

Electronic Supplementary Information

Chemoselective isocyanide insertion into N-H bond using iodine-DMSO: A metal-free access to substituted ureas

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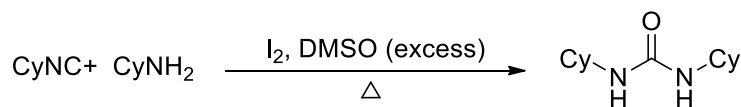
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1. General remarks: Commercial reagents were obtained from local suppliers and used as received. DMSO was purchased from Sigma Aldrich in a septum-sealed bottle. All the products were characterized by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and MS spectroscopy. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were obtained on a Bruker AC-400 using CDCl_3 and $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ as solvent and solvent peaks as internal standard, unless otherwise stated. Data are reported as: (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet); coupling constants in Hz and chemical shift values in ppm. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on thin films on KBr pellets on a Perkin Elmer FT-IR spectrometer. HPLC analysis was performed on Waters M515 series equipped with a chiral column, using mixtures of *n*-hexane/isopropyl alcohol (IPA) as mobile phase. For column chromatography, we employed Merck silica gel 60-120 mesh.

2. Table 1S: Optimization of reaction conditions

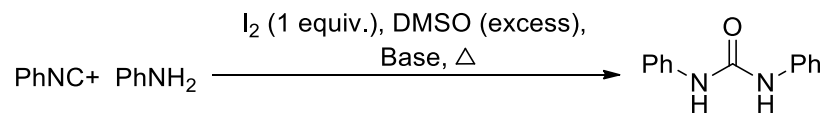


Entry	Iodine (eqv.)	Amine (eqv.)	Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	0.5	1.0	100	6	40
2	1.0	1.0	100	1	57
3	1.5	1.0	100	1	46
4	0.8	1.0	100	1	50
5	1.0	1.5	100	1	89
6	1.0	2.0	100	1	72
7	1.0	1.5	110	1	64
8	1.0	1.5	120	1	54
9	1.0	1.5	90	5	75

Reaction conditions: CyNC (1 mmol), CyNH₂ (1.5 mmol), iodine (1 eqv.), and DMSO (2 mL)

3. Screening of additives

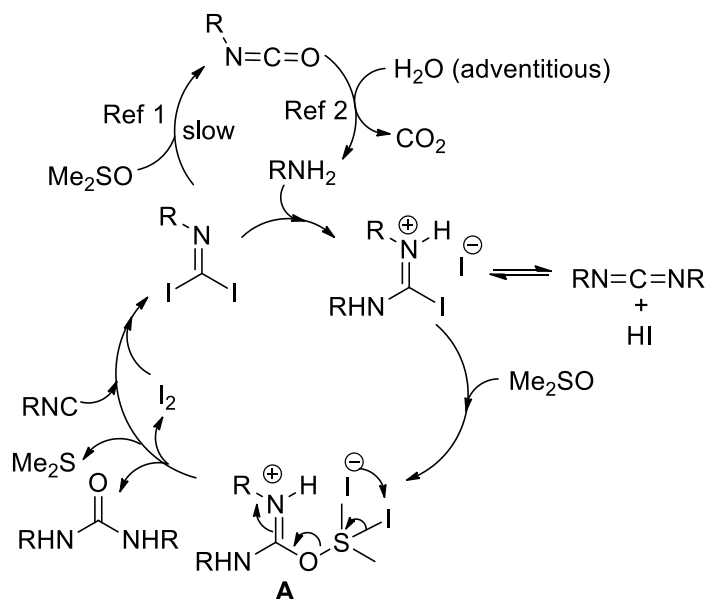
Table 2S: Screening of additives



Entry	Additives (equiv.)	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%)
1	Et ₃ N (1)	100	3	0
2	Pyridine (1)	100	3	23
3	2-Chloropyridine (1)	100	3	17
4	DMAP (1)	100	3	0
5	2,6-Lutidine (1)	100	3	0
6	Imidazole (1)	100	3	52
7	Imidazole (1.5)	100	3	53
8	DABCO (1)	100	3	65
9	DABCO (1)	130	3	66
10	DABCO (1)	100	5	62
11	DABCO (1.5)	100	3	66
12	DBU (1)	100	3	45

Reaction conditions: Aniline (1 mmol), Phenylisocyanide (1 mmol), iodine (1 eqv.), and DMSO (2 mL)

4. Probable mechanism for degradative synthesis of dialkylureas from alkyl isocyanides



Scheme S1. Mechanism for degradative synthesis of dialkylureas

5. Typical procedure (A) for synthesis of ureas from aliphatic amines

Cyclohexyl isocyanide (1 mmol) and piperidine (1.5 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL) and iodine (1 mmol) was stirred at 100 °C for 1 h. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, 2 mL of ice-cold solution of sodium thiosulphate was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL× 3). Combined organic layers were washed successively with saturated solution of sodium thiosulphate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded a off white solid which was further purified by passing through a short pad of silica gel column employing hexane: ethyl acetate (50:50) as eluent.

6. Procedure (B) for synthesis of ureas from aromatic amines

To a mixture of benzyl isocyanide (1 mmol), aniline (1.0 mmol) and DABCO (0.5 mmol) in 2 mL of DMSO, iodine (1 mmol) was added and stirred at 100 °C for 3 h. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, 2 mL of ice-cold solution of

sodium thiosulphate was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL× 3). Combined organic layers were washed successively with saturated solution of sodium thiosulphate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude obtained was purified by employing silicagel column chromatography and hexane: ethyl acetate (80:20) as an eluent.

7. Procedure (C) for amine-free synthesis of ureas from alkylisocyanides

Alkyl isocyanide (1 mmol) in 2 mL DMSO and iodine (1 mmol) was stirred at 100 °C for 4 h. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, 2 mL of ice-cold solution of sodium thiosulphate was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL× 3). Combined organic layers were washed successively with saturated solution of sodium thiosulphate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded a crude solid which was further purified by passing through a short pad of silica gel column employing hexane: ethyl acetate (50:50) as eluent.

8. Characterization and Spectral data of the urea derivatives

N-Cyclohexylpyrrolidine-1-carboxamide (**1a**):³ White solid, m.p. 136- 137 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.68 – 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.31 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4 H), 1.97 – 1.86 (m, 6 H), 1.71 – 1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.62 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.37 – 1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.14 – 1.03 (m, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.3, 49.0, 45.5, 34.3, 25.77, 25.6, 25.1 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 196.83 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3285, 2929, 1624, 1533, 1404, 1359 cm⁻¹.

N-Cyclohexylpiperidine-1-carboxamide (**1b**):⁴ White solid, m.p. 134- 136 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.26 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.64 – 3.59 (m, 1 H), 3.29 – 3.26 (m, 4 H), 1.94 – 1.83 (m, 3 H), 1.69 – 1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.60 – 1.52 (m, 6H), 1.39 – 1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.17 – 1.02 (m, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.0, 49.3, 44.7, 33.9, 25.6, 25.5, 25.1, 24.4 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 210.91 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3329, 1651, 1596, 1552, 1232 cm⁻¹.

N-Cyclohexylmorpholine-4-carboxamide (1c):⁵ White solid, m.p. 172 - 174 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.26 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.67 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4 H), 3.64-3.60 (m, 1 H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4 H), 1.95- 1.92 (m, 2 H), 1.71 – 1.59 (m, 3 H), 1.40 – 1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.16 – 1.03 (m, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.2, 66.5, 49.5, 44.0, 33.9, 25.6, 25.1 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 212.86 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3310, 2931, 1615, 1542, 1275, 1109 cm⁻¹.

1-Cyclohexyl-3-(1-phenylethyl)urea (1d):⁶ White solid, m.p. 130 – 132 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 5 H), 4.70 – 4.63 (m, 2 H), 4.21 – 4.16 (m, 1 H), 3.44 – 3.38 (m, 1 H), 1.86 – 1.44 (m, 5 H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.25 – 0.99 (m, 5 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.5, 144.7, 128.6, 127.1, 125.9, 49.9, 48.8, 48.7, 34.0, 33.8, 33.7, 25.7, 25.6, 25.0, 24.9, 24.8, 23.5 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 247.02 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3317, 2929, 1626, 1575, 1247 cm⁻¹.

1-Benzyl-3-cyclohexylurea (1e):⁷ White solid, m.p. 77- 78 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 – 7.16 (m, 5 H), 5.11 – 5.08 (m, 1 H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.52 – 3.45 (m, 1 H), 1.89 – 1.85 (m, 2 H), 1.66 – 1.61 (m, 3 H), 1.34 – 1.25 (m, 2 H), 1.09 – 1.00 (m, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.4, 139.8, 128.5, 127.2, 127.0, 48.8, 44.0, 33.9, 25.6, 25.0 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 232.88 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3328, 2905, 1626, 1567, 1279, 1244 cm⁻¹.

3-Cyclohexyl-1,1-diethylurea (1f):⁸ White solid, m.p. 82- 84 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.60 – 3.52 (m, 1 H), 3.18 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4 H), 1.87 – 1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.62 – 1.48 (m, 3 H), 1.32 – 1.22 (m, 2 H), 1.07 – 0.97 (m, 9 H) ppm. . ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.6, 49.2, 41.0, 34.0, 25.7, 25.1, 13.8 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 199.06 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3328, 1663, 1589, 1560, 1226 cm⁻¹.

N,N'-Dicyclohexylurea (1g):⁷ White solid, m.p. 232 - 234 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.10 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.51 - 3.43 (m, 2 H), 1.95 – 1.91 (m, 4 H), 1.72 – 1.57 (m, 6 H), 1.40 – 1.29 (m, 4 H), 1.20 – 1.04 (m, 6 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃ and few drops of DMSO-*d*₆): δ 156.6, 47.4, 33.3, 25.2, 24.4 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 225.06 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3328, 2929, 1627, 1575, 1271, 1244 cm⁻¹.

N-Benzylpyrrolidine-1-carboxamide (**1h**):⁹ White solid, m.p. 122- 124 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 – 7.25(m, 5 H), 4.50 – 4.43 (m, 3 H), 3.36 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4 H), 1.92 – 1.89 (m, 4 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.7, 138.8, 127.4, 126.6, 126.08, 44.5, 43.5, 24.5 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 204.85 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3290, 1621, 1541, 1400, 1350, 1234 cm⁻¹.

N-Benzylpiperidine-1-carboxamide (**1i**):⁷ White solid, m.p. 97- 99 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 5 H), 4.68 (s, 1 H), 4.35 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.27 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4 H), 1.52 – 1.45 (m, 6 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.5, 139.6, 128.4, 127.5, 127.0, 44.7, 25.5, 24.2 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 218.83 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3326, 1640, 1588, 1546, 1233 cm⁻¹.

N-Benzylmorpholine-4-carboxamide (**1j**):¹⁰ White solid, m.p. 104- 106 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 5 H), 4.74 (s, 1 H), 4.44 (s, 2 H), 3.70 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 3 H), 3.38 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.8, 139.3, 128.6, 127.6, 127.3, 66.4, 44.8, 43.9 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 221.02 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3321, 1624, 1543, 1407, 1269, 1118 cm⁻¹.

N,N'-Dibenzylurea (**1k**):¹¹ White solid, m.p. 165- 167 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.34 – (m, 10 H), 4.66 (s, 2 H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 158.0, 140.9, 128.2, 126.9, 126.5, 42.9 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 240.80 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3030, 3321, 1626, 1573, 1246 cm⁻¹.

l-Benzyl-3-(*l*-phenylethyl)urea (**1l**):¹² White solid, m.p. 125- 126 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 7.46 – 7.18 (m, 14H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 4.79 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 6.4 Hz, 3H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.36 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 144.4, 139.4, 128.5, 128.4, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.8, 49.8, 44.0, 23.2 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 218.83 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3335, 3320 1652, 1591, 1545, 1224 cm⁻¹.

l-Benzyl-3-butylurea (**1m**):¹¹ White solid, m.p. 100- 102 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 5 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 4.79 (s, 1 H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.03 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.33 – 1.28 (m, 2 H), 1.24 – 1.15 (m, 2 H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3

H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.0, 139.6, 128.4, 127.1, 126.9, 44.0, 40.0, 32.3, 20.0, 13.8 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 207.05$ $[\text{M}]^+$. IR (KBr): $\nu = 3339, 2954, 1626, 1594, 1270 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

1-((3s,5s,7s)-Adamantan-1-yl)-3-benzylurea (1n):¹³ White solid, m.p. 148- 150 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 5 H), 5.07 (s, 3 H), 4.65 (s, 1 H), 4.19 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2 H), 1.96 (s, 3 H), 1.84 (s, 6 H), 1.56 (s, 6 H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.7, 139.6, 128.4, 127.2, 127.1, 50.6, 43.8, 42.3, 36.4, 29.5 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 285.03$ $[\text{M}]^+$. IR (KBr): $\nu = 3350, 2906, 1625, 1569, 1279, 1243, 1090 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

N-(tert-Butyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxamide (1o):¹⁴ White solid, m.p. 120- 122 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.02 (s, 1 H), 3.27 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4 H), 1.87 (m, 4 H), 1.33 (s, 9 H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 156.2, 50.5, 45.3, 29.5, 25.5 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 171.04$ $[\text{M}]^+$. IR (KBr): $\nu = 3347, 2969, 1632, 1529, 1388, 1219 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

N-(tert-Butyl)piperidine-1-carboxamide (1p):¹⁵ White solid, m.p. 140- 142 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.29 (s, 1H), 3.33 – 3.14 (m, 4H), 1.60 – 1.45 (m, 6H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.1, 76.7, 44.8, 77.3, 50.5, 77.0, 29.5, 24.4, 25.6 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 184.13$ $[\text{M}]^+$. IR: $\nu = 3339, 2958, 1645, 1552, 1222 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

N-(tert-Butyl)morpholine-4-carboxamide (1q):¹⁶ White solid, m.p. 182- 184 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.29 (s,1 H), 3.66 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4 H), 3.27 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4 H), 1.37 (s, 9 H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.0, 66.4, 50.8, 43.9, 29.3 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 186.82$ $[\text{M}]$. IR (KBr): $\nu = 3359, 2973, 1622, 1537, 1274, 1109 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

1-Benzyl-3-(tert-butyl)urea (1r):¹⁷ White solid, m.p. 107- 108 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 5 H), 4.94 (s, 1 H), 4.63 (s, 1 H), 4.25 (s, 2 H), 1.29 (s, 9 H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.2, 139.9, 128.3, 127.1, 126.8, 49.9, 43.7, 29.5 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 206.92$ $[\text{M}]^+$. IR (KBr): $\nu = 3331, 3319, 1647, 1591, 1549, 1227 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

1-Cyclohexyl-3-phenylurea (1s):¹⁴ White solid, m.p. 179- 180 °C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.61 (s, 1 H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 2 H), 7.01 – 6.96 (m, 2 H), 6.71 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.42 (s, 1 H), 3.52 – 3.43 (m, 1 H), 1.72 (dd, $J = 12.4$ Hz, 4.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.49 – 1.43

(m, 2 H), 1.37 – 1.34 (m, 1 H), 1.15 – 1.08 (m, 2 H), 0.95 – 0.89 (m, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.3, 140.1, 128.6, 121.4, 118.3, 48.1, 33.5, 25.5, 24.7 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 218.07 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3337, 3321, 1645, 1583, 1546, 1241 cm⁻¹.

1-Benzyl-3-phenylurea (1t):⁹ White solid, m.p. 167- 170 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 9 H), 7.08 – 7.05 (m, 1 H), 6.59 (s, 1 H), 5.26 (s, 1 H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.4, 139.7, 139.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.0, 126.5, 121.1, 117.7, 43.0 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 127.08 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3328, 1634, 1555, 1234 cm⁻¹.

N-phenylpiperidine-1-carboxamide (1u):¹¹ White solid, m.p. 171- 173 °C ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.46 – 7.19 (m, 4 H), 7.02 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 3.80 – 2.92 (t, *J*=4.8 Hz, 4 H), 1.67 – 1.44 (m, 6 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.9, 139.2, 128.8, 122.8, 119.7, 45.2, 25.6, 24.3 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 205.31 [M+H]⁺. IR: ν = 3333, 3319, 1641, 1571, 1545, 1240 cm⁻¹.

N-Phenylmorpholine-4-carboxamide (1v):¹⁷ White solid, m.p. 158- 159 °C ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.50 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.06 (t, *J*=7.2, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 3.74 (t, *J*=4.8 Hz, 4 H), 3.48 (t, *J*=4.8 Hz, 4 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 138.6, 128.9, 123.3, 120.0, 66.4, 44.2 ppm. *m/z* = 207.21 [M+H]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3331, 3323, 1642, 1569, 1546, 1239 cm⁻¹.

N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)morpholine-4-carboxamide (1w):¹⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J*=8.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.43 (s, 1 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.70 (t, *J*= 4.8 Hz, 4 H), 3.50 – 3.35 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4 H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.0, 155.7, 131.6, 122.6, 114.0, 66.4, 55.4, 44.1 ppm; MS (ESI): *m/z* = 237.31 [M+H]⁺; IR (KBr): ν = 3331, 3318, 1644, 1572, 1542, 1238 cm⁻¹.

1-Benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)urea (1x):⁹ White solid, m.p. 141- 143 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 – 7.22, (m, 4 H), 7.16 – 7.13 (m, 2 H), 6.84 – 6.81 (m, 2 H), 6.45 (s, 1 H), 5.16 (s, 1 H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.0, 154.3, 139.4, 132.5, 127.9, 126.9, 126.5, 120.2, 113.5, 54.9, 43.1 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 257.05 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3307, 1628, 1608, 1564, 1244 cm⁻¹.

(S)-Methyl 2-(3-benzylureido)-3-phenylpropanoate (**2a**):¹⁸ White solid, m.p. 96- 97 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.30 – 7.21 (m, 8 H), 7.07 – 7.05 (m, 2 H), 5.03 – 4.98 (m, 2 H), 4.80 – 4.76 (m, 1 H), 4.32 – 4.28 (m, 2 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 3.10 – 2.98 (m, 2 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.2, 157.1, 138.9, 136.1, 136.3, 129.3, 128.4, 128.6, 127.3, 126.9, 53.9, 52.2, 44.4, 38.4 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 313.09 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* = 3357, 3320, 1734, 1629, 1571, 1244, 1030 cm⁻¹.

(S)-Methyl 2-(3-Cyclohexylureido)-3-phenylpropanoate (**2b**):¹⁸ White solid, m.p. 115 – 116 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.71-4.67 (m, 1 H), 4.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 3.38-3.36 (m, 1 H), 3.04 – 2.98 (m, 2 H), 1.84 – 1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.61 – 1.49 (m, 3, H), 1.25 – 1.18 (m, 2 H), 1.04 – 0.99 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.5, 156.6, 136.3, 129.3, 128.4, 126.9, 53.9, 52.1, 49.1, 38.5, 33.7, 33.6, 25.5, 24.9, 24.8 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 305.02 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* = 3317, 2936, 1735, 1627, 1561, 1221 cm⁻¹.

1,3-di-*tert*-butylurea (**3a**):¹⁹ White solid, m.p. 246-247 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.13 (s, 2 H), 1.30 (s, 18 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.1, 50.1, 29.6 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 172.20 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* = 3334, 1654, 1570, 1537, 1240 cm⁻¹.

1,3-Di(1-*adamantyl*)urea (**3b**):⁷ White solid, m.p.> 300 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): 3.99 (s, 2H), 2.03 (s, 6H), 1.97 (s, 12H), 1.62 (s, 12H) ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 328.65 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* = 3350, 2911, 1673, 1661, 1193 cm⁻¹.

1,3-Diphenylurea (**4a**):¹⁵ White solid, m.p. 247-248 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.05 (s, 2 H), 7.31 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.13 (t, *J*=7.9 Hz, 4 H), 6.85 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 2 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-*d*₆): δ 153.1, 139.4, 128.7, 122.1, 118.6 ppm. *m/z* = 212.20 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* 3338, 1644, 1566, 1541, 1241 cm⁻¹.

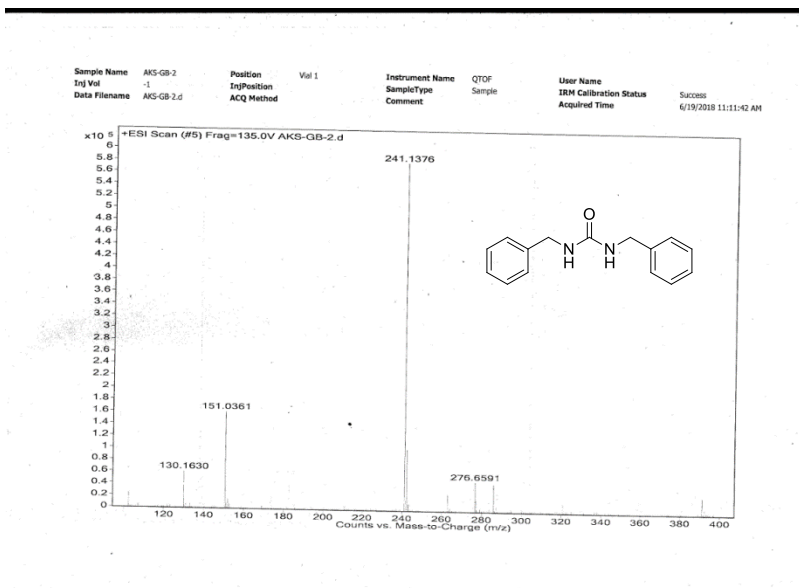
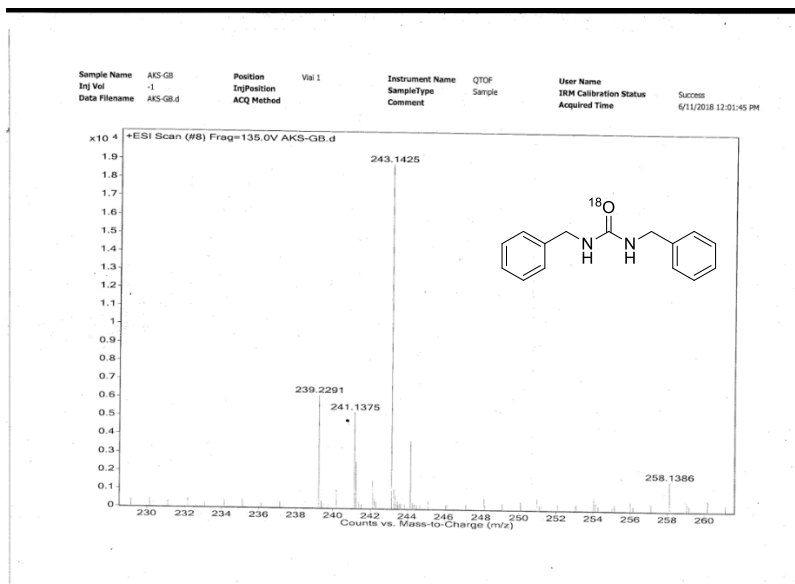
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylurea (**4b**):¹⁵ White solid, m.p. 187- 189 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (s, 1 H), 7.87 (s, 1 H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 2 H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.91(t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.6, 153.1, 139.4, 132.3, 128.4, 121.6, 120.3, 118.2, 113.6, 55.1 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 242.98 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): *v* = 3336, 3321, 1645, 1550, 1231 cm⁻¹.

1-Benzyl-3-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)urea (5): White solid, m.p. 178-180 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.51 – 7.26 (m, 5 H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2 H), 6.49 (t, *J*=6.0, 1 H), 6.01 (t, *J*=5.5, 1 H), 5.64 (d, *J*=4.2, 1 H), 4.85 – 4.34 (m, 1 H), 4.17 (d, *J*=5.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.37 – 3.18 (m, 1 H), 3.12- 3.08 (m, 1 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 158.1, 142.7, 140.7, 131.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.8, 126.8, 126.4, 71.3, 47.1, 42.7 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 304.44 [M]⁺. IR (KBr): ν = 3562, 3364, 3296, 1615, 1193 cm⁻¹.

