

Supplementary information

Assembly of substituted phenanthridines via a cascade palladium-catalyzed coupling reaction, deprotection and intramolecular cyclization

Jun Ge,^{ab} Xiaojian Wang,^{*ab} Tianqi Liu,^a Zeyu Shi,^b Qiong Xiao^b and Dali Yin^{*ab}

^a *State Key Laboratory of Bioactive Substances and Functions of Natural Medicines, Institute of Materia Medica, Peking Union Medical College, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing 100050, P.R. China. E-mail: wangxiaojian@imm.ac.cn; Fax: +86 10 63165248; Tel: +86 10 63165248*

^b *Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Beijing Key Laboratory of Active Substances, Discovery and Drugability Evaluation, Institute of Materia Medica, Peking Union Medical College, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing 100050, P.R. China*

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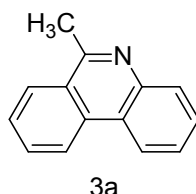
1. General details

All the reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and were visualized using UV light (254 nm). ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on Mercury-400 spectrometer (400 MHz). ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Mercury-400 spectrometer (100 MHz) and BRUKER AV-III-500 spectrometer (125MHz). ^1H NMR spectra Chemical shifts (δ ppm) and coupling constants (Hz) are reported in standard fashion with reference to either internal standard tetramethylsilane (TMS) ($\delta\text{H}=0.00$ ppm) or CDCl_3 ($\delta\text{H}=7.25$ ppm), DMSO ($\delta\text{H}=2.50$ ppm). ^{13}C NMR spectra chemical shifts (δ ppm) and coupling constants (Hz) are reported relative to CDCl_3 [$\delta\text{C}=77.36$ ppm (central line of triplet)] and DMSO [$\delta\text{C}=40.45$ ppm (central line of heptet)]. HRMS (ESI) data were measured on Thermo Exactive Orbitrap plus spectrometer. Flash column chromatography was performed on Biotage Isolera one. Column chromatography characterization was performed with silica gel (300-400mesh). Melting points were measured with Yanaco MP-J3 microscope melting point apparatus.

2. General procedure for the preparation of substituted phenanthridines

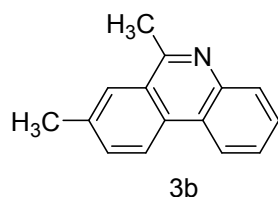
2-acetyl/benzoylphenyl triflates/halide (1.0 mmol) or substituted 2-bromobenzaldehyde (1.0 mmol), 2-(Boc-amino)benzeneboronic acid pinacol ester (1.2 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (3 mmol%) and Na_2CO_3 (2.0 mmol) were combined in a 25 mL round bottomed flask. Glycol (3 mL) was added and the resulted reaction mixture was stirred at 120°C for 2 h under argon atmosphere. Progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC till the reaction was completed. The reaction was quenched by addition of H_2O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (3×20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue on a silica gel column chromatography (15:1 hexanes/EtOAc) afforded the desired product.

6-methylphenanthridine (3a)



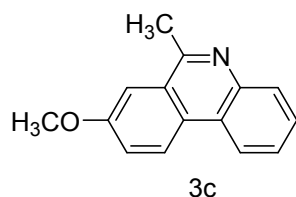
Yield 80%; white solid; m.p. $81-83^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.58 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.50 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.18 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (q, $J = 8.6, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 159.1, 143.9, 132.8, 130.7, 129.6, 128.8, 127.5, 126.7, 126.5, 126.1, 124.0, 122.5, 122.2, 23.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ 194.0964, found 194.0956.

6, 8-dimethylphenanthridine (3b)



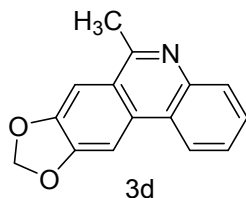
Yield 75%; white solid; m.p. 83-85 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.52 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 158.7 , 143.1 , 137.3 , 132.4 , 130.5 , 129.1 , 128.3 , 126.4 , 126.2 , 126.0 , 123.9 , 122.3 , 121.8 , 23.3 , 21.9; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 208.1121, found 208.1122.

8-methoxy-6-methylphenanthridine (3c)



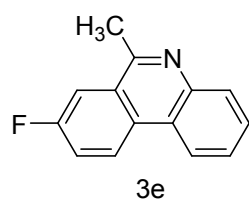
Yield 74%; white solid; m.p. 55-57 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.54 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 158.8 , 158.1 , 142.9 , 129.4 , 127.8 , 127.3 , 127.0 , 126.6 , 124.1 , 124.0 , 121.6 , 120.9 , 106.9 , 55.7 , 23.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{ON}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 224.1070, found 224.1060.

6-methyl-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-j]phenanthridine (3d)



Yield 81%; white solid; m.p. 193-195 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 2H), 2.95 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 157.4 , 151.1 , 148.3 , 133.3 , 130.5 , 129.4 , 128.2 , 126.2 , 124.1 , 122.6 , 121.9 , 104.0 , 102.1 , 100.4 , 23.9; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 238.0863, found 238.0860.

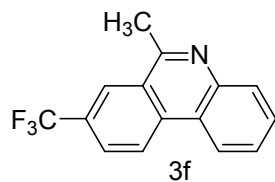
8-fluoro-6-methylphenanthridine (3e)



Yield 69%; white solid; m.p. 92-94 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 161.6 (d, J = 247.5 Hz), 158.1 , 143.5 , 136.4 , 129.7 , 128.8 , 127.3 , 127.0 , 125.1 (d, J =

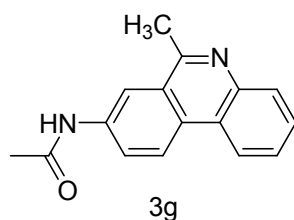
7.4 Hz), 123.5 , 121.9 , 119.8 (d, $J = 23.8$ Hz), 111.4 (d, $J = 21.2$ Hz), 23.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}NF$ $[M+H]^+$ 212.0870, found 212.0870.

6-methyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (3f)



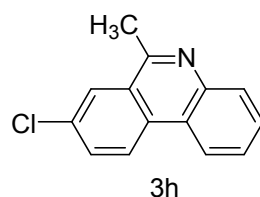
Yield 68%; white solid; m.p. 108-110 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.68 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 158.6 , 144.5 , 134.8 , 130.0 , 129.8 , 129.1 (q, $J = 32.6$ Hz), 127.0 , 126.3 (q, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 125.2 , 124.2 (q, $J = 271$ Hz), 124.0 (q, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 123.4 , 122.8 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 122.4, 23.4; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_{11}NF_3$ $[M+H]^+$ 262.0838, found 262.0831.

N-(6-methylphenanthridin-8-yl)acetamide (3g)



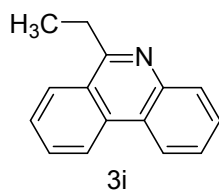
Yield 64%; white solid; m.p. 248-250 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 169.5 , 158.7 , 143.3 , 139.4 , 129.6 , 128.6 , 128.1 , 127.1 , 126.5 , 124.2 , 123.9 , 123.7 , 122.8 , 115.0 , 24.8 , 23.7; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}ON_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 251.1179, found 251.1169.

8-chloro-6-methylphenanthridine (3h)



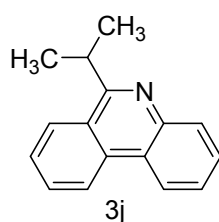
Yield 52%; white solid; m.p. 117-119 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.50 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 157.9 , 143.8 , 133.4 , 131.2 , 131.2 , 129.7 , 129.2 , 127.0 , 127.0 , 126.1 , 124.3 , 123.3 , 122.0 , 23.5; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}NCl$ $[M+H]^+$ 228.0575, found 228.0566.

6-ethylphenanthridine (3i)



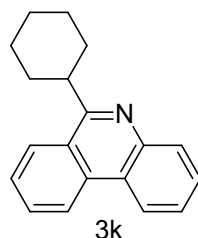
Yield 77%; white solid; m.p. 51-53 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 163.4 , 144.0 , 133.1 , 130.5 , 129.8 , 128.8 , 127.4 , 126.5 , 126.4 , 125.2 , 123.9 , 122.7 , 122.1 , 29.6 , 13.8; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 208.1121, found 208.1112.

6-isopropylphenanthridine (3j)



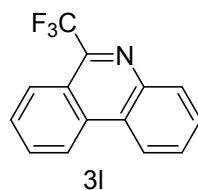
Yield 66%; yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 8.66 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (q, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (hept, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 166.1 , 144.0 , 136.4 , 133.3 , 130.2 , 128.6 , 127.3 , 126.4 , 125.9 , 125.0 , 123.7 , 122.8 , 122.0 , 31.7 , 22.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 222.1277, found 222.1268.

6-cyclohexylphenanthridine (3k)



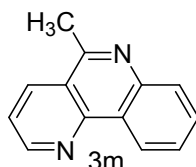
Yield 58%; yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 1H), 1.95 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 3H), 1.55 (q, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (q, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 165.7 , 143.6 , 133.1 , 131.4 , 129.9 , 129.9 , 129.4 , 128.5 , 127.2 , 126.4 , 124.6 , 123.6 , 123.2 , 41.5 , 32.8 , 26.8 , 26.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 262.1590, found 262.1579.

6-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (3l)



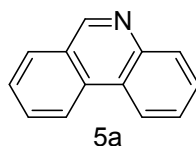
Yield 67%; white solid; m.p. 71-73 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.67 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 146.7 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 141.9, 134.1, 131.5, 131.3, 129.5, 129.4, 128.2, 126.1 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 125.3, 122.7, 122.2, 122.1 (d, *J* = 270.0 Hz), 121.9; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₉NF₃ [M+H]⁺ 248.0682, found 248.0673.

5-methylbenzo[h] [1, 6]naphthyridine (3m)



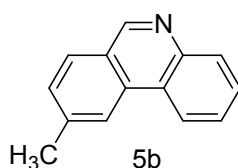
Yield 55%; yellow solid; m.p. 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 9.14 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 9.09 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.7, 152.9, 148.8, 145.9, 134.2, 130.5, 128.8, 127.0, 125.0, 123.9, 122.5, 120.7, 22.9; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 195.0917, found 195.0913.

Phenanthridine (5a)



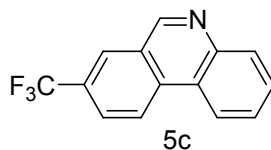
Yield 66%; white solid; m.p. 105-107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 9.32 (s, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.63 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.8, 144.7, 132.8, 131.2, 130.4, 129.0, 128.9, 127.7, 127.3, 126.6, 124.3, 122.4, 122.1; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N [M+H]⁺ 180.0808, found 180.0801.

9-methylphenanthridine (5b)



Yield 75%; yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.2, 144.3, 142.0, 133.0, 130.0, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 127.2, 124.7, 124.2, 122.4, 121.7, 22.7; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N [M+H]⁺ 194.0964, found 194.0957.

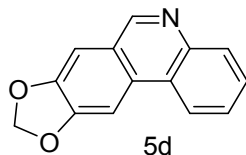
8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (5c)



Yield 63%; white solid; m.p. 103-105 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.34 (s, 1H),

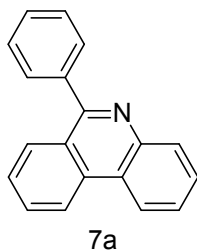
8.71 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 153.3, 145.3, 134.9, 130.6, 130.2, 129.7 (d, $J = 33.0$ Hz), 128.0, 127.1 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 126.4 (q, $J = 4.1$ Hz), 125.7, 125.5, 123.4, 123.3, 122.8; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{NF}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.0682, found 248.0670.

Trisphaeridine (5d)



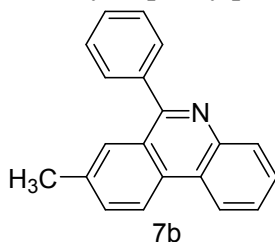
Yield 85%; white solid; m.p. 138-140 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.69 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 151.8, 148.4, 144.1, 130.5, 130.1, 128.3, 126.9, 124.5, 123.2, 122.2, 110.0, 105.7, 102.2, 100.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 224.0706, found 224.0697.

6-phenylphenanthridine (7a)



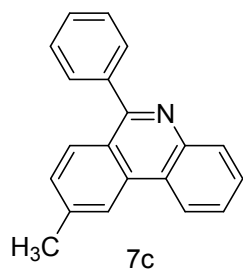
Yield 89%; white solid; m.p. 103-105 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.70 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.69 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.48 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 161.5, 144.0, 140.0, 133.7, 130.8, 130.6, 130.0, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 127.4, 127.2, 125.5, 124.0, 122.4, 122.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 256.1121, found 256.1120.

8-methyl-6-phenylphenanthridine (7b)



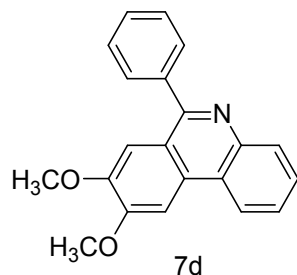
Yield 94%; white solid; m.p. 84-86 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.56 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 161.2, 143.7, 140.2, 137.4, 132.6, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.1, 125.6, 124.1, 122.4, 122.0, 22.0; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 270.1277, found 270.1265.

9-methyl-6-phenylphenanthridine (7c)



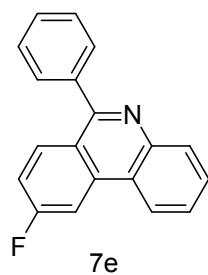
Yield 86%; white solid; m.p. 77-79 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.61 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.3, 144.2, 141.2, 140.1, 133.8, 130.5, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9, 128.6, 126.9, 123.9, 123.6, 122.2, 122.1, 22.5; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 270.1277, found 270.1267.

8, 9-dimethoxy-6-phenylphenanthridine (7d)



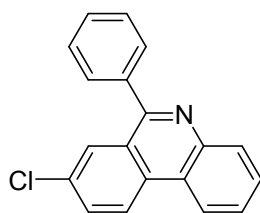
Yield 60%; white solid; m.p. 137-139 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 4.16 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.8, 152.7, 149.5, 143.7, 140.4, 130.6, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 126.7, 123.7, 121.7, 120.7, 108.6, 108.5, 102.3, 56.4, 56.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 316.1259, found 316.1322.

9-fluoro-6-phenylphenanthridine (7e)



Yield 68%; white solid; m.p. 144-146 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.45 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (dd, J = 9.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.0 (d, J = 252.3 Hz), 160.8, 144.3, 139.8, 136.1 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 132.1 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 130.6, 129.9, 129.8, 129.1, 128.8, 127.2, 123.5 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 122.5, 122.3, 116.4 (d, J = 23.6 Hz), 107.6 (d, J = 22.2 Hz); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{NF}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 274.1027, found 274.1017.

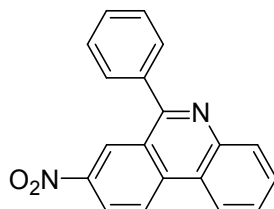
8-chloro-6-phenylphenanthridine (7f)



7f

Yield 55%; white solid; m.p. 120-122 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.64 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.52 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.3 , 143.8 , 139.2 , 133.4 , 132.1 , 131.4 , 130.6 , 129.9 , 129.4 , 129.3 , 128.9 , 128.2 , 127.6 , 126.4 , 124.3 , 123.3 , 122.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{NCl}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 290.0731, found 290.0722.

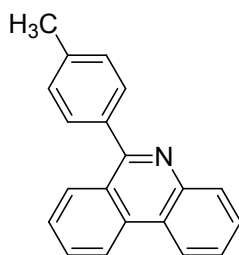
8-nitro-6-phenylphenanthridine (7g)



7g

Yield 80%; yellow solid; m.p. 230-232 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.04 (s, 1H), 8.84 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.69 – 8.56 (m, 2H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.68 – 7.53 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 156.7 , 141.6 , 140.4 , 133.8 , 133.0 , 126.5 , 126.2 , 125.3 , 125.1 , 124.4 , 123.4 , 120.5 , 120.1 , 119.7 , 119.6 , 118.3 , 117.9; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 301.0972, found 301.0958.

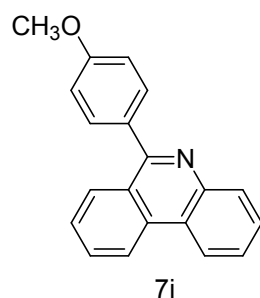
6-(p-tolyl)phenanthridine (7h)



7h

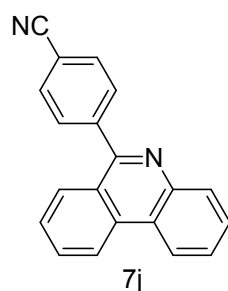
Yield 87%; white solid; m.p. 78-80 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.71 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.5 , 144.1 , 138.8 , 137.1 , 133.7 , 130.7 , 130.6 , 130.0 , 129.3 , 129.2 , 129.0 , 127.3 , 127.0 , 125.5 , 123.9 , 122.2 , 122.4 , 21.7; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 270.1277, found 270.1269.

6-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenanthridine (7i)



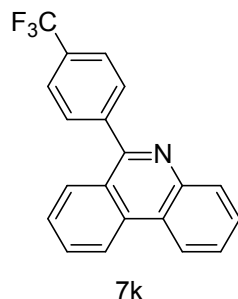
Yield 59%; white solid; m.p. 146-148 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.1, 160.4, 144.1, 133.7, 132.5, 131.5, 130.7, 130.5, 129.1, 129.0, 127.3, 127.0, 125.5, 123.8, 122.4, 122.2, 114.1, 55.7; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₆ON [M+H]⁺ 286.1226, found 286.1218.

6-(4-cyano-phenyl)phenanthridine (7j)



Yield 86%; white solid; m.p. 179-181 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 8.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 159.5, 144.3, 143.6, 133.5, 133.0, 132.1, 131.3, 130.5, 130.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 124.6, 124.1, 123.7, 123.5, 119.4, 112.2; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 281.1073, found 281.1063.

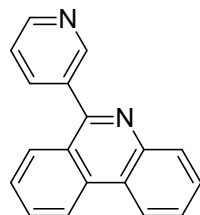
6-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)phenanthridine (7k)



Yield 89%; white solid; m.p. 171-173 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.83 (m, 5H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.9, 143.9, 143.6, 133.7, 131.1, 131.0 (d, *J* = 32.3 Hz),

130.6 , 130.4 , 129.3 , 128.5 , 127.6 , 125.7 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 125.1 , 124.5 (d, $J = 270.0$ Hz) 124.1 , 122.6 , 122.2 ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{13}NF_3$ $[M+H]^+$ 324.0995, found 324.0984.

