

## Supporting Information

# Metal-Free C-3 Alkylation of Imidazopyridines with Xanthates and Convenient Access to Alpidem and Zolpidem†

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## A General information

All melting points (mp) were measured on a melting point apparatus with a microscope and a hot stage and were uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra were determined in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  on a Bruker 400 spectrometer and chemical shifts were reported in parts per million from internal TMS ( $\delta$ ). Data for  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity (integration, s=singlet, d=doublet, dd=doublets, t=triplet, q=quartet, m=multiplet or unresolved, coupling constants (s) in Hertz).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra were obtained by using the same NMR spectrometers. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) was performed with 200-300 mesh silica gel using flash column techniques. All of the reagents obtained commercially were used directly unless otherwise noted.

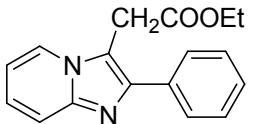
## B Experiment procedure and characterization data for products

### a General procedure for the synthesis of imidazopyridines 3

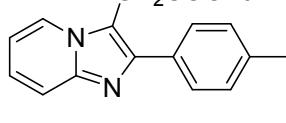
DLP (0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv) was added to a solution of **1** (0.3 mmol, 1 equiv) and **2** (0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in DCE (5 mL). The solution was stirred at 84°C for 12h. Water (10 mL) was added to the solution and the mixture was extracted with DCM (2x10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After removal of solvents with a rotary evaporator, the residue was purified on a silica gel column with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent to afford the desired product **3**.

### b Characterization data

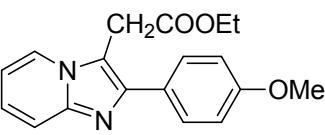
#### Ethyl 2-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3a):

 73% yield, white solid, mp = 128-130 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.88 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 1.29 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.4, 145.1, 144.7, 134.1, 128.6, 128.6, 127.9, 124.5, 123.7, 117.6, 113.0, 112.4, 61.6, 30.9, 14.2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

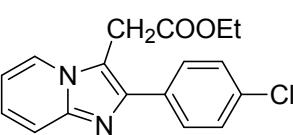
#### Ethyl 2-(2-(p-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3b):

 72% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.5, 145.0, 144.6, 137.7, 131.1, 129.4, 128.5, 124.4, 123.7, 117.5, 112.7, 112.3, 61.6, 30.8, 21.3, 14.2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

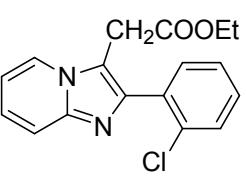
**Ethyl 2-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3c):**

 75% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.86 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.03 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.5, 159.5, 144.9, 144.5, 129.8, 126.6, 124.4, 123.6, 117.4, 114.1, 112.3, 112.3, 61.6, 55.3, 30.9, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 311.1390; found: 311.1394.

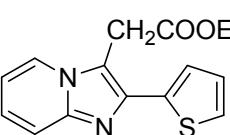
**Ethyl 2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3d):**

 72% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 1.28 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.2, 145.0, 143.4, 134.0, 132.5, 129.8, 128.8, 124.9, 123.8, 117.6, 113.1, 112.6, 61.8, 30.8, 14.2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

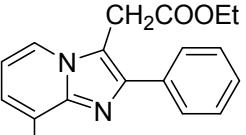
**Ethyl 2-(2-(2-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3e):**

 69% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.05 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 1.21 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.0, 144.9, 142.1, 133.7, 133.0, 132.8, 129.7, 129.7, 126.7, 124.6, 123.9, 117.7, 114.9, 112.5, 61.4, 30.4, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 315.0895; found: 315.0900.

**Ethyl 2-(2-(thiophen-2-yl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3f):**

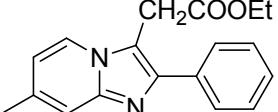
 70% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.0, 145.0, 139.0, 137.1, 127.8, 126.1, 125.3, 124.8, 123.6, 117.4, 112.6, 112.3, 61.7, 30.8, 14.2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

**Ethyl 2-(8-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3g):**

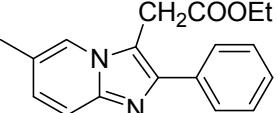
 81% yield, brown solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.99 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.5, 145.3,

144.0, 134.0, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.5, 123.6, 121.5, 113.4, 112.6, 61.6, 30.9, 17.2, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 295.1441; found: 295.1446.

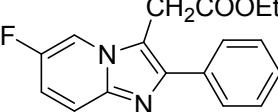
**Ethyl 2-(7-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3h):**

 73% yield, yellow viscous liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.5, 145.4, 144.1, 135.6, 134.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 123.0, 115.9, 115.1, 112.4, 61.6, 30.8, 21.3, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 295.1441; found: 295.1445.

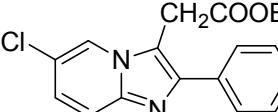
**Ethyl 2-(6-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3i):**

 75% yield, yellow viscous liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.5, 144.3, 144.1, 134.1, 128.6, 128.6, 127.8, 127.8, 122.2, 121.4, 116.9, 112.7, 61.6, 30.9, 18.5, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 295.1441; found: 295.1447.

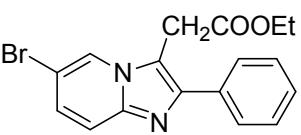
**Ethyl 2-(6-fluoro-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3j):**

 80% yield, yellow viscous liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.10 (bs, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 9.6 Hz, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dt, *J* = 8.9 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.1, 153.4 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 235.0 Hz, 1C), 146.0, 142.7, 133.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 118.0 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 9.1 Hz, 1C), 116.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 25.4 Hz, 1C), 114.5, 110.6 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 41.1 Hz, 1C), 61.8, 30.9, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 299.1190; found: 299.1194.

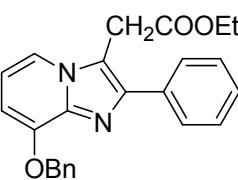
**Ethyl 2-(6-chloro-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3k):**

 73% yield, yellow solid, yellow viscous liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.1, 145.5, 143.3, 133.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 126.1, 121.8, 120.8, 117.9, 113.7, 61.9, 30.8, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 315.0895; found: 315.0900.

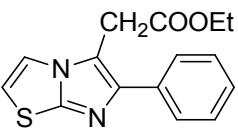
**Ethyl 2-(6-bromo-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3l):**

 76% yield, yellow solid, mp = 110-112 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 1.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.0, 145.4, 143.4, 133.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 124.0, 118.2, 113.5, 107.2, 61.8, 30.8, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2$  [M+H] $^+$ : 359.0390; found: 359.0399.

**Ethyl 2-(8-(benzyloxy)-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetate (3m):**

 81% yield, brown viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 4H), 6.71 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 4.23 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.28 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.4, 147.9, 143.8, 139.4, 136.2, 133.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 116.8, 114.2, 112.4, 103.2, 70.7, 61.7, 31.0, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  [M+H] $^+$ : 387.1703; found: 387.1715.

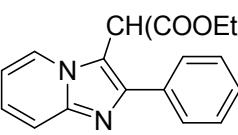
**Ethyl 2-(6-phenylimidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazol-5-yl)acetate (3n):**

 75% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 1.29 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.5, 149.1, 145.4, 134.2, 128.6, 127.8, 127.5, 118.0, 114.5, 112.4, 61.6, 31.6, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$  [M+H] $^+$ : 287.0849; found: 287.0852.

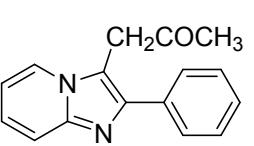
**Ethyl 2-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyrimidin-3-yl)acetate (3o):**

 81% yield, yellow solid, mp = 114-116 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.56-8.54 (m, 1H), 8.51 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 1H), 6.93 (dd,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 1.29 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.0, 158.5, 149.7, 148.1, 145.8, 131.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 111.5, 108.6, 61.9, 30.5, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}$  [M+H] $^+$ : 282.1237; found: 282.1242.

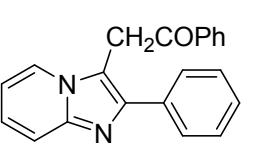
**Diethyl 2-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)malonate (3p):**

 75% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.36 (d,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.28-4.23 (m, 4H), 1.28-1.25 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.6, 146.3, 145.8, 133.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 126.3, 125.3, 117.6, 112.1, 111.8, 62.5, 49.2, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  [M+H] $^+$ : 353.1496; found: 353.1503.

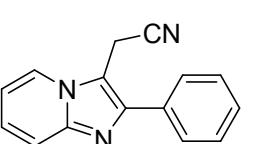
**1-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)propan-2-one (3q):**

 79% yield, yellow viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.0, 145.1, 144.5, 134.1, 128.8, 128.4, 128.0, 124.7, 123.4, 117.7, 113.5, 112.7, 39.6, 29.3. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O} [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 251.1179; found: 251.1180.

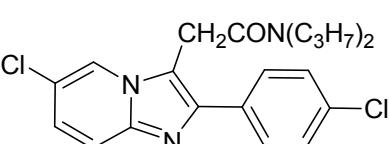
**1-phenyl-2-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)ethanone (3r):**

 65% yield, brown viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.83 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.7, 145.1, 144.4, 135.6, 133.9, 129.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 124.7, 123.8, 117.5, 113.8, 112.6, 34.8. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O} [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 313.1335; found: 313.1335.

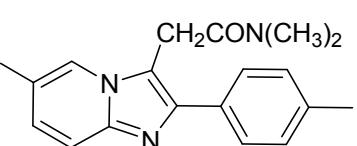
**2-(2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3s):**

 79% yield, brown viscous liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.35 (dt,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 0.8Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dt,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 0.8Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  145.4, 145.1, 133.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 125.5, 122.9, 118.0, 115.0, 113.5, 107.8, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3 [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 234.1026; found: 234.1026.

**Alpidem (A):**

 81% yield, off white solid, mp = 137-139 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.26 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 3.31 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.66-1.45 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H), 0.78 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 143.6, 143.5, 134.2, 132.5, 129.9, 128.9, 126.2, 122.6, 120.7, 117.6, 115.6, 49.9, 48.0, 30.0, 22.3, 20.9, 11.3, 11.0.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

**Zolpidem (B):**

 71% yield, off white solid, mp = 193-195 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.99 (s, 1H), 7.55 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.26 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.3, 144.1, 143.7, 137.5, 131.6, 129.4,

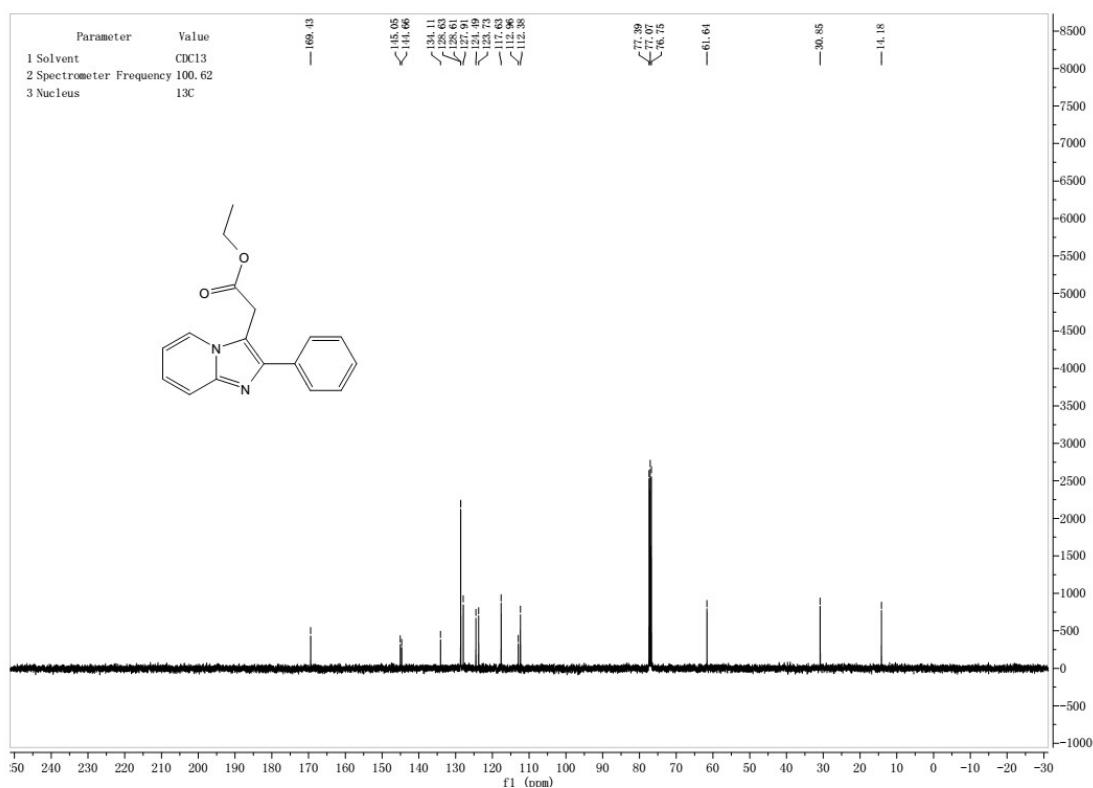
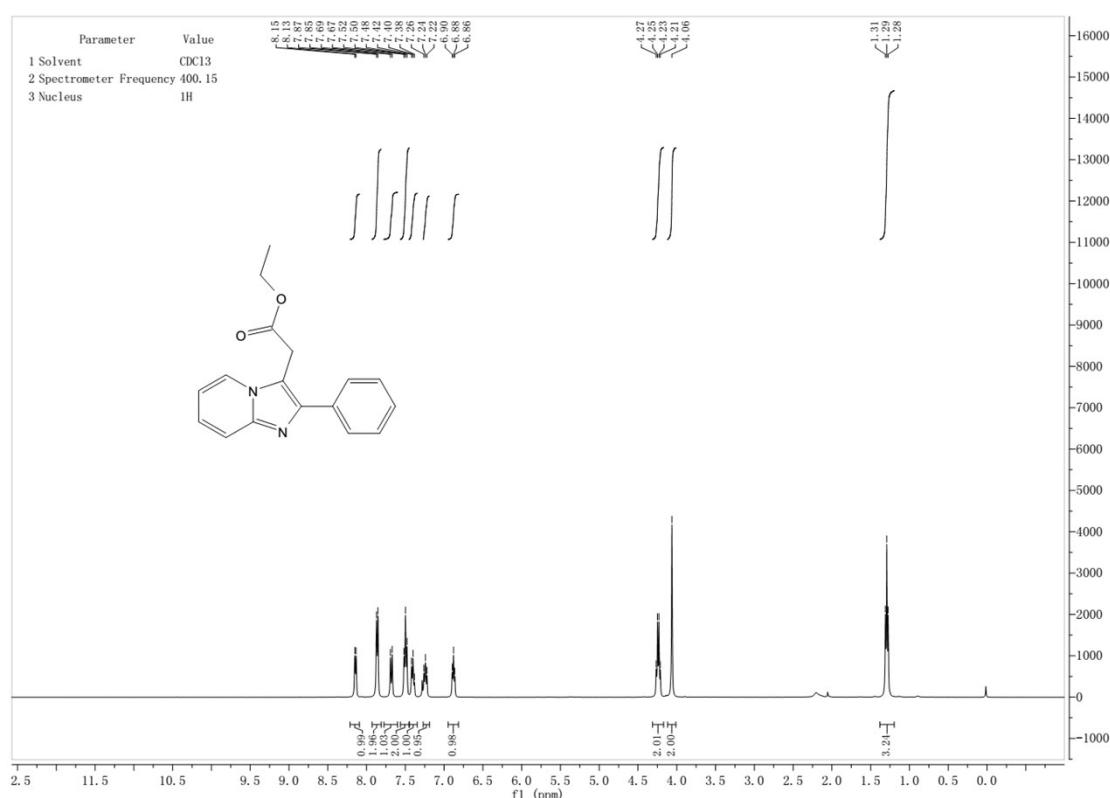
128.5, 127.7, 122.2, 121.9, 116.5, 113.7, 37.5, 35.9, 30.3, 21.3, 18.5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data are consistent with those reported in the literature.<sup>3</sup>

