

Supporting Information for  
**Photocatalytic iminyl radical-mediated C-C bond cleavage/  
addition/cyclization cascade for synthesis of  
1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrenes**

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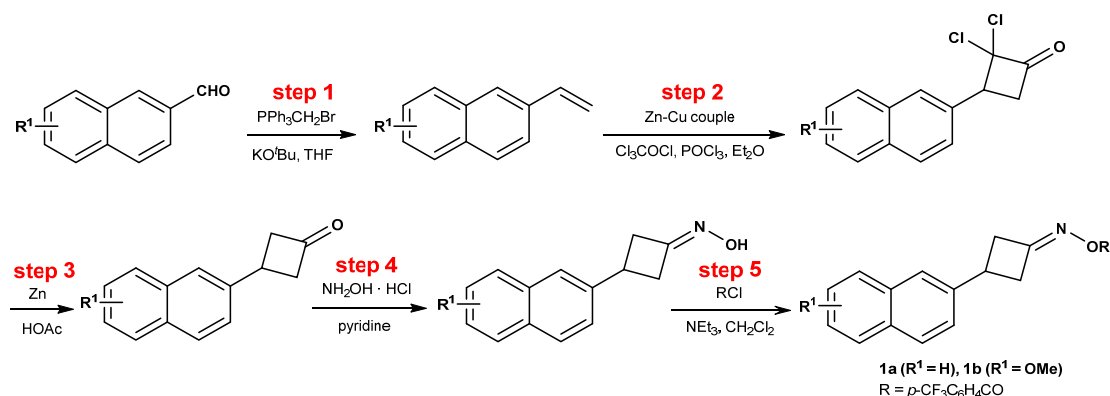
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# 1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All the solvents were treated according to general methods. Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 400 or 600 MHz spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm from the resonance of tetramethyl silane as the internal standard (TMS: 0.00 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 100 or 150 MHz with complete proton decoupling spectrophotometers. The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on a Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF mass spectrometer or DIONEX UltiMate 3000 & Bruker Compact TOF or DIONEX UltiMate 3000 & Bruker Compact TOF mass spectrometer by ESI. Unless otherwise noted, materials obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification.

## 2. Preparation of Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters

### 2.1 Preparation of Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters 1a, 1b



To a 250 mL three-necked flask under argon were added aldehyde derivative (20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium *tert*-butoxide (40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and tetrahydrofuran (0.5 M), stirring for 30 min at 0 °C. Then, methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (30 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added to the mixture. After stirring for 3 h, saturated ammonium chloride solution (30 mL) was added to the above solution, and the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine (30 mL) and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  with PE-EtOAc as an eluent to give vinylnaphthalene.

To a 250 mL three-necked flask under argon were added alkene derivative (1.0 equiv), zinc-copper couple (3.0 equiv), and anhydrous ether (0.5 M). To this was added a solution of trichloroacetyl chloride (2.0 equiv) and phosphorus oxychloride (1.1 equiv) in ether (0.5 M) over 1 h through an addition funnel. The suspension was stirred overnight at reflux. The resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and was washed with ether (80 mL). The organic solution was successively washed with water (30 mL), a saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Then the solution was filtered, concentrated and used in the next step without further purification.

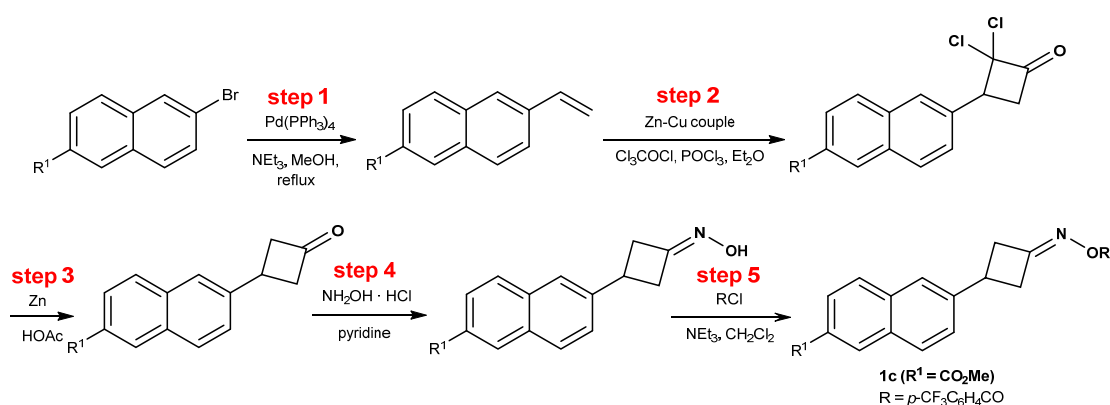
A mixture of 2,2-dichlorocyclobutanones (1.0 equiv) and zinc dust (4.0 equiv) in acetic acid (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then heated at 80 °C for 5 h. The resulting mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, then, the solution was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with ether (3\*20 mL). The organic phase was washed successively with a saturated solution of aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (3\*30 mL), water (30 mL) and brine (30 mL),

then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuum. The crude material was then purified by flash chromatography with a mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate to afford various cyclobutanones.

To a stirred solution of cyclobutanones (1.0 equiv) in pyridine (0.5 M) was added hydroxylamine hydrochloride (2.0 equiv) at rt. After stirring for 2 h, pyridine was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude material, which were used in the next step without further purification.

To a mixture of cyclobutanone oxime (1.0 equiv), triethylamine (2.0 equiv) and DCM (0.5 M) in a 30-mL two-necked flask was added *p*-CF<sub>3</sub> benzoyl chloride (1.5 equiv) at 0 °C. After 6 h, water was added to the above solution, and the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with water and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel with PE-EtOAc as an eluent to give cyclobutanone oxime esters.<sup>1</sup>

## 2.2 Preparation of Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters 1c



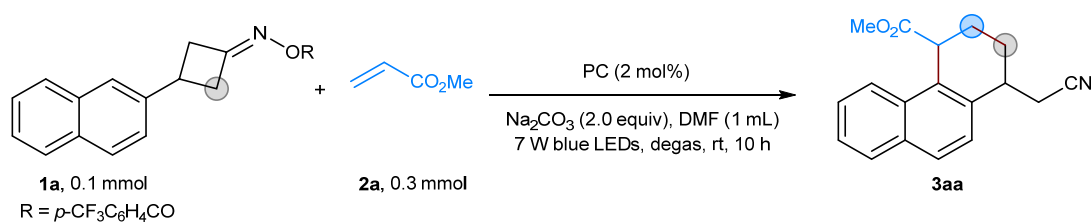
To a 250 mL three-necked flask under argon were added bromide (20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.4 mmol, 2 mol%), triethylamine (40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and ethanol (0.5 M). The suspension was stirred overnight at reflux. After that, water was added to the above solution, and the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine (30 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel with PE-EtOAc as an eluent to give vinylnaphthalene.

The following steps are same as the mentioned above.

## 3. Detailed Optimization of Reaction Conditions and Control Experiments

### 3.1 Optimization of Reaction Conditions

**Table S1. Screening of Photocatalysts**

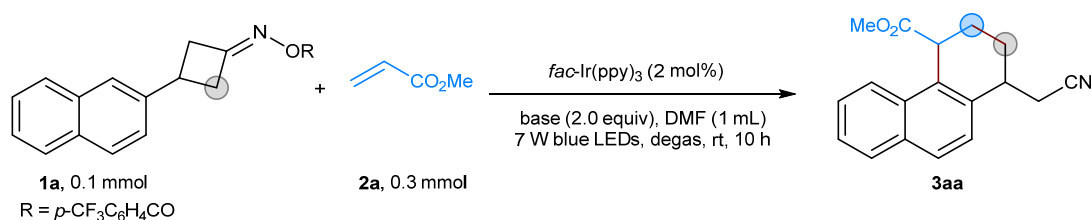


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Photocatalyst	dr <sup>c</sup>	Yield <sup>b</sup> [%]
<b>1</b>	<b><i>fac</i>-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>28</b>
2	Ir-(2,4-diFppy) <sub>3</sub>	-	No reaction
3	Ir-(4-Fppy) <sub>3</sub>	-	No reaction
4	Ir-(4-Fppy) <sub>2</sub> (dtppy)PF <sub>6</sub>	-	No reaction
5	Ir-(Fppy) <sub>2</sub> bpy	-	No reaction
6	Ir-(ppy) <sub>2</sub> (dtbbpy)PF <sub>6</sub>	-	No reaction

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (26.01 mg, 0.30 mmol), PC (2 mol%) and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (21.2 mg, 2.0 equiv) in DMF (1.0 mL) at rt under 7 W blue LEDs. <sup>b</sup> Determined by isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis after flash chromatography.

As shown in Table S1, among all the photocatalysts tested, *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> gave the best results in terms of yield (28% yield, 2:1 dr), and was thus selected for further optimization studies.

**Table S2. Screening of Bases**

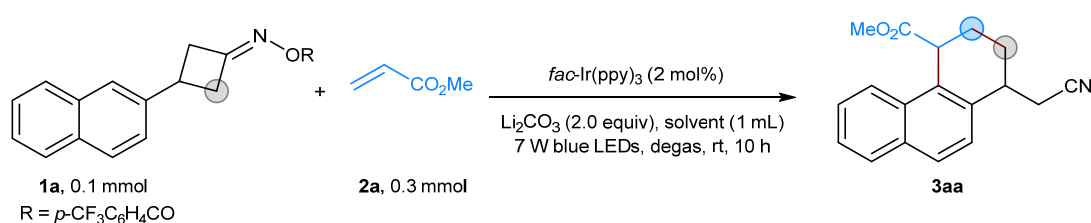


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Base	dr <sup>c</sup>	Yield <sup>b</sup> [%]
1	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2:1	32
2	NaOAc	2:1	54
3	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2:1	41
<b>4</b>	<b>Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>66</b>
5	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2:1	28
6	DABCO	2:1	20
7	DBU	2:1	19

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (26.01 mg, 0.30 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and base (2.0 equiv) in DMF (1.0 mL) at rt under 7W blue LEDs. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis after flash chromatography.

As shown in Table S2, among the bases tested, Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> gave the best results (66% yield, 2:1 dr), and was thus selected for further studies.

**Table S3. Screening of Solvents**

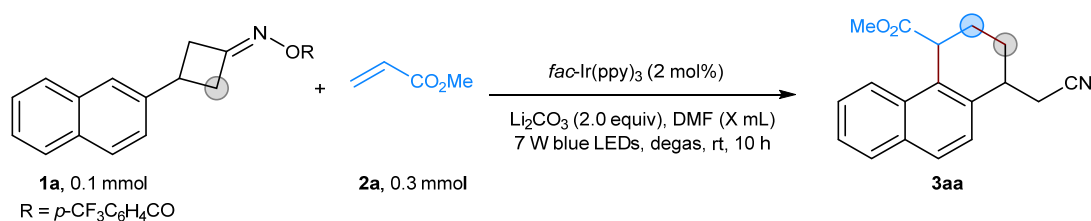


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Solvent	dr <sup>c</sup>	Yield <sup>b</sup> [%]
1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	2:1	41
2	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	2:1	43
3	DCE	2:1	39
4	toluene	2:1	36
5	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	2:1	No reaction
6	DMSO	2:1	63 (45 <sup>[dl]</sup> )
7	DMA	2:1	70 (55 <sup>[dl]</sup> )
8	acetone	2:1	Not the desired point
9	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	2:1	48
10	DCE	2:1	46
<b>11</b>	<b>DMF</b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>85 (66<sup>[bl]</sup>)</b>

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (26.01 mg, 0.30 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (14.78 mg, 2.0 equiv) in solvent (1.0 mL) at rt under 7 W blue LEDs. <sup>b</sup> NMR yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. <sup>d</sup> Isolated yield.

As show in Table S3, among all the solvents tested, DMF gave the best results in terms of yield (66% yield, 2:1 dr), and was thus selected for further optimization studies.

**Table S4. Screening of Concentration**

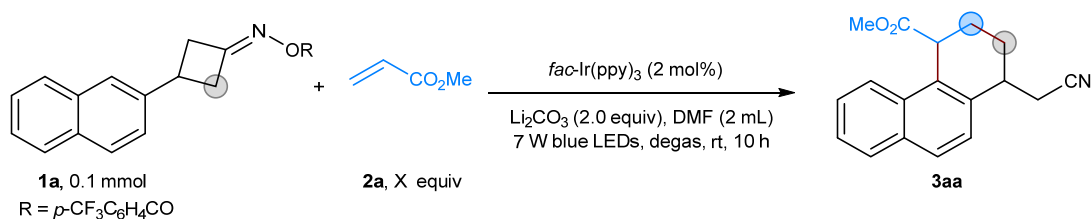


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Concentration	dr <sup>c</sup>	Yield <sup>b</sup> [%]
<b>1</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>80</b>
2	0.1	2:1	66
3	0.2	2:1	62
4	0.4	2:1	52

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (26.01 mg, 0.30 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) in DMF (X mL) at rt under 7W blue LEDs. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis after flash chromatography.

As shown in Table S4, among the concentration tested, 0.05 M gave the best result in terms of yield (80% yield, 2:1 dr) and the optimized reaction condition was confirmed.

**Table S5. Screening of Substrate Ratios**

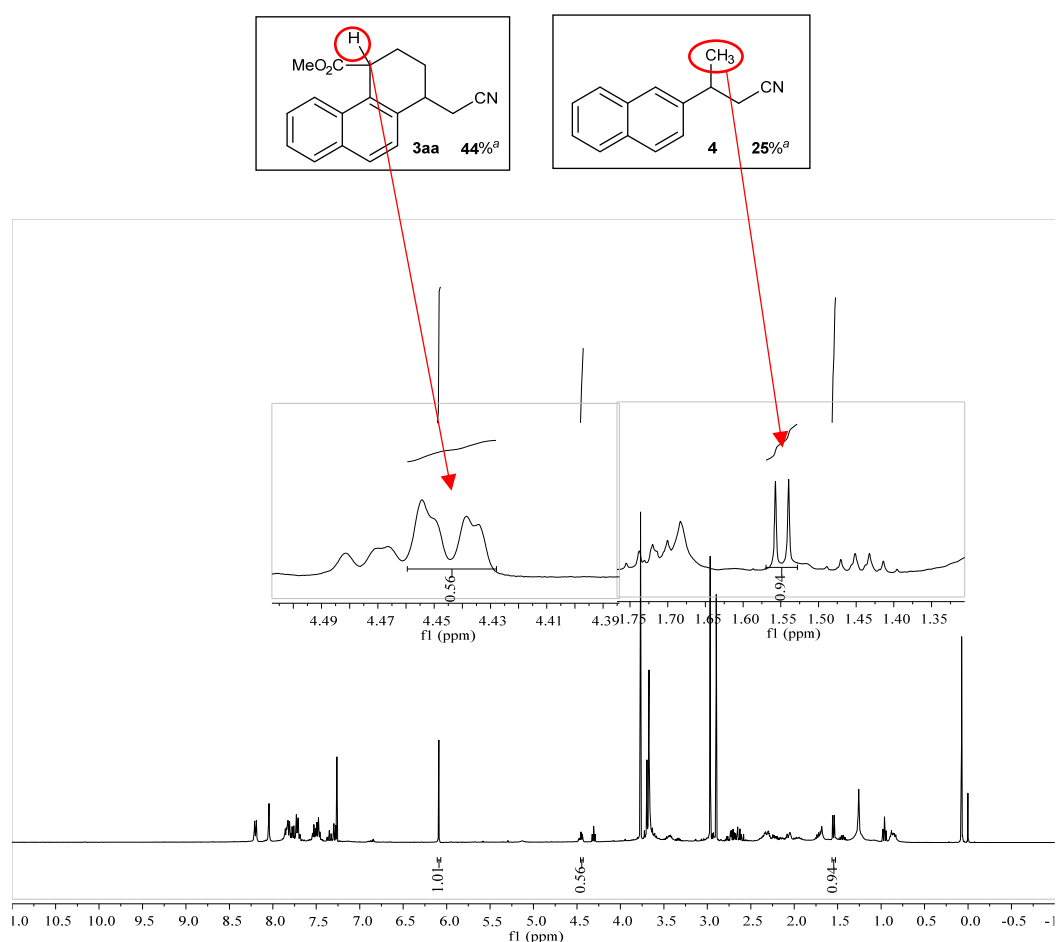


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Ratio of <b>2a</b> to <b>1a</b> (X)	dr <sup>c</sup>	Yield <sup>b</sup> [%]
<b>1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>80</b>
2	1.5	2:1	65

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (X equiv), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) in DMF (2 mL) at rt under 7 W blue LEDs. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis after flash chromatography.

As shown in Table S5, among the ratio tested, 3.0 equiv of **2a** gave the best result in terms of yield (80% yield, 2:1 dr) and the optimized reaction condition was confirmed.

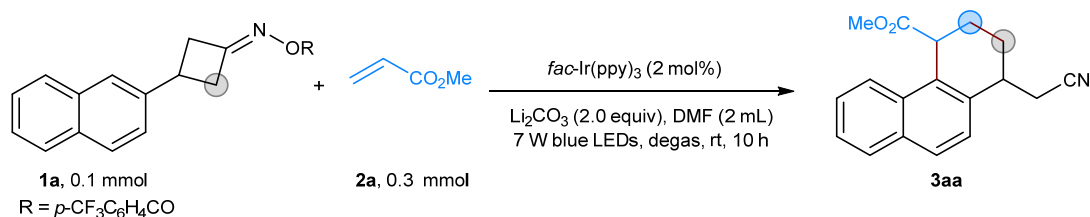
### Detection of sideproduct 4 in the reaction mixture



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (12.97 mg, 0.15 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) in DMF (1.0 mL) at rt under 7 W blue LEDs. Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR mixed spectra analysis.

## 3.2 Control Experiments for Synthesis of 3aa

Table S6. Control Experiments

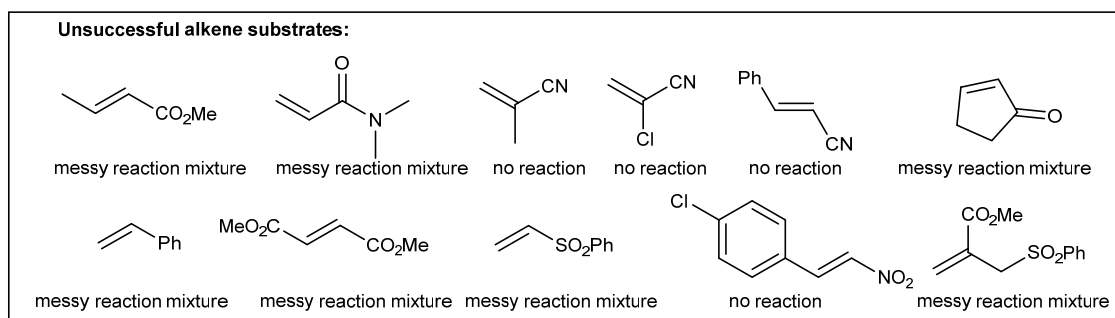


Entry <sup>a</sup>	<i>hν</i>	Photocatalyst	Base	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1 <sup>c</sup>	-	+	+	No reaction
2 <sup>d</sup>	+	-	+	No reaction
4 <sup>e</sup>	+	+	-	49
5	+	+	+	80

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out with **1a** (38.34 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2a** (26.01 mg, 0.30 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) in DMF (2 mL) at rt under 7 W blue LED. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> Without visible light irradiation. <sup>d</sup> Without photocatalyst. <sup>e</sup> Without base.

The results of Table S6 reveal that synthesis of **3aa** is indeed a photocatalytic process.