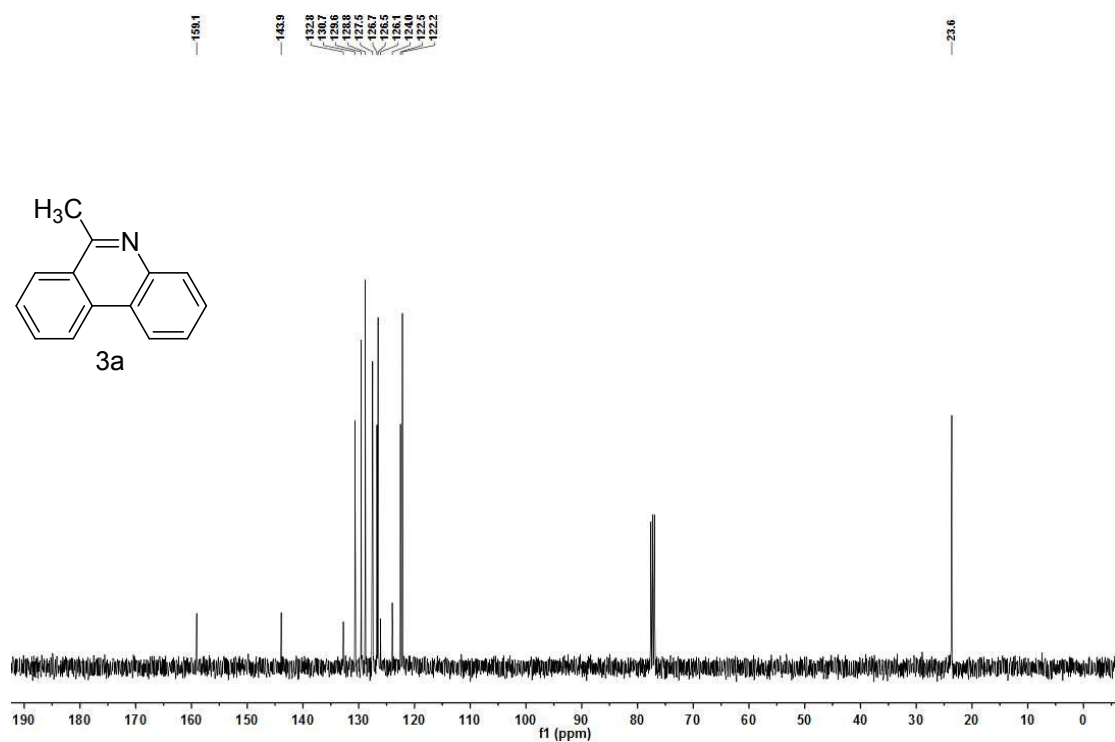
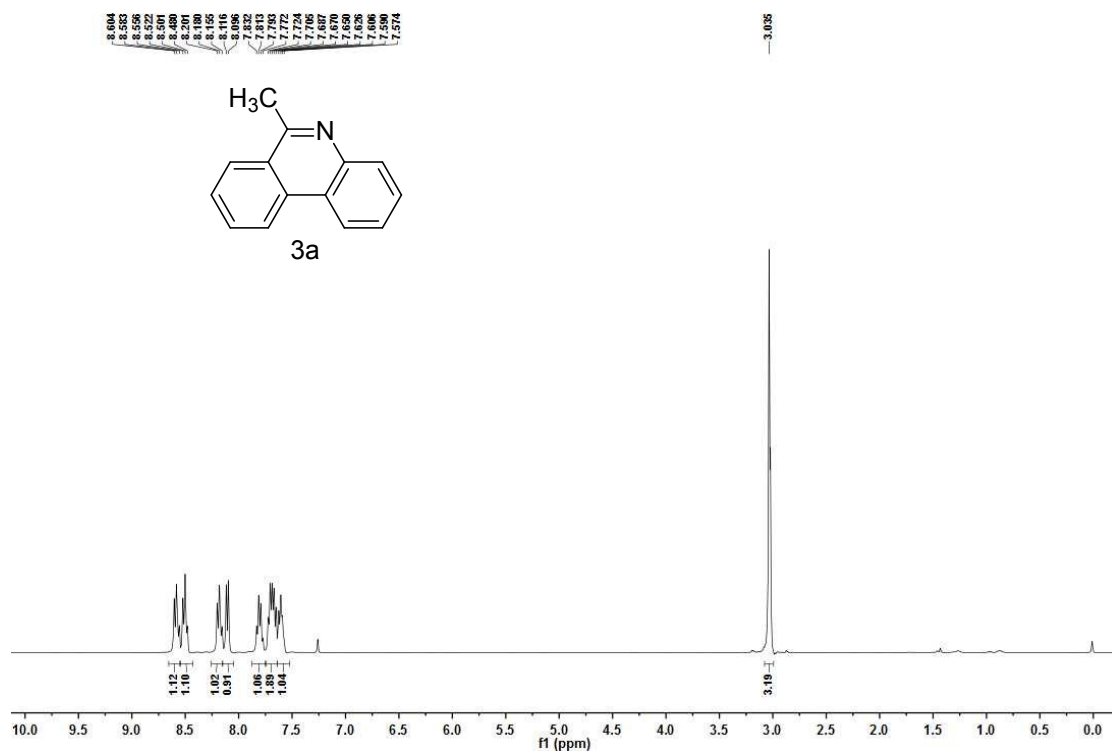
6-(pyridin-3-yl)phenanthridine (7l)

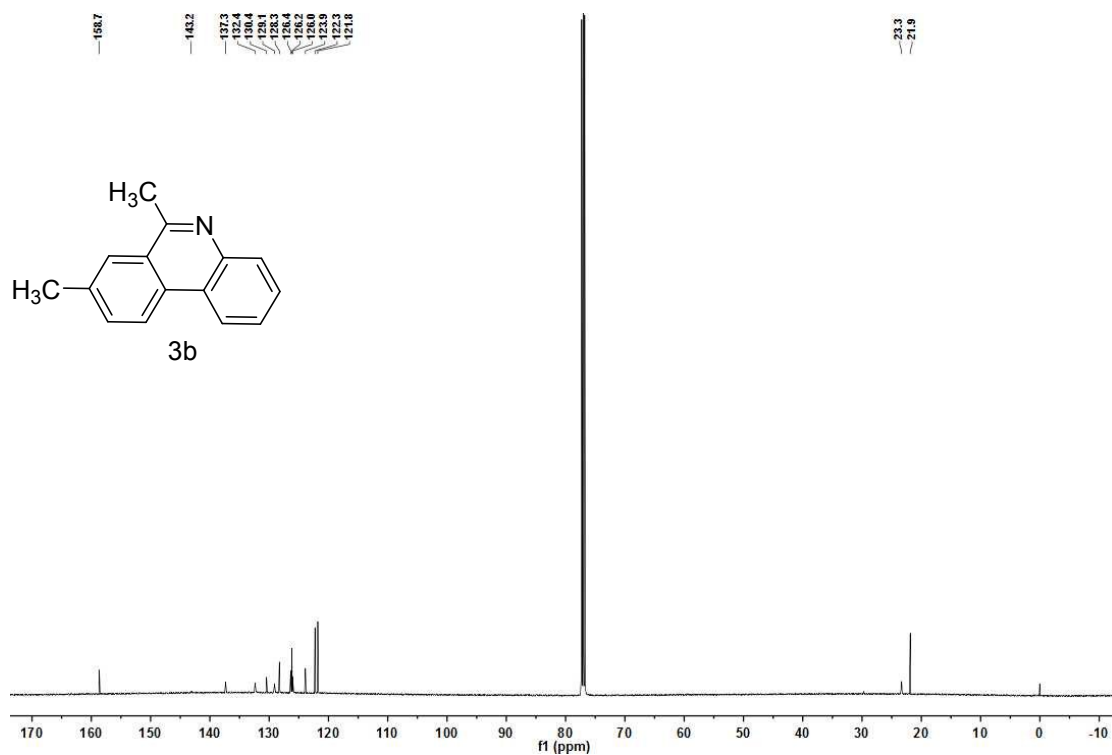
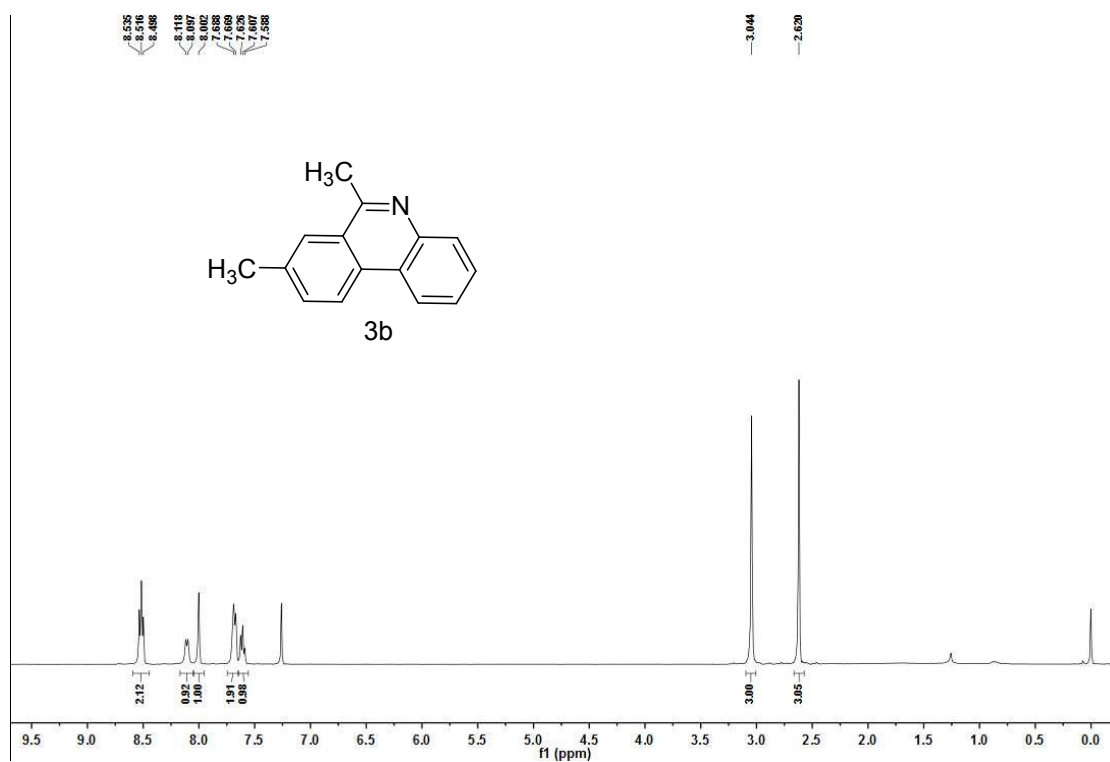


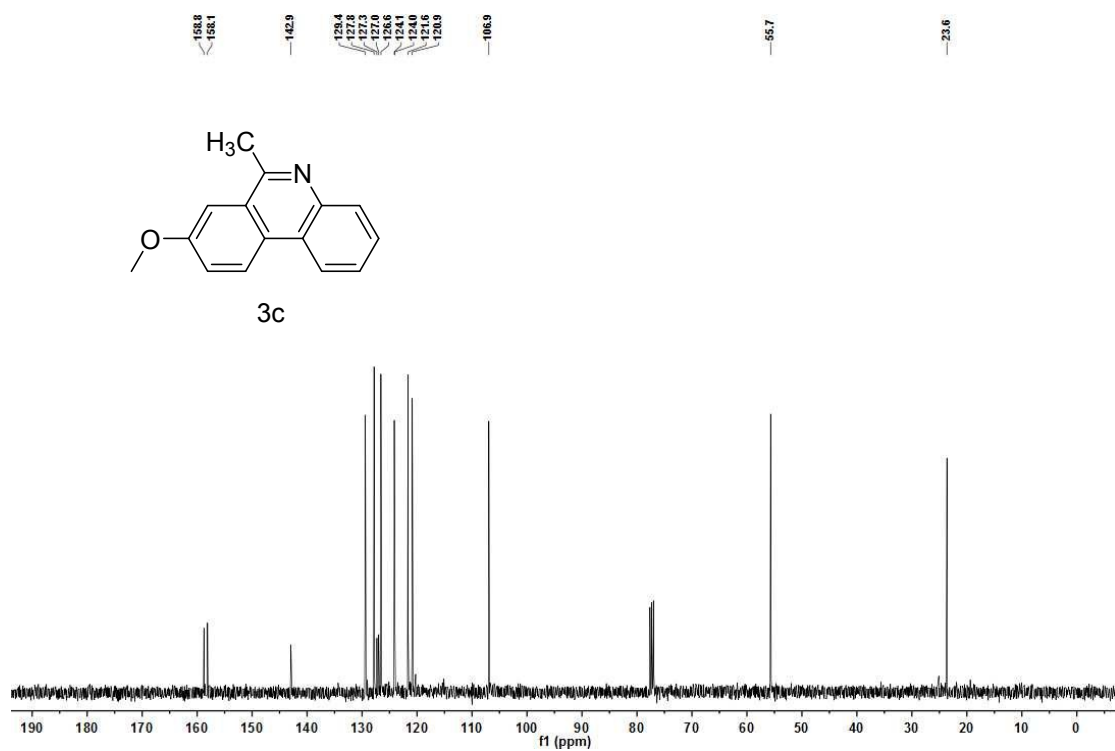
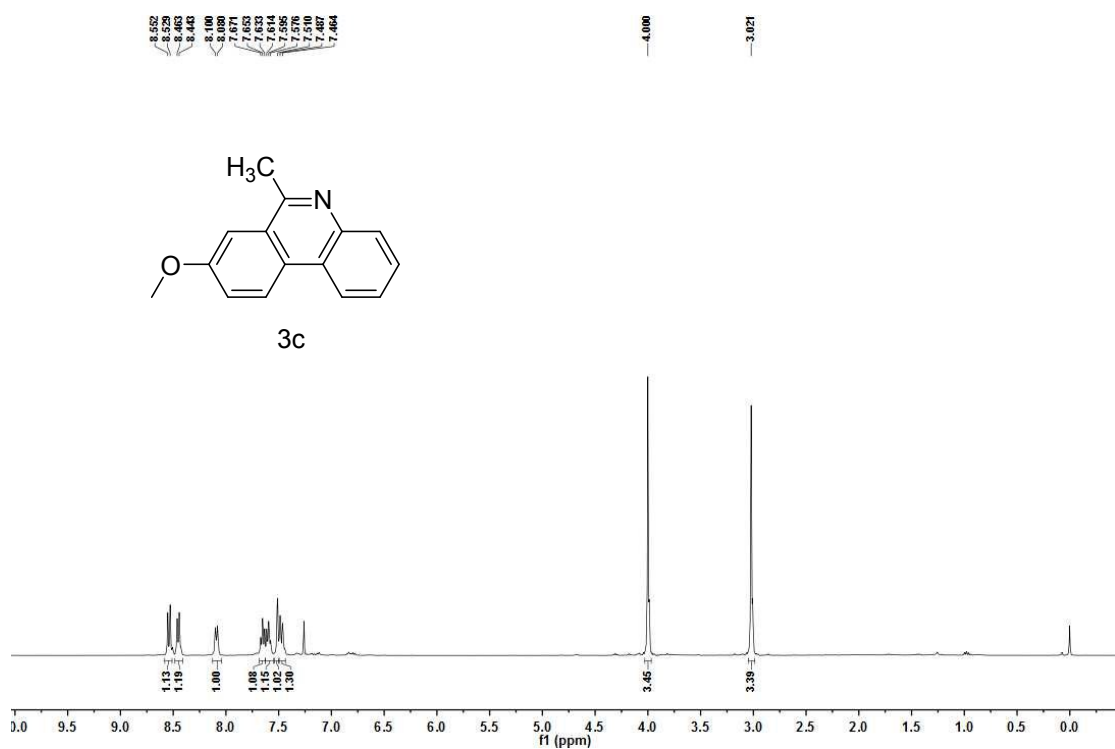
7l

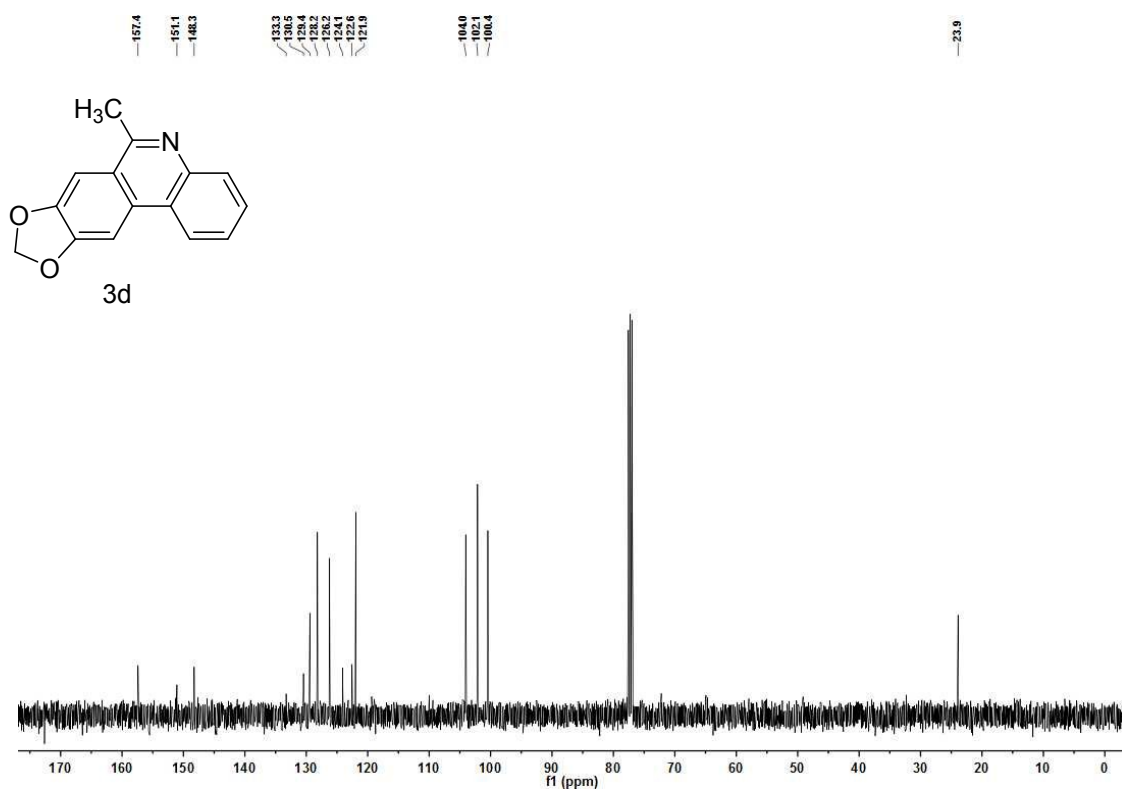
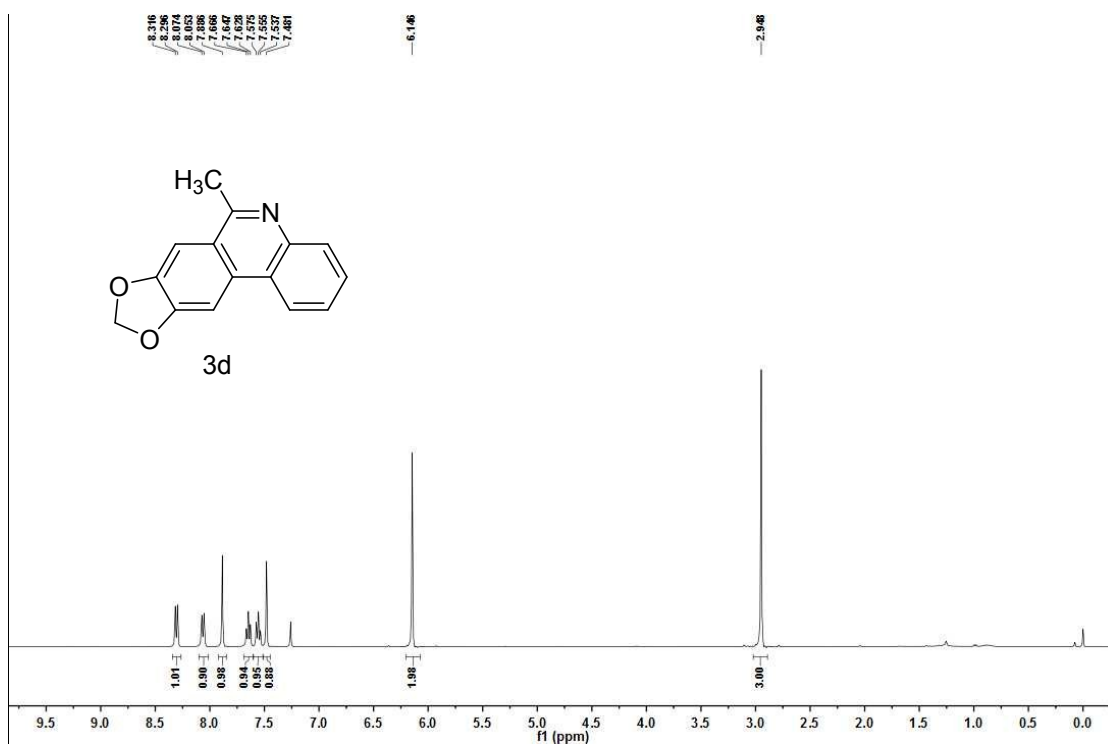
Yield 51%; white solid; m.p. 102-104 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.49 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 158.2 , 150.7 , 150.1 , 144.0 , 137.5 , 135.8 , 133.7 , 131.1 , 130.6 , 129.3 , 128.3 , 127.7 , 127.6 , 125.2 , 124.1 , 123.6 , 122.7 , 122.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{13}N_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 257.1073, found 257.1067.