**References:**

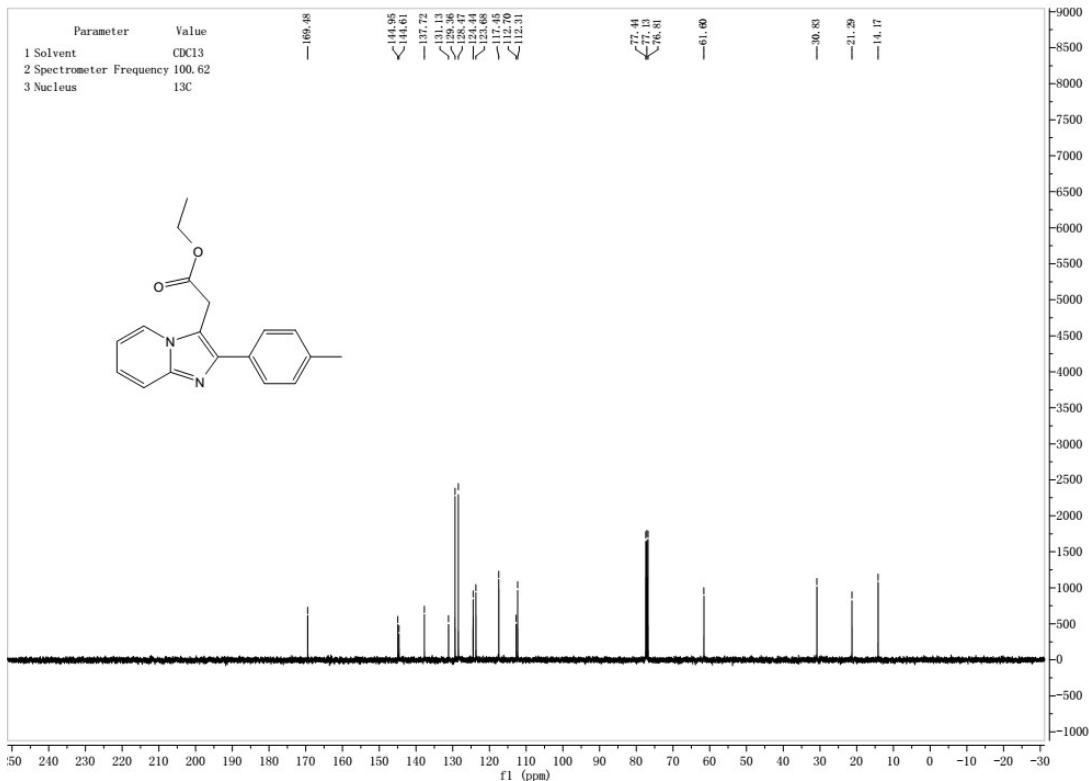
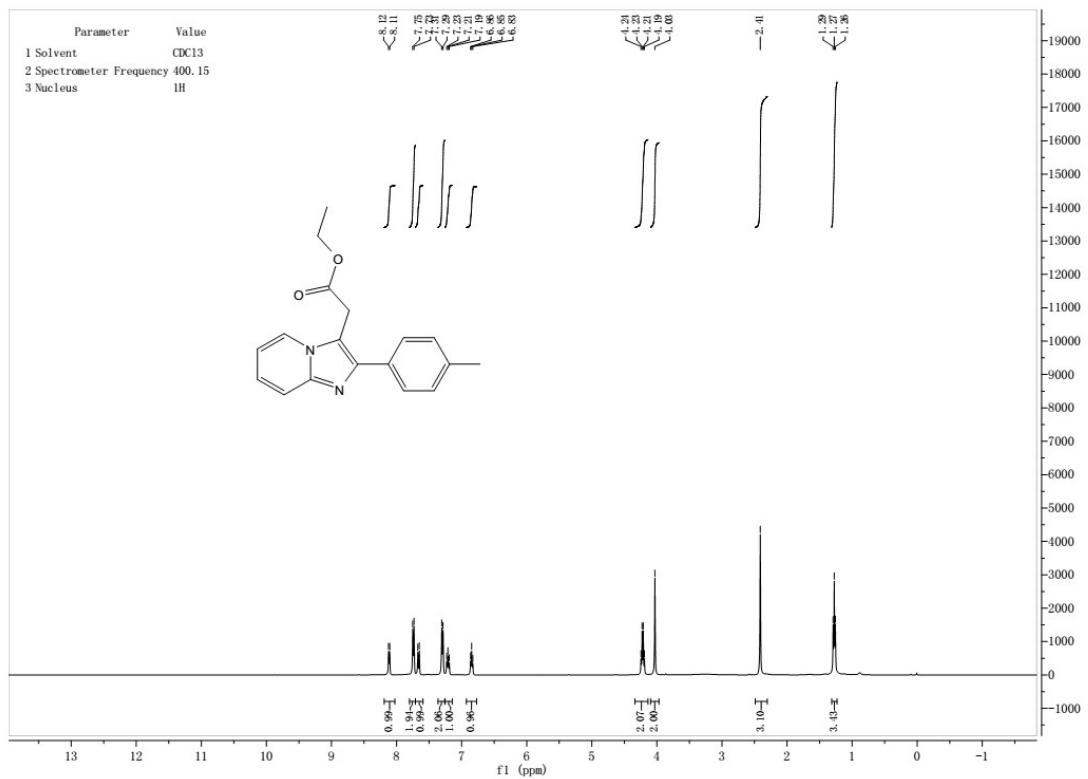
- 1 D. K. Nair, S. M. Mobin, I. N. N. Namboothiri, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 4580.
- 2 J. P. Kaplan, P. George, Assignee, Synthelabo S. A., *Eur. Pat. Appl.* 1982, 19820428.
- 3 a) A. Zaworska, J. Dzikowska, J. Cybulski, K. Bankowski, W. Szelejewski, Instytut Farmaceutyczny, *PL* 196300; b) R. Sridharan, S. B. Bhirud, V. L. A. Purushotham, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited, *Indian Pat. Appl.* 2006, 20060728; c) R. Chinnapillai, R. R. Nallamaddi, V. R. Arava, V. Jasti, Suven Life Sciences Limited, *PCT Int. Appl.* 2009, 2009007995; d) R. Labriola, Quimica Sintetica, S.A., *PCT Int. Appl.* 2000, WO 2000008021.

