

Supplementary Information

Synthesis of *N*-Aryl 2-Quinolinones via Intramolecular C(sp²)-H Amidation of Knoevenagel Products

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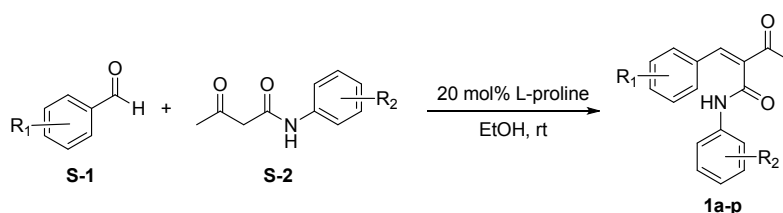
CONTENTS

1. General information.....	1
2. Preparation of Knoevenagel products 1	1
3. Preparation of <i>N</i> -aryl 2-quinolinones 2	6
4. Synthesis of chalcone analogue 4	12
5. Intermolecular kinetic isotopic effect (KIE) experiments.....	13
6. ¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR spectra.....	14
7. References.....	53

1. General information

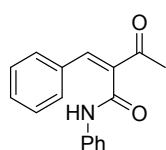
^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AVIII-400 spectrometer, Bruker ultrashield 500 spectrometer or Varian 600M spectrometer at ambient temperature with CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ as the solvent. ^1H NMR spectra were referenced to tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ($\delta = 2.50$ ppm), and ^{13}C NMR spectra were referenced to CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.0$ ppm) or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ($\delta = 39.52$ ppm). High-resolution mass spectra were recorded by Bruker Apex IV Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometer. All melting points were measured on a WRS-2A melting point apparatus and uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets on a Nicolet Nexus 470 FTIR spectrometer.

2. Preparation of Knoevenagel products **1**¹⁻⁶



A mixture of arylaldehyde **S-1** (25 mmol, 1.25 equiv), acetoacetanilide **S-2** (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and L-proline (4 mmol, 0.2 equiv) in EtOH (10 mL) was stirred at rt for 2–4 h (monitored by TLC). After completion of reaction, water was added slowly into the mixture to precipitate the product. The solid was filtrated, washed with small amount of petroleum ether/EtOAc (5:1), and dried under vacuum over anhydrous CaCl_2 to afford the product **1**.

The product was pure enough for NMR analysis. According to the literatures,³⁻⁶ ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts of the ketone carbon and the amide carbon in the (*Z*)-isomer were in the regions about 194–196 ppm and 165–166 ppm, respectively, while that in the (*E*)-isomers were in the regions about 206–207 ppm and 160–161 ppm. Therefore, the NMR data below indicated that products **1a-p** were obtained as (*Z*)-isomers.

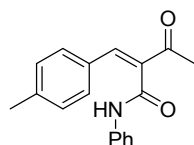


(*Z*)-2-benzylidene-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (**1a**)¹⁻³

Yield: 4.2 g, 79%. White solid, mp 117–118 °C (lit.¹ 120 °C, lit.² 119 °C).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 10.40 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.68–7.58 (m, 4H), 7.44–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

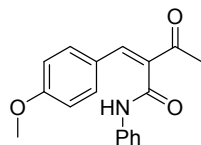
^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 196.3, 165.5, 139.5, 138.8, 137.8, 133.3, 130.5, 129.8, 128.92, 128.86, 123.8, 119.4, 26.3.



(*Z*)-2-(4-methylbenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (**1b**)³

Yield: 4.6 g, 82%. White solid, mp 139–141 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.38 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.64–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12–7.07 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H).
 ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.2, 165.7, 140.7, 139.6, 138.9, 137.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 128.9, 123.7, 119.4, 26.2, 21.0.

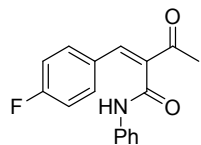


(Z)-2-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1c)³

Yield: 4.4 g, 75%. White solid, mp 102–104 °C.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.60 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.1, 166.0, 161.2, 139.5, 139.0, 135.6, 132.0, 128.9, 125.6, 123.7, 119.4, 114.5, 55.4, 26.2.



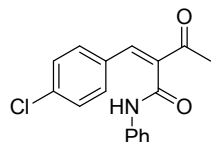
(Z)-2-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1d)

Yield: 4.0 g, 71%. White solid, mp 107–110 °C

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.75–7.69 (m, 3H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.26 (m, 4H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.3, 165.5, 163.2 (d, J = 249.7 Hz), 138.8, 138.4, 137.5, 132.2 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 130.0 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 128.9, 123.8, 119.4, 116.1 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 26.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 284.1081, found 284.1082.

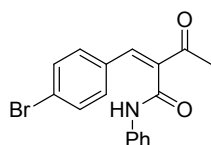


(Z)-2-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1e)⁴

Yield: 5.3 g, 88%. White solid, mp 121–122 °C (lit.⁴ 122–127 °C).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.45 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.60 (m, 4H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.3, 165.3, 138.7, 138.2, 135.2, 132.3, 131.4, 129.1, 128.9, 123.9, 119.5, 26.4.



(Z)-2-(4-bromobenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1f)

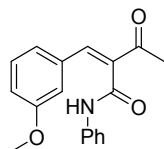
Yield: 5.8 g, 84%. White solid, mp 120–122 °C

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.67–7.56 (m, 6H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.3, 165.3, 138.7, 138.4, 138.3, 132.7, 132.0, 131.5, 128.9, 124.1,

123.9, 119.5, 26.4.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{17}H_{15}BrNO_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 344.0281, found 344.0285.



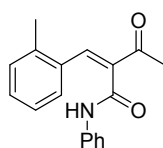
(Z)-2-(3-methoxybenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1g)

Yield: 4.7 g, 80%. White solid, mp 93–95 °C

1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.07 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.97 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.2, 165.5, 159.3, 139.4, 138.8, 137.9, 134.6, 129.9, 128.8, 123.8, 122.5, 119.3, 116.5, 114.4, 55.0, 26.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{18}NO_3$ $[M + H]^+$ 296.1281, found 296.1284.

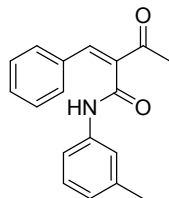


(Z)-2-(2-methylbenzylidene)-3-oxo-N-phenylbutanamide (1h)⁵

Yield: 3.6 g, 64%. White solid, mp 105–107 °C.

1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.16–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.1, 165.2, 138.9, 138.6, 138.1, 137.9, 132.7, 130.4, 129.9, 128.7, 127.5, 126.0, 123.7, 119.5, 26.5, 19.6.

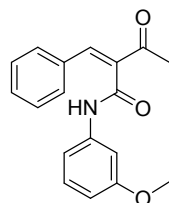


(Z)-2-benzylidene-3-oxo-N-(m-tolyl)butanamide (1i)⁵

Yield: 3.4 g, 61%. White solid, mp 108–109 °C (lit.⁵ 109–115 °C).

1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.33 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.67–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.45–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 196.2, 165.5, 139.4, 138.7, 138.1, 137.8, 133.3, 130.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 124.5, 119.9, 116.6, 26.3, 21.2.



(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1j)

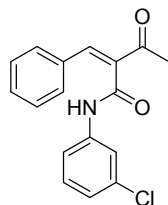
Yield: 3.7 g, 63%. Pale yellow solid, mp 96–99 °C

1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.39 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.68–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 1H), 6.71–6.66 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H),

2.44 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 196.2, 165.5, 159.5, 139.9, 139.5, 137.7, 133.3, 130.5, 129.8, 129.7, 128.9, 111.7, 109.1, 105.2, 55.0, 26.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 296.1281, found 296.1283.



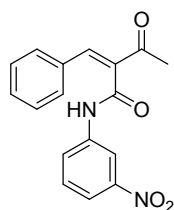
(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1k)

Yield: 5.1 g, 85%. Pale yellow solid, mp 98–101 °C

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.61 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.15 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 196.2, 165.9, 140.2, 140.0, 137.4, 133.17, 133.16, 130.64, 130.61, 129.7, 129.0, 123.5, 118.7, 117.7, 26.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 300.0786, found 300.0790.



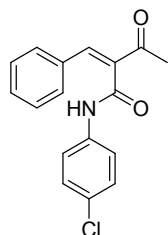
(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1l)

Yield: 4.6 g, 74%. Yellow solid, mp 147–148 °C

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.91 (s, 1H), 8.67 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.04–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.71–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.50–7.34 (m, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 196.3, 166.2, 148.0, 140.4, 139.8, 137.3, 133.1, 130.7, 130.4, 129.7, 129.0, 125.3, 118.4, 113.3, 26.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 311.1026, found 311.1028.

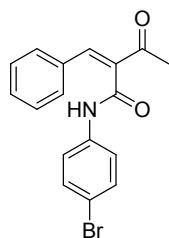


(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1m)⁵

Yield: 5.2 g, 87%. White solid, mp 155–158 °C (lit.⁵ 153–156 °C).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.54 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.61 (m, 4H), 7.44–7.37 (m, 5H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 196.3, 165.6, 139.9, 137.7, 137.5, 133.2, 130.6, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 120.9, 26.3.



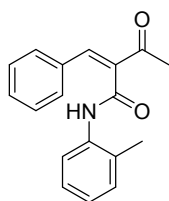
(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1n)

Yield: 6.1 g, 89%. White solid, mp 163–166 °C

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.54 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.64–7.58 (m, 4H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 196.2, 165.6, 139.9, 138.1, 137.5, 133.2, 131.7, 130.6, 129.7, 128.9, 121.3, 115.4, 26.3.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₅BrNO₂ [M + H]⁺ 344.0281, found 344.0284.

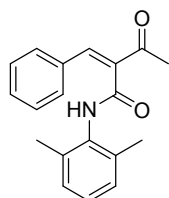


(Z)-2-benzylidene-3-oxo-N-(o-tolyl)butanamide (1o)⁷

Yield: 4.2 g, 75%. White solid, mp 137–138 °C (lit. ⁶135 °C).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.82 (s, 1H), 7.76–7.66 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.38 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.08 (m, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 196.2, 165.8, 139.3, 138.1, 135.5, 133.5, 132.3, 130.4, 129.8, 128.9, 126.0, 125.7, 125.3, 26.4, 17.7.



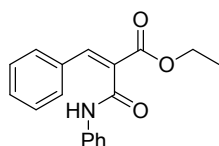
(Z)-2-benzylidene-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-3-oxobutanamide (1p)

Yield: 4.5 g, 77%. White solid, mp 183–184 °C

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.65 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.76–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.43 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.7 Hz, 3H), 7.09–7.01 (m, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 196.8, 164.8, 140.2, 138.9, 135.3, 134.0, 133.7, 130.3, 129.8, 128.7, 127.8, 126.4, 26.3, 18.3.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₂ [M + H]⁺ 294.1489, found 294.1493.



(E)-ethyl 3-phenyl-2-(phenylcarbamoyl)acrylate (1q)⁵

Prepared in a similar procedure from benzaldehyde and ethyl 3-oxo-3-(phenylamino)propanoate.

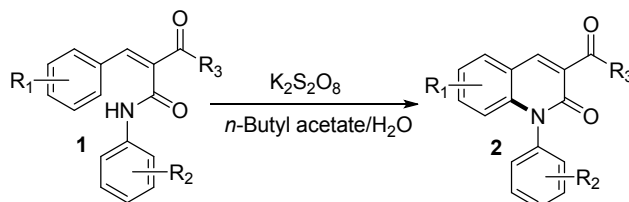
Yield: 3.0 g, 51%. White solid, mp 154–157 °C (lit. ⁵ 150–158 °C).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.52 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.58 (m, 4H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 3H),

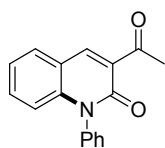
7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.07 (m, 1H), 4.25 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 164.5, 164.0, 139.9, 138.8, 132.9, 130.5, 129.7, 129.5, 128.9, 128.9, 123.8, 119.5, 61.1, 14.1.

3. Preparation of N-aryl 2-quinolinones 2



A mixture of substrate **1** (5 mmol) and $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (10.0 mmol or 20 mmol as indicated in Table 2) in *n*-Butyl acetate/ H_2O (1:19, 100 mL) was vigorously stirred under reflux. After completion of reaction, the mixture was cooled, and extracted with EtOAc (3×50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The residue obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc) to afford the product **2**.



3-acetyl-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2a)

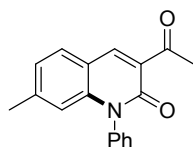
Yield: 958 mg, 73%. Yellow solid, mp 174–175 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3064, 3005, 1689, 1656, 1607, 1556, 1260, 1200, 758, 696.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.75 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.21 (m, 3H), 6.66 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.9, 161.0, 143.8, 142.7, 137.4, 132.7, 130.7, 130.4, 129.2, 129.1, 128.6, 122.9, 119.1, 116.0, 31.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 264.1019, found 264.1020.



3-acetyl-7-methyl-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2b)

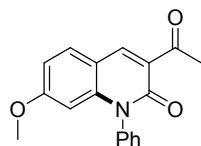
Yield: 1034 mg, 75%. Yellow solid, mp 184–185 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3063, 3034, 2990, 1681, 1657, 1614, 1550, 1364, 1200, 691.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.67–7.53 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.7, 161.1, 144.2, 143.7, 142.8, 137.4, 130.5, 130.3, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7, 124.4, 116.9, 115.8, 31.1, 22.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 278.1176, found 278.1174.



3-acetyl-7-methoxy-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2c)

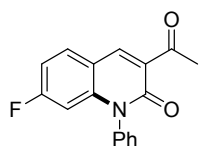
Yield: 677 mg, 46%. Yellow solid, mp 192–194 °C.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3044, 3005, 2948, 1680, 1656, 1611, 1545, 1221.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.69–7.60 (m, 3H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.27 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.8, 163.6, 161.5, 144.9, 143.9, 137.6, 132.6, 130.4, 129.2, 128.5, 125.7, 113.5, 111.4, 99.7, 55.5, 31.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 294.1125, found 278.1128.



3-acetyl-7-fluoro-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2d)

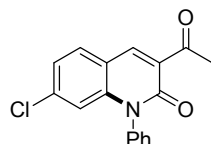
Yield: 940 mg, 67%. Yellow solid, mp 168–169 °C.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3081, 1683, 1658, 1613, 1560, 1428, 1357, 1199, 814, 768.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.77–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.98 (td, J = 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dd, J = 10.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.5, 165.3 (d, J = 254.4 Hz), 161.0, 144.5 (d, J = 11.8 Hz), 143.3, 137.1, 133.1 (d, J = 10.9 Hz), 130.6, 129.5, 128.4, 127.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 115.8, 111.6 (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 102.9 (d, J = 27.5 Hz), 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₃FN₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ 282.0925, found 282.0932.



3-acetyl-7-chloro-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2e)

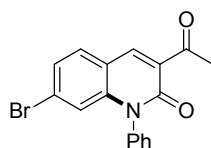
Yield: 774 mg, 52%. Yellow solid, mp 204–205 °C.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3051, 1684, 1760, 1604, 1548, 1194, 697.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.71–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.5, 160.8, 143.4, 143.1, 139.3, 136.8, 131.8, 130.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 123.6, 117.5, 115.8, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₃ClNO₂ [M + H]⁺ 298.0629, found 298.0633.



3-acetyl-7-bromo-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2f)

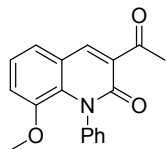
Yield: 819 mg, 48%. Yellow solid, mp 210–211 °C.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3048, 1684, 1657, 1600, 1545, 1410, 1354, 1219, 693.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.72–7.54 (m, 4H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.5, 160.7, 143.3, 143.1, 136.8, 131.8, 130.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.5, 127.8, 126.4, 118.8, 117.8, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 342.0124, found 342.0123.



3-acetyl-8-methoxy-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2g)

Yield: 382 mg, 26%. Yellow solid, mp 134–135 °C.

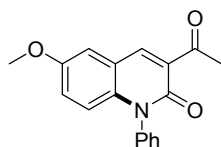
IR (cm^{-1}): 3037, 3003, 2937, 2838, 1681, 1650, 1612, 1458, 1269, 1231, 769.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.30–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.0, 161.8, 147.4, 144.2, 141.8, 132.5, 129.1, 128.4 (2 CH), 127.6, 127.5 (2 CH), 123.6, 123.5, 121.1, 116.7, 56.7, 31.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 294.1125, found 294.1128.

Note: 8-Unsubstituted-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-ones **2a–f** are characterized by two diagnostic *N*-phenyl carbon signals in the regions 128.4–128.6 (2 CH) ppm and 130.3–130.6 (2 CH) ppm. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of isomer **2g** shows the signals at 128.4 (2 CH) ppm and 127.5 (2 CH) ppm, which may be attributed to the substituent effect of 8- OCH_3 on the ^{13}C signals of adjacent *N*-phenyl group. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of isomer **2g'** shows the distinctive signals at 128.6 (2 CH) ppm and 130.4 (2 CH) ppm. Accordingly, **2g'** was assigned as 3-acetyl-6-methoxy-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one, and **2g** was assigned as 3-acetyl-8-methoxy-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one.



3-acetyl-6-methoxy-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2g')

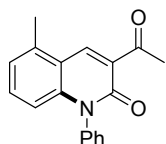
Yield: 507 mg, 35%. Yellow solid, mp 193–194 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3056, 2937, 2839, 1680, 1655, 1562, 1492, 1234.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.77–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, J = 9.3, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 160.5, 155.1, 143.2, 137.6, 137.5, 130.4 (2 CH), 129.4, 129.1, 128.6 (2 CH), 122.4, 119.7, 117.4, 111.0, 55.8, 31.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 294.1125, found 294.1129.



3-acetyl-5-methyl-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (2h)

Yield: 587 mg, 42%. Yellow solid, mp 170–171 °C.

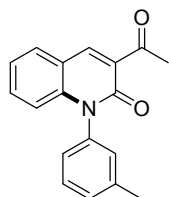
IR (cm^{-1}): 3052, 3011, 2974, 2926, 1680, 1651, 1596, 1554, 1458, 1356, 1216, 791, 695.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 3H),

7.07 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.2, 160.8, 143.3, 140.3, 138.8, 137.8, 132.6, 130.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.2, 124.3, 118.1, 114.4, 31.2, 19.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 278.1176, found 278.1178.



3-acetyl-1-(m-tolyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2i)

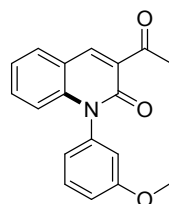
Yield: 996 mg, 72%. Yellow solid, mp 136–137 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3052, 3002, 2920, 1680, 1662, 1610, 1556, 1208, 755, 696.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.74 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.0, 161.0, 143.7, 142.8, 140.6, 137.3, 132.7, 130.7, 130.2, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 125.5, 122.8, 119.1, 116.1, 31.2, 21.4.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 278.1176, found 278.1179.



3-acetyl-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2j)

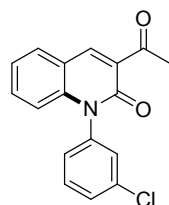
Yield: 629 mg, 43%. Yellow solid, mp 196–197 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3070, 2942, 2839, 1681, 1655, 1609, 1556, 1262, 1215.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.74 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.07 (m, 1H), 6.90–6.86 (m, 1H), 6.84–6.80 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.9, 161.2, 160.8, 143.8, 142.6, 138.5, 132.7, 131.1, 130.7, 129.1, 122.9, 120.6, 119.1, 116.1, 115.1, 114.0, 55.5, 31.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 294.1125, found 278.1126.



3-acetyl-1-(3-chlorophenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2k)

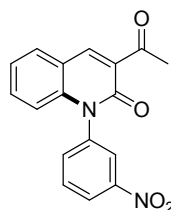
Yield: 1017 mg, 68%. Yellow solid, mp 140–141 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3073, 1686, 1652, 1606, 1557, 1449, 1355, 1264, 1217, 1200, 778, 689.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.19 (m, 3H), 6.66 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 160.8, 144.1, 142.3, 138.5, 136.0, 132.9, 131.3, 130.9, 129.6, 129.2, 130.0, 127.1, 123.2, 119.1, 115.8, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 298.0629, found 298.0631.



3-acetyl-1-(3-nitrophenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2l)

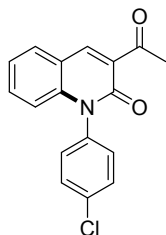
Yield: 981 mg, 64%. Yellow solid, mp 178–180 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3089, 1682, 1662, 1606, 1557, 1527, 1350, 1202, 762, 695.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.43 (m, 1H), 8.24 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 6.61 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.2, 160.7, 149.6, 144.4, 142.0, 138.5, 135.4, 133.2, 131.3, 131.2, 128.9, 124.6, 124.2, 123.6, 119.2, 115.3, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 309.0870, found 309.0875.



3-acetyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2m)

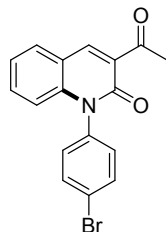
Yield: 895 mg, 60%. Yellow solid, mp 201–202 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3052, 1686, 1646, 1609, 1223, 764.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.66–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 3H), 6.68 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 160.9, 144.0, 142.4, 135.8, 135.3, 132.9, 130.9, 130.7, 130.1, 129.0, 123.1, 119.2, 115.7, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 298.0629, found 298.0635.



3-acetyl-1-(4-bromophenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2n)

Yield: 1003 mg, 59%. Yellow solid, mp 202–203 °C.

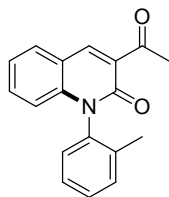
IR (cm^{-1}): 3049, 1686, 1649, 1608, 1559, 1262, 1223, 764.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.80–7.74 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.6, 160.8, 144.0, 142.4, 136.4, 133.7, 132.9, 130.9, 130.5, 129.0,

123.3, 123.1, 119.2, 115.7, 31.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{17}H_{13}BrNO_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 342.0124, found 342.0129.



3-acetyl-1-(o-tolyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2o)

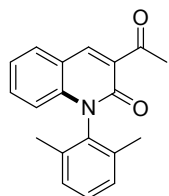
Yield: 905 mg, 65%. Yellow solid, mp 114–115 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3056, 3004, 2924, 1678, 1651, 1608, 1557, 1448, 1200, 756.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.17 (m, 1H), 6.58 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.0, 160.3, 143.8, 142.0, 136.3, 136.0, 133.0, 131.8, 130.8, 129.4, 129.2, 128.5, 127.9, 122.9, 119.2, 115.4, 31.2, 17.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 278.1176, found 278.1178.



3-acetyl-1-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2p)

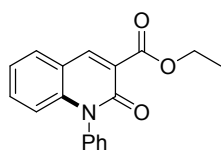
Yield: 884 mg, 61%. Yellow solid, mp 144–146 °C.

IR (cm^{-1}): 3070, 3046, 3007, 2946, 2920, 1682, 1654, 1609, 1557, 1447, 1201, 777.

1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.59 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.22 (m, 4H), 6.55 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.1, 159.7, 143.6, 141.2, 135.6, 135.2, 133.2, 130.9, 129.3, 129.1, 123.0, 119.2, 114.6, 31.0, 17.5.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{18}NO_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 292.1332, found 292.1335.



ethyl 2-oxo-1-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (2q)

Yield: 933 mg, 64%. Yellow solid, mp 144–145 °C.

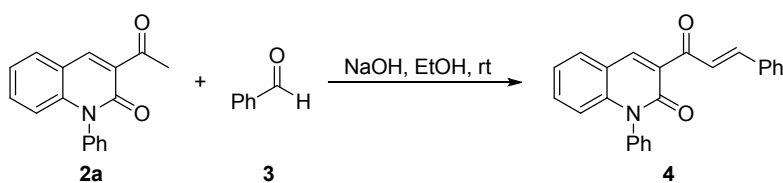
IR (cm^{-1}): 3066, 2982, 2899, 1743, 1698, 1665, 1616, 1564, 1451, 1273, 1212, 1066, 750.

1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.32–7.19 (m, 3H), 6.65 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 165.1, 159.0, 144.7, 142.5, 137.4, 132.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 123.2, 122.7, 118.7, 116.0, 61.6, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_3$ $[M + H]^+$ 294.1125, found 294.1127.

4. Synthesis of chalcone analogue 4



To a mixture of **2a** (263 mg, 1 mmol) and benzaldehyde **3** (159 mg, 1.5 mmol) in EtOH (15 mL), 30% NaOH aqueous solution (0.2 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The precipitate was filtrated and recrystallized from ethanol to give the desired product.

3-cinnamoyl-1-phenylquinolin-2(1H)-one (4)

Yield: 310 mg, 88%. Yellow solid, mp 216–218 °C.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3046, 1666, 1649, 1615, 1336.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.61 (m, 4H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

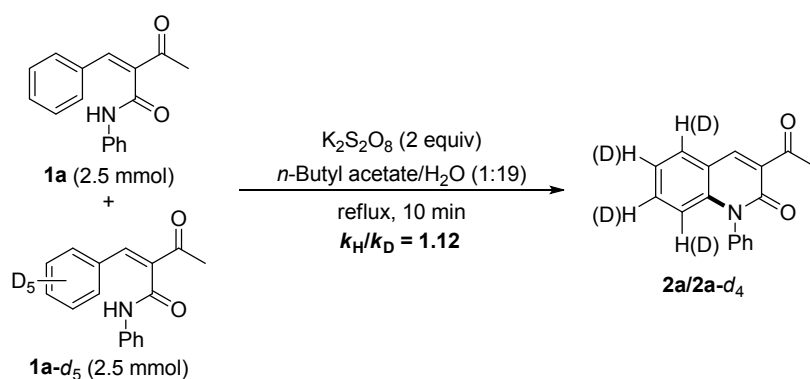
¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.5, 161.1, 144.8, 143.7, 142.7, 137.5, 135.2, 132.6, 130.6, 130.4, 130.3, 129.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.7, 128.7, 125.5, 122.9, 119.4, 116.0.

HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₁₈NO₂ [M + H]⁺ 352.1332, found 352.1337.

