

# Supporting Information

## Difluoromethylcarbene for Iron-catalyzed cyclopropanation

*Yaya Duan,<sup>a</sup> Jin-Hong Lin,<sup>a\*</sup> Ji-Chang Xiao<sup>a\*</sup> and Yu-Cheng Gu<sup>b</sup>*

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Organofluorine Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Lingling Road, Shanghai 200032, China

*Dr. Jin-Hong Lin*

Tel: (+86)21-5492-5541; E-mail: [jlin@sioc.ac.cn](mailto:jlin@sioc.ac.cn).

*Prof. Ji-Chang Xiao*

Fax: (+86) 21-6416-6128; Tel: (+86)21-5492-5340; E-mail: [jchxiao@sioc.ac.cn](mailto:jchxiao@sioc.ac.cn).

<sup>b</sup> Syngenta, Jealott's Hill International Research Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 6EY (UK)

*Prof. Yu-Cheng Gu<sup>b</sup>*

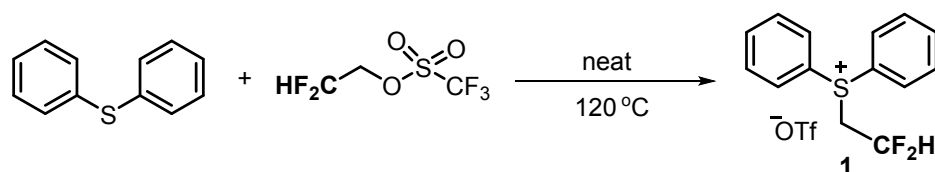
## Table of Contents

|                                                                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. General Information .....                                                                                        | 2  |
| 2. Procedure for the preparation of sulfonium salt <b>1</b> .....                                                   | 2  |
| 3. Screening Reaction Conditions for Cyclopropanation .....                                                         | 2  |
| 4. General procedure for cyclopropanation .....                                                                     | 4  |
| 5. Large scale reaction .....                                                                                       | 12 |
| 6. The determination of the relative configuration of <b>3g</b> by NOESY Spectrometry .....                         | 13 |
| 7. Mechanism studies .....                                                                                          | 15 |
| 7.1 Radical clock .....                                                                                             | 15 |
| 7.2 Insertion into X-H bond .....                                                                                   | 16 |
| 8. References .....                                                                                                 | 19 |
| 9. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR, <sup>19</sup> F NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of <b>1</b> and <b>3</b> ..... | 20 |

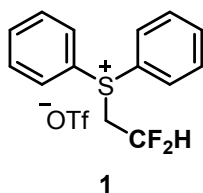
## 1. General Information

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were detected on a 500 MHz, 400 MHz or 300 MHz NMR spectrometer. Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR were recorded as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet, coupling constant (s) in Hz). Mass spectra were obtained on GC-MS or LC-MS (ESI). High resolution mass data were recorded on a high resolution mass spectrometer in the EI, ESI or MALDI mode. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained commercially and used without further purification. Substrates **2s**<sup>[1]</sup>, **2v**<sup>[2]</sup> and **2w**<sup>[2]</sup> were prepared according to literature.

## 2. Procedure for the preparation of sulfonium salt **1**



The mixture of 2,2-difluoroethyl triflate (8.56 g, 40 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and diphenyl sulfide (22.32 g, 120 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in a sealed tube was stirred at 120 °C for 20 hours. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diethyl ether (10 mL) was added to precipitate the crude product, which was then washed by dry diethyl ether to give the final product **1** (15.69 g, yield 98%).



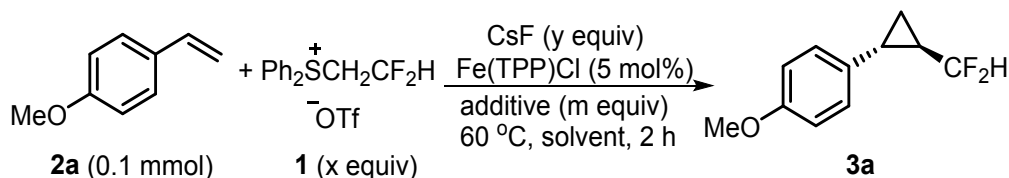
Diphenyl(2,2-difluoroethyl)sulfonium triflate (**1**)<sup>[3]</sup>: White solid. M.P.: 81.6 - 82.3 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  8.28 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.90 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.82 (t,  $J$  = 53.6 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (t,  $J$  = 15.2 Hz, 2H);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  -78.94 (s, 3F), -115.27 (dt,  $J$  = 53.6, 15.2 Hz, 2F);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  134.97 (s), 131.51 (s), 130.83 (s), 125.22 (s), 121.40 (q,  $J$  = 321.4 Hz), 112.55 (t,  $J$  = 243.0 Hz), 46.37 (t,  $J$  = 23.6 Hz).

## 3. Screening Reaction Conditions for Cyclopropanation

Using the same reaction conditions as the cyclopropanation of aryl olefins with trifluoromethylcarbene catalyzed by Fe(TPP)Cl (TPP = 5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21*H*,23*H* - porphine) described by us recently<sup>[1]</sup>, we did not observe the desired product in attempts to perform the cyclopropanation of olefin **2a** with difluoromethylcarbene produced from sulfonium salt **1** ( $\text{Ph}_2\text{S}^+\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2\text{H TfO}^-$ ) (Table 1, entry 1). However, elevating the reaction temperature led to the observation of trace amounts of product **3a** (Table 1, entry 2). A brief survey of reaction

solvents (Table 1, entries 2-7) revealed that product was produced only with highly polar solvents (Table 1, entries 2-3).

**Table 1.** Optimization of Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>.



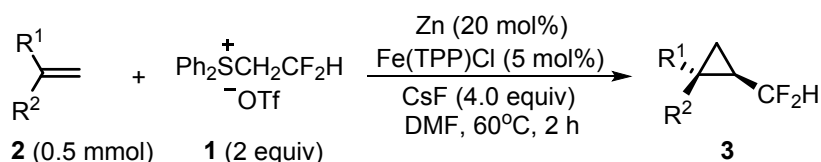
| Entry           | Solvent            | Additive                                      | x:y:m         | Yield (%) <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>c</sup>  | DMA                | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | N.D.                   |
| 2               | DMA                | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | trace                  |
| 3               | DMF                | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | trace                  |
| 4               | CH <sub>3</sub> CN | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | N.D.                   |
| 5               | DMSO               | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | N.D.                   |
| 6               | Toluene            | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | N.D.                   |
| 7               | THF                | -                                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 0 | N.D.                   |
| 8               | DMF                | DMAP                                          | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | N.D.                   |
| 9               | DMF                | Imidazole                                     | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | N.D.                   |
| 10              | DMF                | 1-Methylimidazole                             | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | N.D.                   |
| 11              | DMF                | Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | N.D.                   |
| 12              | DMF                | Fe                                            | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | N.D.                   |
| 13              | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 1.1 : 1.2 : 2 | 63                     |
| 14              | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 2 : 4 : 2     | 12-69                  |
| 15 <sup>d</sup> | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 2 : 4 : 2     | 69                     |
| 16 <sup>d</sup> | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 2 : 4 : 0.2   | 86                     |
| 17              | DMF                | -                                             | 2 : 4 : 0     | N.D.                   |
| 18 <sup>e</sup> | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 2 : 4 : 0.2   | N.D.                   |
| 19 <sup>d</sup> | DMF                | Zn <sup>f</sup>                               | 2 : 4 : 0.2   | 100                    |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: The mixture of **2a**, Fe(TPP)Cl, **1**, CsF and the additive in the solvent (1.5 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 2 h under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. N.D. = Not detected. <sup>b</sup>The yields were determined by <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy. <sup>c</sup>The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. <sup>d</sup>The mixture of Zn and Fe(TPP)Cl in DMF (0.5 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 10 min under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and then a mixture of **2a**, **1**, CsF and DMF (1 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for a further 2 h. <sup>e</sup>Fe(TPP)Cl was not used. <sup>f</sup>Zinc powder was used after being activated by aq. HCl.

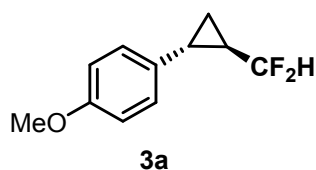
Recent studies have shown that the presence of axial ligands such as *N,N*-4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) favors the porphyrin-coordinated-transition-metal -catalyzed cyclopropanation of olefins with trifluoromethylcarbene.<sup>[4]</sup> Various ligands were screened, but none were favorable for the conversion (Table 1, entries 8-10). It is also believed that Fe<sup>III</sup> must be reduced to Fe<sup>II</sup> to promote the cyclopropanation reaction.<sup>[5]</sup> The examination of a series of

reducing agents (Table 1, entries 11-13) indicated that activated zinc powder (Table 1, entry 13) was efficient at reducing Fe<sup>III</sup>. Increasing the loading of salt **1**, CsF and Zn slightly increased the yield (Table 1, entry 14). However, to our surprise, these results were not reproducible and the yields varied dramatically (Table 1, entries 13-14). Much effort was then put into optimizing the reaction process, and we realized that mixing Fe(TPP)Cl and Zn in advance was necessary to obtain good yields of product **3a** (Table 1, entry 15). We also found that Zn could result in the decomposition of salt **1**, the loading of Zn should therefore be minimized. Indeed, reactions with decreased Zn loadings had considerably improved yields (Table 1, entry 16). Omitting either the catalyst [Fe(TPP)Cl] or the reducing agent (Zn) from the reaction mixture completely suppressed the desired conversion (Table 1, entries 17-18). The reaction scale was increased to five times to demonstrate the practicality of the conversion (Table 1, entry 19). Interestingly, the yield of **3a** was increased by increasing the scale of the reaction (entry 19 vs entry 16).

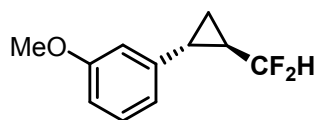
#### 4. General procedure for cyclopropanation



Into a mixture of Fe(TPP)Cl (0.025 mmol, 17.6 mg, 5 mol %) and Zinc powder (0.1 mmol, 6.5 mg, 20 mol %) was added DMF (1 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 10 min. Substrate (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (1.0 mmol, 400.4 mg, 2.0 equiv), cesium fluoride (2.0 mmol, 303.8 mg, 4.0 equiv) and DMF (4 mL) were then added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for another 2 h, and was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) and water (15 mL). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (15 mL, three times), and then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed by concentration. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography with the use of hexane/dichloromethane as eluent to give the final product.

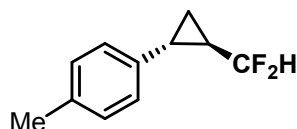


1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-4-methoxybenzene (**3a**): 97%. Colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (td, *J* = 57.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.20 - 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.63 - 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.23 - 1.16 (m, 1H), 1.07 - 1.00 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -114.59 (dddd, *J* = 280.4, 57.7, 10.7, 1.7 Hz, 1F), -115.53 (ddd, *J* = 280.4, 57.5, 10.7 Hz, 1F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.34 (s), 132.20 (s), 127.58 (s), 116.83 (t, *J* = 238.1 Hz), 113.99 (s), 55.28 (s), 23.62 (t, *J* = 26.8 Hz), 18.15 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 10.08 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz). IR (neat) ν = 2903, 2838, 1520, 1461, 1402, 1378, 1249, 1181, 1148, 1100, 1033, 821 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O [M]<sup>+</sup>: 198.0856, Found: 198.0857.



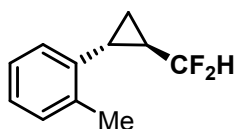
**3b**

1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-3-methoxybenzene (**3b**): 95%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.21 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 5.75 (td,  $J = 57.4, 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.21 - 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.69 - 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.26 - 1.19 (m, 1H), 1.13 - 1.05 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.08 (ddd,  $J = 280.8, 57.4, 10.7$  Hz, 1F), -116.07 (ddd,  $J = 280.8, 57.4, 10.7$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.84 (s), 141.97 (s), 129.55 (s), 118.60 (s), 116.50 (t,  $J = 238.4$  Hz), 112.37 (s), 111.61 (s), 55.18 (s), 24.01 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 18.85 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz), 10.52 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3008, 2962, 2838, 1604, 1585, 1496, 1467, 1431, 1377, 1320, 1255, 1211, 1160, 1105, 1043, 989, 870, 777, 734, 695\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 198.0856, Found: 198.0860.



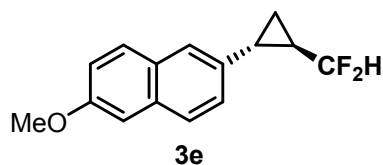
**3c**

1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-4-methylbenzene (**3c**): 92%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.11 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 5.74 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.20 - 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.64 - 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.25 - 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.10 - 1.02 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -114.82 (ddd,  $J = 280.5, 57.5, 10.7$  Hz, 1F), -115.90 (ddd,  $J = 280.5, 57.5, 10.7$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.17 (s), 136.00 (s), 129.20 (s), 126.30 (s), 116.66 (t,  $J = 238.2$  Hz), 23.82 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 20.98 (s), 18.50 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz), 10.31 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3020, 2964, 2925, 1519, 1466, 1431, 1416, 1378, 1225, 1184, 1149, 1101, 1081, 1034, 995, 947, 812, 662, 538\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 182.0907, Found: 182.0911.

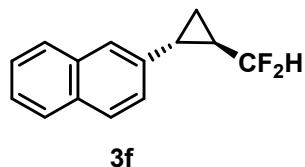


**3d**

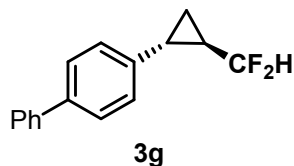
1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-2-methylbenzene (**3d**): 92%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.25 - 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.08 - 6.99 (m, 1H), 5.79 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.26 - 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.61 - 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.26 - 1.19 (m, 1H), 1.16 - 1.09 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.87 (ddd,  $J = 280.5, 57.5, 10.2$  Hz, 1F), -114.95 (ddd,  $J = 280.5, 57.5, 10.8$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.07 (s), 137.79 (s), 129.96 (s), 126.72 (s), 126.20 (s), 125.99 (s), 117.12 (t,  $J = 238.2$  Hz), 22.60 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 19.53 (s), 17.24 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 4.0$  Hz), 8.62 (dd,  $J = 4.7, 4.1$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3022, 2959, 1494, 1461, 1430, 1411, 1379, 1185, 1150, 1103, 1083, 1034, 989, 910, 759, 733, 438\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 182.0907, Found: 180.0911.



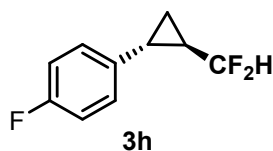
2-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-6-methoxynaphthalene (**3e**): Quantitative. White solid. M.p.: 78.0-78.7 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (td, *J* = 57.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.40 - 2.32 (m, 1H), 1.77 - 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.34 - 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.24 - 1.16 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -114.88 (ddd, *J* = 280.5, 58.7, 10.6 Hz, 1F), -115.78 (ddd, *J* = 280.5, 57.8, 10.7 Hz, 1F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.44 (s), 135.24 (s), 133.33 (s), 128.91 (s), 128.89 (s), 127.06 (s), 125.46 (s), 124.73 (s), 119.09 (s), 116.64 (t, *J* = 238.3 Hz), 105.69 (s), 55.30 (s), 23.78 (t, *J* = 26.8 Hz), 18.90 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 10.25 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz). IR (neat) ν = 3012, 2967, 2939, 1632, 1605, 1507, 1491, 1405, 1394, 1375, 1275, 1265, 1241, 1207, 1179, 1161, 1123, 1108, 1061, 1028, 994, 880, 855, 818, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O [M]<sup>+</sup>: 248.1013, Found: 248.1018.



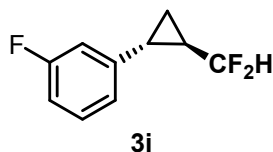
2-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)naphthalene (**3f**): 90%. White solid. M.p.: 39.8-40.5 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.83 - 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51 - 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (td, *J* = 57.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.40 - 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.79 - 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.35 - 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.24 - 1.17 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -115.01 (ddd, *J* = 275.5, 57.5, 10.8 Hz, 1F), -115.90 (ddd, *J* = 275.5, 57.5, 10.8 Hz, 1F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.64 (s), 133.44 (s), 132.27 (s), 128.23 (s), 127.66 (s), 127.40 (s), 126.29 (s), 125.50 (s), 124.87 (s), 124.81 (s), 116.52 (t, *J* = 238.4 Hz), 23.96 (t, *J* = 26.7 Hz), 19.05 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 10.45 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz). IR (neat) ν = 3059, 3018, 2982, 1635, 1601, 1508, 1458, 1430, 1416, 1382, 1364, 1271, 1207, 1177, 1152, 1103, 1079, 1041, 1003, 975, 890, 855, 821, 809, 751, 669, 479 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 218.0907, Found: 218.0905.



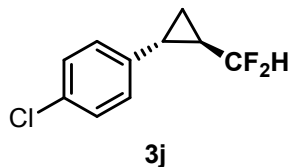
4-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3g**): 99%. White solid. M.p.: 73.4-73.9 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.78 (td, *J* = 57.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.31 - 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.72 - 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.32 - 1.22 (m, 1H), 1.18 - 1.08 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -115.15 (ddd, *J* = 279.6, 57.5, 10.7 Hz, 1F), -116.05 (ddd, *J* = 279.6, 57.5, 10.7 Hz, 1F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.75 (s), 139.38 (s), 139.34 (s), 128.77 (s), 127.21 (s), 127.20 (s), 126.96 (s), 126.70 (s), 116.43 (t, *J* = 238.4 Hz), 24.06 (t, *J* = 26.8 Hz), 18.51 (t, *J* = 4.7 Hz), 10.59 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz). IR (neat) ν = 3032, 2987, 1611, 1527, 1488, 1465, 1435, 1409, 1374, 1192, 1123, 1105, 1017, 943, 832, 762, 724, 690, 513 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 244.1064, Found: 244.1059.



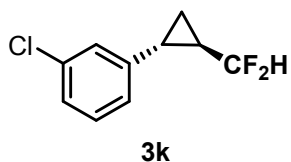
1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-4-fluorobenzene (**3h**): 84%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.07 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.74 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.21 - 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.60 - 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.25 - 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.06 - 0.99 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.65 (dd,  $J = 57.5, 10.7$  Hz, 2F), -116.61 - -116.71 (m, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.56 (d,  $J = 244.5$  Hz), 135.80 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz), 127.98 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz), 116.40 (t,  $J = 238.4$  Hz), 115.30 (d,  $J = 21.4$  Hz), 23.81 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 18.11 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz), 10.29 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 2954, 2921, 1653, 1559, 1541, 1507, 1458, 1376, 1098, 1023$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 186.0656, Found: 186.0659.



1-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-3-fluorobenzene (**3i**): 60%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.26 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.92 - 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.78 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 5.75 (td,  $J = 57.5, 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.22 - 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.66 - 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.28 - 1.21 (m, 1H), 1.11 - 1.02 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.34 - -113.45 (m, 1F), -116.11 (dd,  $J = 57.5, 10.8$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.02 (d,  $J = 245.7$  Hz), 142.96 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), 129.96 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz), 122.08 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz), 116.09 (t,  $J = 238.6$  Hz), 113.28 (d,  $J = 21.1$  Hz), 113.19 (d,  $J = 21.9$  Hz), 24.17 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 18.49 (dd,  $J = 4.7, 2.2$  Hz), 10.67 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 2960, 2925, 2854, 1590, 1460, 1412, 1377, 1261, 1099, 1023, 859, 800, 690, 669$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 186.0656, Found: 186.0652.

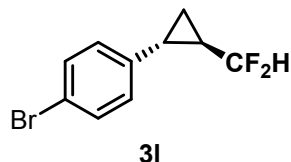


1-Chloro-4-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzene (**3j**): Quantitative. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.24 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 5.75 (td,  $J = 57.4, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.19 - 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.62 - 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.26 - 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.07 - 1.00 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.87 (dd,  $J = 57.4, 10.8$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.75 (s), 132.10 (s), 128.61 (s), 127.76 (s), 116.23 (t,  $J = 238.5$  Hz), 24.01 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 18.23 (t,  $J = 4.7$  Hz), 10.50 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3015, 2967, 1498, 1466, 1432, 1401, 1376, 1187, 1151, 1097, 1081, 1035, 1014, 996, 909, 82, 735, 533, 512$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{F}_2\text{Cl}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 202.0361, Found: 202.0359.

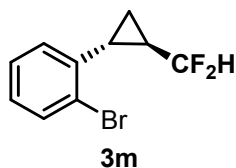


1-Chloro-3-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzene (**3k**): 84%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR

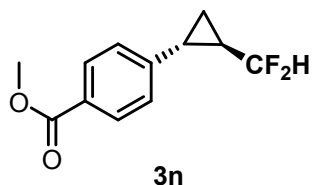
(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 - 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (td,  $J$  = 57.4, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.20 - 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.66 - 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.28 - 1.21 (m, 1H), 1.11 - 1.03 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -116.10 (dd,  $J$  = 57.4, 10.7 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.37 (s), 134.40 (s), 129.74 (s), 126.57 (s), 126.53 (s), 124.65 (s), 116.07 (t,  $J$  = 238.6 Hz), 24.07 (t,  $J$  = 26.8 Hz), 18.43 (t,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz), 10.57 (t,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu$  = 3017, 2967, 1601, 1573, 1466, 1431, 1413, 1376, 1188, 1151, 1096, 1082, 1035, 9989, 954, 871, 781, 692, 667, 594, 445 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Cl [M]<sup>+</sup>: 202.0361, Found: 202.0369.



1-Bromo-4-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzene (**3l**): 90%. Colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.75 (td,  $J$  = 57.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 - 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.63 - 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.27 - 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.07 - 1.00 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -115.90 (dd,  $J$  = 57.4, 10.8 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.29 (s), 131.55 (s), 128.13 (s), 120.05 (s), 116.18 (t,  $J$  = 238.6 Hz), 24.01 (t,  $J$  = 26.8 Hz), 18.30 (t,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz), 10.51 (t,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu$  = 3030, 2967, 1494, 1465, 1432, 1398, 1376, 1184, 1150, 1099, 1075, 1035, 1010, 996, 908, 819, 765, 734, 532, 509 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Br [M]<sup>+</sup>: 245.9856, Found: 245.9855.

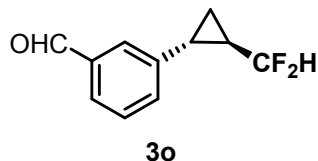


1-Bromo-2-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzene (**3m**): 93%. Colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (td,  $J$  = 57.6, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.39 - 2.31 (m, 1H), 1.61 - 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.35 - 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.11 - 1.03 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -113.92 (ddd,  $J$  = 281.2, 57.8, 9.0 Hz, 1F), -118.39 (ddd,  $J$  = 281.2, 57.5, 13.1 Hz, 1F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.06 (s), 132.65 (s), 128.12 (s), 127.61 (s), 127.45 (s), 126.04 (s), 116.23 (t,  $J$  = 238.8 Hz), 23.22 (dd,  $J$  = 27.5, 25.7 Hz), 20.04 (t,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz), 9.23 (t,  $J$  = 4.3 Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu$  = 3060, 2967, 1592, 1567, 1480, 1458, 1430, 1412, 1377, 1188, 1151, 1101, 1081, 1053, 1026, 984, 46, 922, 750, 655, 446 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Br [M]<sup>+</sup>: 245.9856, Found: 245.9862.

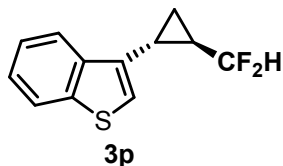


Methyl 4-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzoate (**3n**): Quantitative. Colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.76 (td,  $J$  = 57.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.24 - 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.71 - 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.32 - 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.14 - 1.06 (m, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -116.20 (ddd,  $J$  = 57.4, 10.8, 5.7 Hz, 2F). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.84 (s), 145.82 (s), 129.82 (s), 128.28 (s), 126.09 (s), 116.00 (t,  $J$  = 238.7 Hz), 52.00 (s), 24.58 (t,  $J$  = 26.9 Hz), 18.78 (t,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz), 11.14 (t,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu$

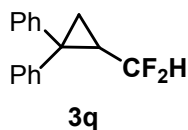
= 3015, 2955, 1718, 1613, 1458, 1436, 1408, 1377, 1314, 1282, 1183, 1150, 1112, 1034, 1019, 994, 850, 771, 703, 536  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 226.0817, Found: 226.0811.



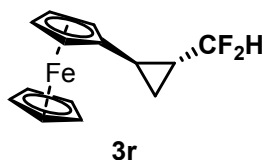
3-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzaldehyde (**3o**): 93%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.77 (td,  $J = 57.4, 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.30 - 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.71 - 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.33 - 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.16 - 1.06 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.61 (ddd,  $J = 280.3, 57.4, 10.5$  Hz, 1F), -116.50 (ddd,  $J = 280.3, 57.4, 10.5$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.17 (s), 141.50 (s), 136.62 (s), 132.68 (s), 129.16 (s), 128.26 (s), 126.73 (s), 116.04 (t,  $J = 238.6$  Hz), 24.17 (t,  $J = 26.9$  Hz), 18.39 (t,  $J = 4.7$  Hz), 10.68 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3016, 2988, 1698, 1607, 1588, 1489, 1432, 1412, 1378, 1293, 1243, 1188, 1150, 1105, 1084, 1035, 989, 937, 758, 738, 691, 650$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 196.0700, Found: 196.0704.



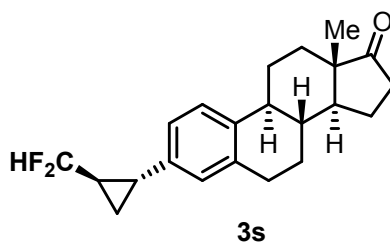
3-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)benzo[b]thiophene (**3p**): 91%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 5.84 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.38 - 2.30 (m, 1H), 1.65 - 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.30 - 1.23 (m, 1H), 1.21 - 1.13 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.92 (ddd,  $J = 281.2, 57.5, 9.4$  Hz, 1F), -116.04 (ddd,  $J = 281.2, 57.4, 11.9$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.48 (s), 139.29 (s), 135.19 (s), 124.69 (s), 124.27 (s), 122.89 (s), 121.94 (s), 121.60 (s), 116.73 (t,  $J = 238.3$  Hz), 22.02 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 12.71 (dd,  $J = 5.5, 4.1$  Hz), 8.42 (dd,  $J = 4.9, 4.0$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3086, 2967, 1464, 1430, 1414, 1380, 1254, 1182, 1150, 1094, 1036, 991, 909, 830, 764, 733, 436$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 224.0471, Found: 224.0469.



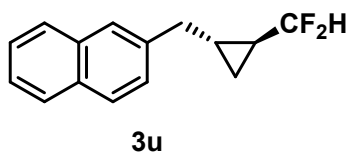
(2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropane-1,1-diyl)dibenzene (**3q**): 86%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 - 7.21 (m, 5H), 7.22 - 7.15 (m, 1H), 5.01 (td,  $J = 55.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.27 - 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.68 - 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.50 - 1.44 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -107.99 (ddd,  $J = 283.8, 54.5, 8.6$  Hz, 1F), -113.99 (ddd,  $J = 283.9, 56.0, 6.1$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  144.53 (s), 139.70 (s), 130.07 (s), 128.80 (s), 128.58 (s), 127.83 (s), 127.35 (s), 126.68 (s), 118.23 (t,  $J = 236.1$  Hz), 35.27 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz), 27.22 (dd,  $J = 31.8, 28.3$  Hz), 15.65 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 7.0$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3053, 2980, 1601, 1579, 1494, 1457, 1447, 1421, 1342, 1180, 1082, 1071, 1027, 965, 933, 862, 776, 756, 705, 645, 560, 479, 422$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 244.1064, Found: 244.1062.



(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)ferrocene (**3r**): 89%. Orange oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.63 (td,  $J = 57.4, 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.16 (s, 5H), 4.09 - 4.03 (m, 3H), 3.99 (s, 1H), 1.87 - 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.53 - 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.11 - 1.03 (m, 1H), 0.88 - 0.80 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.90 (ddd,  $J = 280.1, 57.4, 9.9$  Hz, 1F), -115.15 (ddd,  $J = 280.1, 57.4, 11.1$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  116.96 (t,  $J = 238.0$  Hz), 88.55 (s), 68.68 (s), 67.29 (s), 67.22 (s), 67.02 (s), 66.07 (s), 23.83 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 14.10 (dd,  $J = 5.5, 3.8$  Hz), 11.67 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 4.1$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3093, 2923, 2851, 1456, 1428, 1411, 1379, 1149, 1105, 1081, 1024, 1000, 819, 485$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (MALDI-FT-DHB): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2^{54}\text{Fe}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 274.0454, Found: 274.0454.

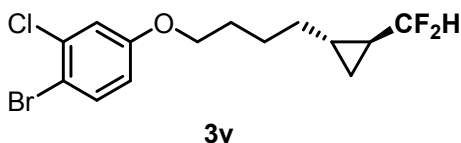


(8R,9S,13S,14S)-3-(*trans*-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)-13-methyl-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-one (**3s**): 90%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.22 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.72 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.93 - 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.55 - 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.44 - 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.31 - 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.19 - 1.92 (m, 5H), 1.69 - 1.38 (m, 7H), 1.23 - 1.15 (m, 1H), 1.09 - 1.02 (m, 1H), 0.90 (s, 3H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -114.34 - -116.21 (m, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  220.77 (s), 138.00 (s), 137.72 (s), 136.68 (s), 127.04 (d,  $J = 10.8$  Hz), 125.59 (s), 123.70 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz), 116.64 (t,  $J = 238.3$  Hz), 50.50 (s), 48.00 (s), 44.30 (s), 38.22 (s), 35.87 (s), 31.63 (s), 29.41 (s), 26.52 (s), 25.79 (s), 23.85 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 21.61 (s), 18.35 (t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz), 13.86 (s), 10.38 (t,  $J = 4.3$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3007, 2924, 2865, 1735, 1614, 1505, 1455, 1432, 1403, 1374, 1255, 1198, 1161, 1149, 1101, 1078, 1046, 987, 823$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 344.1952, Found: 344.1946.

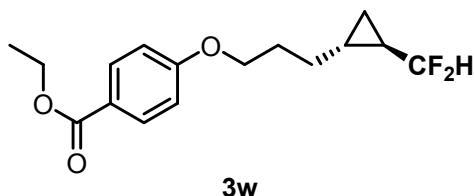


2-(((*trans*)-2-(Difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)methyl)naphthalene (**3u**): 63%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 - 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.44 - 7.38 (m, 2H), 5.57 (td,  $J = 57.0, 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 15.4, 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd,  $J = 15.3, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.52 - 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.29 - 1.19 (m, 1H), 0.90 - 0.82 (m, 1H), 0.68 - 0.60 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.51 (ddd,  $J = 279.7, 57.8, 10.5$  Hz, 1F), -114.46 (ddd,  $J = 279.7, 57.9, 10.9$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.13 (s), 133.68 (s), 131.88 (s), 128.77 (s), 127.01 (s), 125.96 (s), 125.60 (s), 125.57 (s), 125.55 (s), 123.48 (s), 117.29 (t,  $J = 237.7$  Hz), 34.99 (s), 20.84 (t,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 14.50 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 3.8$  Hz), 8.05 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 3.8$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3048, 3008, 2961, 2927, 1597, 1509, 1466, 1457, 1429, 1414,$

1380, 1260, 1188, 1155, 1096, 1080, 1029, 792, 775  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 232.1064, Found: 232.1068.

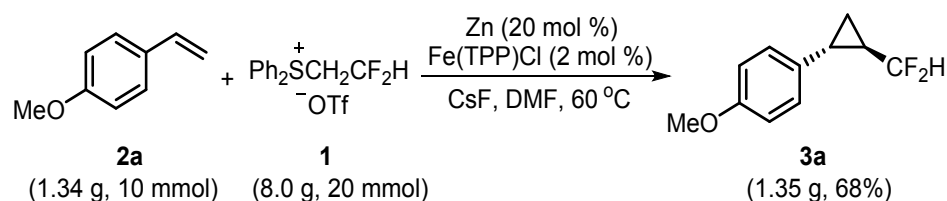


1-Bromo-2-chloro-4-(4-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)butoxy)benzene (**3v**): 75%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.49 (td,  $J = 57.5, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.90 - 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.64 - 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.44 - 1.25 (m, 2H), 1.10 - 0.92 (m, 2H), 0.78 - 0.68 (m, 1H), 0.52 - 0.43 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.10 - -113.40 (m, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  153.88 (s), 132.60 (s), 130.45 (s), 124.04 (s), 117.66 (t,  $J = 237.2$  Hz), 114.50 (s), 112.32 (s), 69.23 (s), 32.43 (s), 28.57 (s), 25.64 (s), 20.56 (t,  $J = 26.9$  Hz), 14.63 (t,  $J = 4.1$  Hz), 7.89 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 3007, 2939, 2859, 1582, 1485, 1430, 1417, 1385, 1289, 1265, 1249, 1210, 1187, 1062, 1027, 910, 870, 803, 728, 639, 554$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrClF}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 352.0041, Found: 352.0036.



Ethyl 4-(3-(*trans*-2-(difluoromethyl)cyclopropyl)propoxy)benzoate (**3w**): 65%. Colourless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.97 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 5.50 (td,  $J = 57.4, 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.03 (t,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.96 - 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.57 - 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.46 - 1.39 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.12 - 0.95 (m, 2H), 0.79 - 0.71 (m, 1H), 0.54 - 0.45 (m, 1H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -112.97 (ddd,  $J = 278.7, 57.4, 9.5$  Hz, 1F), -114.13 (ddd,  $J = 278.7, 57.4, 10.6$  Hz, 1F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.39 (s), 162.63 (s), 131.51 (s), 122.80 (s), 117.47 (t,  $J = 237.4$  Hz), 113.93 (s), 67.20 (s), 60.61 (s), 29.18 (s), 28.70 (s), 20.62 (t,  $J = 27.0$  Hz), 14.37 (s), 14.24 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 3.2$  Hz), 7.92 (dd,  $J = 5.3, 3.6$  Hz). IR (neat)  $\nu = 2941, 2874, 1709, 1607, 1580, 1511, 1471, 1421, 1386, 1367, 1314, 1277, 1255, 1168, 1104, 1024, 848, 771, 697, 646$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 298.1381, Found: 298.1384.

## 5. Large scale reaction



Into a mixture of Fe(THP)Cl (0.2 mmol, 140.6 mg, 2 mol %) and Zinc powder (2 mmol, 6.5 mg, 20 mol %) was added DMF (2 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 10 min. **2a** (1.368 g, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (20 mmol, 8.008 g, 2.0 equiv), cesium fluoride (40 mmol, 6.076 g, 4.0 equiv) and DMF (8 mL) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for another 3 h, and was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (50 mL, three times), and then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed by concentration. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography with the use of hexane/dichloromethane as eluent to give the final product (1.348 g, 68% yield).

