Directing Group Assistated Copper-Mediated Aroylation of Phenols Using 2-Bromoacetophenones

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1. General Information

Melting points were measured with a Buchi B-540 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance III 500 MHz FTNMR spectrometer using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on Trace DSQ GCMS instrument. All the commercially available regents were used as received. All experiments were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). TLC was performed on pre-coated silica gel plates (Merck). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (100-200 mesh, Merck).

2. Reaction Procedures

2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of aryl esters (Procedure A):

A solution of α-hydroxybenzaldehyde or α-hydroxyacetophenone (1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) was stirred at 100 °C under open air for 10 hours. The solvent was removed under vacuo and the crude reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The ethyl acetate layer was then washed with brine. Finally, it was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under vacuo. The crude product obtained was purified by silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane (1:9) as the eluant to afford chromones. Using this general procedure compounds 3 were synthesized.

2.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 2,2-dibromoacetophenones (Procedure B):

$$R^1$$
 R^1 R^1 R^1 R^1 R^2 R^3 R^4 R^4

A solution of 2-bromoacetophenone (2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) was stirred at 100 °C under open air for 5 hours. The solvent was removed under vacuo and the crude reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with ethyl acetate (25 mL x 3). The ethyl acetate layer was then washed with brine. Finally, it was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under vacuo. The crude product obtained was purified by silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane (1:9)

as the eluant to afford 2,2-dibromoacetophenones. Using this general procedure compounds **2a-i** were synthesized.

2.3 Spectral and Analytical Data:

3ba

2-Formylphenyl benzoate (**3aa**): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (**1a**, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in t AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 $^{\circ}$ C for 12 h under air to afford the title compound in 78% yield (Yellow oil, 176 mg). 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.16 (m, 2H), 7.97 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 164.9, 152.2, 135.3, 134.0, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.4, 123.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1743, 1698, 1604, 1260. MS (EI, m/z): 226. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀O₃: C, 74.33; H, 4.46; Found: C, 74.12; H, 4.23.

2-Formyl-5-methylphenyl benzoate (3ab): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-hydroxy-4-methylbenzaldehyde (**1b**, 136 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in t AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 62% yield (Yellow oil, 149 mg). 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 8.23 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.0, 166.0, 152.1, 147.0, 133.9, 130.2, 130.1, 128.6, 127.3, 126.3, 125.8, 123.9, 21.8. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1742, 1695, 1614, 1262, 1231. MS (EI, m/z): 240. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₃: C, 74.99; H, 5.03; Found: C, 74.82; H, 4.94.

3-(*tert***-Butyl)-2-formylphenyl benzoate (3ca):** Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 5-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (**1c**, 178 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in t AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 o C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 54% yield (Yellow oil, 152 mg). 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 10.22 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.7, 165.0, 150.1, 149.6, 133.9, 132.6, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.7, 127.5, 126.6, 122.9, 34.7, 31.1. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1744, 1693, 1259, 1023. MS (EI, m/z): 282. Anal. calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈O₃: C, 76.57; H, 6.43; Found: C, 76.71; H, 6.22.

2-Formyl-5-methoxyphenyl benzoate (3da): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-hydroxy-6-methoxybenzaldehyde (**1e**, 152 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 59% yield (solid, 151 mg). M.p.: 112–114 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.06 (s, 1H), 8.23 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 2H), 6.94 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.1, 165.2, 154.0, 133.97, 131.9, 130.2, 128.7, 121.7, 112.6, 108.5, 77.1, 76.9, 76.6, 55.8. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1742, 1692, 1604, 1009. MS (EI, m/z): 256. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₄: C, 70.31; H, 4.72; Found: C, 70.25; H, 4.64.

2-Formyl-3-methoxyphenyl benzoate (3ea): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-hydroxy-6-methoxybenzaldehyde (**1e**, 152 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 68% yield (solid, 174 mg). M.p.: 112–114 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.45 (s, 1H), 8.28-8.13 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.0, 165.0, 162.8, 150.9, 135.4, 133.4, 130.2, 129.3, 128.4, 117.5, 115.8, 109.3, 56.1. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1743, 1692, 1607. MS (EI, m/z): 256. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₄: C, 70.31; H, 4.72; Found: C, 70.49; H, 4.78.

2-Ethoxy-6-formylphenyl benzoate (3fa): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-hydroxy-6-ethoxybenzaldehyde (**1f**, 166 mg, 1.0 mmol) 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in t AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 o C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 58% yield (Yellow oil, 157 mg). 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 4.15-4.04 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.27 (m, 3H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.6, 164.4, 151.1, 142.6, 133.8, 130.3, 129.4, 128.6, 126.7, 126.6, 120.2, 118.9, 64.9, 14.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1743, 1694, 1583, 1262, 1055. MS (EI, m/z): 270. Anal. calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄O₄: C, 71.10; H, 5.22; Found: C, 71.19; H, 5.35.

3-Allyl-2-formylphenyl benzoate (3ga): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 3-allylsalicylaldehyde (1g,122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 396 bromoacetophenone (2a,mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 50% yield (Yellow oil, 133 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.34-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.89-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 1H), 6.02-5.84 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.00 (m, 2H), 3.39 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125) MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.7, 164.8, 150.1, 136.3, 134.9, 134.0, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 126.5, 126.3, 117.1, 34.0. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1742, 1698, 1261. MS (EI, m/z): 266. Anal. calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄O₃: C, 76.68; H, 5.30; Found: C, 76.53; H, 5.22.

4-Fluoro-2-formylphenyl benzoate (3ha): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 5-fluorosalicylaldehyde (1h, 140 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2bromoacetophenone (2a,396 mg, 2.0 mmol). Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 53% yield (Solid, 129 mg). M.p.: 68-69 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.18 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.45 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.0, 164.9, 160.7 (d, J = 247.5 Hz), 148.3, 134.2, 130.3, 128.8, 128.15, 125.3 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 122.2 (d, J = 23.4 Hz), 115.4 (d, J = 23.8 Hz). IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1745, 1694, 1604, 1262, 1054. MS (EI, m/z): 244. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₉FO₃: C, 68.85; H, 3.71; Found: C, 68.93; H, 3.79.

1 C 2 g m 2 C 6 f

2-Formyl-6-hydroxyphenyl benzoate (**3ia**): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2,3-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (**1i**, 138 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 57% yield (138 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ . 11.1 (s, 1H), 9.88 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.01 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 164.3, 153.4, 139.0, 133.7, 131.0, 130.3, 130.0, 128.7, 128.5, 121.8, 119.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1742, 1661, 1456, 1227, 1061. MS (EI, m/z): 242. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀O₄: C, 69.42; H, 4.16; Found: C, 69.32; H, 4.09.

2-Formylphenyl 4-methylbenzoate (3ab): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (**1a**, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4-'methyl-2-bromoacetophenone (**2b**, 428 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 60% yield (solid, 144 mg). M.p.: 64 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.01-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 164.9, 152.4, 145.0, 135.3, 130.3, 129.8, 129.4, 128.2, 126.3, 125.7, 123.5, 21.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1740, 1702, 1605, 1263, 1177, 1063. MS (EI, m/z): 240. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₃: C, 74.99; H, 5.03; Found: C, 75.12; H, 5.19.

2-Formylphenyl 4-methoxybenzoate (3ac): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (**1a**, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4′-methoxy-2-bromoacetophenone (**2c**, 456 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 65% yield (solid, 166 mg). M.p.: 75 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.23 (s,

1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 164.5, 164.2, 152.5, 135.2, 132.4, 129.7, 128.3, 126.2, 123.5, 120.7, 114.0, 55.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1735, 1697, 1605, 1256, 1167, 1009. MS (EI, m/z): 256. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₄: C, 70.31; H, 4.72; Found: C, 70.44; H, 4.85.

2-Formylphenyl 4-fluorobenzoate (3ad): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (1a, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4'-fluoro-2bromoacetophenone (2d, 432 mg, 2.0 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 62% yield (Yellow oil, 151 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.18 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.22 (m, 2H), 7.96 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 166.3 (d, J = 255.0 Hz), 163.9, 151.8, 135.3, 133.0, 132.9 (d, J = 10.0Hz), 130.7, 128.1, 126.5, 123.4, 115.9 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 115.8. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1743, 1698, 1604, 1260, 1154. MS (EI, m/z): 244. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₉FO₃: C, 68.85; H, 3.71; Found: C, 68.67; H, 3.64.

2-Formylphenyl 3,4-dichlorobenzoate (3ae): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (**1a**, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 3',4'-dichloro-2-bromoacetophenone (**2e**, 532 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 52% yield (solid, 153 mg). M.p.: 74-76 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.13 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H). δ 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 163.1, 151.1, 138.7, 135.3, 133.3, 132.1, 131.6, 130.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.0, 126.8,

123.3. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1744, 1698, 1605, 1465, 1206. MS (EI, m/z): 294. Anal. calcd. for $C_{14}H_8Cl_2O_3$: C, 56.98; H, 2.73; Found: C, 56.82; H, 2.61.

