

*Supporting Information*

**Heptamethylindenyl (Ind\*) Enables Diastereoselective Benzamidation of Cyclopropenes via  
Rh(III)-Catalyzed C-H Activation**

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## 1. General methods

Flash column chromatography was performed on SiliCycle Inc.® silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). Thin Layer chromatography was performed on SiliCycle Inc.® 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light (254 nm), KMnO<sub>4</sub>, or CAM.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 MHz spectrometers or a Bruker Avance III 500 (500 MHz) at ambient temperature. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data are reported as the following: chemical shift in parts per million ( $\delta$ , ppm) from chloroform (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) taken as 7.26 ppm, integration, multiplicity (s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, m=multiplet, dd=doublet of doublets) and coupling constant (*J* in Hz unit). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR is reported as the following: chemical shifts are reported in ppm from CDCl<sub>3</sub> taken as 77.0 ppm. Several spectra contain a probe-shielding artifact that consistently appeared on all spectra taken at that instrument over a period of months.

Mass spectra were obtained on an Agilent Technologies 6130 Quadrupole Mass Spec (LRMS, ESI+APCI).

Infrared spectra (IR) were obtained on Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer.

## 2. Preparation of starting materials and rhodium precatalysts

### 2.1 O-substituted Arylbenzhydroxamate Synthesis

*O*-pivaloyl arylhydroxamates<sup>1</sup> and *O*-Boc arylhydroxamates<sup>2</sup> were prepared by previously reported procedure.

### 2.2 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropene Synthesis

3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes were synthesized according to literature procedures<sup>3-4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> (a) Guimond, N.; Gorelsky, S. I.; Fagnou, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6449. (b) Wang, H.; Glorius, F. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 7318 (c) Hyster, T. K.; Ruhl, K. E.; Rovis, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 5364.

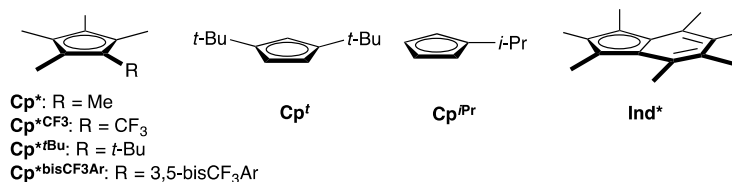
<sup>2</sup> (a) Guimond, N.; Gorelsky, S. I.; Fagnou, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6449. (b) Ye, B.; Cramer, N. *Science* **2012**, *338*, 504

<sup>3</sup> Rubin, M.; Gevorgyan, V. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 796.

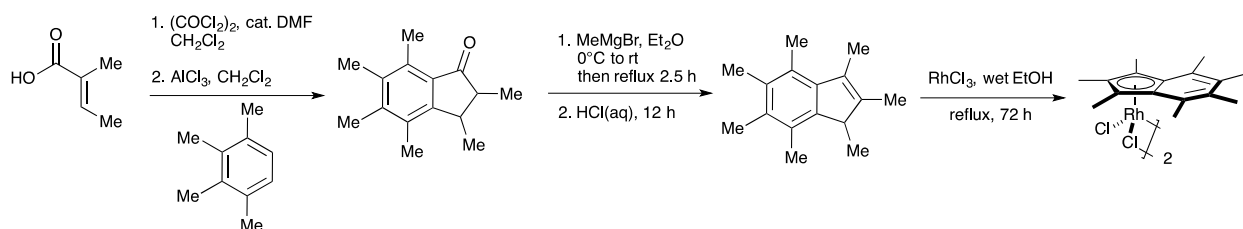
<sup>4</sup> Phan, D. H. T.; Kou, K. G. M.; Dong, V. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 16354.

## 2.3 Catalyst Synthesis

$[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ <sup>5</sup>,  $[\text{Cp}^{*t\text{-Bu}}\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ <sup>6</sup>,  $[\text{Cp}^{*\text{CF}_3}\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ <sup>7</sup>,  $[\text{Cp}^{*\text{bisCF}_3\text{Ar}}\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ <sup>8</sup> and  $[\text{Cp}^{i\text{Pr}}\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ <sup>9</sup> were synthesized by reported procedures.  $[\text{Cp}^f\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (RNI00147).



### Synthesis of heptamethylindenyl rhodium chloride dimer $[\text{Ind}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$



To a flame-dried round bottom flask charged with a stir bar, 2,3,4,5,6,7-hexamethylindan-1-one<sup>10</sup> (700 mg, 3.23 mmol, 1 equiv.),  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (11 mL, 0.3 M) were added and cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . 3 M  $\text{MeMgBr}$  (2.16 mL, 6.47 mmol, 2 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and refluxed for 2.5 h. At  $0^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was added to the reaction mixture followed by conc  $\text{HCl}$  and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $\times 3$  times), washed with satd  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 5%  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ /hexane as an eluent to afford Heptamethylindene ( $\text{Ind}^*\text{H}$ )<sup>11</sup> (334 mg, 48% yield). The characterizations were agreed with the previously report.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.28 (m, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 9H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.33 (d,  $J = 4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  144.9, 142.9, 140.9, 133.8, 132.0, 130.8, 128.4, 126.5, 46.4, 16.7, 16.4, 16.2, 16.1, 16.0, 15.3, 12.3.

<sup>5</sup> Fujita, K.; Takahashi, Y.; Owaki, M.; Yamamoto, K.; Yamaguchi, R. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 2785.

<sup>6</sup> Piou, T.; Rovis, T. *Nature* **2015**, 527, 86

<sup>7</sup> Gassman, P. G.; Mickelson, J. W.; Sowa, J. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1992**, 114, 6942

<sup>8</sup> Davis, T. A.; Wang, C. Q.; Rovis, T., *Synlett* **2015**, 26, 1520

<sup>9</sup> Piou, T.; Rovis, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, 136, 11292

<sup>10</sup> Arnold, T. A.-Q.; Buffet, J.-C.; Turner, Z. R.; O'Hare, D. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2015**, 792, 5565

<sup>11</sup> O'Hare, D.; Green, J. C.; Marder, T.; Collins, S.; Stringer, G.; Kakkar, A. K.; Kaltsoyannis, N.; Kuhn, A.; Lewis, R.; Mehnert, C.; Scott, P.; Kurmoo, M.; Pugh, S. *Organometallics* **1992**, 11, 48-55

Heptamethylindene (Ind\*H) (1.26 equiv., 1.2 mmol, 260 mg) was dissolved in EtOH (0.063 M, 15 mL) and a few drops of water. RhCl<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O (1 equiv., 0.95 mmol, 250 mg) was added to the reaction mixture which was subsequently refluxed for 72 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was evaporated to dryness. The crude product was washed several times with hexane to remove excess ligand. The crude solid was redissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was concentrated which give [Ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> complex as a red-brown solid (60 mg, 48% yield). The characterizations were agreed with the previously report<sup>12</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 2.54 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 6H), 1.97 (s, 6H), 1.59 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz) δ 143.7, 130.4, 102.6, 95.2 (d), 81.0(d), 18.5, 17.8, 13.4, 10.3. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2922.6, 2852.3

### 3. General procedures for Rh(III)-catalyzed amidoarylation *O*-substituted arylhydroxamate with cyclopropene

Without any precaution of air and moisture, *O*-substituted arylhydroxamate (0.1 mmol, 1 eq), [ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.001 mmol, 1 mol%), CsOPiv (0.025 mmol, 0.25 equiv) and MeOH (1 mL, 0.1 M) were weighed into a dram vial charged with a stir bar. The mixture was stirred for 30 seconds and cyclopropene (0.11 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was then added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16 h until the starting material was consumed (monitoring by TLC). The reaction was quenched with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and solvent was evaporated to obtain crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane to obtain the desired product.

**Condition A:** using *O*-pivaloyl arylhydroxamate

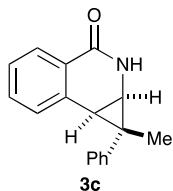
**Condition B:** using *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate

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<sup>12</sup> Kakkar, A. K.; Stringer, G.; Taylor, N. J.; Marder, T. B. *Can. J. Chem.* **1995**, 73, 981

#### 4. Product characterizations

##### (1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3c)



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1c'** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as a white solid (17.9 mg, 68% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.99 (br. s, NH), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H)

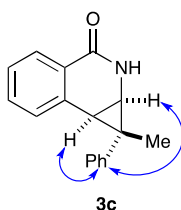
**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.1, 144.8, 136.4, 132.5, 129.5, 128.7, 128.2, 126.95, 126.86, 126.78, 126.5, 40.7, 26.7, 24.9, 13.1

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3174, 2923, 1658, 1599

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO [M+H]: 250.1; Found: 250.1

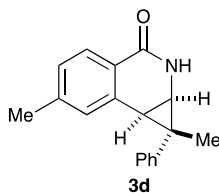
**NOESY**

NOE interaction



#### 4.1 Amide scope (Table 2)

##### (1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1,6-dimethyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3d)



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.5 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (21.0 mg, 90 % yield).

General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d'** (0.1 mmol, 25.1 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as a white solid (17.9 mg, 68% yield).

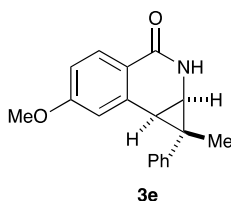
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.28-2.22 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (br. s, 1H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.3, 144.9, 143.1, 136.3, 130.0, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 126.8, 126.4, 124.3, 40.7, 26.7, 25.0, 21.6, 13.2

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3176, 3024, 2919, 1575, 1614

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M+H]: 264.1; Found: 264.2

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-6-methoxy-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3e)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1e** (0.1 mmol, 25.1 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (24.9 mg, 89 % yield).

General procedure B, using *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1e'** (0.1 mmol, 26.7 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (17.9 mg, 64% yield).

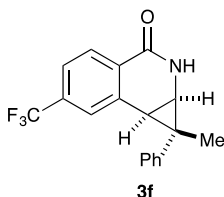
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.89-6.83 (m, 2H), 6.83 (br. s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 1.15 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.1, 162.8, 144.9, 138.5, 130.4, 128.7, 126.7, 126.4, 119.9, 114.0, 112.9, 55.4, 41.0, 27.0, 25.2, 13.1

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3189, 3024, 2927, 1445, 1603, 1445, 1266

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 280.1; Found: 280.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3f)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1f** (0.1 mmol, 28.9 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (10.2:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (25.1 mg, 77 % yield).

General procedure B, using *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1f'** (0.1 mmol, 30.0 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (17:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (21.2 mg, 67% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H)

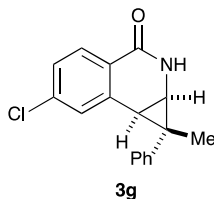
**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 163.1, 144.1, 140.4, 130.1, 129.4 (q), 128.8, 128.8 (q), 127.5, 126.9, 126.8, 126.3 (q), 125.4 (q), 40.8, 26.4, 25.9, 13.2

**<sup>19</sup>F-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 386 MHz): δ -63.1

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3200, 1560, 1311, 1168, 1127

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [M+H]: 318.1; Found: 318.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-6-chloro-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3g)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1g** (0.1 mmol, 25.6 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (8.5:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (20.8 mg, 73 % yield).

General procedure B, using *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1g'** (0.1 mmol, 27.2 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (17.6 mg, 63% yield).

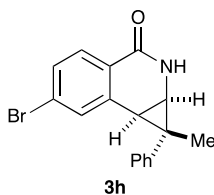
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.41-7.23 (m, 7H), 6.79 (br. s, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 163.2, 144.3, 138.7, 138.2, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 127.4, 126.9, 126.7, 125.4, 40.7, 26.2, 25.7, 13.3

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3173, 2921, 1490, 1596

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClNO [M+H]: 284.1; Found: 284.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-6-bromo-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3h)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1h** (0.1 mmol, 30.0 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (11.2:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (27.3 mg, 83 % yield).



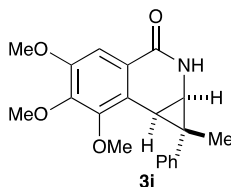
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (br. s, 1H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 163.4, 144.3, 138.4, 132.2, 130.4, 130.0, 128.8, 127.3, 126.9, 126.7, 125.8, 40.7, 26.2, 25.7, 13.3

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2924, 1668, 1591, 1469, 1444, 1371, 765, 700

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrNO [M+H]: 328.0; Found: 328.0, 330.0

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bS*)-5,6,7-trimethoxy-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3i)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1i** (0.1 mmol, 31.1 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (20.5 mg, 62 % yield).

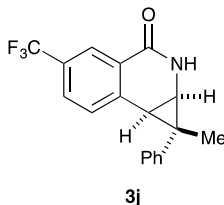
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.87 (br. s, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.39 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 163.7, 152.3, 151.9, 145.9, 144.9, 128.7, 127.1, 126.5, 123.7, 122.3, 106.7, 61.1, 61.0, 56.1, 40.6, 23.9, 21.2, 13.6

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3200, 2937, 1575, 1597, 1576, 1479, 1113

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]: 340.2; Found: 340.2

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3j)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1j** (0.1 mmol, 28.5 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (single regioselectivity, >20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (28.3 mg, 85 % yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.80 (br. s, NH), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.14 (*s*, 3H)

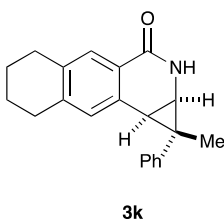
**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 163.1, 144.1, 140.4, 130.1, 129.4 (q), 128.8, 128.8 (q), 127.5 (q), 126.9 (q), 126.8, 125.4, 123.8, 40.8, 26.4, 25.9, 13.2.

**<sup>19</sup>F-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 386 MHz): δ -61.8

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3193, 3060, 2928, 1669, 1617, 1502, 1167, 1125

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [*M*+*H*]: 318.1; Found: 318.1

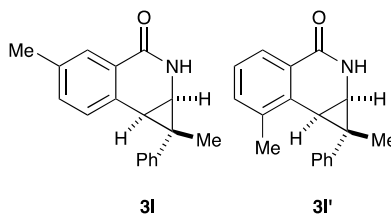
**(1*S*,1*aR*,9*bR*)-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1,1*a*,2,5,6,7,8,9*b*-octahydro-3*H*-benzo[*g*]cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (3k)**



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1k** (0.1 mmol, 27.5 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (8.5:1 regioselectivity, >20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The mixture of product (8.5:1 regioselectivity, >20:1 dr) was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (28.6 mg, 94 % yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (m, 4H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.82 (m, 4H), 1.13 (s, 3H)  
**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.7, 145.1, 142.4, 136.2, 133.1, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 126.8, 126.7, 126.3, 40.7, 29.5, 29.0, 26.5, 24.6, 23.0, 22.9, 13.1  
**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3190, 2926, 1660, 1613, 1445, 909, 731  
**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO [*M*+*H*]: 303.2; Found: 303.2

### 3l+3l'



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1l** (0.1 mmol, 23.5 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (3:1 regioselectivity, >20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The mixture of products (3:1 regioselectivity, >20:1 dr) was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (25.5 mg, 92 % yield).

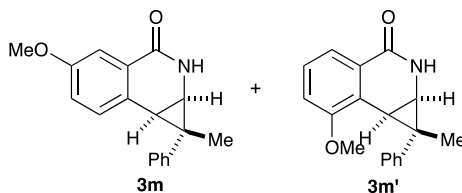
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): (See spectra)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): (See spectra)

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3196, 3025, 2923, 1665, 1613, 1500

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [*M*+*H*]: 264.1; Found: 264.1

### 3m+3m'



General procedure A, *O*-Piv arylhydroxamate **1m** (0.1 mmol, 25.1 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.3 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (1:1 regioselectivity, >20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The mixture of product was obtained

after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (25.1 mg, 86 % yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): (See spectra)

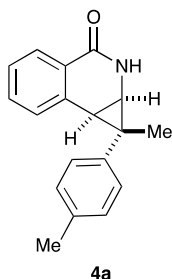
**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): (See spectra)

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3187, 2932, 1668, 1581, 1494, 1263, 1057, 1032, 752

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 280.1; Found: 280.1

#### 4.2 Cyclopropene scope (Table 3)

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4a)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2d** (0.11 mmol, 15.9 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (15.3 mg, 58 % yield).

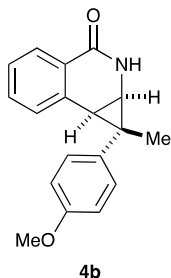
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.91 (br. s, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.1, 141.8, 136.5, 136.2, 132.4, 129.44, 129.39, 128.2, 126.87, 126.85, 126.7, 40.6, 26.6, 24.7, 21.0, 13.2

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3188, 3028, 2919, 1662, 1597, 1479, 1341, 777

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M+H]: 264.1; Found: 264.2

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4b)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2e** (0.11 mmol, 17.6 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (18.7 mg, 67 % yield).

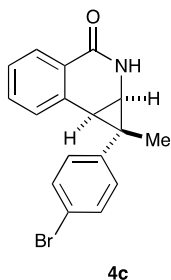
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (brs, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 4, 8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.2, 158.2, 137.0, 136.6, 132.4, 129.4, 128.1, 128.1, 126.8, 114.1, 55.3, 40.5, 26.4, 24.5, 13.6

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3196, 3039, 2929, 2830, 1662, 1513, 1240, 1178, 1030, 777, 737

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [*M*+*H*]: 280.1; Found: 280.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4c)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2f** (0.11 mmol, 23.0 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (17.1 mg, 52 % yield).

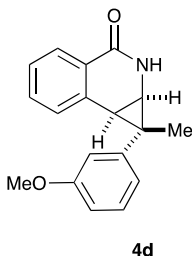
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (br. s, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): 164.0, 143.9, 136.0, 132.5, 131.8, 129.4, 128.6, 128.2, 127.1, 126.8, 120.3, 40.6, 26.7, 24.6, 13.0

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3171, 3028, 2921, 1662, 1490, 1437

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrNO [M+H]: 328.0, 330.0; Found: 328.0, 330.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4d)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2g** (0.11 mmol, 17.6 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (13.5:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (16.2 mg, 58 % yield).

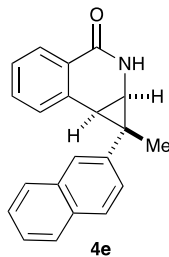
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.1, 159.9, 146.5, 136.3, 132.5, 129.7, 129.5, 128.2, 126.95, 126.89, 119.0, 113.2, 111.2, 55.3, 40.8, 26.8, 24.9, 13.0

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2952, 1633, 1560, 1482, 1341, 1291, 1039, 773, 699

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 280.1; Found: 280.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4e)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2h** (0.11 mmol, 19.8 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (23.3 mg, 78% yield).

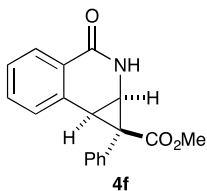
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.87-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (brs, 1H), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 4, 8 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.1, 142.1, 136.4, 133.4, 132.5, 132.1, 129.5, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 126.4, 125.8, 125.38, 125.36, 40.5, 26.5, 25.4, 13.4

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3185, 3042, 2924, 1665, 1600, 777

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M+H]: 300.1; Found: 300.2

**methyl (1*R*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-3-oxo-1-phenyl-1*a*,2,3,7*b*-tetrahydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinoline-1-carboxylate (4f)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2b** (0.11 mmol, 19.2 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (8:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer (>10:1 dr purity) was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (22.0 mg, 75% yield).

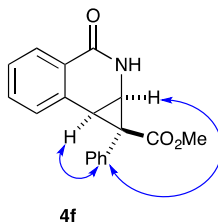
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 Hz), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.30 (m, 5H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 167.5, 163.8, 138.0, 134.2, 133.4, 132.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 127.9, 127.7, 127.0, 52.2, 41.7, 35.6, 28.2

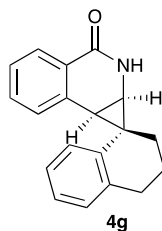
**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3057, 2950, 1726, 1670, 1445, 909, 731

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]: 293.1; Found: 293.1

**NOESY**



**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1*a*,3',4',7*b*-tetrahydro-2'*H*-spiro[cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinoline-1,1'-naphthalen]-3(2*H*)-one (4g)**



General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2i** (0.11 mmol, 17.2 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (>20:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (19.8 mg, 72% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.12 (m, 3H), 6.79 (br. s, NH), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz), 2.83 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 2H)

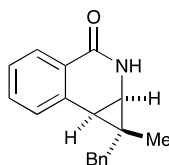
**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 164.0, 139.1, 137.9, 136.0, 132.5, 129.5, 129.0, 128.1, 127.04, 127.00, 126.6, 125.3, 119.6, 43.7, 30.7, 30.2, 22.9, 21.6, 21.3

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2920, 1657, 1598, 1479, 1344, 751

**LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M+H]: 275.1; Found: 276.1



**(1*R*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-benzyl-1-methyl-1,1*a*,2,7*b*-tetrahydro-3*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-one (4*h*)**



**4h**

General procedure B, *O*-Boc arylhydroxamate **1d** (0.1 mmol, 23.7 mg) reacted with cyclopropene **2j** (0.11 mmol, 15.9 mg) gives the desired dihydroisoquinolone (2.3:1 dr of the crude reaction mixture). The mixture of product was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (16.8 mg, 64% yield).

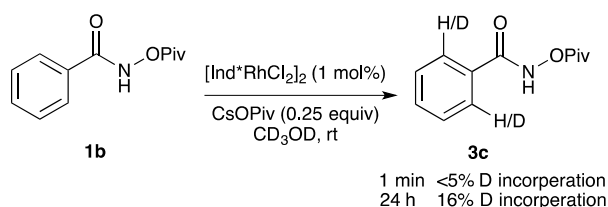
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): (See spectra)

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): (See spectra)

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M+H]: 264.1; Found: 264.1

## 5. Mechanistic studies

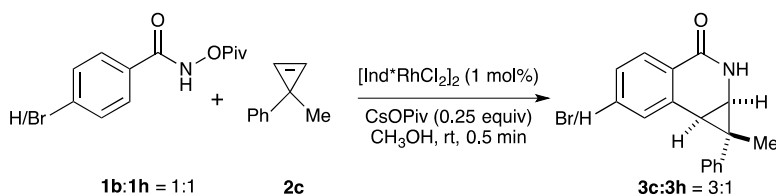
### 5.1 C-H activation reversibility



A 1-dram vial was charged with a stir bar, *O*-pivaloyl benzhydroxamate (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv., 22.1 mg), [Ind\**RhCl*<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.001 mmol, 1 mol%, 0.7 mg) and CsOPiv (0.025 mmol, 0.25 equiv., 5.9 mg) were weighed. The mixture was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (0.1 M, 1 mL) and stirred for 1 min. The mixture was determined the deuterium incorporation by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

Another vial was stirred for 24 h at room temperature.