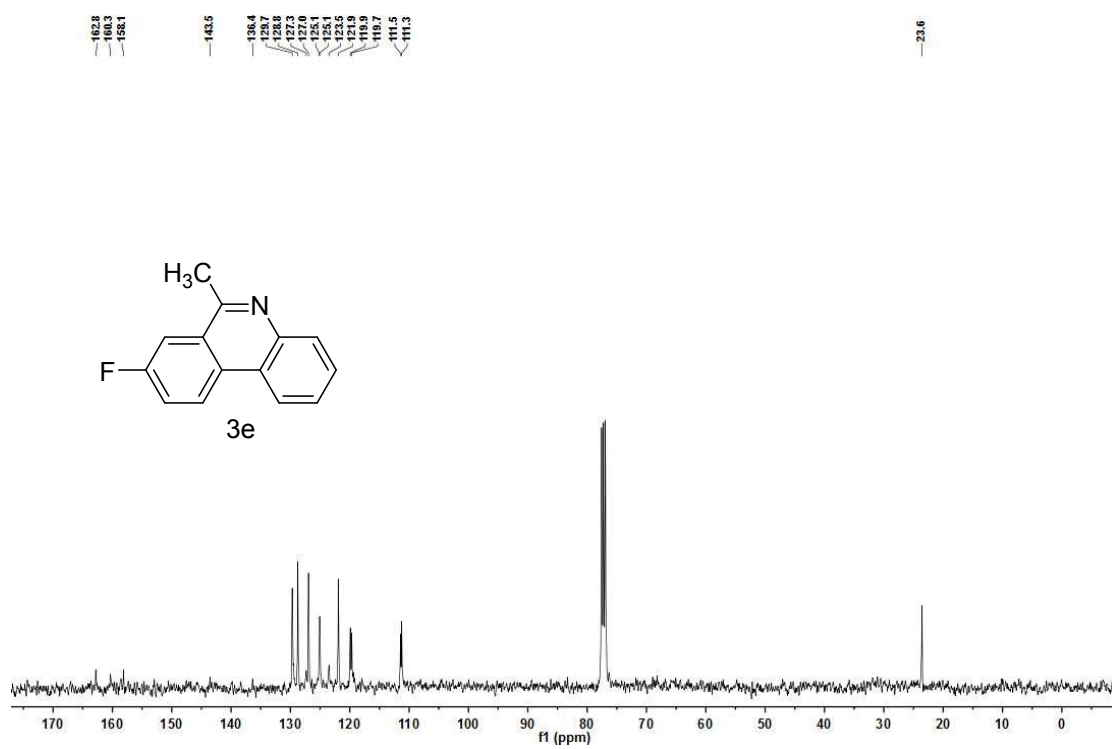
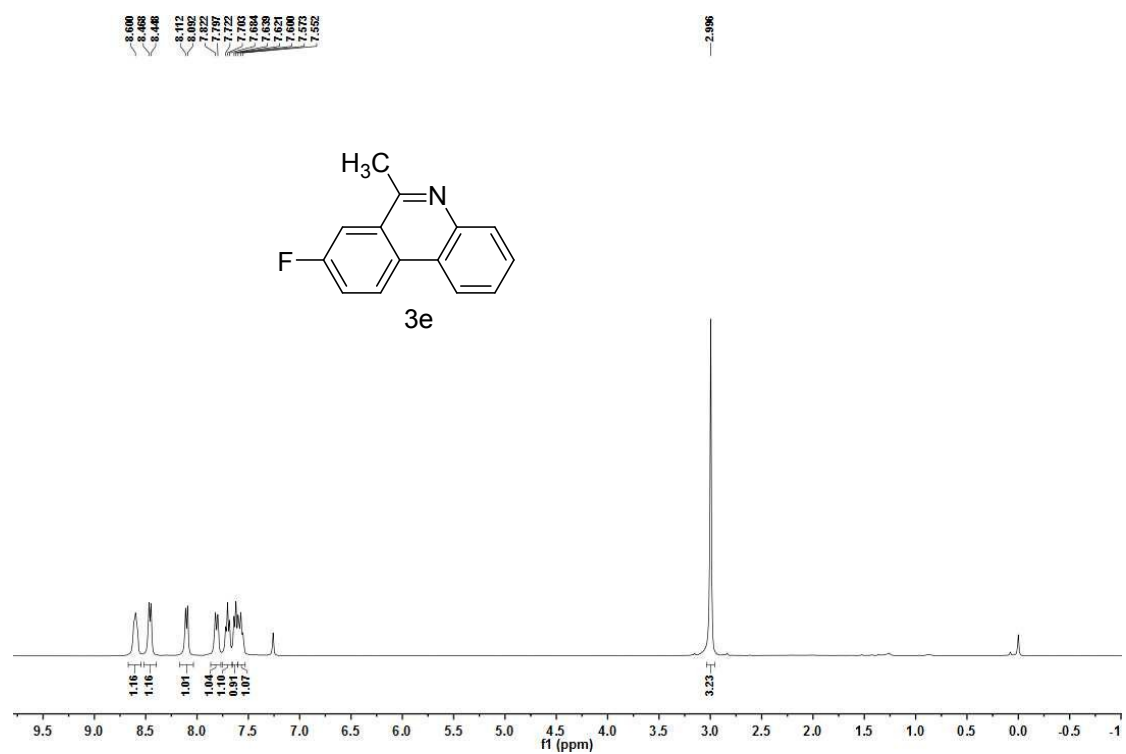
3. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

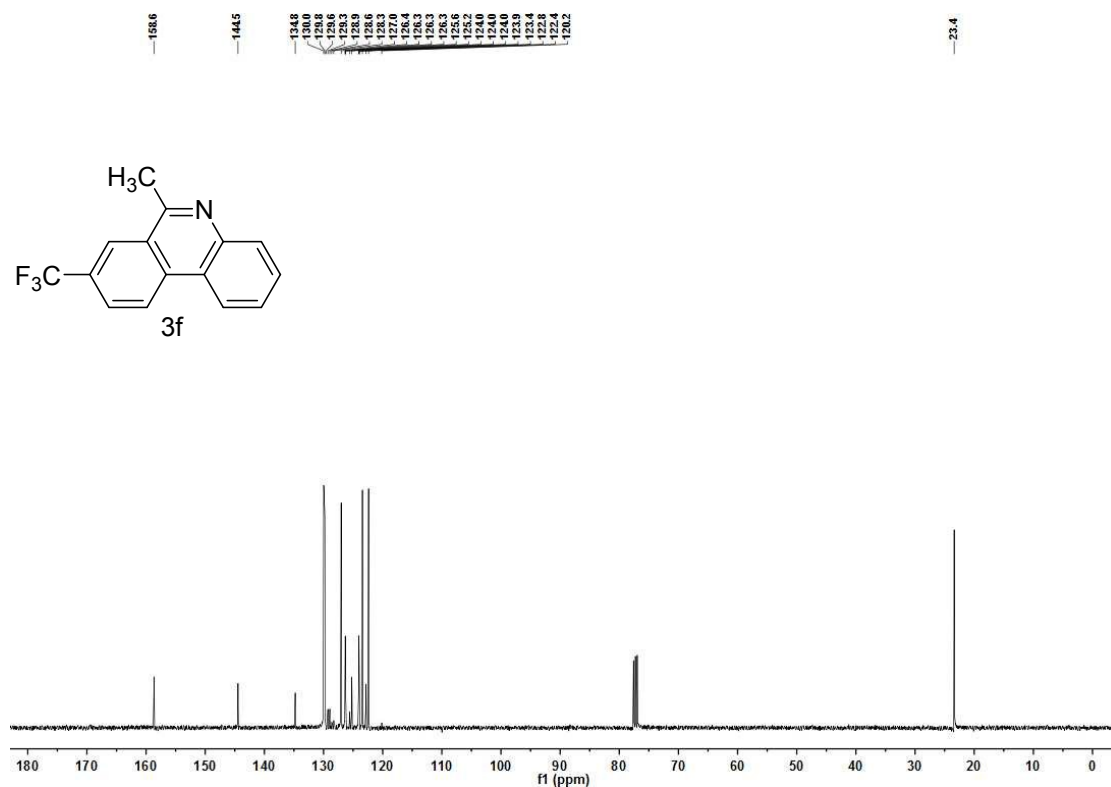
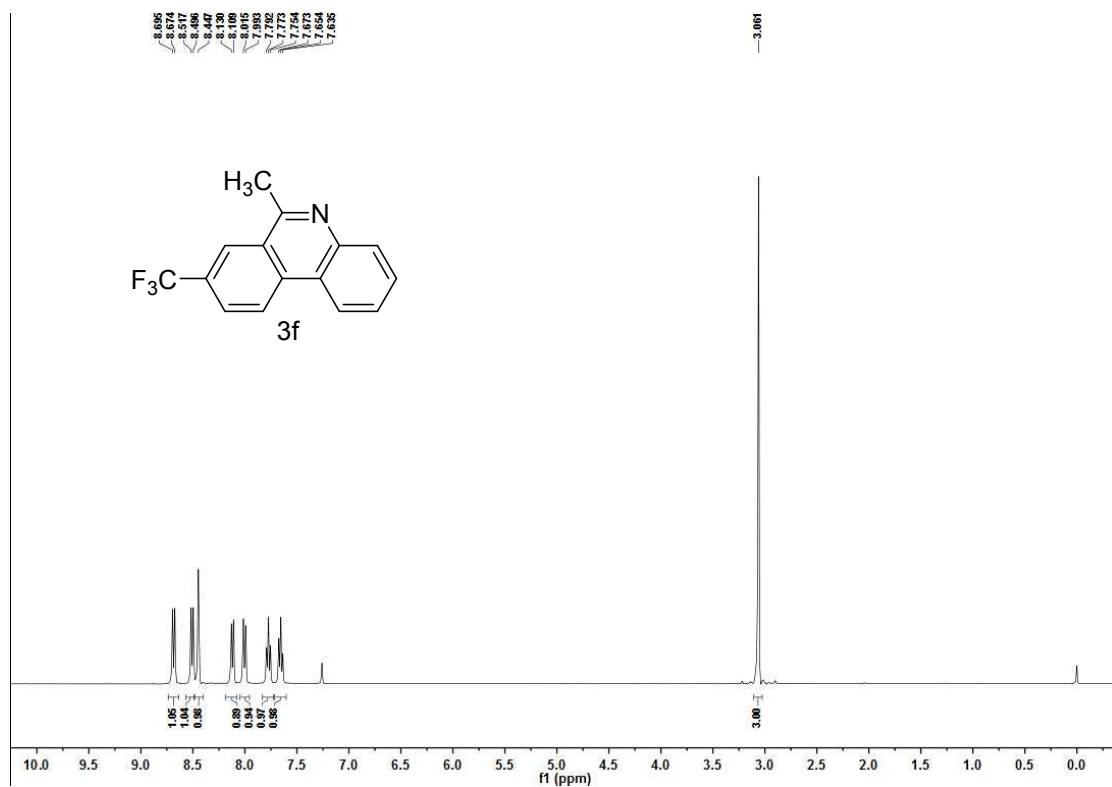


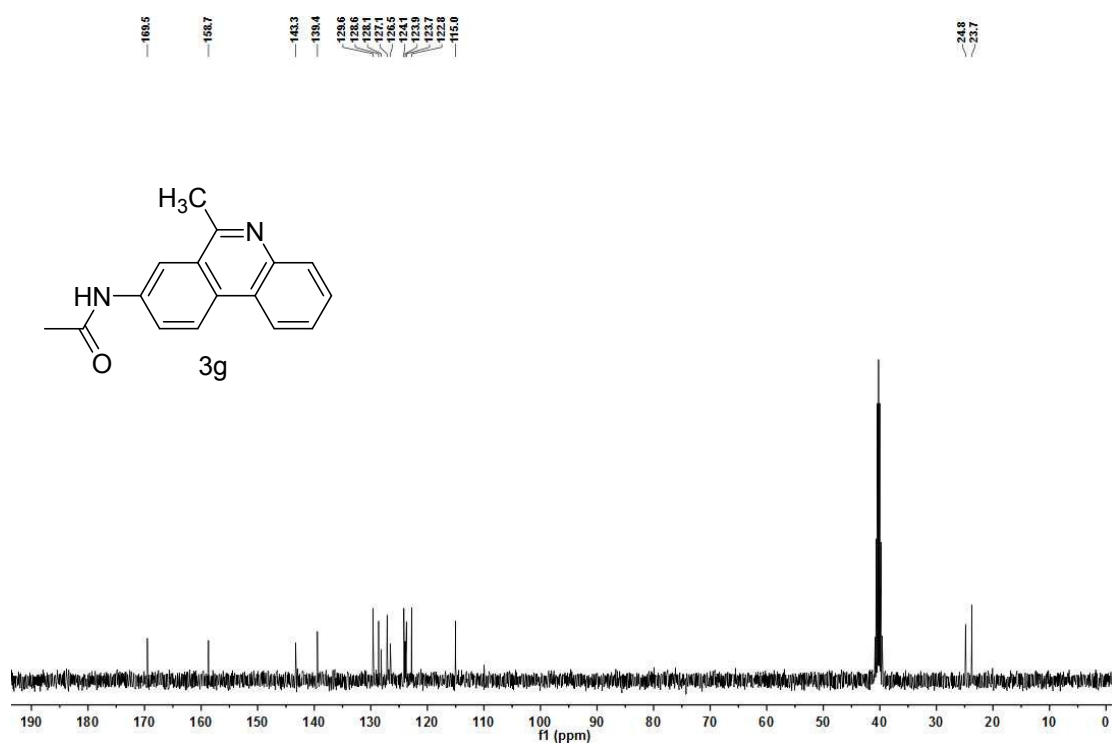
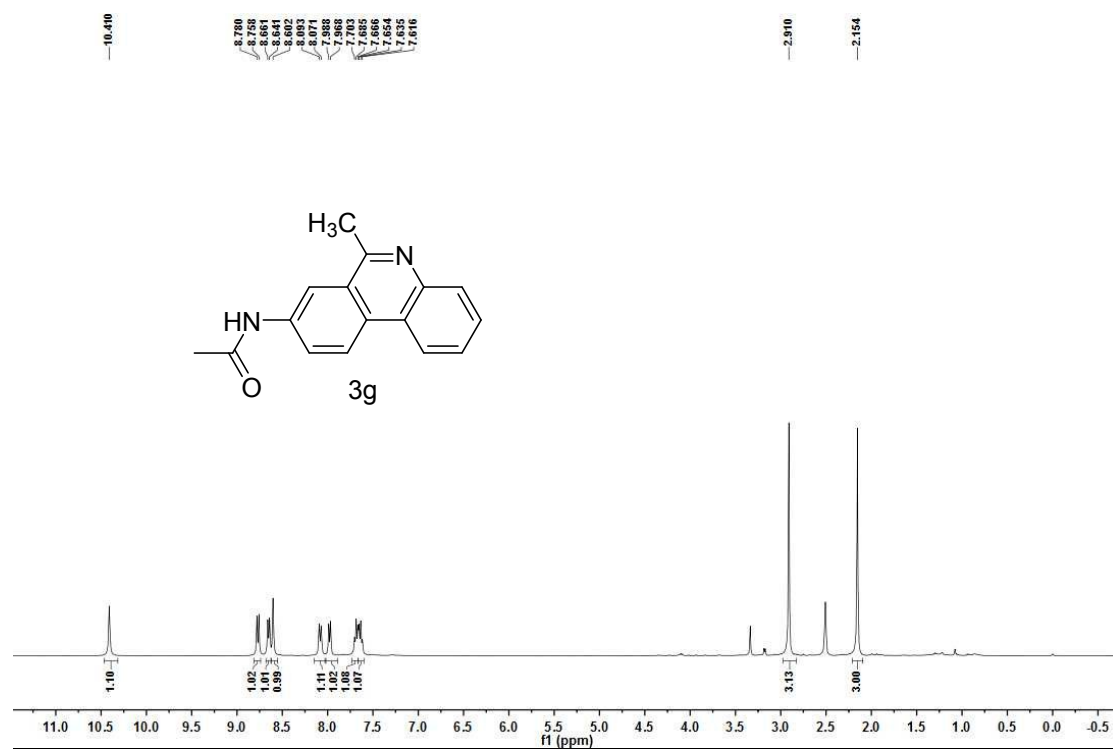


