

Supporting Information

A sustainable synthesis of 2-aryl-3-carboxylate indolines from *N*-aryl enamines under visible light irradiation

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1. Experimental details

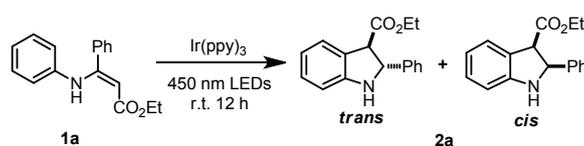
(a) General information:

¹H NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Avance DPX 400MHz instrument with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained at 100 MHz and referenced to the internal solvent signals. Mass spectra were recorded using a Trio-2000 GC-MS spectrometer. Blue LEDs (3 W, λ = 450 ± 10 nm, 145 lm @700mA) were used as the irradiation light. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded with a Shimadzu 1601PC spectrophotometer. Steady-state emission spectra were recorded using a Perkin–Elmer LS50B spectrofluorimeter. The values of lifetime were calculated by exponential function fitting with luminescence spectrometer software L900. Commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

(b) Preparation of *N*-aryl enamine substrates:

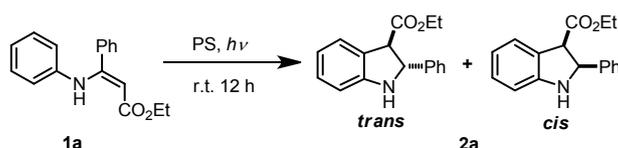
All the *N*-aryl enamine substrates needed for the indoline synthesis reactions were prepared using the reported procedure.¹⁻⁴ A mixture of ethyl benzoylacetate (1 mmol), aniline (4 mmol) and acetic acid (4 mmol) was stirred at 80 °C until TLC indicated the total consumption of the ethyl benzoylacetate. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, and the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to get the *N*-aryl enamine substrates.

(c) General procedure for the indoline synthesis reaction:



A 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with *N*-aryl enamine **1a** (0.2 mmol), Ir(ppy)₃ (2 mol%) in 4 mL CH₃CN. The mixture was strictly deaerated and irradiated by blue LEDs (λ = 450 nm) for 12 hours at room temperature. After reaction, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The diastereomer ratios were determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the unpurified reaction mixture, and the yield was determined using diphenylacetonitrile as an internal standard. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to get the products.

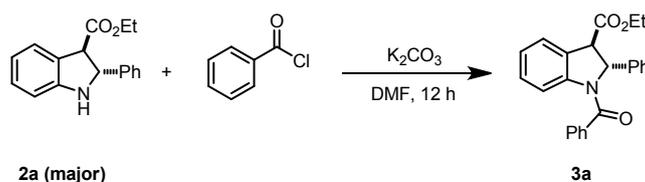
NOTE: During the purification process by chromatography on silica gel, the indoline product was easily to be oxidized to indoles. Thus the isolated yield of the product was much less than the yield detected by ¹H NMR.

Table S1. Optimization of the reaction conditions ^a

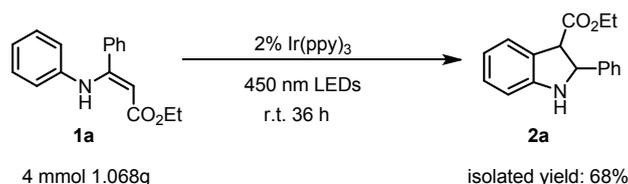
entry	PS	solvent	product
1	2 mol% Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂	4 mL CH ₃ CN	N.R.
2 ^b	2 mol% Eosin Y	4 mL CH ₃ CN	N.R.
3	2 mol% Acr ⁺ -Mes	4 mL CH ₃ CN	N.R.
4 ^c	--	4 mL CH ₃ CN	N.R.

^aReaction conditions: 0.2 mmol **1a**, 2 mol% of photosensitizer (PS) were added in 4 mL CH₃CN, and the solution was strictly deaerated with N₂ and irradiated under blue LEDs ($\lambda = 450$ nm) for 12 hours at room temperature.

^bGreen LEDs ($\lambda = 525$ nm) was used. ^cMercury lamp ($\lambda > 300$ nm) was used.

Scheme S1. Synthesis of 3a.

X-ray crystallographic analysis was measured to determine the structure of two diastereomers. The major diastereomer was derived to **3a** firstly, which was then unambiguously established to be *trans*-indoline (Figure 1). **3a** was synthesized according to a reported literature method.⁵ K₂CO₃ (0.88 mmol) was dissolved in dry DMF (1 mL) and the resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Indoline **2a** (0.74 mmol) solution was added dropwise to the above mixture at 0 °C and stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then benzoyl chloride (0.80 mmol) was added dropwise to the mixture at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, and TLC showed complete consumption of the starting indoline **2a**. After the reaction, the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate and water. The organic phase were combined together and washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. Upon removal of solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to get the product **3a**

Scheme S2. Gram-scale reaction of the synthesis of indolines^a

^aReaction conditions: 4 mmol **1a**, 2% Ir(ppy)₃ were added in 50 mL CH₃CN, the solution was strictly deaerated with N₂ and irradiated under blue LEDs ($\lambda = 450$ nm) for 36 hours at room temperature.

2. Crystal structural data for 3a

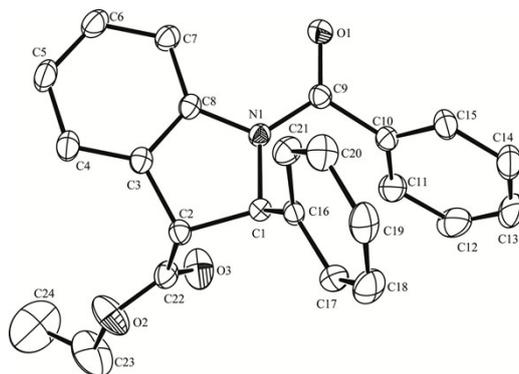


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure of compound **3a** (CCDC No.1542178)

Empirical formula	$C_{24}H_{21}NO_3$
Formula weight	371.42
Temperature	179.99(10) K
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 17.0796(14) \text{ \AA}$ $\alpha = 90^\circ$ $b = 13.6704(8) \text{ \AA}$ $\beta = 116.272(9)^\circ$ $c = 18.9052(13) \text{ \AA}$ $\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$3958.1(6) \text{ \AA}^3$
Z	8
Density (calculated)	1.247 g/cm^3
Absorption coefficient	0.082 mm^{-1}
F(000)	1568.0
Crystal size	$0.15 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \text{ mm}^3$
2θ range for data collection	7.1 to 52.038°
Index ranges	$-21 \leq h \leq 21, -16 \leq k \leq 15, -23 \leq l \leq 23$
Reflections collected	32710
Independent reflections	7752 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0437, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0363$]
Data/restraints/parameters	7752/0/507
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.029
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0592, wR_2 = 0.1610$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0746, wR_2 = 0.1741$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.45 and -0.35 e.\AA^{-3}

3. Mechanism study

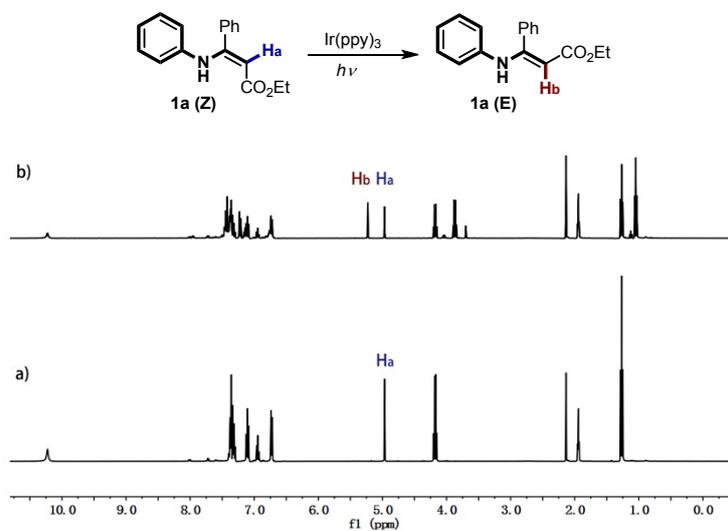
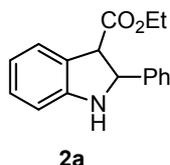


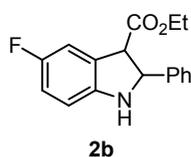
Figure S2. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ of system containing Ir(ppy)_3 (8×10^{-4} M) and **1a** (4×10^{-2} M) in degassed CD_3CN a) before irradiation, and b) after irradiated by blue LEDs for 1 minute.

4. Characterization data for all compounds



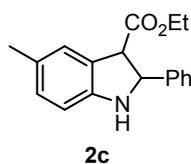
Ethyl 2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2a)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 70%, 4.0:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.15 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.26 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 169.99, 152.61, 140.71, 128.32, 127.77, 127.39, 127.35, 125.88, 125.62, 117.94, 108.88, 65.56, 59.63, 53.58, 13.18. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 268.1338, Found: 268.1328. (**cis**) **Diastereomer** (minor): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (m, 2H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.32 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.43 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.96 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.65, 150.25, 143.21, 128.92, 128.67, 127.79, 126.70, 125.09, 124.69, 118.98, 109.35, 65.19, 61.28, 56.66, 14.32. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 268.1338, Found: 268.1324



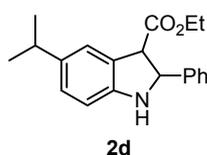
Ethyl 5-fluoro-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2b)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 42%, 3.7:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (m, 1H), 6.67 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 5.29 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.65 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 169.58, 156.44 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}} = 231$ Hz), 148.99, 140.52, 127.84, 127.54, 127.46 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}} = 9$ Hz), 127.30, 114.26 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}} = 23$ Hz), 112.95 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}} = 25$ Hz), 109.00 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 66.20, 59.82, 53.57, 13.13. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 286.1243, Found: 286.1232.



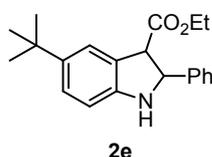
Ethyl 5-methyl-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2c)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 67%, 4.1:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.46 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.89 (m, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 0.80 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.19, 150.53, 141.07, 128.86, 127.89, 127.52, 127.47, 127.08, 126.36, 109.00, 66.00, 59.72, 53.88, 20.15, 13.33. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 282.1494, Found: 282.1482.



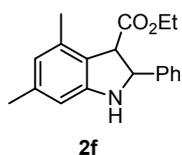
Ethyl 5-isopropyl-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (**2d**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 64%, 4.2:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (m, 2H), 2.89 – 2.72 (m, 1H), 1.19 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.11, 150.63, 140.86, 138.66, 127.76, 127.39, 127.33, 126.16, 126.14, 123.55, 108.92, 65.84, 59.57, 53.72, 33.47, 24.01, 13.21. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 310.1807, Found: 310.1794.



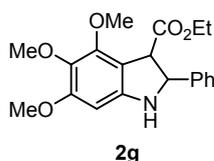
Ethyl 5-(tert-butyl)-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (**2e**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 69%, 5.5:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.4; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.37 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 – 3.46 (m, 2H), 1.27 (s, 9H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.13, 150.20, 140.86, 127.74, 127.38, 127.31, 125.88, 125.03, 122.50, 108.58, 65.85, 59.55, 53.82, 33.81, 31.27, 13.21. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 324.1964, Found: 324.1951.



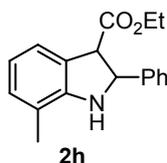
Ethyl 4,6-dimethyl-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (**2f**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 76%, 3.3:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major) and (**cis**) **Diastereomer** as an inseparable mixture: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.48 (m, 6.6H_{trans}), 7.41 – 7.20 (m, 14.9H_{overlap}), 6.39 (s, 4.3H_{overlap}), 6.32 (s, 4.3H_{overlap}), 5.30 (s, 3.3H_{trans}), 5.28 (s, 3.3H_{trans}), 5.14 (s, 1H_{cis}), 5.12 (s, 1H_{cis}), 4.30 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 3.3H_{trans}), 4.20 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H_{cis}), 3.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H_{cis}), 3.57 (m, 6.6H_{trans}), 2.21 (s, 12.9H_{overlap}), 2.09 (s, 3H_{cis}), 2.05 (s, 9.9H_{trans}), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H_{cis}), 0.76 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 9.9H_{trans}). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 172.78, 170.17, 152.81, 152.03, 144.26, 140.34, 138.38, 138.10, 134.40, 134.10, 128.53, 127.70, 127.64, 127.47, 127.25, 126.11, 122.85, 121.29, 120.73, 120.37, 107.86, 107.43, 66.86, 65.93, 60.61, 59.57, 56.79, 52.88, 20.85, 20.78, 18.01, 17.75, 13.74, 13.28. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₉H₂₁NO₂ [M + H]: 296.1651, Found: 296.1640.



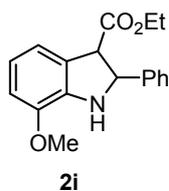
Ethyl 4,5,6-trimethoxy-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (**2g**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 78%, >19:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 2:1) = 0.3; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.63 – 3.40 (m, 2H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.99, 155.71, 151.09, 149.66, 140.84, 135.08, 128.28, 128.26, 127.91, 111.00, 91.19, 66.88, 60.69, 60.12, 60.04, 56.19, 52.61, 13.79. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₂₃NO₅ [M + H]: 358.1654, Found: 358.1642.



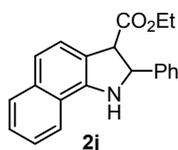
Ethyl 7-methyl-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (**2h**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 70%, 4.0:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 6.96 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H), 3.71 – 3.50 (m, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 0.72 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.56, 149.98, 140.27, 129.66, 128.30, 128.00, 127.14, 124.89, 123.53, 119.56, 118.87, 65.64, 60.47, 54.07, 16.95, 13.73. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₈H₁₉NO₂ [M + H]: 282.1494, Found: 282.1479.



