

# Structural and mechanistic studies of the base-induced Sommelet–Hauser rearrangement of *N*- $\alpha$ -branched benzylic azetidine-2-carboxylic acid-derived ammonium salts

*Eiji Tayama,\* Kazutoshi Watanabe and Sho Sotome*

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Niigata University 950-2181, Japan

E-mail: tayama@chem.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp

## Electronic Supplementary Information

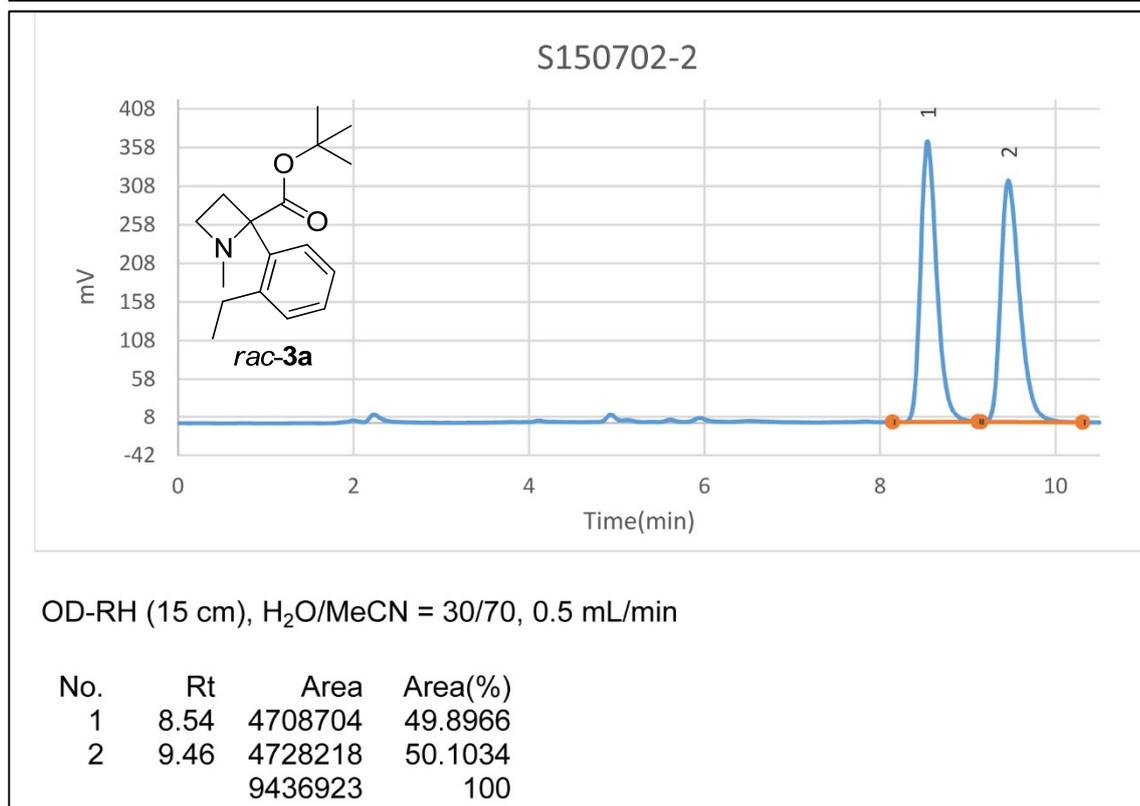
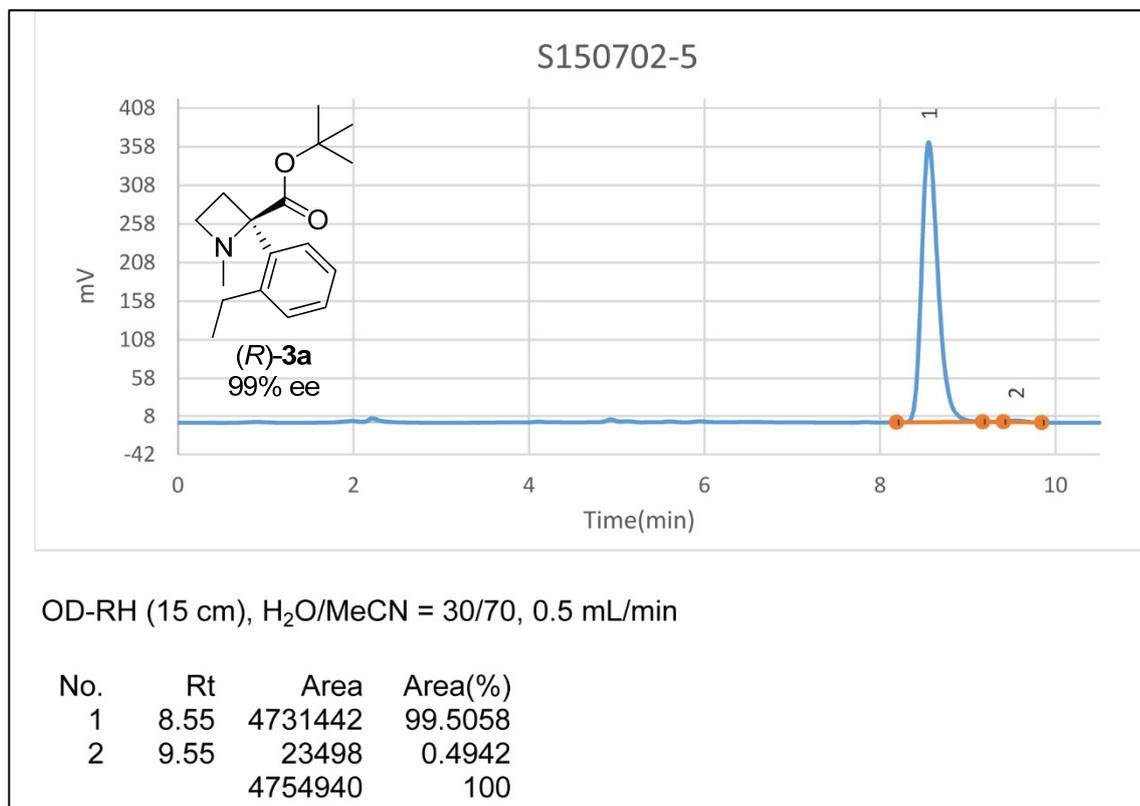
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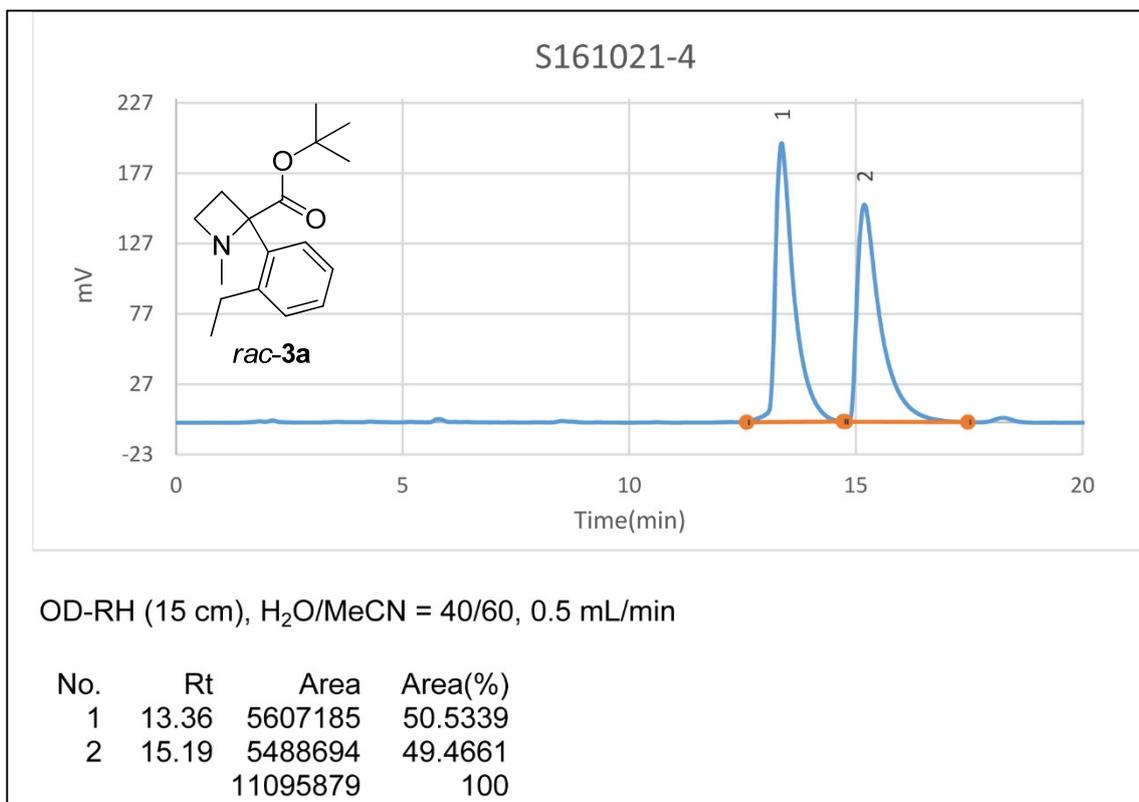
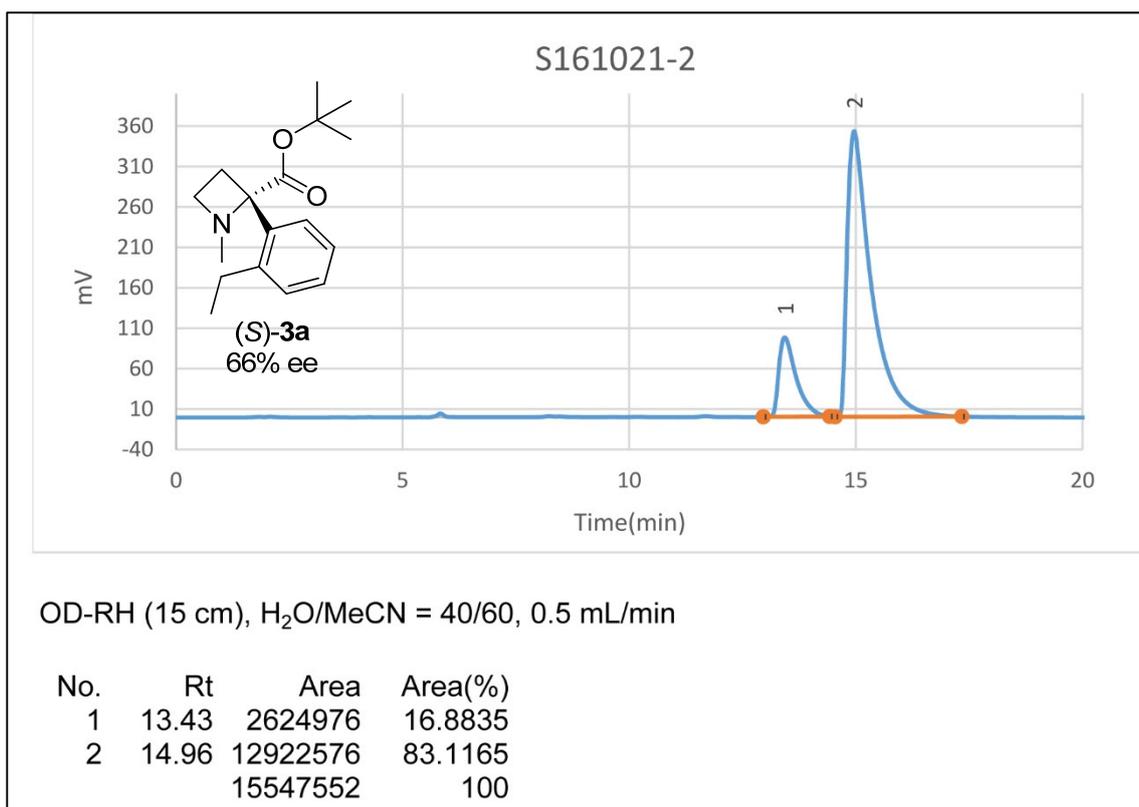
## 1. HPLC chromatogram of 3a and 4a for determination of ee

The ee were determined by HPLC analysis using chiral column in comparison with the racemic compounds.

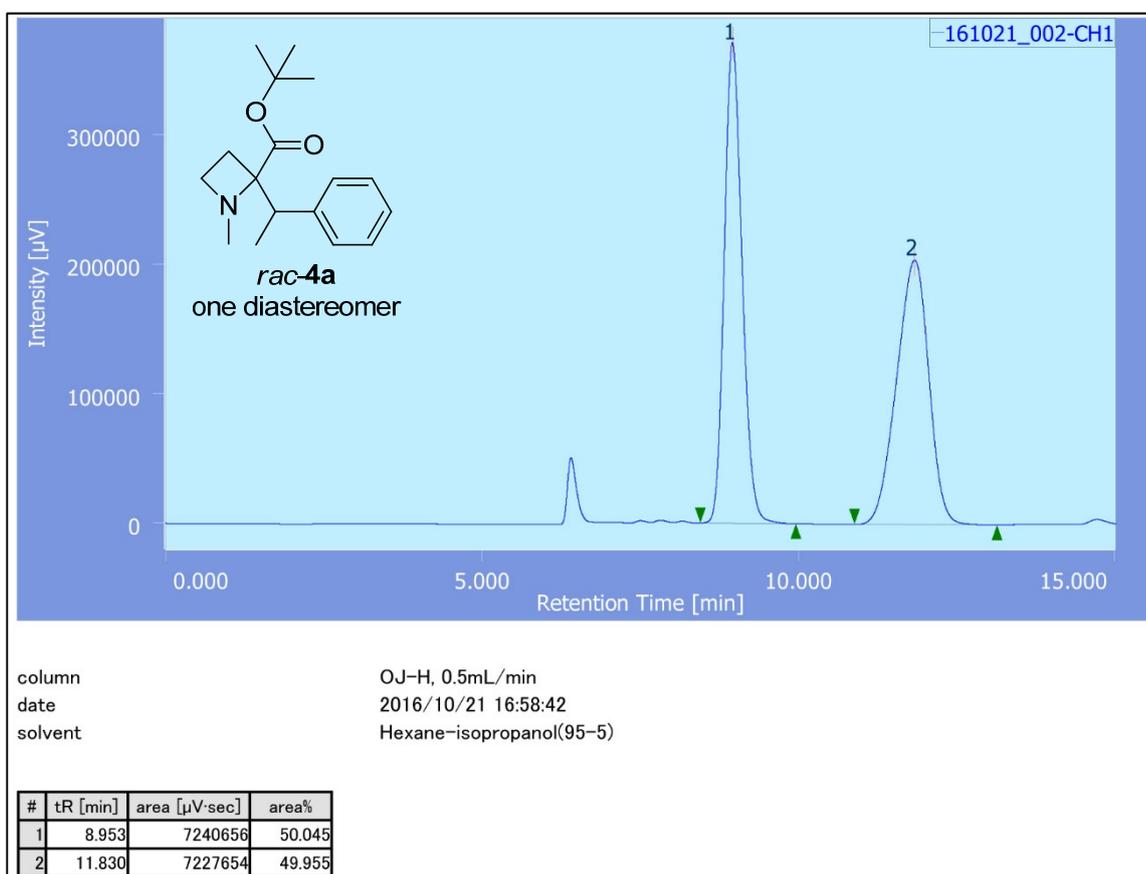
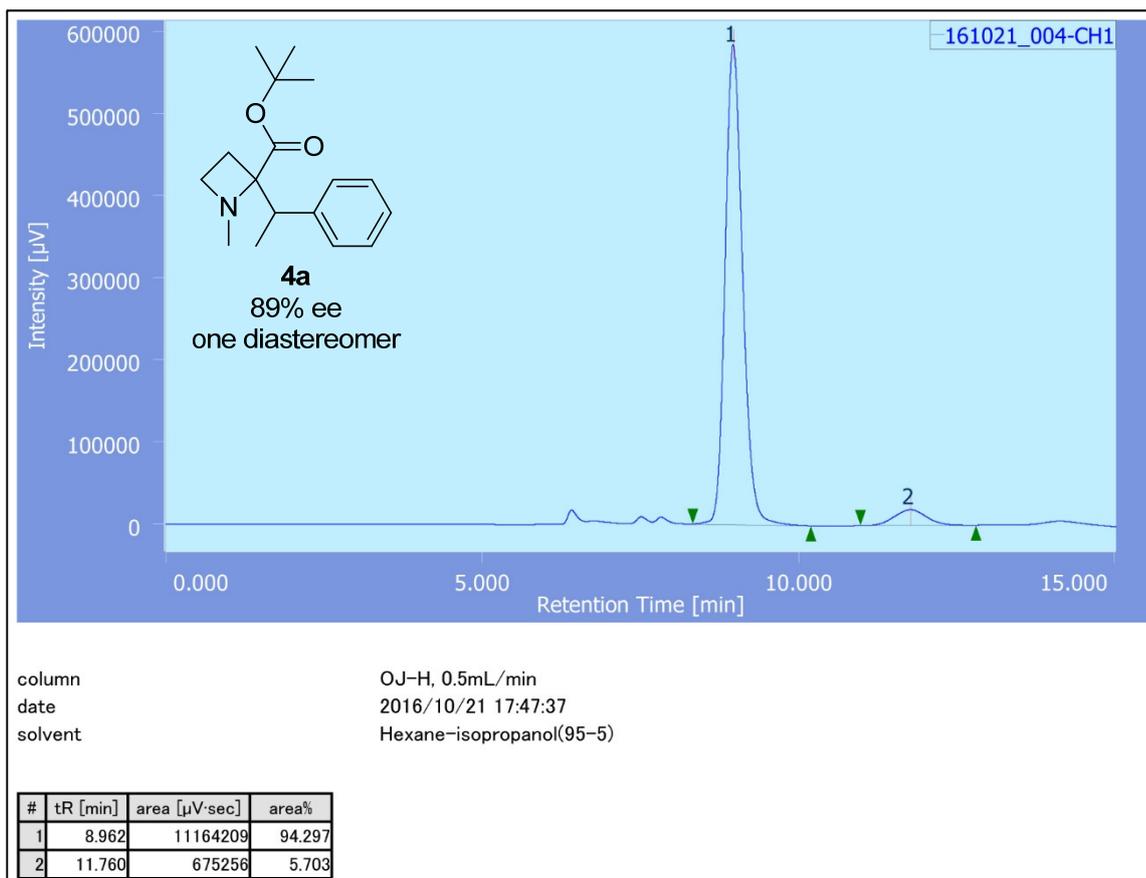
(*R*)-**3a** (99% ee): Daicel Chiralcel OD-RH column (15 cm), H<sub>2</sub>O/MeCN = 30/70 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 8.6 min for (*R*)-**3a** (99.5%) and 9.6 min for (*S*)-**3a** (0.5%).



(*S*)-**3a** (66% ee): Daicel Chiralcel OD-RH column (15 cm), H<sub>2</sub>O/MeCN = 40/60 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 13.4 min for (*R*)-**3a** (16.9%) and 15.0 min for (*S*)-**3a** (83.1%).

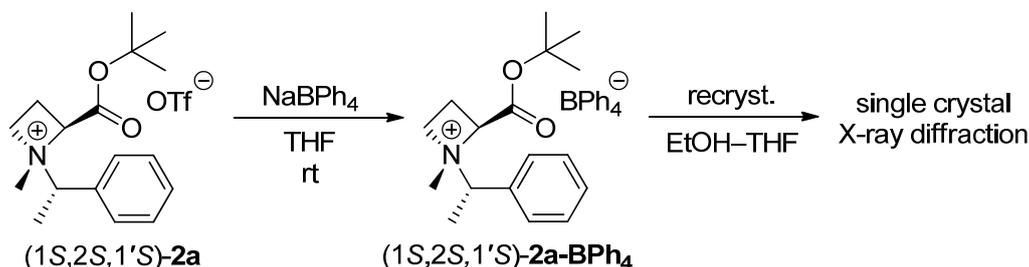


**4a** (89% ee): Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/2-PrOH = 95/5 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min,  $t_R$  = 9.0 min (94.3%) and 11.8 min (5.7%).

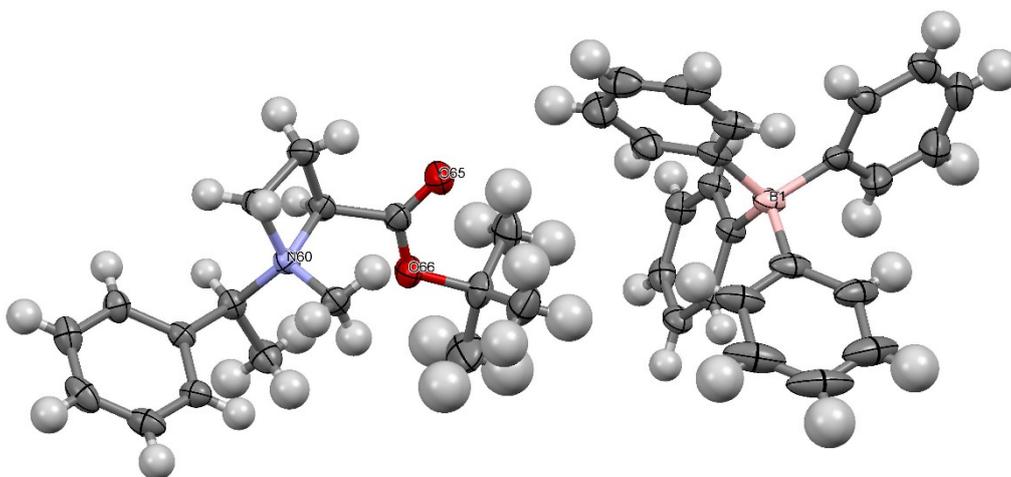


## 2. Preparation and crystal data of (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*')-2a-BPh<sub>4</sub> and (1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e-BPh<sub>4</sub>

### (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*')-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-methyl-1-(1'-phenylethyl)azetidinium tetraphenylborate [(1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*')-2a-BPh<sub>4</sub>]

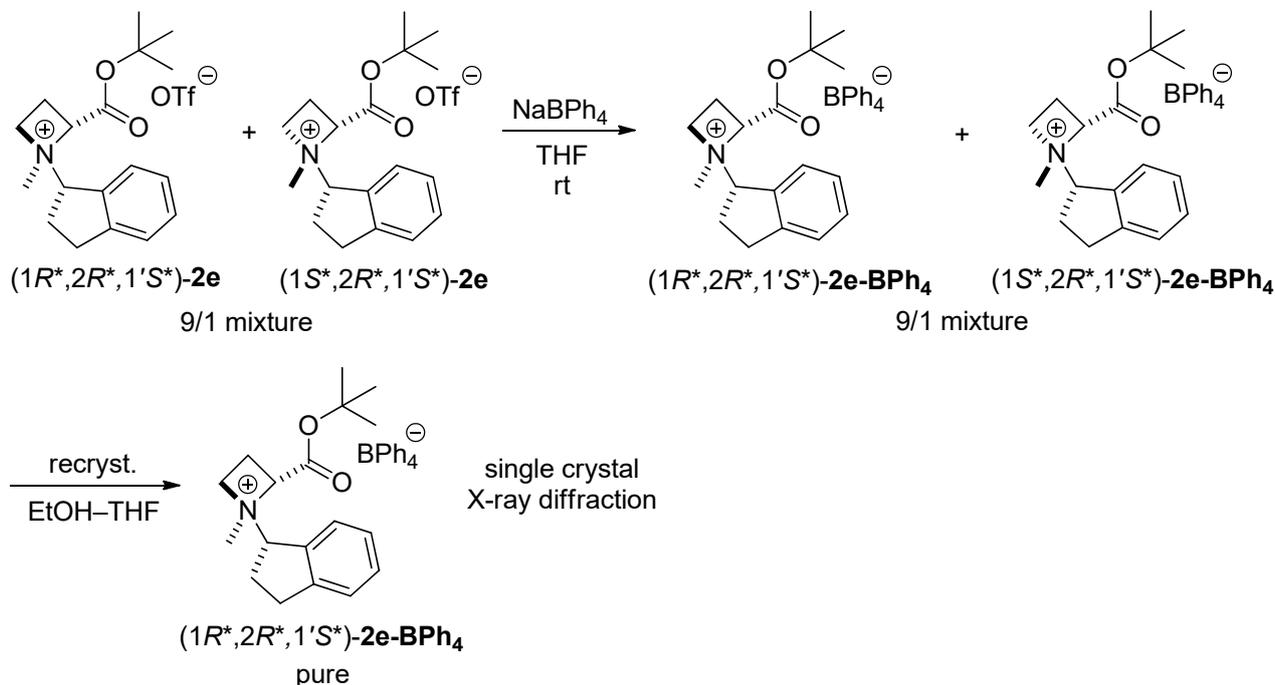


A mixture of (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*')-2a (193 mg, 0.454 mmol) and sodium tetraphenylborate (233 mg, 0.681 mmol) in THF (4.5 mL) was stirred for 2 days at room temperature. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was crystallized from EtOH–THF to obtain (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*')-2a-BPh<sub>4</sub> (221 mg, 82% yield) as colourless crystals. Recrystallization from EtOH–THF gave a single crystal suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis. CCDC-1553028 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data are provided free of charge by the CCDC. Colourless crystals; mp 181–182 °C;  $[\alpha]_{589}^{26} -24.5$  (*c* 1.0 in acetone); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3034, 3004, 2981, 1735, 1579, 1477, 1458, 1424, 1395, 1370, 1355, 1250, 1147, 1065, 1032, 1011, 866, 836, 773, 747, 737, 707; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.67–7.61 (2H, m, Ph), 7.59–7.49 (3H, m, Ph), 7.38–7.30 (8H, m, Ph), 6.93 (8H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 7.2 Hz, Ph), 6.79 (4H, tt, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, Ph), 5.49 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.8, 9.8 Hz, 2-H), 5.03 (1H, q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1'-H), 4.70 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 9.8, 9.8 Hz, 4-H), 3.52 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.0, 9.8, 3.4, 0.8 Hz, 4-H), 3.18 (3H, s, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.01 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.2, 10.0, 10.0, 9.8 Hz, 3-H), 2.63–2.48 (1H, m, 3-H), 1.86 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.58 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  165.0 (q, *J* = 49 Hz), 164.6, 137.1 (q, *J* = 2 Hz), 132.8, 131.7, 131.3, 130.3, 126.1 (q, *J* = 3 Hz), 122.4, 86.2, 74.6, 72.5, 62.0, 41.1, 28.0, 18.4, 14.6; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M-BPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 276.1958, found 276.2951.



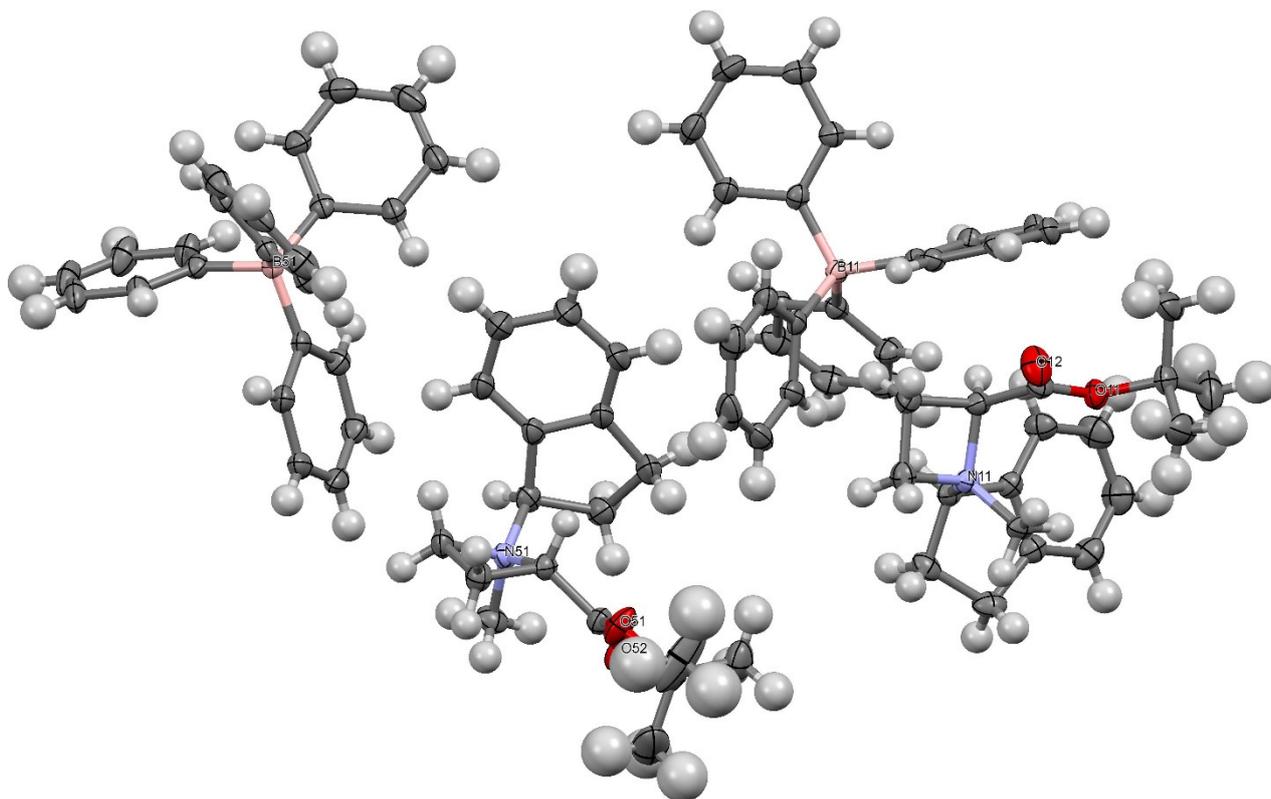
Empirical Formula	C <sub>41</sub> H <sub>46</sub> BNO <sub>2</sub>
Formula Weight	595.60
Crystal System	orthorhombic
Lattice Parameters	a = 13.4025(10) Å b = 15.8388(12) Å c = 16.5989(13) Å V = 3523.6(5) Å <sup>3</sup>
Space Group	P2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> (#19)
Z value	4
Temperature	293 K
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 36211 Unique: 8075 (R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0360)
Residuals: R <sub>1</sub> (I > 2.00σ(I))	0.0442
Residuals: wR <sub>2</sub> (All reflections)	0.1085
Goodness of Fit Indicator	1.014
Flack parameter (Parsons' quotients = 1927)	0.2(4)

**(1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-(2',3'-dihydro-1'*H*-inden-1'-yl)-1-methylazetidinium-tetraphenylborate [(1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e-BPh<sub>4</sub>]**



A 9/1 mixture of (1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e and (1*S*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e (127 mg, 0.290 mmol) and sodium tetraphenylborate (0.12 g, 0.35 mmol) in THF (2.9 mL) was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 50/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain a 9/1 mixture of (1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e-BPh<sub>4</sub> and (1*S*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e-BPh<sub>4</sub> (146 mg, 83% yield) as a white solid. Recrystallization from EtOH–THF of the

mixture afforded pure (1*R*\*,2*R*\*,1'*S*'\*)-2e-BPh<sub>4</sub> (105 mg, 60% yield) as colourless crystals. The 2nd recrystallization from EtOH–THF gave a single crystal suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis. CCDC-1553029 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data are provided free of charge by the CCDC. Colourless crystals; mp 146–147 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3052, 2996, 2980, 1738, 1579, 1478, 1462, 1426, 1394, 1370, 1352, 1254, 1233, 1149, 1031, 1000, 896, 842, 753, 734, 707; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47–7.38 (8H, m, ArH), 7.39 (1H, ddd,  $J = 7.4, 7.4, 1.2$  Hz, ArH), 7.26 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, ArH), 7.20 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 7.4$  Hz, ArH), 7.02 (9H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 7.4$  Hz, ArH), 6.91 (4H, tt,  $J = 7.4, 1.2$  Hz, ArH), 4.06 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.6, 9.6$  Hz, 2-H), 3.86 (1H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1'-H), 2.78 (1H, ddd,  $J = 10.2, 10.0, 9.6$  Hz, 4-H), 2.71 (1H, ddd,  $J = 17.4, 9.0, 8.8$  Hz, 3'-H), 2.62 (1H, ddd,  $J = 17.4, 8.8, 8.4$  Hz, 3'-H), 2.39 (1H, ddd,  $J = 10.2, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz, 4-H), 2.04 (1H, dddd,  $J = 12.5, 10.0, 10.0, 9.6$  Hz, 3-H), 1.90 (1H, dddd,  $J = 16.0, 9.0, 8.8, 8.4$  Hz, 2'-H), 1.77 (3H, s, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.61 (1H, dddd,  $J = 12.5, 9.6, 9.6, 4.0$  Hz, 3-H), 1.47–1.31 (1H, m, 2'-H), 1.37 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.9 (q,  $J = 49$  Hz), 162.6, 146.4, 136.0, 132.3, 131.3, 127.1, 127.0, 125.82 (q,  $J = 2$  Hz), 125.76, 122.1, 85.8, 79.5, 70.4, 61.6, 39.6, 30.4, 27.7, 26.2, 17.6; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M–BPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 288.1958, found 288.1953.



