

Supporting Information

A Tandem Annulation with [1,3]-Hydride Transfer as the Key Step Leading to Isochromans

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General experimental procedures.

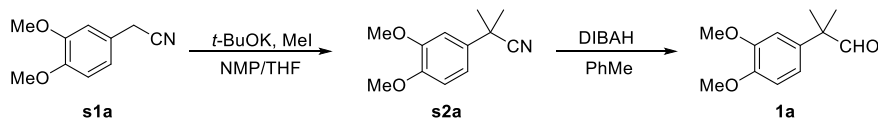
All reactions that required anhydrous or airless conditions were carried by standard procedures under nitrogen atmosphere. Commercially available reagents from Tansoole and Adamas-beta were used as received. The solvents were dried by distillation over the appropriate drying reagents.

^1H NMR spectra were recorded on commercial instruments (400 MHz). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl_3 , $\delta = 7.26$). Spectra were reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration and, assignment. ^{13}C NMR spectra were collected on commercial instruments (101 MHz) with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from the tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as internal standard (CDCl_3 , $\delta = 77.0$). Mass spectra were recorded on ThermoQuest Finnigan LCQDECA system equipped with an ESI source. Enantiomeric excesses (ee) were determined by HPLC analysis using the corresponding commercial chiral column as stated in the experimental procedures at 30 °C with UV detector at 220 nm.

Procedure and spectral data

1. Preparation of starting materials.

General synthetic route to 2-aryl-2,2-dialkylacetaldehydes. 2-aryl-2,2-dialkylacetaldehydes **1a-f** was synthesized according to the reported procedure.¹ Preparation of **1a** is shown as a representative example.

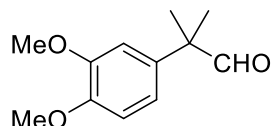


Synthesis of 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (**s2a**):

A solution of *t*-BuOK (22.4 g, 200 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone/THF (1:1, 70 mL) was cooled to 0 °C, and a solution of 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetonitrile (**s1a**) (8.9 g, 50 mmol) and methyl iodide (12.5 mL, 200 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) was added maintaining the reaction temperature below 10 °C. After 1 h reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The mixture was diluted with HCl (3N, 70 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2×100 mL), and the organic layer was separated, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (1×100 mL) and brine (1×100 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford oil. This material was used to next reaction without further purification.

Synthesis of 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal (**1a**):

To a solution of 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (**s2a**) (9.7 g, 47.3 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) was drop wise DIBALH (61.5 mL, 61.5 mmol, 1.3 equiv) (1M solution in toluene) at -50 °C. Reaction mixture was stirred at -50 °C for 2 h, followed by addition of aqueous HCl (6N, 80 mL). After stirring at room temperature for 30 min, the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2×100 mL), and the organic layers were combined, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (1×100 mL), brine (1×100 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with 5% EtOAc/ petroleum ether as eluent to furnish **1a** (8.5 g, 87% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

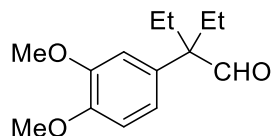


2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal (**1a**).²

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.82 (m, *J* = 8.4, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 1.45 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.94, 148.99, 148.13, 133.29, 118.83, 111.13, 109.93, 55.78, 55.75, 49.88 (s), 22.32 (s).

HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₀NaO₃ (*M* + Na)⁺: 231.0992; found: 231.0994.



2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-ethylbutanal (**1b**)

Pale yellow oil.

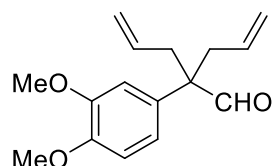
Yield: 83% (from **s1a** and ethyl bromide).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.42 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d,

$J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.01-1.90 (m, 4H), 0.77 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.97, 149.00, 148.06, 131.12, 120.04, 111.03, 110.78, 57.58, 55.84, 55.76, 23.64, 8.01.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 259.1305; found: 259.1294.



2-allyl-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pent-4-enal (1c).

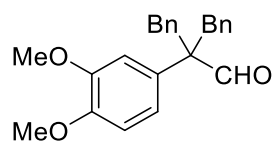
Pale yellow oil.

Yield: 87% (from **s1a** and allyl bromide)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.48 (s, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.61-5.51 (m, 2H), 5.12-5.07 (m, 4H), 3.89 (s, 4H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 2H), 2.68 (s, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 201.57, 149.11, 148.33, 132.69, 130.02, 119.90, 118.85, 111.12, 110.64, 56.29, 55.89, 55.80, 36.50.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 283.1305; found: 283.1316.



2-benzyl-2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropanal (1d).

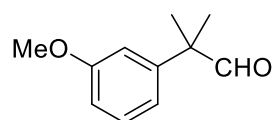
Pale yellow oil.

Yield: 56% (from **s1a** and benzyl bromide).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 6H), 6.90-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.36, 148.86, 148.39, 136.58, 130.54, 130.29, 128.04, 126.55, 120.47, 111.84, 111.04, 59.17, 55.87, 39.83.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 383.1618; found: 383.1623.



2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal (1e).³

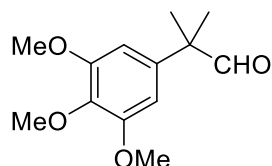
Pale yellow oil.

Yield: 92% (from 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)acetonitrile **s1b** and methyl iodide)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.48 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.81 (m, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 201.91, 159.86, 142.75, 129.73, 118.95, 112.98, 111.95, 55.11, 50.36, 22.32.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 201.0886; found: 201.0886.



2-methyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propanal (1f).⁴

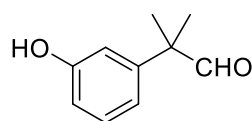
Pale yellow oil.

Yield: 82% (from 2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)acetonitrile **s1c** and methyl iodide)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.46 (s, 1H), 6.46 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.66, 153.31, 137.15, 136.59, 103.90, 60.71, 56.09, 50.42, 22.36.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NaO₄ (M + Na)⁺: 261.1097; found: 261.1091.



Synthesis of 2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal (1g)

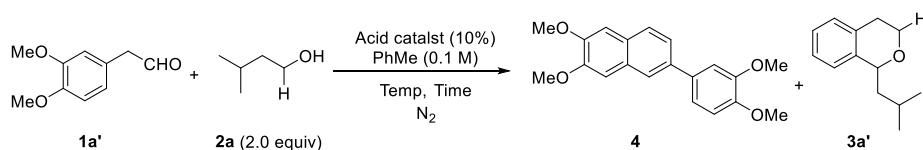
To a solution of 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal (**1e**) (534 mg, 3.0 mmol) in 5 mL of *N*-methylpyrrolidinone was added thiophenol (0.31 mL, 3 mmol) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (41 mg, 0.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 210 °C for 8 h. After cooling, the mixture was partitioned between diethyl ether (10 mL) and 5% aqueous NaOH (5 mL). The aqueous layer was acidified with dilute HCl (1N, 5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2×10 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under reduced pressure. Chromatography of the residue using 10% EtOAc/petroleum ether as eluent gave the title compound as a pale yellow oil (369 mg, 75% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 1.44 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.71, 156.08, 142.84, 130.06, 118.92, 114.31, 113.87, 50.39, 22.31.

HRMS (ESI) m/z C₁₀H₁₃O₂ (M + H)⁺: 165.0916; found: 165.0910.

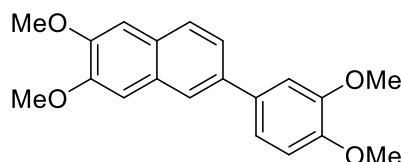
2. Screening reaction conditions for [1,3]-hydride of oxacarbenium ion generated by 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetaldehyde **1a'** and 3-methyl-1-butanol **2a**.



Entry	Catalyst	Temp [°C]	Time [h]	Yield [%] ^[a]		Recovery of 1a' [%] ^[a]
				4	3a'	
1	TfOH	RT	2	83	0	0
2	AcOH	110	12	0	0	92
3	PhCOOH	110	12	0	0	90
4	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	RT	12	23	0	<5
5	TMSOTf	RT	4	68	0	0
6	In(OTf) ₃	70	2	47	0	32
7	Sc(OTf) ₃	70	2	59	0	18
8	InCl ₃	70	2	35	0	32
9	AlCl ₃	70	2	11	0	62
10 ^[b]	TfOH	RT	2	87	-	0

[a] As determined by NMR. [b] **2a** was not used.

General procedur: 11 reaction tubes were each charged with **1a'** (0.2 mmol) and **2a** (0.4 mmol) and toluene (2 mL), followed by addition of Lewis or Brønsted acid catalyst (10 mol%) at room temperature. The reaction mixture were heated to the given temperature and stirred under nitrogen atmosphere. After 2 h to 12 h, the crude products were analyzed by NMR.



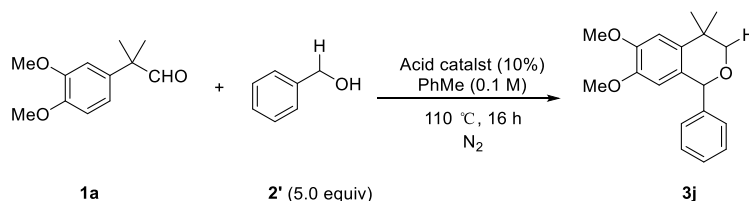
6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethoxynaphthalene (4)⁵: A 10 mL reaction tube was charged with **1a'** (0.2 mmol) and **2a** (0.4 mmol) and toluene (2 mL), followed by addition of TfOH (10 mol%) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. After 2 h, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3×5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with 30% EtOAc/ petroleum ether as eluent to give title compound as a white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 6H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 149.81, 149.43, 149.18, 148.47, 136.83, 134.41, 129.44, 128.12, 126.75, 123.80, 123.72, 119.45, 111.53, 110.54, 106.44, 106.09, 55.99, 55.96, 55.86.

HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NaO₄ (*M* + Na)⁺: 347.1259; found: 347.1249.

