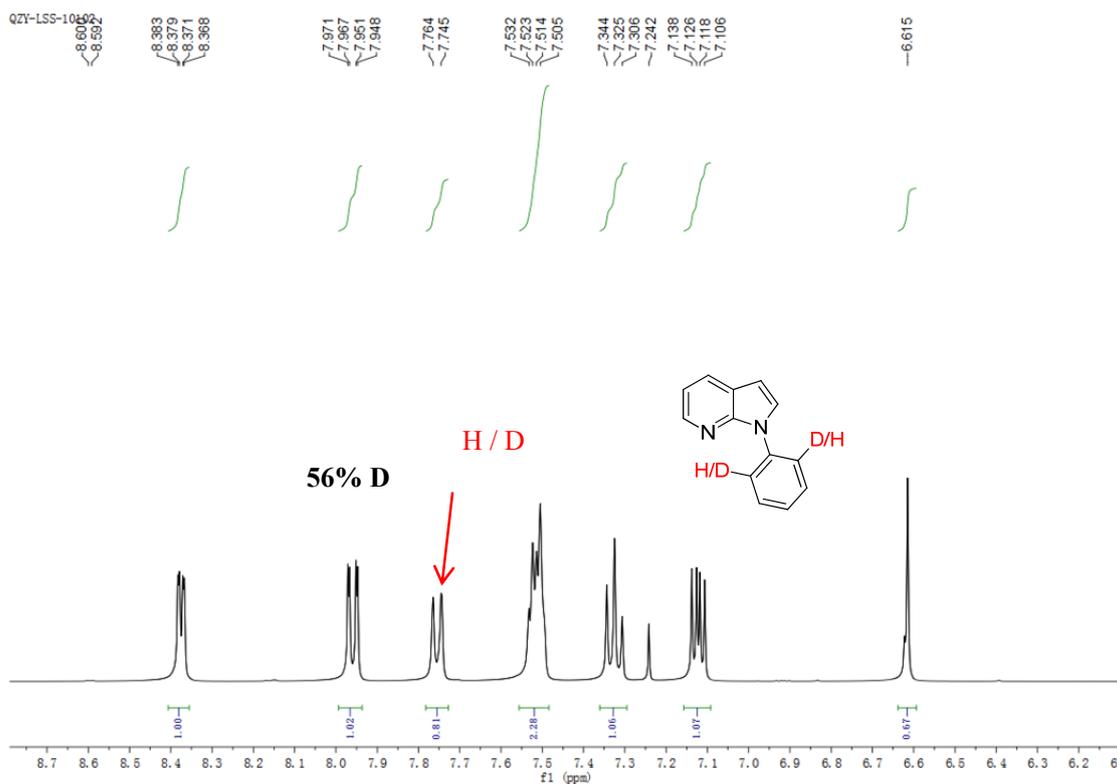
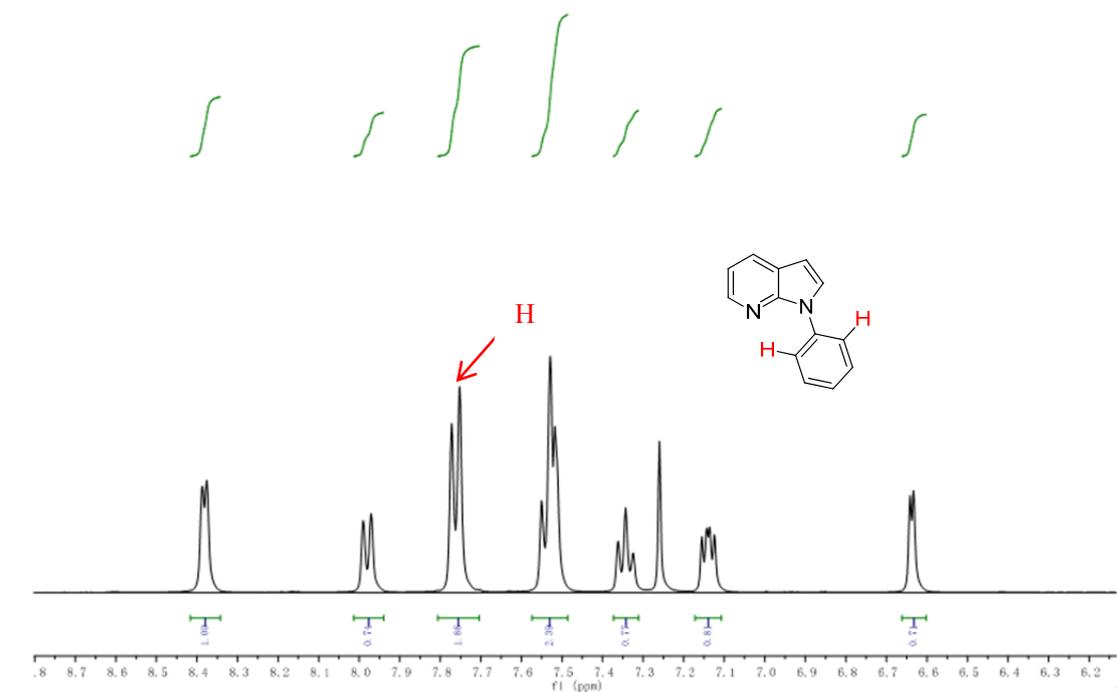
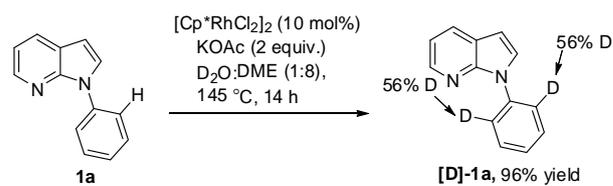
SI 2. **11** reacted with **2a** under standard conditions:



b. Kinetic Isotopic Effects

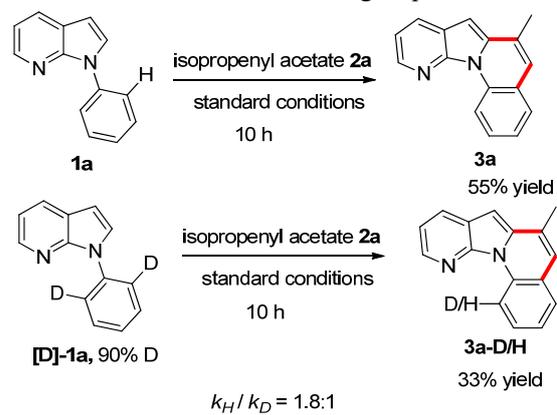
Deuterium-labeling experiments were carried out to study the mechanism of this coupling reaction. 1-phenyl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine **1a** (0.1 mmol, 19.4 mg), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (6.2 mg, 10 mol %) and KOAc (38.8 mg, 2 equiv.) were stirred using D₂O:DME (0.1 mL:0.8 mL) as solvent in seal tube at 145 °C for 14 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:40) to give the product (18.6 mg, 96% yield).

The deuterium rate was obtained from ^1H NMR.



To investigate the mechanism of this reaction, the standard substrate 1a and [D]- 1a were stirred in the parallel reaction under standard conditions for 10 h. According to the isolated yields and

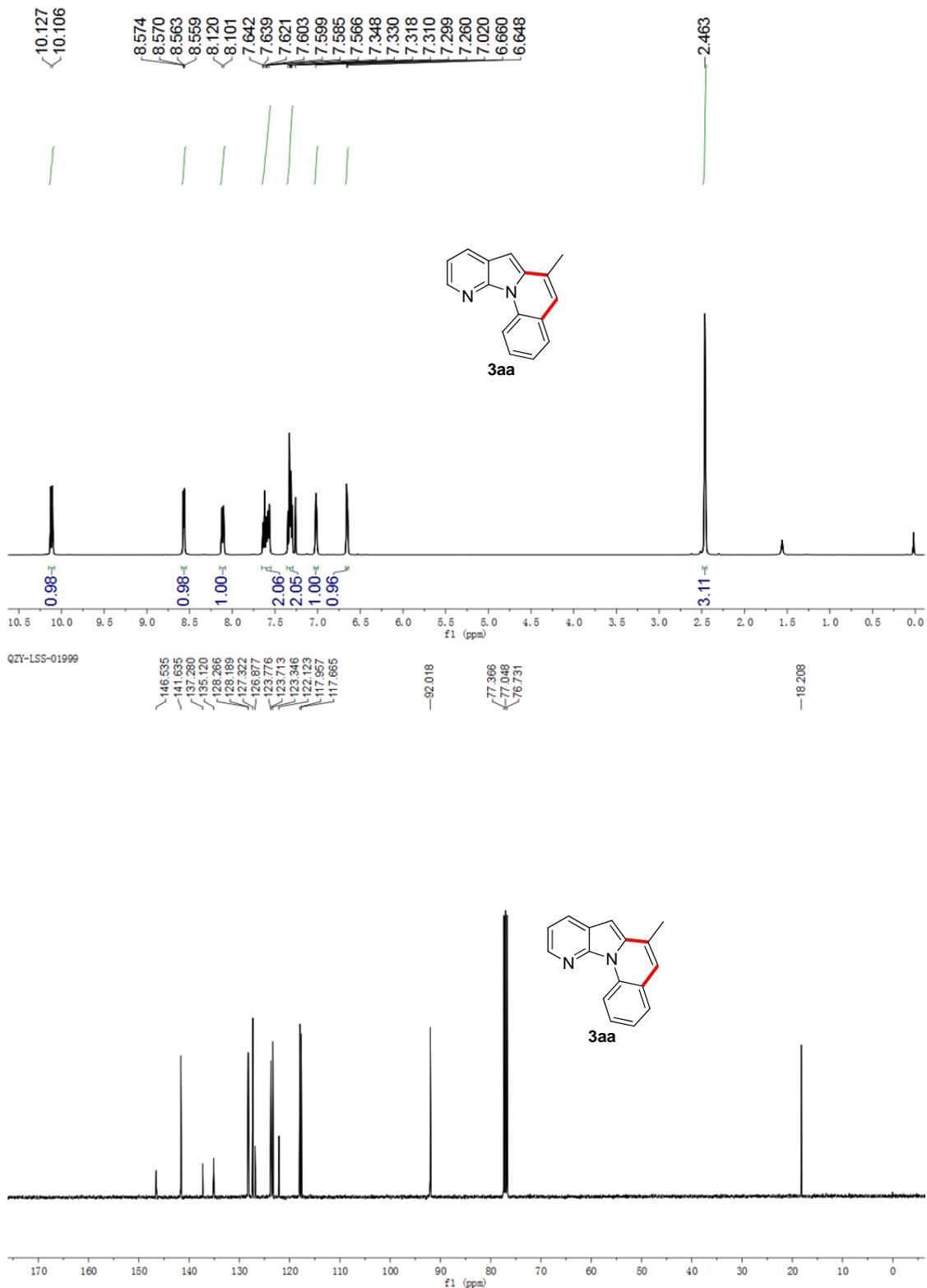
deuterated ratio, the DKIE of 1.8 was observed thus indicating that C-H bond cleavage might be involved in the rate-determining step.

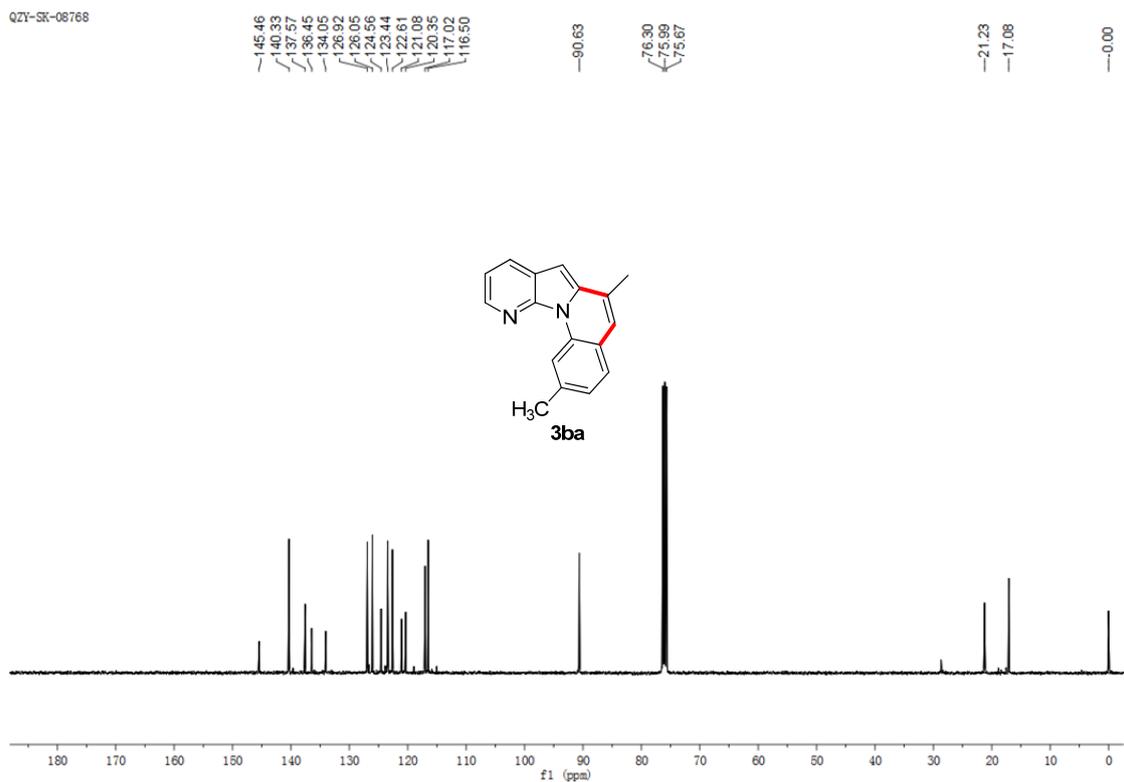
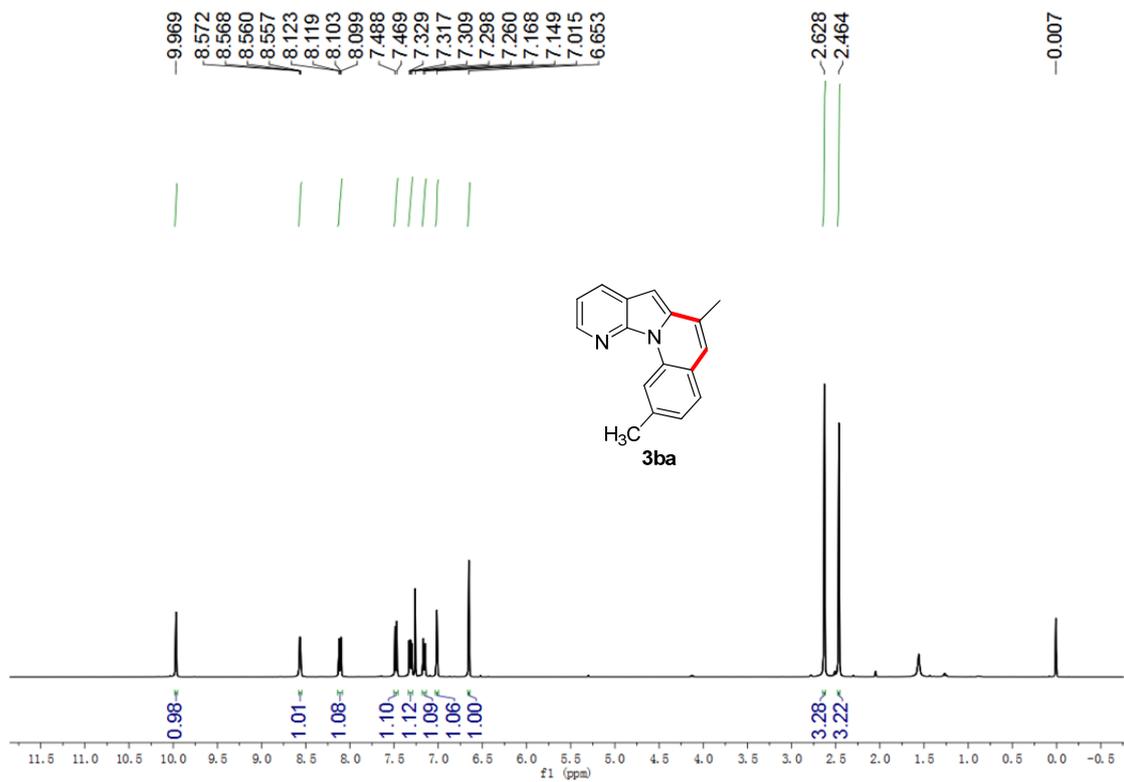


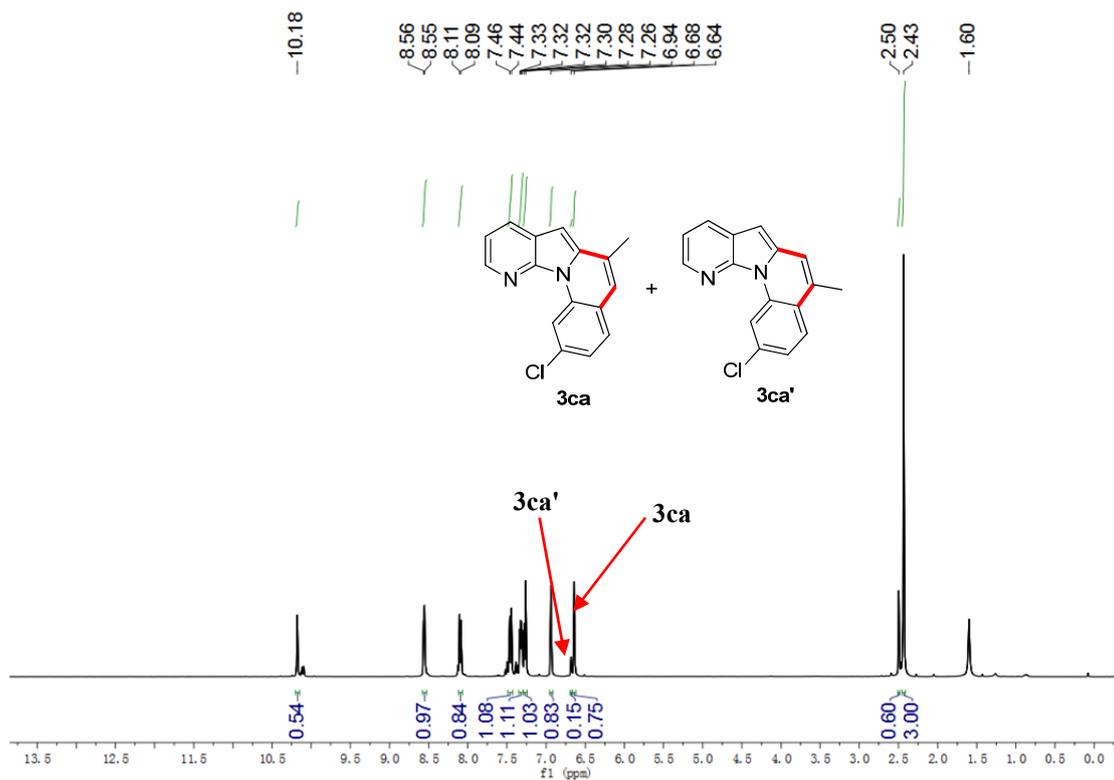
Reference

- [1] G. Qian, X. Hong, B. Liu, H. Mao, B. Xu, *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 5294.
- [2] L. J. Goossen, J. Paetzold, D. Koley, *Chem. Commun.* **2003**, 706.