(1:1 mixture of conformational isomers)

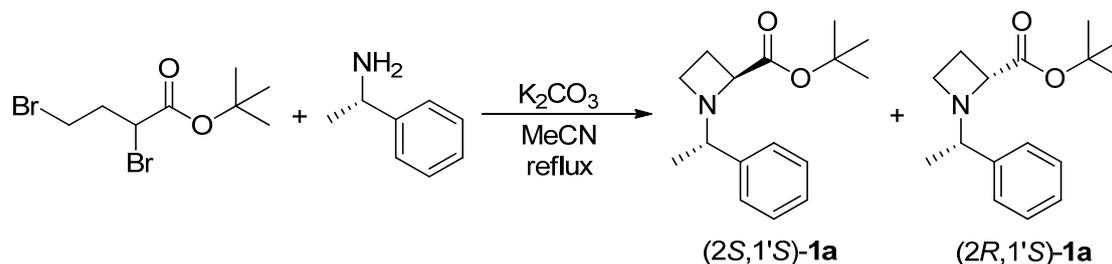
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Empirical Formula	C <sub>84</sub> H <sub>92</sub> B <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
Formula Weight	1215.21
Crystal System	triclinic
Lattice Parameters	a = 10.1389(13) Å b = 10.2830(13) Å c = 19.617(3) Å α = 79.125(6)° β = 89.681(6)° γ = 62.353(4)° V = 1771.3(4) Å <sup>3</sup>
Space Group	P1 (#1)
Z value	1
Temperature	293 K
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 18195 Unique: 15384 (R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0233)
Residuals: R <sub>1</sub> (I > 2.00σ(I))	0.0552
Residuals: wR <sub>2</sub> (All reflections)	0.1265
Goodness of Fit Indicator	1.063
Flack parameter (Parsons' quotients = 4314)	-0.1(8)

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### 3. Preparation of substrates

#### *tert*-Butyl 1-((*S*)-1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(*2S,1'S*)-**1a** and (*2R,1'S*)-**1a**]



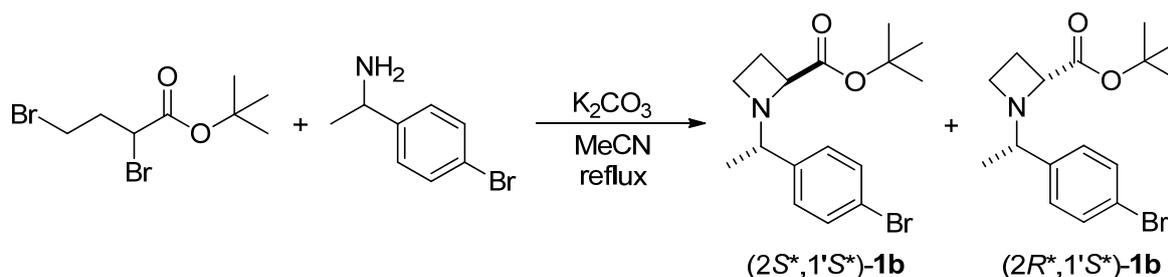
A mixture of (*S*)-1-phenylethylamine (400  $\mu$ L, 3.10 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (937 mg, 3.10 mmol), and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.29 g, 9.3 mmol) in MeCN (16 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 7/1 to 4/1 as the eluent,  $R_f$ : (*2S,1'S*) > (*2R,1'S*)] to obtain (*2S,1'S*)-**1a** (261 mg, 32% yield) as a colourless oil and (*2R,1'S*)-**1a** (270 mg, 33% yield) as a colourless oil. The stereochemistry of each diastereomers were clarified in our previous work.<sup>1</sup> (*2S,1'S*)-**1a**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>589</sub><sup>22</sup> -111.1 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3061, 3025, 3003, 2973, 2930, 2869, 2837, 2779, 1742, 1718, 1493, 1478, 1453, 1391, 1366, 1319, 1284, 1232, 1213, 1152, 1101, 1071, 1042, 1031, 975, 945, 847, 763, 701; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.27 (4H, m, Ph), 7.22 (1H, dddd,  $J = 7.4, 6.6, 1.6, 1.6$  Hz, Ph), 3.62 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.6, 8.2$  Hz, 2-H), 3.43 (1H, q,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-H), 3.08 (1H, dddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.0, 2.8, 0.8$  Hz, 4-H), 2.73 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.9, 8.2, 7.0$  Hz, 4-H), 2.21 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.9, 8.6, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.12 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.2, 8.2, 2.8$  Hz, 3-H), 1.48 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.23 (3H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  172.5, 142.9, 128.2, 127.4, 127.0, 80.6, 67.3, 64.8, 49.5, 28.0, 21.2, 20.7; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{24}NO_2$  [ $M+H$ ]<sup>+</sup> 262.1802, found 262.1794. (*2R,1'S*)-**1a**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>589</sub><sup>22</sup> +56.8 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3062, 3026, 3003, 2973, 2930, 2870, 2827, 2784, 1735, 1493, 1477, 1453, 1391, 1366, 1302, 1276, 1233, 1208, 1153, 1114, 1081, 1057, 1030, 1012, 975, 947, 846, 762, 700; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34-7.29 (2H, m, Ph), 7.26 (2H, dddd,  $J = 7.2, 7.2, 1.6, 1.6$  Hz, Ph), 7.20 (1H, tt,  $J = 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, Ph), 3.54 (1H, dddd,  $J = 8.2, 6.6, 2.6, 0.6$  Hz, 4-H), 3.50 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.2, 8.2$  Hz, 2-H), 3.36 (1H, q,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-H), 2.96 (1H, ddd,  $J = 9.2, 8.2, 6.6$  Hz, 4-H), 2.22 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.5, 9.2, 8.2, 8.2$  Hz, 3-H), 2.11 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.5, 8.2, 8.2, 2.6$  Hz, 3-H), 1.26 (3H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.17 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  171.6, 142.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.3, 80.1, 68.0, 65.4, 50.7, 27.7, 20.8, 20.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{24}NO_2$  [ $M+H$ ]<sup>+</sup> 262.1802, found 262.1792.

#### (*rac*)-*tert*-Butyl 1-(1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(*2S\**,1'*S\**)-**1a** and (*2R\**,1'*S\**)-**1a**]

Prepared by the same procedure with (*2S,1'S*)-**1a** and (*2R,1'S*)-**1a** using (*rac*)-1-phenylethylamine instead of (*S*)-1-phenylethylamine. (*2S\**,1'*S\**)-**1a**: 31% yield; colourless oil. (*2R\**,1'*S\**)-**1a**: 28% yield; colourless oil.

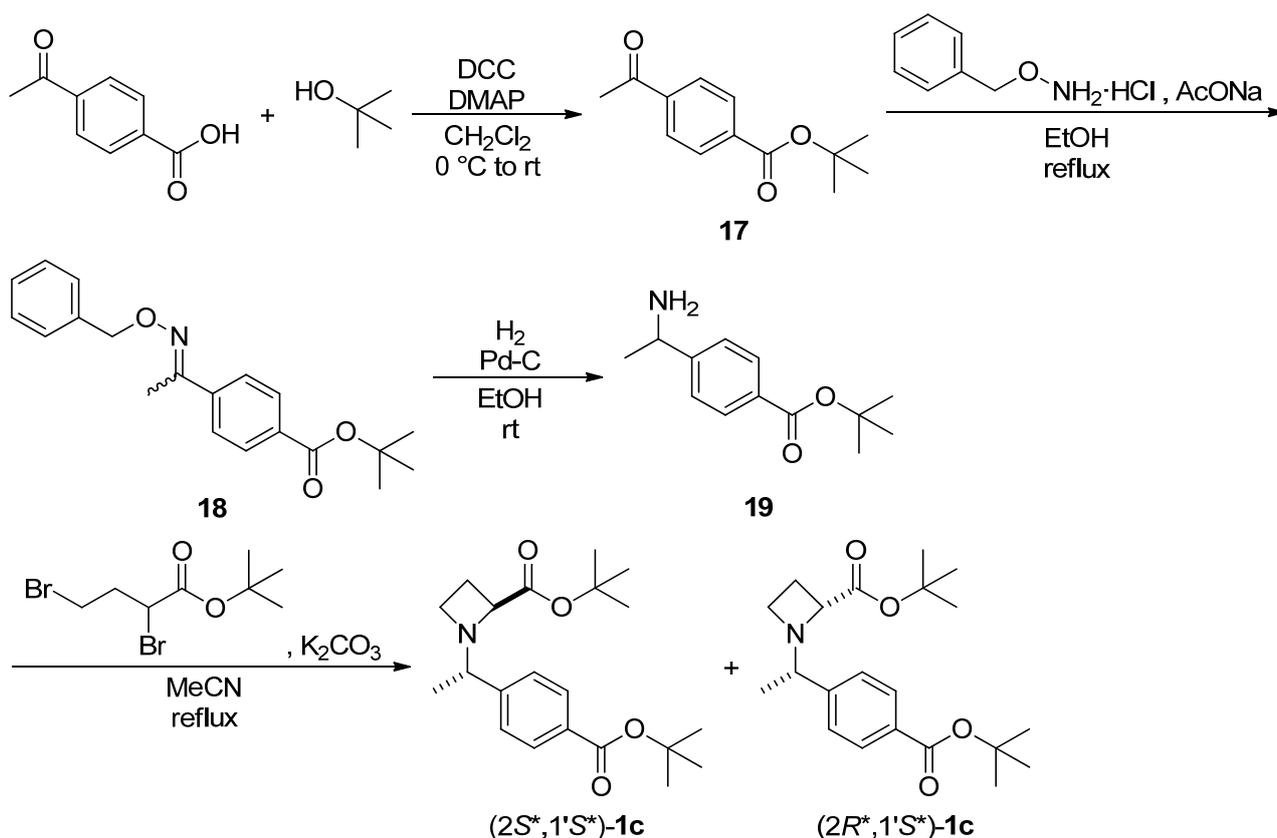
<sup>1</sup> E. Tayama, K. Watanabe and Y. Matano, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2016, 3631.

***tert*-Butyl 1-(1'-(4''-bromophenyl)ethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-1b and (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-1b]**



A mixture of 1-(4-bromophenyl)ethan-1-amine (170  $\mu$ L, 1.18 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (362 mg, 1.20 mmol), and  $K_2CO_3$  (835 mg, 6.0 mmol) in MeCN (6 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 15/1 to 3/1 as the eluent,  $R_f$ :  $(2S^*,1'S^*) > (2R^*,1'S^*)$ ] to obtain  $(2S^*,1'S^*)$ -**1b** (109 mg, 27% yield) as a colourless oil and  $(2R^*,1'S^*)$ -**1b** (117 mg, 29% yield) as a colourless oil. The relative stereochemistry of each diastereomers were assigned by analogy with **1a**.  $(2S^*,1'S^*)$ -**1b**: IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  2972, 2930, 2836, 1741, 1589, 1482, 1453, 1392, 1367, 1320, 1288, 1234, 1213, 1154, 1097, 1070, 1043, 1010, 976, 945, 826, 780, 746, 716;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42 (2H, ddd,  $J = 8.4, 2.0, 2.0$  Hz, ArH), 7.23 (2H, ddd,  $J = 8.4, 2.0, 2.0$  Hz, ArH), 3.63 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.4, 8.4$  Hz, 2-H), 3.39 (1H, q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1'-H), 3.11-3.04 (1H, m, 4-H), 2.69 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.4, 8.4, 7.2$  Hz, 4-H), 2.21 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.8, 8.4, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.13 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.4, 8.4, 2.8$  Hz, 3-H), 1.48 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.19 (3H, d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  172.3, 142.0, 131.3, 129.1, 120.6, 80.6, 66.7, 64.6, 49.7, 27.9, 21.2, 20.7; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{23}BrNO_2$   $[M+H]^+$  340.0907, found 340.0896.  $(2R^*,1'S^*)$ -**1b**: IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  2972, 2930, 2870, 2830, 1737, 1591, 1486, 1454, 1406, 1391, 1366, 1340, 1297, 1233, 1208, 1153, 1115, 1100, 1071, 1010, 977, 947, 830, 762, 740, 715;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, ArH), 7.21 (2H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, ArH), 3.52 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.8, 6.8, 2.6$  Hz, 4-H), 3.46 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.4, 8.4$  Hz, 2-H), 3.32 (1H, q,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-H), 2.95 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.8, 8.4, 6.8$  Hz, 4-H), 2.22 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.8, 8.8, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.10 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.4, 8.4, 2.6$  Hz, 3-H), 1.22 (3H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  171.3, 141.2, 131.1, 129.8, 121.0, 80.2, 67.3, 65.3, 50.5, 27.5, 20.6, 19.8; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{23}BrNO_2$   $[M+H]^+$  340.0907, found 340.0900.

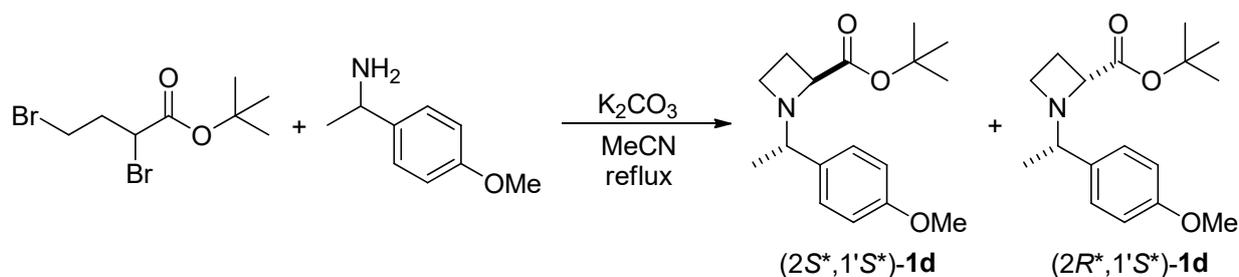
***tert*-Butyl 1-(1'-(4''-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)phenyl)ethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-1c and (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-1c]**



A solution of DCC (1.03 g, 5.0 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added to a solution of 4-acetylbenzoic acid (0.82 g, 5.0 mmol), DMAP (0.18 g, 1.5 mmol), and *t*-BuOH (1.43 mL, 15 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C and for 5 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 9/1 to 6/1 as the eluent) to obtain *tert*-butyl 4-acetylbenzoate (**17**) (522 mg, 47% yield) as colourless crystals. A mixture of **17** (514 mg, 2.33 mmol), *O*-benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (409 mg, 2.56 mmol), and AcONa (210 mg, 2.56 mmol) in EtOH (4.7 mL) was refluxed for 15 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 15/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain *tert*-butyl 4-(1-((benzyloxy)imino)ethyl)benzoate (**18**) (760 mg, quant.) as colourless crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of **18** showed a 9/1 mixture of geometric isomers. A mixture of **18** (760 mg, 2.34 mmol) and Pd-C (loading: 10 wt.%, 49 mg) in EtOH (12 mL) was stirred for 15 h at room temperature under a hydrogen atmosphere. The resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 9/1 to 5/1 as the eluent) to give *tert*-butyl 4-(1-aminoethyl)benzoate (**19**) (489 mg, 94% yield) as a colourless oil. A mixture of **19** (482 mg, 2.18 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (658 mg, 2.18 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.90 g, 6.5 mmol) in MeCN (11 mL) was refluxed for 15 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 7/1 to 3/1 as the eluent, *R*<sub>f</sub>: (2*S*\*,1'*S*\*) > (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)] to obtain (2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-**1c** (234 mg, 30% yield) as colourless crystals and (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-**1c** (244 mg, 31% yield) as a colourless oil. The relative stereochemistry of each diastereomers

were assigned by analogy with **1a**. (*2S*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1c**: mp 54–57 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  2975, 2933, 2860, 1738, 1709, 1609, 1476, 1457, 1417, 1392, 1368, 1295, 1257, 1229, 1211, 1164, 1115, 1103, 1044, 1018, 973, 949, 852, 775, 707; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.40 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 3.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 8.2 Hz, 2-H), 3.48 (1H, q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1'-H), 3.10 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.8, 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 4-H), 2.70 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.0, 8.0, 7.8 Hz, 4-H), 2.30–2.08 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.59 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.49 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.21 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.4, 165.7, 147.9, 130.9, 129.5, 127.2, 80.8, 80.6, 67.1, 64.7, 49.7, 28.2, 28.0, 21.3, 20.8; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 362.2326, found 362.2310. (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1c**: IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  2975, 2931, 2871, 2832, 1735, 1709, 1610, 1577, 1477, 1456, 1416, 1391, 1367, 1346, 1294, 1255, 1208, 1166, 1116, 1057, 1018, 978, 947, 917, 849, 775, 733, 708; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.89 (2H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8, 1.8 Hz, ArH), 7.37 (2H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8, 1.8 Hz, ArH), 3.58–3.51 (1H, m, 4-H), 3.50 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.0 Hz, 2-H), 3.43 (1H, q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1'-H), 2.98 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.6, 8.6, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.23 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.2, 8.8, 8.6, 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 2.12 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.2, 8.6, 8.0, 2.6 Hz, 3-H), 1.57 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.25 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.17 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.5, 165.7, 147.1, 131.1, 129.4, 127.9, 80.7, 80.3, 67.6, 65.3, 50.6, 28.2, 27.6, 20.9, 19.9; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 362.2326, found 362.2315.

**tert-Butyl 1-(1'-(4'-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(*2S*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d** and (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d**]**

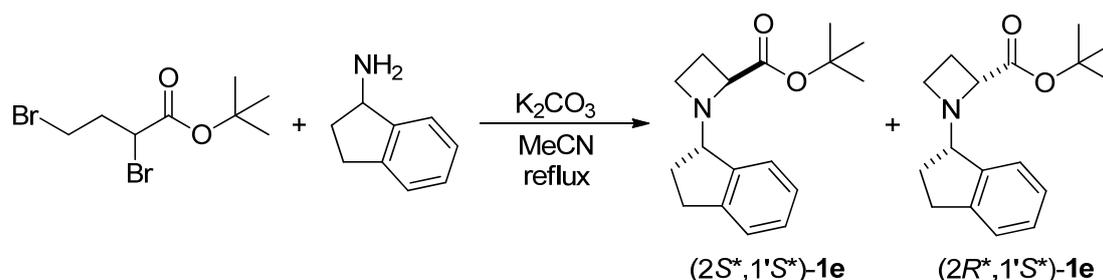


A mixture of 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-amine (1.01 g, 6.68 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (2.02 g, 6.69 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.76 g, 20 mmol) in MeCN (33 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. Evaporation of the volatiles and purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 6/1 to 2/1 as the eluent, *R<sub>f</sub>*: (*2S*\*,*1'S*\*) > (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)] gave (*2S*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d** (415 mg, 21% yield) as colourless crystals and (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d** (486 mg) as a colourless oil with small amounts of impurities. Re-purification of (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d** by chromatography on aminopropyl-modified silica gel (Chromatorex NH-DM1020<sup>2</sup>) (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 20/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) gave pure (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d** (446 mg, 23% yield) as a colourless oil. The relative stereochemistry of each diastereomers were assigned by analogy with **1a**. (*2S*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d**: mp 65–68 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  2979, 2932, 2863, 2836, 2798, 1749, 1610, 1583, 1511, 1456, 1391, 1367, 1317, 1289, 1249, 1231, 1210, 1158, 1101, 1030, 976, 941, 848, 824, 759, 734; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 6.84 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, ArH), 3.77 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 2-H), 3.37 (1H, q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1'-H), 3.05 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.8, 7.0, 2.4 Hz, 4-H), 2.71 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 8.4, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.19 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.4, 8.8, 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 2.10 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.4, 8.4, 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 3-H), 1.48 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.20 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1'-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.4, 158.5, 134.8, 128.3, 113.4, 80.3, 66.4, 64.6, 55.0, 49.2, 27.9, 21.1, 20.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 292.1907, found 292.1900. (*2R*\*,*1'S*\*)-**1d**: IR (film)

<sup>2</sup> Commercially available from Fuji Silysia Chemical Ltd., Japan.

$\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  2969, 2931, 2869, 2834, 1737, 1612, 1585, 1512, 1456, 1390, 1366, 1297, 1245, 1208, 1153, 1105, 1058, 1036, 977, 946, 834, 764, 734;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.23 (2H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, ArH), 6.81 (2H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, ArH), 3.77 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.52 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.6, 6.4, 2.4$  Hz, 4-H), 3.47 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.4, 8.4$  Hz, 2-H), 3.30 (1H, q,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'-H), 2.93 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.6, 8.2, 6.4$  Hz, 4-H), 2.20 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.2, 8.6, 8.6, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.09 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.2, 8.4, 8.2, 2.4$  Hz, 3-H), 1.24 (3H, d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1'- $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.19 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.6, 158.8, 134.2, 129.1, 113.5, 80.0, 67.3, 65.2, 55.2, 50.6, 27.7, 20.7, 19.9; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  292.1907, found 292.1903.

***tert*-Butyl 1-(2',3'-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1'-yl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e and (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e]**

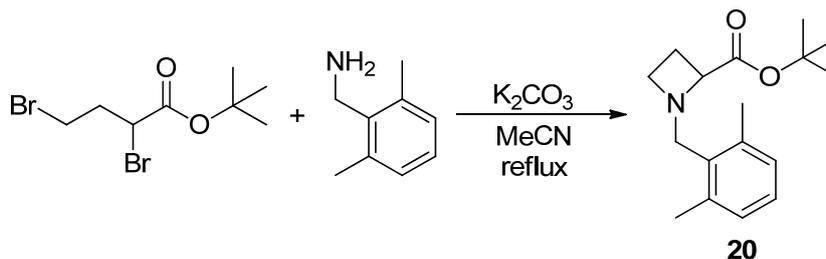


A mixture of 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-amine (128  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.00 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (302 mg, 1.00 mmol), and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.41 g, 3.0 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) was refluxed for 15 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 4/1 to 2/1 as the eluent,  $R_f$ : (2*S*\*,1'*S*\*) > (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)) to obtain (2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e (68.4 mg, 25% yield) as a yellow oil and (2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e (57.6 mg, 21% yield) as a yellow oil. The relative stereochemistry of each diastereomers were assigned by analogy with **1a**.

(2*S*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e: IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3069, 3003, 2973, 2934, 2846, 1739, 1477, 1458, 1391, 1366, 1323, 1298, 1237, 1212, 1154, 1097, 1061, 1043, 1024, 994, 942, 847, 753, 738;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.27 (1H, d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, ArH), 7.25 (1H, d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, ArH), 7.20 (1H, ddd,  $J = 7.6, 7.6, 1.0$  Hz, ArH), 7.12 (1H, ddd,  $J = 7.6, 7.6, 1.0$  Hz, ArH), 3.94 (1H, dd,  $J = 6.6, 2.6$  Hz, 1'-H), 3.78 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.4, 8.2$  Hz, 2-H), 3.32-3.26 (1H, m, 4-H), 3.12 (1H, ddd,  $J = 15.8, 8.4, 8.4$  Hz, 3'-H), 3.07 (1H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 8.6, 6.8$  Hz, 4-H), 2.77 (1H, ddd,  $J = 15.8, 8.2, 3.4$  Hz, 3'-H), 2.27 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.6, 8.6, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.18 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.6, 8.4, 8.2, 2.6$  Hz, 3-H), 2.14-1.98 (2H, m, 2'-H), 1.47 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.4, 144.8, 142.4, 127.7, 125.7, 125.0, 124.8, 80.8, 70.5, 64.0, 49.1, 30.8, 29.9, 28.0, 21.4; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  274.1802, found 274.1796.

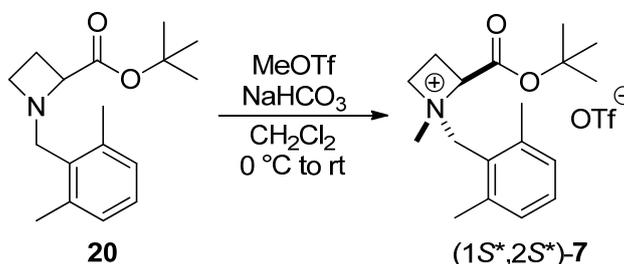
(2*R*\*,1'*S*\*)-1e: IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3068, 2972, 2932, 2852, 1735, 1477, 1458, 1391, 1366, 1334, 1316, 1294, 1232, 1208, 1154, 1097, 1055, 1018, 990, 947, 845, 753;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.30 (1H, d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, ArH), 7.23 (1H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 1.0$  Hz, ArH), 7.20 (1H, ddd,  $J = 7.4, 7.2, 1.0$  Hz, ArH), 7.15-7.09 (1H, m, ArH), 4.06 (1H, t,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1'-H), 3.79 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.2, 8.2, 0.6$  Hz, 2-H), 3.35 (1H, dddd,  $J = 8.2, 6.5, 3.1, 0.6$  Hz, 4-H), 3.080 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.6, 8.2, 6.8$  Hz, 4-H), 3.079 (1H, ddd,  $J = 16.0, 8.0, 8.0$  Hz, 3'-H), 2.77 (1H, ddd,  $J = 16.0, 6.5, 6.5$  Hz, 3'-H), 2.29-2.14 (2H, m, 3-H), 2.06 (2H, ddd,  $J = 8.0, 6.5, 5.0$  Hz, 2'-H), 1.34 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.2, 144.7, 142.2, 127.6, 125.8, 125.1, 124.7, 80.4, 68.9, 62.8, 48.2, 30.7, 28.6, 27.9, 21.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  274.1802, found 274.1791.

***tert*-Butyl 1-(2,6-dimethylbenzyl)azetidino-2-carboxylate (**20**)**



A mixture of 2,6-dimethylbenzylamine (268 mg, 1.98 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (600 mg, 1.99 mmol), and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.39 g, 10 mmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 20/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain **20** (353 mg, 65% yield) as a colourless oil. IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  3065, 3004, 2974, 2930, 2844, 1735, 1588, 1470, 1390, 1366, 1296, 1236, 1158, 1094, 1067, 1040, 1018, 976, 940, 847, 769;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.07-6.95 (3H, m, Ar), 3.83 (1H, d,  $J = 12.4$  Hz,  $CH_2Ar$ ), 3.65 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.2, 8.0$  Hz, 2-H), 3.63 (1H, d,  $J = 12.4$  Hz,  $CH_2Ar$ ), 3.17 (1H, ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.4, 2.4$  Hz, 4-H), 2.95 (1H, ddd,  $J = 9.2, 7.8, 6.4$  Hz, 4-H), 2.44 (6H, s,  $ArCH_3$ ), 2.27 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.0, 9.2, 9.2, 8.4$  Hz, 3-H), 2.10 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.0, 8.0, 7.8, 2.4$  Hz, 3-H), 1.39 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 137.8, 134.1, 128.1, 126.9, 80.6, 65.9, 55.4, 50.9, 27.9, 21.4, 20.4; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{26}NO_2$   $[M+H]^+$  276.1958, found 276.1953.

**(1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-(2,6-dimethylbenzyl)-1-methylazetidino-1-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-7]**

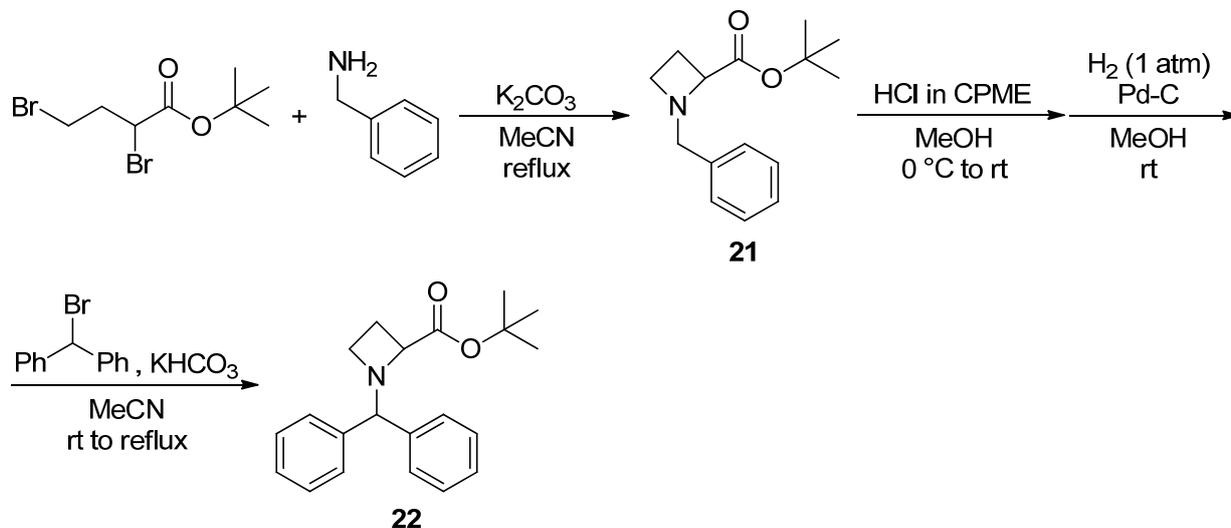


A mixture of **20** (353 mg, 1.28 mmol) and  $NaHCO_3$  (0.30 g, 3.6 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (6 mL) was treated with MeOTf (160  $\mu$ L, 1.41 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and purified by chromatography on silica gel ( $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 50/1$  to 20/1 as the eluent) to obtain **(1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-7** (500 mg, 89% yield) as a colourless gum. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with **1a** and analogous derivatives reported previously.<sup>3</sup> IR (film)  $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1}$  2982, 1737, 1594, 1467, 1396, 1371, 1329, 1261, 1224, 1153, 1055, 1030, 978, 912, 888, 835, 783, 755, 730;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.27 (1H, t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, ArH), 7.15 (2H, d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, ArH), 5.34 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.6, 9.6$  Hz, 2-H), 4.88 (1H, d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz,  $CH_2Ar$ ), 4.71 (1H, d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz,  $CH_2Ar$ ), 4.60 (1H, ddd,  $J = 10.0, 10.0, 9.2$  Hz, 4-H), 4.00 (1H, ddd,  $J = 9.6, 9.2, 2.0$  Hz, 4-H), 3.13 (3H, s,  $NCH_3$ ), 3.00 (1H, dddd,  $J = 10.8, 10.0, 9.6, 9.6$  Hz, 3-H), 2.64-2.51 (1H, m, 3-H), 2.43 (6H, s,  $ArCH_3$ ), 1.51 (9H, s, *t*Bu);  $^{13}C$

<sup>3</sup> (a) F. Couty, O. David, F. Durrat, G. Evano, S. Lakhdar, J. Marrot and M. Vargas-Sanchez, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2006, 3479; (b) F. Couty, F. Durrat, G. Evano and D. Prim, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2004, **45**, 7525; see also, ref 1.

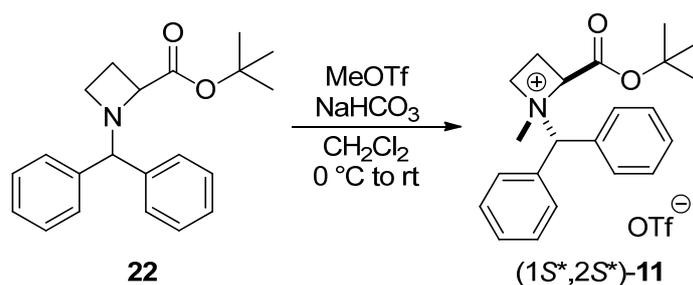
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.3, 139.4, 130.2, 129.3, 124.8, 120.3 (q,  $J$  = 319 Hz), 85.8, 69.1, 62.0, 61.3, 44.0, 27.3, 20.4, 19.2; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M-OTf]<sup>+</sup> 290.2115, found 290.2106.

***tert*-Butyl 1-benzhydrylazetididine-2-carboxylate (**22**)**



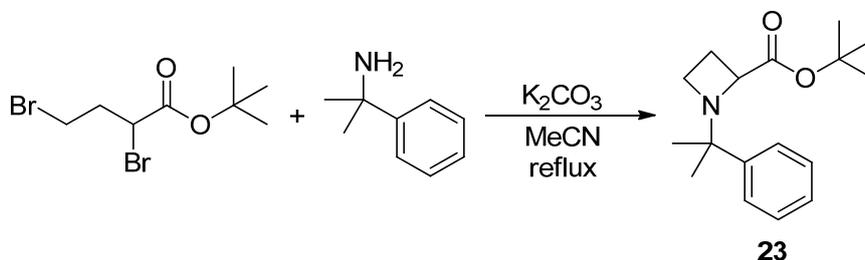
A mixture of benzylamine (546  $\mu$ L, 5.00 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (1.51 g, 5.00 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.07 g, 15 mmol) in MeCN (25 mL) was refluxed for 12 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 6/1 to 4/1 as the eluent) to obtain *tert*-butyl 1-benzylazetididine-2-carboxylate (**21**) (651 mg, 53% yield) as a colourless oil. A solution of **21** (646 mg, 2.61 mmol) in MeOH (13 mL) was treated with ca. 4 M hydrogen chloride in cyclopentyl methyl ether (CPME) (0.78 mL, 3.1 mmol) at 0 °C. After stirring for 30 min at room temperature, the solution was evaporated. A mixture of the residue and palladium on activated carbon (loading: 10 wt.%, 0.14 g) in MeOH (13 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 days under a hydrogen atmosphere. The resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. A mixture of the residual oil,  $\alpha$ -bromodiphenylmethane (645 mg, 2.61 mmol), and potassium hydrogen carbonate (1.30 g, 13.0 mmol) in MeCN (13 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and refluxed for 7 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 20/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain **22** (623 mg, 74% yield) as colourless crystals. Mp 91–92 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3066, 3002, 2984, 2960, 2933, 2876, 2843, 2813, 1738, 1599, 1491, 1453, 1392, 1364, 1345, 1309, 1290, 1224, 1209, 1159, 1152, 1094, 1078, 1053, 1029, 950, 845, 780, 744, 706; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49–7.44 (2H, m, Ph), 7.43–7.38 (2H, m, Ph), 7.30–7.24 (2H, m, Ph), 7.24–7.17 (3H, m, Ph), 7.14 (1H, tt,  $J$  = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, Ph), 4.48 (1H, s, *CH*Ph<sub>2</sub>), 3.66 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 2-H), 3.41 (1H, dddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.2, 3.4, 0.8 Hz, 4-H), 2.87 (1H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.5, 8.5, 7.2 Hz, 4-H), 2.29–2.13 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.20 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.8, 141.7, 141.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 127.2, 127.0, 80.1, 77.3, 65.3, 51.3, 27.7, 21.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 324.1958, found 324.1955.