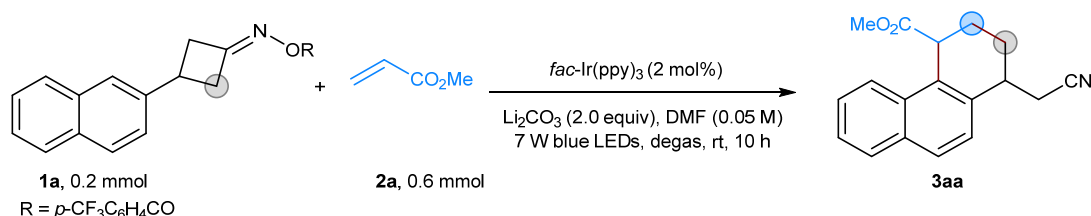
## 3.3 Unsuccessful Alkene Substrates



As shown above, we have also reacted a series of other 1,1-disubstituted, 1,2-disubstituted alkene substrates with **2a** under the standard conditions. Unfortunately, these unsuccessful substrates resulted in no conversion or messy reaction mixture. Further optimization of catalytic system to address these limitations is ongoing.

## 4. General Procedure and Spectral Data of Products

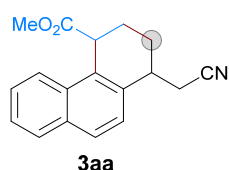
### 4.1 General Procedure for Synthesis of 3



**1a** (76.67 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (52.02 mg, 0.6 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) were dissolved in DMF (4 mL). Then, the resulting mixture was degassed via ‘freeze-pump-thaw’ procedure (3 times). After that, the solution was stirred at a distance of ~5 cm from a 7W blue LEDs (450–460 nm) at room temperature about 10 h until the reaction was completed as monitored by TLC analysis. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethylacetate 5:1) directly to give the desired product **3aa** in 80% yield as a colorless oil.

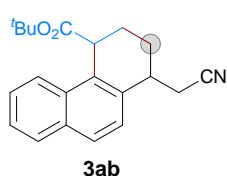
### 4.2 Spectral Data of Products

#### methyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3aa**



43.58 mg, 78% yield (2:1 dr); colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) 7.86 – 7.74 (m, 5H, major+minor), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, minor), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, major), 4.46 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H, major), 4.43 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, minor), 3.68 (s, 2H, minor), 3.66 (s, 3H, major), 3.43 – 3.36 (m, 2H, major+minor), 2.95 – 2.03 (m, 6H, major+minor). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm, major+minor) 175.1, 174.7, 134.6, 132.7, 132.5, 132.4, 132.4, 129.8, 128.9, 128.5, 127.0, 126.9, 125.8, 125.8, 125.5, 122.9, 122.8, 118.8, 118.6, 52.4, 52.4, 41.8, 41.0, 35.2, 24.6, 23.0, 22.0. IR (in KBr): 2930, 2250, 1720, 1375, 1312, 1125 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): *m/z* [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>: 302.1151, found: 302.1153.

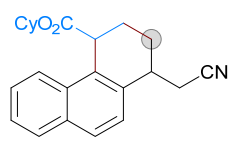
#### tert-butyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ab**



56.57 mg, 88% yield (2:1 dr); colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) 7.92 – 7.67 (m, 6H, major+minor), 7.54 – 7.42 (m, 4H, major+minor), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, minor), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, major), 4.34 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, minor), 4.30 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, major), 3.43 – 3.34 (m, 2H, major+minor), 2.97 – 1.97 (m, 7H, major+minor), 1.40 (s, 5H, minor), 1.39 (s, 9H, major). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm, major+minor) 174.0, 173.4, 134.6, 134.5, 132.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 128.1, 126.8, 126.6, 126.0, 125.7, 125.6, 125.4, 123.1, 123.0, 118.9, 118.7, 81.2, 81.1, 45.5, 42.8, 41.9, 35.6, 35.2, 34.6, 29.7, 28.0, 28.0, 27.9, 25.5, 25.0, 24.7, 24.5, 22.8, 21.9. IR (in KBr): 2875, 2250, 1730, 1375, 1130, 880 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (EI): *m/z* [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>: 344.1621, found: 344.1623.



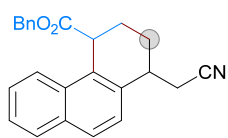
### cyclohexyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ac**



**3ac**

45.00 mg, 70% yield (3:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.90 – 7.68 (m, 4H, major+minor), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.27 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, major), 4.79 – 4.77 (m, 2H, major+minor), 4.42 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 1H, minor), 4.39 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H, major), 4.02 (s, 1H, major), 2.98 – 1.22 (m, 22H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 174.1, 173.5, 134.6, 132.7, 132.5, 132.4, 130.0, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.2, 127.3, 127.3, 126.8, 126.7, 126.1, 125.7, 125.6, 125.4, 123.0, 123.0, 118.8, 118.6, 73.2, 73.0, 42.1, 41.3, 35.6, 35.2, 31.4, 31.4, 31.2, 31.2, 25.5, 25.2, 25.2, 25.1, 24.7, 24.5, 23.5, 23.4, 23.2, 22.9, 22.7, 22.0. IR (in KBr): 2935, 1720, 1380, 1135  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_2$ : 370.1777, found: 370.1777.

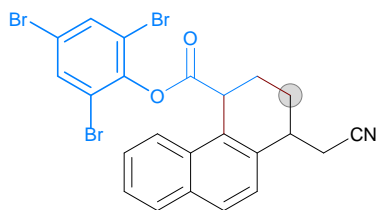
### benzyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ad**



**3ad**

53.32 mg, 75% yield (3:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.81 – 7.67 (m, 4H, major+minor), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 8H, major+minor), 5.18 (t,  $J = 10.2$  Hz, 1H, minor), 5.10 (t,  $J = 12.2$  Hz, 2H, major), 4.48 (d,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1H, minor), 4.45 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H, major), 3.42 – 3.38 (m, 2H, major+minor), 2.93 – 1.90 (m, 6H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 174.3, 173.9, 135.7, 135.6, 134.7, 134.7, 132.7, 132.4, 132.3, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.3, 127.3, 126.9, 126.9, 126.8, 126.2, 126.1, 125.7, 125.7, 125.5, 122.9, 122.8, 118.6, 66.8, 66.7, 41.7, 41.0, 35.4, 35.1, 25.4, 25.0, 24.7, 24.5, 22.9, 21.8. IR (in KBr): 2900, 1740, 1375, 1140, 750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_2$ : 378.1464, found: 378.1460.

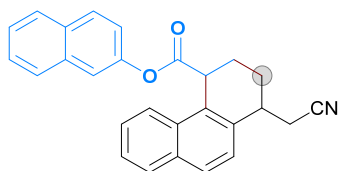
### 2,4,6-tribromophenyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ae**



**3ae**

77.47 mg, 67% yield (1:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, minor), 8.17 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, major), 7.84 – 7.47 (m, 12H, major+minor), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, major), 4.87 – 4.81 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.50 – 3.43 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.03 – 2.12 (m, 12H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 170.0, 169.6, 145.3, 135.1, 135.1, 135.0, 135.0, 134.9, 132.8, 132.4, 132.2, 132.1, 128.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 126.9, 126.9, 126.0, 126.0, 125.3, 123.6, 123.6, 120.0, 119.9, 118.7, 118.6, 41.1, 40.7, 35.4, 35.0, 25.5, 25.3, 25.1, 24.7, 23.0, 21.5. IR (in KBr): 3125, 1750, 1375, 1065  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_3\text{NNaO}_2$ : 597.8623, found: 597.8633.

### naphthalen-2-yl 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3af**

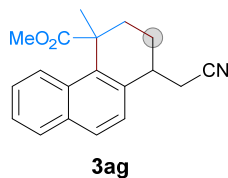


**3af**

56.37 mg, 72% yield (2:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.13 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H, minor), 8.11 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H, major), 7.88 – 7.73 (m, 7H, major+minor), 7.66 – 7.41 (m, 7H, major+minor), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, major), 7.12 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.3$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.09 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 2.4$  Hz, 1H, major), 4.75 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H, minor), 4.72 (d,  $J = 6.5$ , 1H, major), 3.53 – 3.44 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.02 – 2.13 (m, 9H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 173.5, 173.0, 148.3, 135.0, 133.6, 133.6, 132.8, 132.6, 132.4, 131.4, 129.4, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.2, 126.9, 126.6, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7, 125.7, 125.6, 122.8,

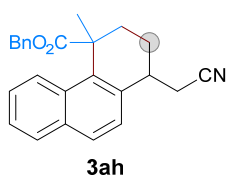
122.7, 120.7, 118.7, 118.6, 118.3, 118.2, 41.9, 41.2, 35.6, 35.1, 25.6, 25.2, 24.8, 24.5, 23.1, 22.1. HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{27}H_{21}NNaO_2$ : 414.1464, found: 414.1465.

### methyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ag**



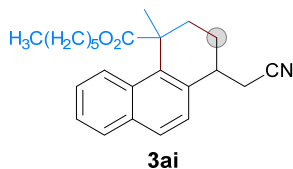
46.94 mg, 80% yield; white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.81 – 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.48 – 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.91 (dd,  $J = 16.9, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd,  $J = 17.0, 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.31 – 2.20 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 179.0, 135.7, 133.5, 133.2, 131.5, 129.1, 128.4, 126.4, 125.3, 125.2, 124.1, 118.3, 52.4, 45.8, 36.0, 35.4, 25.9, 24.5, 24.3. IR (in KBr): 3125, 2360, 1375, 1130, 750  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{19}H_{19}NNaO_2$ : 316.1308, found: 316.1306.

### benzyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ah**



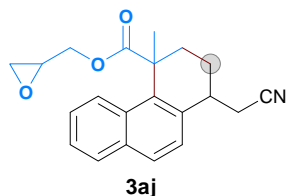
56.90 mg, 77% yield; white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd,  $J = 14.1, 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.16 (m, 6H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 5.09 (d,  $J = 12.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d,  $J = 12.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd,  $J = 17.0, 4.3$  Hz, 2H), 2.73 (dd,  $J = 17.0, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.28 – 2.19 (m, 2H), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 178.1, 135.7, 135.6, 133.5, 133.2, 131.5, 129.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.0, 128.0, 126.3, 125.3, 125.2, 124.3, 118.3, 66.8, 45.9, 36.0, 35.4, 25.8, 24.5, 24.3. IR (in KBr): 3375, 2360, 1685, 1380, 1200  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{25}H_{23}NNaO_2$ : 392.1621, found: 392.1620.

### hexyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ai**



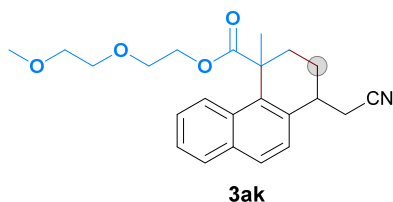
51.62 mg, 71% yield (3:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.85 – 7.67 (m, 5H, major+minor), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.22 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, major+minor), 4.11 – 3.96 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.48 – 3.42 (m, 1H, minor), 3.40 – 3.30 (m, 1H, major), 2.87 – 2.61 (m, 3H, minor), 2.32 – 1.96 (m, 4H, major+minor), 1.76 (s, 3H, major), 1.71 (s, 1H, minor), 1.56 – 0.74 (m, 14H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 179.0, 134.9, 133.7, 133.6, 131.4, 129.2, 128.3, 127.0, 126.3, 125.3, 124.3, 118.6, 65.3, 46.2, 36.4, 32.2, 31.1, 28.2, 25.3, 24.8, 24.4, 22.4, 22.2, 13.9. IR (in KBr): 3125, 1690, 1375, 1125  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{24}H_{29}NNaO_2$ : 386.2090, found: 386.2092.

### oxiran-2-ylmethyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3aj**



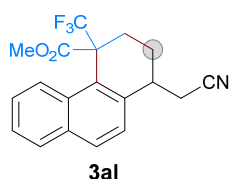
37.57 mg, 56% yield (14:6:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 7.82 – 7.68 (m, 5H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 4.42 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.95 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.49 – 3.37 (m, 2H), 3.02 – 1.93 (m, 13H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 1H), 1.28 – 1.19 (m, 1H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 178.2, 178.1, 135.4, 135.4, 133.6, 133.6, 133.2, 131.5, 131.5, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.4, 127.1, 126.3, 126.3, 125.3, 125.3, 124.2, 124.1, 124.0, 118.3, 118.2, 65.9, 65.8, 64.8, 49.0, 48.9, 45.9, 44.7, 44.6, 44.3, 36.0, 35.5, 25.7, 24.8, 24.5, 24.4, 24.3. IR (in KBr): 3125, 1690, 1375, 1125  $cm^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_3$ : 358.1414, found: 358.1414.

### 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4 tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3ak**



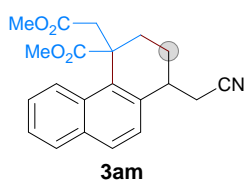
46.54 mg, 61% yield (6:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 7.81 – 7.67 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.34 – 4.28 (m, 1H), 4.11 – 4.05 (m, 1H), 3.60 – 3.36 (m, 4H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.27 – 3.22 (m, 3H), 2.84 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.38 – 2.14 (m, 3H), 1.97 (d,  $J = 13.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 178.8, 134.6, 133.9, 133.6, 131.4, 129.2, 128.3, 127.1, 126.3, 125.3, 124.3, 118.7, 71.7, 70.1, 68.7, 64.2, 46.2, 36.5, 32.2, 24.8, 24.2, 22.2. IR (in KBr): 2875, 2250, 1730, 1125, 870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{27}\text{NNaO}_4$ : 382.2013, found: 382.2010.

### methyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3al**



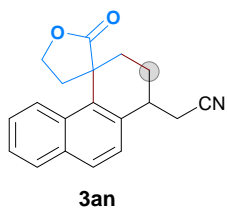
53.49 mg, 77% yield; colorless oil (2:1 dr);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.89 – 7.75 (m, 5H, major+minor), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.31 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, major), 3.72 (s, 3H, major), 3.68 (s, 2H, minor), 3.60 – 3.48 (m, 2H, major+minor), 2.97 – 1.87 (m, 9H, major+minor). IR (in KBr): 3120, 2375, 1375, 1120  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 172.3, 171.8, 137.4, 137.3, 133.6, 133.2, 131.9, 131.7, 130.8, 130.7, 129.1, 129.0, 127.1, 126.8, 126.7, 126.0, 125.8, 125.3, 124.8, 124.5, 118.3, 118.1, 54.7, 54.5, 54.3, 53.1, 53.0, 35.9, 35.8, 29.9, 27.1, 25.2, 24.5, 23.4, 21.8. IR (in KBr): 3125, 1750, 1375, 1140  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) -63.5, -64.3. HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{F}_3$ : 370.1025, found: 370.1025.

### methyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-4-(2-methoxy-2-oxoethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate **3am**



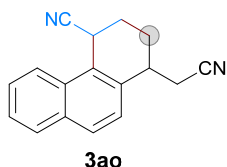
50.60 mg, 72% yield (3:1 dr); colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.82 – 7.69 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 2H, major+minor), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, major+minor), 3.63 (s, 3H, major), 3.61 (s, 1H, minor), 3.50 – 3.39 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.32 (s, 3H, major), 3.24 (s, 1H, minor), 3.07 – 2.77 (m, 4H, major+minor), 2.34 – 2.06 (m, 3H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 177.7, 177.1, 171.3, 171.2, 136.1, 135.1, 133.5, 133.3, 132.4, 132.0, 131.3, 131.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 125.4, 125.3, 123.5, 123.2, 119.0, 118.5, 52.8, 52.8, 51.3, 48.6, 47.5, 41.4, 40.2, 36.5, 36.2, 30.5, 28.5, 24.6, 23.4, 23.1, 22.5. IR (in KBr): 2937, 2250, 1740, 1375, 1190  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$ : 352.1543, found: 352.1543.

### 2-(2-oxo-2',3',4,5-tetrahydro-1'H,2H-spiro[furan-3,4'-phenanthren]-1'-yl)acetonitrile **3an**



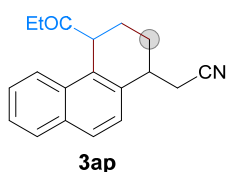
15.73 mg, 27% yield; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.82 (dd,  $J = 22.2, 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 4.82 – 4.54 (m, 2H), 3.44 – 3.41 (m, 1H), 2.95 – 2.70 (m, 3H), 2.49 – 2.44 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 181.6, 136.2, 134.0, 130.8, 130.2, 129.8, 129.6, 127.0, 126.9, 125.7, 123.5, 118.5, 65.6, 46.7, 36.1, 35.6, 27.4, 24.4, 22.4. IR (in KBr): 2900, 2365, 1375, 1130, 750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ : 292.1332, found: 292.1335.

### 1-(cyanomethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carbonitrile 3ao



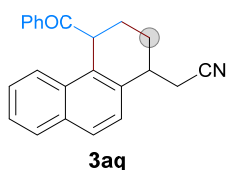
41.87 mg, 85% yield (2:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.06–8.01 (m, 2H, major+minor), 7.88–7.83 (m, 3H, major+minor), 7.68–7.55 (m, 2H, major+minor), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H, minor), 7.29 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, major), 4.57–4.53 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.49–3.43 (m, 2H, major+minor), 3.06–2.08 (m, 10H, major+minor).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 134.4, 134.2, 132.9, 132.4, 131.2, 131.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 127.8, 126.8, 126.5, 126.5, 125.9, 124.9, 124.7, 122.4, 122.3, 120.6, 120.5, 118.3, 118.0, 35.2, 34.4, 27.2, 26.7, 26.1, 25.7, 24.7, 24.5, 23.4, 21.9. IR (in KBr): 3125, 2875, 2250, 1625, 1375, 875  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ : 269.1049, found: 269.1050.

### 2-(4-propionyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthren-1-yl)acetonitrile 3ap



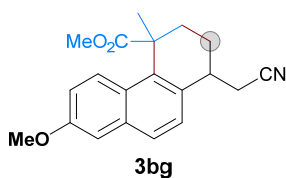
38.83 mg, 70% yield (10:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 7.83–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd,  $J = 18.9, 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.49–4.47 (m, 1H), 3.41–3.39 (m, 1H), 2.95–2.48 (m, 4H), 2.26–1.97 (m, 4H), 1.03 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major+minor) 213.0, 212.2, 135.0, 134.9, 132.8, 132.6, 132.2, 132.2, 130.6, 129.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.0, 126.6, 125.7, 125.7, 125.6, 122.8, 122.7, 118.7, 118.6, 49.2, 48.2, 35.6, 35.2, 34.4, 34.1, 25.5, 24.7, 24.6, 24.5, 23.2, 21.7, 8.0, 7.9. IR (in KBr): 3130, 2375, 1630, 1375  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}$ : 300.1359, found: 300.1359.

### 2-(4-propionyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthren-1-yl)acetonitrile 3aq



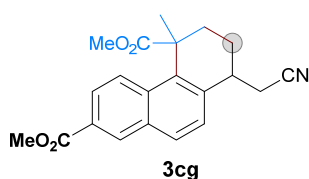
44.91 mg, 69% yield; white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, ) 8.19 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.61–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.32 (m, 3H), 5.48 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.49–3.45 (m, 1H), 2.95–2.64 (m, 2H), 2.44–1.99 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 199.8, 135.6, 135.2, 133.5, 132.9, 131.9, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 126.9, 126.8, 125.6, 122.8, 118.8, 42.3, 35.1, 24.6, 22.3, 21.5. IR (in KBr): 3130, 1630, 1375, 1190  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}$ : 348.1359, found: 348.1360.

### methyl 1-(cyanomethyl)-7-methoxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenanthrene-4-carboxylate 3bg



52.39 mg, 81% yield (2:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major) 7.65 (dd,  $J = 9.4, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.09 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.45–3.38 (m, 1H), 2.92–2.71 (m, 2H), 2.27–1.98 (m, 4H), 1.81 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major) 179.1, 156.9, 135.7, 134.7, 131.3, 127.3, 126.8, 125.8, 125.6, 118.6, 118.4, 107.2, 55.2, 52.4, 45.8, 35.9, 35.4, 26.0, 24.5, 24.4. IR (in KBr): 2930, 1720, 1625, 1375, 1250  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_3$ : 346.1414, found: 346.1414.

