

A Practical Green Chemistry Approach to Synthesize Fused Bicyclic 4*H*-Pyranes via an Amine Catalysed 1,4-Addition and Cyclization Cascade

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1. General Information

General Procedures. All reactions were performed in oven-dried or flame-dried reaction vessels, modified Schlenk flasks, or round-bottom flasks. The flasks were fitted with Teflon screw caps and reactions were conducted under an atmosphere of argon if needed. Gas-tight syringes with stainless steel needles were used to transfer air- and moisture-sensitive liquids. All moisture and/or air sensitive solid compounds were manipulated inside normal desiccators. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (40–63 μm , 230–400 mesh).

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ aluminum plates (Merck) containing a 254 nm fluorescent indicator. TLC plates were visualized by exposure to short wave ultraviolet light (254 nm) and to a solution of KMnO_4 (1 g of KMnO_4 , 6 g of K_2CO_3 and 0.1 g of KOH in 100 mL of H_2O) or vanillin (2 g of vanillin and 4 mL of concentrated H_2SO_4 in 100 mL of EtOH) followed by heating.

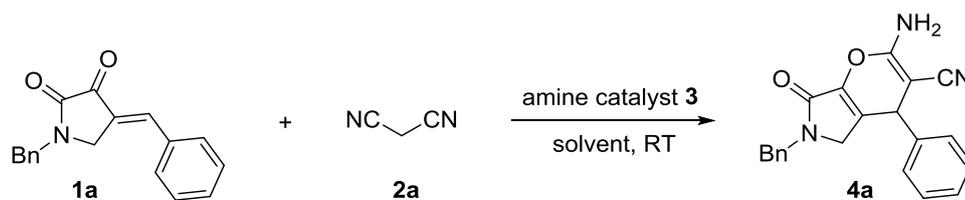
Organic solutions were concentrated at 30–50 $^\circ\text{C}$ on rotary evaporators at ~ 10 torr followed by drying on vacuum pump at ~ 1 torr. Reaction temperatures are reported as the temperature of the bath surrounding the vessel unless otherwise stated.

Materials. Commercial reagents and solvents were obtained from Adamas-beta, Aldrich Chemical Co., Alfa Aesar, Macklin and Energy Chemical and used as received with the following exceptions: THF, Et_2O and toluene were purified by refluxing over Na-benzophenone under positive argon pressure followed by distillation.^[1] The enone substrates were prepared according to literature procedure.^[2]

Instrumentation.

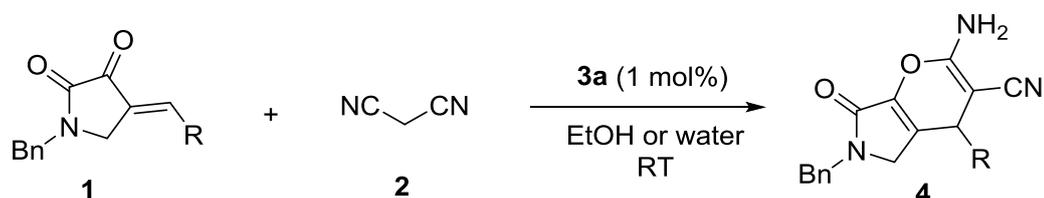
- Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H NMR) spectra were recorded with Bruker AV 400 MHz spectrometers. Proton chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (δ scale), and are referenced using residual protium in the NMR solvent (DMSO-d^6 : δ 2.54 (DMSO)). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift [multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br s = broad singlet), coupling constant(s) (Hz), integration].
- Carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (^{13}C NMR) spectra were recorded with Bruker AV 400 MHz spectrometers. Carbon chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (δ scale), and are referenced using the carbon resonances of the solvent (δ 39.6 (DMSO)). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift [multiplicity (if not singlet), assignment (C_q = fully substituted carbon)].
- High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2 using an electrospray (ESI) ionization source.

2. General Procedure for the Optimization of the Reaction Conditions



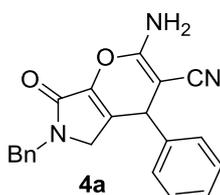
A dried glass tube was charged with 1-benzyl-4-benzylidenepyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1a** (0.1 mmol, 27.7 mg) and malononitrile **2a** (0.11 mmol, 7.3 mg) in an indicated solvent (0.1 M, 1 mL). Amine catalyst **3** (catalyst loading shown in Table 1 in the paper) was added with a syringe, and the reaction was sealed with a Teflon cap and stirred at room temperature for 5 to 30 minutes. When the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (methylene dichloride/methanol = 20:1) to afford the corresponding bicyclic 4H-pyrene **4a**. Exceptionally, product **4a** could be directly obtained and purified by simple filtration (filtered, washed with the corresponding solvent and dried under vacuum oven) when ethanol or water was used as the reaction medium.

3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of multi-substituted bicyclic 4H-pyrene **4**



A dried glass tube was charged with pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1** (0.2 mmol) and malononitrile **2** (0.22 mmol) in EtOH or water (0.1 M, 2 mL). Amine catalyst **3a** (0.02 mmol, 1.4 mg) was added with a syringe, and the reaction was sealed with a Teflon cap and stirred at room temperature for about 15 minutes. When the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was filtered and washed with the mother liquid and 2 mL fresh ethanol or hot water to afford the corresponding bicyclic 4H-pyrene **4a**, which was dried under vacuum oven and further analyzed by $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-HMR}$, HRMS, *etc.*

2-amino-6-benzyl-7-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile **4a**



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-benzylidenepyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1a** (55.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4a** as a white solid with 96% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium (with 82% yield when water as the reaction medium).

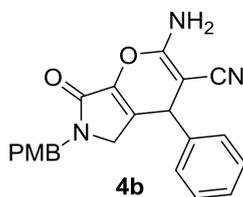
Characterization data for the product 4a:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.4, 161.1, 142.5, 139.4, 137.7, 129.3, 129.1, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 126.5, 120.5, 56.1, 47.4, 45.8, 39.0

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₇N₃O₂Na⁺: 366.1218, found: 366.1227.

2-amino-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)-7-oxo-4-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4b



Prepared according to the general procedure using 4-benzylidene-1-(4-methoxybenzyl) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1b** (61.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4b** as a white solid with 90% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

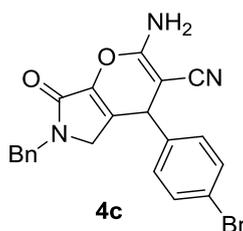
Characterization data for the product 4b:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.11 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.2, 161.1, 159.1, 142.5, 139.4, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.0, 127.9, 126.4, 120.5, 114.5, 56.1, 55.5, 47.1, 45.2, 39.0

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₃Na⁺: 396.1324, found: 396.1321.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-bromophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4c



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-bromo-benzylidene) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1c** (71.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4c** as a

white solid with 85% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium (with 92% yield when water as the reaction medium).

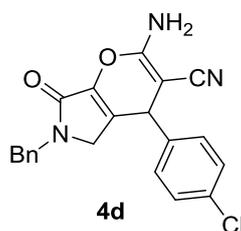
Characterization data for the product 4c:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ (ppm): 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 4.69 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ (ppm): 161.8, 160.7, 141.4, 139.0, 137.1, 131.7, 129.9, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 125.4, 120.6, 119.9, 55.2, 46.8, 45.4, 37.9

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆BrN₃O₂Na⁺: 444.0324, found: 444.0323.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4d



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-chloro-benzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1d** (62.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4d** as a white solid with 93% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium (with 88% yield when water as the reaction medium).

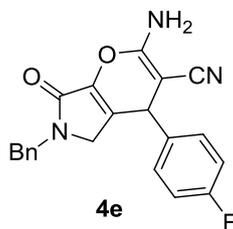
Characterization data for the product 4d:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ (ppm): 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 18.8 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ (ppm): 161.9, 160.8, 141.1, 139.1, 137.2, 132.2, 129.6, 128.9, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 125.6, 120.0, 55.4, 46.9, 45.5, 38.0

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆ClN₃O₂Na⁺: 400.0829, found: 400.0828.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4e



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-fluorobenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1e** (71.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4e** as a white solid with 80% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

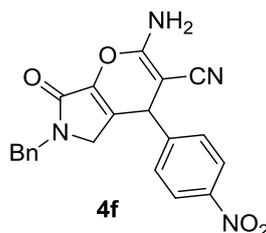
Characterization data for the product **4e**:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 6H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.7, 161.9, 160.7, 160.3, 139.0, 138.4, 138.3, 137.3, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 125.9, 120.1, 115.8, 115.6, 55.7, 46.9, 45.5, 37.9

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆FN₃O₂Na⁺: 384.1124, found: 384.1125.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4f



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-nitrobenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1f** (64.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4f** as a white solid with 72% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium. (with 77% yield when water as the reaction medium).

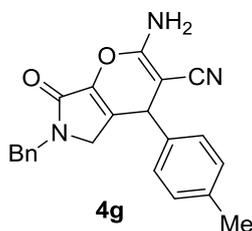
Characterization data for the product **4f**:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.23 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.8, 161.0, 149.5, 147.0, 139.5, 137.2, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 124.7, 124.2, 119.8, 54.7, 46.9, 45.5, 38.4

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆N₄O₄Na⁺: 411.1069, found: 411.1068.

2-amino-6-benzyl-7-oxo-4-(*p*-tolyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4g



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-methylbenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1g** (58.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4g** as a white solid with 85% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium. (with 82% yield when water as the reaction medium).

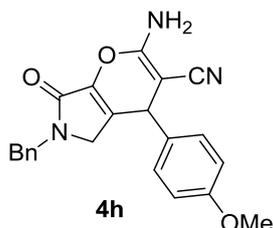
Characterization data for the product **4g**:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.15 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.9, 160.6, 139.1, 138.7, 137.2, 136.6, 129.4, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 126.2, 120.0, 55.8, 46.8, 45.3, 38.1, 20.6

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₂Na⁺: 380.1375, found: 380.1375.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4h



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-methoxybenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1h** (61.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4h** as a white solid with 82% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

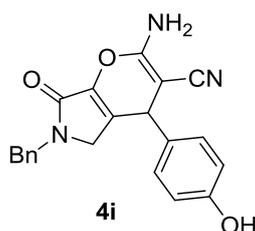
Characterization data for the product 4h:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.0, 160.6, 158.6, 138.8, 137.3, 134.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.8, 127.5, 126.5, 120.2, 114.3, 56.1, 55.2, 47.0, 45.5, 37.8

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₃Na⁺: 396.1324, found: 396.1324.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-*c*]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4i



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(4-hydroxybenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1i** (58.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4i** as a white solid with 88% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium. (with 78% yield when water as the reaction medium).

Characterization data for the product 4i:

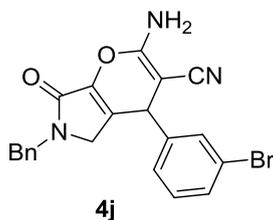
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 9.43 (s, 1H), 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.08 (br s, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz,

1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d^6): δ (ppm): 162.0, 160.4, 156.6, 138.5, 137.2, 132.4, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 127.4, 126.7, 120.1, 115.5, 56.2, 46.8, 45.3, 37.7

HR-MS (ESI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{Na}^+$: 382.1168, found: 382.1164.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(3-bromophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4j



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(3-bromobenzylidene) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1j** (71.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4j** as a white solid with 80% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium (with 83% yield when water as the reaction medium).

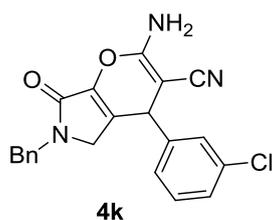
Characterization data for the product 4j:

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d^6): δ (ppm): 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 4.70 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d^6): δ (ppm): 161.9, 160.9, 144.9, 139.2, 137.3, 131.2, 130.5, 130.4, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 126.9, 125.3, 122.2, 120.0, 55.2, 46.9, 45.5, 38.2

HR-MS (ESI): m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}_2\text{Na}^+$: 444.0324, found: 444.0326

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4k



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(3-chlorobenzylidene) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1k** (62.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4k** as a white solid with 87% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium (with 90% yield when water as the reaction medium).

