

Supporting Information

Relay Photocatalytic Cascade Reaction: Synthesis of Indolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline Derivatives *via* Double C(sp³)-H Bonds Functionalization

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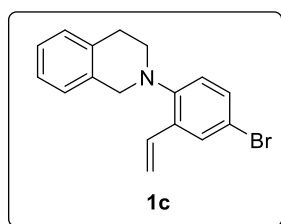
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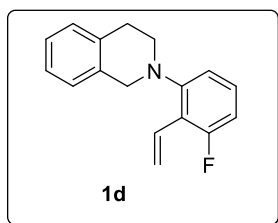
General information

The ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra were tested by the Bruker AVANCE III-400 spectrometer. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was selected as the internal reference and chemical shifts (δ) were reported in ppm. The abbreviations of the signal couplings were used in s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet) and m (multiplet). The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were tested by the ESI mode of the Micromass Q-ToF instrument. IR spectra were detected with the ATR mode of the Nicolet iS50 FT-IR of Thermo Scientific. Chemicals were purchased from chemical suppliers without purification. The 5-W blue LEDs was afforded by the supermarket. All of experiments were carried out under Argon atmosphere unless otherwise explanation. All starting compounds were synthesized according to the literature.^[1]

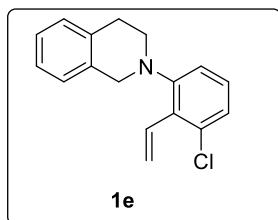
Characterization of unknown starting materials



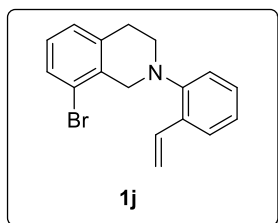
2-(4-bromo-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1c): The compound **1c** was synthesized according the previous literature,^[1] as light red oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2983, 2934, 1736, 1394, 1233, 1043, 937, 812. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.61 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 7.01 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 5.69 (dd, J = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (dd, J = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.21 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 149.6 , 134.8 , 134.5, 134.4, 133.3, 131.2, 129.6, 129.0, 126.4, 126.4, 125.9, 120.7, 116.1, 114.9, 54.3, 50.6, 29.4. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 314.0539, 316.0518; found: 314.0533, 316.0517.



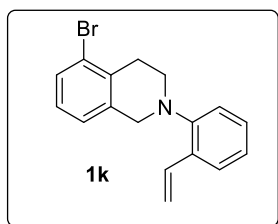
2-(3-fluoro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1d): The compound **1d** was synthesized according the previous literature,^[1] as light red oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 2941, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 937, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.61 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 5.70 (dd, J = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (dd, J = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.24 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -119.67. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 149.52, 134.73, 134.46, 134.36, 133.22, 131.11, 129.58, 128.96, 126.40, 126.37, 125.87, 120.66, 116.04, 114.88, 54.26, 50.57, 29.31. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 254.1340, found: 254.1349.



2-(3-chloro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1e): The compound **1e** was synthesized according the previous literature,^[1] as light red oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2983, 2941, 1736, 1393, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.80 (dd, J = 18.0, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (dd, J = 18.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (dd, J = 12.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 3.28 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 152.8, 134.9, 134.5, 133.8, 131.6, 130.5, 129.0, 128.2, 126.4, 126.4, 125.8, 124.5, 120.5, 117.4, 53.8, 50.3, 29.4. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 270.1044, 272.1015; found: 270.1040, 272.1015.

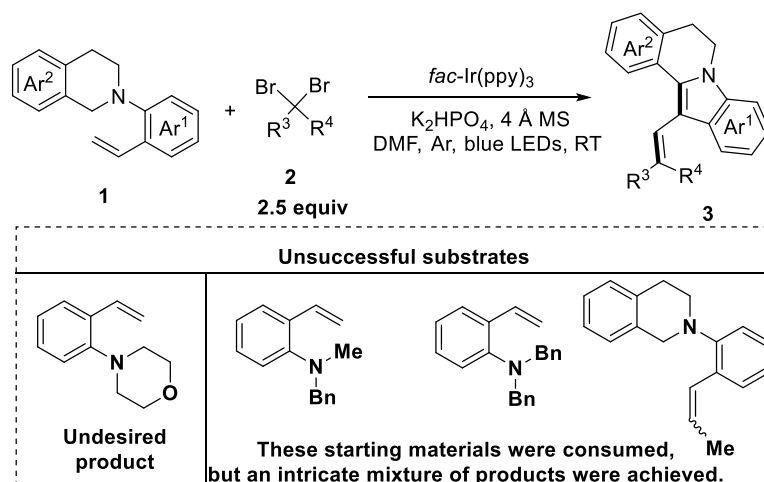


8-bromo-2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1j): The compound **1j** was synthesized according the previous literature,^[1] as light yellow oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 2941, 1736, 1393, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.51 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 7.6, 2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 6.94 (m, 5H), 5.70 (dd, J = 17.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dd, J = 11.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.20 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 150.2, 137.6, 134.7, 134.3, 132.6, 130.0, 128.7, 128.2, 127.5, 127.0, 123.4, 122.8, 119.3, 114.0, 55.2, 50.1, 29.9. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 314.0539, 316.0518, found: 314.0538, 316.0520.

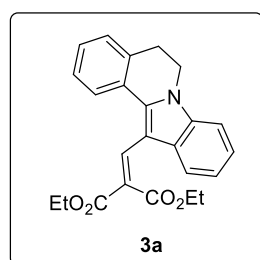


5-bromo-2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (1k): The compound **1k** was synthesized according the previous literature,^[1] as light red oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 2941, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 937, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.52 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.11 – 6.96 (m, 5H), 5.71 (dd, J = 18.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (dd, J = 11.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 150.0, 137.8, 134.5, 134.2, 132.5, 130.4, 128.6, 127.1, 126.9, 125.6, 125.5, 123.3, 118.8, 114.0, 54.5, 50.8, 30.7. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 314.0539, 316.0518, found: 314.0536, 316.0517.

General procedure for the desired compounds



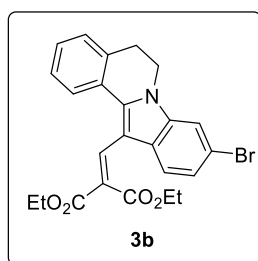
4 Å molecular sieve (100 mg), *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (1 mg, 0.0015 mmol, 0.5 mol %) and anhydrous K₂HPO₄ (157 mg, 0.9 mmol, 3 equiv) were charged into 10 ml Schlenk tube. The mixture solution of 2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline derivative **1** (0.3 mmol) and dibromide **2** (0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv) dissolved in the anhydrous DMF (2 mL) was syringed into the Schlenk tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction solution was stirred and irradiated by the 5-W blue LEDs at 25° C. When the starting material **1** was completely consumed by the TLC analysis, reaction solution was quenched by water (25 mL), extracted by ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL), dried, filtered and collected organic solvent. The organic solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The desired product **3** was afforded by column chromatography on silica gel (PE: EtOAc = 1:35 ~ 1:4).



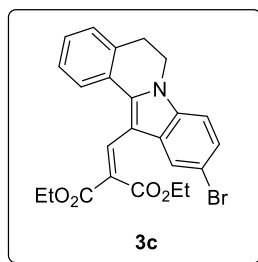
diethyl 2-((5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)malonate (**3a**):

According to the general procedure using 2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1a** (71 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3a** (81 mg, 70%) was obtained as yellow

solid (mp: 174.0 -174.6 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 937, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (ddd, J = 7.6, 5.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.0, 165.6, 140.1, 136.9, 136.0, 134.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2 (2C), 127.7, 126.4, 123.2, 123.0, 121.1, 120.5, 109.3, 107.4, 61.2 (2C), 40.0, 29.5, 14.3, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 390.1700, found: 390.1699.

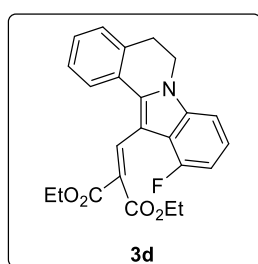


Diethyl 2-((9-bromo-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)malonate (3b): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-bromo-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1b** (94 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3b** (112 mg, 80%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 132.0 -132.5 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.7, 165.3, 139.3, 137.1, 136.8, 134.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8 (2C), 125.3, 124.3, 124.2, 121.6, 116.5, 112.5, 107.2, 61.4, 61.3, 40.2, 29.4, 14.3, 13.9. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 468.0805, 470.0785, found: 468.0802, 470.0788.



diethyl 2-((10-bromo-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

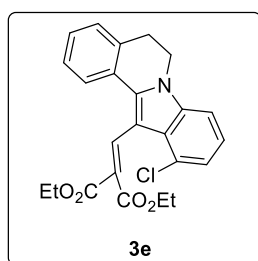
malonate (1c): According to the general procedure using 2-(4-bromo-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1c** (94 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3c** (84 mg, 60%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 134.0 -134.6 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 917, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (p, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.16 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.8, 165.3, 139.0, 137.6, 134.7, 134.1, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 125.7, 124.3, 122.9, 114.4, 110.8, 106.5, 61.7, 61.3, 40.2, 29.4, 14.3, 13.9. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 468.0805, 470.0785, found: 468.0805, 470.0789.



diethyl 2-((11-fluoro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

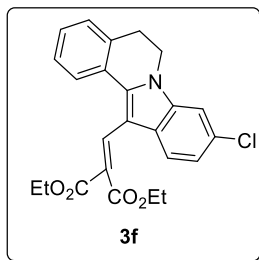
malonate (3d): According to the general procedure using 2-(3-fluoro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1d** (76 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3d** (85 mg, 70%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 175.0 -175.4 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ =

8.36 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, $J = 12.8, 5.6, 3.2$ Hz, 3H), 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.84 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.99 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -118.15$. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.8, 165.3$ (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz), 156.9 (d, $J = 248.8$ Hz), 140.9 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 138.3 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz), 135.7, 134.0, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 127.6, 125.0 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz), 123.3 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 115.8, 106.6 (d, $J = 20.4$ Hz), 105.4 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 61.3, 60.6, 40.6, 29.6, 14.3, 13.7. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{FNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 408.1606, found: 408.1603.



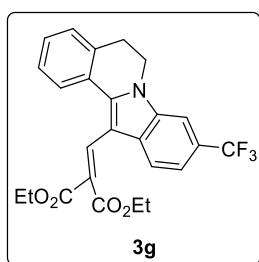
diethyl 2-((11-chloro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

malonate (3e): According to the general procedure using 2-(3-chloro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1e** (81 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3e** (82 mg, 65%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 115.0 -115.5 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.75$ (s, 1H), 7.83 (dd, $J = 6.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.21 (dt, $J = 7.6, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 4.34 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.23 – 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.62 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 165.2, 165.0, 141.2, 137.0, 134.5, 133.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 126.5, 125.1, 123.0, 121.9, 107.8, 106.0, 61.3, 60.4, 40.6, 29.6, 14.2, 13.5$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 424.1310, 426.1281; found: 424.1309, 426.1283.



diethyl 2-((9-chloro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

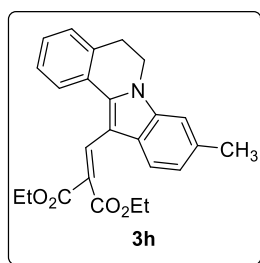
malonate (3f): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-chloro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1f** (81 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3f** (99 mg, 80%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 138.0 -138.4 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.8, 165.3, 139.3, 137.2, 136.5, 134.0, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 124.9, 124.2, 121.5, 121.3, 109.4, 107.2, 61.4, 61.3, 40.2, 29.4, 14.3, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 424.1310, 426.1281; found: 424.1309, 426.1283.



diethyl 2-((9-(trifluoromethyl)-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)

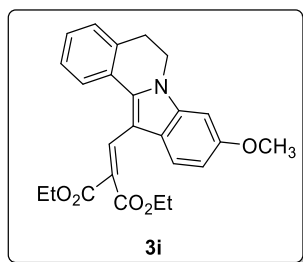
methylene)malonate (3g): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1g** (91 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3g** (96 mg, 70%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 120.0 -120.5 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ = 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 14.8, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 7.46 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -60.83. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.6, 165.2, 139.1, 138.6, 135.0, 134.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 125.0, 124.9 (q, J = 272.6 Hz), 124.8 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 120.6, 117.5 (q, J = 3.5 Hz), 107.1, 107.0 (q, J = 4.3 Hz), 61.5, 61.4, 40.3, 29.4, 14.3, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₅H₂₃F₃NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 458.1574, found: 458.1572.



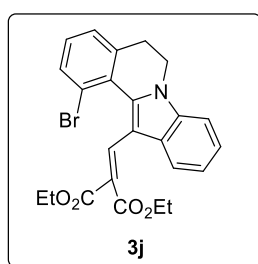
diethyl 2-((9-methyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

malonate (3h): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-methyl-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1h** (75 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3h** (72 mg, 60%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 149.0 -149.3 °C). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dt, J = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.02 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.1, 165.7, 140.2, 136.7, 136.4, 134.1, 133.0, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 124.3, 122.9, 122.6, 120.2, 109.3, 107.4, 61.2, 39.9, 29.6, 21.8, 14.3, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₅H₂₆NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 404.1856, found: 404.1855.



diethyl 2-((9-methoxy-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

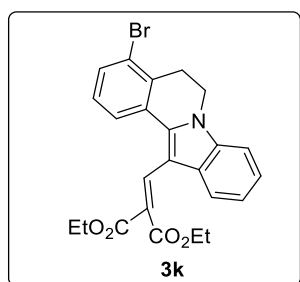
malonate (3i): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-methoxy-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1i** (70 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3i** (57 mg, 45%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 131.0 -131.4 °C). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.39 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.83 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.15 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.1, 165.6, 157.0, 140.0, 137.0, 136.4, 133.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.2, 127.6, 122.9, 121.3, 120.6, 110.7, 110.4, 107.5, 92.9, 61.2, 55.7, 40.1, 29.6, 14.3, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₅H₂₆NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 420.1805, found: 420.1804.



diethyl 2-((1-bromo-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

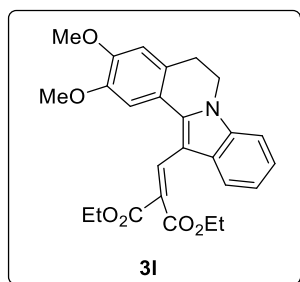
malonate (3j): According to the general procedure using 8-bromo-2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1j** (94 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3j** (116 mg, 83%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 145.0 -145.3 °C). IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1736, 1373, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.09

(s, 1H), 7.70 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.17 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.96 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.33 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 166.9, 165.6, 141.9, 139.2, 136.4, 135.8, 133.8, 129.9, 129.7, 126.7, 123.3, 122.0, 121.1, 120.5, 109.5, 108.9, 61.2, 60.9, 40.4, 31.8, 14.3, 13.8$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 468.0805, 470.0785, found: 468.0802, 470.0782.

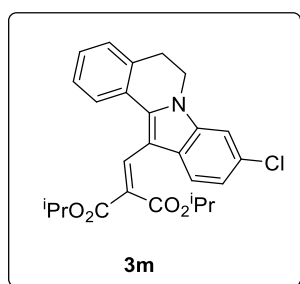


diethyl 2-((4-bromo-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)

malonate (3k): According to the general procedure using 5-bromo-2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1k** (94 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3k** (91 mg, 65%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 177.0 -177.6 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.21$ (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.31 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 166.7, 165.4, 139.6, 135.8, 135.3, 133.6, 132.4, 130.2, 128.7, 127.4, 126.5, 124.3, 124.2, 123.4, 121.3, 120.5, 109.4, 107.9, 61.4, 61.3, 39.6, 29.3, 14.3, 13.8$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 468.0805, 470.0785, found: 468.0804, 470.0783.

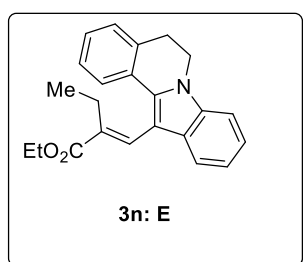


diethyl 2-((2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)malonate (3l): According to the general procedure using 6,7-dimethoxy-2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1l** (88 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (237 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3l** (87 mg, 65%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 140.0 -140.5 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.15 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H), 3.10 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 167.1, 165.6, 149.4, 148.2, 140.0, 137.7, 136.1, 127.3, 126.5, 122.7, 121.8, 121.1, 120.6, 120.3, 111.5, 111.3, 109.2, 106.2, 61.2, 56.0, 40.1, 29.1, 14.4, 13.8. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 450.1911, found: 450.1911.

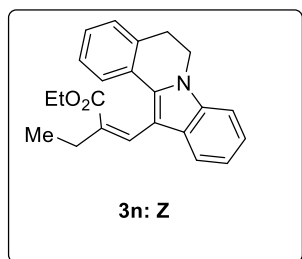


diisopropyl 2-((9-chloro-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)malonate (3m): According to the general procedure using 2-(5-chloro-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1f** (81 mg, 0.3 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2b** (258 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3m** (108 mg, 80%) was obtained as light yellow solid (mp: 166.0 -166.5 °C). IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1232, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.16

(s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.09 (dd, $J = 8.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.23 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (p, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H), 1.17 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 166.4, 164.9, 138.5, 136.9, 136.4, 134.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 125.5, 124.9, 121.5, 121.3, 109.4, 107.2, 68.9, 68.9, 40.2, 29.4, 22.0, 21.6$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{ClNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 452.1623, 454.1594; found: 452.1620, 454.1593.