### 5.2 Electronic preference of the reaction



A 1-dram vial charged with a stir bar, *O*-pivaloyl benzhydroxamate (0.05 mmol, 0.5 equiv., 11.1 mg), *O*-pivaloyl *p*-bromo benzhydroxamate (0.05 mmol, 0.5 equiv., 15.0 mg), [Ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.001 mmol, 1 mol%, 0.7 mg) and CsOPiv (0.025 mmol, 0.25 equiv., 5.9 mg) were weighed. The mixture was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>OH and stirred for 30 sec at 0°C. Then, cyclopropene (0.1 mmol, 0.5 equiv., 5.9 mg) was added and stirred for 30 sec at 0°C. The reaction was quenched using satd. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and solvent was evaporated. The crude mixture was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

### 5.3 Kinetic isotope study

D<sub>5</sub>-benzoic acid was prepared according to the reported procedure.<sup>13</sup> Then, *O*-pivaloyl D<sub>5</sub>-benzhydroxamate was prepared.

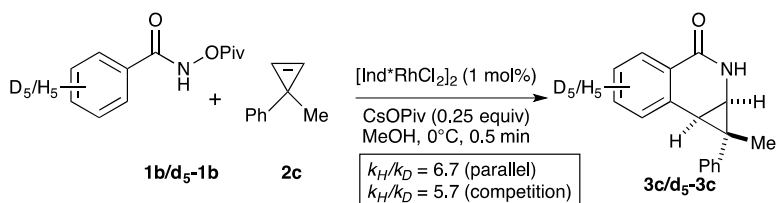
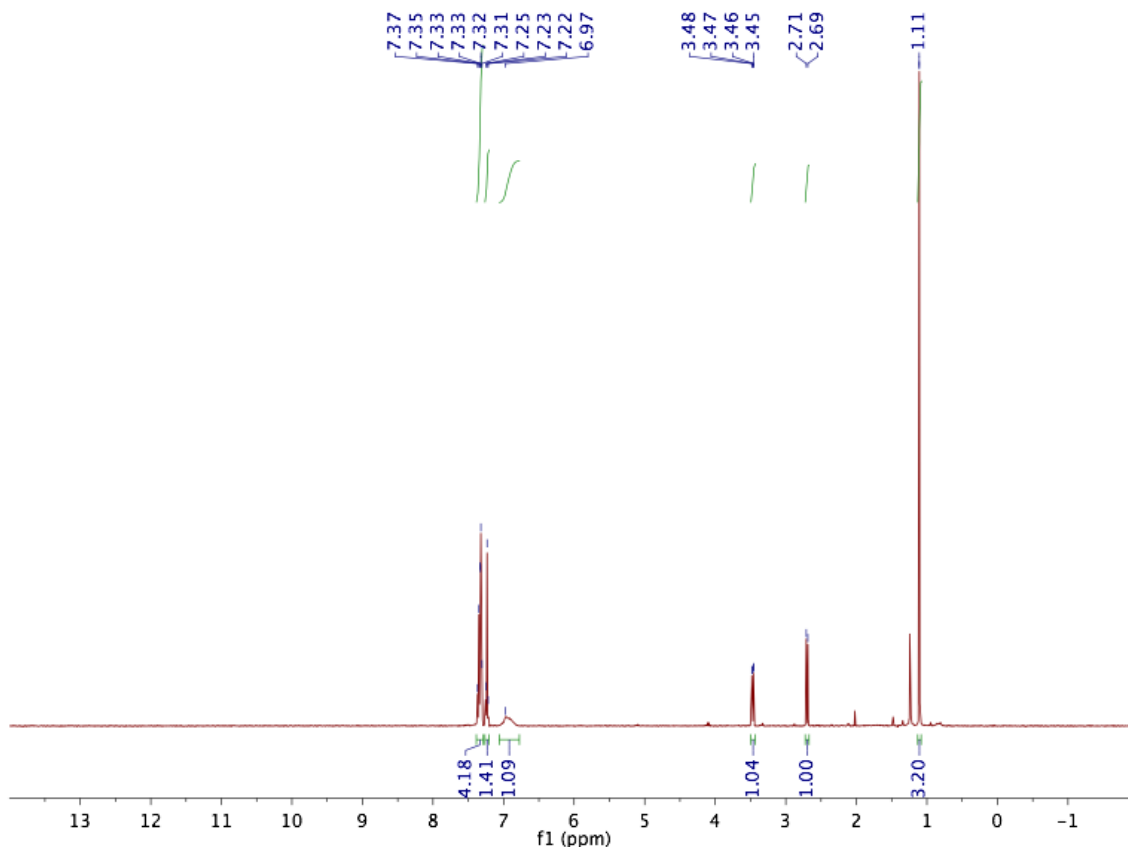
*O*-pivaloyl D<sub>5</sub>-benzhydroxamate (0.1 mmol, 0.1 equiv., 22.6 mg), cyclopropene (0.11 mmol, 0.11 equiv., 14.3 mg), [Ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.001 mmol, 1 mol%, 0.7 mg) and CsOPiv (0.025 mmol, 0.25 equiv., 5.9 mg) were weighed in a dram vial. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The major diastereomer was obtained after purification by column chromatography using 1/3 to 2/1 EtOAc/hexane as an off-white solid (82% yield, >20:1 dr).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1.11 (s, 3H)

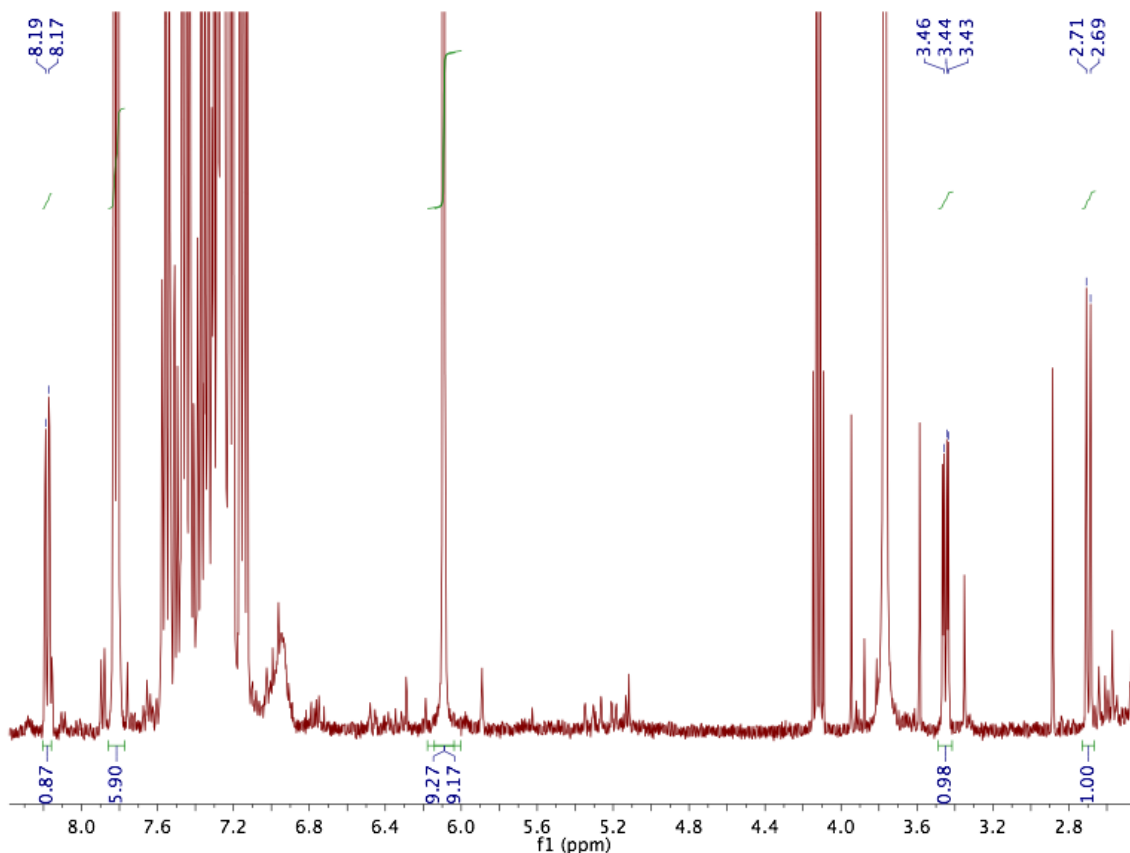
LRMS *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>11</sub>D<sub>4</sub>NO [M+H]: 254.1; Found: 254.1

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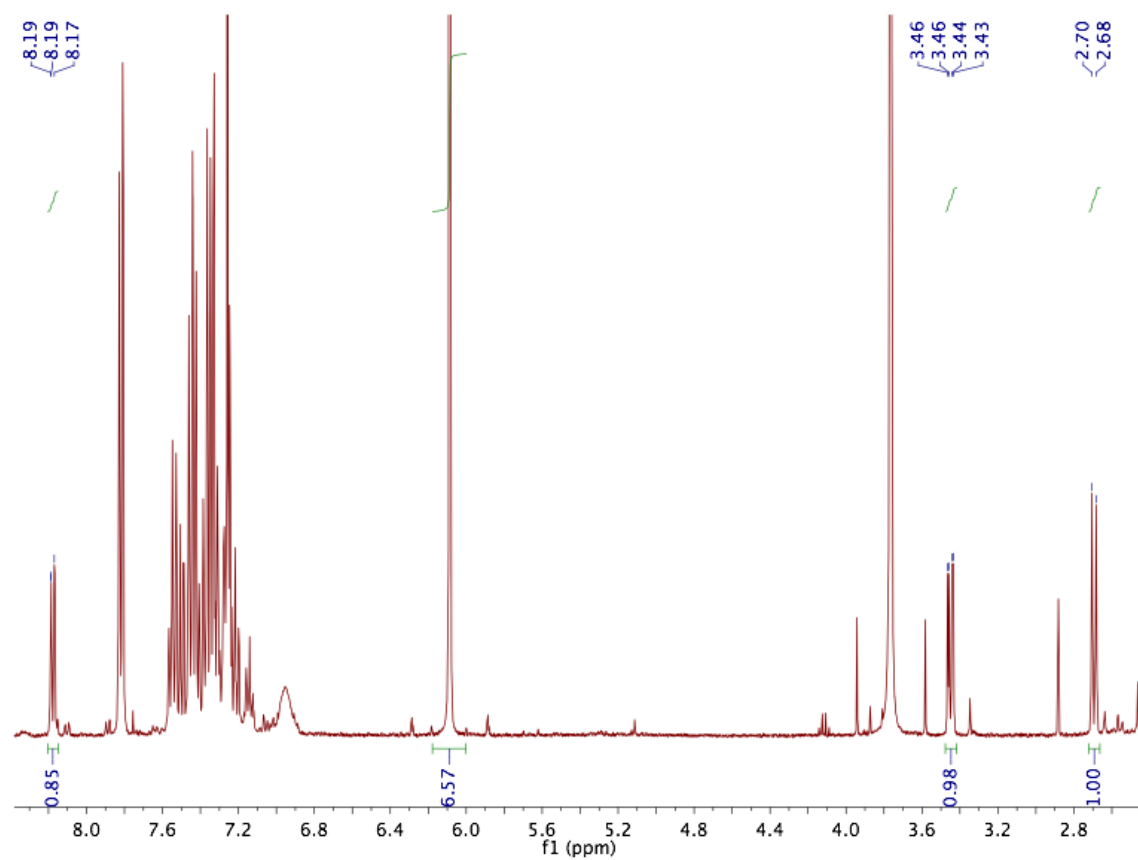
<sup>13</sup> Chioung, H. A.; Pham, Q.-N.; Daugulis, O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2007**, *129*, 9879



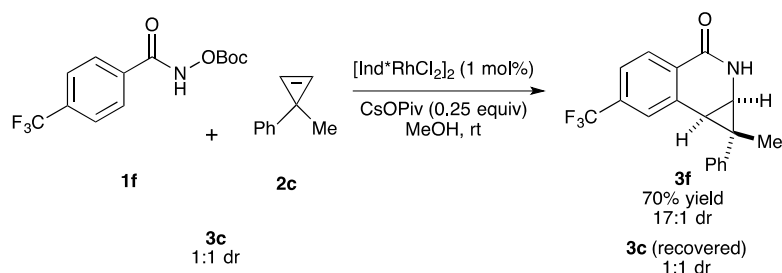
**Parallel experiment:** Two 1-dram vials were charged with a stir bar, proteo- and deuterio-benzamide substrate (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), [Ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%) and CsOPiv (0.25 equiv) were weighed. The mixture was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (0.1 M, 1 mL) and stirred for 30 sec at 0°C. Then, cyclopropene (0.1 mmol, 0.5 equiv., 5.9 mg) was added and stirred for 30 sec. The reaction was quenched using satd. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and solvent was evaporated. The crude mixture was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.



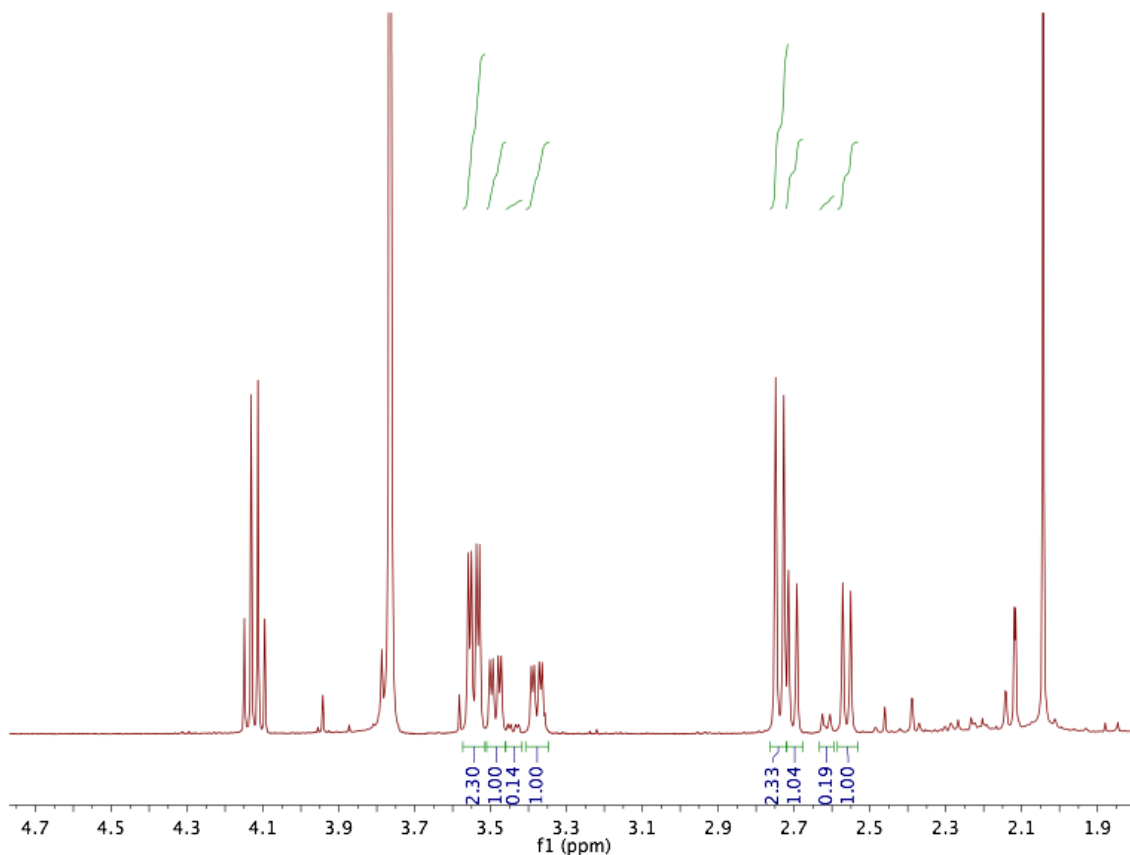
Competition experiment: A 1-dram vial were charged with a stir bar, proteo- and deuterio-benzamide substrate (0.05 mmol, 0.5 equiv), [Ind\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.001 mmol, 1 mol%, 0.7 mg) and CsOPiv (0.025, 0.25 equiv., 5.9 mg) were weighed. The mixture was dissolved in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (0.1 M, 1 mL) and stirred for 30 sec at 0°C. Then, cyclopropene (0.1 mmol, 0.5 equiv., 5.9 mg) was added and stirred for 30 sec. The reaction was quenched using satd. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and solvent was evaporated. The crude mixture was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.



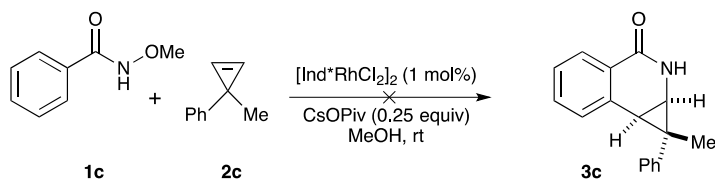
## 5.4 Epimerization study



A diastereomeric mixture of dihydroisoquinolone **3c** (1:1 dr), substrate **1e** (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv., 30.2 mg),  $[\text{ind}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (0.001, 1 mol%, 0.8 mg) CsOPiv (0.025 mmol, 0.25 equiv., 5.9 mg) were weighed in a dram vial charged with a stir bar. MeOH (1mL, 0.1 M) was added and the mixture was stirred for 30 seconds and cyclopropene **2c** (0.11 mmol, 14.9  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.1 equiv to **1e**) was then added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours and the starting material **1e** was monitored that it was consumed monitoring by TLC. The reaction was quenched using satd.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude mixture was characterized by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

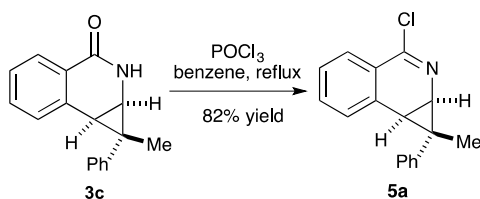


## 5.5 The role of an acyl directing group



## 6. Derivatizations of dihydroisoquinolone products

### (1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-3-chloro-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1*a*,7*b*-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinoline (5a)



To a flamed dried round-bottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser, dihydroisoquinolone (0.39 mmol, 97 mg), dry benzene and POCl<sub>3</sub> were added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 6 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure at 60°C and treated with 5% Et<sub>3</sub>N/Et<sub>2</sub>O at -30°C. After stirring for 10 minutes, the crude was passed through alumina column chromatography using 1:1 Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexane as an eluent to give a crude imidoyl chloride as a white solid (85 mg, 82% yield).

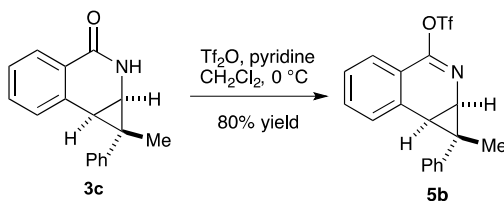
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 0.93 (s, 3H)

**<sup>13</sup>C- NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 151.9, 145.3, 136.2, 132.5, 129.2, 128.8, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 126.8, 125.0, 50.7, 31.4, 22.2, 13.4

**IR** (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3024, 1614, 1599, 1567, 1218

**LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN [M+H]: 268.1; Found: 268.1

**(1*S*,1*aR*,7*bR*)-1-methyl-1-phenyl-1*a*,7*b*-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]isoquinolin-3-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (**5b**)**



To a flamed-dried round equipped with a stir bar, dihydroisoquinolone (0.5 mmol, 125 mg) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was cooled at  $-0^\circ\text{C}$ . Then,  $\text{Tf}_2\text{O}$  (0.77 mmol, 0.13 mL) and pyridine (0.765 mmol, 61  $\mu\text{L}$ ) was slowly added to the reaction mixture which was then stirred at the same temperature for 10 mins. The reaction was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and washed with satd.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The combined organic extracts were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated to give a crude product. The crude was purified by alumina column chromatography using EtOAc as an eluent to give the desired product as a purple solid (152 mg, 80% yield).