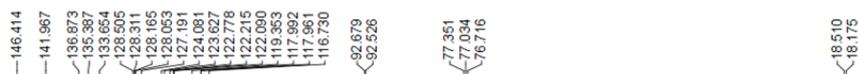
4. NMR Spectra of Annulation 7-Azaindole Derivatives and Structure Determination

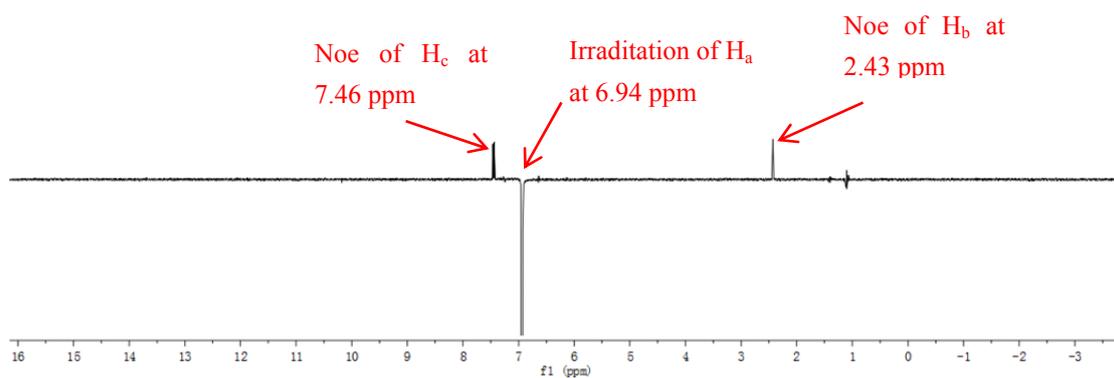
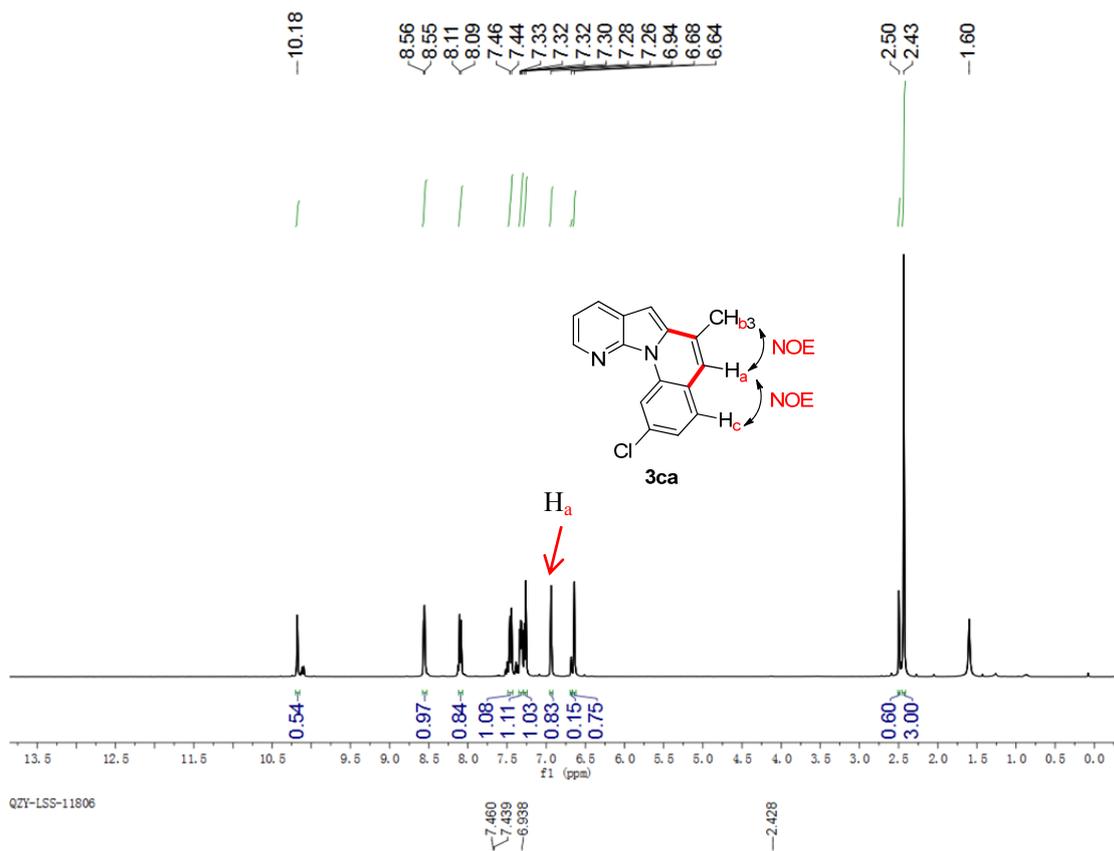


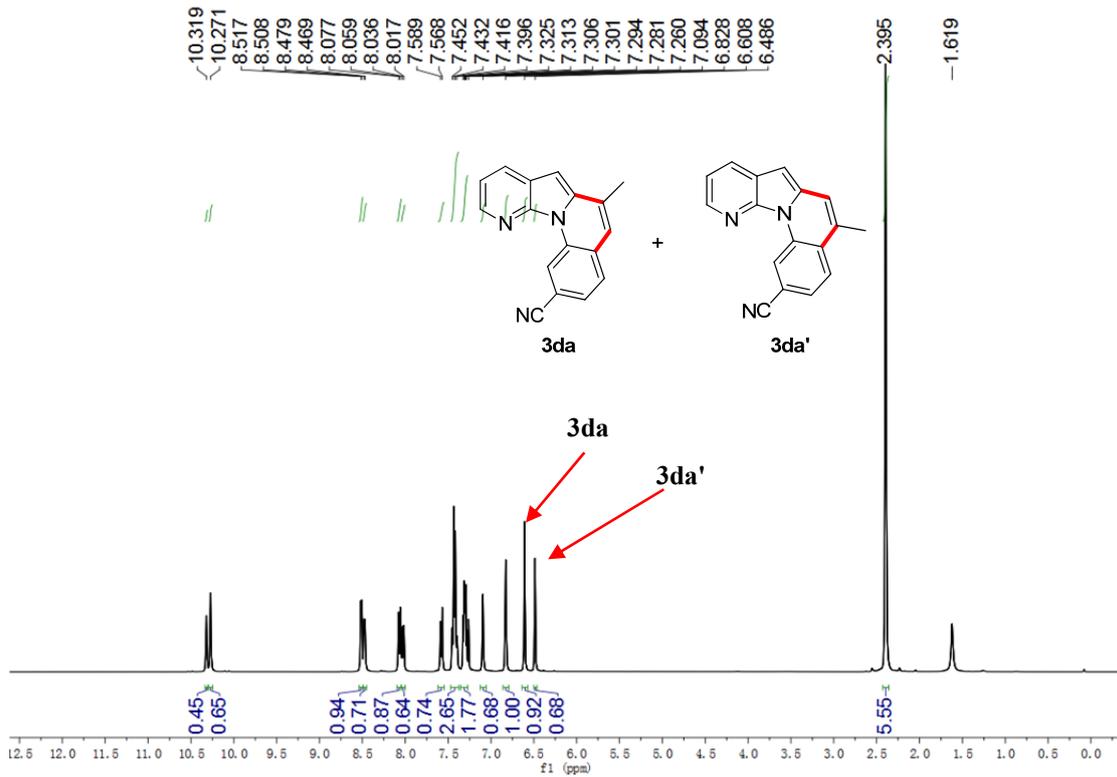




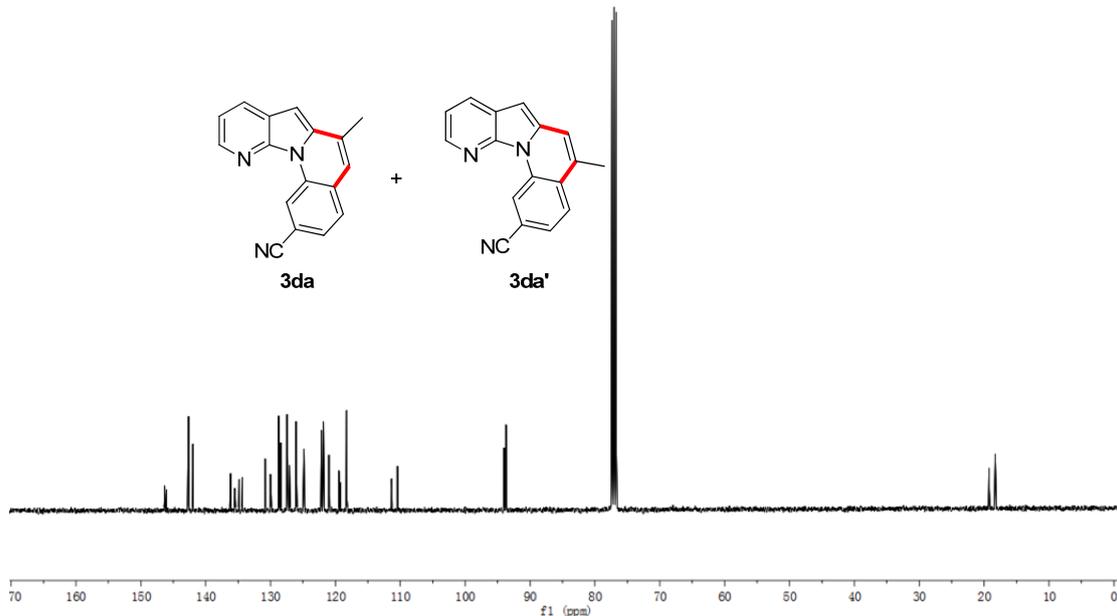
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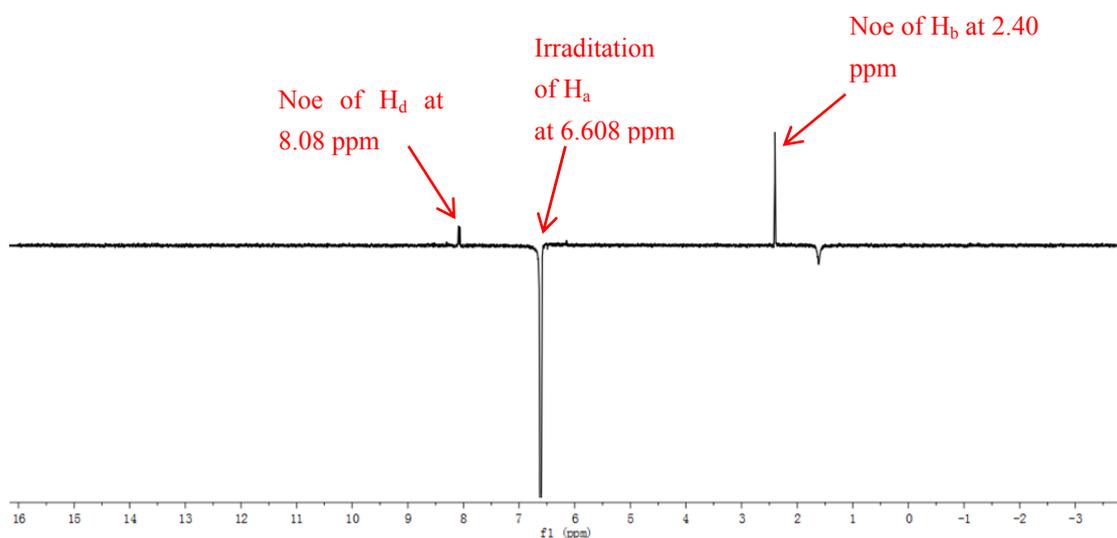
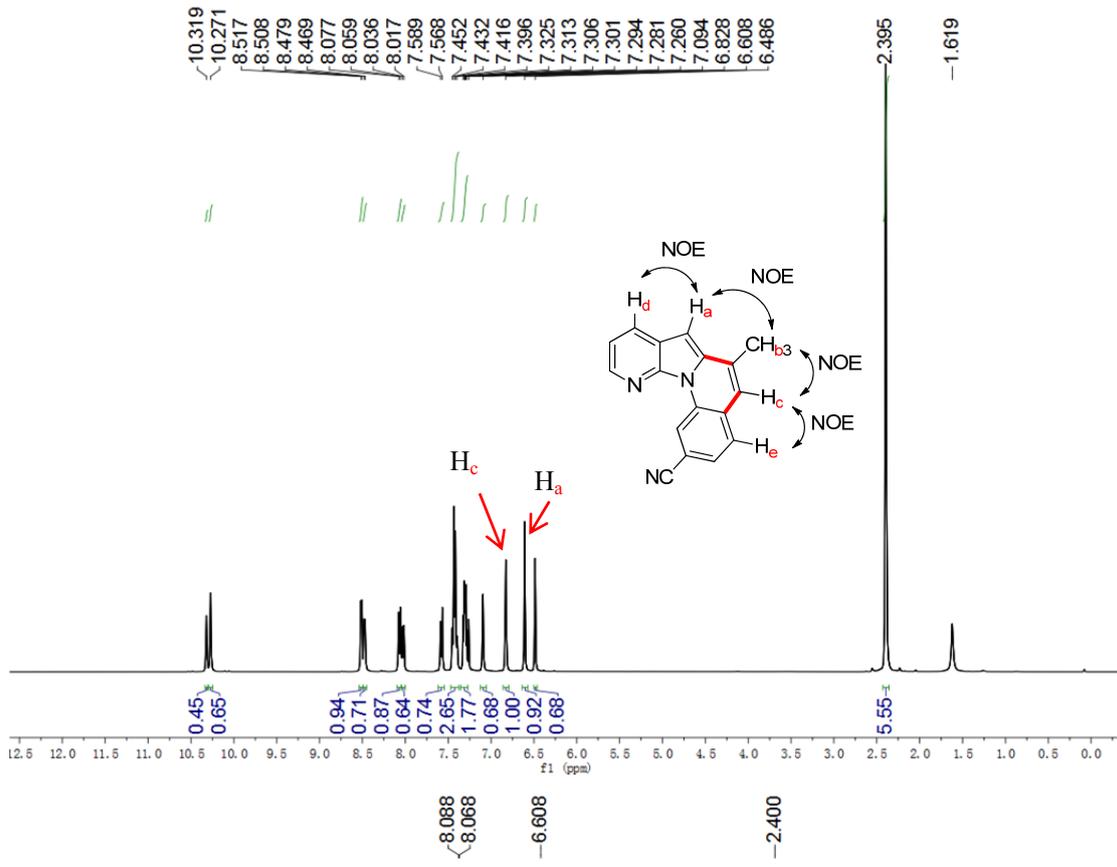


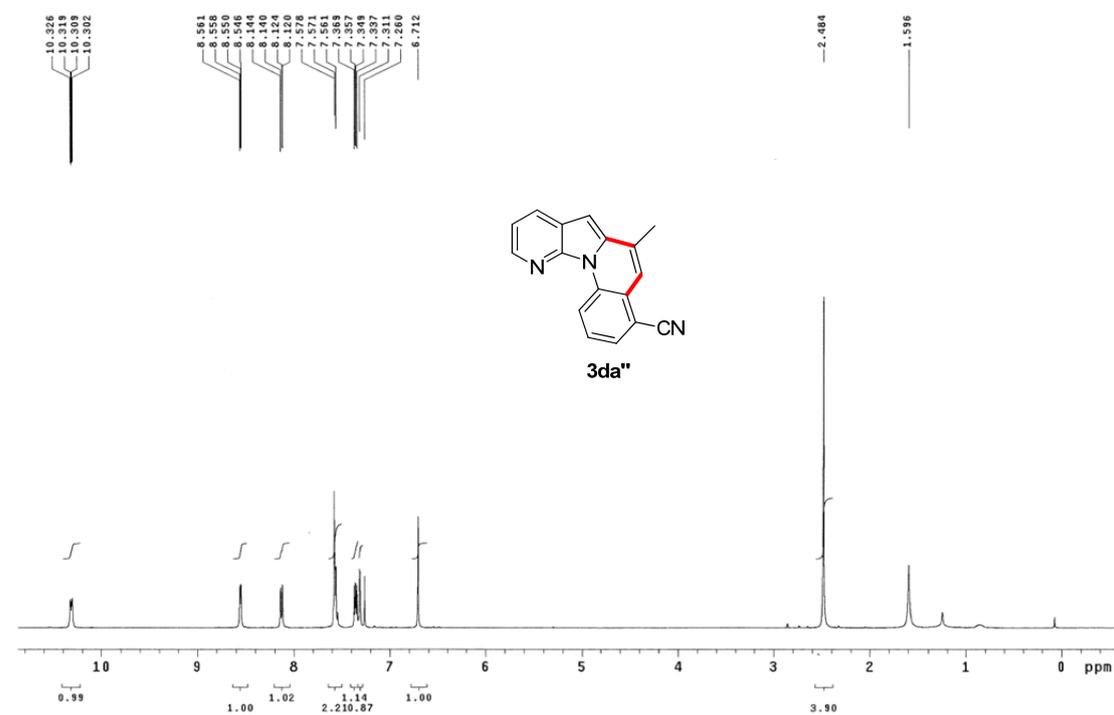
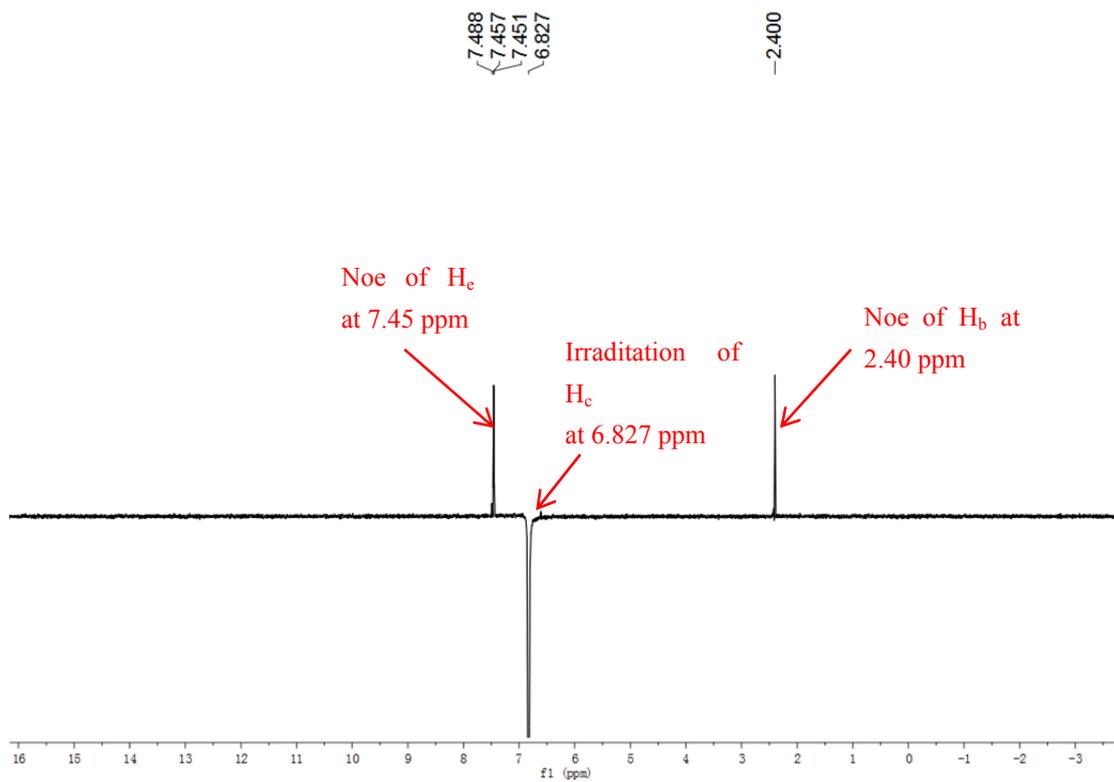




