

Supporting Information

Regioselective addition of C(sp³)–H bonds of alkyl pyridines to olefins catalysed by cationic zirconium complexes

Qiu Sun,^{a,b} Peipei Xie,^c Dan Yuan,^{a,*} Yuanzhi Xia,^{c,*} and Yingming Yao^a

^aKey Laboratory of Organic Synthesis of Jiangsu Province, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Dushu Lake Campus, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, People's Republic of China

^bCollege of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, 225002, People's Republic of China.

^cCollege of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Wenzhou University, Wenzhou 325035, People's Republic of China.

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: yuandan@suda.edu.cn (D. Y.); xyz@wzu.edu.cn.

Table of contents

General considerations.....	S2
Synthesis and characterization of complex 1.....	S3
General procedure for alkylation reactions.....	S4
Characterizations of alkylation products.....	S5
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra.....	S10
Crystallographic data for complex 1.....	S25
DFT data.....	S27
Kinetic isotope effect study.....	S40

General considerations

All manipulations of air- and/or moisture-sensitive compounds were performed under nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk or glovebox techniques. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian XL 400 MHz spectrometer. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen analyses were performed by direct combustion with a Carlo-Erba EA-1110 instrument. X-ray crystallographic data were collected using a Bruker AXS D8 X-ray diffractometer. HR-MS data were recorded by Bruker ESI-TOF. Toluene and hexane were freshly distilled by refluxing over sodium/benzophenone ketyl and distilled prior to use. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Cl}$, C_6D_6 and $\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{Cl}$ were degassed and distilled over CaH_2 . $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}][\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]$ purchased from Strem Chemicals, Inc. was used without purification. ZrBn_4 , ligand precursors, and complexes **2** and **3** were prepared according to reported procedures.¹ Alkyl pyridines and alkenes were distilled over CaH_2 , flushed with argon and stored over molecular sieves (4 Å). Suitable single crystals of complex **1** were sealed in a thin-walled glass capillary for determination the single-crystal structures. Intensity data were collected with a Rigaku Mercury CCD area detector in ω scan mode using $\text{Mo-K}\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71070$ Å). The diffracted intensities were corrected for Lorentz/polarization effects and empirical absorption corrections.

Synthesis and characterization of complex **1**

To a solution of ZrBn_4 (1.37 g, 3 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added dropwise aniline-bridged bis(phenol) (1.59 g, 3 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) at room temperature over 15 min. After stirring for 2 hours, toluene was removed under reduced pressure and hexane (5 mL) was added to extract the residue. Complex **1** was obtained as colorless solid after the hexane solution was cooled to $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (2.16 g, 90%). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analyses were grown from hexane solution at room temperature. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6): δ 7.90 (m, 2H, Ar); 7.41 (m, 2H, Ar); 7.36 (m, 2H, Ar); 7.22 (m, 1H, Ar); 6.93 (m, 2H, Ar); 6.79 (m, 2H, Ar); 6.74 (m, 4H, Ar); 6.66 (m, 2H, Ar); 6.58 (m, 1H, Ar); 6.41 (m, 2H, Ar); 3.84 (br d, $J = 13.52\text{ Hz}$, 2H, ArCH_2); 3.87 (br d, $J = 13.52\text{ Hz}$, 2H, ArCH_2); 3.30 (s, 2H, PhCH_2); 1.91 (s, 2H, PhCH_2); 1.77 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$); 1.23 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6): 157.0, 149.3, 142.7, 140.3, 135.0, 134.6, 130.7, 130.2, 128.0, 127.9, 126.6, 125.3, 124.5, 124.3, 123.2, 122.0, 120.9 (Ar-C), 64.0 (ArCH_2N), 59.8 (PhCH_2), 59.6 (PhCH_2), 34.4 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 33.4 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 30.9 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 29.5 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{63}\text{NO}_2\text{Zr}$: C, 74.90; H, 7.95; N, 1.74. Found: C, 74.95; H, 7.93; N, 1.75.

General procedure for alkylation reactions

In a glovebox filled with nitrogen, PhCl solution (1 mL) of $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}][\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]$ (92 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added to PhCl solution (1 mL) of **1** (80 mg, 0.01 mmol). A color change from orange to colorless was observed immediately. After 5 min, **4** (1 mmol) and **5** (4 mmol) were added to the mixture. The resulting solution was heated at 100 °C for desired time. After reaction, solvent was removed, and the product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether, silica gel, 0.5% NEt_3) and obtained as viscous colorless oil.

Characterizations of alkylation products

2-methyl-6-(2-phenylpropyl)pyridine (6a). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.37-7.35 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.92 (d, 1H, $J = 6.92$ Hz, Ar-H), 6.71 (d, 2H, $J = 6.71$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.31-3.22 (m, 1H, CH), 3.08-2.94 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.53 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.27 (d, 2H, $J = 6.92$ Hz, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 160.0, 157.7, 146.8, 136.2, 128.3, 127.1, 126.0, 120.5, 119.4, 47.1, 40.5, 24.6, 21.6. HR MS (ESI $^+$): Found 212.1432 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}^+$: 212.1439.

2-methyl-6-(3-phenylpropyl)pyridine (6a'). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.52-7.49 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 2.83 (t, 2H, $J = 7.76$ Hz, CH_2), 2.72 (t, 2H, $J = 7.68$ Hz, CH_2), 2.56 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.07 (m, 2H, CH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 160.9, 157.3, 141.8, 136.0, 128.0, 127.8, 125.2, 120.0, 119.4, 37.6, 35.2, 31.3, 24.0. HR MS (ESI $^+$): Found 212.1433 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}^+$: 212.1439.

2-methyl-6-(2-(p-tolyl)propyl)pyridine (6b). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 4H, Ar-H), 6.91 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 6.71 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.25-3.16 (m, 1H, CH), 3.01-2.89 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.52 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.22 (d, 2H, $J = 6.90$ Hz, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 160.1, 157.7, 143.8, 136.2, 135.4, 129.0, 126.9, 120.5, 47.1, 40.7, 24.6, 21.7, 21.0. HR MS (ESI $^+$): Found 226.1599 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}^+$: 226.1596.

2-(2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)propyl)-6-methylpyridine (6c). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 2H, Ar-H).

6.92 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 6.75 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.24-3.15 (m, 1H, CH), 3.07-2.87 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.52 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.28 (s, 3H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.21 (d, 2H, $J = 6.90$ Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 160.2, 157.6, 148.7, 136.2, 128.1, 126.6, 125.1, 120.5, 47.1, 39.8, 34.3, 31.4, 24.6, 21.3. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 268.2066 [M+H]⁺, calcd. for C₁₉H₂₆N⁺: 268.2065.

2-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl)-6-methylpyridine (6e). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.13-7.07 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.93-6.88 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.65 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.27-3.18 (m, 1H, CH), 2.98-2.89 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.50 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.21 (d, 2H, $J = 6.92$ Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 159.6, 157.7, 142.3, 136.2, 128.3, 120.6, 120.4, 115.0, 114.8, 47.2, 39.7, 24.6, 21.7. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 230.1344 [M+H]⁺, calcd. for C₁₅H₁₇FN⁺: 230.1345.

2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)propyl)-6-methylpyridine (6f). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 6.90 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 6.65 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.27-3.18 (m, 1H, CH), 2.99-2.90 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.23 (d, 2H, $J = 6.92$ Hz, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 159.5, 157.8, 145.2, 136.2, 128.5, 128.3, 120.7, 120.5, 46.9, 39.9, 24.5, 21.6. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 246.1055 [M+H]⁺, calcd. for C₁₅H₁₇ClN⁺: 246.1050.

2-methyl-6-(2-(m-tolyl)propyl)pyridine (6g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.01-6.97 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 6.94-6.92 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.74 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.08-3.02 (m, 1H, CH₂), 2.96-2.91 (m, 1H, CH₂), 2.54 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.07-1.99 (m, 2H, CH).

1.24 (d, 3H, $J = 6.92\text{Hz}$, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 159.6, 157.2, 146.4, 137.2, 135.7, 127.6, 127.4, 126.2, 123.6, 120.0, 46.6, 39.8, 24.1, 21.0.

2-methyl-6-(2-(*m*-tolyl)propyl)pyridine (6h). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.38 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$, Ar-*H*), 7.18-7.12 (m, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.95-6.92 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.71 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$, Ar-*H*), 3.02-2.91 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.53 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.09-1.99 (m, 2H, *CH*). 1.25 (d, 3H, $J = 6.92\text{Hz}$, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 160.5, 158.9, 157.3, 148.4, 135.8, 129.0, 126.8, 125.7, 124.9, 120.2, 49.3, 39.7, 24.0, 20.9.

2-(2-(3-fluorophenyl)propyl)-6-methylpyridine (6i). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.8 (t, 1H, $J = 7.7\text{ Hz}$, Ar-*H*), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.16-7.11 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.06-7.02 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.97-6.92 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 6.79-6.77 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$, Ar-*H*), 3.13-2.97 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.52 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.07-1.99 (m, 1H, CH_3), 1.27 (d, 2H, $J = 6.92\text{Hz}$, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 158.2, 157.2, 136.1, 135.8, 127.9, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 123.5, 120.1, 120.0, 119.7, 119.0, 114.9, 114.7, 44.8, 37.6, 33.5, 24.0, 19.8.

2-methyl-6-(2-methyloctyl)pyridine (6j). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H, Ar-*H*), δ 6.92-6.86 (m, 2H, Ar-*H*), 2.75-2.70 (m, 1H, *CH*), 2.52-2.46 (m, 4H, alkyl-*H*), 1.93-1.86 (m, 1H, *CH*), 1.29-1.13 (m, 14H, alkyl-*H*), 0.86-0.82 (m, 6H, alkyl-*H*). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.0, 157.6, 136.1, 120.4, 120.3, 46.2, 36.8, 33.9, 31.9, 29.6, 26.9, 24.6, 22.7, 19.3, 14.1. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 206.1910 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}^+$: 206.1909.

2-methyl-6-(2-methylhexyl)pyridine (6k). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ

7.52-7.48 (m, 1H, Ar-H), δ 7.00-6.93 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 2.82-2.77 (m, 1H, CH), 2.59-2.53 (m, 4H, alkyl-H), 2.02-1.91 (m, 1H, CH), 1.40-1.18 (m, 6H, alkyl-H), 0.93-0.89 (m, 5H, alkyl-H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.5, 157.1, 135.6, 119.9, 119.8, 45.7, 36.0, 33.4, 28.7, 24.1, 22.4, 18.8, 13.6. HR MS (ESI+): Found 192.1751 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$: 192.1752.

2-(bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylmethyl)-6-methylpyridine (6l). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42-7.38 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.90-6.85 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 2.69-2.64 (m, 1H, CH), 2.53-2.47 (m, 4H, alkyl-H), 2.17 (s, 1H, CH), 1.95 (s, 1H, CH), 1.90-1.82 (m, 1H, CH), 1.90-1.82 (m, 1H, CH), 1.46-1.21 (m, 6H, alkyl-H), 1.13-1.04 (m, 4H, alkyl-H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.8, 157.6, 136.2, 120.3, 120.0, 45.2, 42.4, 40.7, 37.7, 36.8, 35.3, 29.9, 28.8, 24.6. HR MS (ESI+): Found 202.1596 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}^+$: 202.1596.

2,6-bis(bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-ylmethyl)pyridine (6m). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.89 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz Ar-H), 2.72-2.67 (m, 2H, CH), 2.58-2.53 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.19 (s, 2H, CH), 1.97 (s, 2H, CH), 1.93-1.86 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.46-1.32 (m, 9H, alkyl-H), 1.16-1.07 (m, 7H, alkyl-H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.4, 135.6, 119.8, 44.6, 42.0, 40.2, 40.1, 37.2, 36.4, 34.8, 29.5, 28.4. HR MS (ESI+): Found 296.2377 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}^+$: 296.2378.

2-((3a,4,5,6,7,7a-hexahydro-1H-4,7-methanoinden-6-yl)methyl)-6-methylpyridine (6n) +

2-((3a,4,5,6,7,7a-hexahydro-1H-4,7-methanoinden-5-yl)methyl)-6-methylpyridine (6n'). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.91-6.85 (m, 2H,

Ar-H), 5.61-5.58 (m, 1H, CH=CH), 5.47-5.46 (m, 1H, CH=CH), 3.03-2.93 (m, 1H, CH), 2.66-2.41 (m, 6H, alkyl-H), 2.19-1.84 (m, 5H, alkyl-H), 1.68-1.21 (m, 4H, alkyl-H), 0.97-0.85 (m, 1H, CH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.0, 157.6, 136.2, 132.4, 131.1, 130.6, 120.3, 119.9, 53.6, 52.3, 45.2, 44.8, 43.9, 42.4, 41.8, 41.4, 40.3, 38.3, 37.0, 34.0, 33.4, 32.3, 31.9, 29.9, 24.6. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 240.1751[M+H]⁺, calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$: 240.1752.

2-(cyclohex-2-en-1-ylmethyl)-6-methylpyridine (6o). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H, Ar-H), δ 6.95-6.89 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 5.69-5.53 (m, 2H CH=CH), 2.74-2.68 (m, 2H, CH), 2.52 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.11-1.94 (m, 3H, alkyl-H), 1.78-1.68 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.35-1.25 (m, 1H, CH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.3, 157.7, 136.1, 126.9, 126.3, 120.4, 45.3, 44.9, 34.4, 31.5, 28.5, 25.0, 25.6, 21.2. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 188.1436 [M+H]⁺, calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}^+$: 188.1439.

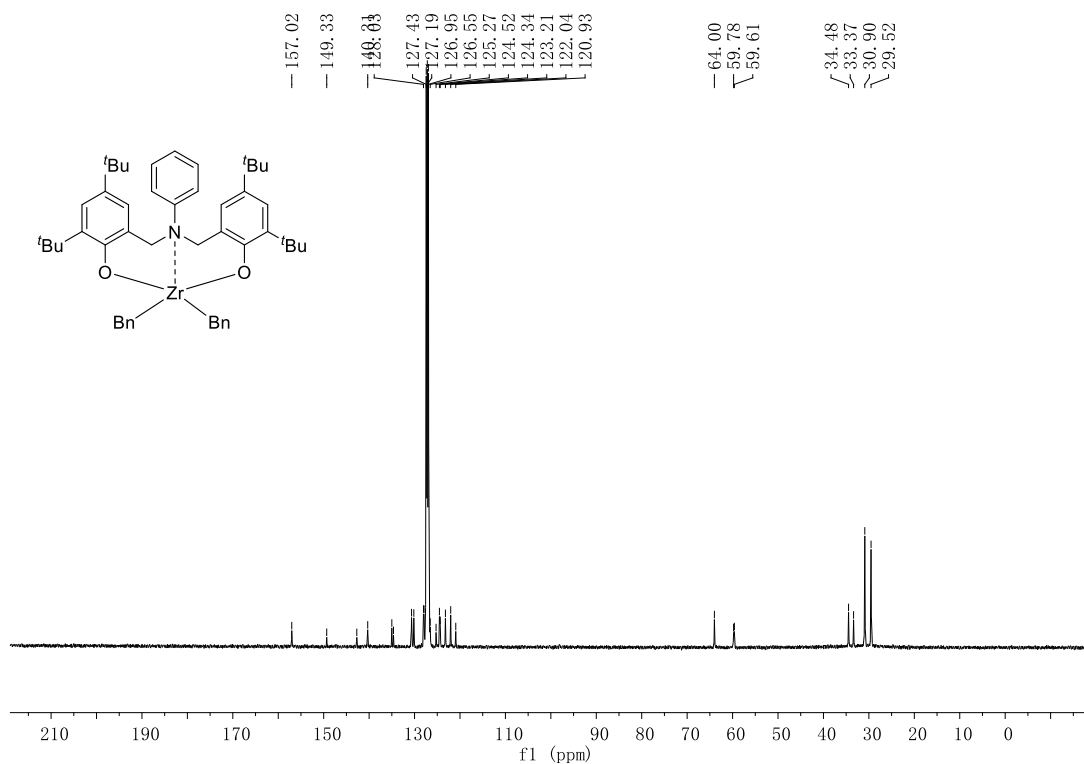
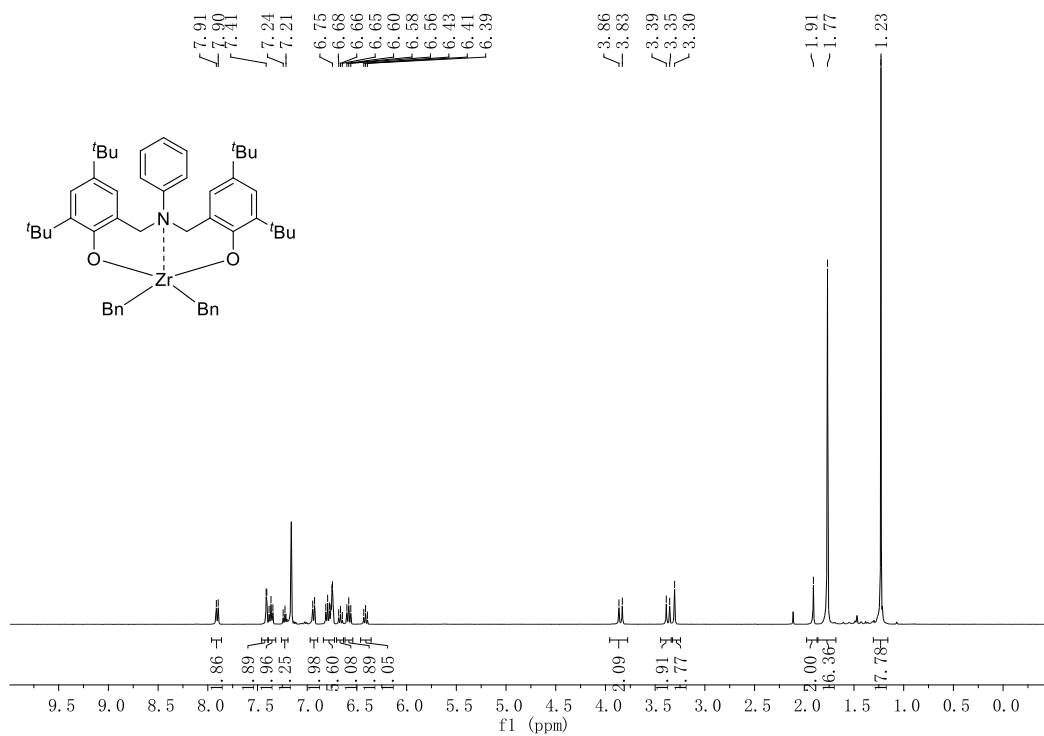
2,4-dimethyl-6-(2-methylhexyl)pyridine (7b). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73 (d, 2H, J = 19.8 Hz, Ar-H), 2.71-2.66 (m, 1H, CH), 2.47-2.41 (m, 4H, alkyl-H), 2.24 (s, 3H, CH_3), 1.93-1.85 (m, 1H, CH), 1.34-1.10 (m, 6H, alkyl-H), 0.86-0.81 (m, 6H, alkyl-H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.3, 156.8, 146.5, 120.9, 45.5, 36.1, 33.4, 28.8, 23.9, 22.5, 20.4, 18.8, 13.6. HR MS (ESI⁺): Found 206.1908 [M+H]⁺, calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}^+$: 206.1909.