**$^1\text{H}$ -NMR** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 3H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.86 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 3H)

**$^{13}\text{C}$ - NMR** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):  $\delta$  161.7, 143.4, 136.1, 134.8, 129.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.0, 127.9, 127.5, 125.4, 121.2 (q), 44.7, 29.2, 25.9, 15.5

**$^{19}\text{F}$ - NMR** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 381 MHz): 72.3

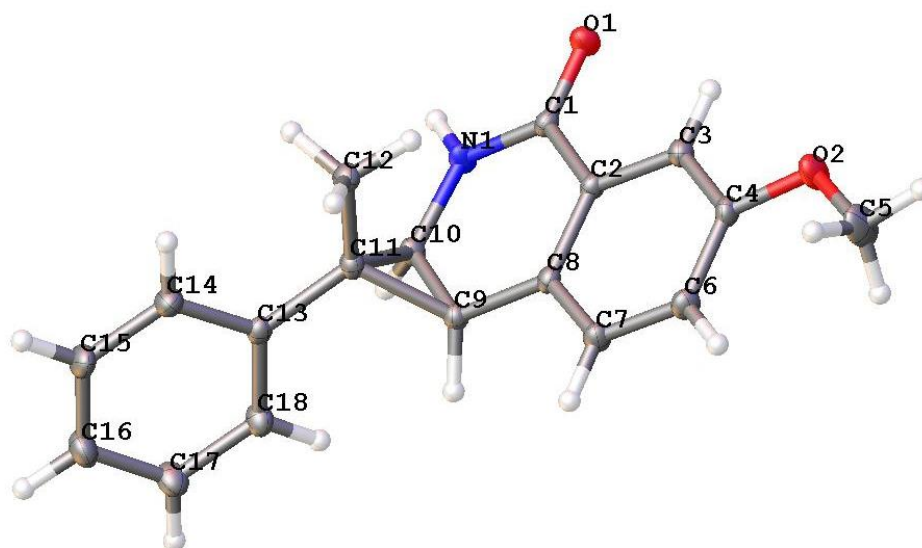
**IR** (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3061, 1078, 1603, 1492, 1466, 1291, 1093, 792, 720, 688

**LRMS**  $m/z$  (ESI+APCI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ]: 382.1; Found: 382.1



## 7. X-ray Structure of 3m

Rovis227-1 (CCDC 1472771)



**Table 1** Crystal data and structure refinement for Rovis227-1.

Identification code	Rovis227-1
Empirical formula	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	279.32
Temperature/K	99.77
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
a/Å	8.5035(2)
b/Å	7.1303(2)
c/Å	23.6793(6)
$\alpha$ /°	90
$\beta$ /°	95.7420(12)
$\gamma$ /°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1428.53(6)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.299
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.085
F(000)	592.0

Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.25 × 0.124 × 0.107
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)
2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/°	5.97 to 66.776
Index ranges	-13 ≤ h ≤ 12, -7 ≤ k ≤ 10, -36 ≤ l ≤ 36
Reflections collected	30307
Independent reflections	5464 [ $R_{\text{int}}$ = 0.0926, $R_{\text{sigma}}$ = 0.0945]
Data/restraints/parameters	5464/0/192
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.033
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1$ = 0.0685, $wR_2$ = 0.1558
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1$ = 0.1350, $wR_2$ = 0.1811
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.54/-0.29

**Table 2** Fractional Atomic Coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for Rovis227-1.  $U_{\text{eq}}$  is defined as 1/3 of the trace of the orthogonalised  $U_{ij}$  tensor.

Atom	x	y	z	U(eq)
O1	6707.2(13)	3443.8(17)	54.8(5)	18.0(3)
O2	9731.6(14)	-2398.8(19)	511.4(6)	23.2(3)
N3	4408.4(16)	3146(2)	448.1(6)	15.5(3)
C4	7791.1(18)	-66(2)	452.3(7)	15.0(3)
C5	6334.4(18)	637(2)	575.3(6)	13.0(3)
C6	5347.7(18)	-415(2)	898.4(6)	13.7(3)
C7	3777.6(18)	313(2)	1014.8(6)	13.6(3)
C8	3308.6(18)	2188(2)	768.8(7)	14.4(3)
C9	5837.4(18)	2508(2)	341.3(7)	13.5(3)
C10	8283.4(19)	-1830(2)	653.3(7)	15.8(3)
C11	3616.3(18)	2012(2)	1415.3(7)	14.6(3)
C12	2168.9(18)	2069(2)	1732.1(7)	14.2(3)
C13	7307.4(19)	-2900(3)	968.6(7)	17.5(3)
C14	5853.7(19)	-2186(2)	1085.9(7)	16.7(3)
C15	5107.6(19)	2856(3)	1709.6(7)	17.1(3)

C16	765.3(19)	1151(3)	1531.6(7)	18.4(4)
C17	2171(2)	3097(3)	2237.5(8)	19.7(4)
C18	-578(2)	1240(3)	1825.7(8)	23.0(4)
C19	-552(2)	2286(3)	2321.1(8)	24.0(4)
C20	826(2)	3196(3)	2525.4(8)	23.1(4)
C21	10328(2)	-4149(3)	736.9(10)	31.4(5)

**Table 3** Anisotropic Displacement Parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for Rovis227-1. The Anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2[h^2a^{*2}U_{11}+2hka^*b^*U_{12}+\dots]$ .

Atom	U <sub>11</sub>	U <sub>22</sub>	U <sub>33</sub>	U <sub>23</sub>	U <sub>13</sub>	U <sub>12</sub>
O1	18.0(6)	14.9(6)	21.8(6)	4.6(5)	5.8(5)	2.3(5)
O2	19.8(6)	20.0(7)	31.6(7)	5.7(5)	10.4(5)	7.9(5)
N3	17.4(6)	12.7(7)	16.8(7)	6.0(5)	4.3(5)	4.8(5)
C4	14.7(7)	14.6(8)	16.0(7)	-1.0(6)	2.9(6)	0.7(6)
C5	15.9(7)	10.4(8)	12.8(7)	0.5(6)	1.5(6)	1.2(6)
C6	15.9(7)	12.2(8)	13.1(7)	-2.1(6)	2.0(6)	1.0(6)
C7	14.0(7)	13.2(8)	13.8(7)	0.3(6)	2.4(6)	1.0(6)
C8	14.7(7)	14.4(8)	14.3(7)	2.5(6)	3.5(5)	2.7(6)
C9	16.1(7)	10.8(8)	13.6(7)	-0.8(6)	1.8(6)	1.1(6)
C10	14.7(7)	15.7(9)	17.2(8)	-2.0(6)	2.8(6)	3.3(6)
C11	16.3(7)	14.5(8)	13.3(7)	0.7(6)	2.9(6)	1.9(6)
C12	16.9(7)	11.9(8)	14.1(7)	0.6(6)	2.7(6)	2.1(6)
C13	19.9(8)	13.8(8)	19.1(8)	2.6(7)	3.0(6)	3.2(7)
C14	19.1(7)	14.1(8)	17.5(8)	2.2(6)	5.0(6)	1.6(6)
C15	17.1(7)	17.8(9)	16.5(8)	-2.5(7)	2.9(6)	-0.7(7)
C16	18.0(8)	22.7(10)	14.7(8)	-2.7(7)	1.9(6)	1.2(7)
C17	19.7(8)	18.4(9)	21.5(8)	-4.2(7)	4.5(6)	-2.4(7)
C18	16.5(8)	29.6(11)	23.1(9)	-3.8(8)	2.4(7)	-0.6(7)
C19	20.8(8)	29.1(11)	23.4(9)	-2.4(8)	8.5(7)	1.6(8)
C20	26.5(9)	23.8(10)	20.4(9)	-7.9(7)	8.9(7)	-2.8(7)

C21	24.9(9)	26.1(11)	45.0(12)	8.2(10)	12.8(8)	14.1(8)
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**Table 4** Bond Lengths for Rovis227-1.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
O1	C9	1.2461(19)	C7	C11	1.553(2)
O2	C10	1.3700(19)	C8	C11	1.532(2)
O2	C21	1.430(2)	C10	C13	1.398(2)
N3	C8	1.435(2)	C11	C12	1.505(2)
N3	C9	1.345(2)	C11	C15	1.510(2)
C4	C5	1.394(2)	C12	C16	1.402(2)
C4	C10	1.394(2)	C12	C17	1.403(2)
C5	C6	1.407(2)	C13	C14	1.390(2)
C5	C9	1.489(2)	C16	C18	1.397(2)
C6	C7	1.484(2)	C17	C20	1.391(2)
C6	C14	1.392(2)	C18	C19	1.388(3)
C7	C8	1.497(2)	C19	C20	1.384(3)

**Table 5** Bond Angles for Rovis227-1.

Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
C10	O2	C21	117.45(13)	O2	C10	C13	124.44(15)
C9	N3	C8	125.98(14)	C4	C10	C13	120.07(14)
C10	C4	C5	119.75(15)	C8	C11	C7	58.03(10)
C4	C5	C6	120.82(15)	C12	C11	C7	116.89(14)
C4	C5	C9	118.01(14)	C12	C11	C8	115.43(13)
C6	C5	C9	121.15(14)	C12	C11	C15	116.76(14)
C5	C6	C7	120.72(15)	C15	C11	C7	118.13(13)
C14	C6	C5	118.35(14)	C15	C11	C8	118.68(14)
C14	C6	C7	120.88(14)	C16	C12	C11	121.99(15)
C6	C7	C8	116.74(13)	C16	C12	C17	117.46(15)
C6	C7	C11	121.50(14)	C17	C12	C11	120.53(15)
C8	C7	C11	60.29(11)	C14	C13	C10	119.60(16)

N3	C8	C7	117.95(13)	C13	C14	C6	121.41(15)
N3	C8	C11	120.84(14)	C18	C16	C12	121.38(16)
C7	C8	C11	61.67(11)	C20	C17	C12	120.91(16)
O1	C9	N3	121.19(15)	C19	C18	C16	120.08(17)
O1	C9	C5	121.36(14)	C20	C19	C18	119.22(16)
N3	C9	C5	117.45(14)	C19	C20	C17	120.94(17)
O2	C10	C4	115.48(14)				

**Table 6** Hydrogen Atom Coordinates ( $\text{\AA}\times 10^4$ ) and Isotropic Displacement Parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2\times 10^3$ ) for Rovis227-1.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	U(eq)
H3	4122	4252	309	19
H4	8446	653	232	18
H7	2913	-640	1006	16
H8	2172	2310	618	17
H13	7635	-4109	1102	21
H14	5192	-2922	1299	20
H15A	5395	2196	2068	26
H15B	4930	4186	1787	26
H15C	5966	2735	1465	26
H16	726	455	1189	22
H17	3104	3734	2385	24
H18	-1509	584	1687	28
H19	-1470	2376	2518	29
H20	854	3899	2867	28
H21A	11371	-4387	609	47
H21B	9603	-5160	604	47
H21C	10420	-4100	1153	47

## Experimental

Single crystals of  $C_{18}H_{17}NO_2$  were obtained by the vapor diffusion method using  $CH_3Cl$  and pentane. A suitable crystal was selected and collected on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer. The crystal was kept at 99.77 K during data collection. Using Olex2<sup>14</sup>, the structure was solved with the XS<sup>15</sup> structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the XL<sup>16</sup> refinement package using Least Squares minimisation.

### Crystal structure determination of [Rovis227-1]

**Crystal Data** for  $C_{18}H_{17}NO_2$  ( $M=279.32$  g/mol): monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (no. 14),  $a = 8.5035(2)$  Å,  $b = 7.1303(2)$  Å,  $c = 23.6793(6)$  Å,  $\beta = 95.7420(12)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1428.53(6)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 99.77$  K,  $\mu(MoK\alpha) = 0.085$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $D_{calc} = 1.299$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 30307 reflections measured ( $5.97^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 66.776^\circ$ ), 5464 unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0926$ ,  $R_{sigma} = 0.0945$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0685 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1811 (all data).

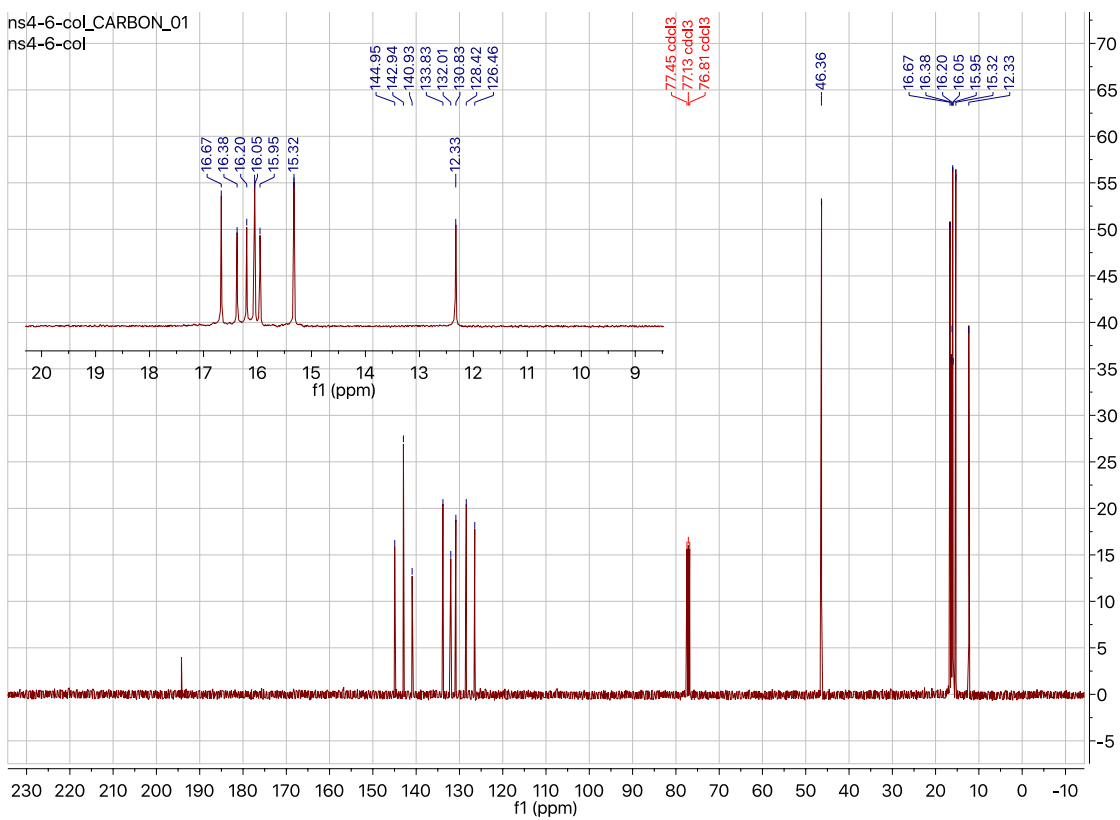
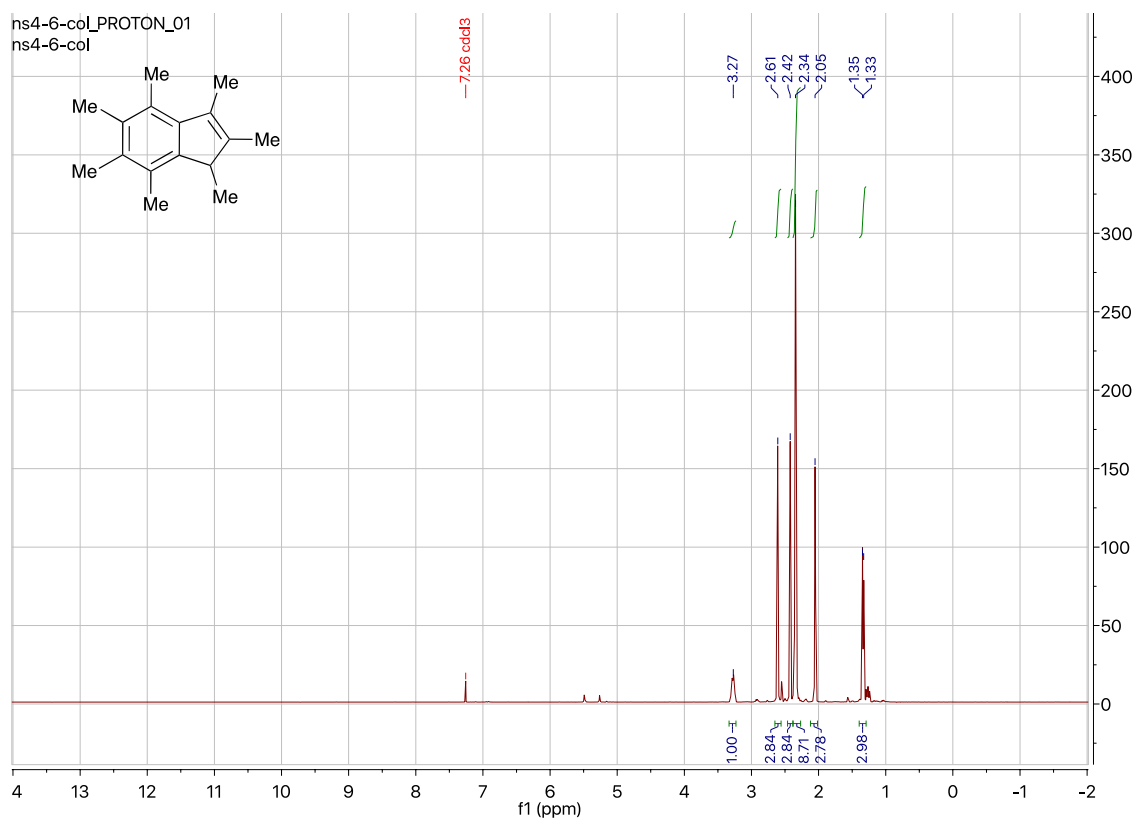
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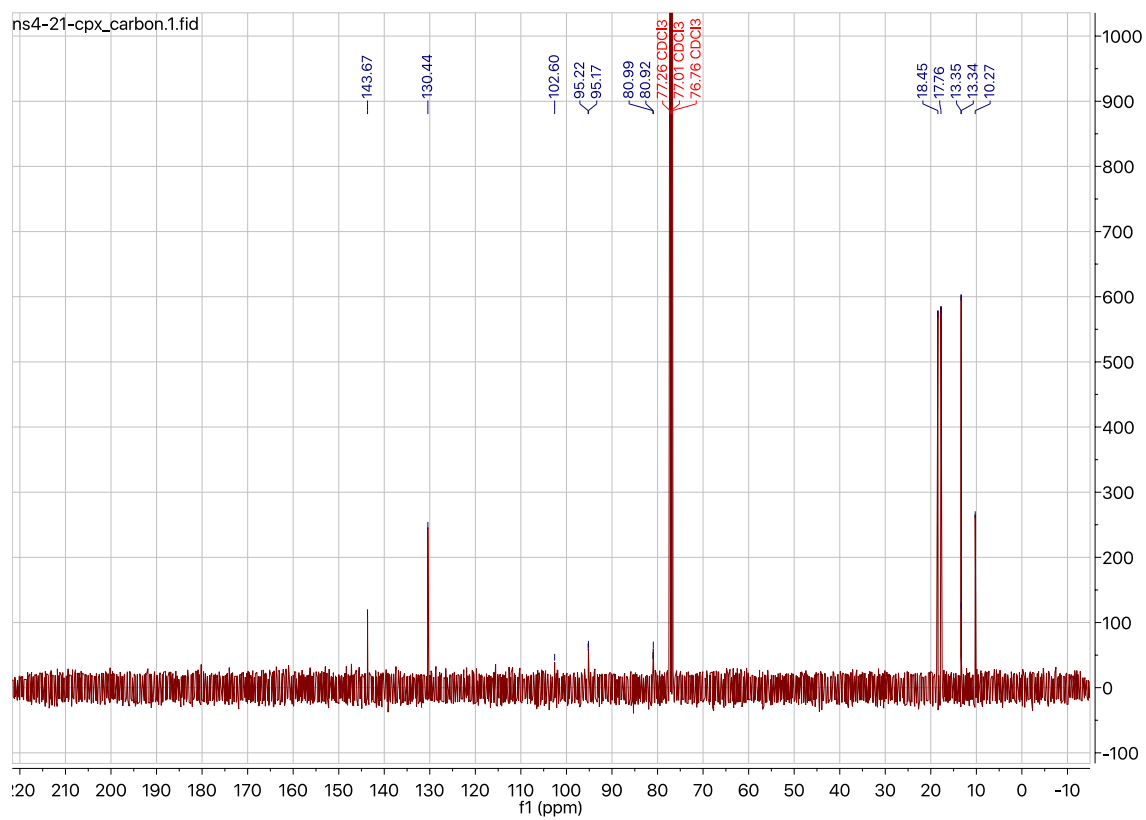
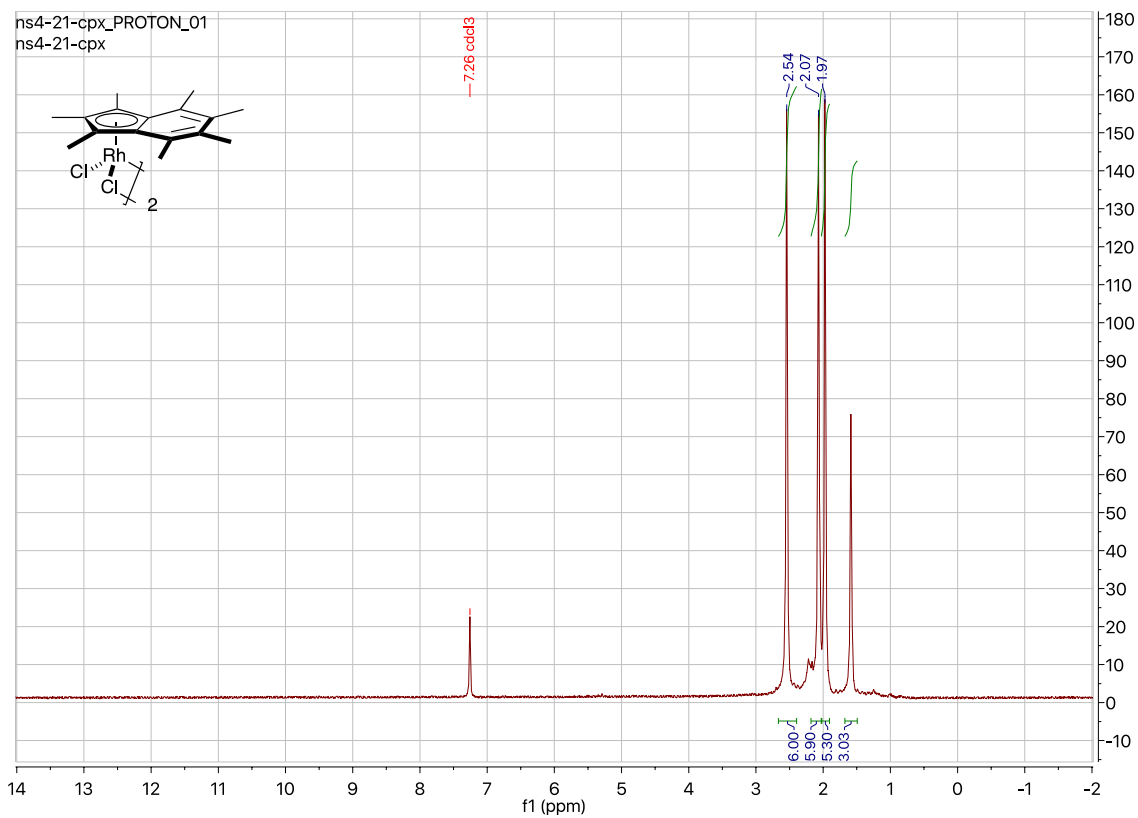
<sup>14</sup> Dolomanov, O.V., Bourhis, L.J., Gildea, R.J., Howard, J.A.K. & Puschmann, H. *J. Appl. Cryst.* **2009**, *42*, 339