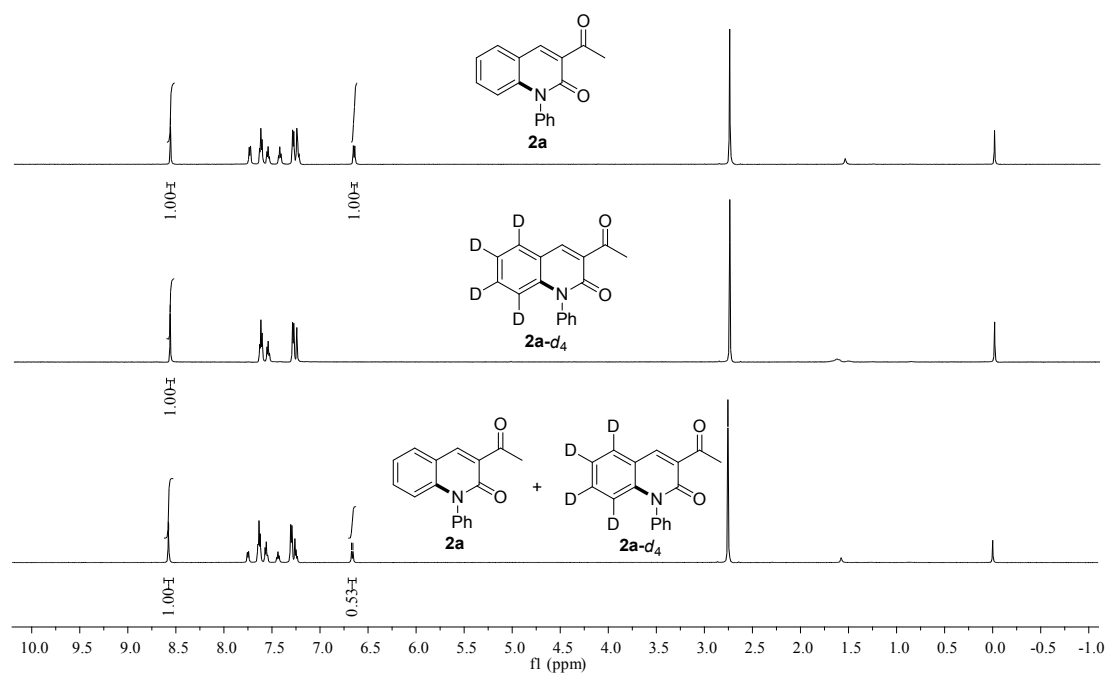
5. Intermolecular kinetic isotopic effect (KIE) experiments

The deuterated substrate **1a-d₅** was prepared from deuterated benzaldehyde **S-1a-d₅** following the procedure described for Knoevenagel products **1**. Yield: 3.5 g, 65%. White solid, mp 127–129 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.40 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.12–7.06 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

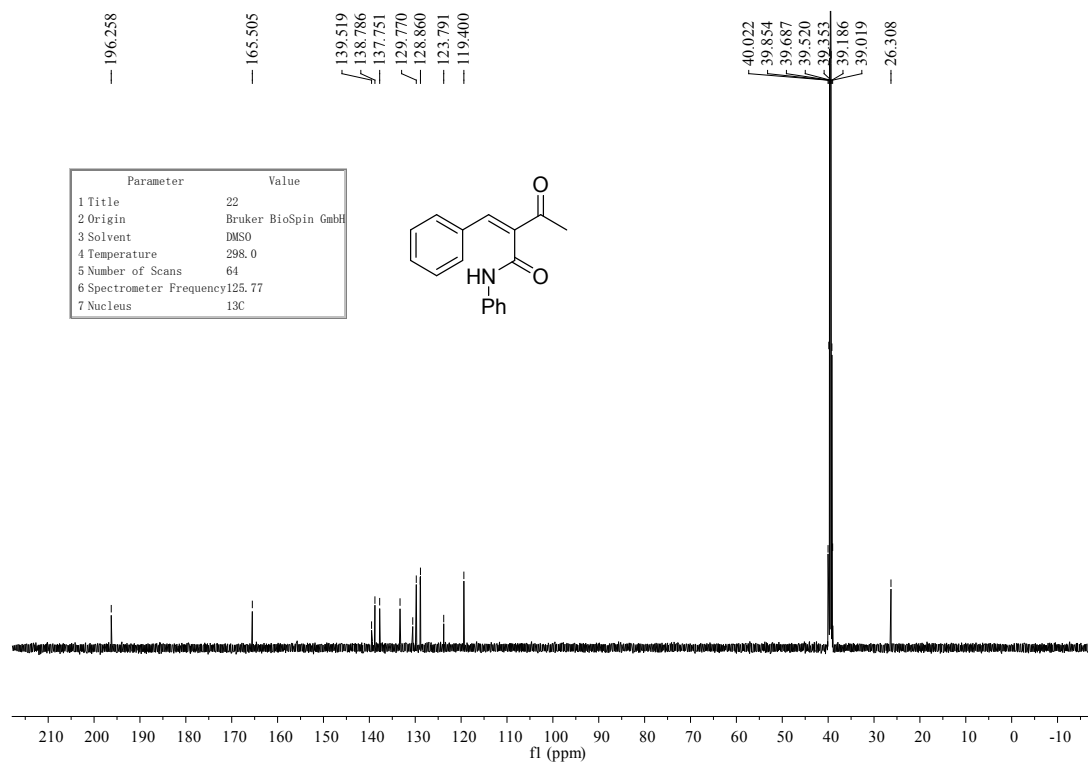
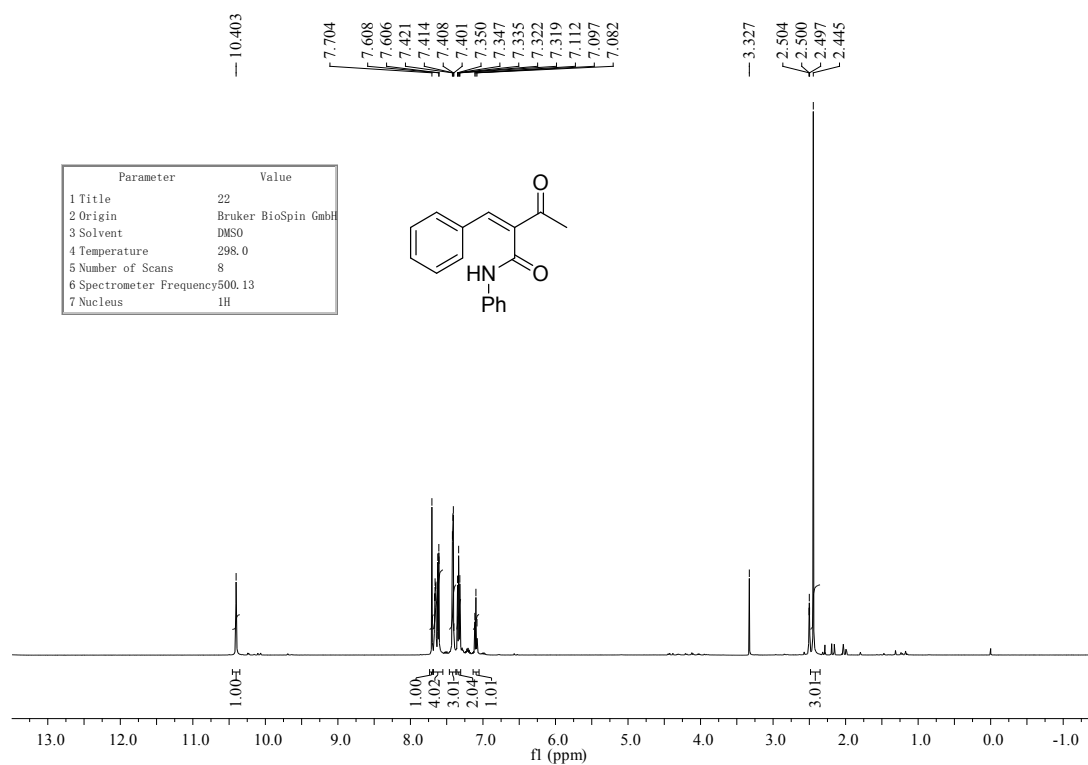
The deuterated product **2a-d₄** was prepared from **1a-d₅** following the procedure described for *N*-aryl 2-quinolinones **2**. The reaction went to completion in 0.5 h (monitored by TLC). Yield: 821 mg, 61%. Pale yellow solid, mp 178–179 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60–8.55 (m, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H).

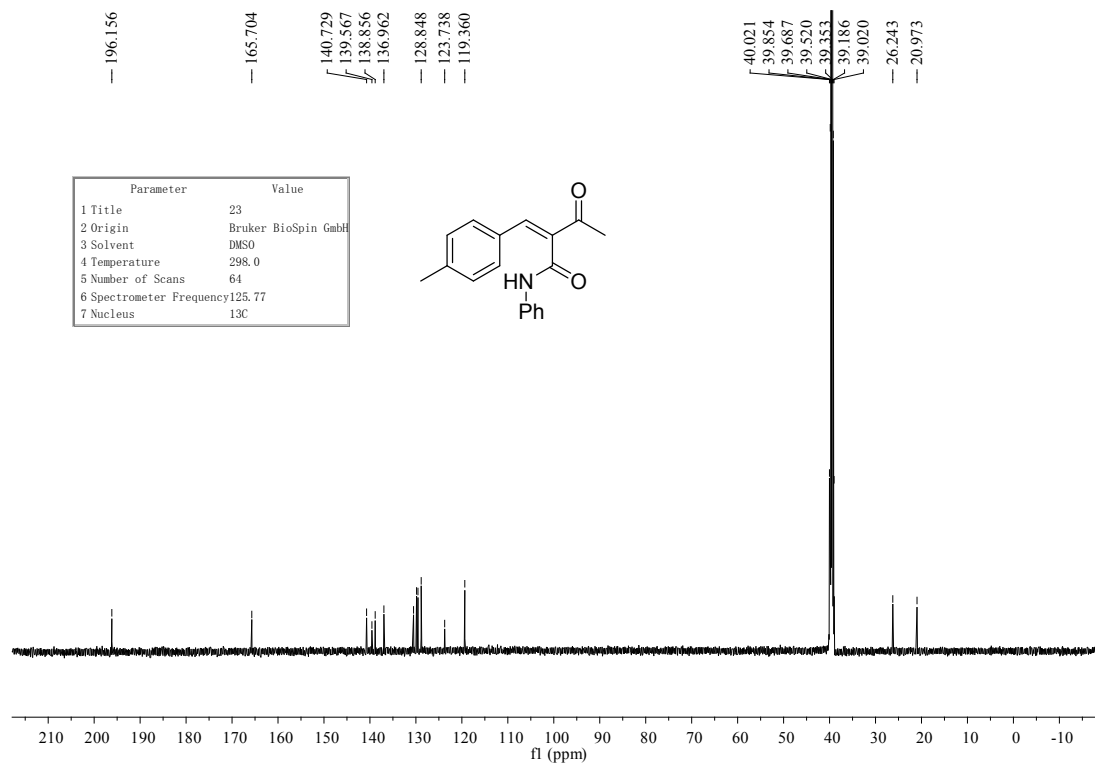
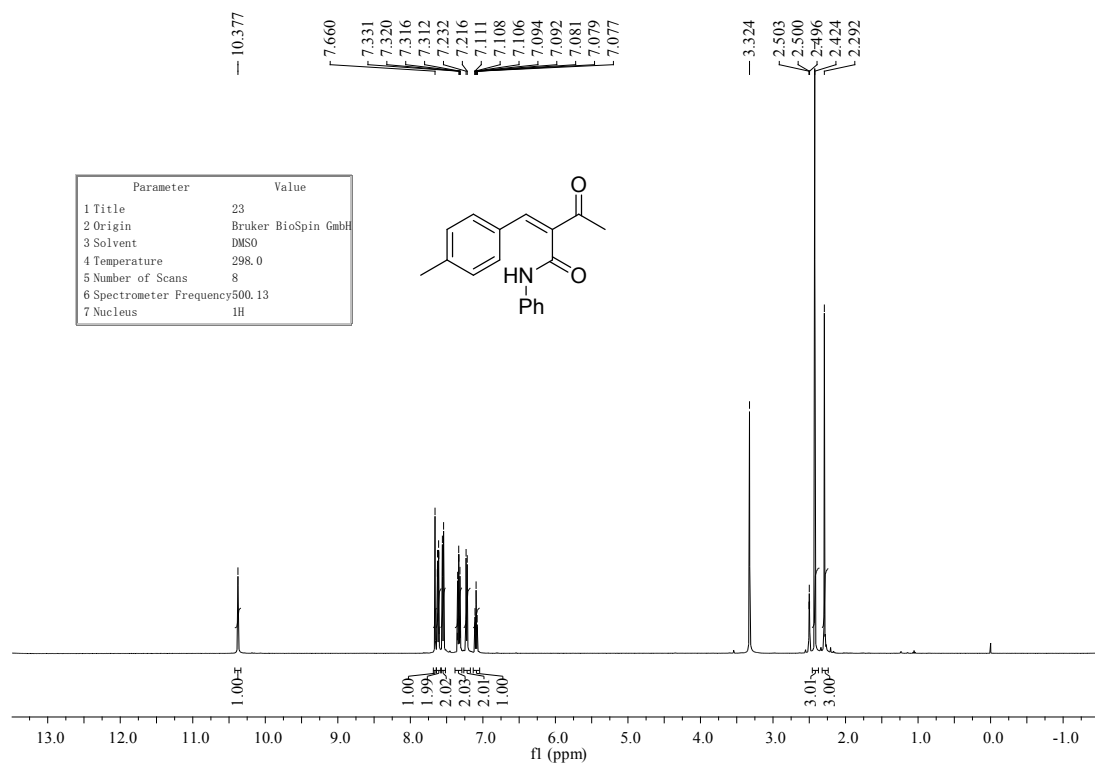


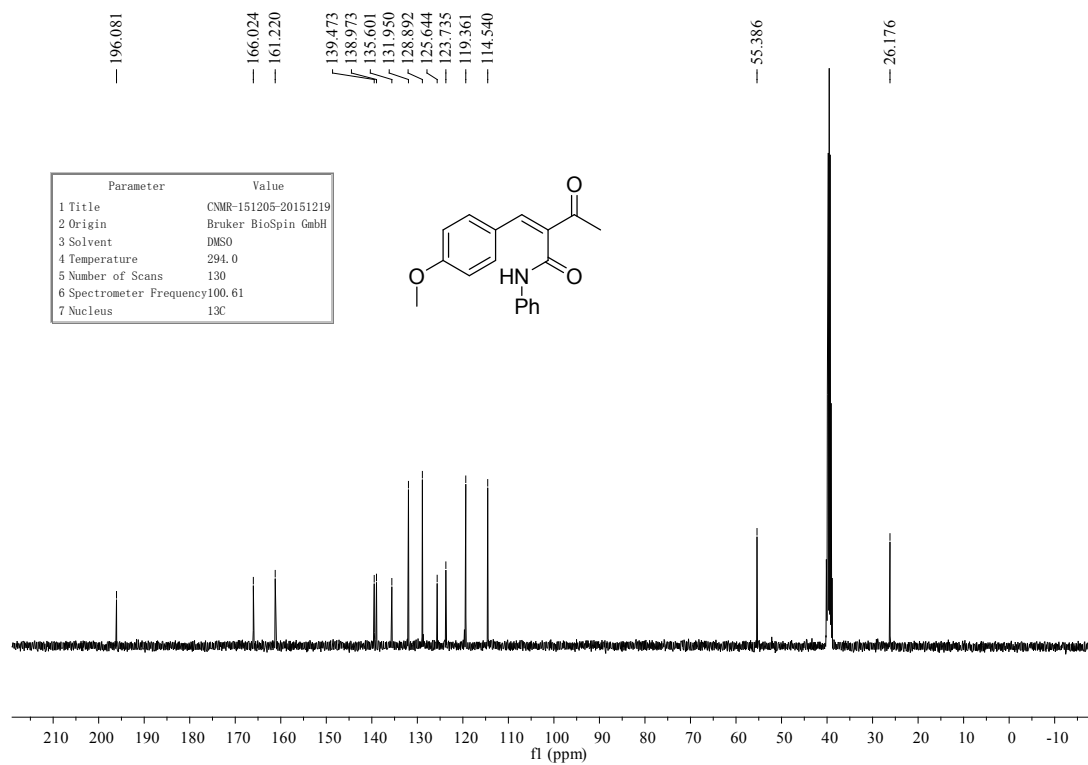
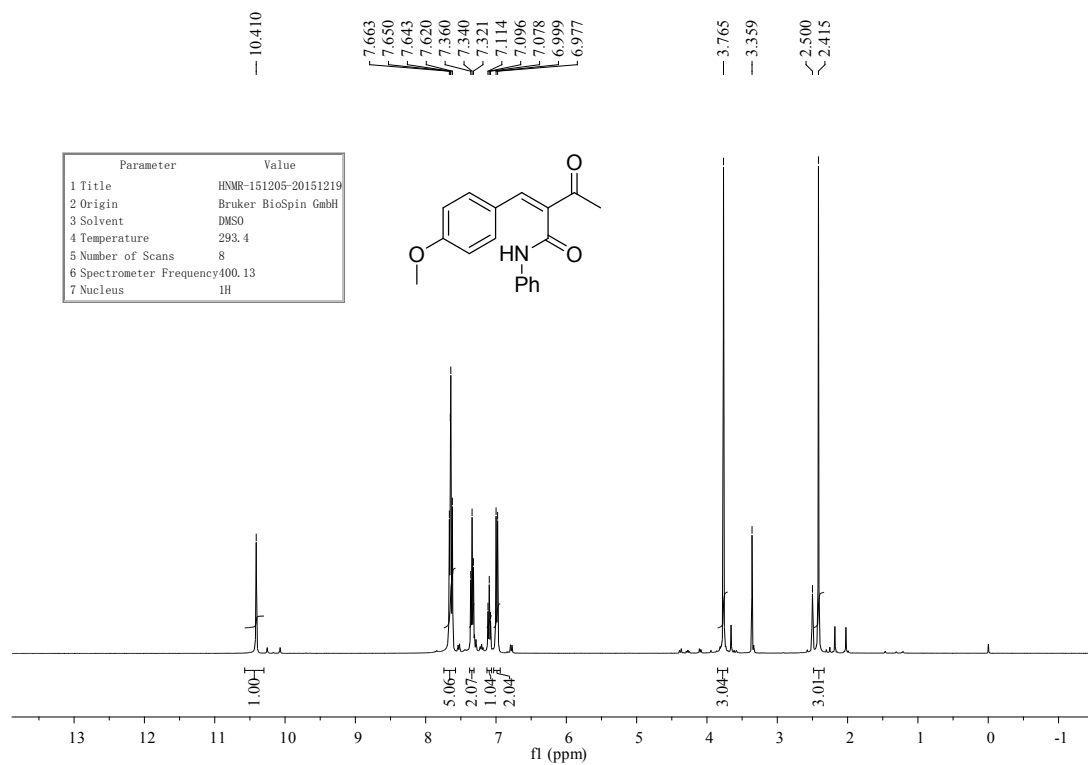
A mixture of substrate **1a** (2.5 mmol), **1a-d₅** (2.5 mmol), and $K_2S_2O_8$ (10.0 mmol) in *n*-Butyl acetate/H₂O (1:19, 100 mL) was vigorously stirred under reflux for 10 min. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3×50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether: EtOAc = 6:1) to afford a pale yellow solid. Yield: 357 mg, 27%. The KIE was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy by analyzing the ratio of **2a** and **2a-d₄**. $k_H/k_D = 0.53/(1-0.53) = 1.12$

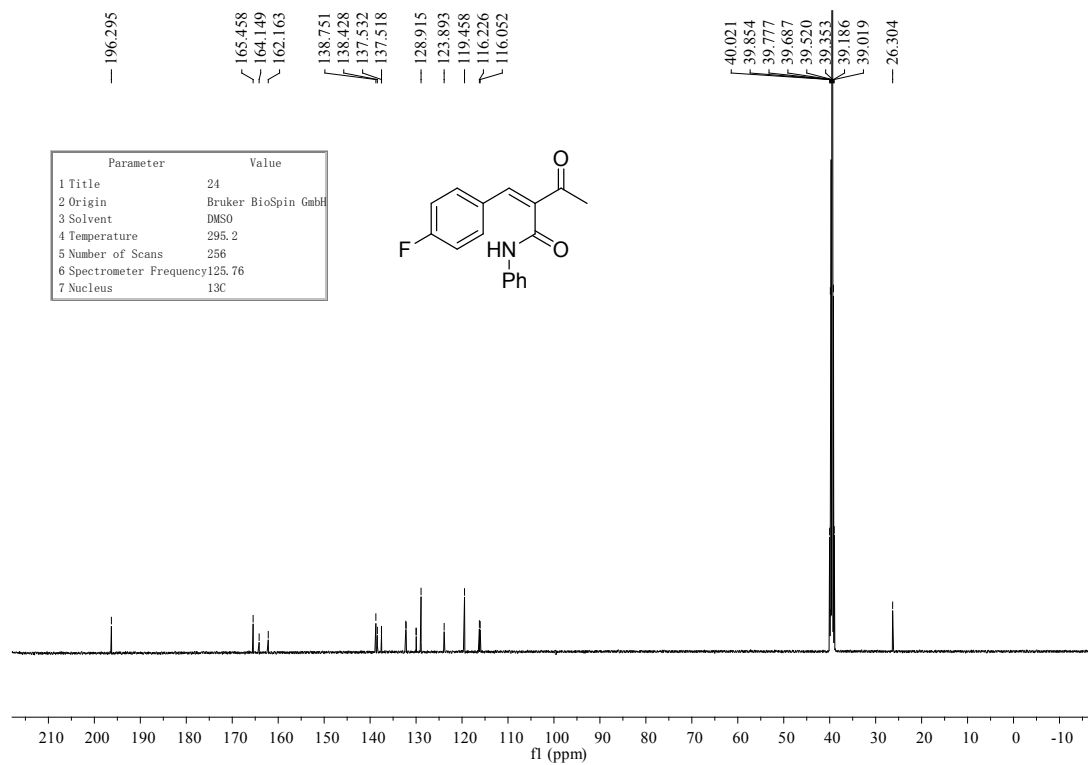
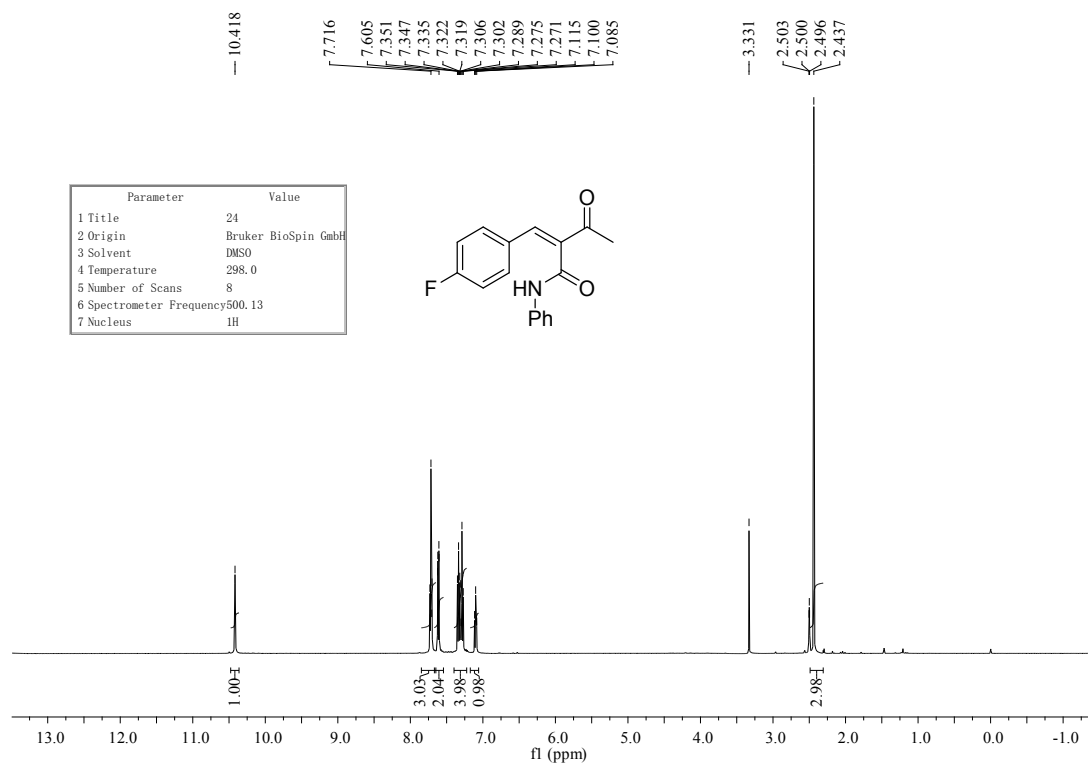


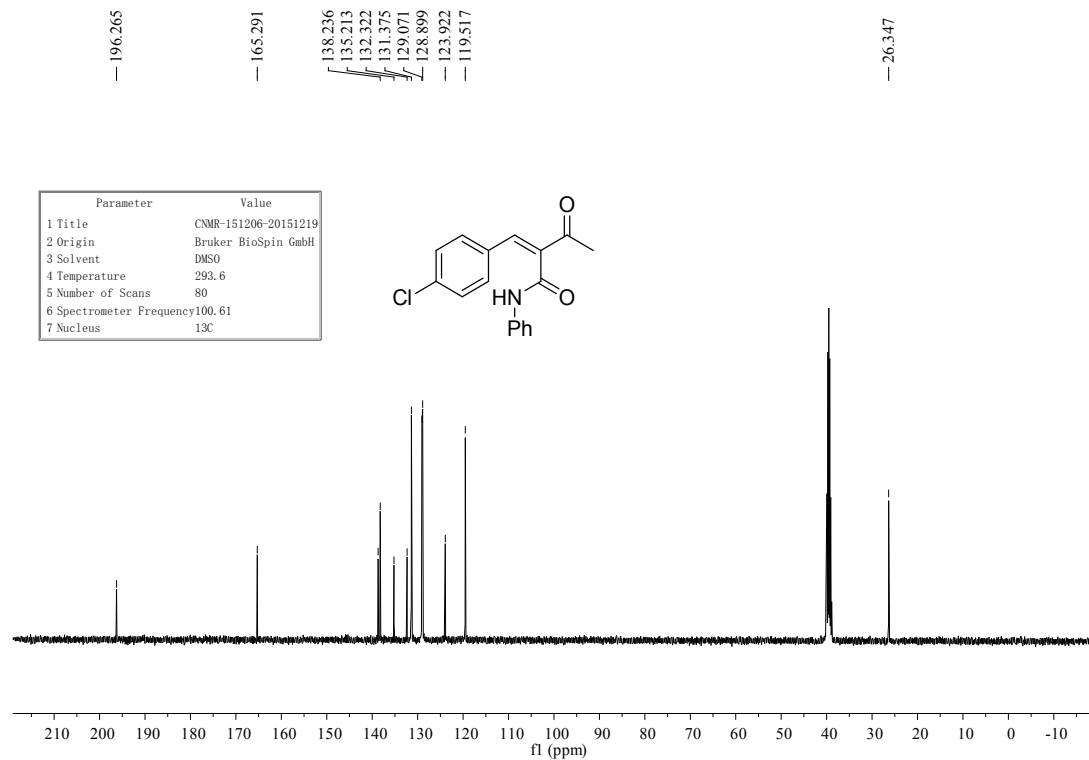
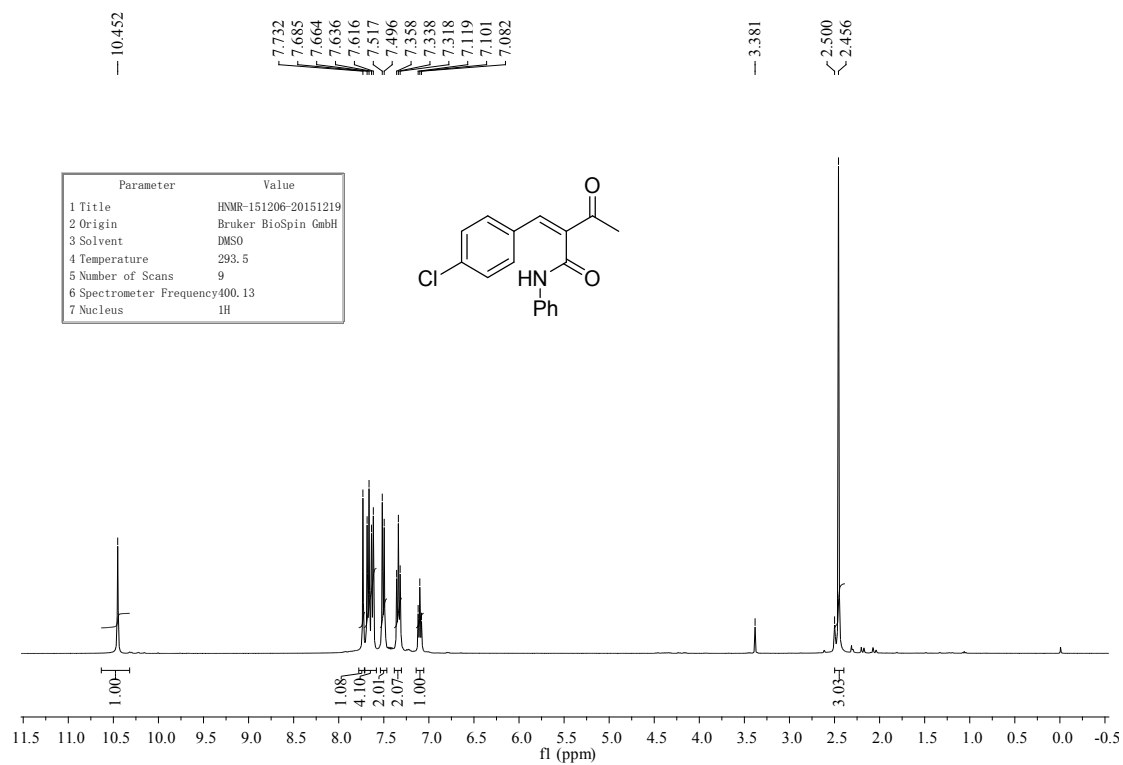
6. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra