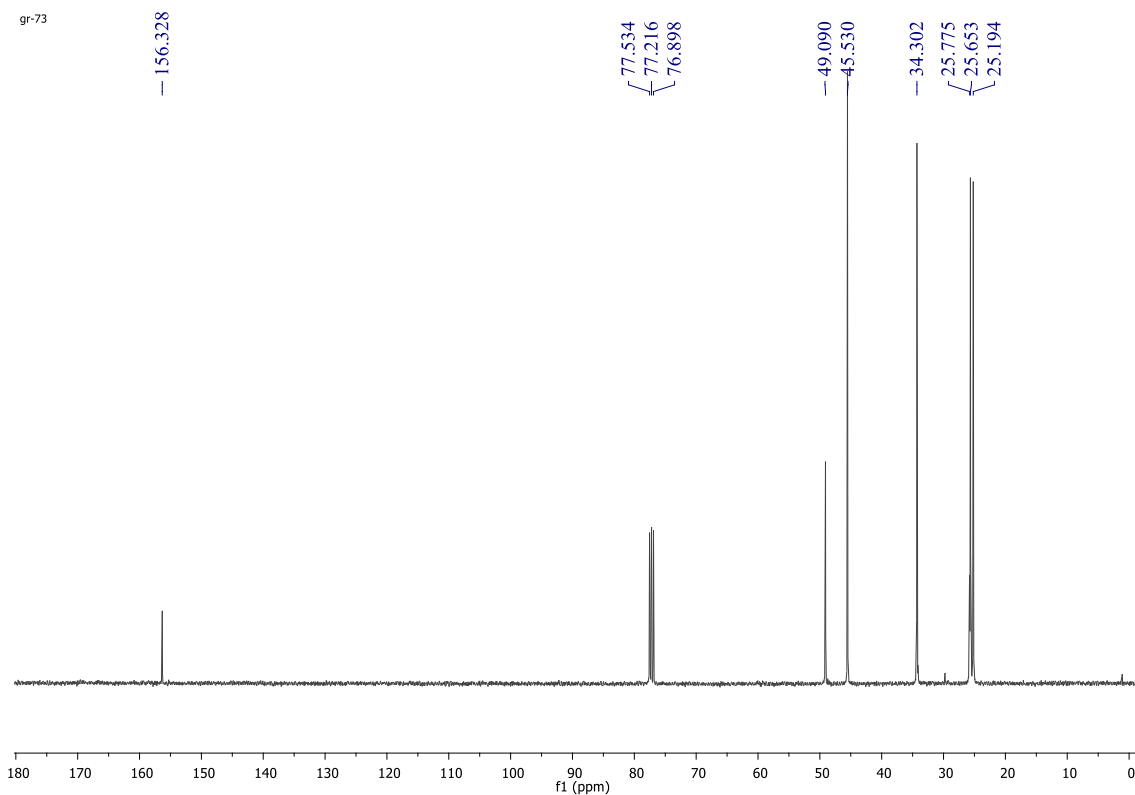
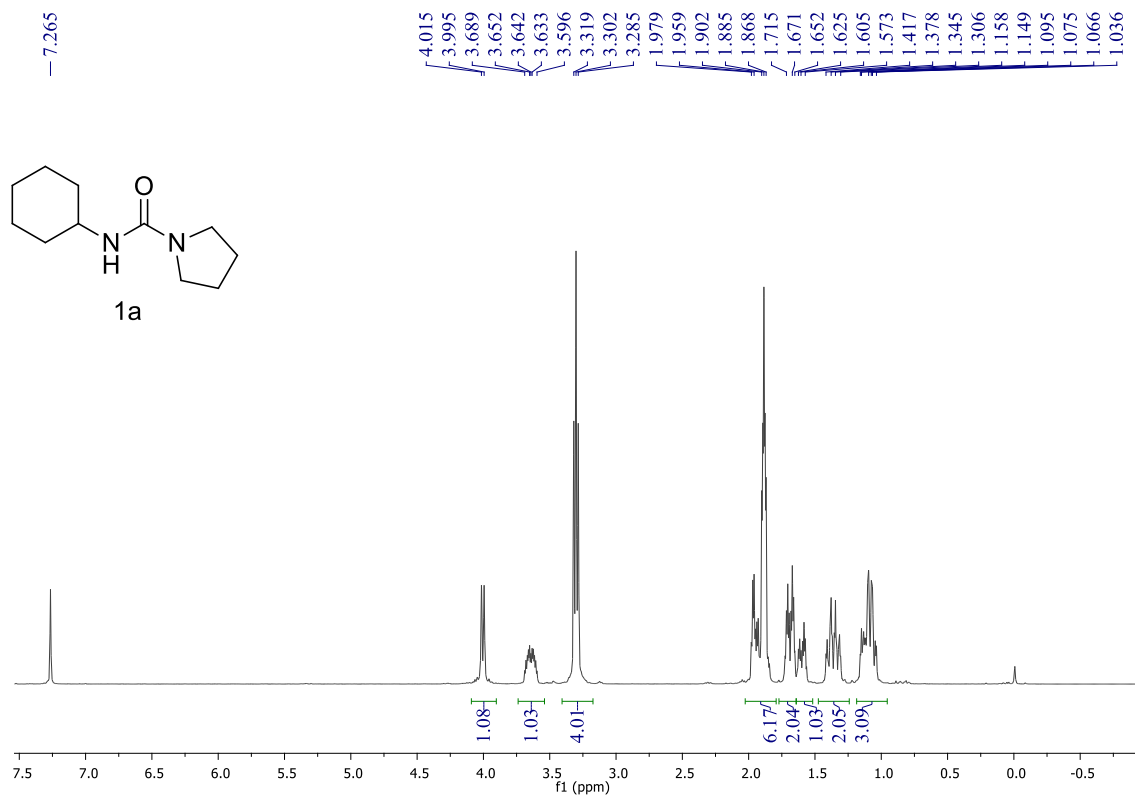
9. Method for preparation of ¹⁸O-labeled dibenzylurea

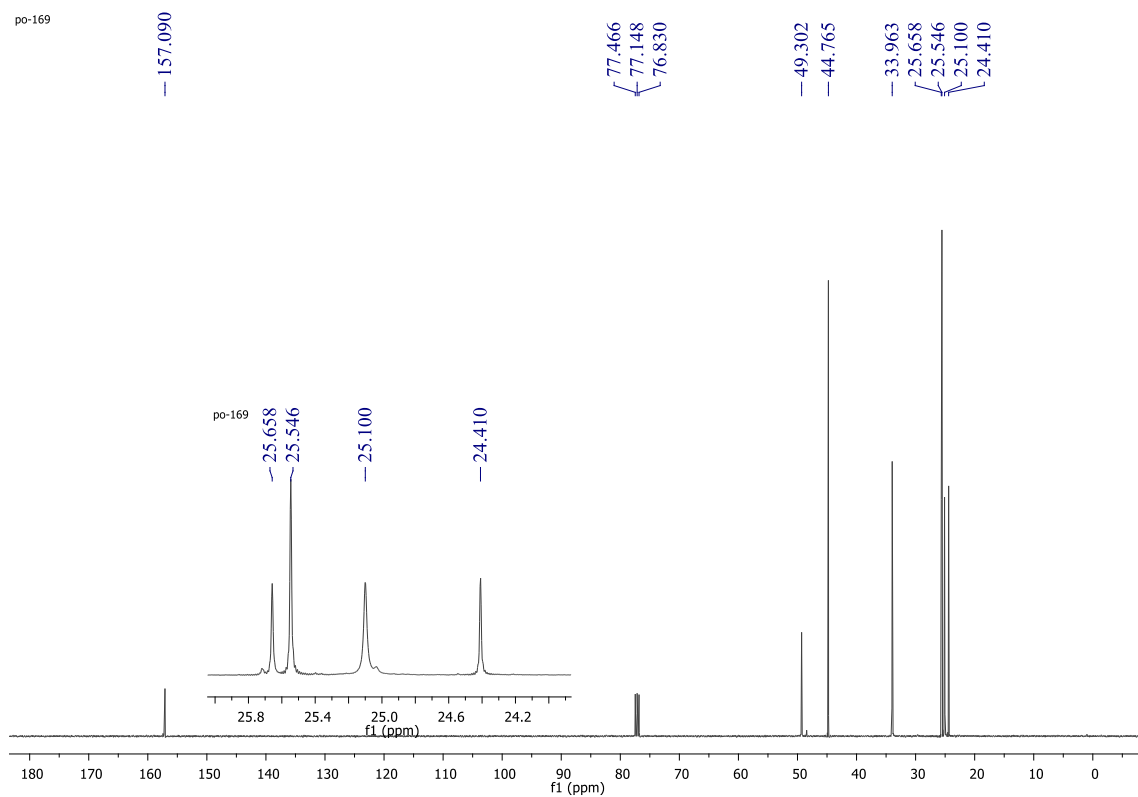
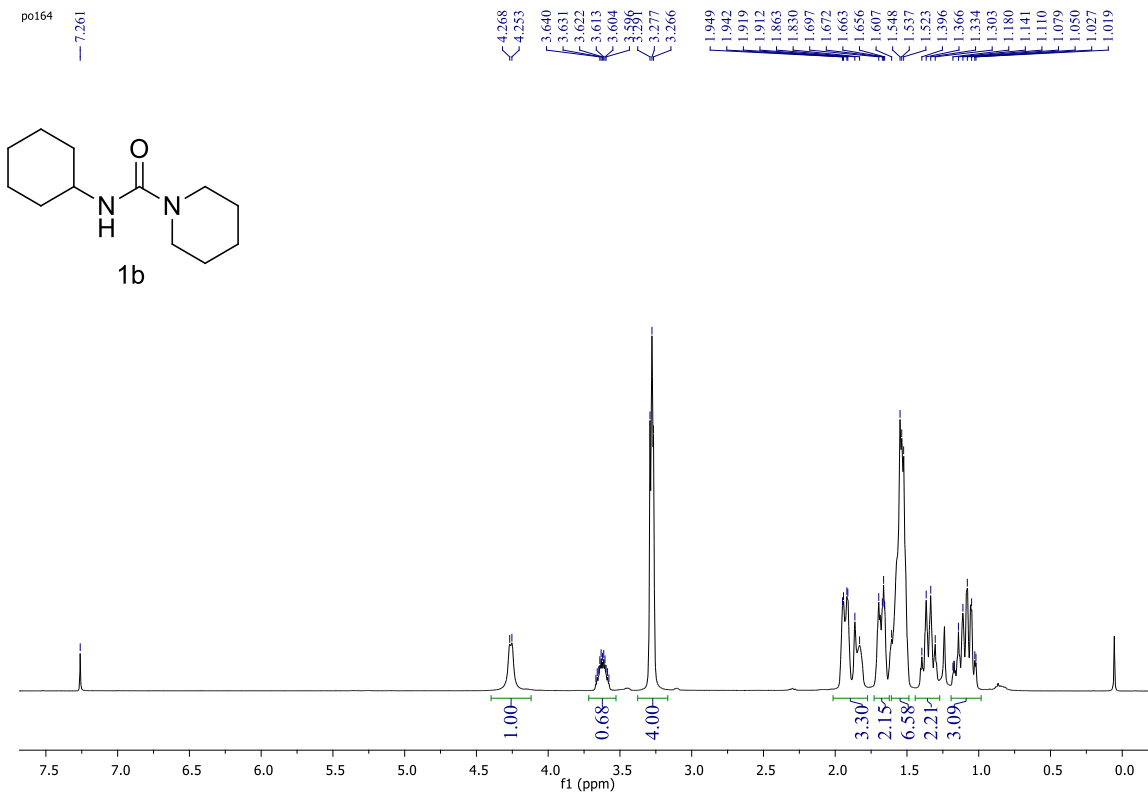
Me₂SO¹⁸ was synthesized following literature procedure.²⁰ The solid dimethylsulfur dibromide (5.0 g, 22.5 mmoles) prepared was added portion-wise over a period of 15 min to a vigorously stirred solution of freshly distilled triethylamine (6.3 ml, 45 mmoles) and ¹⁸O-labeled water (0.20 ml, 11 mmoles) in 15 mL of anhydrous THF. The temperature of the reaction was maintained below 50 °C by occasional cooling in ice. The precipitate of triethylamine hydrobromide was removed by centrifugation and washed twice with ether. The combined yellow supernatant and washings were distilled at room temperature at reduced pressure (15 mm) to remove the solvent and the tan residue was distilled in a short-path apparatus (60-70 °C at 0.3 mm) giving 1.03 g of a pale yellow liquid. Without further purification the reaction was performed between benzyl isocyanide (57 mg, 0.5 mmol) and benzyl amine (80 mg, 0.75 mmol) as per optimized procedure. After the completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, 2 mL of ice-cold solution of sodium thiosulphate was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL × 3). Combined organic layers were washed successively with saturated solution of sodium thiosulphate and water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded the corresponding ¹⁸O-derivative of dibenzylurea as an off-white solid which was further purified by passing through a short pad of silica gel column employing hexane: ethyl acetate (50:50) as eluent. ESI-MS analysis result clearly showed [M+H]⁺ peak at 243.1425 corresponding to ¹⁸O-derivative of dibenzylurea.

10. HRMS spectrat of ^{18}O -labeled dibenzylurea and ^{16}O -dibenzylurea

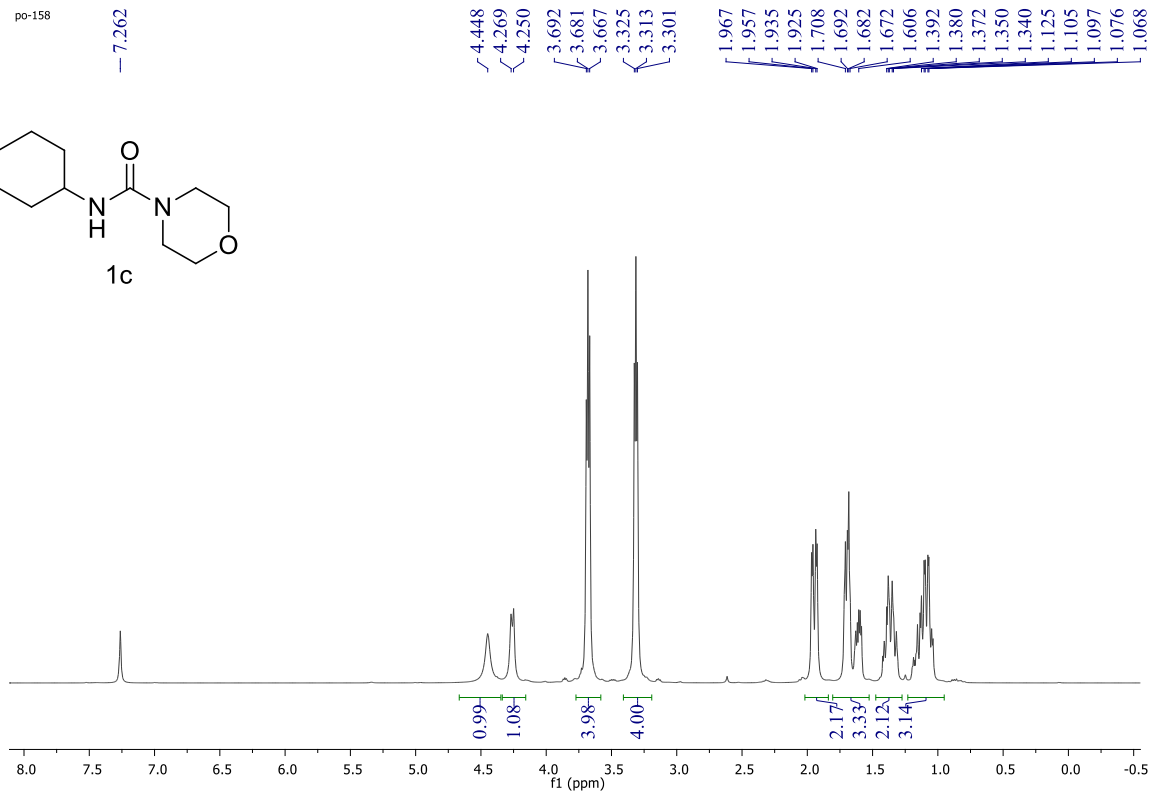
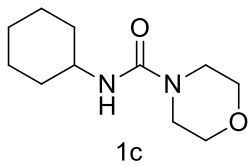


11. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra for the ureas

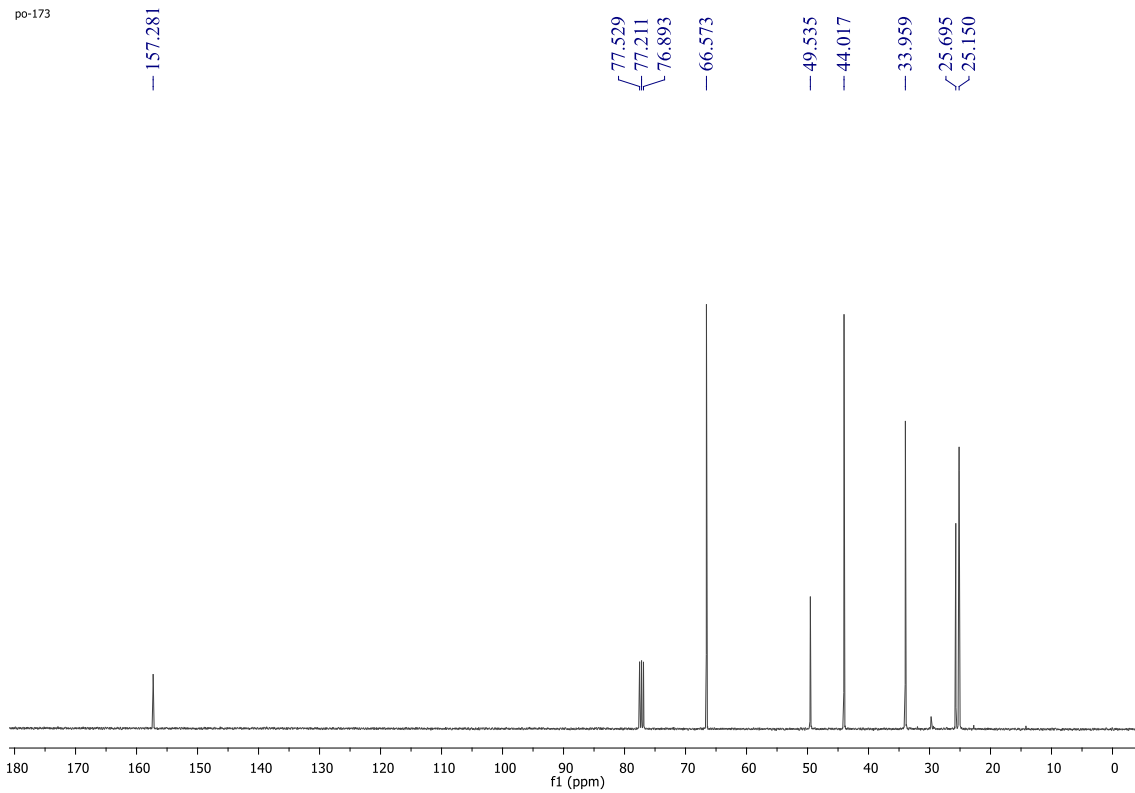


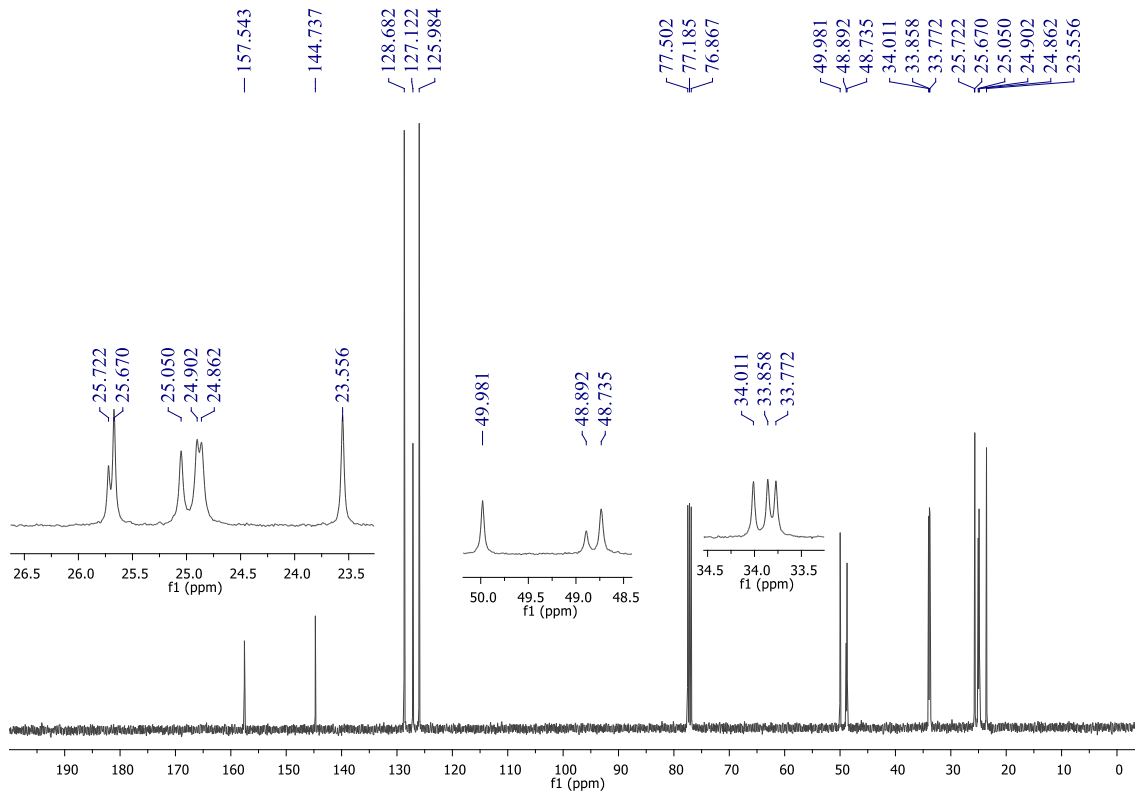
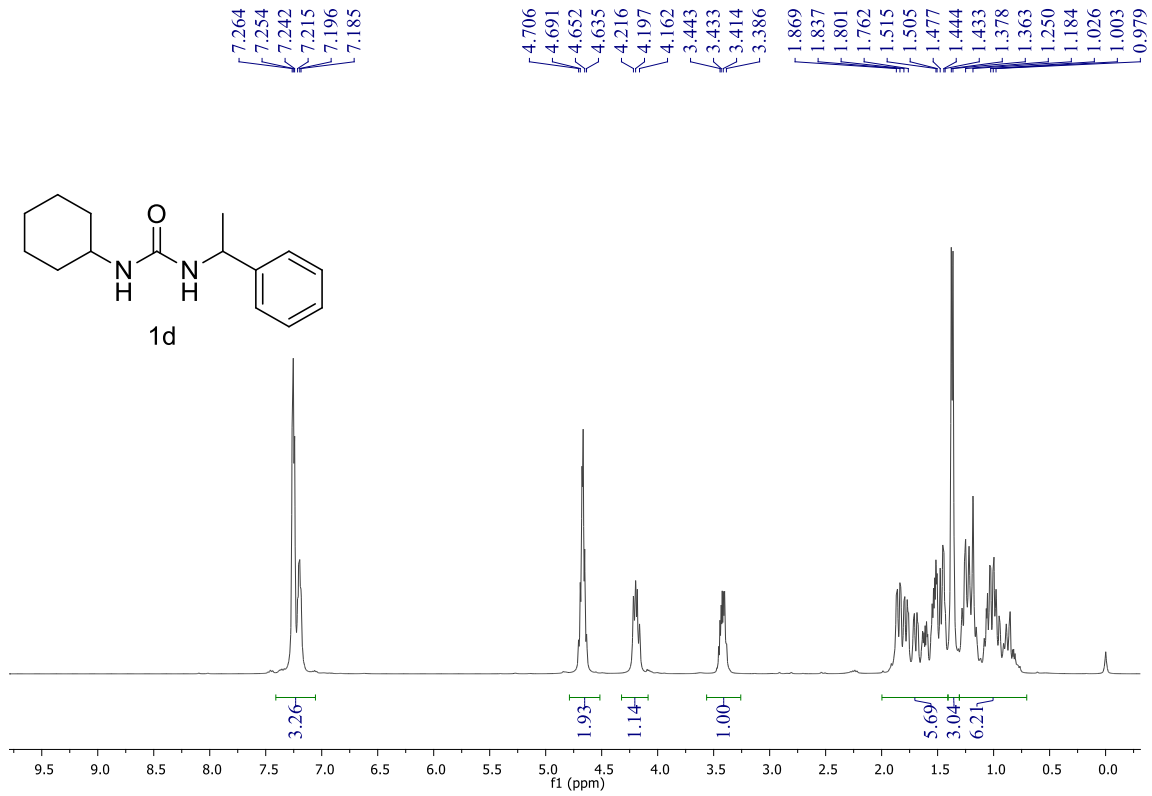