<sup>15</sup> Sheldrick, G.M. *Acta Cryst.* **2008**, *A64*, 112

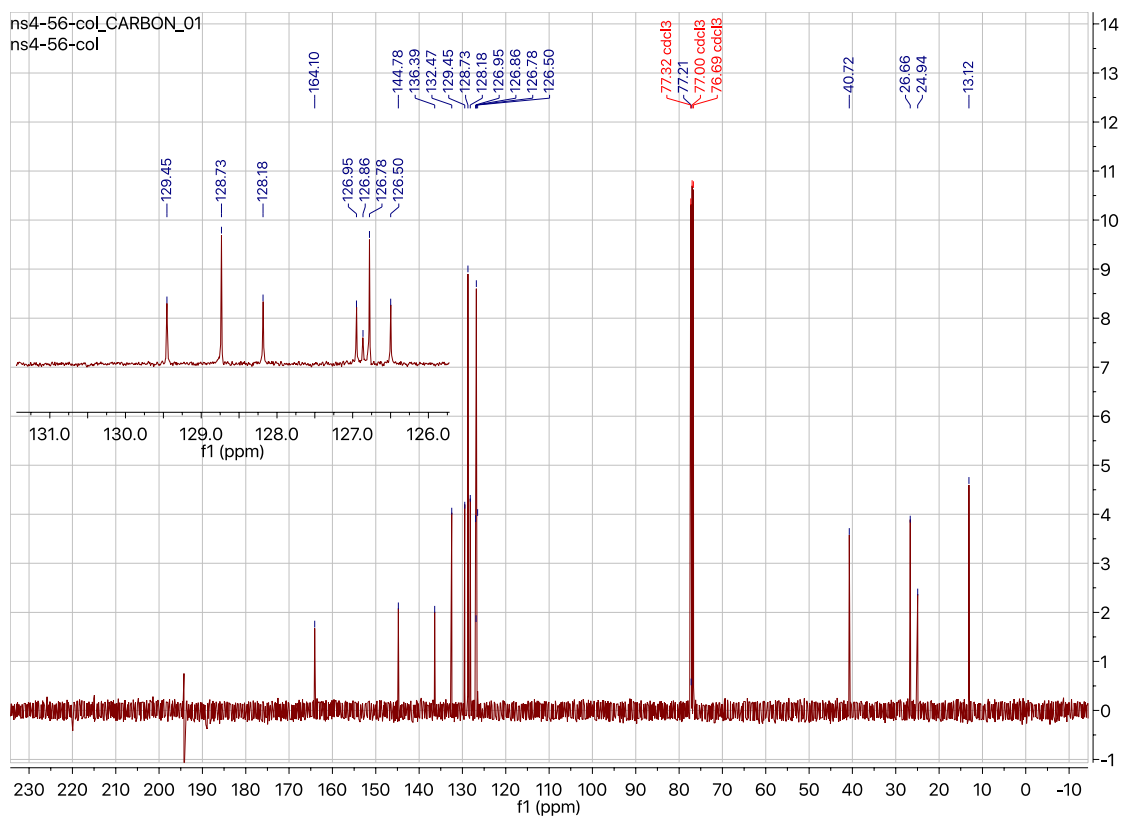
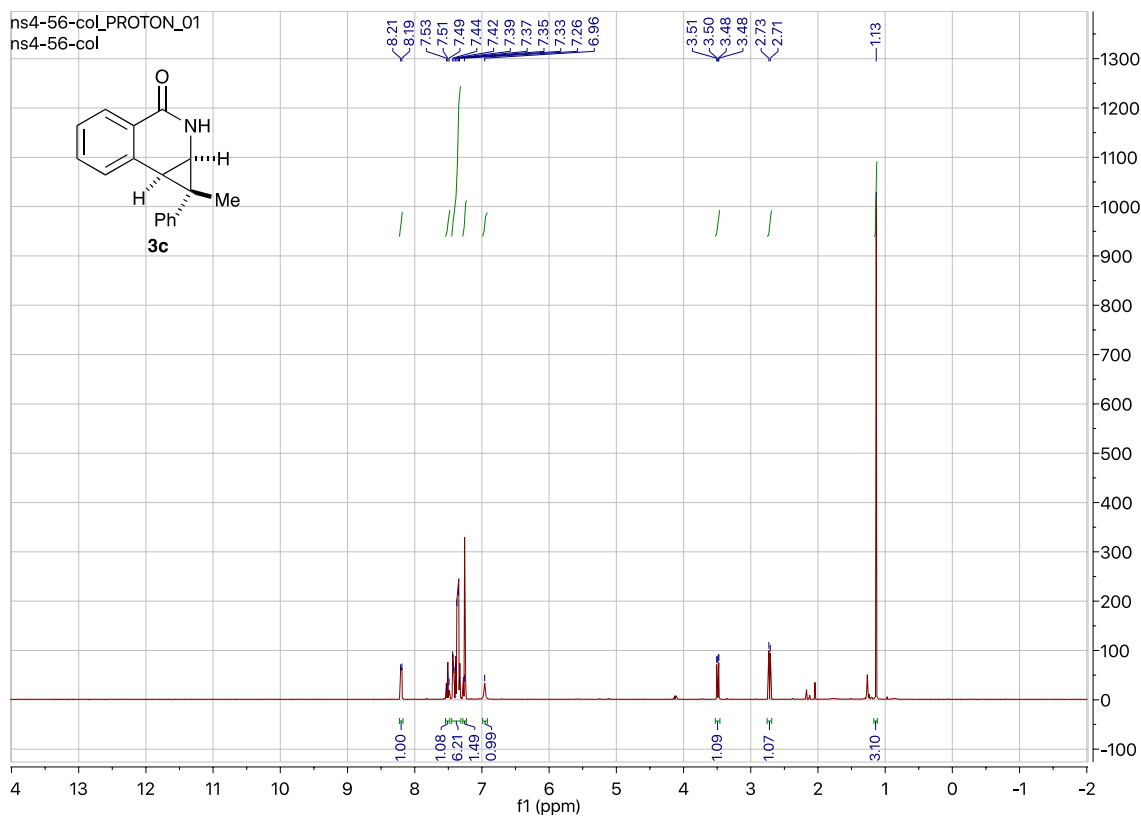
<sup>16</sup> Sheldrick, G.M. *Acta Cryst.* **2008**, *A64*, 112

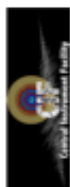
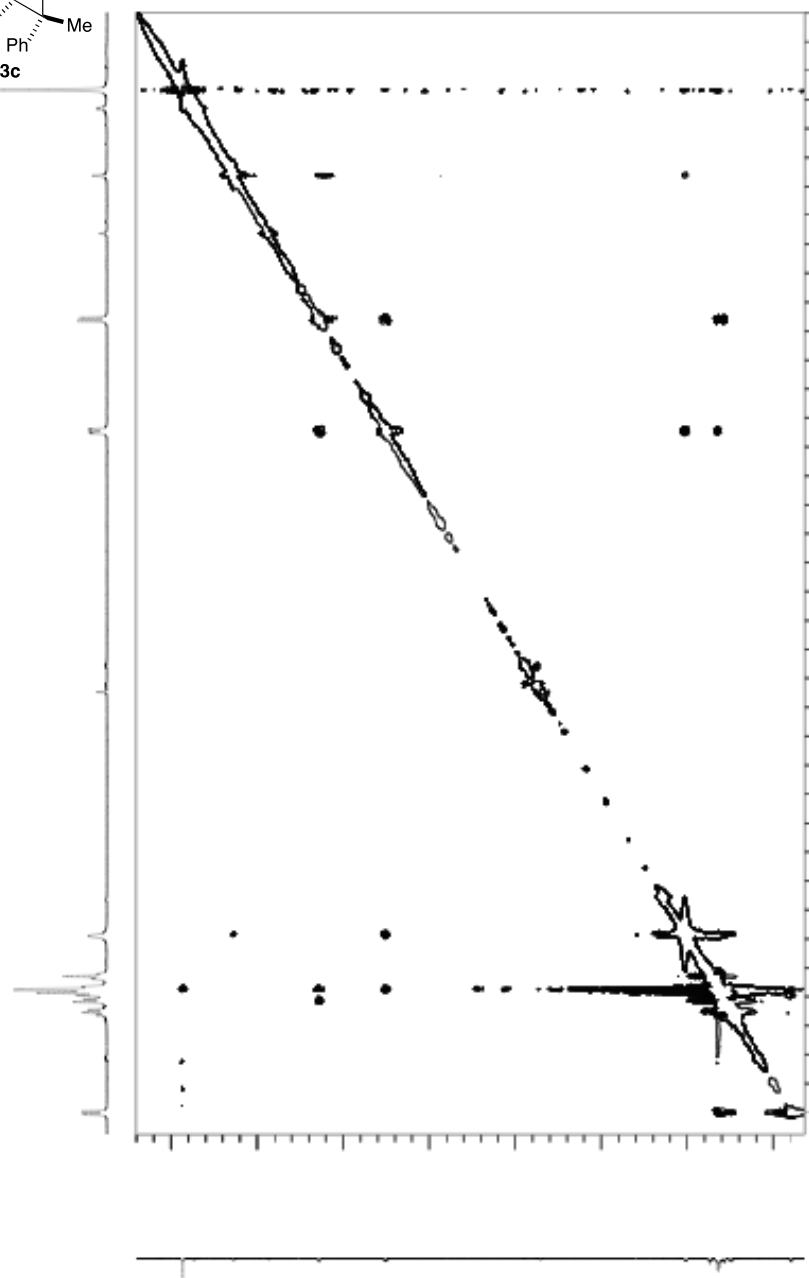
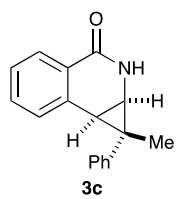
## 8. Spectra

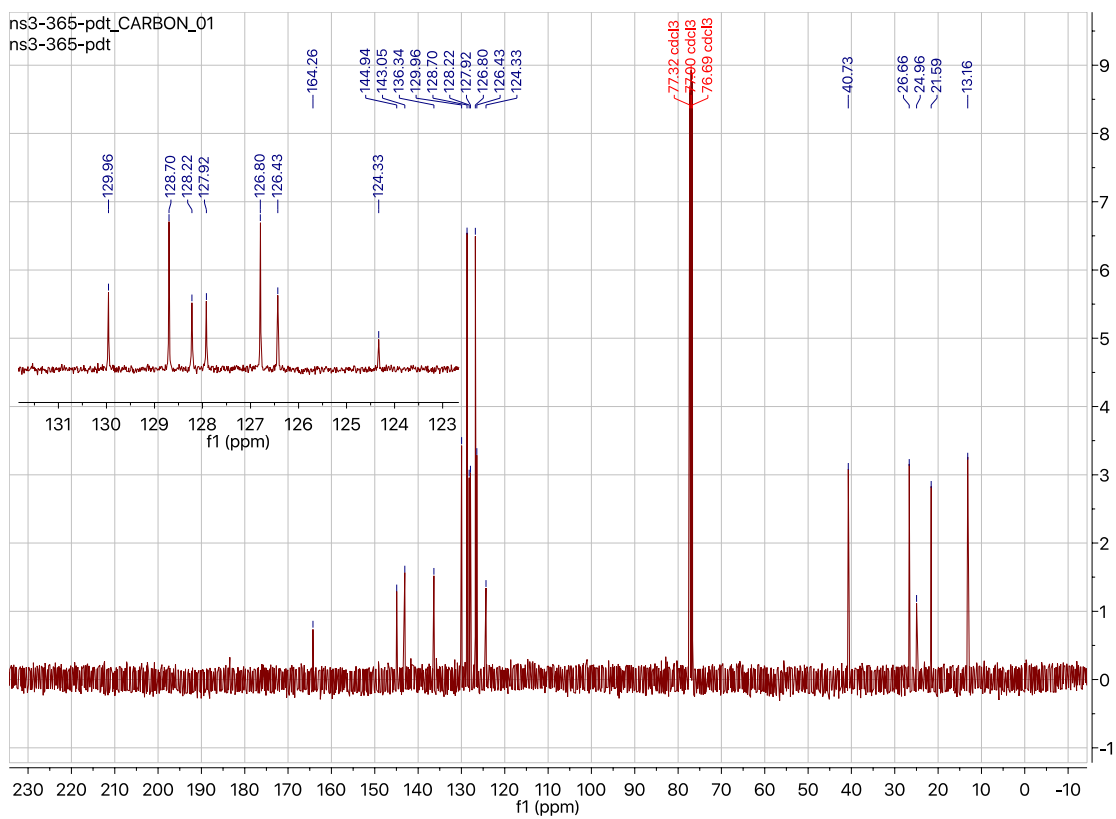
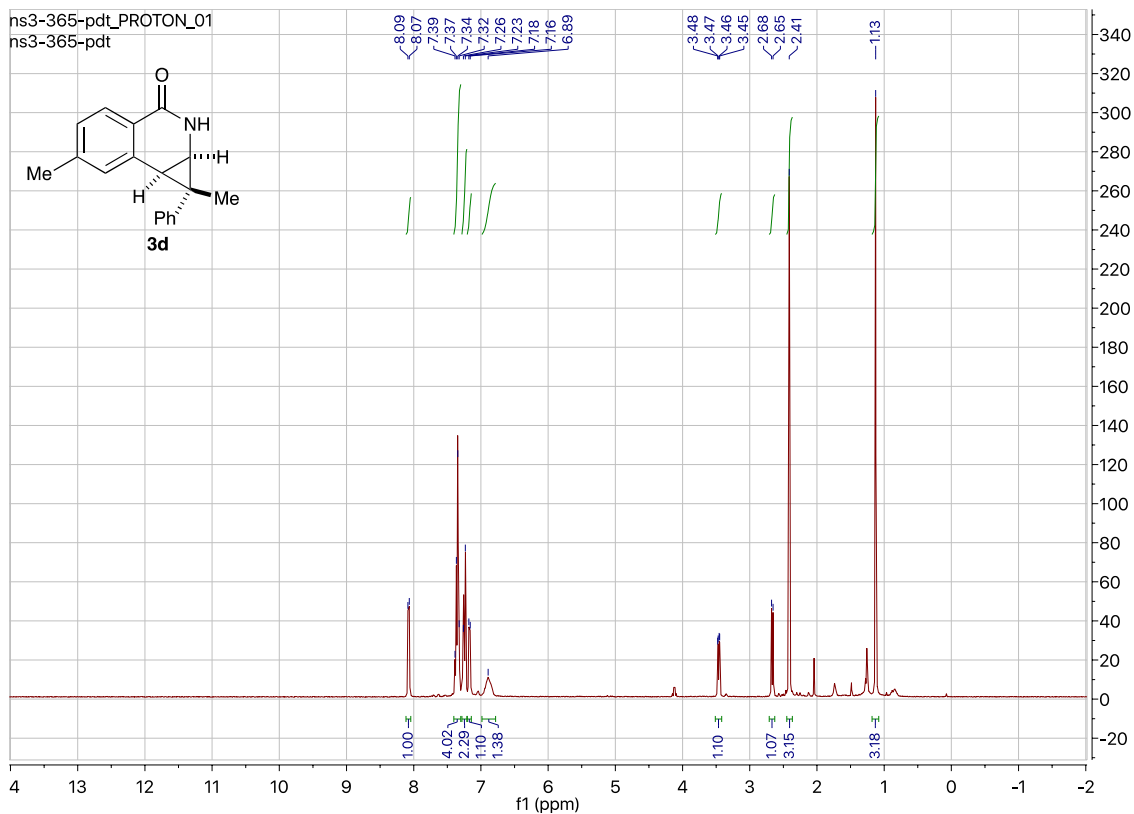


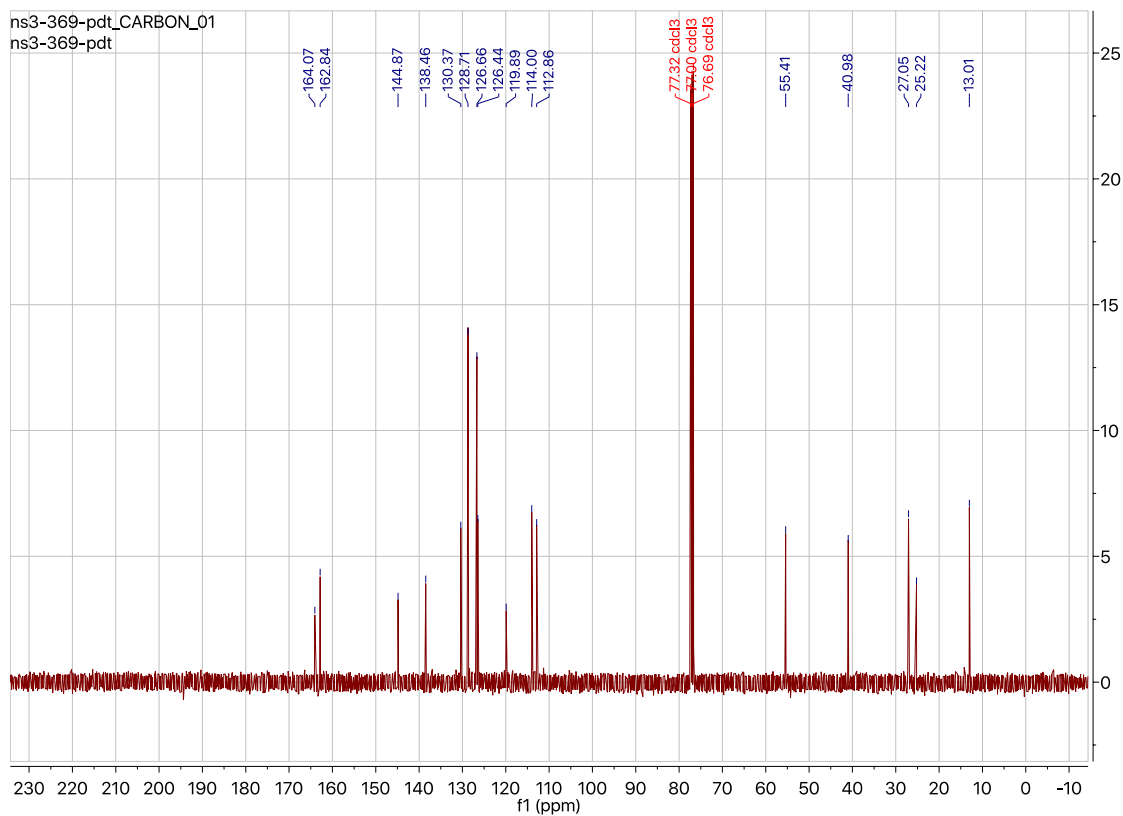
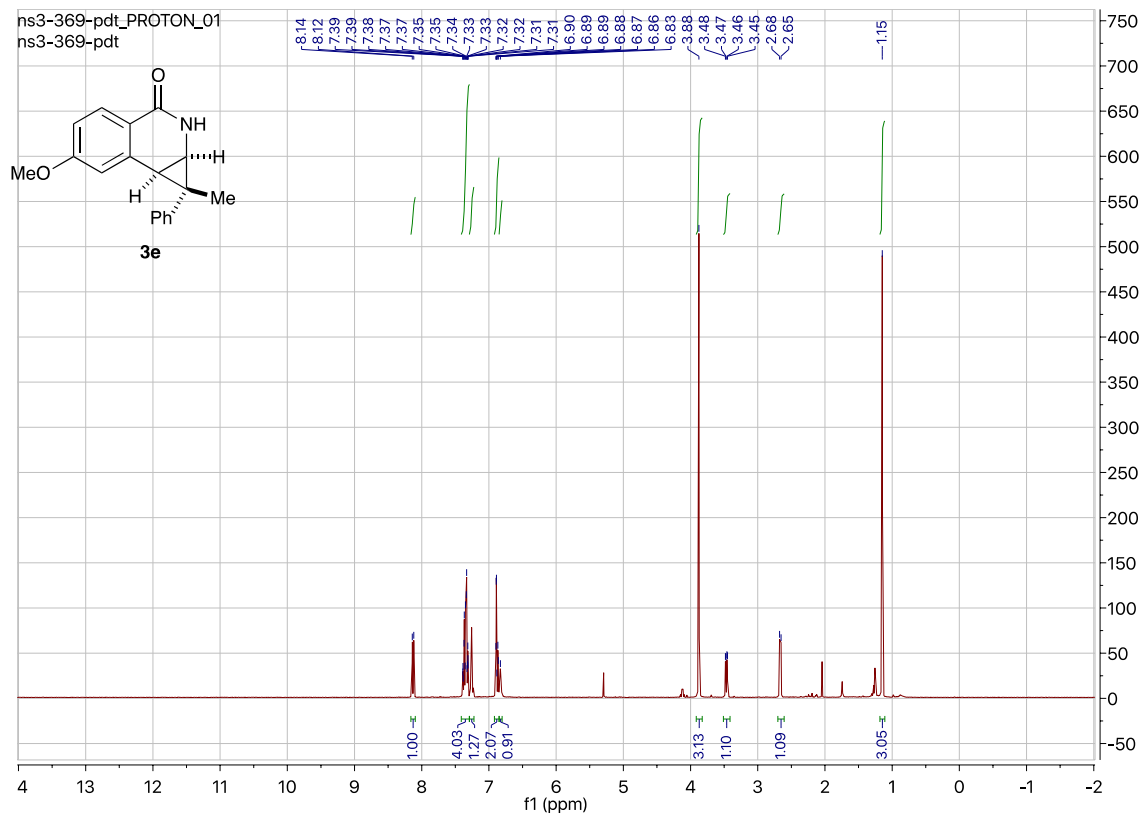