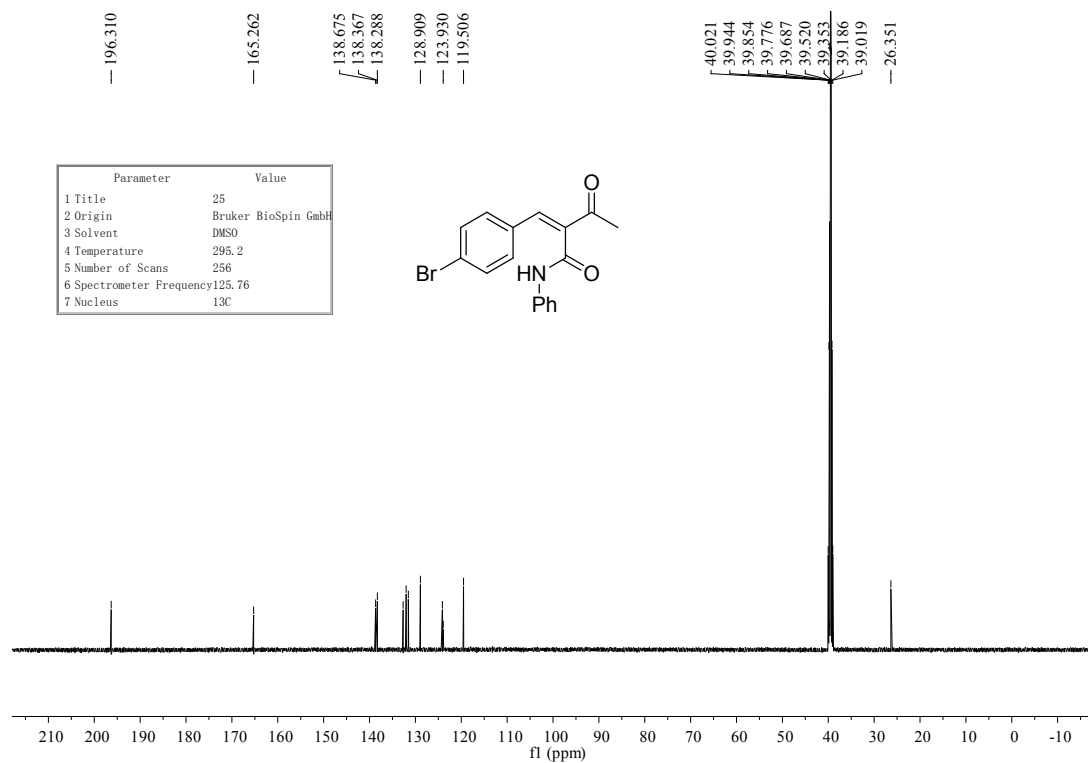
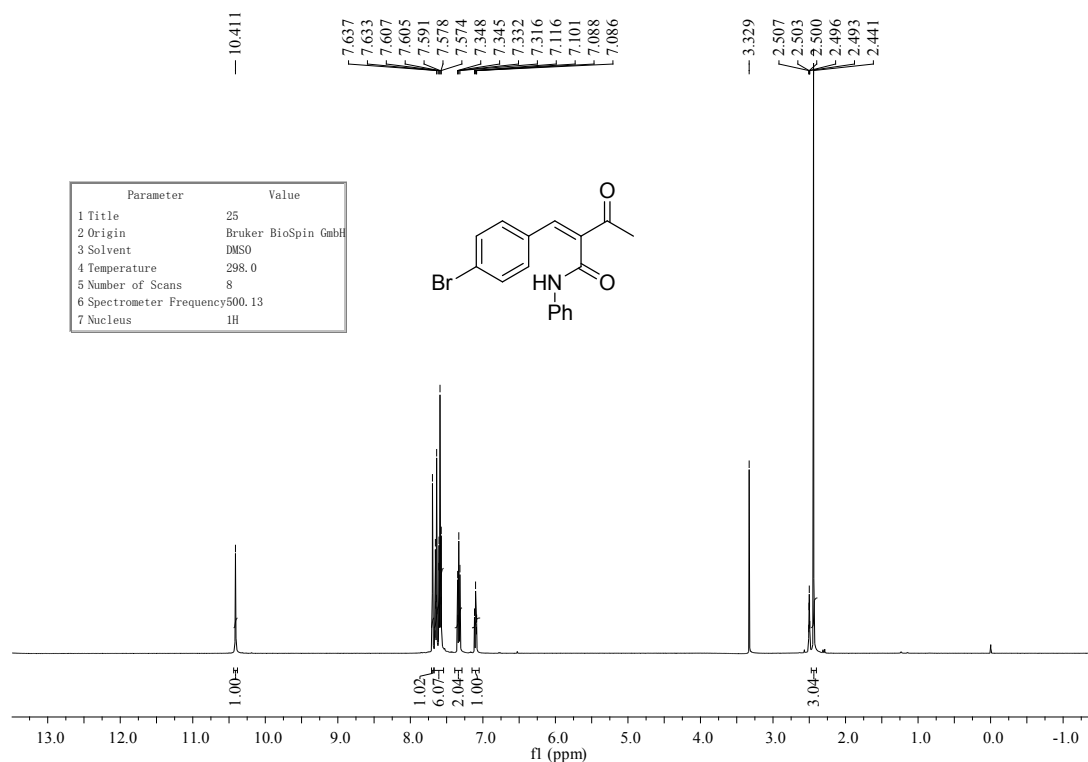


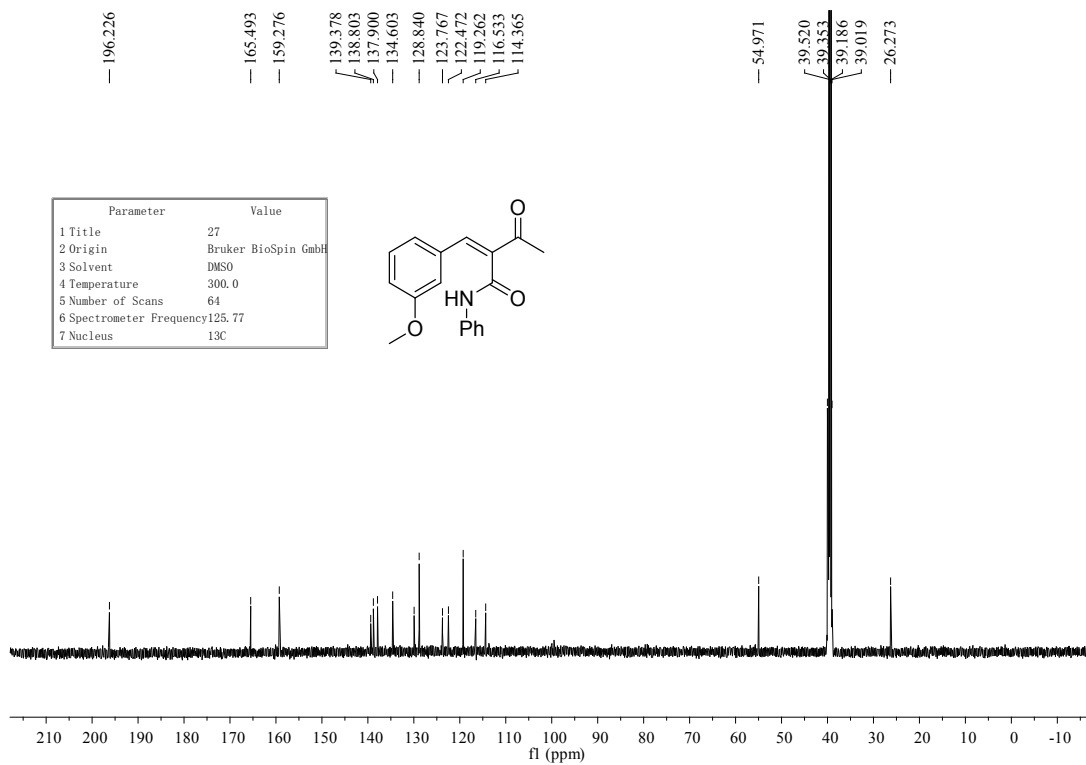
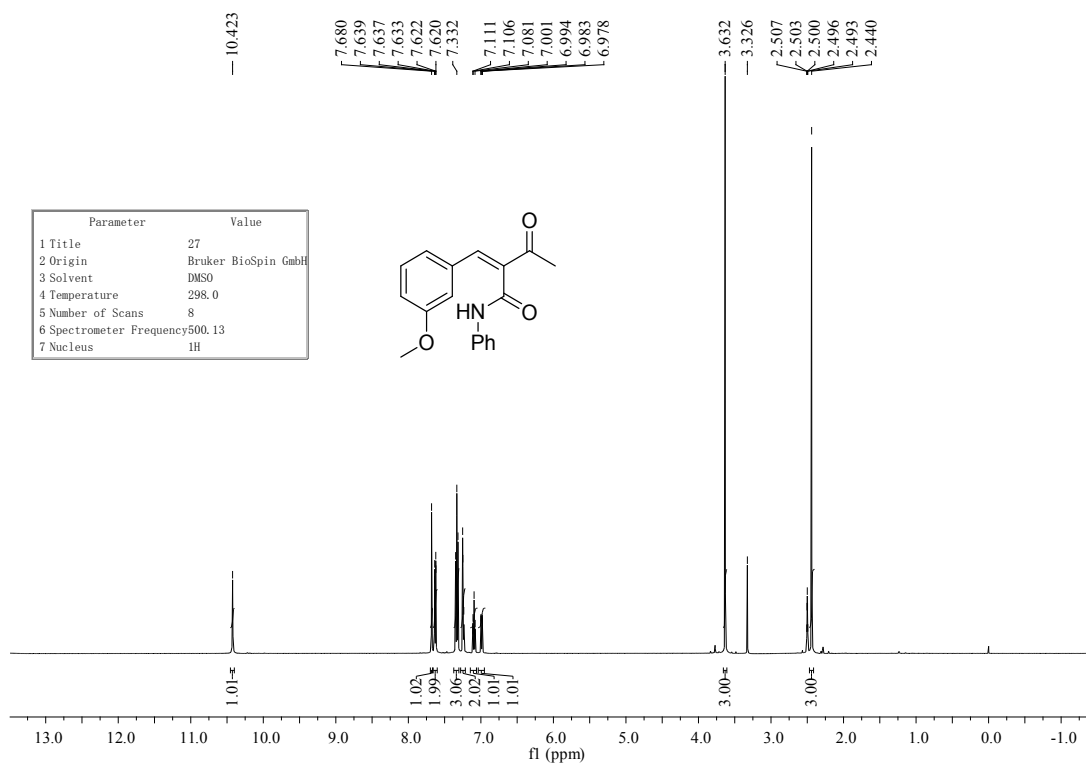


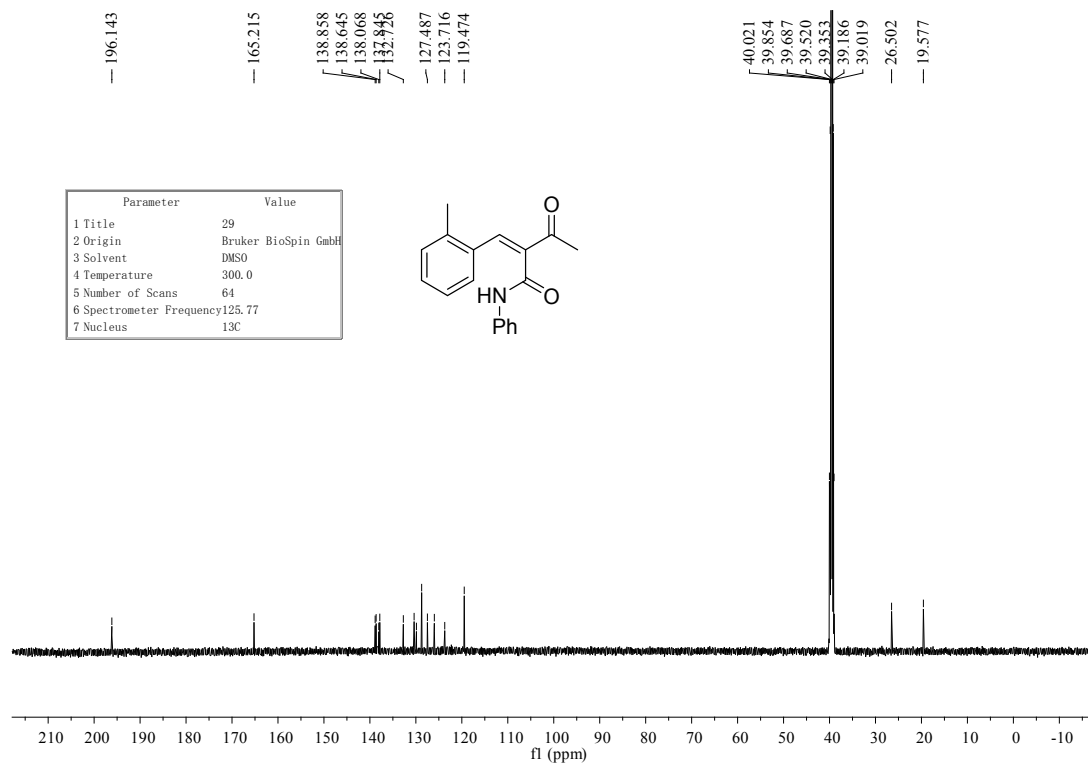
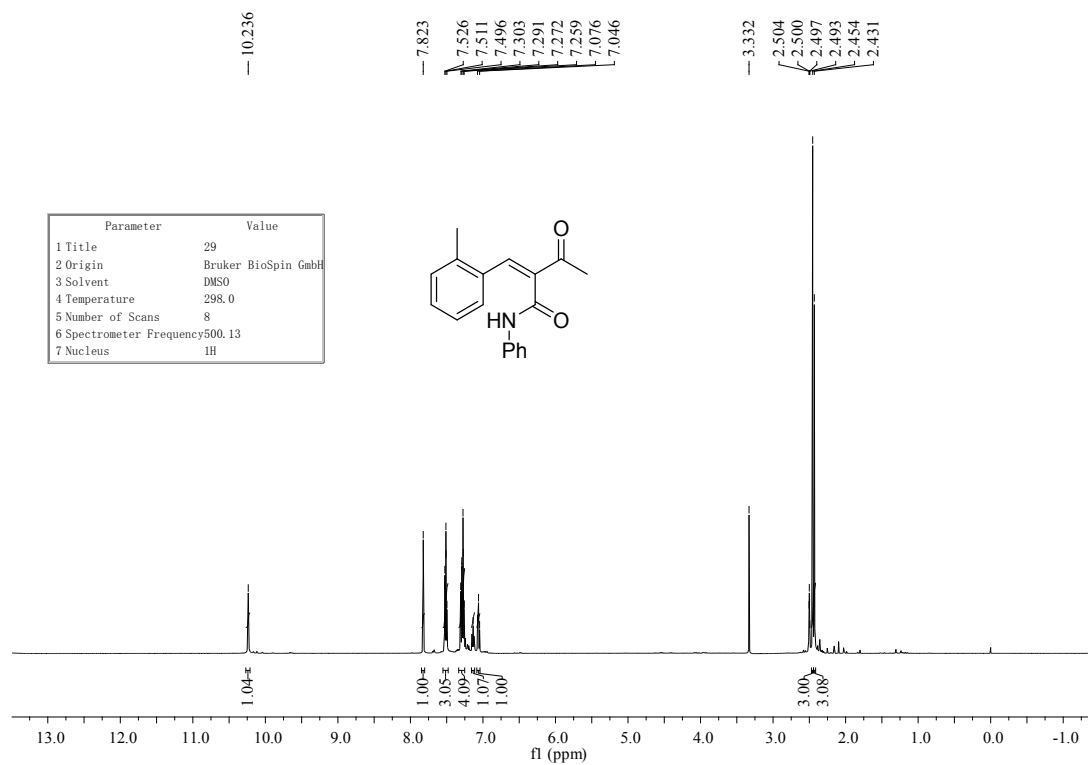


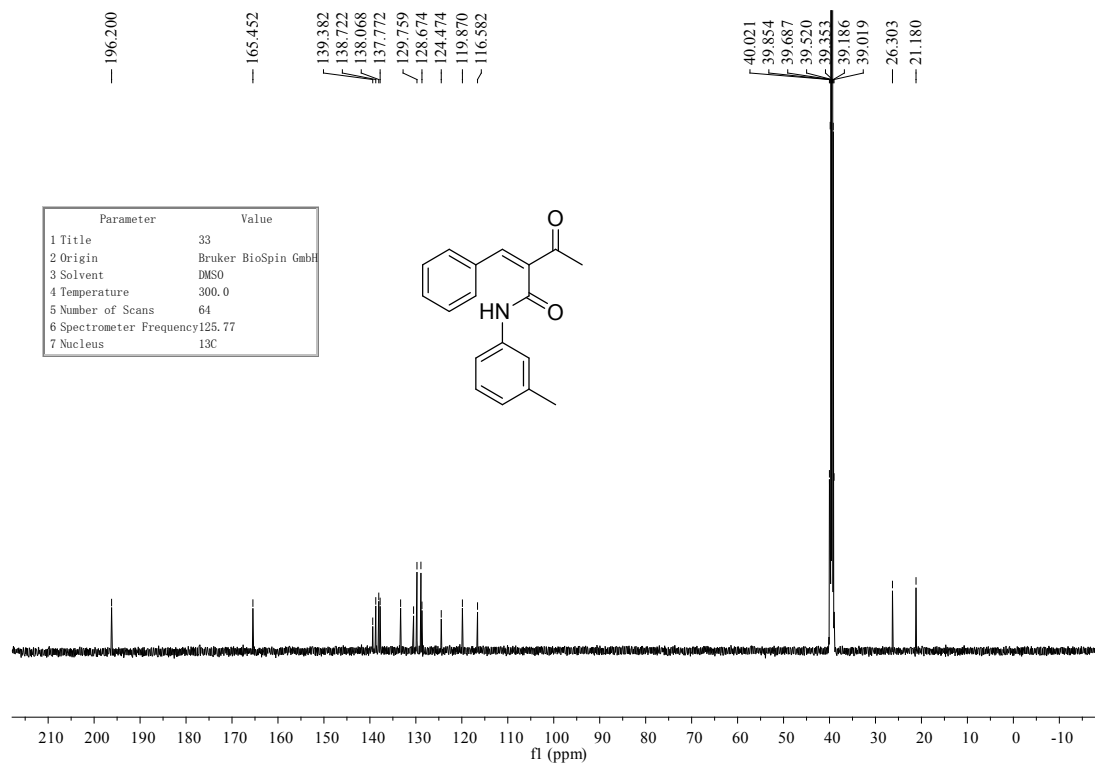
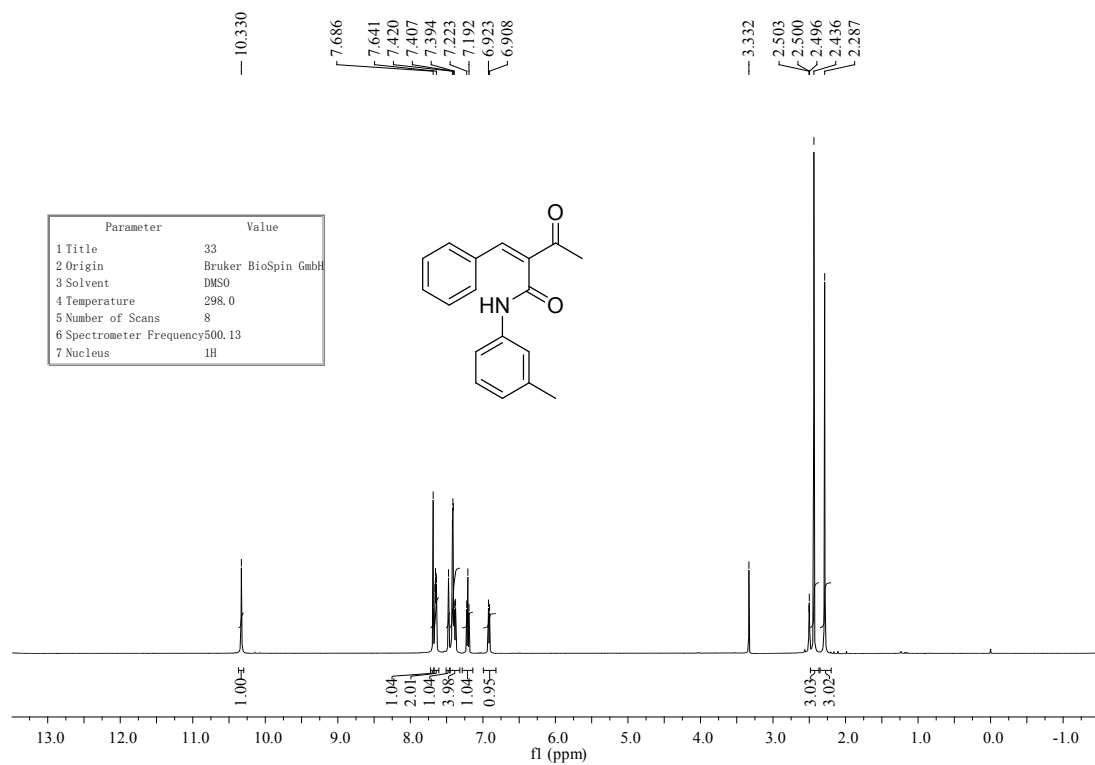


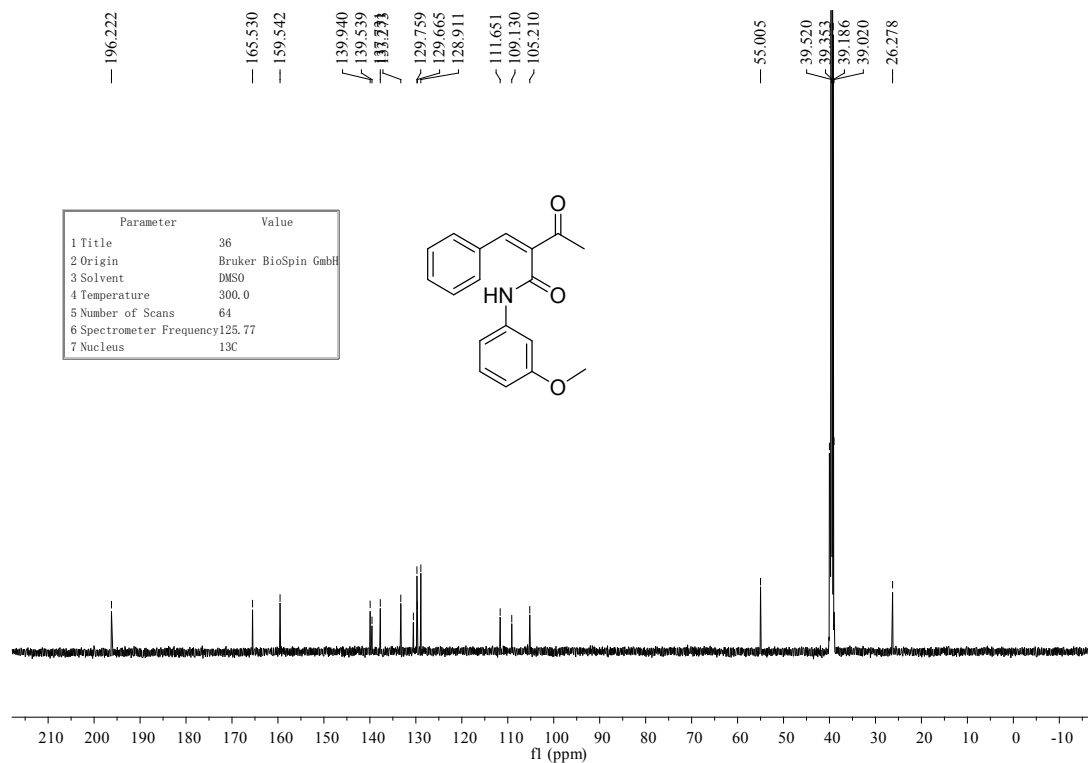
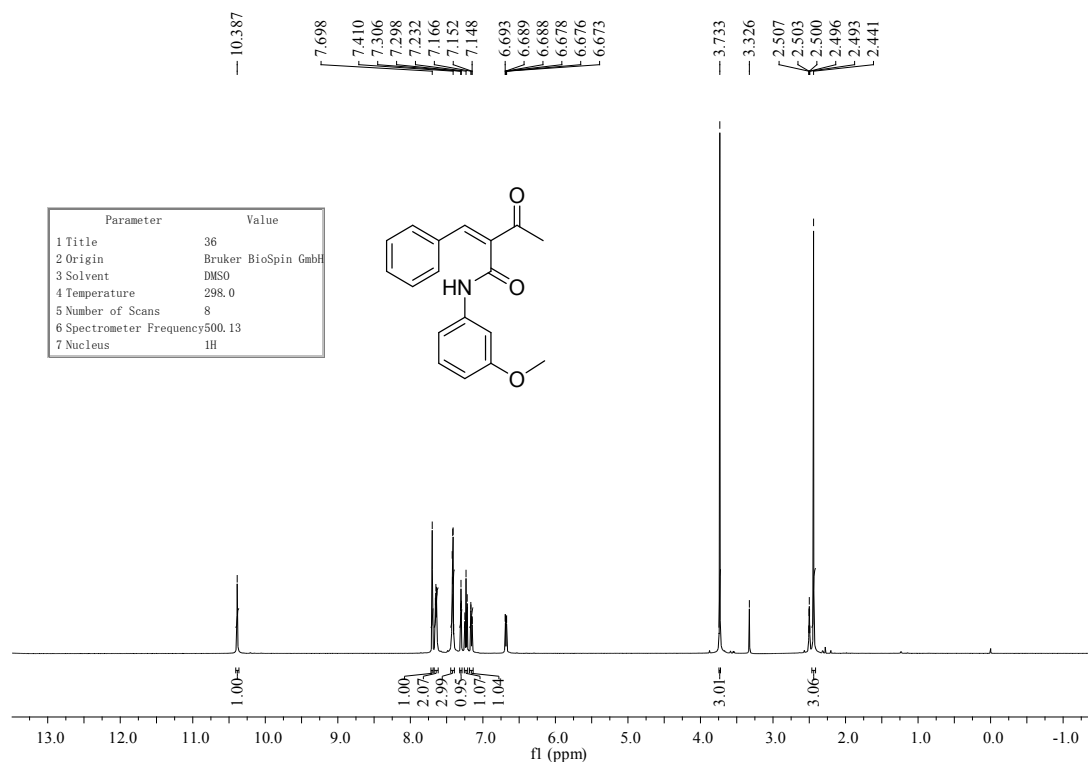


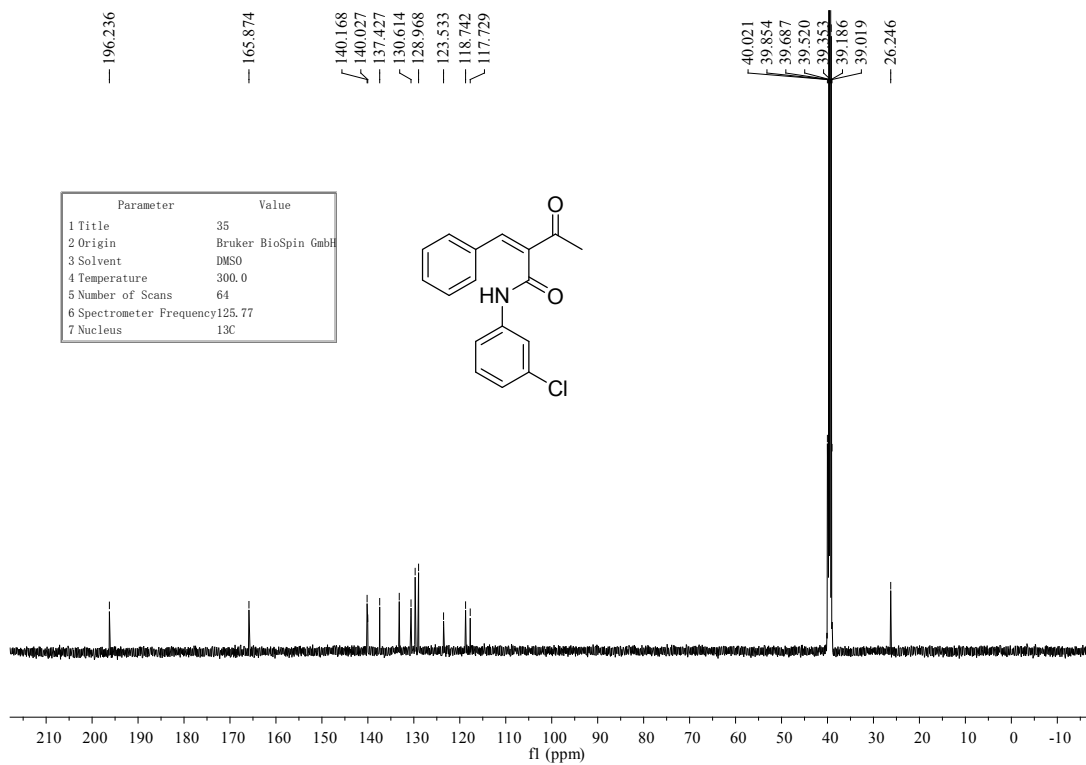
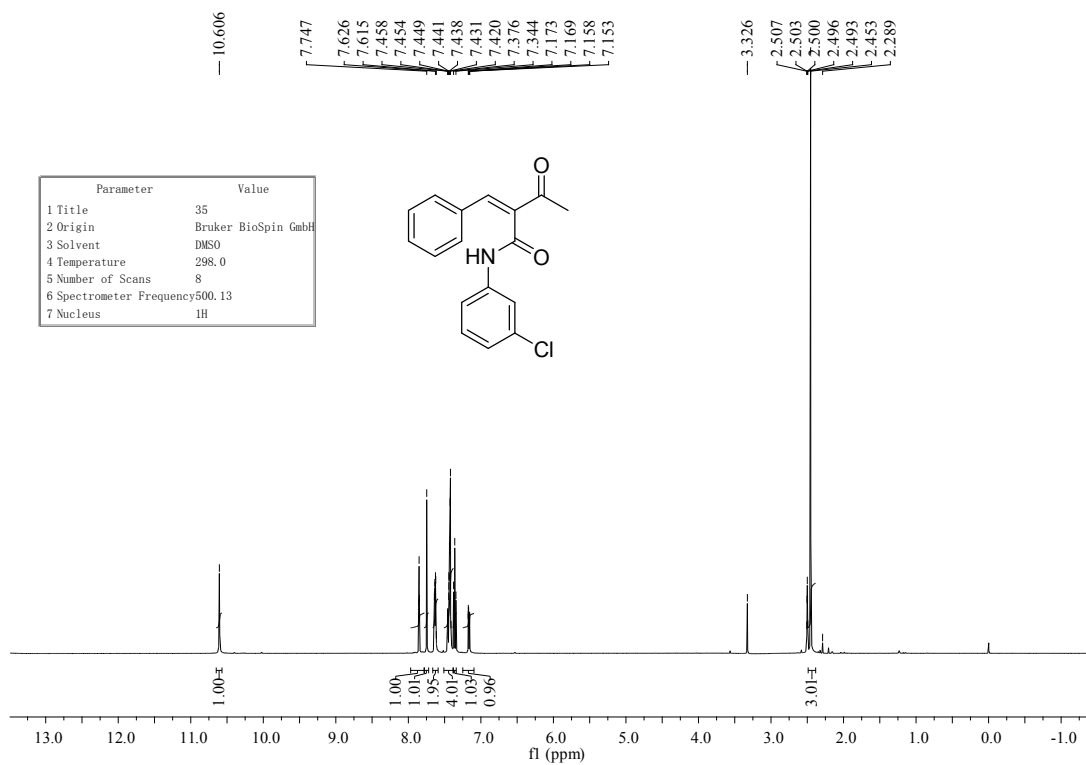