## NMR Spectra:

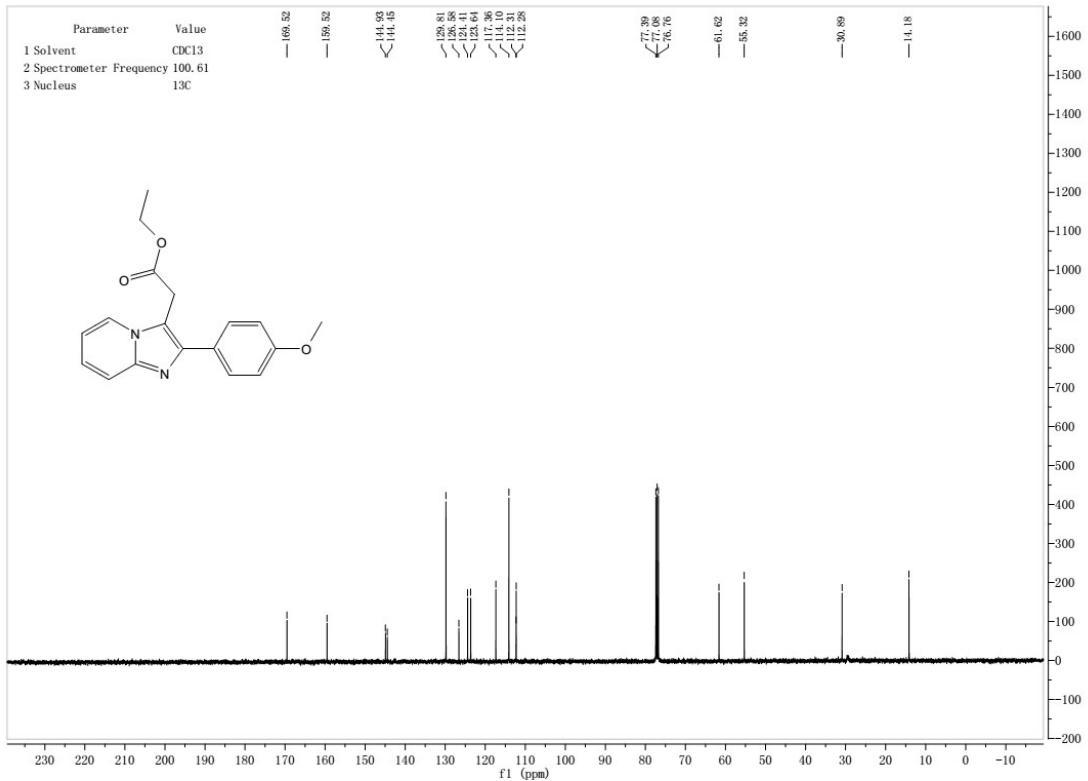
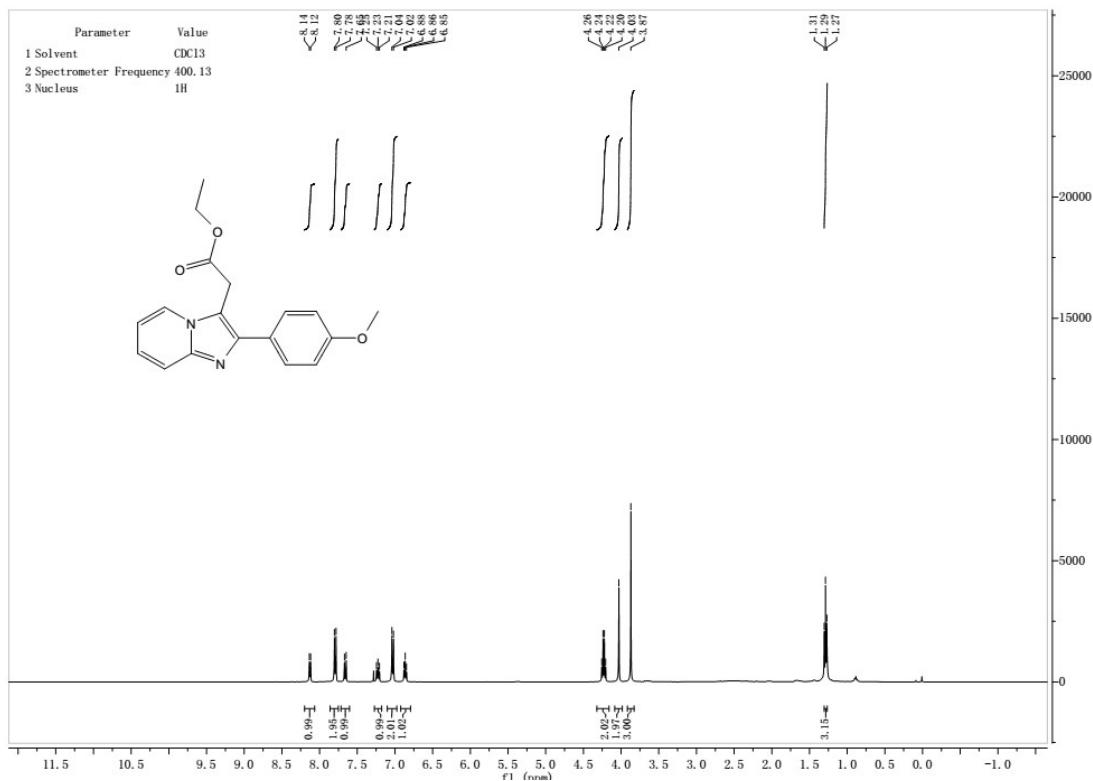
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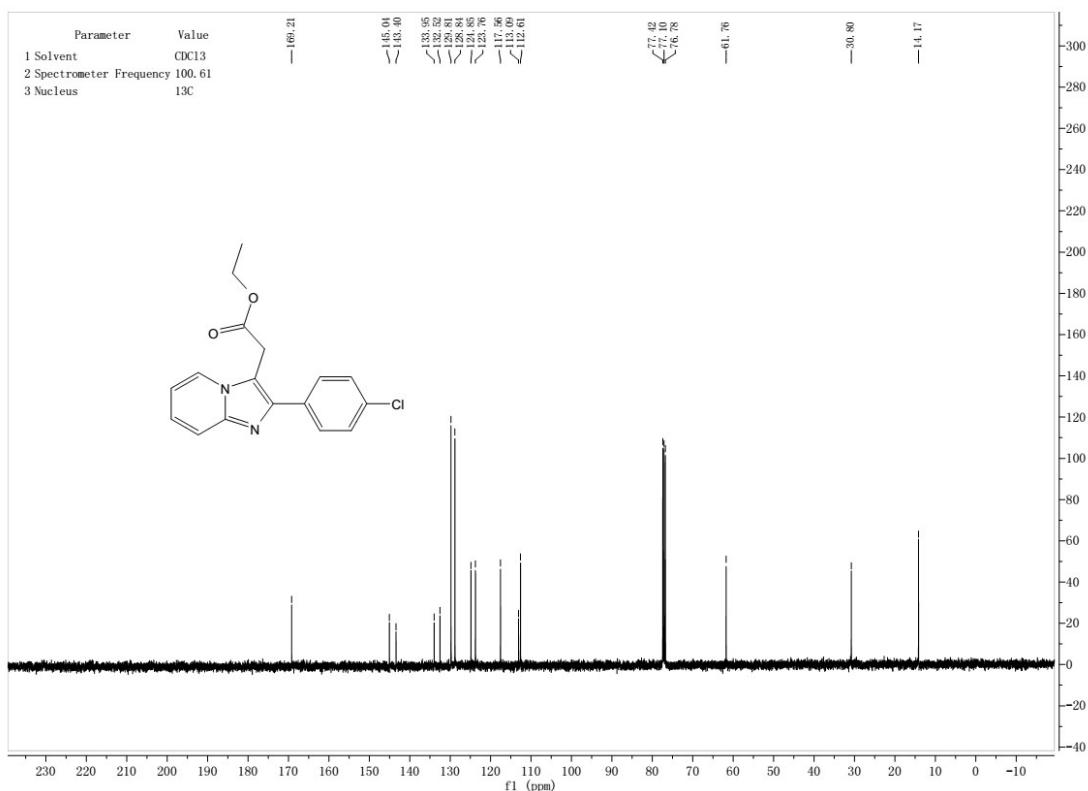
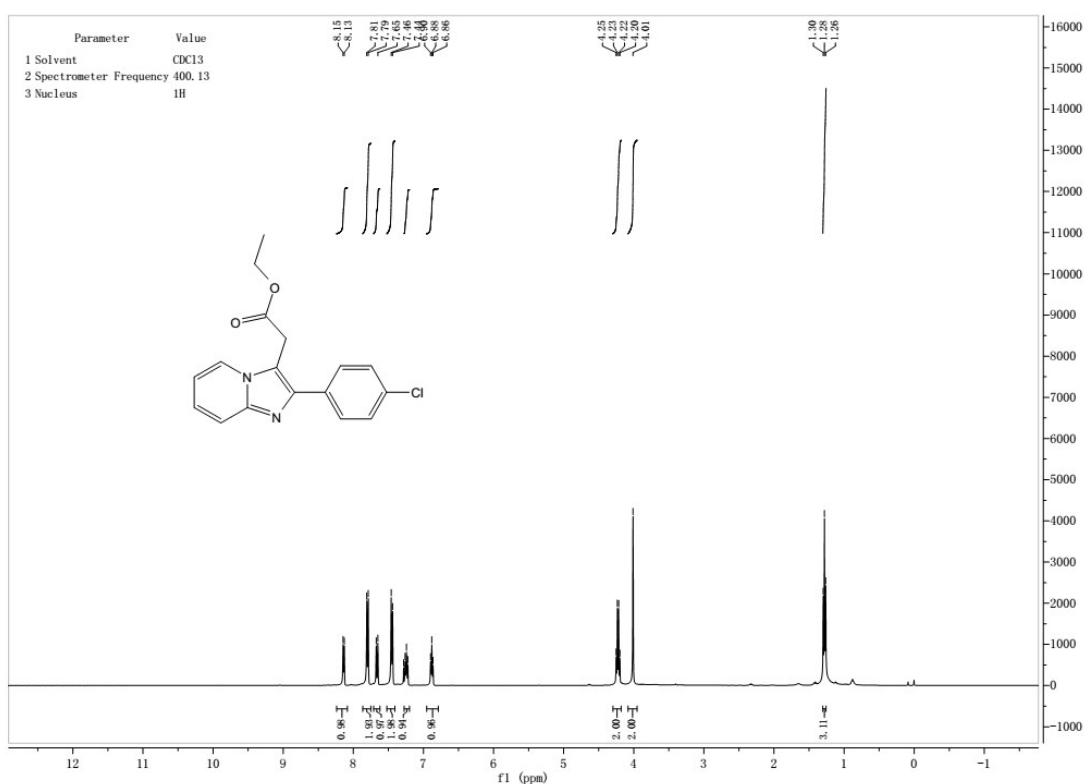
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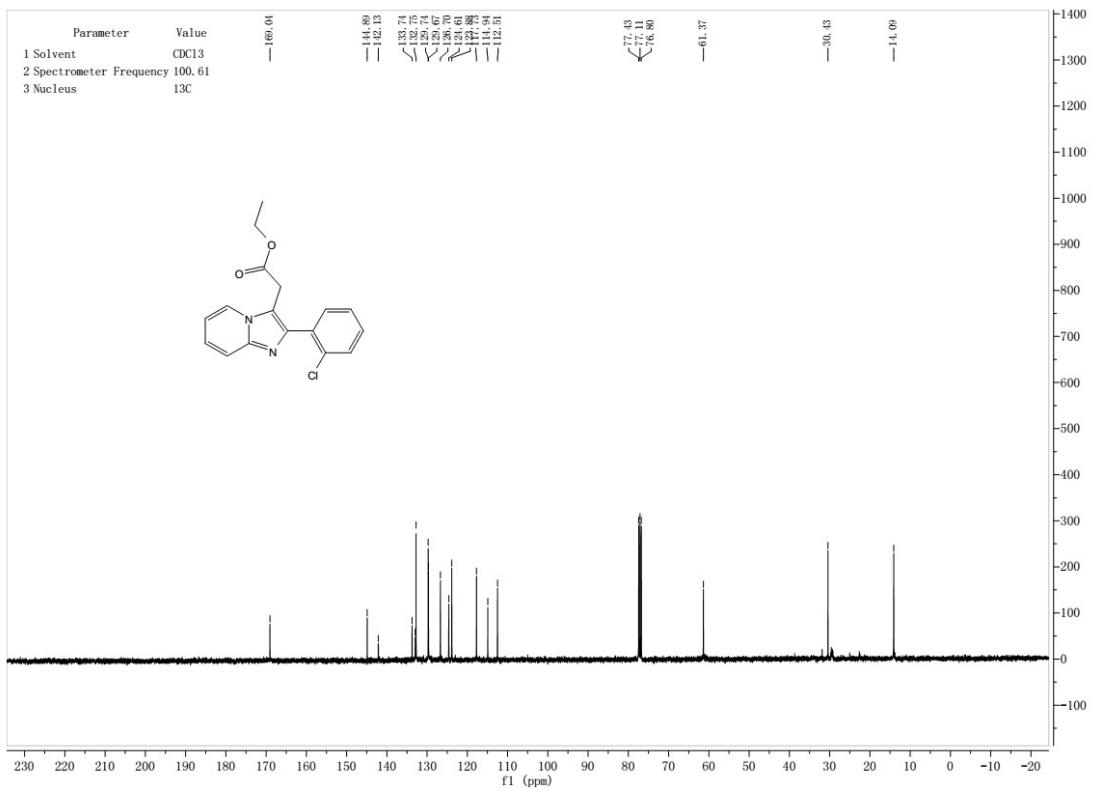
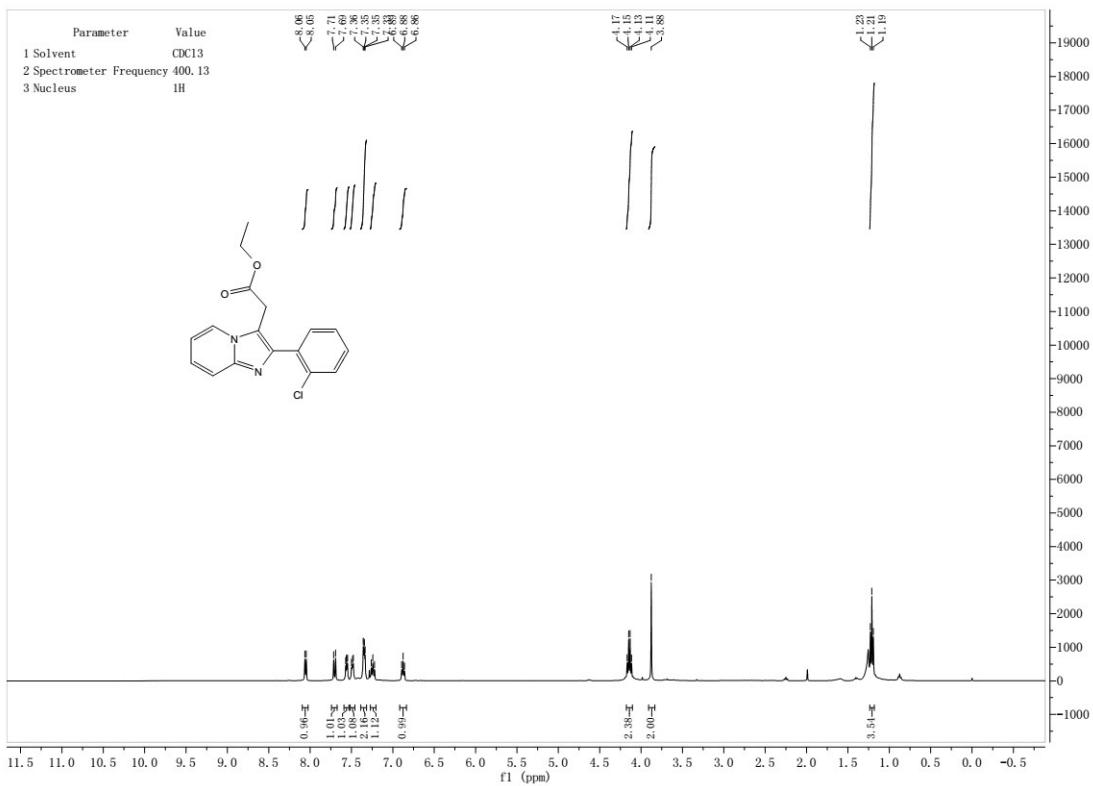
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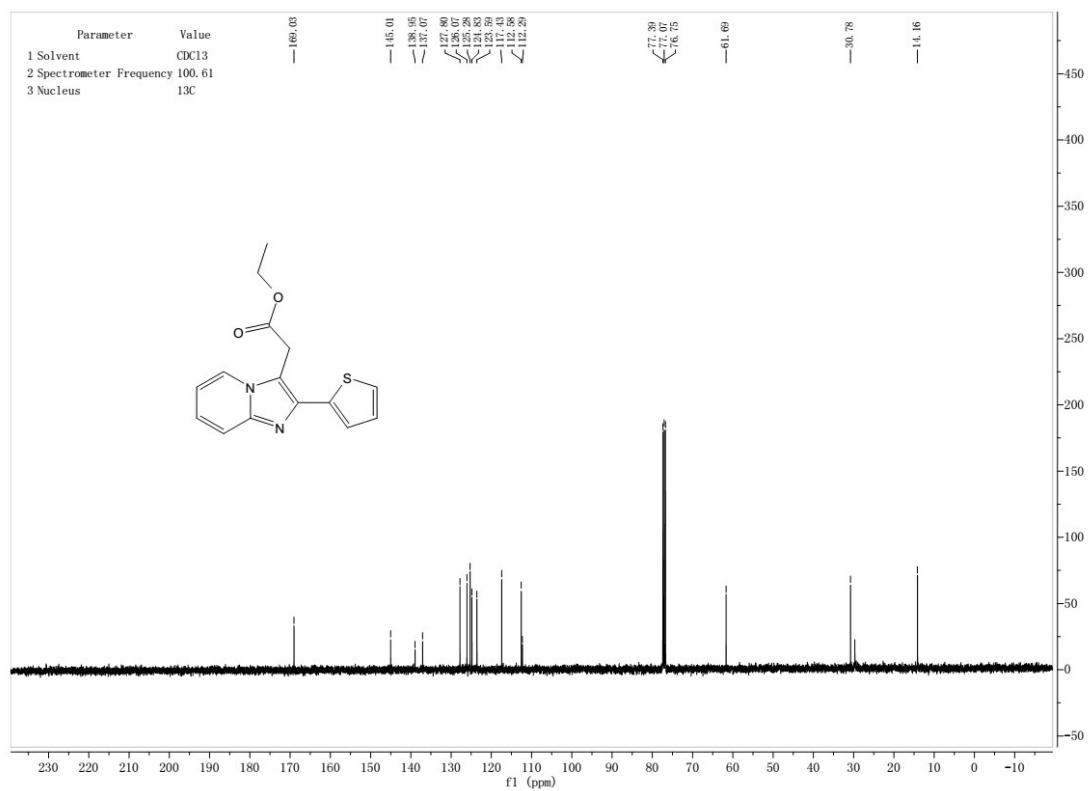