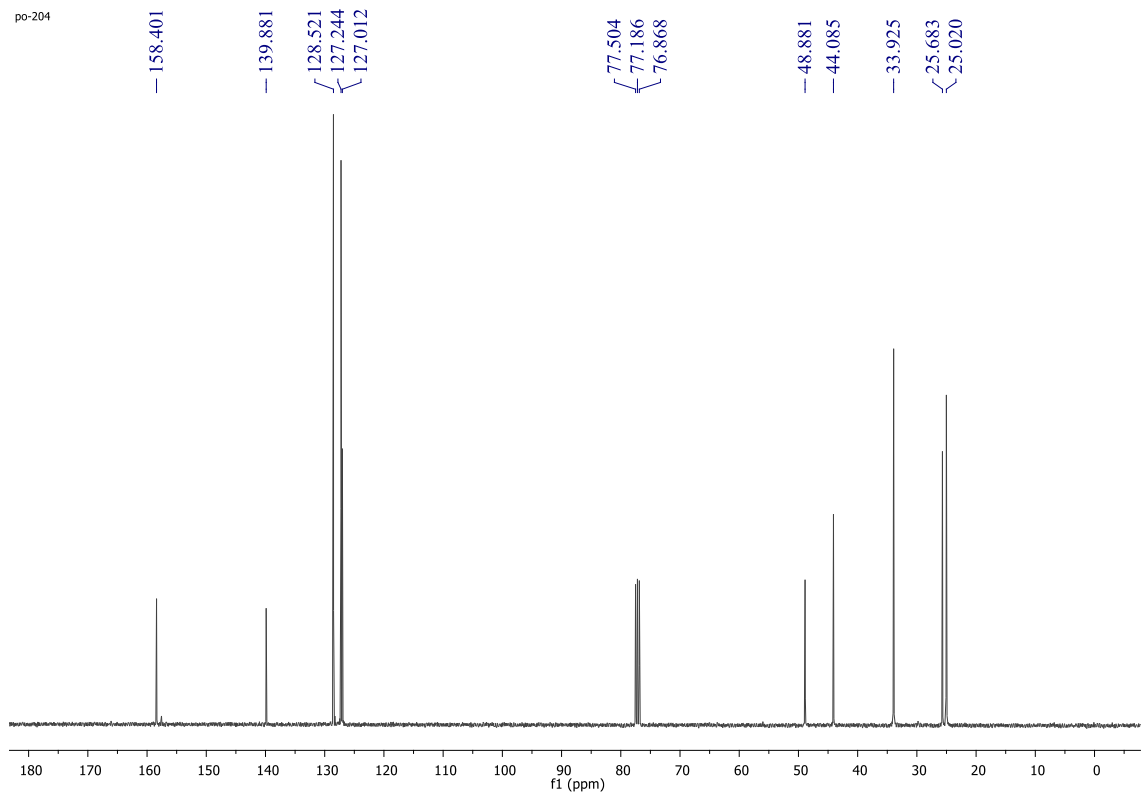
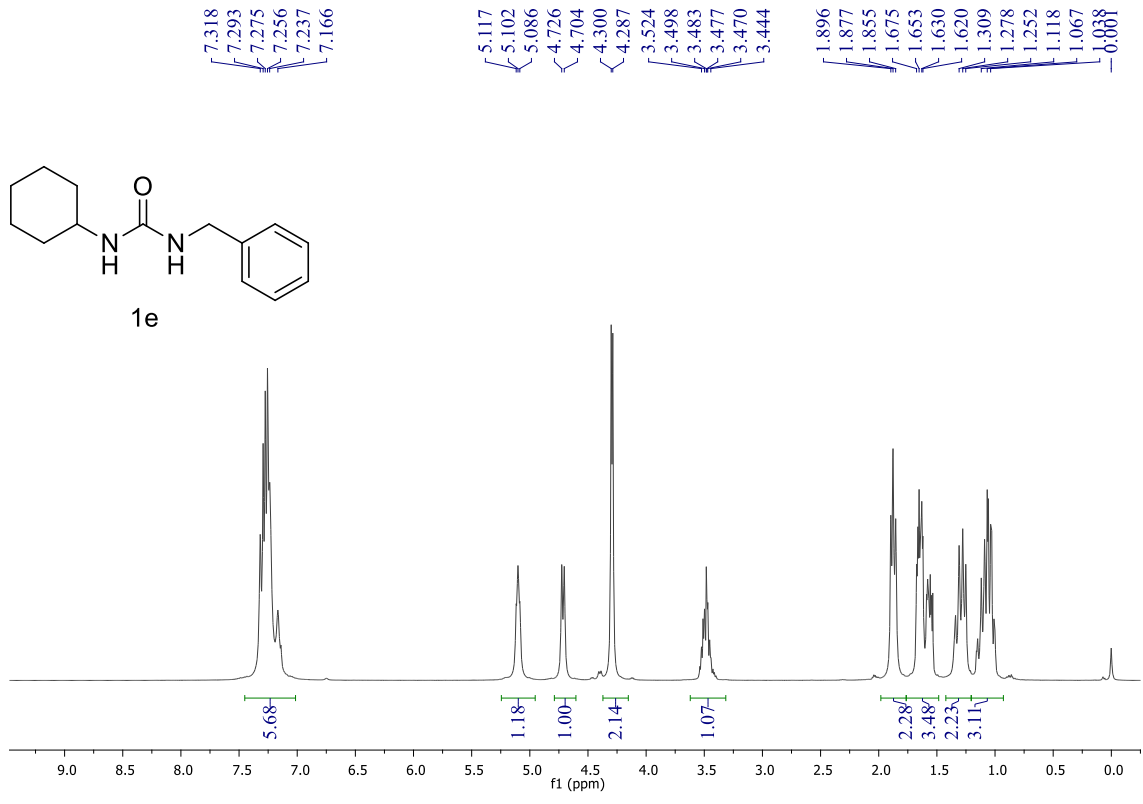
po-158

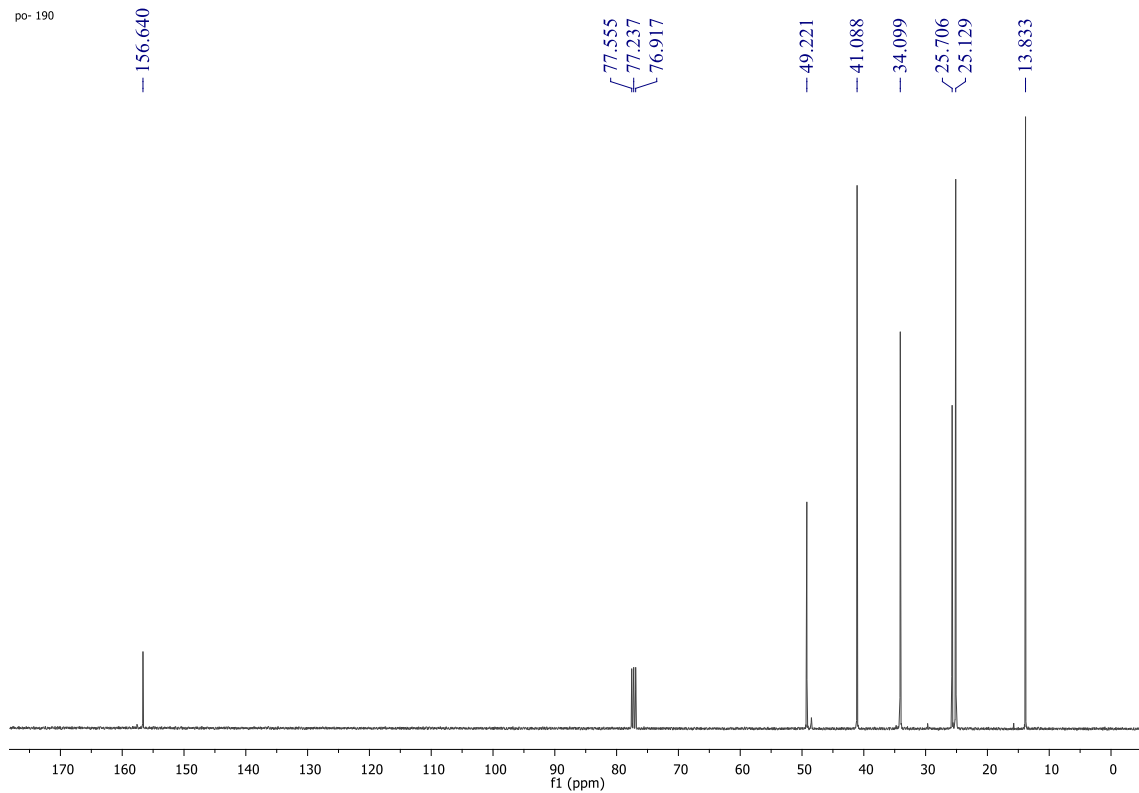
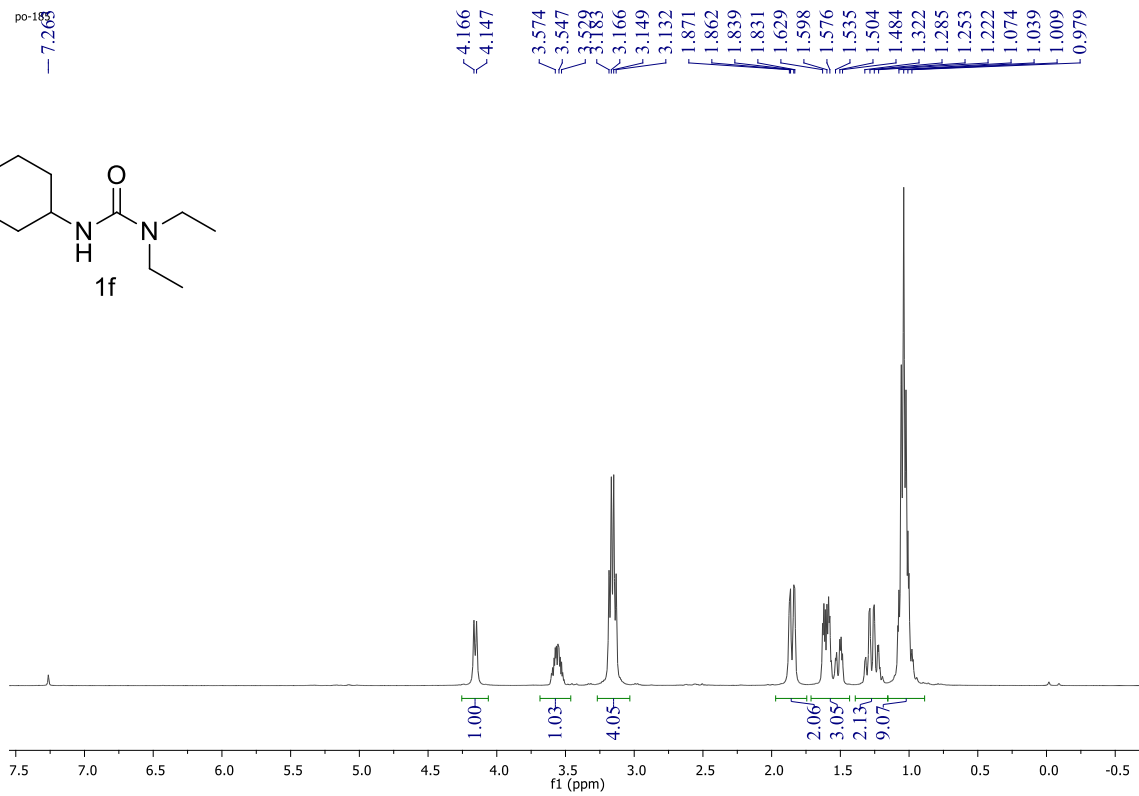
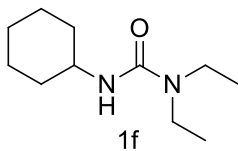


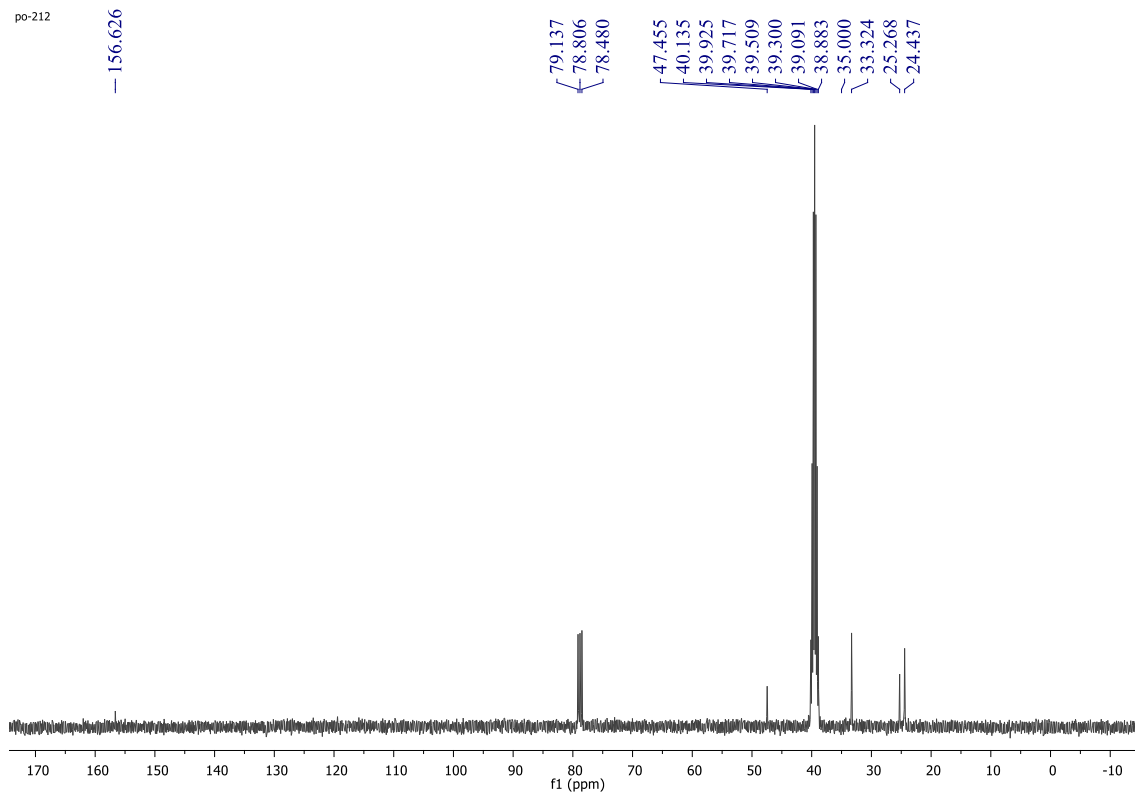
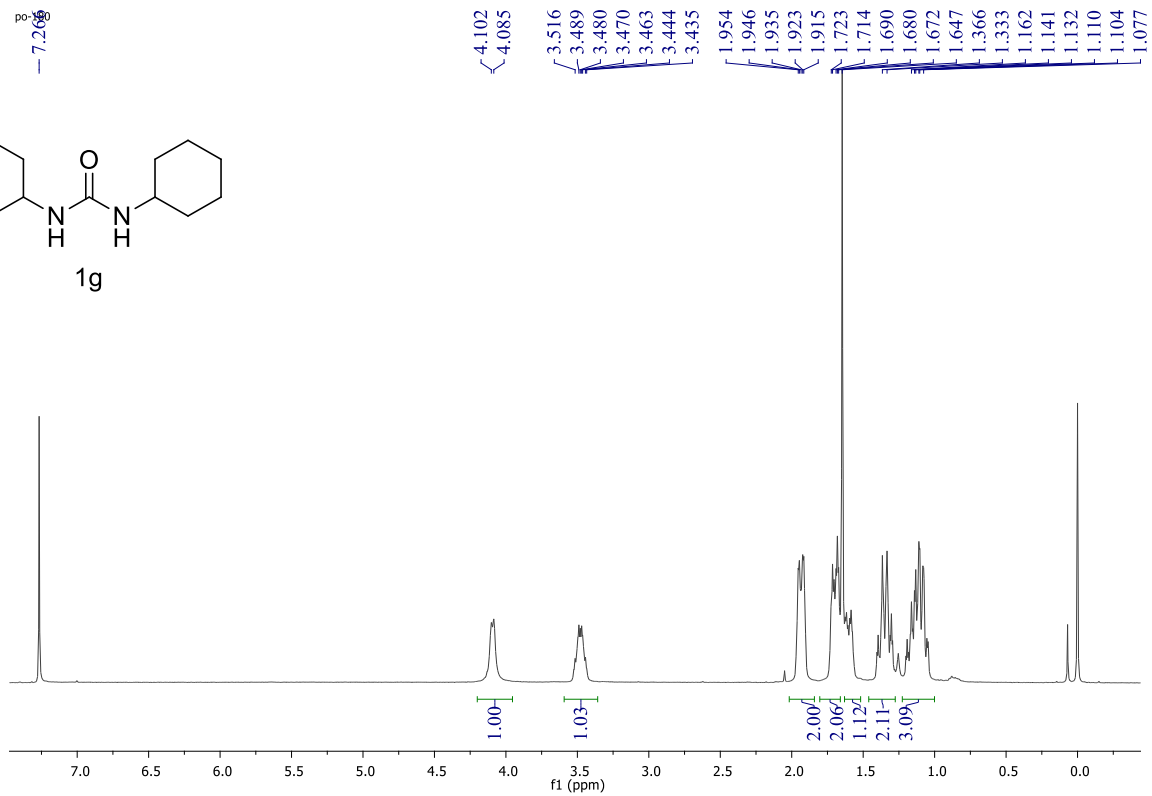
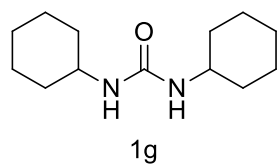
po-173

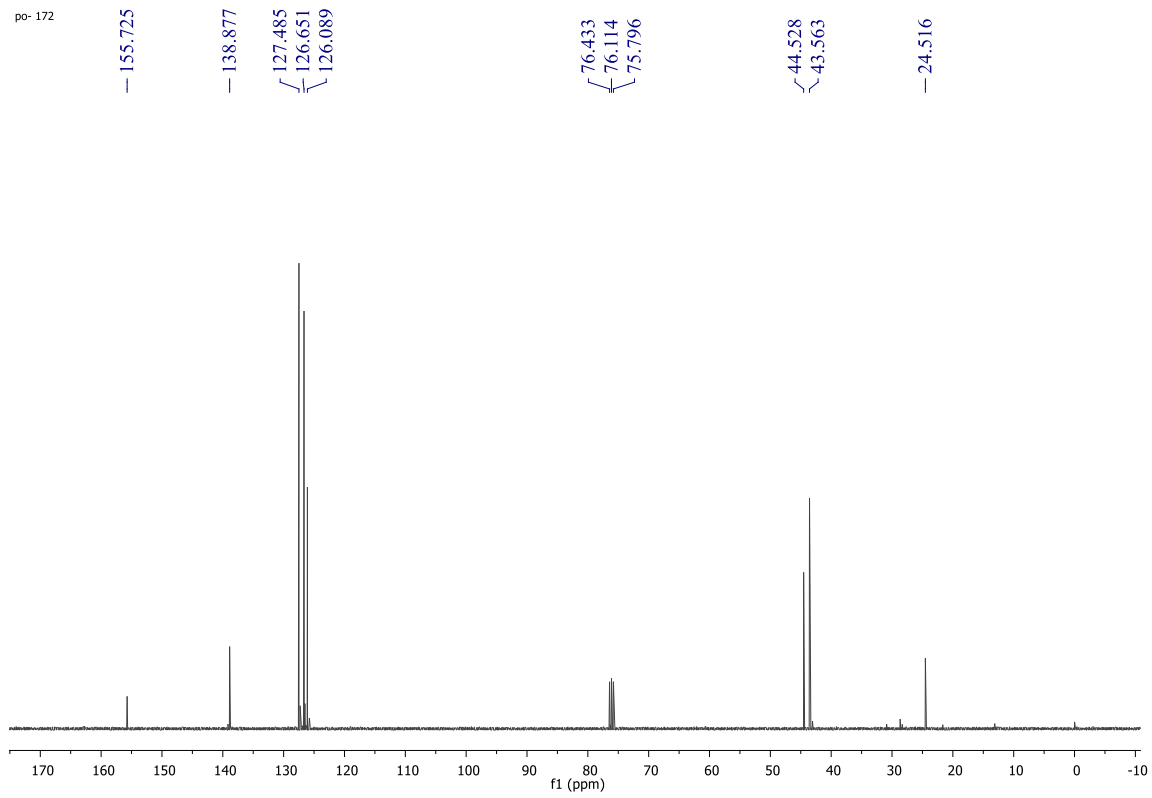
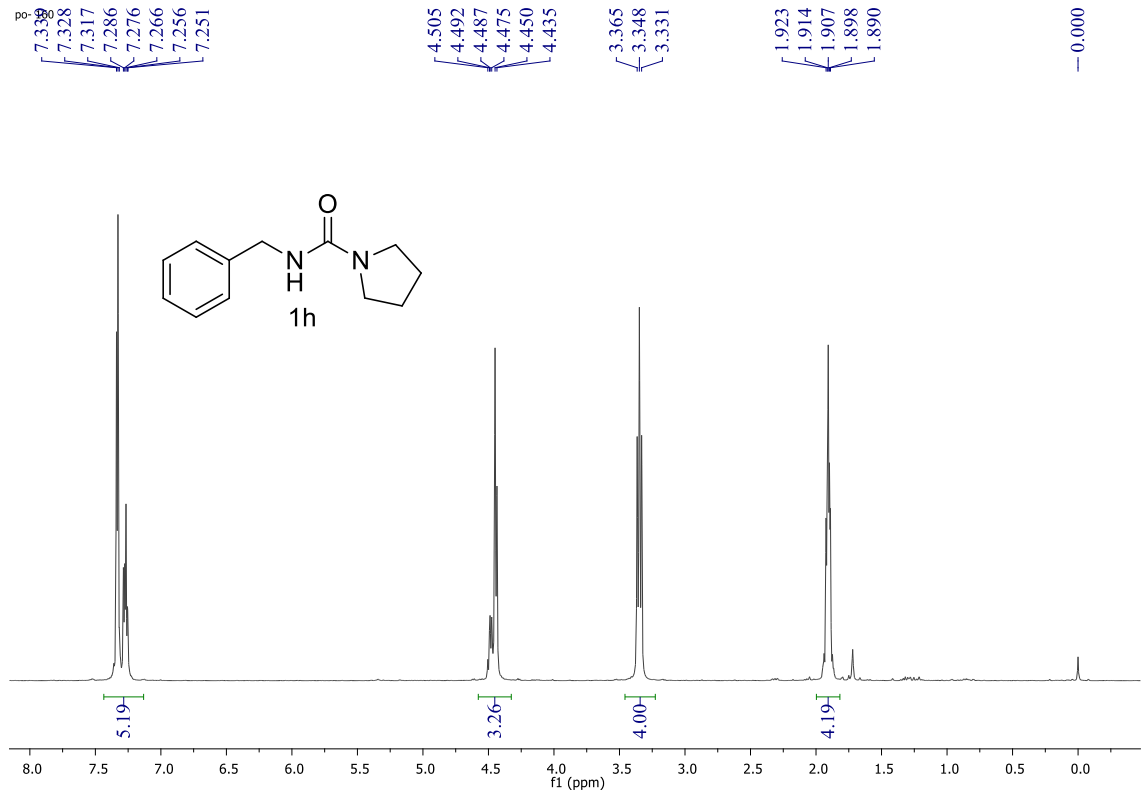




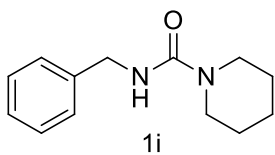








PO- 156



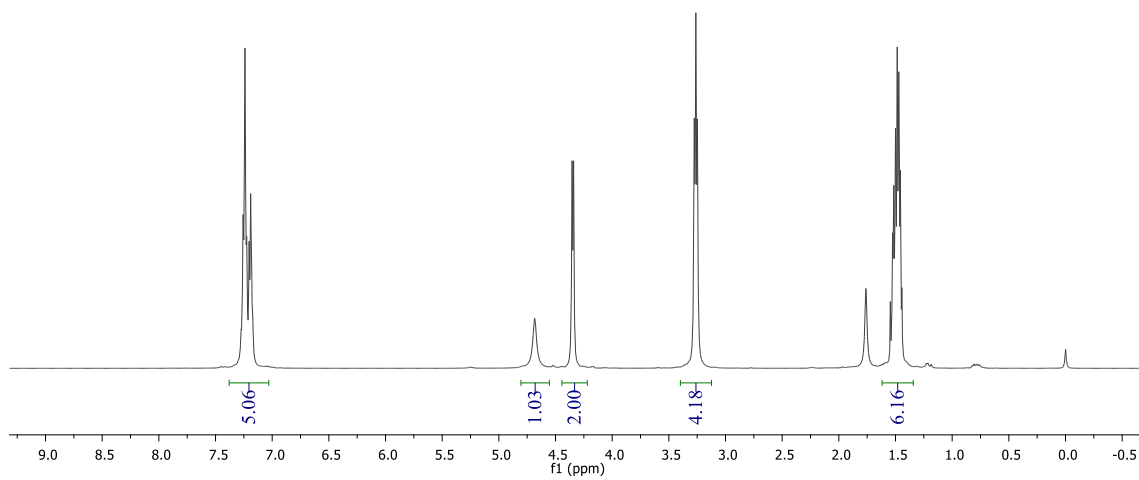
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-0.001