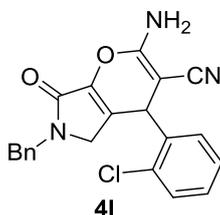
Characterization data for the product 4k:

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d^6): δ (ppm): 7.46 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.70 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.8, 160.8, 144.5, 139.1, 137.1, 133.4, 130.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.4, 125.2, 119.9, 55.0, 46.8, 45.3, 38.1

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆ClN₃O₂Na⁺: 400.0829, found: 400.0830.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4l



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(2-chlorobenzylidene) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1l** (62.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4l** as a white solid with 85% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

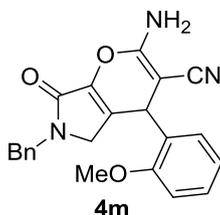
Characterization data for the product 4l:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.49 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.01 (s, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.7, 161.2, 139.4, 138.5, 137.1, 132.2, 130.4, 129.7, 129.3, 128.6, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 124.7, 119.7, 56.0, 54.2, 46.9, 45.3

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₁₆ClN₃O₂Na⁺: 400.0829, found: 400.0829.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4m



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(2-methoxybenzylidene) pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1m** (61.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4m** as a white solid with 78% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

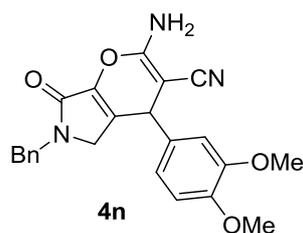
Characterization data for the product 4m:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 4.60 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.0, 161.5, 156.6, 139.0, 137.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.5, 126.3, 121.0, 120.2, 111.4, 55.6, 54.2, 47.4, 45.4, 32.5

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₃Na⁺: 396.1324, found: 396.1325.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4n



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1n** (67.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4n** as a white solid with 70% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

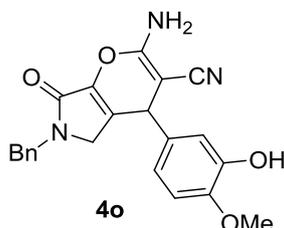
Characterization data for the product 4n:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.13 (br s, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.0, 160.5, 148.8, 148.0, 138.6, 137.2, 134.4, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 126.3, 120.1, 119.6, 111.9, 110.9, 55.8, 55.5, 55.4, 46.8, 45.3, 38.1

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₃H₂₁N₃O₄Na⁺: 426.1423, found: 426.1423.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4o



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1o** (64.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4o** as a white solid with 62% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

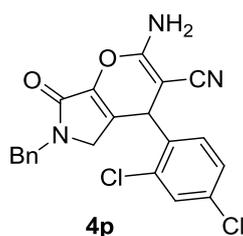
Characterization data for the product 4o:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 9.09 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.12 (br s, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (s, 1H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 162.0, 160.6, 147.1, 146.9, 138.6, 137.3, 134.8, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 126.8, 120.2, 118.2, 114.6, 112.3, 56.2, 55.6, 47.0, 45.4, 38.0

HR-MS (ESI): *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₄Na⁺: 412.1273, found: 412.1269.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4p



Prepared according to the general procedure using (E)-1-benzyl-4-(2,4-dichlorobenzylidene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1p** (69.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4p** as a white solid with 81% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium.

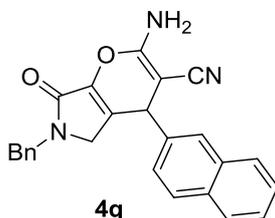
Characterization data for the product 4p:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.67 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.23 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 5.01 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.6, 161.2, 139.6, 137.1, 133.1, 132.9, 131.9, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 127.4, 124.2, 119.6, 56.0, 53.9, 46.9, 45.4

HR-MS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₂₁H₁₅Cl₂N₃O₂Na⁺: 434.0439, found: 434.0434.

2-amino-6-benzyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-7-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrano[2,3-c]pyrrole-3-carbonitrile 4q



Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-benzyl-4-(naphthalen-2-ylmethylene)pyrrolidine-2,3-dione **1q** (65.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile **2** (14.5 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). Purification of the crude product via simple filtration delivered **4q** as a white solid with 83% yield when ethanol as the reaction medium. (with 75% yield when water as the reaction medium).

Characterization data for the product 4q:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 7.97 – 7.93 (m, 3H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (br s, 2H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*⁶): δ (ppm): 161.9, 160.7, 139.4, 139.0, 137.1, 132.9, 132.4, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.4, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.5, 120.1, 55.6, 46.9, 45.3, 38.7

HR-MS (ESI): m/z calculated for C₂₅H₁₉N₃O₂Na⁺: 416.1375, found: 416.1372.

$a/\text{\AA}$	19.0108(8)
$b/\text{\AA}$	10.0865(3)
$c/\text{\AA}$	20.7318(9)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	116.291(5)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ \AA^3	3564.1(3)
Z	8
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g/cm}^3$	1.408
μ/mm^{-1}	2.080
F(000)	1568.0
Crystal size/ mm^3	$0.3 \times 0.2 \times 0.1$
Radiation	CuK α ($\lambda = 1.54184$)
2Θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	9.516 to 134.13
Index ranges	$-22 \leq h \leq 19, -12 \leq k \leq 9, -24 \leq l \leq 23$
Reflections collected	8044
Independent reflections	3175 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0290, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0315$]
Data/restraints/parameters	3175/0/252
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.034
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0567, wR_2 = 0.1556$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0647, wR_2 = 0.1655$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.36/-0.29

5. Procedure for in vitro minimum inhibitory concentration assay.

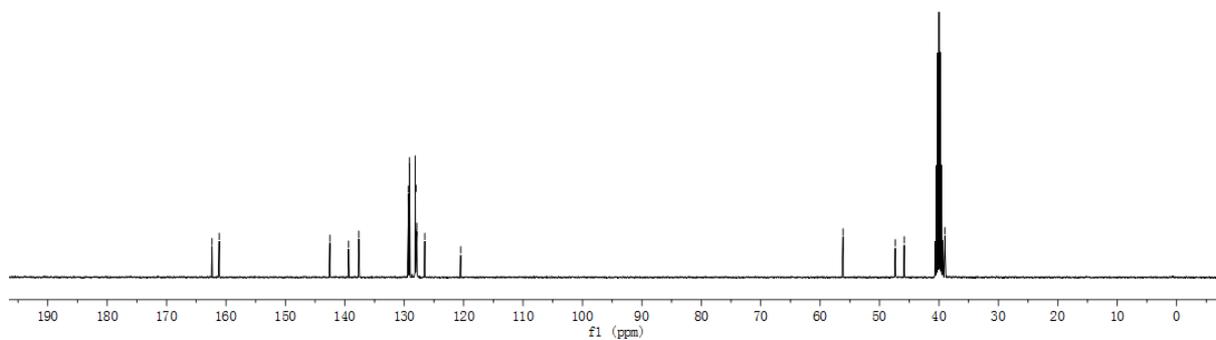
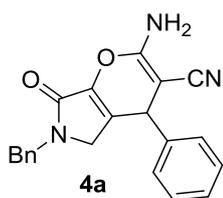
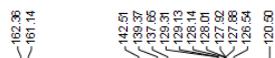
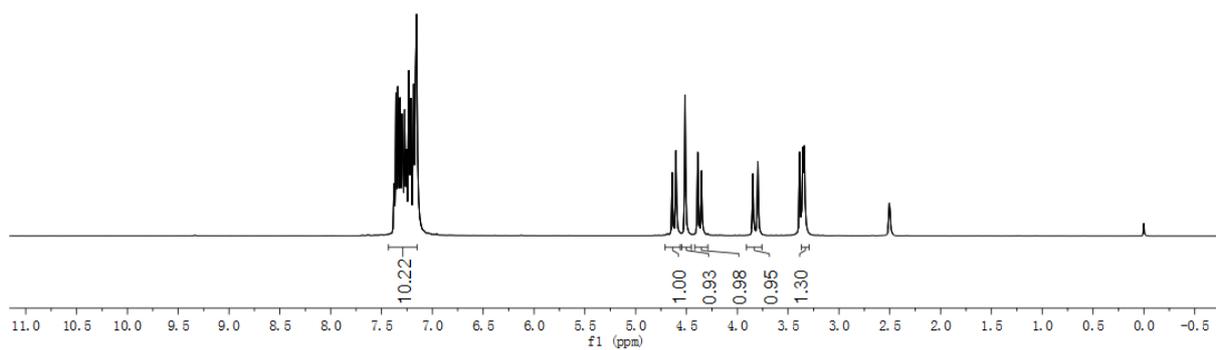
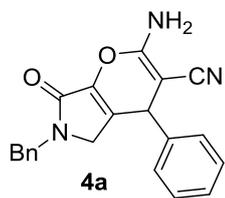
- Motivation of this study: We were inspired by the 4*H*-pyrane core structure of the products, which has already been demonstrated to show antibacterial activity^[3]. Moreover, bicyclic frameworks with lactam functionalities are widely existed in the framework of many clinically used antibiotics such as cephalosporins. Therefore, we expected the synthesized novel bicyclic 4*H*-pyranes with γ -lactam functionalities would also have potential antibacterial bioactivity.

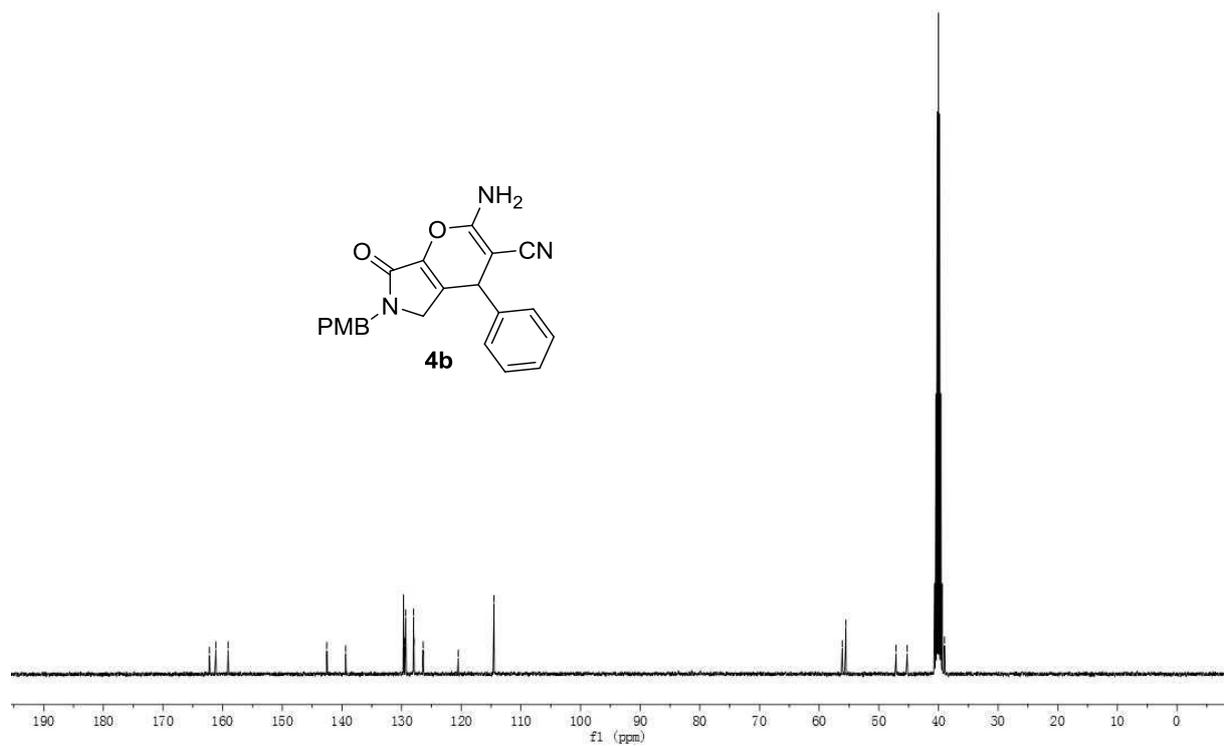
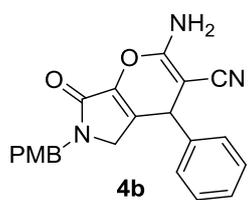
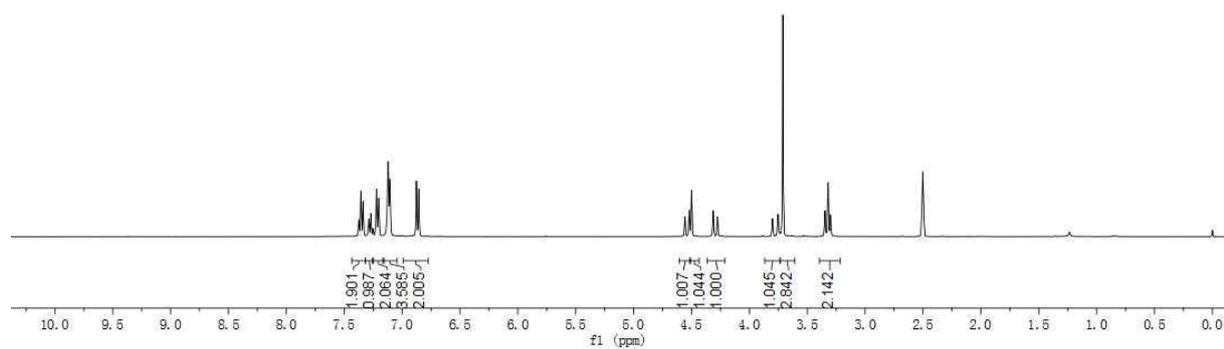
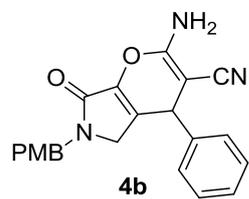
- Detailed work procedure: The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of each compound was determined using a standard broth microdilution assay.^[4] The procedure is that MIC data was determined by a microdilution method, following the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) (now called the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute [CLSI]) The stock solutions of test compounds were diluted to give a serial, 2-fold series, yielding final chemical concentrations that ranged from 128 to 16µg/mL. The MIC was defined as the lowest concentration of the chemical that inhibited the development of visible bacterial growth after an incubation for 16 h at 37°C.