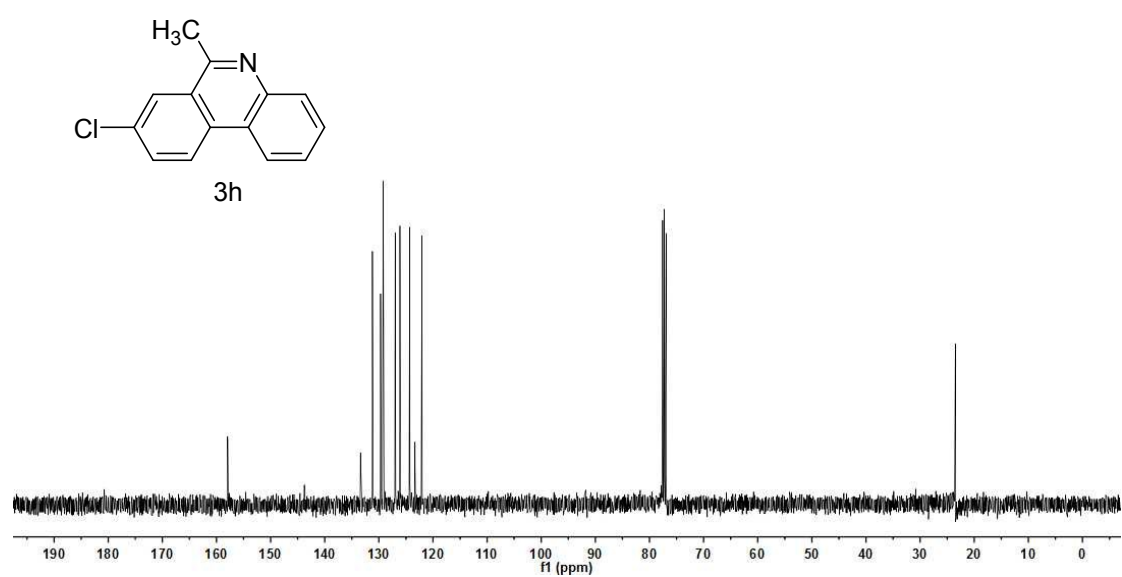
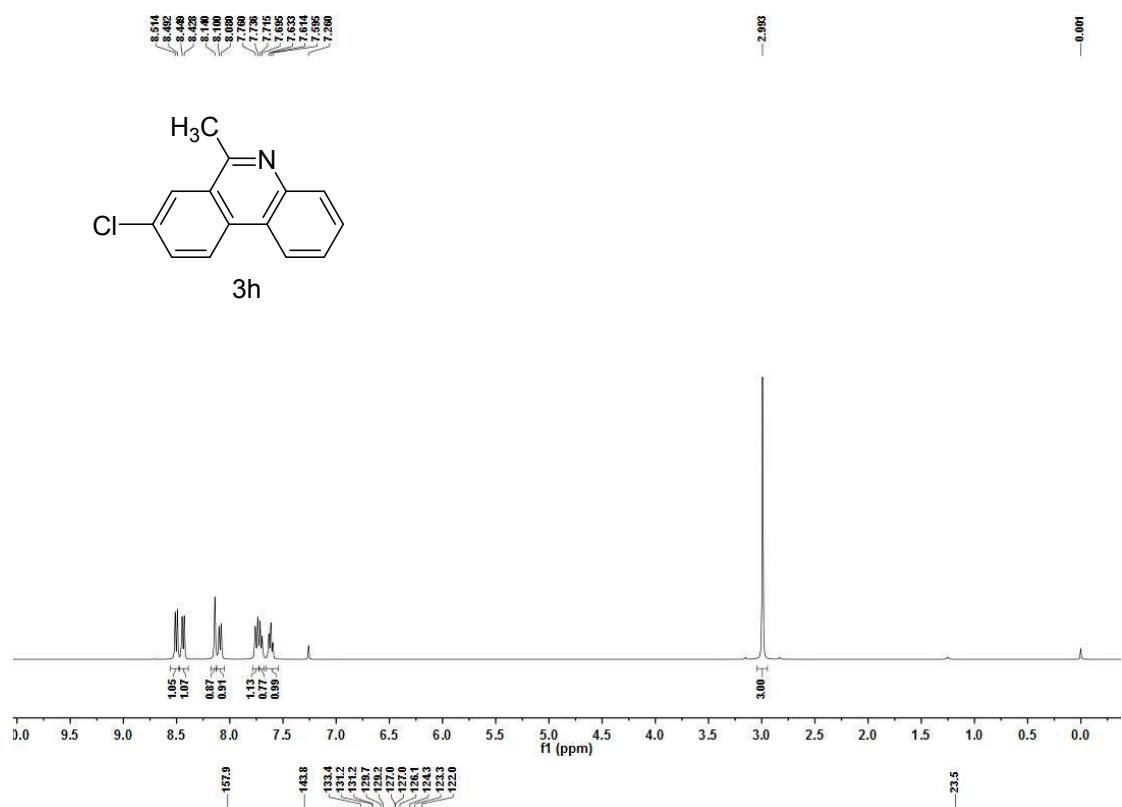


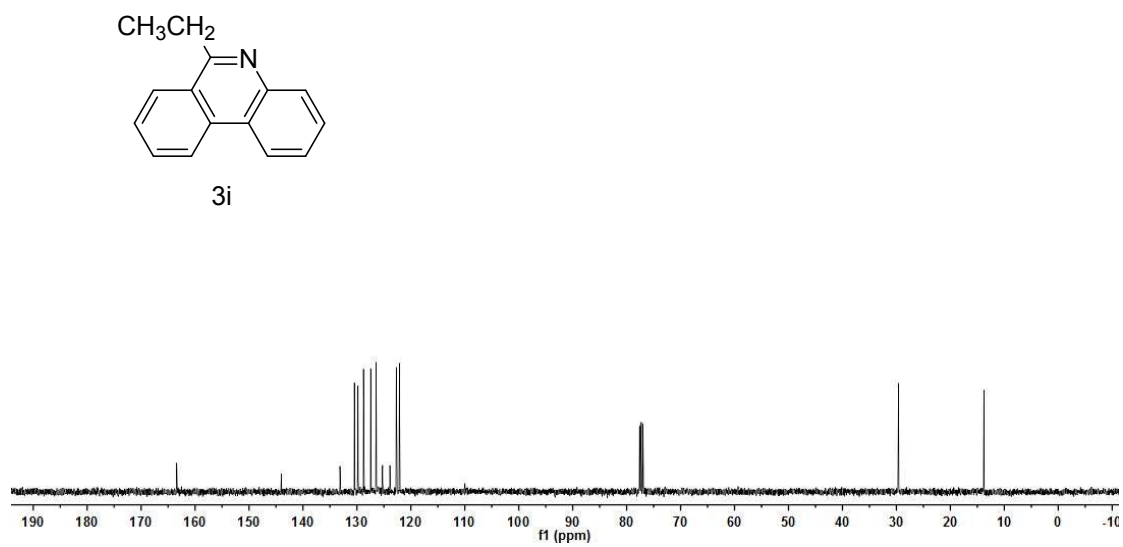
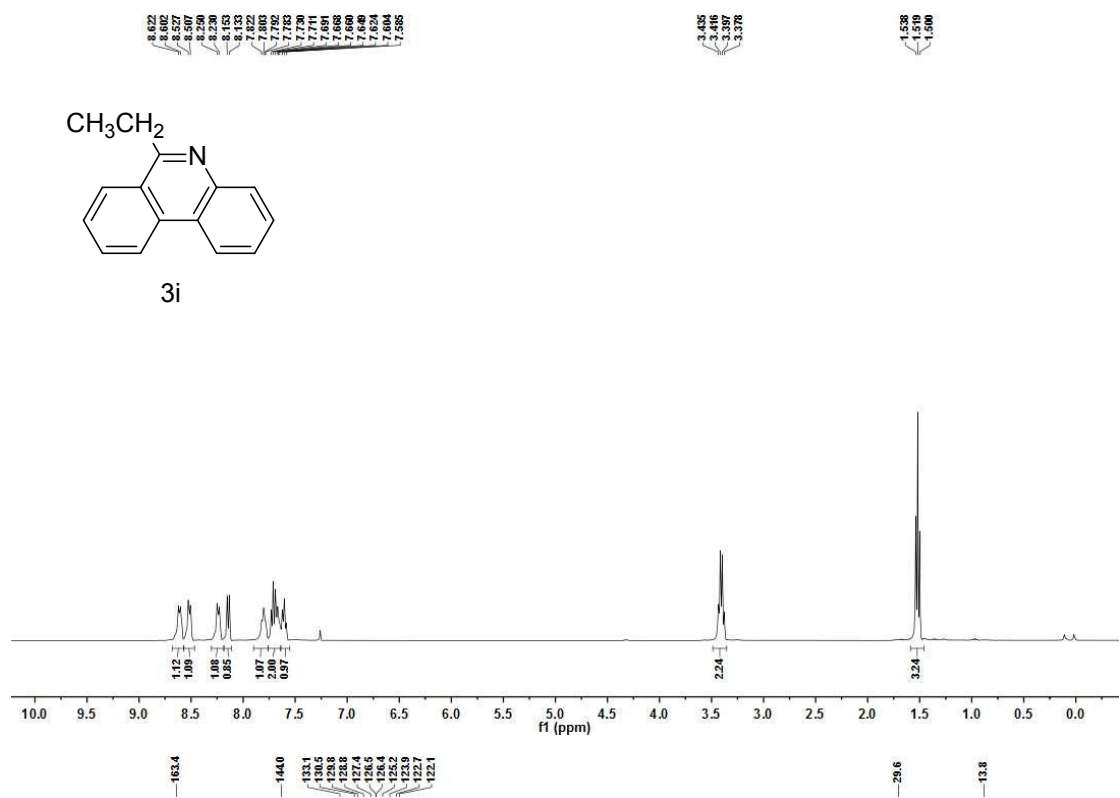


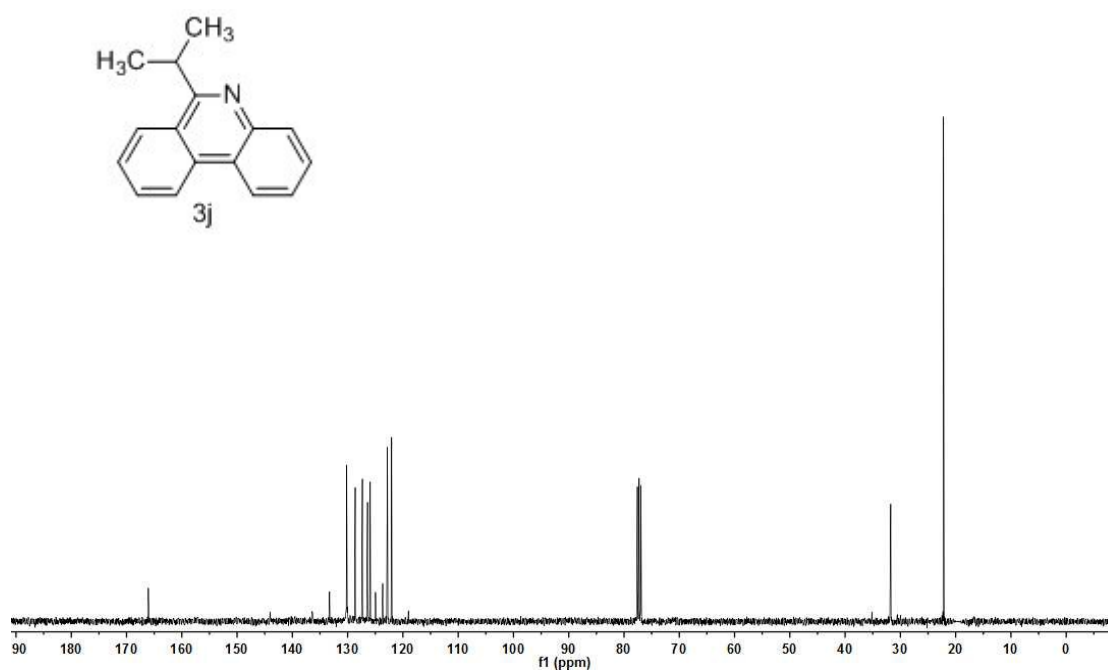
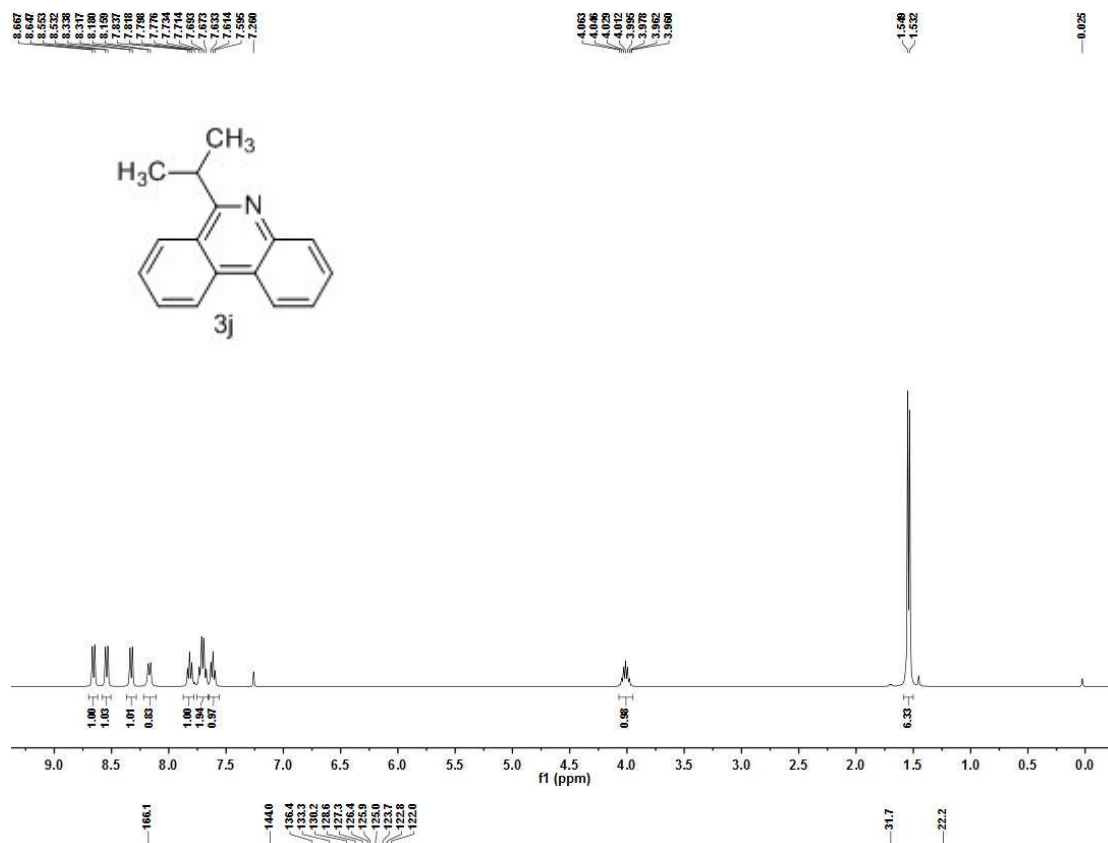


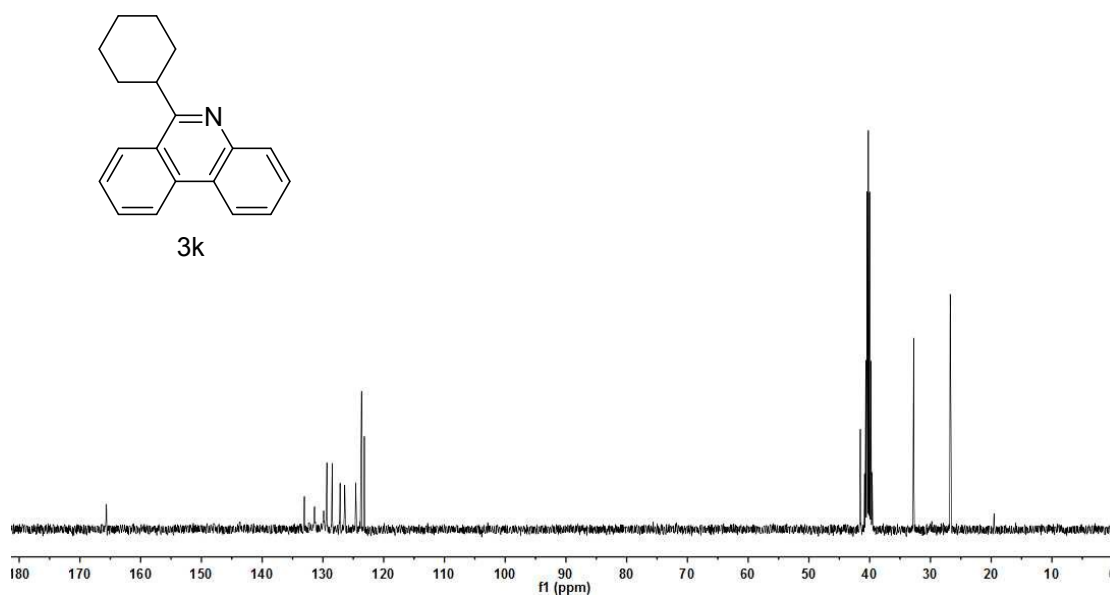
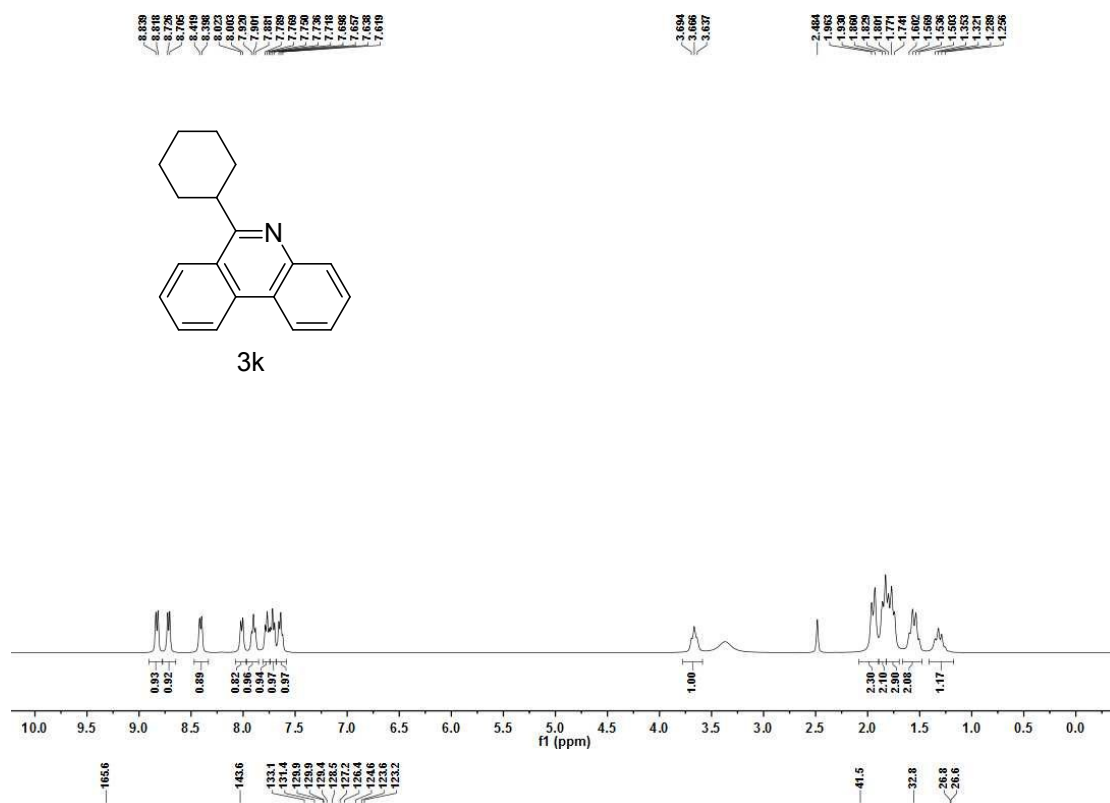