## 6. The determination of the relative configuration of 3g by NOESY Spectrometry

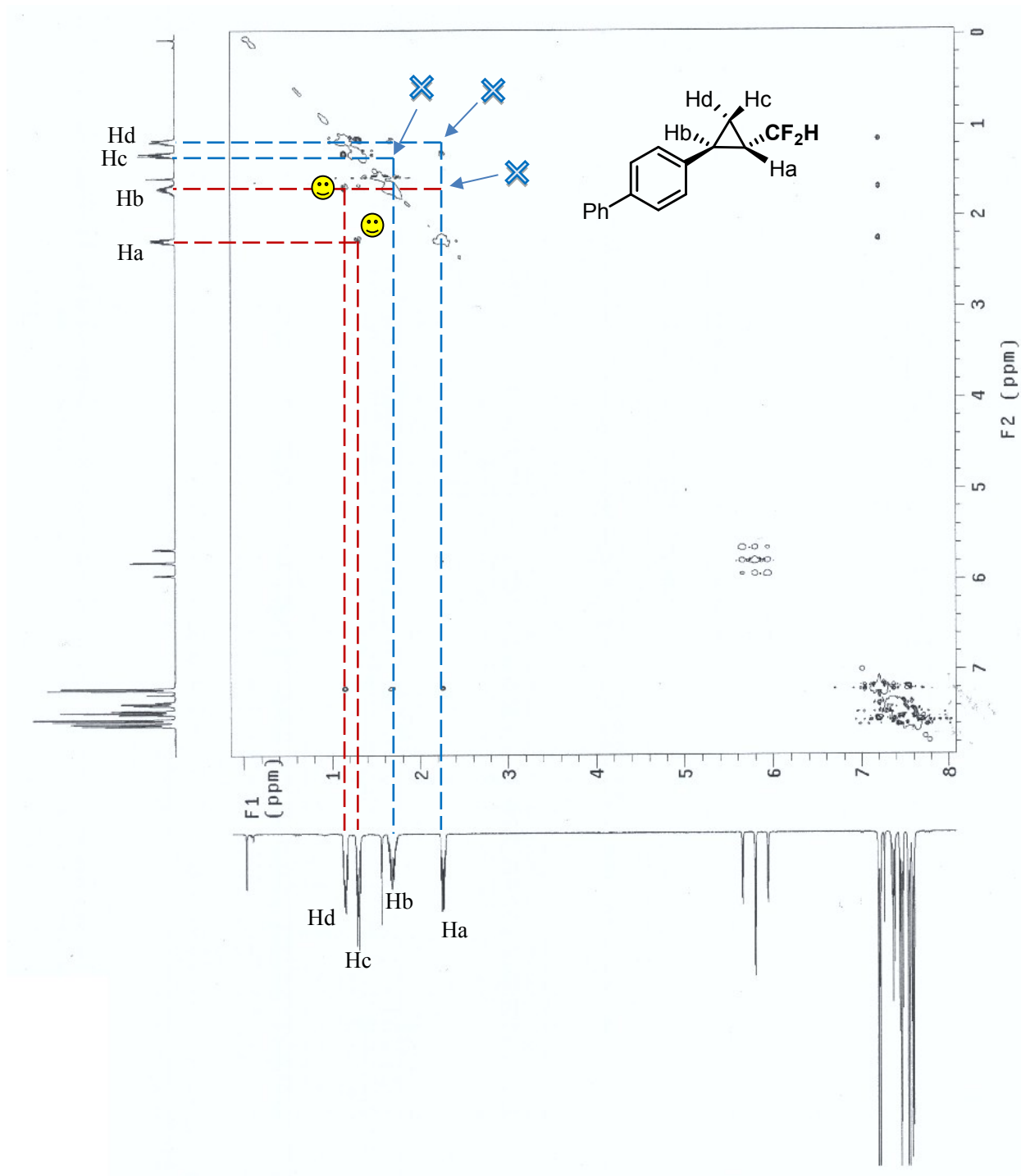


Figure 6.1 Expanded NOE spectrum

2012116-0968-noe-a  
 Sample Name:  
 2012116-0968-noe-a  
 Data Collected On:  
 Agilent-NMR-vnmrs400  
 Archive directory:  
 /home/sioc/date  
 Sample directory:  
 2012116-0968-noe-a\_20161014\_01  
 FIDFile: NOESY\_01

Pulse Sequence: NOESY  
 Solvent: cdcl3  
 Data collected on: Oct 14 2016  
 Temp. 25.0 C / 298.1 K  
 Operator: sioc

Relax. delay 1.000 sec  
 Acq. time 0.150 sec  
 Width 3955.7 Hz  
 2D Width 3955.7 Hz  
 16 repetitions  
 2 x 200 increments  
 OBSERVE H1, 399.6538482 MHz  
 DATA PROCESSING  
 Gauss apodization 0.069 sec  
 F1 DATA PROCESSING  
 Gauss apodization 0.047 sec  
 FT size 2048 x 2048  
 Total time 3 hr, 21 min

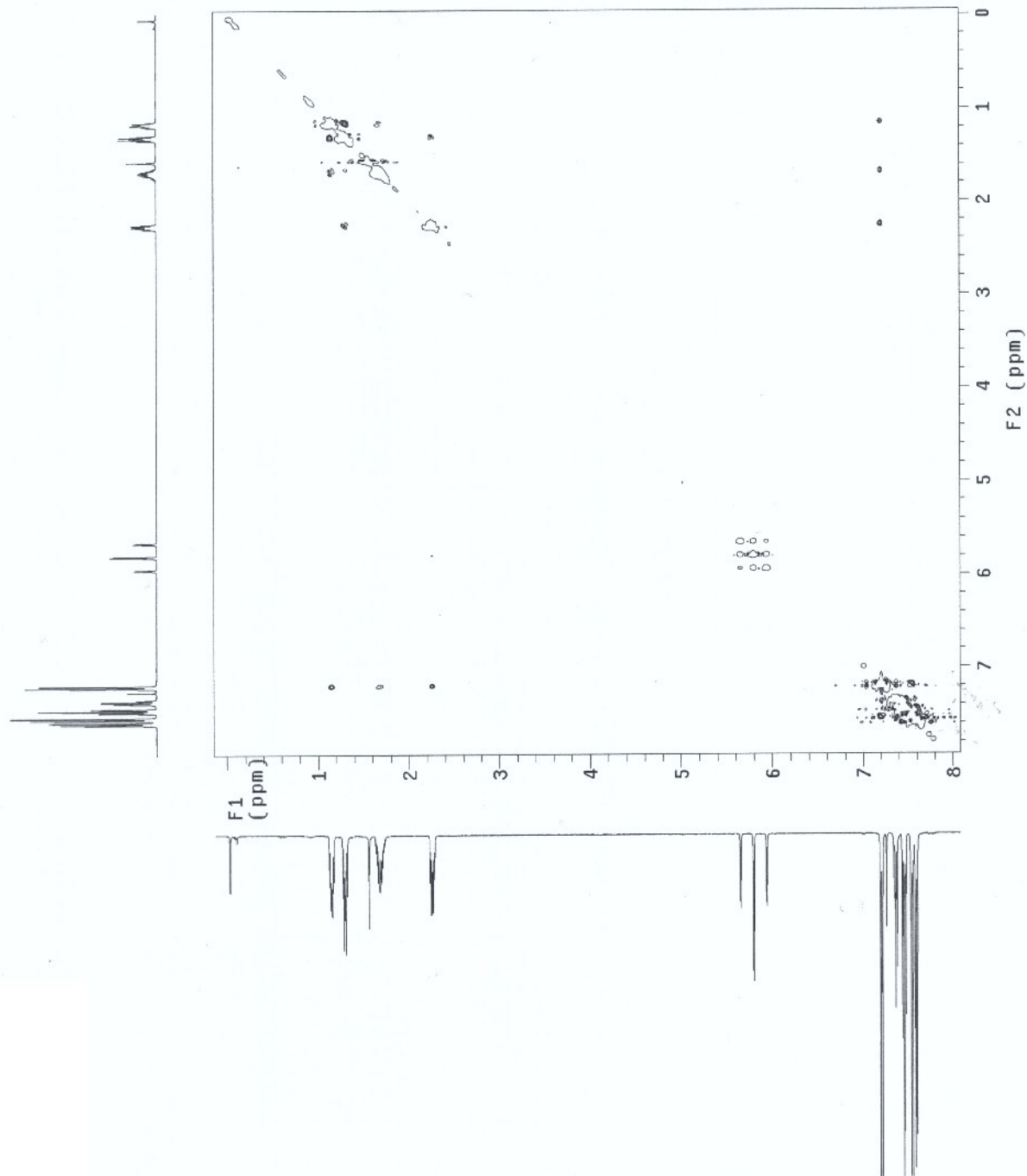
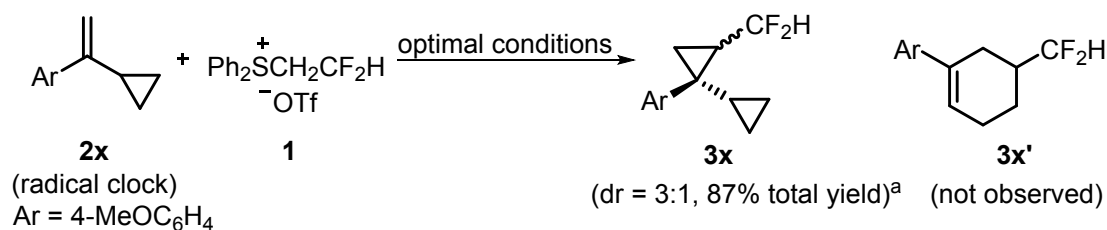


Figure 6.2 Full NOE spectrum

## 7. Mechanism studies

### 7.1 Radical clock



Into a mixture of Fe(THP)Cl (0.025 mmol, 17.6 mg, 5 mol %) and Zinc powder (0.1 mmol, 6.5 mg, 20 mol %) was added DMF (1 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 10 min. 1-(1-Cyclopropylvinyl)-4-methoxybenzene (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (1.0 mmol, 400.4 mg, 2.0 equiv), cesium fluoride (2.0 mmol, 303.8 mg, 4.0 equiv) and DMF (4 mL) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for another 2 h, and was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) and water (15 mL). The organic phase was separated and washed with water (15 mL, three times), and then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was removed by concentration. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography with the use of hexane/dichloromethane as eluent to give the mixture of two isomers (3:1, isolated yield: 87%).

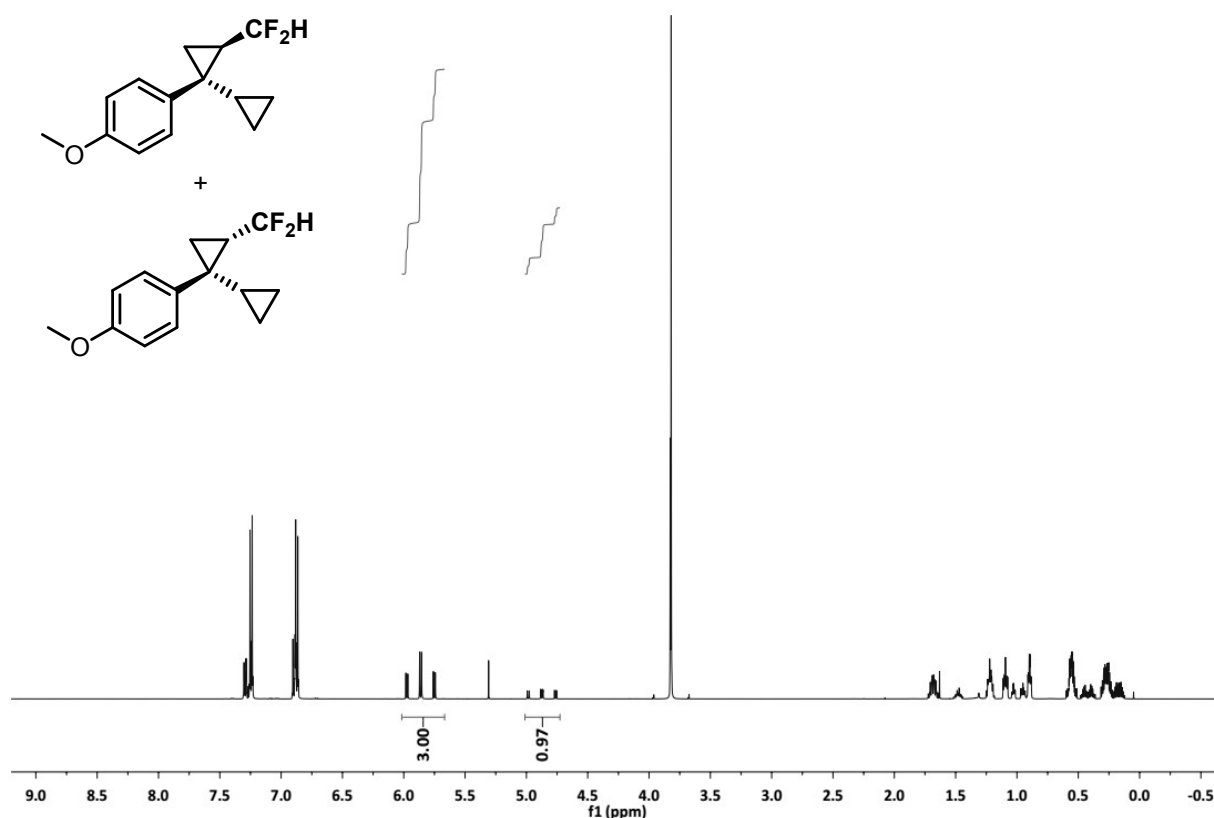


Figure 7.1 a <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectram of Two Isomers

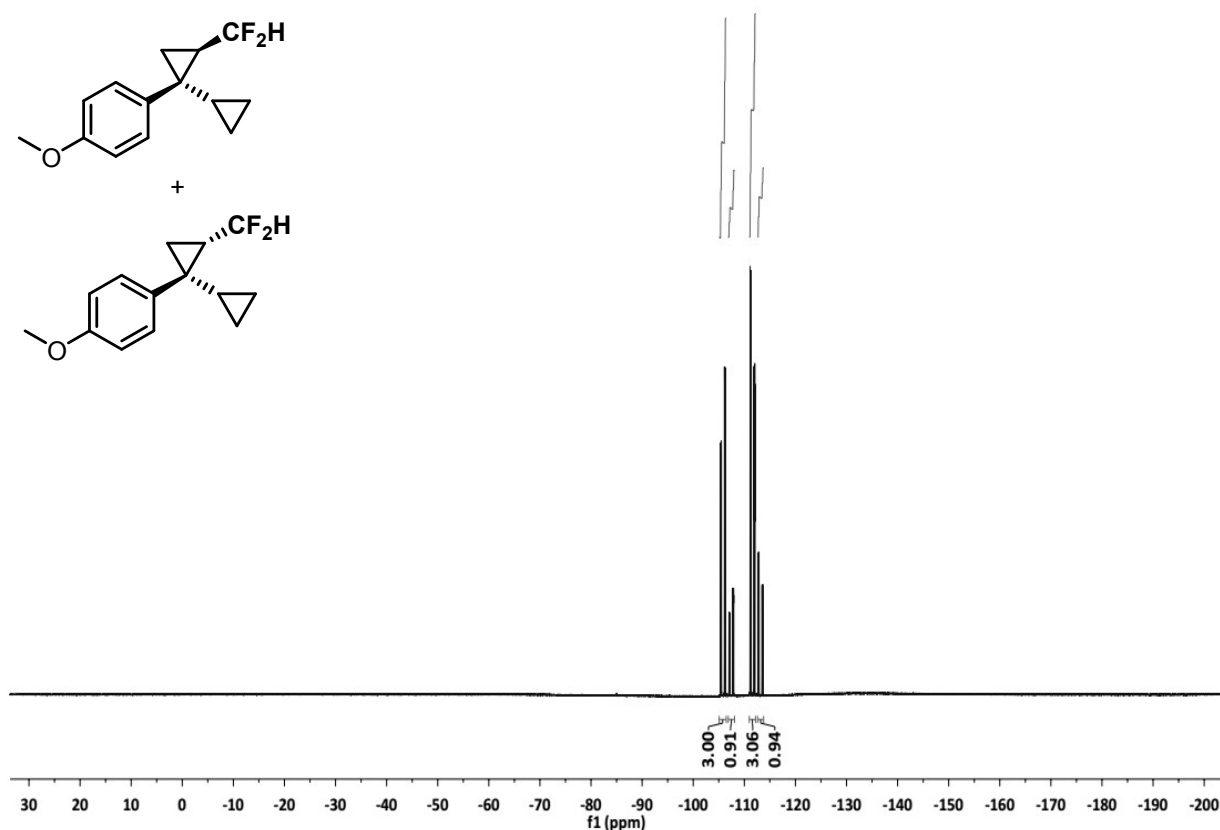
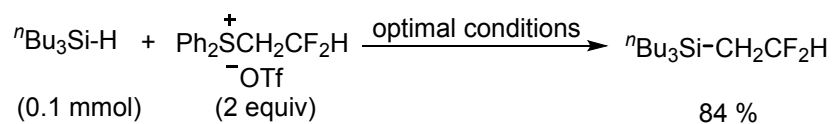


Figure 7.1 b  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR Spectrum of Two Isomers

## 7.2 Insertion into X-H bond

### (1) Insertion into Si-H bond:



Under the optimal reaction condition, the Si-H bond insertion product was obtained in 84% yield determined by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrometry (see Figure 6.2a) with (trifluoromethyl)benzene (14.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) as an internal standard.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  - 101.01 ppm (dt,  $J$  = 58.3, 21.9 Hz, 2F).

MS (EI): 264.2.

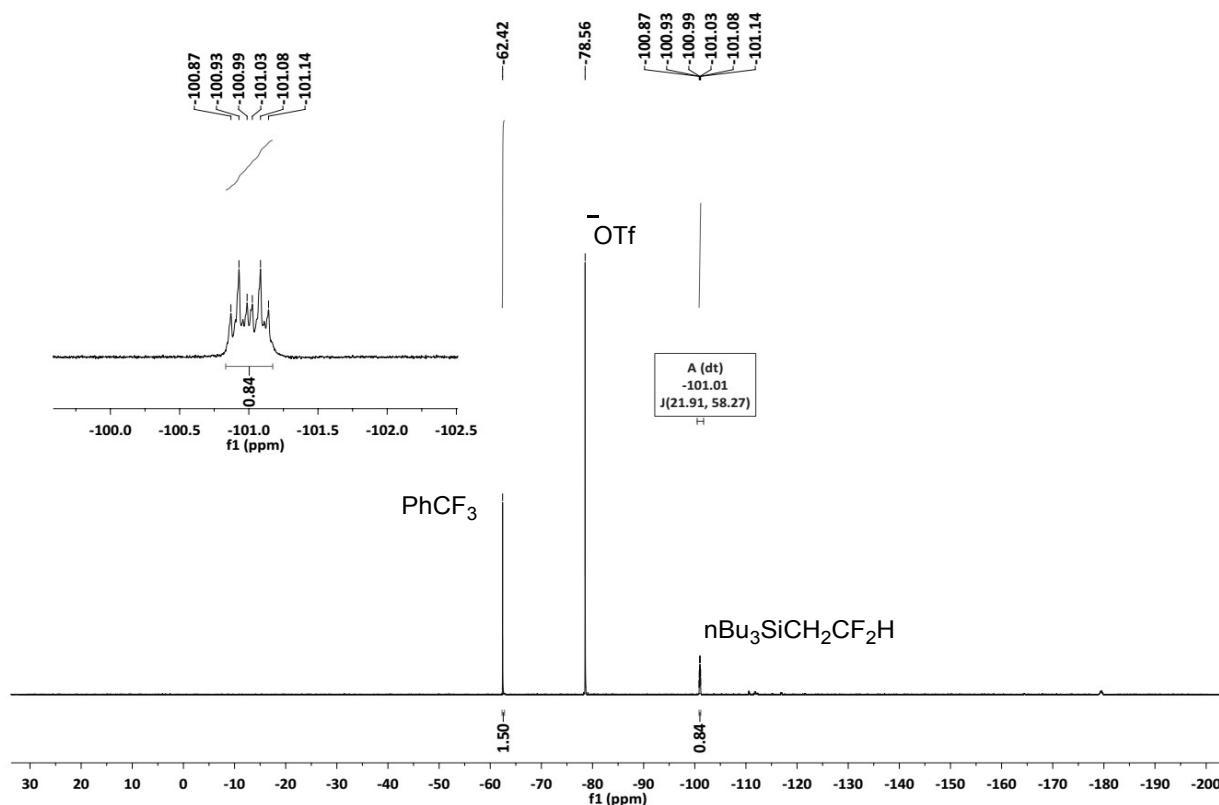
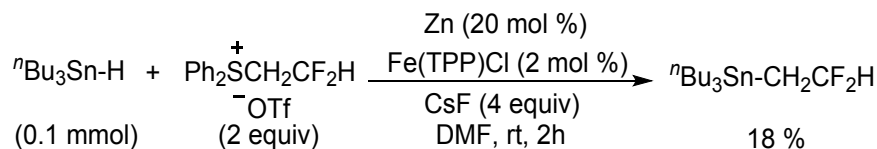


Figure 7.2 a  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR Spectra of the reaction mixture with the use of (trifluoromethyl)benzene as an internal standard.

## (2) Insertion into Sn-H bond:



Into a mixture of Fe(TPP)Cl (0.002 mmol, 1.4 mg, 2 mol %), Zinc powder (0.02 mmol, 1.3 mg, 20 mol %),  $^n\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH}$  (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), sulfonium salt **1** (0.2 mmol, 80.1 mg, 2.0 equiv) and cesium fluoride (0.4 mmol, 60.8 mg, 4 equiv) was added DMF (1.5 mL) under  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The product was detected in the reaction mixture both by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR and EI spectrometry. The yield was determined by  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrometry (see Figure 6.2b) with (trifluoromethyl)benzene (14.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) as an internal standard.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  - 96.11 ppm (dt,  $J$  = 48.4, 23.6 Hz, 2F).

MS (EI): 356.1.

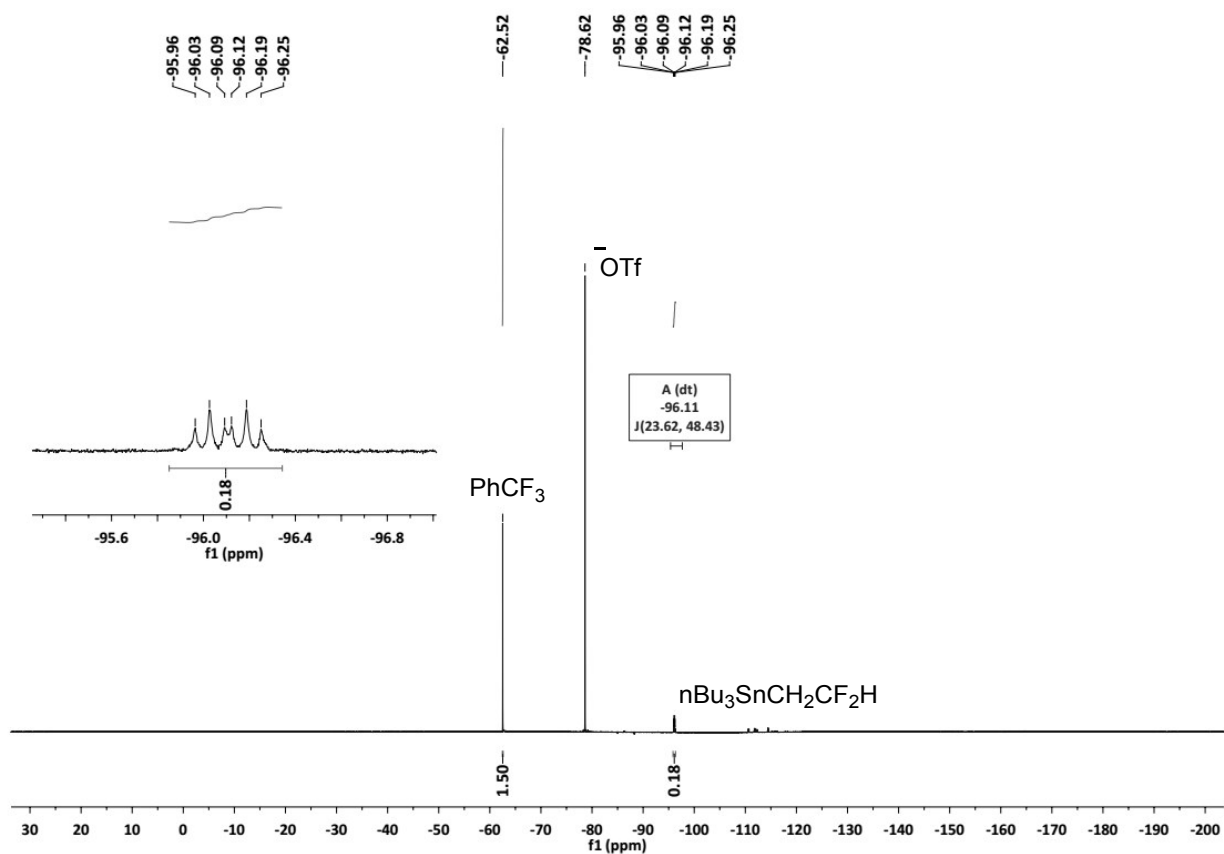


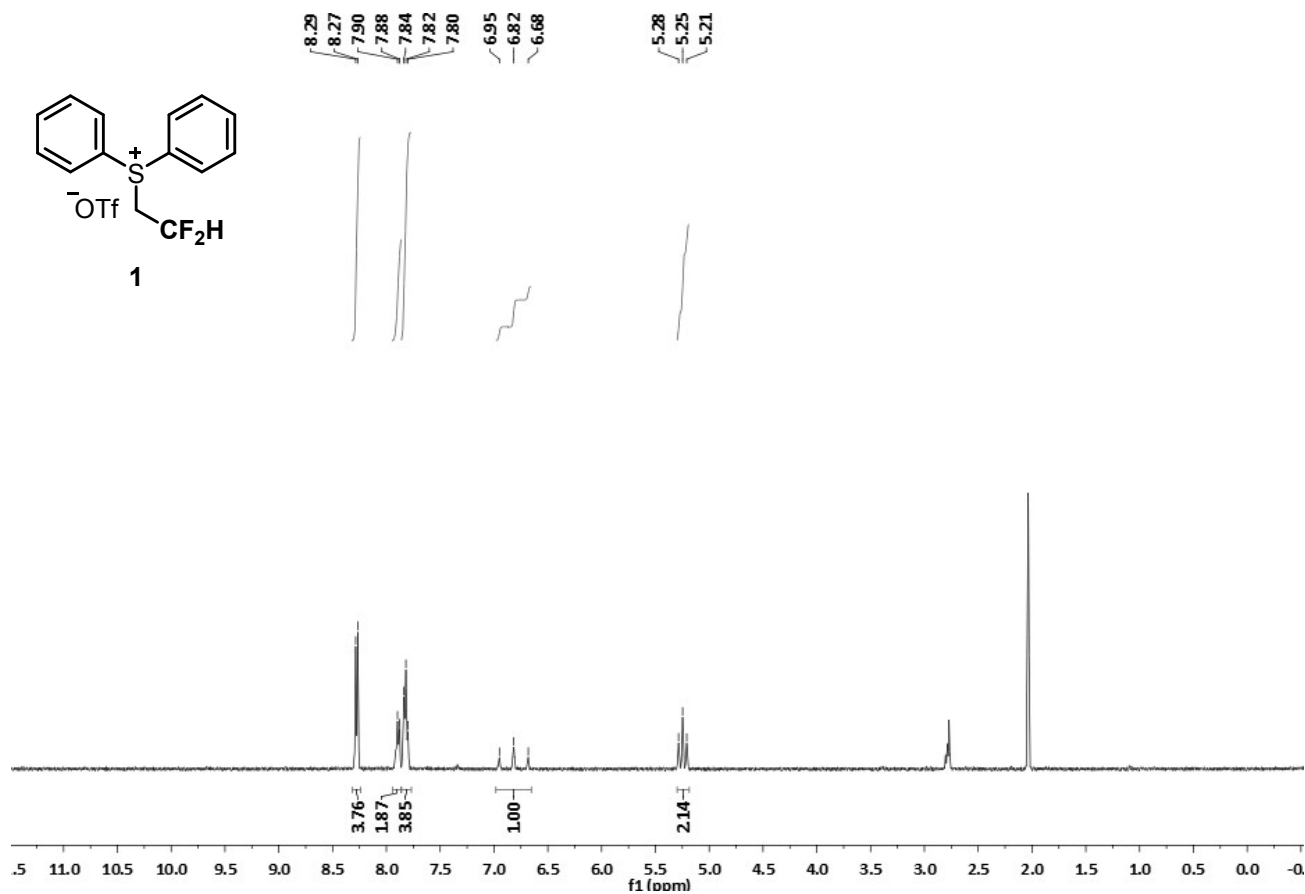
Figure 7.2 b  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR Spectra of the reaction mixture with the use of (trifluoromethyl)benzene as an internal standard.

## 8. References

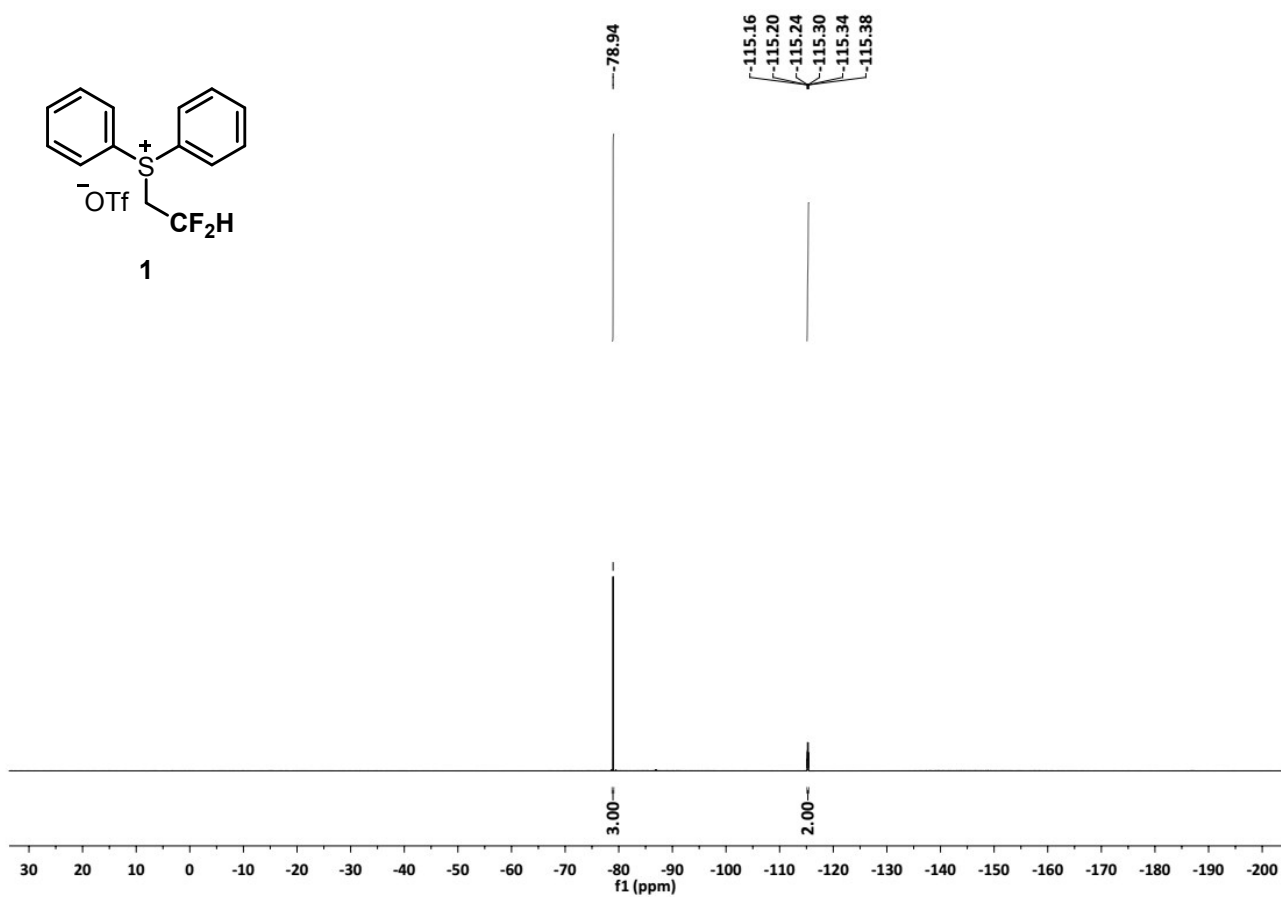
- [1] Y. Duan, J. -H. Lin, J. -C. Xiao, Y. -C. Gu, *Org. Lett.*, 2016, **18**, 2471-2474.
- [2] B. H. Lipshutz, S. Ghorai, W. W. Y. Leong, *J. Org. Chem.* 2009, **74**, 2854-2857.
- [3] X. -Y. Wang, H. -X. Song, S. -M. Wang, J. Yang, H. -L. Qin, X. Jiang, C. -P. Zhang, *Tetrahedron*, 2016, **72**, 7606-7612.
- [4] For selected review, please see: a) S. F. Zhu, Q. L. Zhou, *Natl. Sci. Rev.* 2014, **1**, 580-603; For selected examples, please see: b) Y. Urano, T. Higuchi, M. Hirobe, T. Nagano, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1997, **119**, 12008-12009; c) M. K. Safo, G. P. Gupta, F. A. Walker, W. R. Scheidt, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1991, **113**, 5497-5510.
- [5] J. R. Wolf, C. G. Hamaker, J.-P. Djukic, T. Kodadek, L. K. Woo, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1995, **117**, 9194-9199.

## 9. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra of 1 and 3

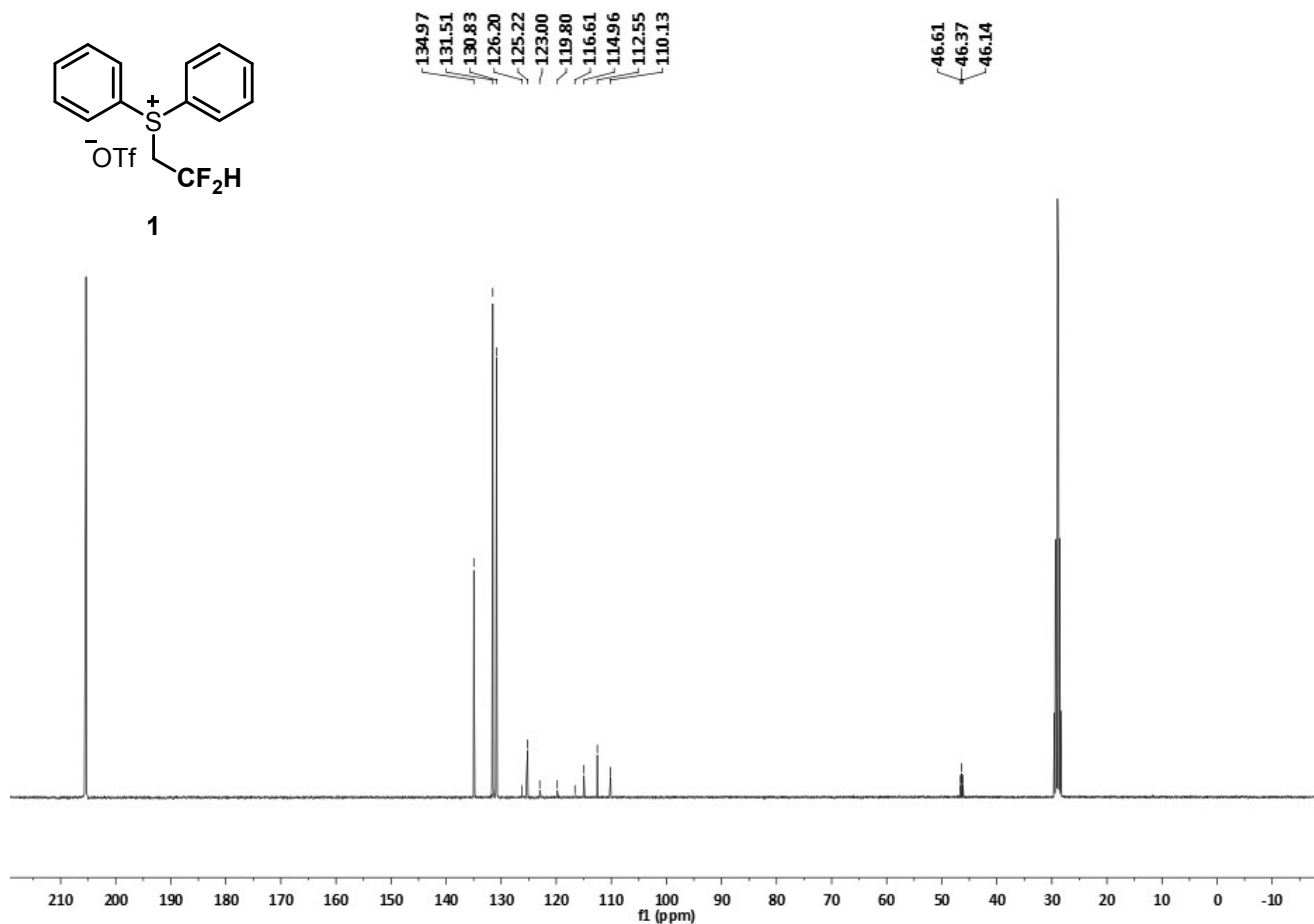
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



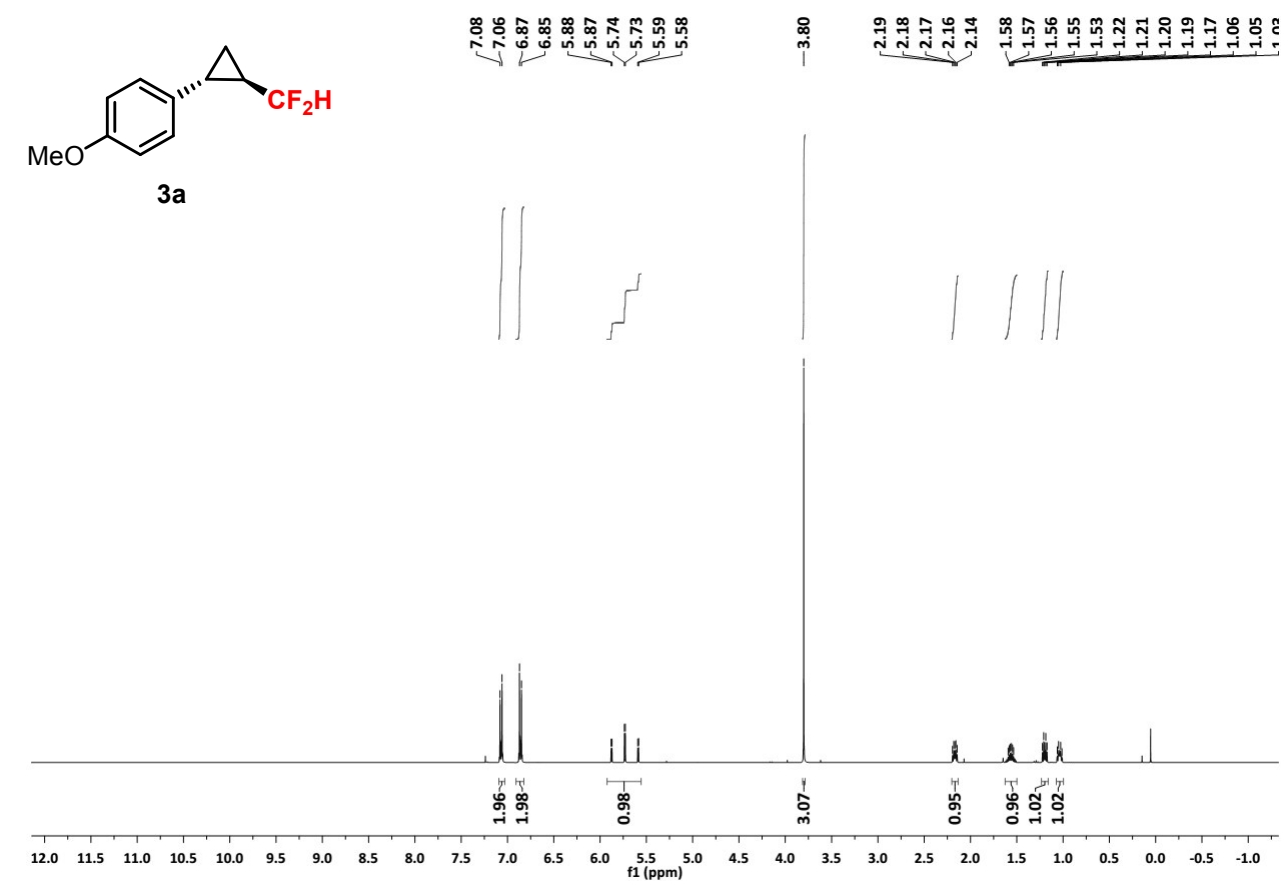
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