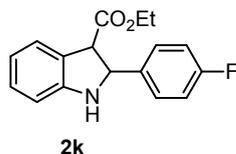
Ethyl 7-methoxy-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2i)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 71%, 4.0:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.69 (m, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.74 – 3.48 (m, 2H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.59, 145.81, 142.22, 141.25, 128.39, 128.02, 127.96, 127.49, 119.50, 118.60, 111.29, 66.77, 60.25, 55.60, 54.89, 13.82. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 298.1443, Found: 298.1433.



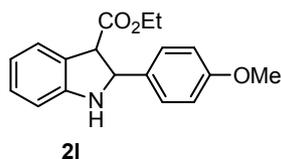
Ethyl 2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[g]indole-3-carboxylate (2j)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 72%, 4.0:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.7; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 5.50 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (m, 2H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.29, 148.69, 140.62, 134.39, 128.21, 127.83, 127.51, 127.46, 125.55, 124.41, 124.03, 122.52, 120.47, 119.18, 117.88, 66.07, 59.68, 54.49, 13.19. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 318.1494, Found: 318.1476.



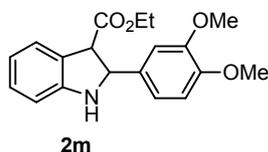
Ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)indoline-3-carboxylate (2k)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 45%, 3.7:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 6.92 (m, 4H), 6.68 (m, 2H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.88, 163.13 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 242 Hz), 153.39, 137.69 (d, J = 3 Hz), 130.14 (d, J = 8 Hz), 129.30, 126.64, 126.55, 118.95, 115.30 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 21 Hz), 109.81, 65.70, 60.63, 54.45, 14.13. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 286.1243, Found: 286.1234.



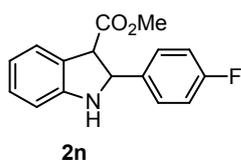
Ethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)indoline-3-carboxylate (**2l**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 62%, 4.4:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.28 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.15 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.74 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.20 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.65 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.06, 159.36, 152.63, 132.58, 128.44, 128.27, 125.85, 125.71, 117.86, 113.15, 108.76, 65.07, 59.63, 54.64, 53.59, 13.28. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 298.1443, Found: 298.1431.



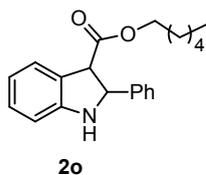
Ethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)indoline-3-carboxylate (**2m**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 70%, 4.0:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.16 – 6.96 (m, 3H), 6.95 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.60 (m, 2H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.20 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.71 – 3.60 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.19, 152.56, 149.08, 149.00, 133.11, 128.29, 126.10, 125.61, 119.66, 117.98, 111.61, 111.55, 108.97, 65.46, 59.66, 55.36, 55.24, 53.62, 13.32. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 328.1549, Found: 328.1539.



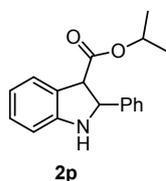
Eethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)indoline-3-carboxylate (**2n**)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 48%, 3.5:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.41 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 6.91 (m, 4H), 6.79 – 6.54 (m, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.40, 162.16 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 242 Hz), 152.52, 136.66 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 3 Hz), 129.11 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 8 Hz), 128.46, 125.61, 125.58, 118.09, 114.42 (d, $J_{\text{C,F}}$ = 21 Hz), 108.95, 64.85, 53.73, 50.45. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 272.1087, Found: 272.1076.



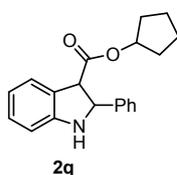
Propyl 2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2o)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 30%, 3.6:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.76 – 6.60 (m, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74 – 3.43 (m, 2H), 1.29 – 1.09 (m, 8H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.02, 152.56, 140.69, 128.30, 127.79, 127.38, 127.31, 126.02, 125.54, 117.95, 108.94, 65.63, 63.83, 53.67, 31.21, 28.08, 25.29, 22.25, 13.37. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 324.1964, Found: 324.1957.



Isopropyl 2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2p)

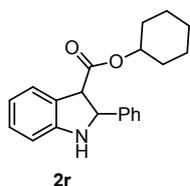
The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 42%, 4.3:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.15 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.67 (m, 2H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 5.23 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.67 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 169.50, 152.57, 140.83, 128.26, 127.83, 127.46, 127.40, 126.07, 125.61, 117.88, 108.83, 67.11, 65.55, 53.50, 20.93, 20.48. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]: 282.1494, Found: 282.1487.



Cyclopentyl 2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2q)

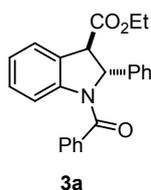
The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 40%, 3.3:1 dr), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) **Diastereomer** (major): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.71 (m, 2H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 5.25 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.08 (m, 8H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 169.74, 152.55, 140.85, 128.29, 127.87, 127.44, 127.39, 126.10, 125.61, 117.92, 108.88, 76.57, 65.53, 53.48, 32.13, 31.87, 23.47, 23.41. HRMS (ESI) calculated for

C₂₀H₂₁NO₂ [M + H]: 308.1651, Found: 308.1644.



Cyclohexyl 2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (2r)

The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid (isolated total yield: 35%), R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.5; (**trans**) Diastereomer (major): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (m, 2H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 – 4.21 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.08 (m, 10H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 169.34, 152.53, 140.78, 128.24, 127.81, 127.41, 127.36, 126.19, 125.53, 117.91, 108.90, 71.82, 65.58, 53.66, 31.11, 30.68, 25.13, 23.25, 23.17. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₂₃NO₂ [M + H]: 322.1807, Found: 322.1801.



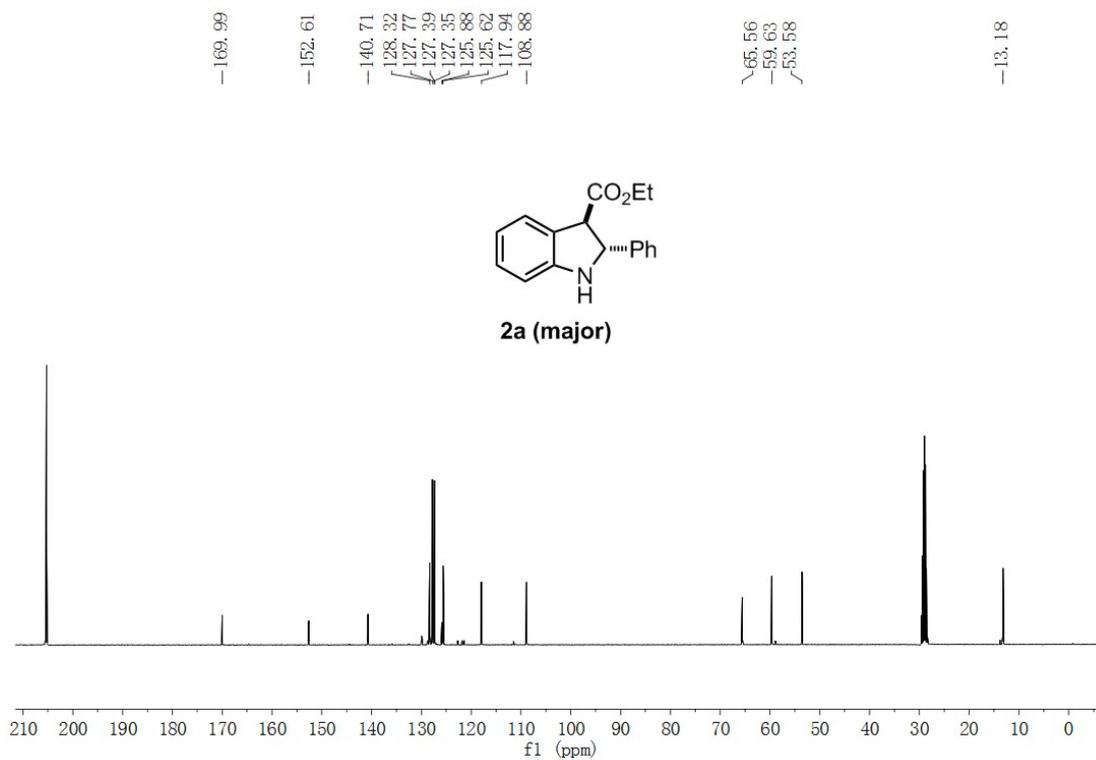
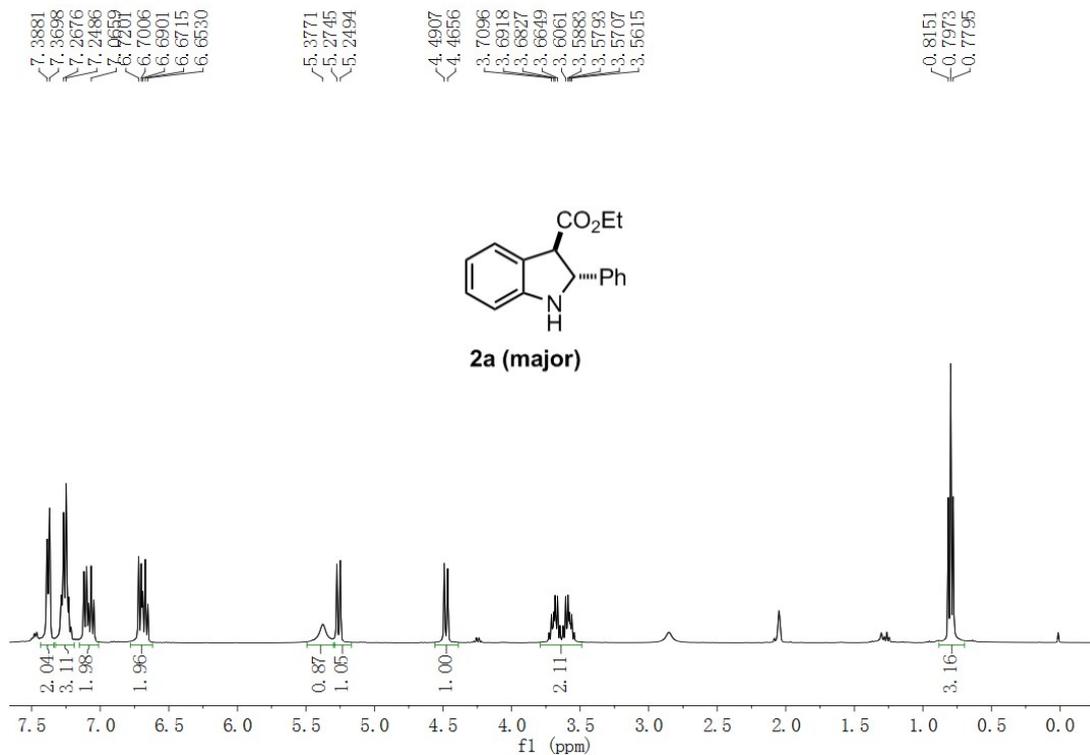
(**trans**)-Ethyl 1-benzoyl-2-phenylindoline-3-carboxylate (3a)