### dimethyl 8-(cyanomethyl)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrophenanthrene-2,5-dicarboxylate 3cg

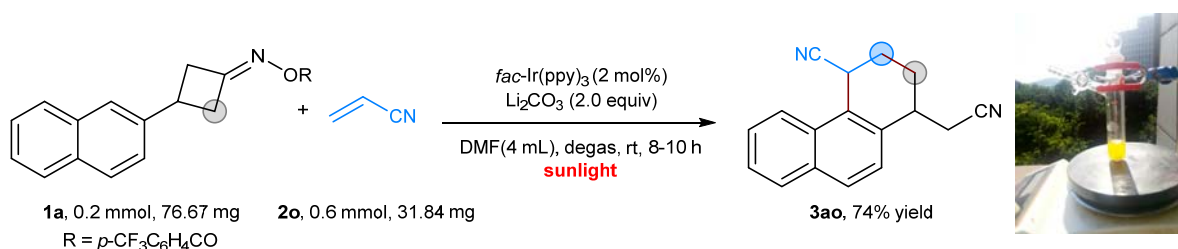


56.22 mg, 80% yield (3:1 dr); white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major) 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.03–8.00 (m, 1H), 7.86–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.25 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.49–3.42 (m, 1H), 2.95–2.76 (m, 2H), 2.54–2.00 (m, 4H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm, major) 178.6, 166.9, 166.9, 136.1,

136.0, 134.7, 133.9, 133.7, 133.5, 132.5, 132.1, 131.9, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 126.8, 126.4, 126.1, 125.7, 125.7, 124.4, 123.7, 118.1, 117.7, 52.6, 52.5, 52.2, 52.2, 47.2, 45.8, 42.7, 37.0, 36.2, 35.3, 27.5, 25.8, 25.3, 24.4, 24.2, 24.0. IR (in KBr): 2950, 2260, 1740, 1250, 750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M + \text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_4$ : 373.1363, found: 373.1363.

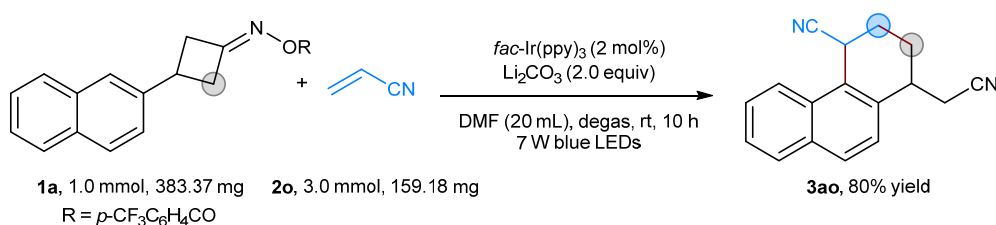
## 5. Preparative Utility of the Methodology

### 5.1. Sun-Light Driven Reaction



$\mathbf{1a}$  (76.67 mg, 0.2 mmol),  $\mathbf{2o}$  (31.84 mg, 0.6 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) were dissolved in DMF 4 mL). Then, the resulting mixture was degassed via ‘freeze-pump-thaw’ procedure (3 times). After that, the solution was stirring under sun light for 8 h until the reaction was completed, as monitored by TLC analysis. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethylacetate 5:1) directly to give the desired product  $\mathbf{3ao}$  in 74% yield as white solid.

### 5.2. 1.0 mmol Reaction

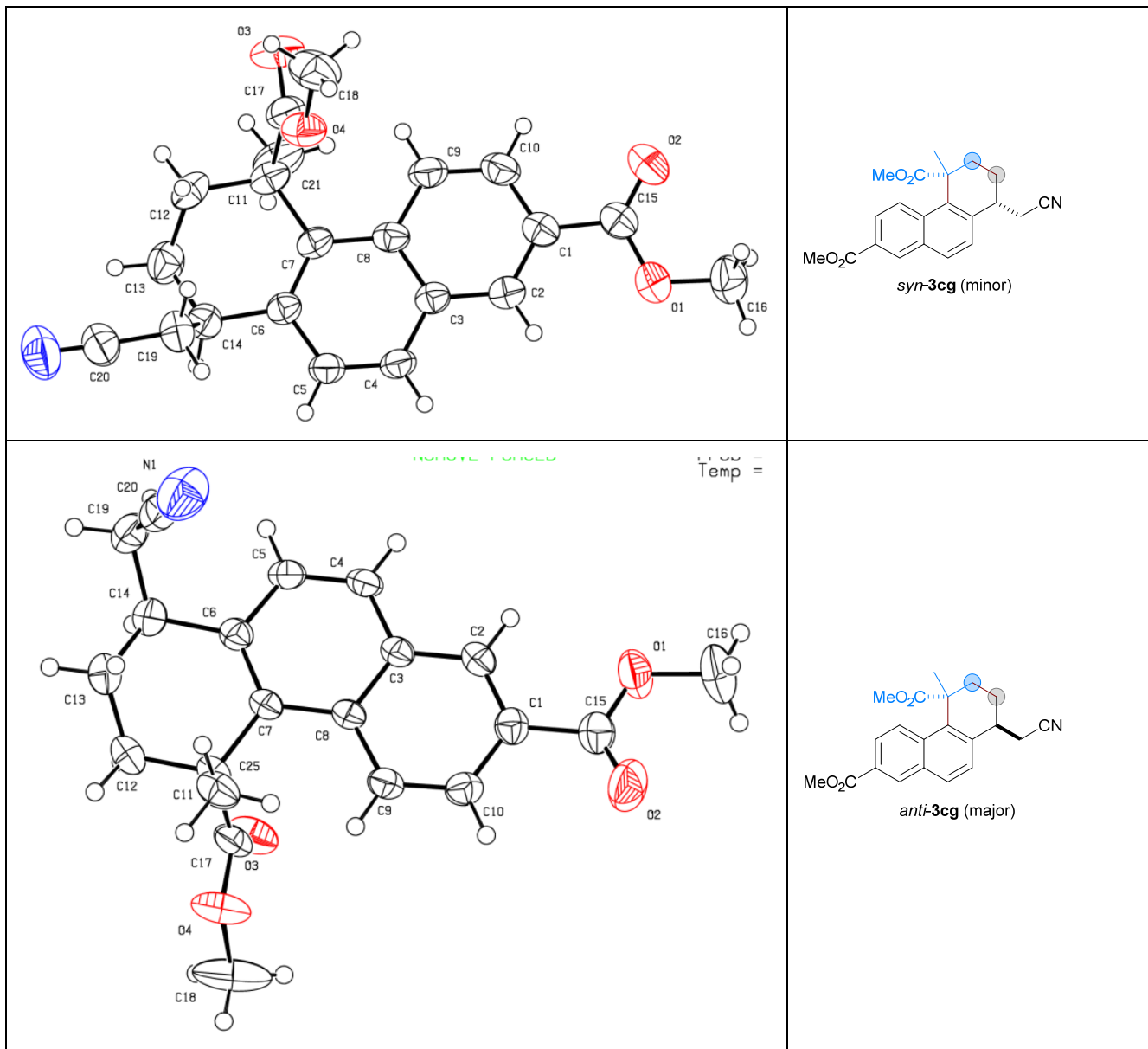


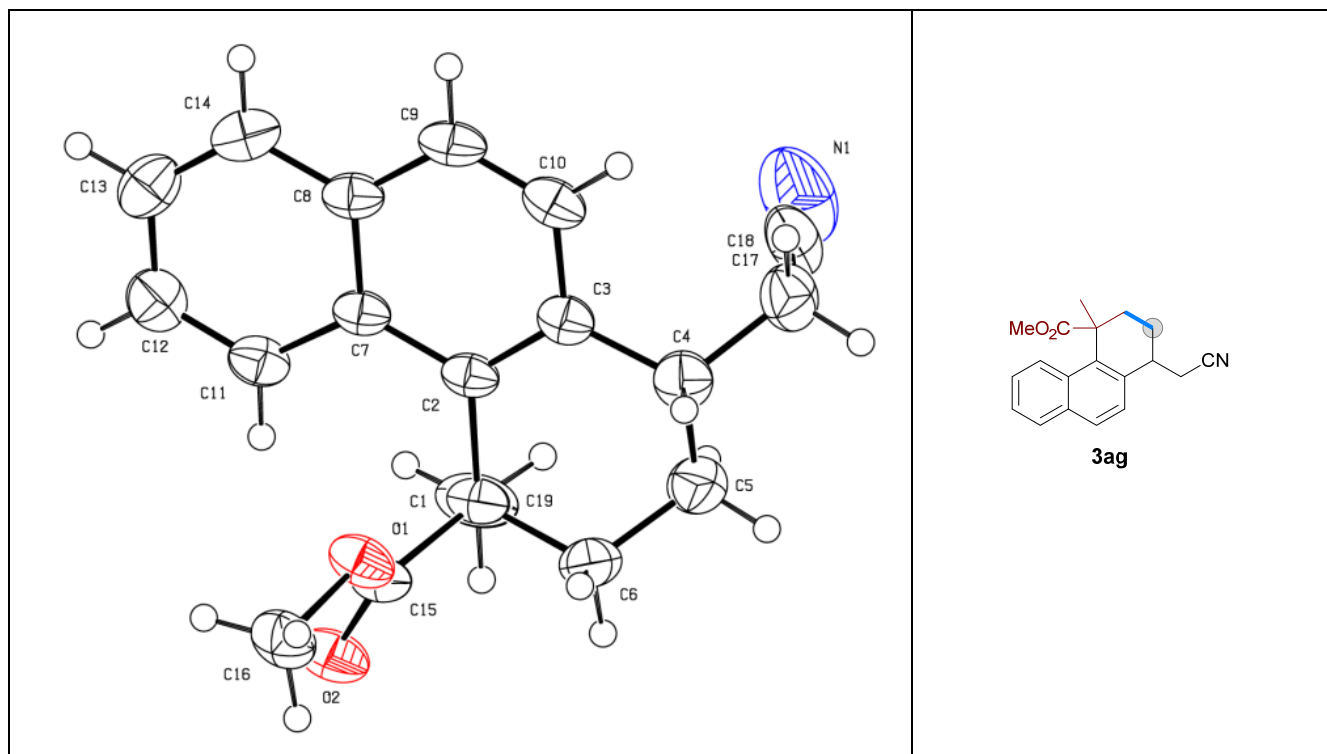
$\mathbf{1a}$  (383.37 mg, 1 mmol),  $\mathbf{2o}$  (159.18 mg, 3 mmol), *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (2 mol%) and Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv) were dissolved in DMF (20 mL). Then, the resulting mixture was degassed via ‘freeze-pump-thaw’ procedure (3 times). After that, the solution was stirred at a distance of ~5 cm from a 7 W blue LEDs (450–460 nm) at room temperature about 10 h until the reaction was completed as monitored by TLC analysis. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ ethylacetate 5:1) directly to give the desired product  $\mathbf{3ao}$  in 80% yield as white solid.

#### Reference:

[1] a) J. Ramnauth, E. Lee-Ruff, *Can. J. Chem.* **2001**, *79*, 114–120. b) Š. M. Vesna, M. Zlatko, V. Hrvoj, *Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2*, **2002**, 2154–2158. c) B.-L. Zhao, Z.-Z. Shi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56*, 12727 – 12731. d) H.-B. Yang, N. Selander, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2017**, *23*, 1779 – 1783. e) L.-Y. Li, H.-G. Chen, M.-J. Mei, L. Zhou, *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 11544–11547. f) Y.-R. Gu, X.-H. Duan, L. Yang, L.-N. Guo, *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 5908–5911. g) J. Wu, J.-Y. Zhang, P. Cao, S.-L. Xu, L.-N. Guo, *J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, *83*, 1046–1055. h) X.-Y. Yu, J.-R. Chen, P.-Z. Wang, M.-N. Yang, D. Liang, W.-J. Xiao, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2018**, *57*, 738 – 743.

## 6. X-Ray Structures of 3ag and 3cg





## 7. Complete Reference for Gaussian 09

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed for the verification of the mechanism. The DFT method employed in this work is  $\omega$ B97xD which was claimed to show excellent performance on both short range and long range interaction [Chai, J. D.; Head-Gordon, M., Long-range corrected hybrid density functionals with damped atom-atom dispersion corrections. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 2008, 10 (44), 6615-6620.]. Frequency analysis was used to verify the nature of stationary points. Geometries were determined with 6-31+G(d) basis set while energies were determined by single point calculations with 6-311+G(d,p) basis set upon optimized structures. All calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 package [Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Caricato, M.; Li, X.; Hratchian, H. P.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Bloino, J.; Zheng, G.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Montgomery, J. A., Jr.; Peralta, J. E.; Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E.; Kudin, K. N.; Staroverov, V. N.; Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Rega, N.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Knox, J. E.; Cross, J. B.; Bakken, V.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.; Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Voth, G. A.; Salvador, P.; Dannenberg, J. J.; Dapprich, S.; Daniels, A. D.; Farkas, O.; Foresman, J. B.; Ortiz, J. V.; Cioslowski, J.; Fox, D. J. *Gaussian 09*, revision D.01; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, 2013.]

## 8. DFT Calculation on the Intermediates D-1 and D-2

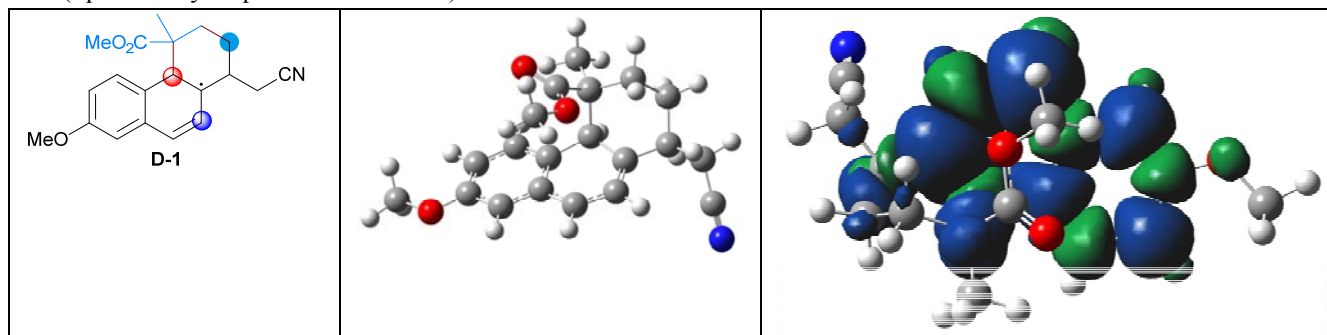
input file of D1

```
%chk=D11.chk
%nprocshared=16
%mem=10GB
```



# opt freq wb97xd/6-31+g(d)

D1 (Spin density map. Isovalue=0.0004)



0 2

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C	0.44400000	-8.48210000	0.59690000
C	1.80940000	-8.23840000	0.78480000
C	2.34030000	-7.01460000	0.37260000
C	1.50600000	-5.99230000	-0.11190000
C	0.12320000	-6.19940000	-0.20530000
O	2.66350000	-9.18970000	1.36560000
C	2.17760000	-10.23950000	2.21920000
C	-0.80780000	-5.07350000	-0.69480000
C	1.35140000	-3.77680000	-1.23050000
C	2.08400000	-4.66290000	-0.54200000
C	-1.57210000	-4.29200000	0.42760000
C	-2.29790000	-3.02540000	-0.15500000
C	-2.42130000	-3.05550000	-1.70020000
C	-1.02020000	-3.11210000	-2.38810000
C	-0.42600000	-1.68870000	-2.60070000
C	0.72950000	-1.71150000	-3.49160000
N	1.63990000	-1.72450000	-4.20640000
C	-0.57320000	-3.85020000	1.48850000
C	-2.62530000	-5.25610000	1.06560000
O	-0.59760000	-4.31480000	2.61960000
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H	1.60950000	-10.99570000	1.65860000
H	1.55750000	-9.82400000	3.02760000
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H	1.82920000	-2.83480000	-1.49230000



H	3.12040000	-4.42840000	-0.28580000
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H	-3.31020000	-2.92510000	0.27070000
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%mem=10GB

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Input file of D2

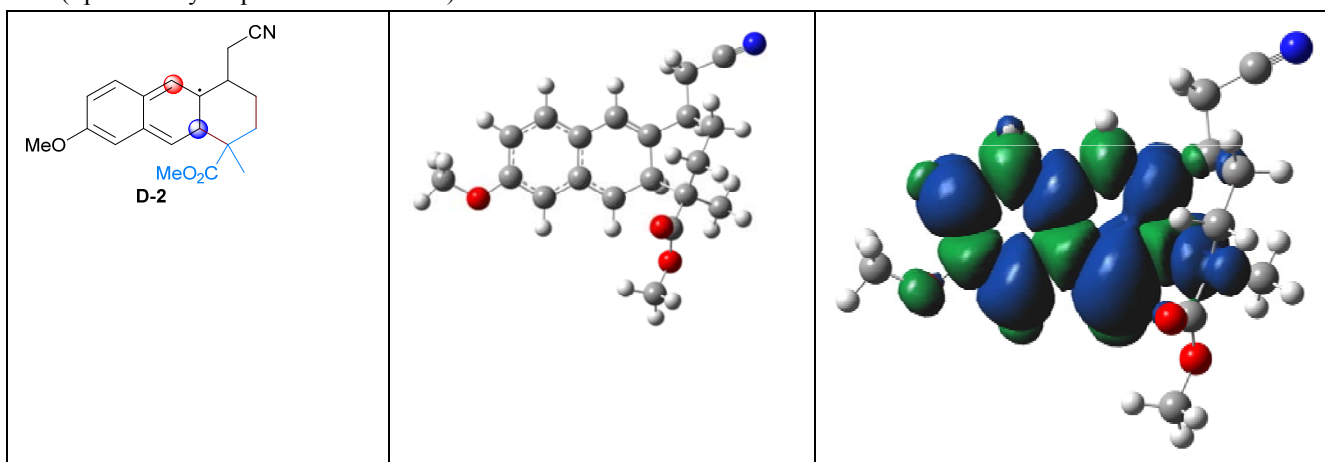
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D2 (Spin density map. Isovalue=0.0004)



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C	0.37560000	-3.51840000	0.21830000
C	-1.47860000	-5.30720000	0.52000000
C	-1.06360000	-4.10650000	-1.75510000
C	0.41760000	-3.90450000	-1.30960000
C	1.03940000	-2.83420000	-2.22790000
C	1.16640000	-5.26970000	-1.51840000
O	1.96040000	0.85270000	4.28320000
C	1.06900000	1.97120000	4.39790000
O	0.39400000	-1.79500000	-2.19230000
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H	-1.61280000	-3.16850000	-1.57380000
H	-1.13010000	-4.30500000	-2.83590000
H	0.80870000	-6.06460000	-0.85760000
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H	1.04480000	-5.63700000	-2.54760000
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H	0.61700000	2.21640000	3.42480000
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C	0.92120000	-1.27390000	4.77020000
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H	-0.03747424	-3.21403764	4.99111007
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H	2.95756929	-1.30080410	-3.51124444