2-Formylphenyl 3-bromobenzoate (3af): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (1a, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 3'-bromo-2-bromoacetophenone (2f, 552 mg, 2.0 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 45% yield (Yellow oil, 137 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.37 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz,1H), 7.83-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) & 188.4, 163.6, 151.5, 136.9, 135.3, 133.1, 131.0, 130.2, 128.8, 128.0, 126.7, 123.4. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1743, 1704, 1605, 1246, 1207. MS (EI, m/z): 303. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₉BrO₃: C, 55.11; H, 2.97; Found: C, 55.18; H, 3.17.

2-Formylphenyl [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (3ag): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of salicylaldehyde (1a, 122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4'-phenyl-2-bromoacetophenone (2g, 548 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h to afford the title compound in 68% yield (solid, 205 mg). M.p.: 93-94 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (dd, J =7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 - 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 164.8, 152.2, 146.7, 139.6, 135.3, 130.8, 130.2, 128.9, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 126.4, 123.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1739, 1700, 1605, 1265, 1065. MS (EI, m/z): 302. Anal. calcd. for C₂₀H₁₄O₃: C, 79.46; H, 4.67; Found: C, 77.61; H, 4.40.

2-Acetylphenyl benzoate (3ja): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-hydroxyacetophenone (1j, 136 mg, 1.0 396 2.0 bromoacetophenone (2a,mmol) mg, and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (192 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 76% yield (Yellow oil, 182 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, 7.87 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.63 (m, 1H),7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.5, 165.1, 149.3, 133.7, 133.3, 131.1, 130.2, 129.1, 128.6, 126.1, 123.8, 29.7 IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1740, 1688, 1602, 1449, 1261, 799. MS (EI, m/z): 240. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₃: C, 74.99; H, 5.03; Found: C, 74.87; H, 4.92.

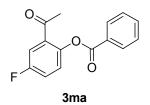
2-Acetyl-4-methylphenyl benzoate (3ka): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2'-hydroxy-5'-methylacetophenone (**1k**, 150 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 70% yield (Yellow oil, 178 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.7, 165.2, 147.1, 135.9, 133.9, 133.7, 130.5, 130.2, 129.2, 128.6, 123.5, 29.8, 20.8. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1741, 1689, 1268, 1202, 1060, 708. MS (EI, m/z): 254. Anal. calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄O₃: C, 75.57; H, 5.55; Found: C, 75.64; H, 5.60.

2-Acetyl-4-methoxyphenyl benzoate (3la): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2'-hydroxy-5'-methoxyacetophenone (**1l**, 166 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (**2a**, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 63% yield

(Yellow oil, 170 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32-8.13 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.07 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 165.4, 157.1, 142.8, 133.7, 131.7, 130.2, 129.1, 128.6, 124.7, 119.1, 114.2, 55.7, 29.9. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1740, 1689, 1489, 1266, 1233, 707. MS (EI, m/z): 270. Anal. calcd. for $C_{16}H_{14}O_4$: C, 71.10; H, 5.22; Found: C, 71.18; H, 5.41.

2-Acetyl-4-fluorophenyl benzoate (3ma): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2'-hydroxy-5'-fluoroacetophenone (1m, 154 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-bromoacetophenone (2a, 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 61% yield (Yellow oil, 157 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.1, 165.1, 159.8 (d, J = 246.3), 158.9, 145.1, 133.9, 132.4, 130.2, 128.7, 125.5 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 120.2 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 25.0 Hz), 29.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1741, 1692, 1484, 1266, 1172. MS (EI, m/z): 258. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁FO₃: C, 69.76; H, 4.29; Found: C, 69.83; H, 4.37.

2-Acetylphenyl 4-methylbenzoate (3jb): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2'-hydroxyacetophenone (**1j**, 136 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4'-methyl-2-bromoacetophenone (**2b**, 428 mg, 2.0 mmol) and $Cu(OAc)_2.H_2O$ (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 71% yield (Yellow oil, 180 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.6, 165.1, 149.4, 144.7, 133.3, 131.3, 130.3, 130.1, 129.3, 126.3, 126.0, 123.8,



29.8, 21.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1736, 1688, 1604, 1449, 1268, 1177 745. MS (EI, m/z): 254. Anal. calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄O₃: C, 75.57; H, 5.55; Found: C, 75.63; H, 5.59.

2-Acetylphenyl 4-fluorobenzoate (3jd): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2'-hydroxyacetophenone (1j, 136 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4'-fluoro-2bromoacetophenone (2d, 432 mg, 2.0 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 10 h under air to afford the title compound in 70% yield (Yellow oil, 181 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30-8.18 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39(t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.14 (m, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.4, 166.2 (d, J = 251.2 Hz), 164.2, 149.1, 133.4, 132.8 (d, J = 10.0 Hz), 130.9, 130.3, 126.2, 125.4, 123.8, 115.8 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 29.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1741, 1688, 1603, 1507, 1267, 757. MS (EI, m/z): 258. Anal. calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁FO₃: C, 69.76; H, 4.29; Found: C, 69.71; H, 4.54.

2,2-Dibromo-1-phenylethanone (4a): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 2-bromoacetophenone **(2a,** 396 mg, 2.0 mmol), and $Cu(OAc)_2.H_2O$ (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 42% yield (Yellow oil, 234 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.41 (m, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.9, 134.4, 130.7, 129.6, 128.9, 39.6. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1698, 1595, 1449. MS (EI, m/z): 276. Anal. calcd. for $C_8H_6Br_2O$: C, 34.57; H, 2.18; Found: C, 34.71; H, 2.10.

2,2-dibromo-1-(*p***-tolyl)ethanone (4b):** Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 4'-metyl-2-bromoacetophenone (**2b**, 424 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 41% yield (Solid, 238 mg). M.p.: 88-89 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

7.97 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.5, 145.7, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 39.9, 21.8. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1740, 1688, 1602, 1449, 1261, 799. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1687, 1604, 1278, 1196, 753. MS (EI, m/z): 290. Anal. calcd. for C₉H₈Br₂O: C, 37.02; H, 2.76; Found: C, 37.11; H, 2.84.

2,2-Dibromo-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethanone (4c): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 4'-methoxy-2-bromoacetophenone (2c, 456 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 39% yield (Yellow oil, 239 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11-8.04 (m, 2H), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.6, 164.4, 132.1, 123.2, 114.1, 55.6, 39.9. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1679, 1599, 1509, 1264, 1179, 846. MS (EI, m/z): 306. Anal. calcd. for C₉H₈Br₂O₂: C, 35.10; H, 2.62; Found: C, 35.24; H, 2.65. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for C₉H₉Br₂O₂: [M+H]⁺ 306.8965, found: 366.8969.

2,2-Dibromo-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone (4d): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 4'-fluoro-2-bromoacetophenone (2d, 432 mg, 2.0 mmol) and $Cu(OAc)_2.H_2O$ (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 40% yield (Yellow oil, 238 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR $(125 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 184.5, 166.2 (d, J = 257.5 \text{ Hz}), 132.6 (d, J)$ = 10.0 Hz), 126.94, 116.1 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 39.3. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1698, 1598, 1507, 1271, 1241, 1190, 1160, 850. MS (EI, m/z): 294. Anal. calcd. for C₈H₅Br₂FO: C, 32.47; H, 1.70; Found: C, 32.64; H, 1.78.

2,2-Dibromo-1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)ethanone

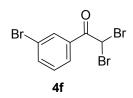
by heating a mixture of 3',4'-dichloro-2-bromoacetophenone

(4e):

(2e, 532 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ¹AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 39% yield (Solid, 265 mg). M.p.: 68°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.9, 139.1, 133.6, 131.6, 130.8, 130.1, 128.6, 38.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1706, 1582, 1466, 1388, 1277, 1194, 1032. MS (EI, m/z): 345. Anal. calcd. for C₈H₄Br₂Cl₂O: C, 27.70; H, 1.16; Found: C, 27.87; H, 1.19.

2,2-Dibromo-1-(3-bromophenyl)ethanone (4f): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 3'-bromo-2-bromoacetophenone (**2f**, 552 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 42% yield (Yellow oil, 294 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27-8.17 (m, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.6, 137.2, 132.5, 132.4, 130.3, 128.1, 123.1, 39.0. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1703, 1567, 1419, 1253, 1192. MS (EI, m/z): 354. Anal. calcd. for C₈H₅Br₃O: C, 26.93; H, 1.41; Found: C, 27.15; H, 1.38.

1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-dibromoethanone(4g): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 4'-phenyl-2-bromoacetophenone (**2g**, 548 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in ^tAmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 37% yield (Solid, 260 mg). M.p.: 116 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23-8.11 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.38 (m, 3H), 6.73 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.5, 147.1, 139.2, 130.3, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 127.2, 39.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1682, 1600, 1486, 1407, 1208. MS (EI, m/z): 354. Anal. calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀Br₂O: C, 47.50; H, 2.85; Found: C, 47.80; H, 2.80. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for C₁₄H₁₁Br₂O: [M+H]⁺ 352.9172, found: 352.9177.



