

Ring-expanded *N*-Heterocyclic Carbenes as Ligands in Iron-Catalysed Cross-Coupling Reactions of Arylmagnesium Reagents and Aryl Chlorides

Qiaoqiao Teng,^{†, §} Wenqin Wu,^{‡, §} Hung A. Duong,^{* ‡} Han Vinh Huynh^{* †}

[†] Department of Chemistry, National University of Singapore, 3 Science Drive 3, Singapore 117543, Singapore.
Email: chmhhv@nus.edu.sg.

[‡] Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences (ICES), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), 8, Biomedical Grove, Neuros, #07-01, Singapore 138665, Singapore. Email: duong_hung@ices.a-star.edu.sg.

Table of Contents

Experimental section	S2
Molecular structure of 7PrMes·HI, 7Mes·HBF ₄ , 7Ph·HI	S12
Selected X-ray crystallographic data	S13
Procedure for iron-catalyzed biaryl cross-coupling reaction	S14
NMR spectra	S19

Experimental Section

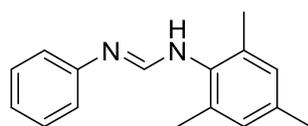
General Considerations. Unless otherwise noted, all operations were performed without taking precautions to exclude air and moisture, and all solvents and chemicals were used as received. All iron-catalyzed reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere with dry solvents under anhydrous conditions, unless otherwise noted. THF was dried over alumina under N₂ using a Grubbs-type solvent purification system. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded at 298 K on a Bruker ACF 300, DRX-400 and AMX 500 spectrometer, and the chemical shifts (δ) were internally referenced to the residual solvent signals relative to tetramethylsilane. ESI mass spectra were measured using a Finnigan MAT LCQ spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed on an ElementarVario Micro Cube elemental analyzer at the Department of Chemistry, National University of Singapore.

X-ray Diffraction Studies.

All single crystals were grown by slow evaporation of a saturated solution in dichloromethane and diethyl ether. CCDC 1584466–1584468 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. X-ray data were collected with a Bruker AXS SMART APEX diffractometer, using Mo- or Cu-K α radiation with the SMART suite of Programs.¹ Data were processed and corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects with SAINT,² and for absorption effect with SADABS.³ Structural solution and refinement were carried out with the SHELXTL suite of programs.⁴ The structure was solved by direct methods to locate the heavy atoms, followed by difference maps for the light, non-hydrogen atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were generally given anisotropic displacement parameters in the final

model. All H-atoms were put at calculated positions. A summary of the most important crystallographic data is given in Table S1.

The formamidines were synthesized following literature.⁵

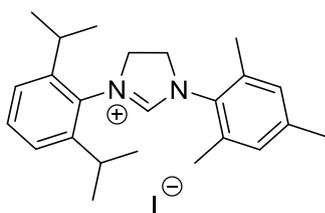


***N*-phenyl-*N'*-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)formamidine.** Acetic acid

(43 μ L, 0.05 mmol) was added to a round bottom flask charged with the aniline (15 mmol, 1.40 g) and triethyl orthoformate (3.75 mL, 22.5 mmol). The flask was fitted with a distillation head and was heated with stirring to 140 °C until ethanol (3.5 mL, 60 mmol) was collected by distillation. The resulting solution was cooled down to room temperature and subjected to vacuum distillation. The ethyl *N*-phenylformimidate (1.17 g, 7.81 mmol) was collected after the excess triethyl orthoformate and acetic acid was distilled out. Mesidine (1.10 g, 7.81 mmol) was then added to the reaction mixture and heated at 160 °C for 1 h and 170 °C 1h. Upon cooling to room temperature, the solution solidified. The mixture was triturated with cold hexanes and the product collected as a white solid. Yield: 1.72 g, 4.94 mmol, 33% (based on aniline). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (br-s, 1 H, NCHNH), 7.28 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 8 Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.05 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 8 Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 6.98 (br-s, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.91 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 5.30 (br-s, 1 H, NH), 2.29 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 2.22 (s, 6 H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.8 (br, CH), 143.7, 143.3, 133.9, 131.5, 130.0, 129.5, 123.1, 117.7 (Ar-C), 21.4 (CH₃), 19.1 (CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈N₂: C, 80.63; H, 7.61; N, 11.75. Found: C, 80.19; H, 7.49; N, 11.93. MS (ESI): *m/z* 239 [M + H]⁺.

General Procedure for the synthesis of the azolium bromide/iodide salts:⁶ A mixture of

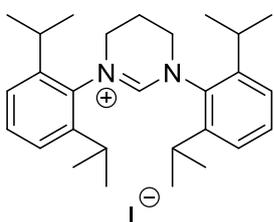
formamidine (5.00 mmol), K_2CO_3 (2.50 mmol), and 1.1 molar equiv. of the dibromoalkane in 30 mL of CH_3CN was heated under reflux and monitored by TLC. NaI (10.00 mmol) was added to reactions with low conversion and for the five membered ring salt, excess amount of dibromoethane (10 equiv.) was added to obtain better yield for the SIPrMes·HI. The solvent was removed by vacuum and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) was added. The resulting suspension was filtered through Celite and solvent was removed. Ethyl acetate (5 mL) was added to dissolve the residue, which upon stirring affords a suspension. The precipitate product was collected by filtration as white to yellowish solid. The tetrafluoroborate salts were synthesized by reacting the halide salts with 10 equiv. $NaBF_4$ in water.



SIPrMes·HI. Yield: 13%. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.14 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.50 (t, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.30 (d, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.03 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.64 (br-s, 4 H, NCH_2),

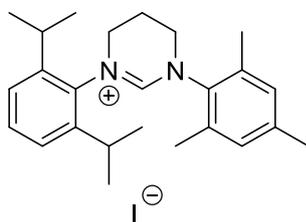
3.01 (m, $^3J(H,H) = 7$ Hz, 2 H, $CH(CH_3)_2$), 2.41 (s, 6 H, CH_3), 2.33 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.41 (d, $^3J(H,H) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $CH(CH_3)_2$), 1.29 (d, $^3J(H,H) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $CH(CH_3)_2$). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 159.2 (NCHN), 146.9, 142.0, 135.5, 132.5, 131.1, 130.2, 129.7, 125.9 (Ar-C), 55.3, 53.2 (NCH_2), 29.9 ($CH(CH_3)_2$), 26.0, 24.6 ($CH(CH_3)_2$), 21.9 (CH_3), 18.8 (CH_3).

No satisfactory elemental analysis result was obtained from multiple trials. MS (ESI): m/z 349 $[M - I]^+$.



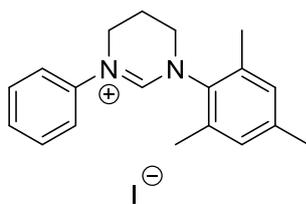
6Pr·HI. Yield: 65%. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.57 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.44 (t, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.26 (d, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz,

4 H, Ar-H), 4.20 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 4$ Hz, 4 H, NCH₂), 3.02 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 4 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.75 (br-s, 2 H, CH₂), 1.38 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 12 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.24 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 12 H, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.5 (NCHN), 146.1, 136.1, 131.8, 125.7 (Ar-C), 49.2 (NCH₂), 29.3 (CH(CH₃)₂), 25.4, 25.2 (CH(CH₃)₂), 19.8 (CH₂). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₈H₄₁IN₂: C, 63.15; H, 7.76; N, 5.26. Found: C, 63.14; H, 8.16; N, 5.69. MS (ESI): *m/z* 405 [M - I]⁺.



6PrMes·HI. Yield: 75%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.46 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.29 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.98 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.24 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 5$ Hz, 2 H,

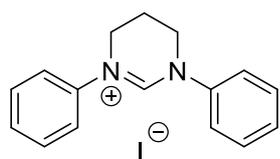
NCH₂), 4.18 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 5$ Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 3.03 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 2 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.70 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 2.36 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.80 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.38 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.23 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.9 (NCHN), 146.2, 141.3, 136.8, 136.3, 134.9, 131.9, 130.8, 125.7 (Ar-C), 49.1, 47.6 (NCH₂), 29.4 (CH(CH₃)₂), 25.5, 24.8 (CH(CH₃)₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 20.2 (CH₂), 18.5 (CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₅H₃₅IN₂: C, 61.22; H, 7.19; N, 5.71. Found: C, 61.61; H, 7.06; N, 5.89. MS (ESI): *m/z* 363 [M - I]⁺.



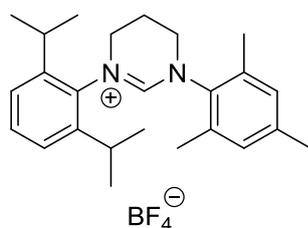
6MesPh·HI. Yield: 80%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.56 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.47 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.39 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 6.96 (s, 2 H,

Ar-H), 4.48 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6$ Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 4.02 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6$ Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 2.61 (m,

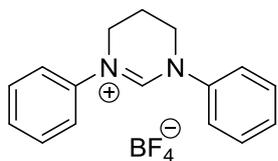
$^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H, CH_2), 2.38 (s, 6 H, CH_3), 2.28 (s, 3 H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0 (NCHN), 141.7, 141.2, 137.2, 135.2, 131.0, 130.9, 130.1, 124.0 (Ar-C), 48.1, 47.5 (NCH₂), 21.6 (CH_3), 20.3 (CH_2), 19.2 (CH_3). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{IN}_2$: C, 56.17; H, 6.71; N, 6.89. Found: C, 56.30; H, 5.42; N, 7.08. MS (ESI): m/z 279 $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$.



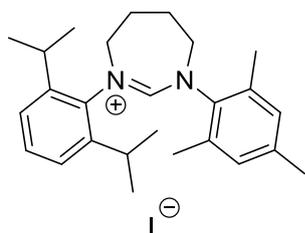
6Ph·HI. Yield: 51%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.06 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.46 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.65 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8 \text{ Hz}$, 4 H, Ar-H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 6 H, Ar-H), 4.21 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6 \text{ Hz}$, 4 H, NCH₂), 2.60 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H, CH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.2 (NCHN), 142.0, 130.7, 129.8, 124.3 (Ar-C), 47.8 (NCH₂), 20.0 (CH_2). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{IN}_2$: C, 52.76; H, 4.70; N, 7.69. Found: C, 52.86; H, 4.50; N, 7.56. MS (ESI): m/z 237 $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$.



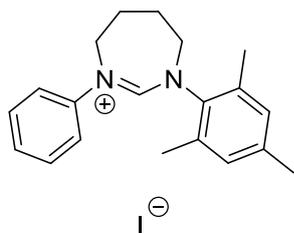
6PrMes·HBF₄. Yield: 68%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.53 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.46 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.28 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.98 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.00–3.96 (m, 4 H, NCH₂), 3.00 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.64 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H, CH_2), 2.33 (s, 6 H, CH_3), 2.30 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 1.38 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7 \text{ Hz}$, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.23 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7 \text{ Hz}$, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.3 (NCHN), 146.3, 141.4, 137.0, 136.5, 135.1, 131.9, 130.8, 125.8 (Ar-C), 49.0, 47.1 (NCH₂), 29.4 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.5, 24.6 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.6 (CH_3), 19.9 (CH_2), 17.8 (CH_3). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{35}\text{BF}_4\text{N}_2$: C, 66.67; H, 7.83; N, 6.22. Found: C, 66.57; H, 7.85; N, 6.17. MS (ESI): m/z 363 $[\text{M} - \text{BF}_4]^+$.



6Ph·HBF₄. Yield: 79%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.49–7.37 (m, 10 H, Ar–H), 4.02 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 6 Hz, 4 H, NCH₂), 2.48 (m, ³*J*(H,H) = 6 Hz, 2 H, CH₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.2 (NCHN), 142.3, 130.9, 129.9, 124.1 (Ar–C), 47.3 (NCH₂), 20.0 (CH₂). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇BF₄N₂: C, 59.29; H, 5.29; N, 8.64. Found: C, 59.42; H, 5.14; N, 8.57. MS (ESI): *m/z* 237 [M – BF₄]⁺.

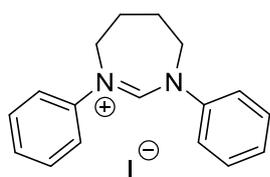


7PrMes·HI. Yield: 93%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.41 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 8 Hz, 1 H, Ar–H), 7.26–7.24 (m, 3 H, NCHN and Ar–H), 6.95 (s, 2 H, Ar–H), 4.58–4.51 (m, 4 H, NCH₂), 3.18 (m, ³*J*(H,H) = 7 Hz, 2 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.61 (br-s, 4 H, CH₂), 2.41 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.27 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.39 (d, ³*J*(H,H) = 7 Hz, 6 H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.23 (d, ³*J*(H,H) = 7 Hz, 6 H, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.2 (NCHN), 145.5, 141.1, 140.0, 139.5, 134.3, 131.7, 131.0, 126.0 (Ar–C), 57.2, 55.9 (NCH₂), 29.5 (CH(CH₃)₂), 26.3, 25.6, 25.5, 24.9 (CH(CH₃)₂ and CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 18.8 (CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₆H₃₇I N₂: C, 61.90; H, 7.39; N, 5.55. Found: C, 61.78; H, 7.13; N, 5.69. MS (ESI): *m/z* 377 [M – I]⁺.

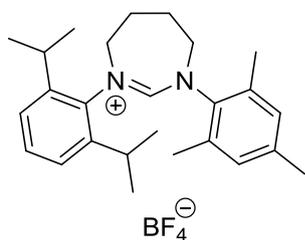


7MesPh·HI. Yield: 95%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57 (d, ³*J*(H,H) = 7 Hz, 2 H, Ar–H), 7.48 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.47–7.39 (m, 3 H, Ar–H), 6.93 (s, 2 H, Ar–H), 4.77 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 5 Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 4.44 (t, ³*J*(H,H) = 5 Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 2.47–2.44 (m, 10 H, CH₂ and CH₃), 2.25 (s, 3 H, CH₃).

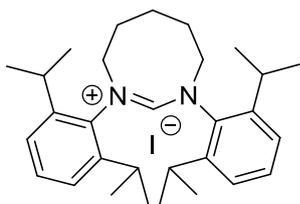
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.7 (NCHN), 143.9, 140.8, 140.2, 134.5, 131.0, 130.9, 130.3, 125.4 (Ar-C), 56.5, 55.6 (NCH₂), 26.0, 25.9 (CH₂), 21.5 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{IN}_2$: C, 57.15; H, 6.00; N, 6.66. Found: C, 57.25; H, 5.72; N, 7.04. MS (ESI): m/z 293 $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$.



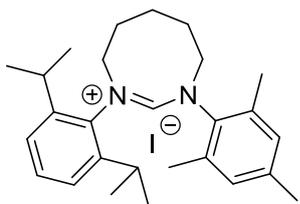
7Ph·HI. Yield: 66%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73–7.72 (m, 5 H, NCHN and Ar-H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 6 H, Ar-H), 4.58 (br-s, 4 H, NCH₂), 2.44 (br-s, 4 H, CH₂). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.2 (NCHN), 144.5, 130.8, 130.1, 125.6 (Ar-C), 56.4 (NCH₂), 25.8 (CH₂). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{IN}_2$: C, 53.98; H, 5.06; N, 7.41. Found: C, 53.94; H, 5.19; N, 7.38. MS (ESI): m/z 251 $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$.



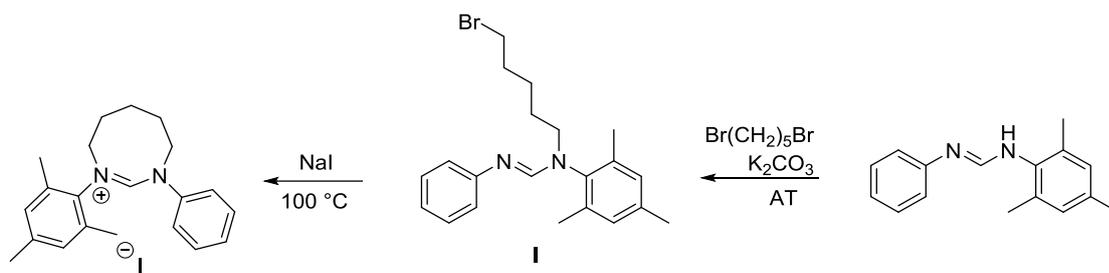
7PrMes·HBF₄. Yield: 89%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.44 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 3 H, NCHN and Ar-H), 6.98 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.32 (br-s, 4 H, NCH₂), 3.17 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 2 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.56 (br-s, 4 H, CH₂), 2.39 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.29 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 1.41 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.25 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.5 (NCHN), 145.5, 141.2, 140.0, 139.6, 134.3, 131.7, 131.0, 126.0 (Ar-C), 56.9, 55.5 (NCH₂), 29.5 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 26.1, 25.6, 25.4, 24.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ and CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 18.2 (CH₃). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{37}\text{BF}_4\text{N}_2$: C, 67.25; H, 8.03; N, 6.03. Found: C, 67.43; H, 8.76; N, 6.06. MS (ESI): m/z 377 $[\text{M} - \text{BF}_4]^+$.



8Pr·HI. Yield: 56%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.49 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.37 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.21 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 4 H, Ar-H), 4.77 (br-s, 4 H, NCH_2), 3.22 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 4 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.26 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6$ Hz, 4 H, CH_2), 2.12 (br-s, 2 H, CH_2), 1.34 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 12 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.21 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 12 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.5 (NCHN), 145.2, 141.4, 131.3, 126.1 (Ar-C), 55.8 (NCH_2), 29.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 28.2 (CH_2), 25.7, 25.4 (CH_3), 22.0 (CH_2). No satisfactory elemental analysis result was obtained from multiple trials. MS (ESI): m/z 433 [$\text{M} - \text{I}$] $^+$.



8PrMes·HI. Yield: 11%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.37 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 1 H, Ar-H), 7.21 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 6.91 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 4.73 (br-s, 4 H, NCH_2), 3.24 (m, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 2 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.37 (s, 6 H, CH_3), 2.26 (br-s, 4 H, CH_2), 2.23 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 2.14 (br-s, 2 H, CH_2), 1.34 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.18 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7$ Hz, 6 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.0 (NCHN), 145.1, 142.2, 141.6, 140.8, 134.1, 131.3, 131.0, 126.1 (Ar-C), 55.4, 54.8 (NCH_2), 29.2 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 28.7, 28.2 (CH_2), 25.5, 24.7 (CH_3), 21.7 (CH_2), 21.4 (CH_3), 19.1 (CH_3). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{39}\text{IN}_2$: C, 62.54; H, 7.58; N, 5.40. Found: C, 62.86; H, 7.13; N, 5.64. MS (ESI): m/z 391 [$\text{M} - \text{I}$] $^+$.

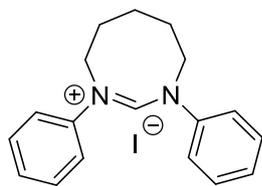


This

salt was synthesized via a modified protocol. *N*-phenyl-*N'*-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)formamidinium (500 mg, 2.10 mmol), K_2CO_3 (290 mg, 2.10 mmol) and 1,5-dibromopentane (376 μ L, 2.76 mmol) were suspended in CH_3CN and stirred at 60 $^\circ C$ for two days before the solvent was removed in vacuum. CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added to the residue and the suspension was filtered through Celite. The collected solution was concentrated to 2 mL and subjected to column chromatography (SiO_2 , hexane/ethyl acetate, 50:1, Rf: 0.42, hexane/ethyl acetate, 4:1) to afford the product **I** as a colorless oil (246 mg, 0.64 mmol, 30%). 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.54 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.29 (t, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, Ar-H), 7.05–7.04 (m, 3 H, Ar-H), 6.98 (s, 2 H, Ar-H), 3.77 (t, $^3J(H,H) = 8$ Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 3.43 (t, $^3J(H,H) = 7$ Hz, 2 H, BrCH₂), 2.35 (s, 3 H, CH₃), 2.29 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 1.96–1.90 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.75–1.68 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.55–1.48 (m, 2 H, CH₂). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 153.3 (NCHN), 152.3, 139.7, 138.0, 137.2, 130.1, 129.6, 123.3, 121.9 (Ar-C), 48.7 (NCH₂), 34.2 (BrCH₂), 33.1, 27.1, 26.5, 21.5, 19.1 (CH₂ and CH₃). MS (ESI): m/z 389 [M + H]⁺.

8MesPh·HI. Compound **I** (200 mg, 0.52 mmol) was dissolved in CH_3CN (8 mL) in a sealed tube before NaI (233 mg, 1.55 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated at 100 $^\circ C$ overnight before the solvent was removed in vacuum. CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added to the residue and the suspension was filtered through Celite. The collected solution was concentrated to 2 mL and dropwise added to diethyl ether (50 mL). Upon stirring, the product

precipitates as a red sticky solid (68 mg, 0.16 mmol, 30%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.57–7.45 (m, 5 H, Ar–H), 7.00 (s, 2 H, Ar–H), 4.75 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 6$ Hz, 2 H, NCH₂), 4.45 (br-s, 2 H, NCH₂), 2.46 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.30–2.22 (m, 7 H, CH₂ and CH₃), 2.13–2.09 (m, 2 H, CH₂). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.6 (NCHN), 144.4, 142.1, 141.0, 134.0, 131.5, 131.3, 130.8, 125.8 (Ar–C), 54.8, 54.6 (NCH₂), 29.3, 28.4 (CH₂), 21.6, 21.4 (CH₃ and CH₂), 19.9 (CH₃). No satisfactory elemental analysis result was obtained from multiple trials. MS (ESI): m/z 307 [M – I]⁺.



8Ph·HI. Yield: 13%. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91 (s, 1 H, NCHN), 7.59 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 8$ Hz, 4 H, Ar–H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 6 H, Ar–H), 4.73 (br-s, 4 H, NCH₂), 2.19 (br-s, 4 H, CH₂), 2.01 (br-s, 2 H, CH₂). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 156.7 (NCHN), 146.0, 131.1, 130.3, 125.6 (Ar–C), 56.6 (NCH₂), 28.8 (CH₂), 21.2 (CH₂). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{IN}_2$: C, 55.11; H, 5.40; N, 7.14. Found: C, 55.53; H, 5.51; N, 7.06. MS (ESI): m/z 265 [M – I]⁺.

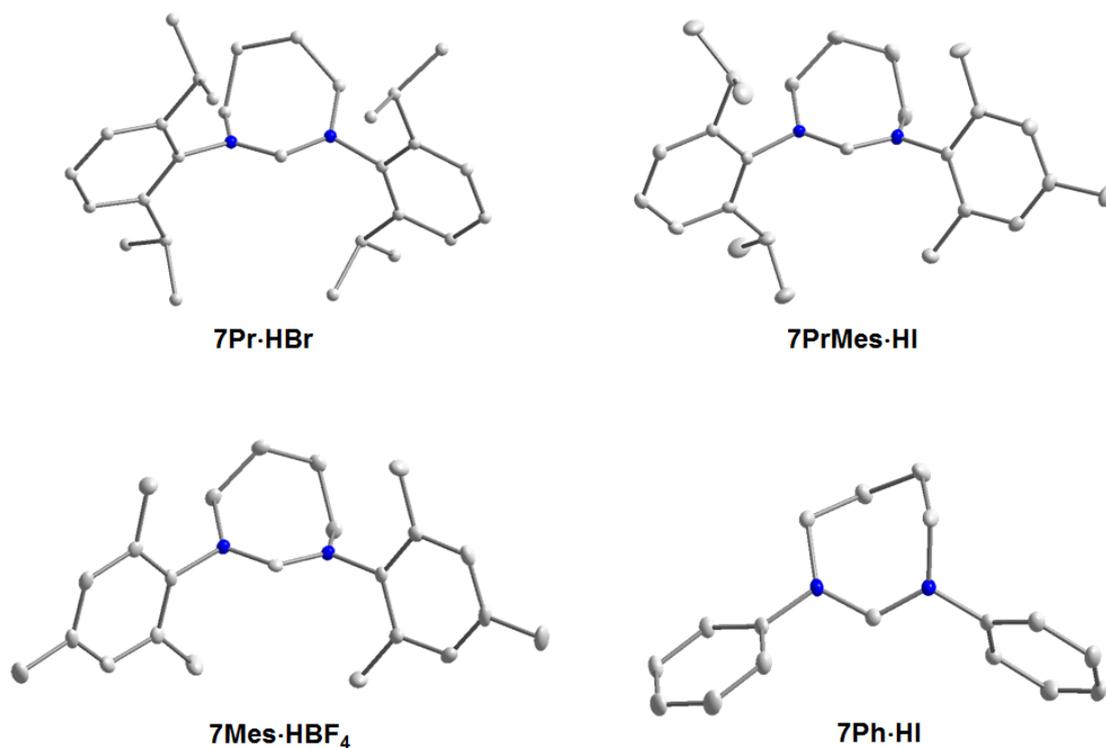


Figure S1. Molecular structures of **7Pr-HBr**,⁷ **7PrMes-HI**, **7Mes-HBF₄** and **7Ph-HI**. Anions, hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules have been omitted for clarity. NCHN/Aryl dihedral angle, **7Pr-HBF₄**: 87°, 81°; **7PrMes-HI**: 87° (Dipp), 72° (Mes); **7Mes-HBF₄**: 83°, 75°; **7Ph-HI**: 60°, 58°.

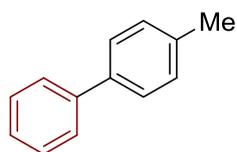
Table S1. Selected X-ray crystallographic data for the NHC·HX salts.