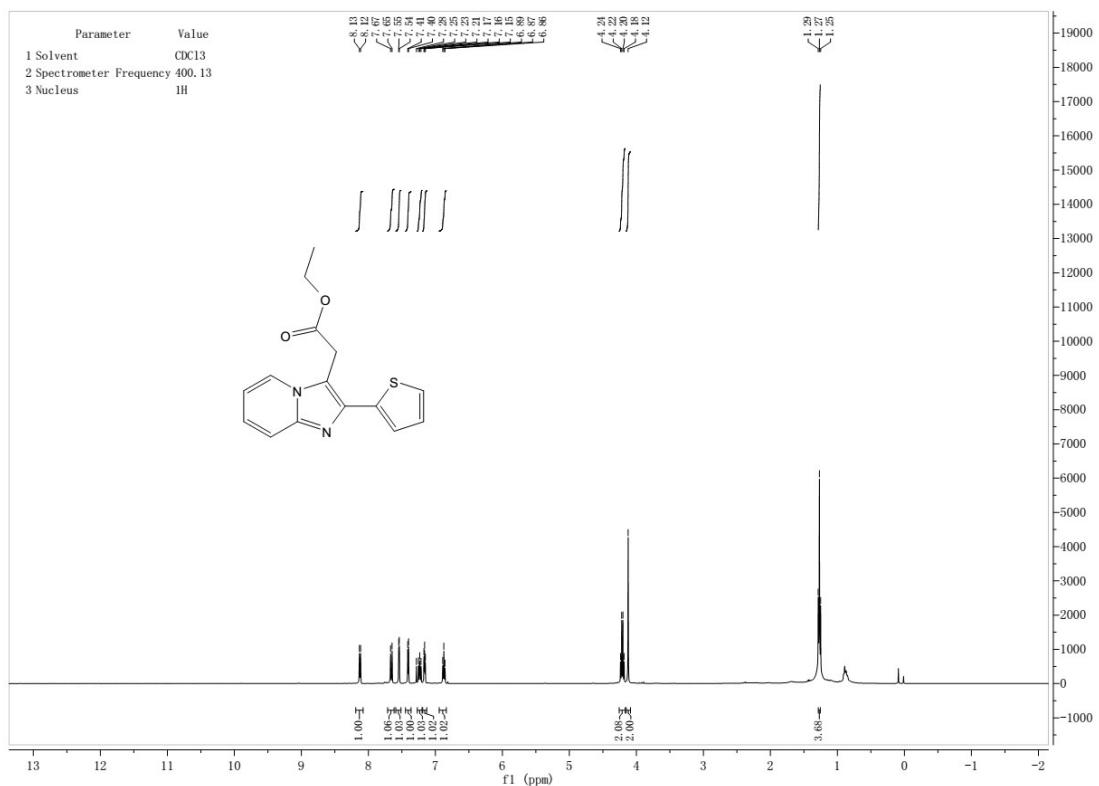
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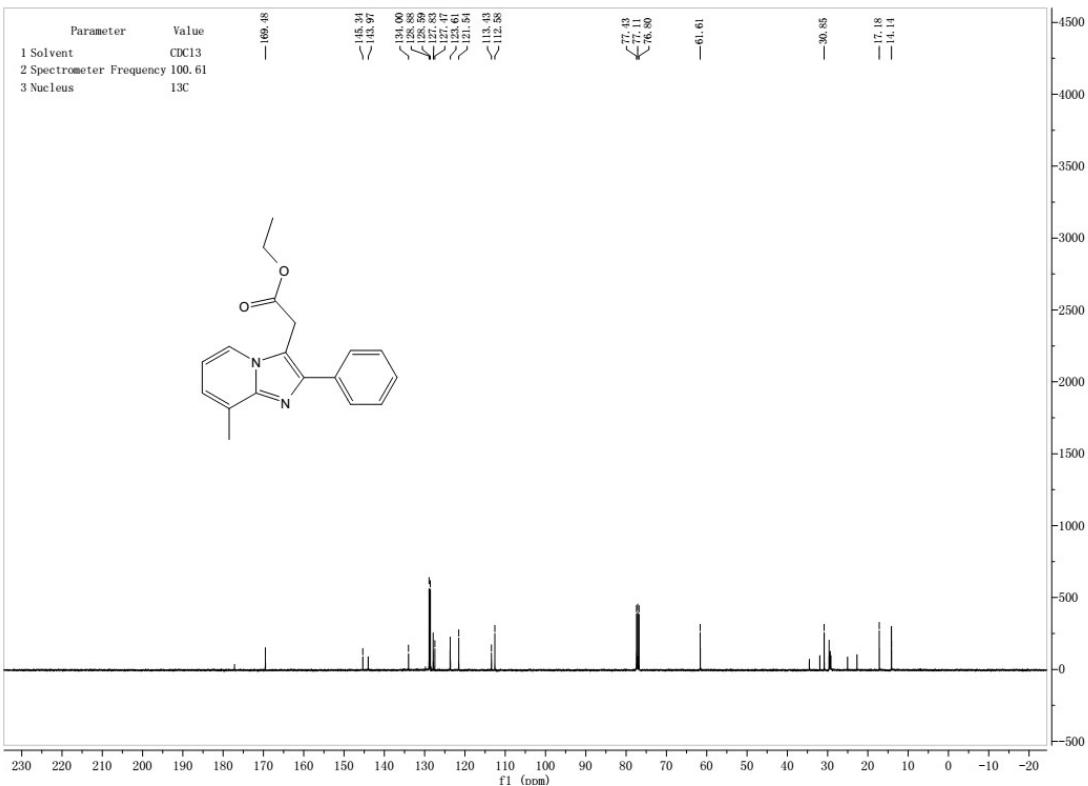
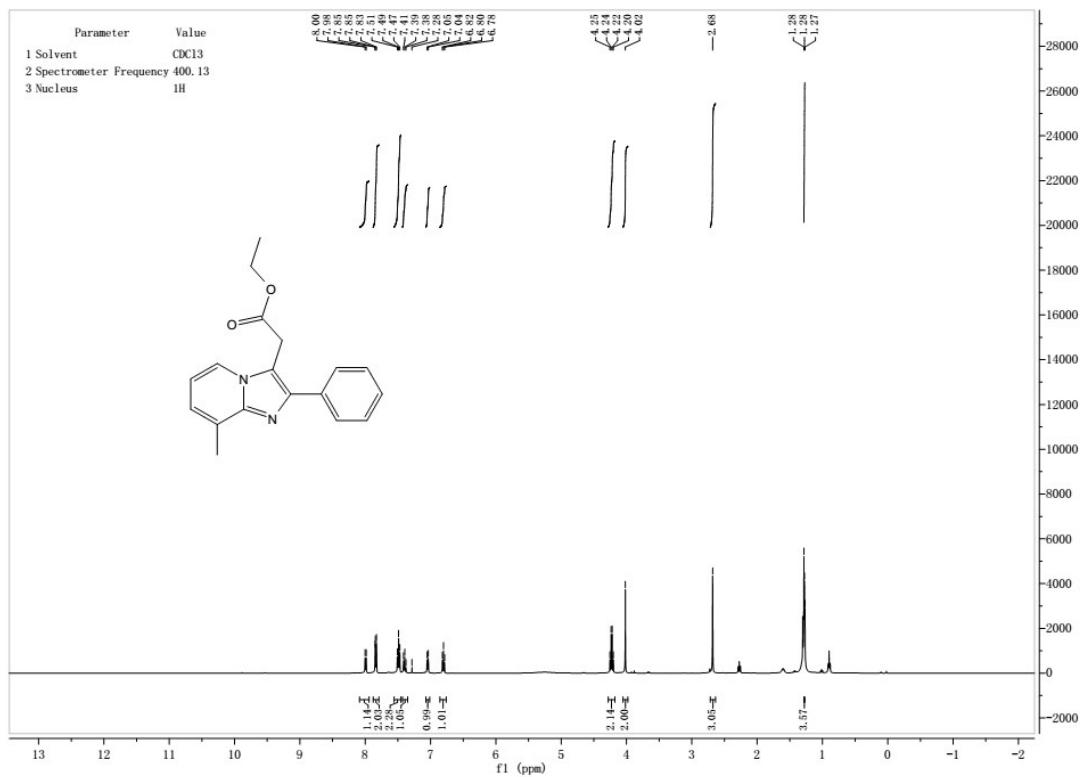
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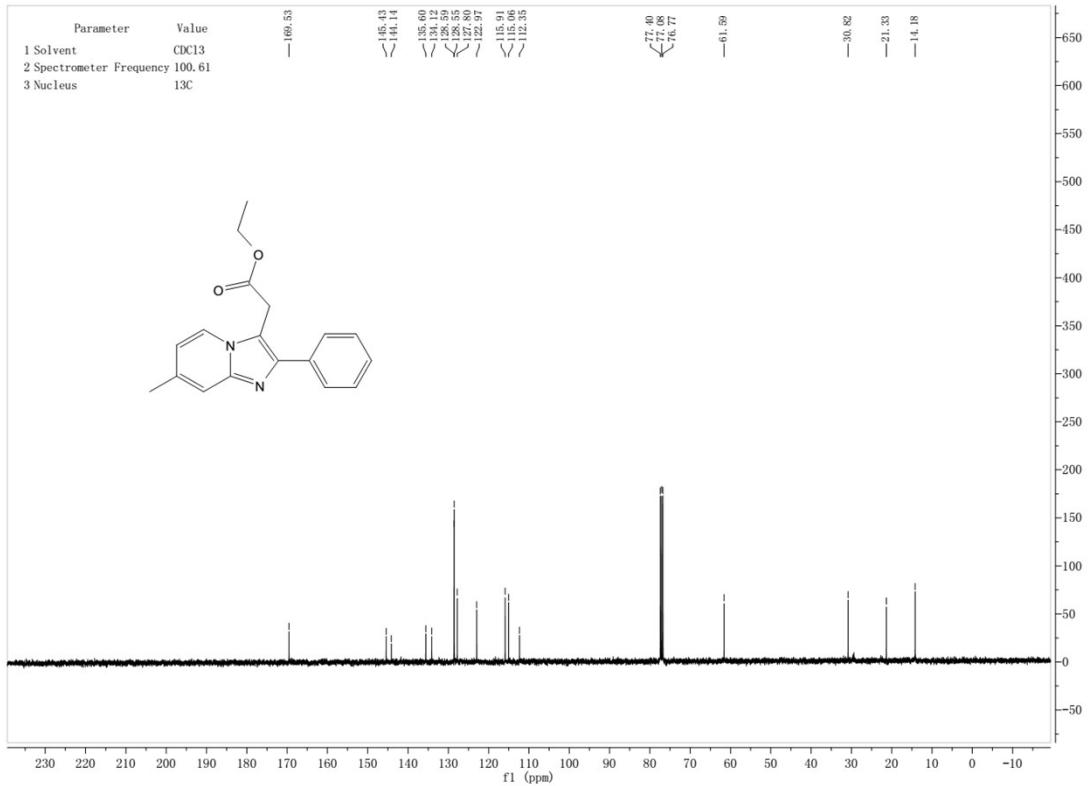
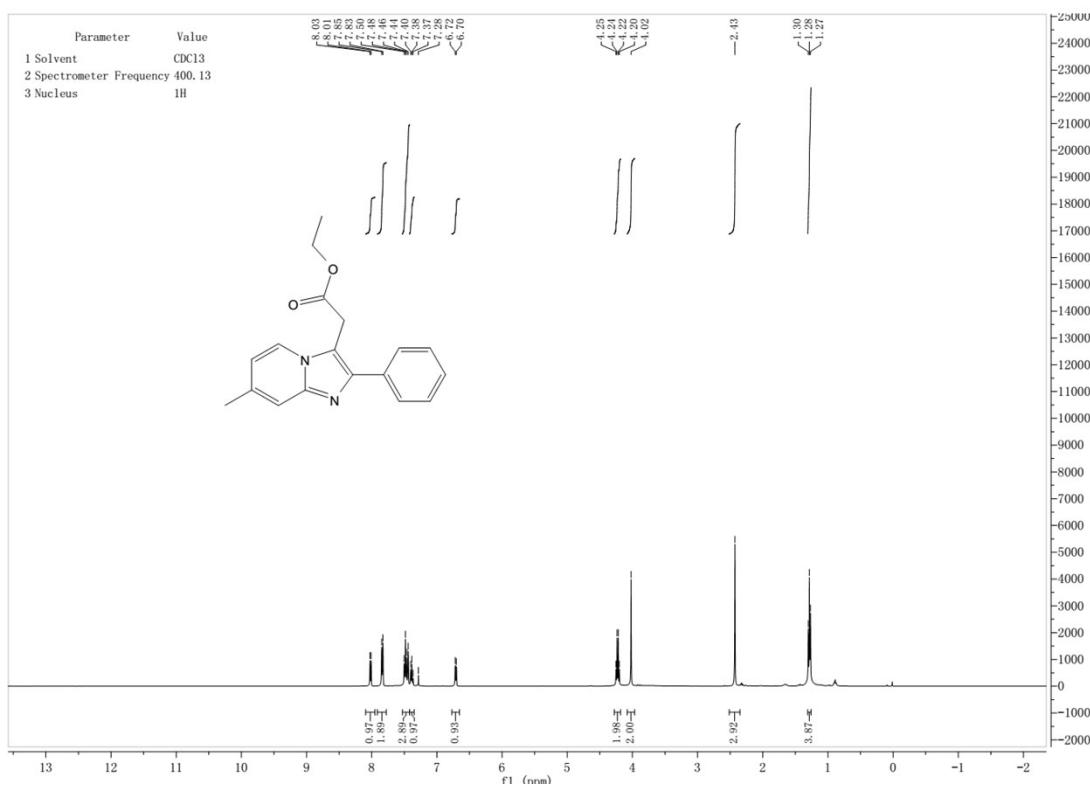
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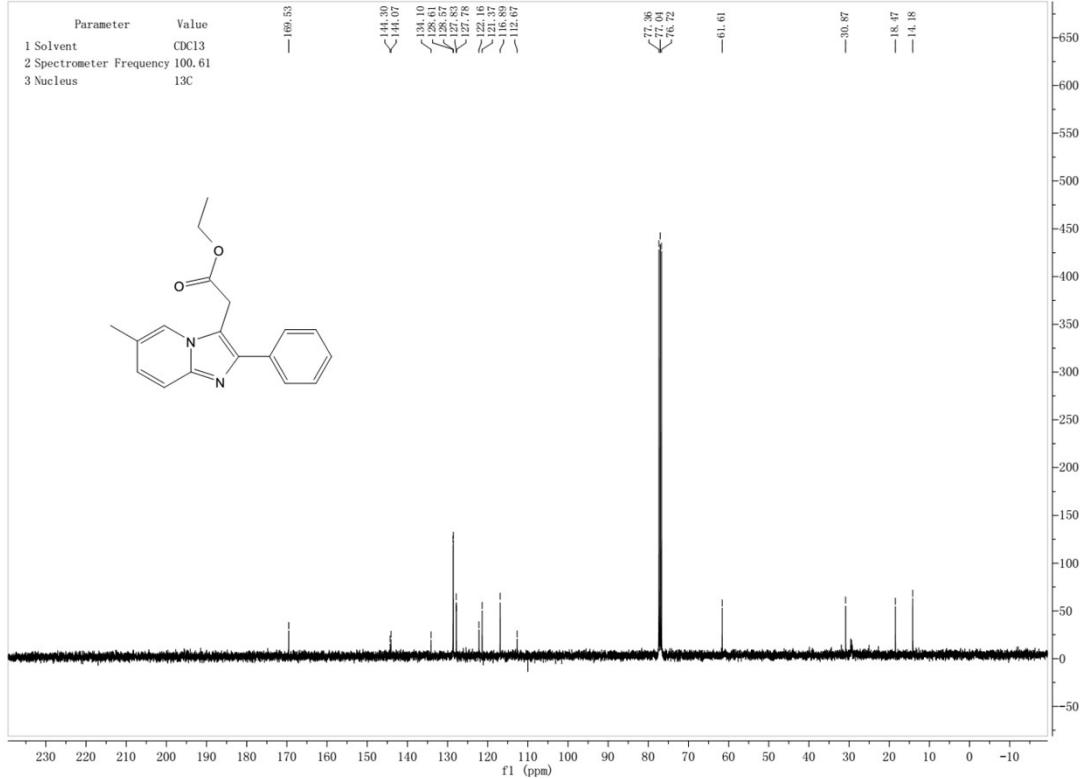
