

**C-H arylation reactions through aniline activation catalysed by
PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ composite under visible light in aqueous medium**

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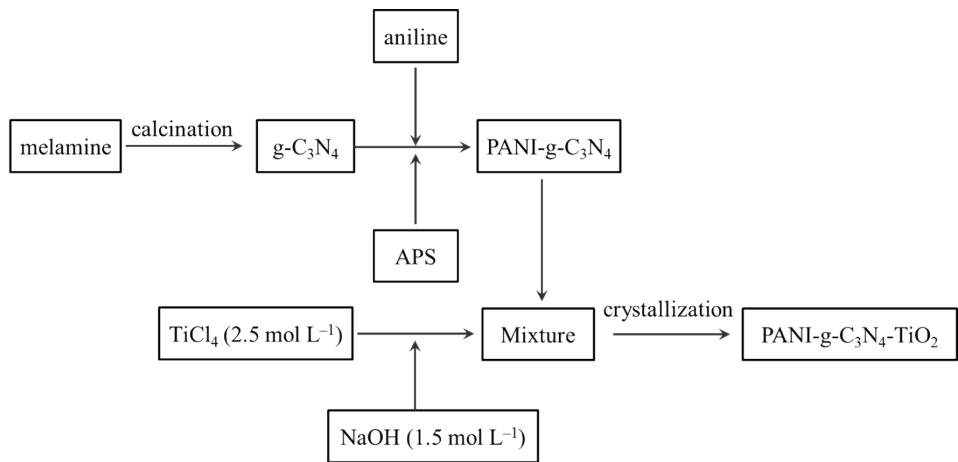
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1 General experimental details

Chemicals were used as received without special purification unless stated otherwise. Column chromatography was generally performed on silica gel (300–400 mesh). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was visualized using UV light. ¹H and ¹³C NMR were recorded in CDCl₃ at ambient temperature on a 300 MHz NMR spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in δ units, parts per million (ppm), and are referenced to CDCl₃ (δ 7.26 ppm for H NMR and 77.0 ppm for C NMR). The coupling constants J are given in Hz. Liquid Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (LCMS) was performed on a Shimadzu LCMS-2020 instrument with an ESI source. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was performed on an Agilent 6540 Q-TOF MS instrument with an ESI source. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected on a SHIMADZU XRD-6000 diffractometer with Cu K α radiation at 40 kV and 30 mA in the range of 5–80 ° at a scanning rate of 6 min⁻¹. HRTEM (JEM-2010, JEOL) was used to study the microstructures. UV-vis absorption spectra were obtained by a UV-vis spectrophotometer (SOLID 3700, Shimadzu). The fluorescence spectra were achieved by using a fluorescence spectrophotometer (Hitachi, F-4500) at wavelengths between 200–800 nm. The excitation wavelength was 320 nm, PMT voltage was 700 V, and the spectral slit width was 2.5 nm. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurement was performed using PHOIBOS 100 hemispherical energy analyzer (SPECS) equipped with Al, K α radiation in the fixed analyzer transmission mode. All peaks in XPS spectra have already been calibrated with C 1s peak at 285 eV. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms were obtained from a TriStar 3010 isothermal nitrogen sorption analyzer (Micromeritics, USA). The 14W CFL (wavelength: 435~610 nm), green LED (3W) and blue LED (3W) were purchased from Philips (Beijing, China).

1.1 Preparation of g-C₃N₄, PANI-g-C₃N₄ and PANI–g-C₃N₄–TiO₂ composites

The g-C₃N₄, PANI-g-C₃N₄ and PANI–g-C₃N₄–TiO₂ composites were prepared according to our previous report and was outlined in Figure S1.¹



Scheme S1. Preparation of g-C₃N₄, PANI-g-C₃N₄ and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ composites

g-C₃N₄ was prepared using melamine as a precursor.² Briefly, 10 g of melamine was put into a semi-closed crucible and statically calcinated at 580 °C with a ramping rate of 5 °C min⁻¹ and tempered for another 4 h.

Then, 1.4 g of g-C₃N₄ was dispersed into 30 mL of HCl solution (0.125 M) and stirred at room temperature for 1 h, followed by addition of aniline (20 wt%~80 wt% of g-C₃N₄). The dispersion was sonicated for 15 min. Ammonium persulphate (APS) with the same molar ratio of aniline was dissolved into 30 mL of HCl solution (0.125 M). Afterwards, the APS solution was added dropwise into the above suspension at 0 °C, and then stirred for another 5 h. After that, the mixture was filtrated and the resultant solid was rinsed by deionized water and ethanol for several times until the filtrate was colorless. The obtained solid was dried under 60 °C for 10 h, grinded into dark green powder, and designated as PANI-g-C₃N₄ composite.

For the preparation of the ternary composite PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂, initially, 15 mL of sodium hydroxide solution ($c = 1.5 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$) was added slowly to 3 mL of aqueous TiCl₄ solution (2.5 mol L⁻¹), which was diluted with 80 mL of deionized water. The mixture was stirred and a certain amount of PANI-g-C₃N₄ was added to the above mixture ($m(\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4):m(\text{TiO}_2) = 1:2$). The temperature was then raised slowly to 80 °C, and the mixture was crystallized for 2 h. Afterwards, aqueous sodium hydroxide solution ($c = 2.5 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$) was added dropwise to maintain the pH at 5~6. The solid

was filtrated, washed with deionized water, dried under vacuum, and grinded to afford PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂.

1.2 Surface areas of PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ composites

Table S1. Surface areas of various PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ samples

Sample	Surface area /m ² g ⁻¹
PANI(20%)-g-C ₃ N ₄ -TiO ₂	95
PANI(40%)-g-C ₃ N ₄ -TiO ₂	128
PANI(60%)-g-C ₃ N ₄ -TiO ₂	98
PANI(80%)-g-C ₃ N ₄ -TiO ₂	66

1.3 Characterization of semiconductor composites

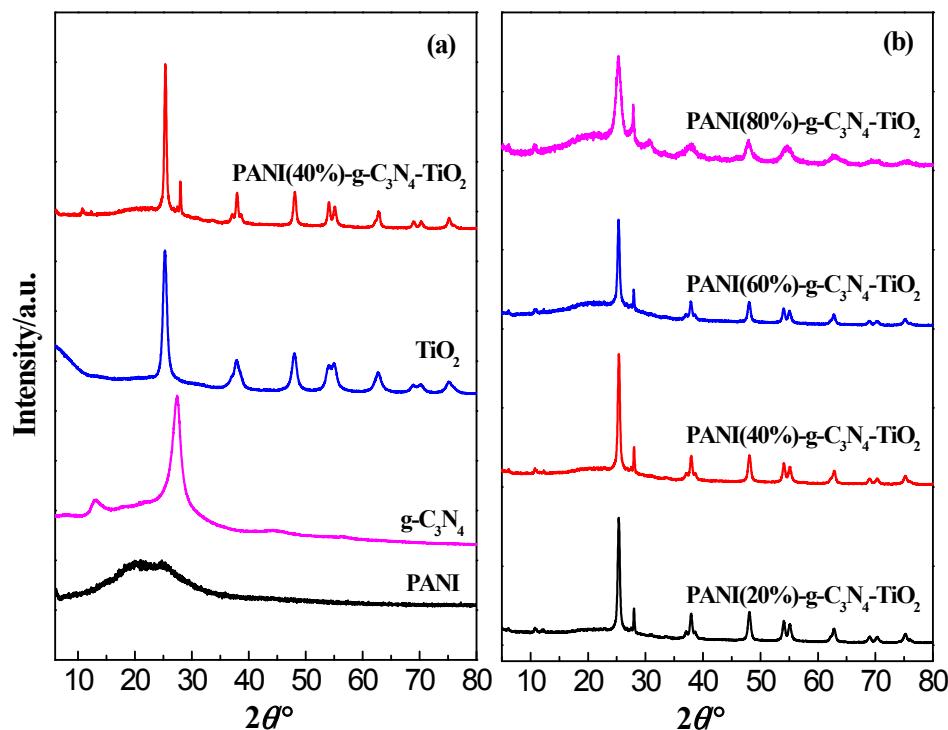


Figure S1. XRD patterns of PANI, g-C₃N₄, TiO₂, and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ composites

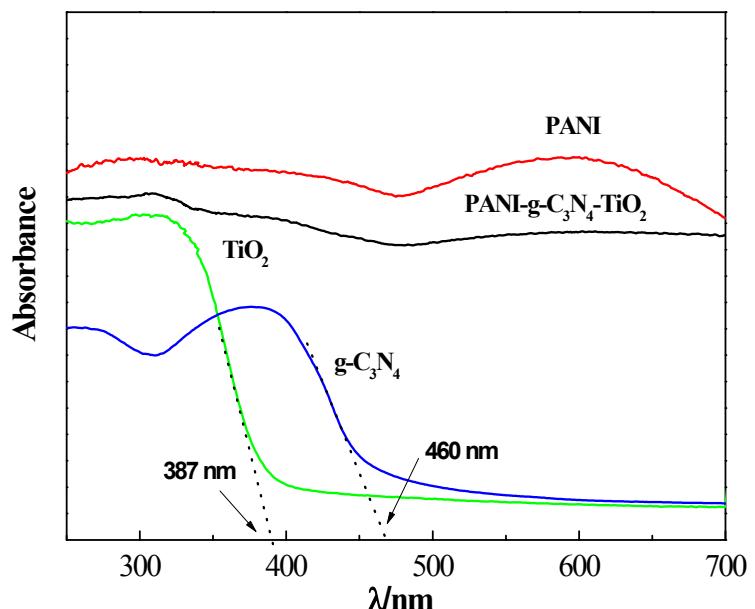


Figure S2. UV-vis DRS of TiO_2 , $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$, PANI, and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ composite

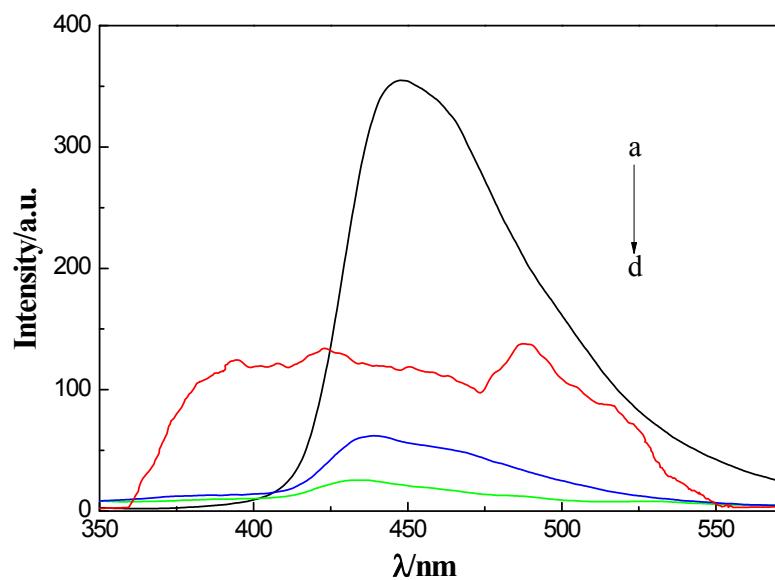


Figure S3. Photoluminescence spectra of different materials (a) $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$, (b) TiO_2 , (c) $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4\text{-TiO}_2$, and (d) PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂

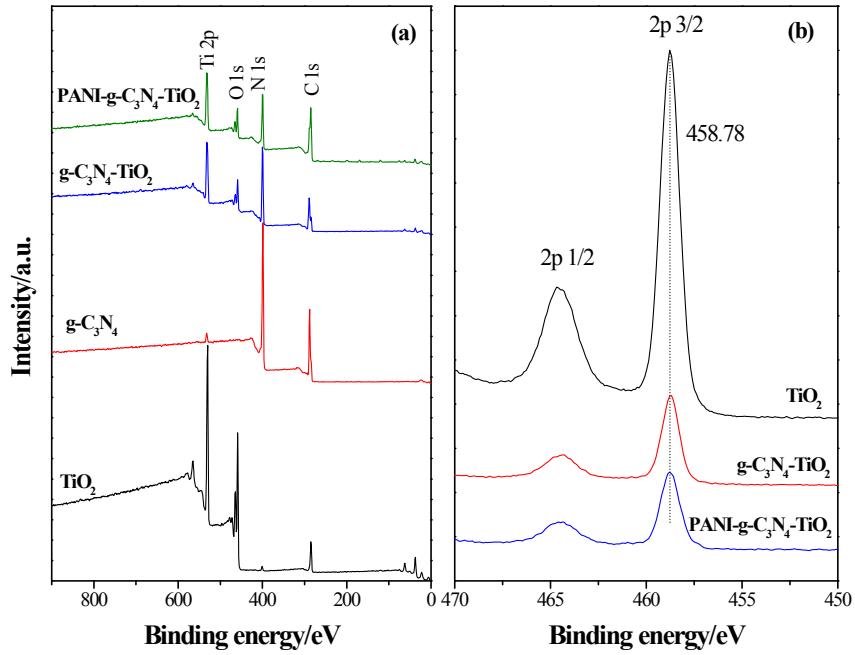


Figure S4. XPS survey (a) of TiO₂, g-C₃N₄, g-C₃N₄-TiO₂, and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂; and their corresponding Ti 2p spectra (b)

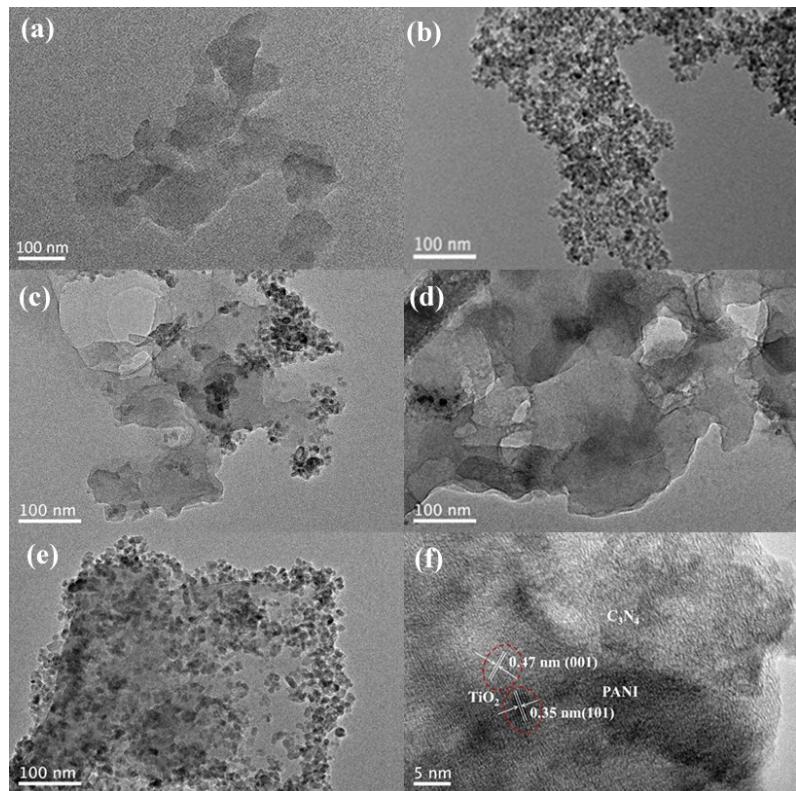


Figure S5. TEM images of (a) g-C₃N₄, (b) TiO₂, (c) g-C₃N₄-TiO₂, (d) PANI-g-C₃N₄, and (e) PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂; and HRTEM image of (f) PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂.

1.4 Typical procedure for synthesis of 3a

To a mixture of aniline (0.3 mmol) and MeSO₃H (0.3 mmol) in acetone/H₂O (2:1, 3 mL) at 25 °C was added *t*-BuONO (0.45 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 25 °C. Then, furan **2a** (10 equiv.) and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ (30 mg) were successively added. The mixture was then irradiated with a 14 W CFL and stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The distance of the reaction vial from the light is about 5 centimeters. After reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and H₂O (5 mL), and the solid catalyst was recovered by centrifugation. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (5 mL × 3). The collected organic extracts were dried on Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the pure product **3a** in 87% yield.

1.5 Typical procedure for synthesis of 5a

To a mixture of aniline (0.3 mmol) and MeSO₃H (0.3 mmol) in acetone/H₂O (2:1, 3 mL) at 25 °C was added *t*-BuONO (0.45 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 25 °C. Then, enol acetate **4** (10 equiv.) and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ (30 mg) were successively added. The mixture was then irradiated with a 14 W CFL and stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The distance of the reaction vial from the light is about 5 centimeters. After reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and H₂O (5 mL), and the solid catalyst was recovered by centrifugation. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (5 mL × 3). The collected organic extracts were dried on Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the pure product **5a** in 85% yield.

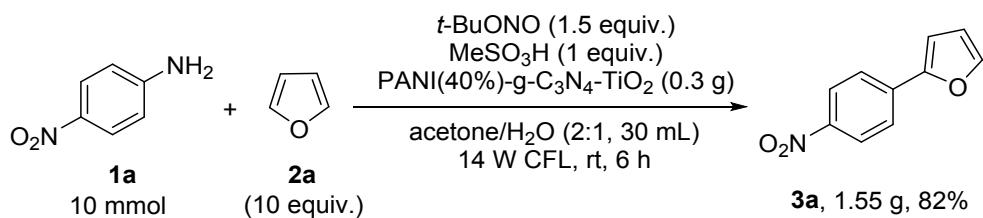
1.6 Typical procedure for synthesis of 7a

To a mixture of aniline (0.3 mmol) and MeSO₃H (0.3 mmol) in H₂O (3 mL) at 25 °C was added *t*-BuONO (0.45 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 25 °C. Then, enol acetate **6** (5 equiv.) and PANI-g-C₃N₄-TiO₂ (30 mg) were successively added. The mixture was then irradiated with a 14 W CFL and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The distance of the reaction vial from the light is about 5

centimeters. After reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and H₂O (5 mL), and the solid catalyst was recovered by centrifugation. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (5 mL × 3). The collected organic extracts were dried on Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the pure product **7a** in 91% yield.

1.7 Scale-up synthesis

The scale-up experiment was conducted at a 10 mmol scale (Scheme S2). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and the catalyst was filtered off and washed with ethyl acetate. The collected organic extracts were dried, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the pure product **3a** in 82% yield (1.55 g).

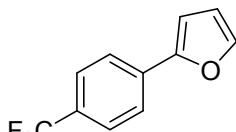


Scheme S2 Gram-scale synthesis of **3a**.

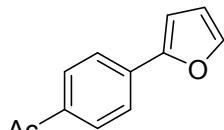
2 Characterization data of compounds

2-(4-Nitrophenyl)furan (3a).³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 - 8.21 (m, 2H), 7.80 - 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.83, 146.50, 144.28, 136.55, 124.43, 124.04, 112.57, 109.12; MS (ESI) *m/z* 212 [M + Na]⁺.

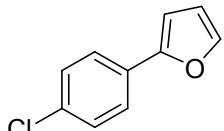
4-(Furan-2-yl)benzonitrile (3b).³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 - 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.66 - 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.02, 143.77, 134.70, 132.65, 124.00, 119.06, 112.34, 110.31, 108.26; MS (ESI) *m/z* 192 [M + Na]⁺.



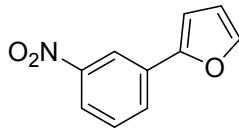
2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)furan (3c).⁴ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.63, 143.21, 134.09 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 129.06 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 125.82 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 123.87, 122.55, 112.09, 107.10; MS (ESI) *m/z* 235 [M + Na]⁺.



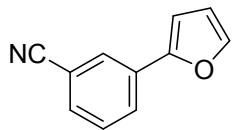
1-(4-(Furan-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (3d).⁵ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.51 (s), 152.91, 143.38, 135.59, 134.96, 129.05, 123.63, 112.20, 107.59, 26.67; MS (ESI) *m/z* 209 [M + Na]⁺.



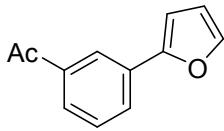
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)furan (3e).⁵ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 - 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 2H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.02, 142.41, 133.04, 129.46, 128.96, 125.10, 111.88, 105.53; MS (ESI) *m/z* 201 [M + Na]⁺.



2-(3-Nitrophenyl)furan (3f).⁶ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.61, 148.81, 143.42, 132.46, 129.82, 129.34, 121.80, 118.61, 112.22, 107.40; MS (ESI) *m/z* 212 [M + Na]⁺.

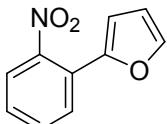


3-(Furan-2-yl)benzonitrile (3g).⁷ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (dt, *J* = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 - 7.44 (m, 3H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.65, 143.28, 132.02, 130.50, 129.63, 127.75, 127.21, 118.78, 113.05, 112.13, 106.98; MS (ESI) *m/z* 192 [M + Na]⁺.



1-(3-(Furan-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (3h). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 - 8.22 (m, 1H), 7.87 - 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 4.8, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.06, 152.99,

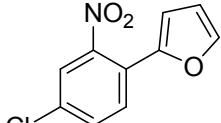
142.66, 137.59, 131.41, 129.08, 128.19, 127.12, 123.57, 111.95, 106.08, 26.84; HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}NaO_2$ [M + Na]⁺ 209.0573, found 209.0581.



2-(2-Nitrophenyl)furan (3i).⁶ 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 - 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59 - 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43 - 7.37 (m, 1H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.46, 147.54, 143.86, 131.97, 128.93, 128.36, 124.15, 123.90, 111.96, 109.76; MS (ESI) *m/z* 212 [M + Na]⁺.



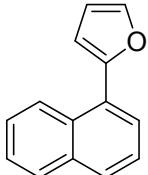
2-(Furan-2-yl)benzonitrile (3j).⁵ 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 - 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.65 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.88, 143.46, 134.29, 133.36, 133.08, 127.24, 126.06, 119.16, 112.40, 110.59, 106.97; MS (ESI) *m/z* 192 [M + Na]⁺.



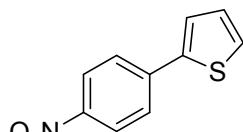
2-(4-Chloro-2-nitrophenyl)furan (3k). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 2H), 6.68 - 6.65 (m, 1H), 6.50 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.48, 147.39, 144.17, 133.85, 132.12, 129.85, 124.08, 122.62, 112.15, 110.34; HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{10}H_6ClNNaO_3$ [M + Na]⁺ 245.9928, found 245.9936.



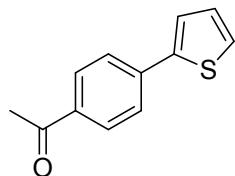
2-(Trifluoromethyl)phenylfuran (3l). 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (ddd, *J* = 4.6, 2.5, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.45 - 7.39 (m, 1H), 6.74 - 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.60, 143.15, 131.85, 130.09, 129.86 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 127.85, 126.75 (q, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 126.20 (q, *J* = 271.5 Hz), 122.33, 111.74, 110.21 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz); HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{11}H_7F_3NaO$ [M + Na]⁺ 235.0341, found 235.0354.