	7PrMes·HI	7Mes·HBF₄	7Ph·HI·0.5H₂O
formula	C ₂₆ H ₃₇ IN ₂	C ₂₃ H ₃₁ BF ₄ N ₂	C ₁₇ H ₂₀ IN ₂ O _{0.5}
fw	504.47	422.31	387.25
color, habit	colourless, prism frag	colourless, block	colourless, block
cryst size [mm]	0.23×0.41×0.46	0.34×0.21×0.19	0.33×0.26×0.19
temp [K]	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
crystalsyst	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	<i>P</i> 12(1)/n1	<i>P</i> 21/ <i>c</i>	<i>C</i> 2
<i>a</i> [Å]	9.4821(7)	15.5061(6)	17.5096(8)
<i>b</i> [Å]	14.8496(8)	15.3089(8)	10.5339(5)
<i>c</i> [Å]	17.7290(12)	9.2595(4)	11.1338(6)
α [deg]	90.00	90.00	90.00
β [deg]	100.901(2)	90.915(2)	126.3150(10)
γ [deg]	90.00	90.00	90.00
<i>V</i> [Å ³]	2451.3(3)	2197.75(17)	1654.71(14)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	4
<i>D_c</i> [g cm ⁻³]	1.367	1.276	1.554
radiation used	Mo K α	Mo K α	Mo K α
μ [mm ⁻¹]	1.320	0.097	1.932
θ range [deg]	2.34–29.57	2.57–28.28	2.66–28.28
no. of unique data	37662	26959	47242
max., min. transmn	0.7550, 0.5800	0.7459, 0.6669	0.7466, 0.6848
final <i>R</i> indices	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0222,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0556,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0111,
[<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.0611	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.1259	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.0274
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0239,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0829,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0113,
	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.0621	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.1375	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.0274
goodness-of-fit	1.060	1.064	1.119
peak/hole [e Å ⁻³]	1.366/–0.839	0.351/–0.281	0.293/–0.375

General Procedure for Iron-catalyzed Biaryl Cross-coupling Reaction of Aryl Chlorides:

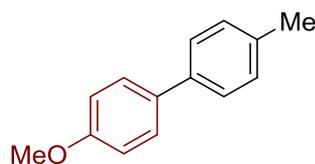
In a glovebox, Fe(OTf)₂ (5.3 mg, 0.015 mmol, 3 mol%), 7MesBr (18.7 mg, 0.045 mmol, 9 mol%) and NaOtBu (4.3 mg, 0.045 mmol, 9 mol%) in THF (0.5 mL) were charged to a dried reaction tube. The mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 1 h before a solution of aryl chloride (0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq) and Grignard reagent (0.6 mmol, 1.2 eq) was added. The tube was sealed, taken out of the glovebox and stirred at 60 °C for 16h. The reaction progress was monitored by GC using dodecane as the internal standard. Once completed, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ several times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, concentrated in vacuo and the resulting crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography.

4-Methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3a**)⁸



3a was prepared from chlorobenzene (56 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as white solid (79 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.3, 138.5, 137.1, 129.6, 128.8, 127.1, 127.1, 126.9, 21.2.

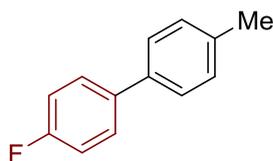
4-Methoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3b**)³



3b was prepared from 1-chloro-4-methoxybenzene (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (5% Et₂O/petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as a white solid (98 mg, 99%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 138.1, 136.4, 133.9, 129.5, 128.0, 126.7, 114.3, 55.4, 21.1.

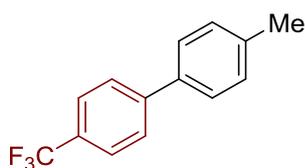
4-Fluoro-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3c**)³



3c was prepared from 1-chloro-4-fluorobenzene (65 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as white solid (77 mg, 83%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.4 (d, J = 246.4 Hz), 137.5, 137.4 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 137.1, 129.6, 128.5 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 126.9, 115.6 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 21.1.

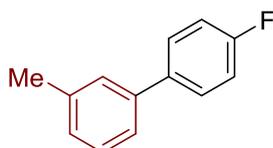
4-Methyl-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**3d**)⁹



3d was prepared from 1-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (90 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.87 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.69 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as a white solid (73 mg, 62%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 7.78 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 7.61 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 145.0, 138.8, 137.0, 130.1, 129.1 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 127.5, 127.4, 126.0 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 124.9 (d, J = 272.7 Hz), 21.3.

4'-Fluoro-3-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3e**)¹⁰

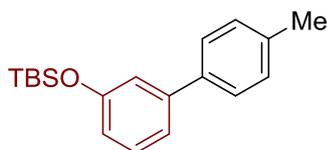


3e was prepared from 3-chlorotoluene (63 mg, 0.5 mmol) and (4-fluorophenyl)magnesium bromide (0.79 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.76 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash

column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as a white solid (90 mg, 96%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.34 (td, $J = 7.0, 6.1, 2.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.21 – 7.04 (m, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ^{13}C { ^1H } NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.5 (d, $J = 247.5$ Hz), 140.3, 138.5, 137.6 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 128.8, 128.7 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 128.1, 127.9, 124.2, 115.6 (d, $J = 22.2$ Hz), 21.6.

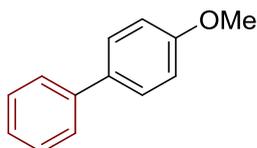
tert-Butyldimethyl((4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)oxy)silane (**3f**)²



3f was prepared from *tert*-butyl(3-chlorophenoxy)dimethylsilane (121 mg, 0.5 mmol), *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as colourless oil (119 mg, 80%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.16 (ddd, $J = 7.7, 1.8, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.78 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 9H), 0.23 (s, 6H). ^{13}C { ^1H } NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.1, 142.7, 138.3, 137.2, 129.7, 129.5, 127.0, 120.1, 118.8, 118.7, 25.8, 21.2, 18.3, -4.2.

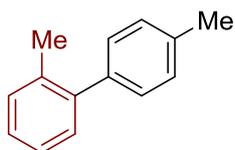
4-Methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**3g**)³



3g was prepared from chlorobenzene (56 mg, 0.5 mmol) and (4-methoxyphenyl)magnesium bromide (1.45 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.41 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (20% CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as white solid (83 mg, 90%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (td, $J = 8.8, 8.1, 1.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.02 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ^{13}C { ^1H } NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.3, 141.0, 133.9, 128.8, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 114.3, 55.4.

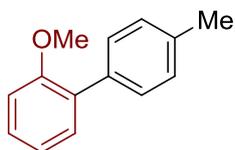
2,4'-Dimethyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3h**)²



3h was prepared from 1-chloro-2-methylbenzene (63 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as colourless oil (88 mg, 97%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 8H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 142.0, 139.2, 136.4, 135.5, 130.4, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 127.1, 125.8, 21.2, 20.6.

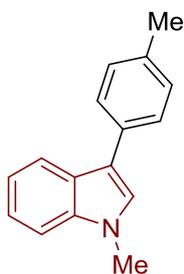
2-Methoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**3i**)⁸



3i was prepared from 2-chloroanisole (71 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (10% CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as white solid (88 mg, 88%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.06–6.96 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.6, 136.6, 135.7, 130.9, 130.8, 129.5, 128.8, 128.4, 120.9, 111.3, 55.6, 21.3.

1-Methyl-3-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-indole (**3j**)¹¹

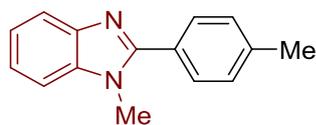


3j was prepared from 3-chloro-1-methyl-1*H*-indole (83 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF), $\text{Fe}(\text{OTf})_2$ (9 mg, 0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), 7MesBr (31 mg, 0.075 mmol, 15 mol%), NaOtBu (7 mg, 0.075 mmol, 15 mol%) and 0.5 mL THF. The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (5% dichloromethane/petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as colourless oil (91 mg,

82%).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 3.84 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.5, 135.3, 132.8, 129.5, 127.3, 126.3, 122.0, 120.0, 119.8, 116.8, 109.5, 32.8, 21.2.

1-Methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole 12 (**3k**)

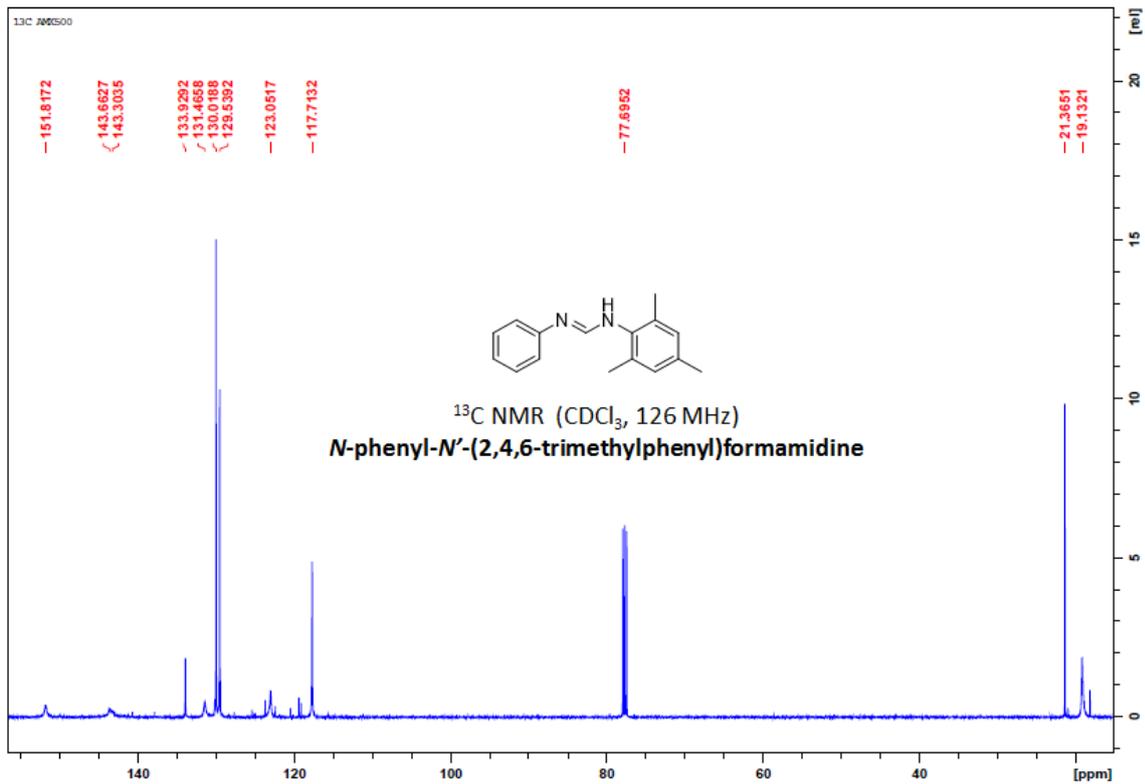
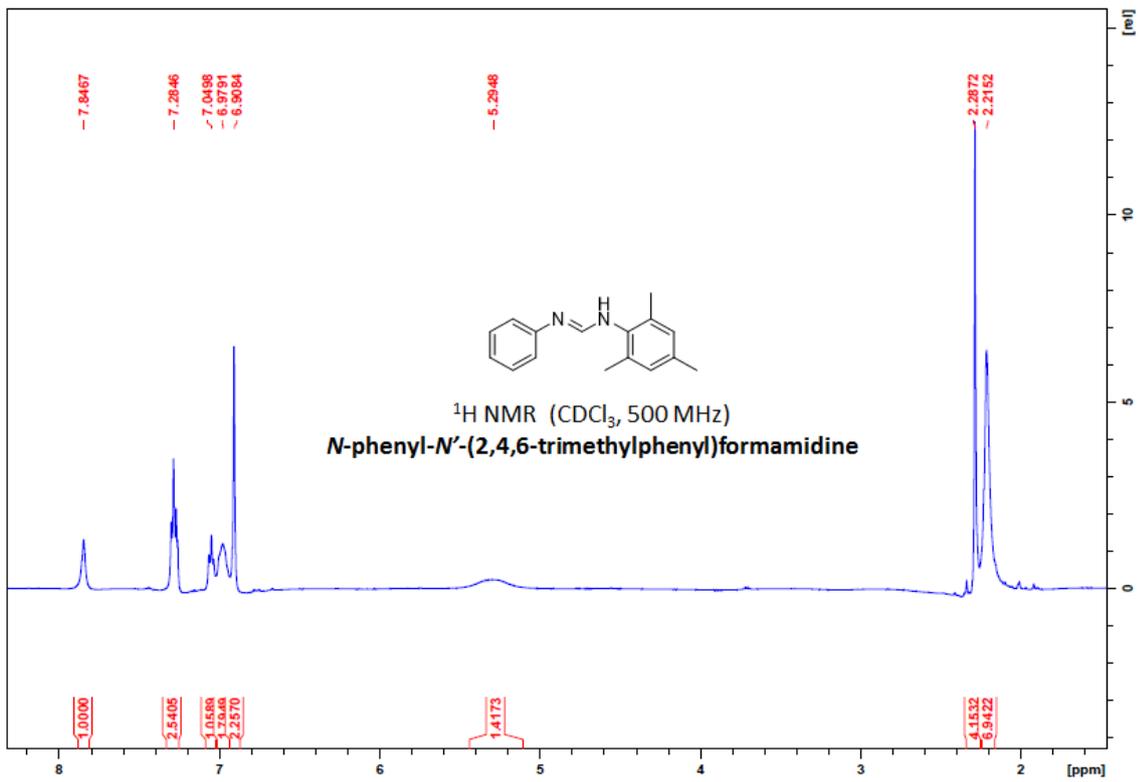


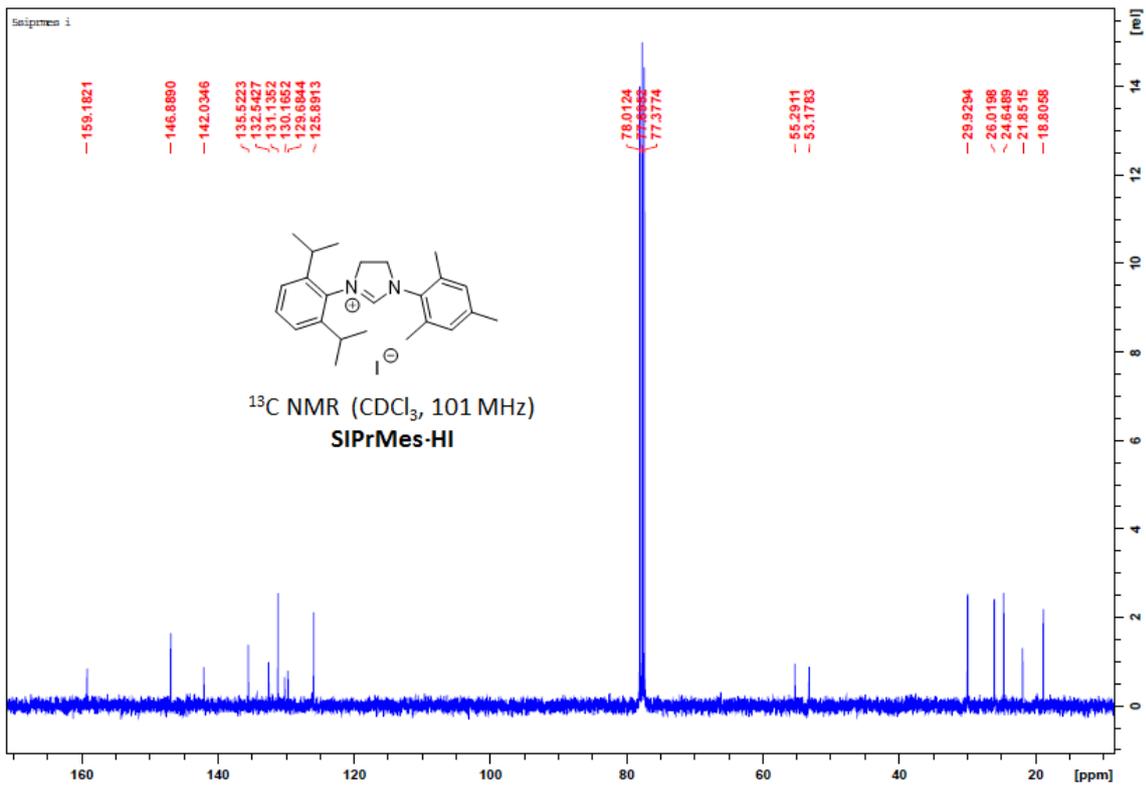
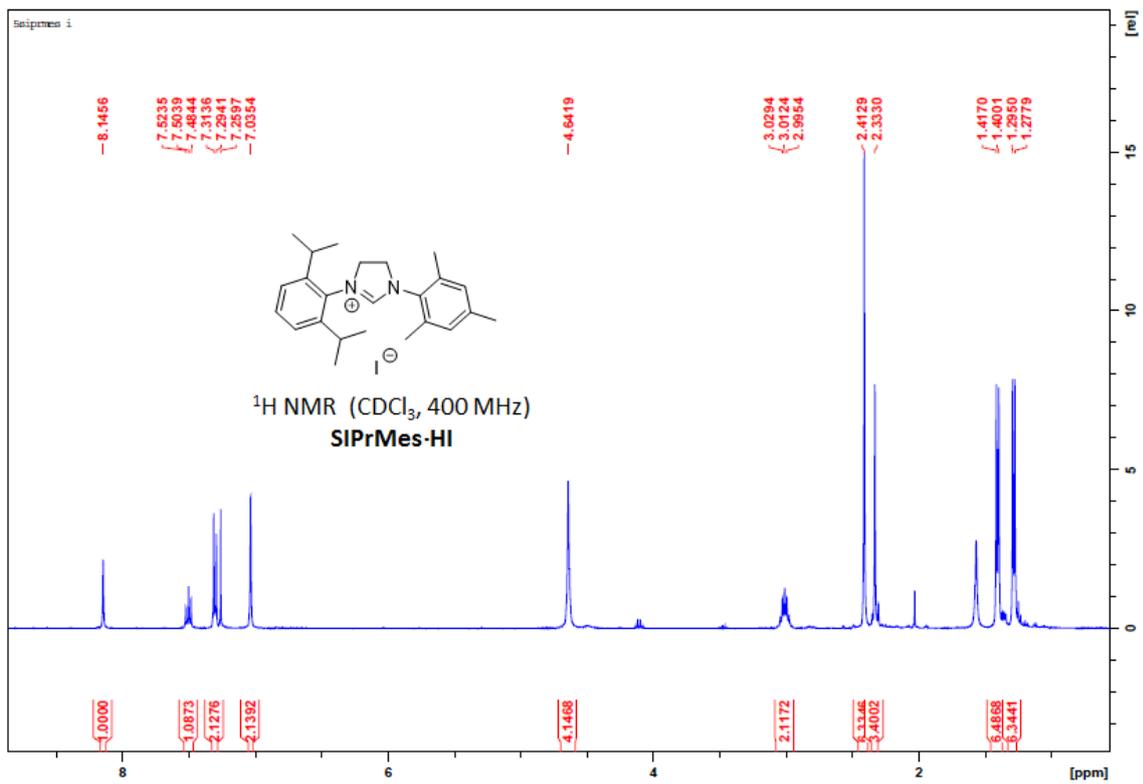
3k was prepared from 2-chloro-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (83.3 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *p*-tolylmagnesium bromide (0.86 mL, 0.6 mmol, 0.70 M in THF). The crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (16% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to afford the desired product as white solid (79 mg, 71%).

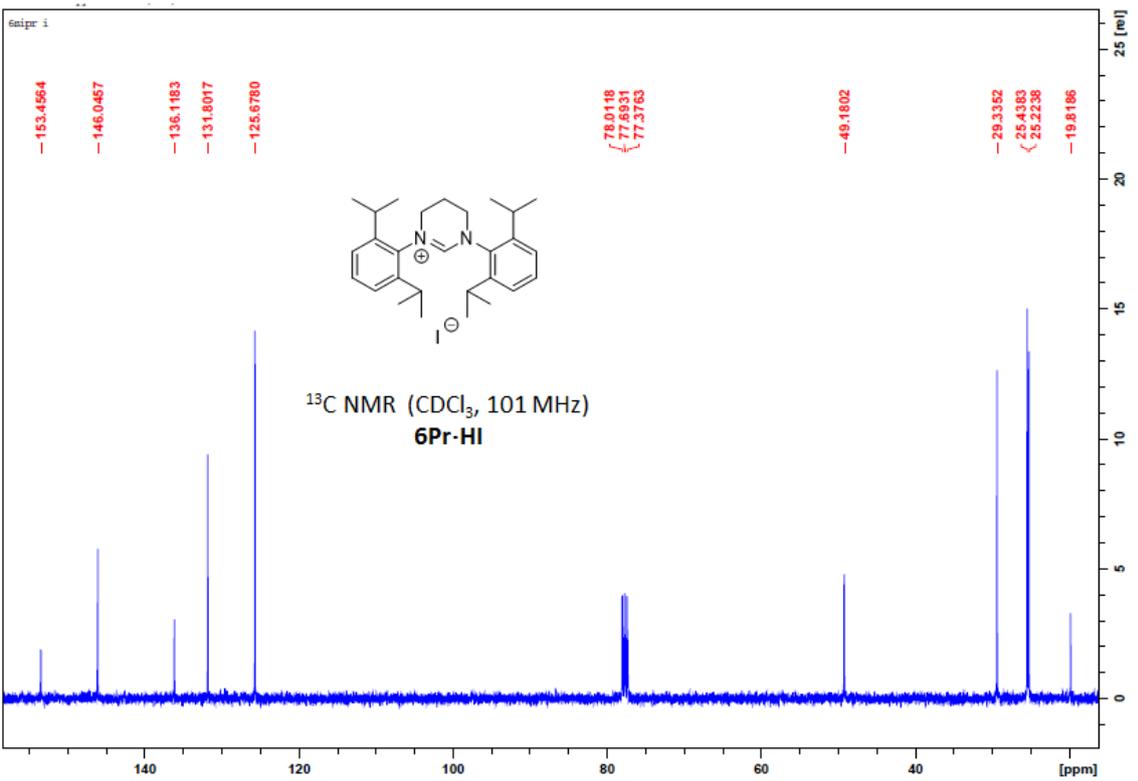
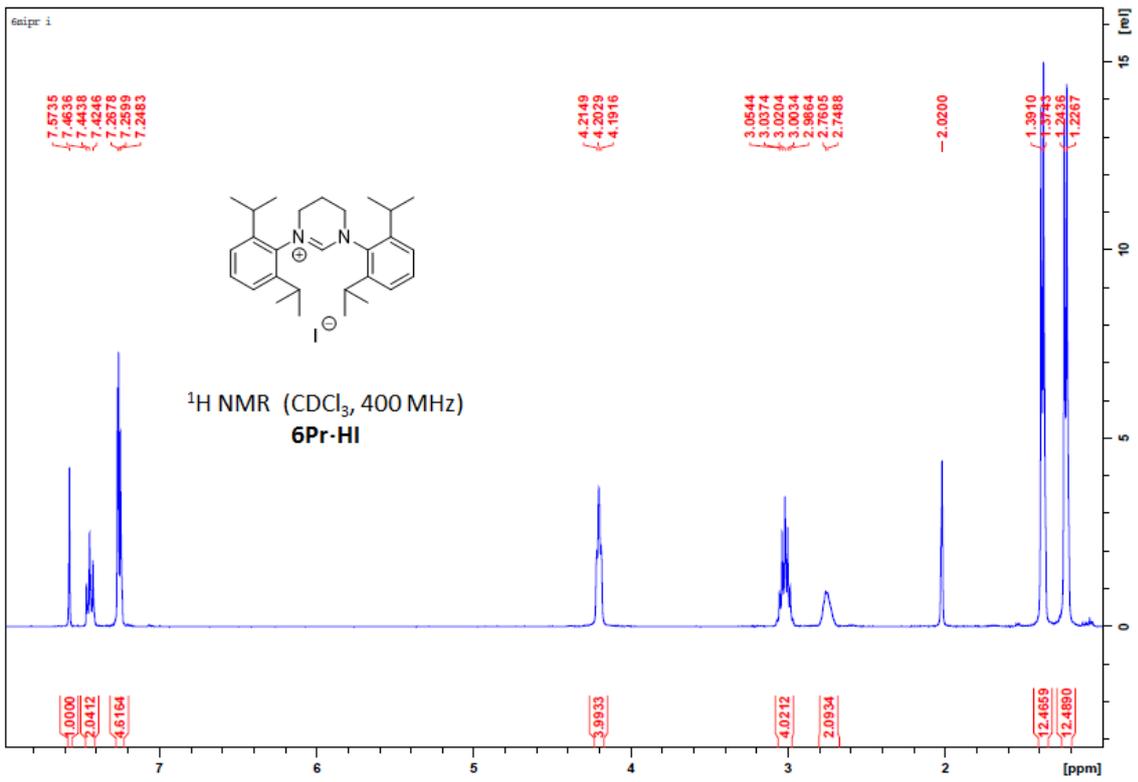
^1H NMR (400 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$) δ 7.80 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 3.92 (t, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$) δ 154.4, 144.1, 140.4, 137.9, 130.2, 130.0, 128.8, 123.1, 122.7, 120.1, 110.9, 32.1, 21.4.