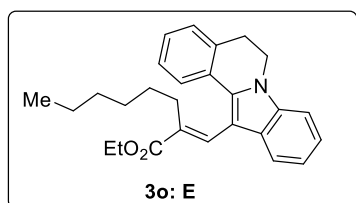


ethyl (*E*)-2-((5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)butanoate (3n: *E*): According to the general procedure using 2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1a** (71 mg, 0.3 mmol) and ethyl 2,2-dibromobutanoate **2e** (204 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3n: *E*** (28 mg, 27.5%) was obtained as light yellow oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.90$ (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 4.34 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.28 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.19 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.49 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.4, 135.8, 135.8, 133.3, 132.8, 132.7, 129.2, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 126.8, 122.3, 120.4, 120.1, 109.1, 107.8, 60.5, 40.1, 29.6, 22.3, 14.4, 13.7$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 346.1802, found: 346.1798.



ethyl (Z)-2-((5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)butanoate (3n: Z):

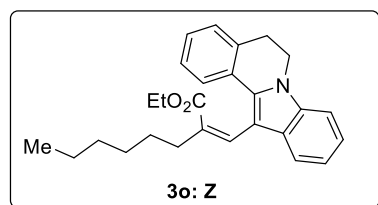
Z): the desired product **3n: Z** (28 mg, 27.5%) was obtained as light yellow oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 4.26 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (qd, J = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 169.3, 135.6, 135.5, 133.5, 132.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.9, 109.6, 108.8, 60.2, 40.0, 29.8, 28.2, 14.0, 13.5. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 346.1802, found: 346.1801.



ethyl (E)-2-((5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)octanoate (3o: E):

E): According to the general procedure using 2-(2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1a** (71 mg, 0.3 mmol) and ethyl 2,2-dibromooctanoate **2f** (246 mg, 0.75 mmol, 2.5 equiv), the desired product **3o: E** (25 mg, 21%) was obtained as light yellow oil. IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847, 786. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.53 – 2.42 (m, 2H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 5H), 1.28 (dd, J = 13.2, 5.6 Hz, 3H), 1.09 – 1.04 (m, 4H), 0.70 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.5,

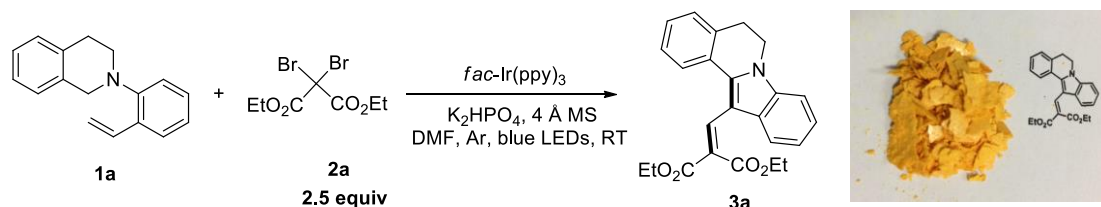
135.8, 134.4, 133.3, 133.2, 129.2, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 122.3, 120.5, 120.1, 119.9, 119.3, 109.0, 108.0, 60.5, 40.1, 31.5, 29.7, 28.9, 28.8, 28.8, 22.5, 14.4, 14.0. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₇H₃₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 402.2428, found: 402.2433.



ethyl (Z)-2-((5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12-yl)methylene)octanoate (3o: Z): the desired product **3o: Z** (35 mg, 29%) was obtained as light yellow oil. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 2984, 1736, 1372, 1233, 1043, 938, 847. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 1.40 – 1.34 (m, 4H), 0.95 – 0.89 (m, 3H), 0.75 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 169.3, 135.6, 134.2, 133.5, 132.0, 129.8, 129.5, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 122.1, 120.1, 119.9, 109.7, 108.8, 60.2, 40.0, 35.2, 31.8, 29.8, 29.3, 29.0, 22.7, 14.2, 13.5. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₇H₃₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 402.2428, found: 402.2428.

The 2.6 mmol scale reaction and Stern-Volmer quenching studies

(a) The 2.6 mmol reaction

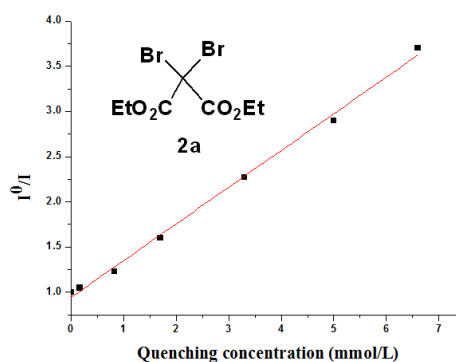
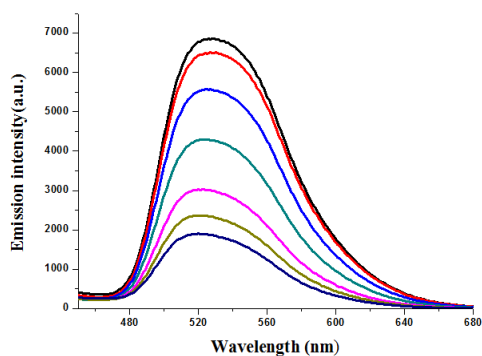


4 Å molecular sieve (400 mg), *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ (10 mg, 0.5 mol %) and anhydrous K₂HPO₄ (1300 mg, 7.7 mmol, 3 equiv) were charged into 35 ml Schlenk tube. The mixture solution of ortho-tetrahydroisoquinoline-substituted styrene **1a** (600 mg, 2.6 mmol) and diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a** (2000 mg, 6.4 mmol, 2.5 equiv) dissolved

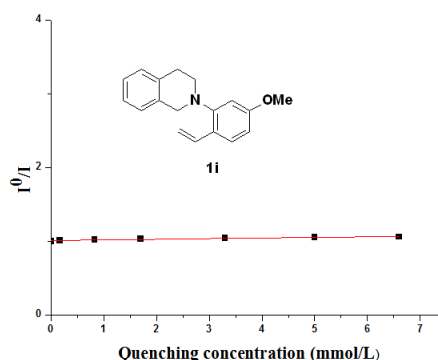
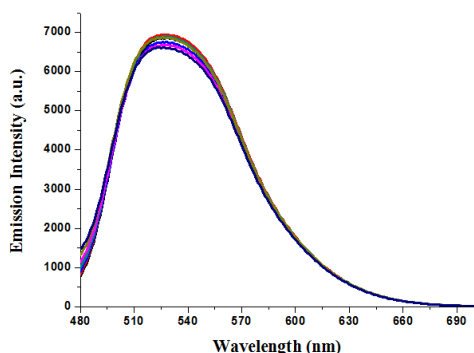
in the anhydrous DMF (10 mL) was syringed into the Schlenk tube under argon atmosphere. The reaction solution was stirred and irradiated by the 40-W blue LEDs at 25 °C. When the starting material **1a** was completely consumed by the TLC analysis, reaction solution was quenched by water (35 mL), extracted by ethyl acetate (3 × 30 mL), dried, filtered and collected organic solvent. The organic solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The desired product **3** (620 mg, 63%) was afforded by column chromatography on silica gel.

(b) Stern-Volmer quenching studies

The Stern-Volmer quenching dates were measured by Cary Eclipse fluorescent spectrophotometer (F-7000, HITACHI). Experiments were conducted in 0.05mmol/L of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃/DMF at 25 °C and the excitation wavelength was 375 nm. The quenching's concentration in DMF were 0, 0.17 mmol/L, 0.85 mmol/L, 1.7 mmol/L, 3.3 mmol/L, 5.0 mmol/L, 6.6 mmol/L.



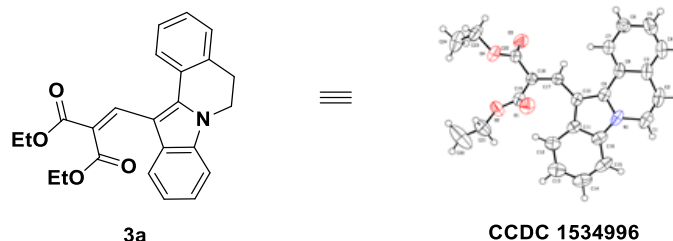
Stern-Volmer quenching of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ by diethyl 2,2-dibromomalonate **2a**



Stern-Volmer quenching of *fac*-Ir(ppy)₃ by

2-(5-methoxy-2-vinylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **1i**

X-ray crystal diffraction data



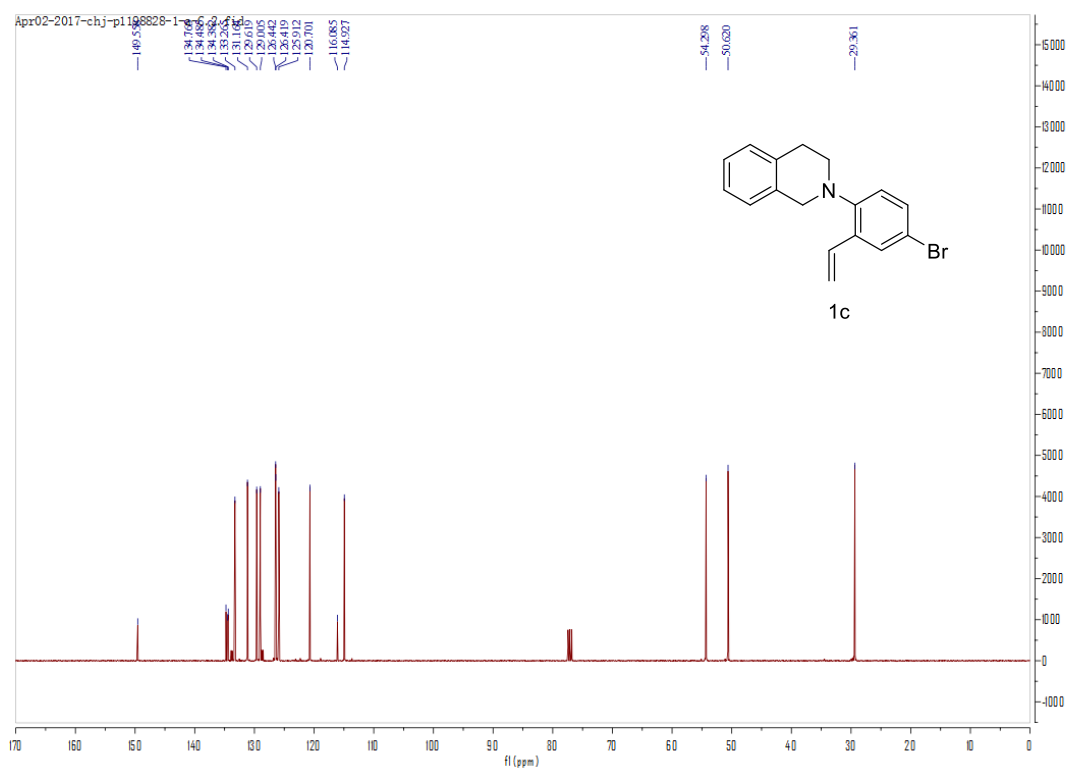
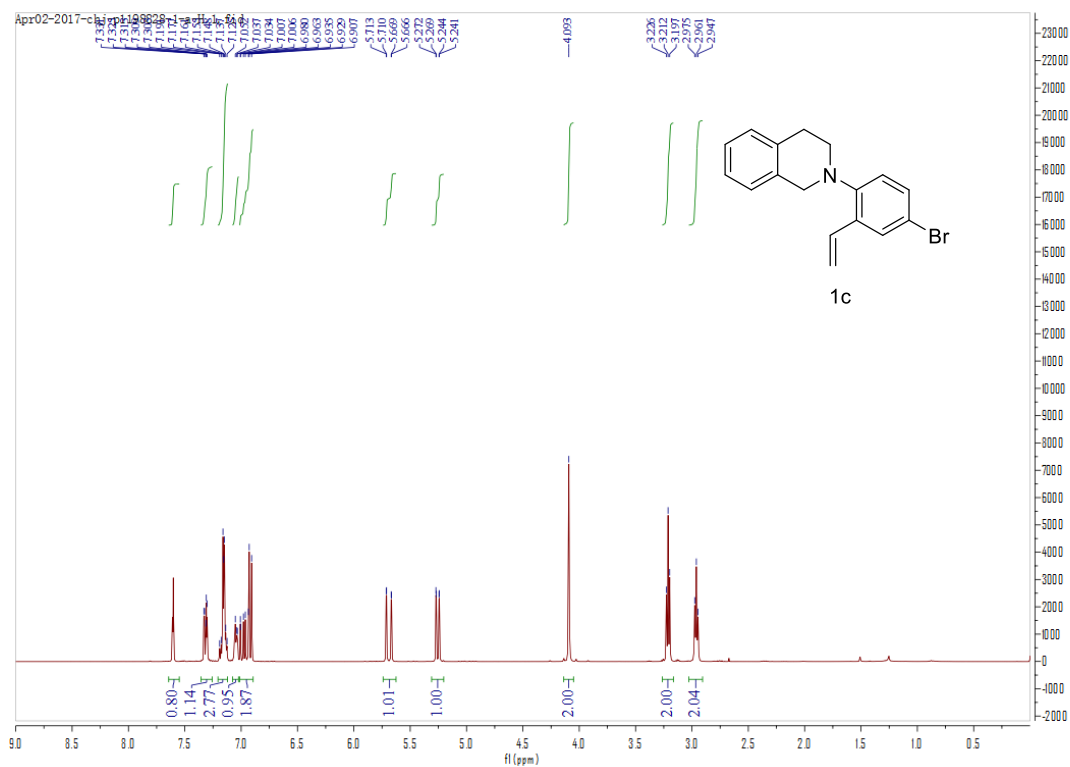
Identification code	CCDC 1534996
Empirical formula	C ₂₄ H ₂₃ NO ₄
Formula weight	389.43
Temperature	293(2)K
Wavelength	0.71073Å
Crystal system, space group	monoclinic, P, 2yb
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.593(10) Å alpha = 90 deg. b = 8.000(8) Å beta = 103.143(19) deg c = 13.517(14) Å gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1010.3(18) Å ³
Z, Calculated density	2, 1.280Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.087mm ⁻¹
F(000)	412.0
Crystal size	0.30 x 0.25 x 0.09 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.55 to 24.32 deg
Limiting indices	-9<=h<=11, -9<=k<=9, -16<=l<=12
Reflections collected / unique	3437 / 3003 [R(int) = 0.0259]
Completeness to theta = 27.73	99.5%
Absorption correction	multi-scan
Max. and min. transmission	0.992, 0.974
Data / restraints / parameters	2900 / 0 / 228
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.093
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0393, wR ₂ = 0.1159
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0476, wR ₂ = 0.1323
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.193 and -0.181 e. Å ⁻³