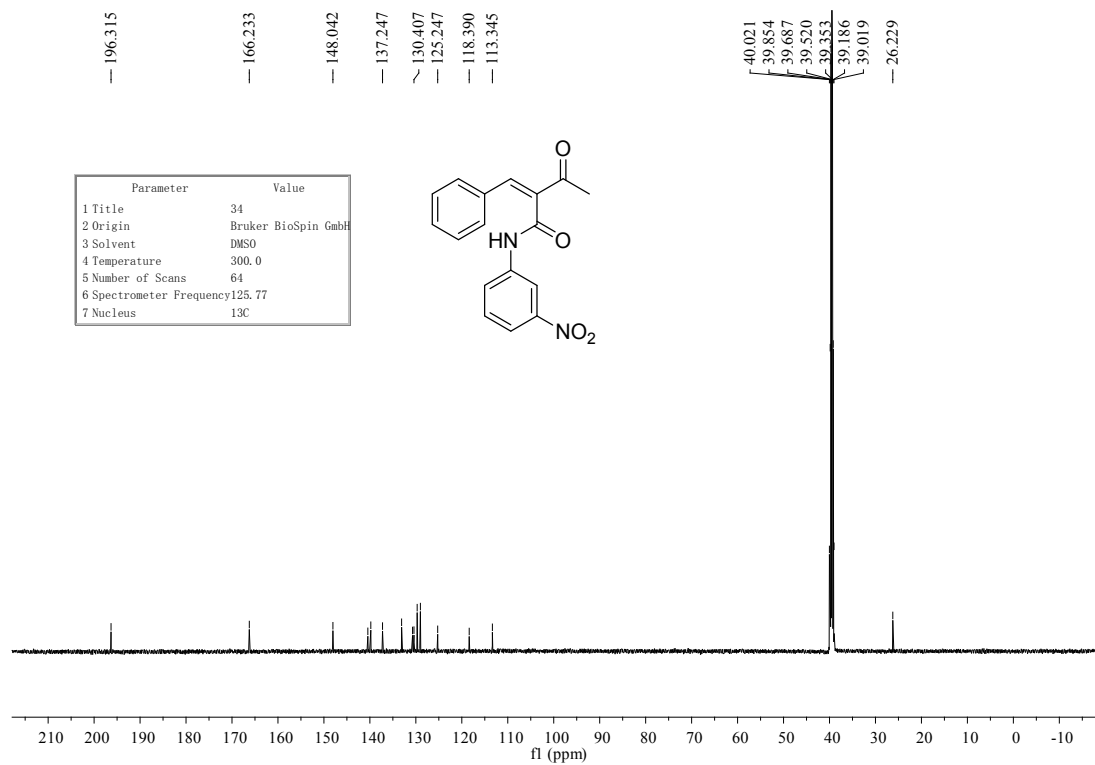
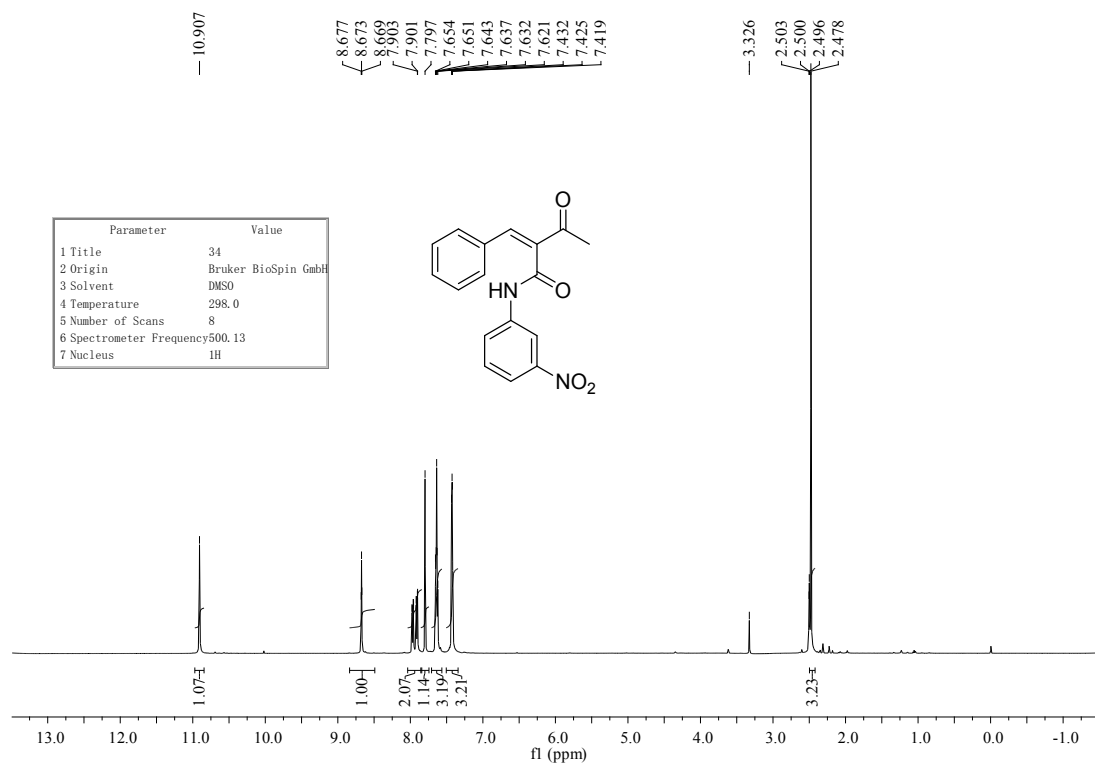


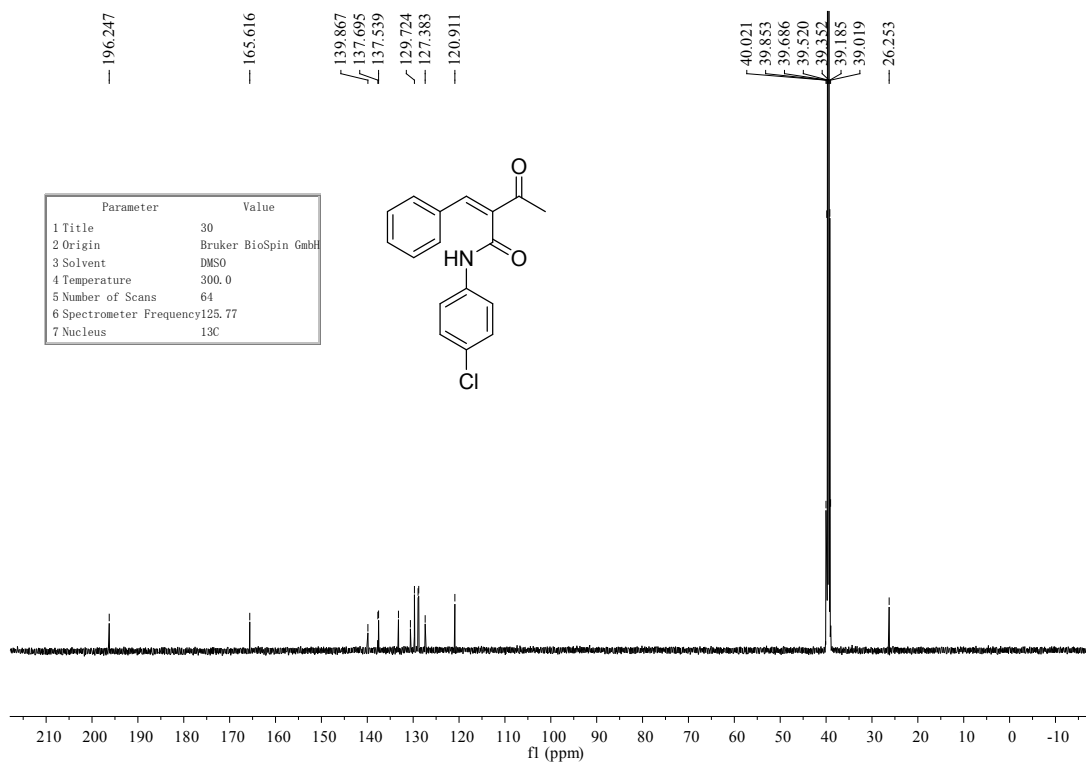
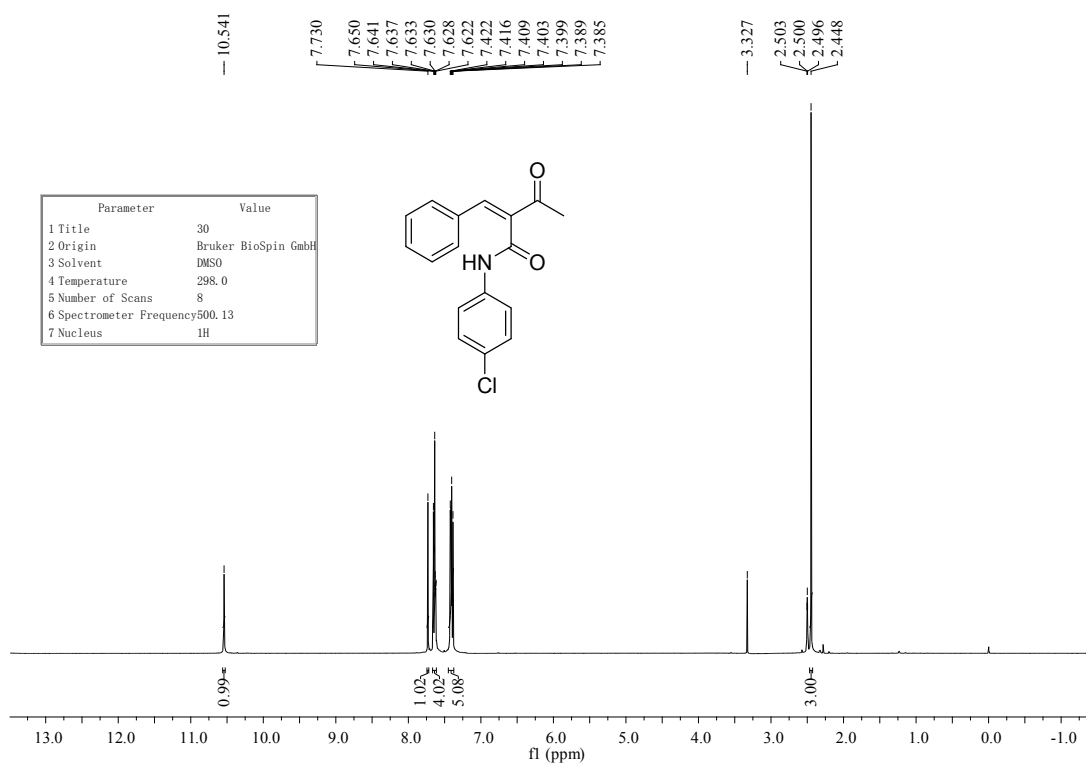


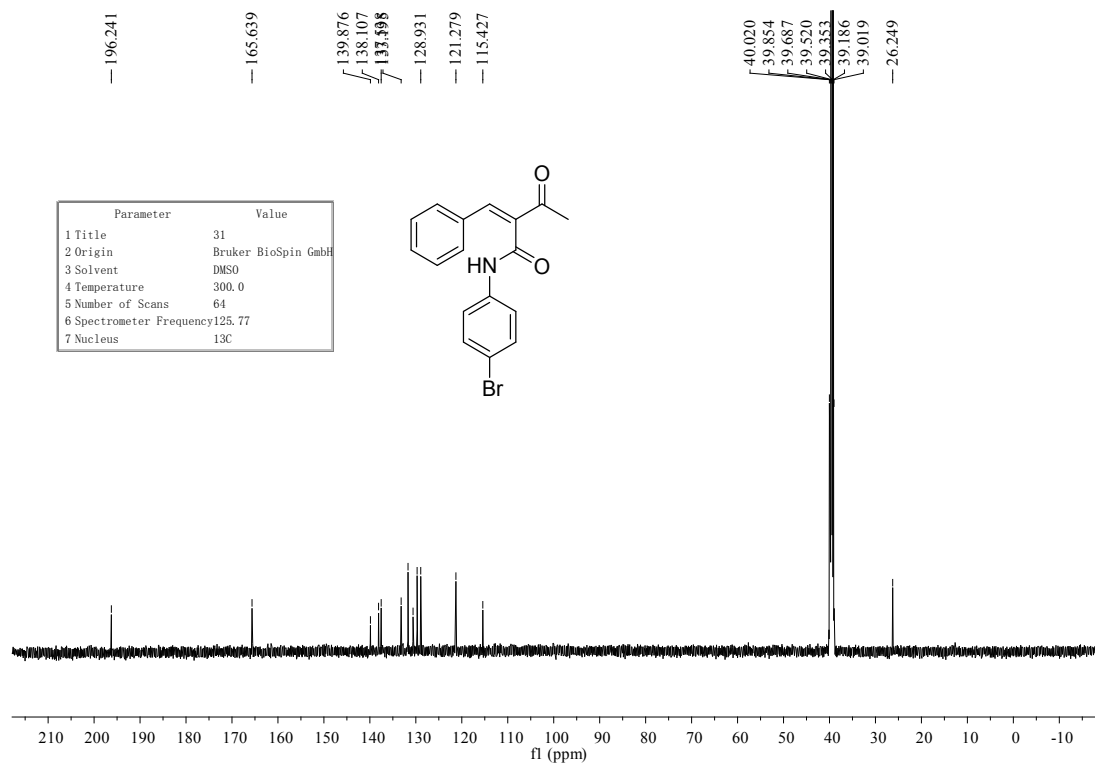
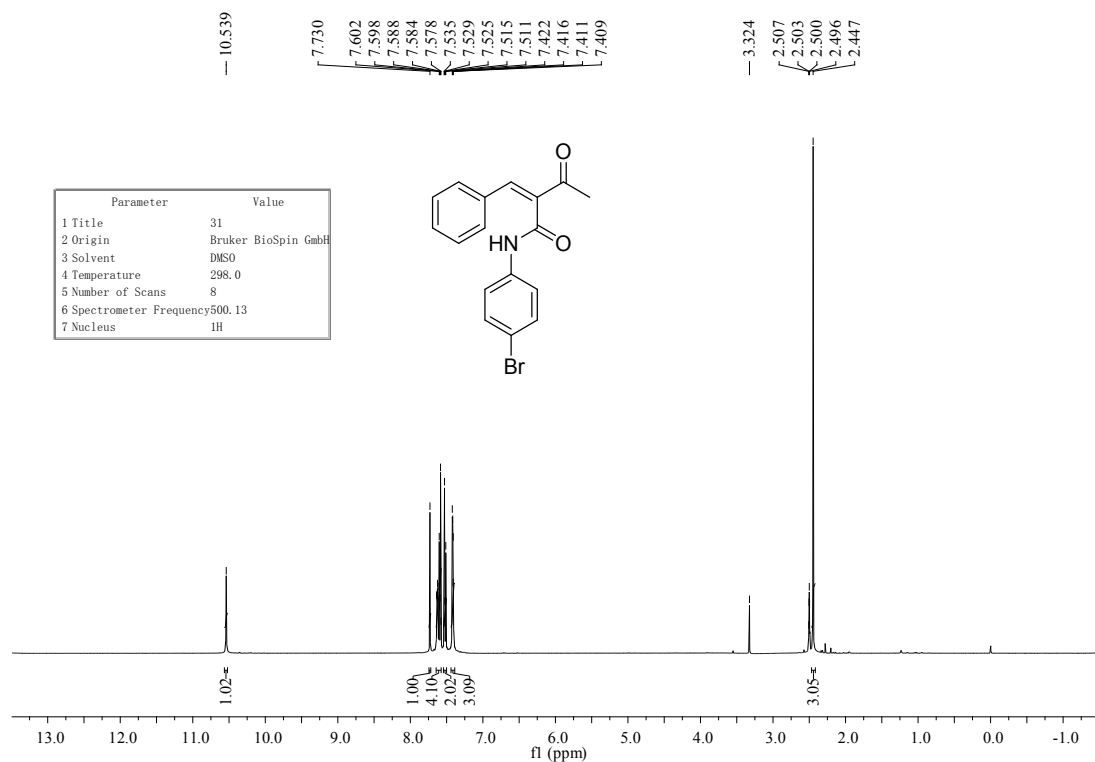


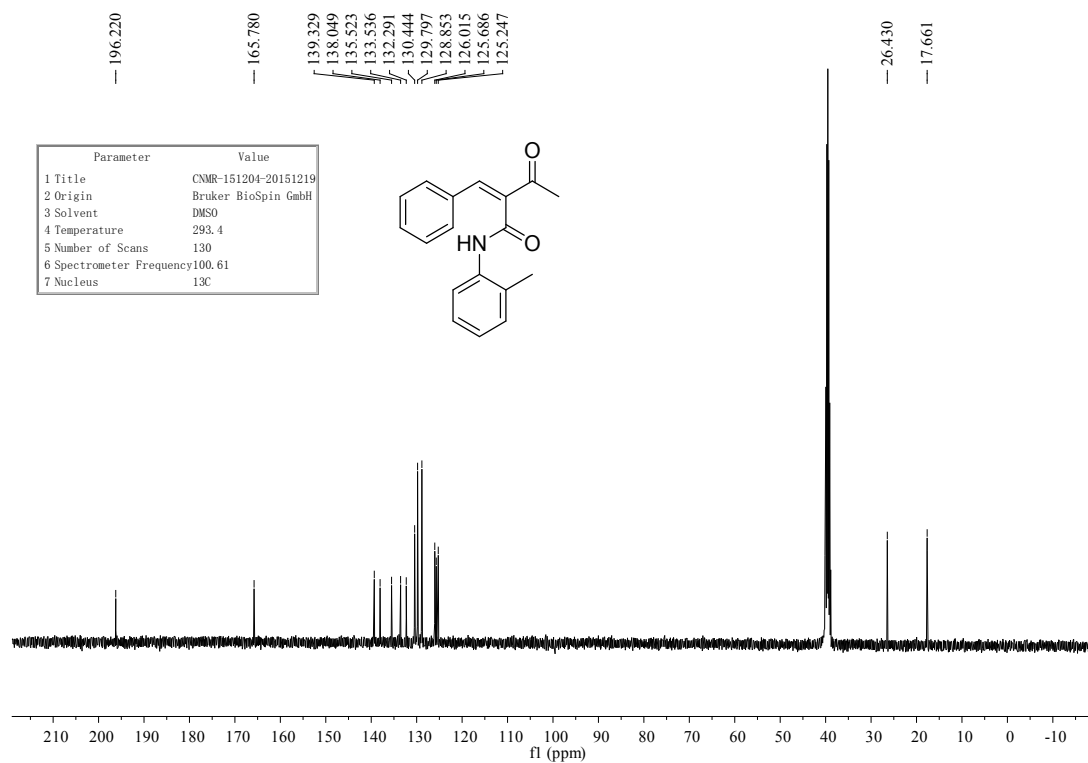
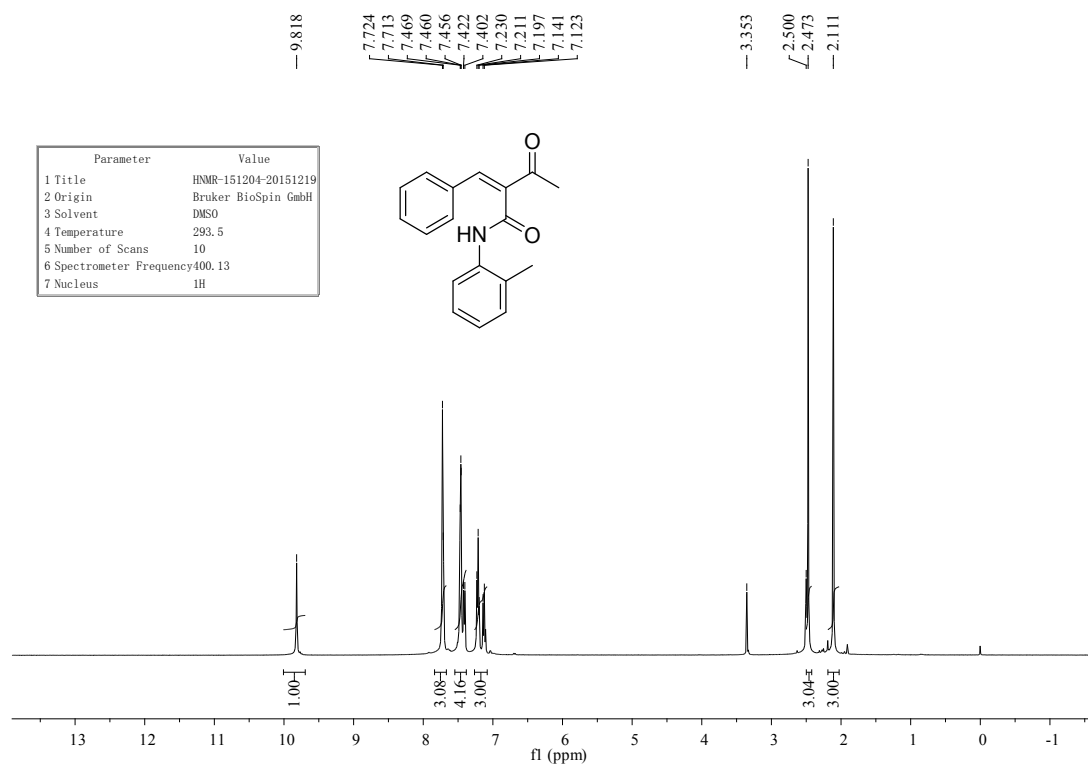


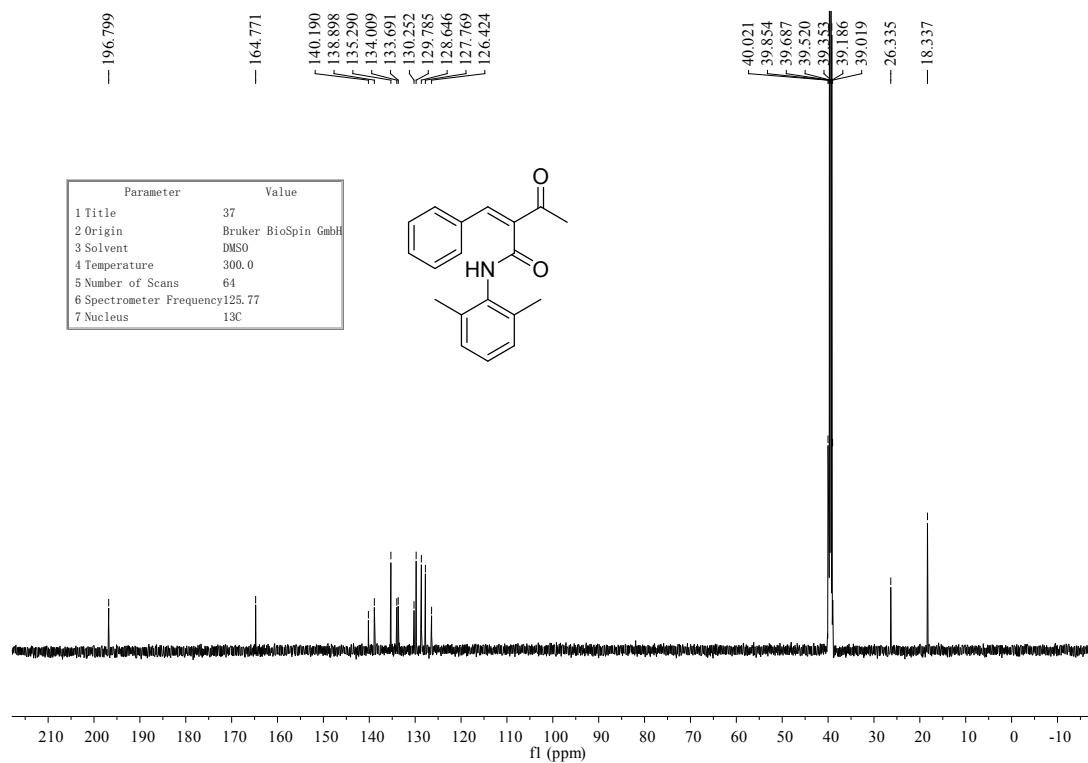
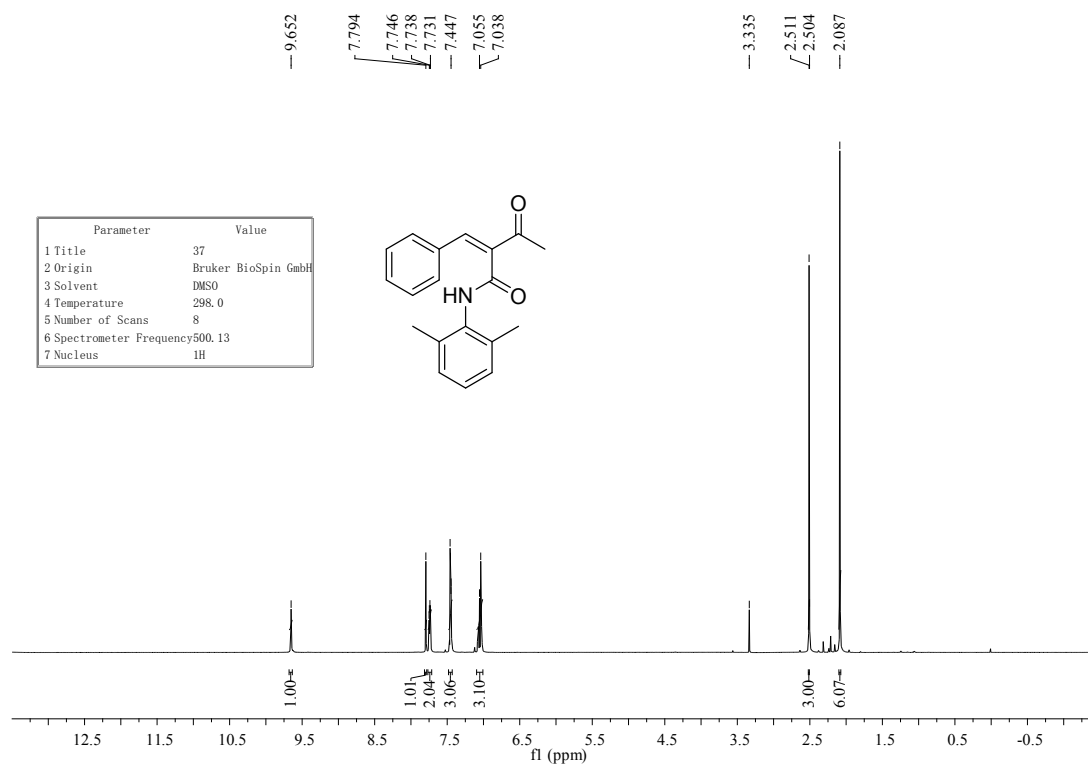