**(1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-1-Benzhydryl-2-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1-methylazetidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-11]**



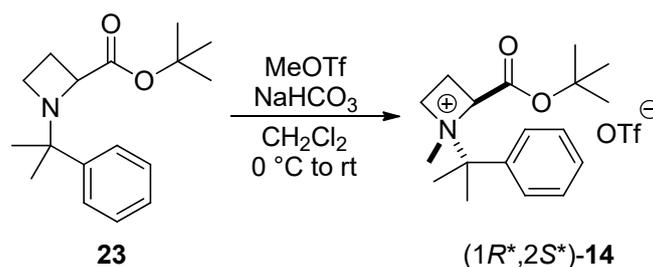
A mixture of **22** (381 mg, 1.18 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.29 g, 3.5 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL) was treated with MeOTf (256 μL, 2.26 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 20/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain (1*S*\*,2*S*\*)-**11** (528 mg, 92% yield) as a white amorphous. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with **1a** and analogous derivatives reported previously.<sup>3</sup> IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3064, 2982, 2935, 1733, 1499, 1456, 1396, 1372, 1259, 1224, 1153, 1030, 1000, 933, 909, 890, 835, 793, 776, 754, 721; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.76-7.70 (4H, m, Ph), 7.52-7.42 (6H, m, Ph), 6.08 (1H, s, CHPh<sub>2</sub>), 5.47 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.8, 9.4 Hz, 2-H), 5.02 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.8, 9.8, 9.4 Hz, 4-H), 3.89 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.8, 9.8, 3.4 Hz, 4-H), 3.34 (3H, s, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.95 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.0, 9.8, 9.8, 9.8 Hz, 3-H), 2.65 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.0, 9.4, 9.4, 3.4 Hz, 3-H), 1.35 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.3, 131.4, 131.0, 130.8, 130.5, 130.4, 129.8, 129.7, 120.8 (q, *J* = 319 Hz), 85.7, 80.7, 69.8, 62.0, 43.6, 27.6, 18.8; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M-OTf]<sup>+</sup> 338.2115, found 338.2111.

***tert*-Butyl 1-(2'-phenylpropan-2'-yl)azetidine-2-carboxylate (**23**)**



A mixture of cumylamine (0.72 mL, 5.0 mmol), *tert*-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (1.51 g, 5.00 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.07 g, 15 mmol) in MeCN (25 mL) was refluxed for 15 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 8/1 to 6/1 as the eluent) to obtain **23** (471 mg, 34% yield) as a colourless oil. IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3058, 2974, 2930, 2865, 1741, 1717, 1600, 1493, 1477, 1446, 1391, 1381, 1366, 1296, 1255, 1233, 1207, 1152, 1110, 1072, 1052, 1030, 1002, 944, 919, 899, 846, 766, 700; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50 (2H, ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6, 1.6 Hz, Ph), 7.33 (2H, dddd, *J* = 7.8, 7.2, 1.6, 1.6 Hz, Ph), 7.23 (1H, tt, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, Ph), 3.76 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 2-H), 3.04 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.4, 2.6 Hz, 4-H), 2.96 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 8.4, 6.4 Hz, 4-H), 2.14 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.2, 8.4, 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 1.92 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.2, 8.4, 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 3-H), 1.41 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.39 (3H, s, 2'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 (3H, s, 2'-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.0, 144.3, 127.9, 126.8, 126.5, 80.2, 59.3, 57.8, 43.8, 27.9, 25.7, 22.3, 20.2; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 276.1958, found 276.1957.

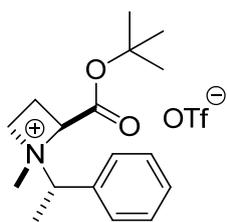
**(1*R*\*,2*S*\*)-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-methyl-1-(2'-phenylpropan-2'-yl)azetidinium-1-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*R*\*,2*S*\*)-14]**



A mixture of **23** (432 mg, 1.57 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.40 g, 4.8 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL) was treated with MeOTf (355 μL, 3.14 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 20/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) to obtain (1*R*\*,2*S*\*)-**14** (630 mg, 91% yield) as a colourless gum. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with **1a** and analogous derivatives reported previously.<sup>3</sup> IR (film)  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  3065, 2984, 2938, 1735, 1634, 1503, 1471, 1452, 1424, 1397, 1372, 1263, 1225, 1155, 1102, 1083, 1050, 1031, 1001, 977, 918, 878, 837, 773, 755, 734, 705; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.66-7.61 (2H, m, Ph), 7.57-7.47 (3H, m, Ph), 5.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.6, 9.4 Hz, 2-H), 4.76 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 9.6, 9.6 Hz, 4-H), 3.74 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0, 3.6 Hz, 4-H), 3.16 (3H, s, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.90 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.4, 10.0, 9.6, 9.6 Hz, 3-H), 2.45 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.4, 9.6, 9.4, 3.6 Hz, 3-H), 2.04 (3H, s, 2'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.93 (3H, s, 2'-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51 (9H, s, *t*Bu); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.5, 135.0, 130.5, 129.5, 128.3, 120.7 (q, *J* = 319 Hz), 86.1, 73.2, 67.3, 58.1, 42.5, 27.7, 23.8, 22.5, 17.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M-OTf]<sup>+</sup> 290.2115, found 290.2111.

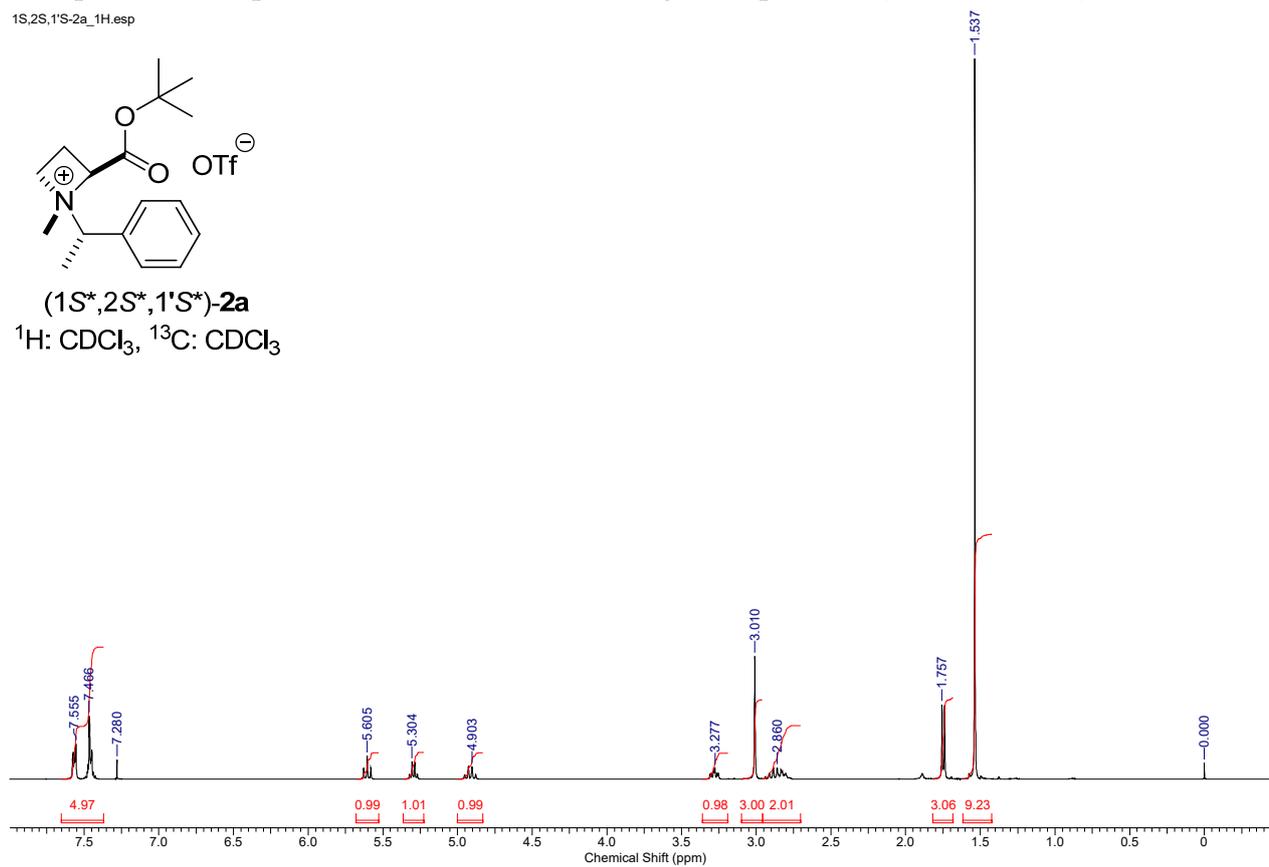
#### 4. Copies of NMR spectra of substrates and rearrangement products (2–4, 7, 9–14, 16)

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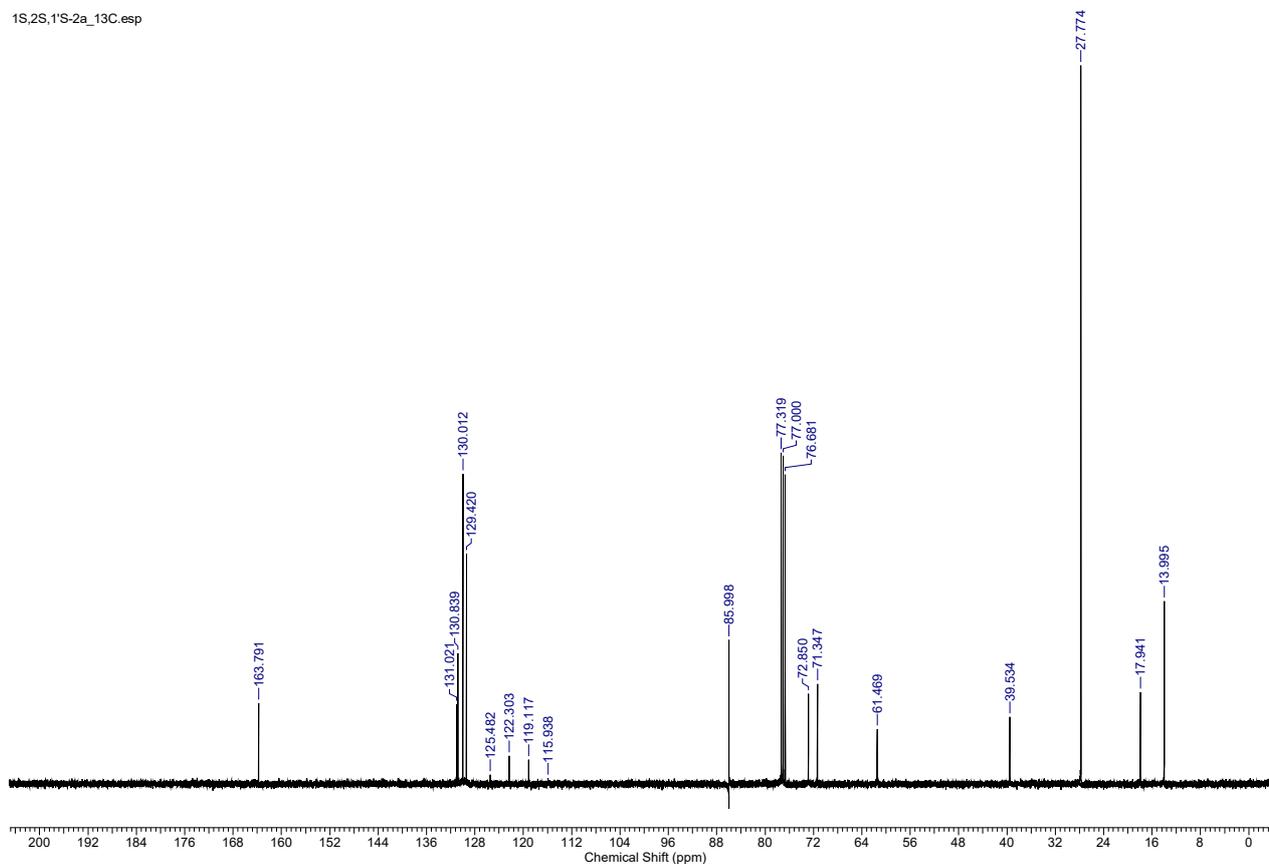


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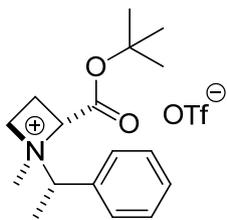
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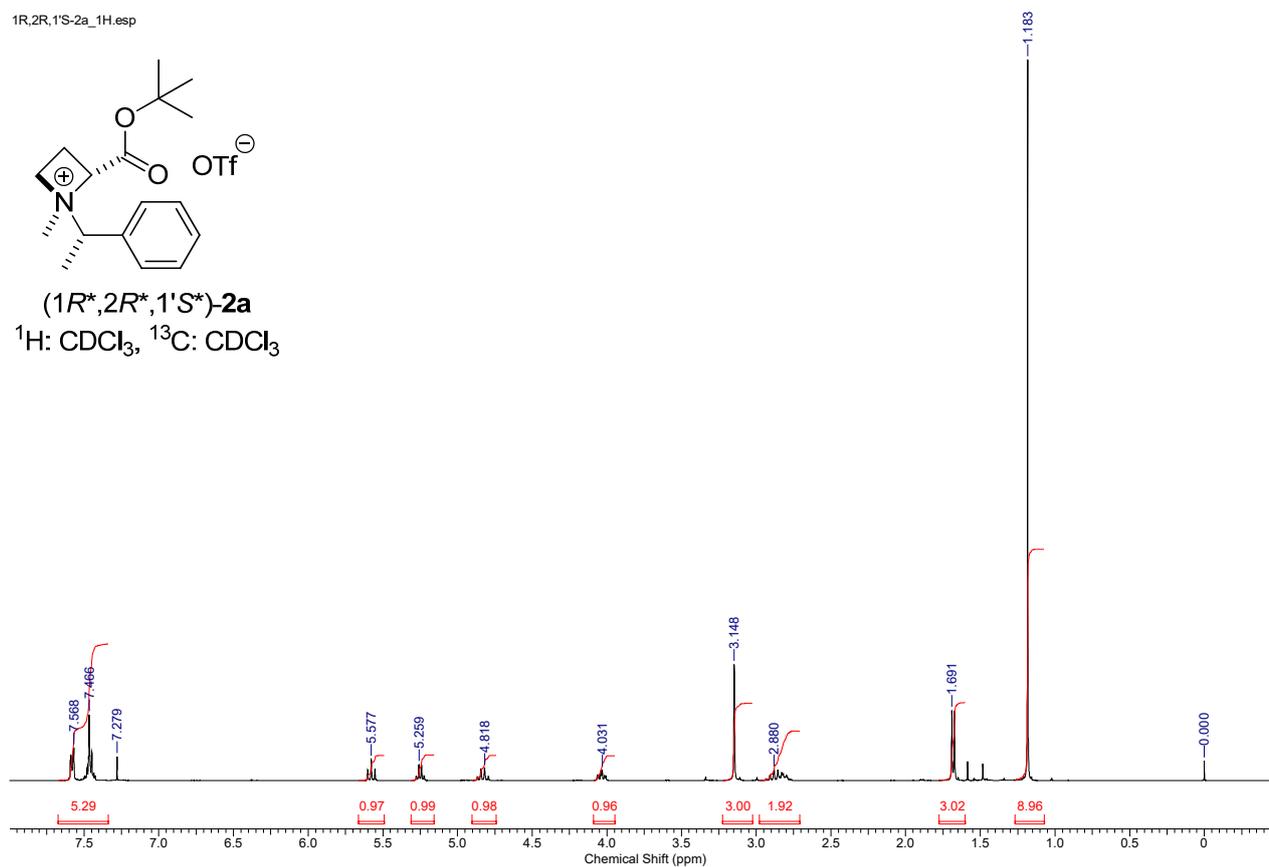


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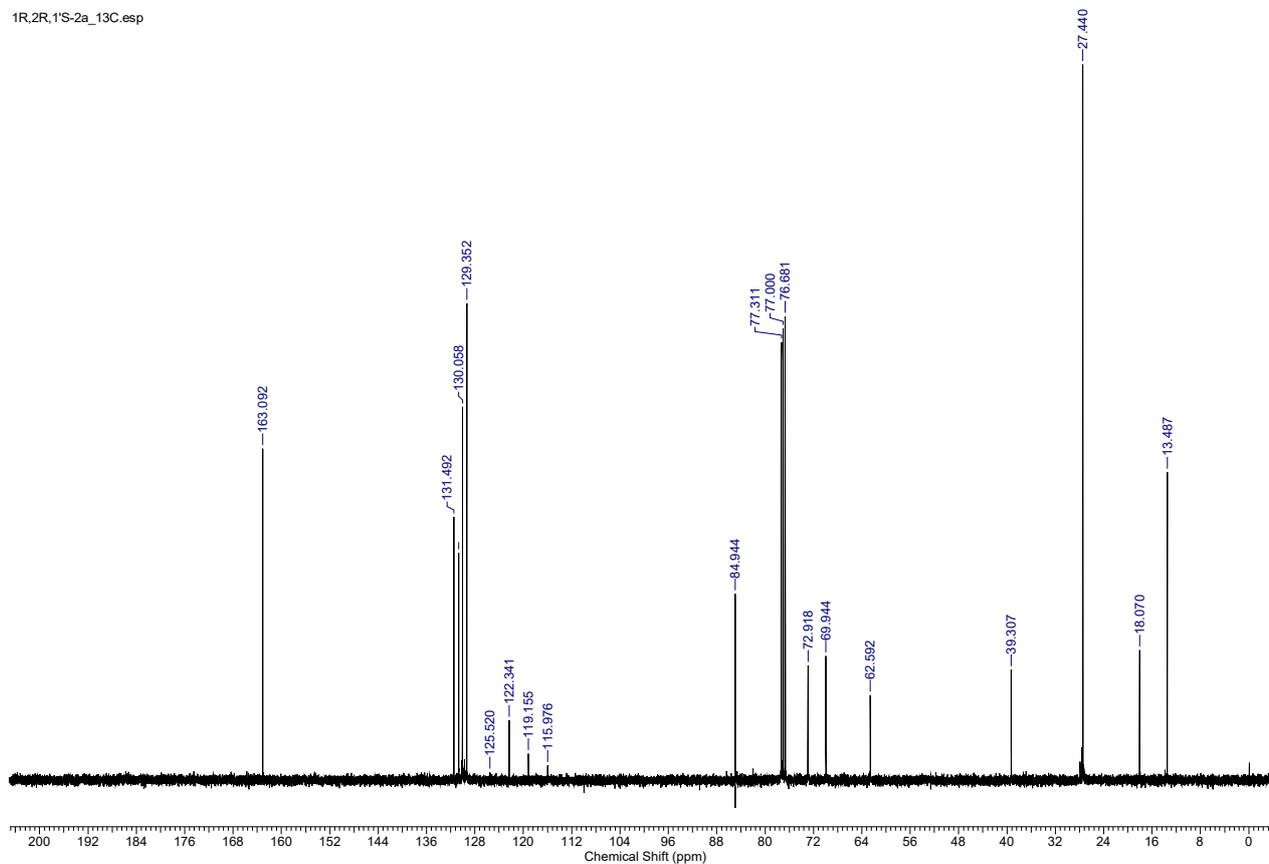


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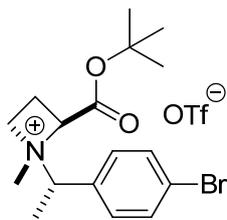
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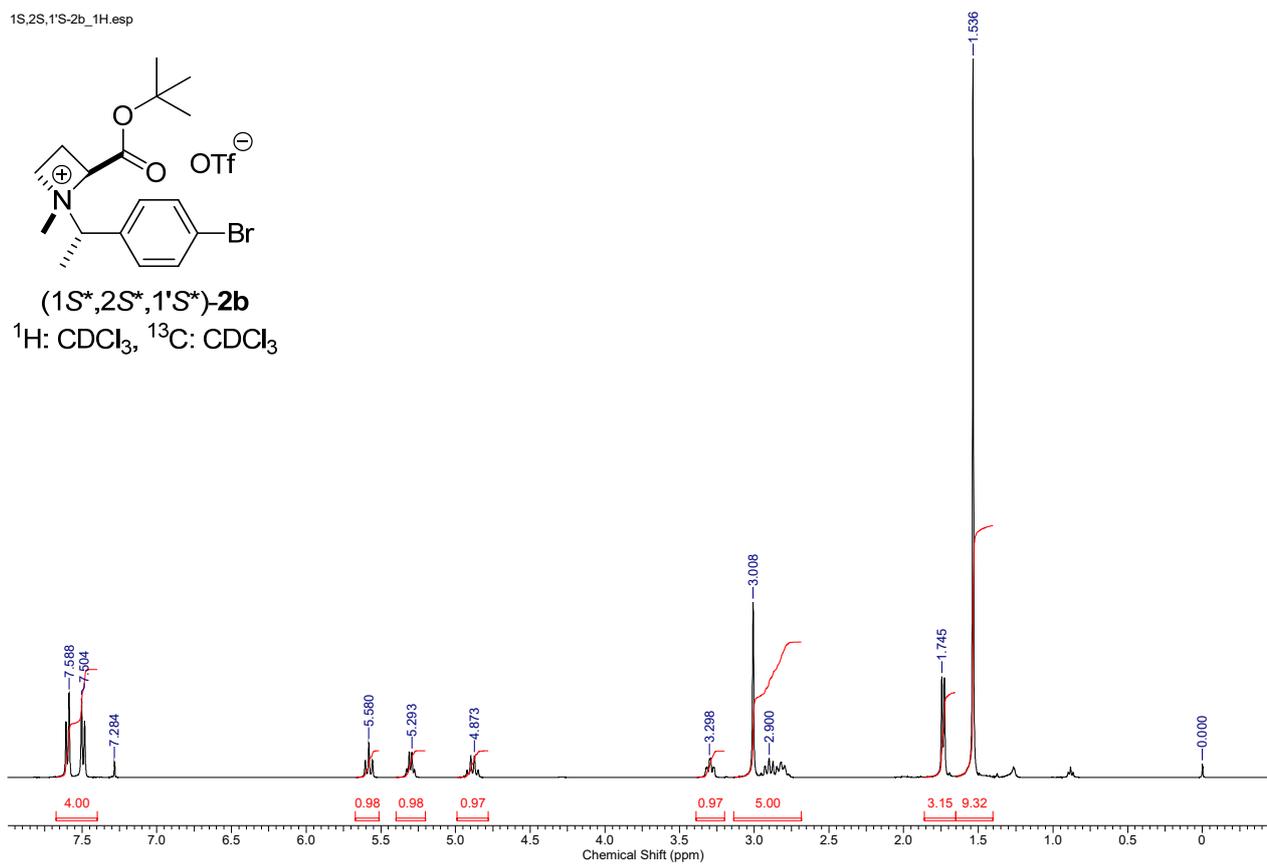


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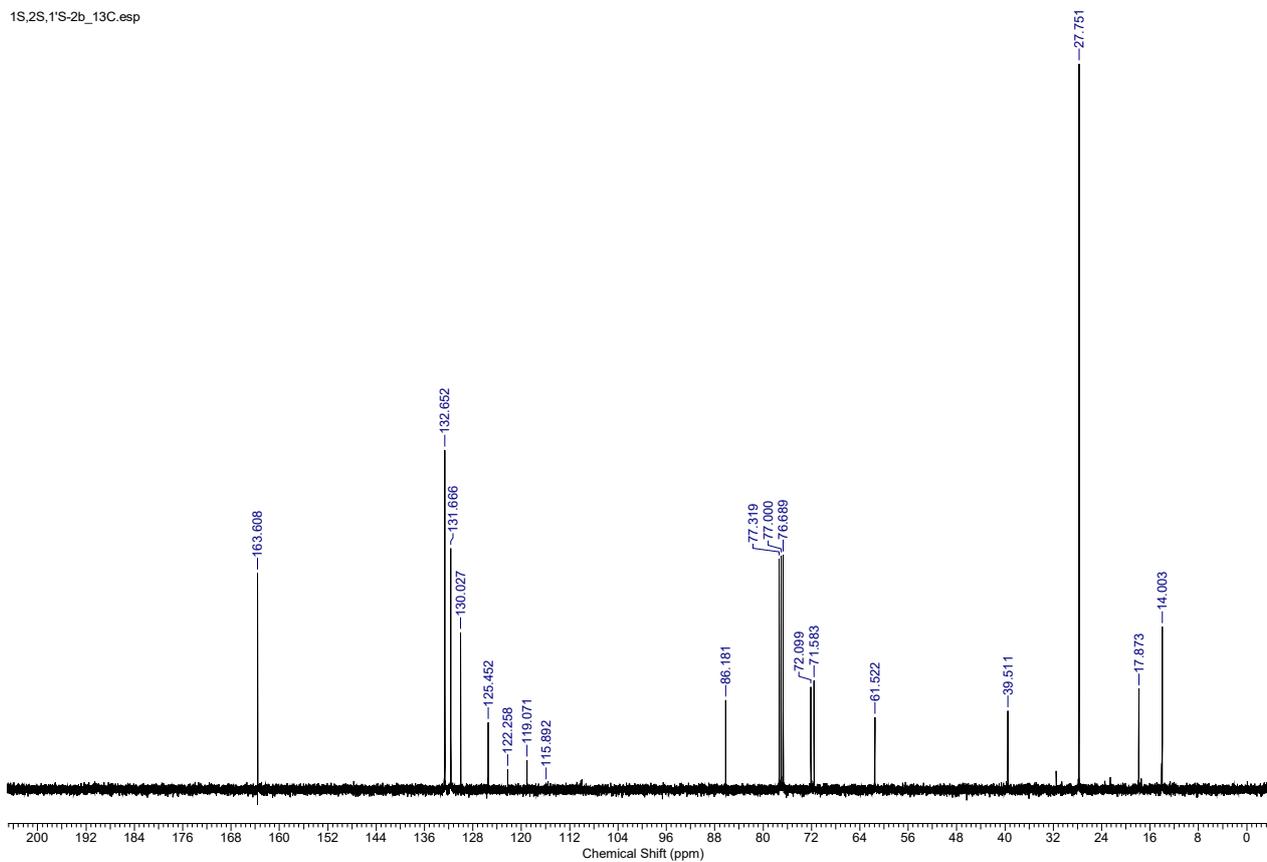


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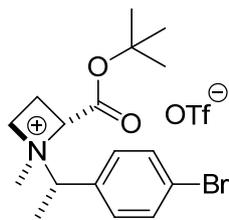
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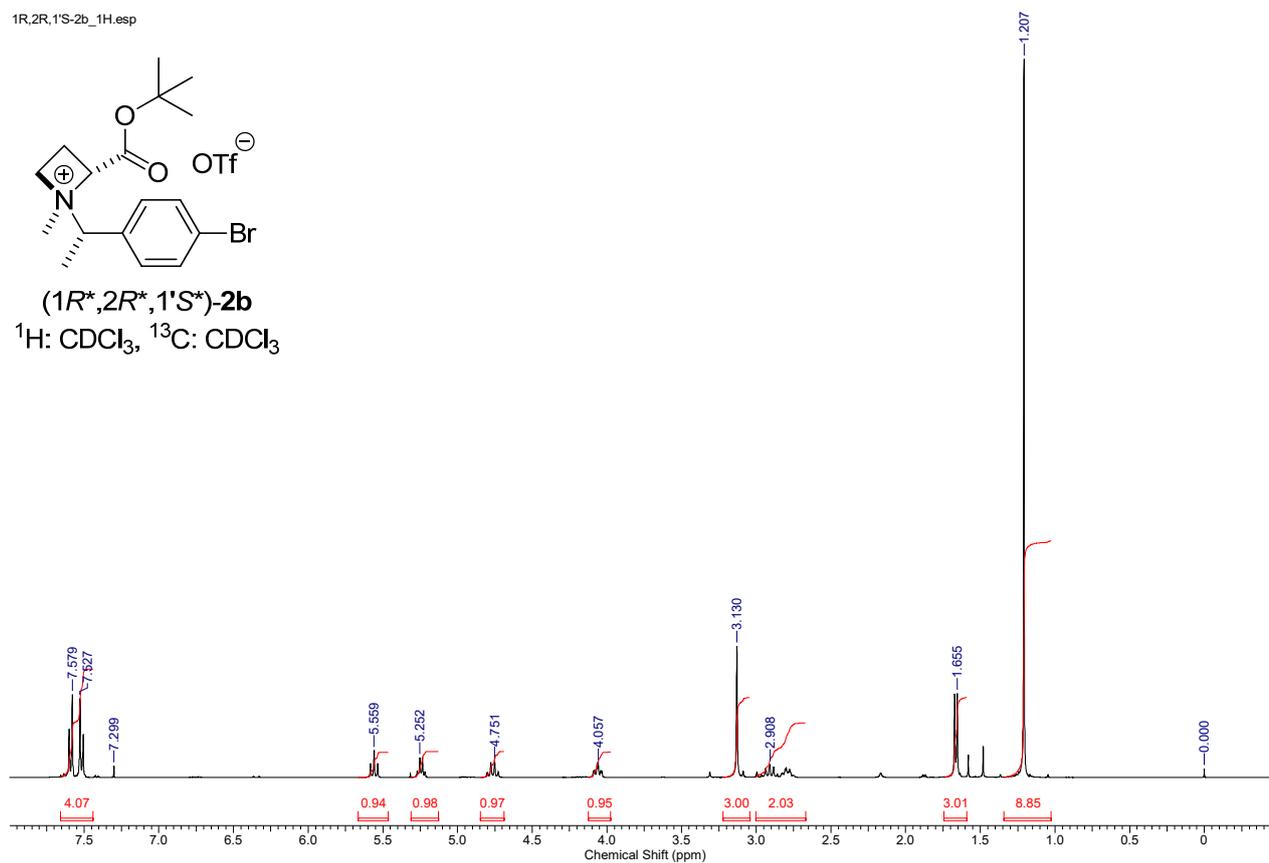


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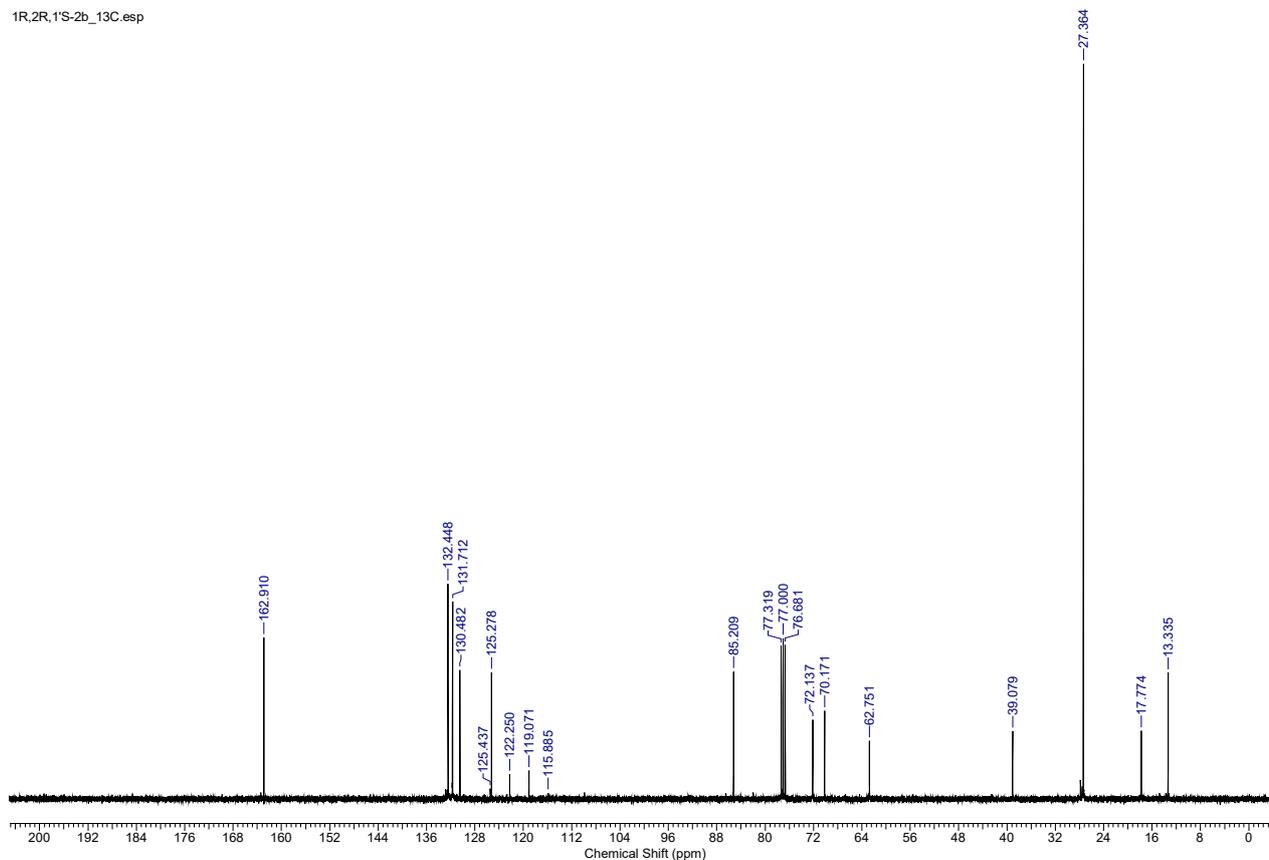