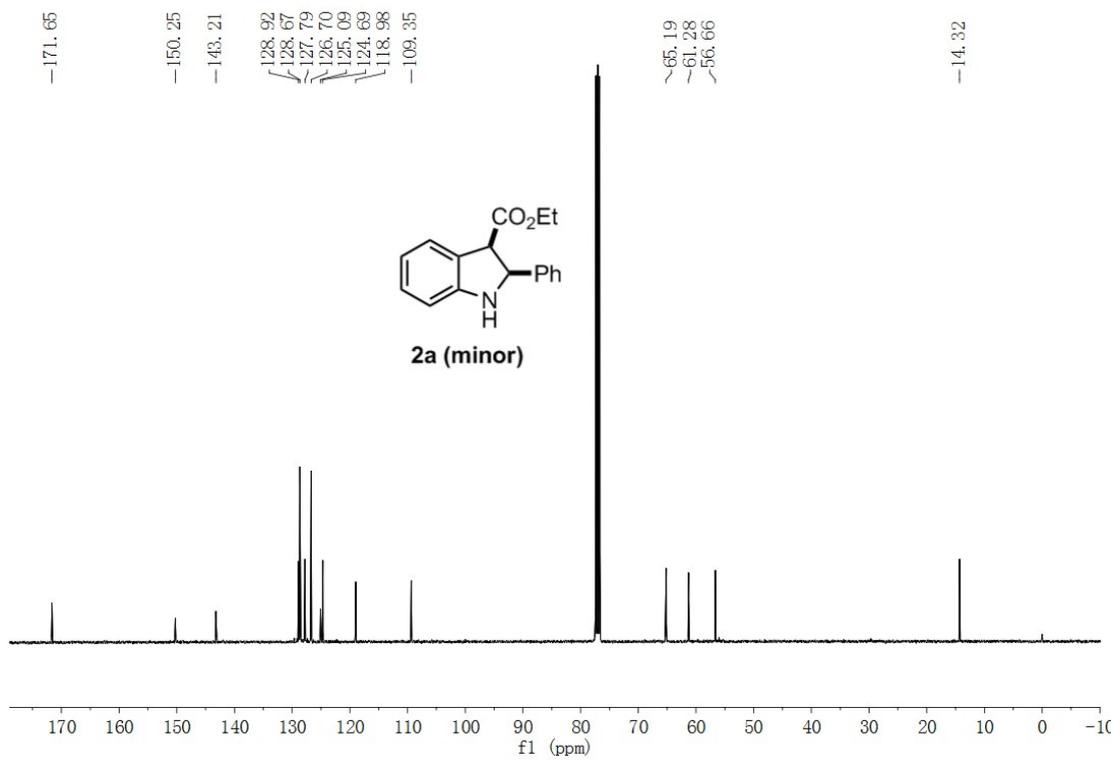
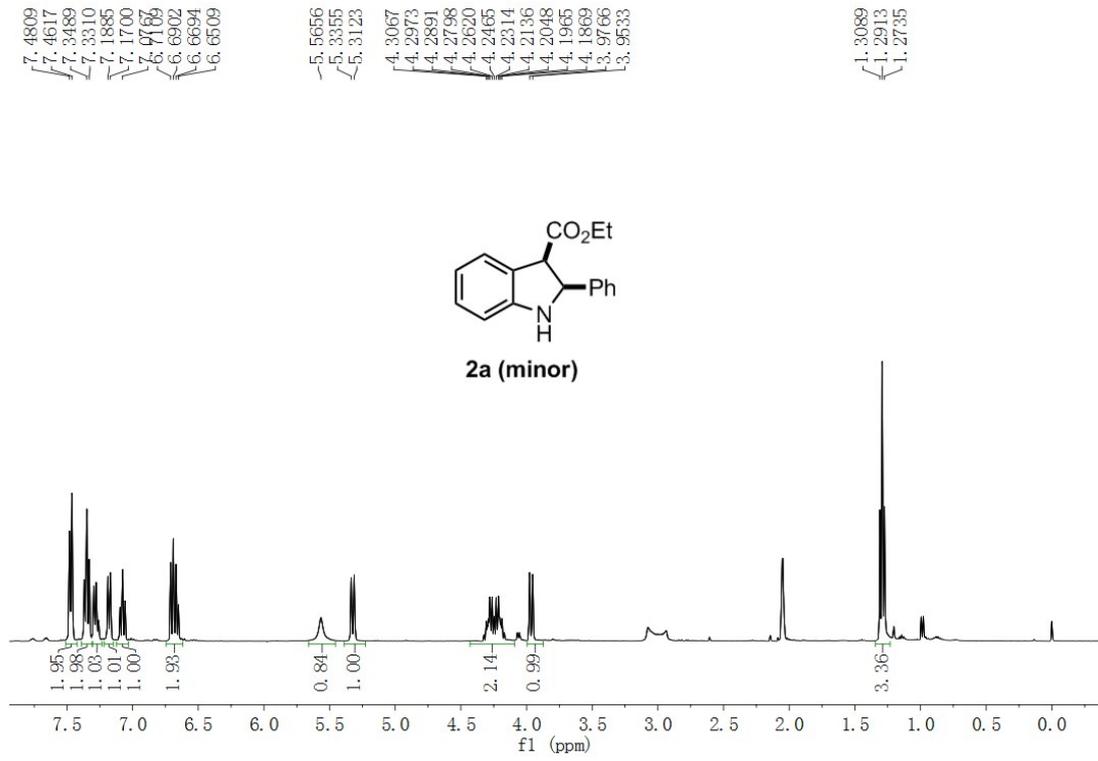
The product is isolated by column chromatography on silica gel as white solid, R_f (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) = 0.6; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.20 (m, 5H), 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 2H), 5.82 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 170.67, 169.12, 143.49, 142.06, 137.31, 130.07, 128.97, 128.82, 128.34, 127.80, 127.02, 126.11, 125.52, 124.33, 116.84, 66.86, 61.41, 55.41, 13.65. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₄H₂₁NO₃ [M + Na]: 394.1419, Found: 394.1406.

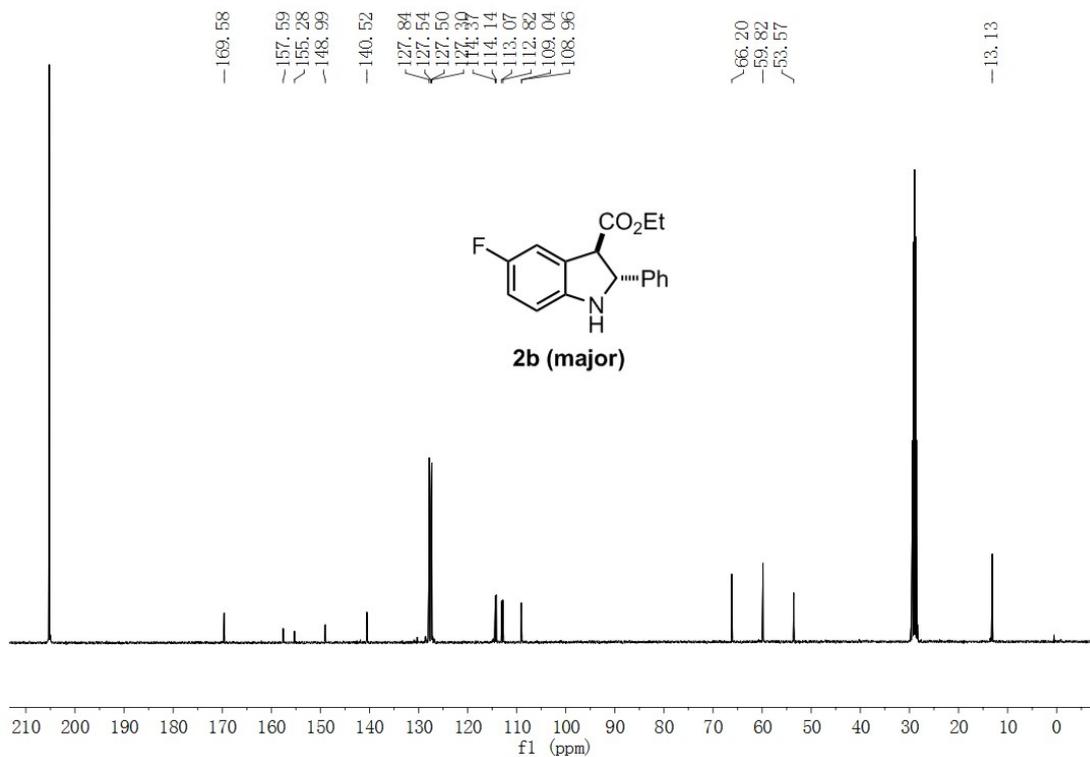
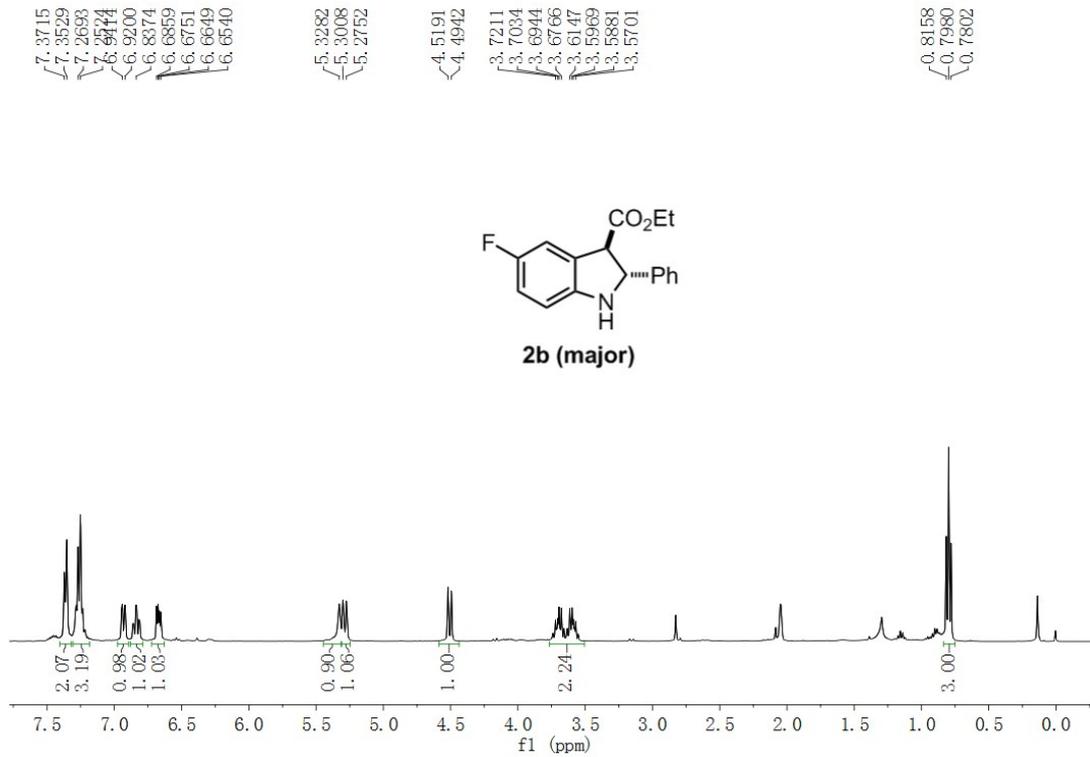
Reference

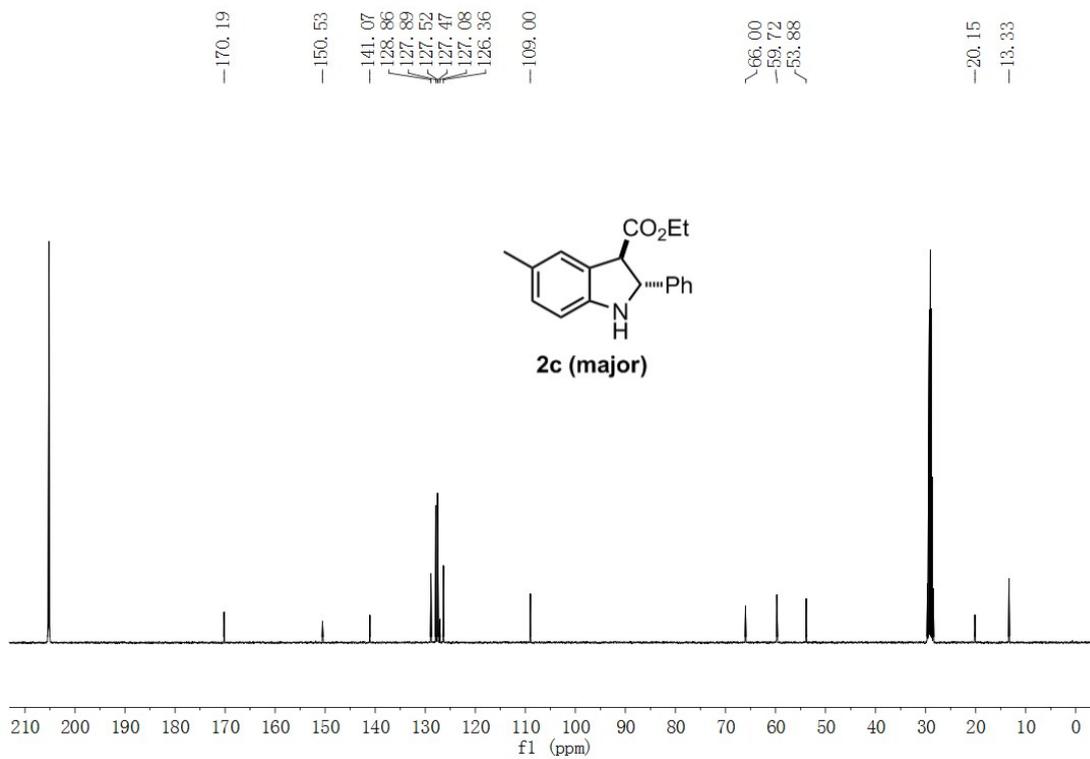
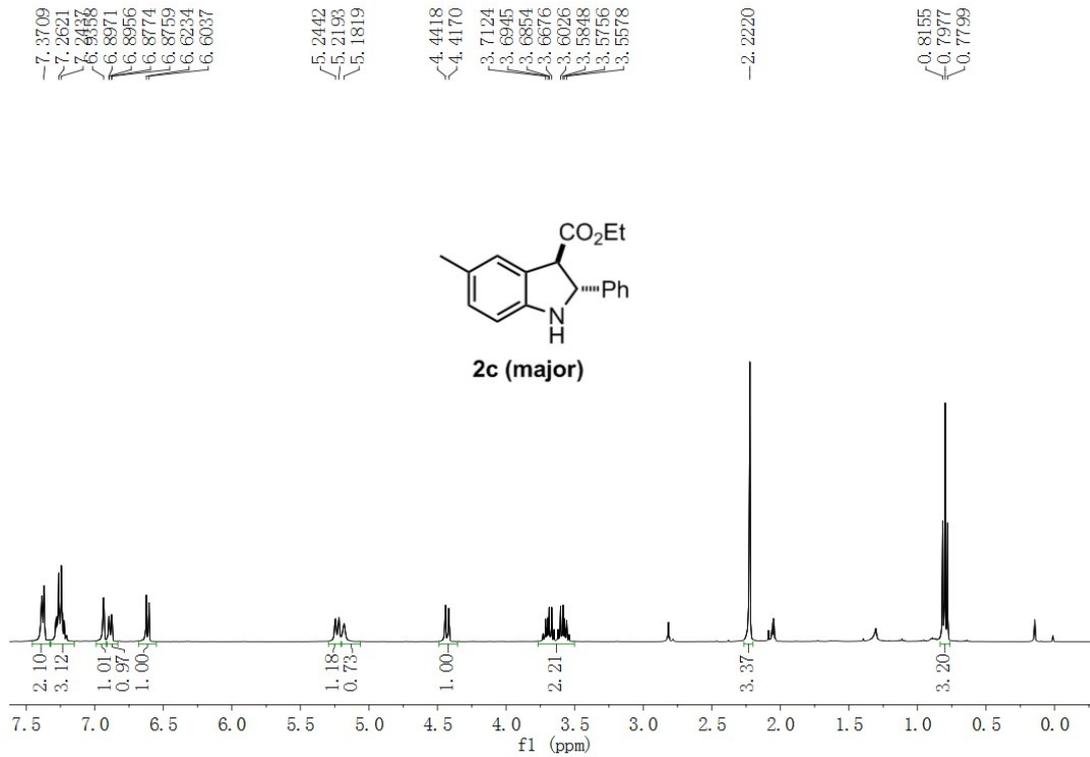
1. S. Würtz, S. Rakshit, J. J. Neumann, T. Dröge, F. Glorius, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2008, **47**, 7230.
2. G. Bartoli, M. Bosco, M. Locatelli, E. Marcantoni, P. Melchiorre, L. Sambri, *Synlett*, 2004, **2**, 239.
3. C. A. Brandt, A. C. M. P. Silva, C. G. Pancote, C. L. Brito, M. A. B. Silveira, *Synthesis*, 2004, **10**, 1557.
4. Z. He, W. Liu, Z. Li, *Chem. Asian J.*, 2011, **6**, 1340.
5. M. Chen, Z.-T. Huang, Q.-Y. Zheng, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 11686.