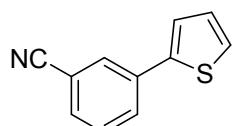
2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)furan (3m).⁸ 1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 - 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (ddd, *J* = 9.3, 6.0, 4.6 Hz, 3H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.60, 142.55, 134.08, 130.52, 128.74, 128.69, 128.64, 126.68, 126.30, 126.05, 125.69, 125.45, 111.51, 109.34; MS (ESI) *m/z* 217 [M + Na]⁺.



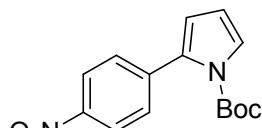
2-(4-Nitrophenyl)thiophene (3n).³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 7.74 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.69, 141.67, 140.66, 128.80, 127.79, 126.10, 125.82, 124.50; MS (ESI) *m/z* 228 [M + Na]⁺.



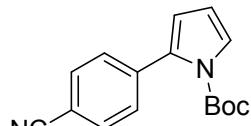
1-(4-(Thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)ethanone (3o).⁵ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.48, 143.03, 138.88, 135.82, 129.23, 128.50, 126.59, 125.76, 124.73, 26.71; MS (ESI) *m/z* 225 [M + Na]⁺.



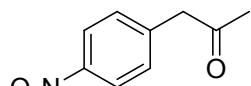
3-(Thiophen-2-yl)benzonitrile (3p).⁹ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.70, 135.73, 130.69, 130.09, 129.85, 129.25, 128.51, 126.46, 124.56, 118.69, 113.22; MS (ESI) *m/z* 208 [M + Na]⁺.



tert-Butyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (3q).⁶ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 - 8.19 (m, 2H), 7.54 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (t, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.01, 146.70, 140.80, 132.88, 129.65, 124.42, 123.05, 116.65, 111.27, 84.65, 27.83; MS (ESI) *m/z* 311 [M + Na]⁺.

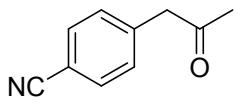


tert-Butyl 2-(4-cyanophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-1-carboxylate (3r).³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 - 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.28 - 6.24 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.05, 138.92, 133.22, 131.52, 129.68, 124.08, 119.13, 116.21, 111.16, 110.64, 84.50, 27.81; MS (ESI) *m/z* 291 [M + Na]⁺.

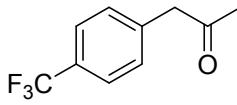


1-(4-Nitrophenyl)propan-2-one (5a).³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz,

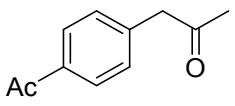
CDCl_3) δ 204.38, 147.16, 141.56, 130.59, 123.87, 50.15, 30.01; MS (ESI) m/z 202 [M + Na]⁺.



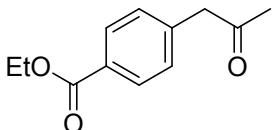
4-(2-Oxopropyl)benzonitrile (5b).³ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63 - 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 204.50, 139.51, 132.43, 130.45, 118.79, 111.07, 50.44, 29.91; MS (ESI) m/z 182 [M + Na]⁺.



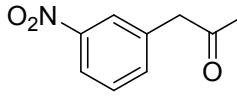
1-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-2-one (5c).⁷ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.36, 138.18, 129.97, 125.74 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 122.45, 115.57, 50.49, 29.76; MS (ESI) m/z 225 [M + Na]⁺.



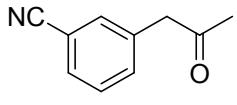
1-(4-Acetylphenyl)propan-2-one (5d).¹⁰ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 - 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.30, 197.83, 139.64, 136.11, 129.86, 128.89, 50.80, 29.76, 26.75; MS (ESI) m/z 199 [M + Na]⁺.



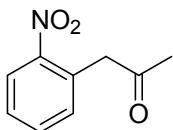
Ethyl 4-(2-oxopropyl)benzoate (5e).¹¹ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.44, 166.48, 139.31, 130.09, 129.58, 129.49, 61.10, 50.90, 29.66, 14.45; MS (ESI) m/z 229 [M + Na]⁺.



1-(3-Nitrophenyl)propan-2-one (5f).¹¹ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 - 8.09 (m, 1H), 8.07 - 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 204.50, 148.44, 135.99, 135.95, 129.60, 124.63, 122.29, 49.81, 29.96; MS (ESI) m/z 202 [M + Na]⁺.

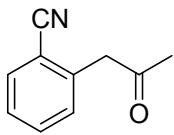


3-(2-Oxopropyl)benzonitrile (5g).¹² ^1H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.71 (ddd, $J = 5.5, 3.6, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 0.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 - 7.50 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) δ 205.23, 136.67, 134.92, 133.35, 130.34, 129.36, 118.86, 111.10, 48.43, 29.81; MS (ESI) m/z 182 [M + Na]⁺.

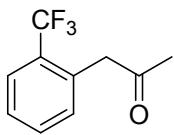


1-(2-Nitrophenyl)propan-2-one (5h).⁷ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.12 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.76, 148.70, 133.76, 133.67, 130.50, 128.59, 125.42),

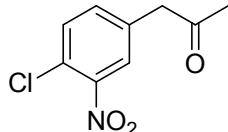
48.72, 30.17; MS (ESI) m/z 202 [M + Na]⁺.



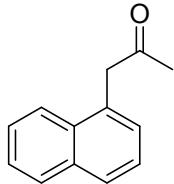
2-(2-Oxopropyl)benzonitrile (5i).⁷ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, J = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.68, 138.18, 132.98, 132.81, 130.95, 127.75, 117.88, 113.34, 48.65, 30.16; MS (ESI) m/z 182 [M + Na]⁺.



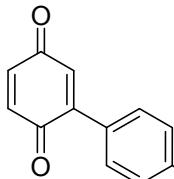
1-(2-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-2-one (5j).¹⁰ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.79, 132.88 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 132.83, 132.02 (d, J = 1.0 Hz), 128.89 (q, J = 29.8 Hz), 127.40, 126.22 (q, J = 5.5 Hz), 122.62, 47.45 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 29.71; MS (ESI) m/z 225 [M + Na]⁺.



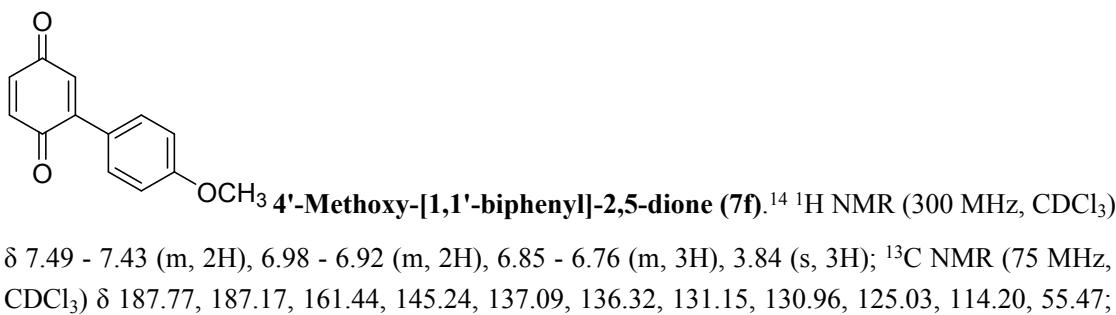
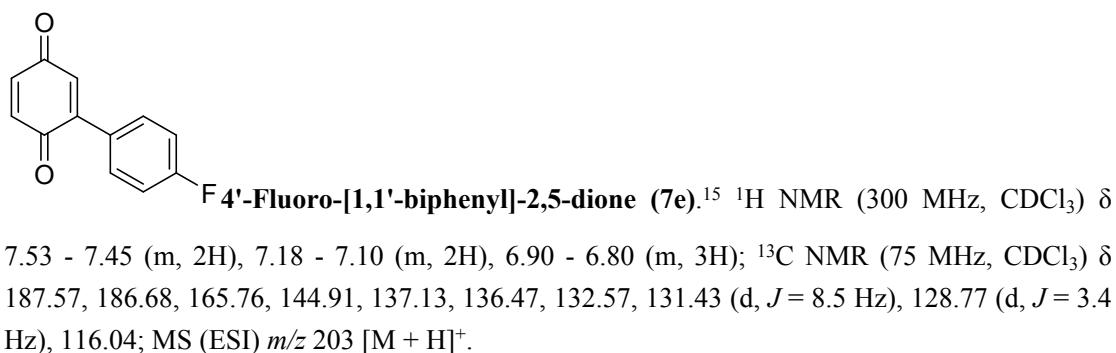
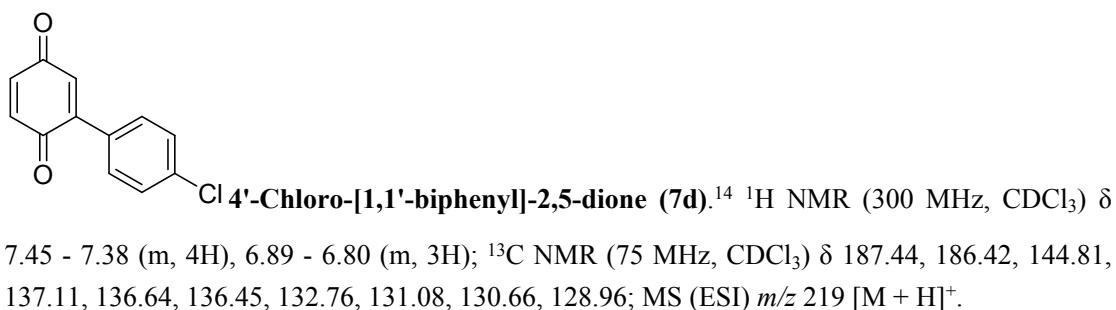
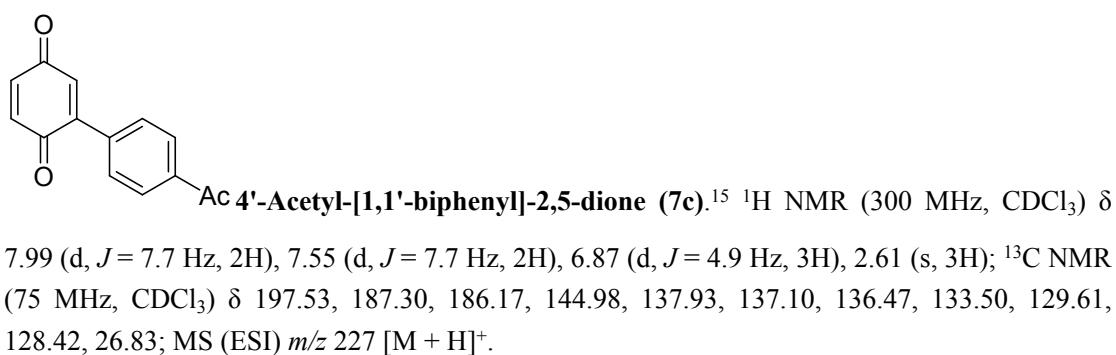
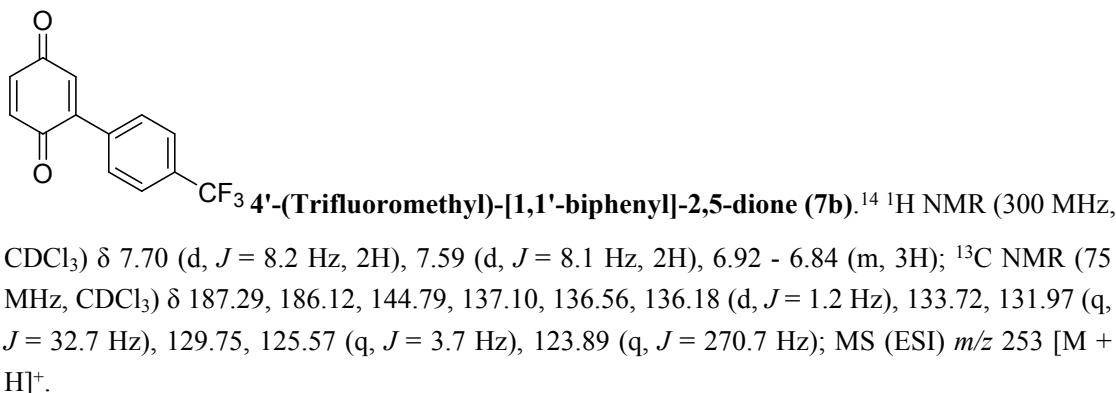
1-(4-Chloro-3-nitrophenyl)propan-2-one (5k). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.22, 148.99, 134.67, 134.33, 133.75, 128.93, 125.57, 48.19, 30.15; HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₉H₈ClNNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺ 236.0085, found 236.0097.



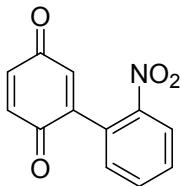
1-(Naphthalen-1-yl)propan-2-one (5l).¹³ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 - 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47 - 7.38 (m, 2H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.16, 134.02, 132.29, 131.19, 128.92, 128.36, 128.22, 126.69, 126.06, 125.72, 123.94, 49.38, 29.11; MS (ESI) m/z 207 [M + Na]⁺.



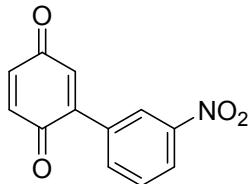
4'-Nitro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,5-dione (7a).³ ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97 - 6.87 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.98, 185.75, 148.74, 144.03, 138.88, 137.11, 136.71, 134.21, 130.43, 123.75; MS (ESI) m/z 230 [M + H]⁺.



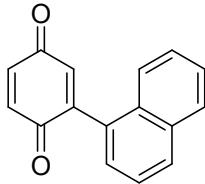
MS (ESI) m/z 215 [M + H]⁺.



2'-Nitro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,5-dione (7g). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (td, $J = 7.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.82 (dd, $J = 1.7, 0.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.06, 184.65, 148.27, 147.04, 137.09, 136.78, 134.27, 131.85, 131.37, 131.02, 128.89, 124.94; HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₂H₈NO₄ [M + H]⁺ 230.0448, found 230.0462.



3'-Nitro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2,5-dione (7h). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 - 8.26 (m, 2H), 7.84 - 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.64 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 - 6.85 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.00, 185.77, 148.26, 143.69, 137.01, 136.66, 135.19, 134.17, 133.86, 129.72, 124.71, 124.33; MS (ESI) m/z 230 [M + H]⁺.



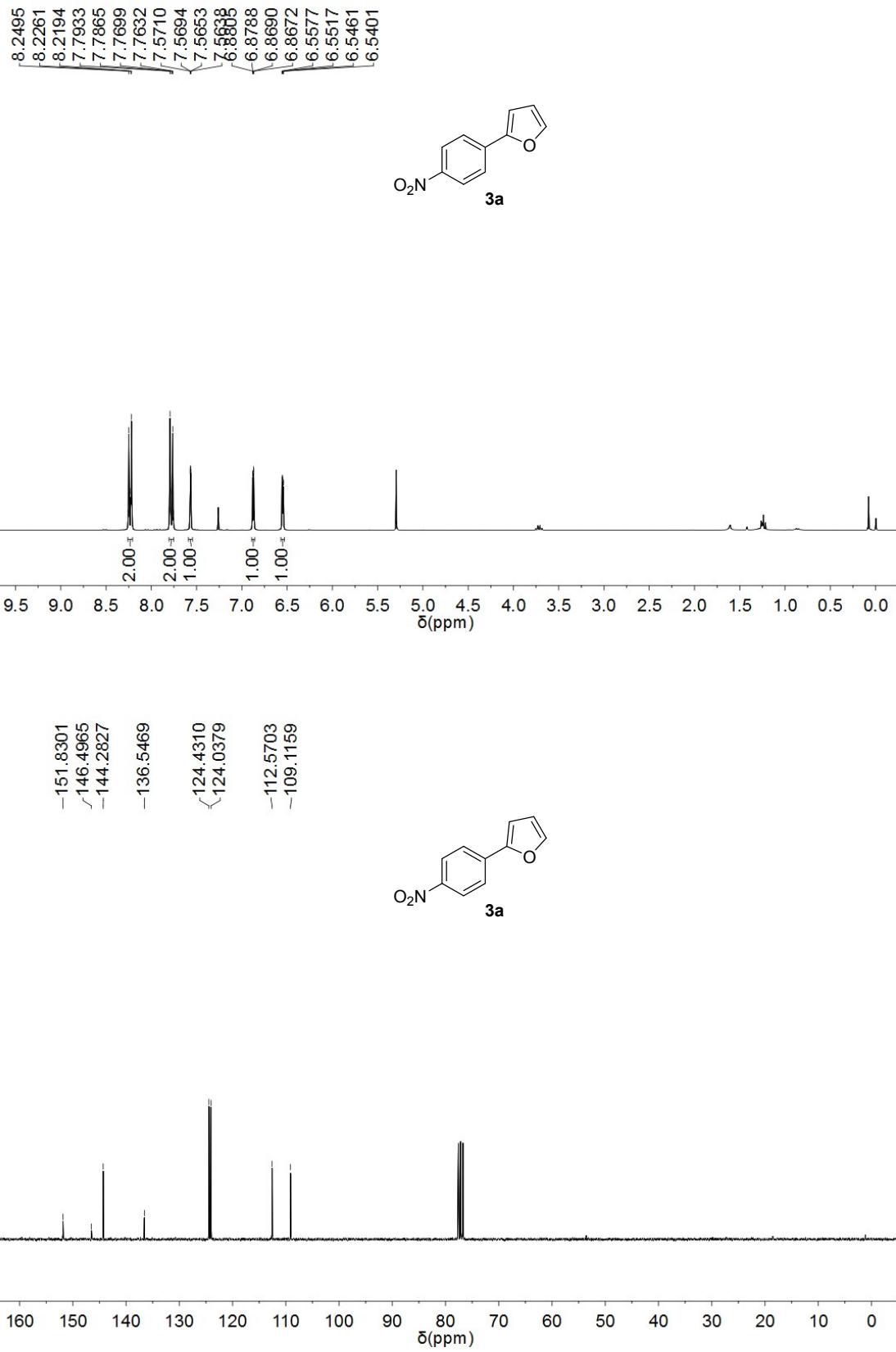
2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)cyclohexa-2,5-diene-1,4-dione (7i). ^{15}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 - 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.63 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.35 (dd, $J = 7.1, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 - 6.89 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.70, 186.65, 147.44, 137.16, 136.66, 135.68, 133.62, 131.34, 131.01, 130.21, 128.73, 127.61, 126.83, 126.39, 125.27, 125.18; MS (ESI) m/z 235 [M + H]⁺.