PO- 167

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127.011

77.331

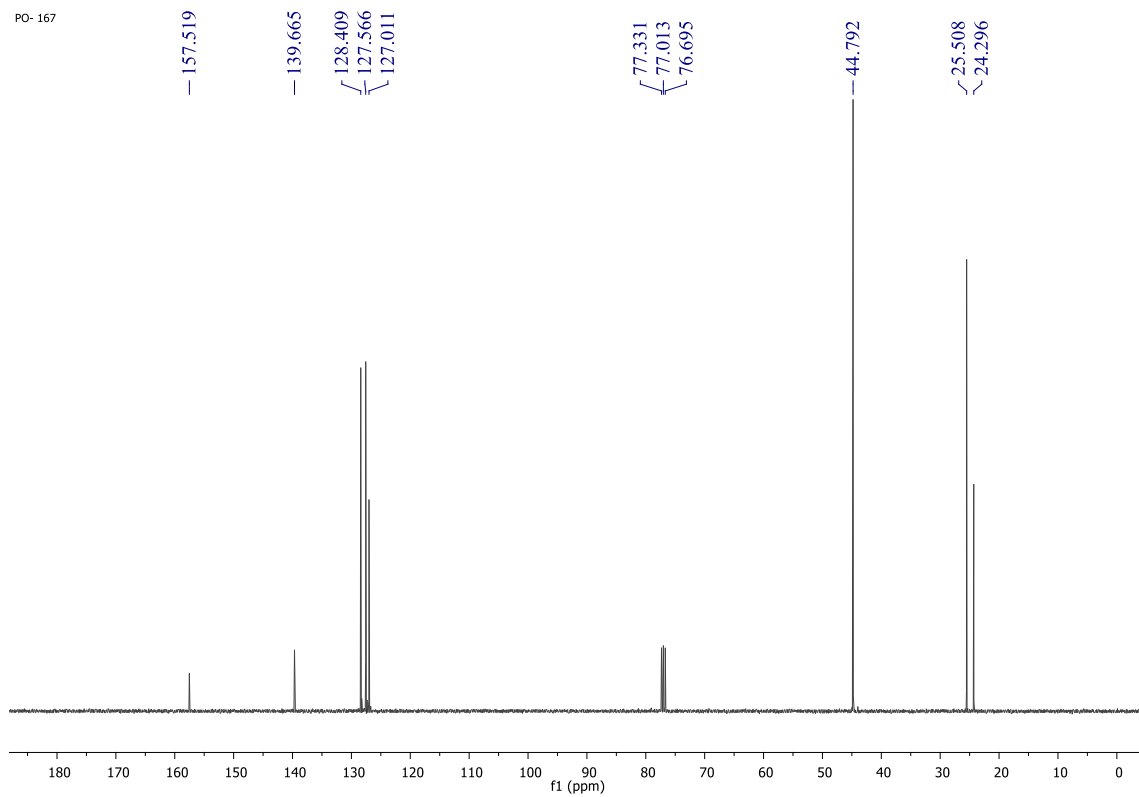
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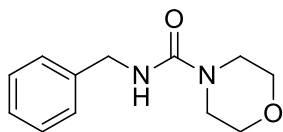


PO- 155

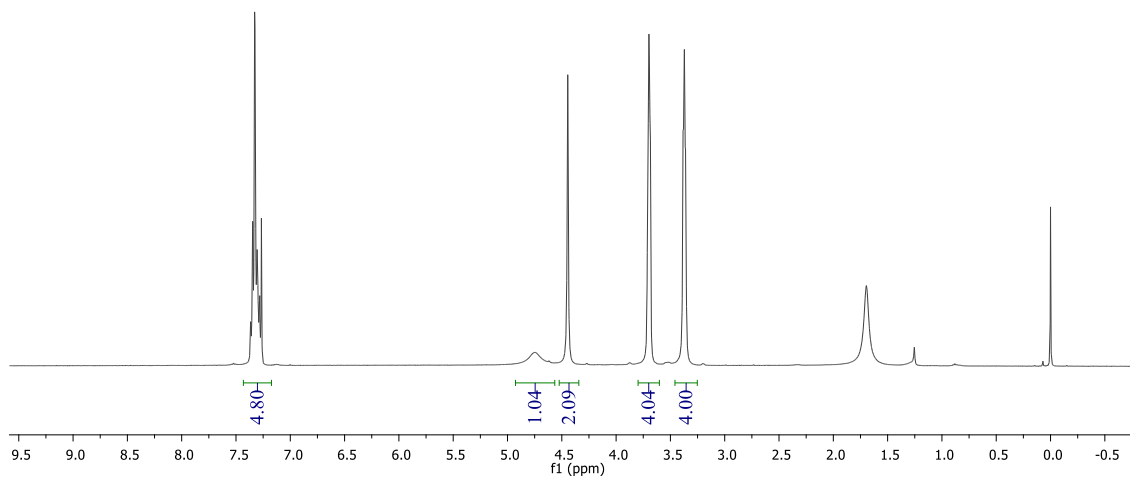
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-0.000



1j



GR- 70

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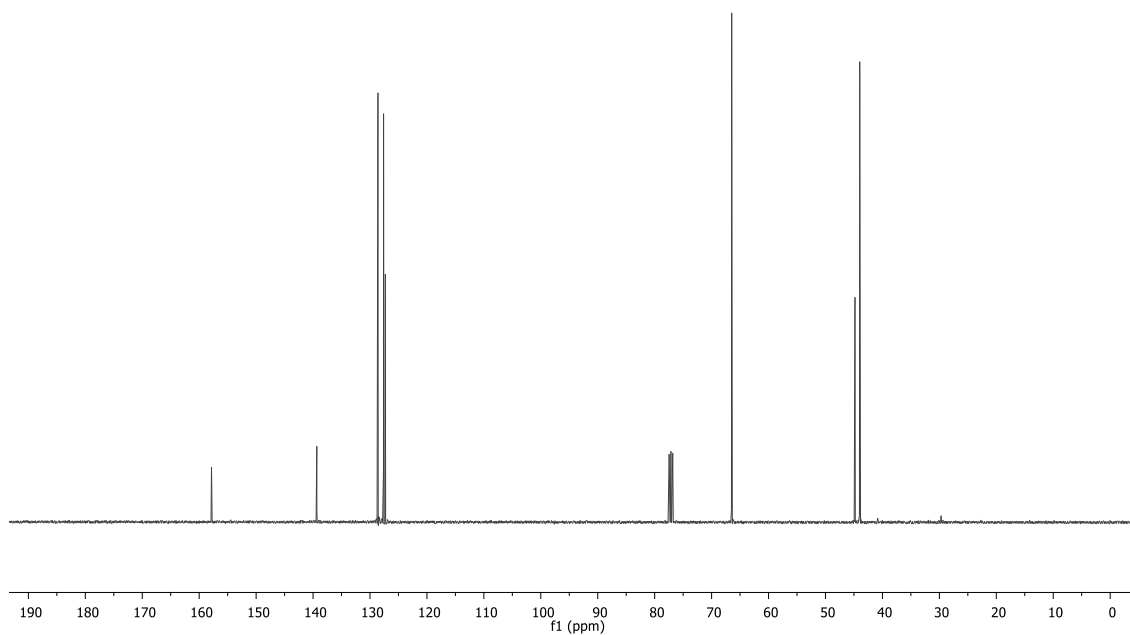
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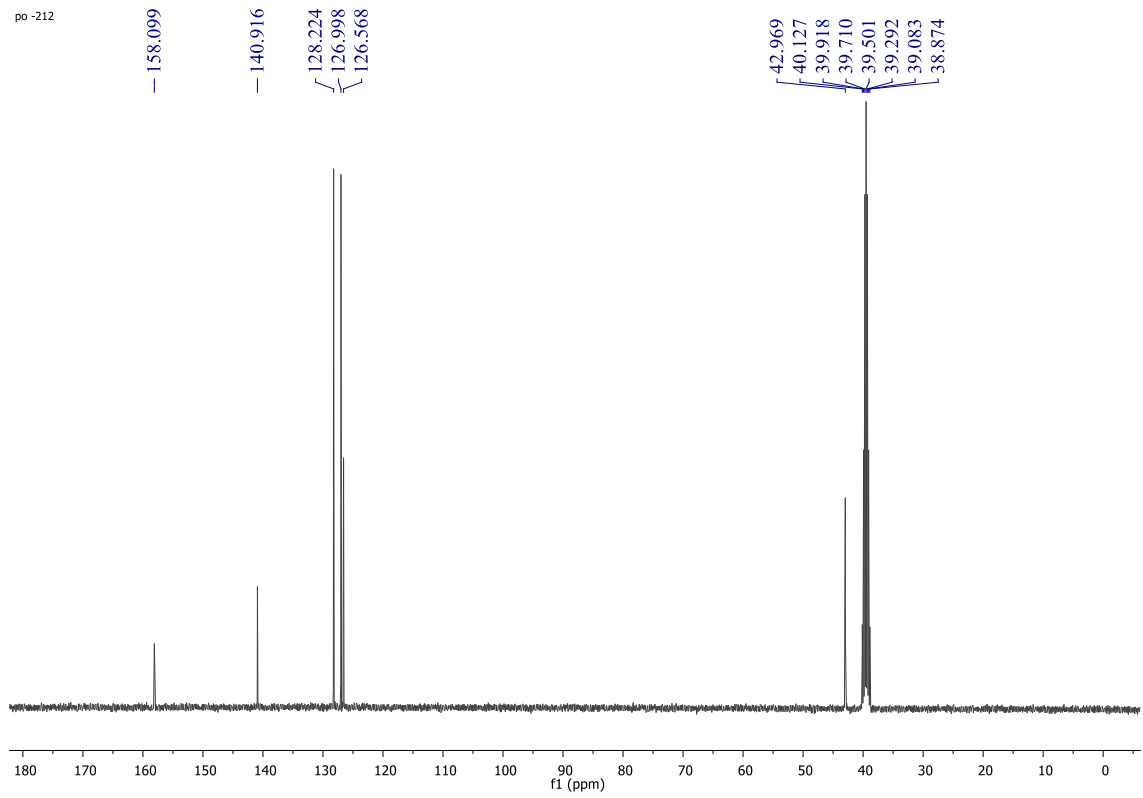
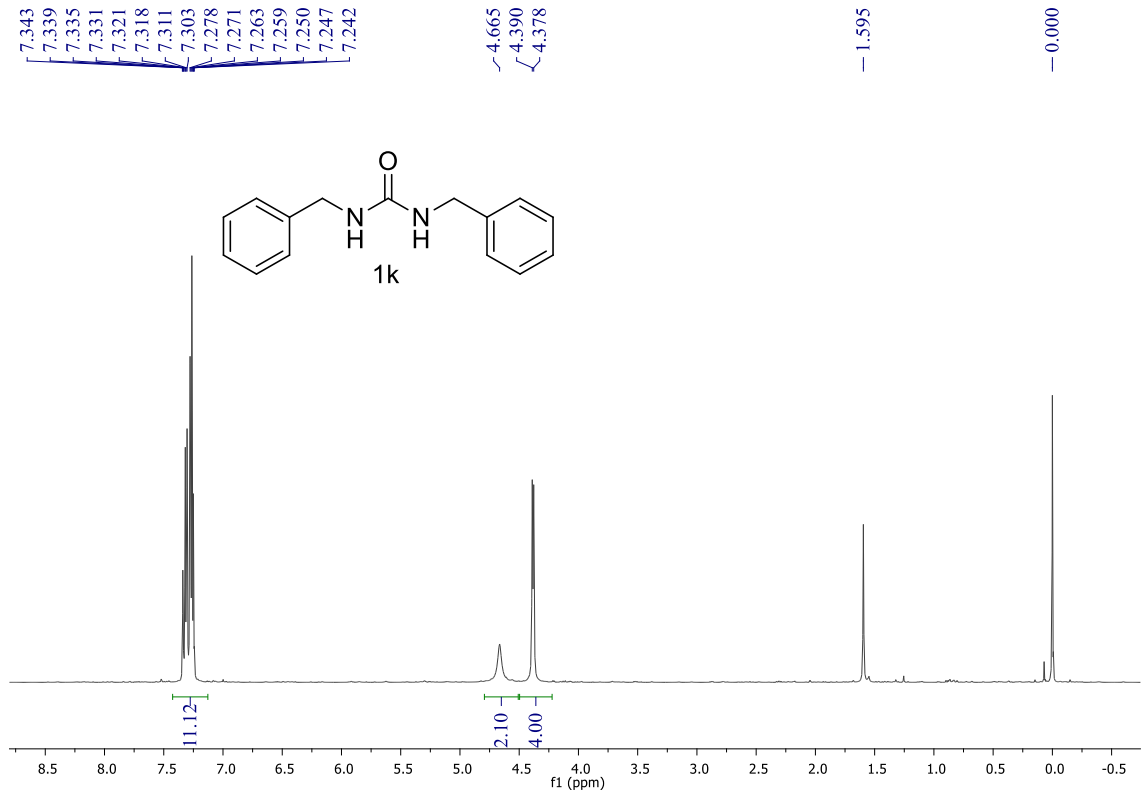
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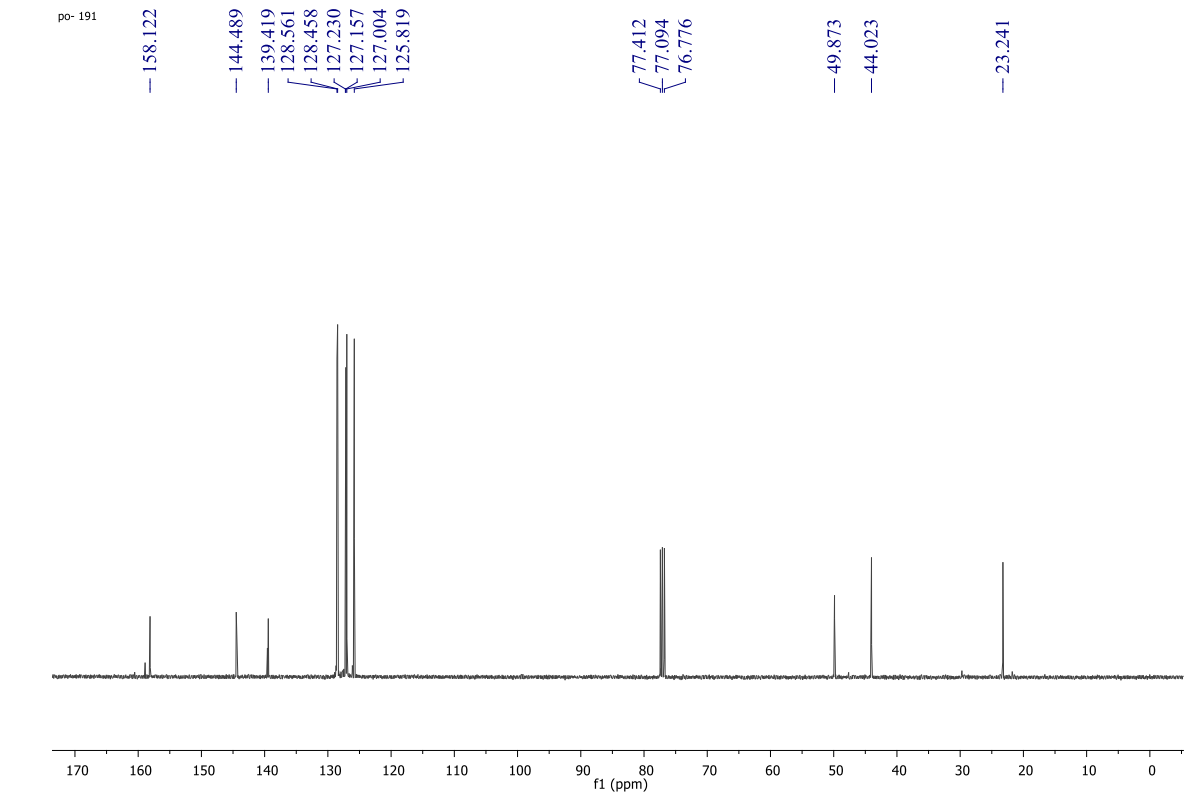
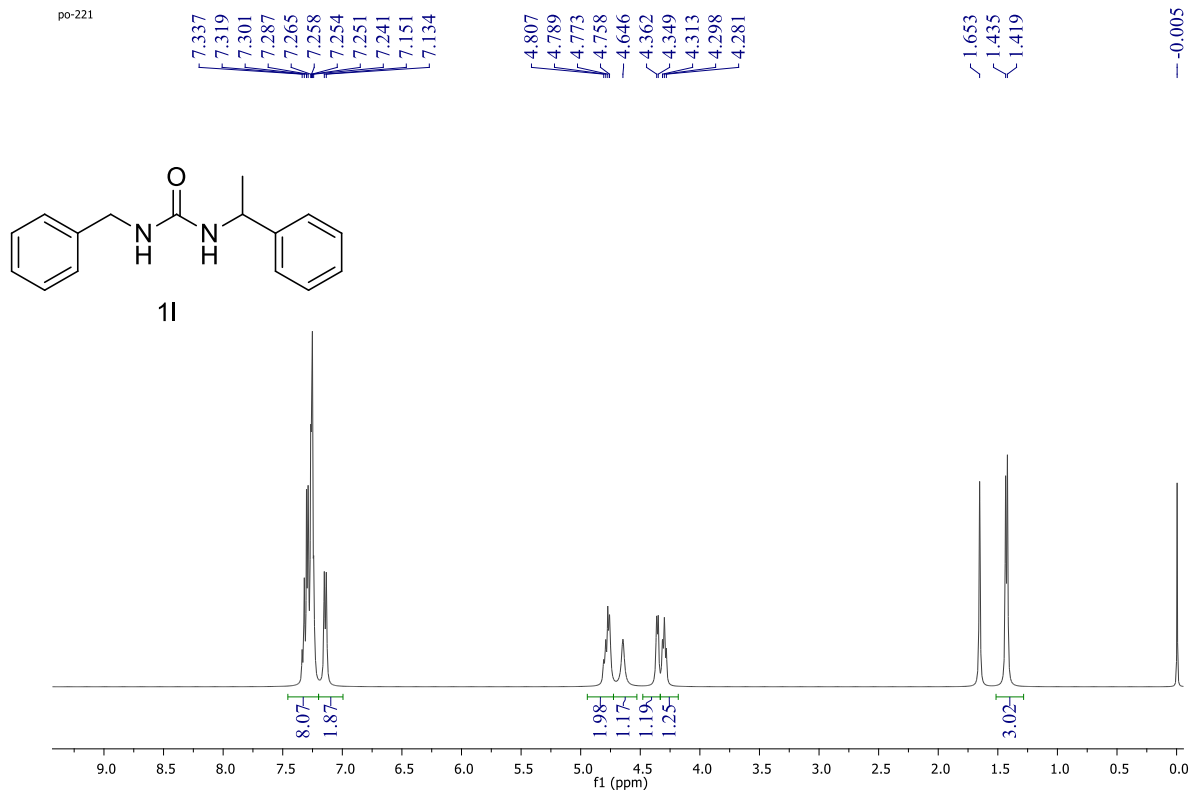
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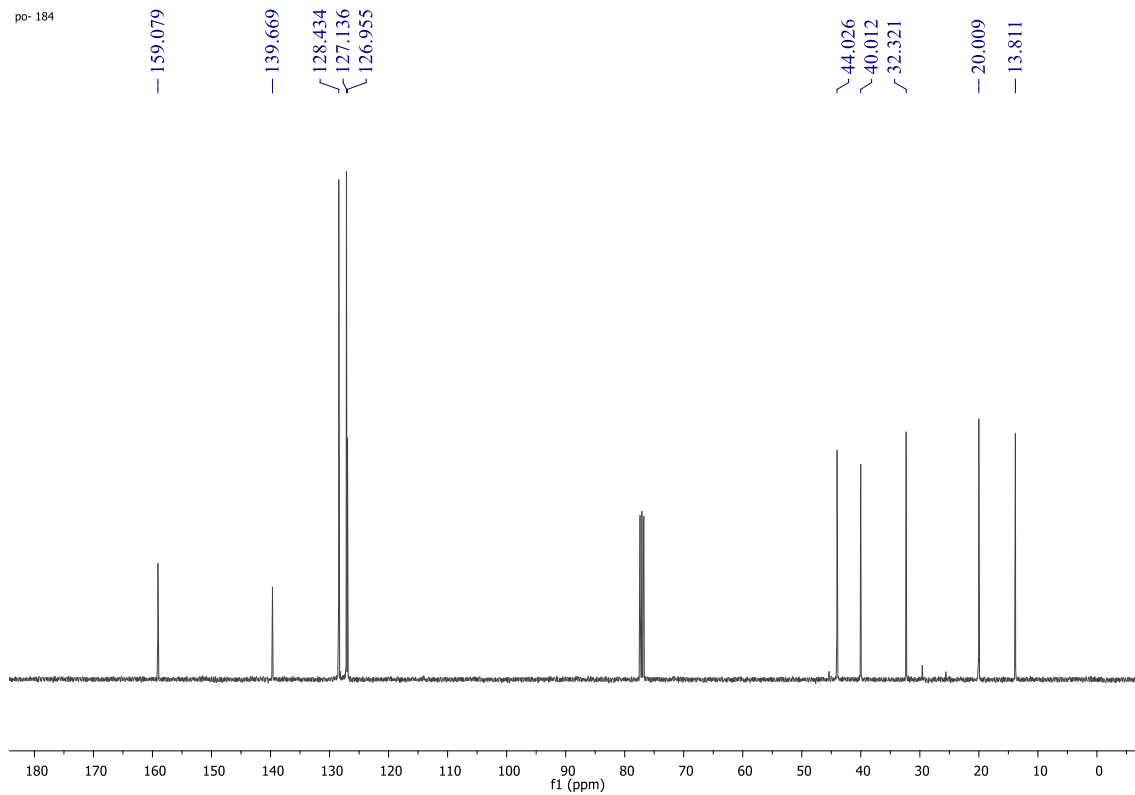
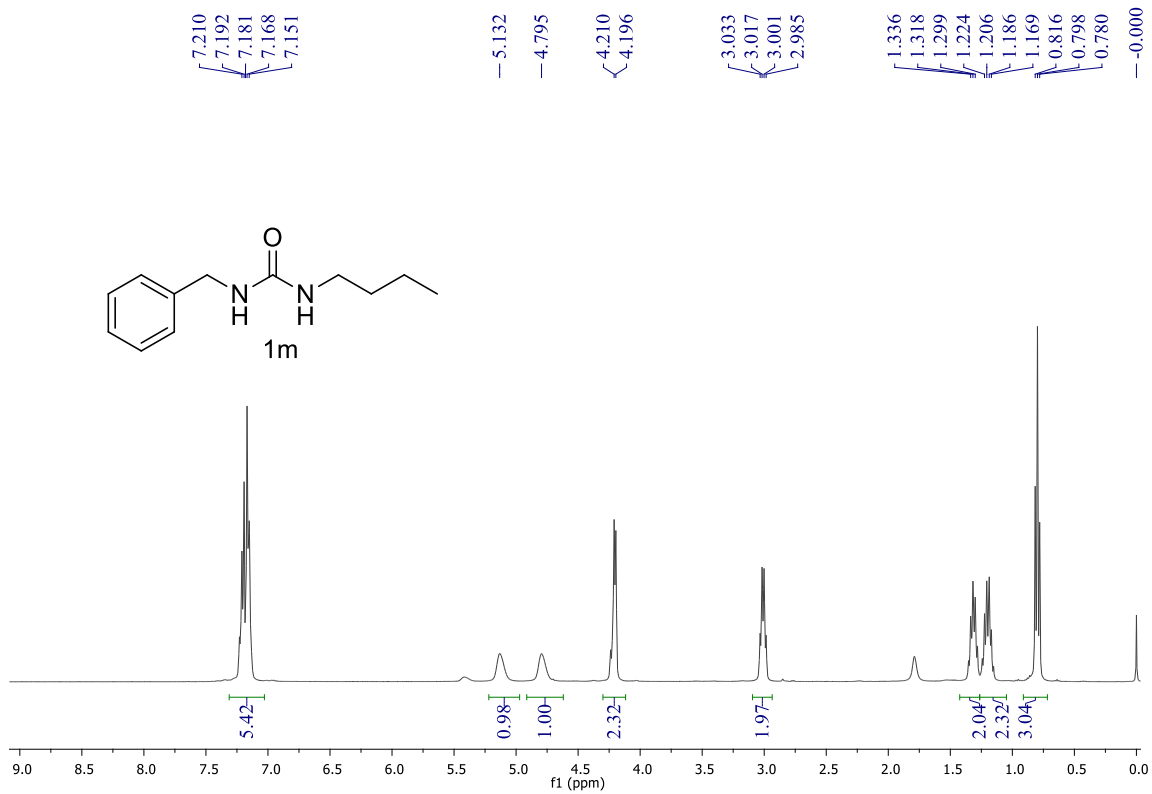
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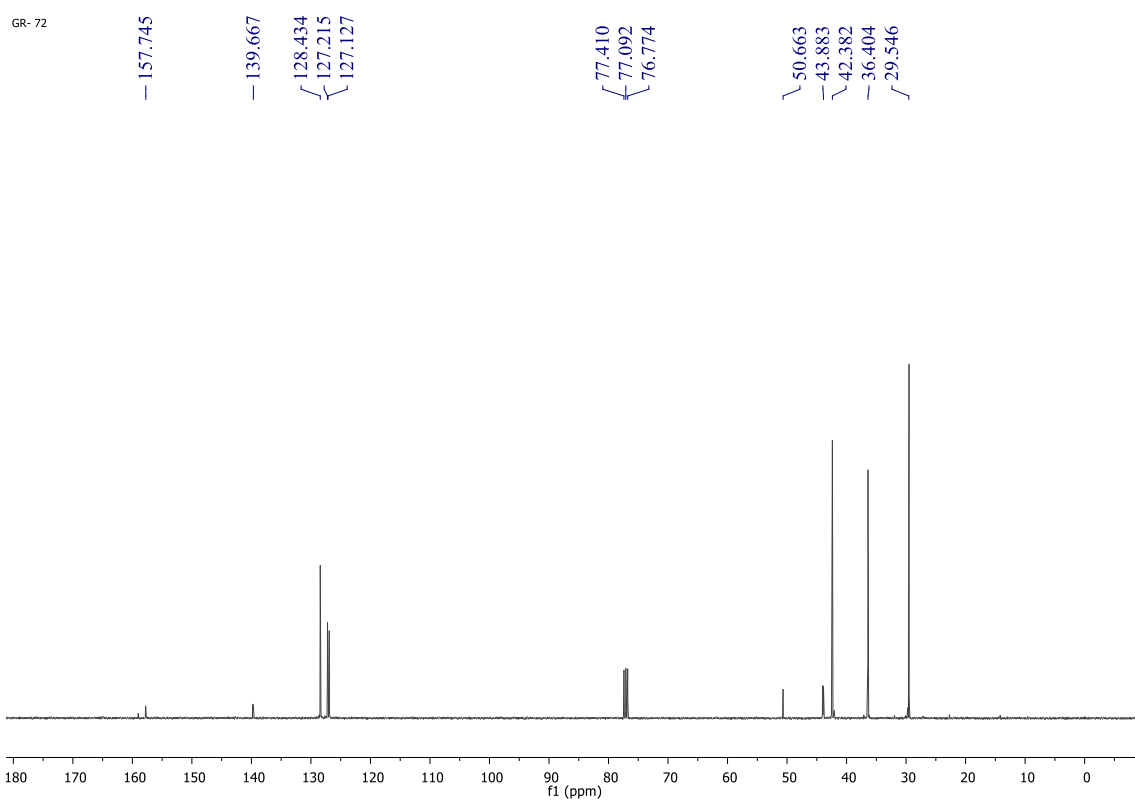
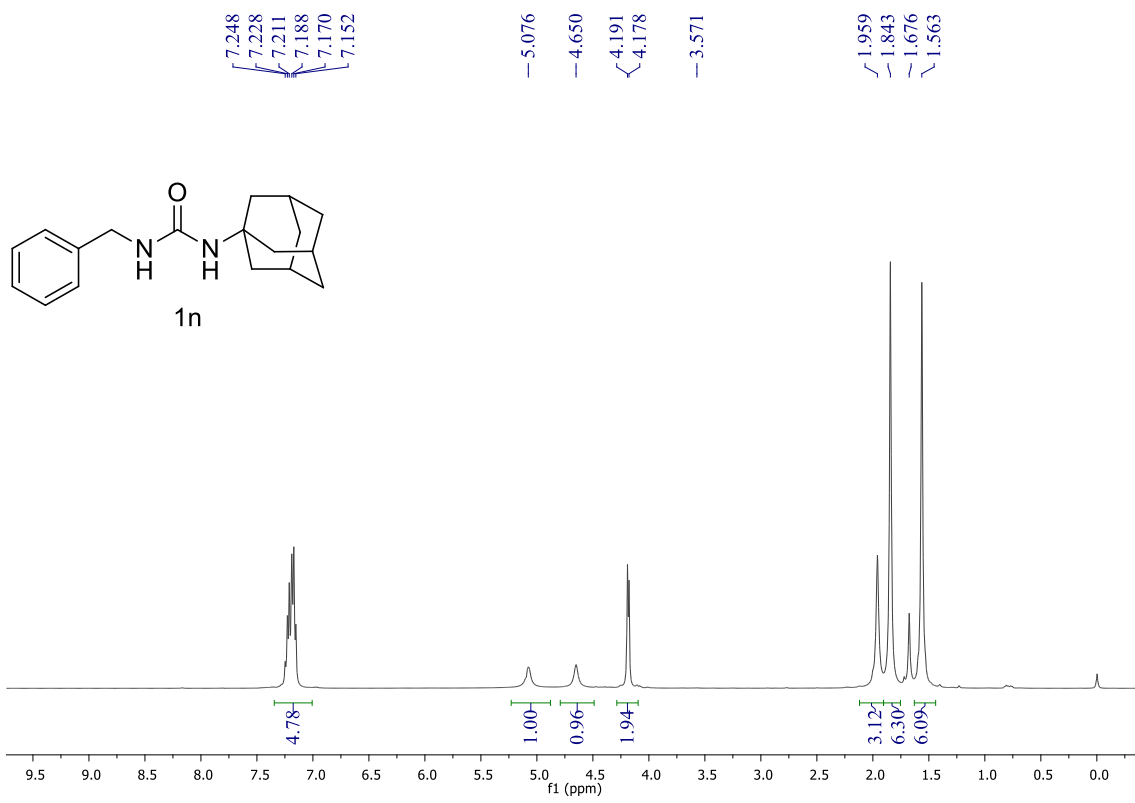
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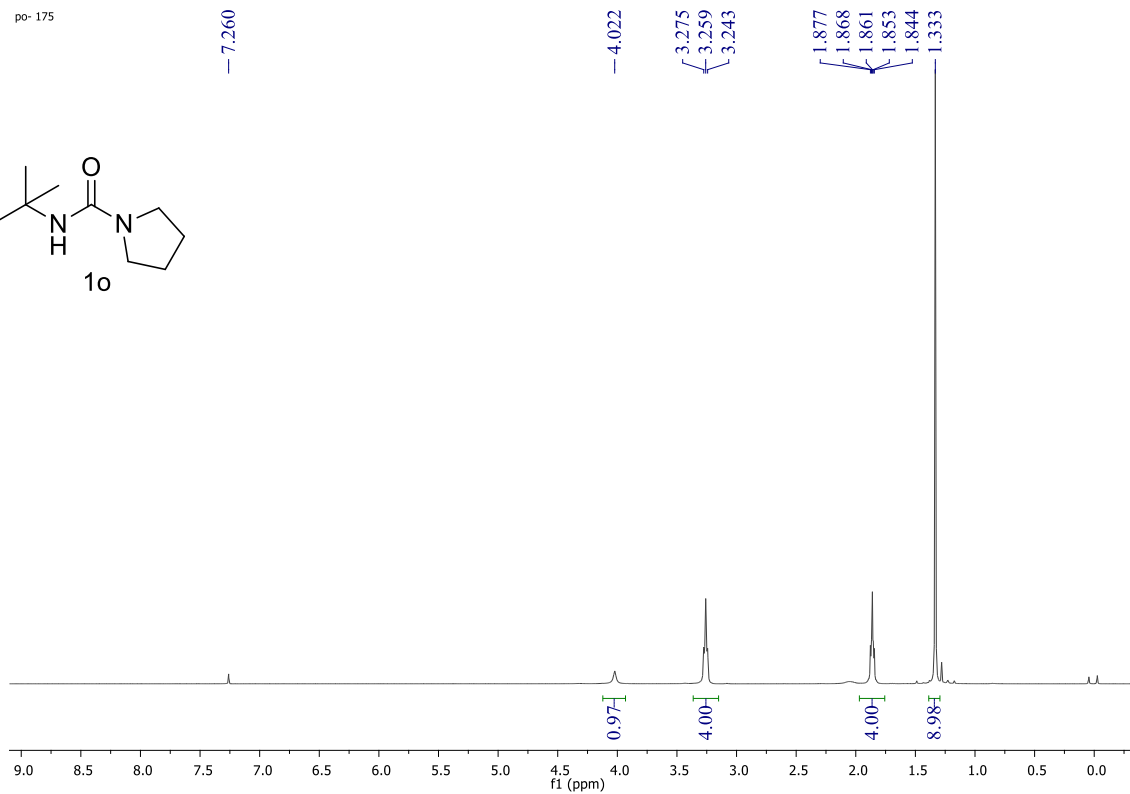
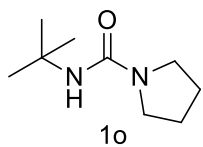