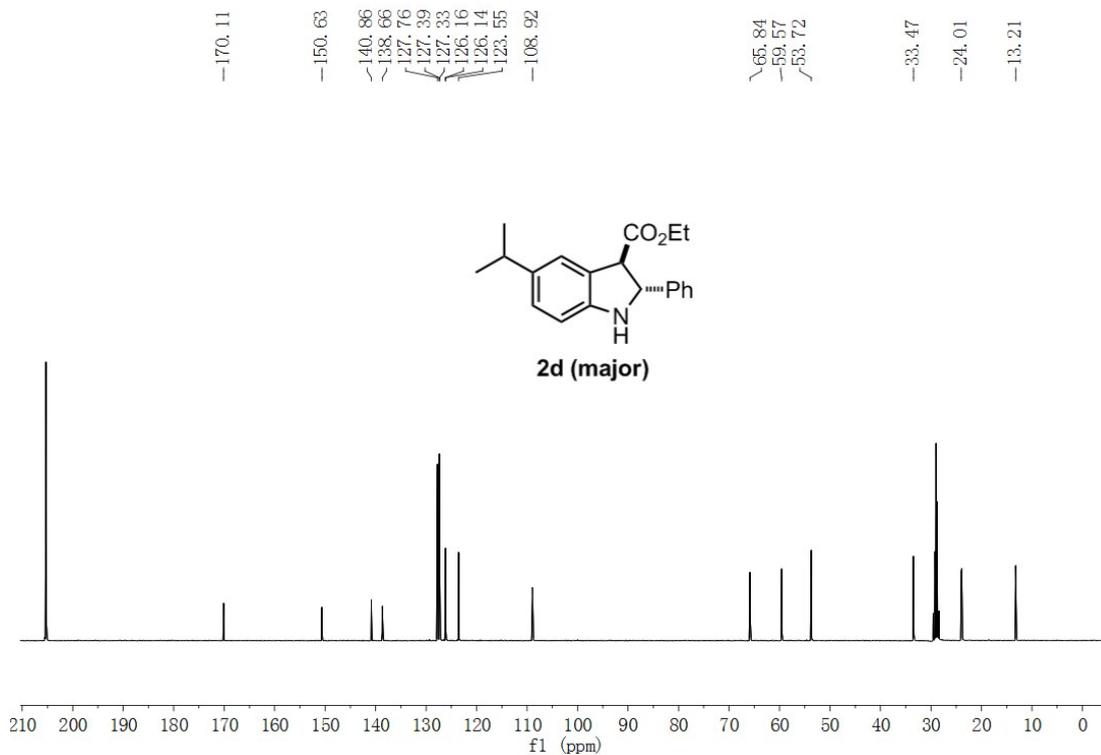
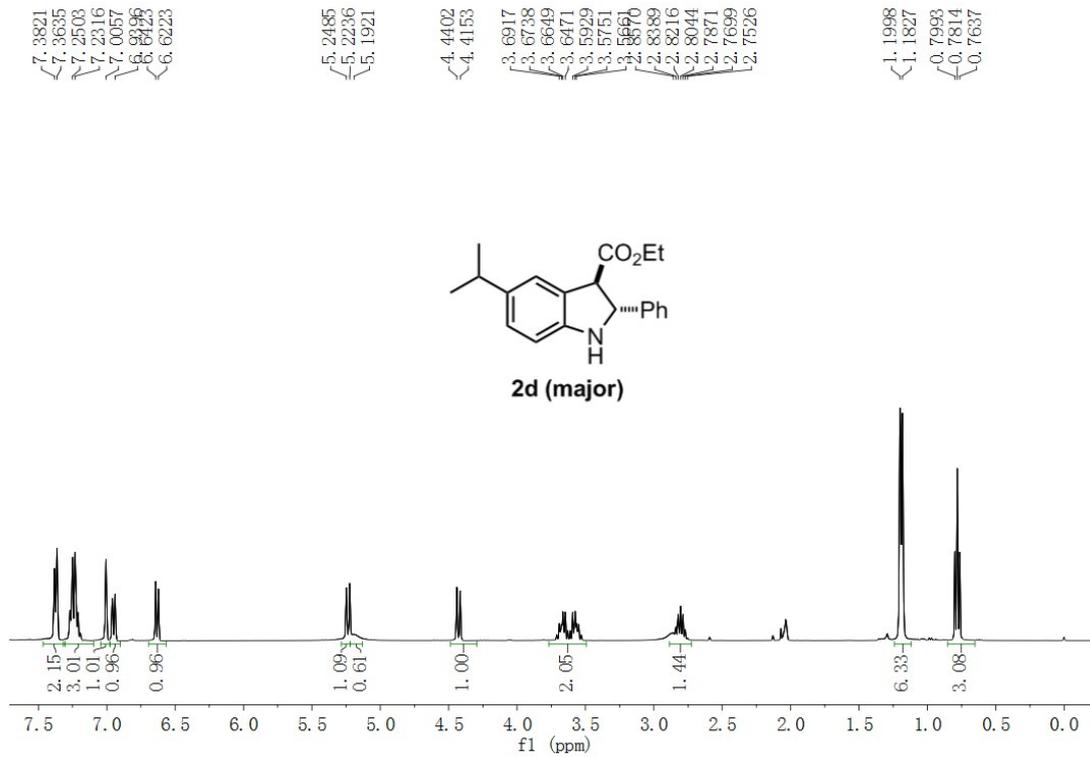
5. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR

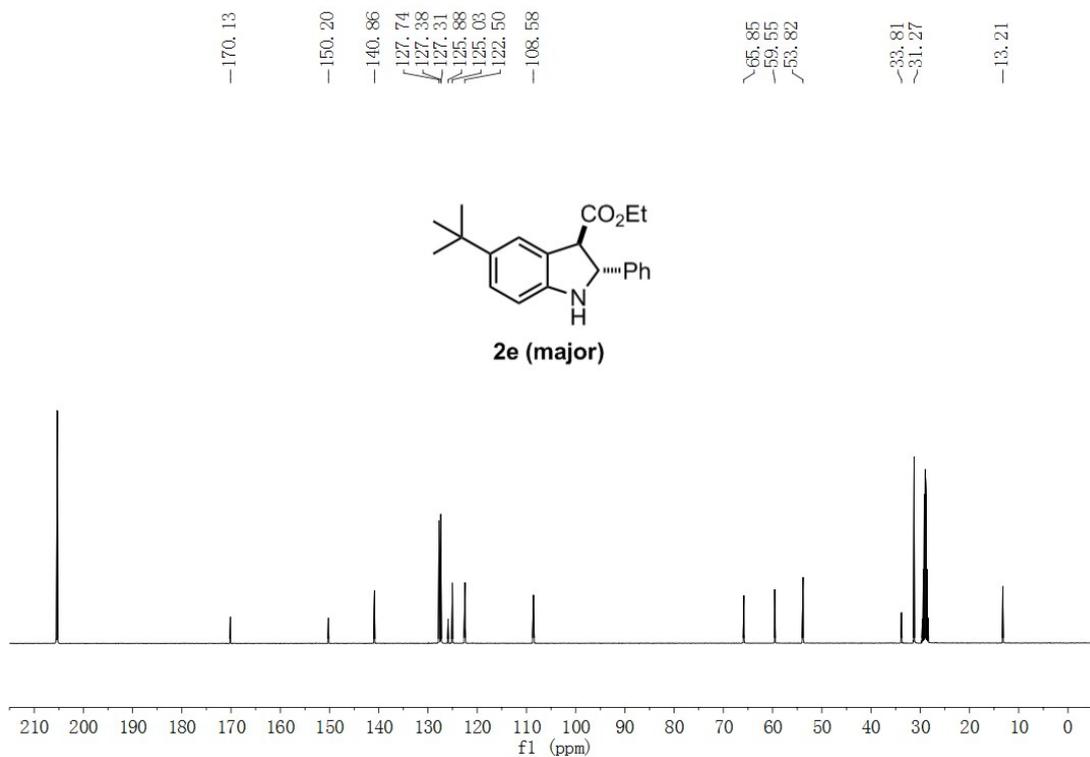
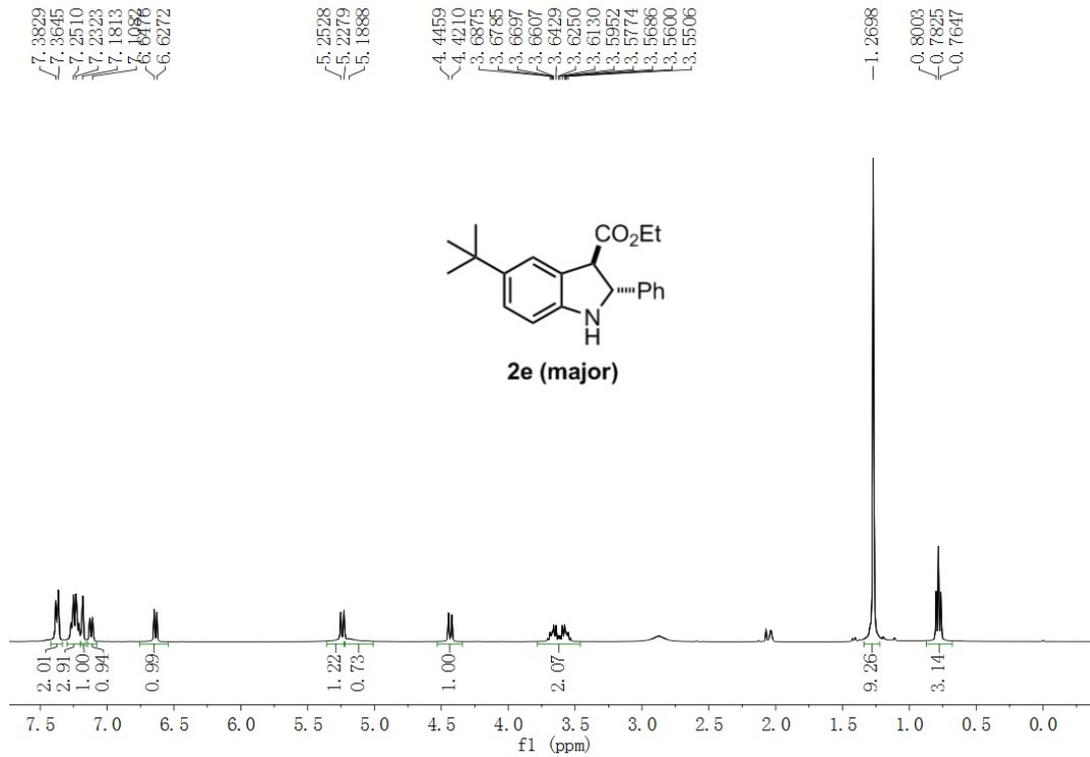