3. Screening reaction conditions for [1,3]-hydride of oxacarbenium ion generated **1a** and benzyl alcohol **2'**



Entry	Catalyst	Yield [%] ^[a]
1	TfOH	0
2	BF ₃ .Et ₂ O	5
3	Sc(OTf) ₃	0
4	In(OTf) ₃	0
5	Al(OTf) ₃	0
6	Bi(OTf) ₃	0
7	Ga(OTf) ₃	0
8	Y(OTf) ₃	0
9	ScCl ₃ .6H ₂ O	0
10 ^[b]	BF ₃ .Et ₂ O	25 ^[c]

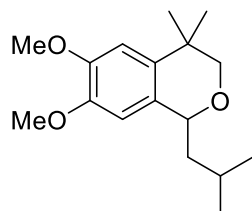
[a] As determined by NMR. [b] 200 mmol% of BF₃.Et₂O was used. [c] Isolated yield.

4. Synthesis of isochroman derivatives.

General procedure A: To a solution of 2-aryl-2,2-dialkylacetaldehyde **1** (0.2 mmol) and alcohol **2** (1.0 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) was Sc(OTf)₃ (10 mol%) at room temperature, then the reaction mixture was

stirred for 16 h at 110 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3x5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel or preparative TLC with 5% EtOAc/ petroleum ether as eluent to give isochroman derivatives.

General procedure B: A 10 mL reaction tube was charged with 2-aryl-2,2-dialkylacetaldehyde **1** (0.2 mmol), alcohol **2** (0.25 mL) and Sc(OTf)₃ (10 mol%) at room temperature, then the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 110 °C under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (5 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3x5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel or preparative TLC with 5% EtOAc/ petroleum ether as eluent to give isochroman derivatives.

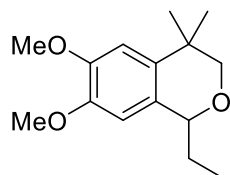


1-ethyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3a): Followed general procedure A, compound **3a** was obtained as a colorless oil in 78% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.02-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.49 (m, 1H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.58, 147.00, 135.37, 129.81, 108.30, 107.44, 74.41, 73.84, 55.89, 55.88, 45.20, 33.33, 28.11, 26.54, 24.41, 24.01, 21.52.

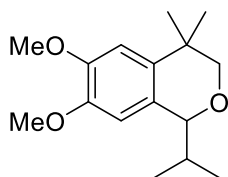
HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₇O₃ (*M* + *H*)⁺: 279.1955; found: 279.1966.



1-ethyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3b): Followed general procedure A, compound **3b** was obtained as a colorless oil in 56% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.01-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H).

HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₂₂NaO₃ (*M* + Na)⁺: 273.1461; found: 273.1454.

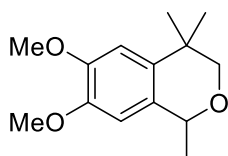


1-isopropyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3c): Followed general procedure A, compound **3c** was obtained as a colorless oil in 76% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.66 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.29-2.22 (m, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.19 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 0.74 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.45, 147.11, 136.42, 128.68, 108.15, 106.97, 80.90, 75.52, 55.87, 55.83, 33.40, 32.83, 29.34, 25.06, 19.85, 15.17.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 287.1623; found: 287.1615.

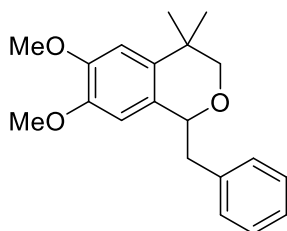


6,7-dimethoxy-1,4,4-trimethylisochromane (3d): Followed general procedure B, compound **3d** was obtained as a colorless oil in 57% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.82 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.53 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.72, 147.14, 135.18, 130.30, 108.31, 107.41, 75.10, 72.88, 55.93, 55.87, 33.48, 29.07, 25.63, 22.14.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 259.1305; found: 259.1299.

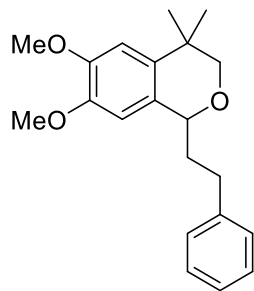


1-benzyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3e): Followed general procedure A, compound **3e** was obtained as a colorless oil in 32% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 5.00 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.69 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.74, 146.83, 138.65, 135.73, 129.56, 128.36, 128.17, 126.20, 108.16, 107.79, 76.90, 73.75, 55.85, 55.75, 42.54, 33.33, 27.76, 26.40.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 335.1618; found: 335.1622.

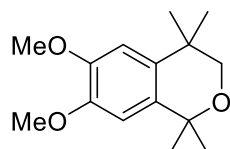


6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethyl-1-phenethylisochromane (3f): Followed general procedure A, compound **3f** was obtained as a colorless oil in 57% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.31-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 7.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.72 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.71, 147.15, 142.45, 135.75, 128.69, 128.46, 128.32, 125.70, 108.32, 107.20, 75.74, 74.57, 55.91, 55.89, 37.66, 33.43, 31.29, 28.70, 25.96.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 349.1774; found: 349.1774.

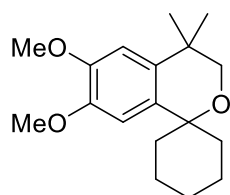


6,7-dimethoxy-1,1,4,4-tetramethylisochromane (3g): Followed general procedure B, compound **3g** was obtained as a colorless oil in 31% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.26 (s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.52, 147.07, 134.69, 133.73, 108.27, 107.90, 74.93, 70.99, 55.96, 55.88, 33.56, 29.78, 27.00.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$: 251.1642; found: 251.1626.

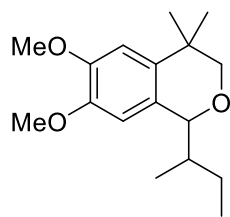


6',7'-dimethoxy-4',4'-dimethylspiro[cyclohexane-1,1'-isochromane] (3h): Followed general procedure A, compound **3h** was obtained as a colorless oil in 75% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 1.96 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.69 (m, 3H), 1.65-1.56 (m, 5H), 1.25 (s, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.37, 146.88, 135.27, 134.30, 108.34, 107.90, 75.37, 70.09, 55.93, 55.82, 36.97, 33.44, 27.16, 25.52, 21.75.

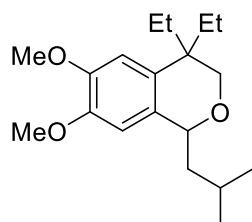
HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_3$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$: 291.1955; found: 291.1953.



1-(sec-butyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3i): Followed general procedure A with racemic 2-methyl-1-butanol, compound **3i** was obtained as a colorless oil in 47% yield, as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ major product: 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 4.70 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.64 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.98-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.47 (m, 1H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 0.71 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); minor product: 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.63 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.98-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.47 (m, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.17 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ major product: 147.46, 147.19, 136.58, 128.79, 108.22, 106.88, 79.31, 75.74, 55.97, 55.88, 39.91, 33.45, 29.50, 26.84, 25.01, 13.01, 12.49; minor product: 147.51, 147.10, 136.53, 128.68, 108.22, 106.97, 81.66, 75.71, 55.95, 55.88, 40.01, 33.48, 29.30, 25.14, 22.52, 16.5, 12.72. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$: 279.1955; found: 279.1959.

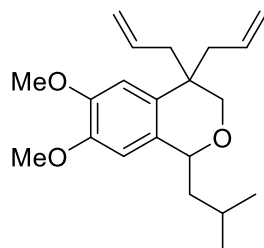


4,4-diethyl-1-isobutyl-6,7-dimethoxyisochromane (3k): Followed general procedure A, compound **3k** was obtained as a colorless oil in 72% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.68 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 3.79 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.01-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.58 (m, 6H), 1.55-1.47 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.21, 146.76, 132.13, 131.65, 109.38, 107.38, 74.01, 68.77, 55.94, 55.75, 45.14, 39.06, 31.65, 30.52, 24.41, 24.00, 21.52, 8.89, 8.66.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{NaO}_3$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 329.2087; found: 329.2090.



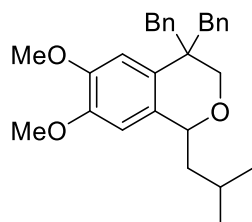
4,4-diallyl-1-isobutyl-6,7-dimethoxyisochromane (3l): Followed general procedure A, compound **3l**

was obtained as a pale yellow oil in 51% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 5.74-5.59 (m, 2H), 5.07-4.99 (m, 4H), 4.70 (dd, J = 10.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 3.77 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.35 (ddd, J = 28.0, 14.1, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.98-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.78 (ddd, J = 14.2, 10.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (ddd, J = 14.1, 9.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.11, 147.05, 134.68, 134.50, 131.44, 131.27, 117.76, 117.70, 109.66, 107.46, 74.15, 68.91, 55.96, 55.77, 45.20, 43.00, 41.97, 38.98, 24.39, 24.00, 21.57.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 353.2087; found: 353.2094.

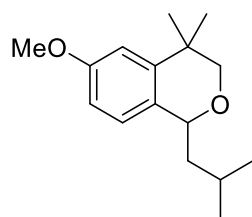


4,4-dibenzyl-1-isobutyl-6,7-dimethoxyisochromane (3m): Followed general procedure A, compound **3m** was obtained as a colorless oil in 33% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.22-7.14 (m, 6H), 7.00 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 4.59 (dd, J = 10.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.73 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.50 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.19-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.00 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.51 (ddd, J = 14.1, 10.2, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.43-1.37 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.03, 146.22, 138.11, 137.77, 131.64, 130.96, 130.64, 127.83, 127.70, 126.11, 126.08, 110.76, 107.31, 74.39, 69.23, 55.71, 55.65, 45.32, 45.25, 43.27, 41.33, 24.27, 24.00, 21.54.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 453.2401; found: 453.2407.