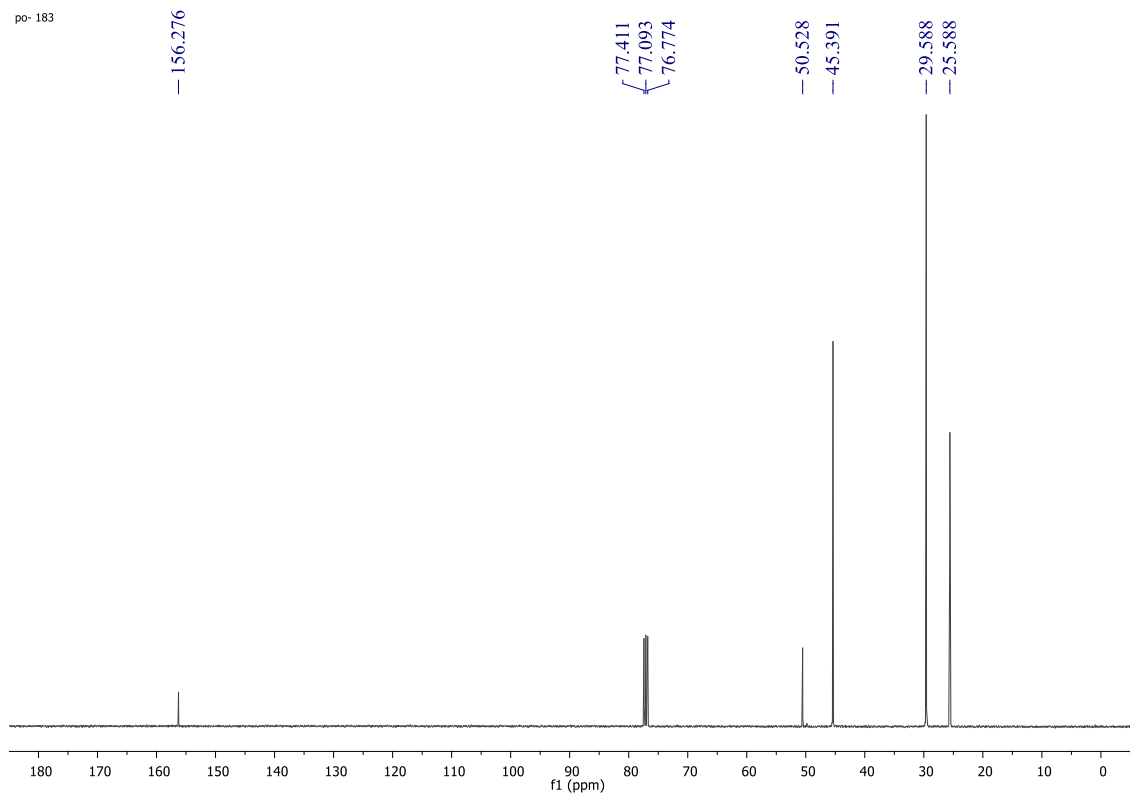




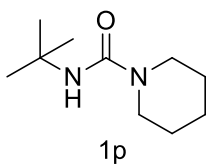
pp- 175



pp- 183



po-220

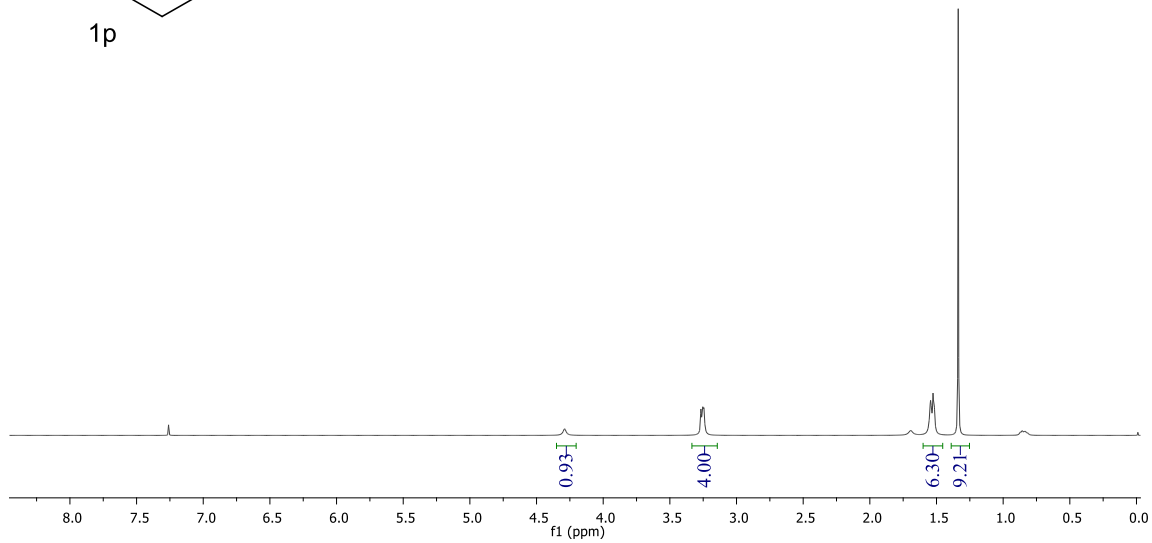


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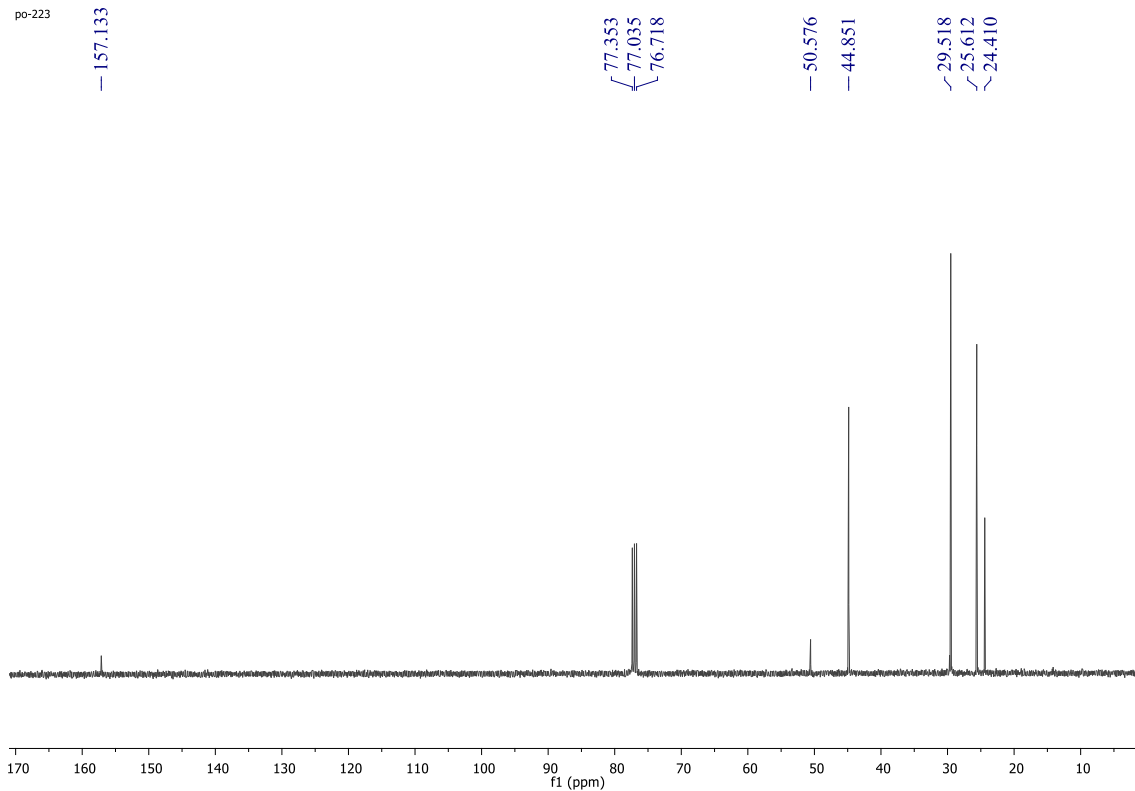
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po-223



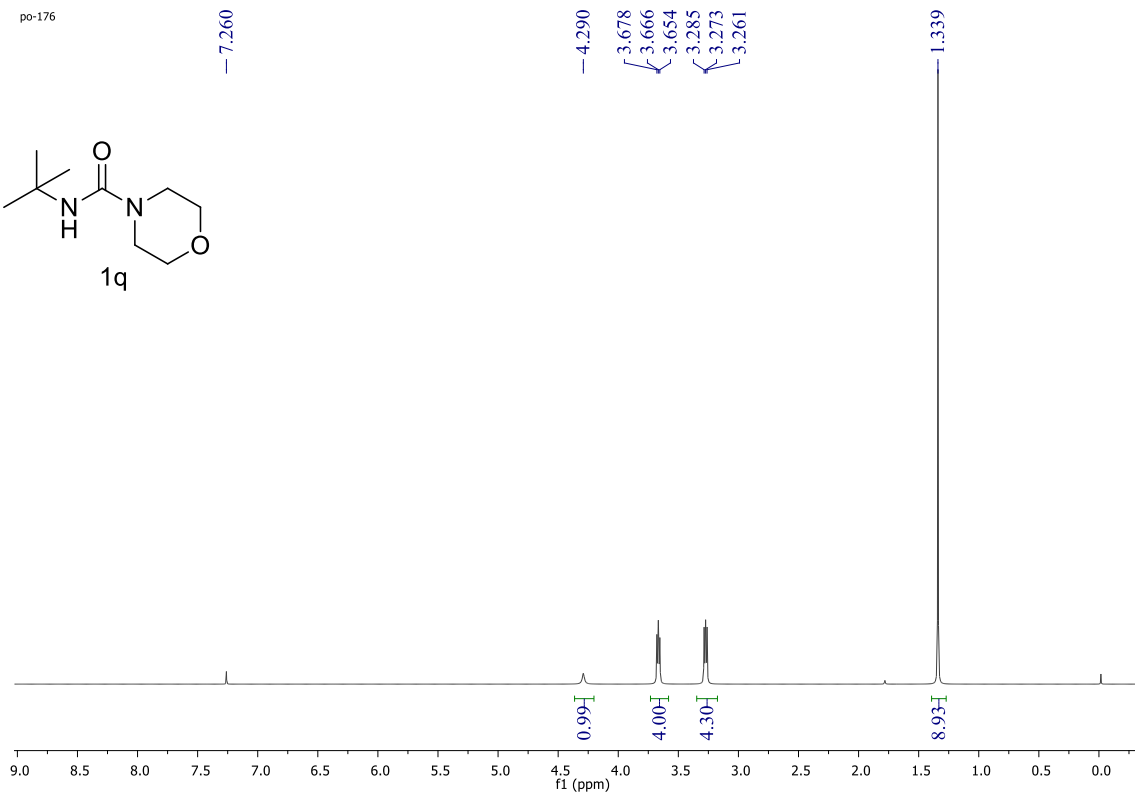
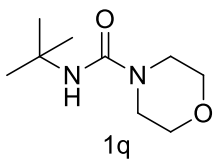
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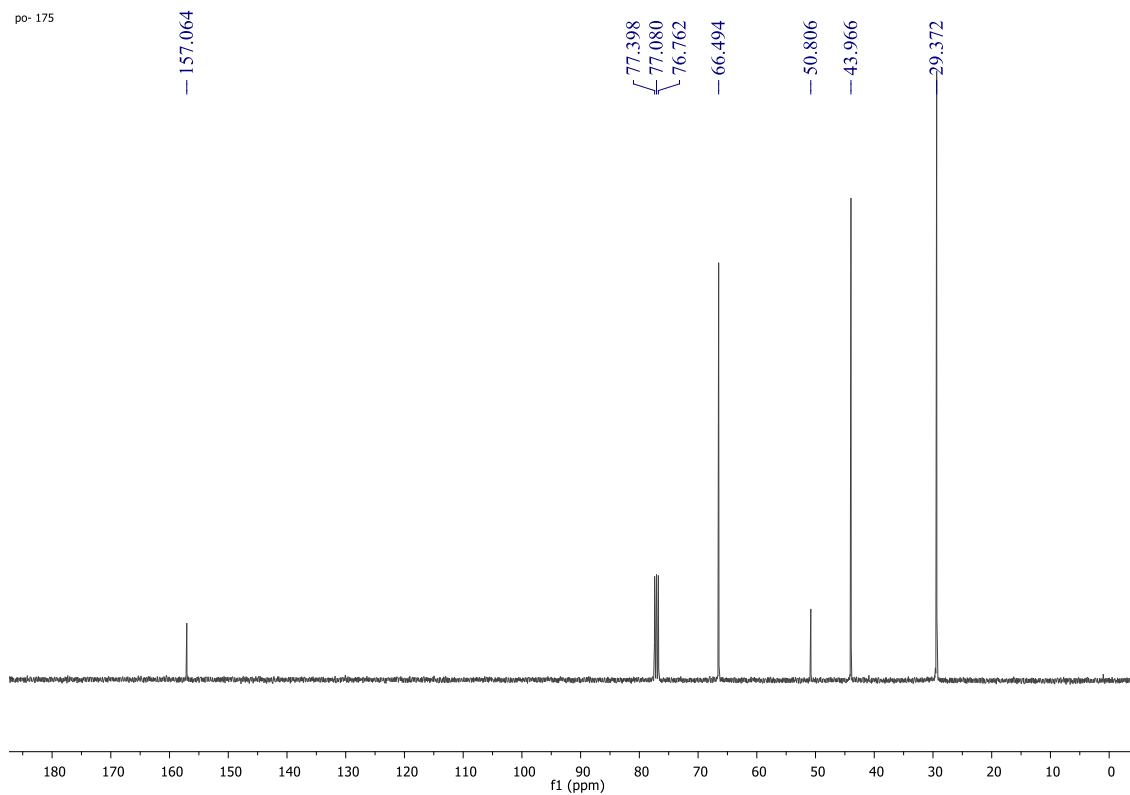
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po-176



po-175



po-181

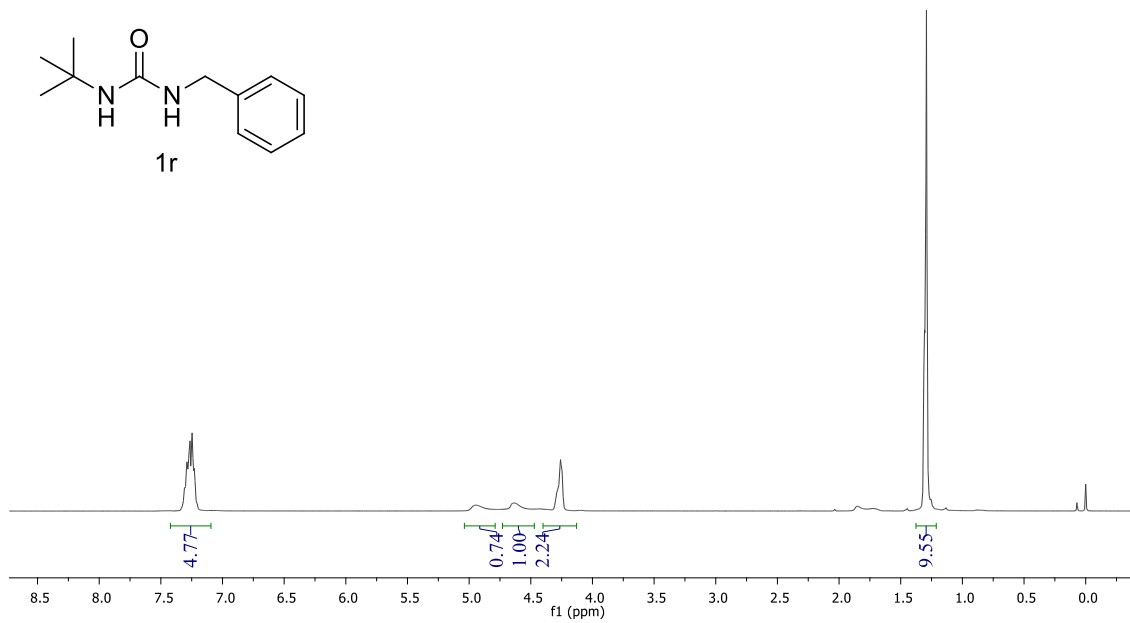
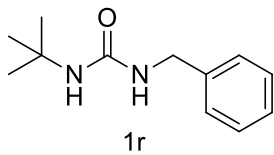
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1.291