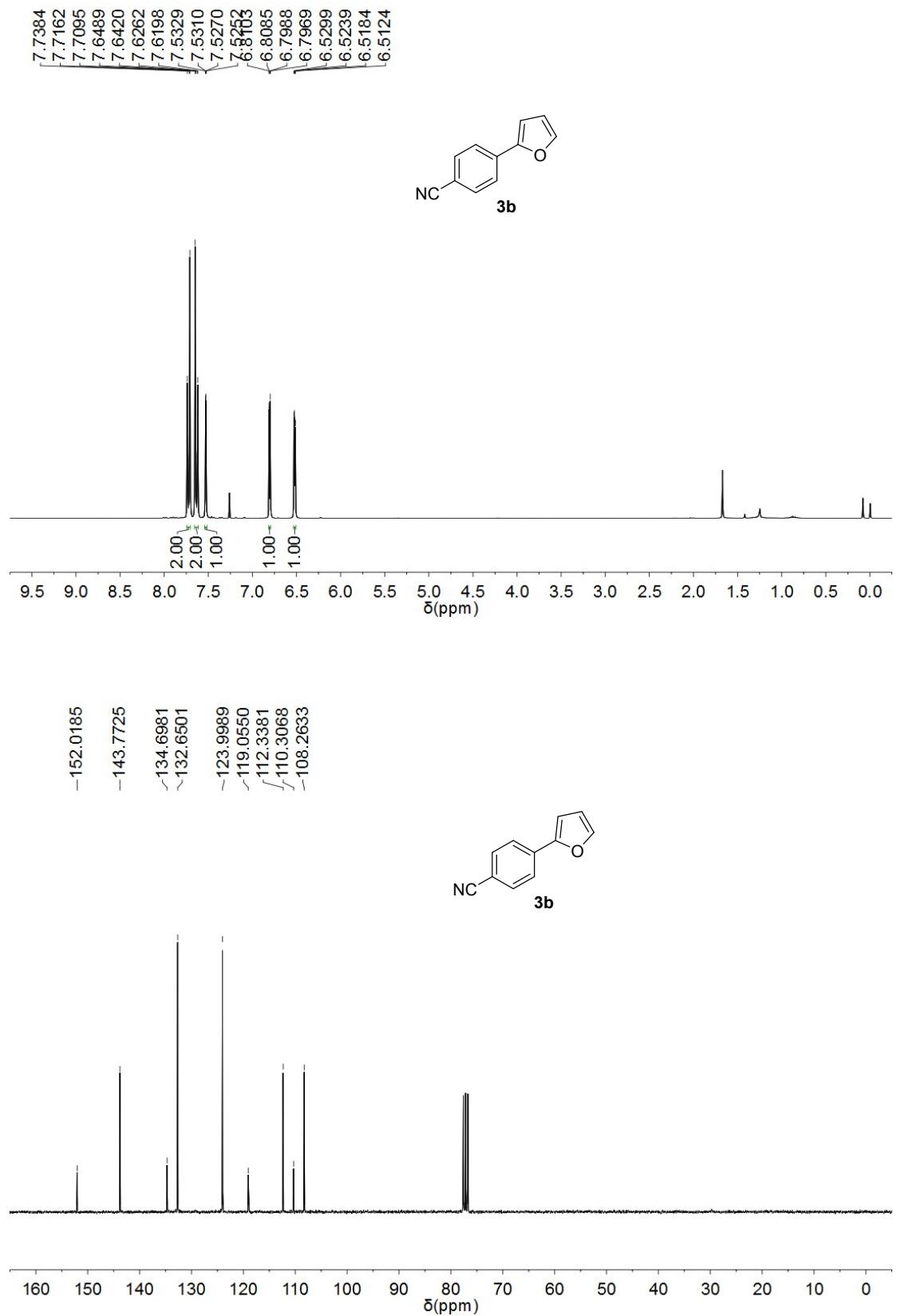
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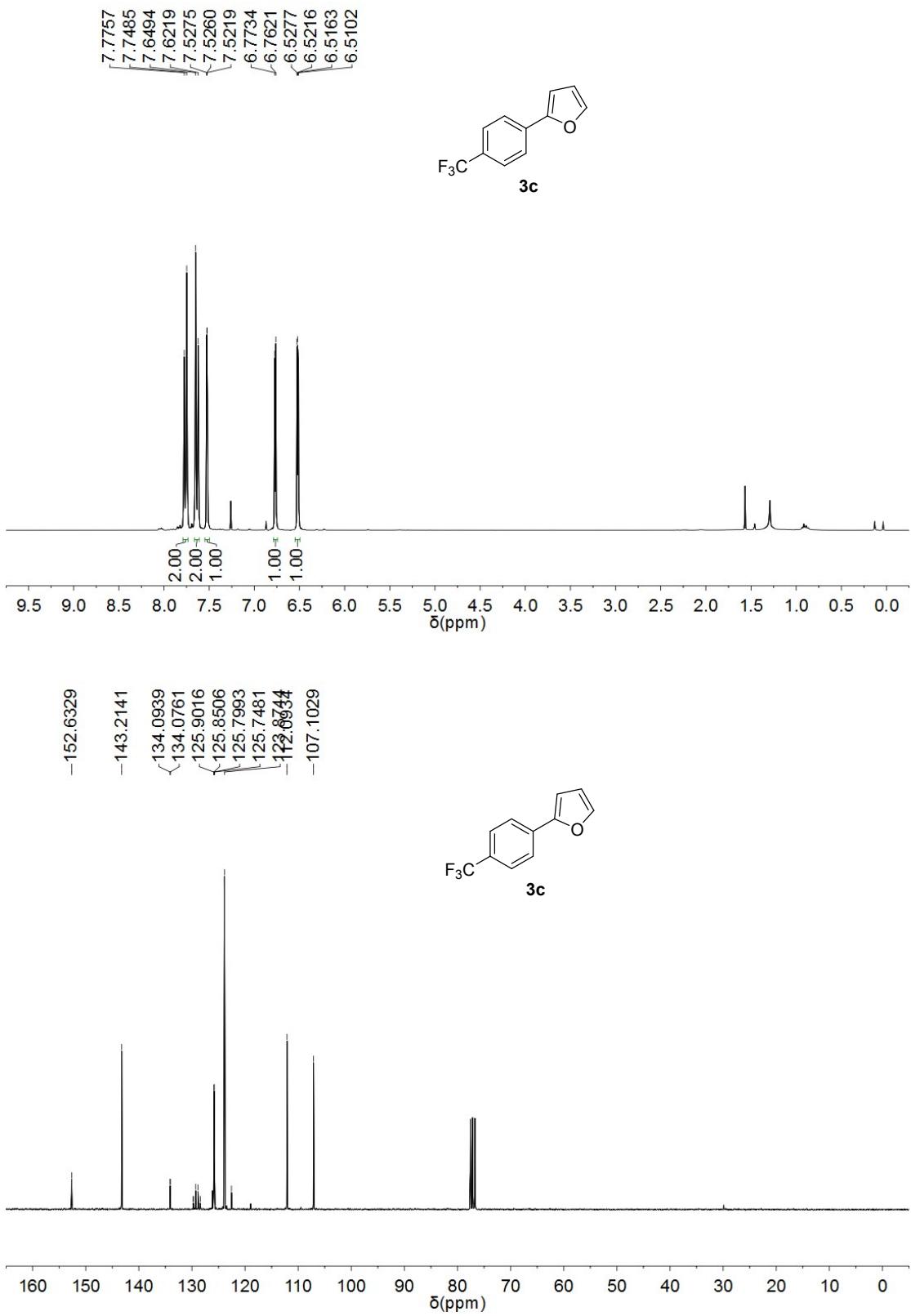
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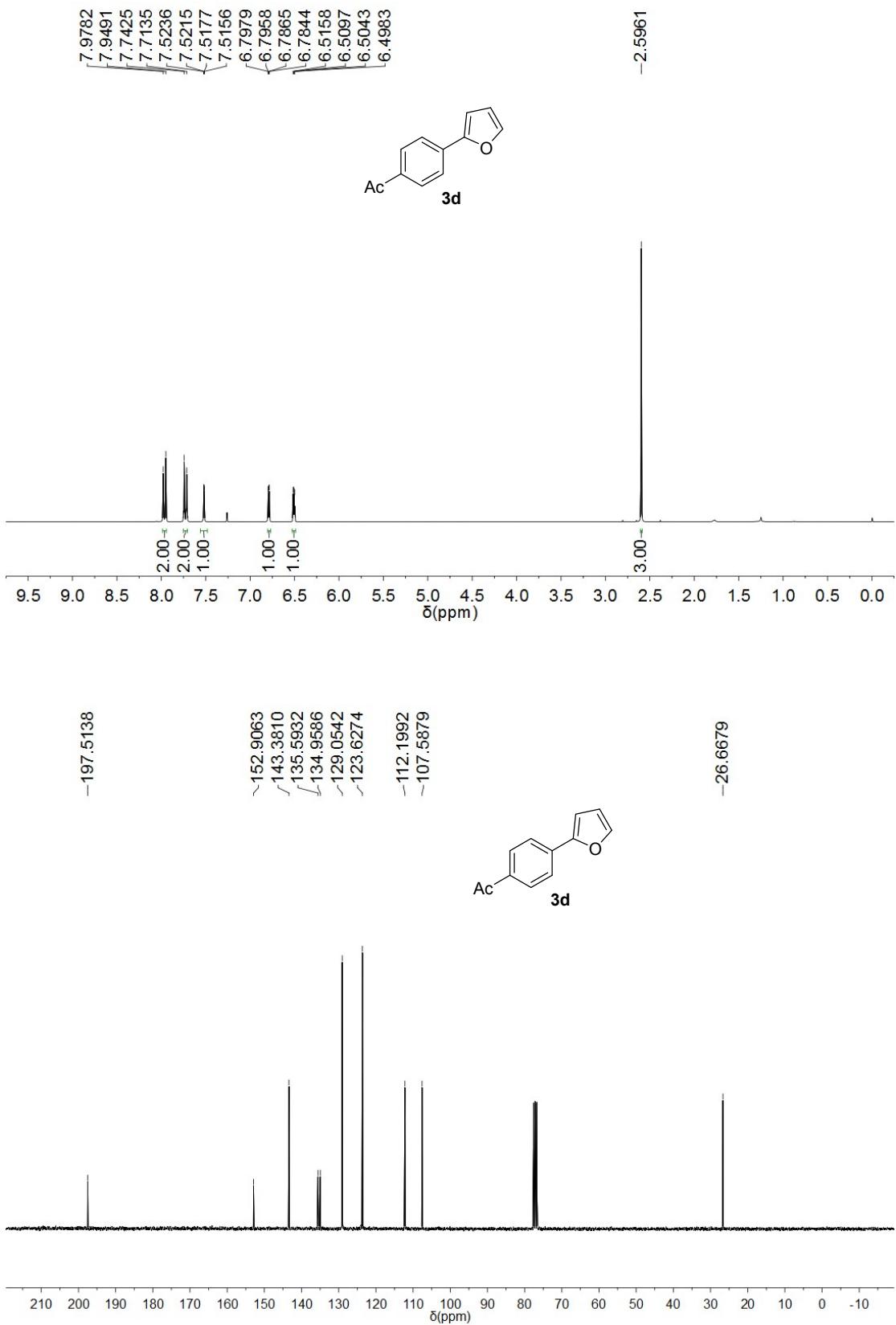
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3 Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra

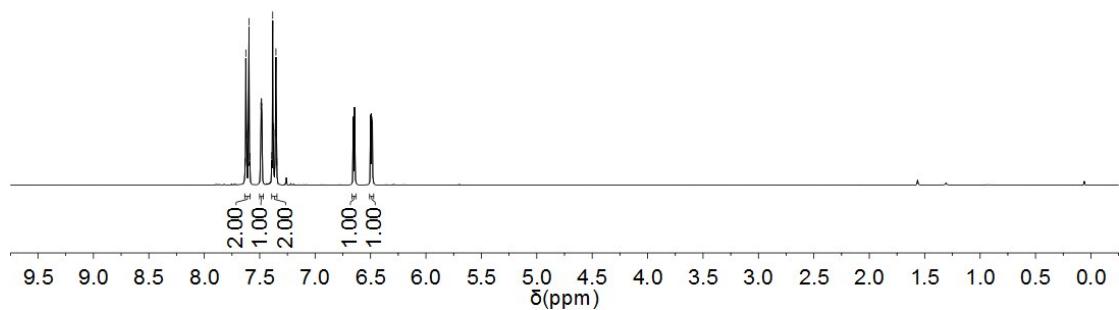
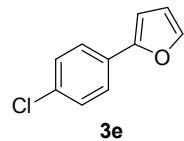




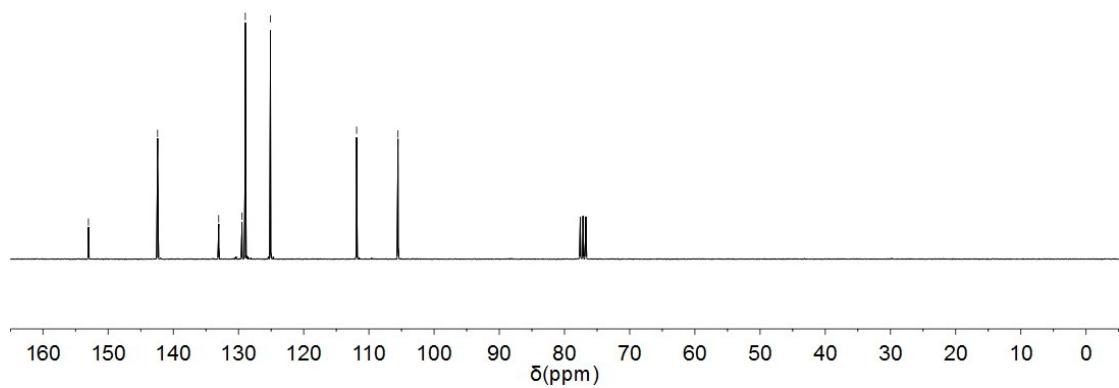
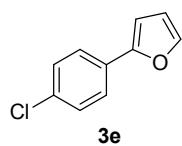




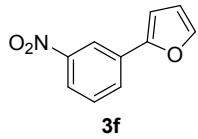
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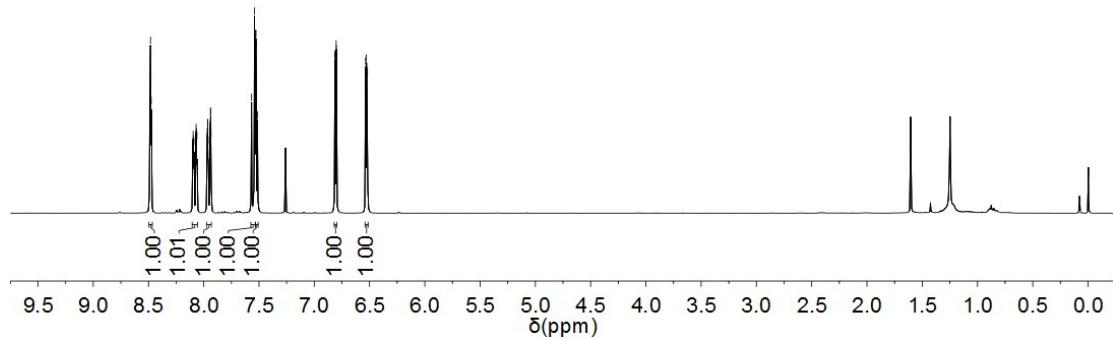
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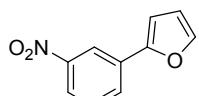
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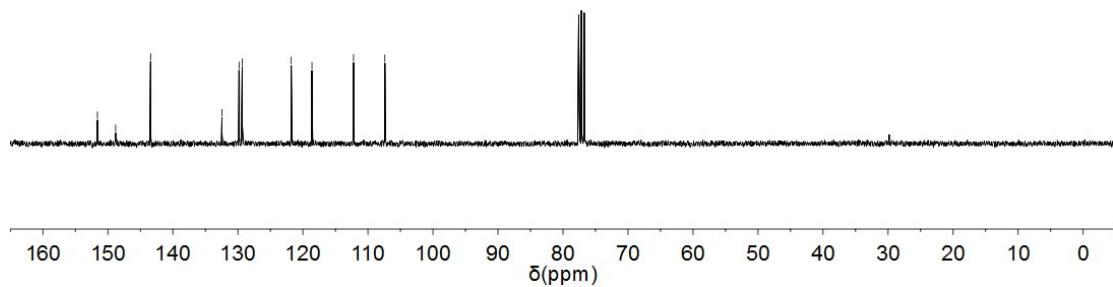
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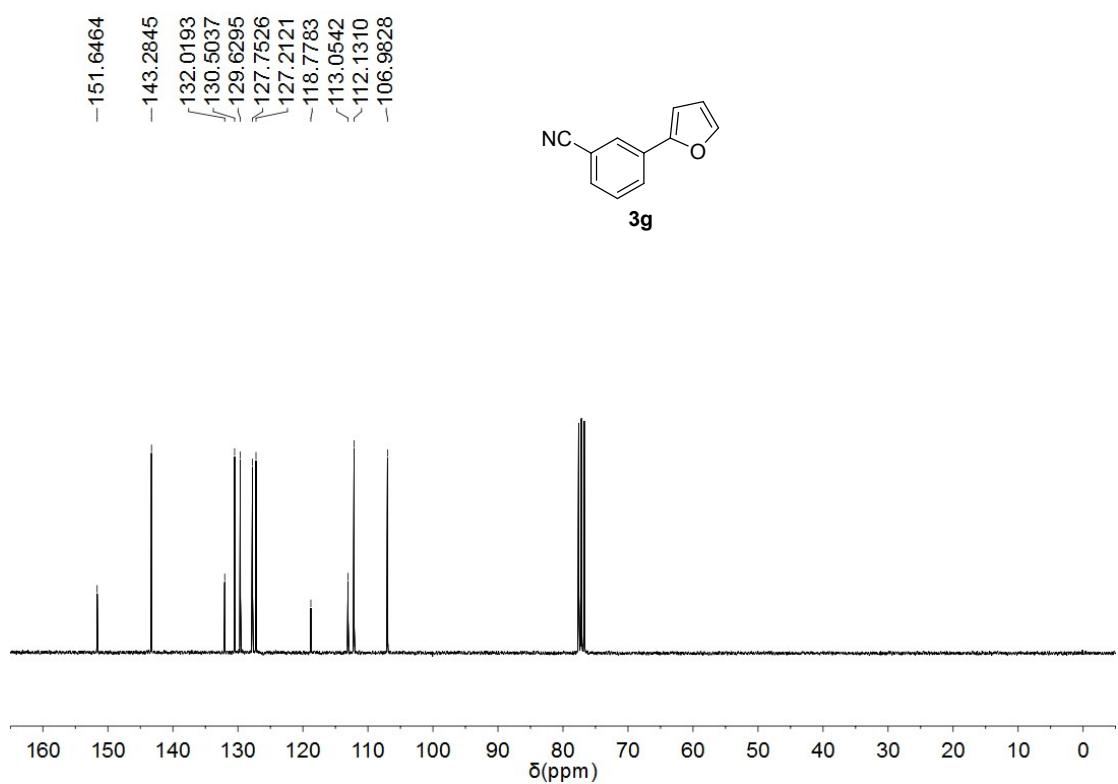
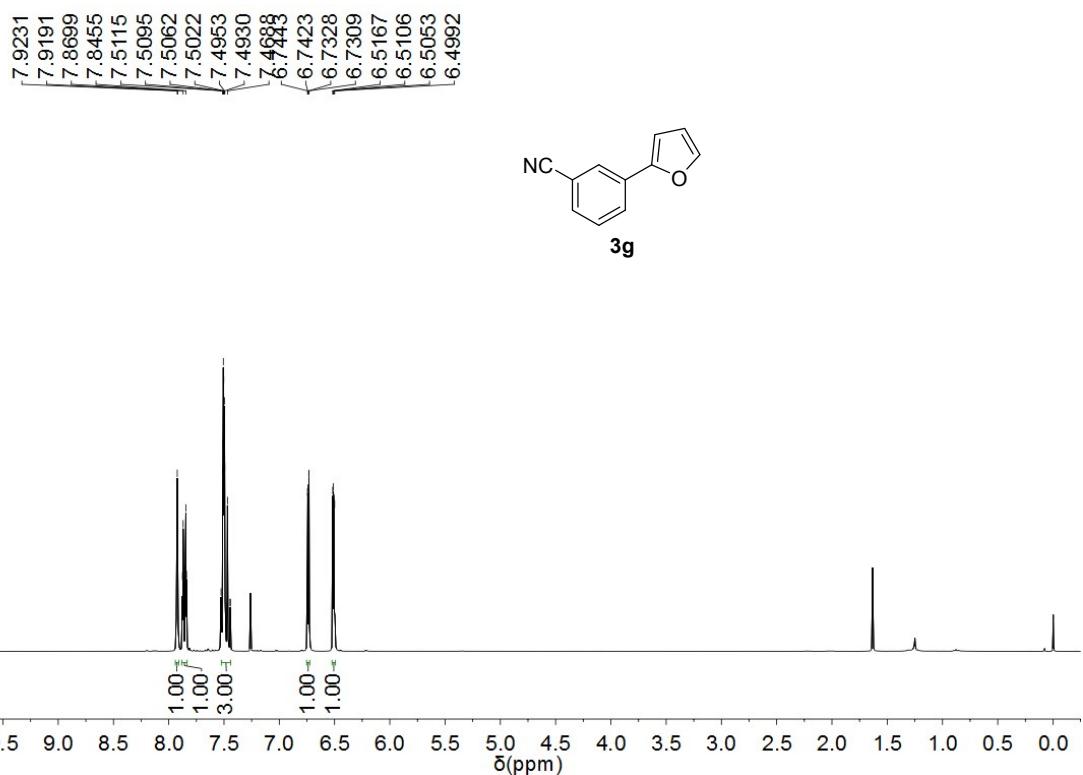


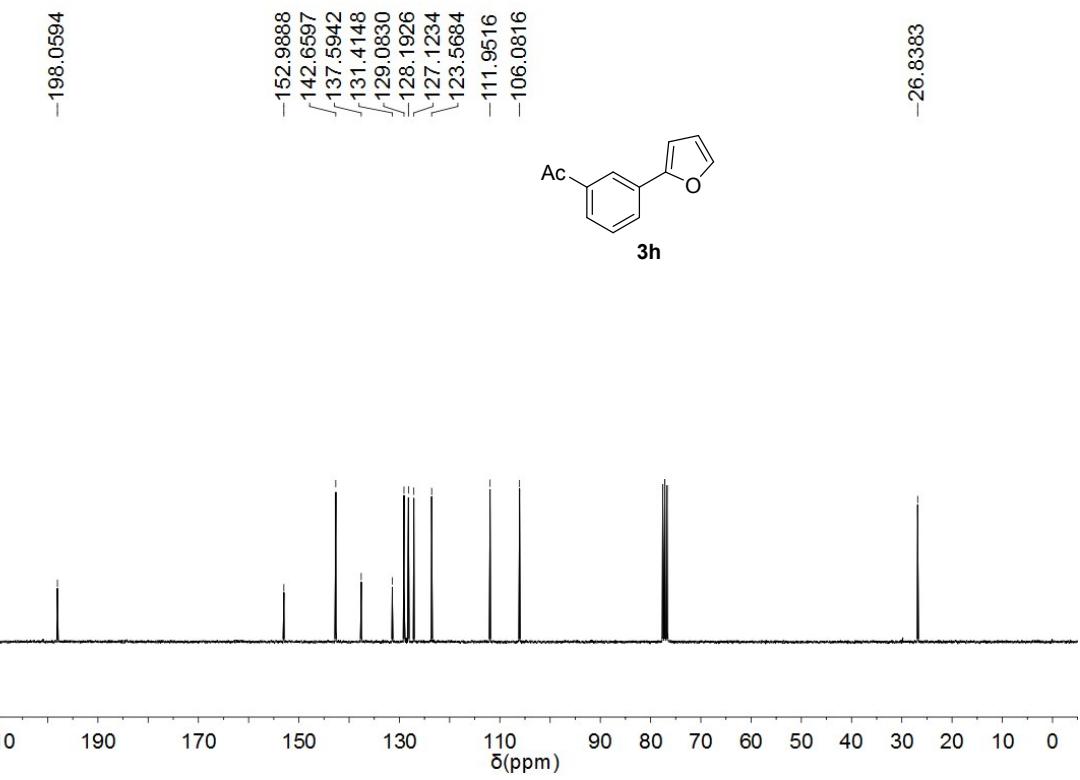
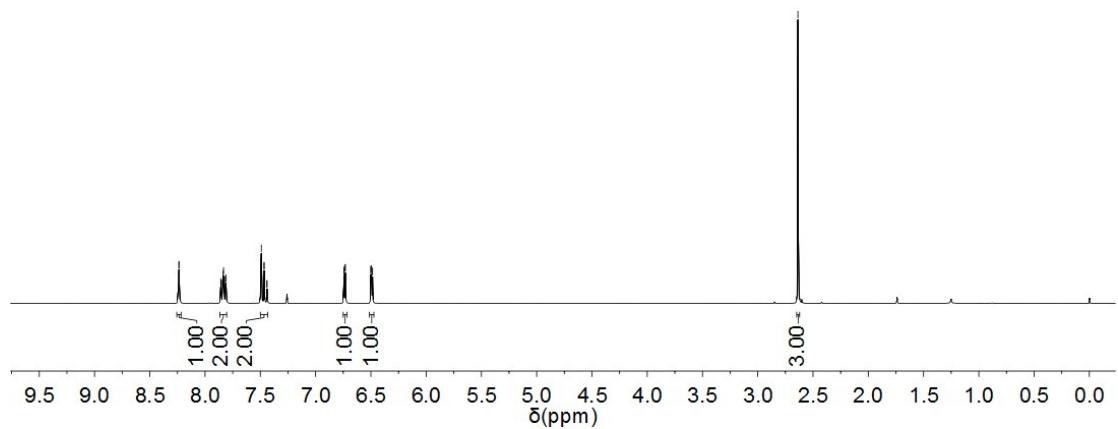
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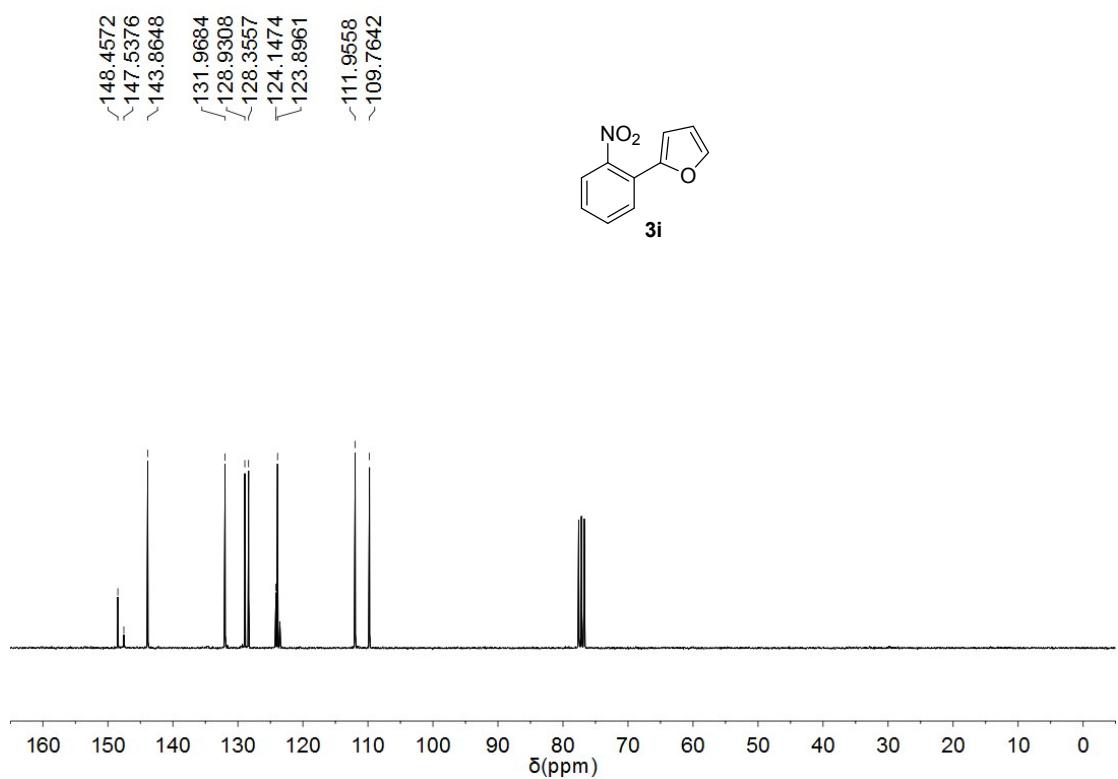
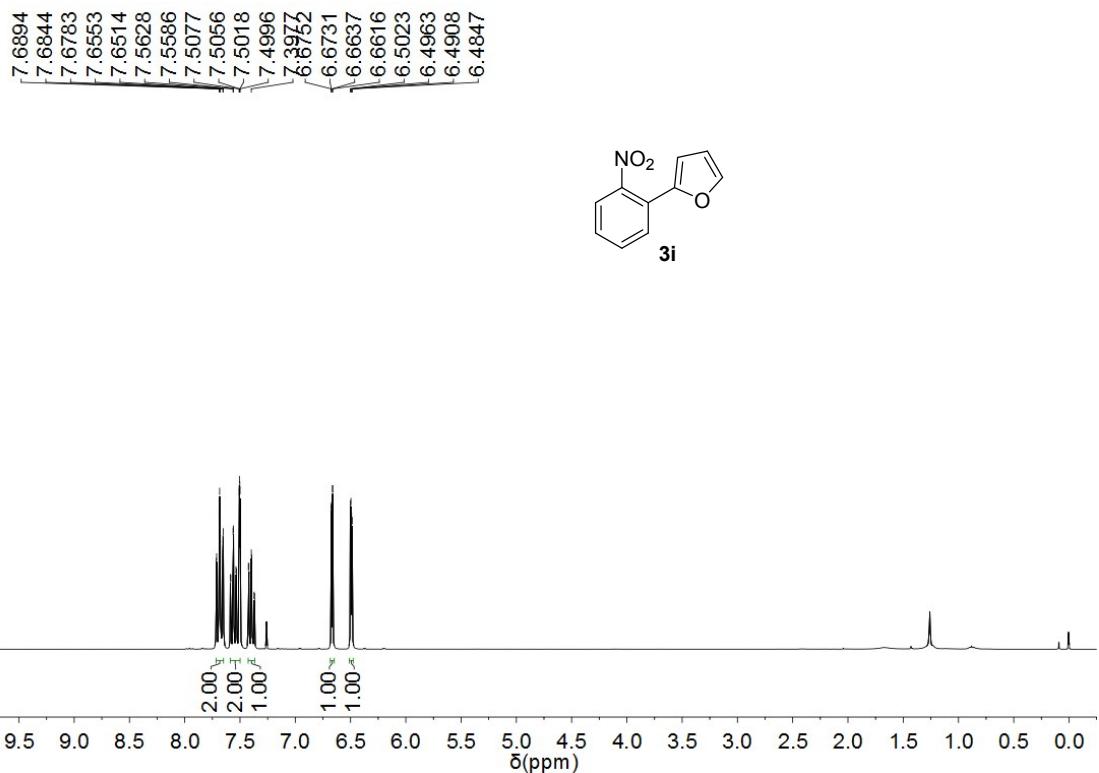


