

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones with Remarkable Ligand Effect

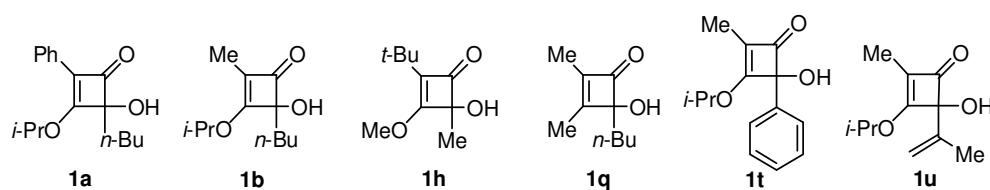
#### Table of Contents

1. General Information.....	S 2
2. Preparation of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones.....	S 2
3. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones with PPh <sub>3</sub> as the Ligand.....	S 7
4. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones with xantphos as the Ligand.....	S 10
5. Deuteration Experiment: Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones 1s and 1a with PPh <sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand.....	S 14
6. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones Bearing an Phenyl or Propenyl group as the R <sup>3</sup> Substituent with PPh <sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand.....	S 16
7. <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra of Compounds.....	S 17
8. <sup>1</sup> H NMR Spectrum from Deuterated Experiments.....	S 67
9. <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectrum from Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones Bearing an Phenyl or Propenyl group as the R <sup>3</sup> Substituent with PPh <sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand.....	S 72

## 1. General Information

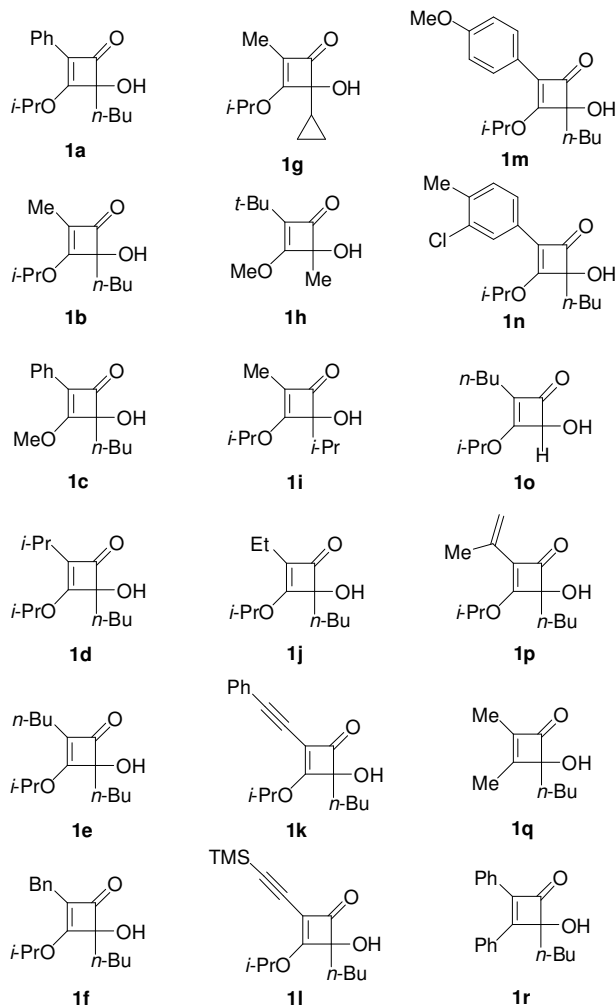
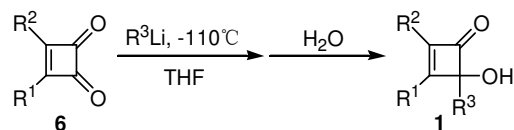
Column chromatography was carried out on 200-300 Mesh silica gel. And thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel GF254 plates. High resolution Mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded in ESI mode using a TOF analyzer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 100 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  using TMS as internal standard. All new products were further characterized by HRMS; copies of their  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are provided. Unless otherwise stated, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet; d = doublet; t = triplet; q = quartet; hept = heptet; m = multiplet), coupling constants,  $J$ , in (Hz), and integration.

## 2. Preparation of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones



$\alpha$ -hydroxycyclobutenones of **1a**, **1b**, **1h**, **1q**, **1t** and **1u** were prepared according to previous report. (Song, P.; Li, Q.; Wang, C.; Wu, W.; Mao, X.; Wang, J.; Hu, X. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2016**, 358, 1208-1212.)

## Preparation of other $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones



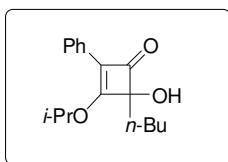
### General procedure:<sup>1</sup>

A solution of  $\text{R}^3\text{Li}$  (1 mmol, 2.5M in THF) was added to the solution of cyclobutenediones **6** (0.5 M in THF, 1.1mmol) at  $-110^\circ\text{C}$  under  $\text{N}_2$ . The system was stirred for 5 minutes, and then quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc three times. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated ammonium chloride solution, saturated brine and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent to afford **1**.

### Reference:

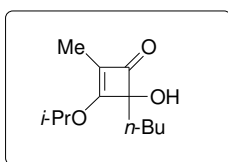
(1) Tomooka, C. S.; Liu, H.; Moore, H. W. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 6009-6012.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-phenyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1a)



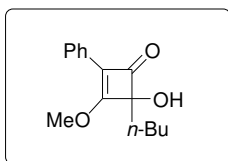
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 5.13 (hept,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.53 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.46 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.34-1.30 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.9, 182.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 126.7, 123.1, 93.0, 78.5, 33.6, 27.4, 23.1, 23.0, 22.7, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  297.1461, Found: 297.1467. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3238, 2957, 2926, 1735, 1619, 1337, 759, 698.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-methyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1b)



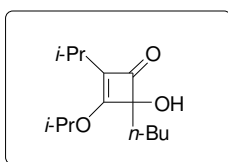
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.84 (hept,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 1H), 1.90-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.43 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 6H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.8, 182.9, 120.8, 91.2, 76.4, 32.2, 27.0, 22.7, 22.6, 22.4, 13.8, 6.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  235.1305, Found: 235.1303. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3308, 2954, 2931, 1745, 1605, 1313.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-2-phenyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1c)



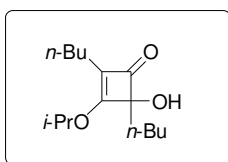
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.26 (s, 3H), 2.18-2.11 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.34-1.23 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.5, 182.2, 128.4, 128.4, 127.9, 126.9, 124.1, 92.9, 59.7, 33.4, 27.5, 22.7, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  269.1148, Found: 269.1145. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3235, 2960, 2923, 1738, 1616, 1337, 761, 698.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-isopropyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1d)



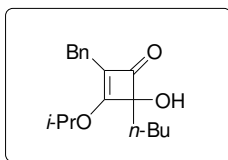
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.01 (s, 1H), 4.77 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.39-2.29 (m,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.30 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.17 (m, 2H), 1.15-1.07 (m, 2H), 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.76 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  193.9, 181.7, 131.1, 91.3, 76.5, 32.6, 27.2, 23.7, 22.6, 22.5, 22.5, 20.2, 13.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  263.1618, Found: 263.1616. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3367, 2963, 2931, 1743, 1607, 1338.

#### 2,4-Dibutyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1e)



$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.82 (hept,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 1H), 2.11-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.51-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.43 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.41 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 6H), 0.92-0.87 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.5, 182.5, 126.1, 91.4, 76.5, 32.5, 29.5, 27.2, 22.7, 22.6, 22.5, 22.0, 13.8, 13.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  277.1774, Found: 277.1772. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3270, 2969, 2932, 1746, 1602, 1317.

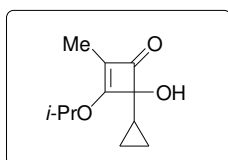
#### 2-Benzyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1f)



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.28-7.16 (m, 5H), 4.77 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (s, 1H), 3.48-3.37 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 1.30-1.18 (m, 4H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.0, 183.2, 137.9, 128.4, 128.2, 126.2, 123.8, 91.6, 77.2, 32.6, 27.9, 27.2, 22.7, 22.6, 22.5, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 311.1618, Found: 311.1620.

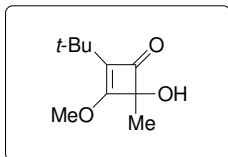
**IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3229, 2957, 1742, 1613, 1333, 756, 699.

#### 4-Cyclopropyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-methyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1g)



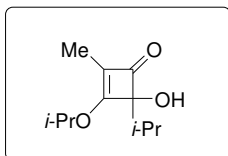
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.87 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 6H), 1.28-1.19 (m, 1H), 0.67-0.61 (m, 1H), 0.59-0.52 (m, 2H), 0.46-0.51 (m, 1H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.9, 182.5, 121.1, 90.7, 76.6, 22.5, 13.9, 6.5, 2.6, 2.4. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 219.0992, Found: 219.0990. **IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3370, 2982, 2931, 1753, 1610, 1315.

#### 2-tert-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-4-methyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1h)



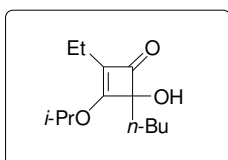
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.15 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5, 183.6, 133.4, 87.7, 77.4, 77.1, 76.8, 58.9, 30.7, 28.0, 20.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 207.0992, Found: 207.0995. **IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3272, 2963, 2934, 1745, 1613, 1349.

#### 4-Hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-4-isopropyl-2-methyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1i)



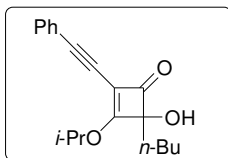
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.78 (hept, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 1H), 2.14-2.03 (m, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.8, 181.8, 120.9, 93.9, 76.2, 31.4, 22.7, 22.3, 18.0, 17.9, 7.0. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 221.1148, Found: 221.1156. **IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3278, 2982, 2955, 1747, 1605, 1313.

#### 4-Butyl-2-ethyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1j)



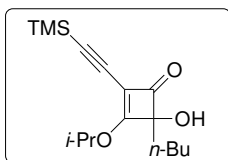
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.83 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 1H), 2.16-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.36-1.19 (m, 4H), 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5, 182.2, 127.0, 91.3, 76.6, 32.4, 27.1, 22.7, 22.6, 22.4, 15.7, 13.8, 12.0. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 249.1461, Found: 249.1468. **IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3372, 2966, 2932, 1749, 1336.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-phenylethynyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1k)



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.30 (hept, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 1.94-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.54 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 3H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 3H), 1.39-1.32 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 184.5, 131.6, 128.8, 128.3, 122.2, 106.3, 92.7, 92.0, 79.0, 76.1, 32.1, 26.6, 22.8, 22.4, 22.1, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 321.1461, Found: 321.1454. **IR** (neat) *v*<sub>max</sub> 3299, 2969, 2928, 1748, 1606, 1332.

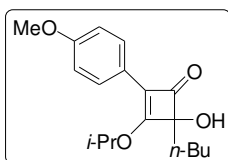
#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-trimethylsilylethynyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1l)



$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.19 (hept,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.01 (s, 1H), 1.82-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.46 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 6H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H), 0.16 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.2, 184.9, 106.5, 99.2, 91.8, 91.1, 78.9, 60.4, 32.0, 26.5, 22.7, 22.4, 22.1, 13.8, -0.4. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3\text{Si}^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  317.1543, Found: 317.1538. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3293, 2971, 2931, 1753, 1596,

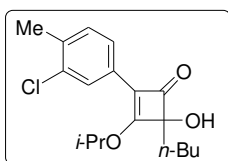
1315.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-cyclobut-2-enone (1m)



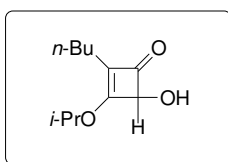
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 5.08 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.15-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.51 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.46 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.38-1.26 (m, 4H), 0.86 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.6, 180.6, 158.9, 128.2, 123.2, 121.6, 113.6, 93.0, 78.1, 55.1, 33.6, 27.4, 26.8, 23.1, 23.0, 22.7, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_4^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  327.1567, Found: 327.1560. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3233, 2963, 2926, 1735, 1603, 1303, 846.

#### 4-Butyl-2-(3-chloro-4-methyl-phenyl)-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1n)



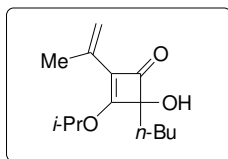
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.12 (hept,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.14-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.56 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.50 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.34-1.23 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.5, 182.3, 135.4, 134.2, 130.7, 127.8, 126.9, 124.9, 121.9, 93.2, 78.9, 33.7, 27.4, 23.2, 23.0, 22.8, 20.0, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  345.1228, Found: 345.1221. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3248, 2957, 2927, 1736, 1594, 1338 900, 824.

#### 2-Butyl-4-hydroxy-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1o)



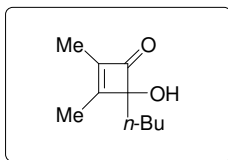
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.21 (s, 1H), 4.93 (hept,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.05-2.01 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.52-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.44 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.40 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 2H), 0.96-0.84 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.2, 182.0, 127.1, 81.2, 77.3, 28.8, 23.1, 22.4, 21.4, 13.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  221.1148, Found: 221.1145. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3343, 2959, 2931, 1749, 1613, 1341.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-2-isopropenyl-3-isopropoxy-cyclobut-2-enone (1p)



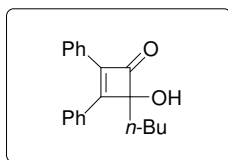
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.42 (s, 1H), 5.01-4.95 (m, 3H), 2.05-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.82-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.41 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.19 (m, 4H), 0.85 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  192.1, 181.8, 132.6, 124.9, 116.1, 92.4, 77.9, 33.5, 27.3, 22.9, 22.8, 22.7, 20.3, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  261.1461, Found: 261.1464. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3289, 2961, 2931, 1736, 1634, 1336.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-2,3-dimethyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1q)



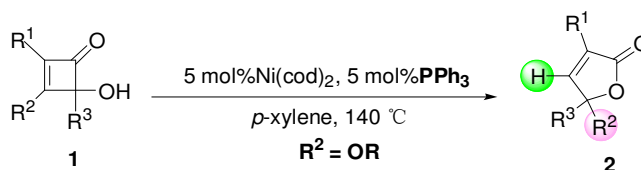
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.00 (s, 1H), 2.37-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.85-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.32-1.27 (m, 2H), 1.25-1.21 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.5, 179.6, 147.3, 93.5, 32.3, 26.9, 22.8, 13.7, 10.5, 7.0. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) m/z for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 191.1043, Found: 191.1045. **IR** (neat) ν<sub>max</sub> 3396, 2959, 2929, 1752, 1637, 1309.

#### 4-Butyl-4-hydroxy-2,3-diphenyl-cyclobut-2-enone (1r)



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.50 (s, 1H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.21 (m, 3H), 2.49-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.16 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.21 (m, 4H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.2, 146.9, 146.6, 140.8, 131.3, 130.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 127.1, 126.6, 65.5, 31.7, 28.2, 23.1, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) m/z for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 315.1356, Found: 315.1346. **IR** (neat) ν<sub>max</sub> 3189, 2955, 2924, 1729, 1641, 1345, 740, 695.

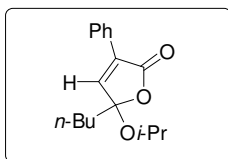
### 3. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of α-Hydroxycyclobutenones with PPh<sub>3</sub> as the Ligand



#### General procedure:

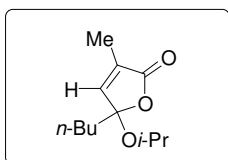
A solution of Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (0.025 mmol), α-hydroxycyclobutenone (**1**, 0.5 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.025 mmol) in *p*-xylene (2.5 mL) was stirred at 140 °C under N<sub>2</sub>. After the complete consumption of **1**, solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Then the crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent. The compound 2-furanone **2** was afforded.

#### 5-Butyl-5-isopropoxy-3-phenyl-5H-furan-2-one (2a)



Yield: 85%; yellow solid; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.91-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 3H), 3.79 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.99-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.44-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 169.3, 145.0, 134.3, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 127.4, 108.4, 66.8, 38.0, 25.5, 24.0, 23.8, 22.6, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) m/z for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 297.1461, Found: 297.1463. **IR** (neat) ν<sub>max</sub> 3081, 2960, 2865, 1760, 1678, 1453, 1378, 1324, 1171, 1108, 750, 691.

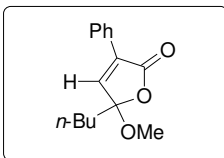
#### 5-Butyl-5-isopropoxy-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (2b)



Yield: 70%; yellow liquid; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.66 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.85-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.28 (m, 4H), 1.15 (m, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (m, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.98-0.80 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.5, 172.2, 96.2, 77.9, 73.3, 31.7, 26.4, 22.6, 22.3, 13.8, 8.6. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI) m/z for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 235.1305, Found: 235.1299. **IR** (neat)

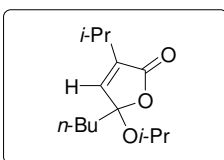
ν<sub>max</sub> 3081, 2961, 2870, 1768, 1662, 1461, 1375, 1318, 1174, 1138.

### 5-Butyl-5-methoxy-3-phenyl-5H-furan-2-one (2c)



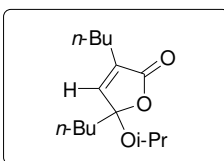
Yield: 91%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 1.91-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.24 (m, 4H), 0.82 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.1, 144.6, 134.8, 129.8, 128.7, 128.7, 127.4, 108.3, 51.1, 37.1, 25.4, 22.6, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  269.1148, Found: 269.1160. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3074, 2961, 2861, 1751, 1631, 1455, 1378, 1304, 1171, 1114, 751, 697.

### 5-Butyl-5-isopropoxy-3-isopropyl-5H-furan-2-one (2d)



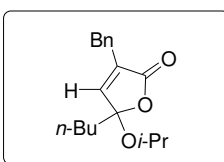
Yield: 82%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.65 (s, 1H), 3.63 (hept,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.70 (q,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.25 (m, 4H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.8, 143.9, 143.5, 109.0, 66.3, 37.8, 25.5, 25.4, 23.9, 23.7, 22.6, 21.1, 21.1, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  263.1618, Found: 263.1617. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3082, 2961, 2870, 1761, 1655, 1461, 1375, 1318, 1174, 1141.

### 3,5-Dibutyl-5-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (2e)



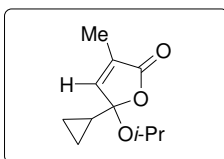
Yield: 80%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.69 (s, 1H), 3.64 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.31 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.89-1.82 (m,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.58-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.25 (m, 4H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.4, 145.4, 137.9, 109.4, 66.4, 37.9, 29.5, 25.5, 24.8, 24.0, 23.7, 22.6, 22.3, 13.9, 13.7. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  277.1774, Found: 277.1772. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3080, 2961, 2868, 1764, 1657, 1461, 1378, 1318, 1171, 1138.

### 3-Benzyl-5-butyl-5-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (2f)



Yield: 80%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35-7.21 (m, 5H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 3.70-3.57 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.26 (m, 4H), 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.9, 146.8, 137.4, 137.0, 128.8, 128.7, 126.8, 109.5, 66.4, 37.7, 31.5, 25.4, 23.9, 23.55, 22.5, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  311.1618, Found: 311.1614. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3068, 2961, 2868, 1764, 1663, 1458, 1375, 1317, 1171, 1134, 741, 697.

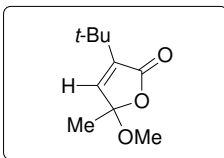
### 5-Cyclopropyl-5-isopropoxy-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (2g)



Yield: 52%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.76 (s, 1H), 3.83 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.17 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.68-0.63 (m, 1H), 0.62-0.55 (m, 1H), 0.52-0.45 (m, 1H), 0.40-0.34 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 146.5, 132.3, 108.0, 66.8, 23.9, 23.6, 16.8, 10.4, 2.4, 1.1. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  219.0992, Found: 219.0996. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3088, 2973, 2874, 1766, 1631, 1451, 1378, 1308, 1185, 1131.

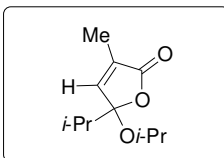
### 3-tert-Butyl-5-methoxy-5-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (2h)





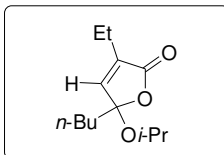
Yield: 78%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.63 (s, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.2, 145.9, 143.9, 105.6, 50.7, 31.7, 28.1, 23.7. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  207.0992, Found: 207.0997. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3080, 2957, 2870, 1760, 1644, 1454, 1367, 1294, 1174, 1125.

### 5-Isopropoxy-5-isopropyl-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (2i)



Yield: 61%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.75 (s, 1H), 3.62 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.06 (hept,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8, 145.1, 133.9, 111.6, 66.3, 35.9, 23.9, 23.5, 17.1, 16.6, 10.5. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  221.1148, Found: 221.1154. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3081, 2974, 2881, 1764, 1664, 1464, 1378, 1338, 1174, 1121.

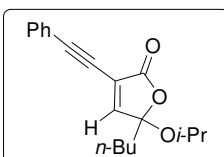
### 5-Butyl-3-ethyl-5-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (2j)



Yield: 63%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.71 (s, 1H), 4.12 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.67 (hept,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.34 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.87-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.20-1.15 (m, 6H), 1.10 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 0.89 (t,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.2, 144.7, 139.3, 109.4, 66.4, 60.3, 37.8, 25.5, 23.9, 23.7, 22.6, 21.0, 18.5, 14.1, 13.8, 11.7. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :

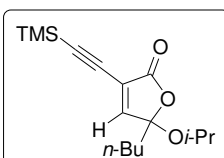
$[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  249.1461, Found: 249.1462. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3081, 2964, 2871, 1764, 1680, 1465, 1378, 1321, 1172, 1138.

### 5-Butyl-5-methoxy-3-phenylethynyl-5H-furan-2-one (2k)



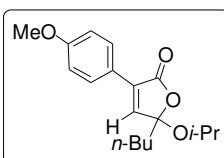
Yield: 59%; red liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 3.73 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.92-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.32 (m, 4H), 1.18 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.13 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.4, 152.0, 132.0, 129.5, 128.4, 121.3, 120.8, 110.1, 97.6, 78.0, 67.3, 37.9, 25.4, 23.9, 23.7, 22.5, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  321.1461, Found: 321.1456. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3084, 2961, 2867, 2220, 1774, 1631, 1460, 1380, 1324, 1174, 1140, 758, 691.

### 5-Butyl-5-isopropoxy-3-trimethylsilyl-5H-furan-2-one (2l)



Yield: 45%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.20 (s, 1H), 3.72 (hept,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.92-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.19 (m, 4H), 1.20 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.26 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 153.3, 120.8, 109.9, 104.9, 92.6, 67.3, 37.8, 25.3, 23.9, 23.7, 22.5, 13.8, -0.5. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3\text{Si}^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  317.1543, Found: 317.1536. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3087, 2964, 2870, 2164, 1782, 1621, 1461, 1381, 1321, 1168, 1138.

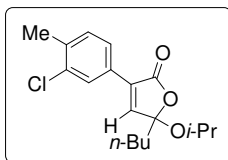
### 5-Butyl-5-isopropoxy-3-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-5H-furan-2-one (2m)



Yield: 84%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.87 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.76 (hept,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.33 (m, 4H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.13 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.1$

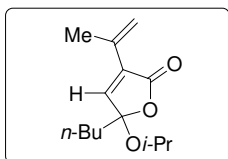
Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.6, 160.7, 142.5, 133.6, 128.8, 121.4, 114.0, 108.4, 66.6, 55.3, 38.0, 25.5, 24.0, 23.8, 22.6, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_4^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  327.1567, Found: 327.1557. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3080, 2961, 2867, 1758, 1604, 1461, 1375, 1324, 1174, 1141, 838.

#### 5-Butyl-3-(3-chloro-4-methyl-phenyl)-5-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (2n)



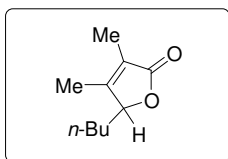
Yield: 88%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.87 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 3.75 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.36-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.20 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.13 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.0, 145.1, 137.9, 134.8, 133.0, 131.1, 128.0, 127.7, 125.5, 108.5, 66.9, 37.9, 25.5, 24.0, 23.8, 22.6, 20.0, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  345.1228, Found: 345.1220. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3081, 2961, 2871, 1758, 1604, 1461, 1378, 1321, 1198, 1138, 955, 822.

#### 5-Butyl-3-isopropenyl-5-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (2p)



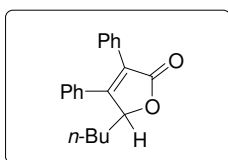
Yield: 73%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.82 (s, 1H), 6.47-6.23 (m, 1H), 5.55-5.28 (m, 1H), 3.67 (hept,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.02-1.94 (m, 3H), 1.91-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.8, 144.7, 134.3, 132.4, 120.4, 107.7, 66.6, 37.9, 25.5, 24.0, 23.8, 22.6, 21.5, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  261.1461, Found: 261.1463. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3080, 2961, 2870, 1764, 1604, 1457, 1378, 1317, 1171, 1140.

#### 5-Butyl-3,4-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-one (3q)



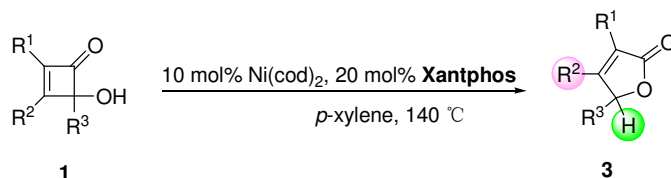
Yield: 75%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.74-4.73 (m, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.91-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.50-1.35 (m, 5H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.7, 159.3, 123.2, 83.2, 31.7, 26.4, 22.3, 13.8, 11.9, 8.3. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  191.1043, Found: 191.1044. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2954, 2868, 1754, 1680, 1441, 1384, 1328, 1117, 1091.

#### 5-Butyl-3,4-diphenyl-5H-furan-2-one (3r)



Yield: 68%; yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42-7.22 (m, 10H), 5.47-5.44 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.82 (m, 1H), 1.55-1.21 (m, 5H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.6, 160.5, 131.2, 129.9, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.5, 81.6, 32.5, 26.5, 22.2, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  315.1356, Found: 315.1345. **IR** (neat): 3058, 2958, 2865, 1751, 1644, 1447, 1378, 1334, 1110, 1080, 774, 694.

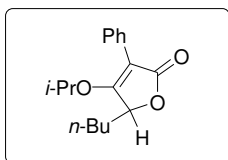
### 4. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones with Xantphos as the Ligand



### General procedure:

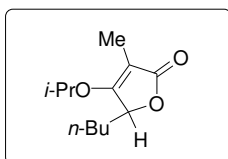
A solution of Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> (0.05 mmol),  $\alpha$ -hydroxycyclohexenone (**1**, 0.5 mmol), and Xantphos (0.1 mmol) in *p*-xylene (2.5 mL) was stirred at 140 °C under N<sub>2</sub>. After the complete consumption of **1**, solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Then the crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent. The compound 2-furanones **3** was afforded.

#### 5-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-3-phenyl-5H-furan-2-one (**3a**)



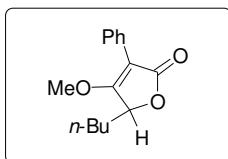
Yield: 80%; yellow liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.78 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.18(d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 0.99-0.84 (m, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.2, 173.1, 130.2, 129.4, 128.2, 127.9, 104.1, 77.5, 74.5, 32.2, 26.5, 22.4, 22.3, 22.1, 13.9. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 297.1461, Found: 297.1467. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  2958, 2868, 1751, 1651, 1458, 1384, 1318, 1174, 1098, 755, 698.

#### 5-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (**3b**)



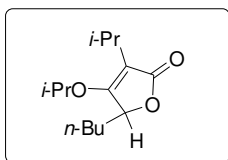
Yield: 60%; yellow liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.85(hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.30 (m, 10H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.9, 171.6, 103.5, 77.6, 73.5, 31.8, 26.3, 22.5, 22.3, 16.7, 14.0, 13.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 235.1305, Found: 235.1312. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  2957, 2870, 1754, 1661, 1460, 1387, 1304, 1214, 1084.

#### 5-Butyl-4-methoxy-3-phenyl-5H-furan-2-one (**3c**)



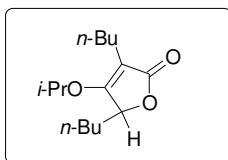
Yield: 84%; yellow liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.48 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.30 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.34 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.5, 172.8, 129.9, 128.1, 128.0, 104.1, 77.3, 60.1, 31.8, 26.3, 22.4, 13.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 269.1148, Found: 269.1145. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  2958, 2864, 1741, 1654, 1458, 1368, 1328, 1174, 1041, 751, 698.

#### 5-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-3-isopropyl-5H-furan-2-one (**3d**)



Yield: 81%; yellow liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.67 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (hept, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.90-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.33-1.31 (m, 2H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.4, 171.9, 111.1, 76.4, 74.0, 32.3, 26.3, 23.8, 22.6, 22.6, 22.34, 20.4, 20.3, 13.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 263.1618, Found: 263.1617. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  2963, 2874, 1747, 1661, 1461, 1381, 1301, 1101, 1024.

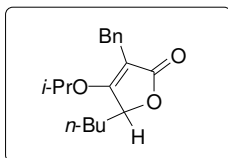
#### 3,5-Dibutyl-4-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (**3e**)



Yield: 80%; yellow liquid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.68 (hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H),

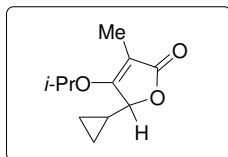
4.57 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.26-2.22 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.37 (m, 5H), 1.37-1.28 (m, 10H), 0.89 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.0, 172.0, 102.6, 77.6, 73.4, 31.9, 31.5, 26.3, 23.0, 22.5, 22.5, 22.3, 13.8, 13.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  277.1774, Found: 277.1772. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2958, 2867, 1755, 1655, 1460, 1378, 1295, 1098, 1045.

### 3-Benzyl-5-butyl-4-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (3f)



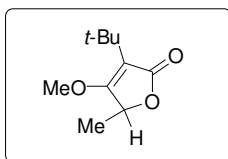
Yield: 70%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 3H), 4.70-4.64 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 1.93-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.52 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.0, 173.5, 139.1, 128.5, 127.8, 126.3, 100.8, 77.9, 74.1, 32.0, 28.8, 26.4, 22.6, 22.5, 22.4, 13.9. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  311.1618, Found: 311.1617. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3031, 2958, 2867, 1751, 1651, 1457, 1378, 1315, 1108, 1041, 749, 703.

### 5-Cyclopropyl-4-isopropoxy-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (3g)



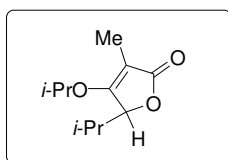
Yield: 42%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.88 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.38 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.36 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.04-0.99 (m, 1H), 0.64-0.61 (m, 1H), 0.56-0.48 (m, 2H), 0.41-0.36 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.3, 172.4, 96.4, 79.6, 73.4, 22.7, 22.6, 12.6, 8.6, 1.9, 0.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  219.0992, Found: 219.0995. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2974, 2860, 1754, 1661, 1457, 1388, 1307, 1097, 1034.

### 3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxy-5-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (3h)



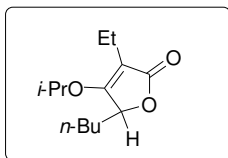
Yield: 75%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.89 (q,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H), 1.25 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.9, 172.3, 112.4, 71.0, 57.6, 31.4, 28.8, 19.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  207.0992, Found: 207.1000. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2958, 2867, 1744, 1647, 1458, 1355, 1305, 1088, 1038.

### 4-Isopropoxy-5-isopropyl-3-methyl-5H-furan-2-one (3i)



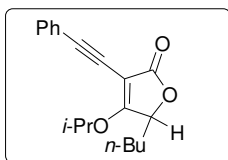
Yield: 53%; colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.85 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.13-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.34 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.75 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 171.2, 96.6, 81.8, 73.3, 29.6, 22.7, 22.6, 18.9, 14.2, 8.7. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  221.1148, Found: 221.1153. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2971, 2877, 1754, 1662, 1461, 1388, 1308, 1138, 1111.

### 5-Butyl-3-ethyl-4-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (3j)



Yield: 55%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.71 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.58 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.31 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.31 (m, 10H), 1.11 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.9, 171.6, 103.5, 77.6, 73.5, 31.8, 26.3, 22.5, 22.3, 16.7, 14.0, 13.8. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  249.1461, Found: 249.1464. IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2963, 2870, 1751, 1654, 1461, 1381, 1298, 1094, 1051.

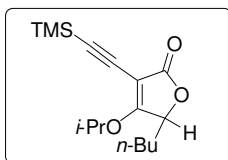
### 5-Butyl-4-methoxy-3-phenylethynyl-5H-furan-2-one (3k)



Yield: 51%; red liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.47-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.62 (hept,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.66-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.47 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 3H), 1.46 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 3H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 3H), 0.91 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  177.3, 171.3, 131.4, 128.6, 128.3, 122.6, 93.8, 86.6, 78.7, 76.1, 31.6, 29.7, 26.1, 22.6, 22.3, 13.8. **HRMS**

Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  321.1461, Found: 321.1455. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2957, 2864, 2218, 1760, 1637, 1457, 1397, 1328, 1104, 1031, 756, 687.

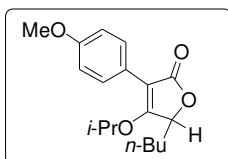
### 5-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-3-trimethylsilanylethynyl-5H-furan-2-one (3l)



Yield: 43%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.57 (hept,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.82 (m, 1H), 1.63-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.41 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 3H), 1.40 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 3H), 1.37-1.29 (m, 3H), 0.89 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.20 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  178.2, 171.2, 100.2, 93.6, 86.8, 78.5, 76.0, 53.4, 31.5, 26.1, 22.6, 22.6, 22.3, 13.8, -0.26. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3\text{Si}^+$ :

$[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  317.1543, Found: 317.1534. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2958, 2861, 2158, 1768, 1628, 1461, 1381, 1318, 1101, 1031.

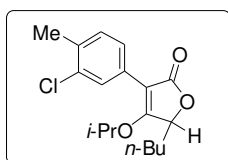
### 5-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-3-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-5H-furan-2-one (3m)



Yield: 69%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.48 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 4.77 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.61 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.23 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  173.4, 172.6, 159.1, 130.5, 122.3, 113.7, 103.9, 77.5, 74.2,

55.2, 32.2, 26.5, 22.4, 22.3, 22.2, 13.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_4^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  327.1567, Found: 327.1560. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2957, 2867, 1747, 1650, 1460, 1380, 1320, 1171, 1097, 1034, 834.

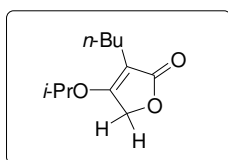
### 5-Butyl-3-(3-chloro-4-methyl-phenyl)-4-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (3n)



Yield: 76%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.80 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.60 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.22 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$

173.6, 172.6, 135.8, 134.2, 130.7, 129.5, 129.2, 127.3, 103.1, 77.4, 74.9, 32.2, 26.4, 22.4, 22.3, 22.2, 19.9, 13.8. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  345.1228, Found: 345.1223. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2958, 2868, 1751, 1648, 1378, 1325, 1174, 1094, 1049, 906, 827.

### 3-Butyl-4-isopropoxy-5H-furan-2-one (3o)

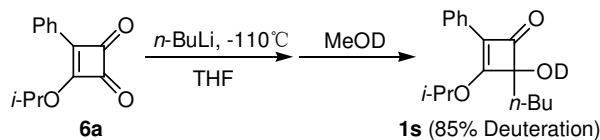


Yield: 64%; yellow liquid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.66 (s, 2H), 4.45 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.20 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.34-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.1, 171.1, 103.9, 73.8, 65.6, 30.1, 22.7, 22.3, 21.7, 13.7. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  221.1148, Found: 221.1142. **IR** (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2961, 2867, 1751, 1665, 1388,

1334, 1105, 1049, 1005.

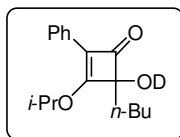
## 5. Deuterated Experiments: Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenone **1s** with PPh<sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand

### 5.1 Preparation of deuterated $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenone **1s**:



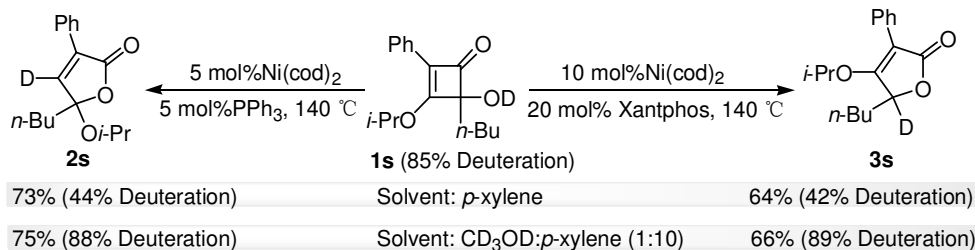
A solution of *n*-BuLi (1 mmol, 2.5M in THF) was added to the solution of cyclobutenedione **6a** (0.5 M in THF, 1.1mmol) at -110°C under N<sub>2</sub>. The system was stirred for 5 minutes, and then quenched with CD<sub>3</sub>OD. The combined organic layer was removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue of **1s** (85% deuteration) was afforded.

**1s** (85% deuteration)

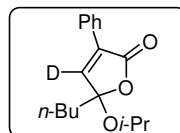


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H, 15% integration), 5.17 (hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.06-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.96-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H), 1.40-1.35 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1534.

### 5.2 Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of **1s** with PPh<sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand:

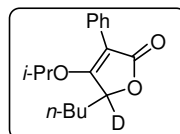


**2s** (44% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1s** (85% deuteration) in *p*-xylene using PPh<sub>3</sub> as the ligand)



Yield: 73%; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H, 56% integration), 7.42-7.27 (m, 3H), 3.64 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.24 (m, 4H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1531.

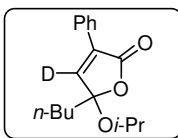
**3s** (42% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1s** (85% deuteration) in *p*-xylene using Xantphos as the ligand)



Yield: 64%; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.78 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H, 58% integration), 4.60 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 0.99-0.84 (m, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

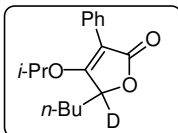
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1533.

**2s** (88% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1s** (85% deuteration) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD:*p*-xylene=1:10 using PPh<sub>3</sub> as the ligand)



Yield: 75%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H, 12% integration), 7.42-7.27 (m, 3H), 3.64 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.24 (m, 4H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1532.

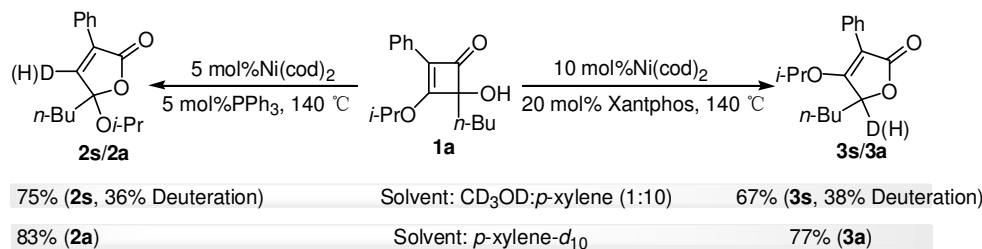
**3s** (89% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1s** (85% deuteration) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD:*p*-xylene=1:10 using Xantphos as the ligand)



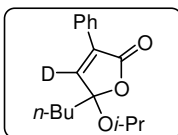
Yield: 66%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.78 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H, 11% integration), 4.60 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 0.99-0.84 (m, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1531.

### 5.3 Related Control Experiments:

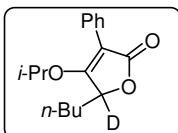


**2s** (36% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1a** in CD<sub>3</sub>OD:*p*-xylene=1:10 using PPh<sub>3</sub> as the ligand)



Yield: 75%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H, 64% integration), 7.31-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.64 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.24 (m, 4H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1533.

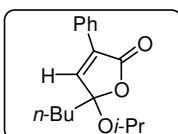
**3s** (38% deuteration, obtained from the reaction of **1a** in CD<sub>3</sub>OD:*p*-xylene=1:10 using Xantphos as the ligand)



Yield: 67%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.78 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H, 62% integration), 4.60 (hept, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 0.99-0.84 (m, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

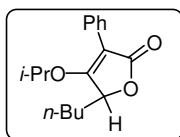
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>DNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 298.1528, Found: 298.1532.

**2a** (obtained from the reaction of **1a** in *p*-xylene-*d*<sub>10</sub> using PPh<sub>3</sub> as the ligand)



Yield: 83%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.64 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.24 (m, 4H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  
**HRMS** Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 297.1461, Found: 297.1467.

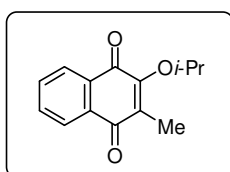
**3a** (obtained from the reaction of **1a** in *p*-xylene-*d*<sub>10</sub> using Xantphos as the ligand)



Yield: 77%;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.78 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.60 (hept,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.18(d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.99-0.84 (m,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H). **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  297.1461, Found: 297.1467.

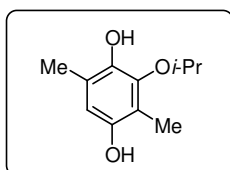
## 6. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenones Bearing an Phenyl or Propenyl group as the $\text{R}^3$ Substituent with $\text{PPh}_3$ or Xantphos as the Ligand

### 2-Isopropoxy-3-methyl-[1,4]naphthoquinone (4)



Yellow solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 2H), 5.02 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.13 (s, 2H), 1.39 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  185.8, 181.4, 156.7, 133.6, 133.5, 133.1, 132.3, 131.5, 126.1, 76.2, 23.0, 9.7. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  253.0841, Found: 253.0839.