PO-181
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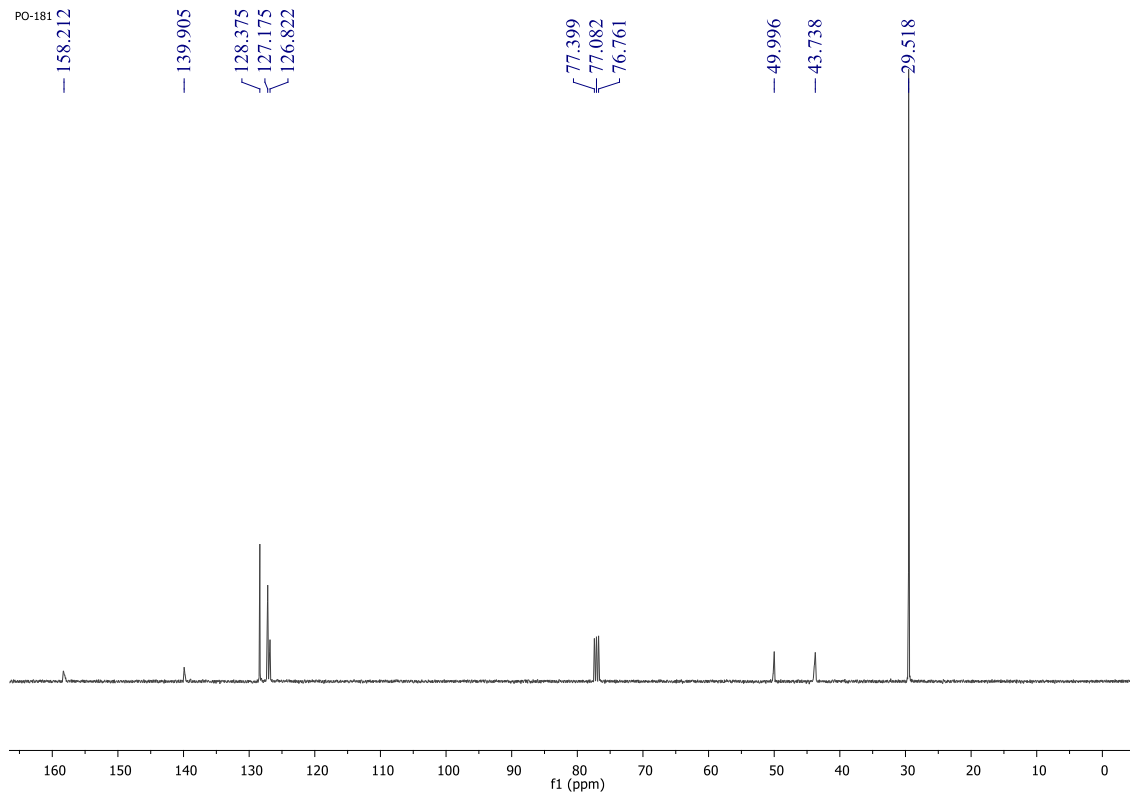
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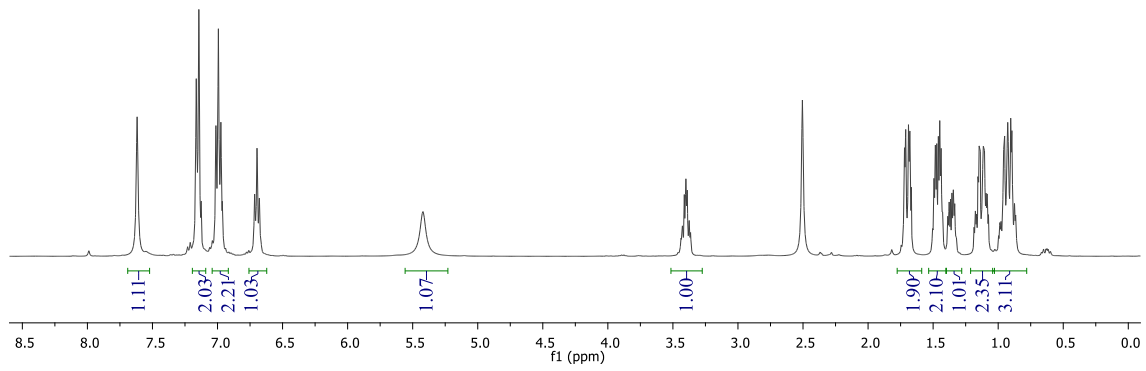
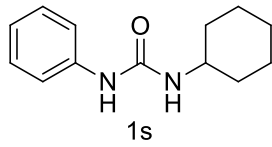
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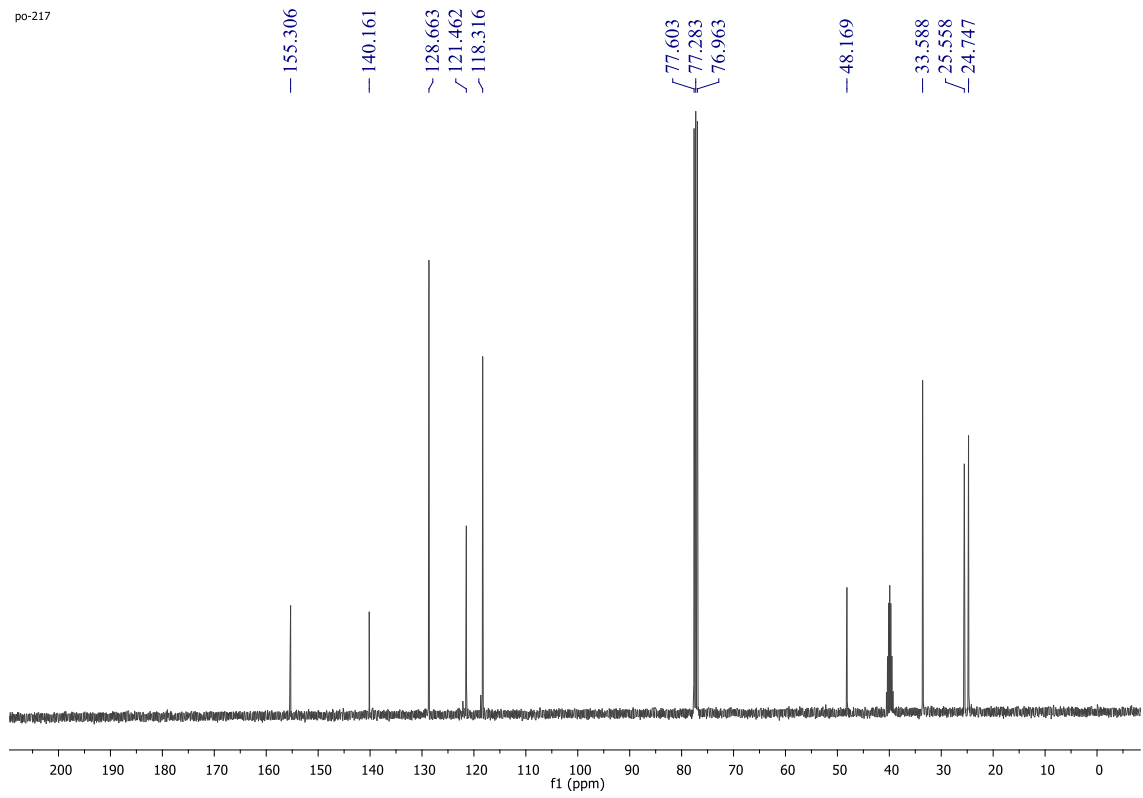
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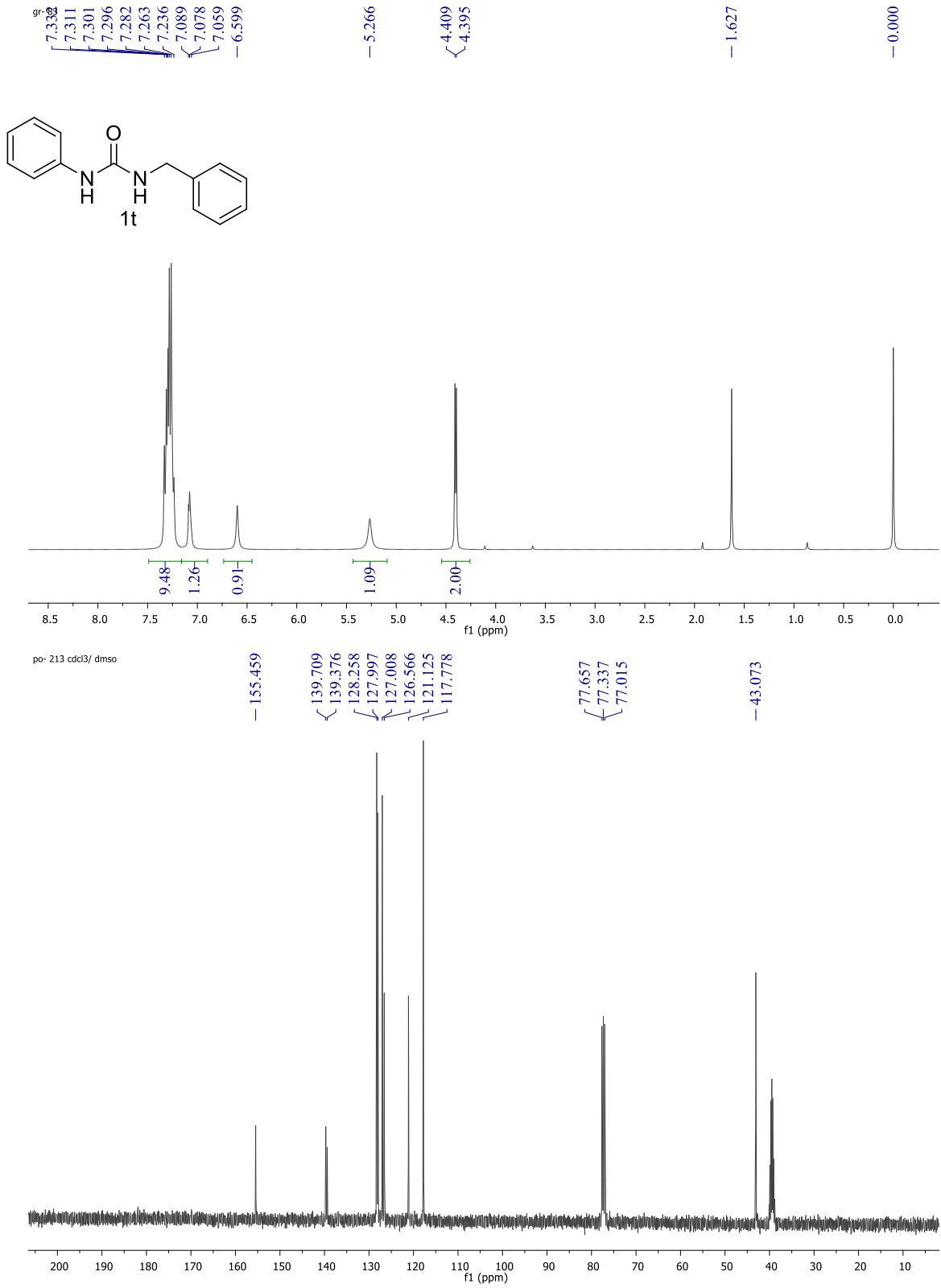


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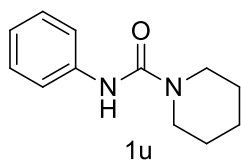


po-217





po-302

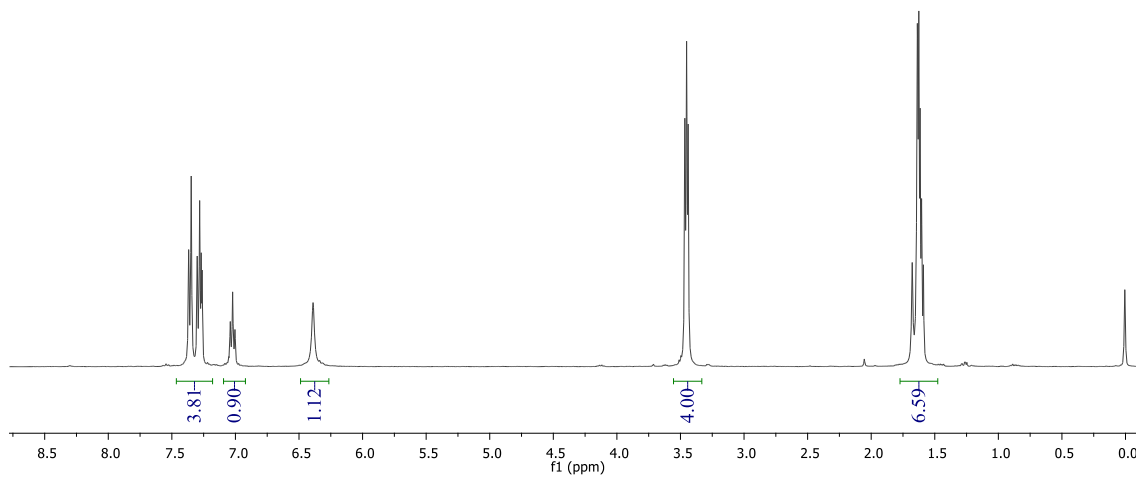


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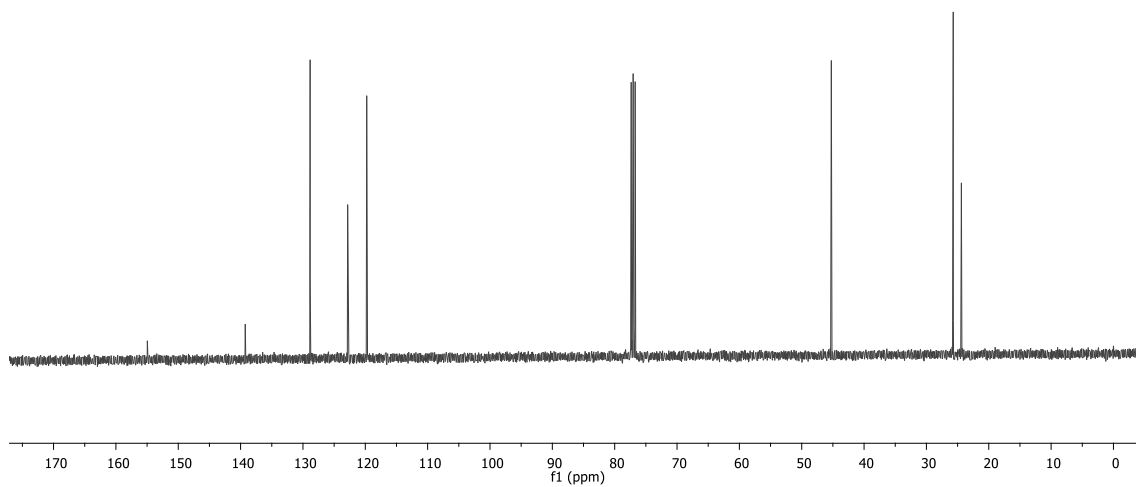
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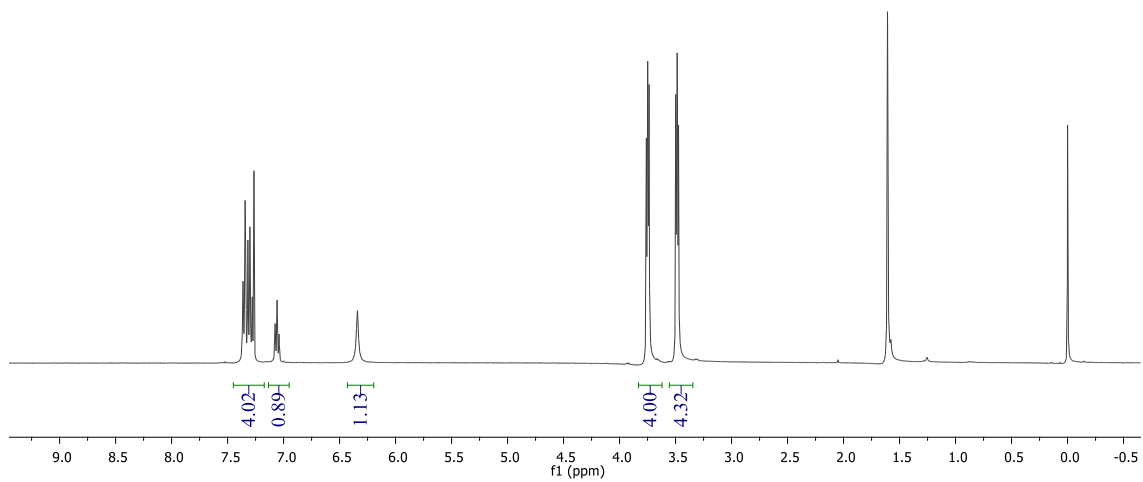
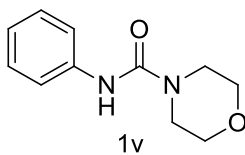
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PO-312

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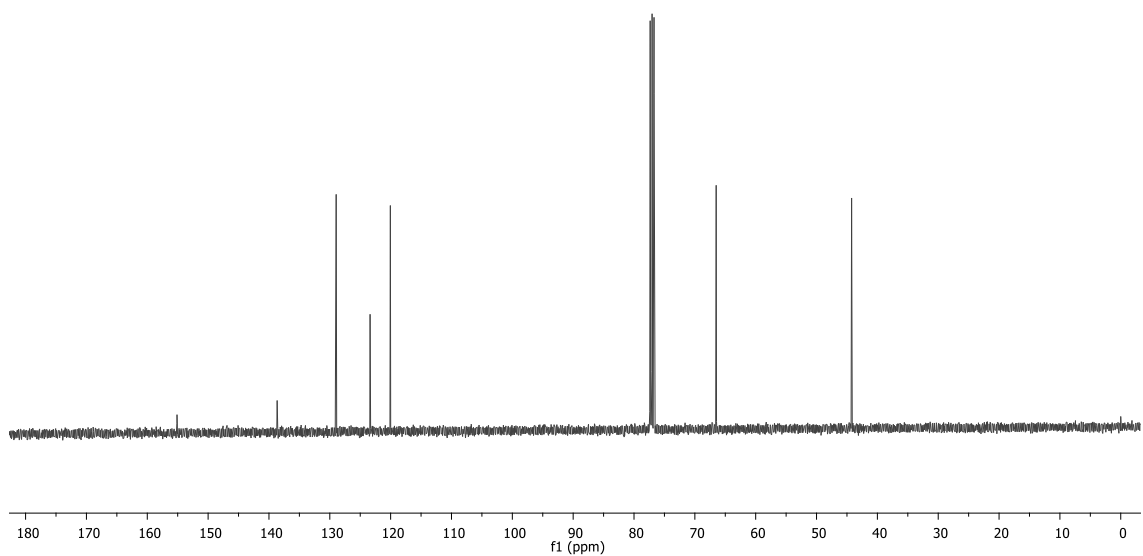
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66.493