2-(2-methylhexyl)quinoline (7c). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05-8.01 (m, 2H, Ar-H), 7.75 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz Ar-H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 3.00-2.95 (m, 1H, CH_2), 2.76-2.71 (m, 1H, CH_2), 2.09-2.02 (m, 1H, CH), 1.41-1.22 (m, 6H, alkyl-H), 0.90-0.84 (m, 6H, alkyl-H).

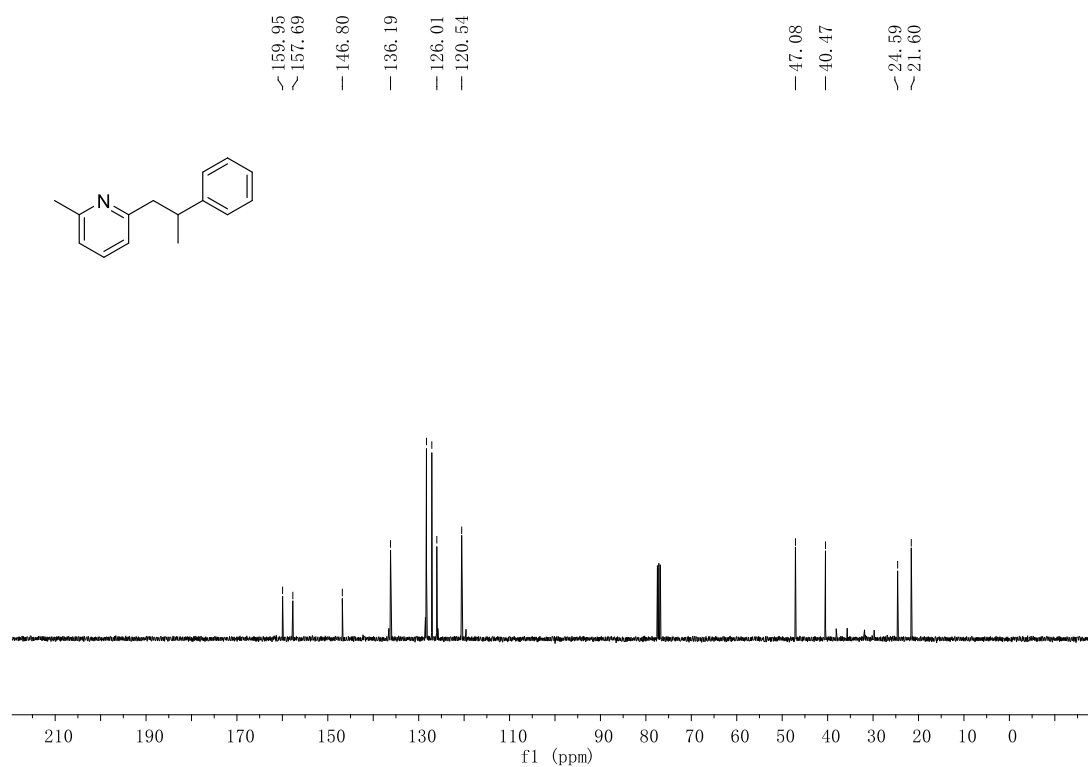
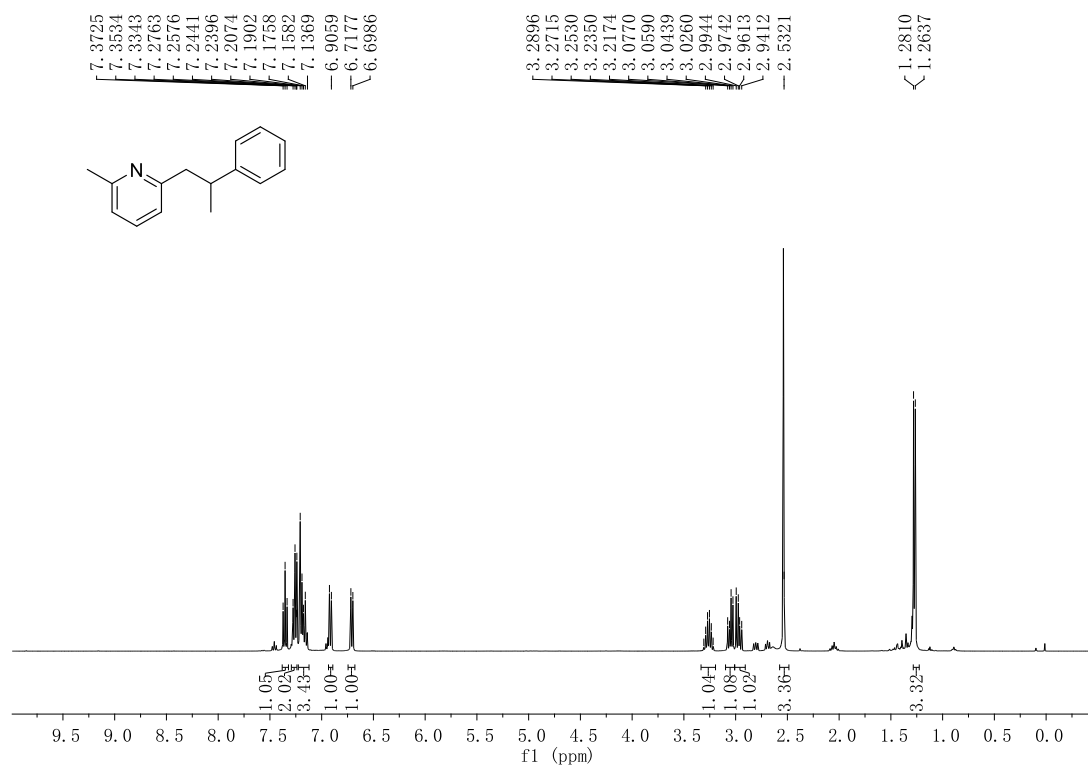
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.9, 147.5, 135.4, 128.8, 128.4, 127.0, 126.2, 125.1, 121.6, 46.4, 36.20, 33.6, 28.8, 22.4, 19.0, 13.6. HR MS (ESI+): Found 228.1755 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$: 228.1752.

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra. Minor set of signals in spectra of compounds 6b, c, e, and f correspond to linear alkylation products.

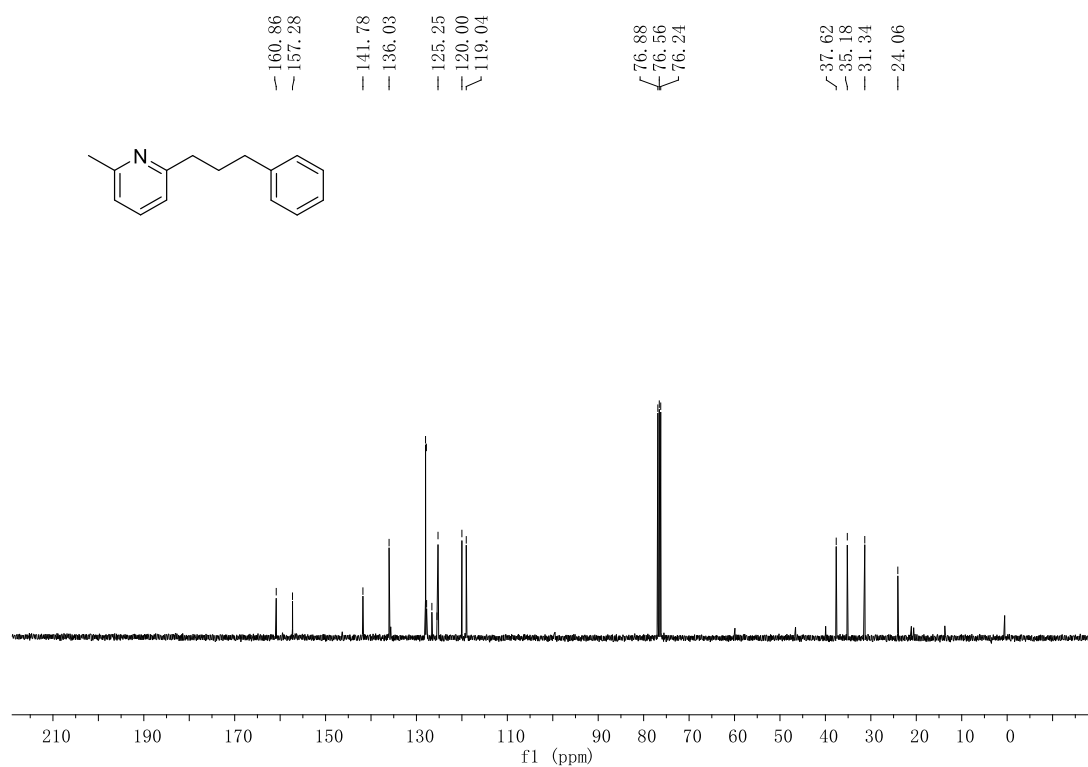
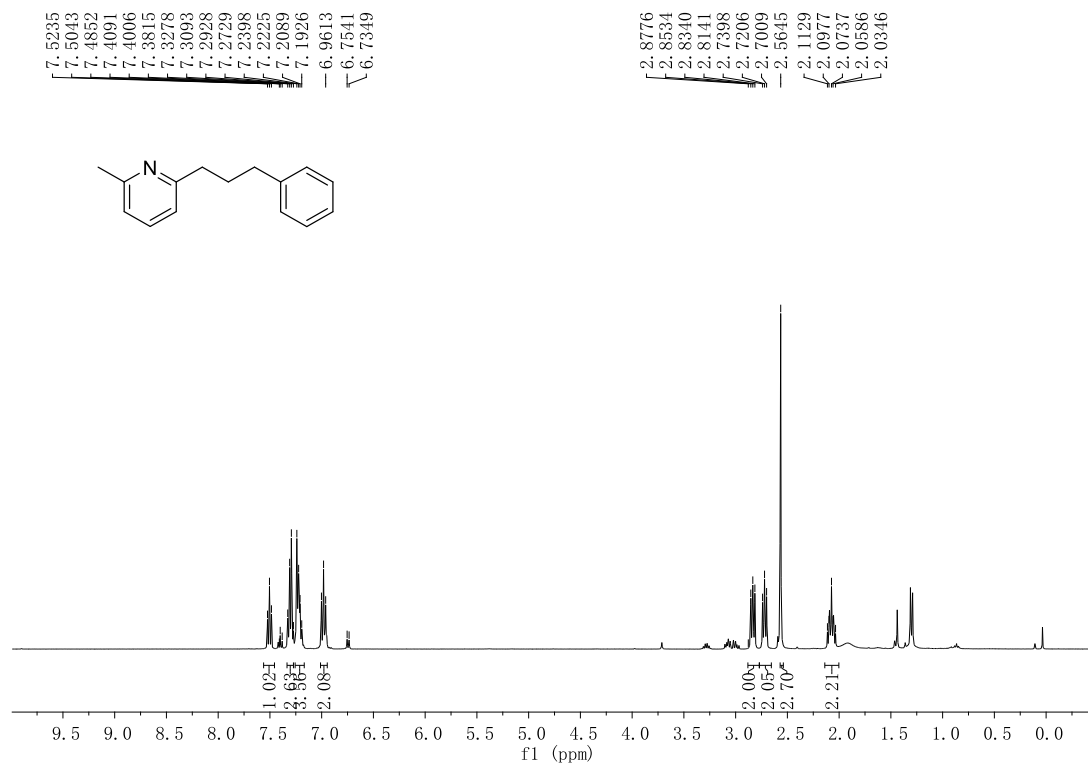
Complex 1



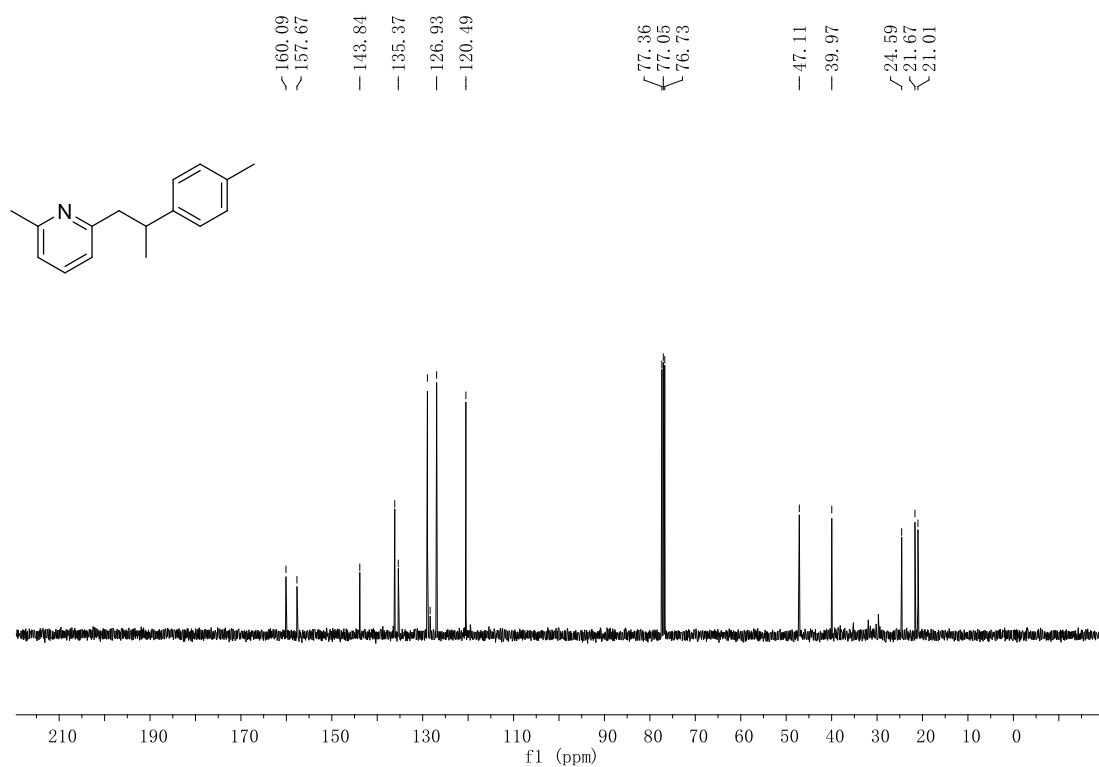
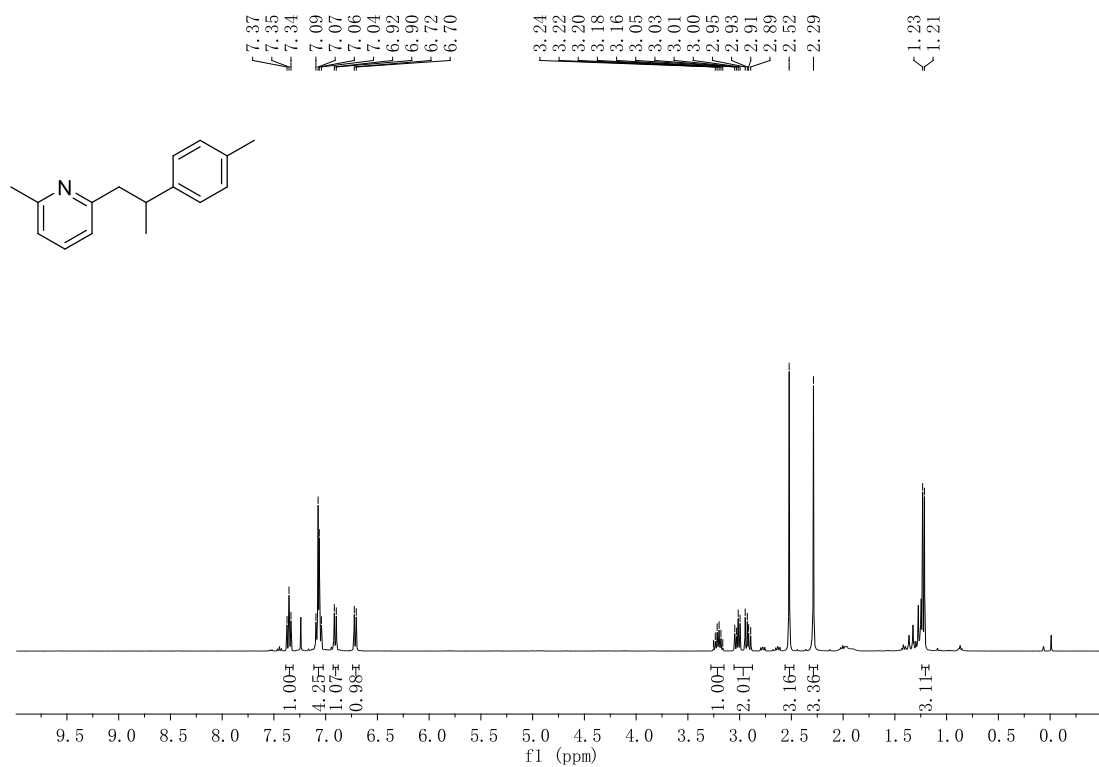
6a