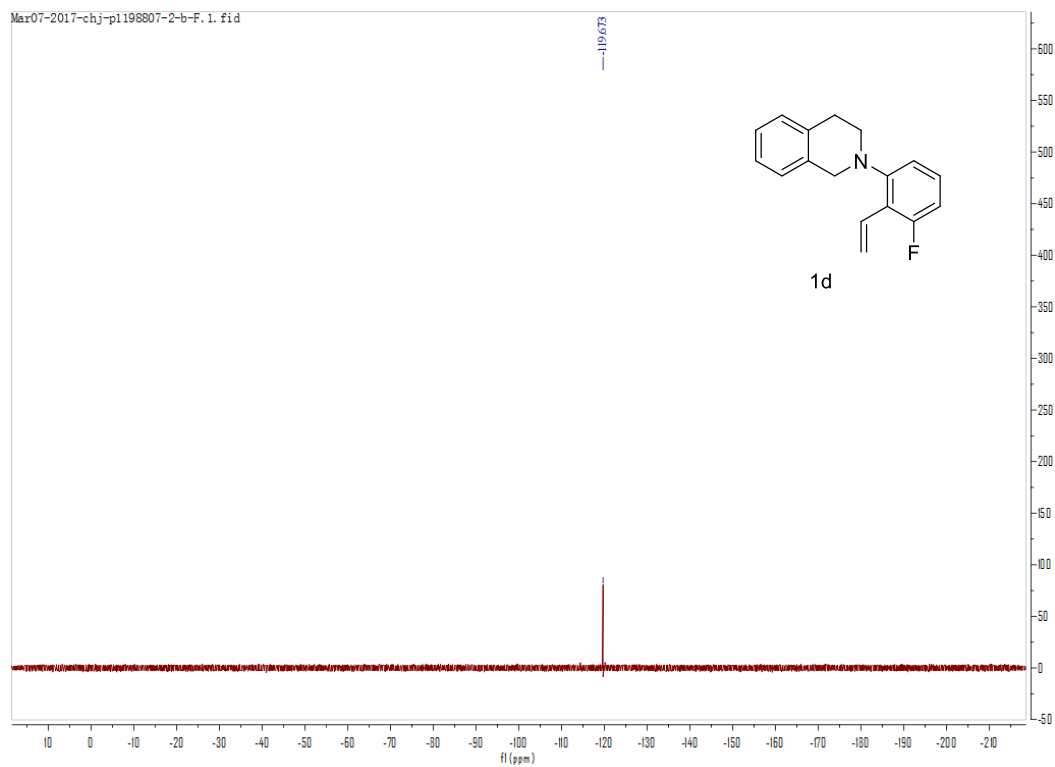
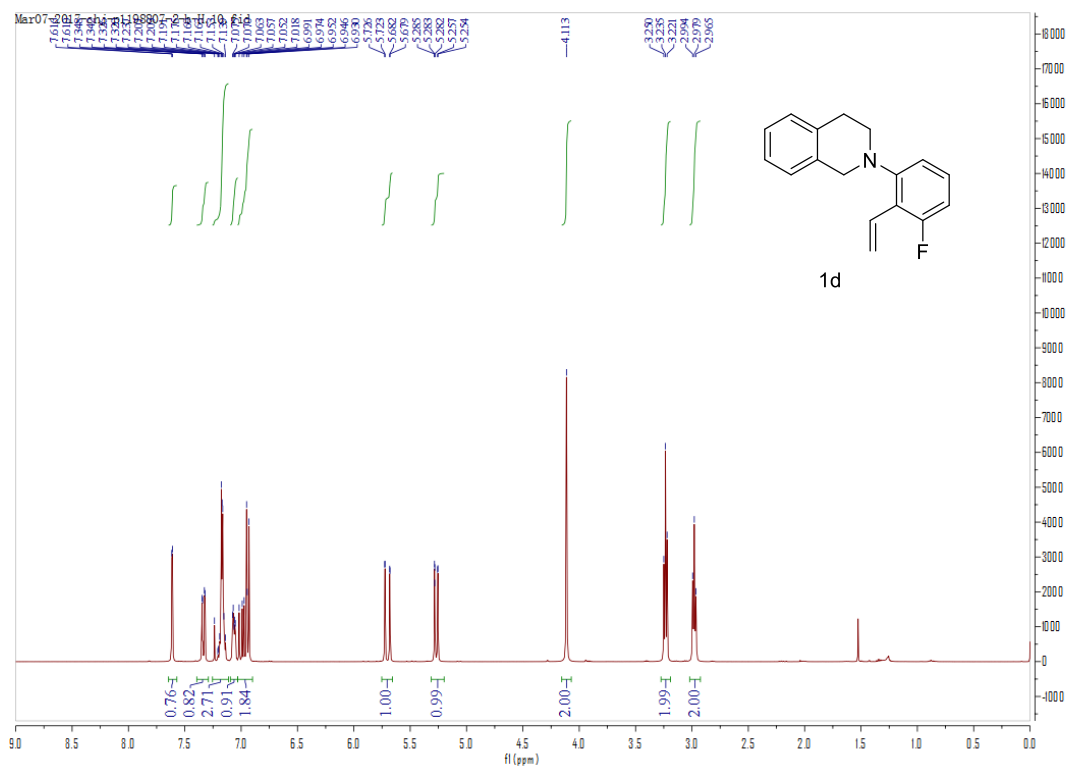
Reference

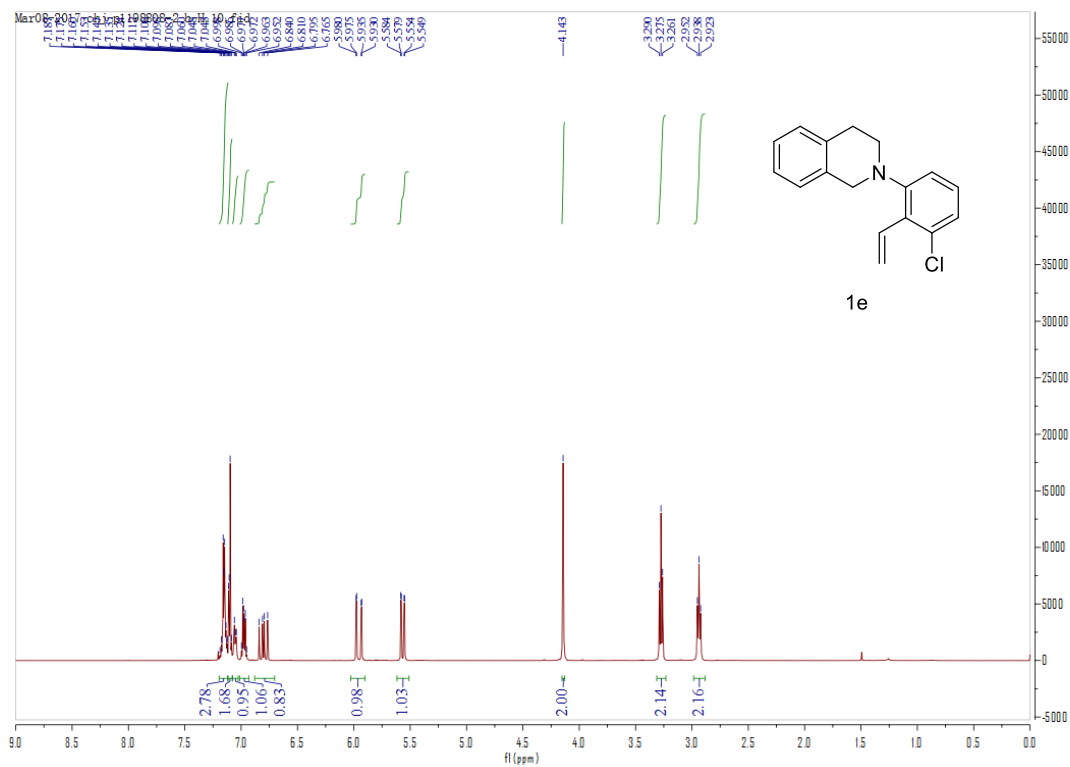
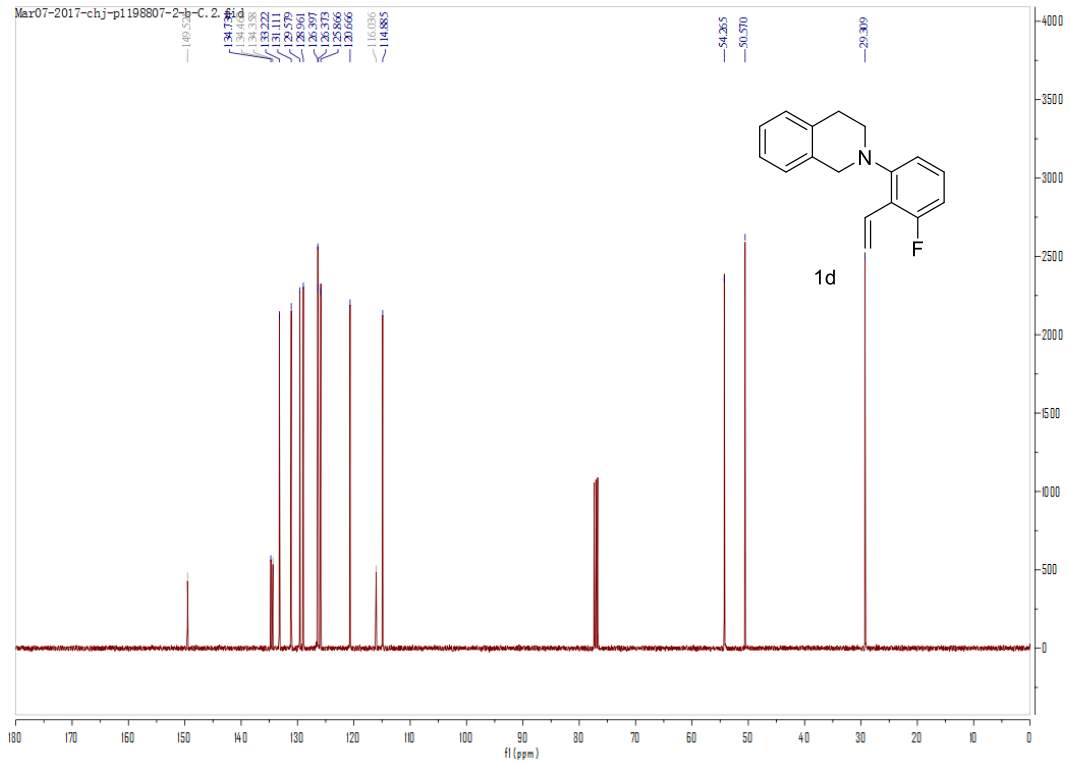
- [1] Chen, Y. Y.; Zhang, X. J.; Yuan, H. M.; Wei, W. T.; Yan, M. *Chem. Commun.* 2013, 49, 10974.

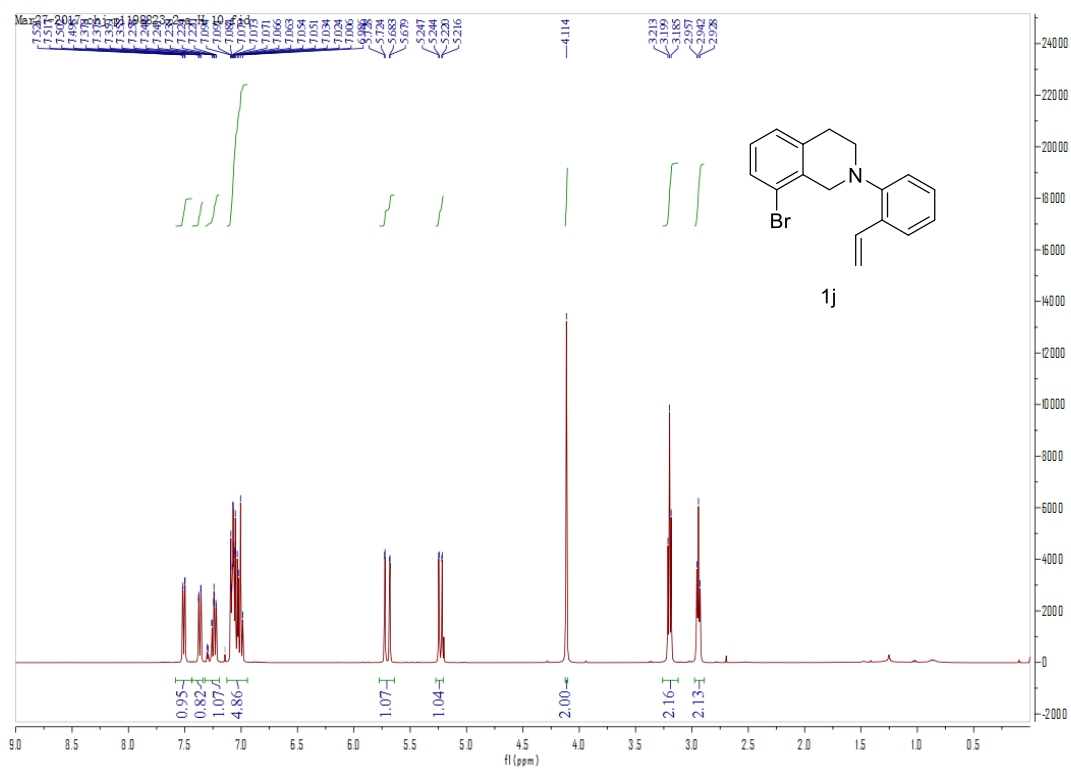
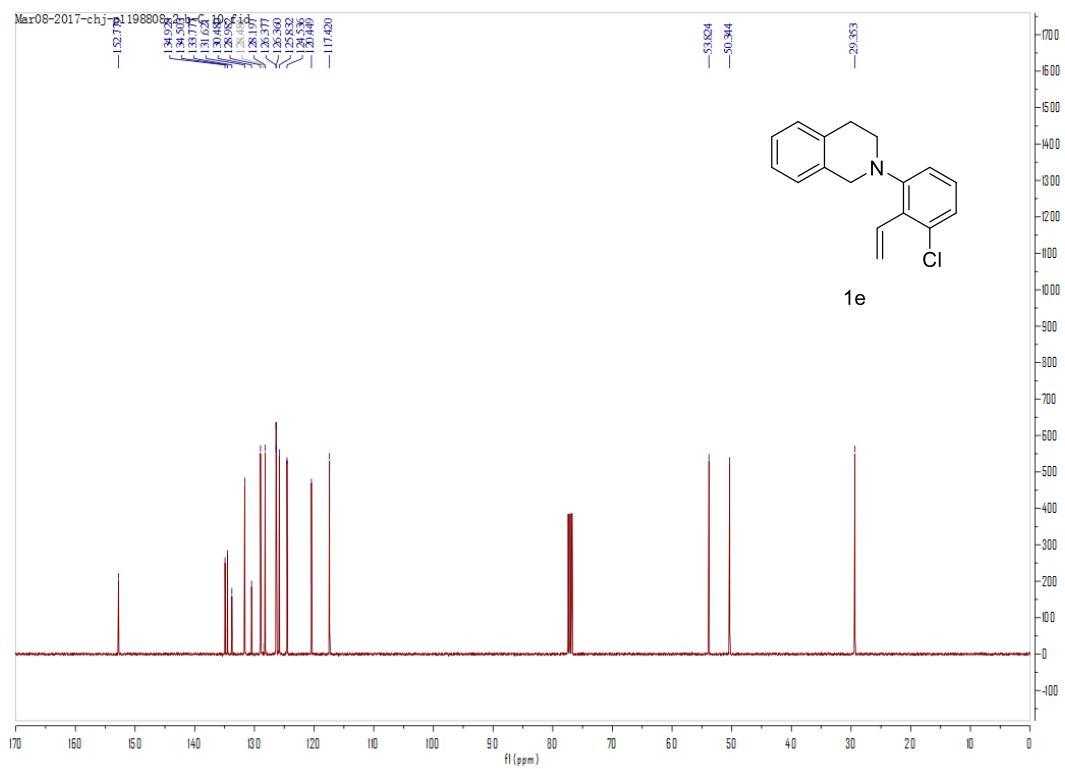
NMR spectra of the unknown compounds

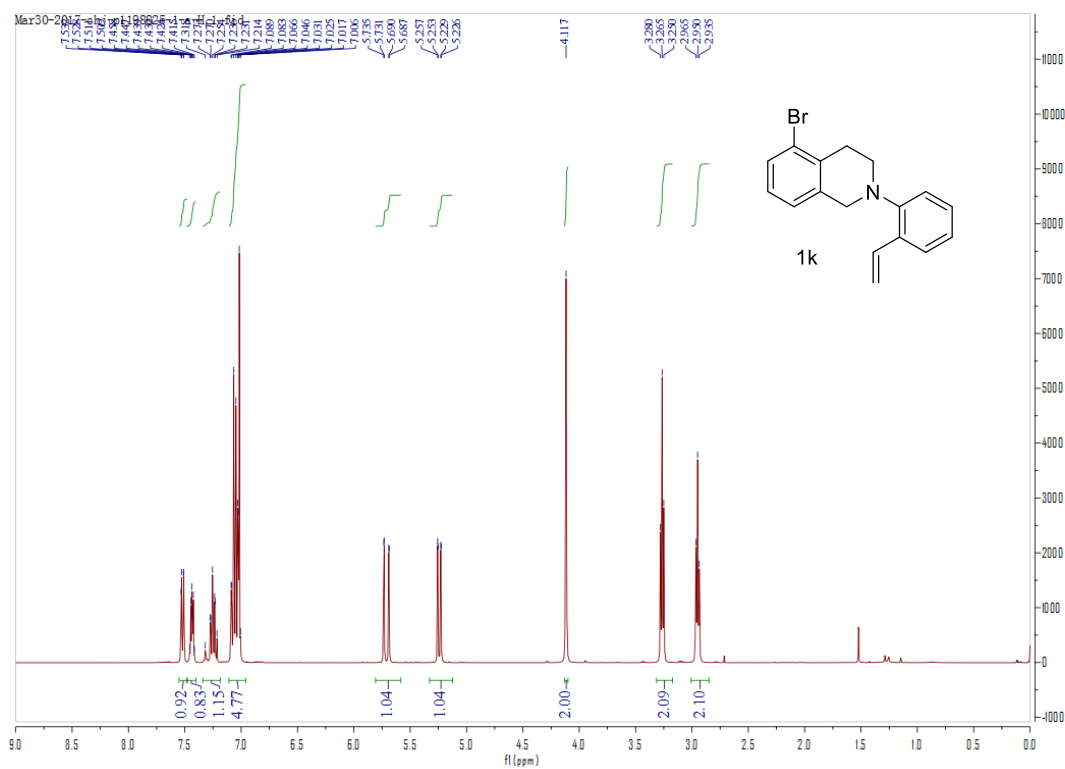
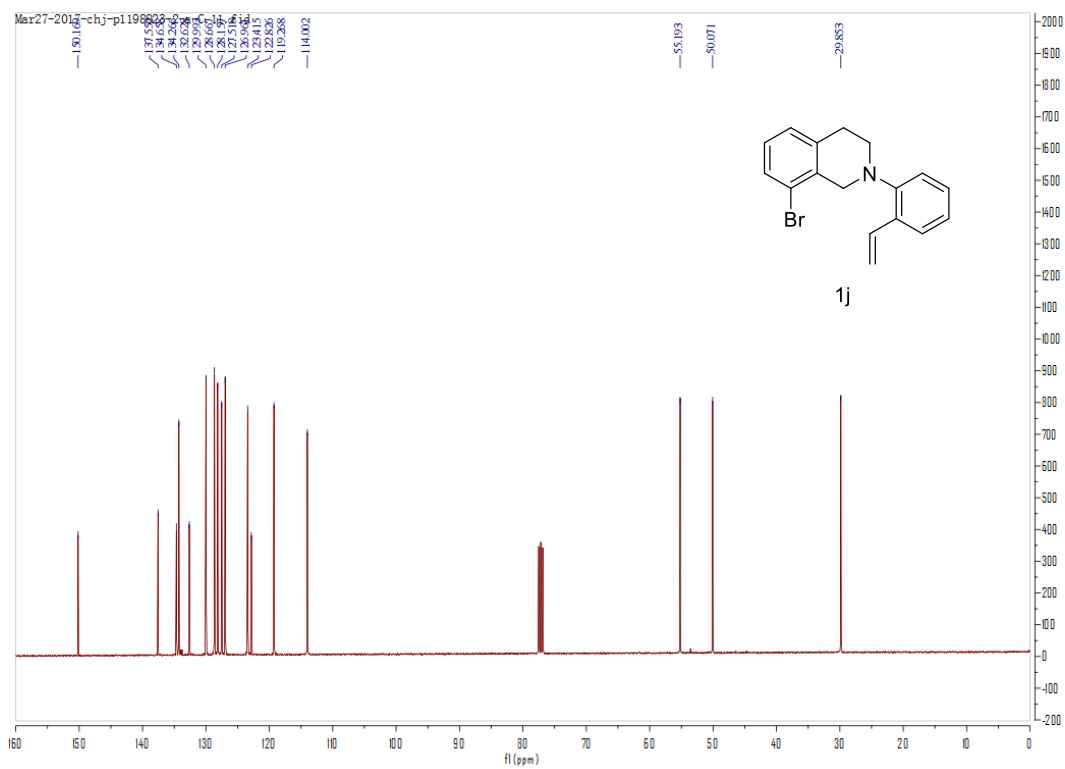
(a) The NMR spectra of the unknown starting materials