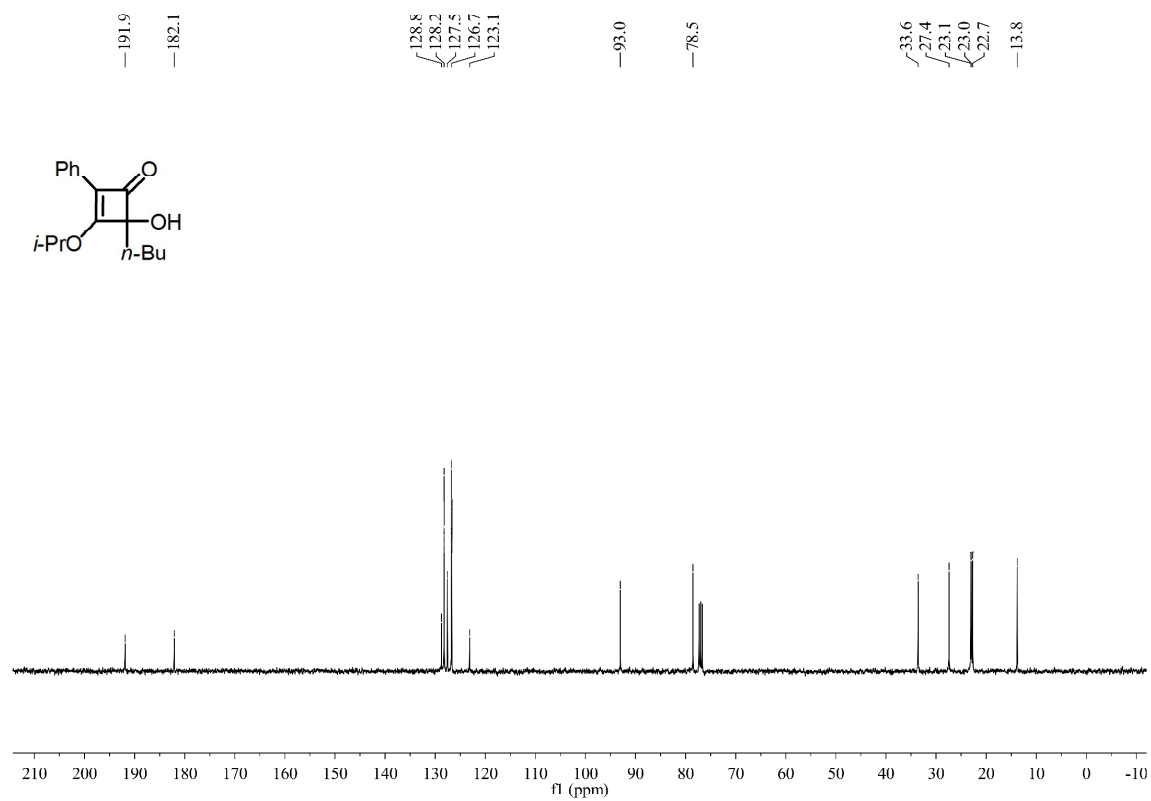
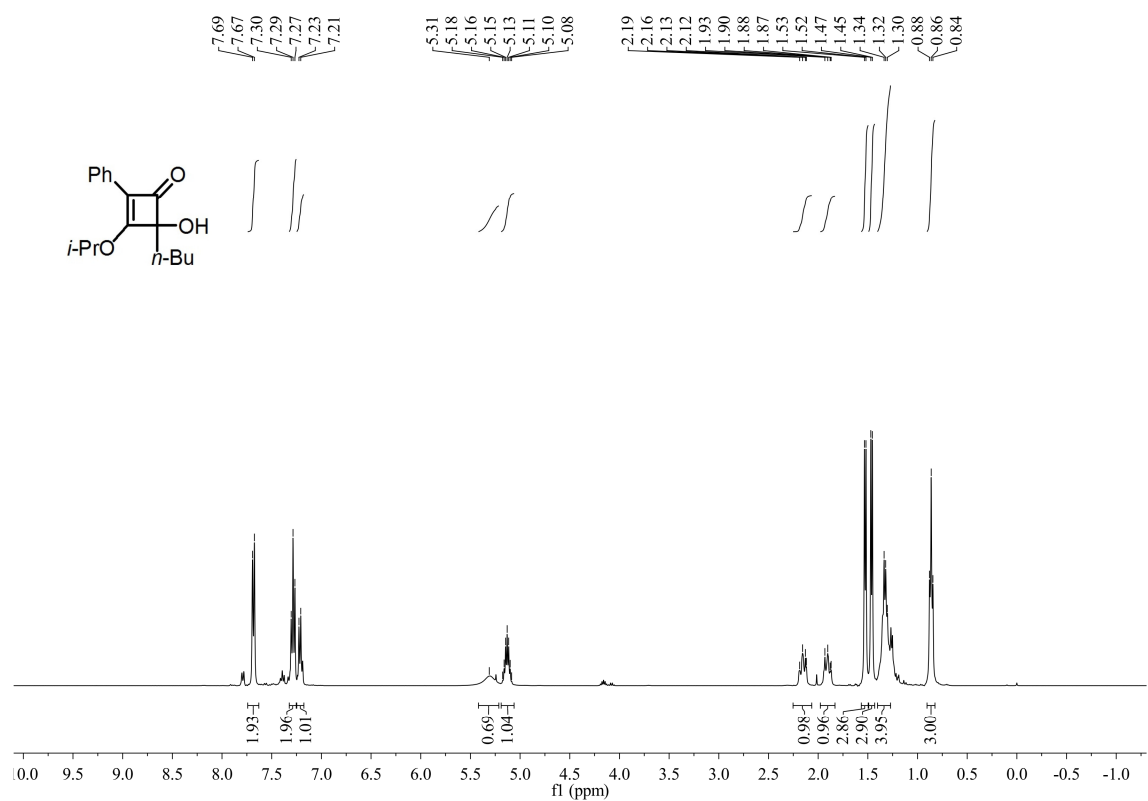
### 3-Isopropoxy-2,5-dimethyl-benzene-1,4-diol (5)

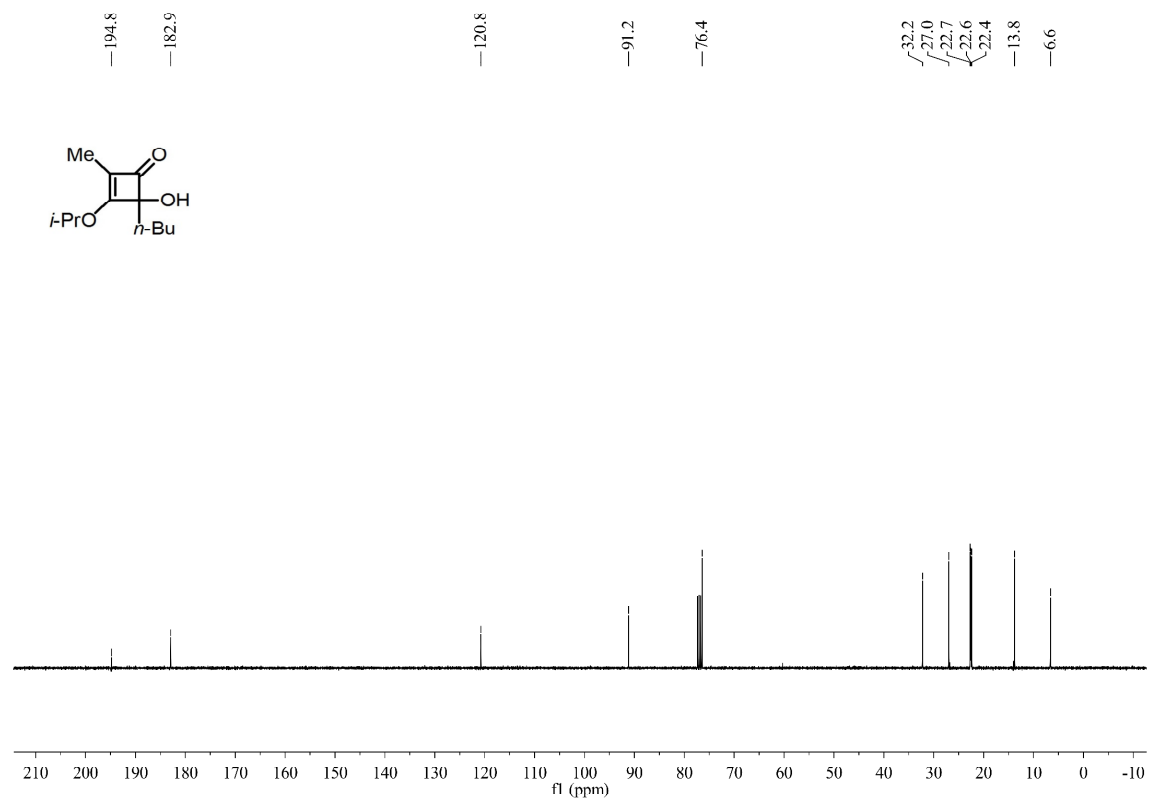
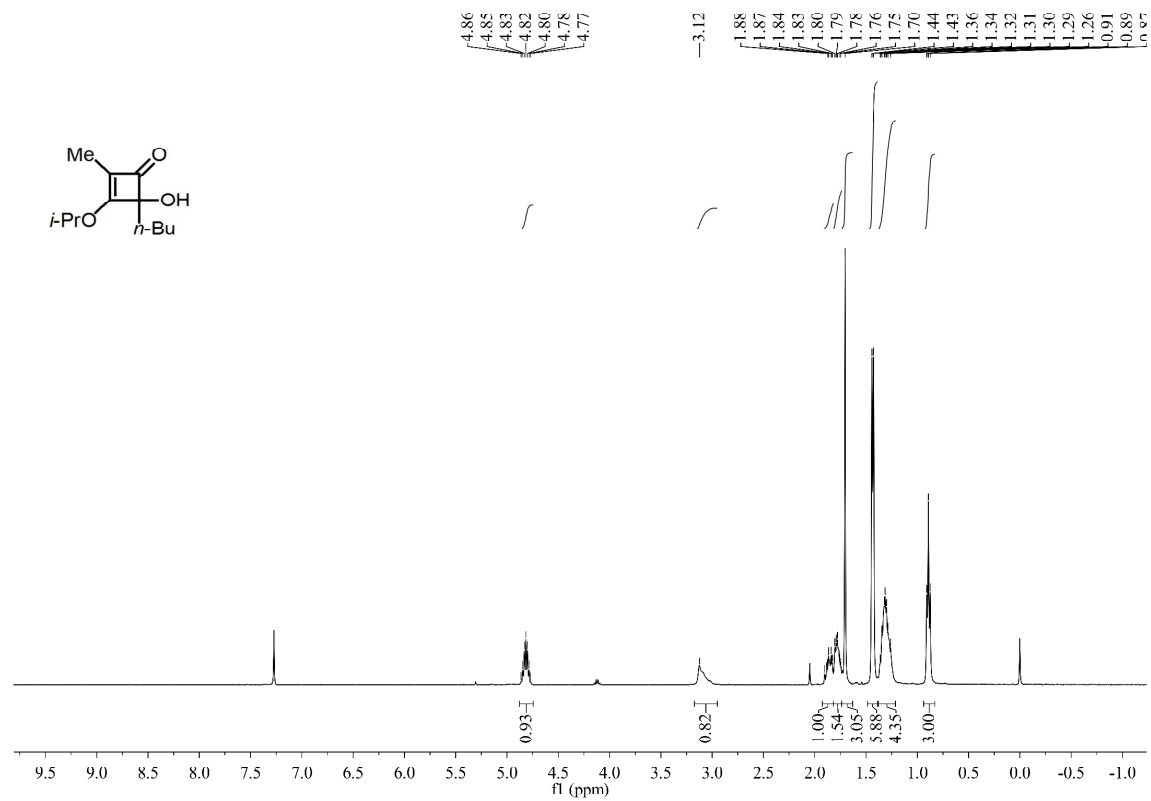


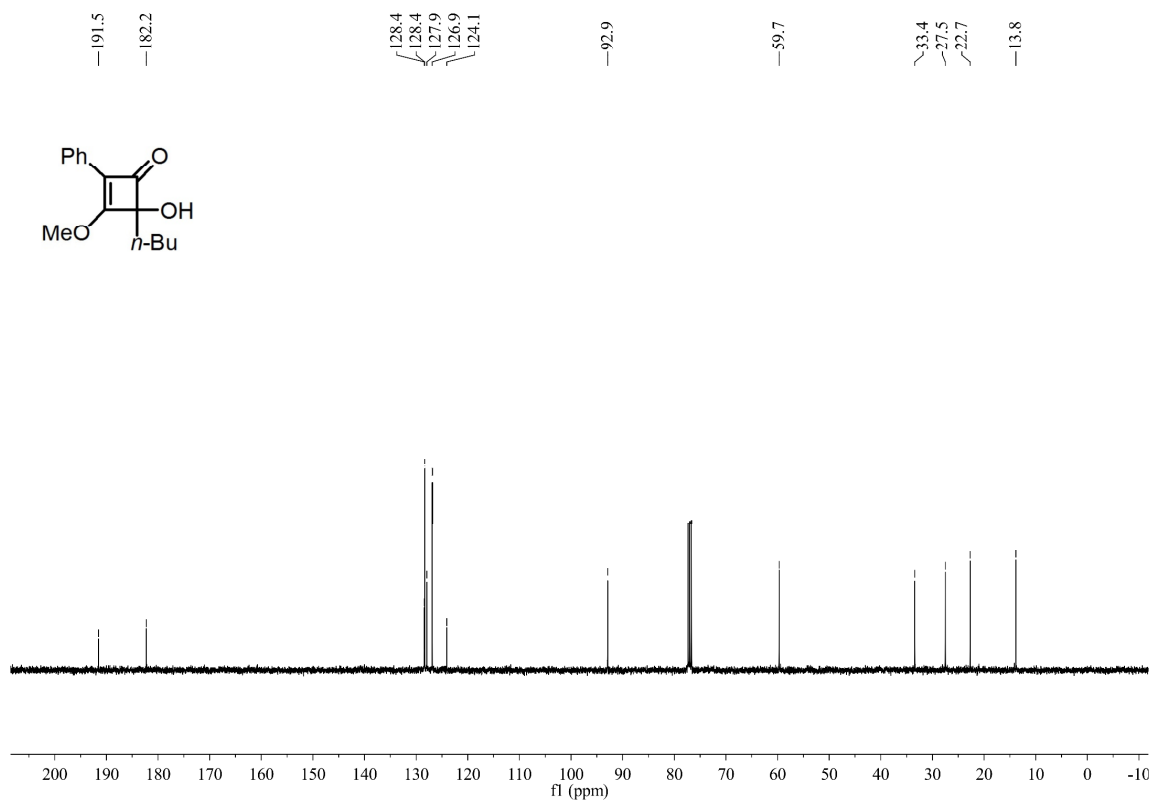
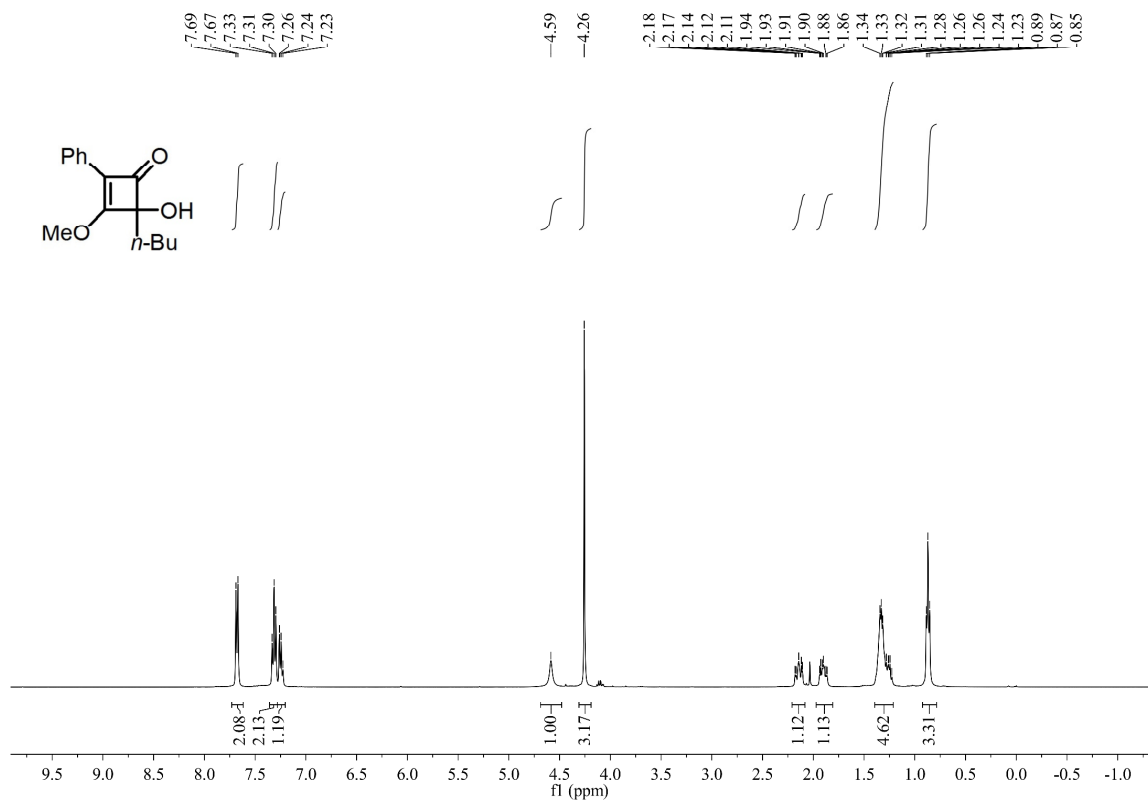
Yellow solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.35 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.16 (hept,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 1.32 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  146.8, 143.0, 141.6, 121.2, 114.9, 112.2, 76.1, 22.4, 15.5, 9.9. **HRMS** Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3^+$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  219.0997, Found: 219.0995.

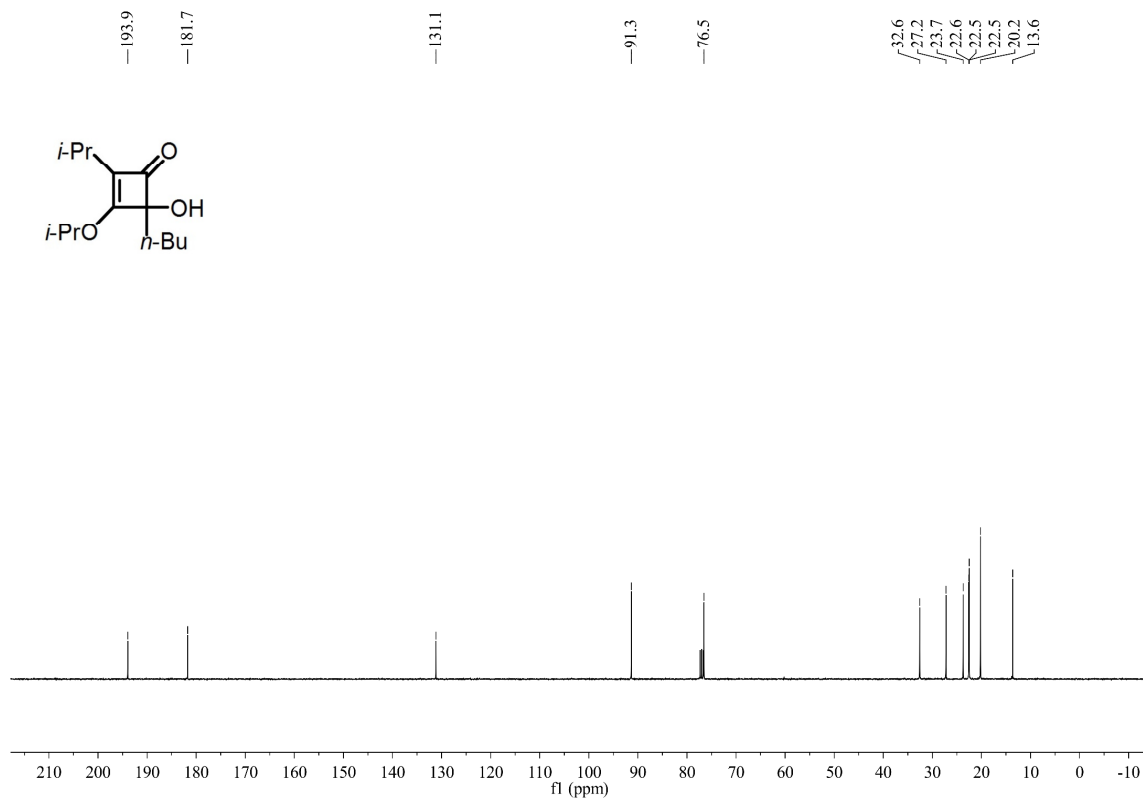
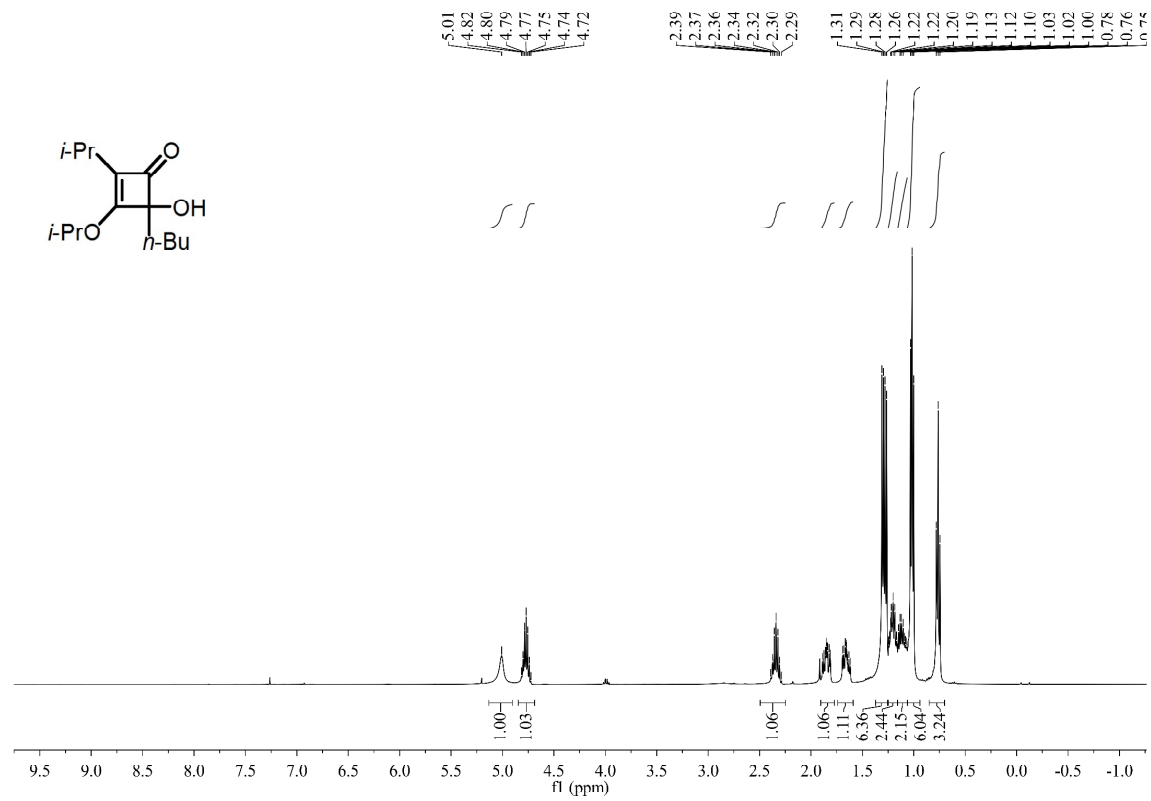


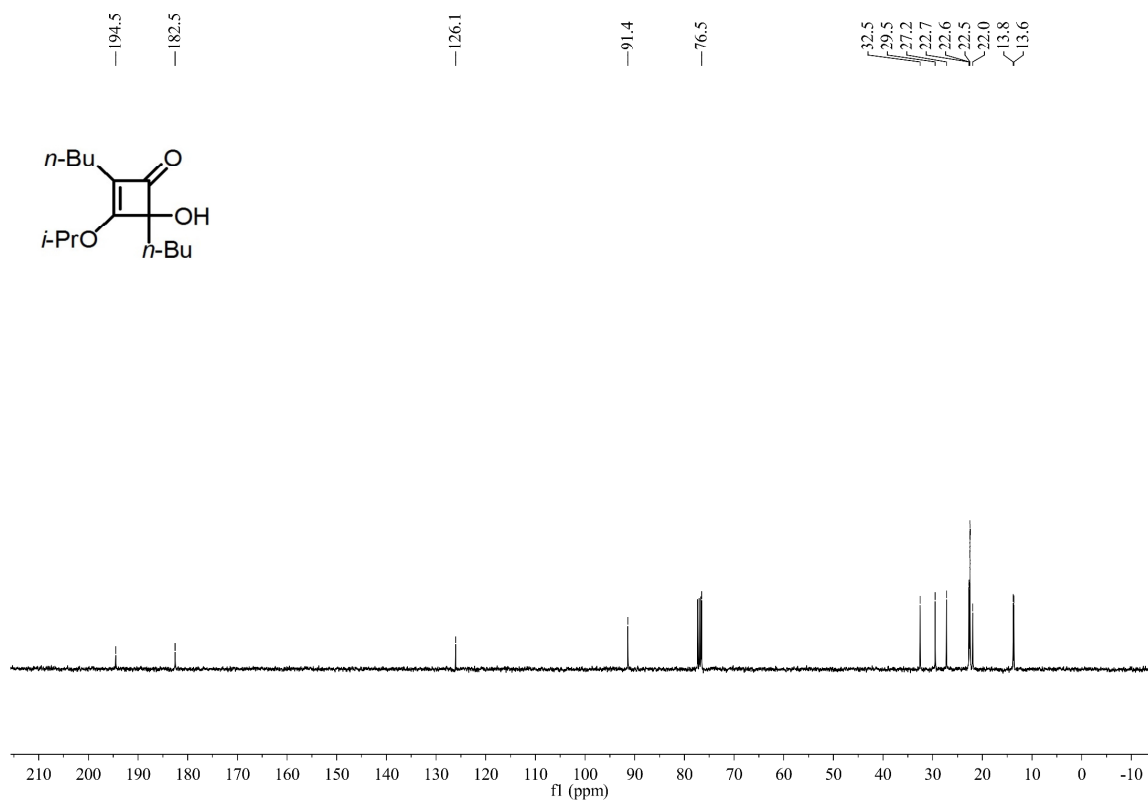
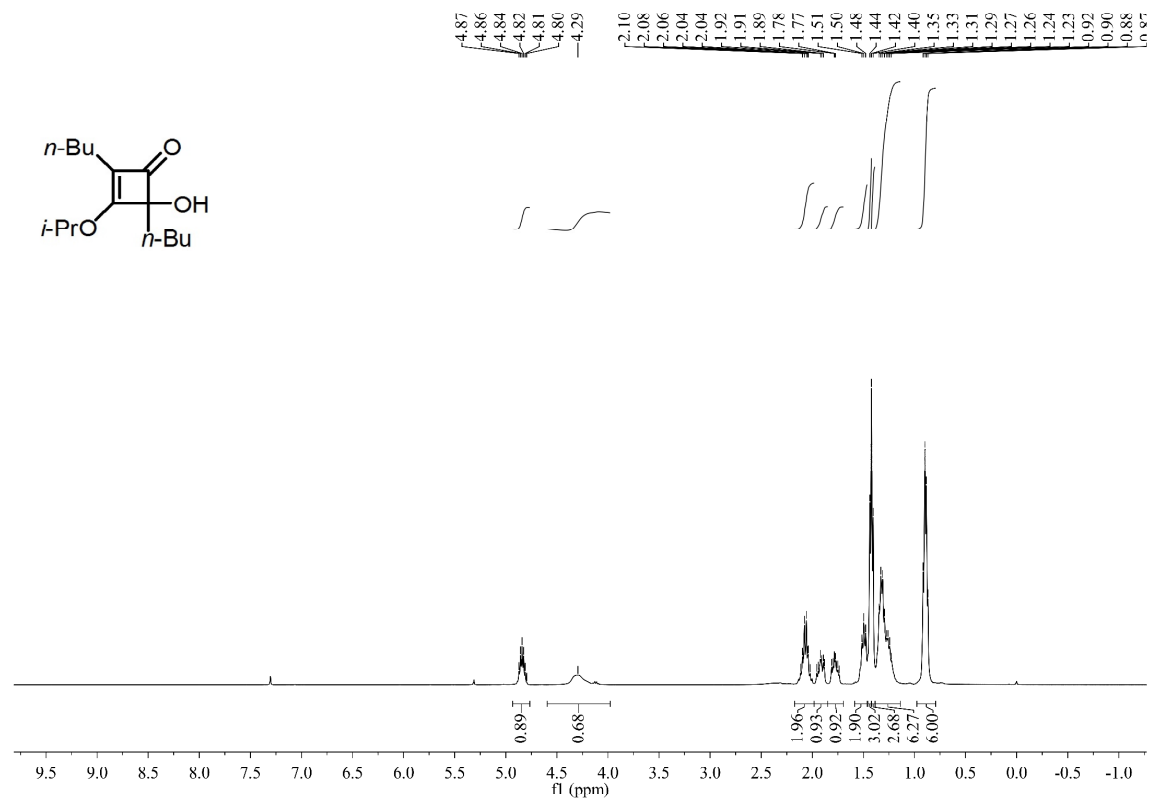
## 7. NMR Spectra of Compounds

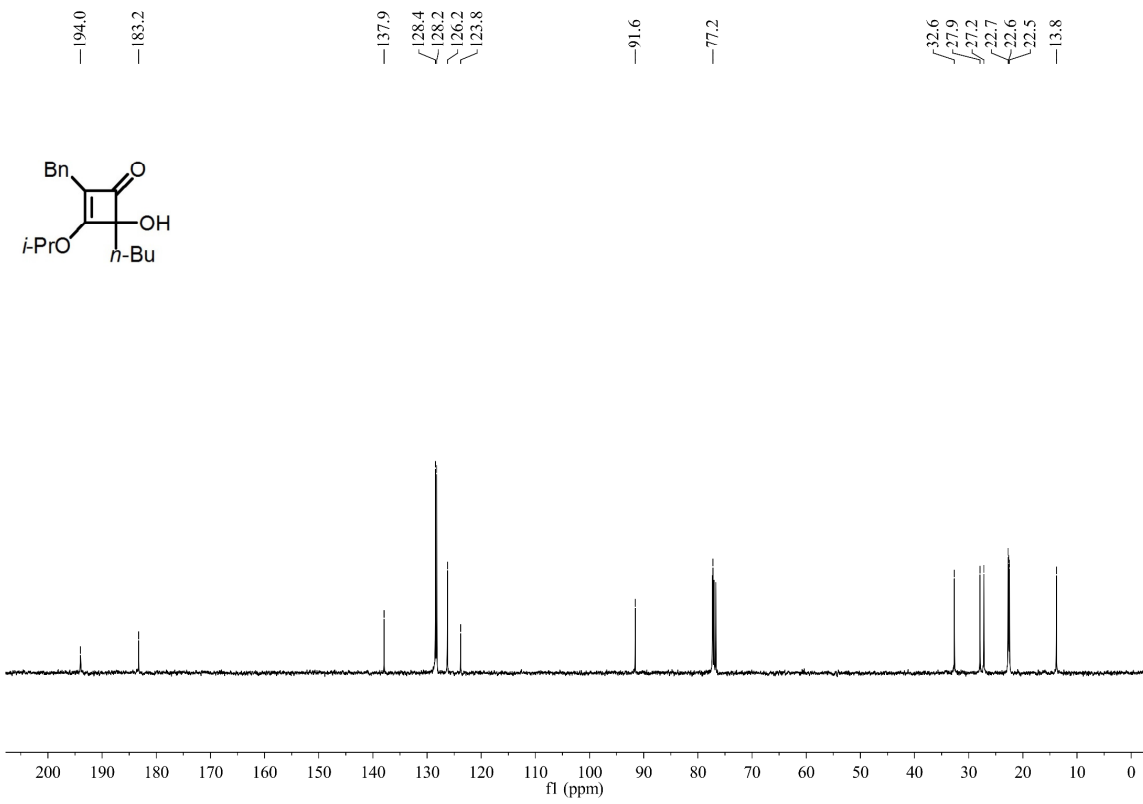
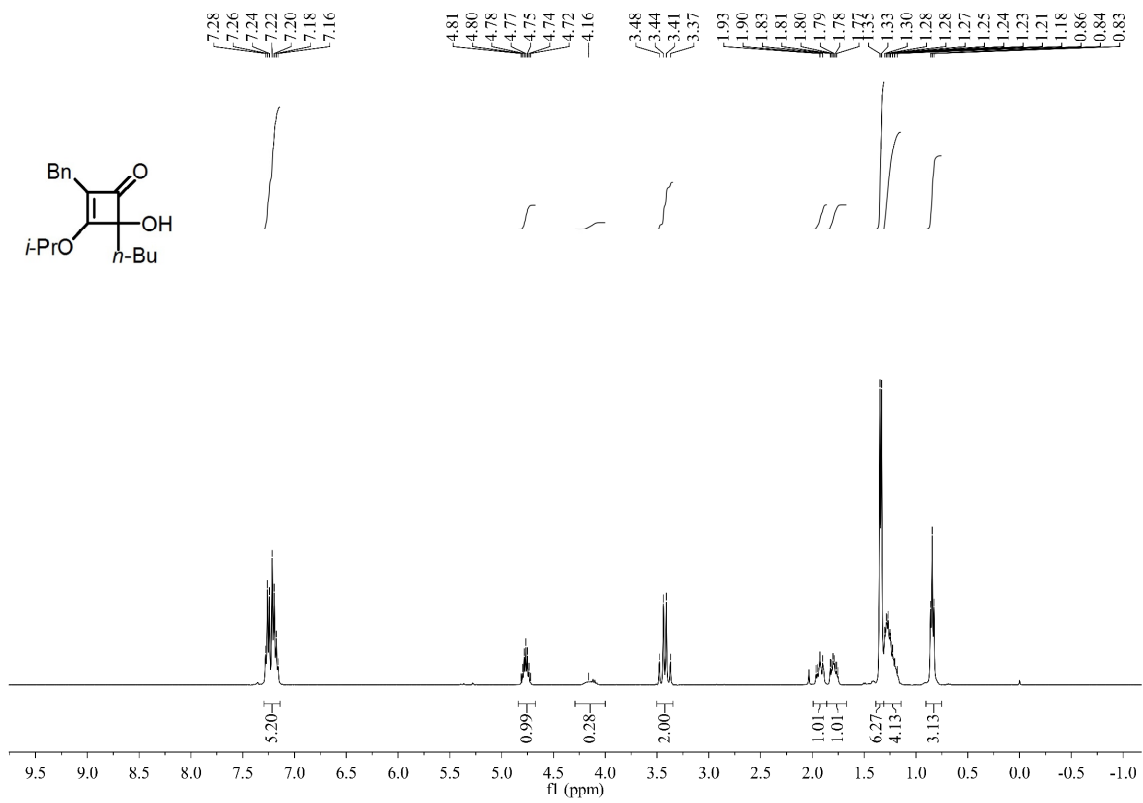


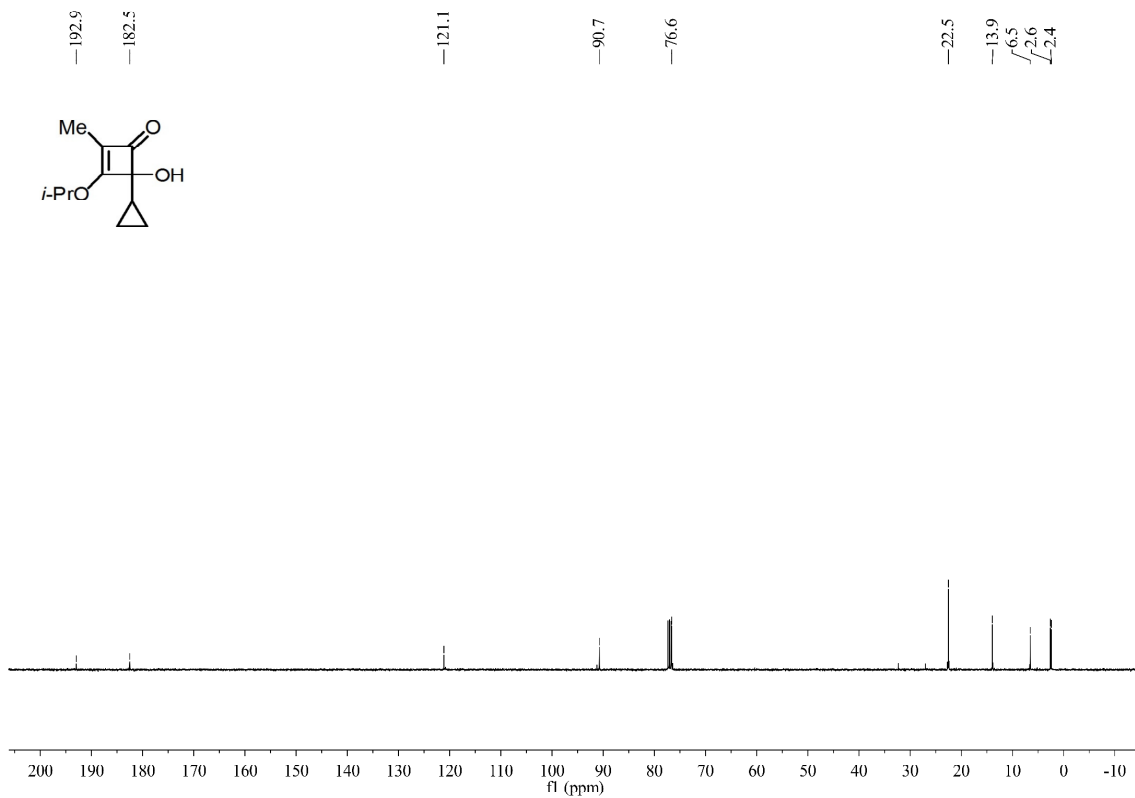
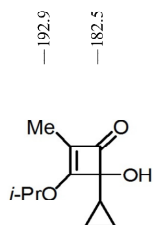
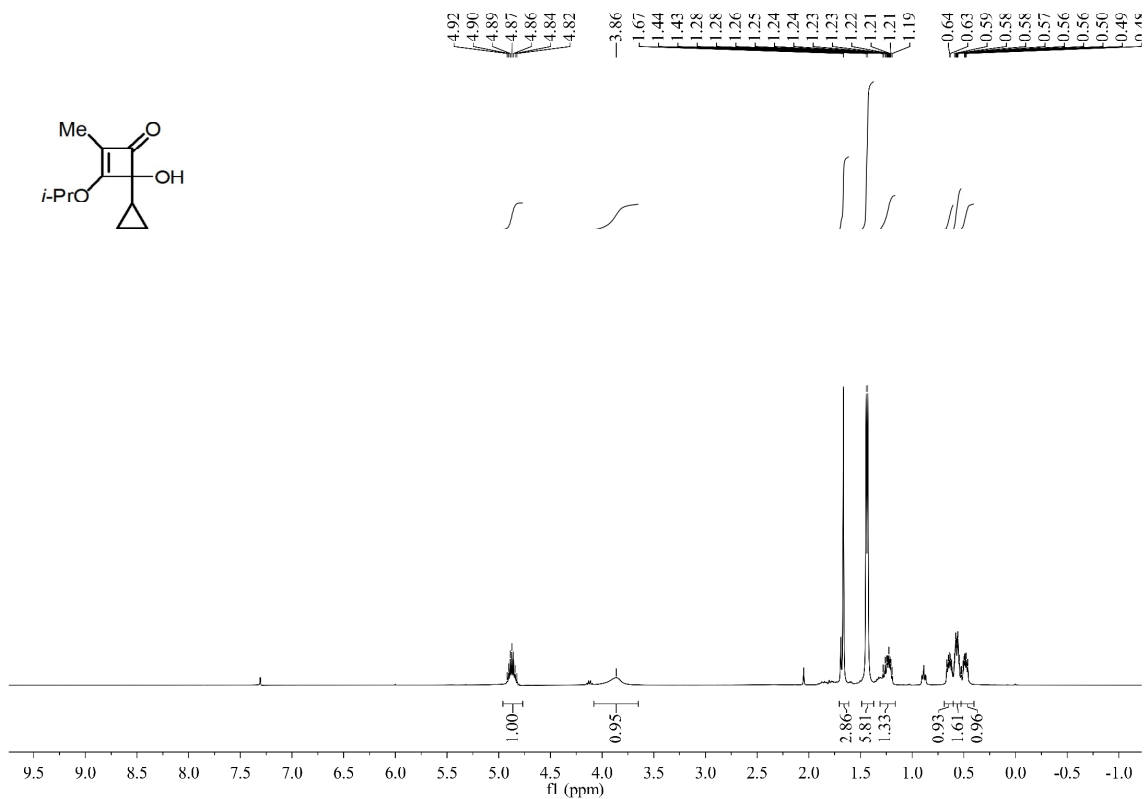
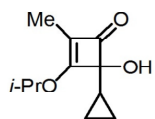


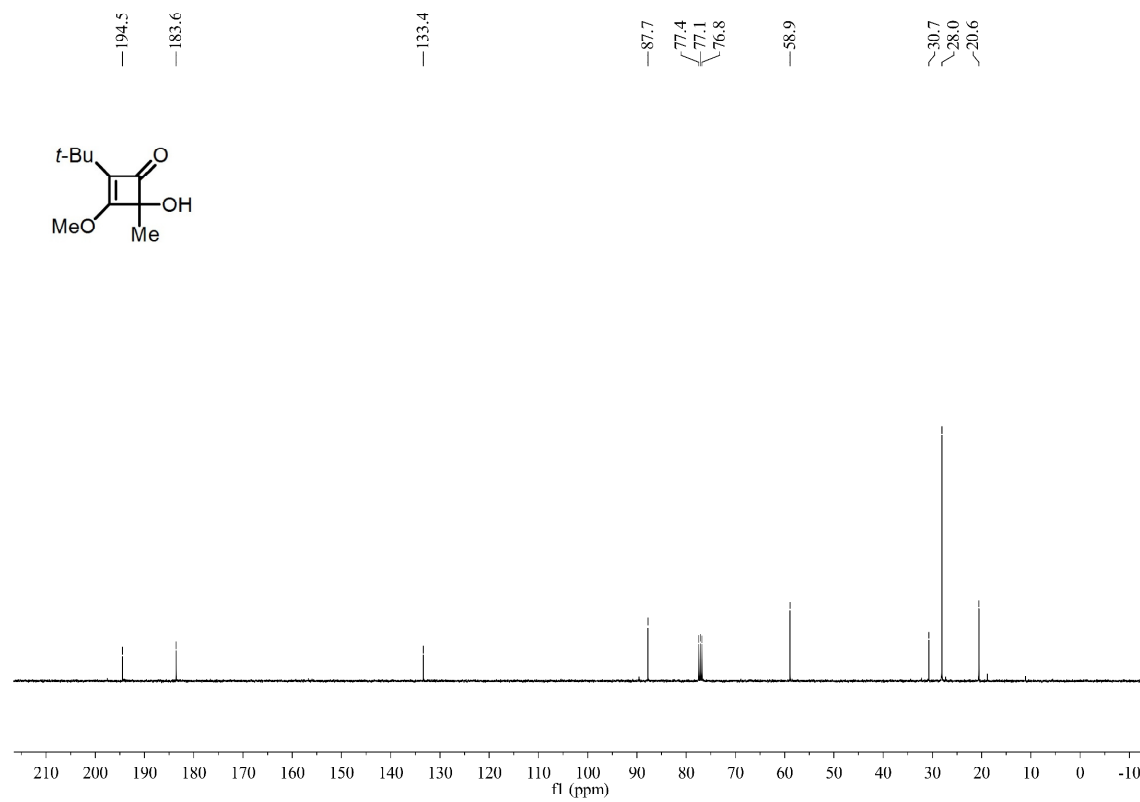
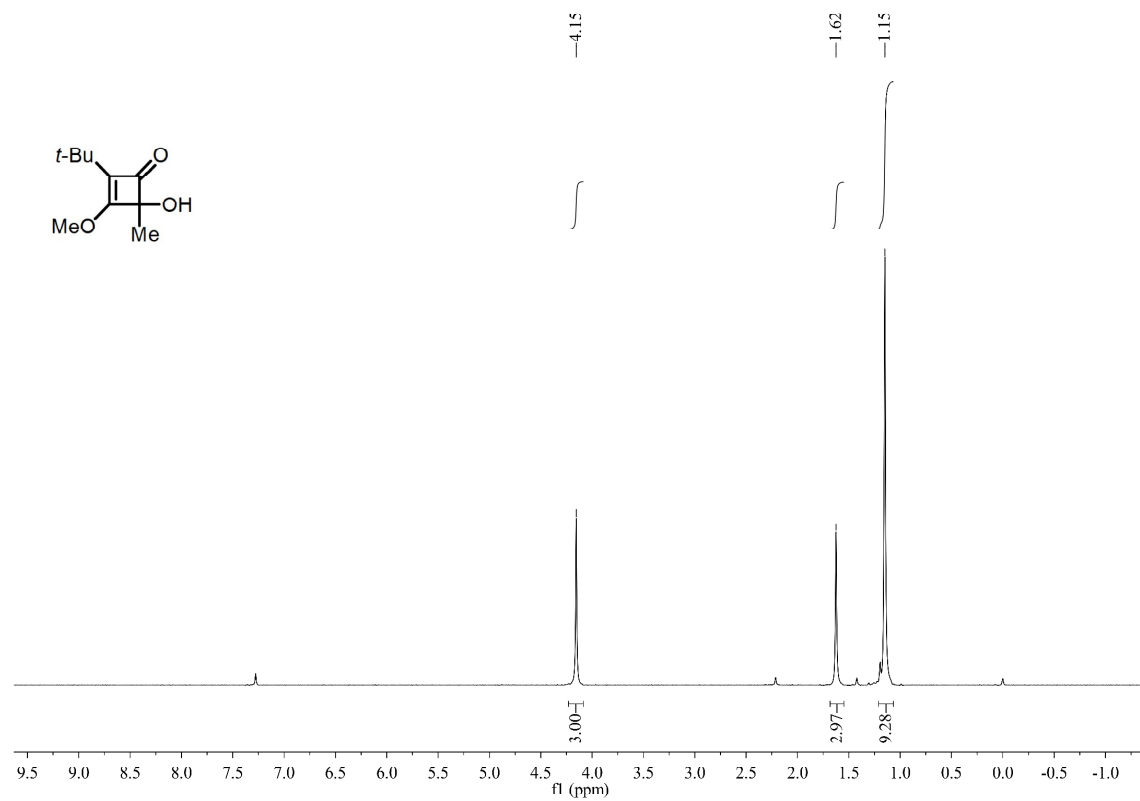




