

Supporting Information

**Reaction of Alkenecarboxylic Acids with Isocyanates via  
Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed C-H Activation: A Versatile Route to Cyclic  
Imides**

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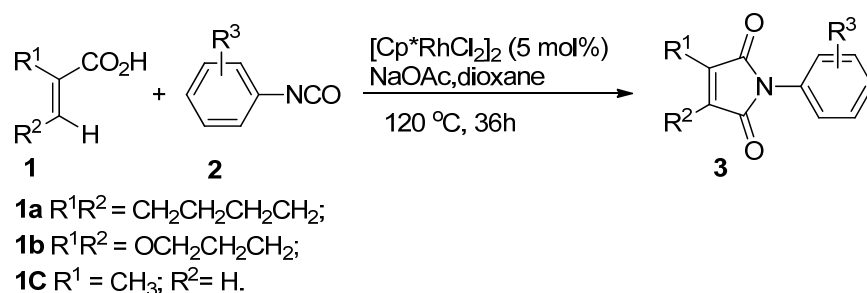
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## Experimental Section

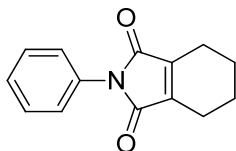
Solvents and reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and were used without further purification unless otherwise specified.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz, or 500 MHz spectrometers; internal reference of  $\delta = 7.28$  or  $77.0$   $\text{CHCl}_3$  as standard. HRMS was conducted using electro-spraying ionization (ESI), and was performed by McGill University on a Thermo-Scientific Exactive Orbitrap. Protonated molecular ions  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  or sodium adducts  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , were used for empirical formula confirmation.

### General Synthetic Procedure for Compounds 3a – 3o

An oven-dried reaction vessel was charged with  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (6.18 mg, 5 mol%, 0.01 mmol), NaOAc (16.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), substituted alkenecarboxylic acids (0.2 mmol) and isocyanate (0.6 mmol). The tube was evacuated and purged with argon three times, and then dioxane (0.5 mL) was added to the vial by syringe. The mixture was stirred at  $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (oil bath temperature) for 36 h. After this time, the resulting mixture was cooled down to room temperature, filtered through a short pad of silica gel, and then concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate = 10 : 1) to afford the corresponding product.

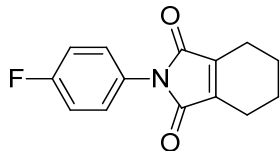


### 2-Phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3a)<sup>1</sup>



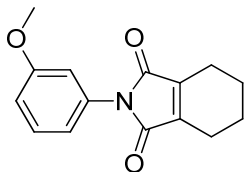
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.41- 7.48(m, 2H), 7.30 - 7.37(m, 3H), 2.43(s, 4H), 1.84(s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.9, 141.8, 131.9, 129.0, 127.4, 126.0, 21.4, 20.2.

**2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3b)<sup>1</sup>**



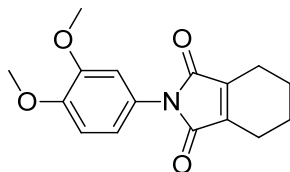
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.30 - 7.36(m, 2H), 7.12 - 7.19(m, 2H), 2.40 - 2.50(m, 4H), 1.80 - 1.90(m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.8, 162.5, 160.5, 141.8, 127.9, 127.8, 127.8, 127.7, 116.1, 115.9, 21.4, 20.2.

**2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3c)<sup>1</sup>**



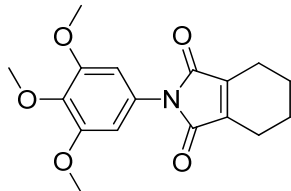
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.34 - 7.39(t, J = 7.5Hz, 1H), 6.88 - 6.97(m, 3H), 3.84(s, 1H), 2.46(s, 4H), 1.84(s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.9, 160.0, 141.8, 133.0, 129.7, 118.3, 113.4, 111.7, 55.4, 21.4, 20.2.

**2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3d)<sup>2</sup>**



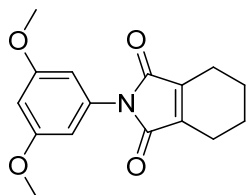
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.84- 6.96(m, 3H), 3.92(s, 3H), 3.89(s, 3H), 2.45(s, 4H), 1.85(s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.2, 149.1, 148.4, 141.7, 124.7, 118.8, 111.2, 110.0, 56.1, 56.0, 21.4, 20.2.

**2-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,  
3(2H)-dione (3e)**



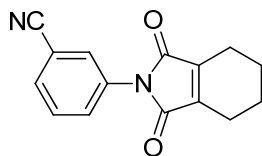
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.58(s, 2H), 3.87(s, 9H), 2.45(s, 4H), 1.85(s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.0, 153.3, 141.8, 137.4, 127.5, 103.9, 60.9, 56.2, 21.4, 20.2. HRMS Calcd for  $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5]^+$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ) 318.1336, found 318.1333.

**2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-  
1,3(2H)-dione (3f) <sup>3</sup>**



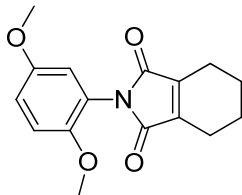
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.53 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.46 (t,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.81(s, 6H), 2.44(s, 4H), 1.84(s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.8, 160.8, 141.7, 133.4, 104.4, 100.0, 55.5, 21.4, 20.2.

**2-(3-Cyanophenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-  
dione (3g)**



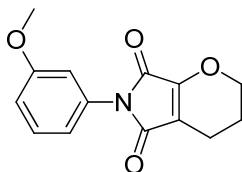
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.75 – 7.79(m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.73(m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.64(m, 2H), 2.47(s, 4H), 1.86(s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.1, 142.2, 133.0, 130.4, 129.9, 129.6, 128.7, 118.0, 113.2, 21.3, 20.2. HRMS Calcd for  $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2]^+$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ) 253.0972, found 253.0969.

## 2-(2, 5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3h)



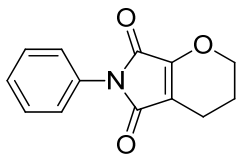
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.92 - 6.98(m, 2H), 6.75 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79(s, 3H), 3.78(s, 3H), 2.45(s, 4H), 1.84(s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.0, 153.6, 149.9, 142.0, 121.0, 115.8, 115.4, 113.1, 56.5, 55.8, 21.4, 20.3. HRMS Calcd for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4]^+$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}^+$ ) 288.1230, found 288.1229.

## 6-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-5,7(2H, 6H)-dione (3i)



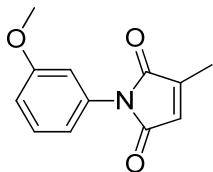
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.30 - 7.39 (m, 1H), 6.88 - 6.98 (m, 3H), 4.43 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.47 (t,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.14 - 2.03 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.7, 163.8, 160.0, 155.6, 132.4, 129.7, 118.4, 113.4, 111.9, 111.1, 69.7, 55.4, 21.1, 16.15. HRMS Calcd for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_4]^+$  ( $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ) 282.0737, found 282.0734.

## 6-phenyl-3,4-dihydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-5,7(2H,6H)-dione (3j)



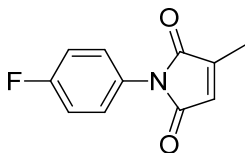
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 - 7.51(m, 2H), 7.33 - 7.38 (m, 3H), 4.44 (t,  $J$  = 5.2Hz, 2H), 2.48 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 2.13 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.8, 163.9, 155.6, 131.4, 129.0, 127.5, 126.1, 111.1, 69.7, 21.1, 16.2. HRMS Calcd for  $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_3]^+$  ( $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ) 252.0631, found 252.0628.

### 1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (3k) <sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35-7.40(m, 1H), 6.90-6.98(m, 3H), 6.49 – 6.51(m, 1H), 3.84(s, 3H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.5, 169.5, 160.0, 145.8, 132.7, 129.7, 127.5, 118.2, 113.6, 111.8, 55.4, 11.2.

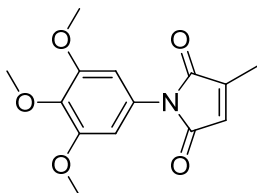
### 1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (3l) <sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.32-7.37(m, 2H), 7.14-7.19(m, 2H), 6.49 – 6.52(m, 1H), 2.20(d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.5, 169.5, 162.7, 160.7, 145.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 116.1, 116.0, 11.2.

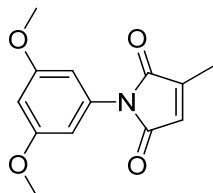
### 1-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione

#### (3m)



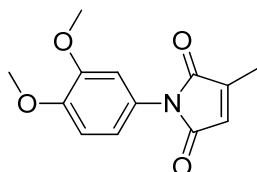
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.57(s, 2H), 6.49 - 6.51(m, 1H), 3.88(s, 3H), 3.88(s, 6H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.9, 169.7, 153.4, 145.8, 137.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.2, 104.0, 100.0, 61.0, 56.0, 11.4. HRMS Calcd for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (M + H<sup>+</sup>) 278.1023, found 278.1023.

### 1-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (3n) <sup>6</sup>



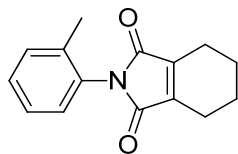
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.53 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.47 - 6.50(m, 2H), 3.80(s, 6H), 2.19 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.5, 169.4, 160.9, 145.8, 133.1, 127.5, 104.5, 100.2, 55.5, 11.2.

### 1-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dione (3o)



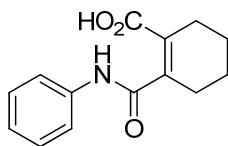
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.87 - 6.98(m, 2H), 6.83 -6.87(s, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92(s, 3H), 3.90(s, 3H), 2.19(d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.9, 169.9, 149.2, 148.7, 145.7, 127.4, 124.4, 118.7, 111.1, 109.9, 56.1, 56.0, 11.2. HRMS Calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (M + H<sup>+</sup>) 248.0917, found 248.0919.

### 2-(*o*-Tolyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (3p) <sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.26 - 7.35(m, 3H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.48(s, 4H), 2.19(s, 3H), 1.85(s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.1, 141.9, 136.7, 131.0, 130.7, 129.0, 128.8, 126.7, 21.4, 20.2, 18.1.