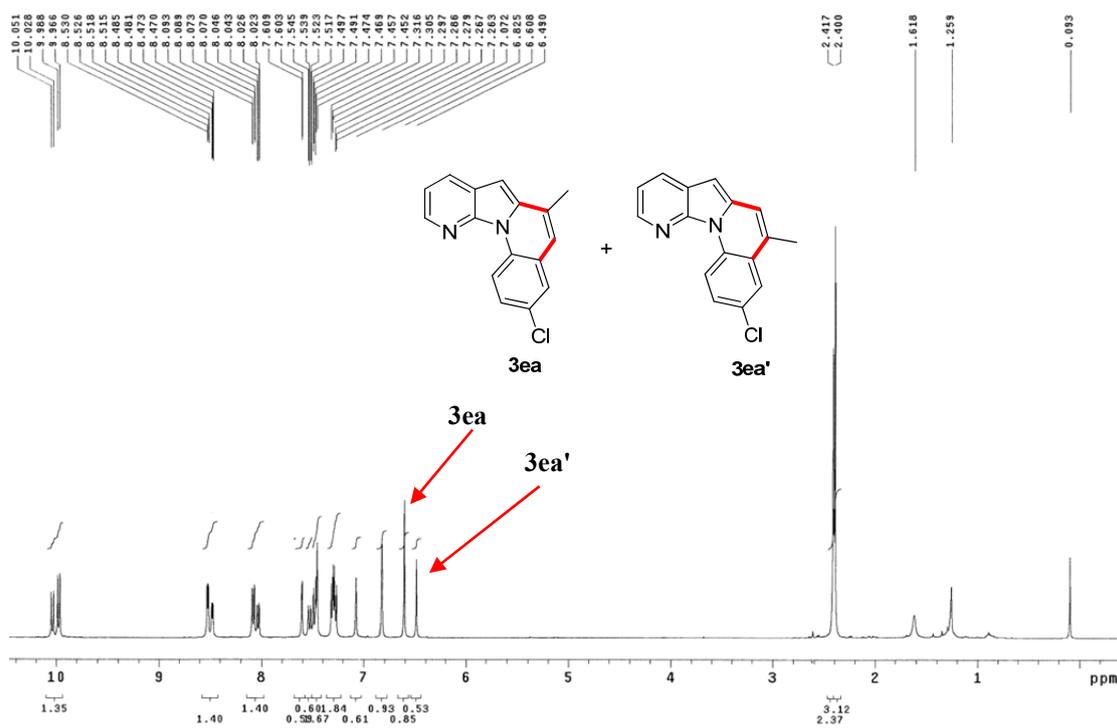
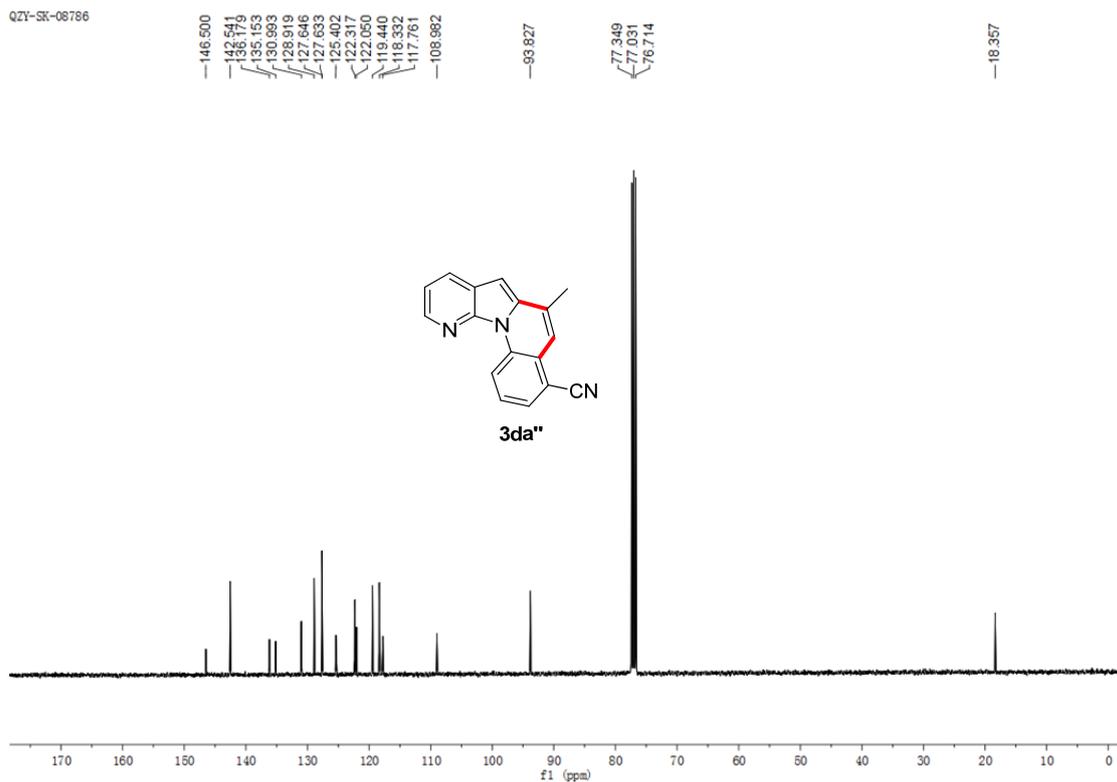
QZ1-SR-08788

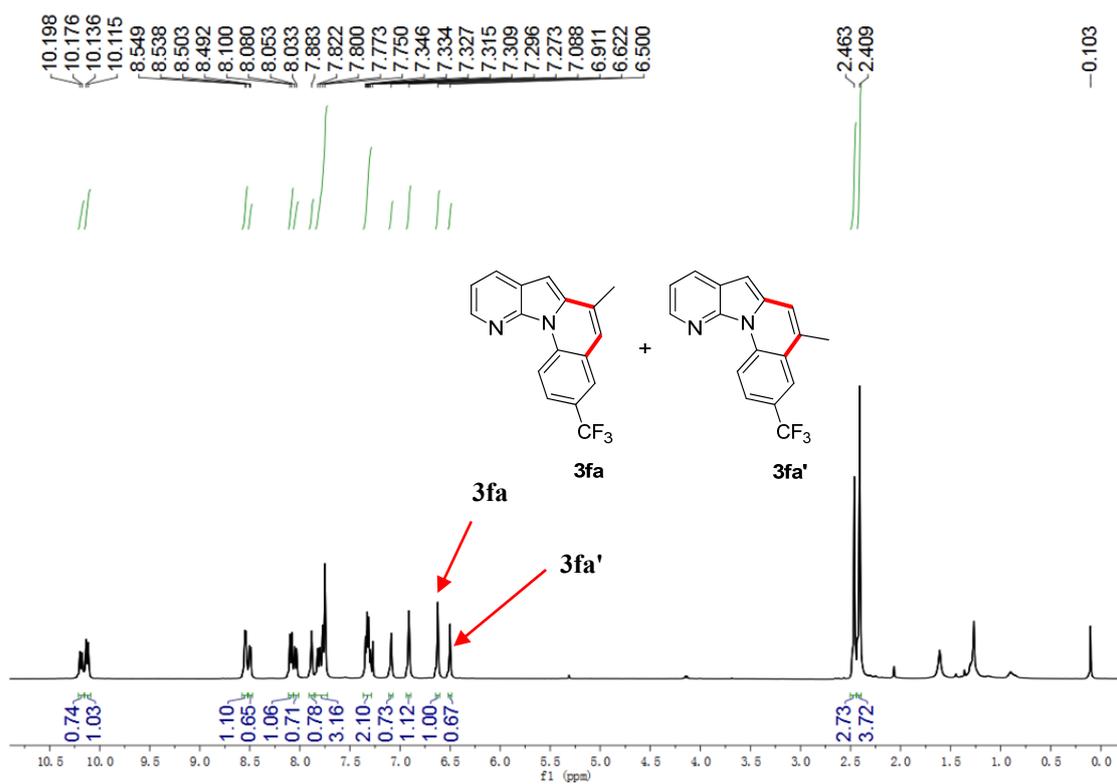
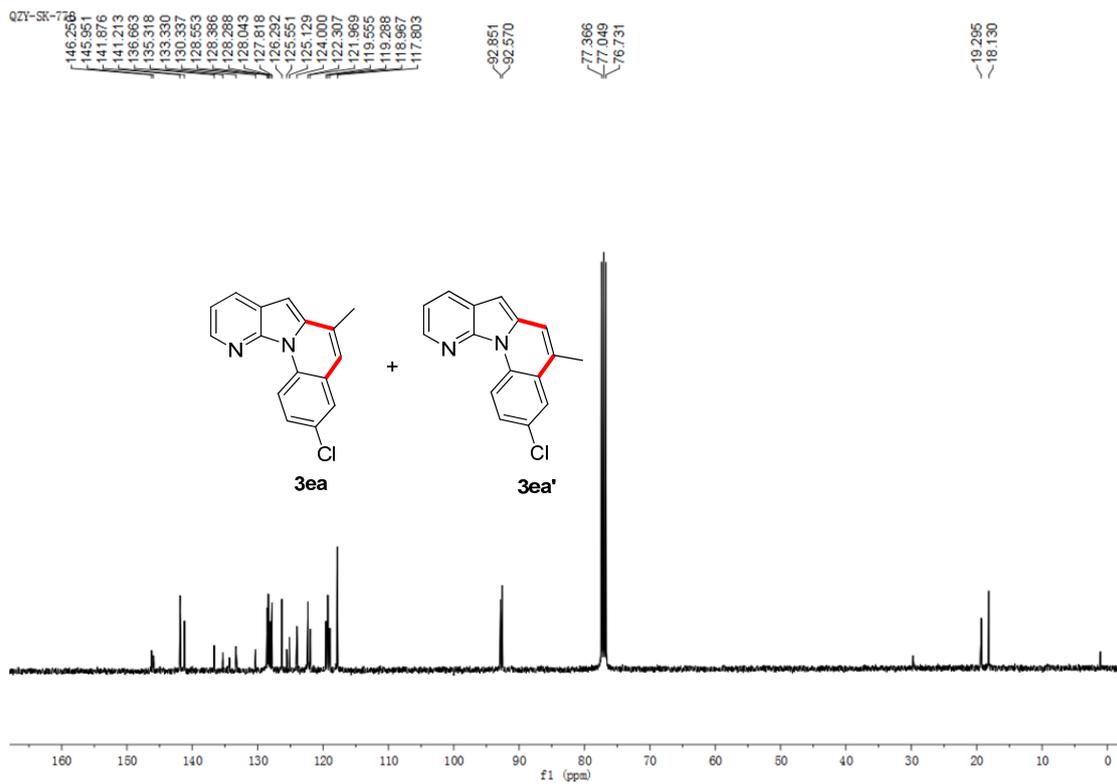




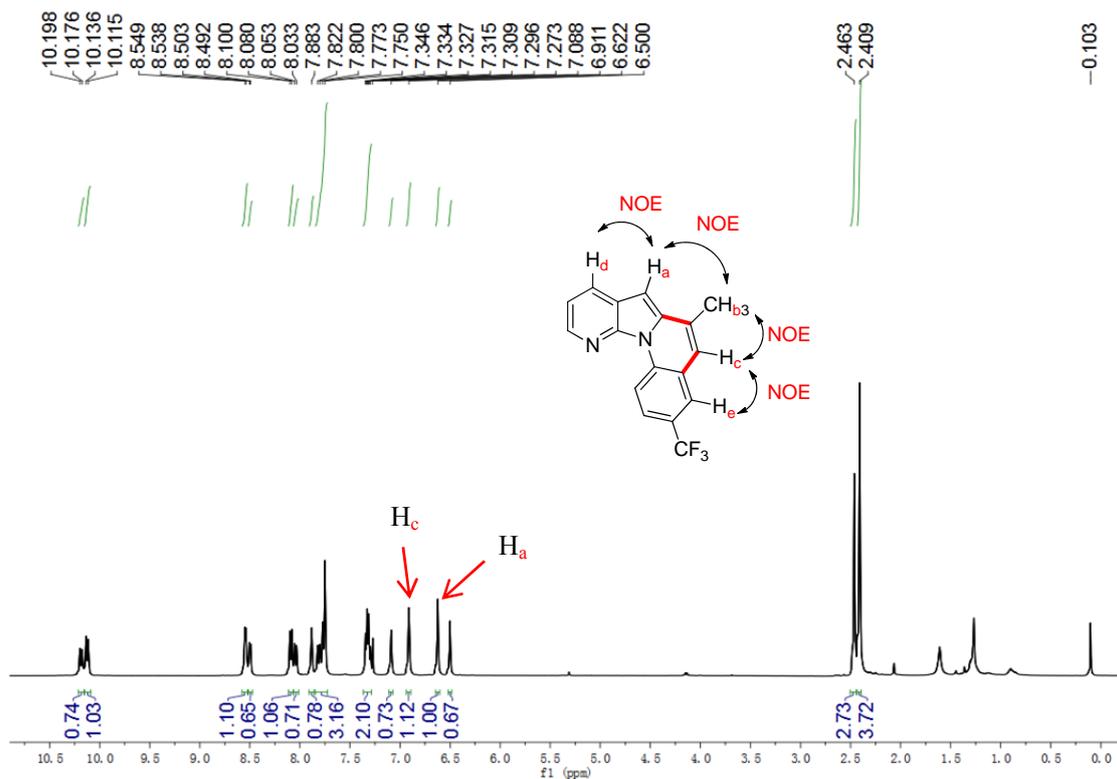
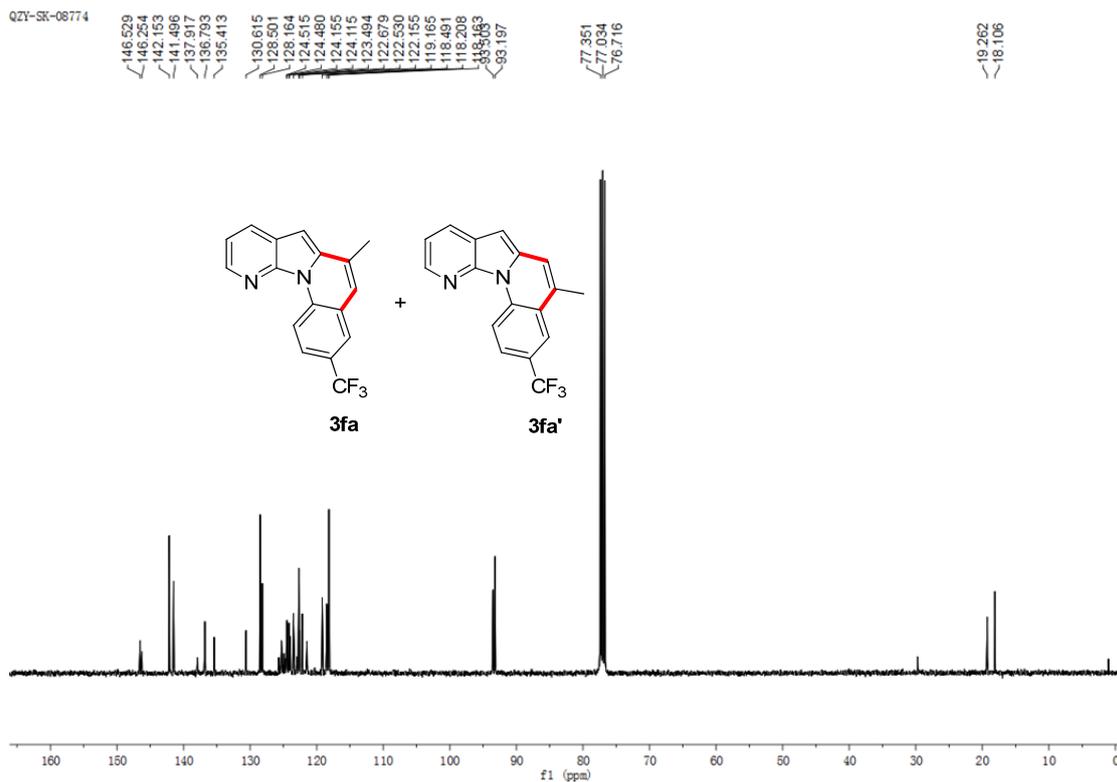