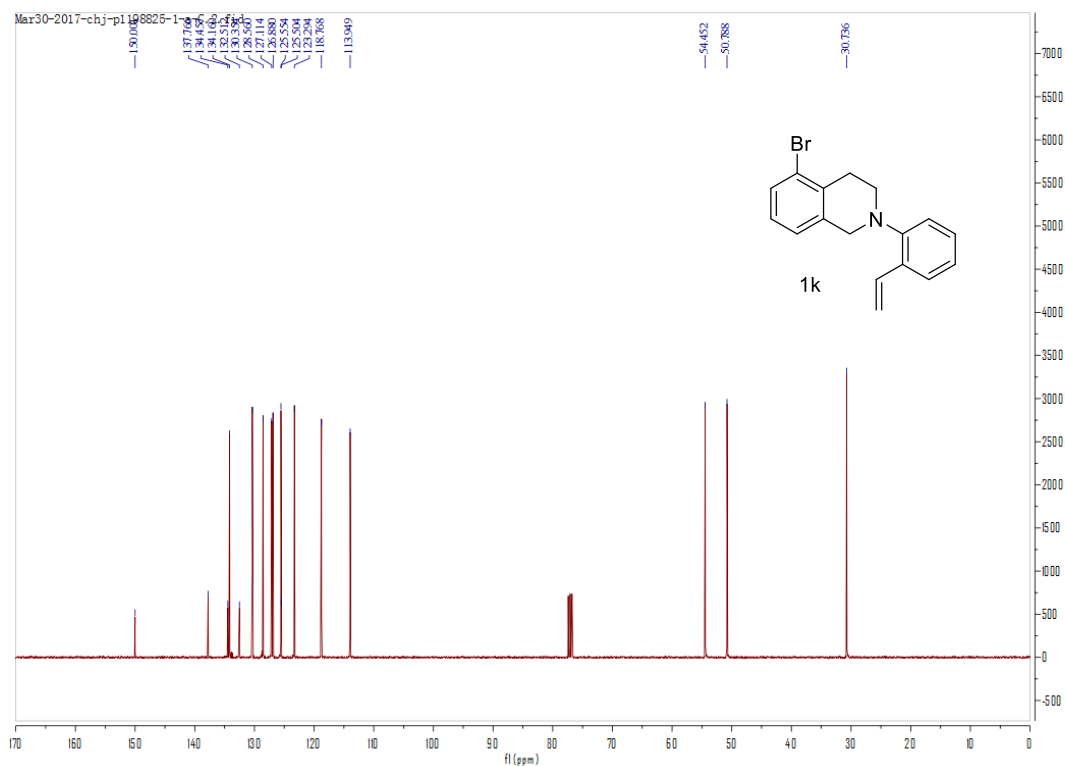




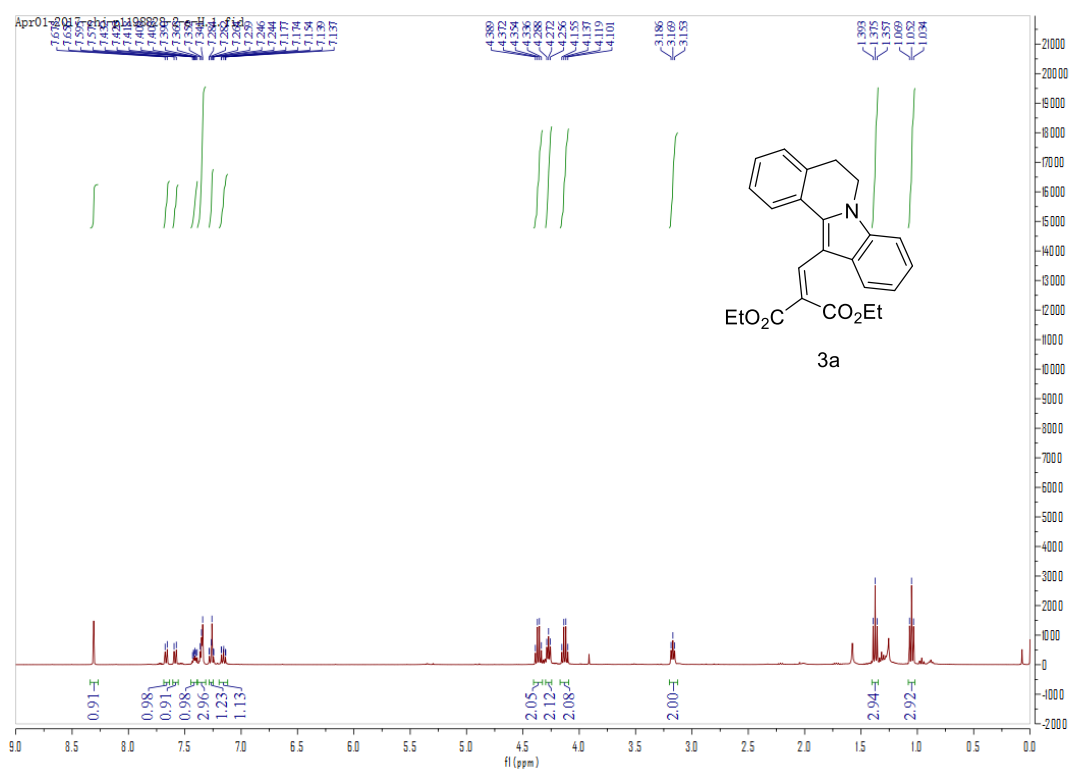


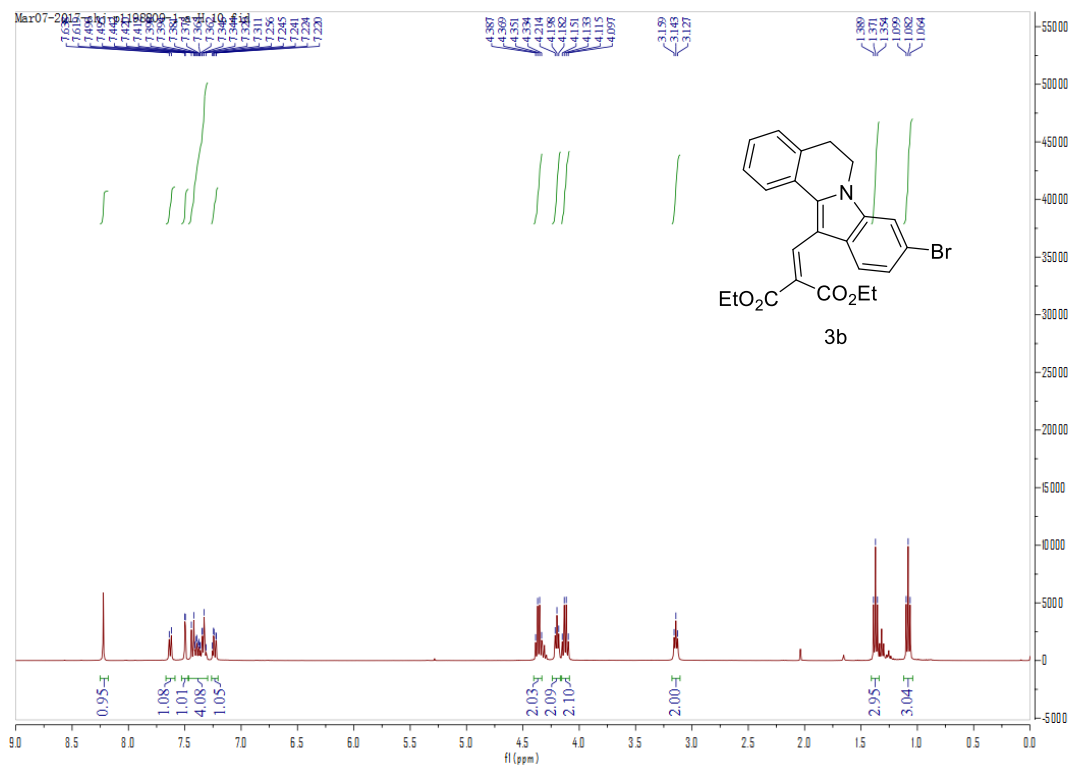
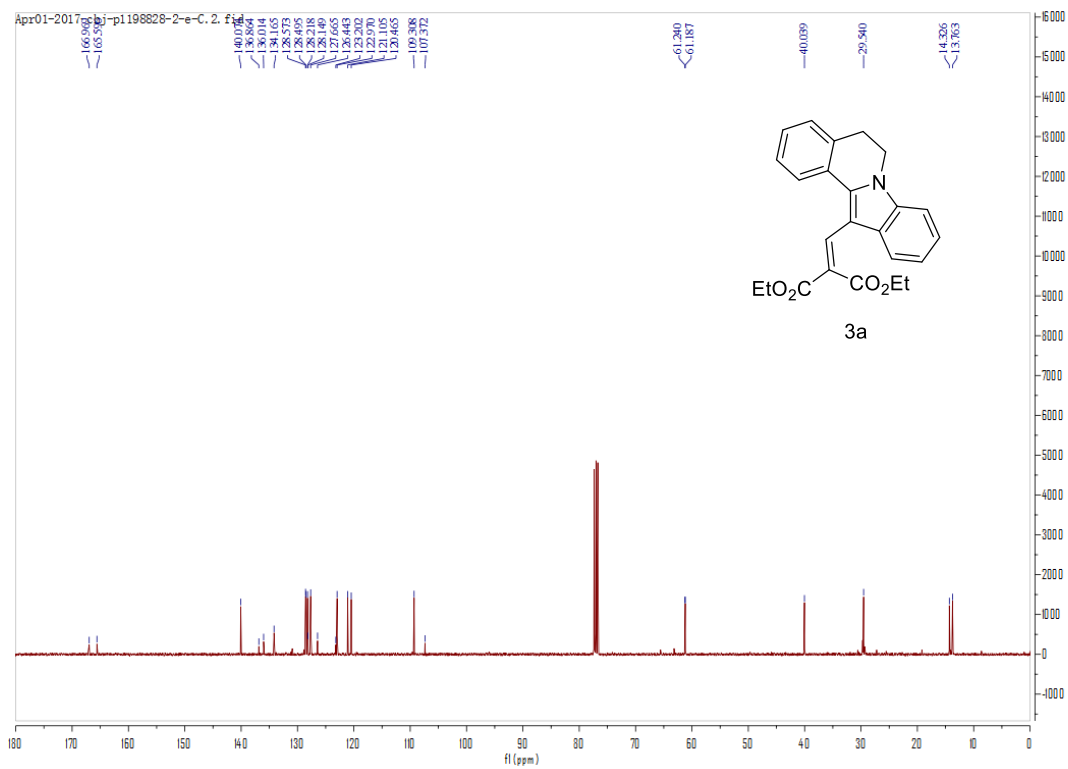


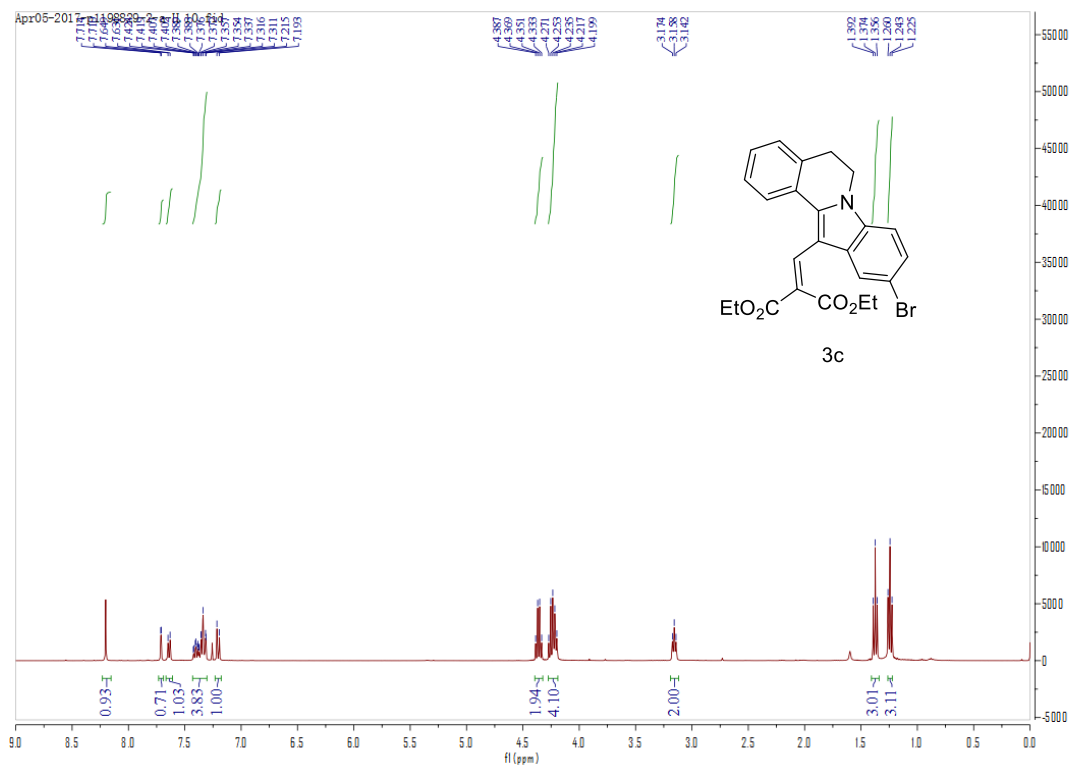
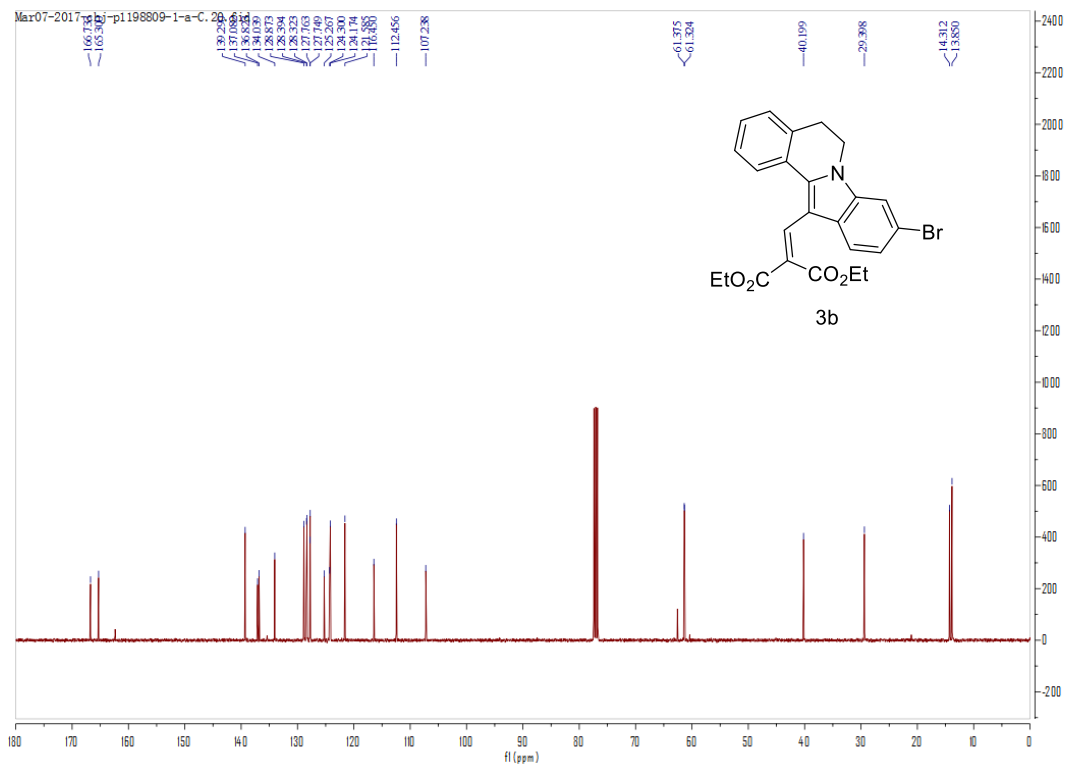