44.237

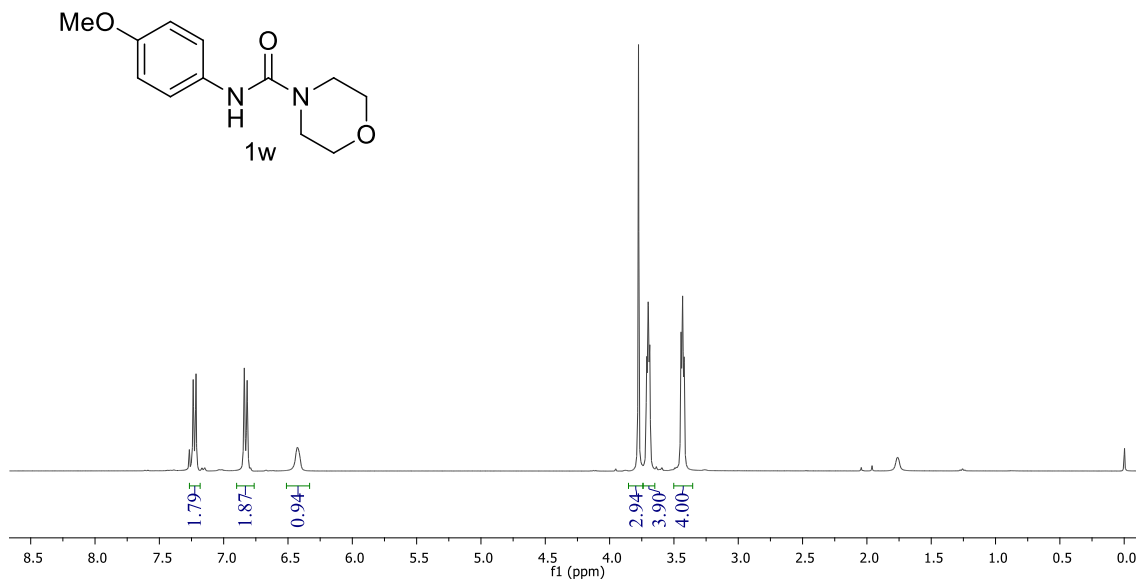


po-307

7.267
7.237
7.215
6.839
6.817
— 6.428

3.775
3.711
3.700
3.688
3.444
3.432
3.421

— -0.003



po-307

156.052
155.741

— 131.615

— 122.671

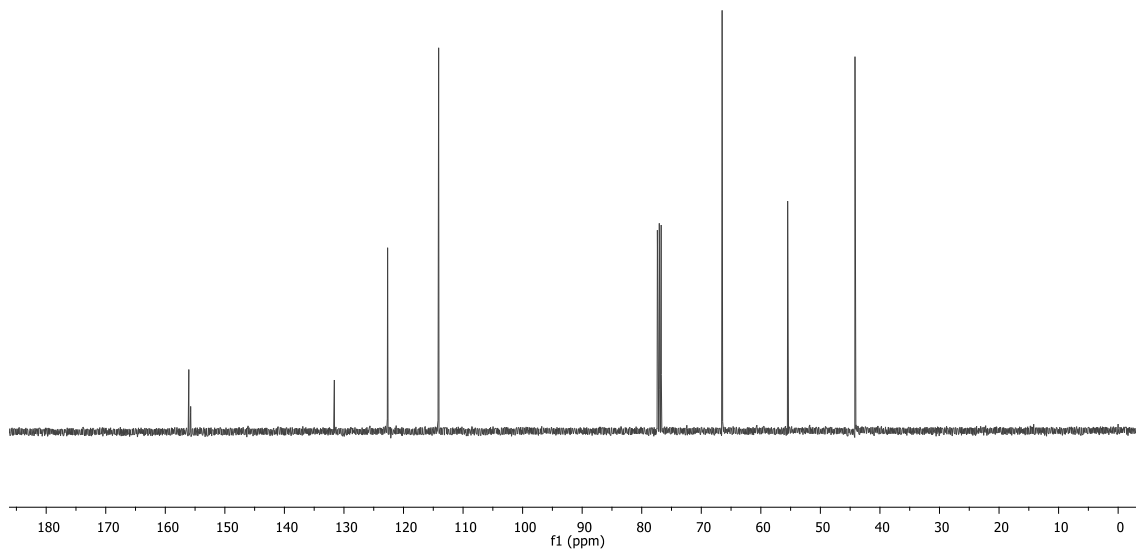
— 114.099

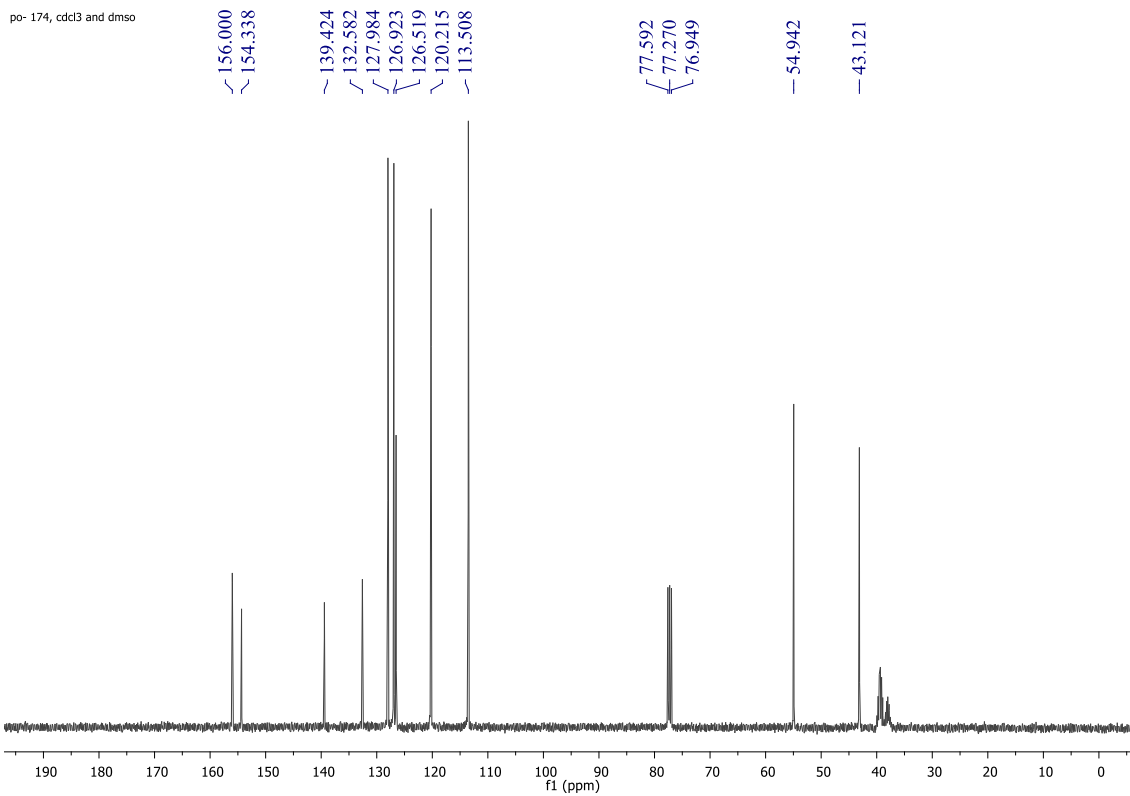
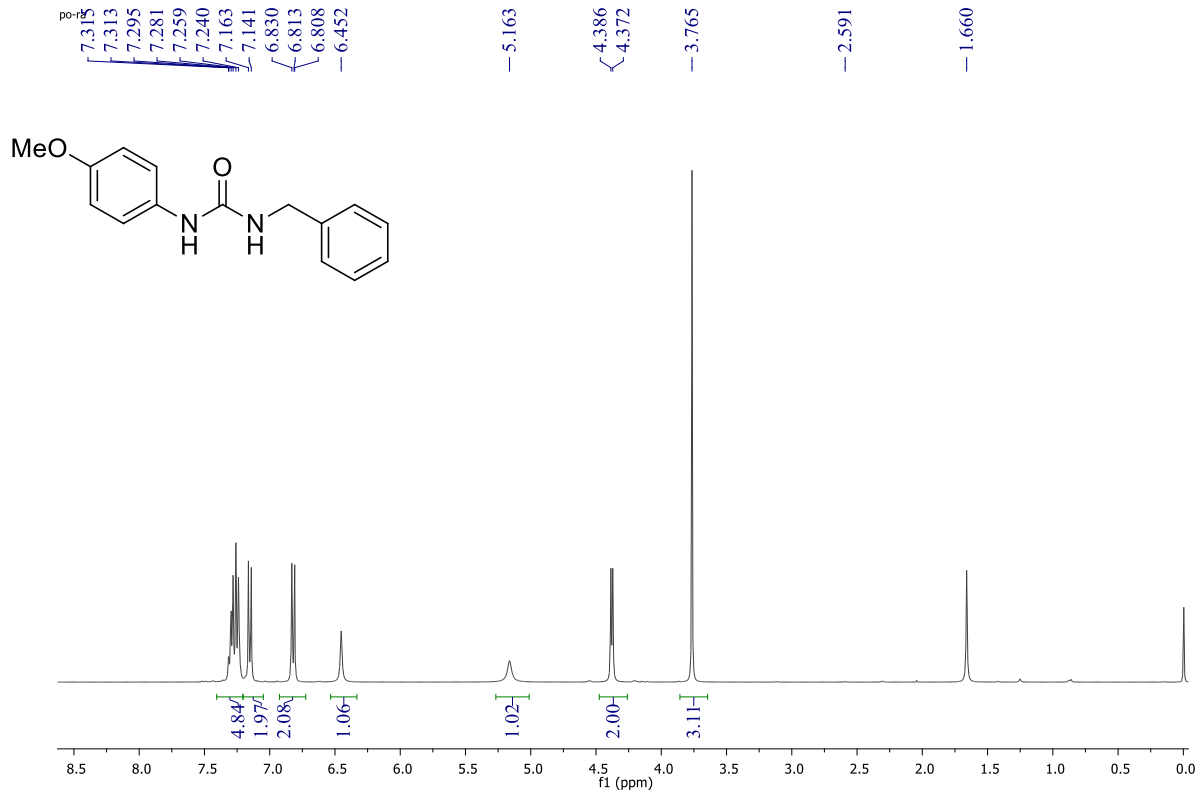
77.367
77.049
76.732

— 66.499

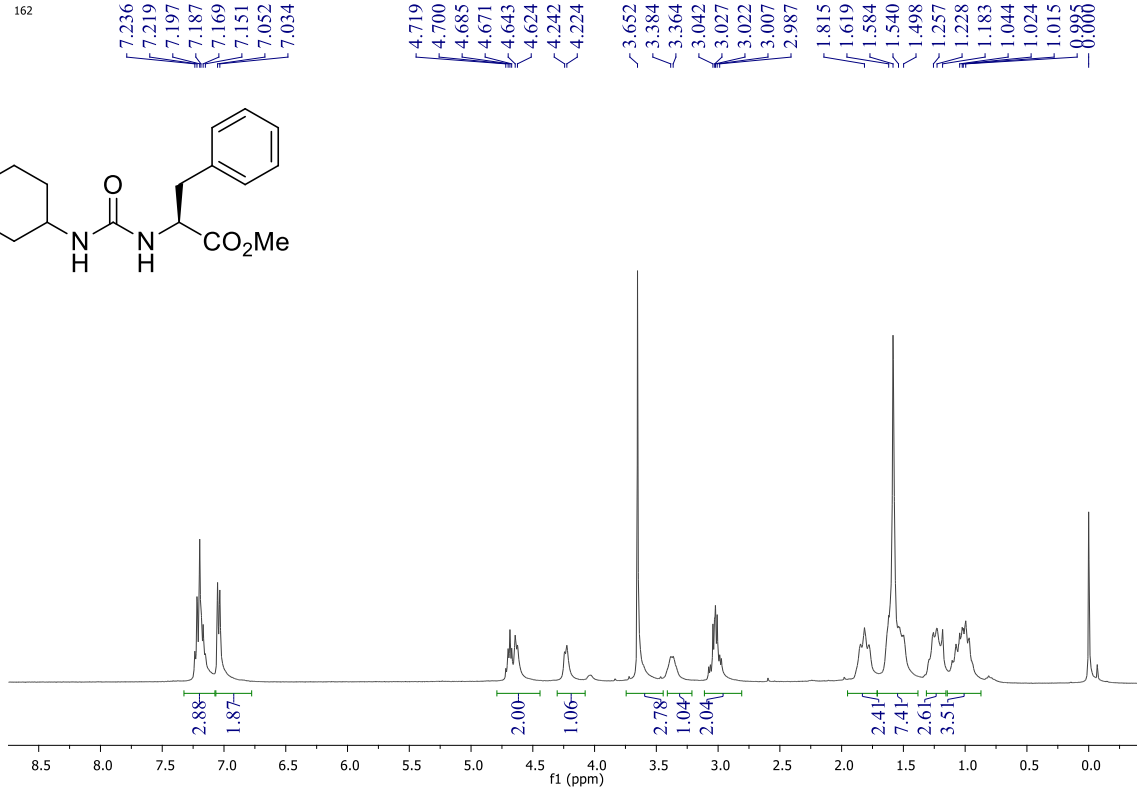
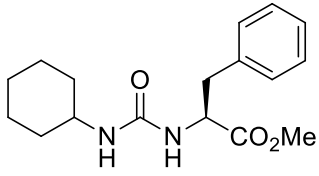
— 55.494

— 44.186

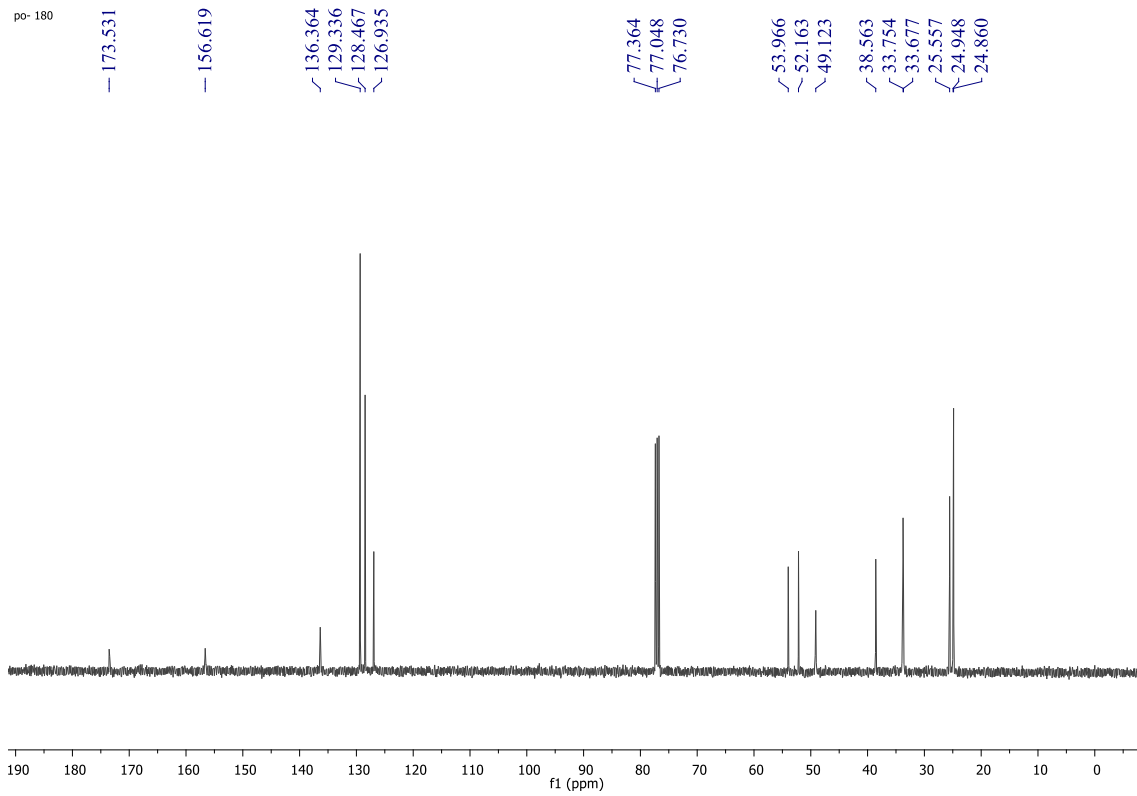




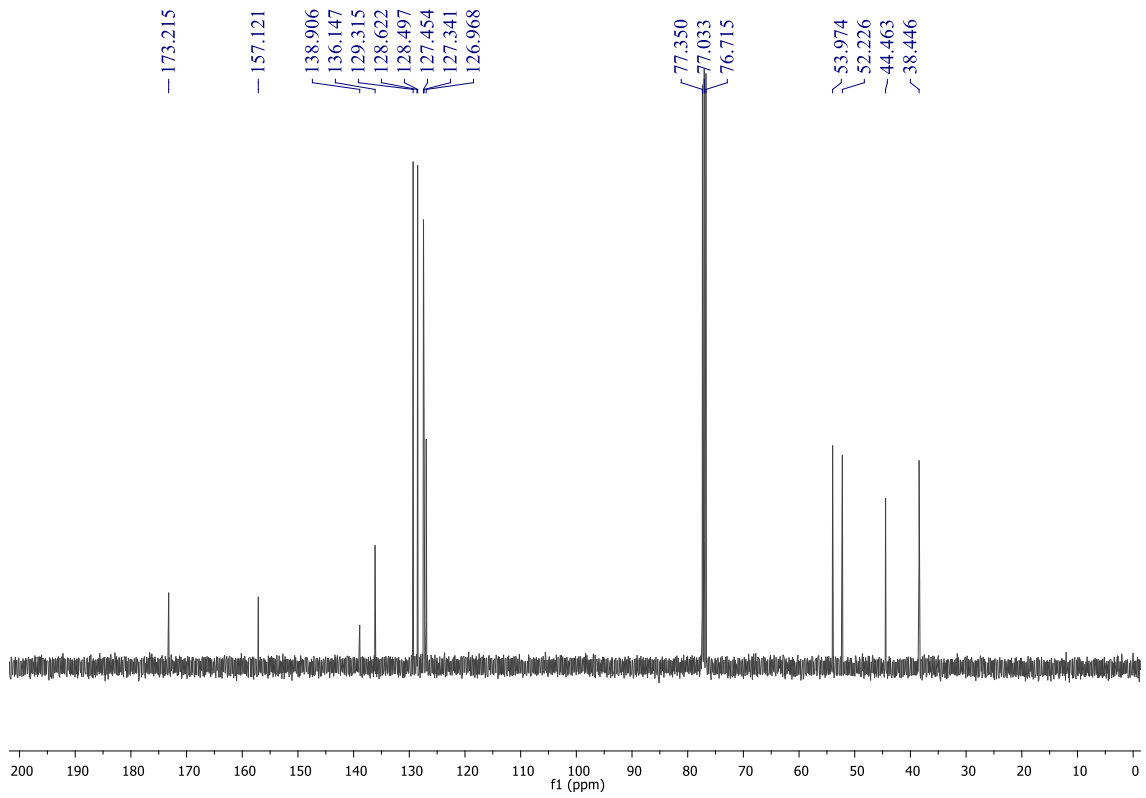
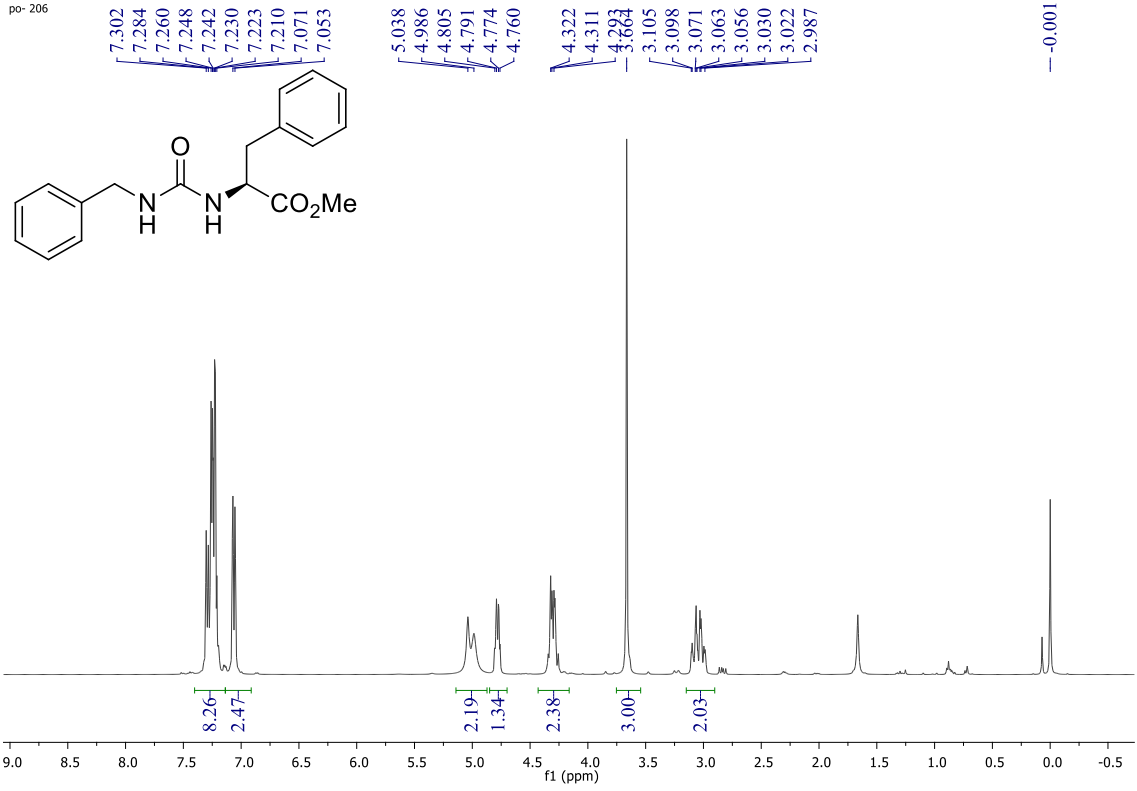
162



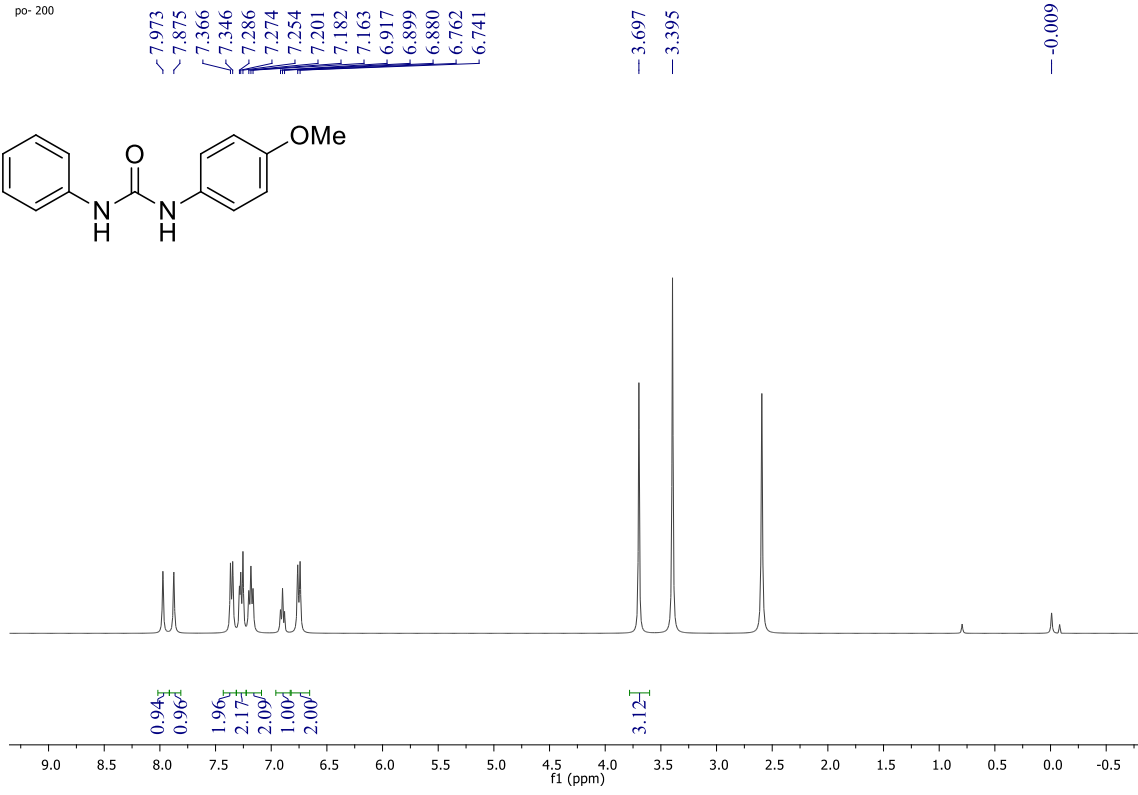
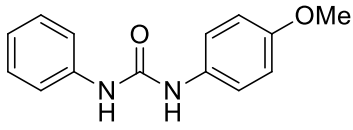
po-180



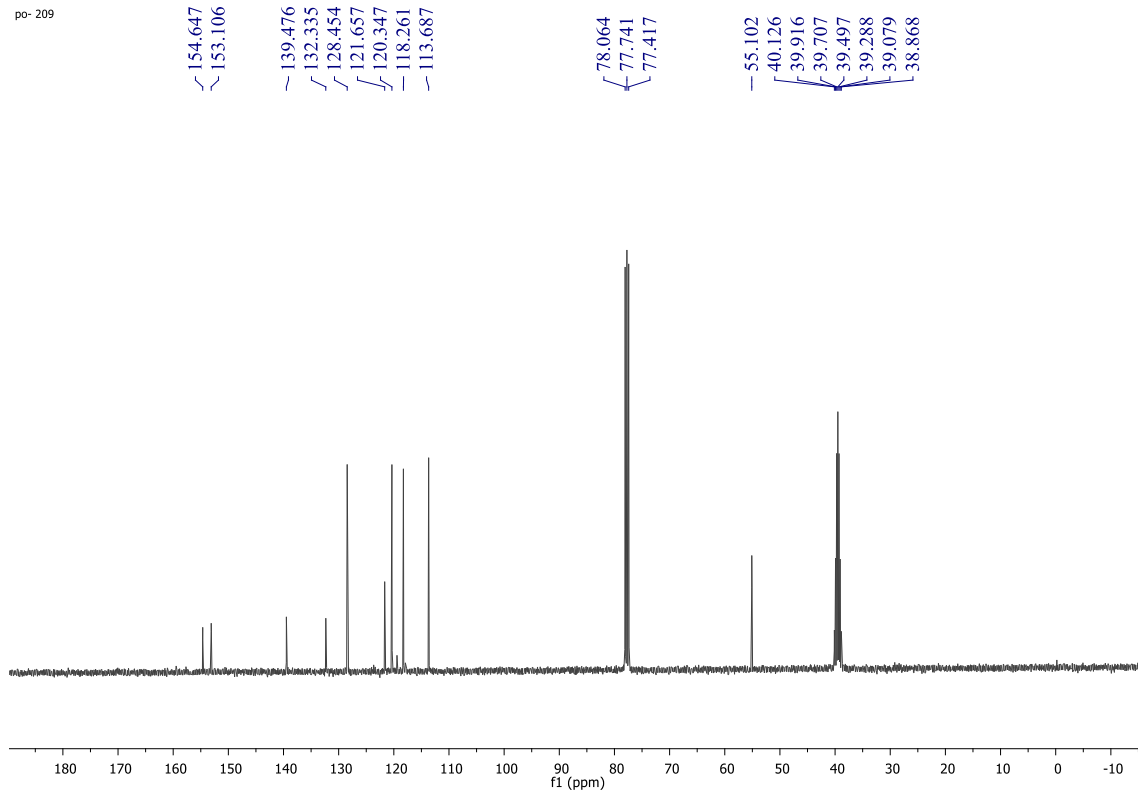
po-206



po-200

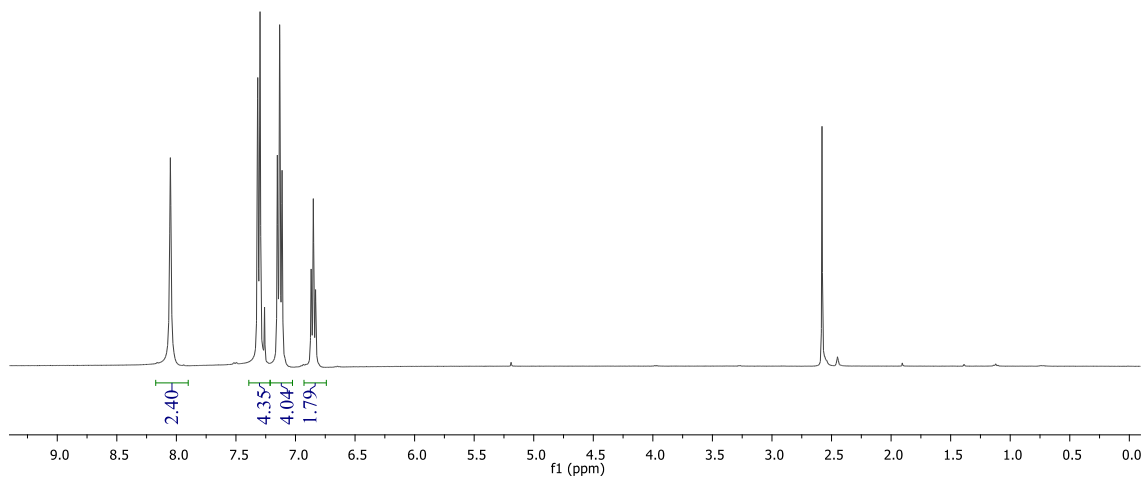
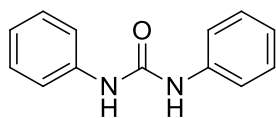