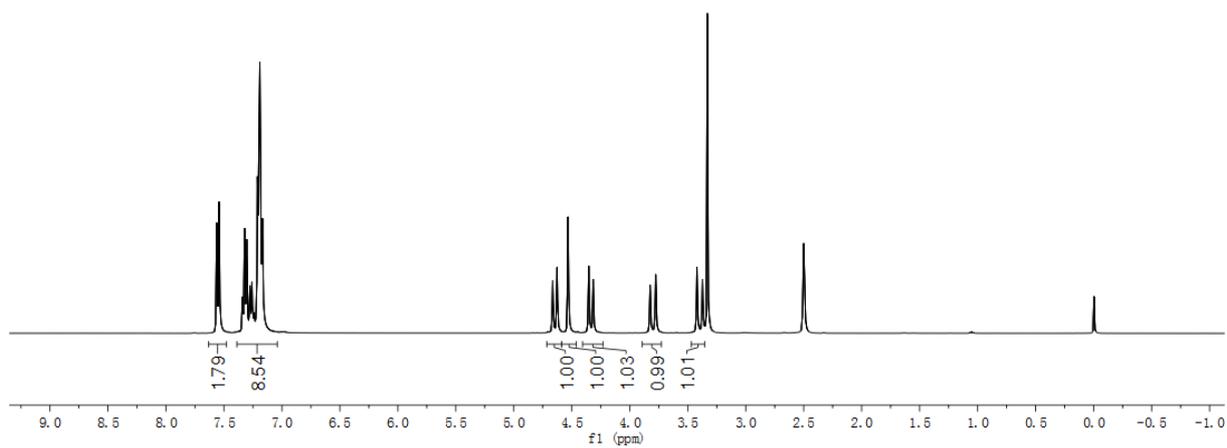
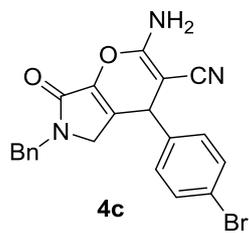
6. References and notes

- [1] a) E. Krell, *Handbook of Laboratory Distillation*, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam-London-New York, **1963**; b) M. J. Rosengart, *The Technique of Distillation and Rectification in the Laboratory*, VEB Verlag Technik, Berlin, **1954**; c) H. Stage *Columns for laboratory distillation*, *Angew. Chem.*, **1947**, B19, 175.
- [2] P. L. Southwick, E. F. Barnas, *J. Org. Chem.*, **1962**, 27, 98.
- [3] M. Kidwai, S. Saxena, M. K. R. Khan, S. S. Thukral, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2005**, 15, 4295.
- [4] L. Ouyang, Y. Huang, Y. Zhao, G. He, Y. Xie, J. Liu, J. He, B. Liu, Y. Wei, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, **2012**, 22, 3044.

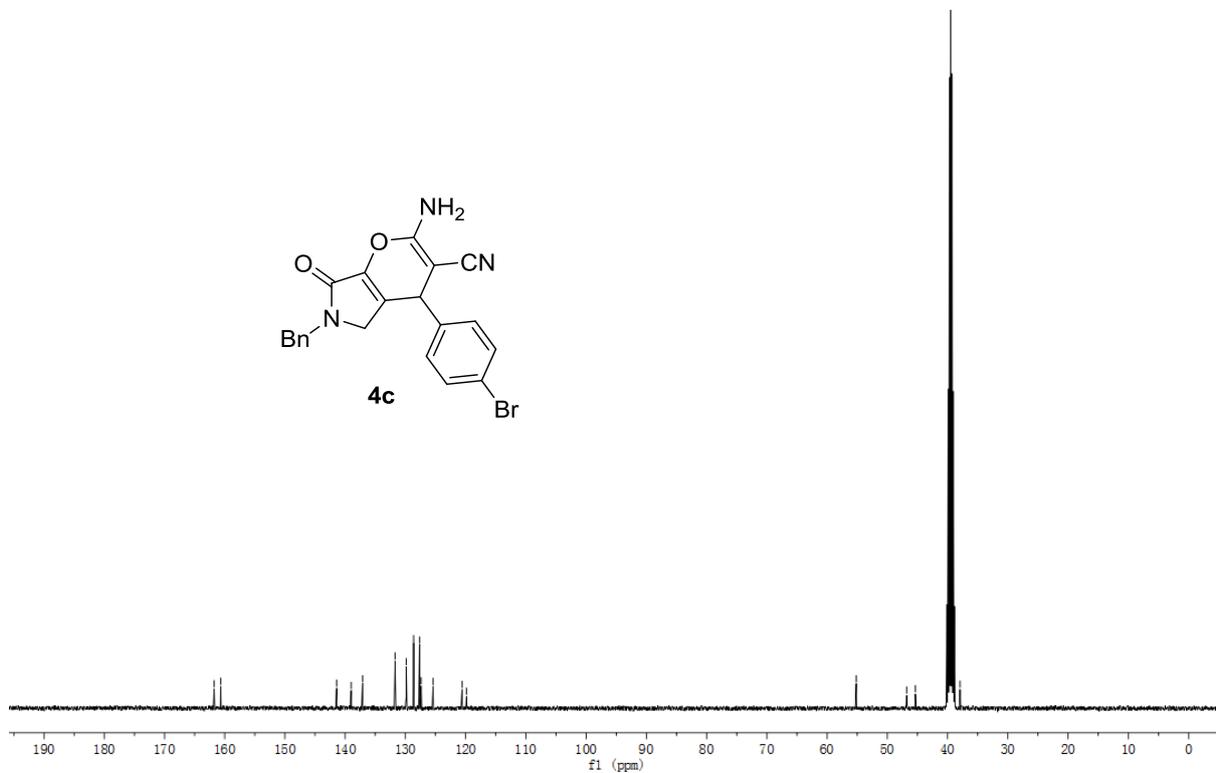
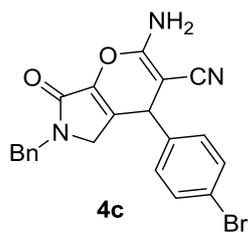
7. NMR Spectra of the multi-substituted bicyclic 4H-pyranes

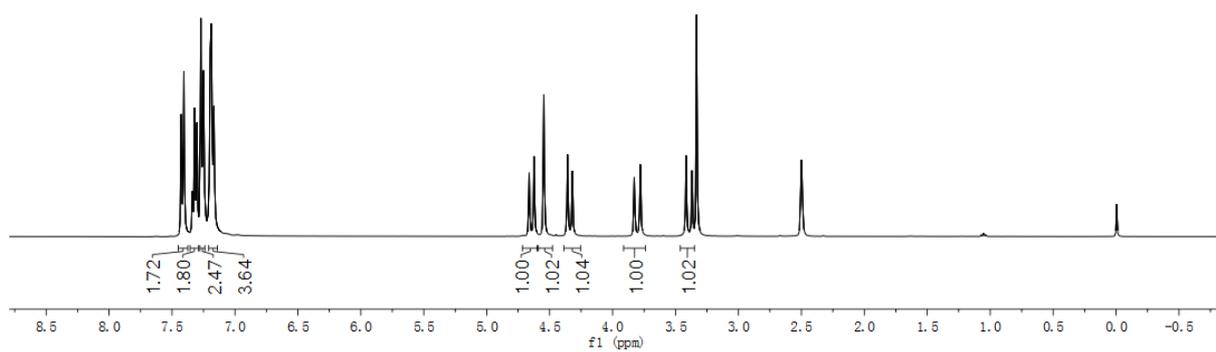
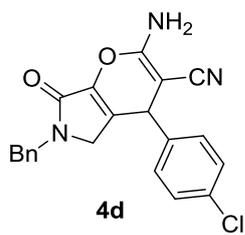




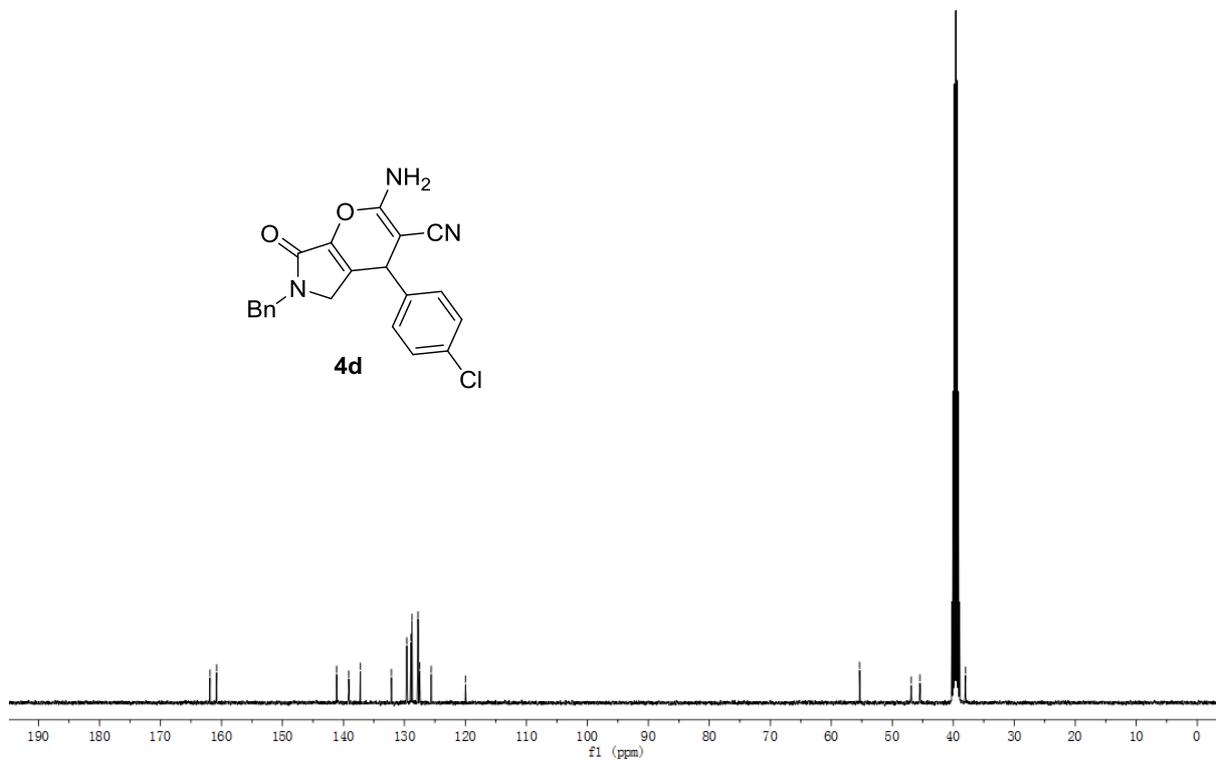
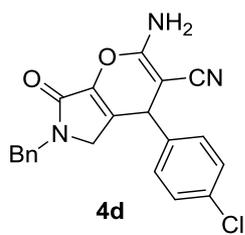


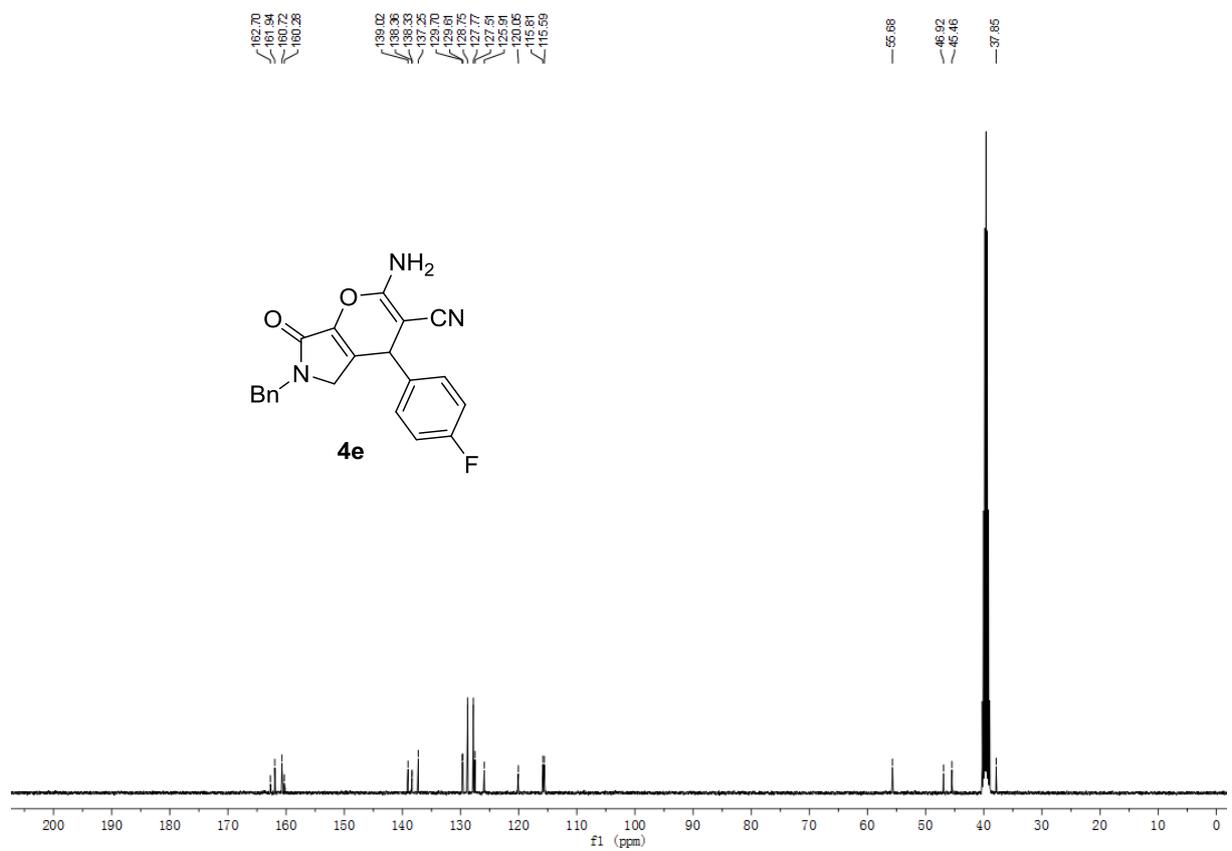
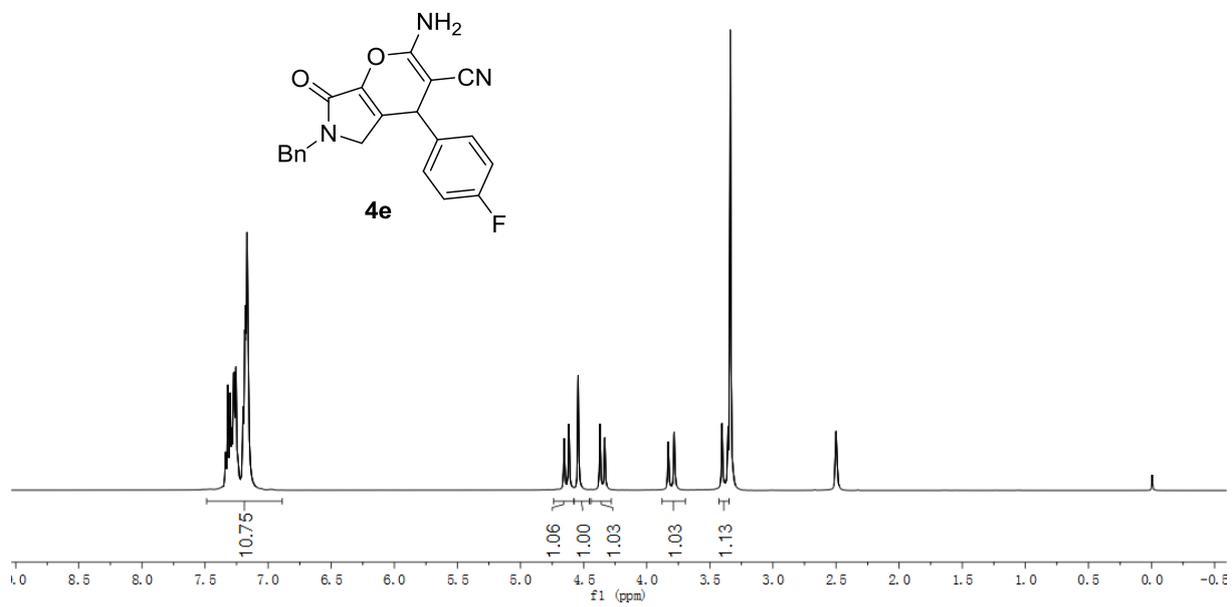
161.75
160.67
141.42
139.02
137.11
131.72
129.85
129.64
127.98
125.41
120.59
119.87
55.16
46.79
45.35
37.94