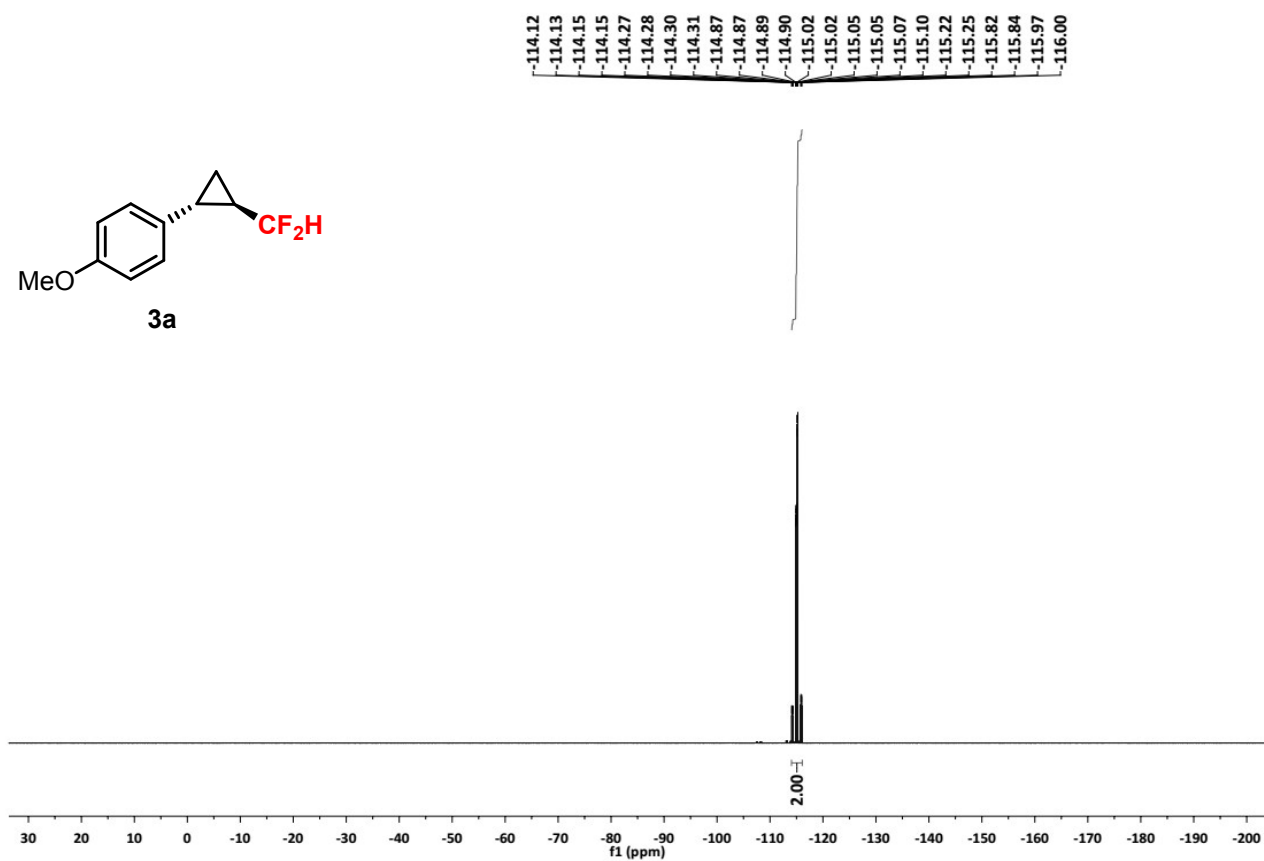
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



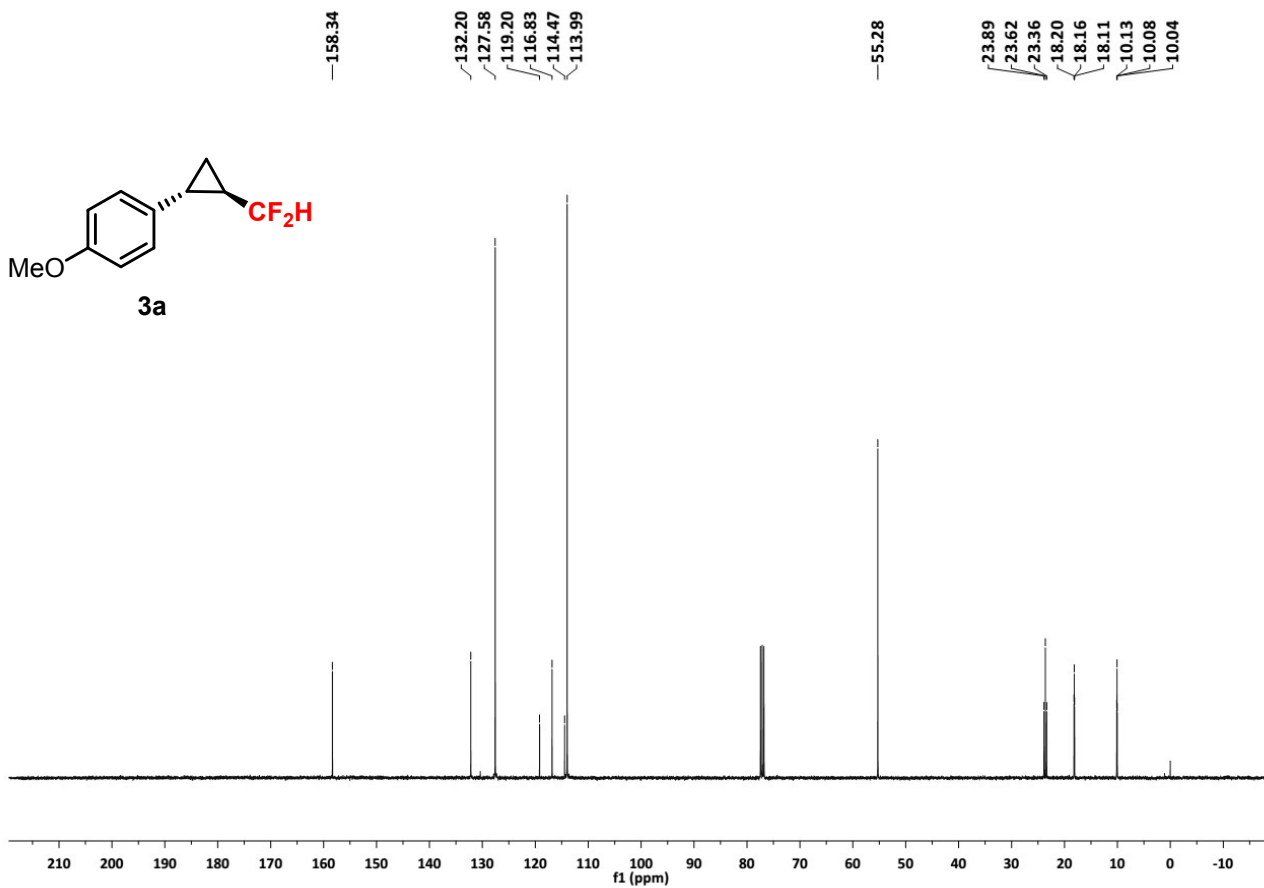
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



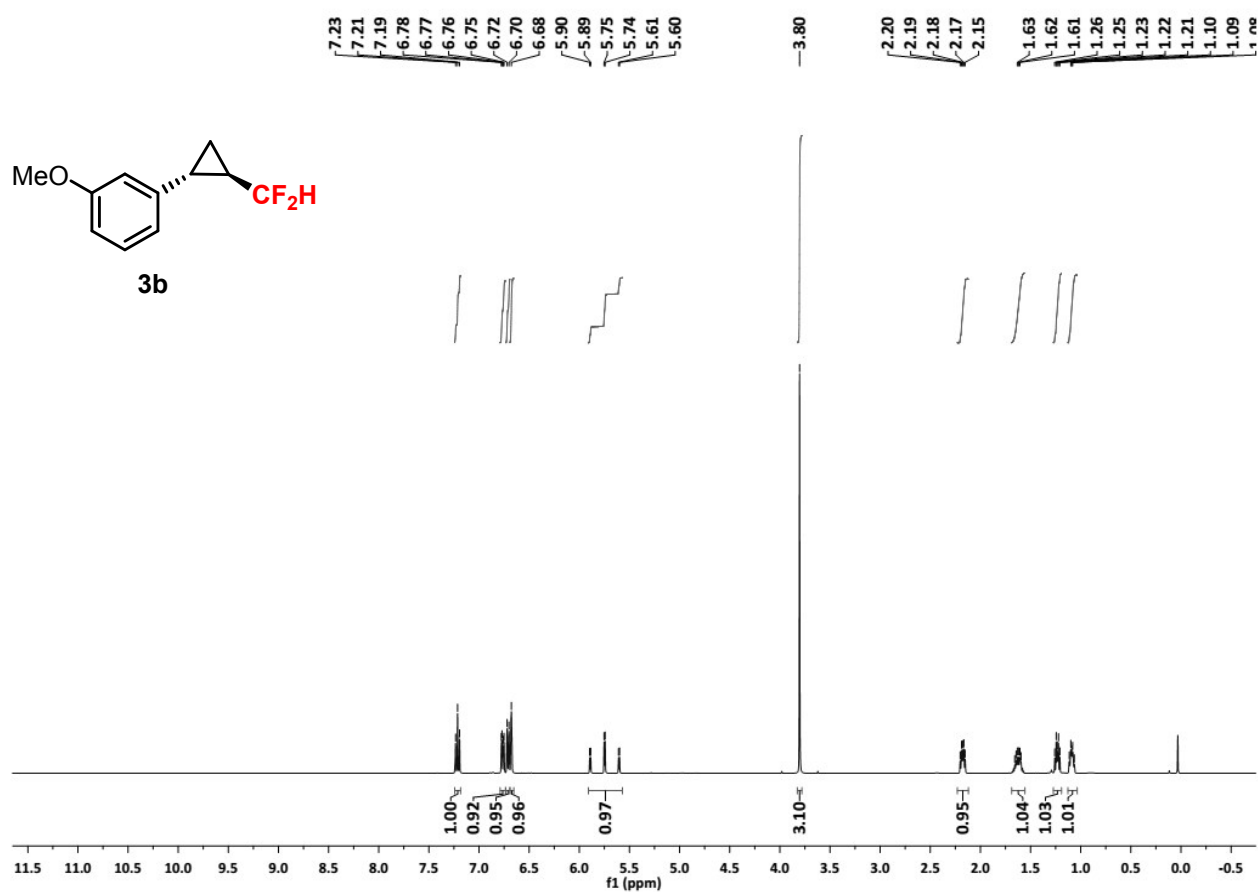
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



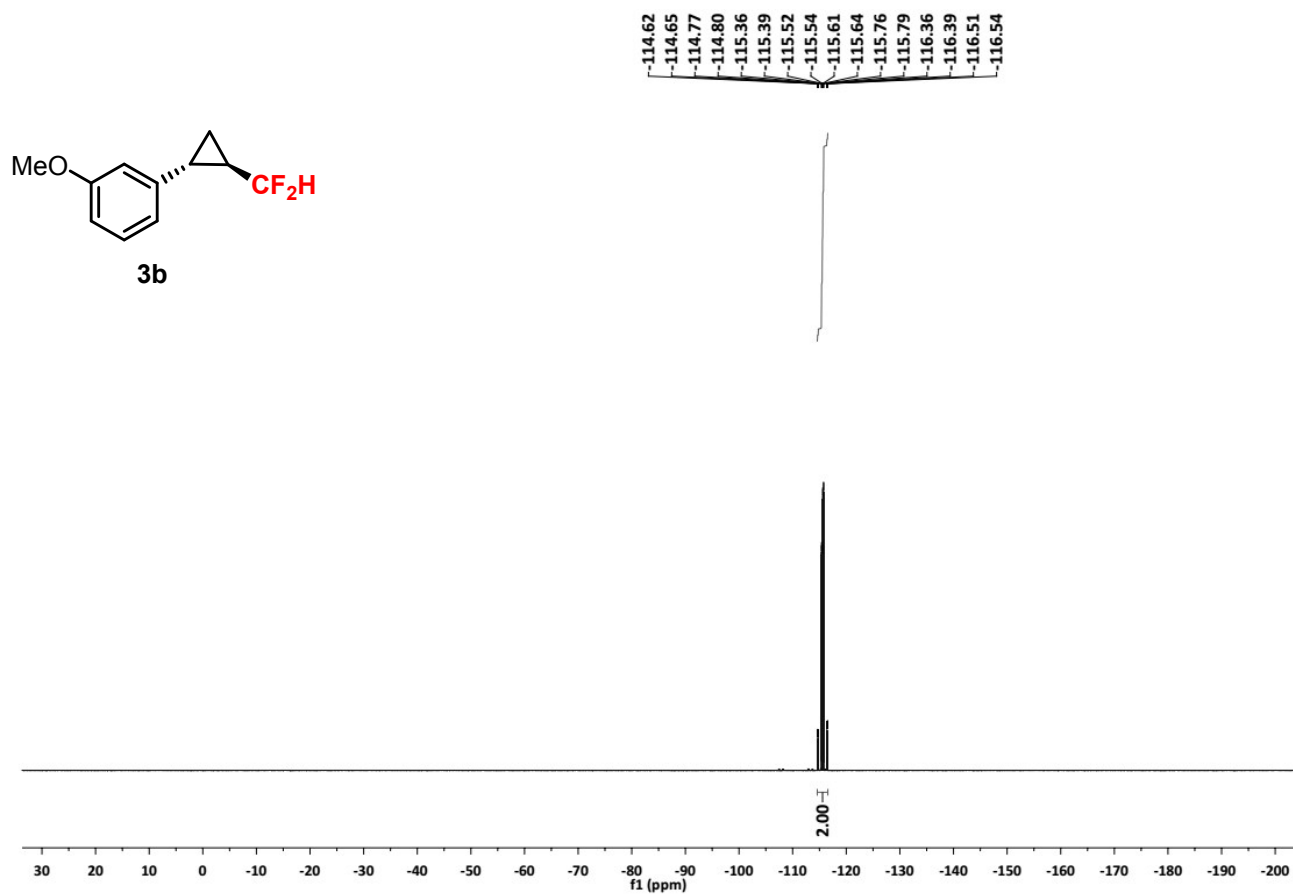
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



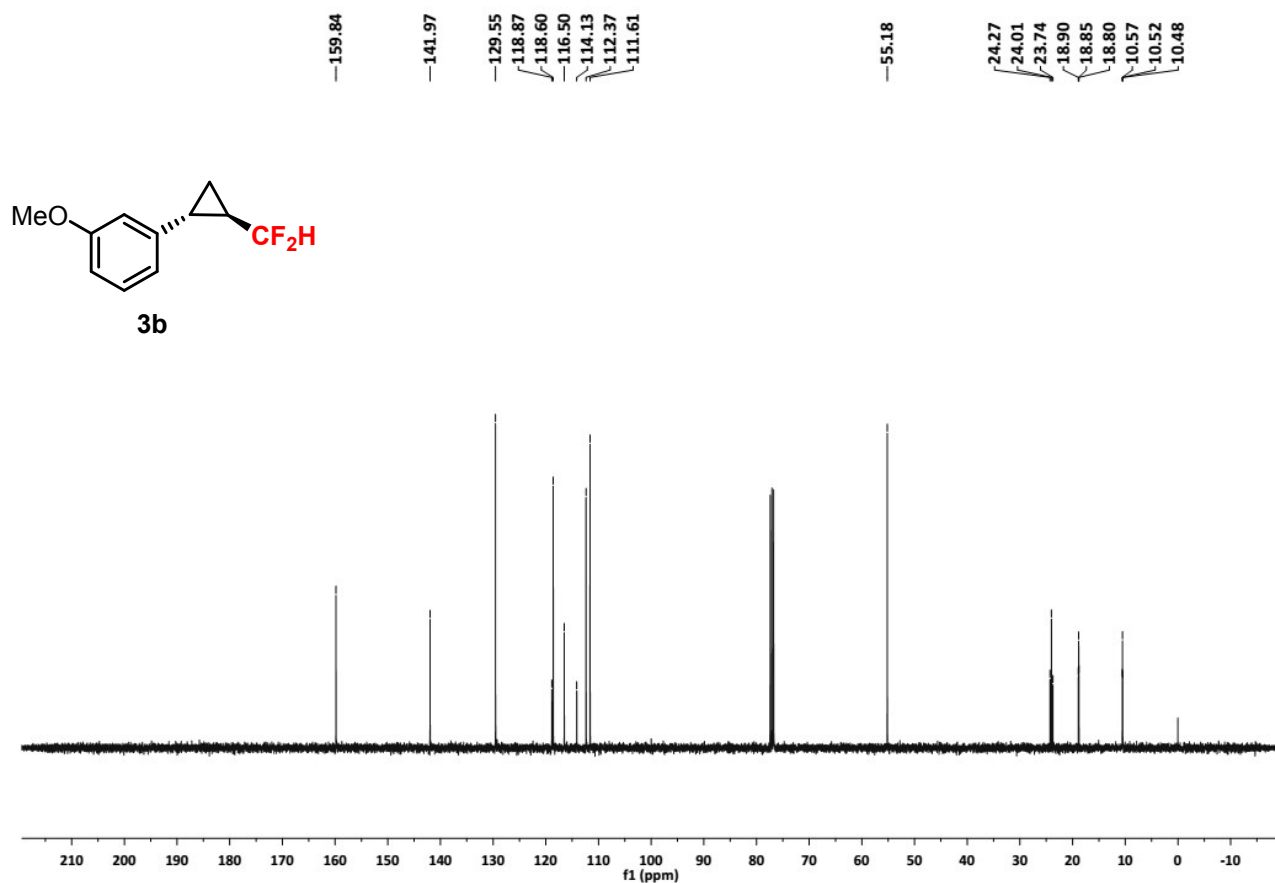
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



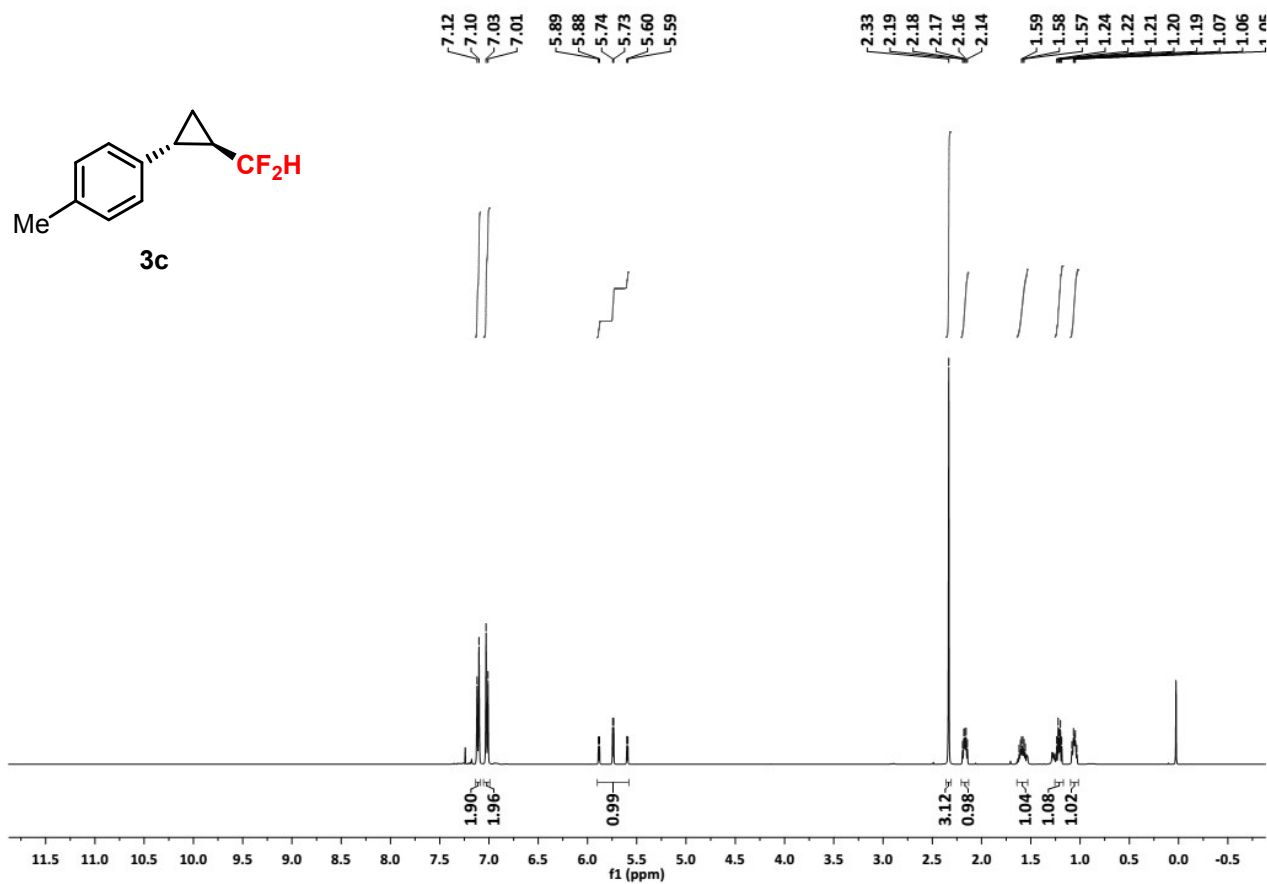
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



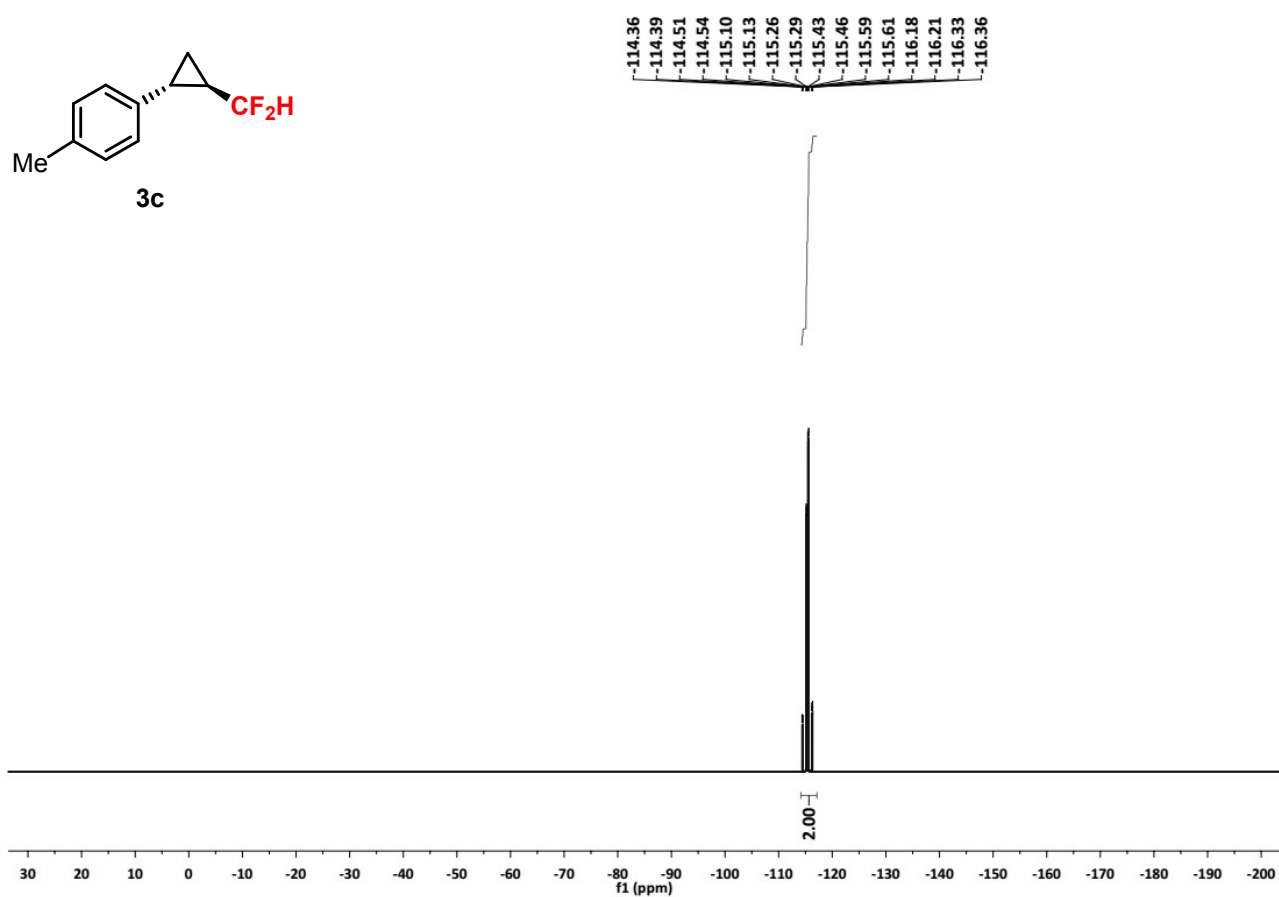
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



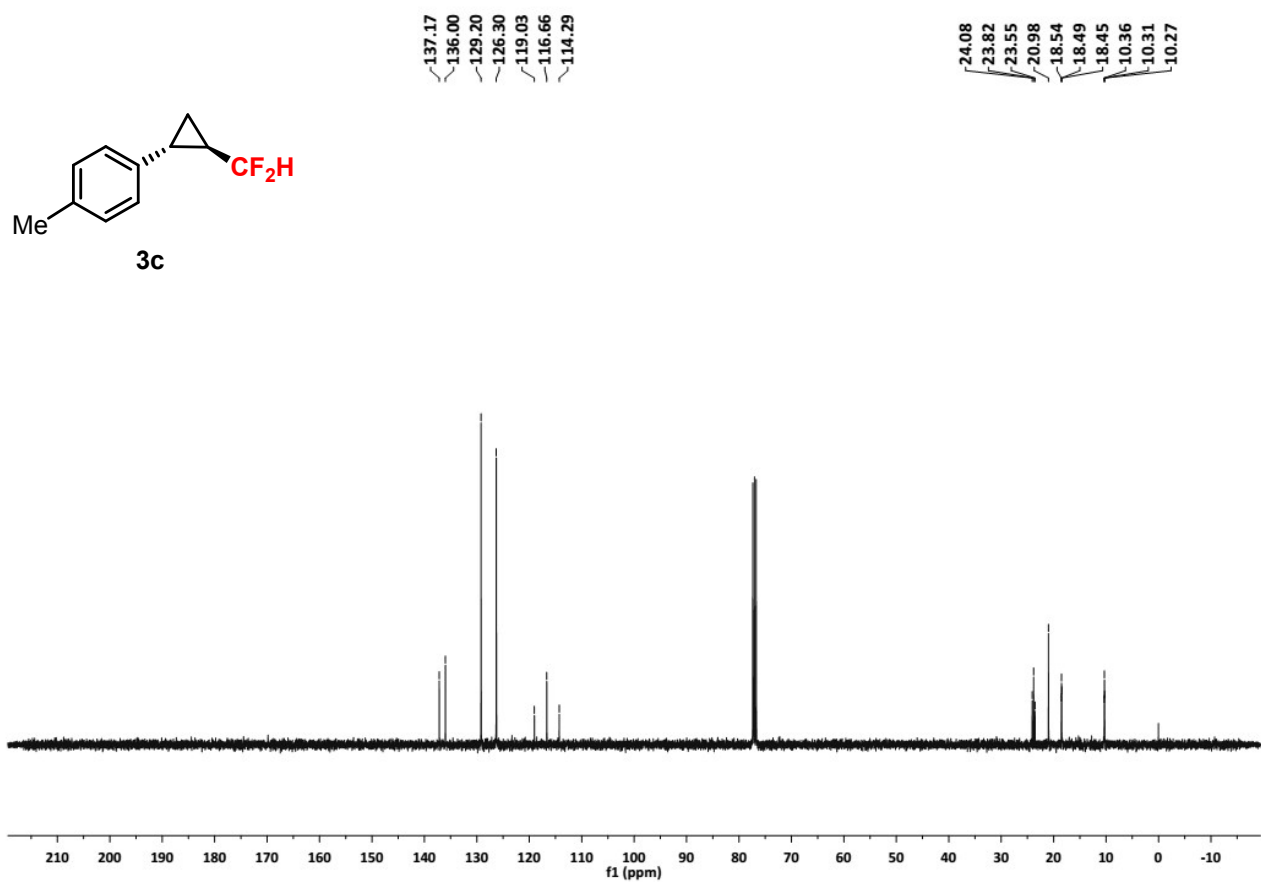
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



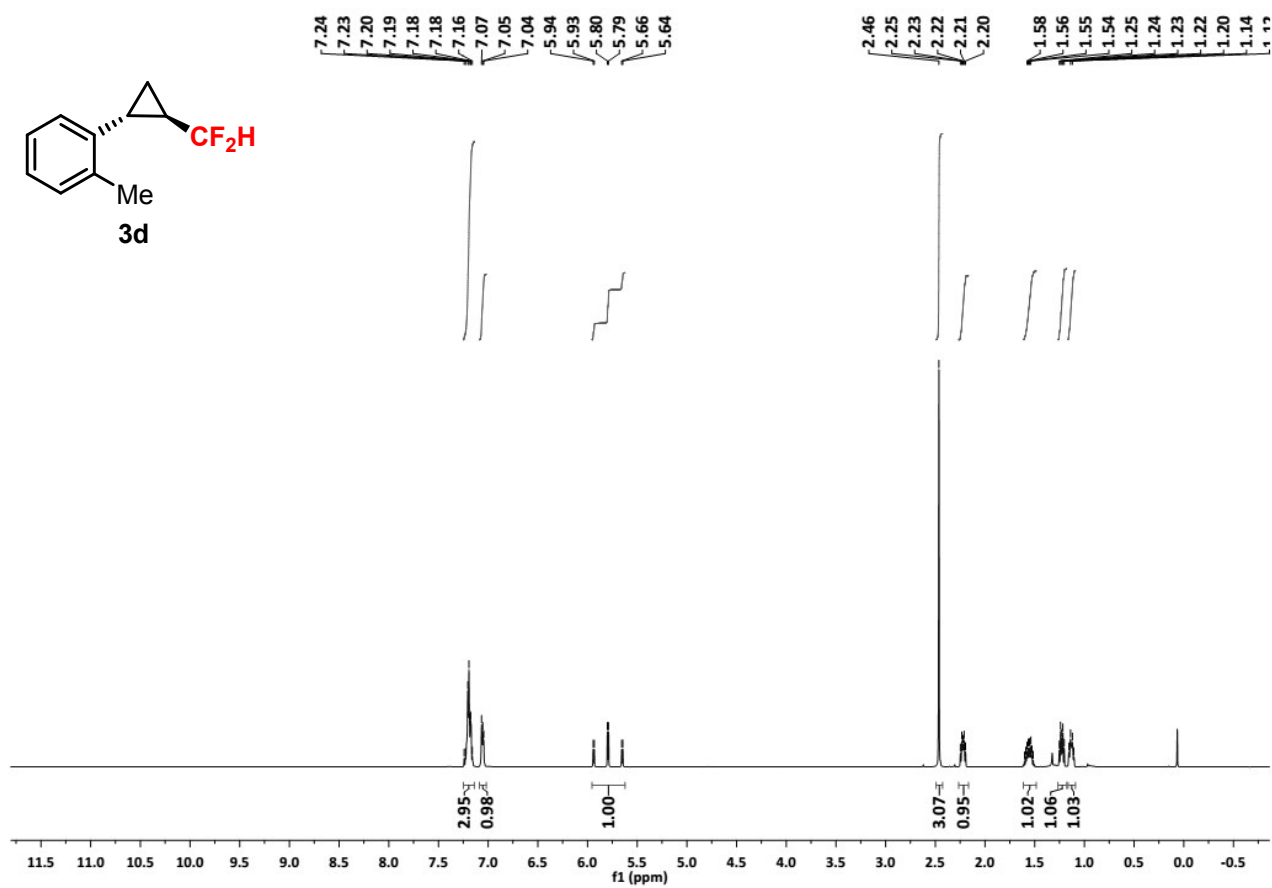
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



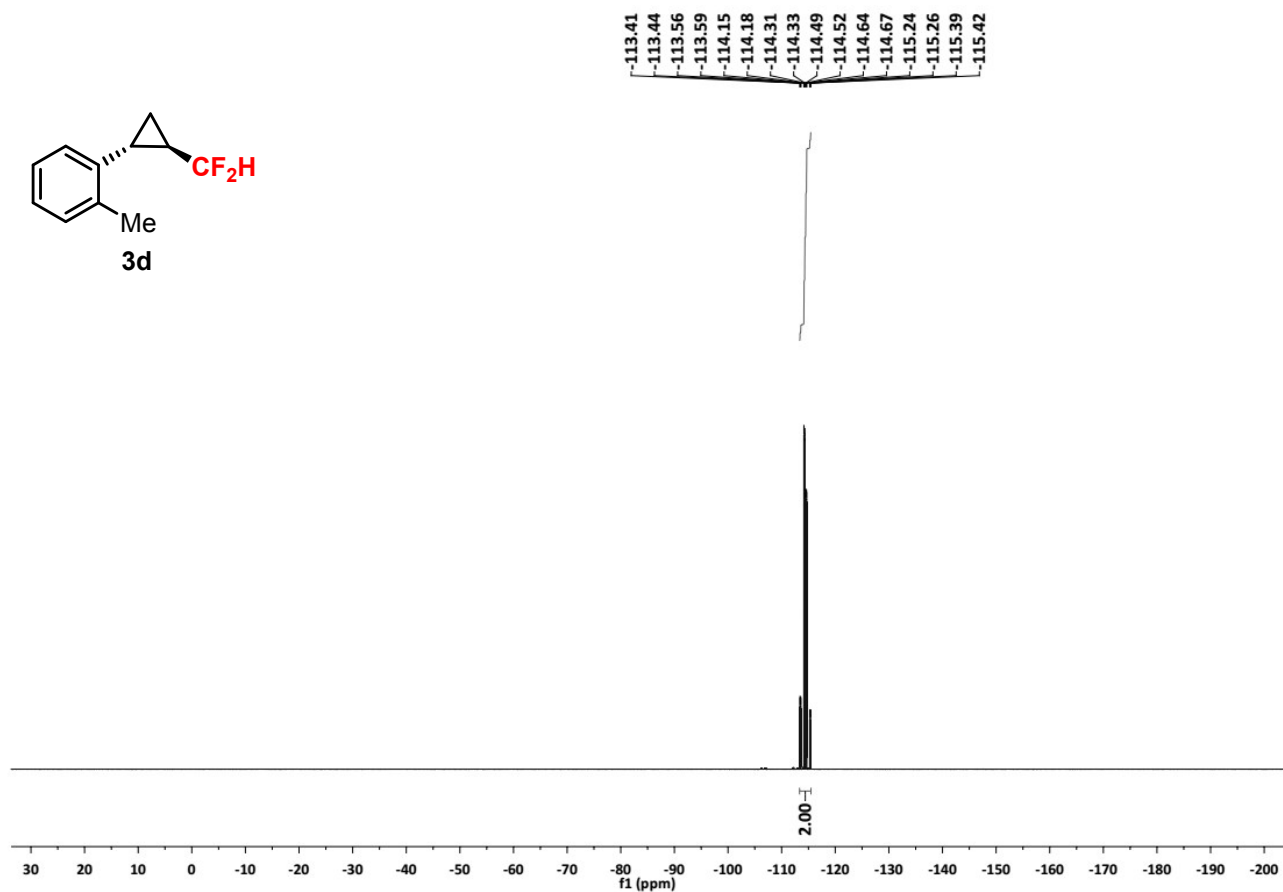
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



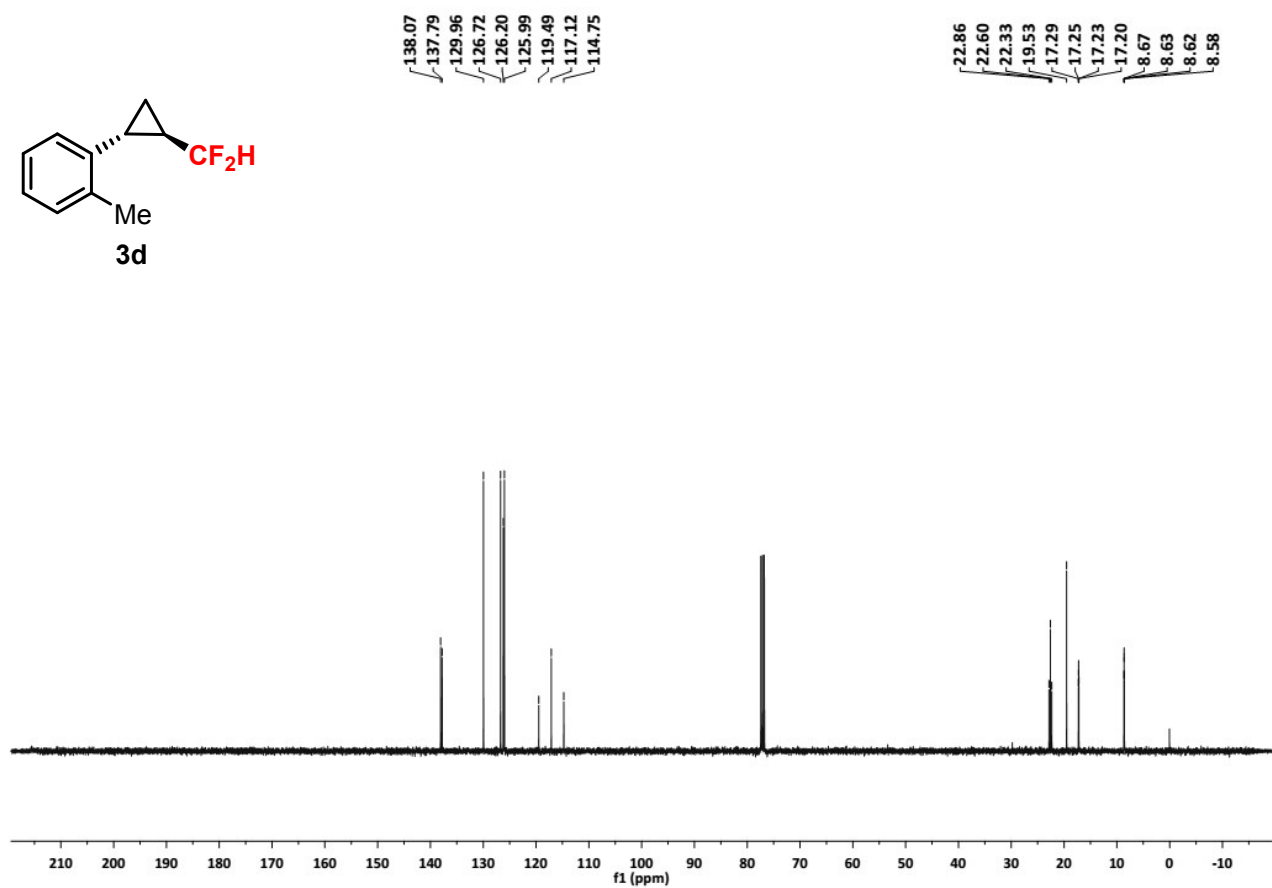
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