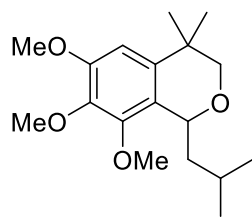


1-isobutyl-6-methoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3n): Followed general procedure A, compound **3n** was obtained as a colorless oil in 82% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.95 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 10.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.67 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.03-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.79 (ddd, J = 14.1, 10.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (ddd, J = 14.1, 10.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.98, 144.71, 130.00, 125.59, 111.20, 110.87, 74.54, 73.83, 55.17, 45.39, 33.95, 28.30, 26.37, 24.43, 24.02, 21.56.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$: 249.1855; found: 249.1831

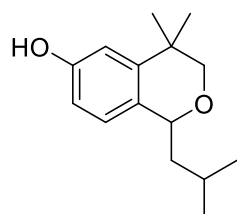


1-isobutyl-6,7,8-trimethoxy-4,4-dimethylisochromane (3o): Followed general procedure A, compound **3o** was obtained as a pale yellow oil in 73% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.59 (s, 1H), 4.89 (dd, J = 10.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.69 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.99-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.81 (ddd, J = 14.2, 10.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.56-1.49 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.06, 149.06, 139.80, 138.53, 123.88, 104.02, 70.91, 70.32, 60.61, 60.29, 55.93, 42.39, 33.35, 29.31, 25.63, 24.87, 23.88, 21.17.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{28}\text{NaO}_4$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 331.1880; found: 331.1874.

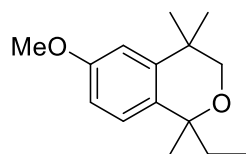


1-isobutyl-4,4-dimethylisochroman-6-ol (3p): Followed general procedure A, compound **3p** was obtained as a pale yellow oil in 28% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 10.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.02-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.79 (ddd, J = 14.1, 10.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (ddd, J = 14.2, 10.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.03, 144.91, 129.85, 125.84, 113.07, 111.94, 74.62, 73.64, 45.34, 33.85, 28.16, 26.45, 24.43, 24.00, 21.56.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}$) $^+$: 235.1698; found: 235.1687.



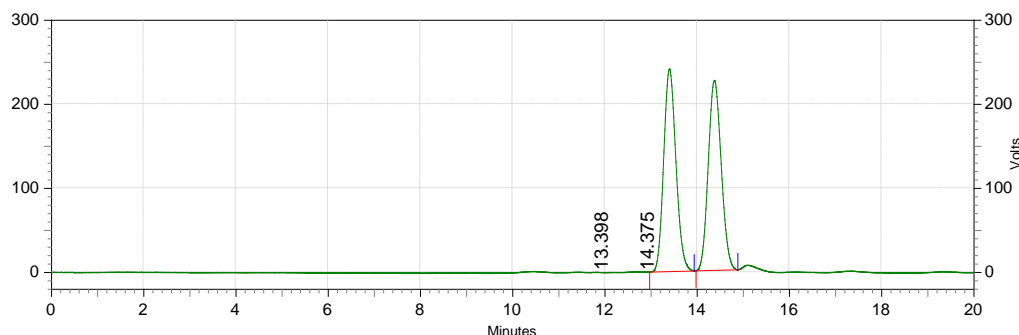
1-ethyl-6-methoxy-1,4,4-trimethylisochromane (3q): (*S*)-2-butanol was used and followed general procedure A, compound **3q** was obtained as a colorless oil in 56% yield and 0% ee. The ee was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC analysis [Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H, isopropanol/hexane = 2/98, 0.3 mL/min, λ = 220 nm, t_R = 11.46 min, t_R = 13.24 min].

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.97 - 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.82 - 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.81 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

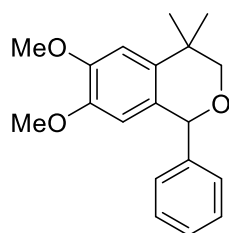
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.73 (s), 144.62 (s), 133.09 (s), 126.22 (s), 111.44 (s), 110.50 (s), 77.18 (s), 70.51 (s), 55.14 (s), 35.01 (s), 34.03 (s), 27.95 (s), 27.28 (s), 26.42 (s), 8.26 (s).

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}$ ($M + \text{H}$) $^+$: 235.1698, found: 235.1689.

HPLC



RT (min)	Area	Area (%)	Height	Height (%)
13.398	4446004	50.140	240869	51.608
14.375	4421207	49.860	225863	48.392



6,7-dimethoxy-4,4-dimethyl-1-phenylisochromane (3j): To a solution of 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropanal **1a** (0.2 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (1.0 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) was $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (200 mol%) at room temperature, then the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 110°C under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (2 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by preparative TLC with 10% EtOAc/ petroleum ether as eluent to give the title compound **3j** as a colorless oil in 25% yield.

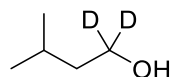
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35-7.01 (m, 5H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.72 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.07, 146.93, 142.16, 135.82, 128.89, 128.38, 128.10, 127.82, 109.32, 108.02, 80.23, 75.01, 55.89, 55.75, 33.36, 29.02, 26.16.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) $^+$: 321.1461; found: 321.1466.

5. D-labeling experiments

The starting material ethanol- d_6 [**D₆**]-**2d** was commercially available synthesized and 3-methyl-1-butanol-1,1- d_2 [**D₂**]-**2a** according to the reported procedure.⁶



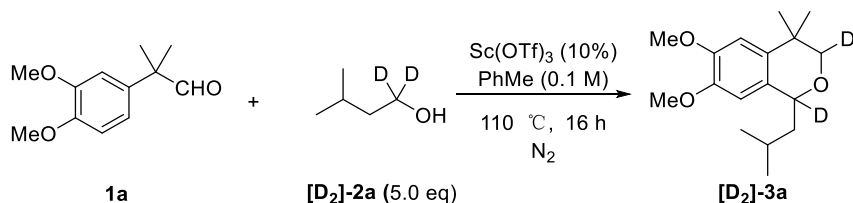
3-methyl-1-butanol-1,1- d_2 ([D₂]-2a)

Colorless oil

Yield: 97%

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.77-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.46 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 0.92 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 41.55, 29.70, 24.66, 22.61.

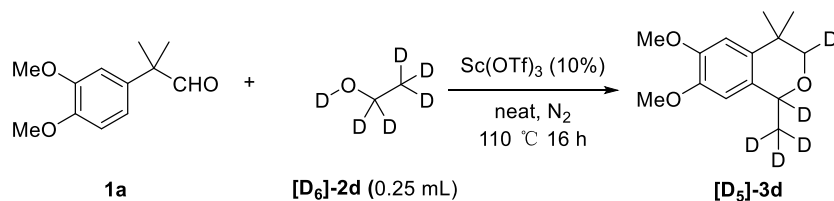


To a solution of **1a** (0.2 mmol) and **[D₂]-2a** (1.0 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) was $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (10 mol%) at room temperature, then the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 110°C under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (2 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3x5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with 5% EtOAc / petroleum ether as eluent to give the title compound **[D₂]-3a** as a colorless oil in 68% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 3.65 (s, 0.5H), 3.44 (s, 0.5H), 2.051.95 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.51 (ddd, $J = 14.2, 10.0, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.59, 146.99, 135.39, 129.75, 108.30, 108.30, 107.46, 107.46, 33.24, 28.03, 27.97, 26.66, 26.60, 24.42, 24.02, 21.53.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{D}_2\text{O}_3$ ($M + \text{H}^+$): 281.2080; found: 281.2083.



A 10 mL reaction tube was charged with **1a** (0.2 mmol), **[D₆]-2d** (0.25 mL) and $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ (10 mol%) at room temperature, then the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 110°C under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (5 mL). The crude products were extracted with EtOAc (3x5 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with 5% EtOAc / petroleum ether as eluent to give the title compound **[D₅]-3d** as a colorless oil in 45% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 0.5H), 3.50 (s, 0.5H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.74, 147.15, 135.23, 130.24, 108.34, 107.42, 55.96, 55.89, 33.41, 29.04, 25.69.

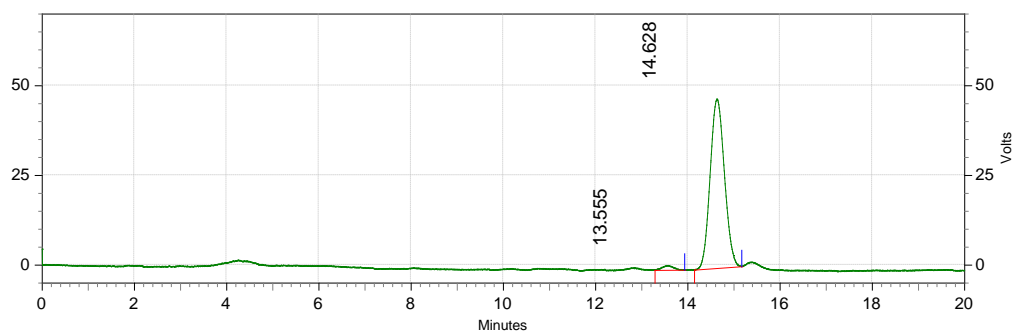
HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{D}_5\text{O}_3$ ($M + \text{H}^+$): 242.1799; found: 242.1799.

6. Racemization of **3q**.

Racemic **3q** was separated by chiral stationary phase HPLC to give analyzable amount of enantiomeric **3q** with 96% ee. Then, the enantiomeric **3q** was respectively subjected to the following reactions: (1) **3q** with 88% ee was observed in the presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ with *n*-hexane as solvent at 50°C for one hour. (2) **3q** with 50% ee was observed in the presence of $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$ with *n*-hexane as solvent at

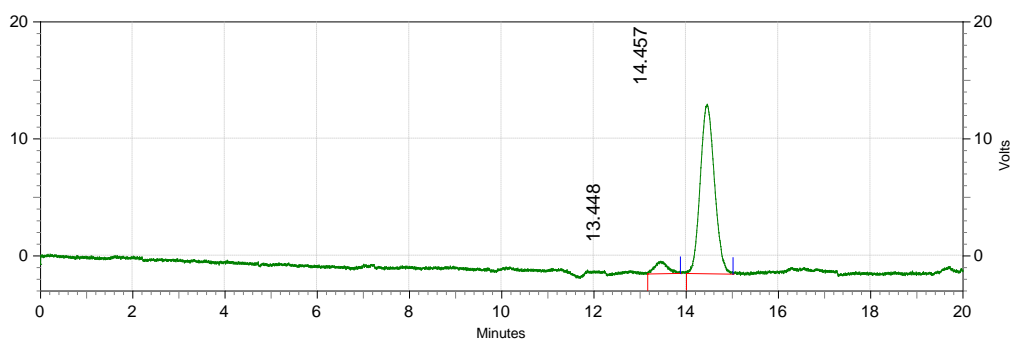
110 °C for one hour.