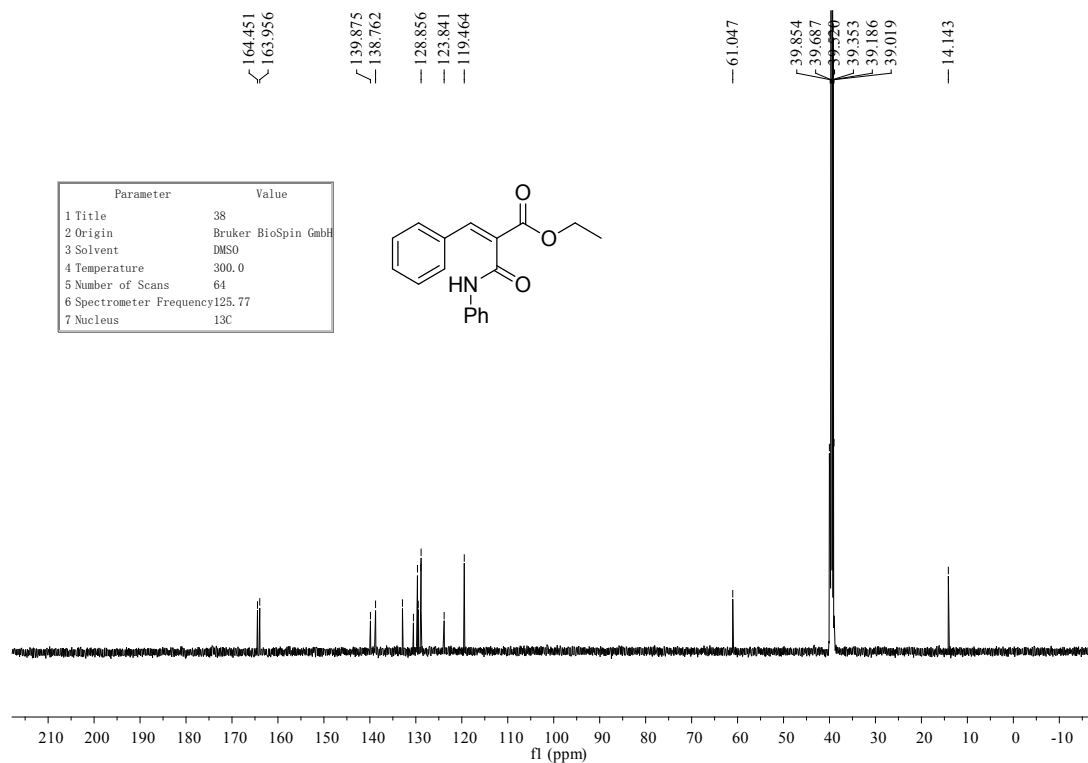
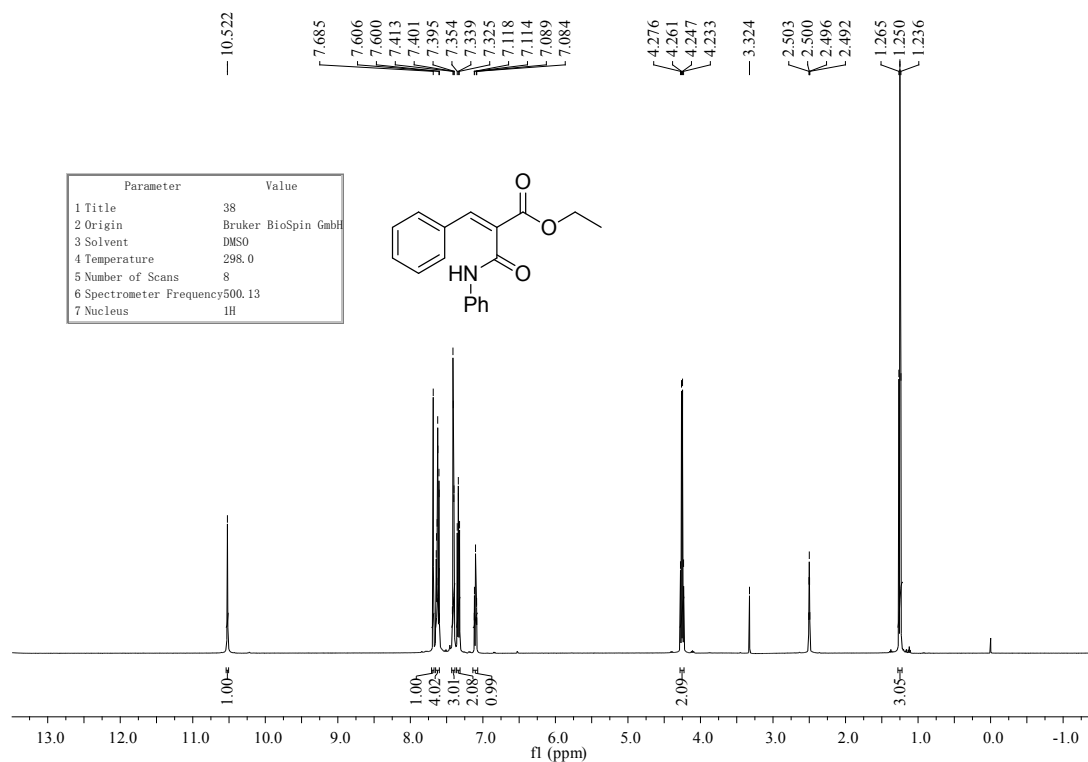


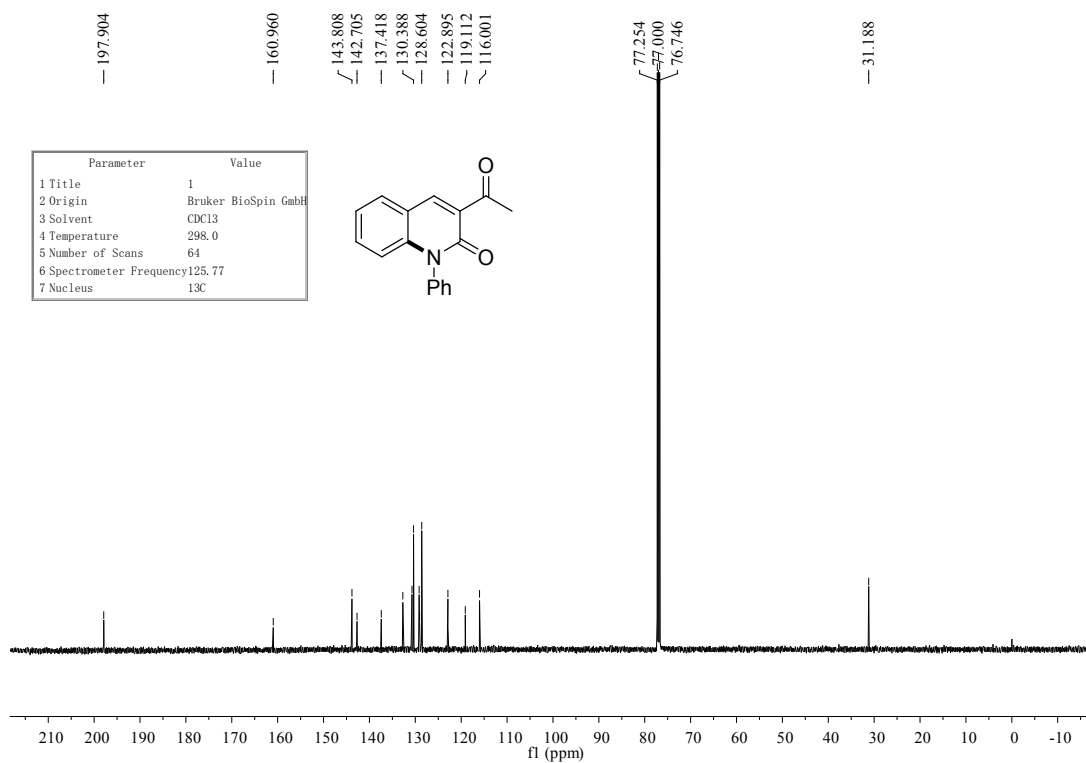
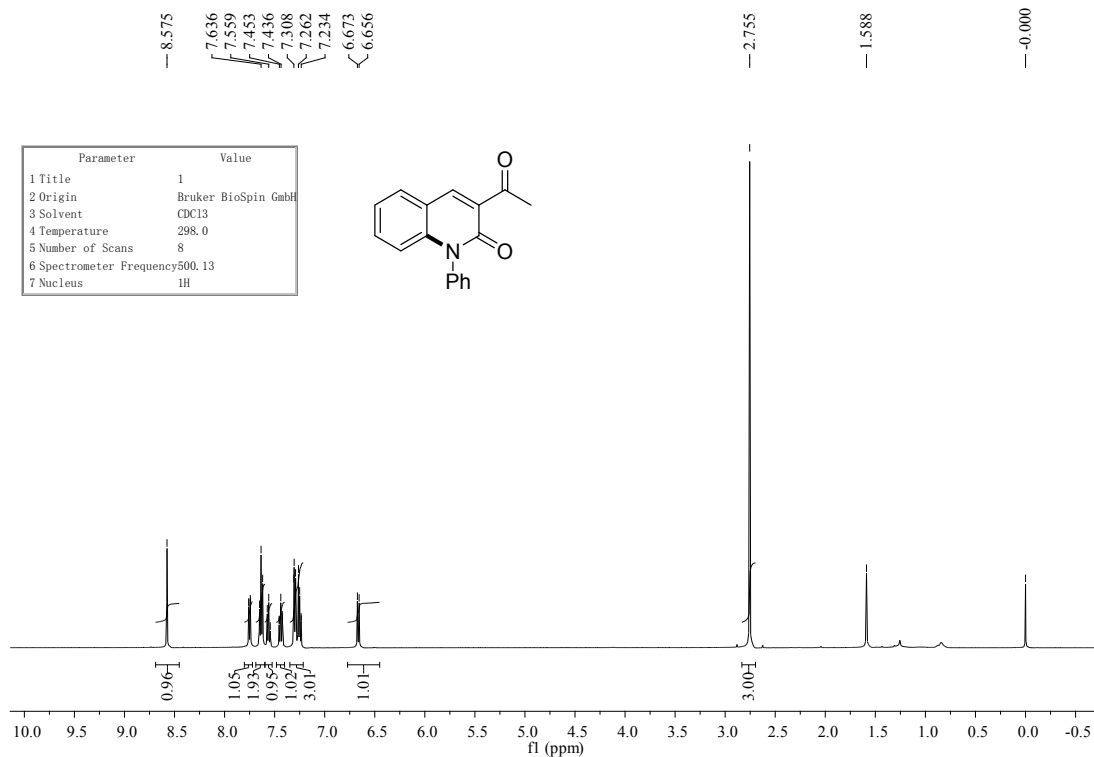


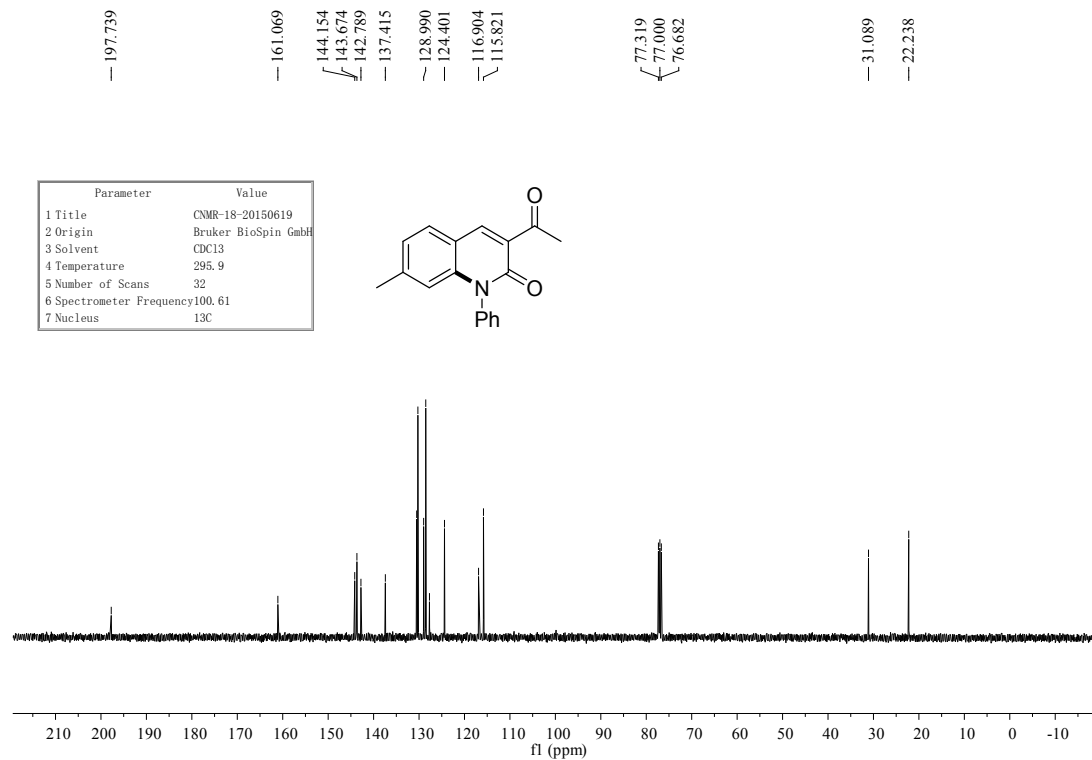
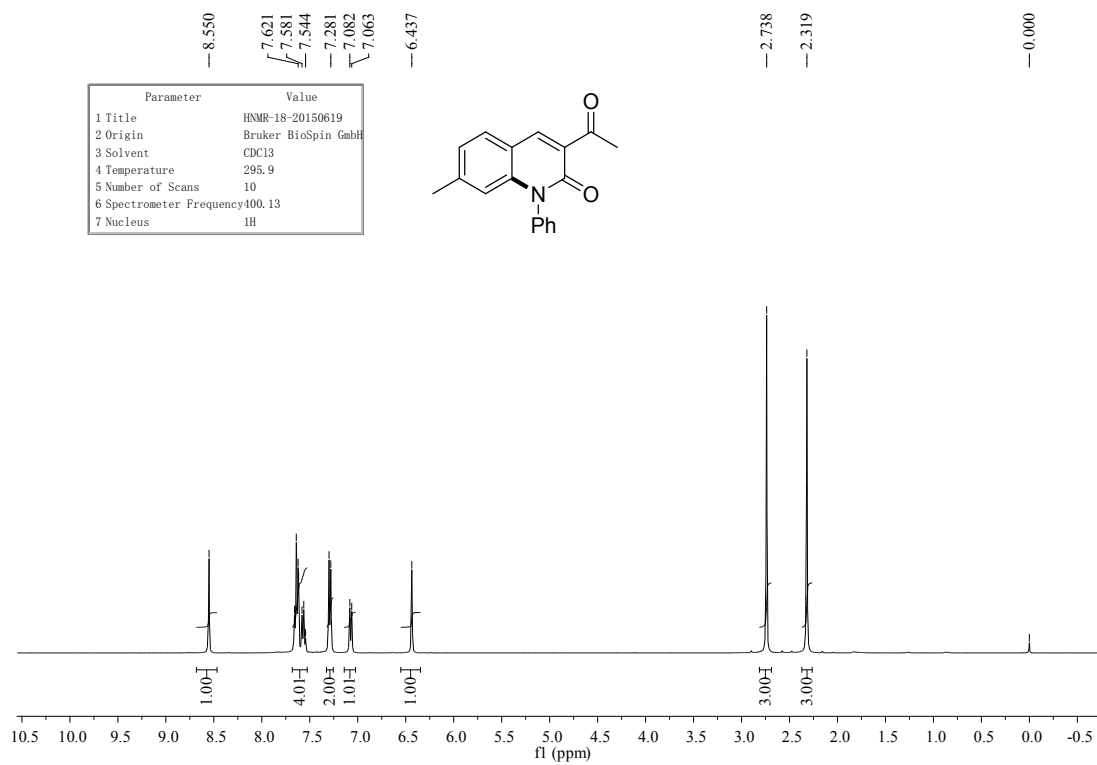


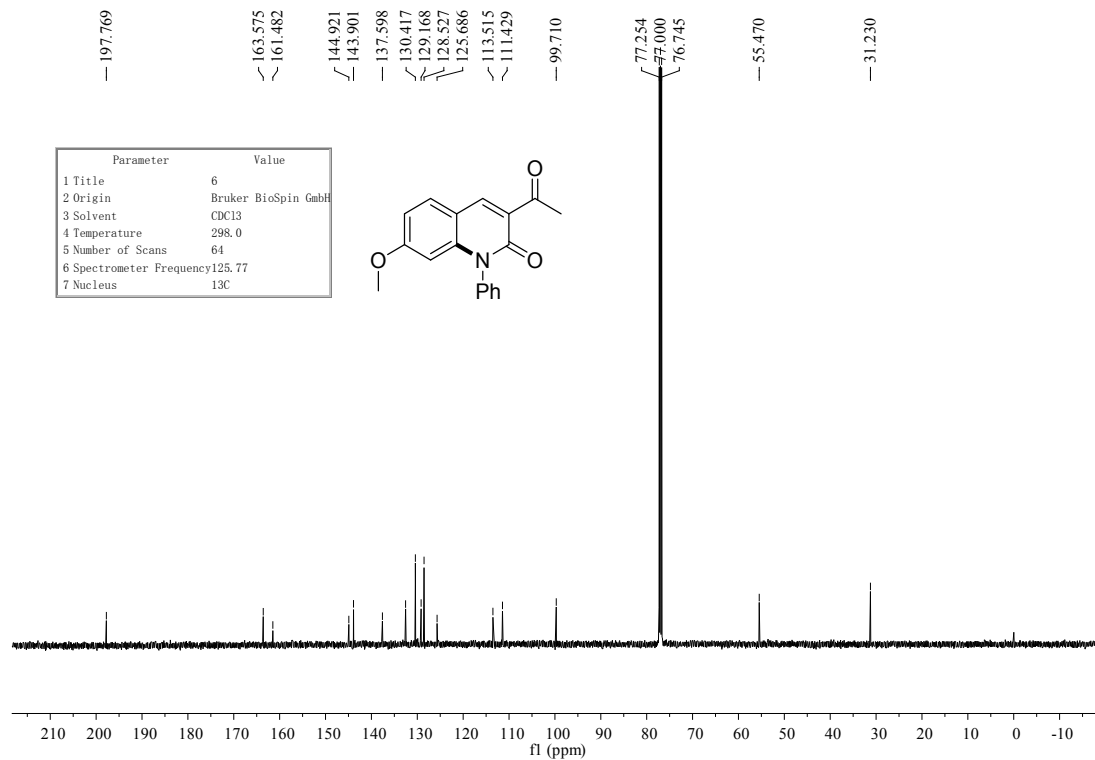
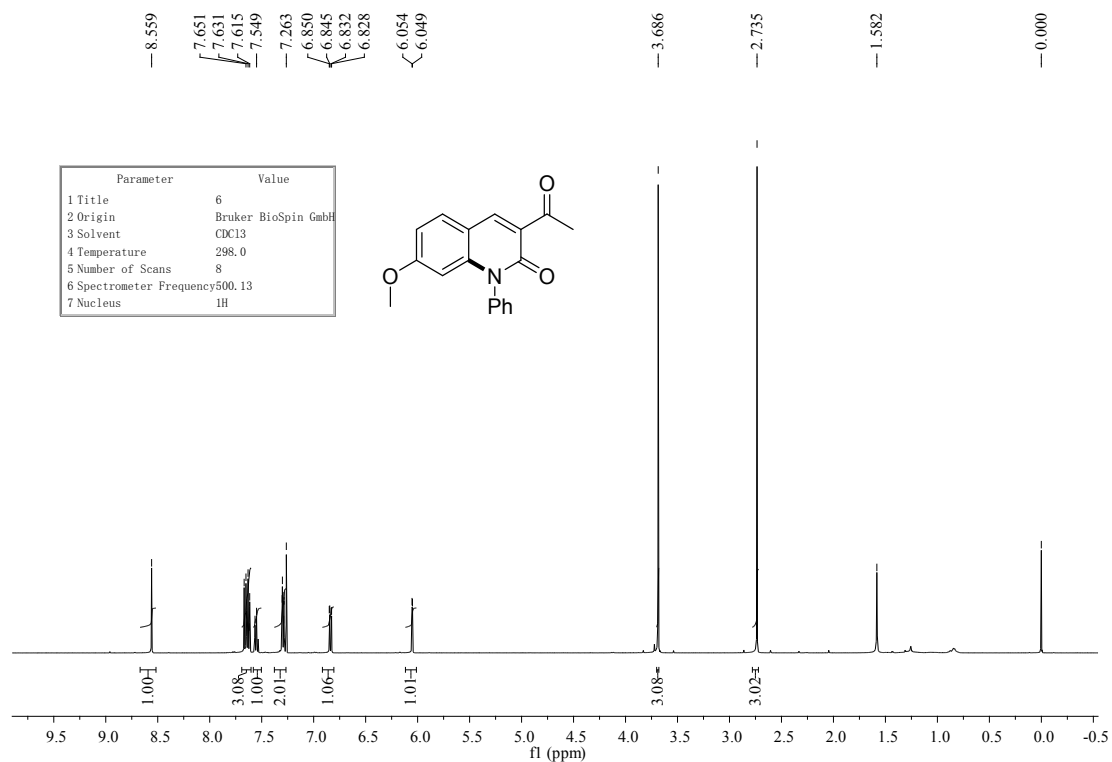


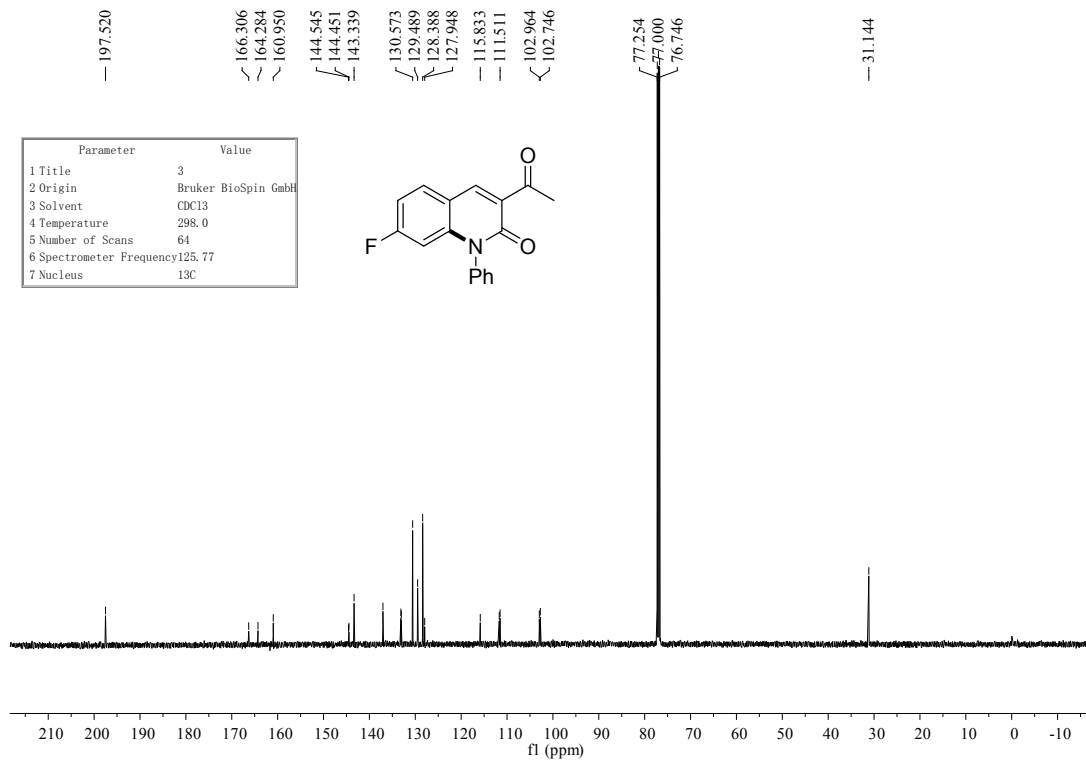
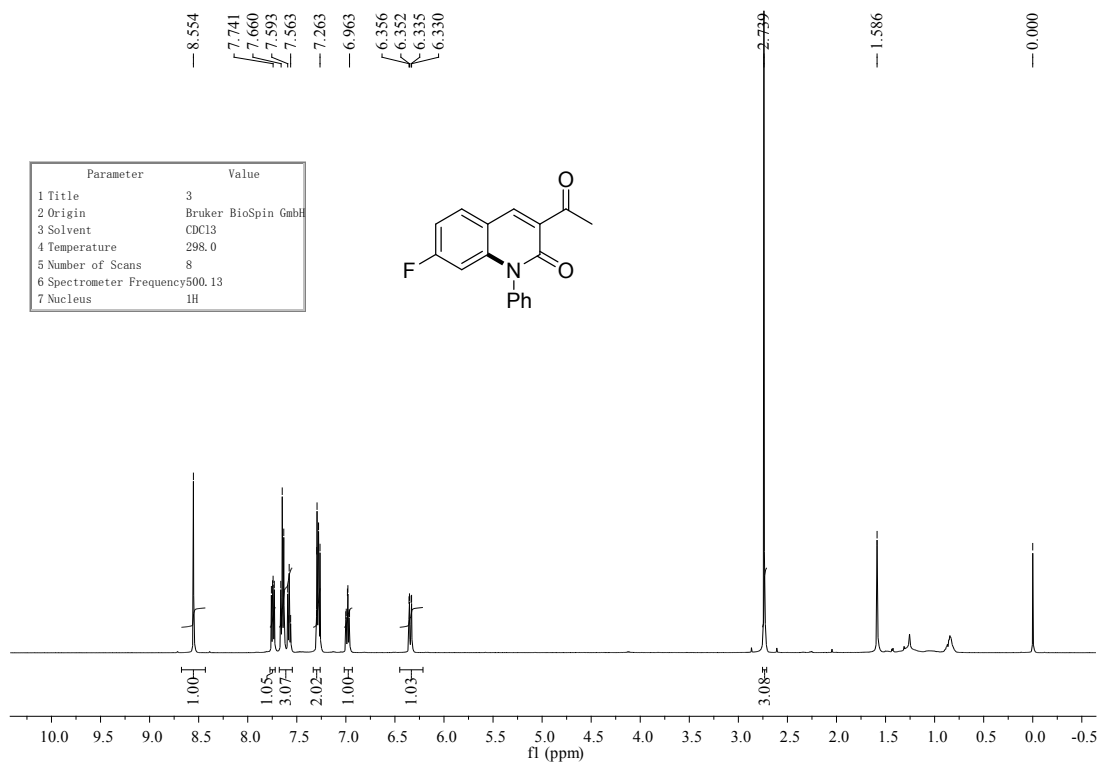


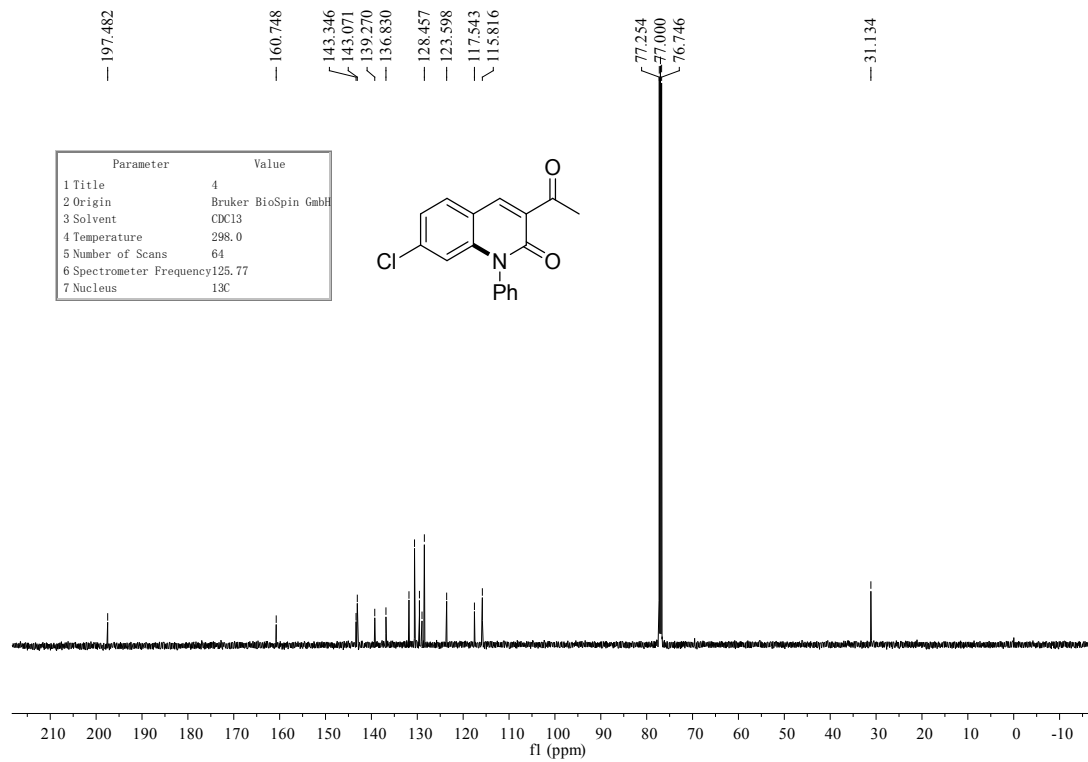
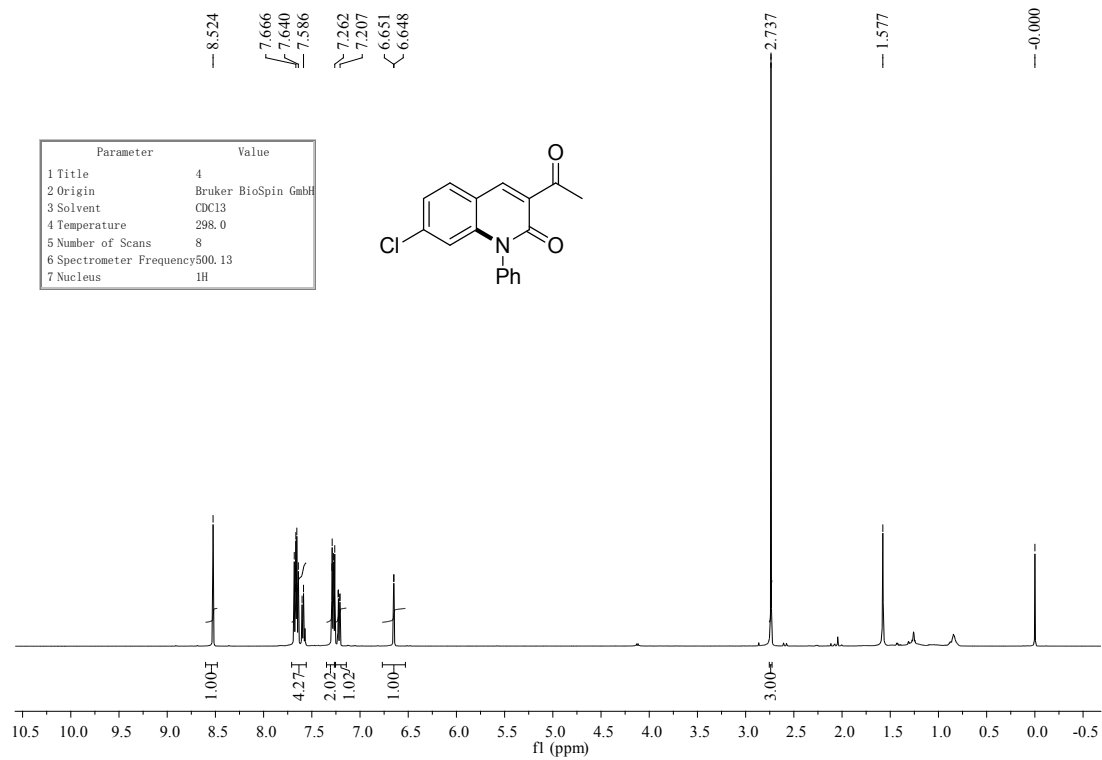