QZY-SK-08786

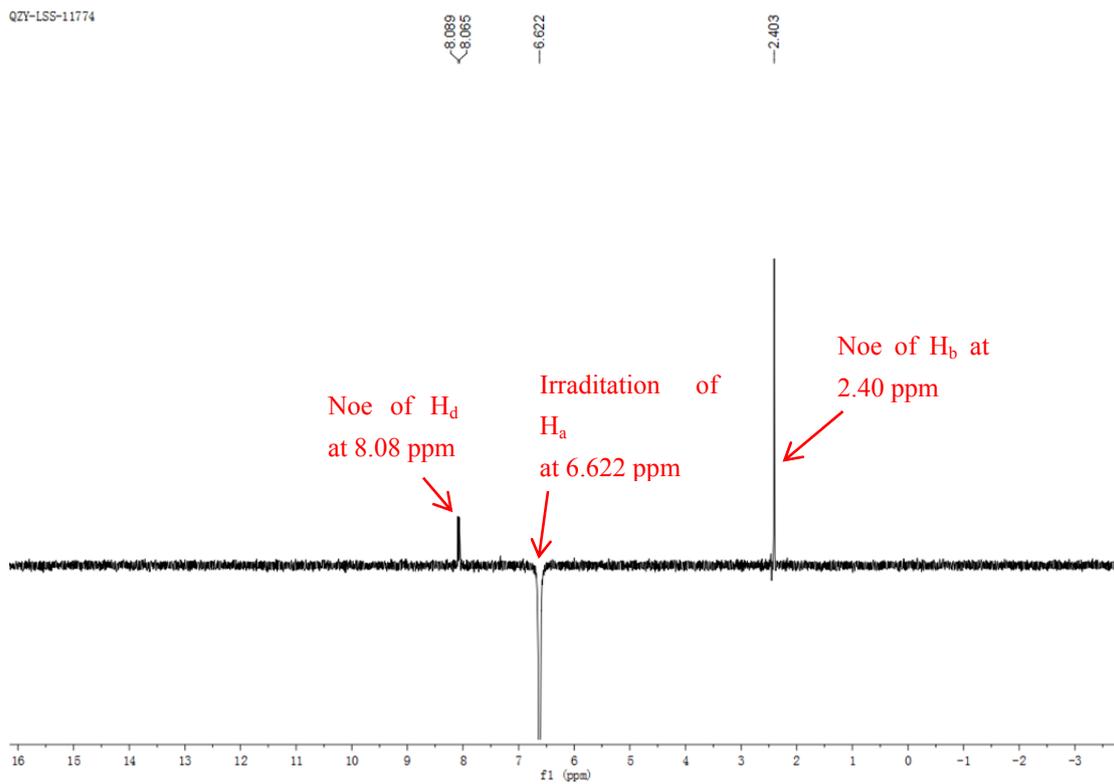




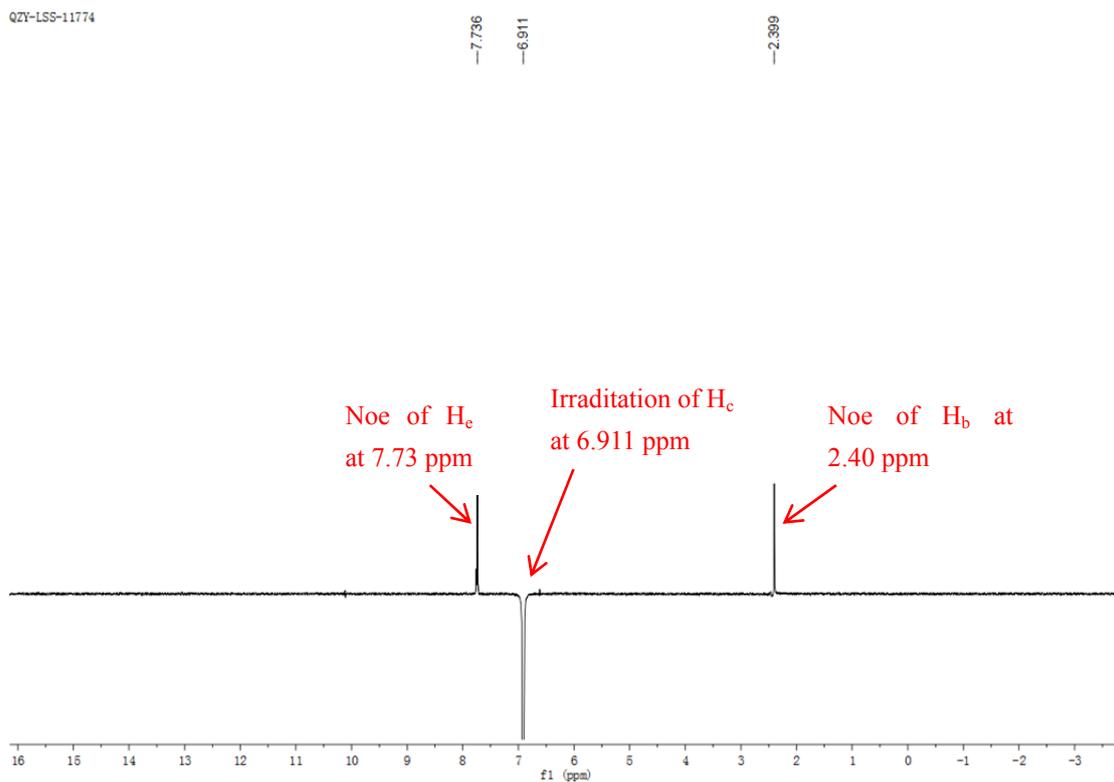
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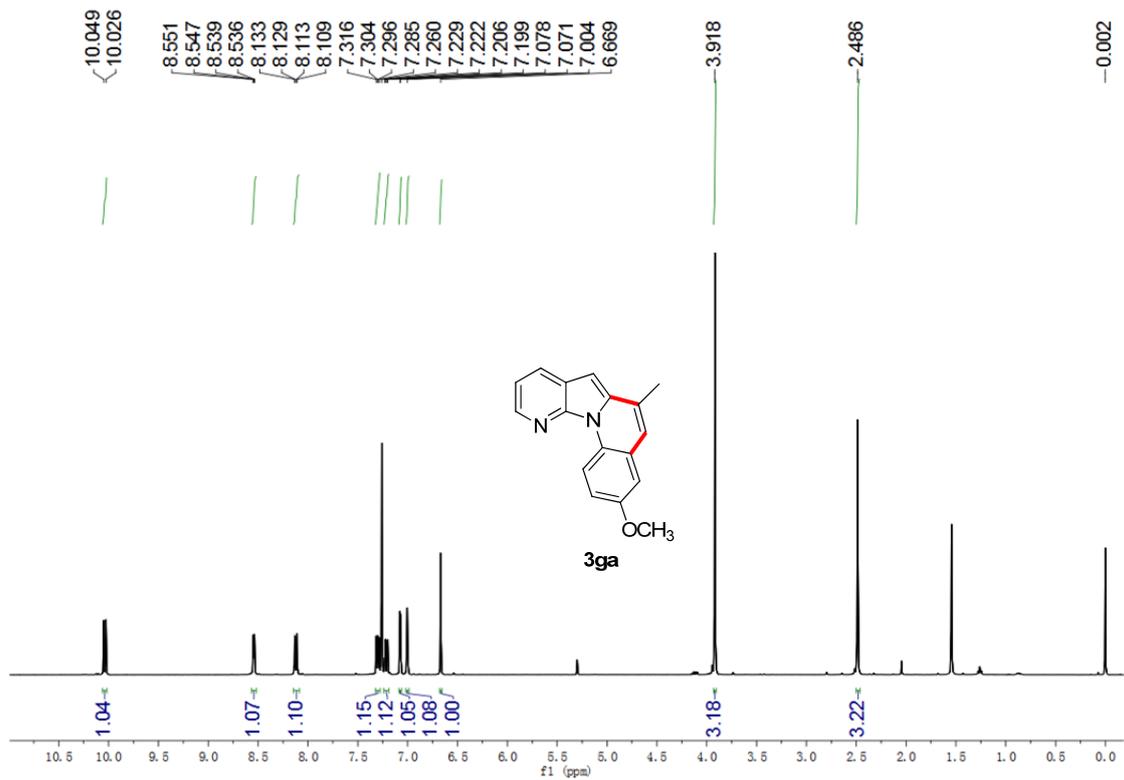


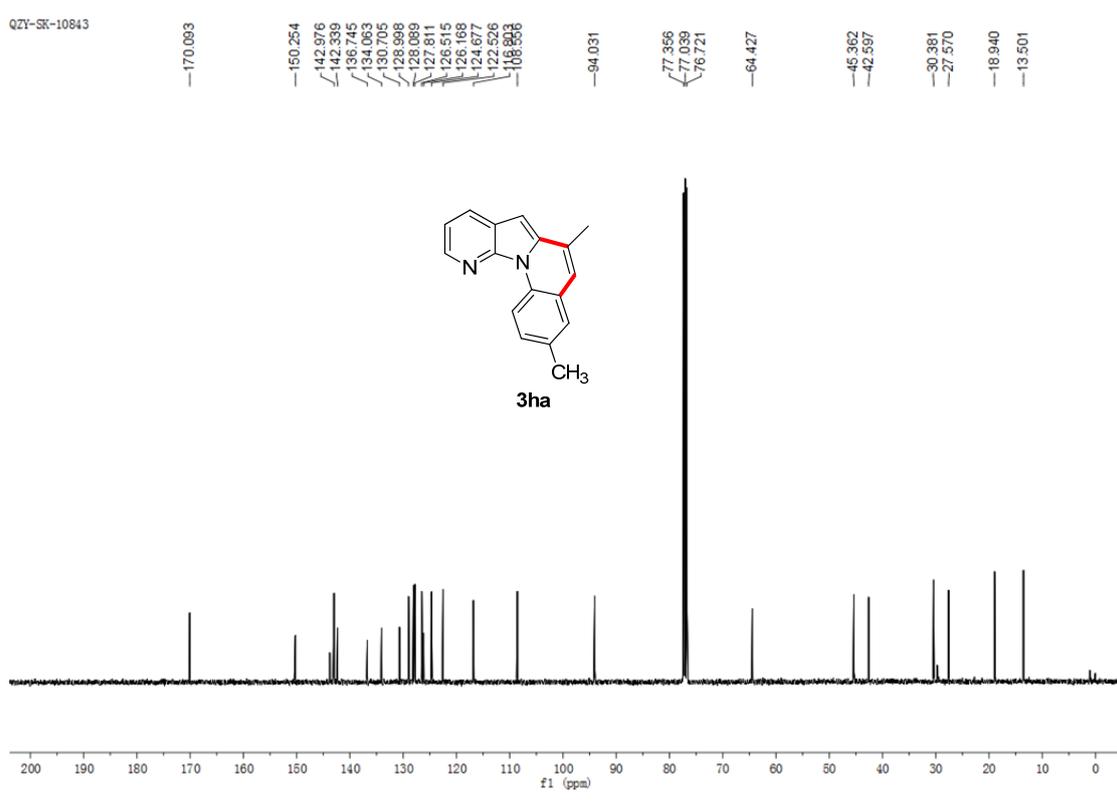
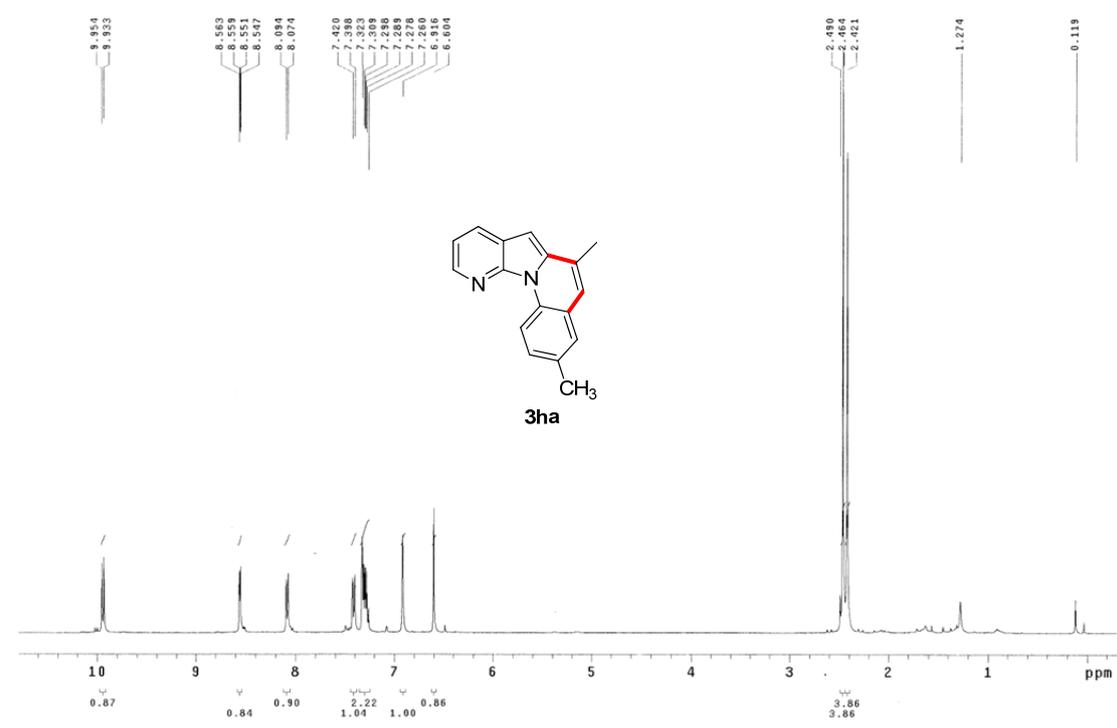
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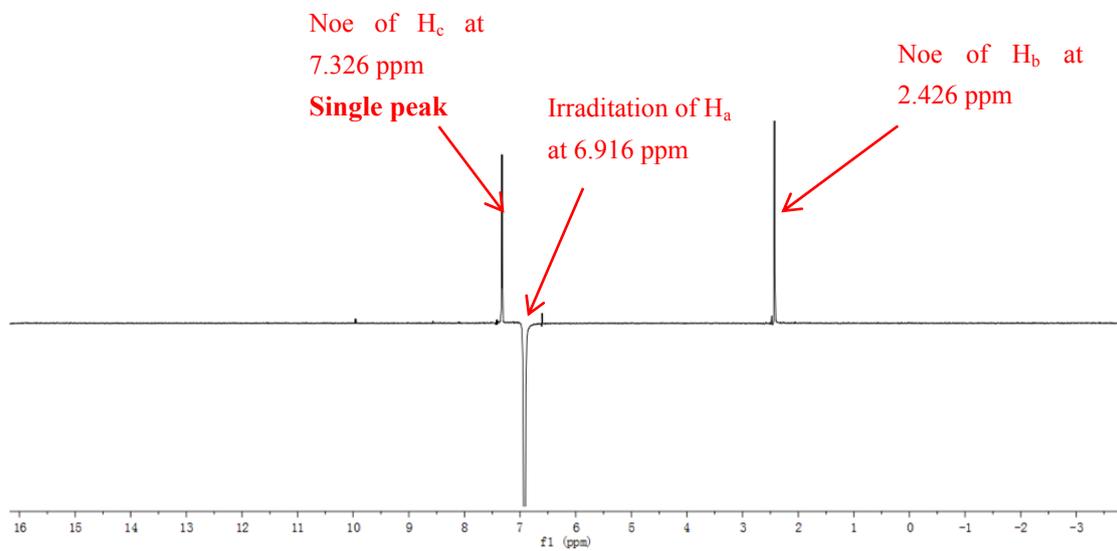
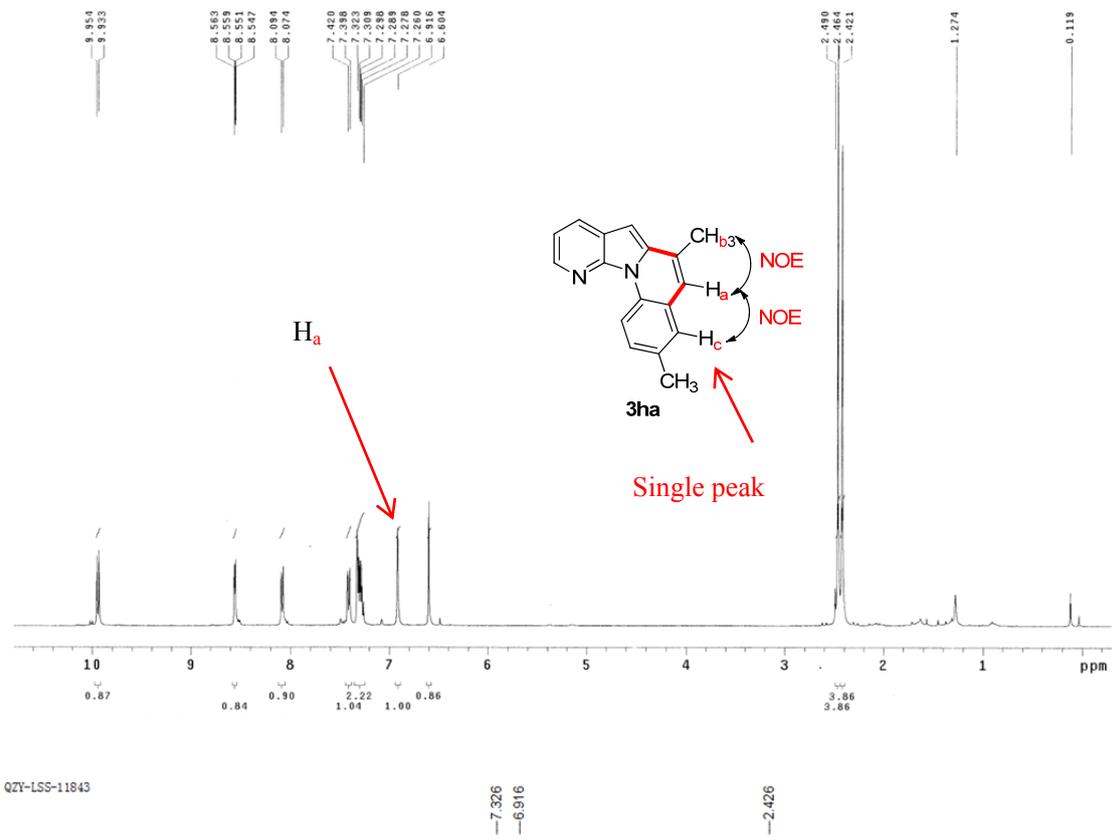