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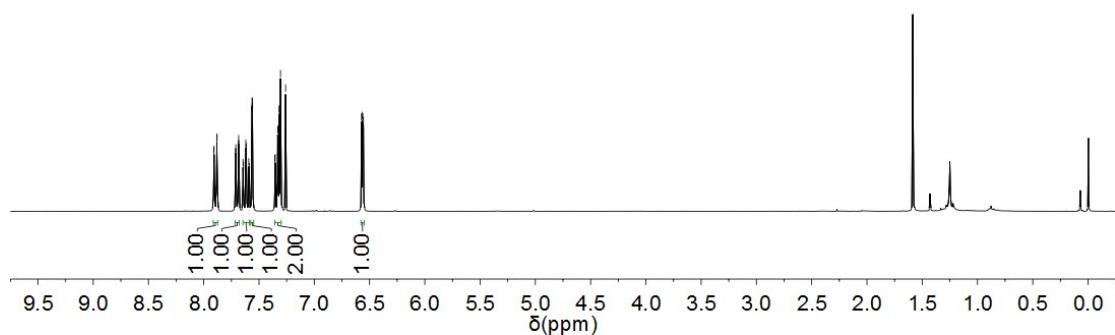
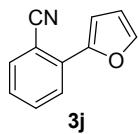




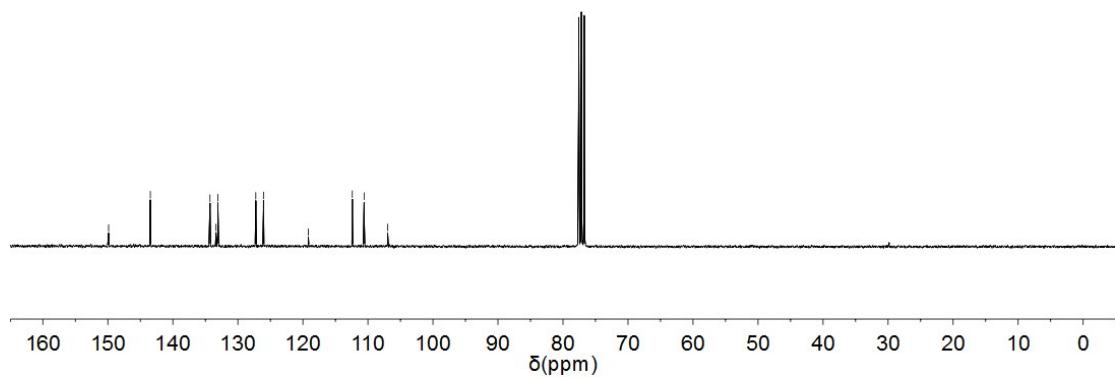
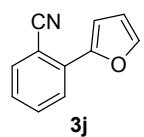




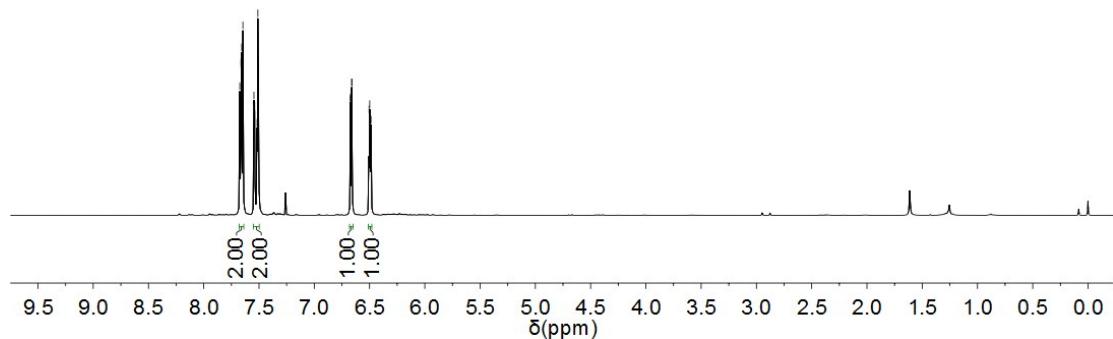
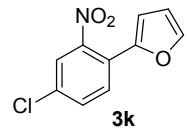
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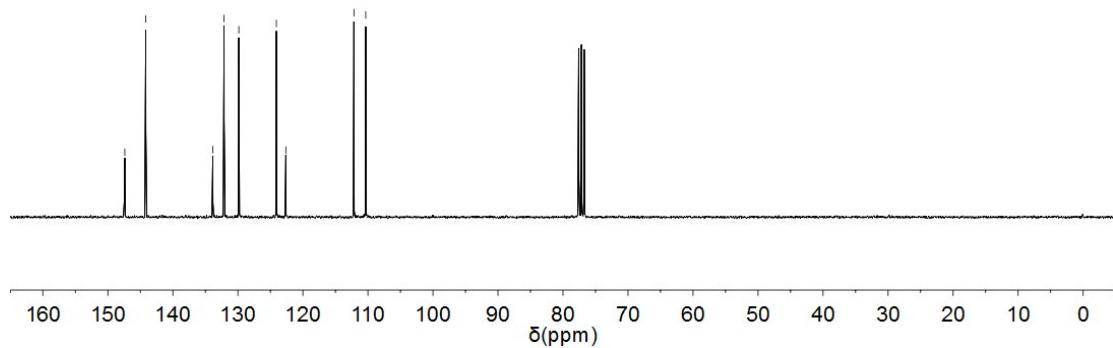
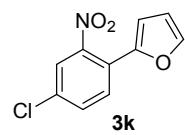
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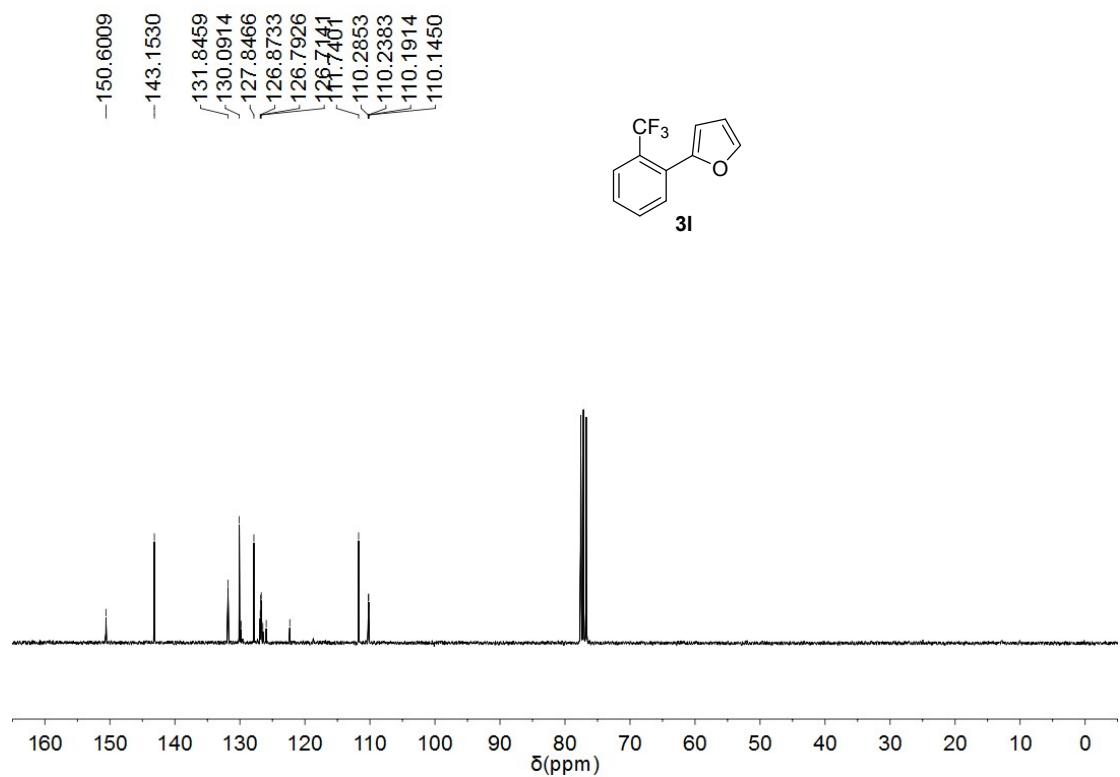
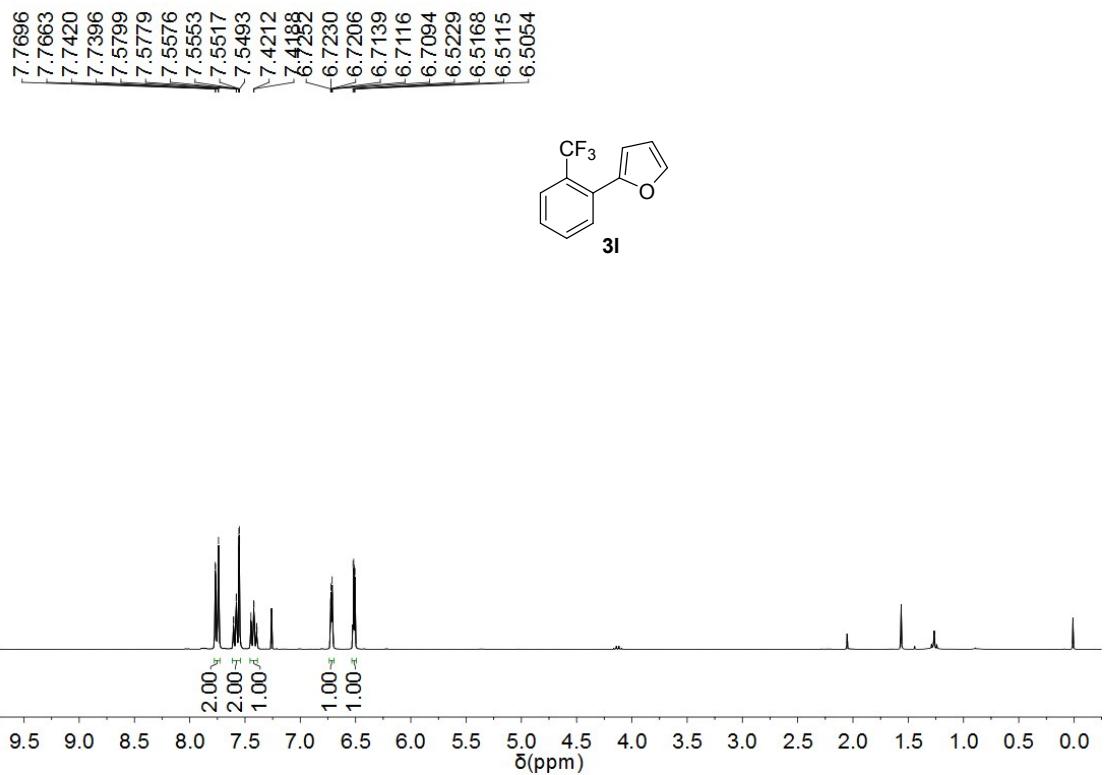


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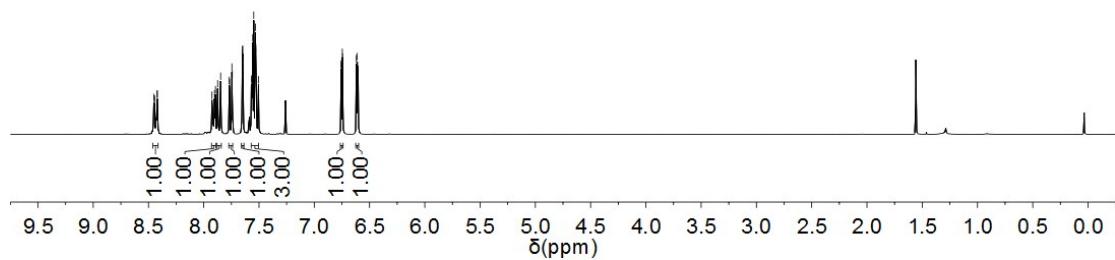
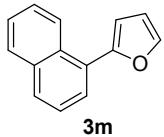


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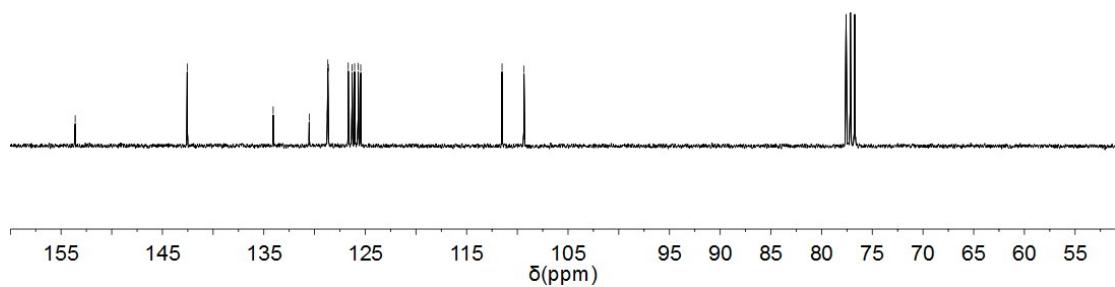
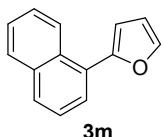
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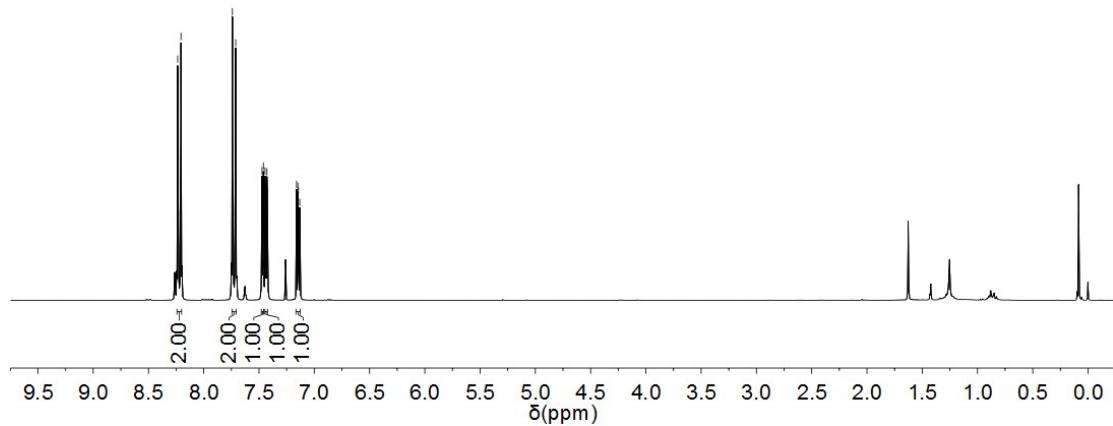
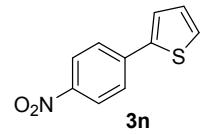
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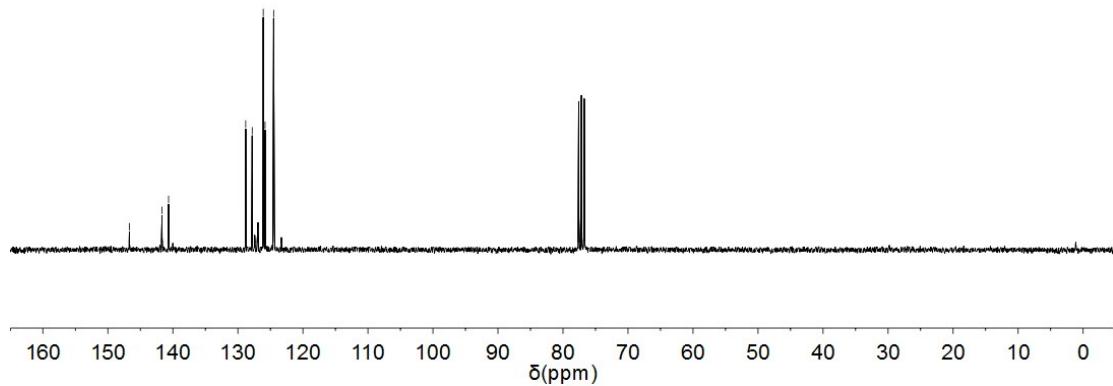
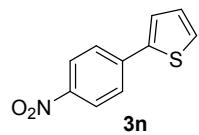
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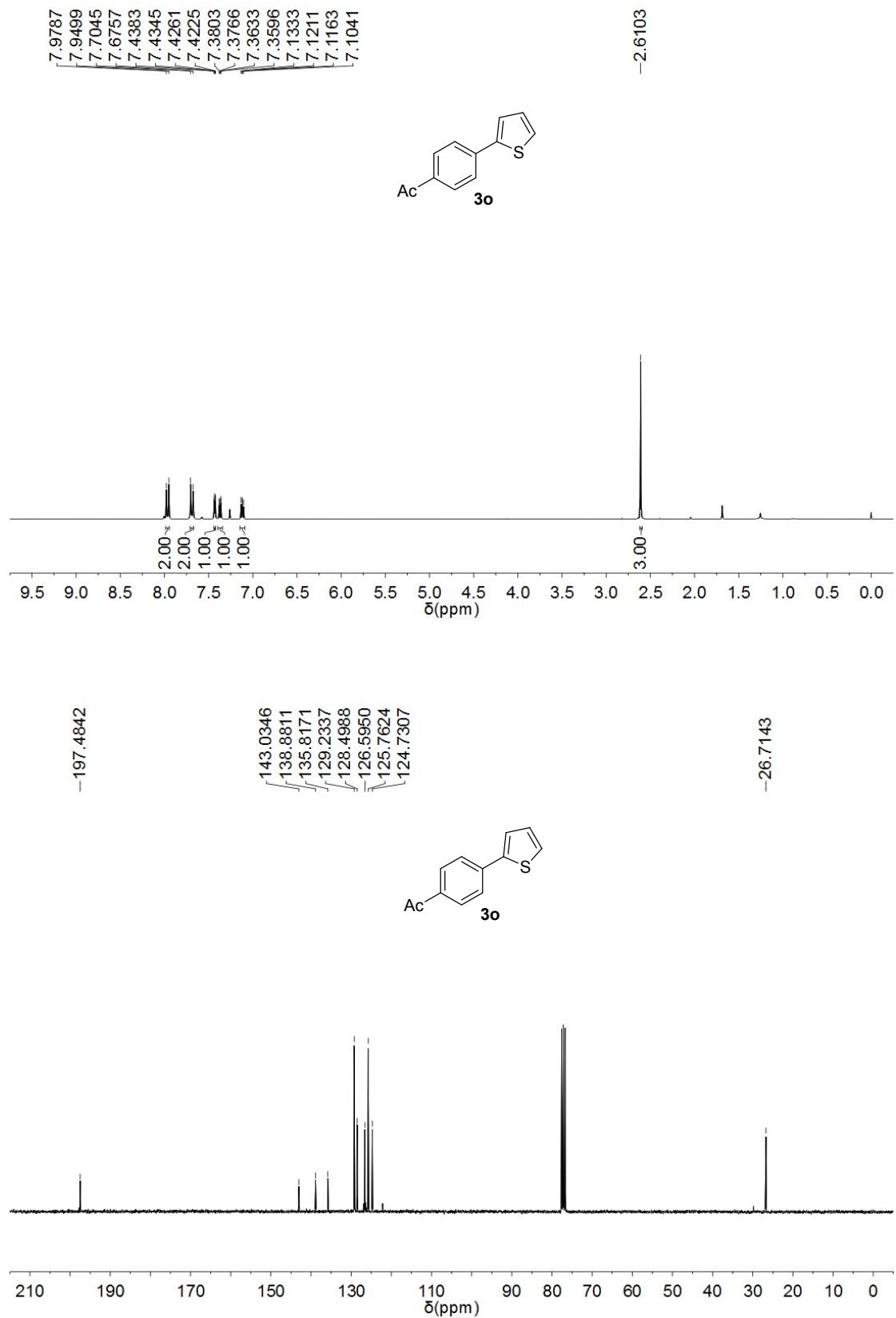