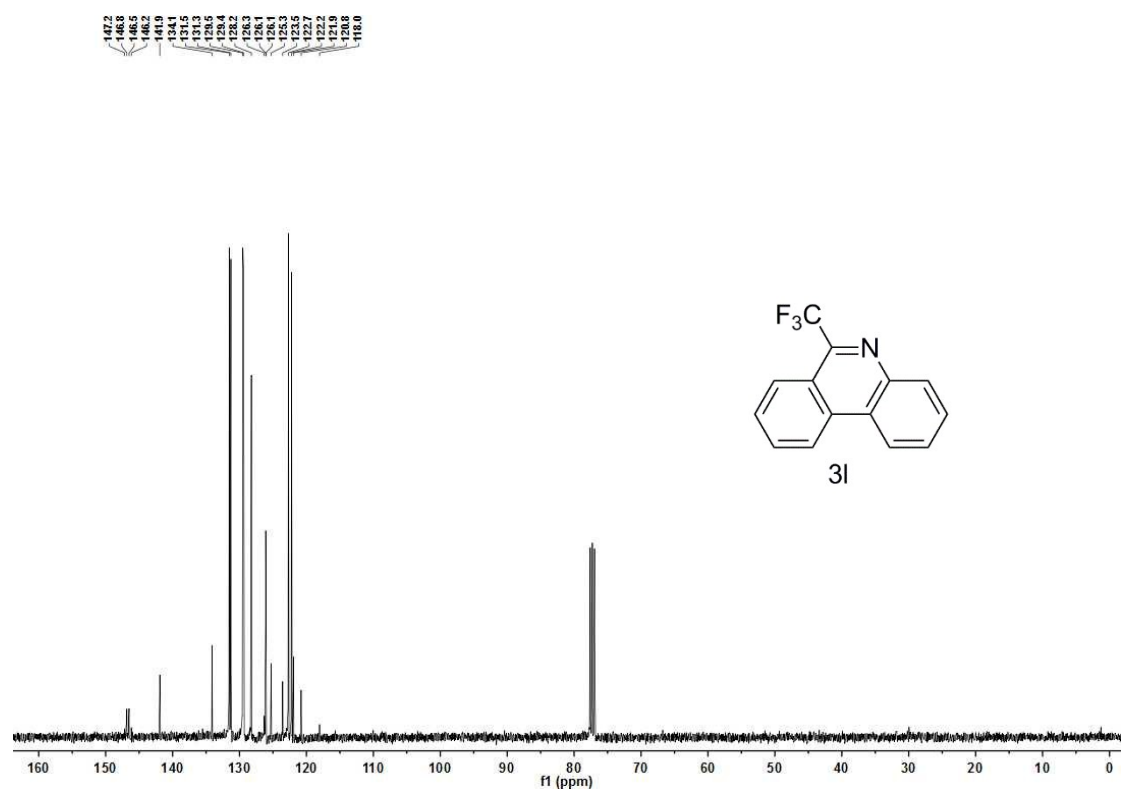
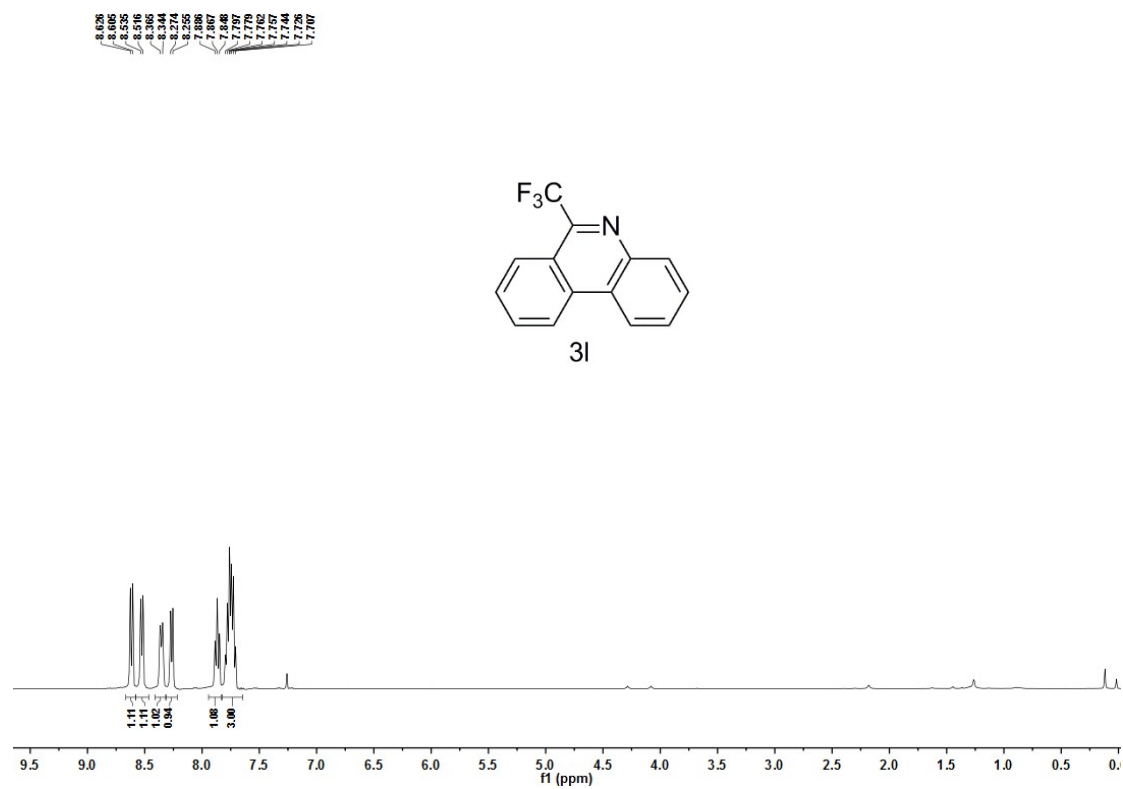


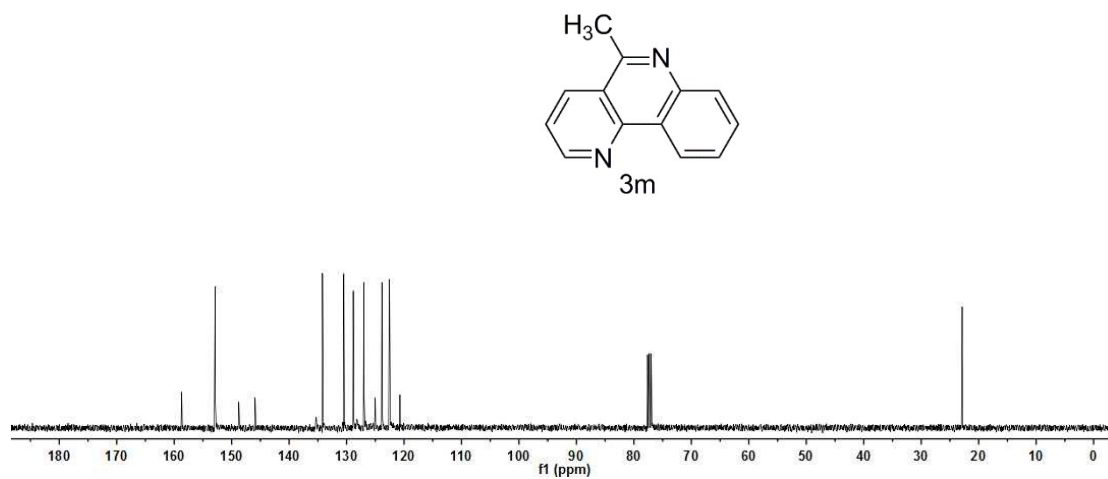
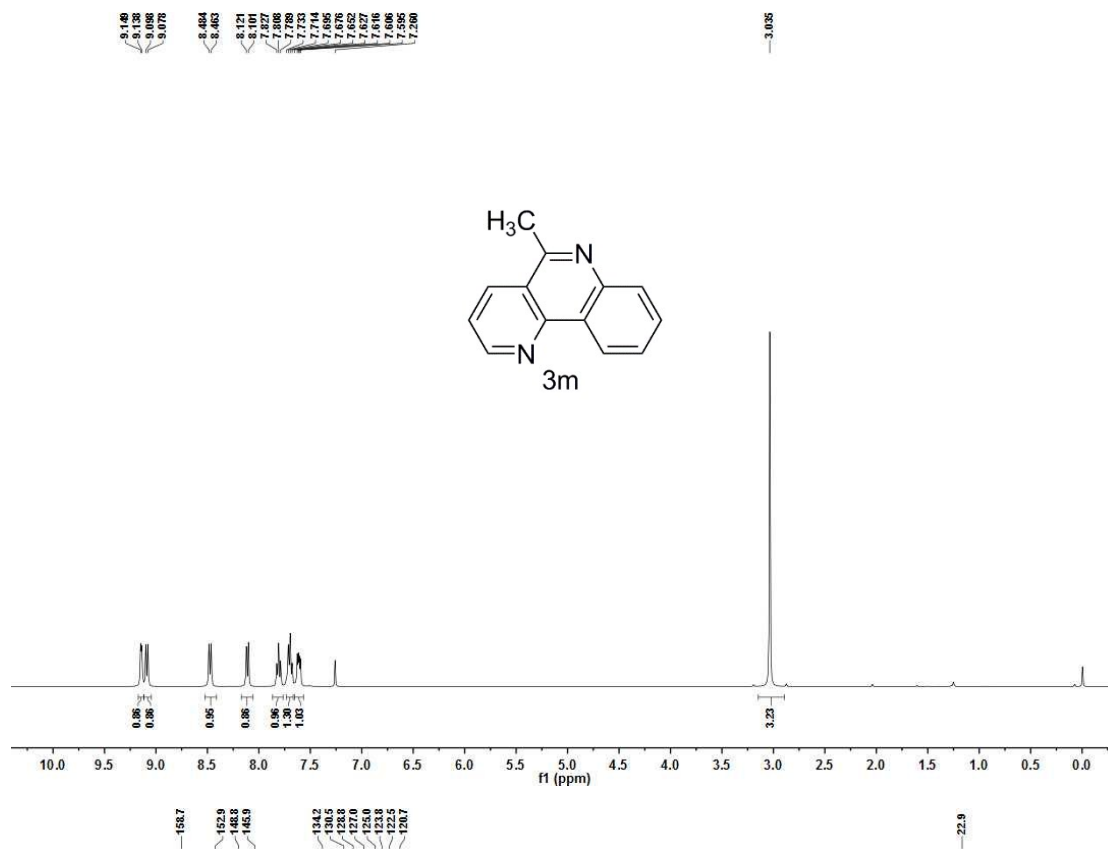


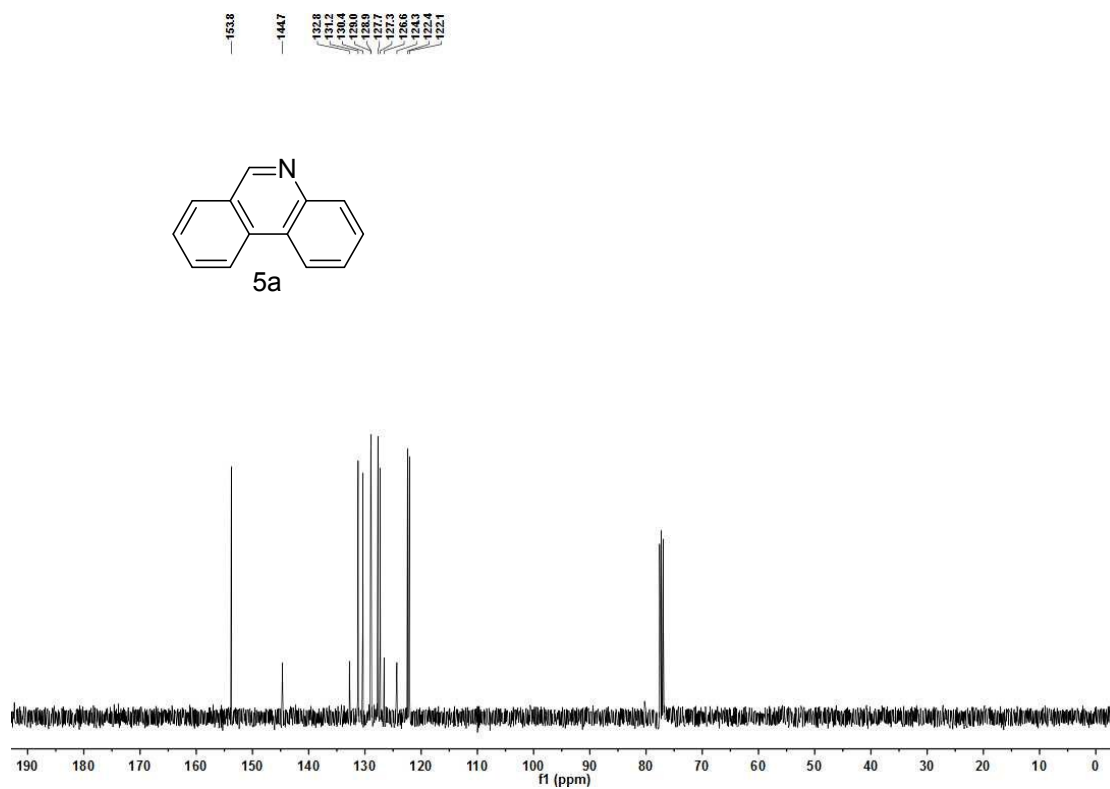
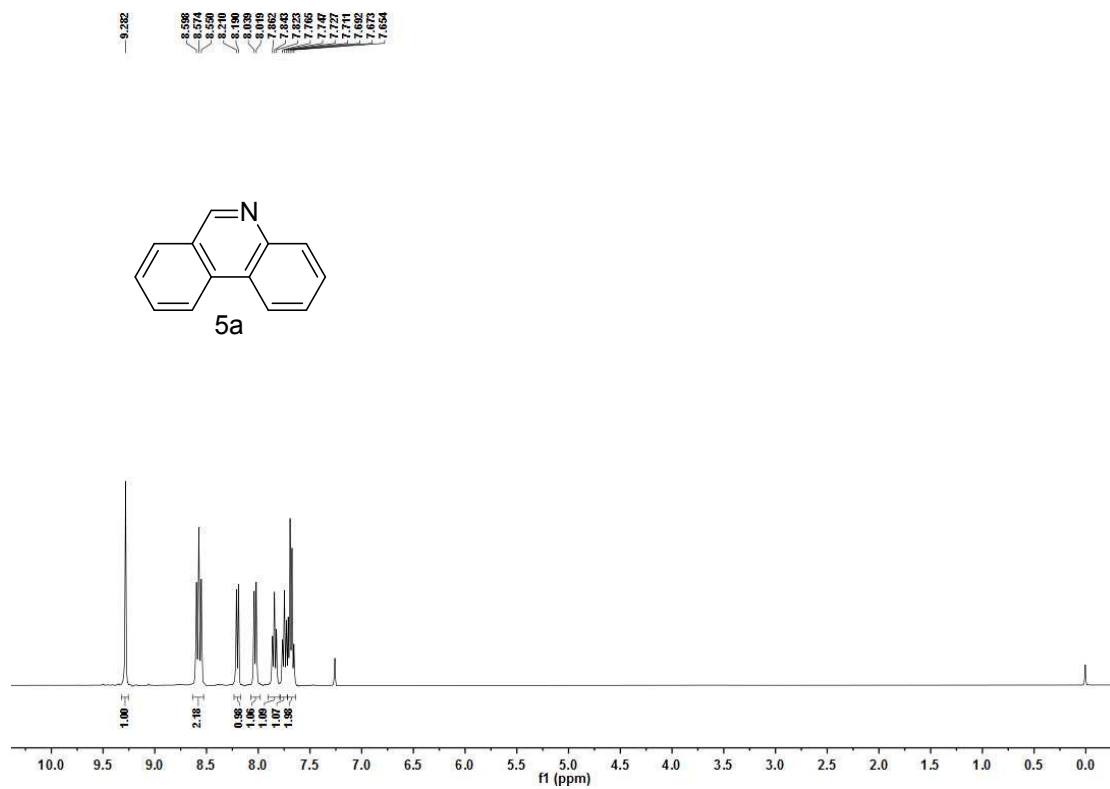


