

Electronic Supplementary Information

Synthesis of 2-Aminopyridines *via* Ruthenium-Catalyzed [2+2+2] Cycloaddition of 1,6- and 1,7-Diynes with Cyanamides: Scope and Limitations

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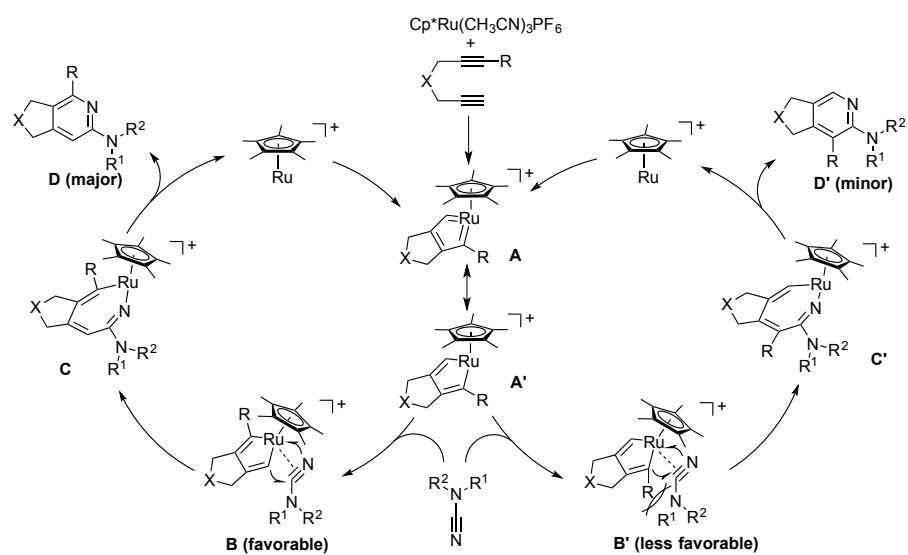
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I. Proposed Mechanism

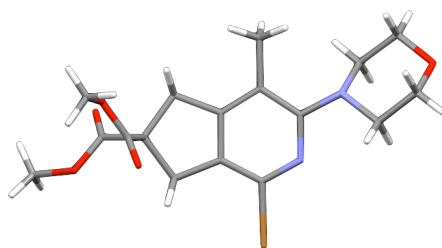
Mechanistically, the metal-catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition has been thoroughly studied in the presence of several metals. Nevertheless, as described in the Scheme below, one important feature concerns the regioselectivity of the ruthenium-catalyzed process, *e.g.*, the formation of the major isomer **D** versus **D'**. Following *in situ* ligand de-coordination and coordination of 1,6-diyne, the oxidative coupling of the two alkyne units leads to a ruthenacyclopentadiene **A'** or its canonical form **A**.^{1,2} The next elemental step determines the regioselectivity of the reaction. Indeed, coordination of cyanamide gives intermediates **B** or **B'**. The origin of the observed regiochemistry can be reasonably explained by the steric hindrance of the amino part of the cyanamide and the steric bulkiness at α -positions of ruthenacyclopentadiene intermediate due to the Cp* ligand, leading to the favourable formation of **B**. Insertion of cyanamide at the less hindered position of the intermediate **B** gives rise to azaruthenacyclopentadiene intermediate **C**, which upon reductive elimination subsequently affords the 2-aminopyridine product **D**. When the 1,6-diyne is substituted by two very hindered groups (Table 1, entries 14-16), no reaction was observed. A hydrogen atom and/or methyl group as substituent of the alkynes are fully compatible with the cycloaddition process and favour the formation of the major intermediate **B** (Table 2). This mechanism is therefore in agreement with the experimental data.

¹ For the intervention of Ru-biscarbenic intermediates, see: (a) M. O. Albers, D. J. A. de Waal, D. C. Liles, D. J. Robinson, E. Singleton and M. B. Wiege, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.*, 1986, 1680; (b) Y. Yamamoto, T. Arakawa, R. Ogawa and K. Itoh, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2003, **125**, 12143; (c) J. Le Paih, F. Monnier, S. Dérien, P. H. Dixneuf, E. Clot and O. Eisenstein, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2003, **125**, 11964; (d) Y. Yamamoto, K. Hata, T. Arakawa and K. Itoh, *Chem. Commun.*, 2003, 1290.

² Several attempts to support the mechanism by isolating the active biscarbenic species did not succeed.



II. ORTEP diagram for the structure of compounds **5a** and **10**



X-ray structure of **5a** (CCDC 1559302)

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0018 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=27.4912(7) b=11.5671(3) c=11.9907(3)
alpha=90 beta=110.344(2) gamma=90

Temperature: 200 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	3575.12(16)	3575.12(16)
Space group	C 2/c	C 2/c
Hall group	-C 2yc	-C 2yc
Moiety formula	C17 H21 Br N2 O5	C17 H21 Br N2 O5
Sum formula	C17 H21 Br N2 O5	C17 H21 Br N2 O5
Mr	413.26	413.27
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.536	1.536
Z	8	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	2.330	2.330
F000	1696.0	1696.0
F000'	1694.49	
h,k,lmax	39,16,17	39,16,17
Nref	5498	5484
Tmin,Tmax	0.391,0.628	0.401,0.674
Tmin'	0.188	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.401 Tmax=0.674

AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.997

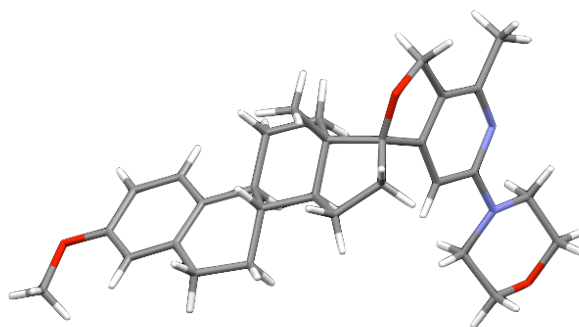
Theta(max)= 30.570

R(reflections)= 0.0236(4763)

wR2(reflections)= 0.0611(5484)

S = 1.029

Npar= 229

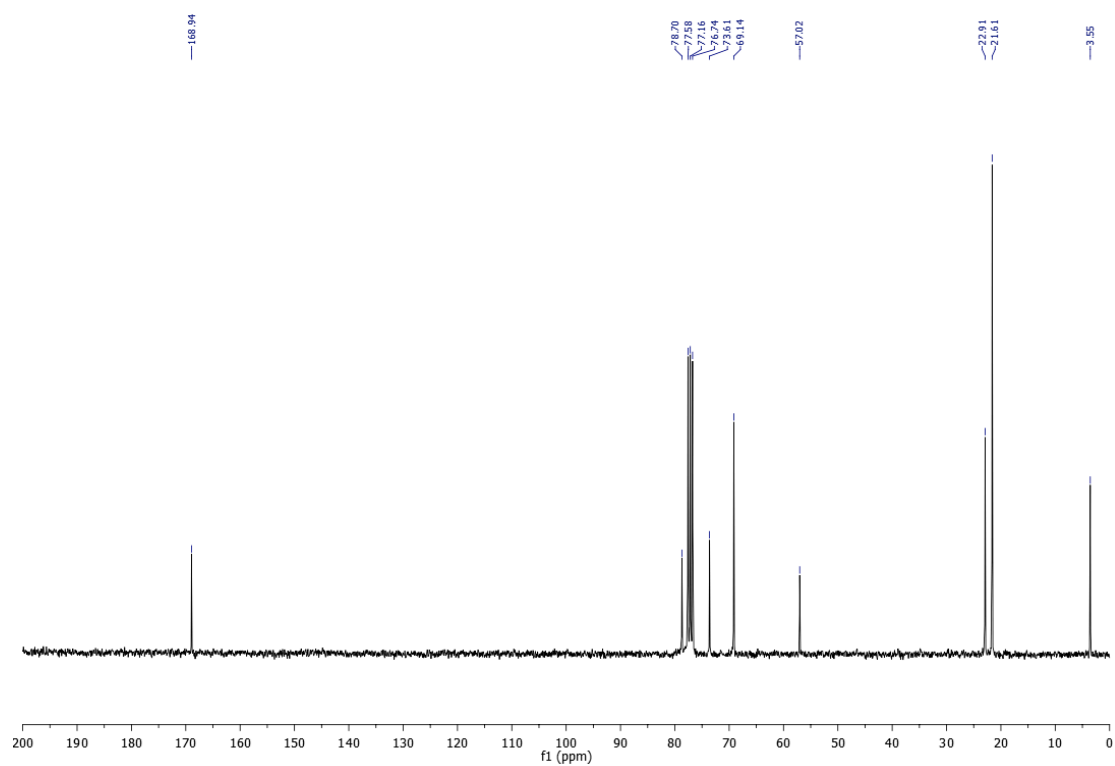
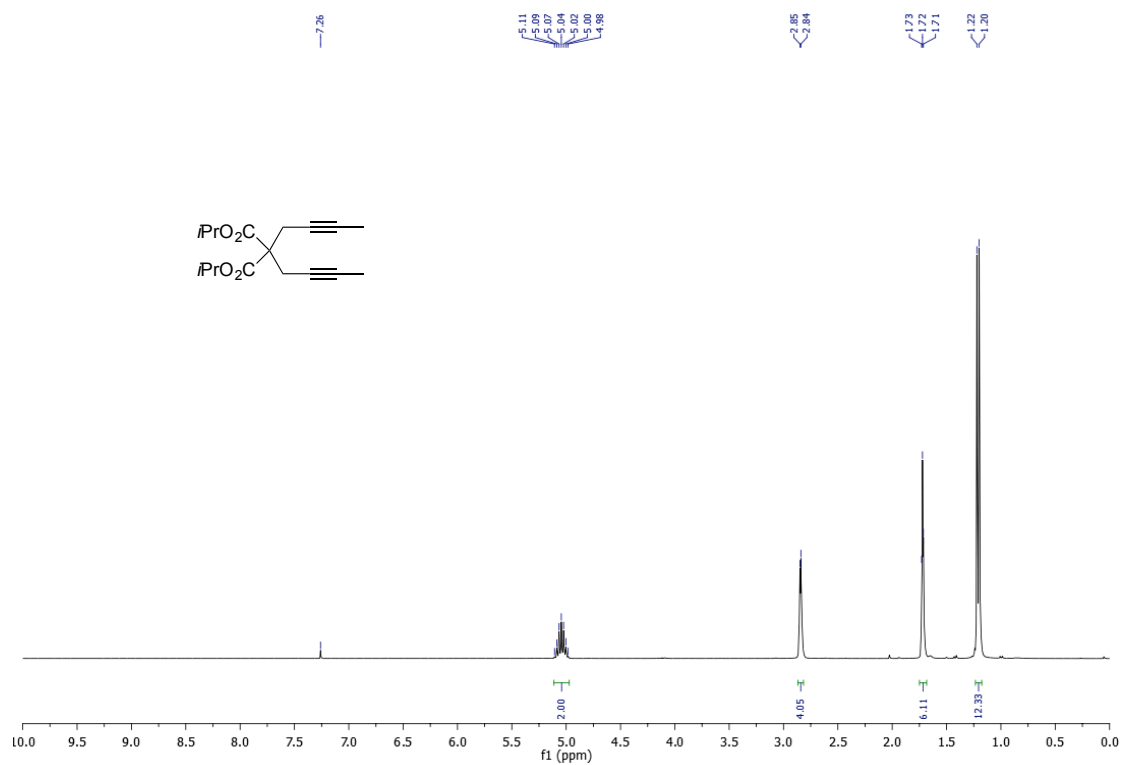


X-ray structure of **10** (CCDC 1559303)

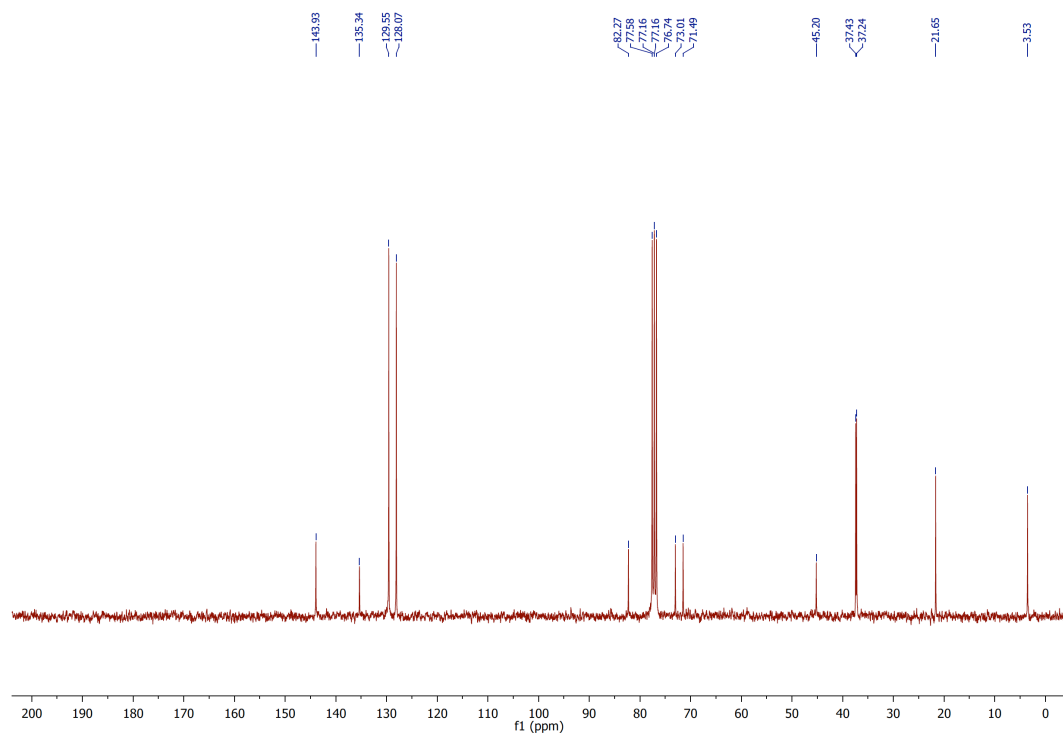
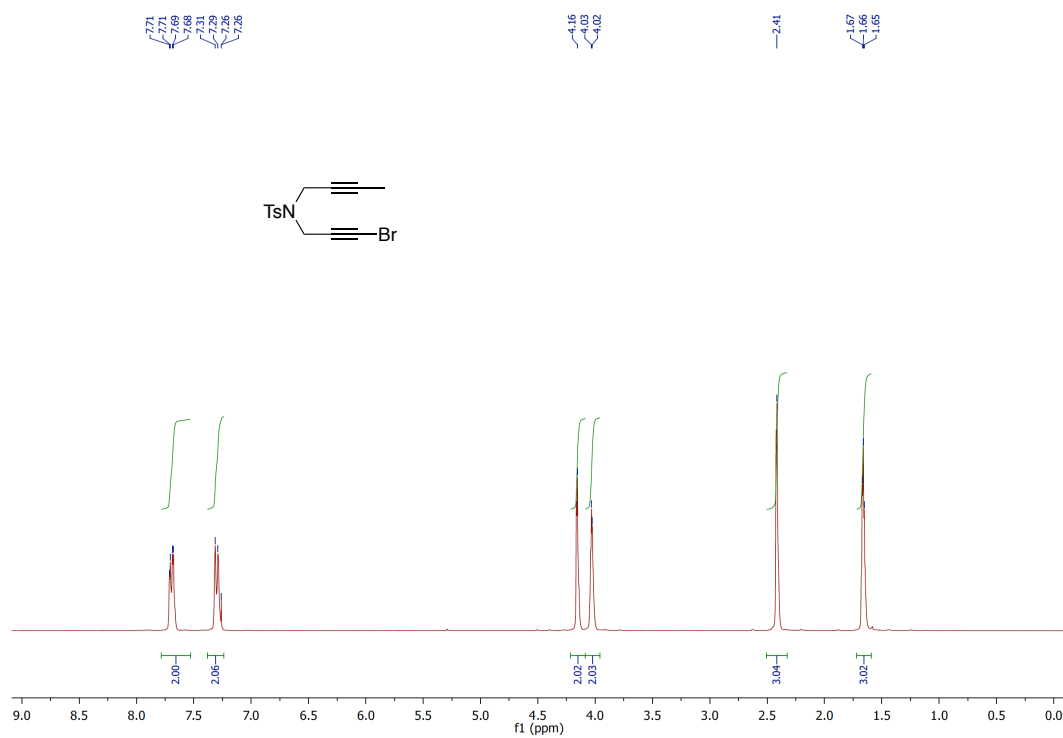
Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0031 Å	Wavelength=1.54178	
Cell:	a=7.1178(2)	b=17.9132(5)	c=19.8302(6)
	alpha=90	beta=90	gamma=90
Temperature:	200 K		
	Calculated	Reported	
Volume	2528.40(13)	2528.40(13)	
Space group	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21	
Hall group	P 2ac 2ab	P 2ac 2ab	
Moiety formula	C30 H38 N2 O3	C30 H38 N2 O3	
Sum formula	C30 H38 N2 O3	C30 H38 N2 O3	
Mr	474.62	474.62	
Dx, g cm-3	1.247	1.247	
Z	4	4	
Mu (mm-1)	0.630	0.630	
F000	1024.0	1024.0	
F000'	1026.86		
h,k,lmax	8,21,23	8,21,23	
Nref	4481[2575]	4468	
Tmin,Tmax	0.927,0.981	0.788,1.000	
Tmin'	0.685		
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.788 Tmax=1.000			
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN			
Data completeness=	1.74/1.00	Theta(max)= 66.669	
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S =	1.062	Npar= 318	

III. NMR spectra for compounds

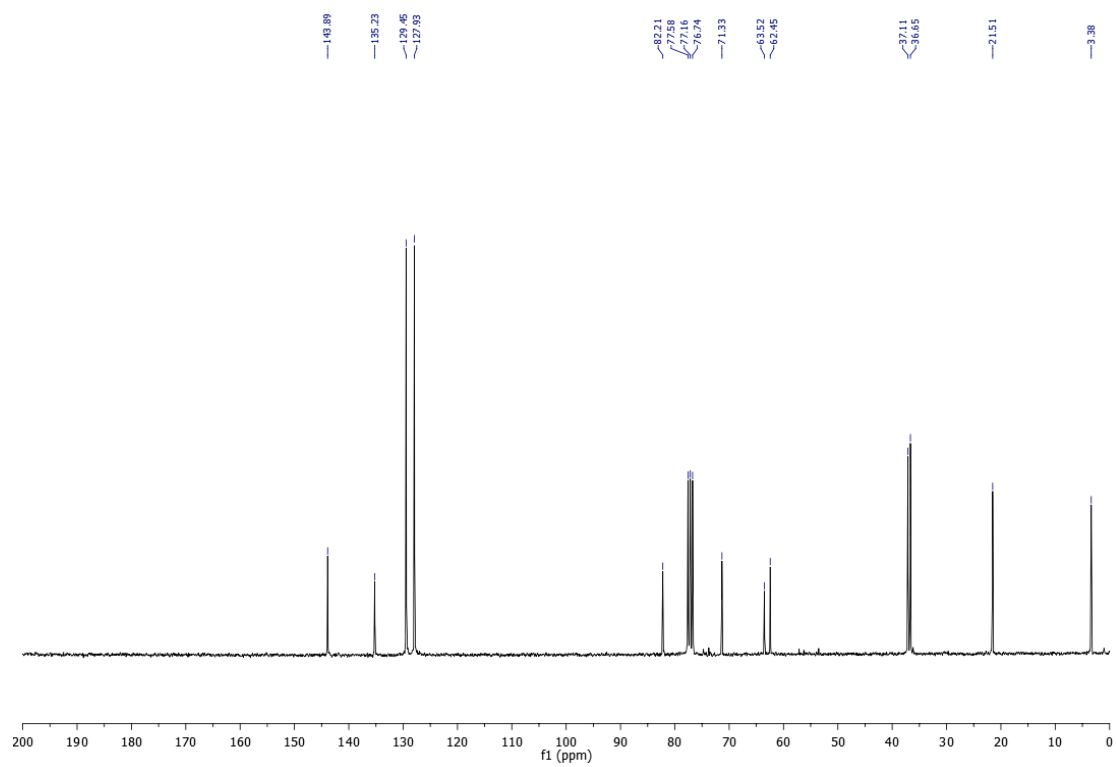
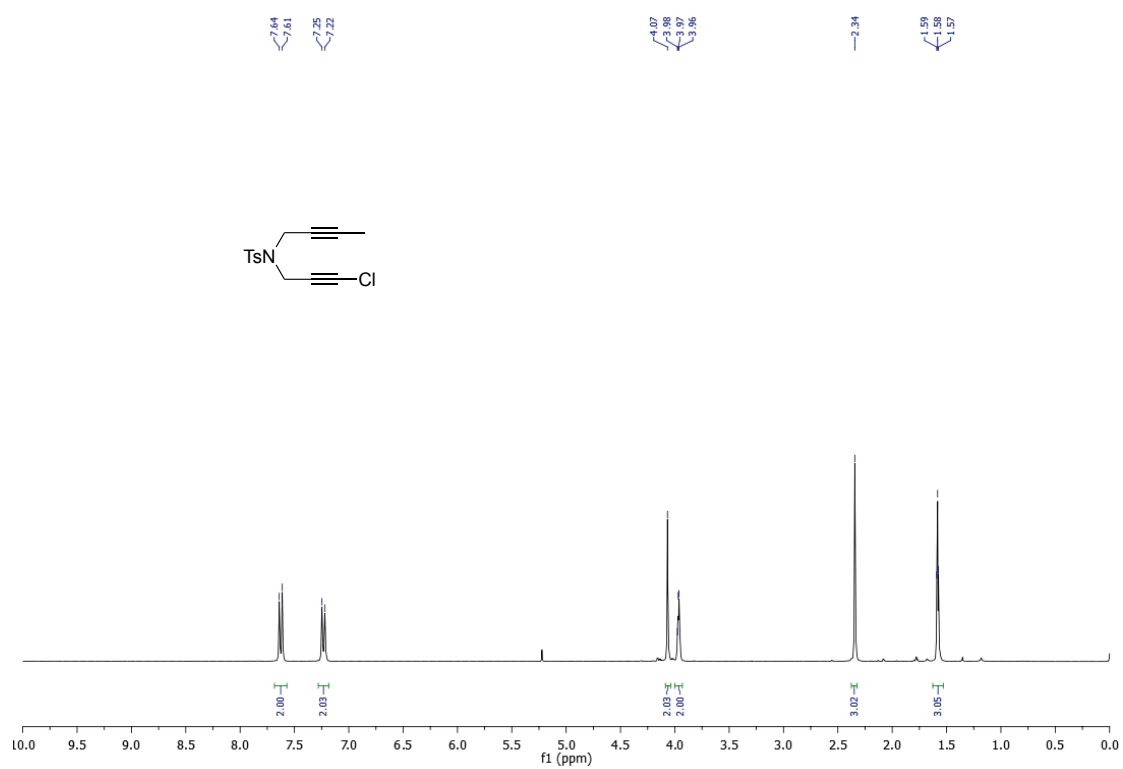
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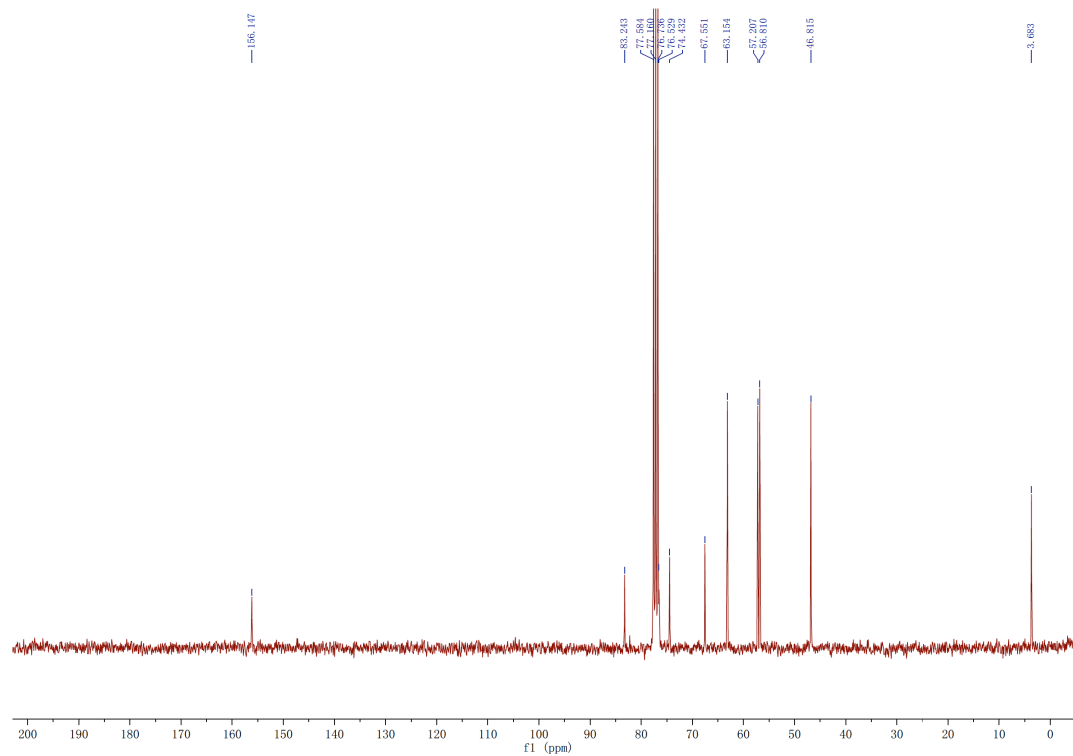
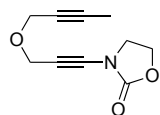
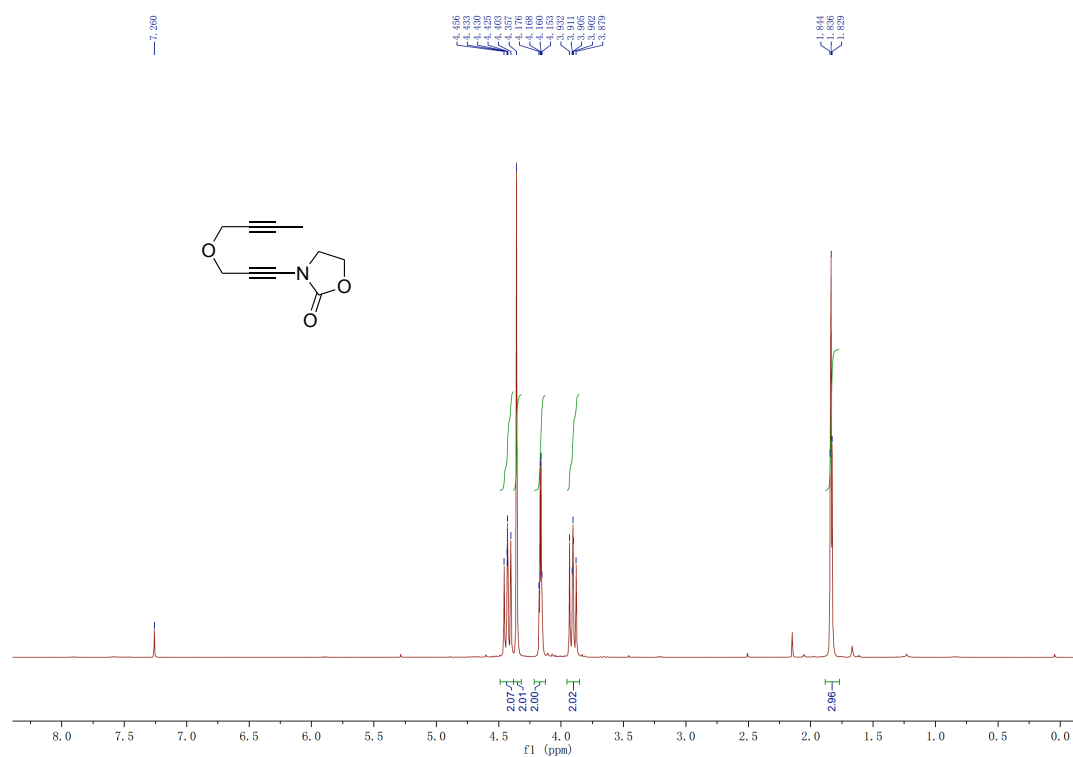
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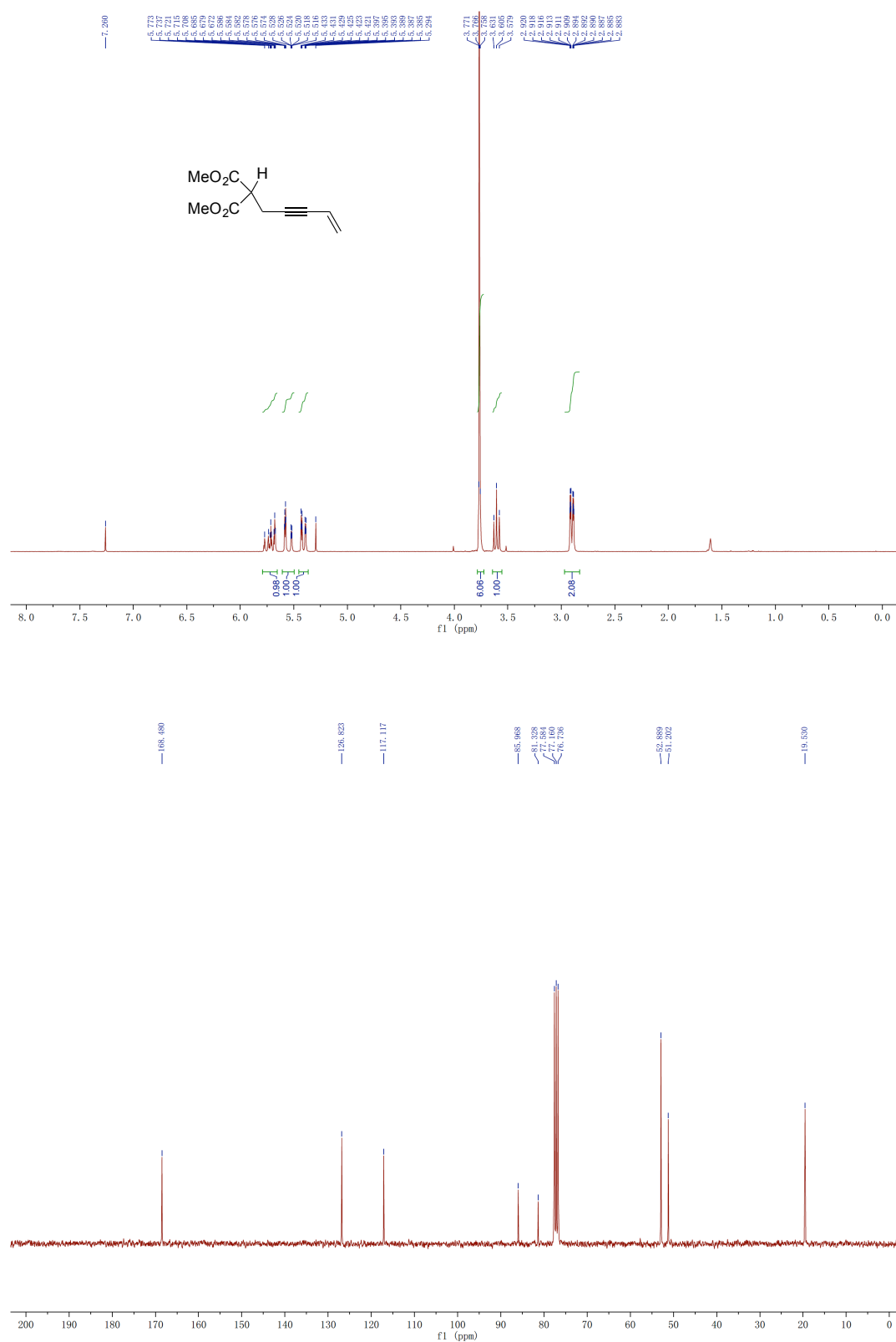