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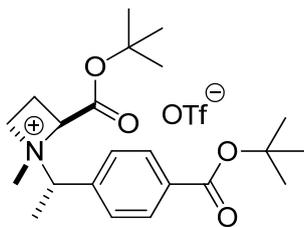
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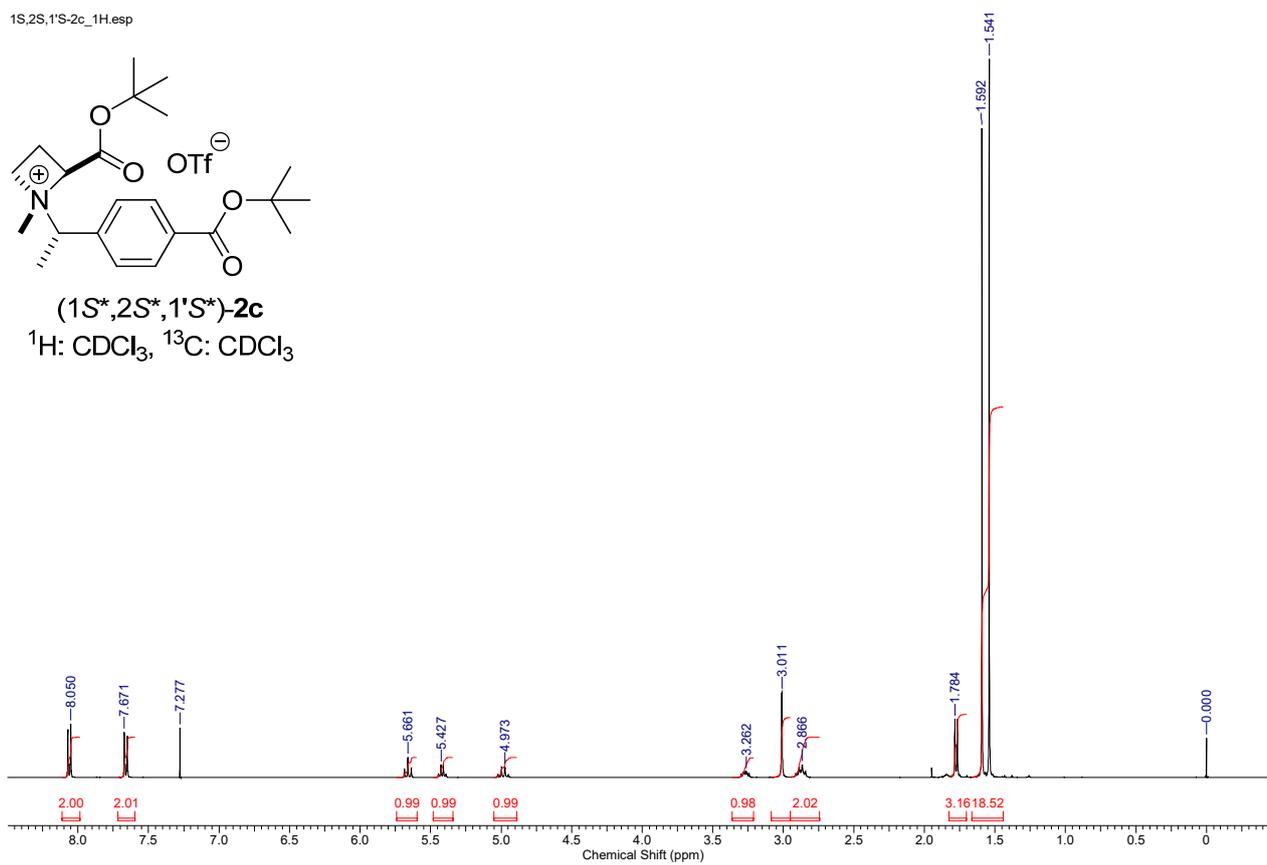
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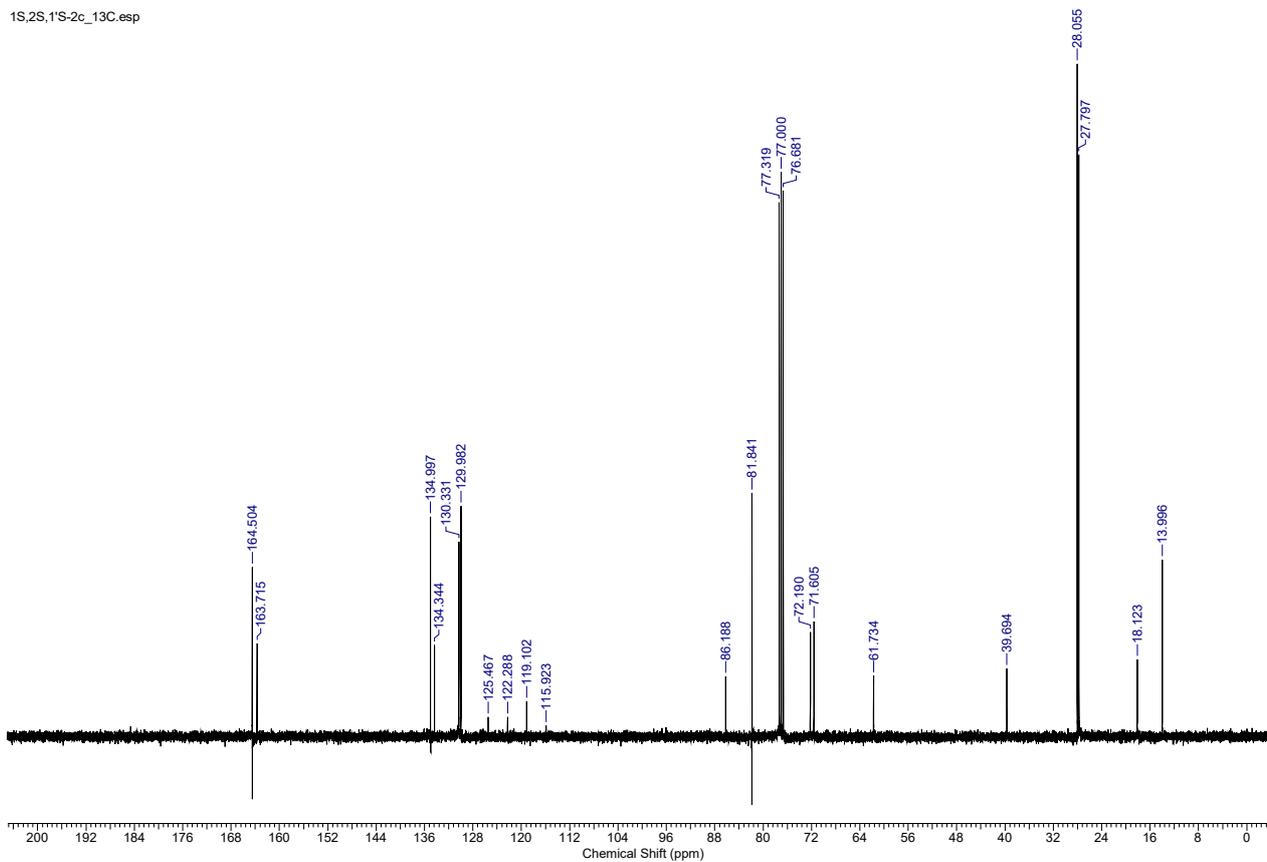
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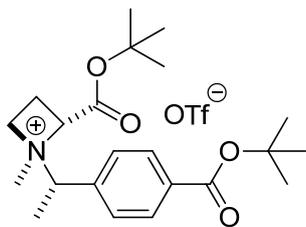
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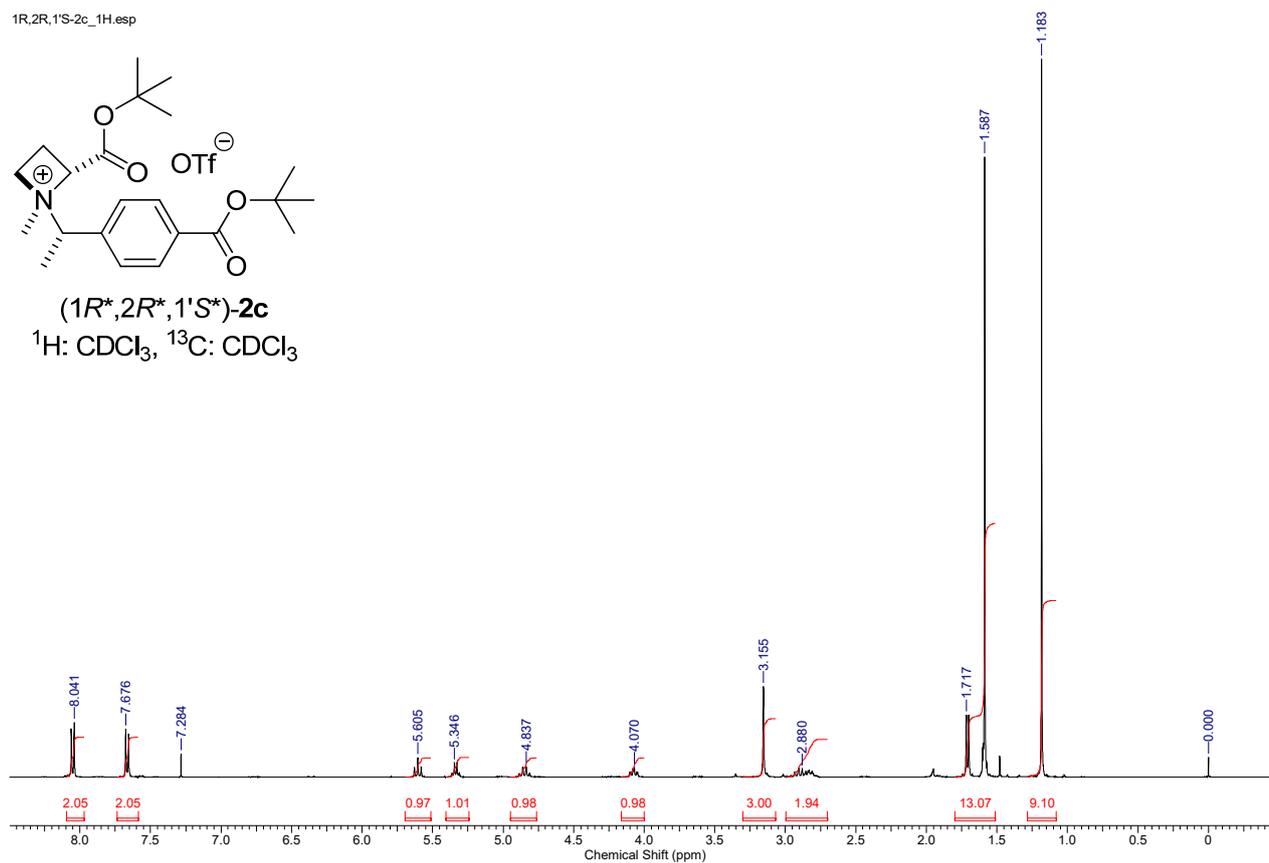
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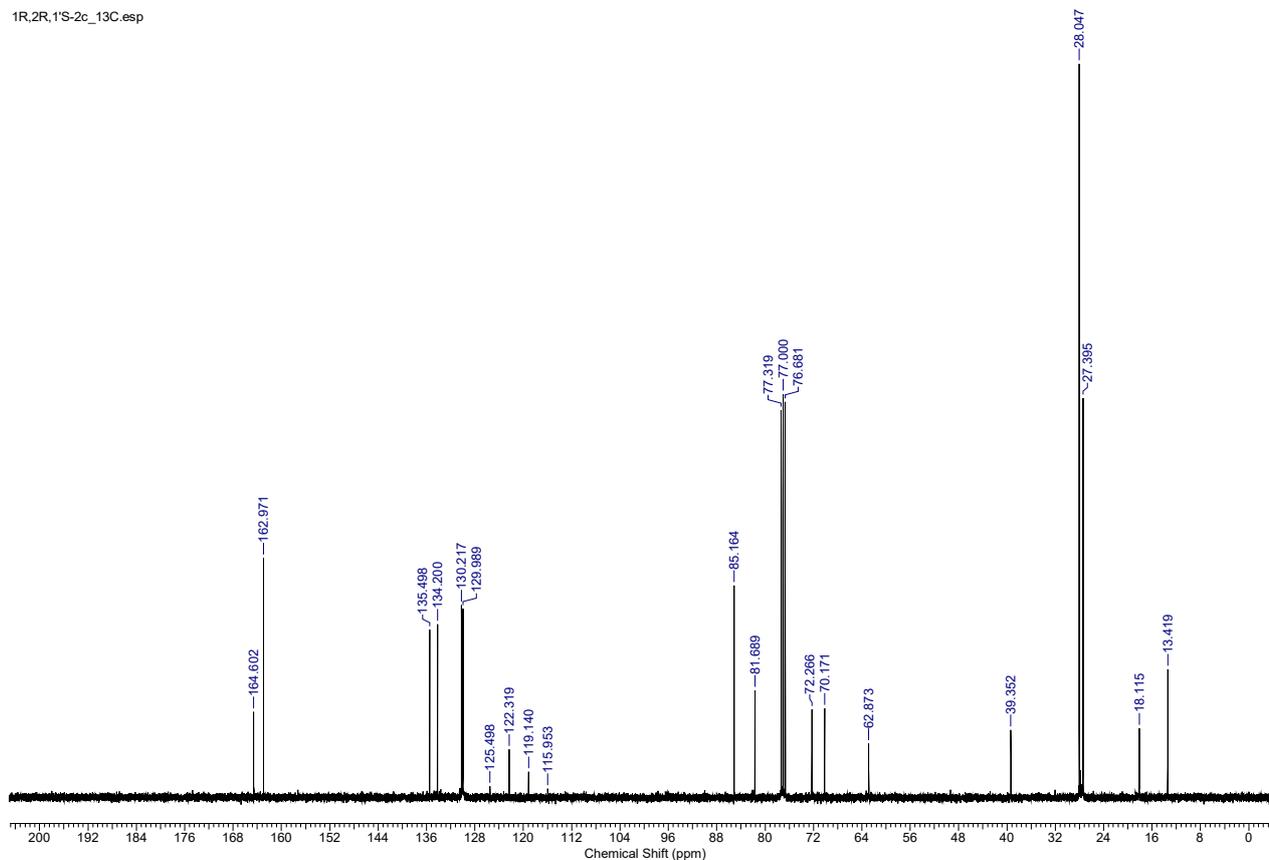
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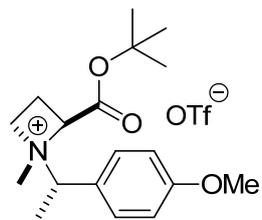
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<sup>1</sup>H: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C: CDCl<sub>3</sub>



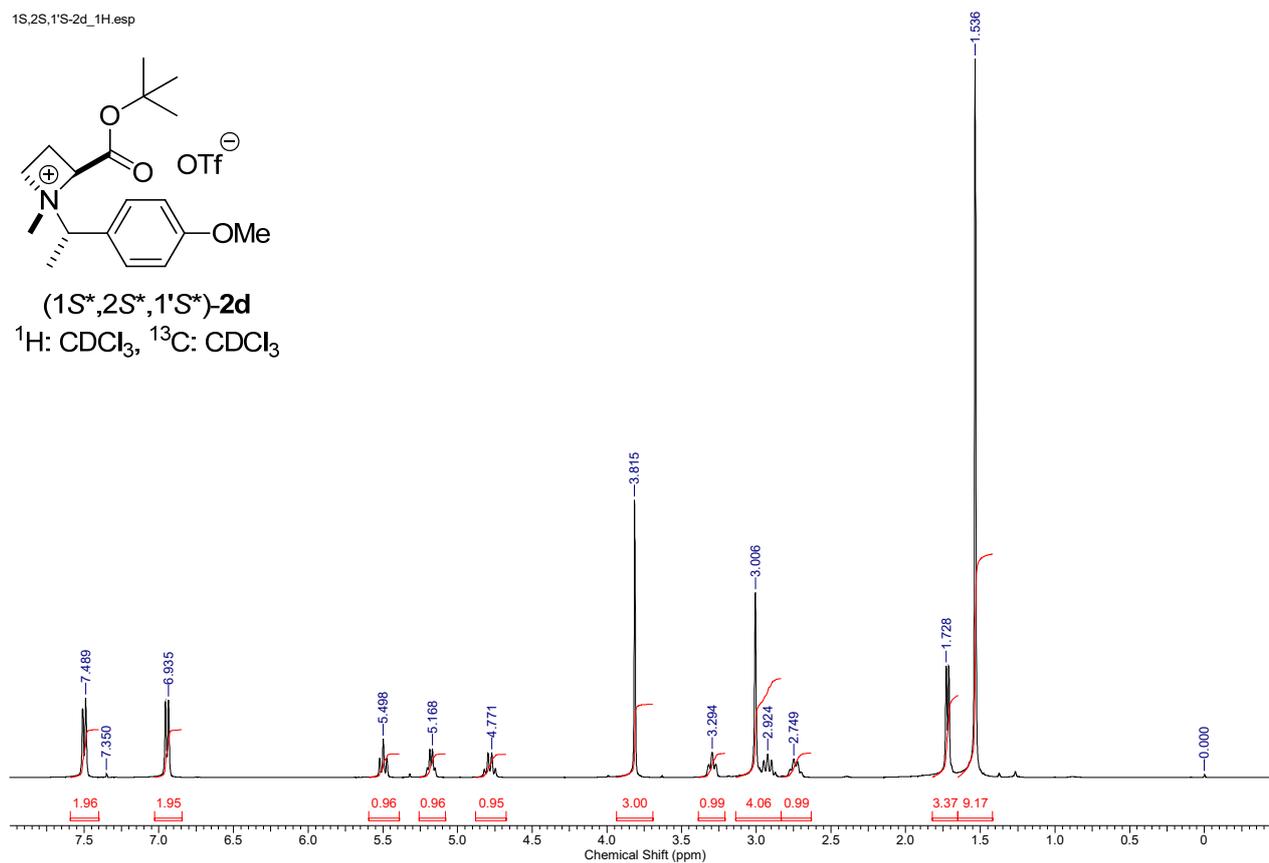
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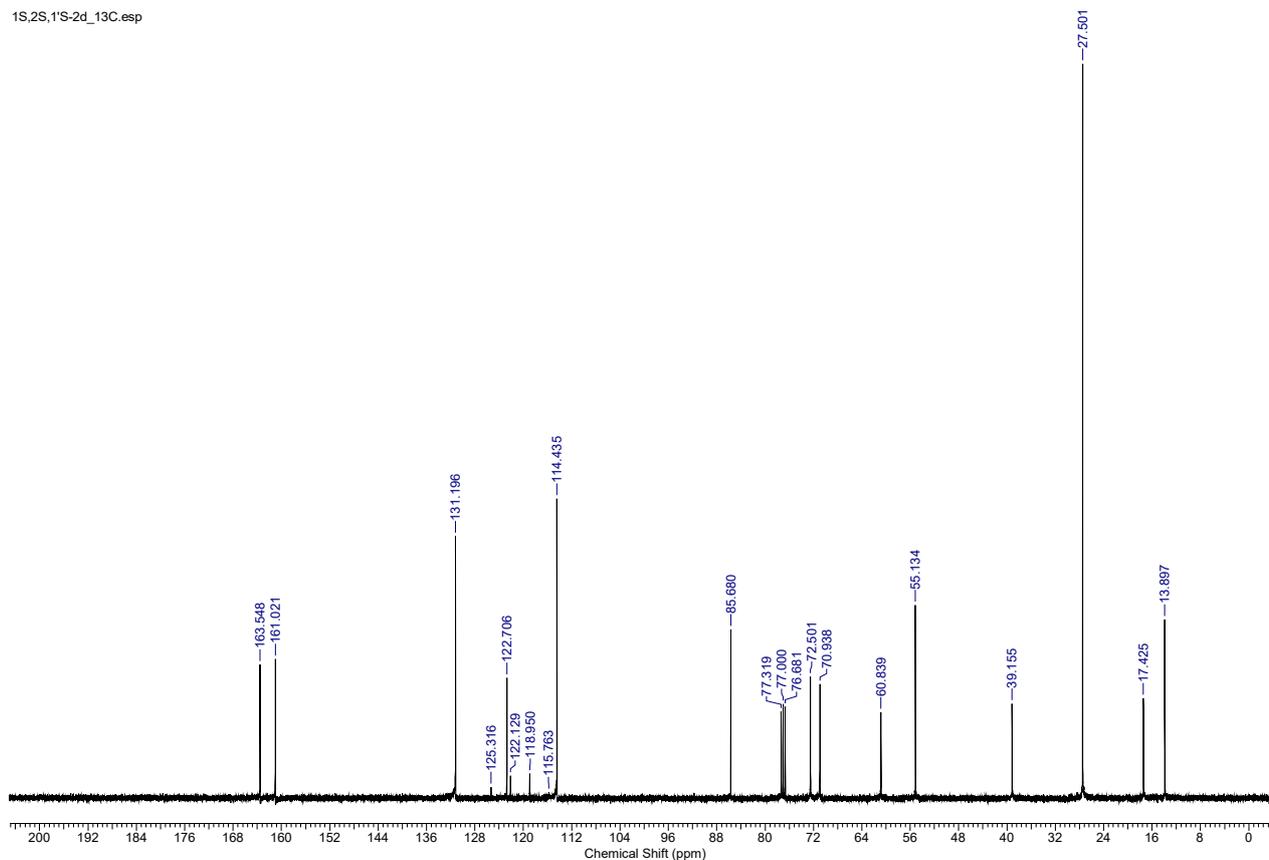
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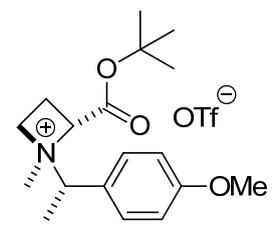
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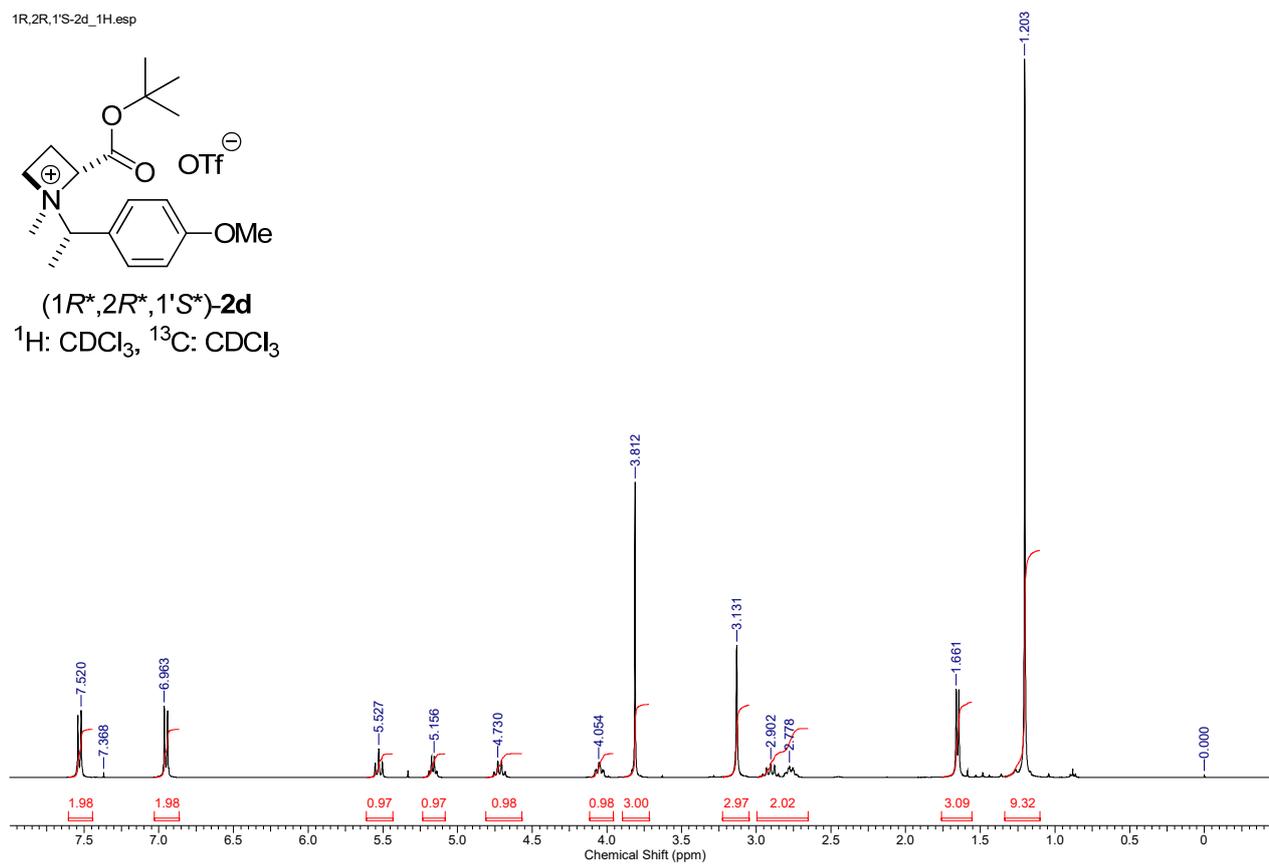
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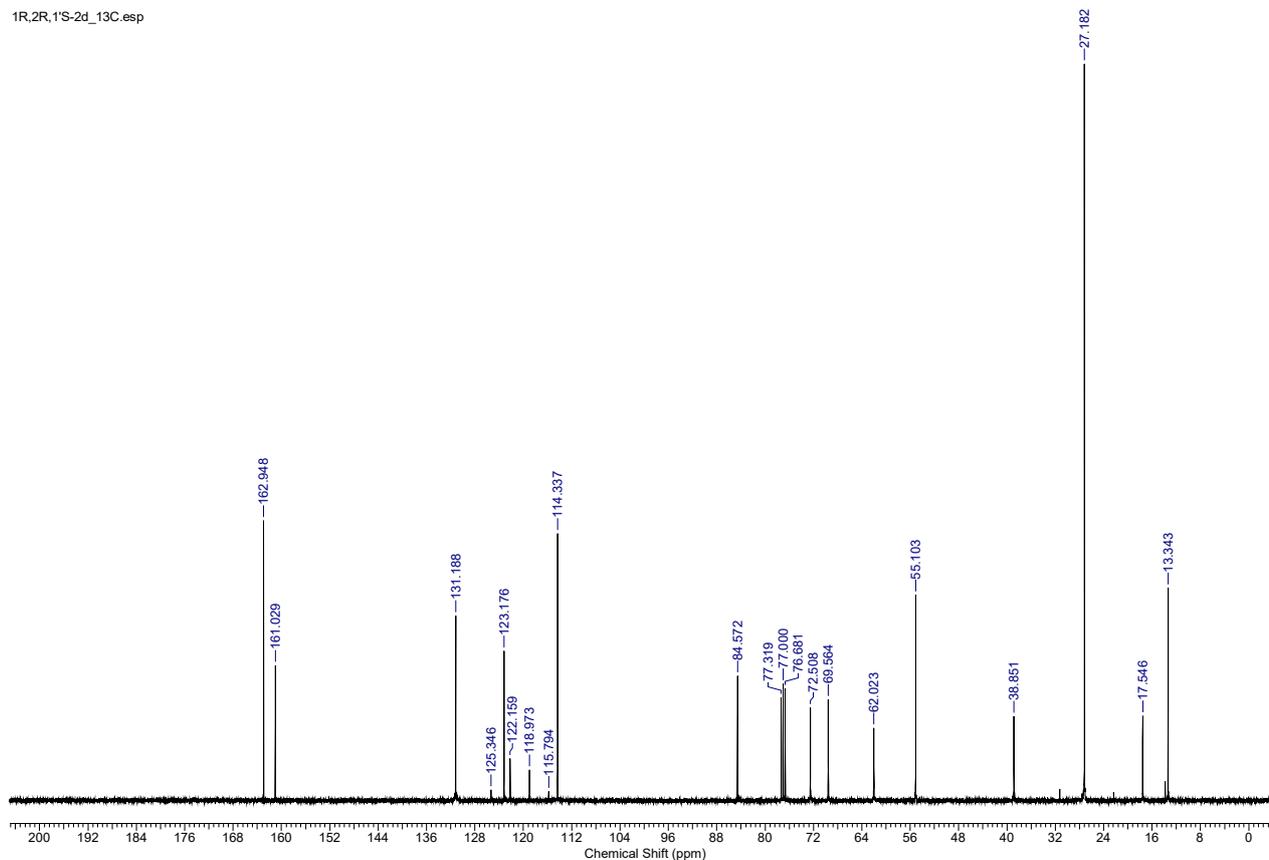
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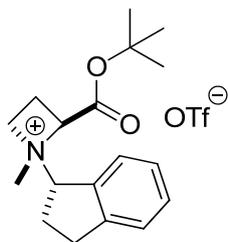
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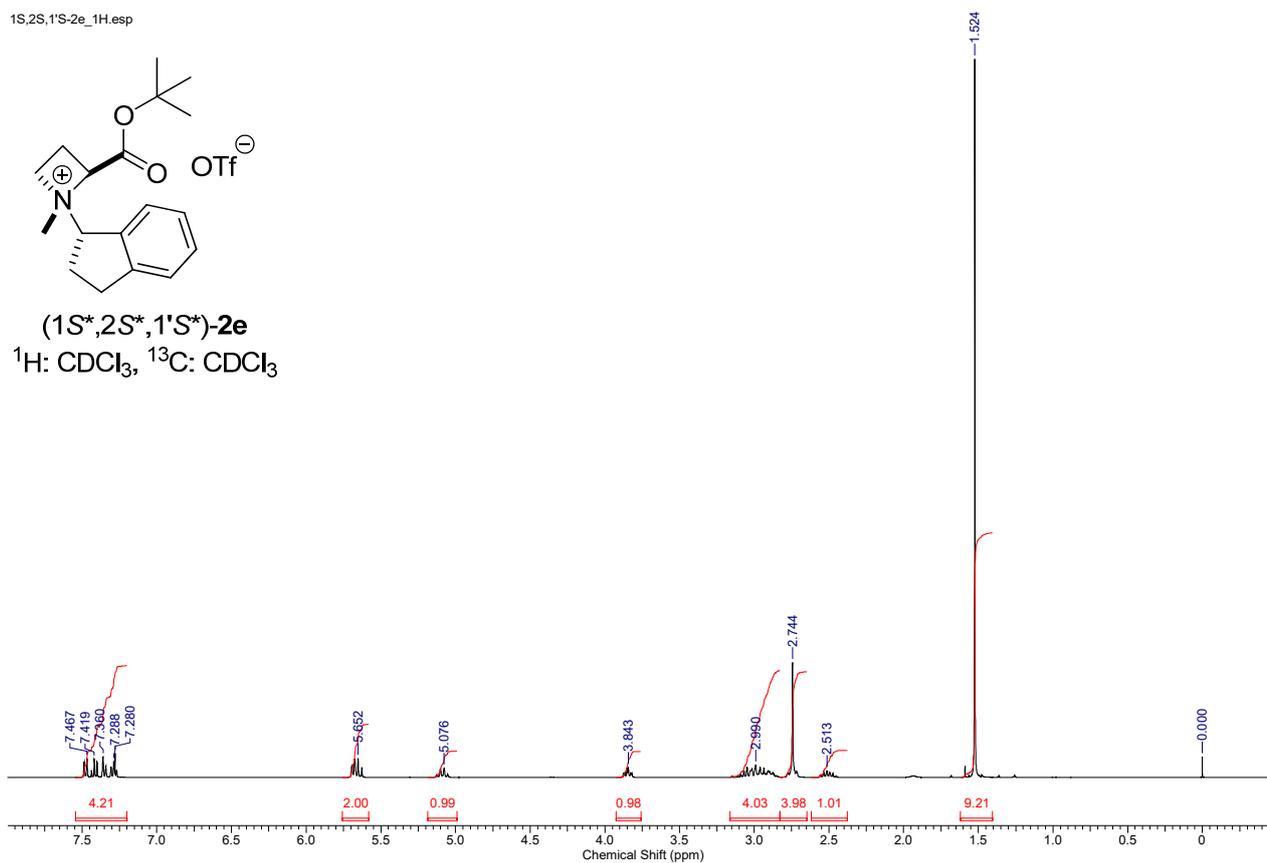
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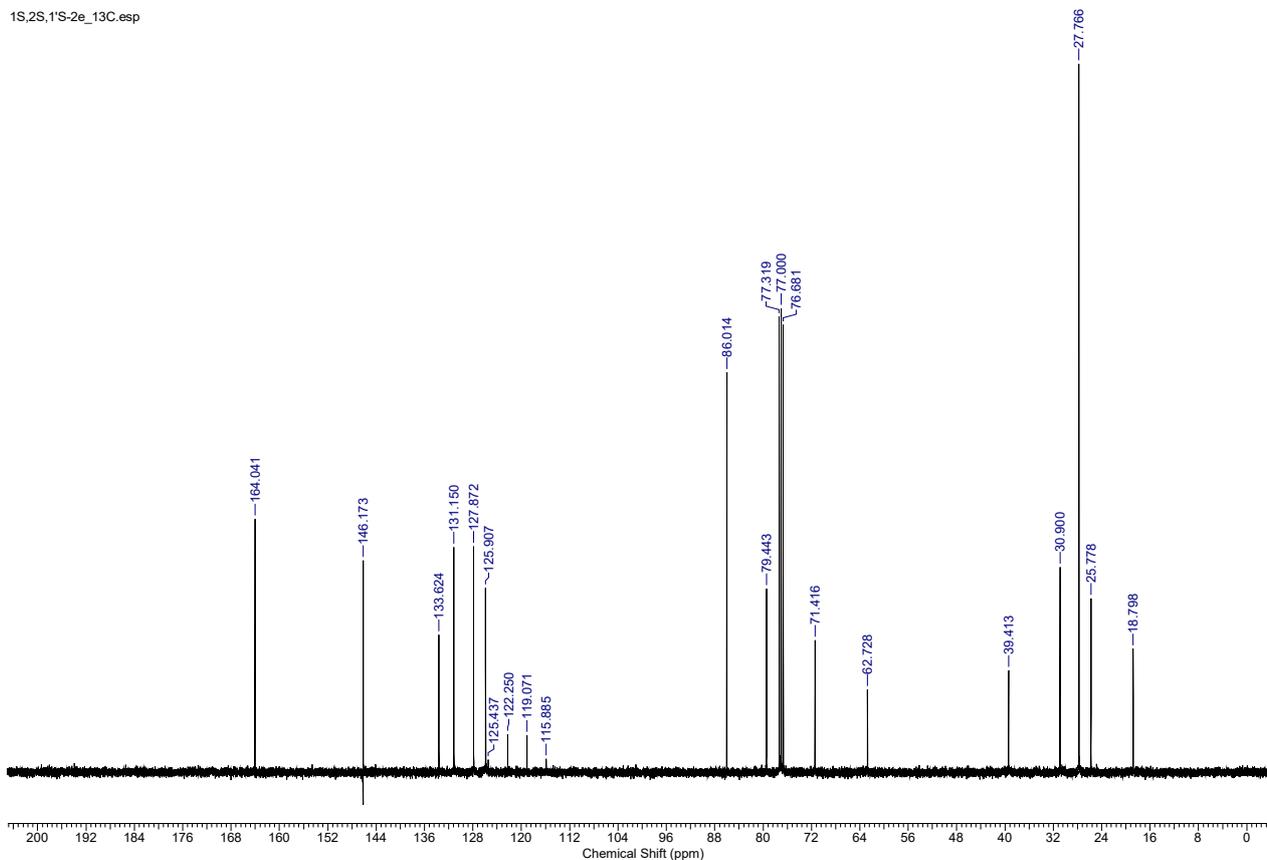
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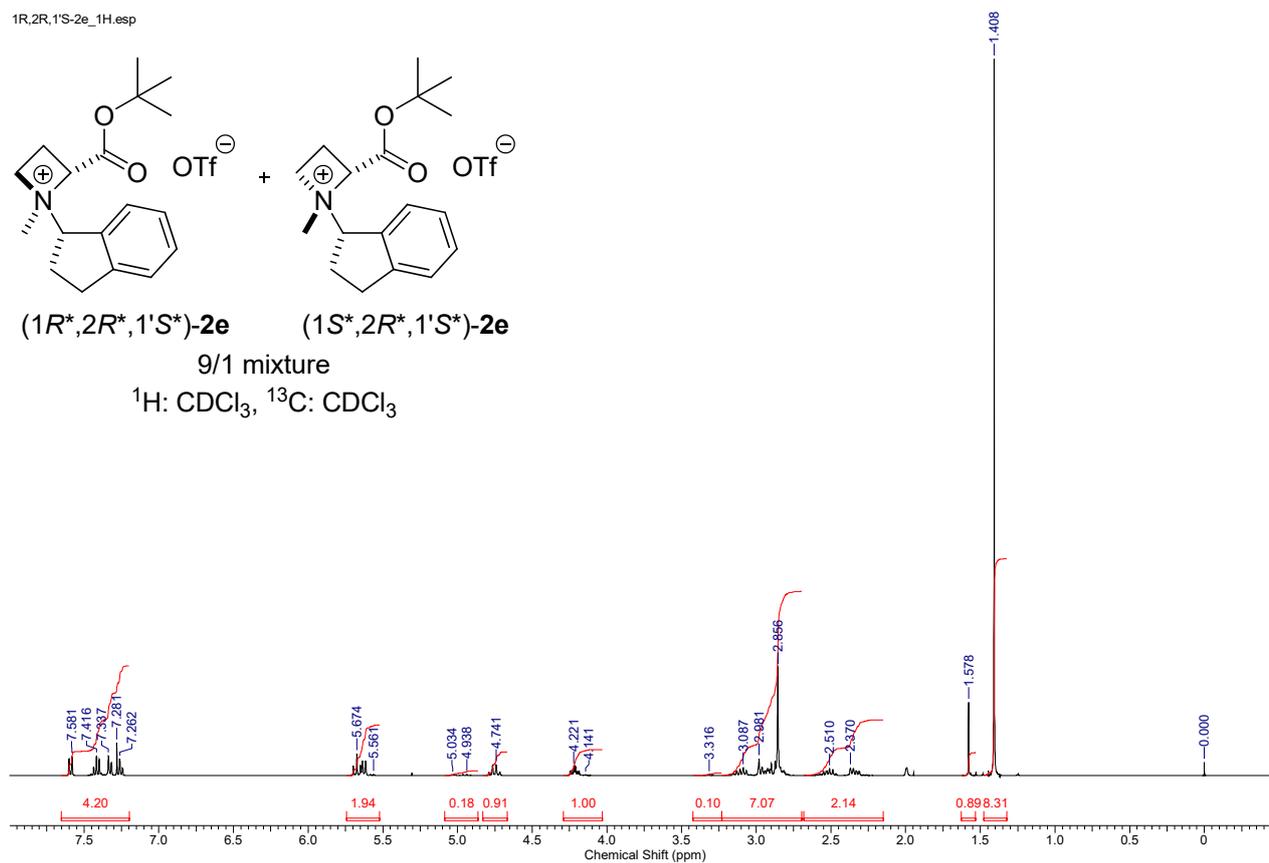
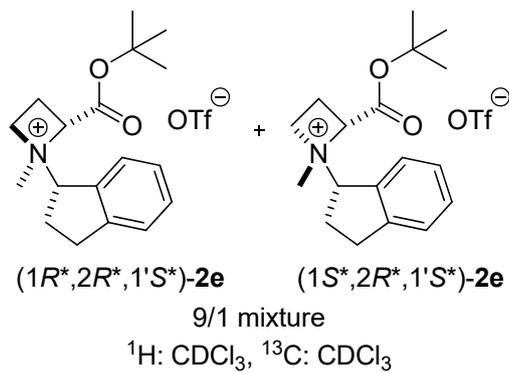
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<sup>1</sup>H: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C: CDCl<sub>3</sub>