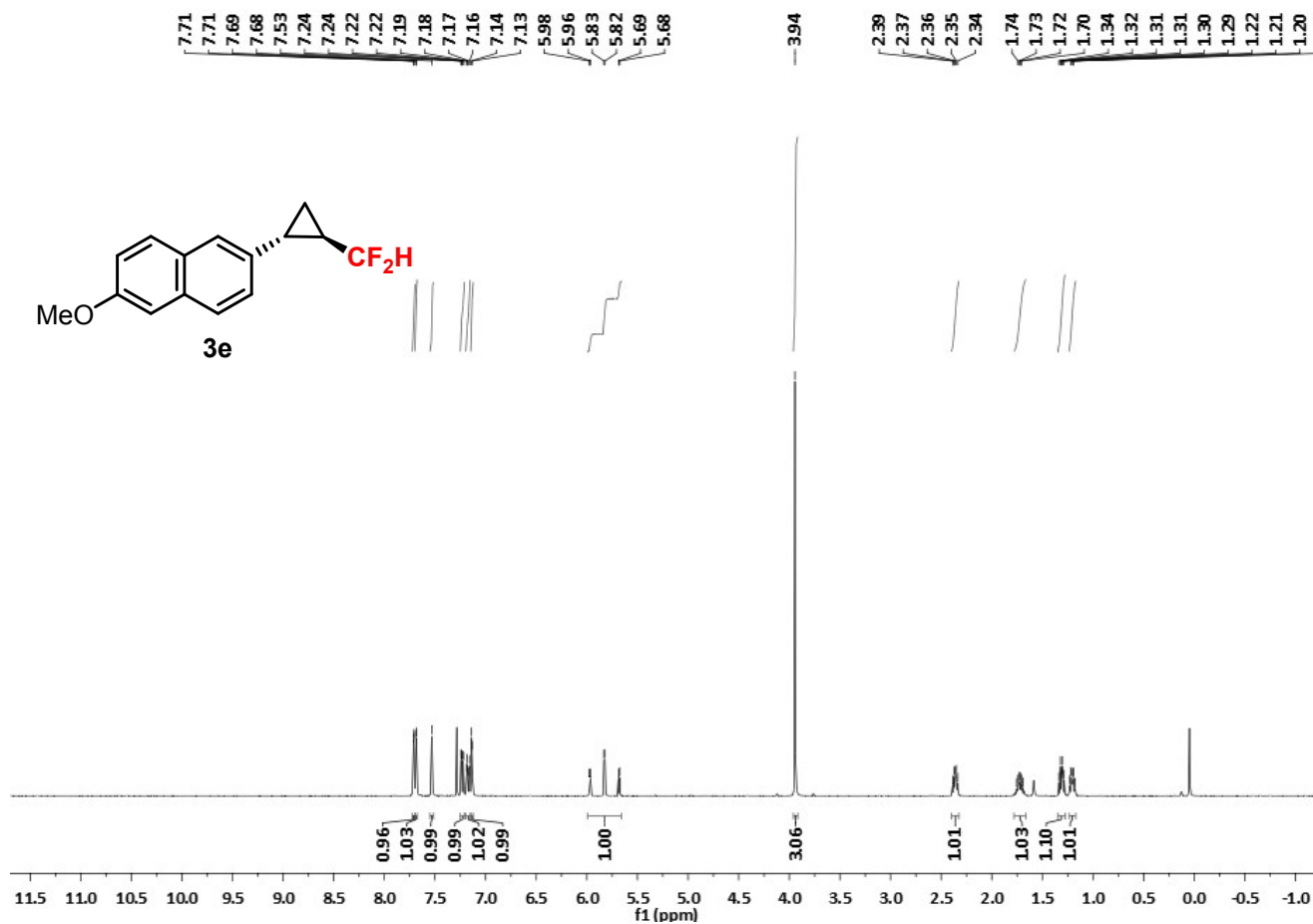
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



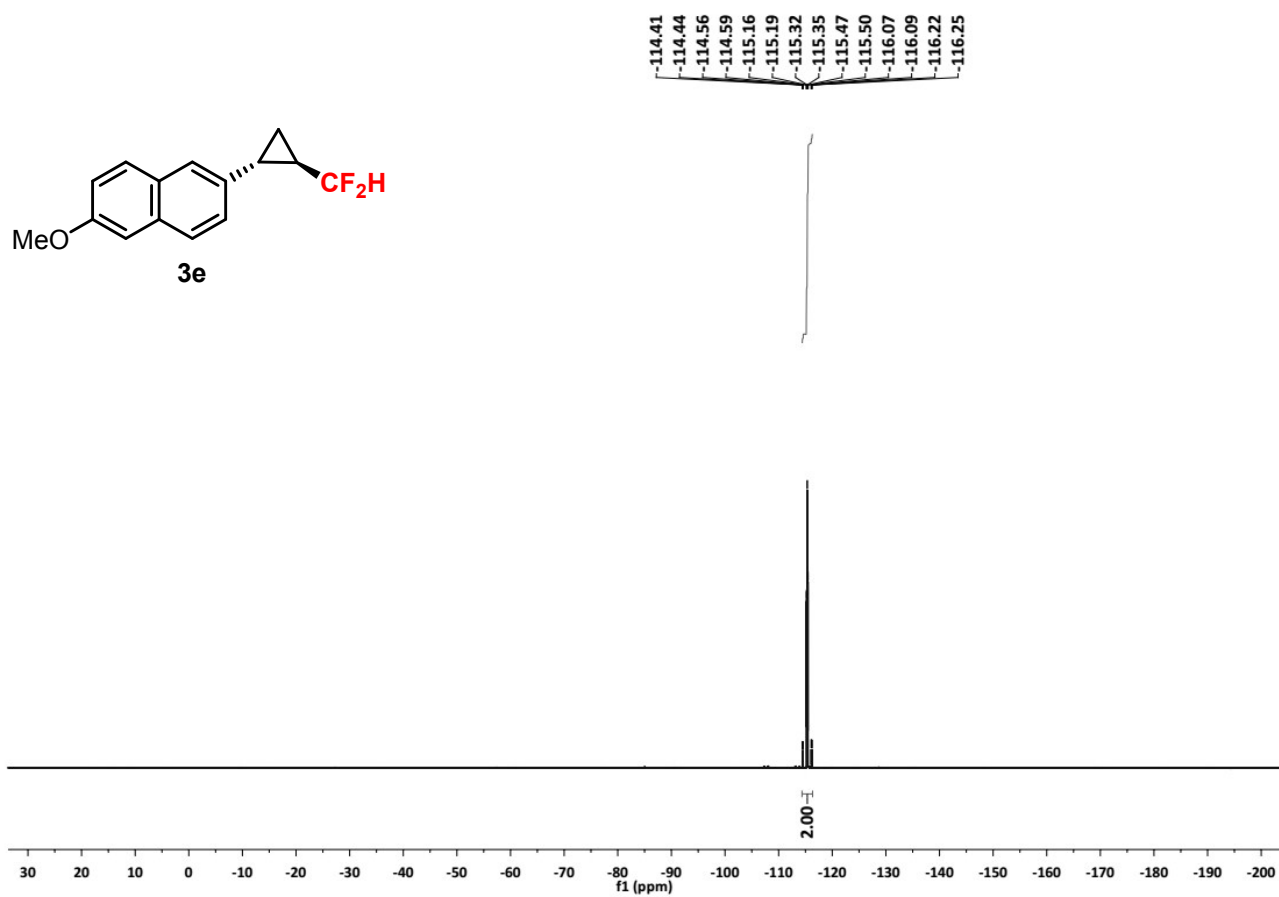
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



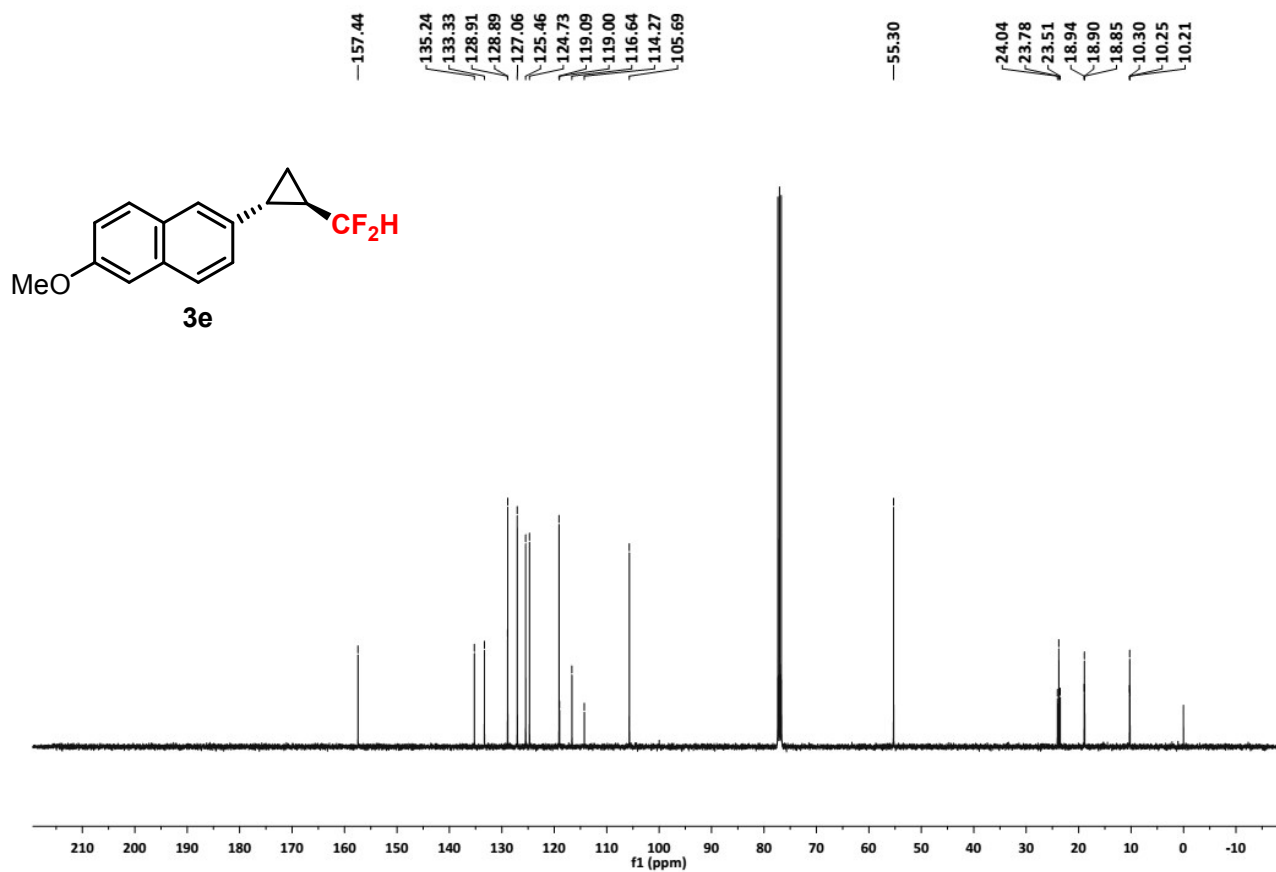
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



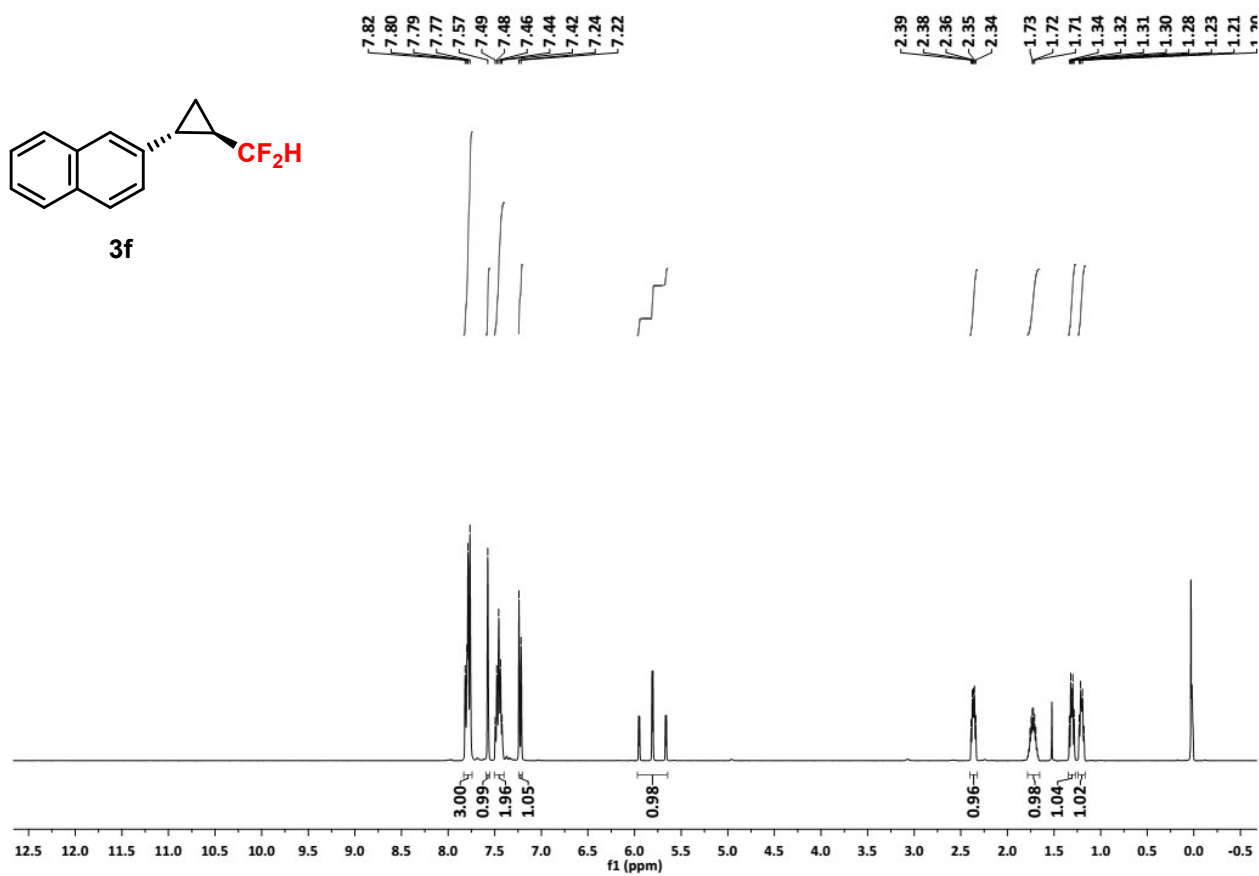
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



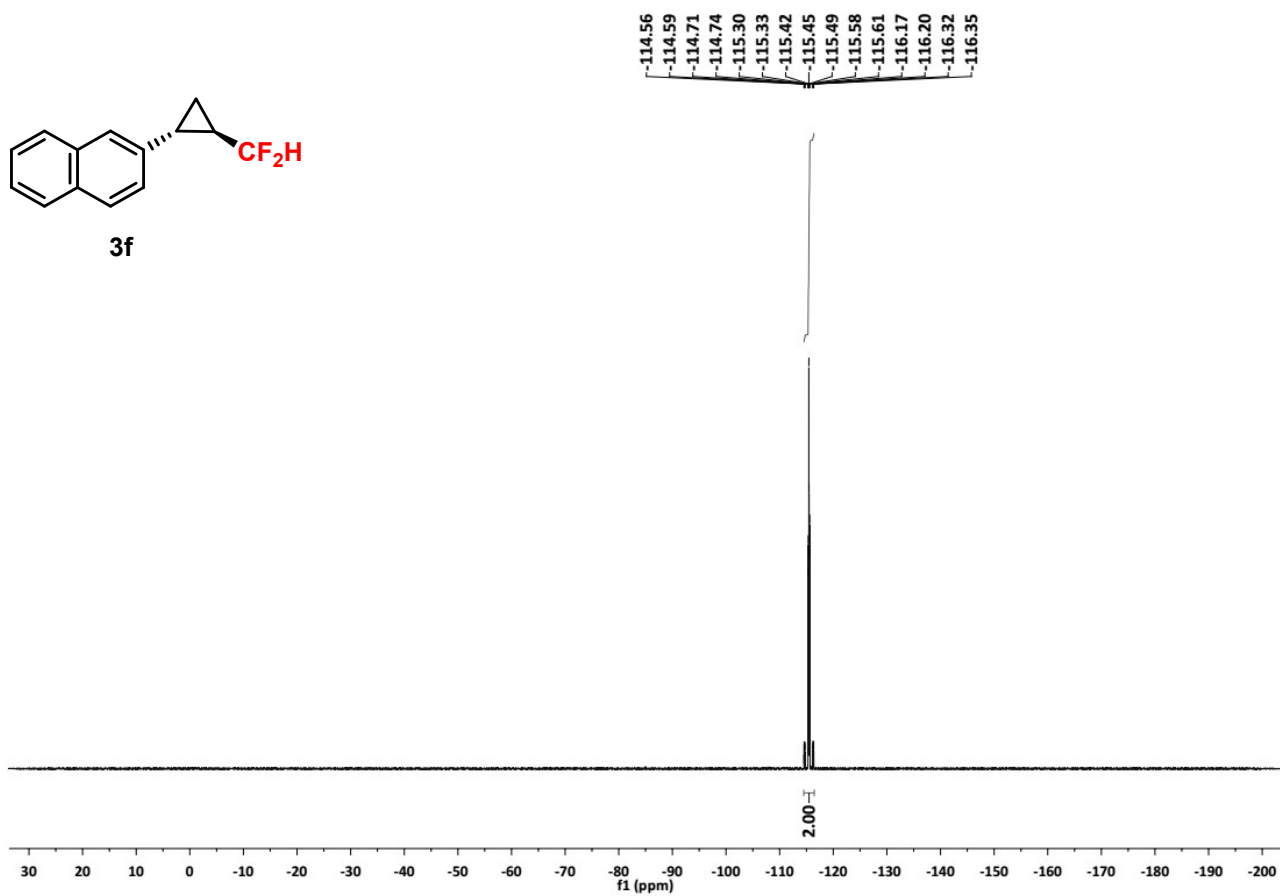
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



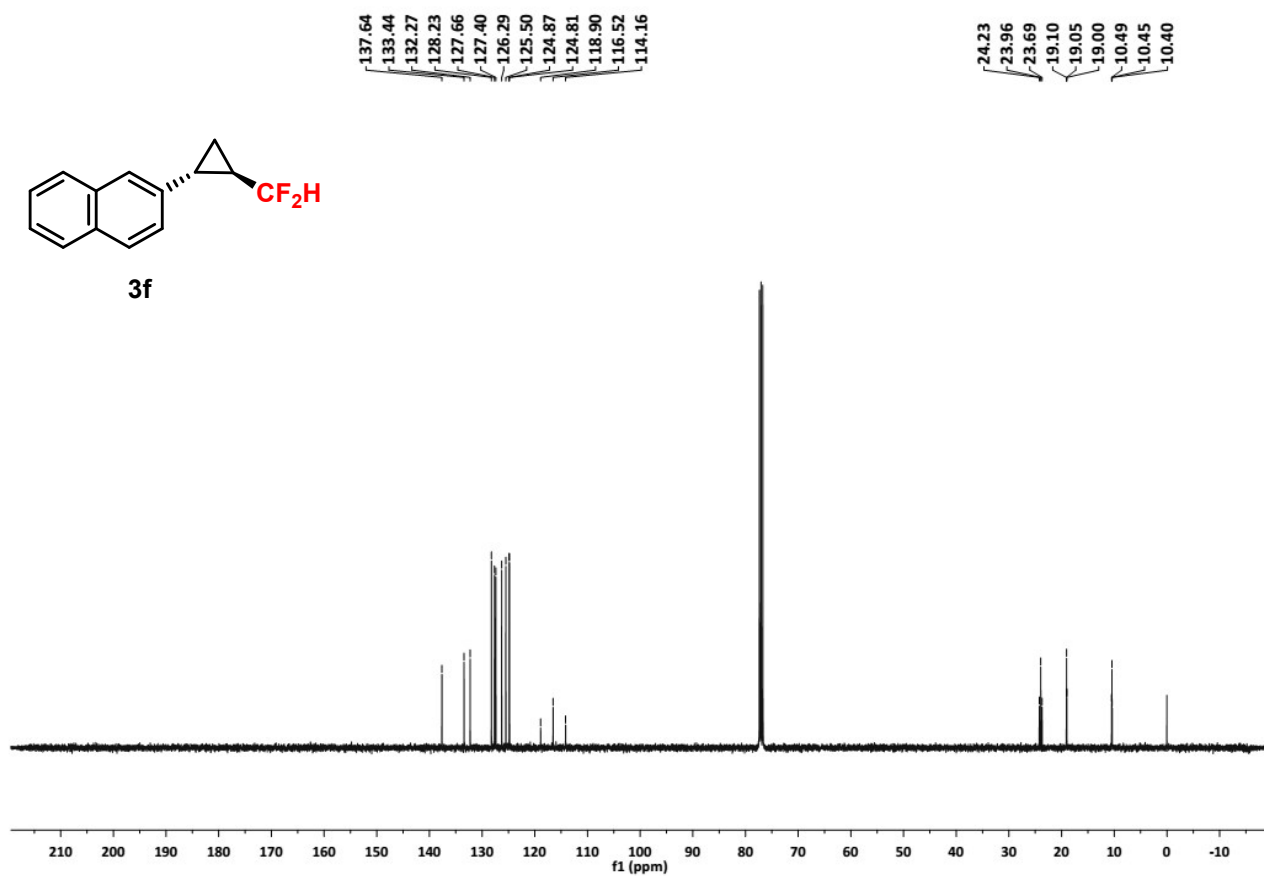
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



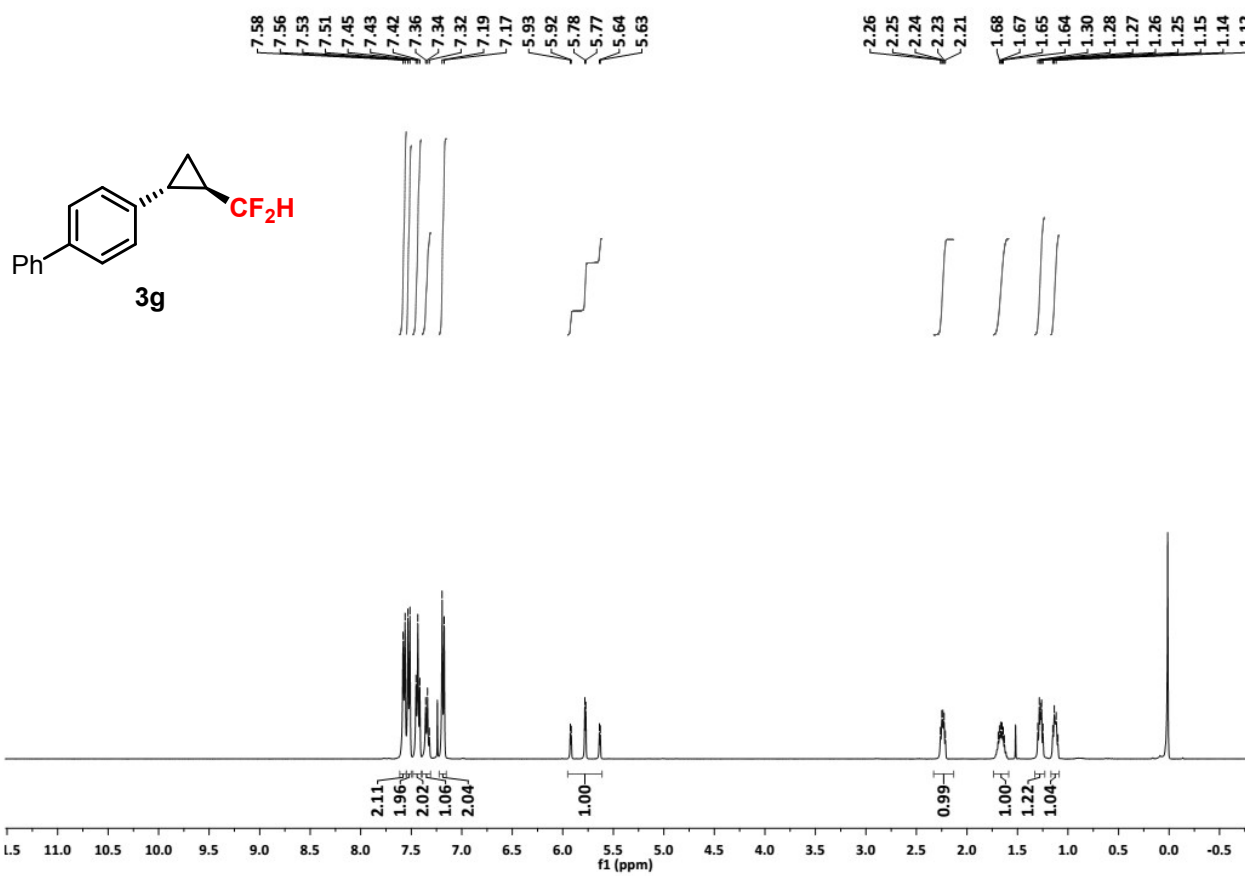
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



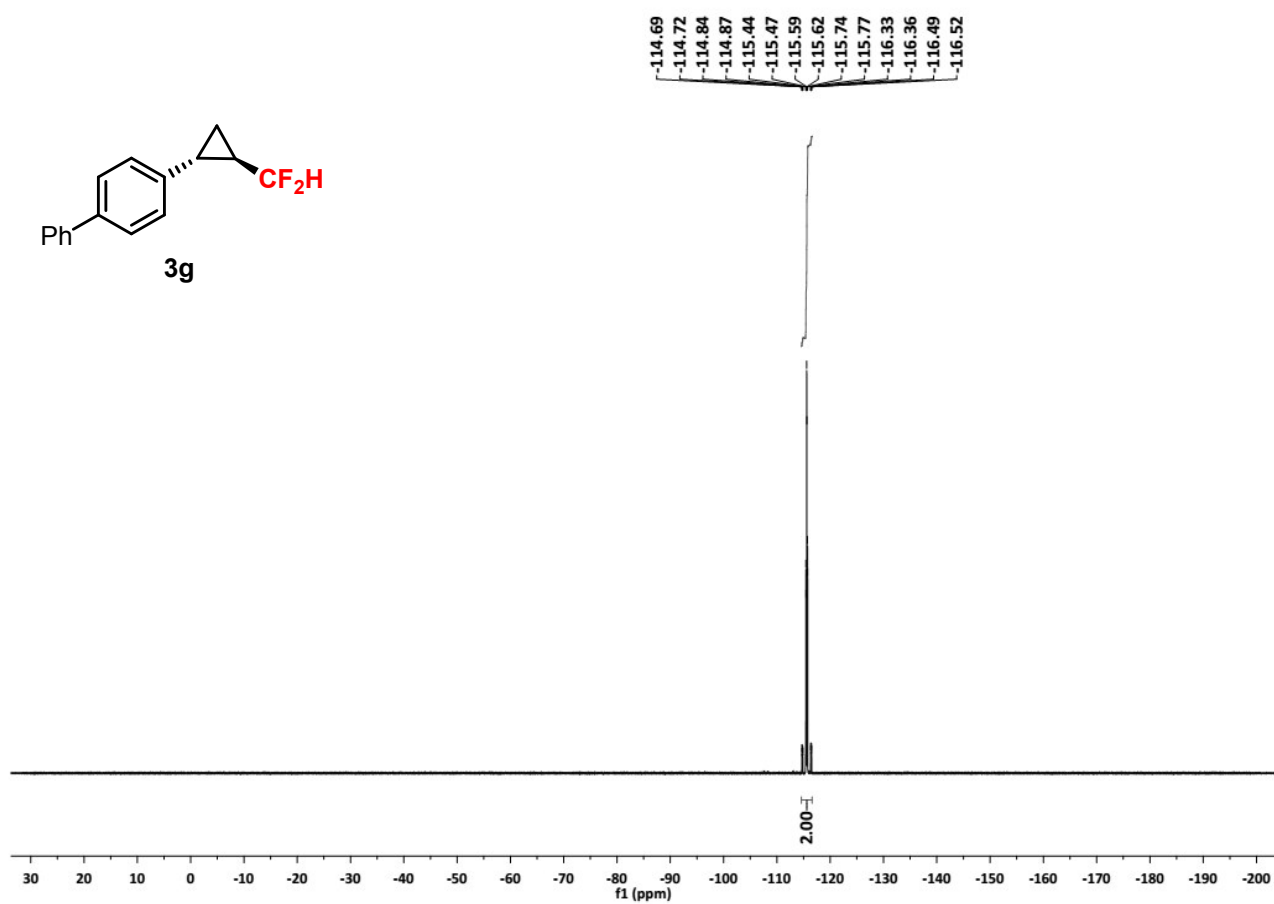
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



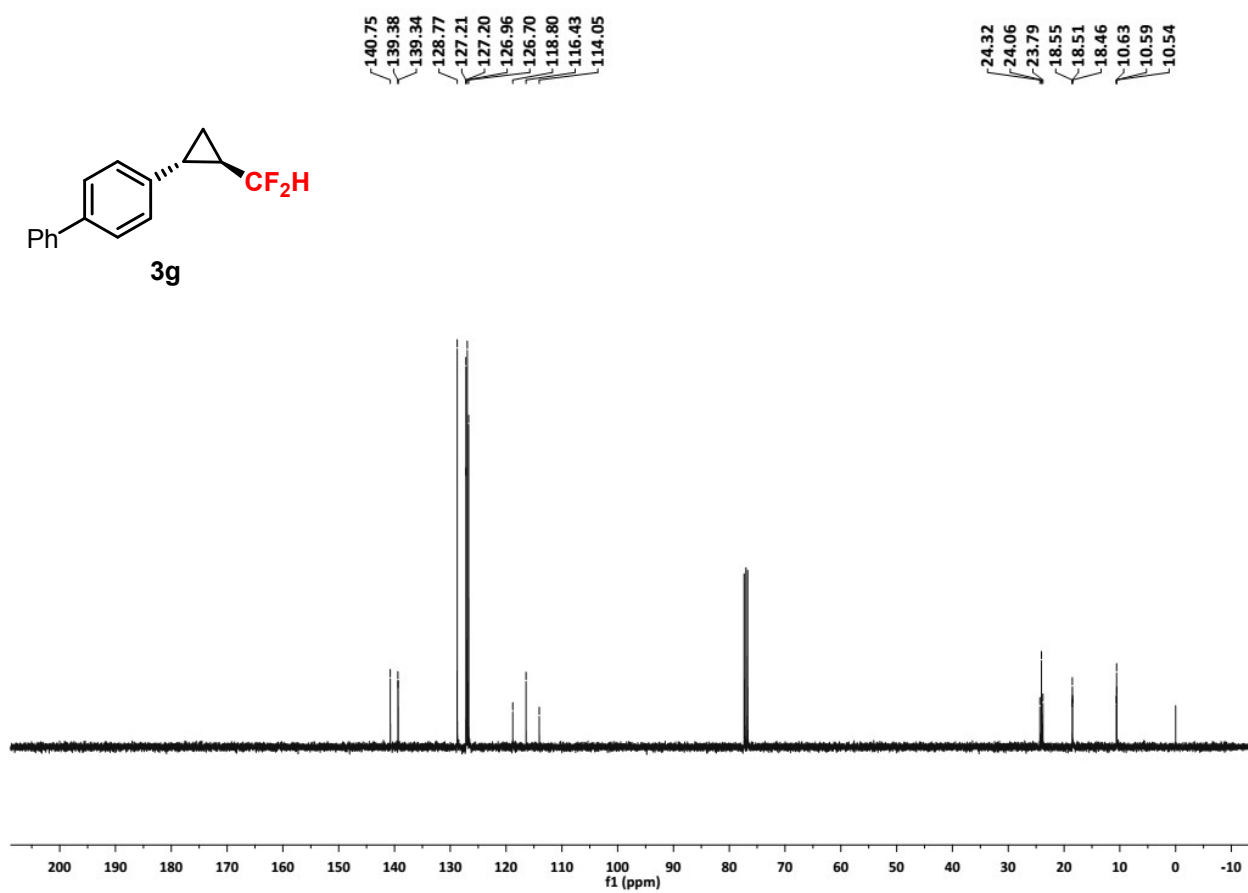
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



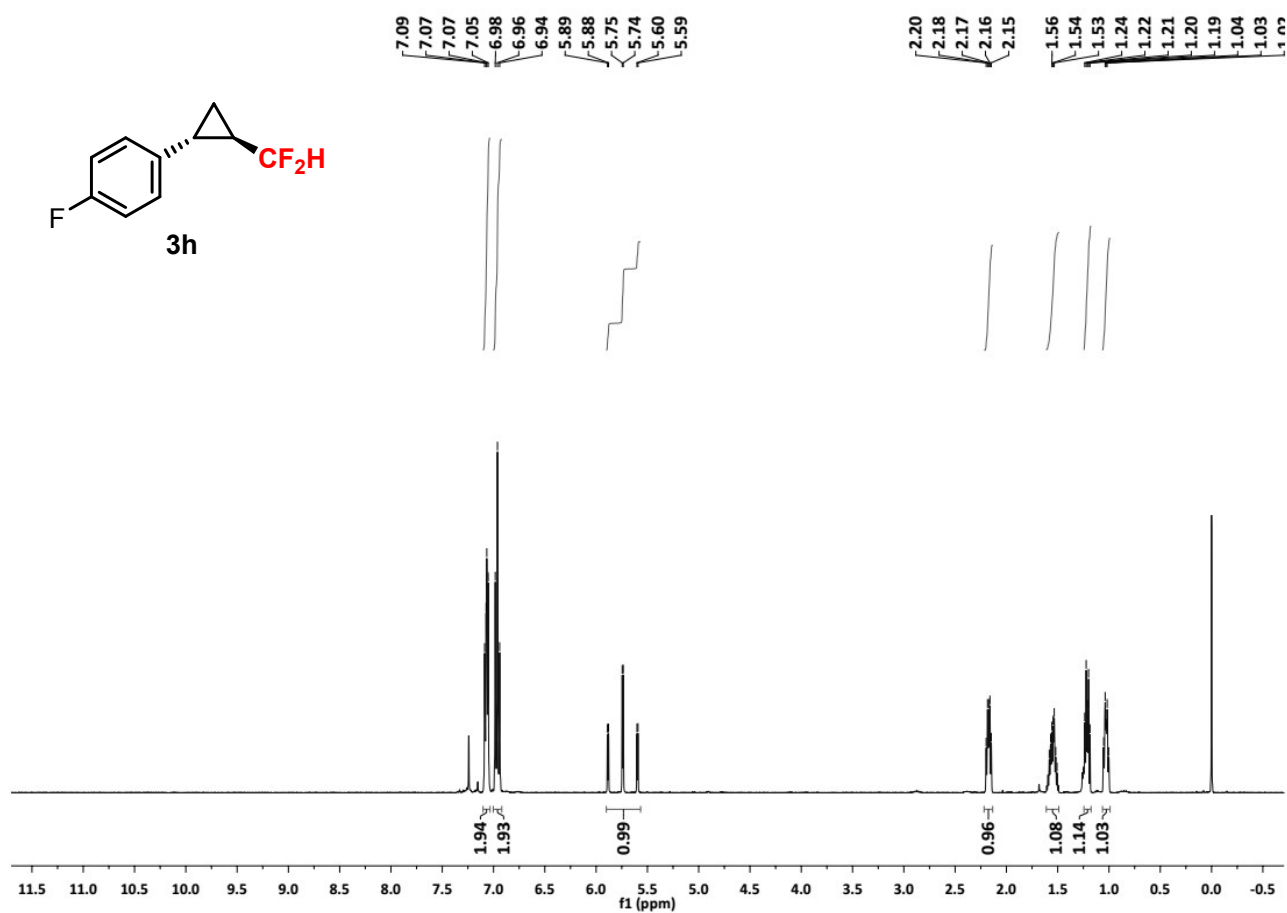
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