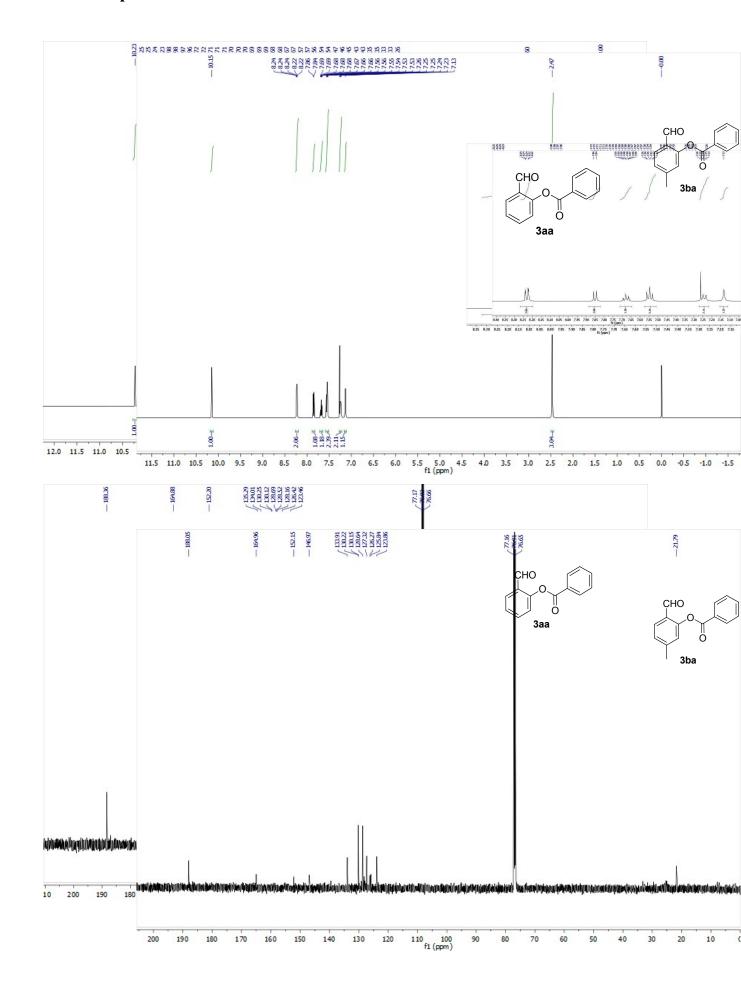
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 Br Br

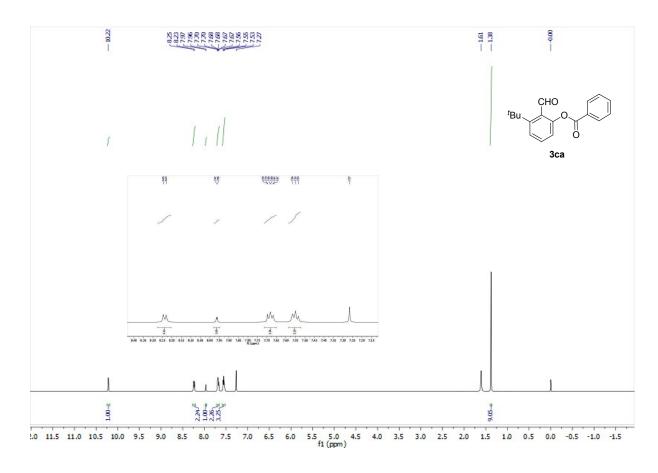
$$O_2N$$
 O_3
 O_3
 O_4
 O_4

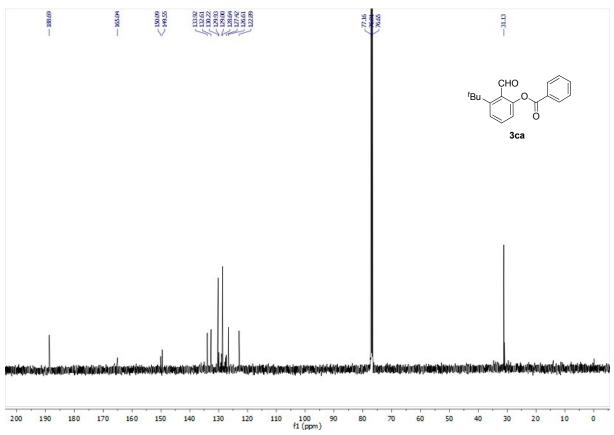
2,2-Dibromo-1-(3-nitrophenyl)ethanone (4h): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 3'-nitro-2-bromoacetophenone (**2h**, 486 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 44% yield (Yellow oil, 282 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.96 (s, 1H), 8.58-8.42 (m, 2H), 7.77 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.9, 148.3, 135.3, 132.0, 130.1, 128.4, 124.6, 38.5. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1706, 1613, 1531, 1350. MS (EI, m/z): 321. Anal. calcd. for C₈H₅Br₂NO₃: C, 29.75; H, 1.56; N, 4.34; Found: C, 29.87; H, 1.31; N, 4.31.

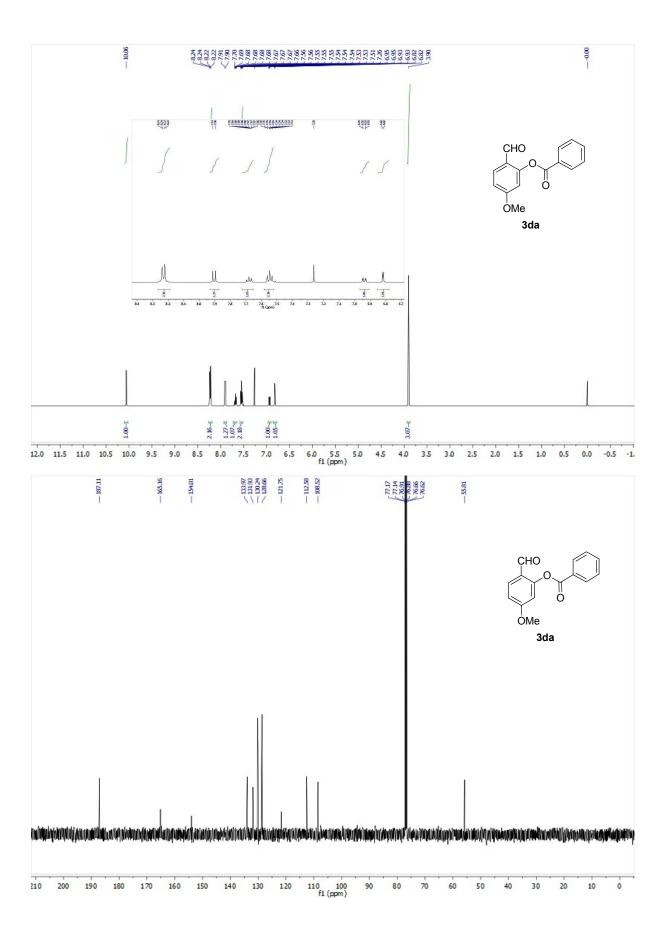
2,2-Dibromo-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethanone (4i): Following the general procedure, the reaction was carried out by heating a mixture of 4'-nitro-2-bromoacetophenone (**2i**, 486 mg, 2.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂.H₂O (200 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 'AmOH (6.0 mL) at 100 °C for 5 h under air to afford the title compound in 43% yield (Yellow oil, 276 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47 – 8.25 (m, 4H), 6.62 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.4, 150.7, 135.5, 130.9, 123.8, 38.7. IR (CHCl₃, cm⁻¹): 1705, 1602, 1525, 1346, 1262. MS (EI, m/z): 321. Anal. calcd. for C₈H₅Br₂NO₃: C, 29.75; H, 1.56; N, 4.34; Found: C, 29.80; H, 1.62; N, 4.09.