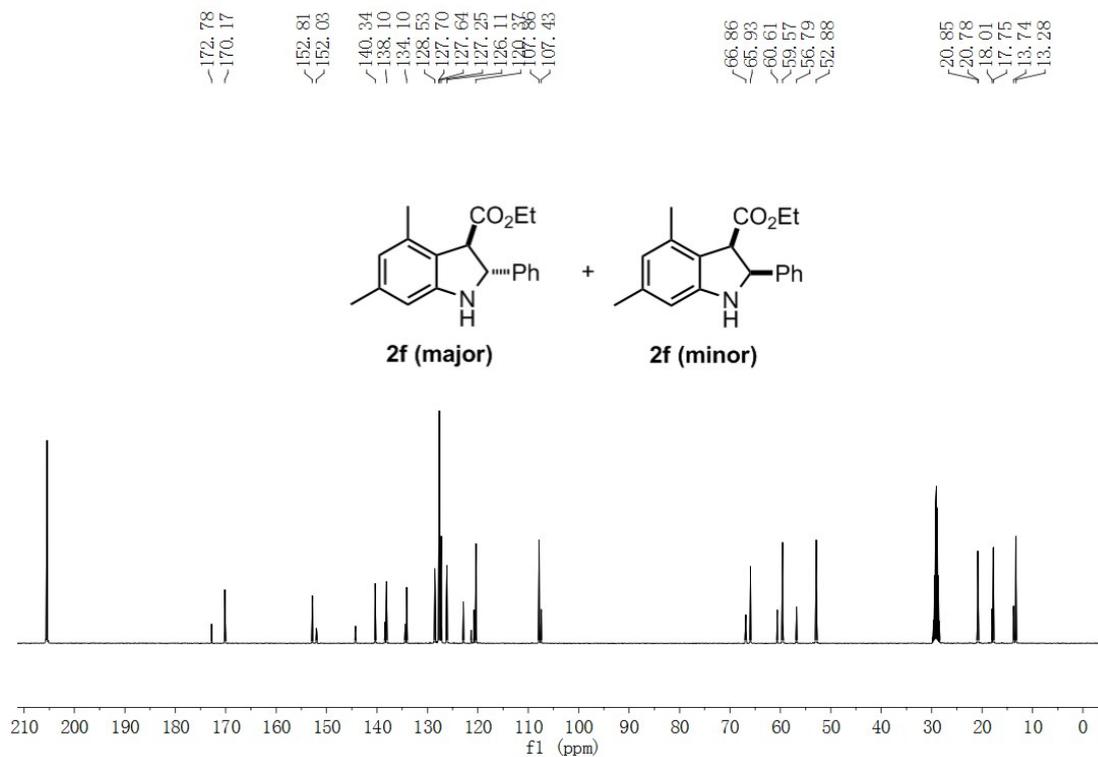
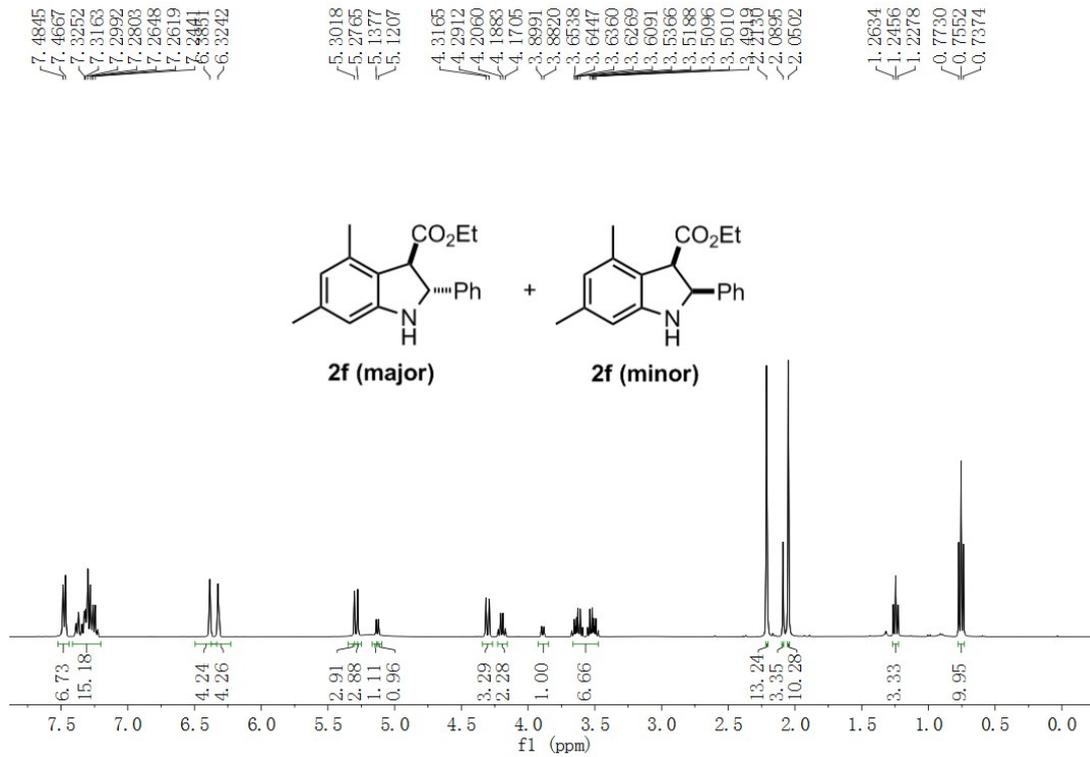


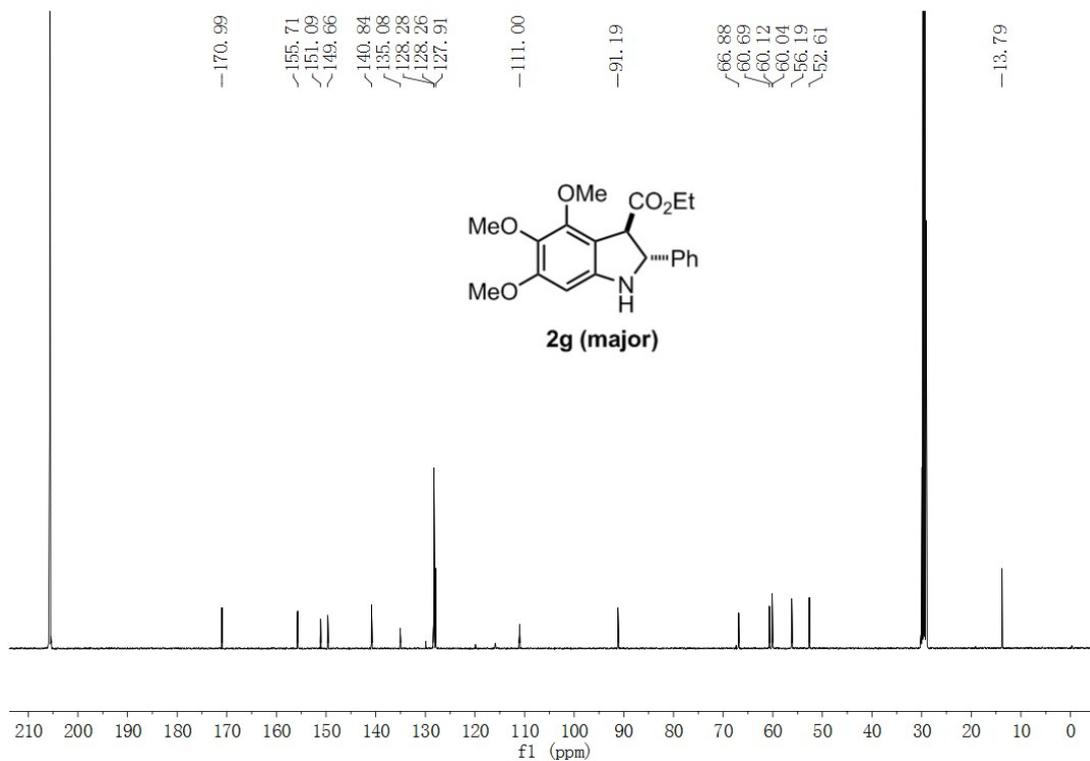
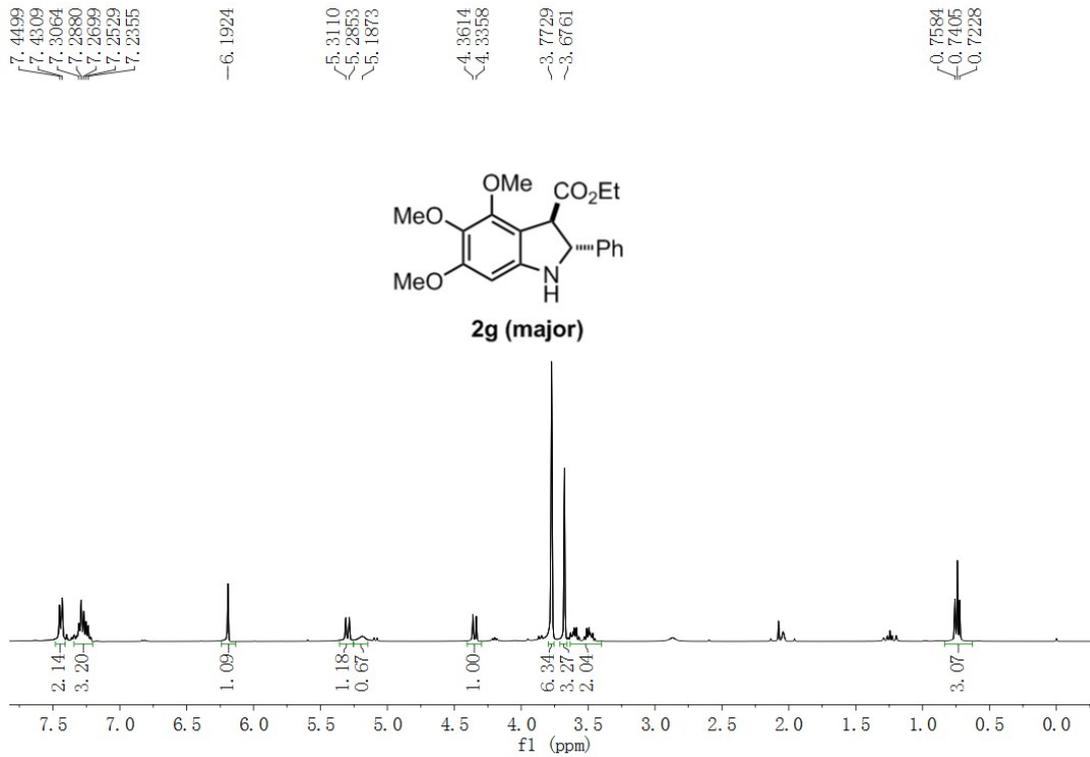


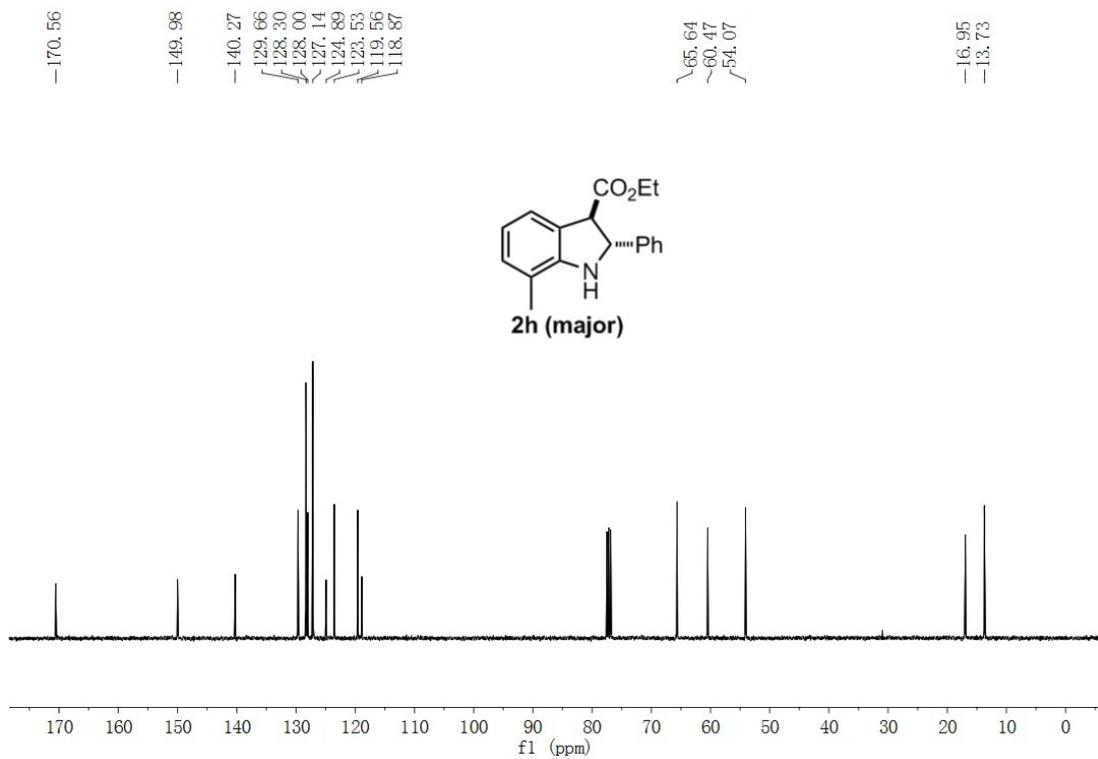
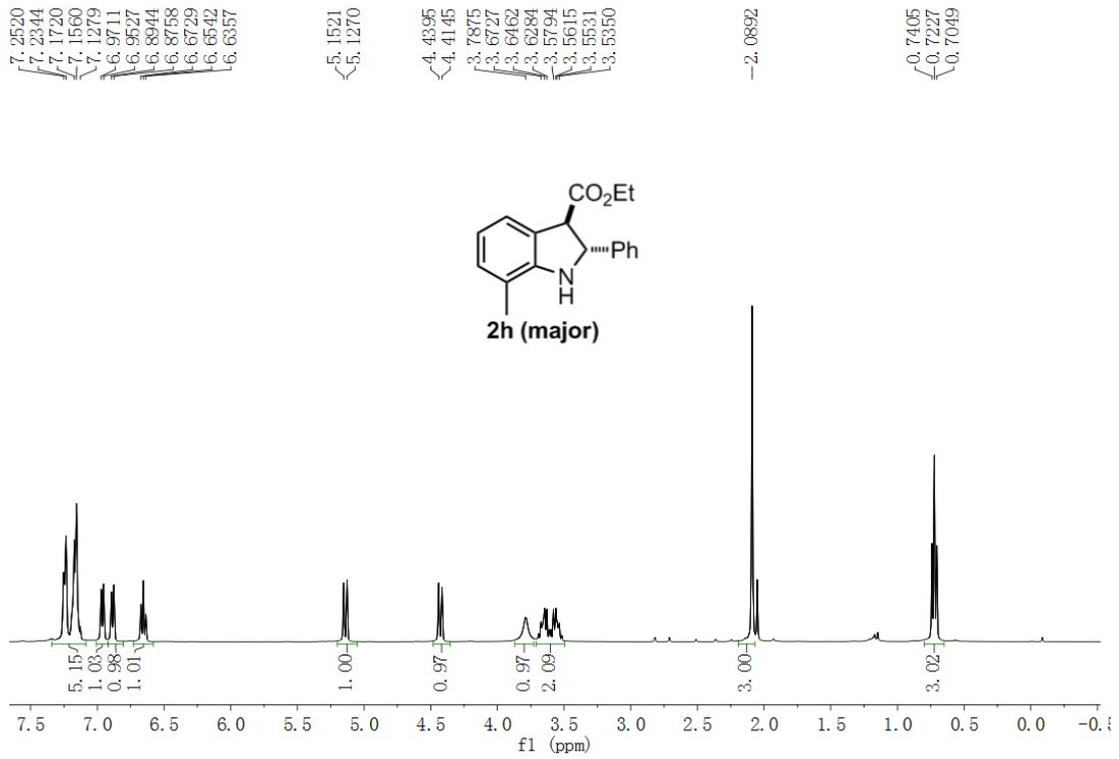