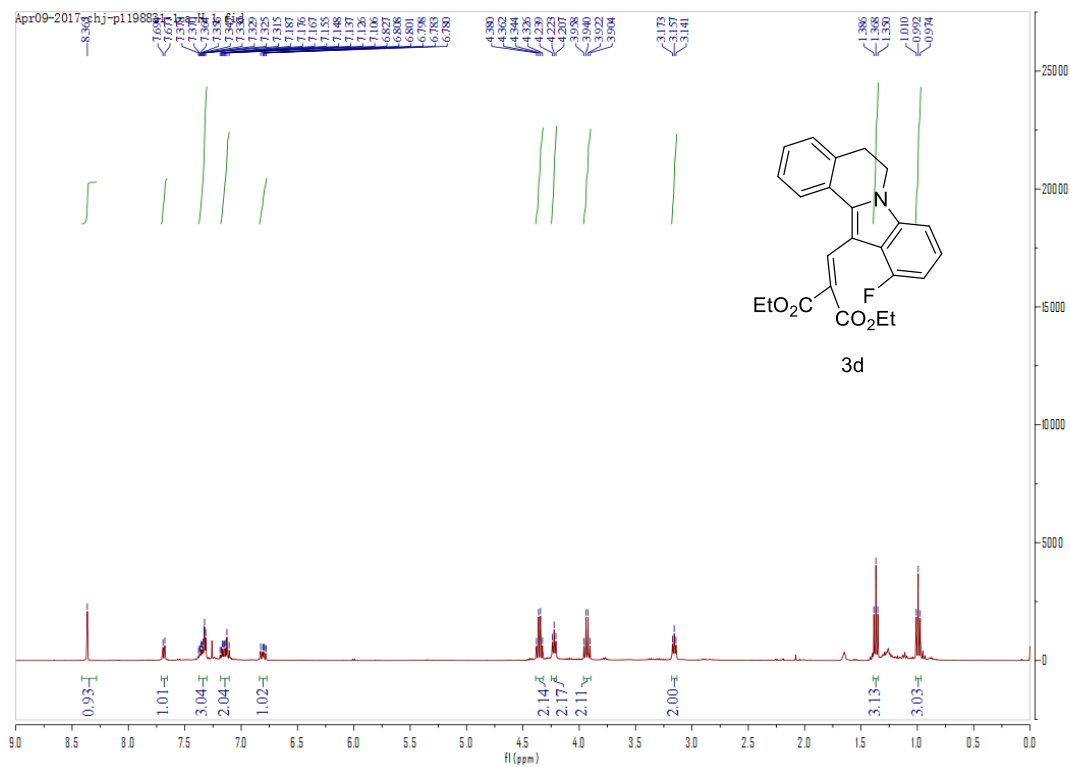
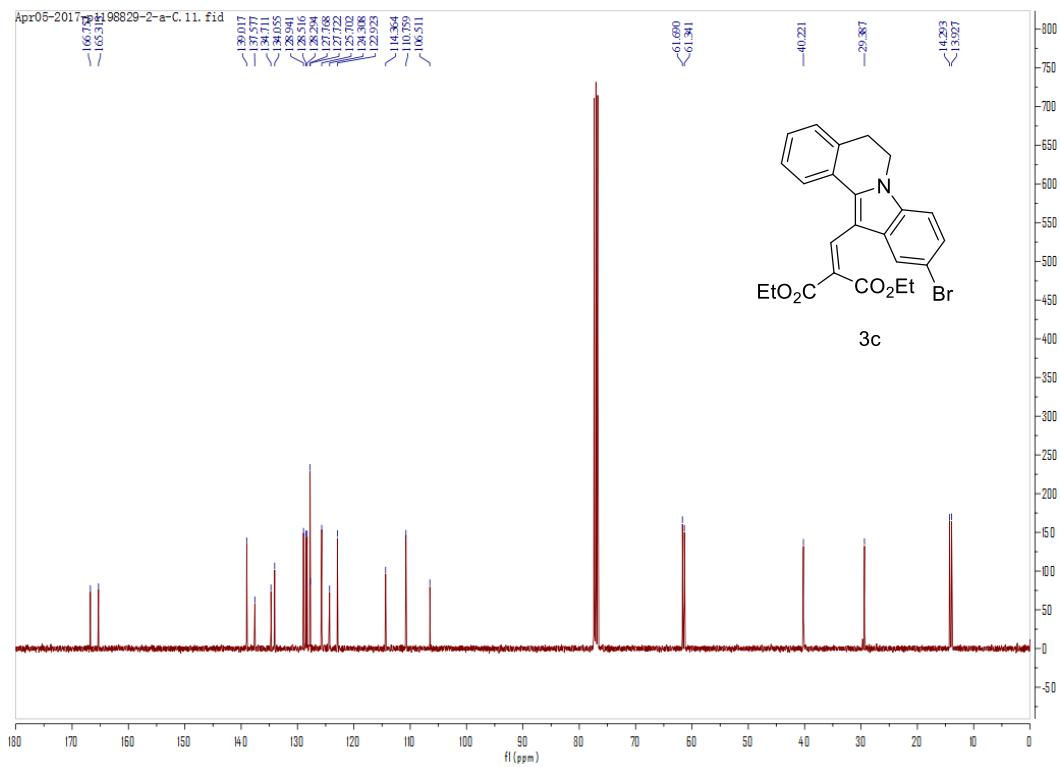


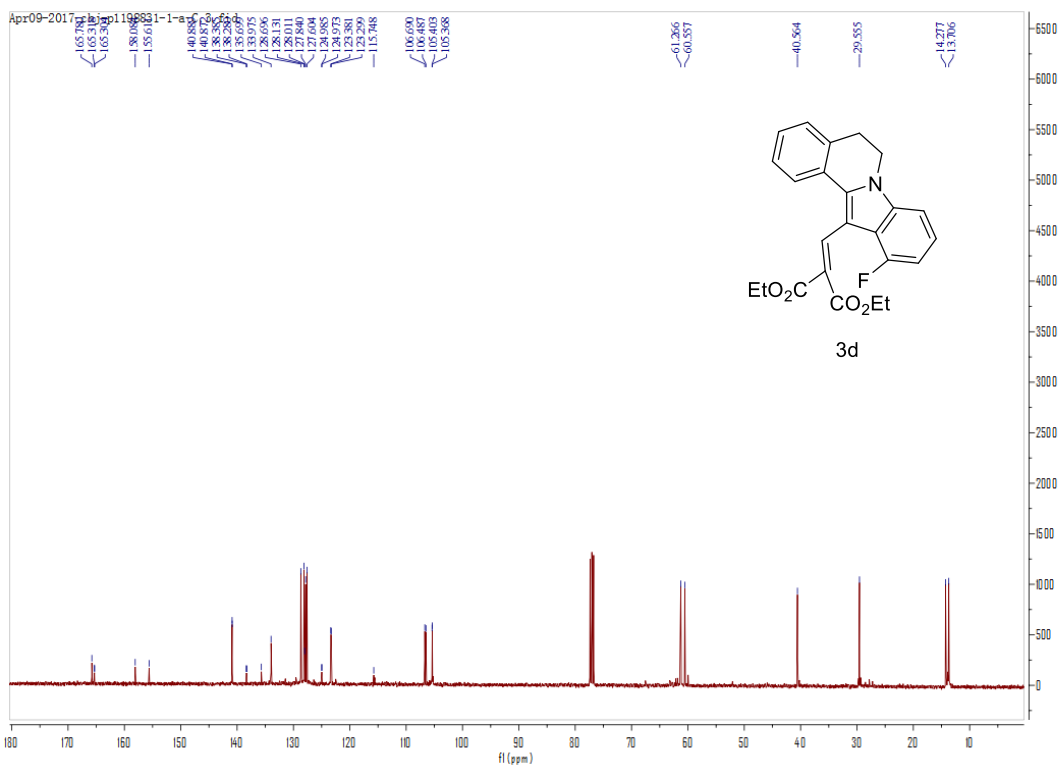
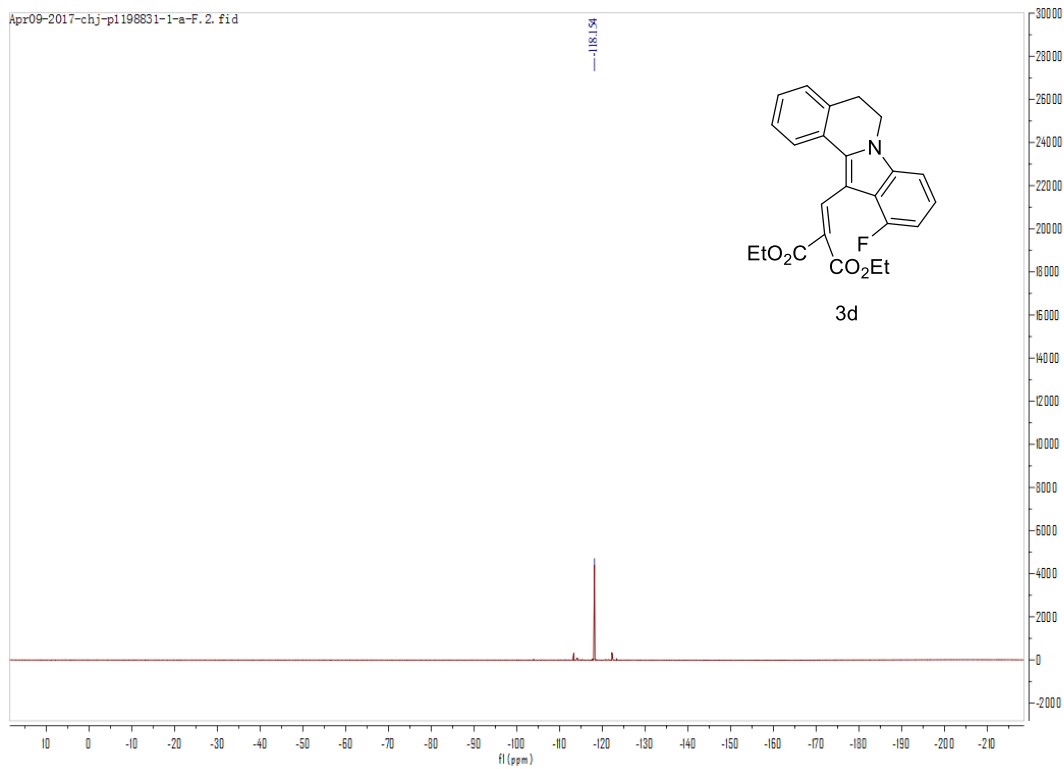
(b) The NMR spectra of the desired compounds

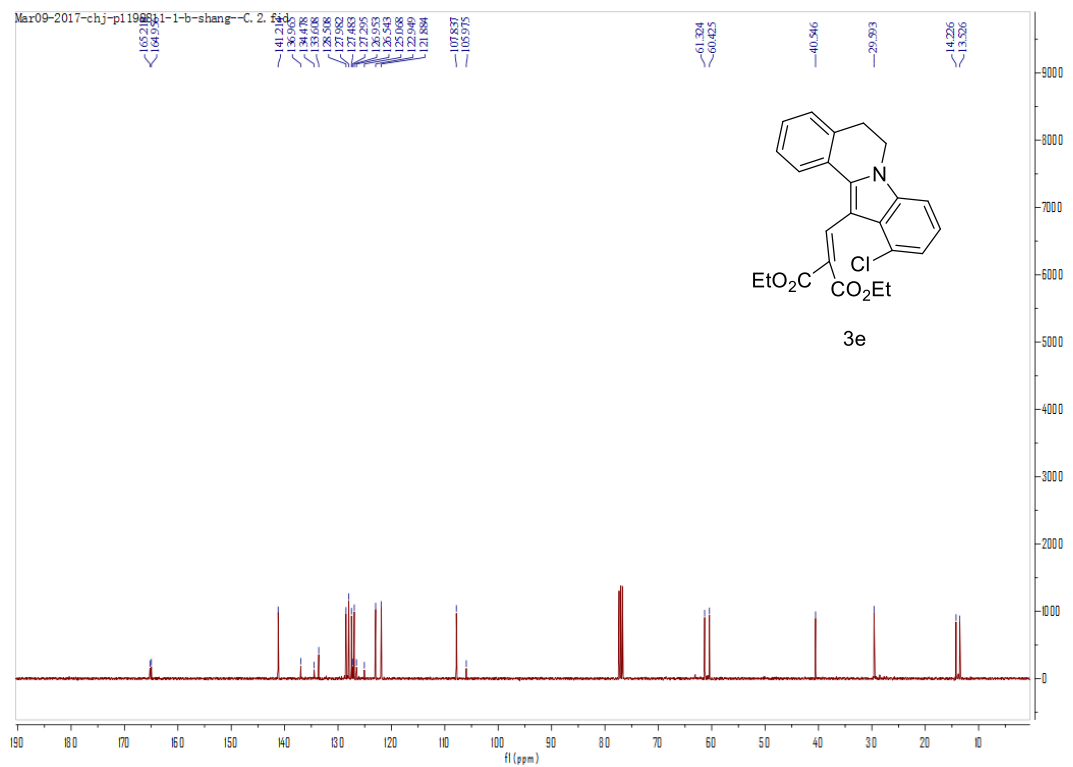
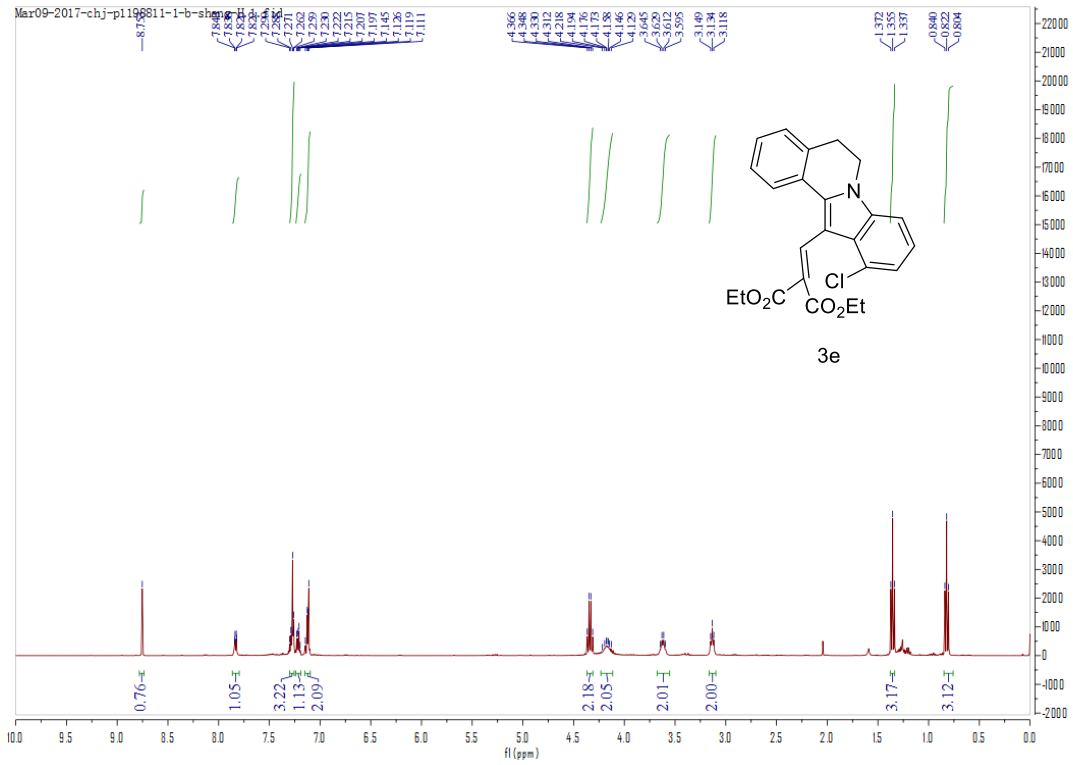