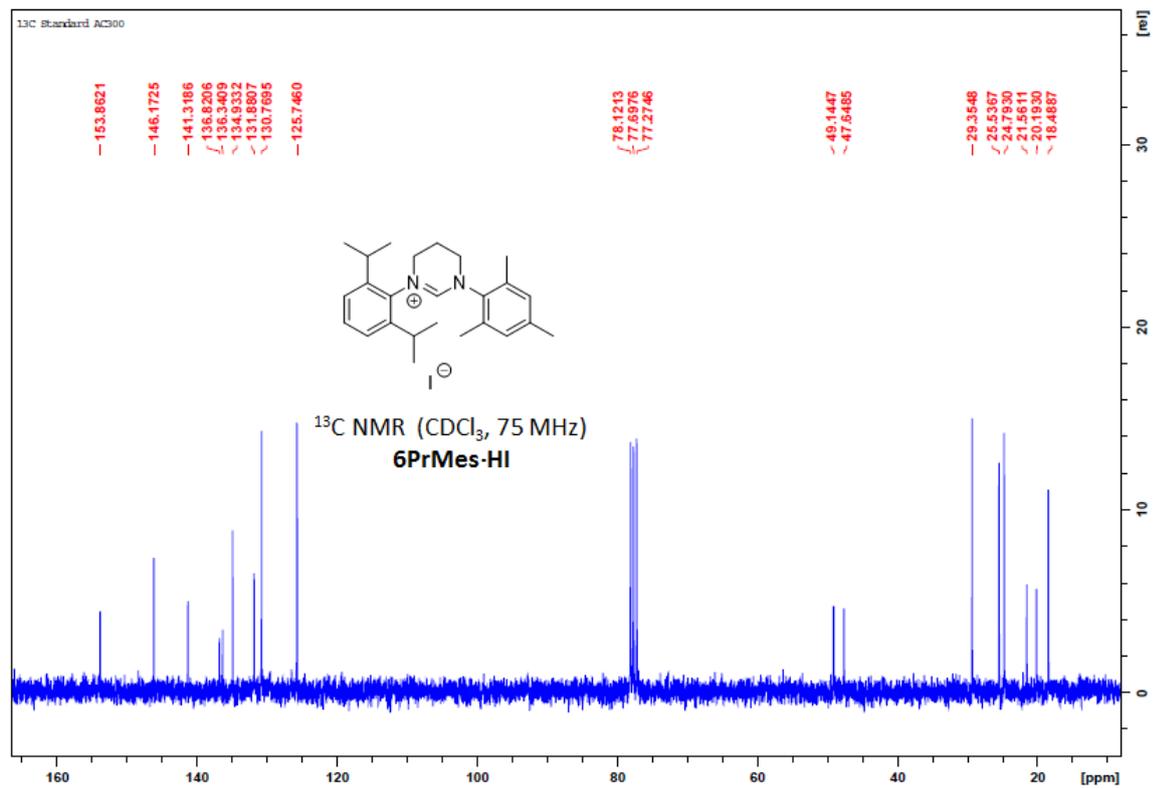
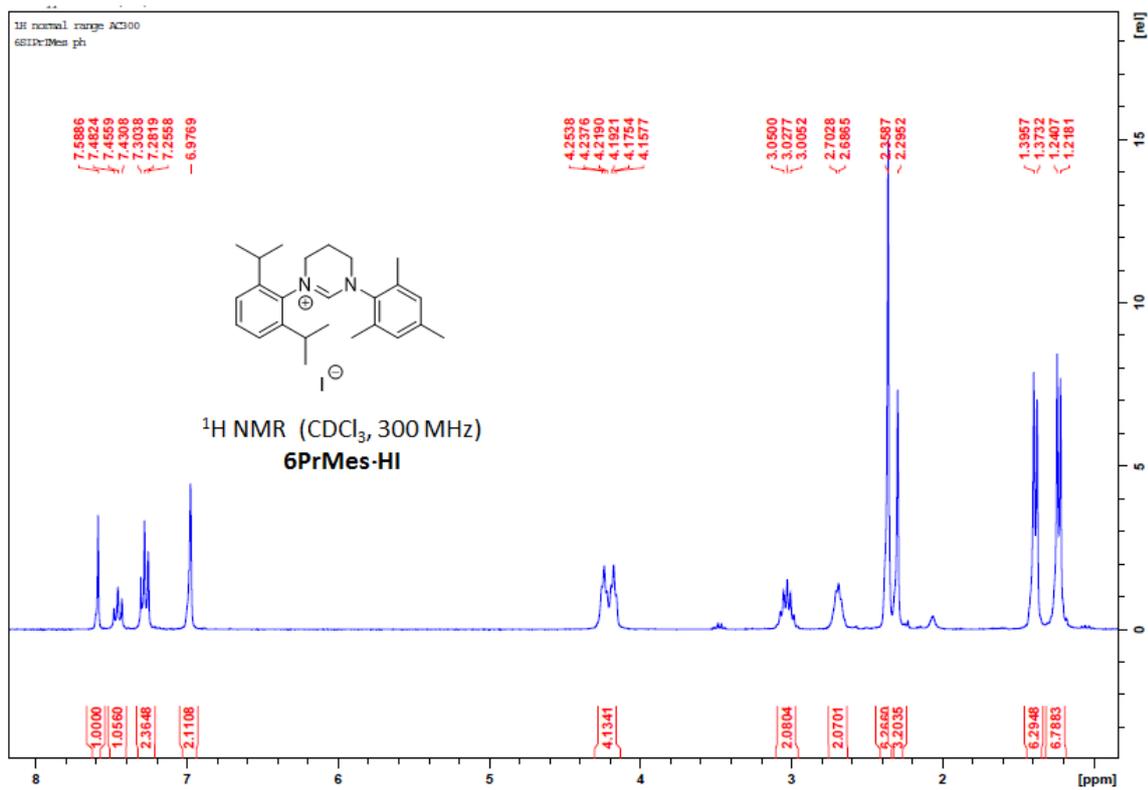
Table S2. Influence of NHCs' substituents and ring size on the formation of 3j (Table 2).

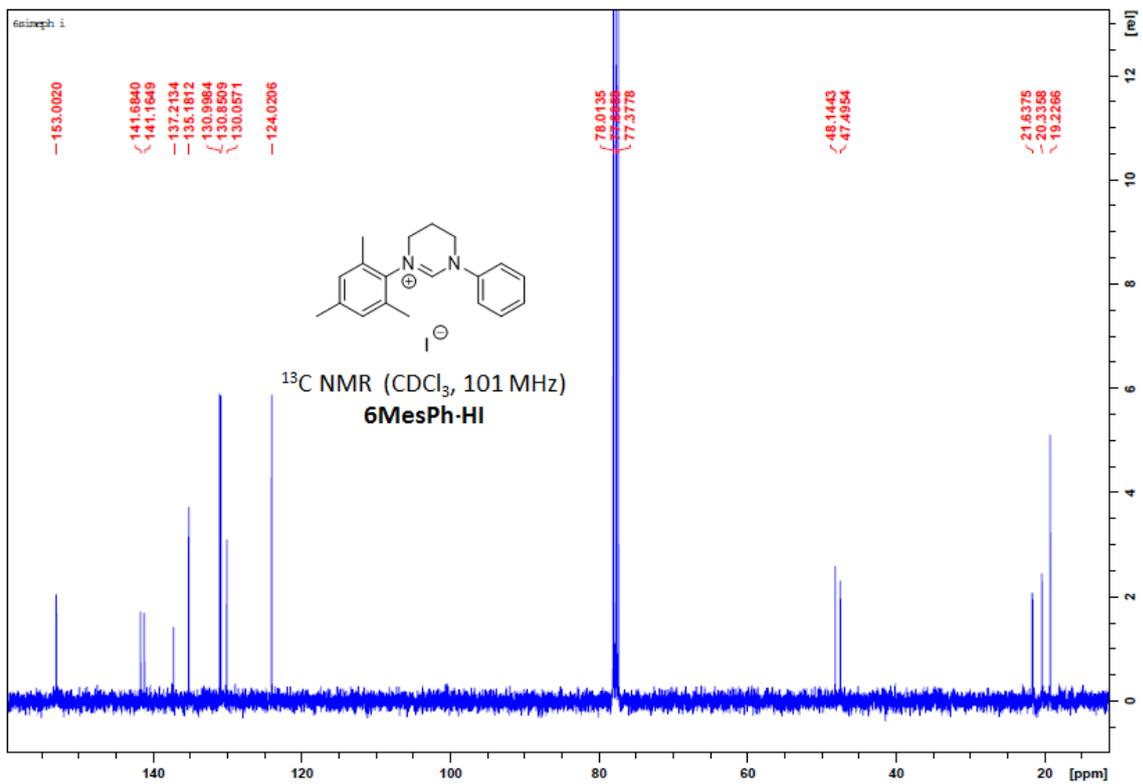
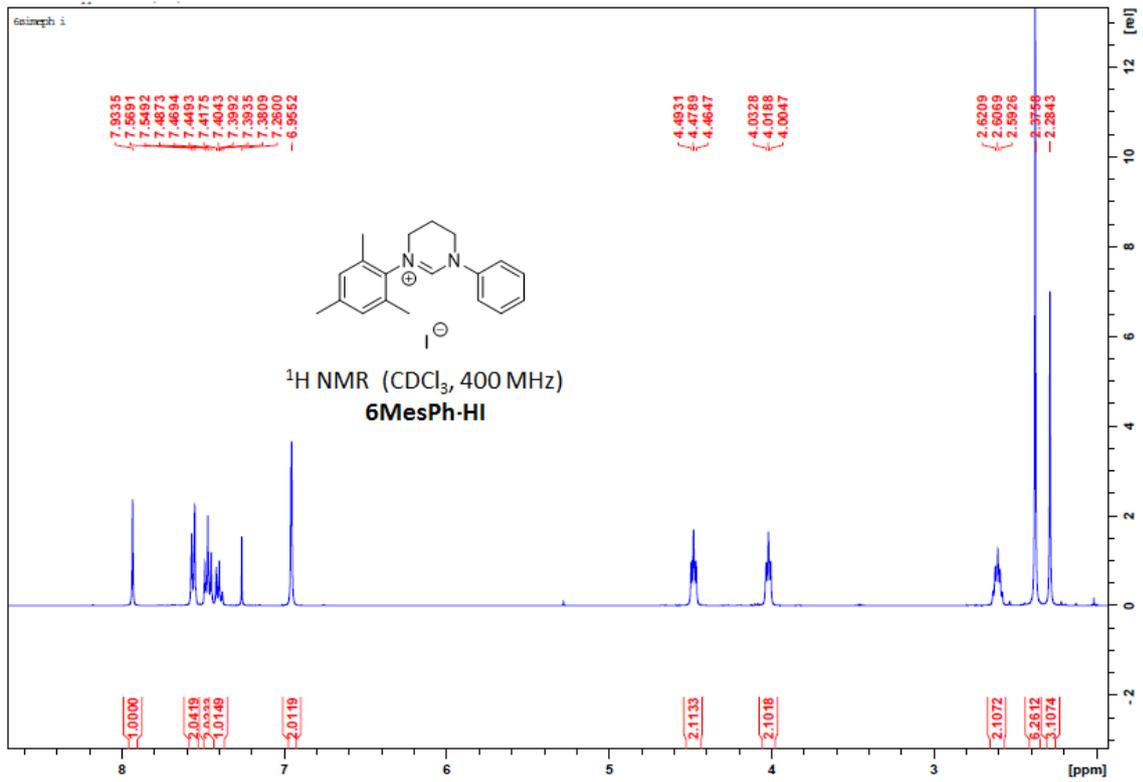
Entry	NHC.HX	3i (%)
1	7Mes.HBr	5
2	7MesPh.HI	2
3	7Ph.HI	1
4	6PrMes.HI	4
5	6Mes.HBr	29
6	6Ph.HI	0

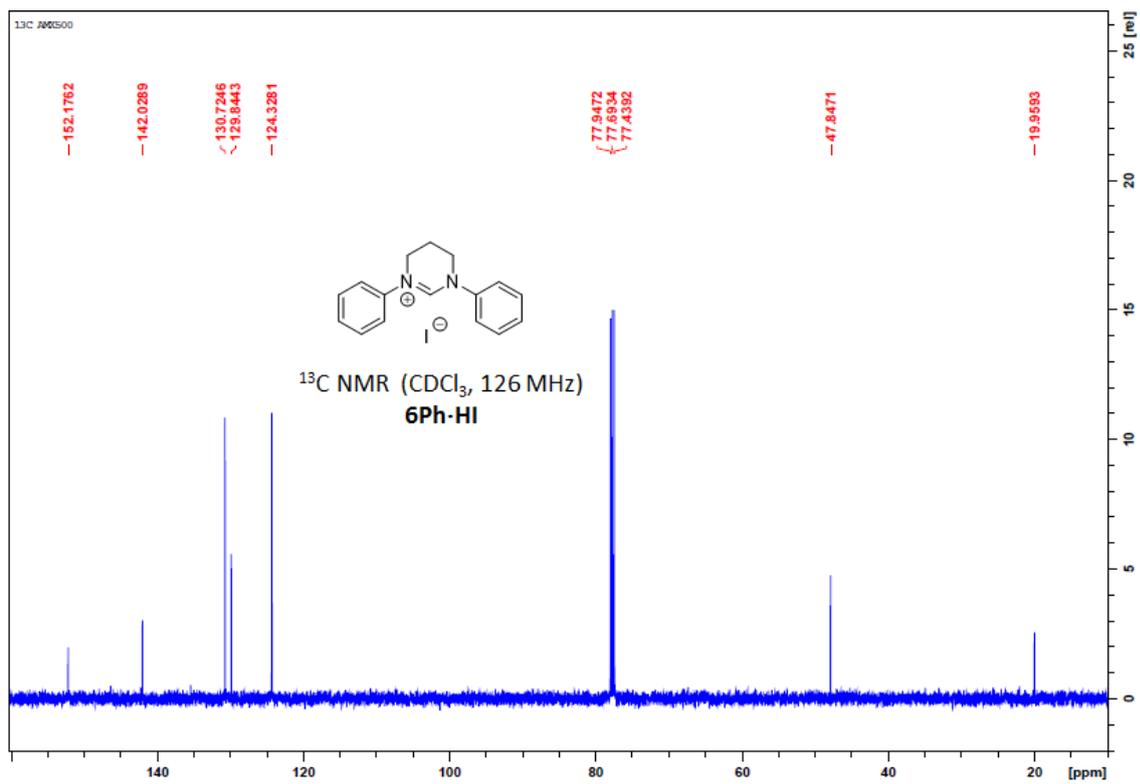
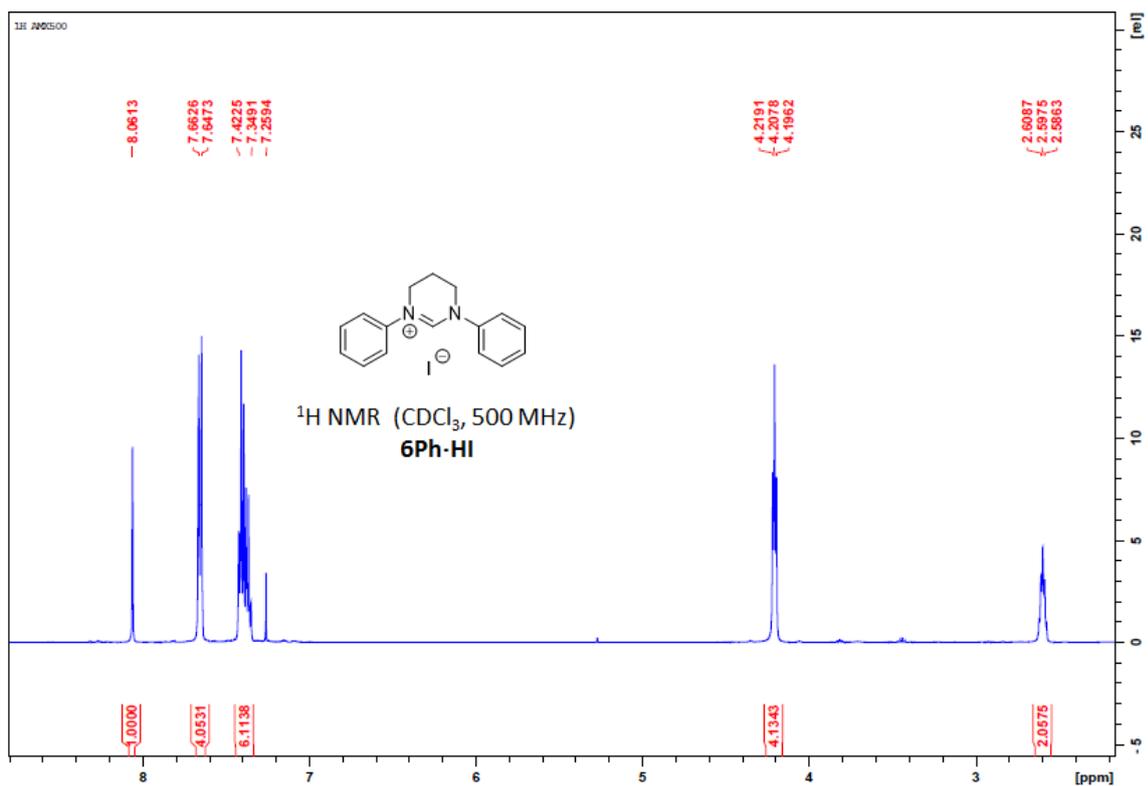


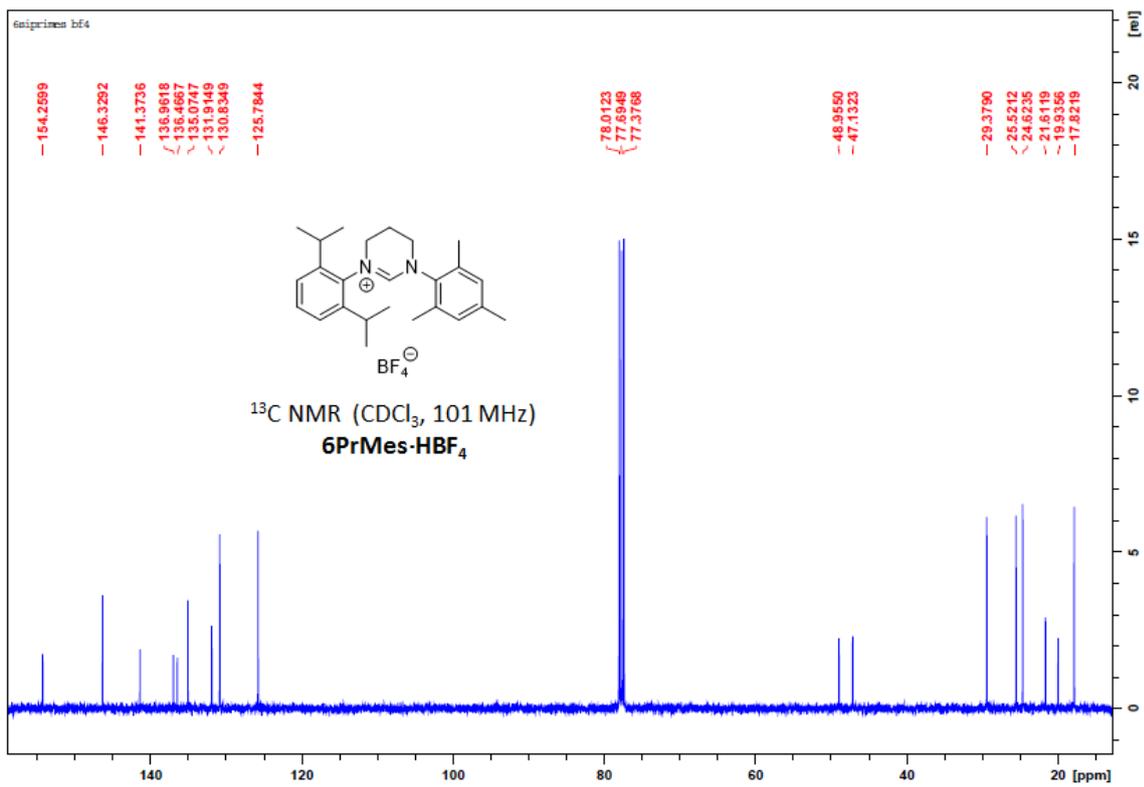
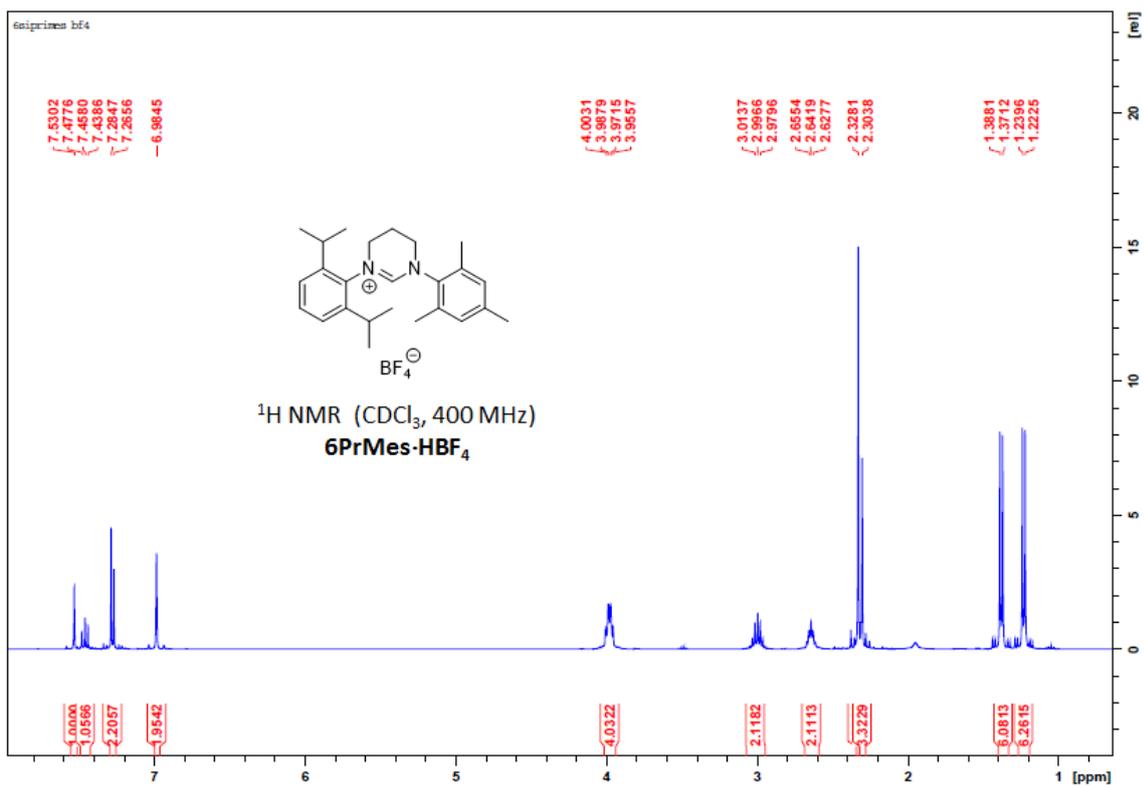


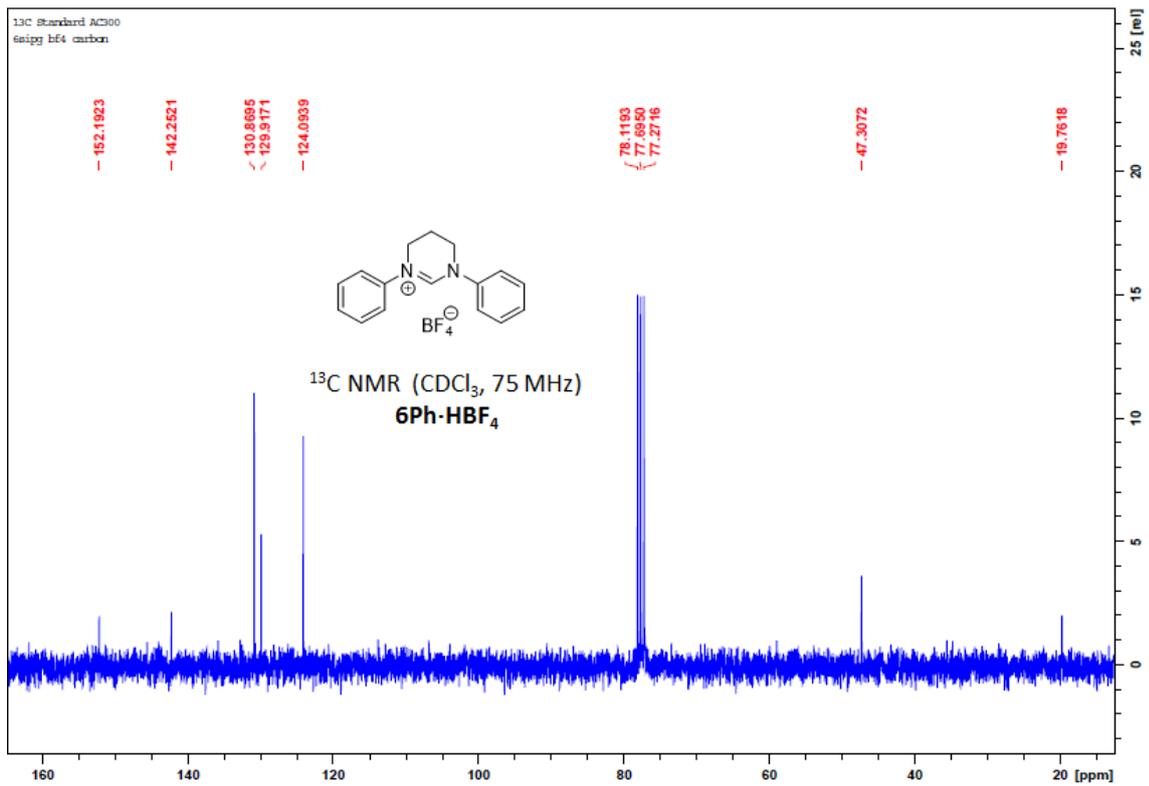
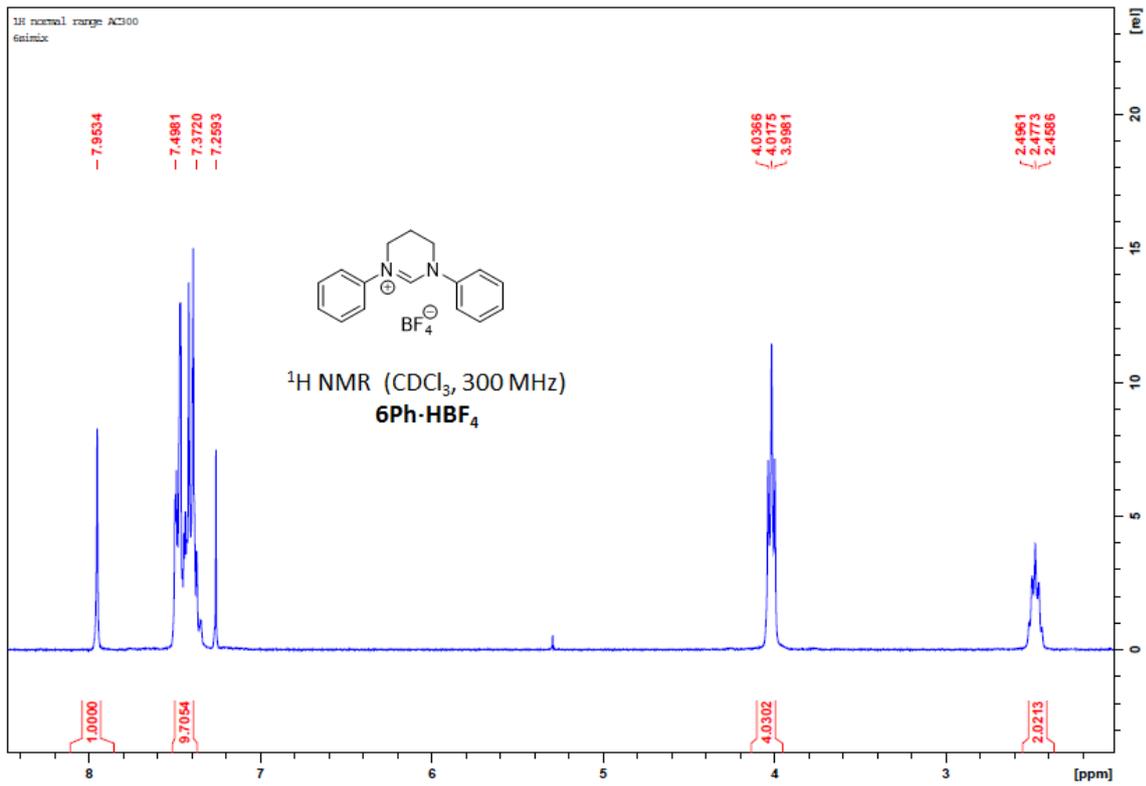