## 2-(Phenylcarbamoyl)cyclohex-1-enecarboxylic acid (F) <sup>8</sup>

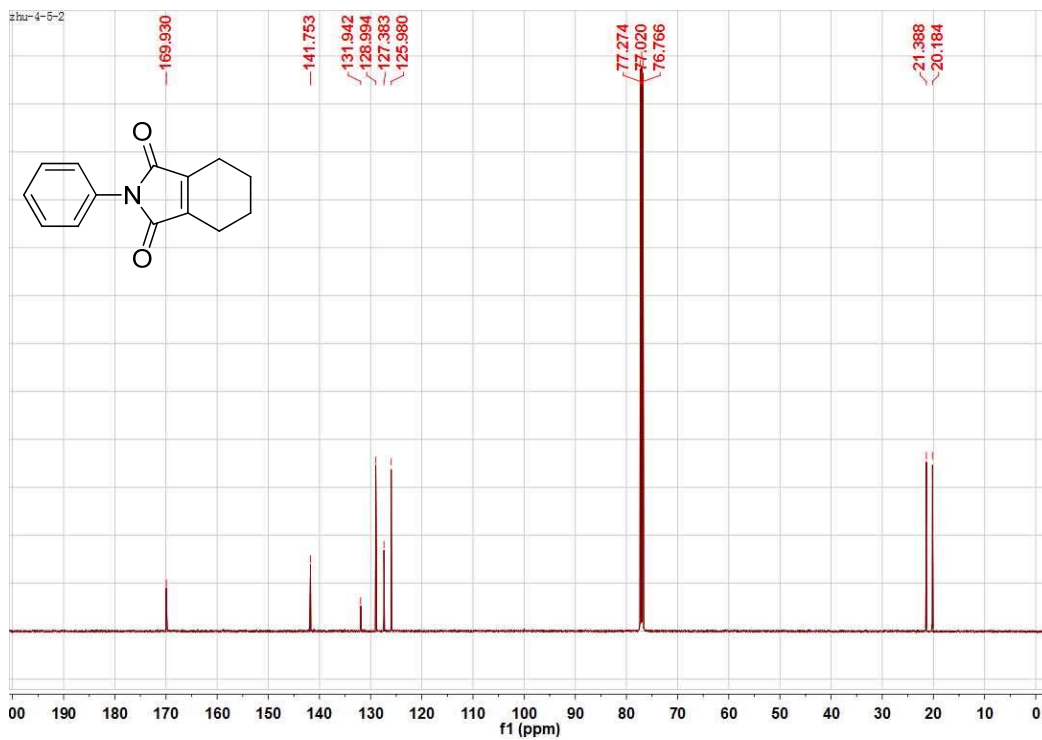
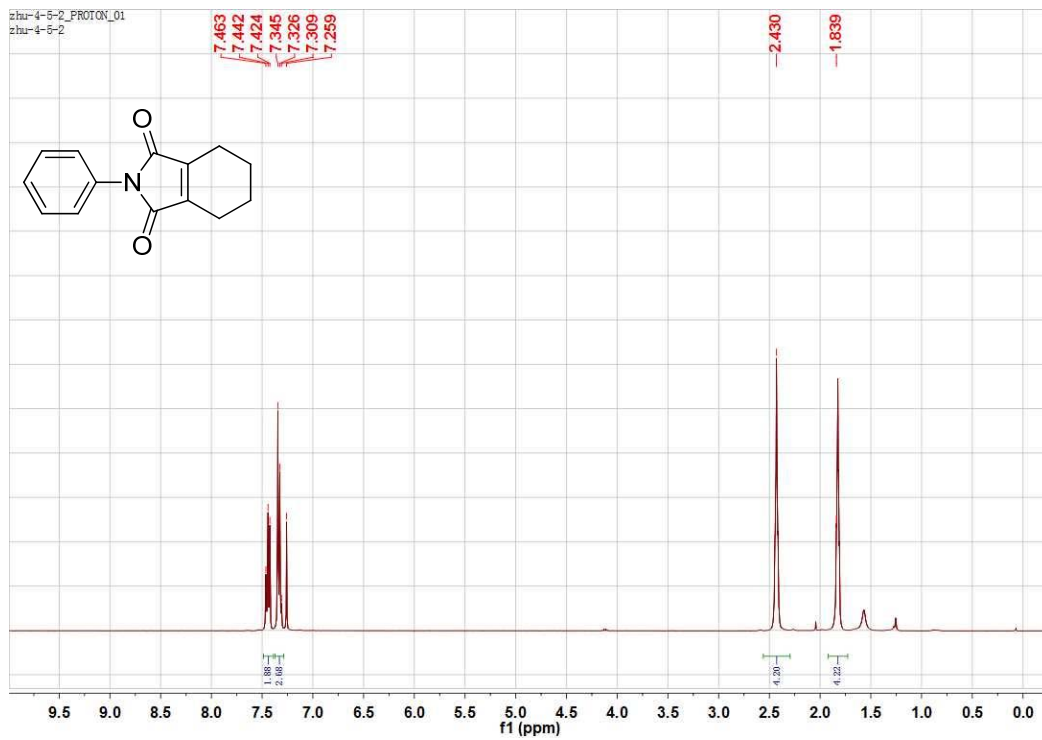


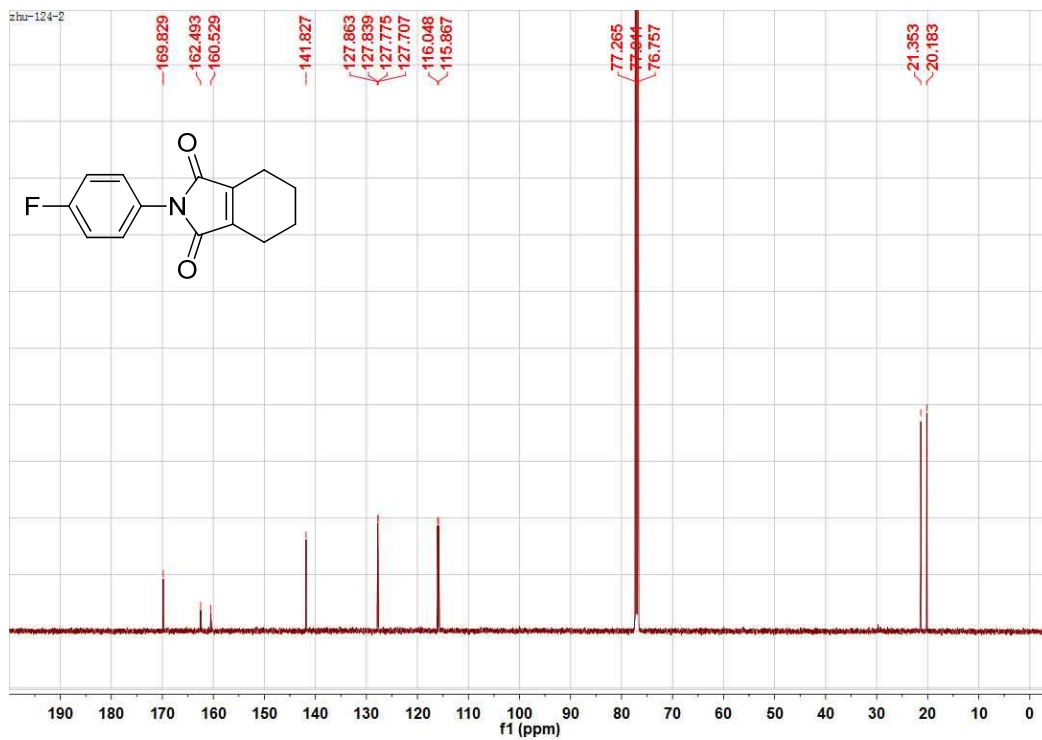
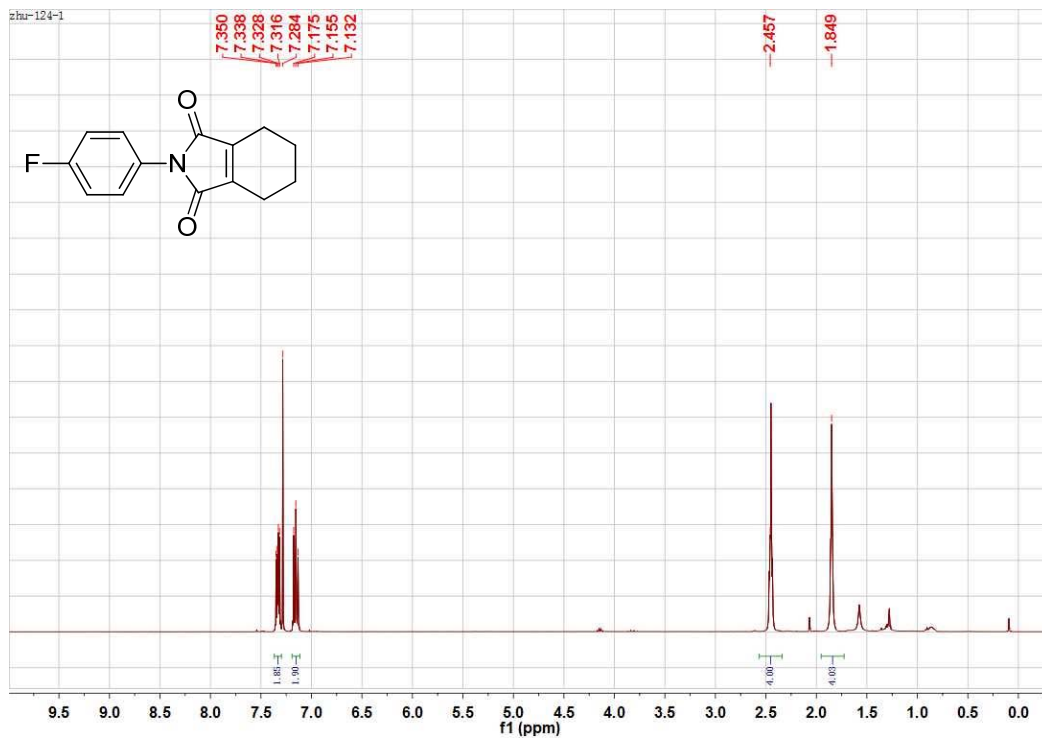
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33 - 7.45 (m, 4H), 7.20 - 7.26(m, 1H), 2.57 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.46 (m, 2H), 1.80 – 1.90 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 150.9, 150.2, 144.0, 136.2, 128.8, 126.4, 124.5, 21.4, 21.4, 21.2, 20.4.

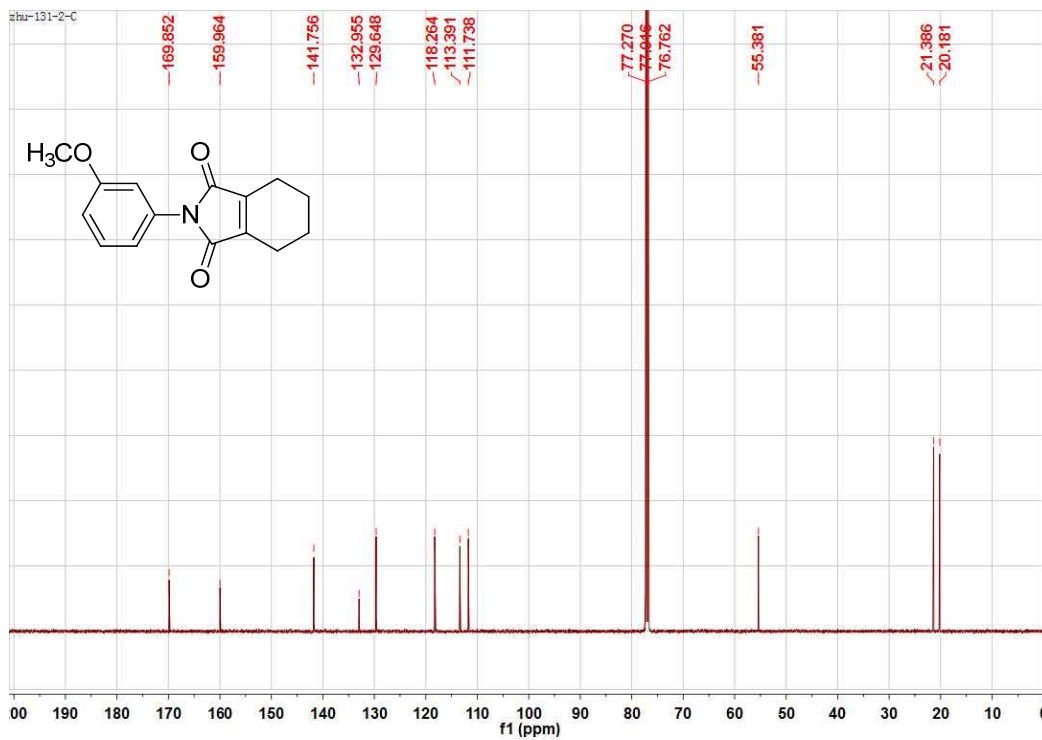
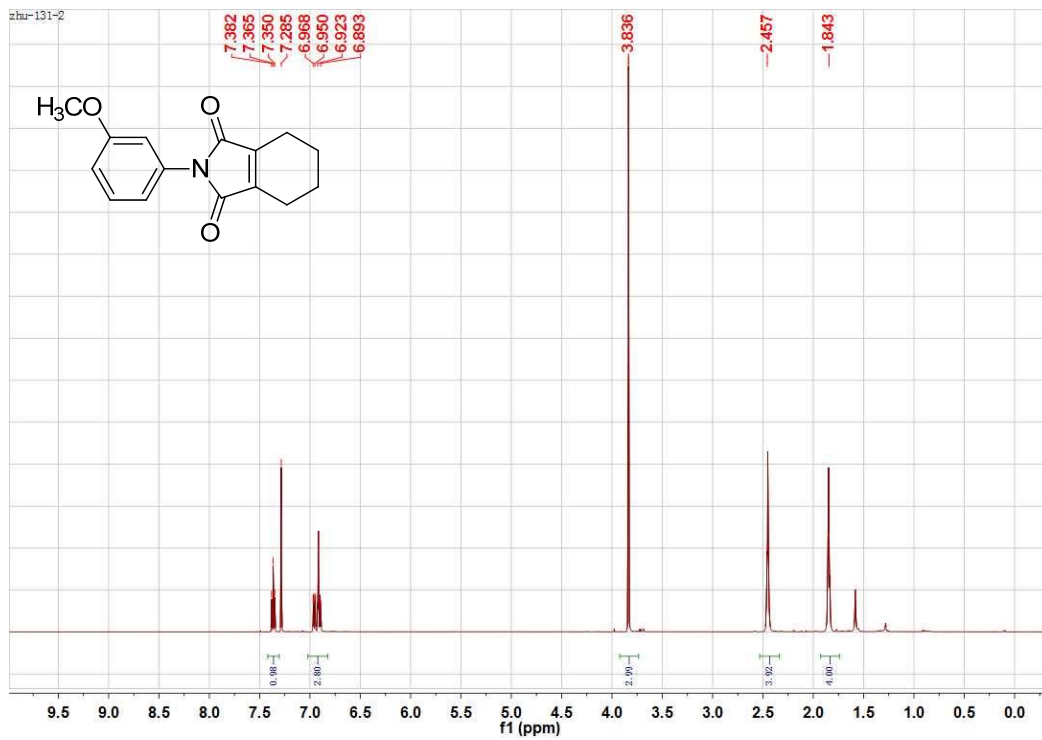
### Notes and references