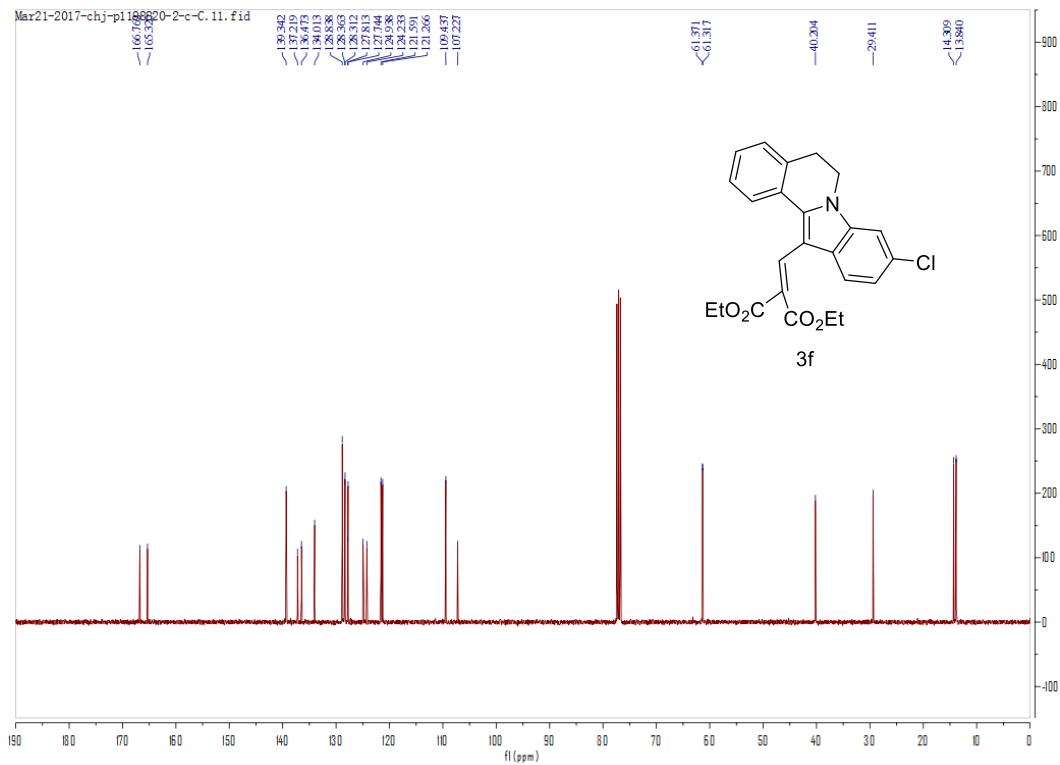
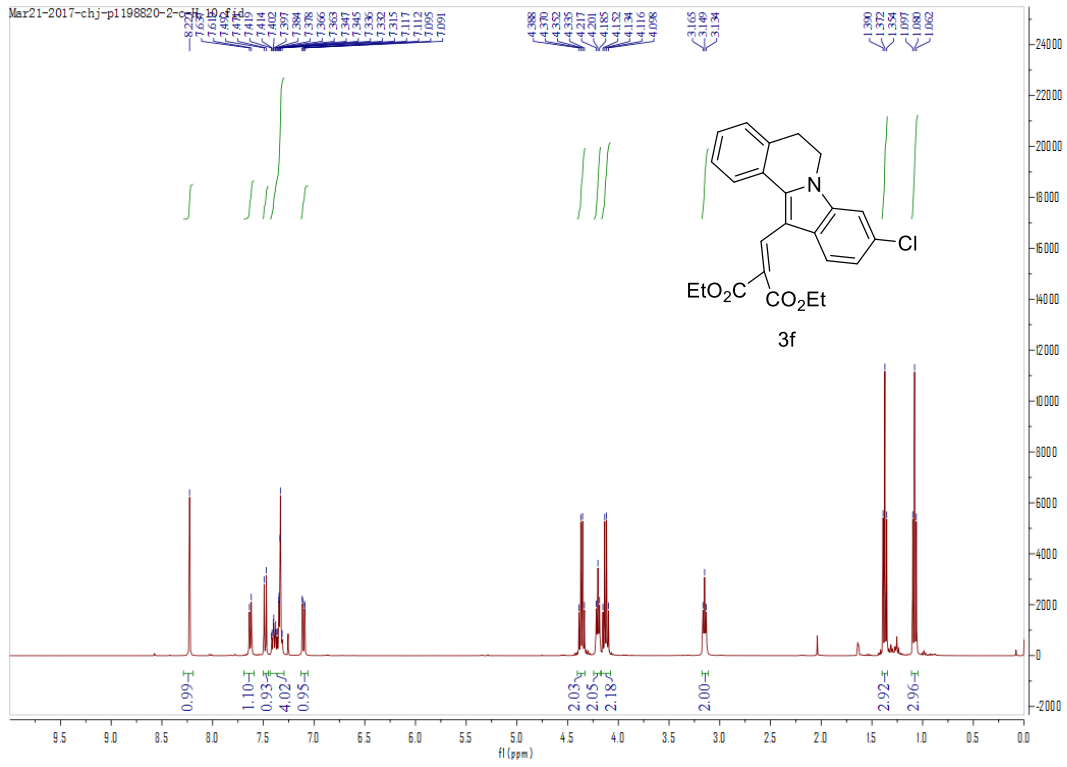


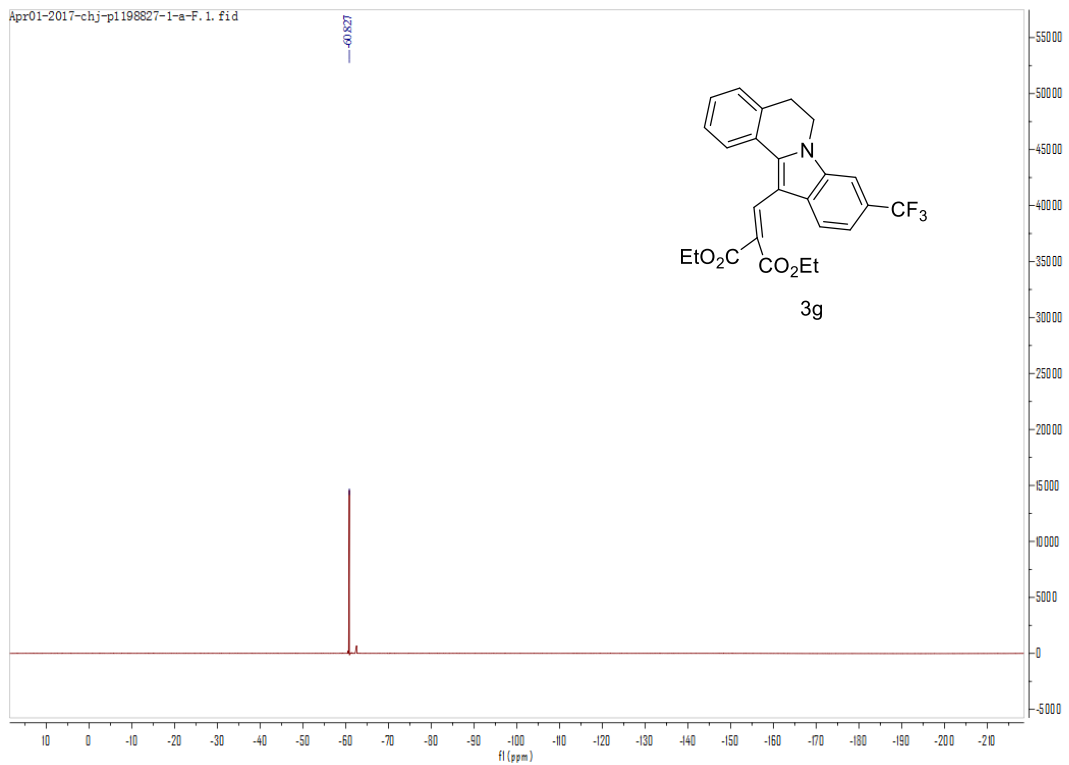
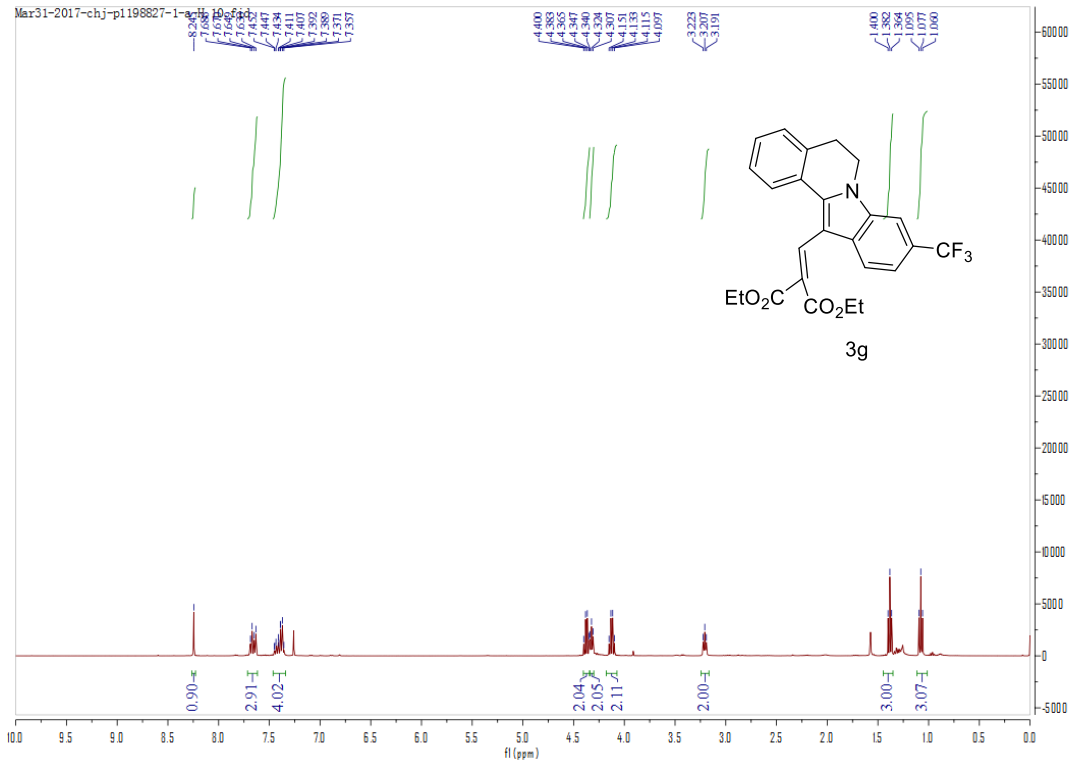


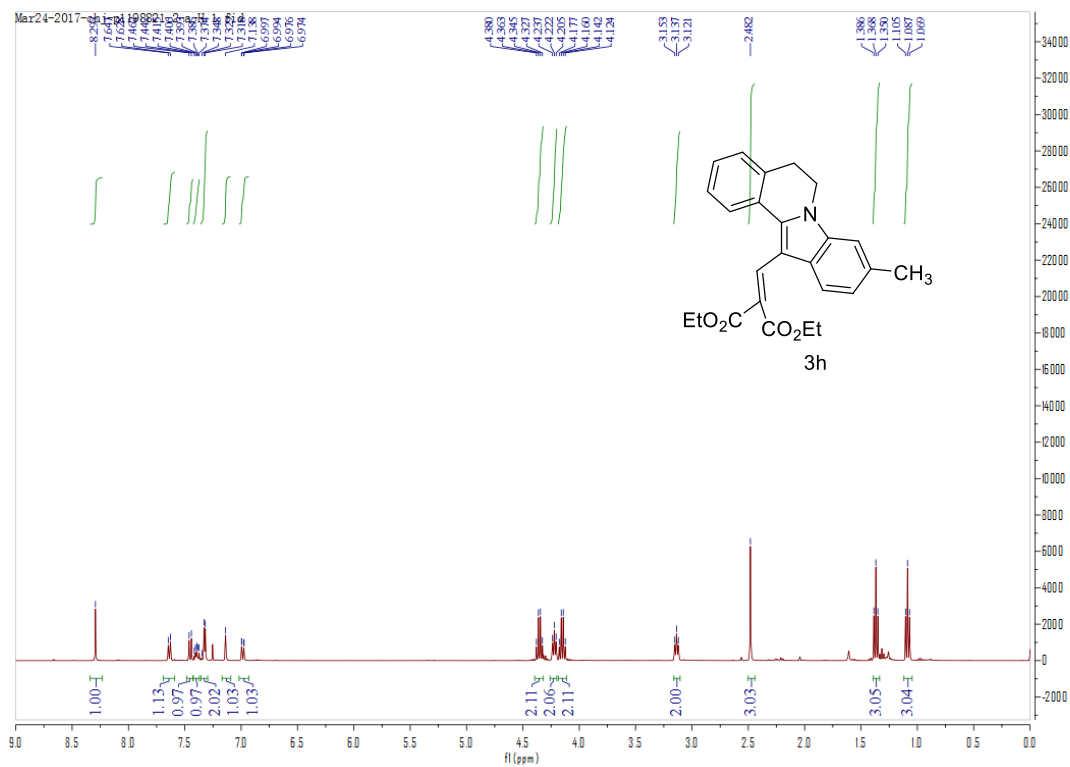
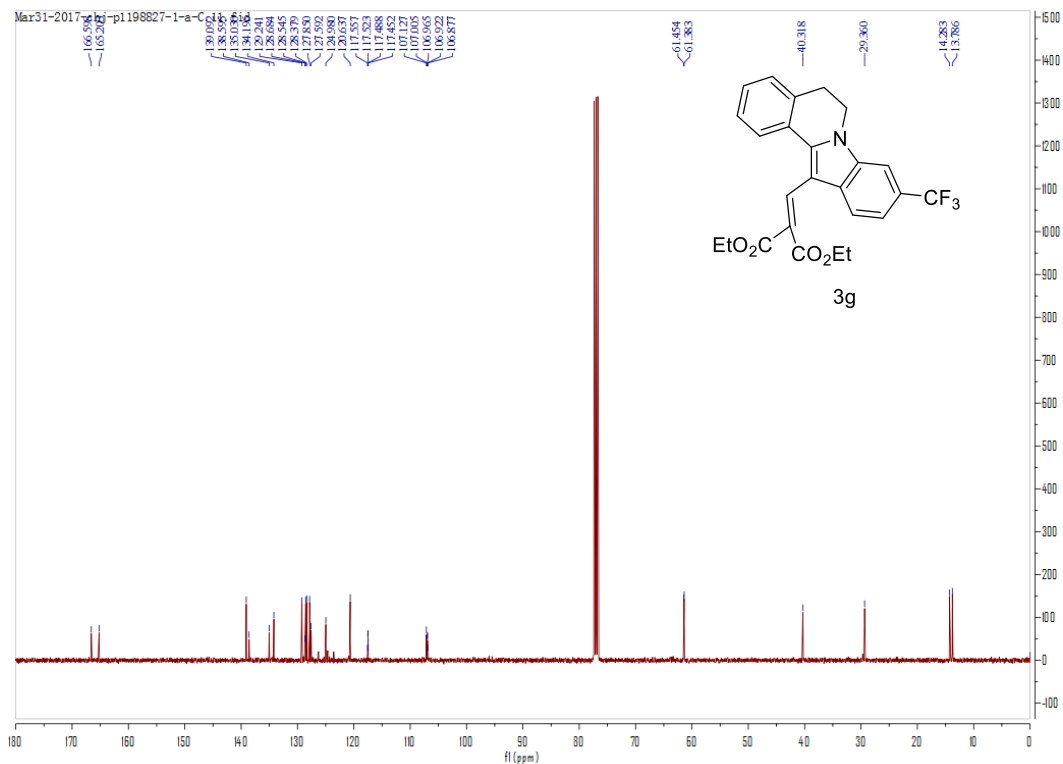


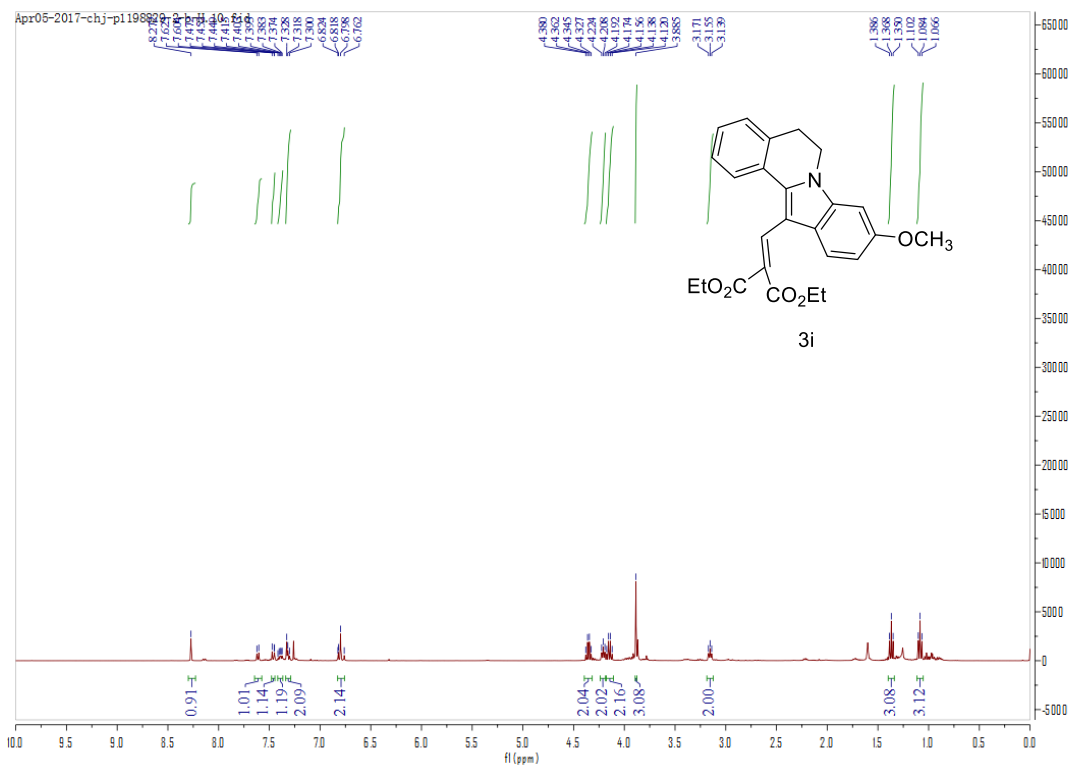
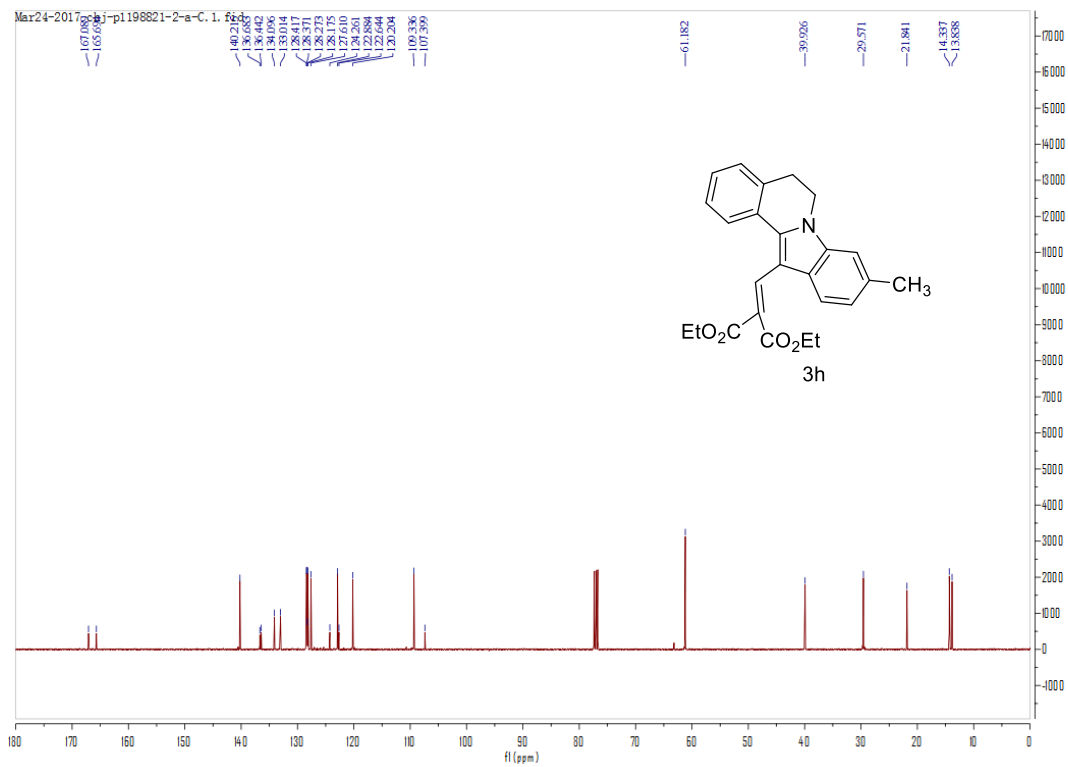