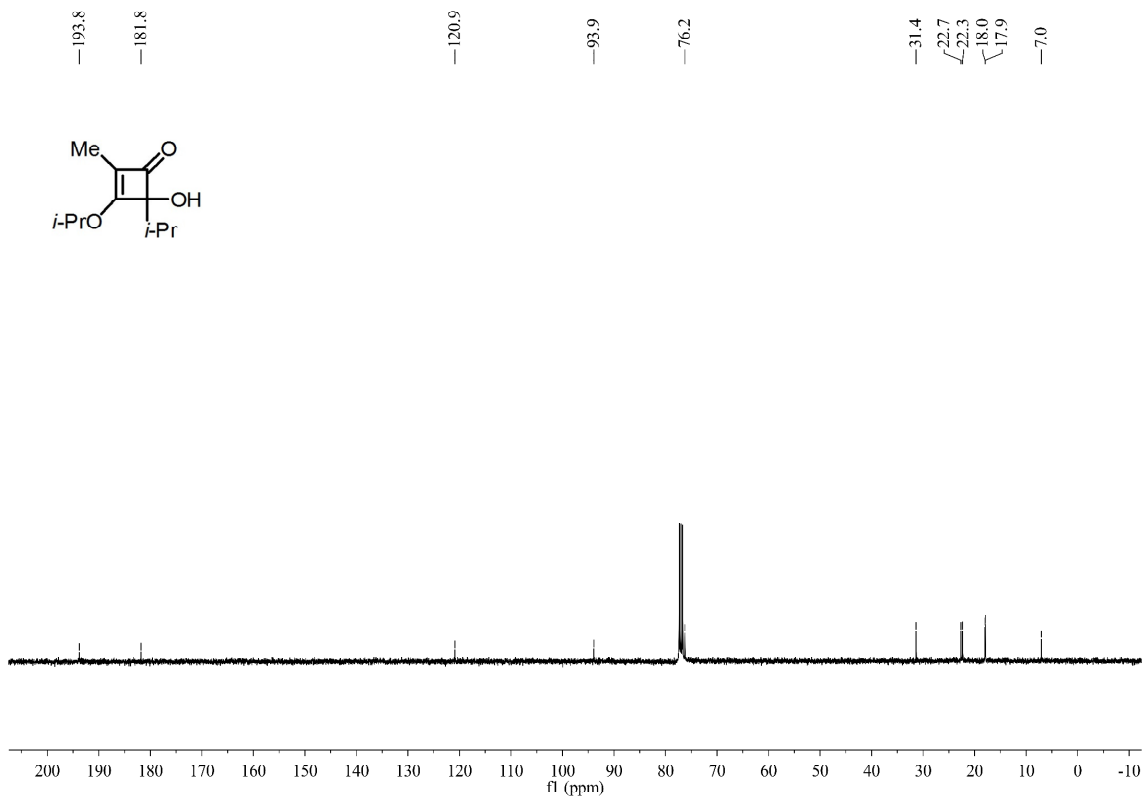
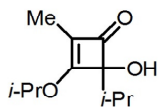
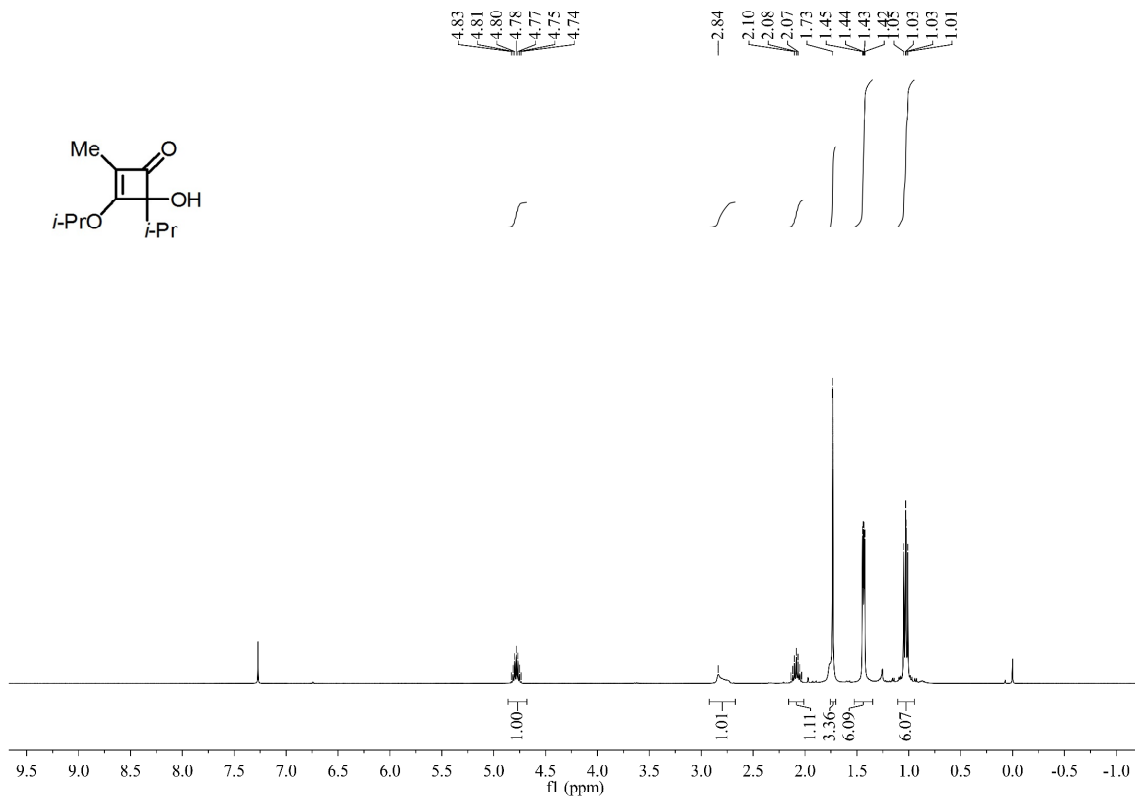
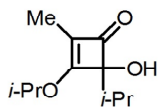


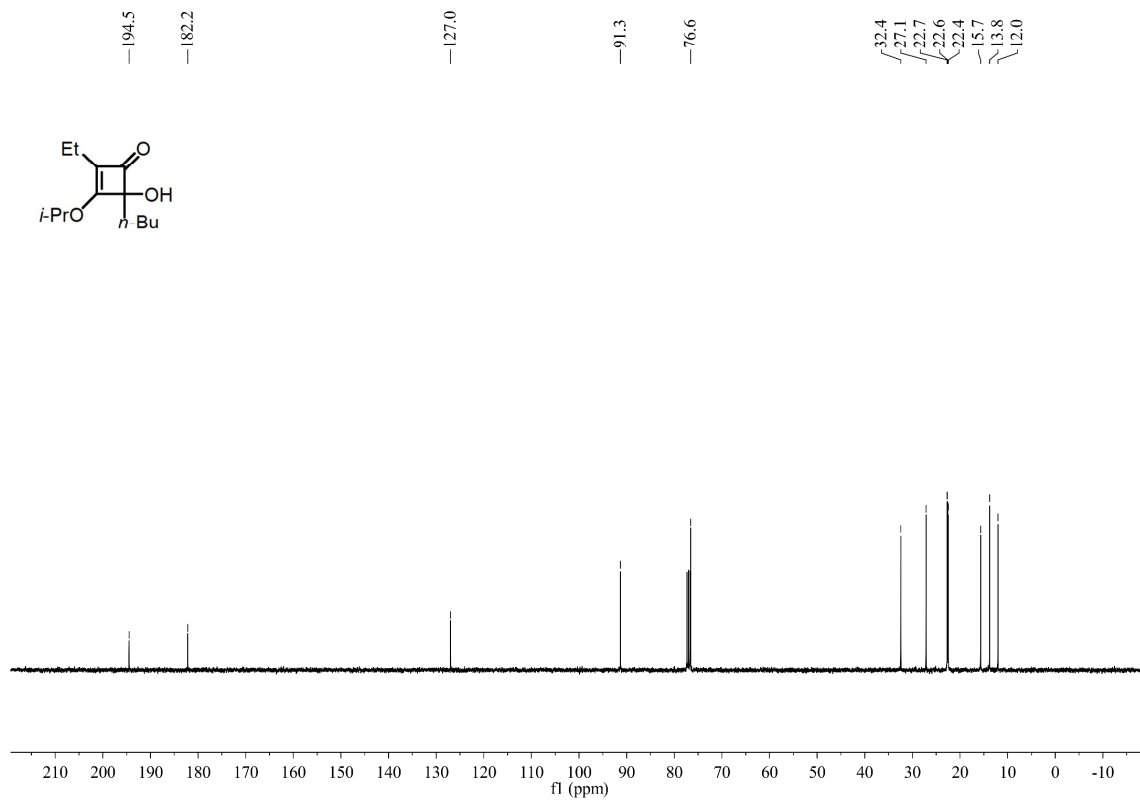
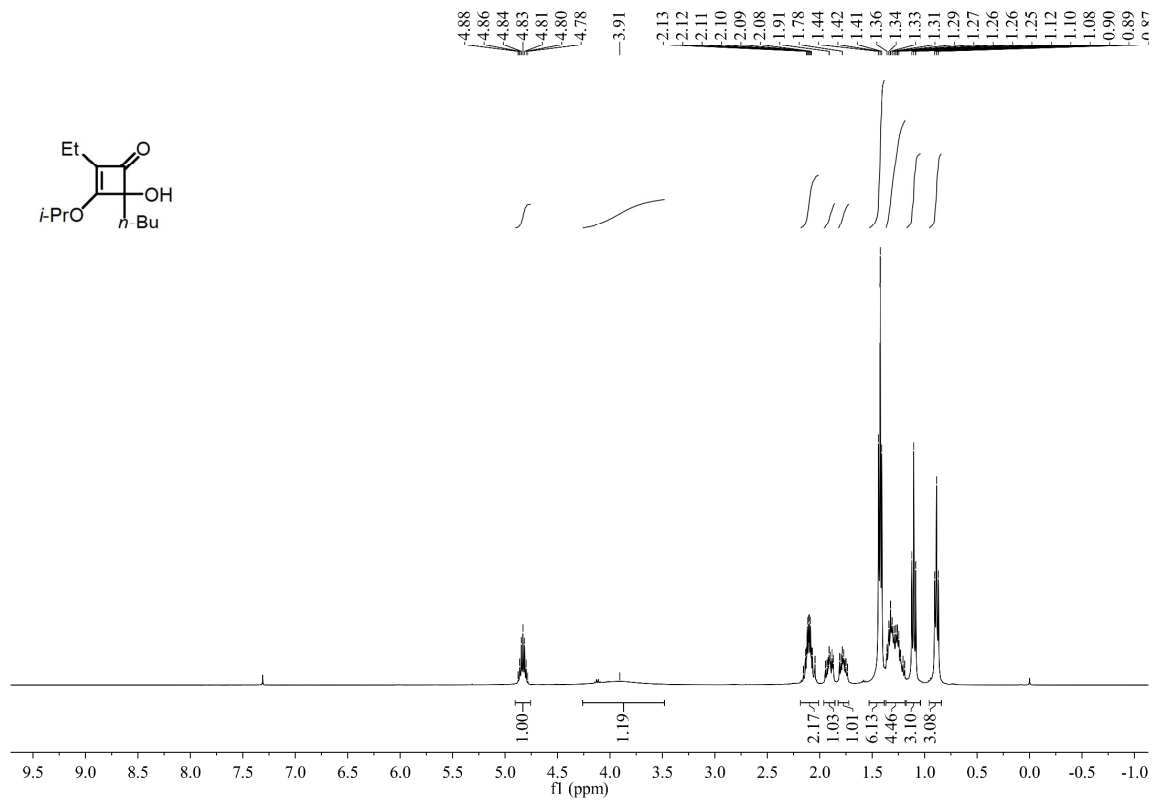


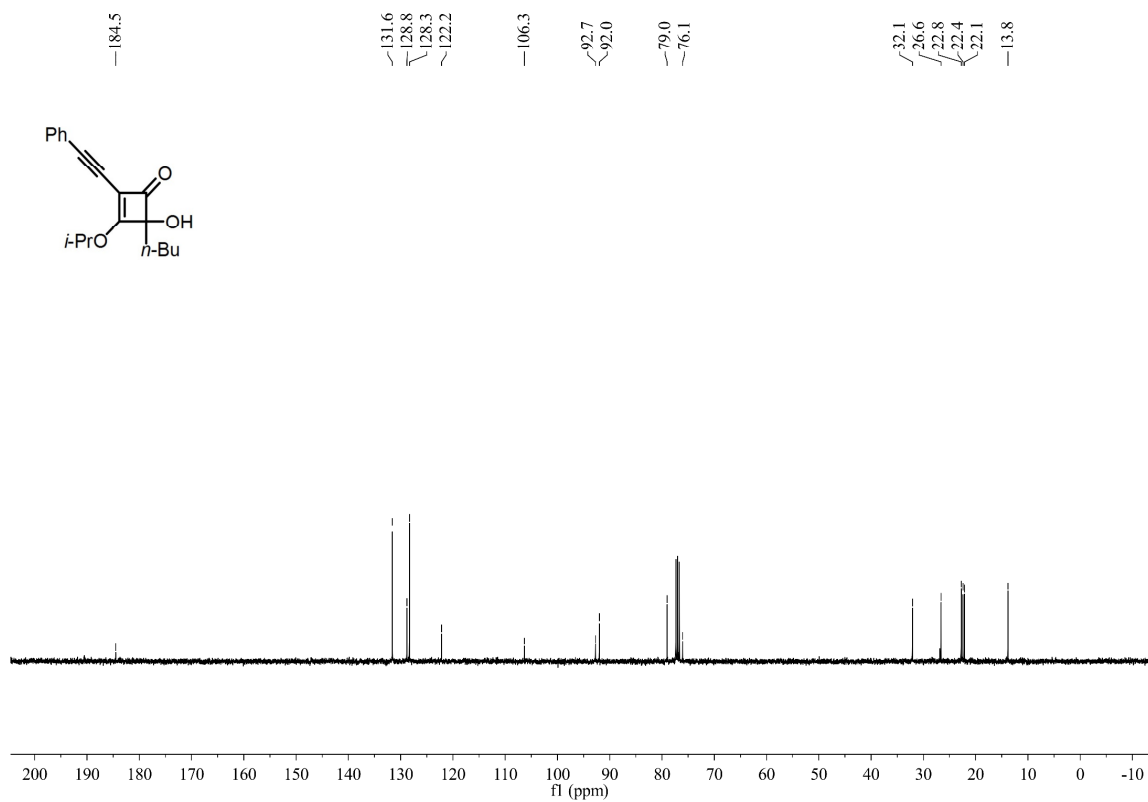
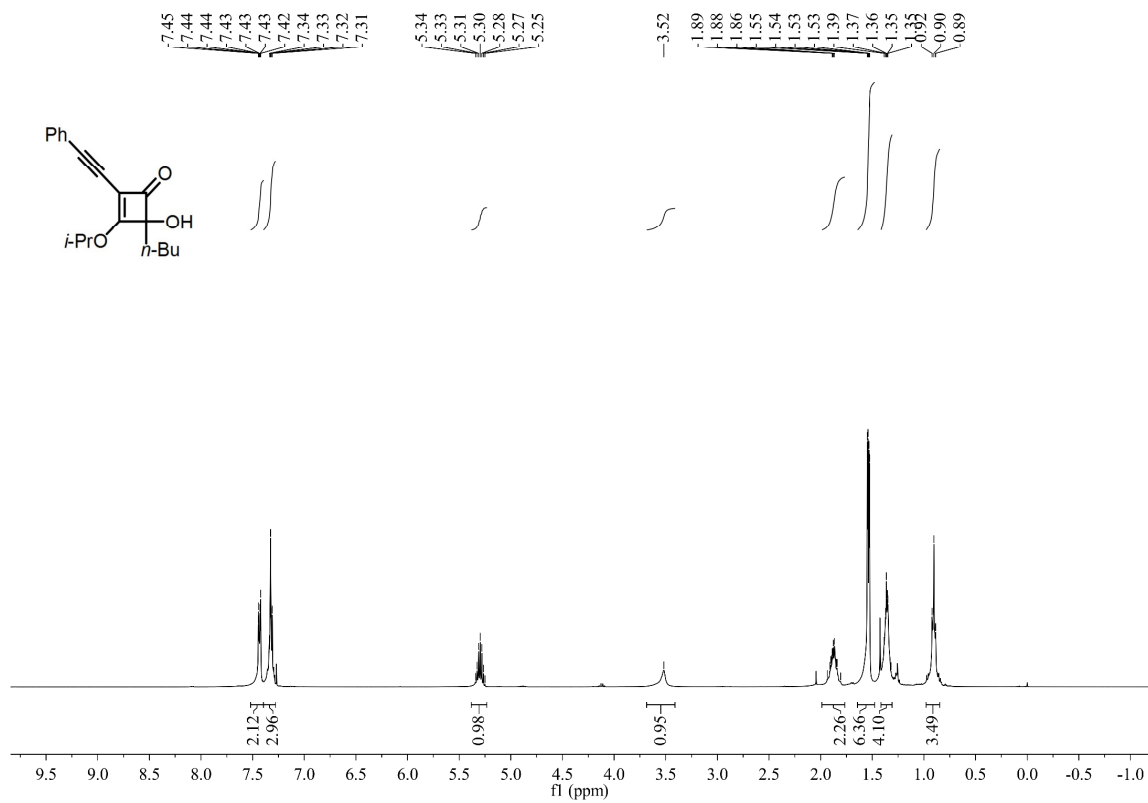


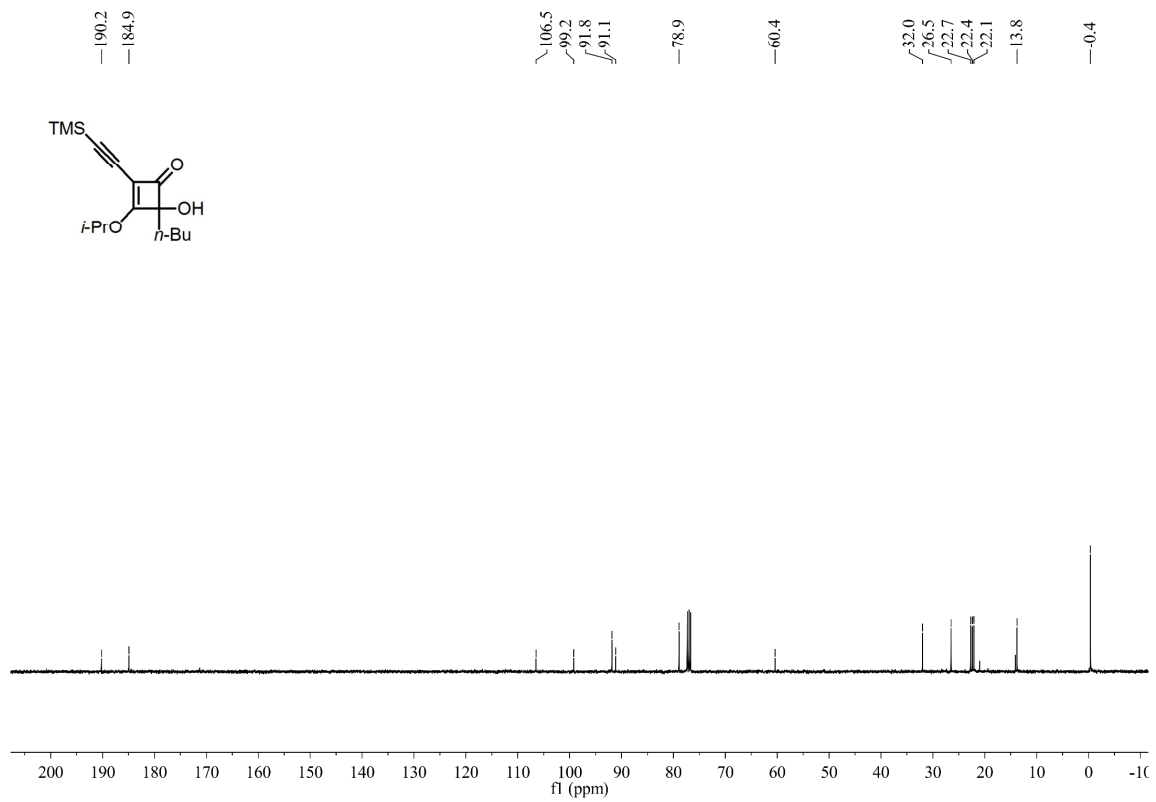
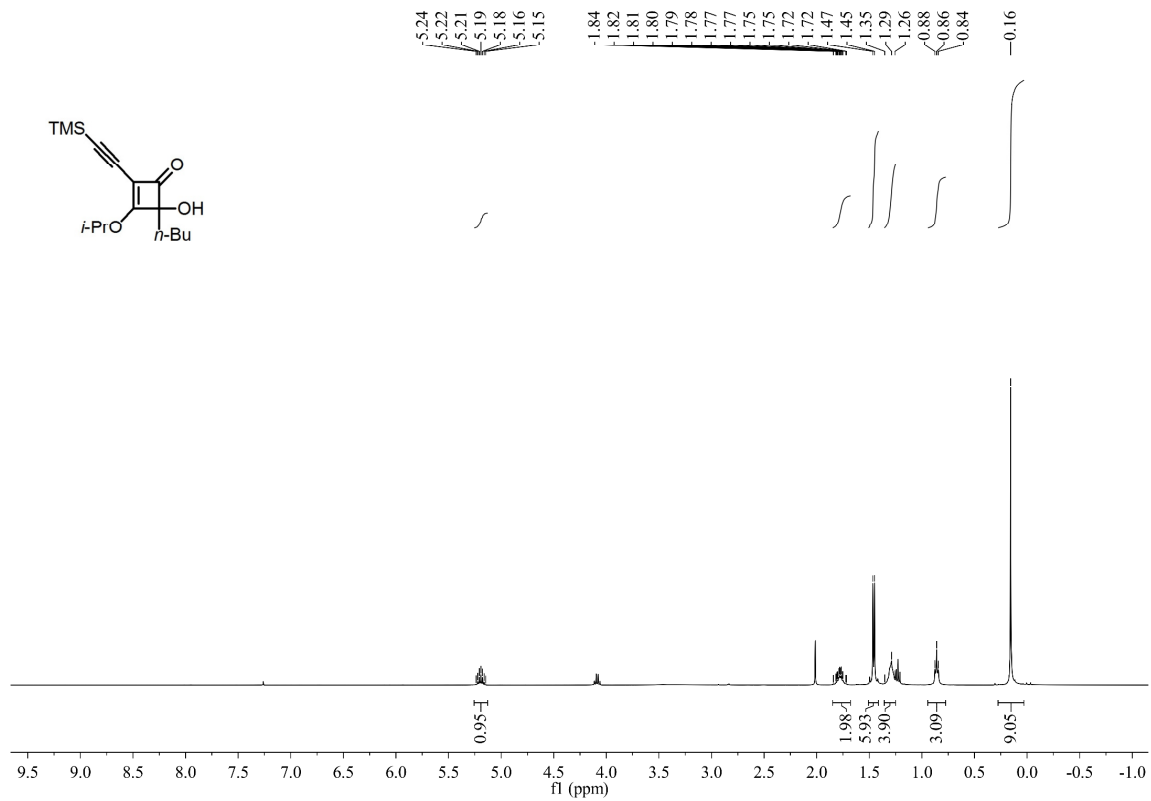


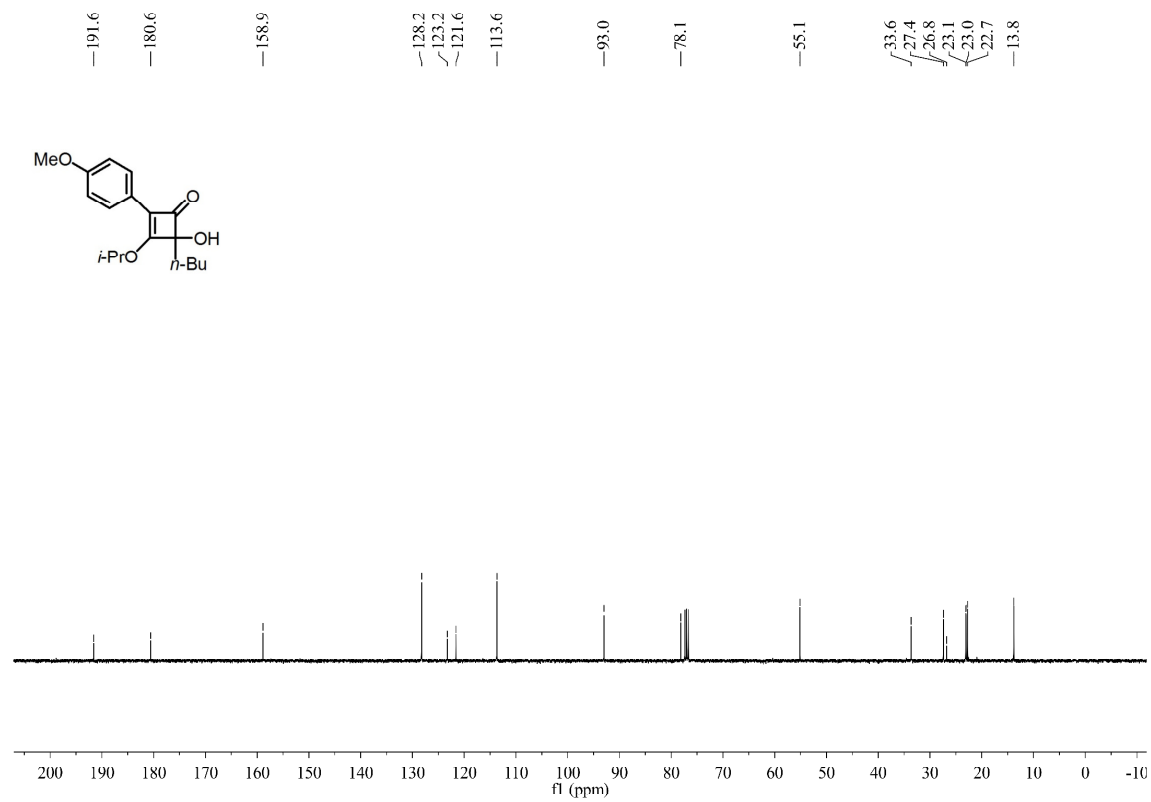
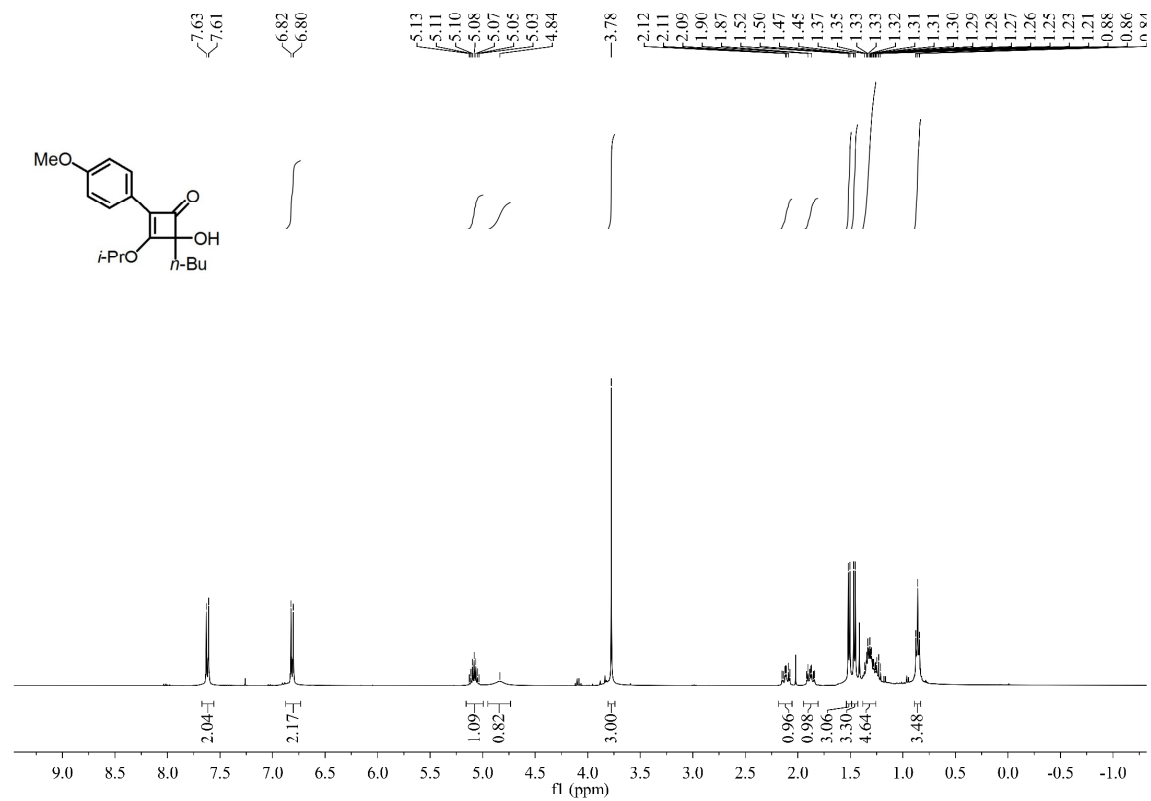


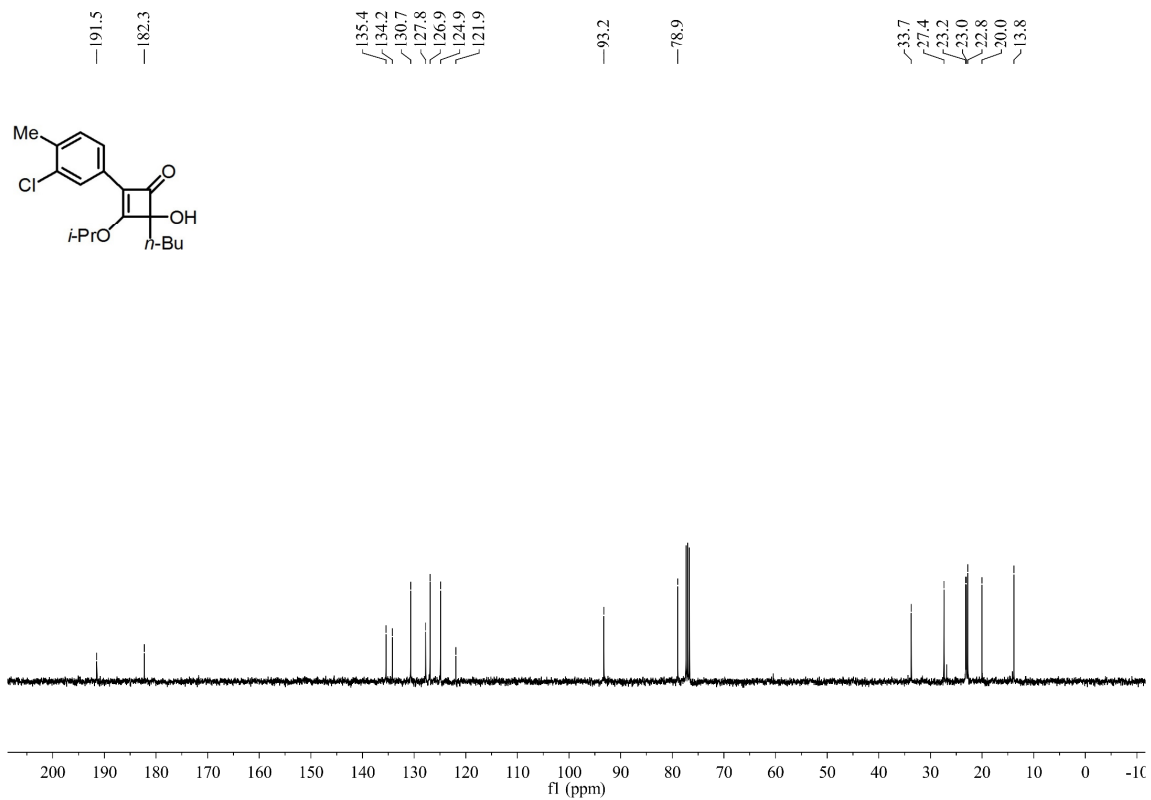
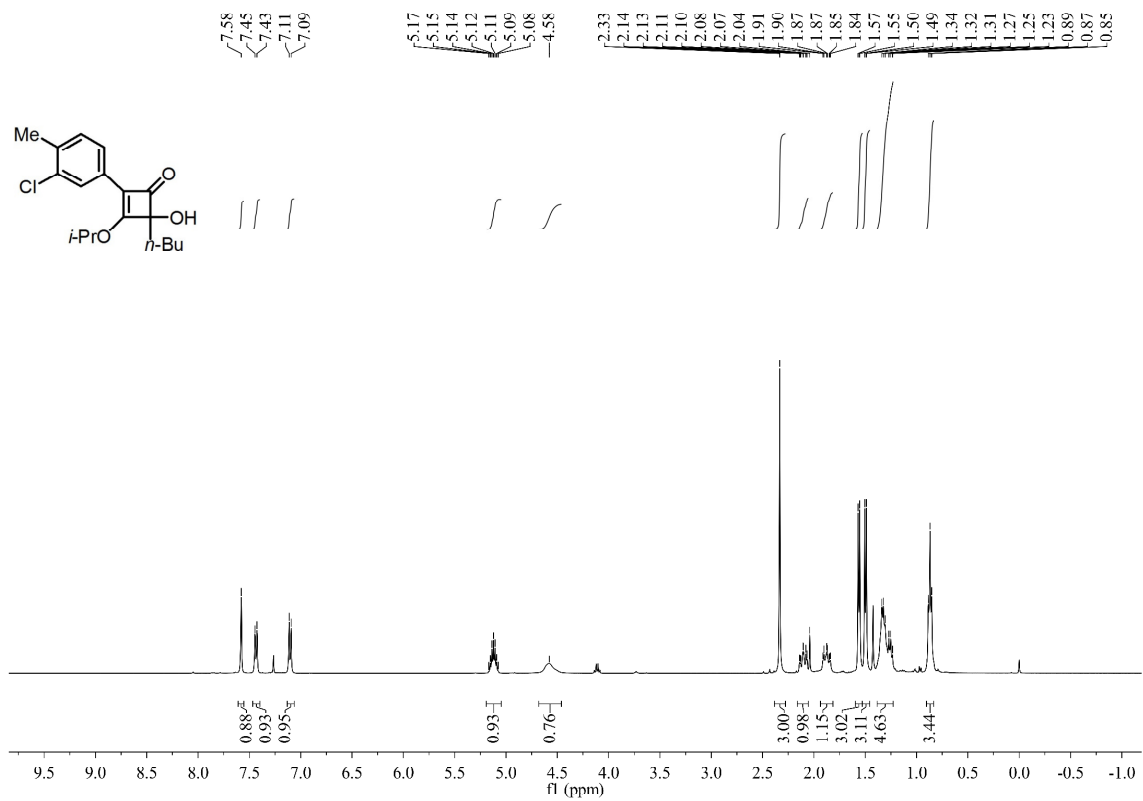


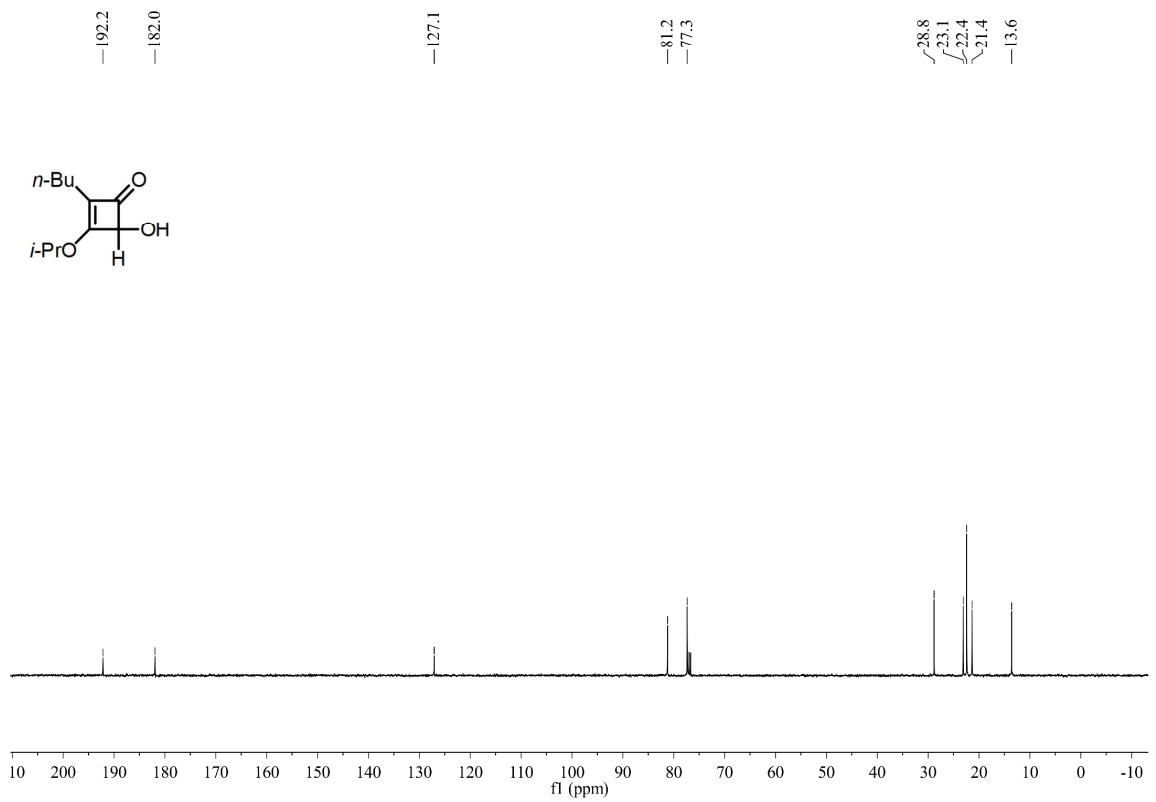
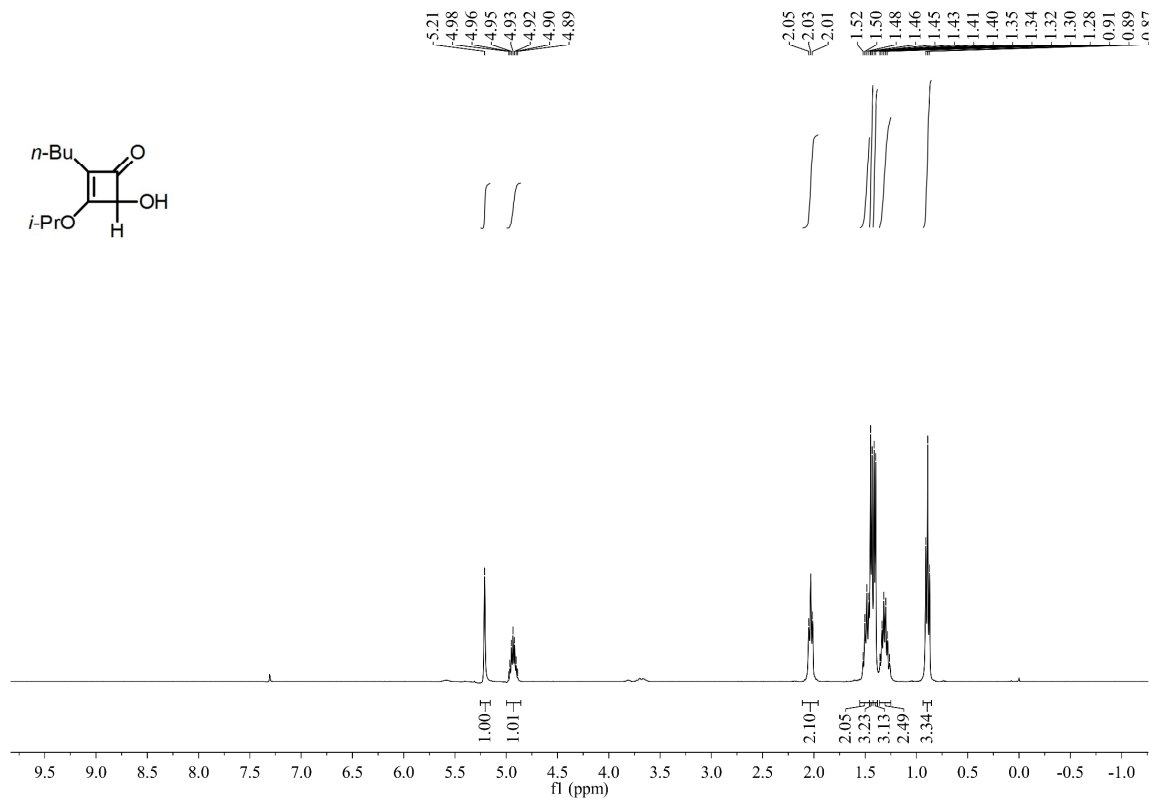


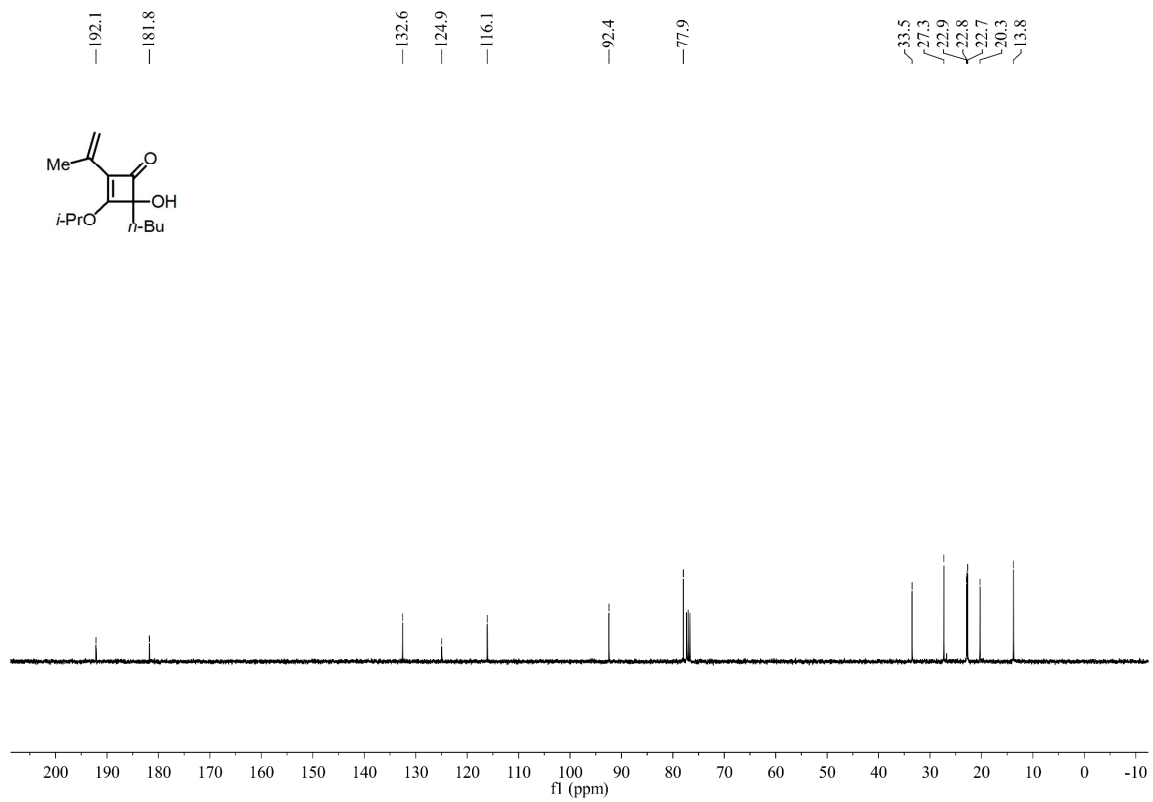
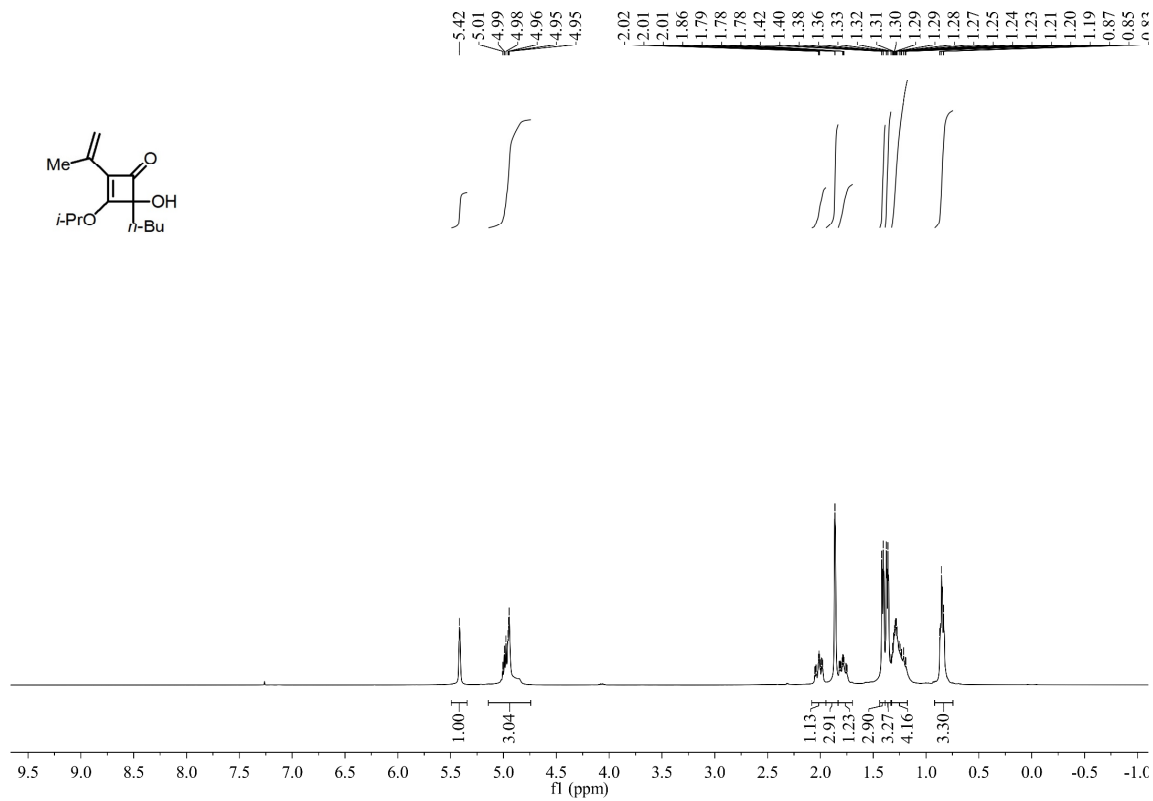