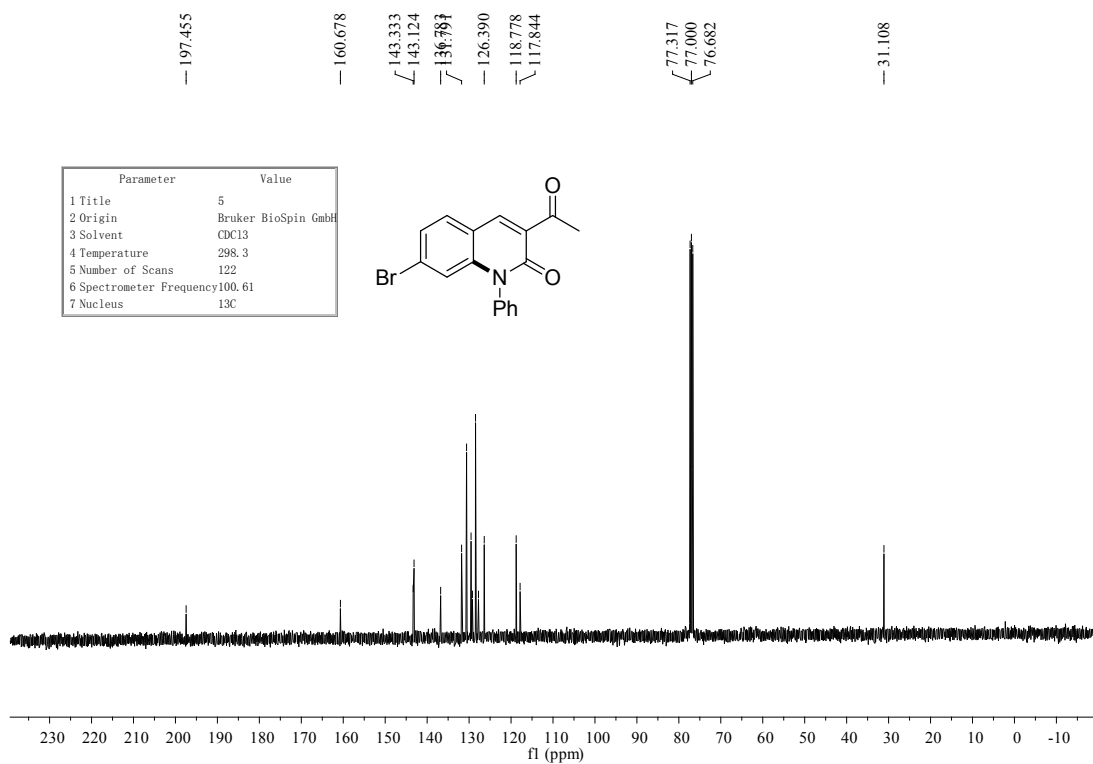
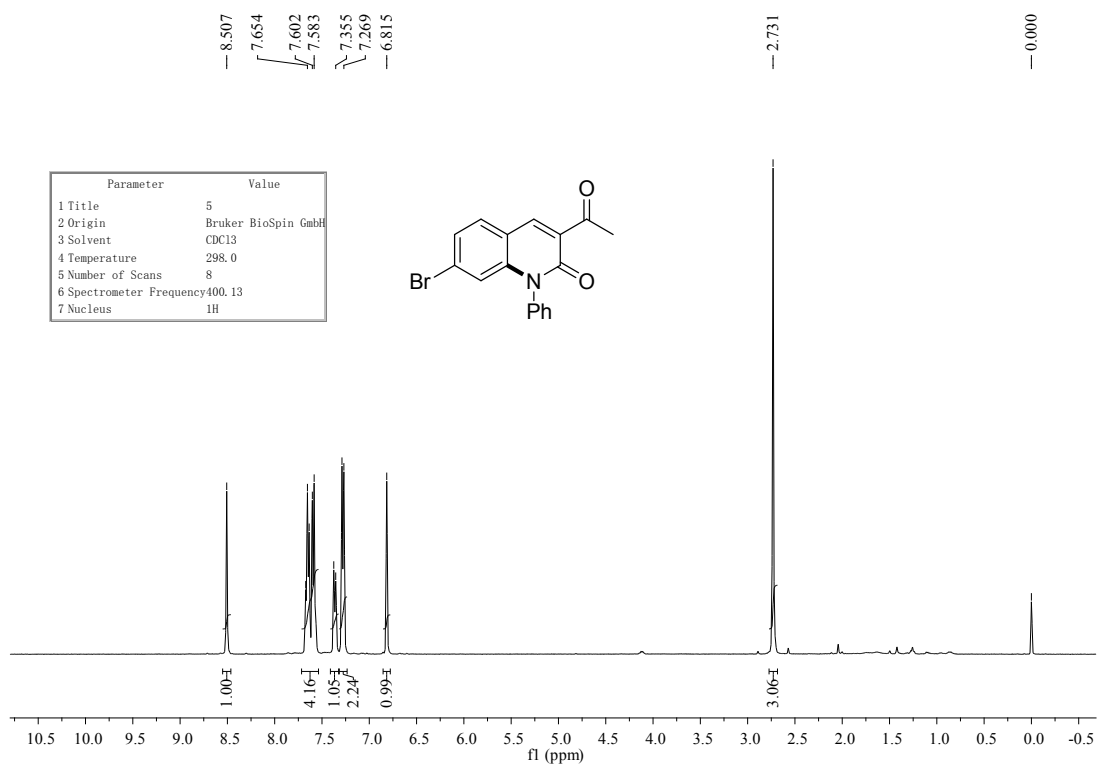


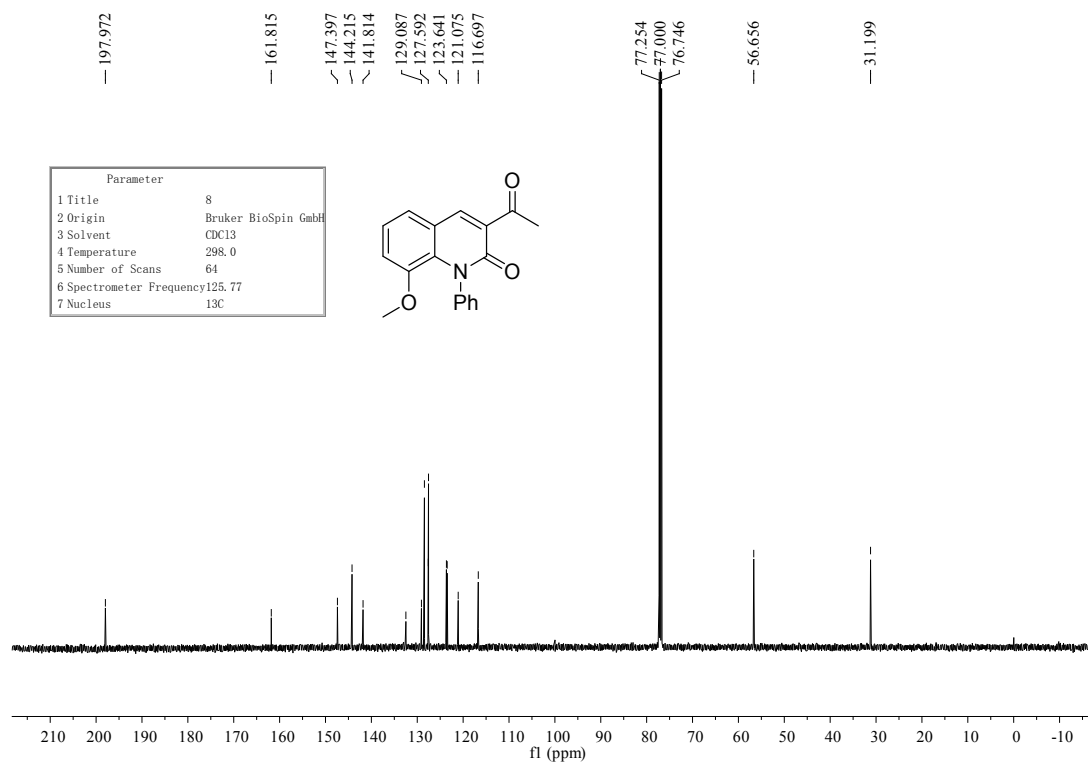
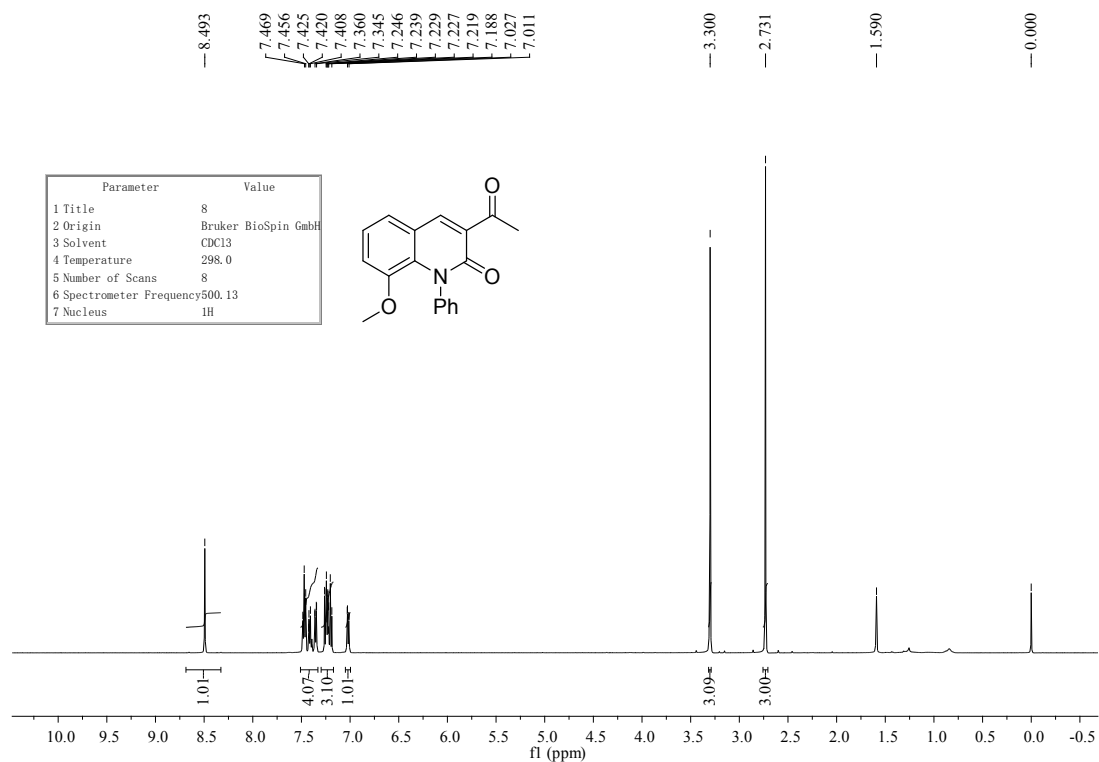


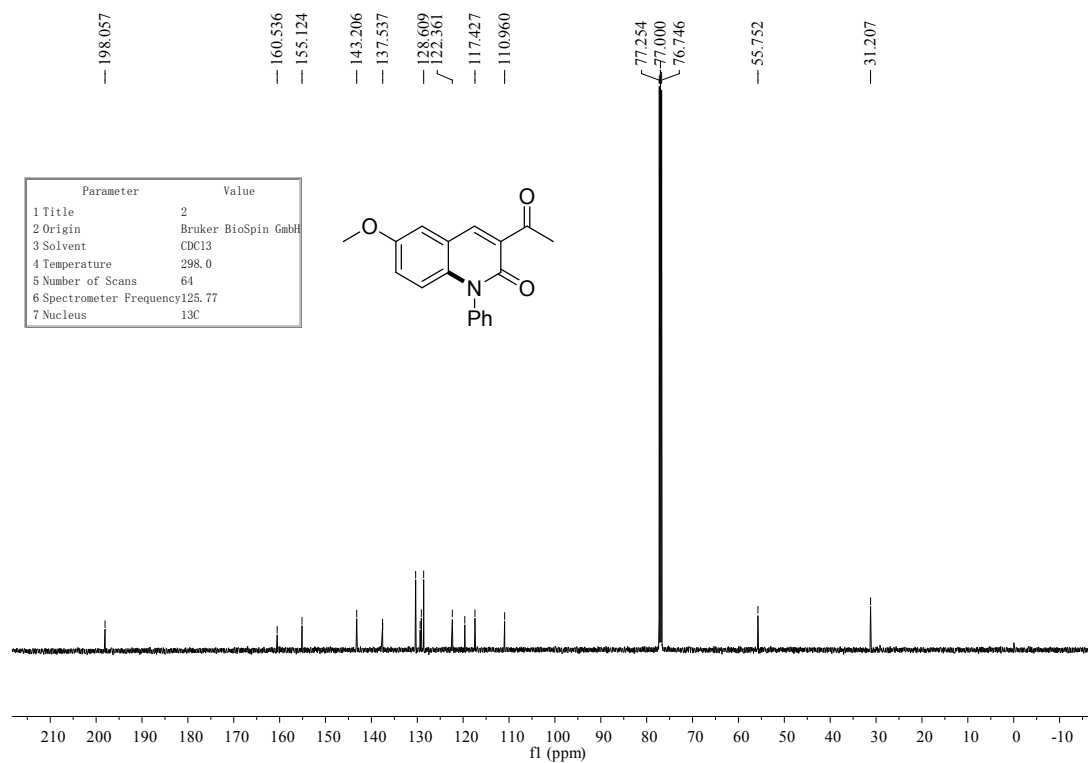
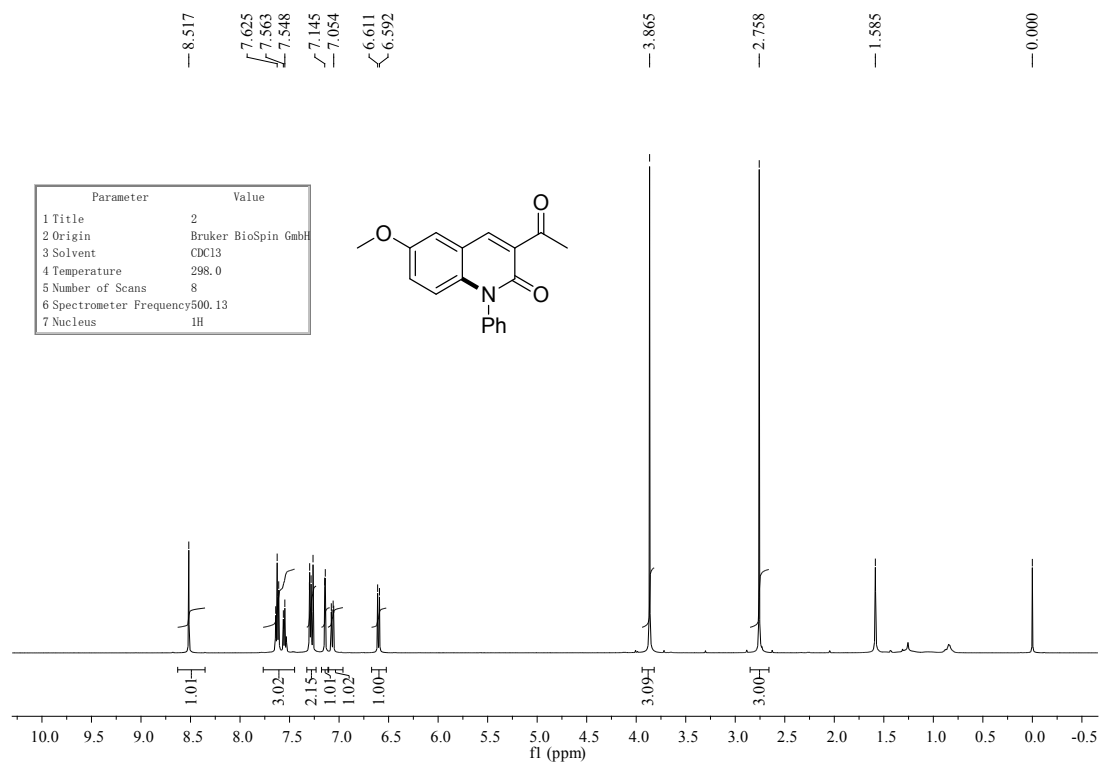


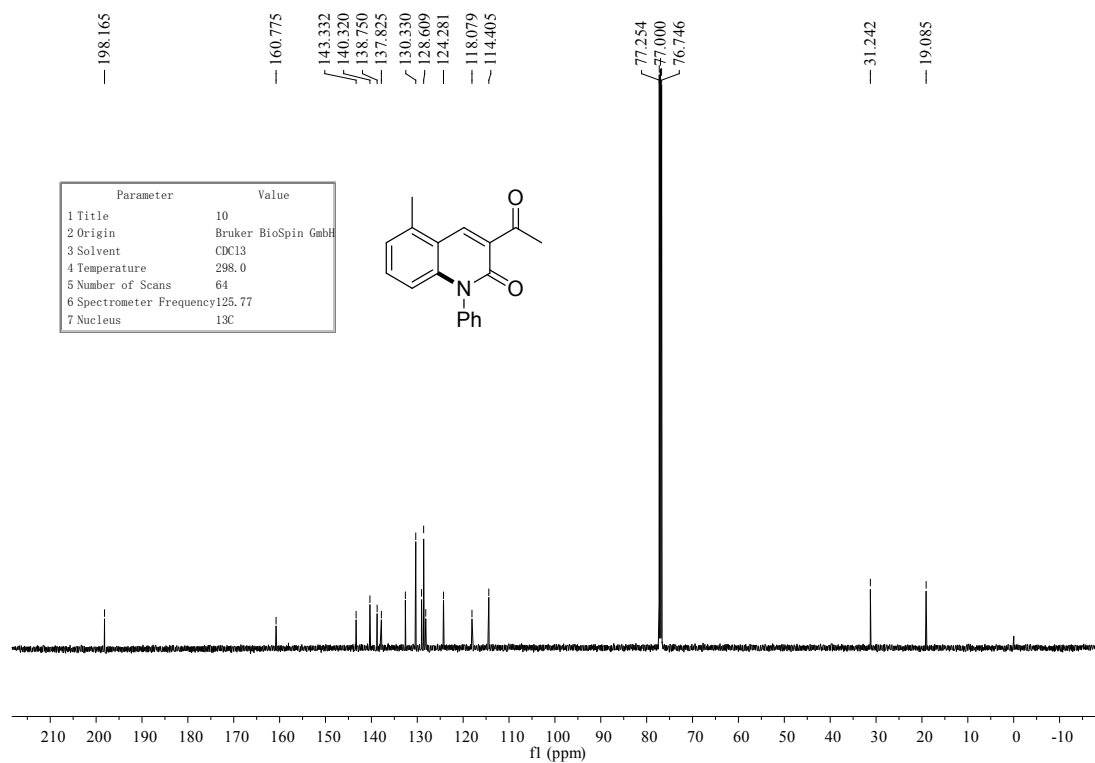
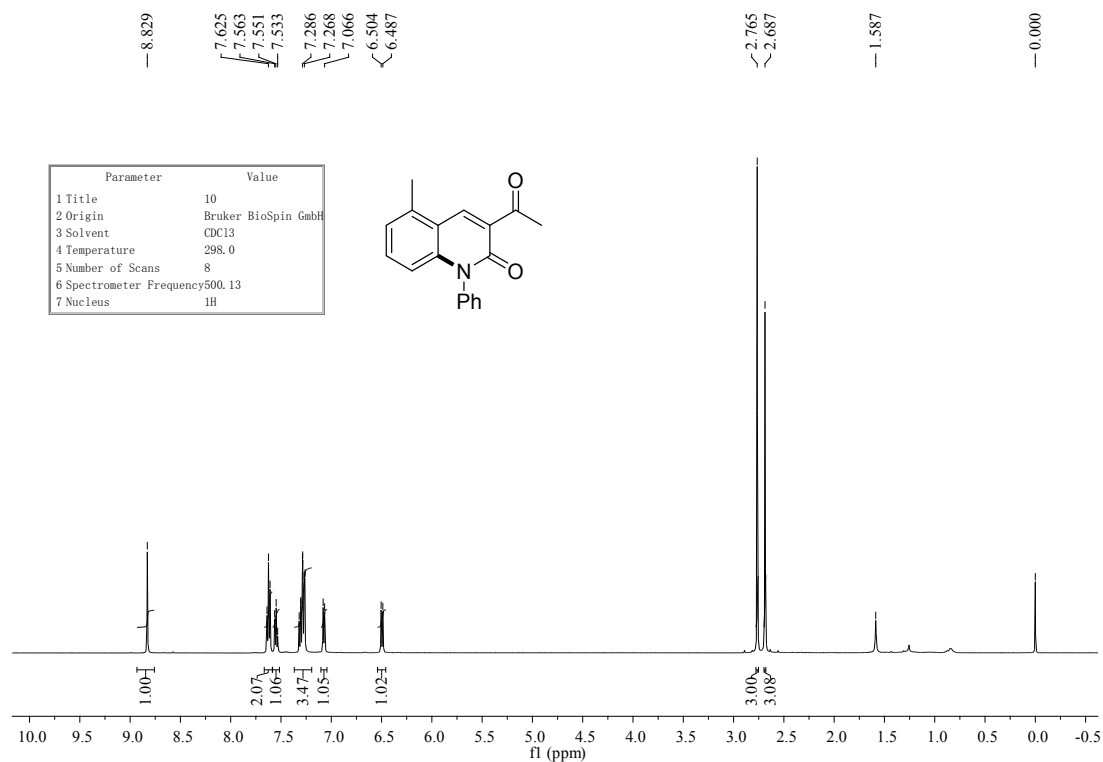


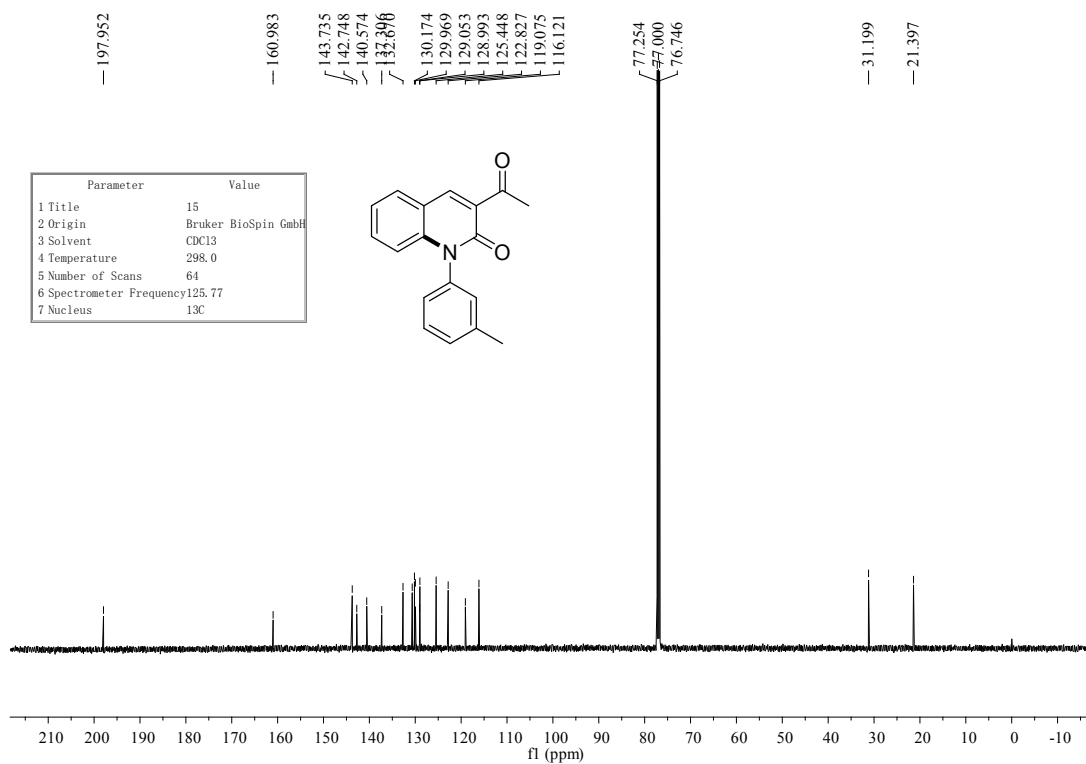
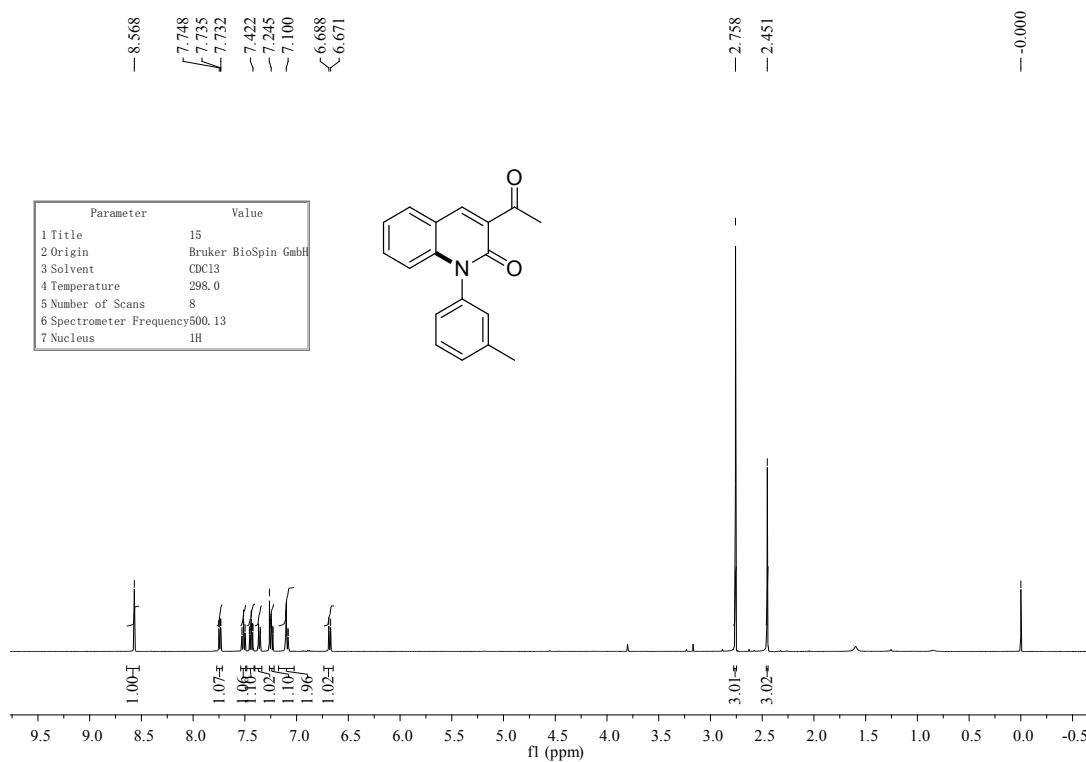