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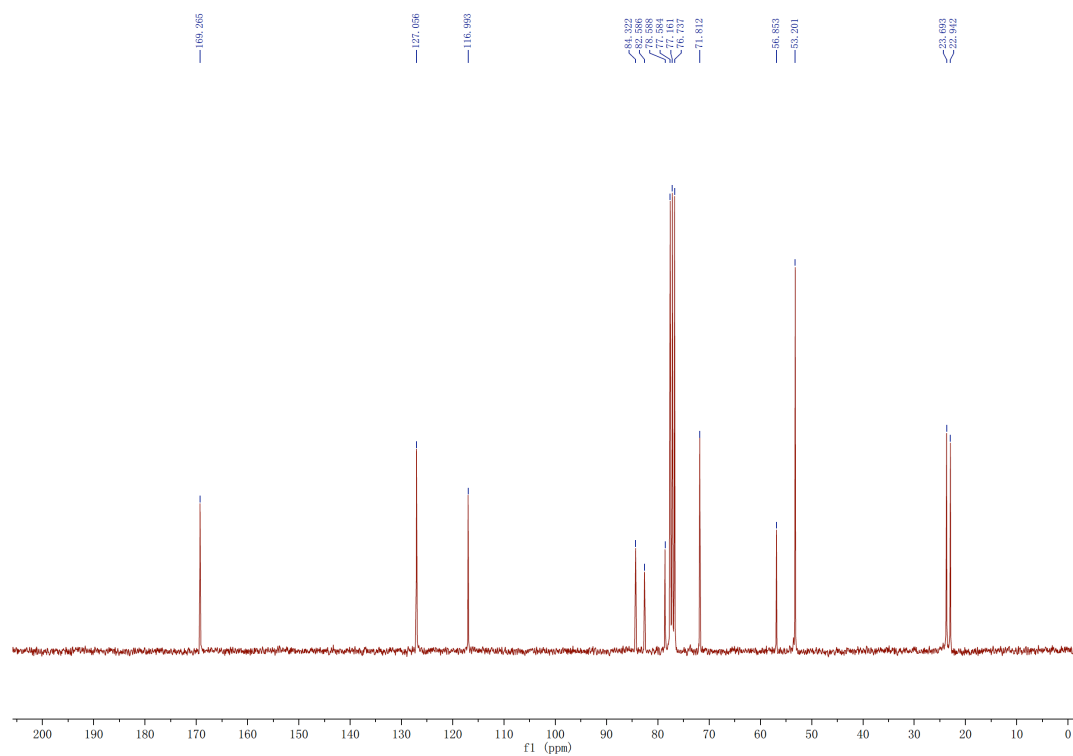
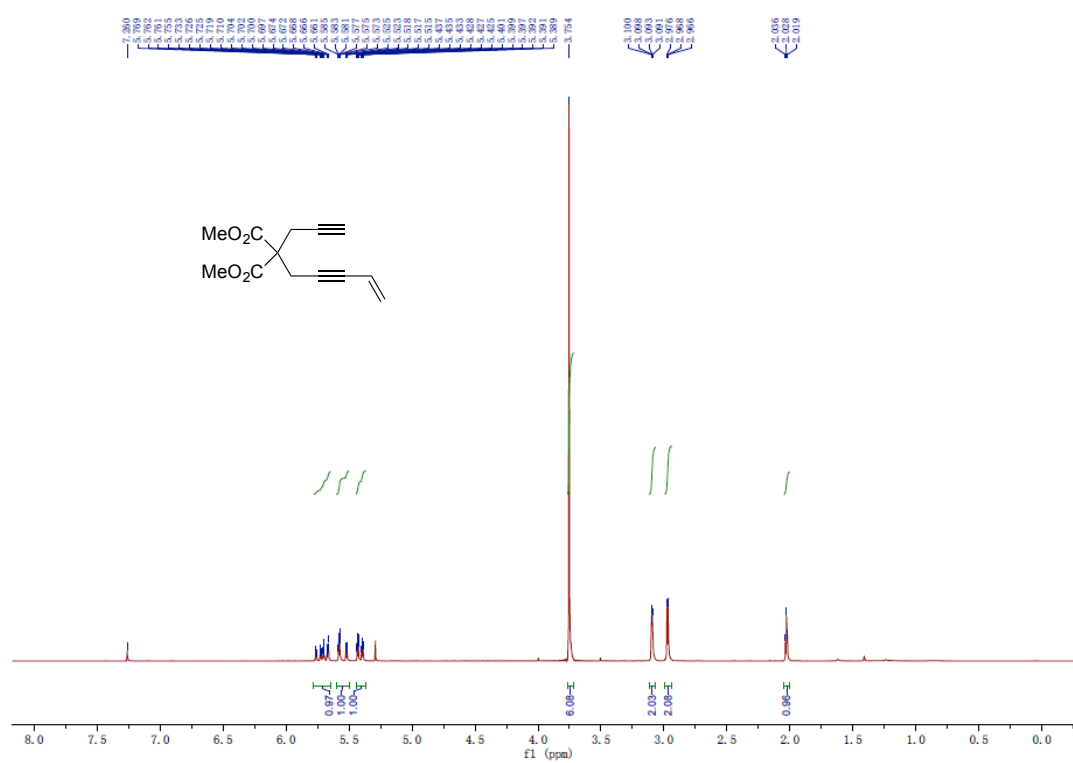


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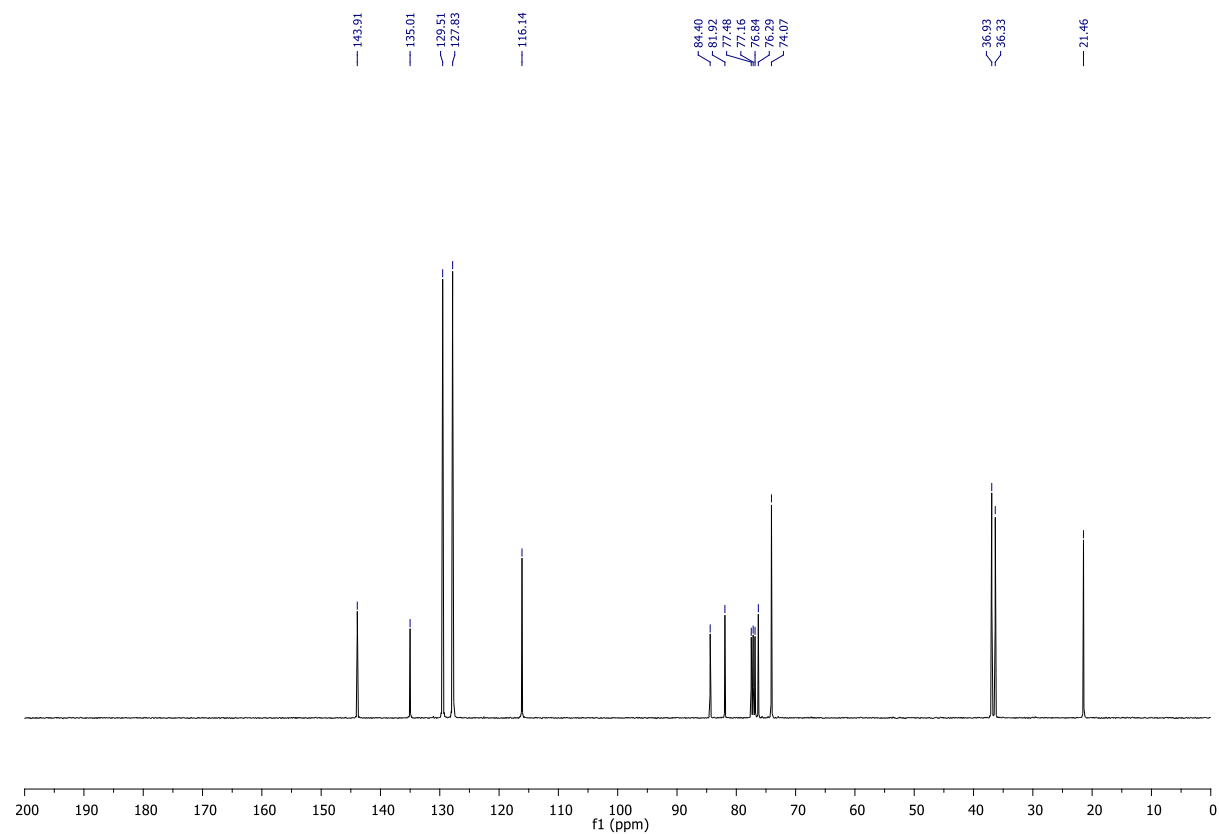
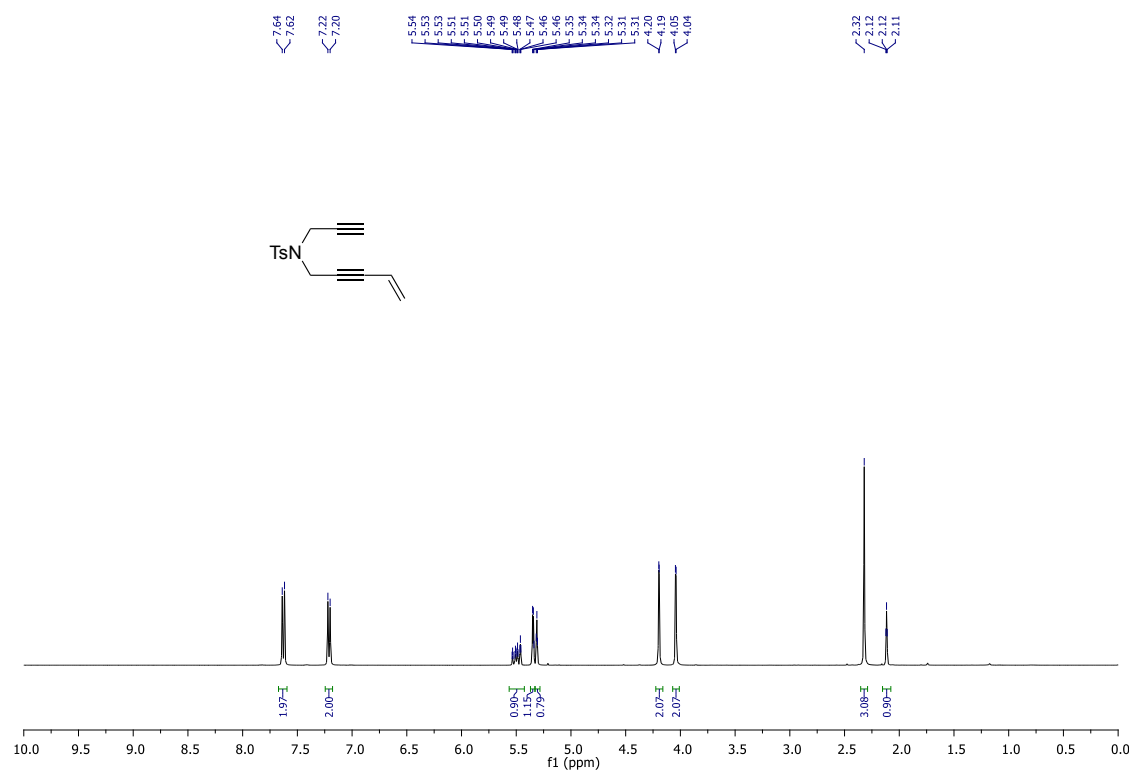


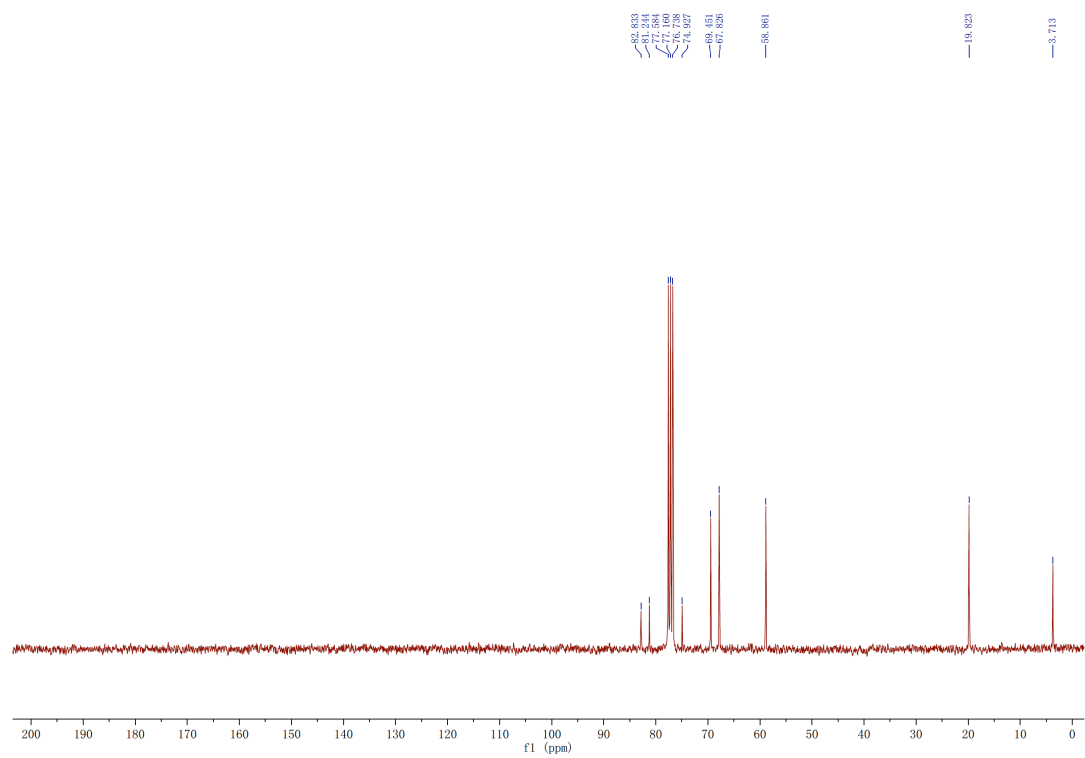
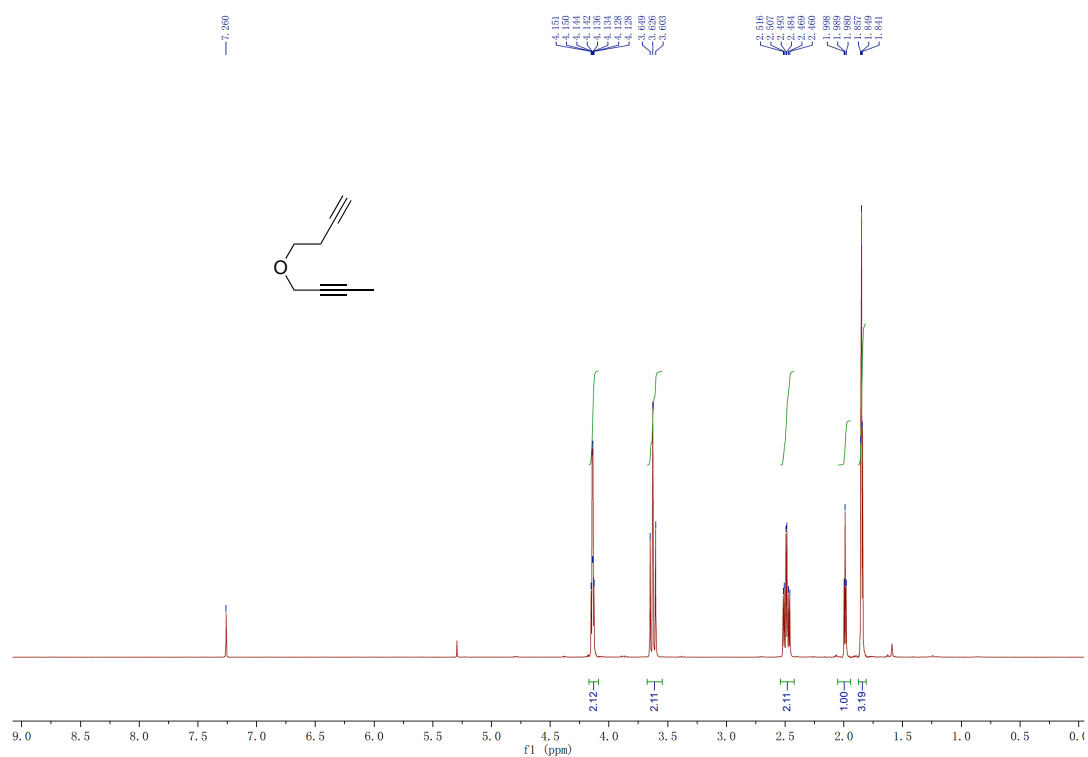