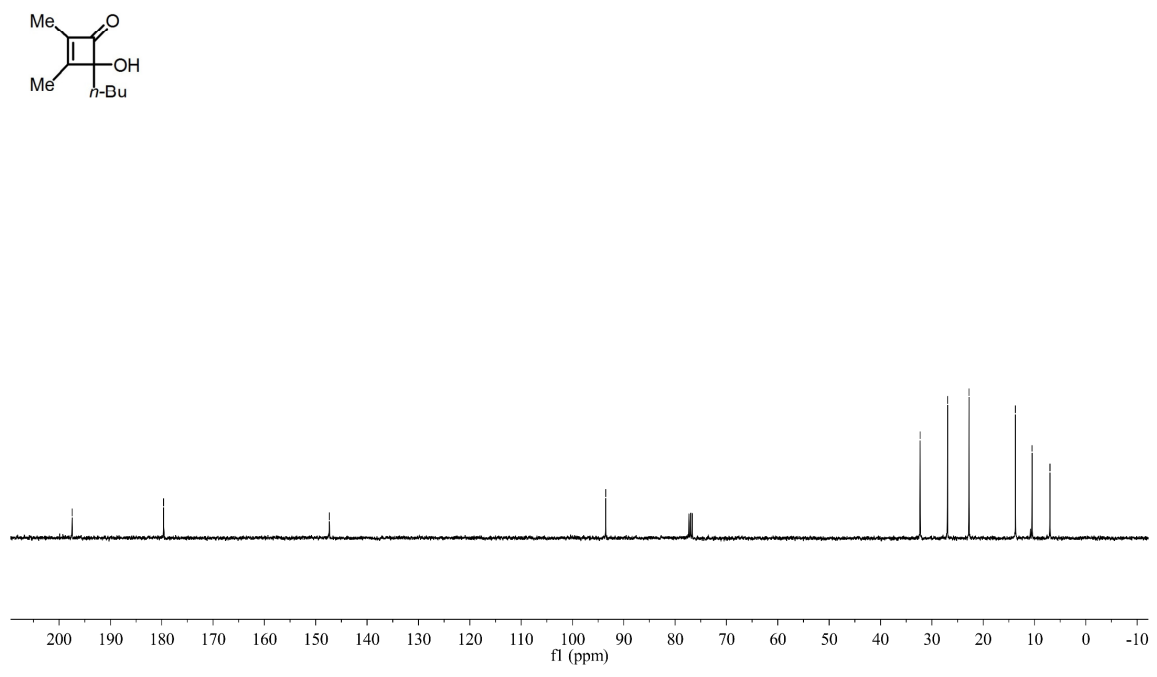
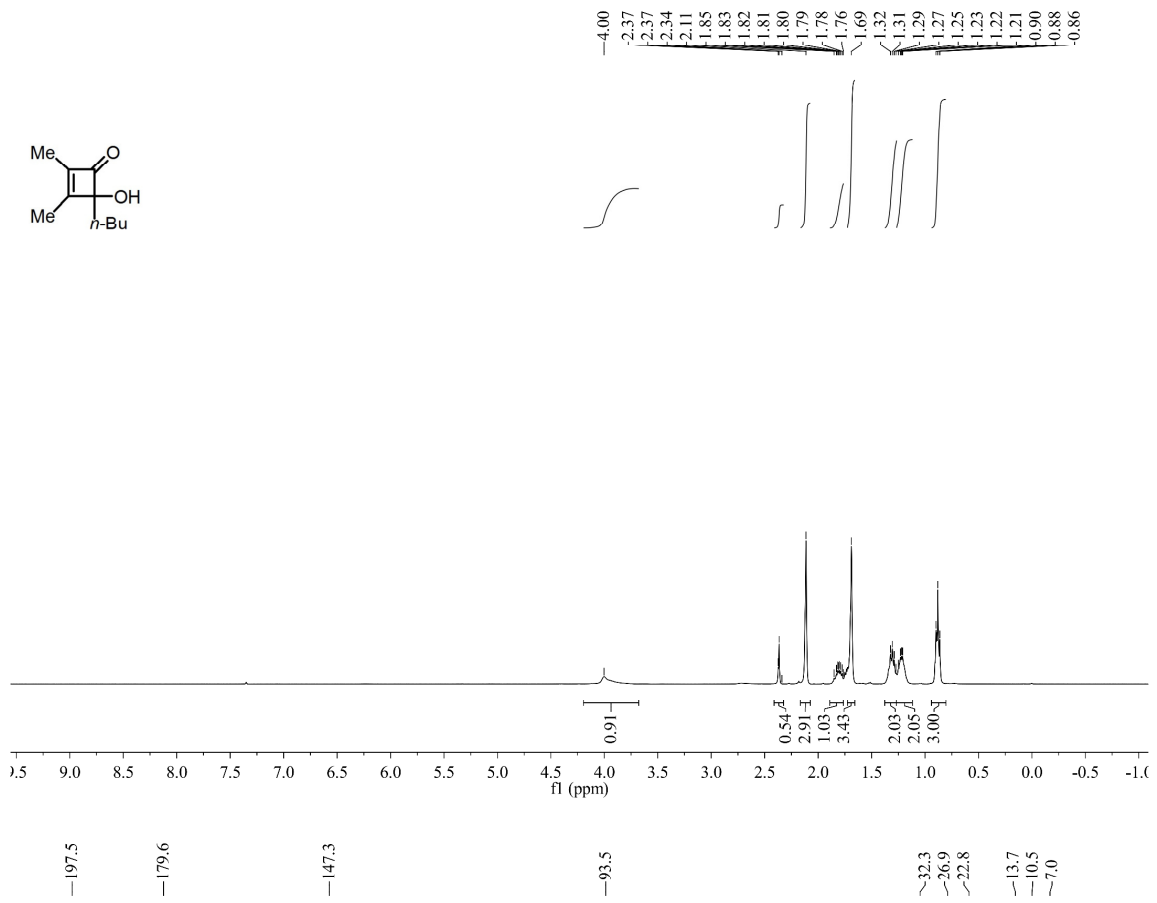


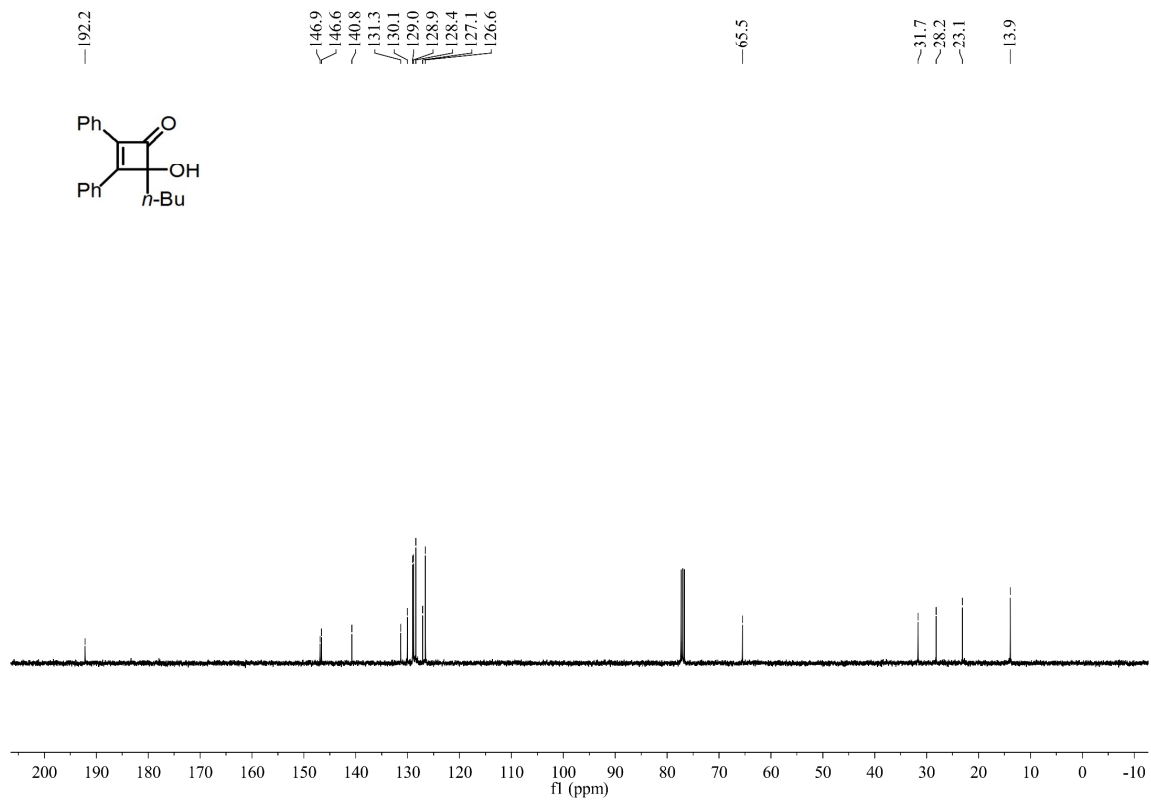
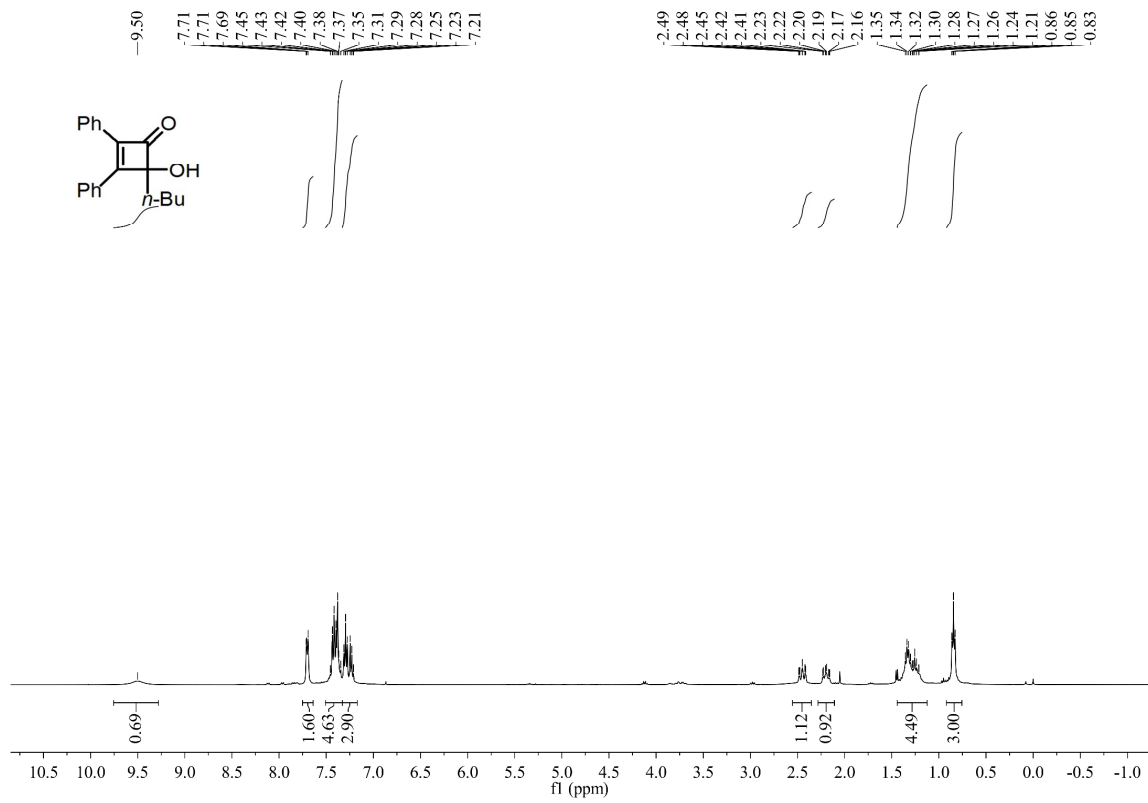


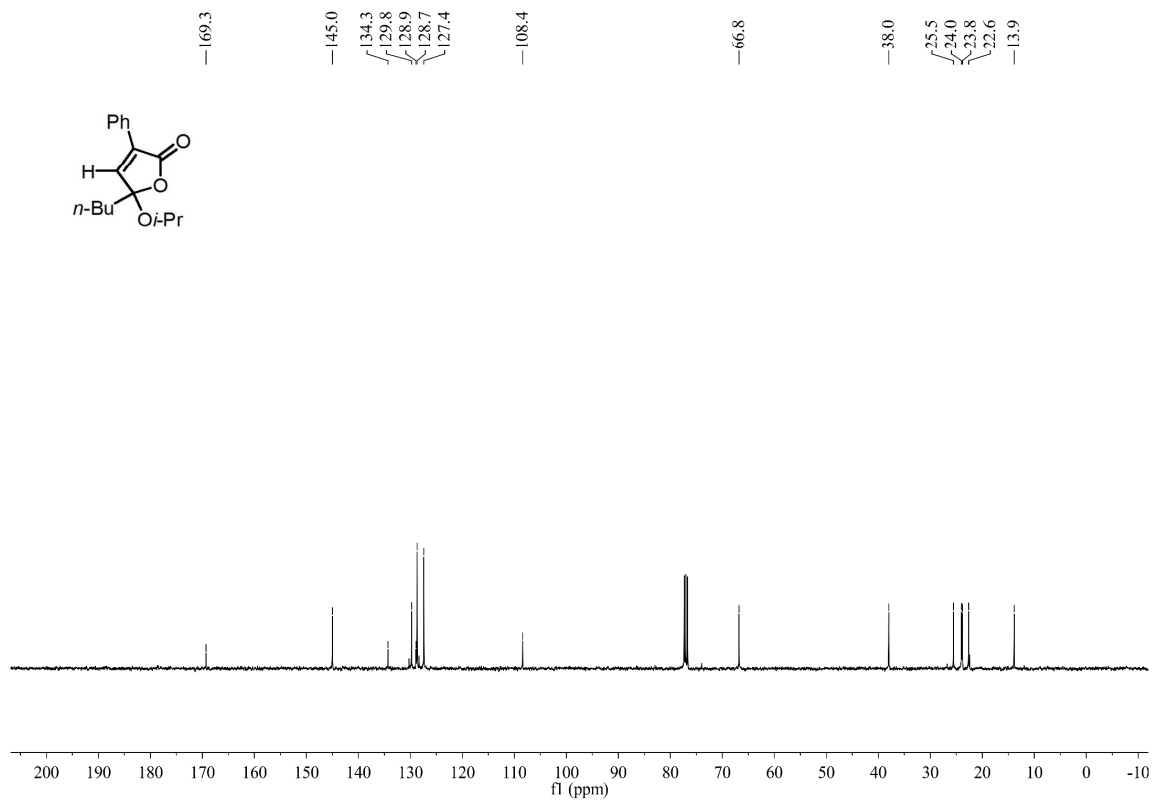
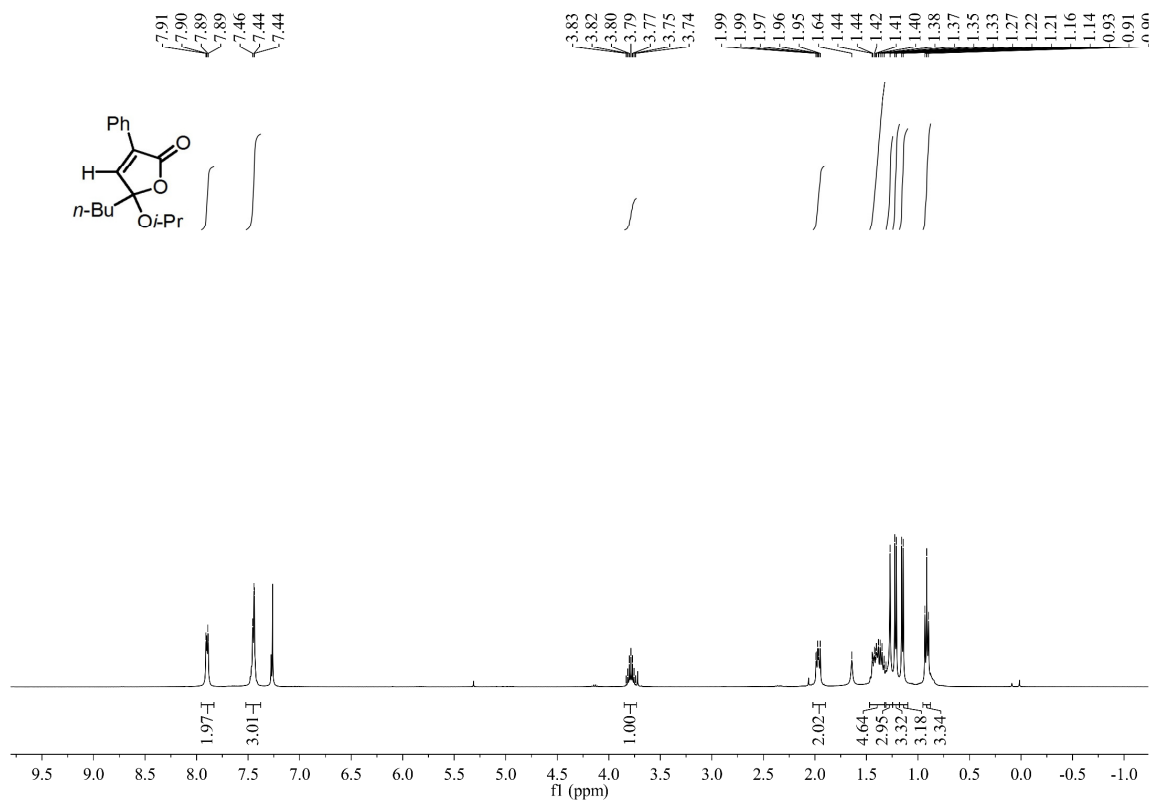


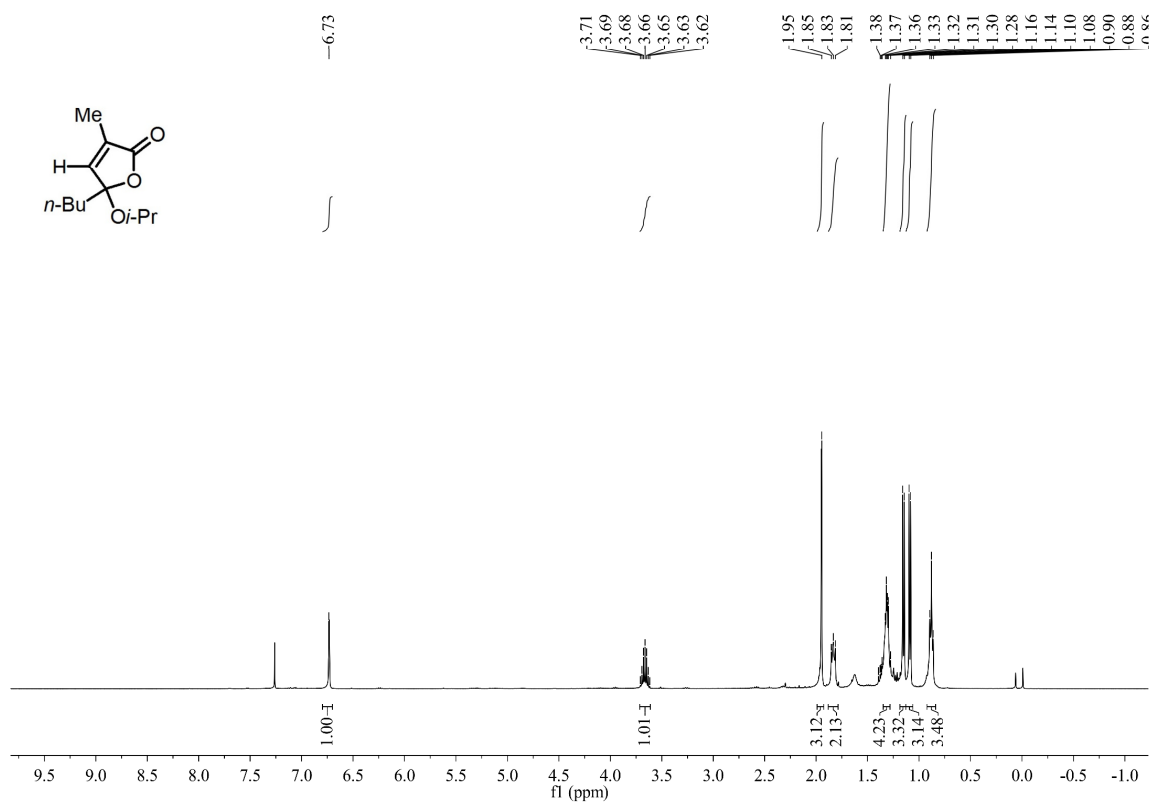
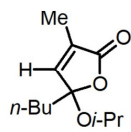


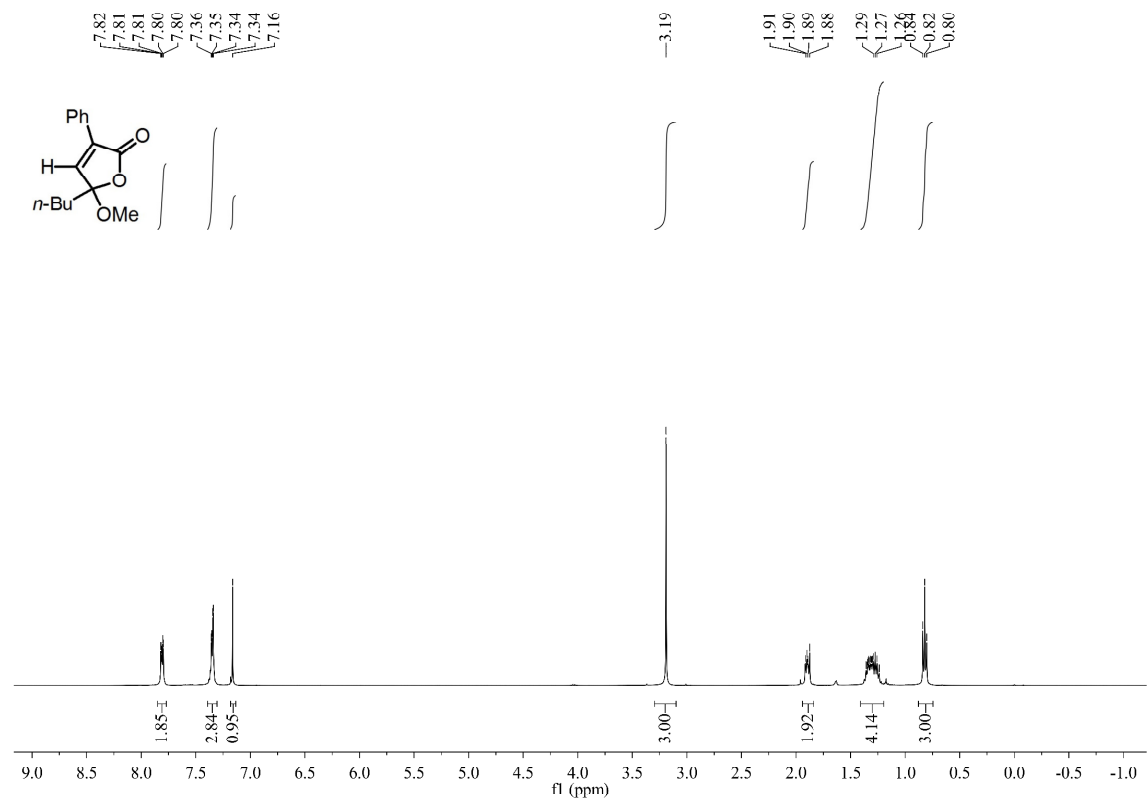
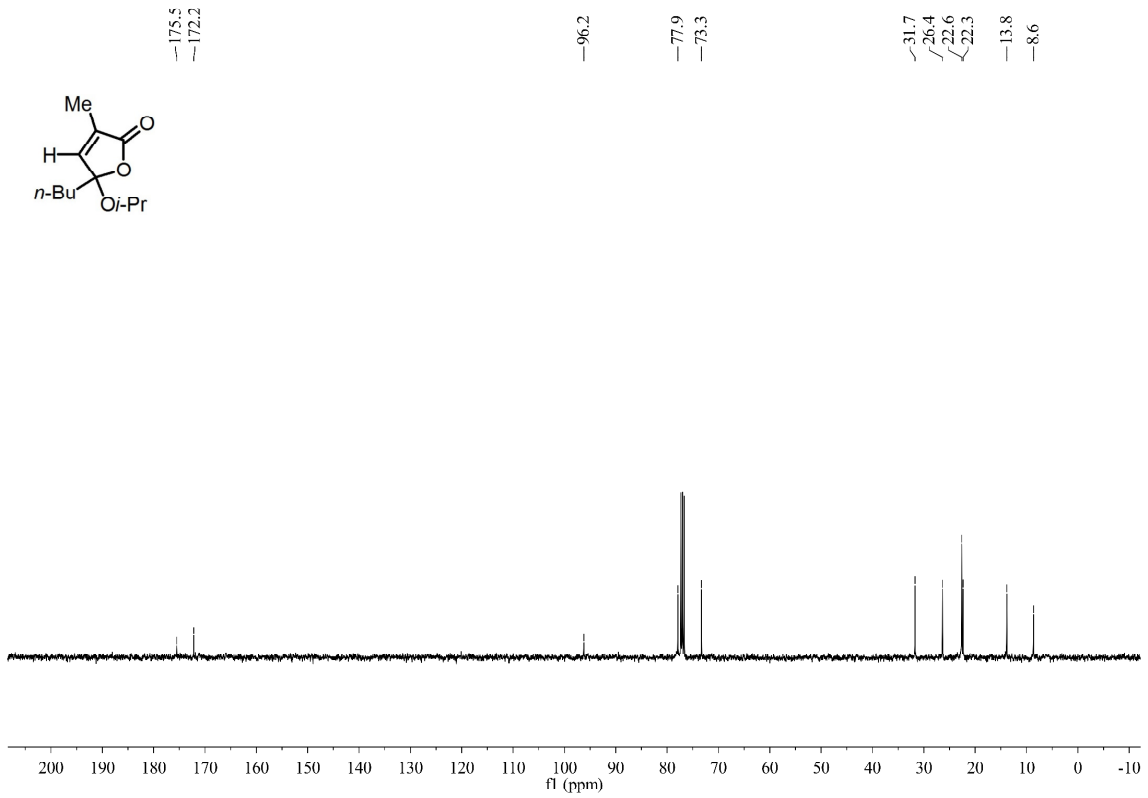


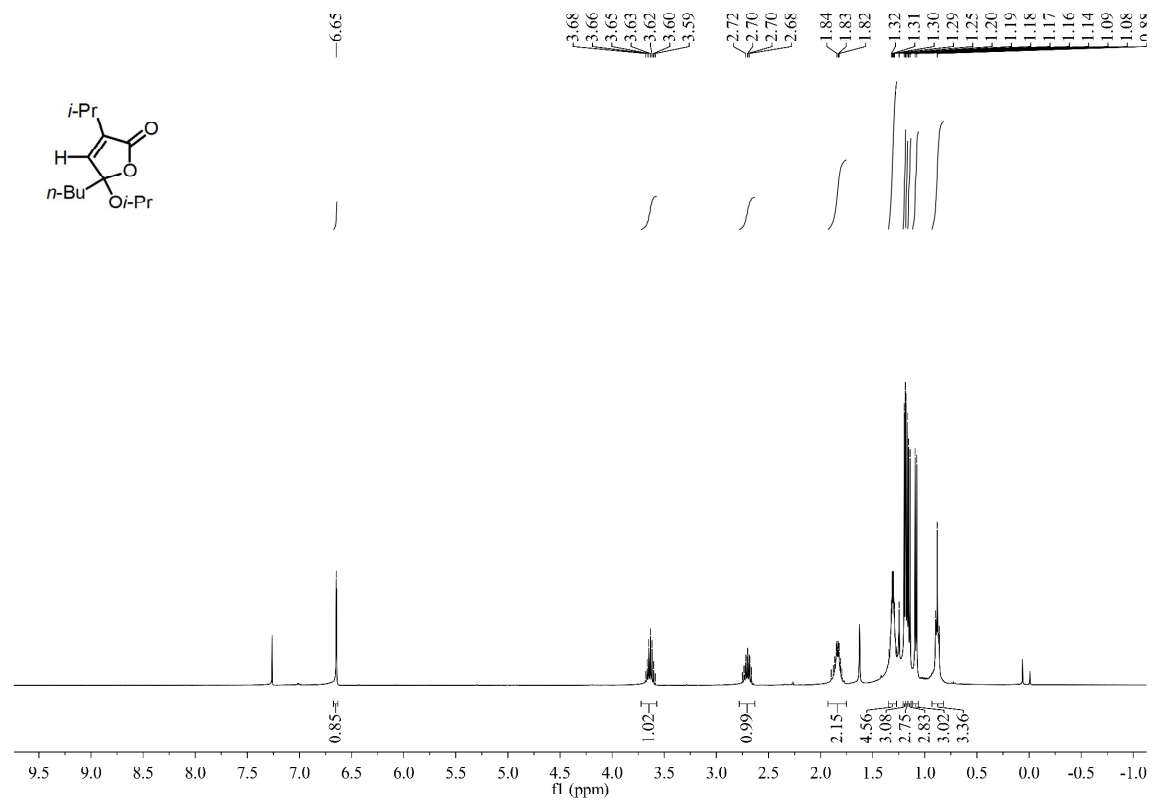
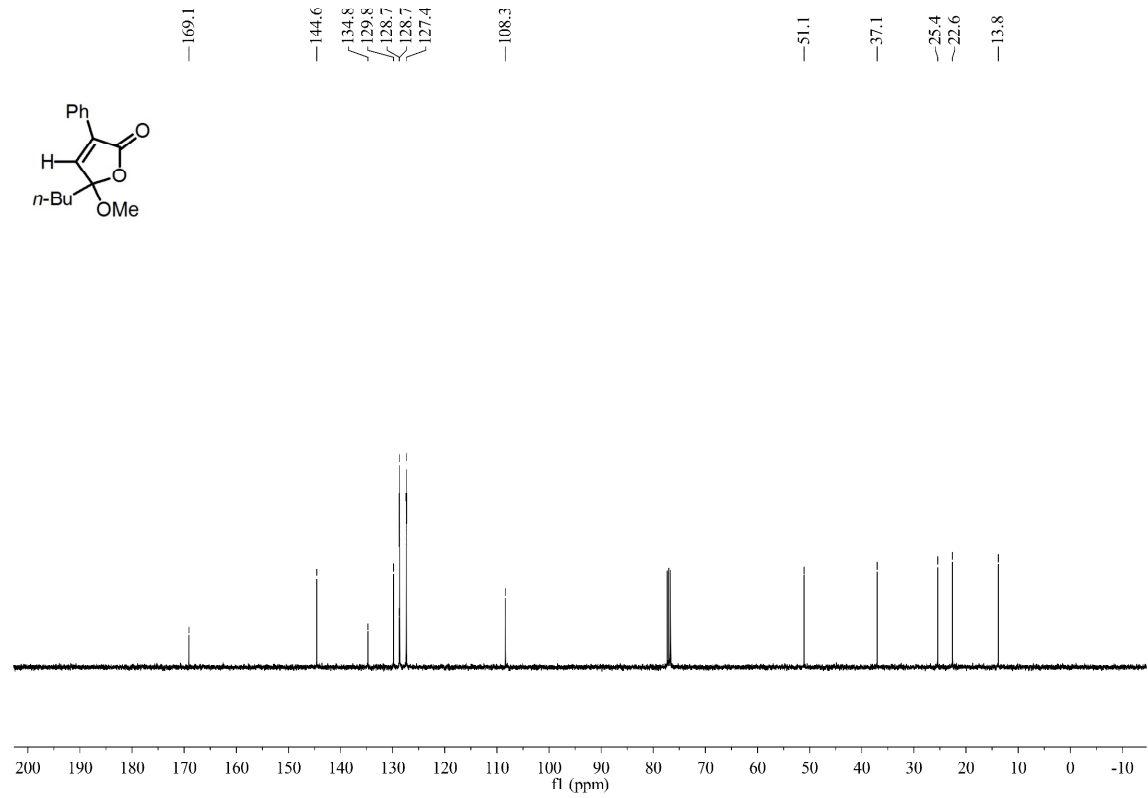


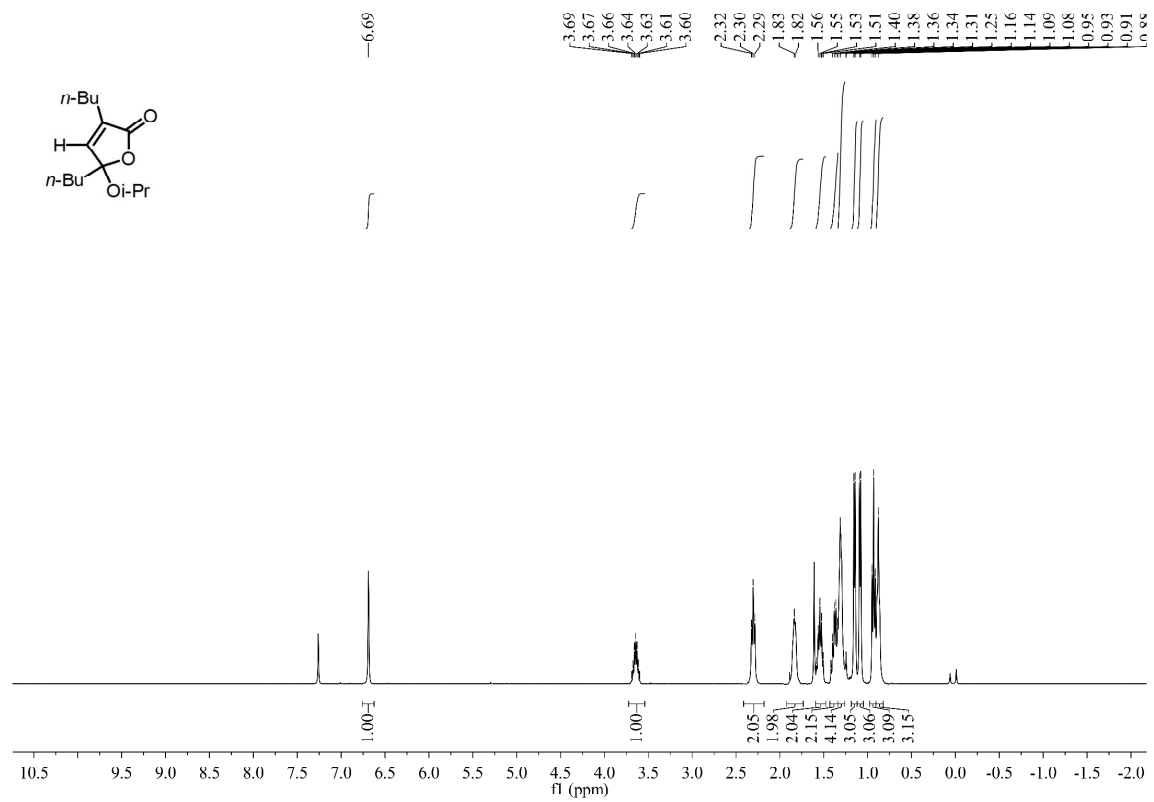
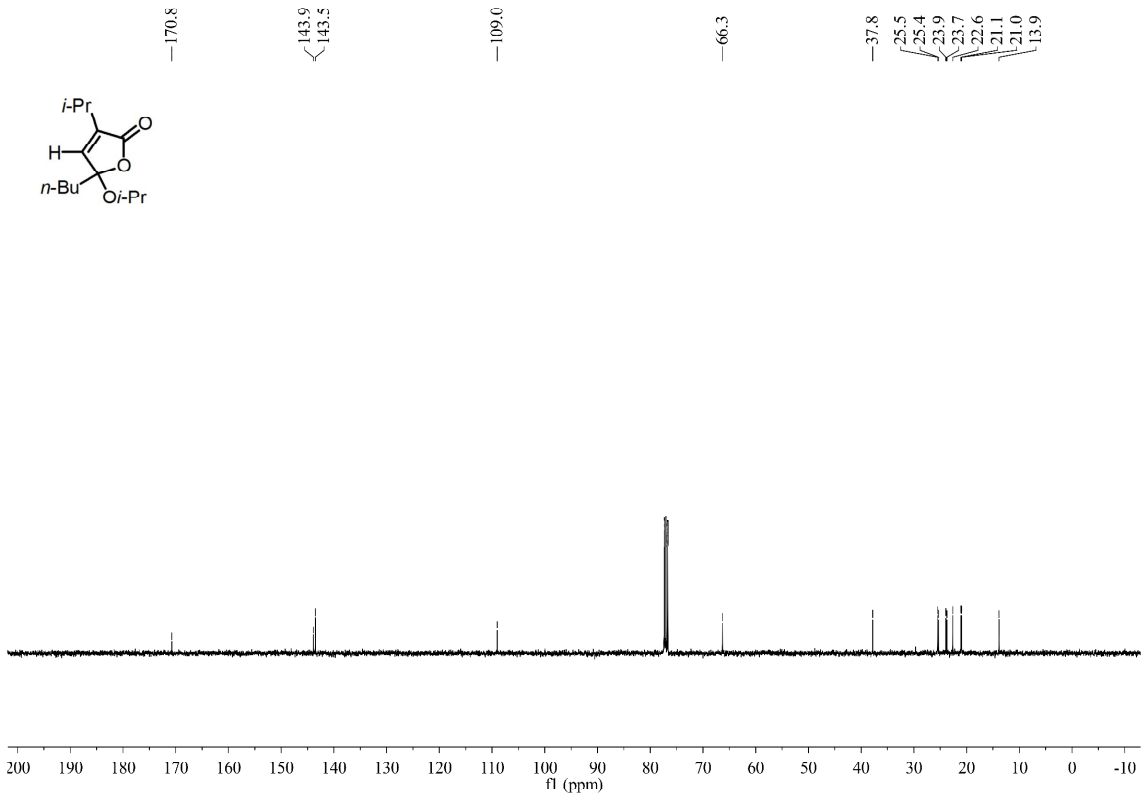


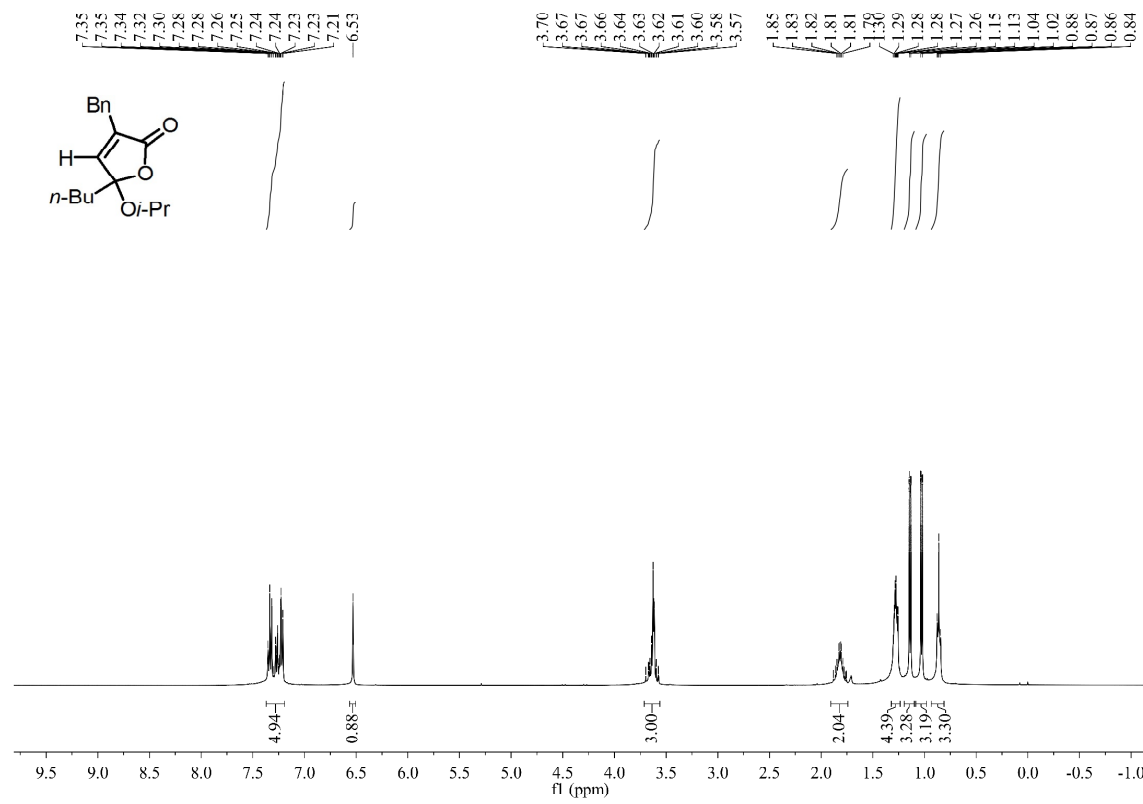
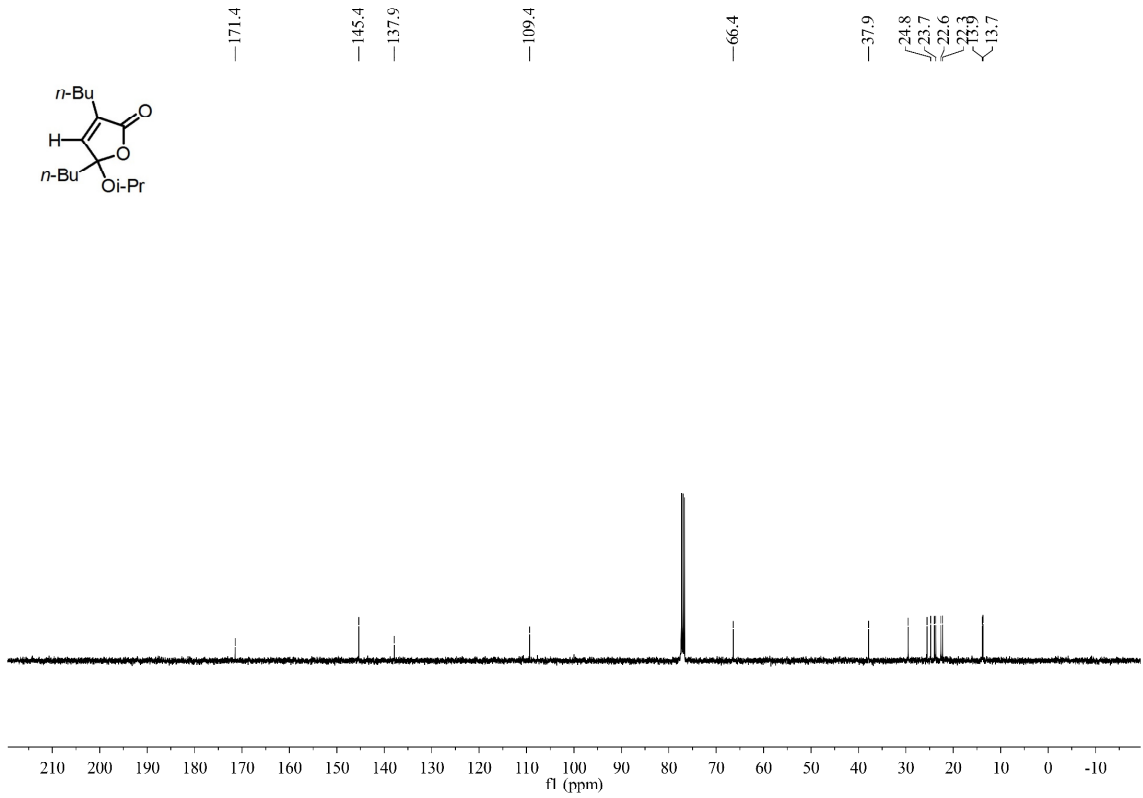