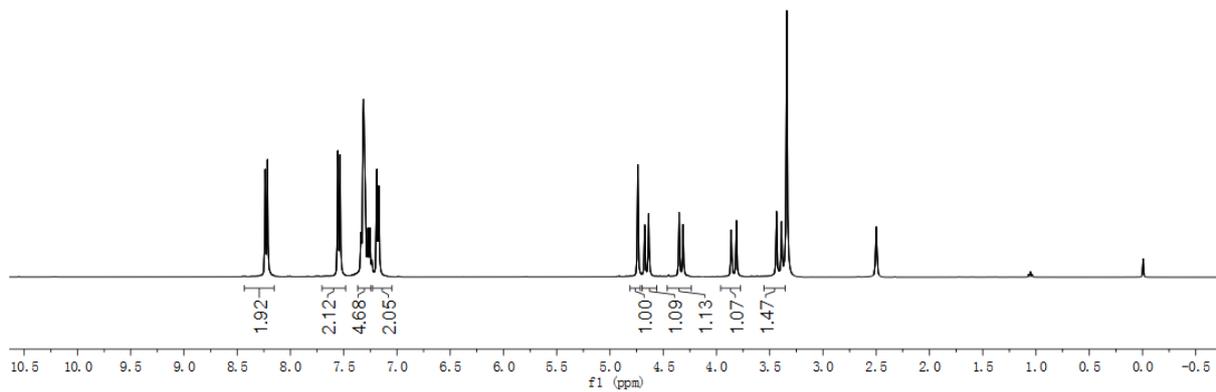
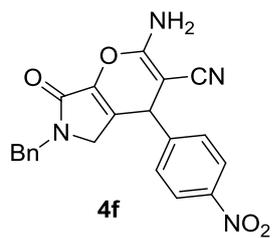




¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **4d** in CDCl₃. The x-axis represents the chemical shift in ppm, ranging from 190 to 0. The spectrum shows several peaks in the aromatic region (119-161 ppm) and several peaks in the aliphatic region (37-56 ppm).

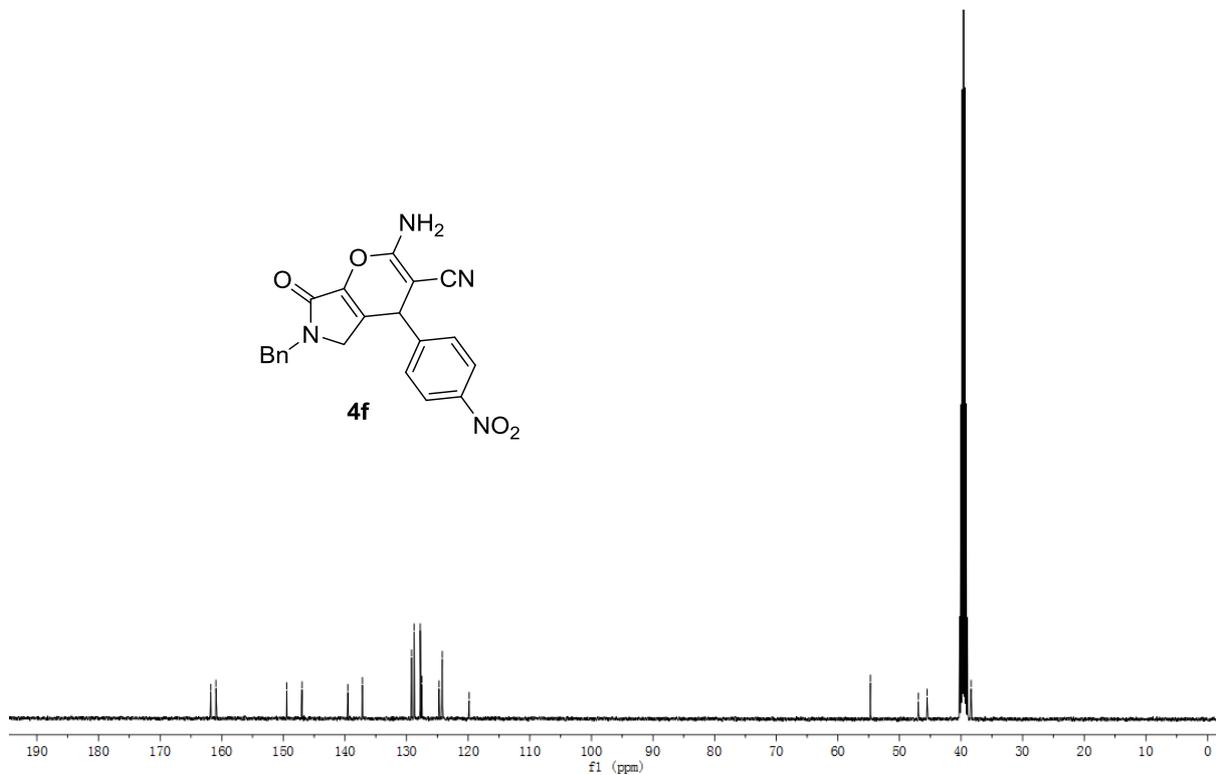
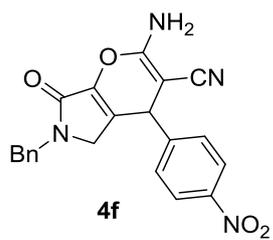


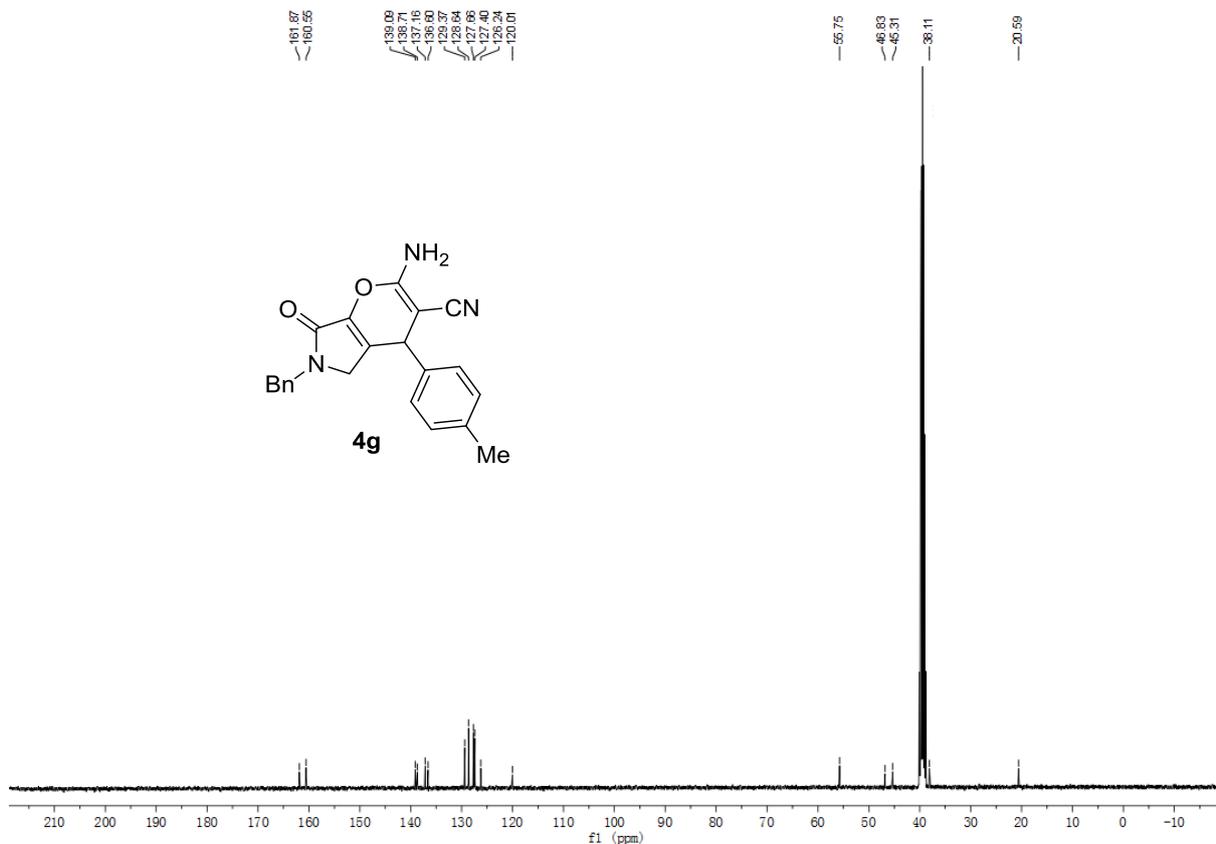
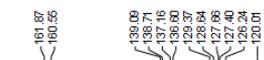
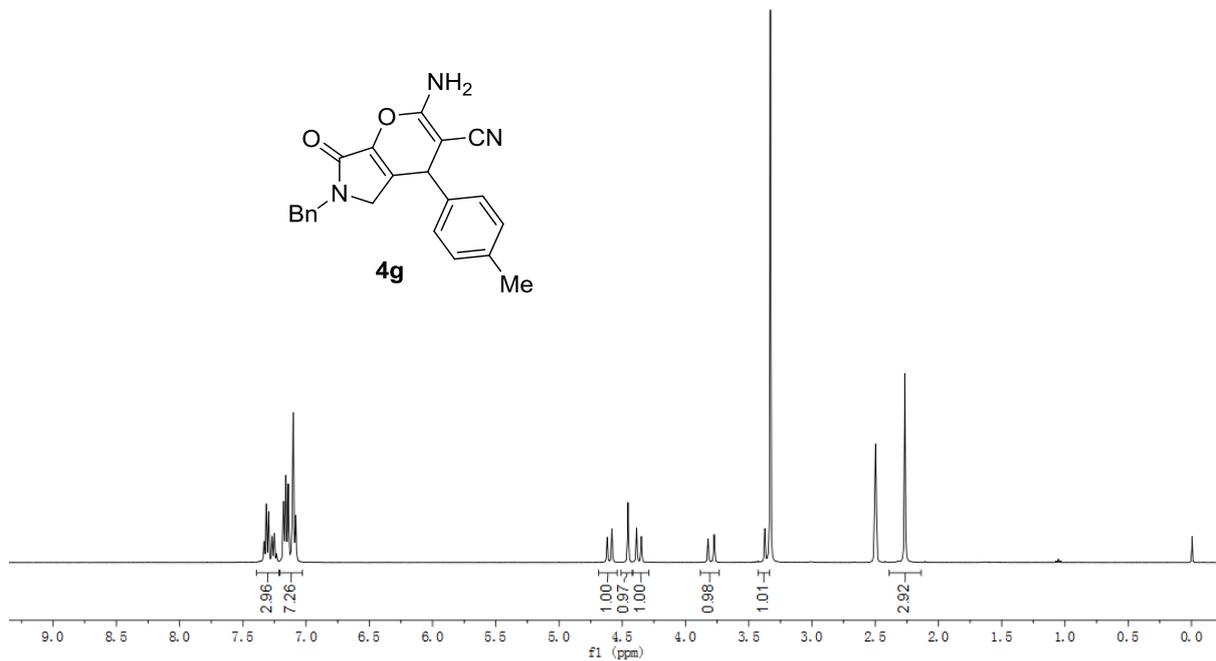
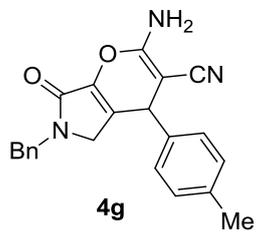