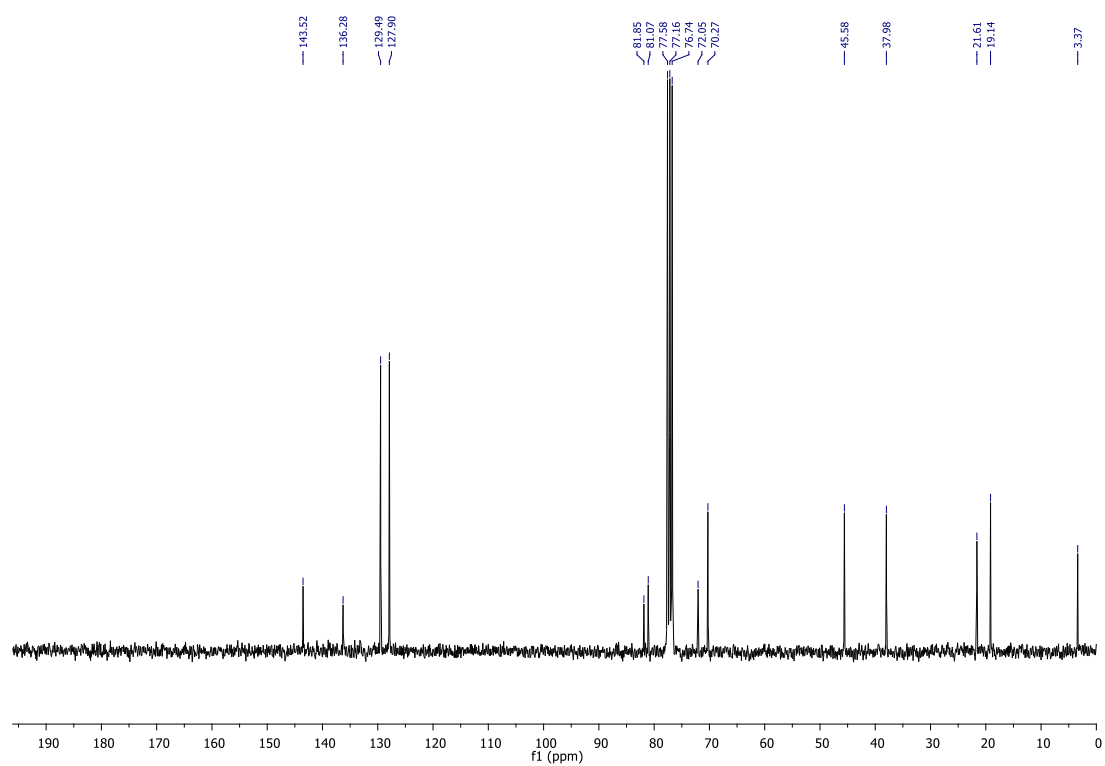
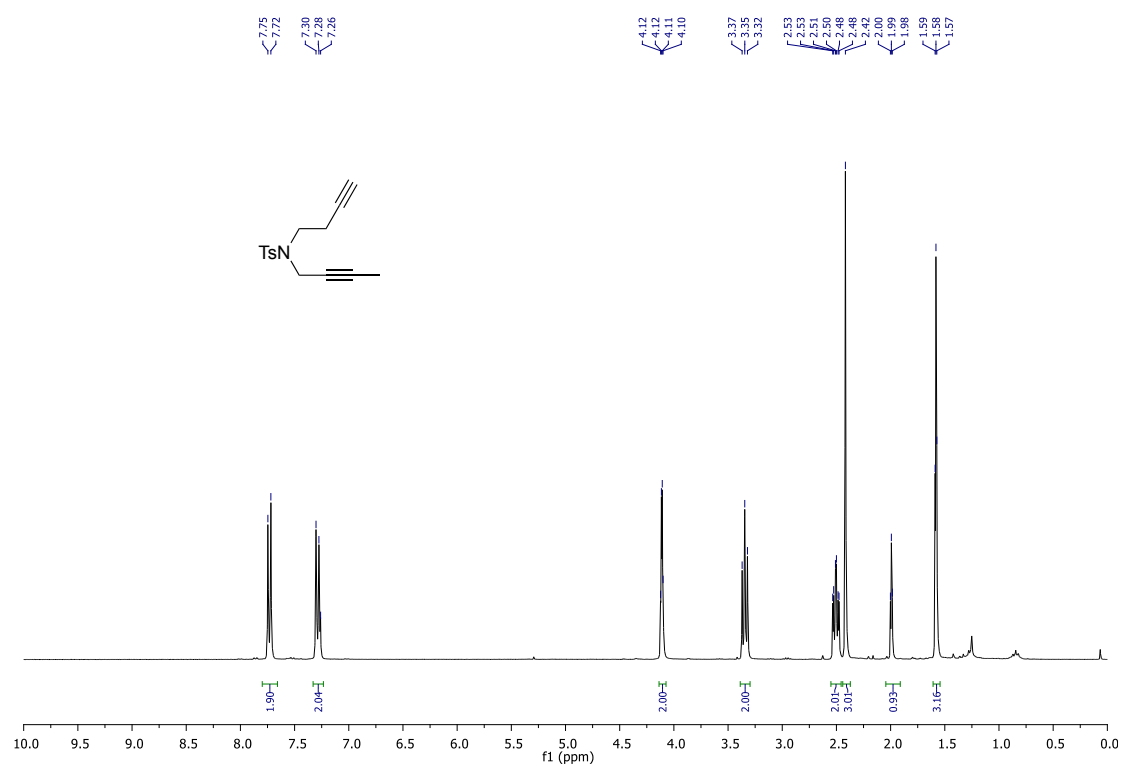
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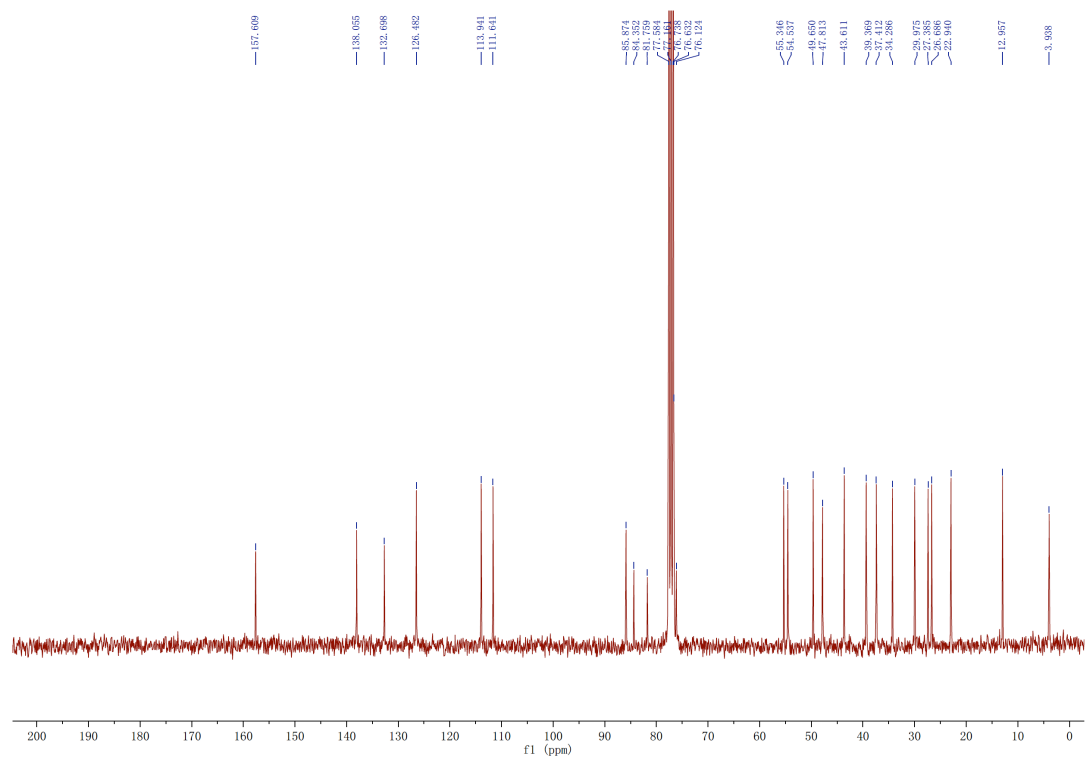
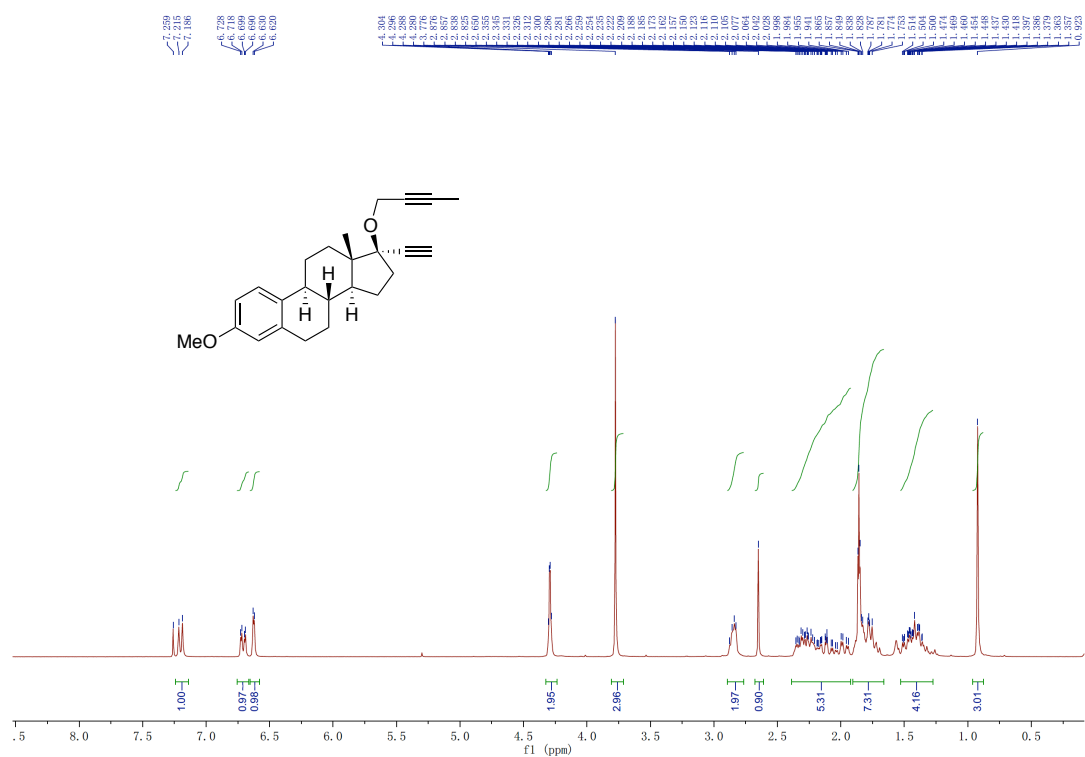


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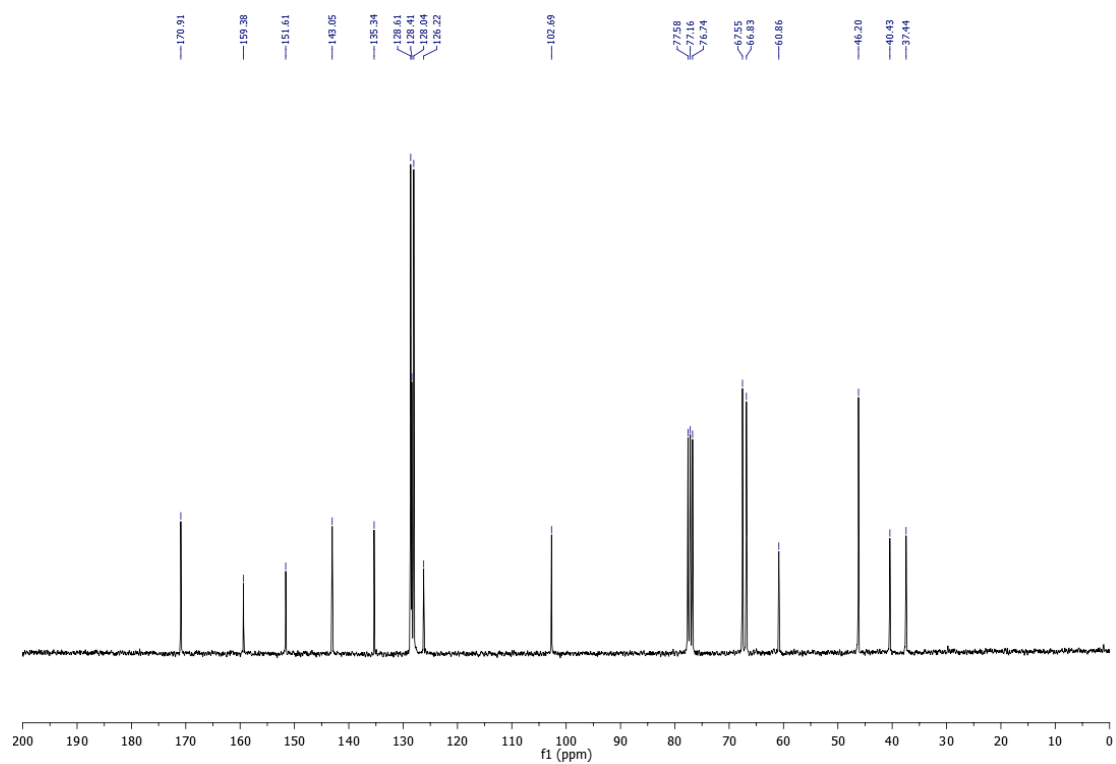
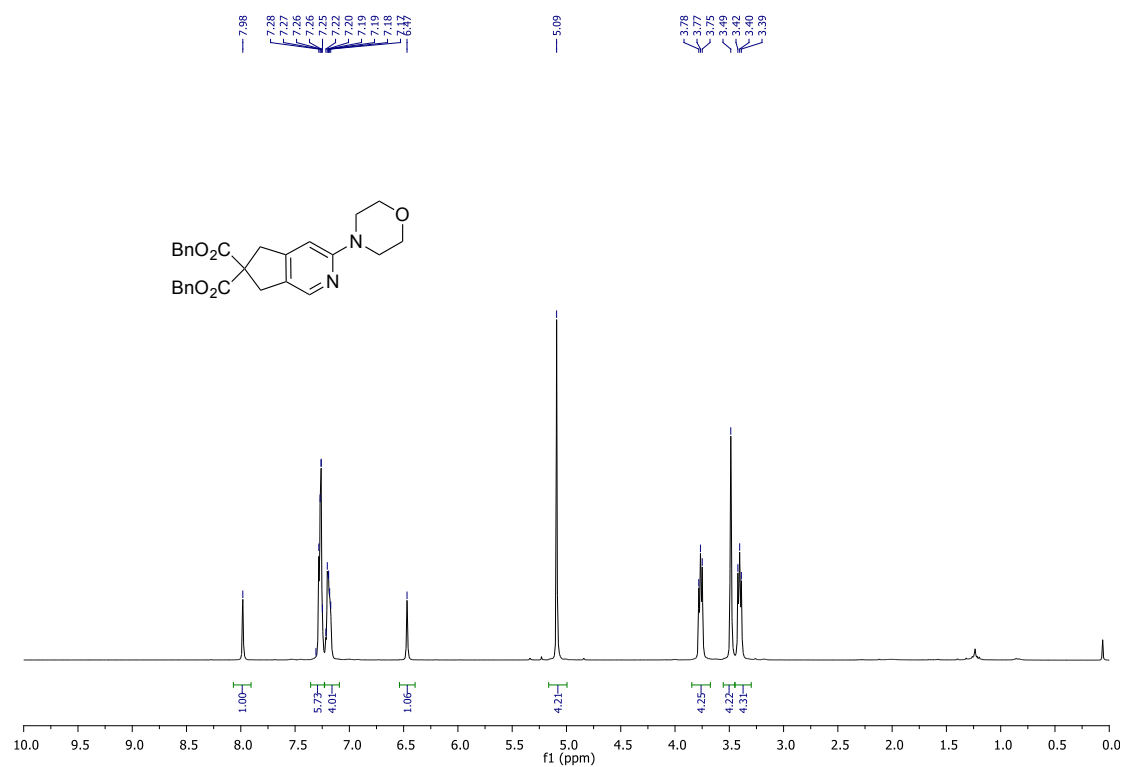




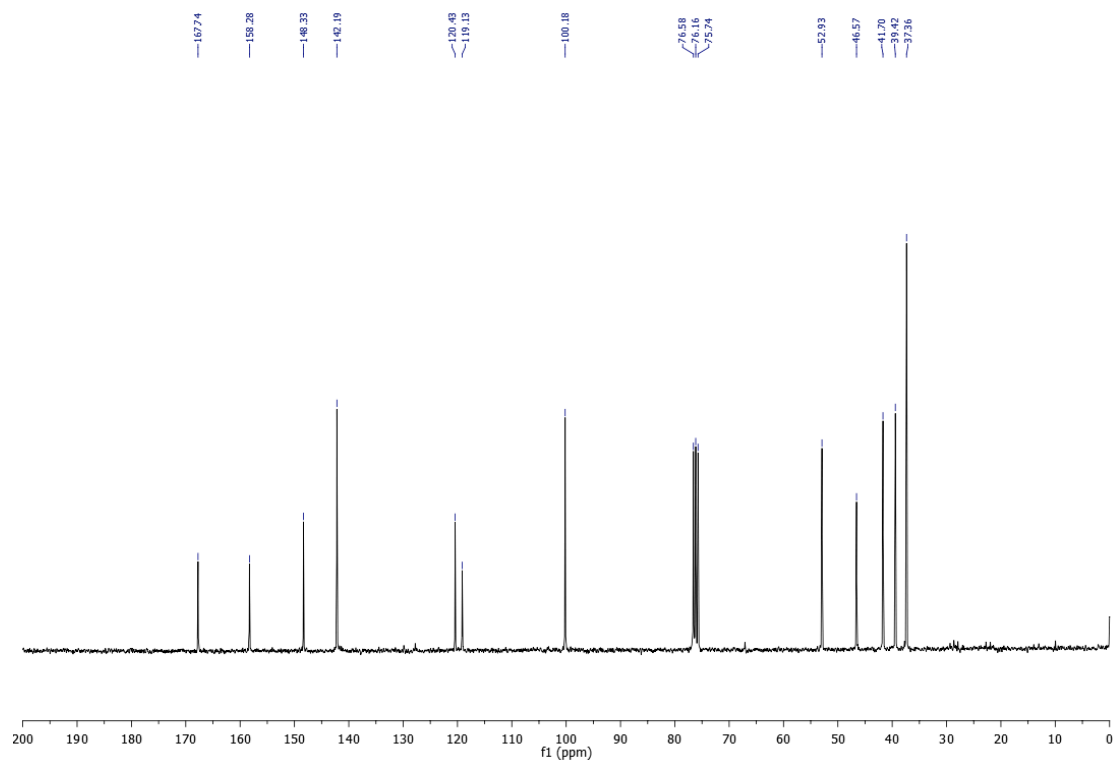
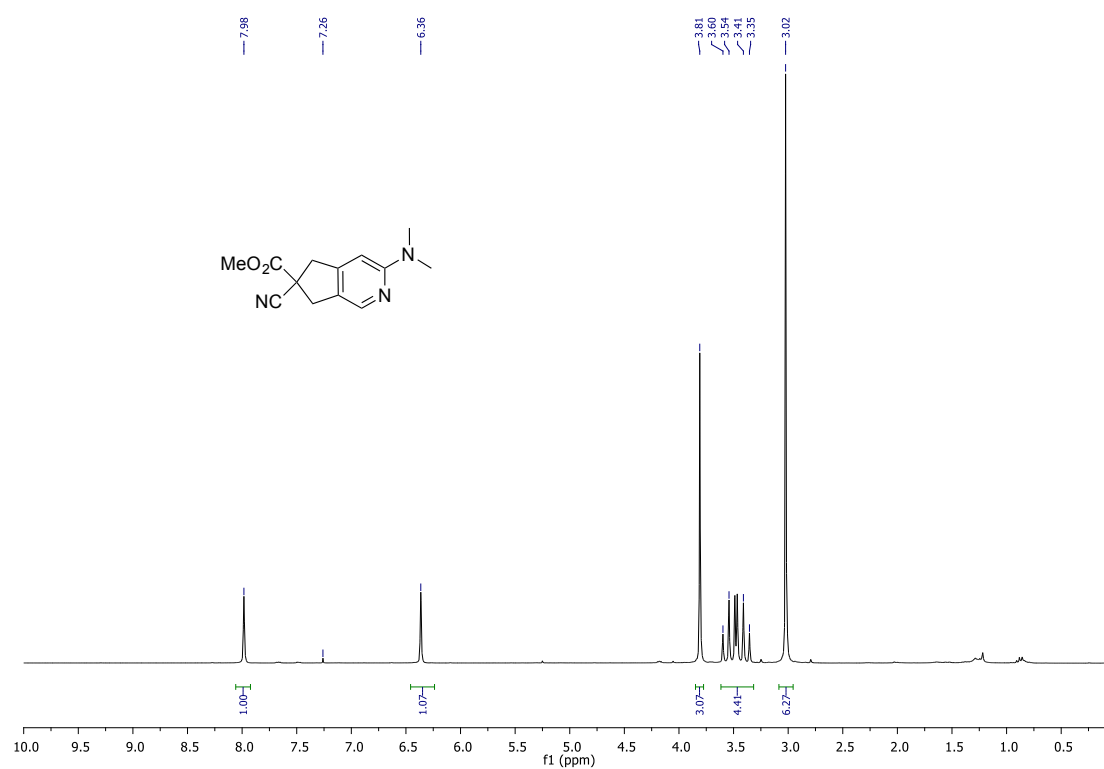