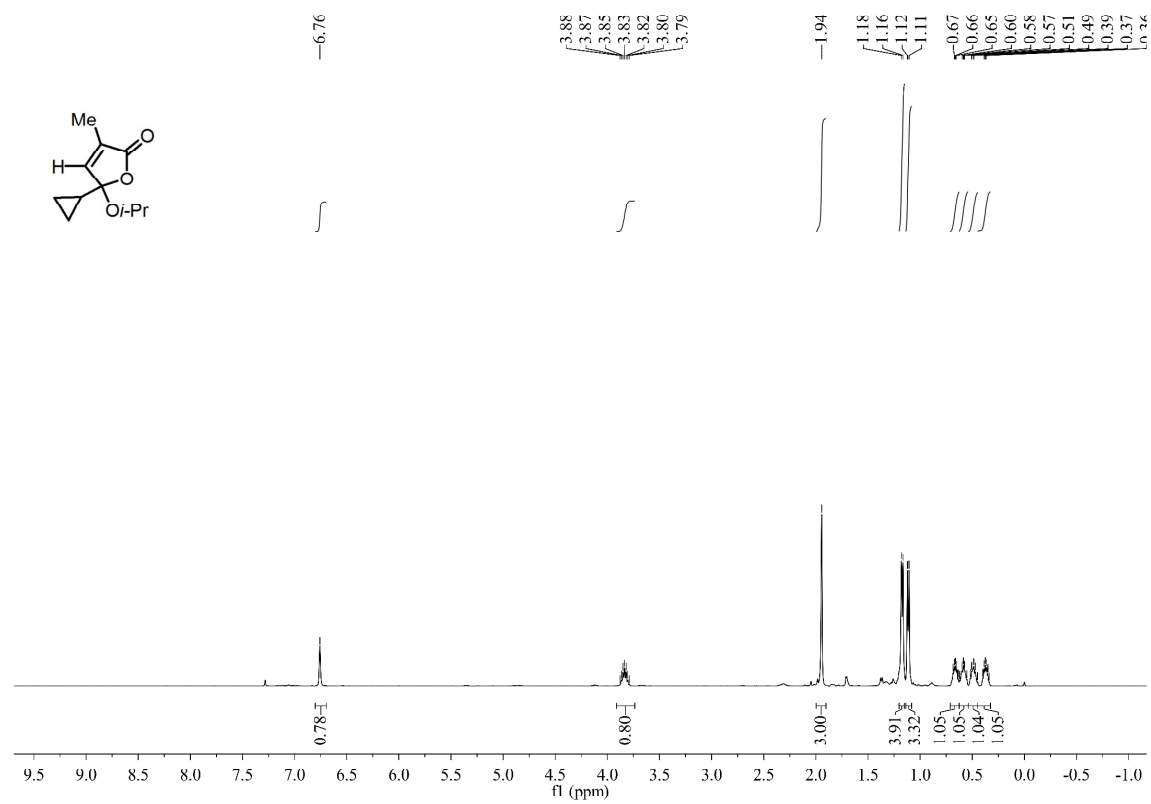
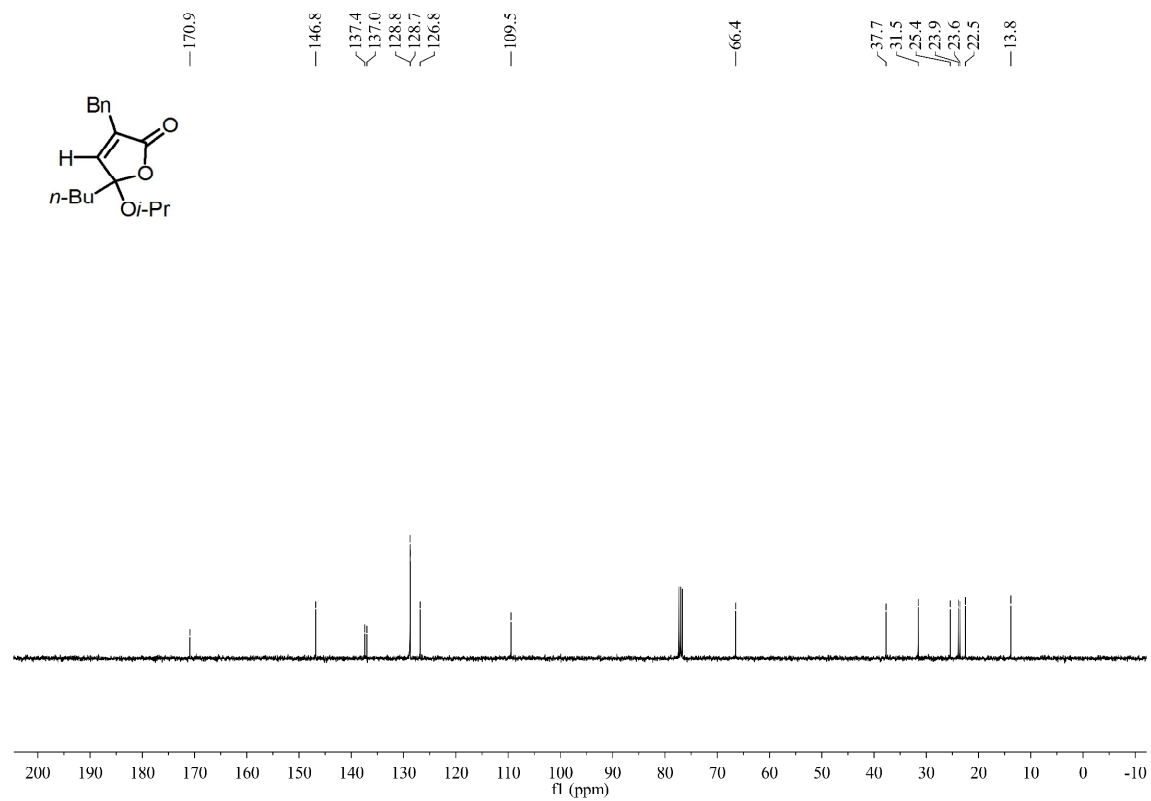


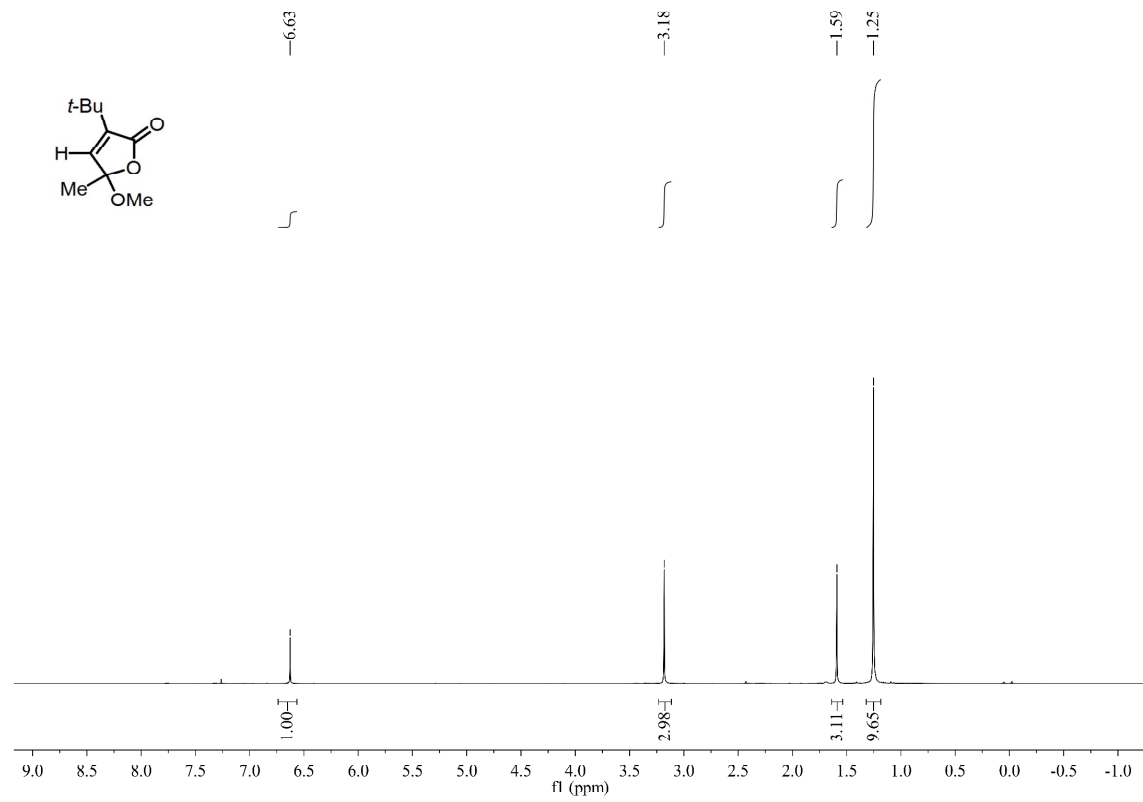
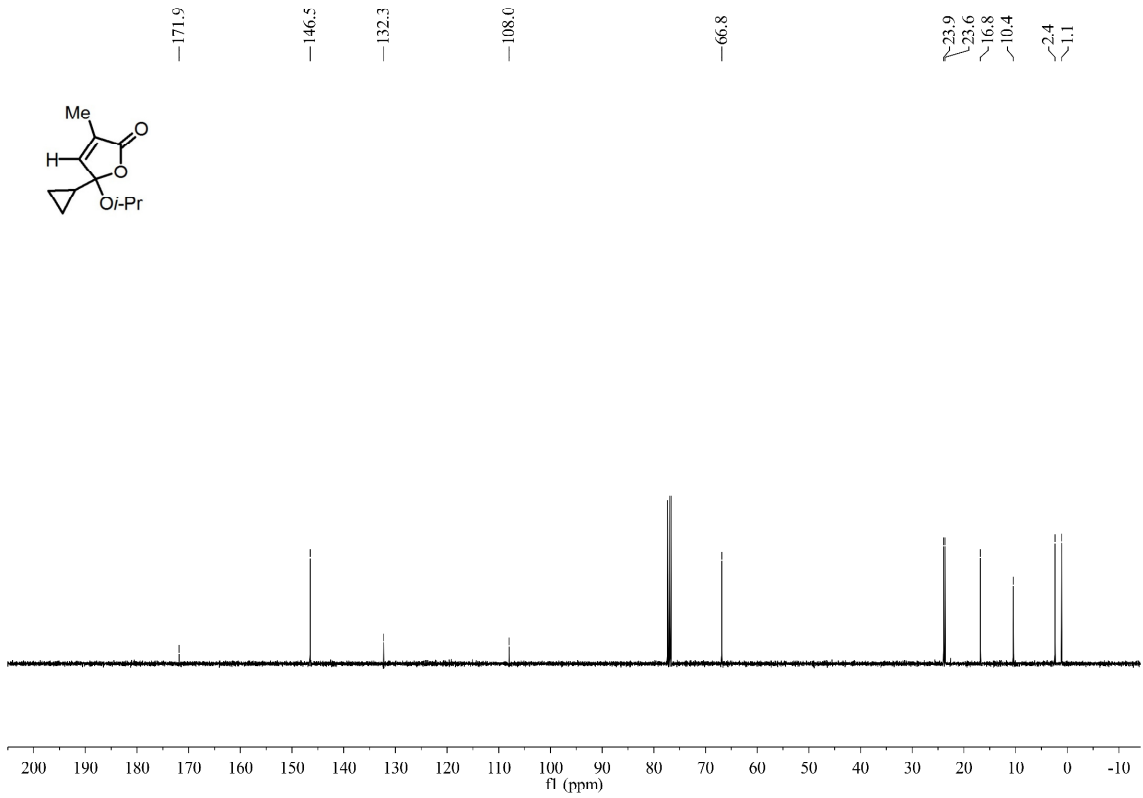


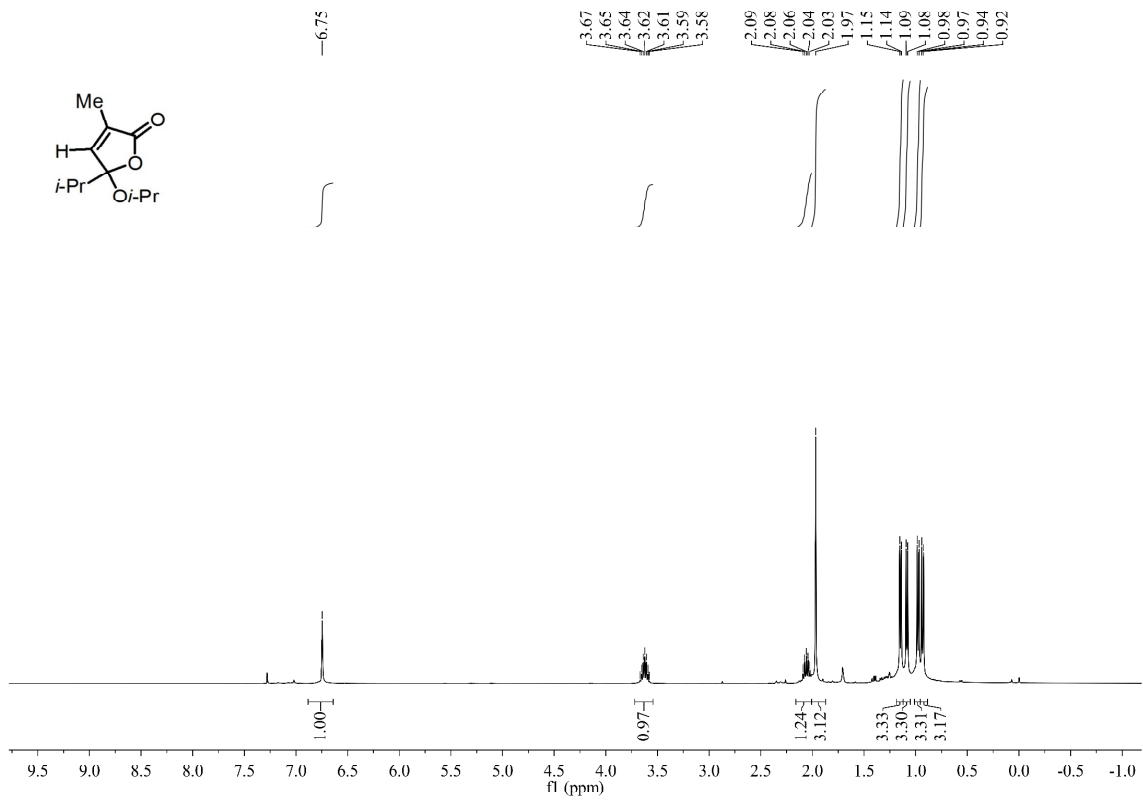
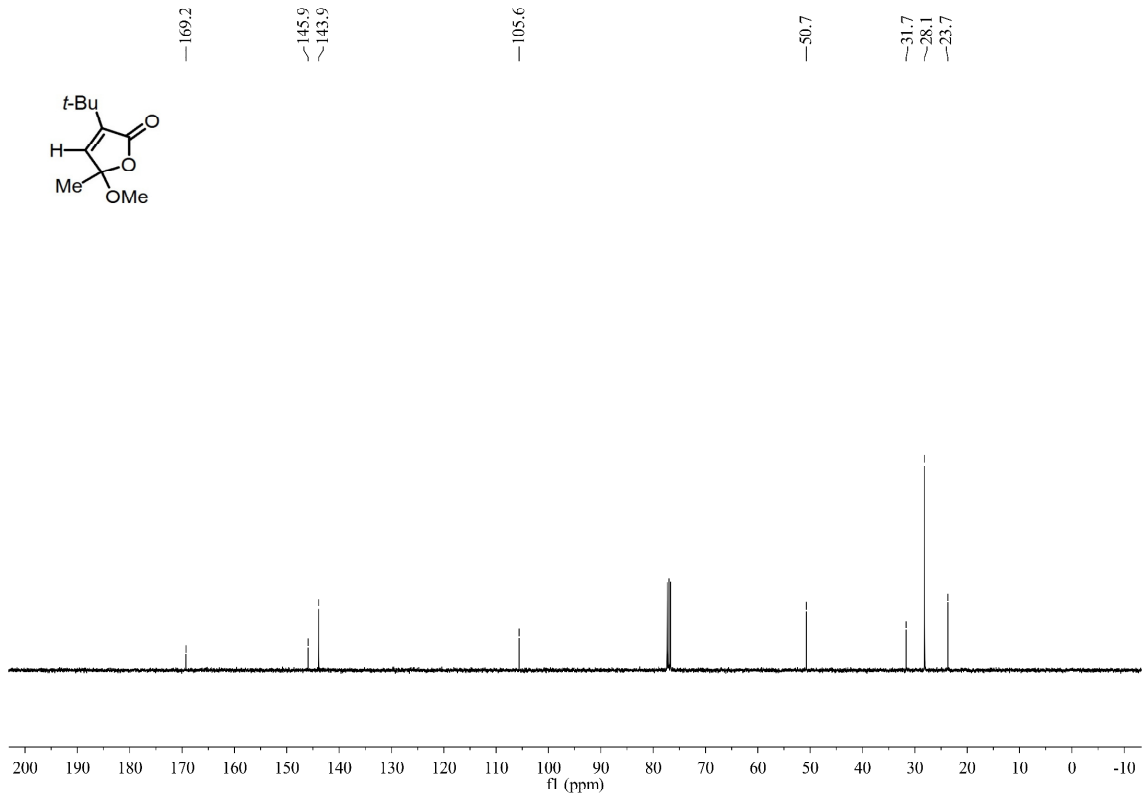


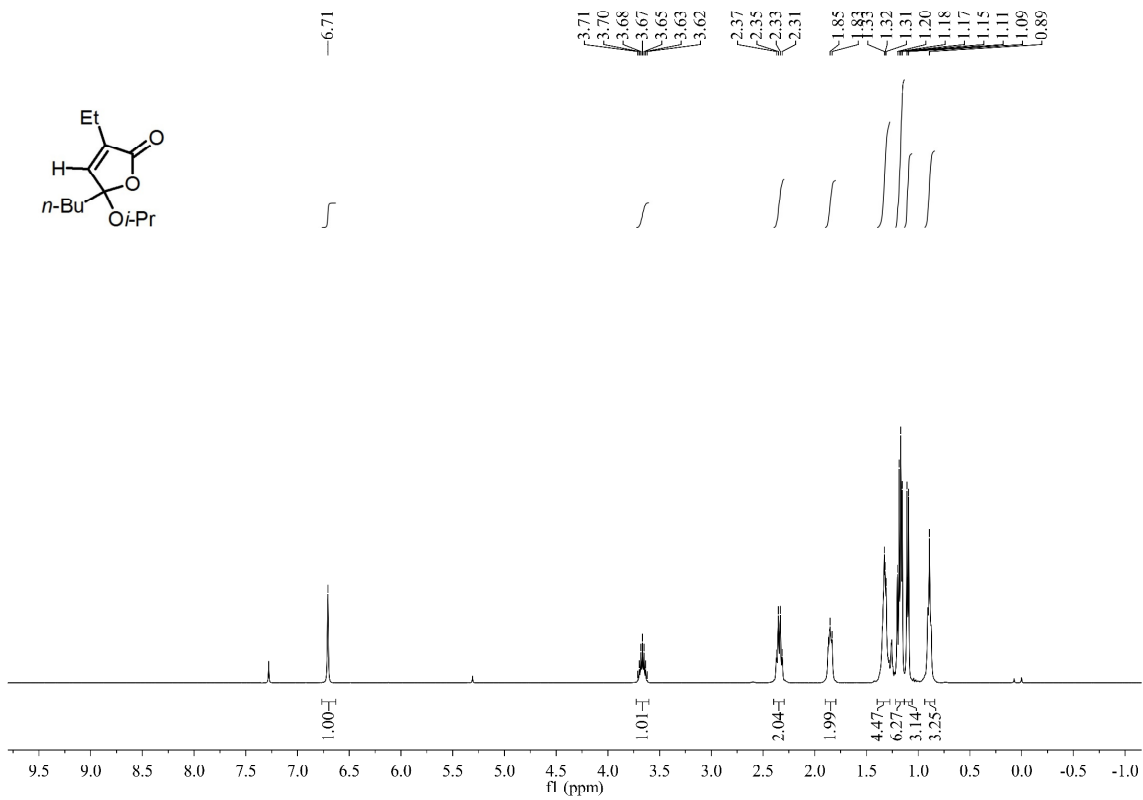
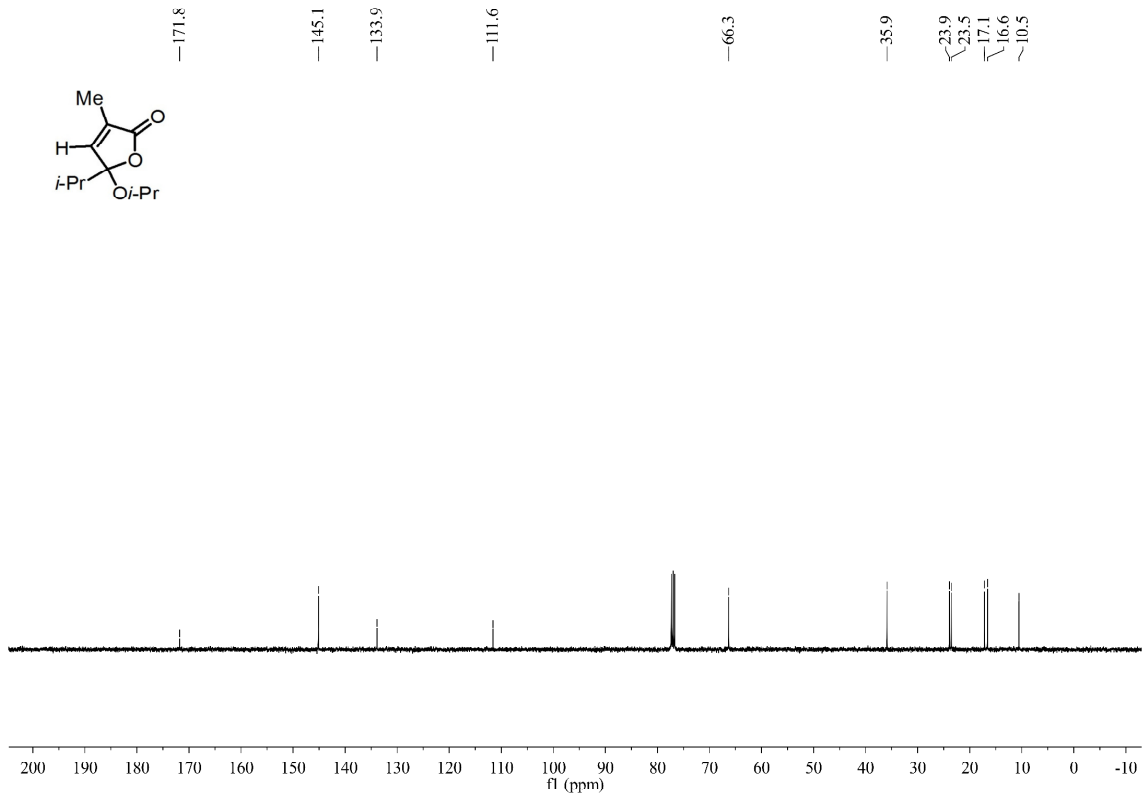


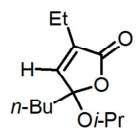




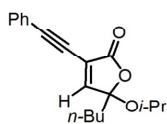
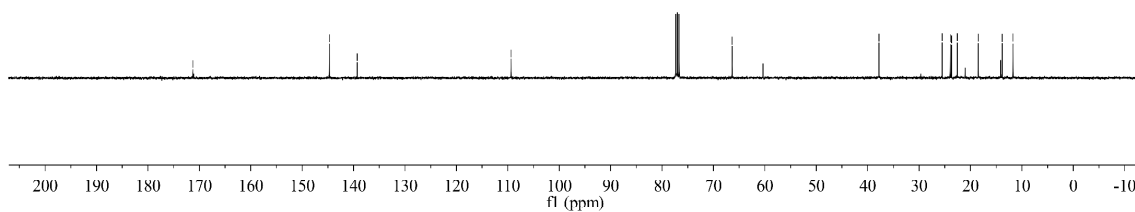




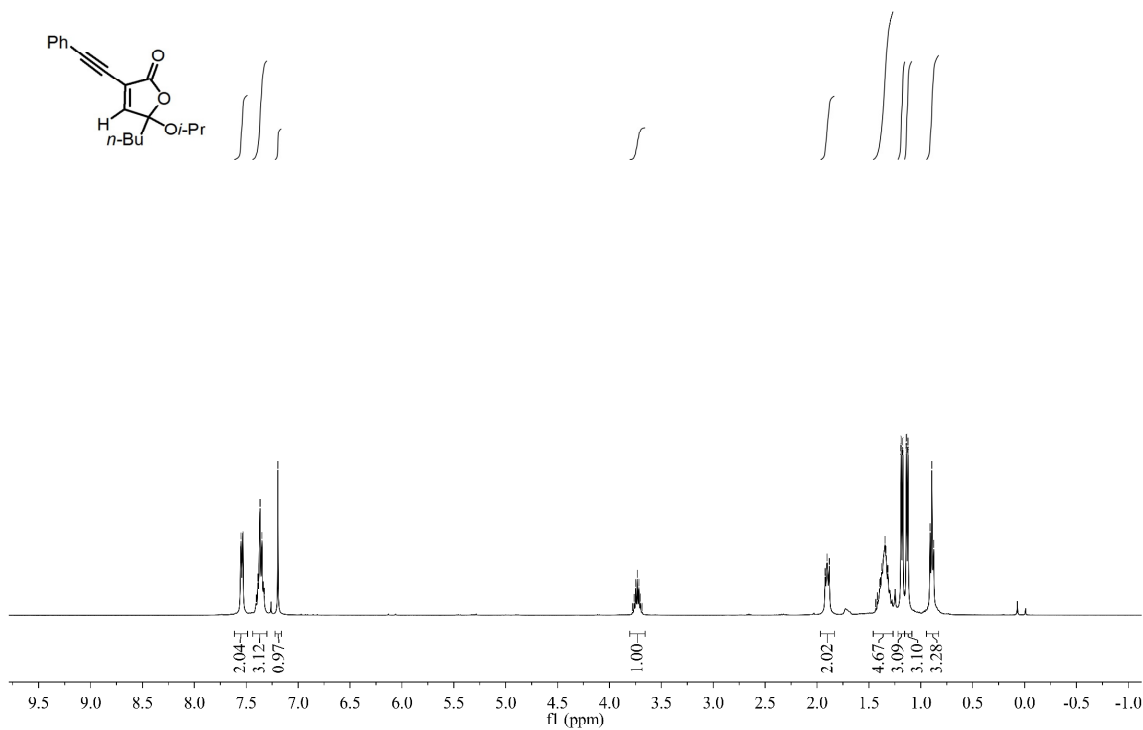


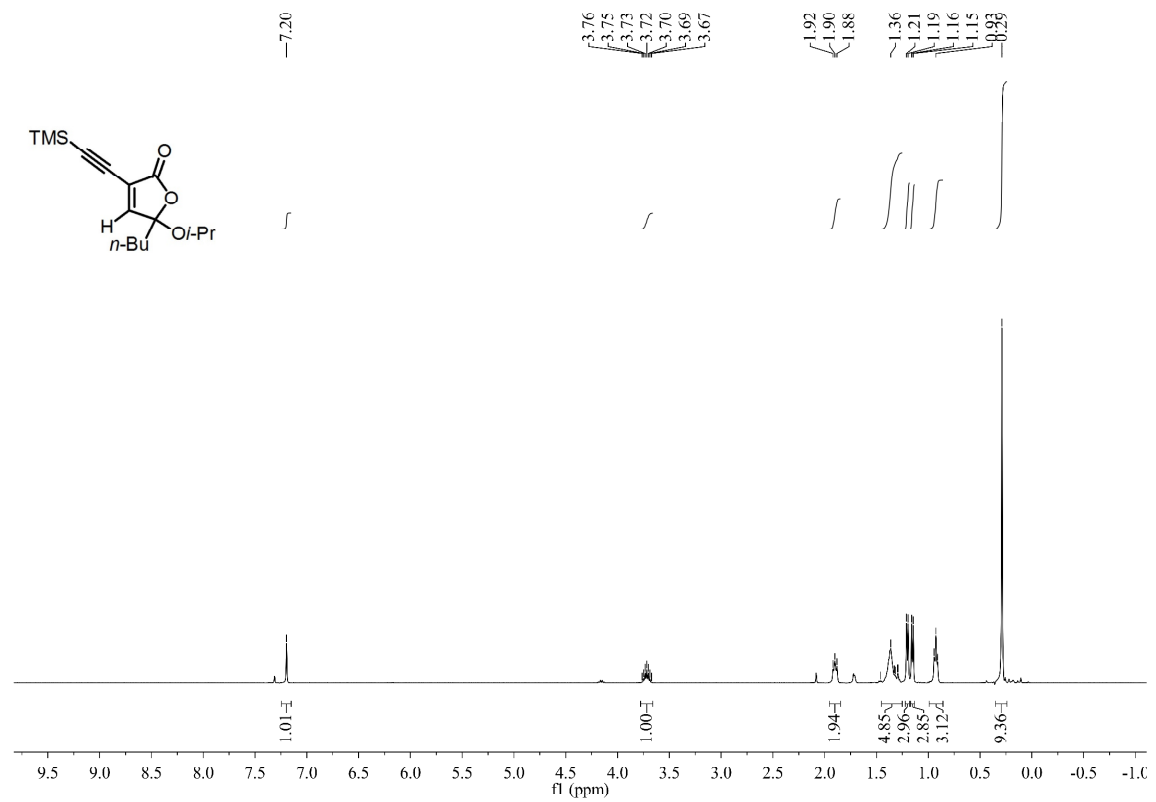
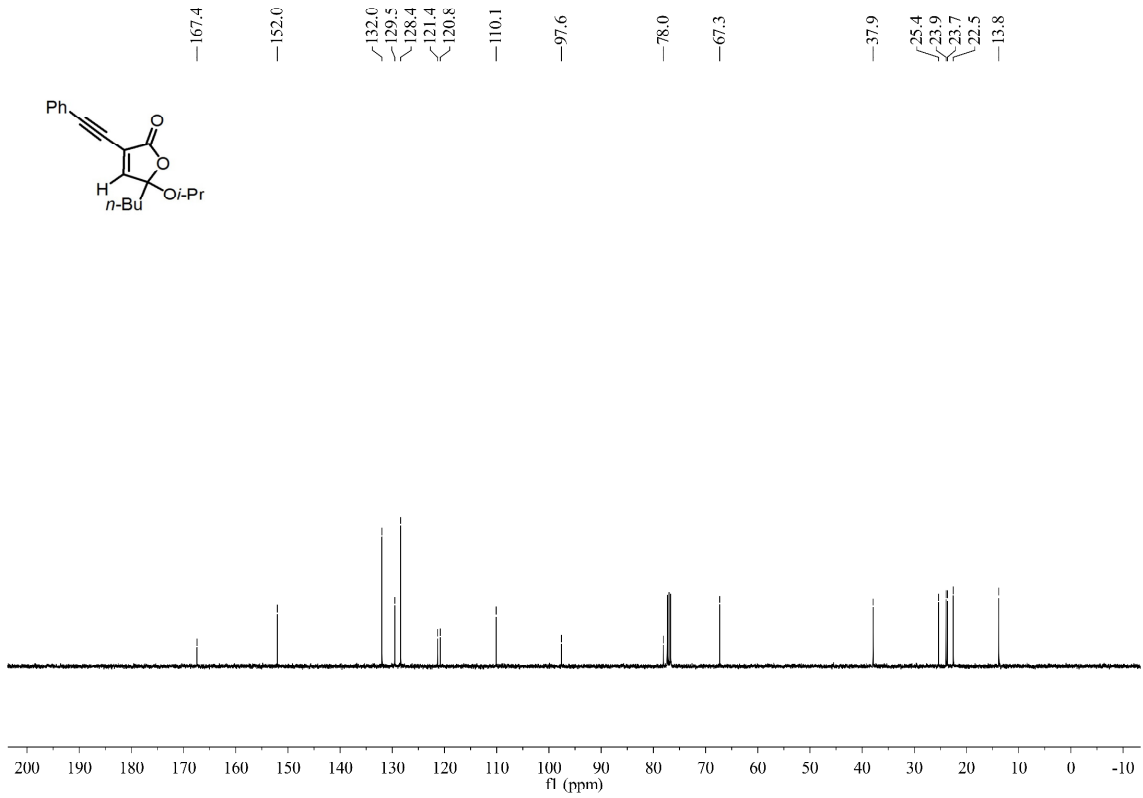


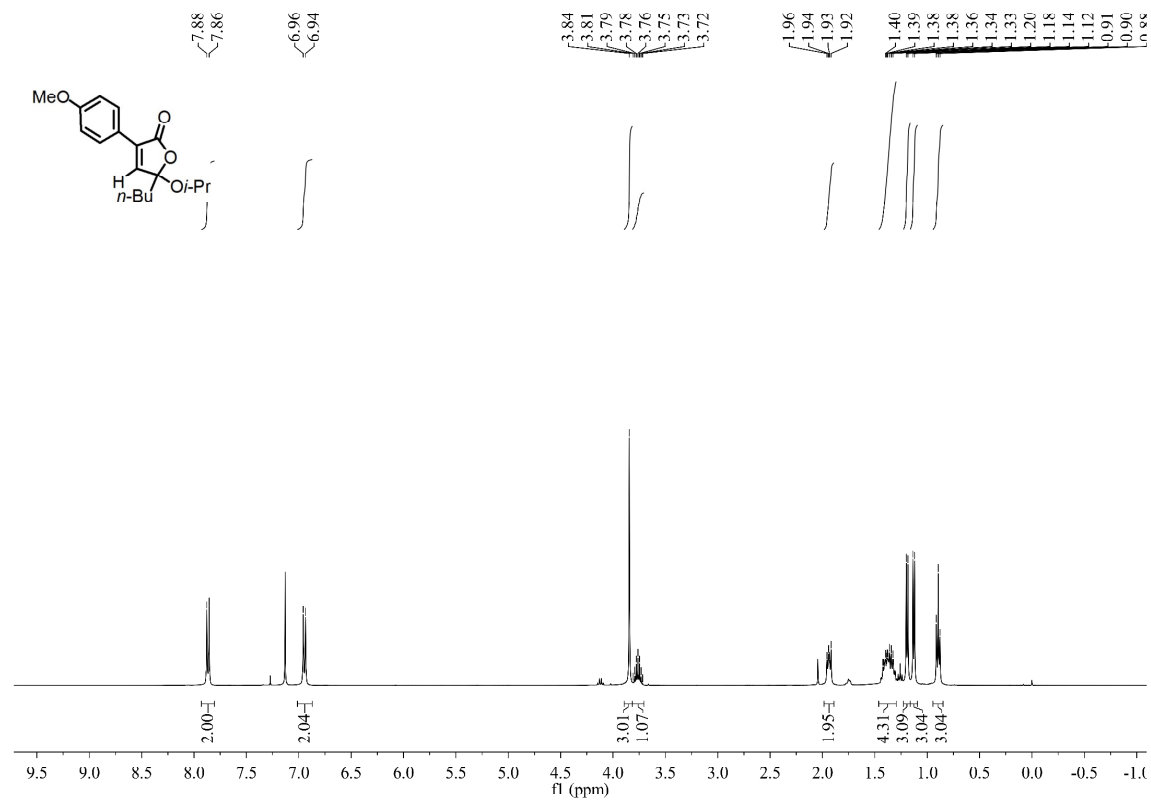
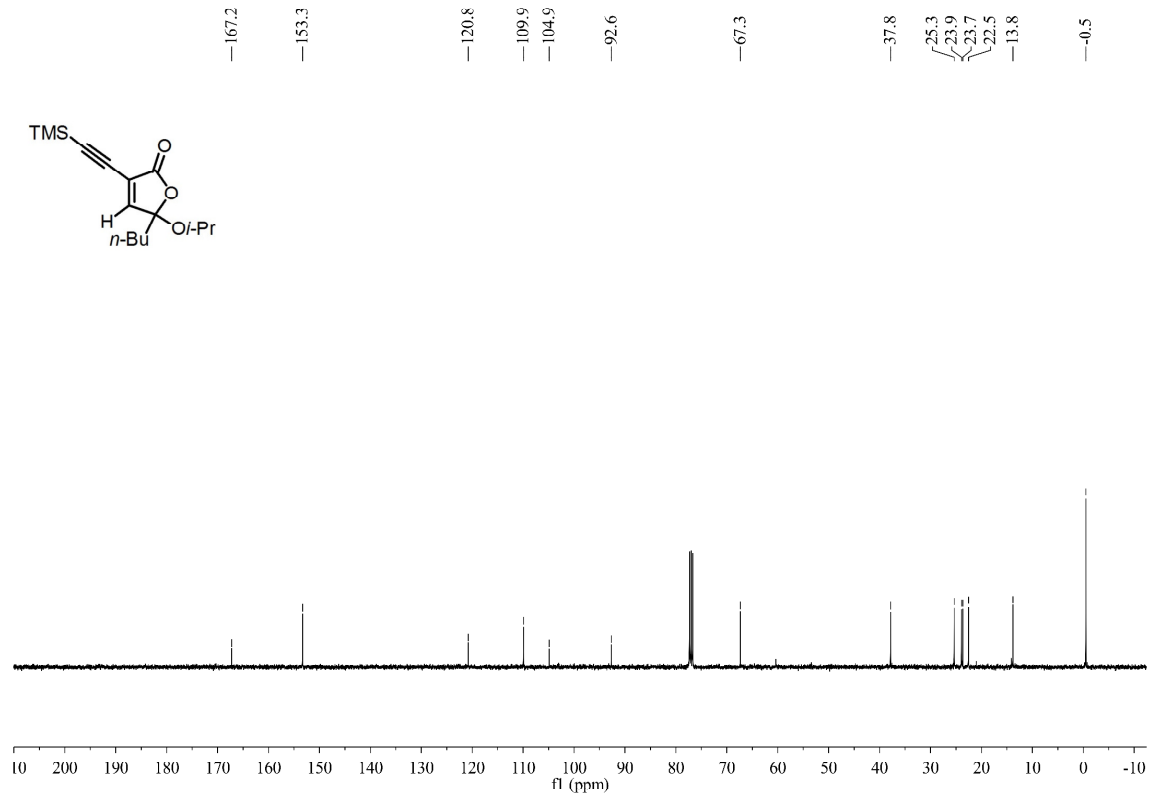
—171.2  
—144.7  
—139.3  
—109.4  
—66.4  
—37.8  
25.5  
23.9  
23.7  
22.6  
18.5  
13.8  
11.7

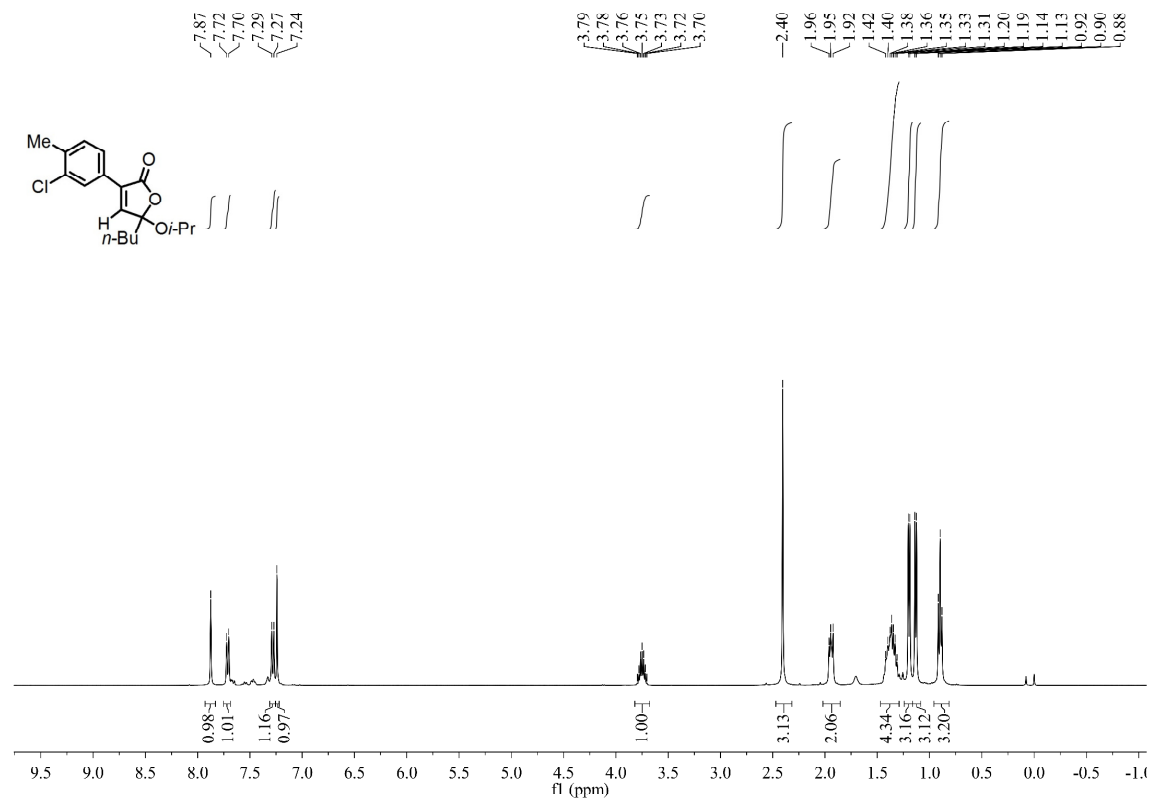
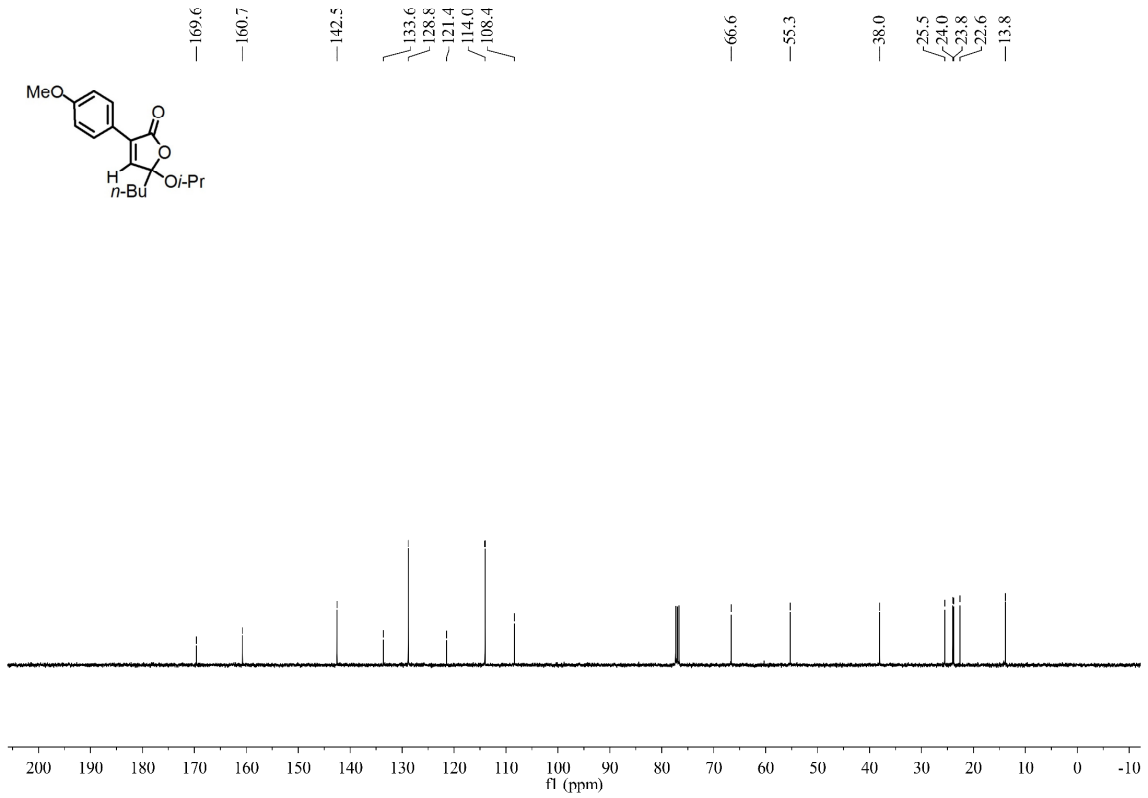


7.55  
7.53  
7.40  
7.39  
7.37  
7.35  
7.34  
7.33  
7.19  
3.78  
3.76  
3.75  
3.73  
3.72  
3.70  
3.69  
1.92  
1.90  
1.88  
1.42  
1.40  
1.39  
1.38  
1.34  
1.33  
1.32  
1.19  
1.17  
1.14  
1.12  
0.91  
0.89

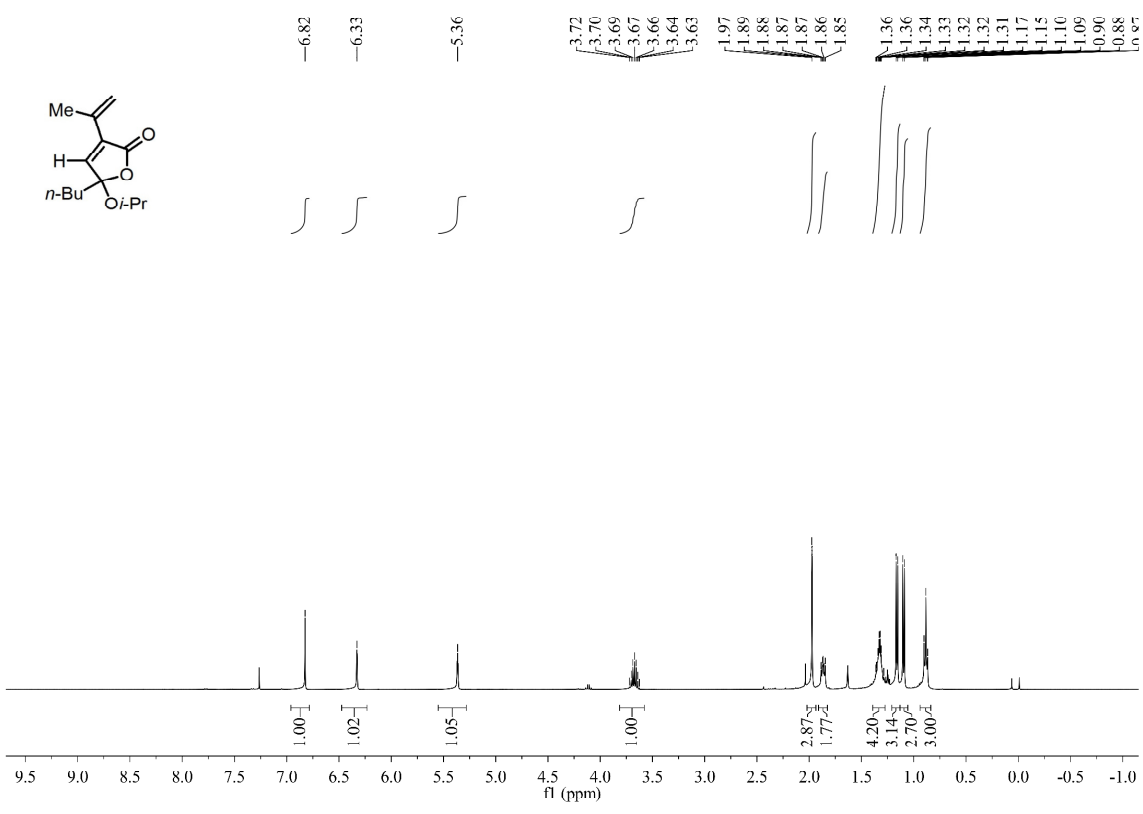
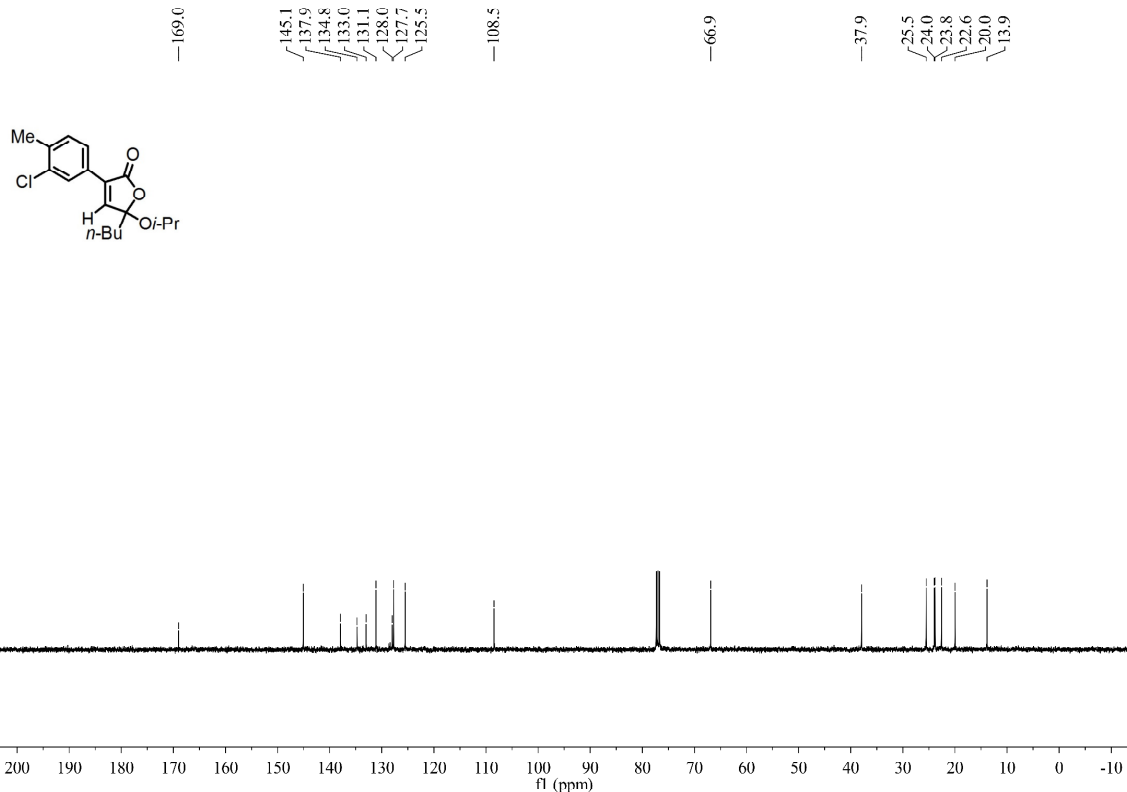