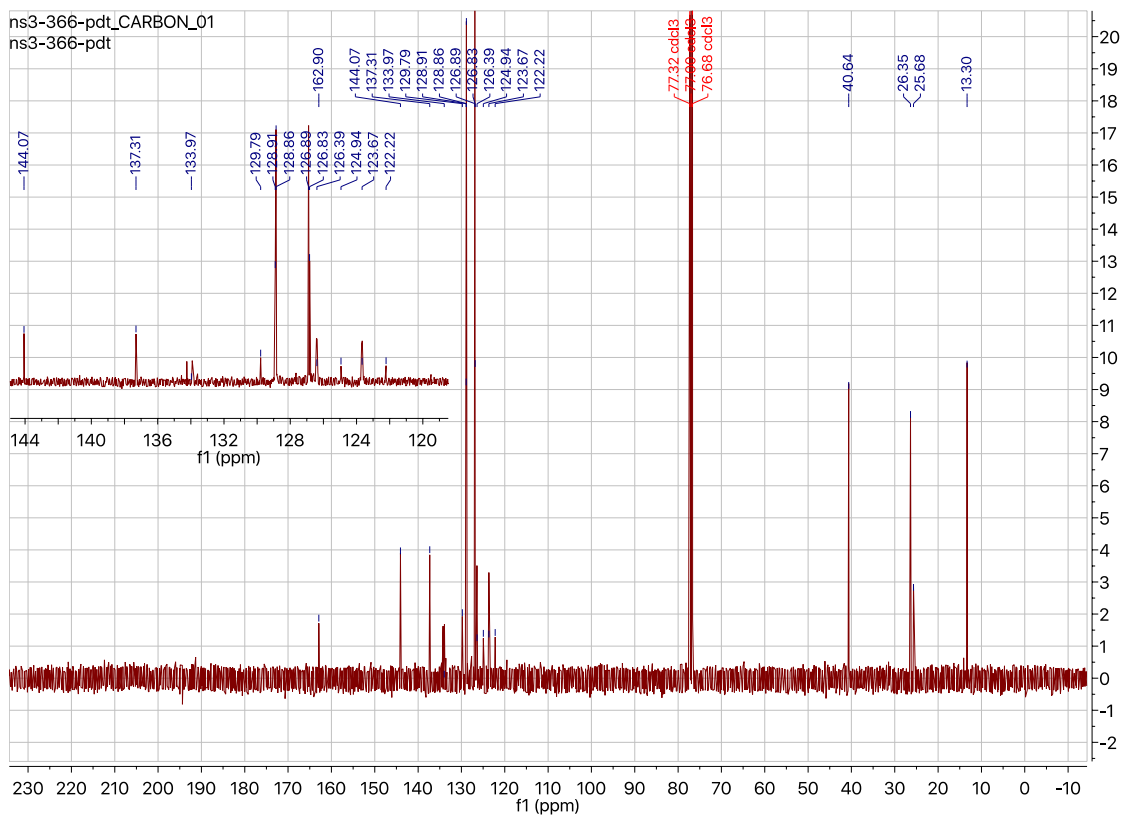
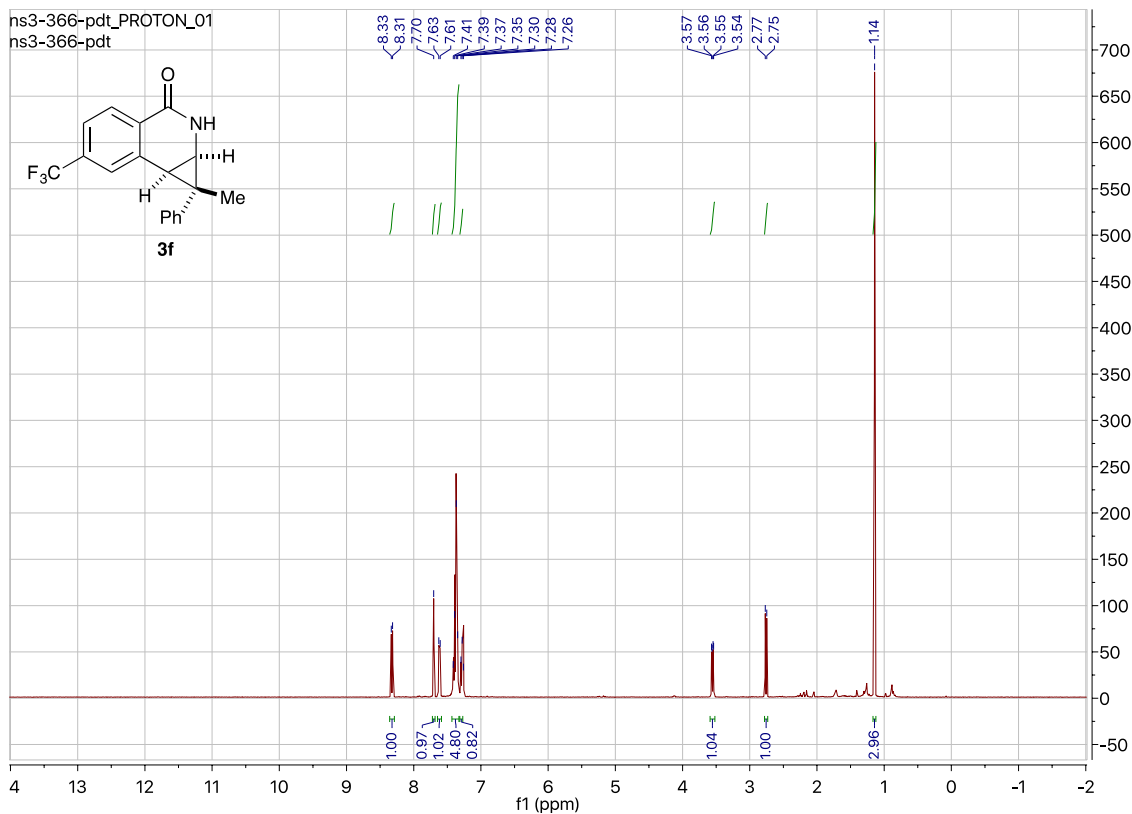


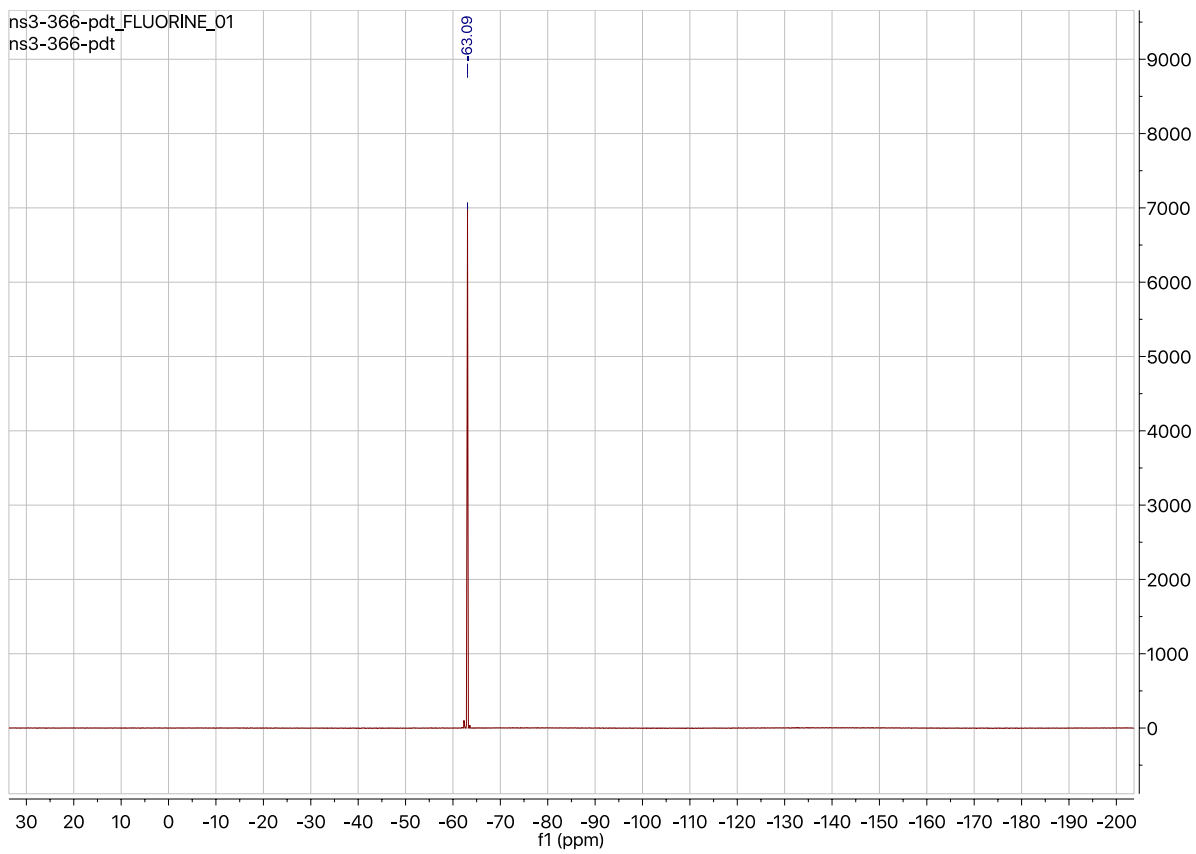


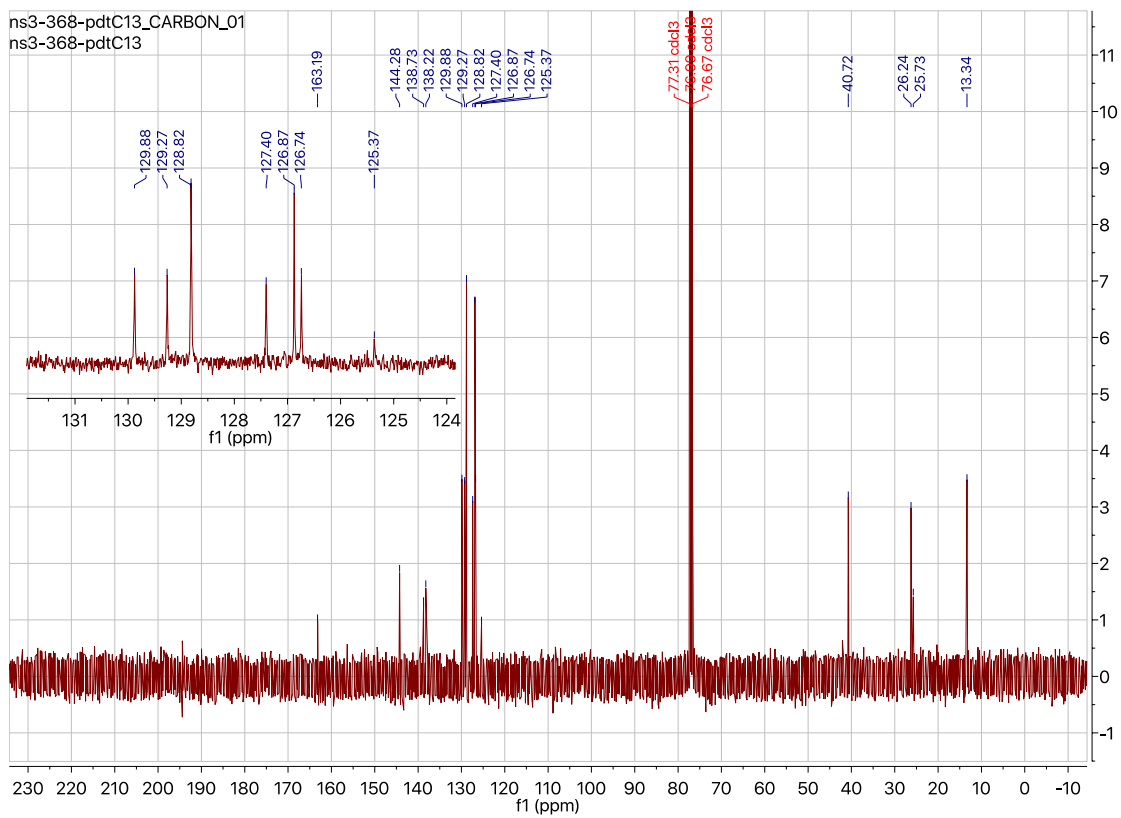
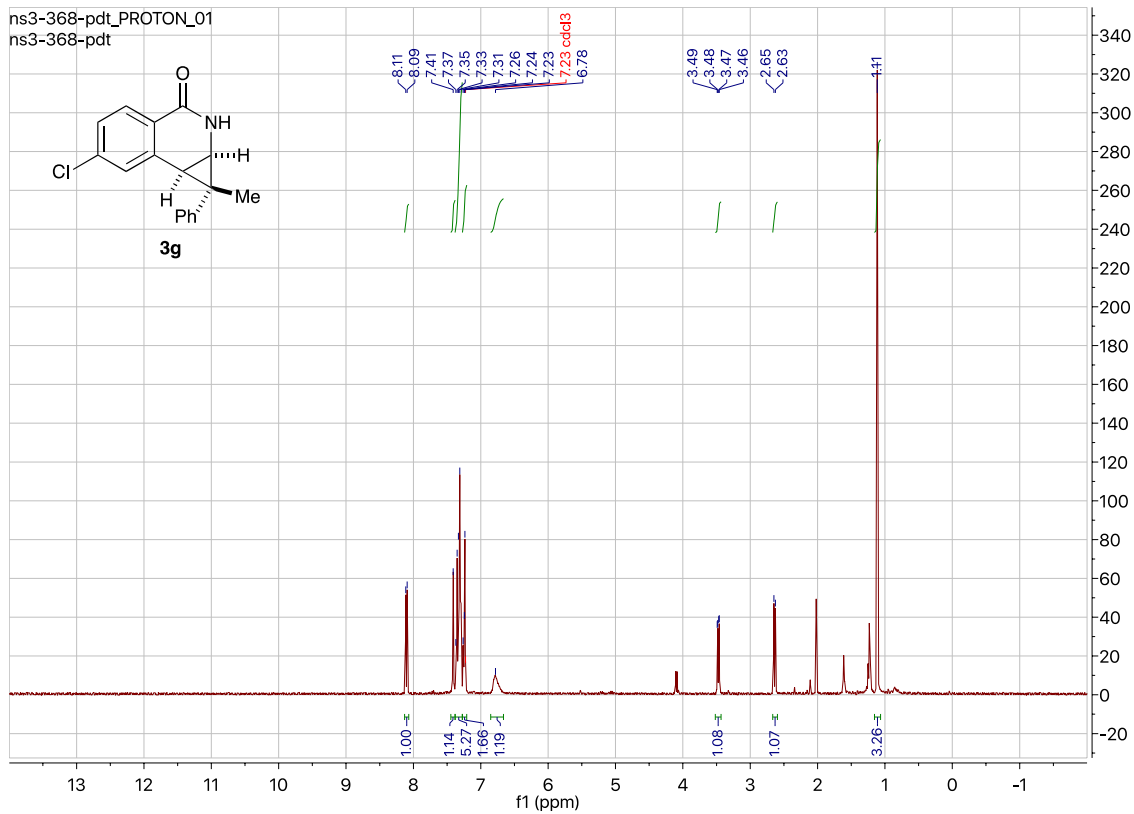


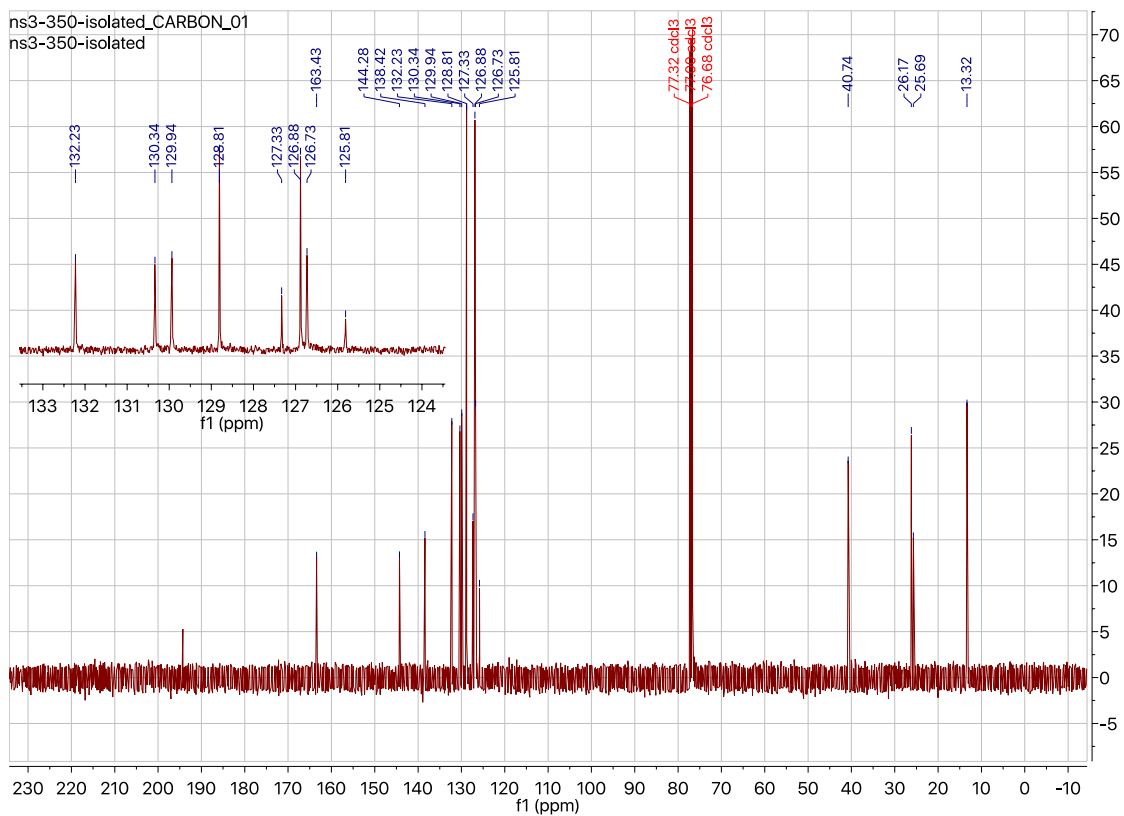
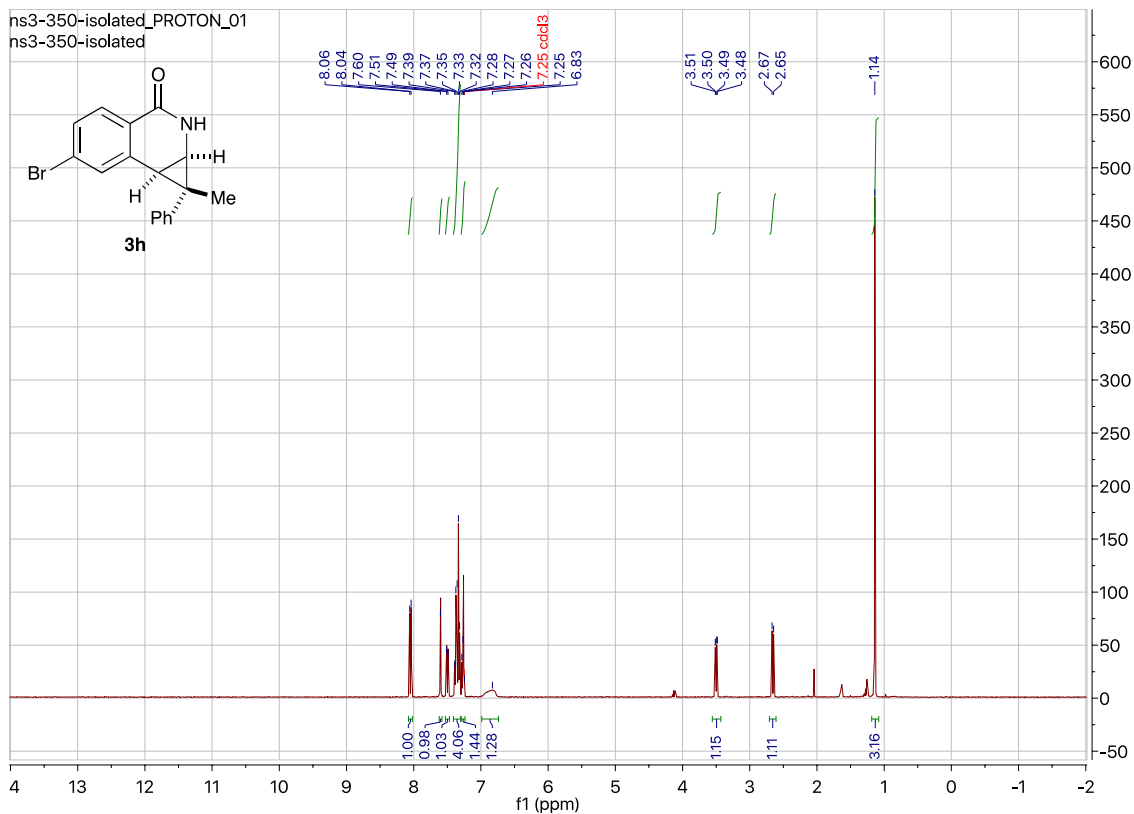