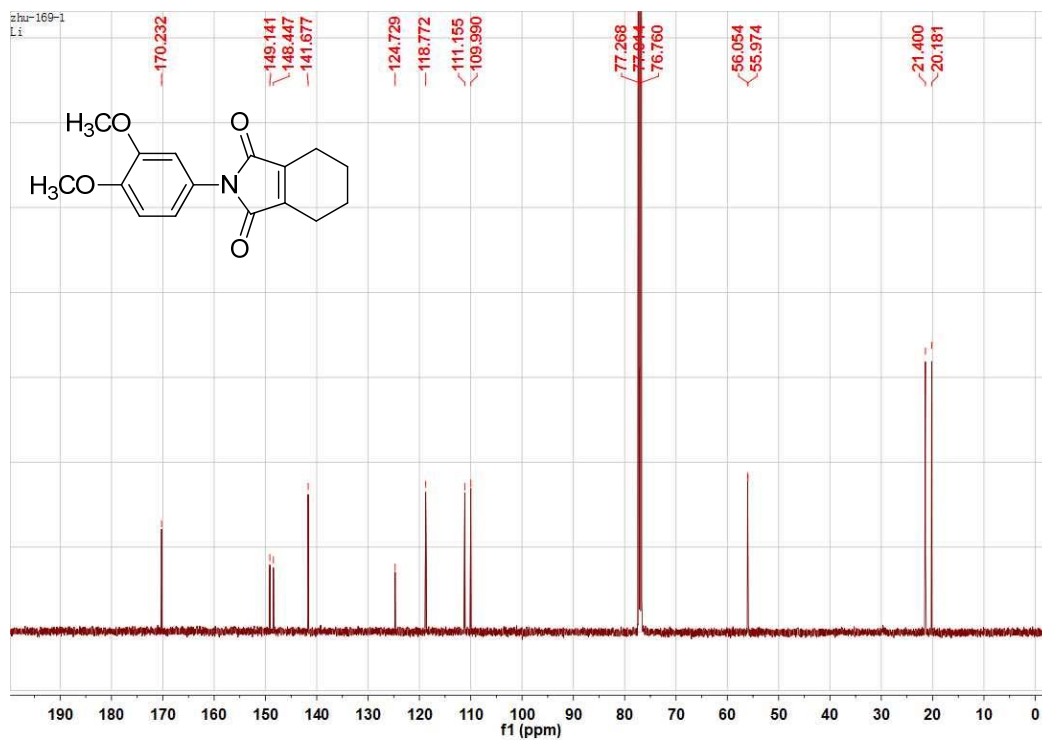
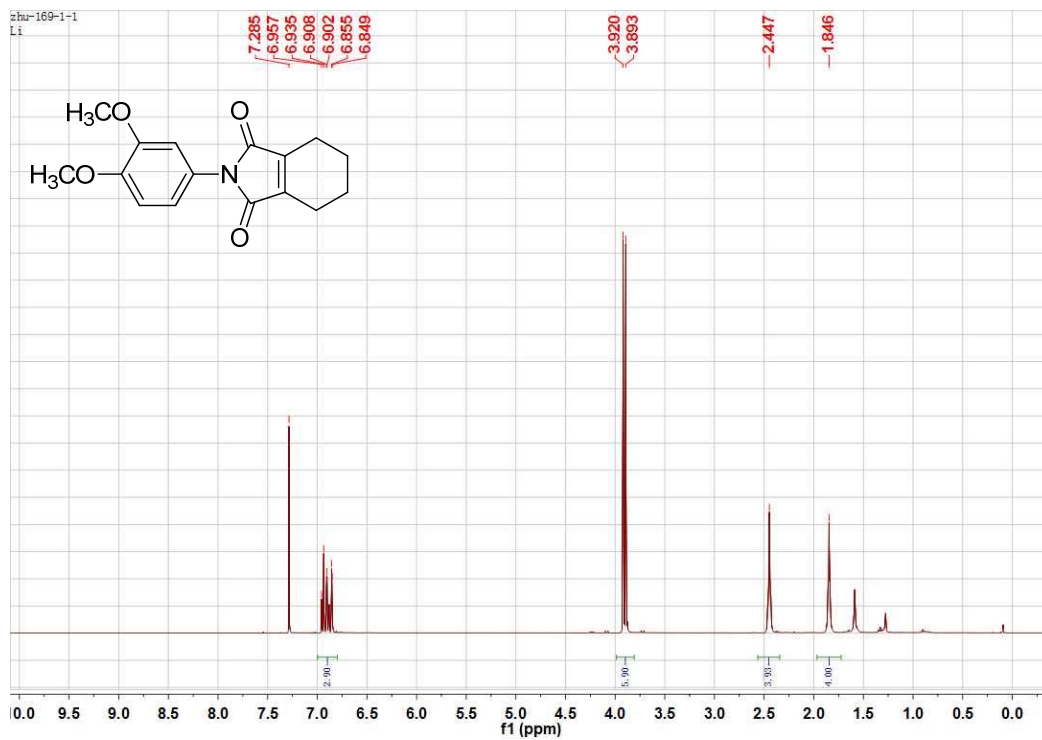
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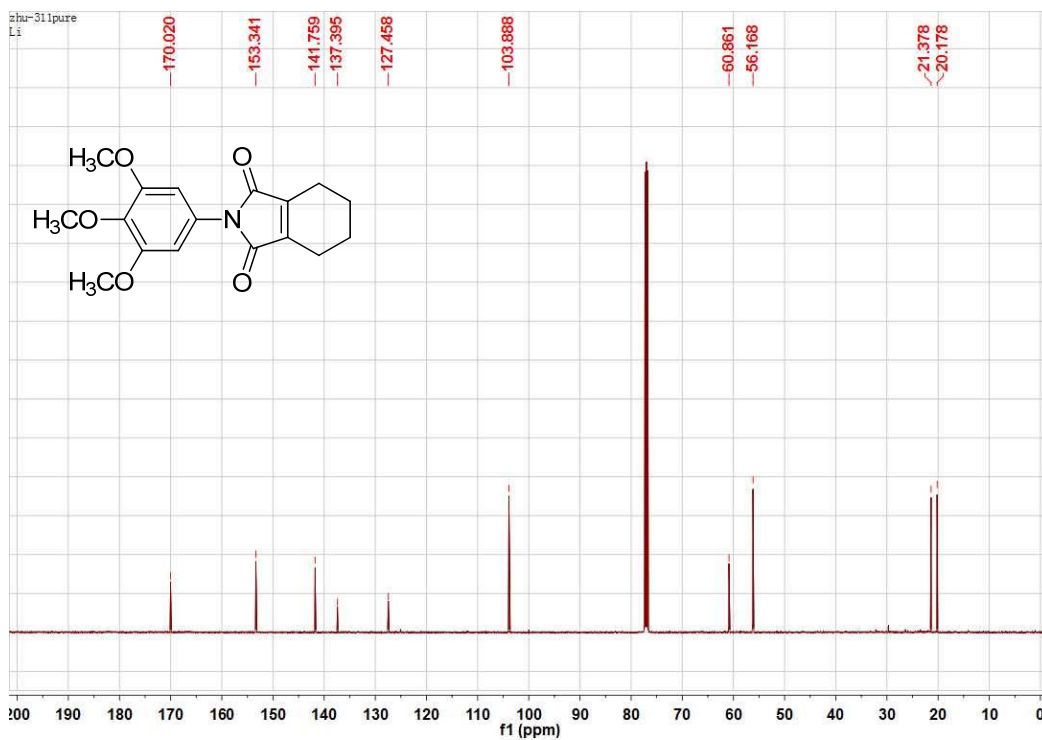
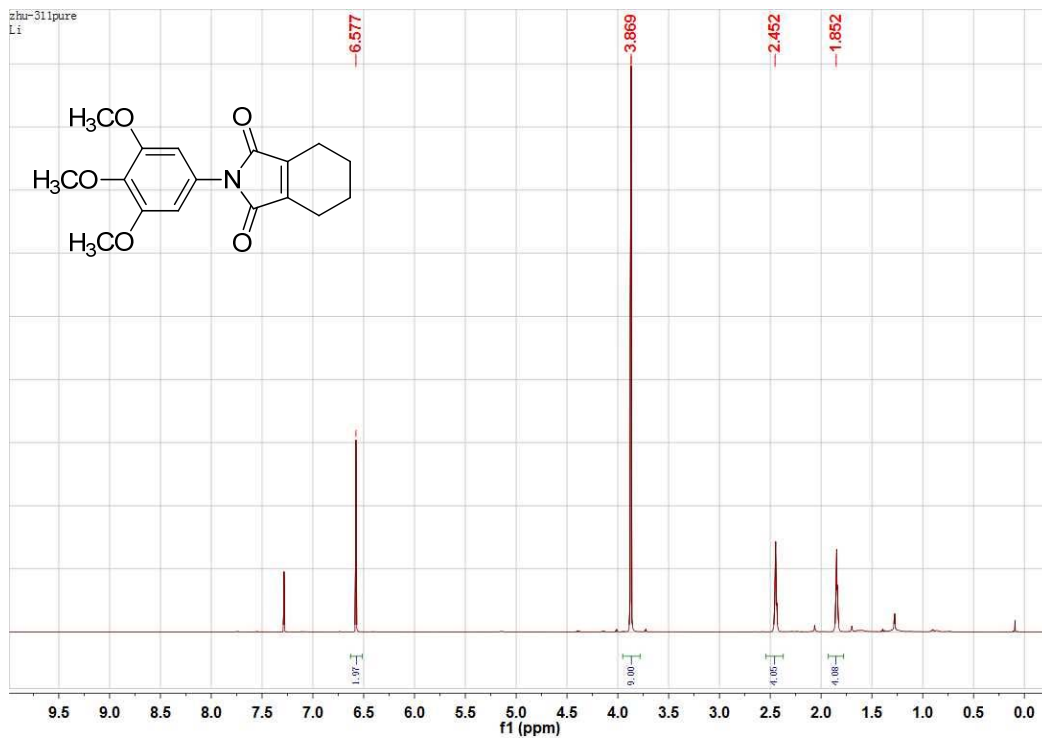


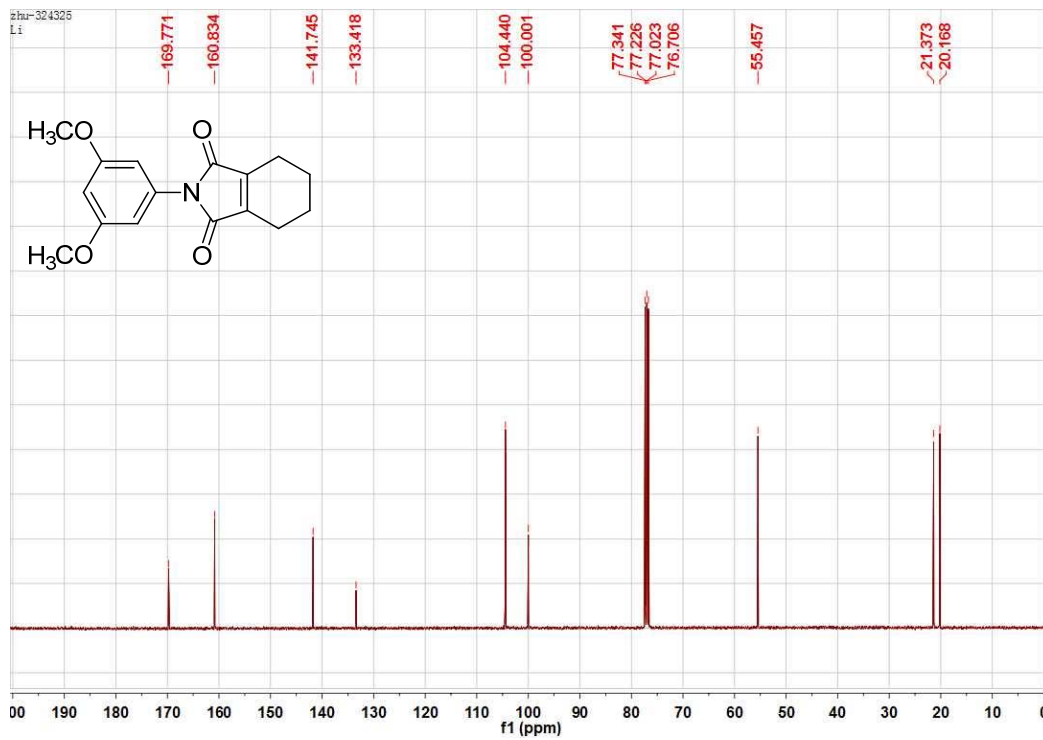
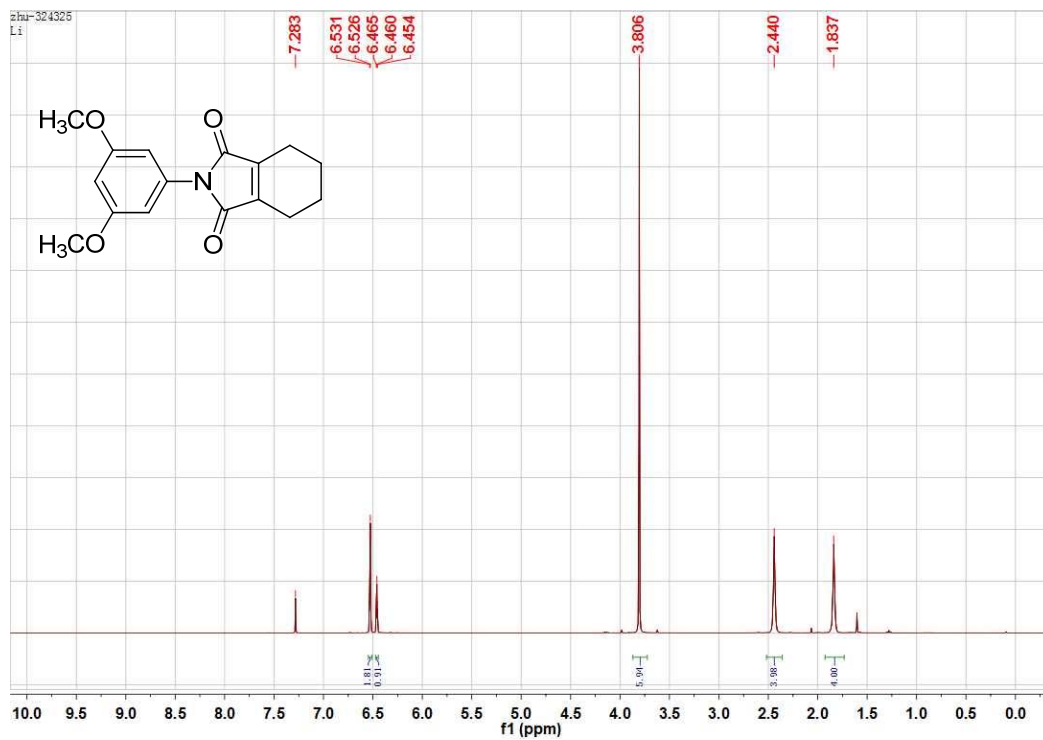