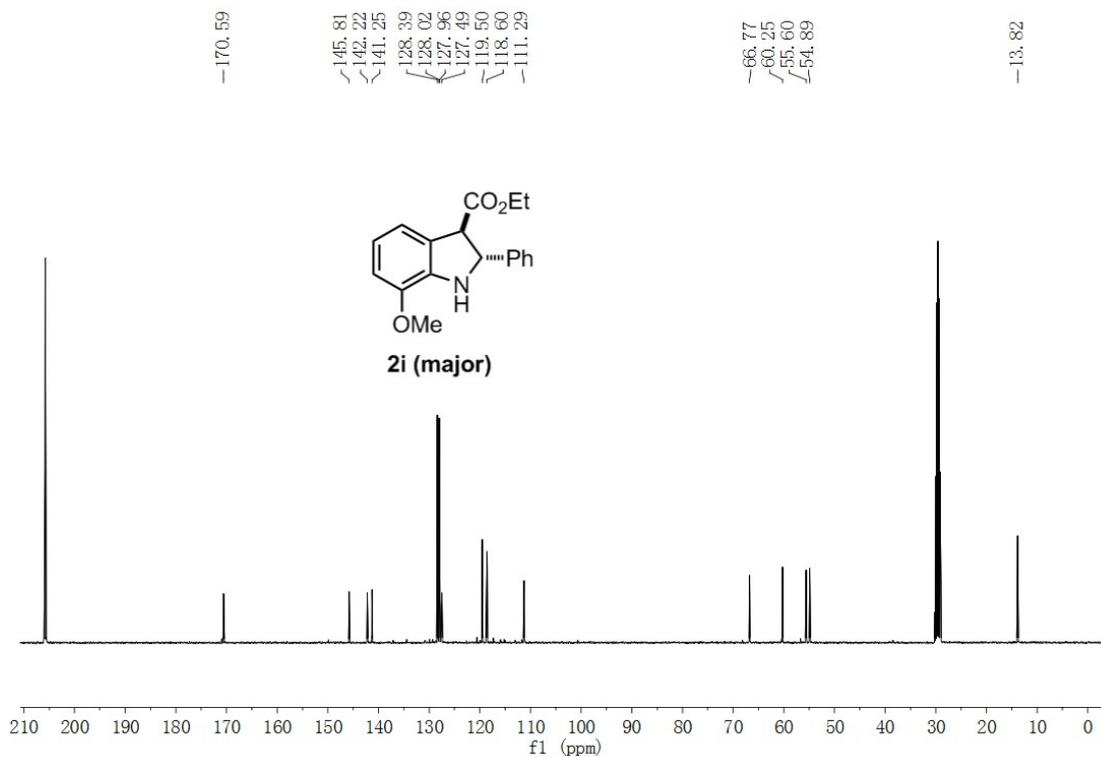
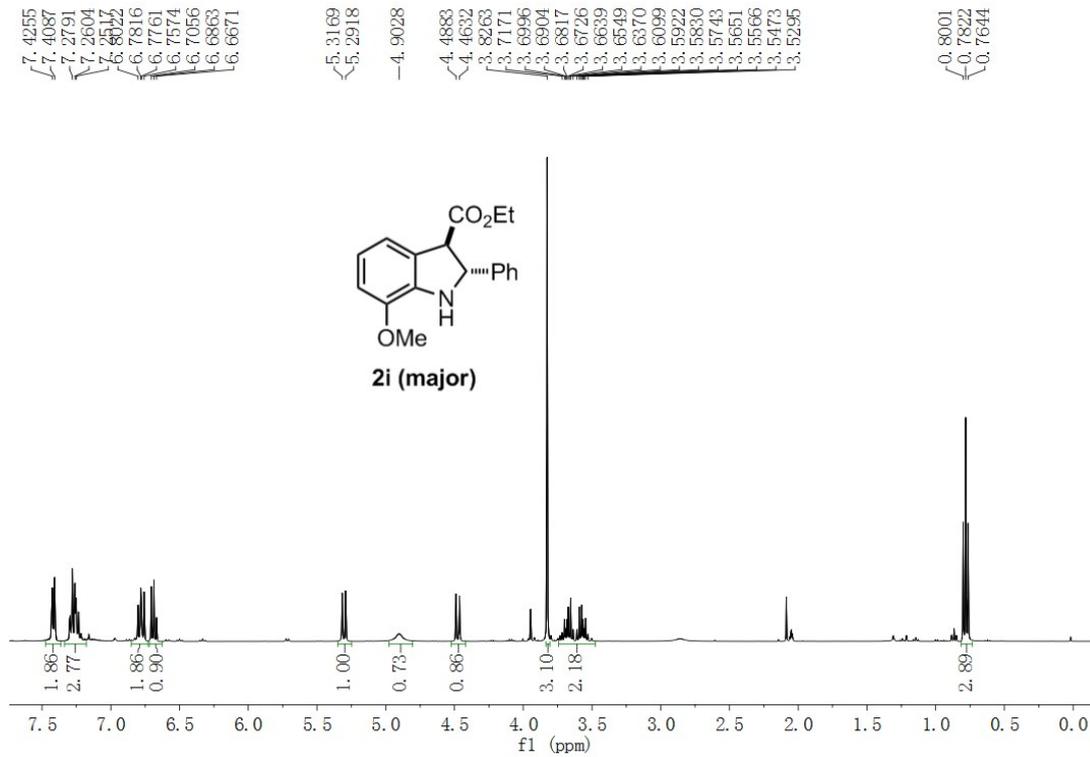


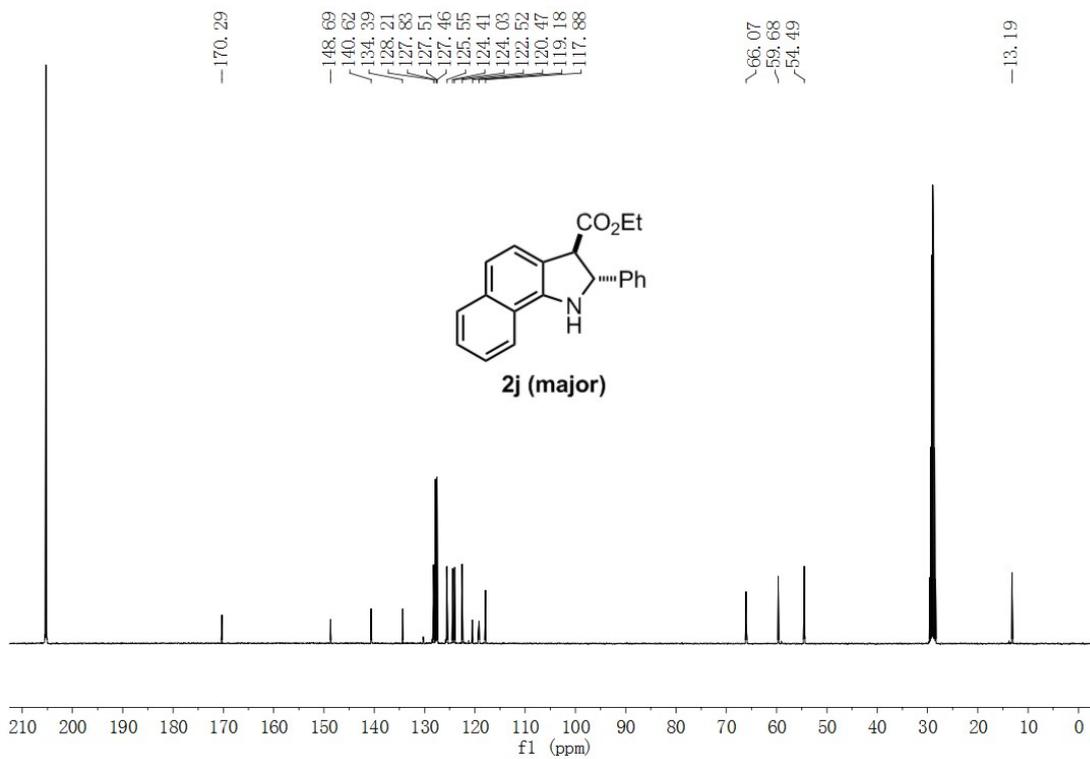
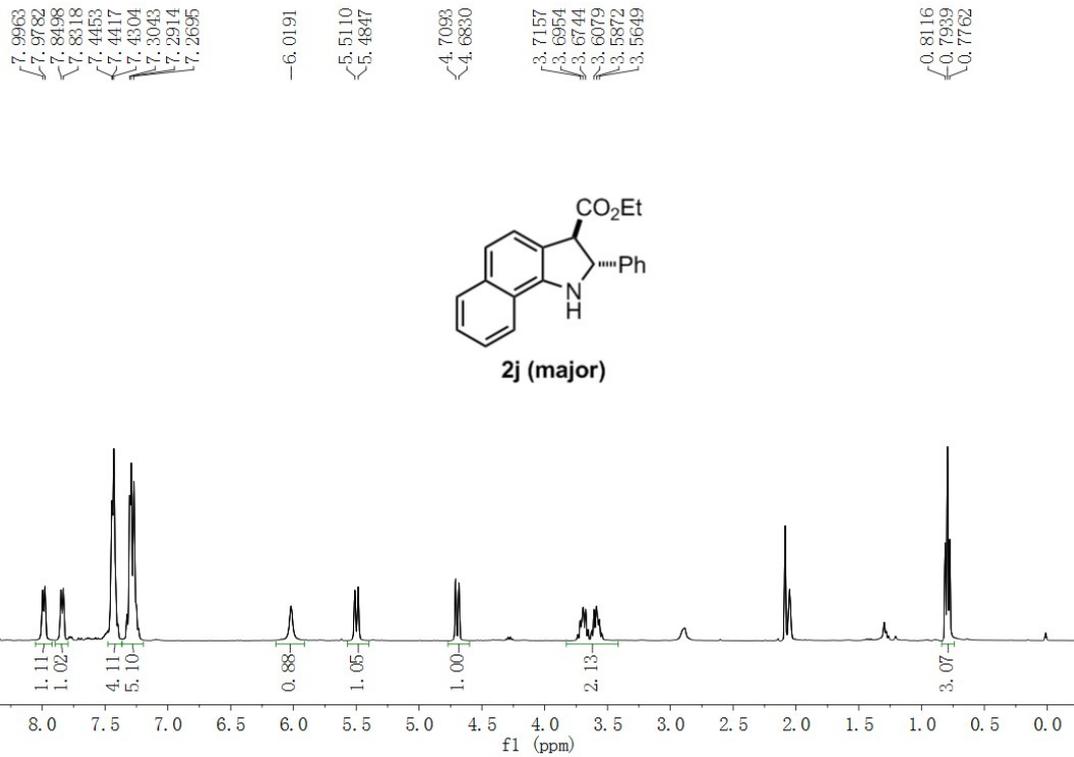


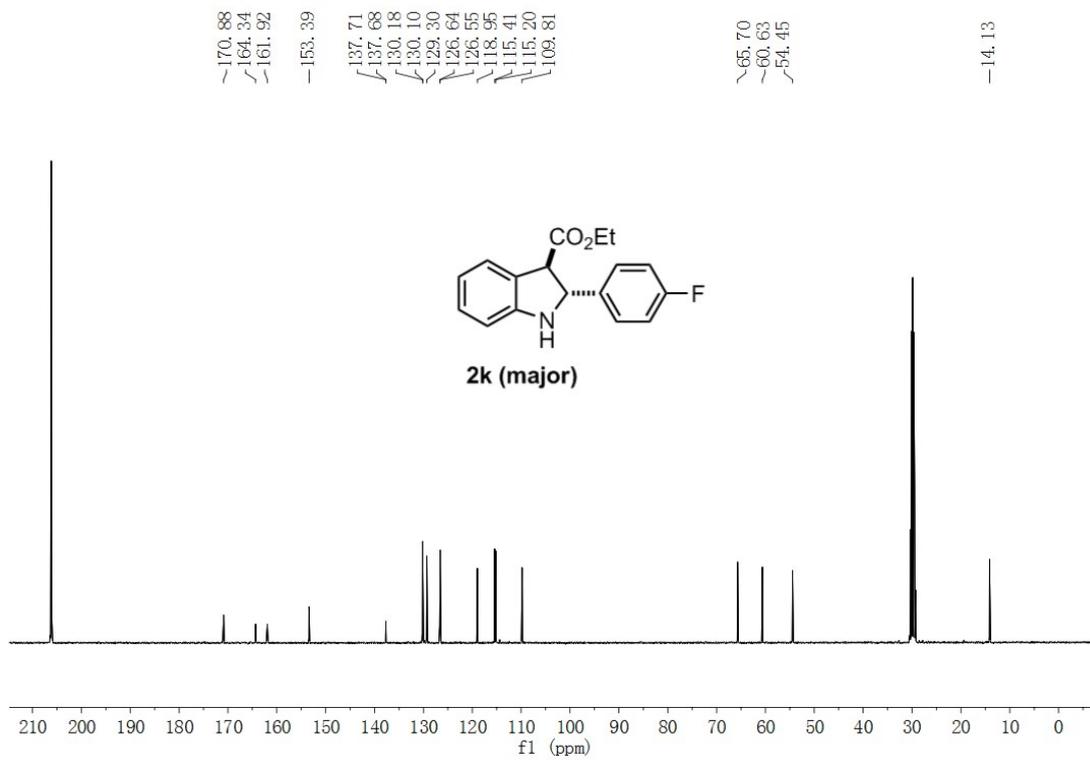
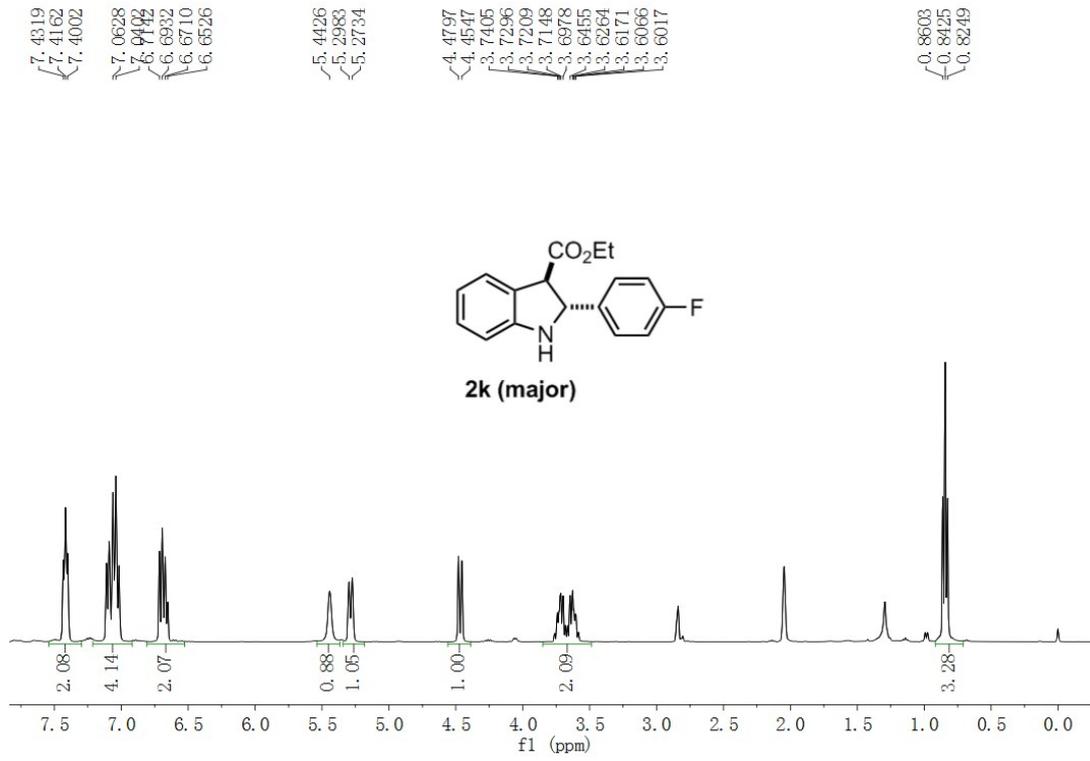