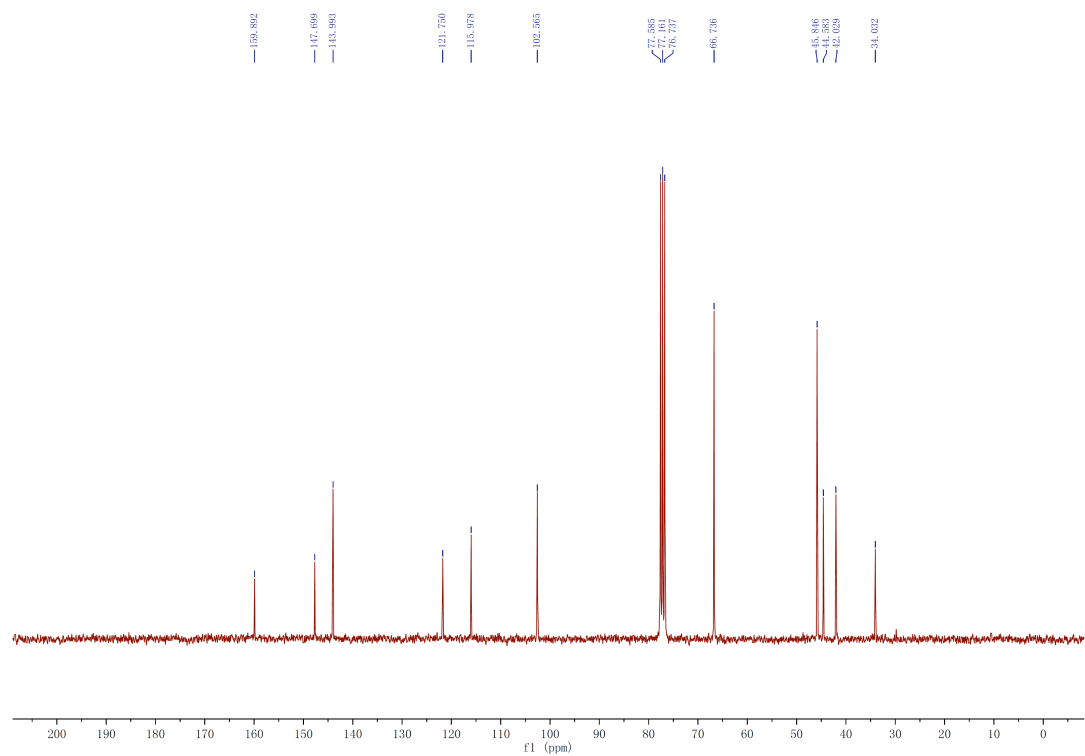
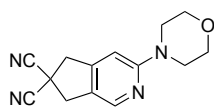
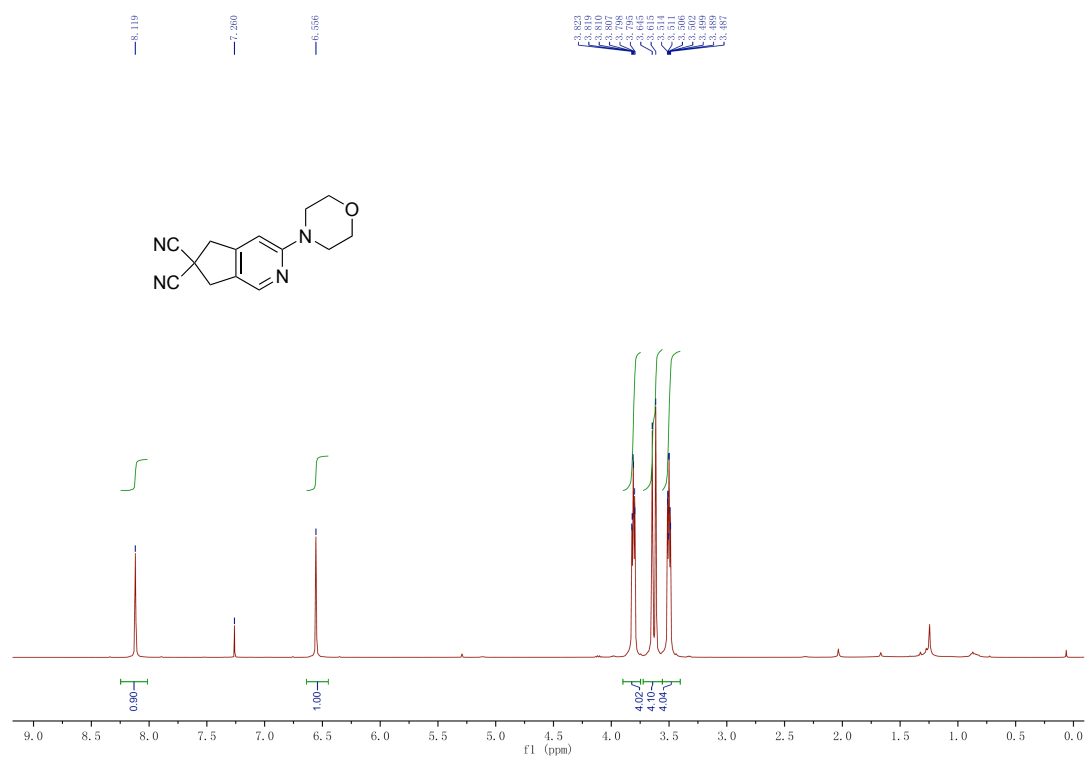
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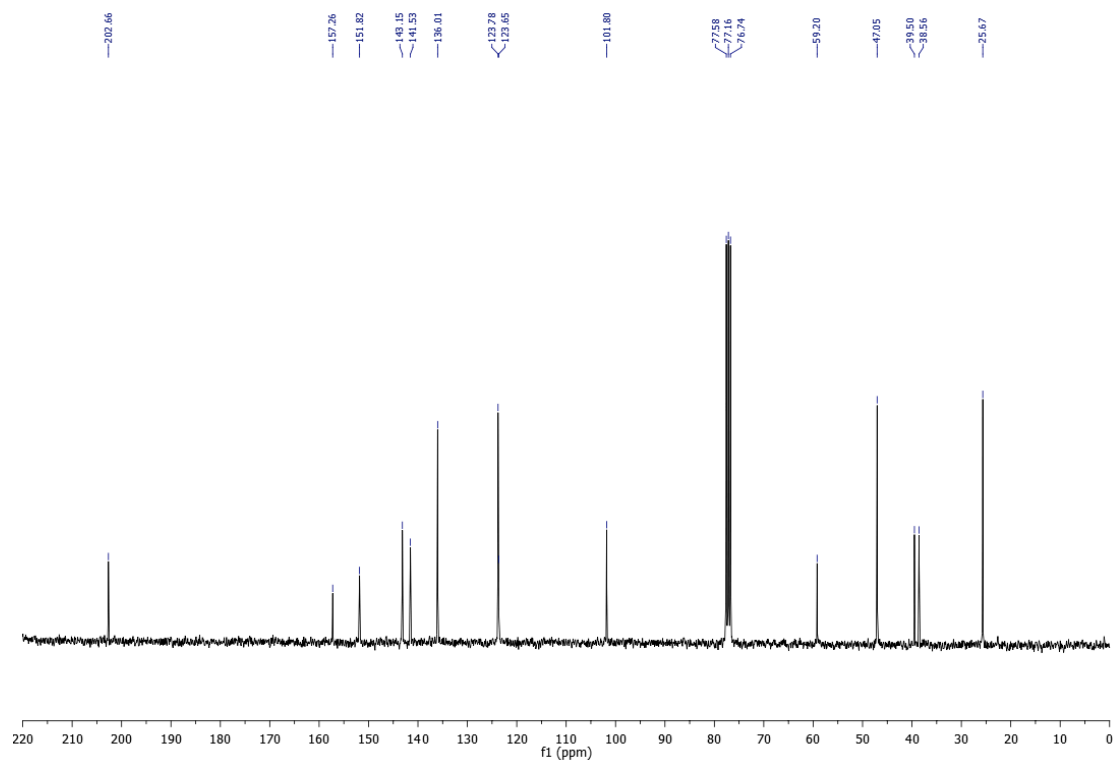
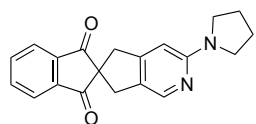
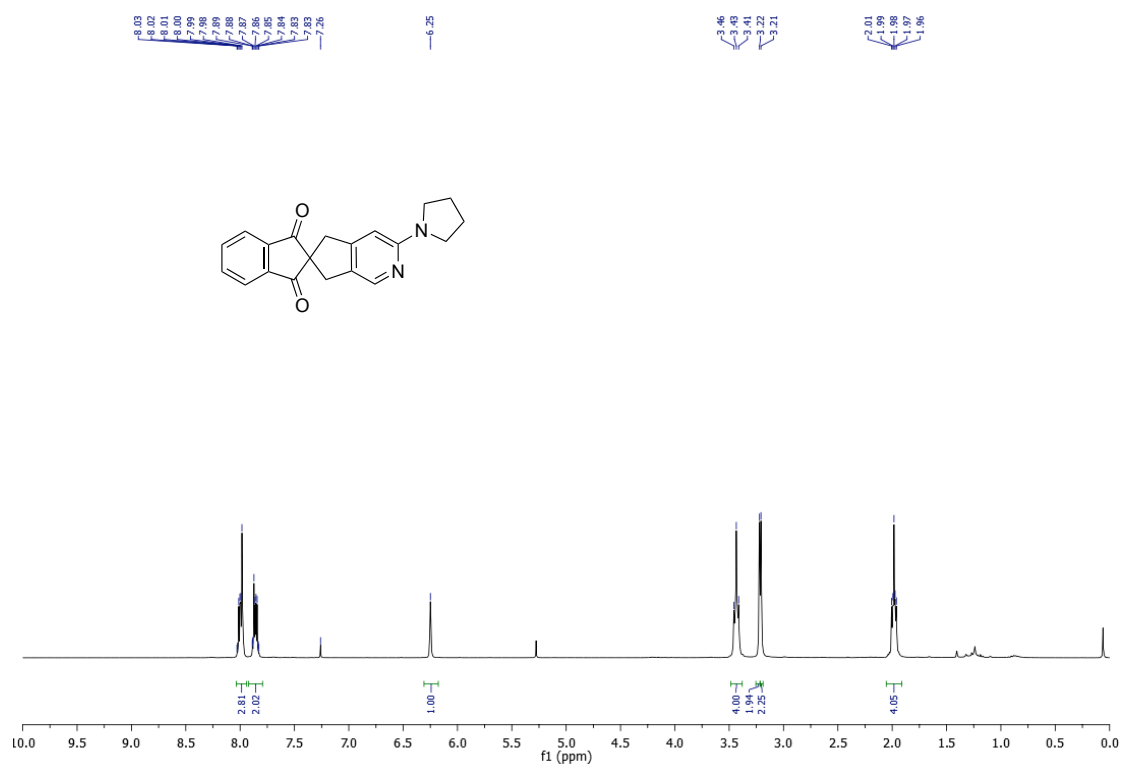
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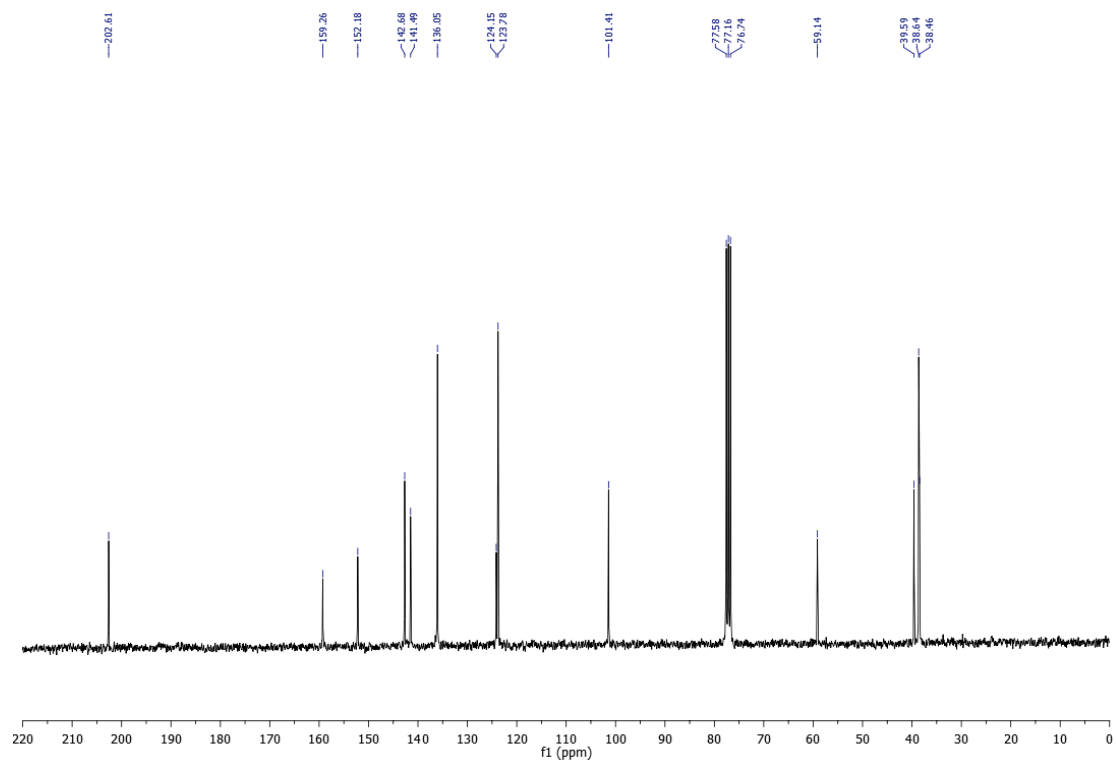
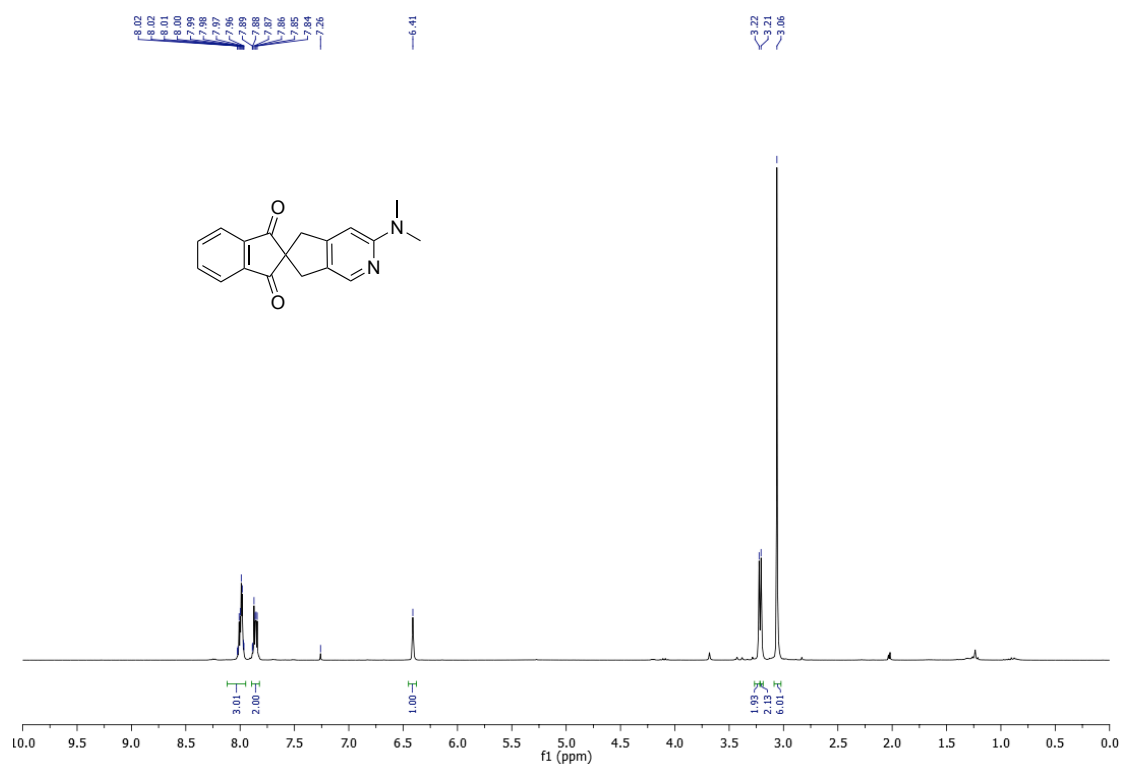
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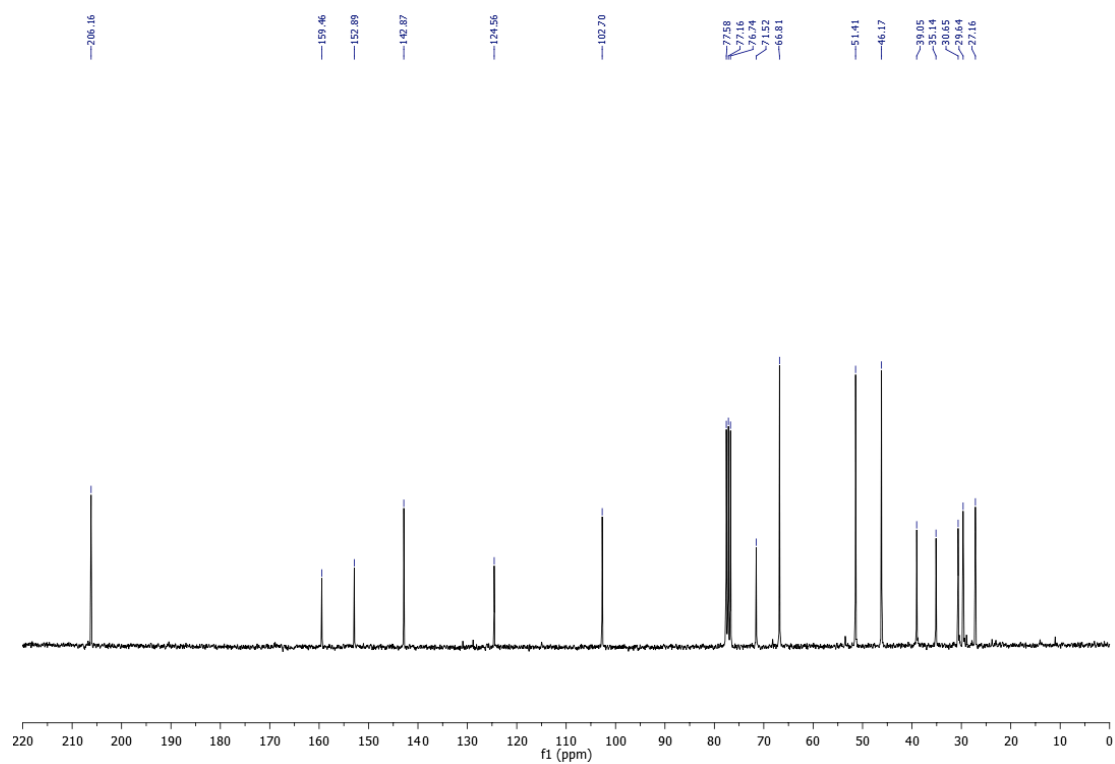
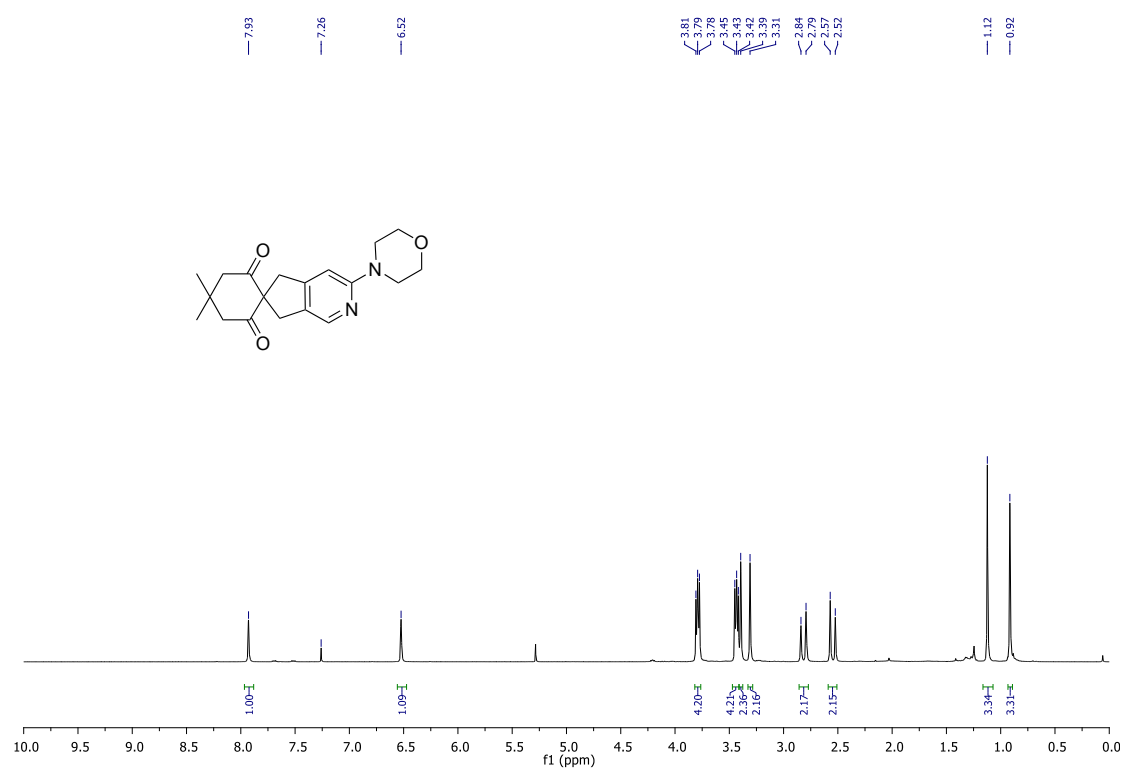
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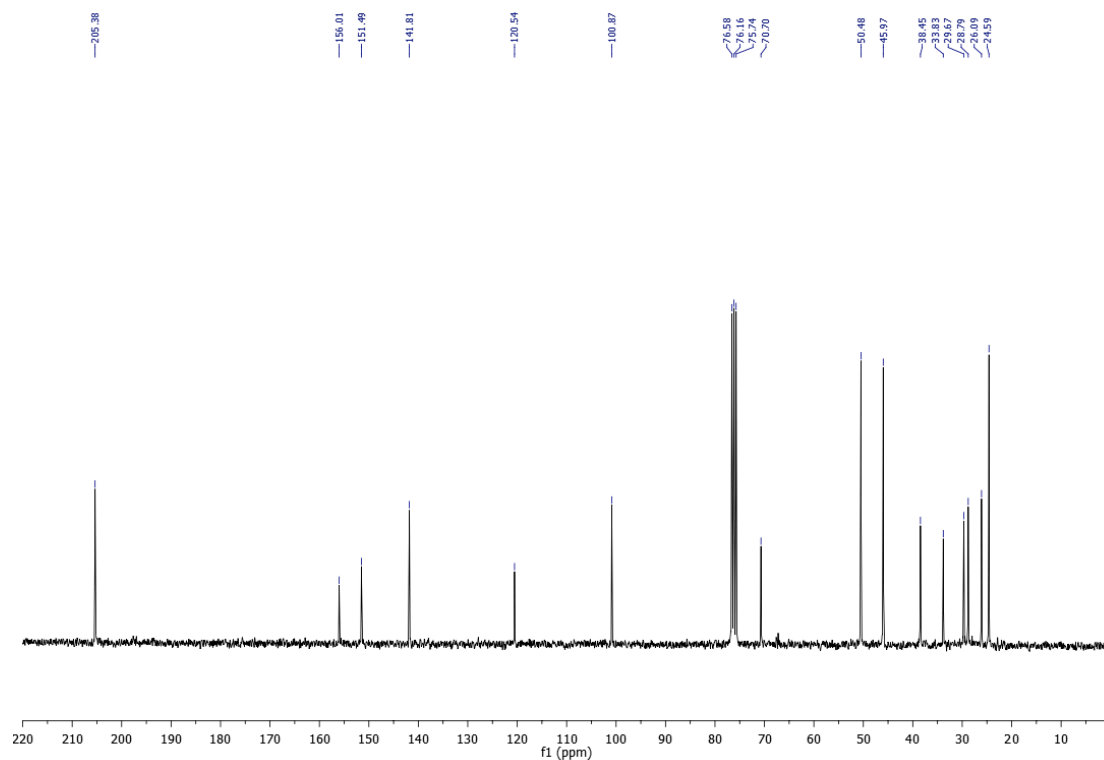
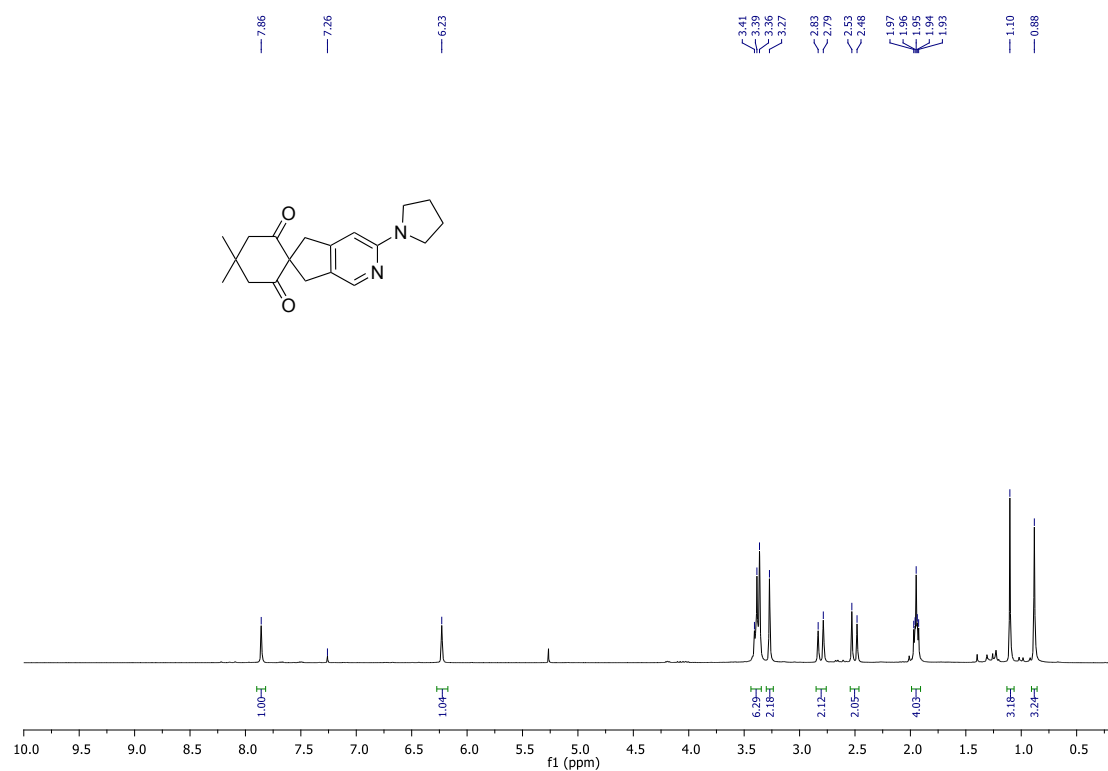
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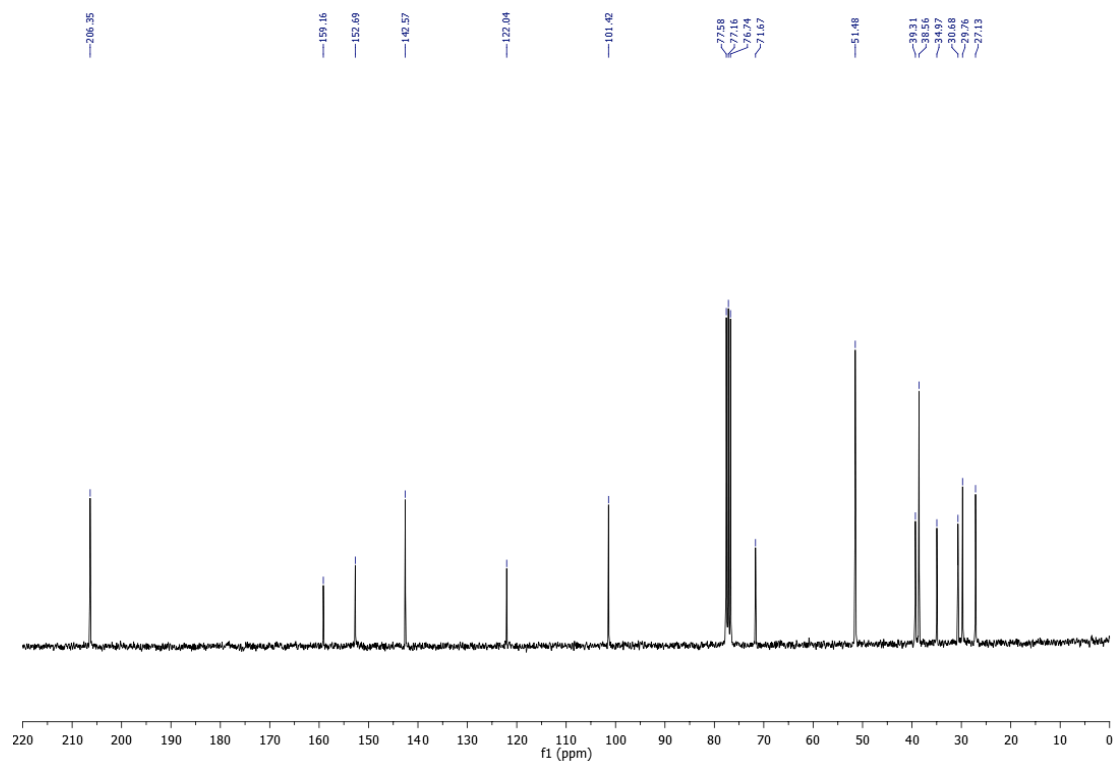