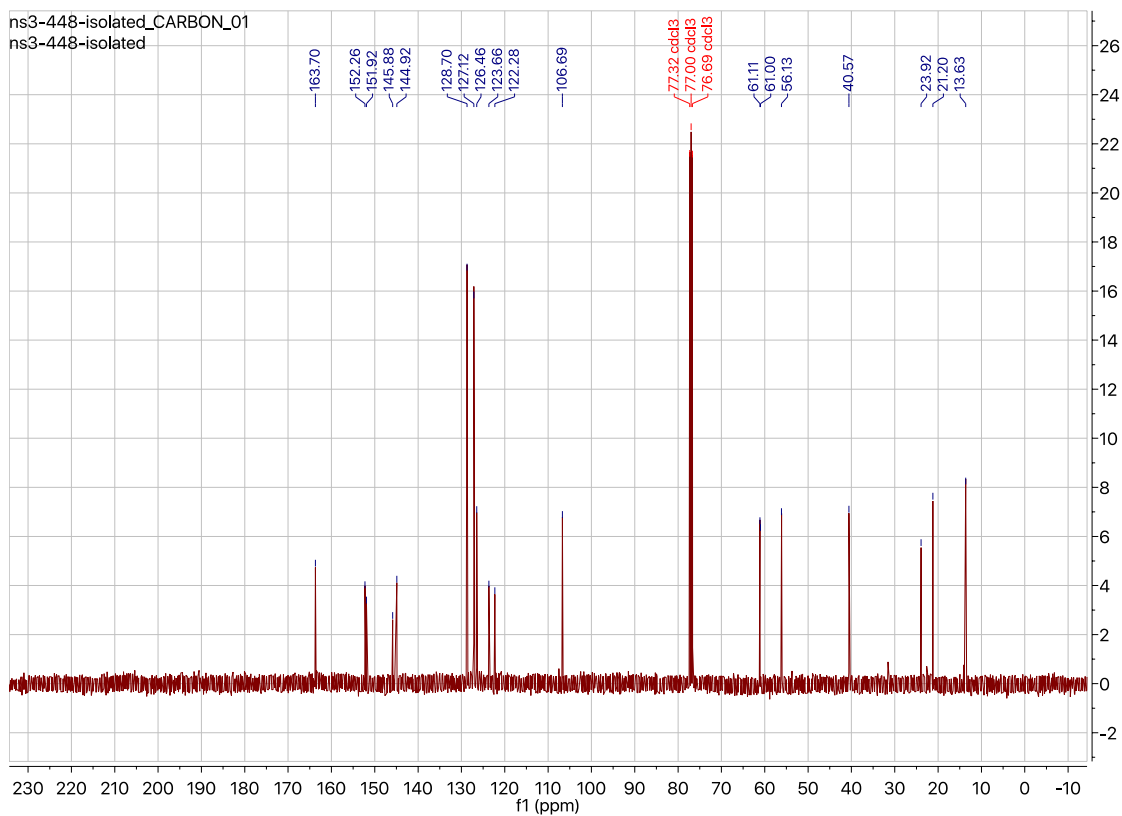
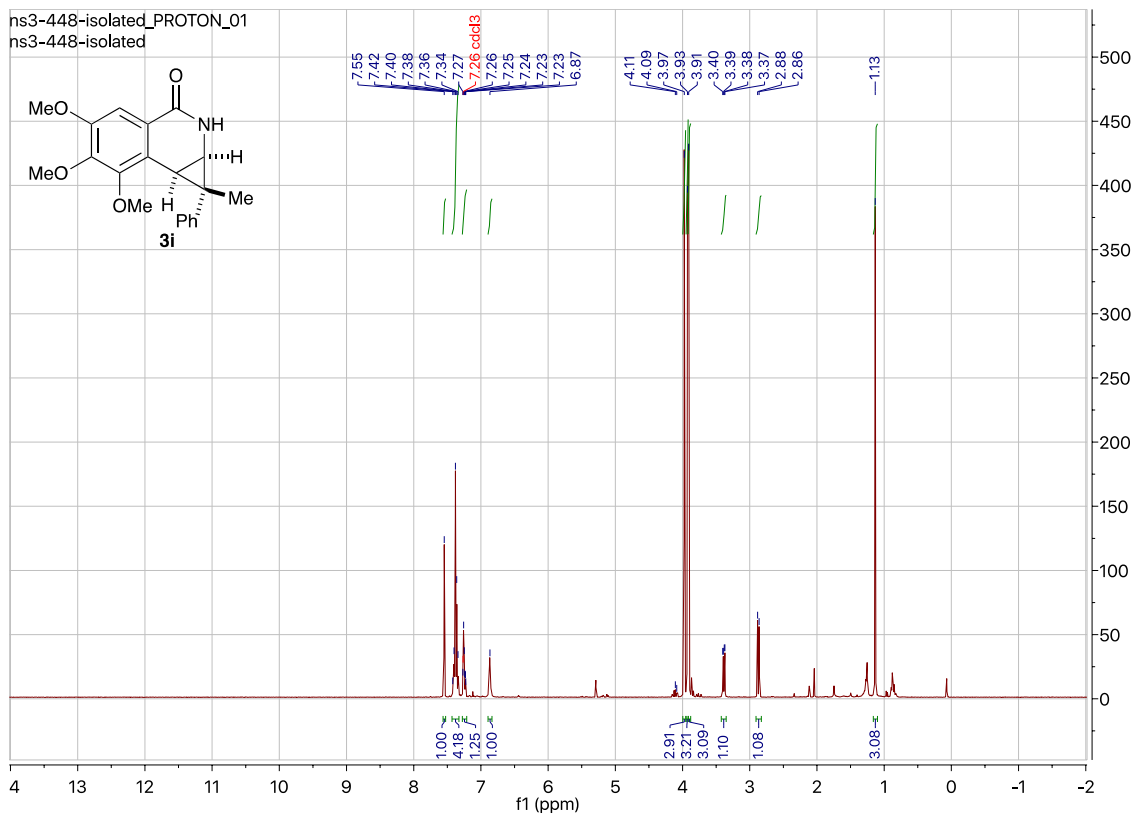


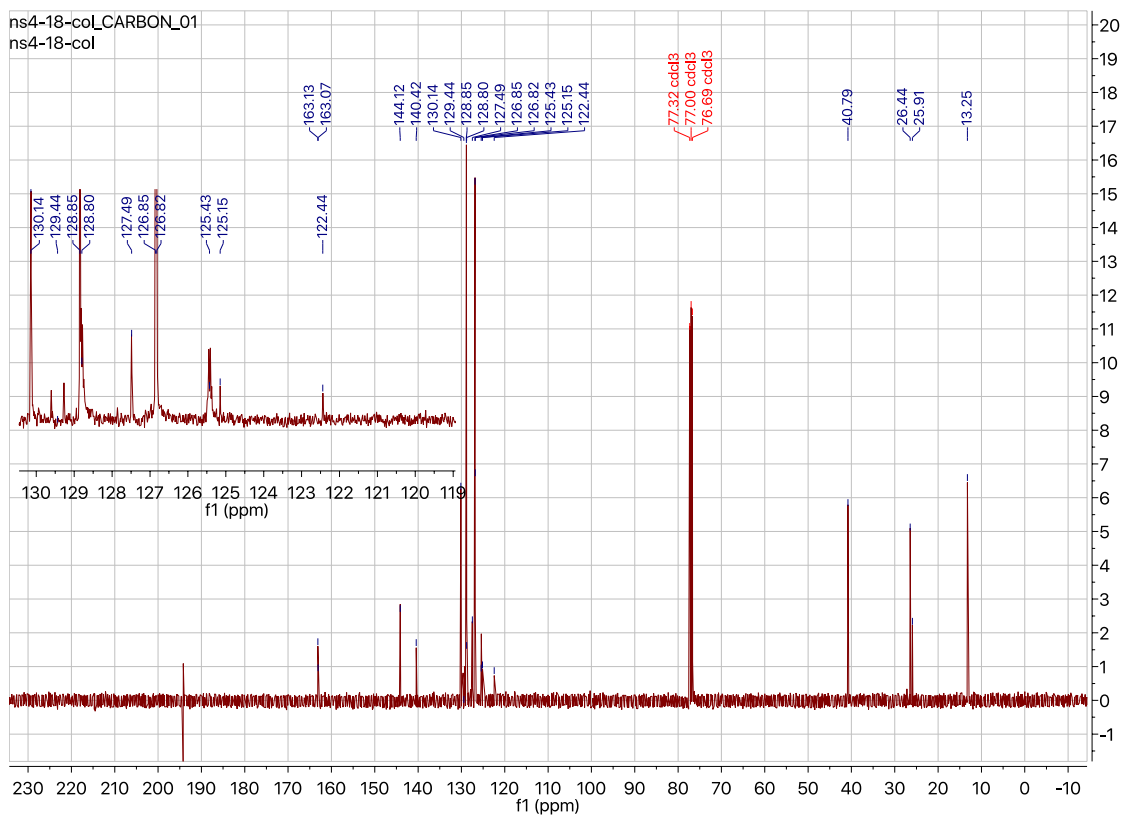
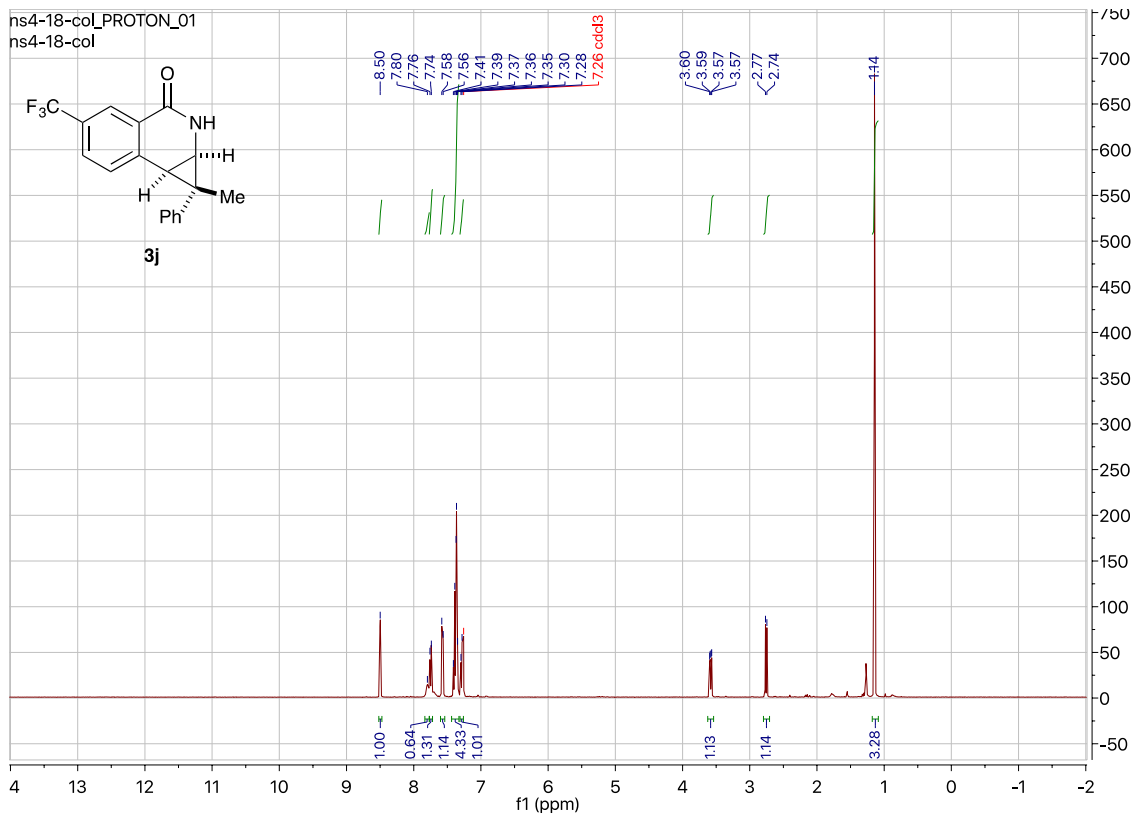


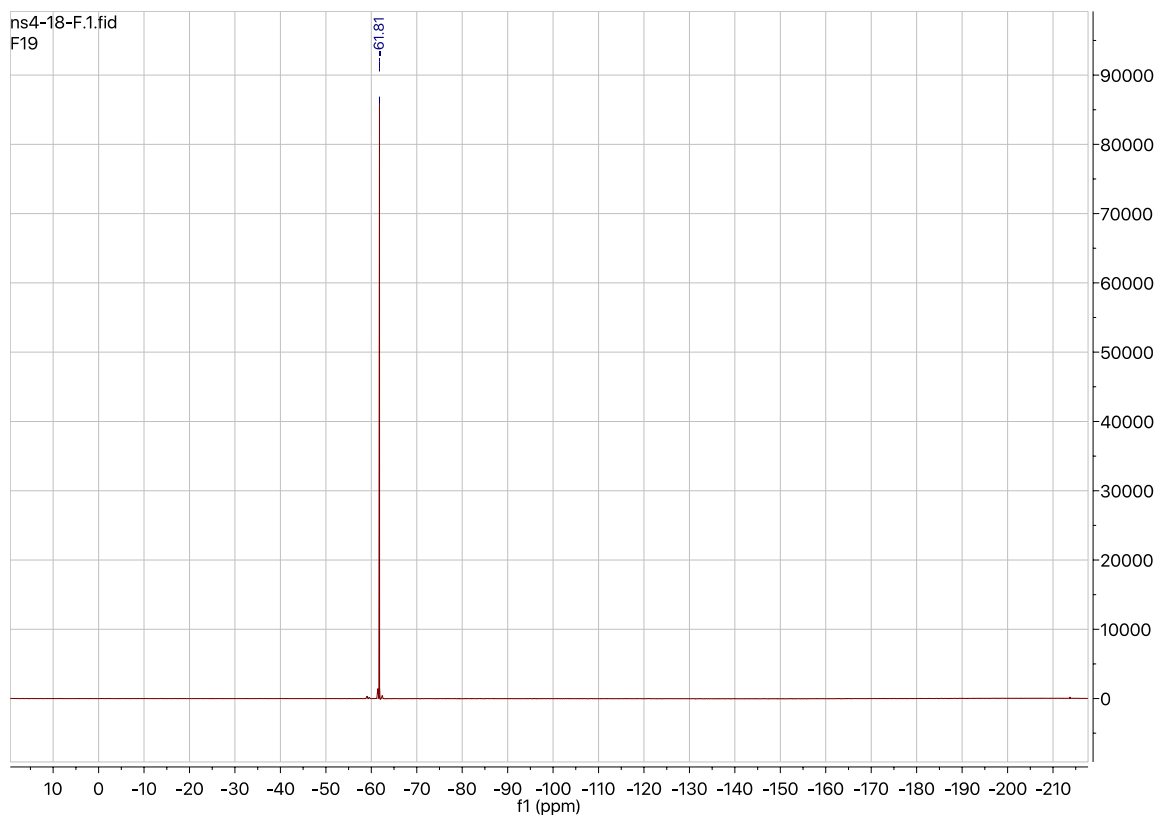


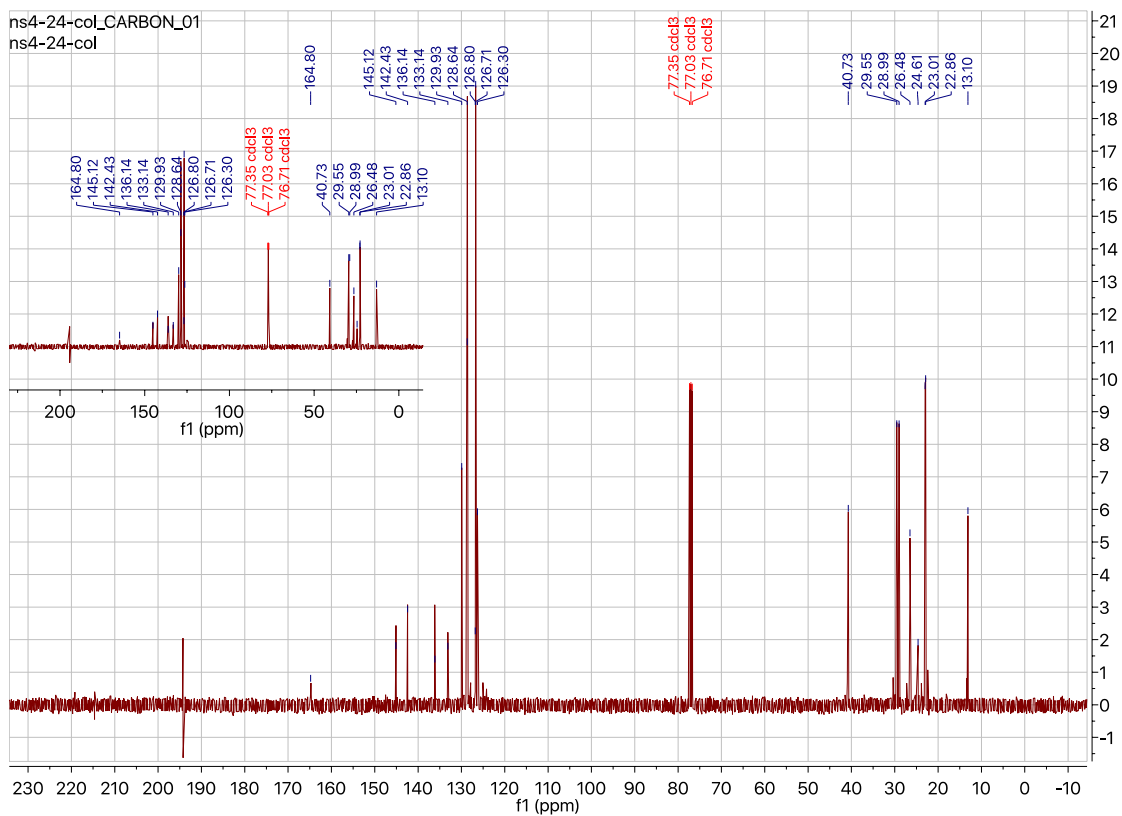
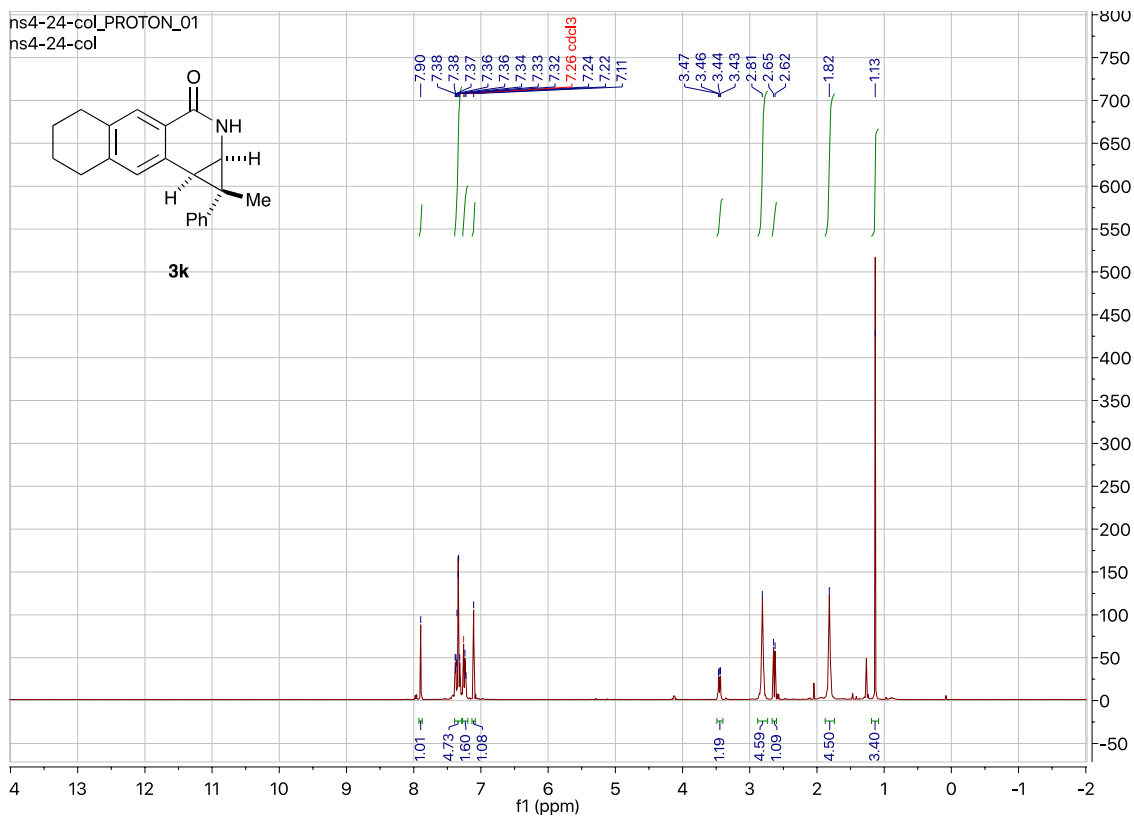