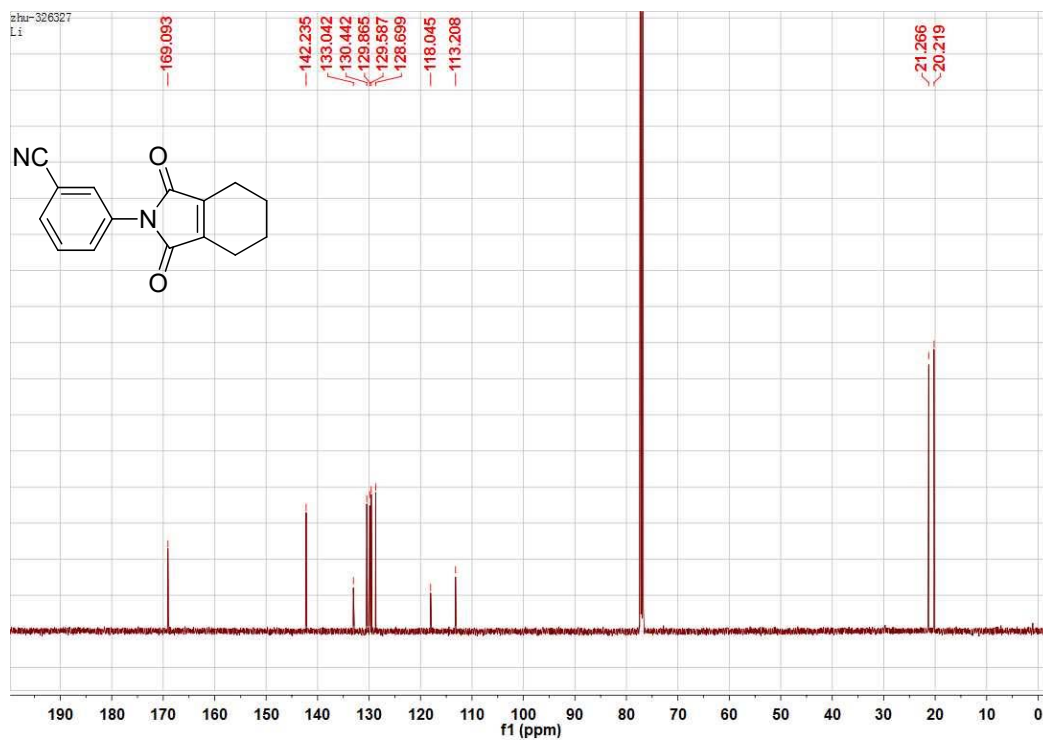
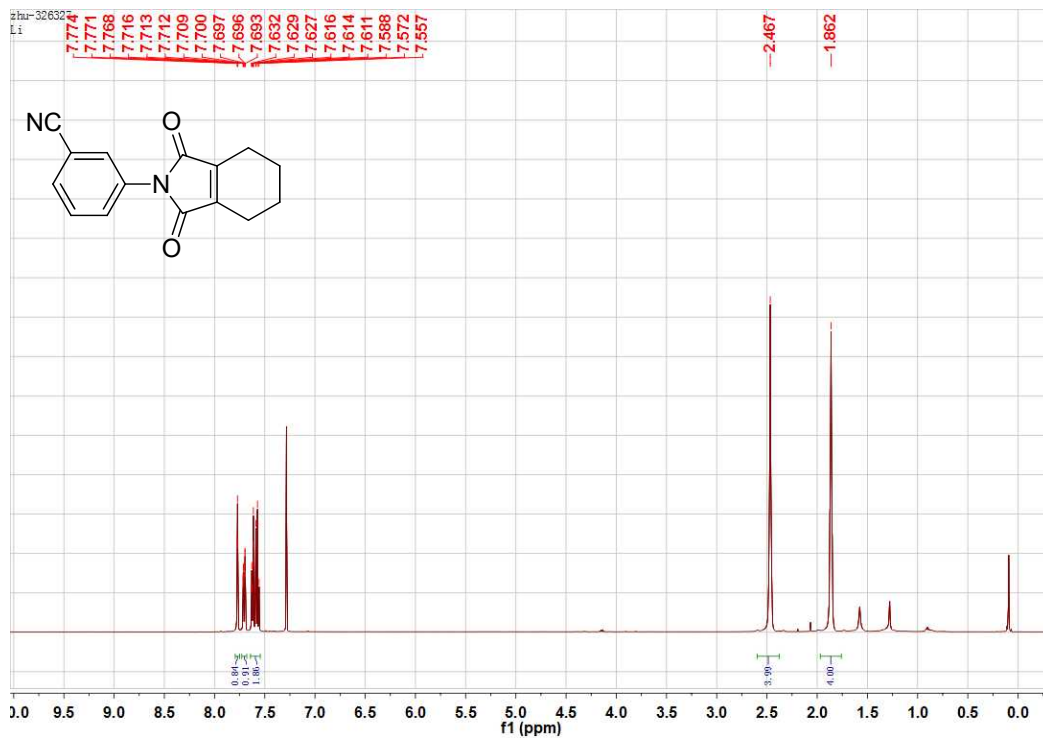


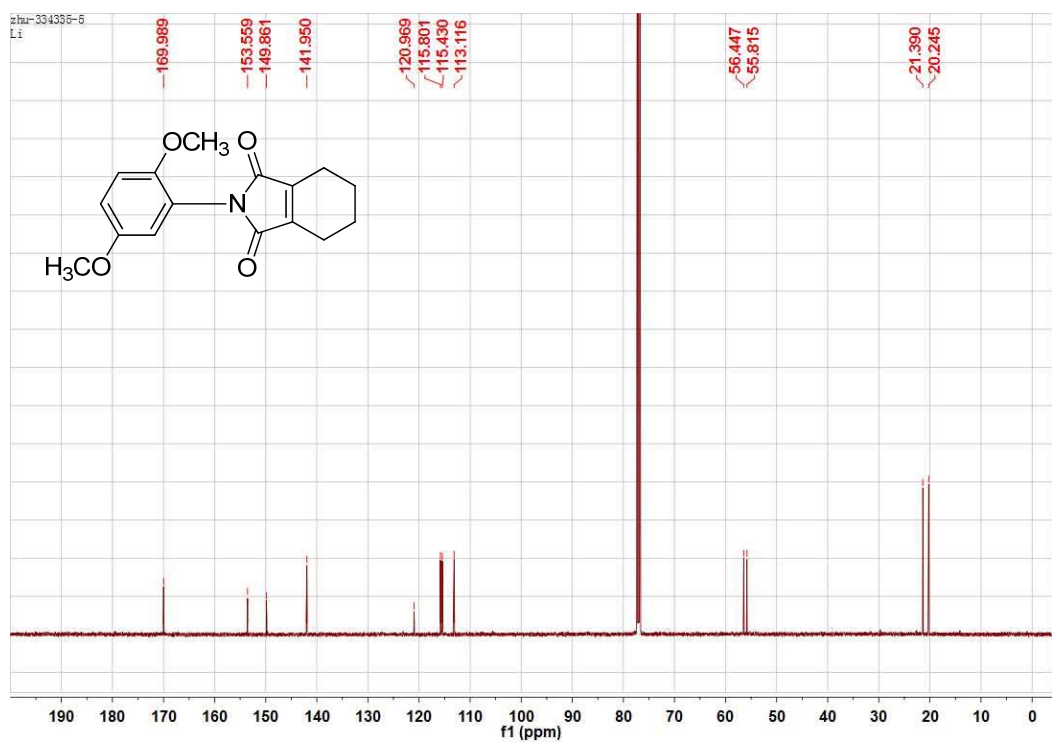
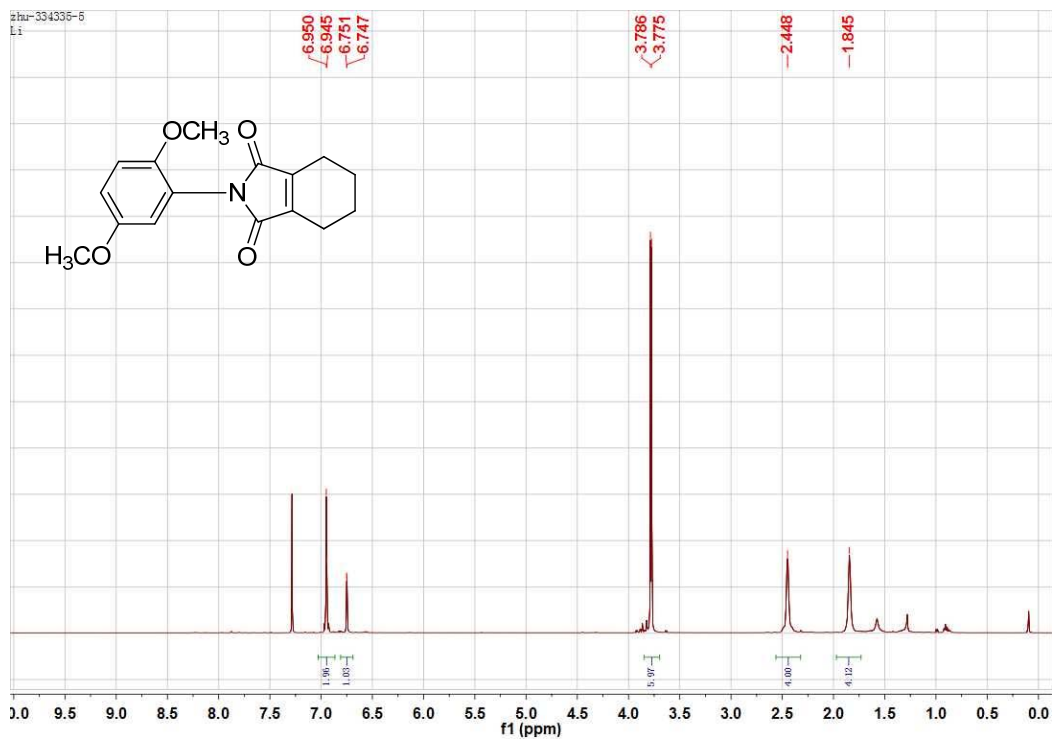