(a) enantiomeric **3q**



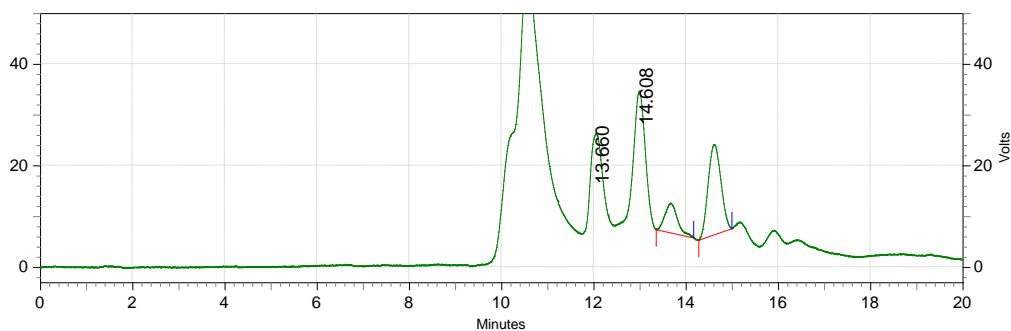
RT (min)	Area	Area (%)	Height	Height (%)
13.555	23291	2.234	1317	2.713
14.628	1019215	97.766	47223	97.287

(b) **3q** obtained at 50 °C



RT (min)	Area	Area (%)	Height	Height (%)
13.448	20506	6.207	1062	6.831
14.457	309856	93.793	14484	93.169

(c) **3q** obtained at 110 °C

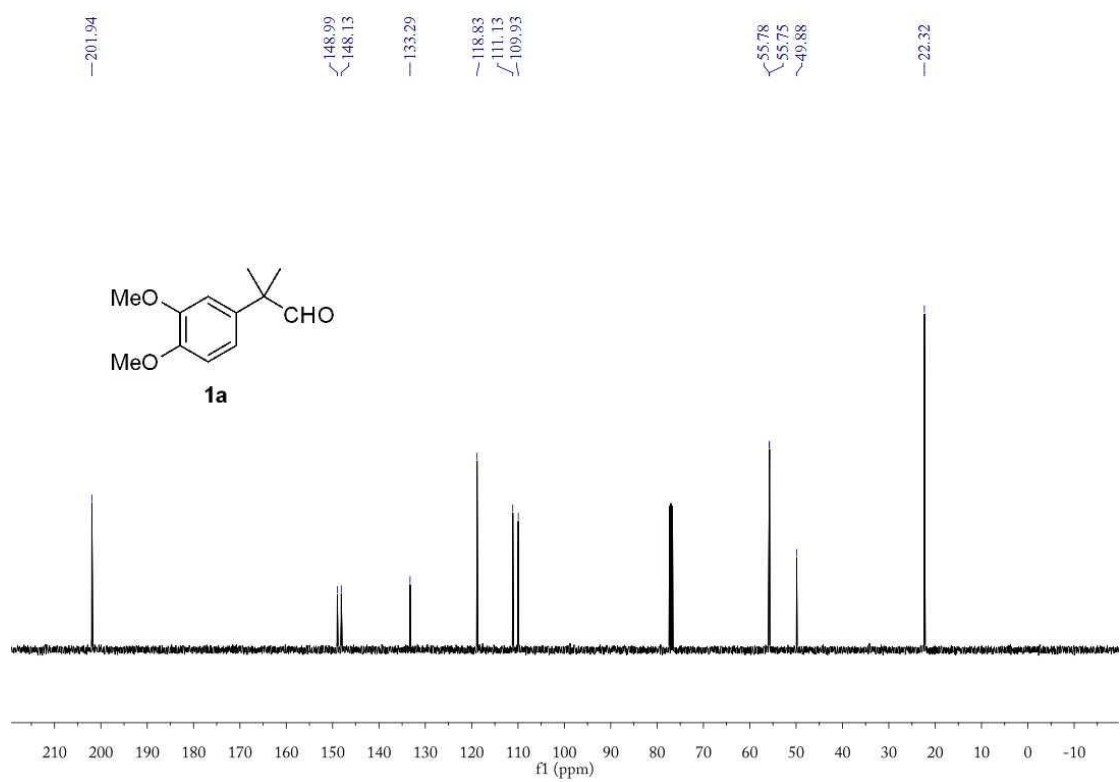
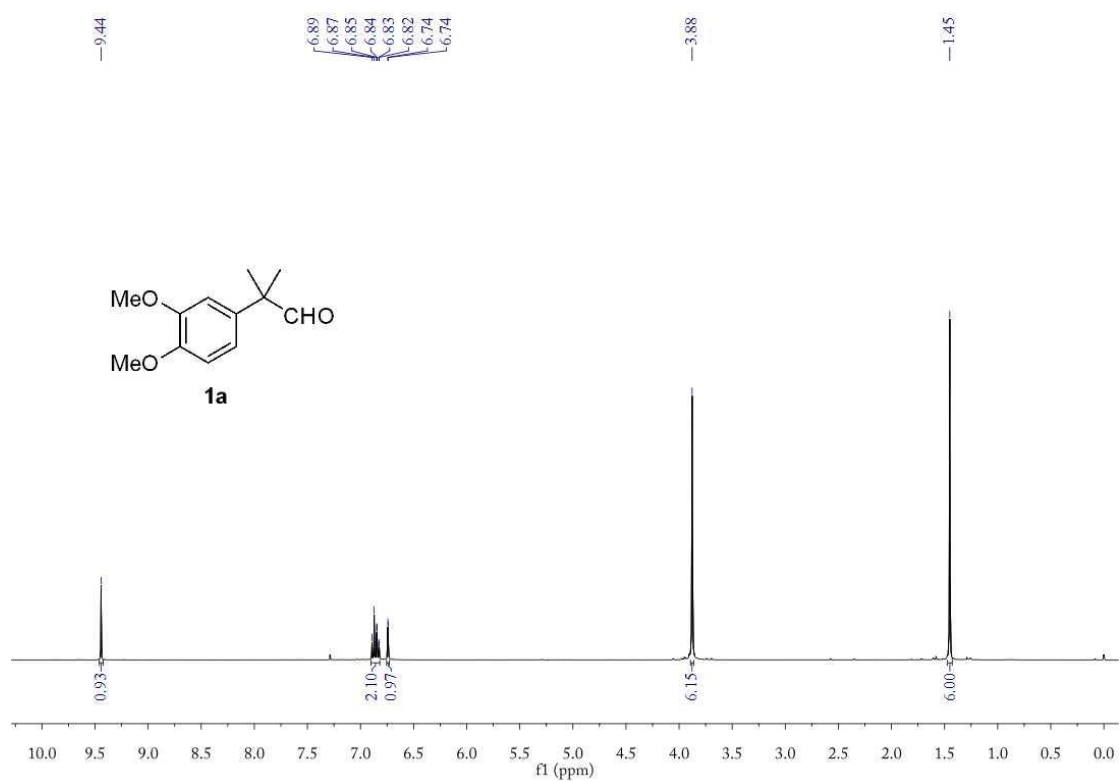