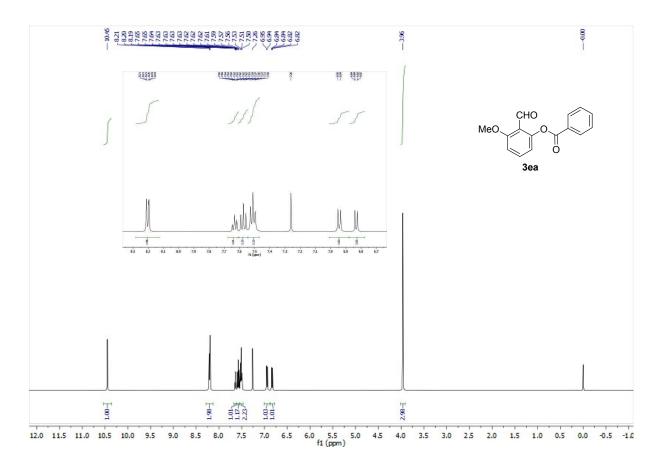
6. NMR-spectra

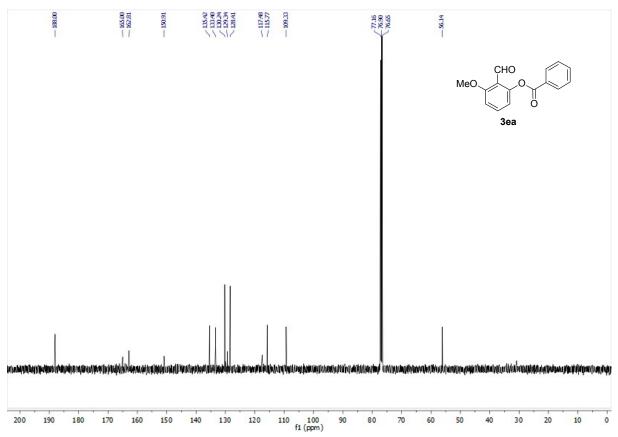


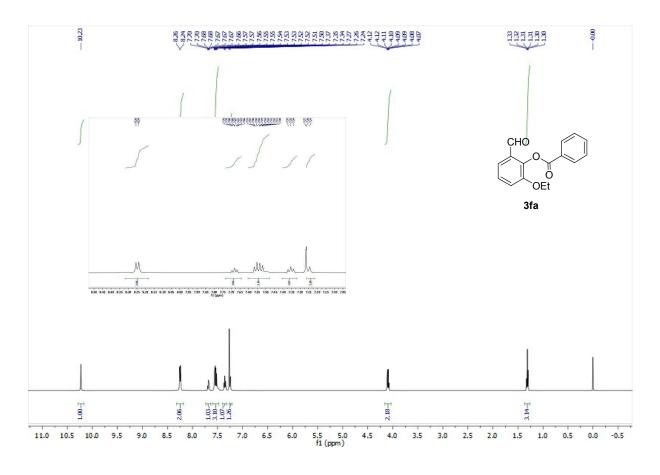


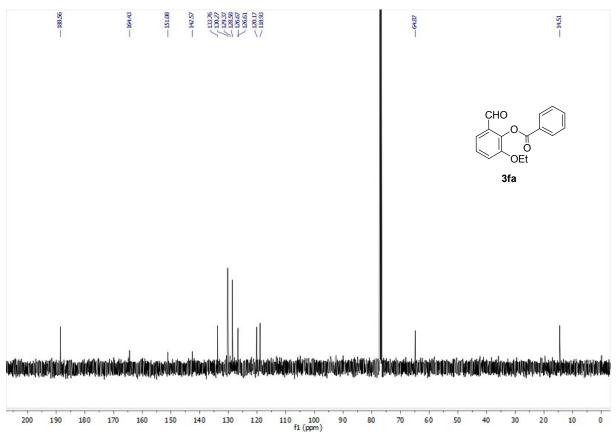


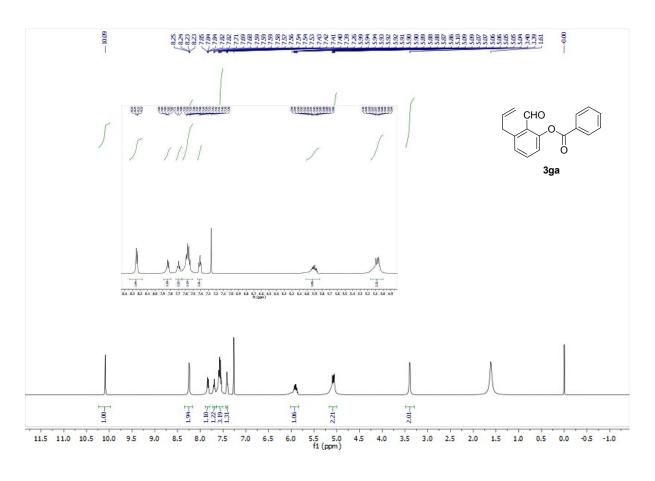


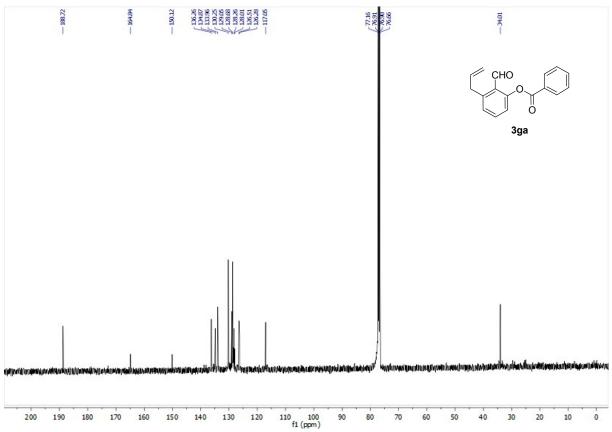


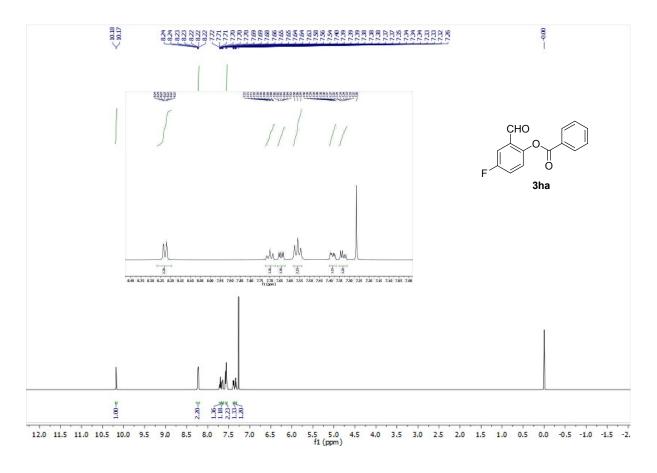


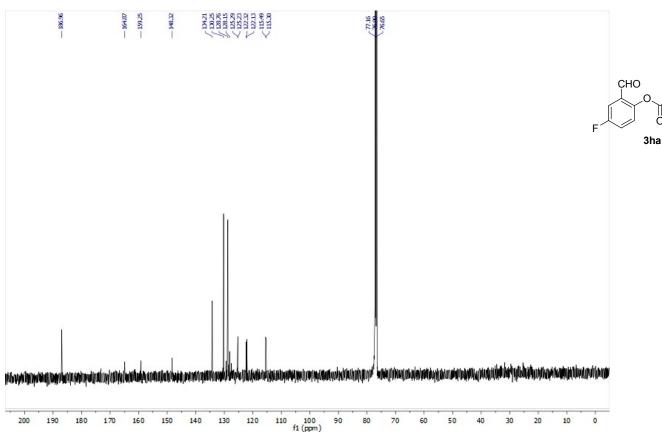