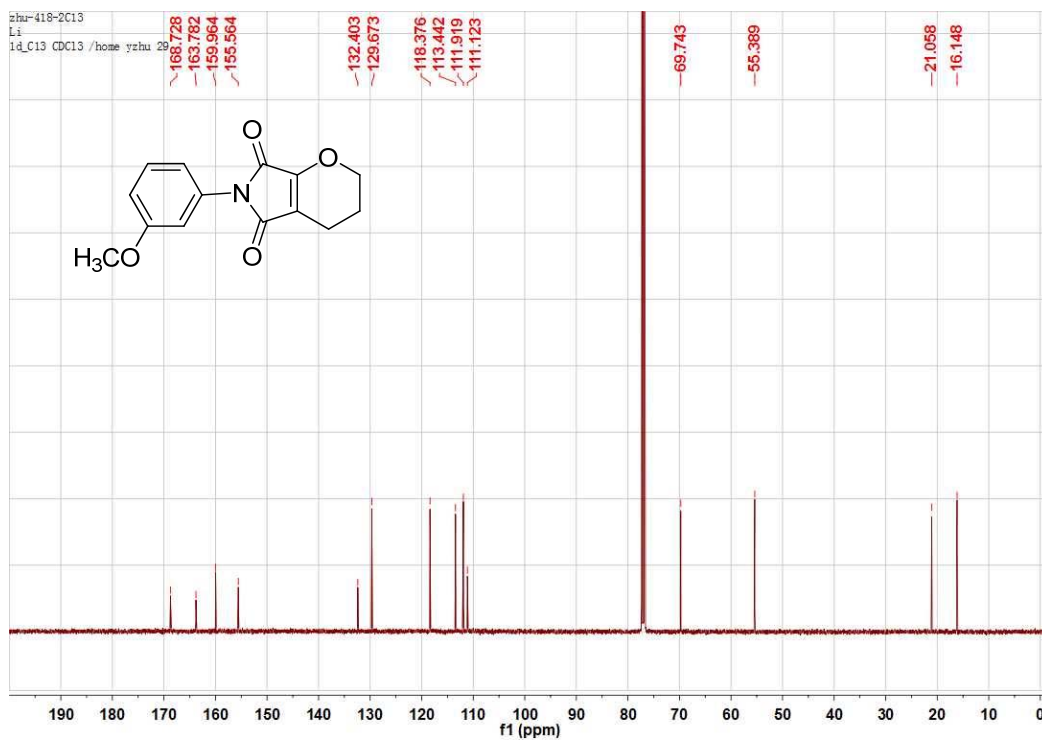
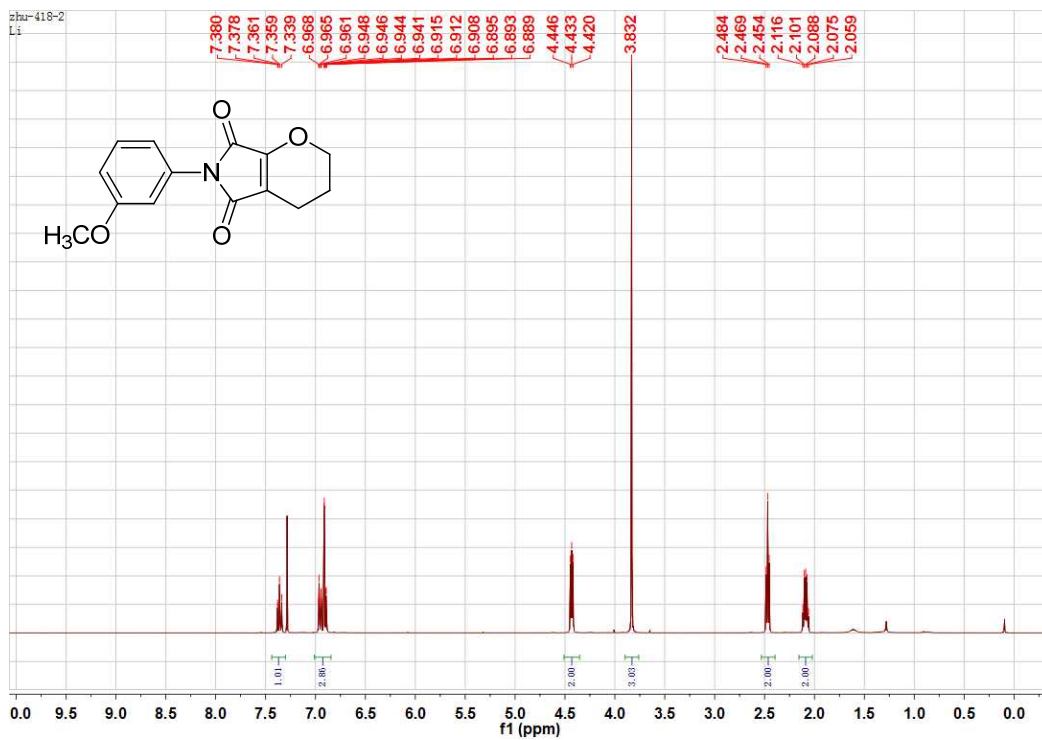


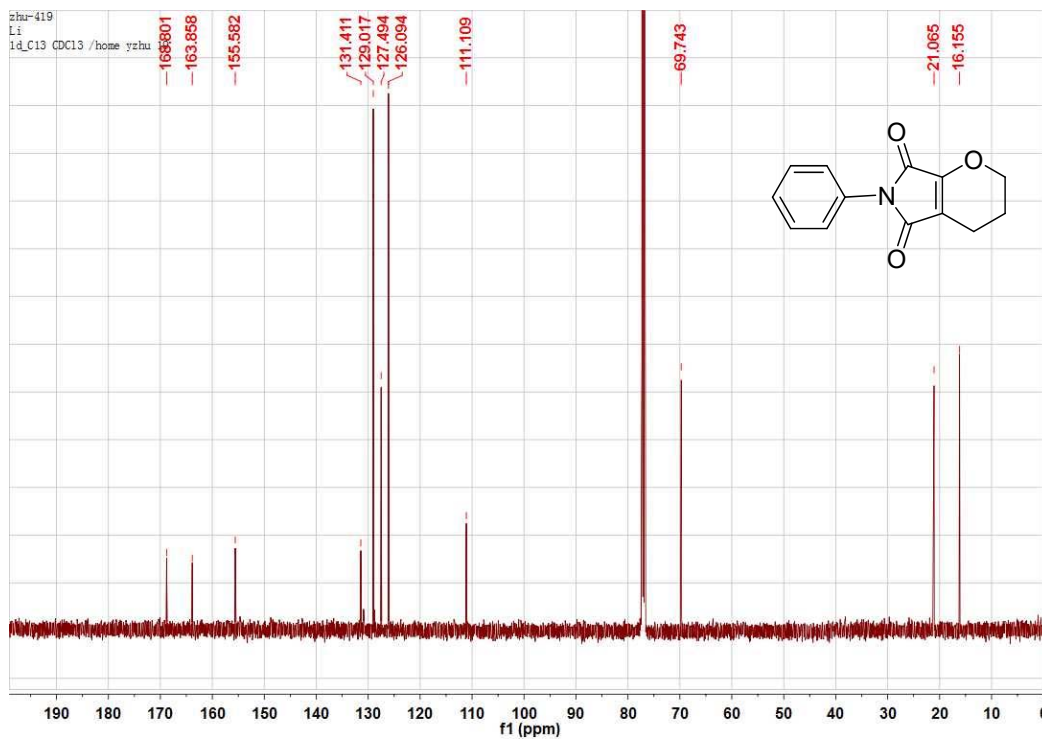
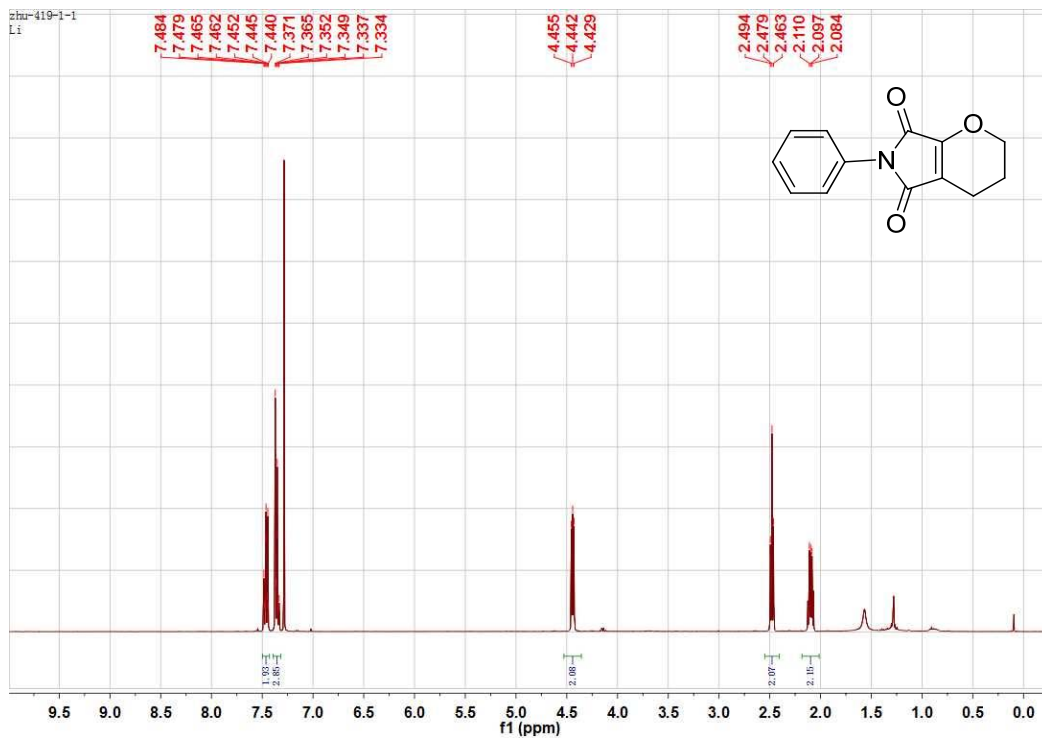


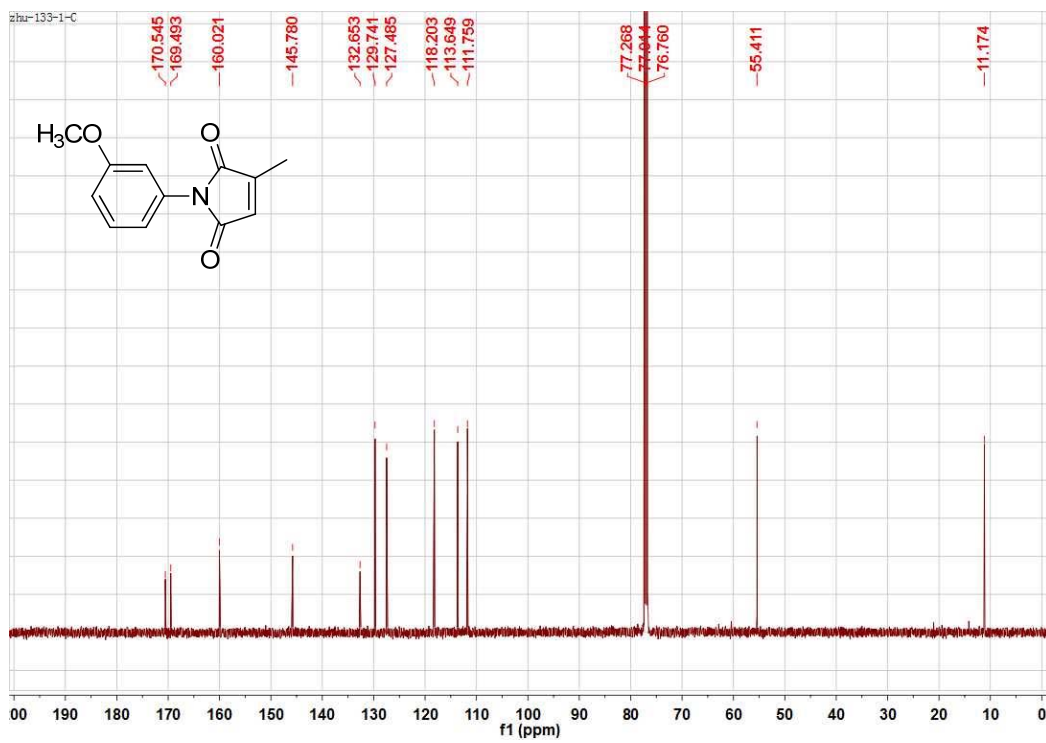
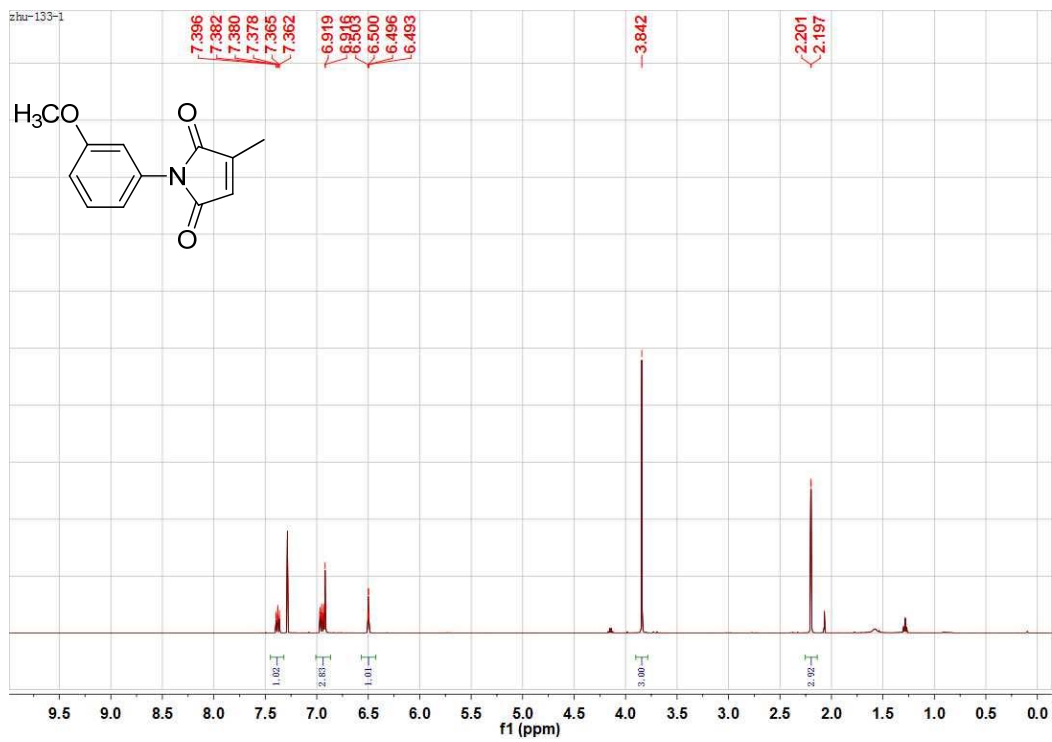