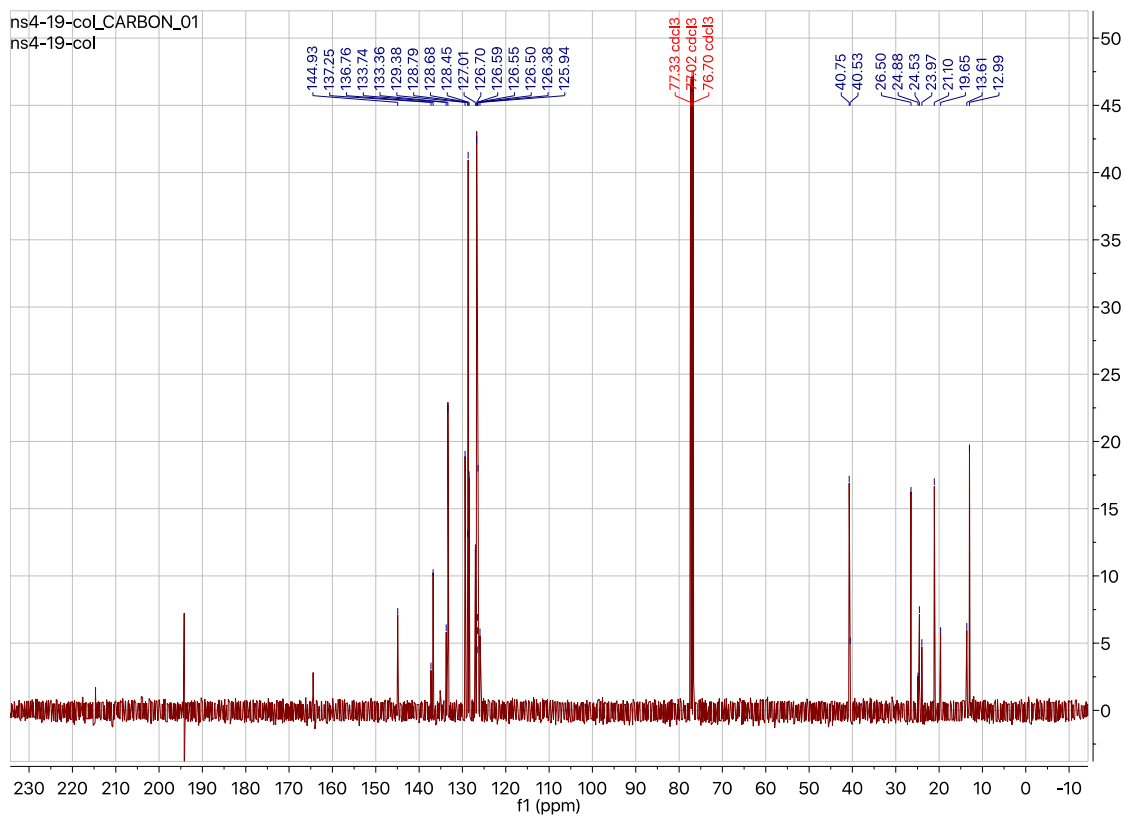
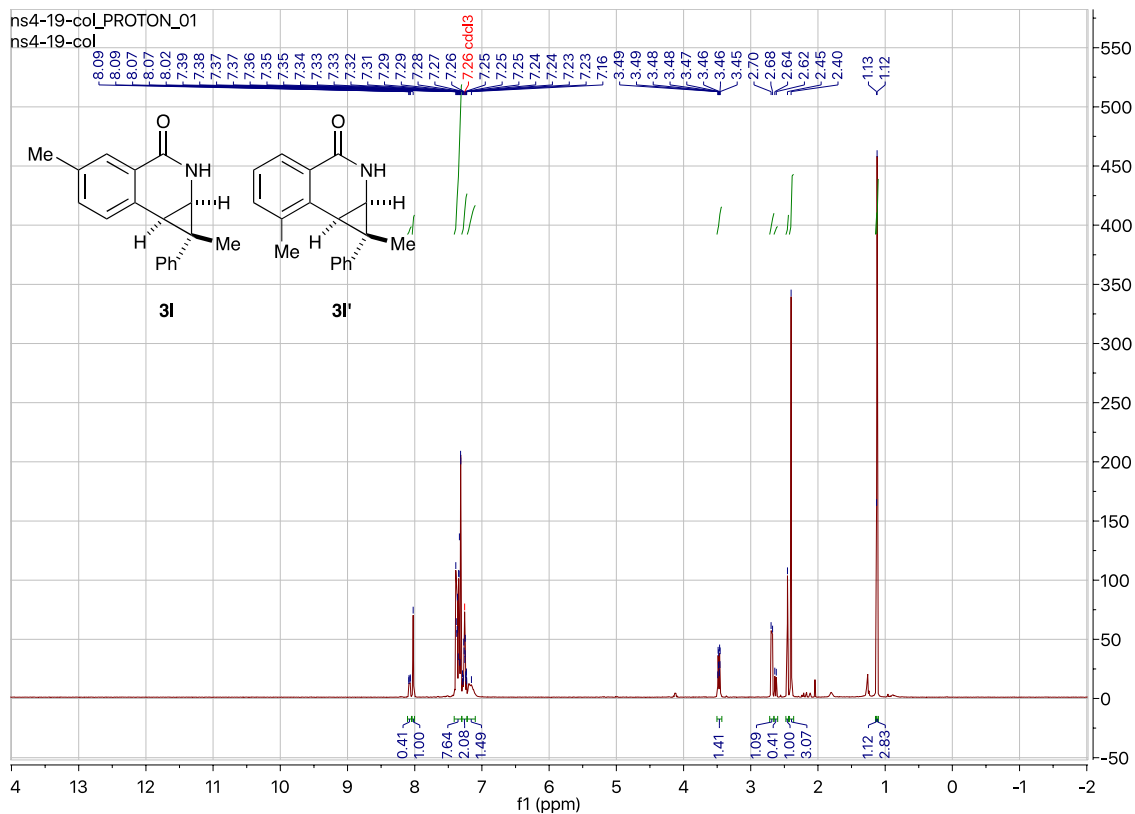


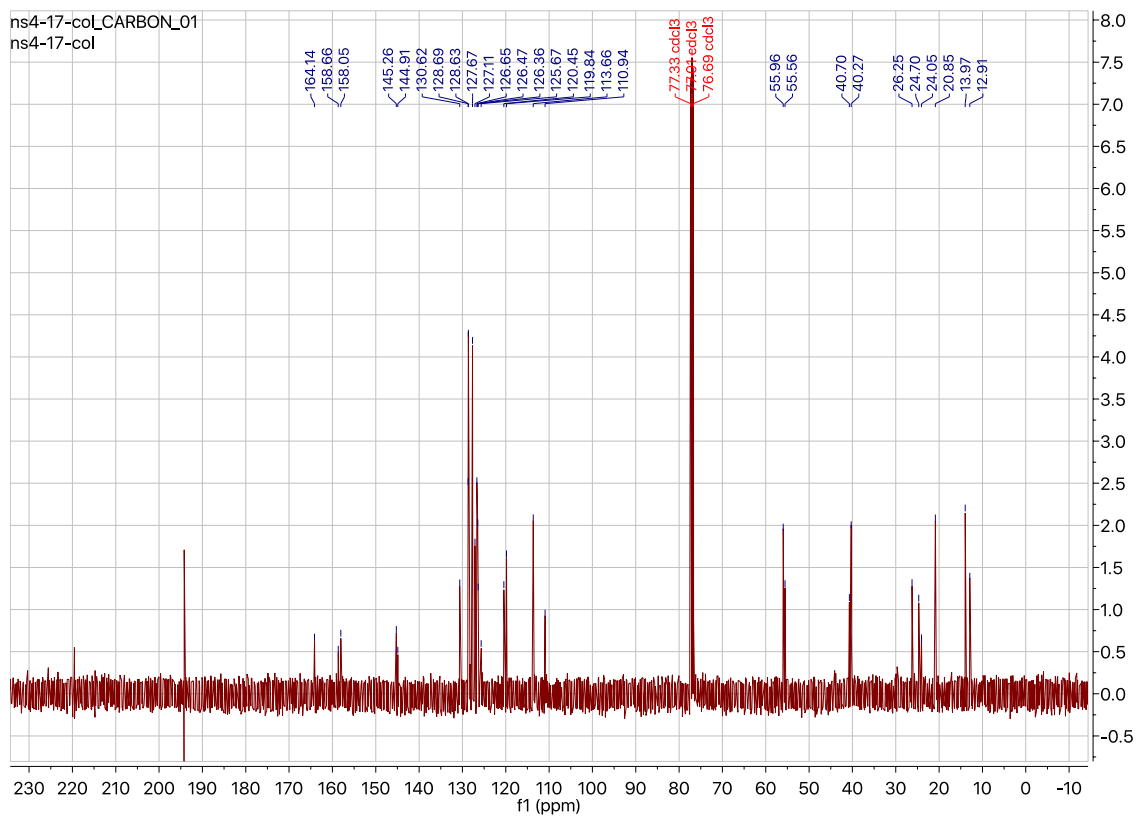
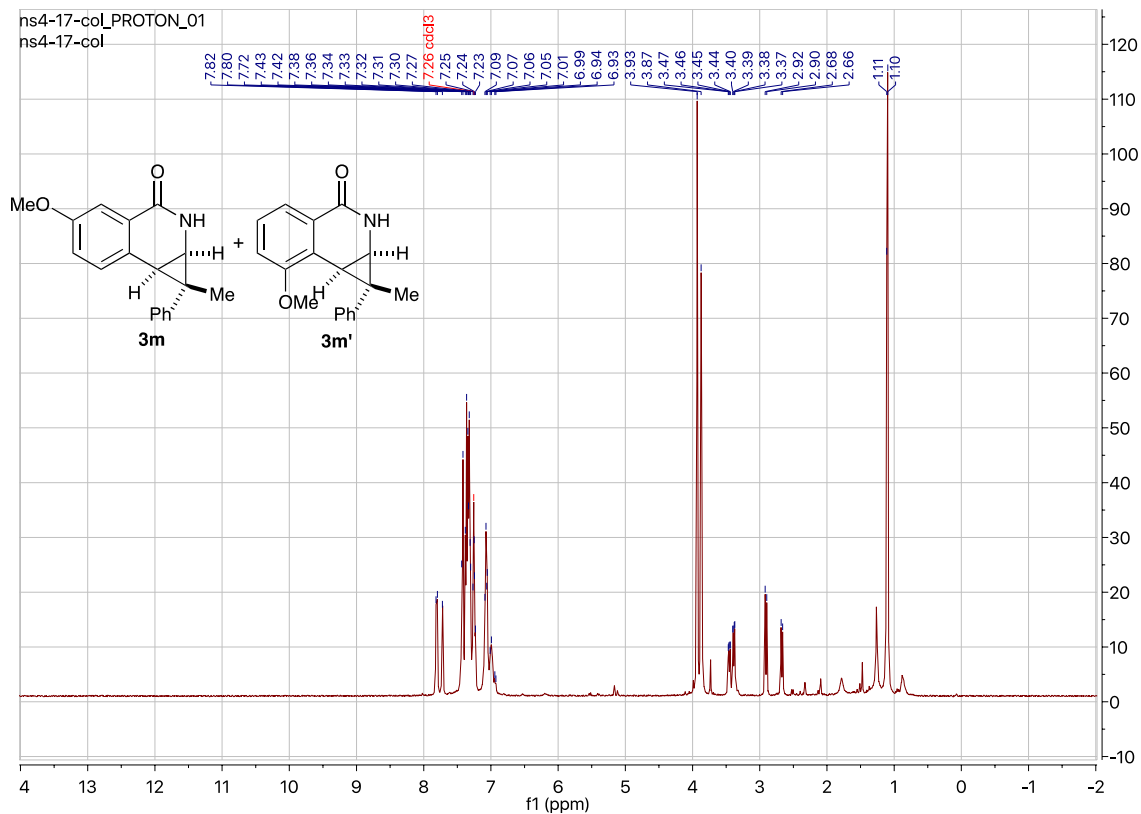


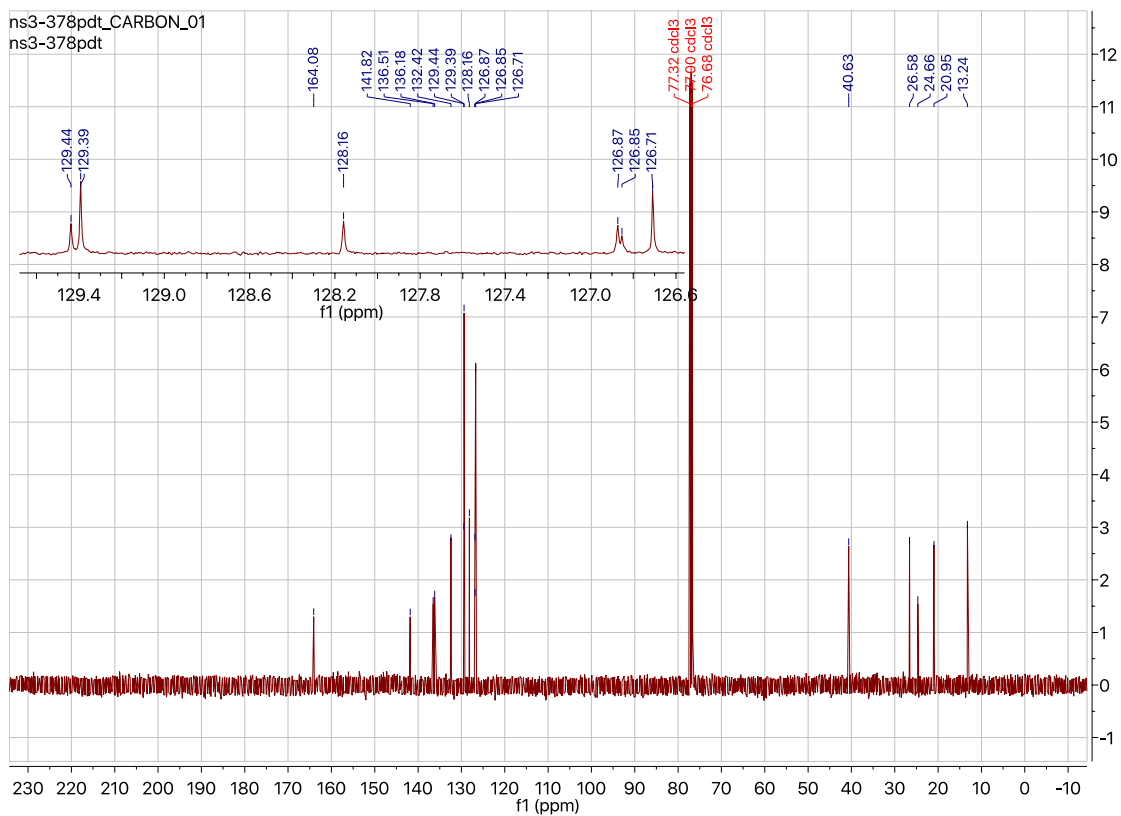
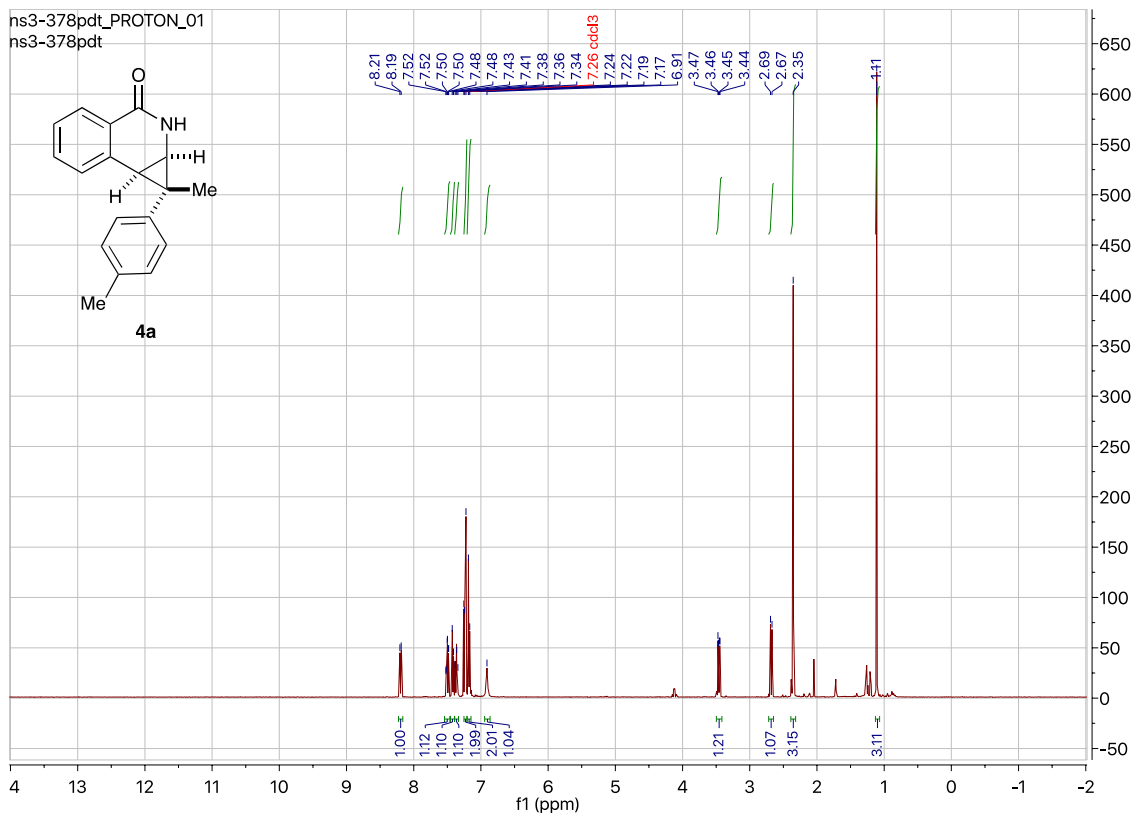






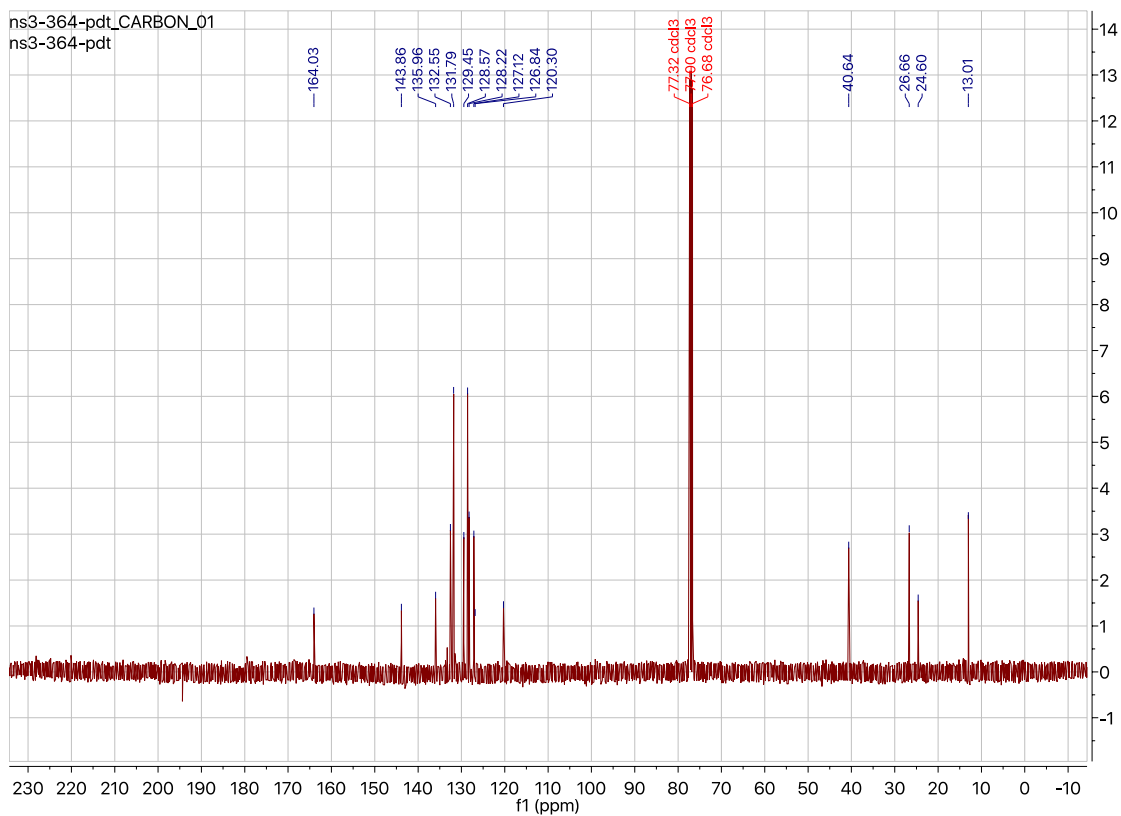
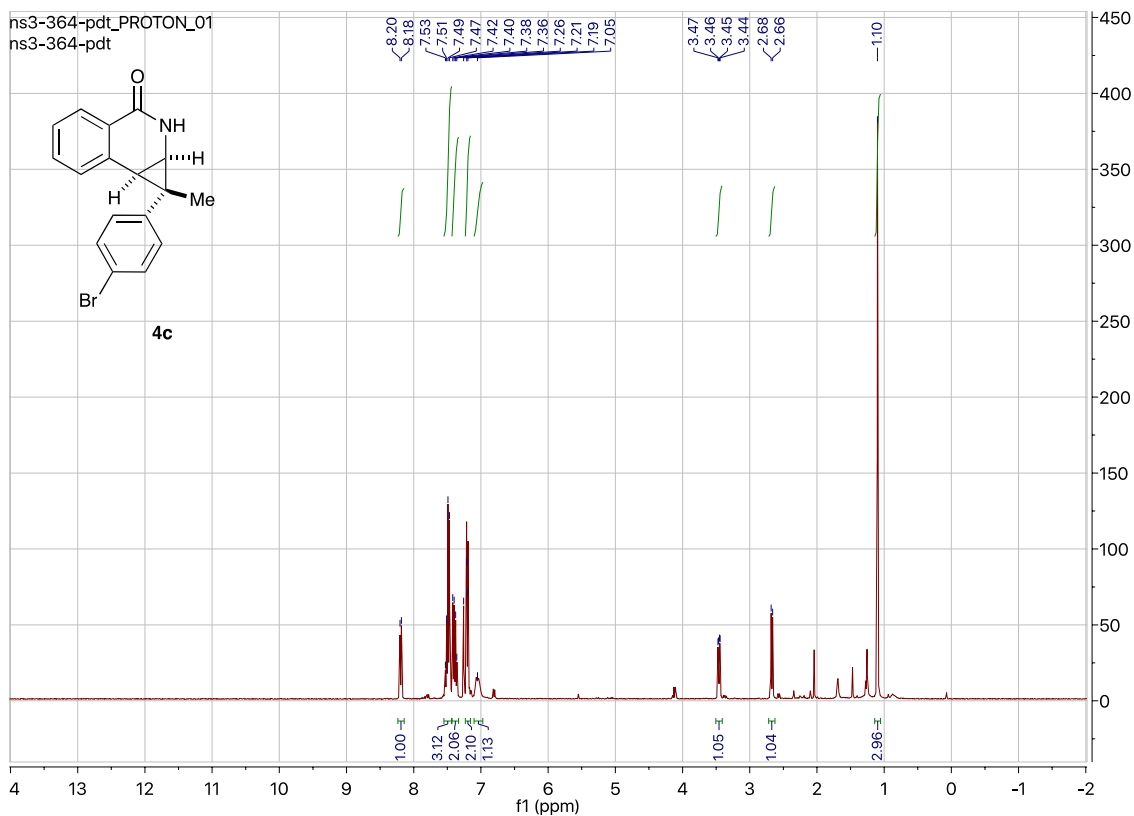