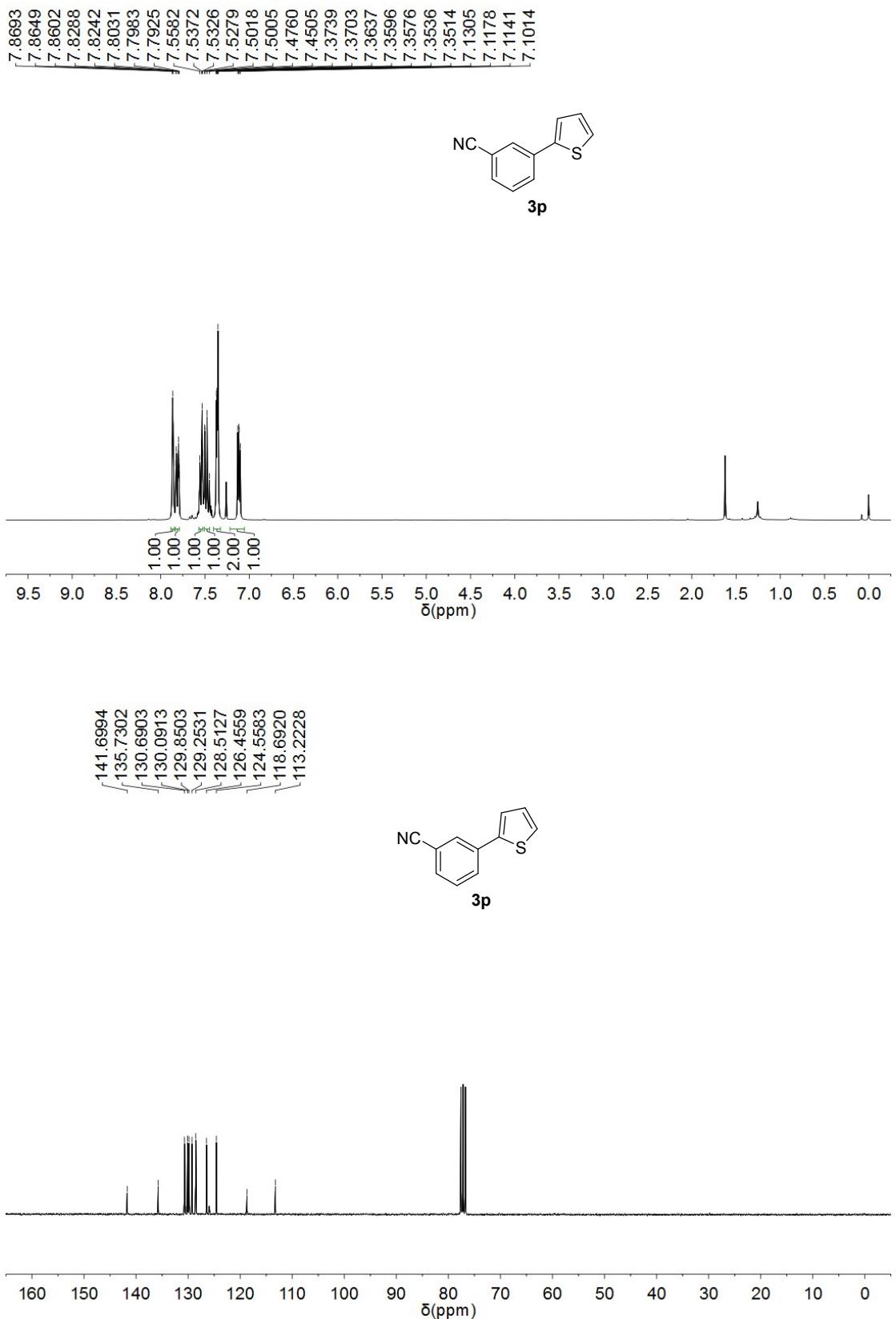
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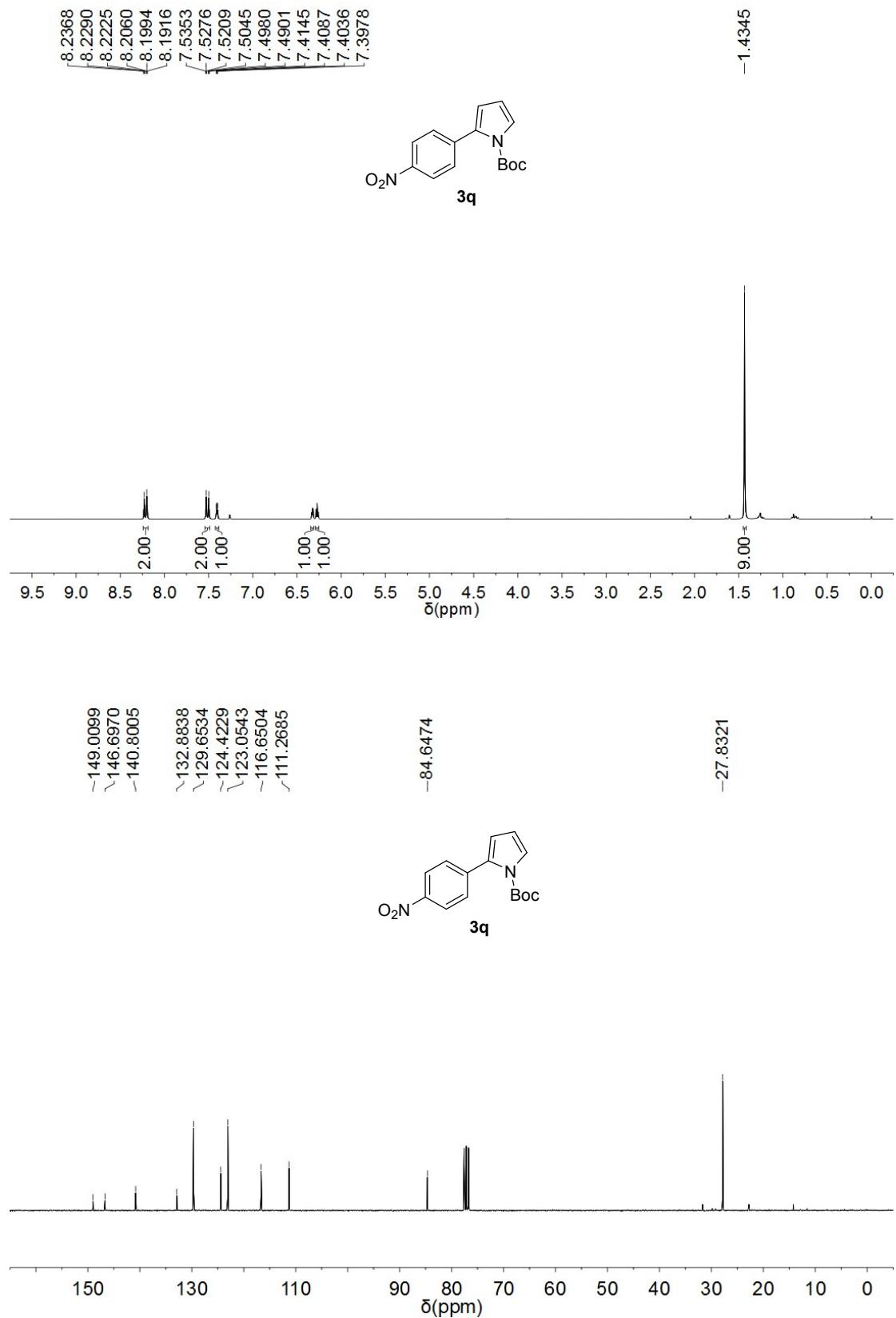


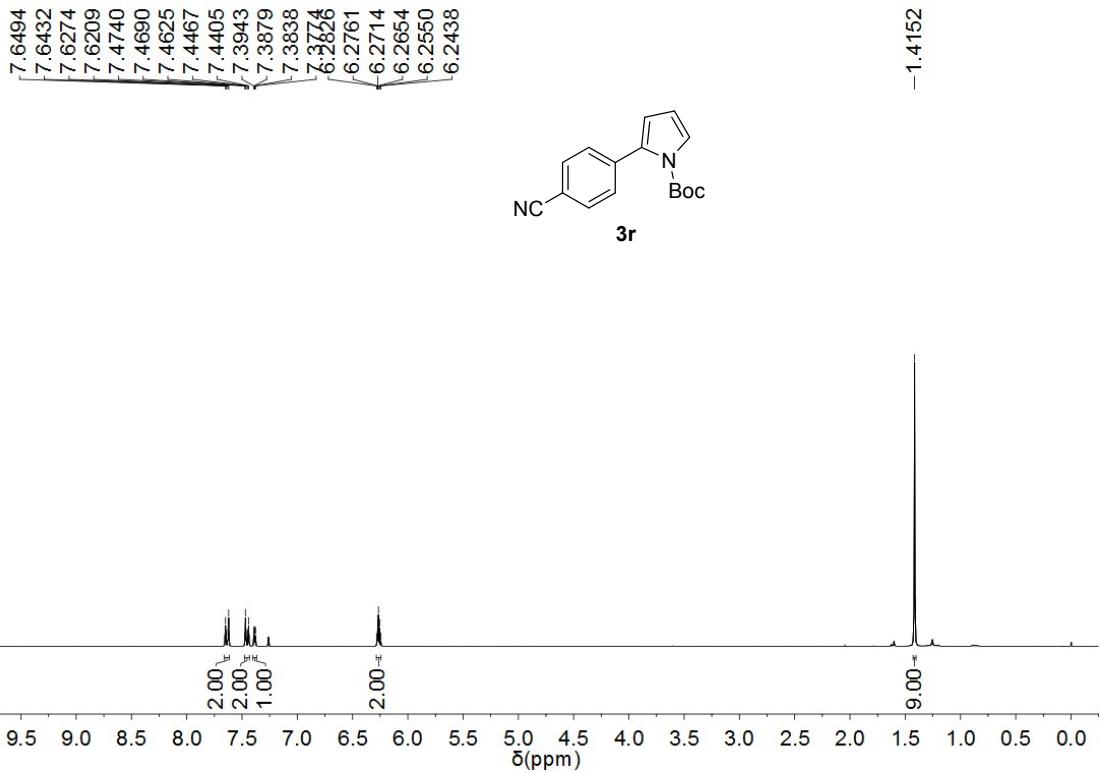
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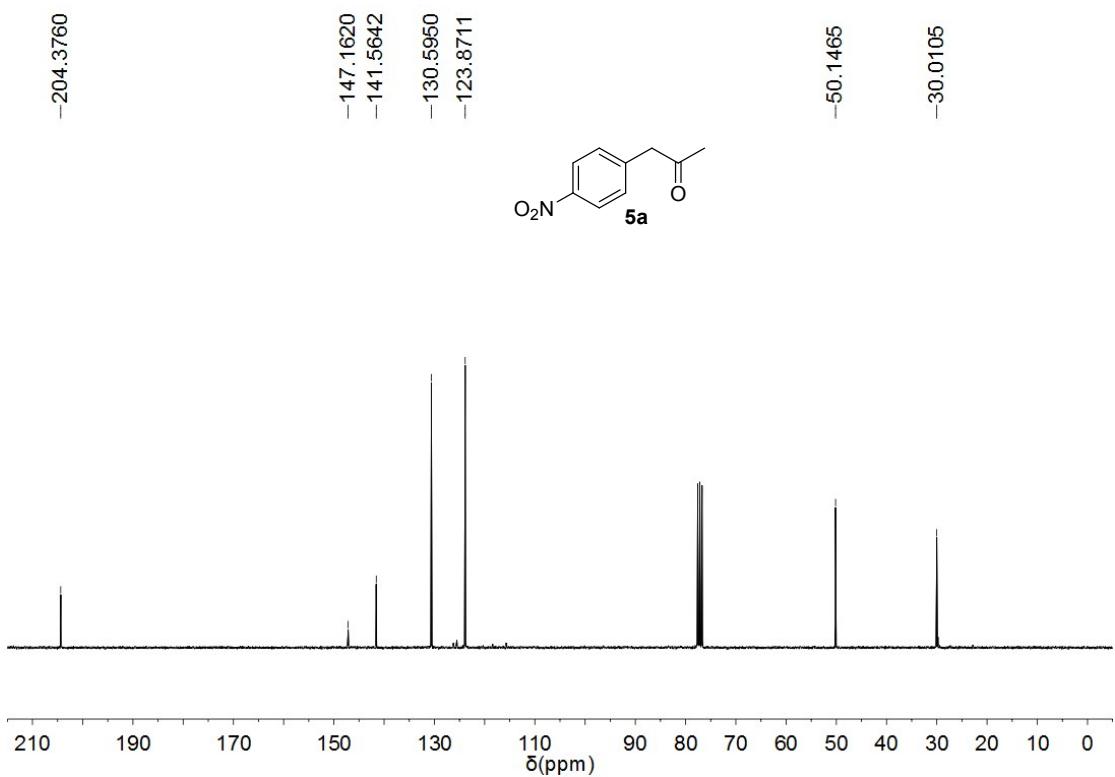
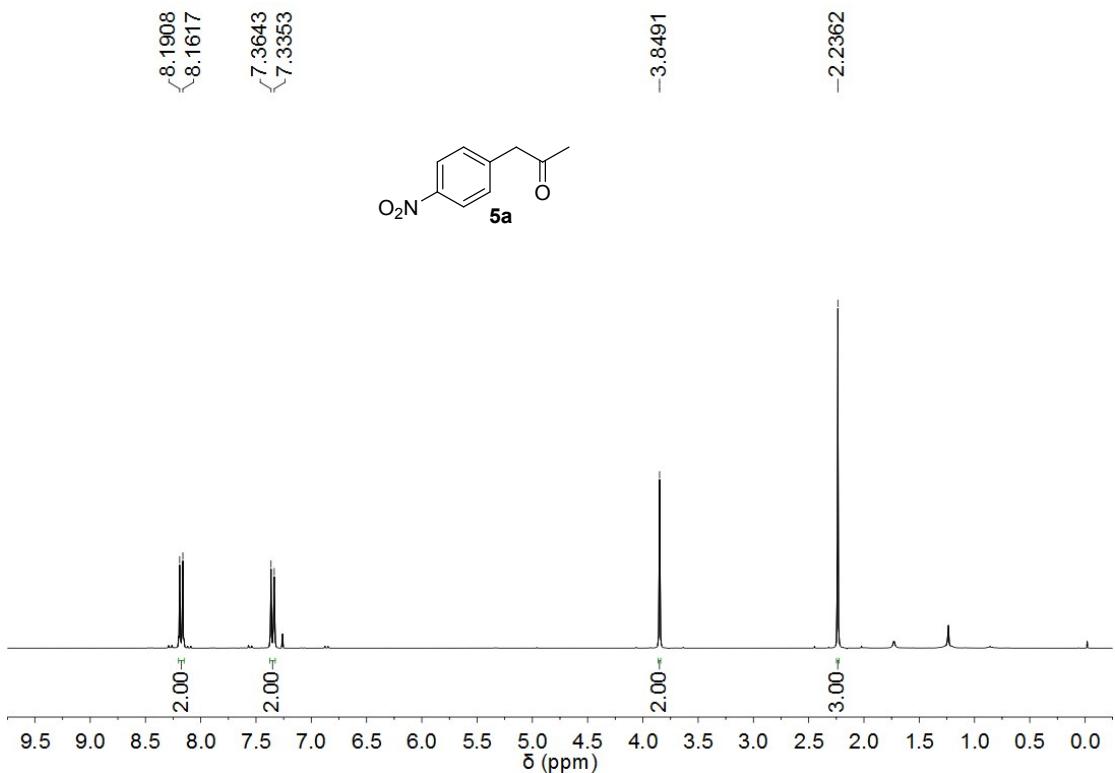