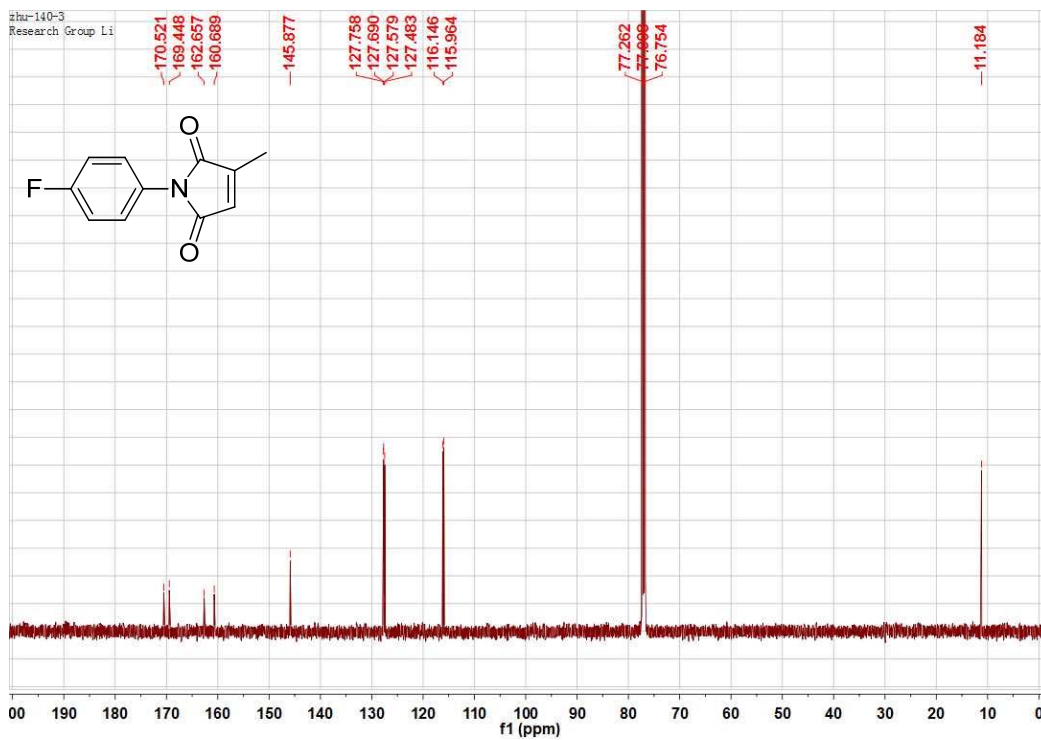
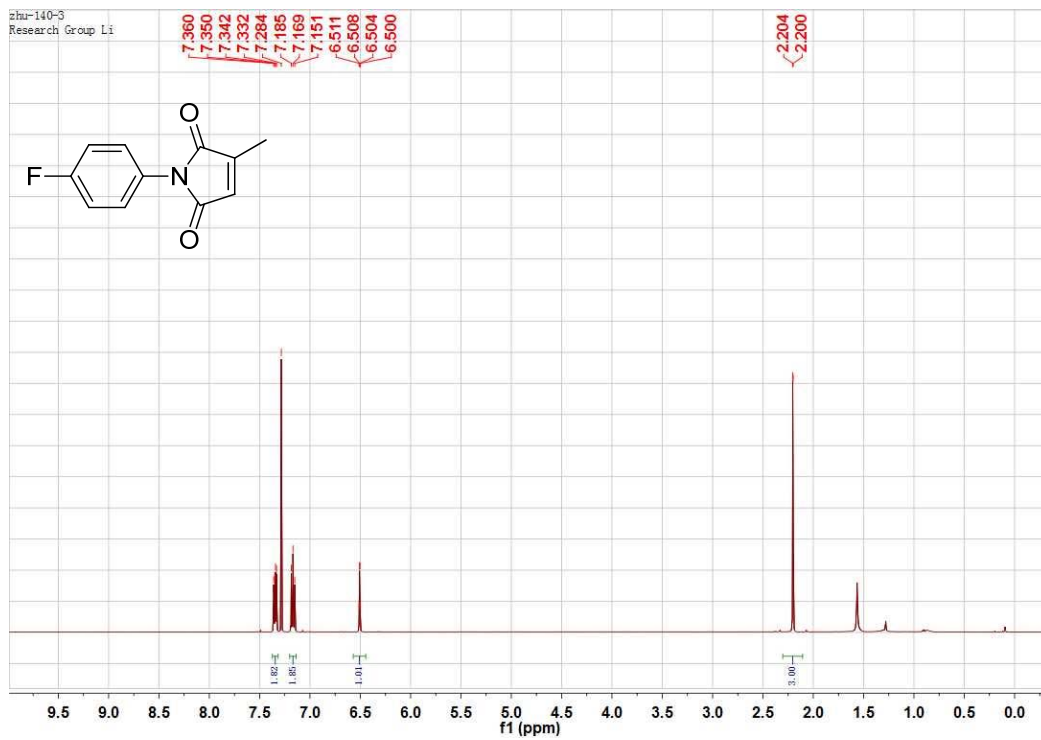


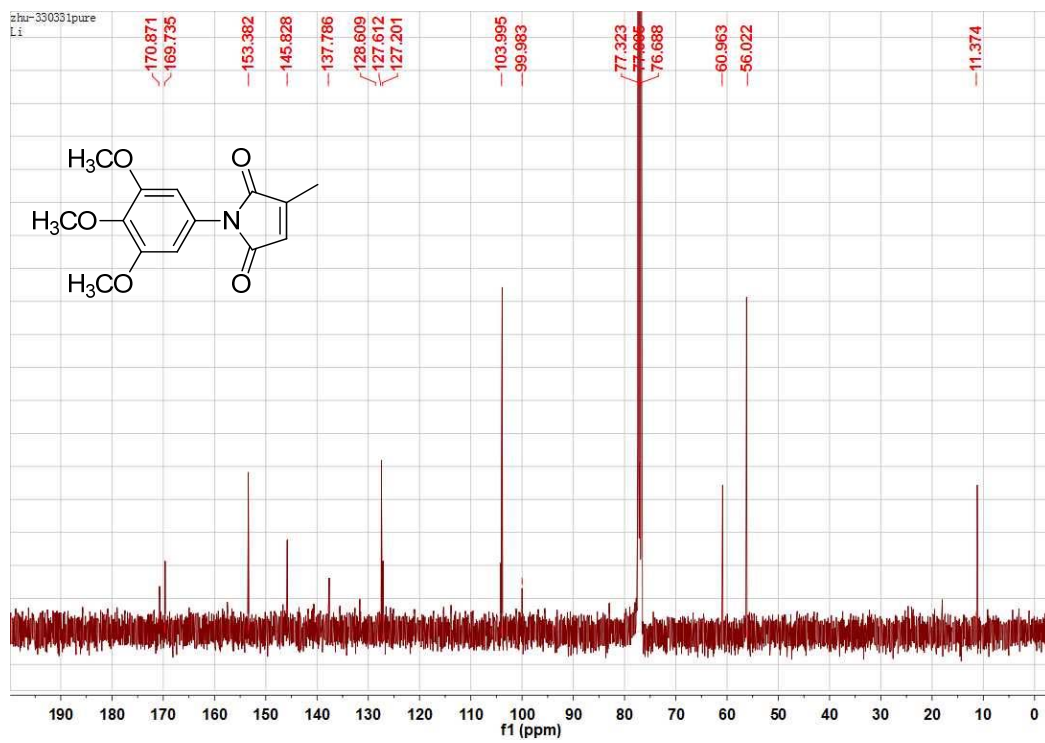
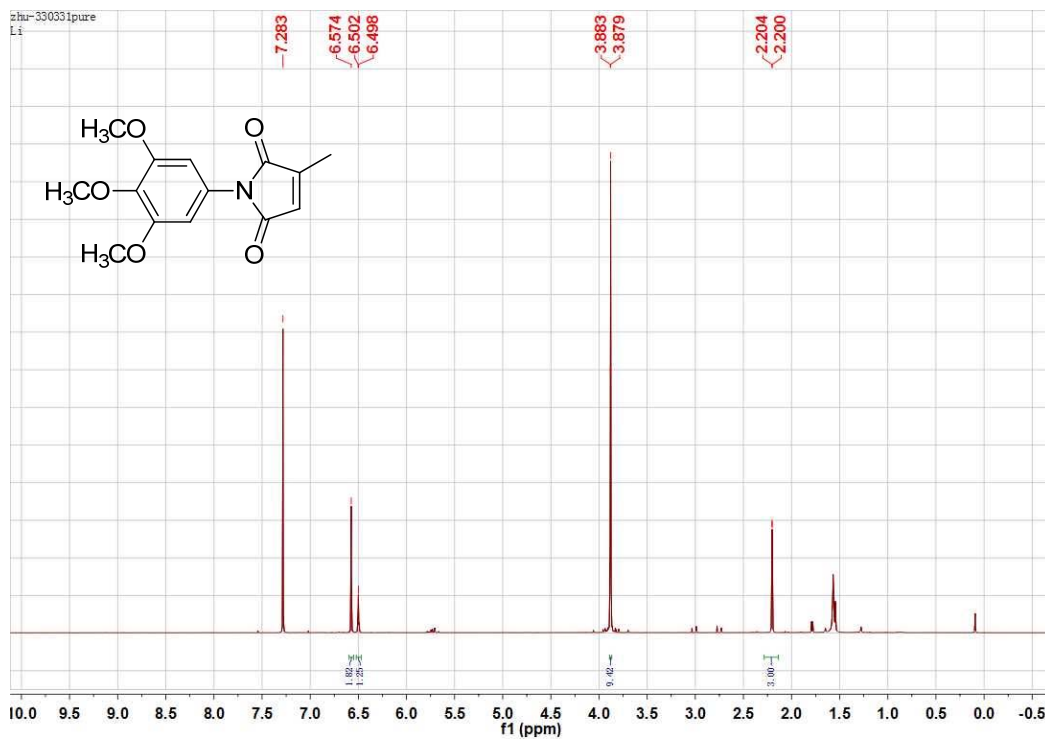