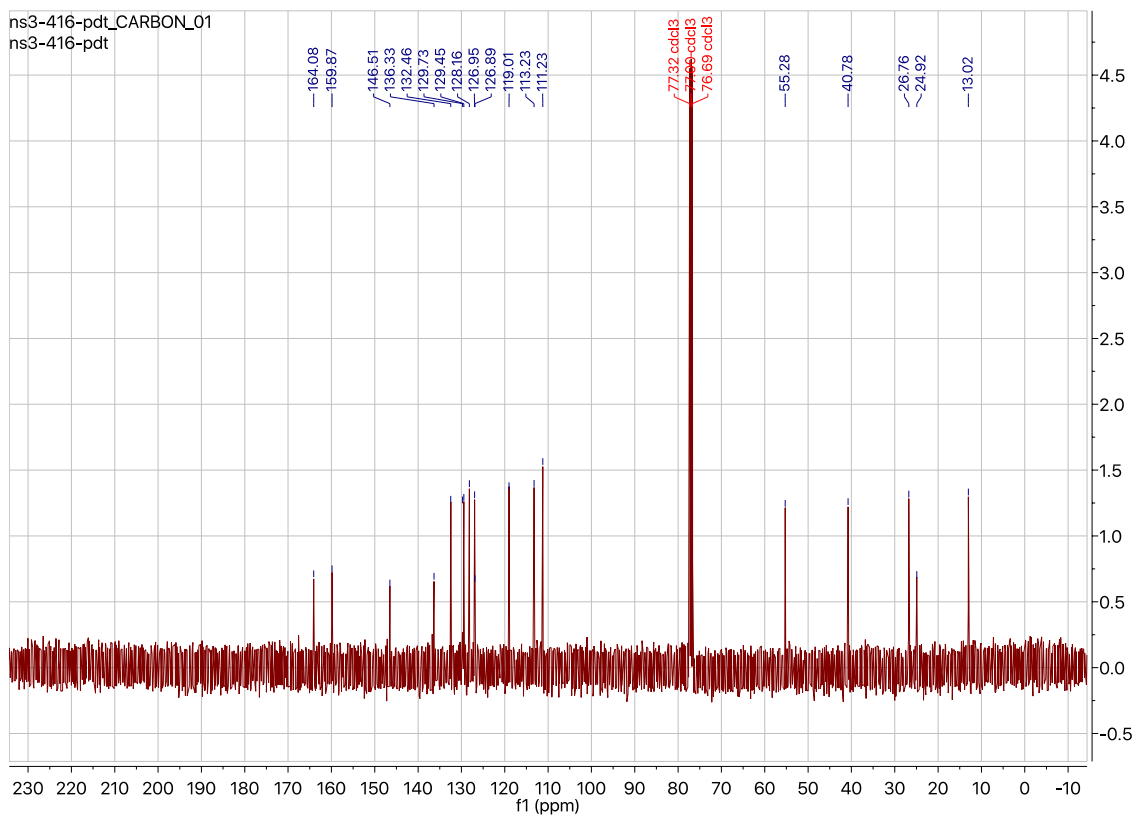
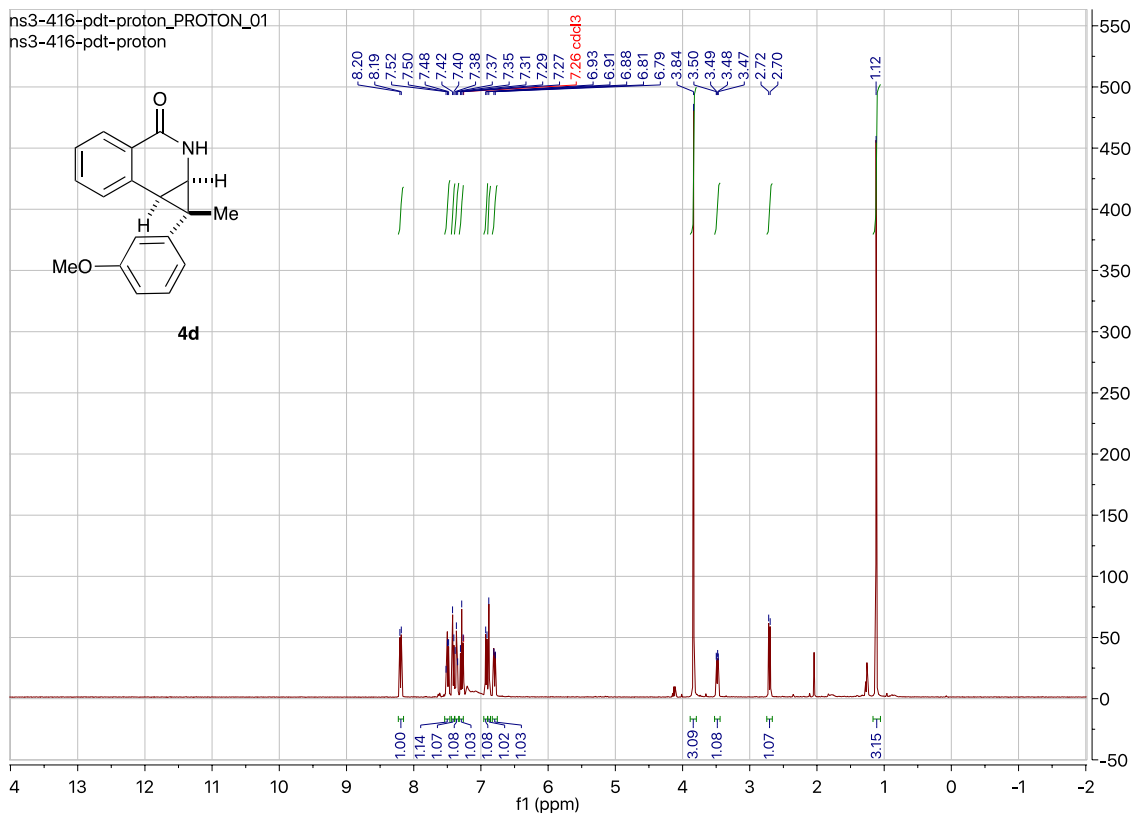


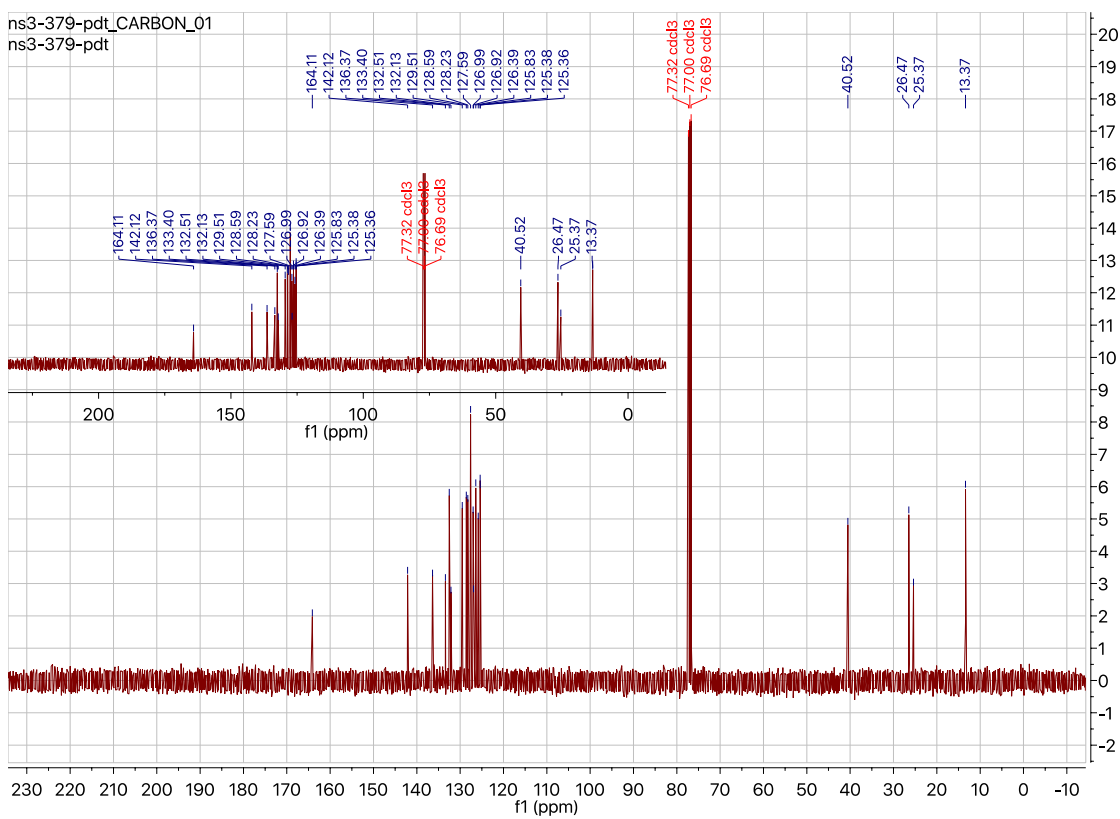
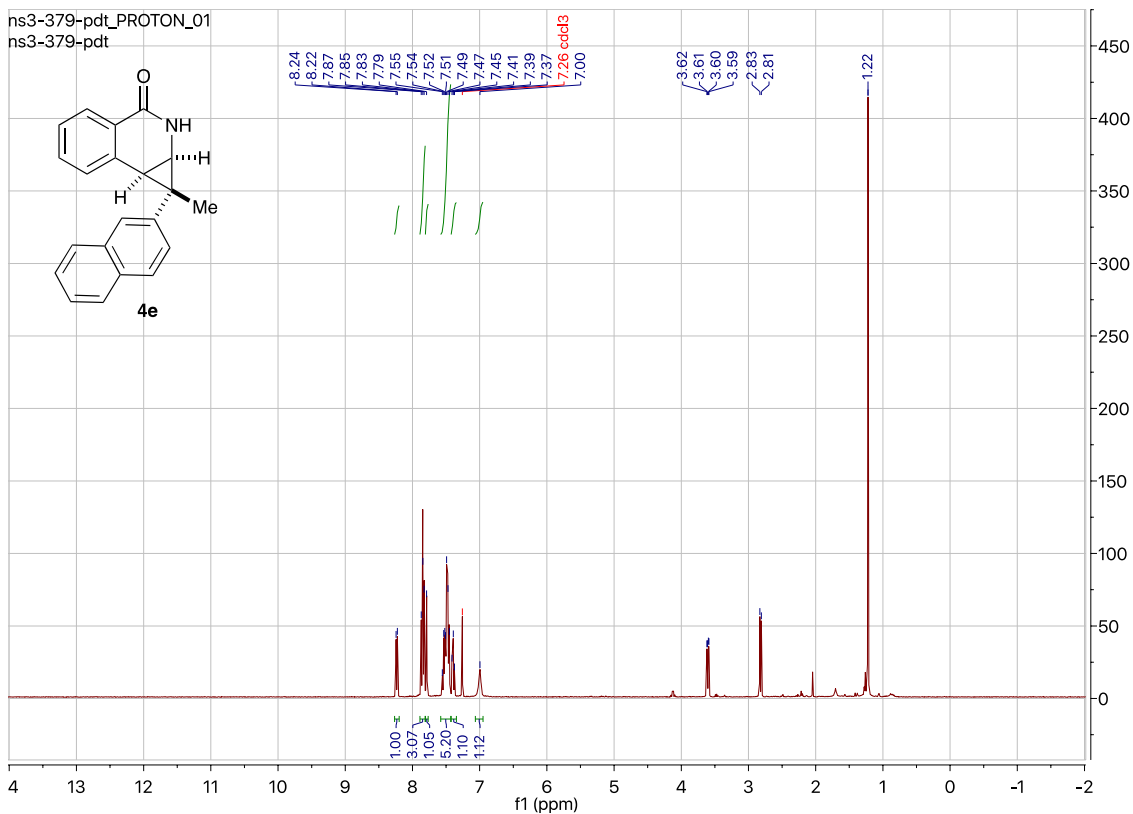


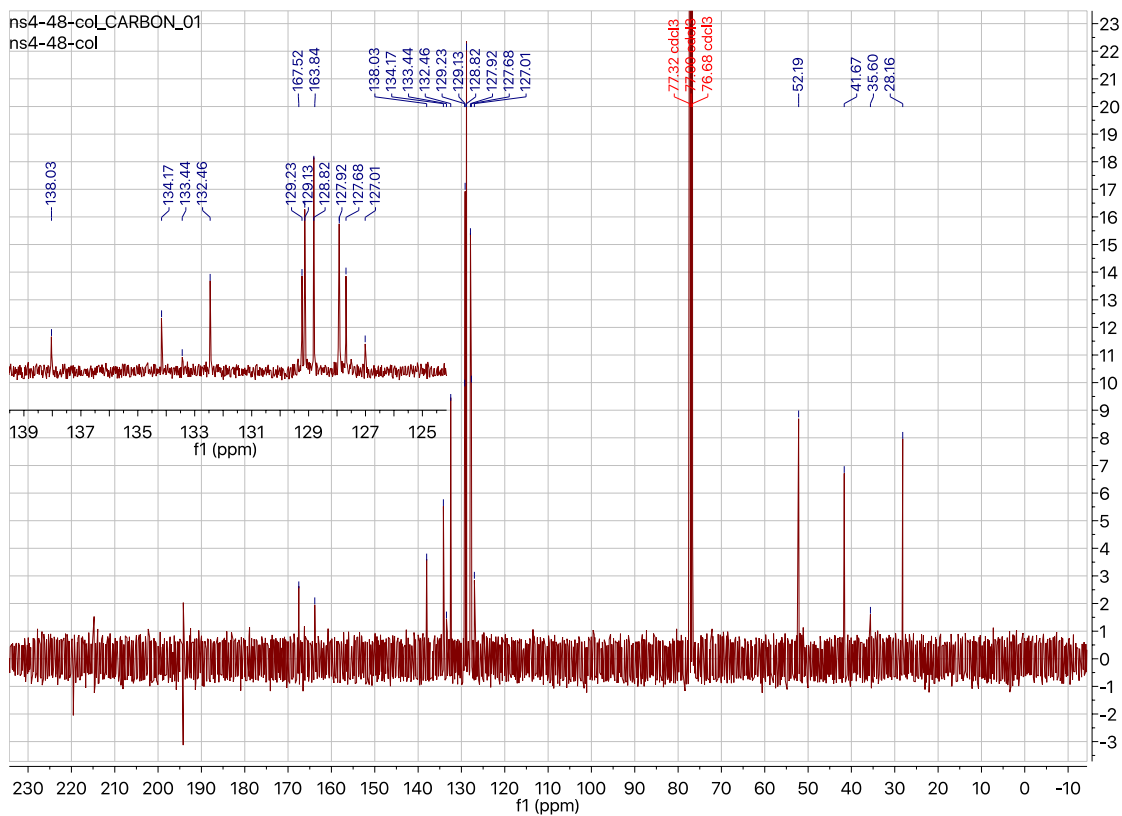
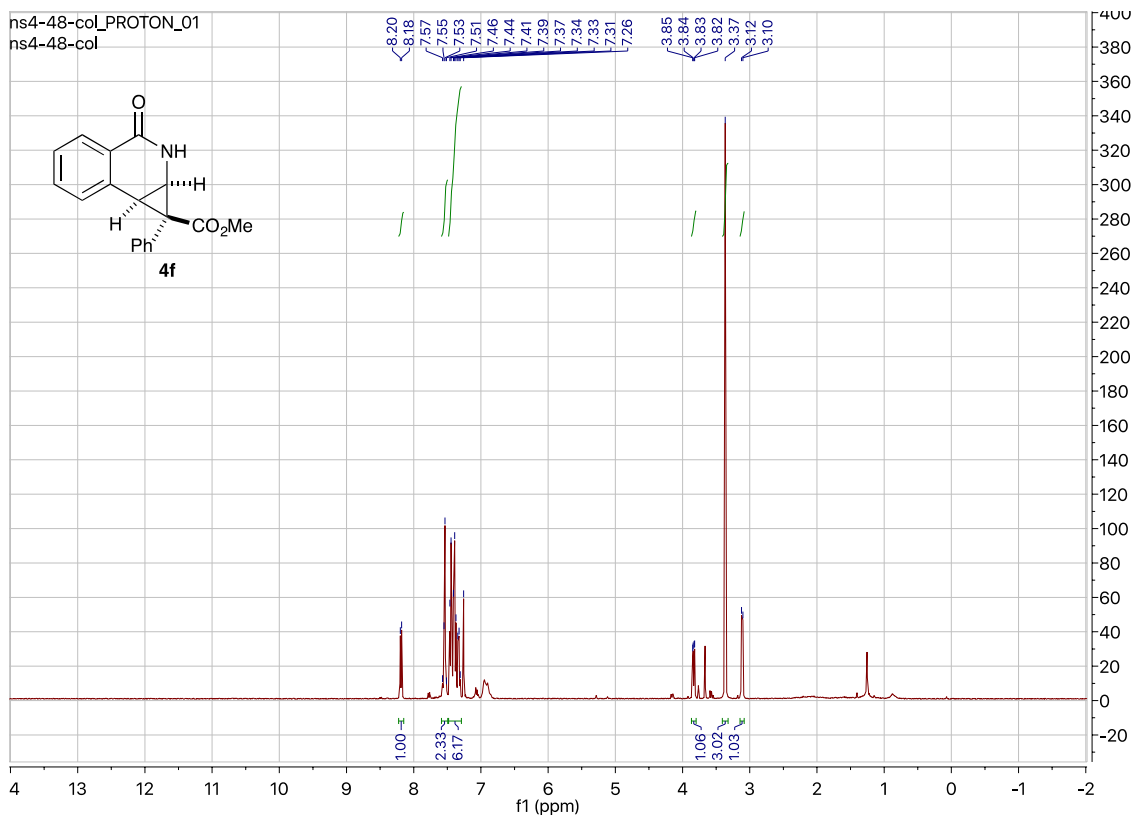












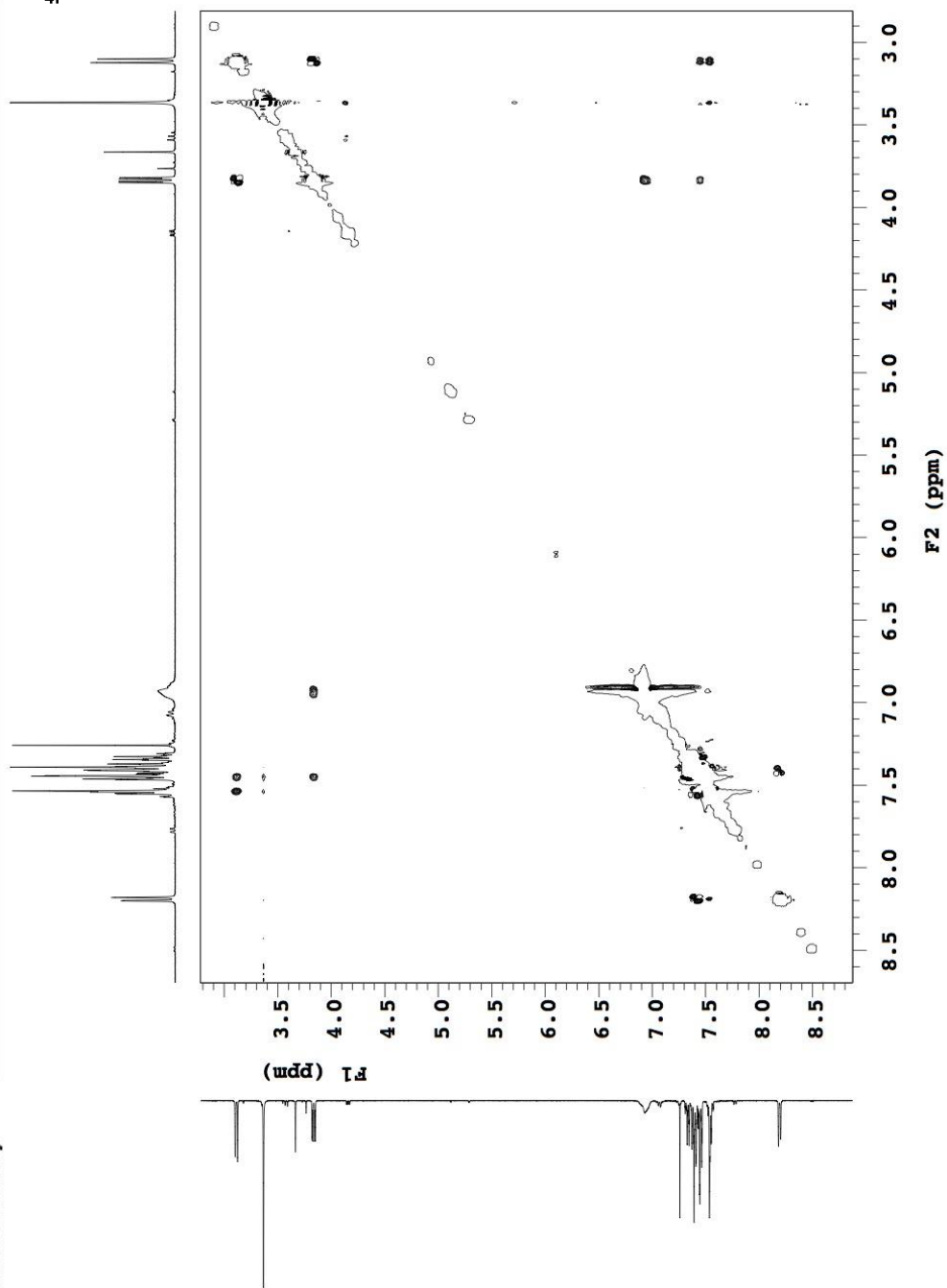
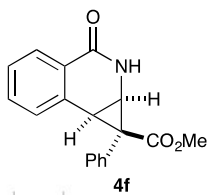
ns4-48-col

Sample Name ns4-48-col  
 Date collected 2016-03-13

Pulse sequence NOESY  
 Solvent cdc13

Temperature 26  
 Spectrometer 400MR-vnmrs400

Study owner nsemakul  
 Operator nsemakul



Data file /home/\_data/walkup/nsemakul/ns4-48-col\_20160313\_01/ns4-48-col\_NOESY\_01

Plot date 2016-03-14