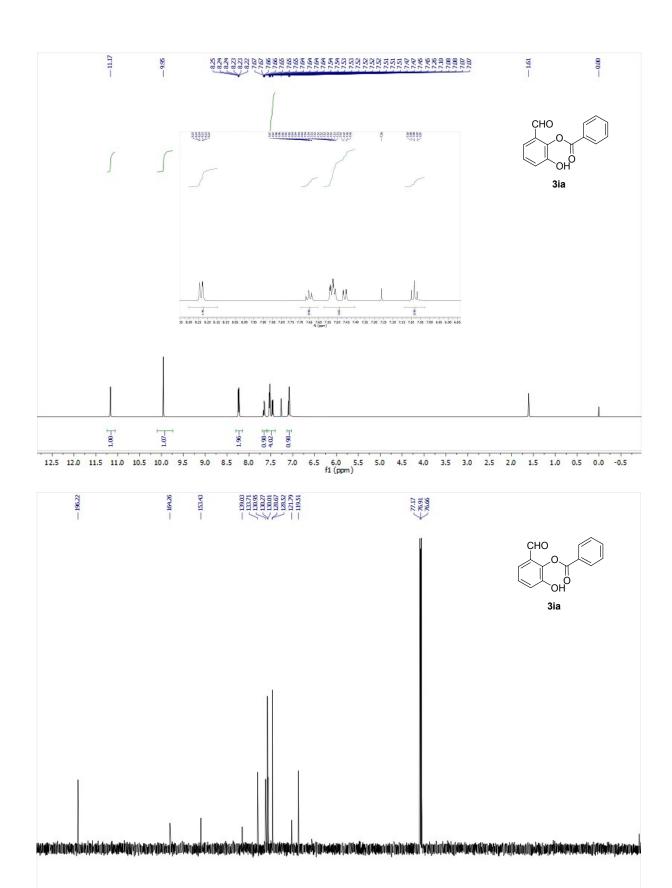




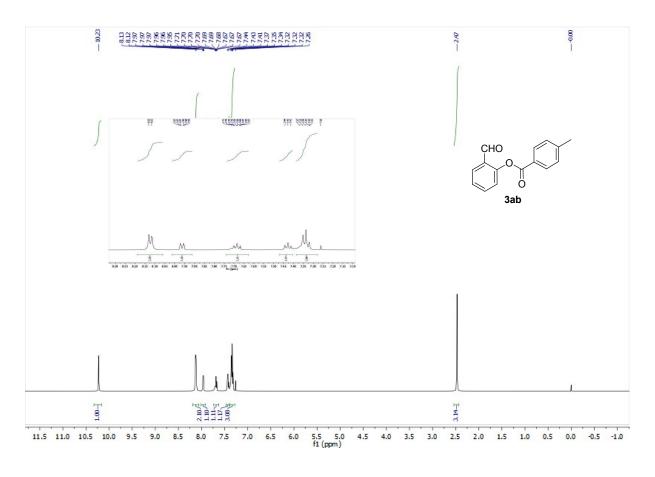


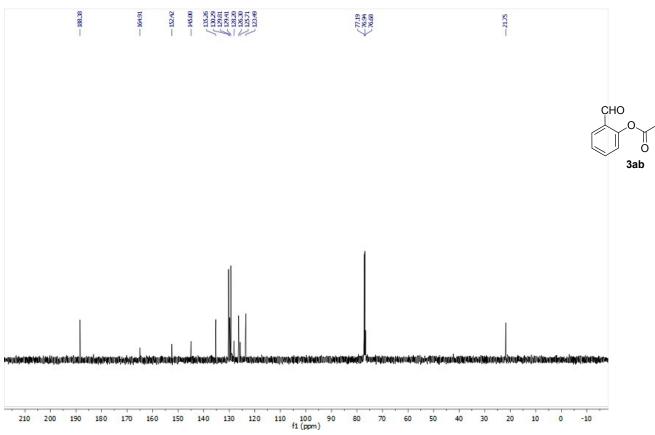


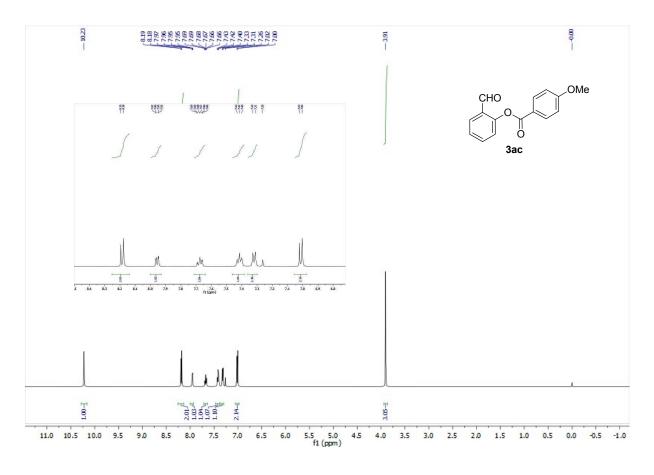


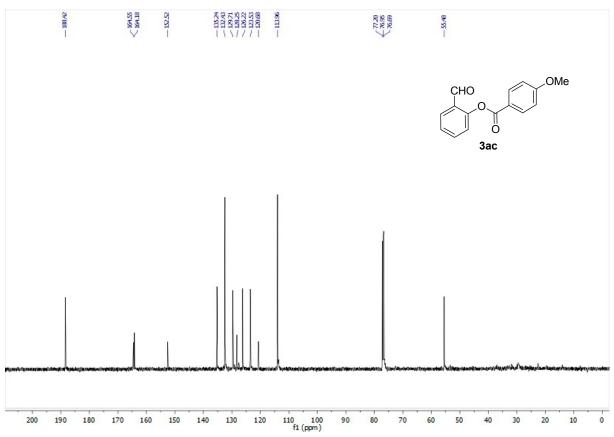


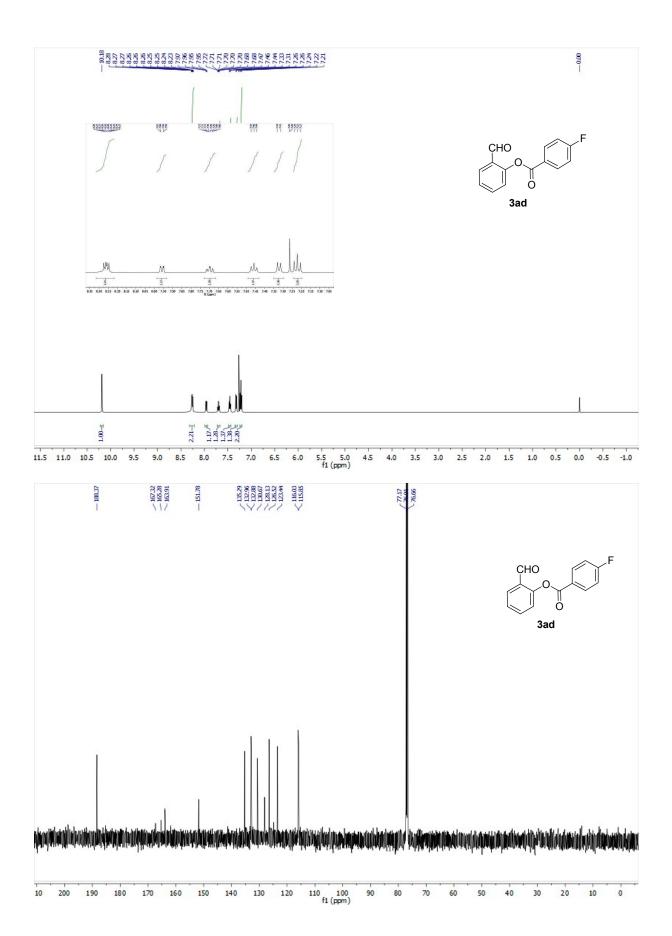
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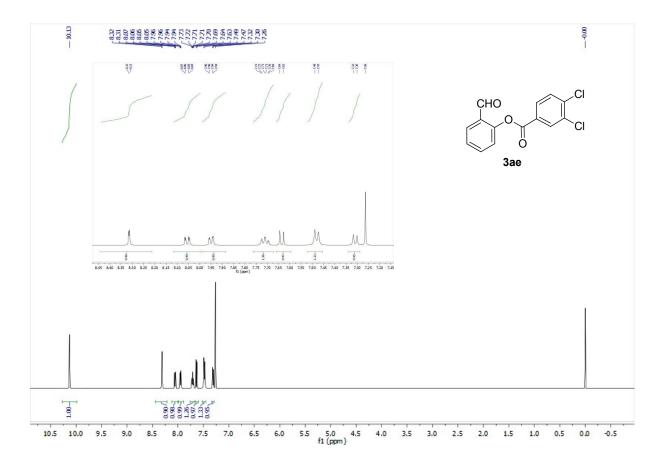