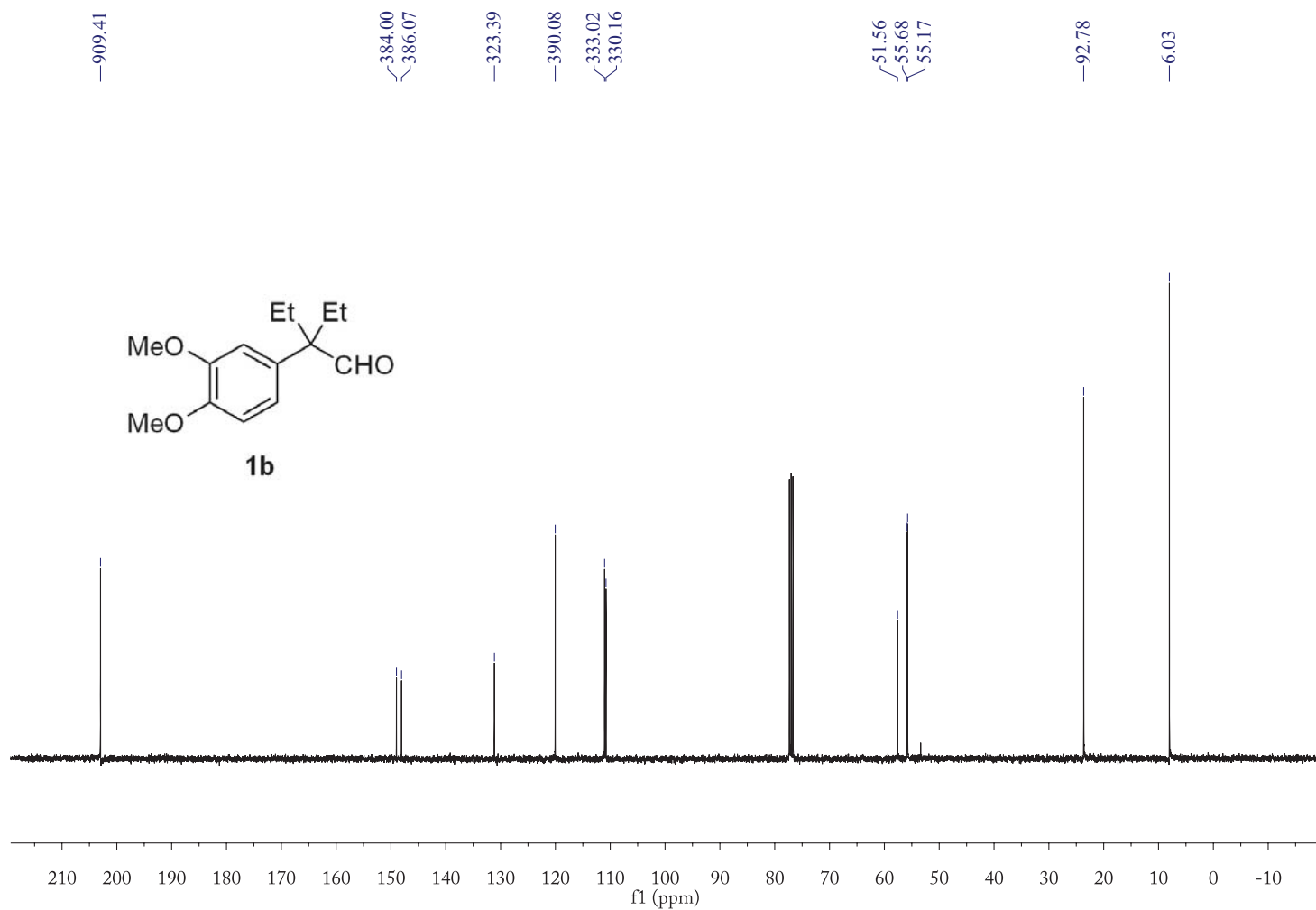
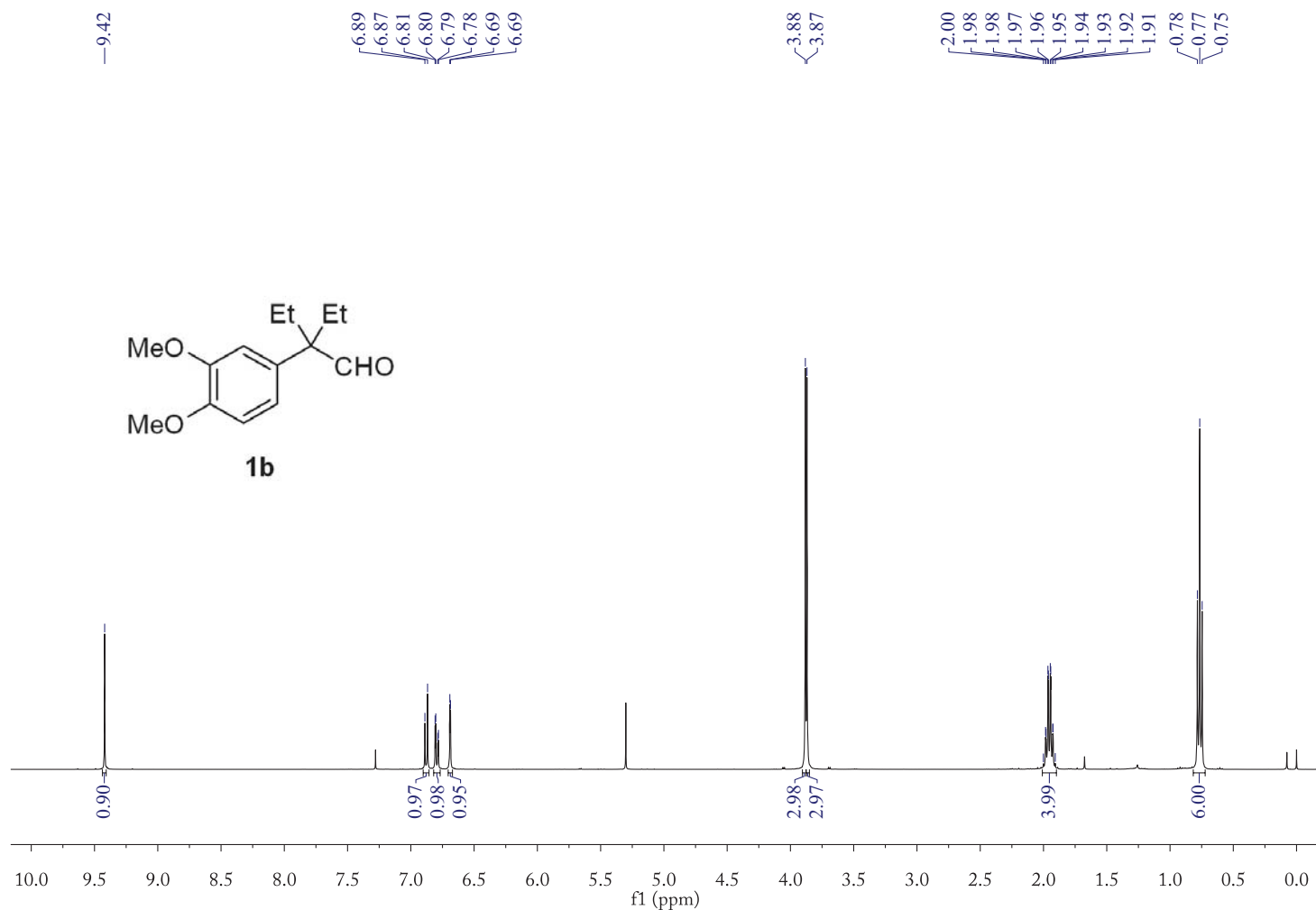
RT (min)	Area	Area (%)	Height	Height (%)
13.660	110974	24.396	5856	24.750
14.608	343916	75.604	17805	75.250