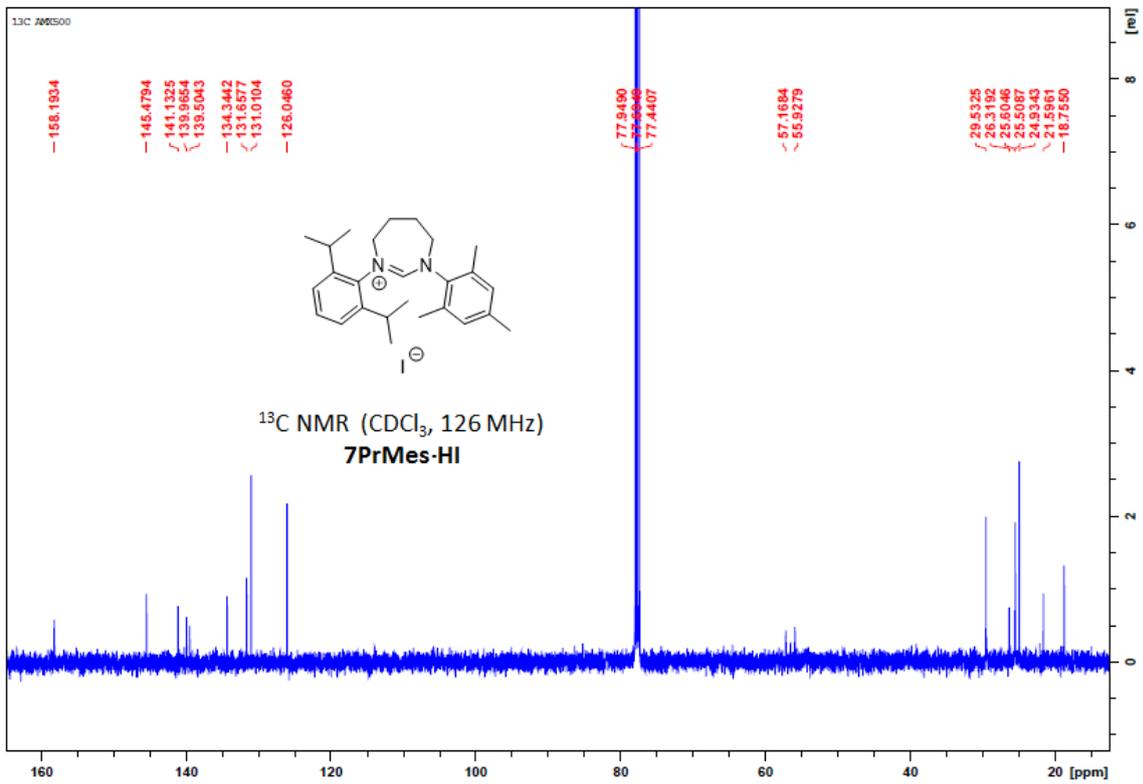
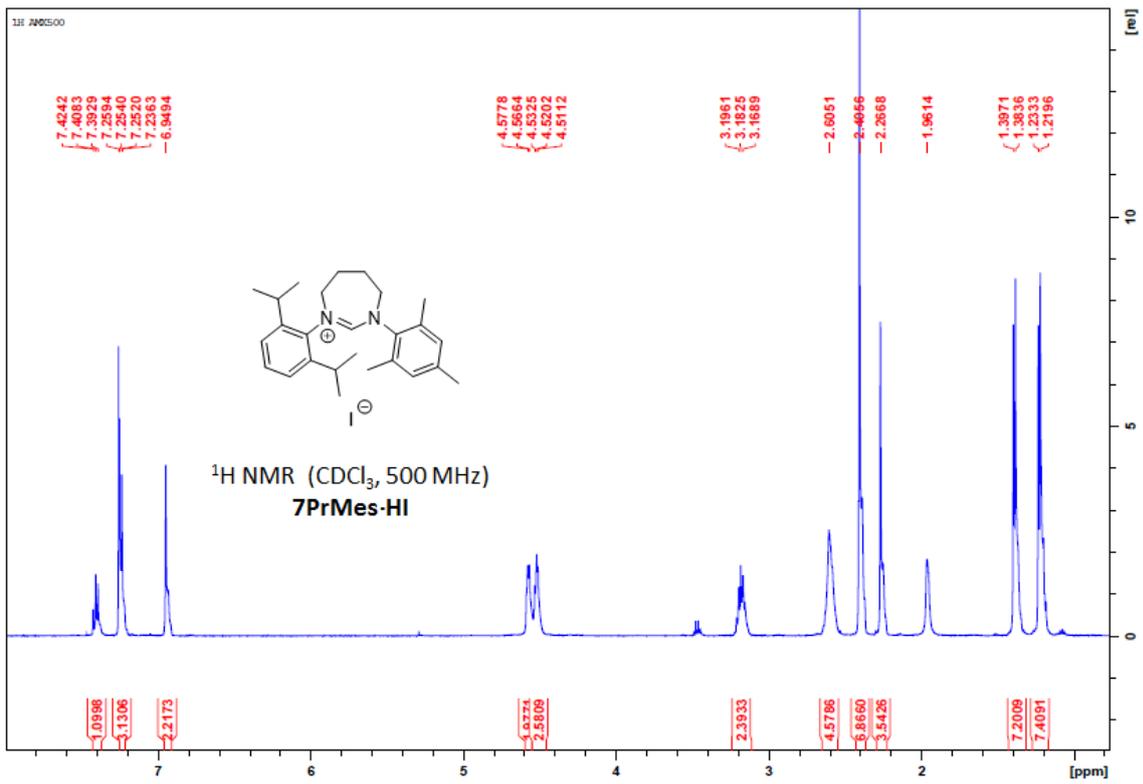


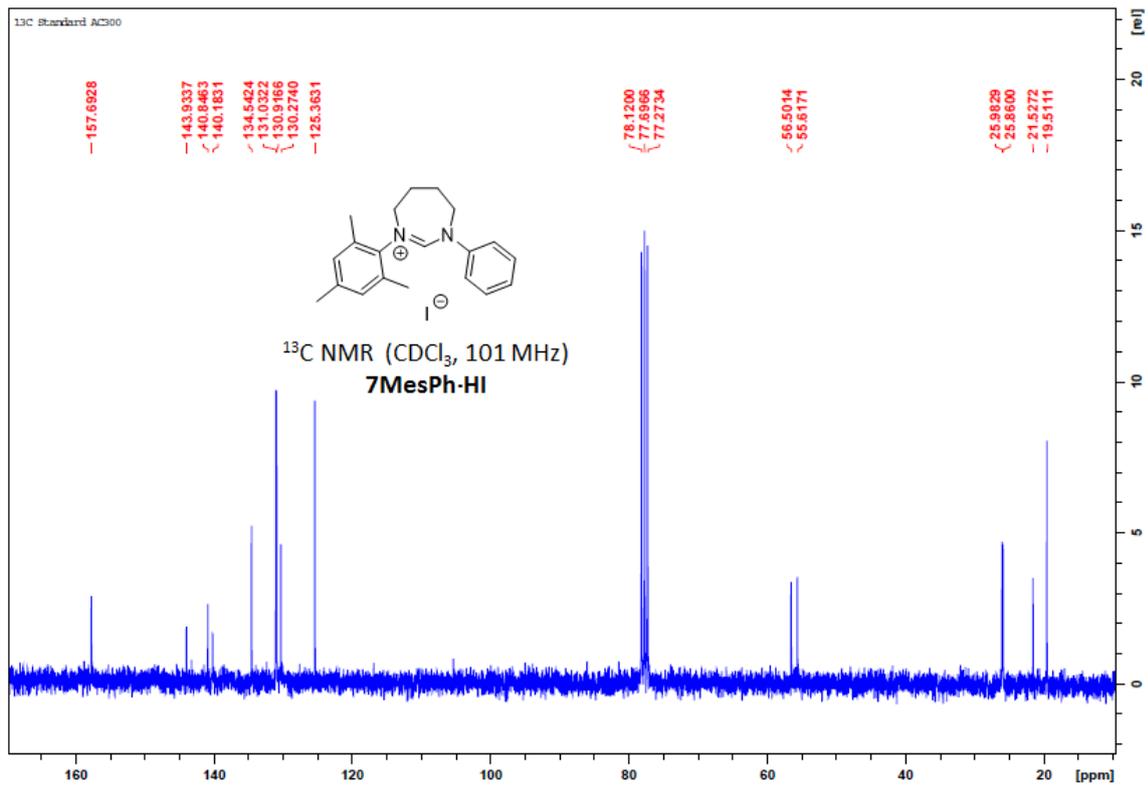
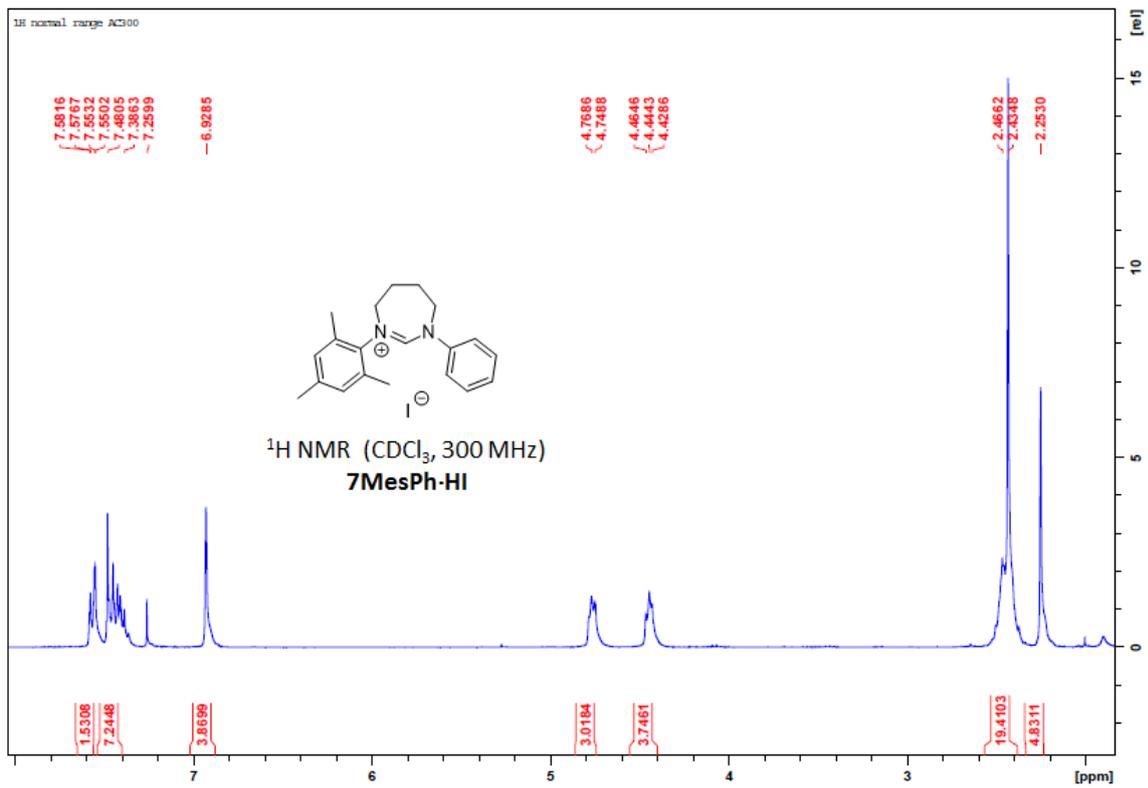


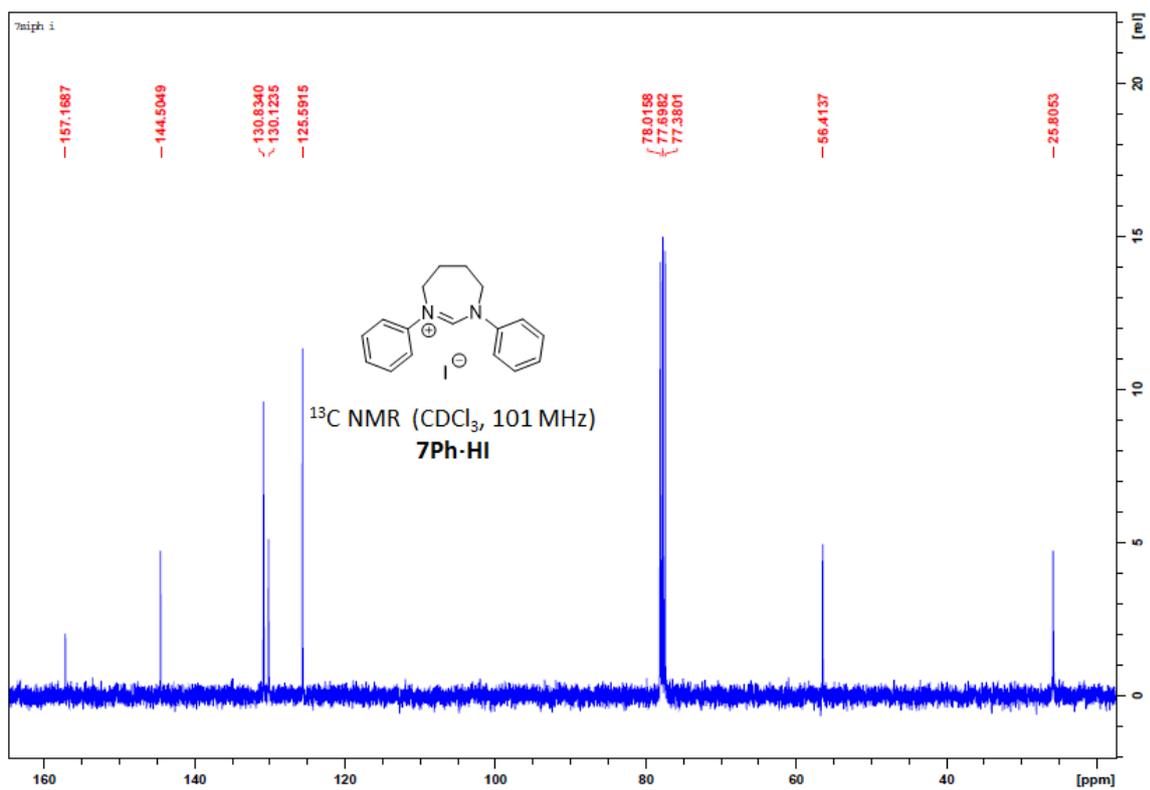
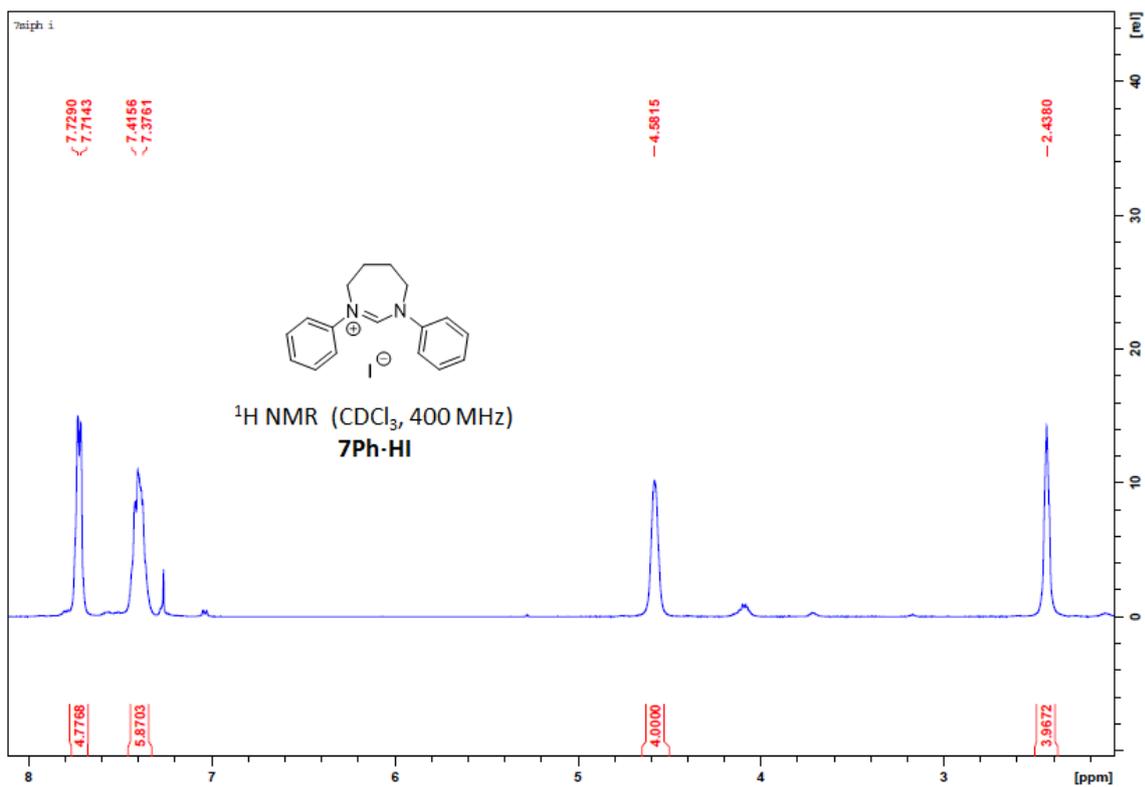


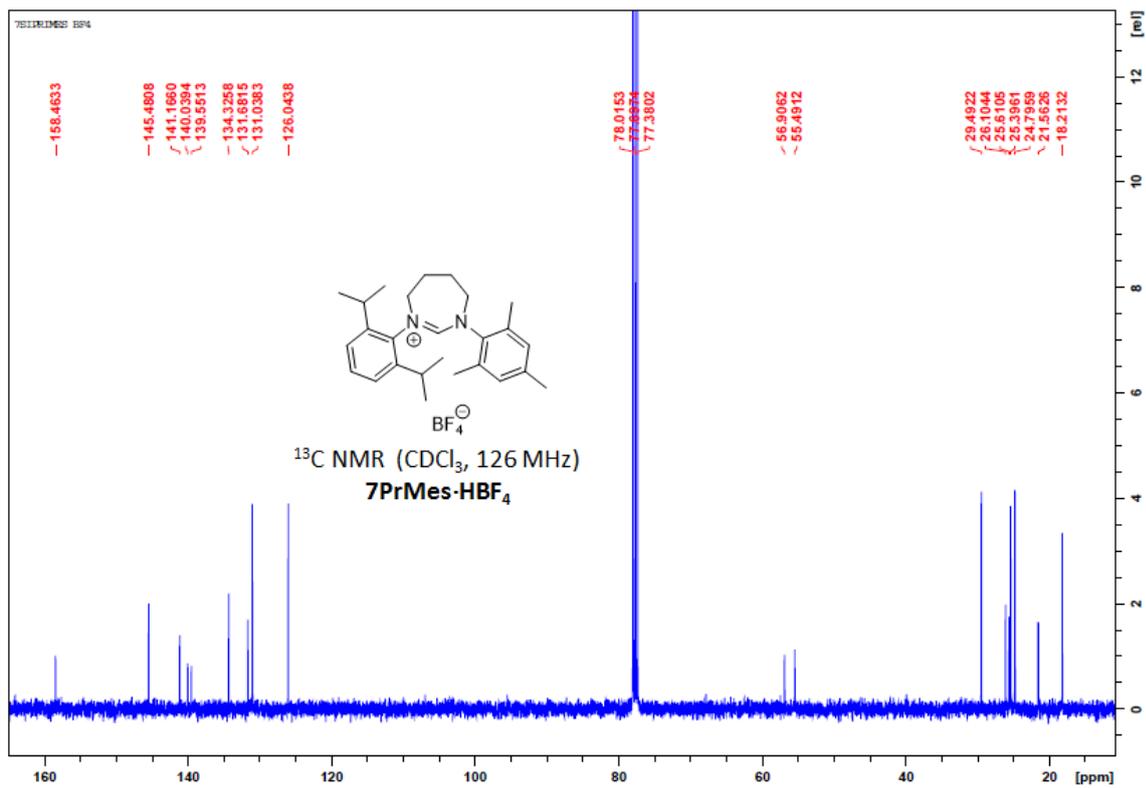
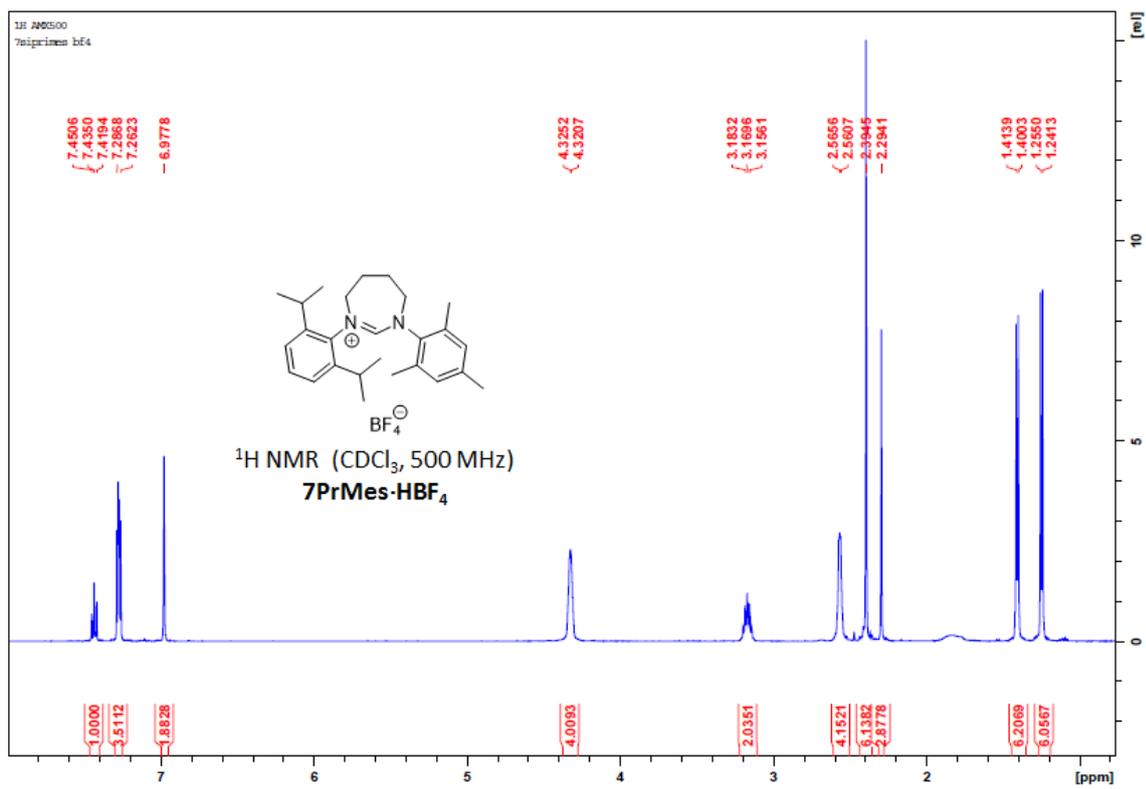