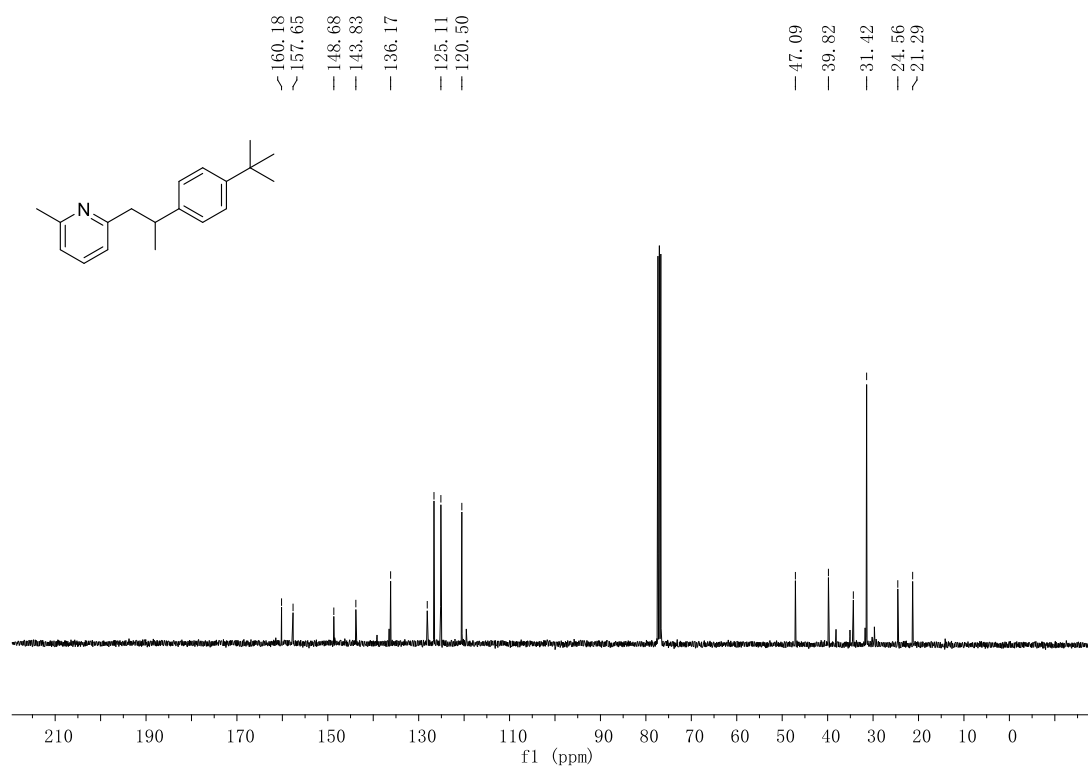
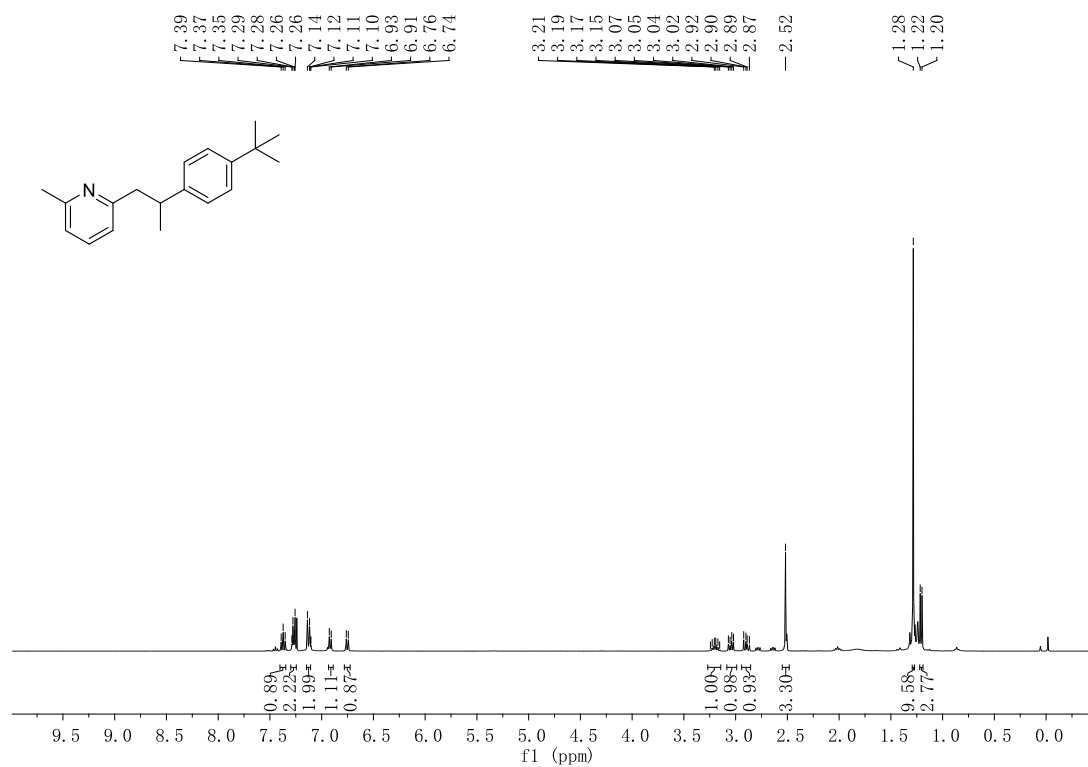
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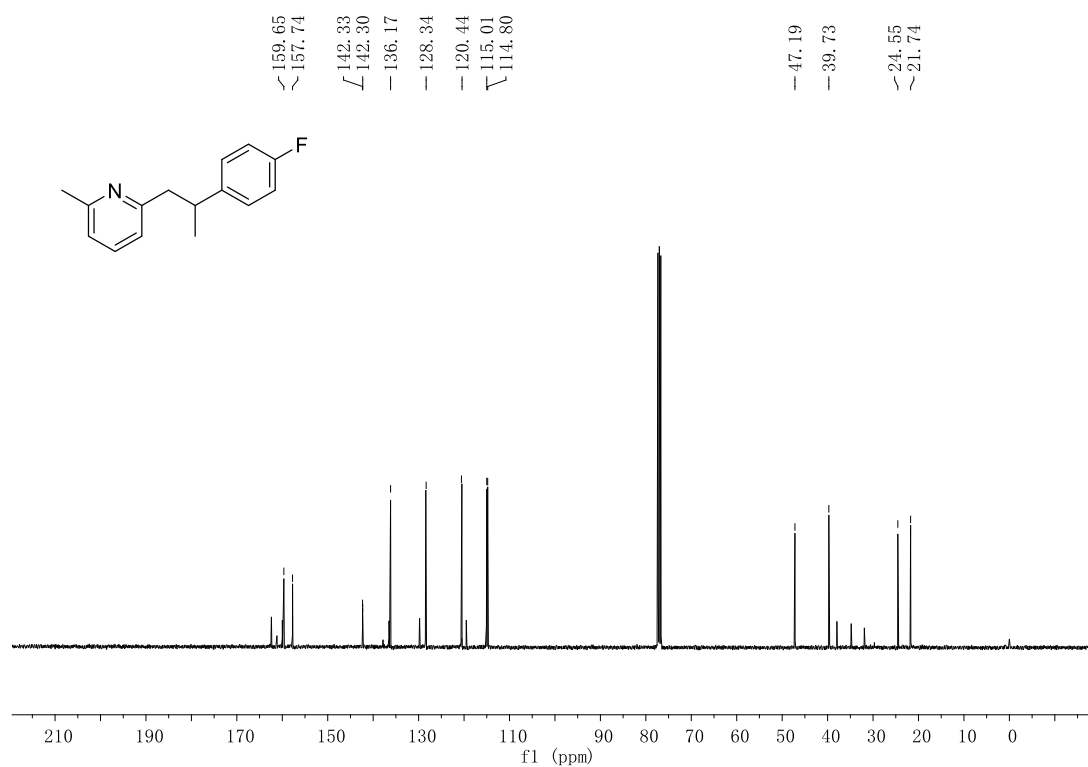
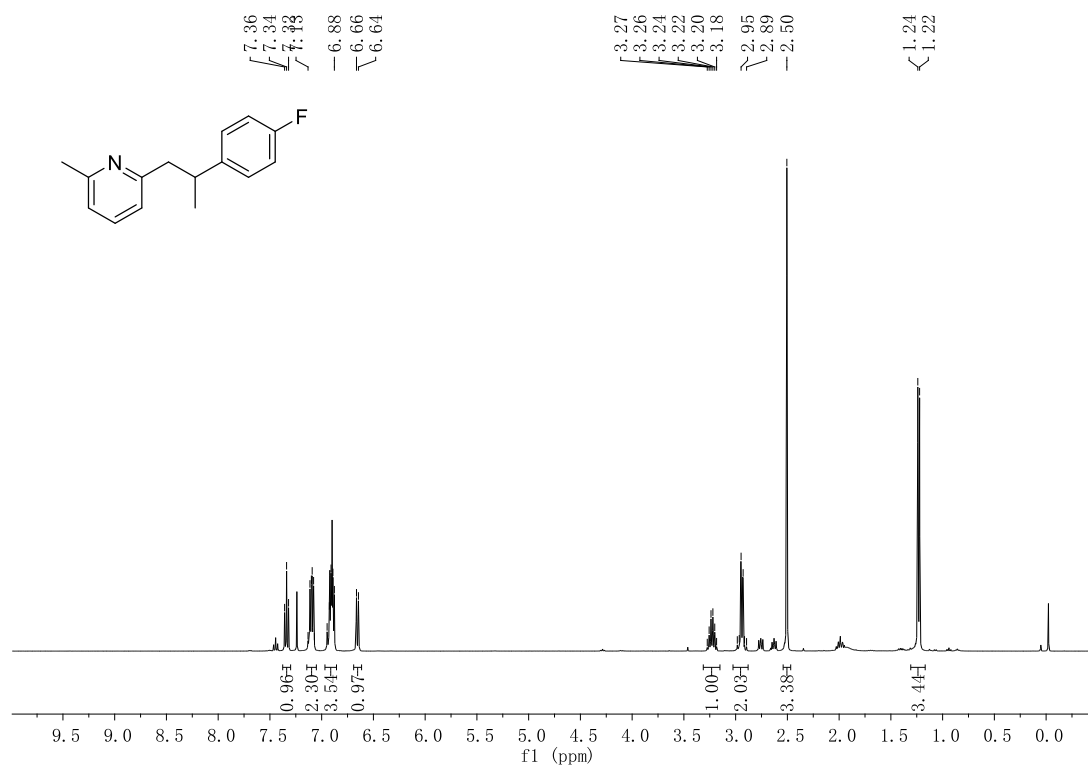
6b



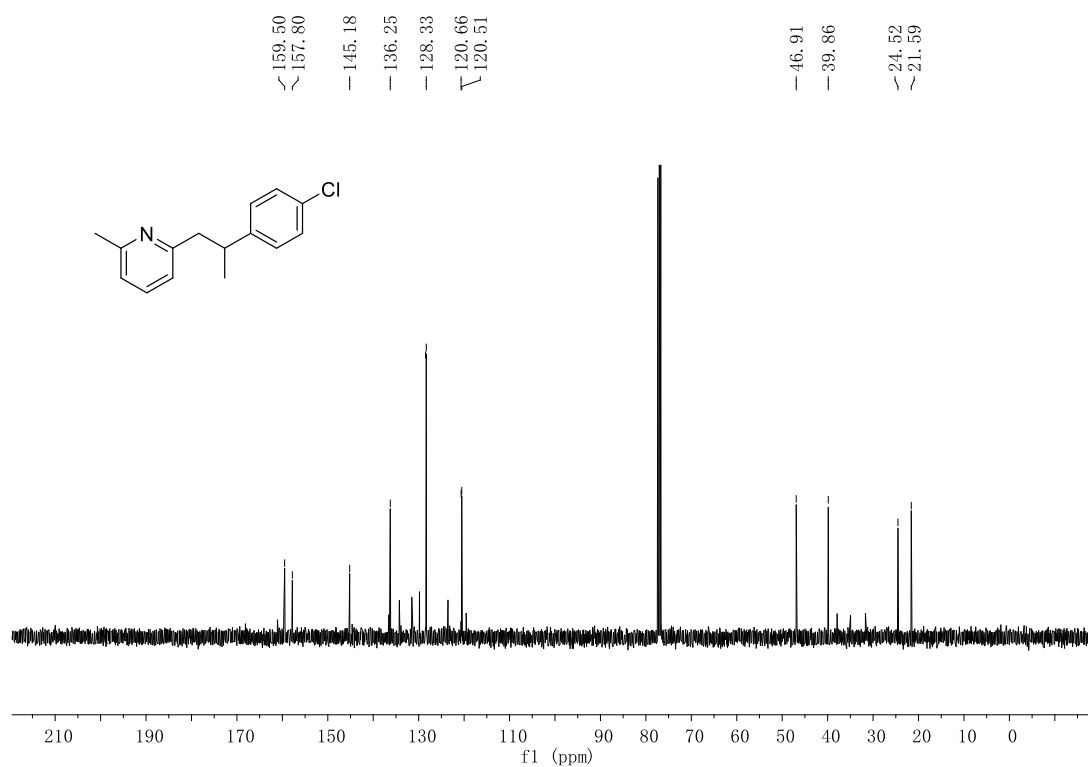
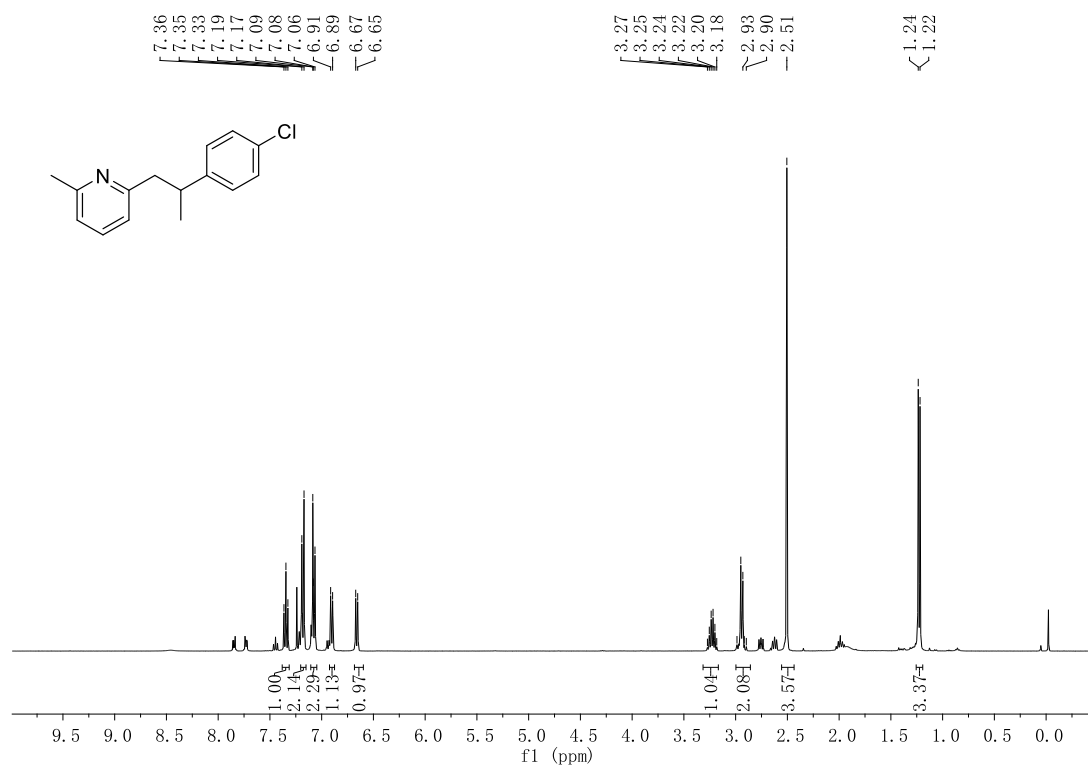
6c