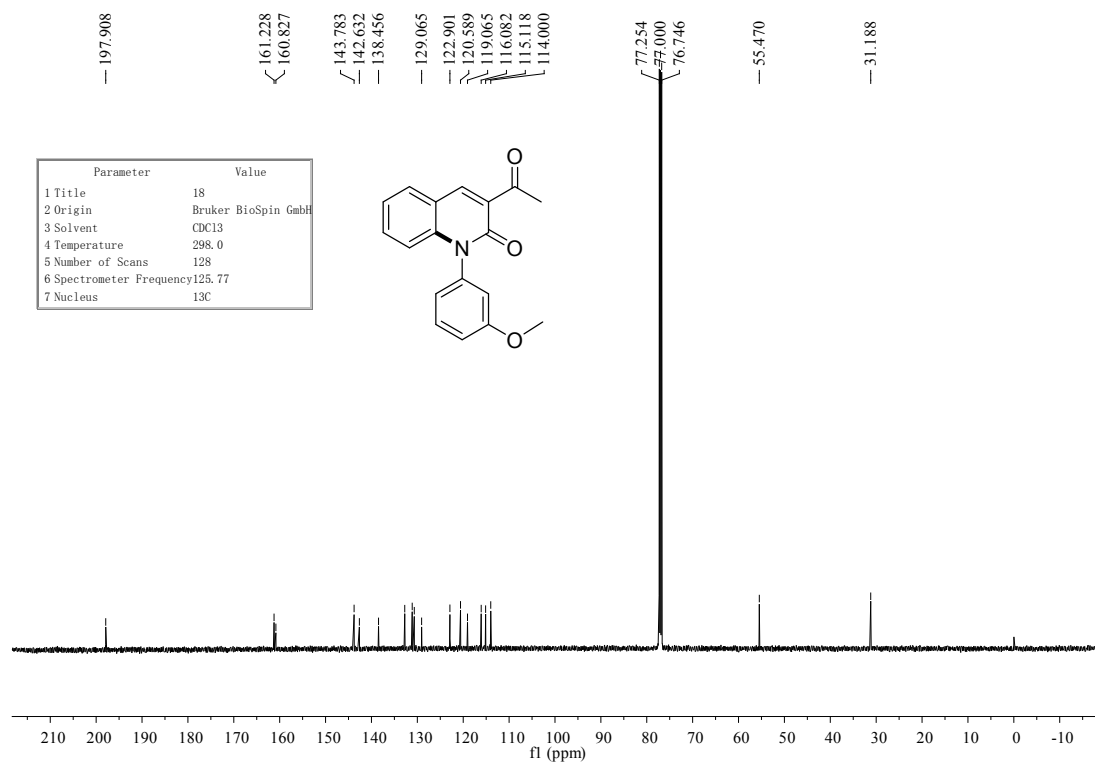
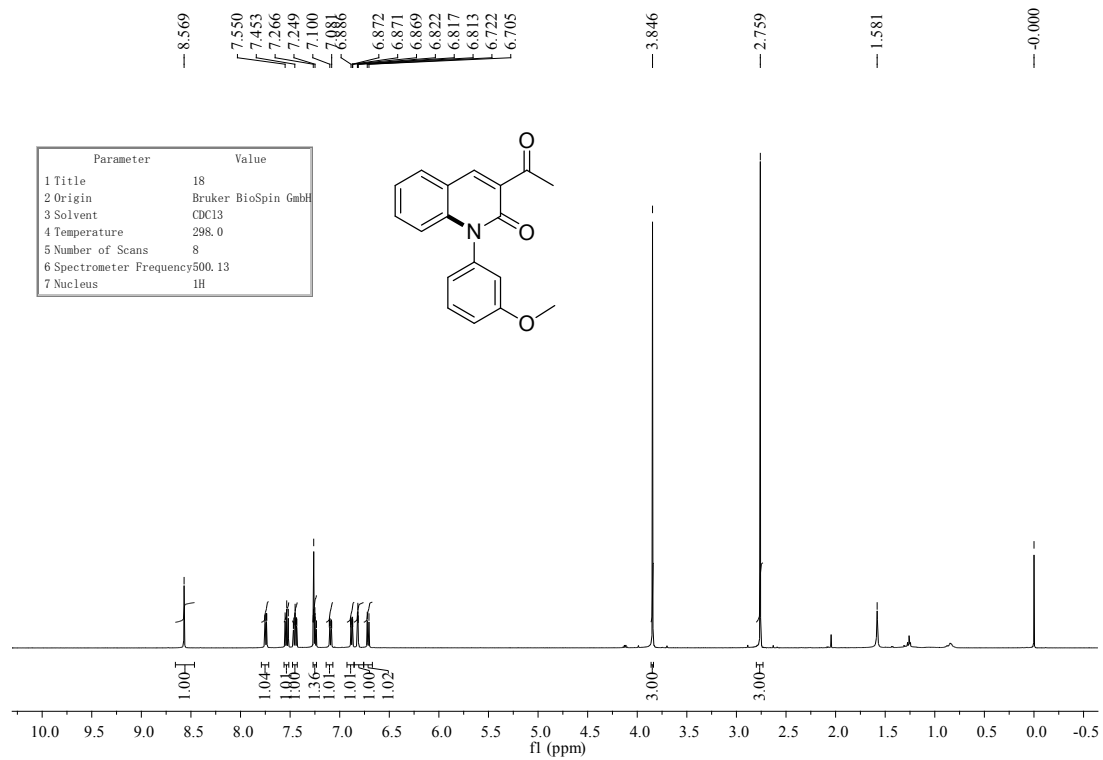


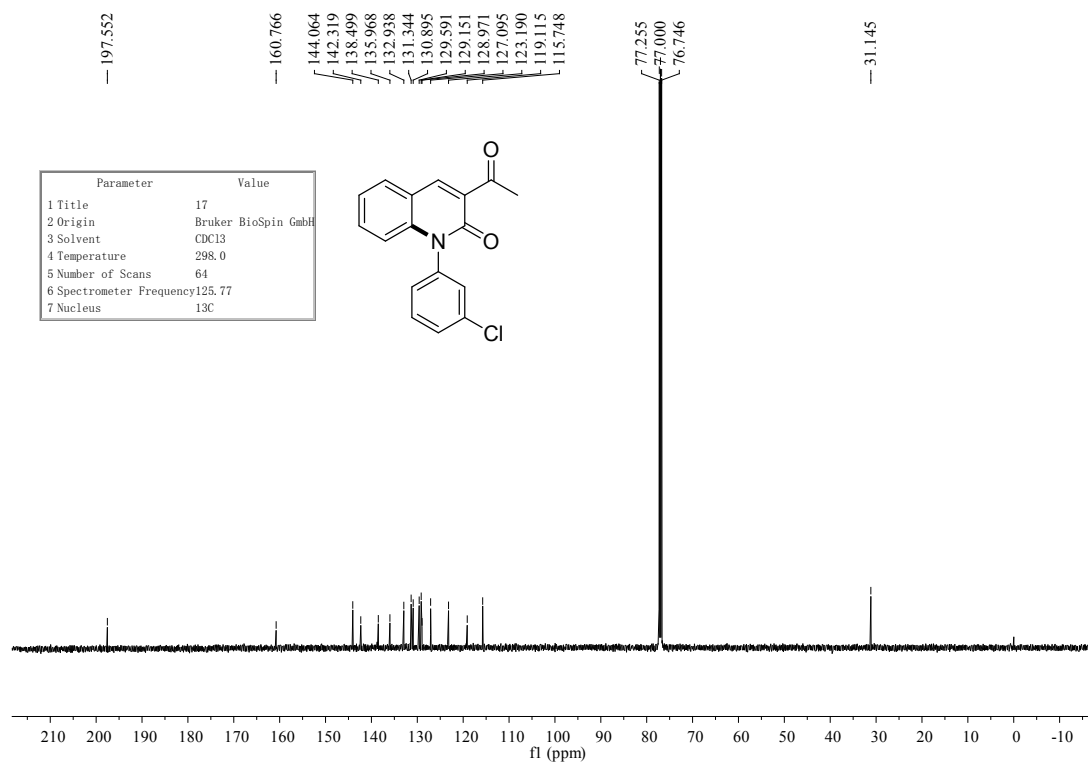
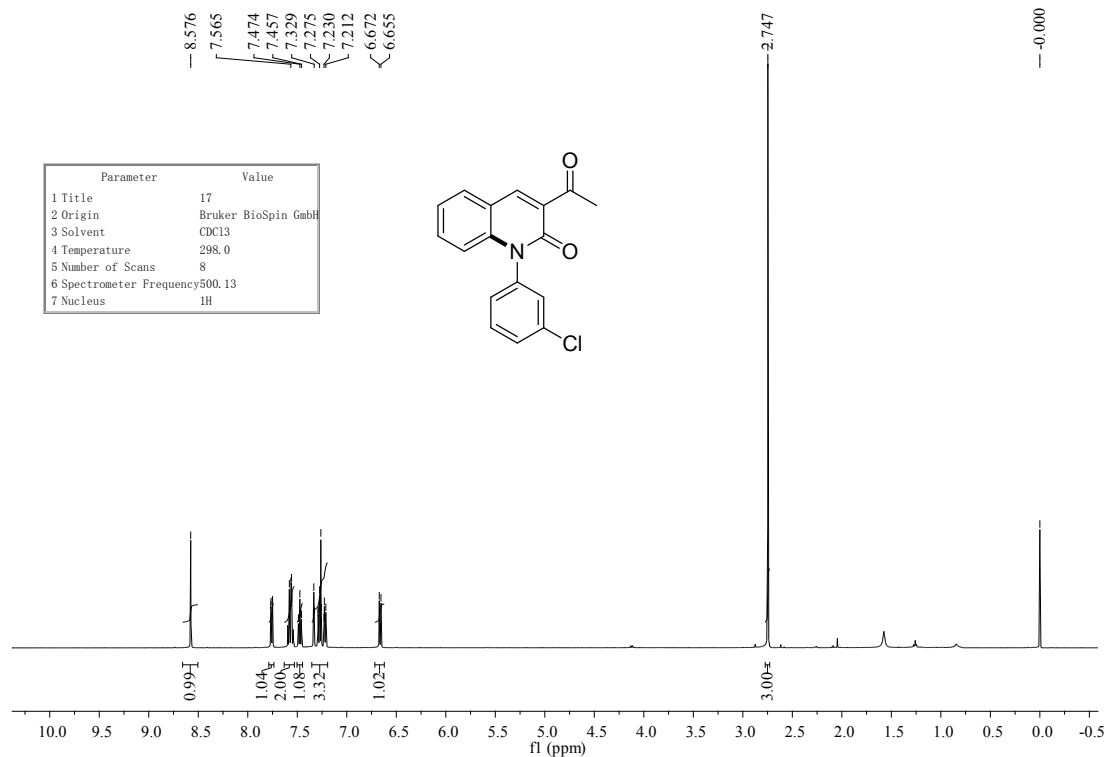


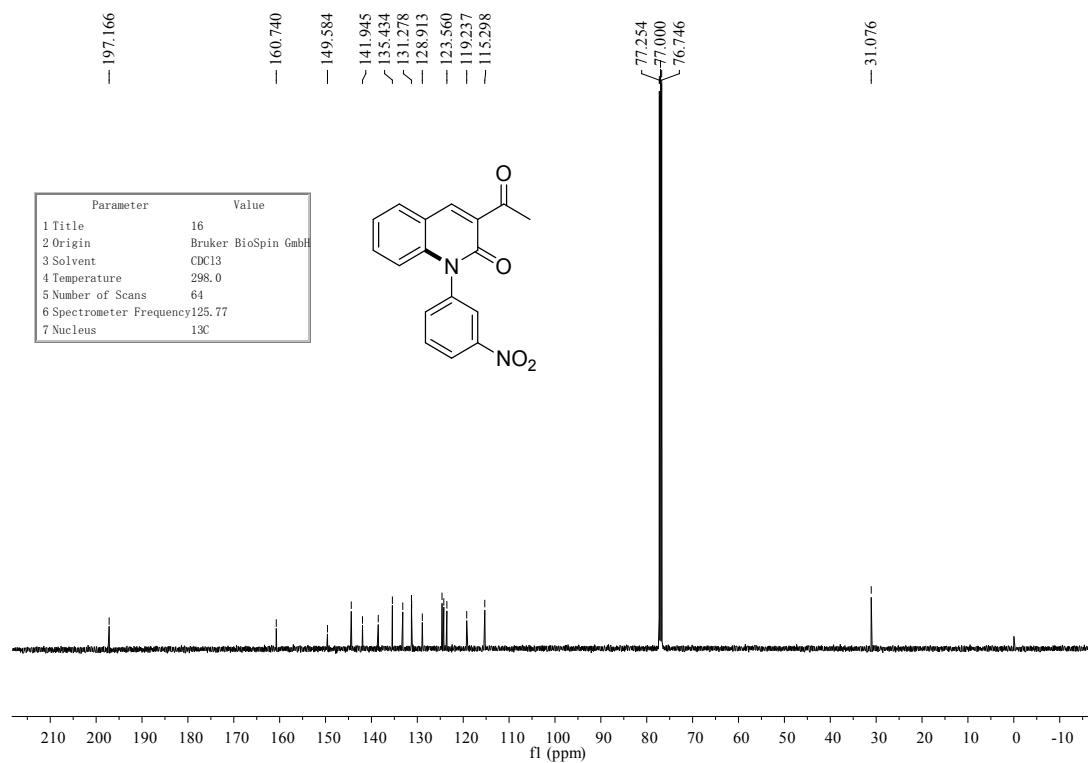
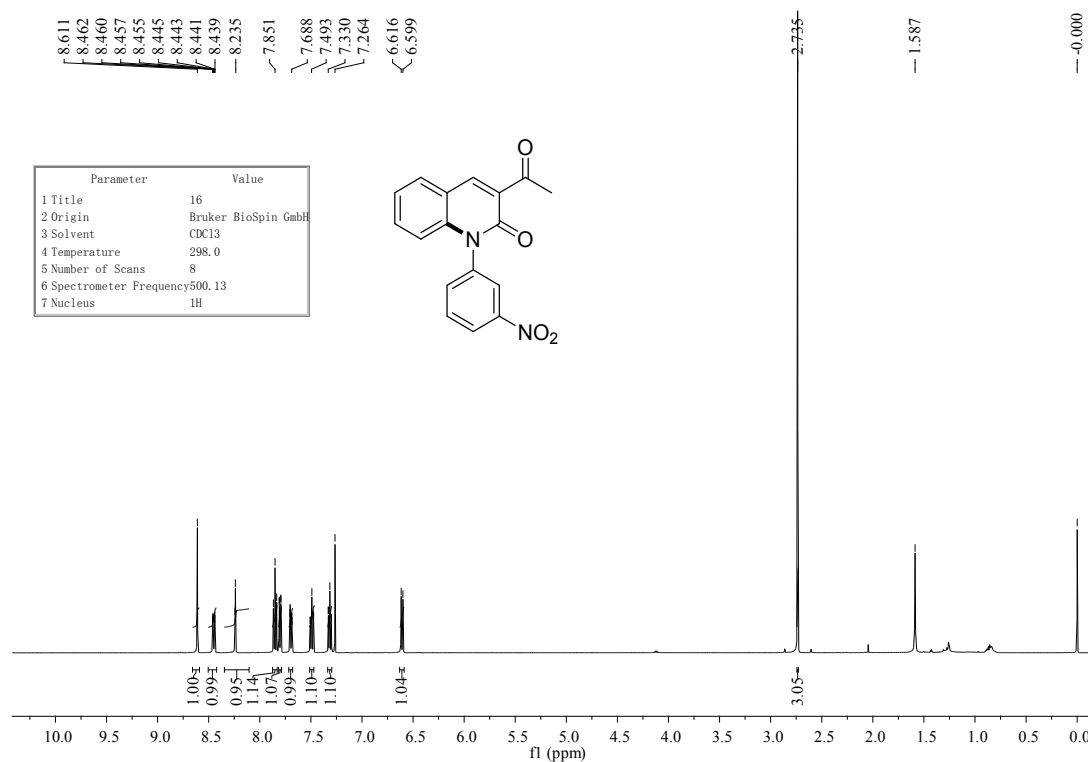


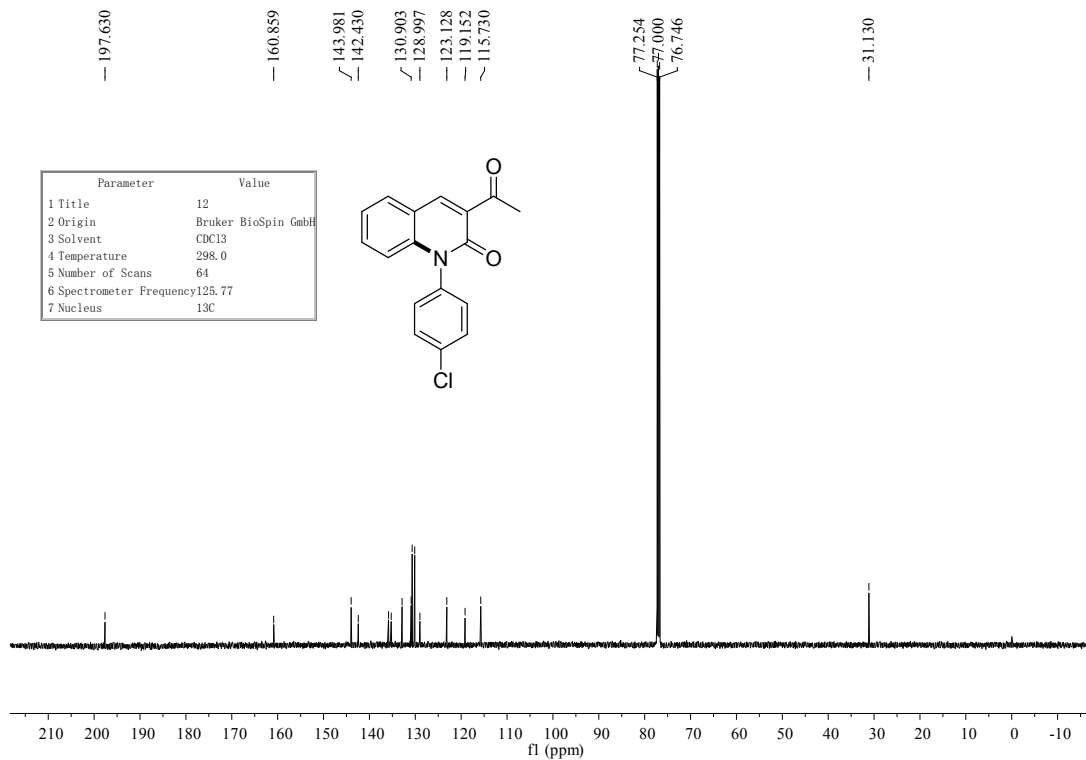
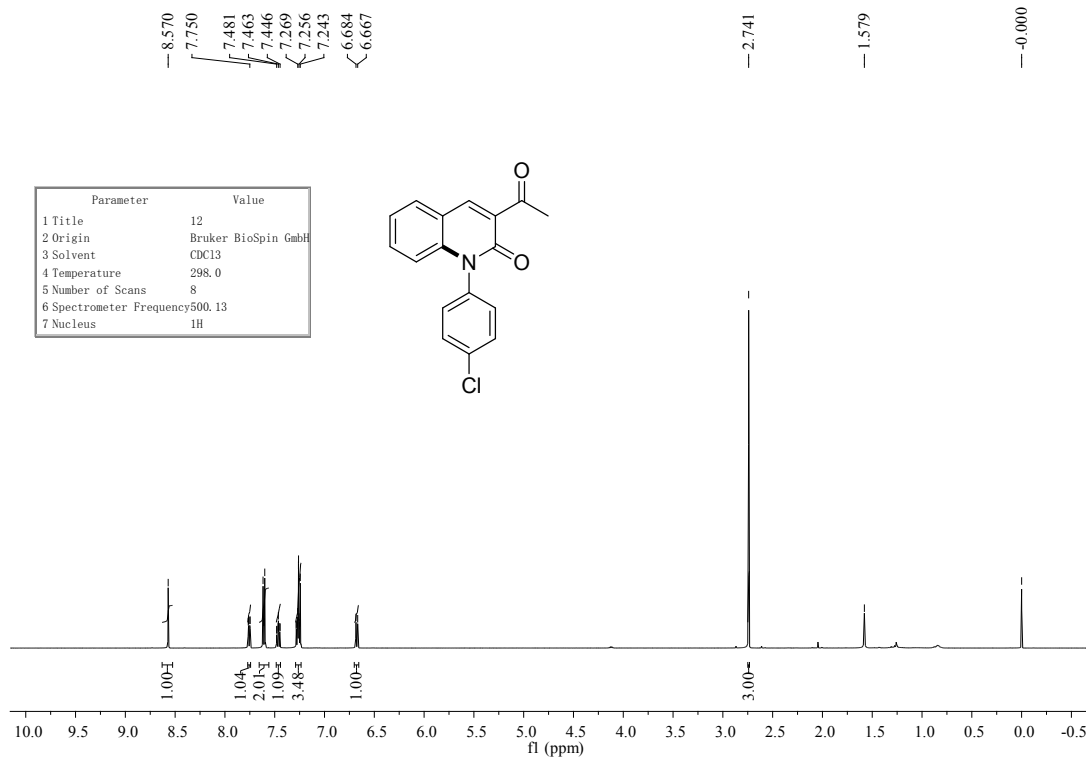


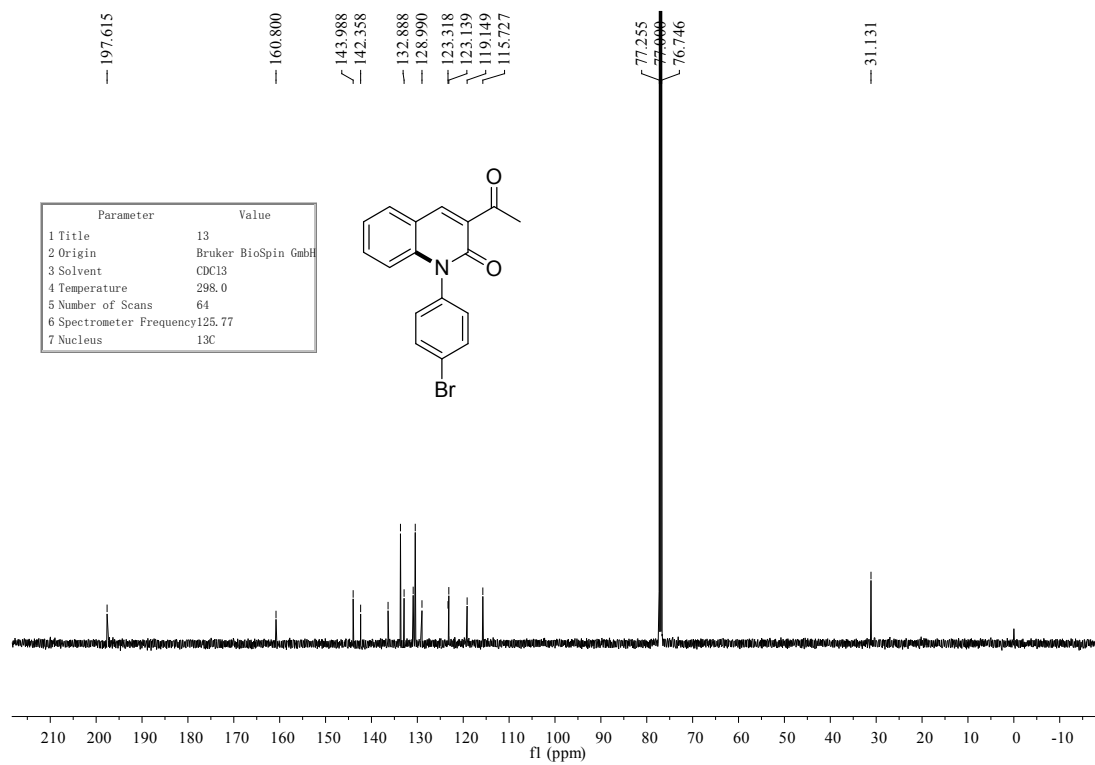
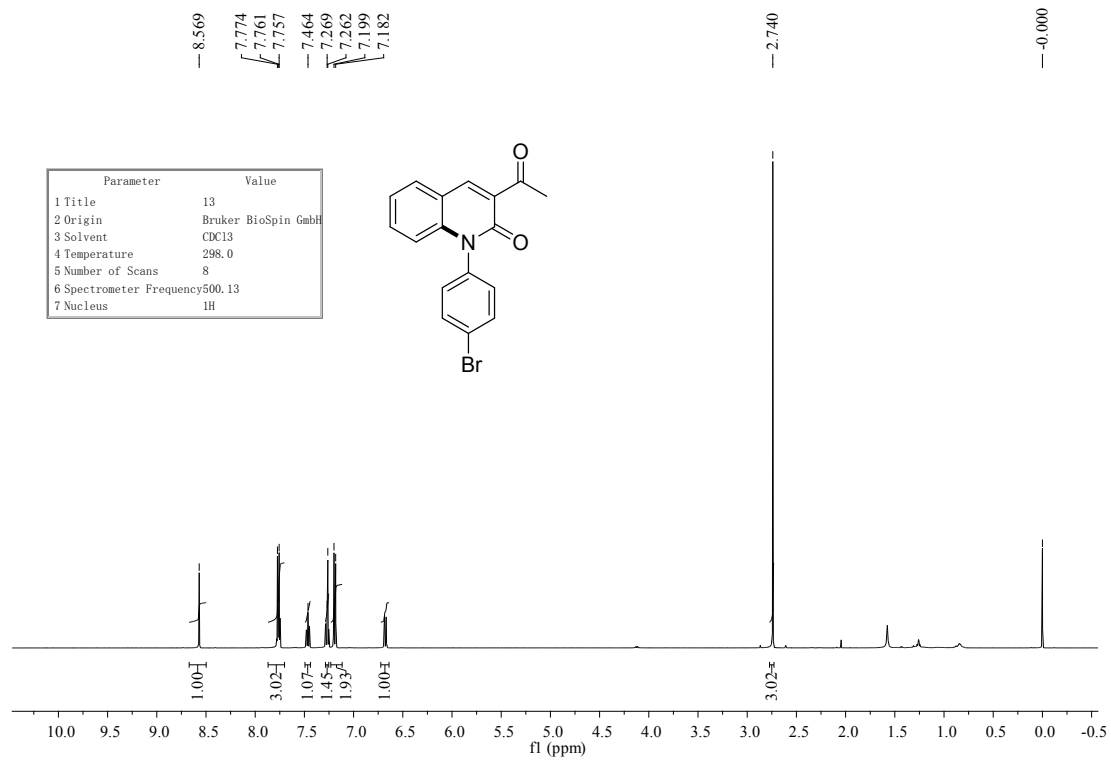


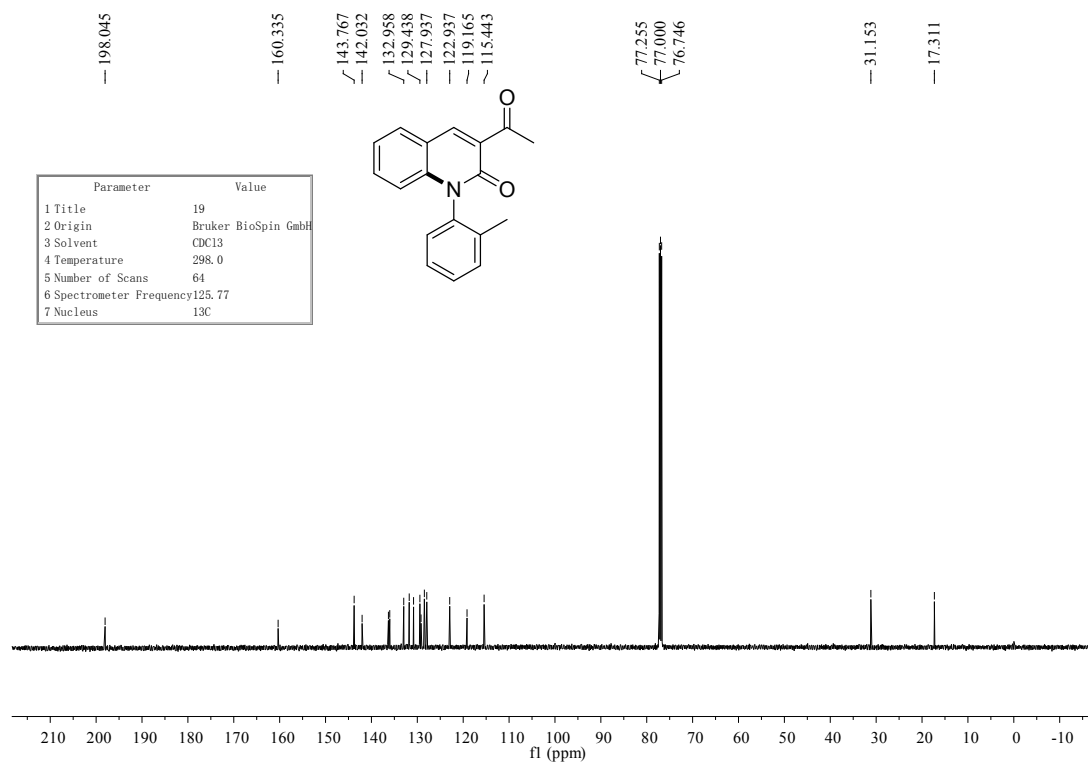
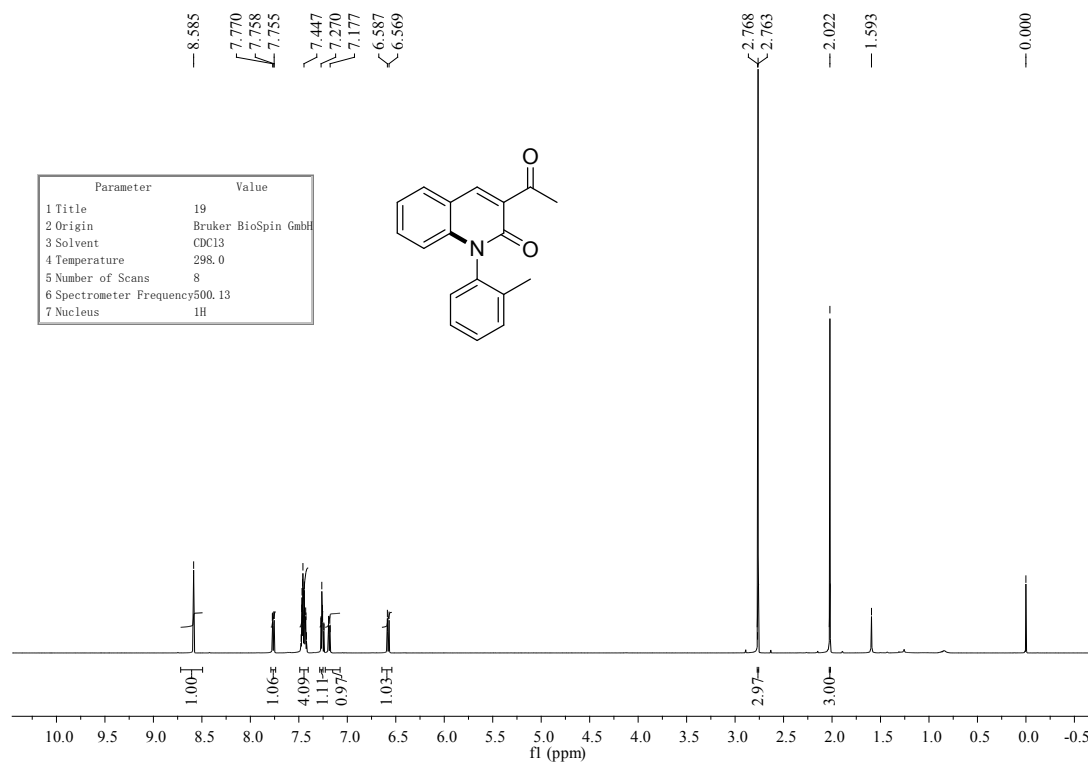