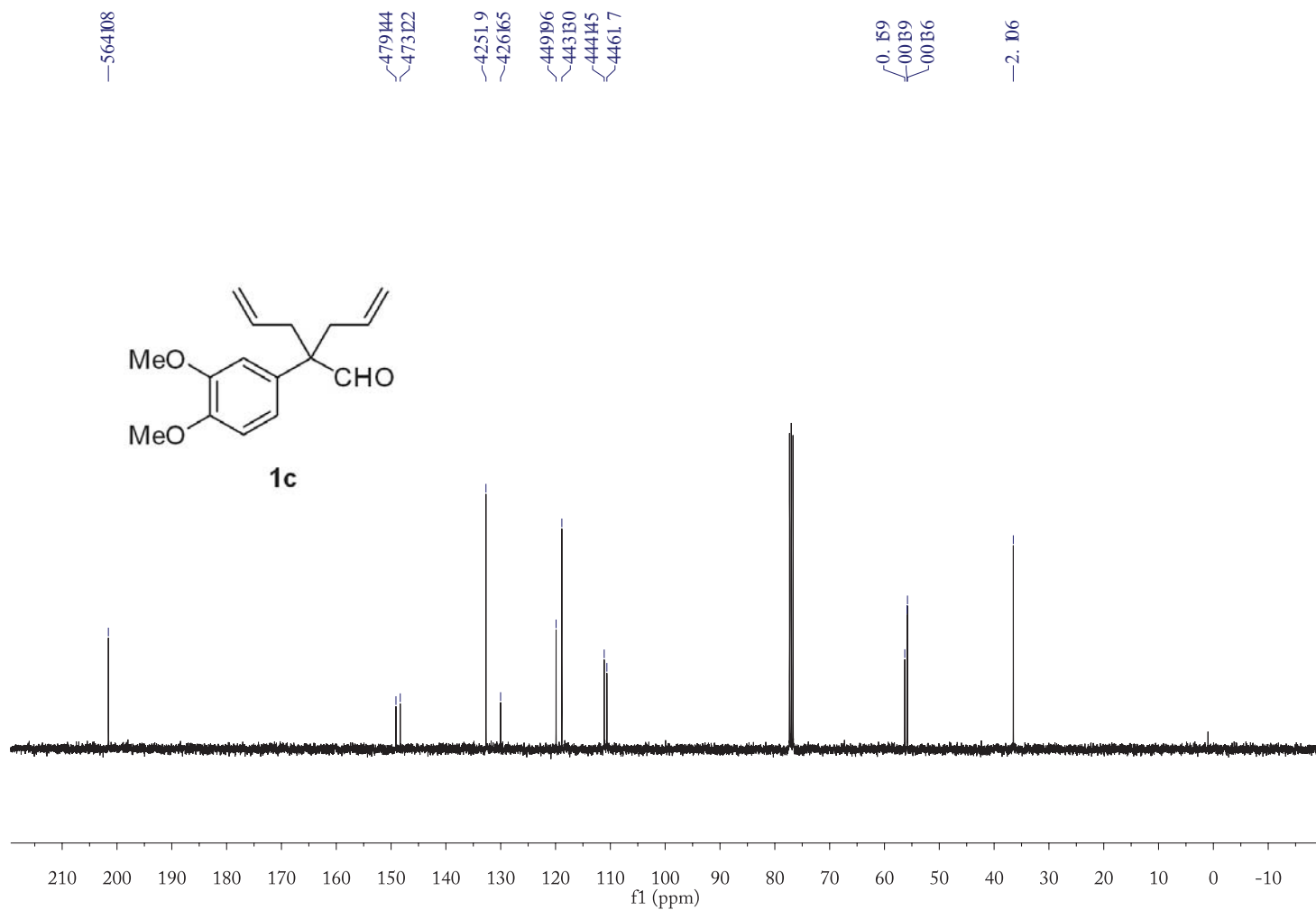
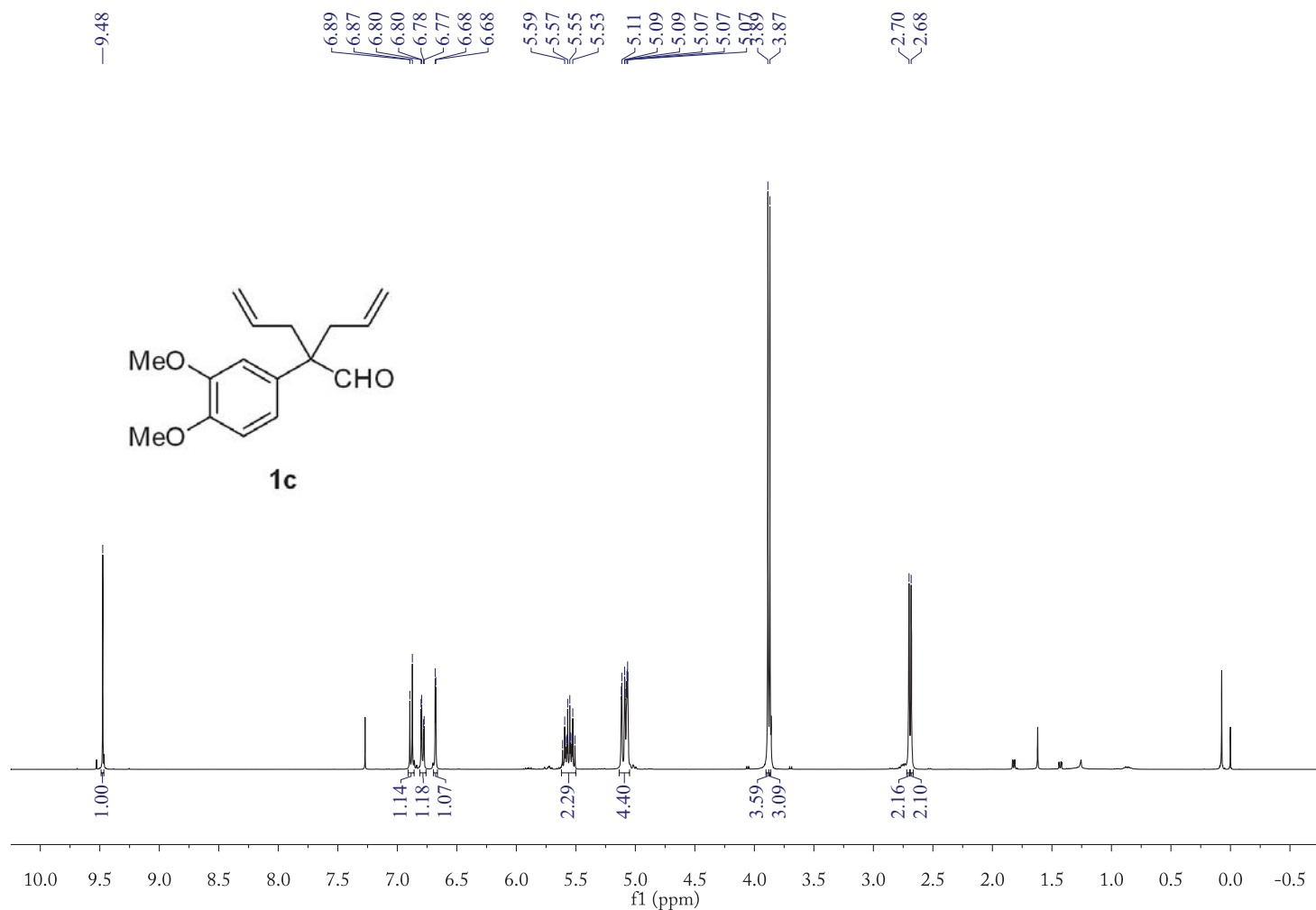
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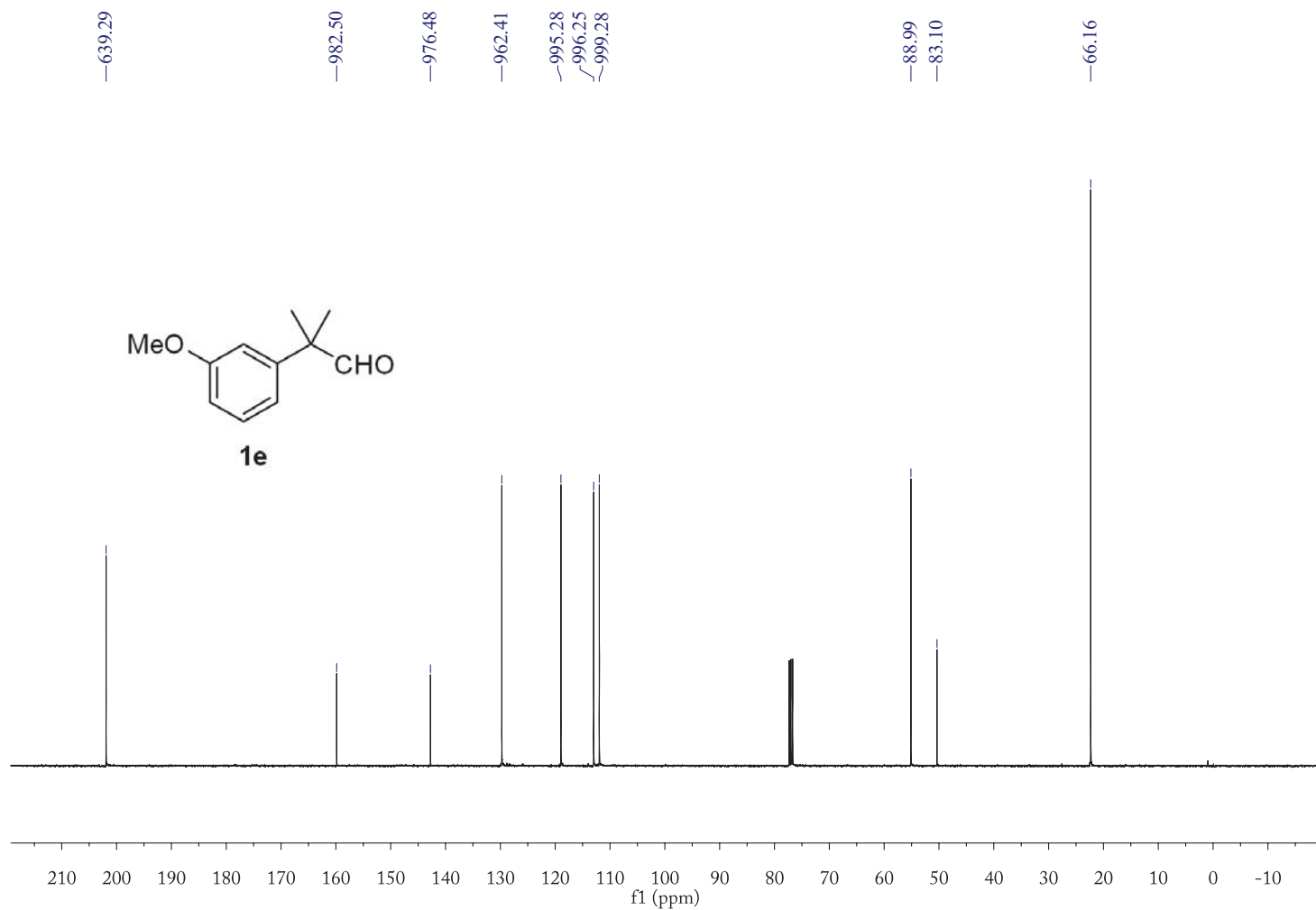
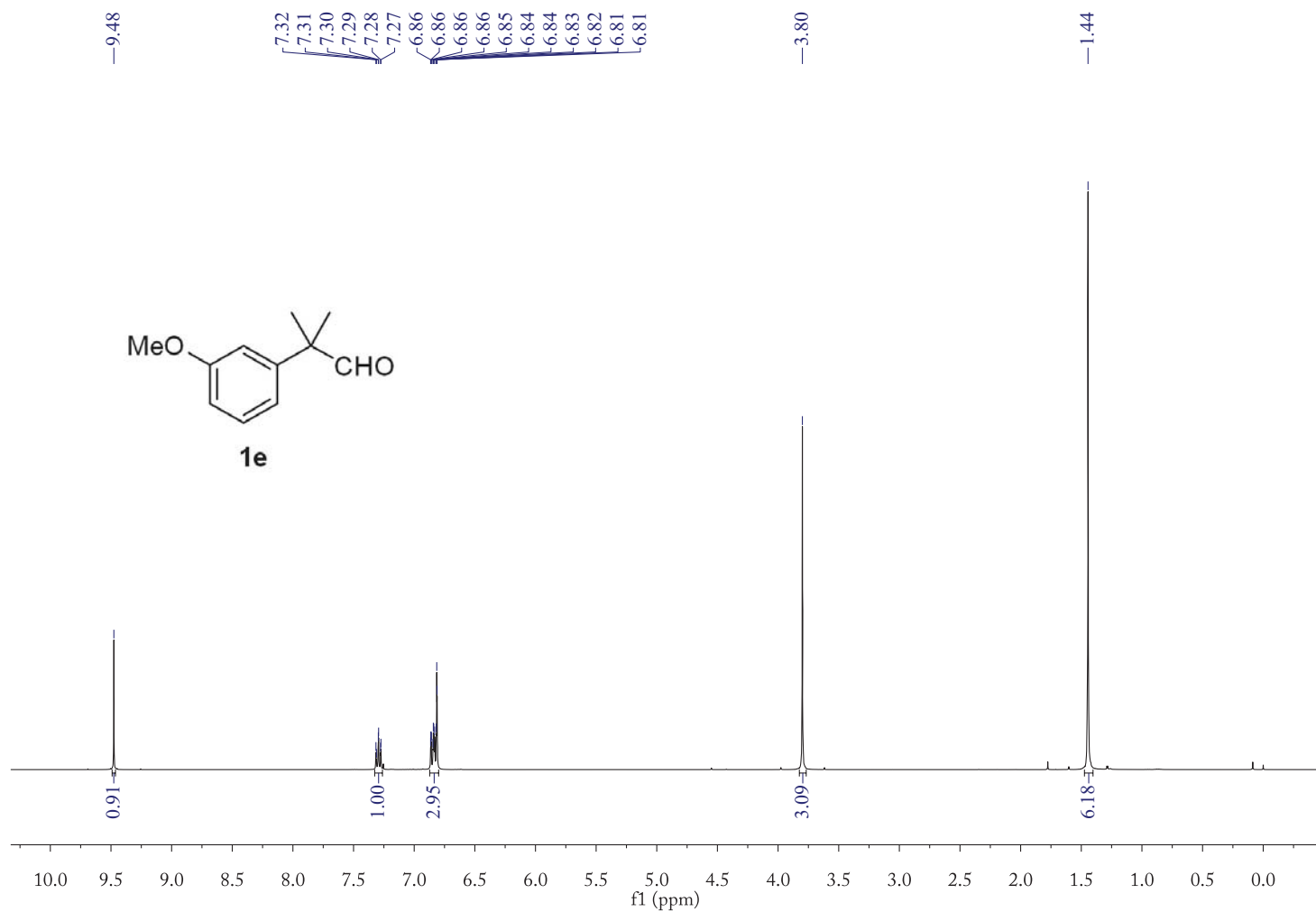
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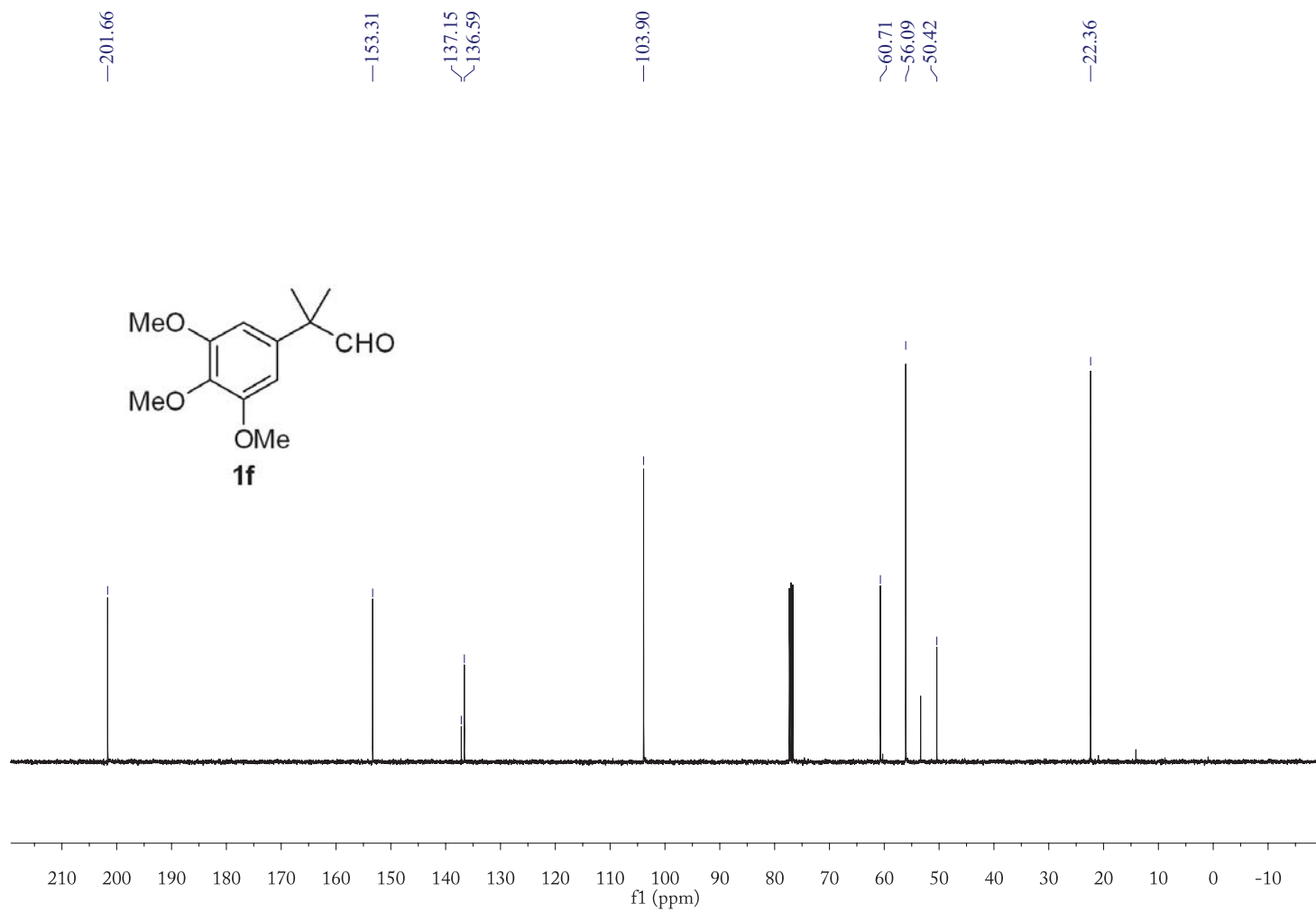
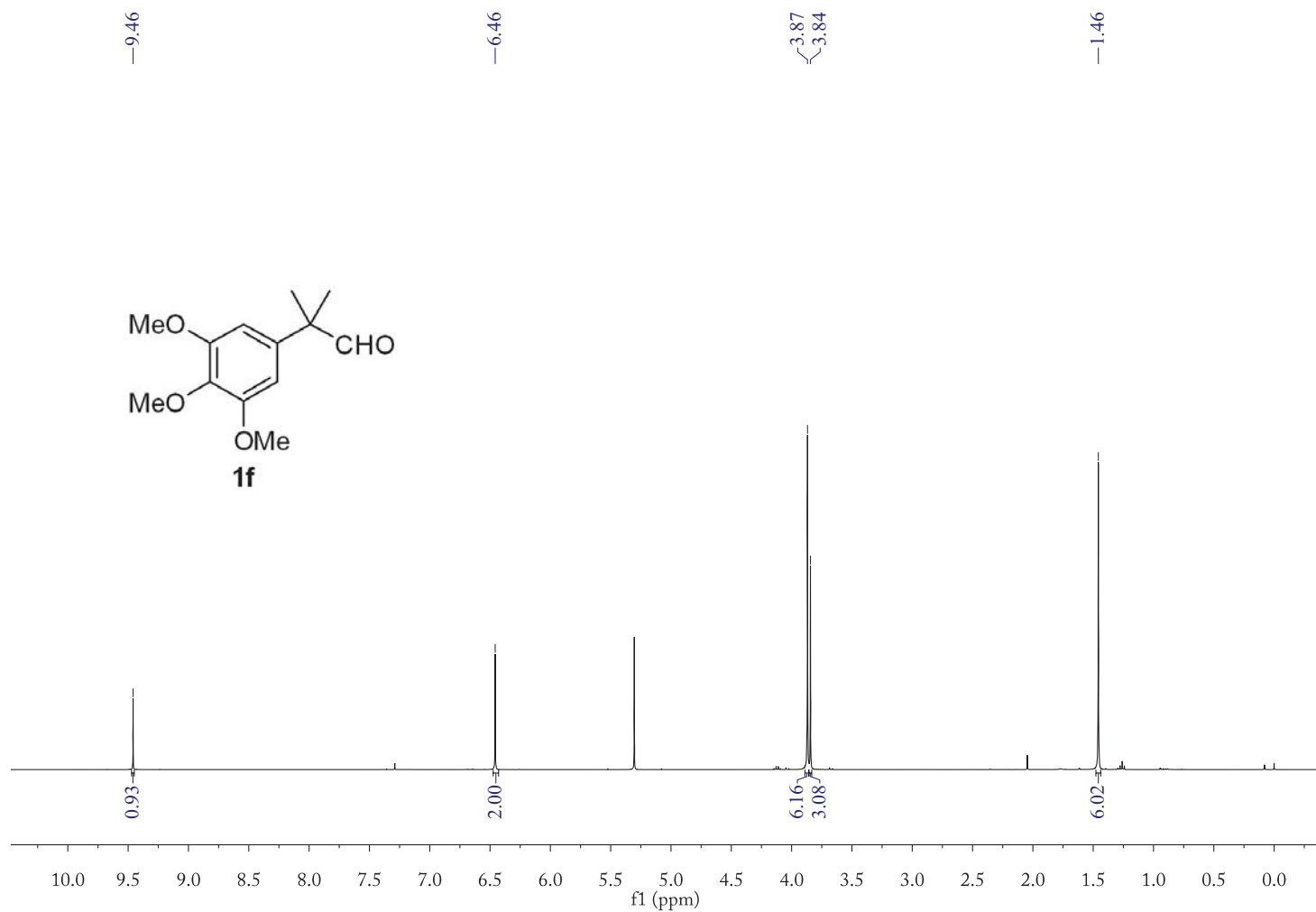
Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra

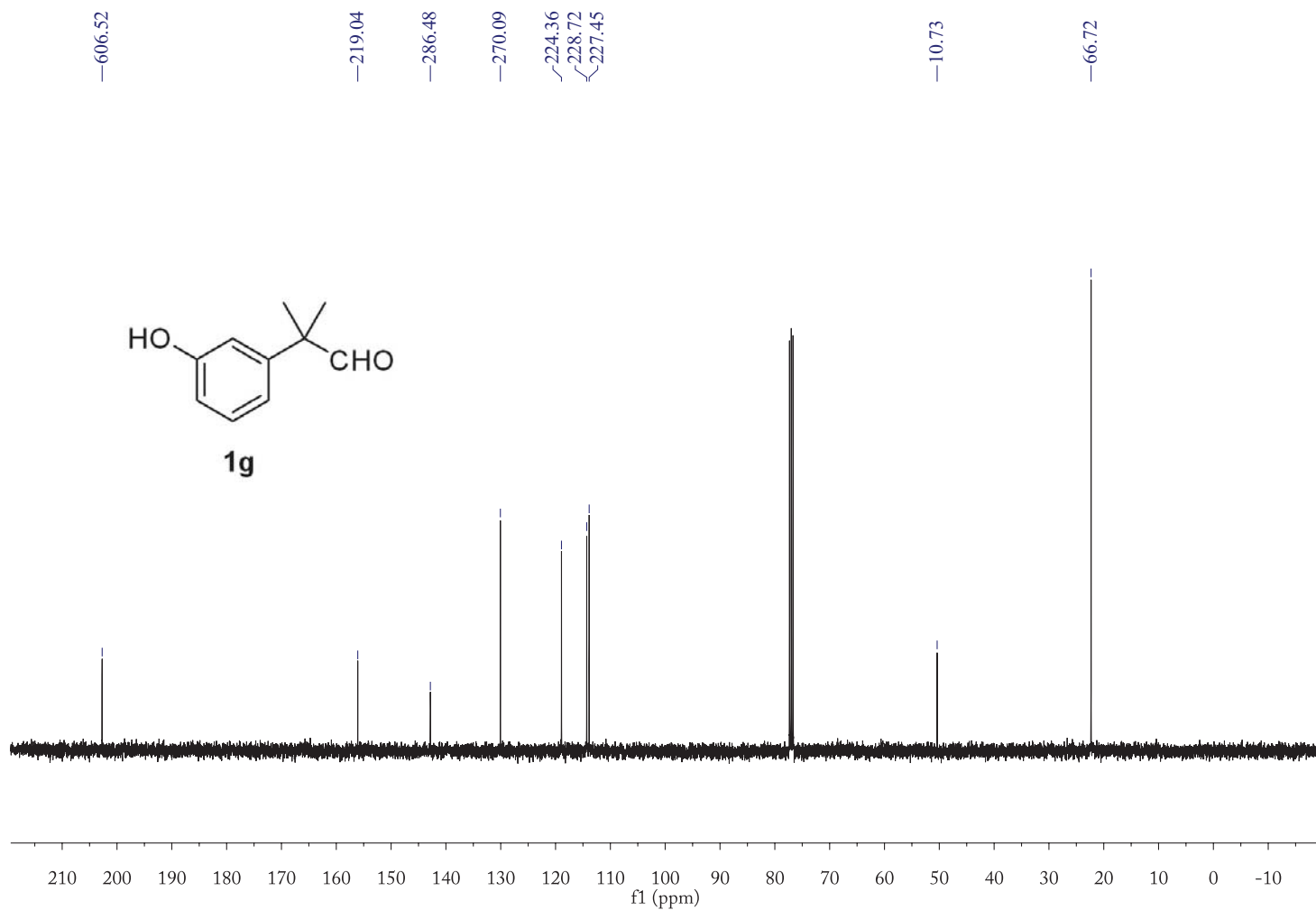
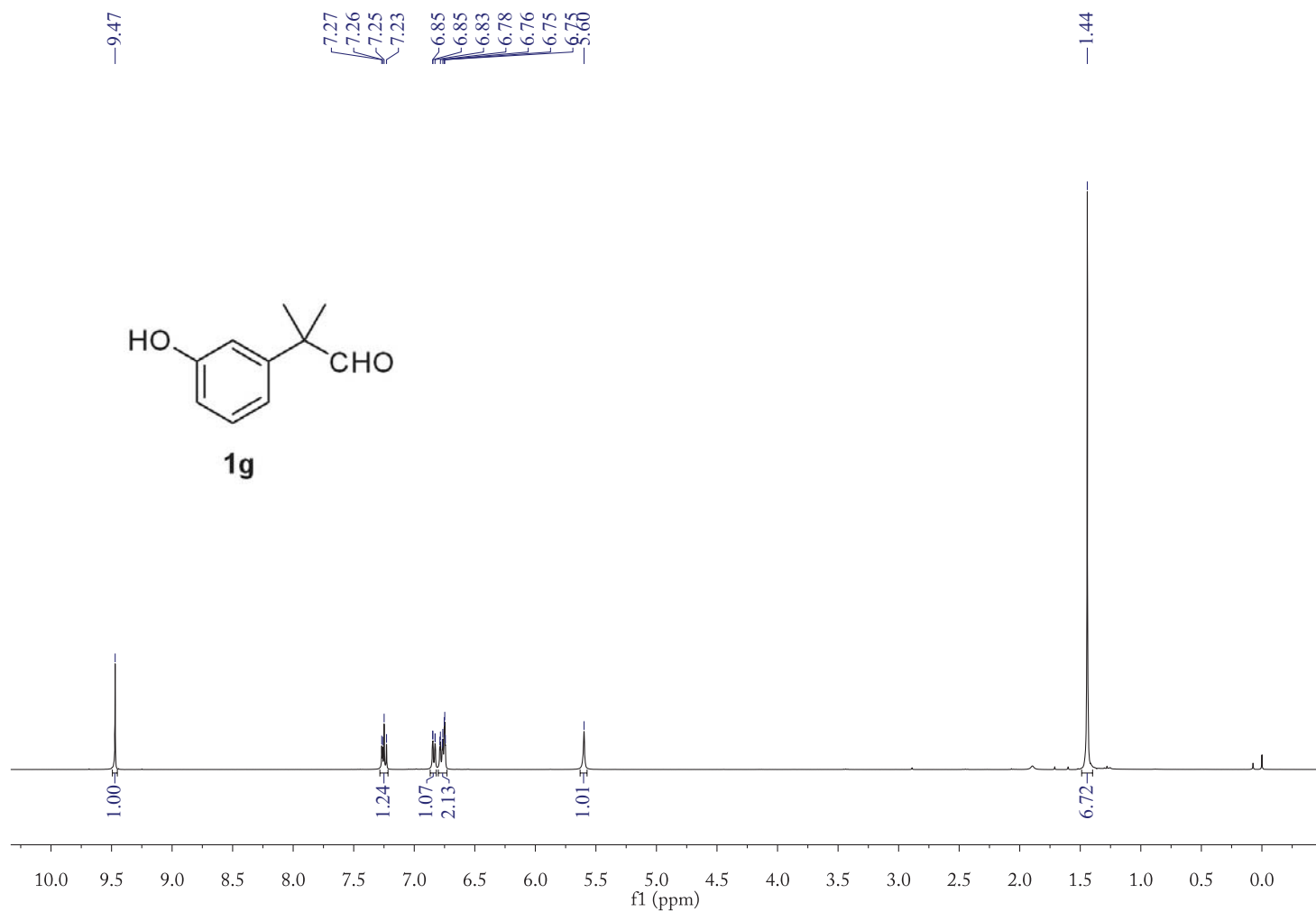