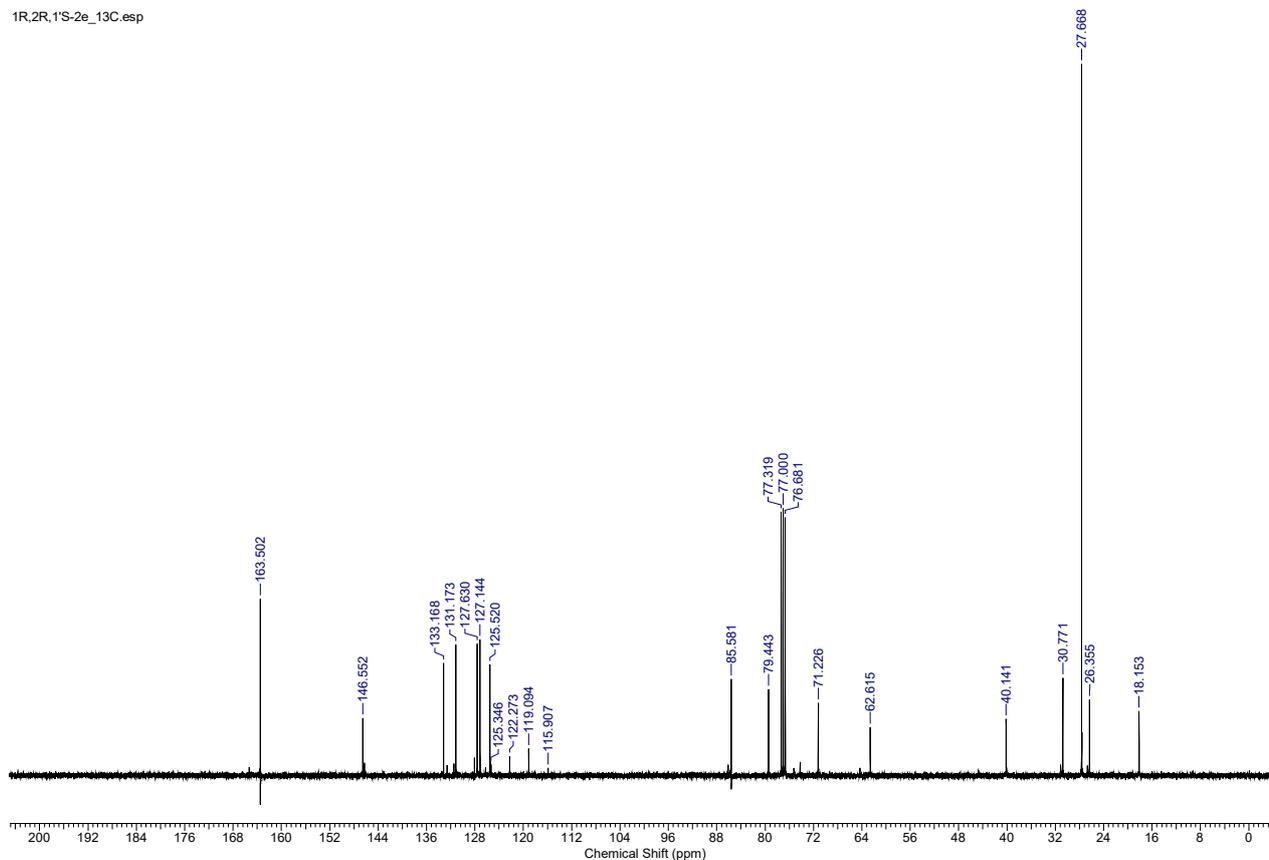
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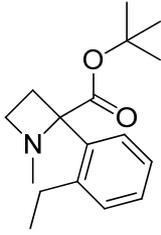
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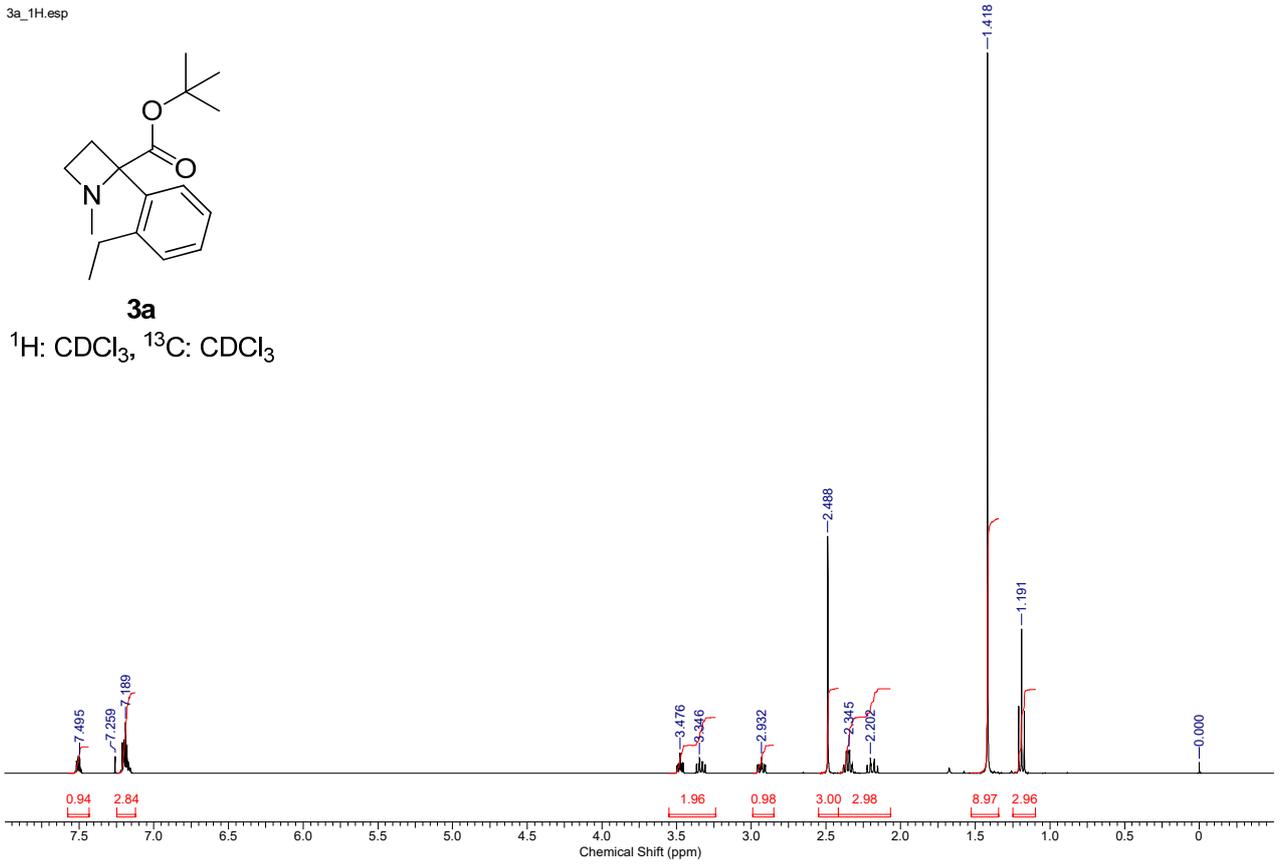


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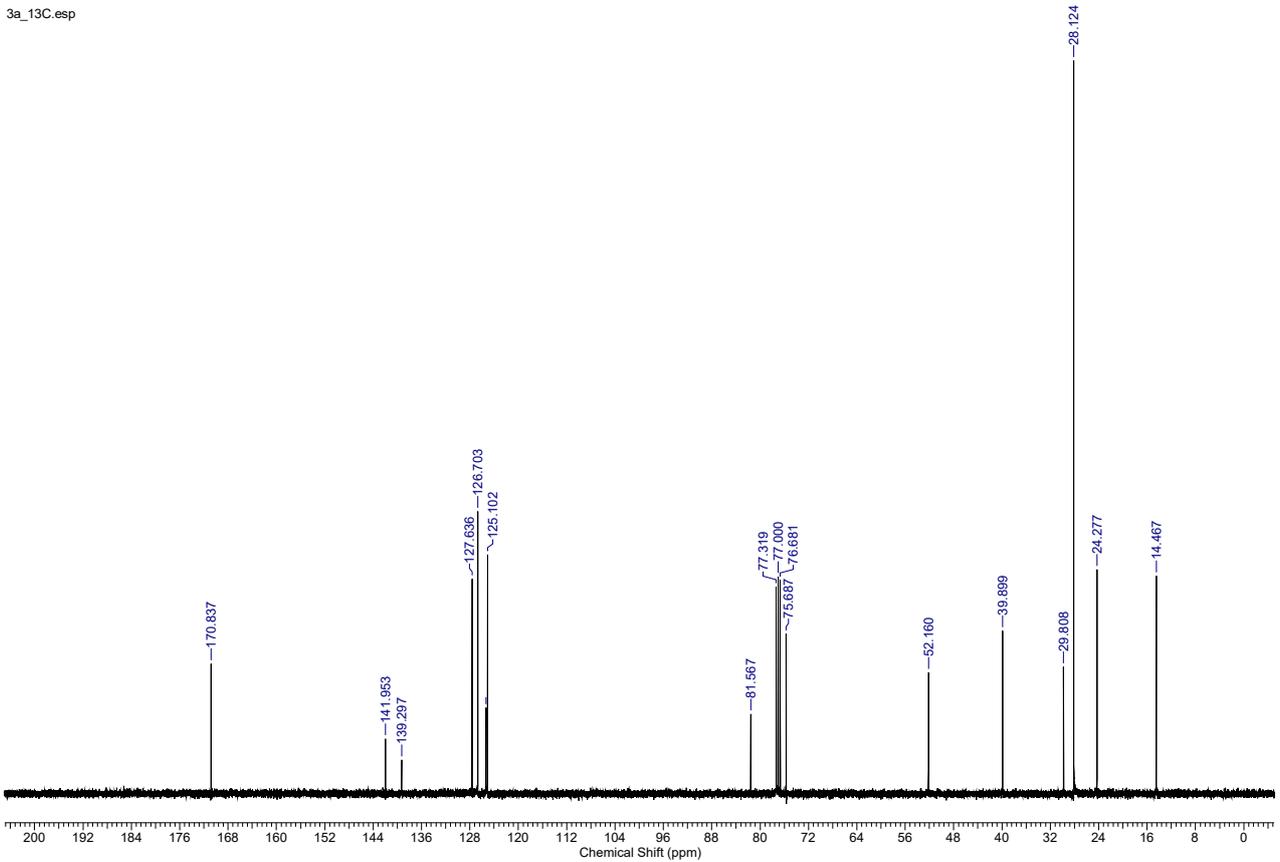


**3a**

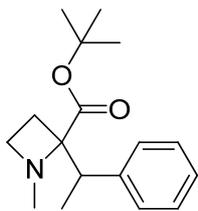
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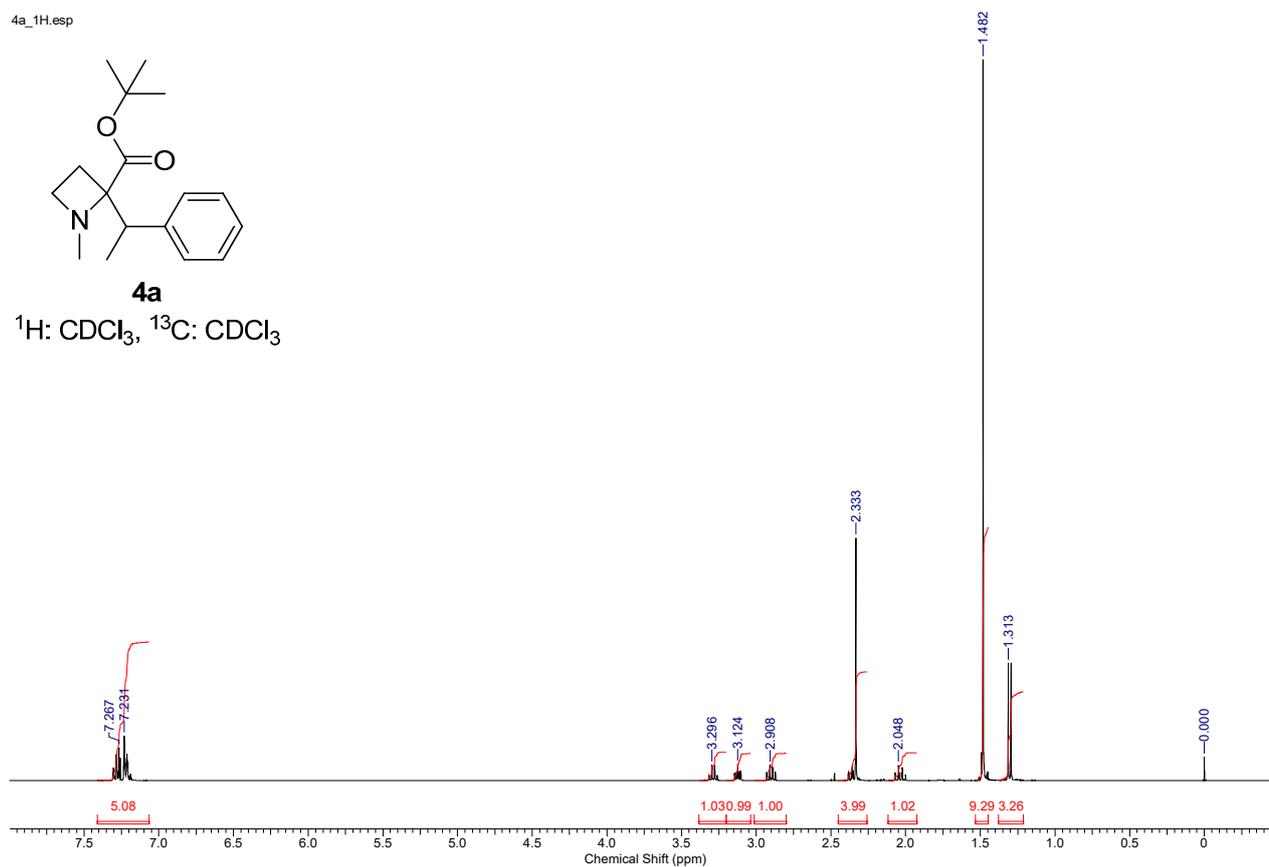


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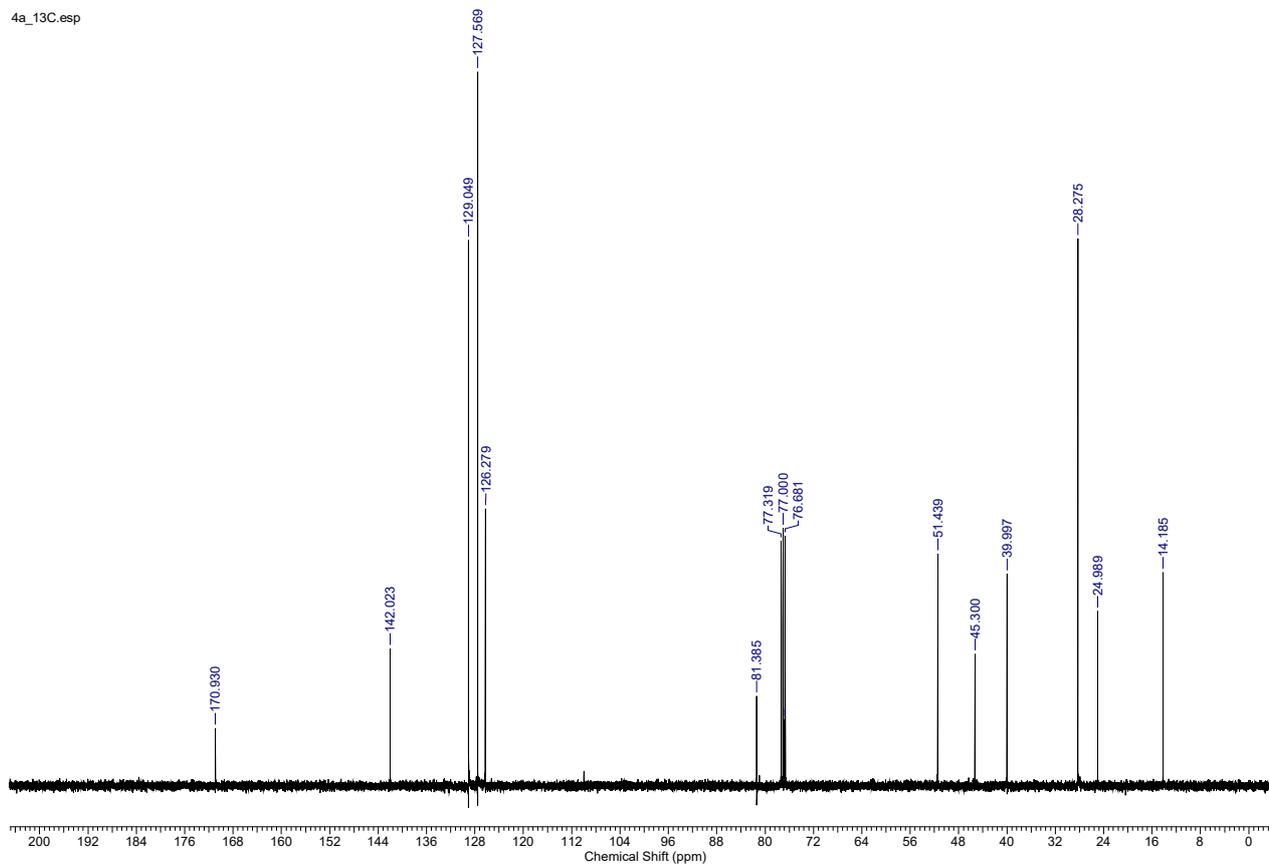


**4a**

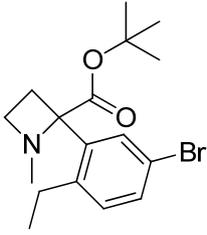
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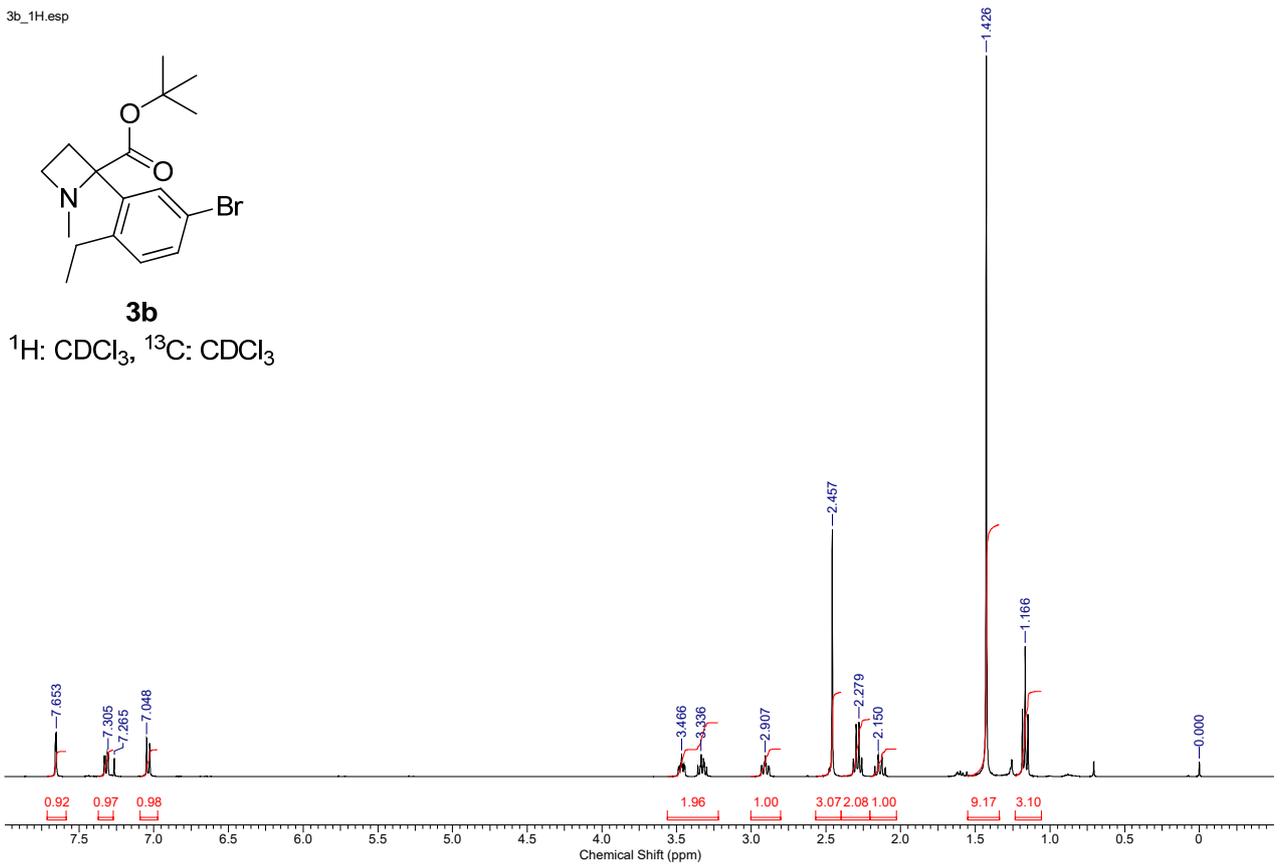


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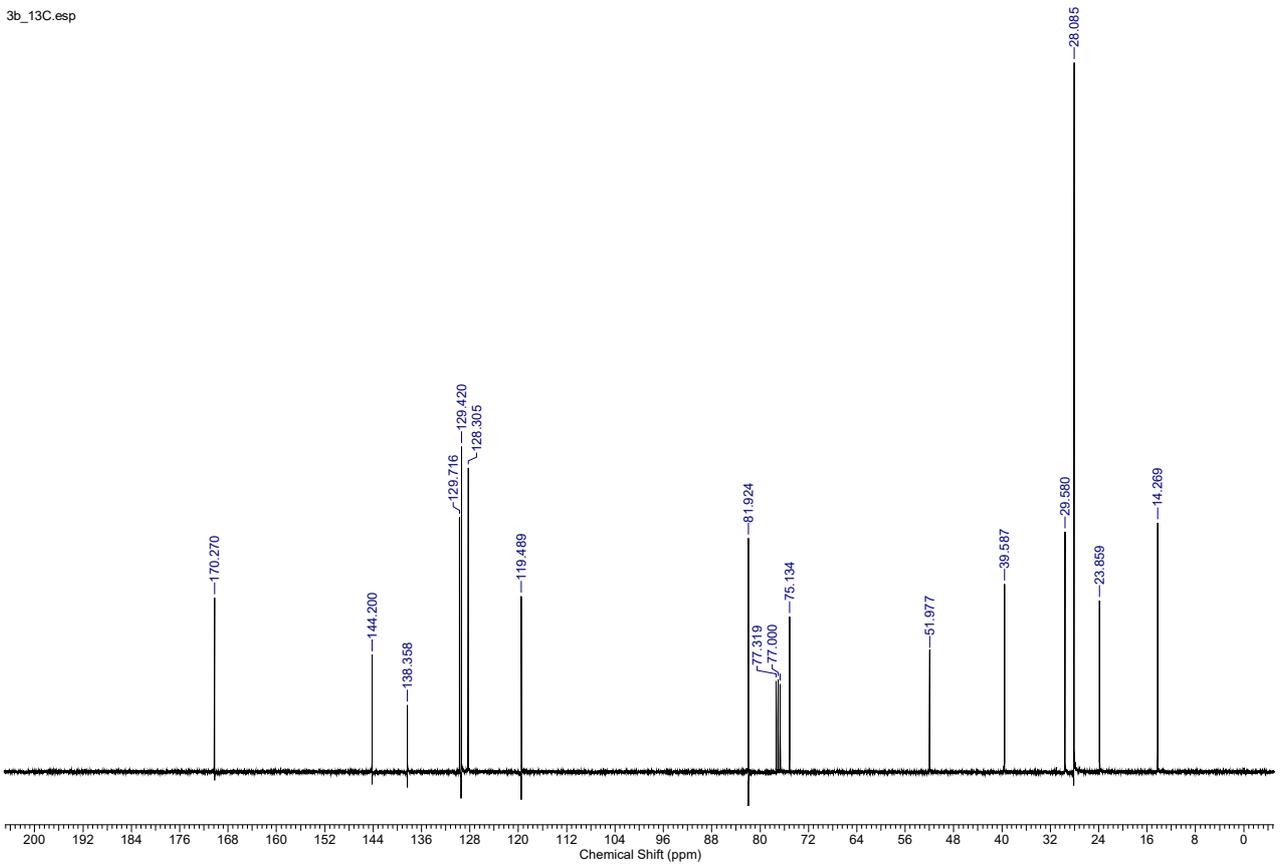


**3b**

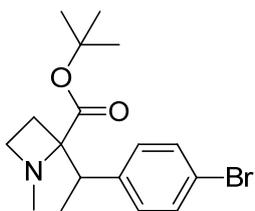
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