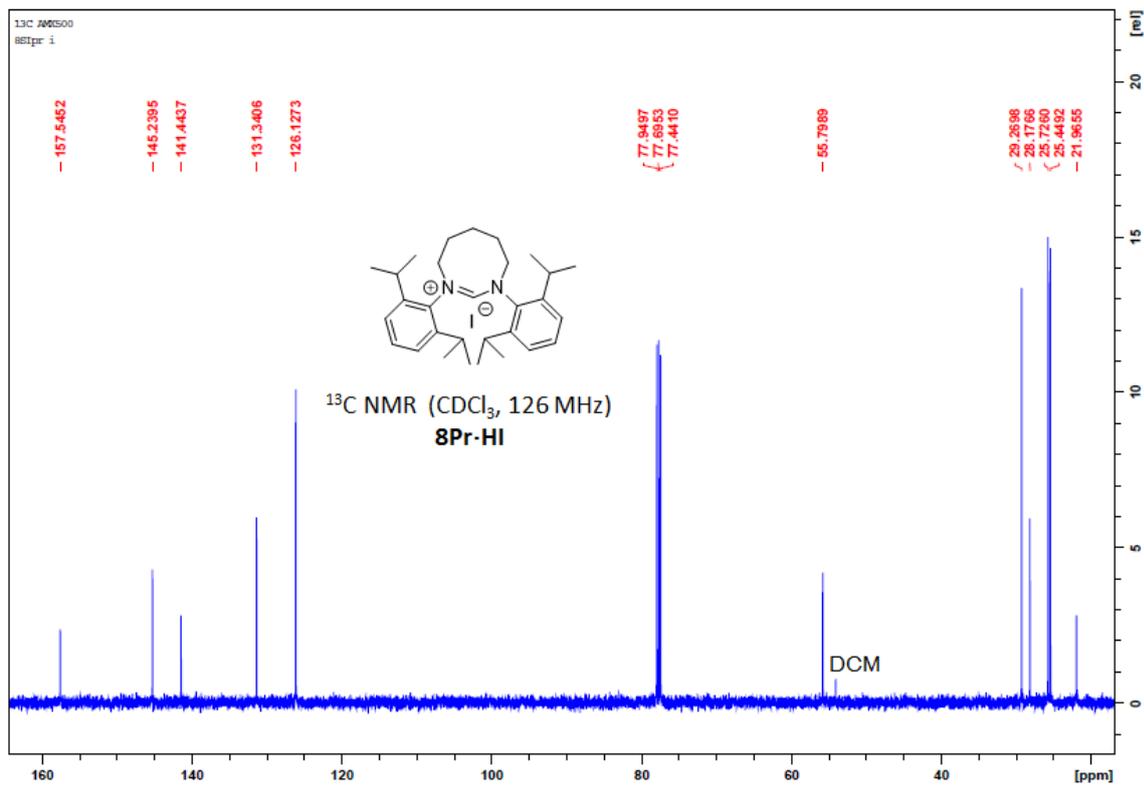
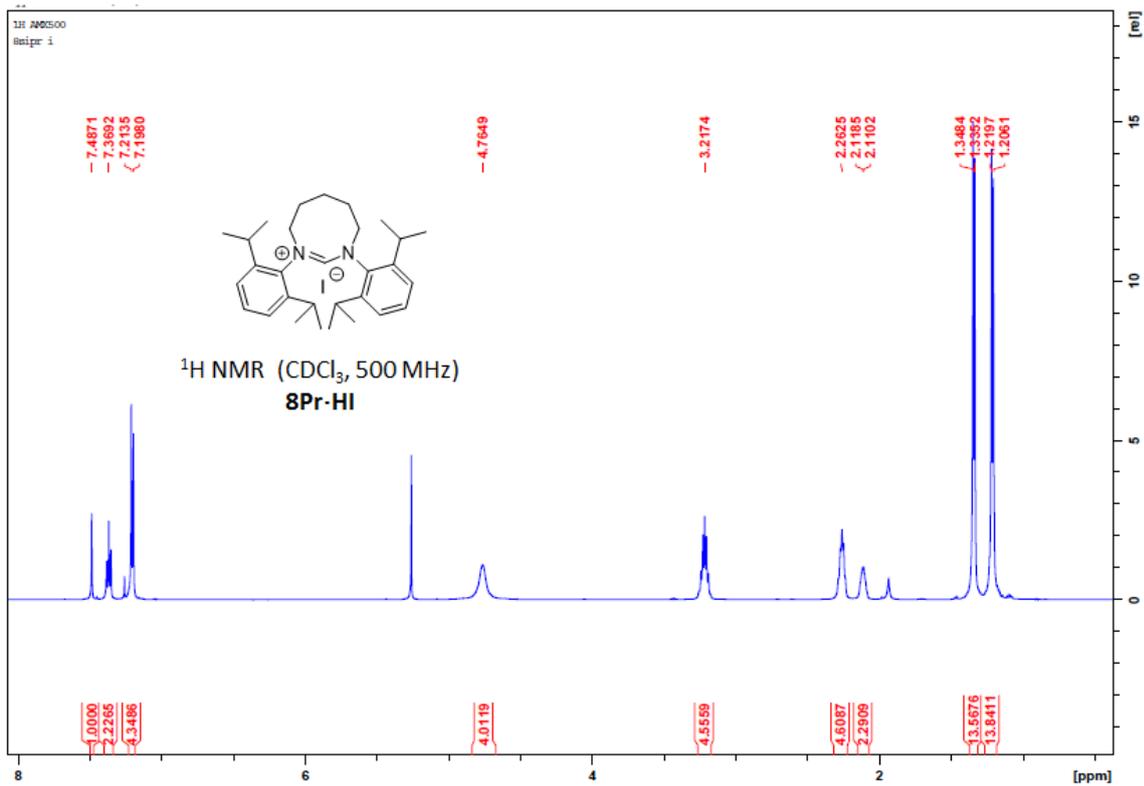


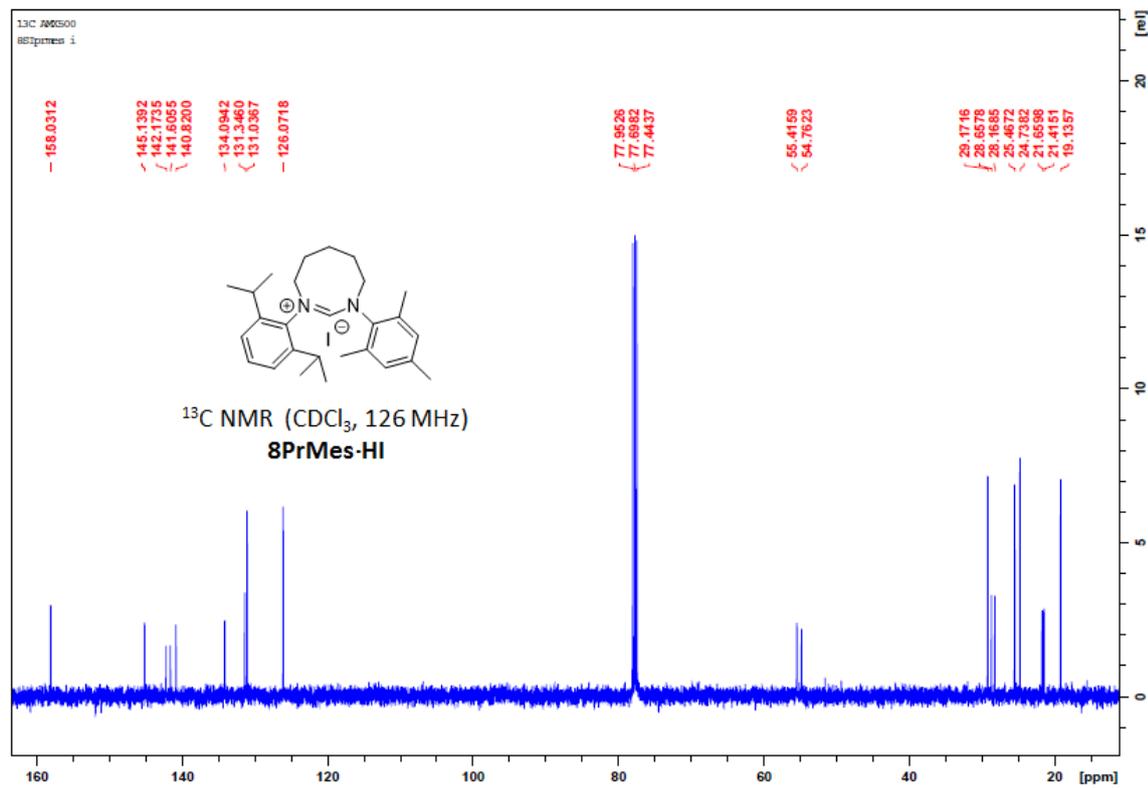
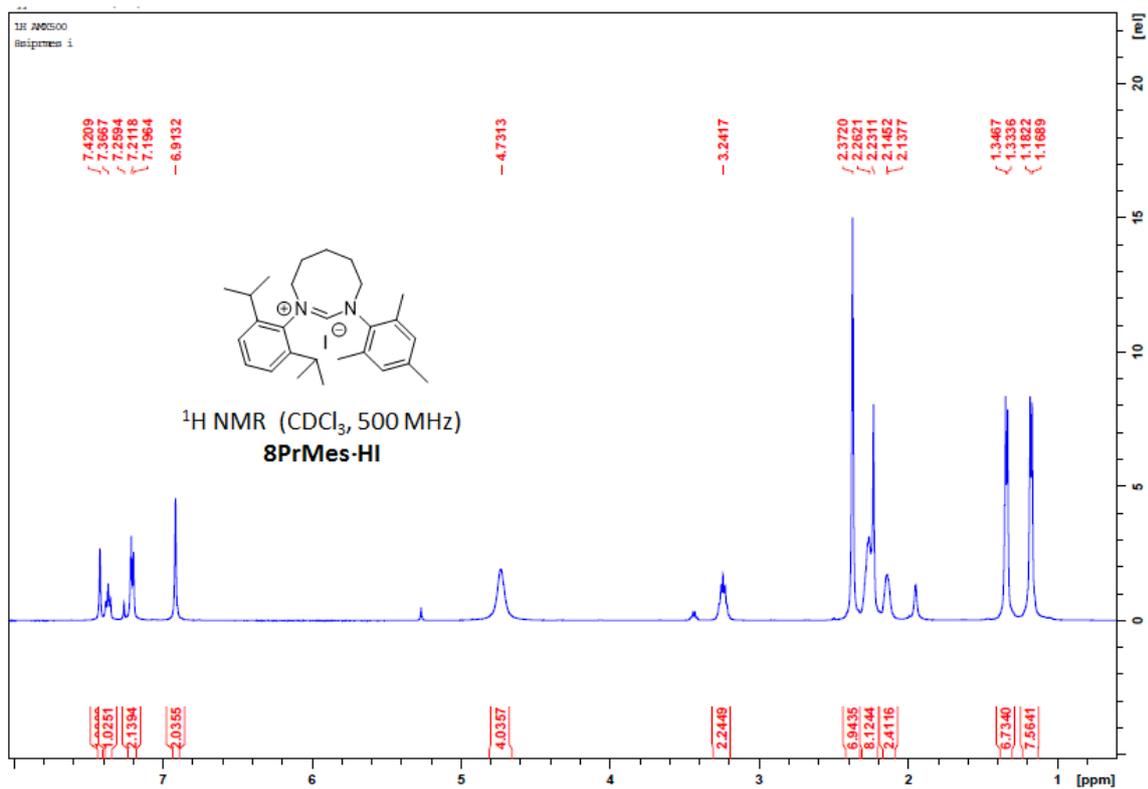


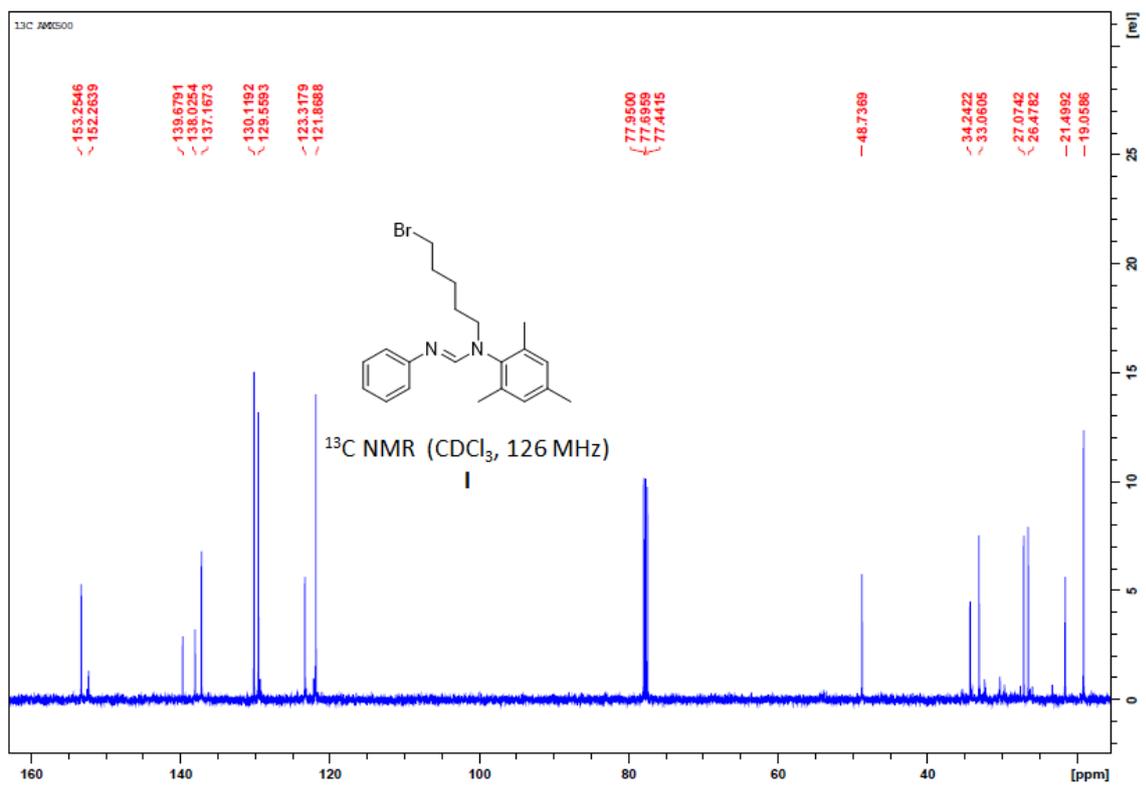
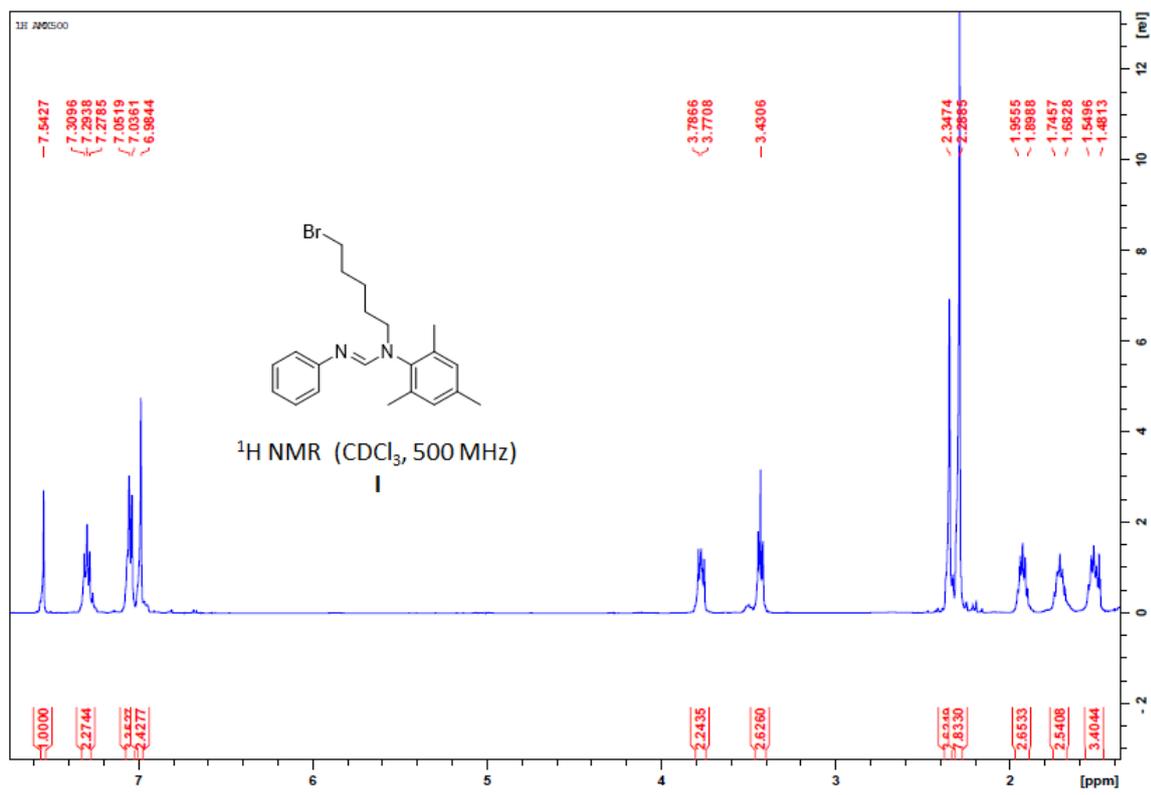


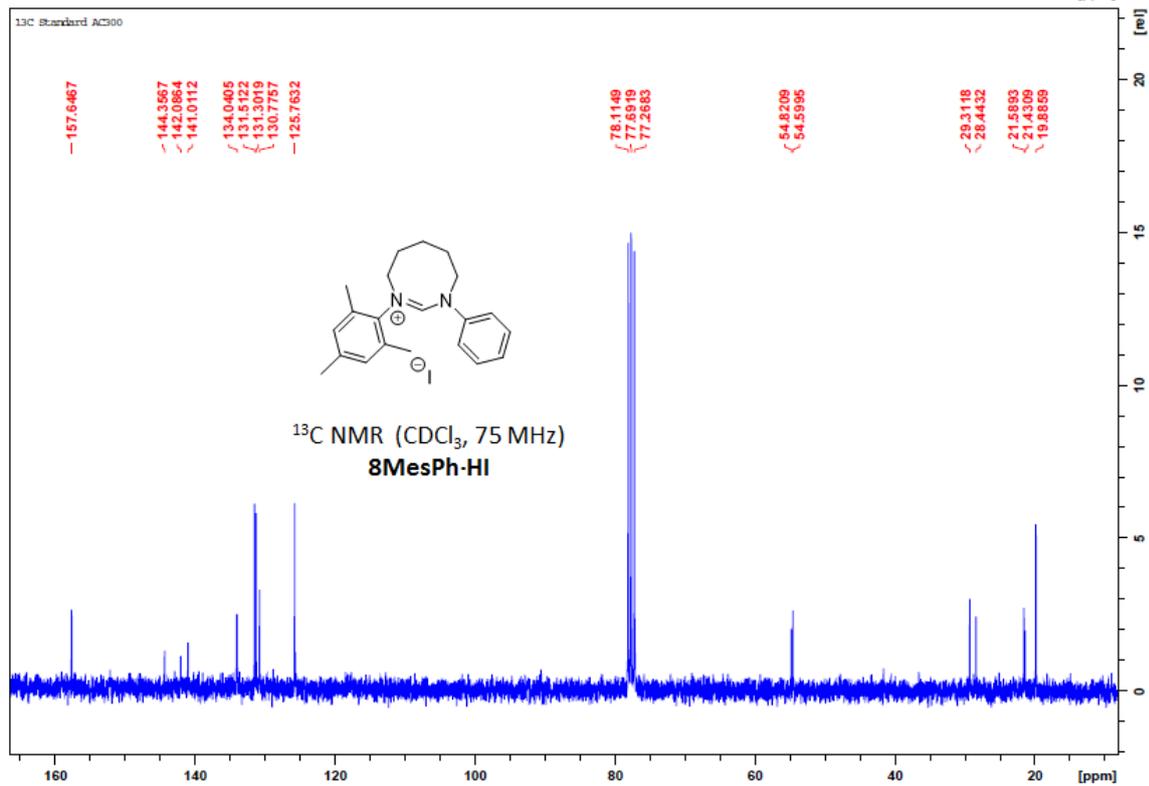
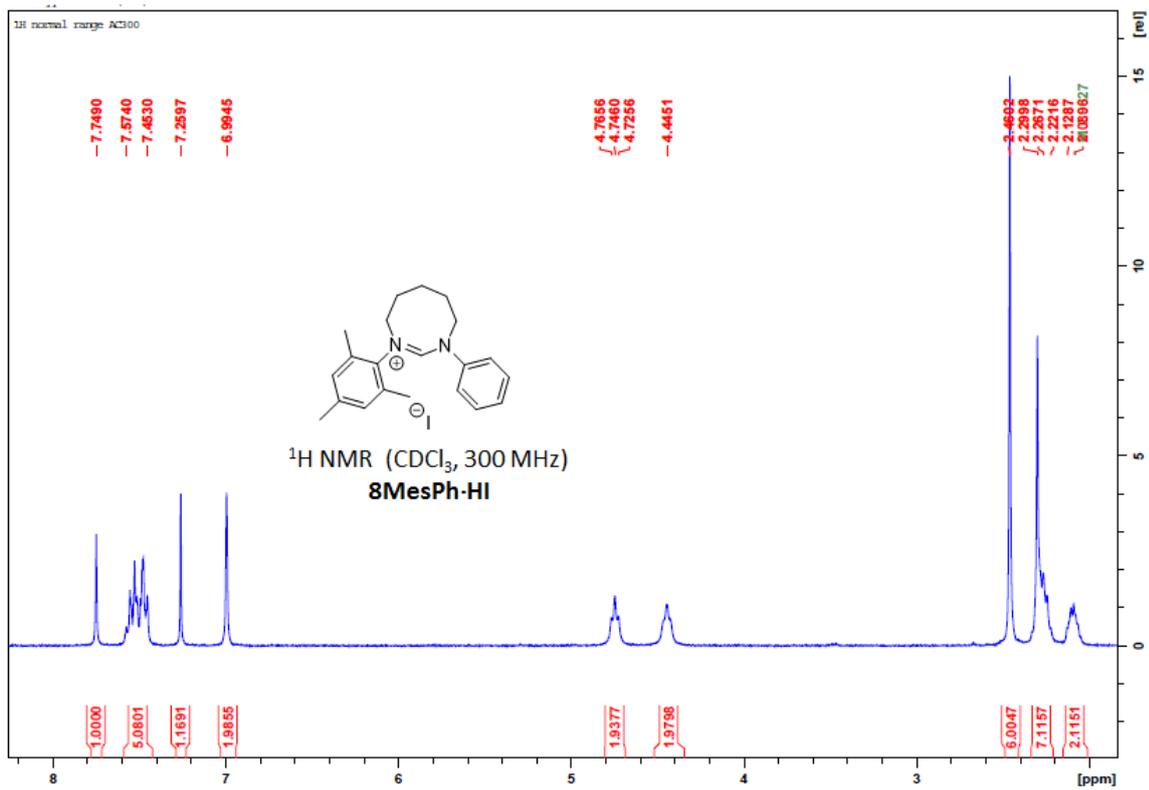


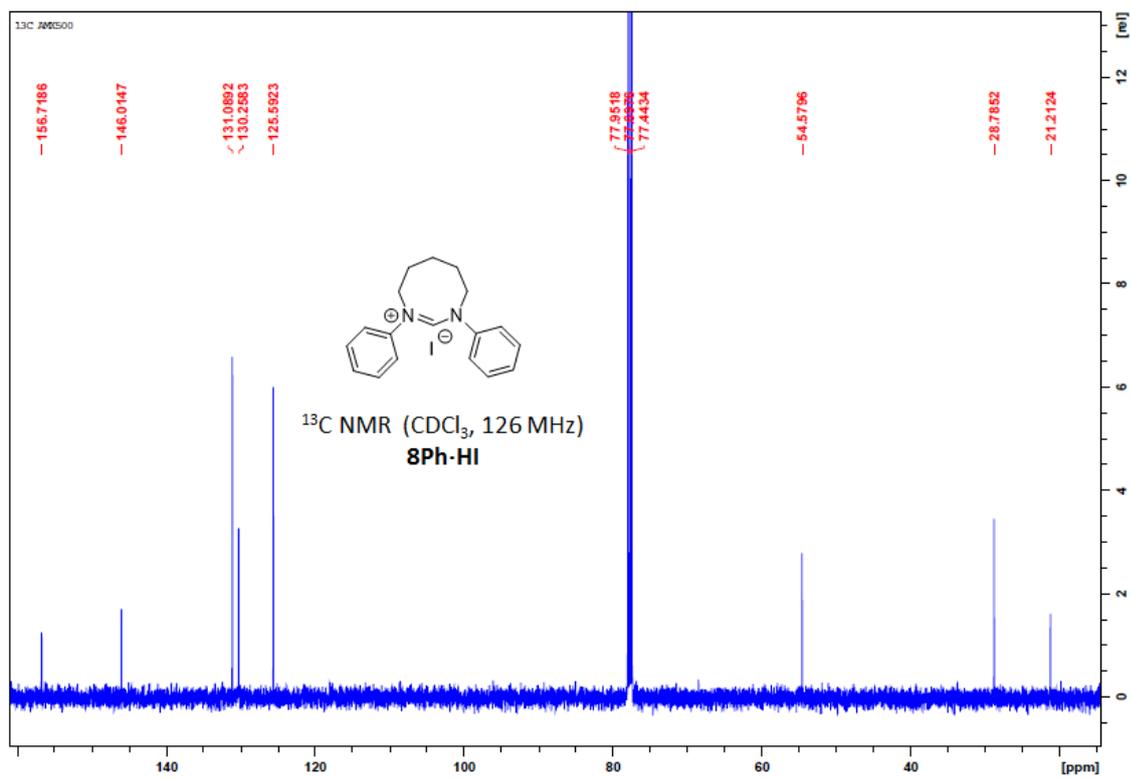
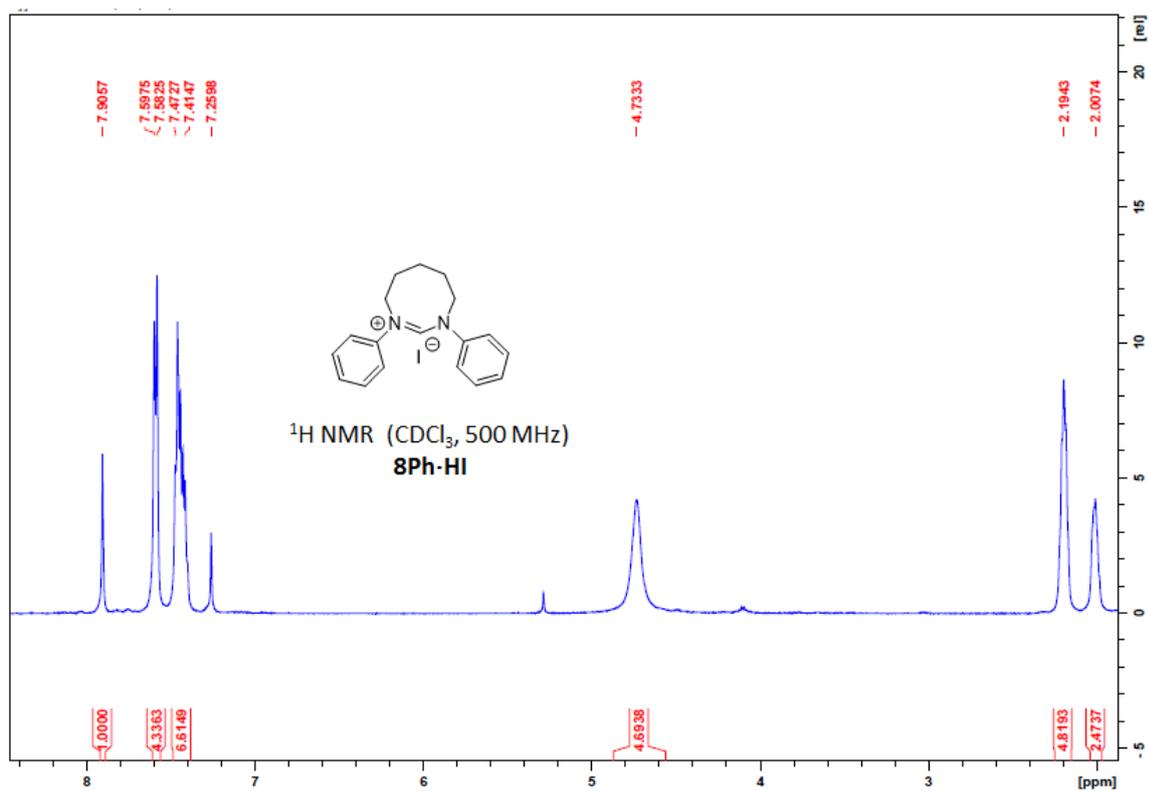