H	4.15835363	-2.45600311	-2.98522160
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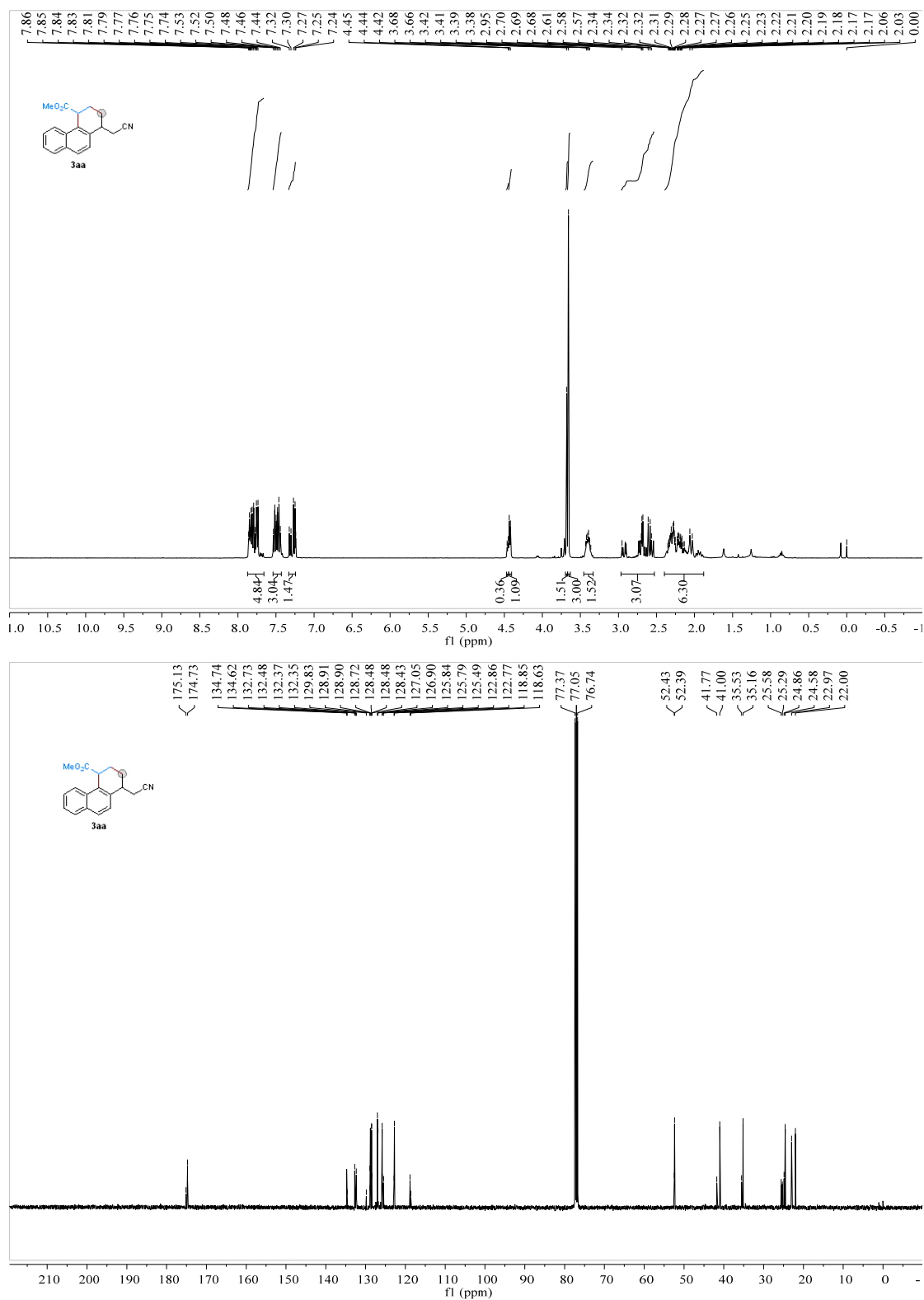
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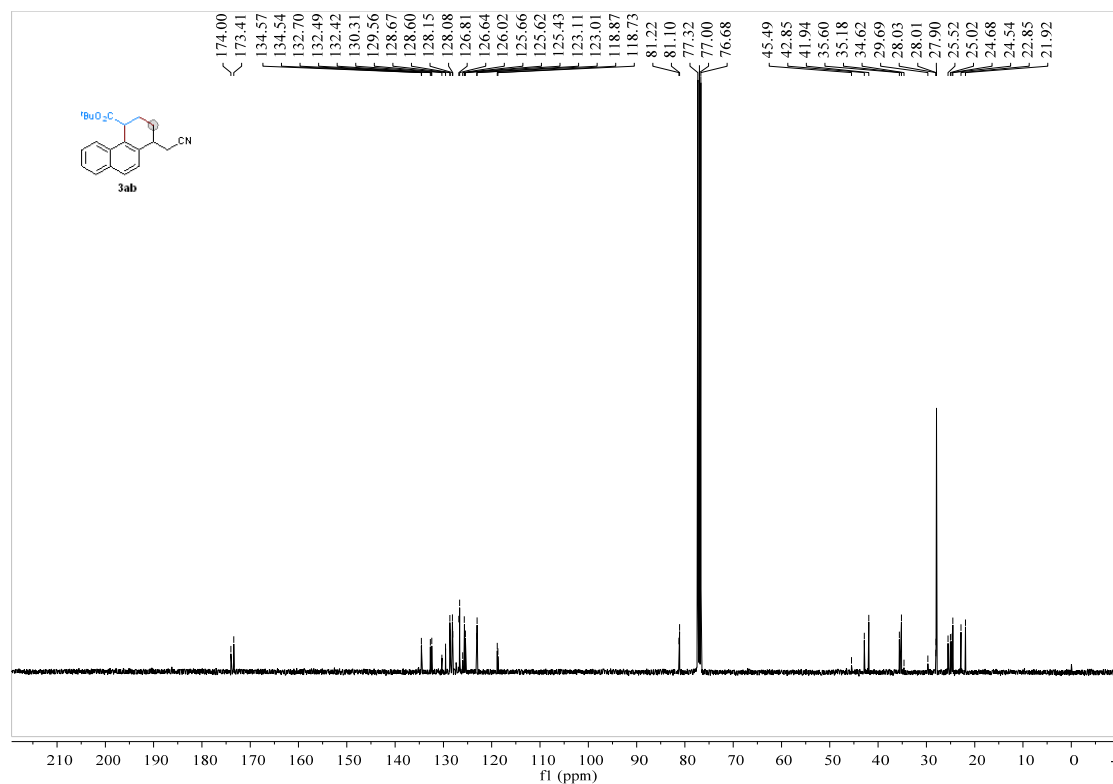
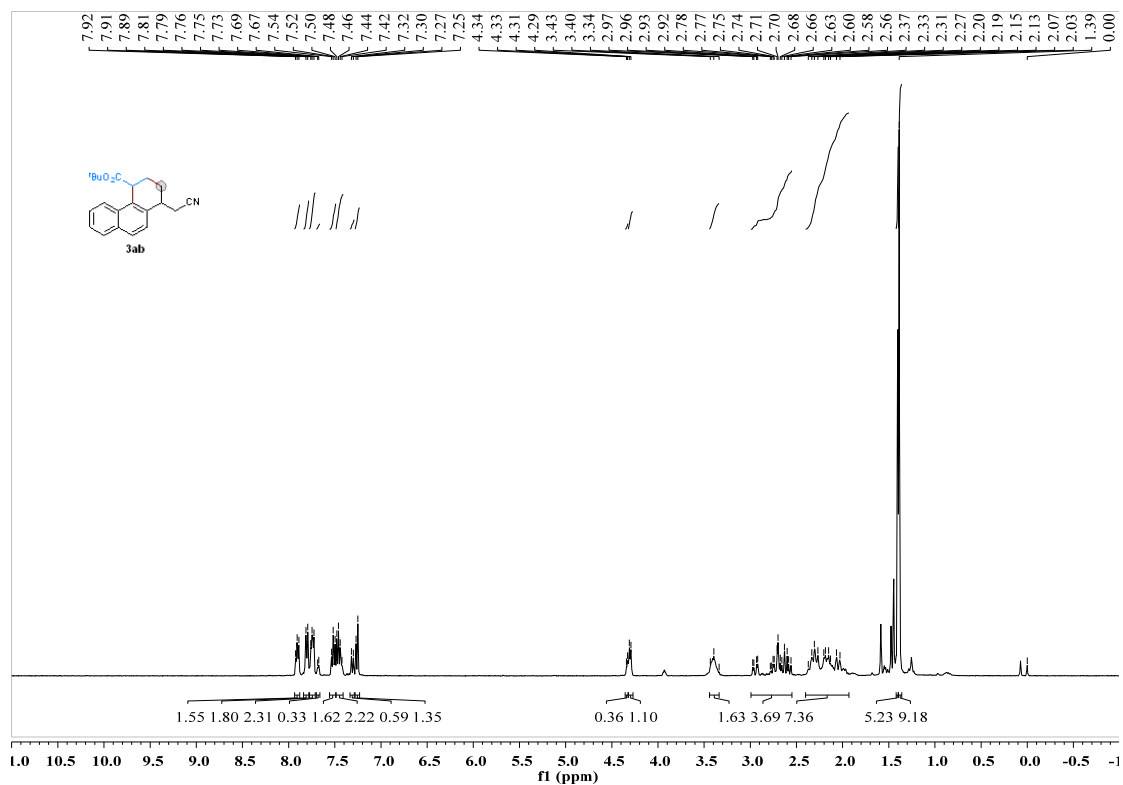
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## 9. The Spectra of products

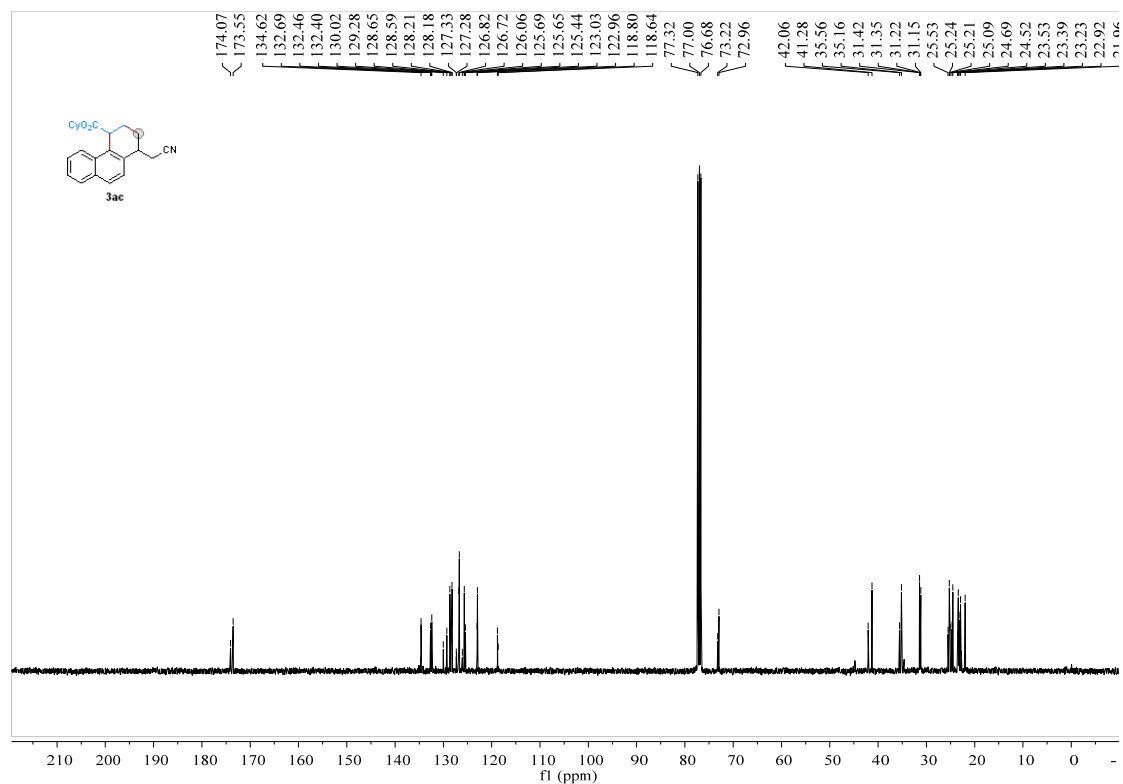
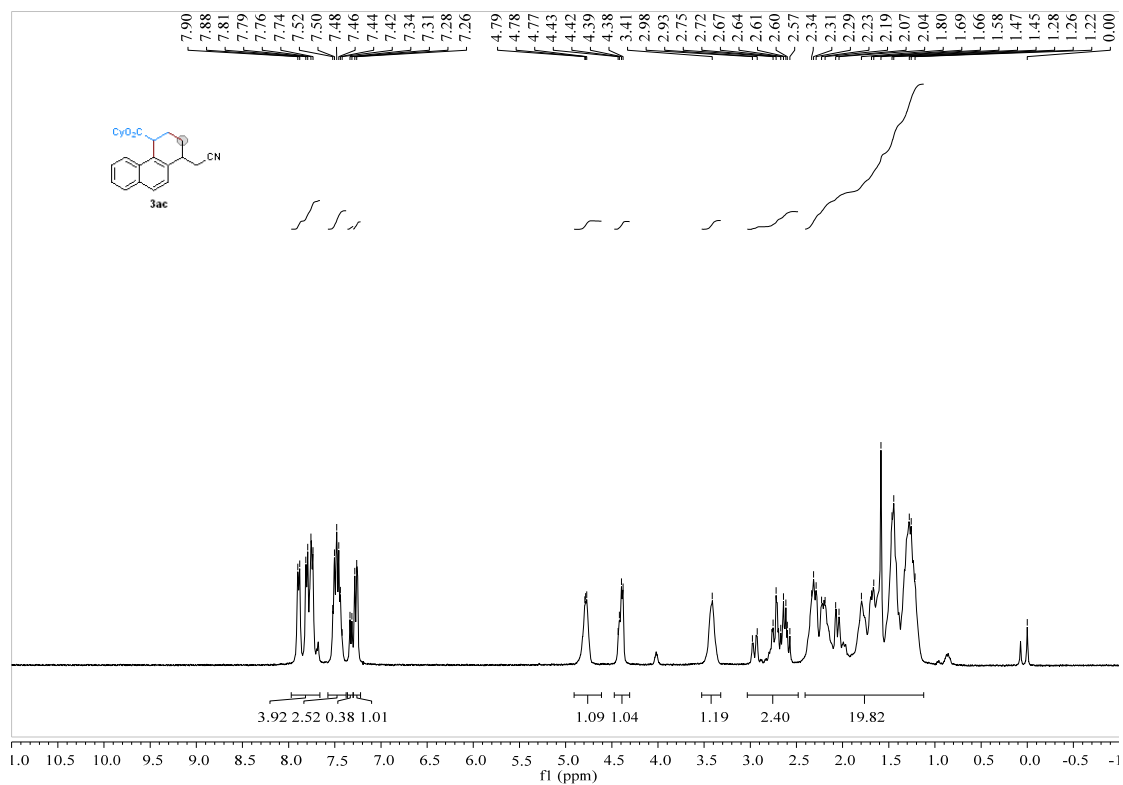
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectra of product 3aa



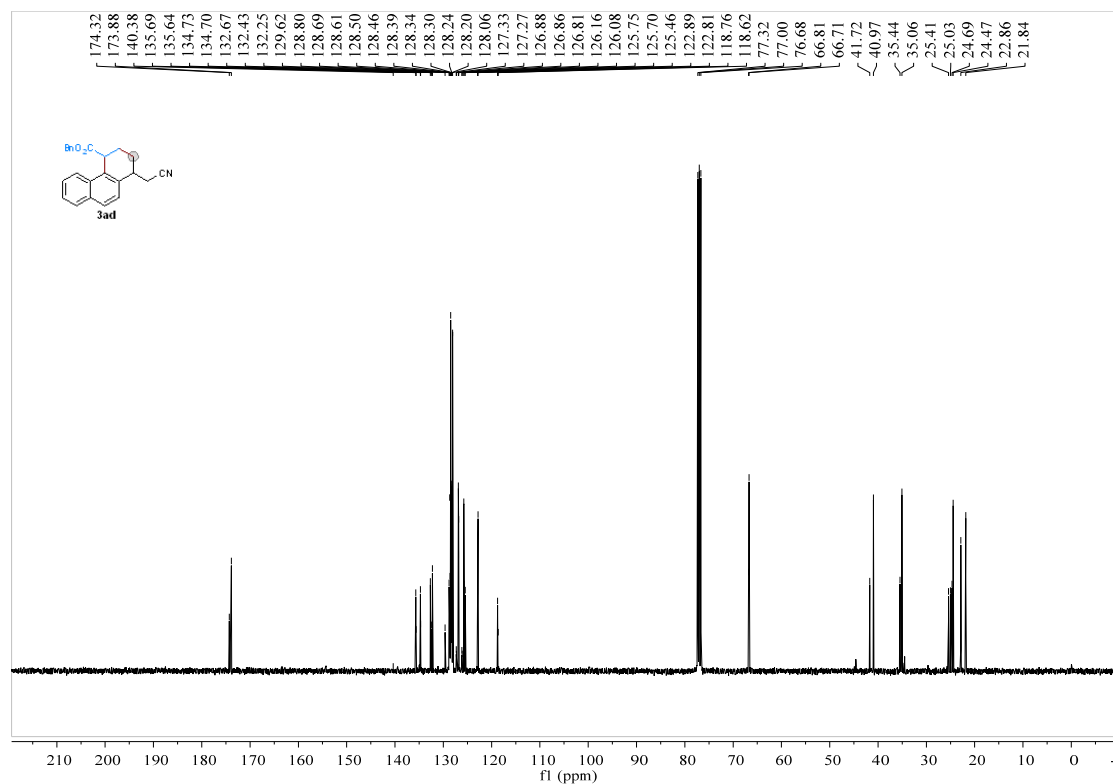
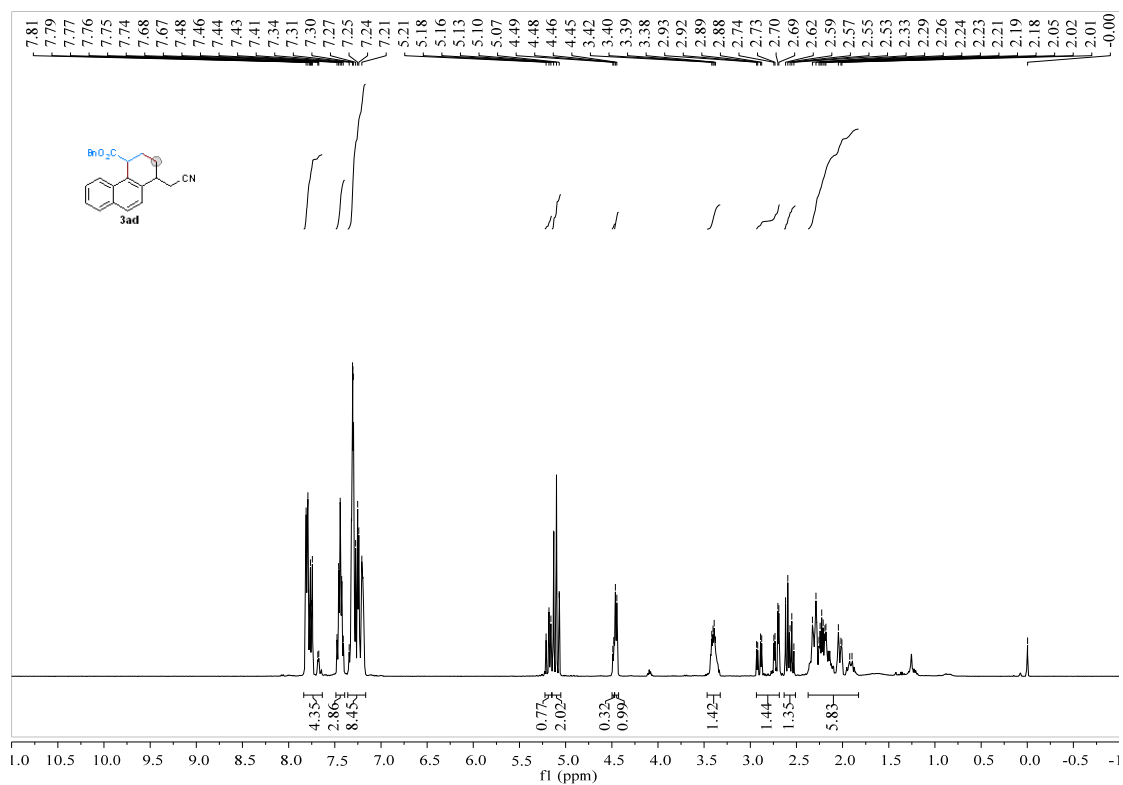
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ab**