3b\_13C.esp

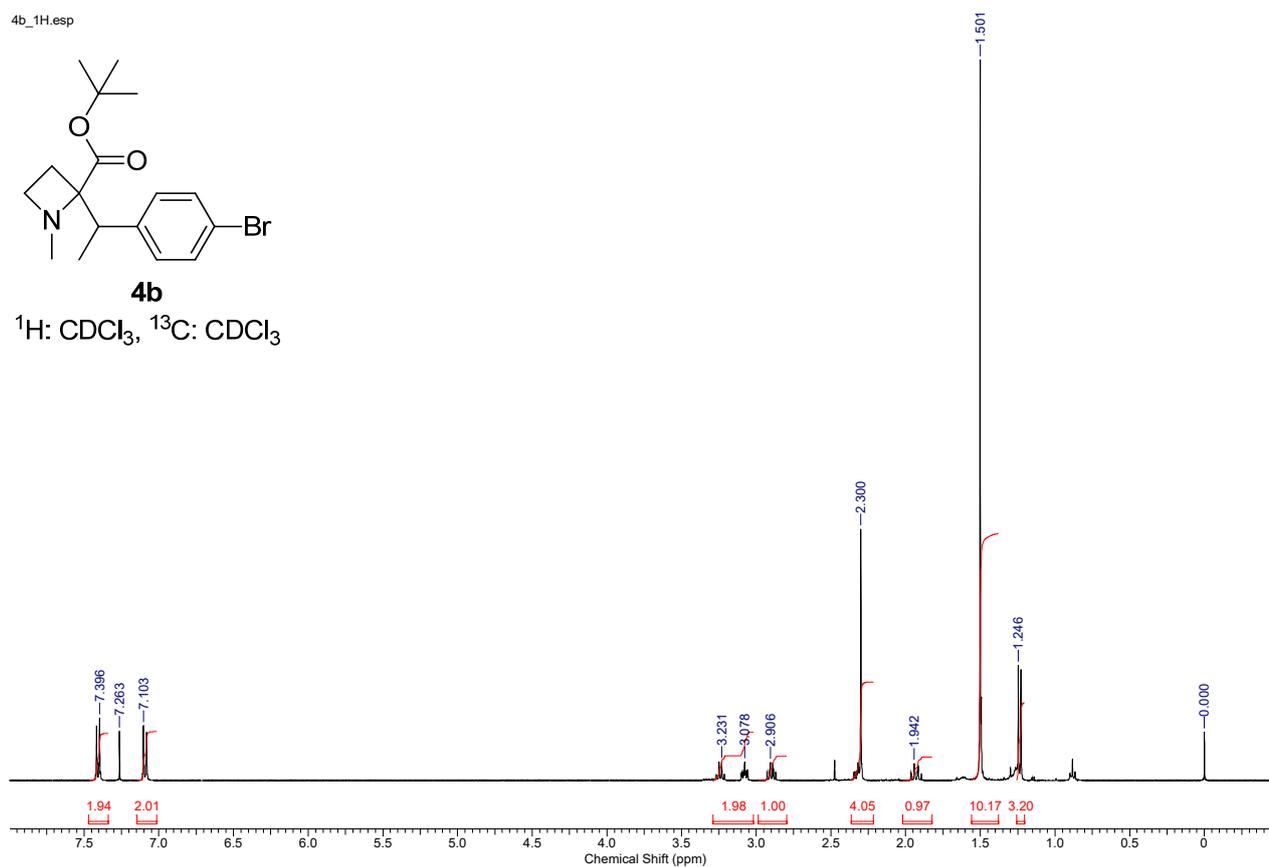


4b\_1H.esp

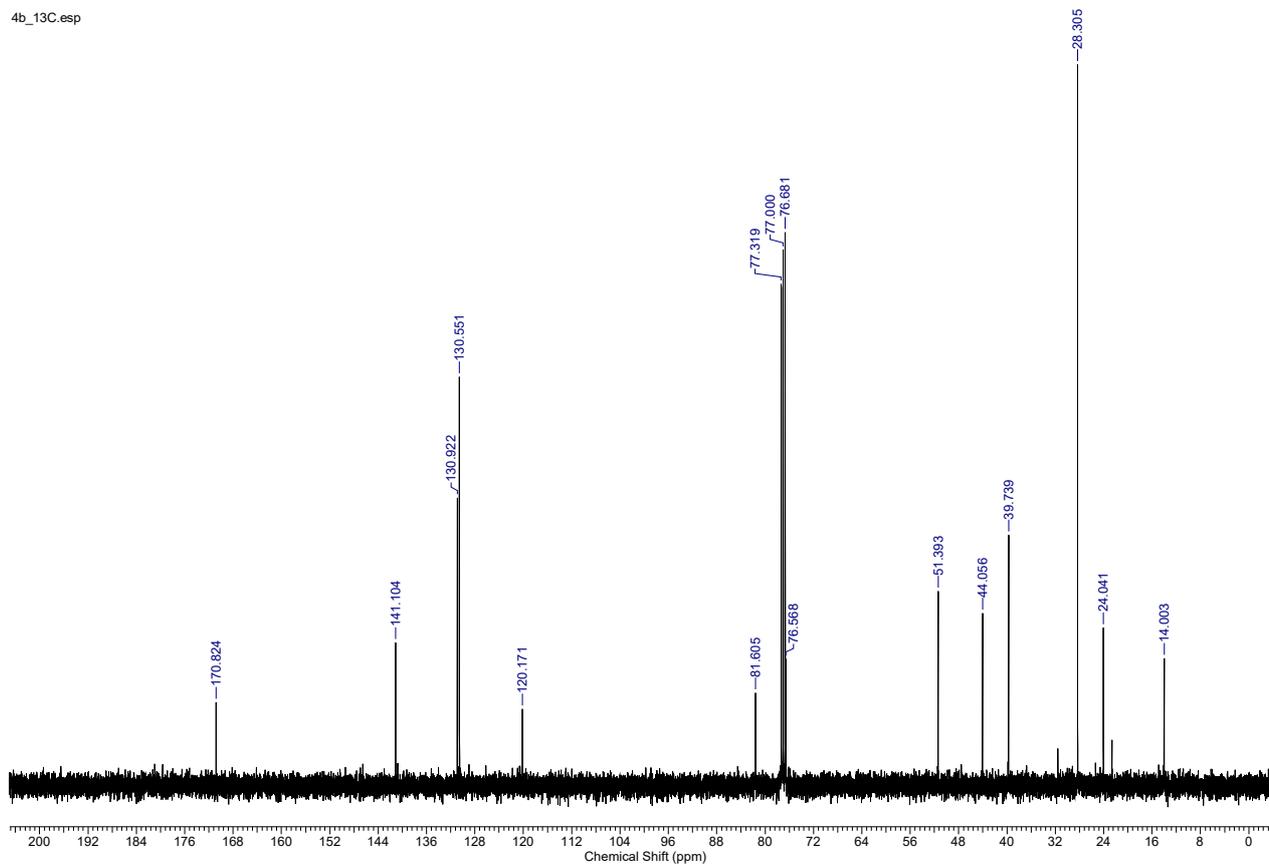


**4b**

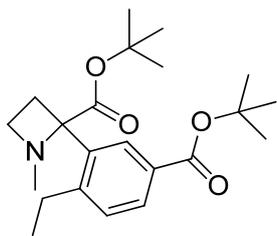
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



4b\_13C.esp

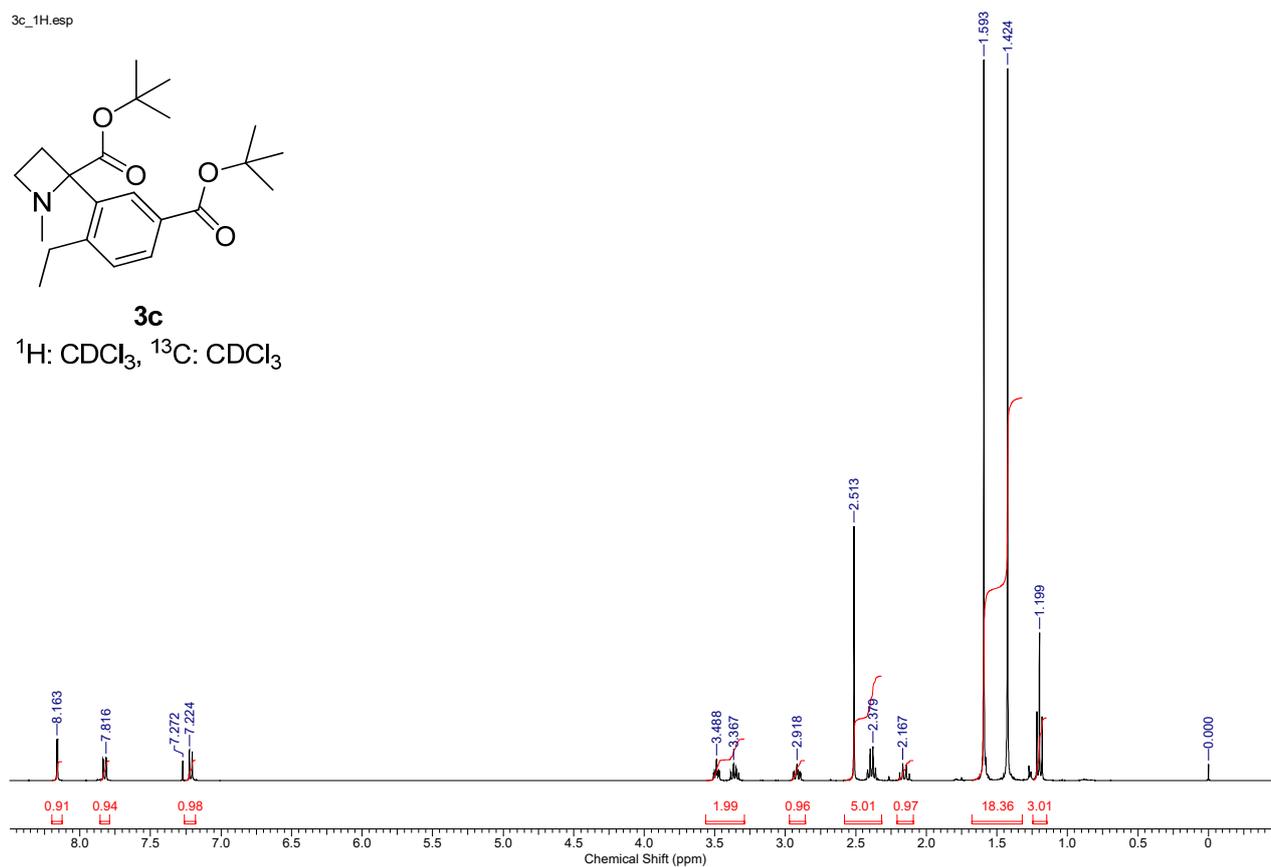


3c\_1H.esp

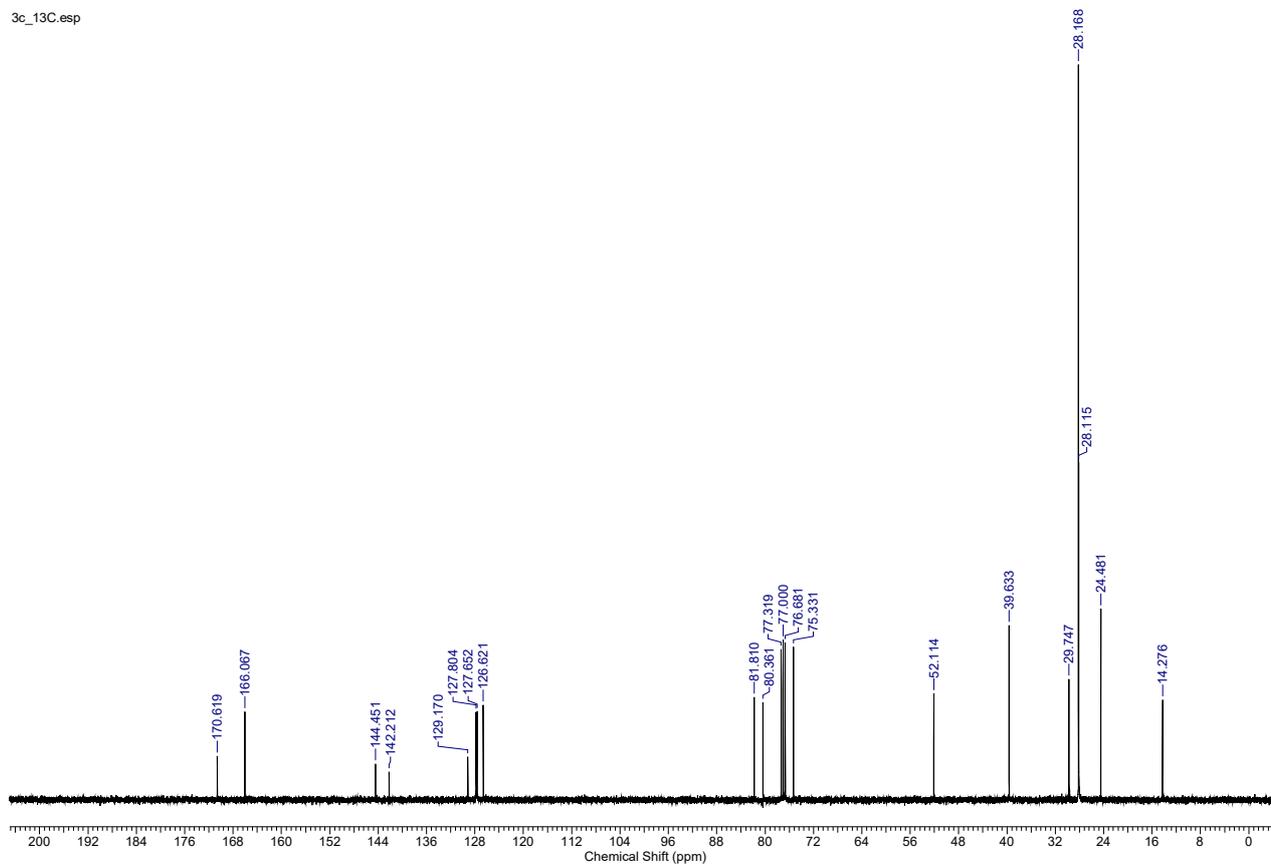


**3c**

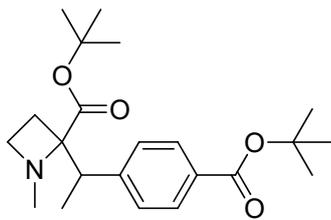
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



3c\_13C.esp

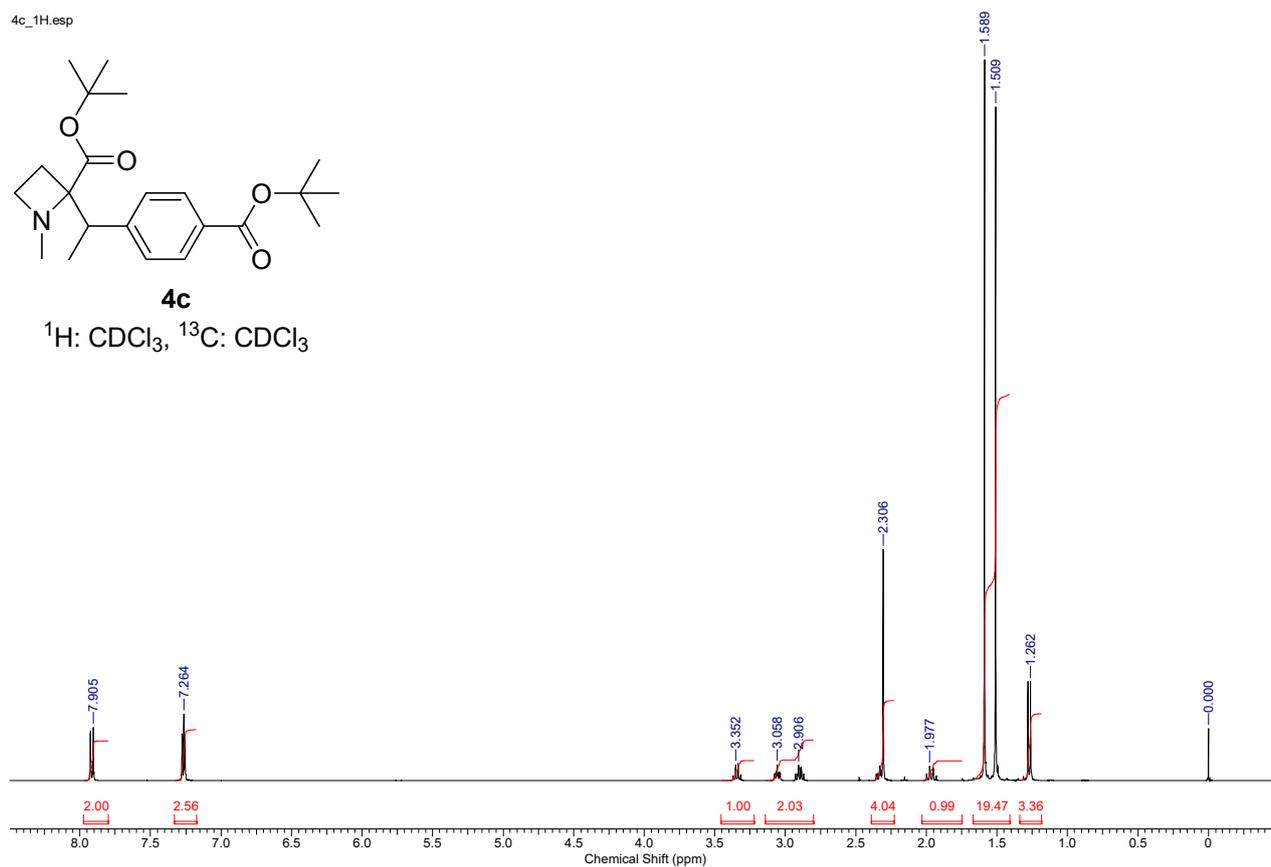


4c\_1H.esp

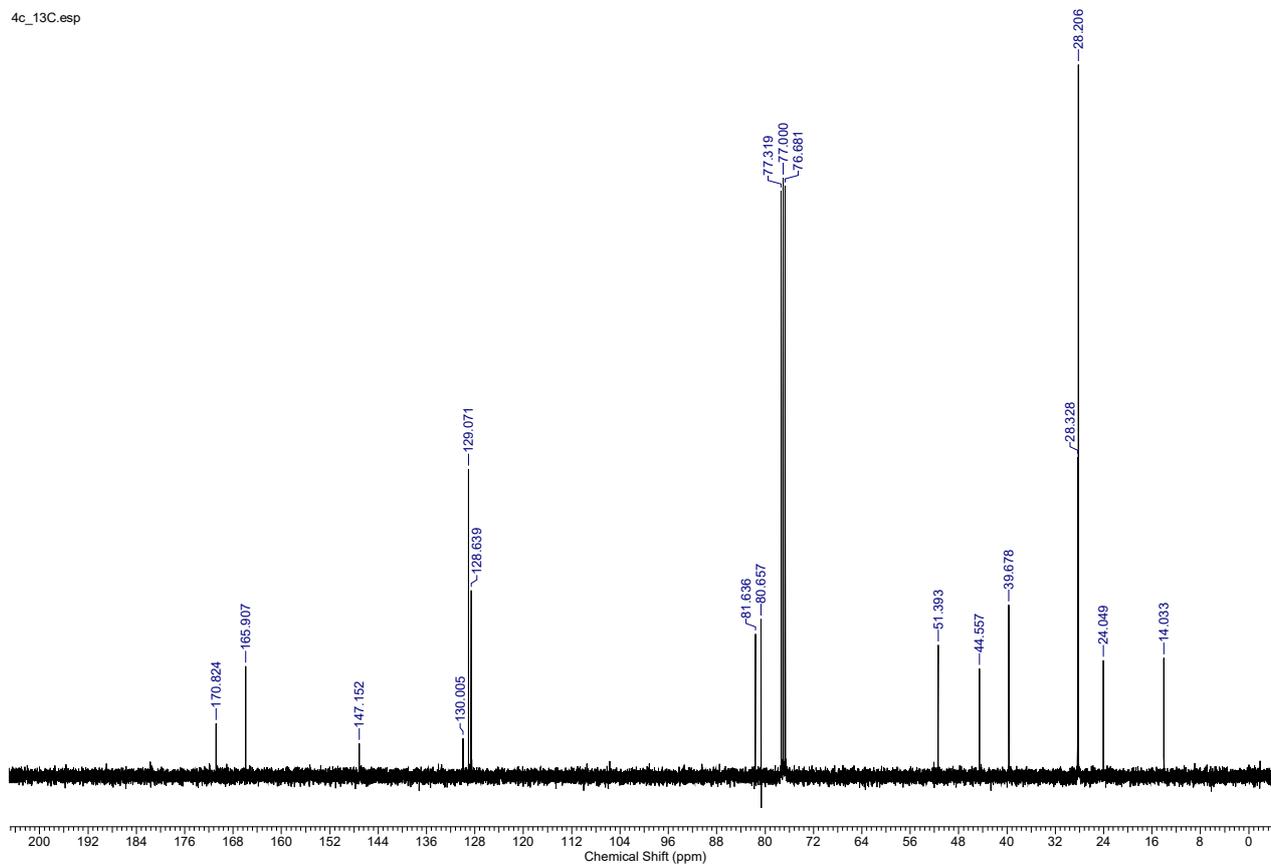


**4c**

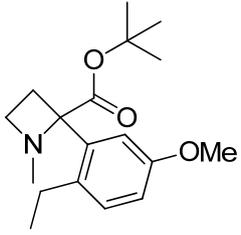
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



4c\_13C.esp

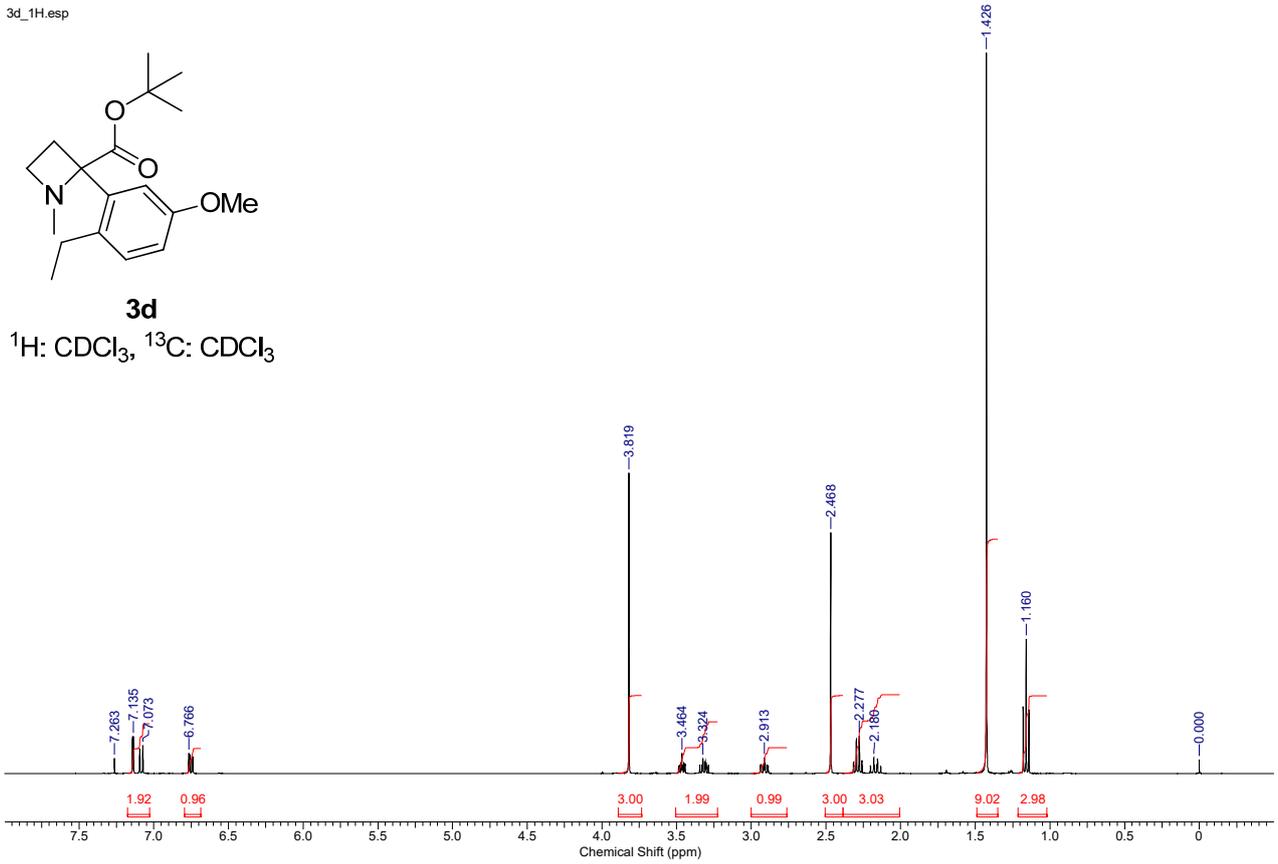


3d\_1H.esp

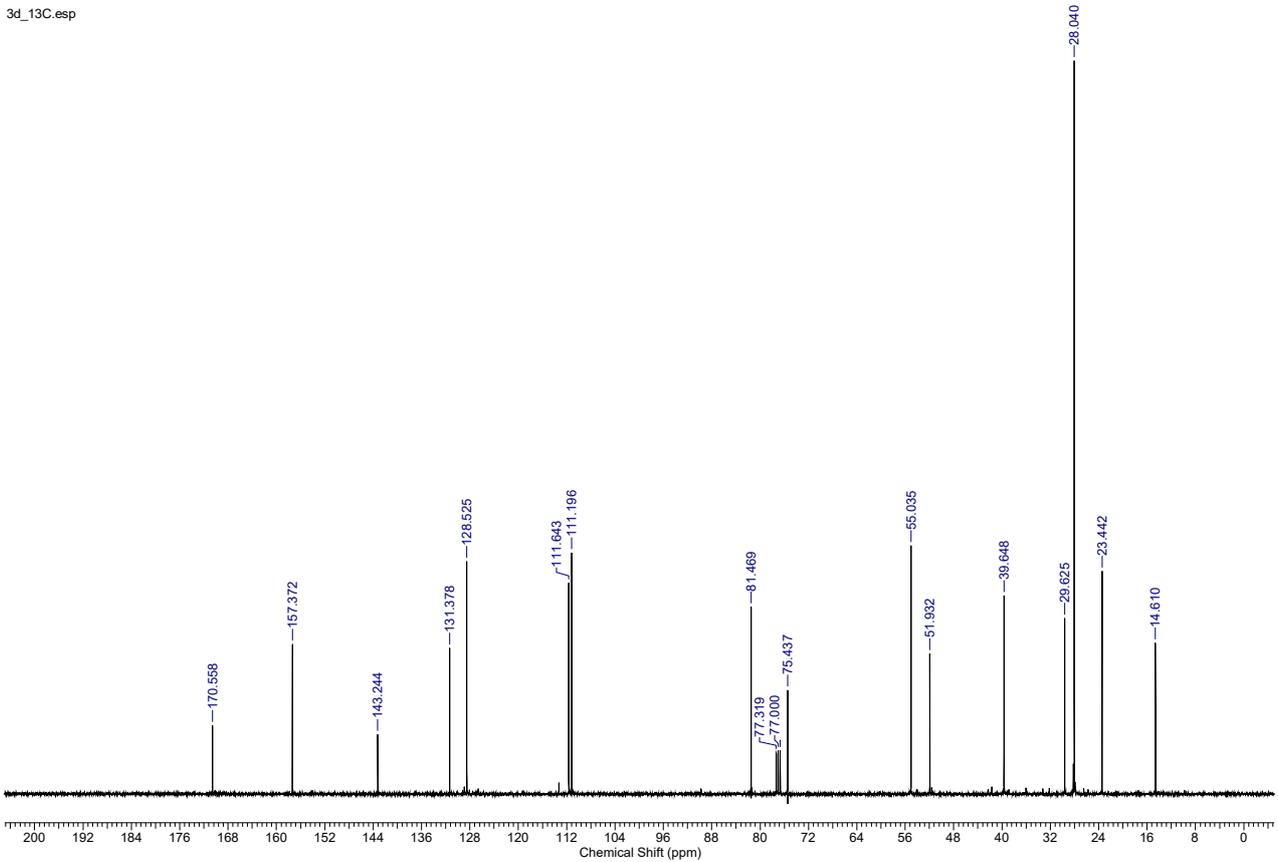


**3d**

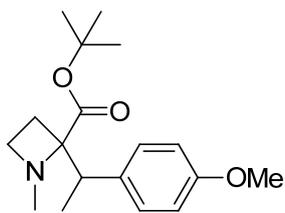
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



3d\_13C.esp

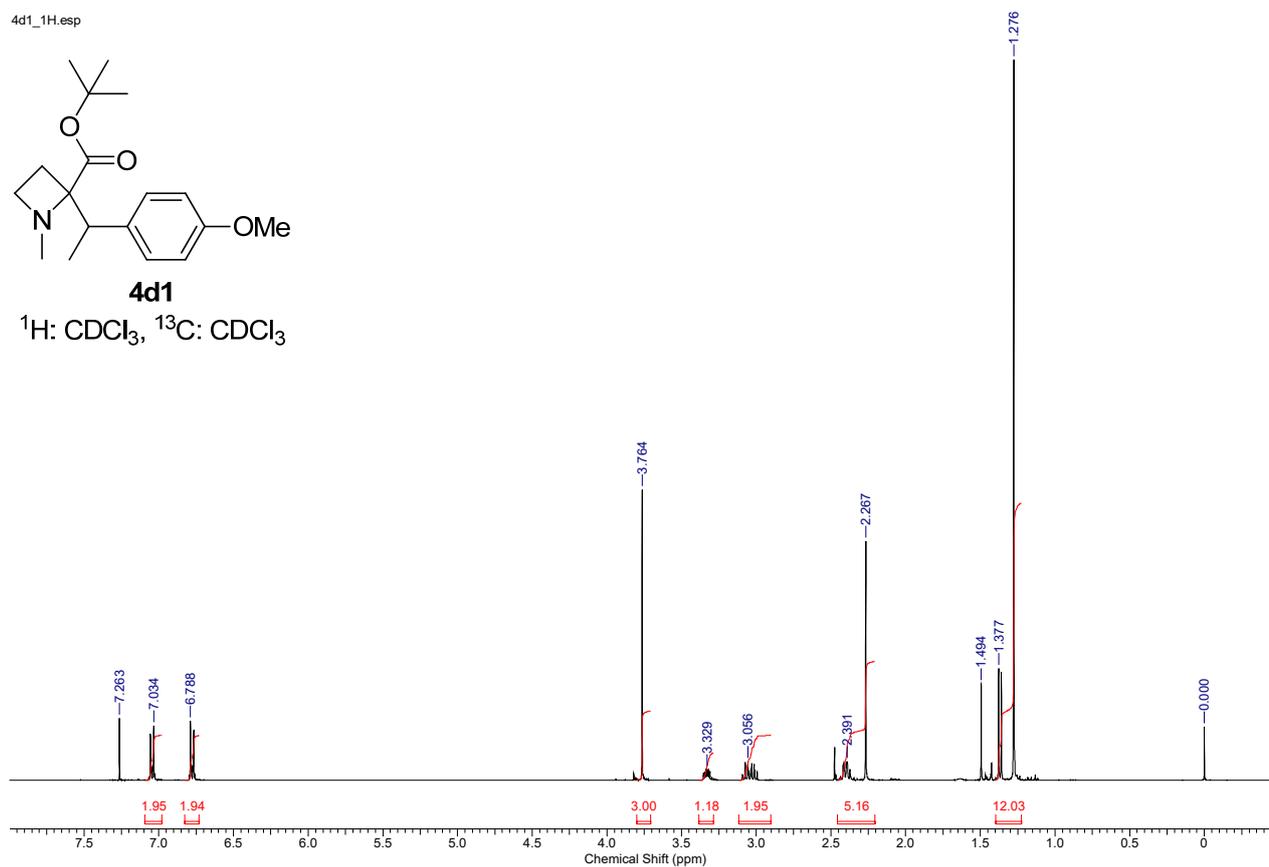


4d1\_1H.esp

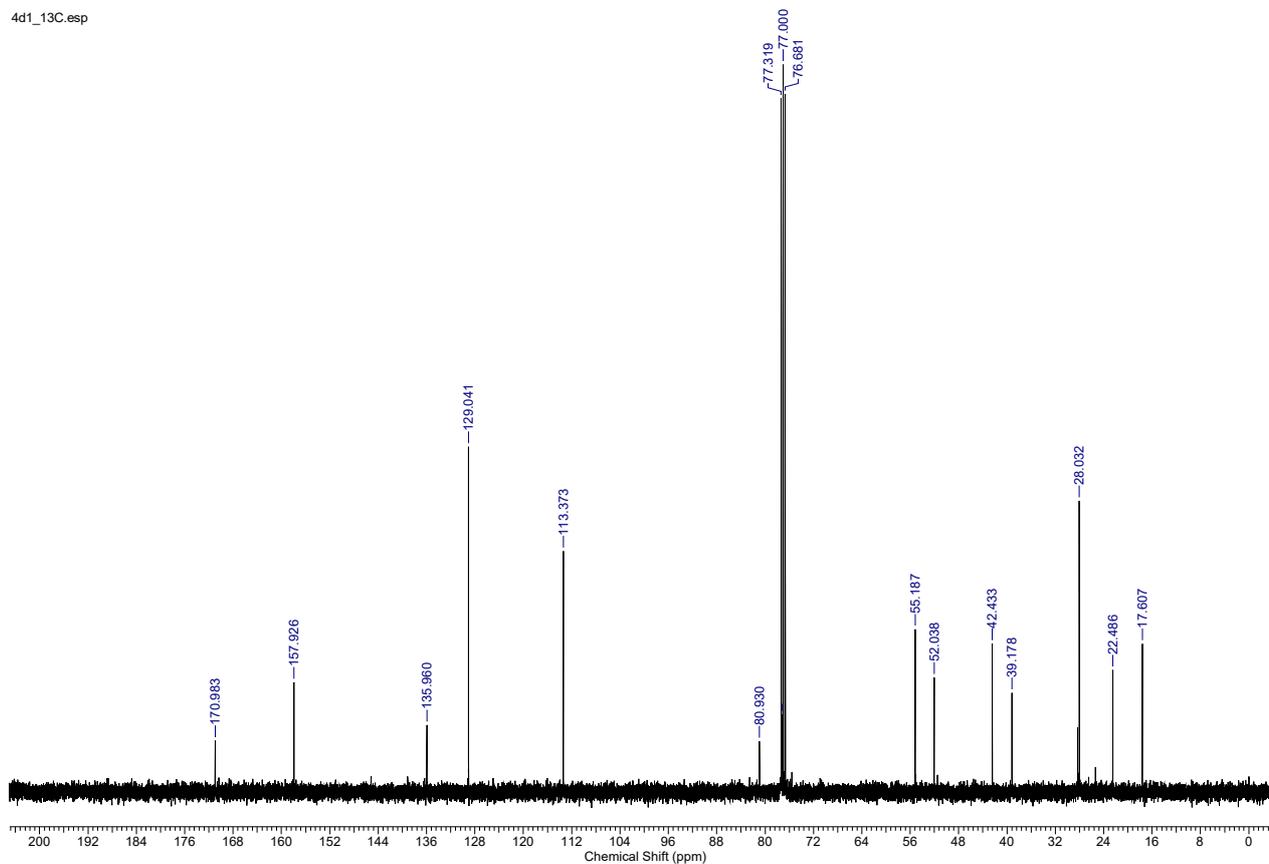


**4d1**

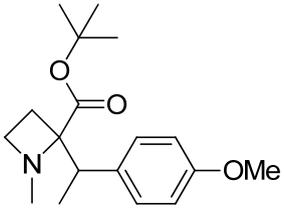
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