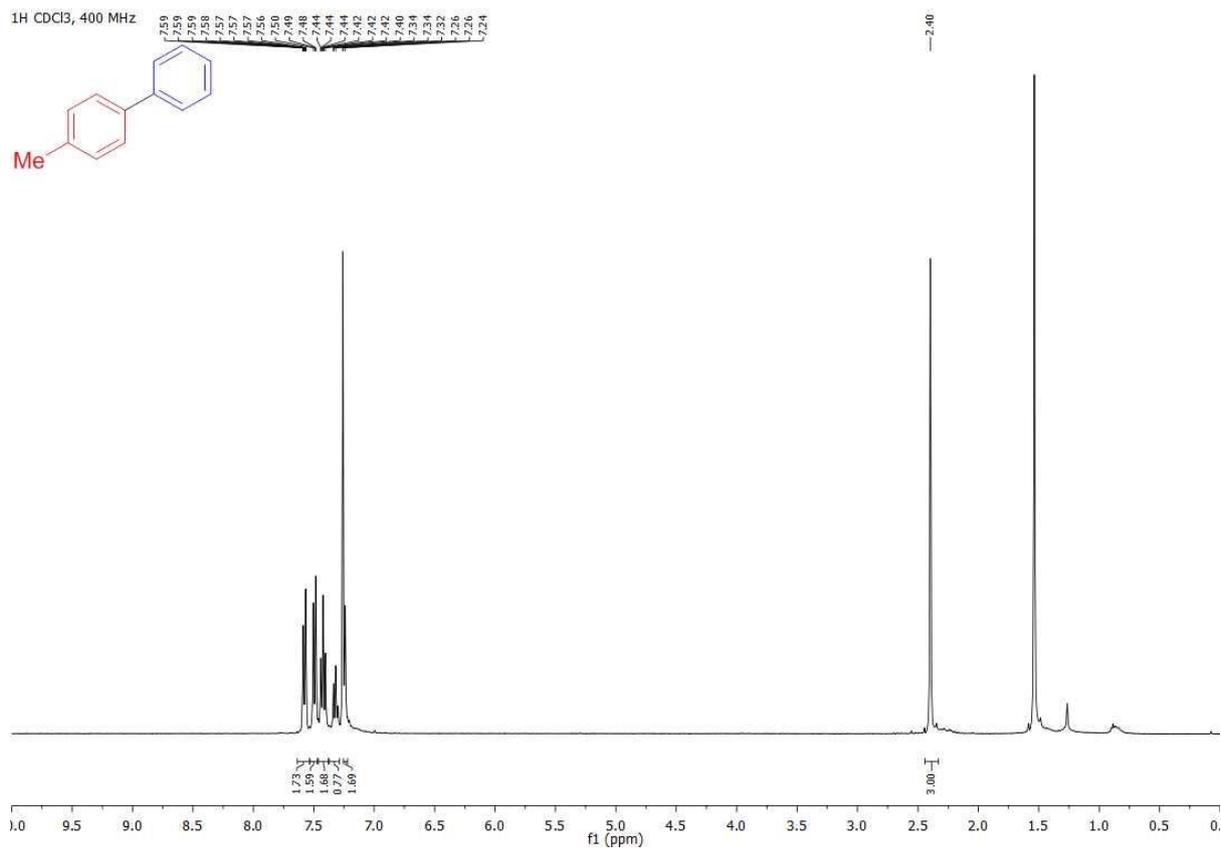




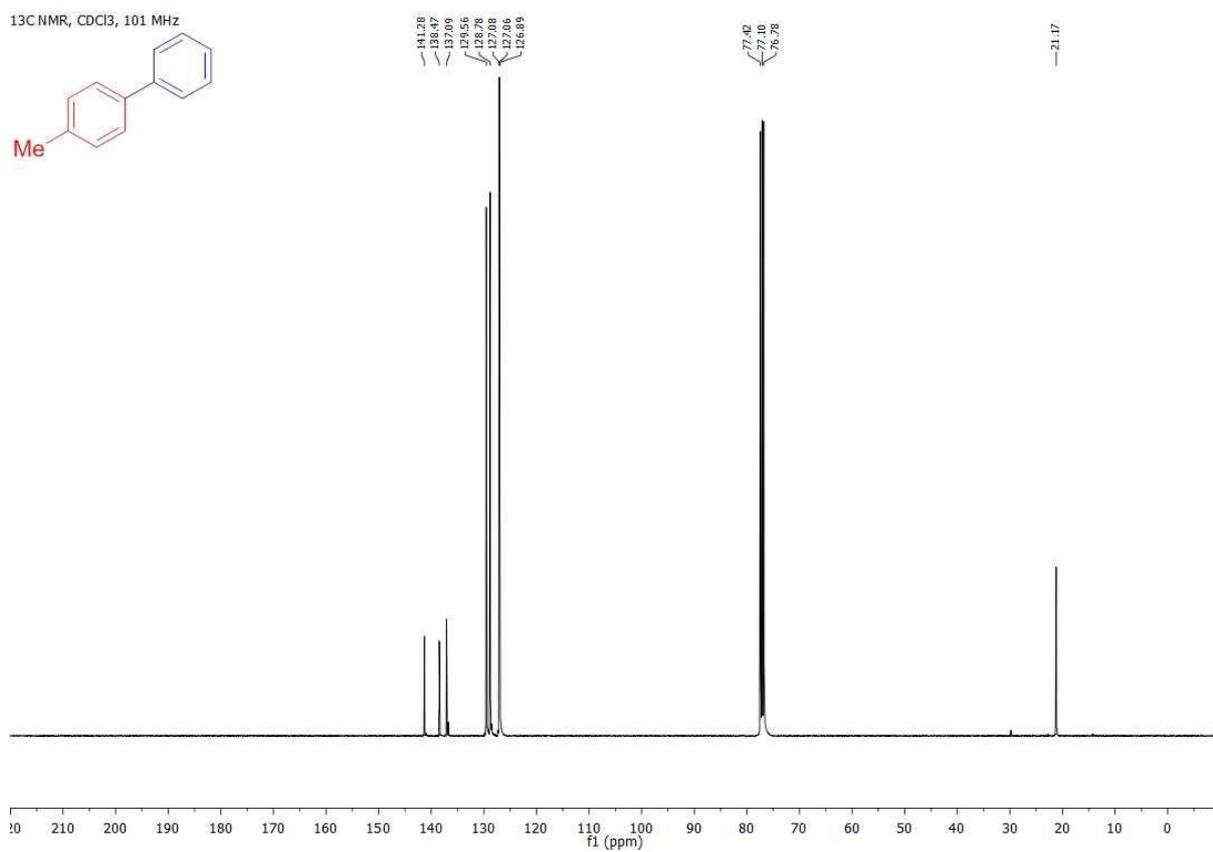






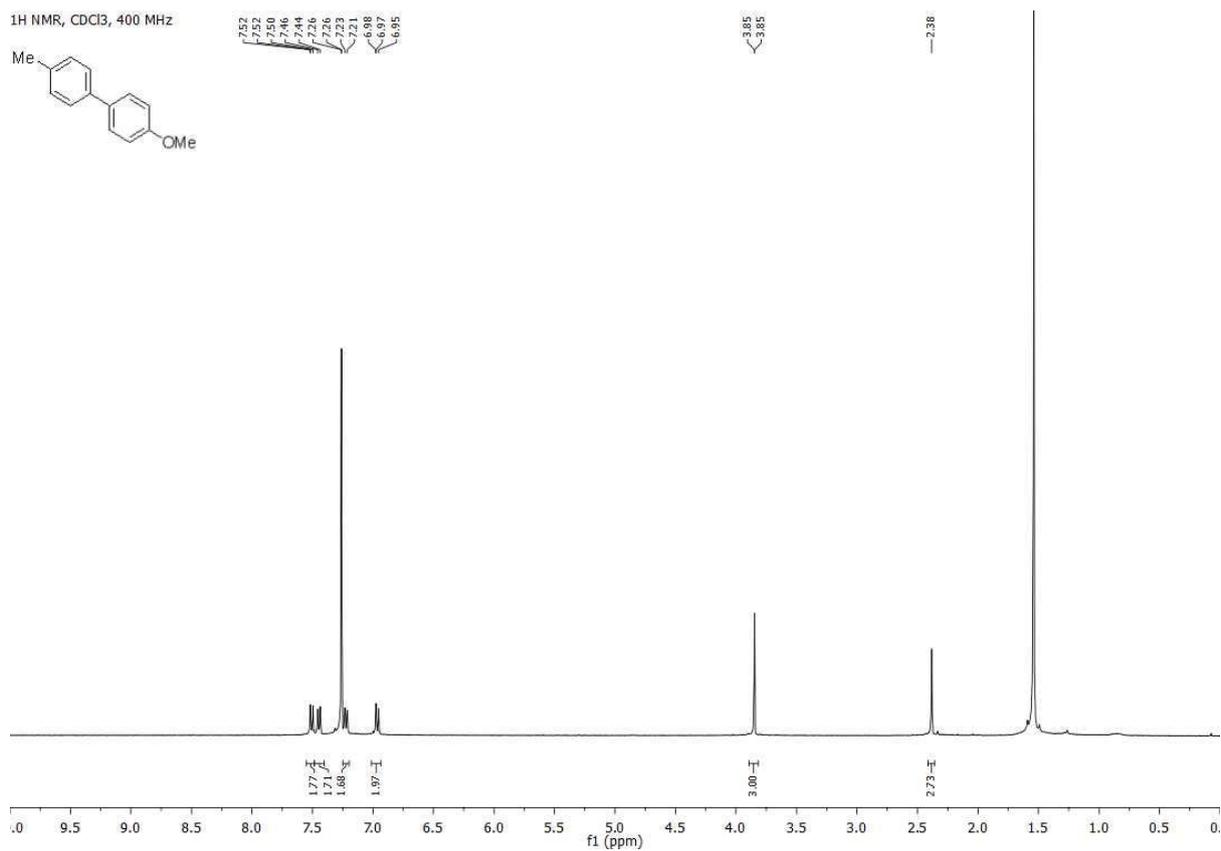
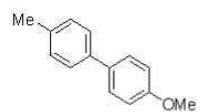


¹H Spectra of **3a**



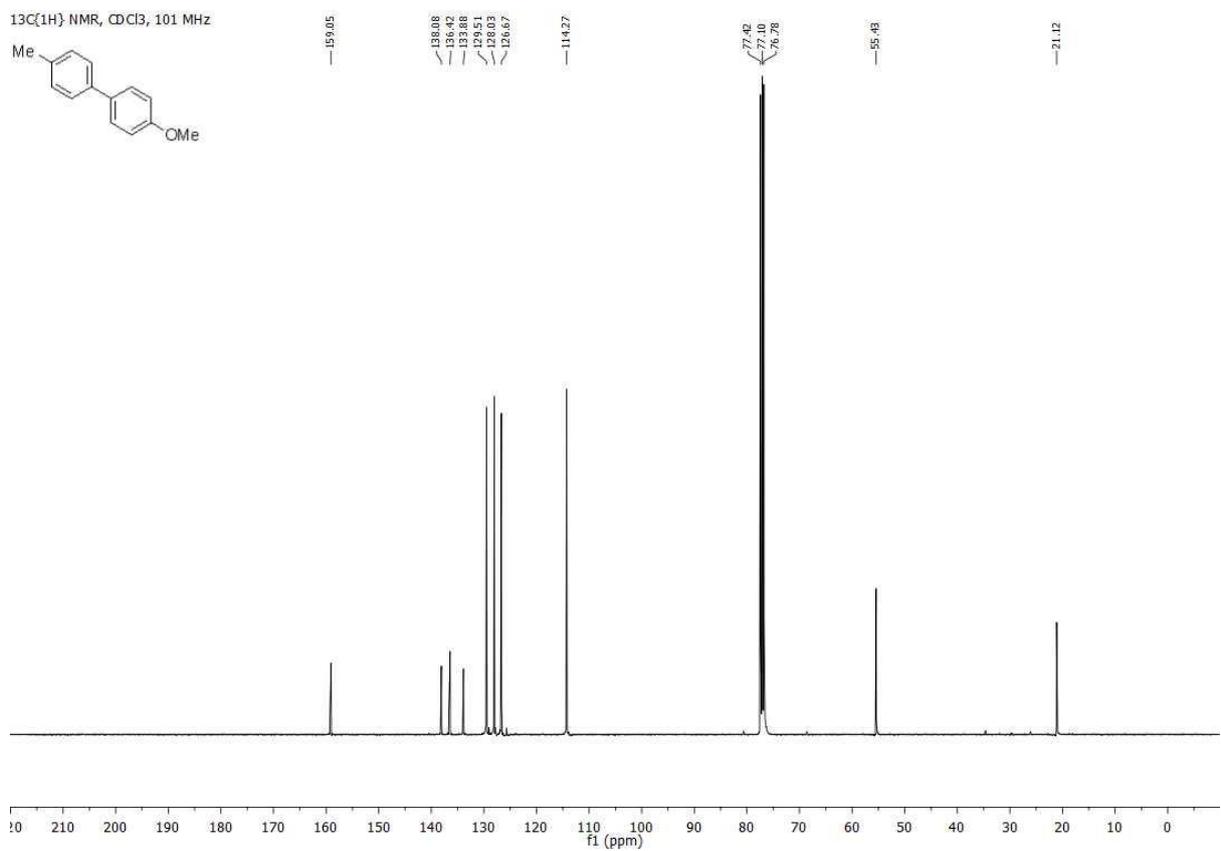
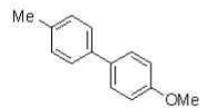
¹³C Spectra of **3a**

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



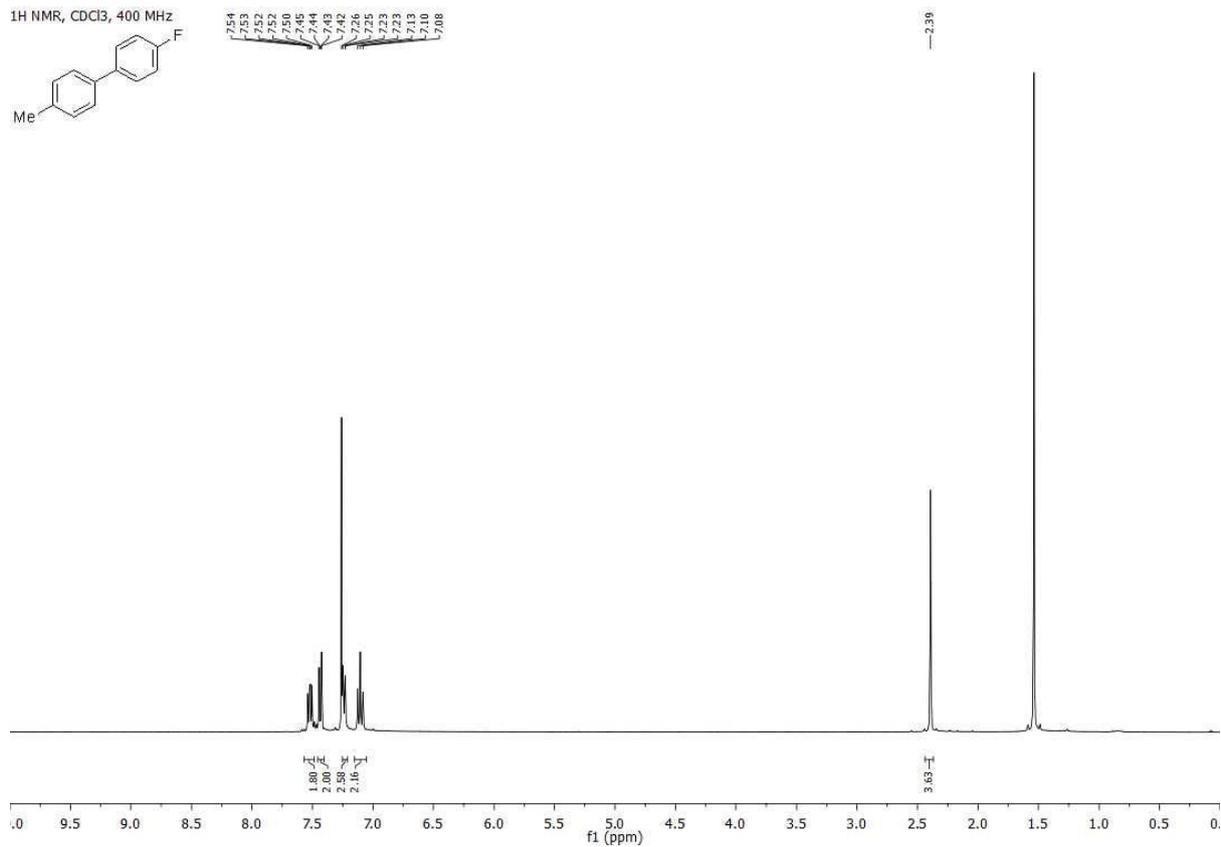
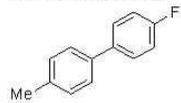
¹H Spectra of **3b**

¹³C{¹H} NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



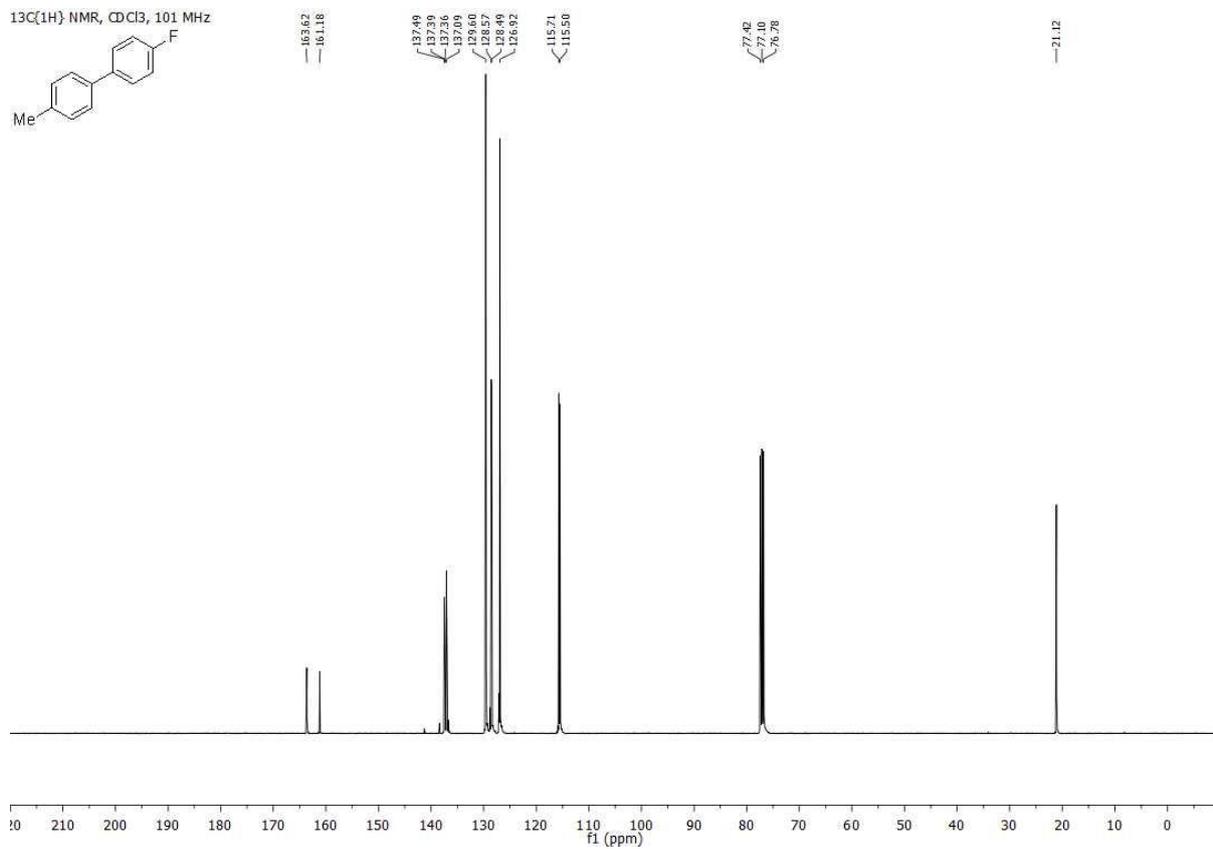
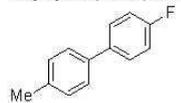
¹³C Spectra of **3b**