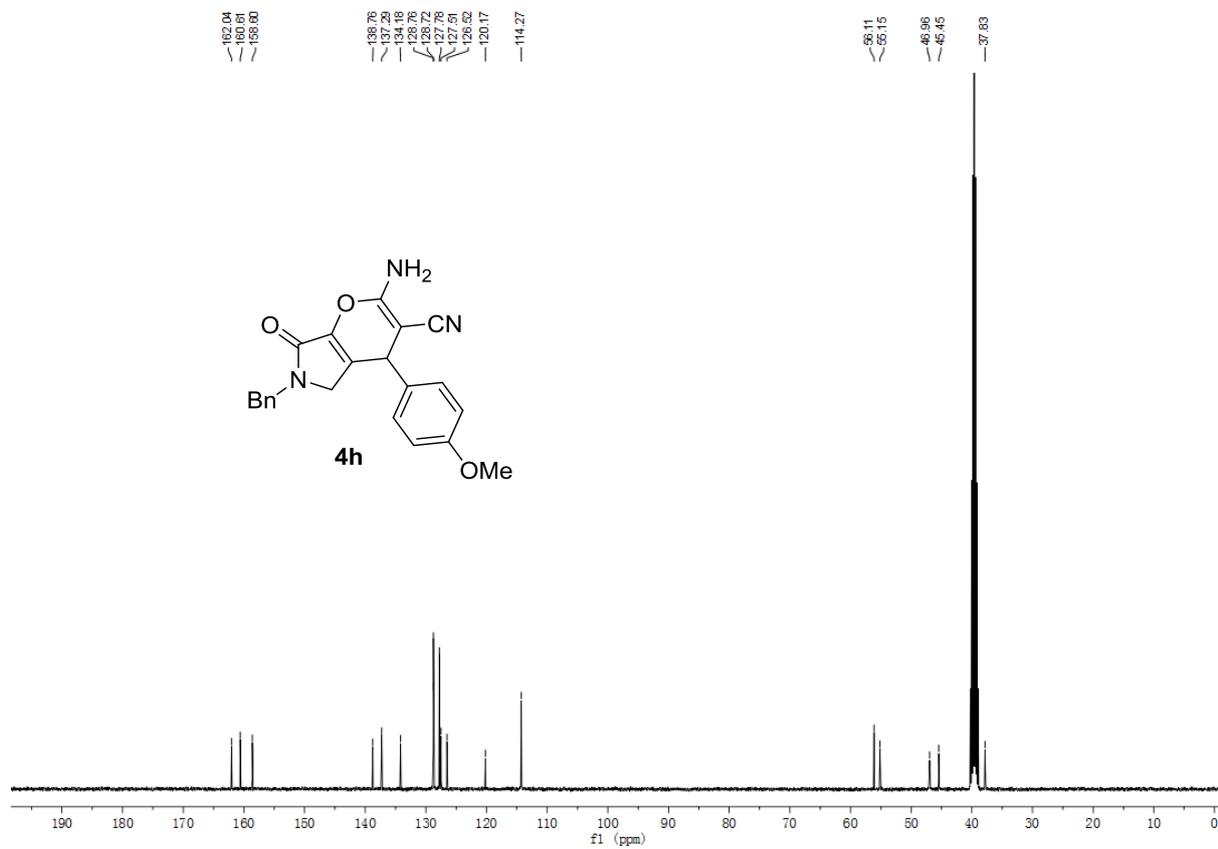
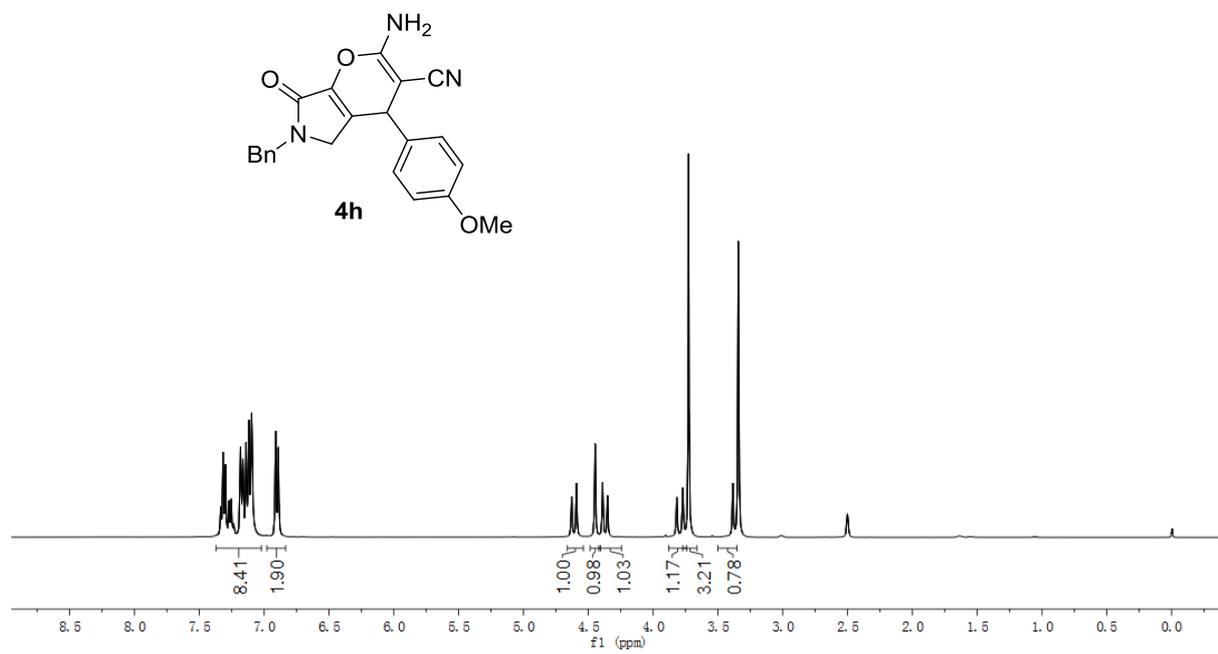


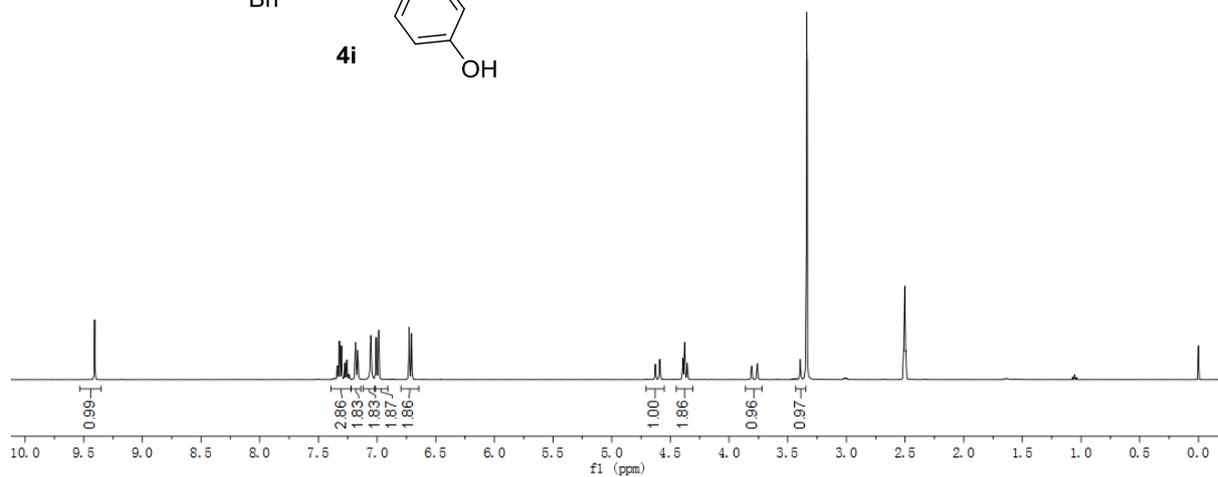
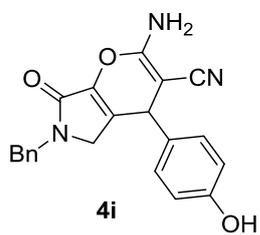
Chemical shift values (ppm) for the ¹³C NMR spectrum:

- 161.77
- 160.86
- 149.45
- 146.97
- 139.64
- 137.18
- 129.19
- 127.76
- 127.78
- 124.72
- 124.19
- 119.64
- 51.70
- 46.92
- 45.52
- 38.37

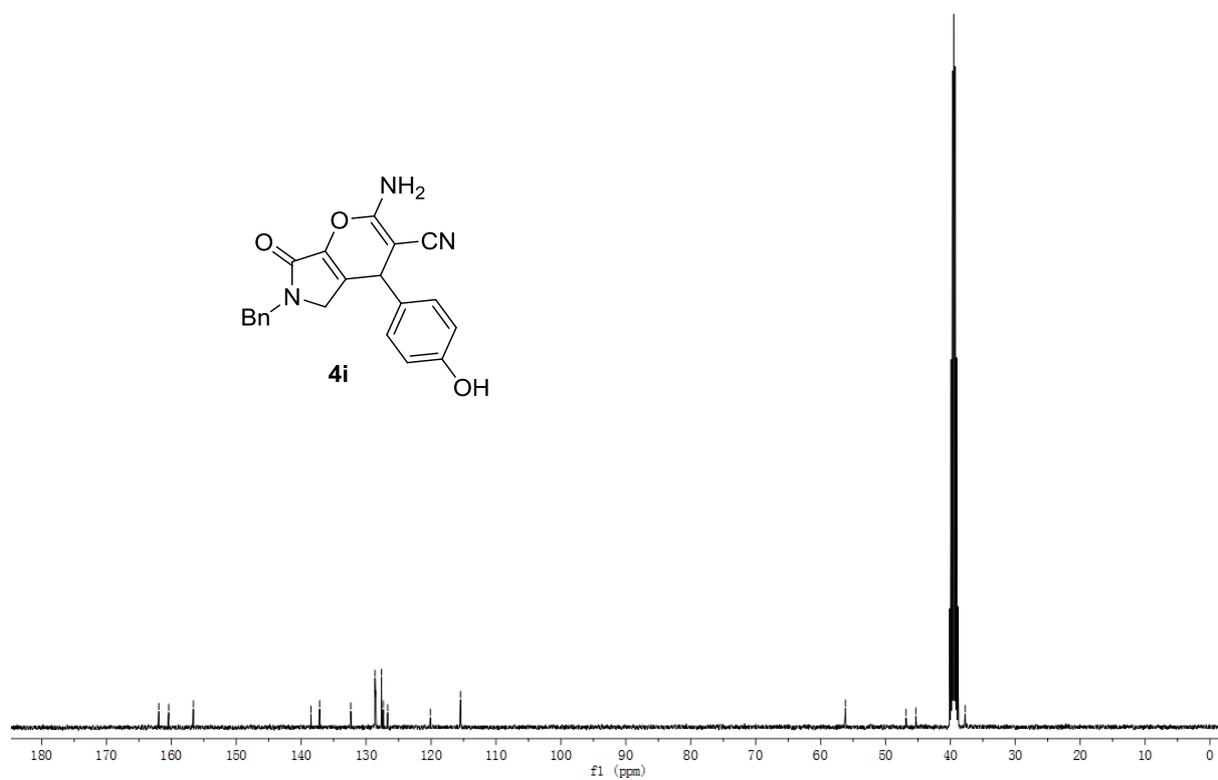
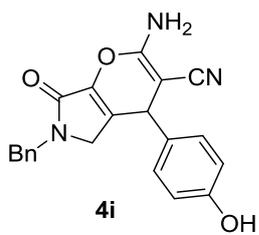