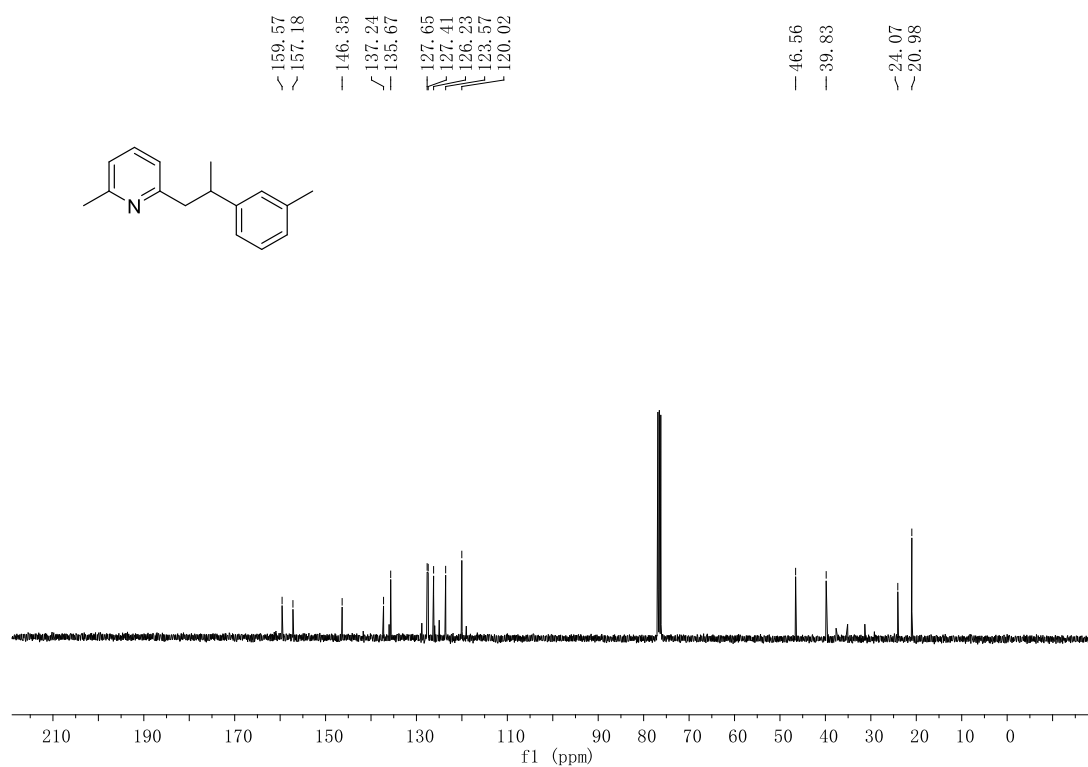
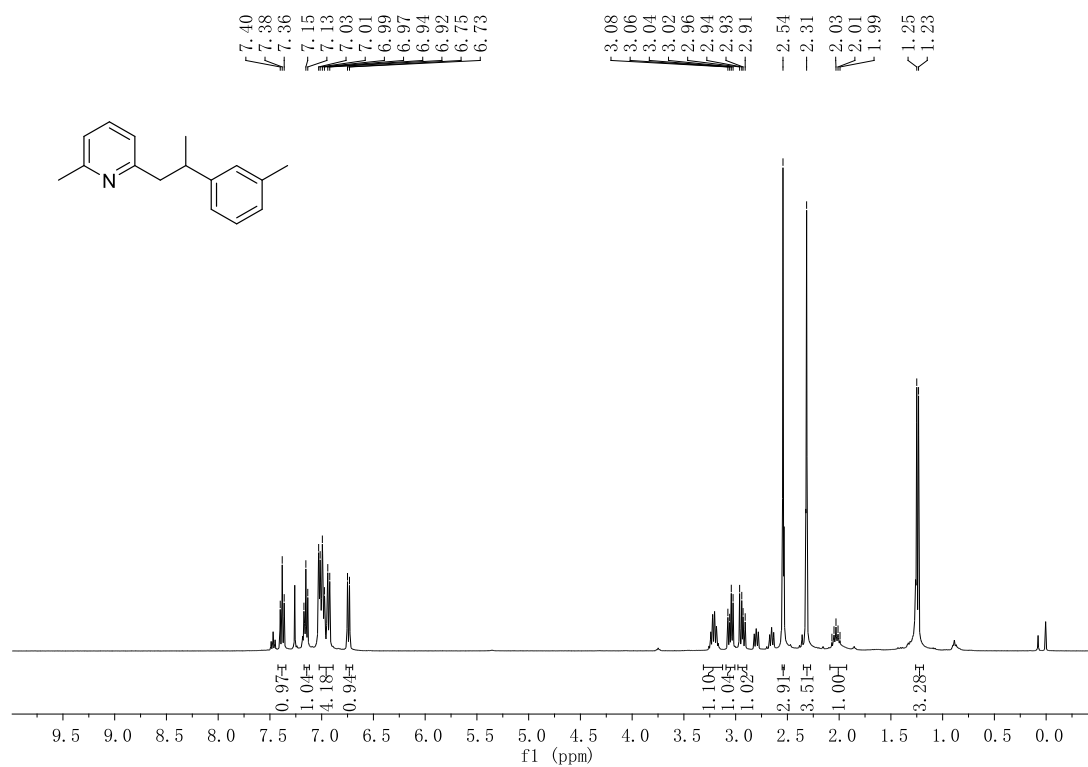
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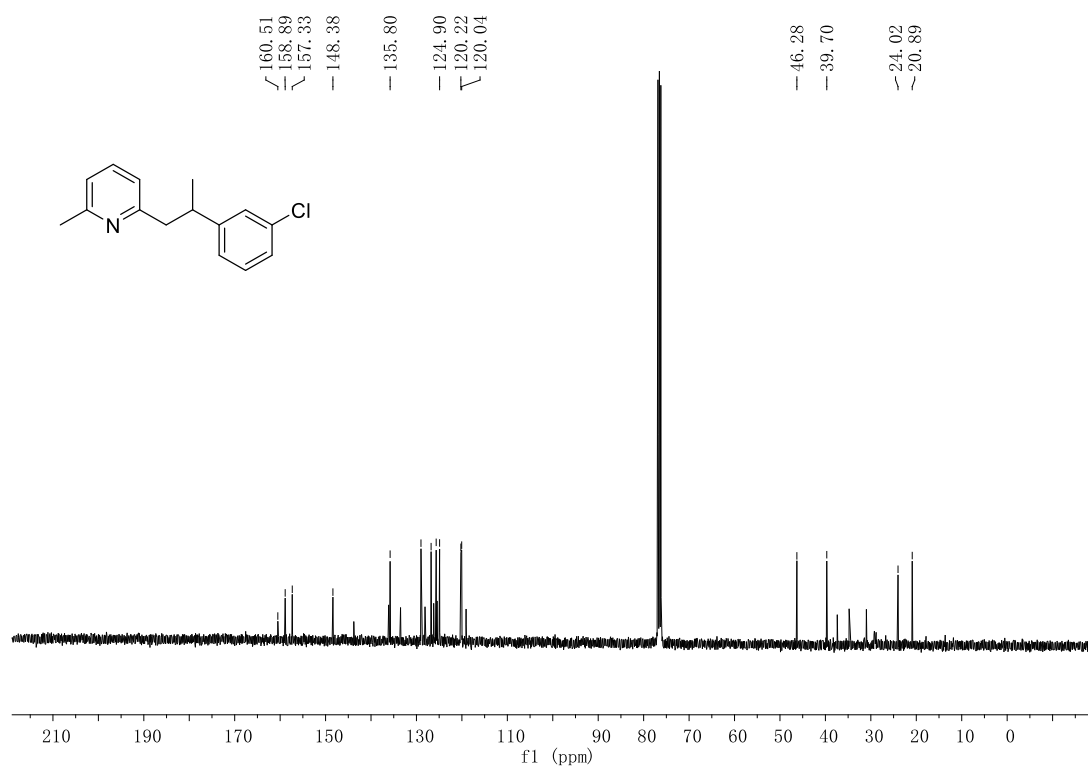
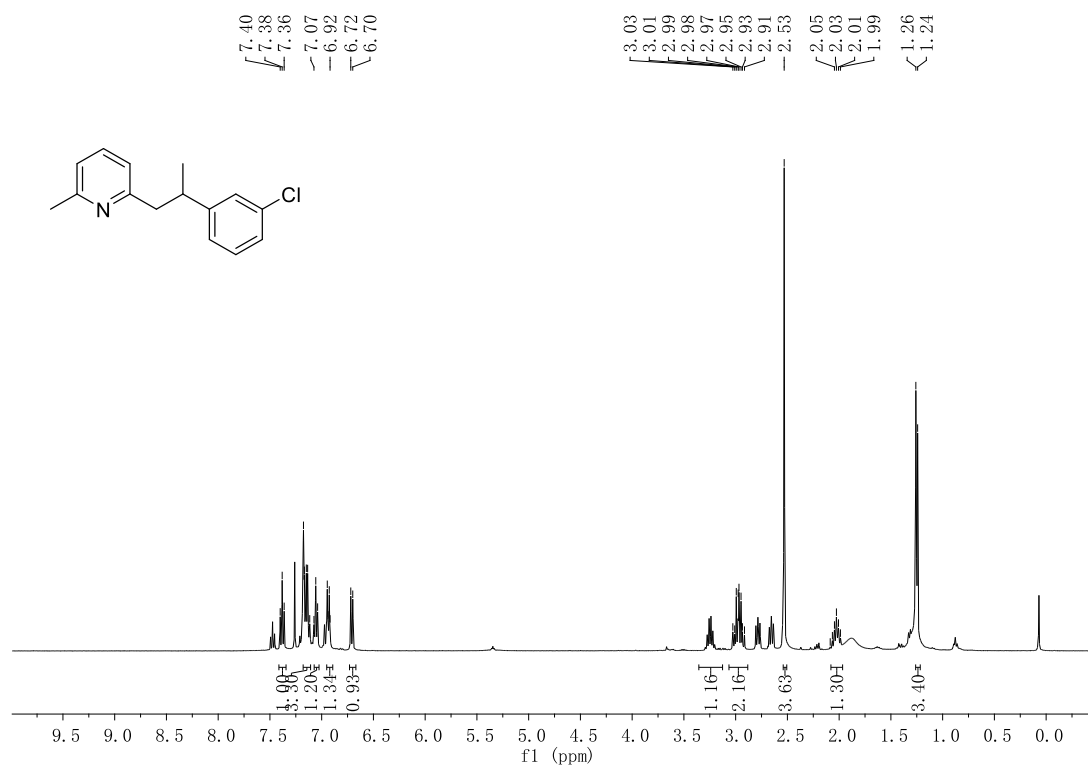
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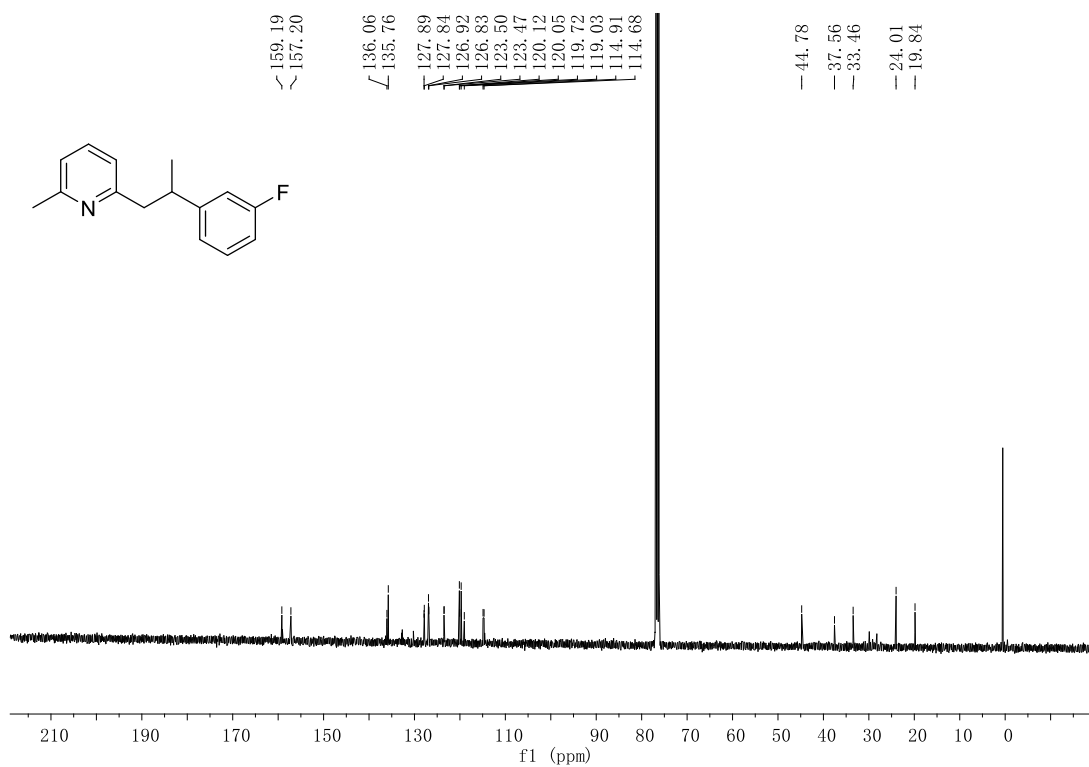
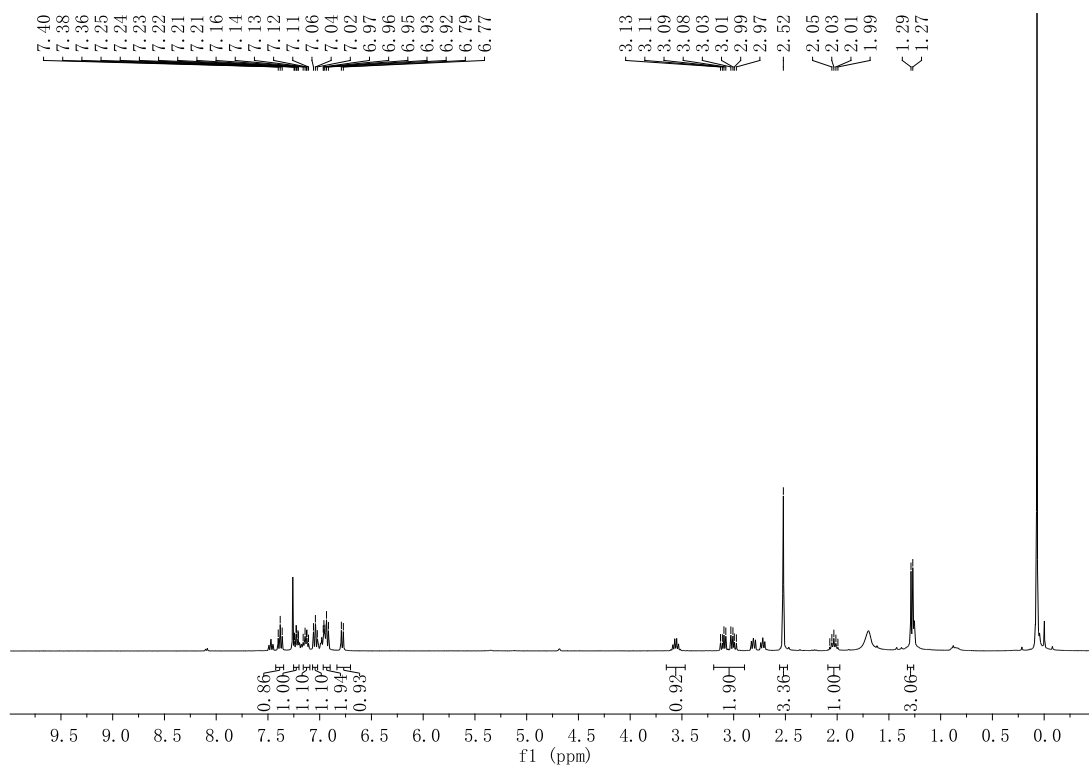
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6h



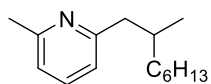
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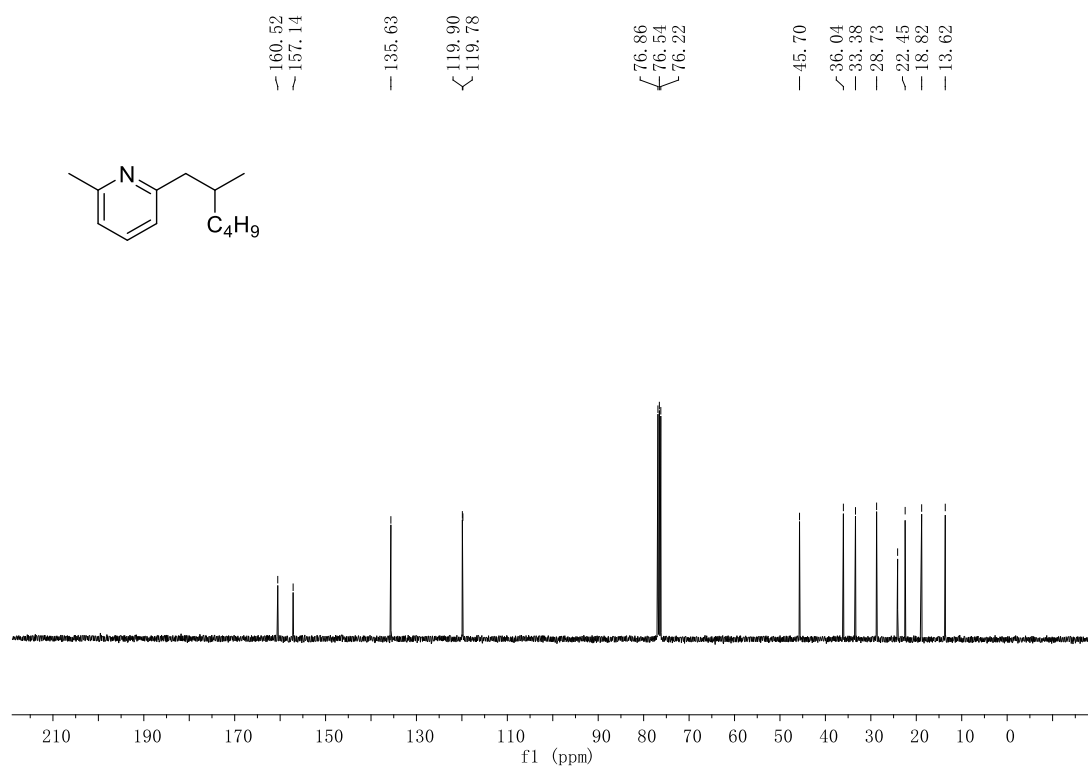
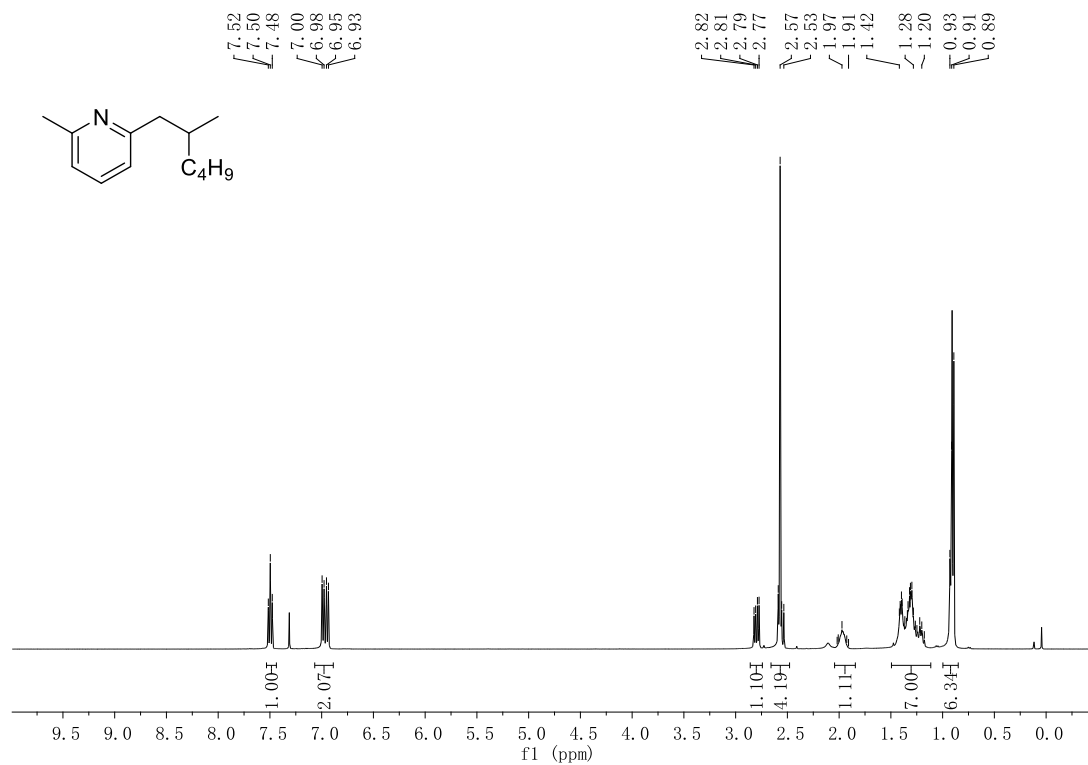
Chemical structure: CC(C)CCc1cccnc1C

¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃) showing peaks in the aromatic region (6.8-7.5 ppm) and the aliphatic region (0.8-2.8 ppm). Integration values are provided below the peaks.

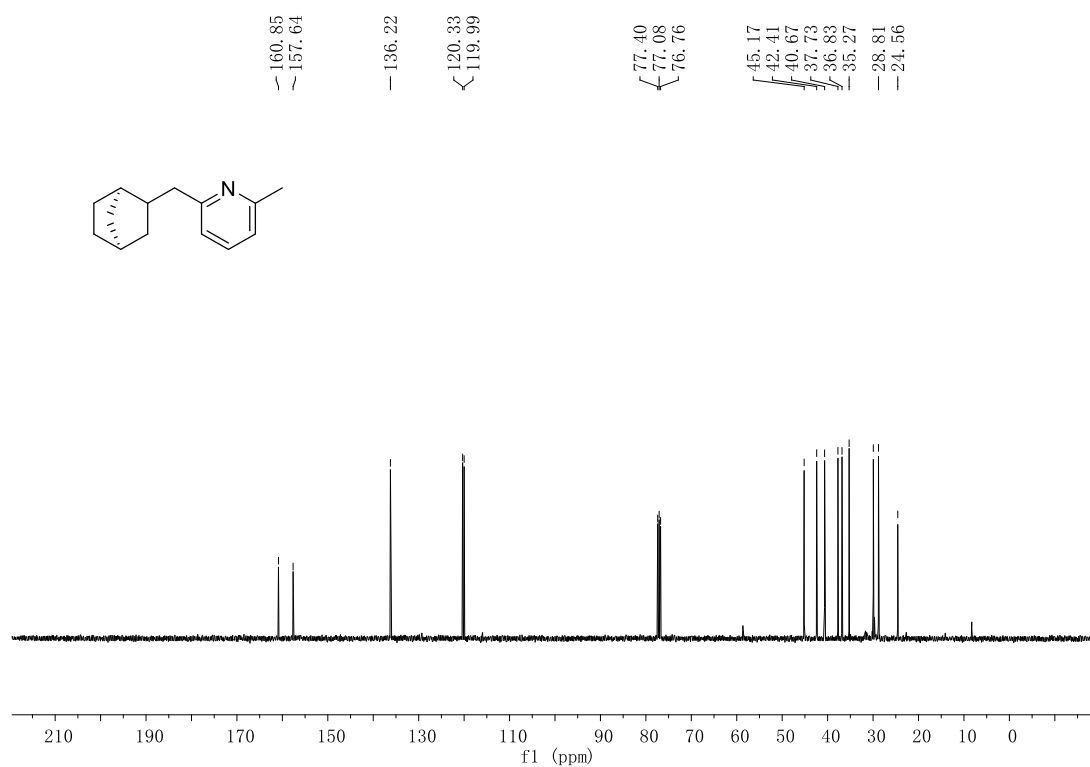
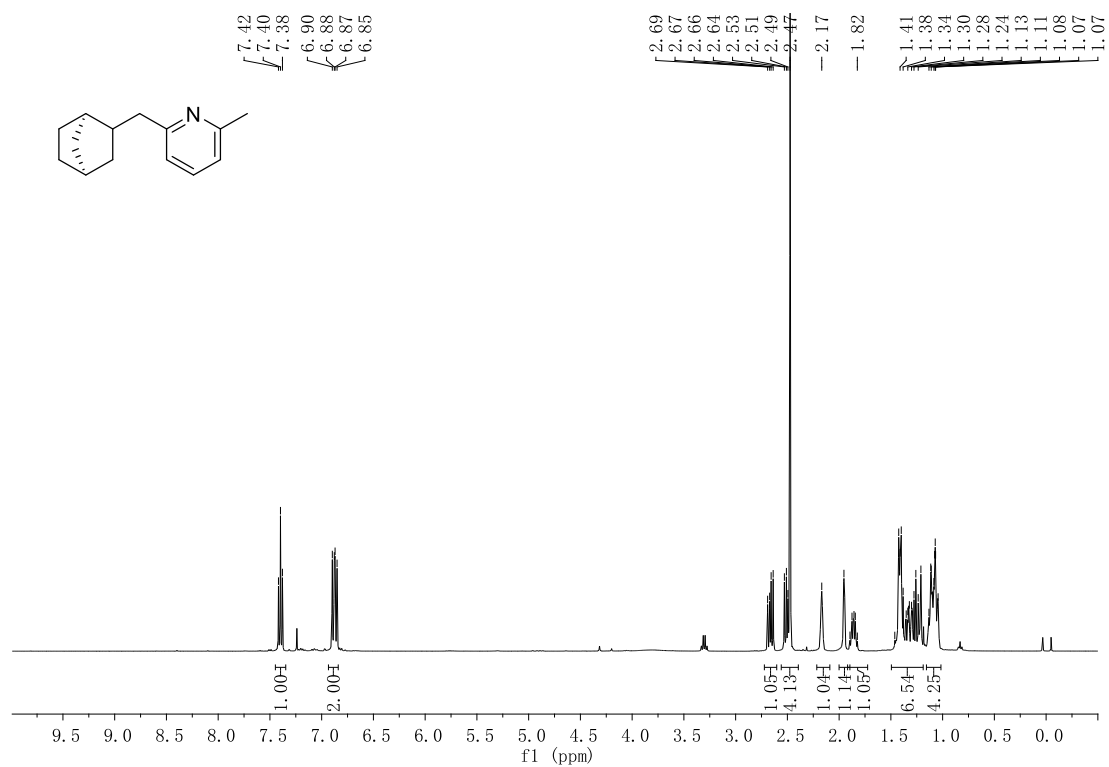
Chemical Shift (ppm)	Integration
7.44, 7.42, 7.40	1.00
6.92, 6.90, 6.88, 6.86	0.07
2.75, 2.73, 2.72, 2.70, 2.52, 2.50, 2.48	1.01
2.46	0.99
1.90, 1.88, 1.86, 1.81	0.03
1.26, 1.13	4.36
0.86, 0.84, 0.82	6.38