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz

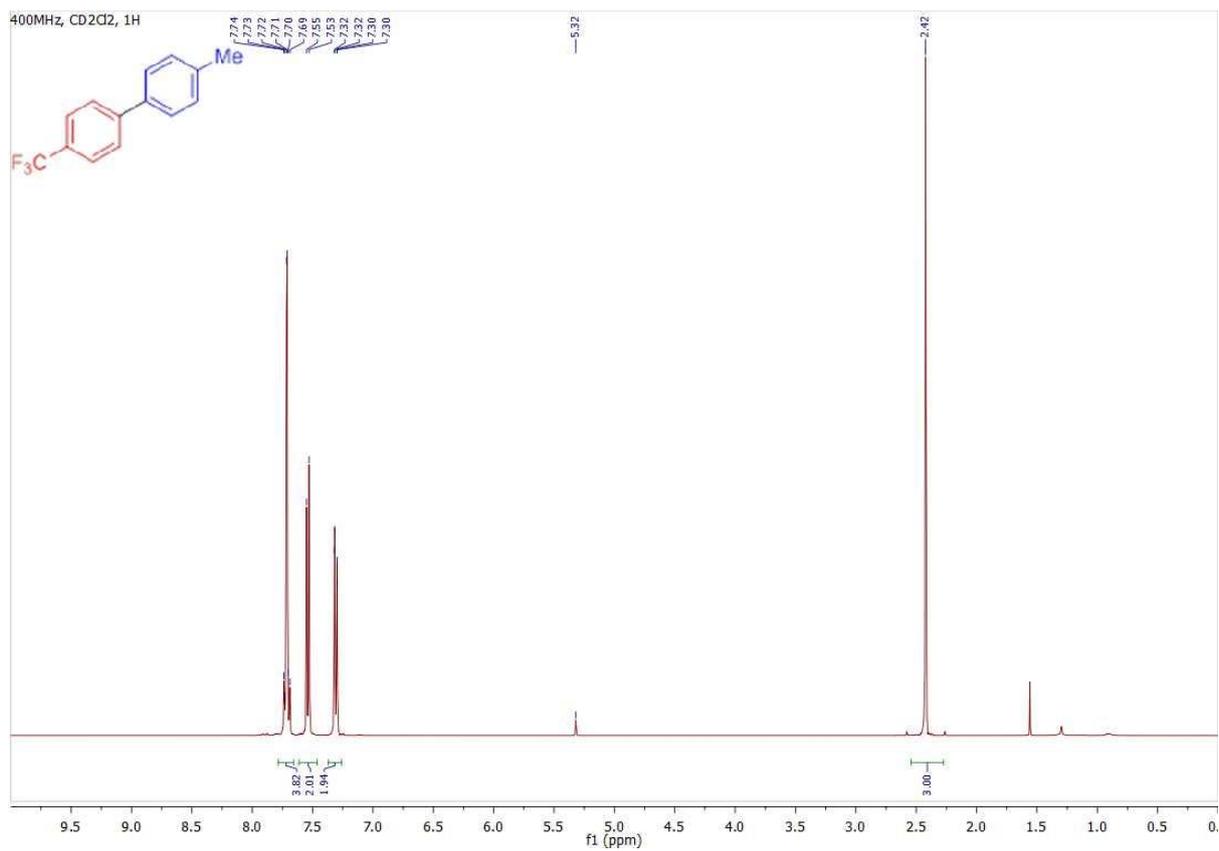


¹H Spectra of **3c**

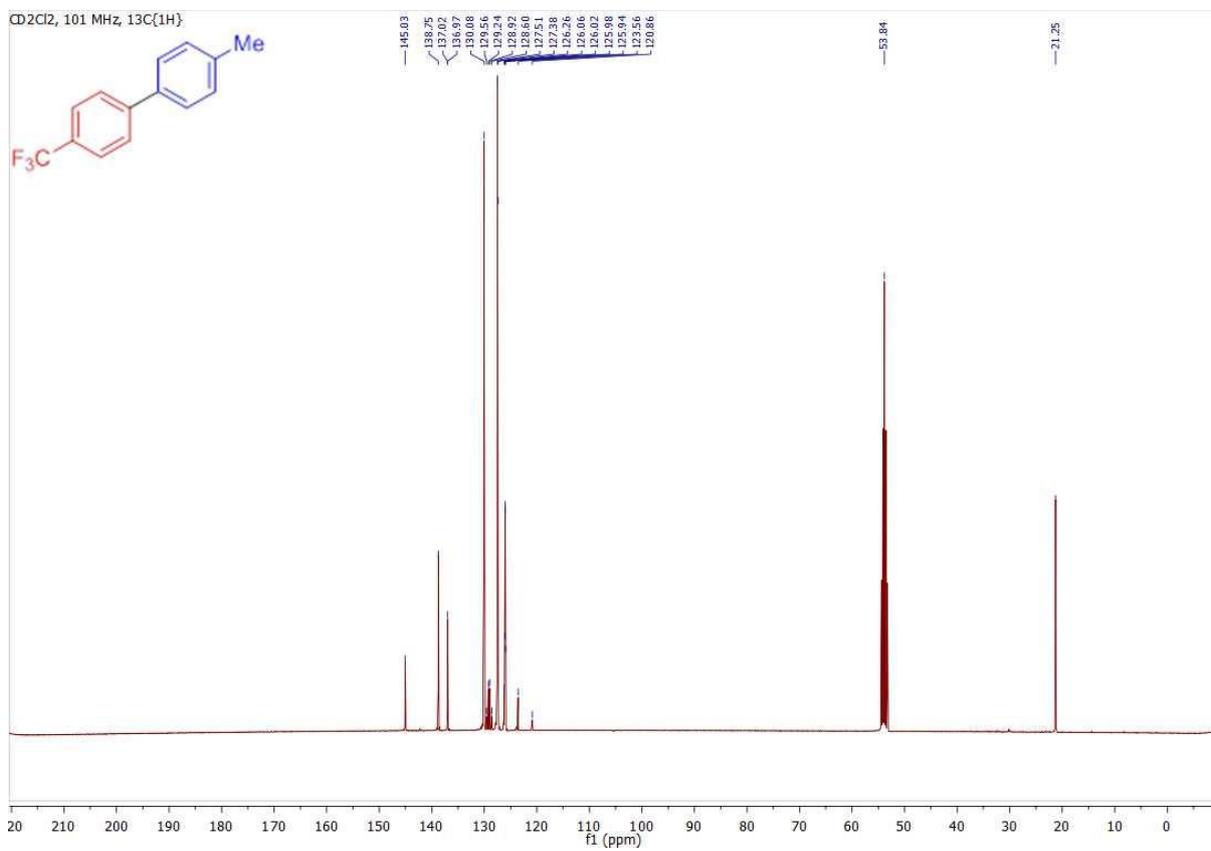
¹³C{¹H} NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



¹³C Spectra of **3c**

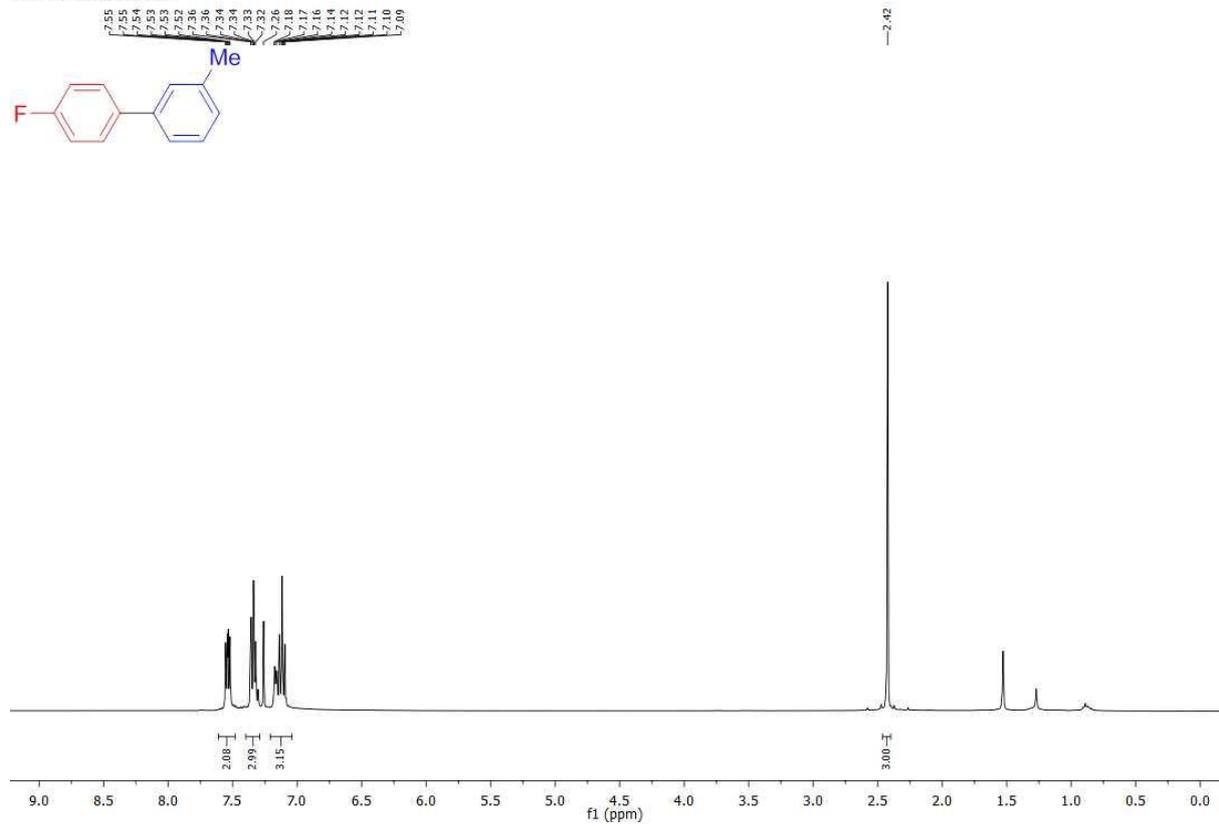


¹H Spectra of **3d**



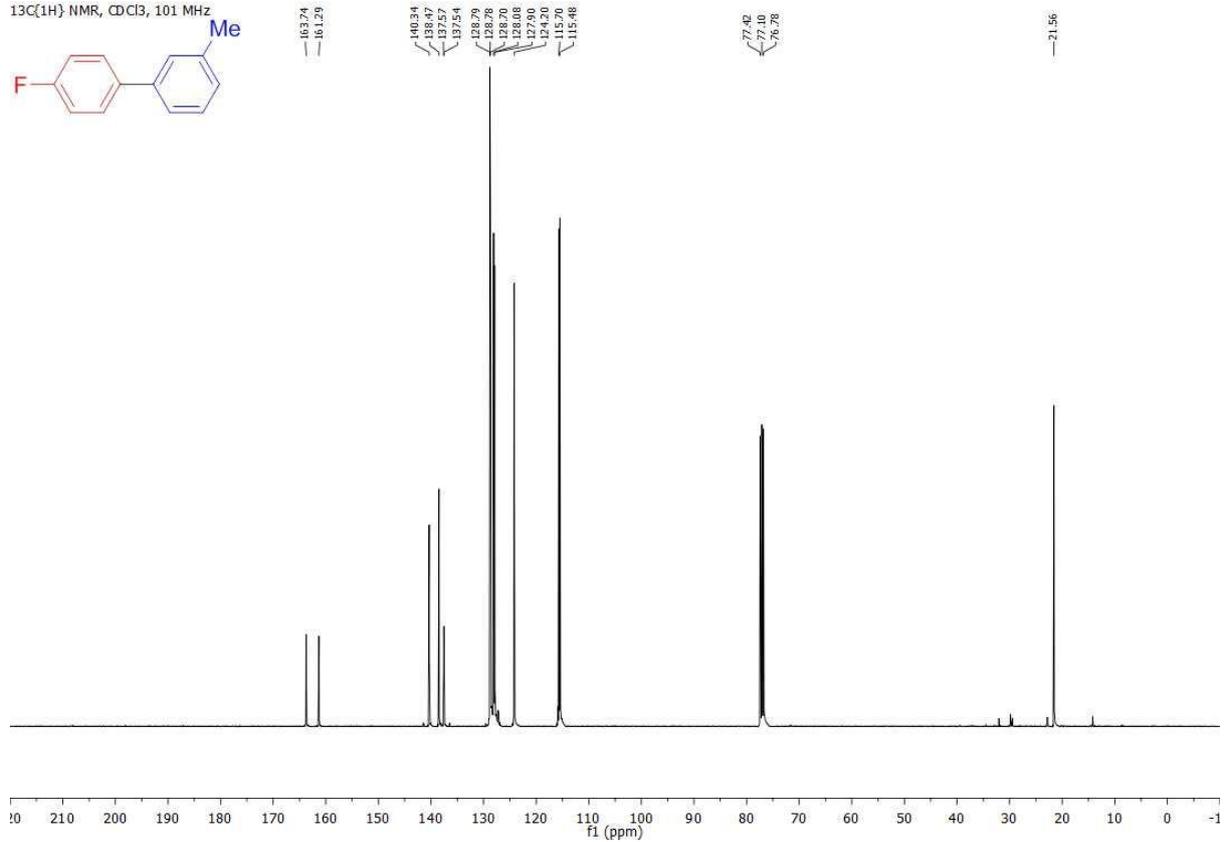
¹³C Spectra of **3d**

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



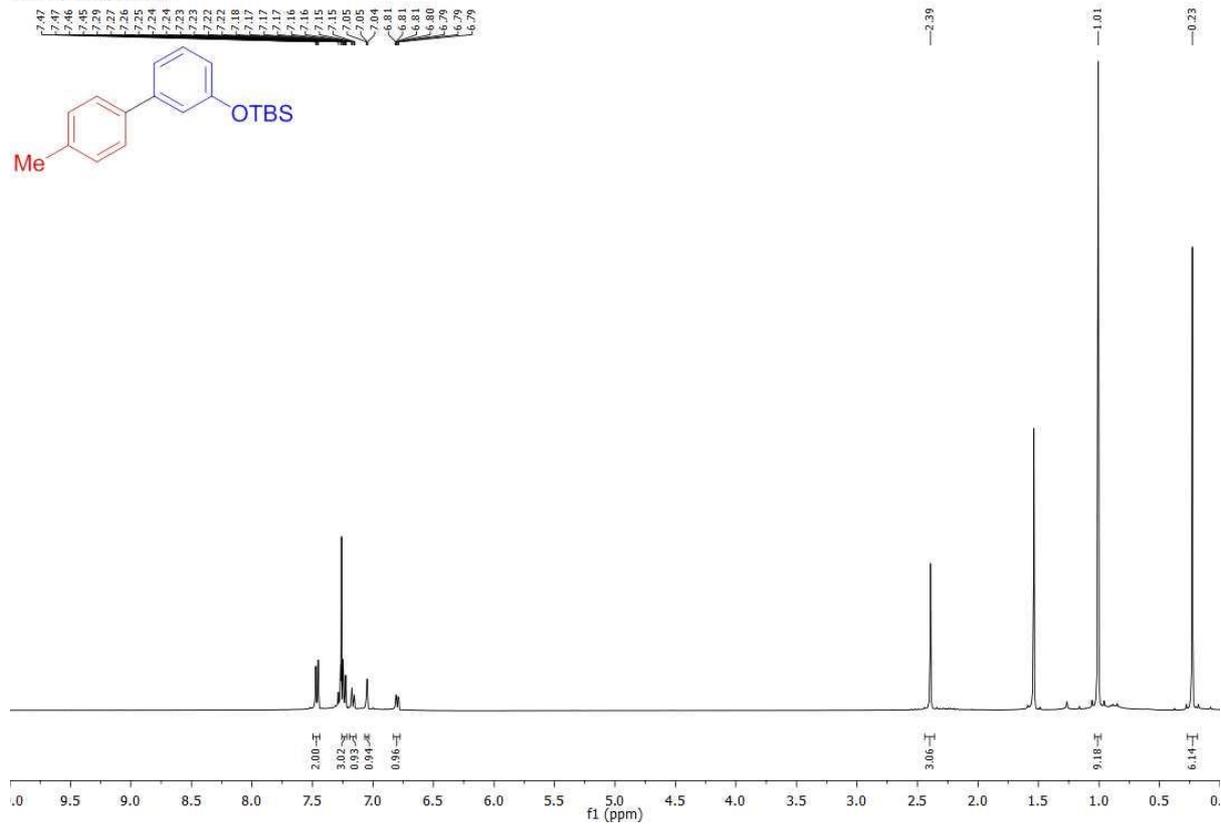
¹H Spectra of **3e**

¹³C{¹H} NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



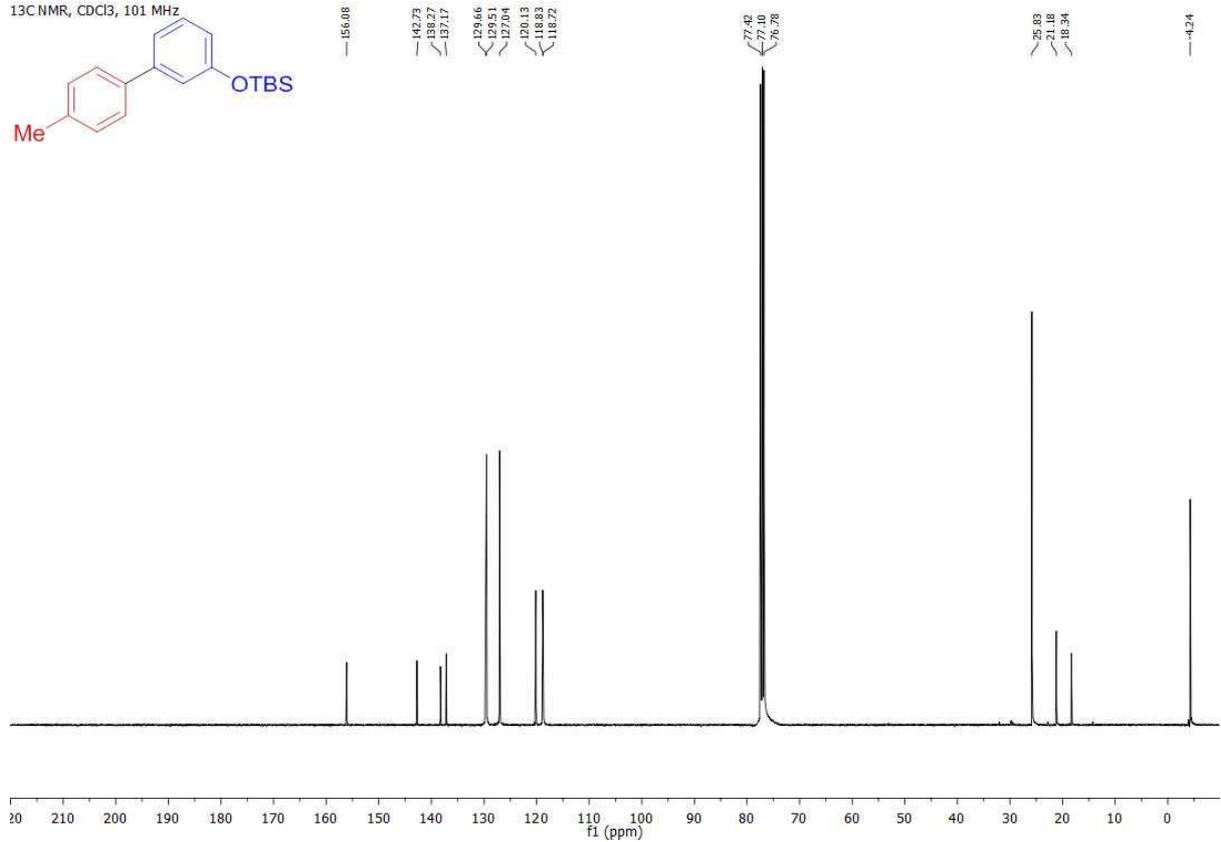
¹³C Spectra of **3e**

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



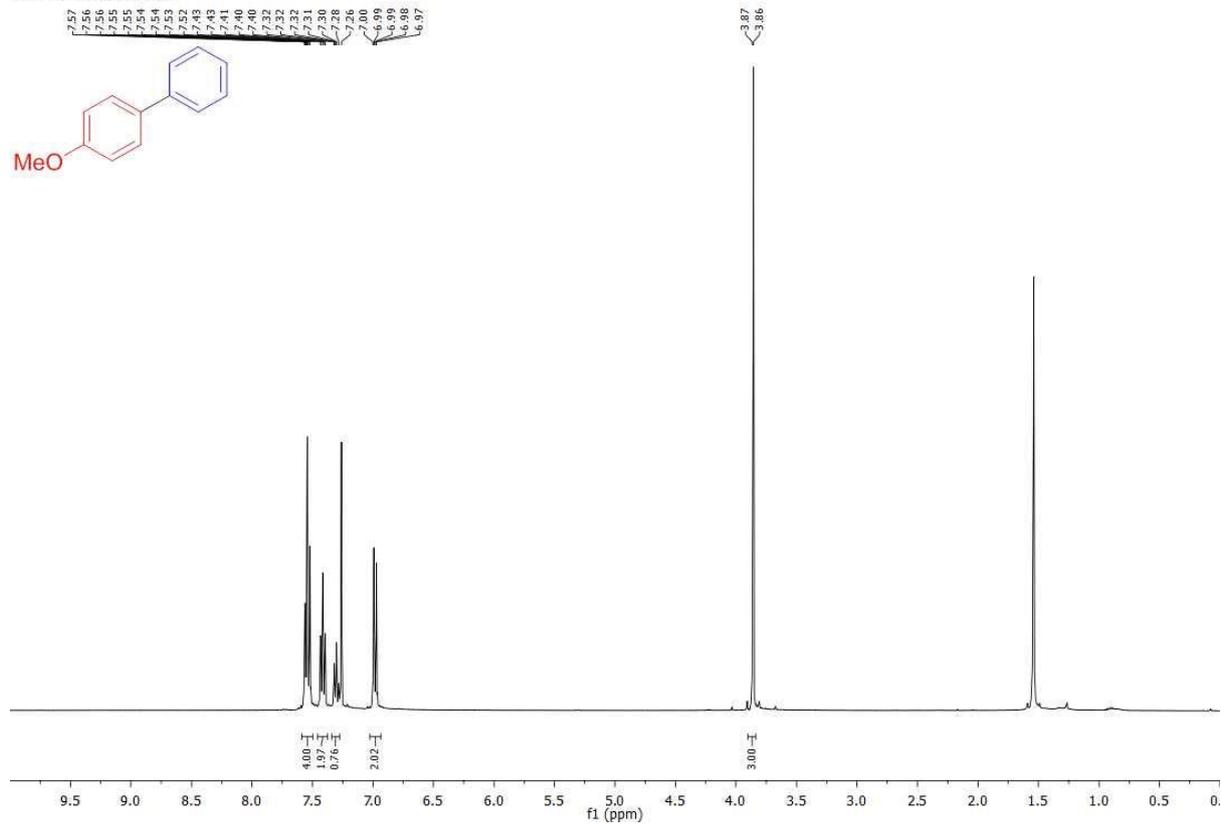
¹H Spectra of 3f

¹³C NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



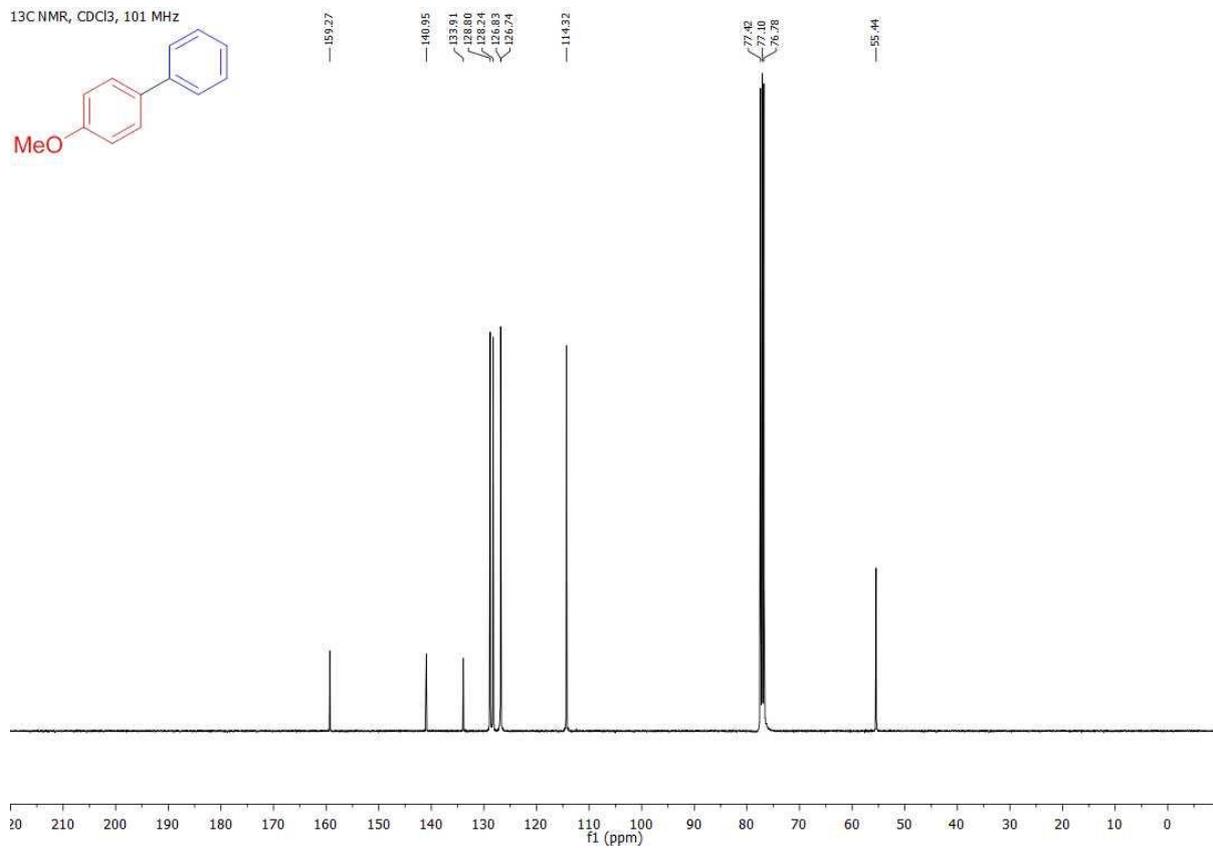
¹³C Spectra of 3f

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



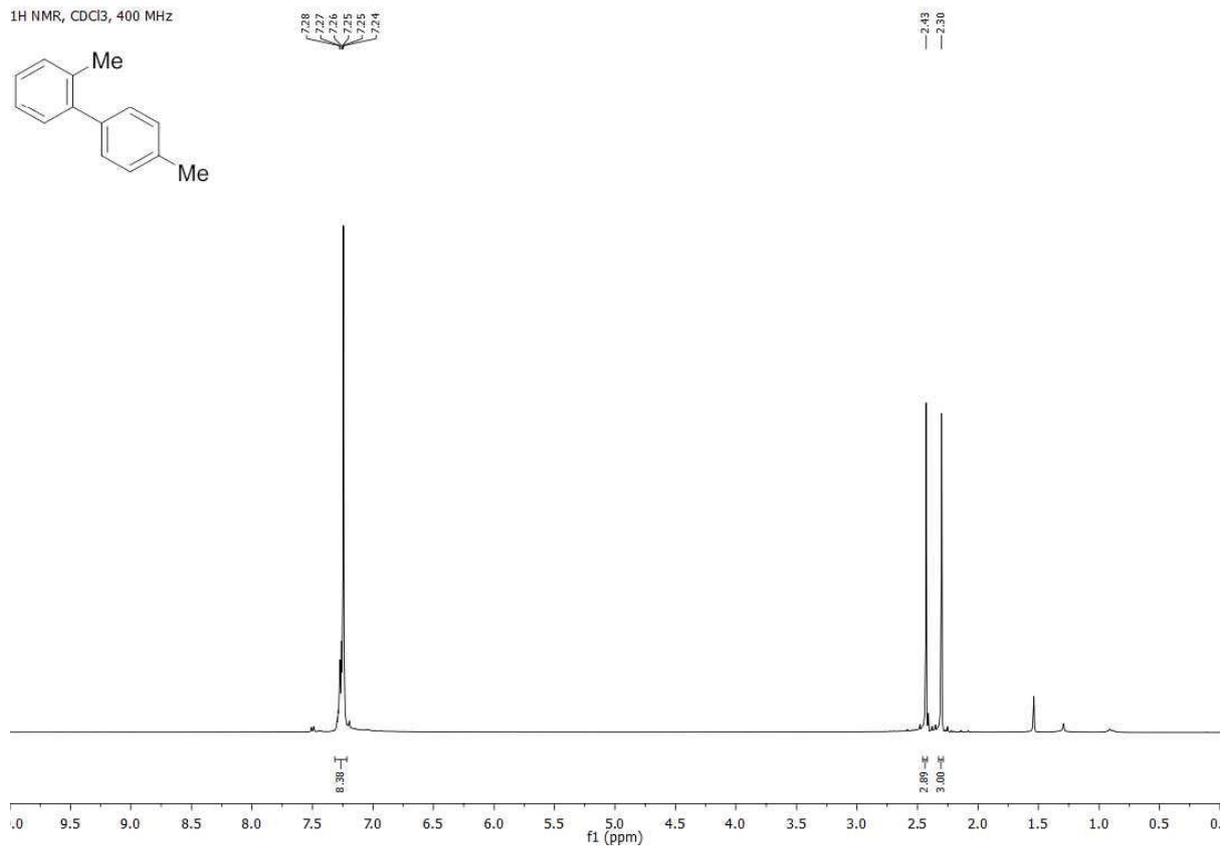
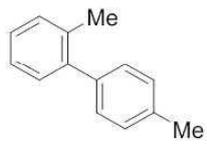
¹H Spectra of 3g