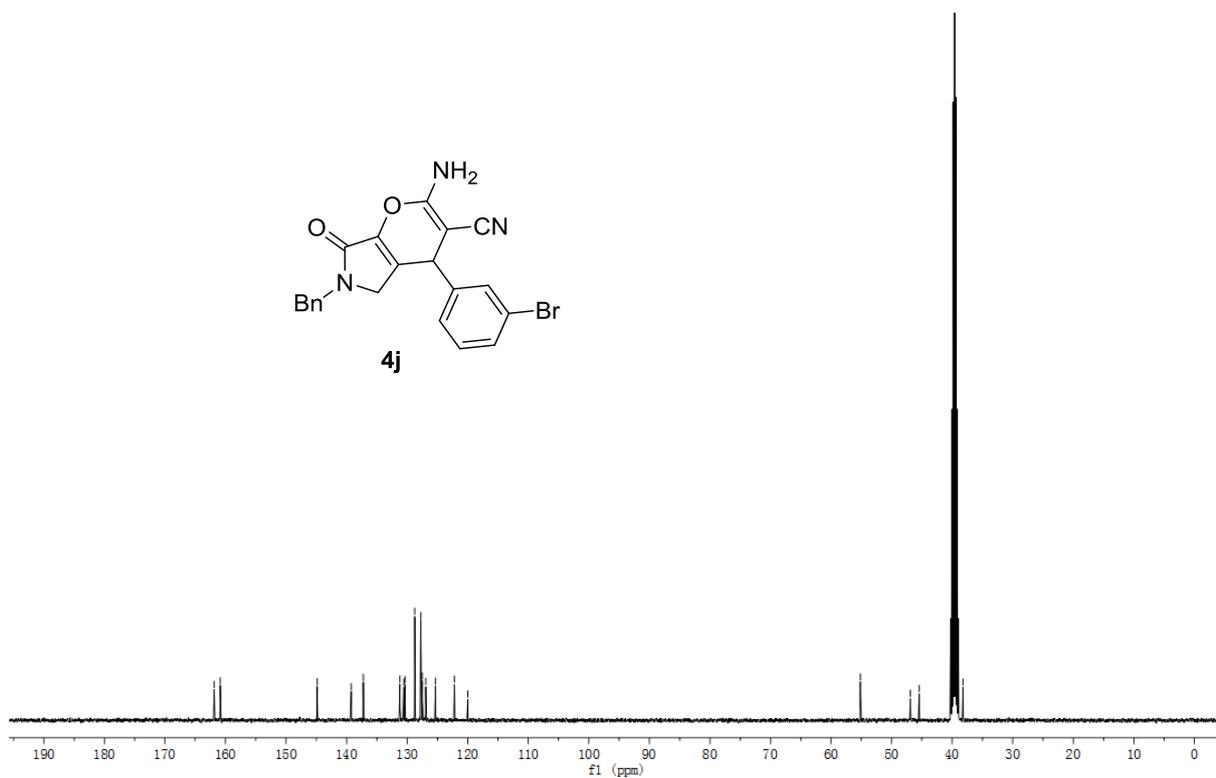
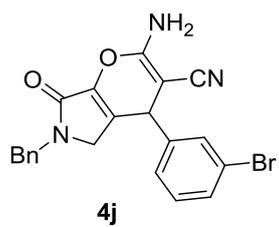
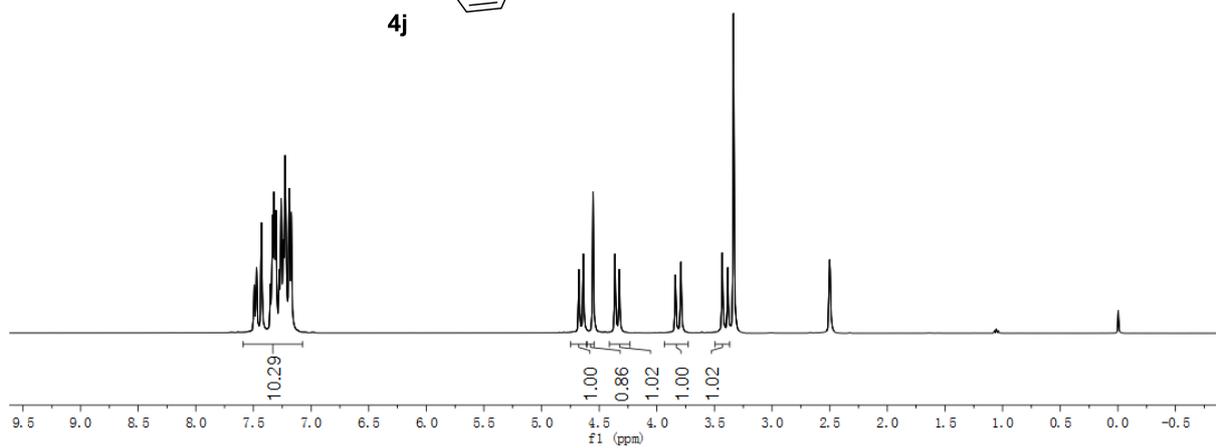
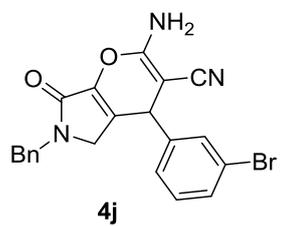


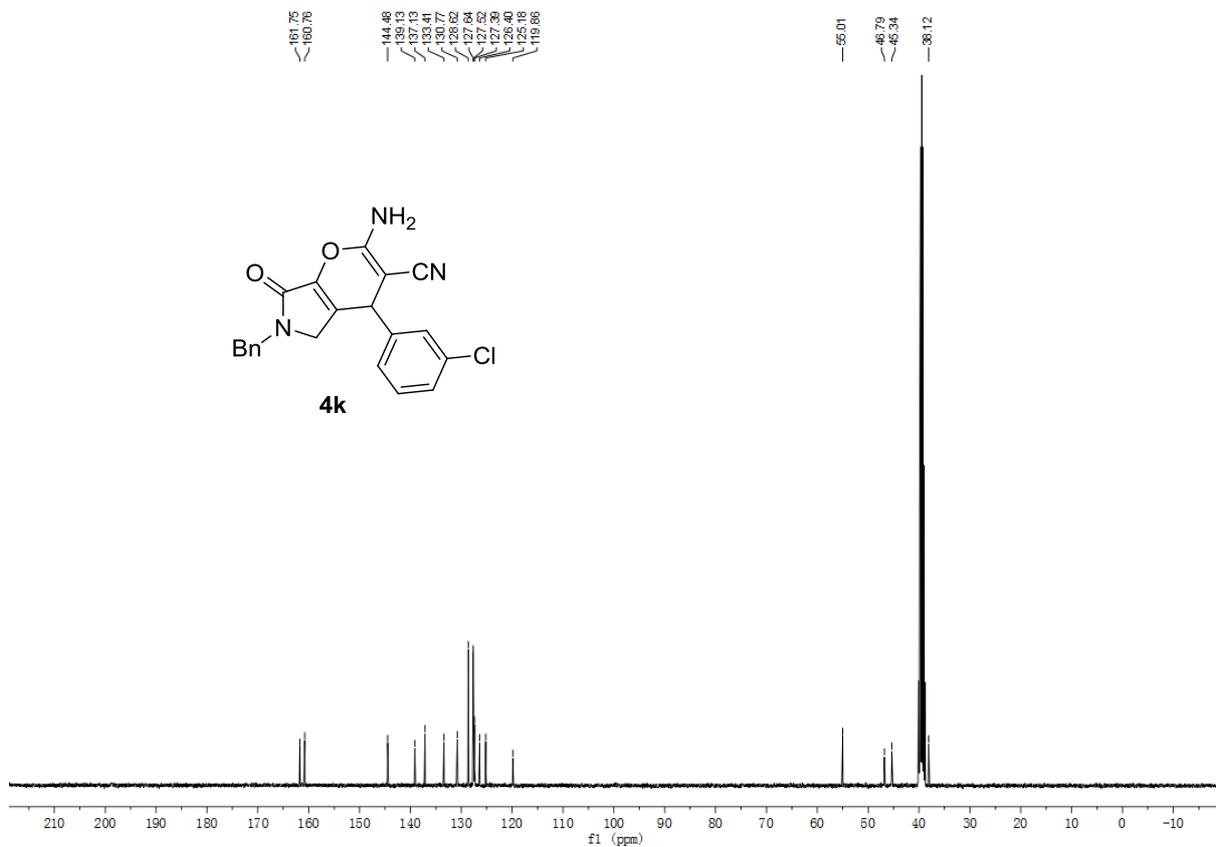
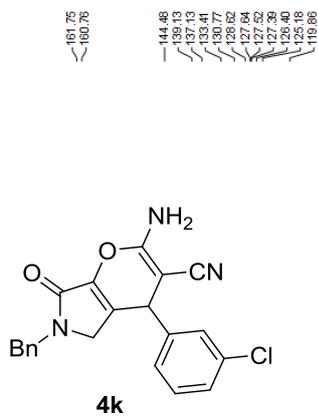
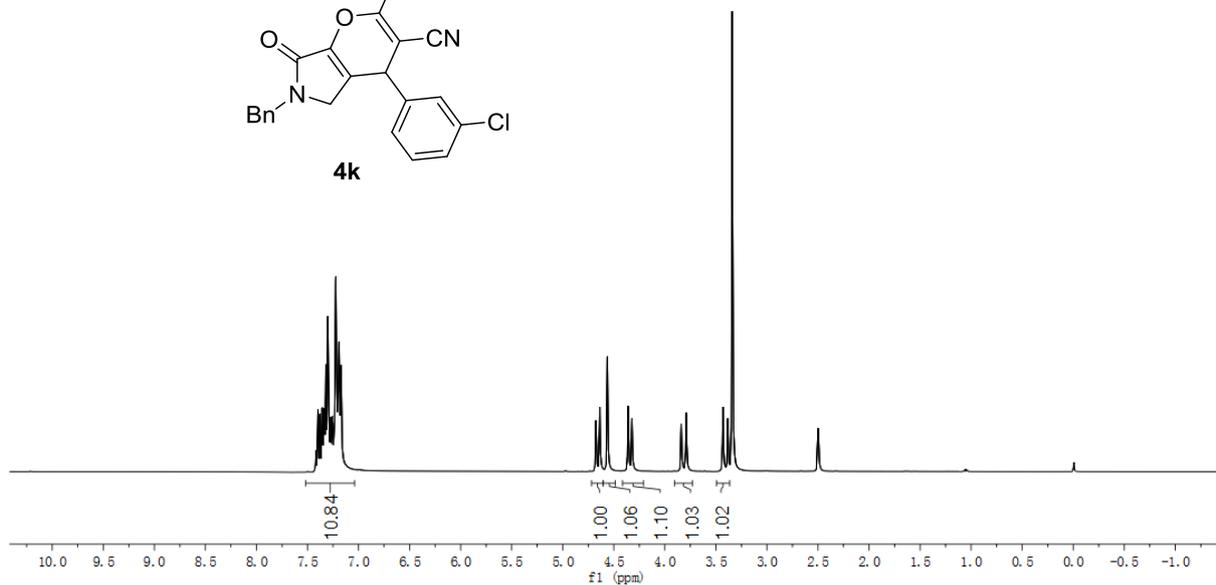
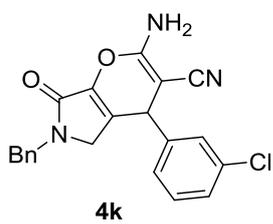


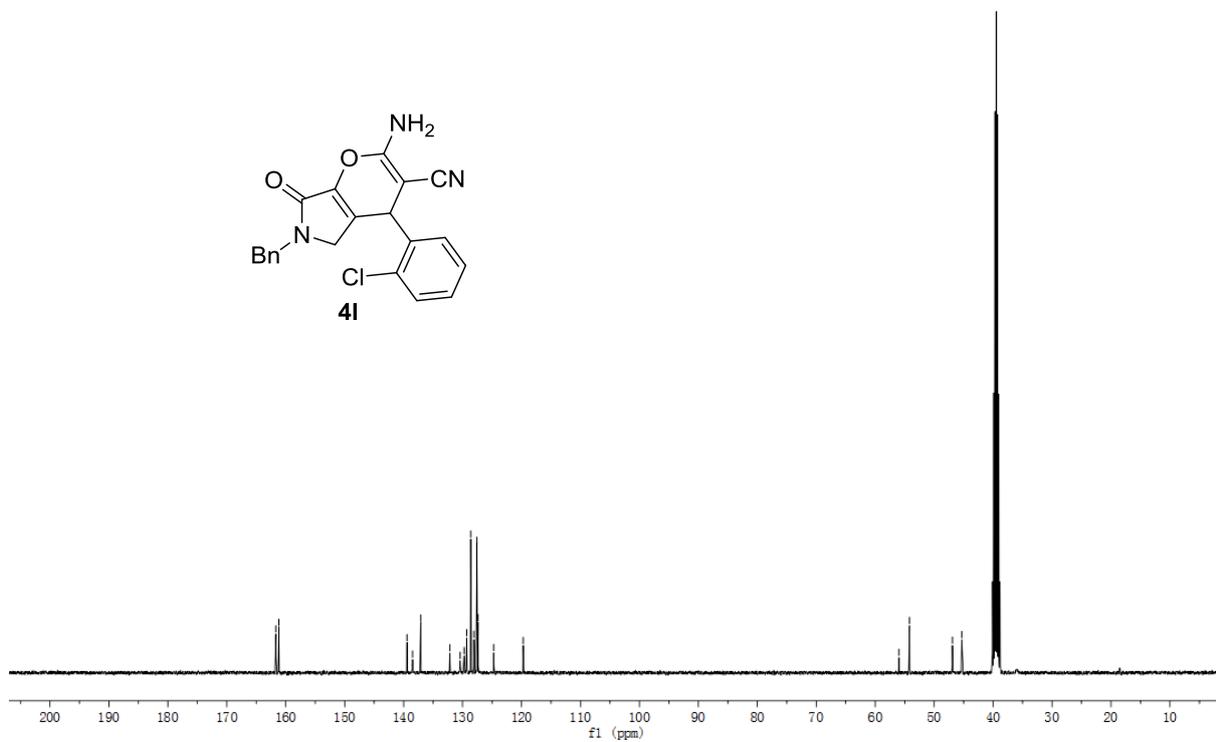
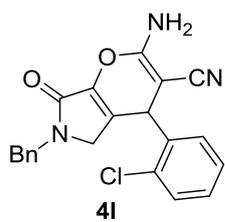
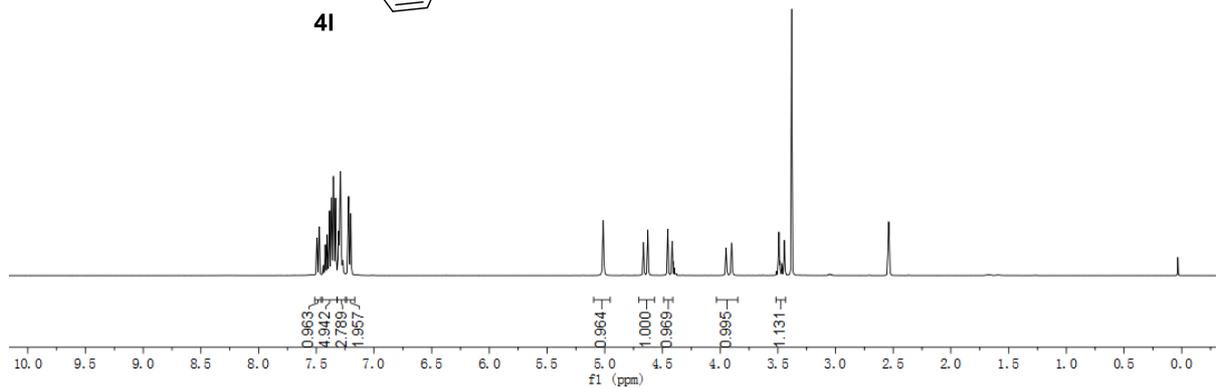
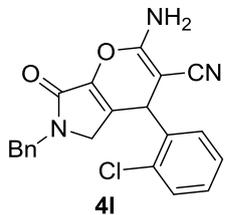