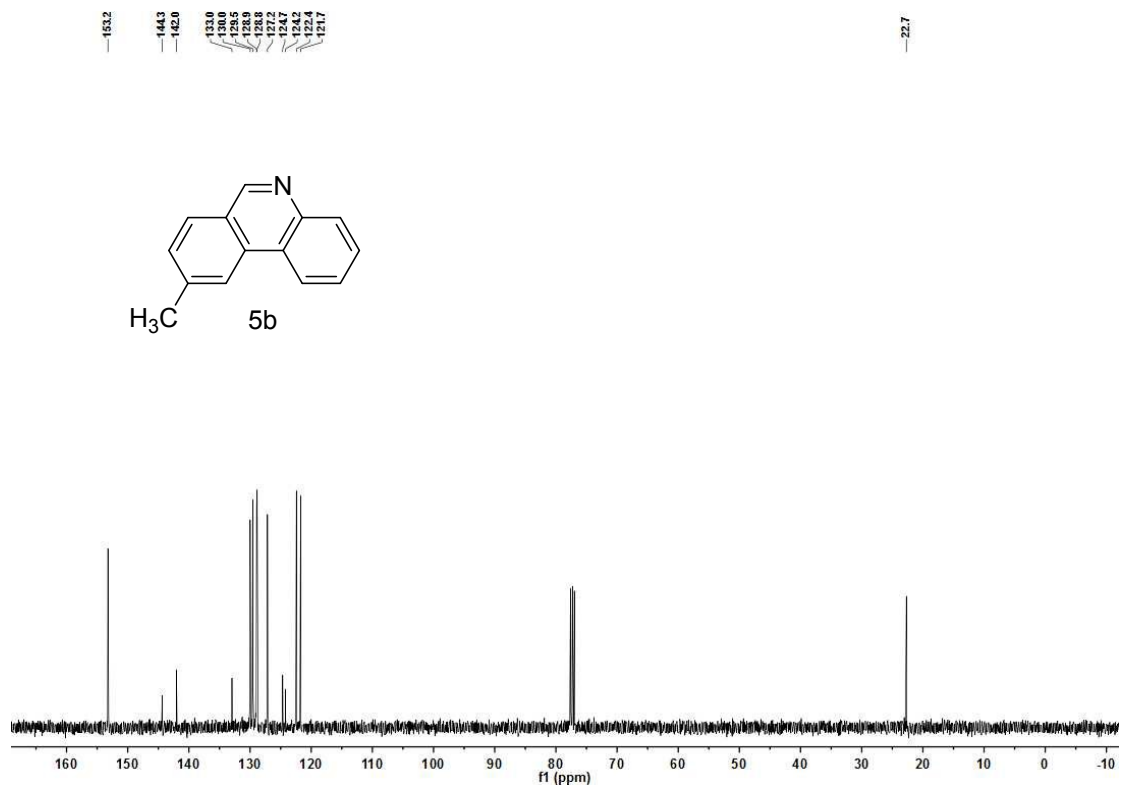
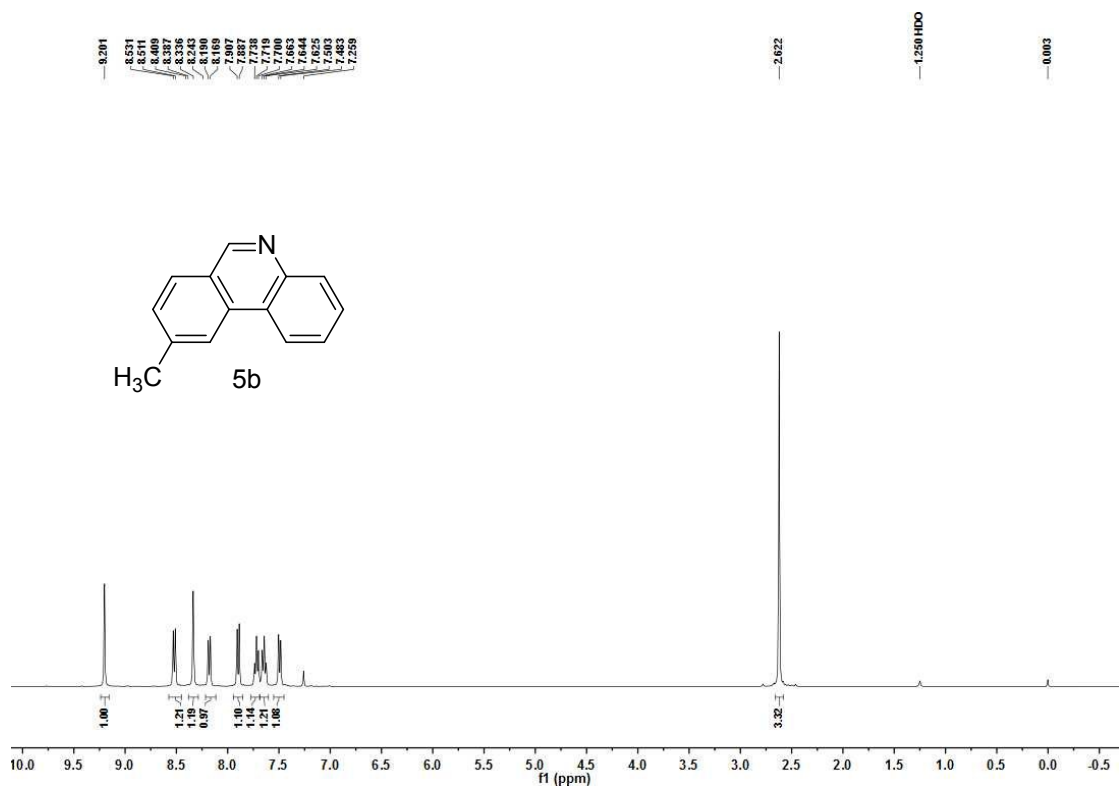


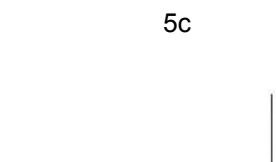
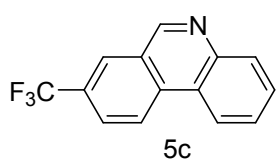


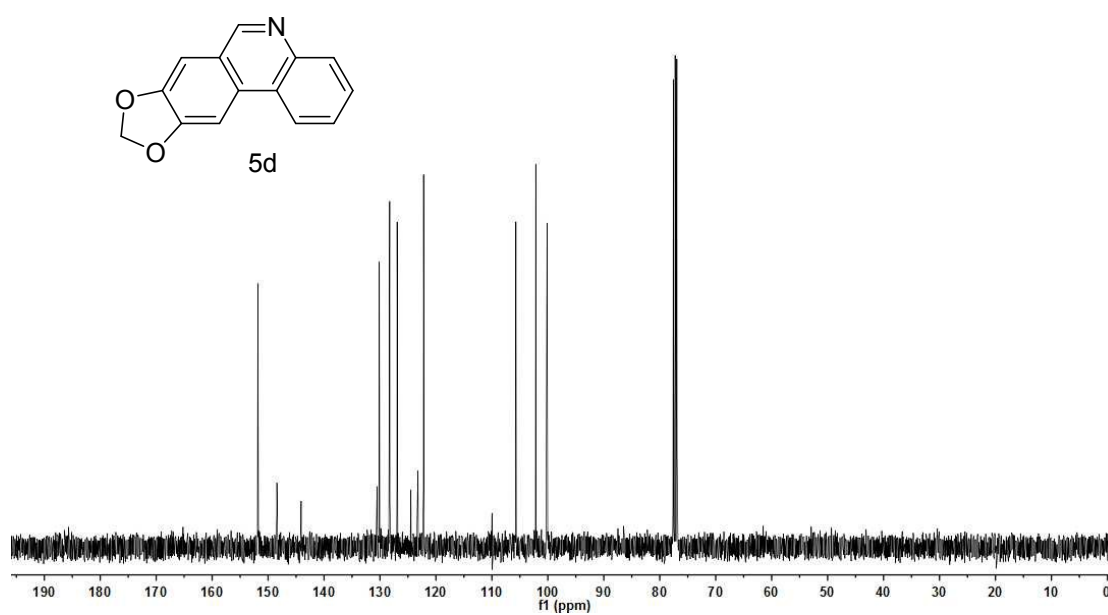
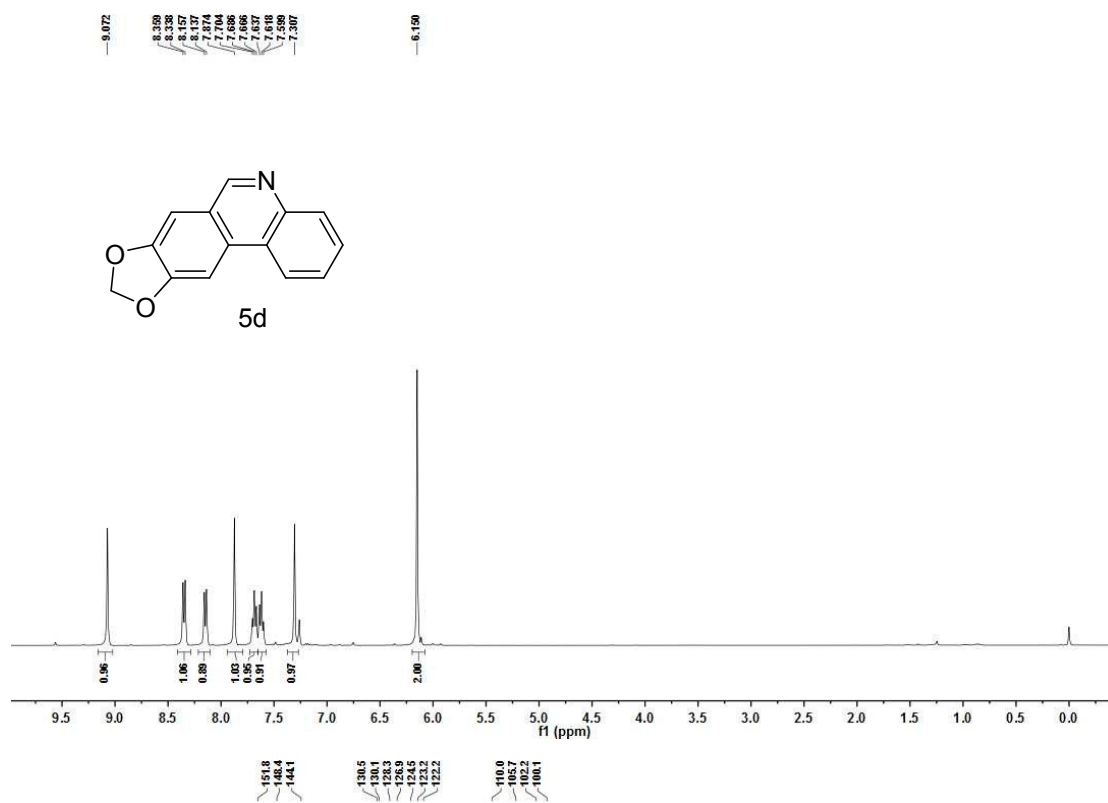


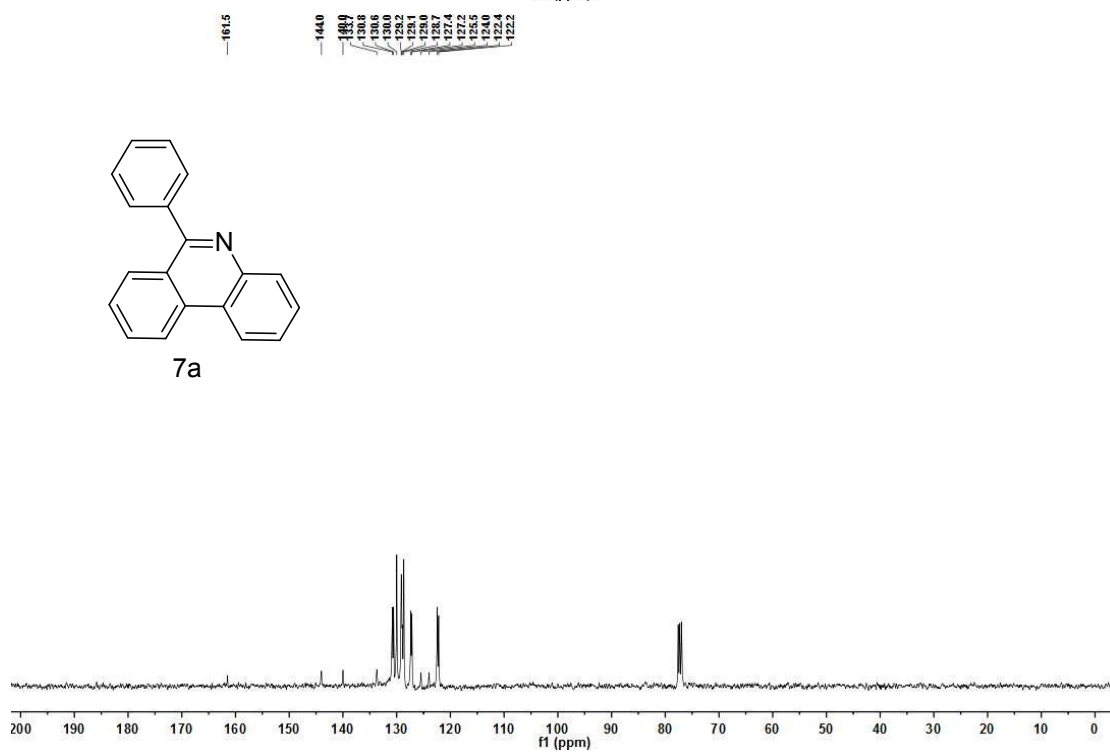
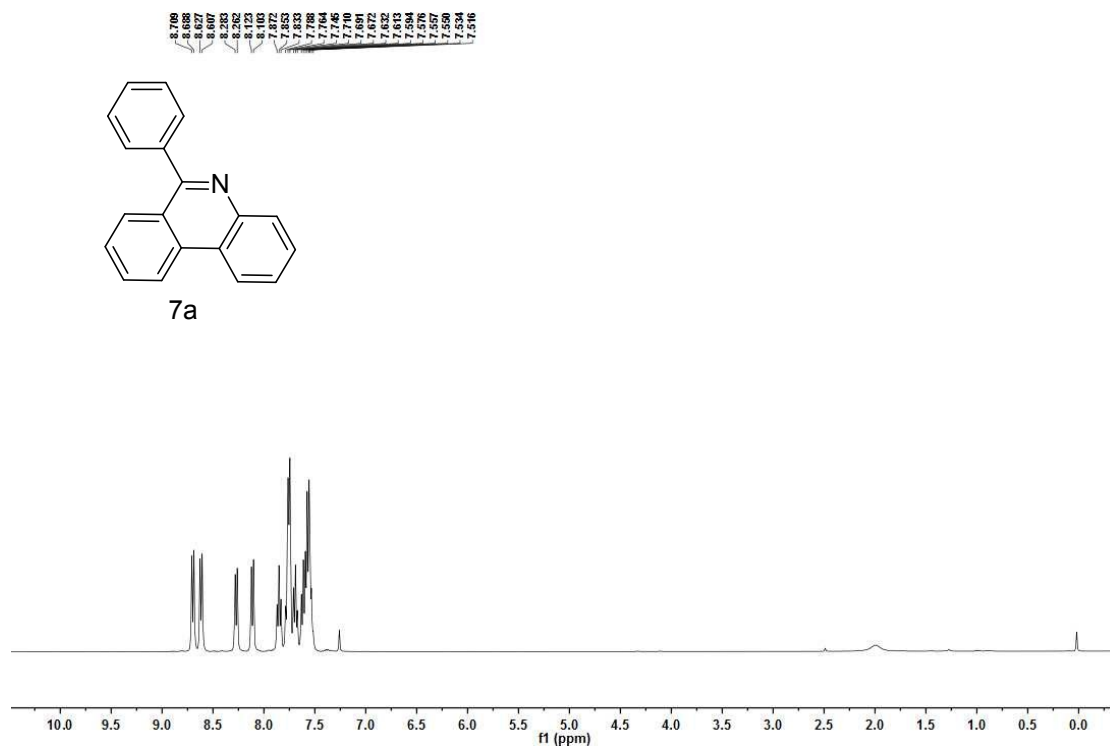


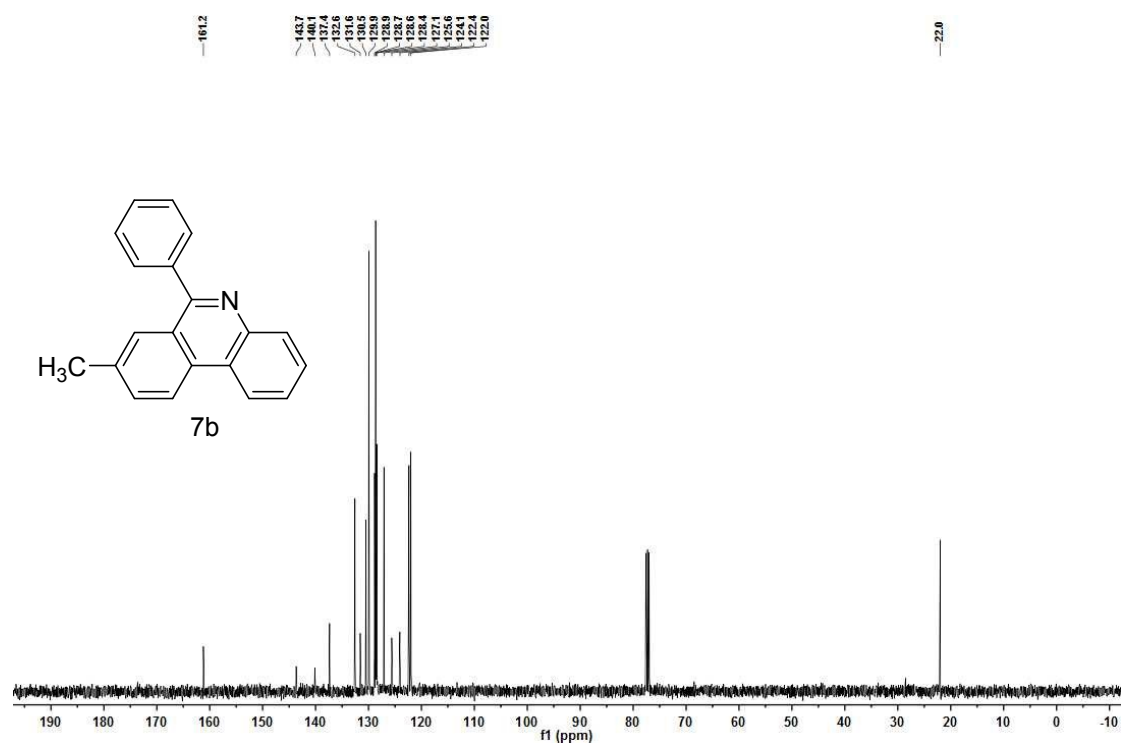
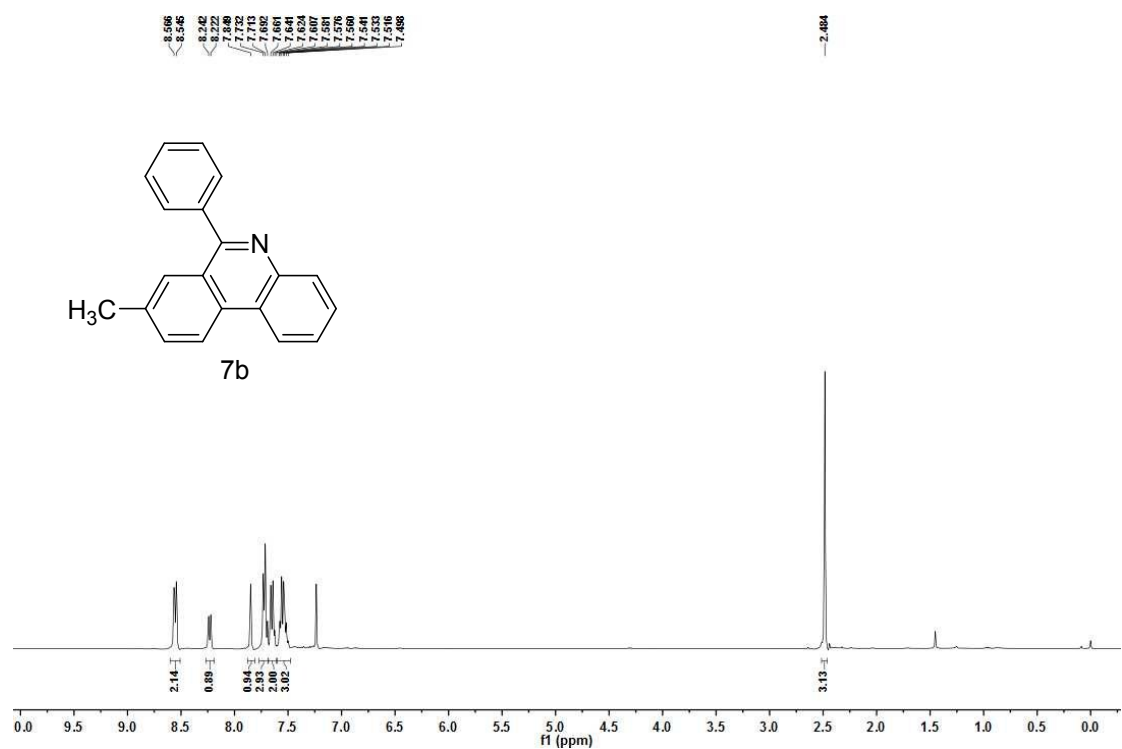