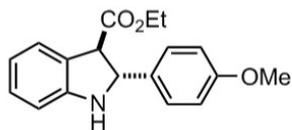


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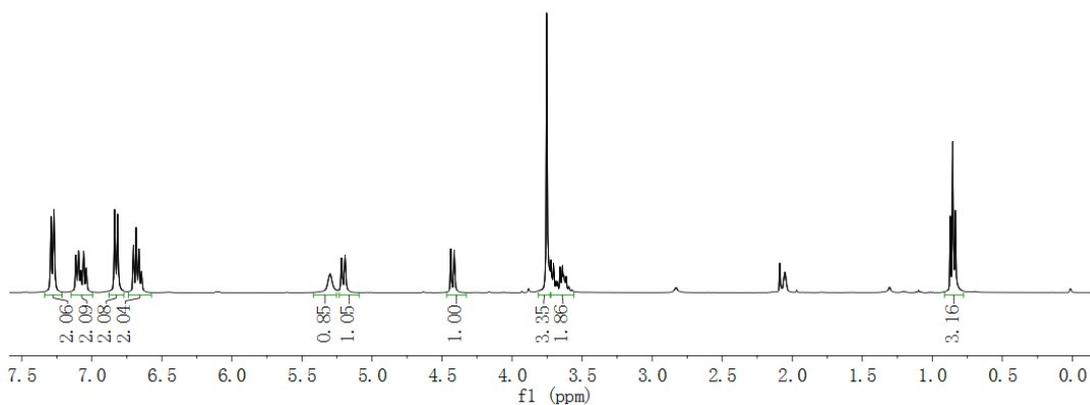
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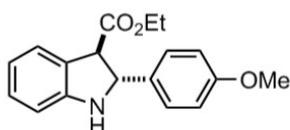


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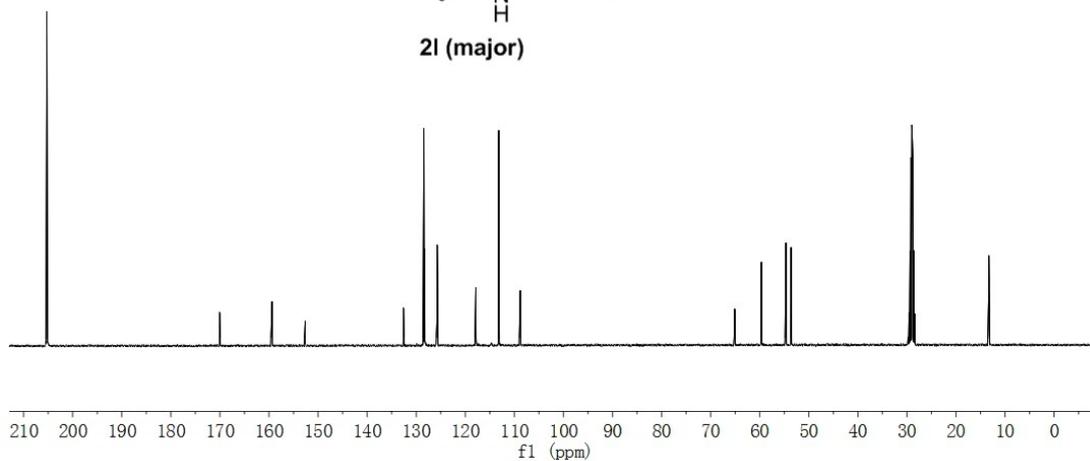
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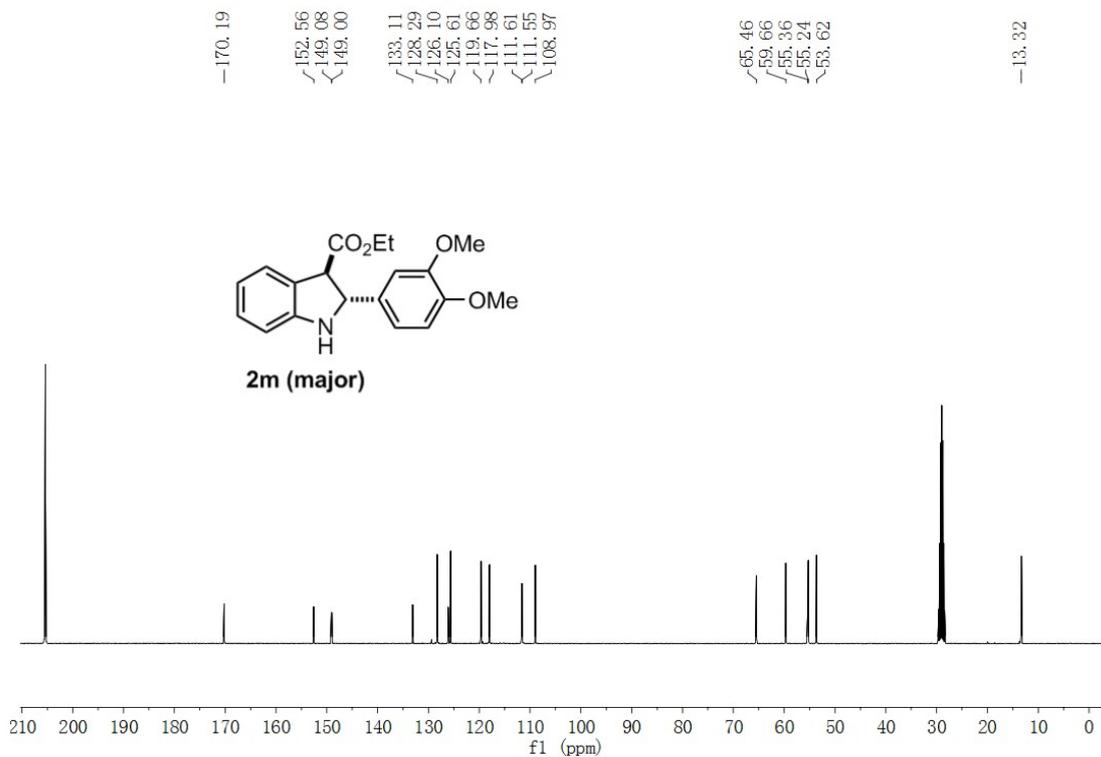
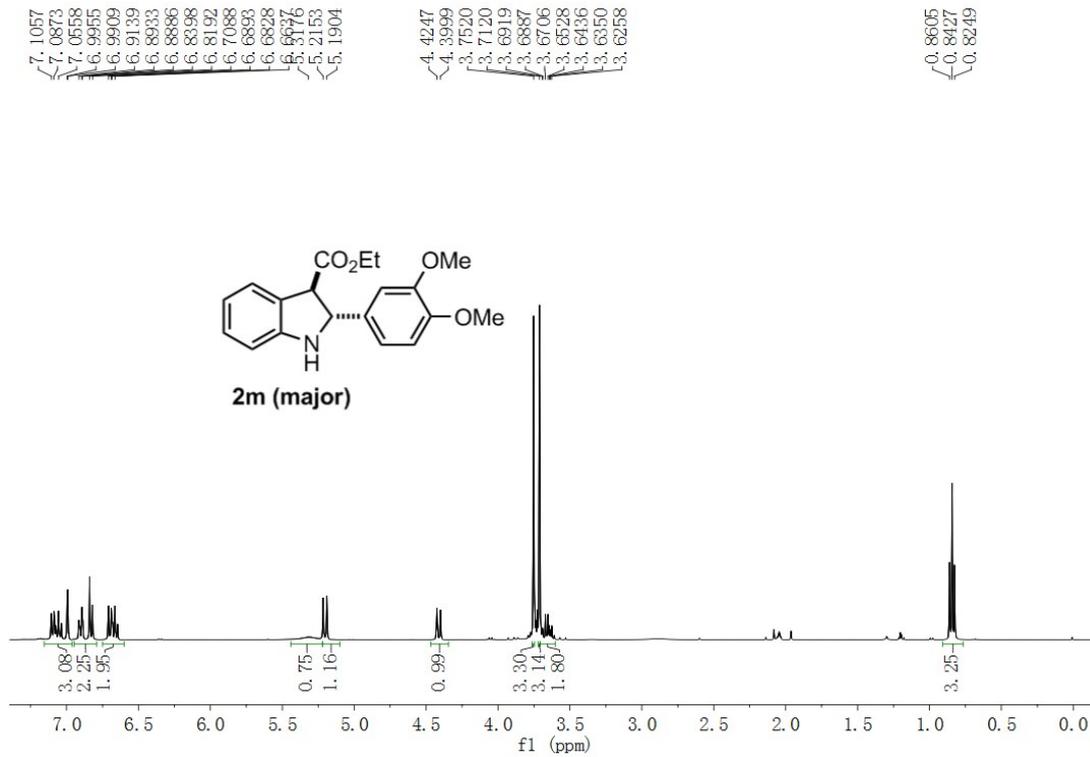
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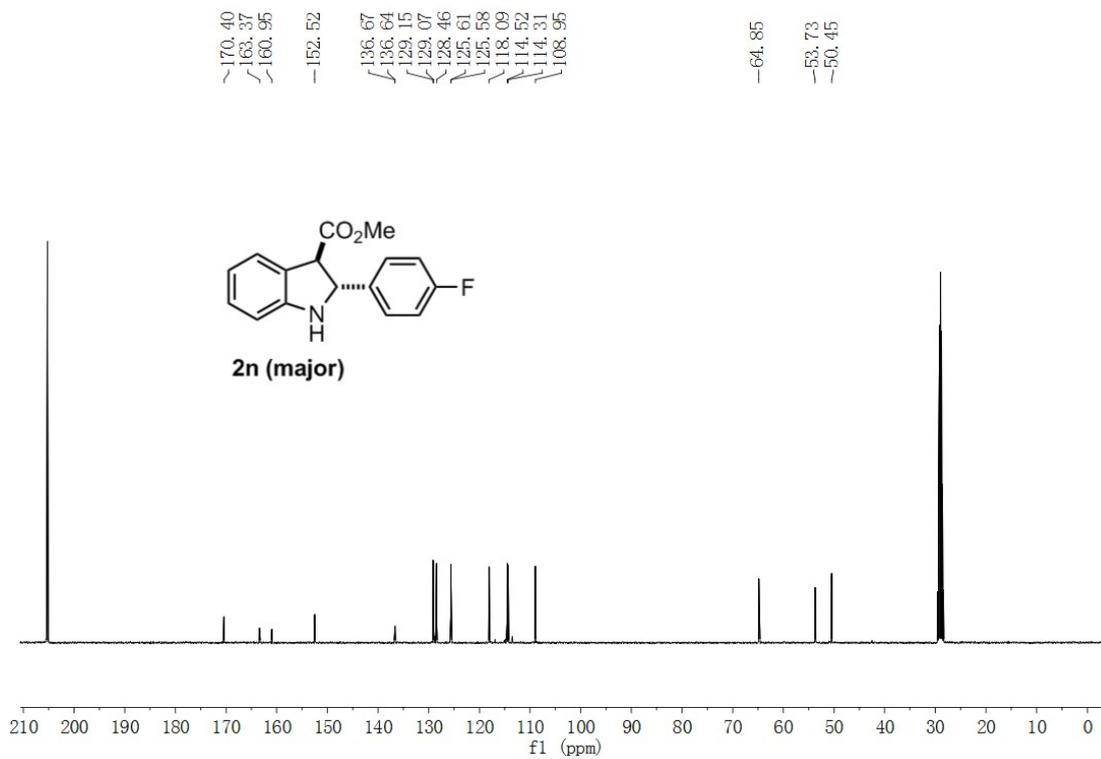
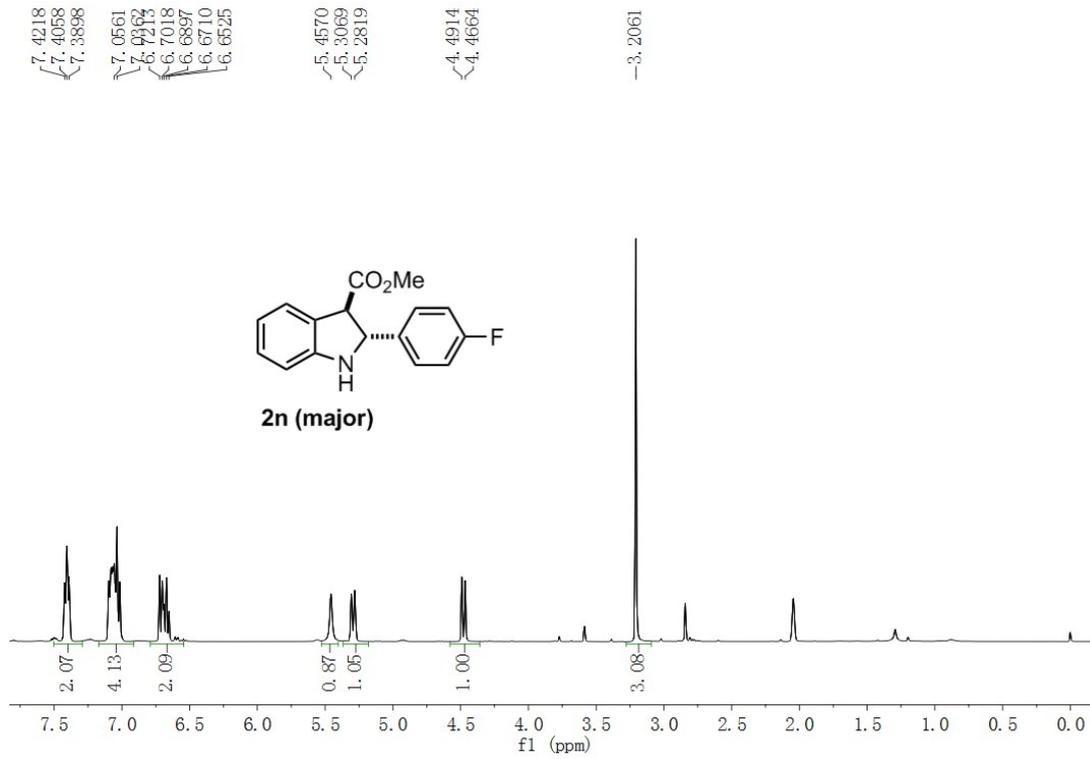
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2l (major)