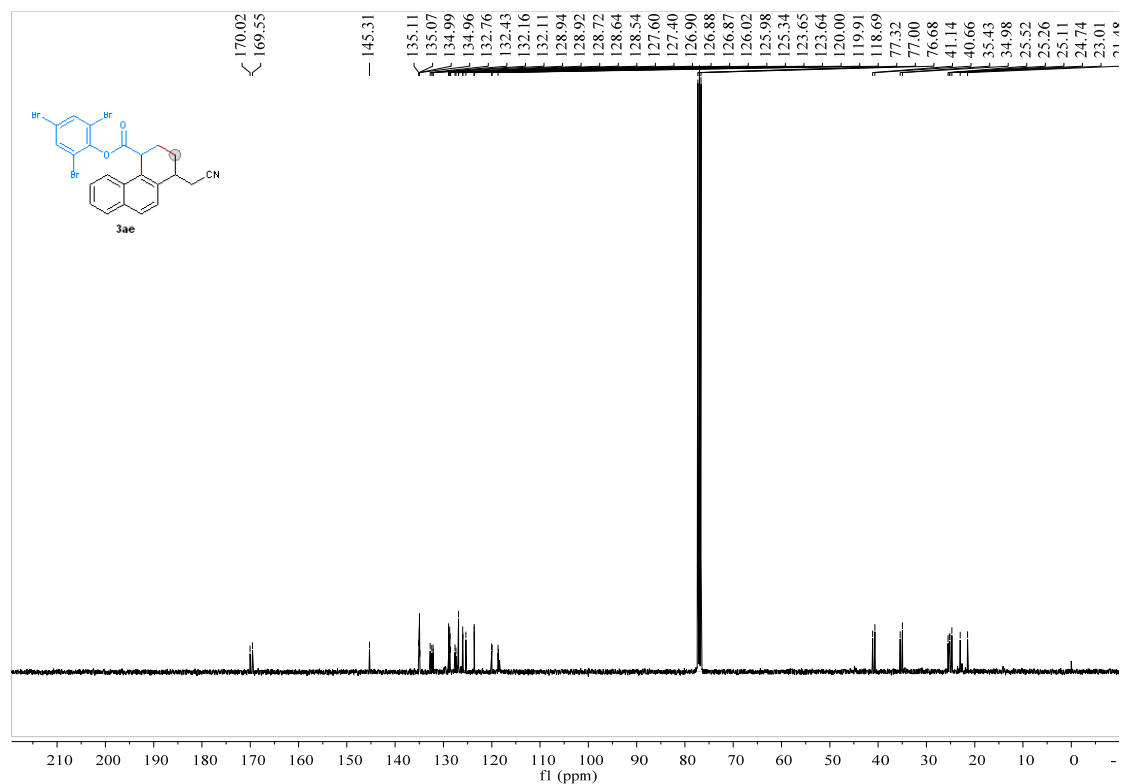
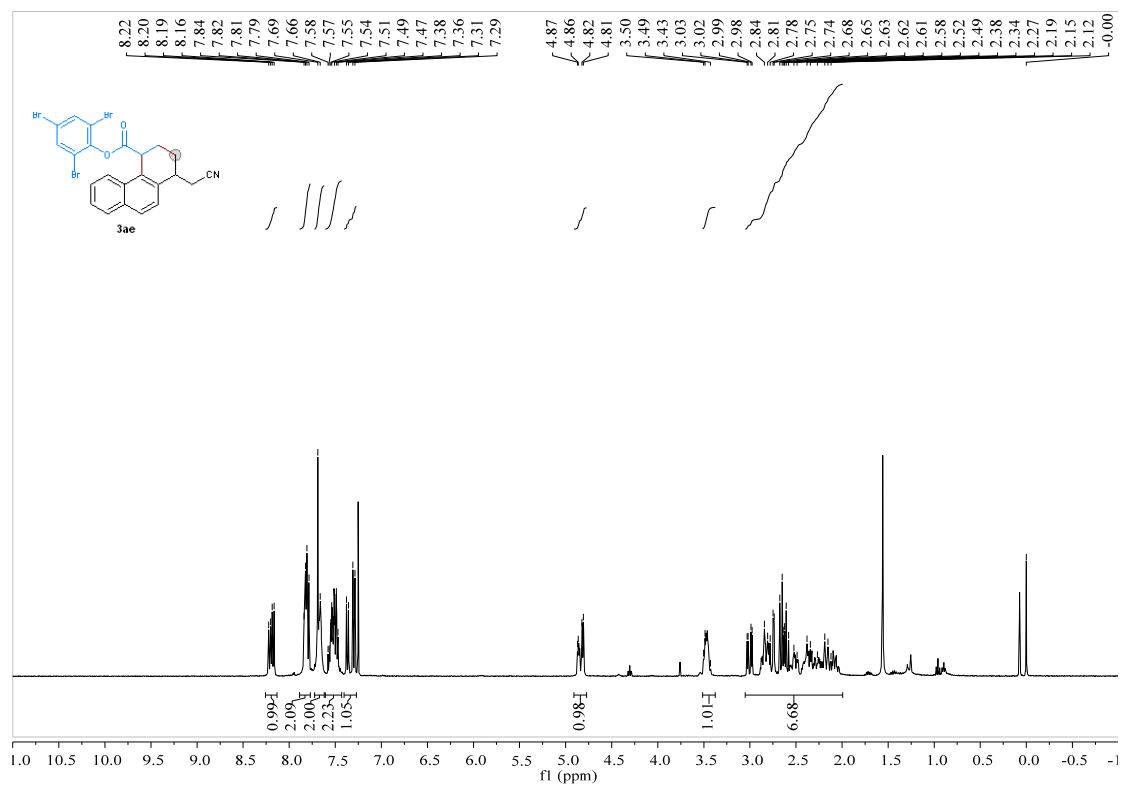
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ac



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ad

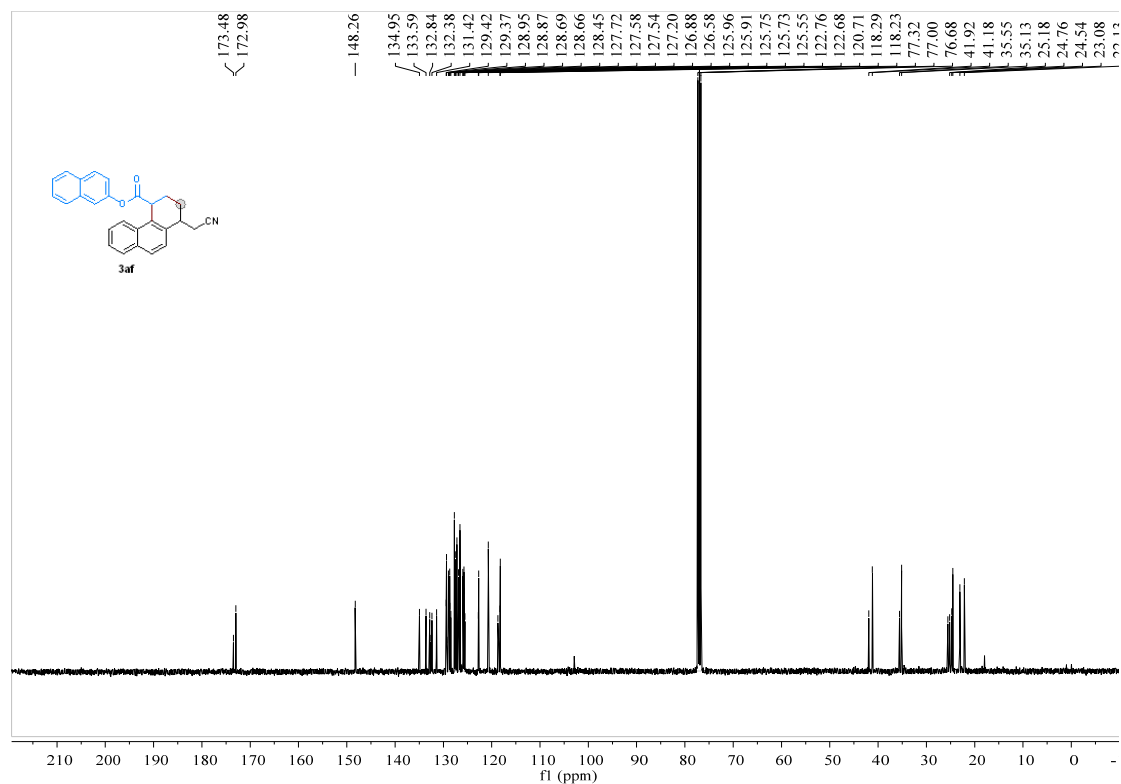
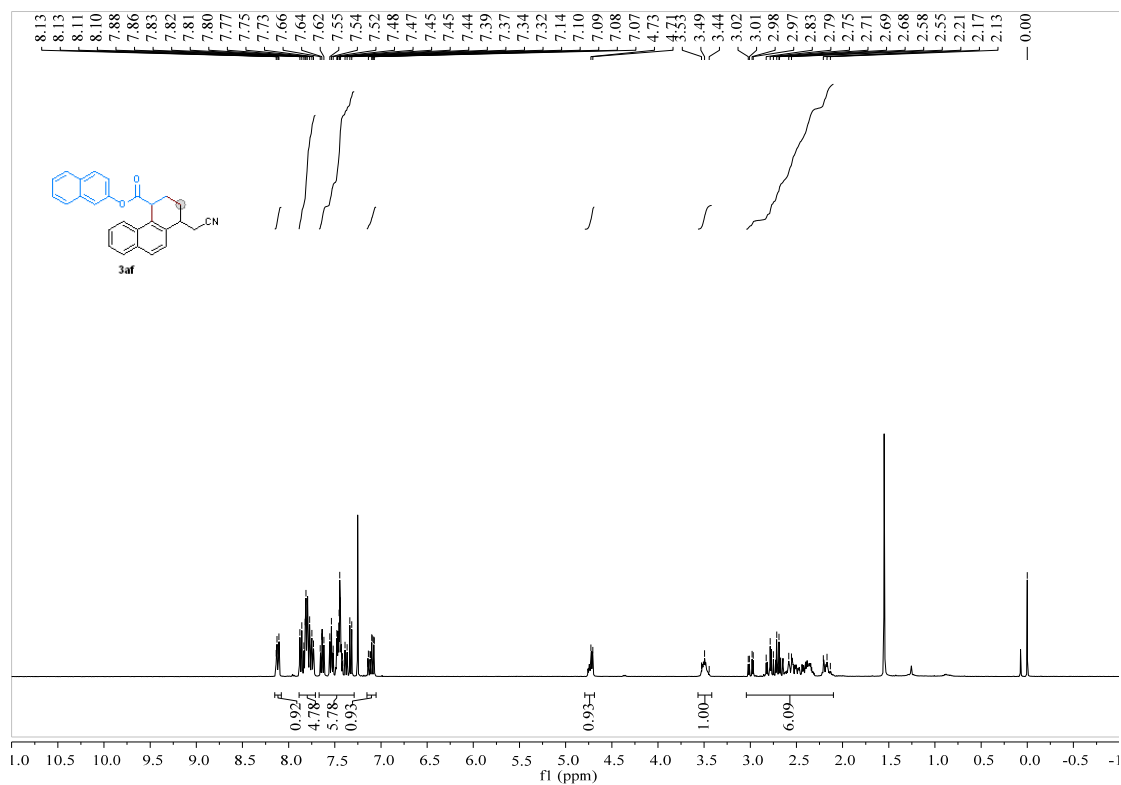


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ae

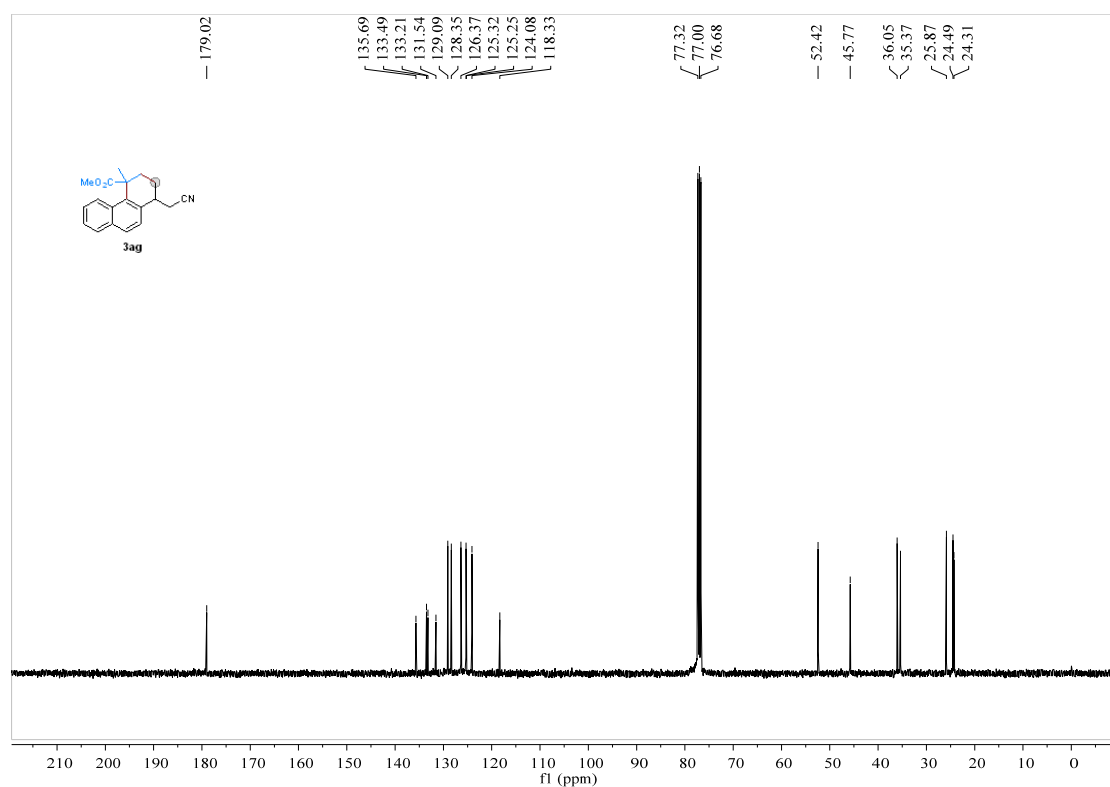
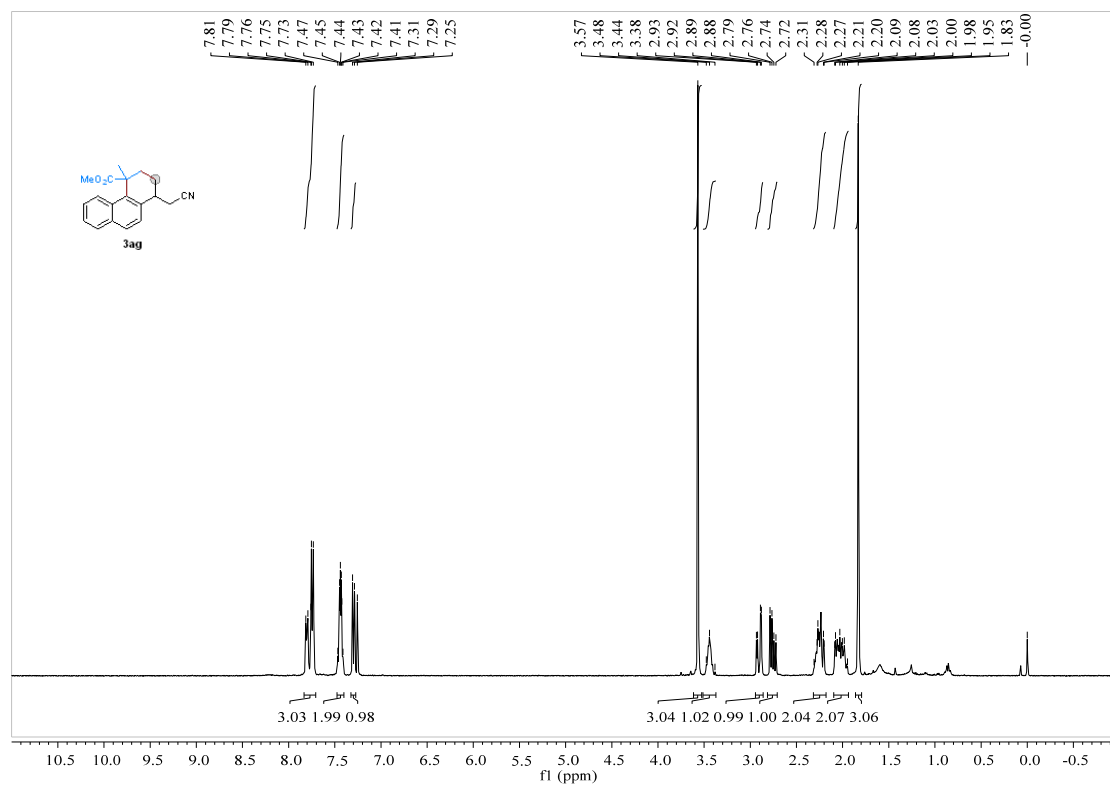




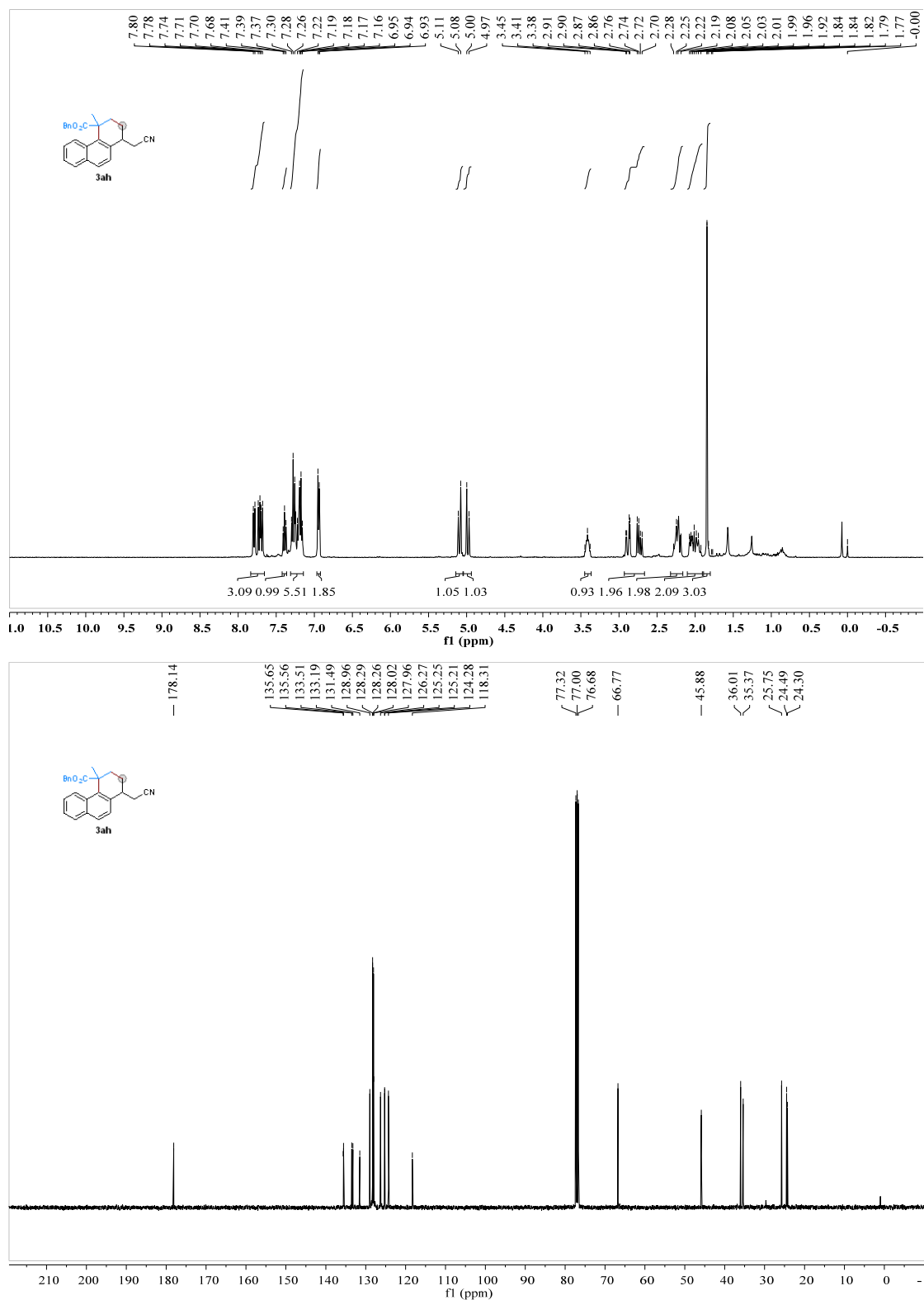
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3af**