po-209

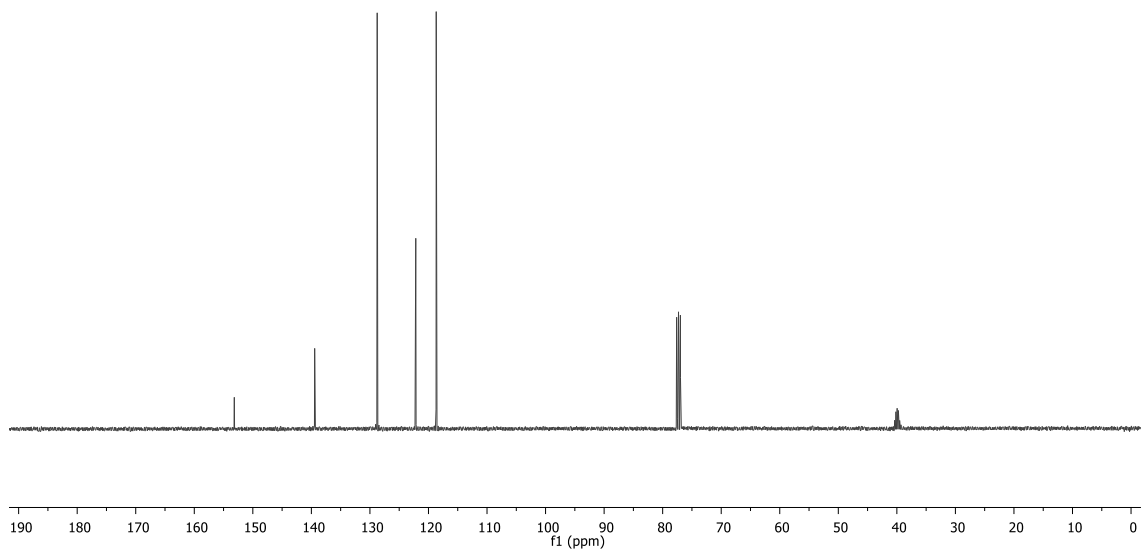


po-316

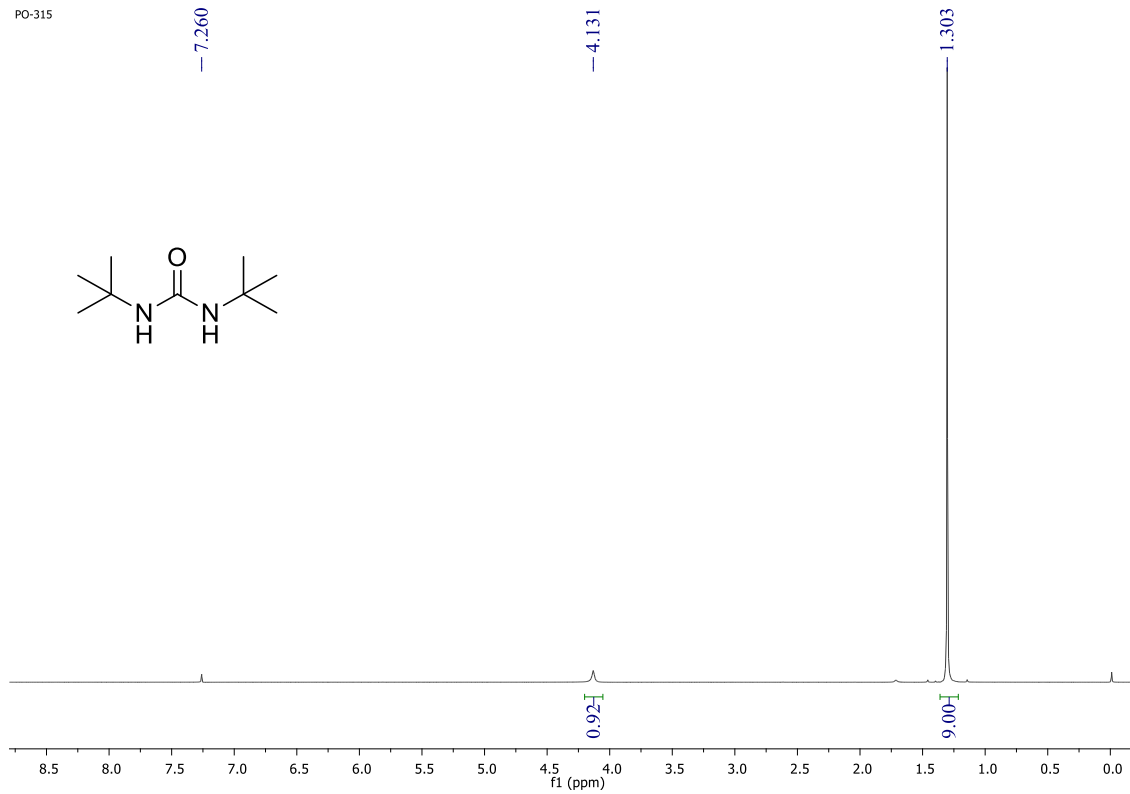
8.050
7.317
7.298
7.260
7.152
7.133
7.113
7.113
6.868
6.850
6.832



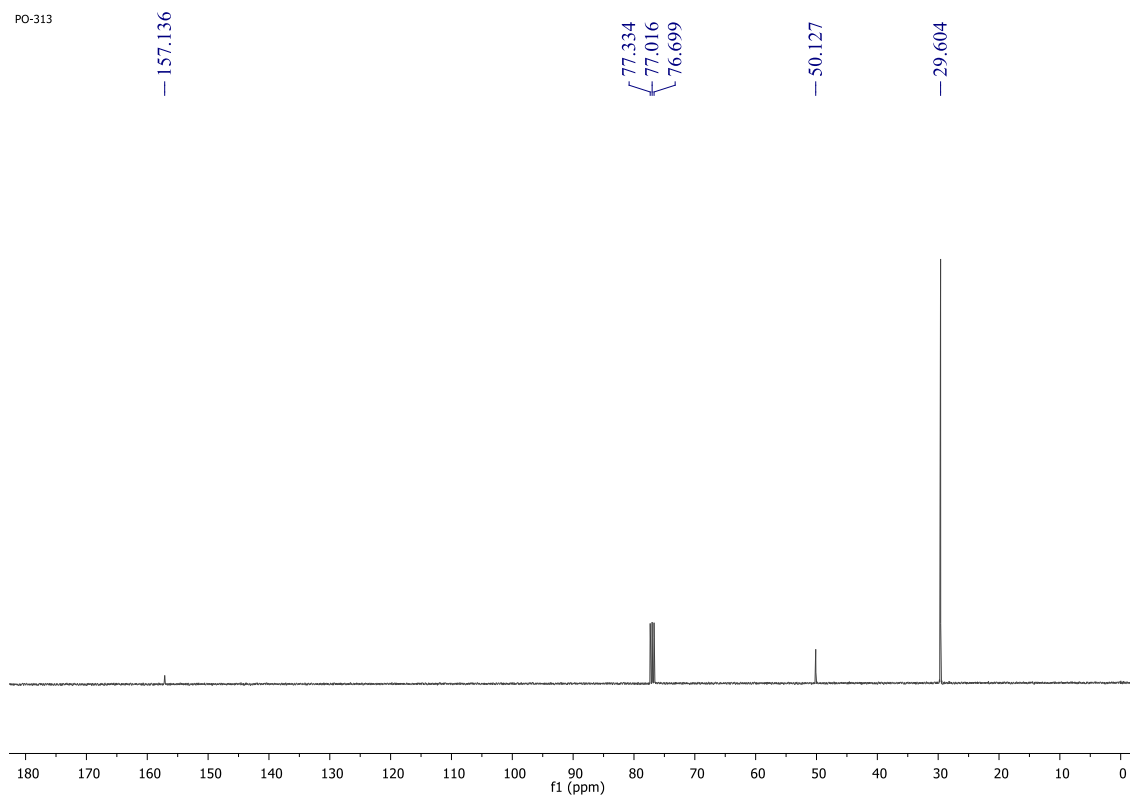
153.161
139.435
128.756
122.170
118.675
77.613
77.293
76.974

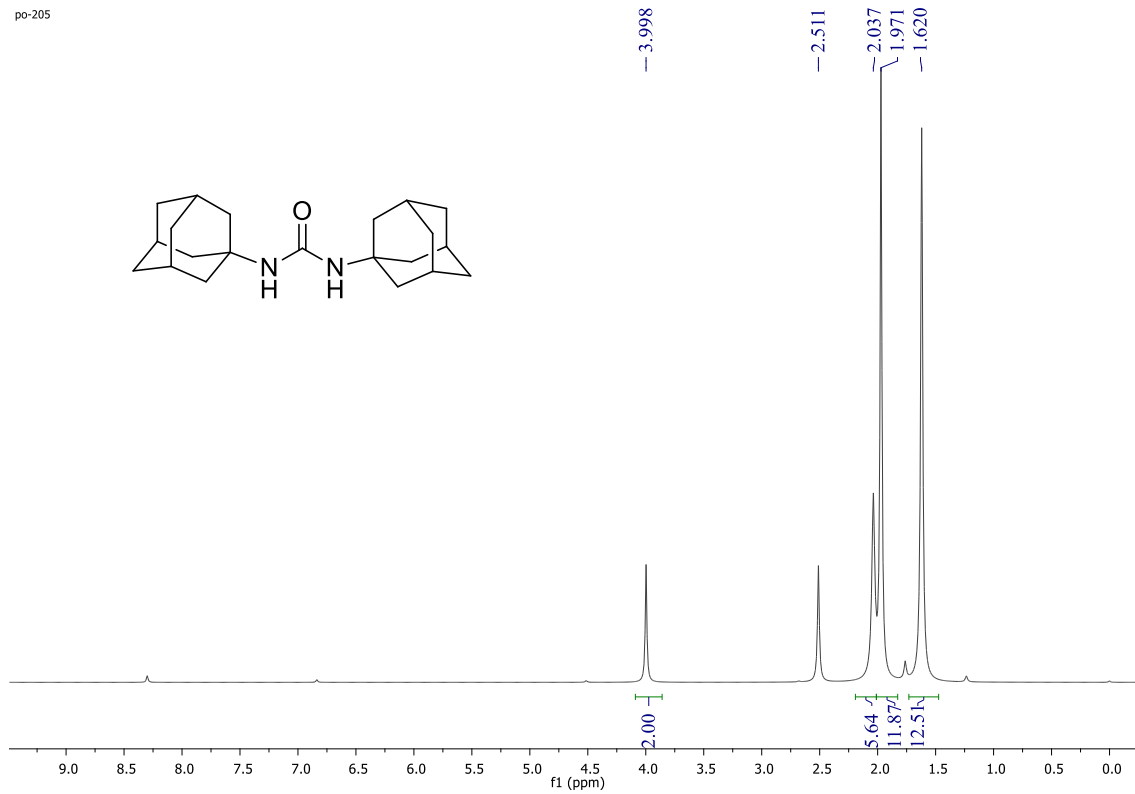


PO-315

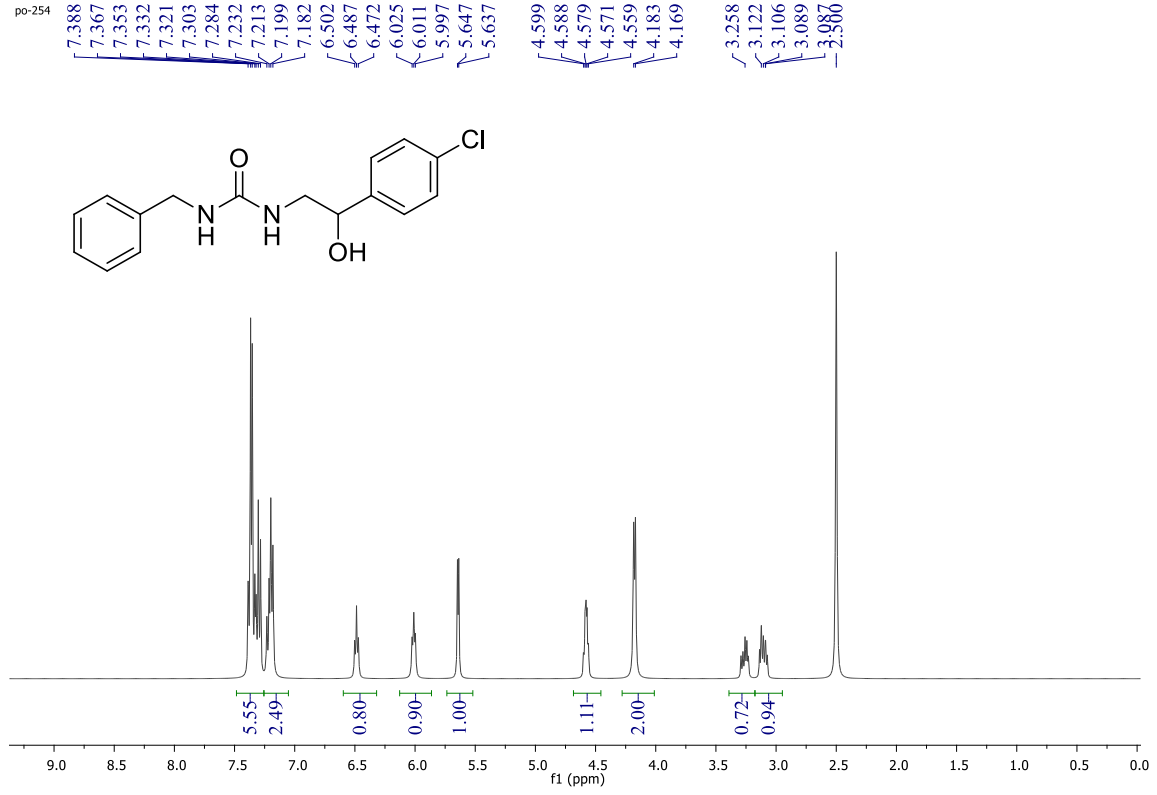
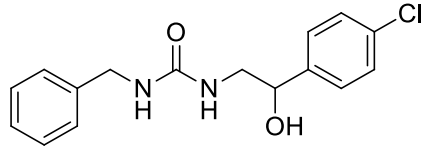


PO-313

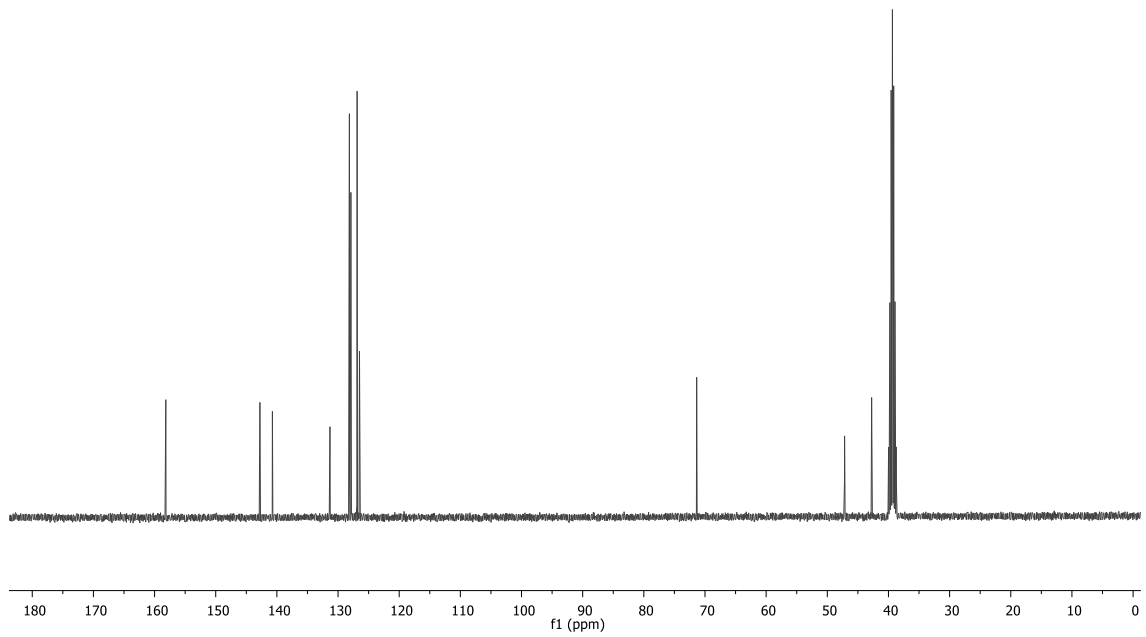




po-254

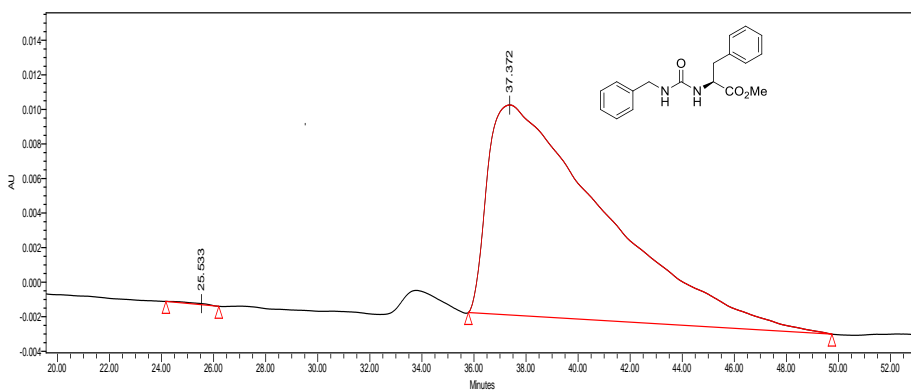


Chemical shifts (ppm): 158.162, 142.776, 140.732, 131.320, 128.144, 127.896, 127.856, 126.882, 126.497, 71.361, 47.174, 42.752, 39.977, 39.769, 39.560, 39.351, 39.143, 38.933, 38.726.

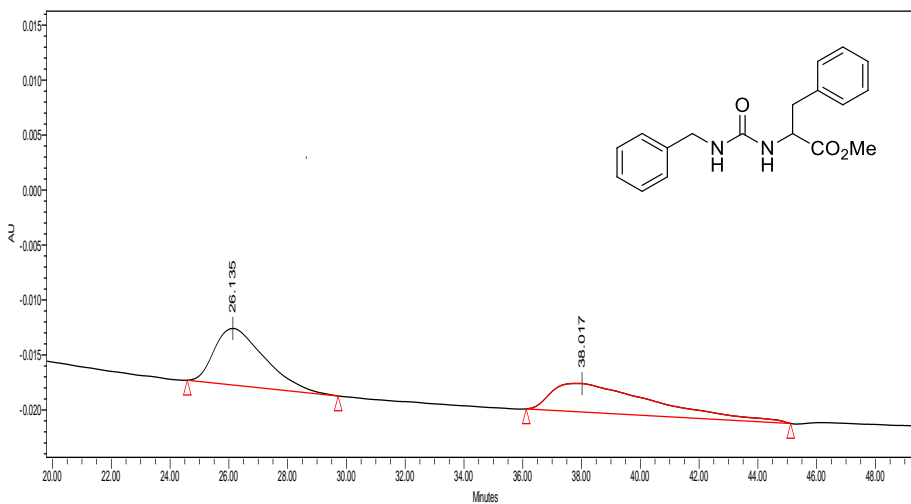


12. HPLC traces of chiral urea derivative

(S)-methyl 2-(3-benzylureido)-3-phenylpropanoate 2a: HPLC analysis was performed by using CHIRALCEL AS column, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, UV 210 nm, minor 25.5 and major 37.37 min.

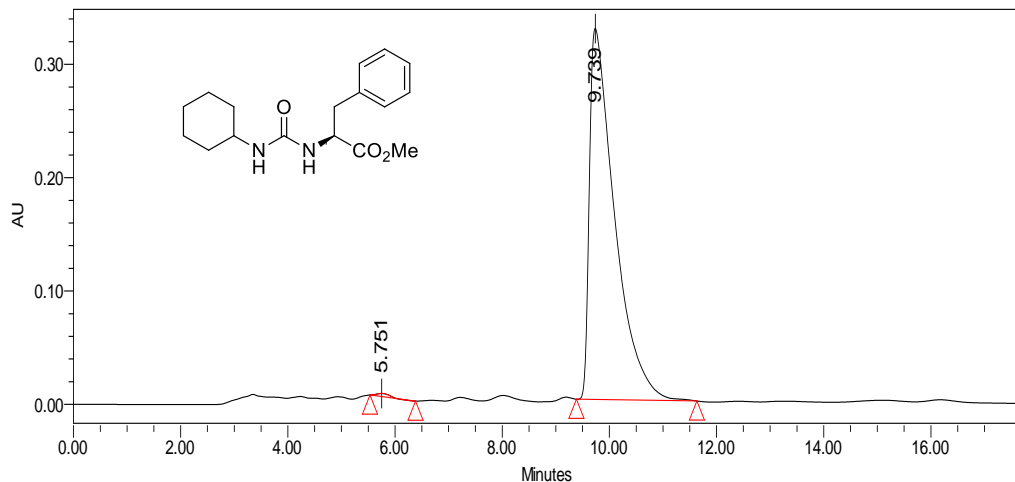


	Retention Time	Area	% Area	Height
2	37.372	3832182	99.87	12155
1	25.533	5176	0.13	65

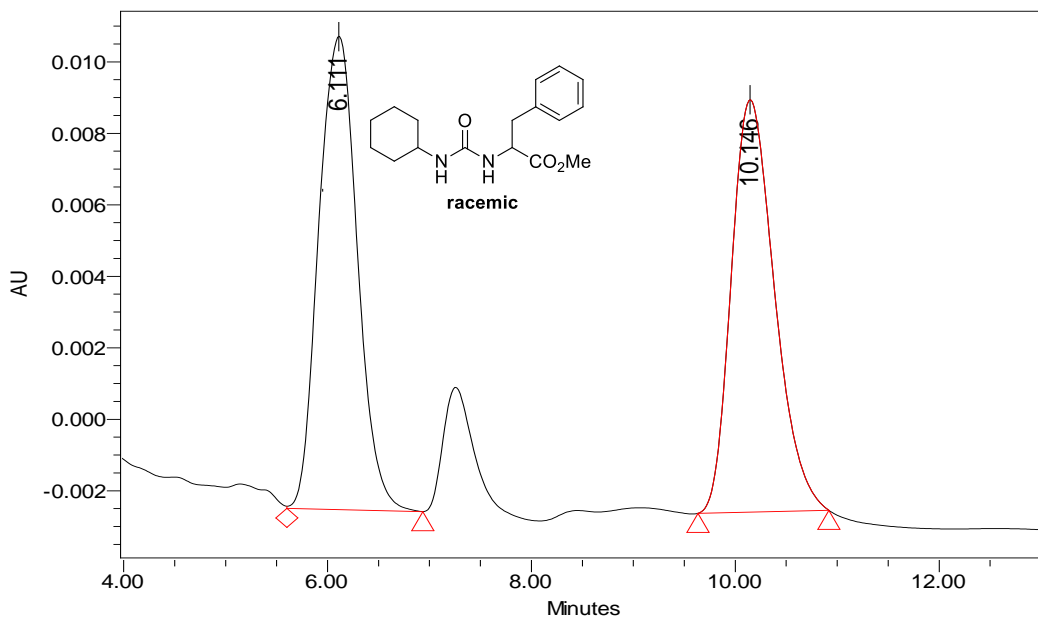


	Retention Time	Area	% Area	Height
2	38.017	634571	50.79	2584
1	26.135	614897	49.21	5144

(S)-Methyl 2-(3-Cyclohexylureido)-3-phenylpropanoate 2b: HPLC analysis was performed by using CHIRALCEL AD-H column, hexane/2-propanol 85:15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, UV 210 nm, minor 5.7 and major 9.7 min.



	Name	Retention Time	Area	% Area	Height
1		5.751	71610	0.67	3422
2		9.739	10685514	99.33	327838



	Name	Retention Time	Area	% Area	Height
1		6.111	346525	49.27	13205
2		10.146	356799	50.73	11687

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