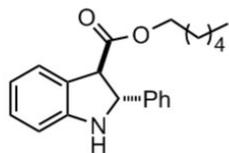


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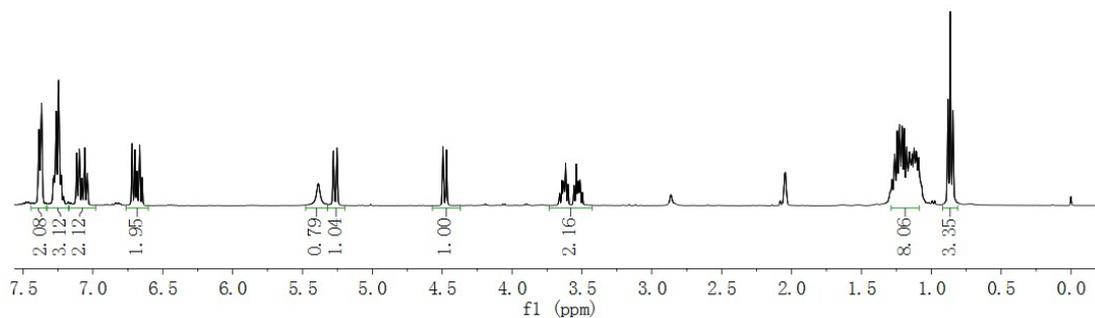
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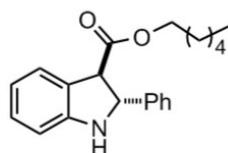
2o (major)



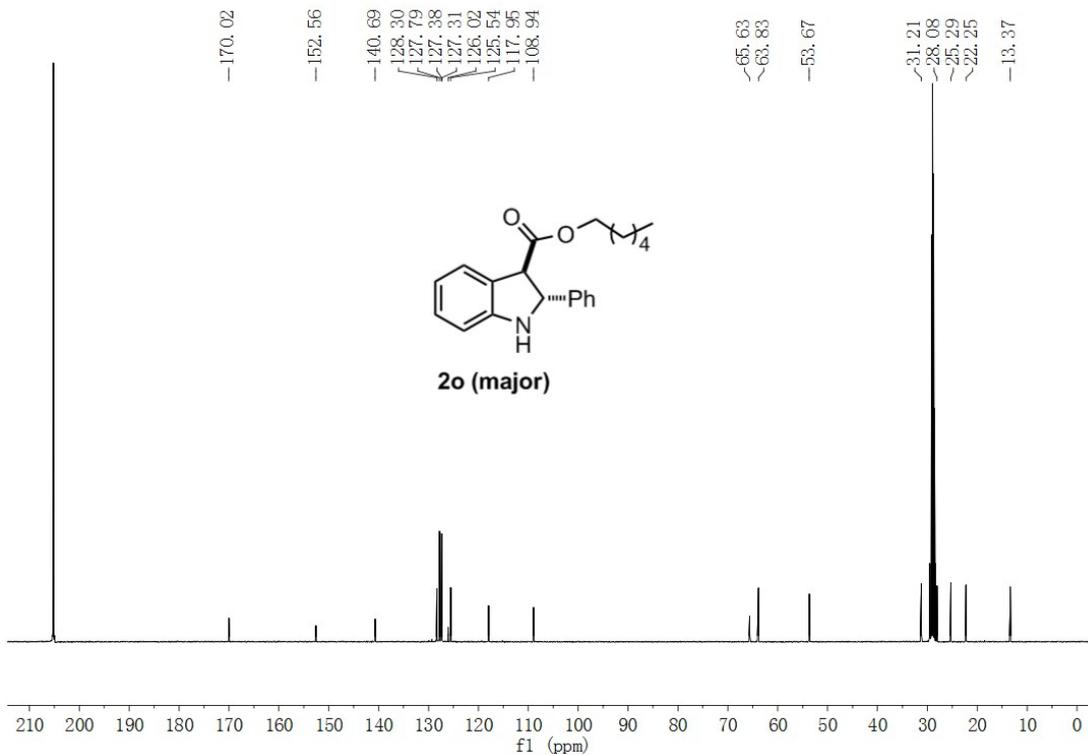
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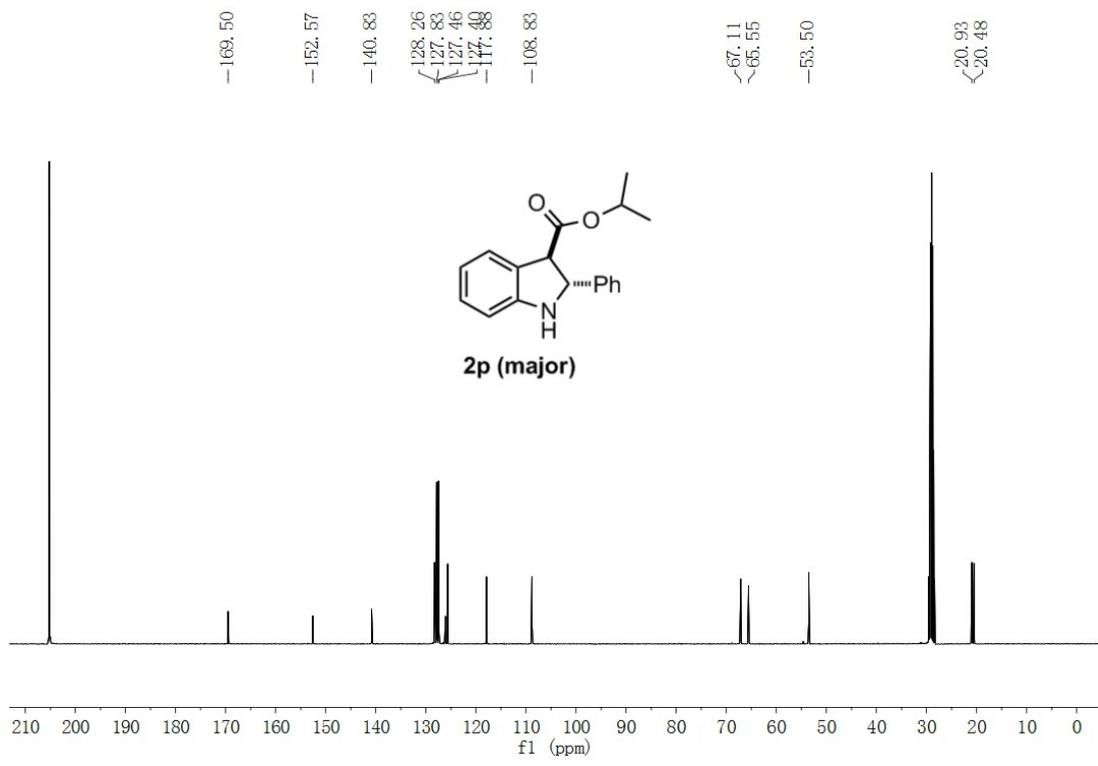
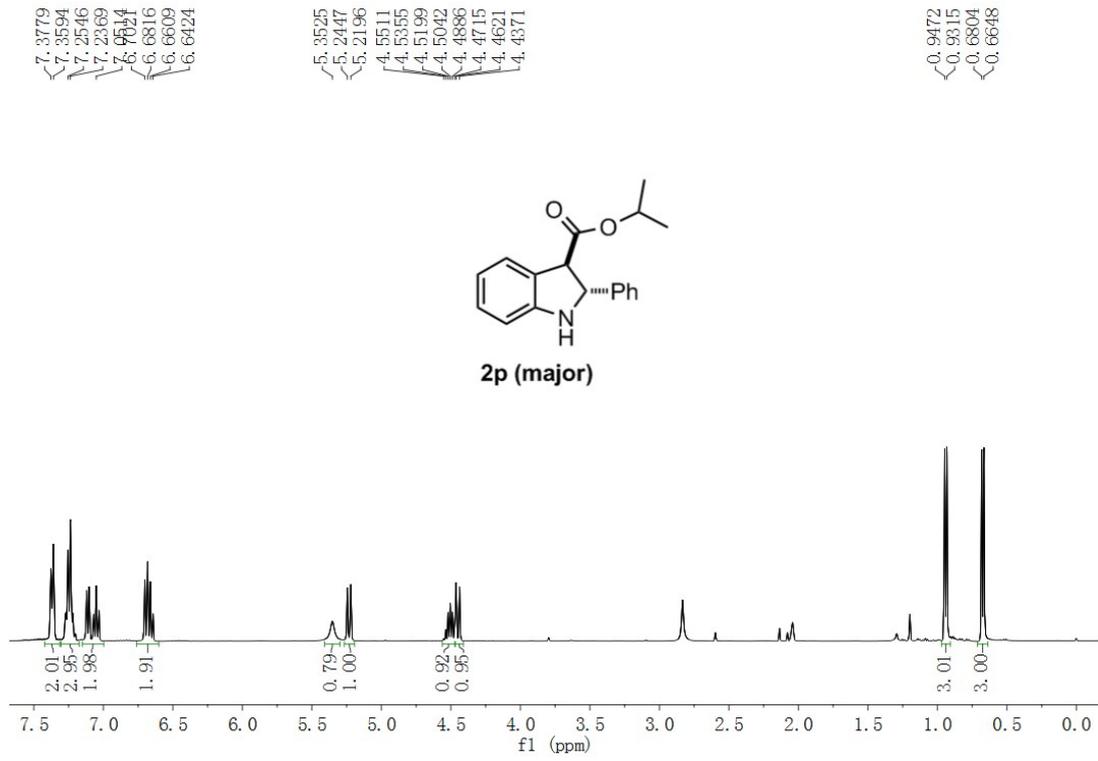
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13.37



2o (major)



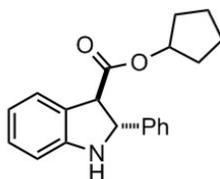


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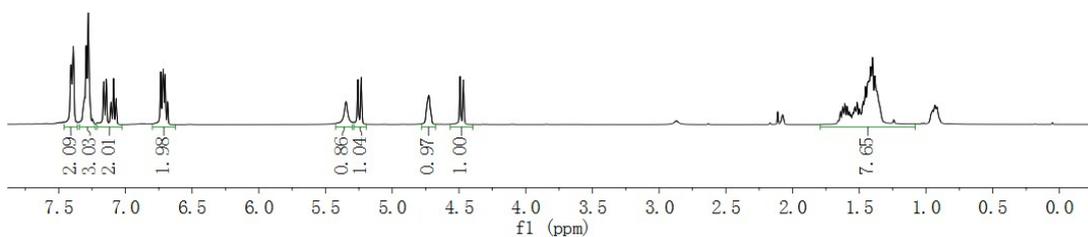
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2q (major)



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-140.85

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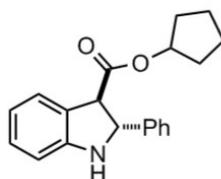
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2q (major)