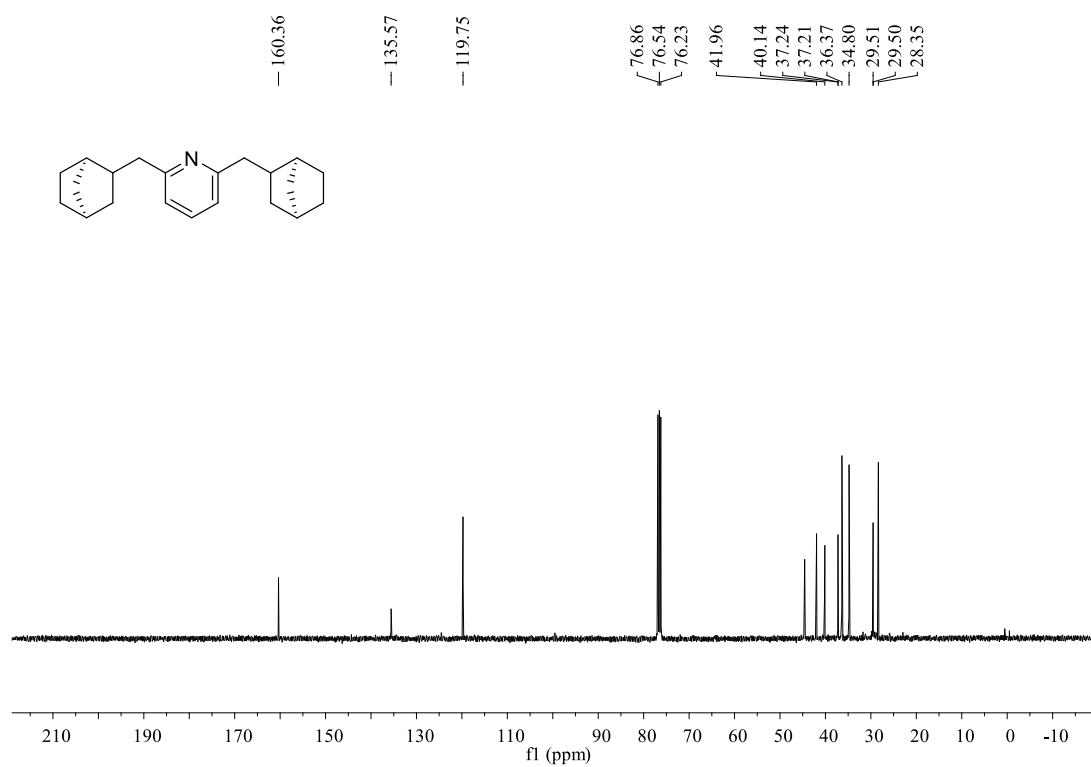
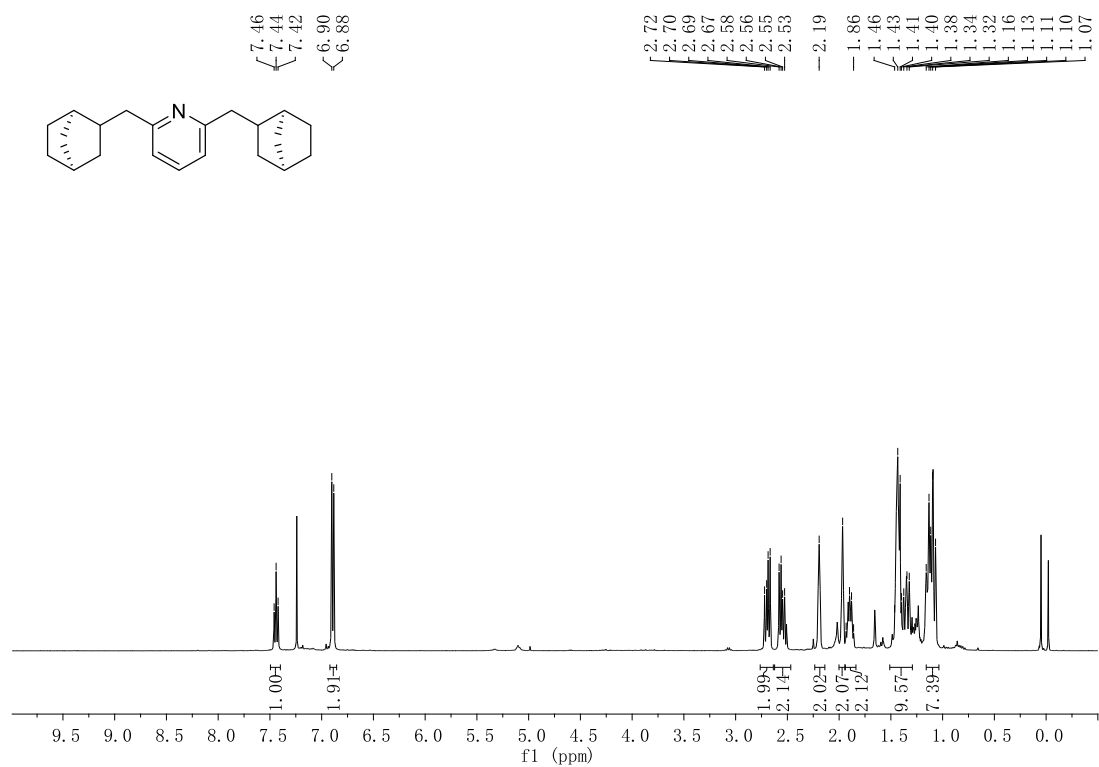
6k



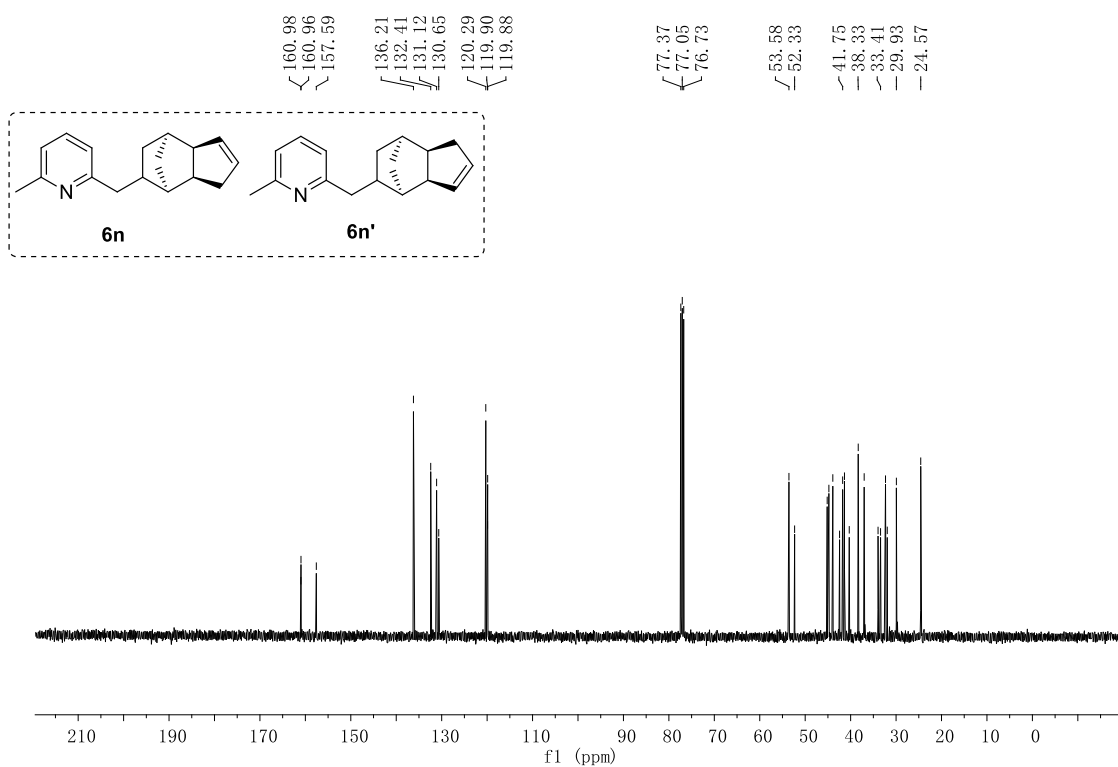
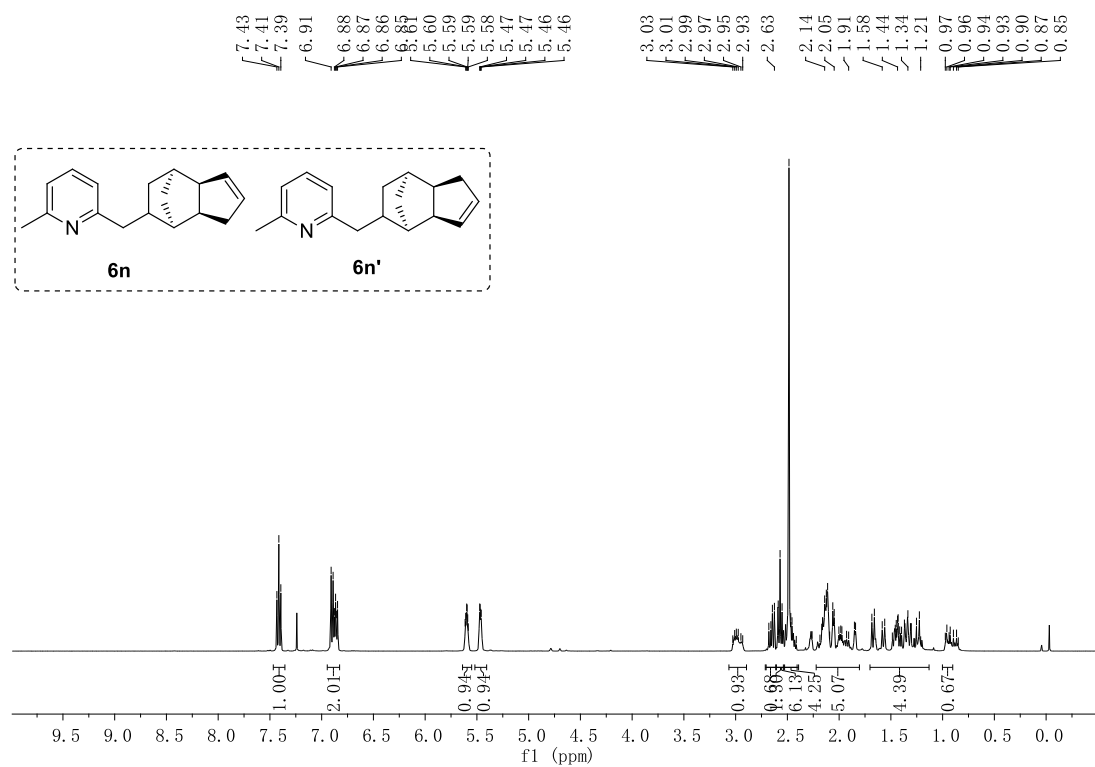
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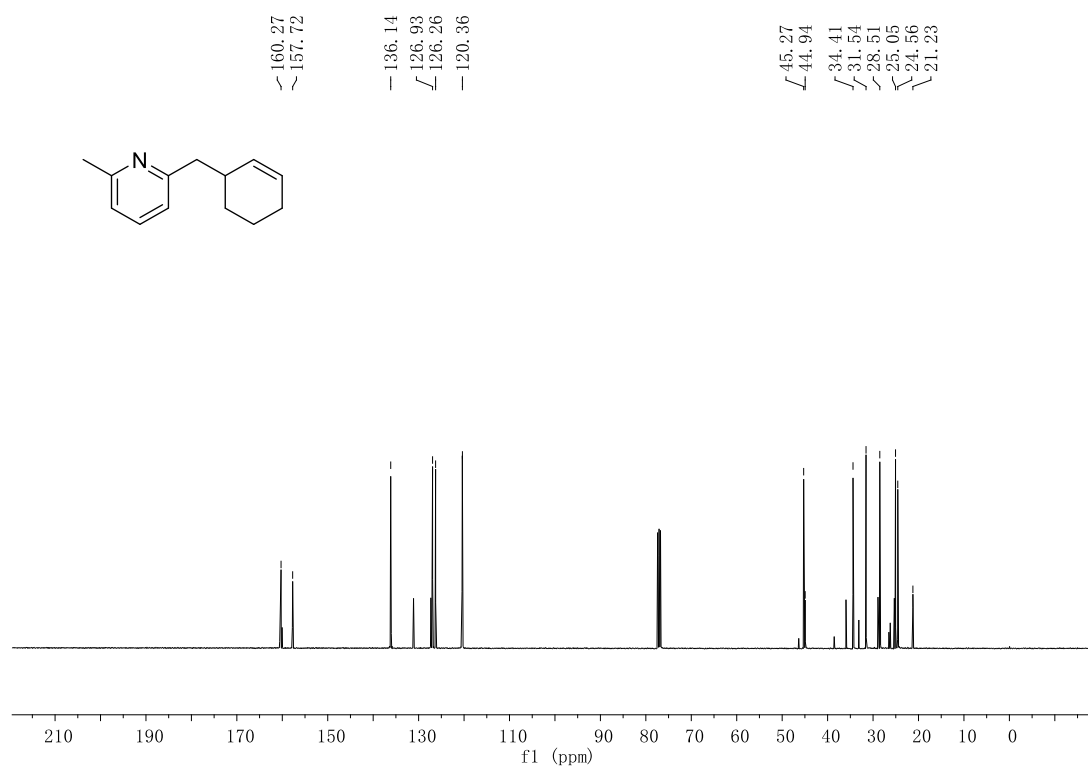
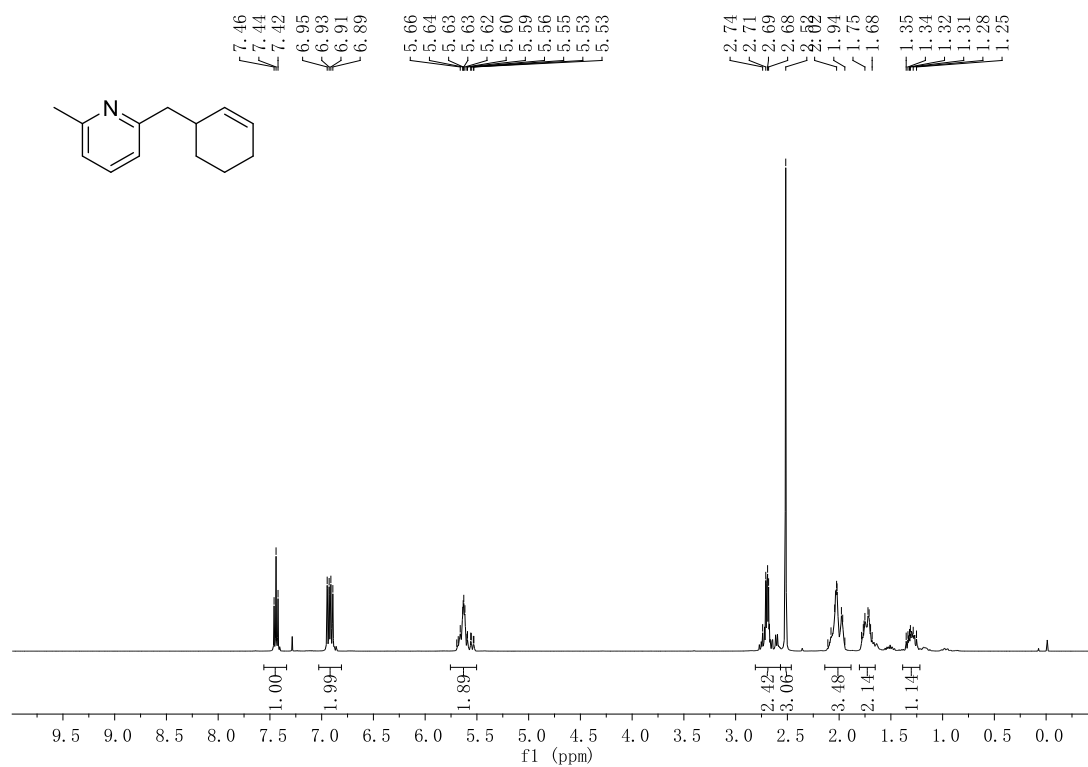
6m