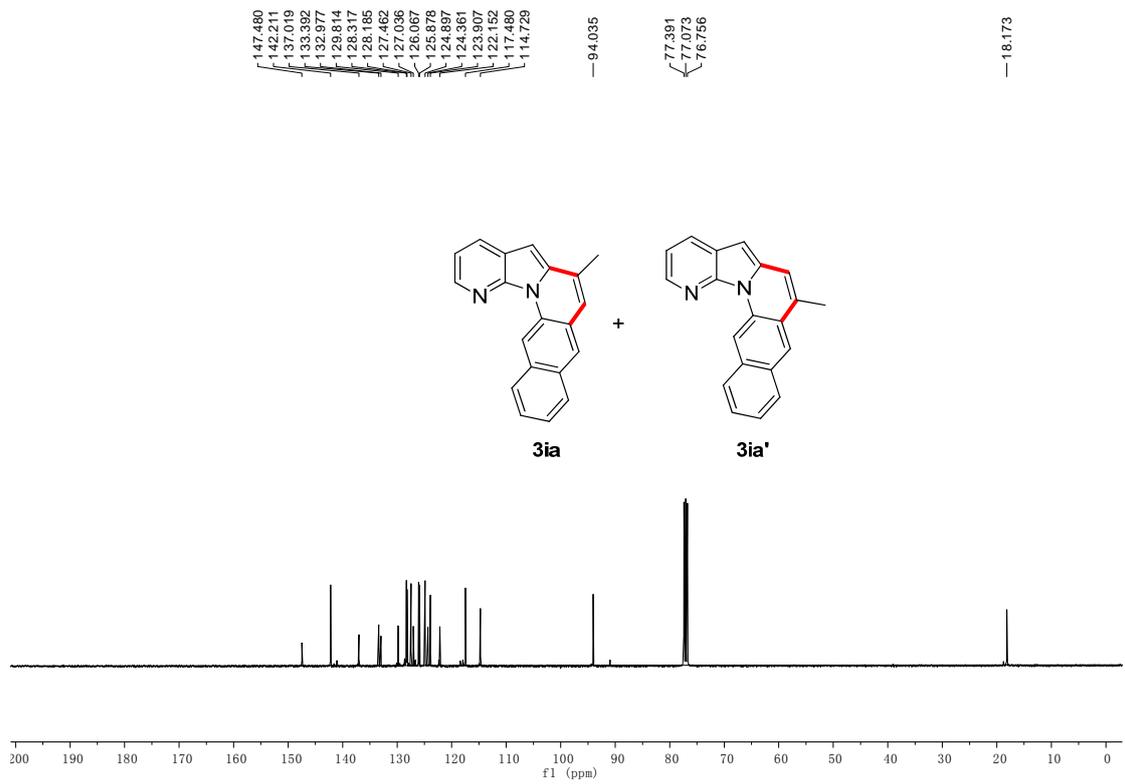
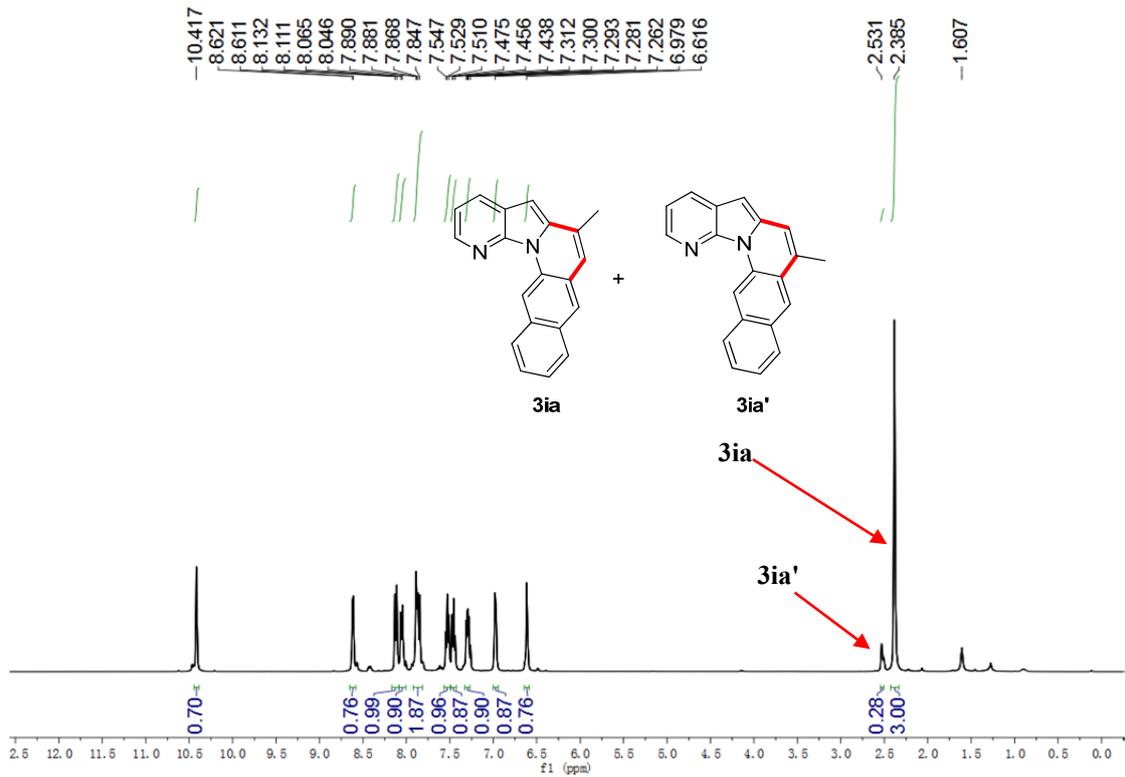
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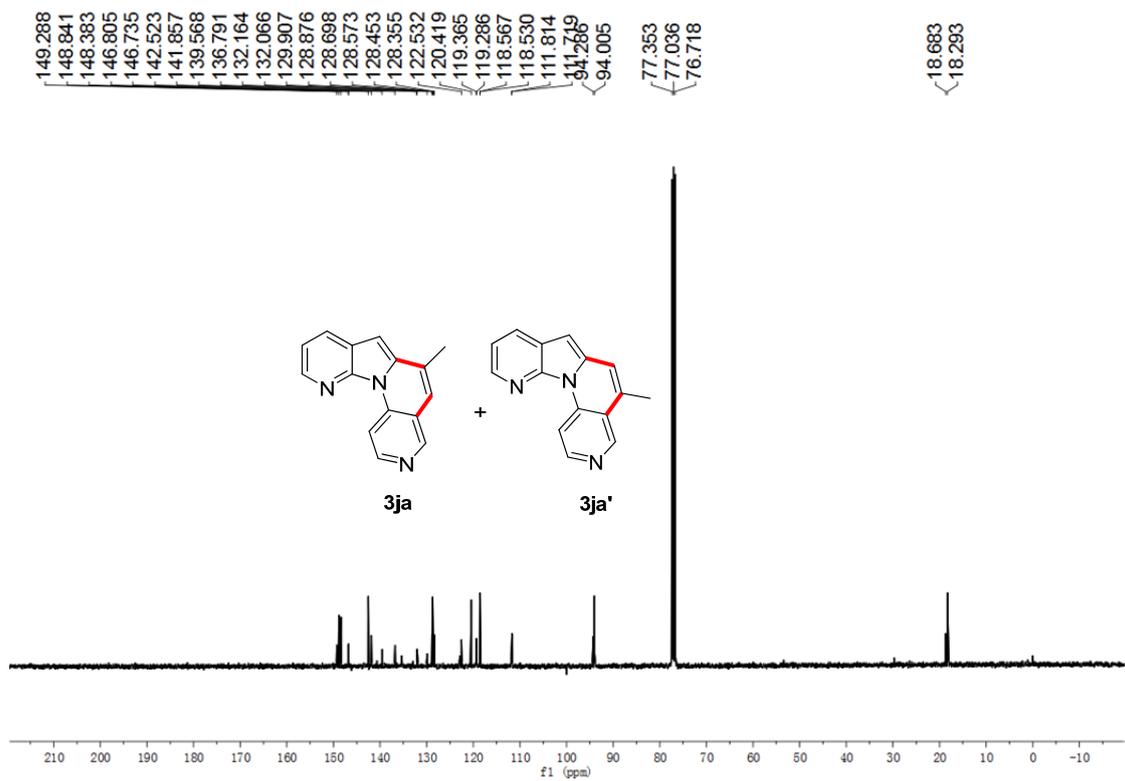
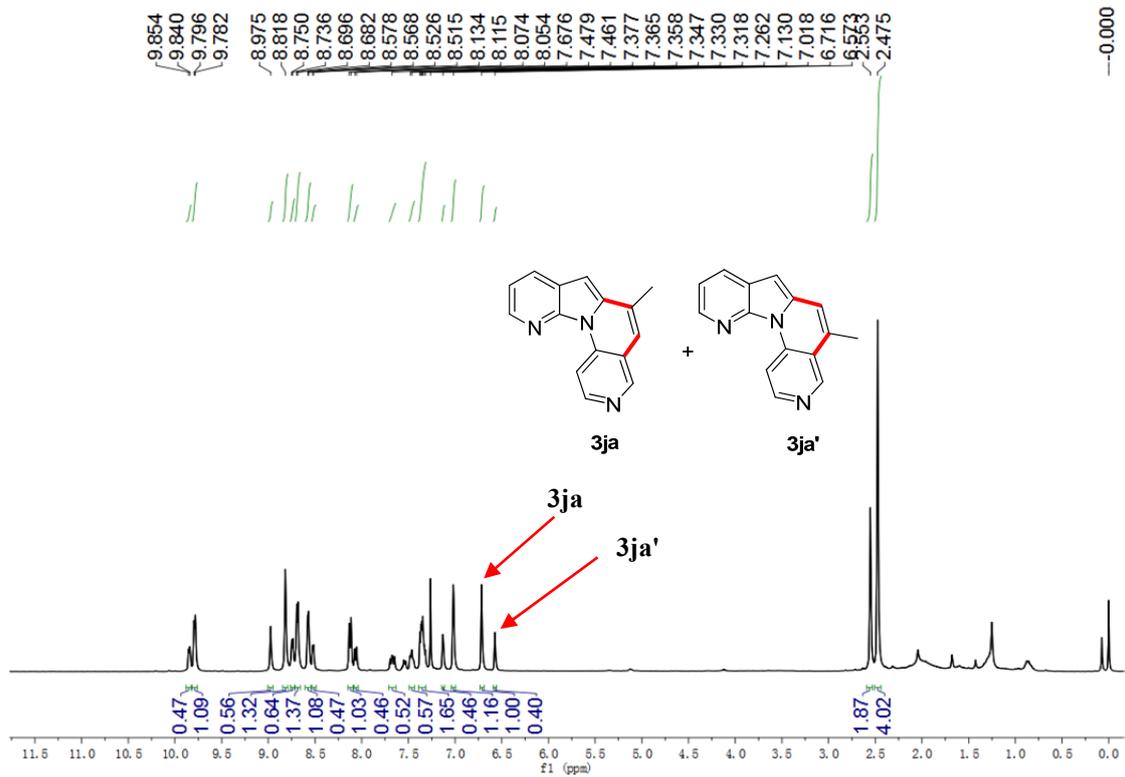


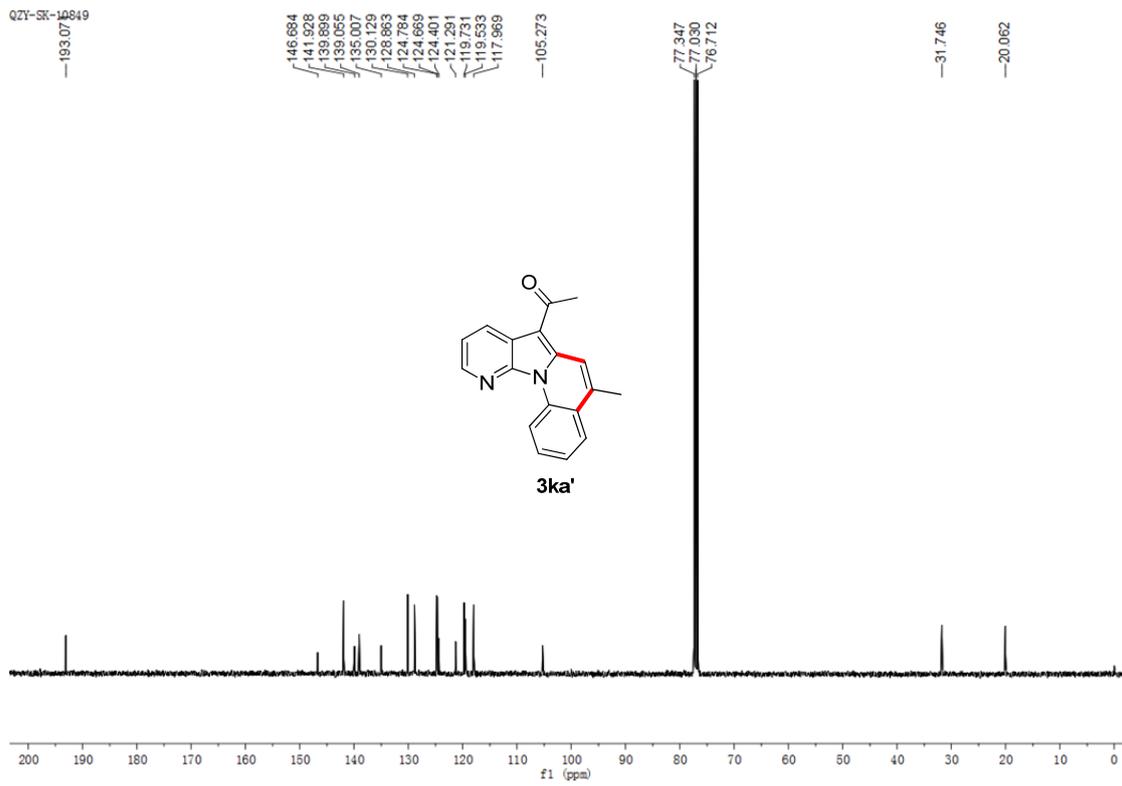
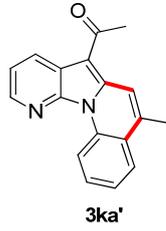
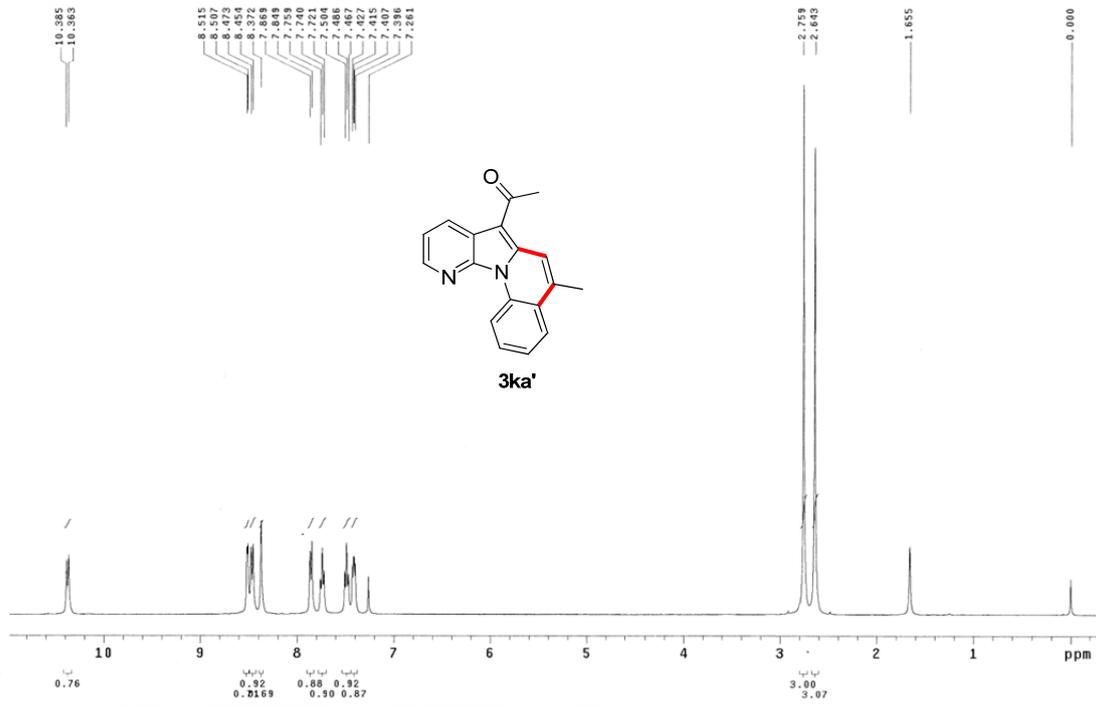


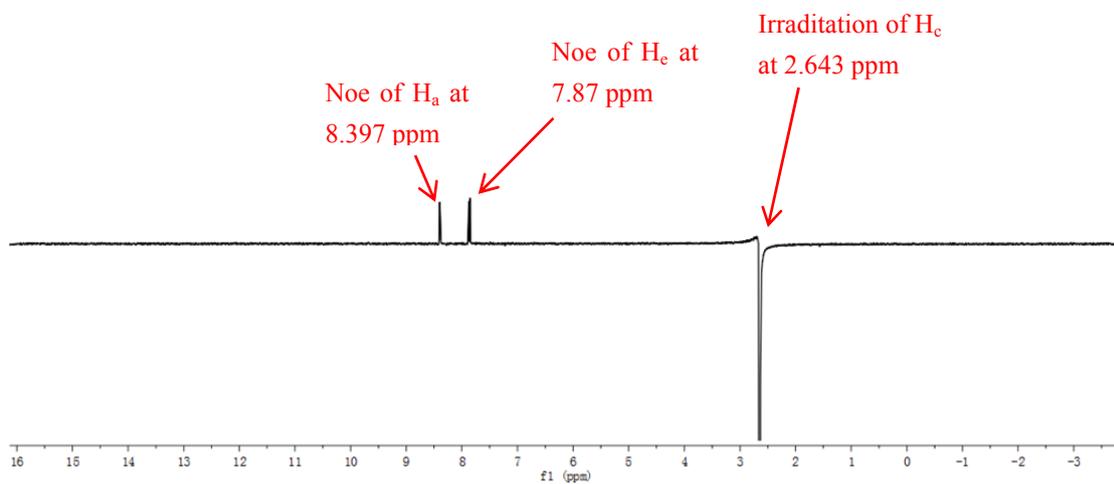
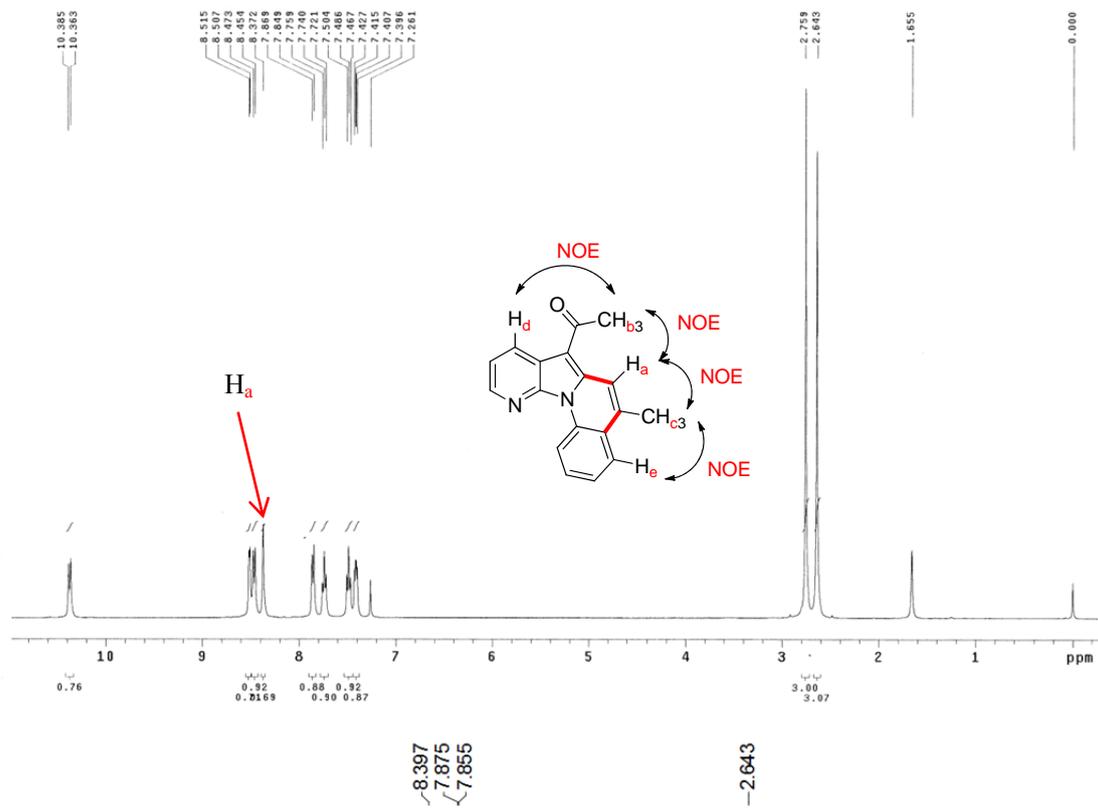