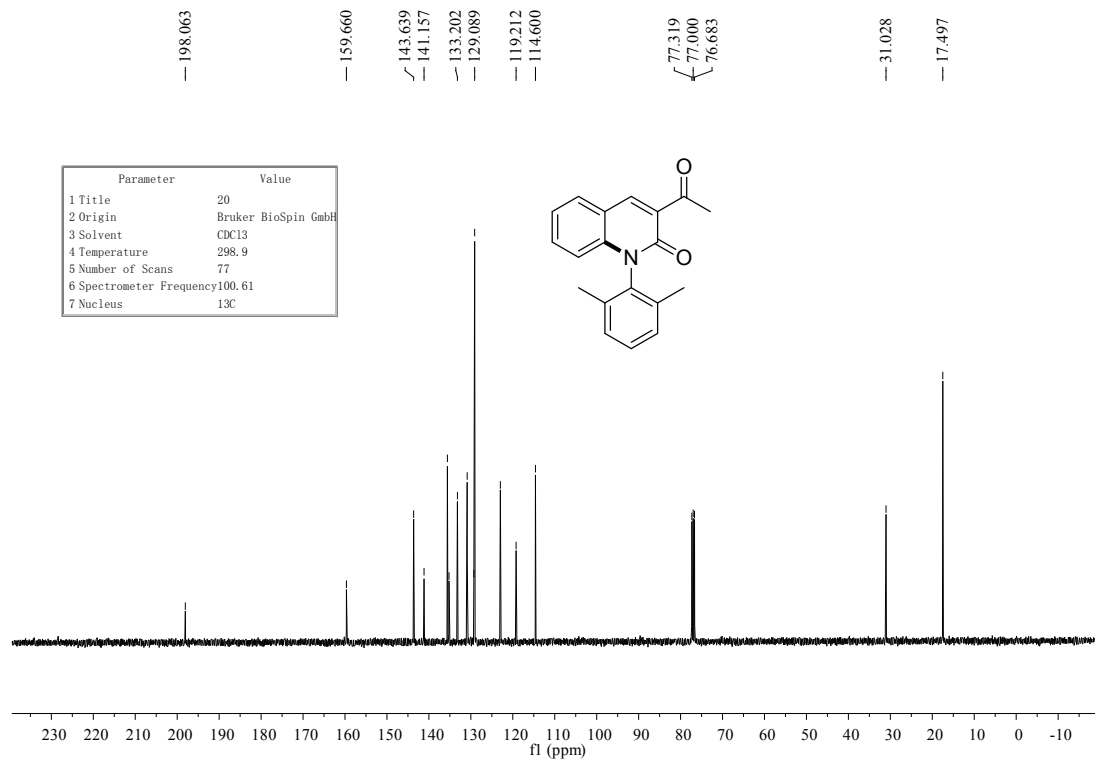
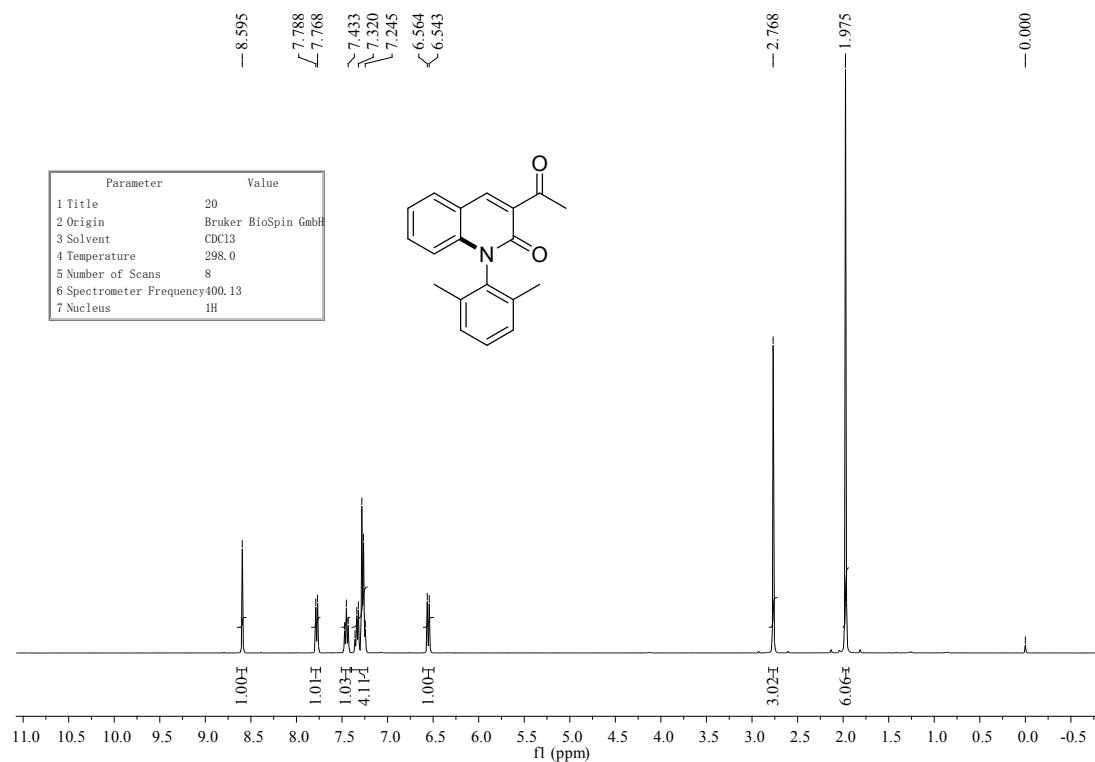


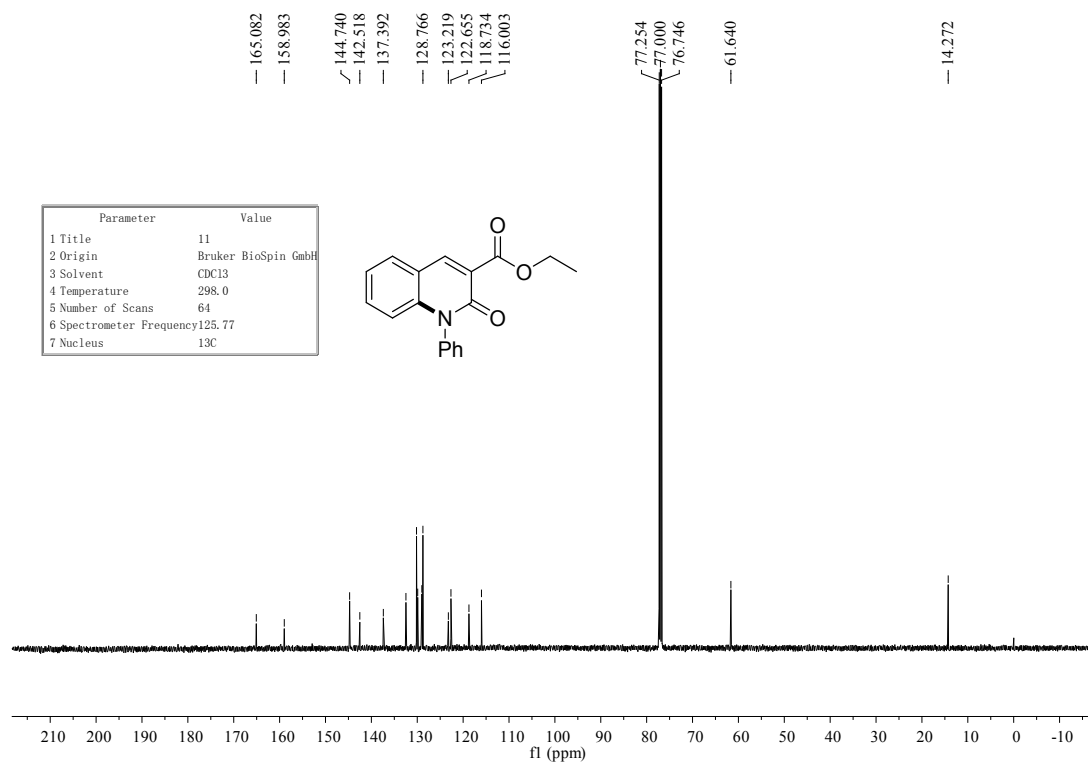
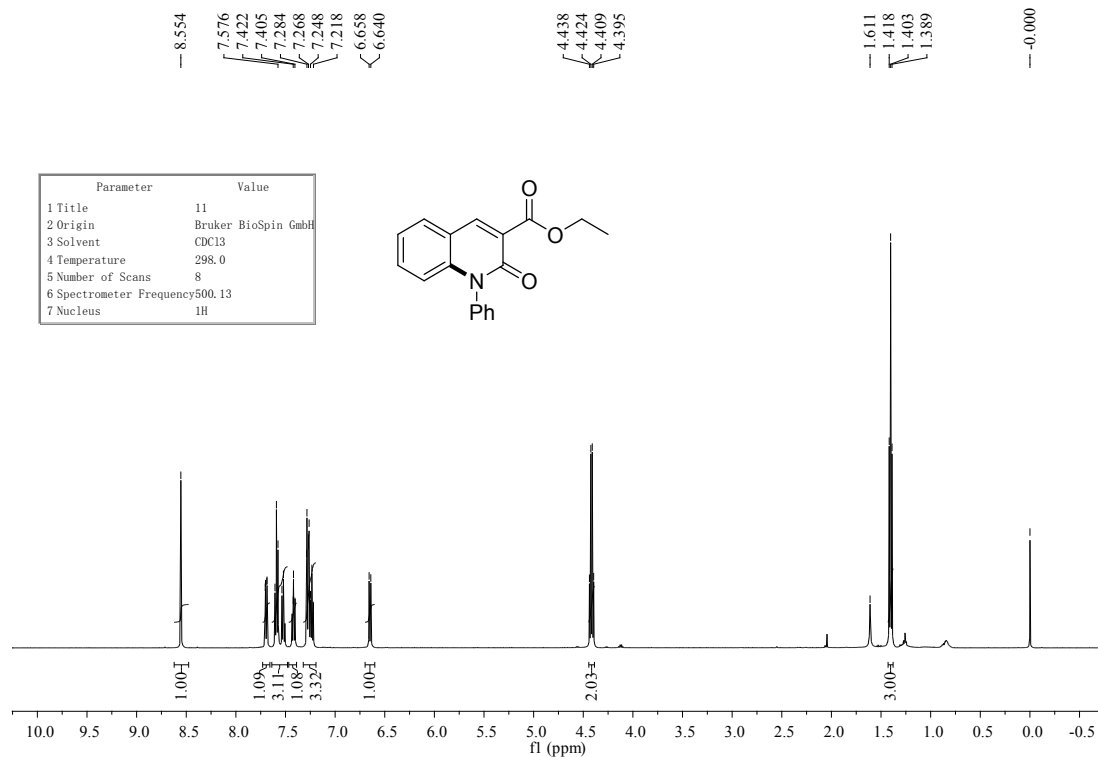


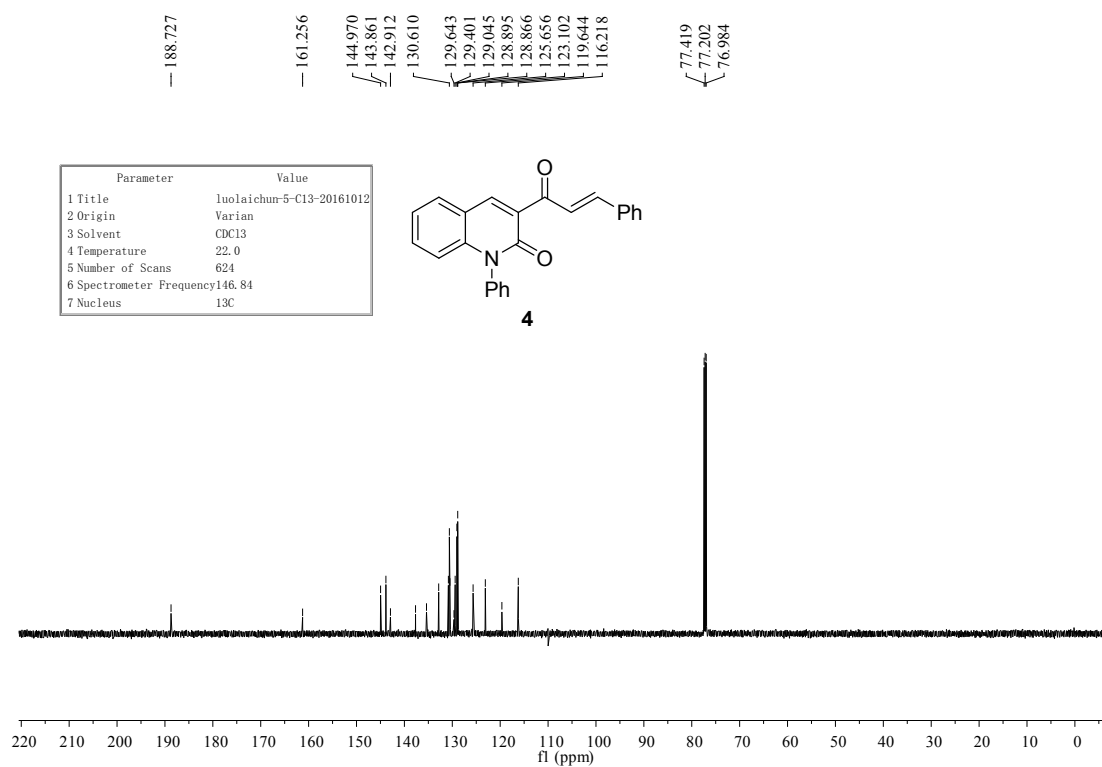
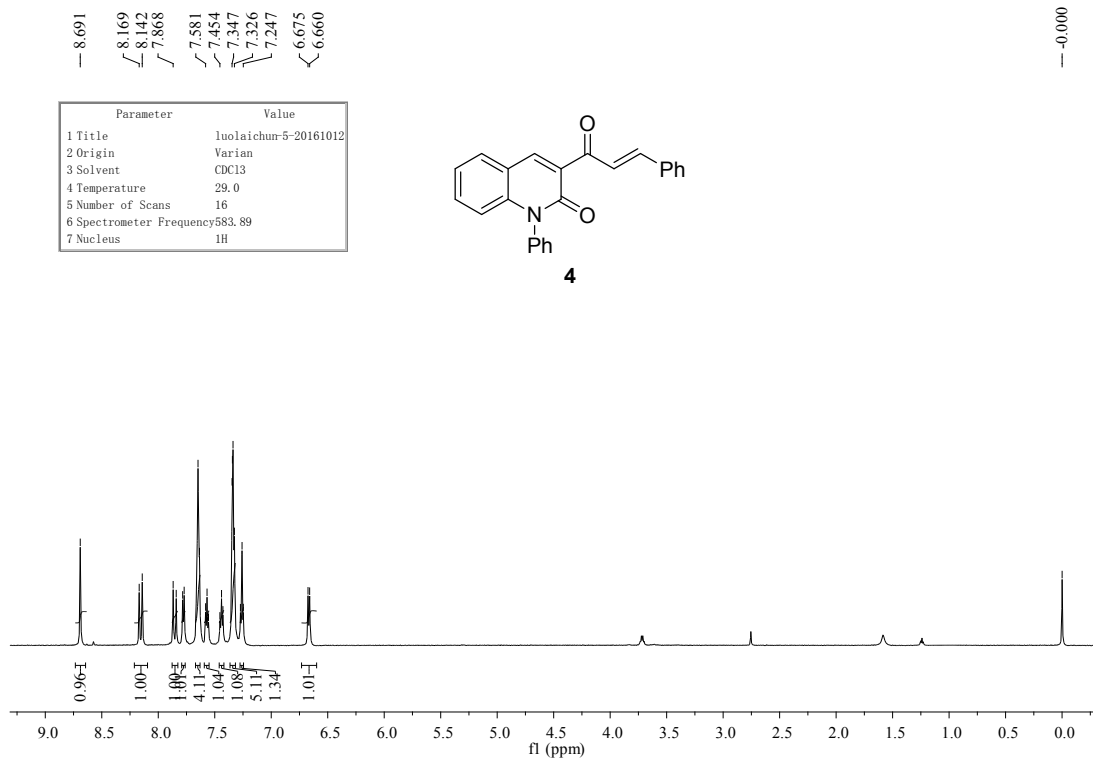


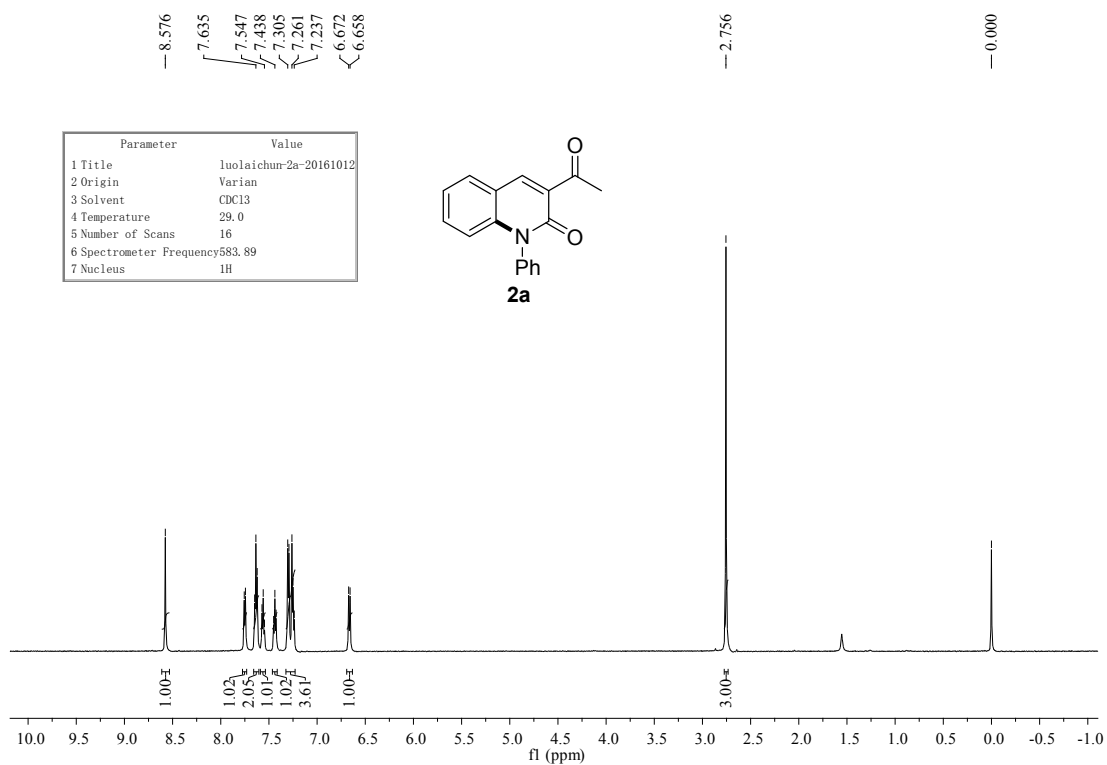
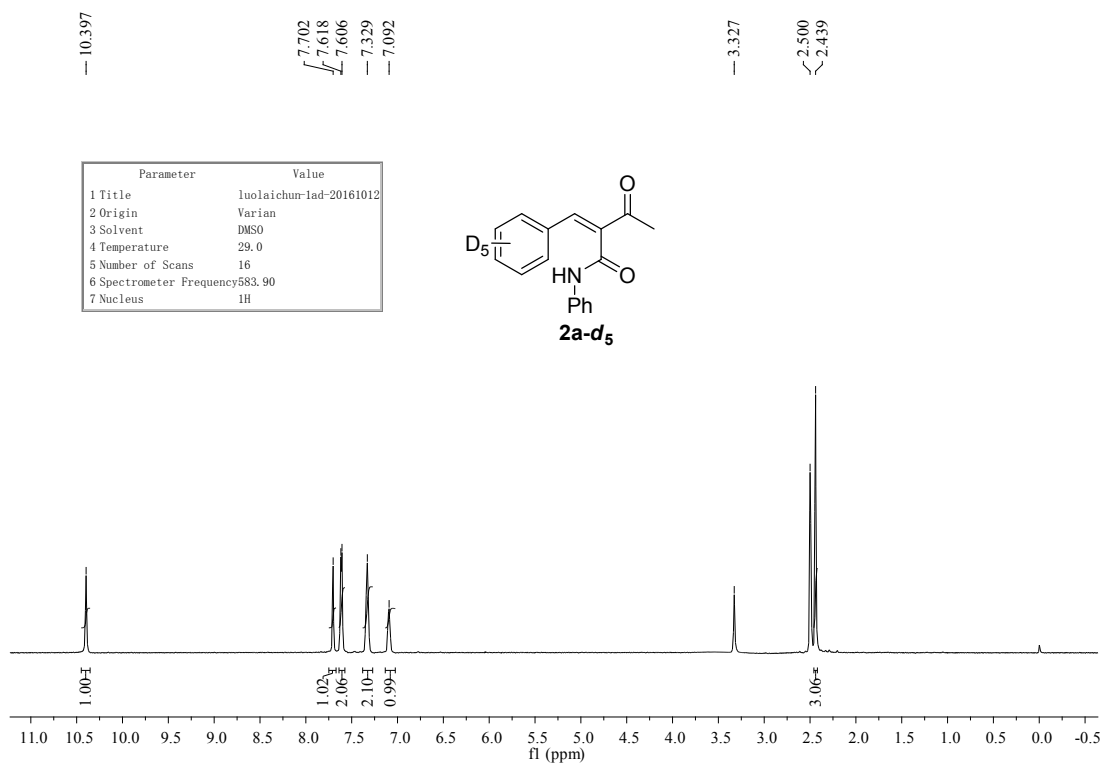


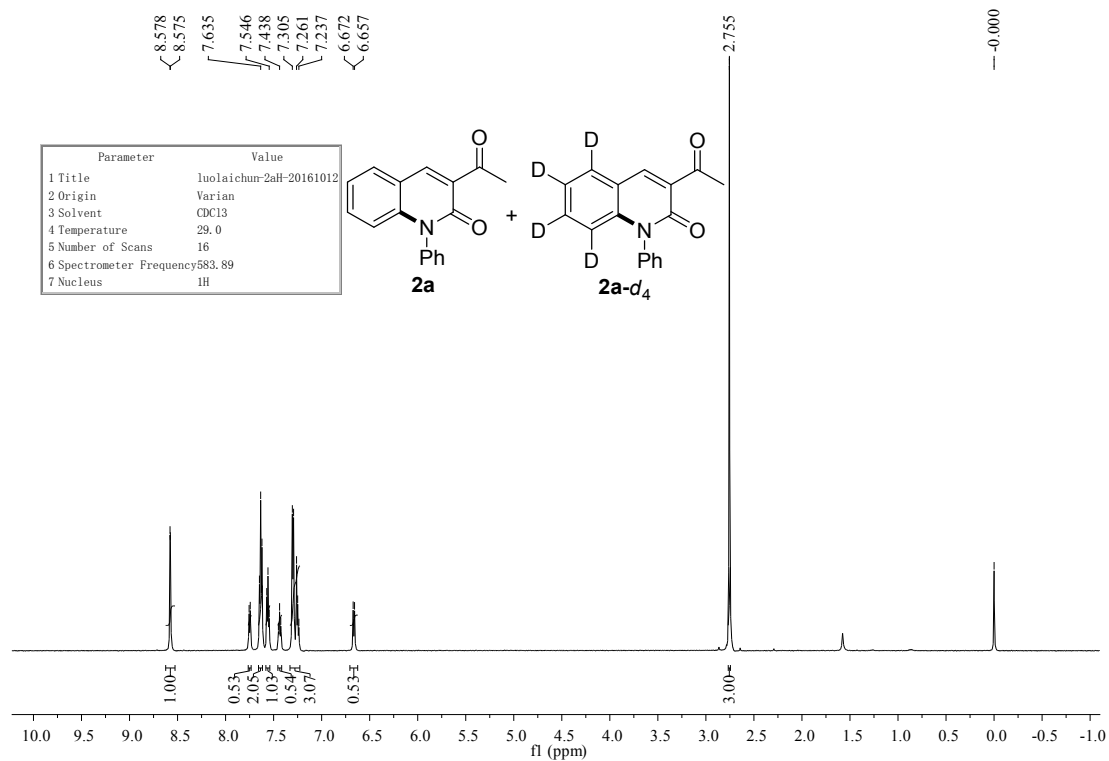
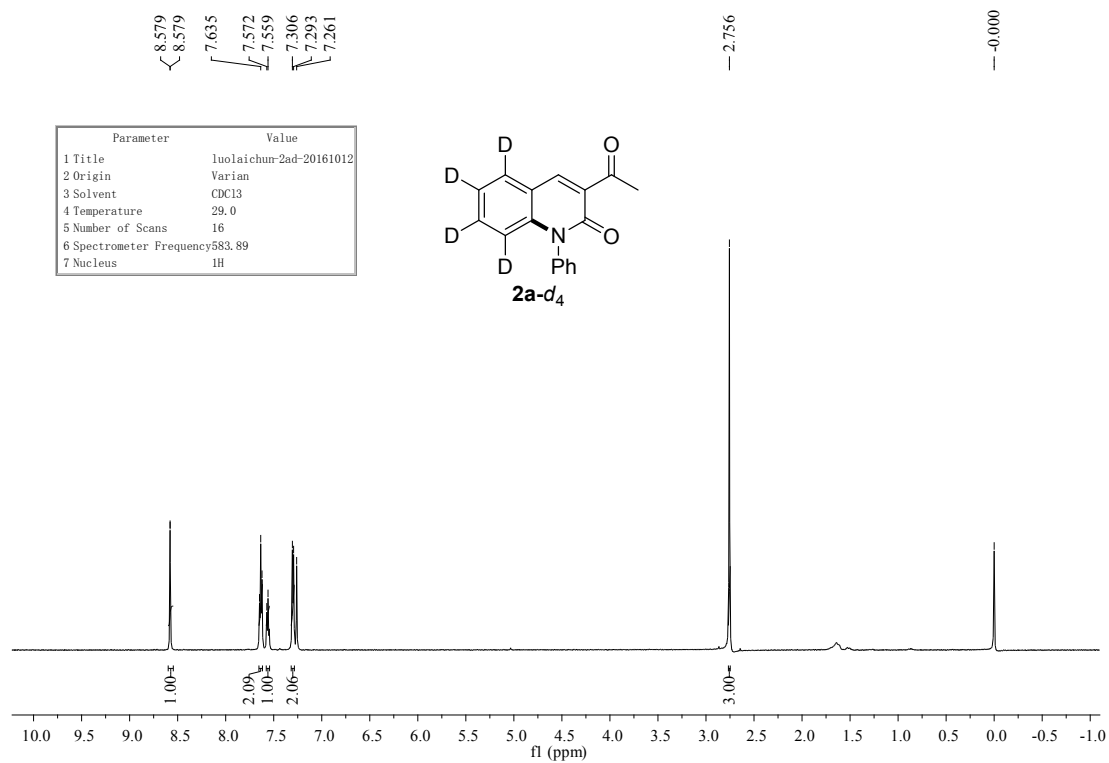












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