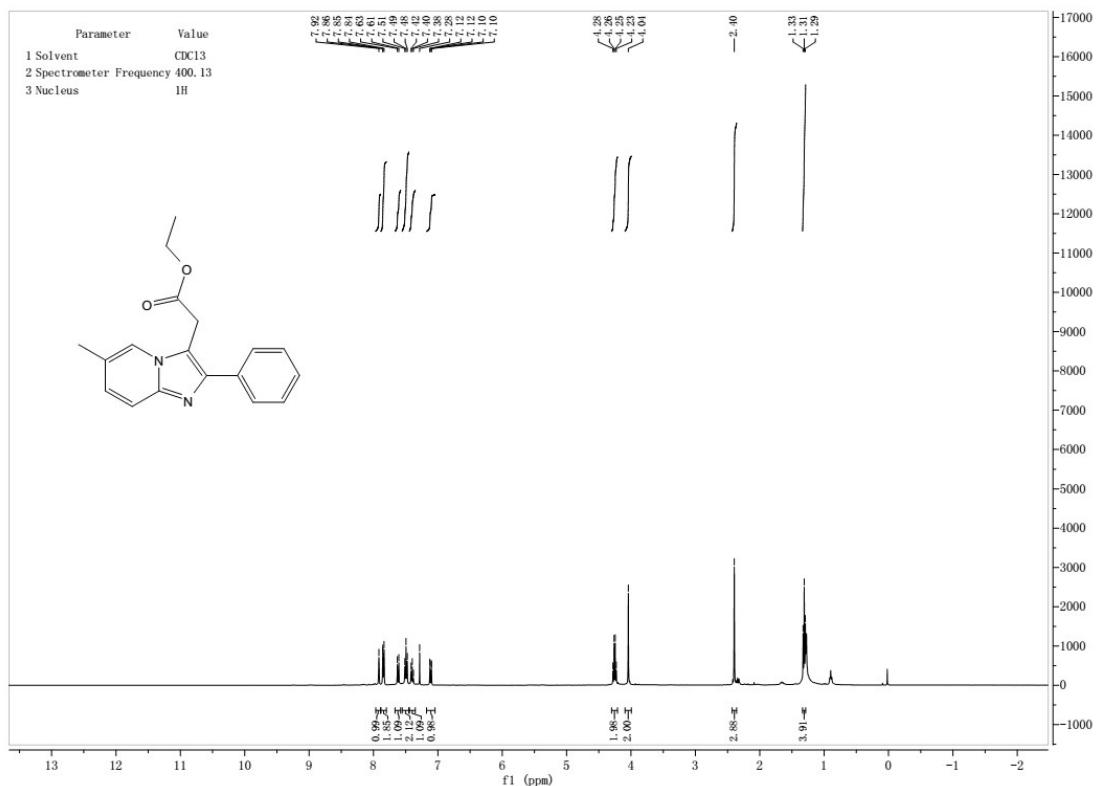
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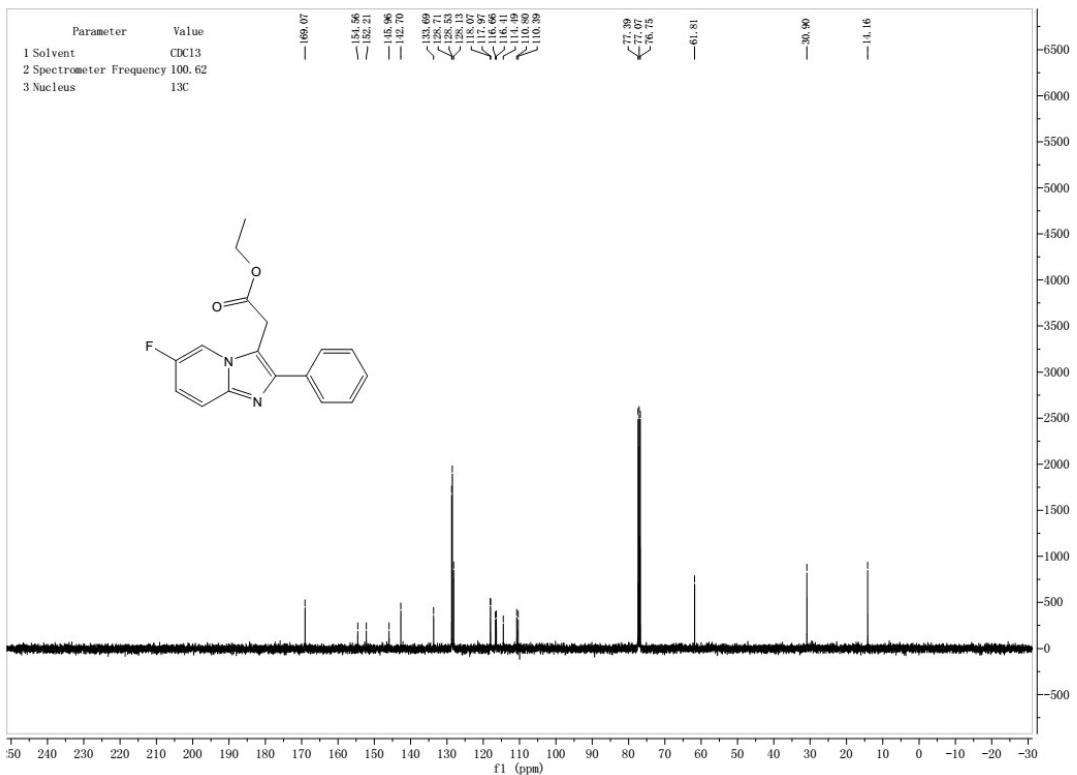
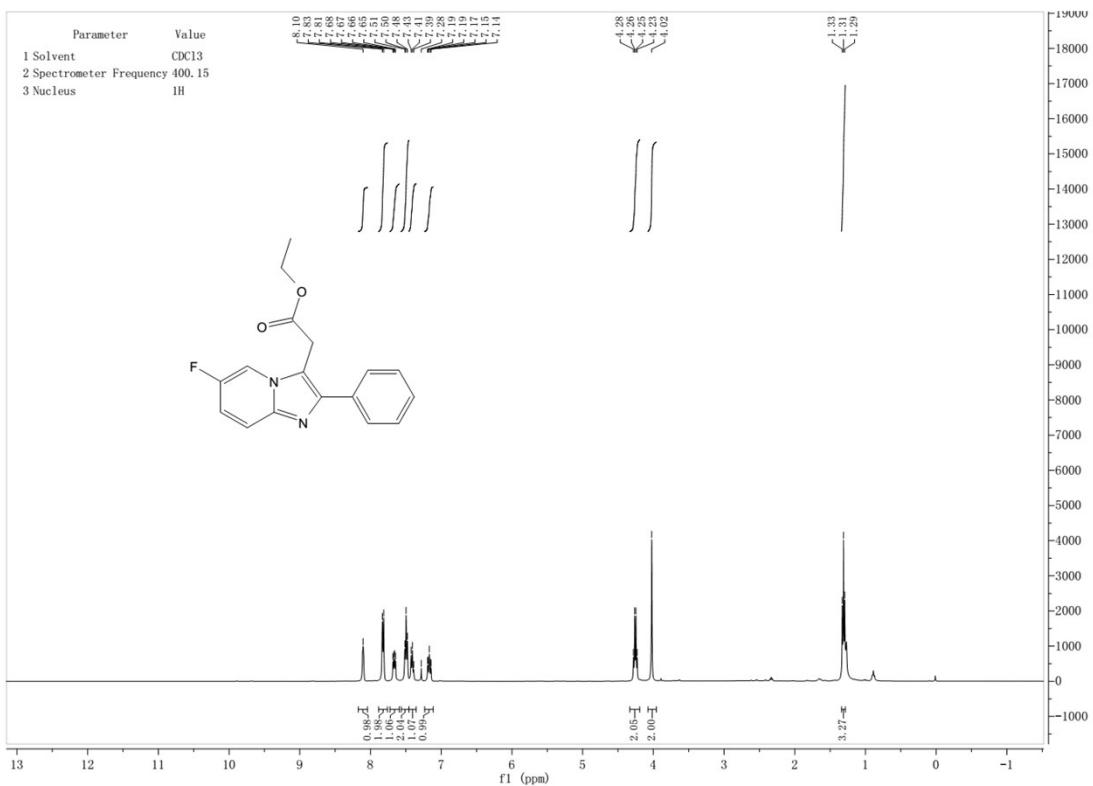
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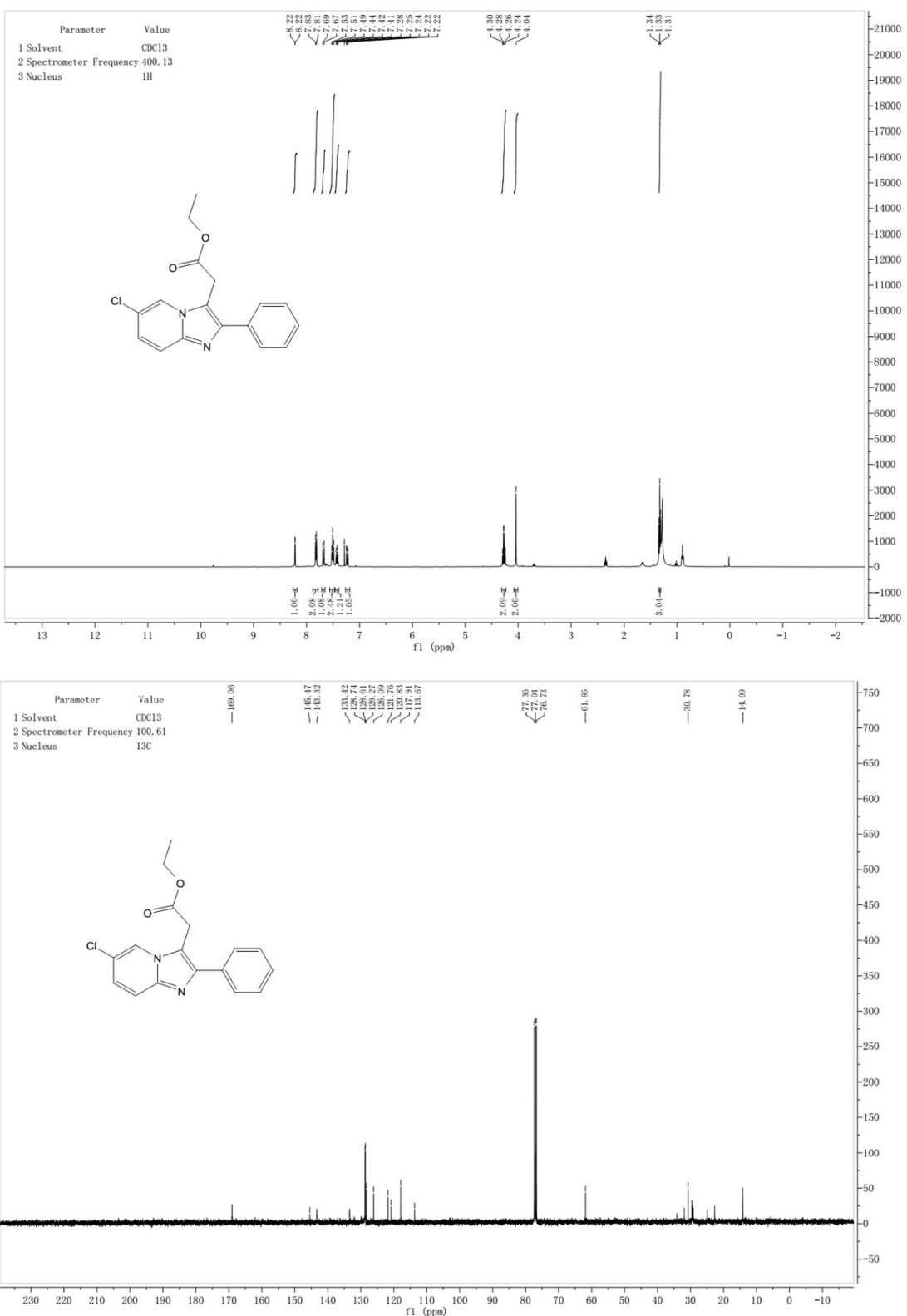
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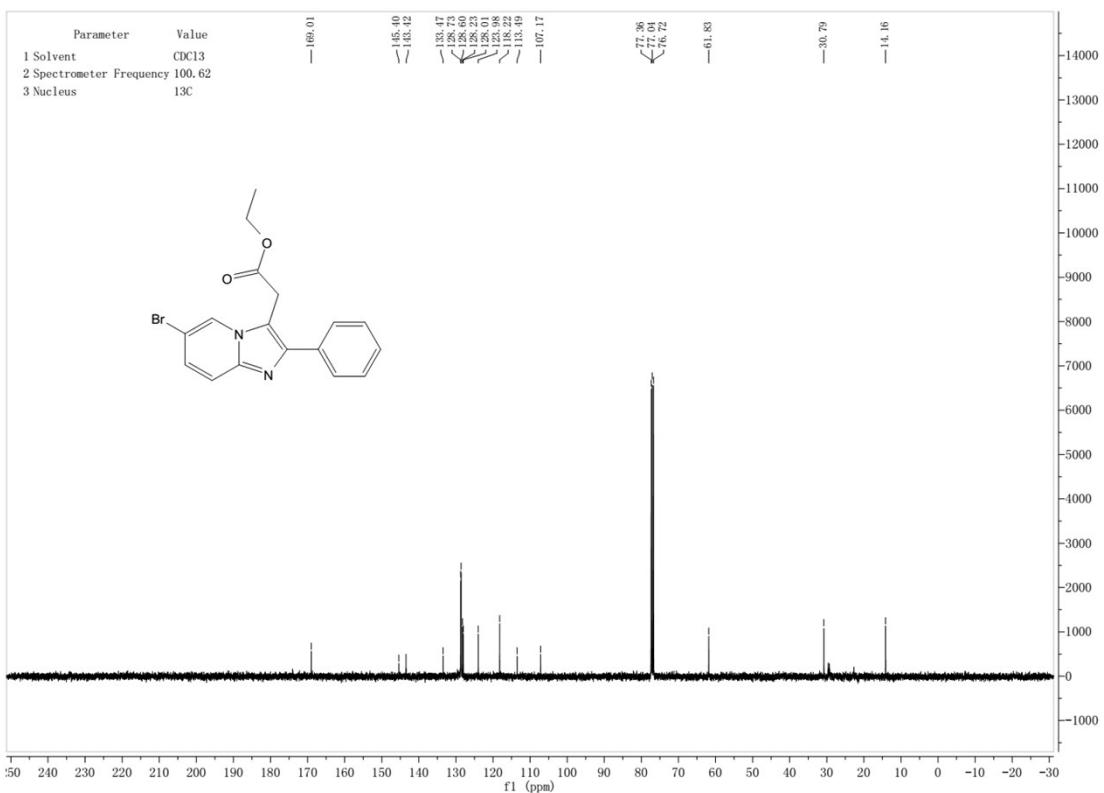
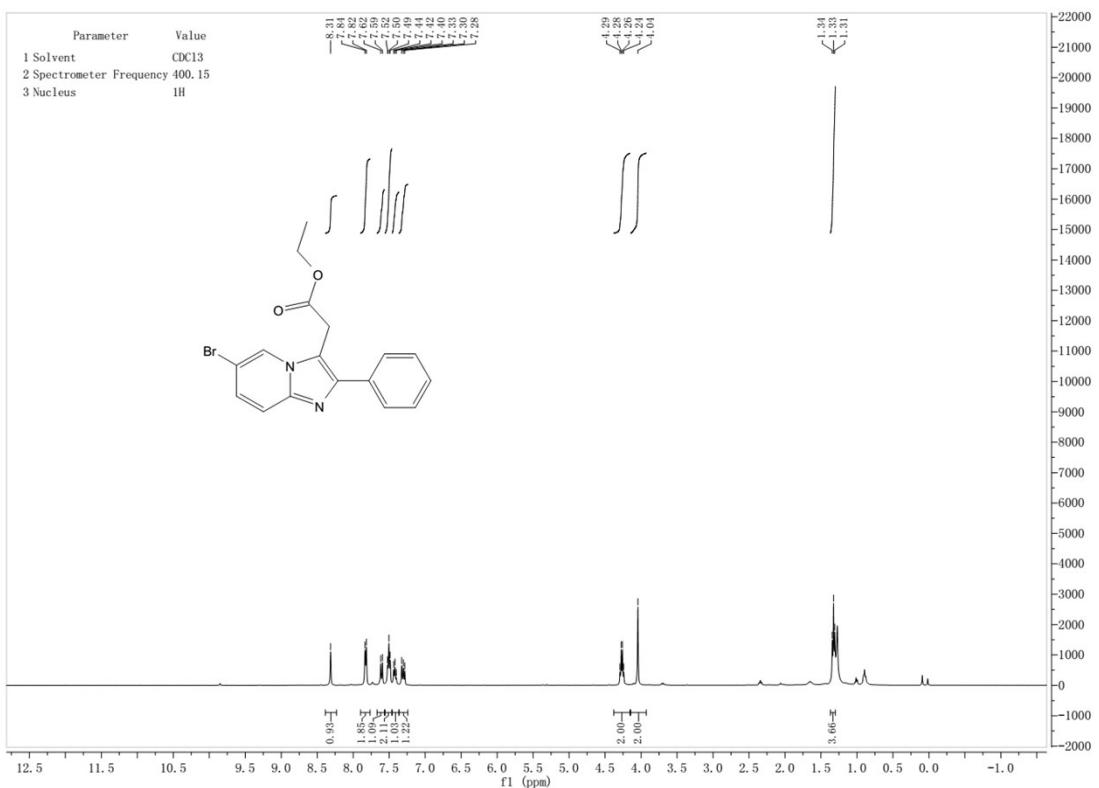