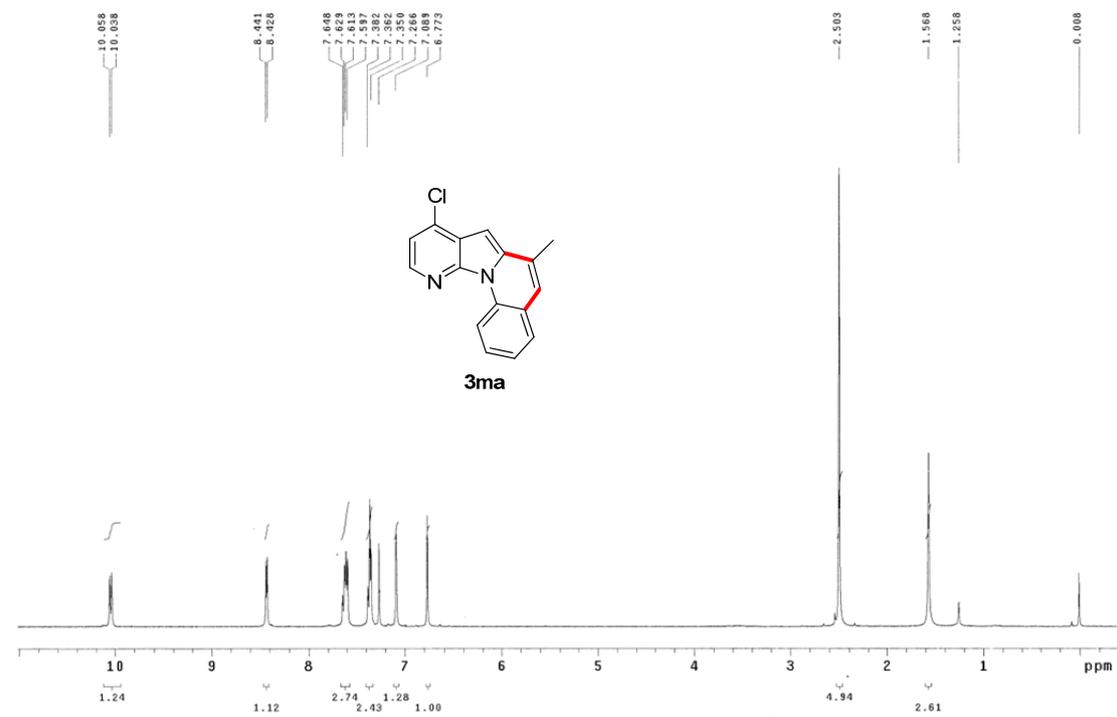
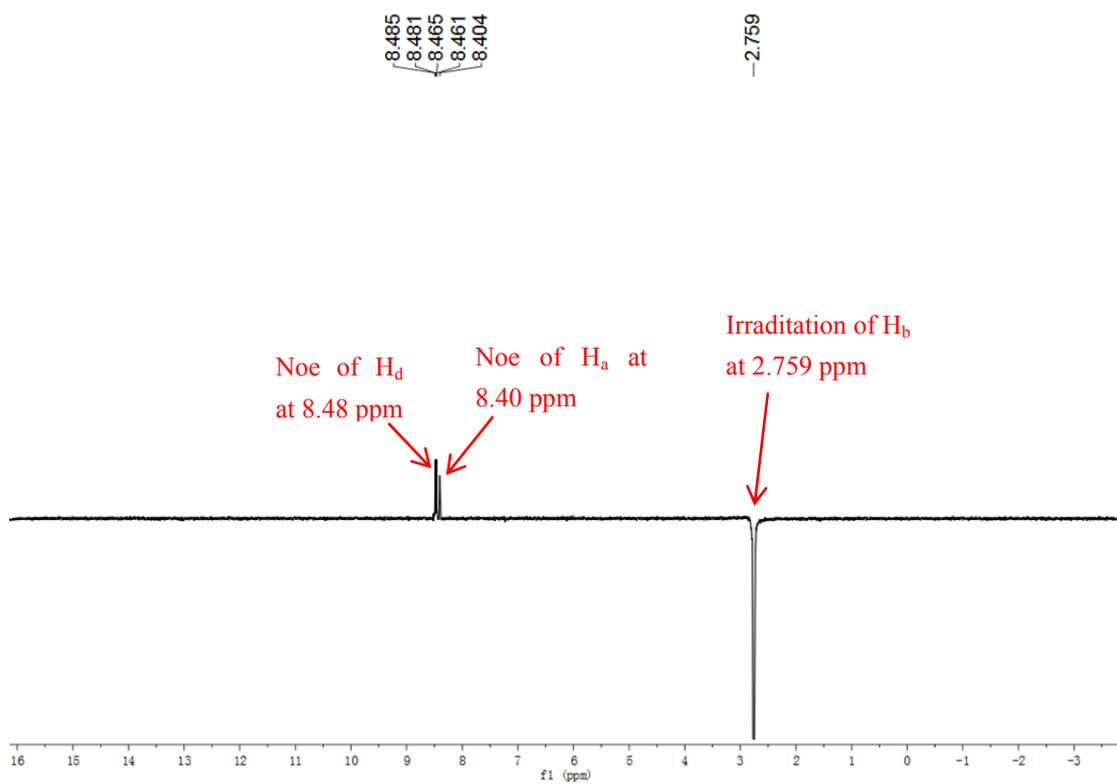