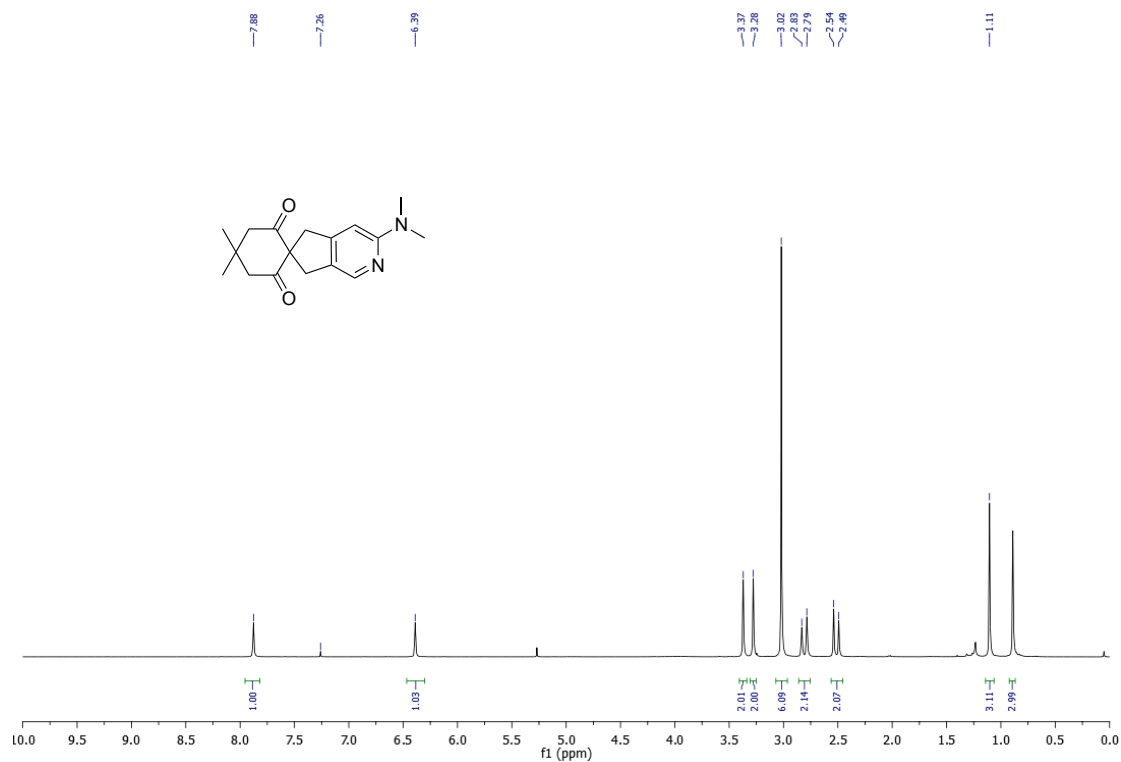
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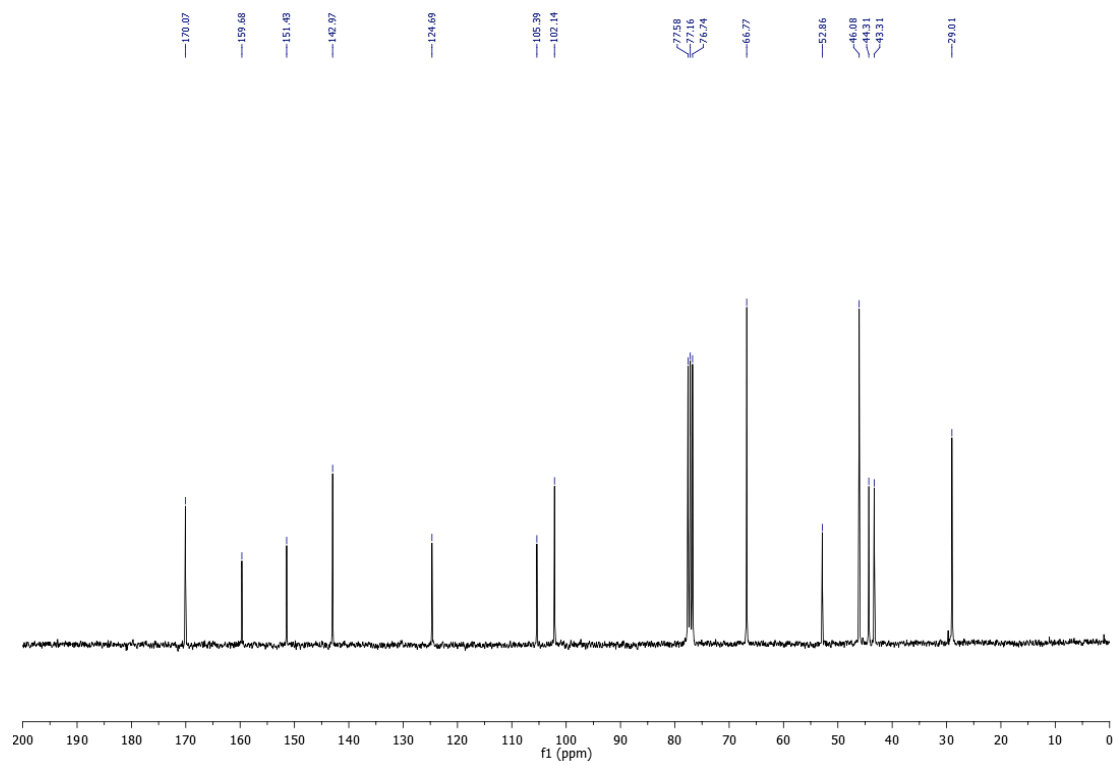
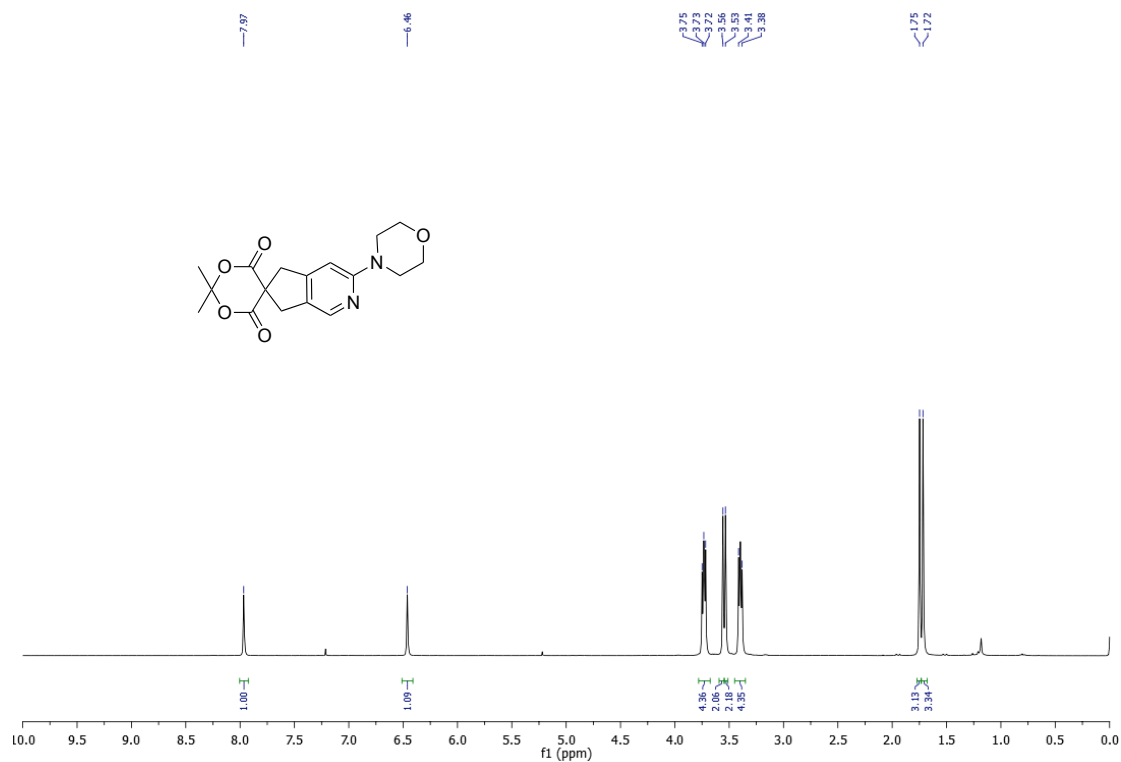
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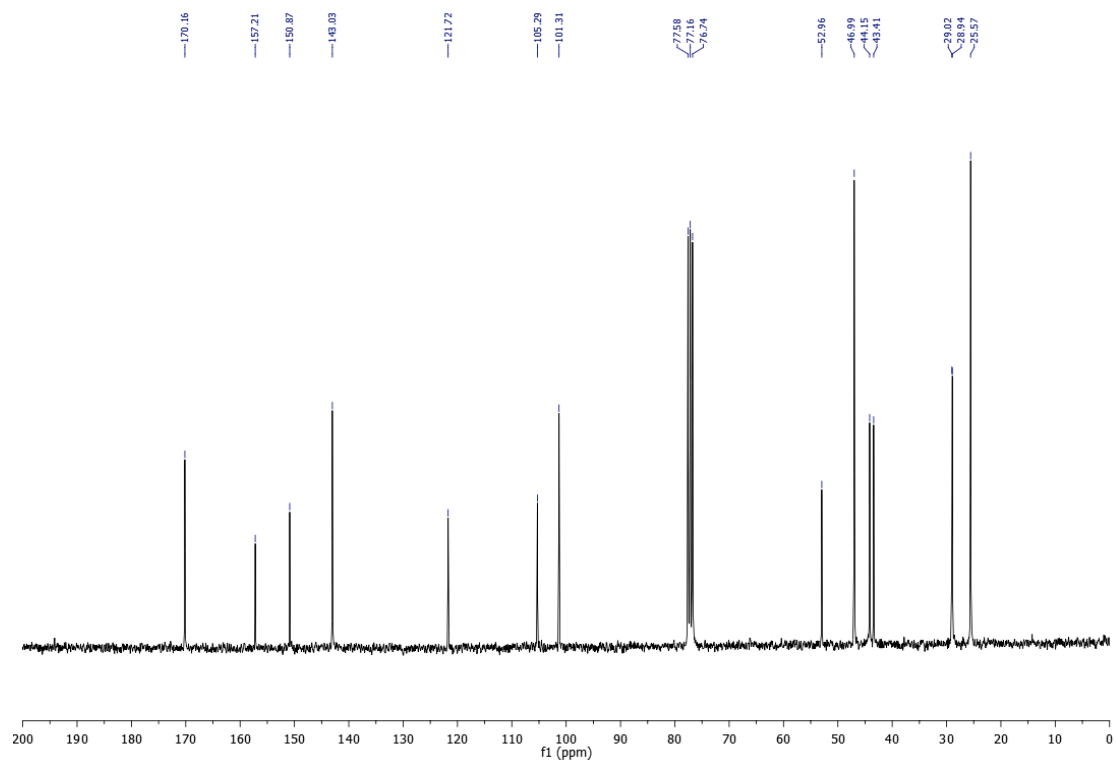
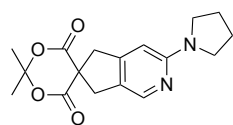
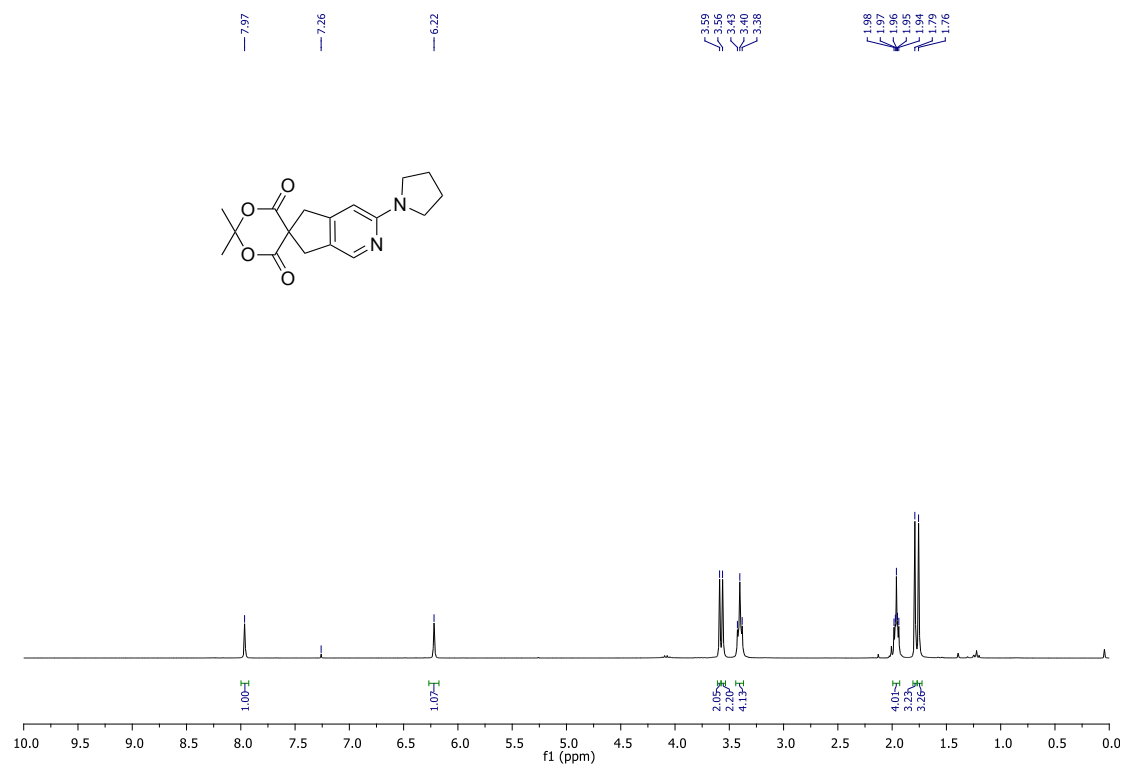
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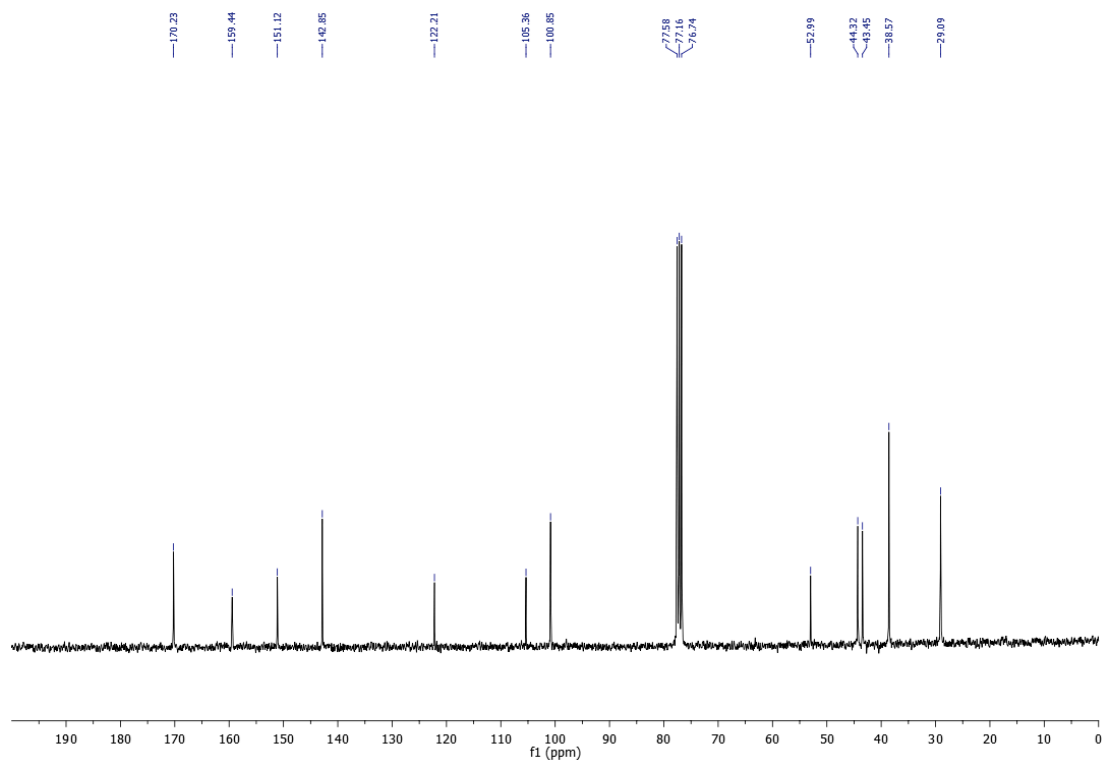
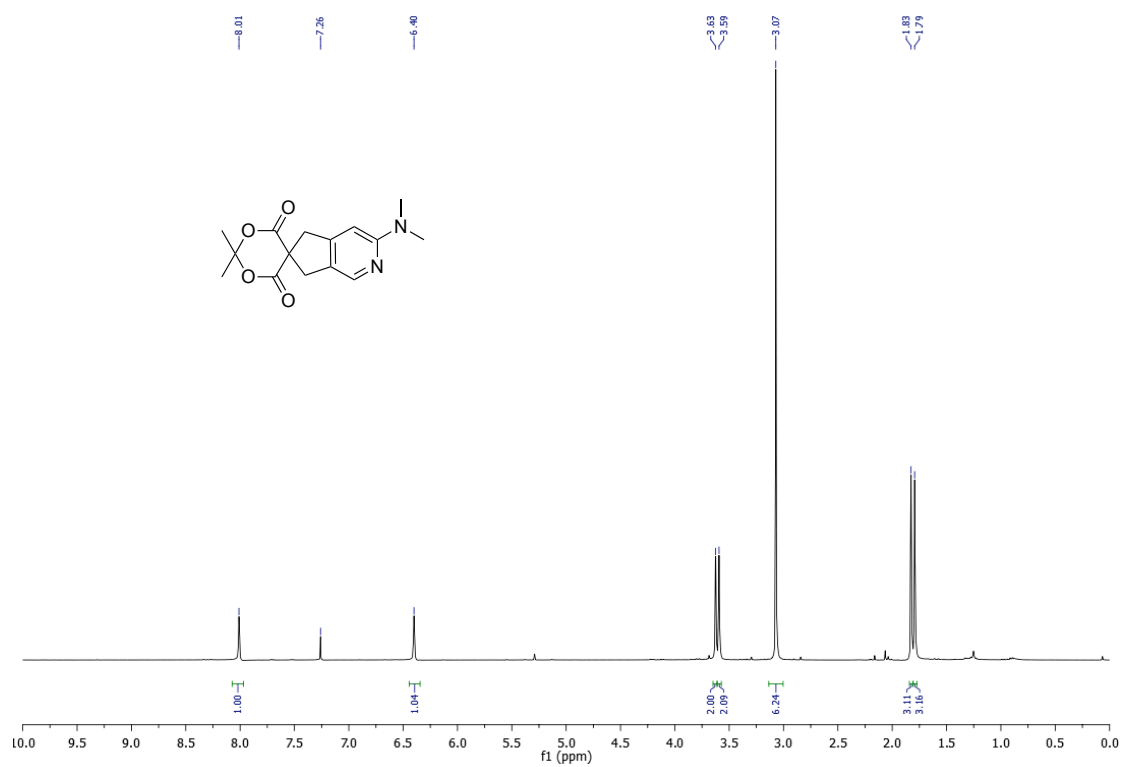
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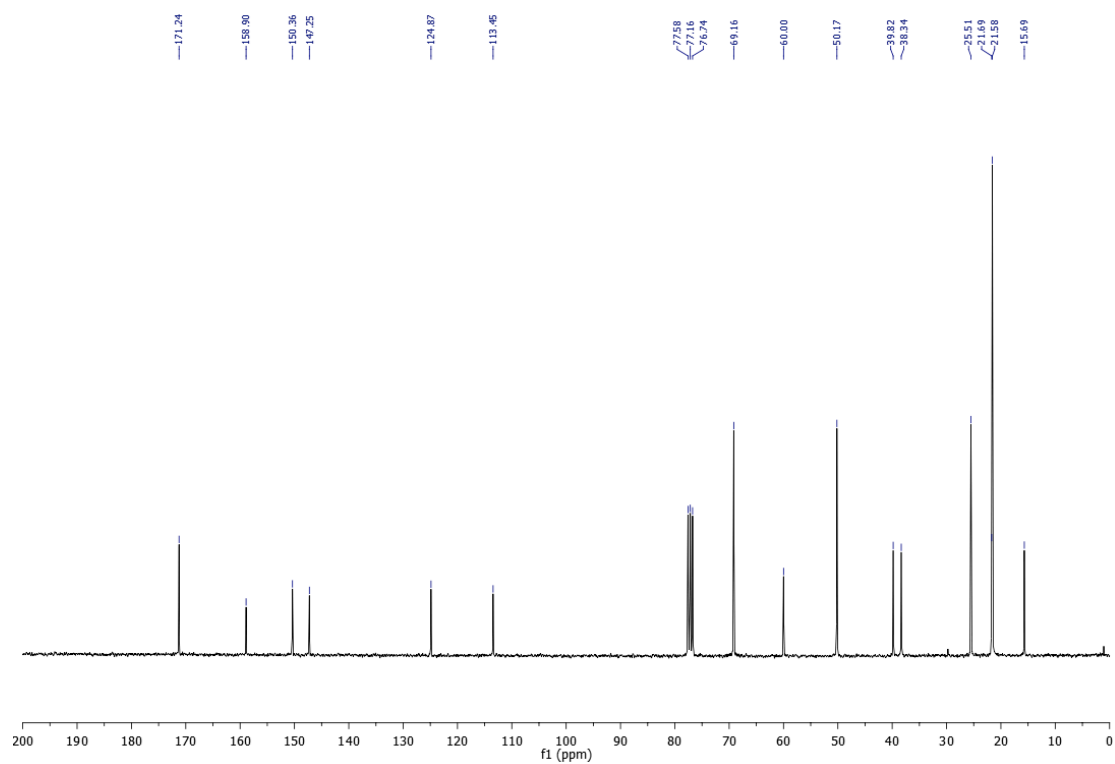
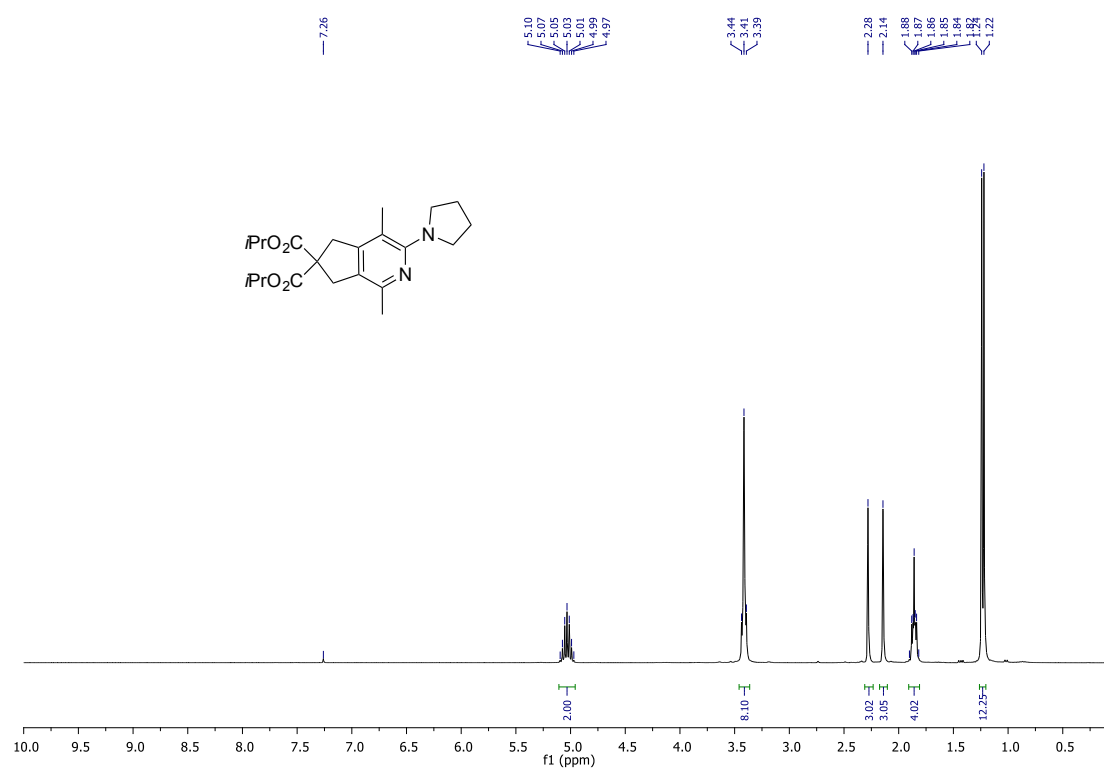
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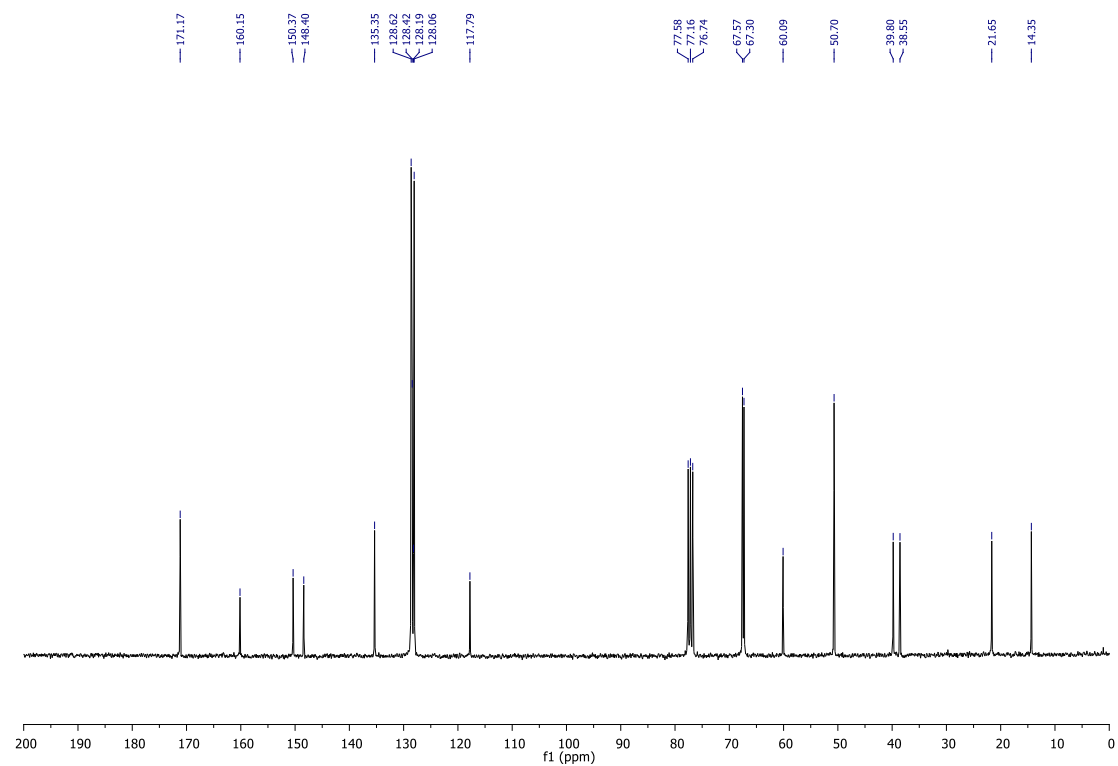
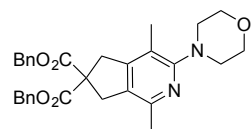