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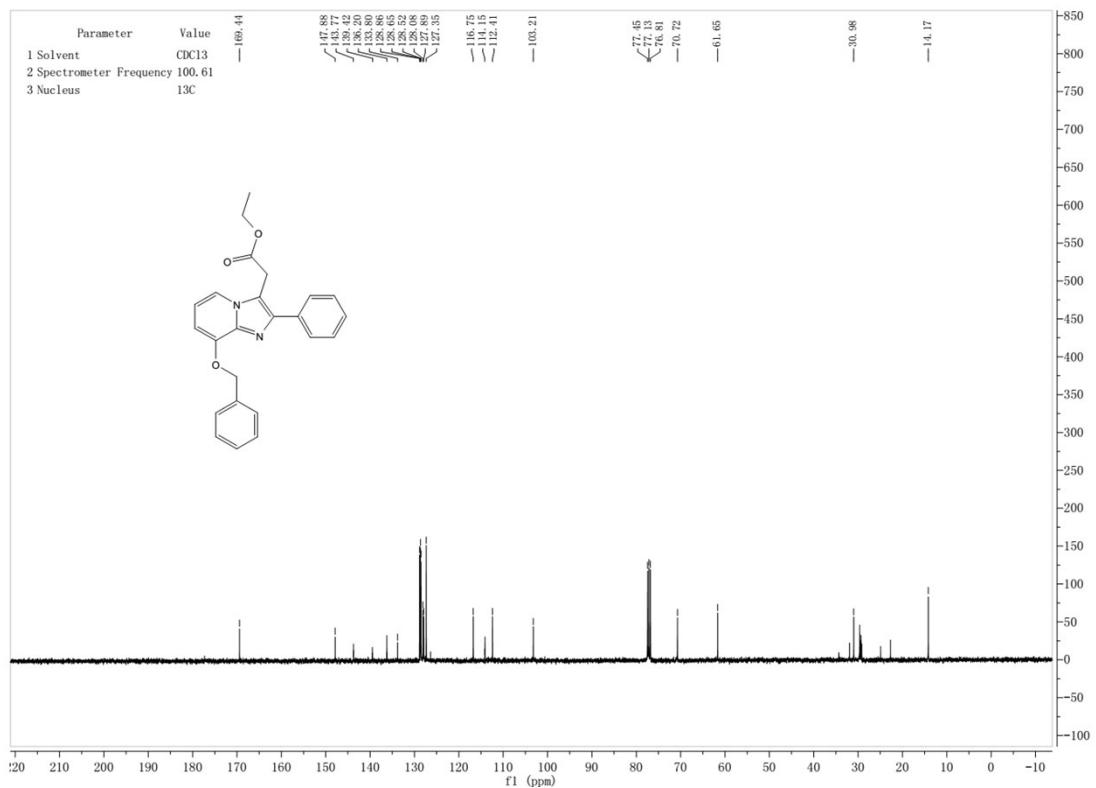
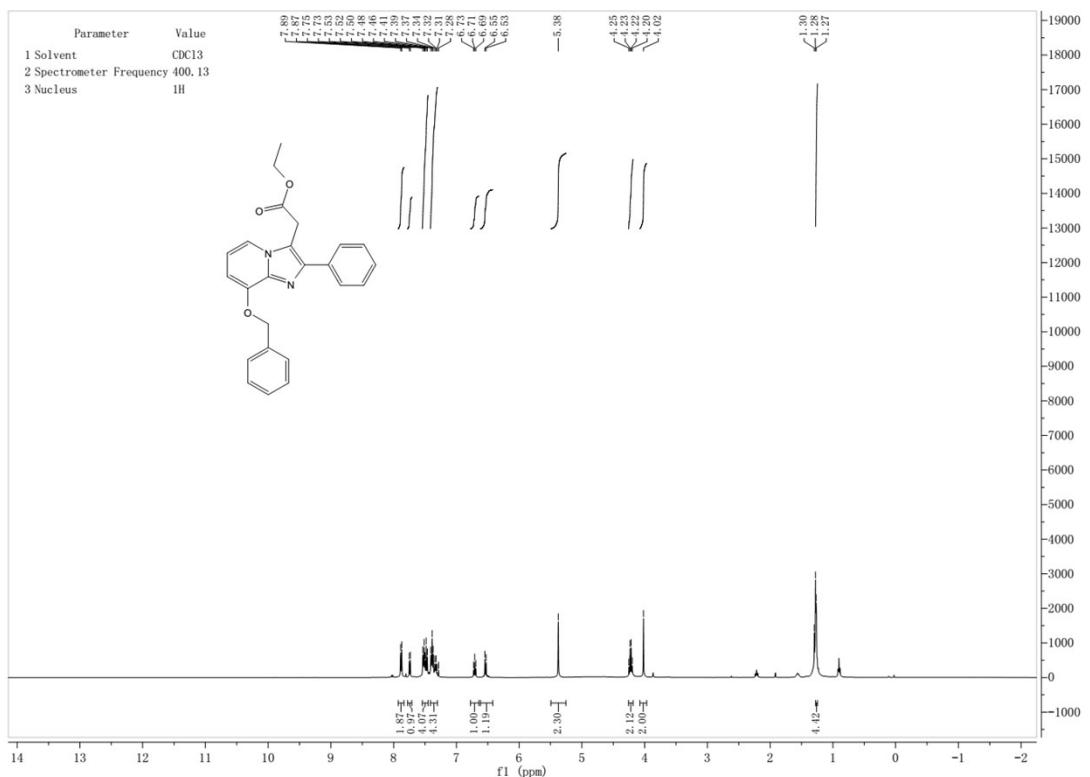