4d1\_13C.esp

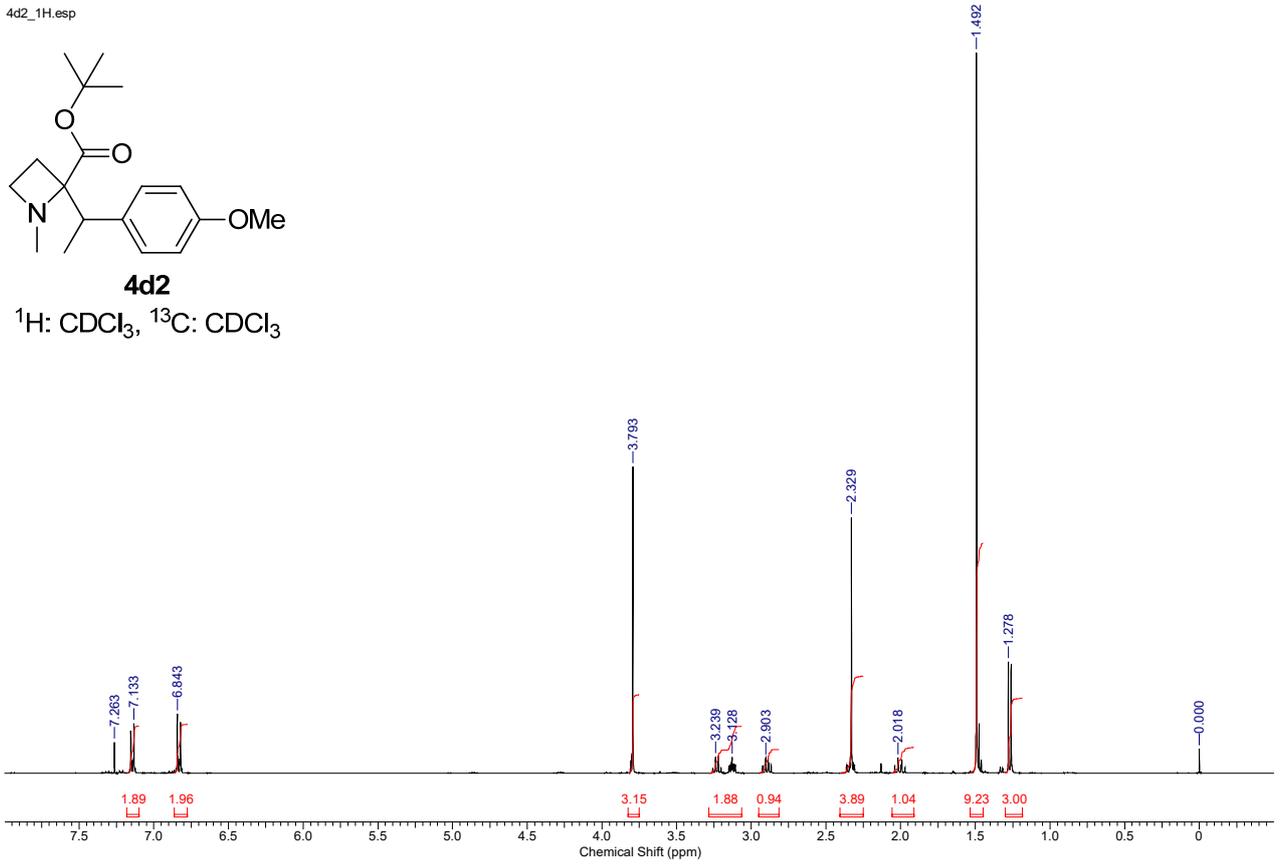


4d2\_1H.esp

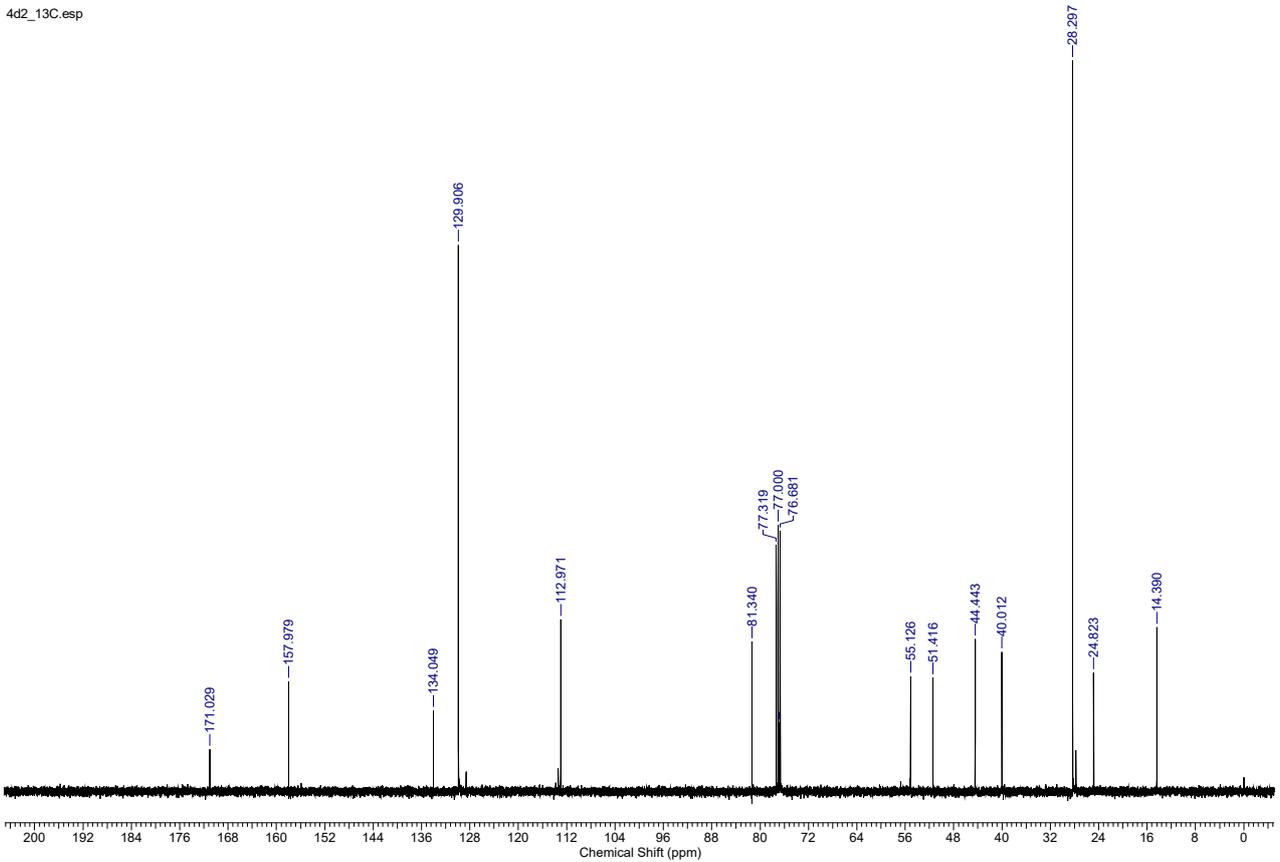


**4d2**

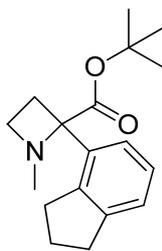
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



4d2\_13C.esp

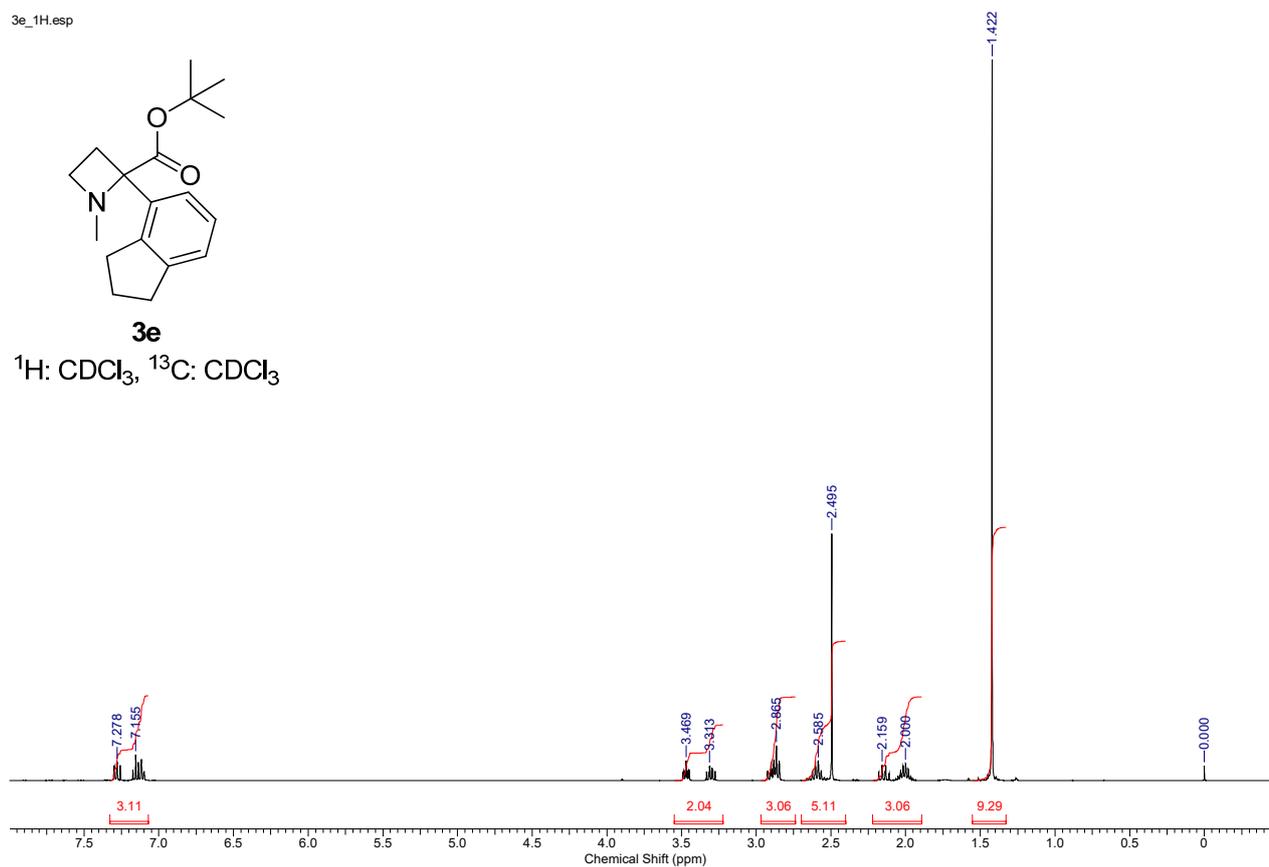


3e\_1H.esp

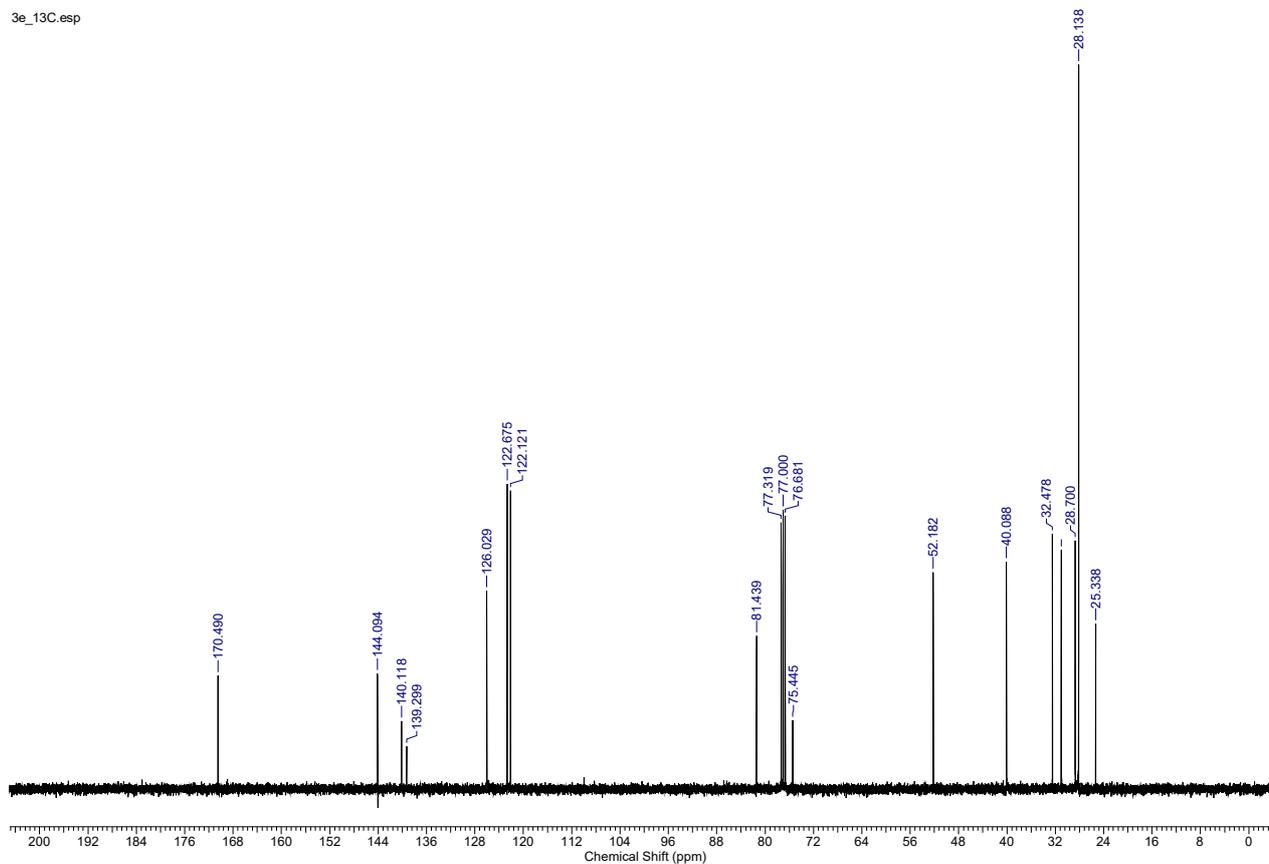


**3e**

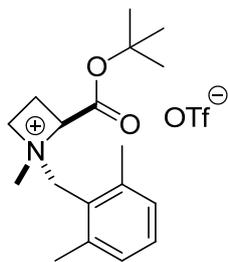
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



3e\_13C.esp

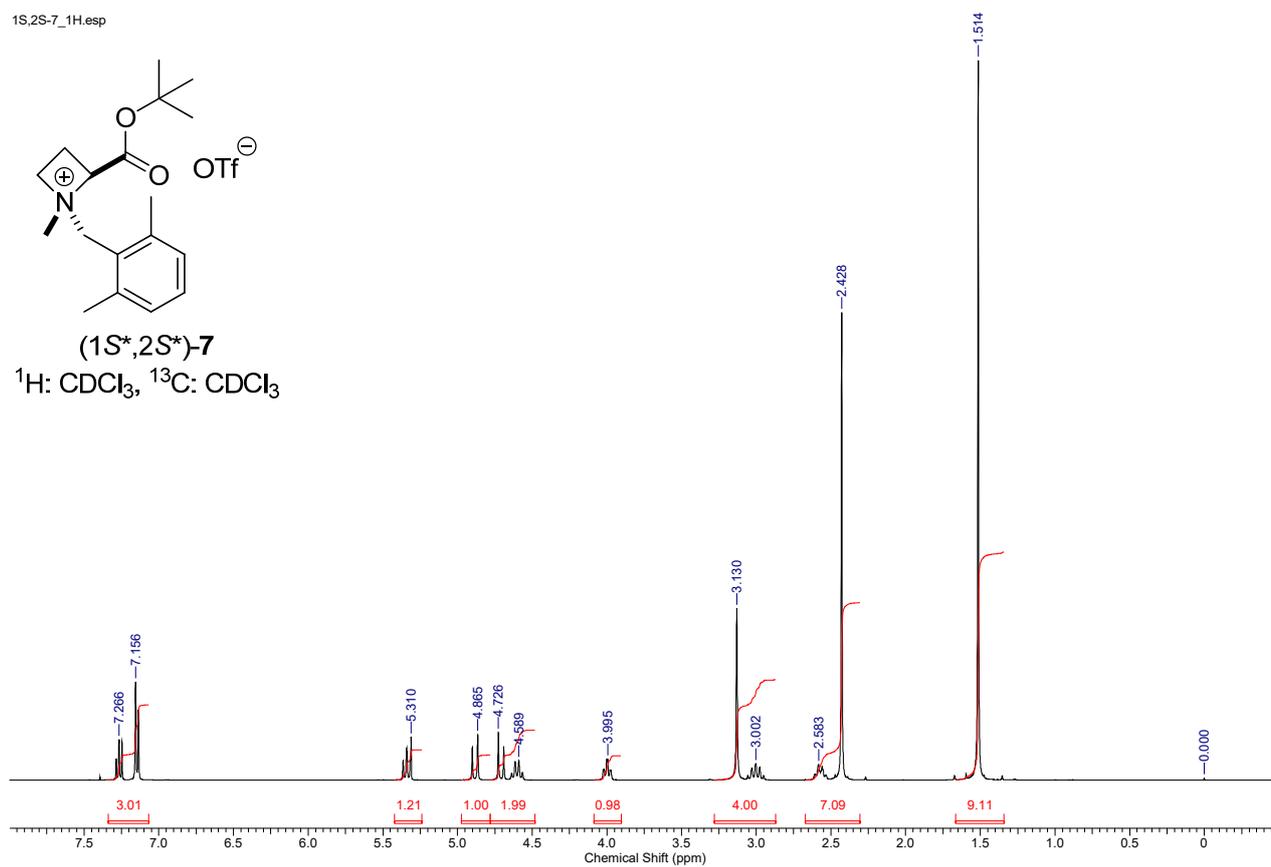


1S,2S-7\_1H.esp

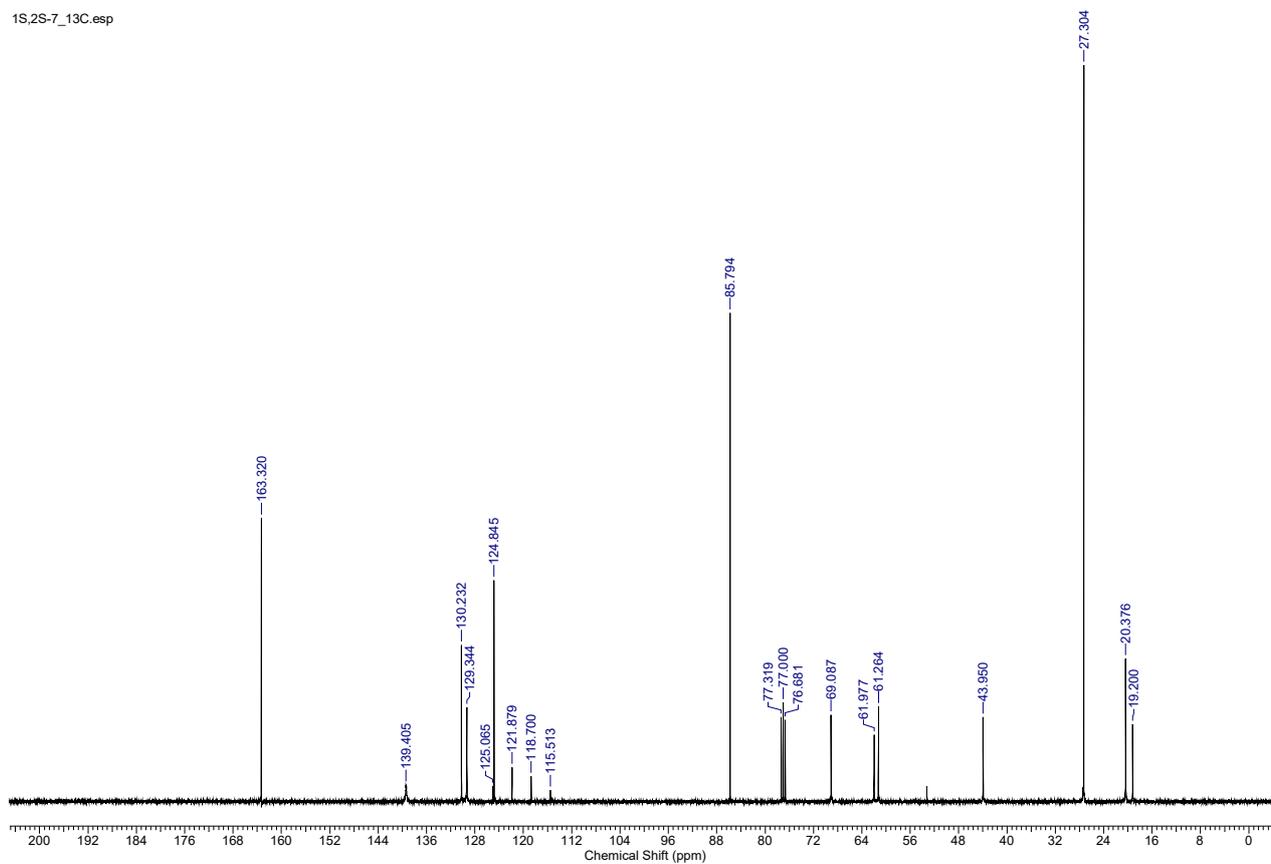


(1S\*,2S\*)-7

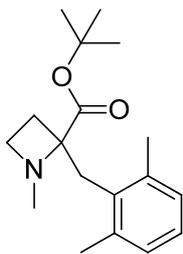
<sup>1</sup>H: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C: CDCl<sub>3</sub>



1S,2S-7\_13C.esp

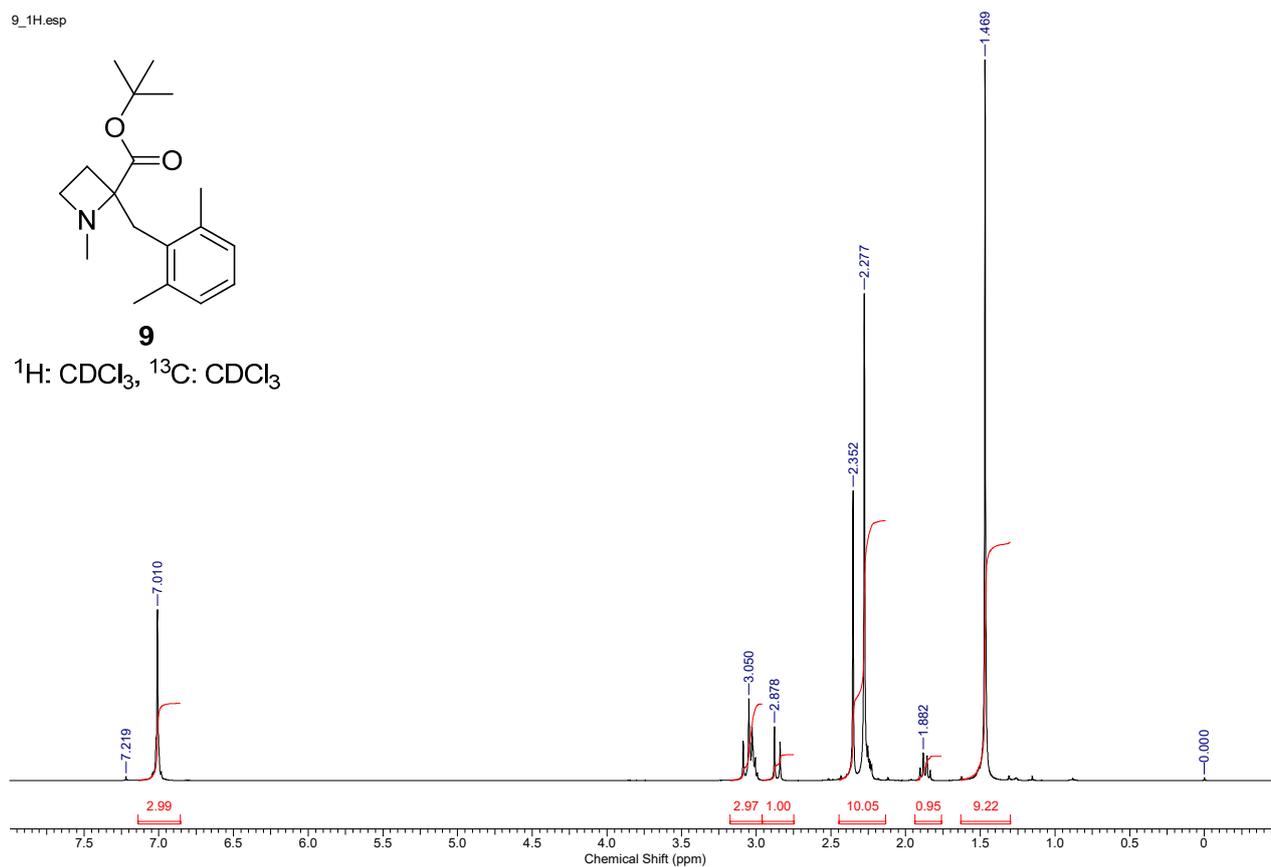


9\_1H.esp

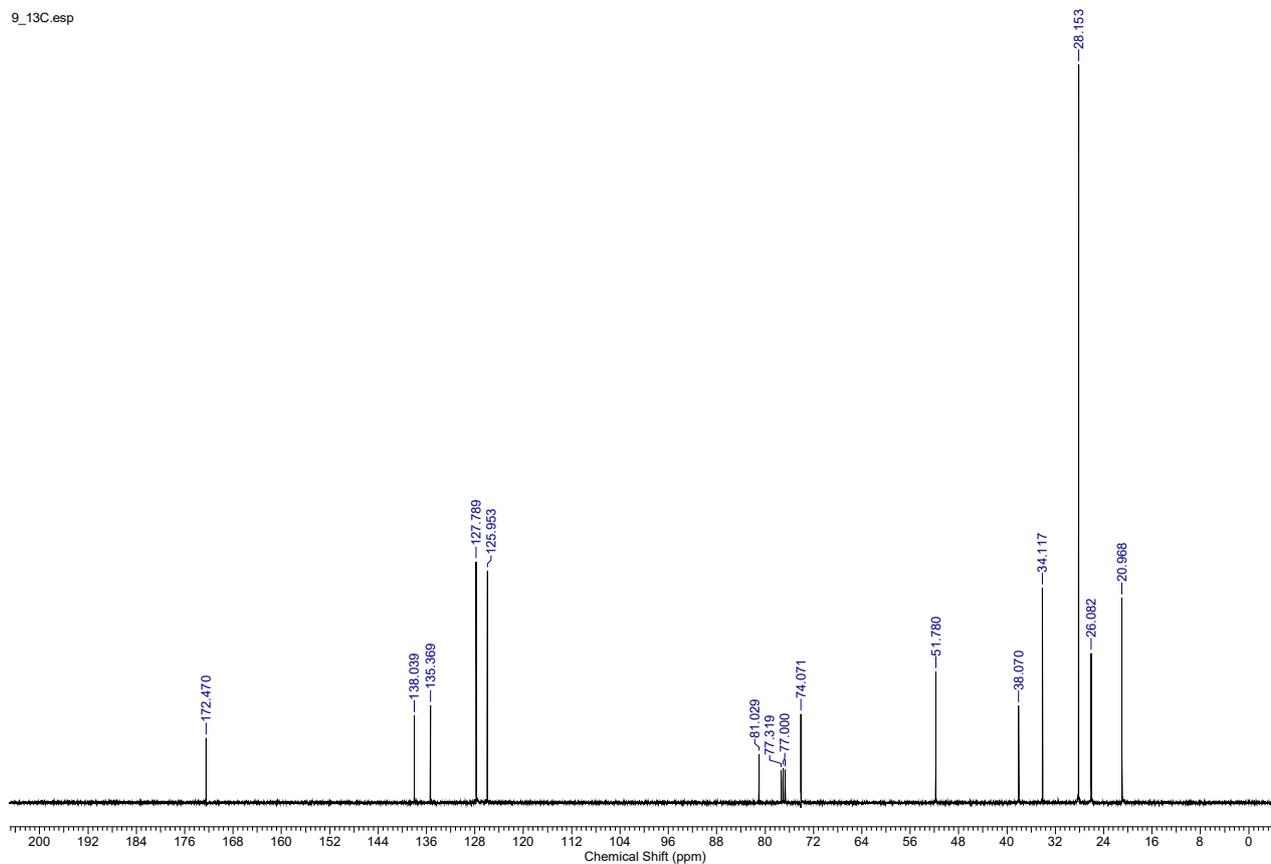


**9**

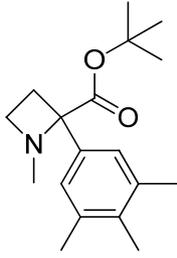
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



9\_13C.esp

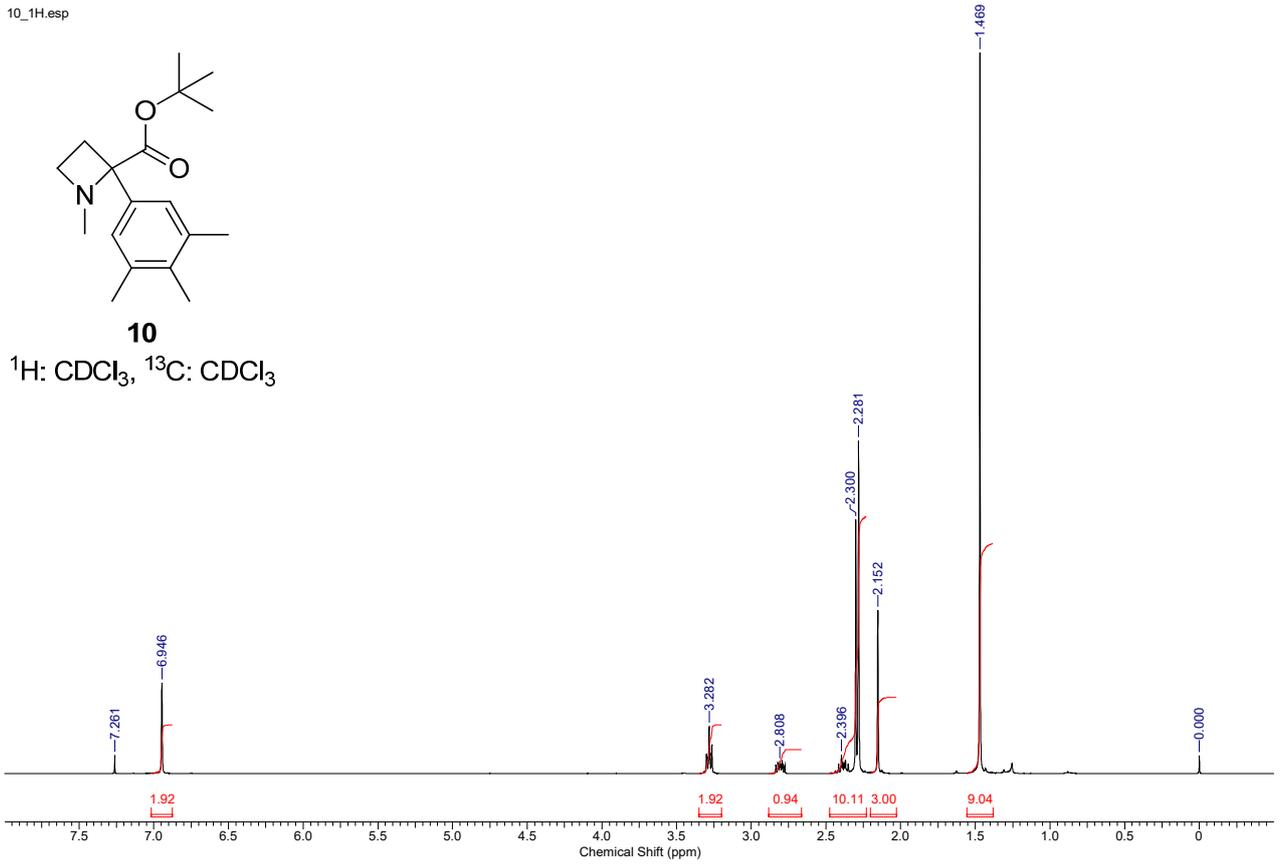


10\_1H.esp

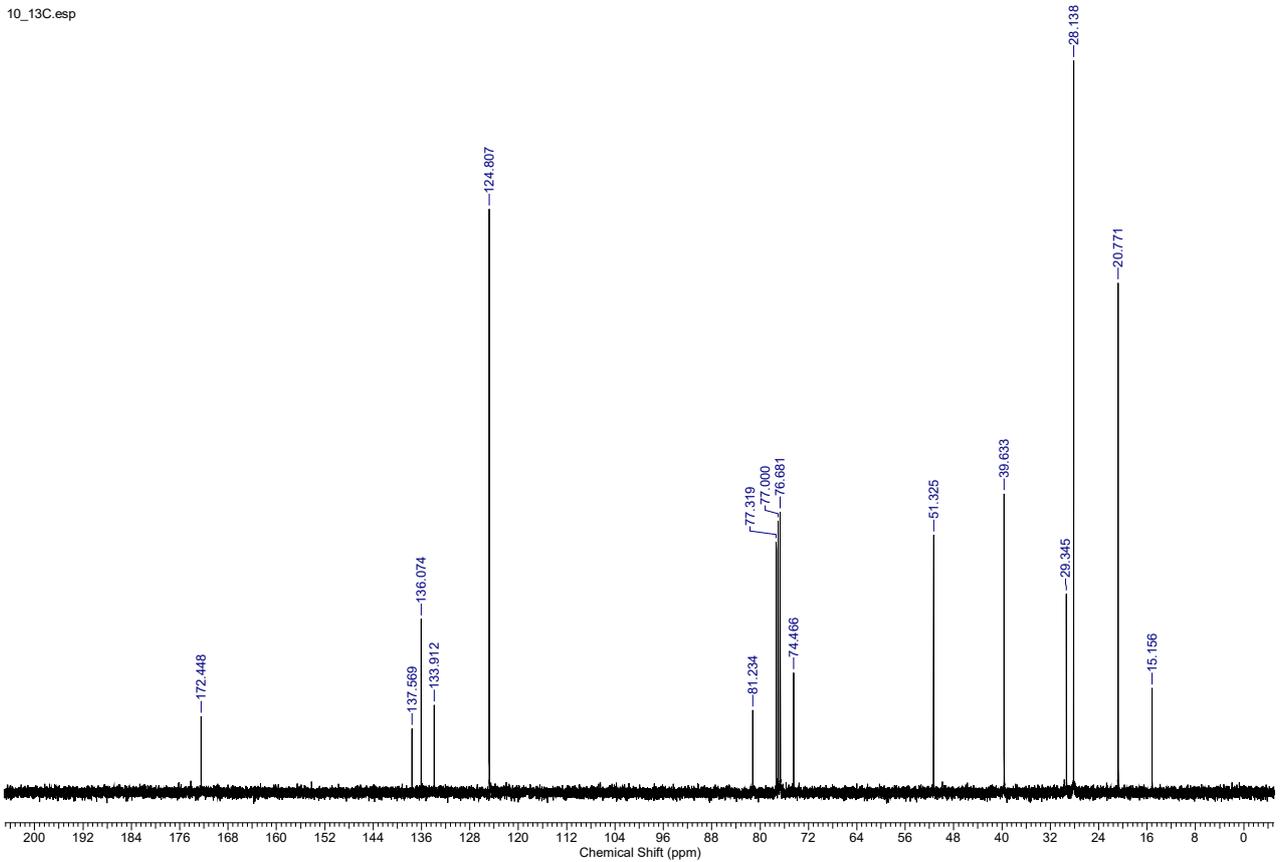


**10**

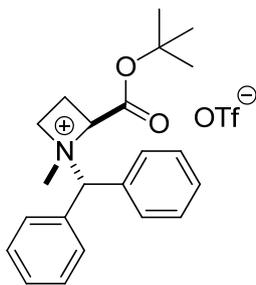
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