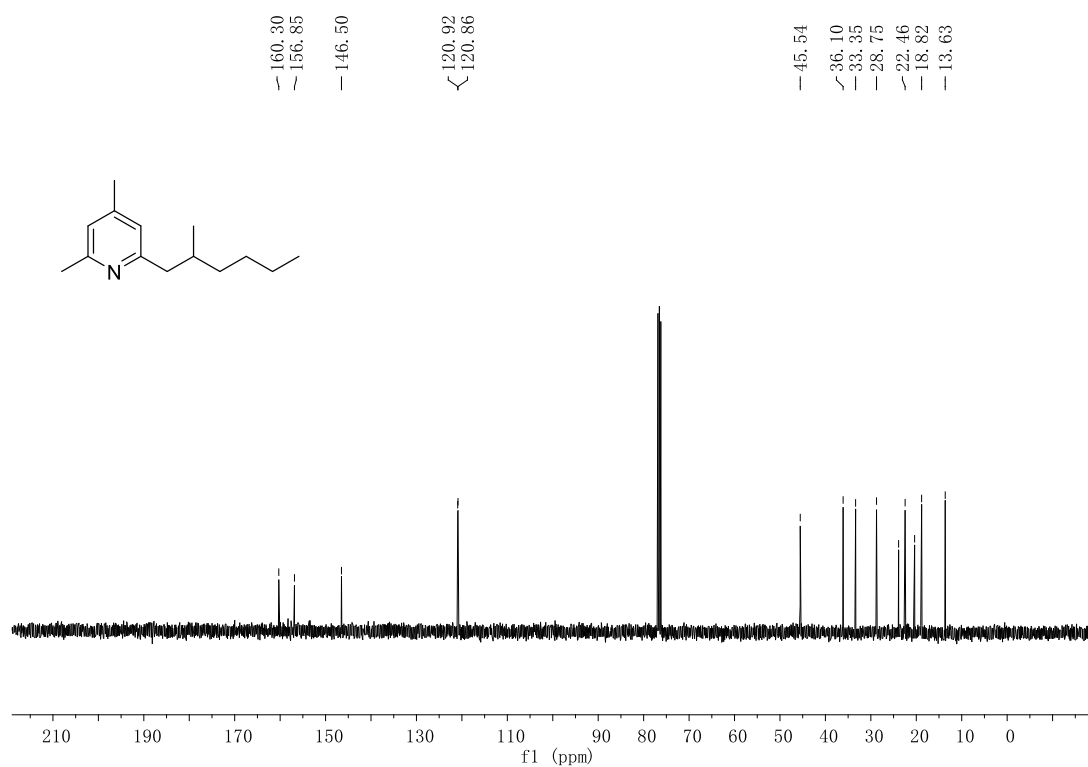
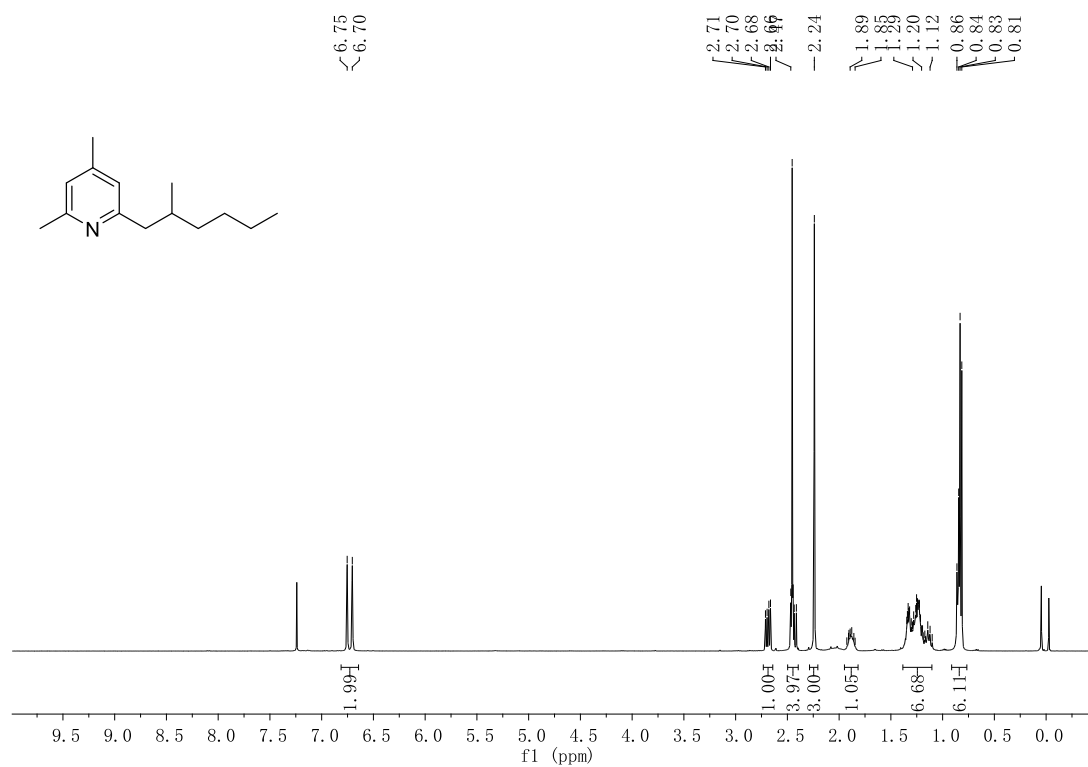
6n



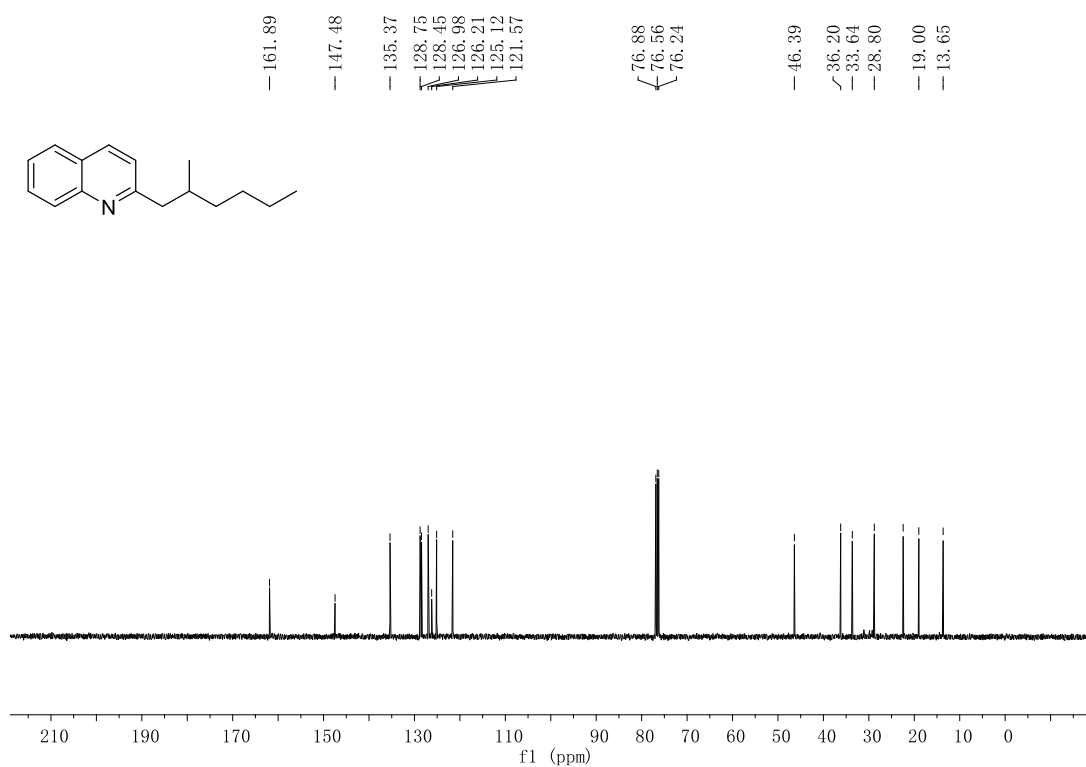
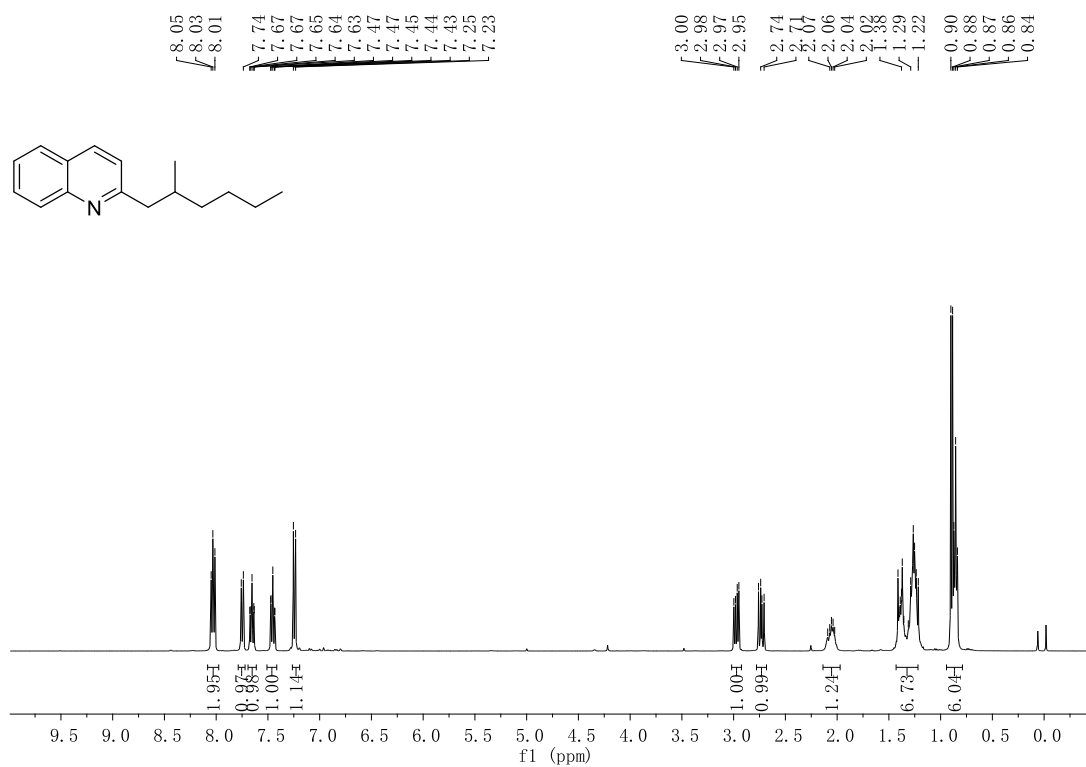
60



7b



7c



Crystallographic data for complex **1**

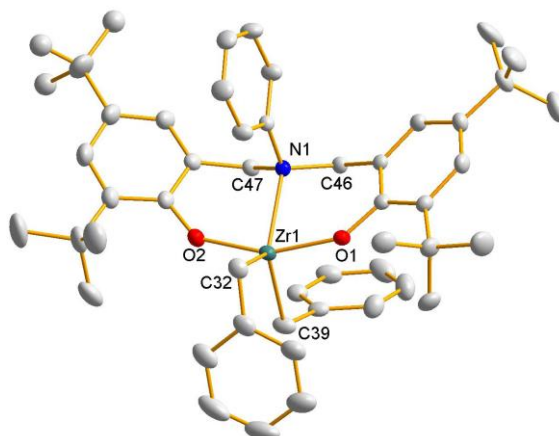


Figure S1 Molecular structure of **1** showing 30% probability ellipsoids; hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Table S1 Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (deg) for complex **1**

Bond lengths	1	Bond angles	1	Bond angles	1
Zr1-O1	1.998(2)	O1-Zr1-O2	157.58(10)	C39-Zr1-C46	106.17(17)
Zr1-O2	1.997(2)	O1-Zr1-C39	98.61(14)	O1-Zr1-N1	80.52(9)
Zr1-N1	2.512(3)	O2-Zr1-C39	99.53(14)	O2-Zr1-N1	80.41(9)
Zr1-C39	2.250(4)	O1-Zr1-C46	95.16(13)	C39-Zr1-N1	112.66(13)
Zr1-C46	2.268(4)	O2-Zr1-C46	92.33(13)	C46-Zr1-N1	141.15(14)

Table S3. Crystallographic data for complex **1**

Compound	1
Formula	C ₅₀ H ₆₃ NO ₂ Zr
fw	801.23
<i>T</i> /K	223(2)
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Crystal size/mm	0.50 × 0.30 × 0.20
Space group	<i>Pbca</i>
<i>a</i> /Å	15.634(3)
<i>b</i> /Å	20.940(4)
<i>c</i> /Å	28.234(6)
<i>α</i> /deg	90
<i>β</i> /deg	90
<i>γ</i> /deg	90
<i>V</i> /Å ³	9243(3)
<i>Z</i>	36
<i>D</i> _{calcd} /g cm ⁻³	1.152
<i>μ</i> /mm ⁻¹	0.274
<i>F</i> (000)	3408.0
<i>θ</i> _{max} /deg	3.17-25.00
Unique reflns	6348
max, min transm	0.9472, 0.8751
No. of variables	493
final R indices (<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>))	R ₁ = 0.0430, wR ₂ = 0.1060
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0606, wR ₂ = 0.1122
goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.188
Largest diff. peak,hole/e Å ⁻³	0.696, -0.400

DFT Data

1. Computational details

All calculations were carried out by using the Gaussian 09 suite of computational programs. All stationary points along the reaction coordinate were fully optimized at the DFT level using the B3LYP hybrid functional. The 6-31G(d) basis set was applied for all atoms except Zr, which was described by the LanL2DZ basis set and effective core potential implemented. Frequencies were analytically computed at the same level of theory to get the thermodynamic corrections and to confirm whether the structures are minima (no imaginary frequency) or transition states (only one imaginary frequency). Intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) calculations were carried out to confirm that all transition state structures connect the proposed reactants and products. The solvation effect was examined by performing single-point self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) calculations based on the SMD solvation model for gas-phase optimized structures. Chlorobenzene was used as the solvent, corresponding to the original experimental conditions. All SCRF calculations were done at the B3LYP level by using a larger basis set of SDD for Zr and 6-311+G(d,p) for the rest elements. The relative free energies (in kcal/mol) corrected by solvation effects are used for discussion.

2. Calculated Energy Values

Table S2. Energies (in Hartree) calculated at SMD-B3LYP/BSII//B3LYP/BS1 level

Species	E_0^a	H_{298}^b	G_{298}^c	E^d	G_{Sol}^e
IN1	-2288.008615	-2287.949389	-2288.102505	-2289.0564243	-2290.244356
IN2	-2214.192699	-2214.132472	-2214.288583	-2215.2738305	-2216.444778
1-TS1	-2287.986780	-2287.928823	-2288.078390	-2289.0355643	-2290.223877
1-TS2	-2287.990063	-2287.932156	-2288.081757	-2289.0386208	-2290.225281
2-TS1	-2214.174139	-2214.115312	-2214.266511	-2215.256126	-2216.427558
2-TS2	-2214.175604	-2214.116810	-2214.268135	-2215.2574451	-2216.426053

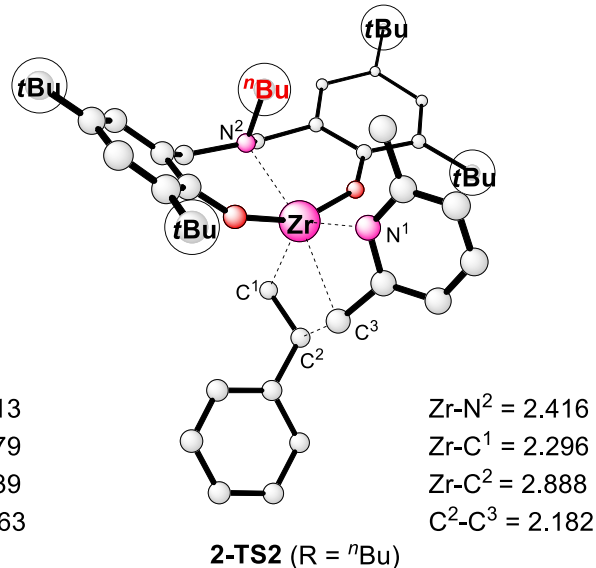
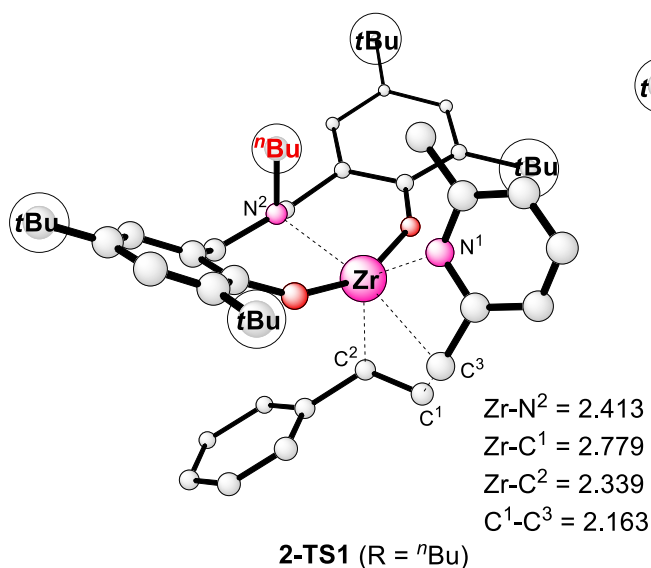
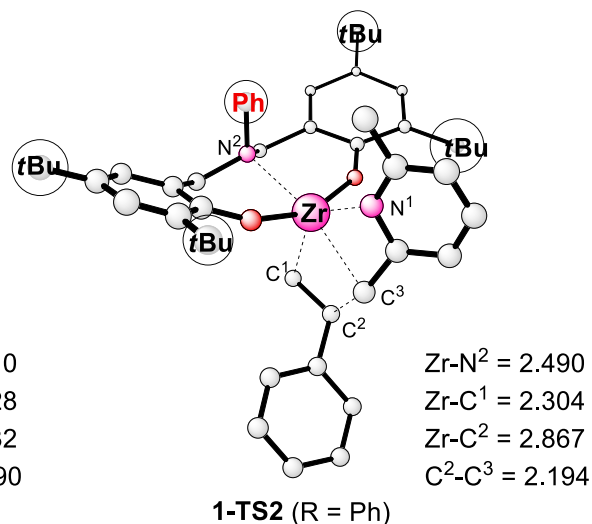
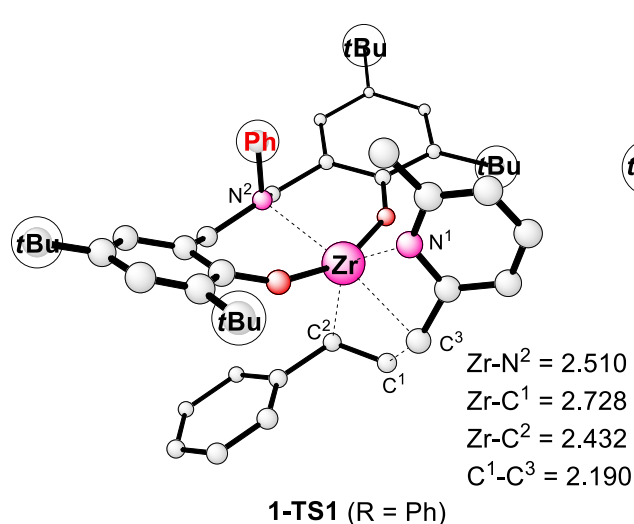
^a Sum of electronic and zero-point energies

^b Sum of electronic and thermal enthalpies

^c Sum of electronic and thermal free energies

^d Electronic energies

^e Single point energies in solution



According to above geometric structures, the steric effect of the R group is greater in **1-TS1** and **1-TS2** than that in **2-TS1** and **2-TS2**, which could be concluded from longer Zr-N₂ distances in the former two TS. Thus, the migratory insertion via **1-TS2** could avoid steric repulsion between olefin and the ligand, being lower in energy than **1-TS1**, and branched products formed predominantly when R = Ph. On the contrary, when R = ⁿBu, the **2-TS1** is more favorable than **2-TS2** should be attributed to electronic effect. The C¹-C³ coupling becomes predominant could be attributed to the more electron deficient nature of C¹ than C².