¹³C NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



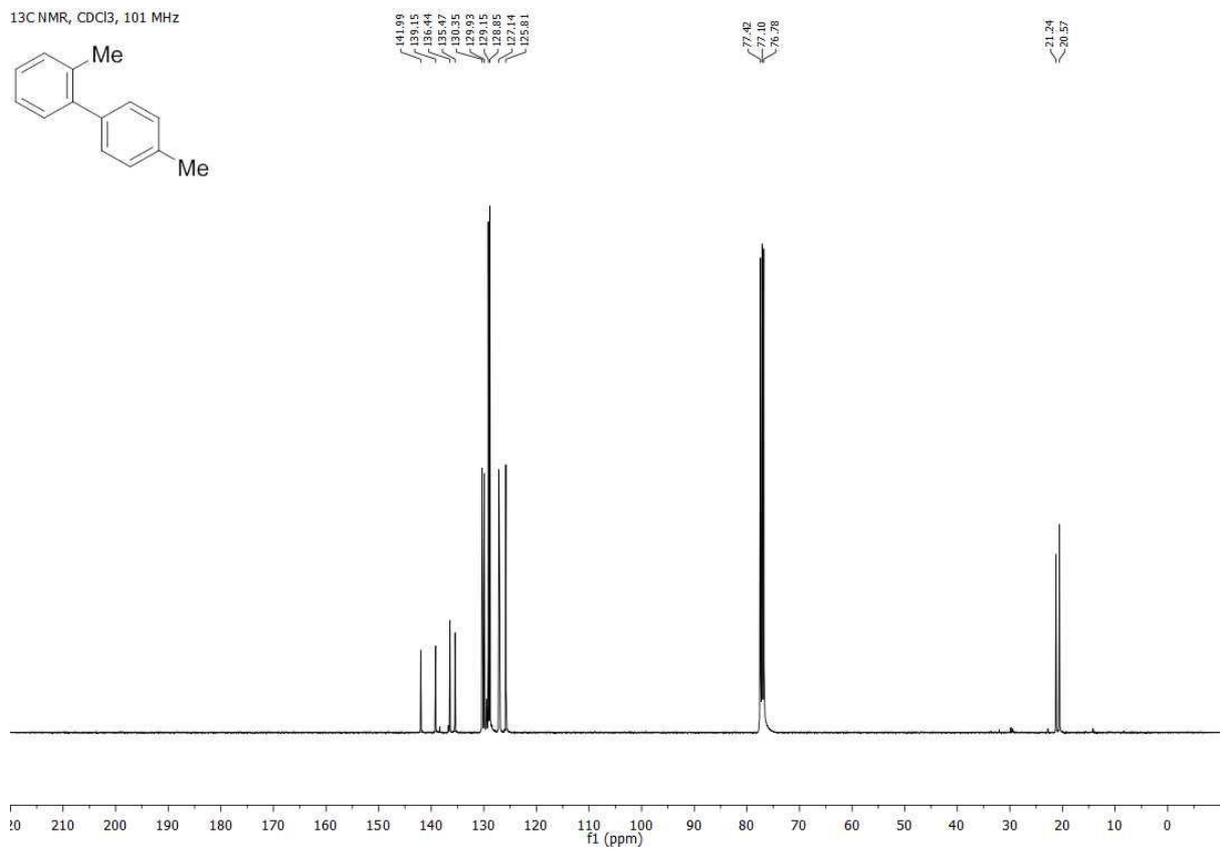
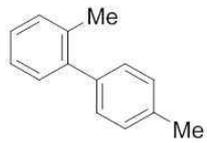
¹³C Spectra of 3g

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



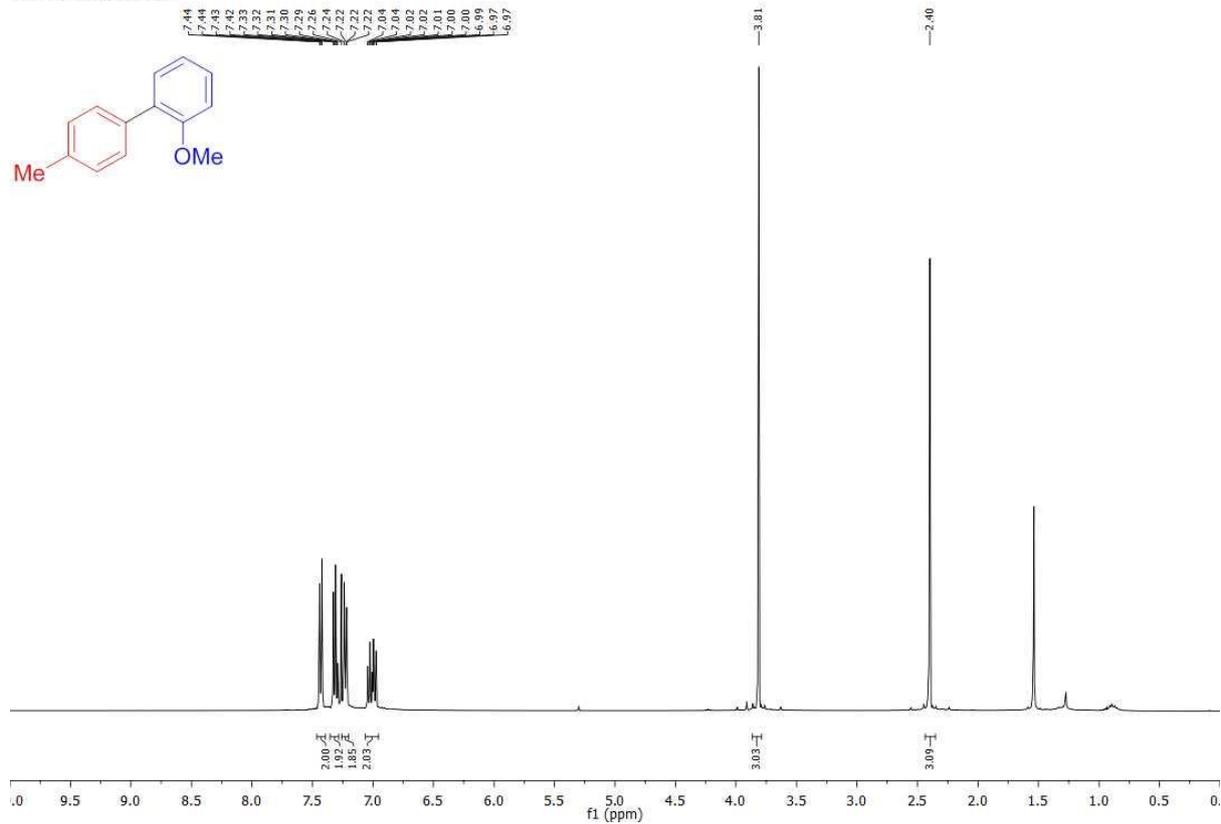
¹H Spectra of **3h**

¹³C NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



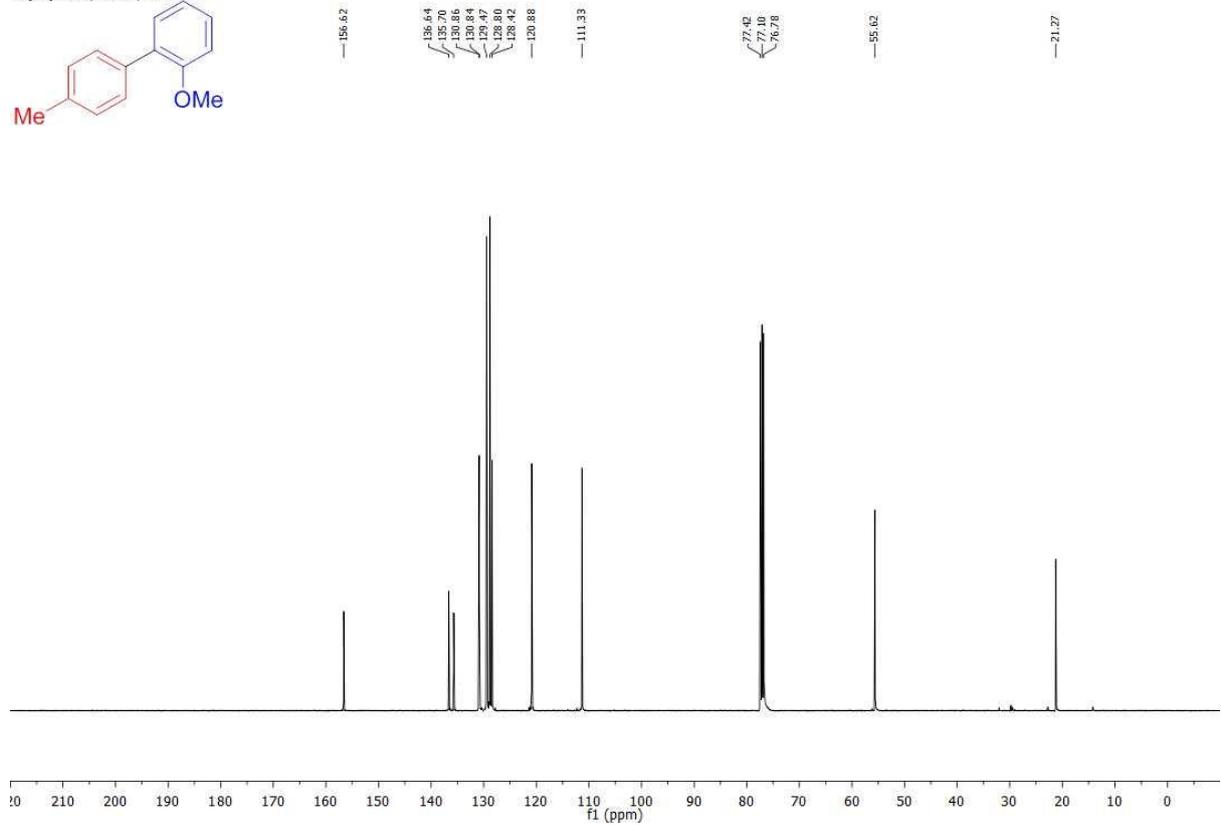
¹³C Spectra of **3h**

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



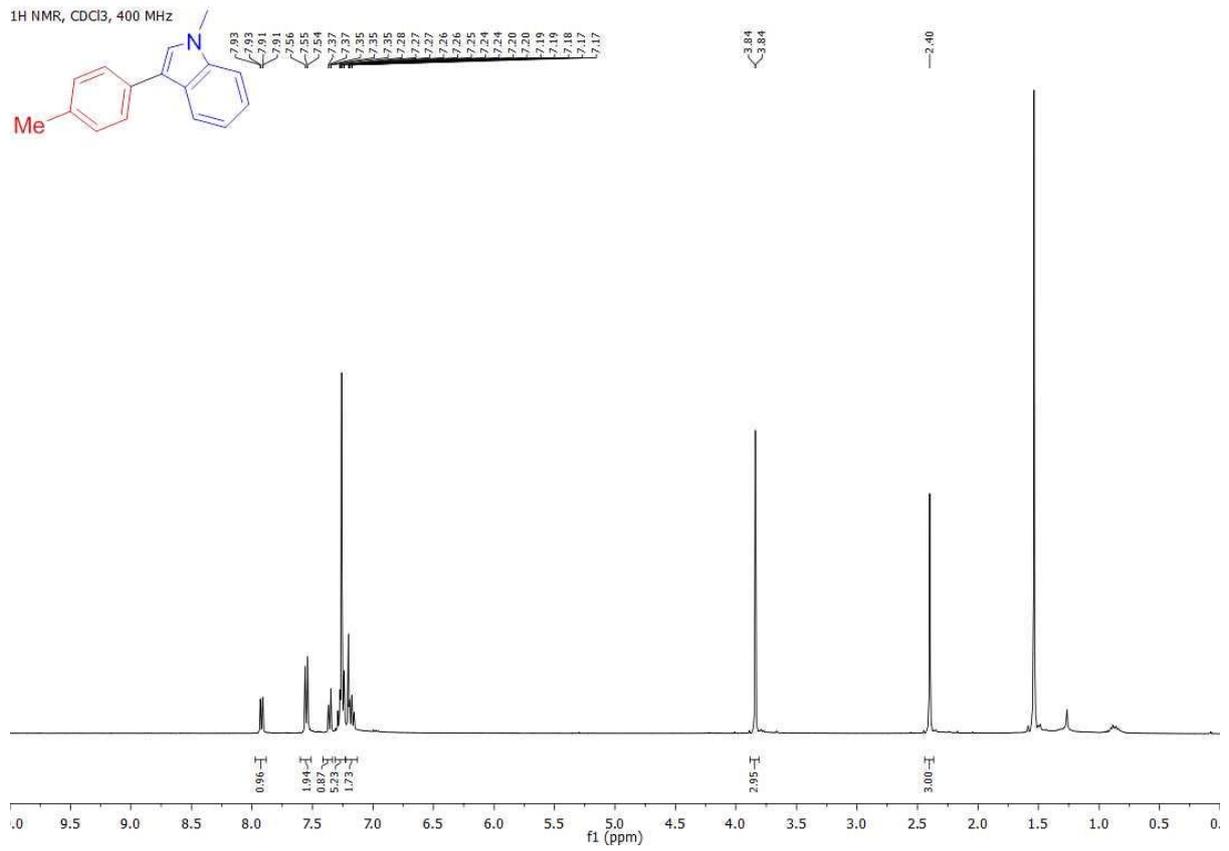
¹H Spectra of 3i

¹³C{¹H} NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



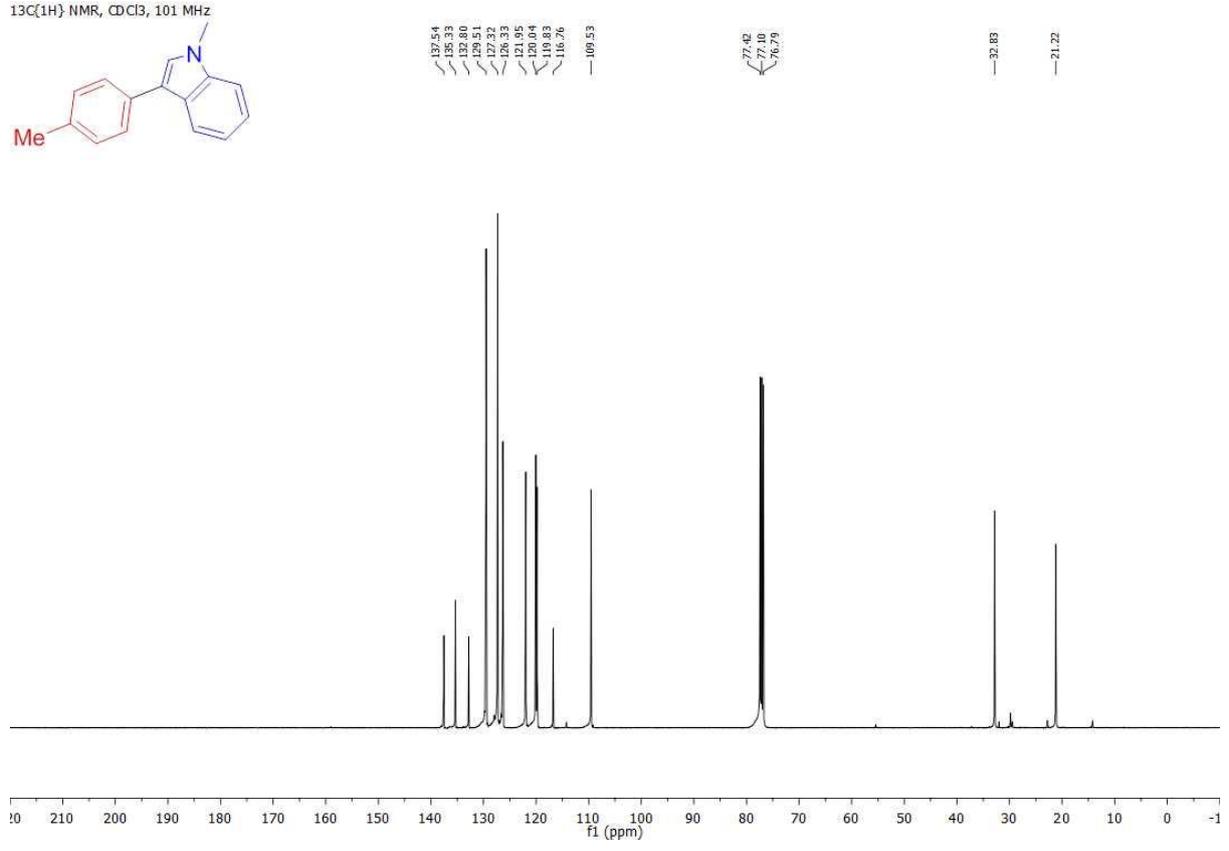
¹³C Spectra of 3i

¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 400 MHz



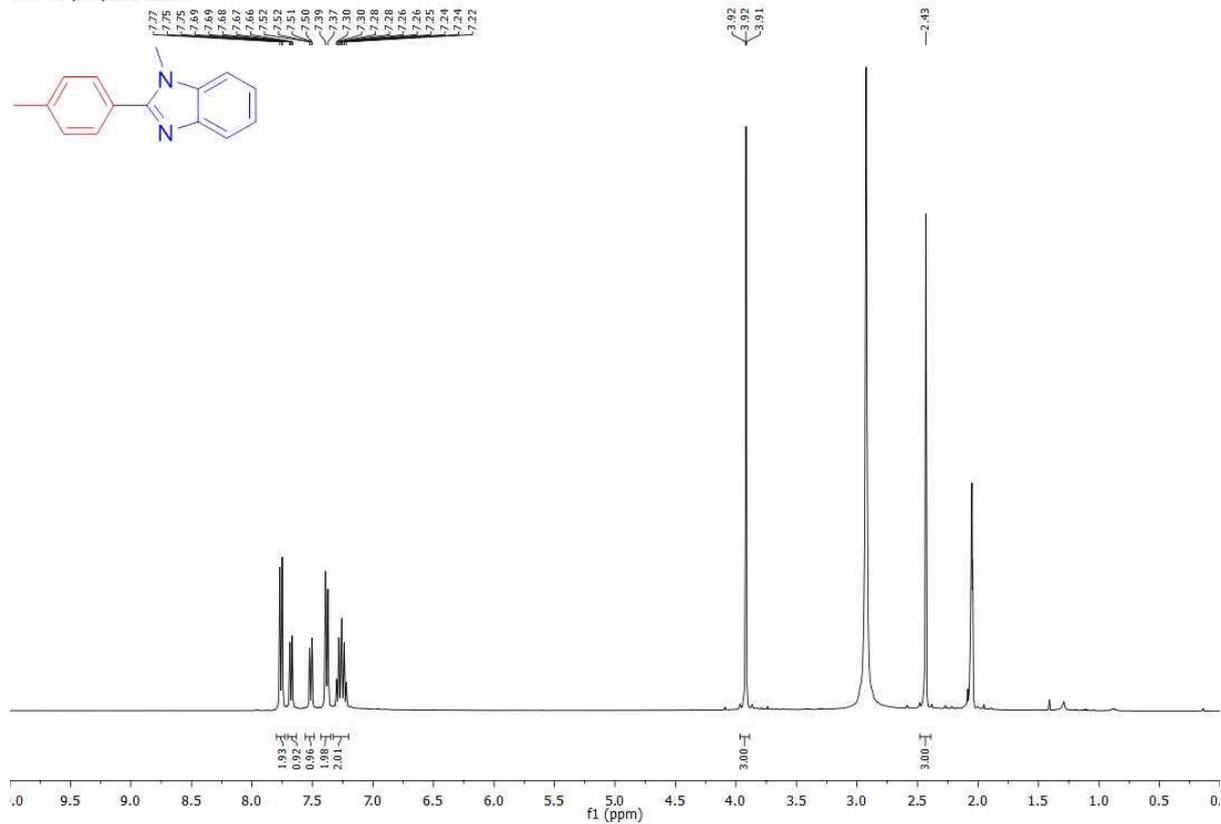
¹H Spectra of 3k

¹³C{¹H} NMR, CDCl₃, 101 MHz



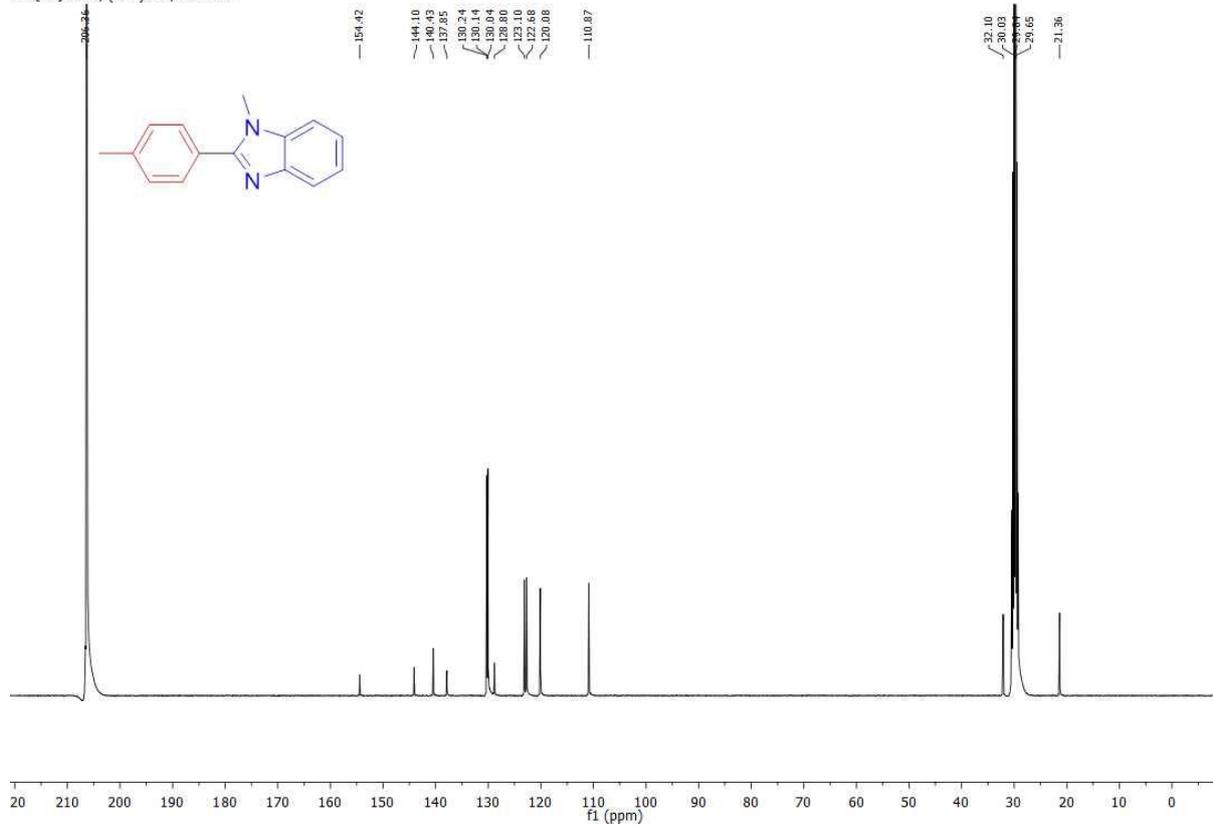
¹³C Spectra of 3k

^1H NMR, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$, 400 MHz



^1H Spectra of 31

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$, 101 MHz



^{13}C Spectra of 31

-
- 1 SMART, version 5.628; Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, WI, 2001
 - 2 SAINT+, version 6.22a; Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, WI, 2001.
 - 3 G. W. Sheldrick, SADABS version 2.10; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 2001.
 - 4 *SHELXTL*, version 6.14; Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, WI, 2000.
 - 5 (a) K. M. Kuhn, and R. H. Grubbs, *Org. Lett.*, 2008, 10, 2075-2077. (b) K. Hirano, S. Urban, c. Wang, and F. Glorius. *Org. Lett.*, 2009, 11, 1019-1022. (c) R. M. Roberts, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1956**, 78, 2606-2608.
 - 6 M. Iglesias, D. J. Beetstra, J. C. Knight, L.-L. Ooi, A. Stasch, S. Coles, L. Male, M. B. Hursthouse, K. J. Cavell, A. Dervisi, and I. A. Fallis. *Organometallics*, **2008**, 27, 3279-3289.
 - 7 Kolychev, E. L.; Portnyagin, I. A.; Shuntikov, V. V.; Khrustalev, V. N.; Nechaev, M. S. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2009**, 694, 2454.
 - 8 Chua, Y.-Y.; Duong, H. A. *Chem. Comm.* **2016**, 52, 1466.
 - 9 Roy, A. H.; Hartwig, J. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 8704.
 - 10 Yuen, O. Y.; So, C. M.; Man, H. W.; Kwong, F. Y., *Chem. Eur. J.* **2016**, 22, 6471.
 - 11 R. J. Phipps, N. P. Grimster, M. J. Gaunt, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 8172.
 - 12 X. Jin, Y. Liu, Q. Lu, D. Yang, J. Sun, S. Qin, J. Zhang, J. Shen, C. Chu, R. Liu, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2013**, 11, 3776.