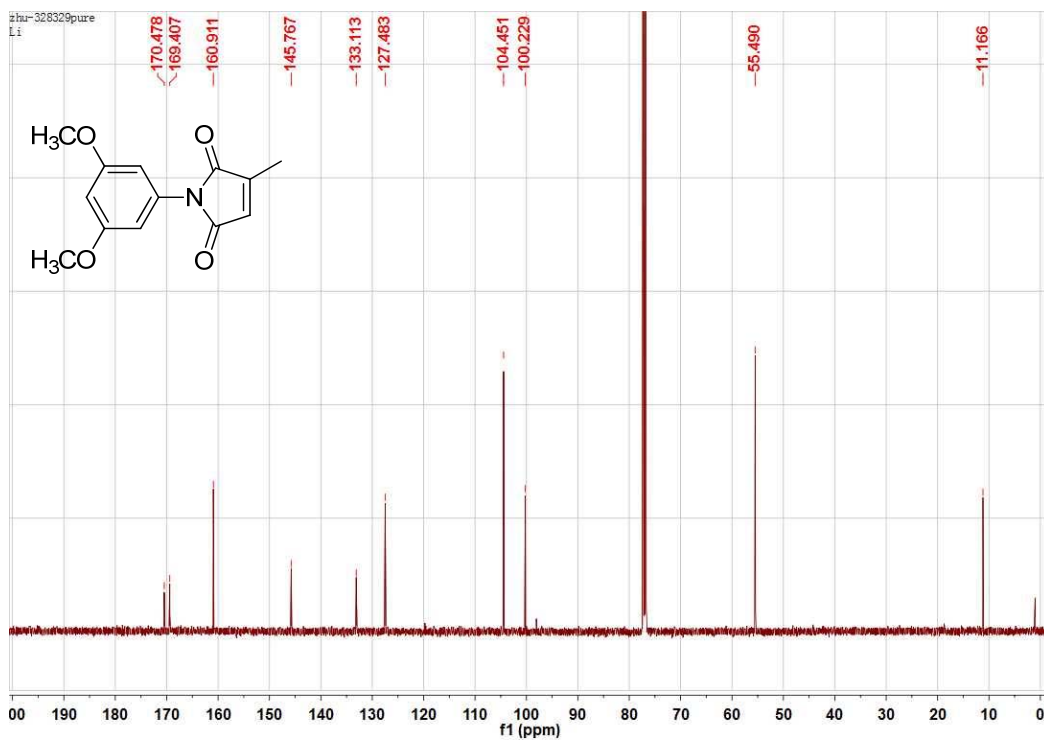
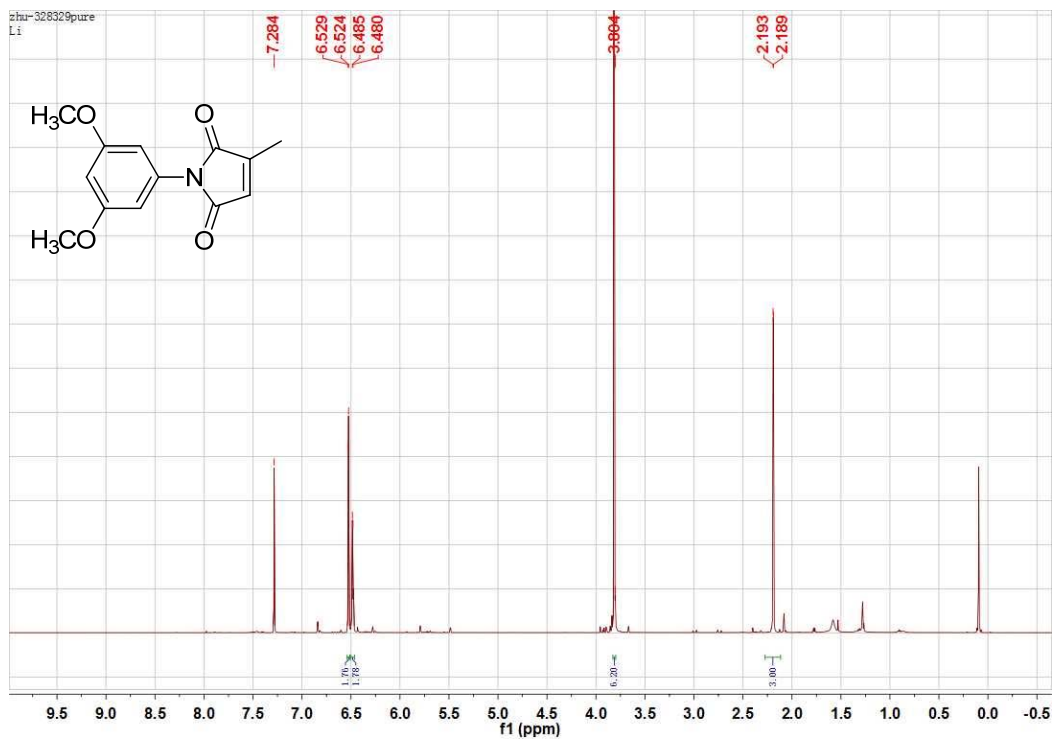


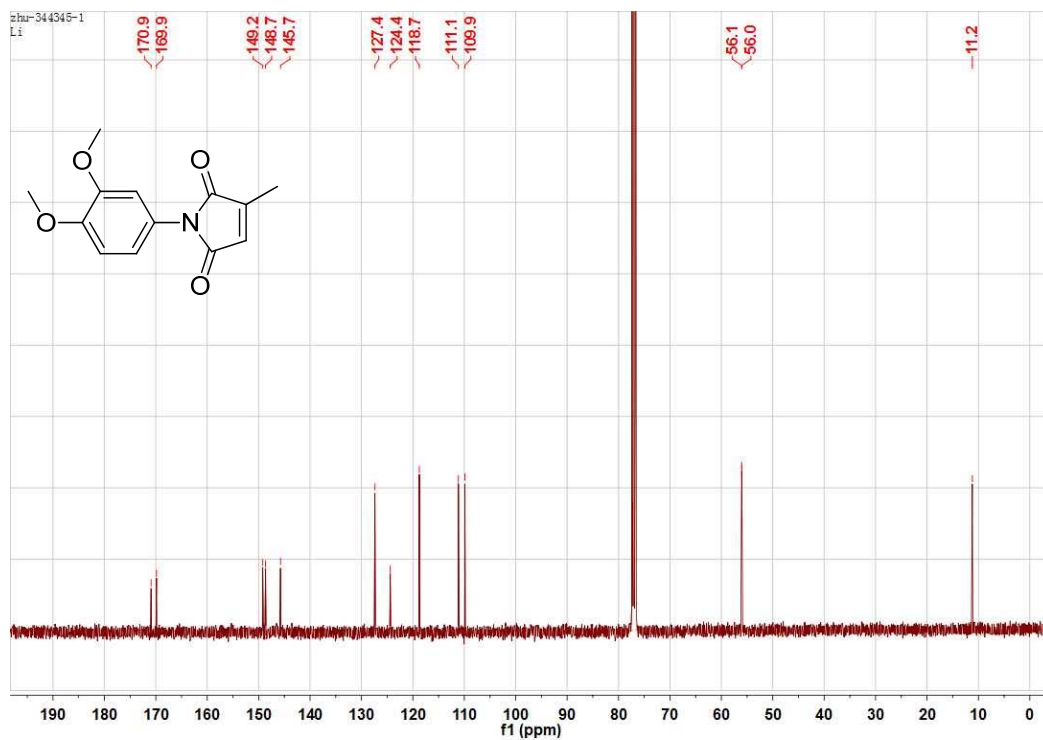
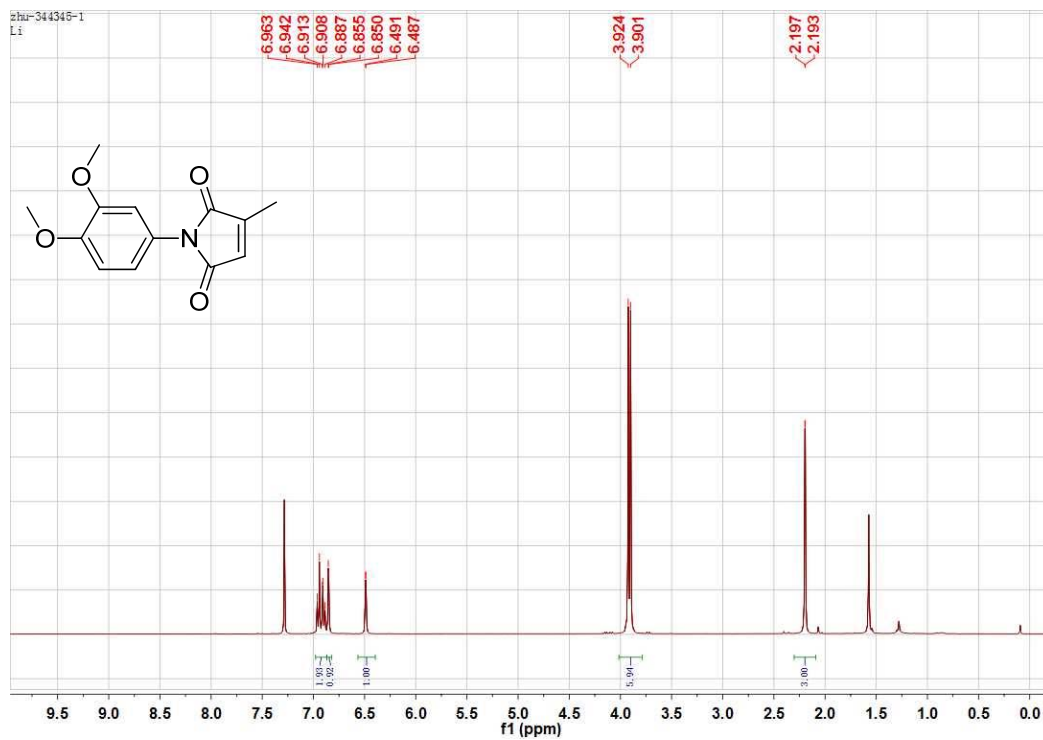


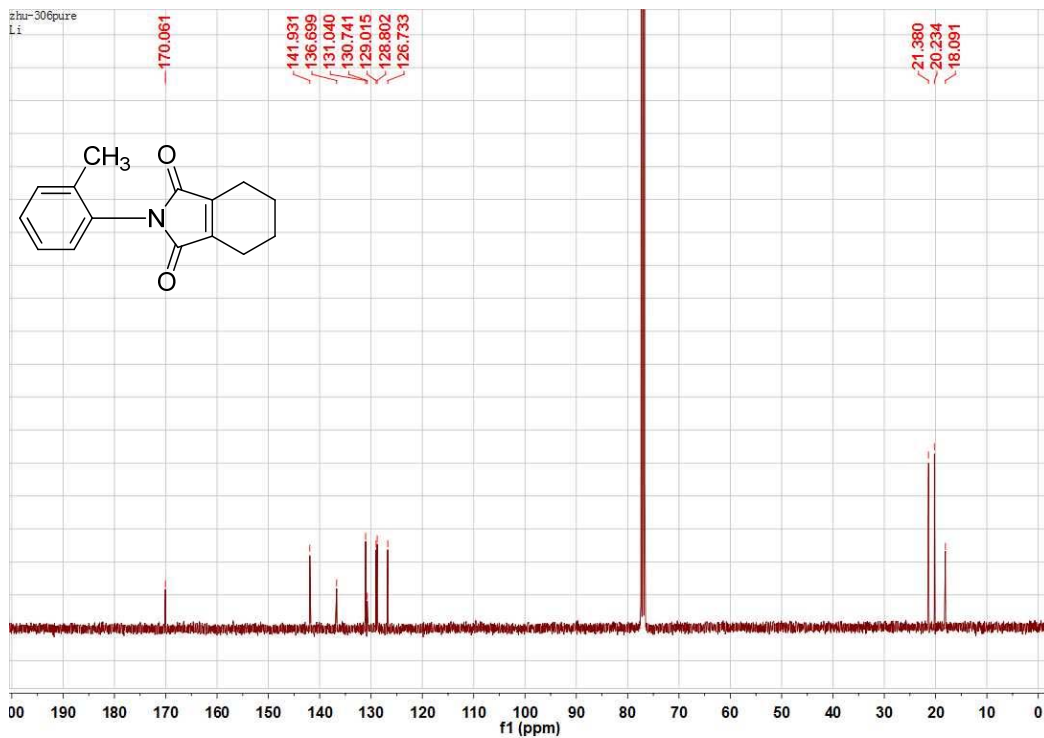
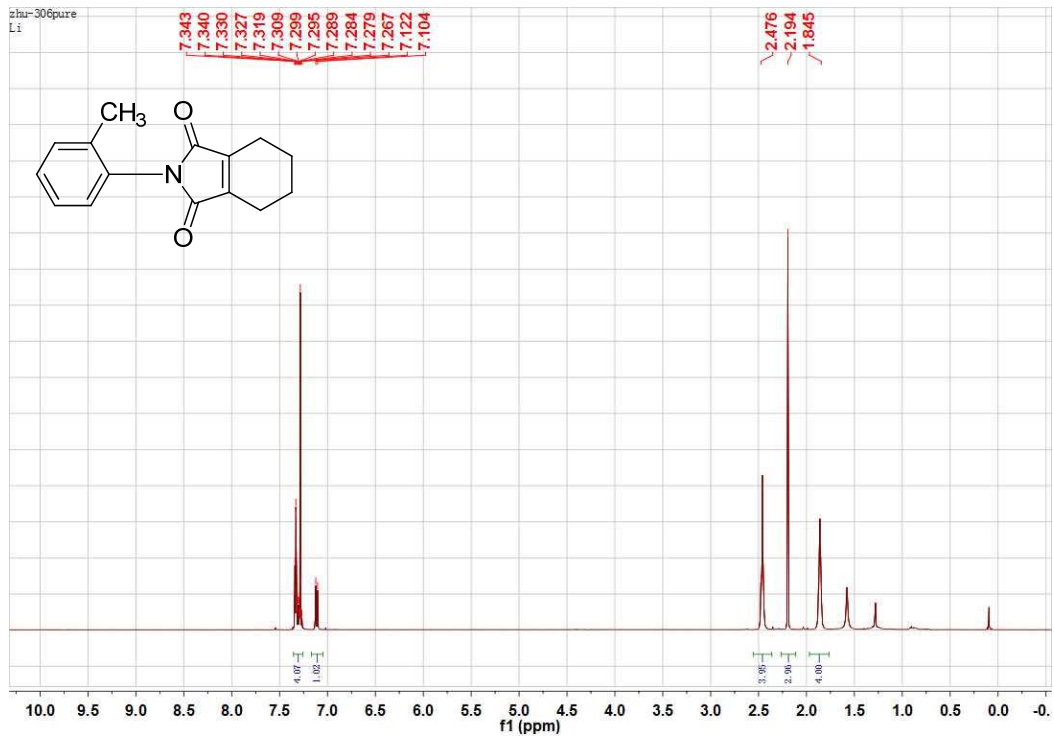