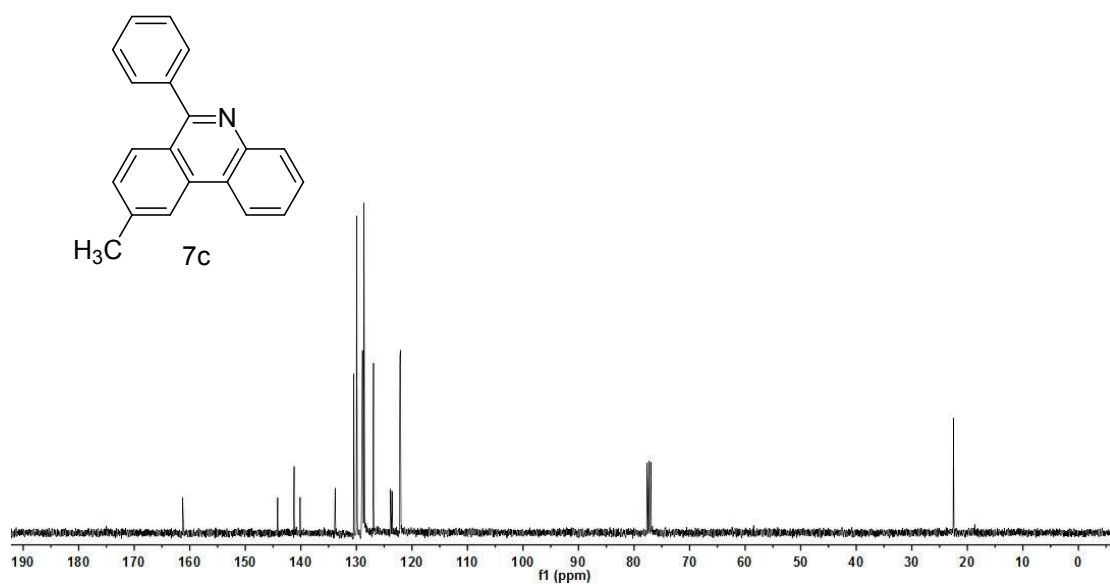
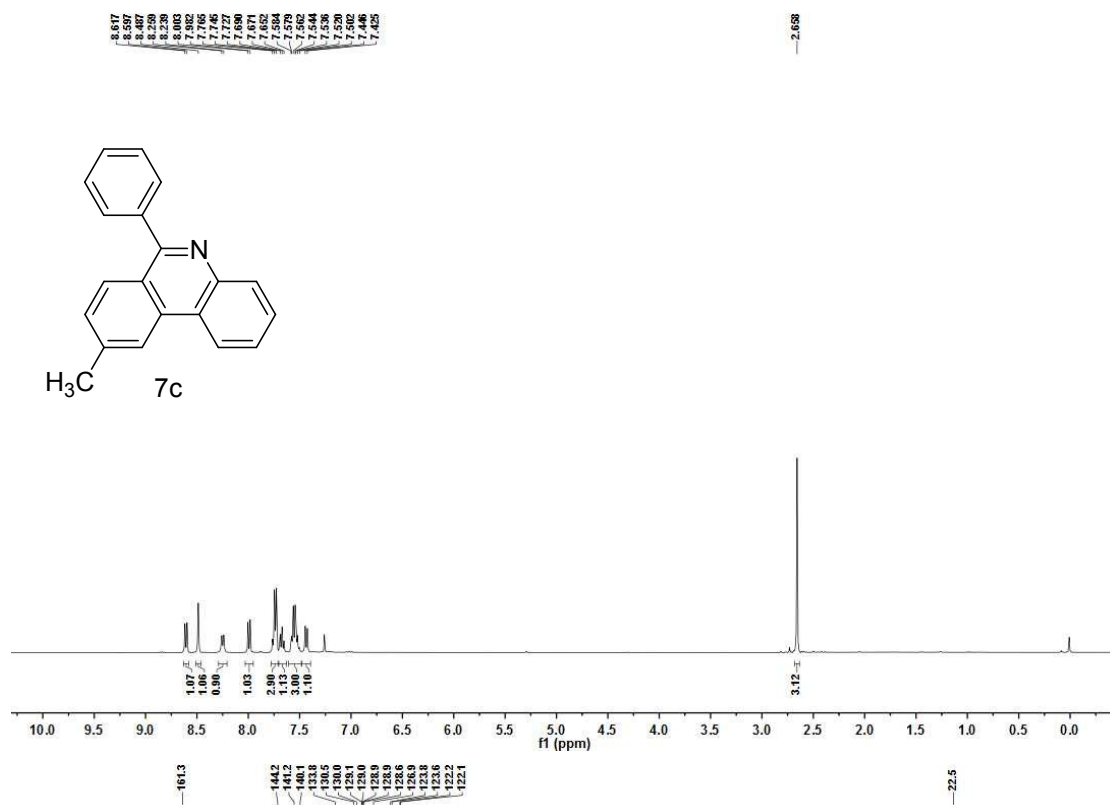


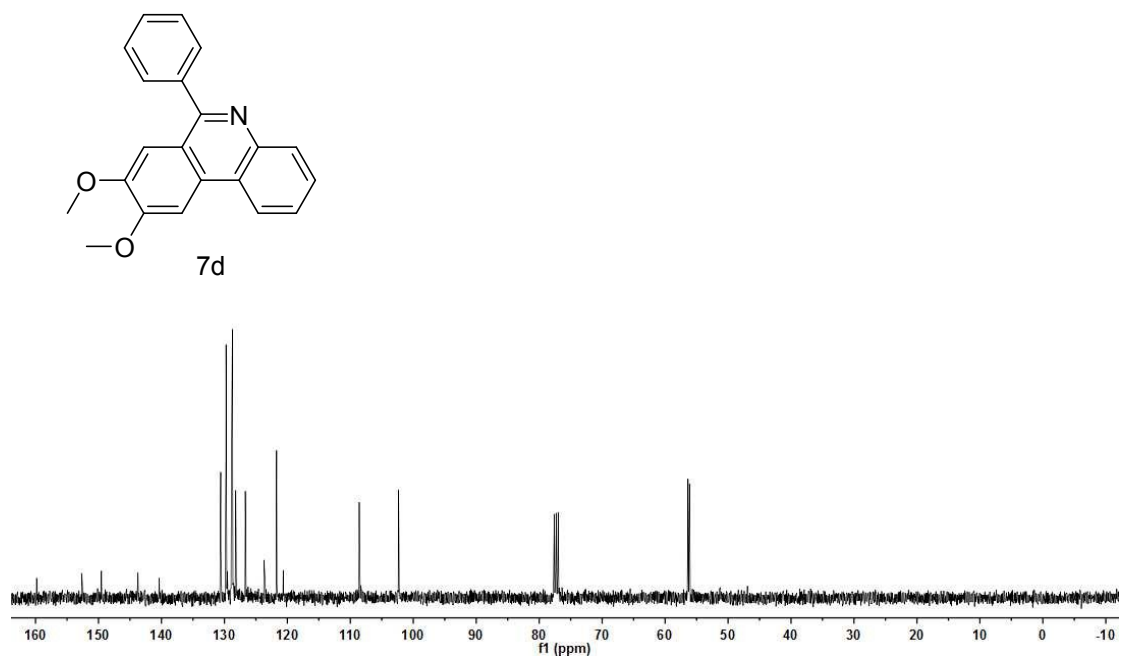
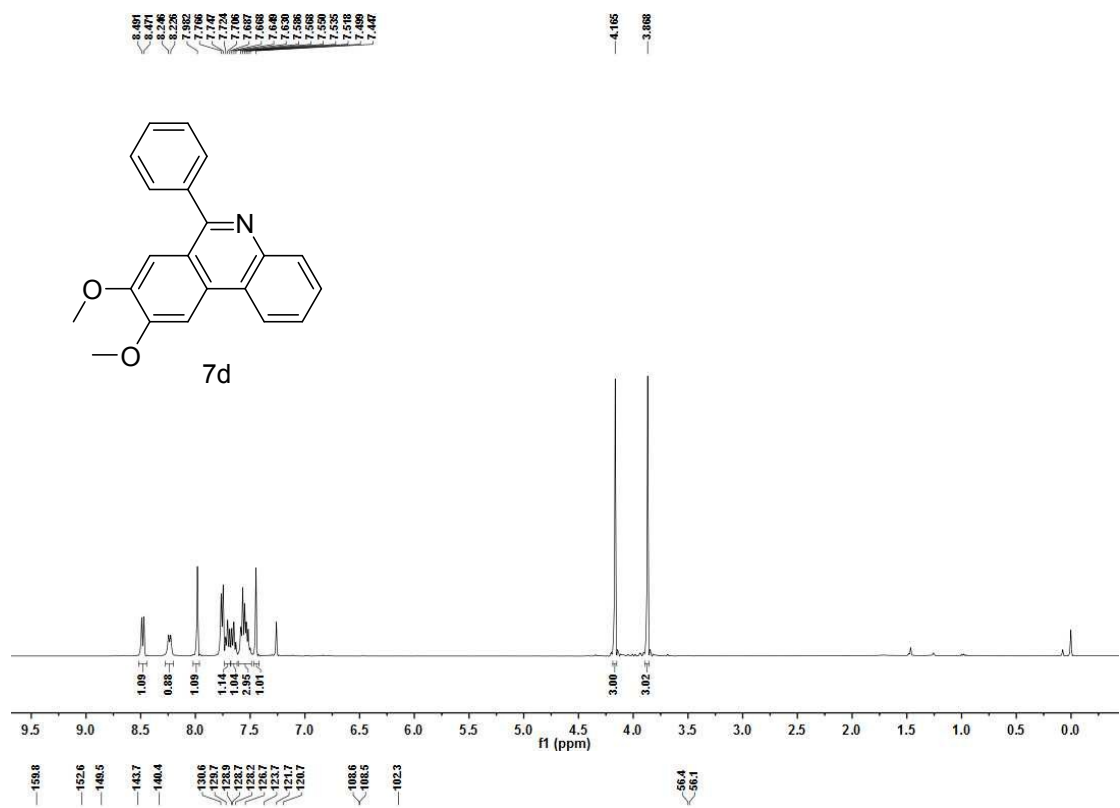


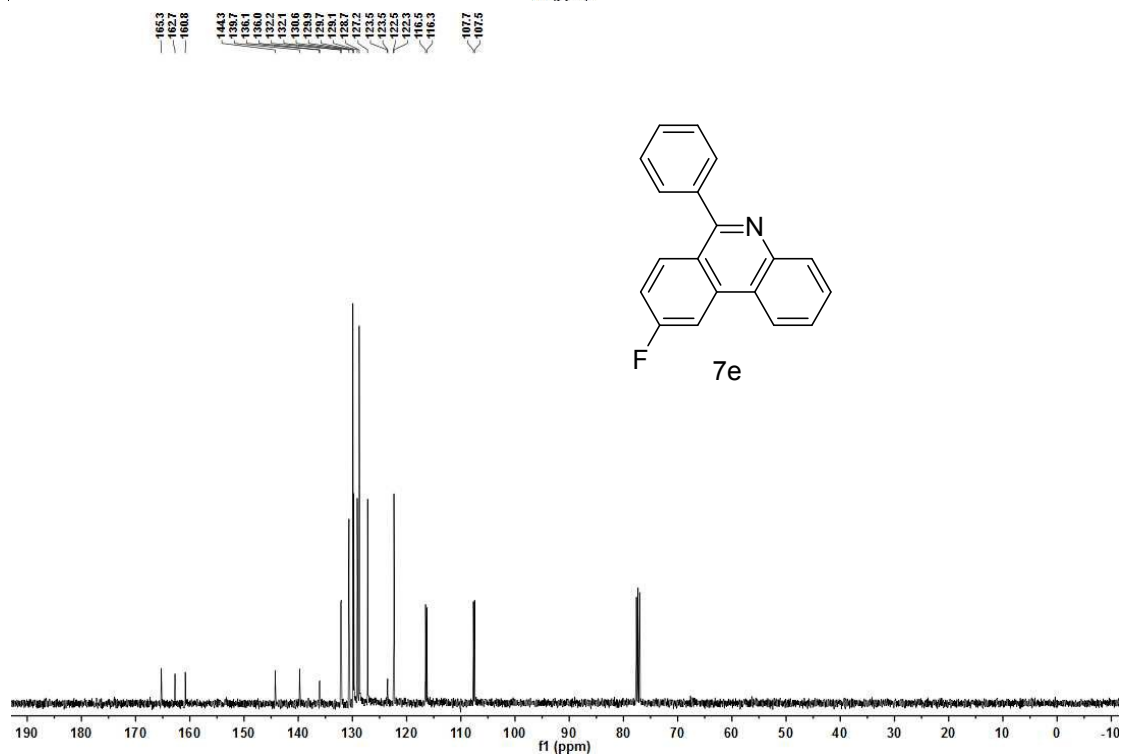
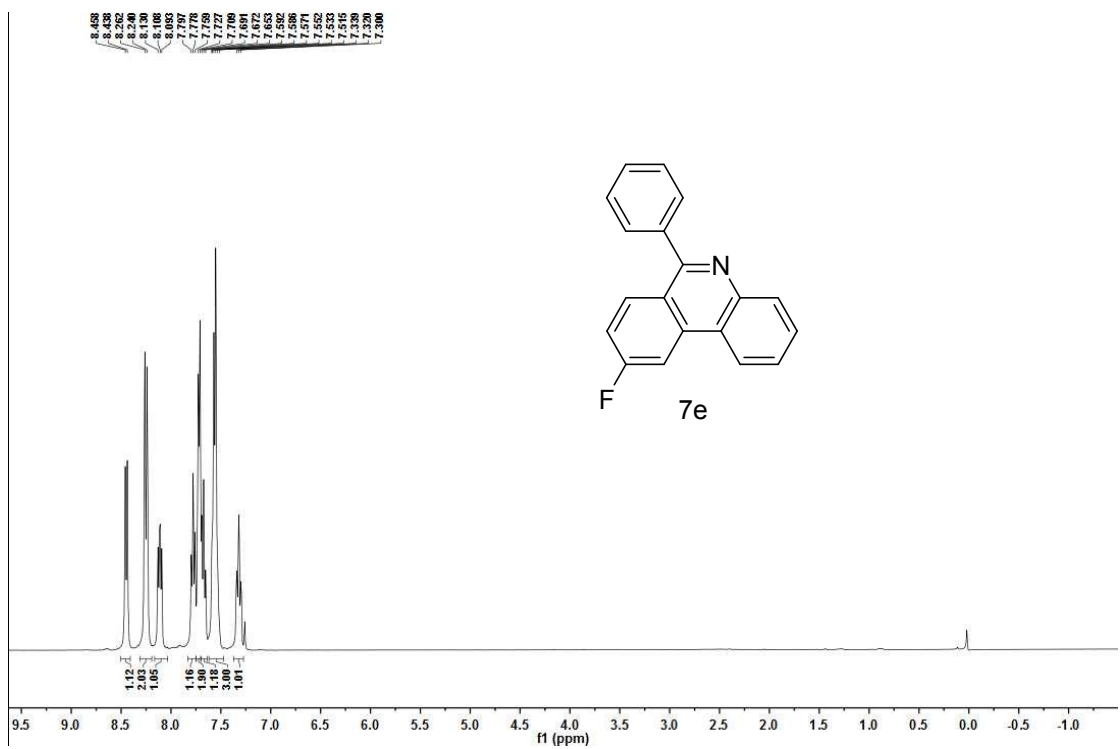