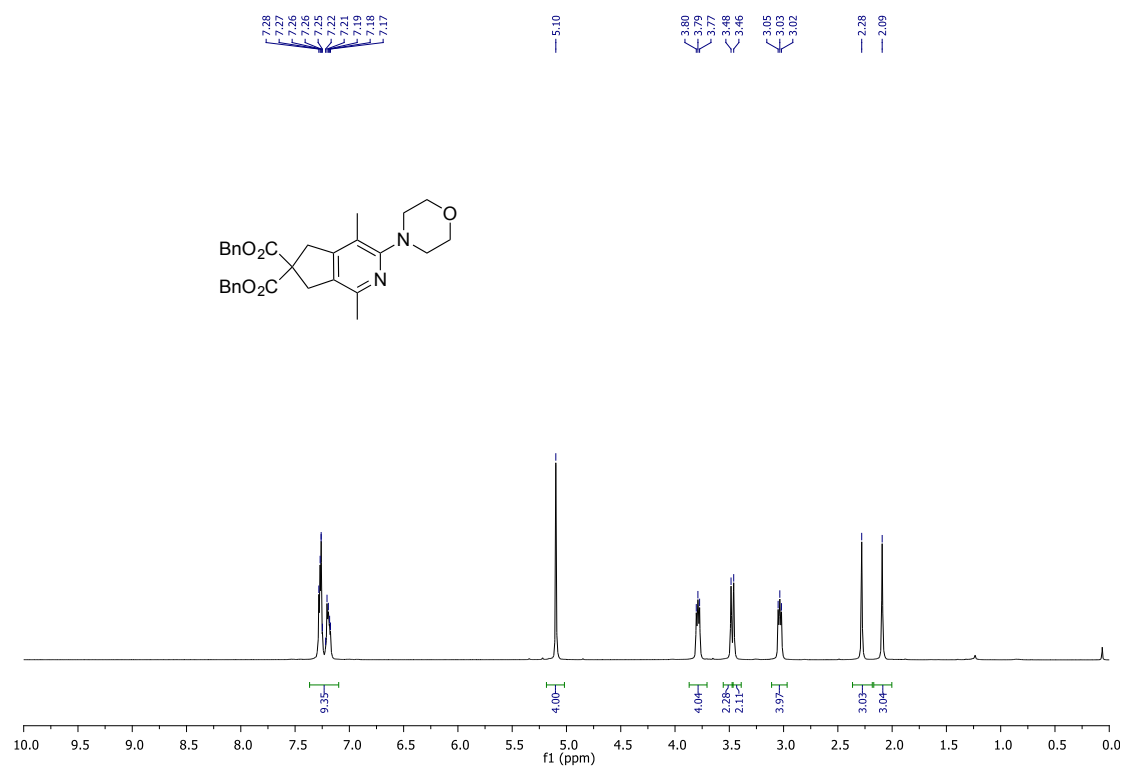
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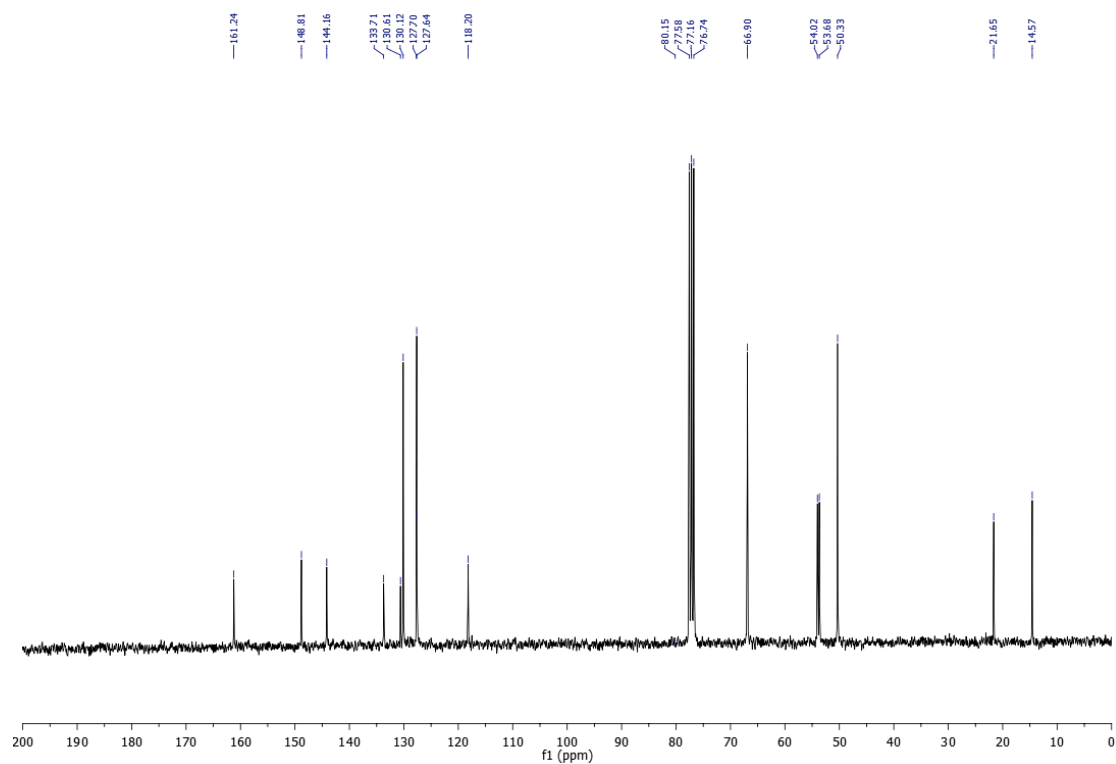
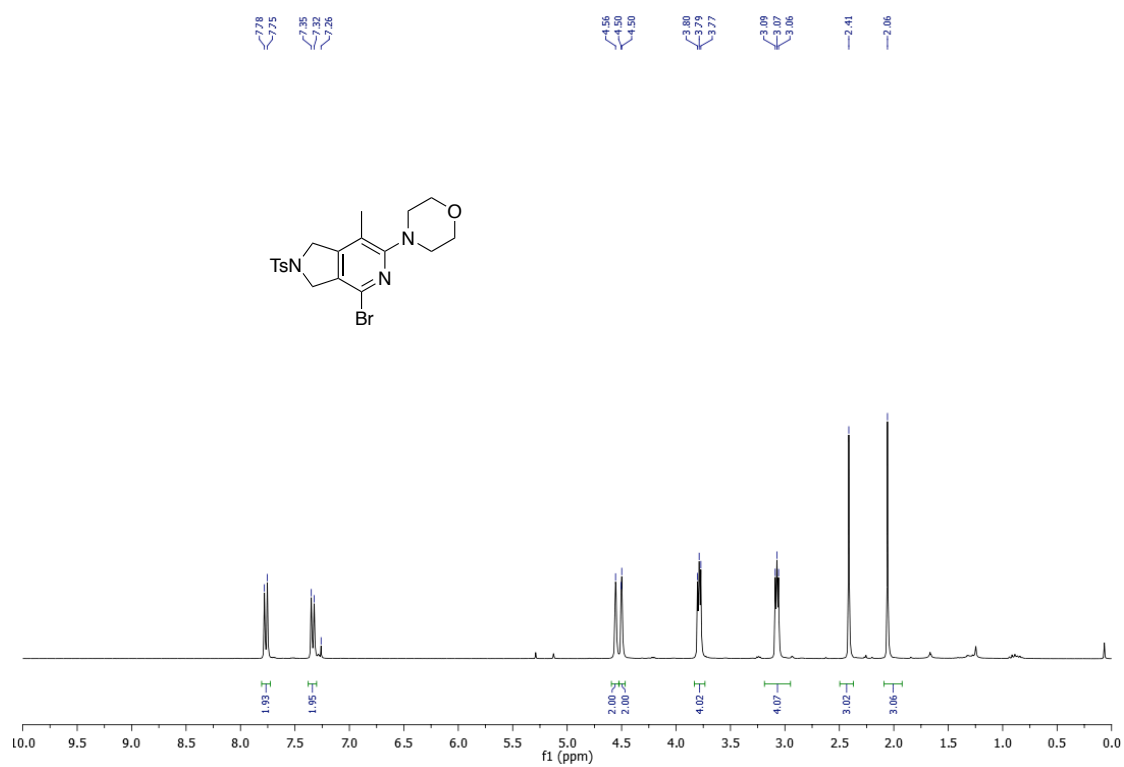
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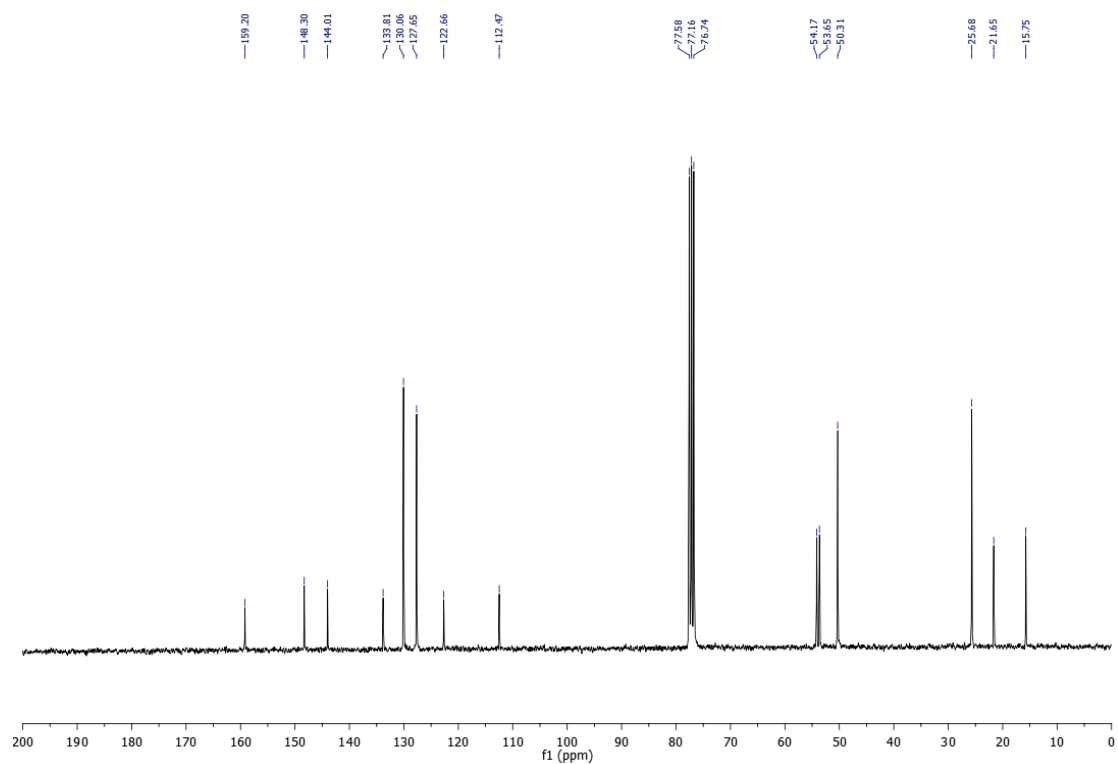
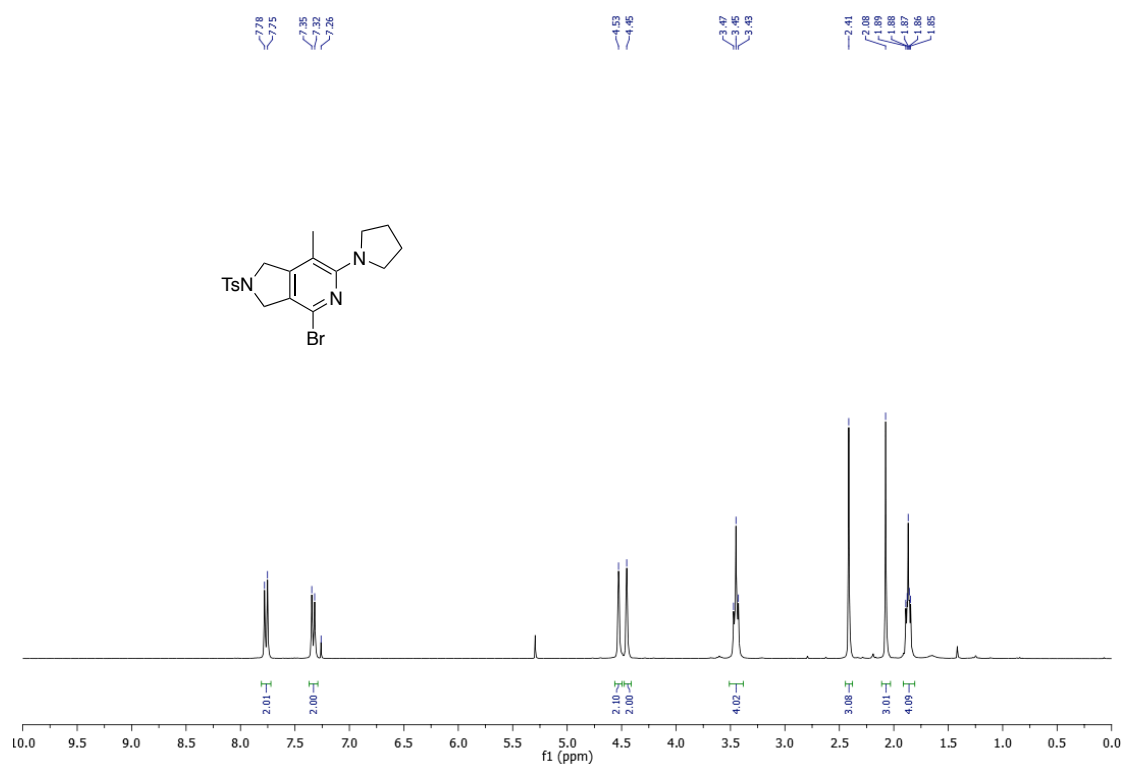
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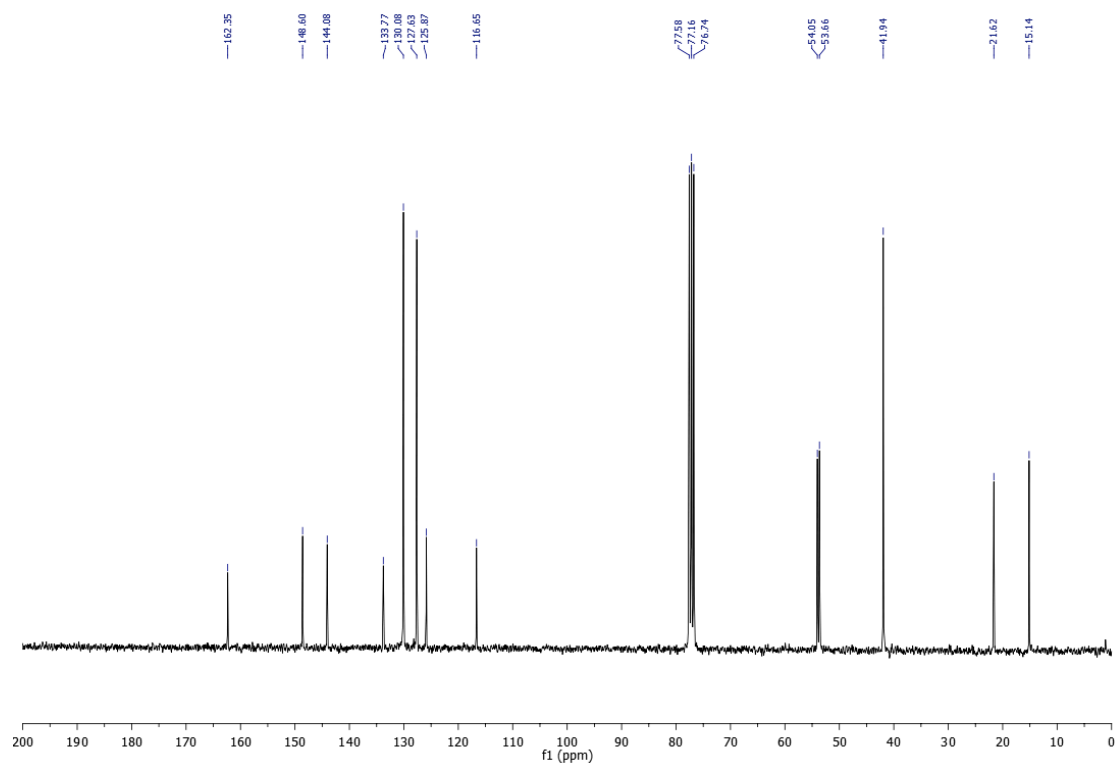
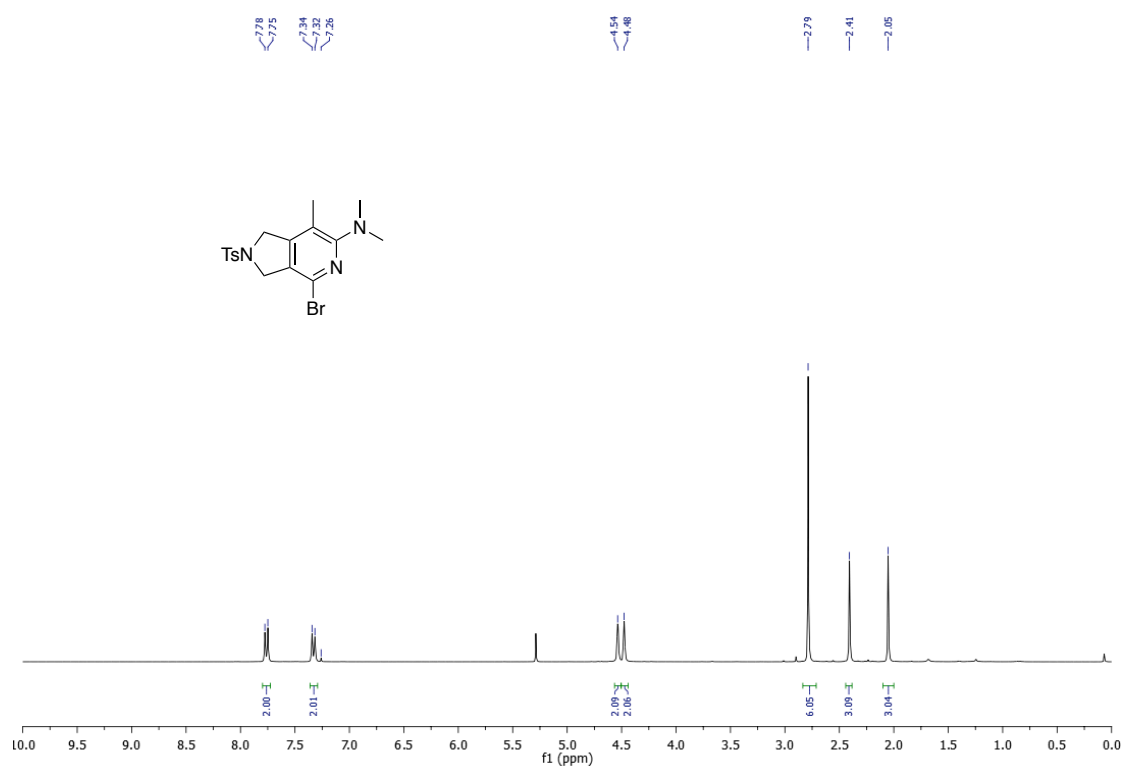
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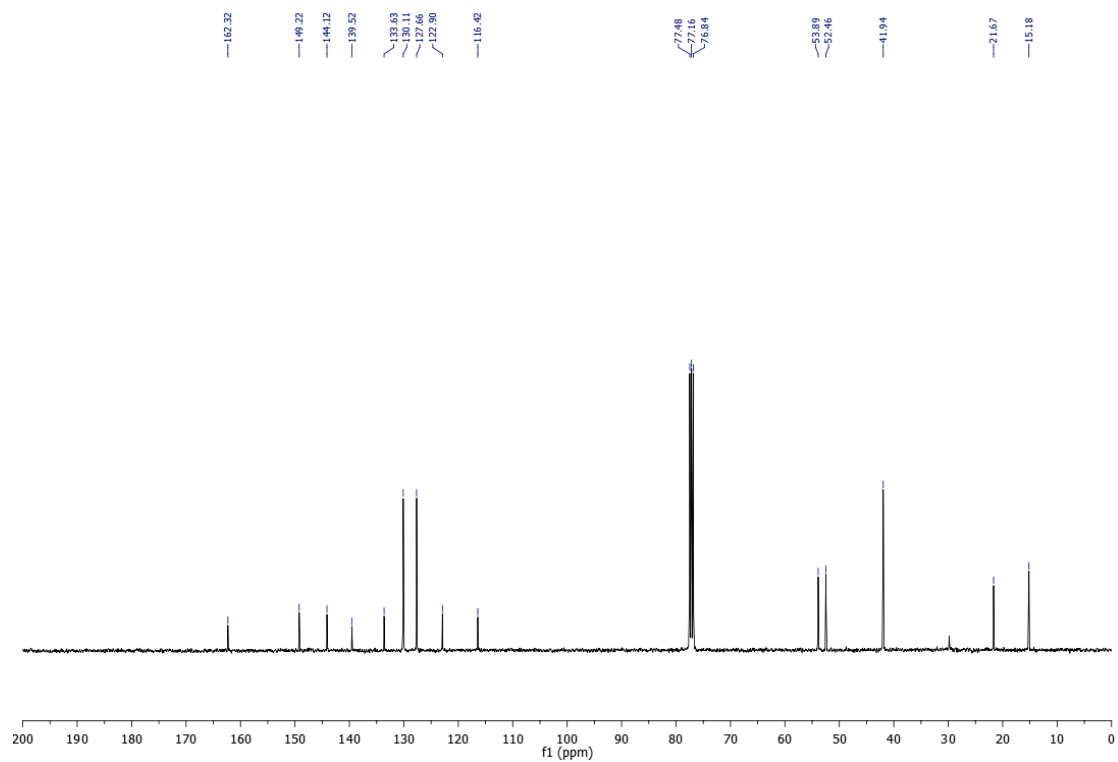
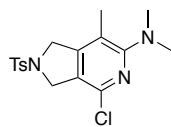
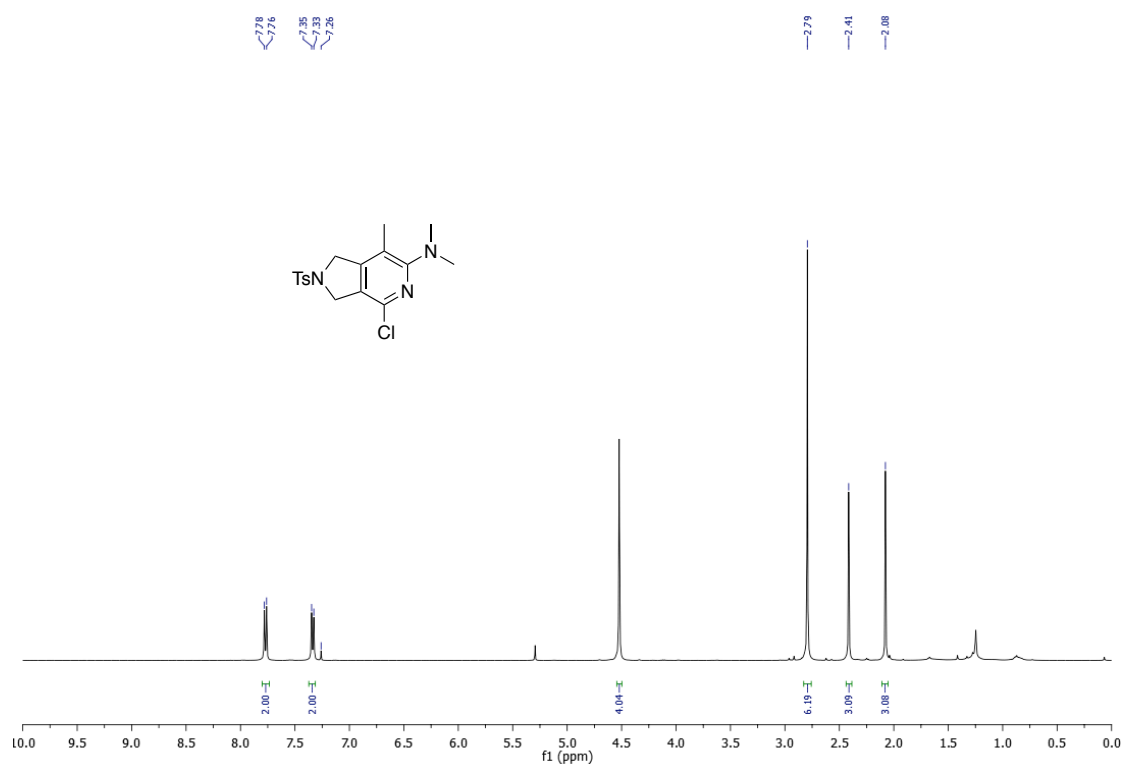
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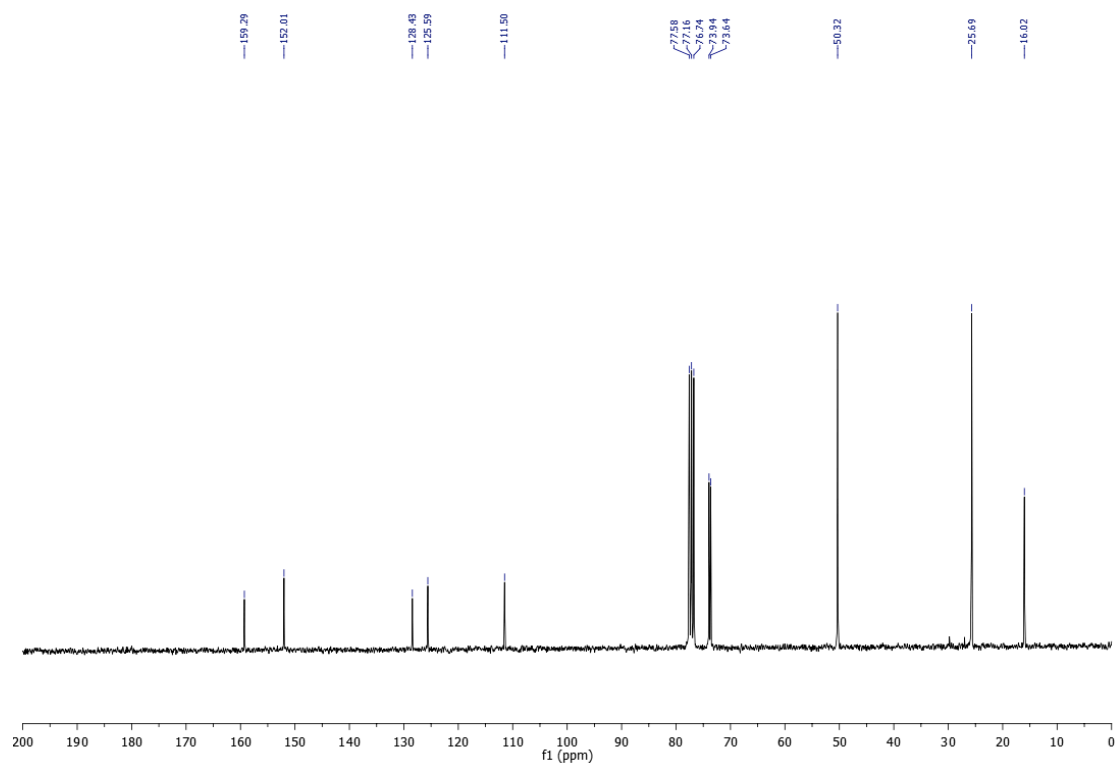
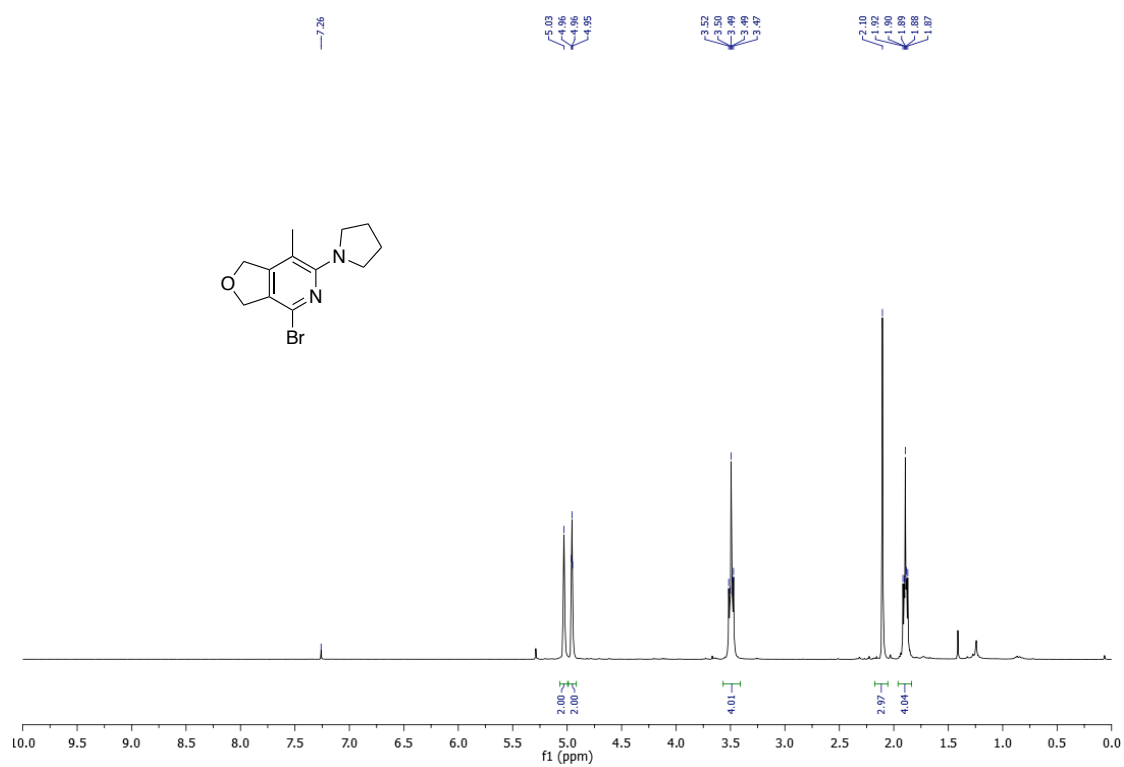