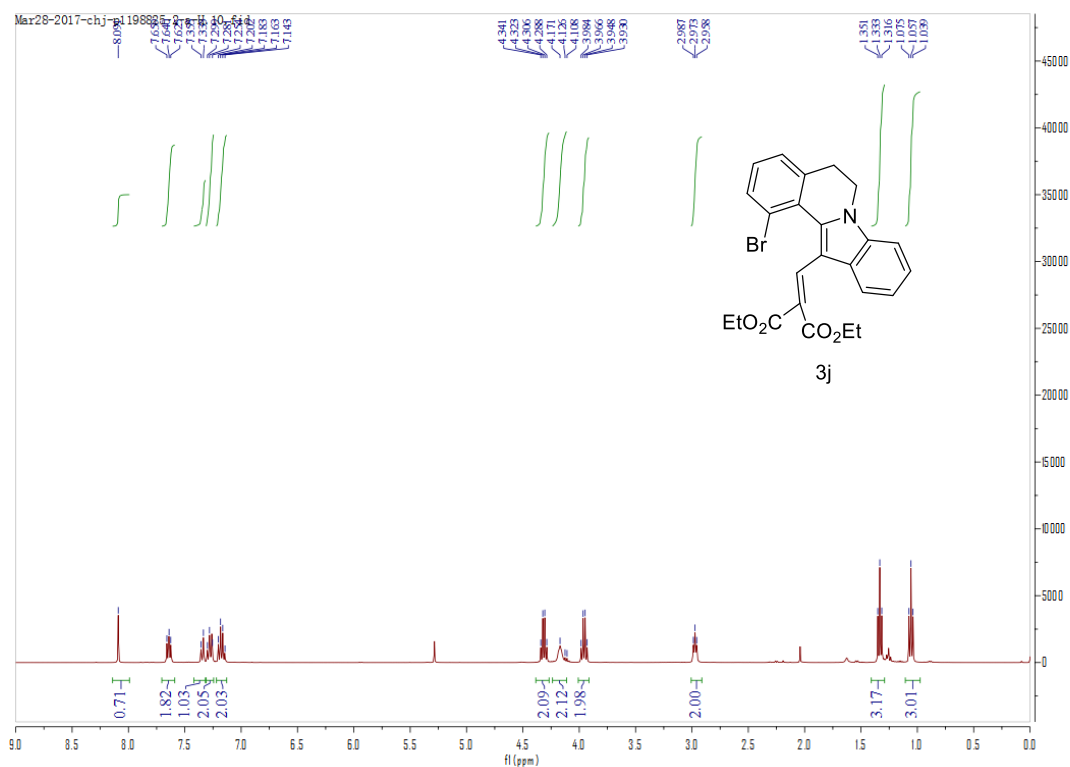
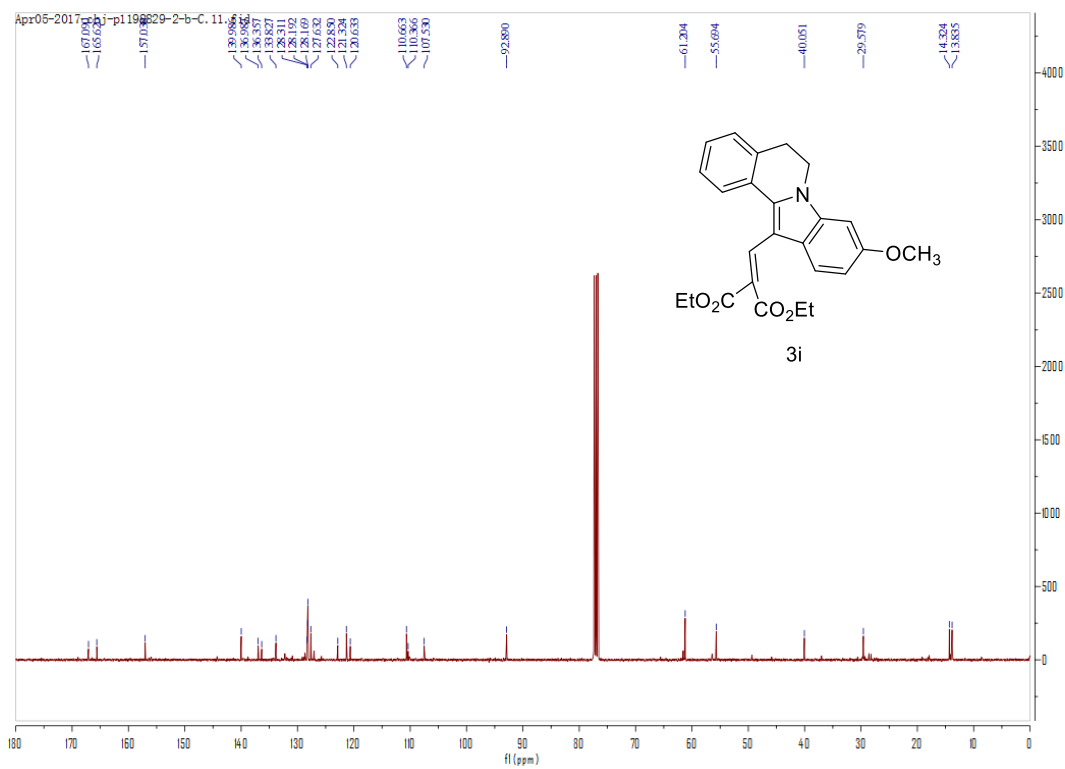


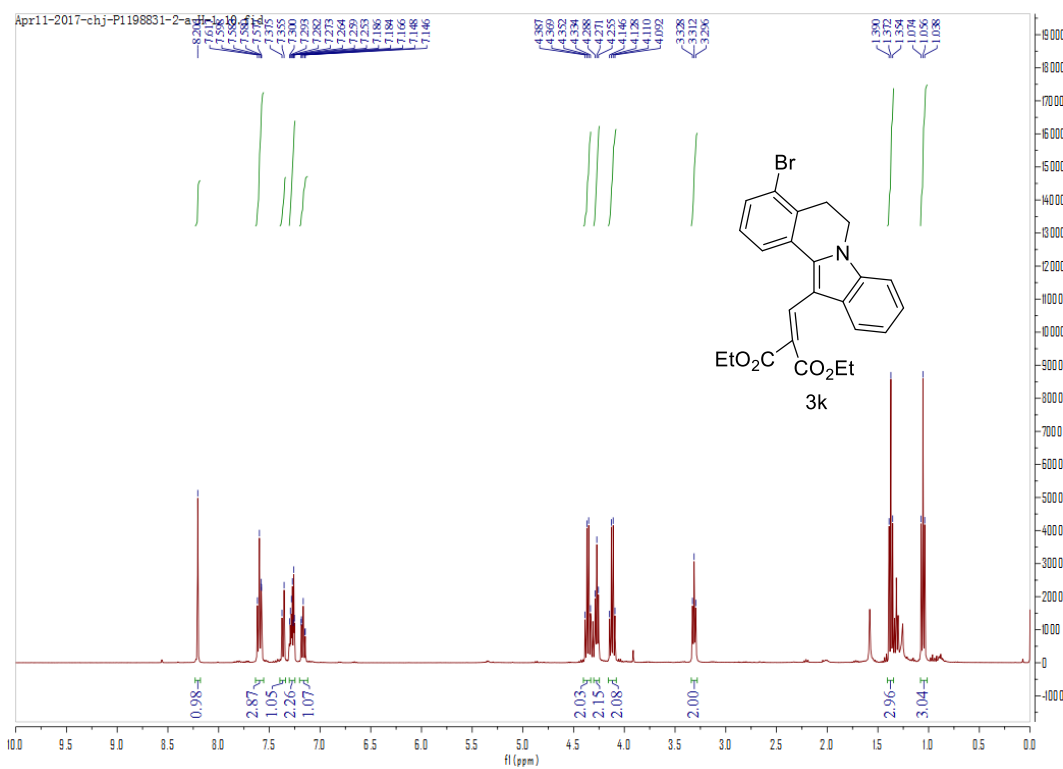
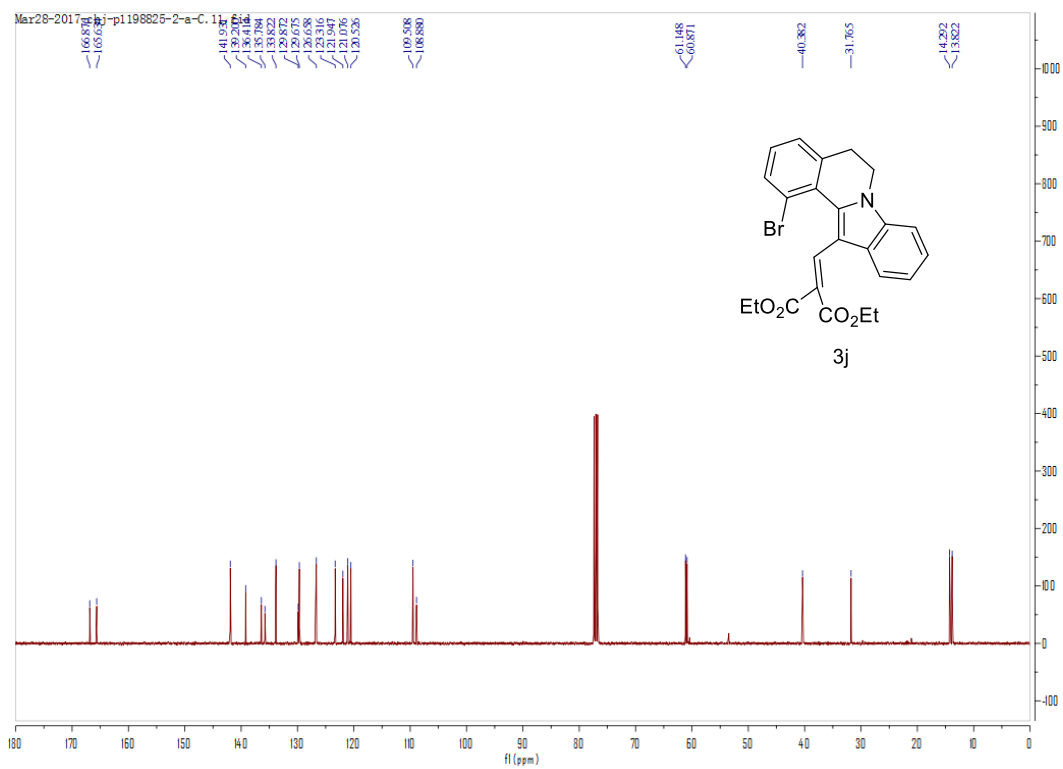


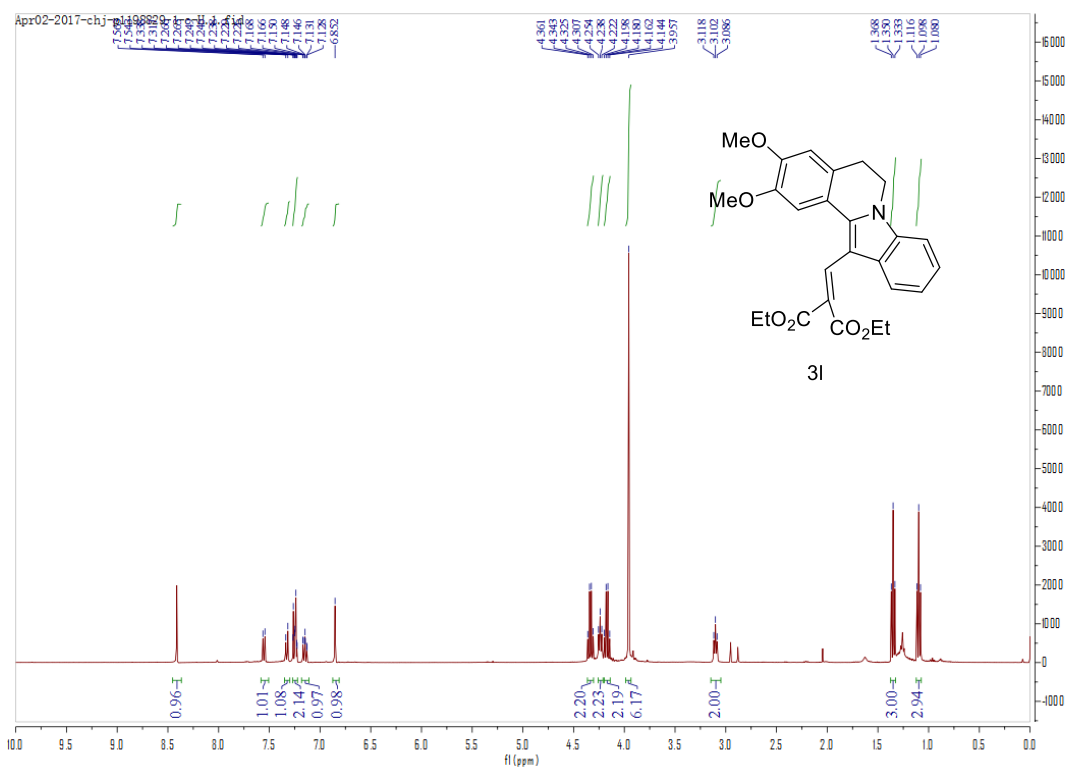
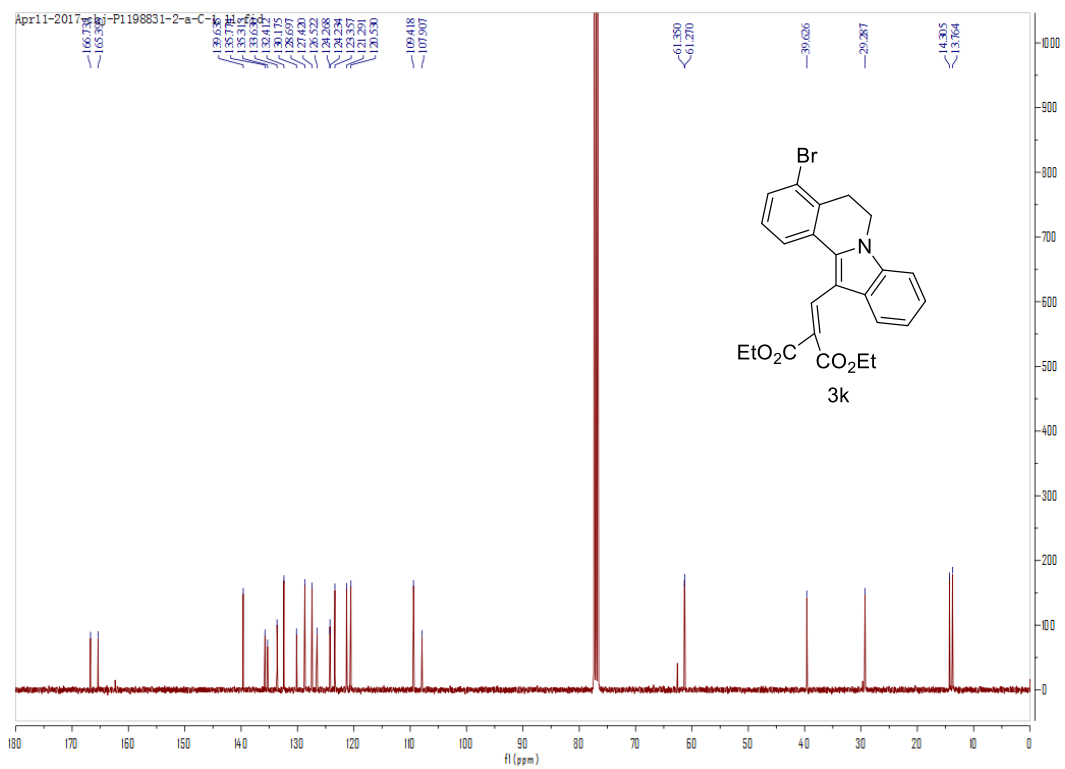