Cartesian Coordinates for All Species

IN1				H	-11.56858	-2.66151	4.04635
C	-10.01308	-0.86765	2.48988	H	-11.95216	-2.97572	2.33946
C	-8.91705	-0.01676	2.19646	H	-10.9978	-4.13708	3.26114
C	-9.10098	1.36929	2.04075	C	-8.82462	-2.68361	3.80883
C	-10.38797	1.91035	2.13391	H	-7.83593	-2.28788	3.56812
C	-11.5006	1.11454	2.40534	H	-9.15253	-2.24171	4.75723
C	-11.26948	-0.25859	2.58616	H	-8.73421	-3.7662	3.9594
H	-10.50193	2.98041	1.99693	C	-13.81983	1.00719	1.43034
H	-12.12237	-0.88624	2.8079	H	-13.86904	-0.07961	1.55612
C	-7.94702	2.33844	1.91286	H	-14.84357	1.39481	1.48989
H	-7.46417	2.44778	2.8916	H	-13.43811	1.21197	0.42343
N	-6.82777	2.03934	0.94051	C	-12.97626	3.19937	2.28964
C	-5.77705	3.08274	1.19675	H	-12.38835	3.73831	3.04173
H	-6.23537	4.07783	1.11163	H	-12.60959	3.48264	1.29613
H	-5.51584	2.97376	2.25402	H	-14.0105	3.55053	2.36948
C	-4.51424	3.06241	0.36128	C	-13.50748	1.37073	3.91081
C	-4.01401	4.2875	-0.09727	H	-12.90094	1.83747	4.69538
C	-3.77923	1.88654	0.13829	H	-14.52795	1.76268	3.99352
C	-2.80038	4.37782	-0.77658	H	-13.54952	0.29551	4.11418
H	-4.59679	5.18219	0.09885	C	-3.13363	6.90661	-0.96732
C	-2.53349	1.92437	-0.54251	H	-4.12119	6.81011	-1.43387
C	-2.09599	3.1789	-0.97865	H	-3.27282	7.03484	0.11253
H	-1.15149	3.23409	-1.50368	H	-2.68056	7.82735	-1.34987
O	-4.28854	0.71533	0.60713	C	-0.84327	5.95965	-0.63672
O	-7.66241	-0.52202	2.0135	H	-0.12841	5.16213	-0.86521
Zr	-5.79244	-0.31345	1.38247	H	-0.41641	6.9014	-1.00094
C	-9.8529	-2.39104	2.68861	H	-0.93328	6.02769	0.45351
C	-12.93055	1.67461	2.50719	C	-2.05346	5.63382	-2.82982
C	-1.67845	0.65925	-0.77612	H	-1.63573	6.57288	-3.2112
C	-2.22213	5.70776	-1.29309	H	-1.37843	4.8253	-3.12937
C	-4.81081	-2.24893	2.1932	H	-3.01751	5.4664	-3.3239
H	-4.97466	-2.72568	3.15916	C	-1.2782	0.03717	0.5839
C	-5.34516	-3.00096	1.04534	H	-0.66739	-0.85933	0.4223
C	-5.64497	-4.36697	0.96035	H	-0.6825	0.74608	1.17152
C	-6.00849	-2.65148	-1.20832	H	-2.15283	-0.24787	1.17265
C	-6.10115	-4.87	-0.25008	C	-9.40633	-3.04904	1.36113
H	-5.47664	-5.00793	1.81902	H	-9.29774	-4.13217	1.49451
H	-6.31261	-5.93021	-0.35797	H	-10.15549	-2.88238	0.57822
H	-3.73949	-2.04067	2.06885	H	-8.45005	-2.65666	1.00893
C	-6.25784	-4.01375	-1.34712	C	-0.37181	0.96971	-1.53638
N	-5.60118	-2.16294	-0.00567	H	-0.56221	1.38572	-2.5319
H	-6.56816	-4.40252	-2.31099	H	0.27247	1.66551	-0.98768
C	-6.10945	-1.70468	-2.36979	H	0.19248	0.04074	-1.67244
H	-6.63592	-0.78427	-2.10572	H	-8.35061	3.32845	1.66113
H	-5.10571	-1.4191	-2.70737	C	-7.33592	2.03983	-0.4337
H	-6.6296	-2.17172	-3.21003	C	-7.12357	3.10759	-1.31905
C	-4.88788	-0.27811	4.53215	C	-8.11419	0.95426	-0.8678
H	-5.7824	-0.74603	4.94326	C	-7.66981	3.08103	-2.60303
C	-5.07276	0.80783	3.72953	H	-6.53142	3.96382	-1.02934
H	-6.0572	1.26665	3.71668	C	-8.67065	0.94294	-2.14964
C	-11.17613	-3.06732	3.10726	H	-8.33368	0.13251	-0.19769

C	-8.44844	2.00349	-3.02579	C	-5.35461	-3.04321	1.25484
H	-7.48782	3.91788	-3.27097	C	-5.59693	-4.40789	1.04704
H	-9.28471	0.09996	-2.45356	C	-6.16117	-2.51527	-0.91723
H	-8.88025	1.99466	-4.02192	C	-6.08075	-4.8158	-0.18859
C	-2.46337	-0.37182	-1.62175	H	-5.36423	-5.11995	1.83157
H	-3.37548	-0.69619	-1.11793	H	-6.24124	-5.87092	-0.3919
H	-2.73556	0.05556	-2.59434	H	-3.73951	-2.16111	2.33733
H	-1.84155	-1.2563	-1.80655	C	-6.34405	-3.86769	-1.18553
H	-4.23874	1.40576	3.37369	N	-5.68455	-2.12959	0.29398
C	-3.63498	-0.88867	4.95344	H	-6.69853	-4.17641	-2.163
C	-3.6914	-1.98717	5.83417	C	-6.47749	-1.44602	-1.92567
C	-2.37234	-0.41322	4.54229	H	-7.37275	-0.88345	-1.63367
C	-2.52497	-2.5937	6.29343	H	-5.64682	-0.73816	-2.01576
H	-4.65962	-2.35629	6.16393	H	-6.6686	-1.88153	-2.90949
C	-1.20967	-1.02342	4.99711	C	-4.80025	-0.50948	4.82604
H	-2.30118	0.43513	3.86871	H	-5.48864	-1.26644	5.1992
C	-1.28268	-2.11347	5.87371	C	-5.35445	0.59232	4.24314
H	-2.5834	-3.43525	6.9769	H	-6.4245	0.74862	4.3489
H	-0.2423	-0.64954	4.67555	C	-7.16611	1.81163	-0.04896
H	-0.37051	-2.5829	6.2304	H	-6.28499	1.5352	-0.63914
IN2				H	-7.87576	0.97656	-0.07639
C	-10.12812	-0.82698	2.30799	C	-11.46703	-3.00533	2.49832
C	-8.963920	-0.01926	2.23079	H	-11.96391	-2.6935	3.42357
C	-9.059500	1.38414	2.22919	H	-12.12504	-2.76942	1.65471
C	-10.3199	1.99226	2.26740	H	-11.36249	-4.09512	2.53406
C	-11.49418	1.24287	2.32966	C	-9.22241	-2.84361	3.55355
C	-11.35416	-0.15441	2.35461	H	-8.19248	-2.48547	3.49561
H	-10.36302	3.07656	2.26124	H	-9.65883	-2.48818	4.49429
H	-12.25697	-0.74783	2.41279	H	-9.20227	-3.93956	3.58829
C	-7.84031	2.27964	2.28937	C	-13.71594	1.40054	1.15116
H	-7.41941	2.28199	3.30223	H	-13.83239	0.31178	1.13408
N	-6.71105	1.94574	1.37028	H	-14.71974	1.84058	1.17298
C	-5.66532	3.00502	1.52856	H	-13.23477	1.70146	0.21329
H	-6.13215	3.99308	1.42181	C	-12.84117	3.41611	2.34633
H	-5.32828	2.94337	2.5707	H	-12.29894	3.82242	3.20808
C	-4.48293	2.93067	0.58945	H	-12.36814	3.79264	1.43169
C	-4.06298	4.10161	-0.05135	H	-13.85809	3.82129	2.37913
C	-3.75576	1.73963	0.41571	C	-13.61677	1.44432	3.67458
C	-2.92216	4.1273	-0.85358	H	-13.06349	1.77577	4.56071
H	-4.64589	5.00394	0.10225	H	-14.61922	1.88583	3.71621
C	-2.57734	1.71677	-0.37429	H	-13.73143	0.35714	3.73804
C	-2.21076	2.92299	-0.98267	C	-3.33398	6.61148	-1.29609
H	-1.31897	2.93073	-1.59515	H	-4.36315	6.44745	-1.63655
O	-4.22676	0.61433	1.02468	H	-3.35935	6.86383	-0.22957
O	-7.72058	-0.57737	2.1524	H	-2.94848	7.48641	-1.83014
Zr	-5.78326	-0.36729	1.779	C	-0.9985	5.73876	-1.10777
C	-10.06878	-2.36992	2.34611	H	-0.29133	4.93012	-1.32051
C	-12.89612	1.87654	2.37474	H	-0.63744	6.63735	-1.62141
C	-1.72031	0.44417	-0.55325	H	-0.97395	5.93179	-0.0292
C	-2.43236	5.39428	-1.57807	C	-2.42409	5.14265	-3.10526
C	-4.8102	-2.37682	2.45694	H	-2.07063	6.035	-3.63499
H	-4.95462	-2.94694	3.3752	H	-1.76513	4.31217	-3.37993
				H	-3.43051	4.90823	-3.47122
				C	-1.22403	-0.05397	0.82559

H	-0.61663	-0.95873	0.70169	C	-4.51525	2.97868	0.50908
H	-0.59706	0.70593	1.30689	C	-4.04796	4.16951	-0.0555
H	-2.05267	-0.28782	1.49725	C	-3.78151	1.79462	0.34552
C	-9.46519	-2.90504	1.02621	C	-2.86516	4.20987	-0.79345
H	-9.42641	-4.00082	1.04619	H	-4.62412	5.07523	0.10547
H	-10.08251	-2.60797	0.17004	C	-2.57011	1.77889	-0.38974
H	-8.45188	-2.53391	0.86448	C	-2.16395	3.00065	-0.93824
C	-0.47086	0.6985	-1.42255	H	-1.24438	3.01953	-1.50818
H	-0.72967	1.00922	-2.44094	O	-4.28193	0.67735	0.94291
H	0.18989	1.4561	-0.98683	O	-7.76947	-0.52861	2.15094
H	0.10501	-0.2299	-1.50215	Zr	-5.84204	-0.23023	1.74916
C	-2.54337	-0.6637	-1.25261	C	-10.09663	-2.34149	2.55098
H	-3.41082	-0.9615	-0.66087	C	-12.97034	1.86882	2.35674
H	-2.89069	-0.32391	-2.2361	C	-1.71811	0.50352	-0.56678
H	-1.91974	-1.55225	-1.40953	C	-2.31876	5.49809	-1.4351
H	-8.16242	3.3125	2.10152	C	-4.61292	-2.35507	2.61195
C	-7.82855	3.03648	-0.69951	H	-4.42549	-3.04983	3.42424
H	-7.14557	3.89386	-0.66858	C	-5.32594	-2.99294	1.50553
H	-8.72973	3.31538	-0.14048	C	-5.73653	-4.33386	1.46614
C	-8.21152	2.75247	-2.16027	C	-6.06512	-2.62631	-0.7103
H	-7.31024	2.47322	-2.72386	C	-6.27811	-4.82018	0.28497
H	-8.88327	1.88304	-2.19739	H	-5.58096	-4.97402	2.32794
C	-8.88871	3.94811	-2.83842	H	-6.57126	-5.86308	0.20608
H	-9.14752	3.71729	-3.87704	H	-3.67239	-1.8986	2.28901
H	-9.81269	4.22772	-2.31872	C	-6.41242	-3.9709	-0.81948
H	-8.23098	4.8253	-2.84579	N	-5.5712	-2.14573	0.46174
C	-3.39236	-0.79956	5.06341	H	-6.78228	-4.34971	-1.76628
C	-3.06273	-1.99073	5.7397	C	-6.13472	-1.70176	-1.89267
C	-2.35191	0.0703	4.6762	H	-6.92208	-2.00767	-2.587
C	-1.73638	-2.30646	6.02365	H	-6.31096	-0.66482	-1.60166
H	-3.85755	-2.66385	6.05184	H	-5.18117	-1.72916	-2.43473
C	-1.02874	-0.24848	4.95653	C	-5.26627	-1.08773	4.27412
H	-2.57791	0.9961	4.15599	H	-6.11491	-1.72451	4.50293
C	-0.71766	-1.43604	5.63096	C	-5.48369	0.29666	4.0961
H	-1.49801	-3.22495	6.55116	H	-6.51329	0.61781	4.26349
H	-0.23505	0.42841	4.65529	C	-11.47935	-2.97541	2.8136
H	0.31799	-1.67744	5.85177	H	-11.93526	-2.60309	3.73758
H	-4.7492	1.45346	3.97484	H	-12.1792	-2.80403	1.98846

1-TS1

C	-10.17157	-0.80468	2.41989	H	-8.16522	-2.37613	3.60135
C	-9.02181	0.0073	2.25136	H	-9.57382	-2.32348	4.67824
C	-9.13581	1.40536	2.1507	H	-9.15482	-3.82747	3.8418
C	-10.39912	2.00439	2.17599	C	-13.81833	1.27586	1.20562
C	-11.56191	1.24885	2.32681	H	-13.92625	0.18948	1.29266
C	-11.40342	-0.14043	2.45567	H	-14.82501	1.70968	1.21452
H	-10.455	3.0836	2.08218	H	-13.36484	1.49185	0.23141
H	-12.29701	-0.73623	2.58536	C	-12.93614	3.40008	2.18717
C	-7.92145	2.30055	2.12582	H	-12.37858	3.88987	2.99401
H	-7.43126	2.29386	3.10642	H	-12.49084	3.69631	1.23014
N	-6.82301	1.99402	1.12398	H	-13.95723	3.79525	2.2092
C	-5.72814	3.00096	1.4045	C	-13.64701	1.54727	3.7111
H	-6.1652	4.00723	1.39923	H	-13.07313	1.96346	4.5469
H	-5.41858	2.81091	2.43736	H	-14.65397	1.97915	3.74302

H	-13.74442	0.46886	3.8751	1-TS2			
C	-3.21248	6.71884	-1.14344	C	-10.07512	-0.87298	2.28764
H	-4.22494	6.59176	-1.54472	C	-8.92857	-0.05415	2.13196
H	-3.28971	6.92235	-0.06896	C	-9.04494	1.34677	2.09188
H	-2.78404	7.60952	-1.61505	C	-10.30903	1.94218	2.15002
C	-0.90524	5.79429	-0.87868	C	-11.46972	1.17923	2.27809
H	-0.20205	4.98232	-1.09165	C	-11.30808	-0.21352	2.35621
H	-0.5029	6.70774	-1.33211	H	-10.36695	3.0244	2.10324
H	-0.93274	5.93854	0.20747	H	-12.19948	-0.81528	2.474
C	-2.23848	5.31365	-2.9698	C	-7.83154	2.24396	2.11357
H	-1.84676	6.22225	-3.4419	H	-7.34148	2.18492	3.09243
H	-1.57888	4.48501	-3.24827	N	-6.73521	1.98767	1.09657
H	-3.22871	5.1111	-3.3941	C	-5.63492	2.97504	1.41753
C	-1.25499	-0.01563	0.81574	H	-6.06978	3.97973	1.48804
H	-0.64924	-0.92187	0.69429	H	-5.30847	2.71796	2.43106
H	-0.64065	0.7347	1.32629	C	-4.45068	3.0093	0.48341
H	-2.10431	-0.25147	1.46117	C	-3.99319	4.23663	-0.00738
C	-9.55412	-2.94968	1.2367	C	-3.74612	1.83257	0.18737
H	-9.50864	-4.04263	1.31573	C	-2.8465	4.32218	-0.7967
H	-10.21302	-2.70246	0.39603	H	-4.54934	5.13289	0.2485
H	-8.55096	-2.58629	1.00508	C	-2.57368	1.86287	-0.60804
C	-0.44982	0.75915	-1.40732	C	-2.17261	3.12031	-1.07306
H	-0.68783	1.09901	-2.42139	H	-1.28132	3.17453	-1.6842
H	0.21415	1.49588	-0.94199	O	-4.23047	0.67408	0.71496
H	0.11406	-0.17544	-1.49965	O	-7.67913	-0.58545	1.99569
H	-8.24945	3.33241	1.9473	Zr	-5.76097	-0.25417	1.57285
C	-4.44566	1.30569	4.42689	C	-9.99132	-2.41167	2.38844
C	-4.84305	2.54802	4.95593	C	-12.87886	1.79503	2.34136
C	-3.06912	1.05987	4.27754	C	-1.75733	0.59322	-0.93068
C	-3.89998	3.50759	5.32416	C	-2.30764	5.65162	-1.35585
H	-5.90087	2.75054	5.1115	C	-4.37745	-2.34318	2.48612
C	-2.12759	2.01842	4.64728	H	-4.08928	-3.01911	3.28276
H	-2.72541	0.11588	3.86358	C	-5.14156	-3.04159	1.44586
C	-2.53711	3.24795	5.16952	C	-5.46076	-4.40645	1.46436
H	-4.23167	4.45344	5.74319	C	-6.03853	-2.79311	-0.72525
H	-1.06963	1.80473	4.52437	C	-6.02633	-4.96762	0.3267
H	-1.80135	3.9929	5.45709	H	-5.21094	-5.00893	2.3311
H	-4.32595	-1.40097	4.71416	H	-6.24306	-6.03142	0.29141
C	-7.36292	2.07784	-0.24258	H	-3.48305	-1.85984	2.08234
C	-7.24992	3.23937	-1.01837	C	-6.28228	-4.16468	-0.7882
C	-8.08116	0.99067	-0.75755	N	-5.50131	-2.24903	0.39443
C	-7.82506	3.29805	-2.28869	H	-6.67974	-4.59402	-1.7019
H	-6.71414	4.10445	-0.65377	C	-6.35025	-1.89507	-1.89117
C	-8.66178	1.05846	-2.02596	H	-7.43189	-1.75515	-1.99908
H	-8.22202	0.09671	-0.1618	H	-5.88313	-0.91406	-1.78611
C	-8.53276	2.21034	-2.80007	H	-5.98995	-2.34615	-2.82169
H	-7.7188	4.20541	-2.87592	C	-4.81609	-1.01015	4.17227
H	-9.22213	0.2067	-2.40061	H	-5.56283	-1.7012	4.5555
H	-8.98266	2.2629	-3.78684	C	-5.31773	0.27811	3.77002
C	-2.53682	-0.5892	-1.29385	H	-6.31007	0.50469	4.16366
H	-3.42131	-0.87858	-0.72319	C	-11.37065	-3.05802	2.63773
H	-2.85966	-0.23567	-2.28045	H	-11.82865	-2.70651	3.56875
H	-1.9191	-1.48331	-1.44359	H	-12.07115	-2.87301	1.81596
				H	-11.24816	-4.14335	2.72234