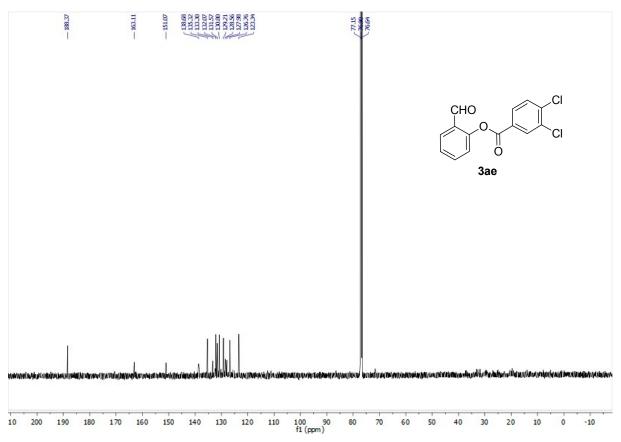


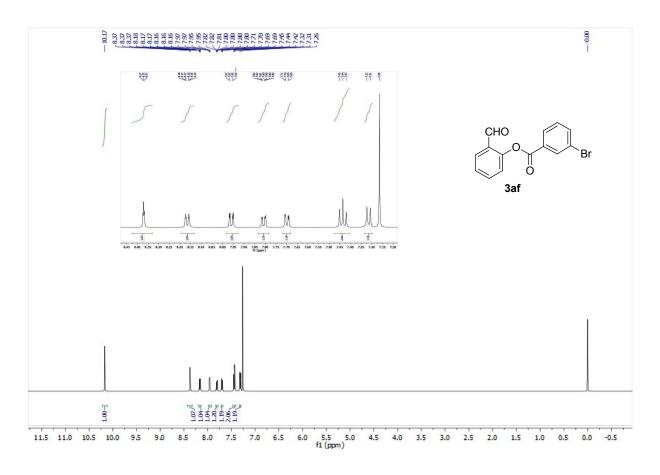


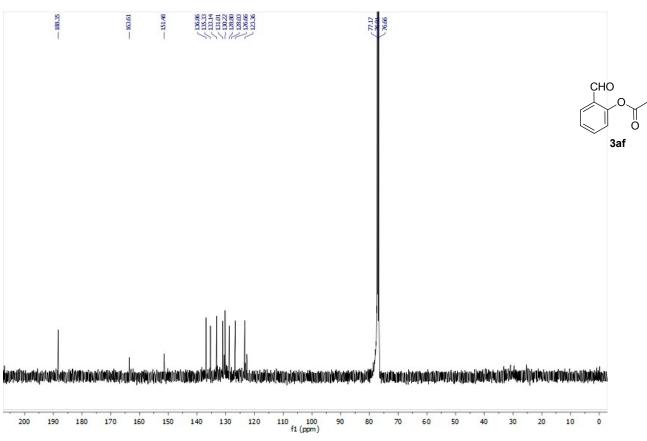


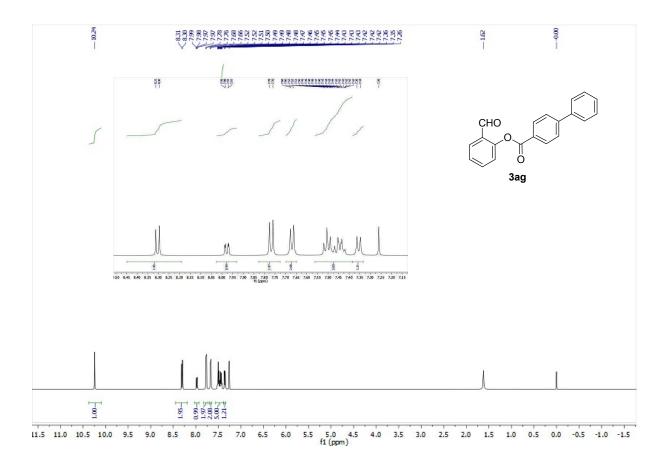


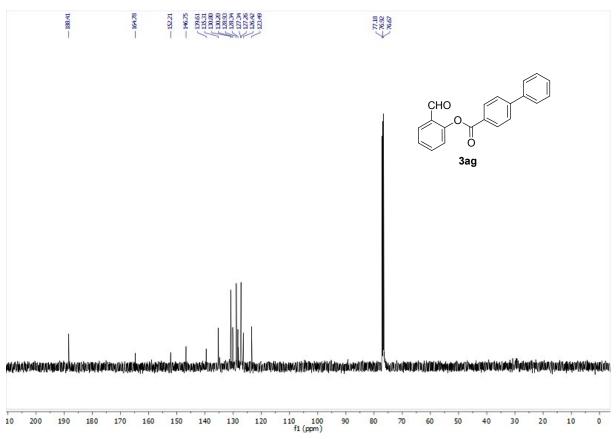


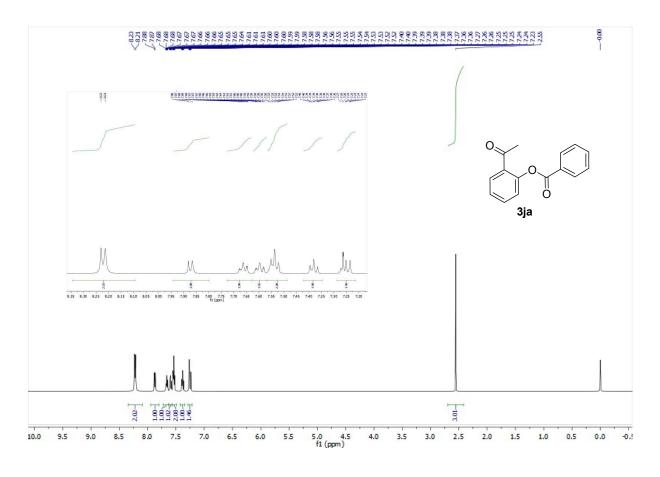


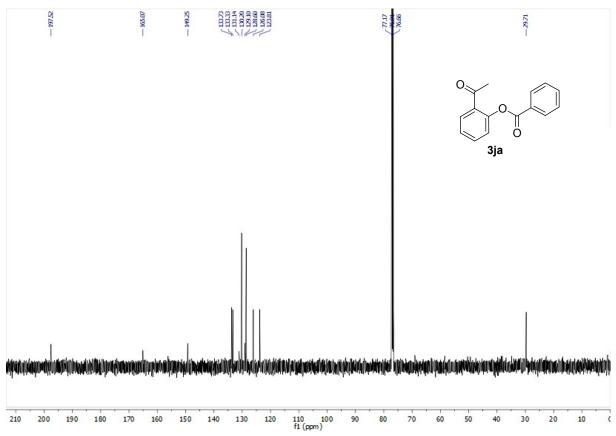


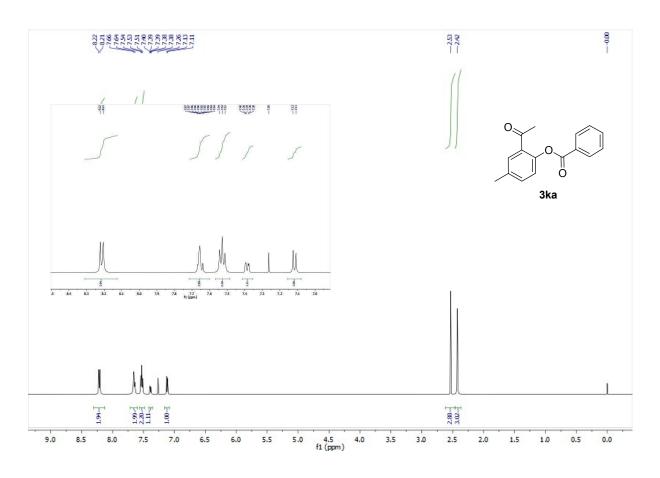


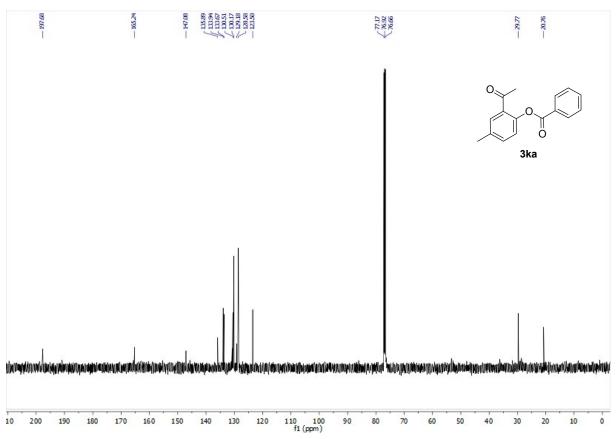


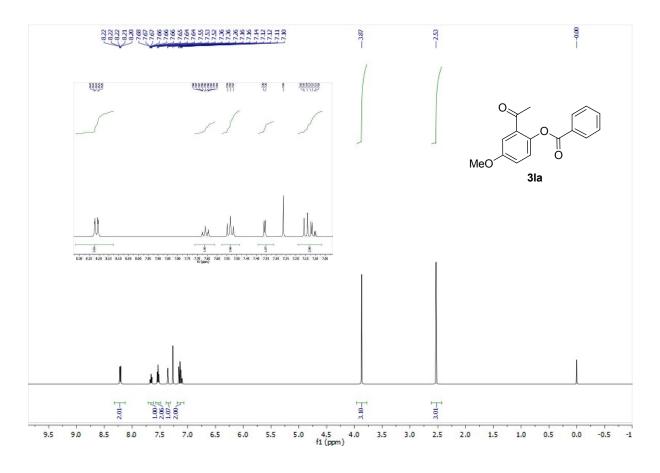