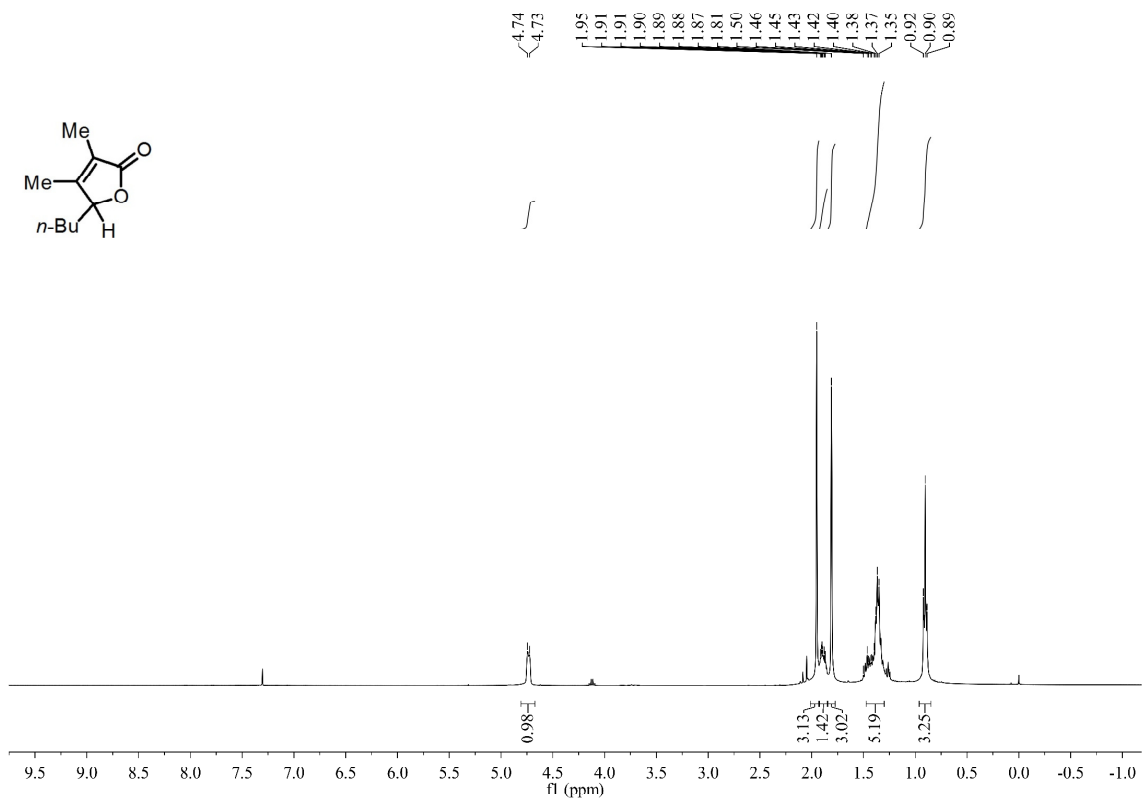
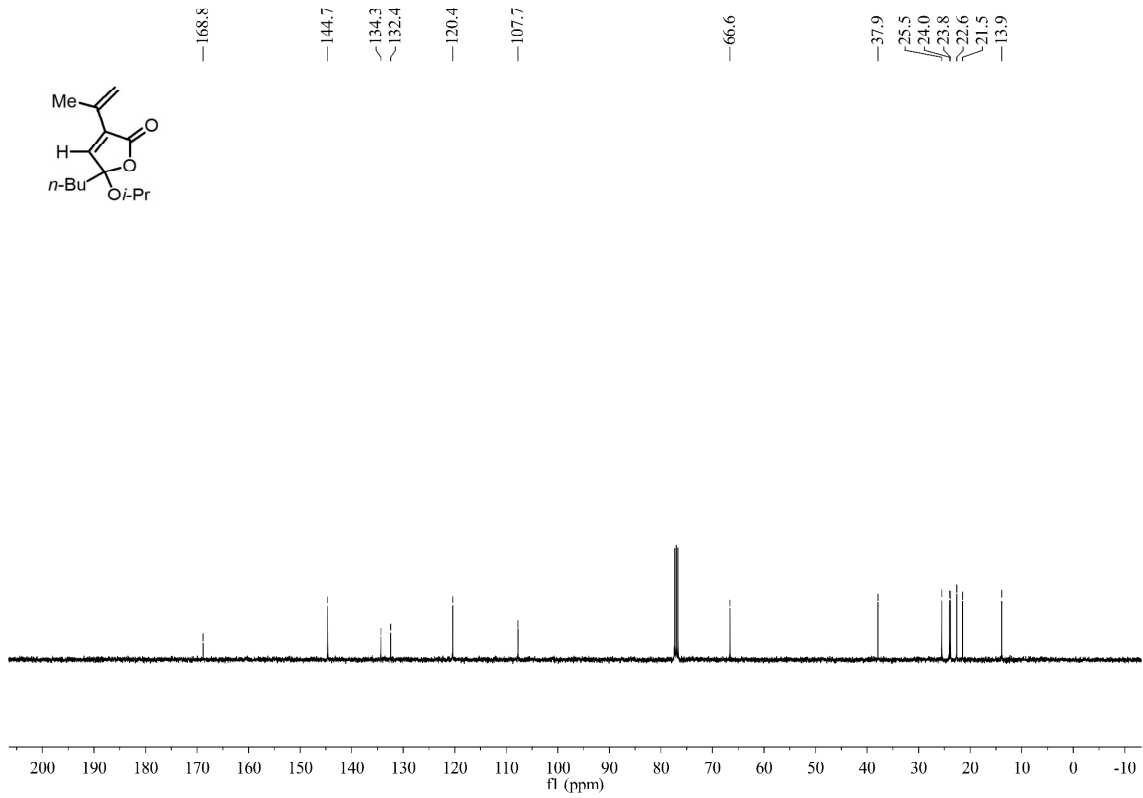


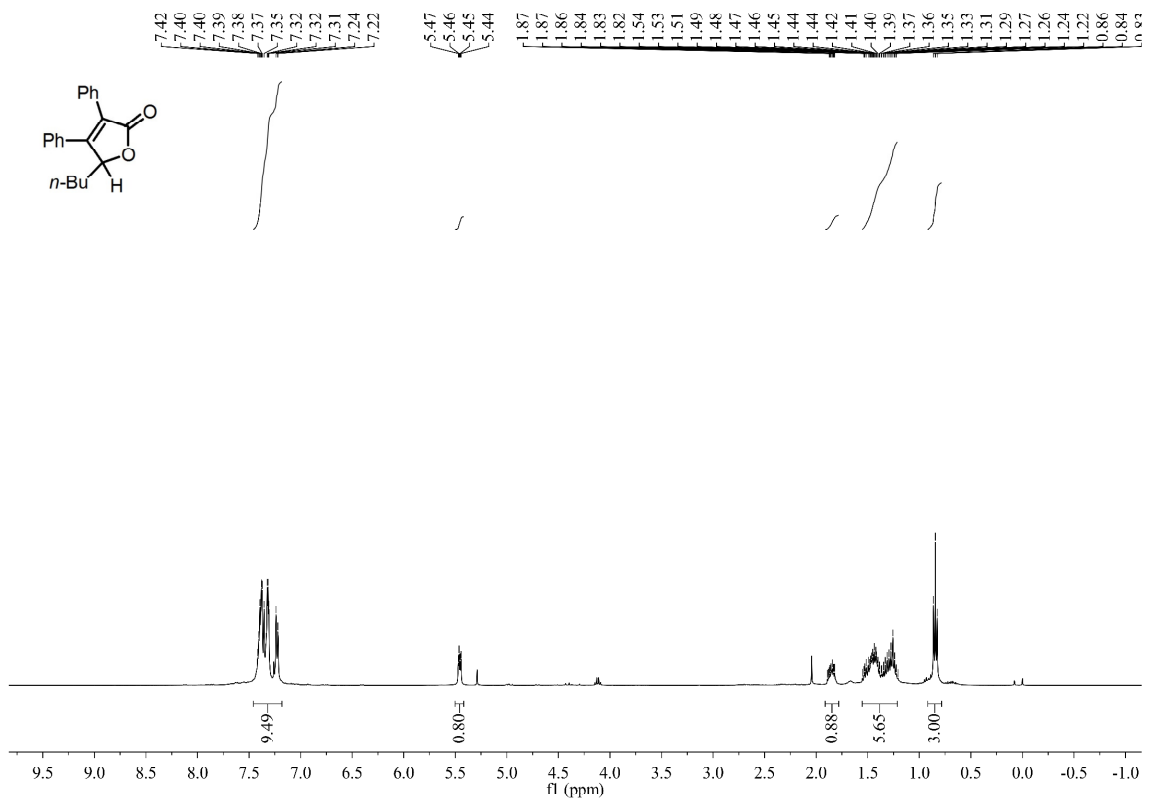
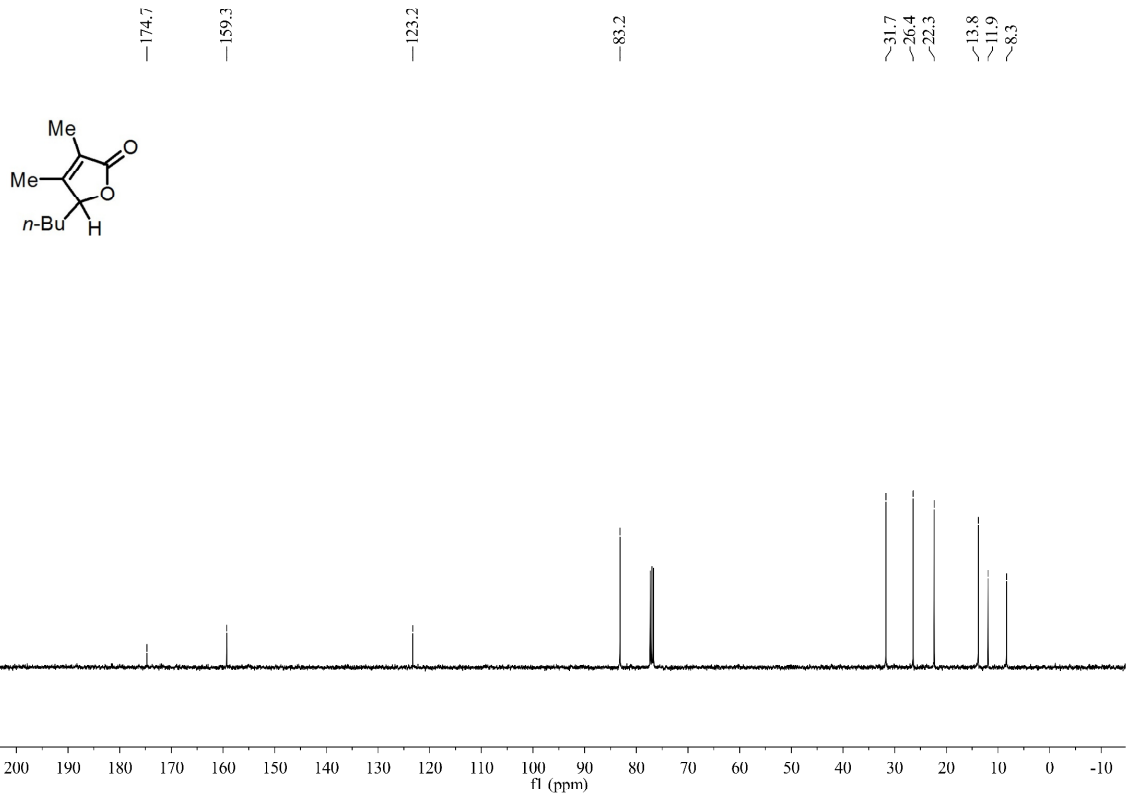


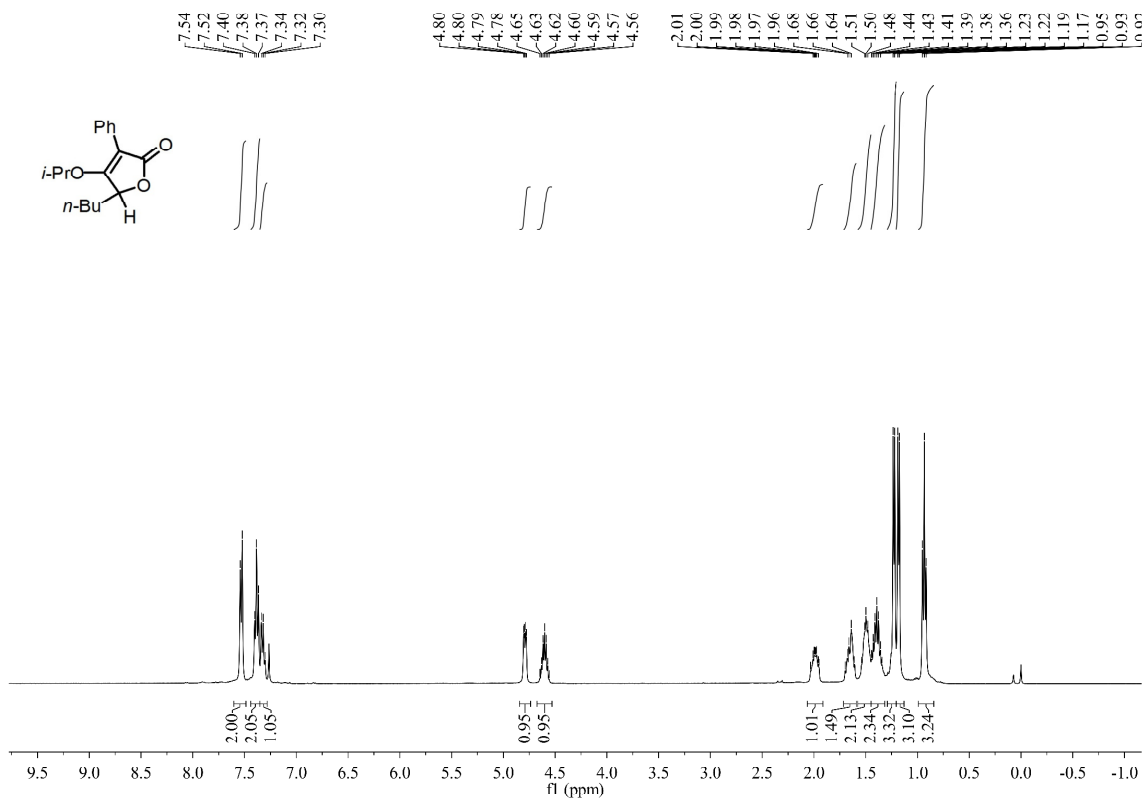
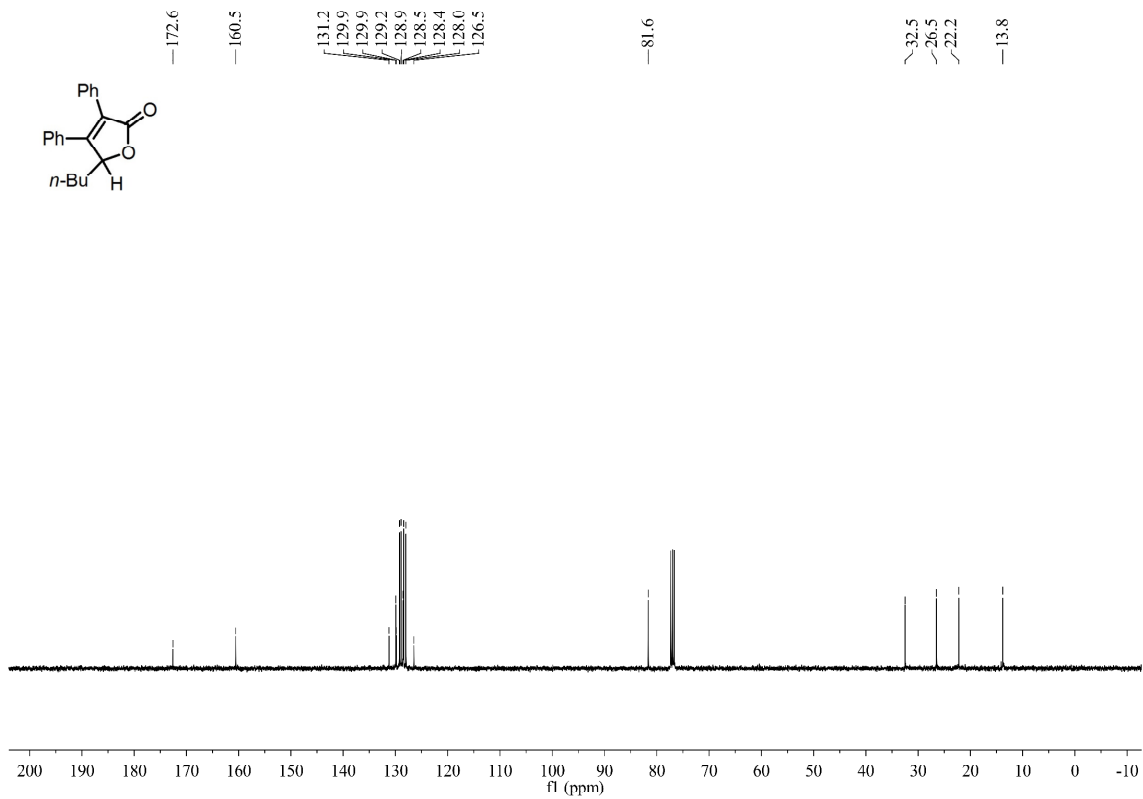


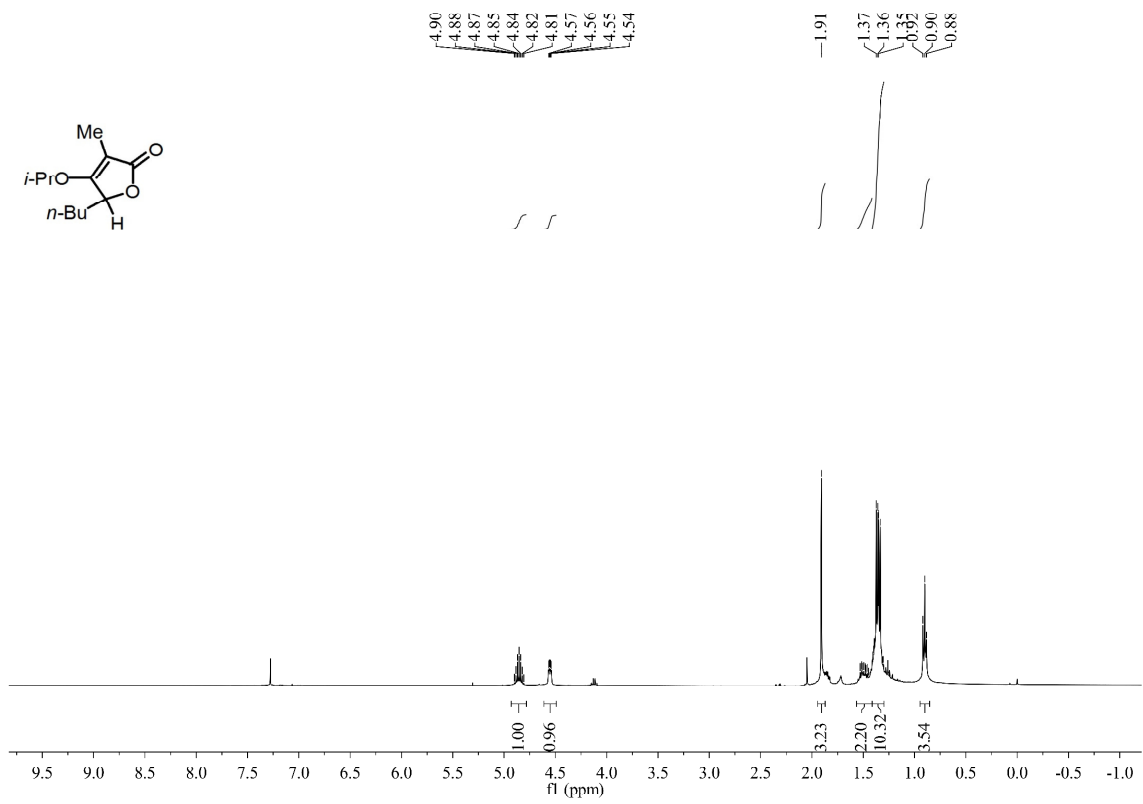
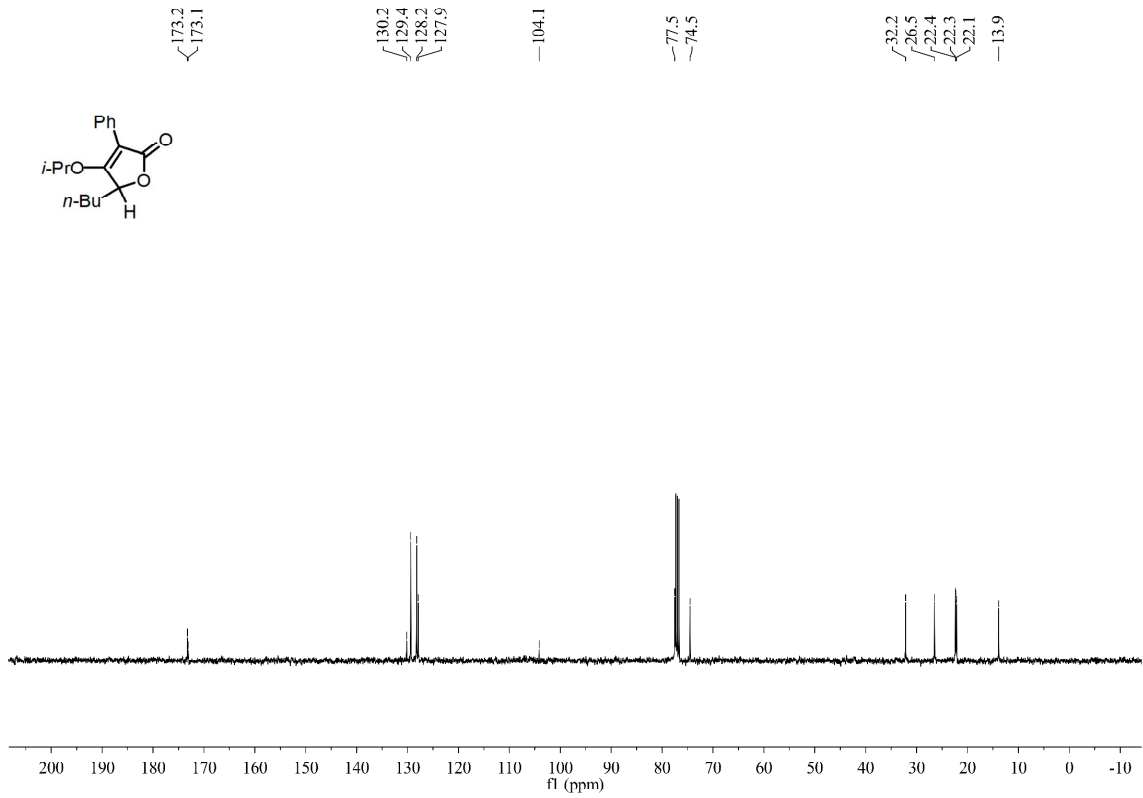


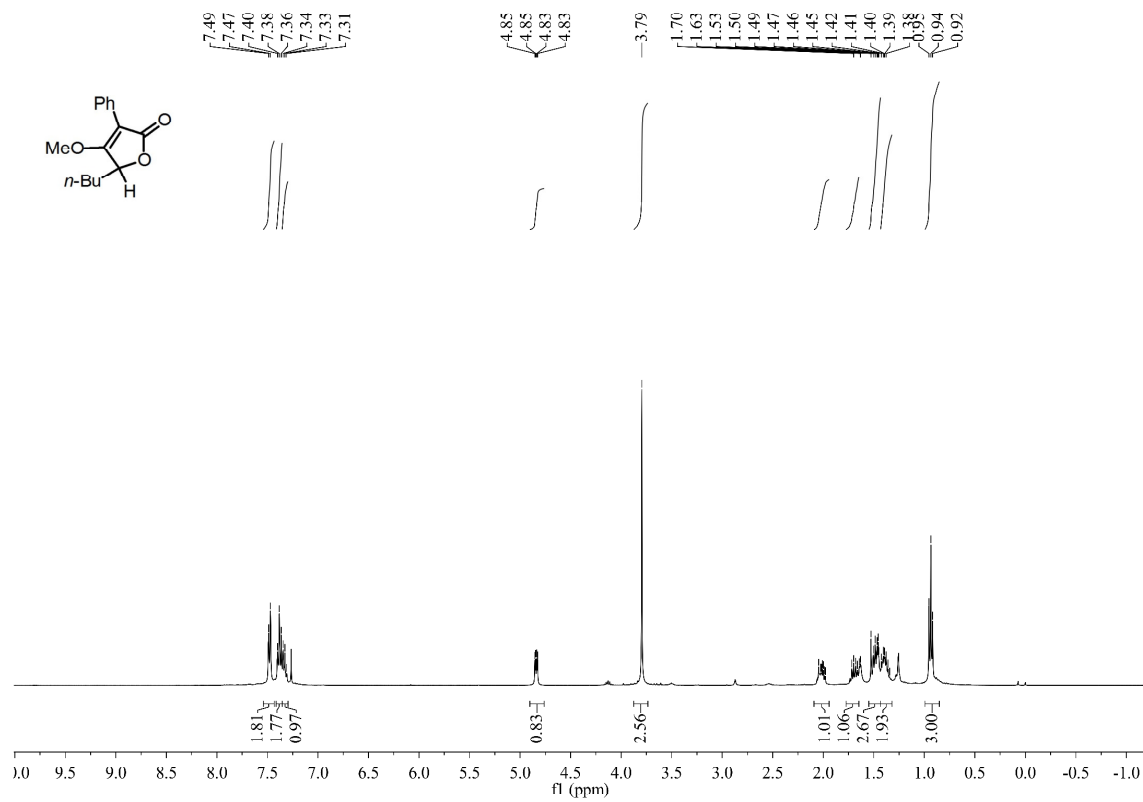
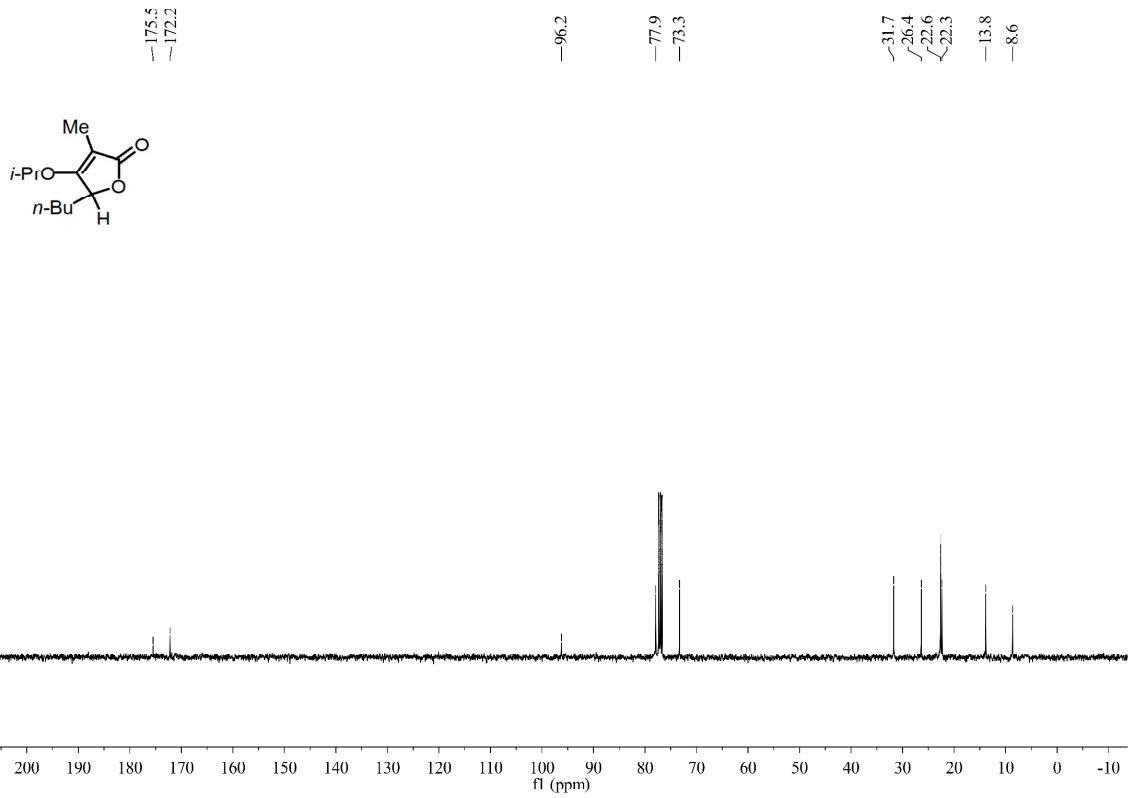


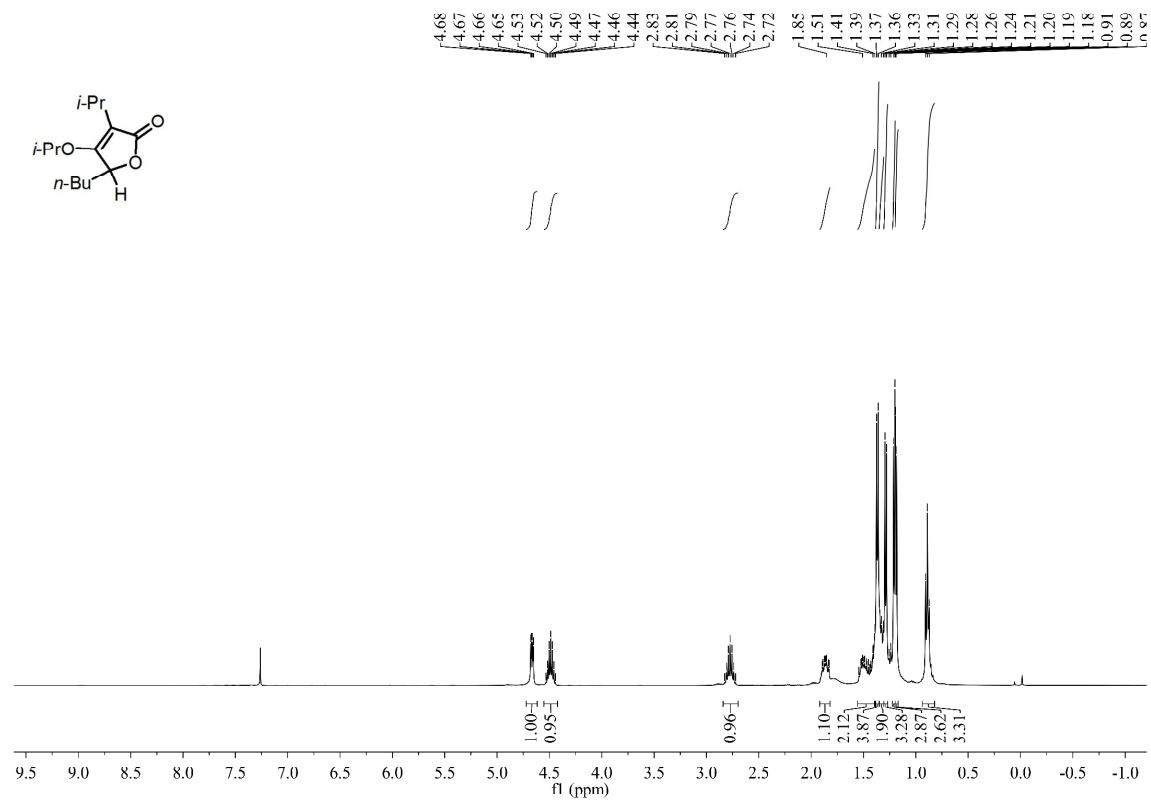
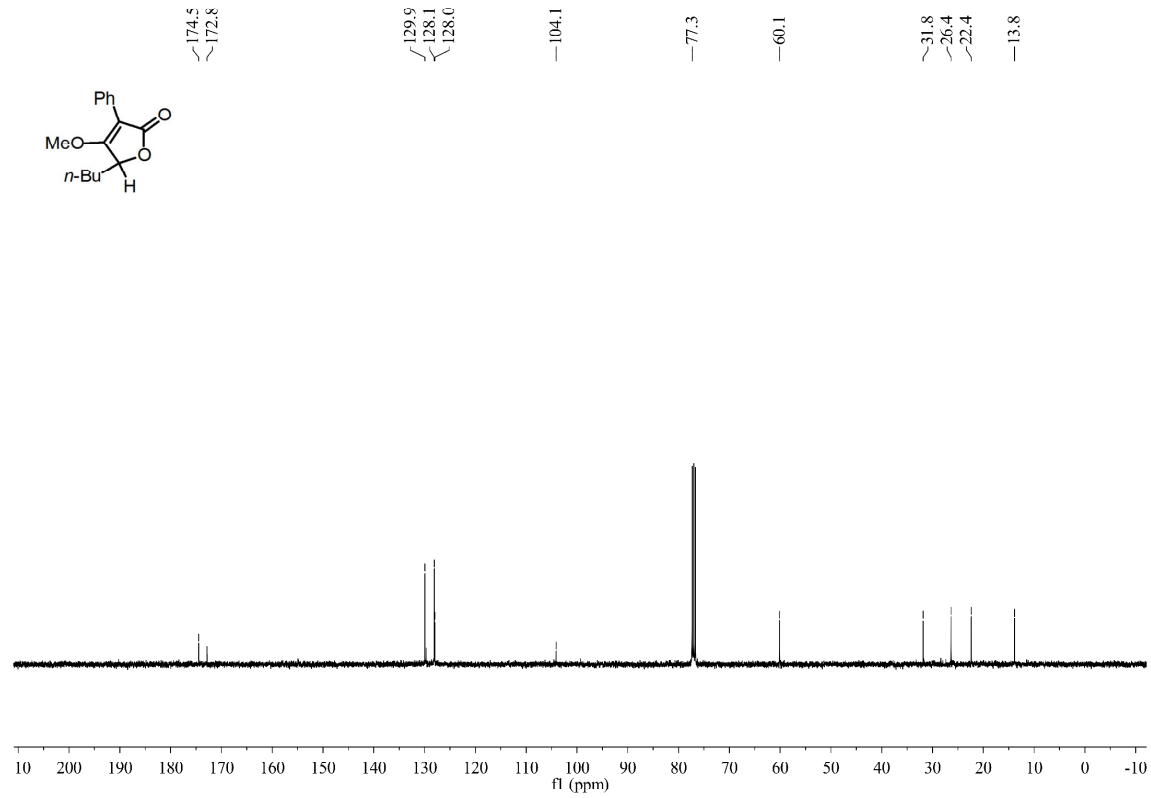


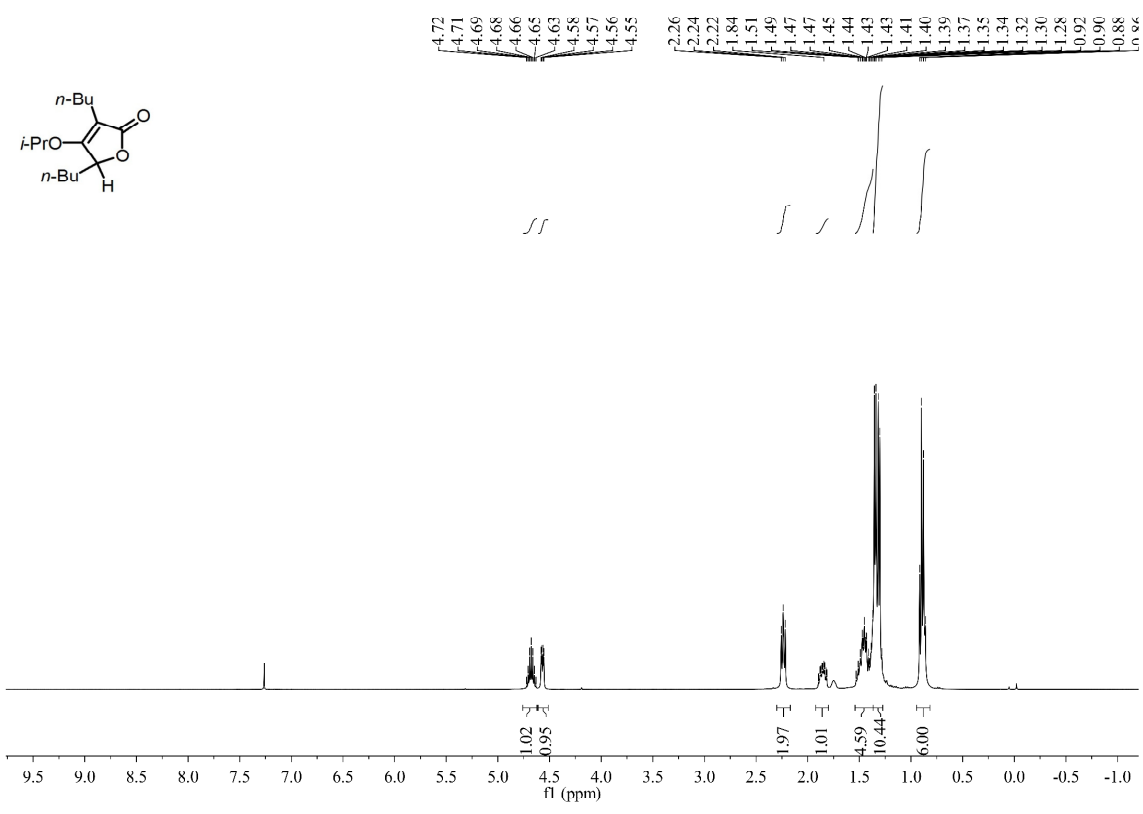
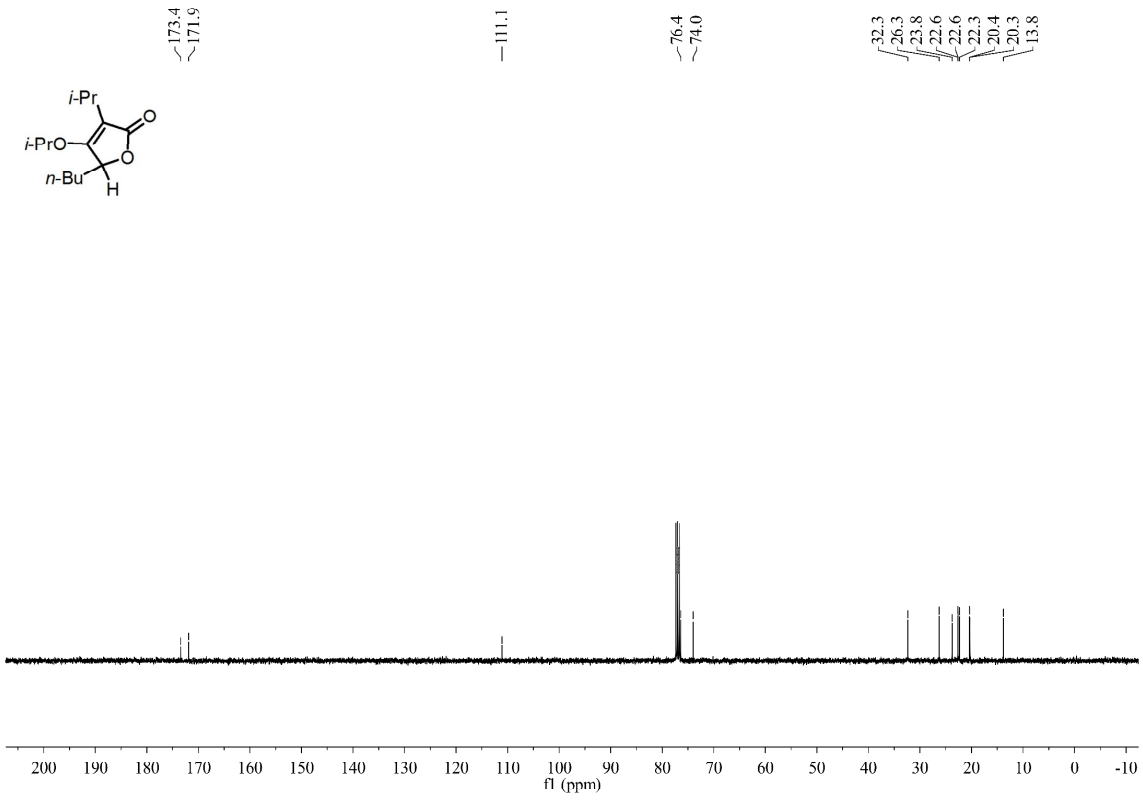