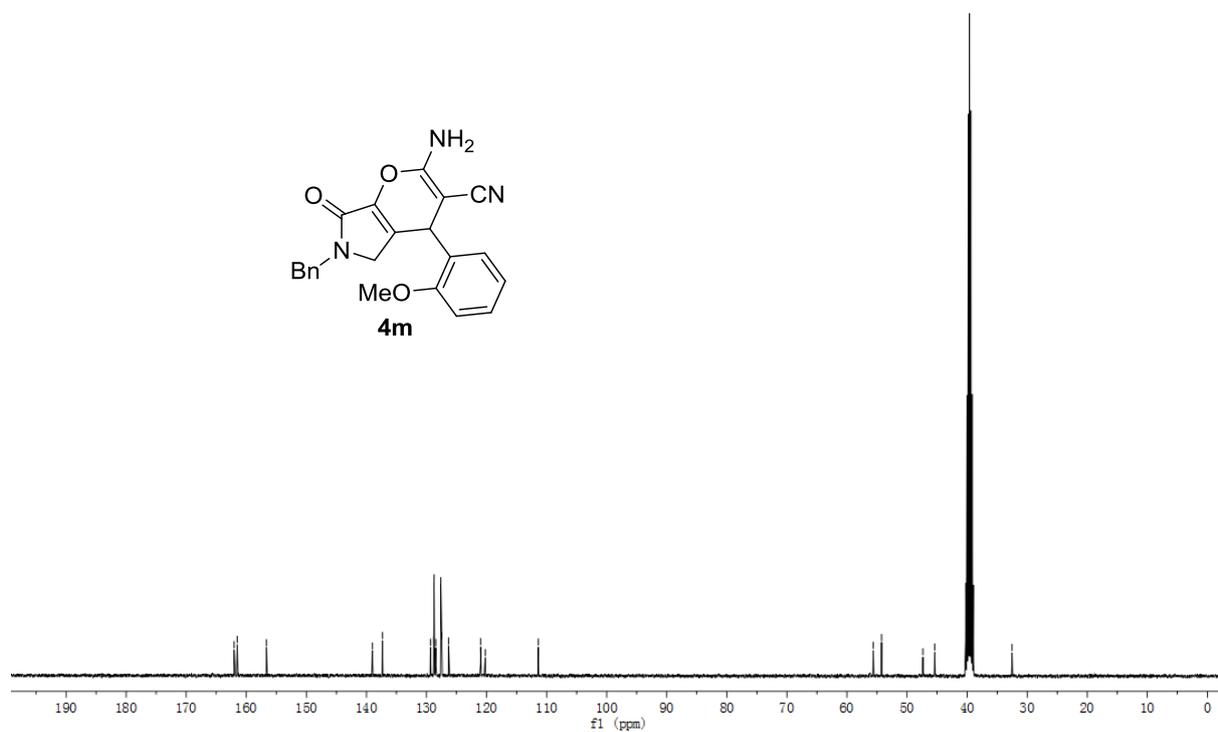
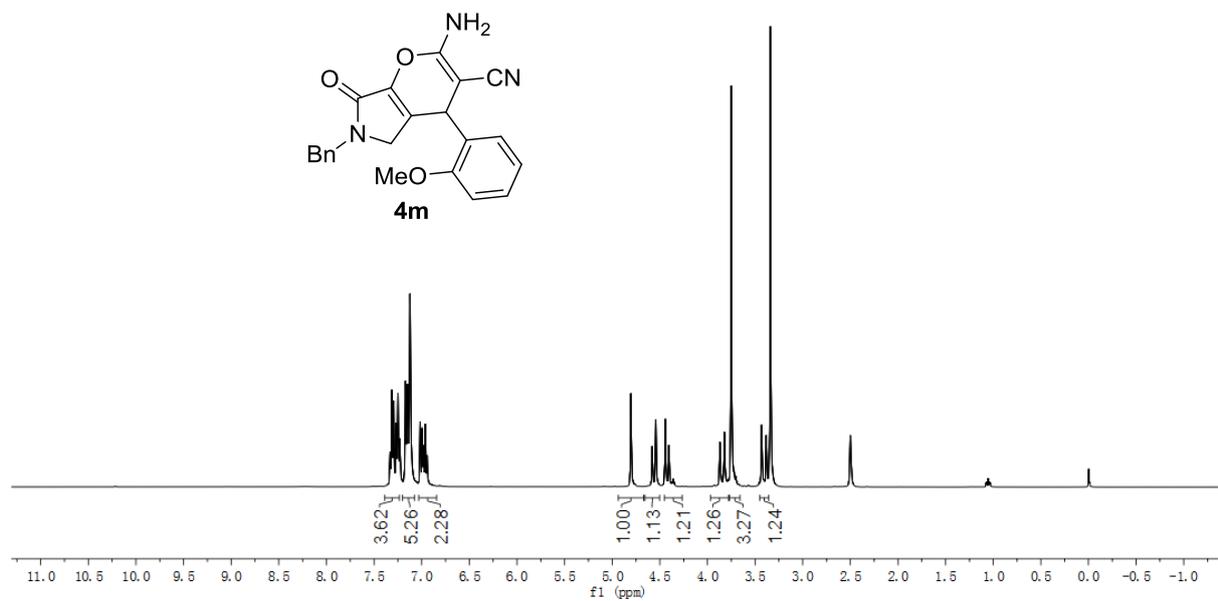
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 150.82
 156.85
 138.80
 137.17
 136.80
 128.92
 127.64
 127.38
 126.88
 120.11
 115.46
 56.15
 46.83
 45.31
 37.72

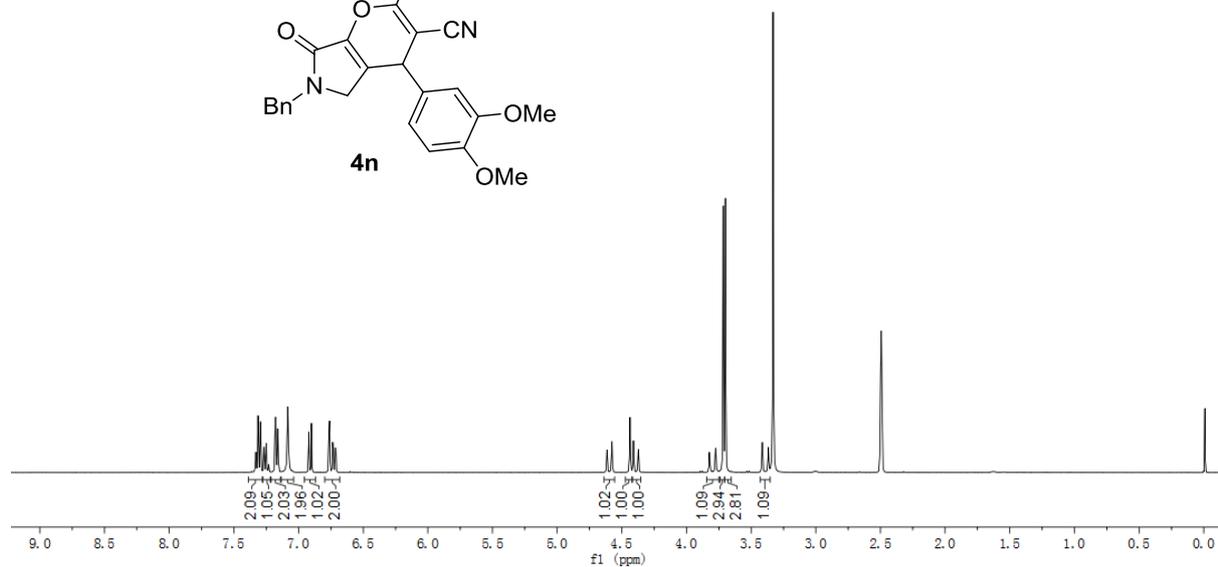
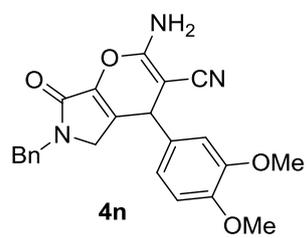






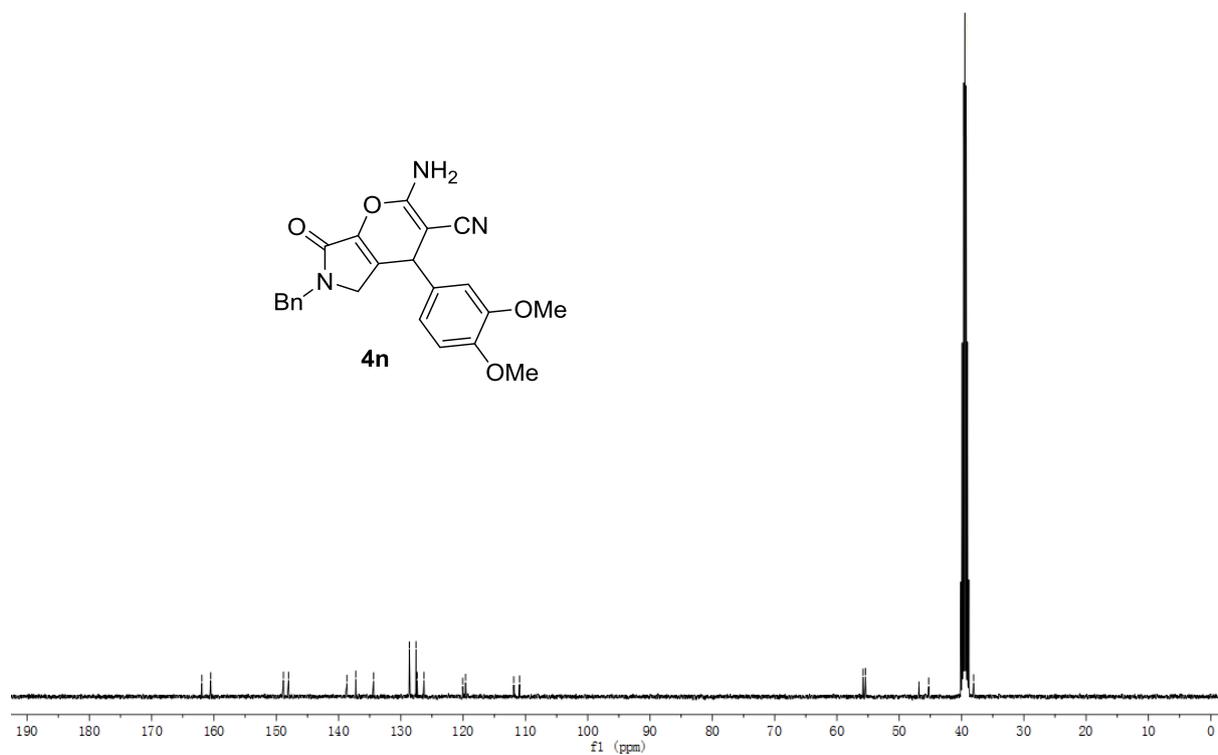
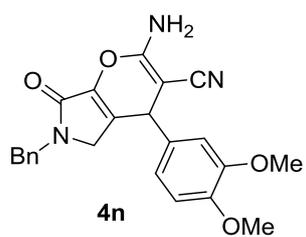