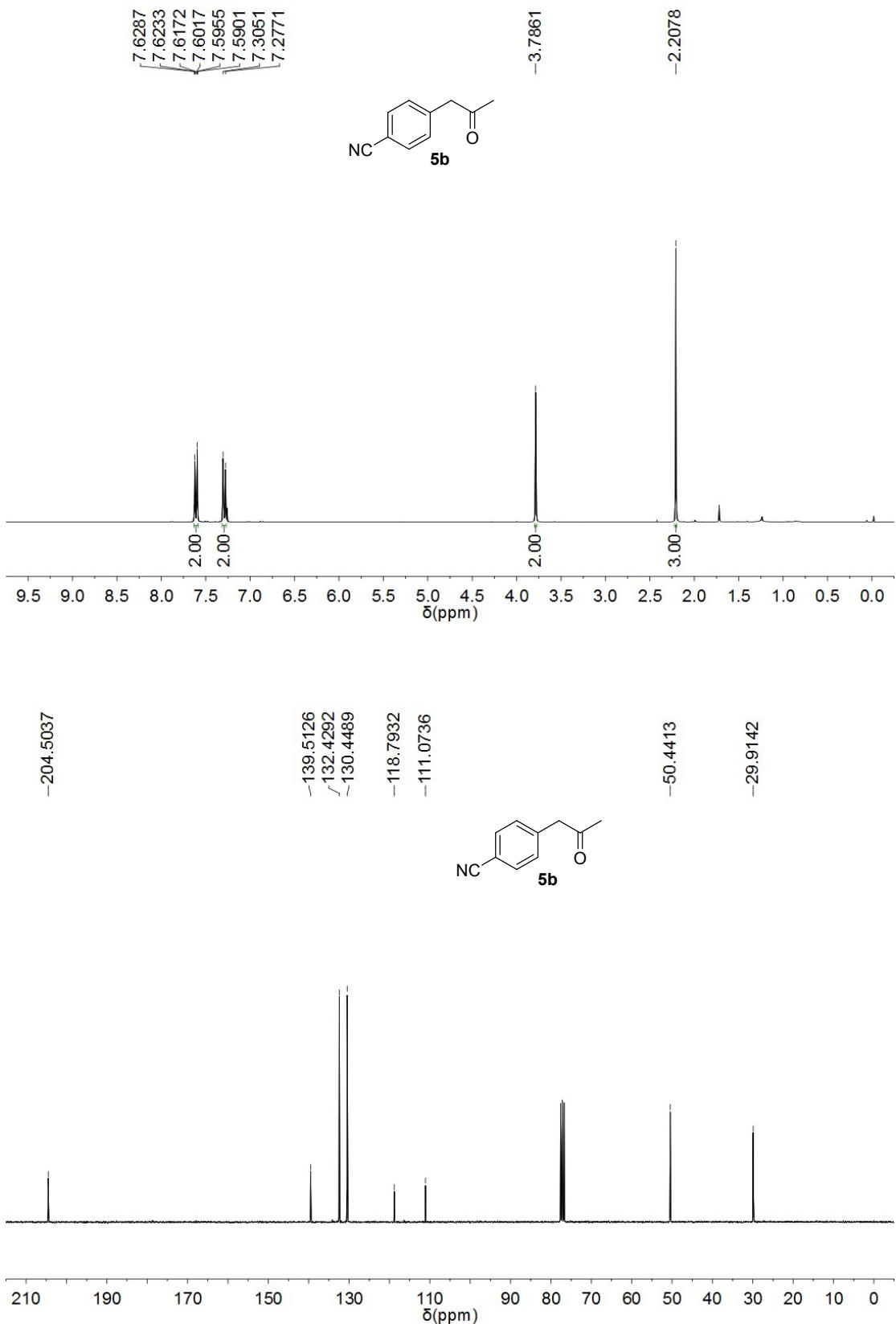


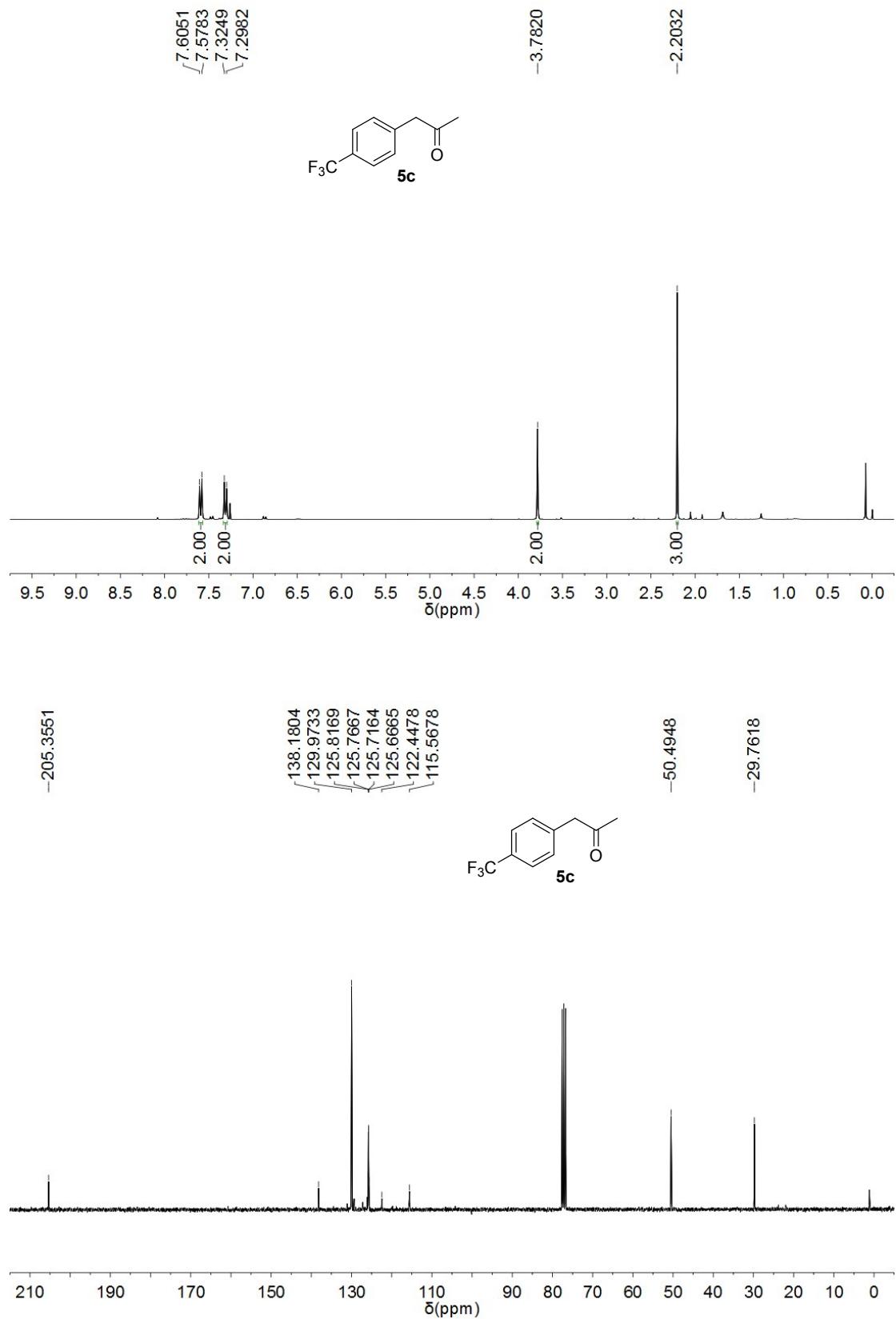


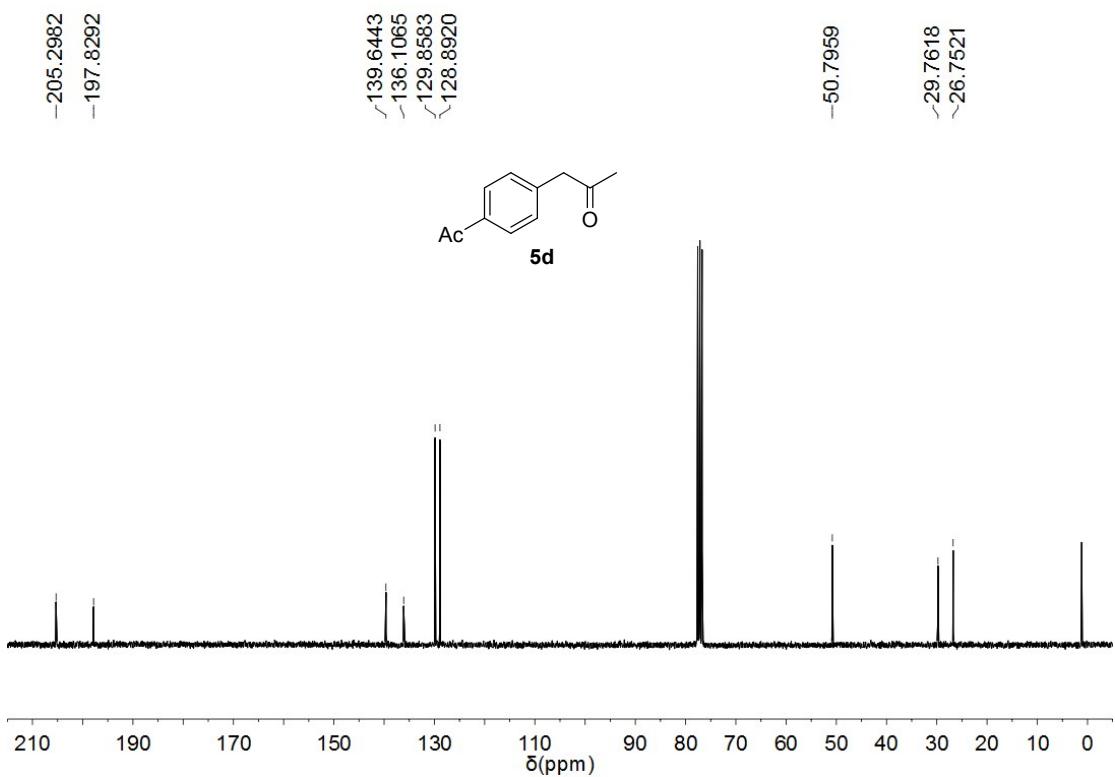
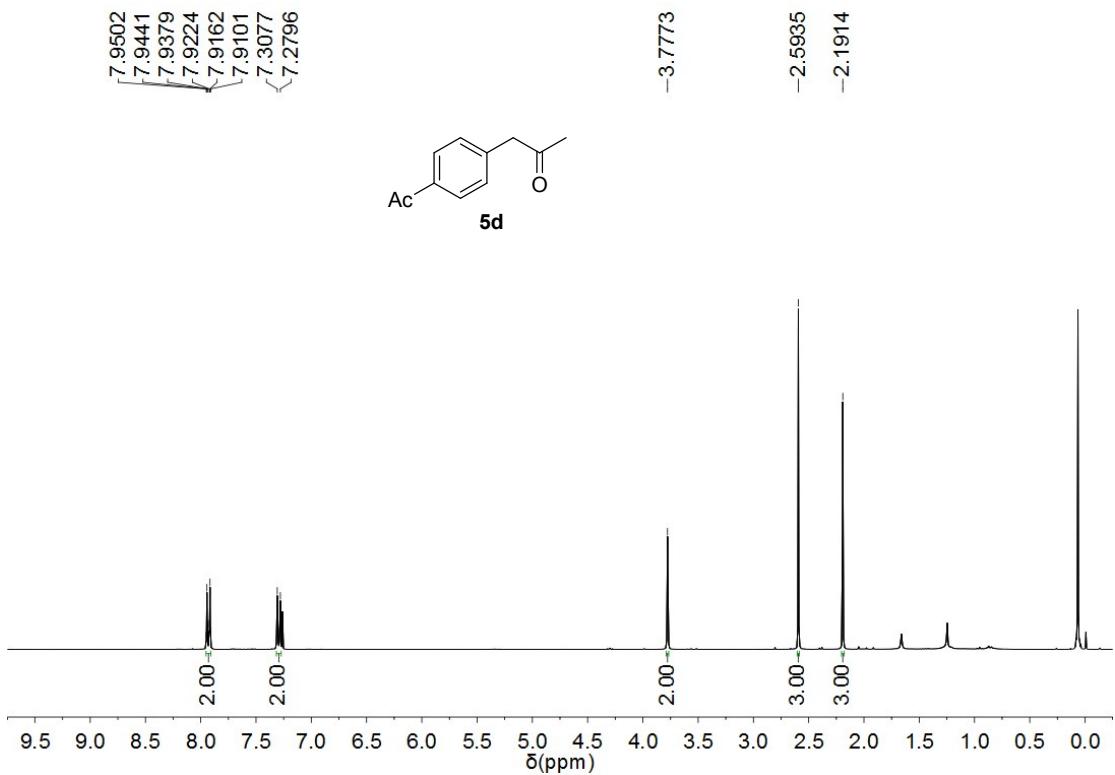


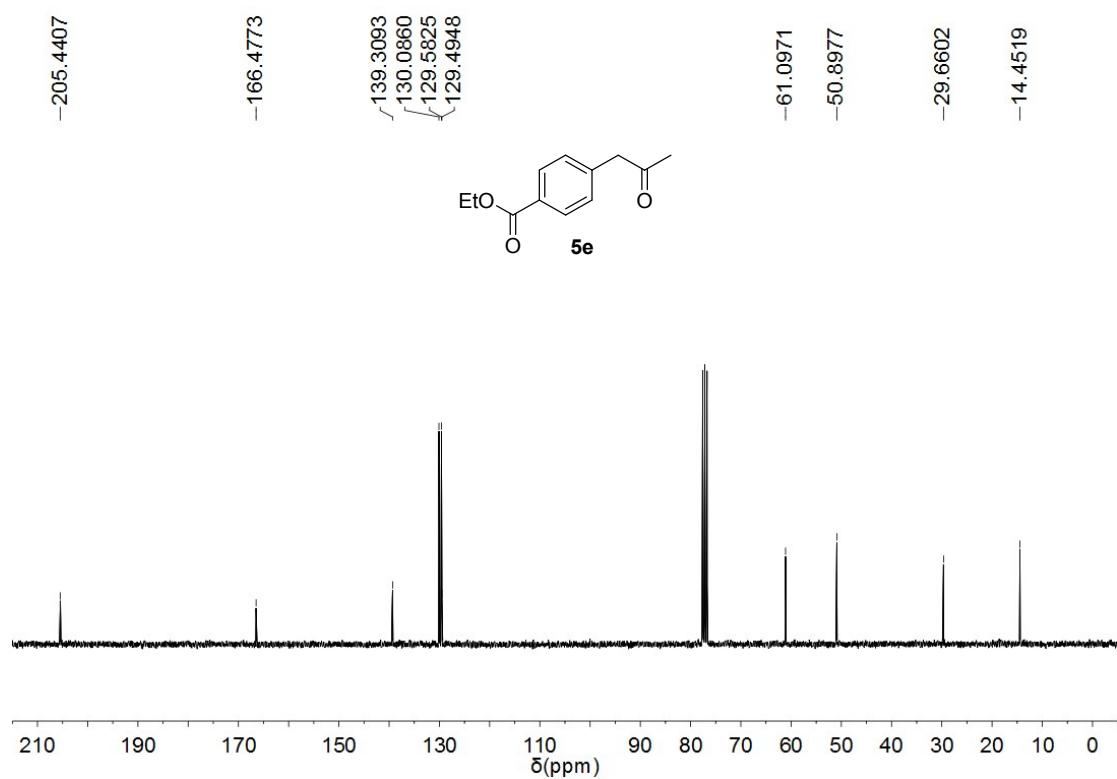
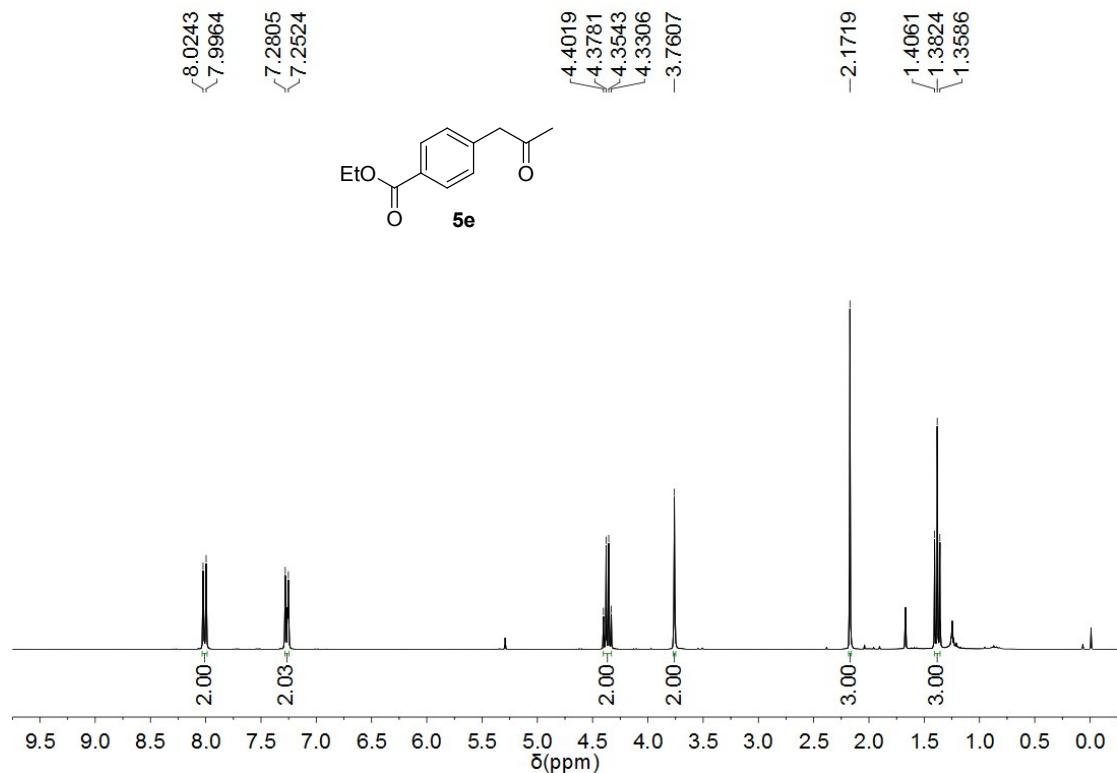


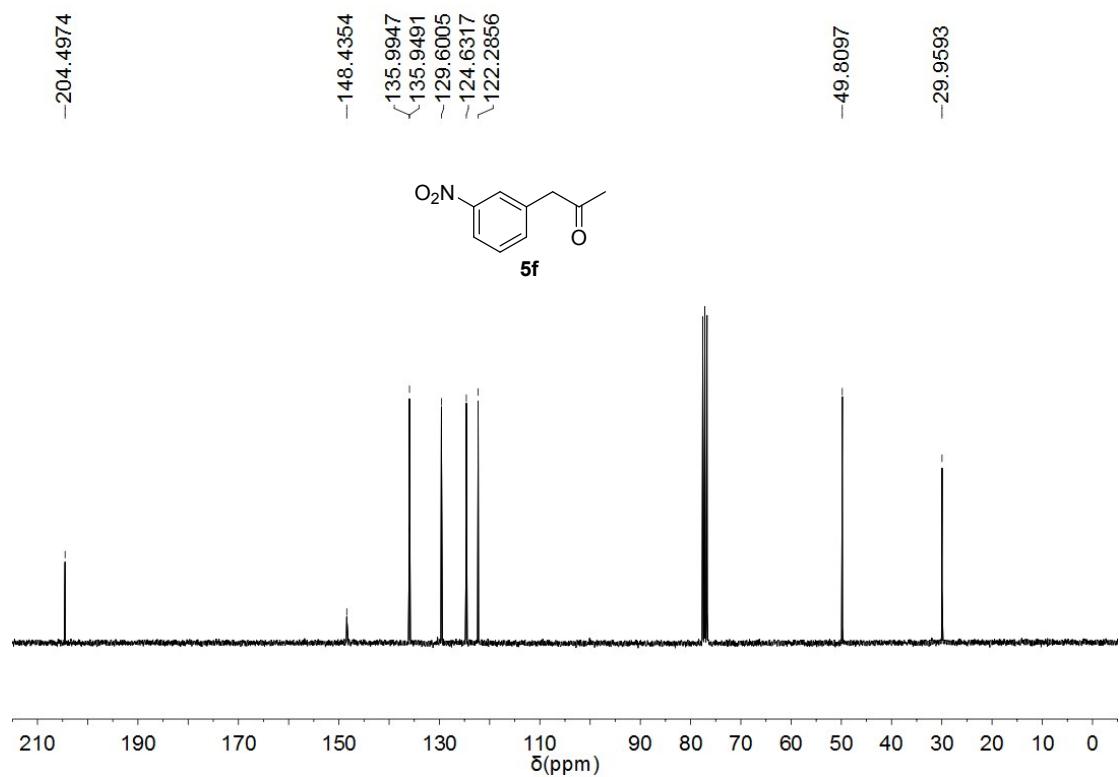
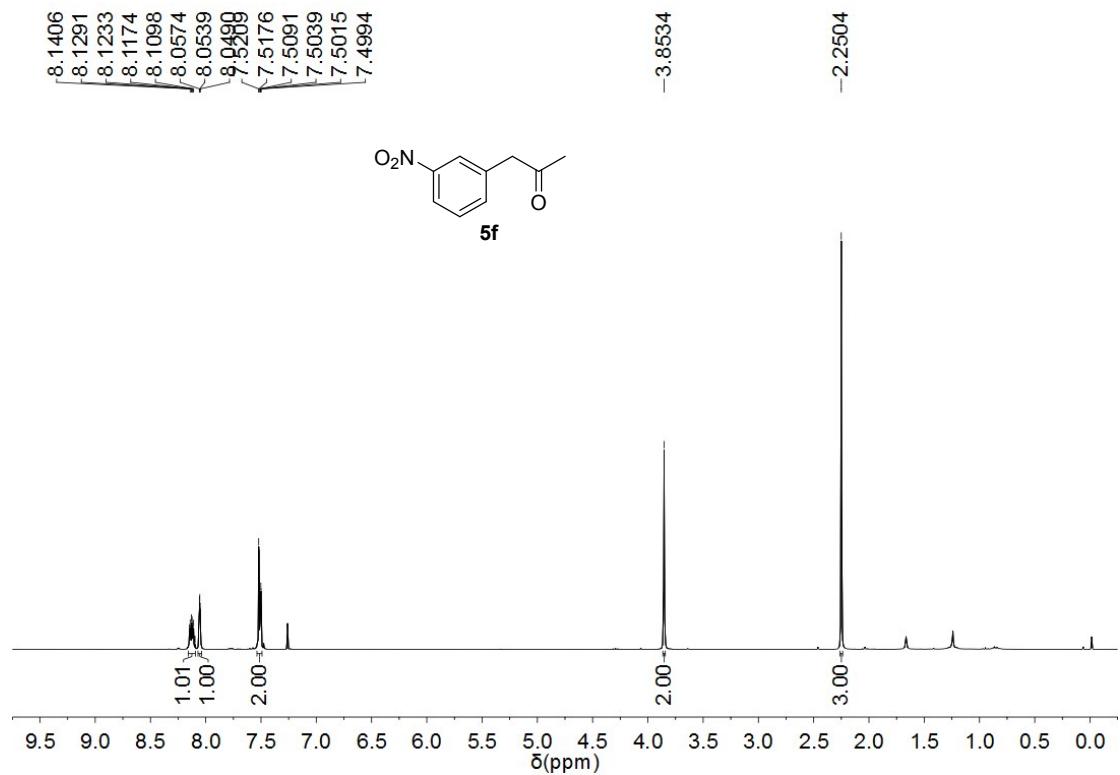




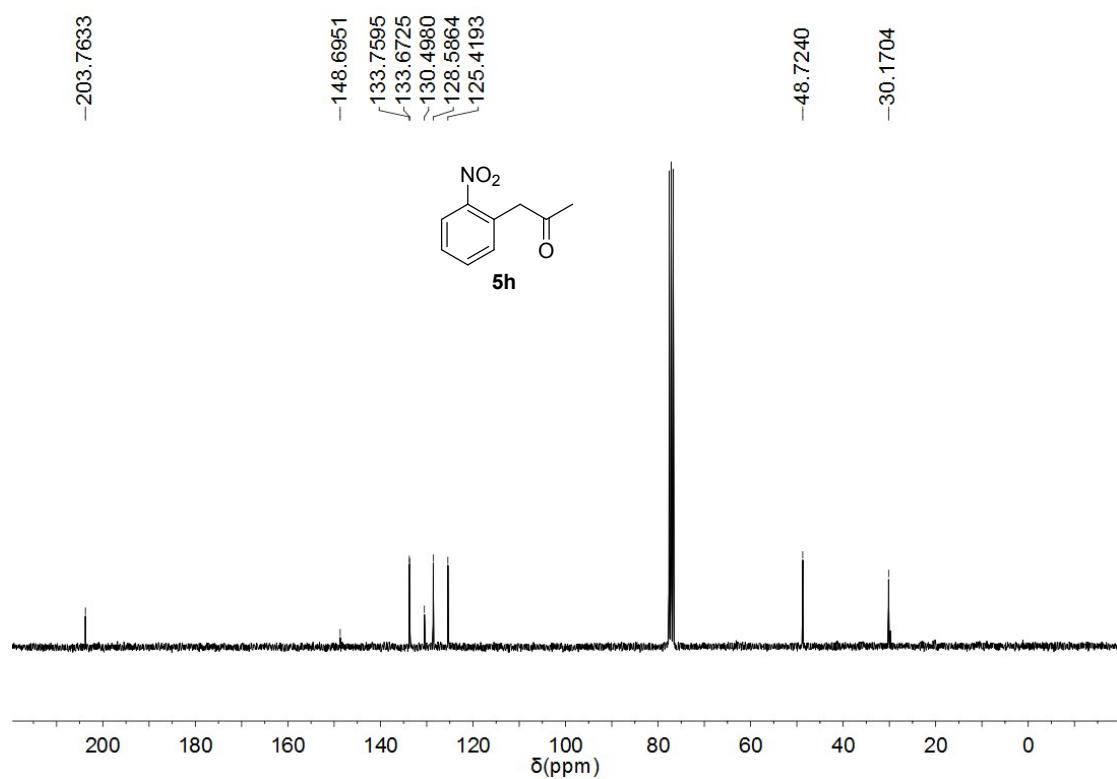
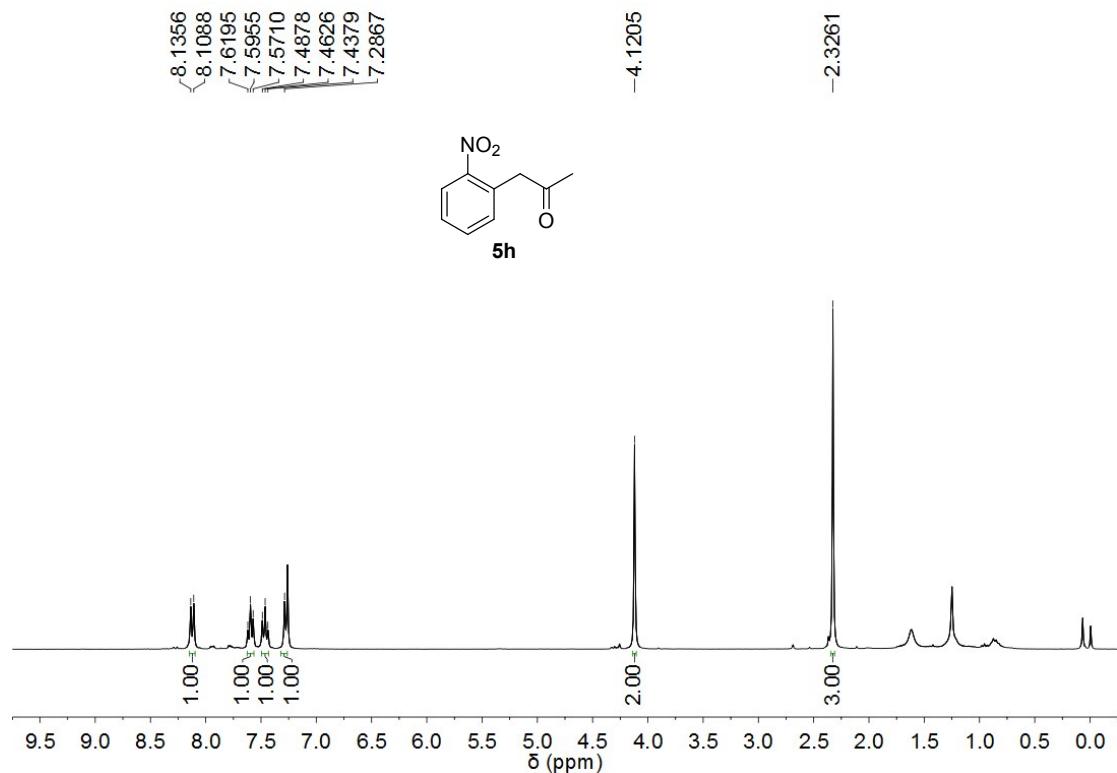