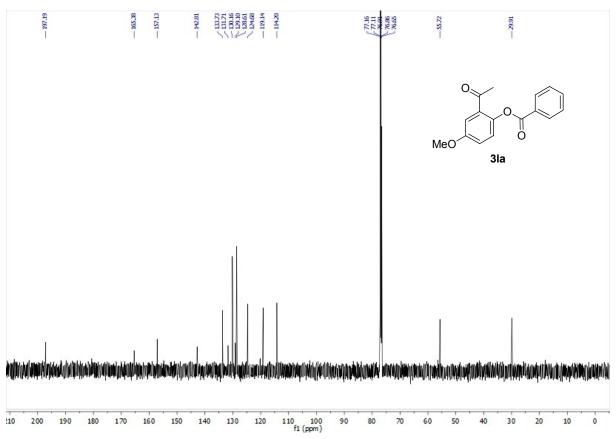


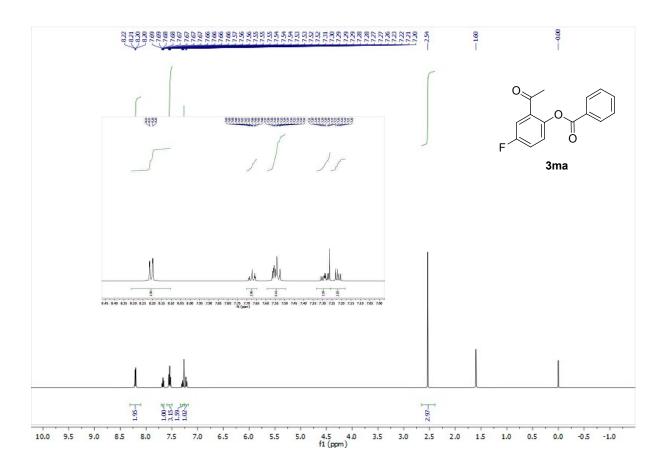


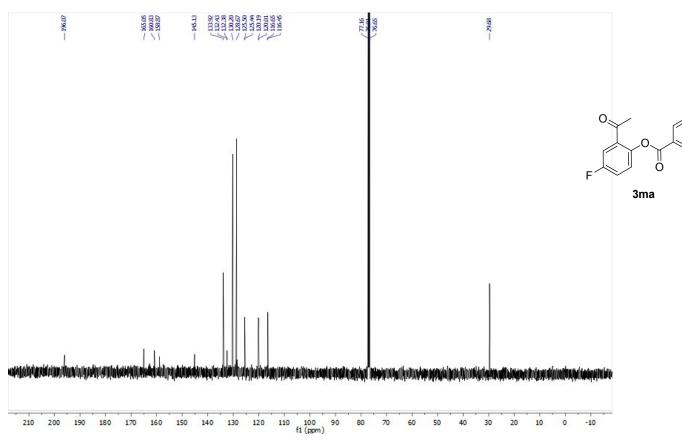


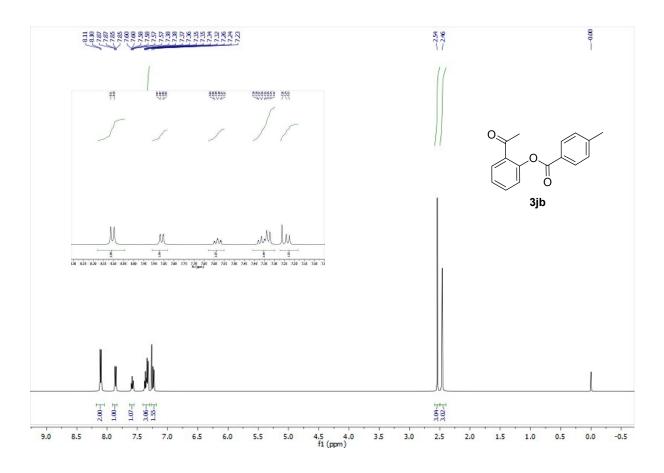


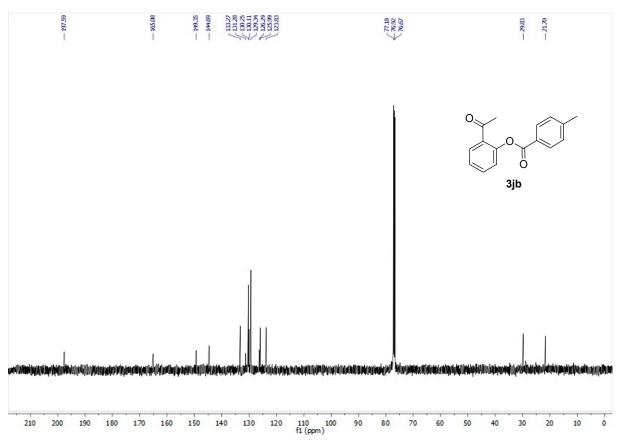


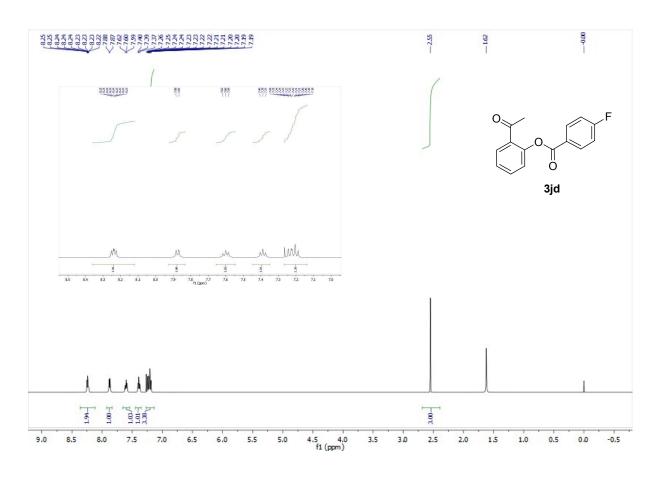


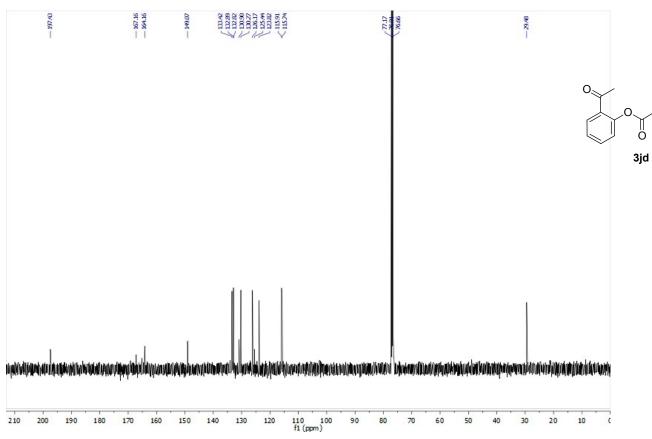


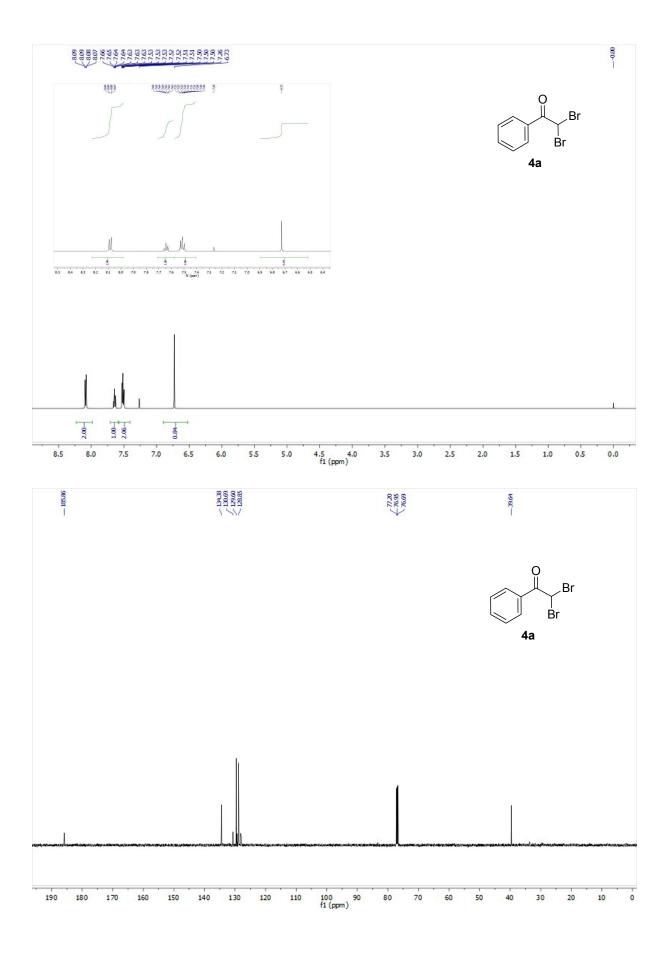


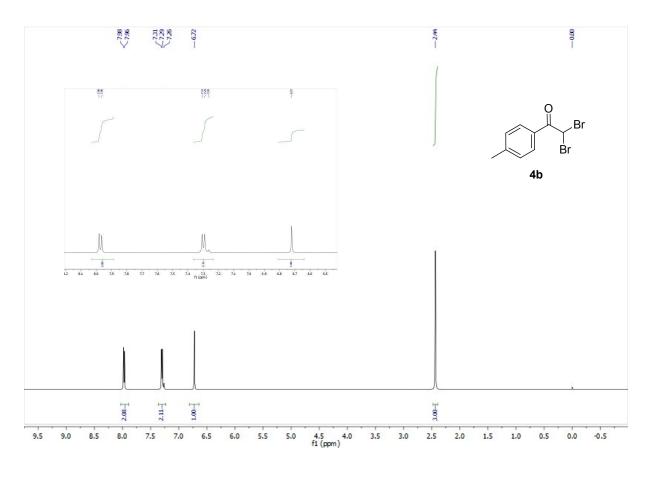


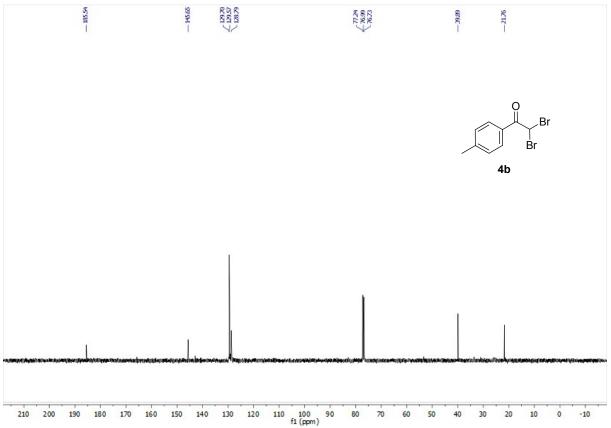