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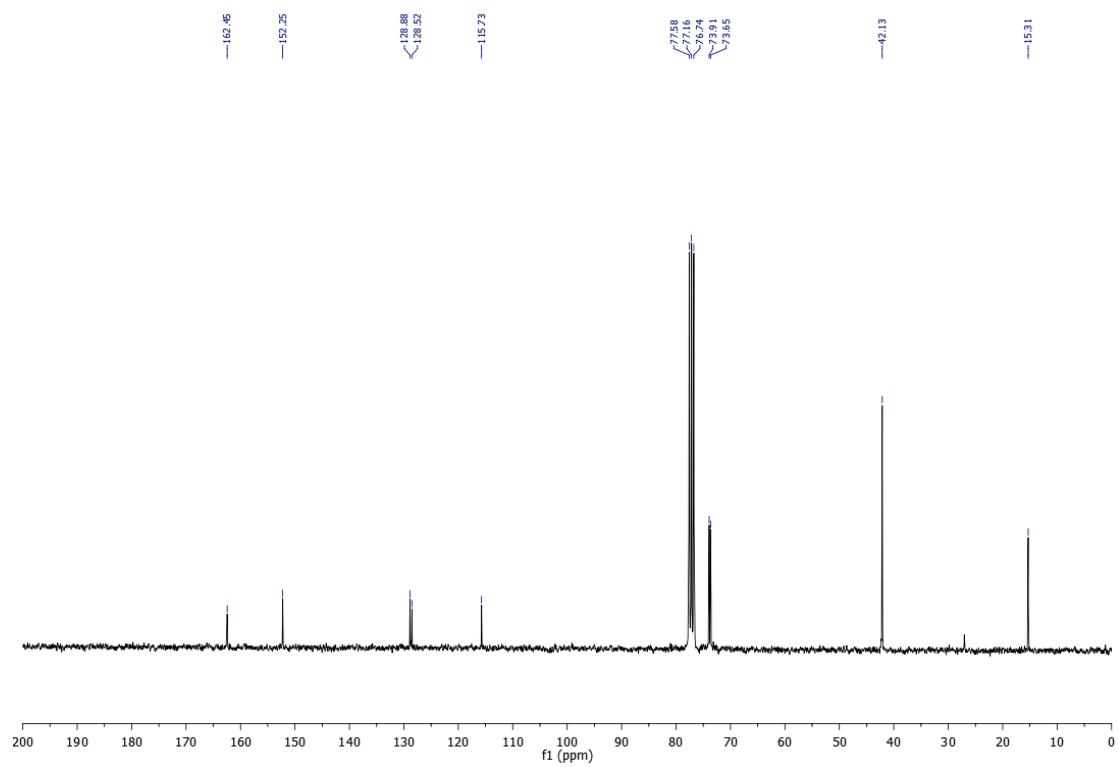
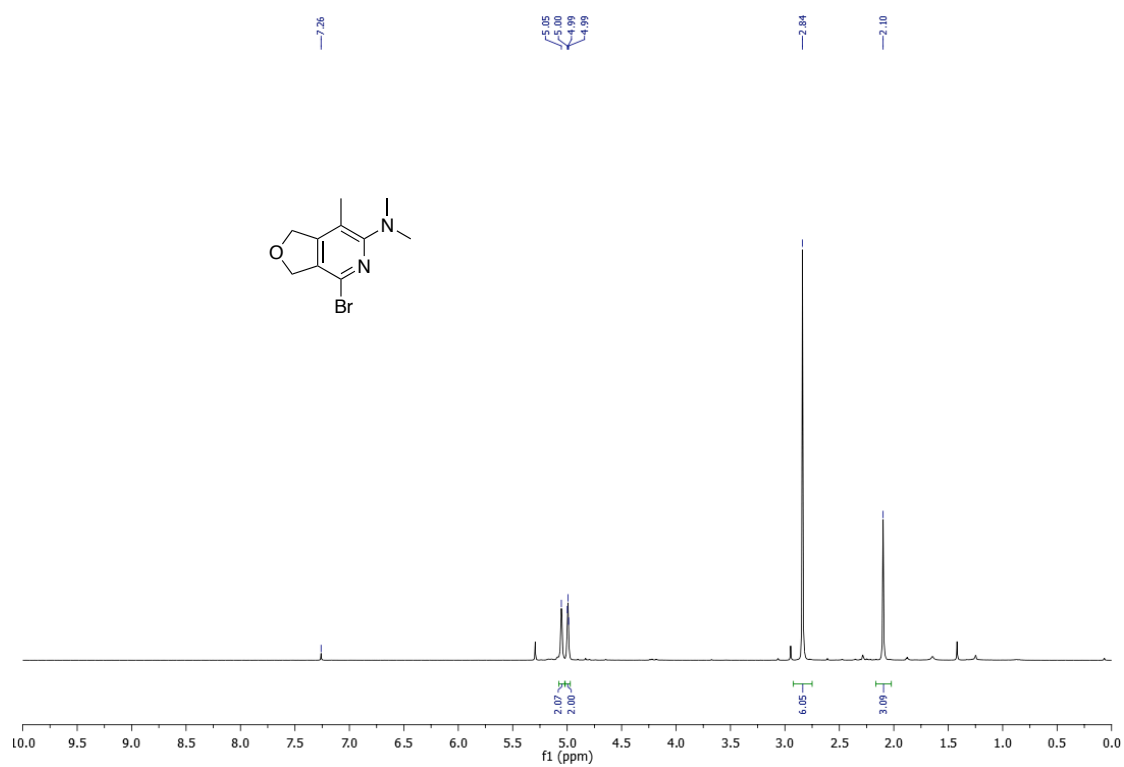
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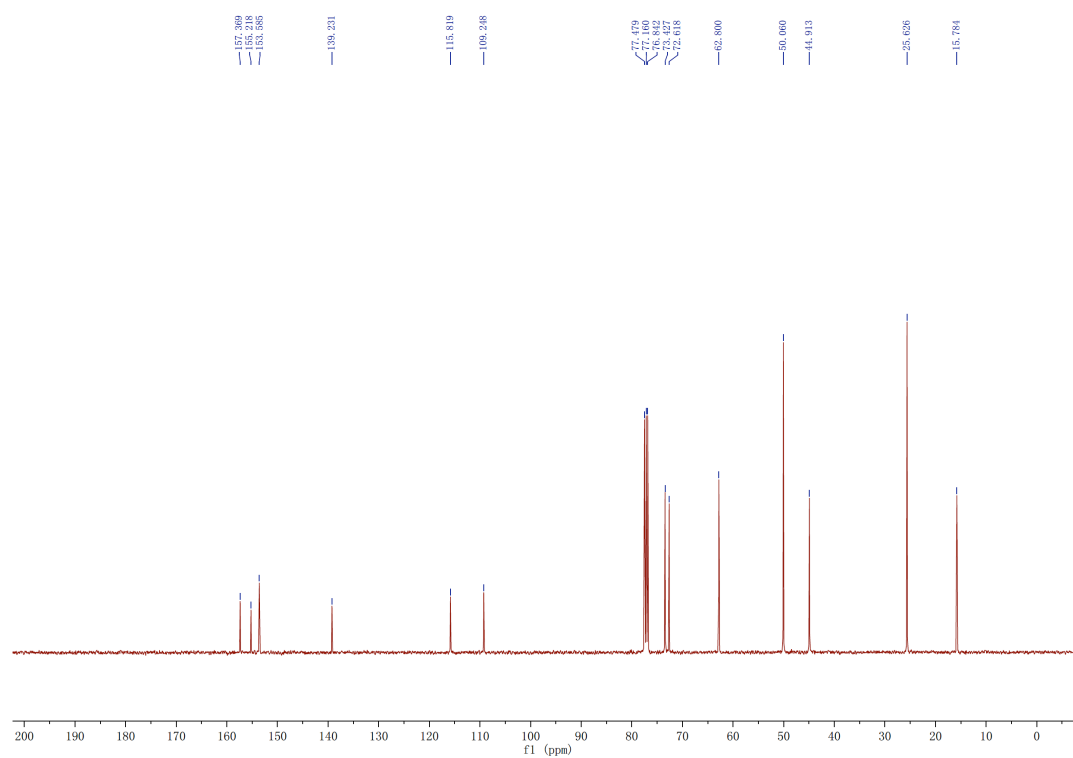
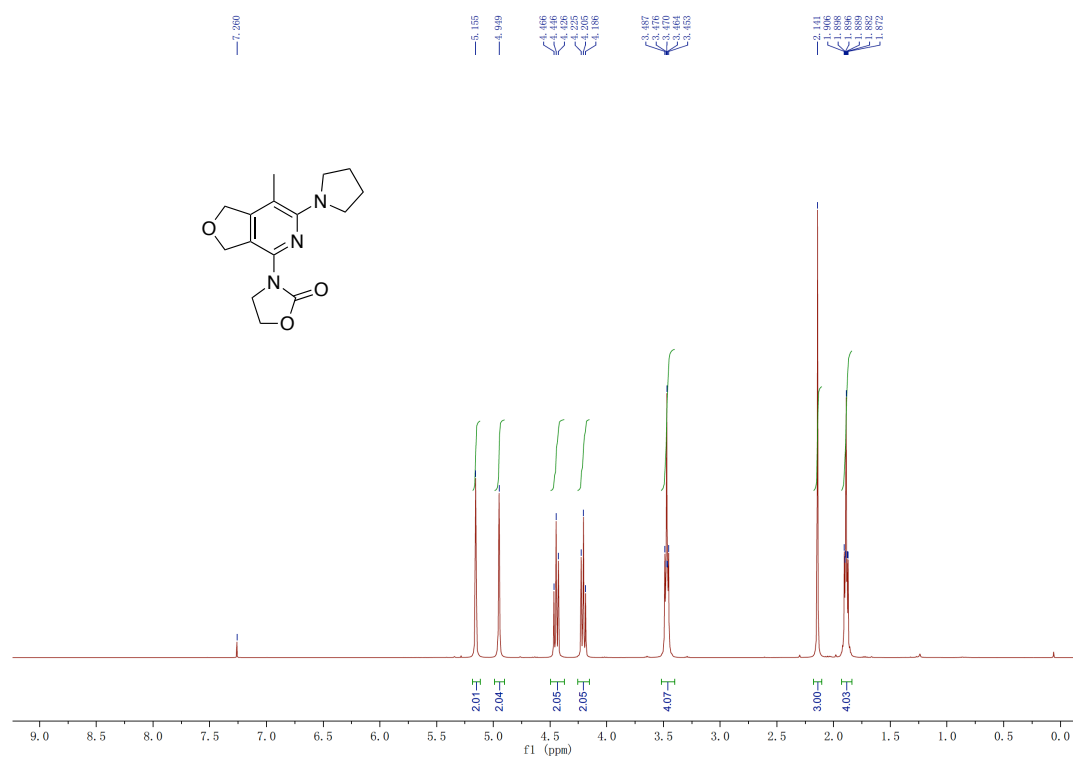
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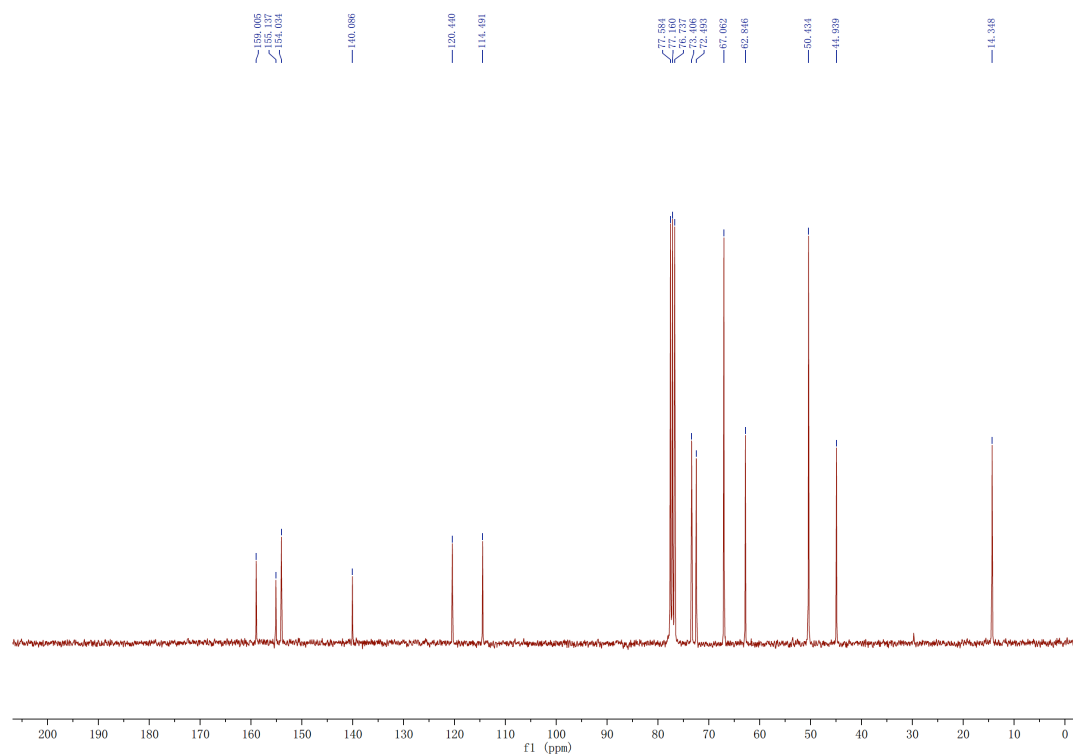
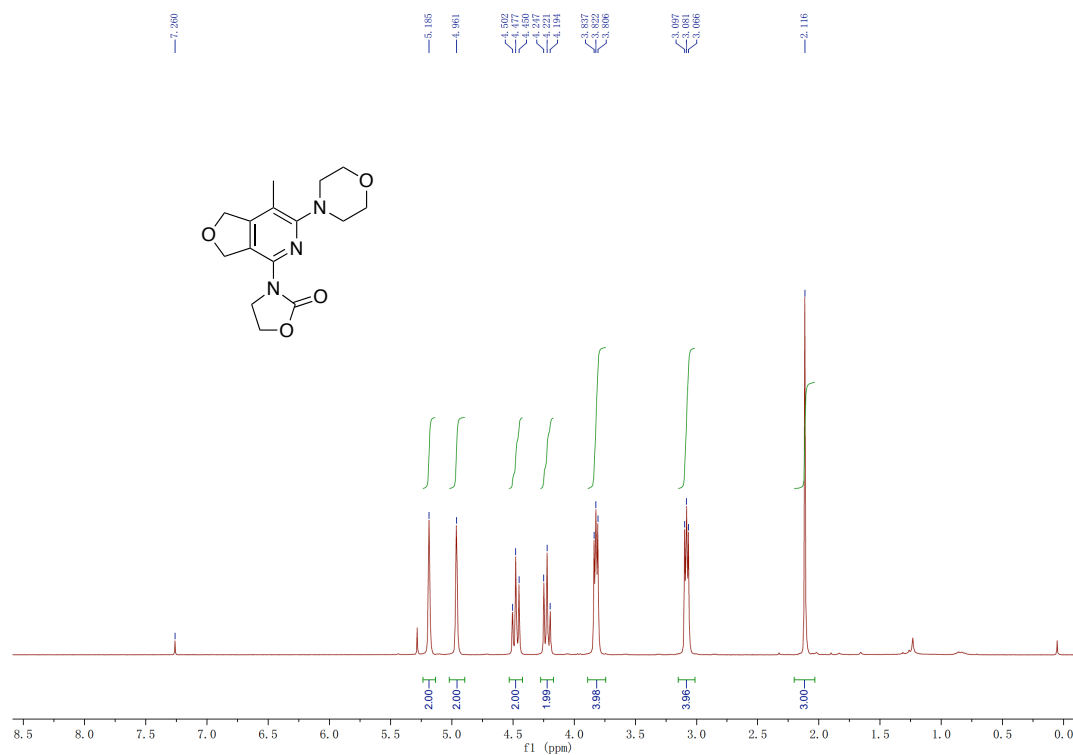
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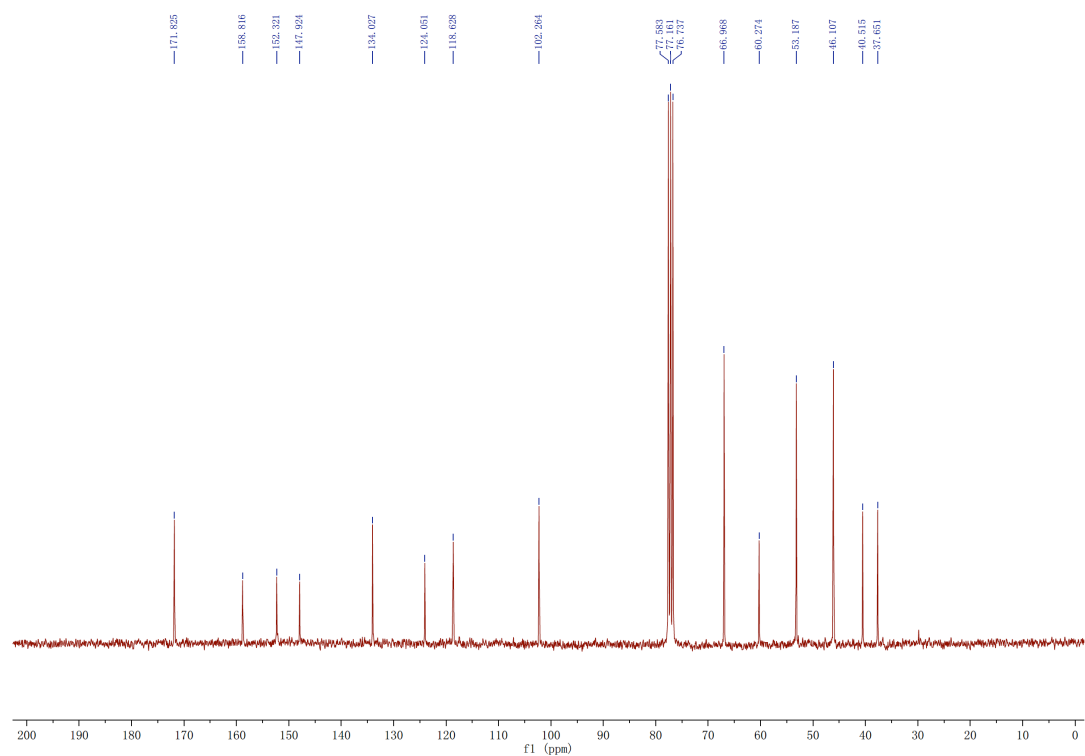
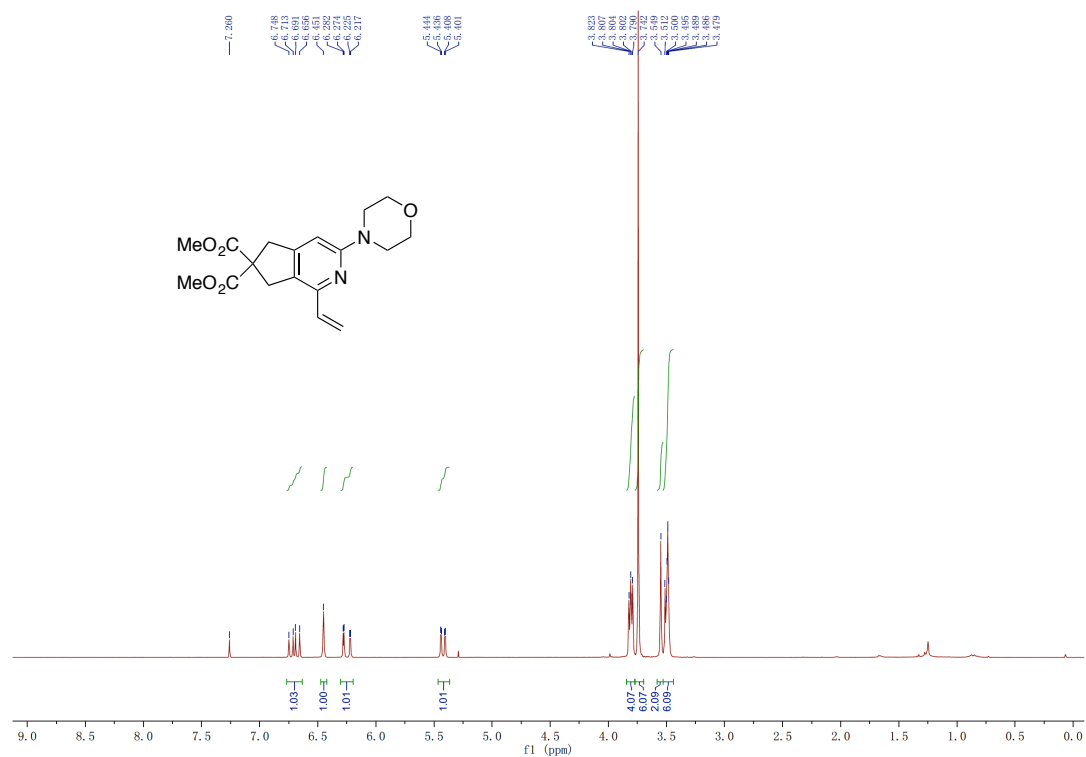
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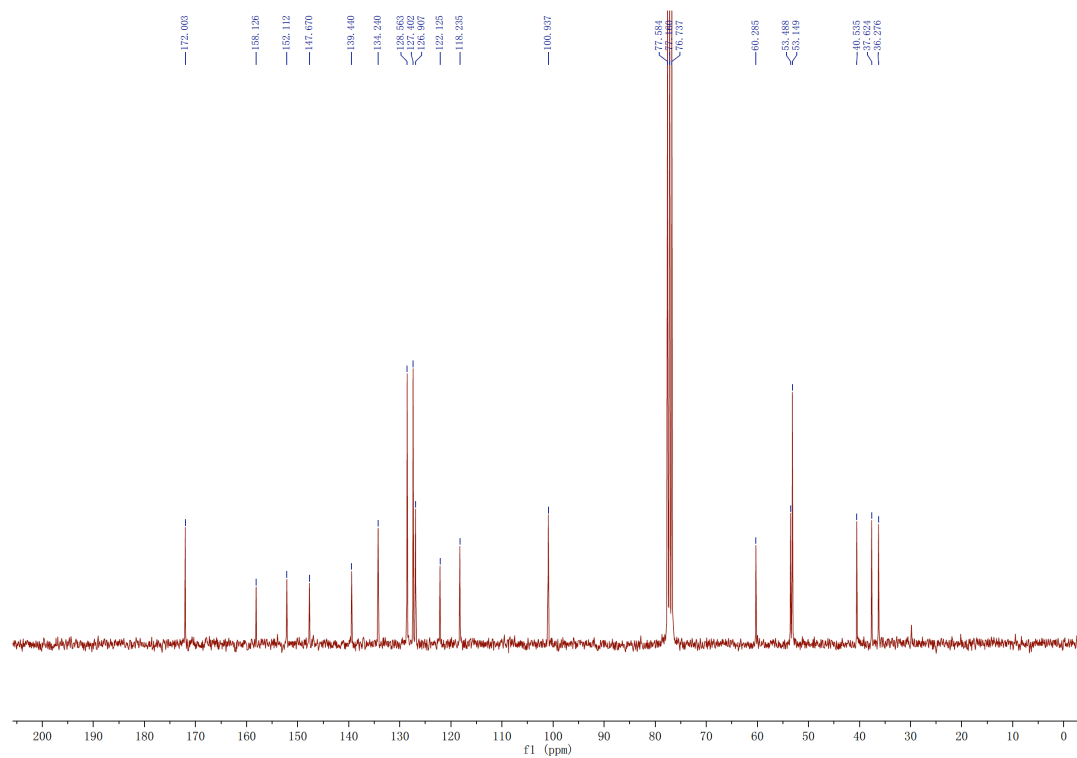
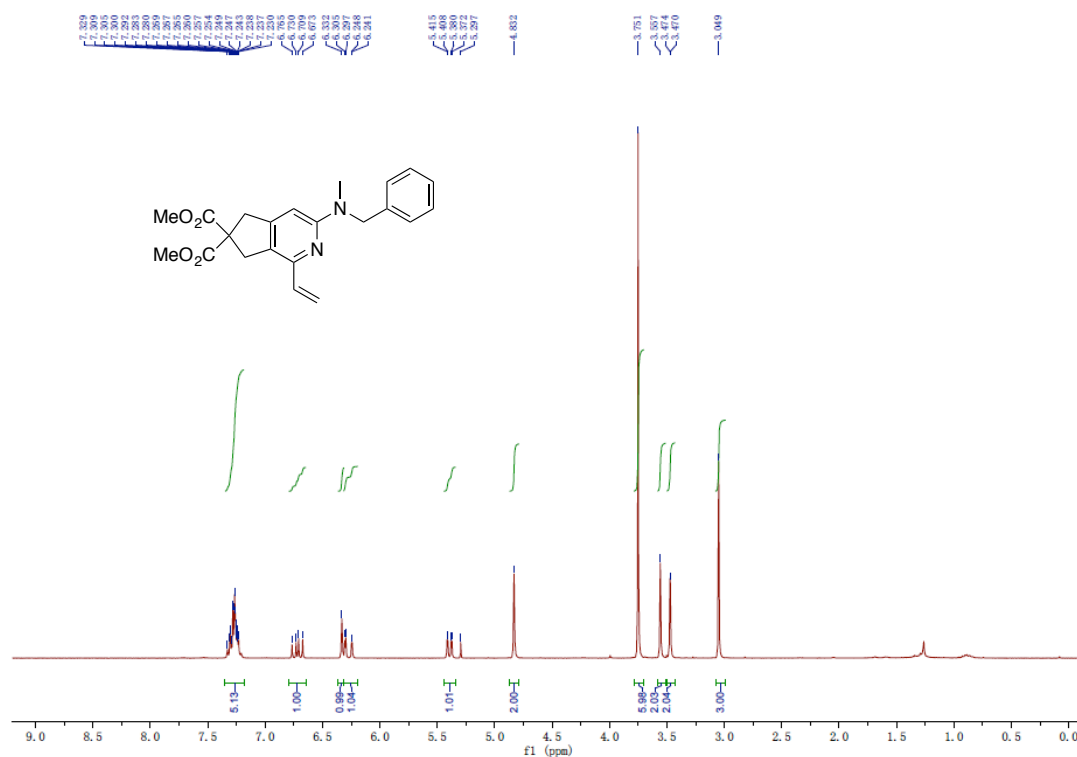
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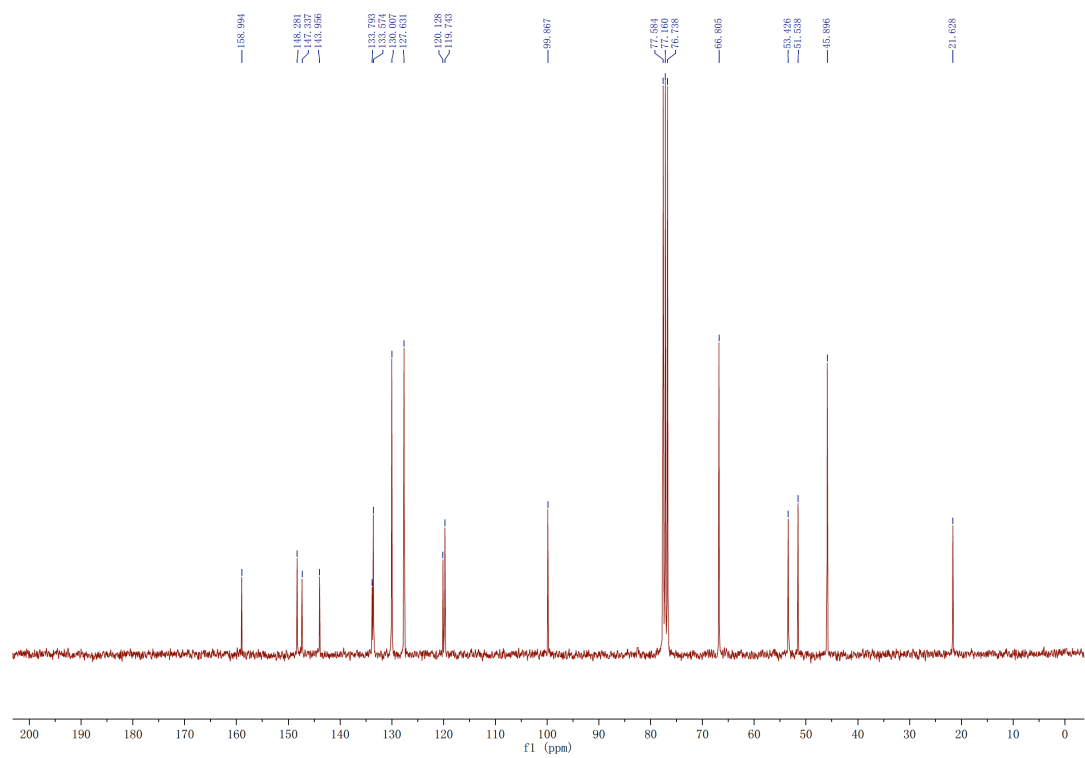
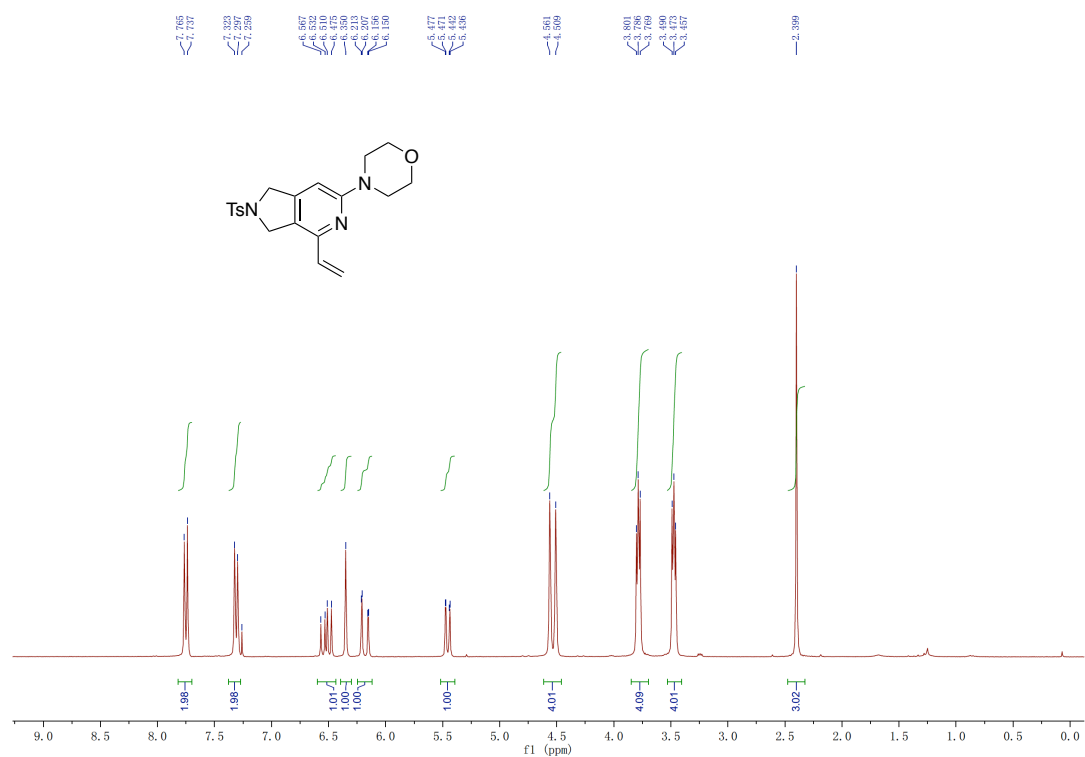