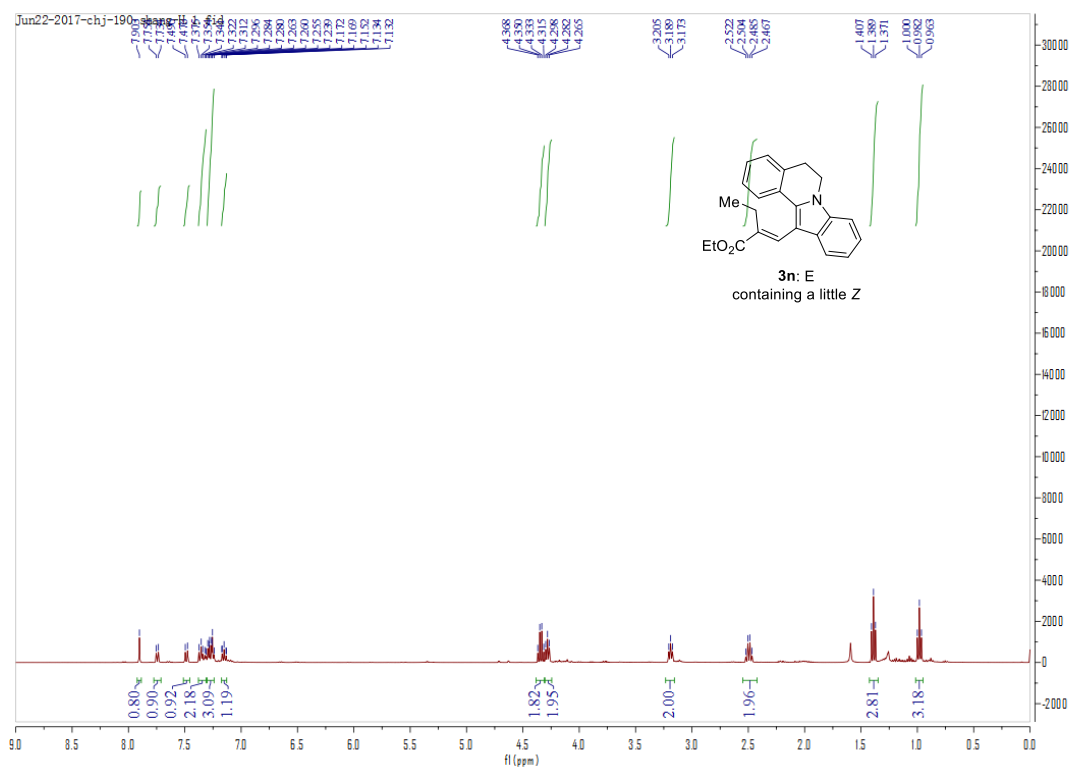
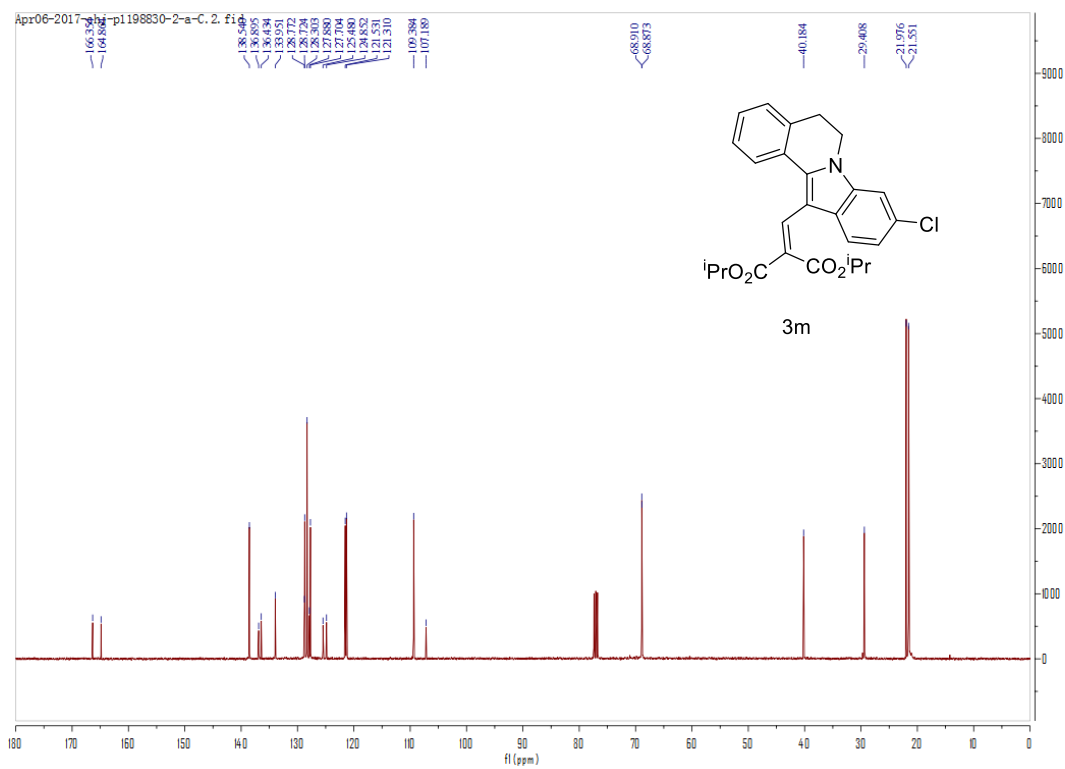


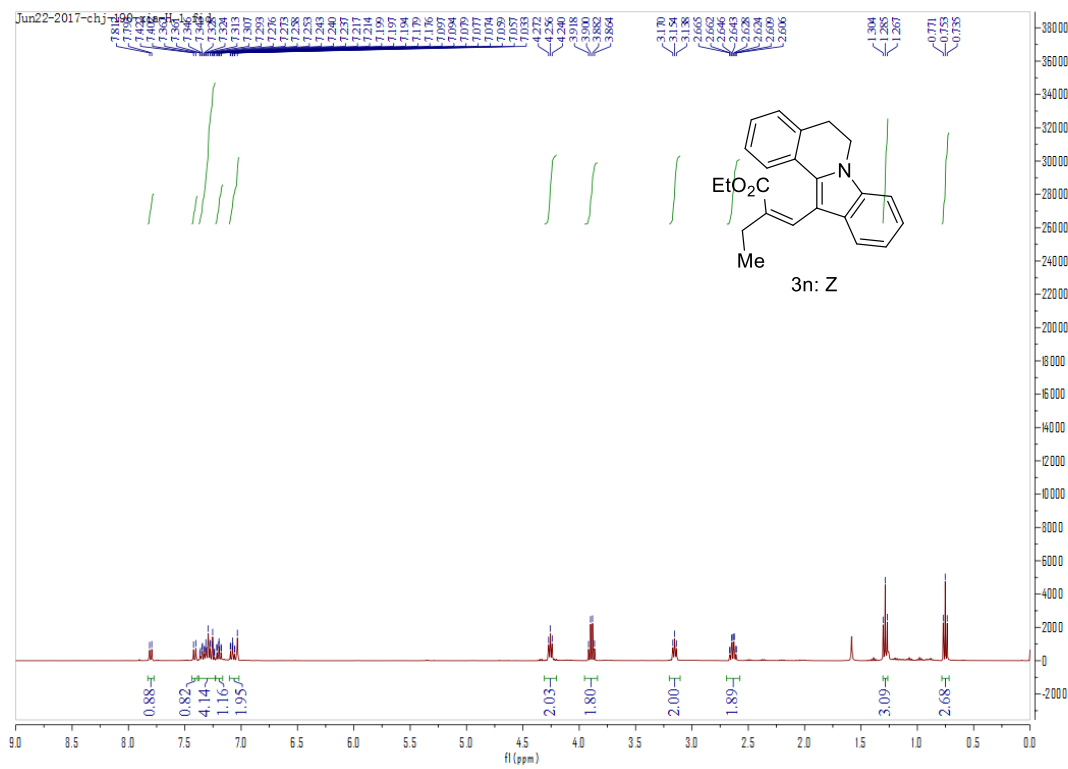
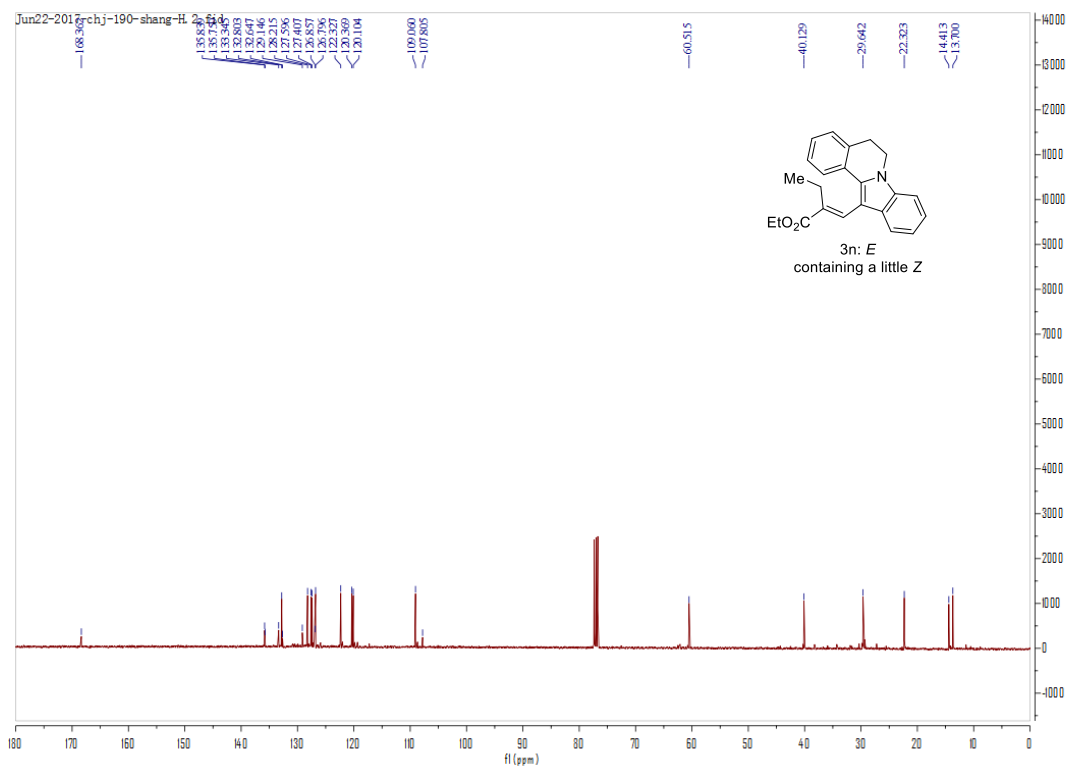


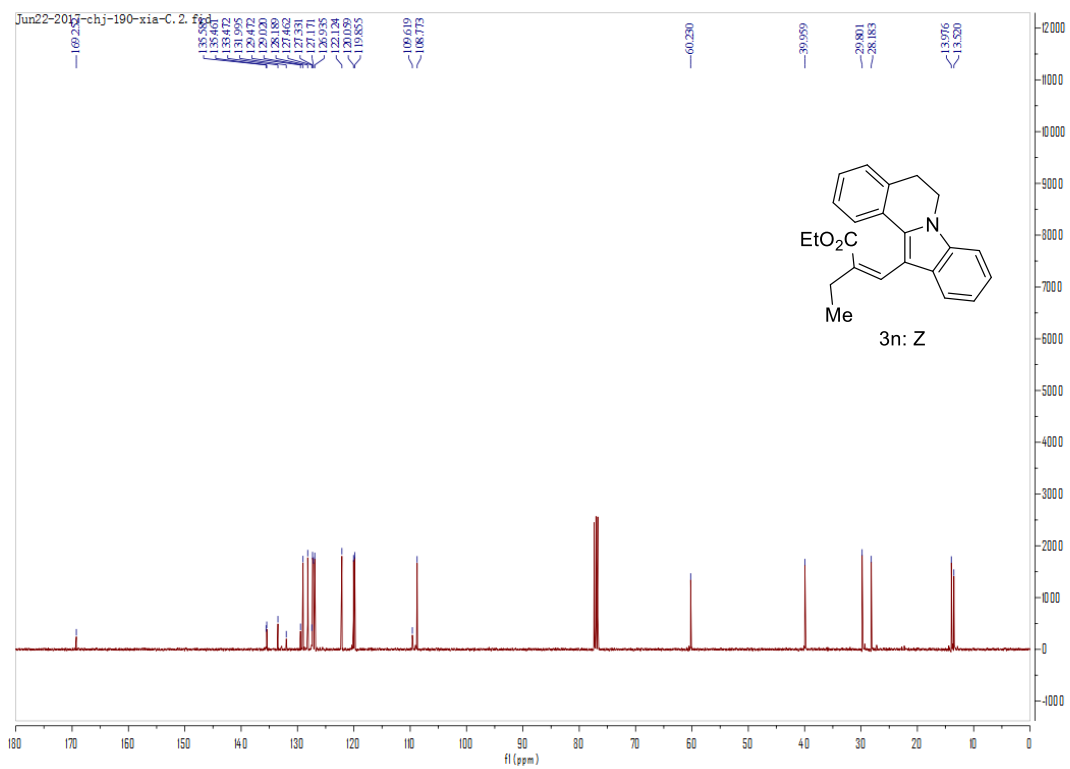




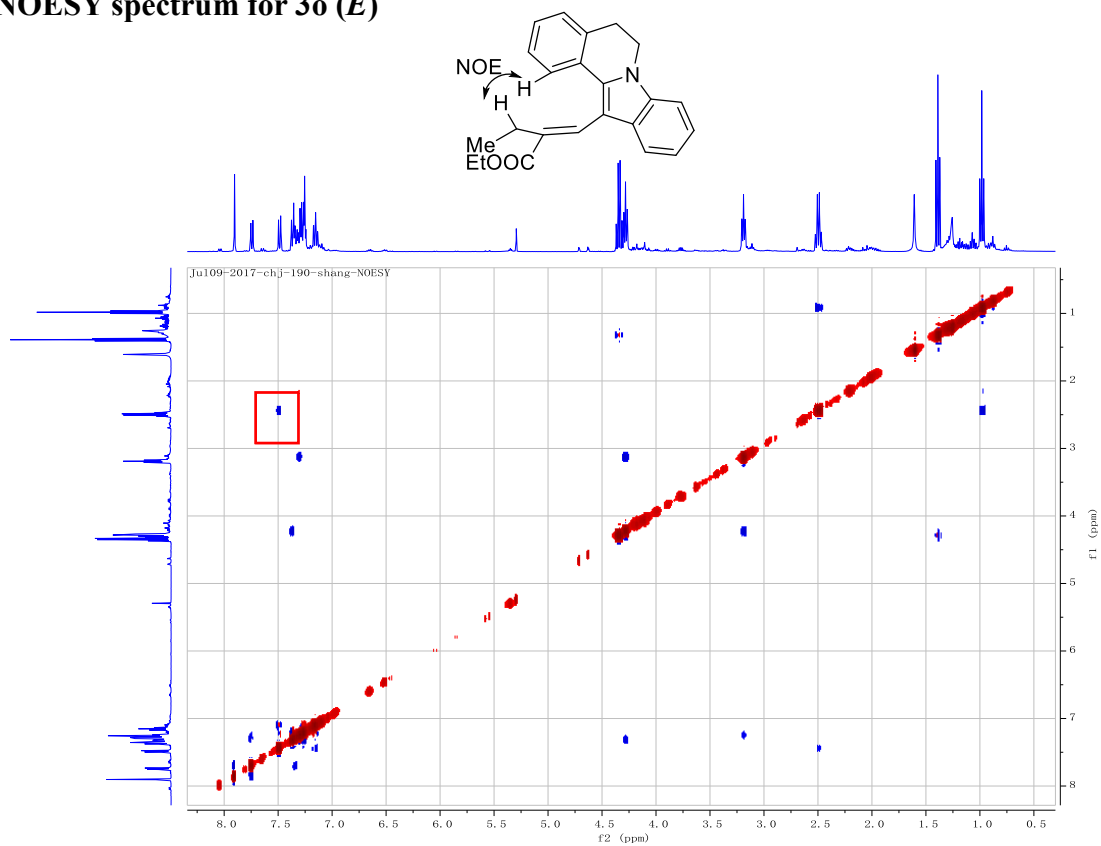








NOESY spectrum for 3o (*E*)



NOESY spectrum for 3o (Z)