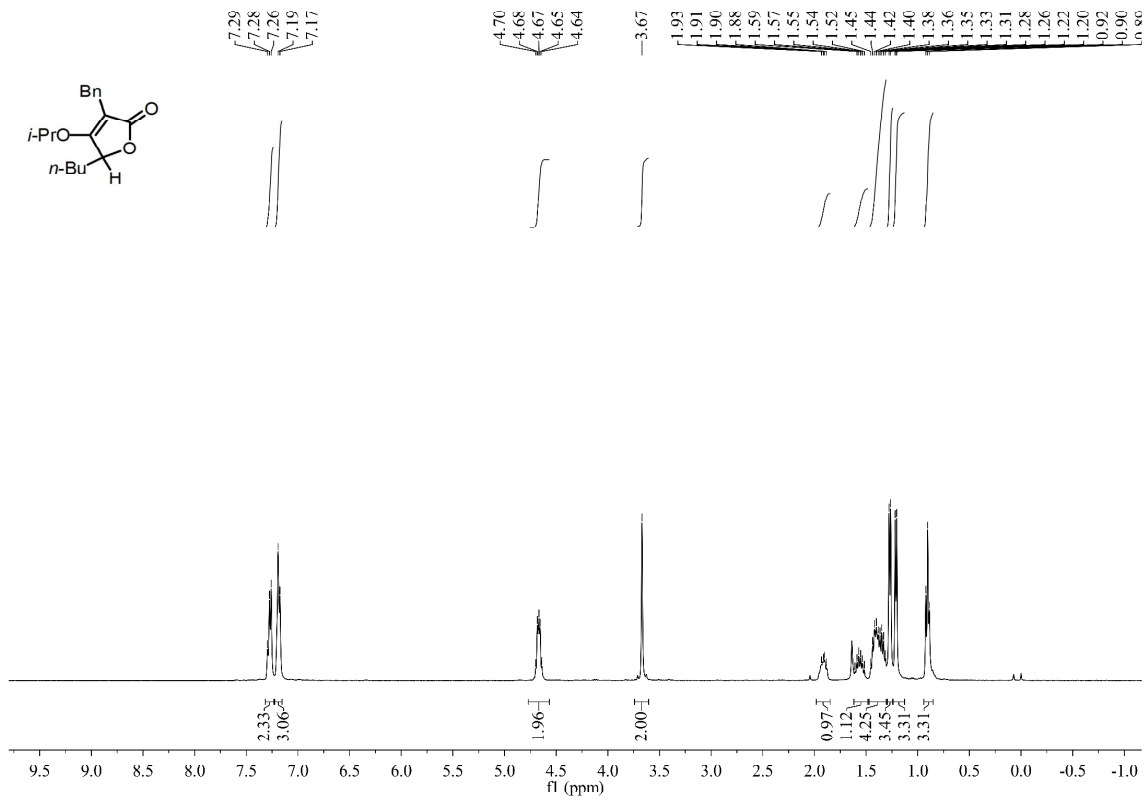
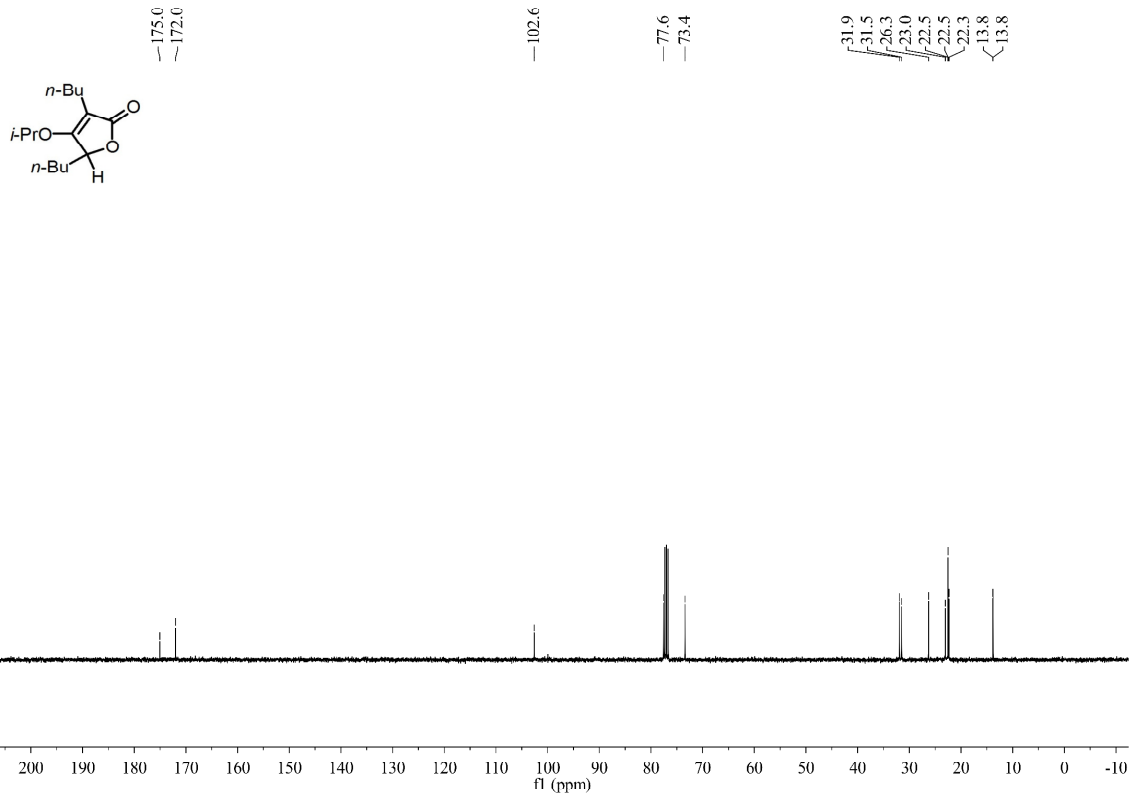


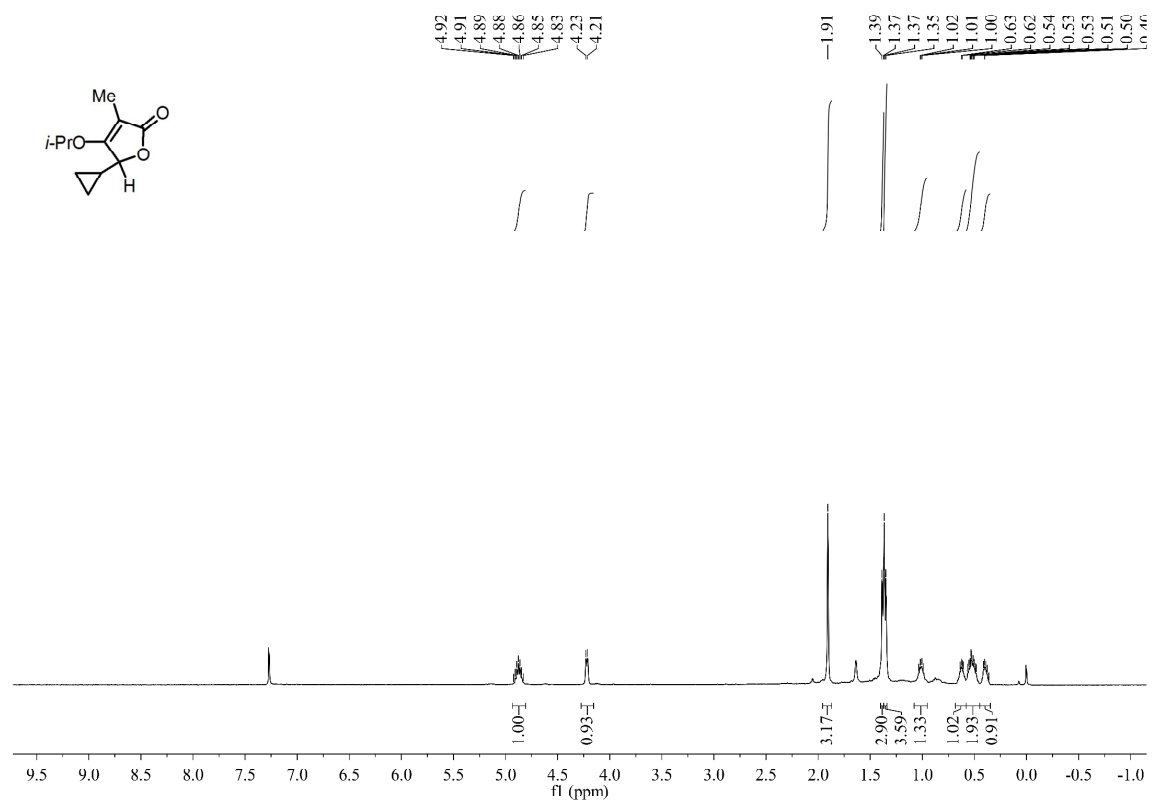
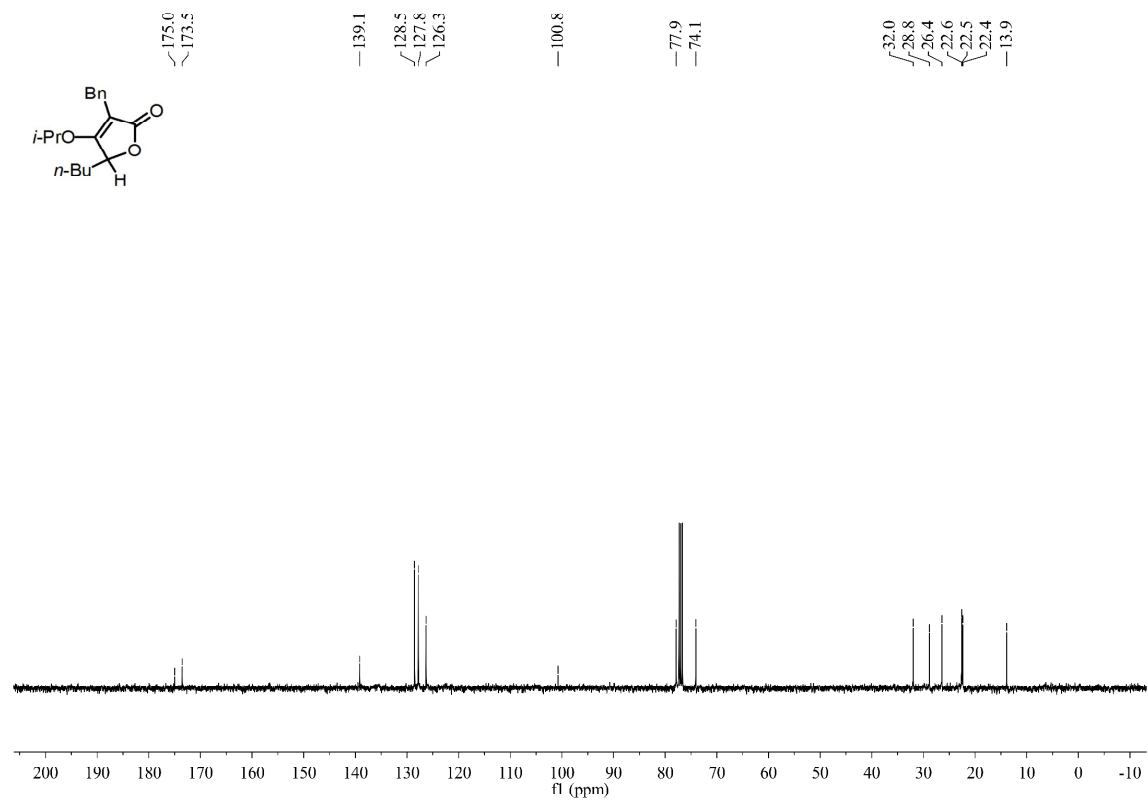


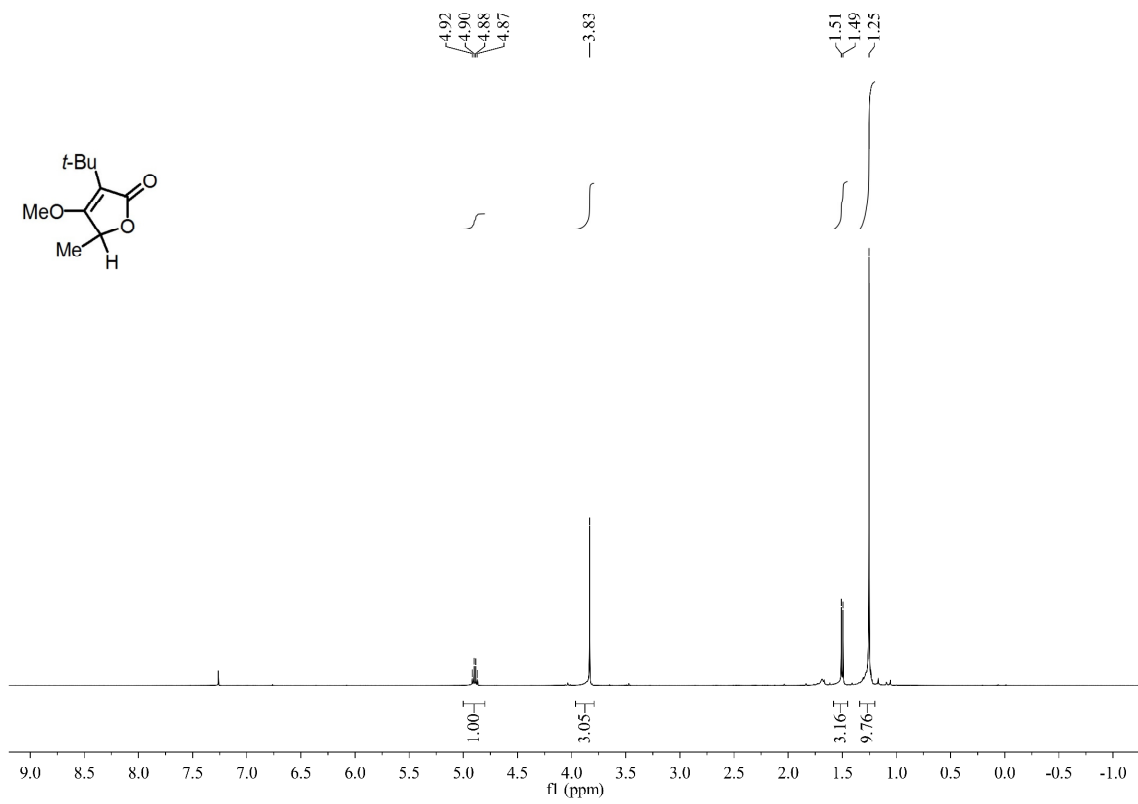
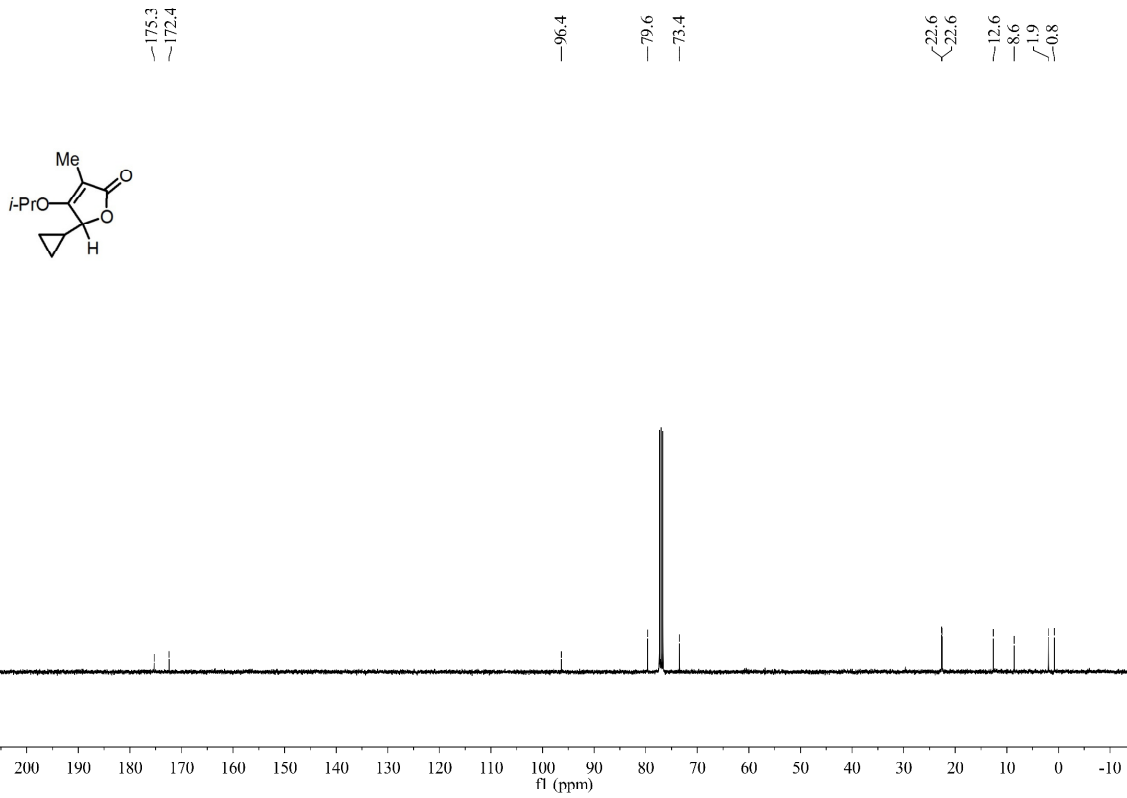


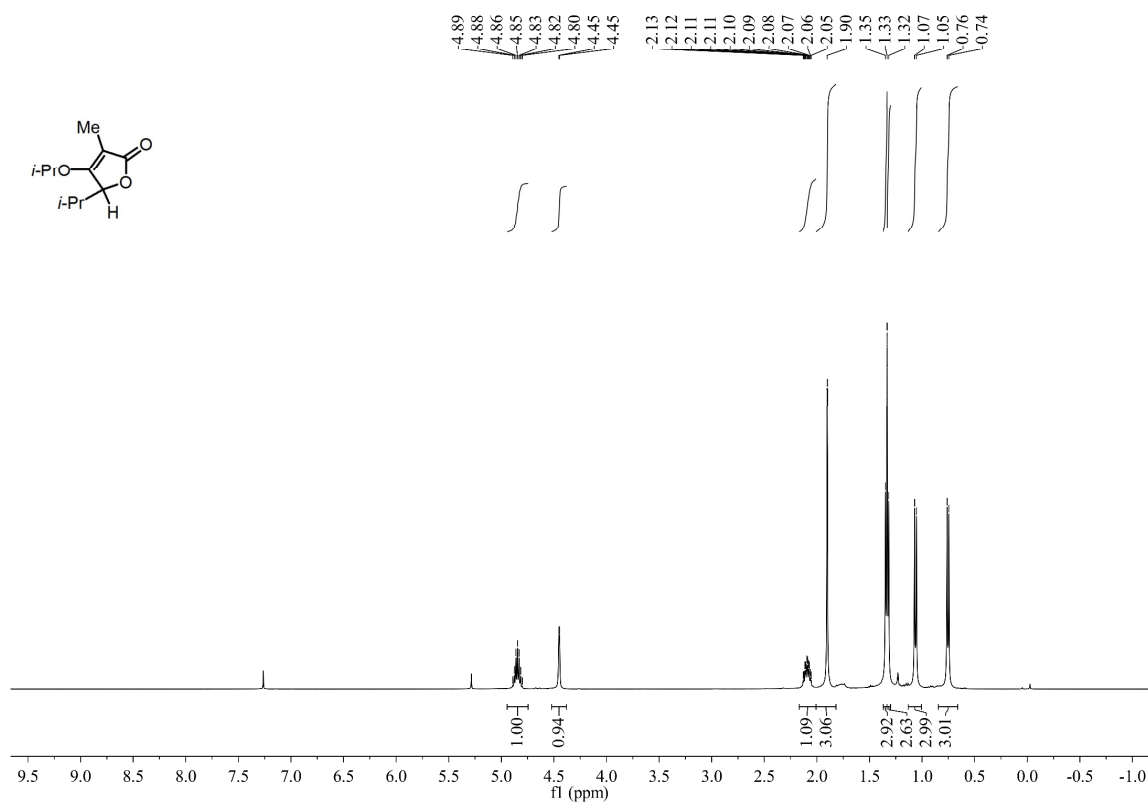
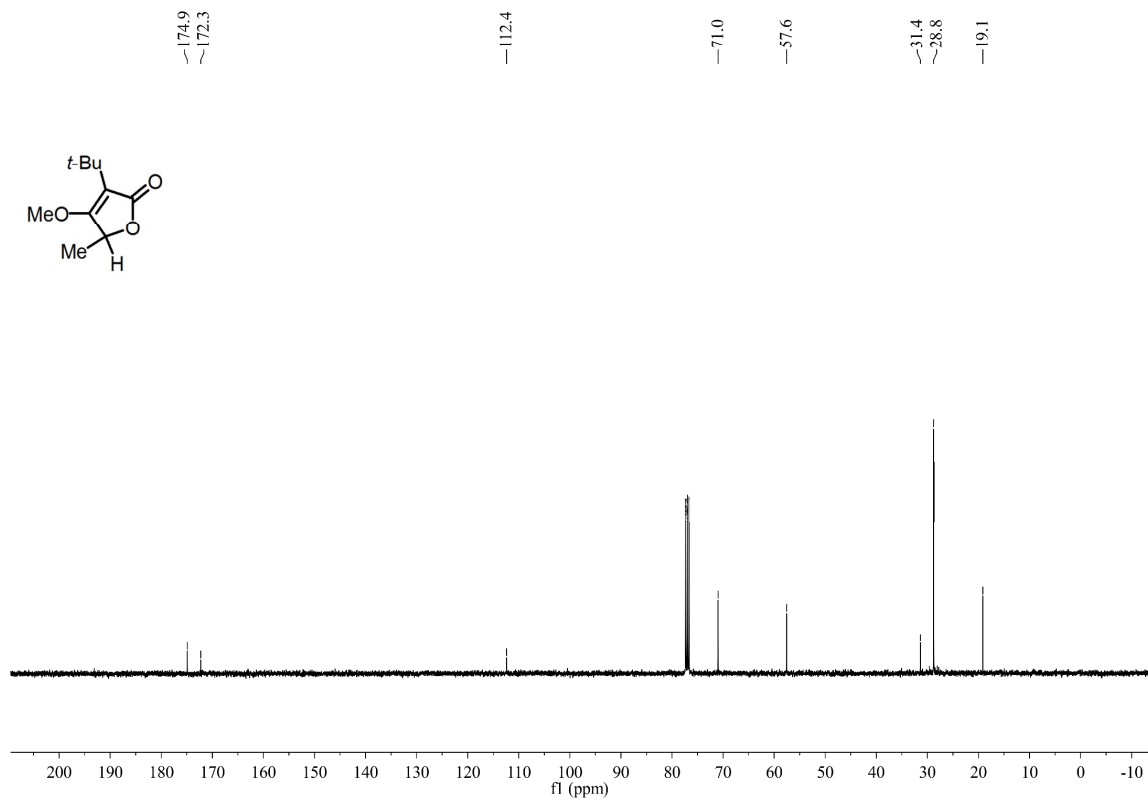


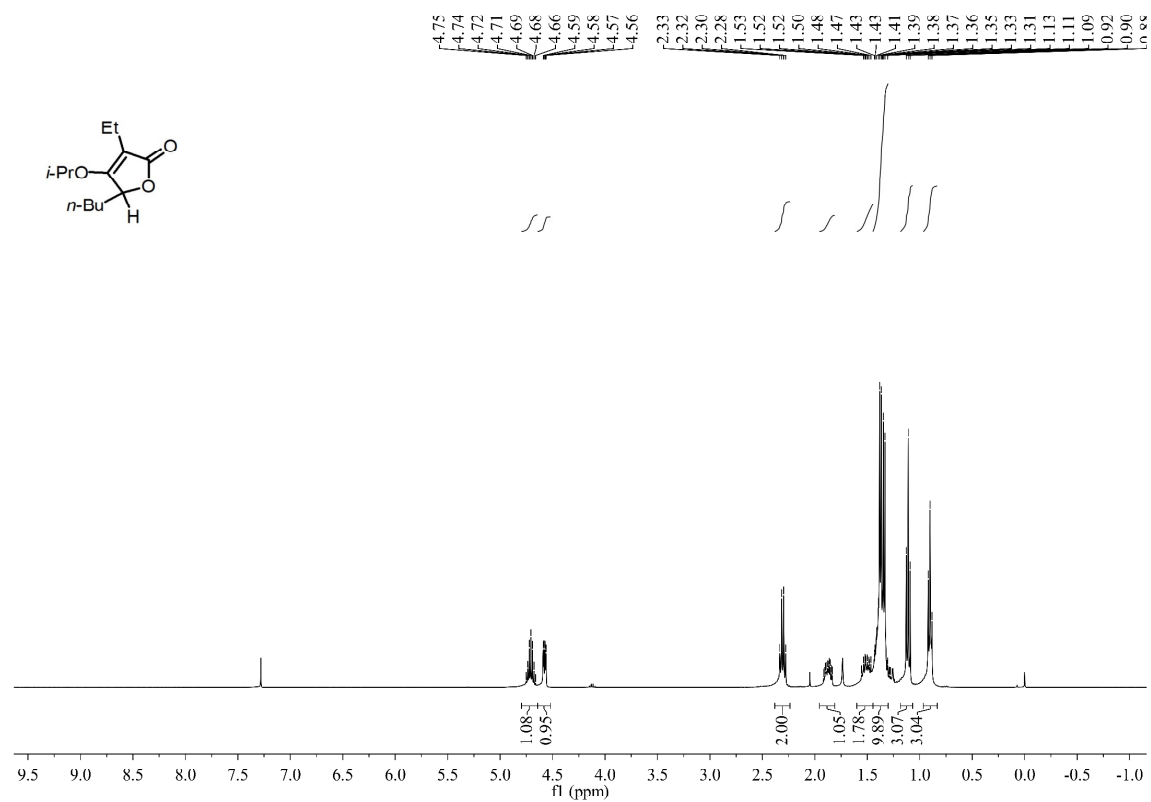
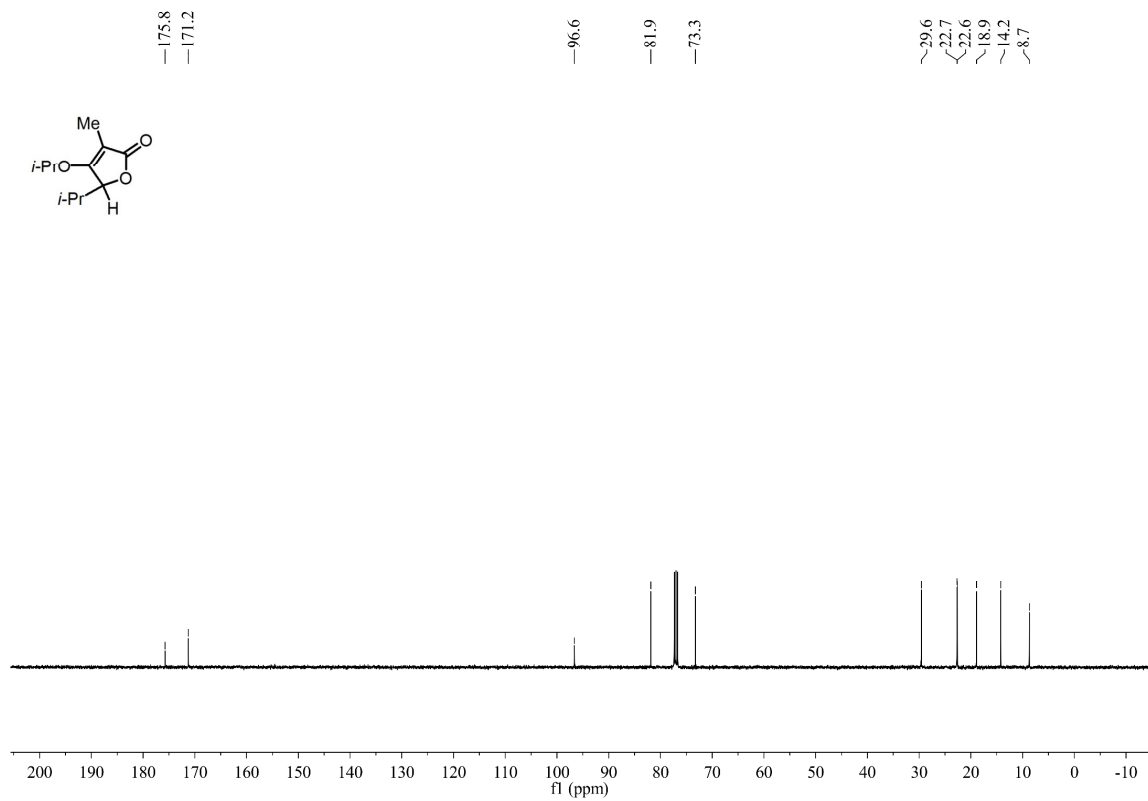


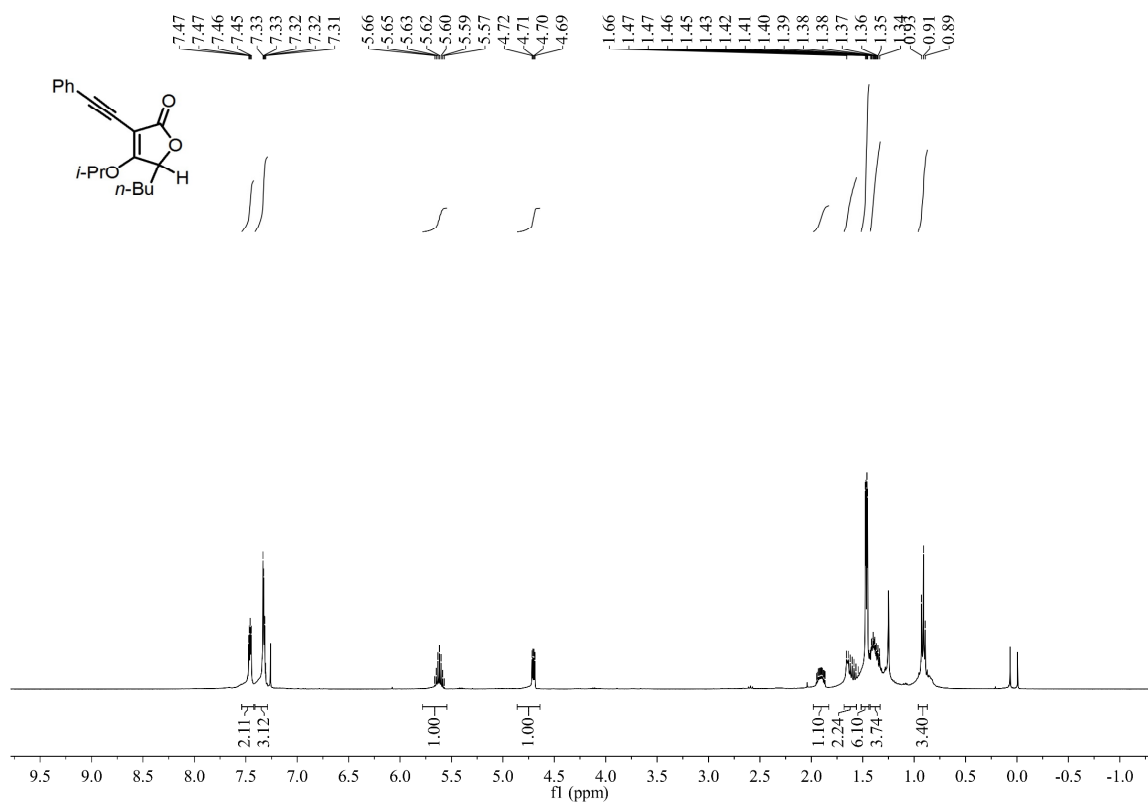
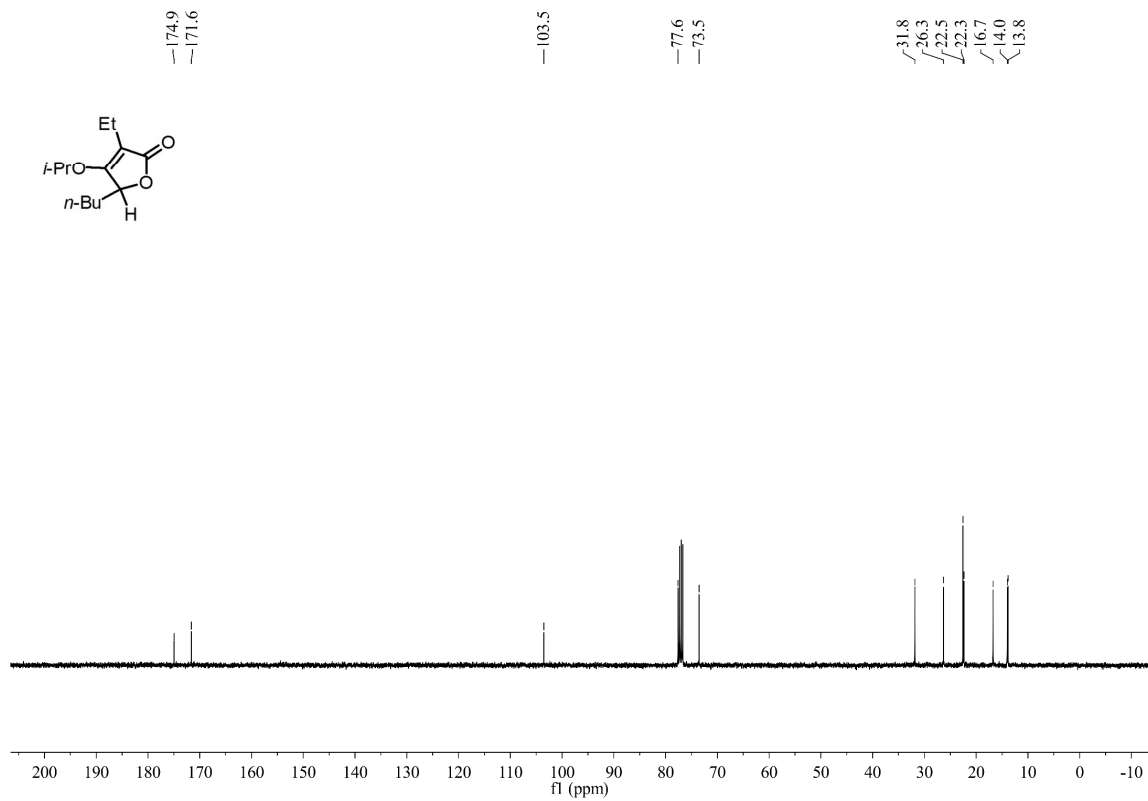


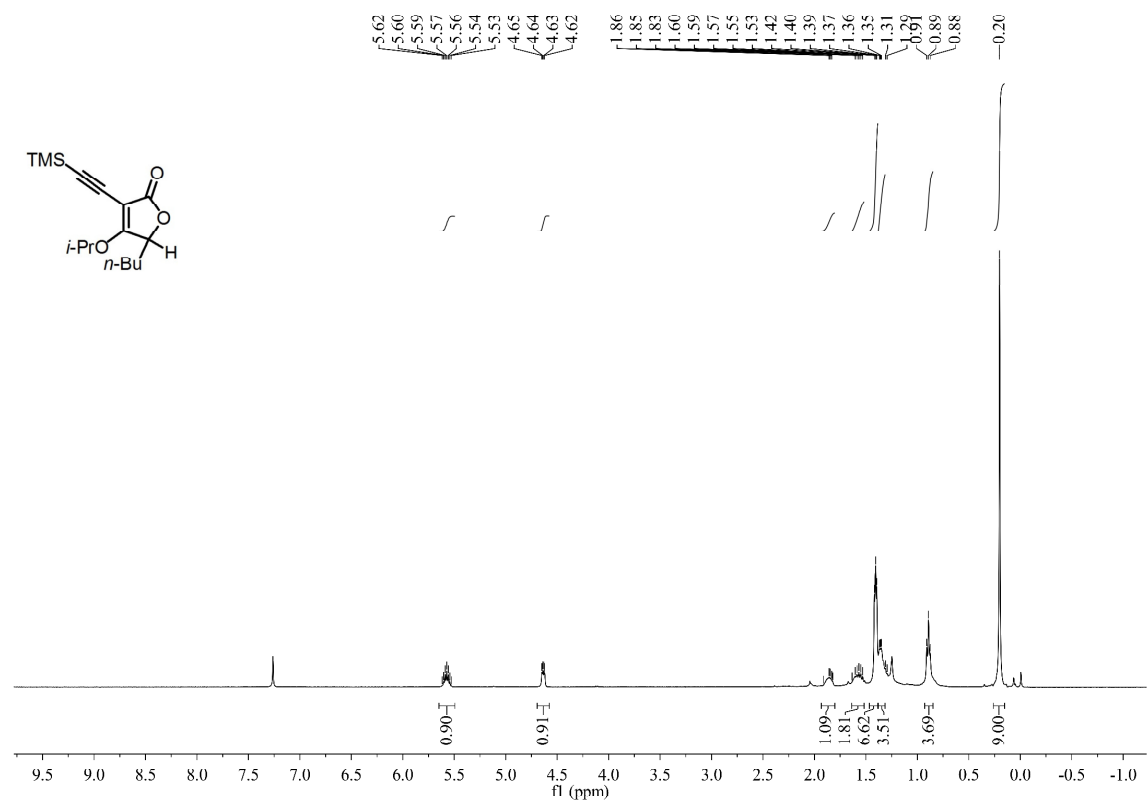
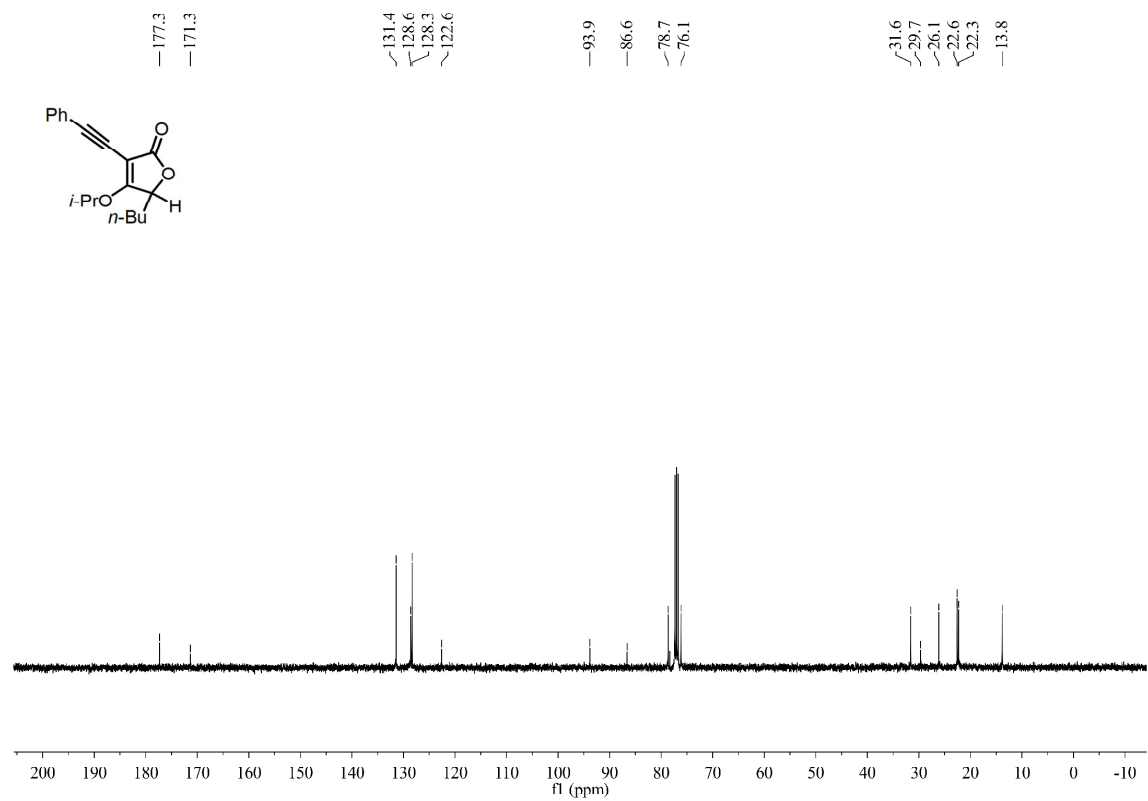


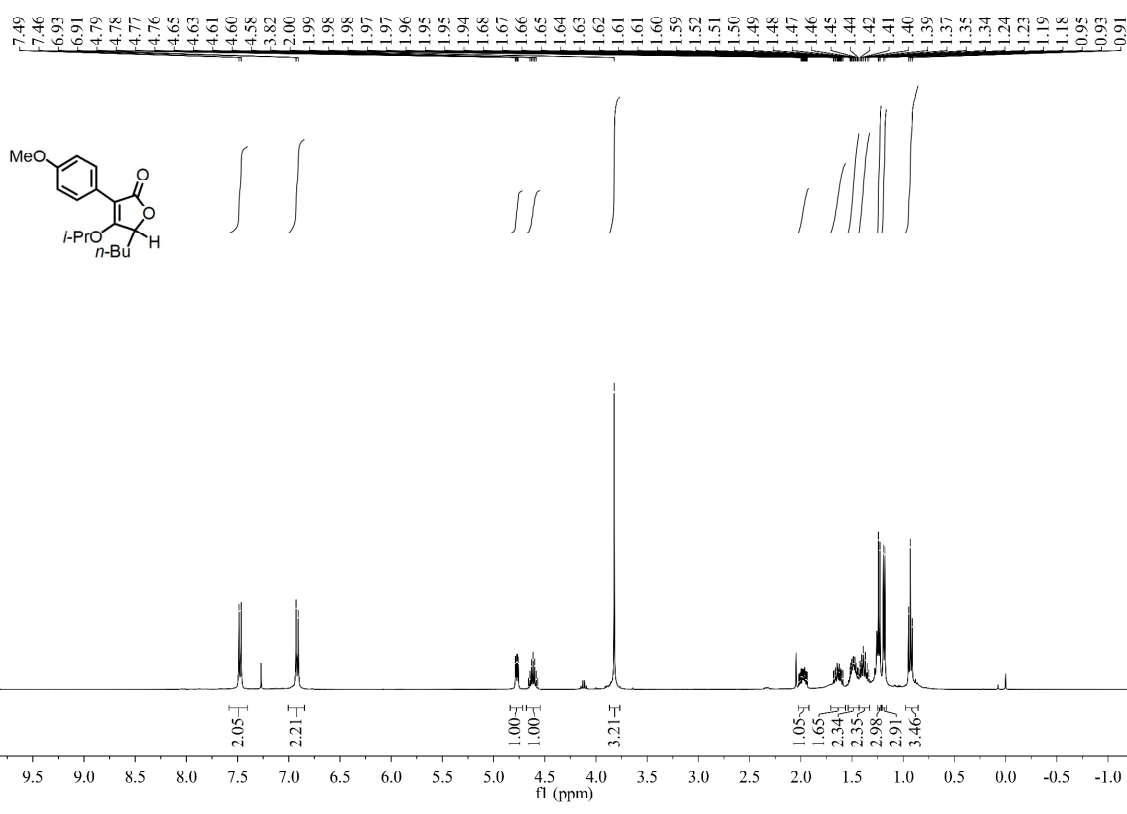
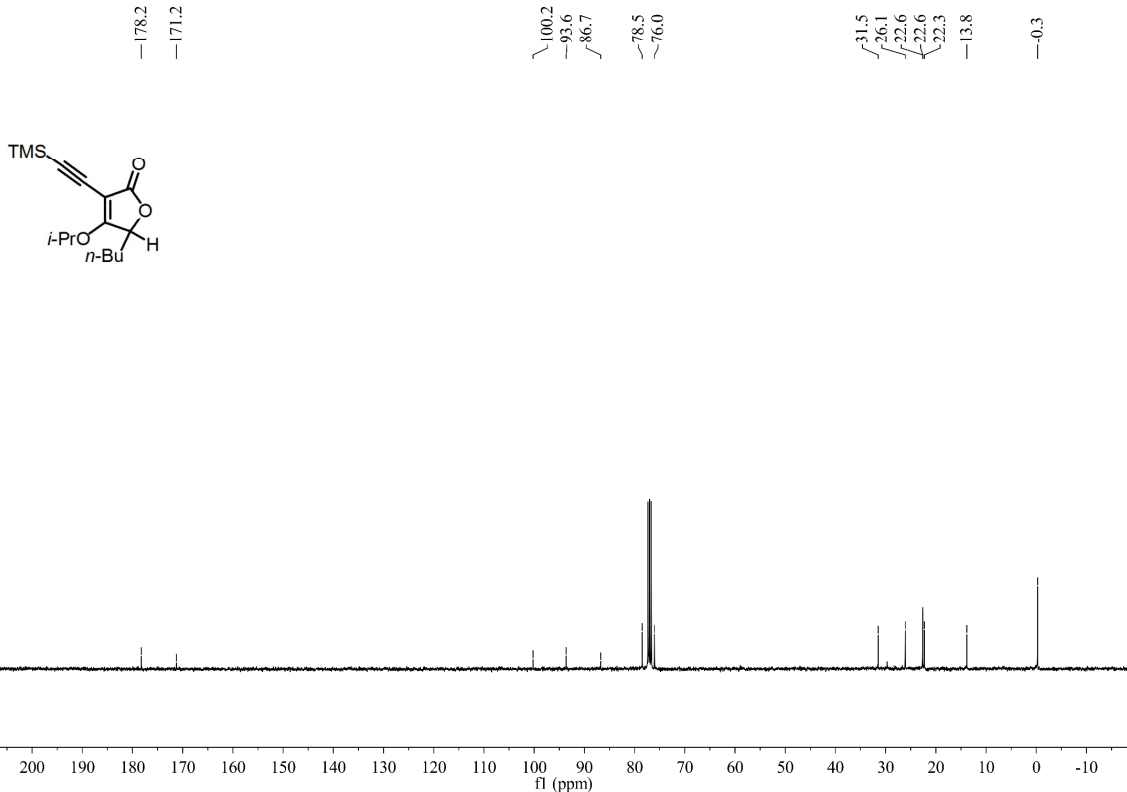




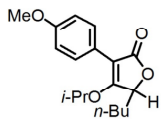




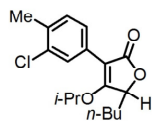
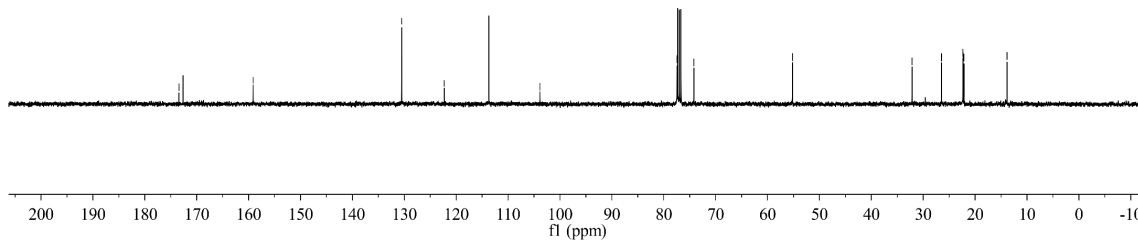