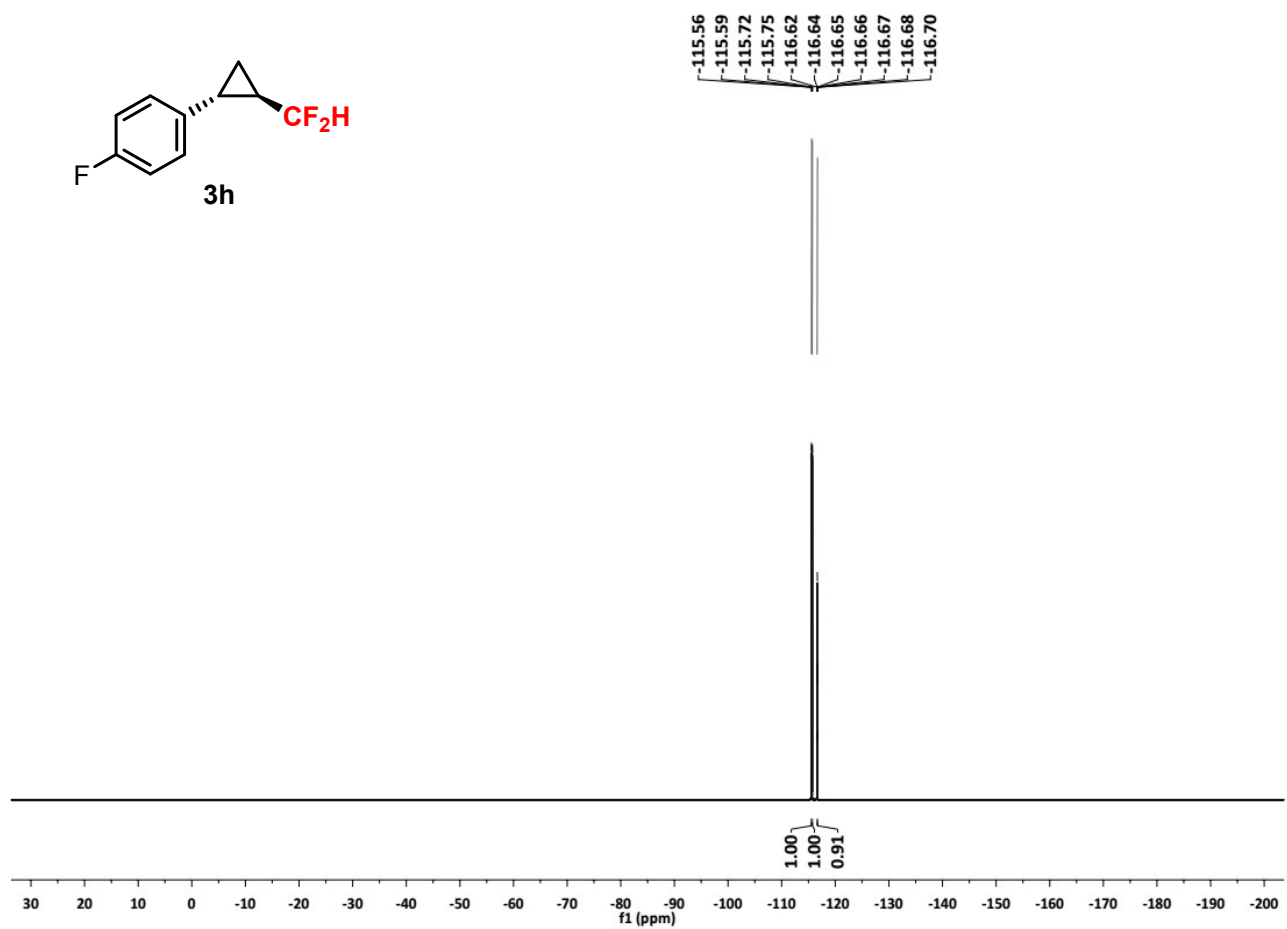
<sup>13</sup>C NMR:



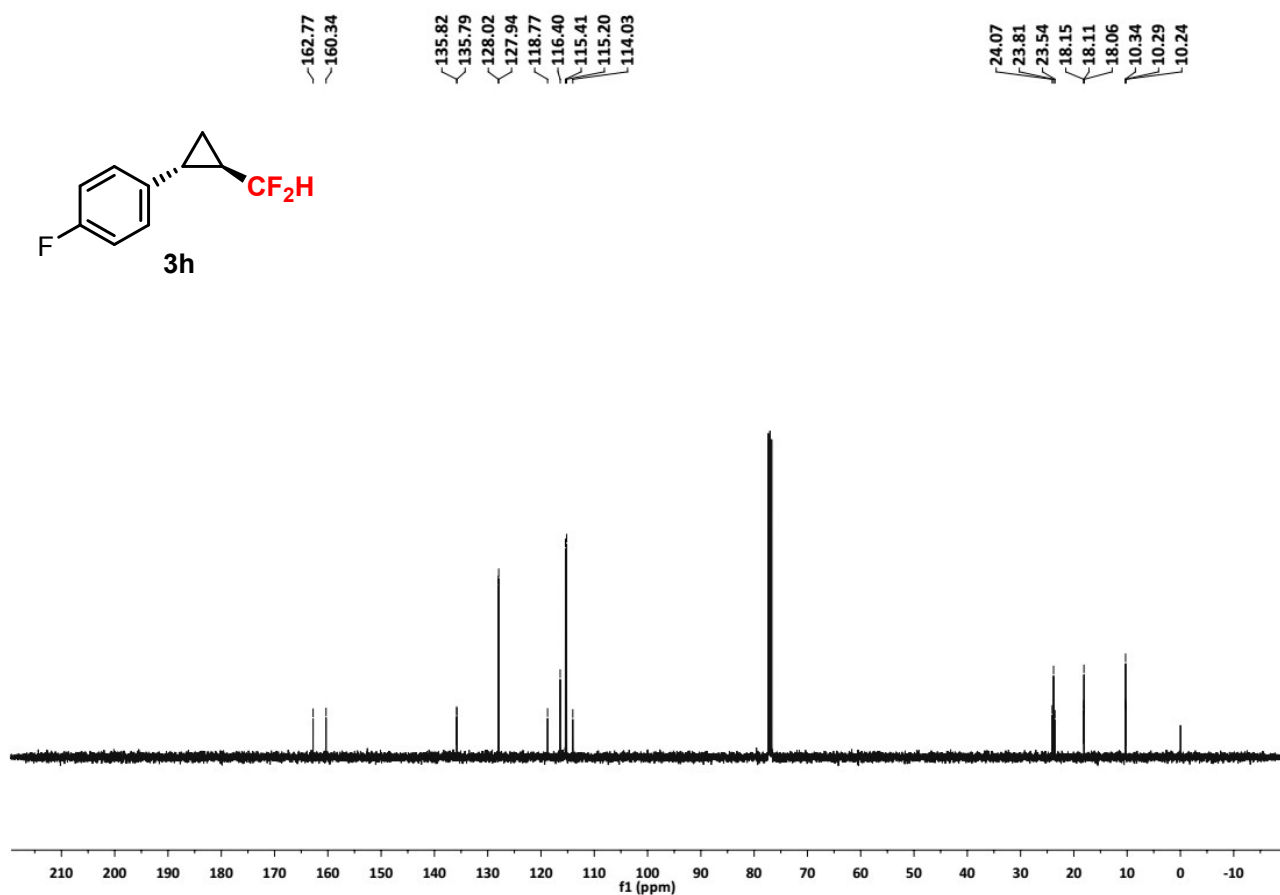
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



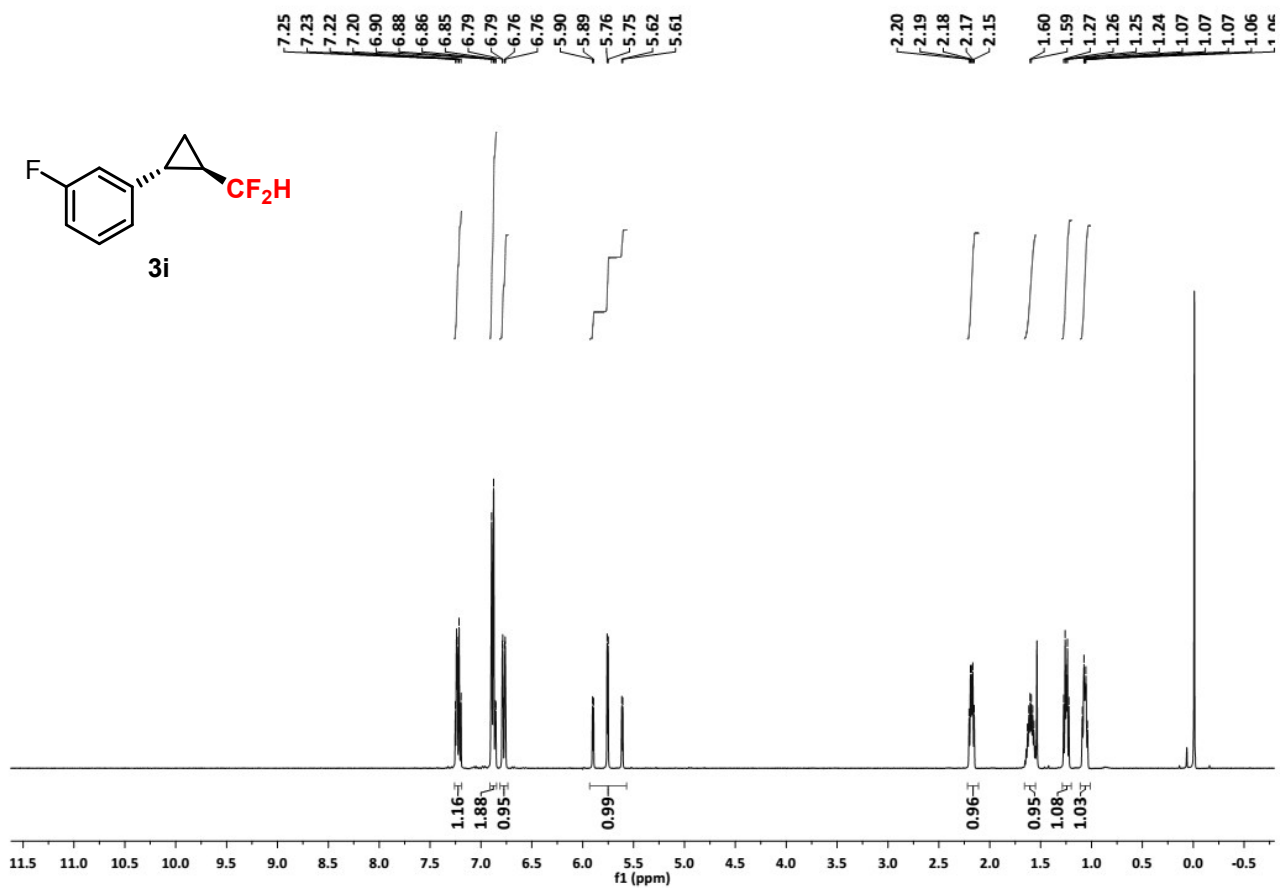
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



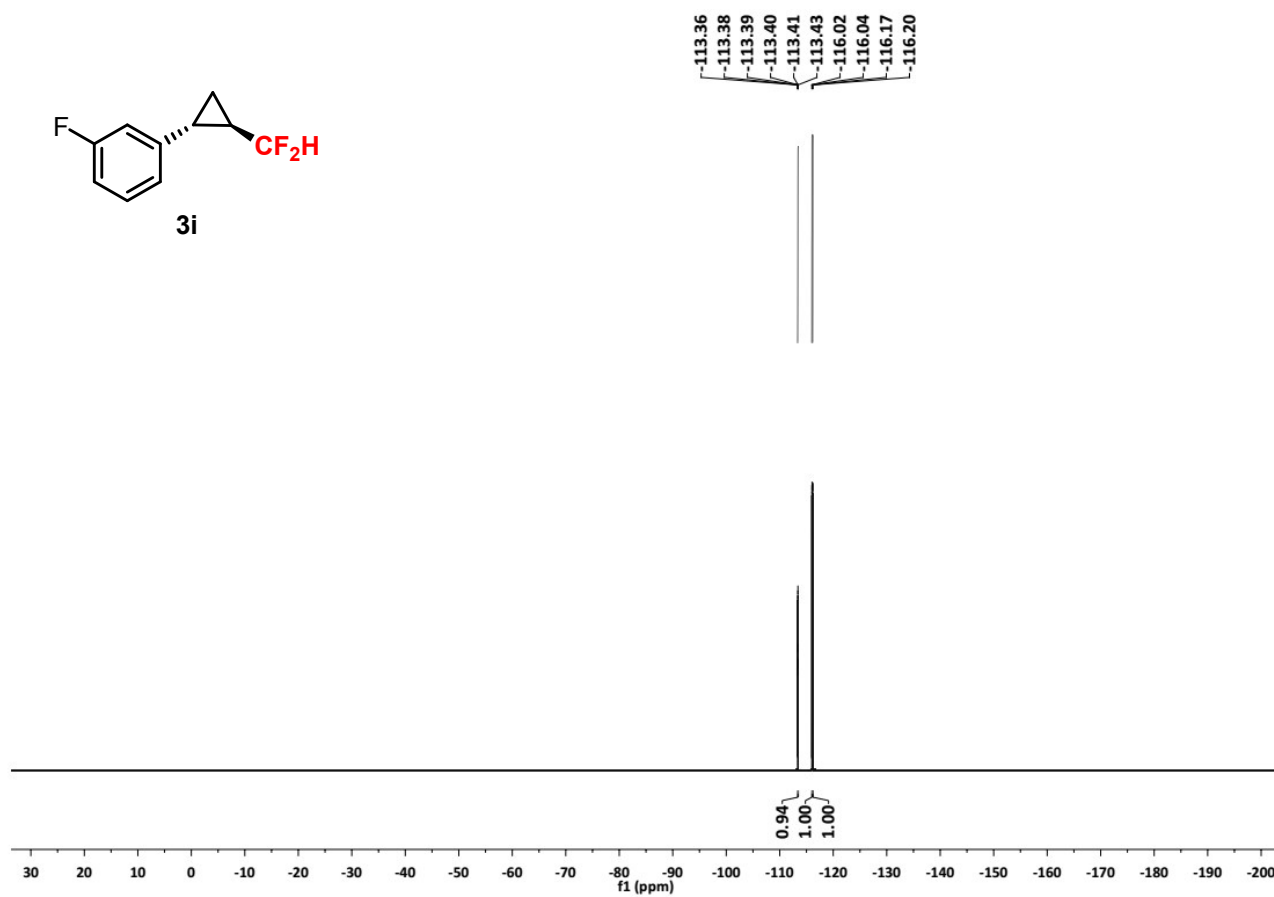
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



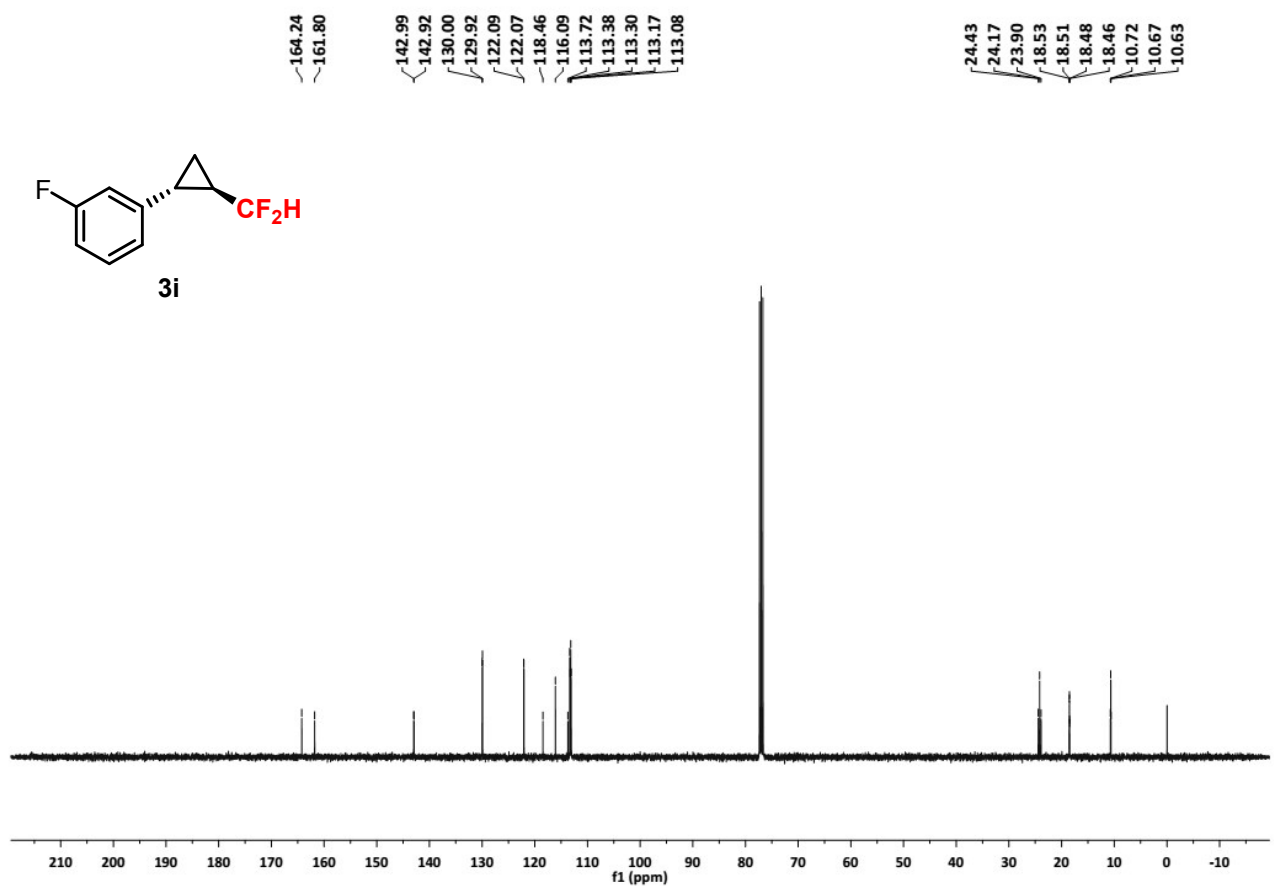
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



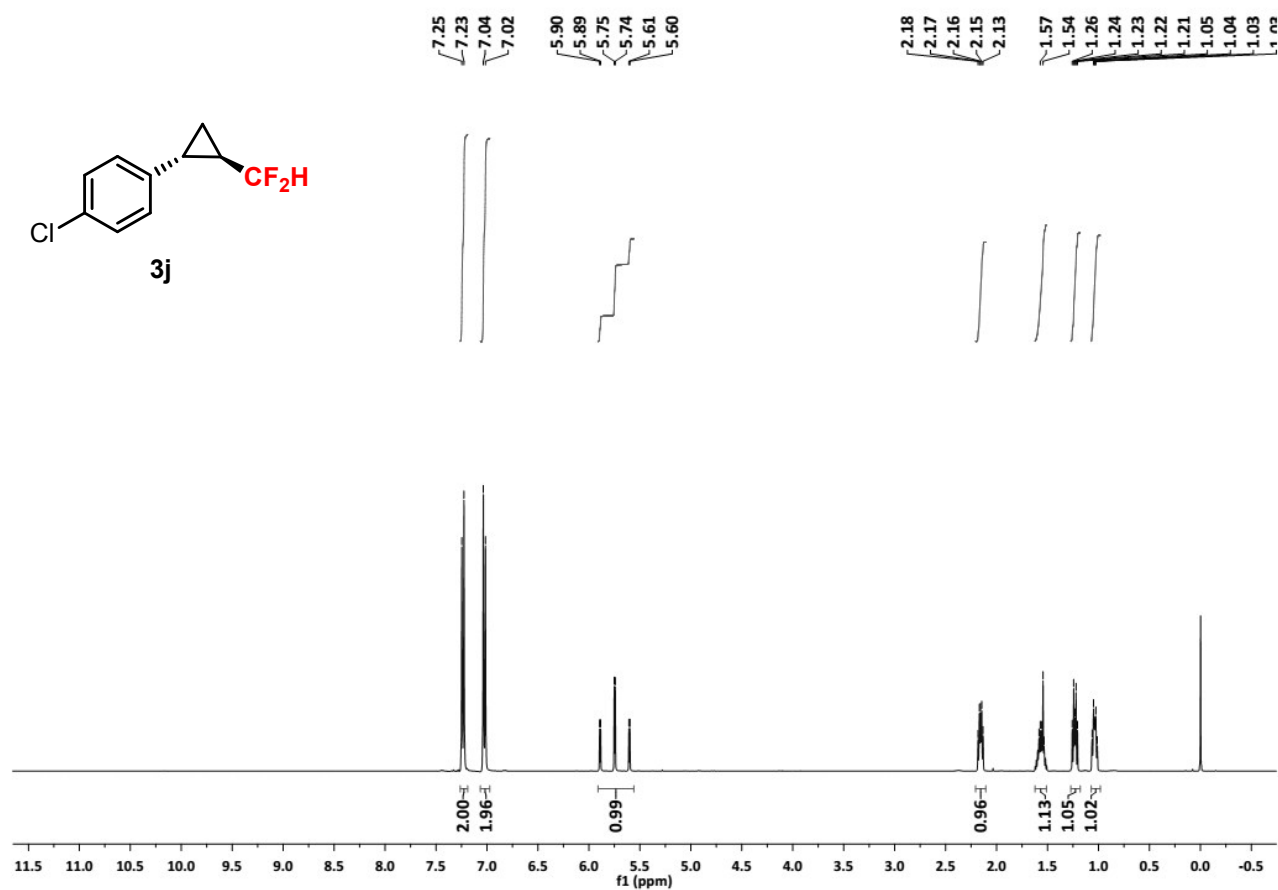
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



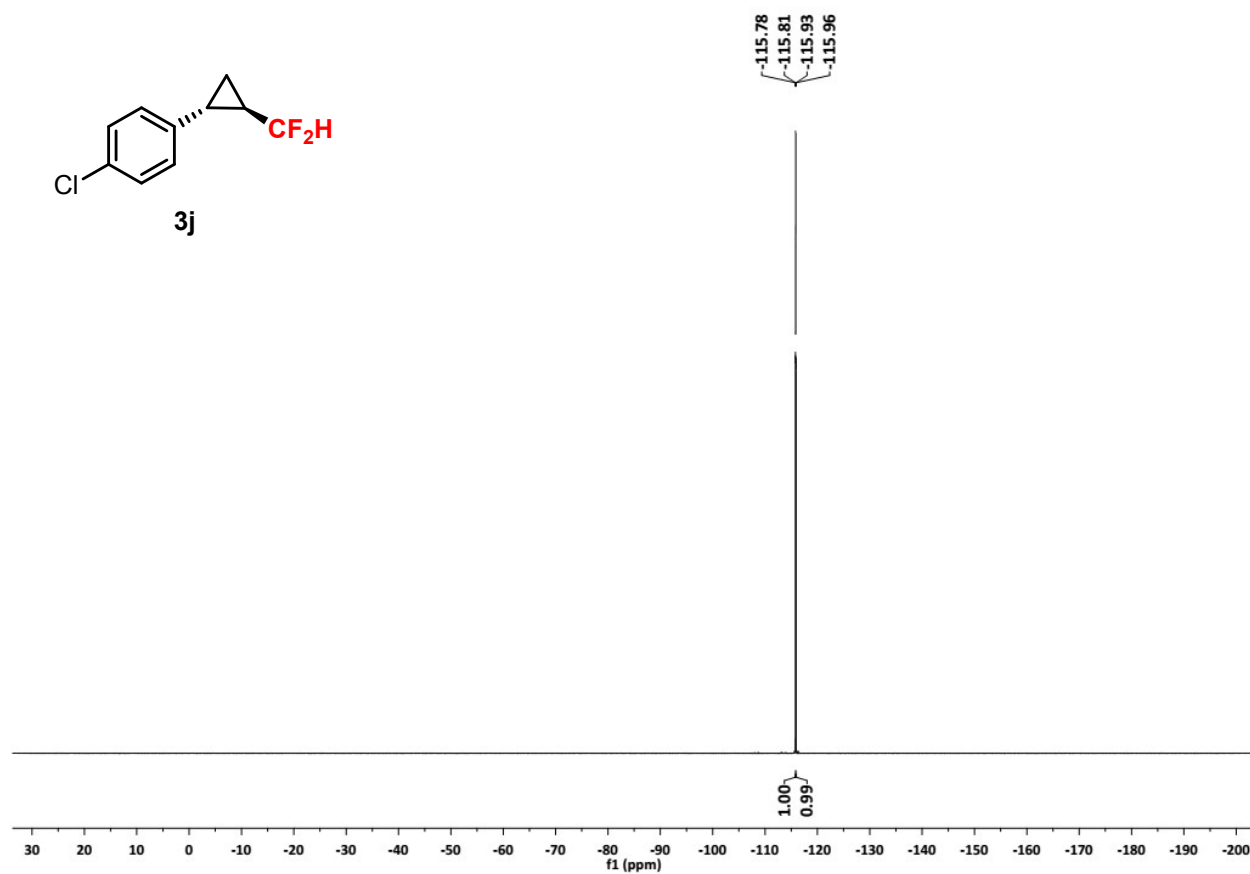
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



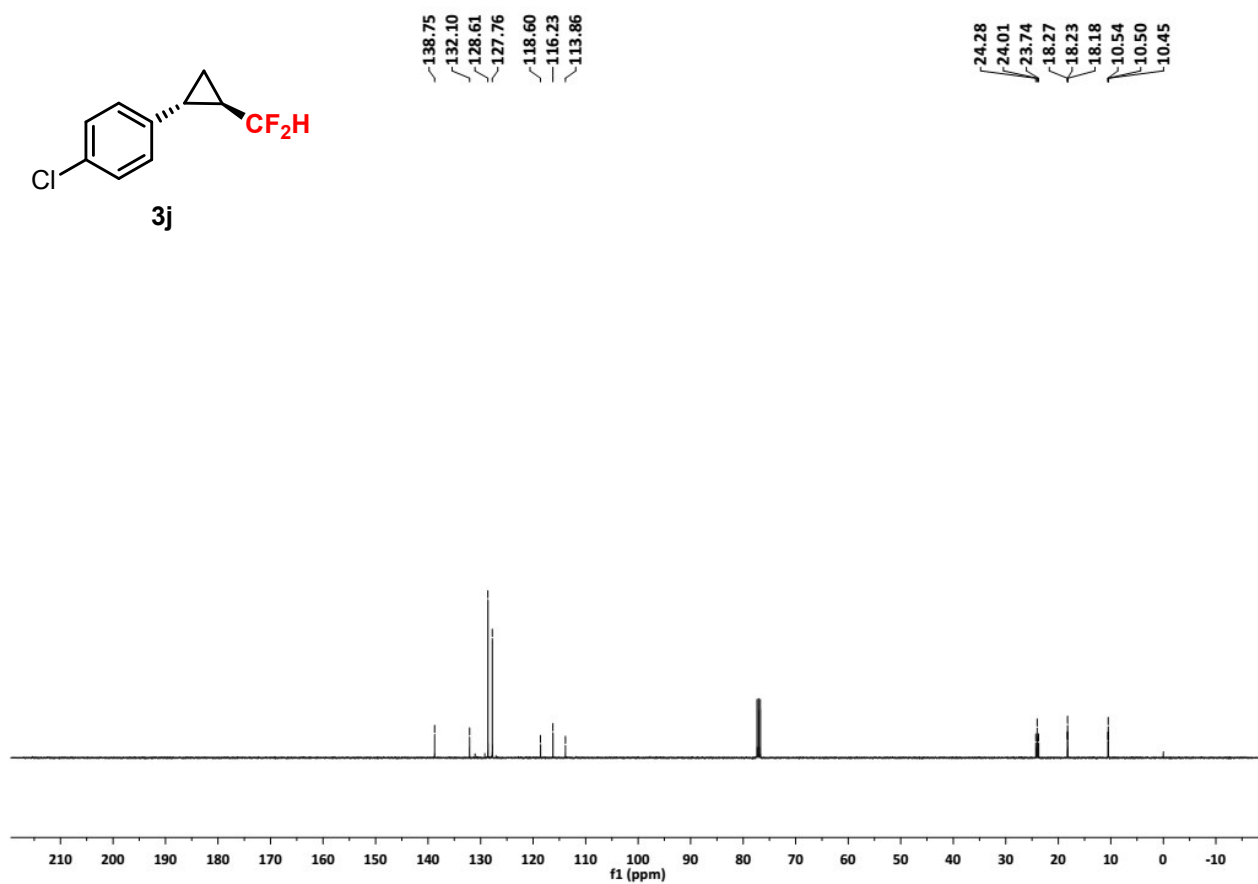
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



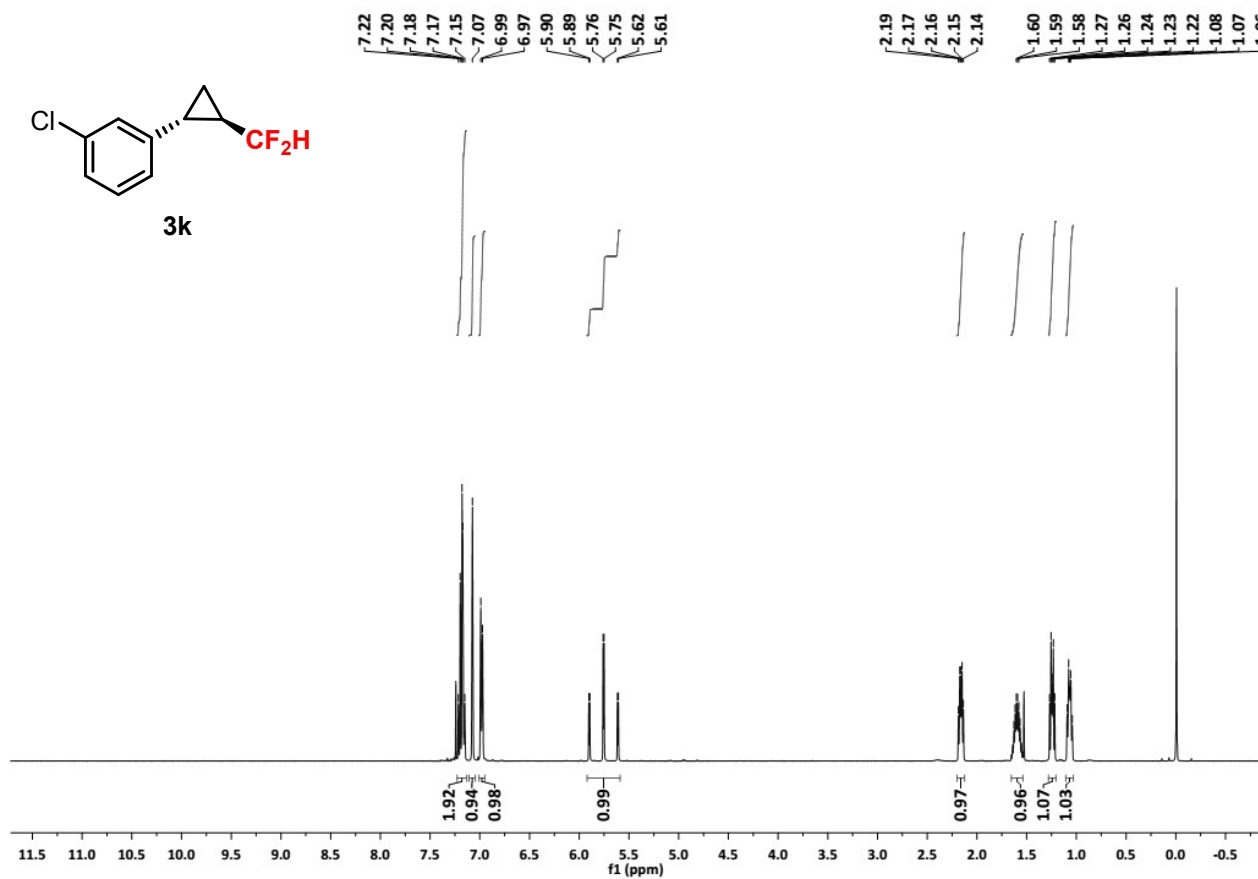
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



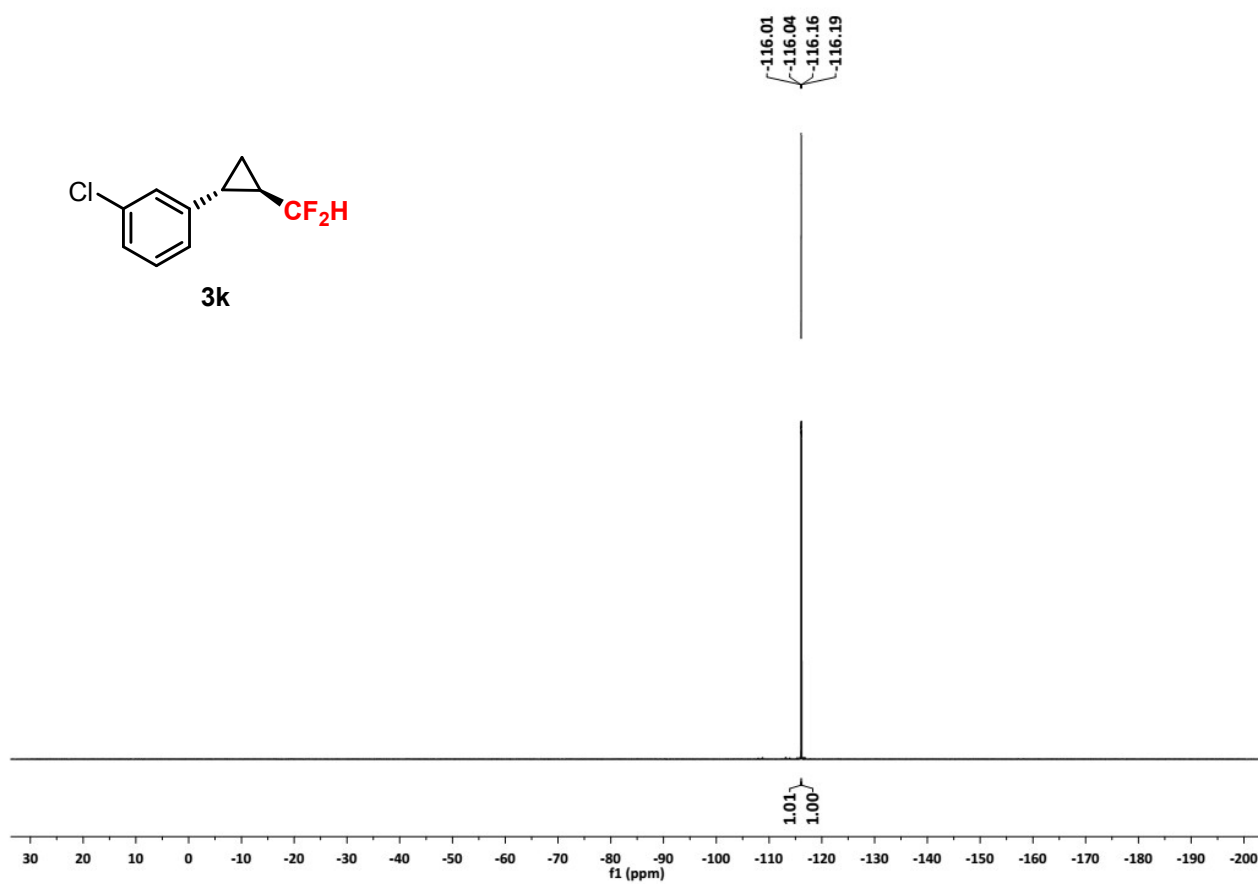
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



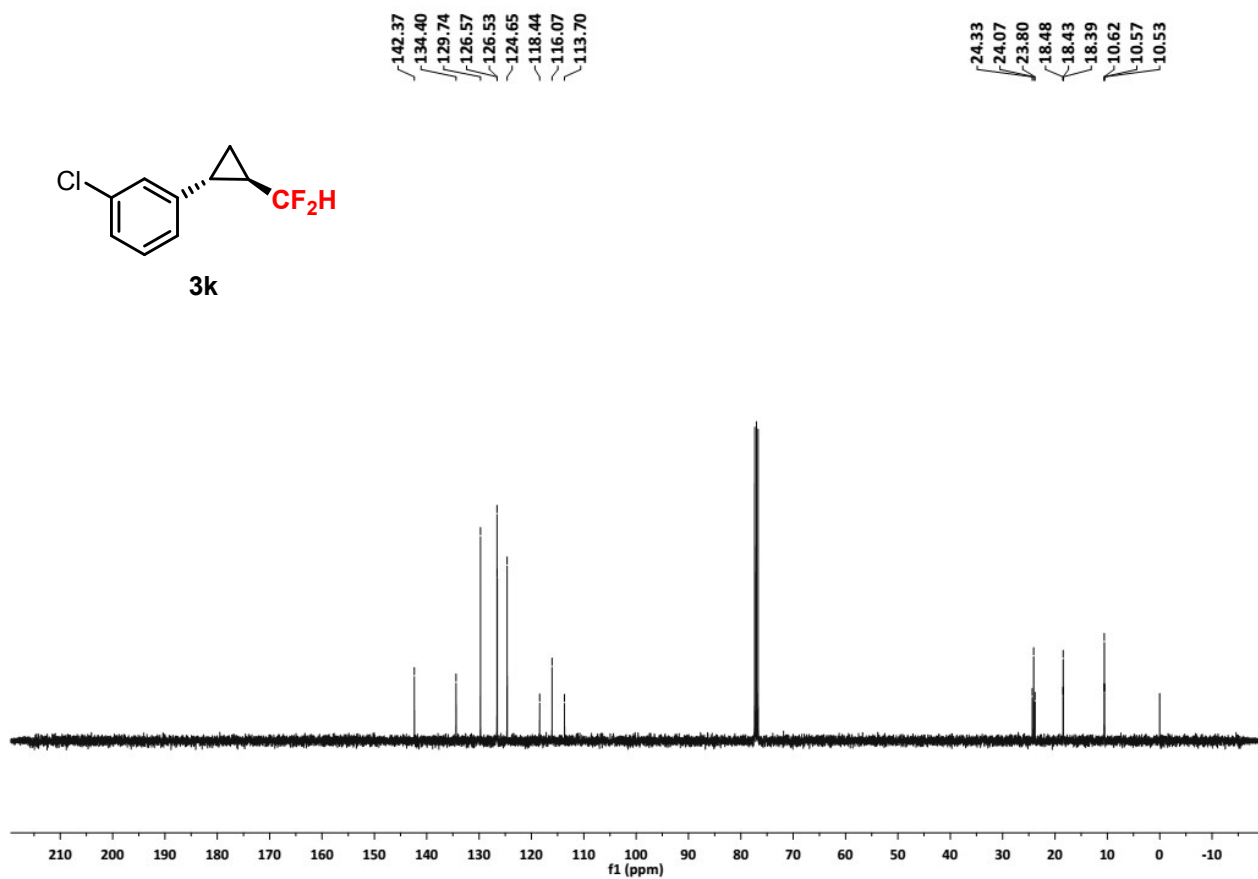
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