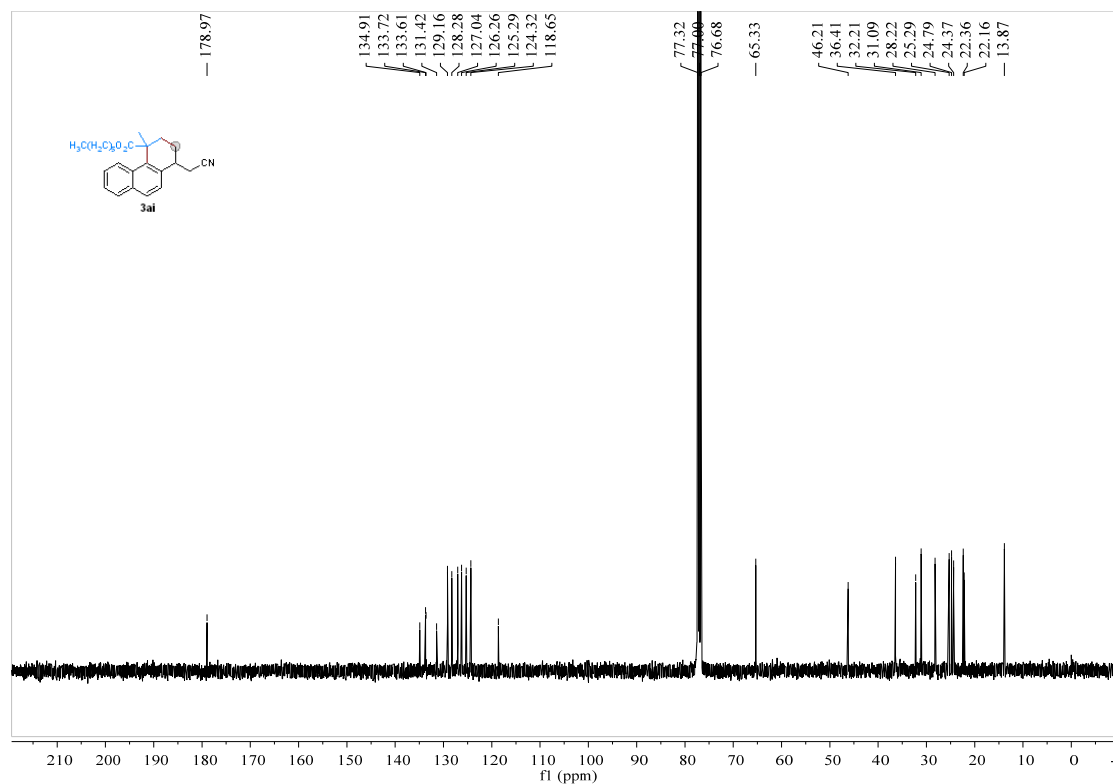
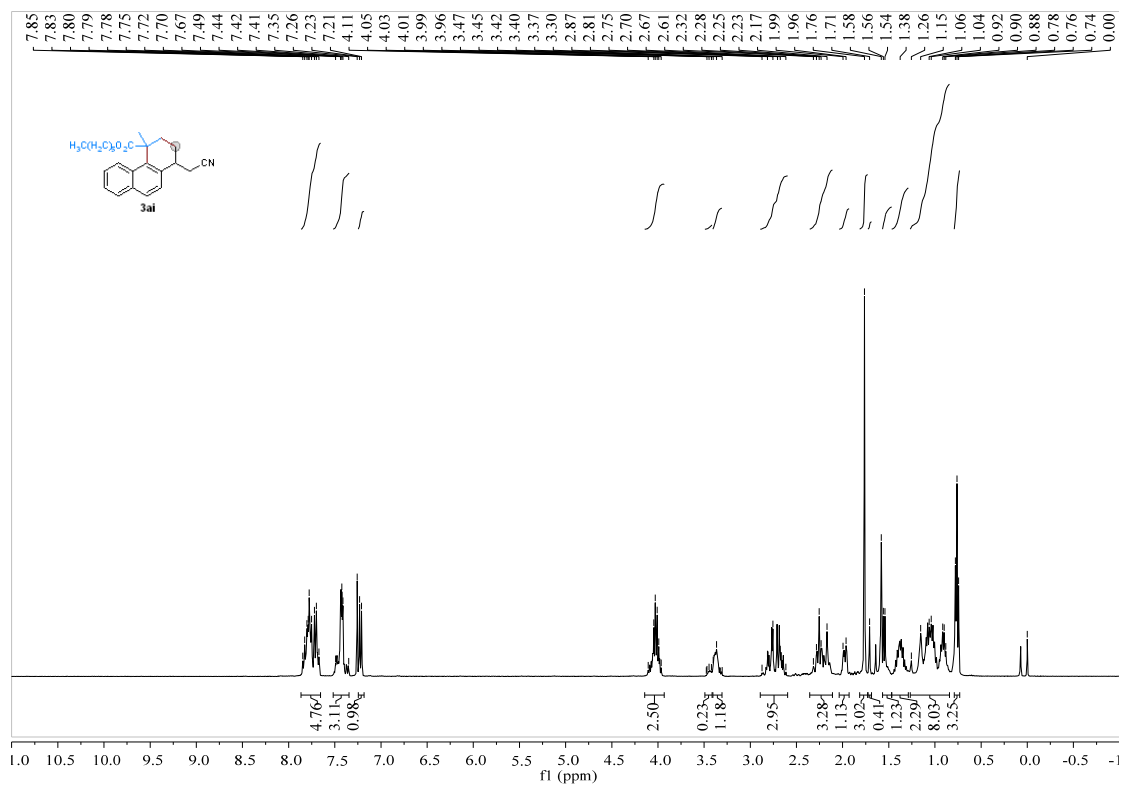
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ag**



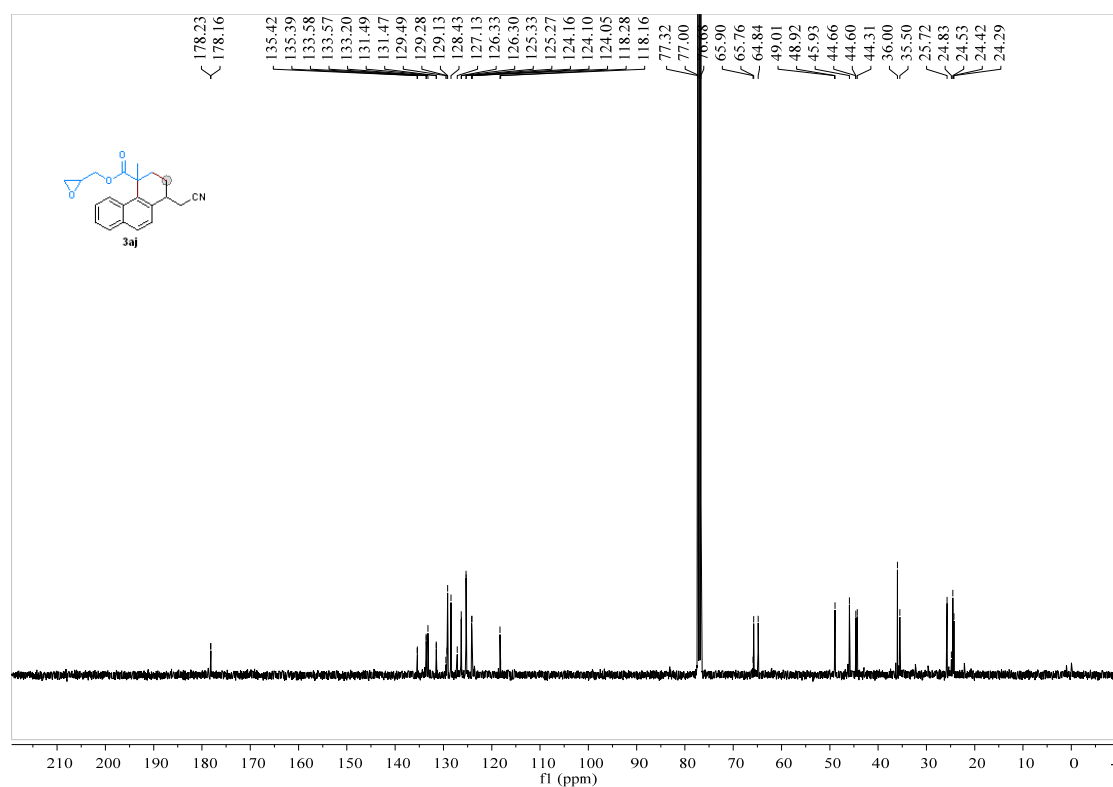
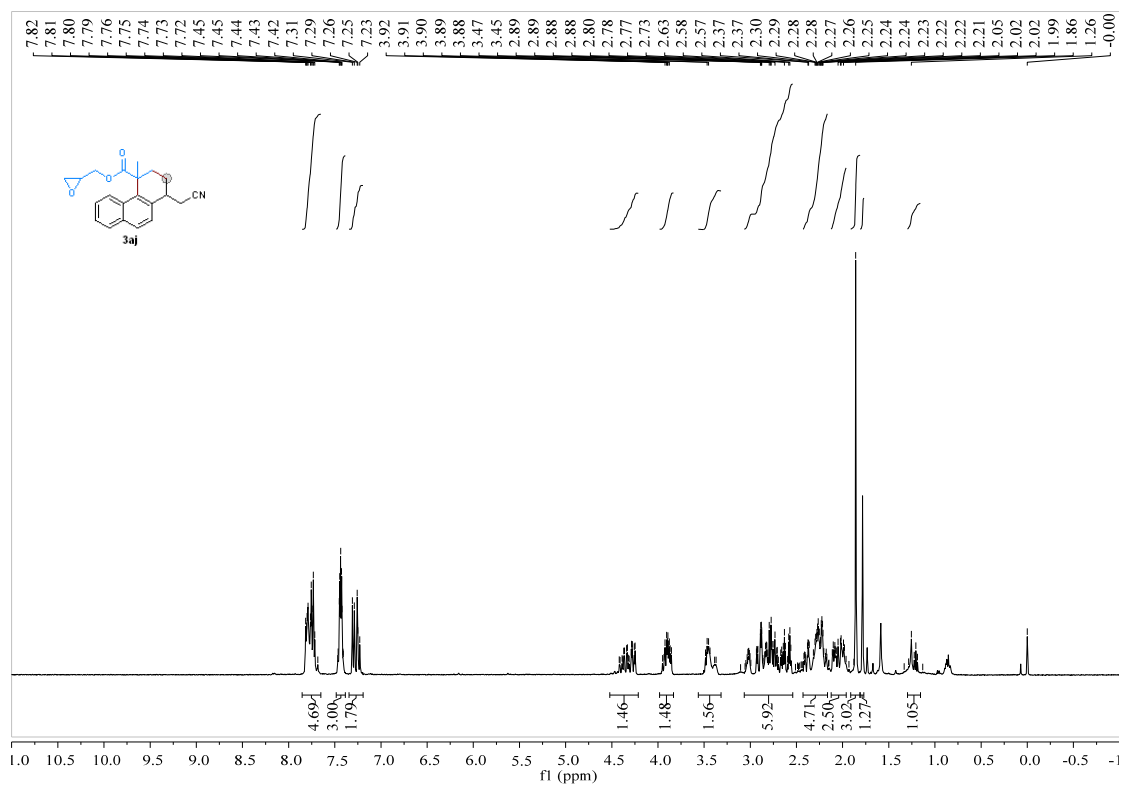
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ah



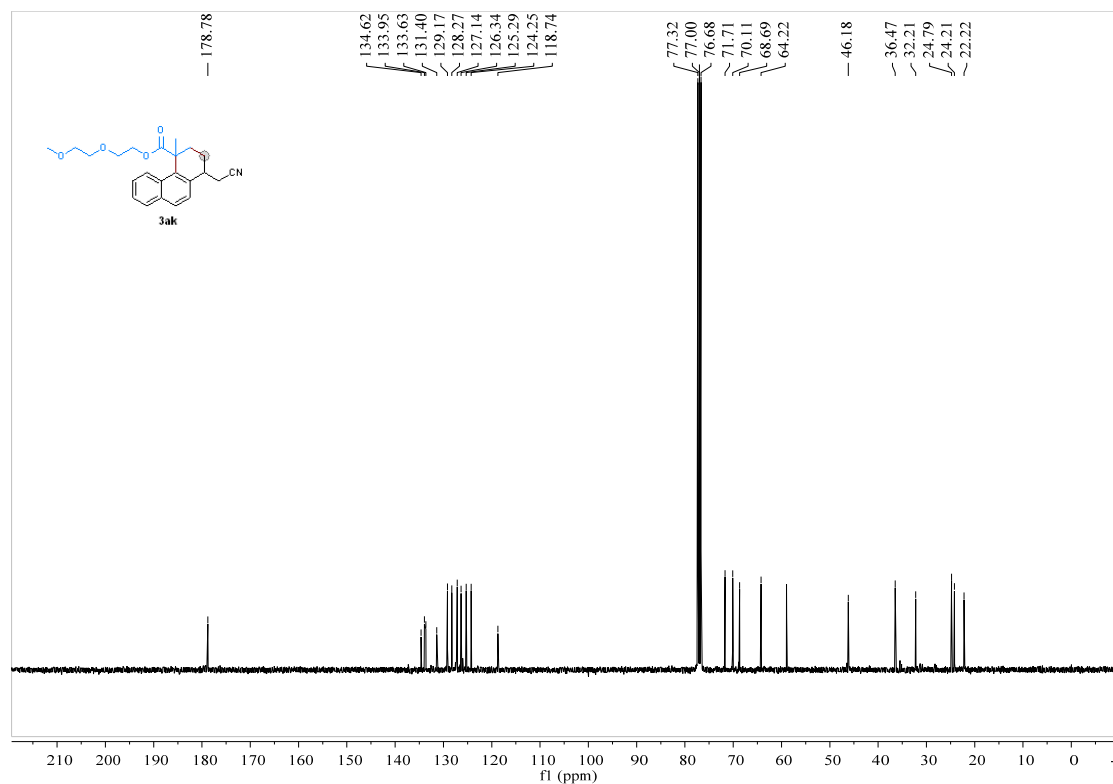
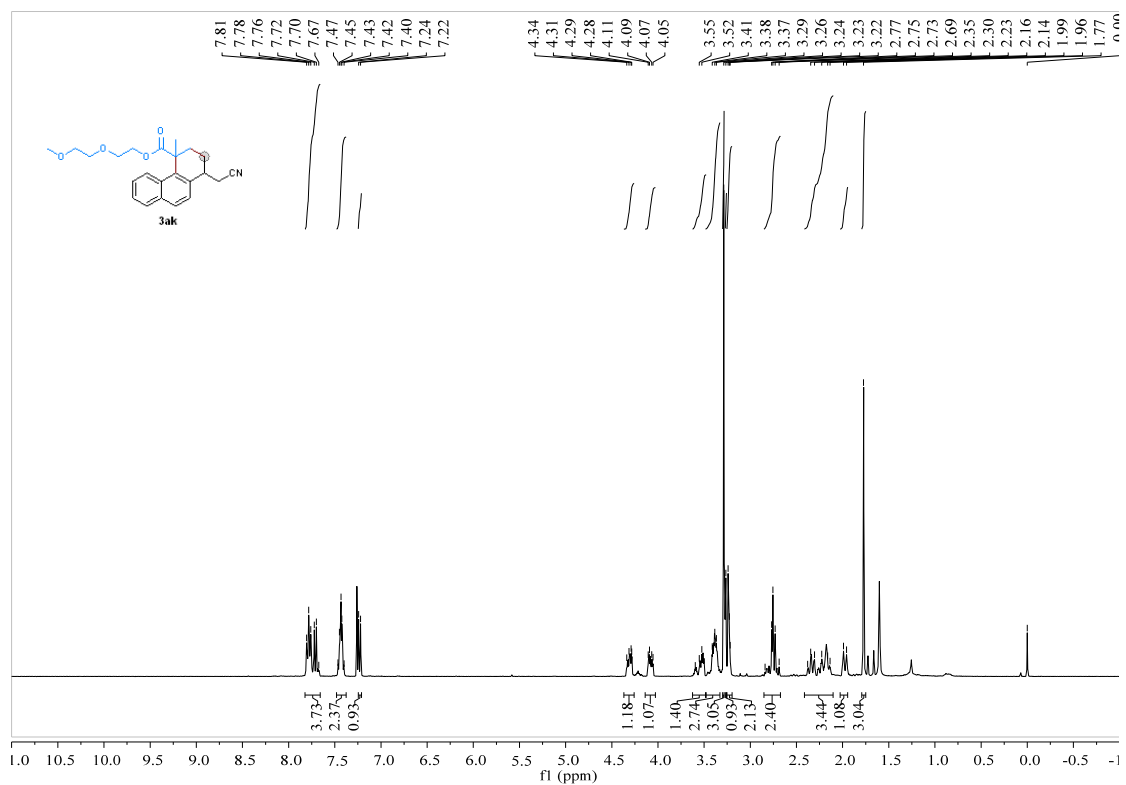
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ai