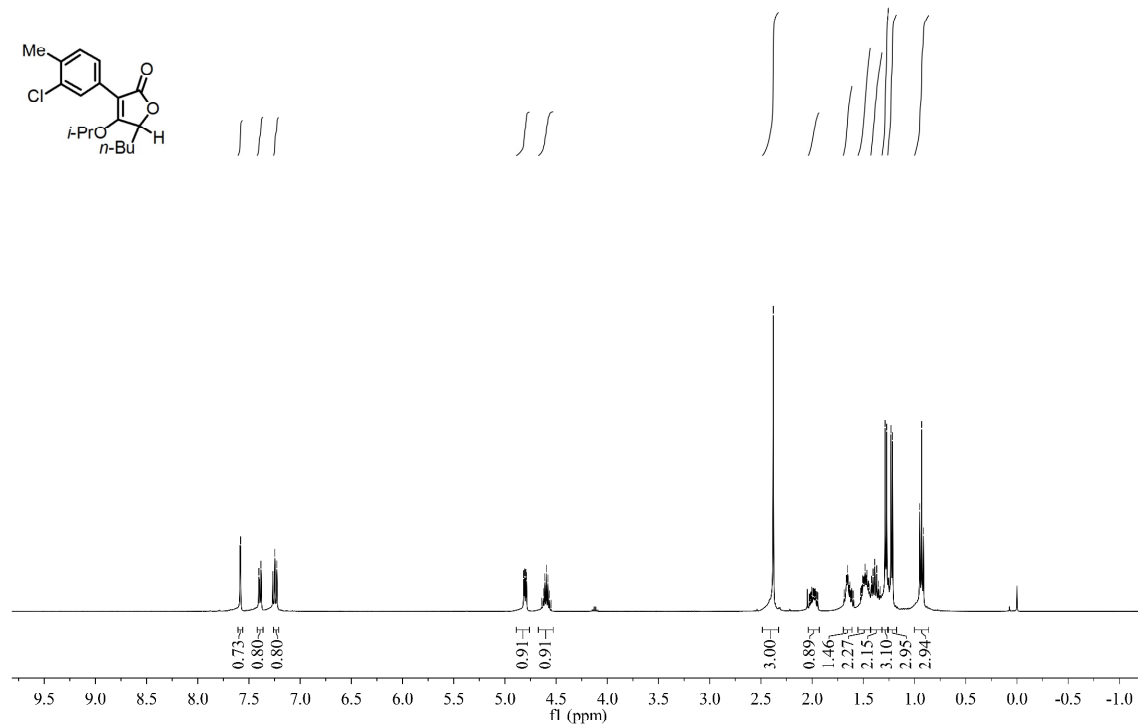


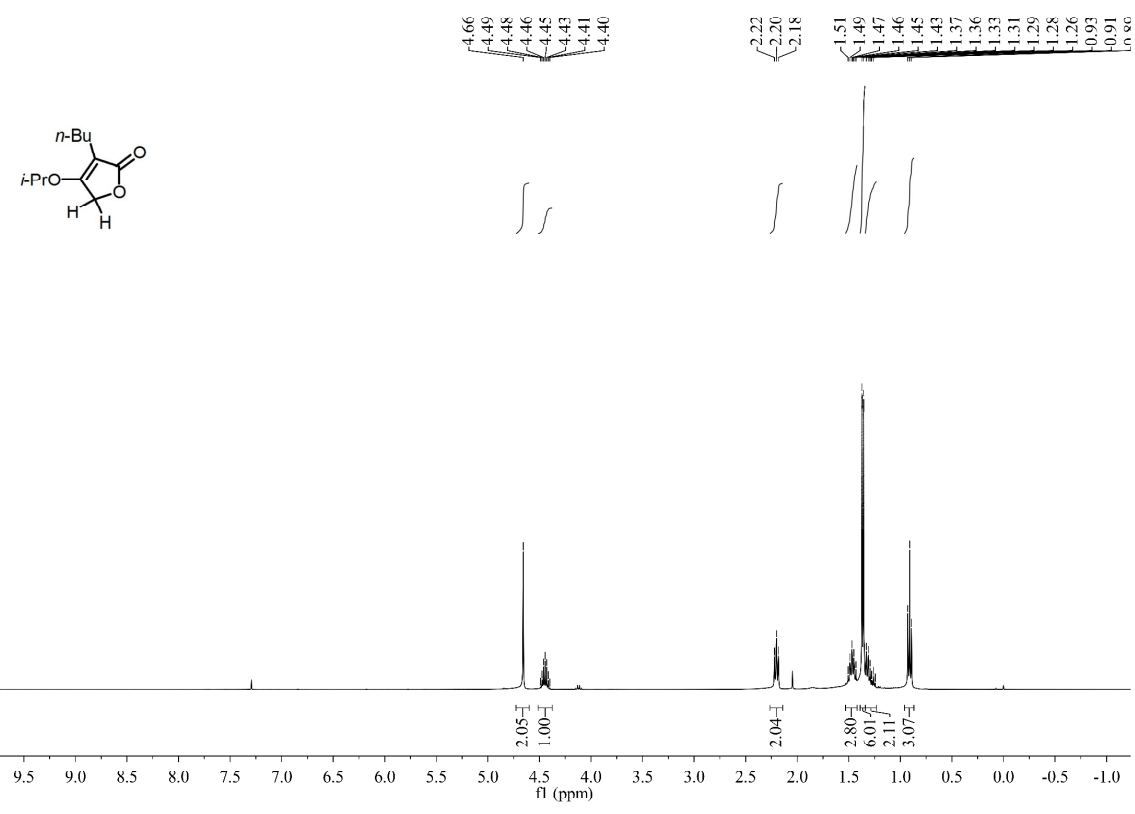
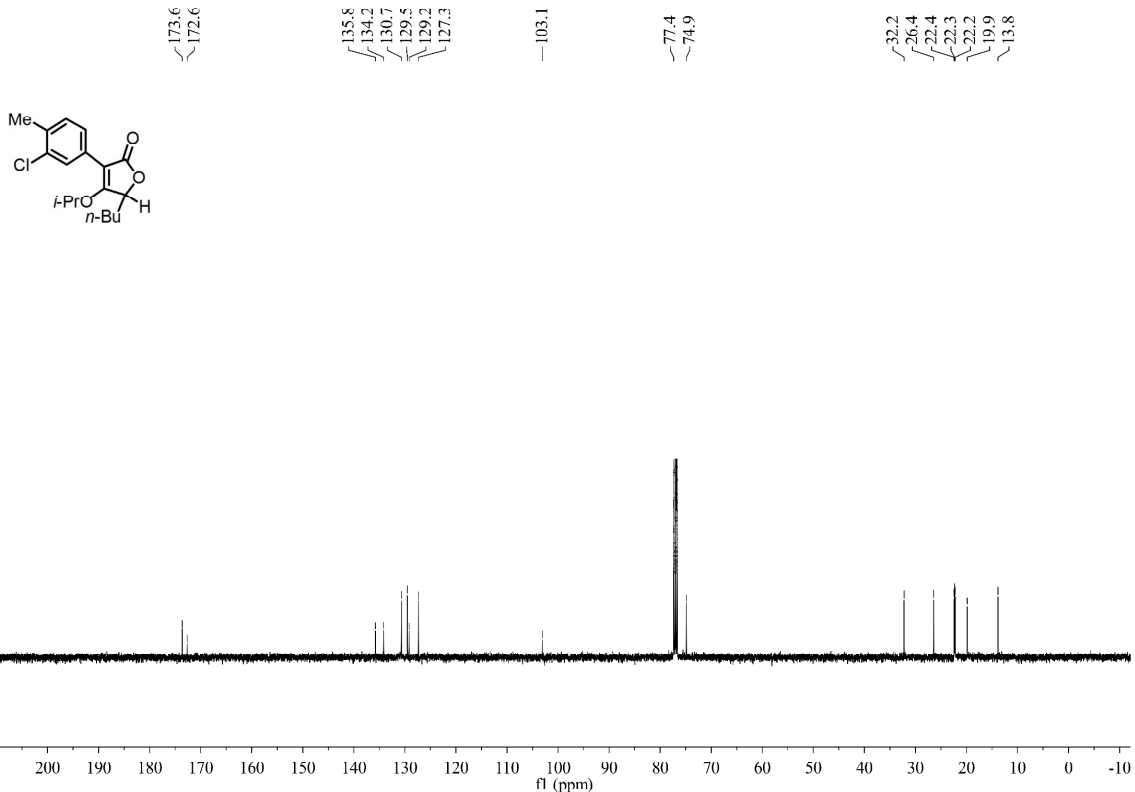


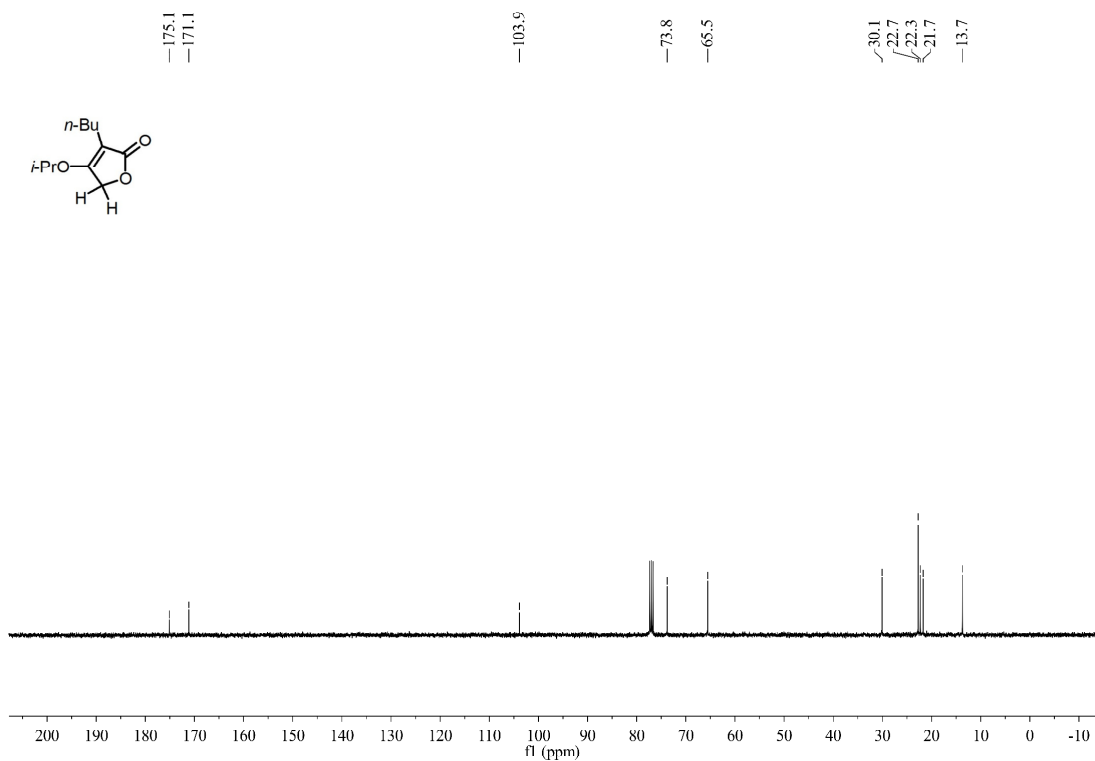
173.4  
172.6  
159.1  
130.5  
122.3  
113.7  
103.9  
77.5  
74.2  
55.2  
32.2  
26.5  
22.4  
22.3  
22.2  
13.9



7.58  
7.40  
7.38  
7.38  
7.25  
7.23  
4.82  
4.81  
4.80  
4.79  
4.63  
4.61  
4.60  
4.58  
4.57  
2.38  
2.01  
2.00  
1.99  
1.99  
1.98  
1.98  
1.97  
1.97  
1.96  
1.95  
1.69  
1.67  
1.65  
1.64  
1.63  
1.62  
1.62  
1.61  
1.61  
1.60  
1.53  
1.52  
1.51  
1.51  
1.50  
1.48  
1.47  
1.47  
1.46  
1.45  
1.44  
1.42  
1.41  
1.40  
1.39  
1.37  
1.35  
1.34  
1.29  
1.27  
1.23  
1.21  
0.95  
0.93  
0.91



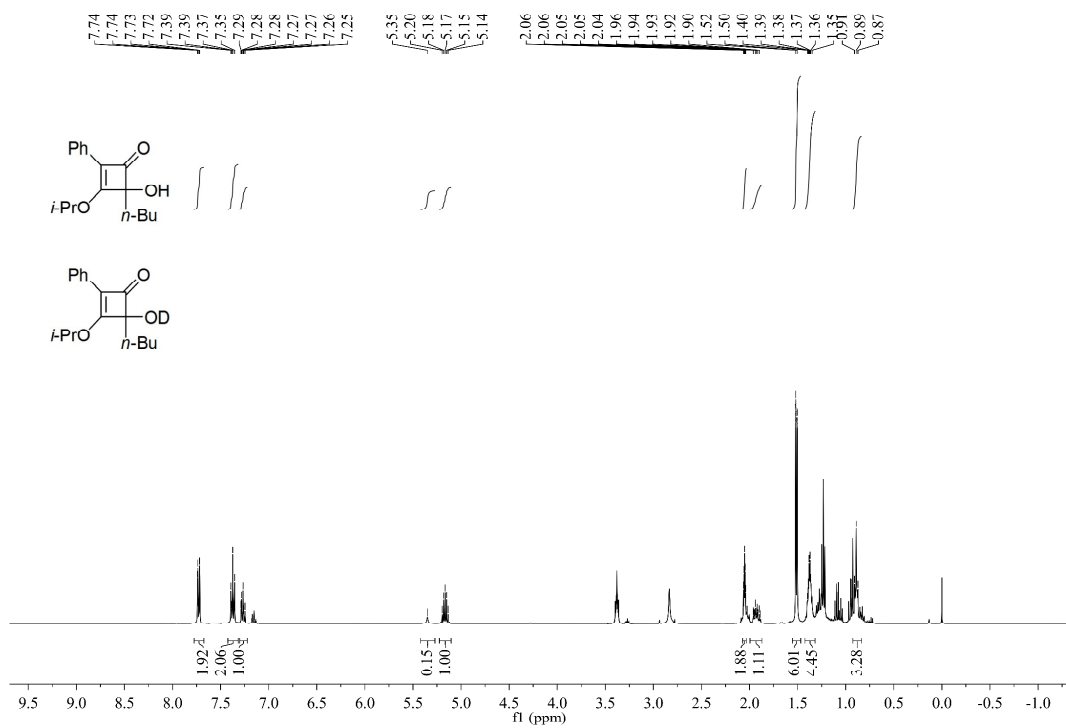




## 8. $^1\text{H}$ NMR Spectrum from Deuterated Experiments.

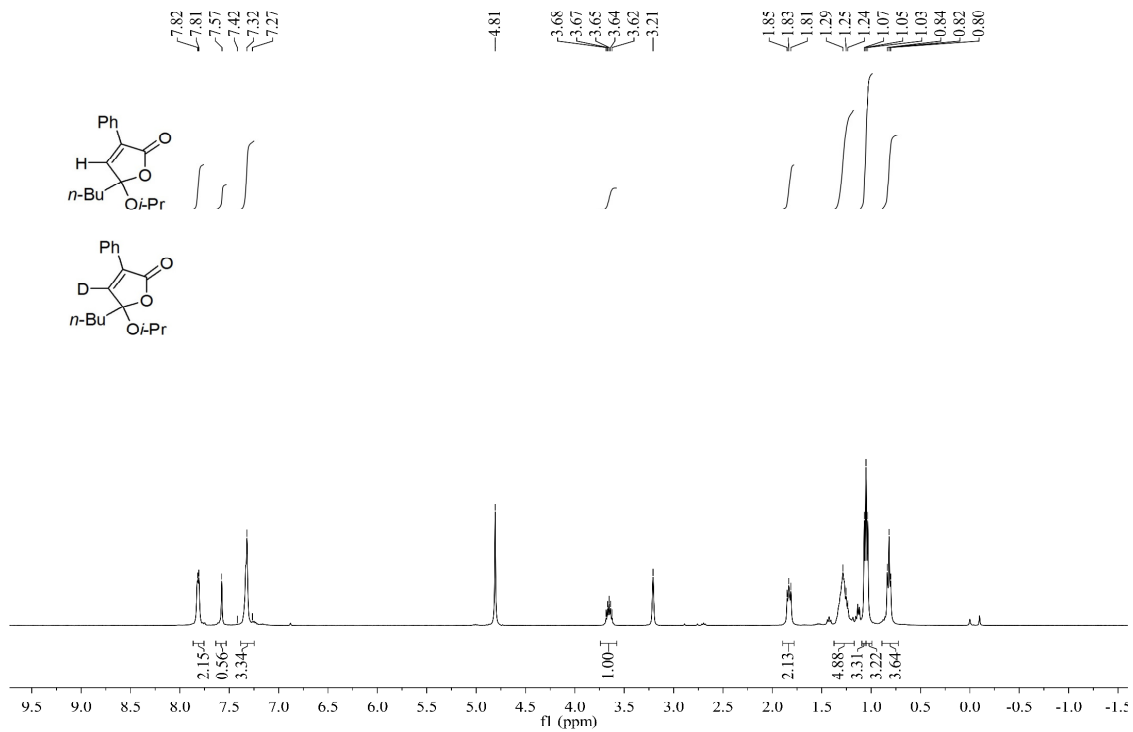
### 5.1 Preparation of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclobutenone 1s:

$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of 1s (85% deuteration, 400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$ )

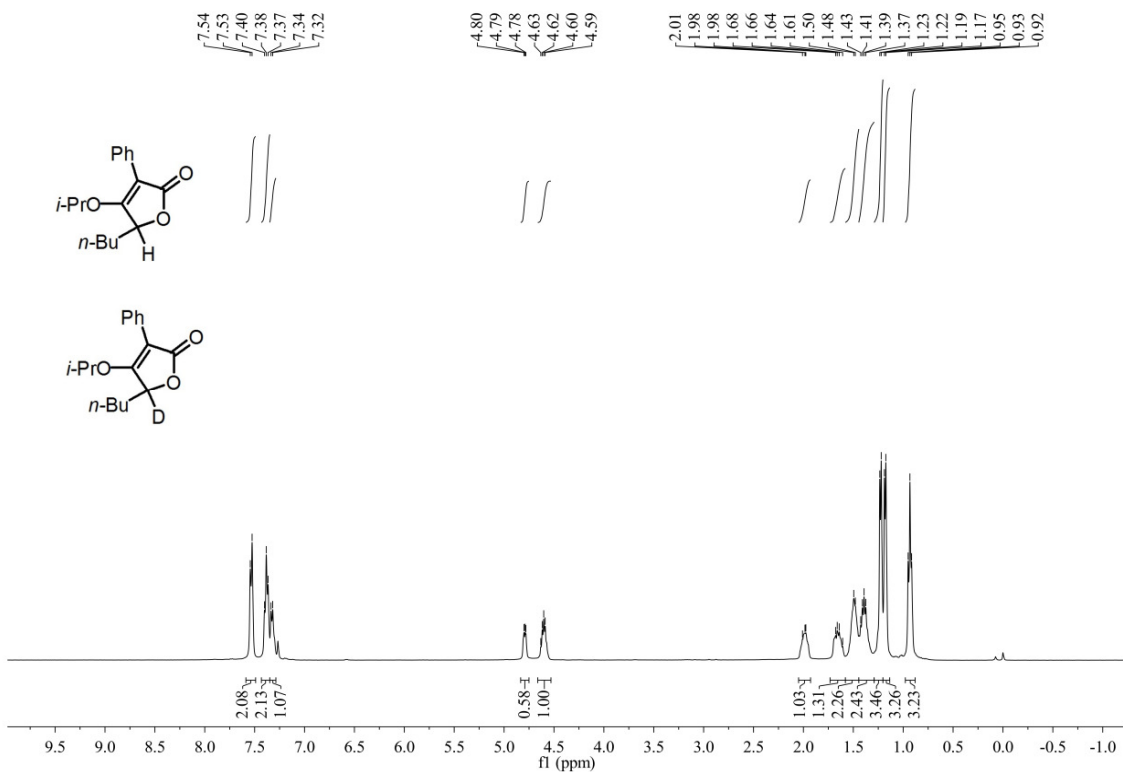


## 5.2 Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of **1s** with PPh<sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand:

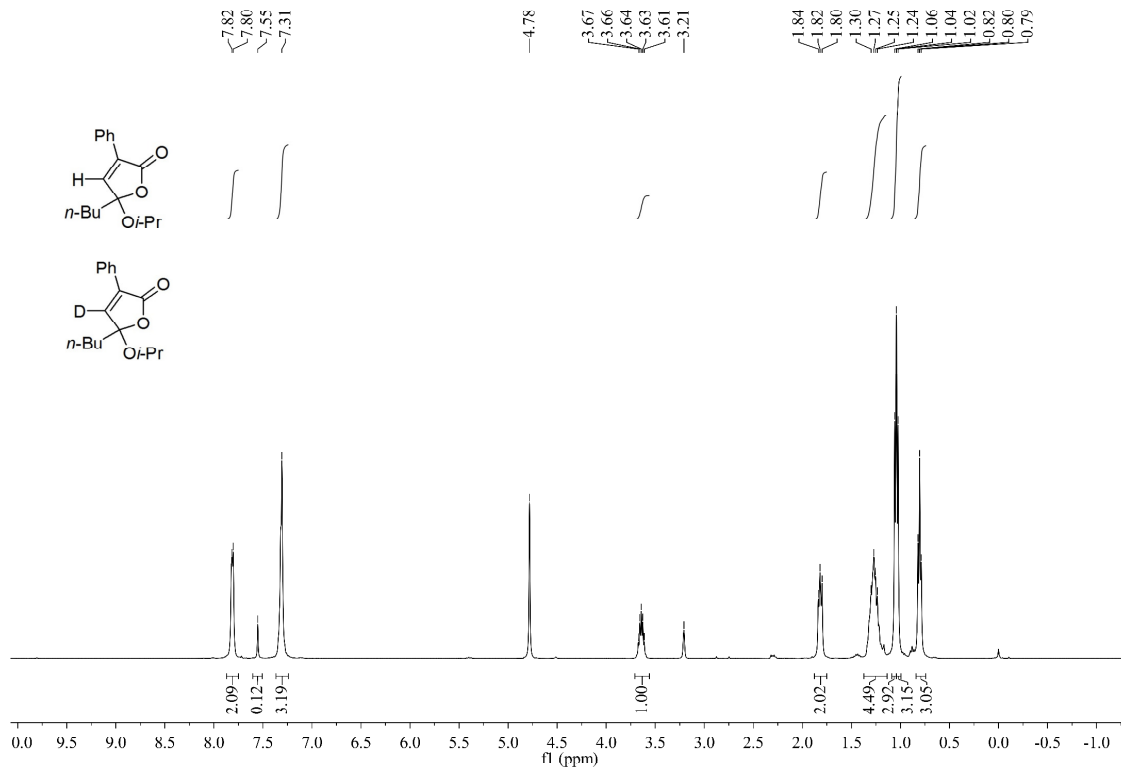
<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **2s** (44% deuteration, 400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)



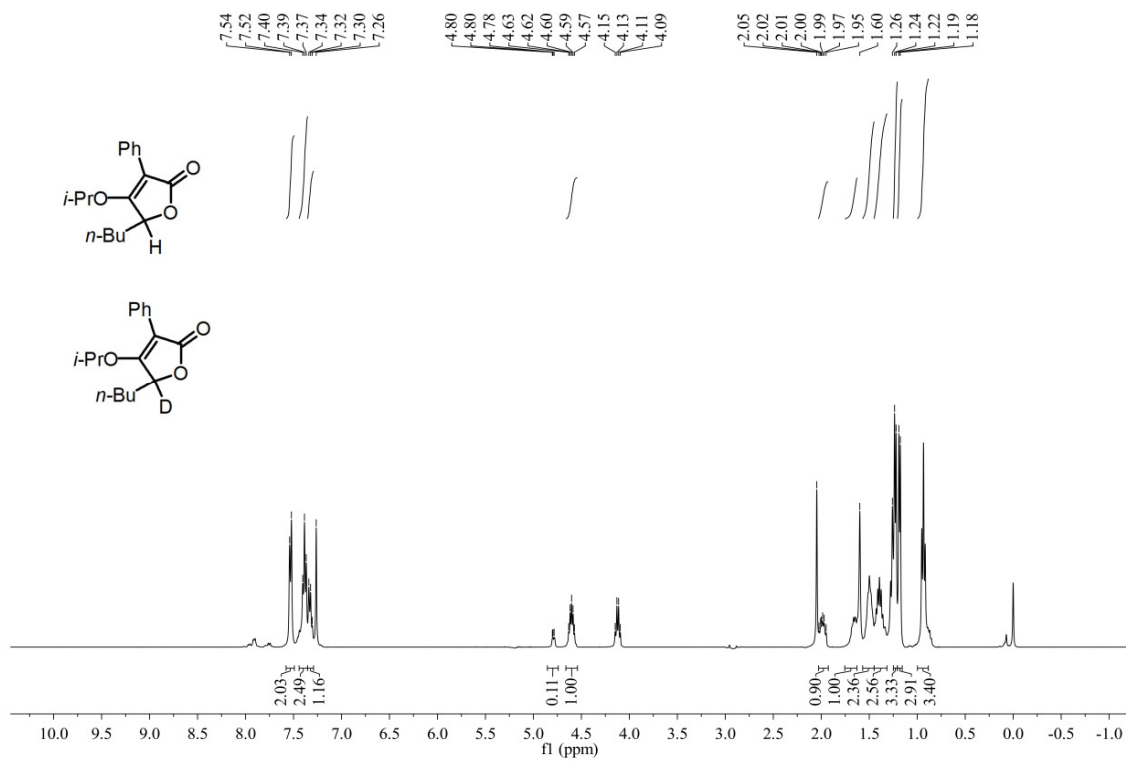
<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **3s** (42% deuteration, 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of **2s** (88% deuteration, 400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )

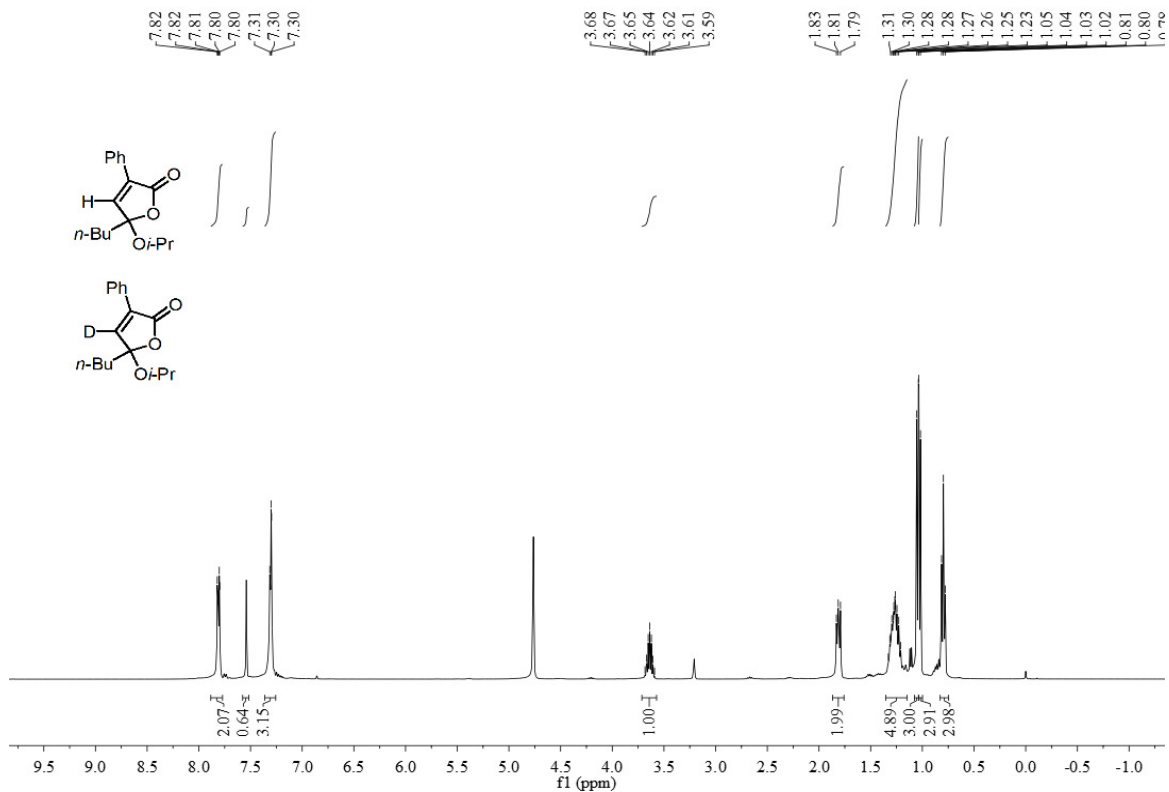


$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of **3s** (89% deuteration, 400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

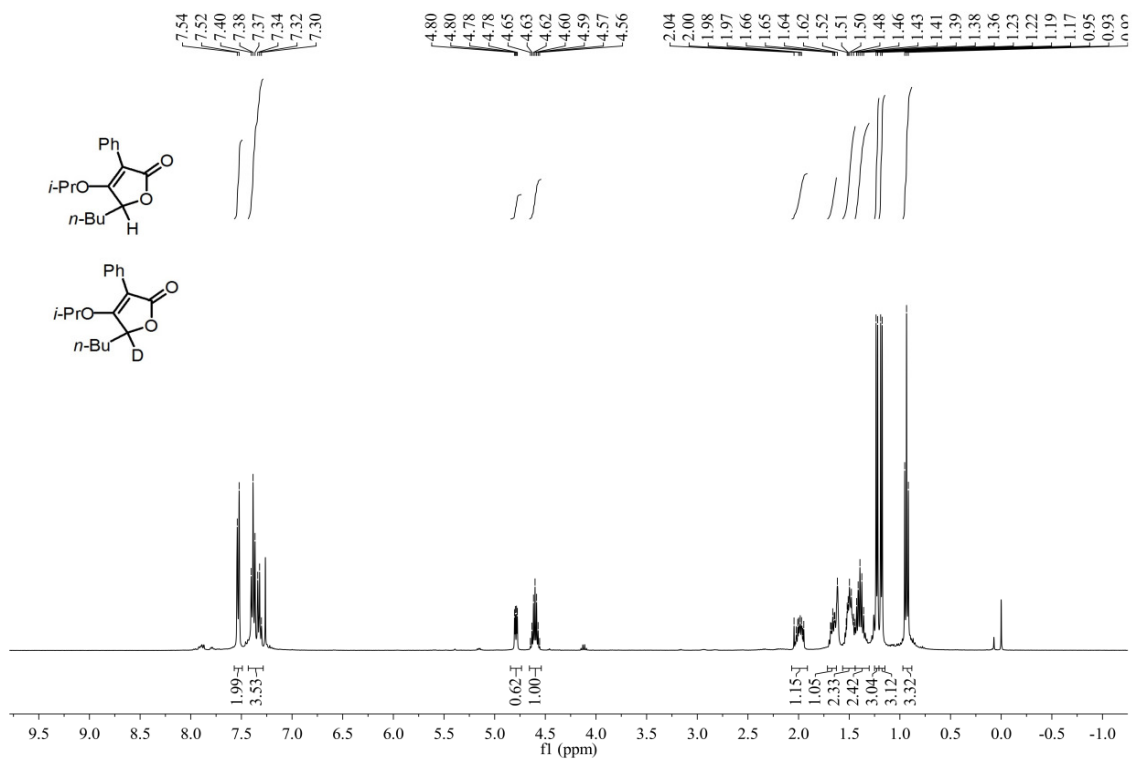


### 5.3 Related Control Experiments:

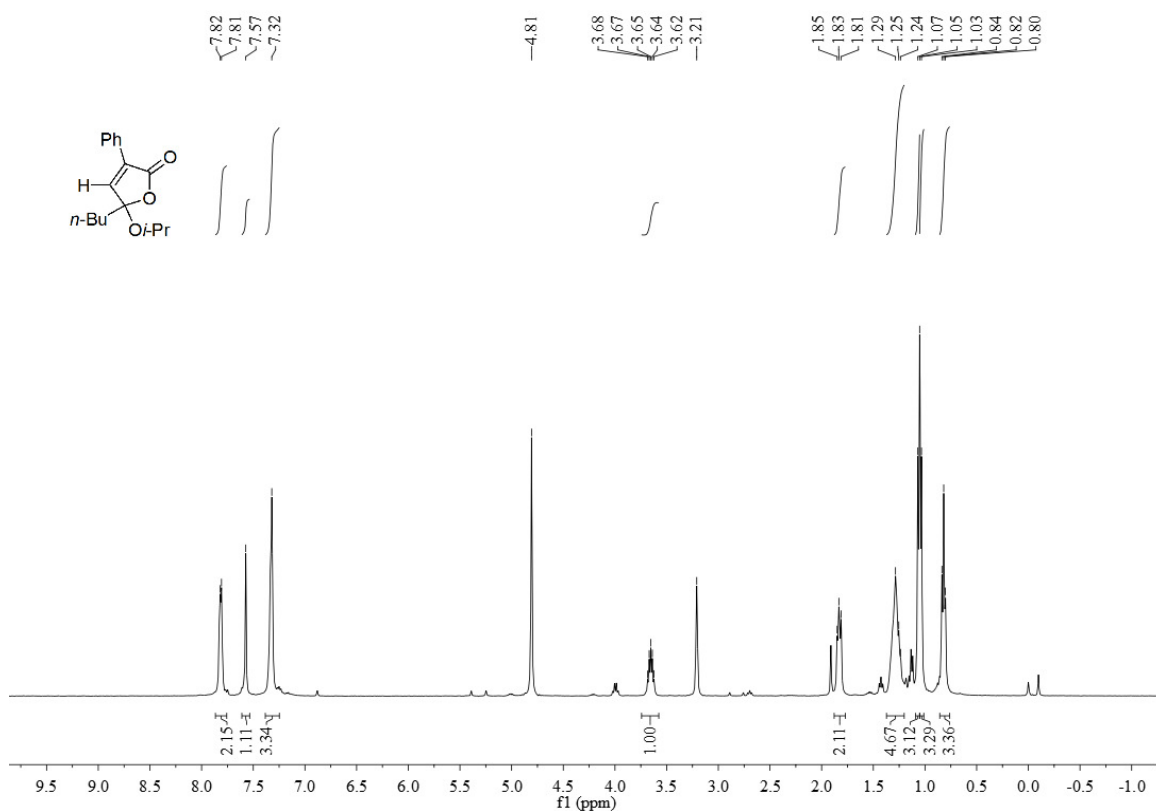
$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of **2s** (36% deuteration, 400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )



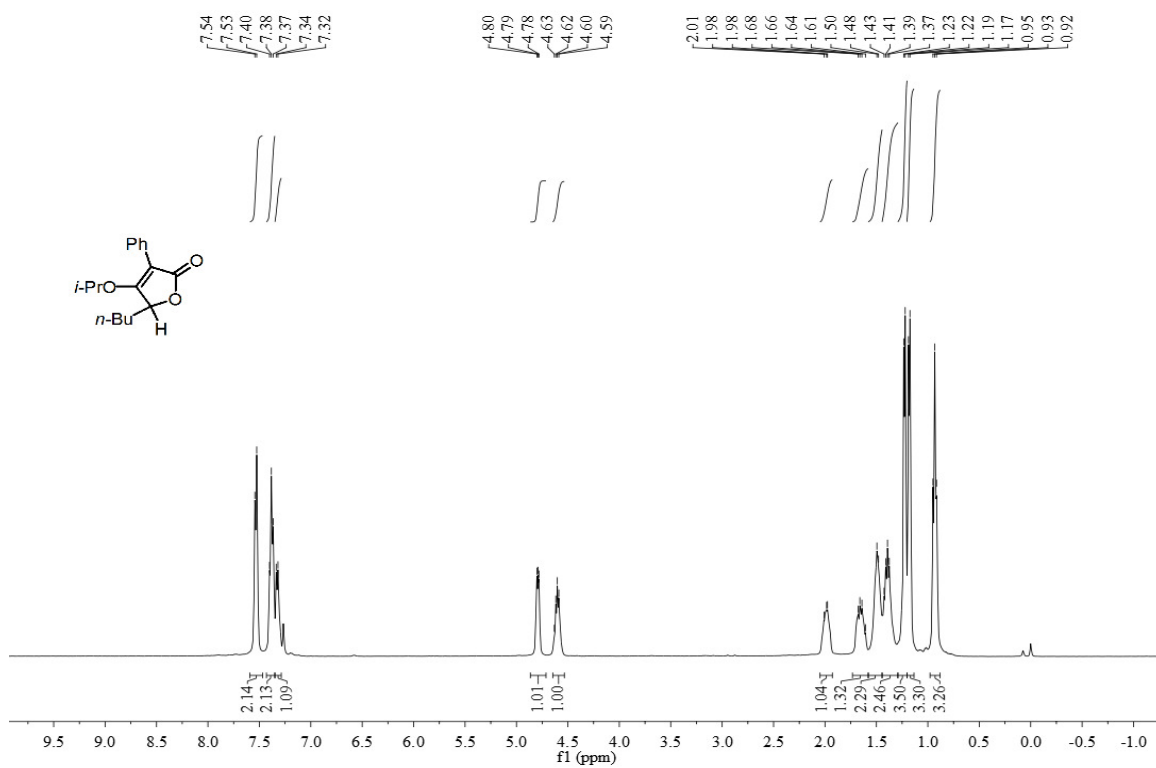
$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectrum of **3s** (38% deuteration, 400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **2a** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)

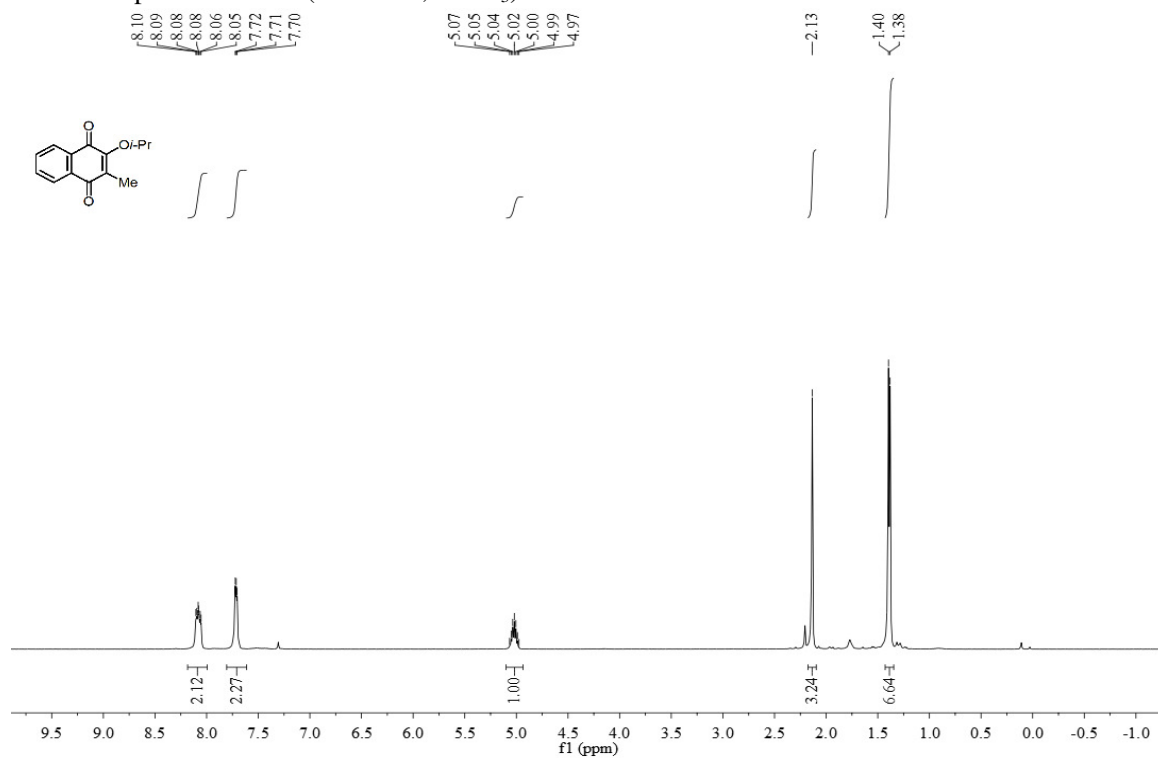


<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **3a** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



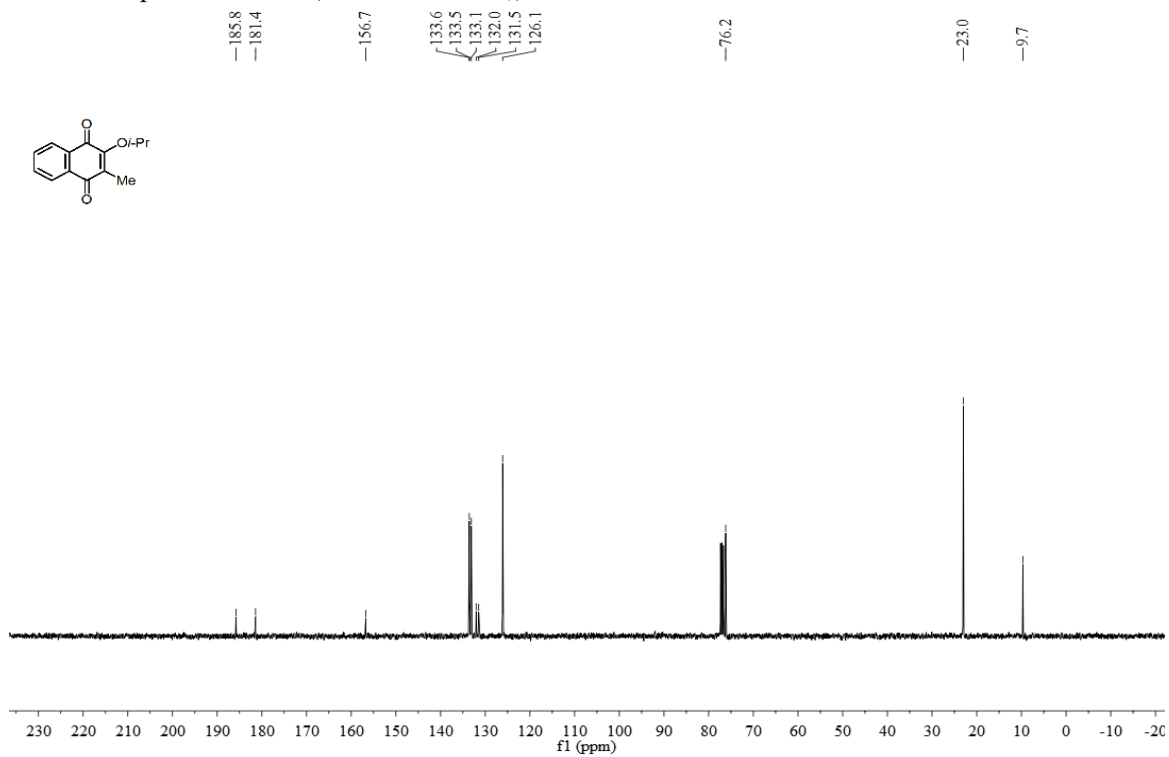
## 9. NMR Spectrum from Nickel-Catalyzed Ring-Opening of $\alpha$ -Hydroxycyclotrenones Bearing Phenyl or Propenyl group as the R<sup>3</sup> Substituent with PPh<sub>3</sub> or Xantphos as the Ligand

<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **4** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

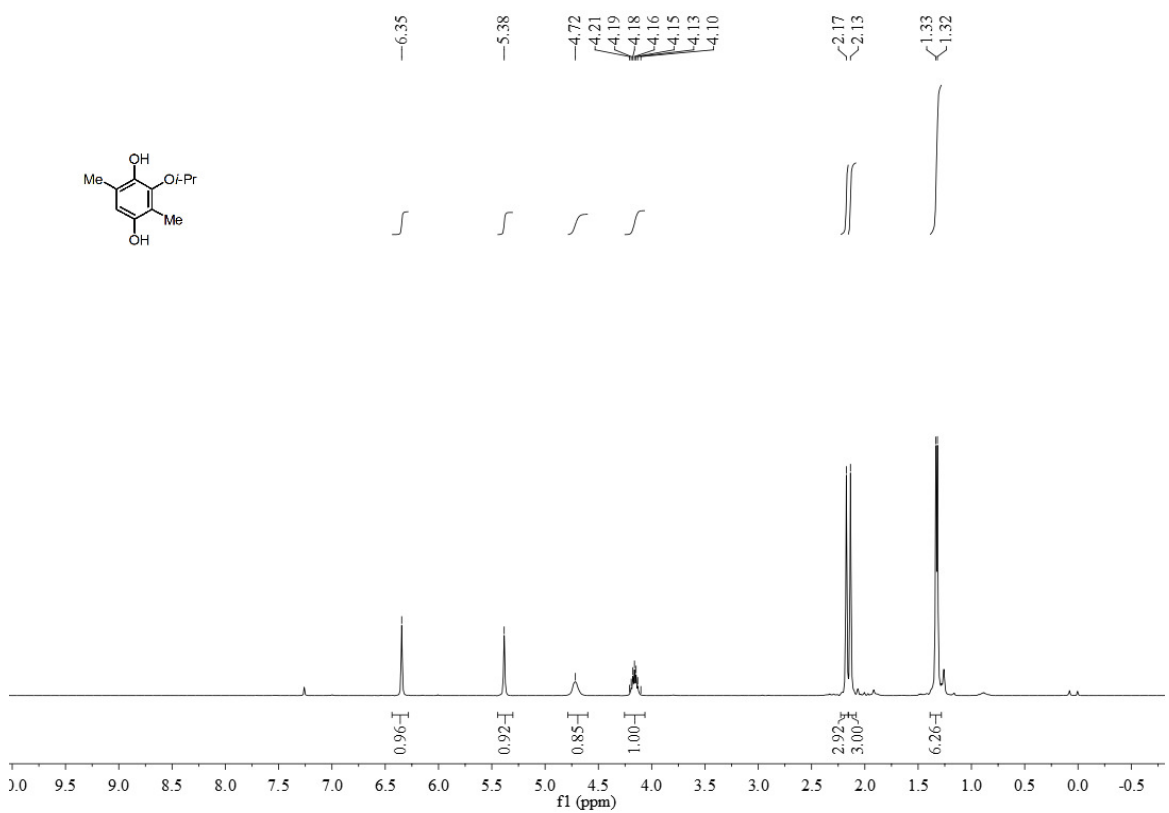




<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of **4** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **5** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of **5** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