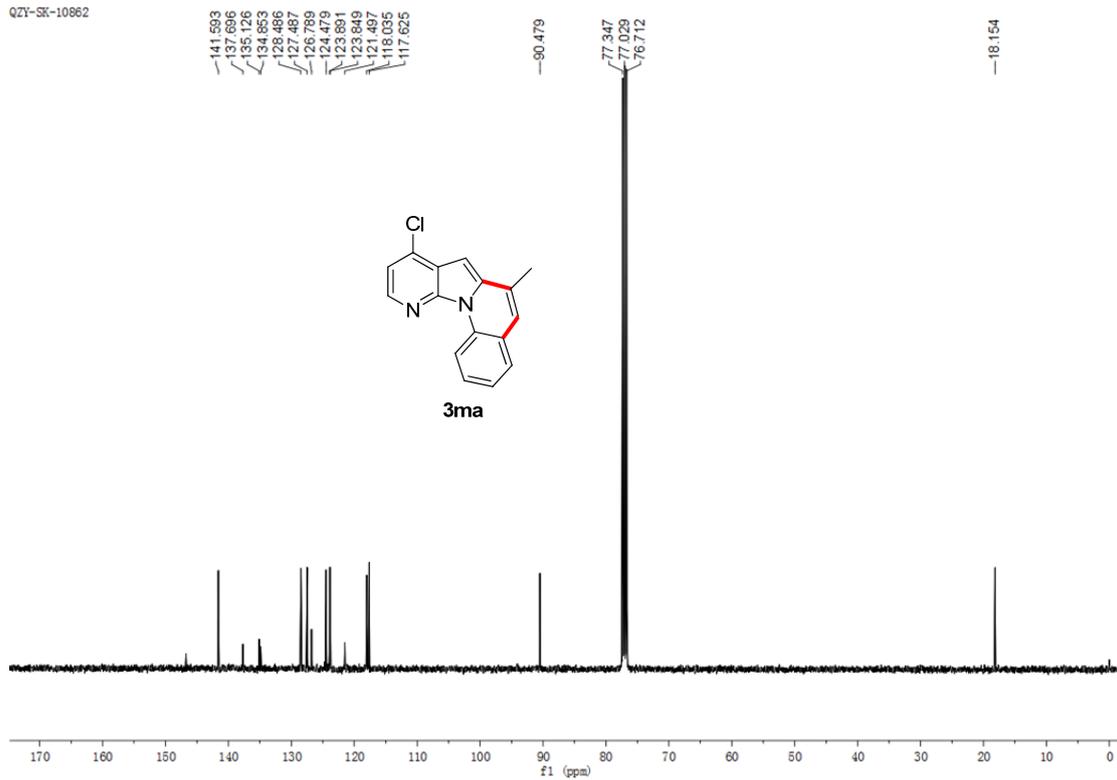




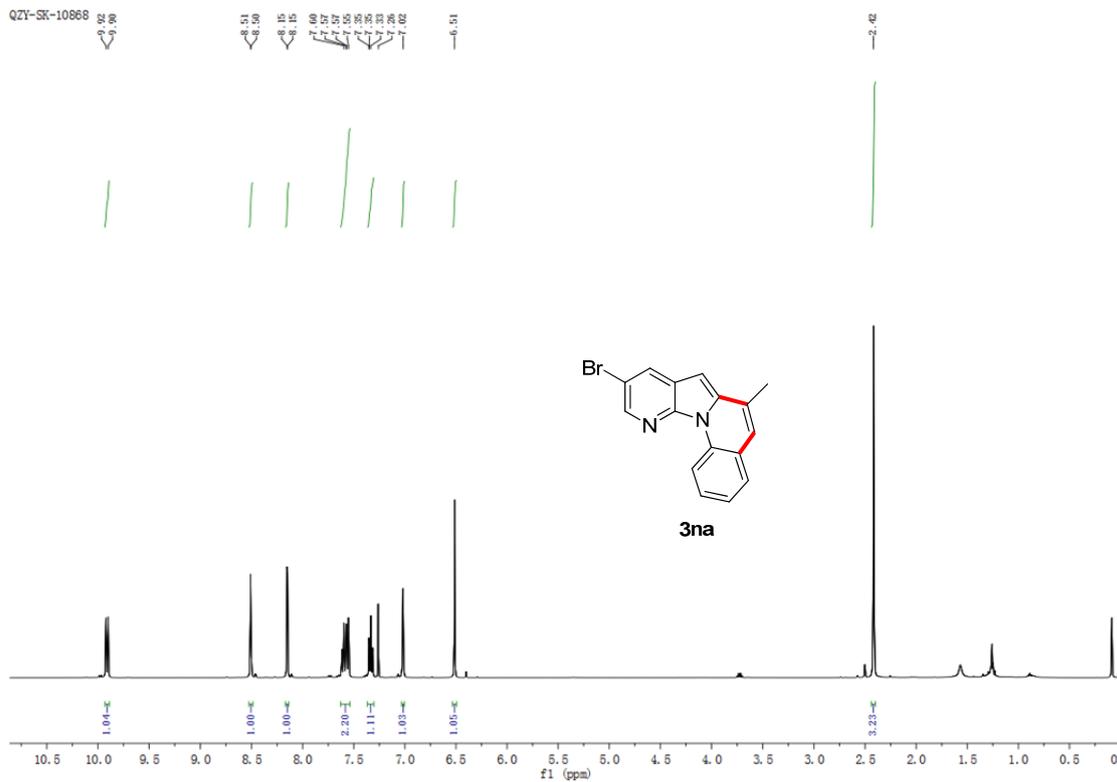




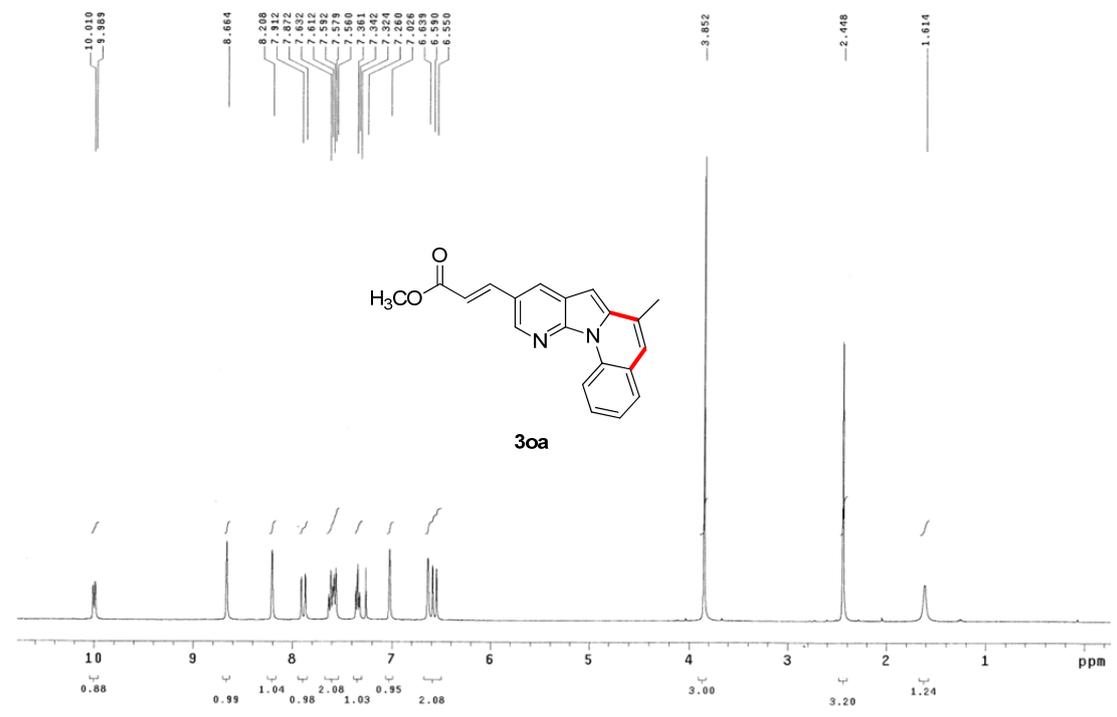
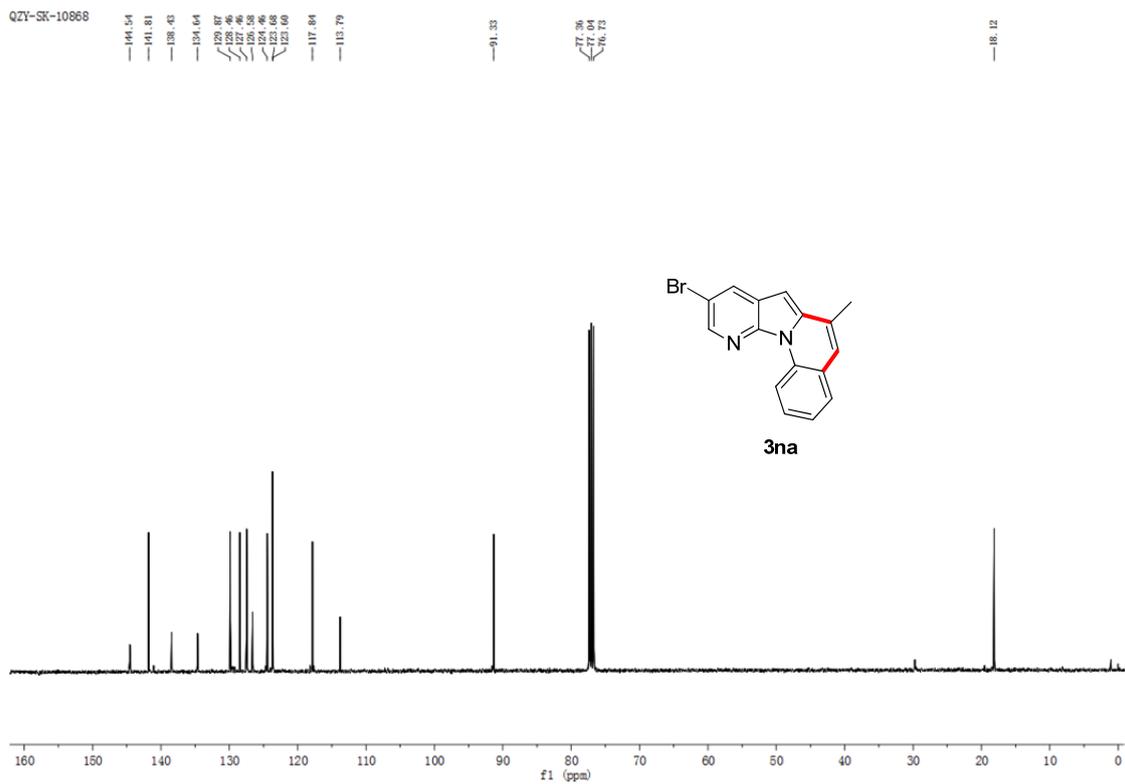
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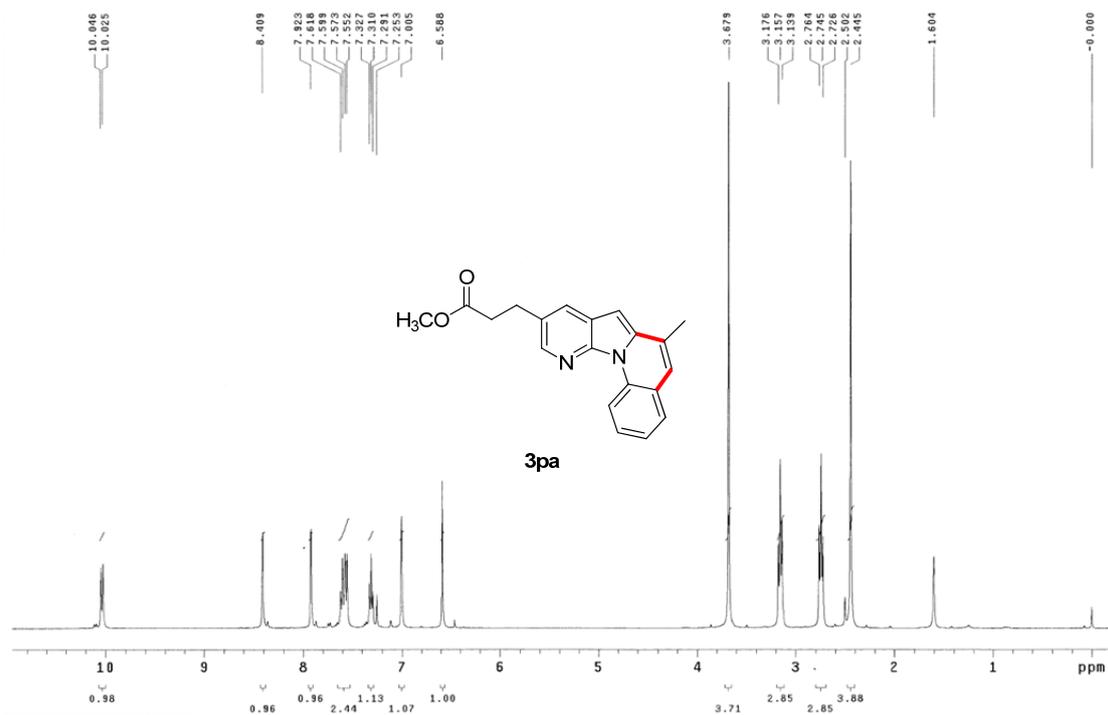
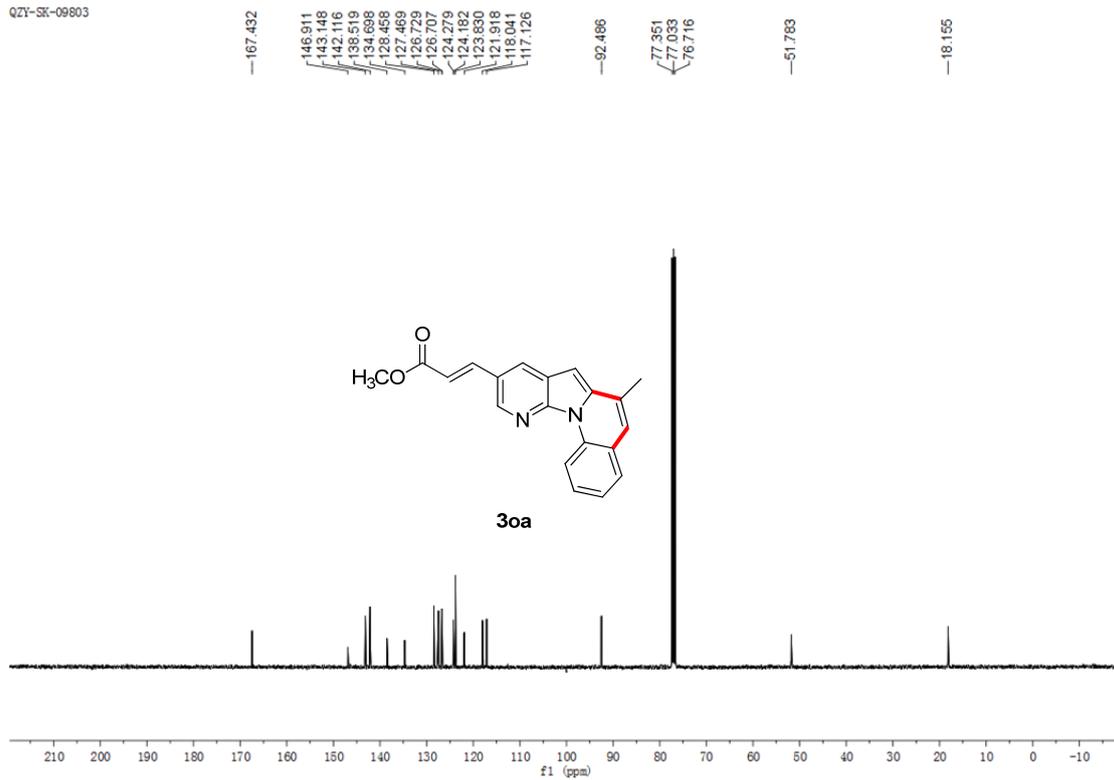
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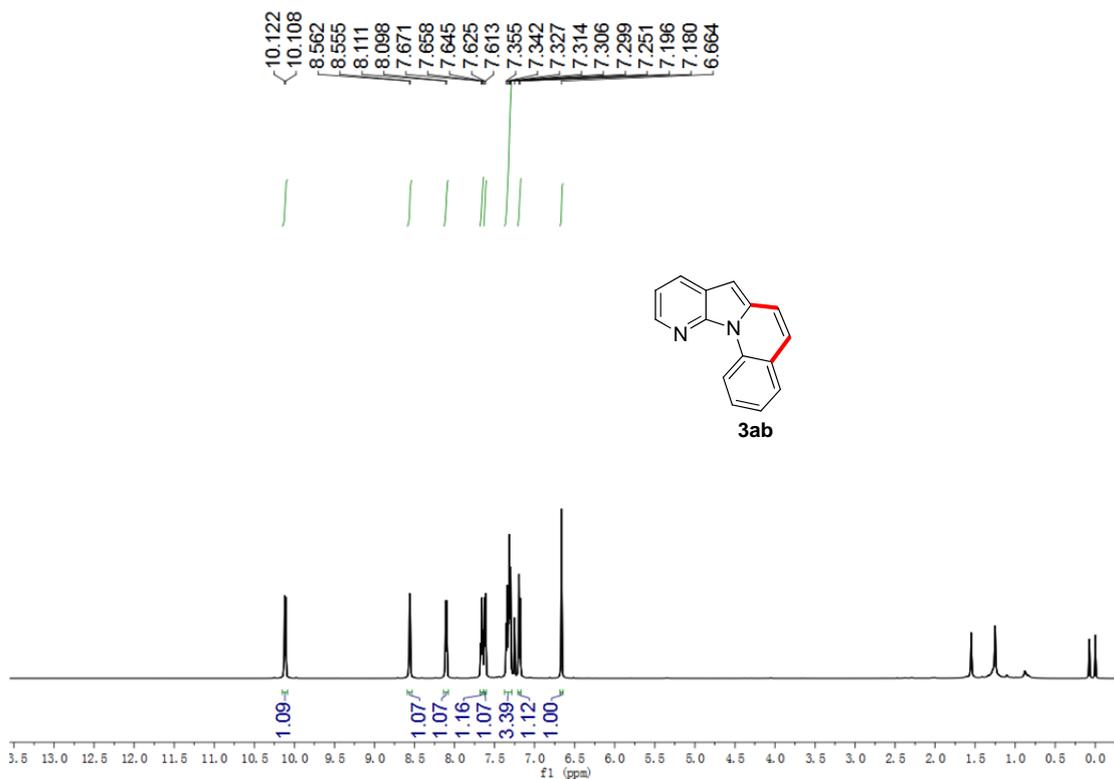
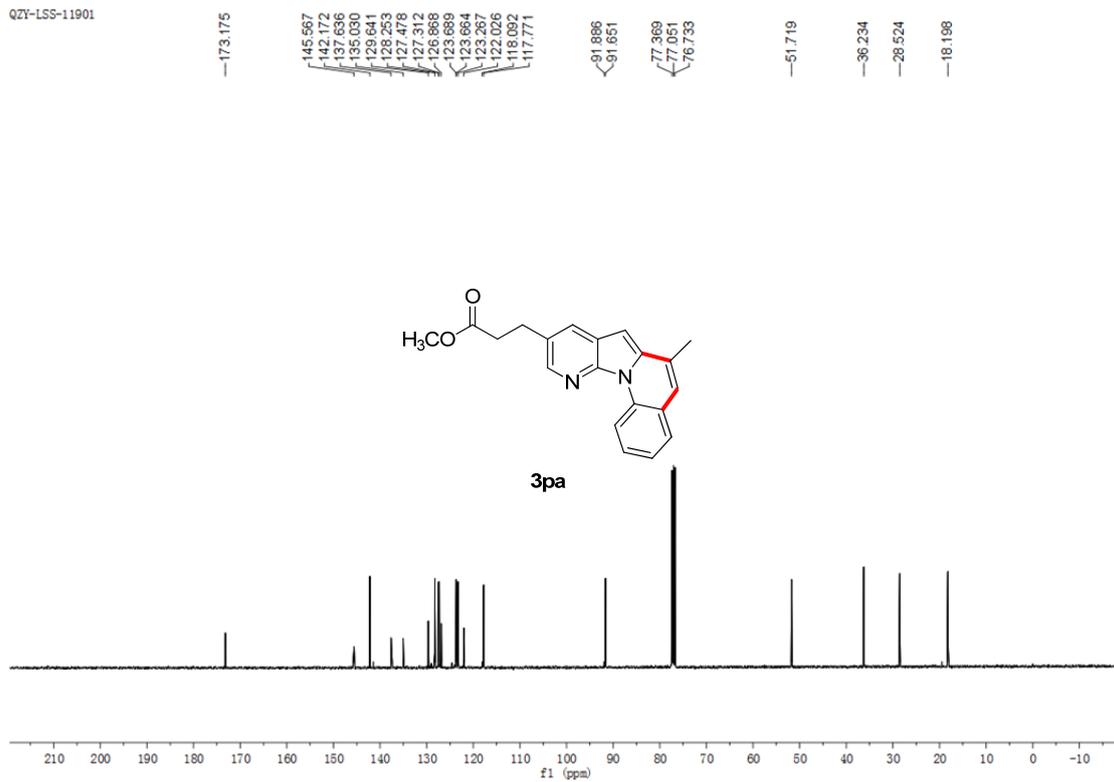
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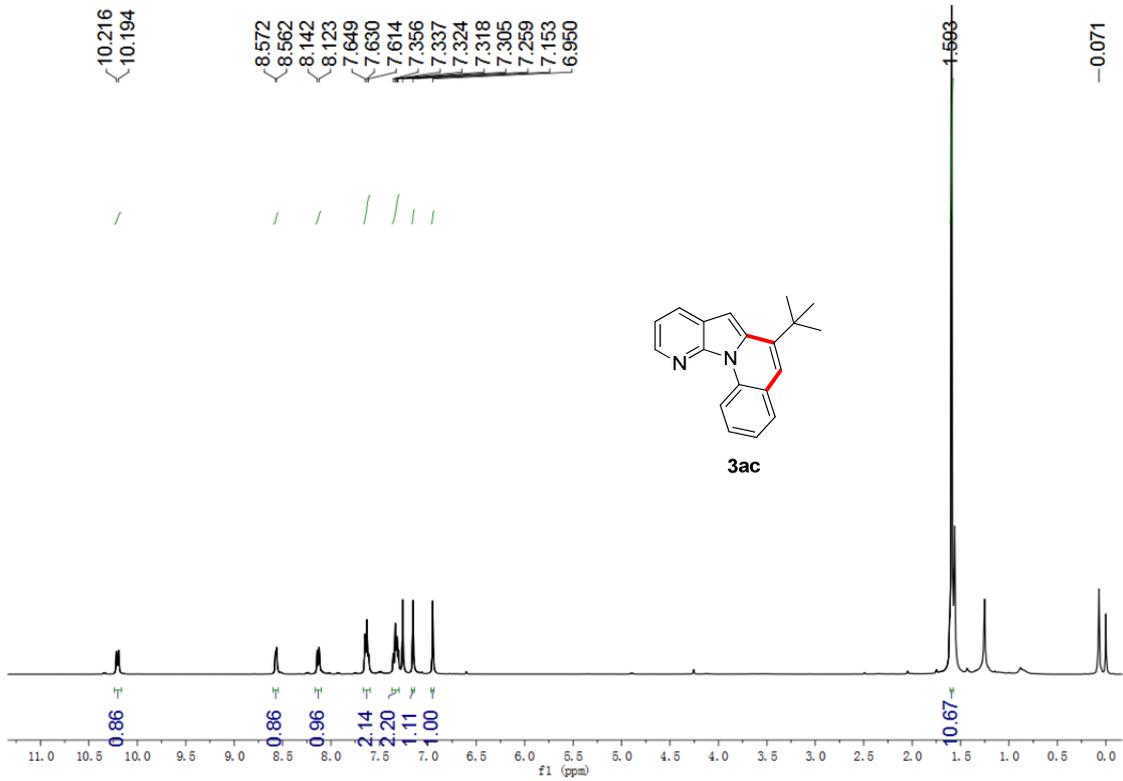
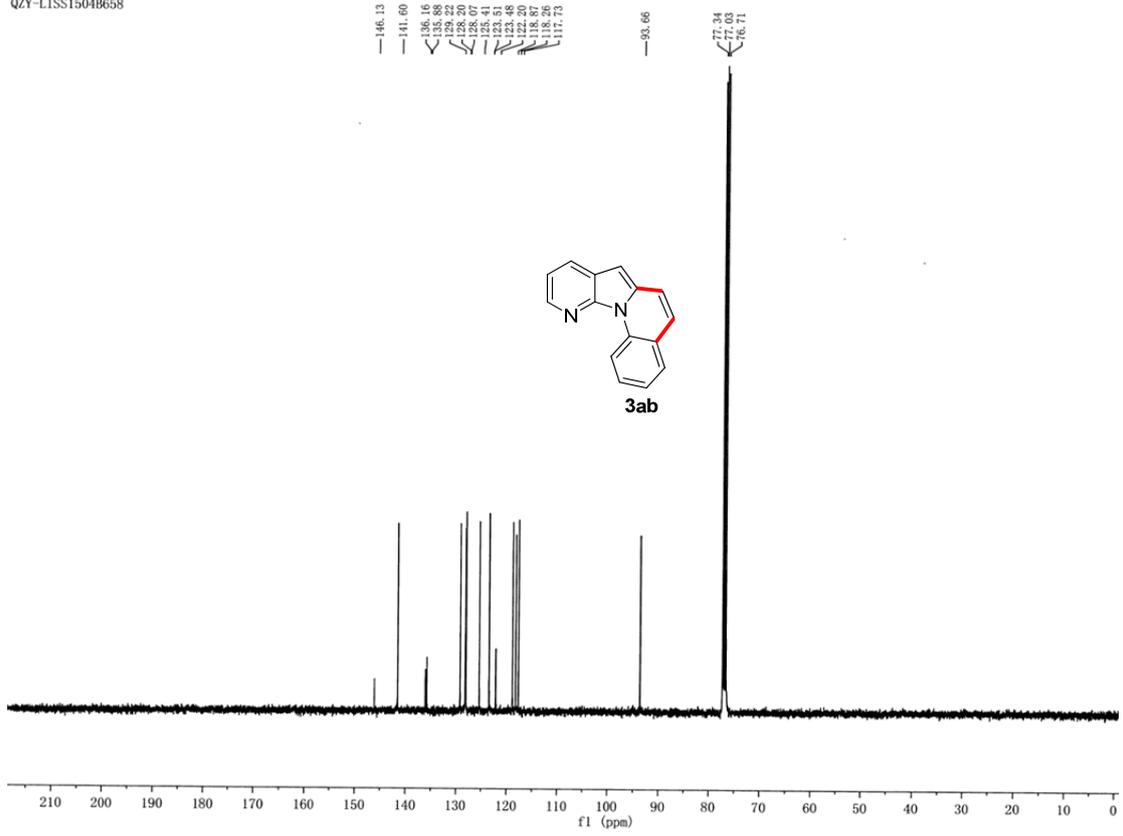
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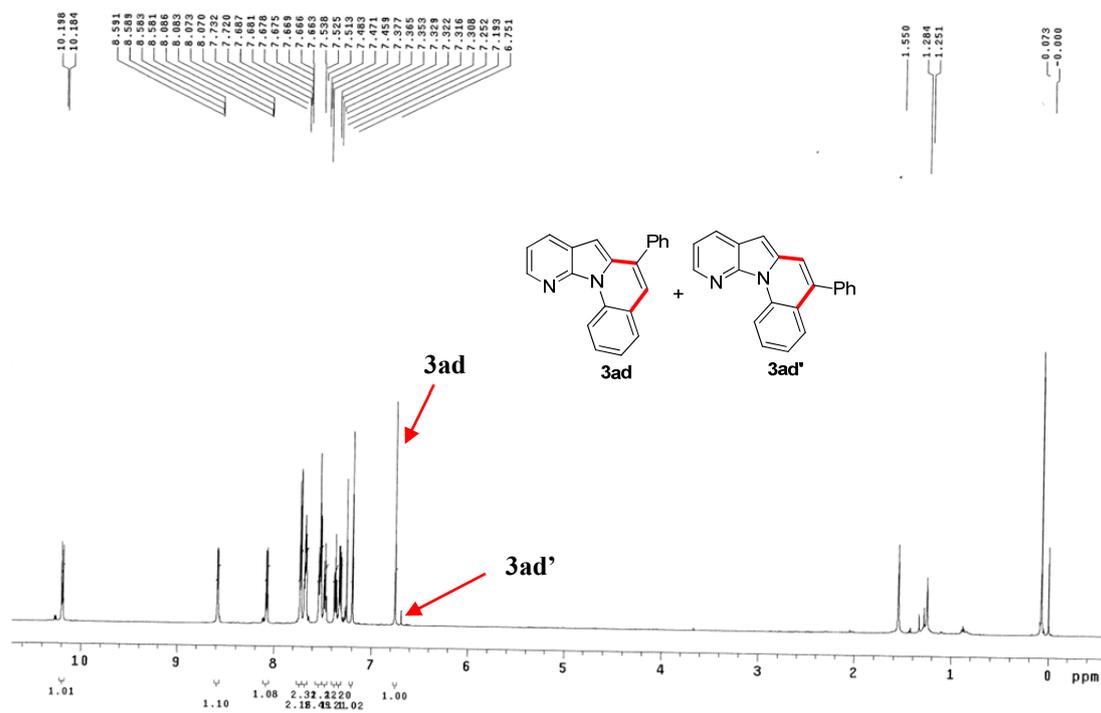
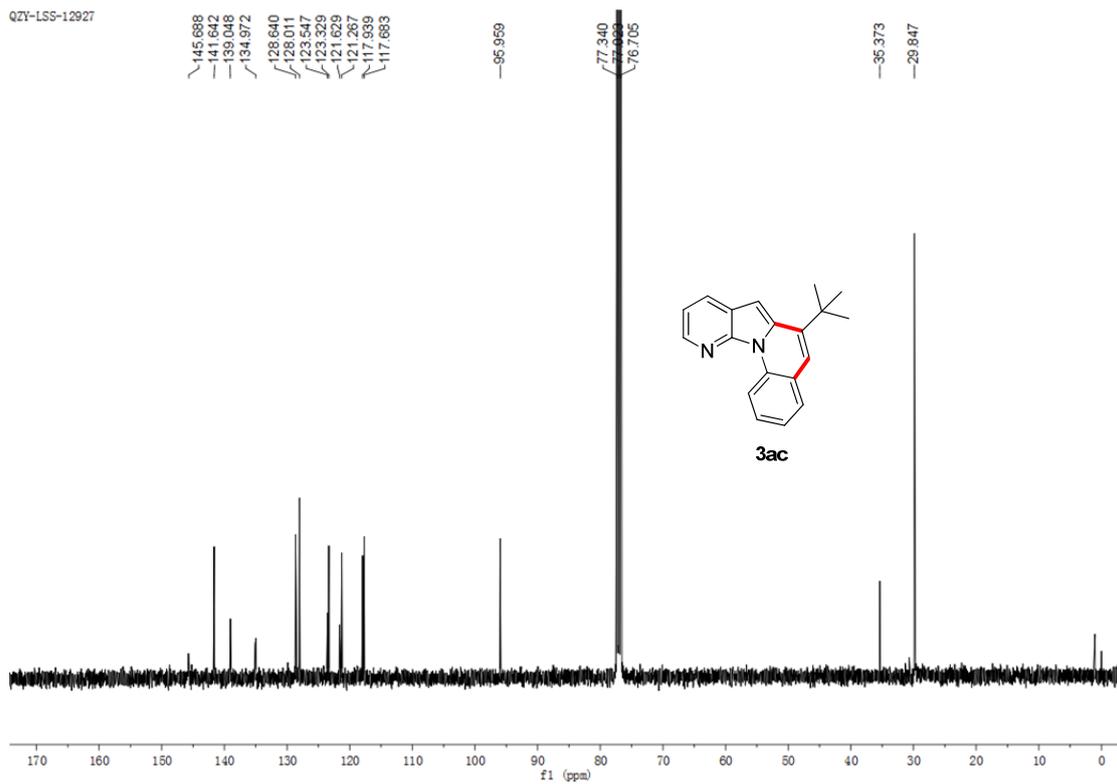
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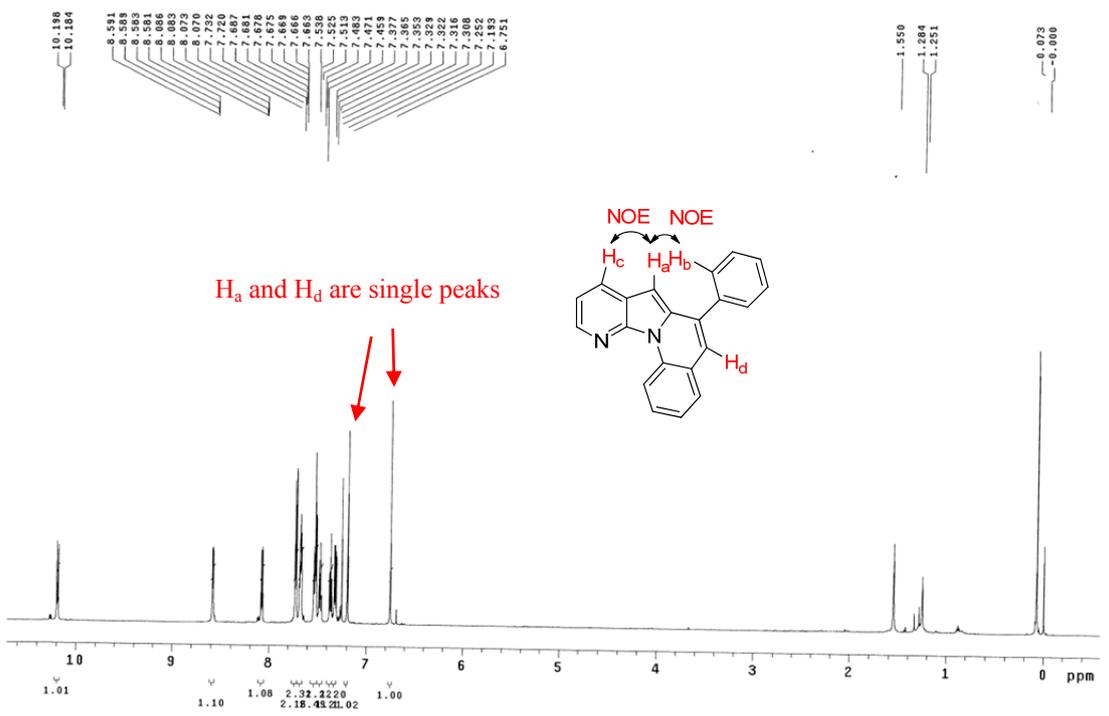
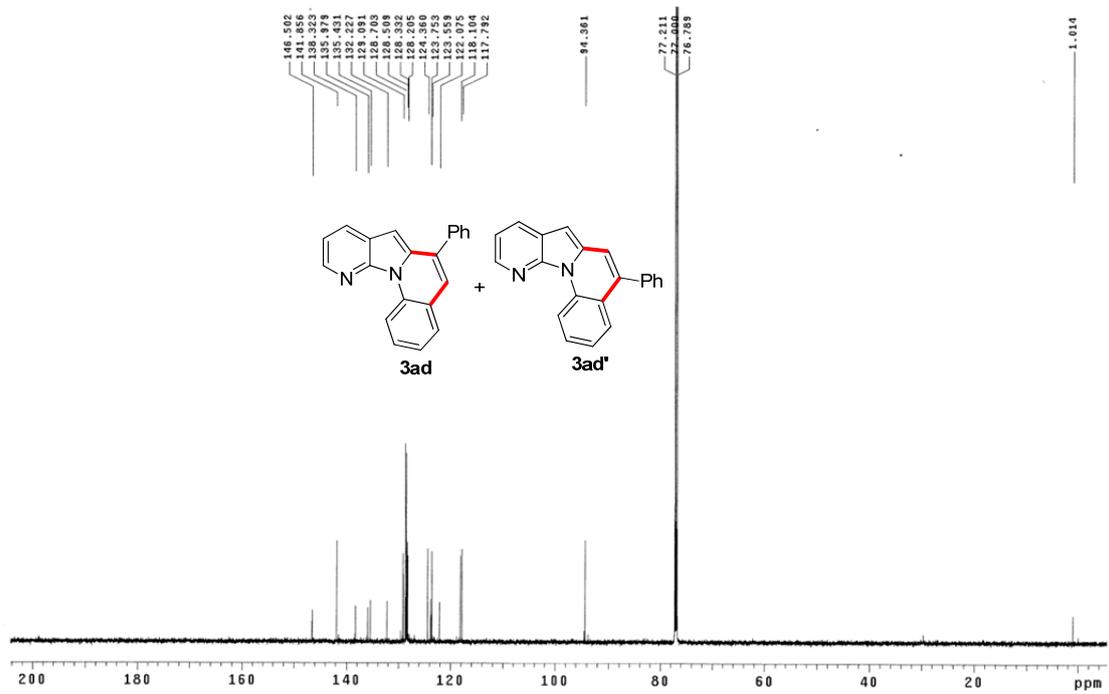