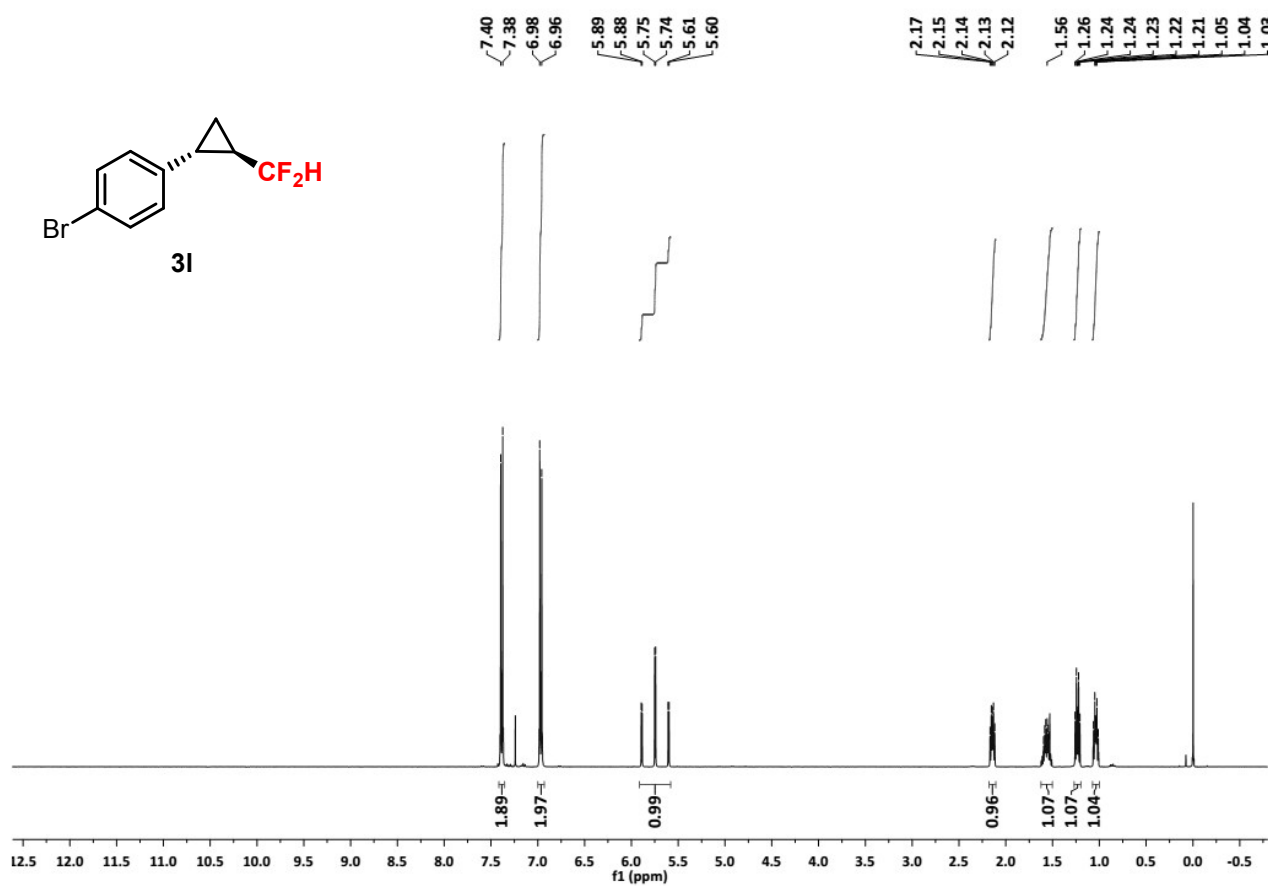
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



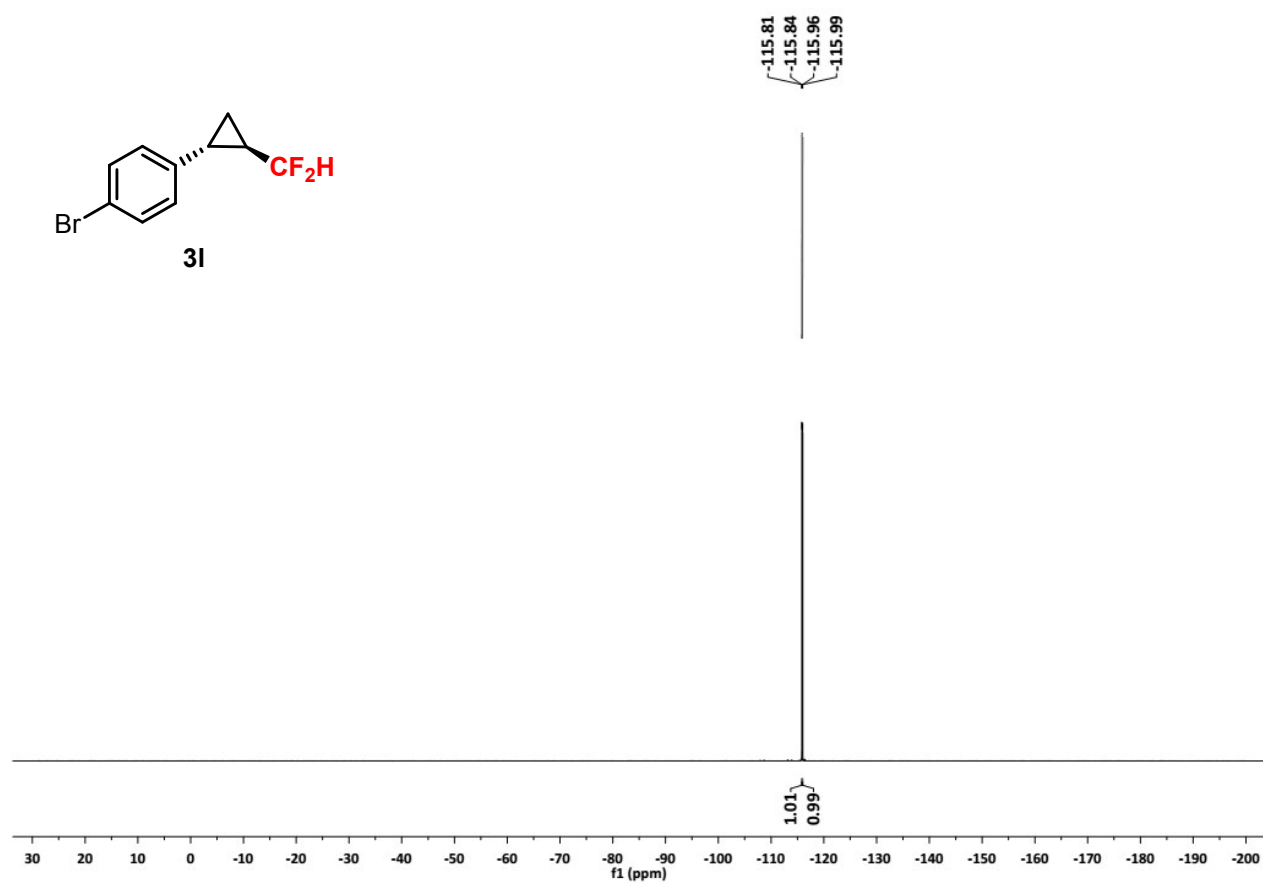
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



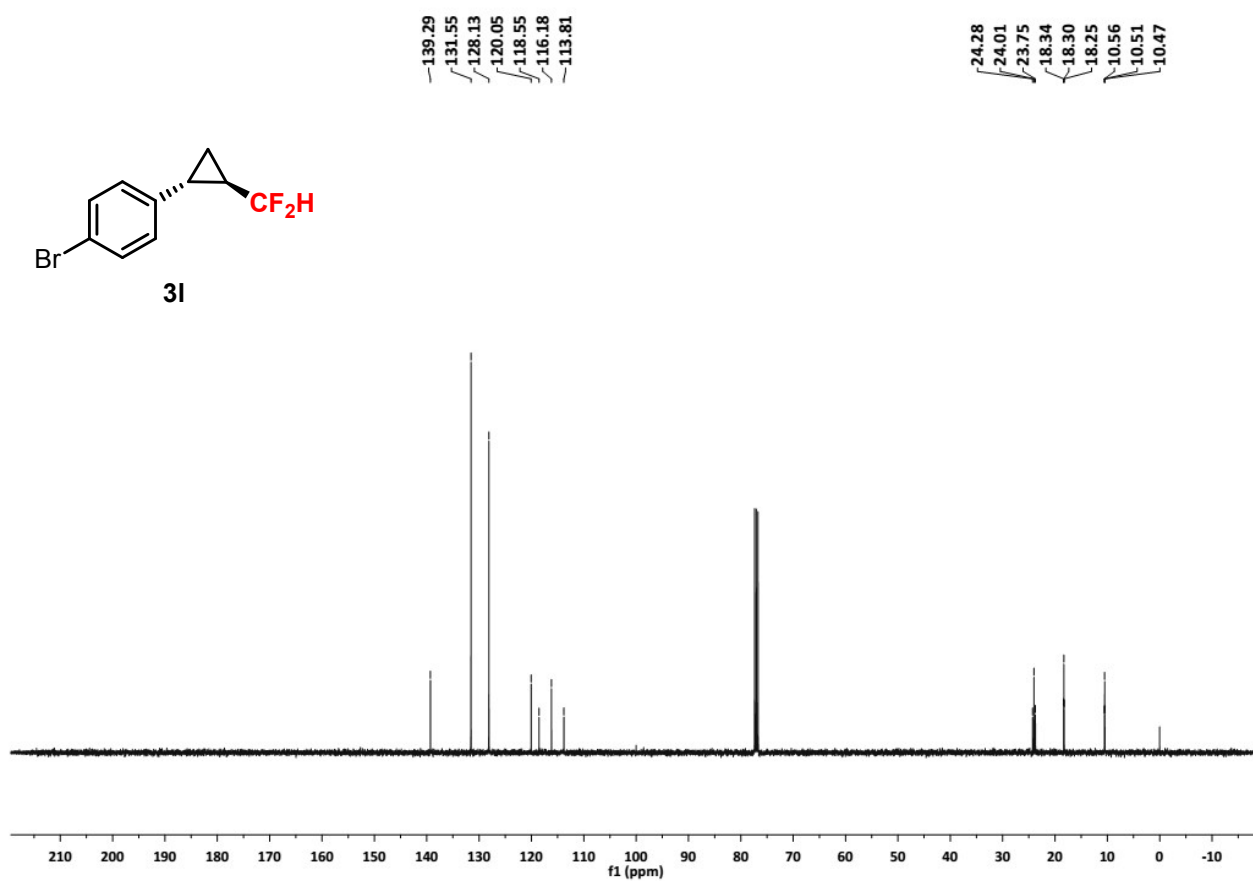
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



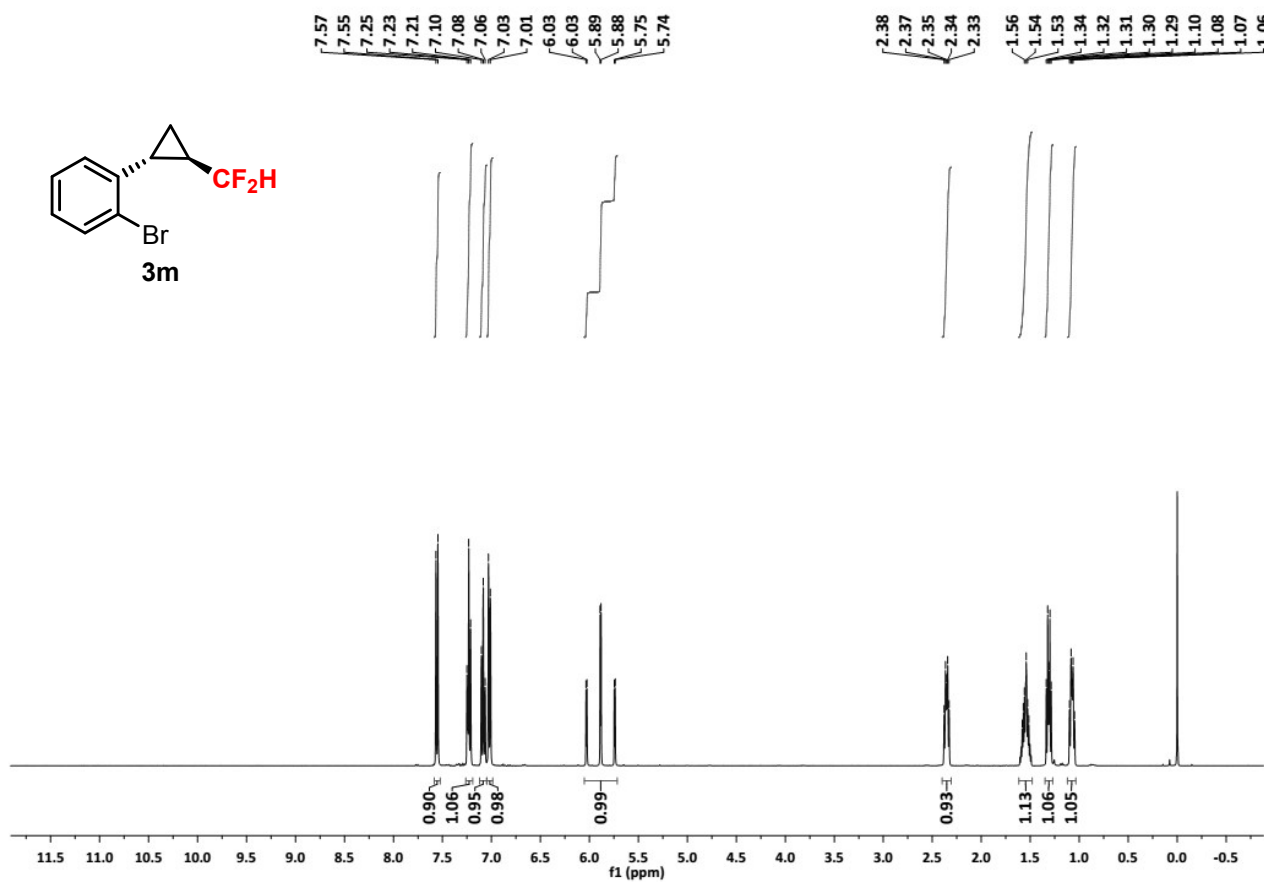
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



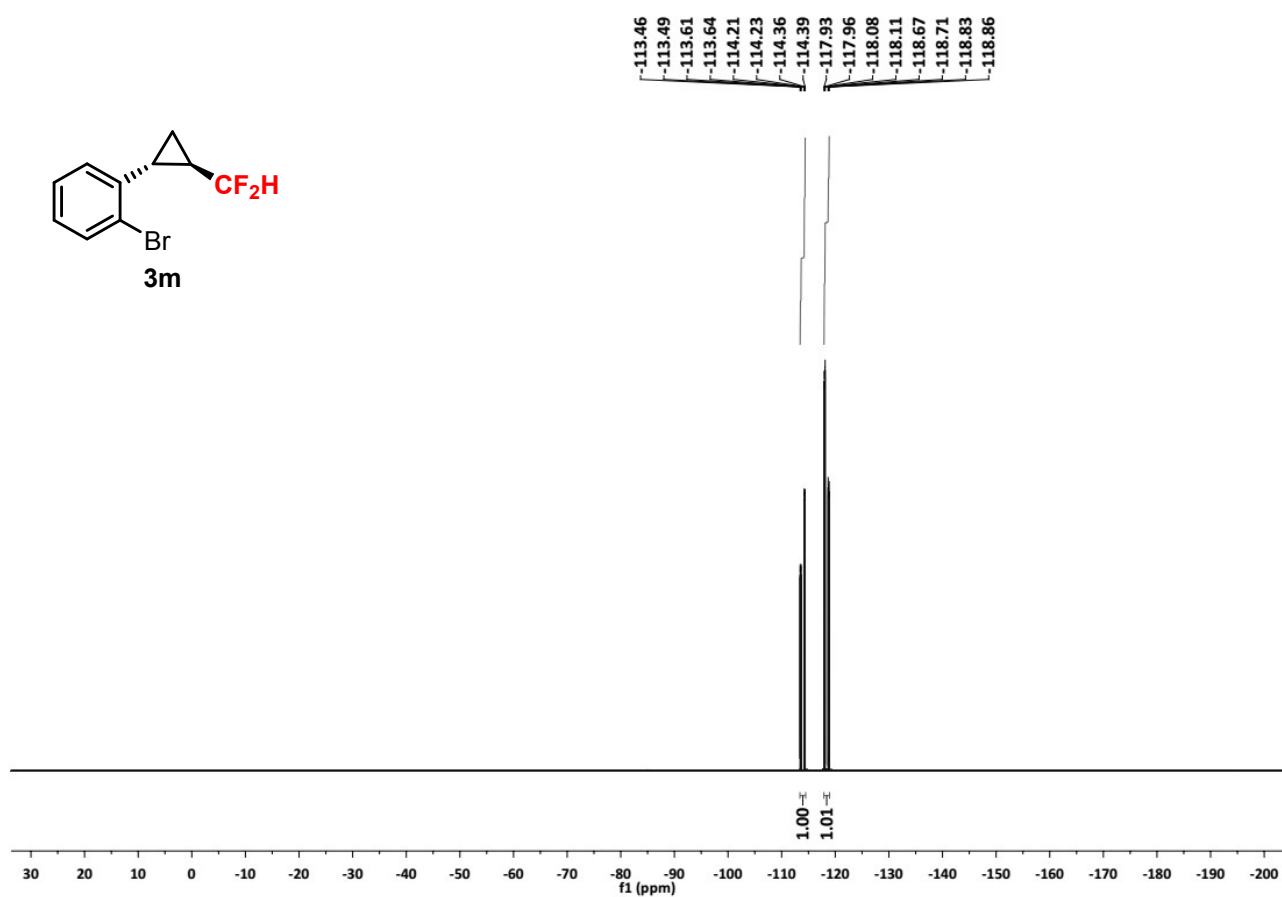
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



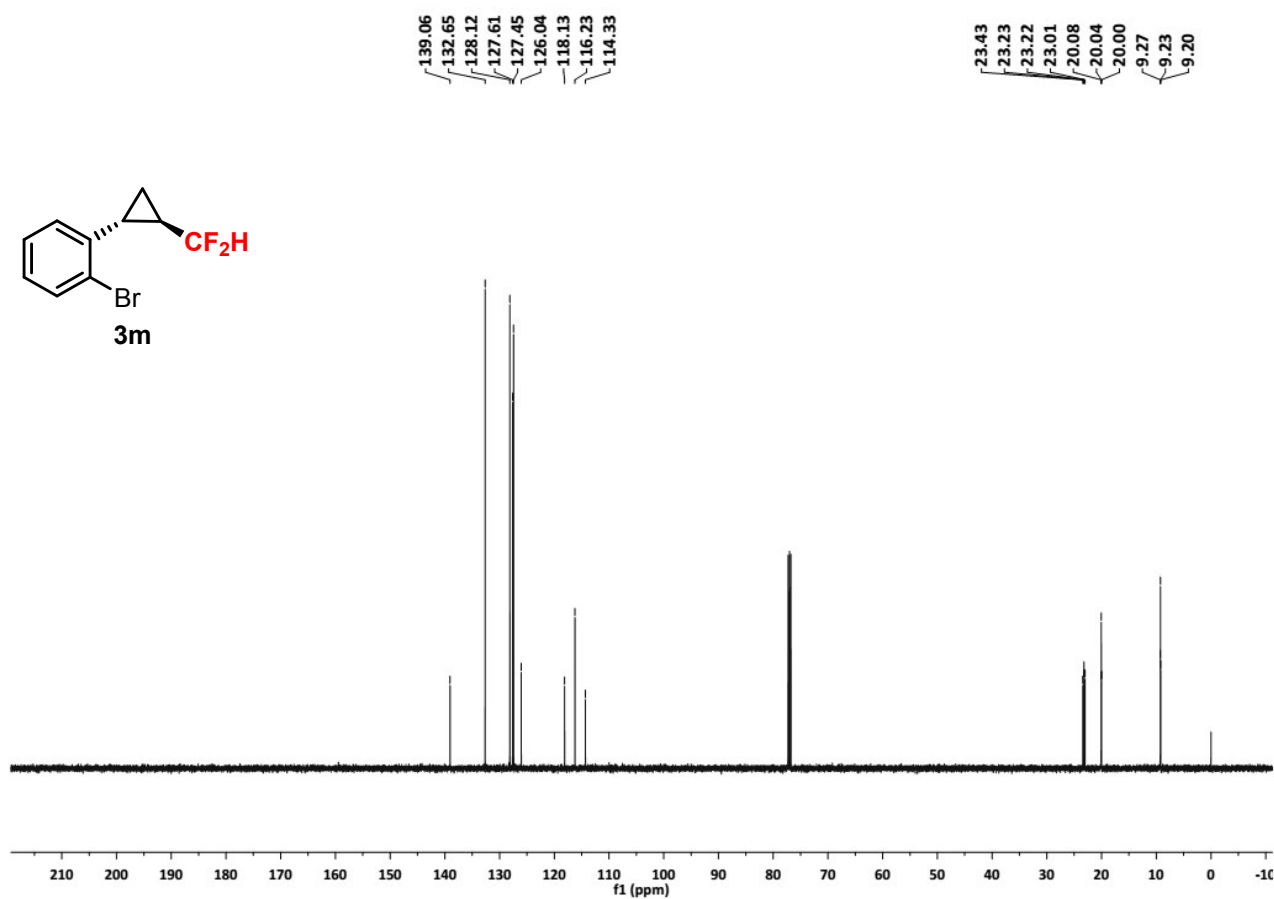
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



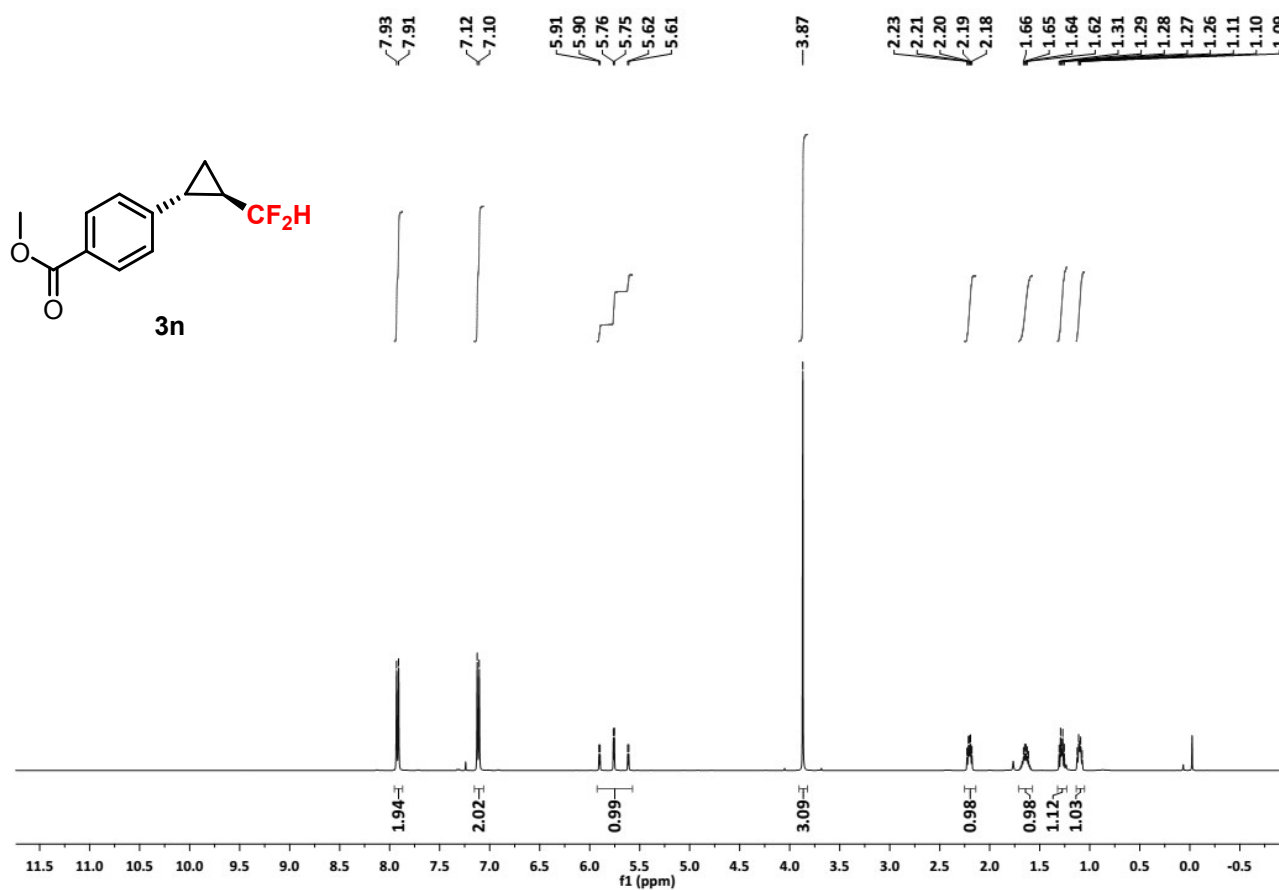
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



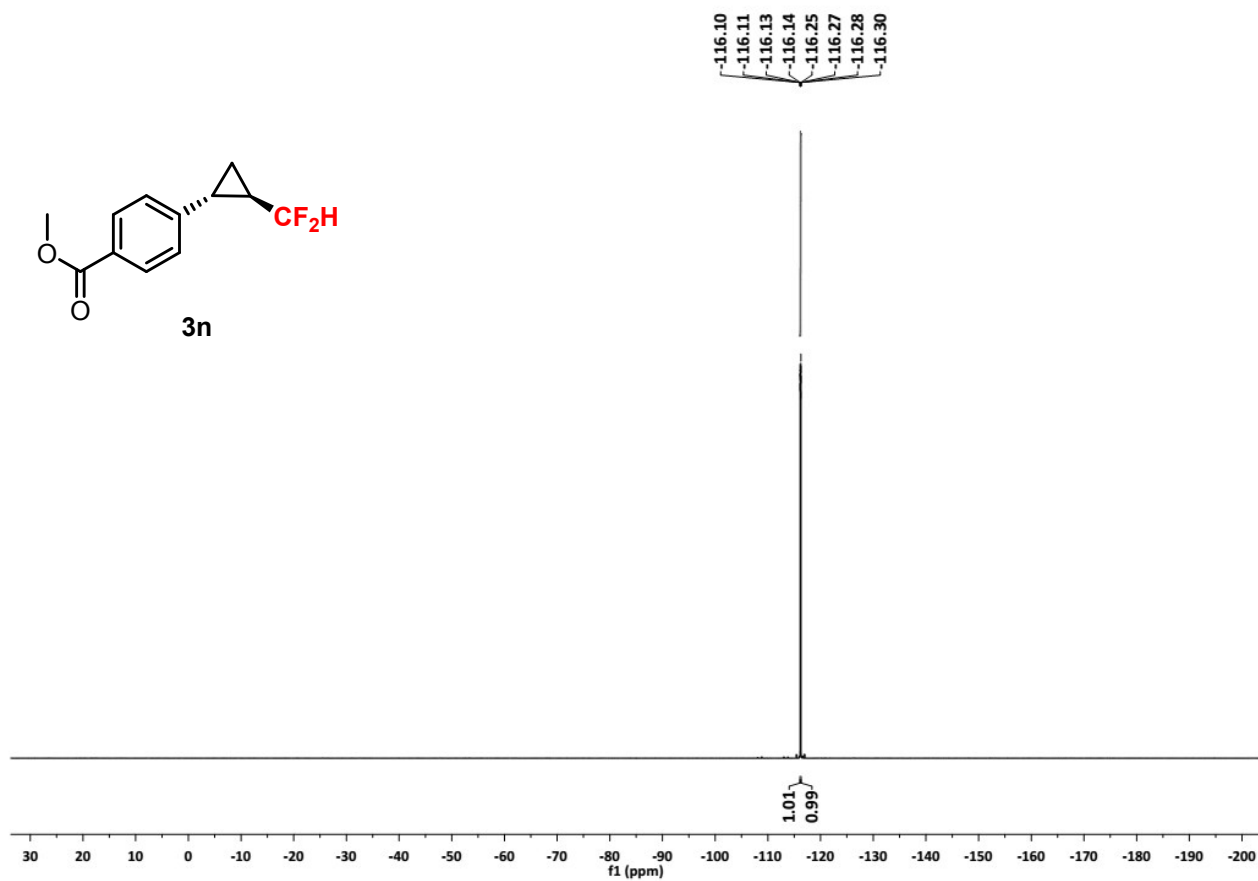
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



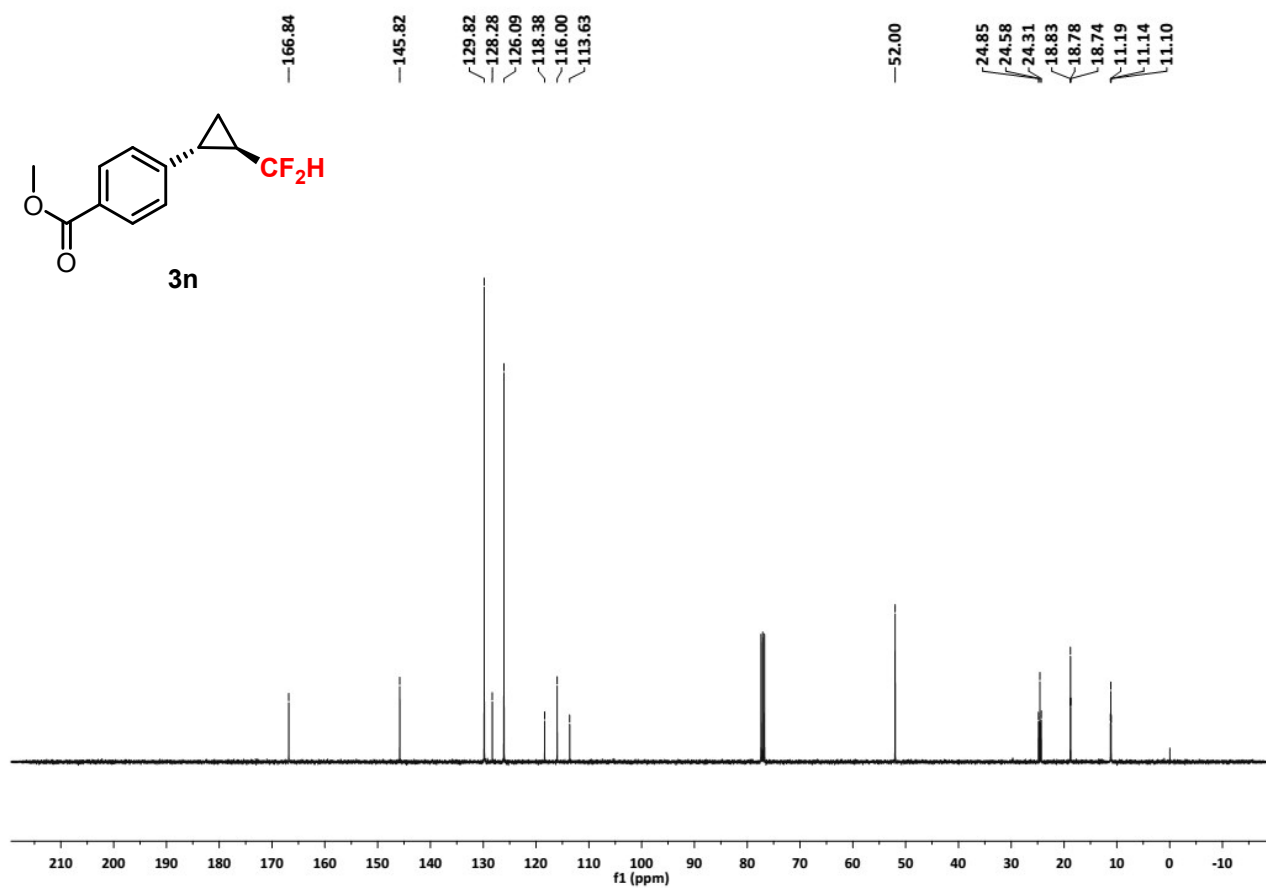
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



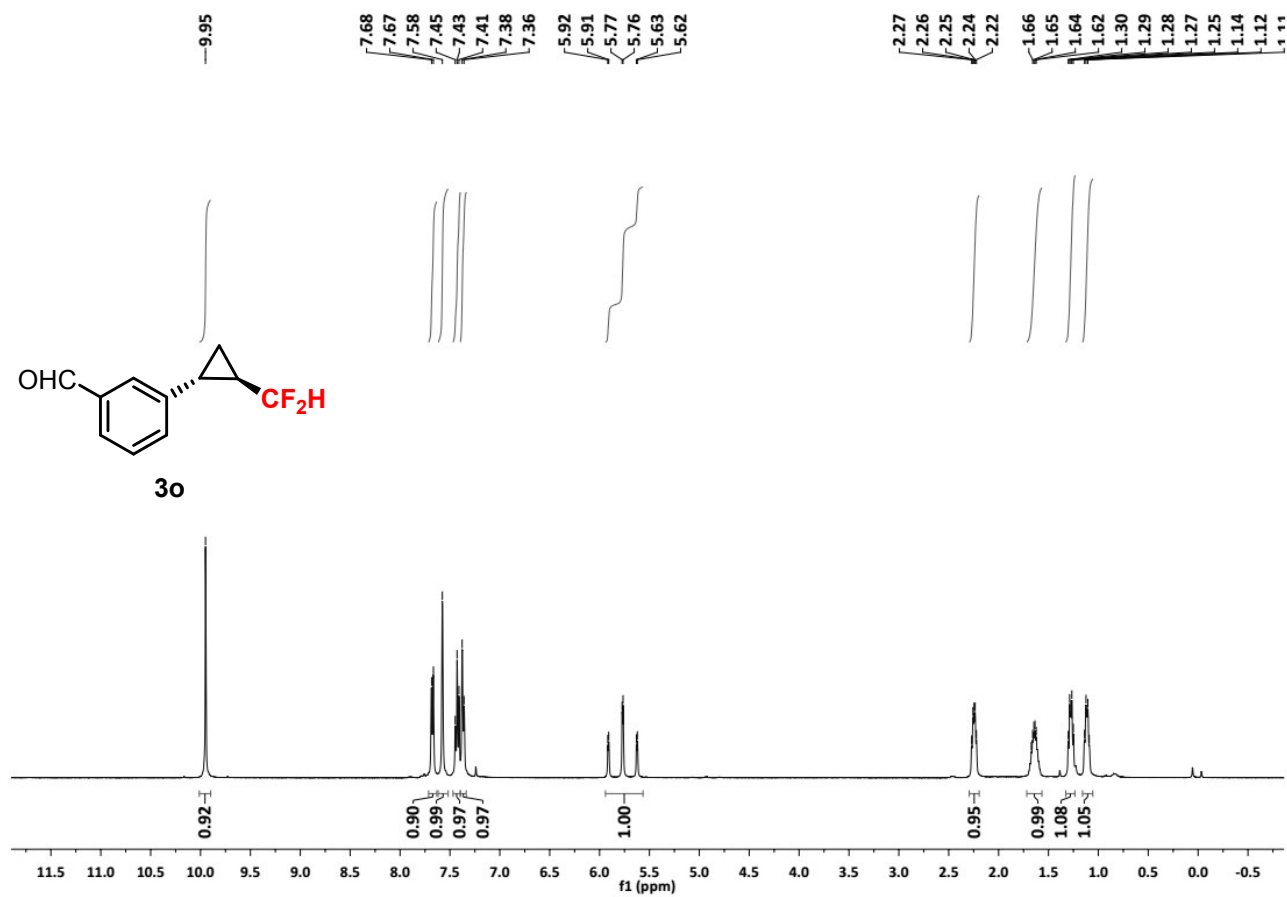
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



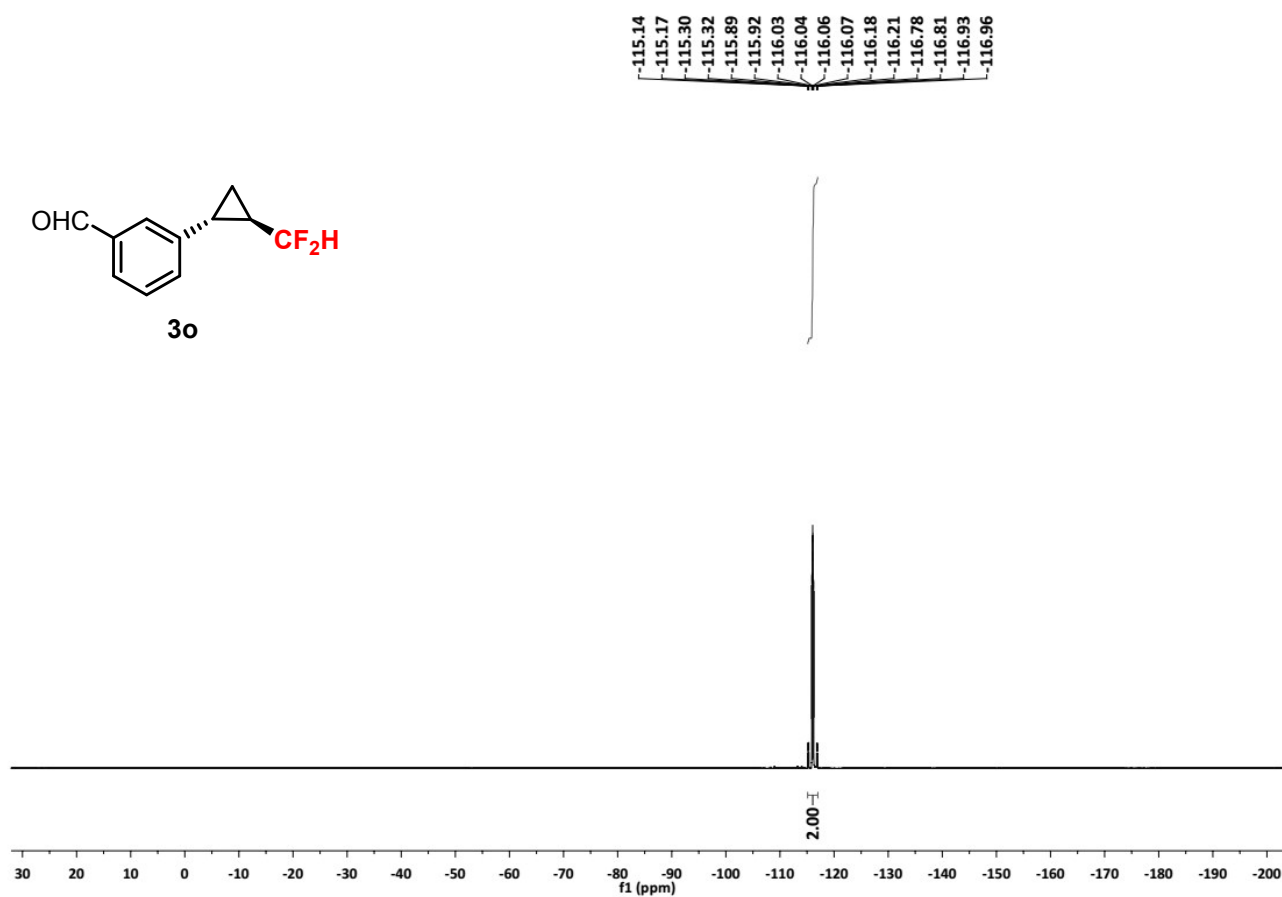
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