C	-9.08066	-2.81935	3.57281	H	-3.00448	0.00065	-2.6301	
H	-8.06257	-2.44234	3.45185	H	-2.04131	-1.31783	-1.94243	
H	-9.48004	-2.43311	4.51765	H	-4.61827	1.10746	3.86832	
H	-9.03447	-3.91229	3.65126	C	-3.47543	-1.17645	4.77686	
C	-13.73083	1.25136	1.16911	C	-3.29191	-2.17479	5.74972	
H	-13.83625	0.16199	1.20963	C	-2.38729	-0.35314	4.43868	
H	-14.73825	1.68253	1.20069	C	-2.06196	-2.33141	6.38642	
H	-13.28156	1.50991	0.20334	H	-4.12587	-2.81791	6.02261	
C	-12.8478	3.33239	2.23924	C	-1.1546	-0.52045	5.06533	
H	-12.28655	3.78646	3.06423	H	-2.49816	0.415	3.67845	
H	-12.40773	3.67158	1.29416	C	-0.98917	-1.5061	6.043	
H	-13.8694	3.72442	2.28434	H	-1.94183	-3.09539	7.14878	
C	-13.55001	1.41435	3.68305	H	-0.32123	0.12036	4.79277	
H	-12.97295	1.79421	4.53385	H	-0.02836	-1.62938	6.53395	
H	-14.5572	1.84357	3.73797	2-TS1				
H	-13.64615	0.32978	3.80053					
C	-3.1857	6.85199	-0.95312		C	-9.95345	-0.85164	2.29985
H	-4.21005	6.75612	-1.33238		C	-8.78964	-0.04825	2.20219
H	-3.23055	6.98053	0.1347		C	-8.88088	1.35438	2.21997
H	-2.76648	7.77223	-1.37362		C	-10.13403	1.97433	2.26021
C	-0.87911	5.89655	-0.81318		C	-11.31186	1.22766	2.30808
H	-0.18946	5.09603	-1.10091		C	-11.17614	-0.17027	2.34053
H	-0.47839	6.83737	-1.20837		H	-10.17018	3.05887	2.2696
H	-0.87997	5.96159	0.28091		H	-12.08153	-0.75893	2.40672
C	-2.26526	5.5825	-2.9015	C	-7.6365	2.20208	2.30876	
H	-1.88301	6.52392	-3.31303	H	-7.14446	2.05789	3.27999	
H	-1.61475	4.77739	-3.25905	N	-6.57361	1.95017	1.27325	
H	-3.26591	5.41297	-3.31553	C	-5.50053	2.99183	1.48138	
C	-1.22595	-0.03384	0.38101	H	-5.97545	3.97966	1.51072	
H	-0.65071	-0.94112	0.16052	H	-5.09197	2.80917	2.4836	
H	-0.5619	0.66518	0.90276	C	-4.39644	3.00125	0.4574	
H	-2.03832	-0.30213	1.06065	C	-4.05656	4.18882	-0.19716	
C	-9.443	-2.99636	1.06619	C	-3.66167	1.82932	0.21858	
H	-9.39506	-4.09039	1.12701	C	-2.98599	4.24148	-1.09039	
H	-10.09927	-2.73653	0.22706	H	-4.63964	5.07858	0.01574	
H	-8.4398	-2.62647	0.84723	C	-2.55602	1.8319	-0.66784	
C	-0.53353	0.89523	-1.82051	C	-2.26715	3.05127	-1.2932	
H	-0.82158	1.31739	-2.78979	H	-1.43009	3.08269	-1.97818	
H	0.16999	1.5831	-1.3386	O	-4.06926	0.70921	0.88069	
H	0.0061	-0.0374	-2.0172	O	-7.53768	-0.58237	2.10339	
H	-8.16052	3.2831	1.98681	Zr	-5.60746	-0.20885	1.75006	
C	-7.27185	2.13732	-0.26524	C	-9.89836	-2.39108	2.40389	
C	-7.21819	3.35411	-0.95727	C	-12.7124	1.86573	2.34297	
C	-7.91997	1.04853	-0.85996	C	-1.69273	0.57889	-0.92433	
C	-7.78065	3.46546	-2.2294	C	-2.57106	5.52529	-1.83179	
H	-6.73686	4.2212	-0.52564	C	-3.94654	-2.38723	2.19607	
C	-8.48603	1.16704	-2.13099	H	-3.43095	-3.12214	2.80721	
H	-8.02255	0.11334	-0.3208	C	-4.78775	-2.98786	1.15707	
C	-8.41443	2.37415	-2.82404	C	-4.89337	-4.36301	0.91678	
H	-7.72227	4.41494	-2.75329	C	-6.1424	-2.49218	-0.71223	
H	-8.99426	0.31409	-2.57156	C	-5.60416	-4.78876	-0.19879	
H	-8.85352	2.46667	-3.81273	H	-4.38801	-5.0659	1.57019	
C	-2.63408	-0.42952	-1.69204	H	-5.67609	-5.84746	-0.43013	
H	-3.49063	-0.75175	-1.09698	H	-3.23209	-1.65861	1.80758	

C	-6.20696	-3.84687	-1.03682
N	-5.45764	-2.08725	0.38493
H	-6.74008	-4.15721	-1.92875
C	-6.8278	-1.44335	-1.5415
H	-6.14137	-0.62559	-1.78469
H	-7.19943	-1.86782	-2.47726
H	-7.68562	-1.02646	-1.00062
C	-4.71799	-1.5319	4.02683
H	-5.47827	-2.29061	4.19383
C	-5.13579	-0.14863	4.03992
H	-6.15699	-0.01968	4.41063
C	-7.12634	1.97144	-0.12072
H	-6.30021	1.71116	-0.79029
H	-7.87331	1.1739	-0.17104
C	-9.27266	-2.99268	1.12577
H	-9.85542	-2.71591	0.23887
H	-8.24598	-2.65158	0.98669
H	-9.26119	-4.08752	1.19
C	-11.29795	-3.01898	2.57017
H	-11.80412	-2.66659	3.47537
H	-11.9468	-2.81973	1.71003
H	-11.19521	-4.10622	2.65557
C	-13.52664	1.38585	1.1172
H	-13.64612	0.29732	1.10496
H	-14.52927	1.82875	1.13121
H	-13.03956	1.68078	0.1804
C	-12.65164	3.40498	2.30597
H	-12.11796	3.81495	3.17138
H	-12.16678	3.77393	1.39433
H	-13.66728	3.81414	2.32474
C	-13.44227	1.44333	3.64088
H	-12.89257	1.77677	4.52849
H	-14.44292	1.88946	3.67448
H	-13.56239	0.35698	3.70913
C	-3.48	6.71916	-1.48196
H	-4.5246	6.53435	-1.75917
H	-3.44411	6.96234	-0.4137
H	-3.14825	7.60702	-2.03054
C	-1.11872	5.89669	-1.44607
H	-0.40935	5.10477	-1.70898
H	-0.80819	6.80727	-1.97154
H	-1.03258	6.08023	-0.3691
C	-2.65116	5.28959	-3.35947
H	-2.35348	6.19629	-3.89896
H	-1.98976	4.47977	-3.68511
H	-3.67182	5.033	-3.66615
C	-1.05252	0.11102	0.40505
H	-0.46958	-0.80398	0.24426
H	-0.37366	0.8775	0.7958
H	-1.80559	-0.08701	1.1712
C	-9.06329	-2.79892	3.64281
H	-9.02425	-3.89163	3.72731
H	-8.03838	-2.4243	3.57997
H	-9.51461	-2.40768	4.56156

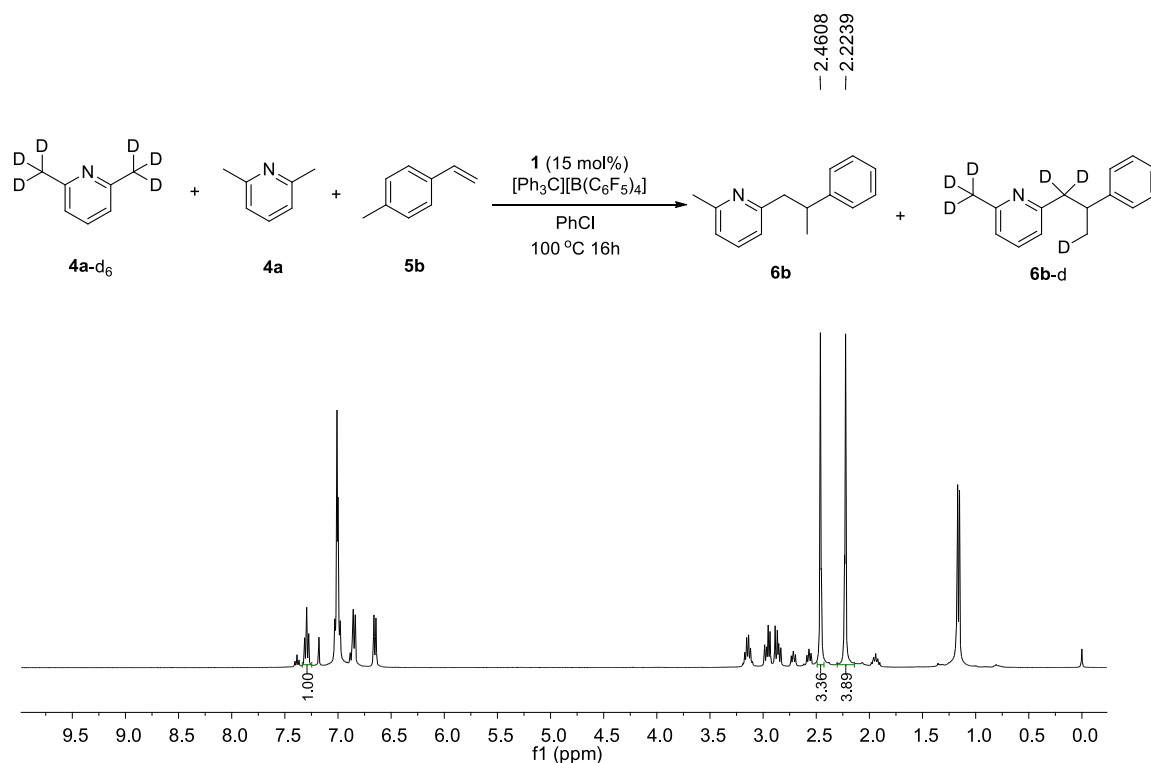
C	-0.53845	0.85149	-1.91168
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H	0.04391	-0.06676	-2.04435
C	-2.55634	-0.54945	-1.5366
H	-3.37662	-0.84189	-0.87807
H	-2.98217	-0.23014	-2.4956
H	-1.93826	-1.43554	-1.72599
H	-7.92268	3.25969	2.26823
C	-7.76316	3.28258	-0.60164
H	-7.02836	4.09505	-0.56814
H	-8.59442	3.56616	0.05514
C	-8.28784	3.14302	-2.04006
H	-7.46082	2.84578	-2.70001
H	-9.02506	2.32886	-2.08048
C	-8.92237	4.43395	-2.5674
H	-9.285	4.30383	-3.59235
H	-9.77444	4.7401	-1.94892
H	-8.19967	5.25846	-2.57174
H	-3.75142	-1.77108	4.45992
C	-4.20301	0.92732	4.47383
C	-4.71498	2.05216	5.14867
C	-2.81644	0.87275	4.24231
C	-3.87558	3.0823	5.5734
H	-5.77881	2.10202	5.37289
C	-1.97775	1.90088	4.67031
H	-2.38477	0.02425	3.71796
C	-2.50163	3.01281	5.33426
H	-4.29494	3.93242	6.10447
H	-0.90982	1.83336	4.48272
H	-1.84575	3.81155	5.66722

2-TS2

C	-10.15409	-0.79882	2.22278
C	-8.97443	-0.01468	2.15309
C	-9.04494	1.38922	2.18176
C	-10.28913	2.02729	2.2256
C	-11.47869	1.30034	2.26633
C	-11.36592	-0.09965	2.27304
H	-10.30808	3.11206	2.24418
H	-12.28077	-0.67528	2.32317
C	-7.79553	2.23033	2.27929
H	-7.33503	2.11444	3.26909
N	-6.70419	1.94167	1.28549
C	-5.63082	2.97799	1.49859
H	-6.09434	3.97179	1.48825
H	-5.26152	2.81581	2.52002
C	-4.4885	2.95628	0.51613
C	-4.10815	4.13311	-0.13635
C	-3.76053	1.7727	0.31519
C	-3.00302	4.16364	-0.98782
H	-4.68827	5.03188	0.04523
C	-2.62182	1.75272	-0.52749
C	-2.2926	2.96223	-1.15165

H	-1.42982	2.97636	-1.80442	H	-3.08617	7.52348	-1.95866
O	-4.20645	0.66162	0.96739	C	-1.10043	5.78789	-1.30437
O	-7.73287	-0.57421	2.06563	H	-0.39582	4.98392	-1.54207
Zr	-5.78385	-0.23344	1.79634	H	-0.76239	6.68969	-1.82796
C	-10.12742	-2.34168	2.2685	H	-1.04107	5.97887	-0.22686
C	-12.86806	1.96126	2.31528	C	-2.58827	5.18685	-3.25449
C	-1.76895	0.48432	-0.74109	H	-2.25948	6.08326	-3.79309
C	-2.54697	5.43488	-1.72724	H	-1.9326	4.36245	-3.55412
C	-4.30869	-2.38983	2.60665	H	-3.60452	4.94567	-3.58743
H	-3.95347	-3.11115	3.33445	C	-1.19719	0.00481	0.61505
C	-5.08966	-3.03515	1.54191	H	-0.59781	-0.90243	0.47243
C	-5.331	-4.41433	1.45046	H	-0.54629	0.77083	1.05218
C	-6.14615	-2.65494	-0.5406	H	-1.98872	-0.21755	1.33454
C	-5.93774	-4.90585	0.30249	C	-9.5206	-2.89652	0.96013
H	-4.99673	-5.07504	2.24316	H	-9.50322	-3.99288	0.98569
H	-6.09899	-5.97353	0.18456	H	-10.11907	-2.59097	0.09354
H	-3.45867	-1.82525	2.21369	H	-8.49808	-2.54547	0.81543
C	-6.31962	-4.02533	-0.71606	C	-0.56872	0.73602	-1.67762
N	-5.55212	-2.18474	0.58374	H	-0.88289	1.03849	-2.68287
H	-6.76736	-4.39601	-1.63156	H	0.11133	1.49906	-1.28328
C	-6.61198	-1.65114	-1.55867	H	0.00598	-0.19077	-1.78103
H	-7.50632	-1.12502	-1.20164	C	-2.62376	-0.63288	-1.38542
H	-5.83361	-0.90876	-1.76389	H	-3.46398	-0.92109	-0.75019
H	-6.87434	-2.14236	-2.4989	H	-3.01662	-0.30666	-2.35617
C	-4.82875	-1.18544	4.35021	H	-2.00855	-1.52429	-1.55838
H	-5.55161	-1.92293	4.69146	H	-8.07529	3.28733	2.19571
C	-5.38357	0.11722	4.02978	C	-7.8353	3.21781	-0.66333
H	-6.37872	0.27864	4.45186	H	-7.10702	4.03613	-0.62044
C	-7.21016	1.92302	-0.12653	H	-8.69224	3.50929	-0.04419
H	-6.3612	1.64679	-0.76116	C	-8.30459	3.04222	-2.11668
H	-7.95357	1.12134	-0.17982	H	-7.45059	2.74091	-2.73931
C	-11.53782	-2.95024	2.41507	H	-9.03107	2.21906	-2.16683
H	-12.03463	-2.62445	3.33544	C	-8.9337	4.31459	-2.6935
H	-12.18587	-2.7063	1.56599	H	-9.25624	4.1598	-3.72836
H	-11.4538	-4.04163	2.45718	H	-9.81172	4.62209	-2.11324
C	-9.29626	-2.81952	3.48459	H	-8.22098	5.14778	-2.68756
H	-8.2622	-2.47146	3.42973	C	-3.49302	-1.32432	4.97609
H	-9.73304	-2.45294	4.42063	C	-3.28059	-2.35894	5.90384
H	-9.28739	-3.91544	3.52573	C	-2.43553	-0.44231	4.69362
C	-13.69326	1.51701	1.08348	C	-2.05296	-2.49531	6.55003
H	-13.82861	0.4308	1.05103	H	-4.09043	-3.0479	6.13415
H	-14.68926	1.97419	1.1092	C	-1.20482	-0.58822	5.32965
H	-13.20466	1.82243	0.15089	H	-2.56947	0.35578	3.96843
C	-12.78133	3.4994	2.30587	C	-1.01077	-1.61166	6.26199
H	-12.23534	3.88401	3.17515	H	-1.91109	-3.28928	7.27729
H	-12.29568	3.87664	1.39812	H	-0.39557	0.09864	5.09967
H	-13.78959	3.92566	2.33855	H	-0.05205	-1.719	6.76069
C	-13.60151	1.52796	3.60757	H	-4.71622	0.96211	4.20471
H	-13.04451	1.83735	4.49929				
H	-14.59505	1.98895	3.65165				
H	-13.7382	0.4426	3.65735				
C	-3.44683	6.6454	-1.4126				
H	-4.48609	6.47436	-1.71742				
H	-3.43688	6.89688	-0.34564				

Kinetic isotope effect study



In a glovebox filled with nitrogen, PhCl solution (1.0 mL) of [Ph₃C][B(C₆F₅)₄] (138 mg, 0.15 mmol) was slowly added to PhCl solution (1.0 mL) of **1** (120 mg, 0.15 mmol) under stirring in a 10 mL Schlenk tube. A color change from orange to colorless was observed immediately. After 5 min, a mixture of 2,6-lutidine **4a** (58 μL, 0.5 mmol), **4a-d₆** (58 μL, 0.5 mmol) and **5b** (527 μL, 4 mmol) in 1.0 mL of PhCl was added. The Schlenk tube was taken out of the glovebox and heated at 100 °C for 16 h. After reaction, solvent was removed, and the product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, 0.5% NEt₃) to afford **6b** and **6b-d**. The product mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. K_H/K_D was determined as follows:

$$k_H / k_D = \frac{3.36}{3.89 - 3.36} = 6.3$$

References

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