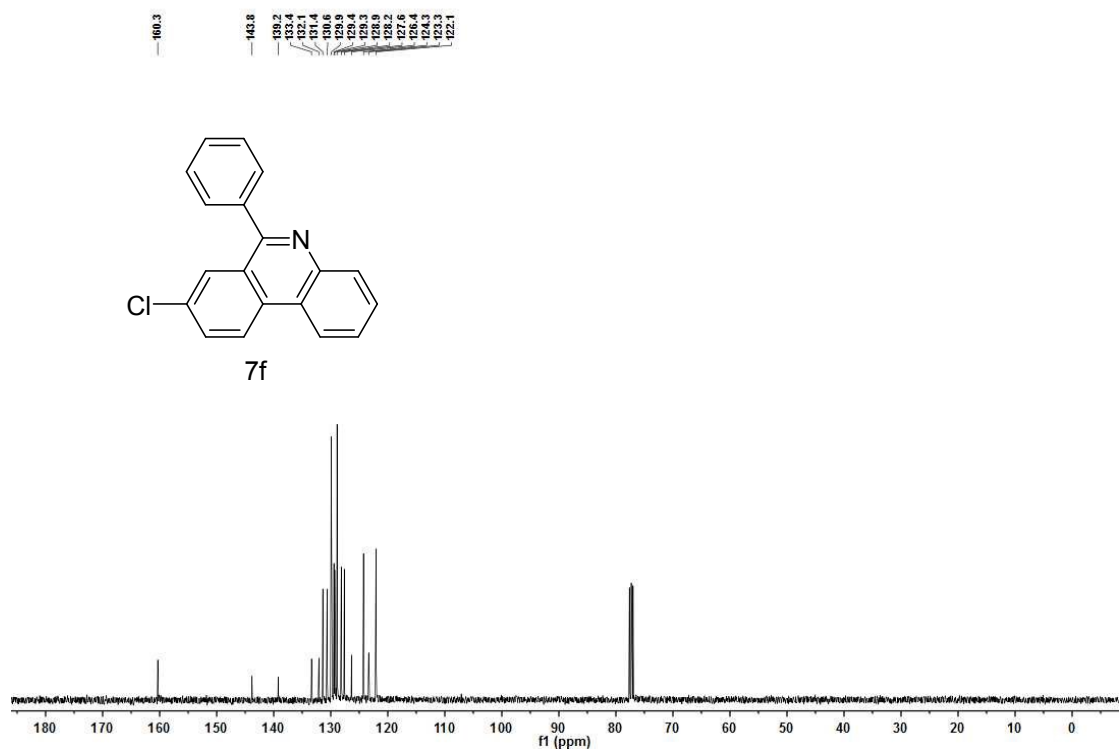
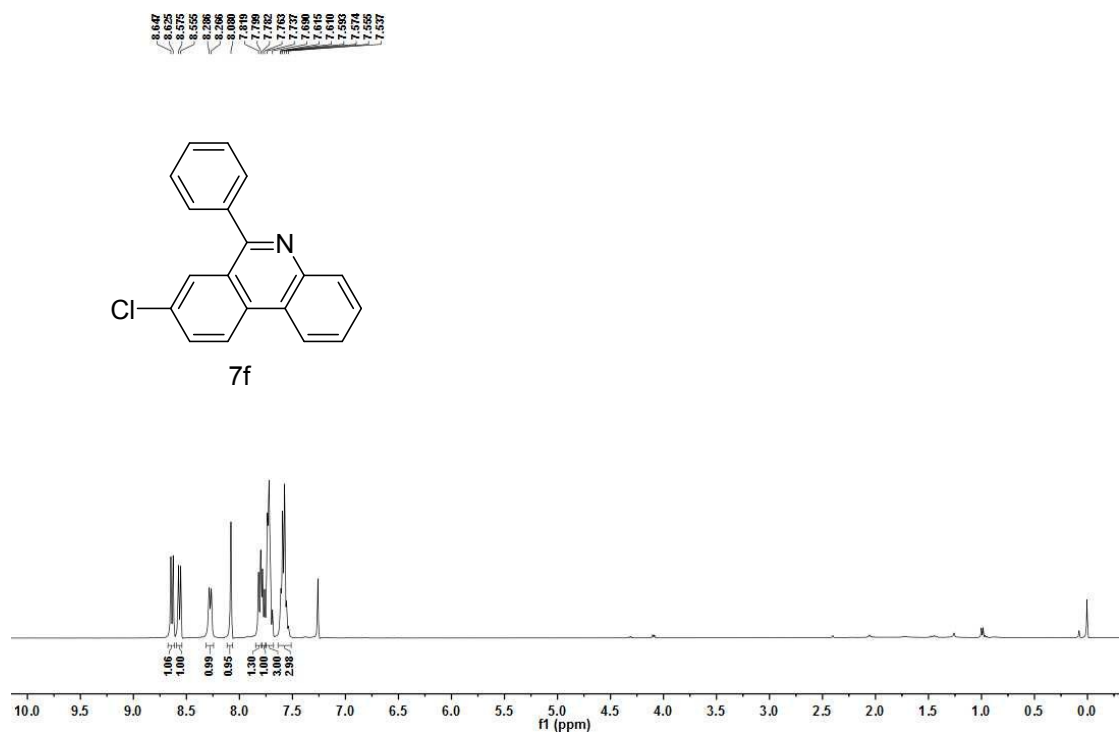


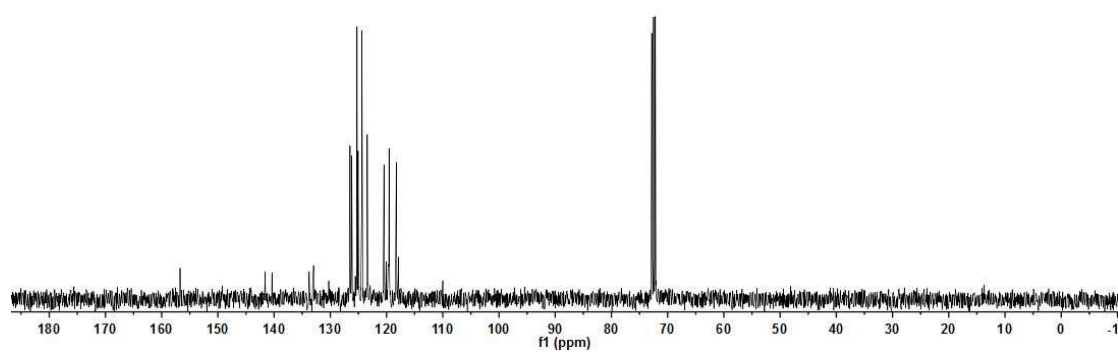
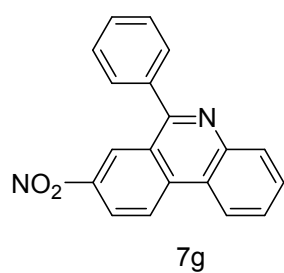
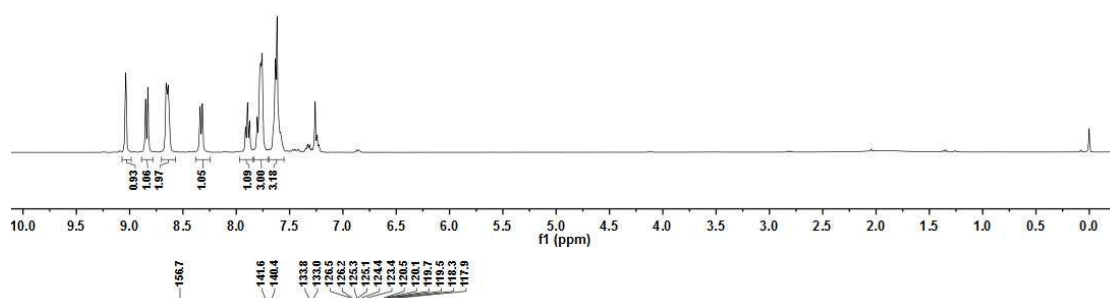
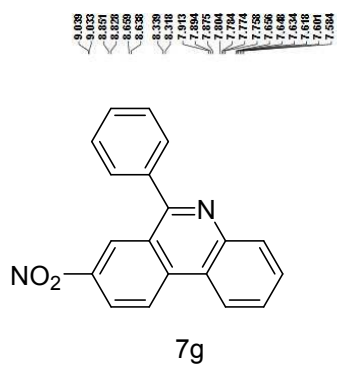


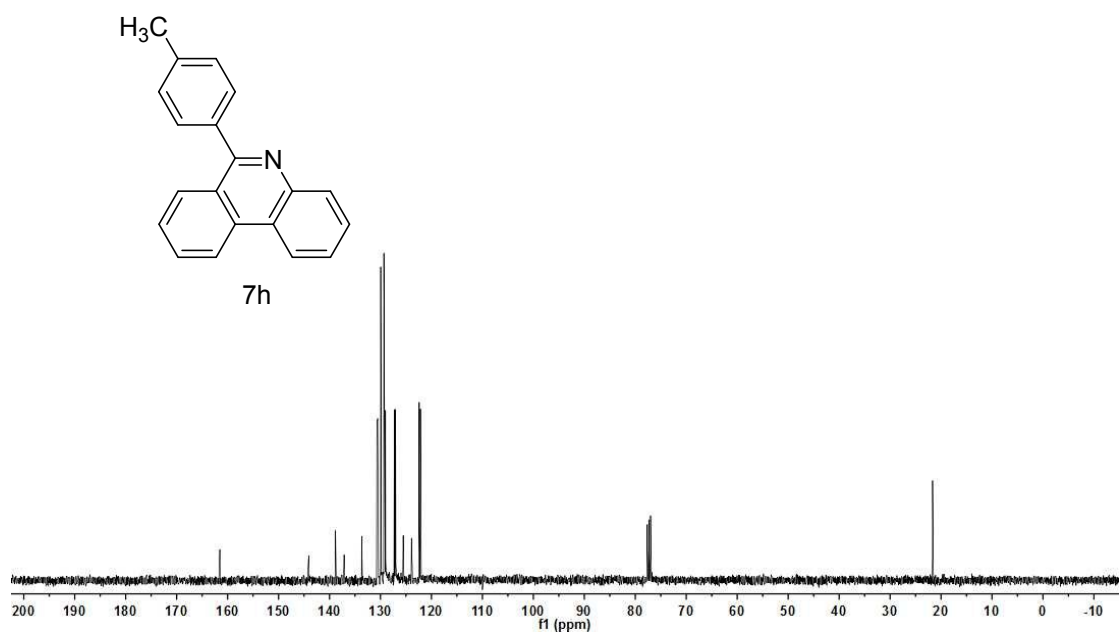
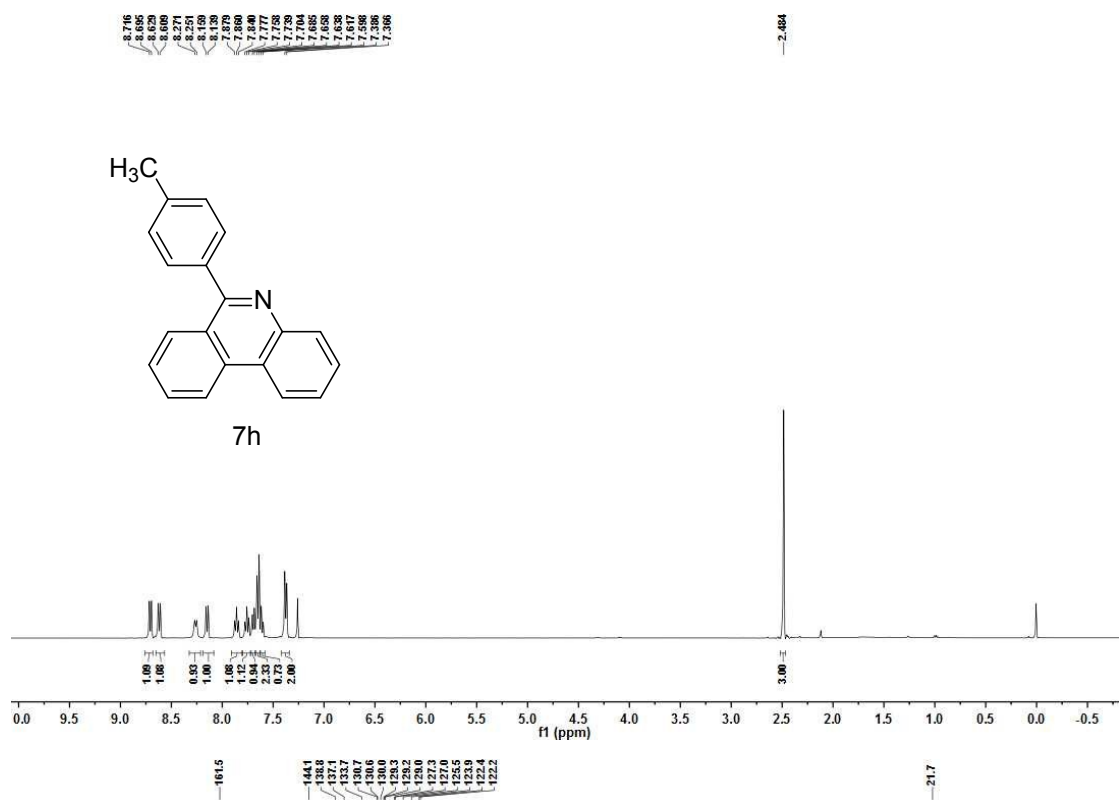


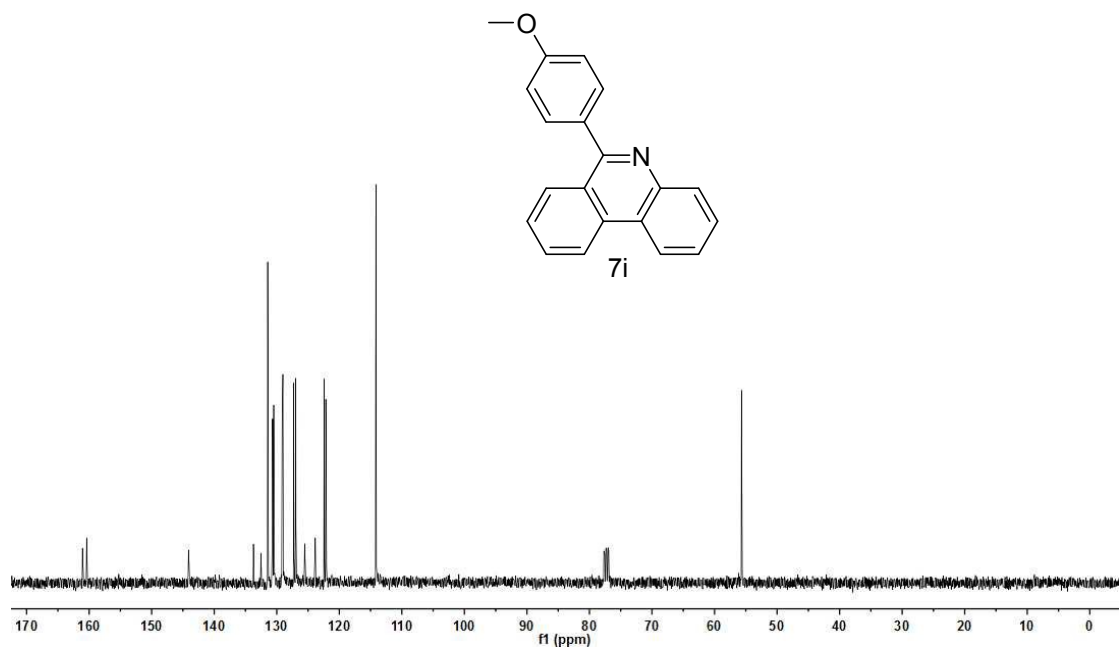
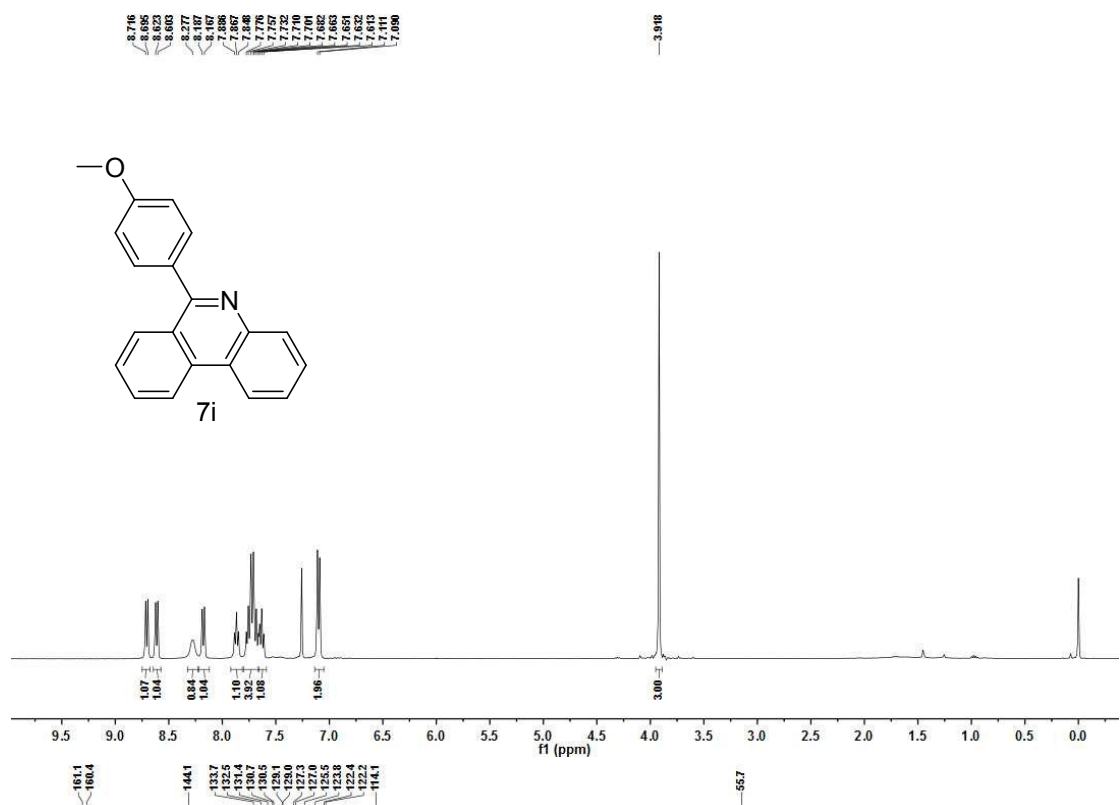




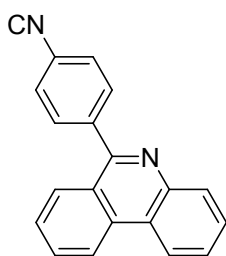




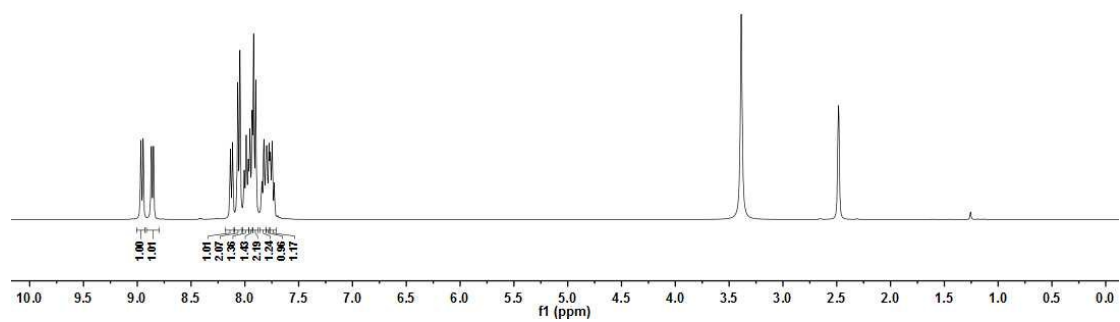




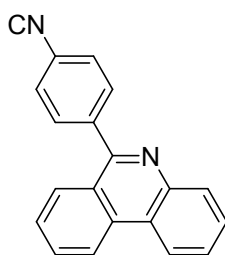
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7.727



7j



159.5
144.3
143.6
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131.5
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128.8
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128.4
124.6
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123.5
119.4
112.2



7j