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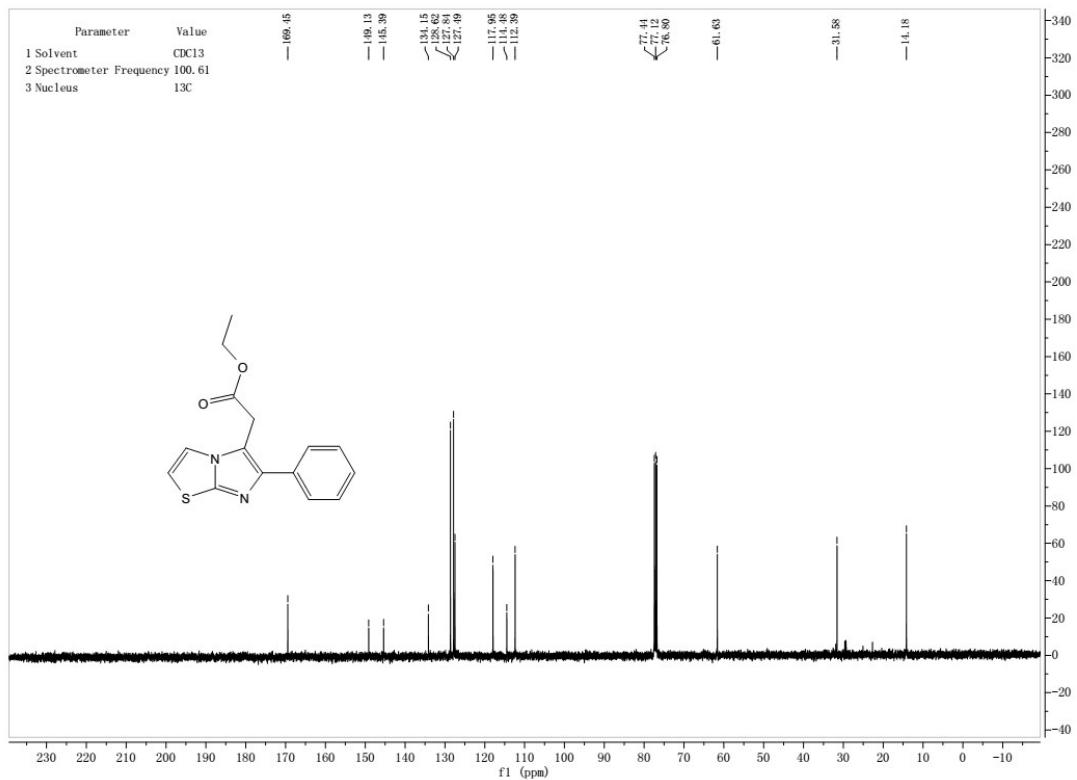
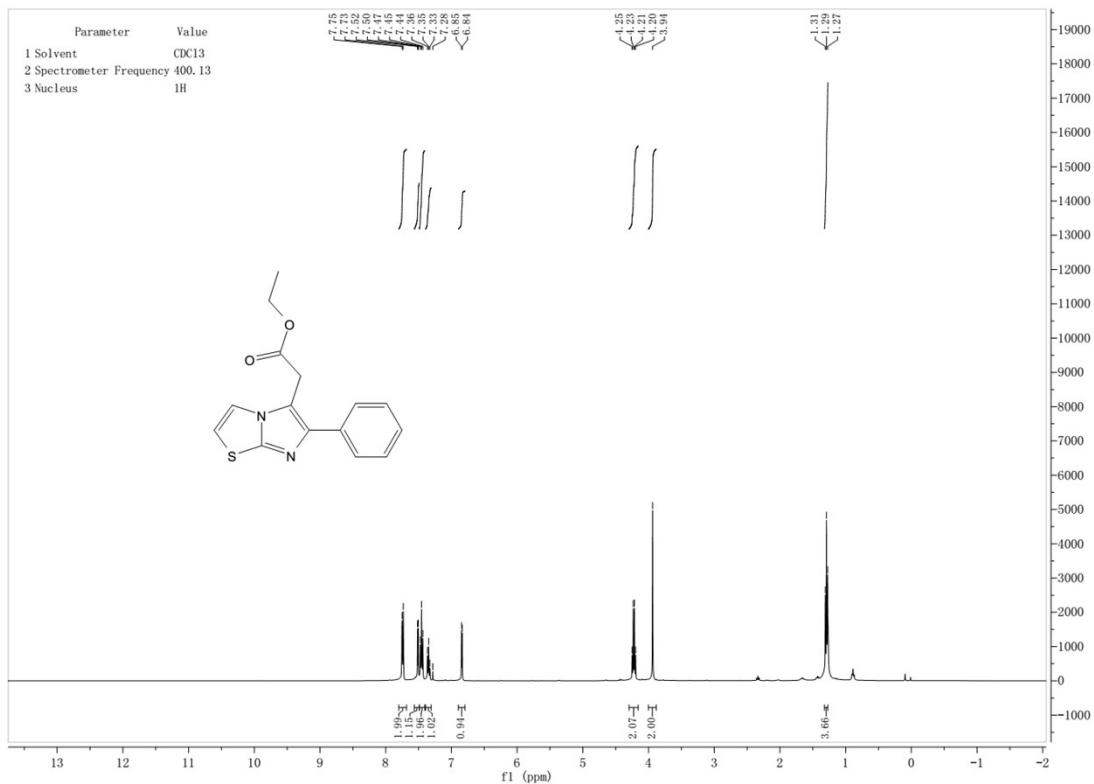