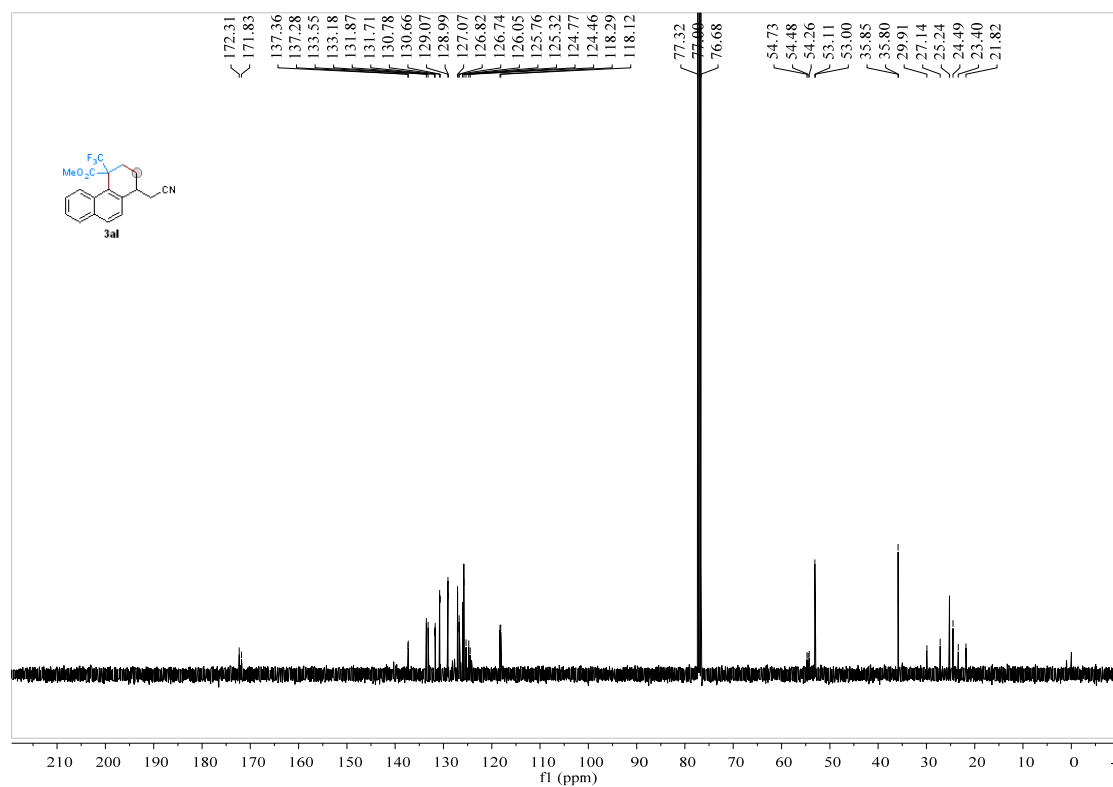
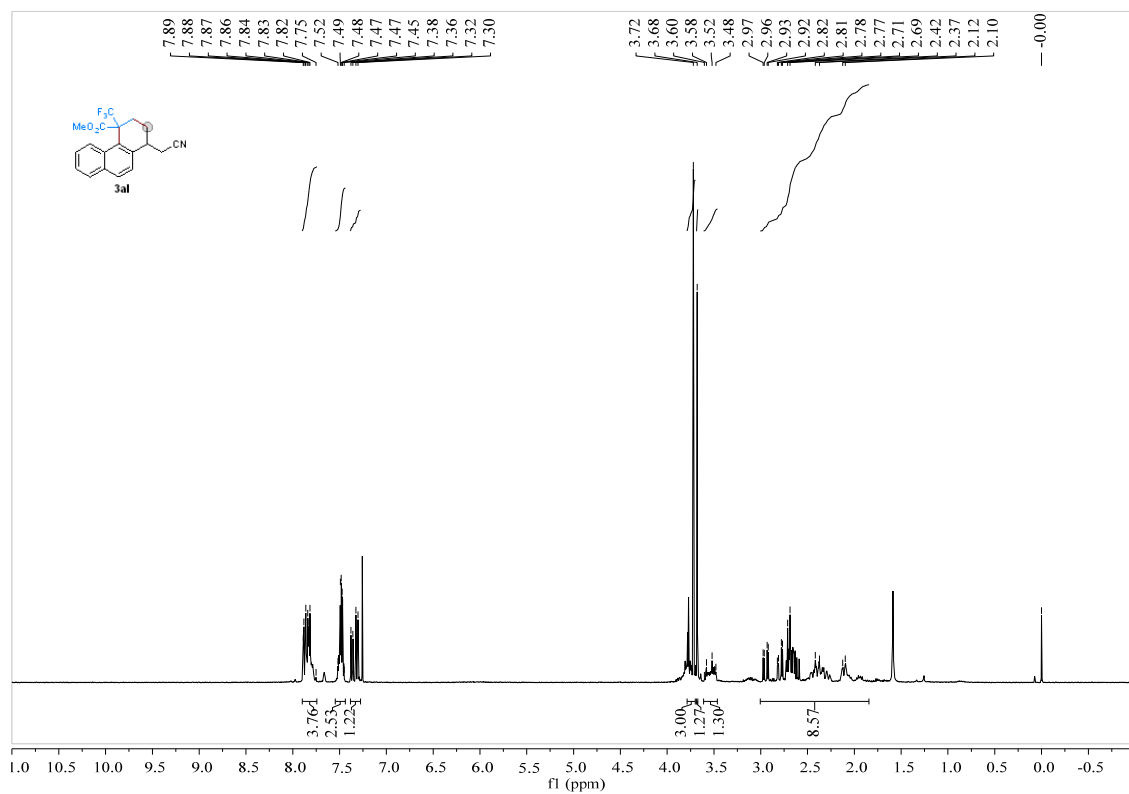
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3aj

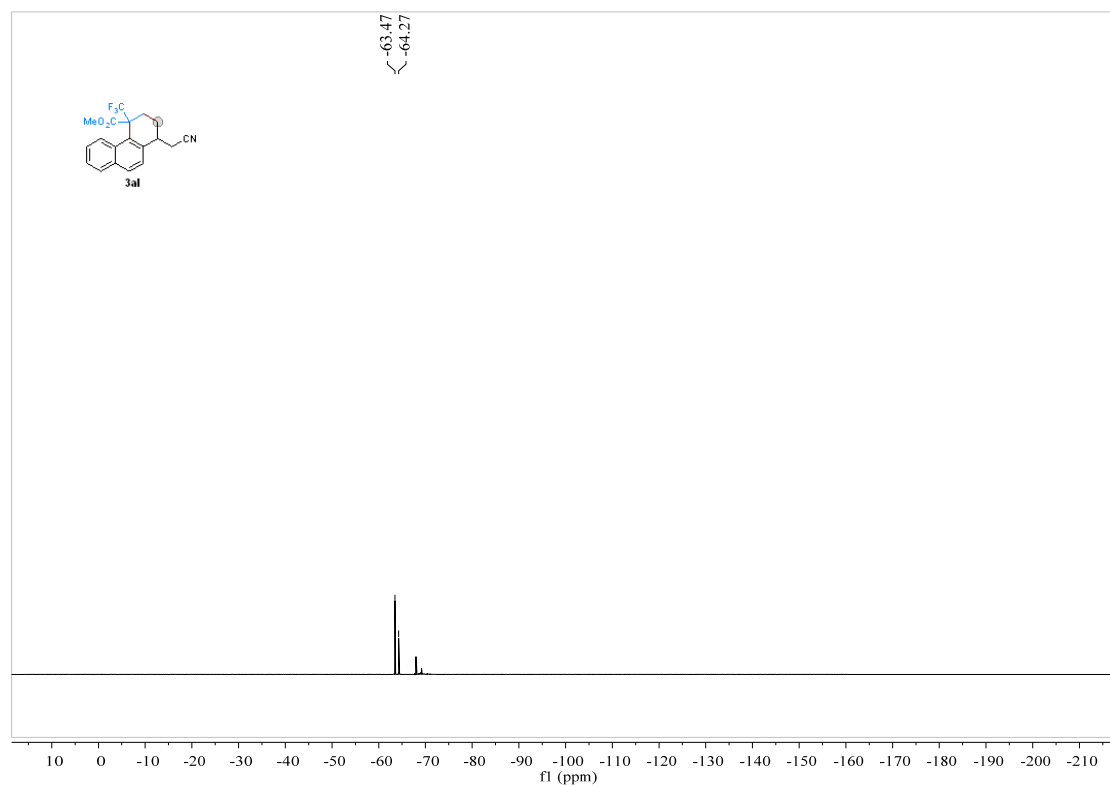


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ak



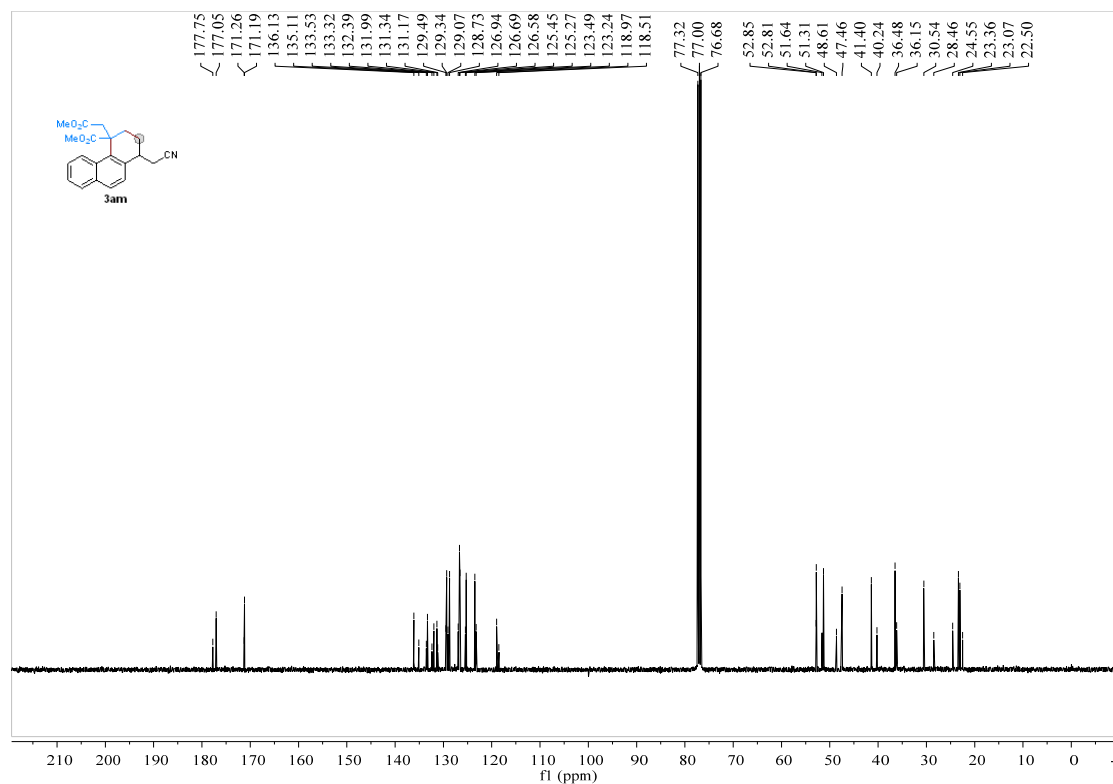
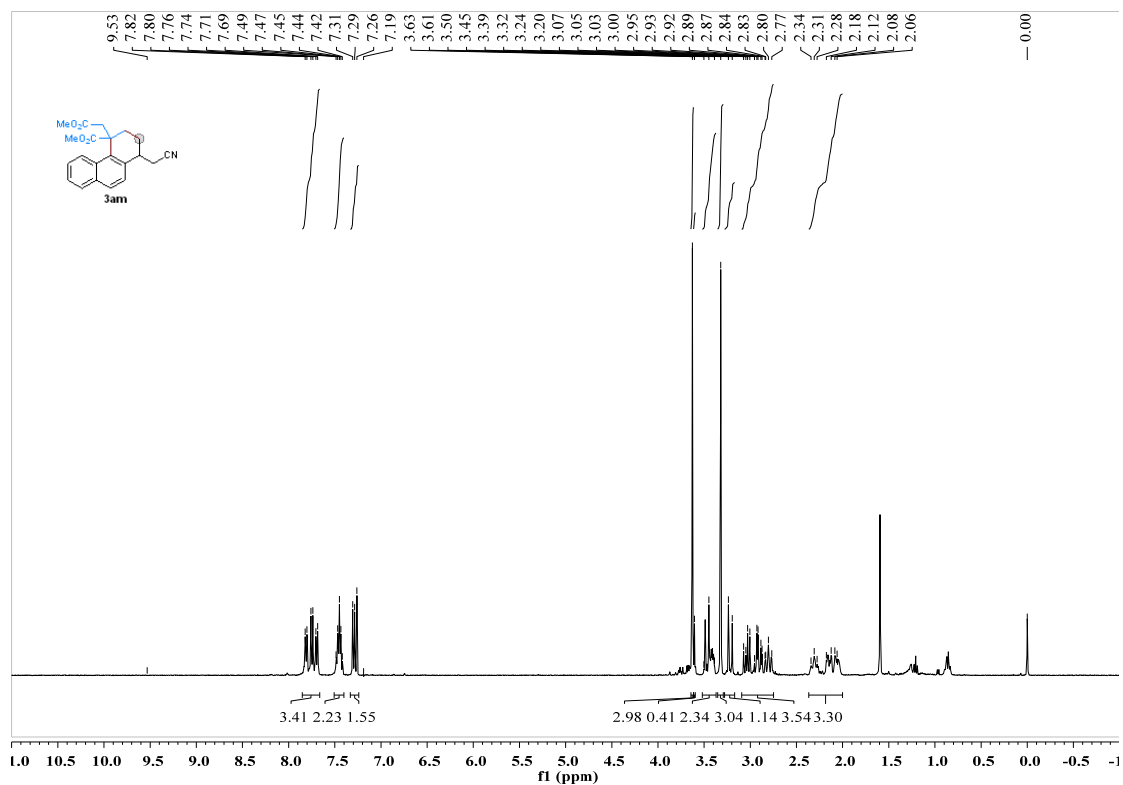
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3al



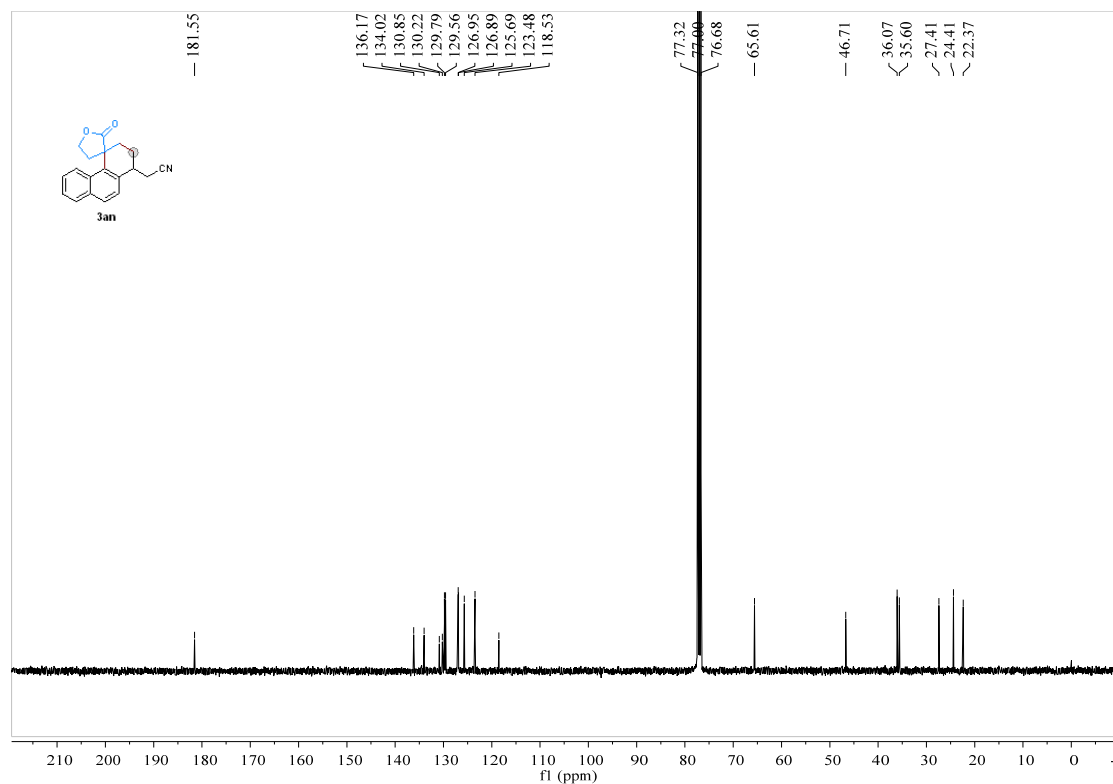
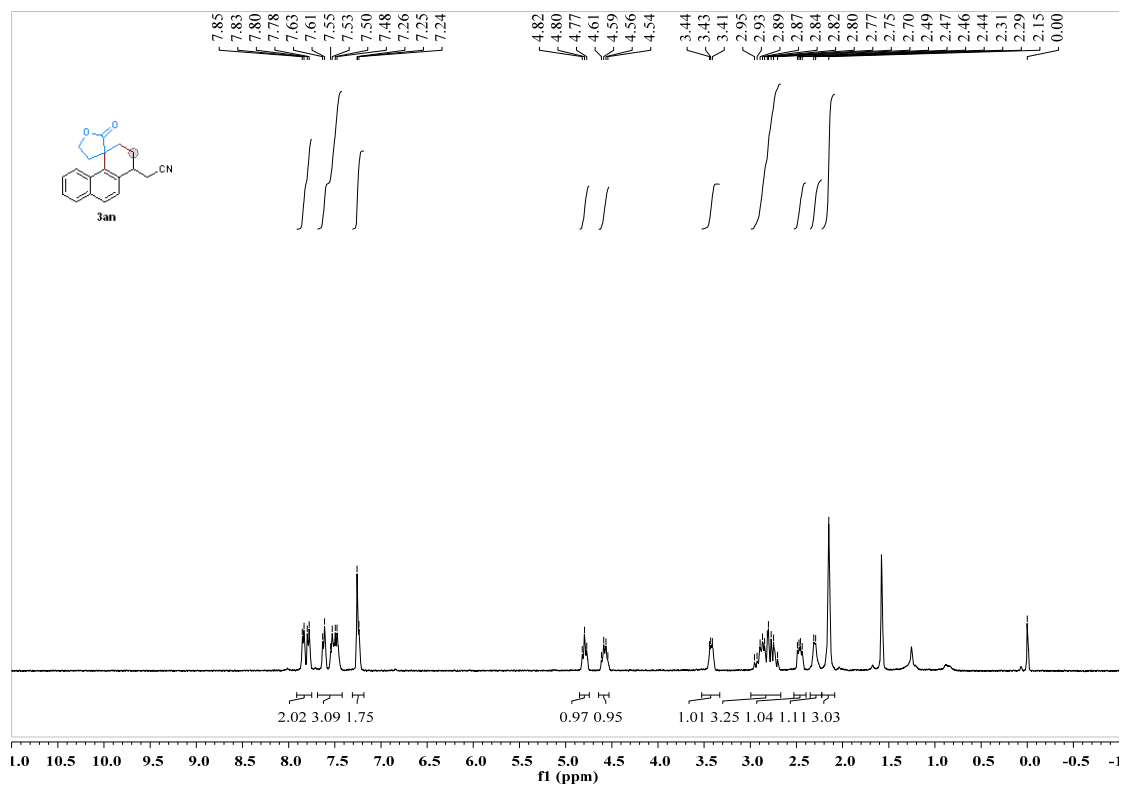