5j

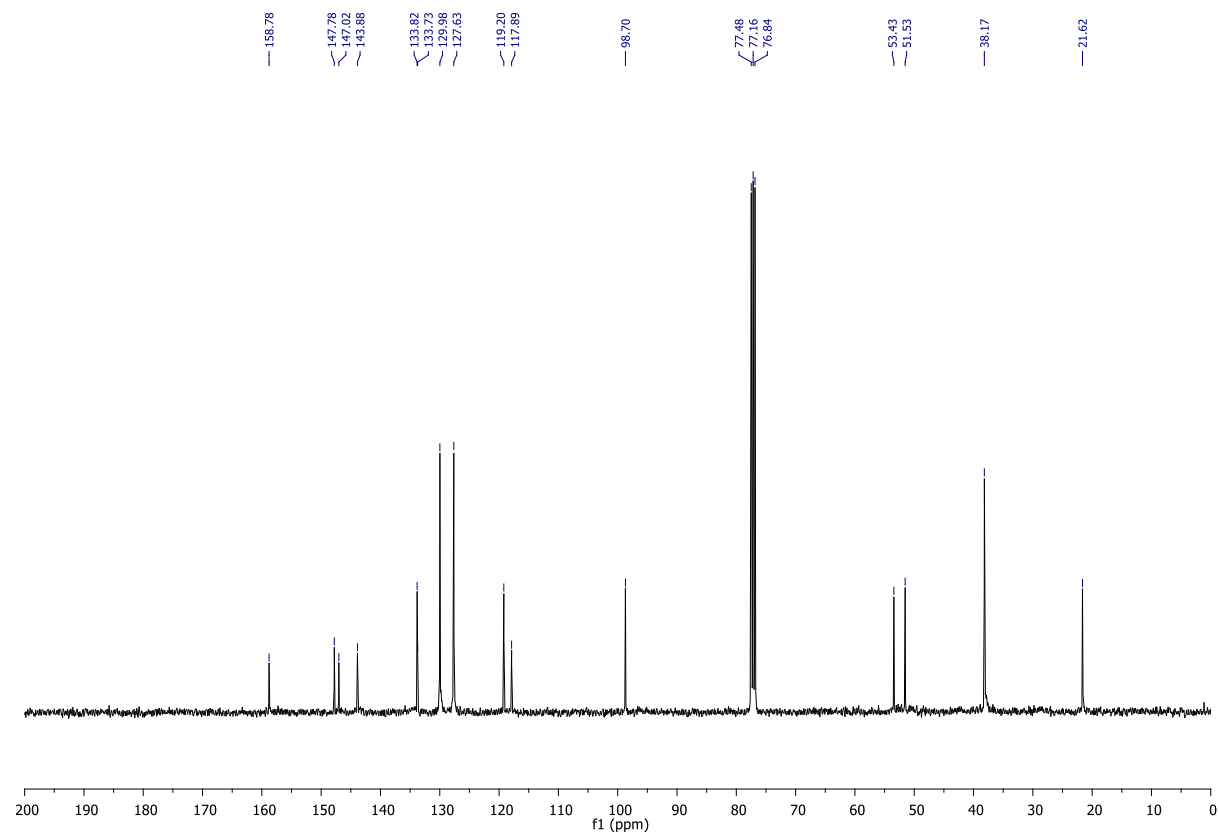
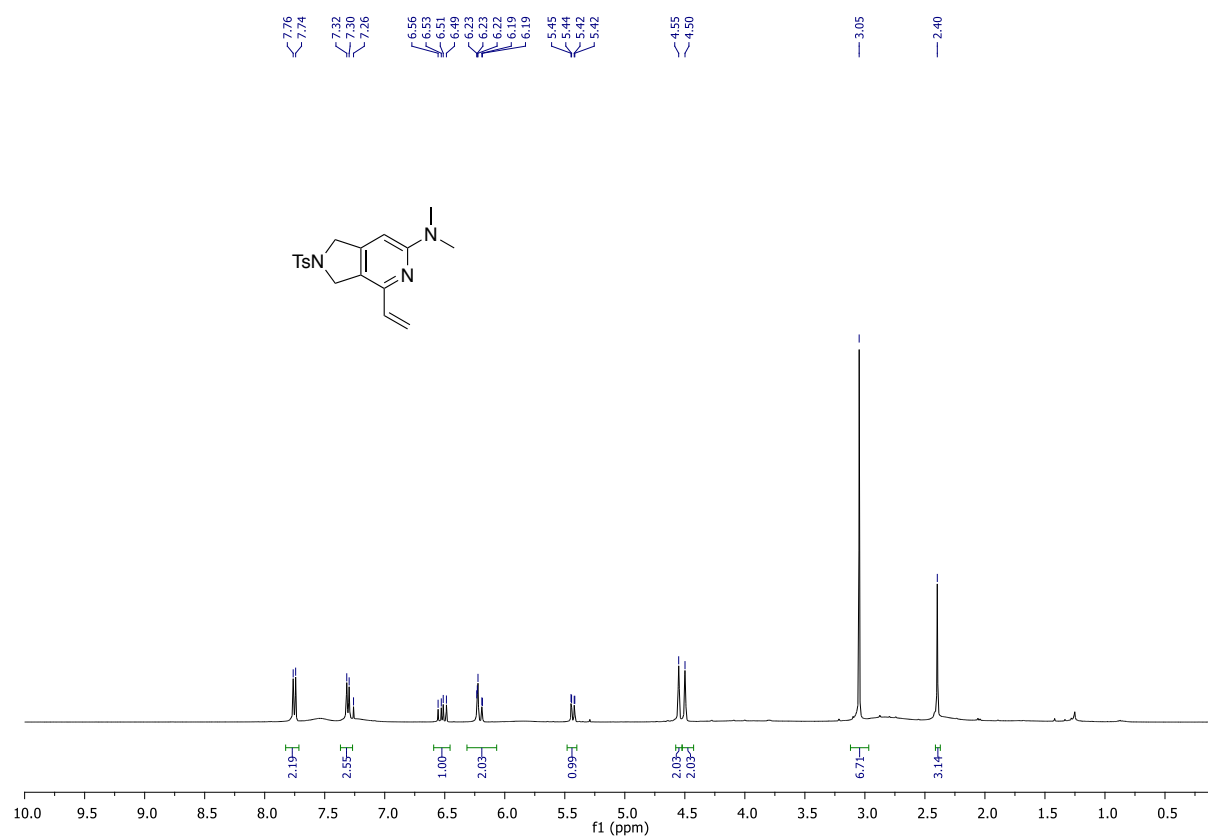


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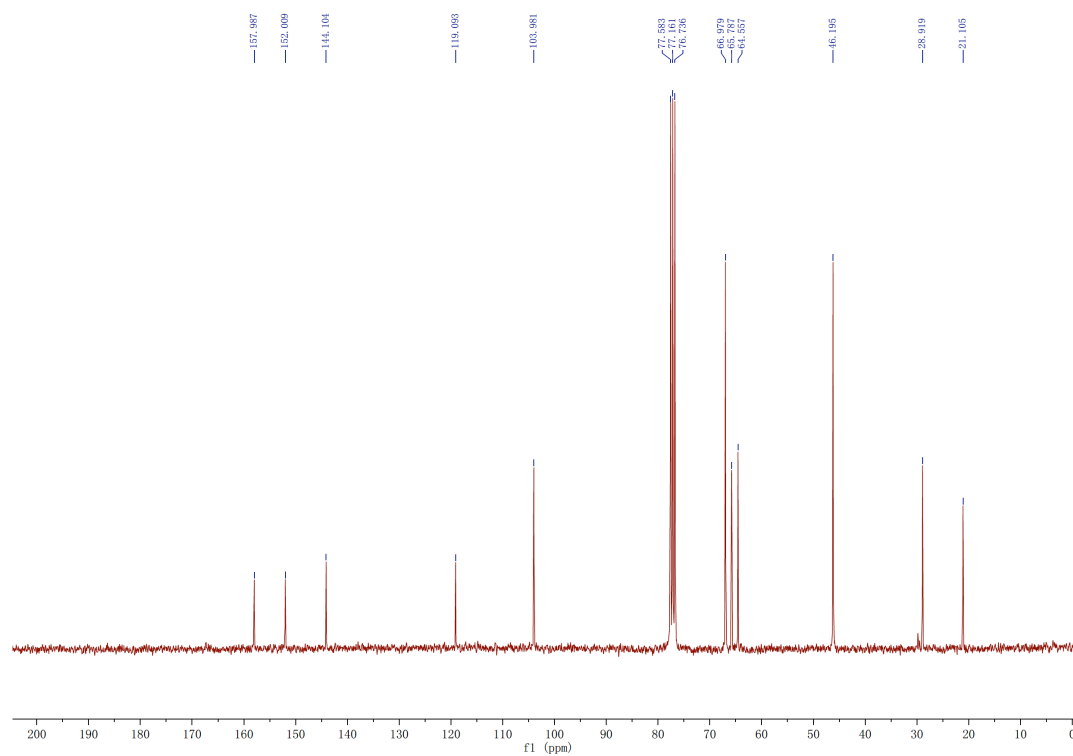
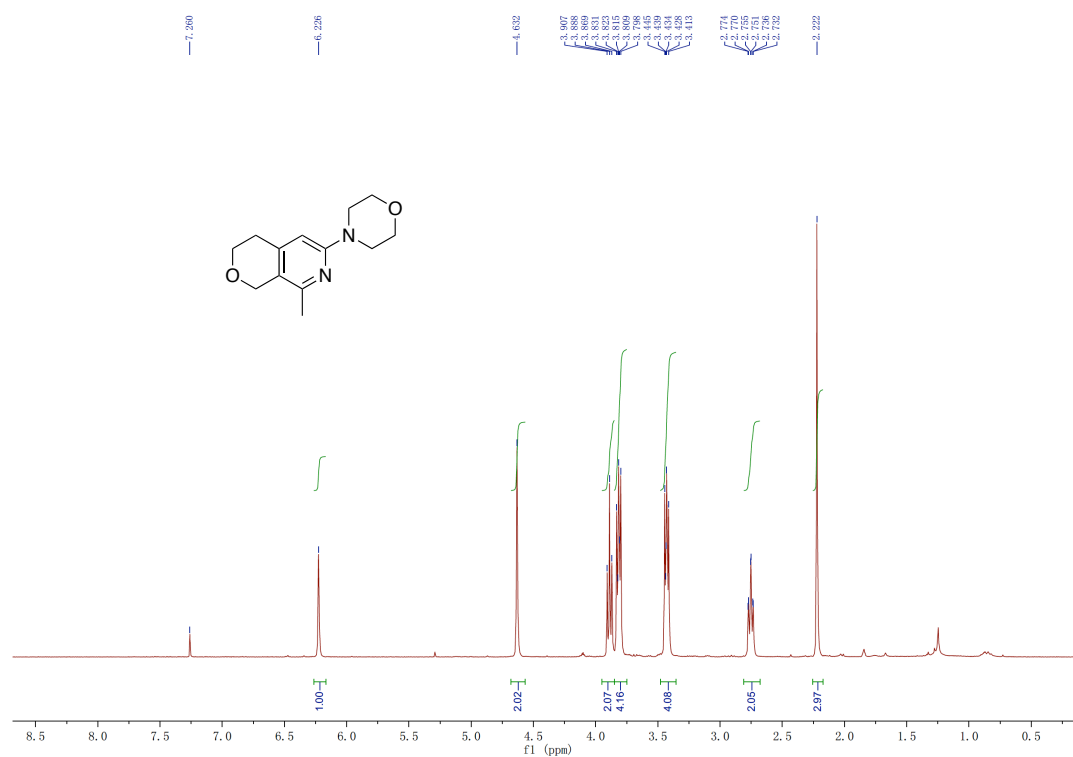




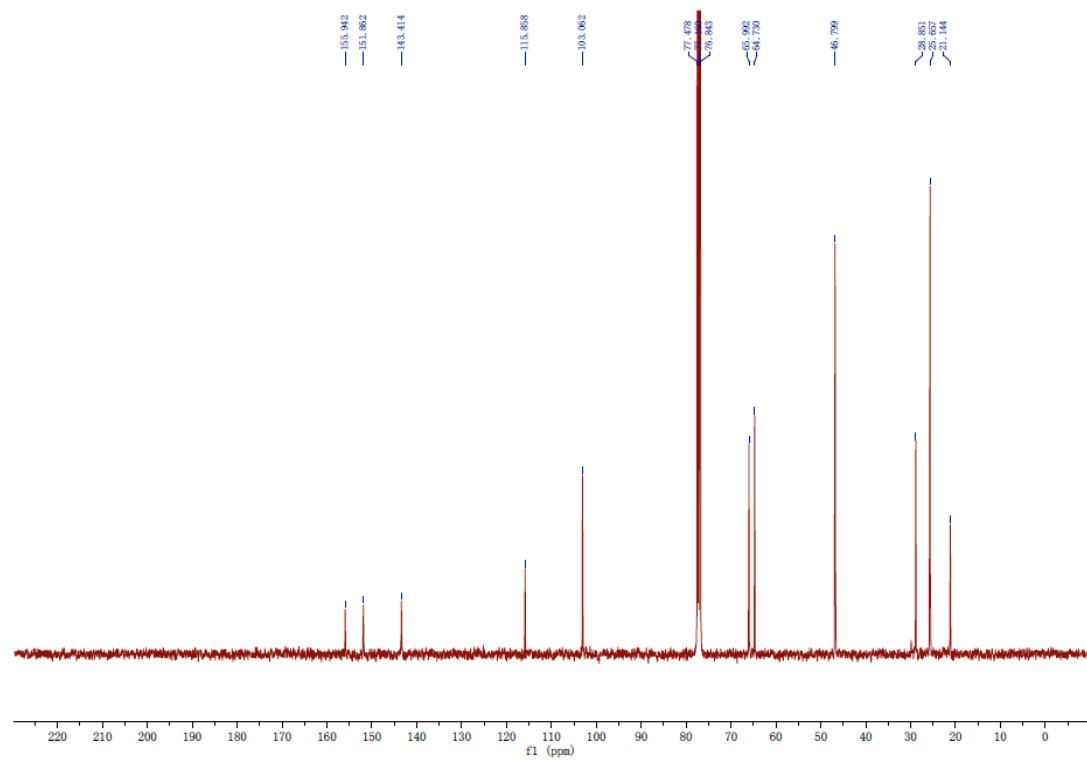
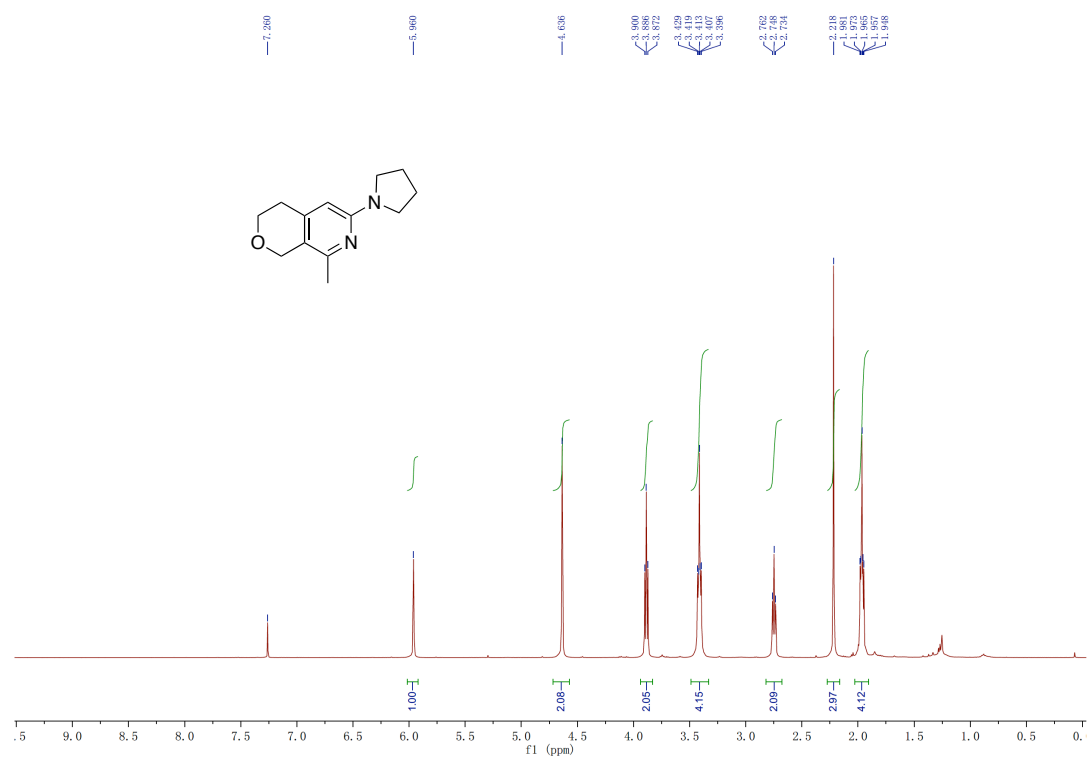
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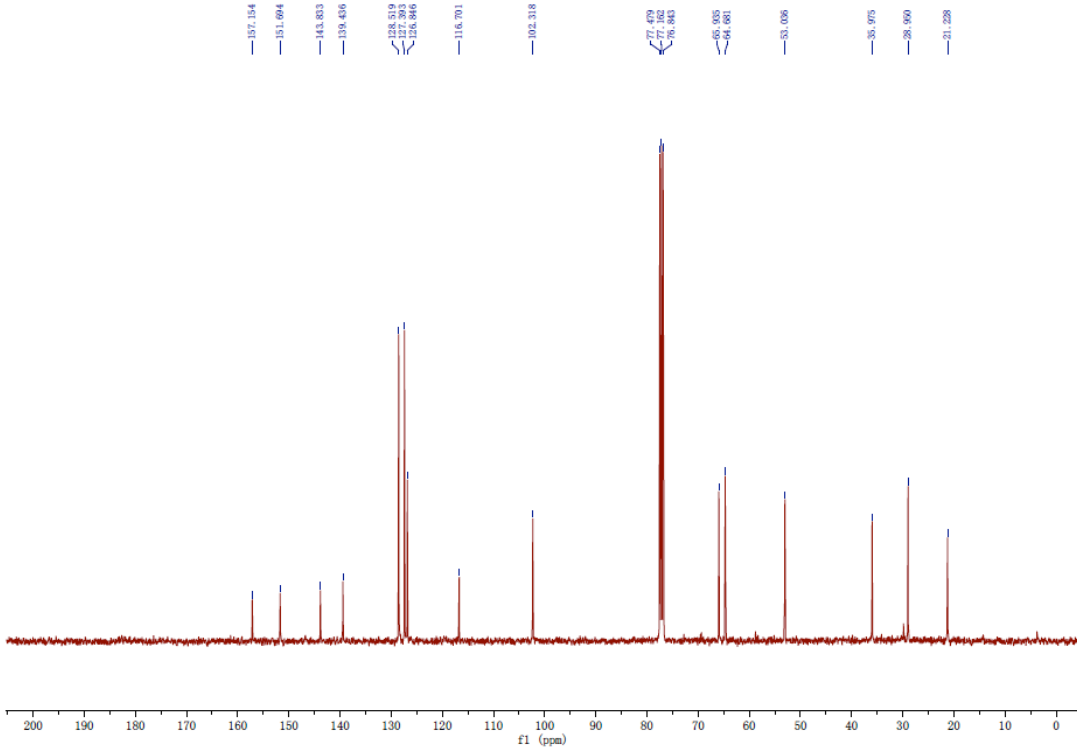
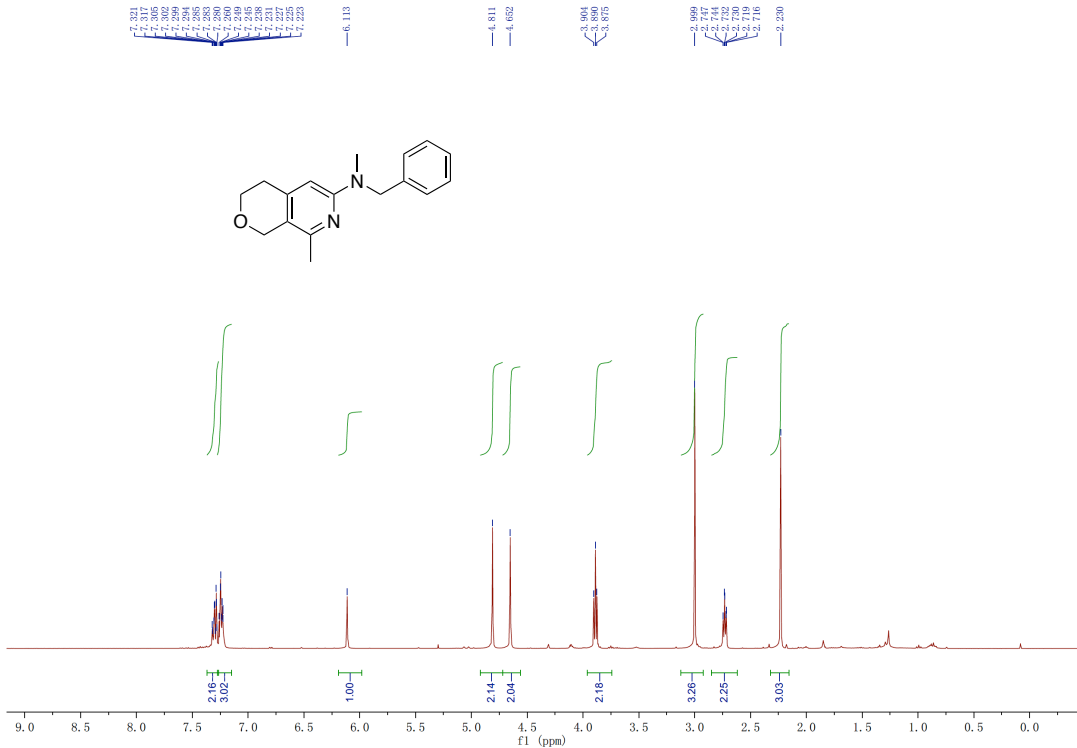
8a



8b



8c



8d