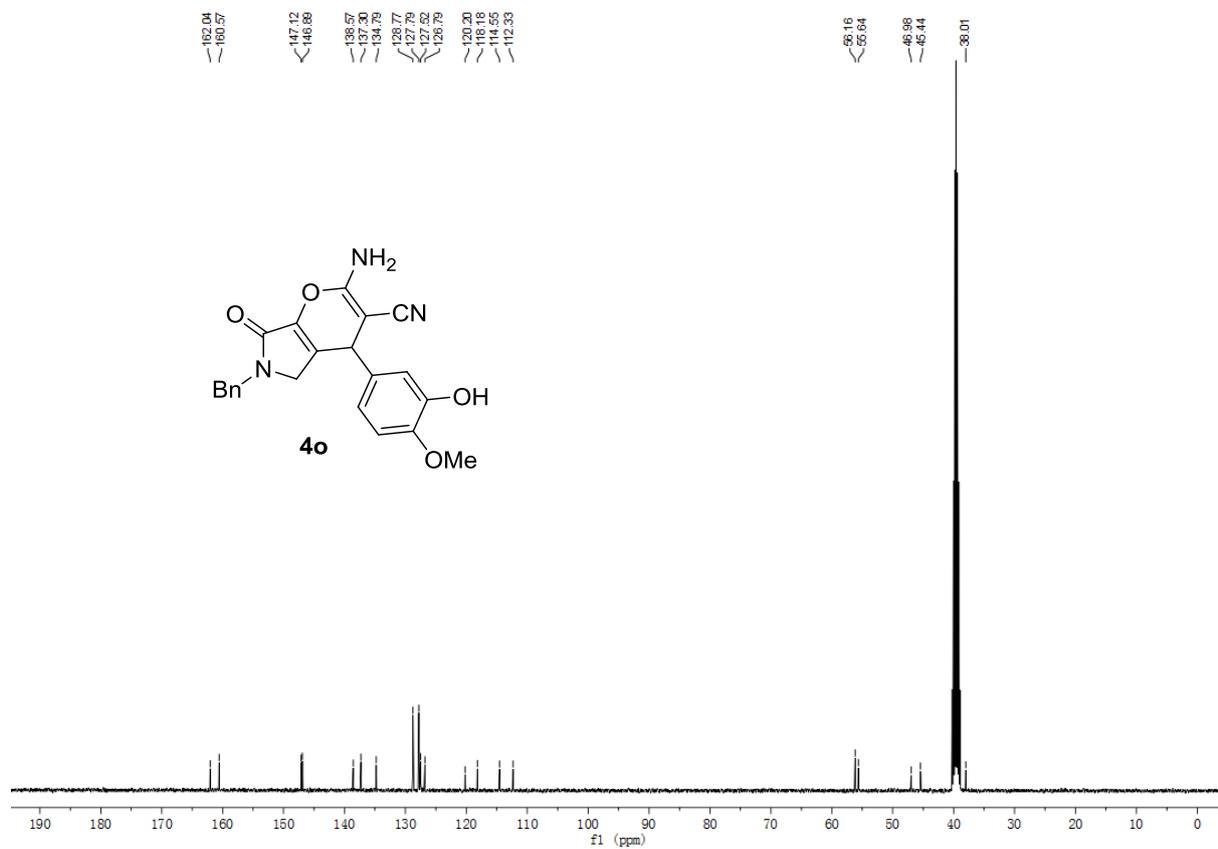
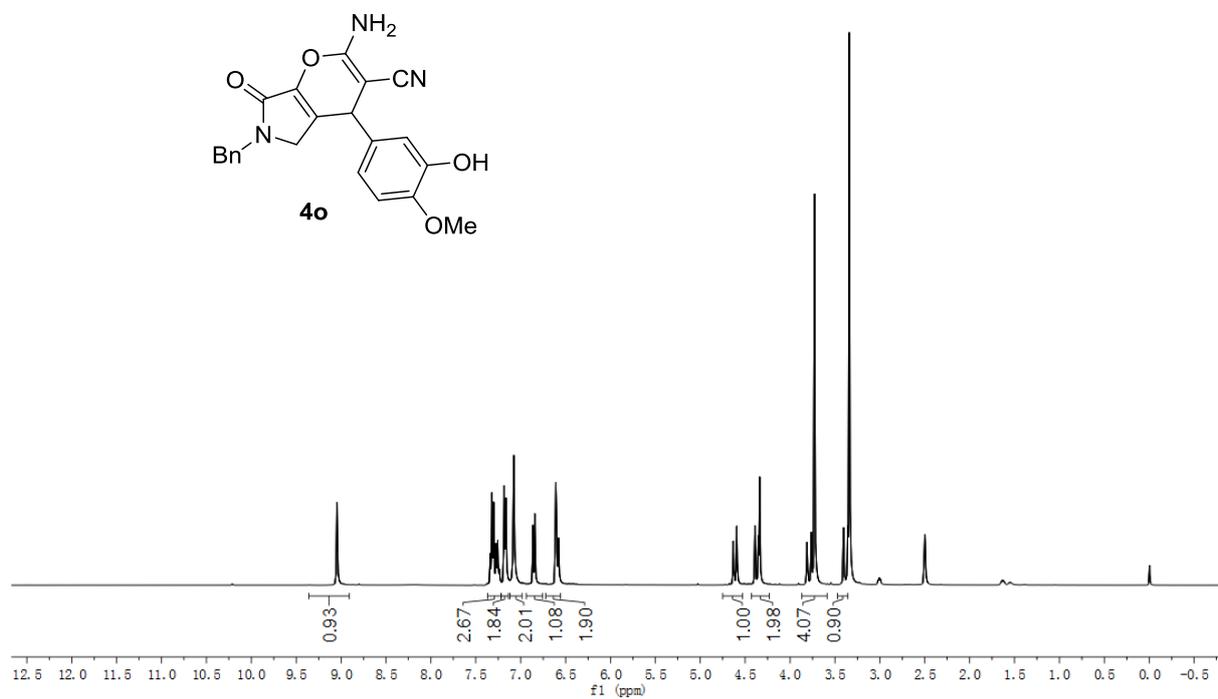


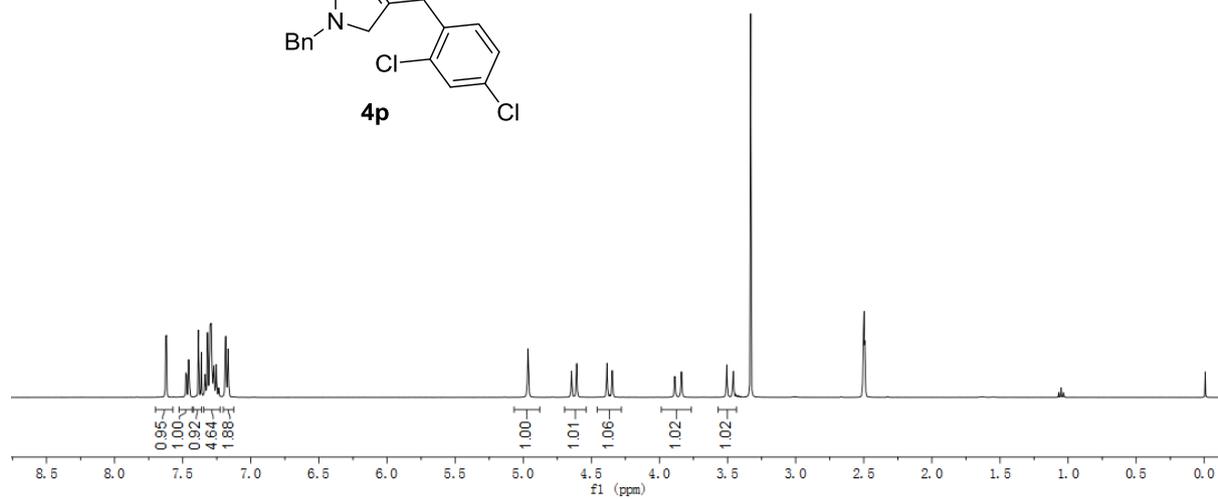
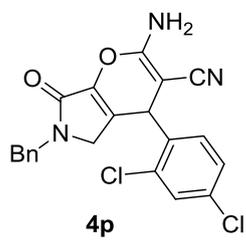


161.95
160.52
148.84
148.03
138.64
137.22
134.38
128.63
127.57
127.37
126.28
120.07
119.60
111.87
110.84

56.82
56.43
56.42
46.84
45.27
38.07



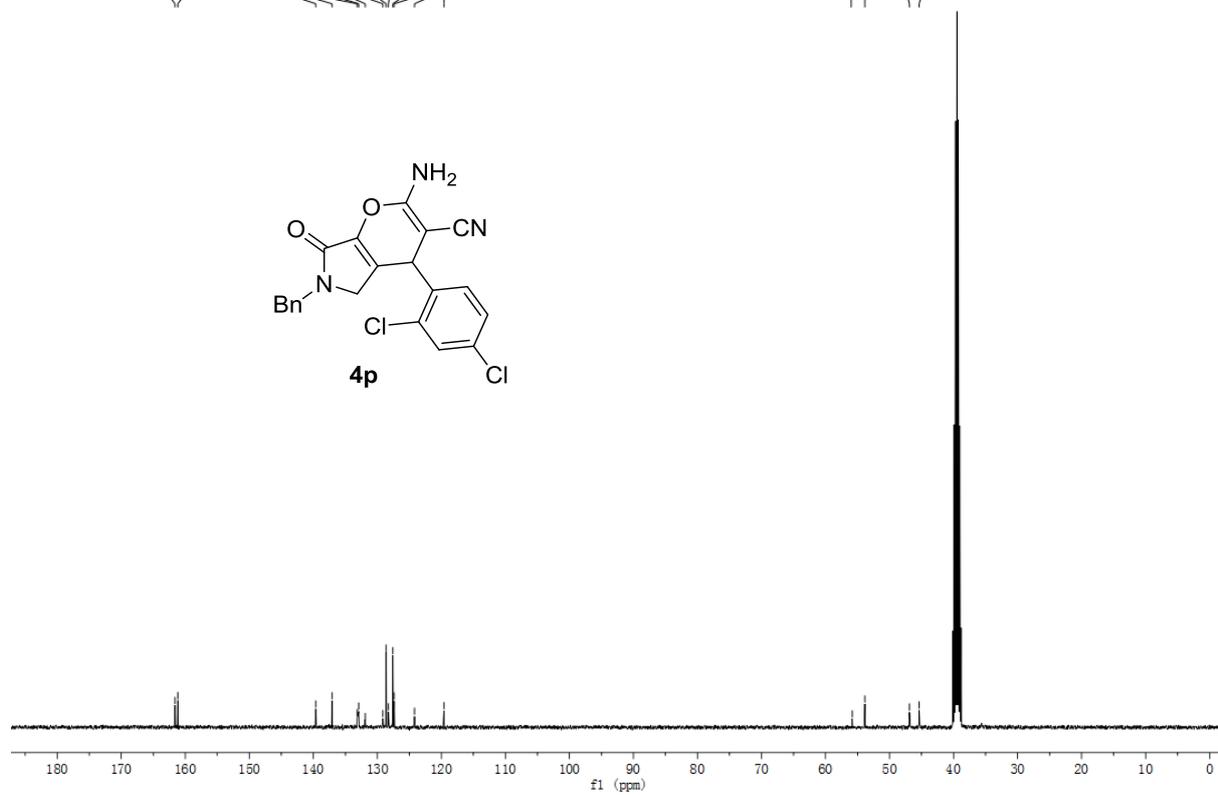
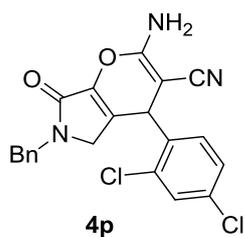


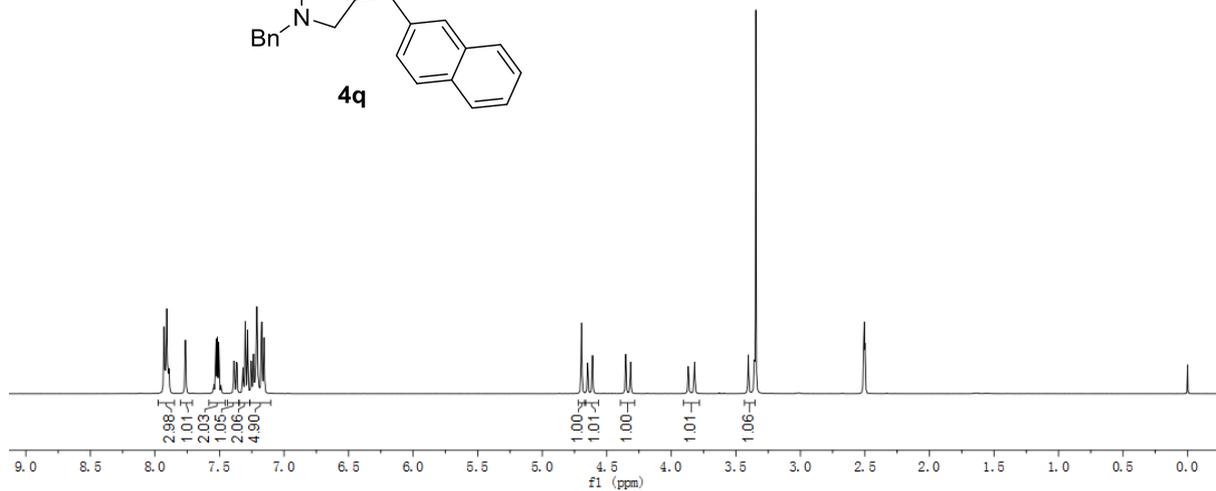
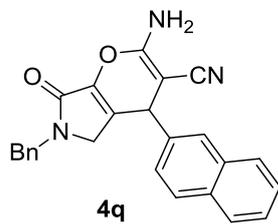


161.60
161.17

138.61
137.08
133.14
131.62
131.88
129.14
128.62
128.27
127.58
127.38
118.60

56.99
53.85
46.89
46.37





161.87
160.65
139.42
139.00
137.11
132.88
132.72
128.72
128.61
127.73
127.63
127.54
127.36
126.94
126.17
126.07
125.88
125.54
120.05

56.63
46.92
46.53
33.74