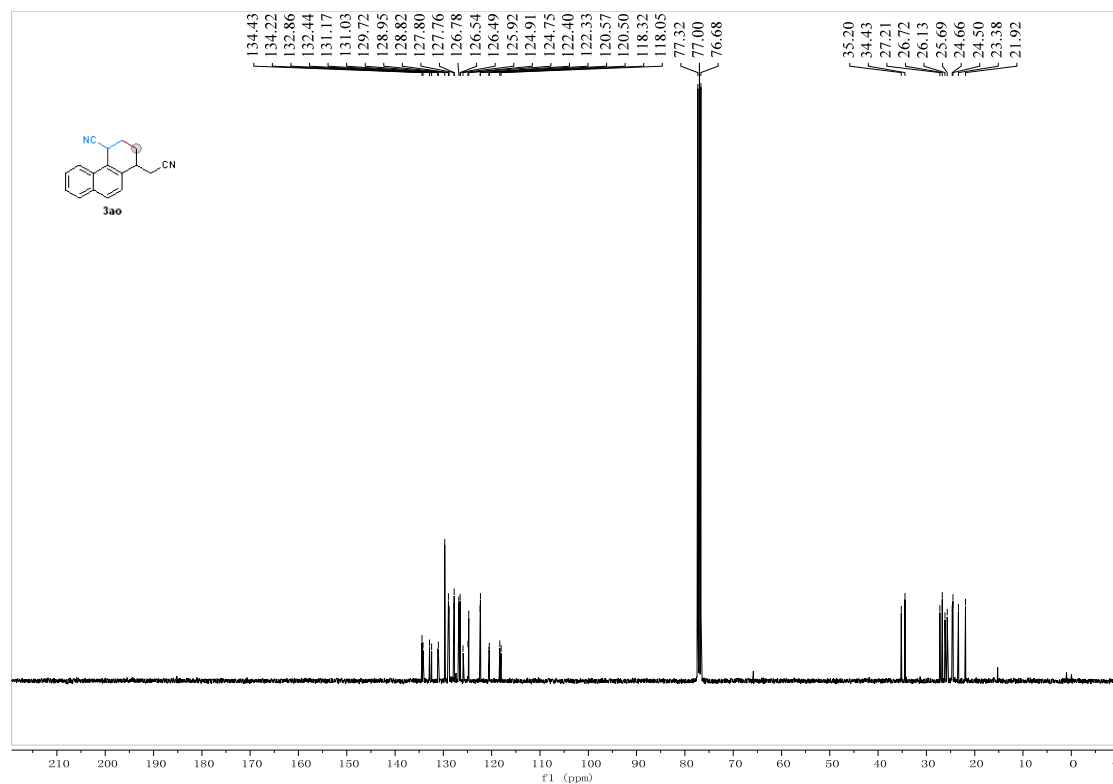
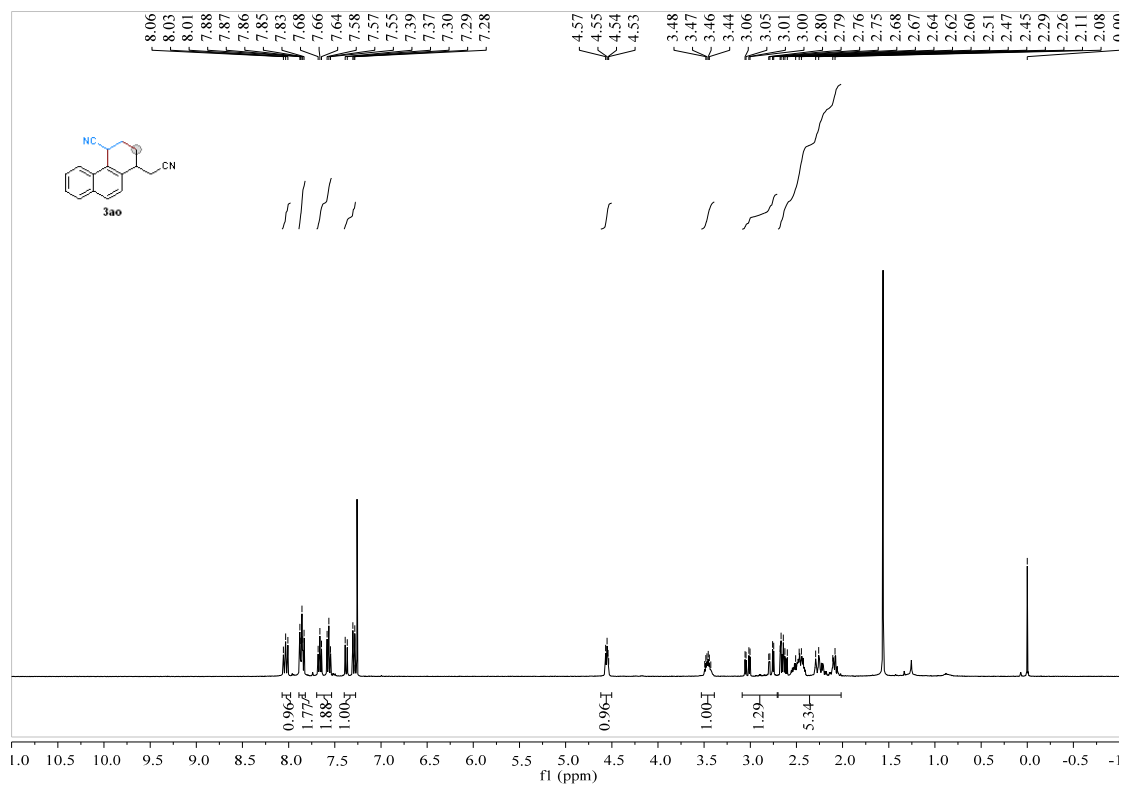
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3am**



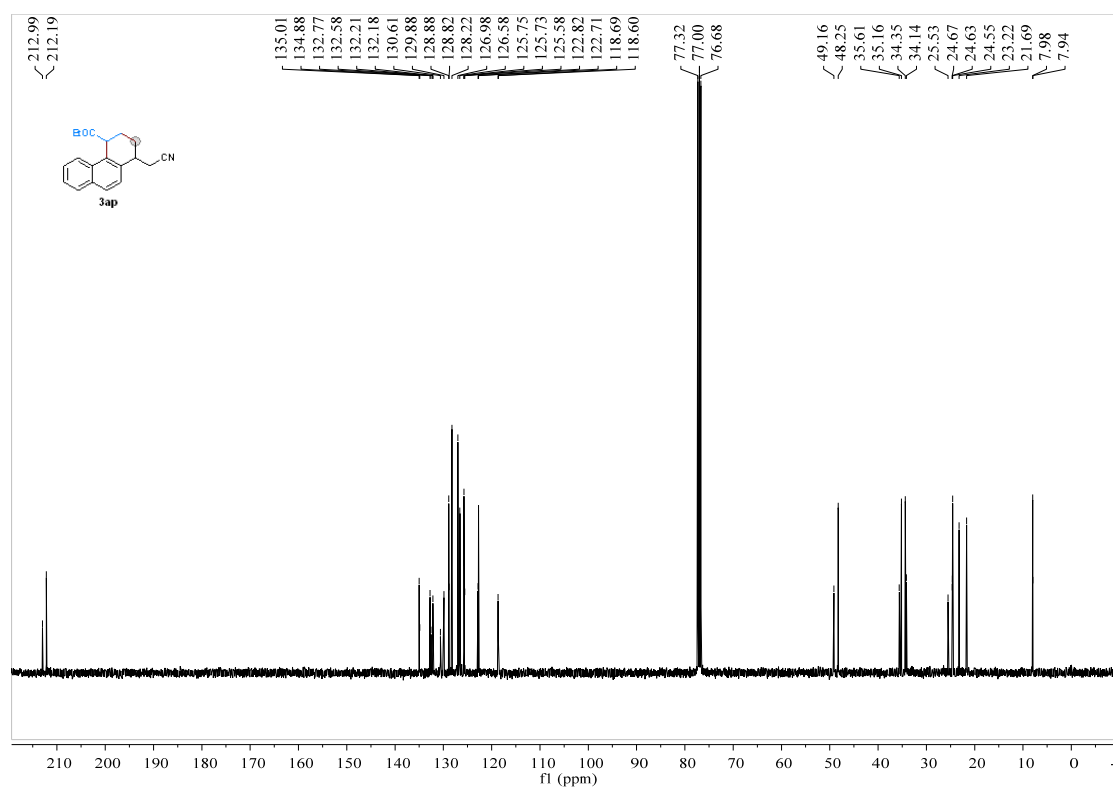
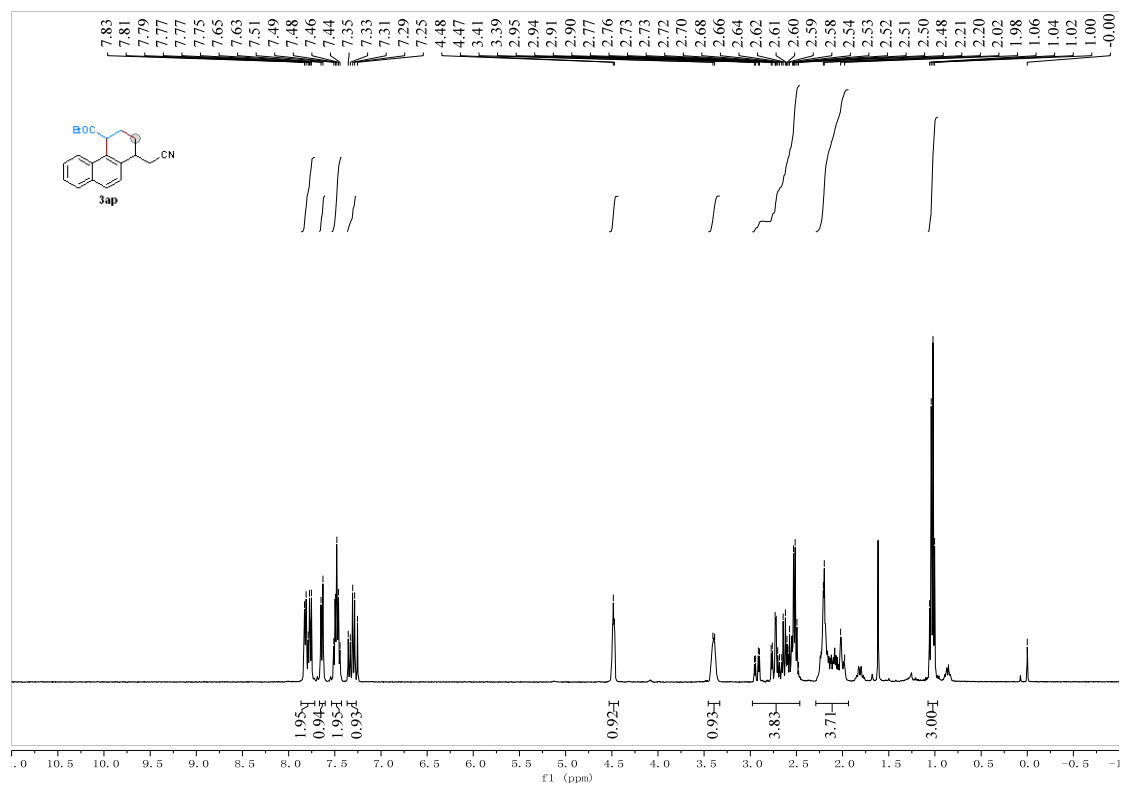
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3an**



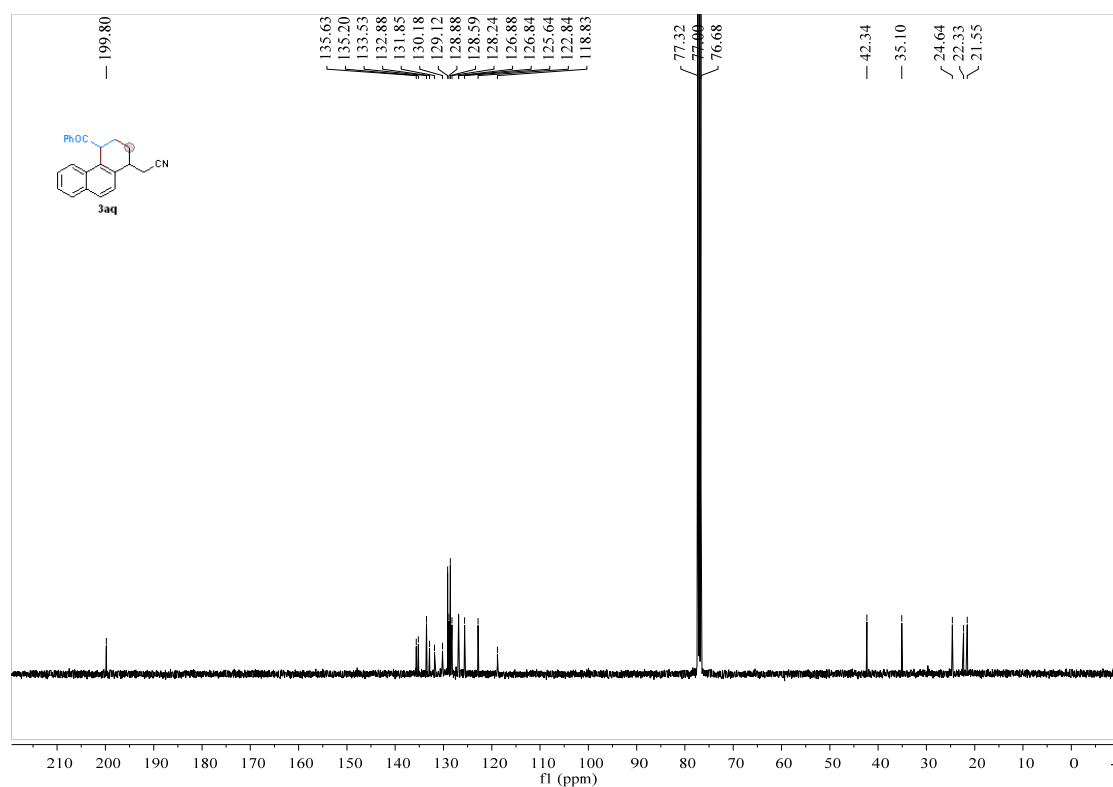
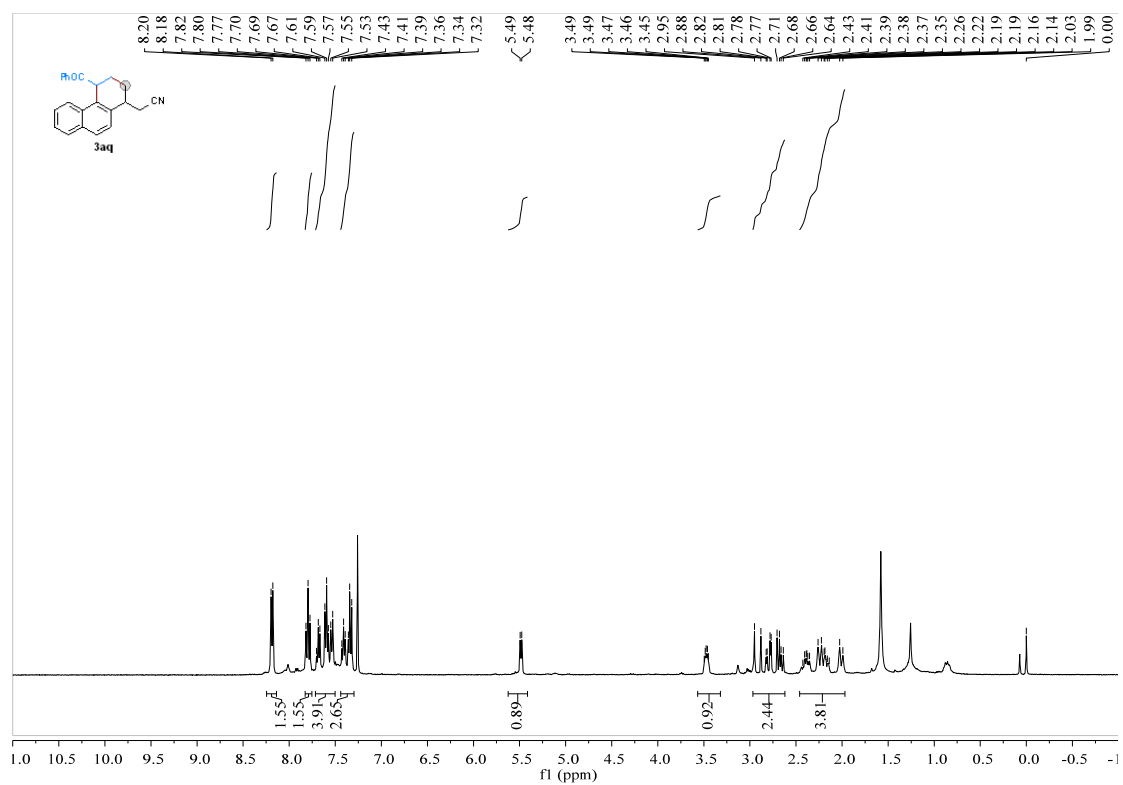
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ao



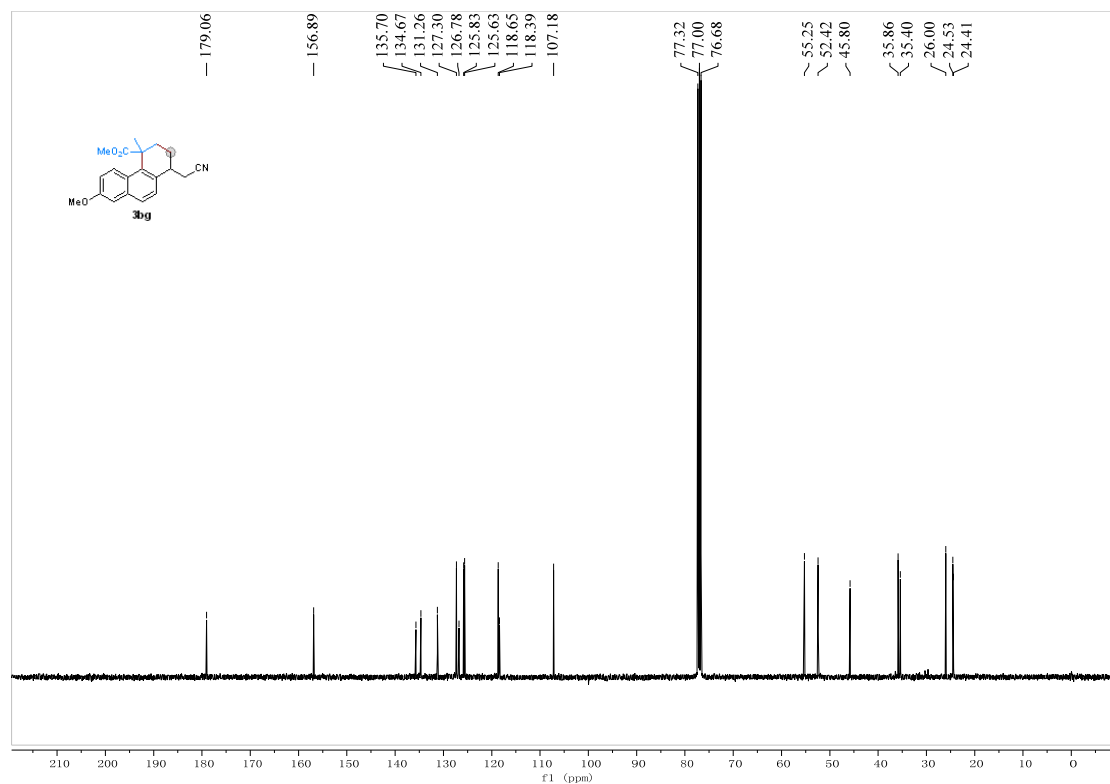
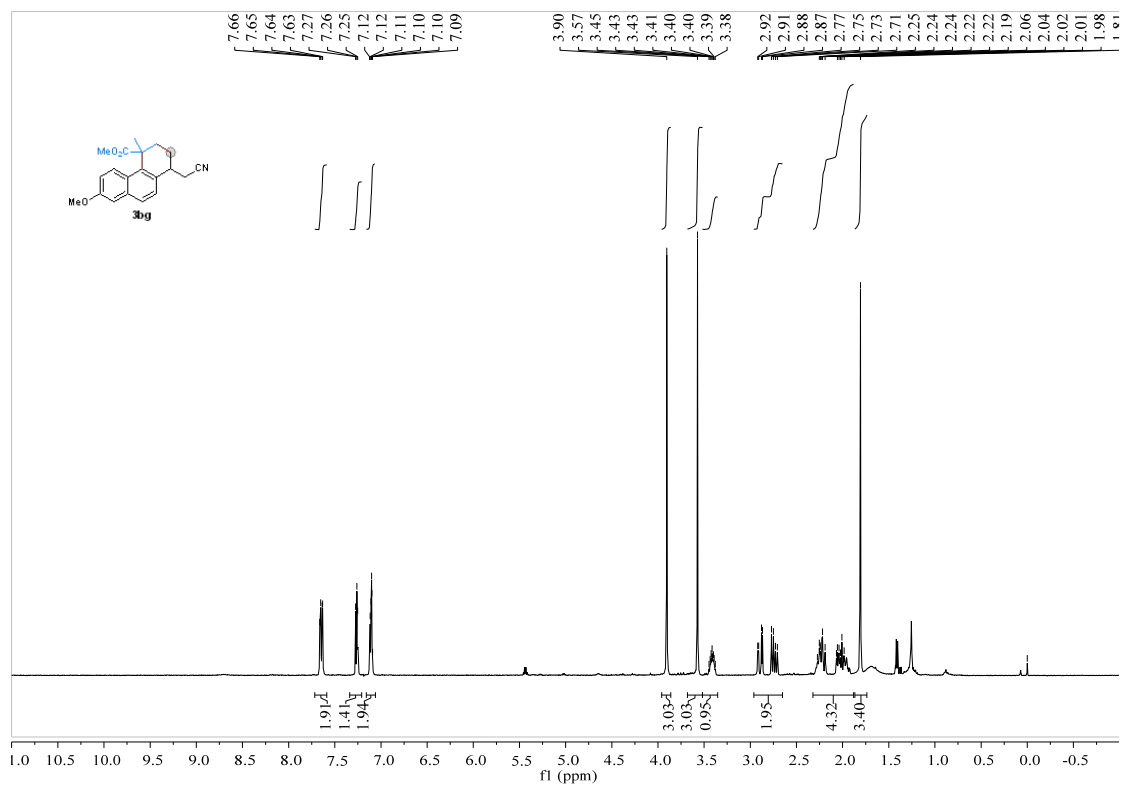
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3ap**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3aq



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product **3bg**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of product 3cg