10\_13C.esp

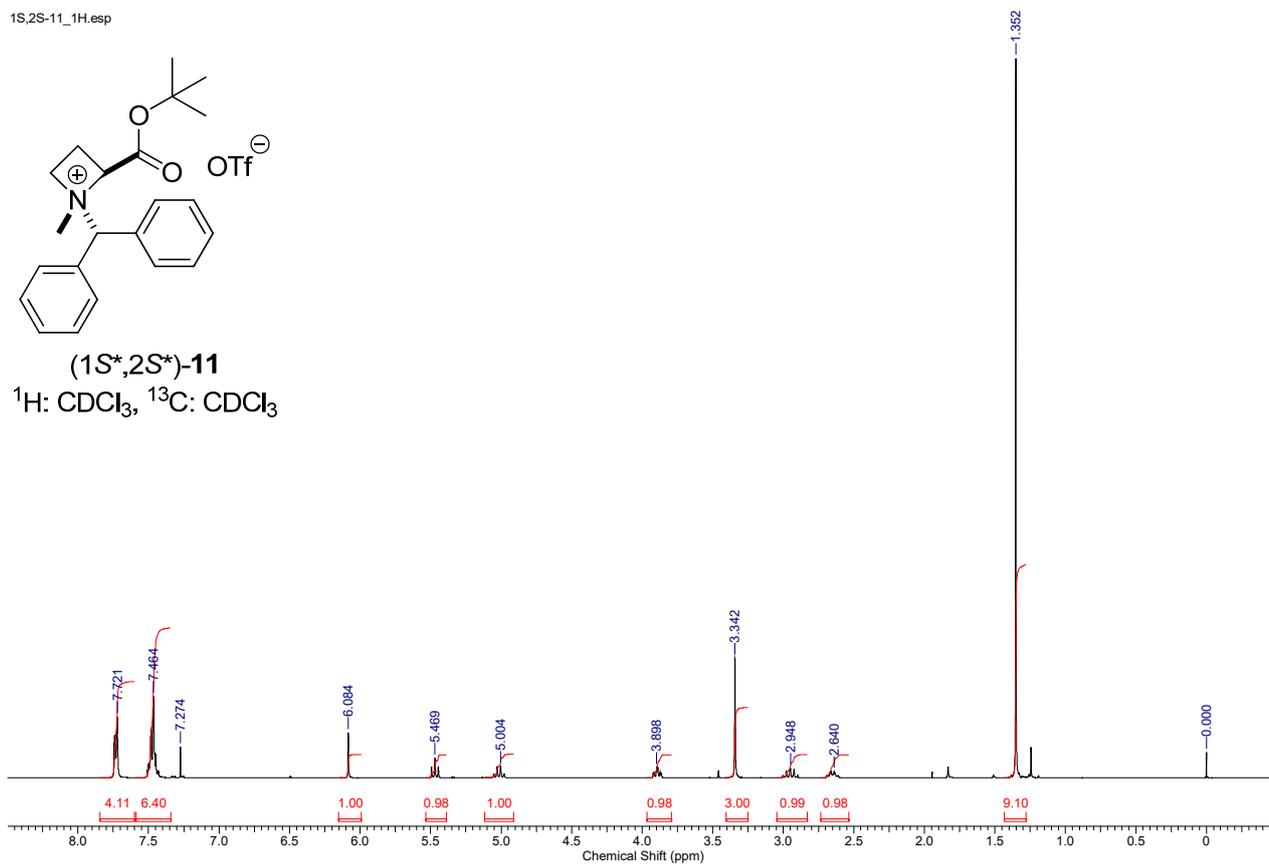


1S,2S-11\_1H.esp

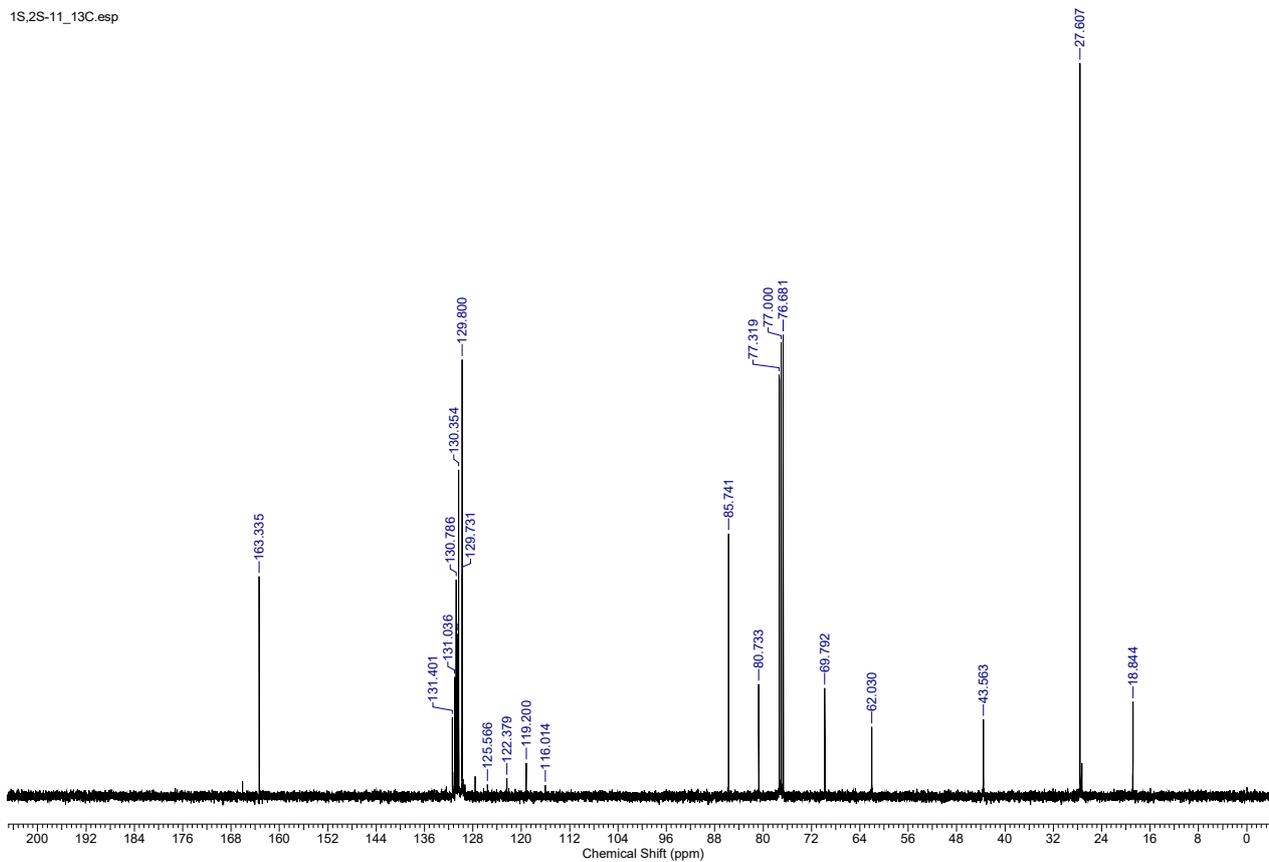


(1S\*,2S\*)-11

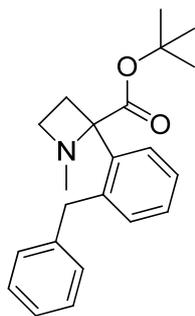
<sup>1</sup>H: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C: CDCl<sub>3</sub>



1S,2S-11\_13C.esp

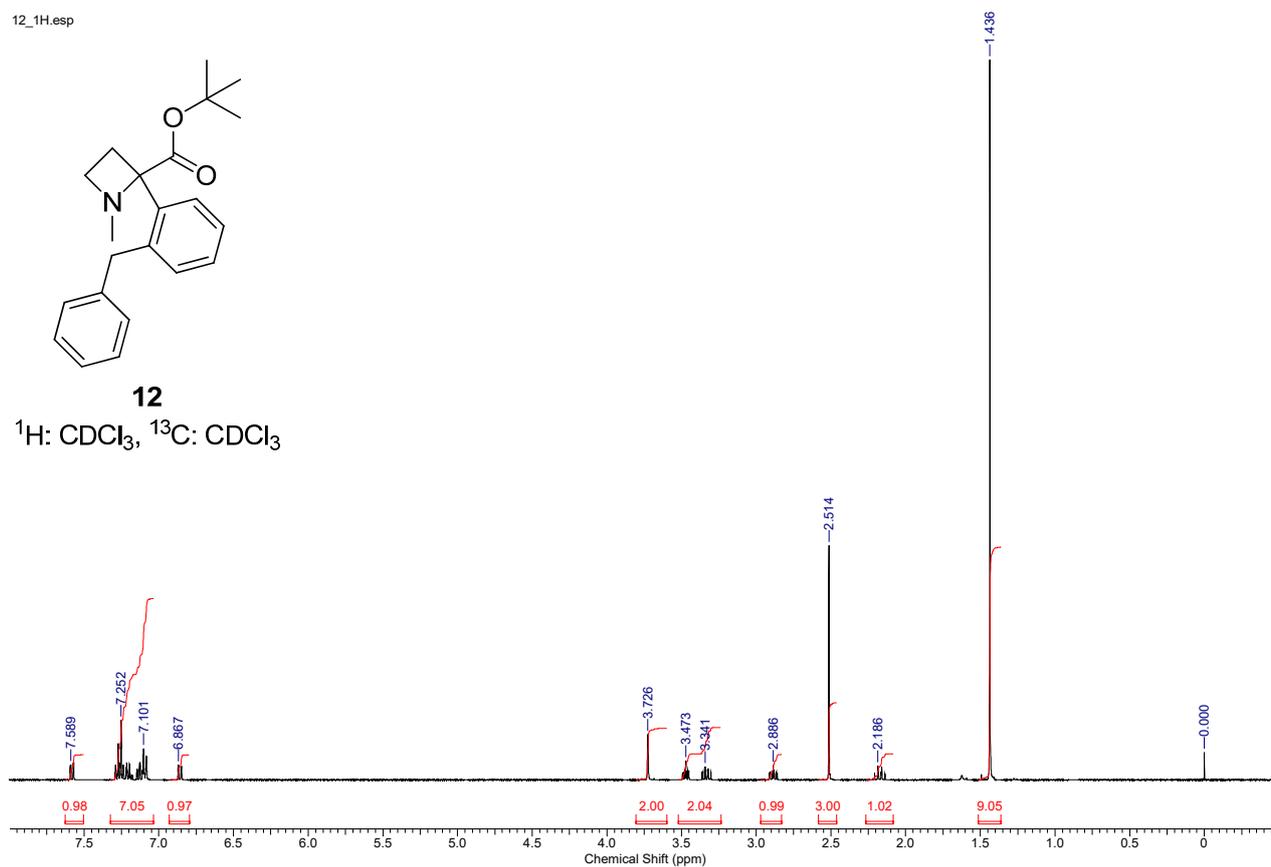


12\_1H.esp

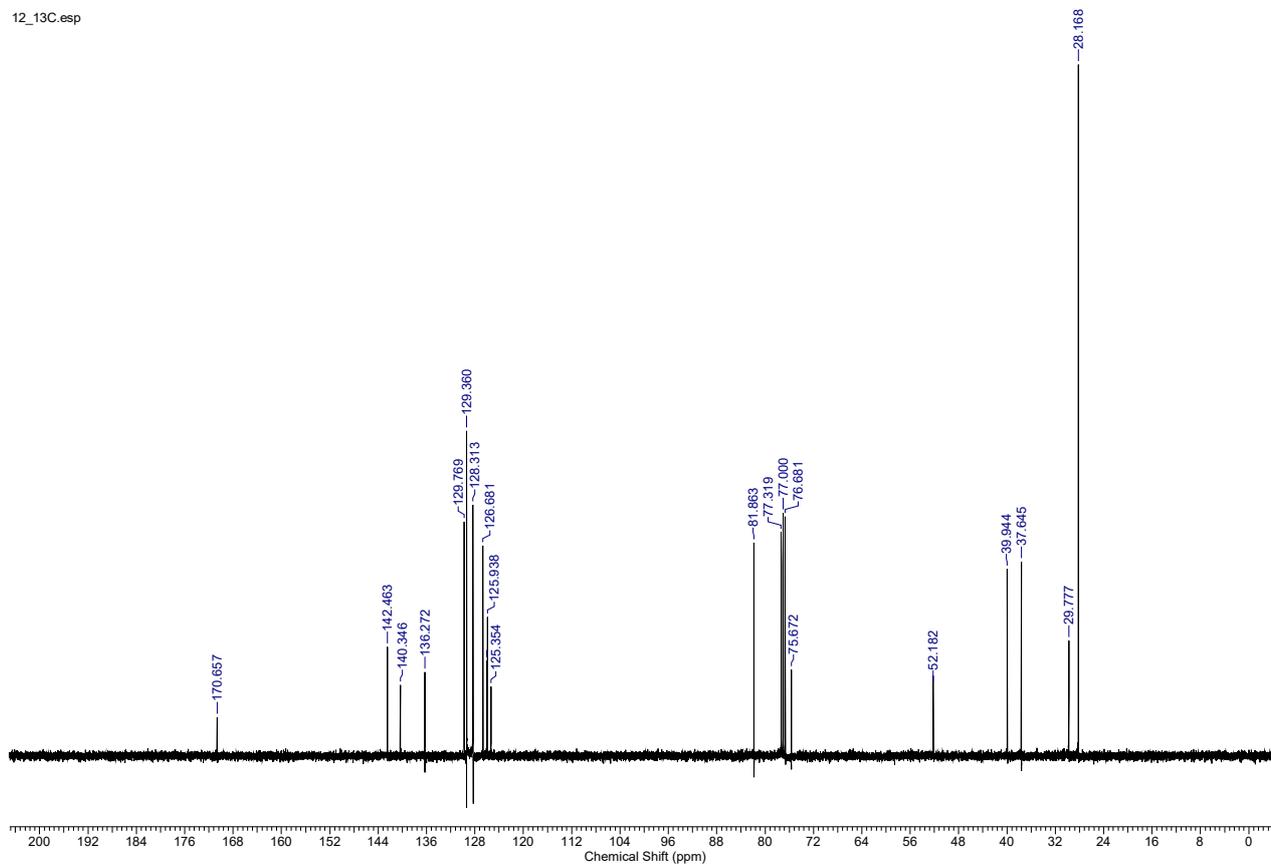


**12**

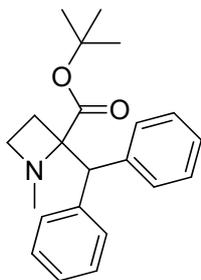
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



12\_13C.esp

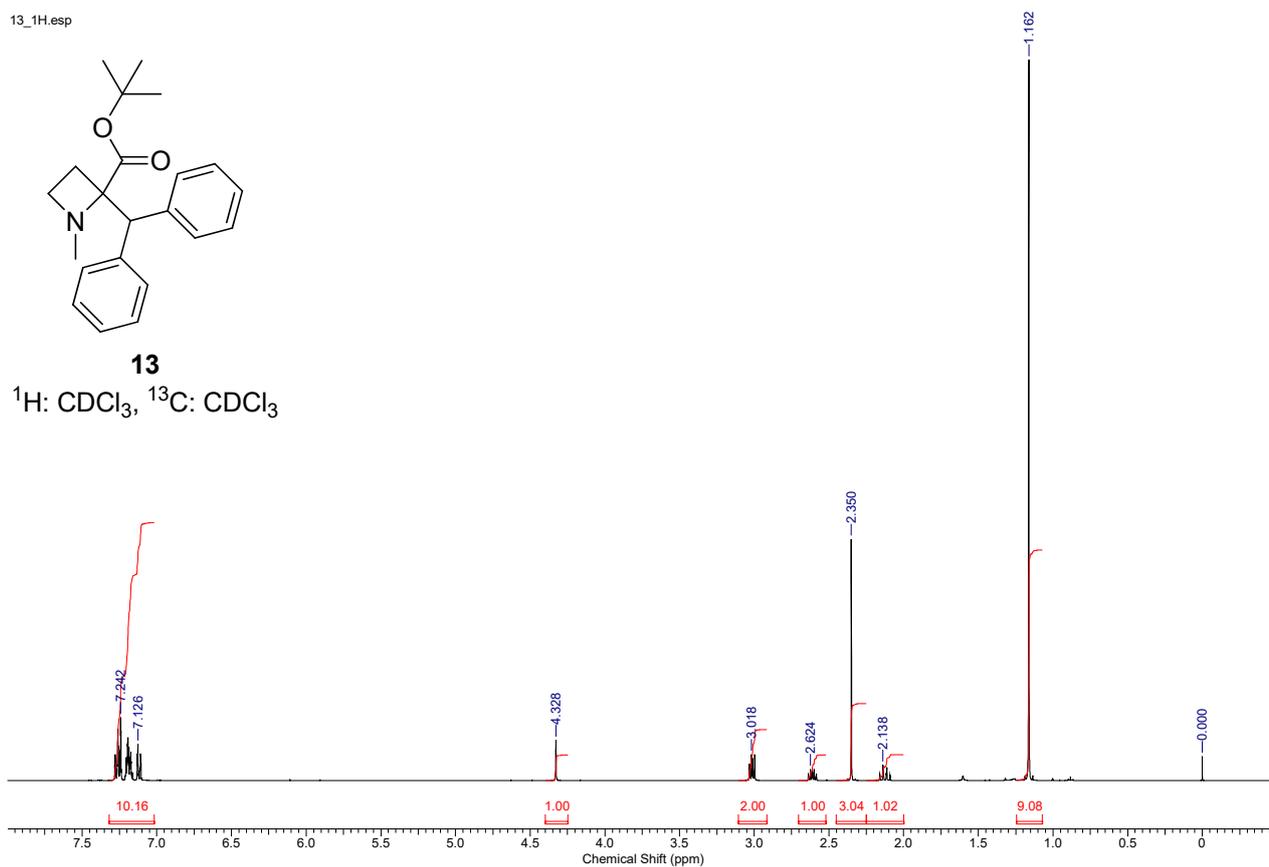


13\_1H.esp

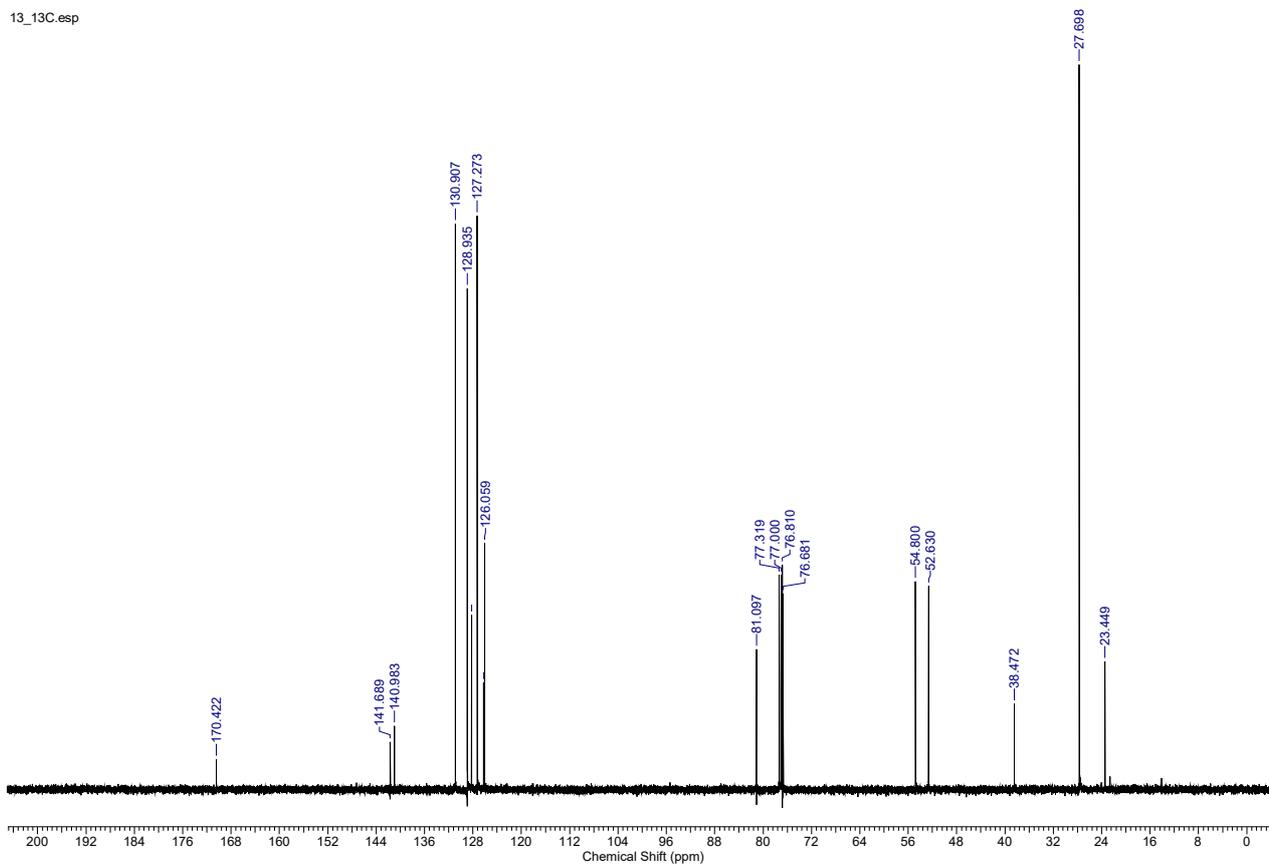


**13**

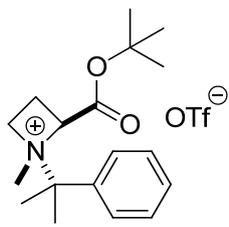
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



13\_13C.esp

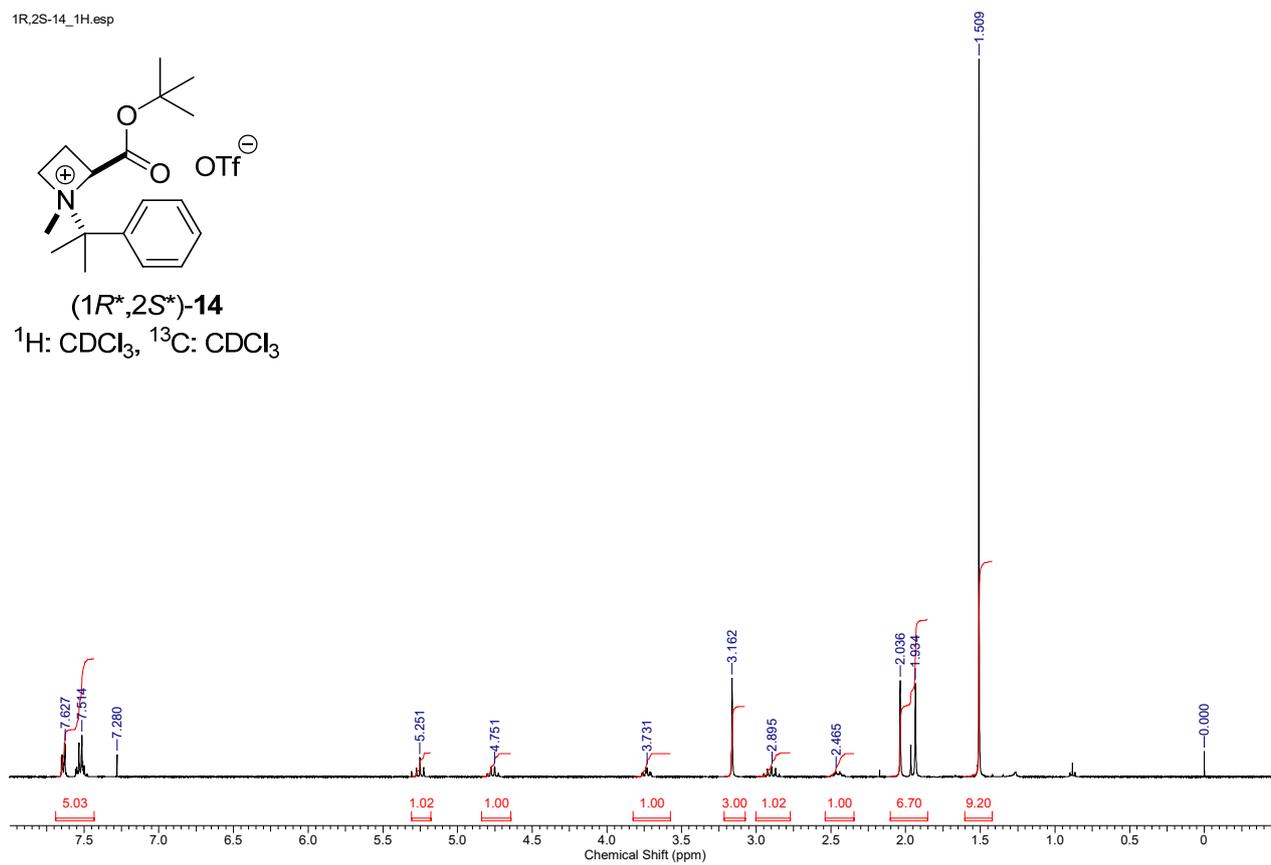


1R,2S-14\_1H.esp

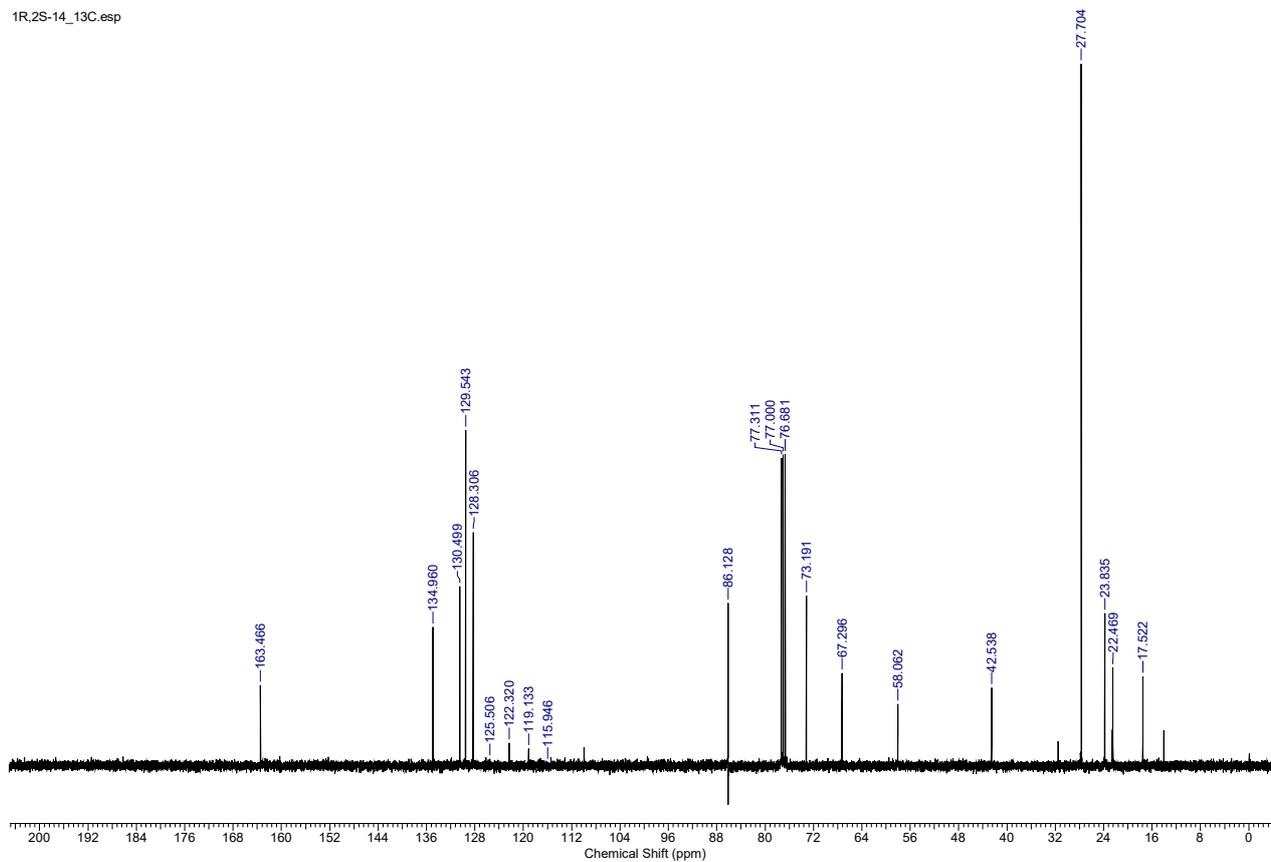


(1R\*,2S\*)-14

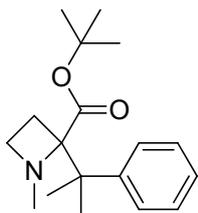
$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



1R,2S-14\_13C.esp

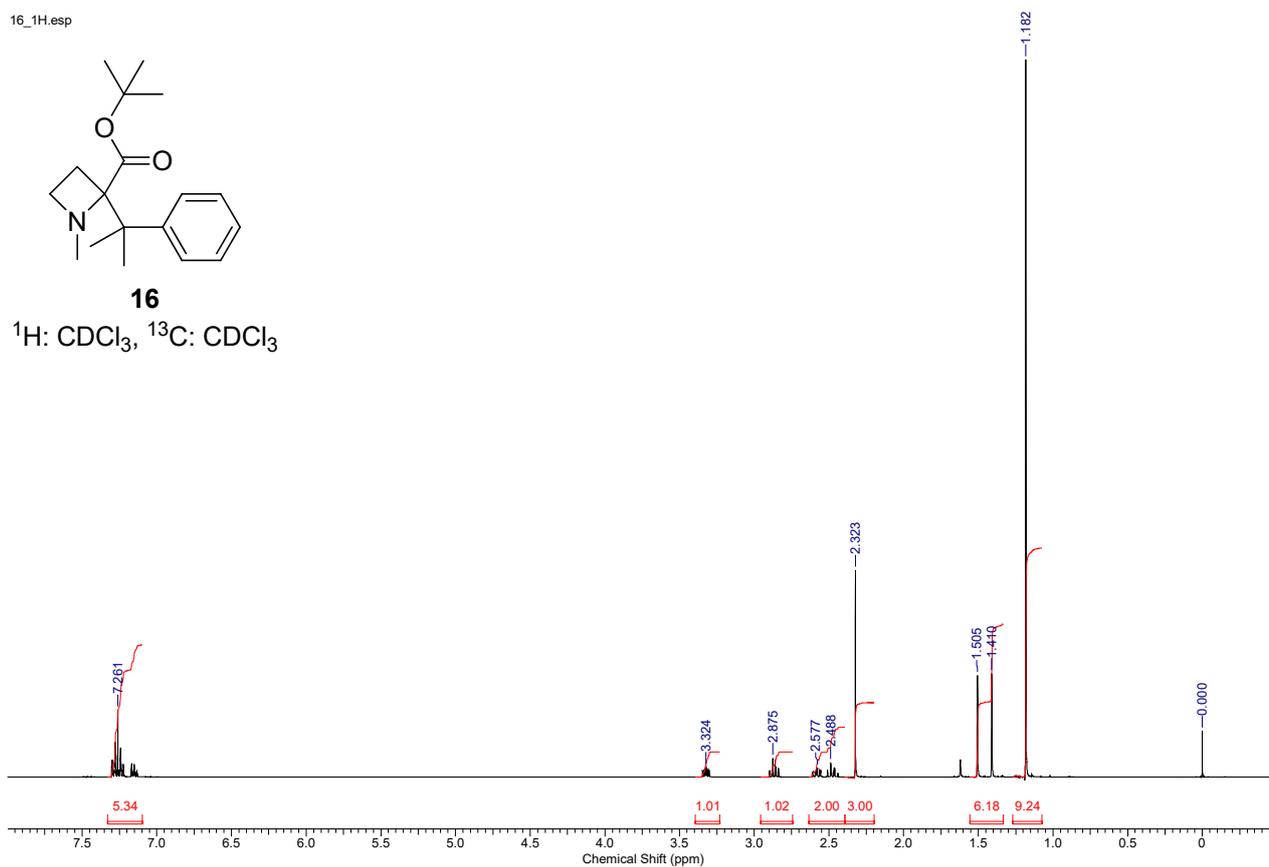


16\_1H.esp



**16**

$^1\text{H}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$



16\_13C.esp