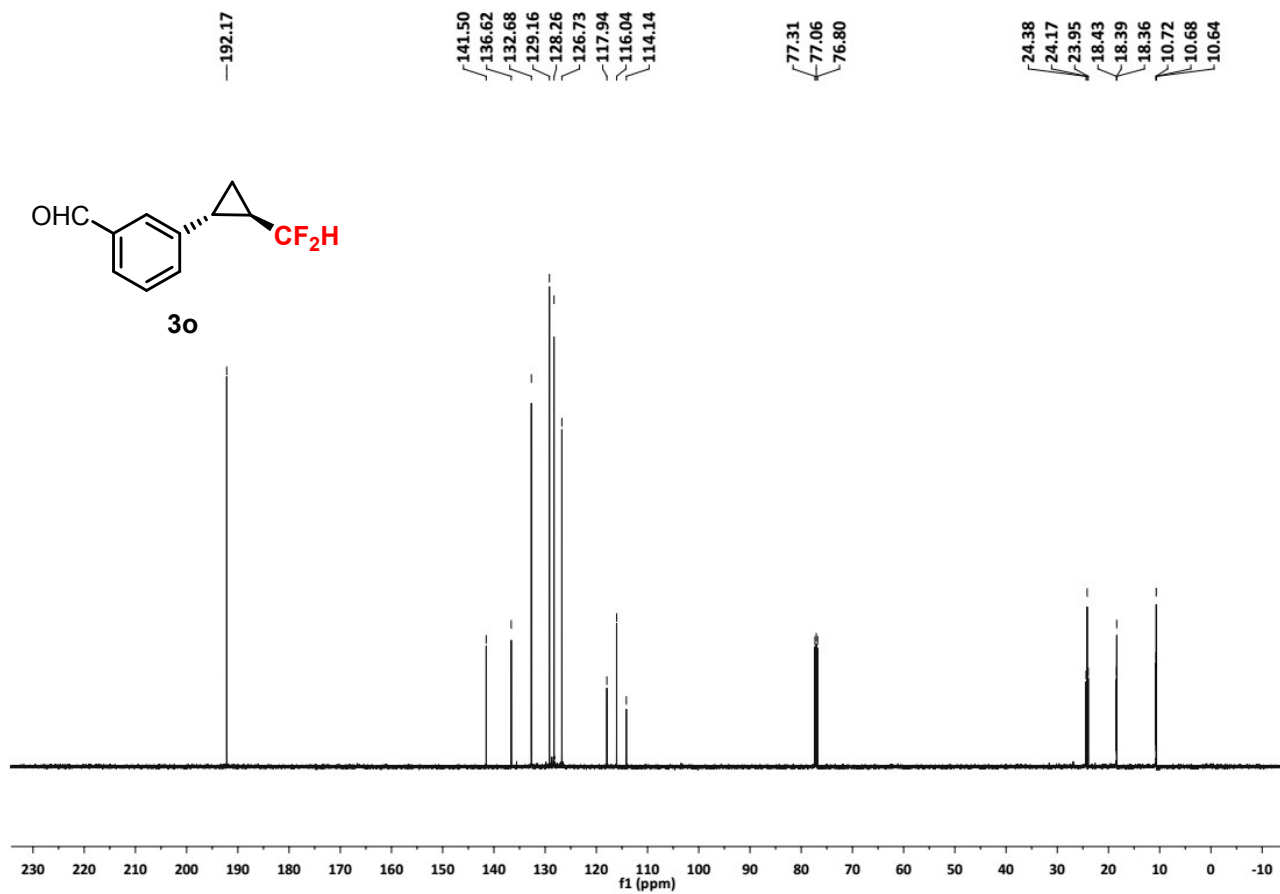
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



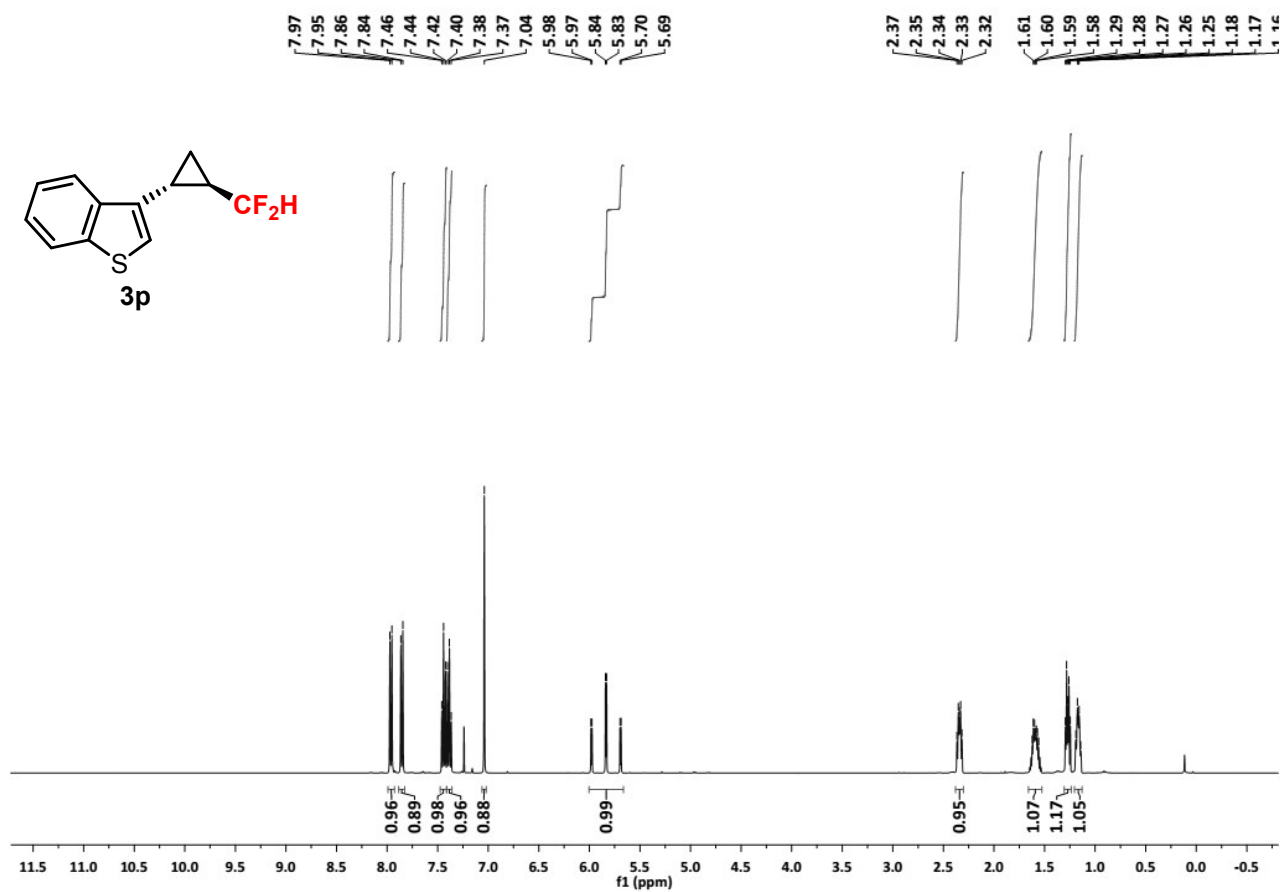
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



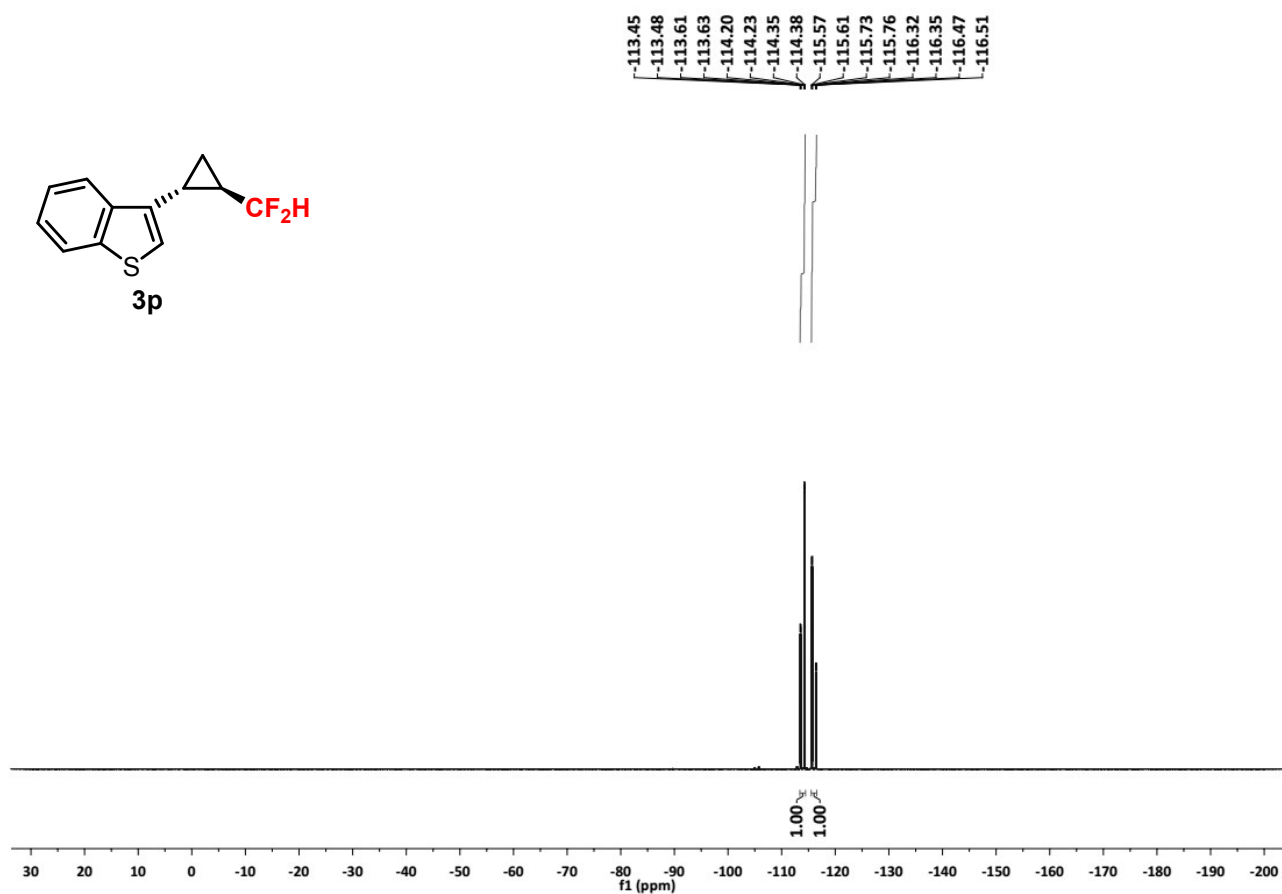
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



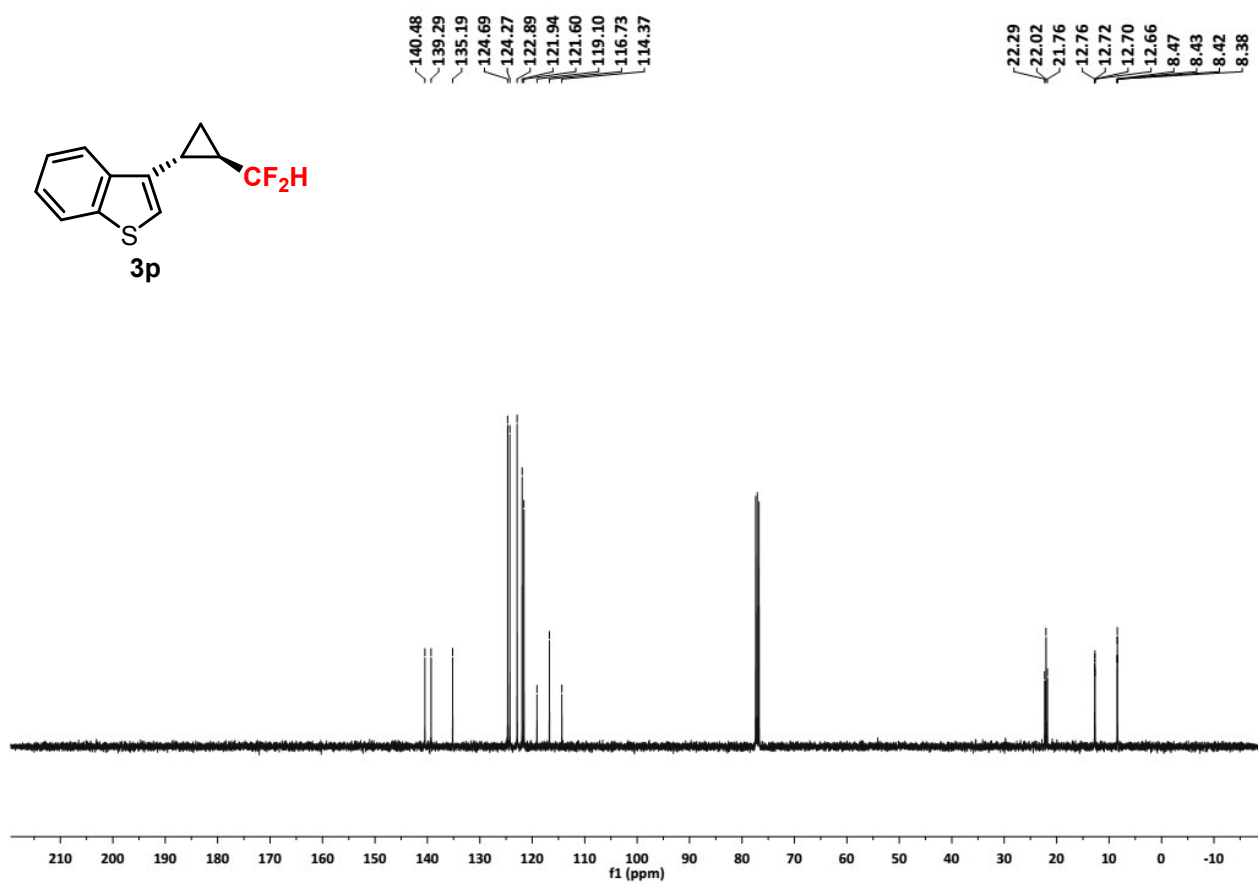
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



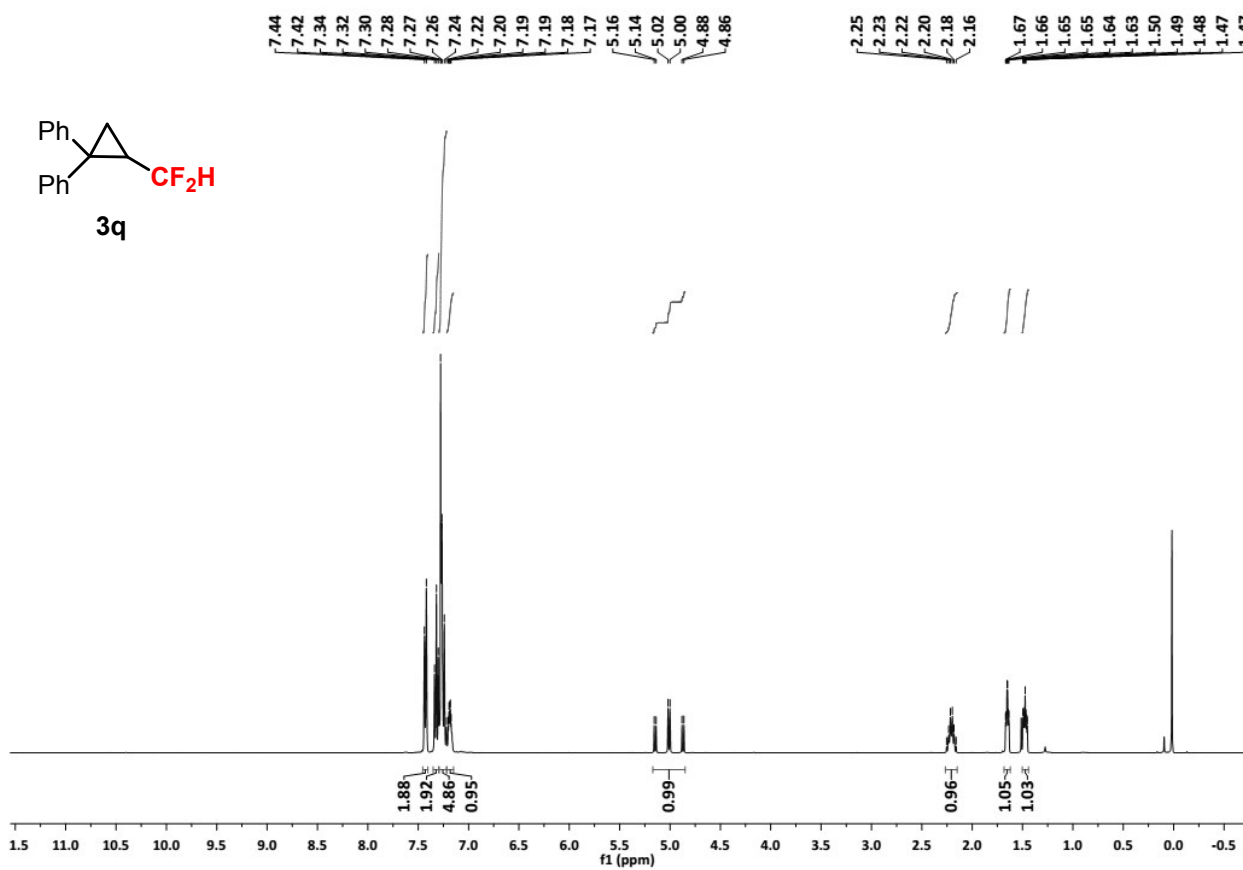
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



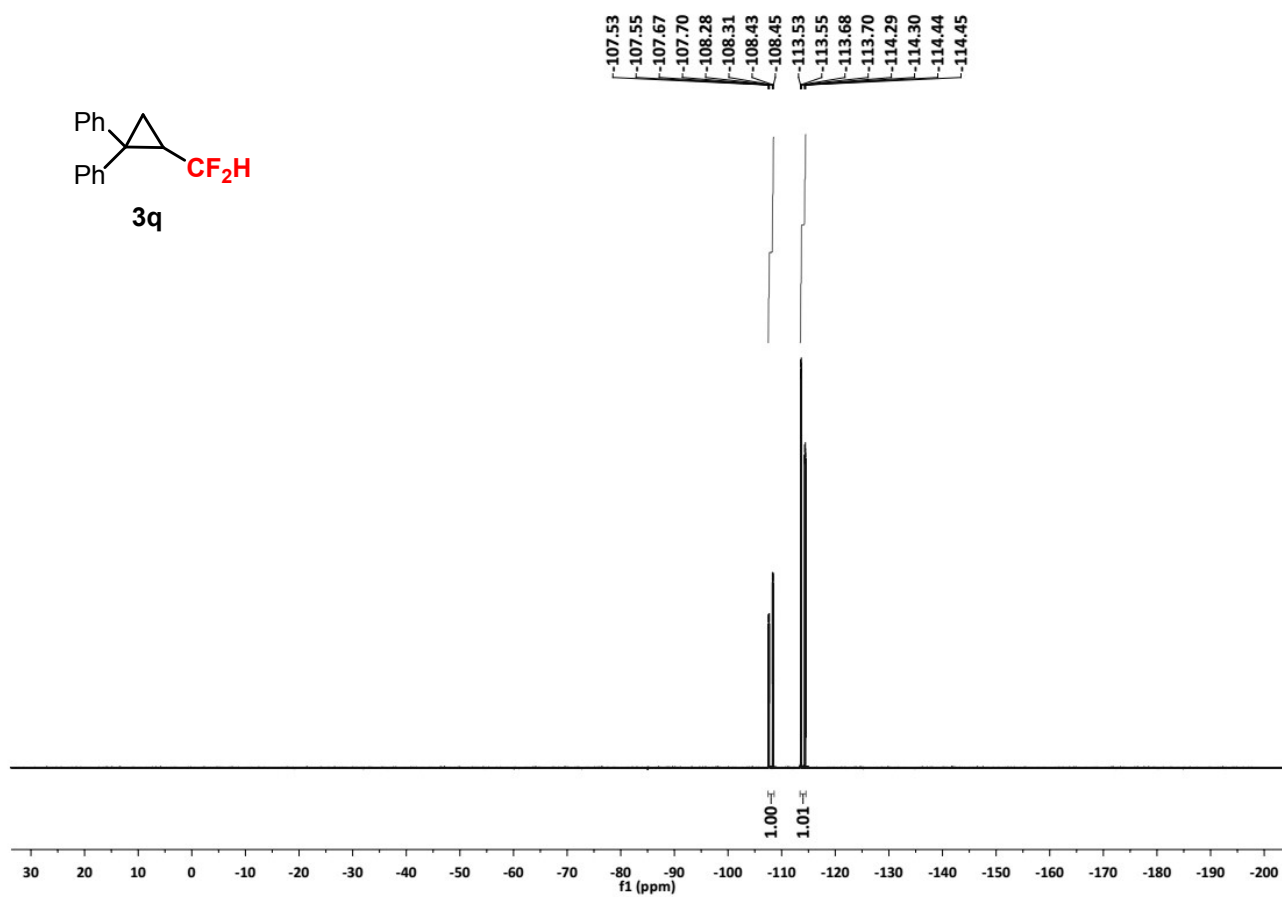
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



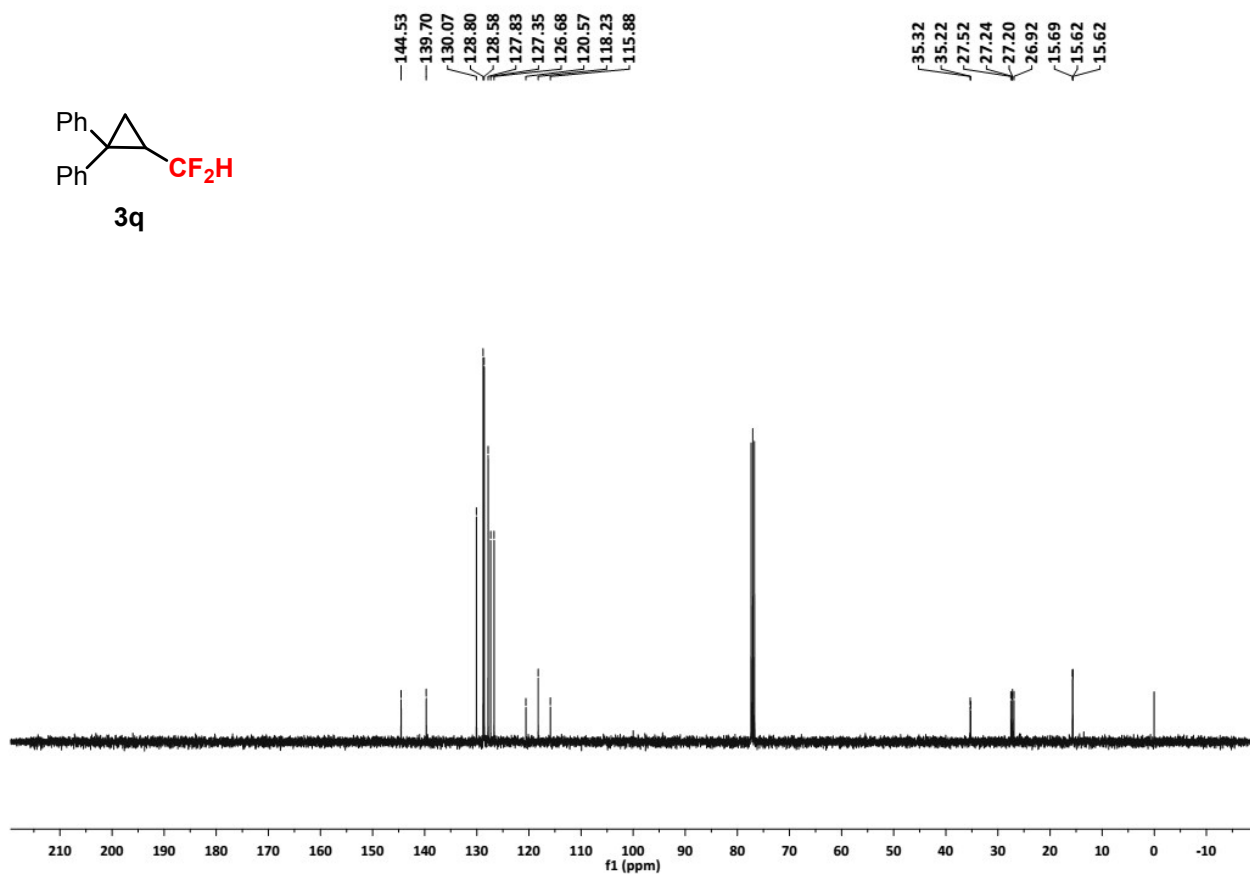
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



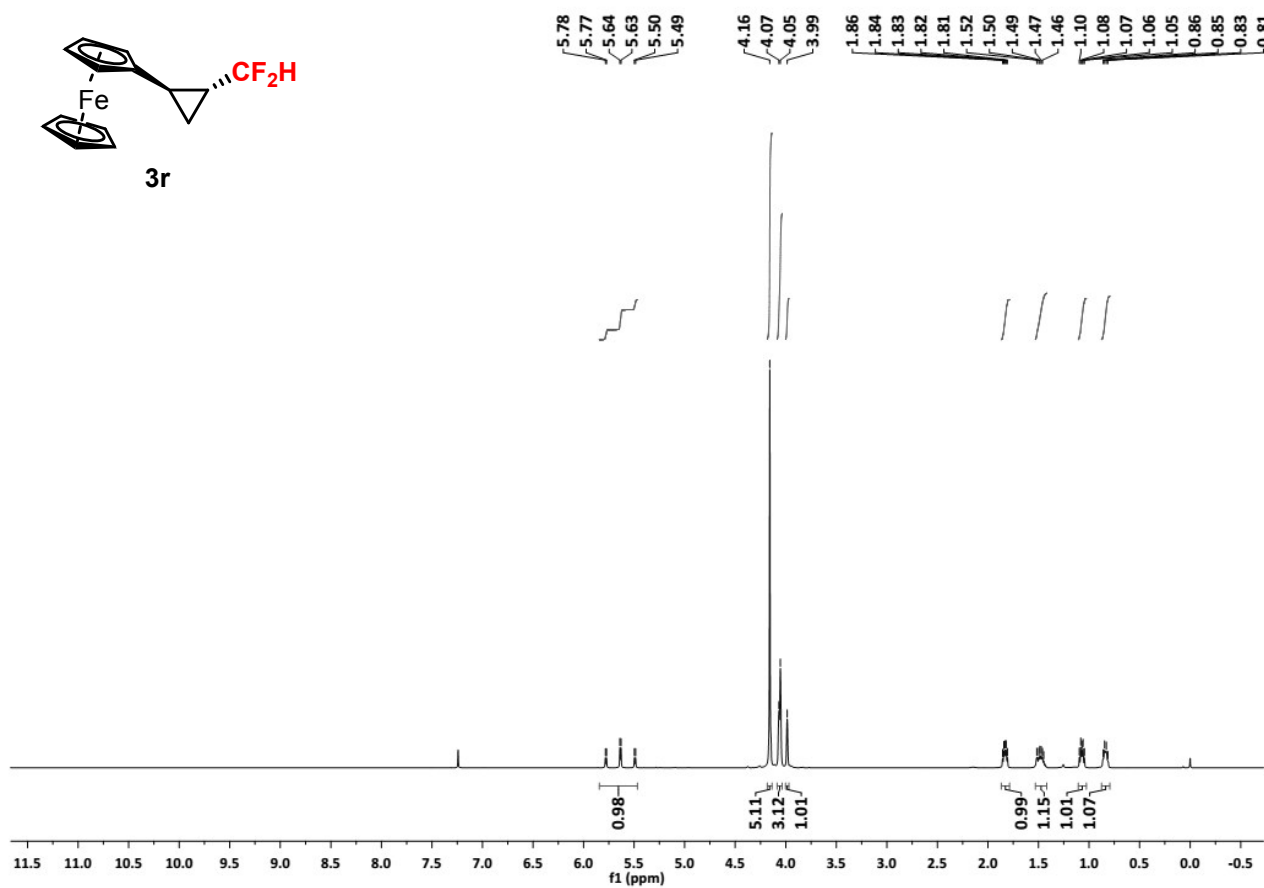
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



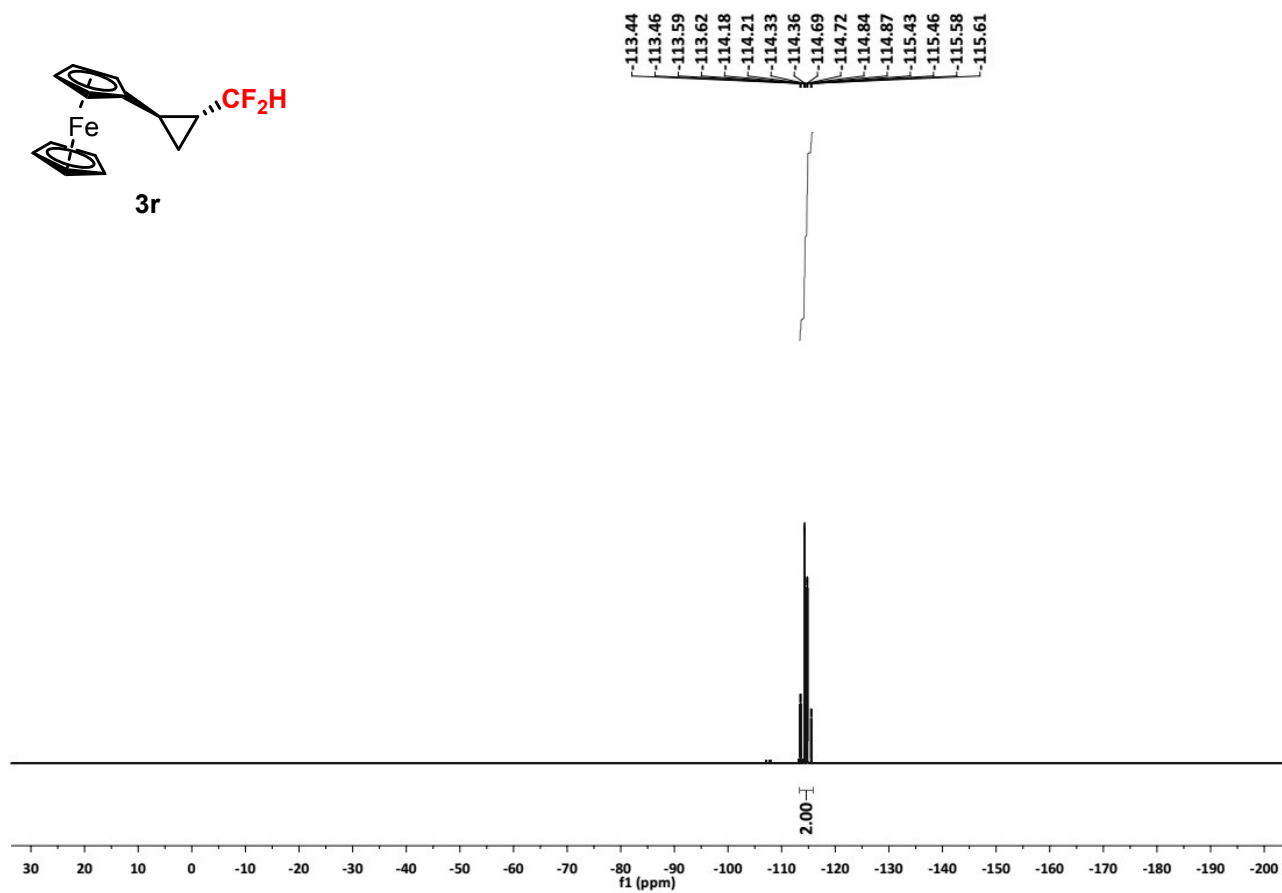
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



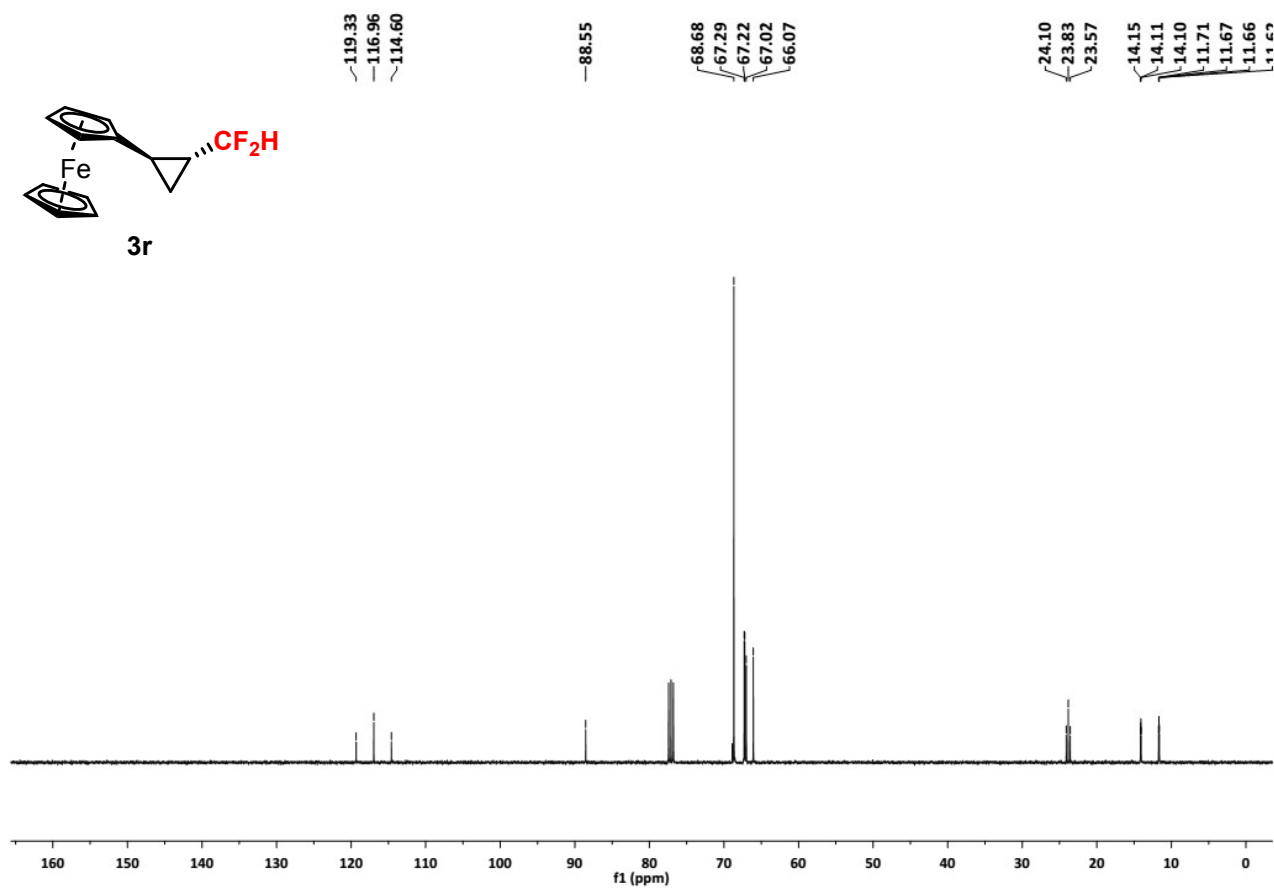
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



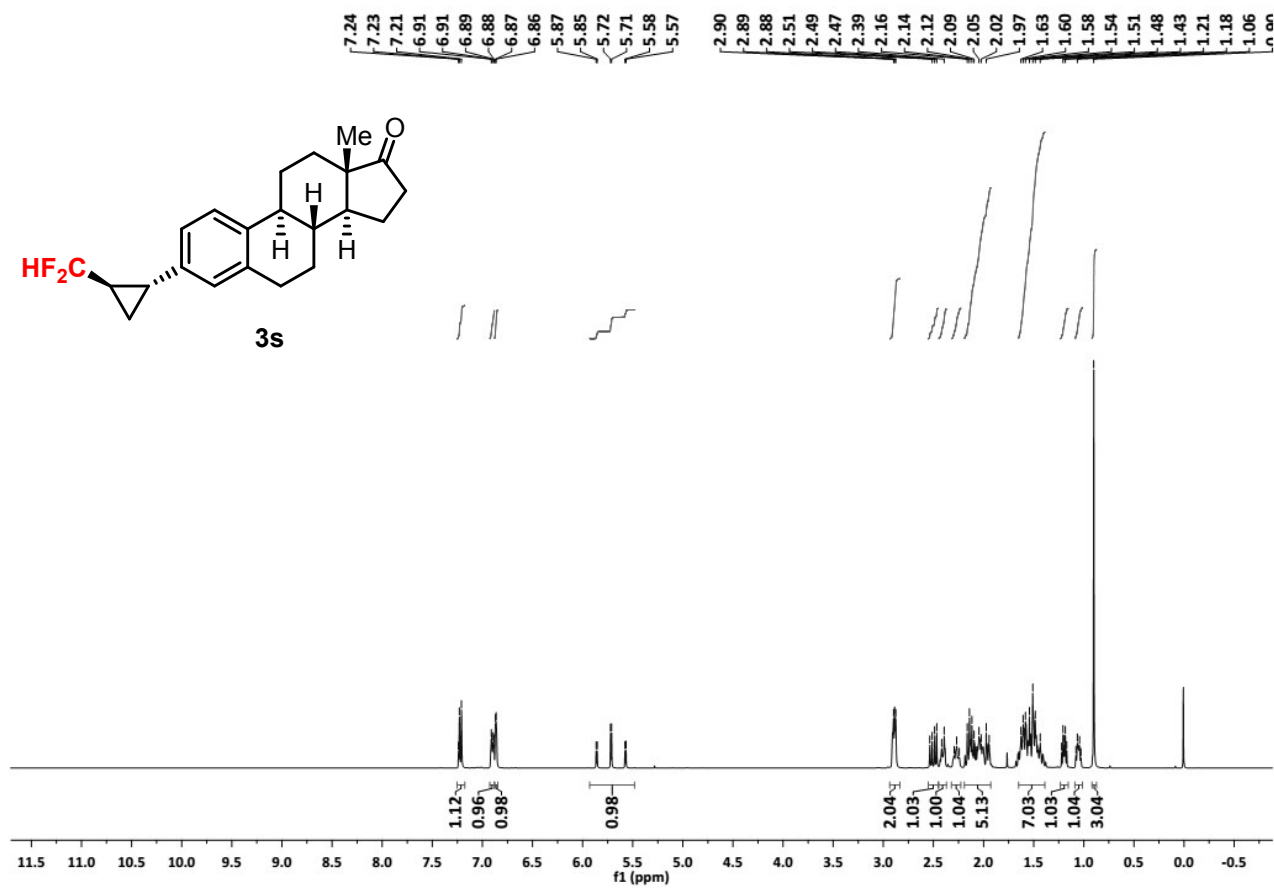
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