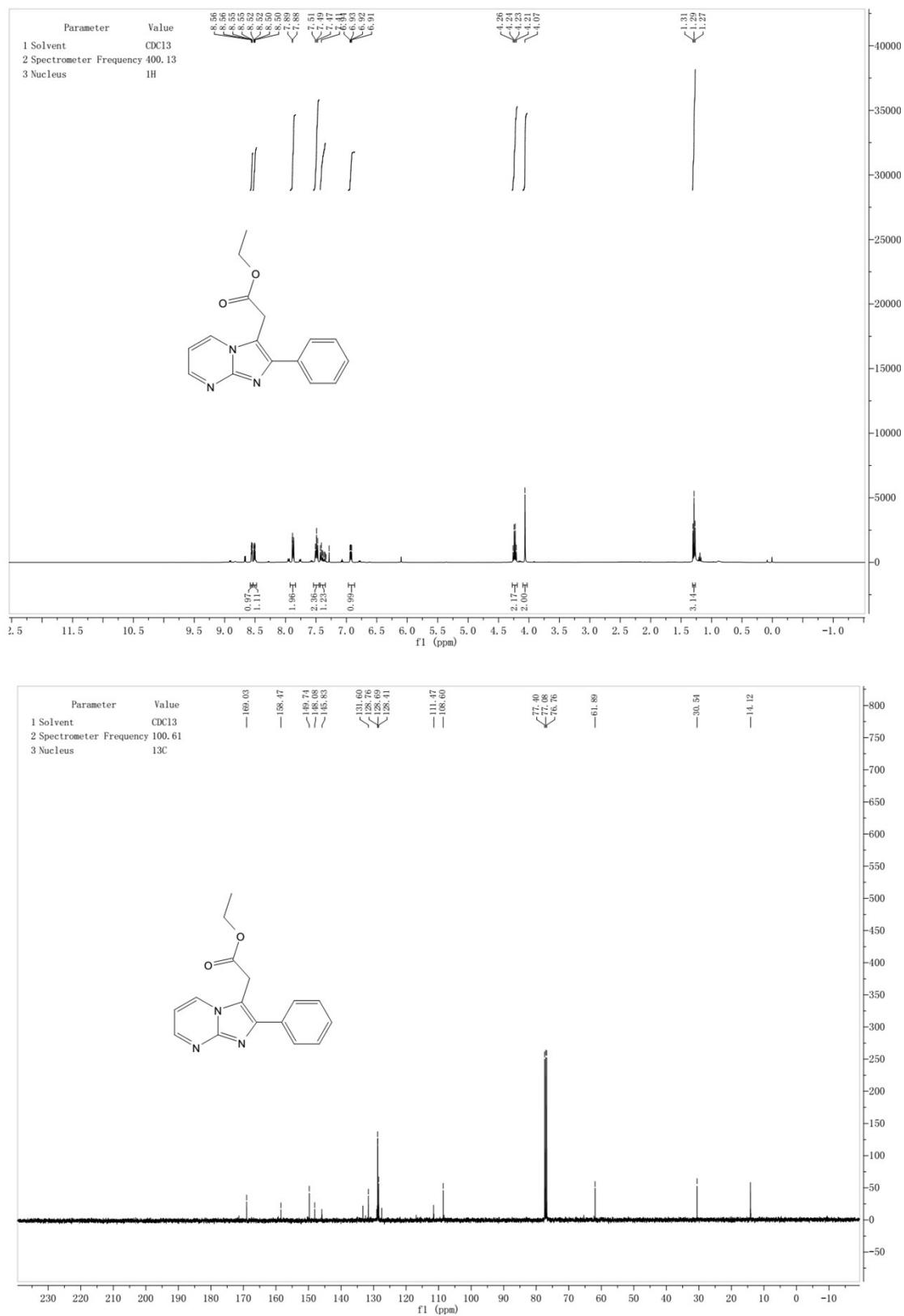
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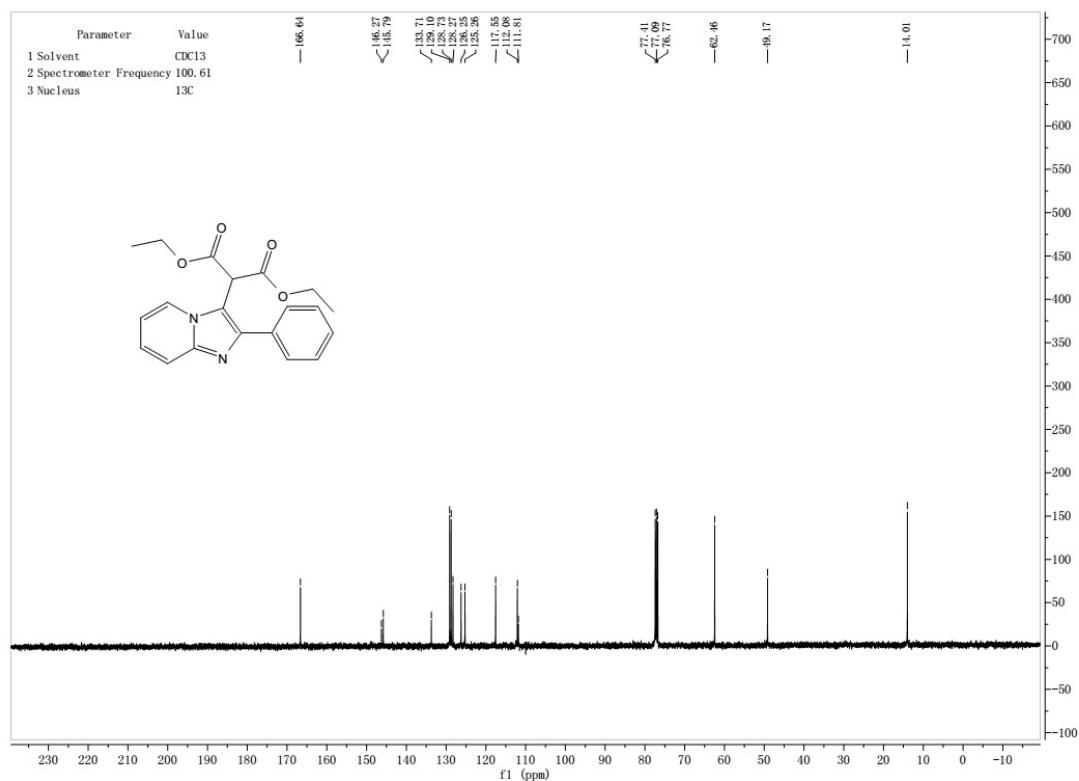
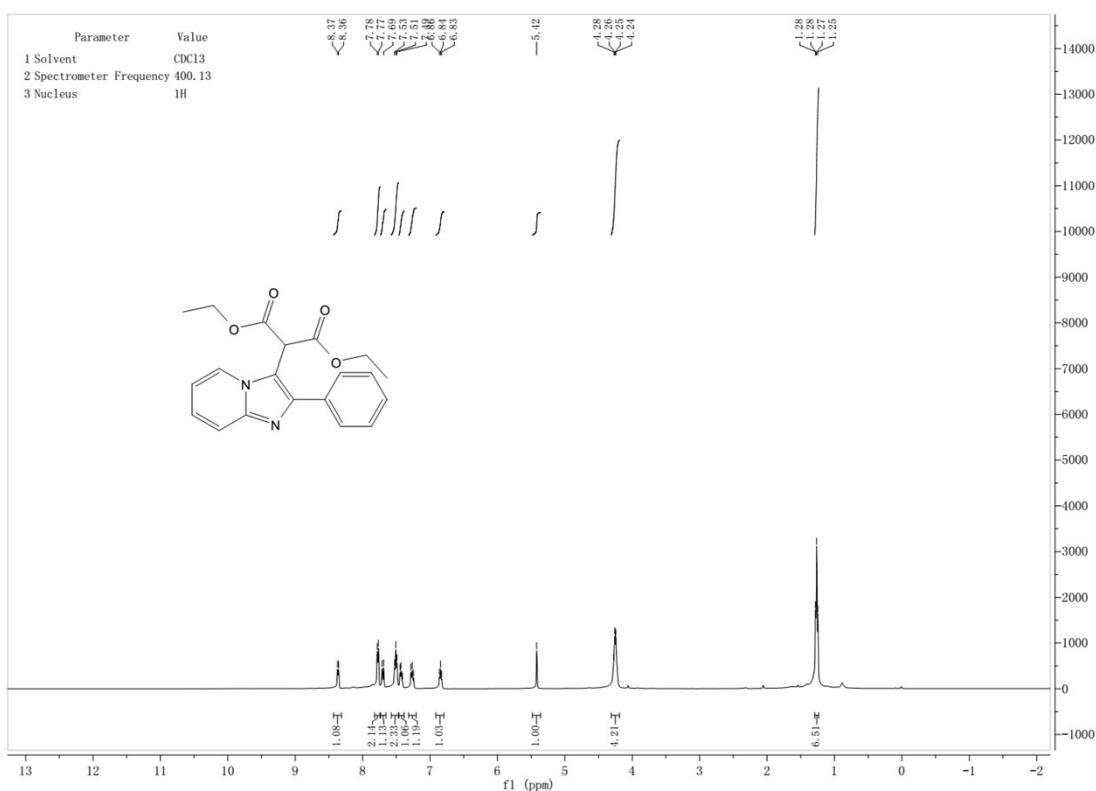
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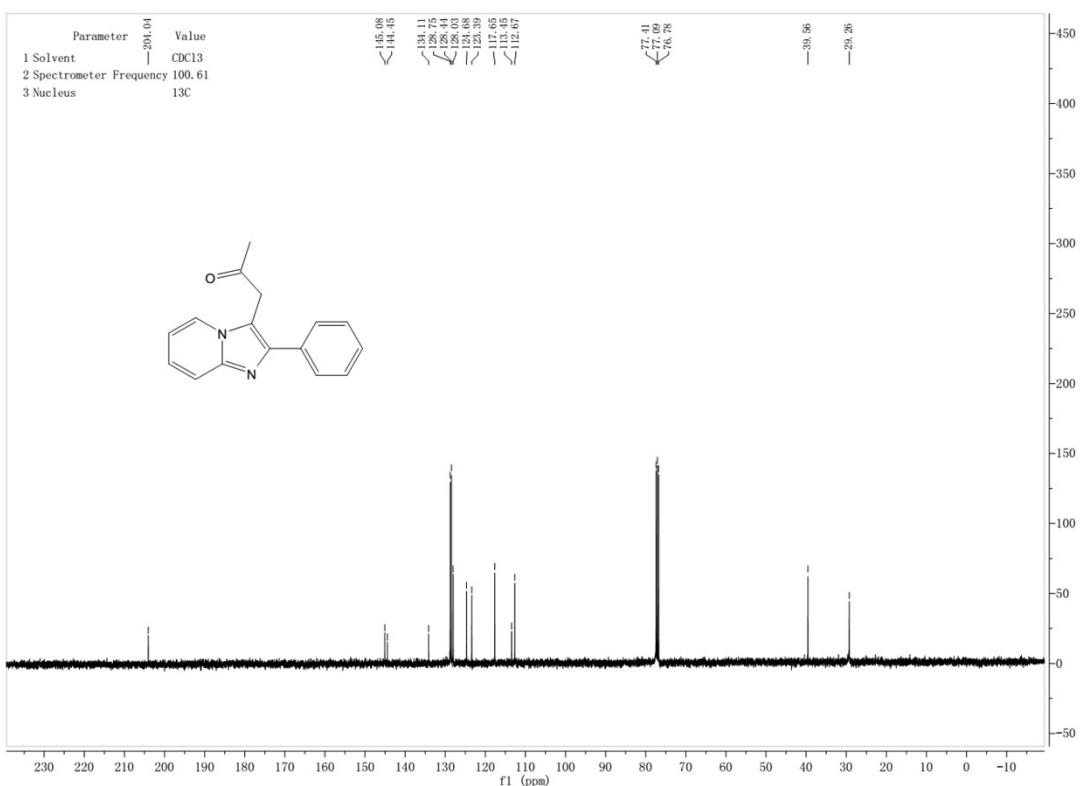
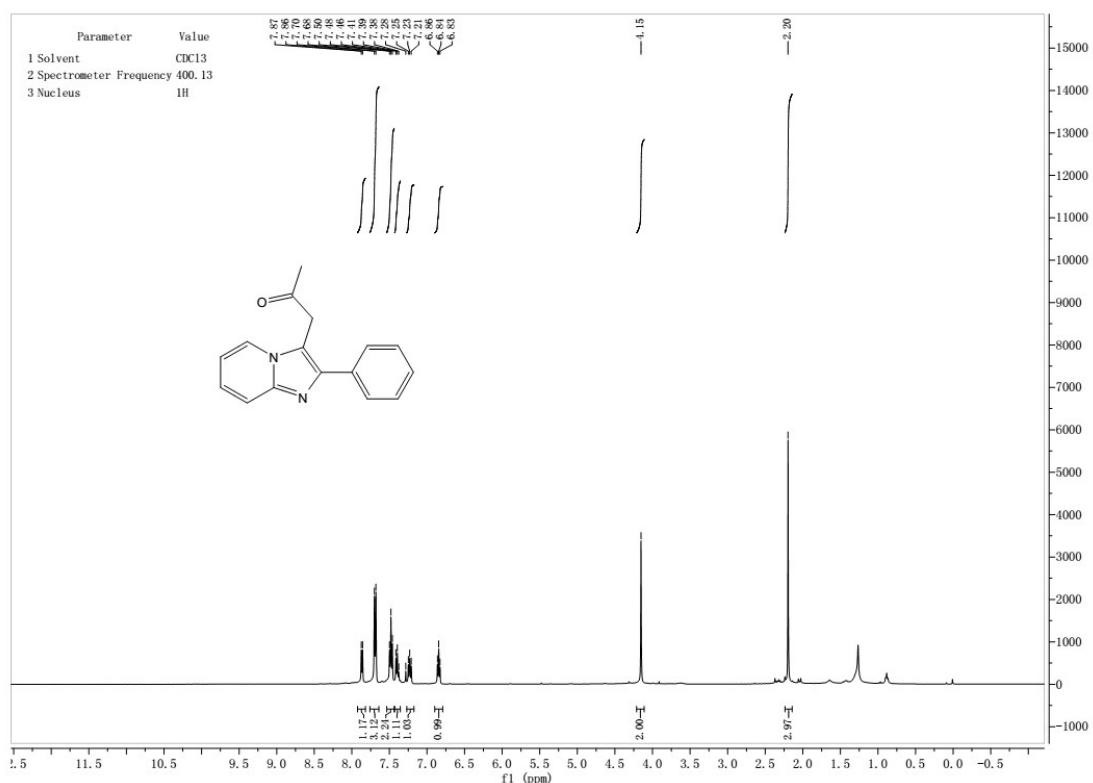
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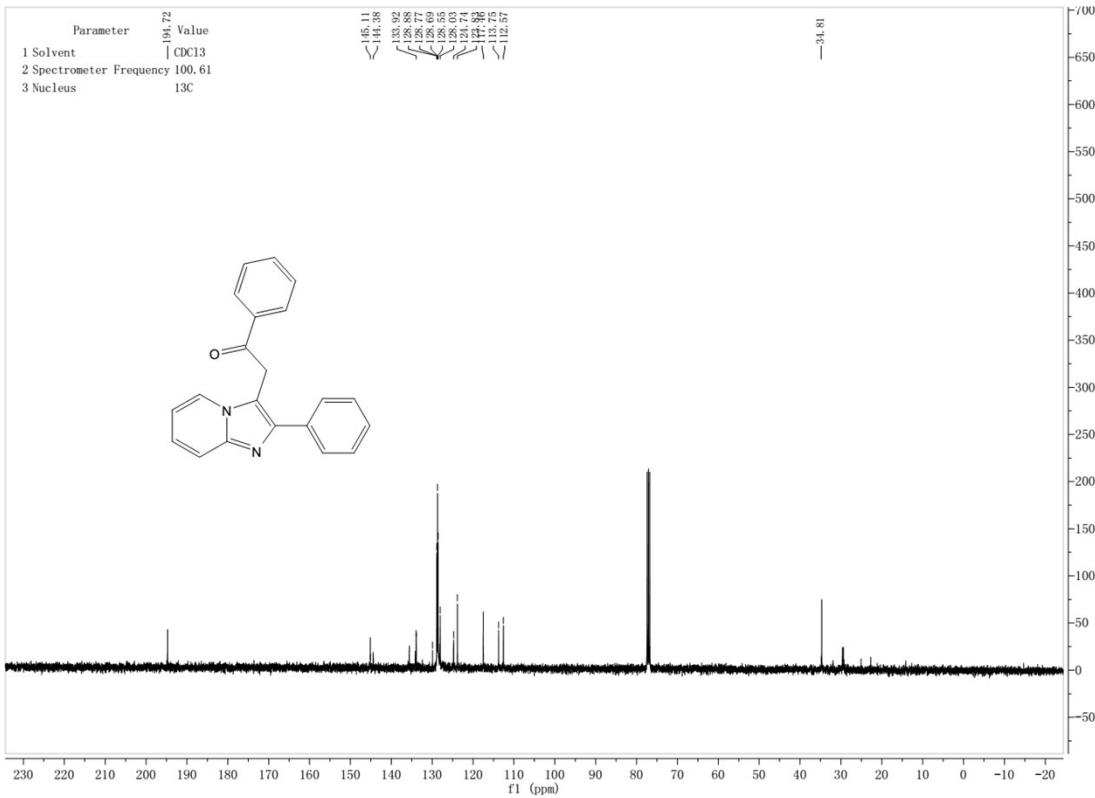
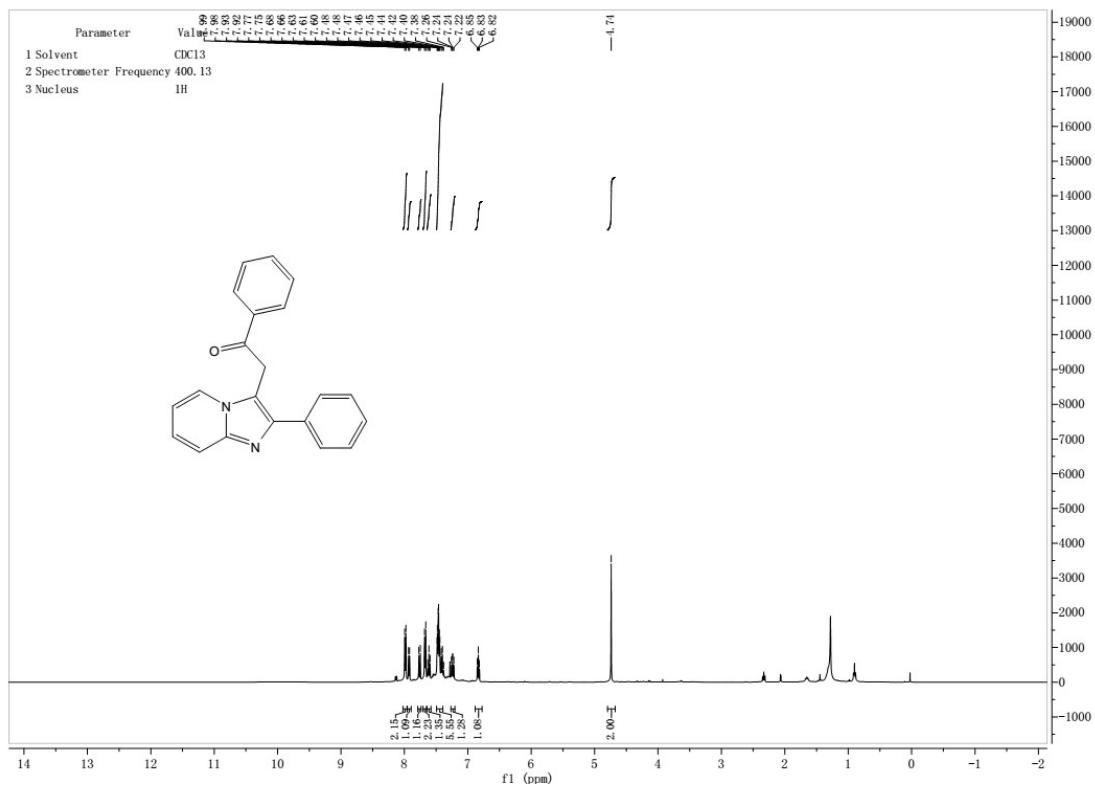
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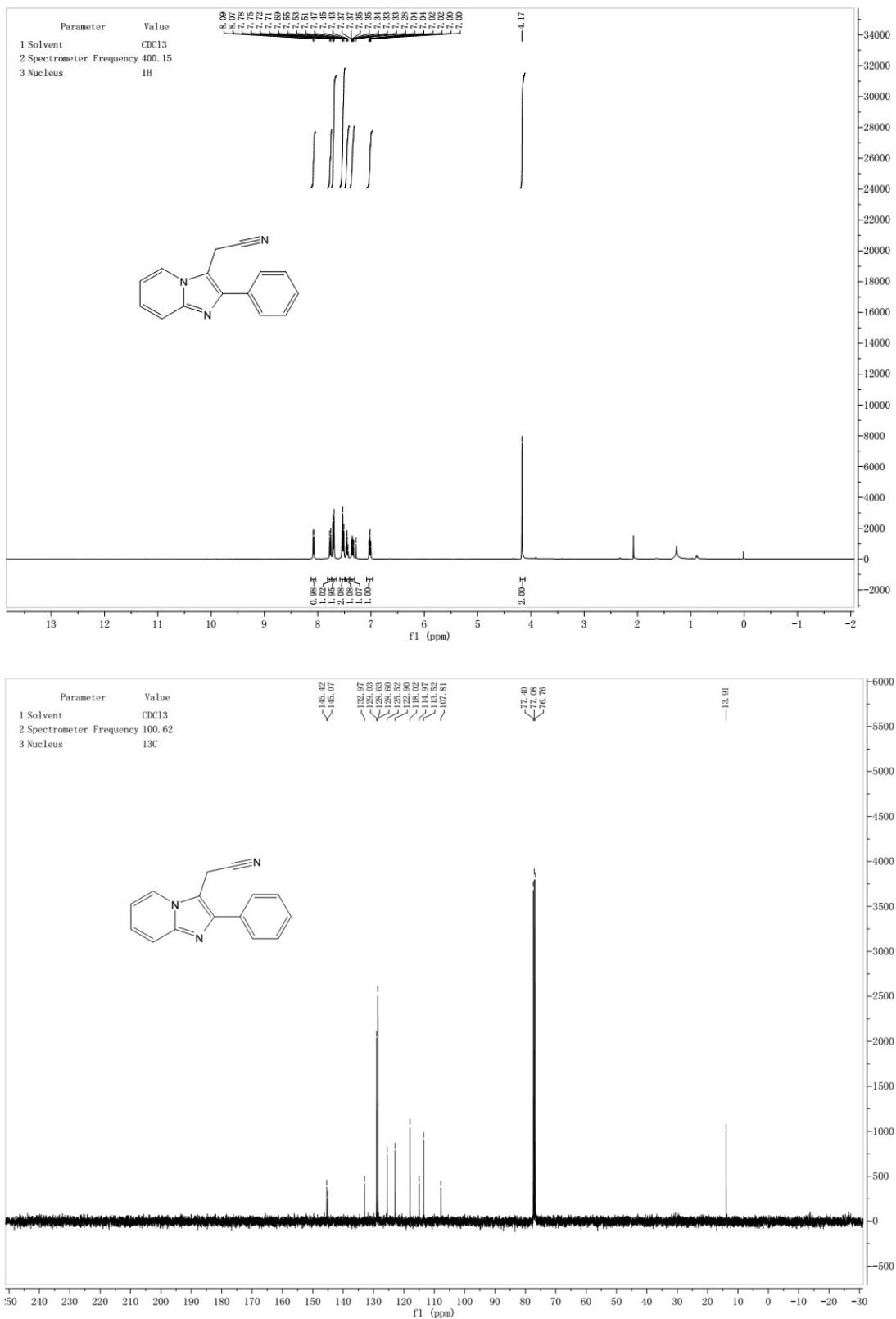
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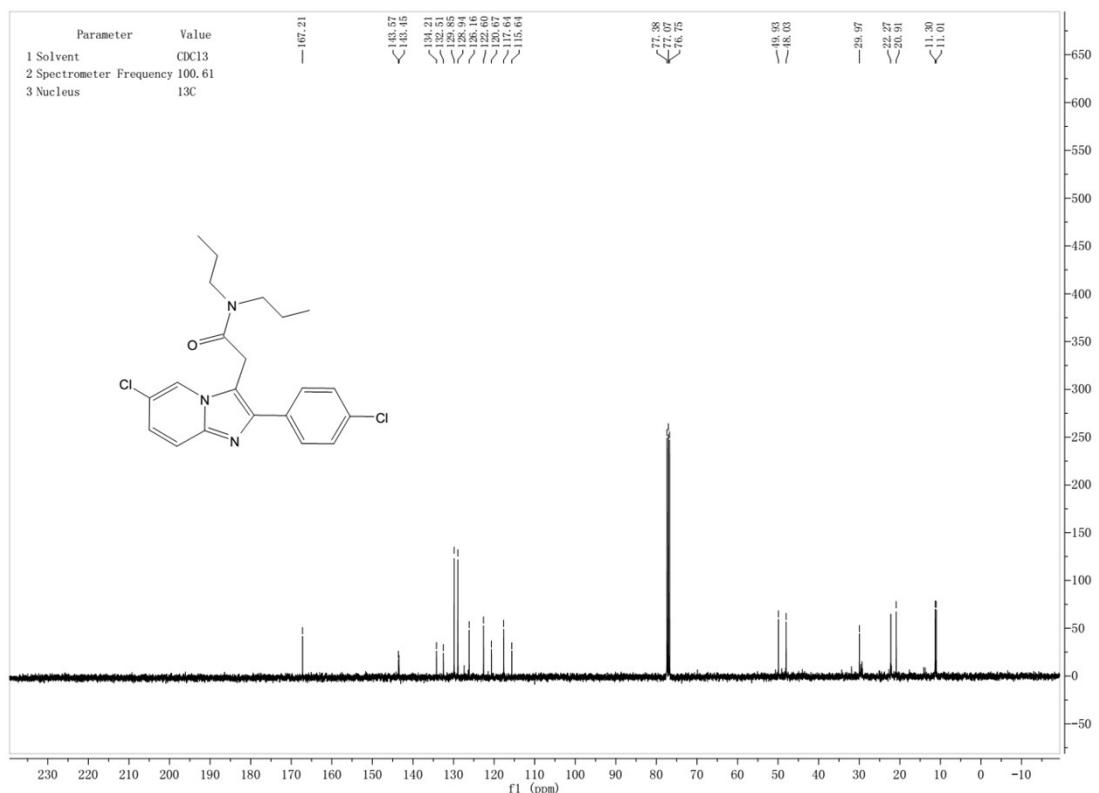
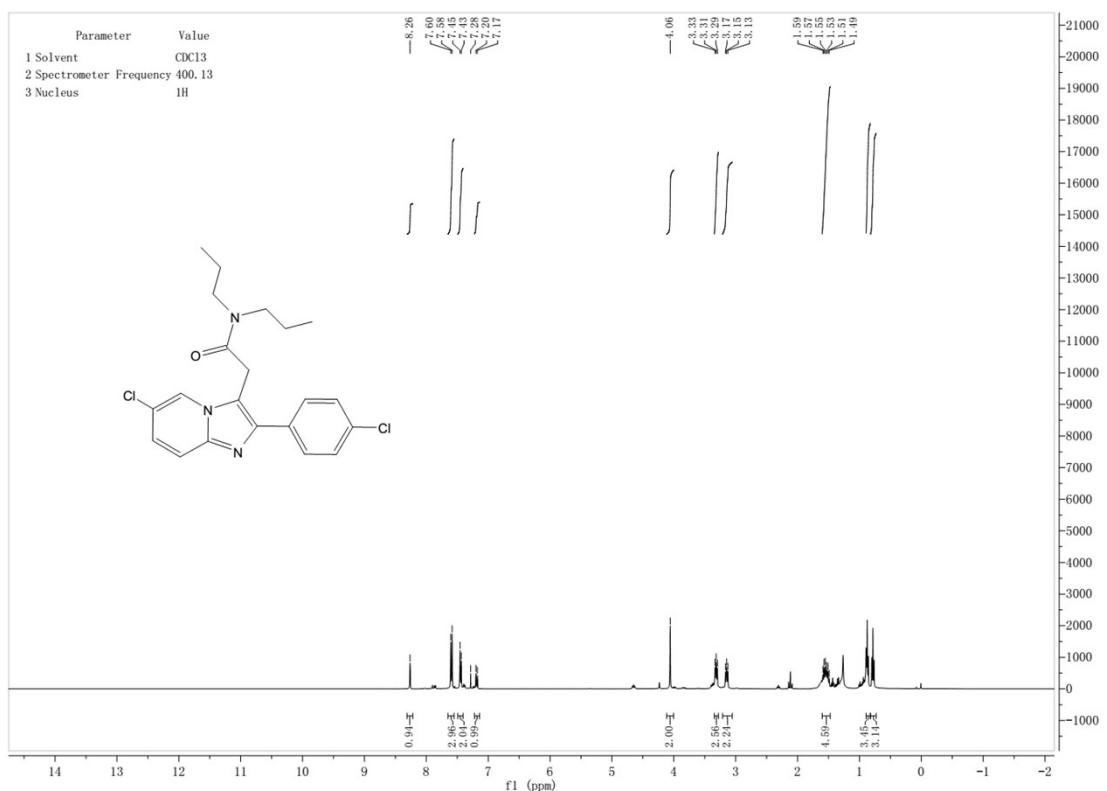
**3r**



**3s**



### Alpidem (A):



## Zolpidem(B):