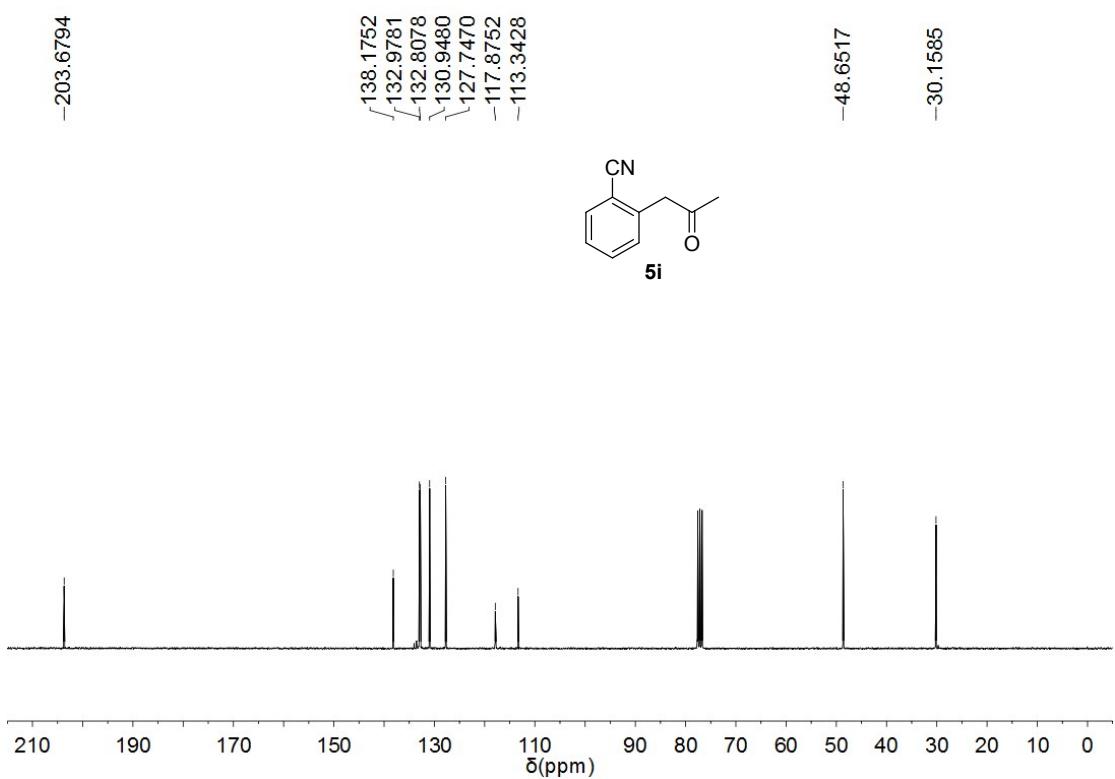
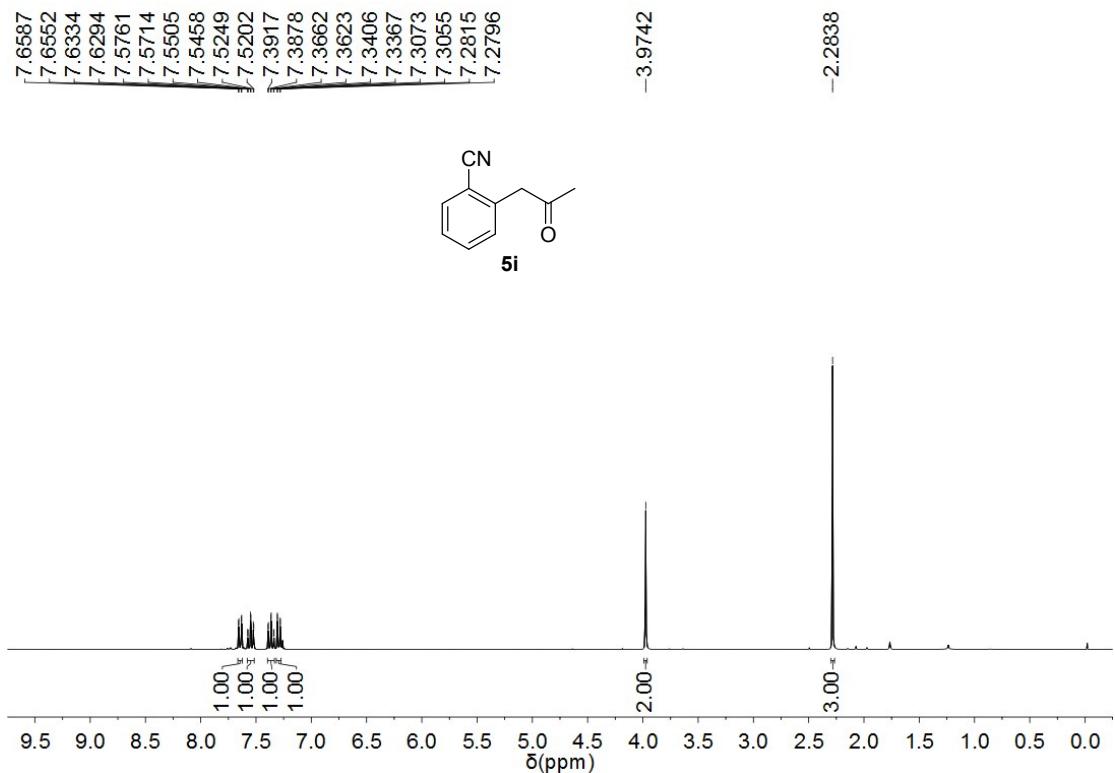


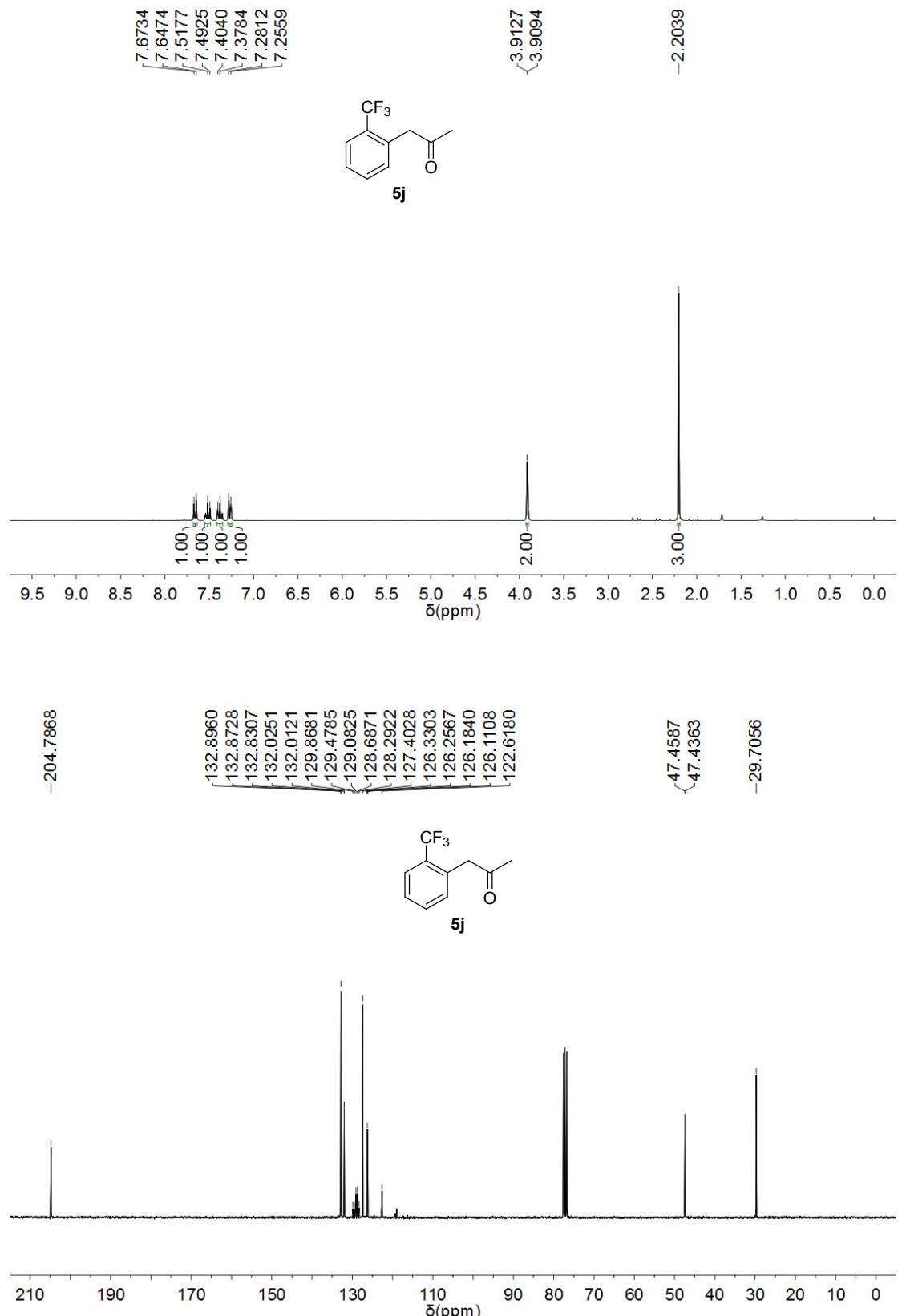


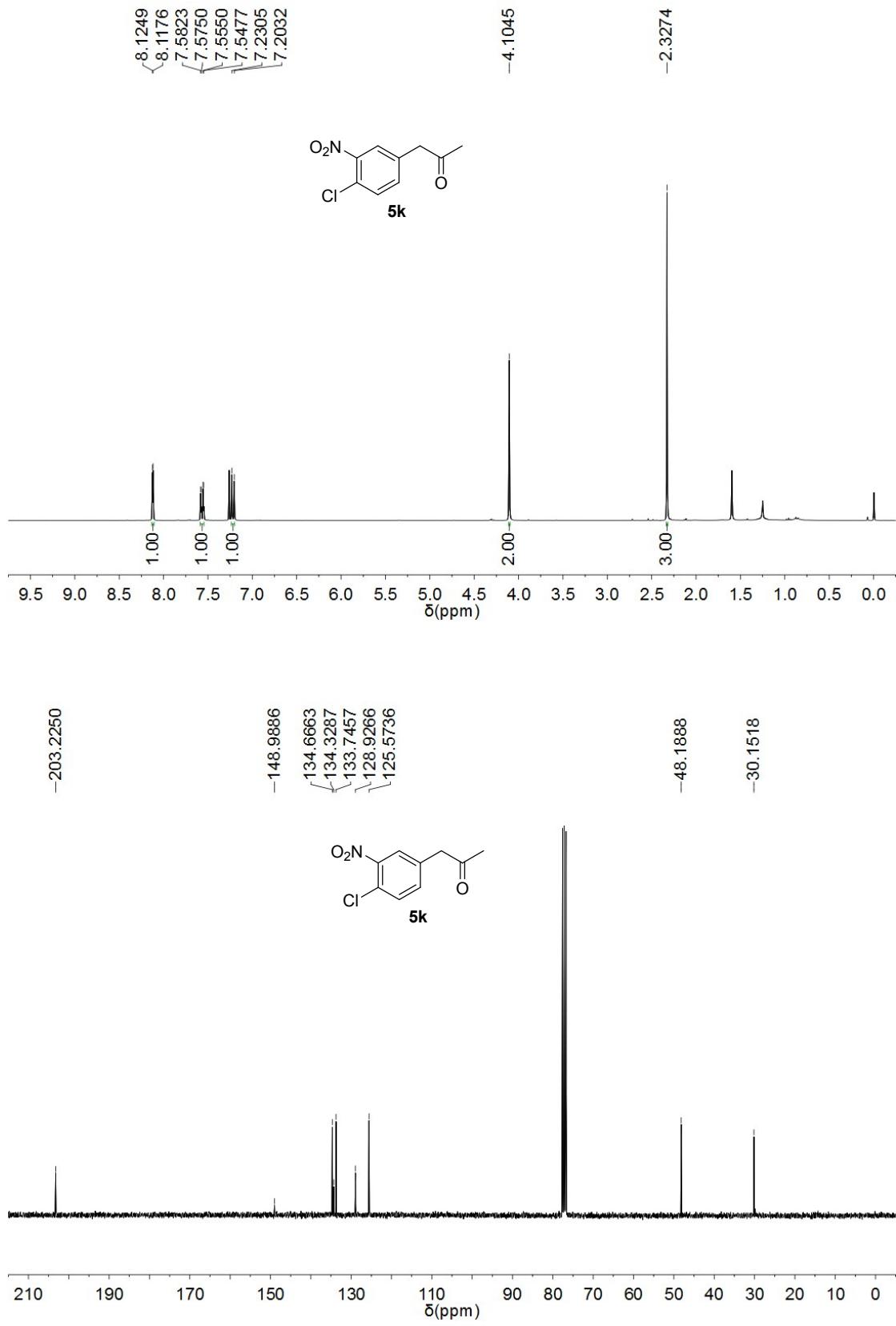


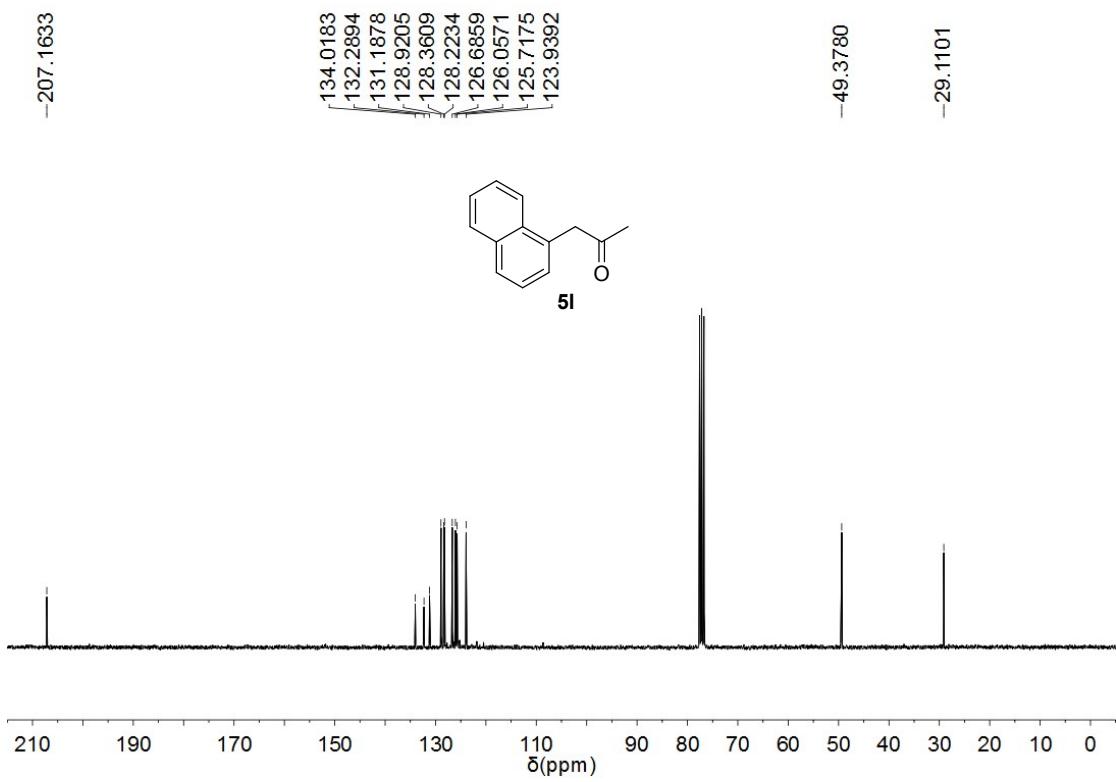
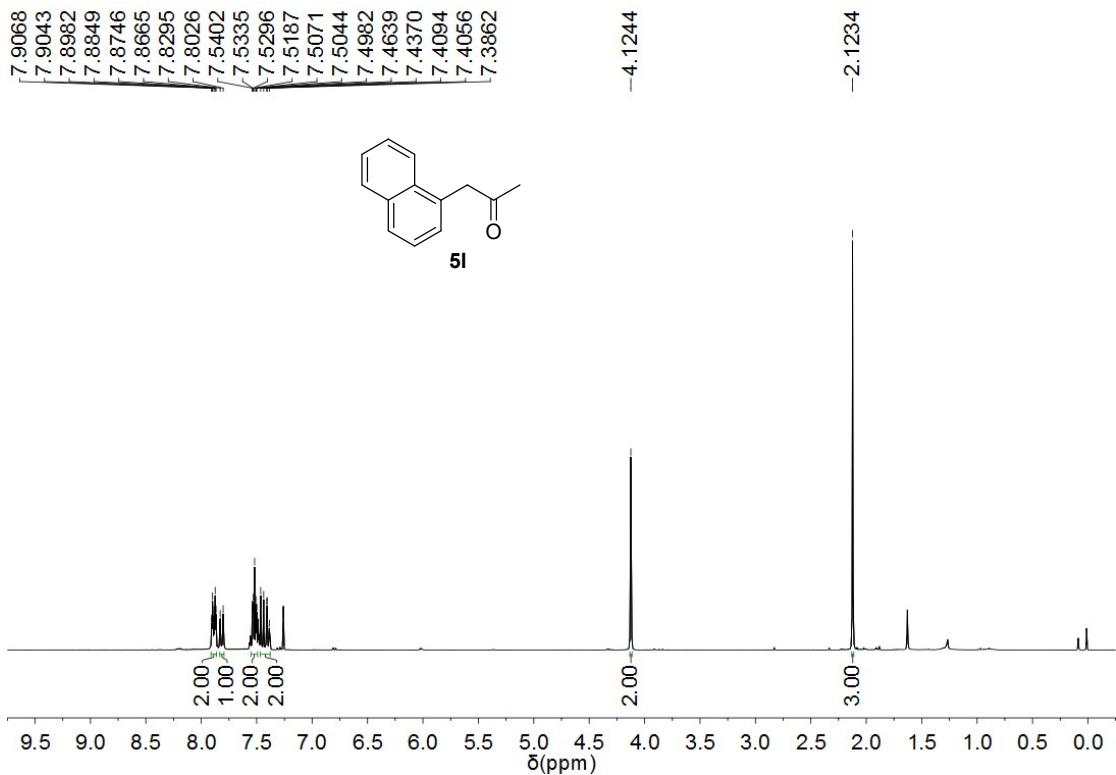




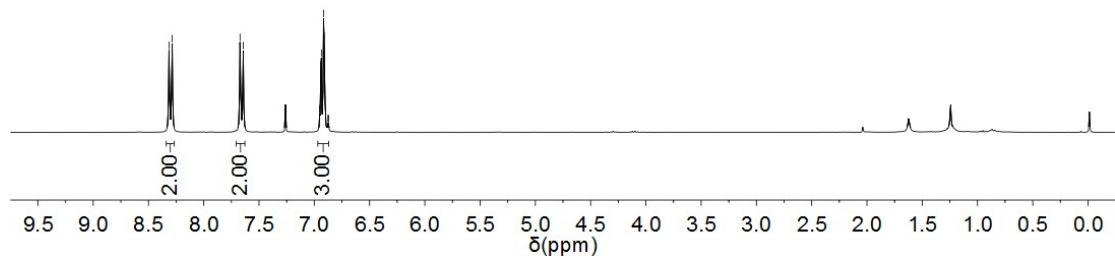
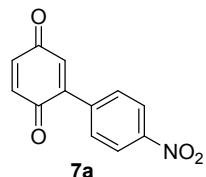
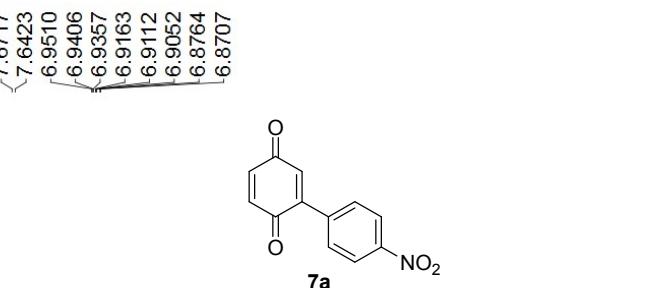






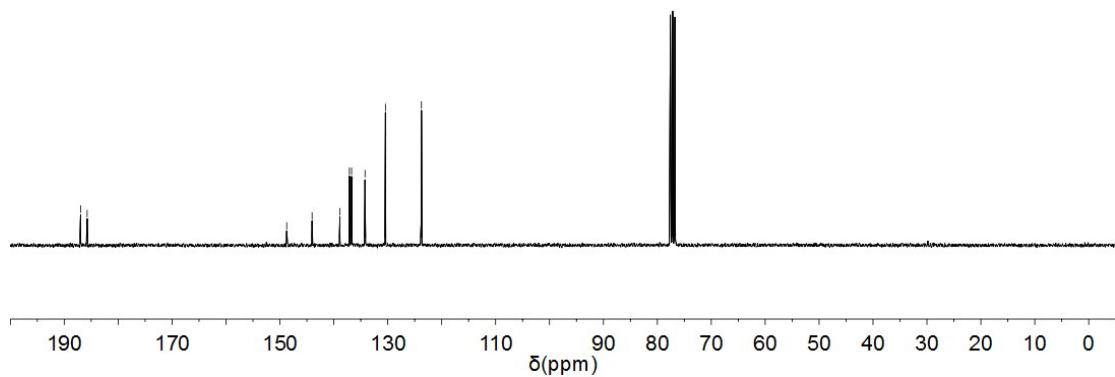
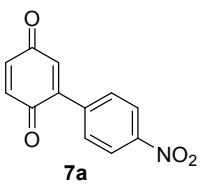