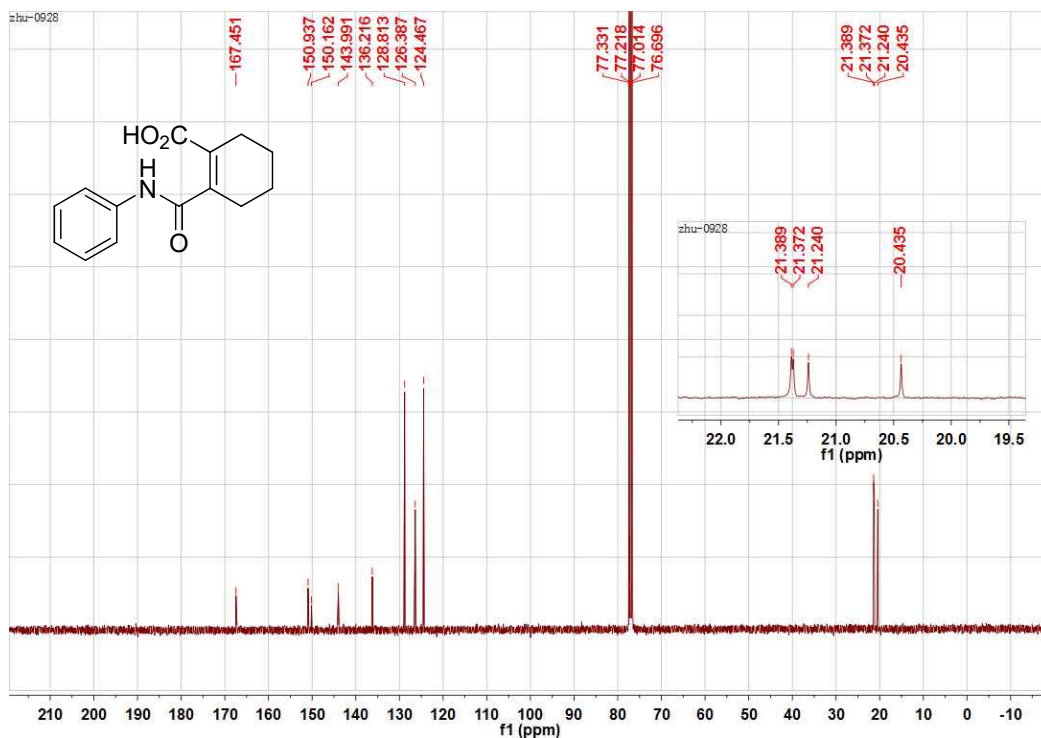
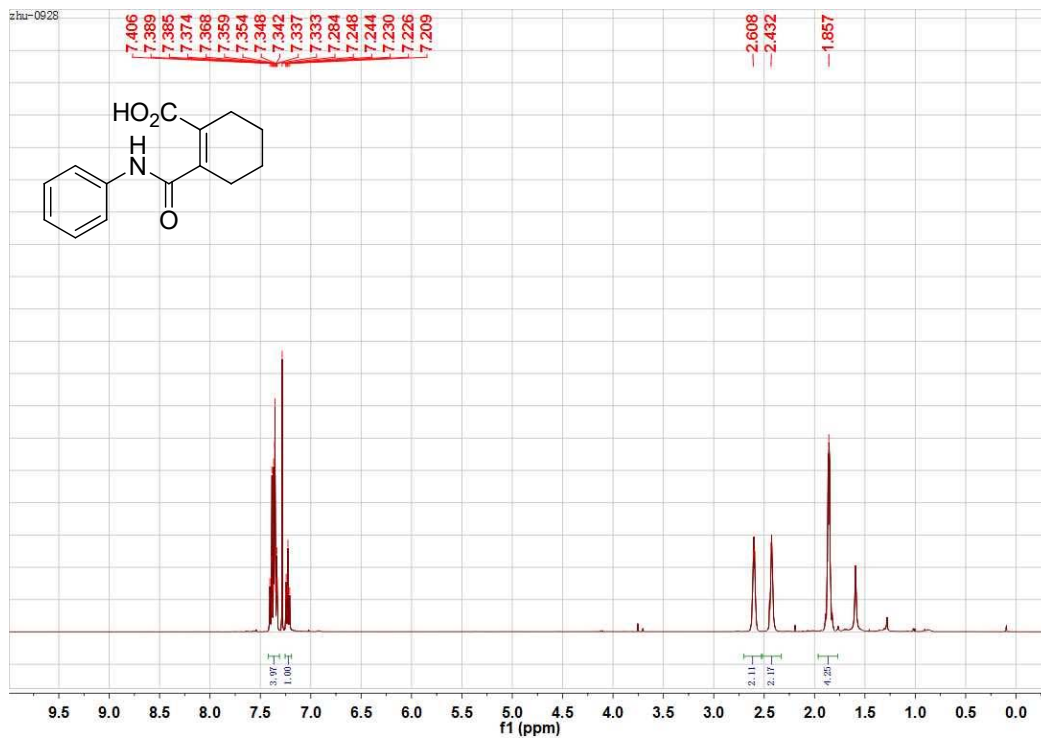




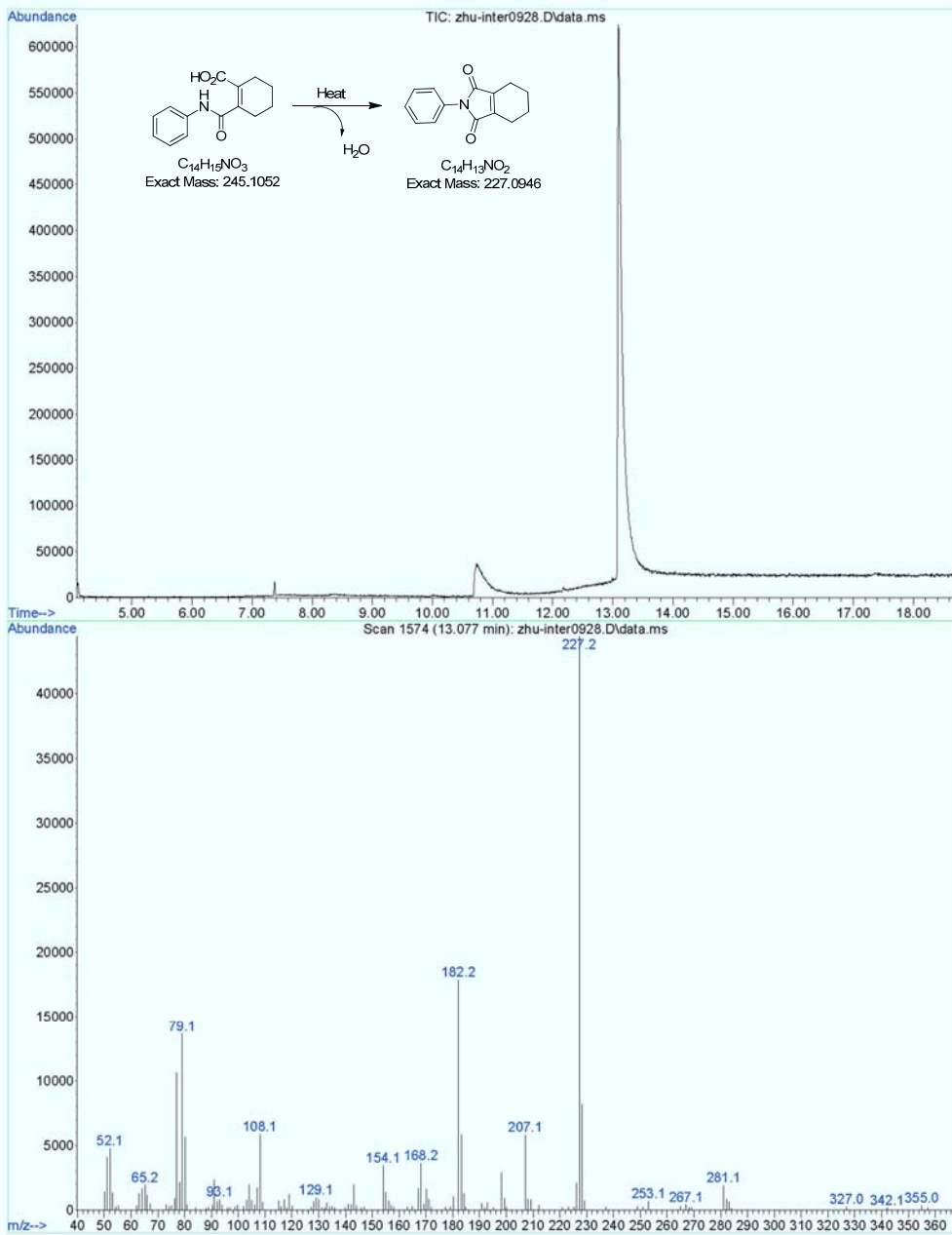




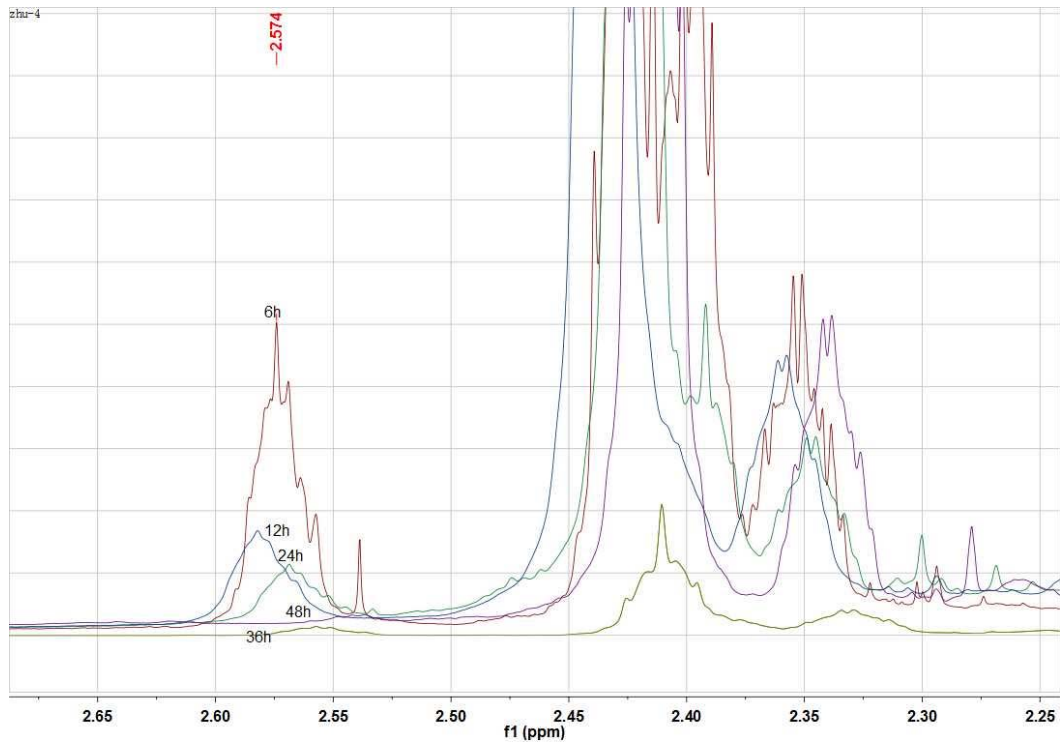




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Operator : pierre  
Acquired : 28 Sep 2015 21:20 using AcqMethod WB4MIN.M  
Instrument : GCMS ONLINE  
Sample Name :  
Misc Info :  
Vial Number: 52



The GCMS of Compound F.



The <sup>1</sup>H NMRs of crude products at different time.