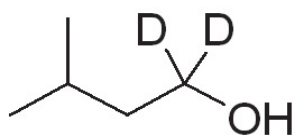




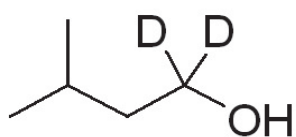
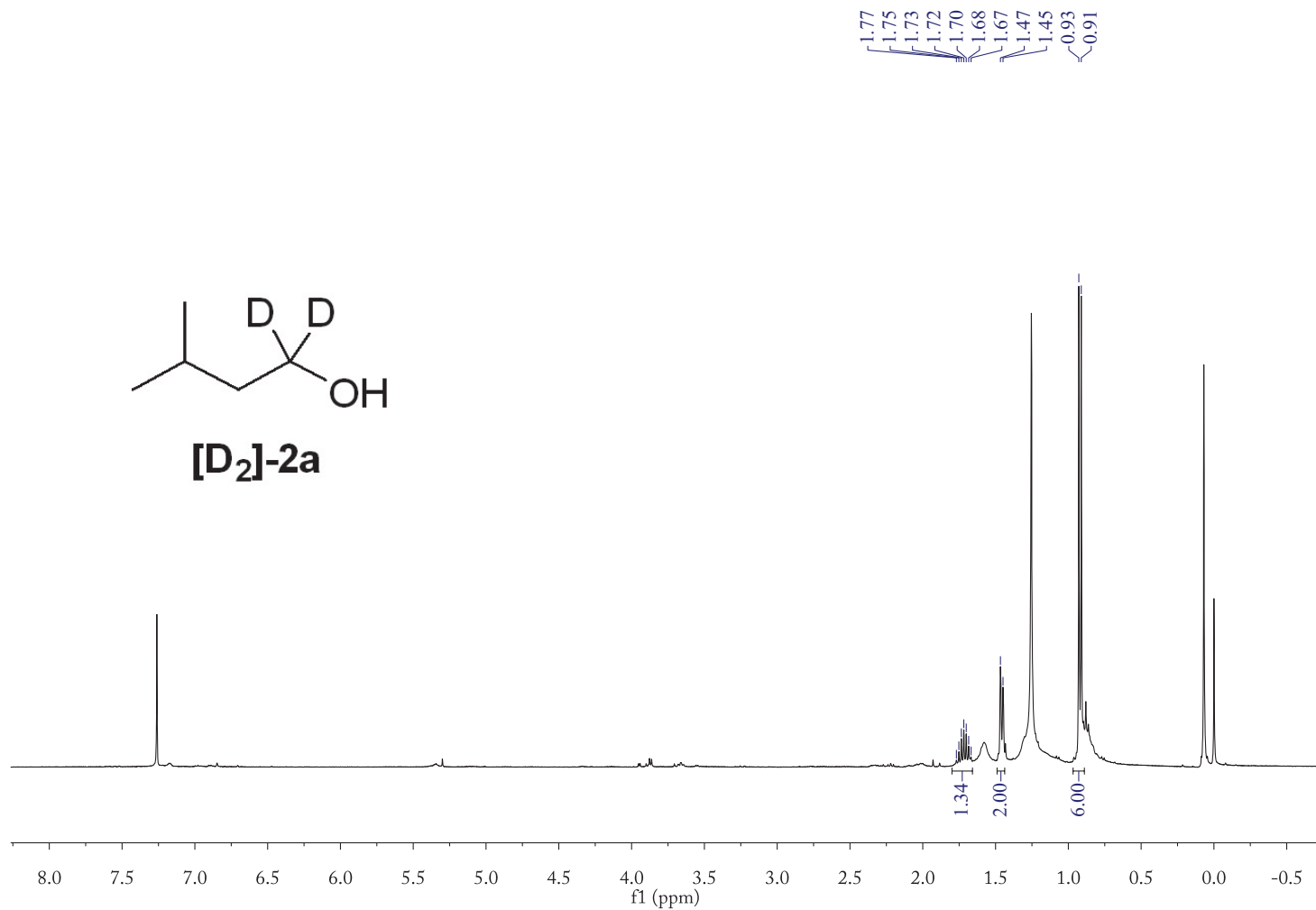








[D₂]-2a



[D₂]-2a