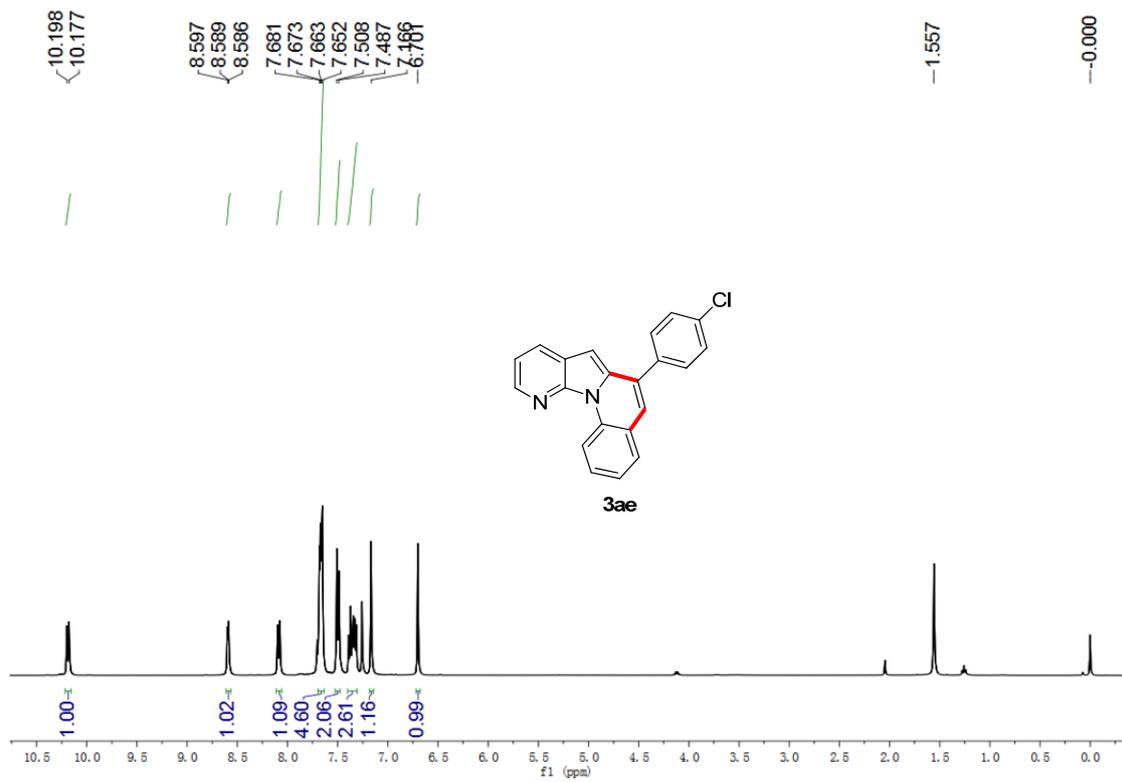
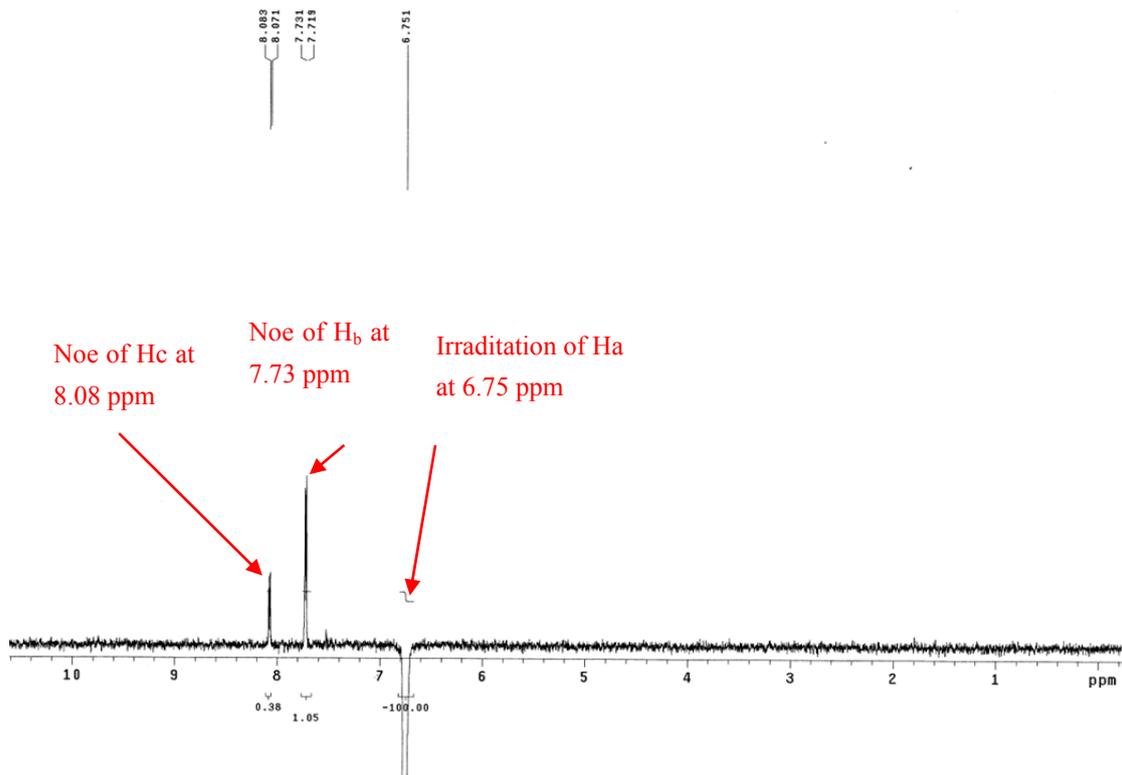
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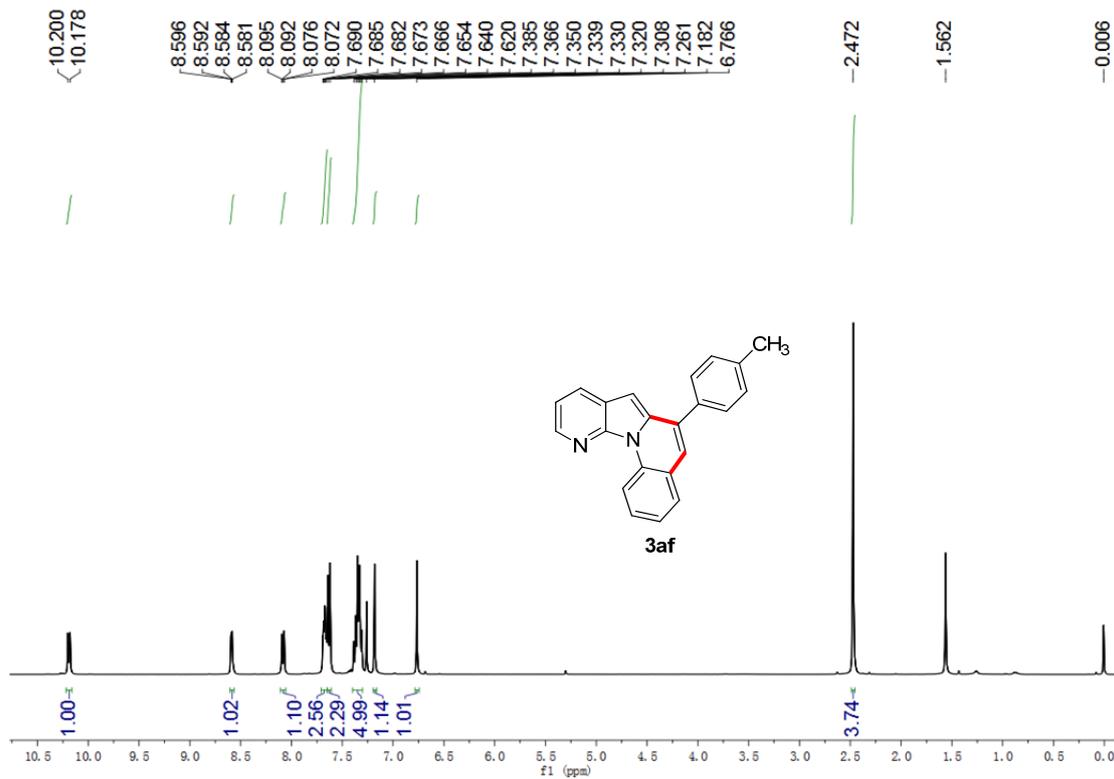
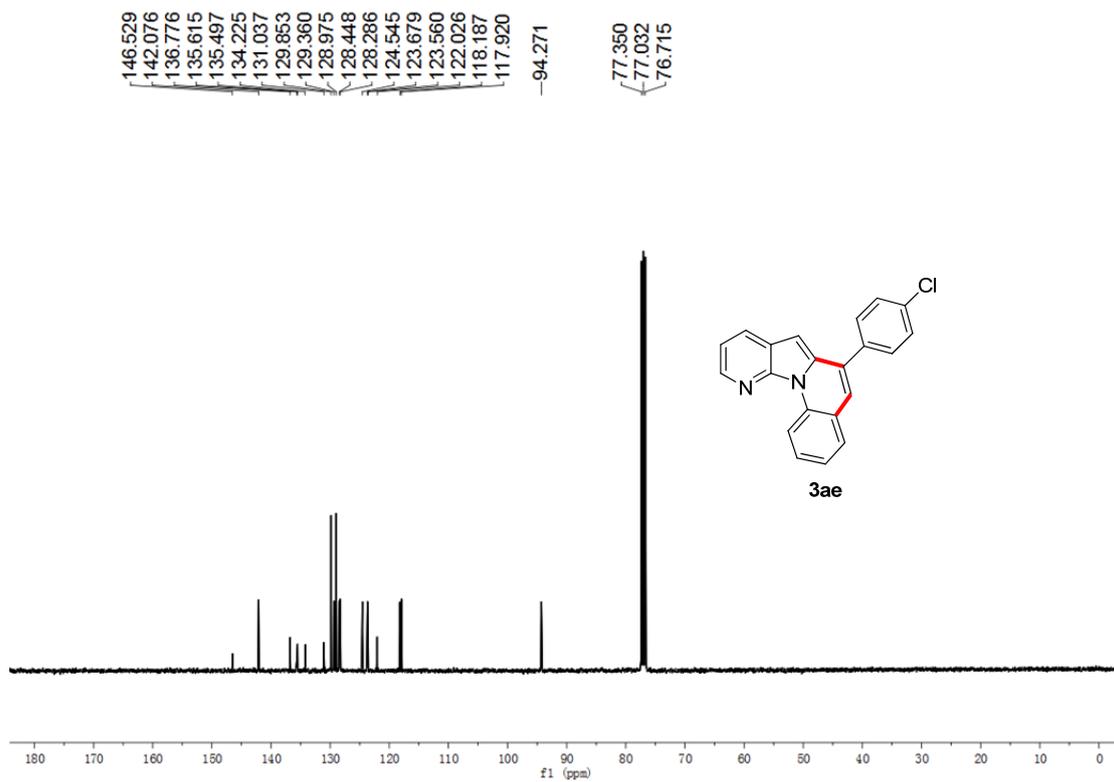


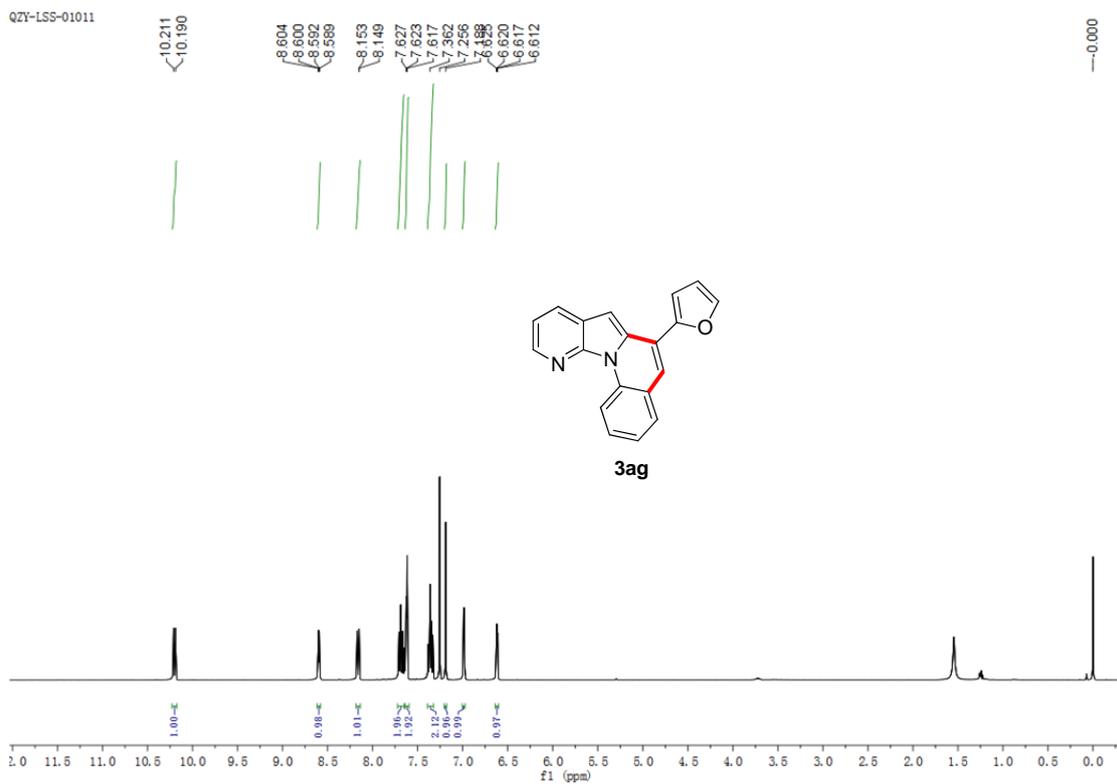
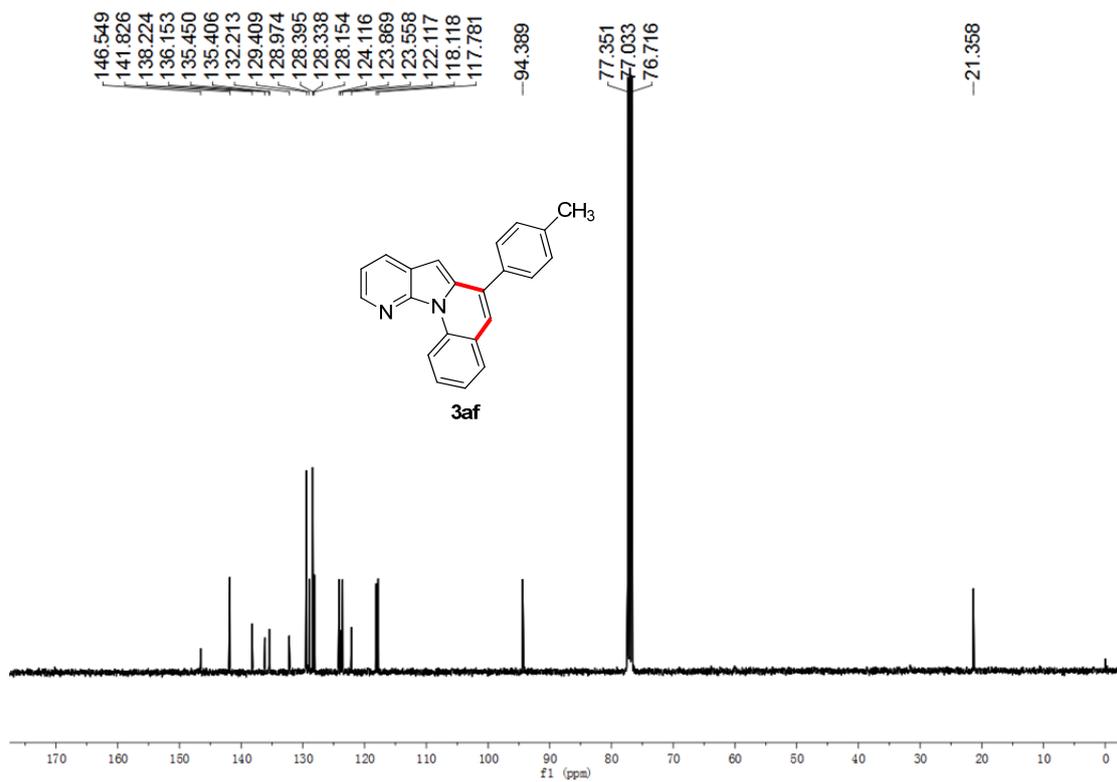
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