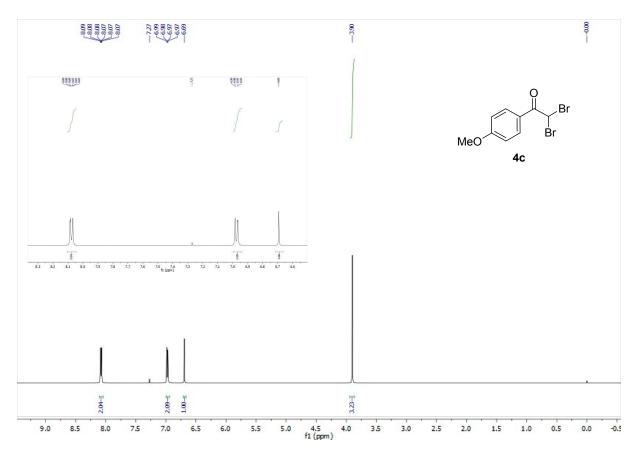


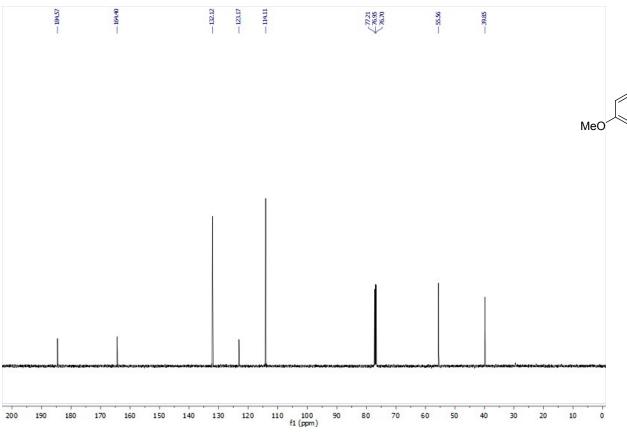




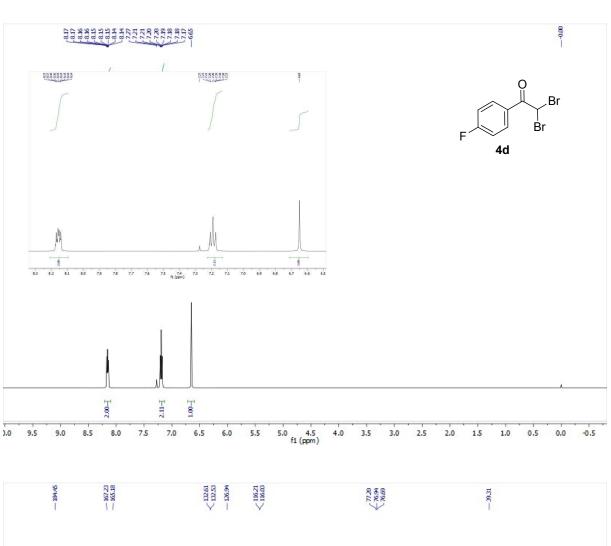


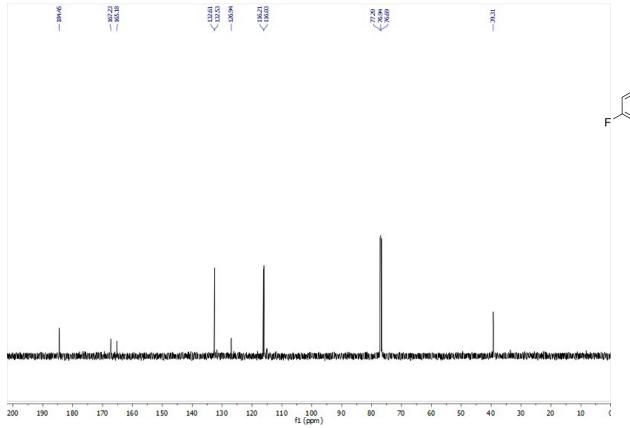




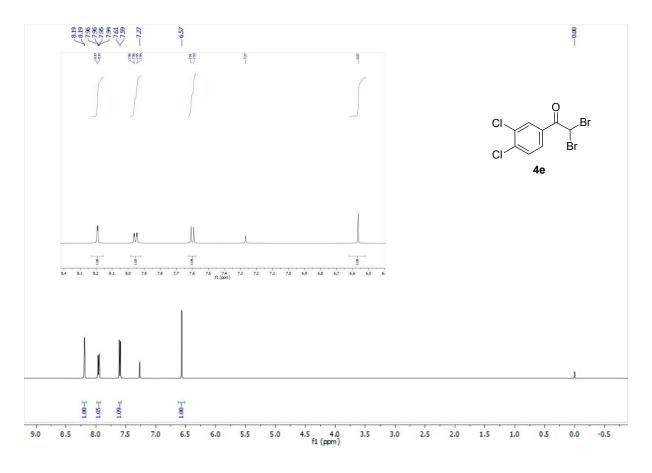


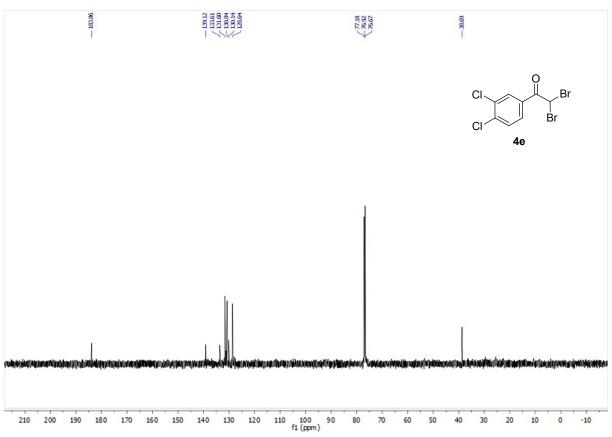
4c

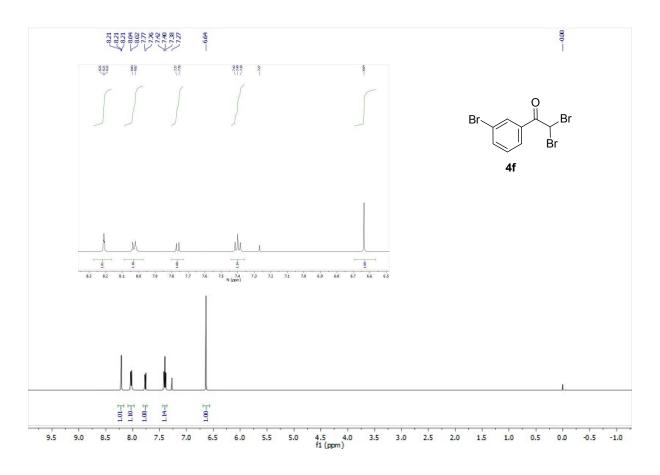


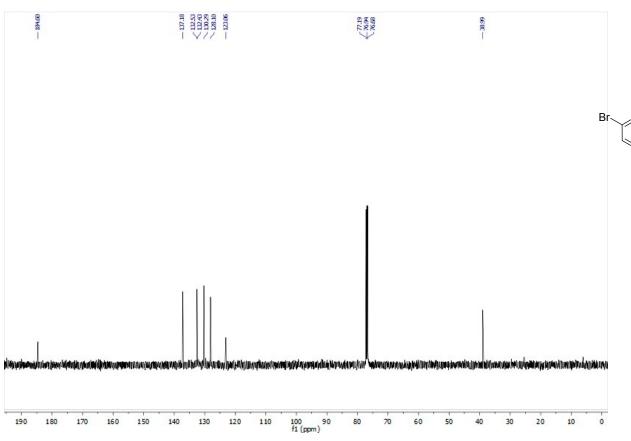


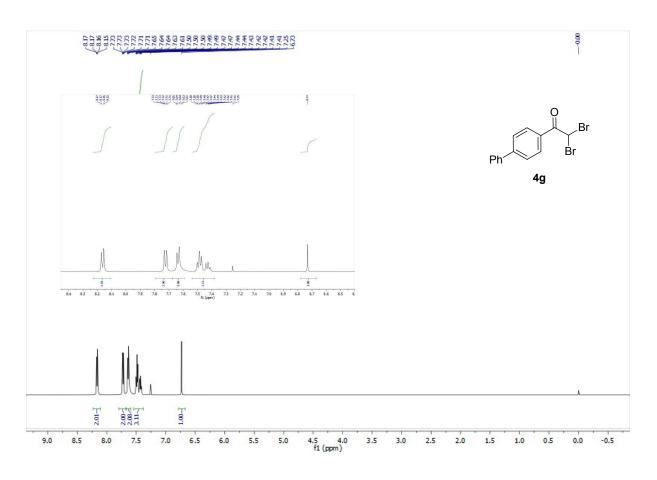
4d

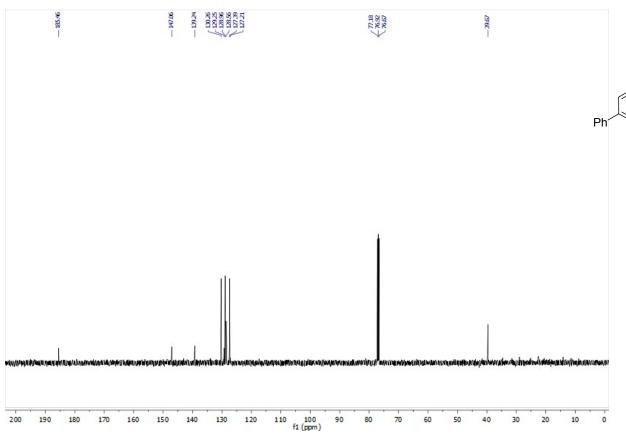












4g