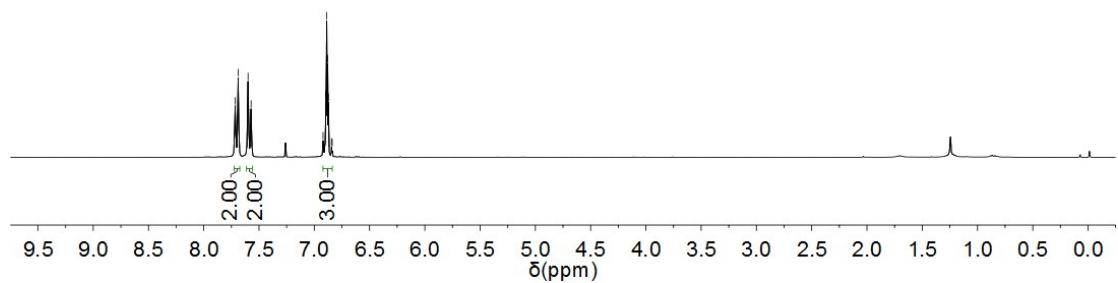
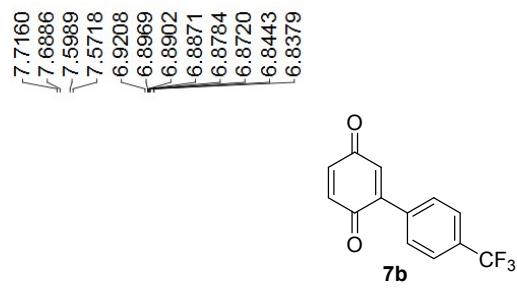
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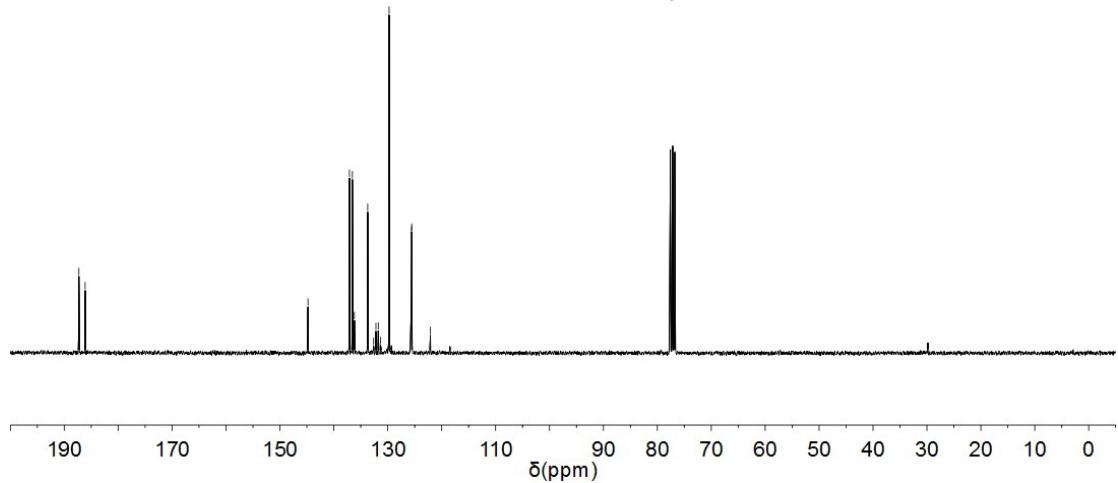
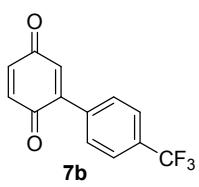
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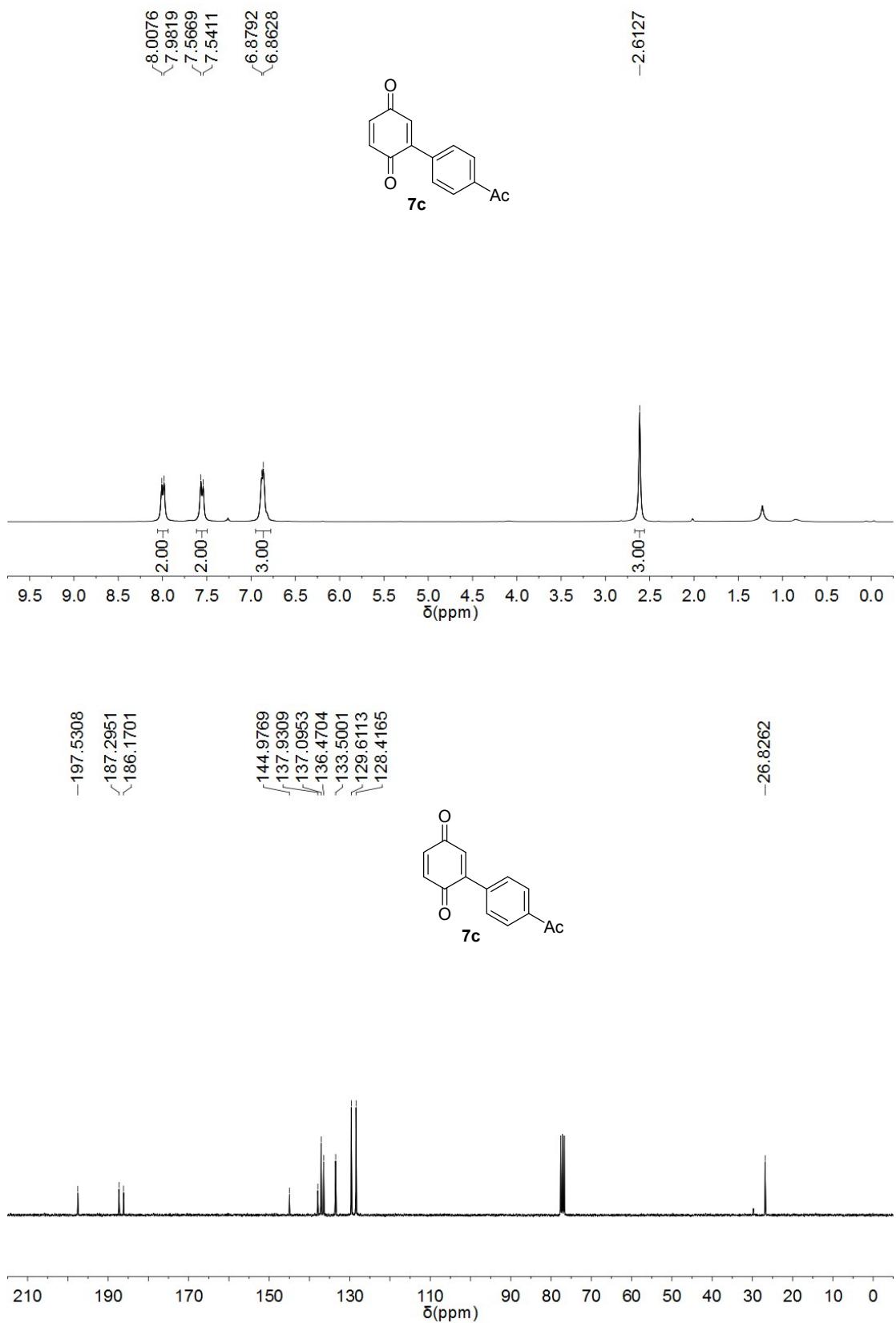




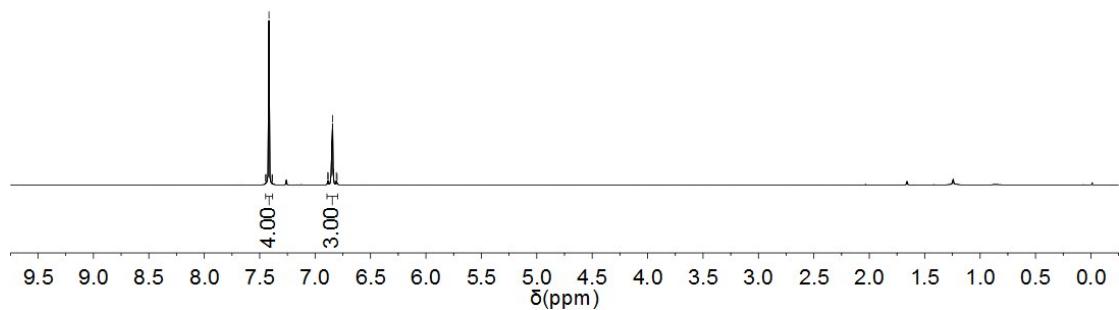
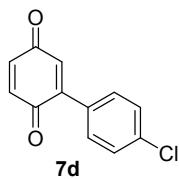
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 ^186 1239

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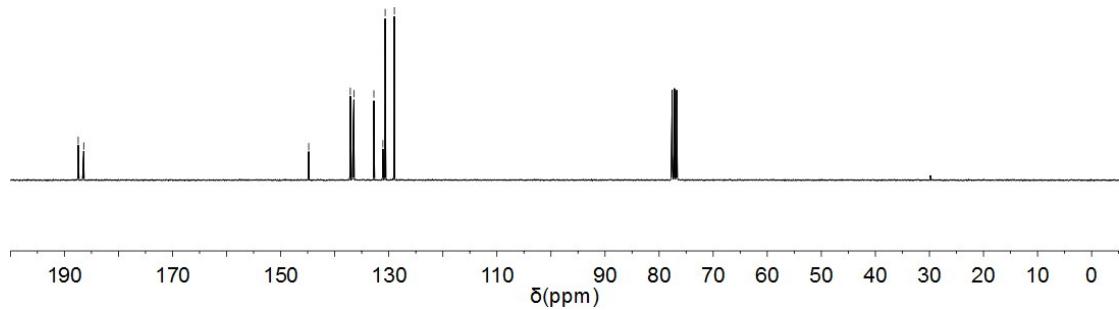
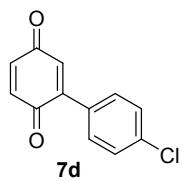


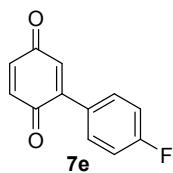
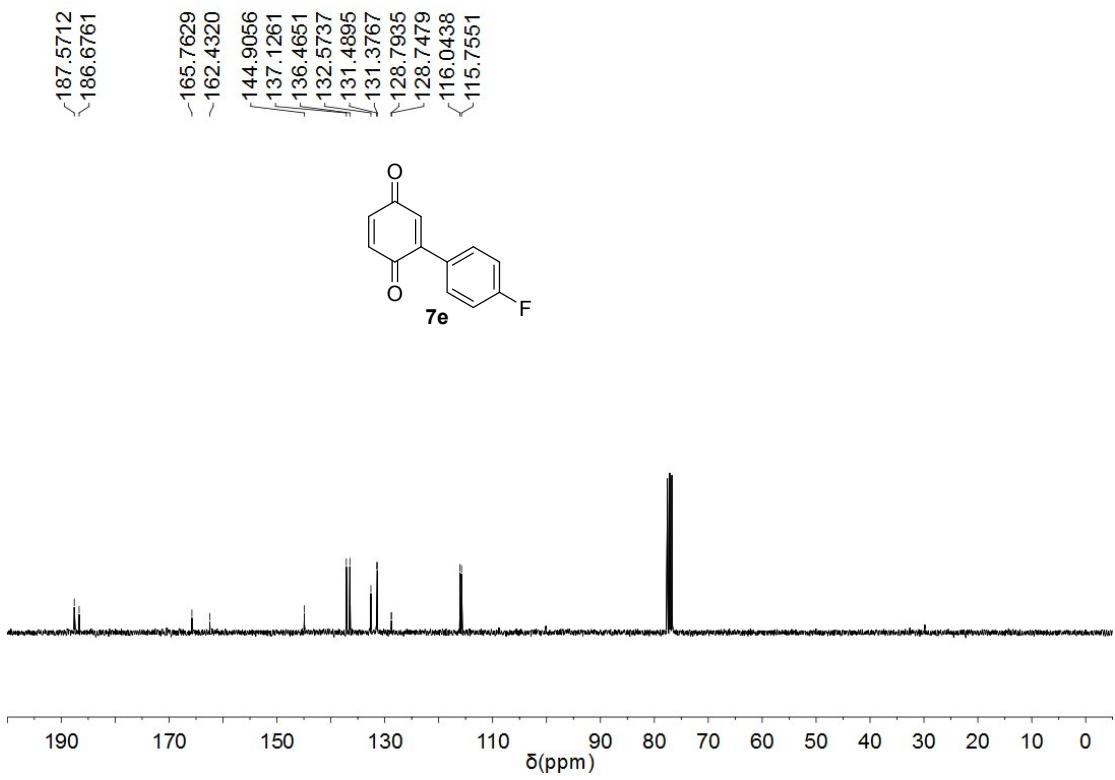
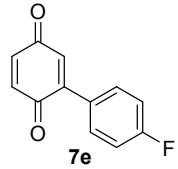
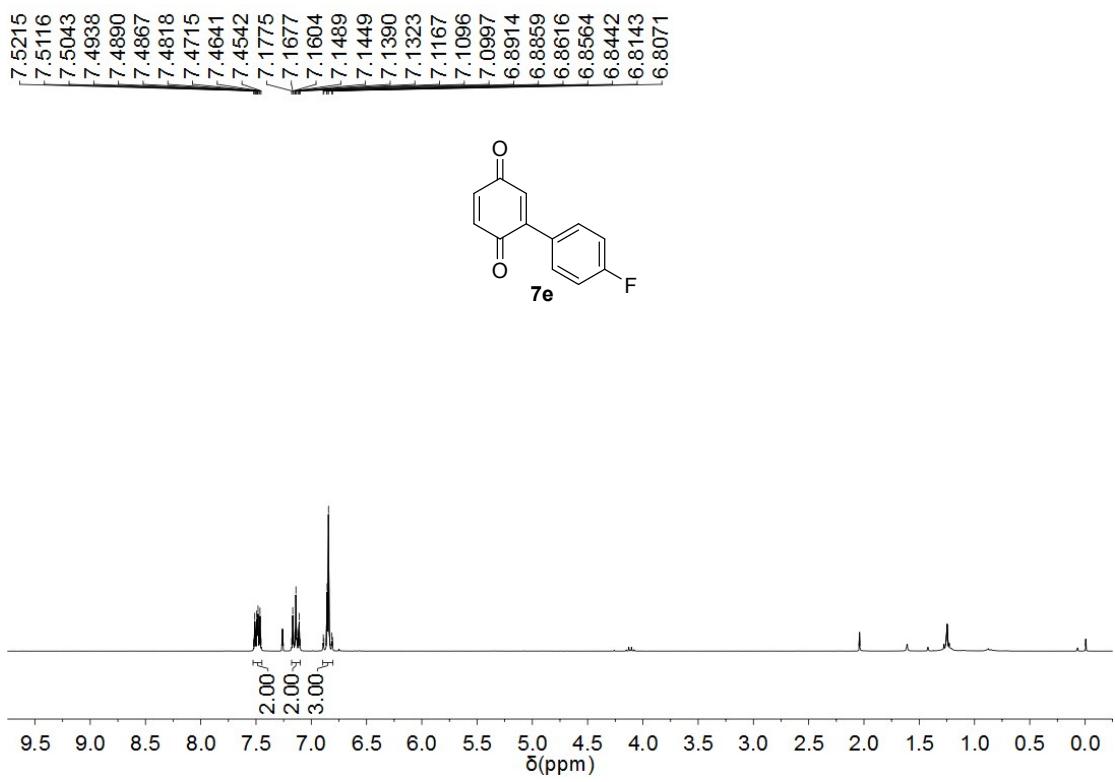
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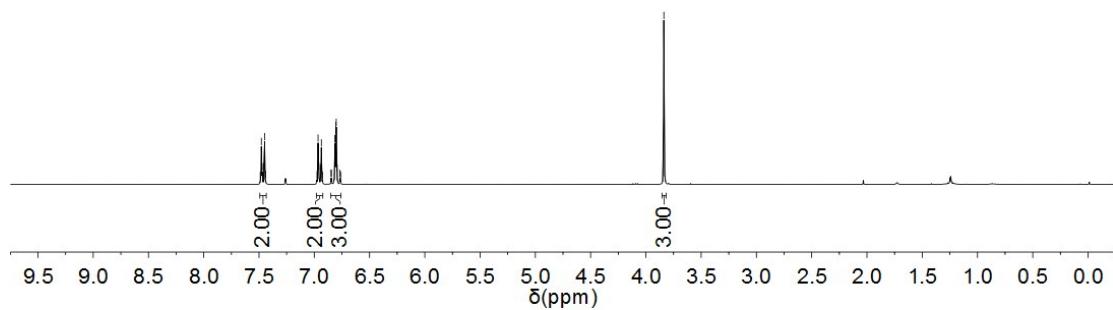
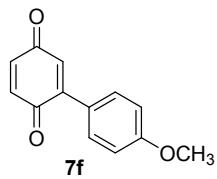
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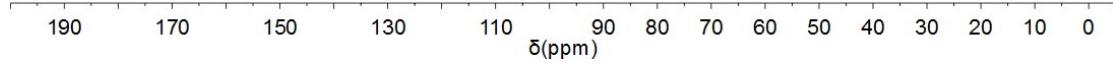
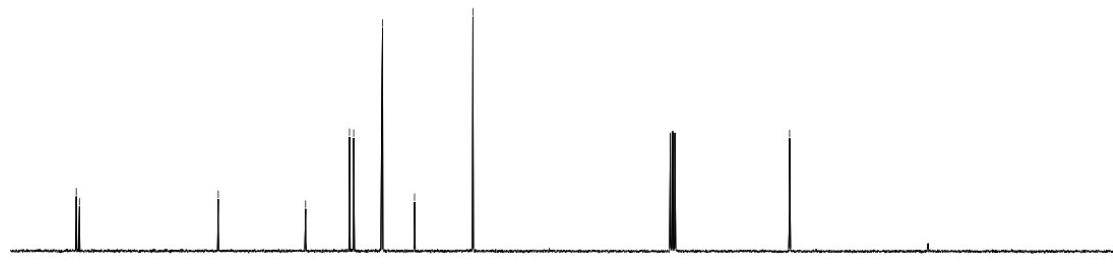
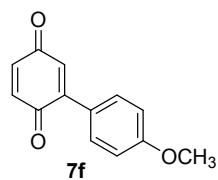
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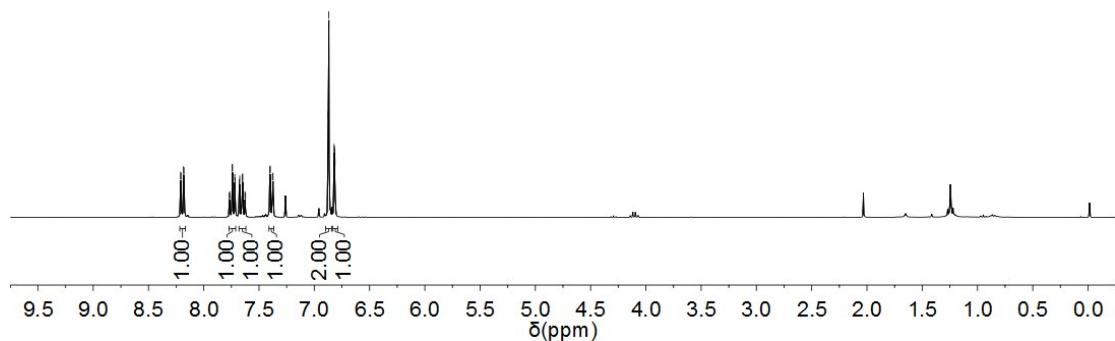
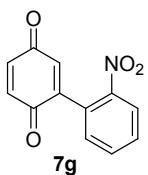
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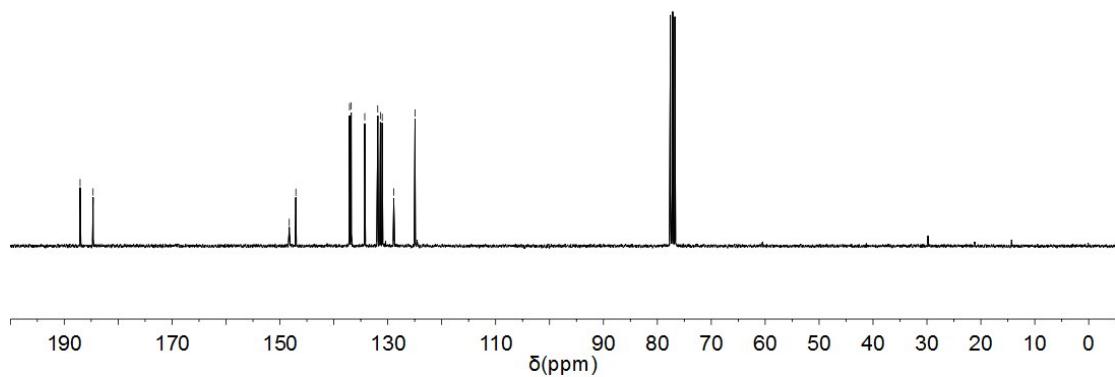
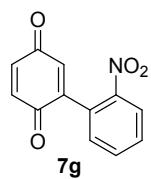


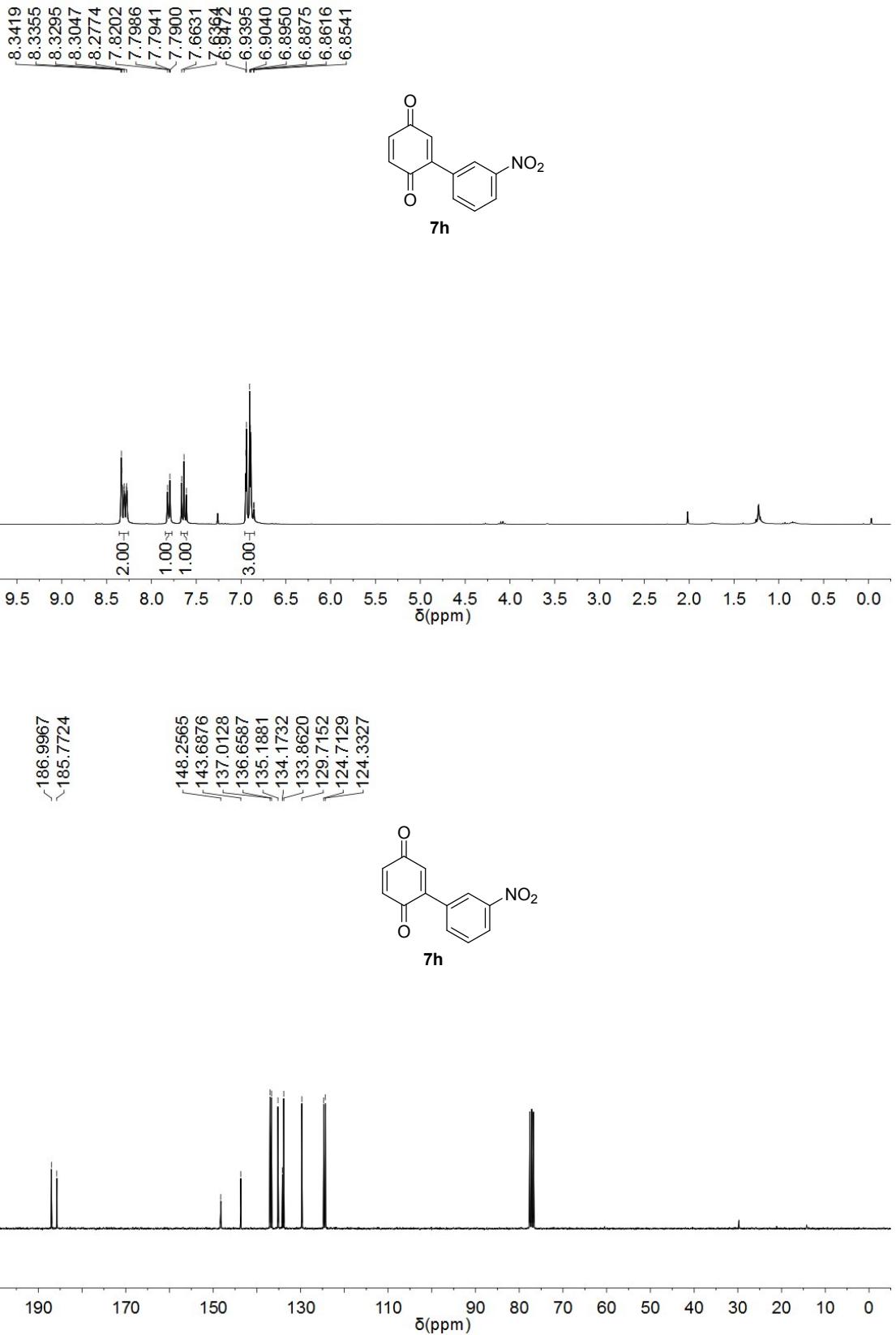
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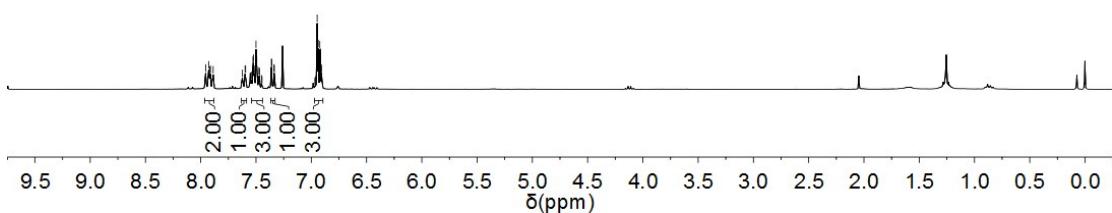
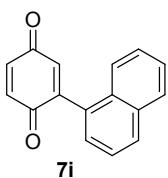
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