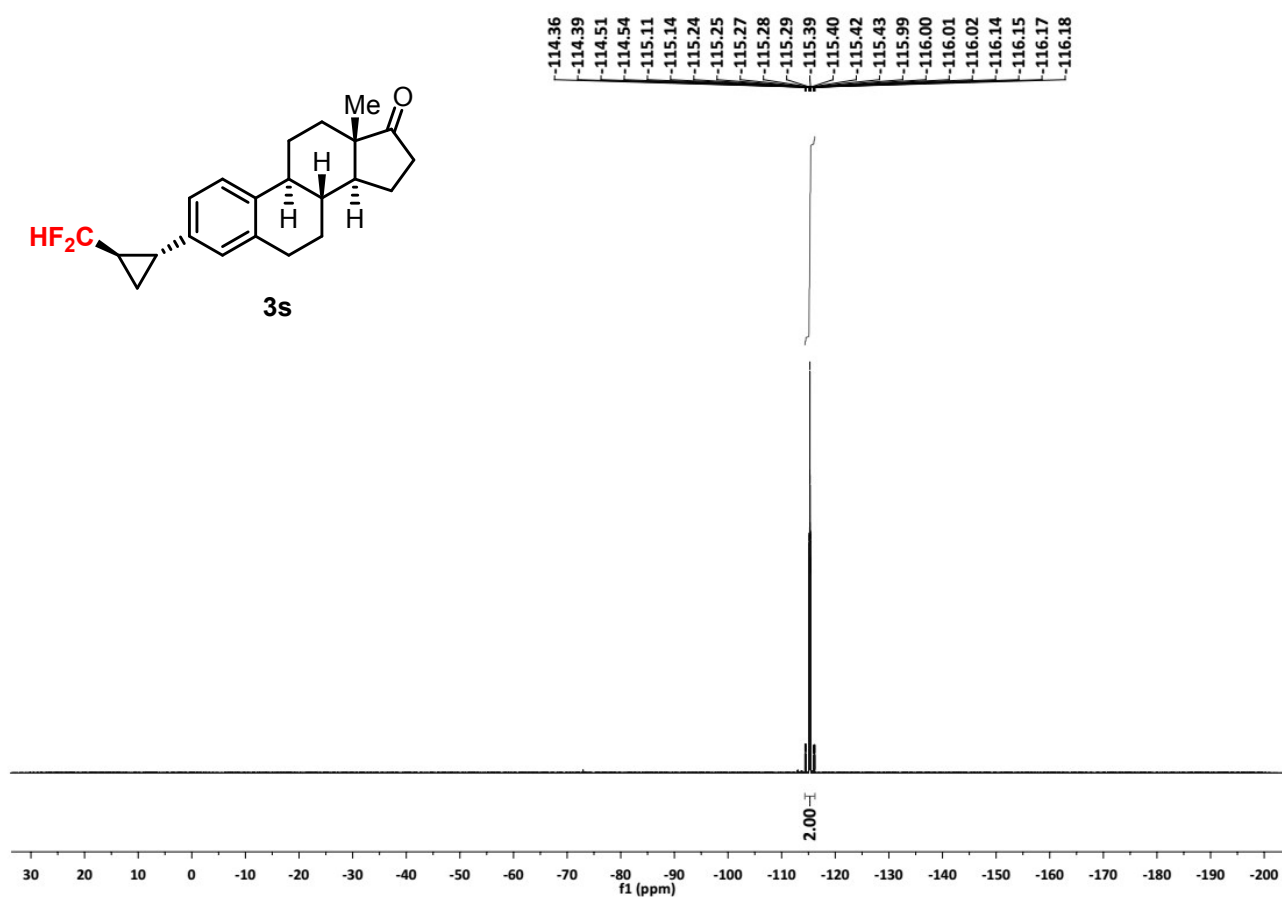
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



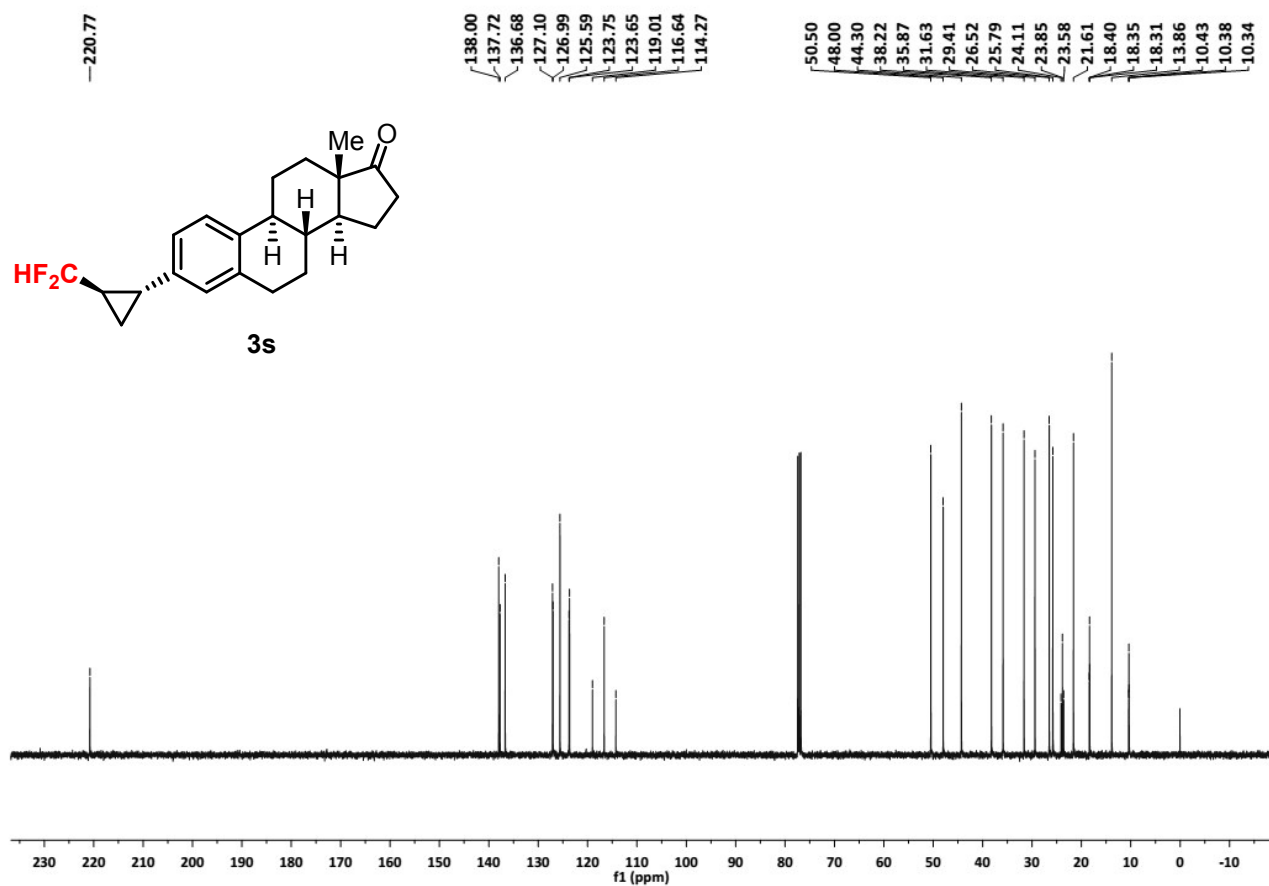
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



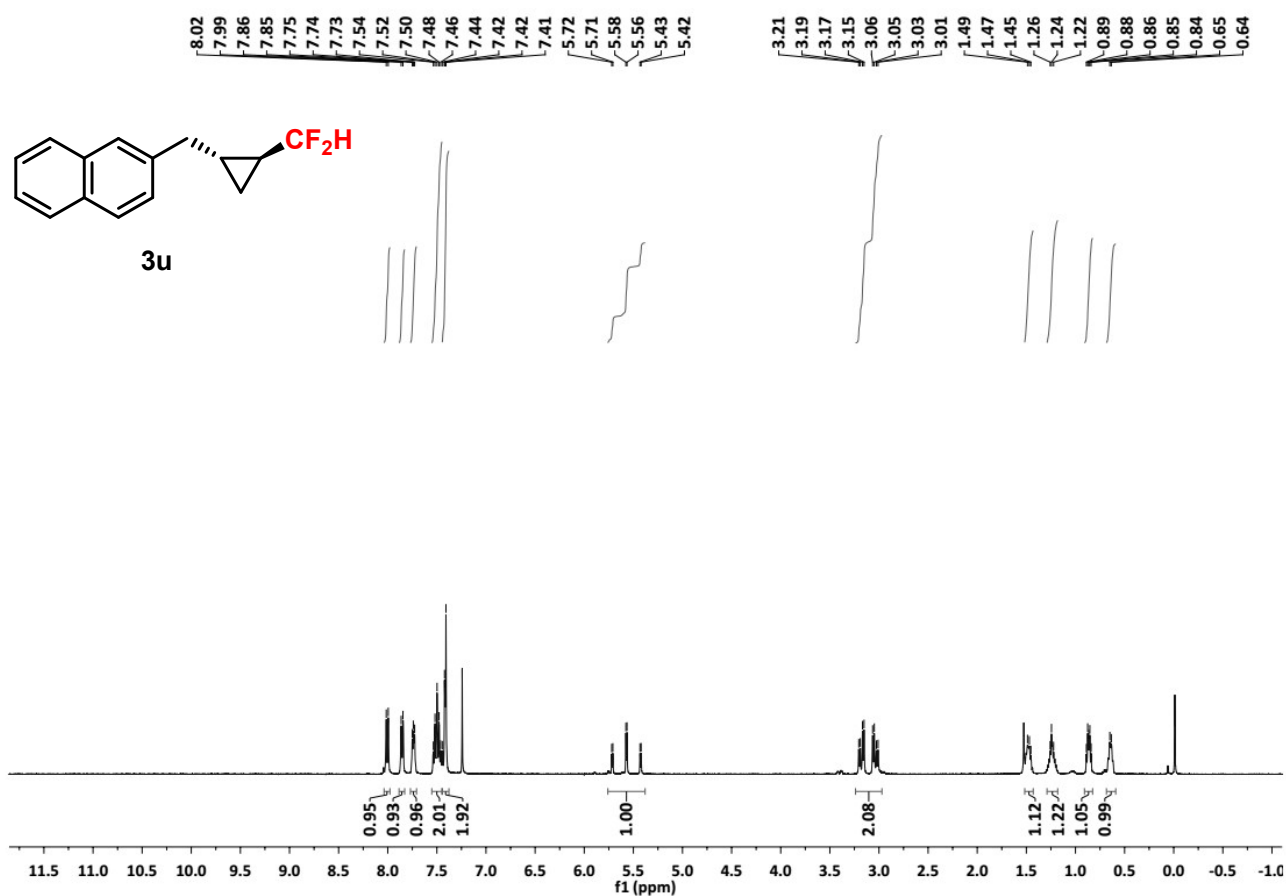
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



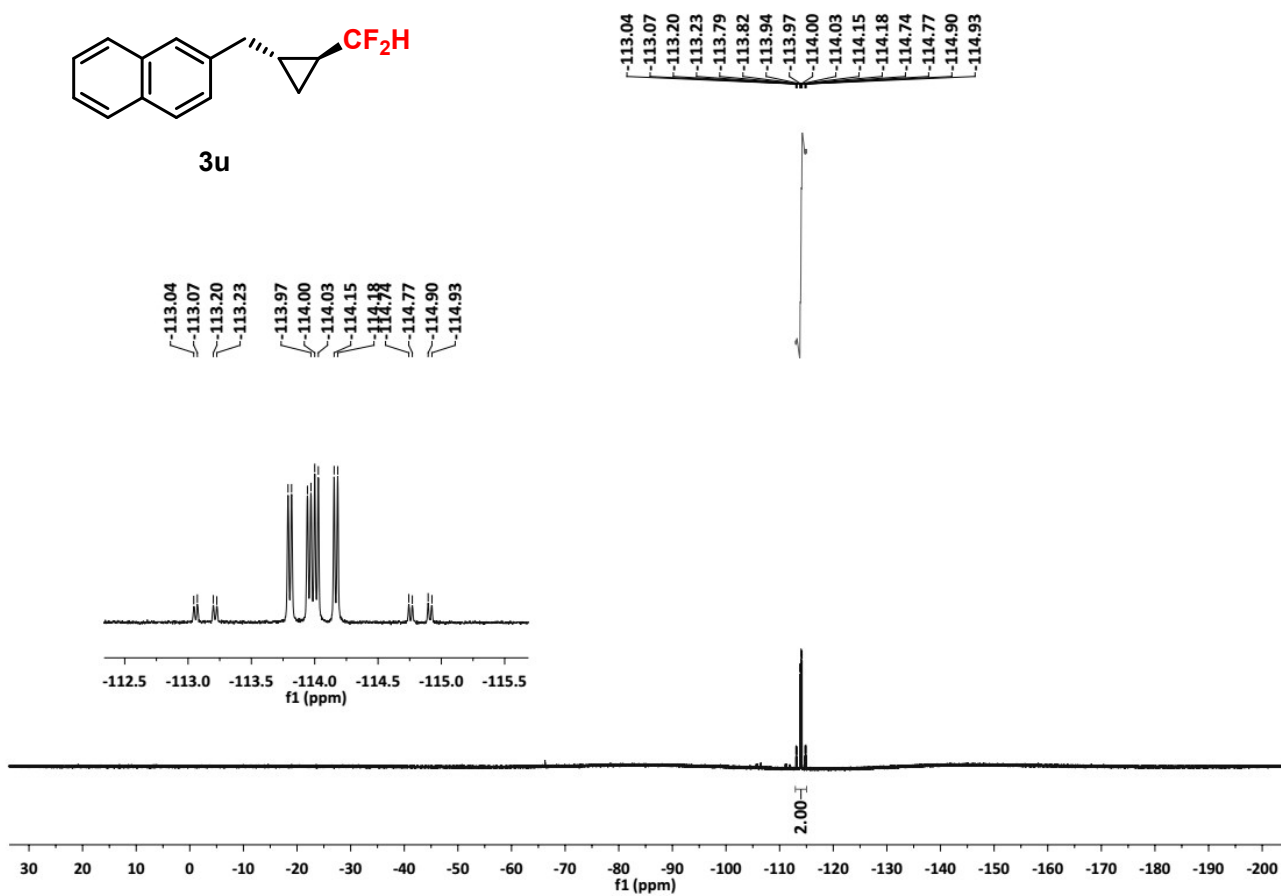
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



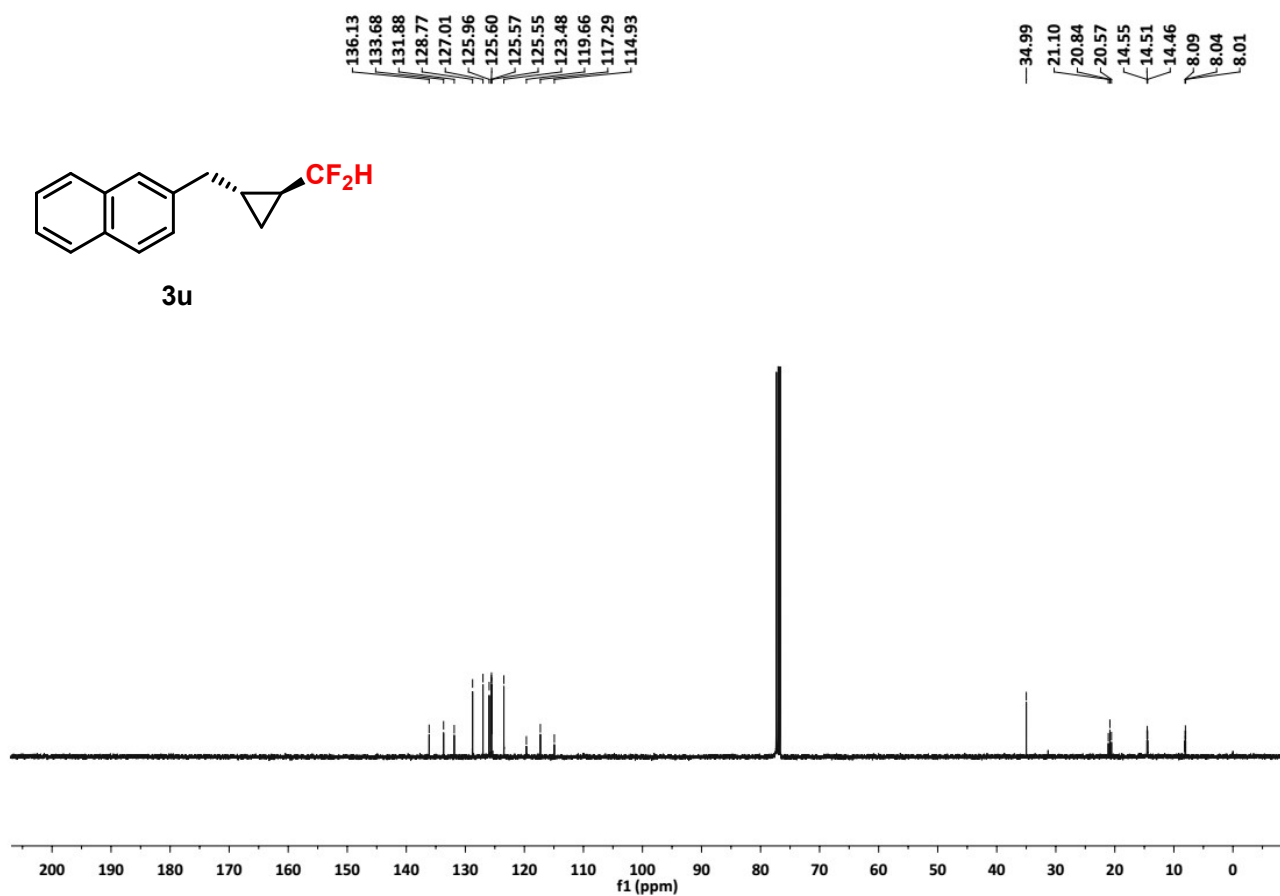
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:



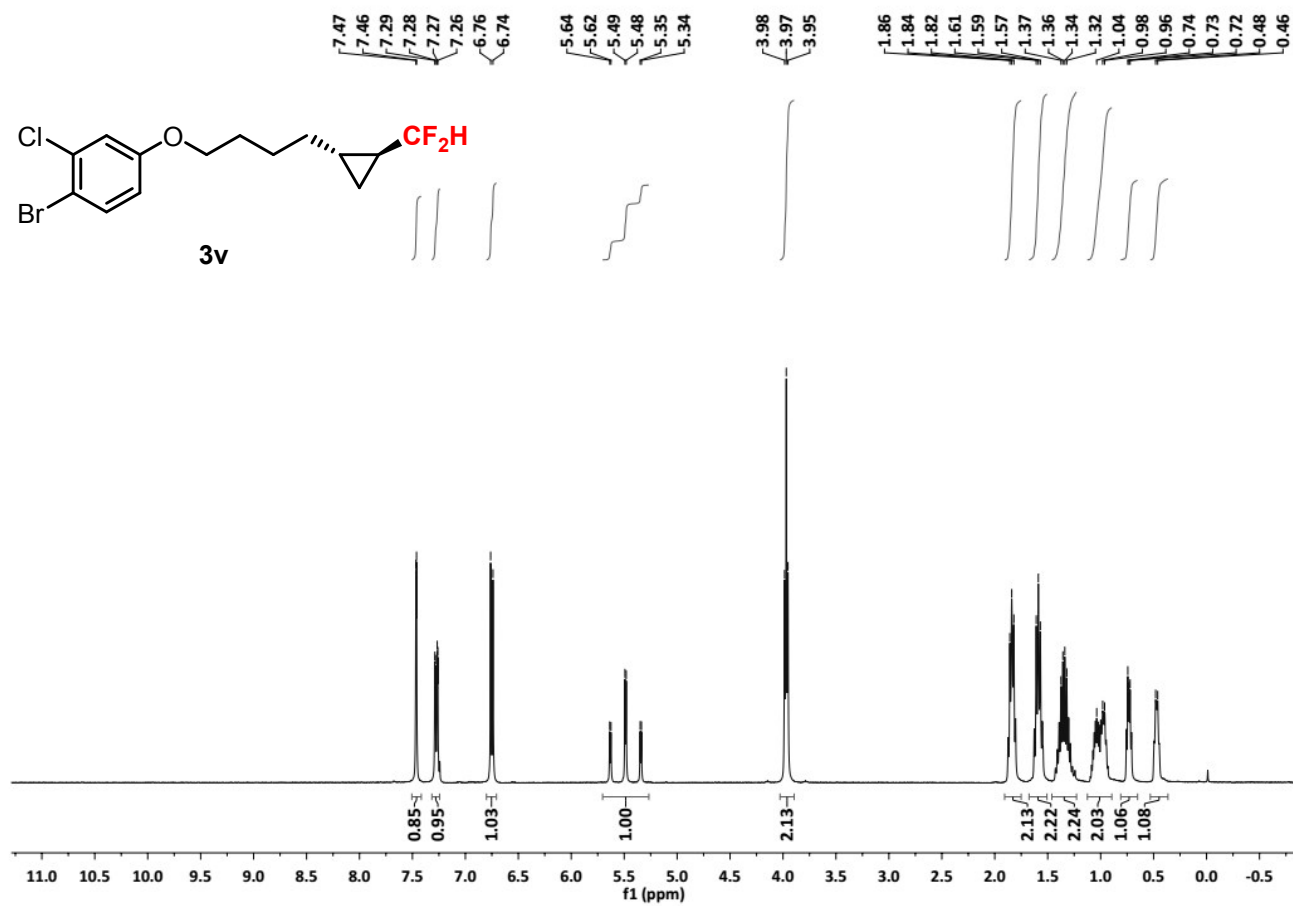
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



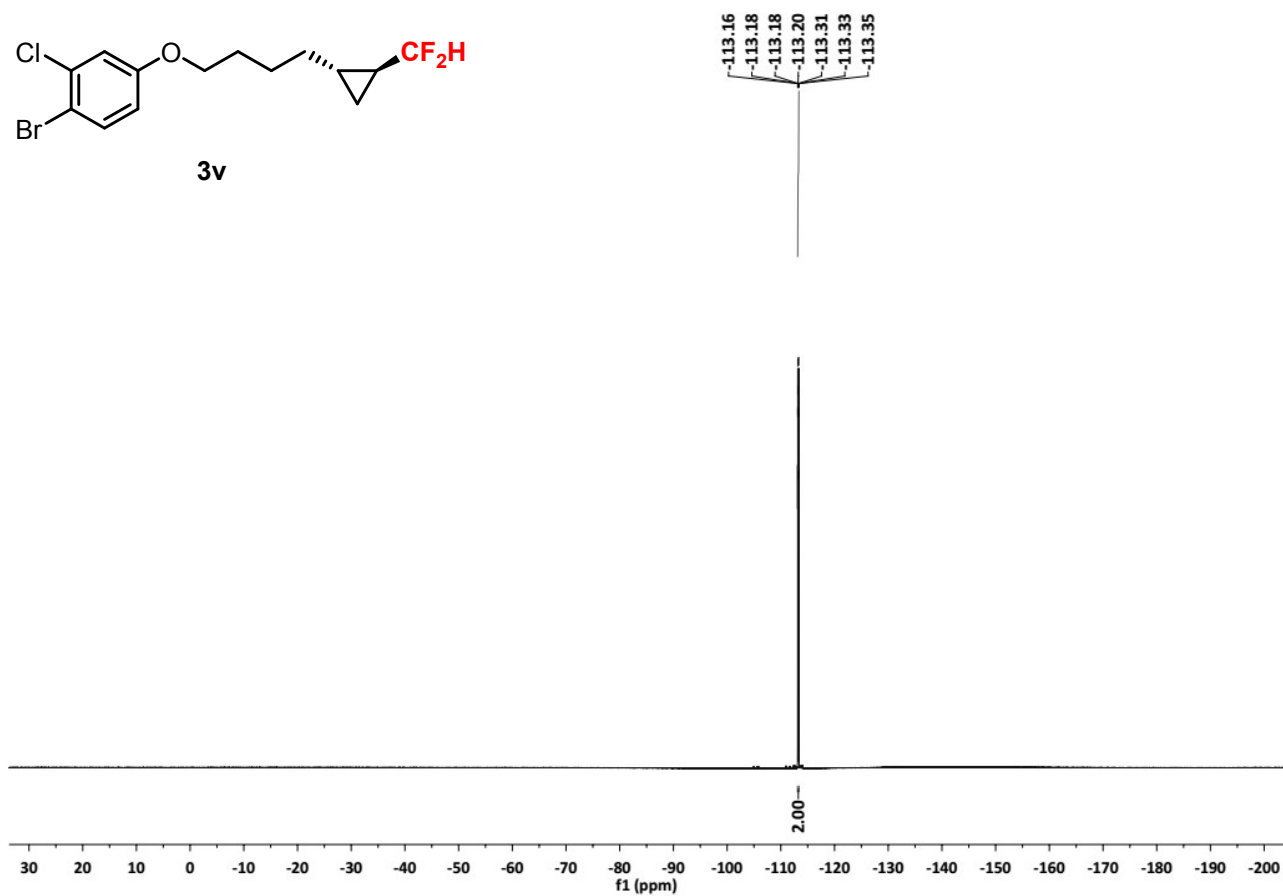
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



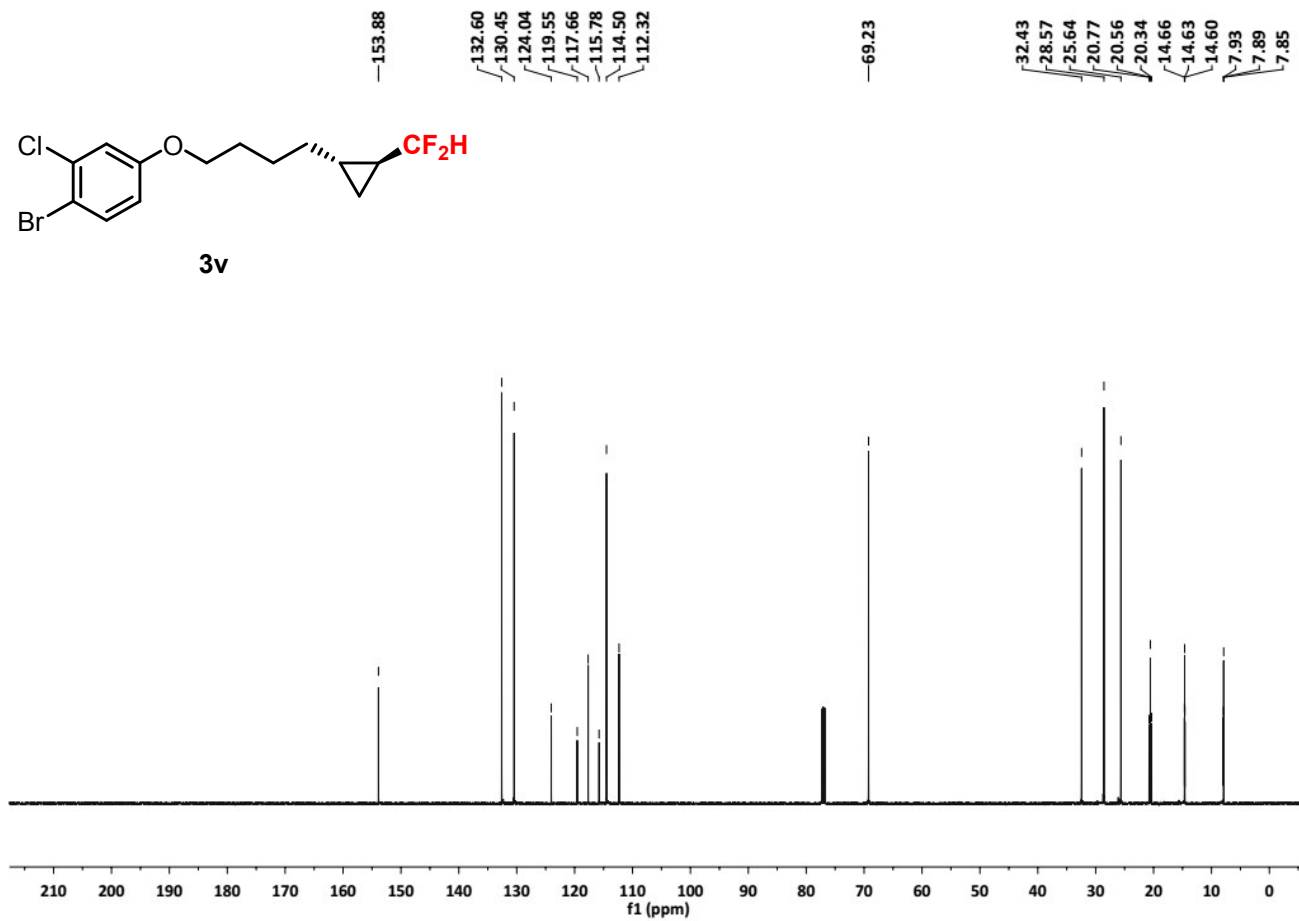
$^1\text{H}$  NMR:

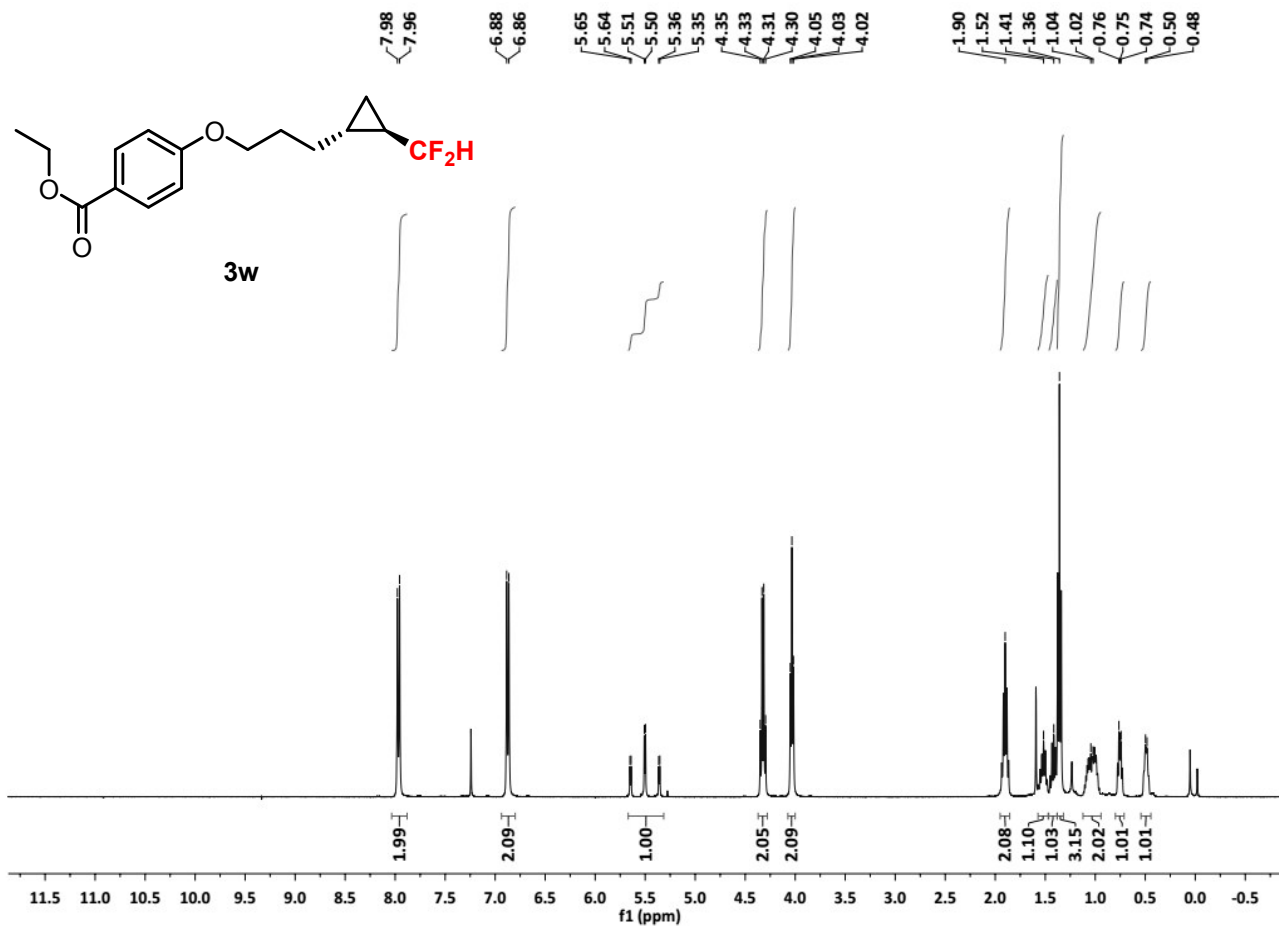
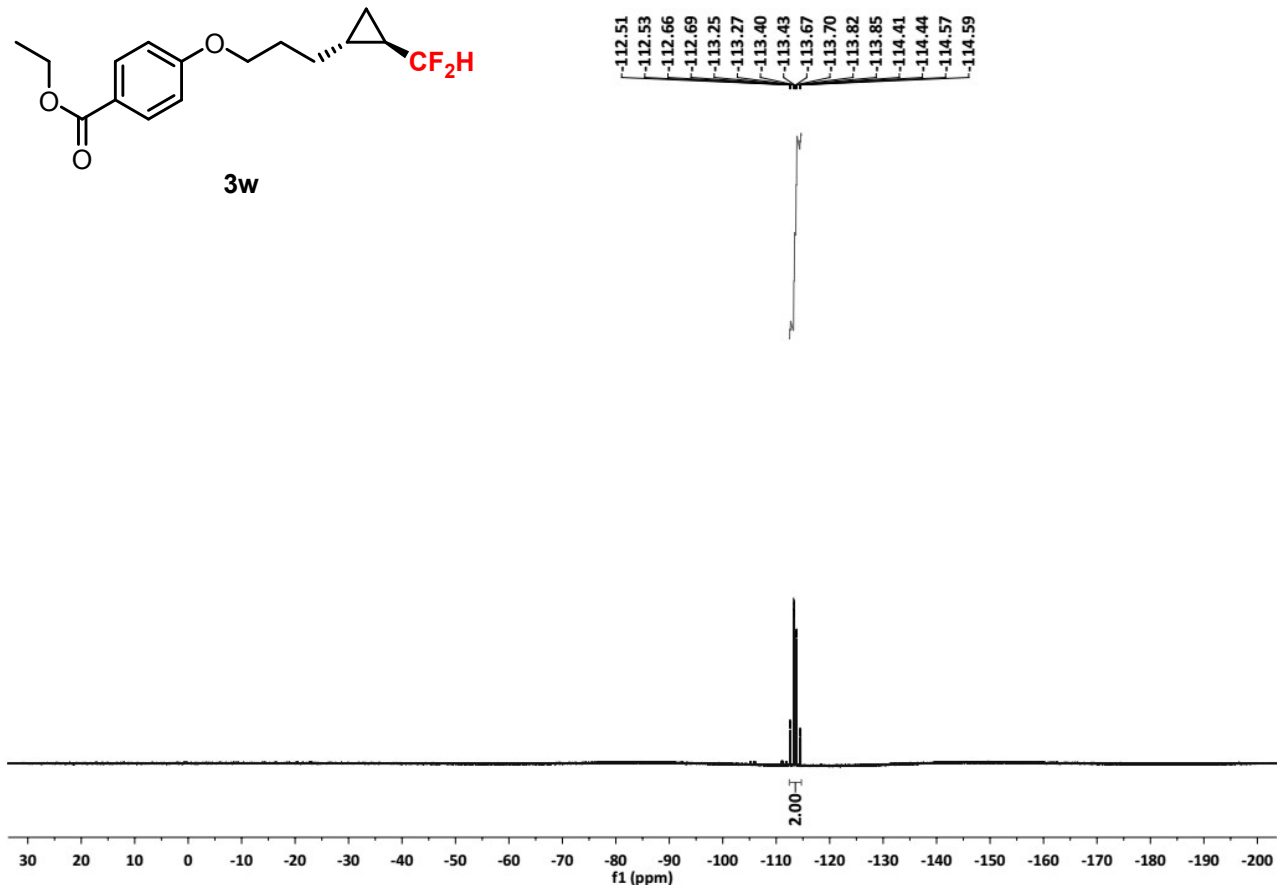


$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR:



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR:<sup>19</sup>F NMR:

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:

