

## Supplementary Information

### Carbene-Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidation of Isoquinolinium Salts: Efficient Synthesis of Isoquinolinones

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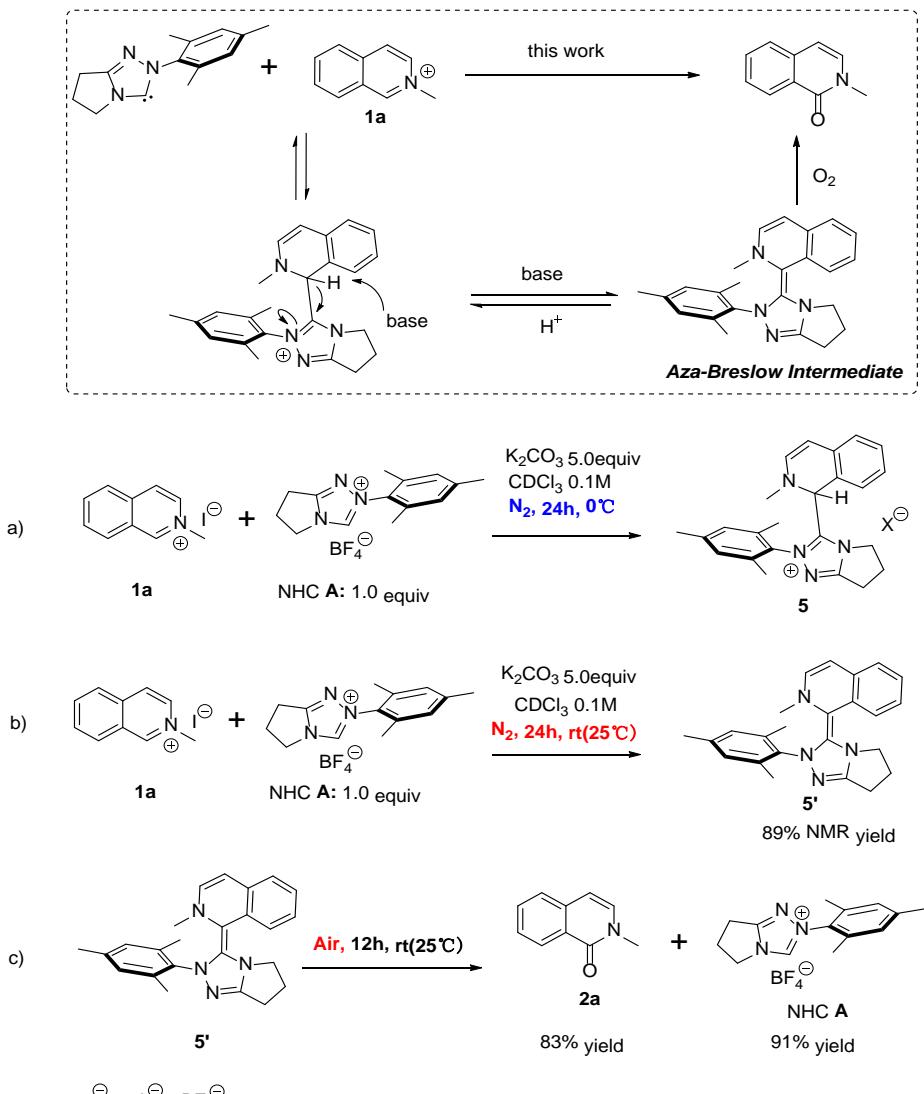
## I: General Information

Commercially available materials purchased from Adamas-beta® was used as received. Toluene and DCM was dried over Pure Solv solvent purification system. THF was distilled over sodium. Other solvents were dried over 4Å molecular sieve prior use. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker (400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$ ) relative to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  0.00) or chloroform ( $\delta$  = 7.26, singlet). <sup>1</sup>H NMR splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), dd (doublet of doublets); m (multiplets), and etc. All first-order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted are designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker (400 MHz) (100 MHz) spectrometer. High resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Premier Spectrometer. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck 60 F254 pre-coated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness).

## II. Experimental Procedures

### a) Mechanism study

In accord with literature precedent on the oxidation of aldehydes with molecular oxygen,<sup>1</sup> it was our expectation that the present carbene-catalyzed aerobic oxidation of isoquinolinium salts **1a** proceeds via a aza-Breslow intermediate. When the isoquinolinium salts **1a** was treated with 1 equivalent of NHC **A** in presence of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  under nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature, expected aza-Breslow intermediate **5'** was successfully captured in 89% NMR yield. And its structure was confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. Furthermore, when we conduct this reaction at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , we can detect the formation of complex **5** (confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , 2D NMR) which undergoes deprotonation to give the aza-Breslow intermediate **5'**. Not surprisingly, after the formation of **5'**, the reaction system was exposed to air stirring continued for 12h at room temperature, the aza-Breslow intermediate **5'** was converted to **2a** in 83% yield and regenerated NHC **A** in 91% yield. These results were in accordance with our proposed carbene-catalyzed aerobic oxidation mechanism.



**2-mesityl-3-(2-methyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinolin-1-yl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-2-ium 5 (Cation is balanced by iodide and tetrafluoroborate ions in solution)** We did not succeed in isolating **S13** because of its sensitivity to air and

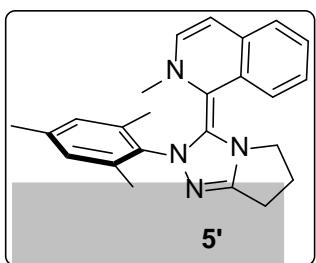
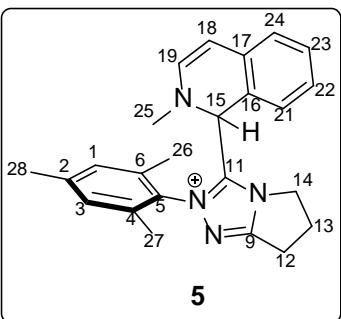
temperature. Instead, we took the reaction solution directly under nitrogen atmosphere for further Characterization. The specific experimental steps are as follows: under nitrogen atmosphere (in glove box), NHC **A** (0.2mmol, 1.0equiv), **1a** (0.2mmol, 1.0equiv) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.0mmol, 5.0equiv, ) were added in an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. After 2 mL(0.1M) degassed  $CDCl_3$  were added, the tube was closed with a septum. The reaction mixture was

stirred for 24 h at 0°C. Still in a nitrogen atmosphere, the reaction mixture was filtered into a nitrogen filled NMR tube and further characterized as soon as possible.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.15 (td,  $J$  = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H-21), 7.03 (s, 1H, H-1), 6.92-6.97 (m, 3H, H-3, H-23, H-24), 6.66 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-22), 6.15 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-19), 6.05 (s, 1H, H-15), 5.48 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-18), 4.62-4.69 (m, 1H, H-14a), 4.36-4.42 (m, 1H, H-14b), 3.39-3.46 (m, 1H, H-13a), 3.10-3.15 (m, 1H, H-13b), 3.03 (s, 3H, H-25), 2.97-3.00 (m, 1H, H-12a), 2.76-2.79 (m, 1H, H-12b), 2.36 (s, 3H, H-28), 2.18 (s, 3H, H-26), 1.84 (s, 3H, H-27).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  = 161.9(C-9), 151.9(C-11), 141.1(C-2), 135.1(C-19), 134.9(C-4), 134.5(C-6), 131.6(C-17), 130.6(C-5), 128.9(C-1, C-3), 128.8(C-21), 126.3(C-22), 125.2(C-24), 122.8(C-23), 117.1(C-16), 99.0(C-18), 57.9(C-15), 50.0(C-14), 42.0(C-25), 25.5(C-12), 21.7(C-13), 20.3(C-28), 17.9(C-26), 17.5(C-27); HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{24}H_{27}N_4^+$ : 371.2236, Found: 371.2233.

**(Z)-1-(2-mesityl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-3H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-3-ylidene)-2-methyl-1,2-dihydroisoquinoline 5'** Aza-breslow intermediate **5'** is also extremely

sensitive to air, and despite some attempts, we are still failing to separate it. However, we used the following method to detect the formation of aza-breslow intermediate **5'** and performed better characterization. Under nitrogen atmosphere (in glove box), NHC **A** (0.2mmol, 1.0equiv), **1a** (0.2mmol, 1.0equiv) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.0mmol, 5.0equiv, ) were added in an oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. After 2 mL(0.1M) degassed  $CDCl_3$  were

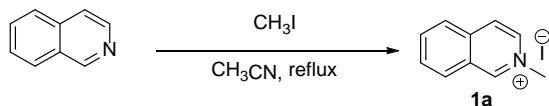
added, the tube was closed with a septum. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature(25 °C). Still in a nitrogen atmosphere, the reaction mixture was filtered into a nitrogen filled NMR tube and further characterized. In fact, when we add 1, 3, 5-trimethoxybenzene(0.2mmol, 1.0equiv) as an internal standard to the reaction system, we can obtain **5'** in 89% NMR yield.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.92-6.97 (m, 3H), 6.64 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.61-4.68 (m, 1H), 4.34-4.41 (m, 1H), 3.38-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.09-3.17 (m, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.92-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.84



(m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 163.0, 152.8, 142.1, 136.1, 135.9, 135.4, 132.6, 131.5, 129.9, 129.9, 129.8, 127.3, 126.2, 123.8, 118.1, 99.9, 77.4, 51.0, 43.0, 26.5, 22.7, 21.3, 18.8, 18.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_4(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ : 371.2236, Found: 371.2261.

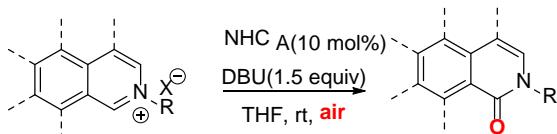
In order to further prove the reactivity of aza-breslow intermediate **5'**, after fully forming it according to the above method, we replaced the nitrogen in the reaction system with air and continued to stir for 12 hours. After that, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and separated by flash chromatography to afford **2a** in 83% yield and NHC **A** in 91% yield. NHC **A** were confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra comparison with literature data.

**b) General procedure for the preparation of isoquinolinium salts (**1a** as the example)**



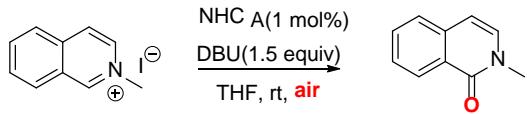
The oven-dried round-bottom flask were charged with  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (15 mL), quinoline (5mmol, 1.0equiv),  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  (10mm ol, 2.0 eq). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. When ethyl acetate was added to the system, the isoquinoline salt precipitated quickly as a solid, which was filtered and washed with ethyl acetate to give pure product **1a**.

**c) General procedure for the catalytic reactions of isoquinolinium salts **1** to synthesize product **2****



A 10 mL oven-dried screw-capped test tube with stir bar was charged with isoquinolinium salts **1** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and NHC **A** (6.3 mg, 10 mol%). Then newly distilled solvent THF 2mL and DBU (45 $\mu$ L, 1.5 equiv.) are added sequentially. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8-20h until the substrate was consumed completely (monitored by TLC). The mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford desired product **2**, which was confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra and already reported data.

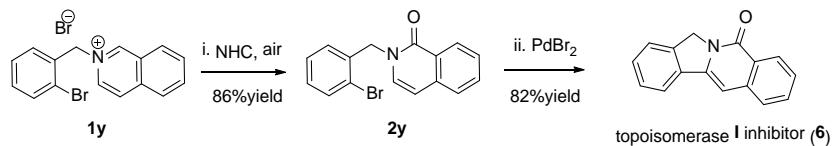
**d) Procedure for the scale-up synthesis of product **2a****



Isoquinolinium salts **1a** (5.42g, 20 mmol) and NHC **A** (63 mg, 1mol%) were added as a solid to a oven-dried 100mL round-bottomed flask before the fresh distilled THF 30mL was added. DBU (4.5ml, 1.5 equiv) was then slowly added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at -10°C for 15 h without sealing so that air could be better involved. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using Petroleum ether/EtOAc (1:1) as eluent to afford the product **2a** as a yellow oil(3.16g, 99% yield).

### e) Synthetic application

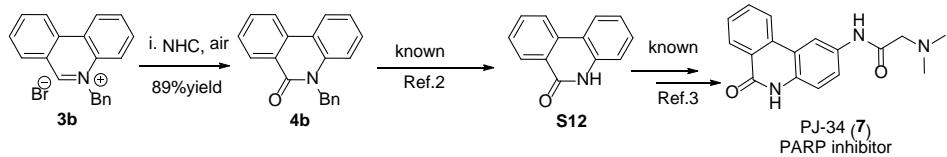
#### Scheme S1. Synthesis of topoisomerase I inhibitor (**6**)



**Step1:** Isoquinolinium salt **1y** (75.8mg, 0.2 mmol) and NHC **A** (12.6mg, 20 mol %) were added to an oven-dried screw-capped test tube before the fresh distilled THF 2mL was added. DBU (45 $\mu$ L, 1.5equiv) was then slowly added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at -40°C for 20 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using Petroleum ether/EtOAc (5:1) as eluent to afford the product **2y** as a white solid (54.0mg, 86% yield).

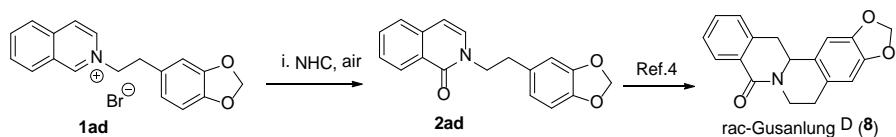
**Step2:** A dry 10 mL Schlenk tube with stir bar was charged with **2y** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), PdBr<sub>2</sub> (2.7 mg, 5 mol %), KOAc (39.2 mg, 2.0 equiv). The tube was evacuated, and refilled with nitrogen. Then the mixture was dissolved with 2mL DMA. The mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 15 h when the substrate was consumed completely (monitored by TLC). The mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Ethyl acetate dichloromethane 1:1) to afford desired product **6** as a yellow solid (38.3 mg, 82% yield)

#### Scheme S2. Synthesis of PJ-34 (**7**)



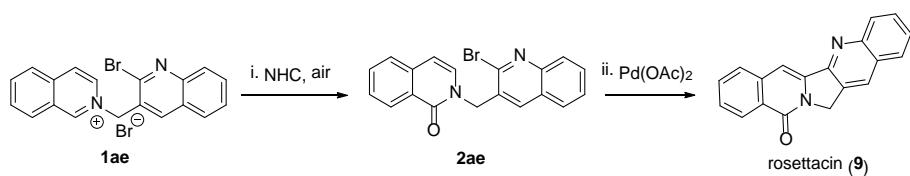
**Step1:** Phenanthridinium salt **3b** (70.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and NHC **A** (6.3 mg, 10 mol %) were added to a 10 mL oven-dried screw-capped test tube with stir bar before the fresh distilled THF 2mL was added. DBU (45 $\mu$ L, 1.5 equiv) was then slowly added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at -10°C for 15 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using Petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) as eluent to afford the product **4b** as a white solid (50.8 mg, 89% yield).

#### Scheme S3. Synthesis of rac-Gusanlung D (8)



**Step1:** Isoquinolinium salt **1ad** (35.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) and NHC **A** (3.2 mg, 10mol%) were added to a 10 mL oven-dried screw-capped test tube with stir bar before the CH<sub>3</sub>CN 2mL was added. DBU (22.5  $\mu$ L, 1.5 equiv) was then added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at room temperature for 15 h. Upon completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using Petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) as eluent to afford the product **4b** as a white solid (26.4 mg, 90% yield).

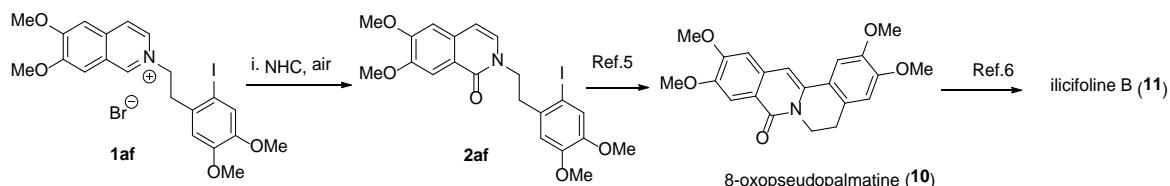
#### Scheme S4. Synthesis of rosettacin (9)



**Step1:** Isoquinolinium salt **1ae** (86.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and NHC **A** (12.6 mg, 20 mol %) were added to an oven-dried screw-capped test tube before the fresh distilled THF 2mL was added. DBU (45  $\mu$ L, 1.5 equiv) was then slowly added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at -40 °C for 20 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using Petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) as eluent to afford the product **2ae** as a white solid (53.2 mg, 73% yield).

**Step2:** A dry 10 mL Schlenk tube with stir bar was charged with **2ae** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (3.4 mg, 10 mol%), KOAc (29.4 mg, 2.0 equiv) and Cy<sub>3</sub>P (8.4 mg, 20 mol %). The tube was evacuated, and refilled with nitrogen. Then the mixture was dissolved with 2mL DMF. The mixture was refluxed for 15 h when the substrate was consumed completely (monitored by TLC). The mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Ethyl acetate dichloromethane 1:1) to afford desired product **9** as a yellow solid (42.0 mg, 99% yield)

### Scheme S5.Synthesis of 8-oxopseudopalmatine (**10**) and ilicifoline B (**11**)

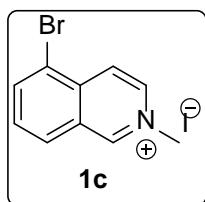


**Step1:** Isoquinolinium salt **1af** (56.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and NHC **A** (6.3 mg, 20 mol %) were added to a 10 mL oven-dried screw-capped test tube with stir bar before the DMF 1mL was added. DBU (22.5  $\mu$ L, 1.5 equiv) was then added to the system. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at room temperature for 18 h. Upon completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the mixture was concentrated under vacuum and purified by column chromatography using EtOAc as eluent to afford the product **2af** as oil (37.1 mg, 75% yield).

### III. Characterizations of substrates and products, reference

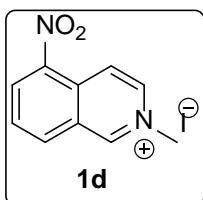
#### a) Characterization data of substrates

Structure of known substrates: **1a**,<sup>7</sup> **1b**,<sup>8</sup> **1e**,<sup>9</sup> **1g**,<sup>8</sup> **1i**,<sup>10</sup> **1j**,<sup>11</sup> **1k**,<sup>12</sup> **1l**,<sup>13</sup> **1m**,<sup>14</sup> **1w**,<sup>7</sup> **1y**,<sup>15</sup> **1z**,<sup>7</sup> **1aa**,<sup>16</sup> **1ac**,<sup>17</sup> **3a**,<sup>18</sup> **3b**,<sup>19</sup> **3d**,<sup>19</sup> **3g**<sup>20</sup> were confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra comparison with literature data. For substrates not reported before, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR characterization and the corresponding spectra are provided.

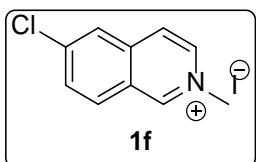


**5-bromo-2-methylisoquinolin-2-ium iodide (1c):** yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.14 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 8.50 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

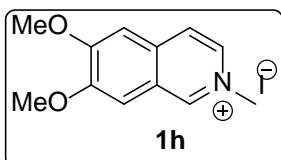
DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 151.9, 140.6, 138.1, 135.9, 132.5, 130.9, 128.8, 124.7, 121.3, 48.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{10}H_9BrN^+$ : 221.9913, Found: 221.9911.



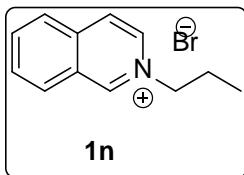
**2-methyl-5-nitroisoquinolin-2-i um iodide (1d):** brown solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.35 (s, 1H), 9.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.92 (s, 2H), 8.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 152.2, 144.5, 139.1, 137.8, 134.6, 131.1, 129.4, 128.4, 121.7, 48.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{10}H_9N_2O_2^+$ : 189.0659, Found: 189.0655.



**6-chloro-2-methylisoquinolin-2-i um iodide (1f):** yellow solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.46-8.51 (m, 3H), 8.04 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 151.1, 142.0, 137.9, 137.5, 132.7, 132.3, 126.6, 126.0, 124.9, 48.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{10}H_9ClN^+$ : 178.0418, Found: 178.0416.

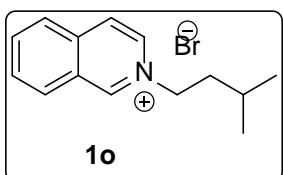


**6,7-dimethoxy-2-methylisoquinolin-2-i um iodide (1h):** white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 9.52 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 2H), 4.37 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 157.7, 152.8, 146.2, 135.3, 134.9, 124.1, 123.5, 107.3, 106.2, 57.4, 56.9, 47.9; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{12}H_{14}NO_2^+$ : 204.1019, Found: 204.1017.

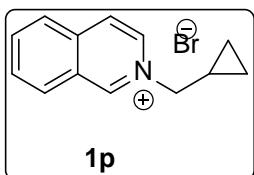


**2-propylisoquinolin-2-i um bromide (1n):** white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.35 (s, 1H), 8.88-8.92 (m, 1H), 8.64 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.25 (m, 1H), 8.02-8.07 (m, 1H), 4.71-4.76 (m, 2H), 1.99-2.08 (m, 2H), 0.87-0.91 (m, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  =

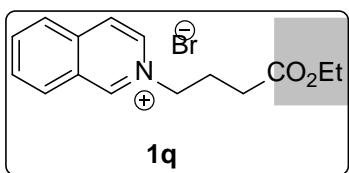
150.4, 137.4, 137.2, 135.4, 131.6, 130.8, 127.7, 127.6, 126.3, 62.3, 24.5, 10.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{12}H_{14}N^+$ : 172.1121, Found: 172.1117;



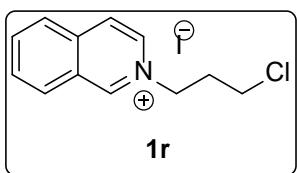
**2-isopentylisoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1o):** white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.37 (s, 1H), 8.93 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.89-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.66 (m, 1H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.5, 137.4, 137.2, 135.5, 131.6, 130.8, 127.7, 127.7, 126.3, 59.6, 25.7, 22.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{18}N^+$ : 200.1434, Found: 200.1431;



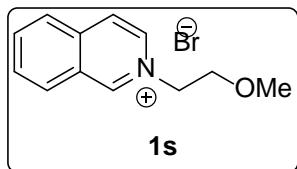
**2-(cyclopropylmethyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1p):** white solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.25 (s, 1H), 8.89 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.50-1.58 (m, 1H), 0.64-0.67 (m, 4H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.0, 137.5, 137.3, 135.3, 131.6, 130.9, 127.8, 127.7, 126.3, 65.0, 12.5, 4.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{14}N^+$ : 184.1121, Found: 184.1117.



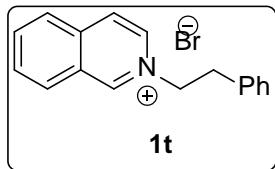
**2-(4-ethoxy-4-oxobutyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1q):** yellow oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.25 (s, 1H), 8.87 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.45-2.49 (m, 3H), 2.24-2.32 (m, 2H), 1.08 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 172.4, 150.7, 137.5, 137.3, 135.5, 131.6, 130.9, 127.7, 126.3, 60.6, 60.4, 30.6, 26.3, 14.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{18}NO_2^+$ : 244.1332, Found: 244.1331.



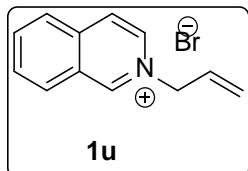
**2-(3-chloropropyl)isoquinolin-2-iium iodide (**1r**):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.18 (s, 1H), 8.83 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.52-2.57 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.9, 137.5, 137.4, 135.4, 131.7, 130.9, 127.7, 127.7, 126.4, 58.9, 33.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}^+$ : 206.0731, Found: 206.0727.



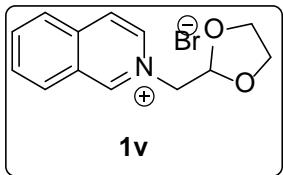
**2-(2-methoxyethyl)isoquinolin-2-iium bromide (**1s**):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.20 (s, 1H), 8.83 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (t,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (t,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.9, 137.5, 137.4, 135.7, 131.7, 130.9, 127.7, 127.4, 126.1, 70.5, 60.6, 58.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}^+$ : 188.1070, Found: 188.1067.



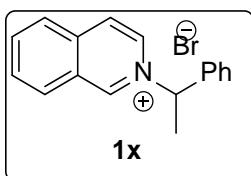
**2-phenylisoquinolin-2-iium bromide (**1t**):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.13 (s, 1H), 8.84 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.29 (m, 5H), 4.98-5.06 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.39 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.5, 137.4, 137.4, 136.8, 135.4, 131.7, 130.7, 129.4, 129.1, 127.8, 127.5, 127.5, 126.1, 61.8, 36.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}^+$ : 234.1277, Found: 234.1275.



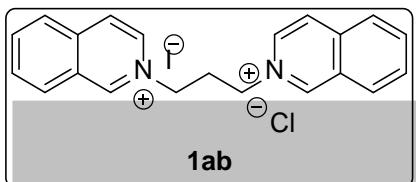
**2-allylisoquinolin-2-iium bromide (**1u**):** gray solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.28 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20-6.30 (m, 1H), 5.45-5.53 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.6, 137.5, 137.4, 135.3, 132.1, 131.7, 130.9, 127.8, 127.6, 126.4, 122.7, 62.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}^+$ : 170.0964, Found: 170.0961.



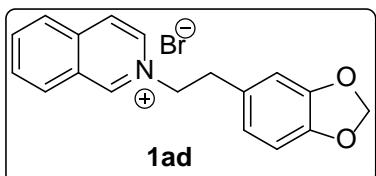
**2-((1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)methyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1v):** red solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (t,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 3.79-3.83 (m, 2H), 3.64-3.68 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 151.8, 137.7, 137.6, 136.8, 131.7, 131.0, 127.8, 127.2, 125.5, 100.2, 65.4, 61.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2^+$ : 216.1019, Found: 216.1017.



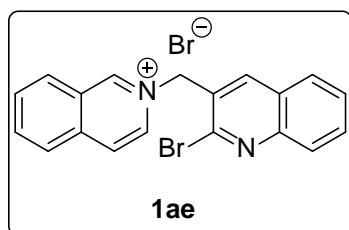
**2-(1-phenylethyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1x):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.60 (s, 1H), 8.92 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.59-8.62 (m, 2H), 8.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 3H), 6.43 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 149.3, 138.8, 137.7, 137.6, 134.0, 131.7, 131.3, 129.7, 129.6, 127.9, 127.9, 127.7, 126.8, 69.7, 20.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}^+$ : 234.1277, Found: 234.1274.



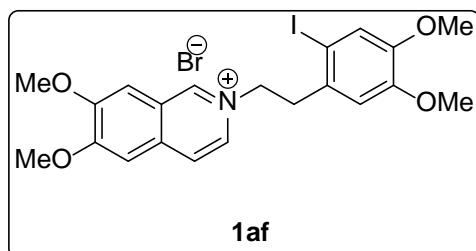
**2,2'-(propane-1,3-diyl)bis(isoquinolin-2-ium) chloride iodide (1ab):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.20 (s, 2H), 8.86 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.65 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 8.48 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.26 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.88-2.95 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.8, 137.6, 137.5, 135.4, 131.7, 130.9, 127.7, 127.7, 126.4, 58.0, 31.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2^{2+}$ : 300.1616, Found: 300.1611.



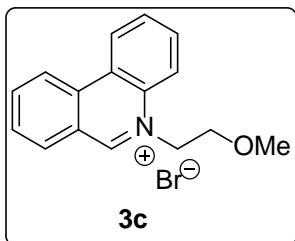
**2-(2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)ethyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1ad):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.07 (s, 1H), 8.79 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.93 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 150.4, 147.9, 146.7, 137.4, 137.4, 135.4, 131.7, 130.8, 130.4, 127.8, 127.5, 126.1, 122.5, 109.7, 108.7, 101.4, 62.1, 36.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2^+$ : 278.1176, Found: 278.1173.



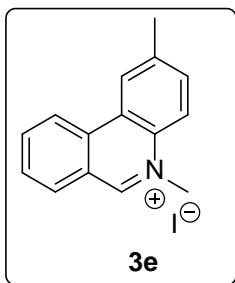
**2-((2-bromoquinolin-3-yl)methyl)isoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1ae):** gray solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.33 (s, 1H), 8.96 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.45 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (t,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 151.5, 147.9, 142.4, 140.6, 137.9, 135.9, 132.3, 131.8, 131.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.2, 126.7, 62.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2^+$ : 349.0335, Found: 349.0331.



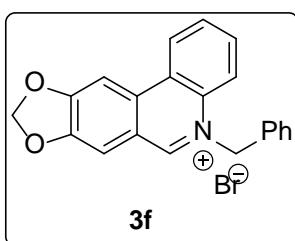
**2-(2-iodo-4,5-dimethoxyphenethyl)-6,7-dimethoxyisoquinolin-2-ium bromide (1af):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 9.48 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 4.85 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.33 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 158.0, 152.9, 149.6, 148.9, 145.6, 135.8, 134.3, 131.6, 124.3, 123.6, 121.8, 113.9, 107.6, 106.2, 89.4, 60.9, 57.4, 56.9, 56.3, 56.0, 40.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{INO}_4^+$ : 400.0666, Found: 400.0659.



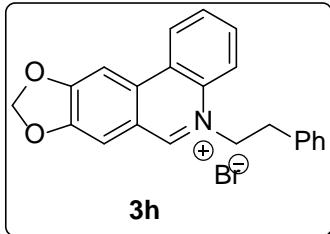
**5-(2-methoxyethyl)phenanthridin-5-i um bromide (3c):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.41 (s, 1H), 9.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 9.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (t,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06-8.14 (m, 3H), 5.36 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 156.4, 138.7, 134.9, 133.6, 133.4, 132.5, 130.9, 130.8, 126.2, 125.5, 123.7, 123.7, 120.7, 69.3, 58.9, 57.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}^+$ : 238.1226, Found: 238.1219.



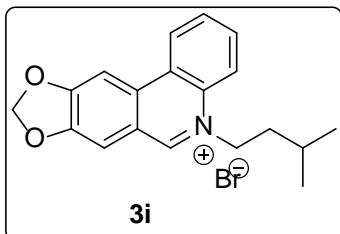
**2,5-dimethylphenanthridin-5-i um iodide (3e):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.24 (s, 1H), 9.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.96 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 155.1, 141.4, 138.0, 134.4, 133.8, 132.9, 132.8, 130.7, 125.8, 124.5, 124.1, 123.6, 120.1, 46.3, 21.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}^+$ : 194.0964, Found: 194.0961.



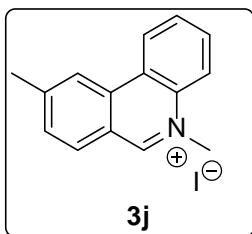
**5-benzyl-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-j]phenanthridin-5-i um bromide (3f):** gray solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.24 (s, 1H), 9.04 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.99 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.43 (m, 5H), 6.51 (s, 2H), 6.32 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 158.3, 152.7, 150.7, 135.7, 134.5, 133.2, 132.1, 130.0, 129.6, 129.2, 127.6, 126.1, 125.7, 121.1, 120.4, 108.1, 104.9, 101.9, 60.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2^+$ : 314.1176, Found: 314.1173.



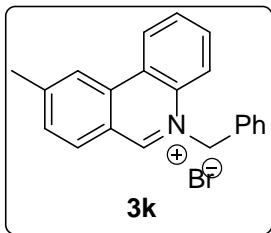
**5-phenethyl-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-j]phenanthridin-5-ium bromide (3h):** brown solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 9.83 (s, 1H), 9.00 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.07 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.26 (m, 5H), 6.46 (s, 2H), 5.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.34 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 158.0, 151.7, 150.5, 136.9, 135.1, 132.9, 132.3, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 127.5, 125.7, 125.7, 120.7, 120.1, 107.5, 104.8, 101.8, 58.3, 35.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2^+$ : 328.1332, Found: 328.1327.



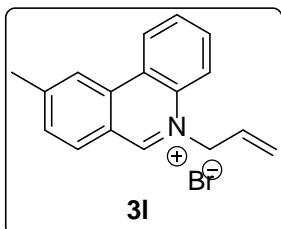
**5-isopentyl-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-j]phenanthridin-5-ium bromide (3i):** brown solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.10 (s, 1H), 9.02 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 2H), 5.02 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.81-1.95 (m, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 157.8, 151.6, 150.4, 135.0, 133.0, 132.2, 129.9, 125.9, 125.7, 121.1, 119.9, 107.7, 104.7, 101.7, 56.2, 38.3, 26.1, 22.7. HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2^+$ : 294.1489, Found: 294.1485.



**5,9-dimethylphenanthridin-5-ium iodide (3j):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.20 (s, 1H), 9.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.92 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.04-8.08 (m, 1H), 7.91 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 155.5, 150.3, 134.7, 134.7, 132.7, 132.5, 132.3, 130.5, 125.4, 125.1, 123.2, 122.1, 120.4, 46.1, 23.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}^+$ : 208.1121, Found: 208.1117.



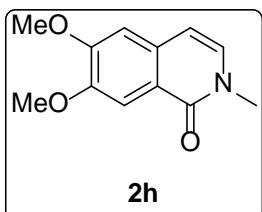
**5-benzyl-9-methylphenanthridin-5-ium bromide (3k):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.64 (s, 1H), 9.12-9.15 (m, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H), 8.55 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.44-8.48 (m, 1H), 7.96-8.02 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.39 (m, 3H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 156.2, 151.2, 135.3, 134.3, 133.7, 133.5, 132.6, 132.3, 130.5, 129.6, 129.2, 127.8, 126.2, 125.5, 123.3, 122.3, 120.8, 60.6, 23.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}^+$ : 284.1434, Found: 284.1431.



**5-allyl-9-methylphenanthridin-5-ium bromide (3l):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 10.42 (s, 1H), 9.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H), 8.46-8.51 (m, 2H), 8.01-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.91 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.23-6.32 (m, 1H), 5.77 (d,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 5.42-5.49 (m, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  = 155.4, 150.8, 135.0, 133.7, 133.1, 132.5, 132.3, 131.7, 130.5, 125.9, 125.4, 123.3, 122.2, 121.4, 120.7, 59.7, 23.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}^+$ : 234.1277, Found: 234.1274.

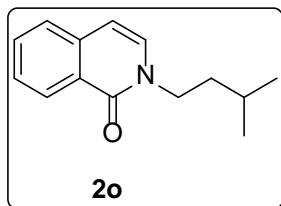
### b) Characterization data of products

Structure of known products: **2a**,<sup>21</sup> **2b**,<sup>22</sup> **2c**,<sup>21</sup> **2d**,<sup>21</sup> **2e**,<sup>21</sup> **2f**,<sup>21</sup> **2g**,<sup>21</sup> **2i**,<sup>21</sup> **2j**,<sup>21</sup> **2k**,<sup>23</sup> **2l**,<sup>24</sup> **2m**,<sup>25</sup> **2n**,<sup>21</sup> **2p**,<sup>21</sup> **2q**,<sup>21</sup> **2r**,<sup>21</sup> **2v**,<sup>21</sup> **2w**,<sup>21</sup> **2x**,<sup>21</sup> **2y**,<sup>26</sup> **2z**,<sup>21</sup> **2aa**,<sup>26</sup> **2ac**,<sup>21</sup> **4a**,<sup>21</sup> **4b**,<sup>27</sup> **4d**,<sup>27</sup> **4e**,<sup>28</sup> **4f**,<sup>28</sup> **4g**,<sup>28</sup> **4h**,<sup>29</sup> **4i**,<sup>28</sup>, **4j**,<sup>30</sup> **4k**,<sup>31</sup> **6**,<sup>32</sup> **9**,<sup>32</sup> were confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra comparison with literature data. For substrates not reported before,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR characterization and the corresponding spectra are provided.

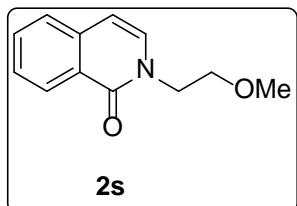


**6,7-dimethoxy-2-methylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one(2h):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.78 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.39 (d,  $J$  = 7.2

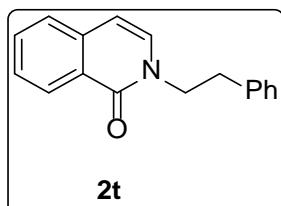
Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.0, 153.2, 149.2, 132.6, 131.1, 120.1, 107.5, 105.9, 105.5, 56.2, 56.1, 37.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 220.0968, Found: 220.0965.



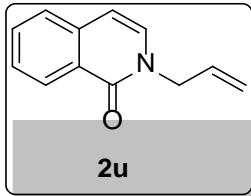
**2-isopentylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2o):** yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.62-1.68 (m, 3H), 0.97 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.1, 137.0, 132.0, 131.6, 127.8, 126.7, 126.3, 125.8, 106.0, 47.8, 38.2, 25.9, 22.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 216.1383, Found: 216.1383.



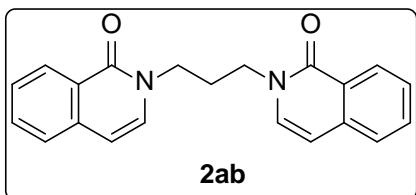
**2-(2-methoxyethyl)isoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2s):** yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.40 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.2, 137.2, 133.0, 132.1, 127.7, 126.7, 126.1, 125.9, 105.5, 70.8, 59.0, 49.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 204.1019, Found: 204.1013.



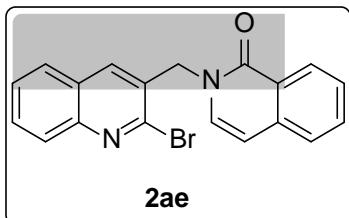
**2-phenethylisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2t):** yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.47 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.30 (m, 5H), 6.79 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.1, 138.3, 137.1, 132.1, 132.0, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 126.8, 126.7, 126.3, 125.9, 105.7, 51.6, 35.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 250.1226, Found: 250.1221.



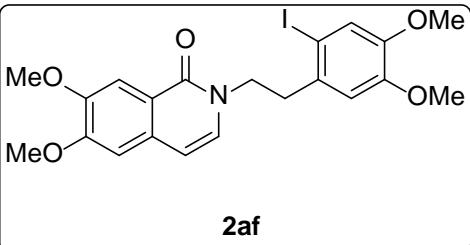
**2-allylisquinolin-1(2H)-one (2u):** yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.91-6.01 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.24 (m, 2H), 4.63 (d,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  = 162.0, 137.0, 132.9, 132.2, 131.2, 127.9, 126.8, 126.2, 125.9, 118.0, 106.3, 50.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO} (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ : 186.0913, Found: 186.0907.



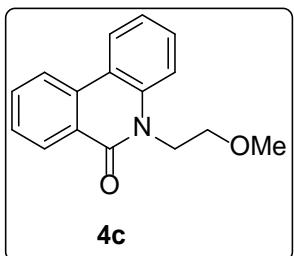
**2,2'-(propane-1,3-diyl)bis(isoquinolin-1(2H)-one) (2ab):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.39 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.24-2.31 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.3, 137.1, 132.2, 131.6, 127.7, 126.9, 126.1, 126.0, 106.5, 46.9, 29.0; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ : 331.1441, Found: 331.1439.



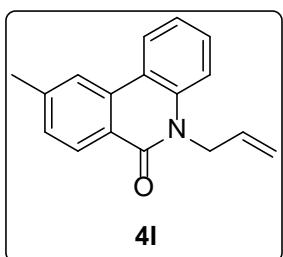
**2-((2-bromoquinolin-3-yl)methyl)isoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2ae):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.48 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.68-7.72 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 162.3, 147.7, 142.3, 137.1, 137.0, 132.7, 131.6, 130.6, 130.2, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 126.2, 107.0, 51.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O} (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ : 365.0284, Found: 365.0281.



**2-(2-iodo-4,5-dimethoxyphenethyl)-6,7-dimethoxyisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (2af):** yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.29 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.14 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 161.6, 153.4, 149.4, 149.2, 148.3, 133.2, 132.6, 130.7, 121.4, 120.0, 113.0, 107.4, 105.9, 105.5, 87.8, 56.1, 56.1, 56.1, 55.7, 49.9, 39.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{INO}_5$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 496.0615, Found: 496.0611.



**5-(2-methoxyethyl)phenanthridin-6(5H)-one (4c):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.53 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.22-8.24 (m, 2H), 7.73 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.28 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 161.7, 137.6, 133.7, 132.5, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 125.4, 123.3, 122.5, 121.6, 119.4, 115.6, 69.8, 59.2, 42.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 254.1176, Found: 254.1173.



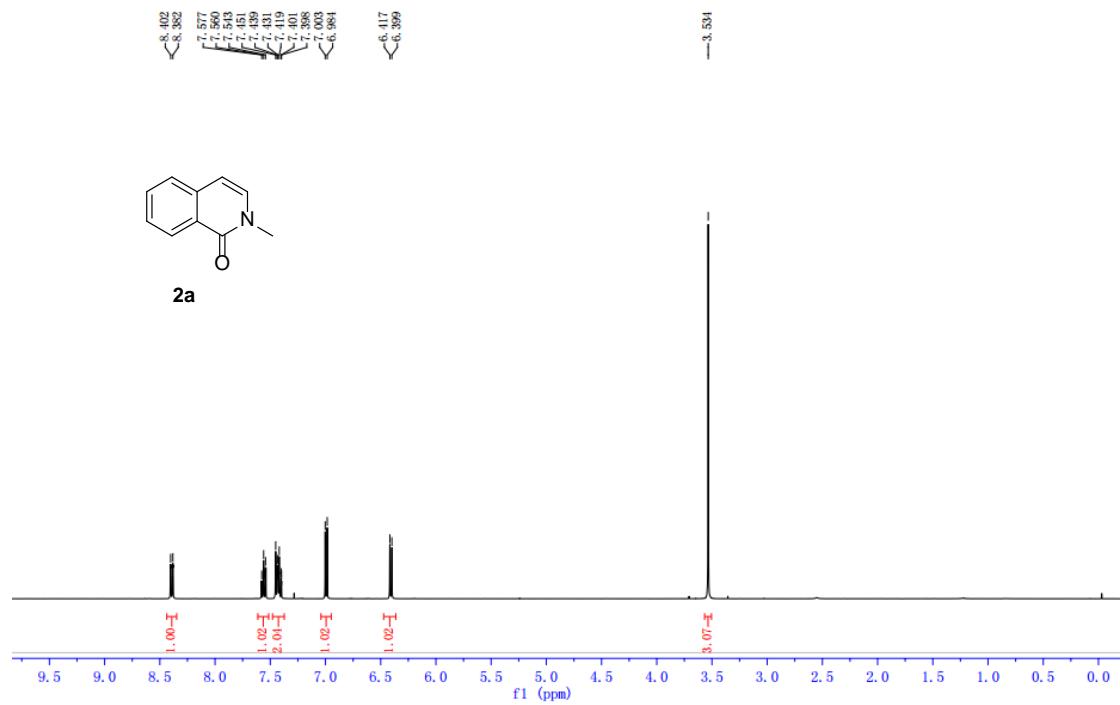
**5-allyl-9-methylphenanthridin-6(5H)-one (4l):** white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.44 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.47 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.96-6.05 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.23 (m, 2H), 5.02-5.03 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 161.4, 143.1, 137.4, 133.7, 132.1, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 123.2, 123.2, 122.4, 121.7, 119.4, 116.9, 115.8, 45.0, 22.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 250.1226, Found: 250.1222.

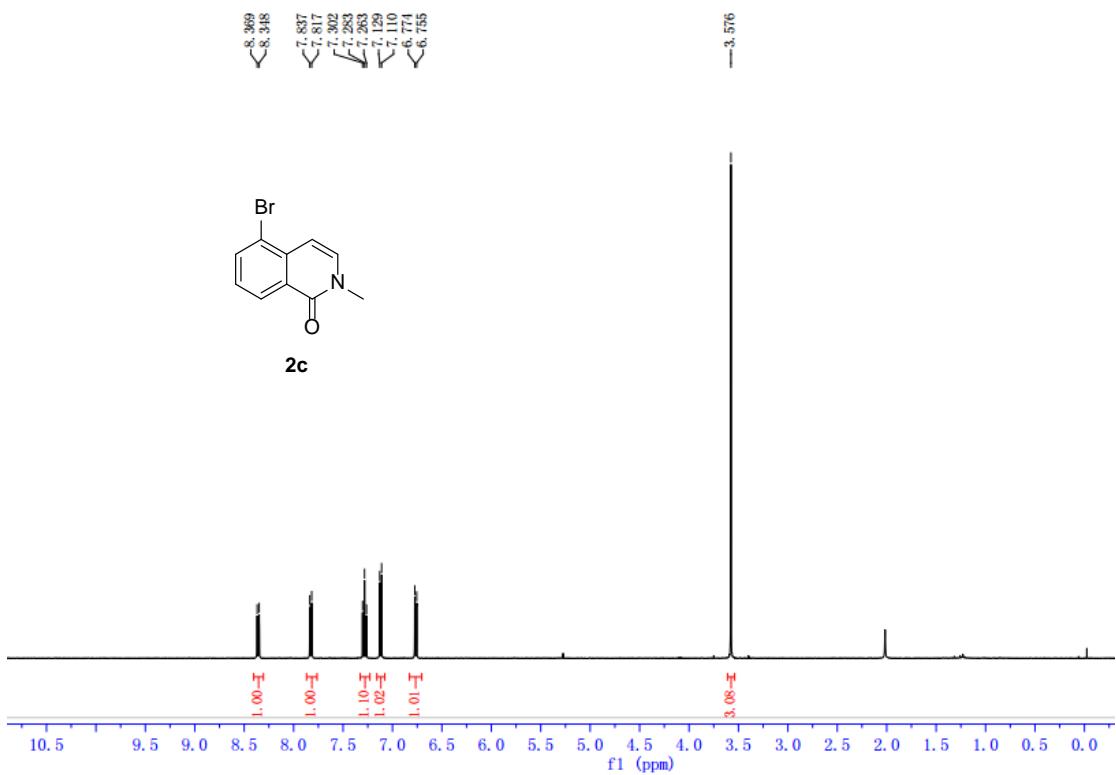
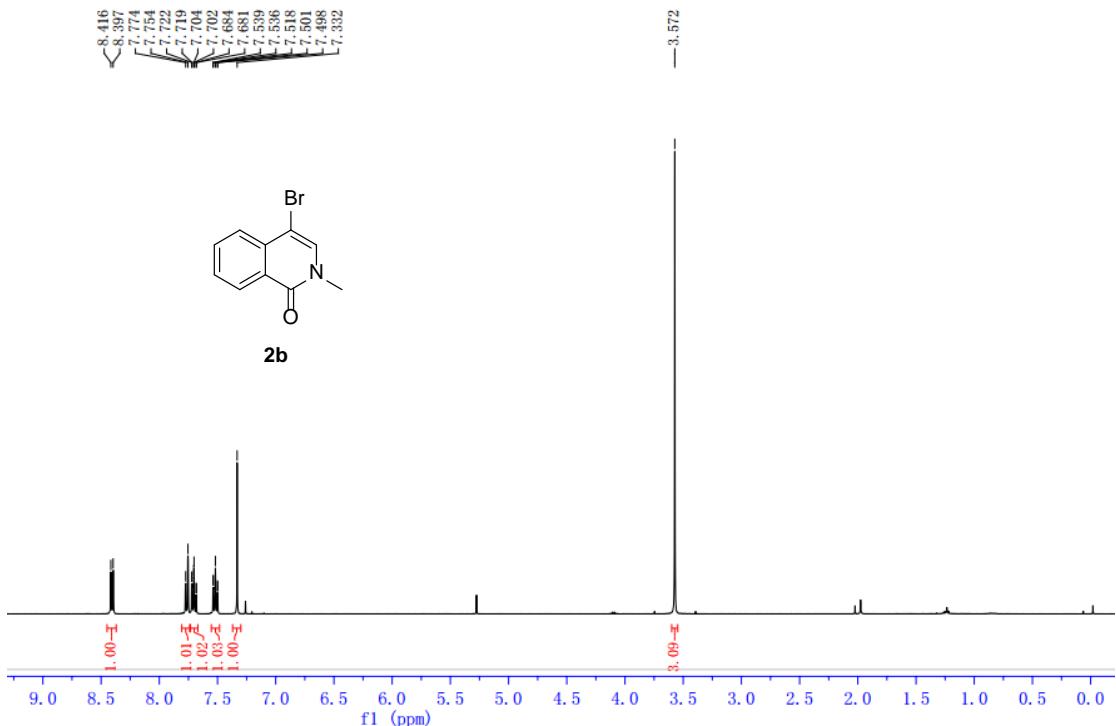
### c) Reference

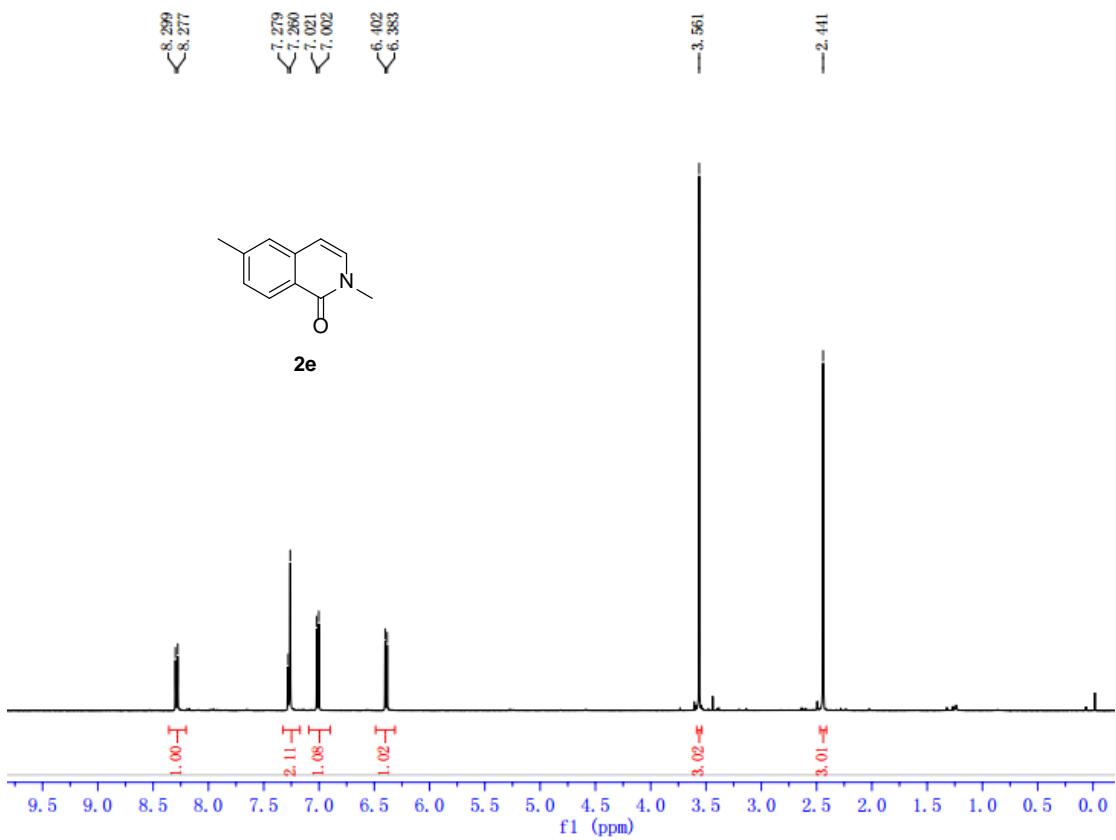
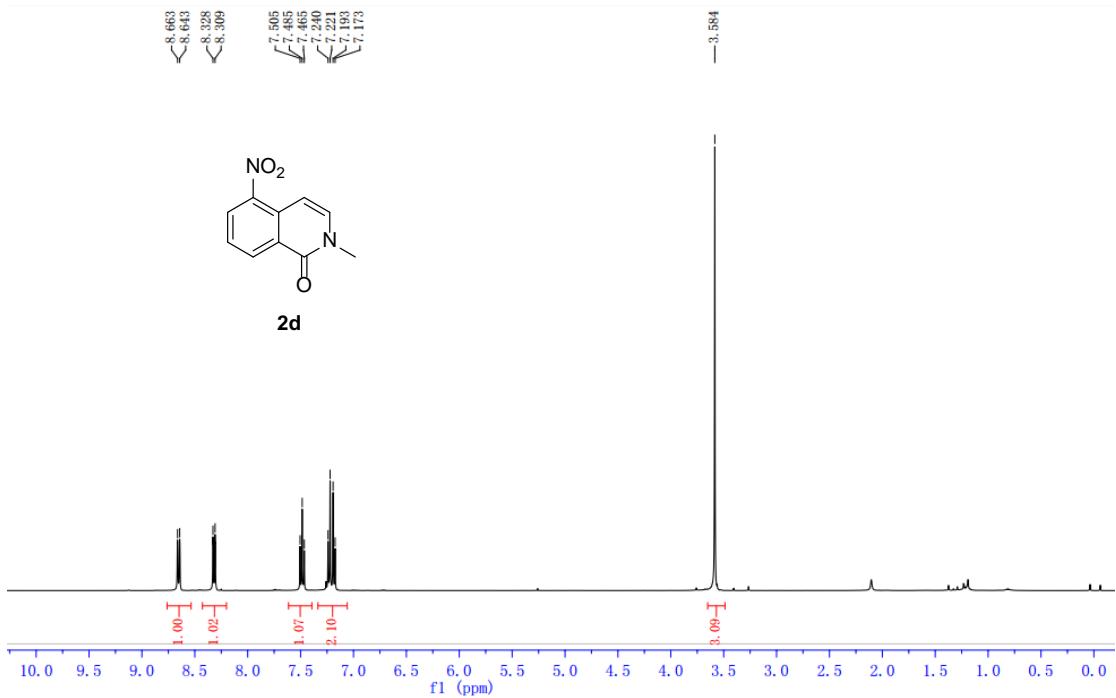
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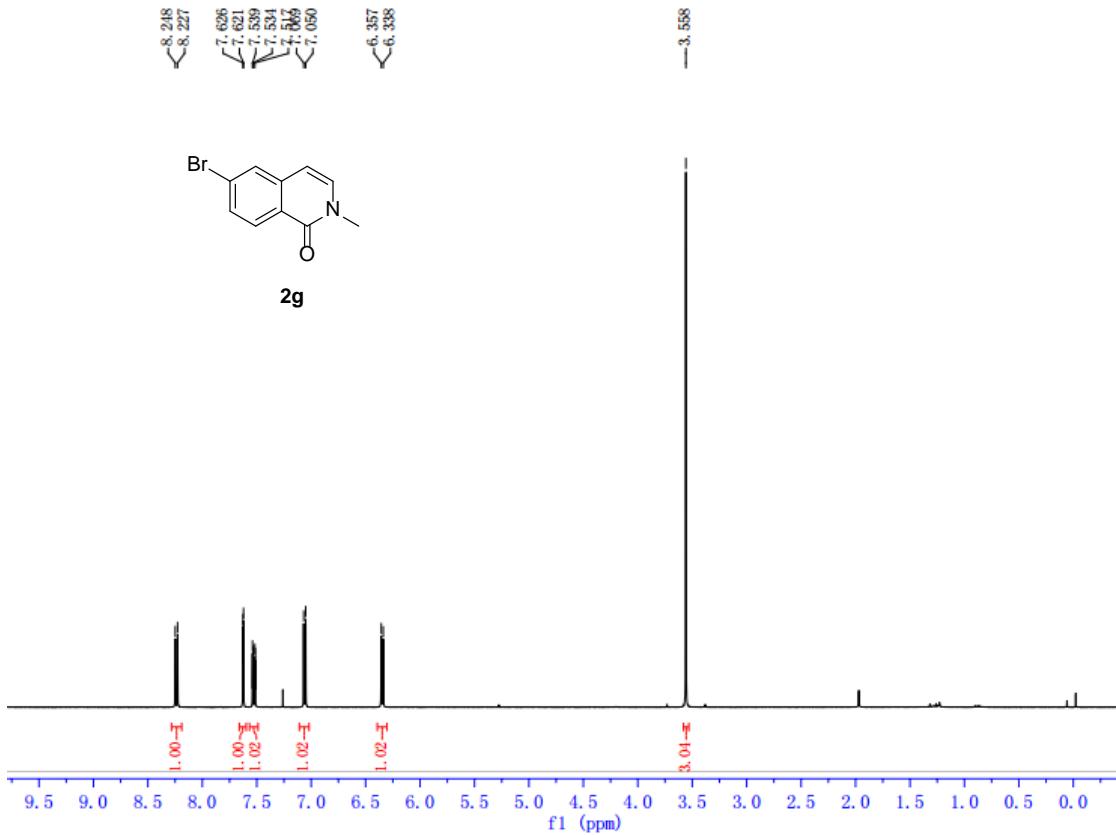
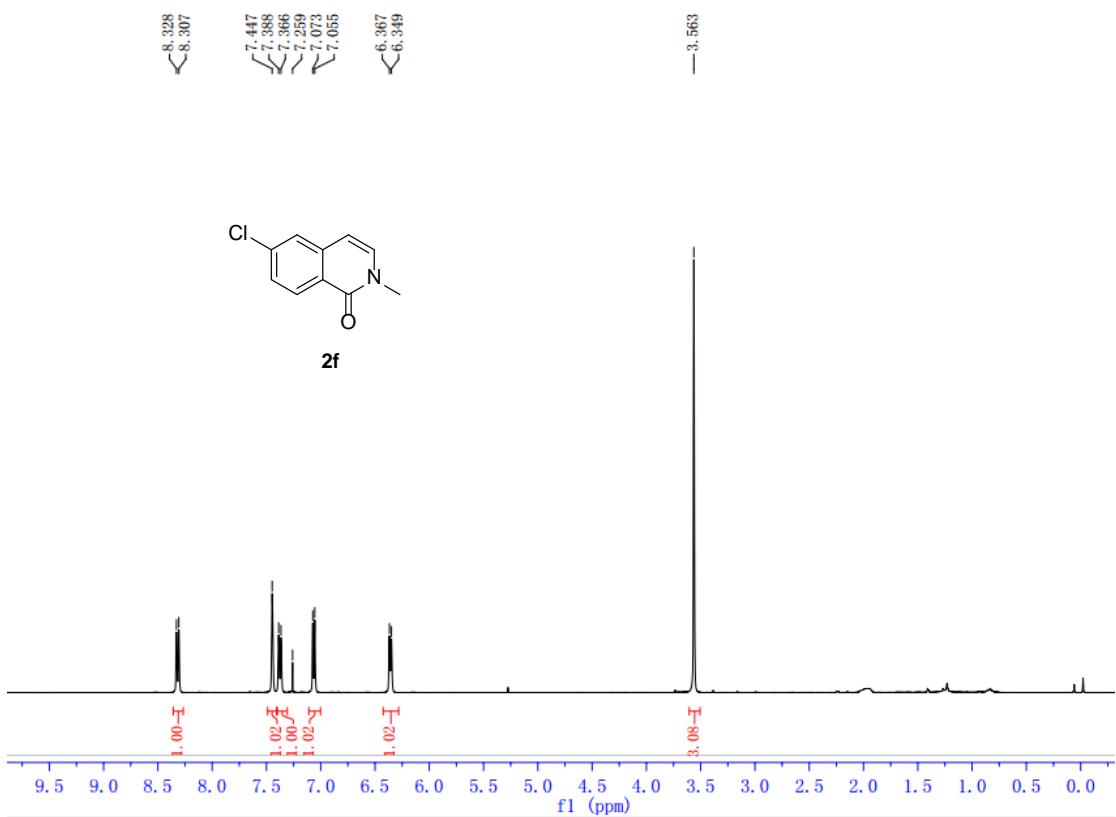
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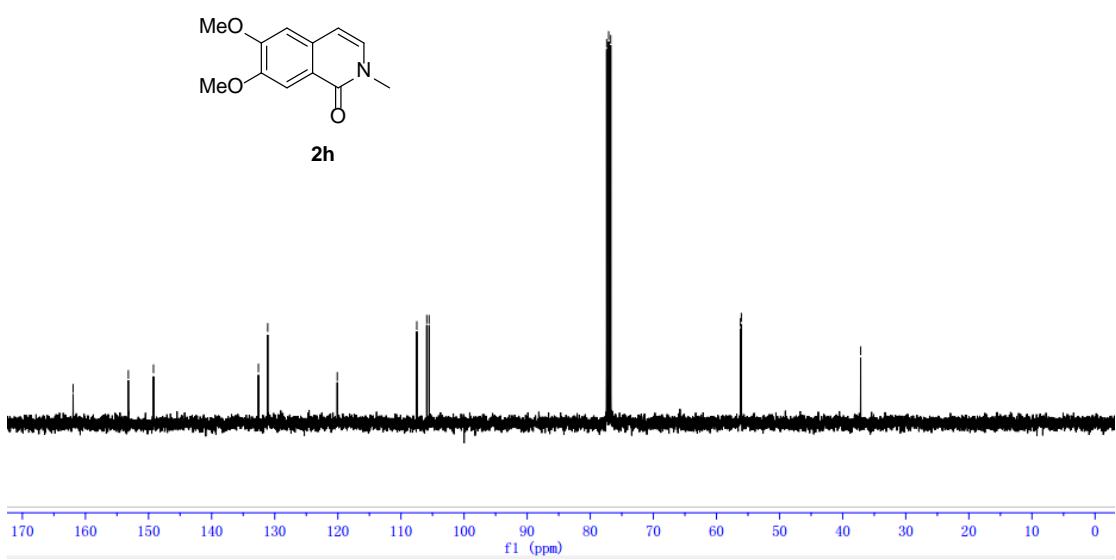
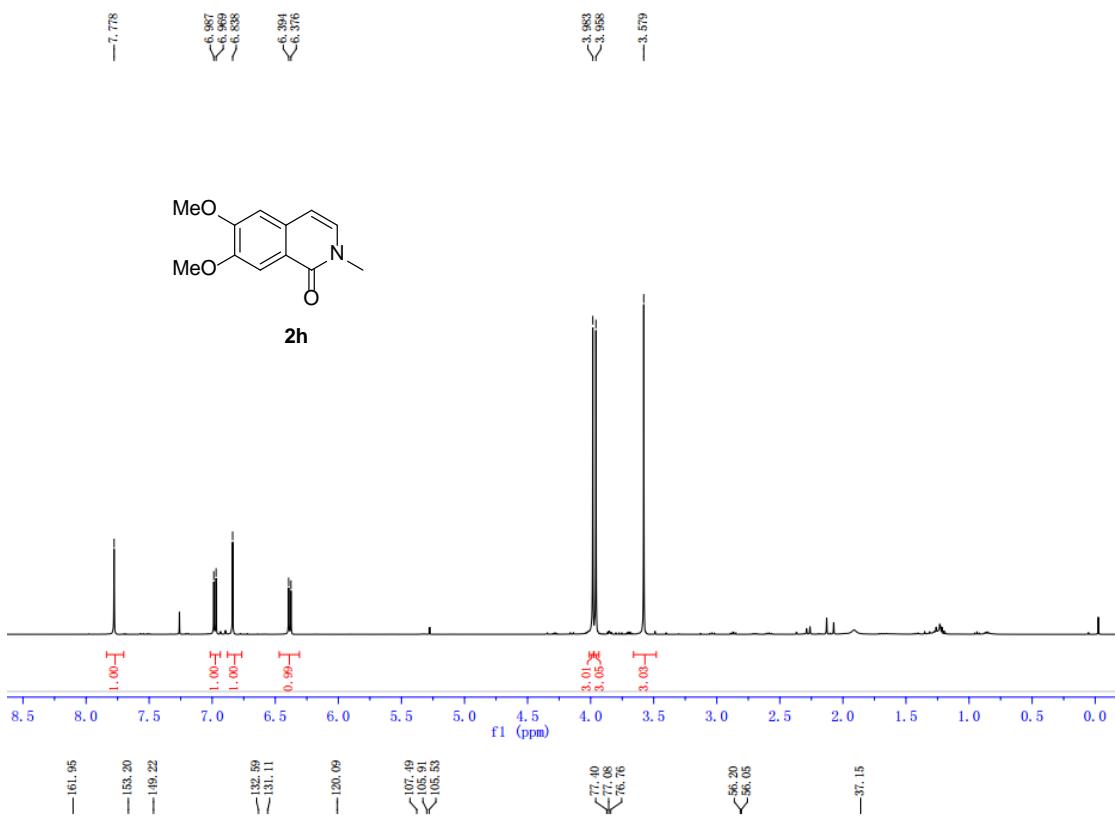
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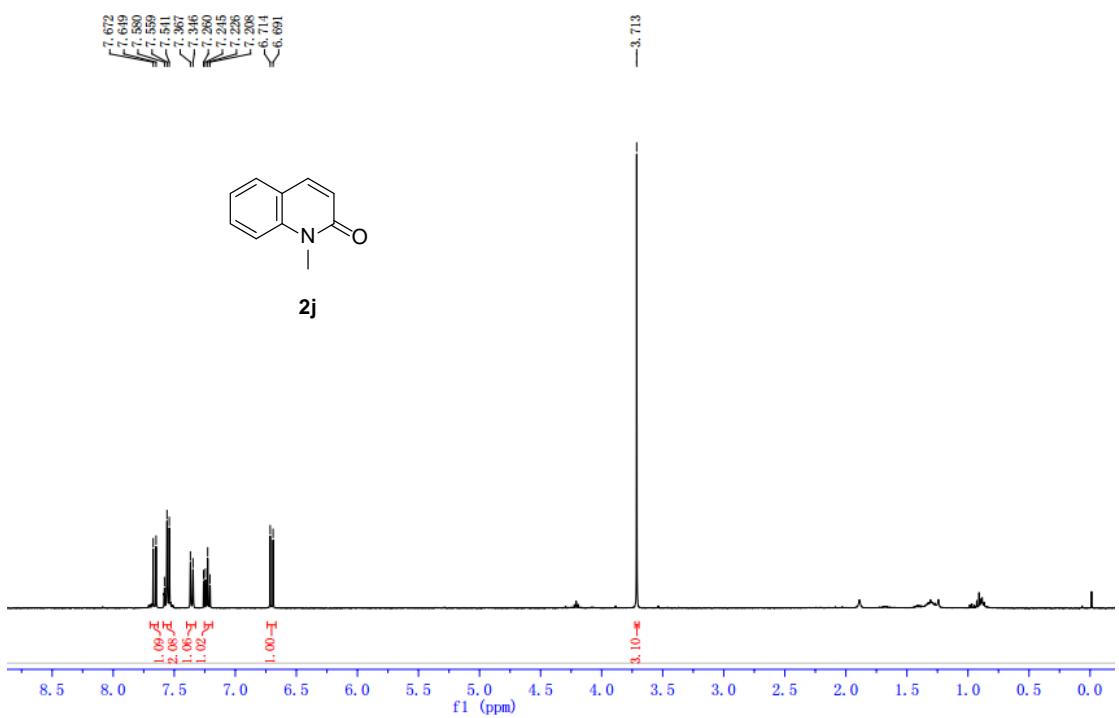
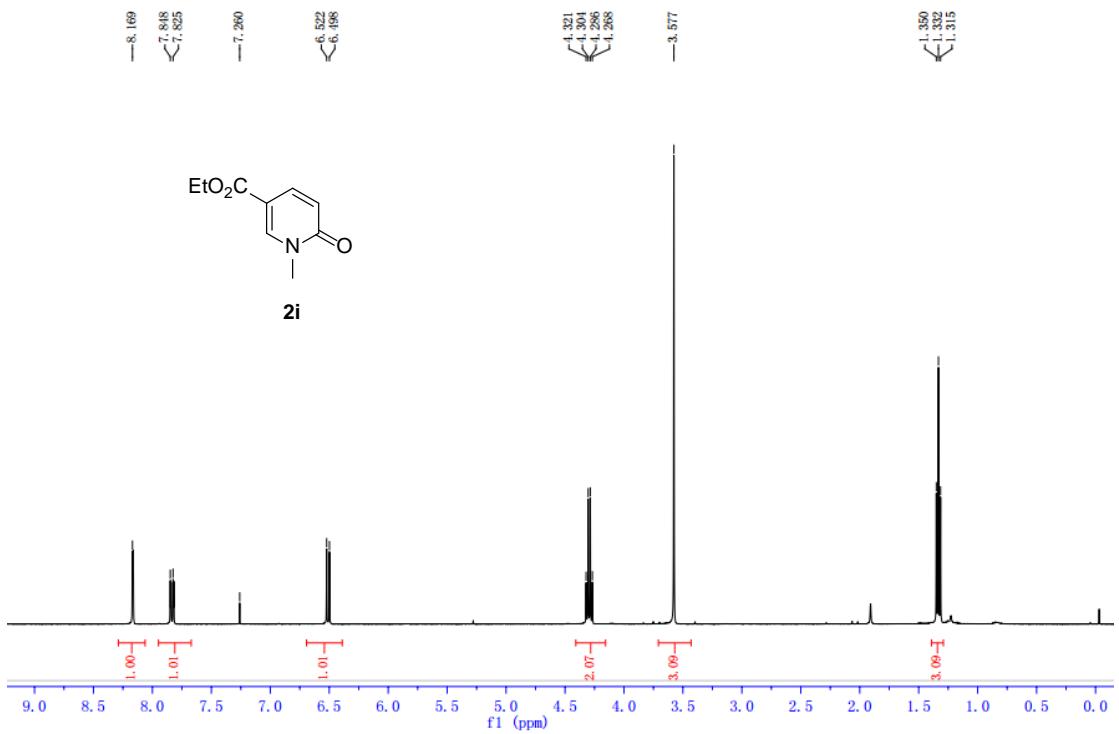


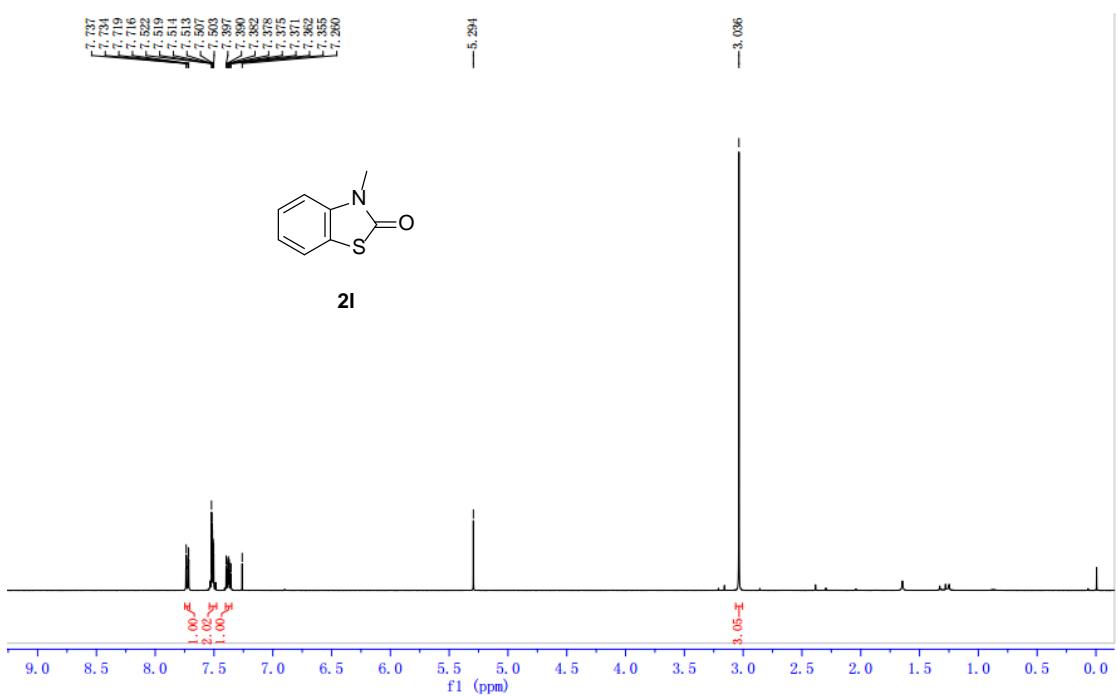
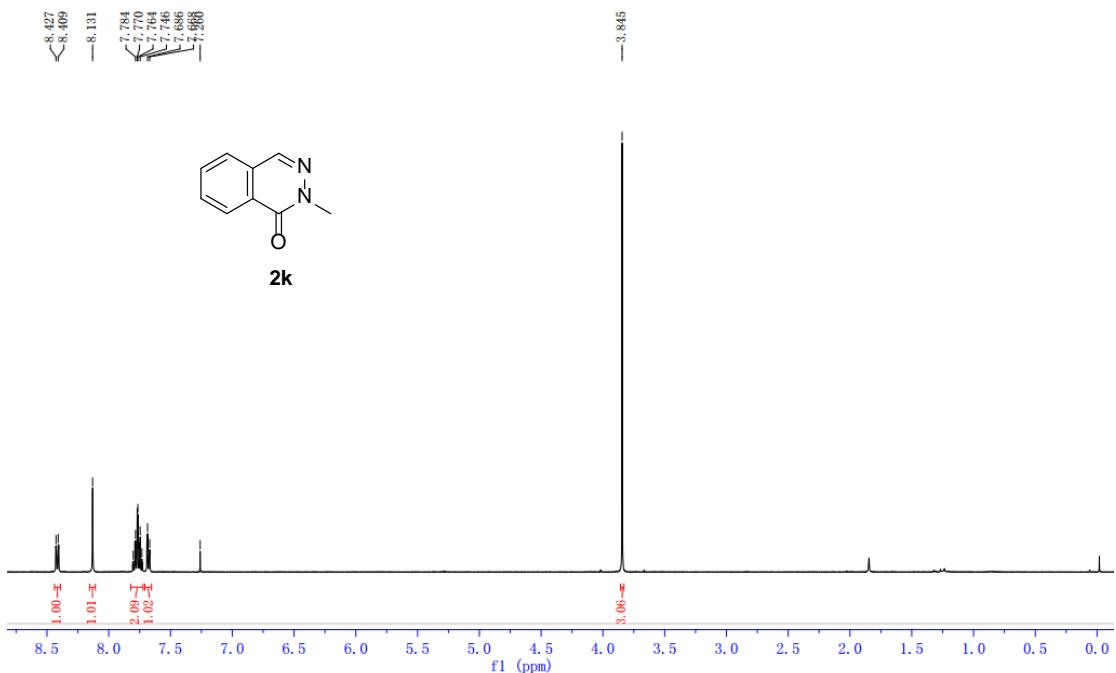


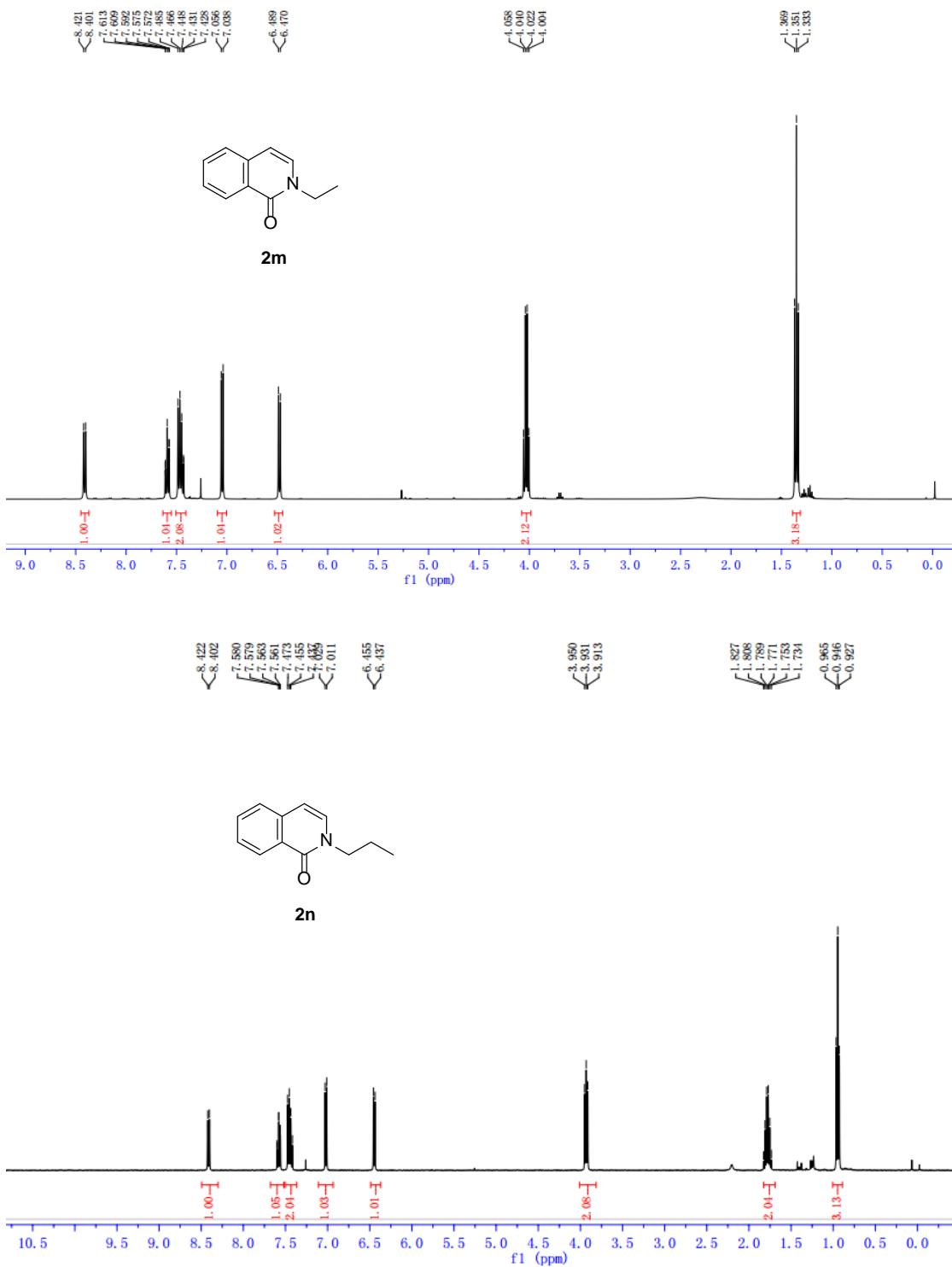


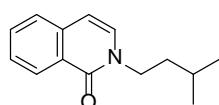
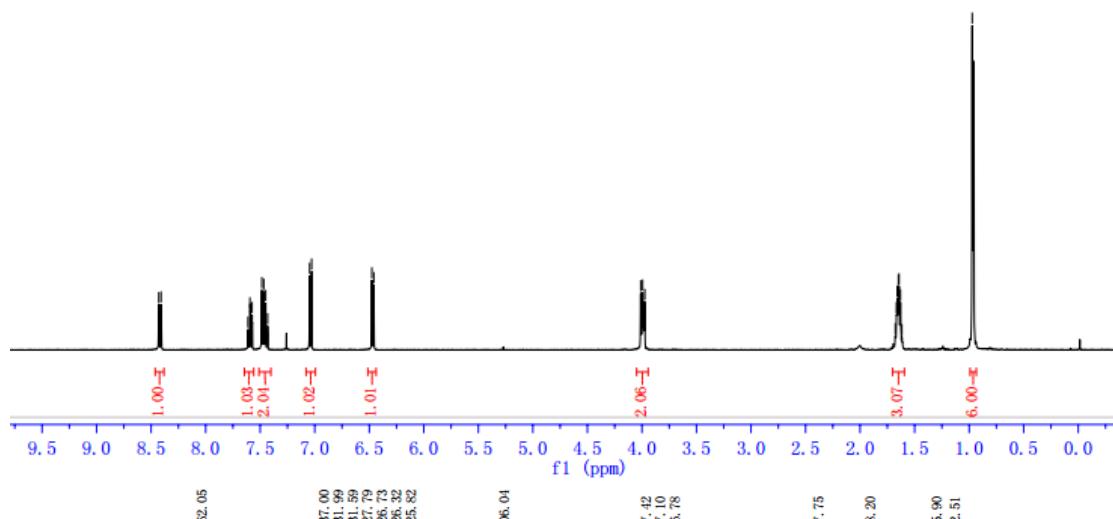
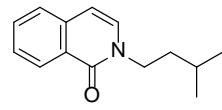




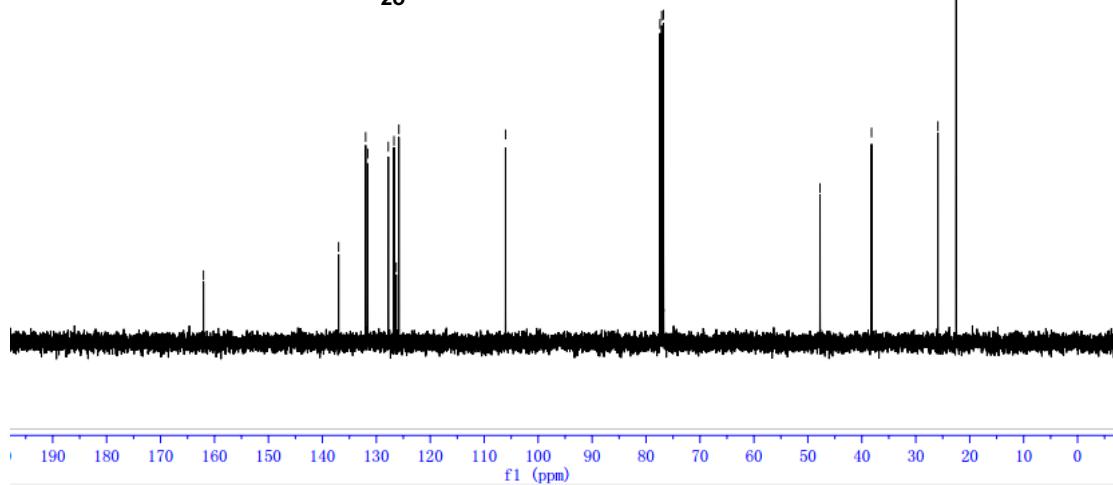


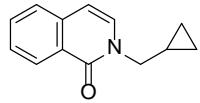




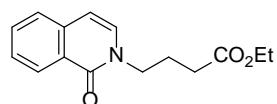
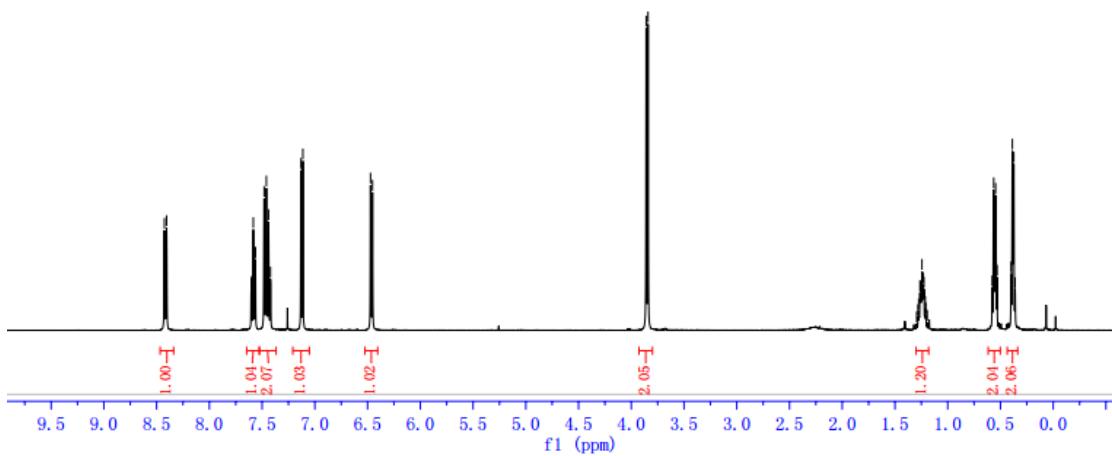


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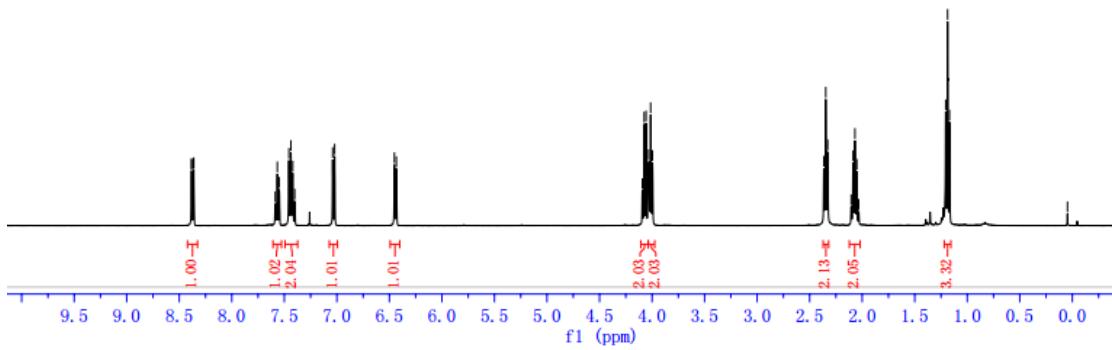


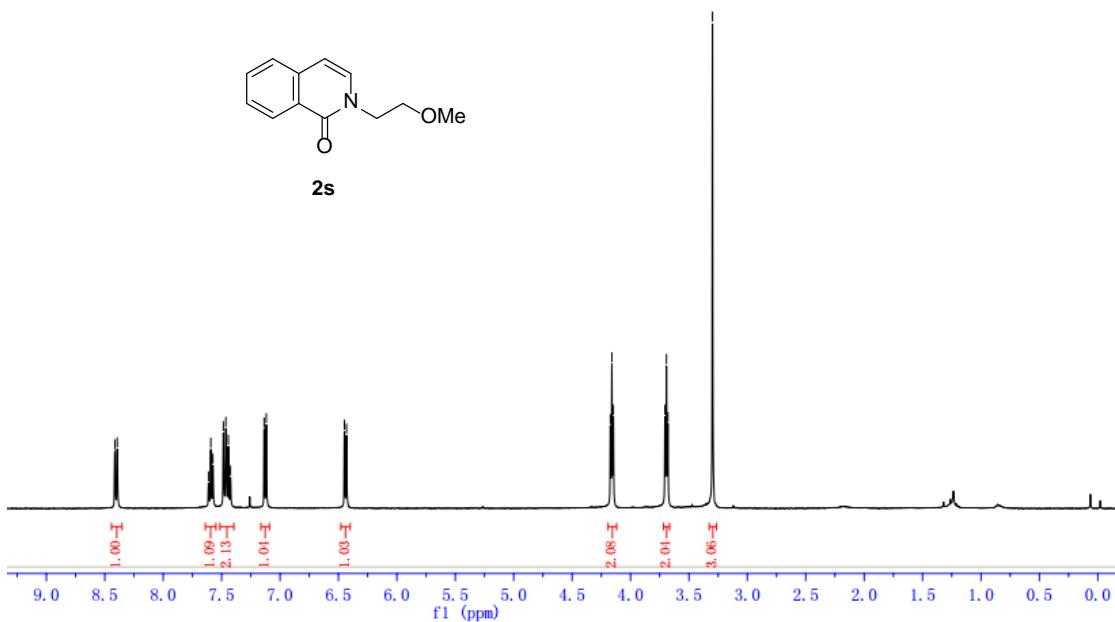
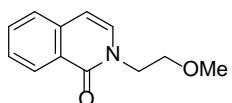
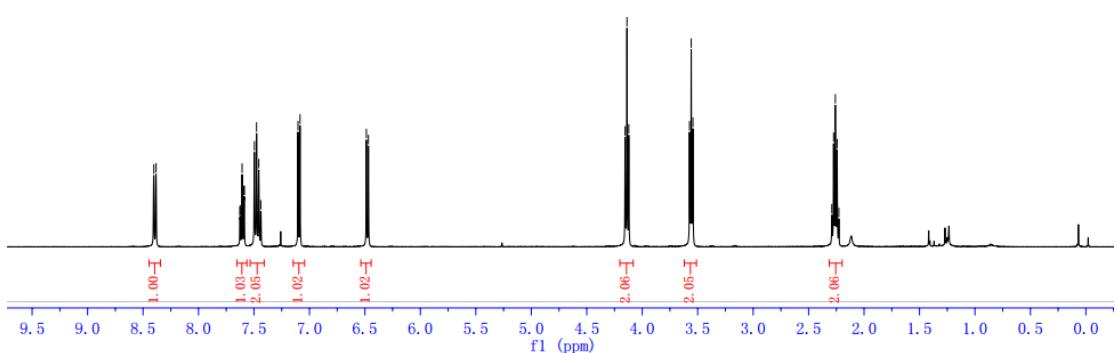
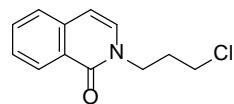


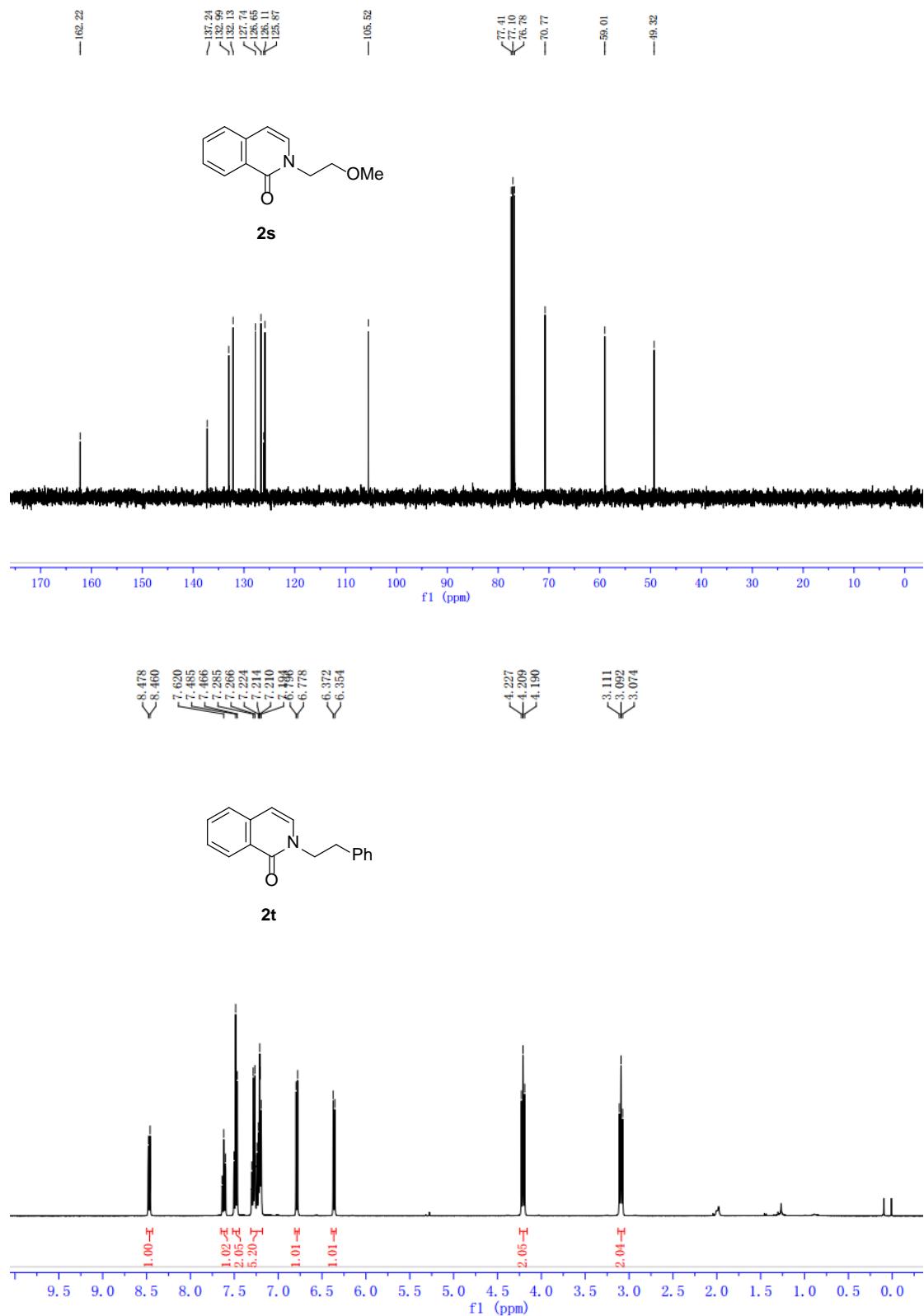
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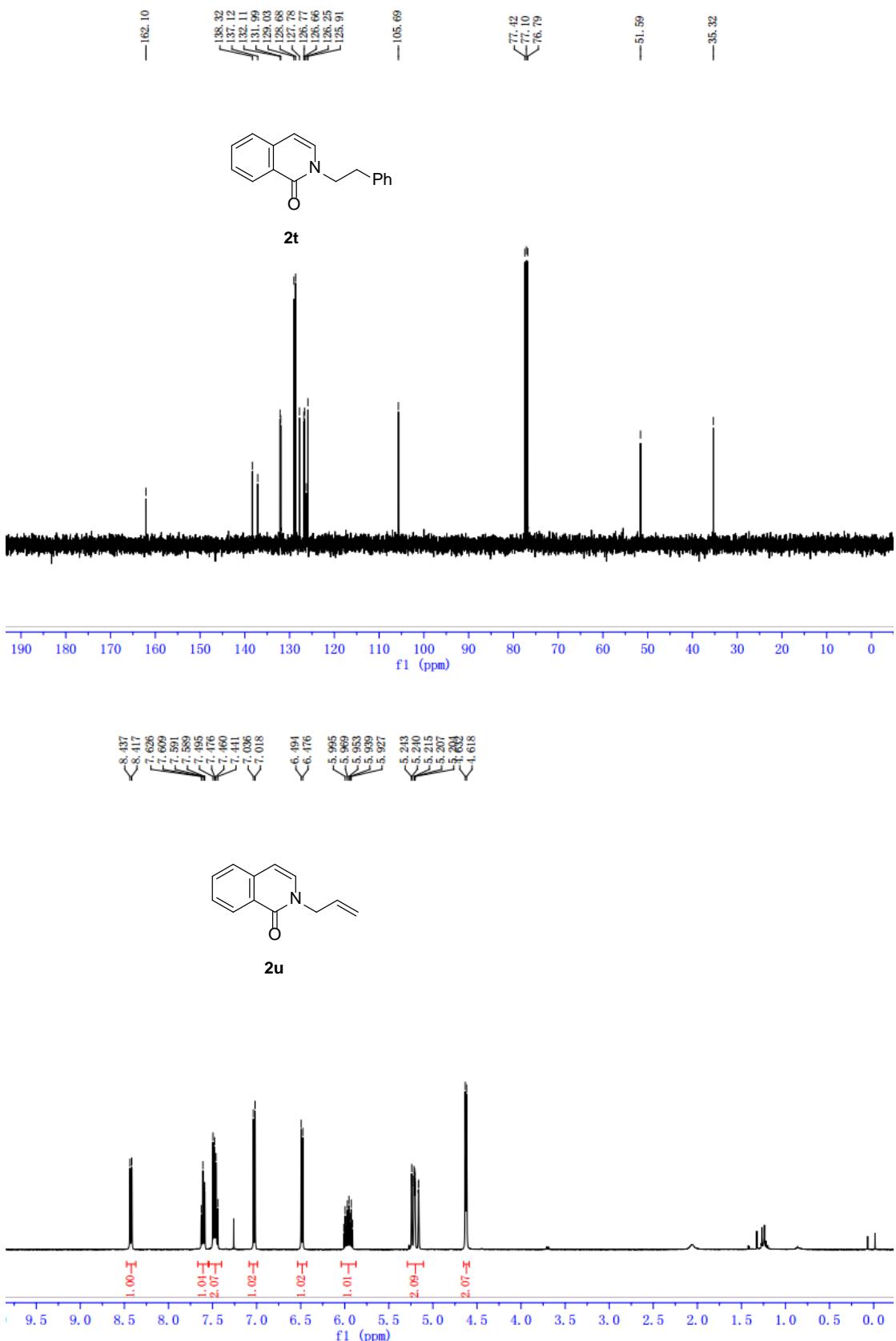


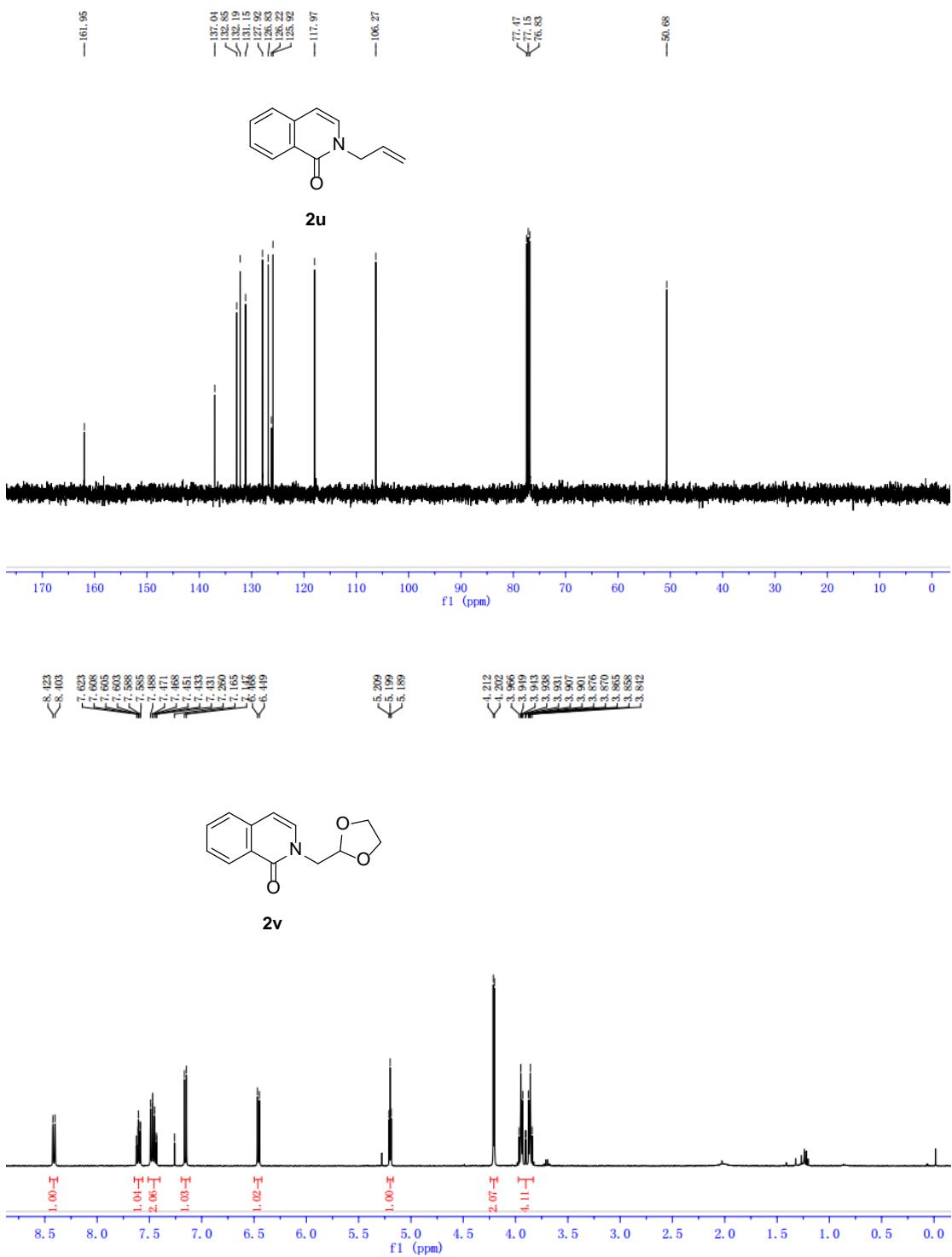
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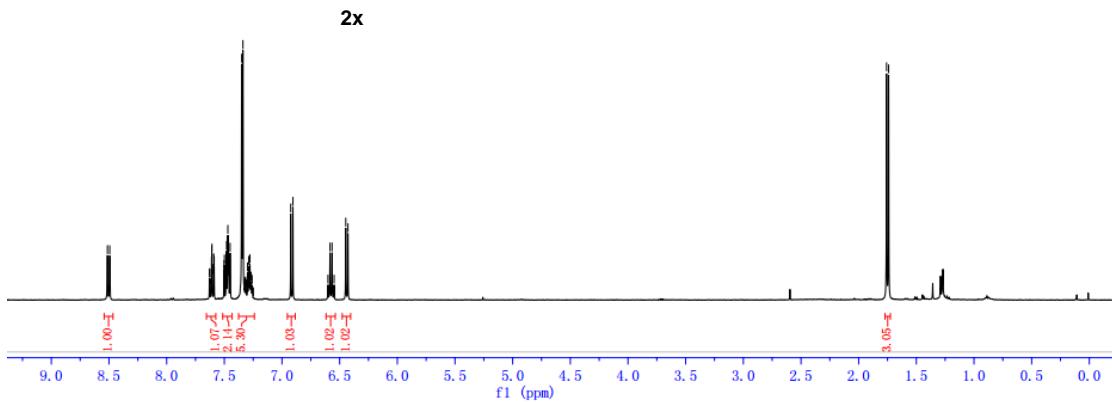
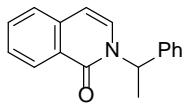
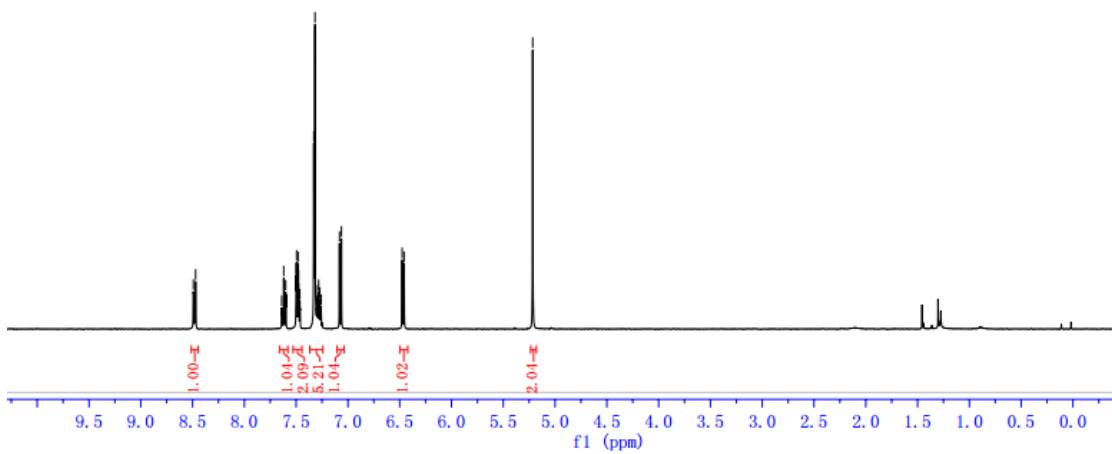
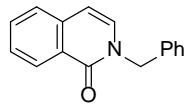
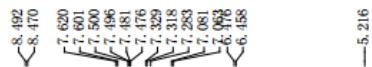


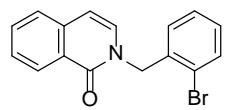




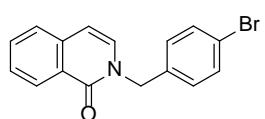
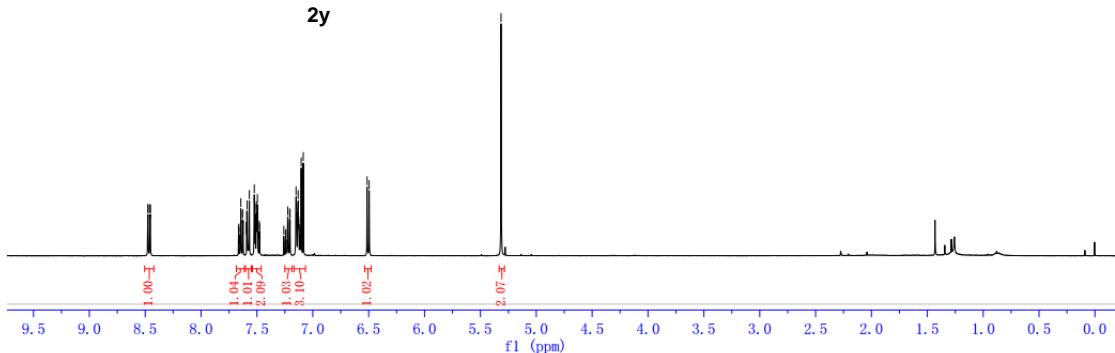




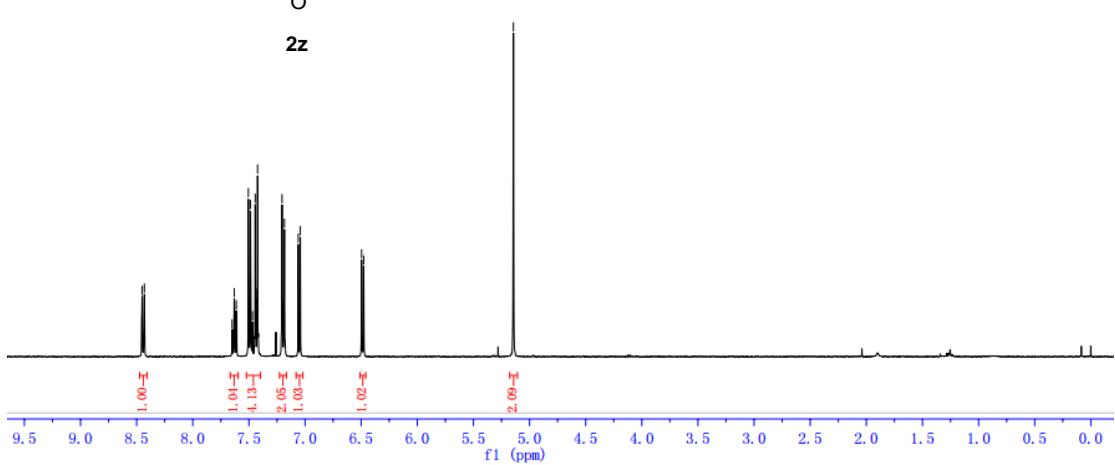


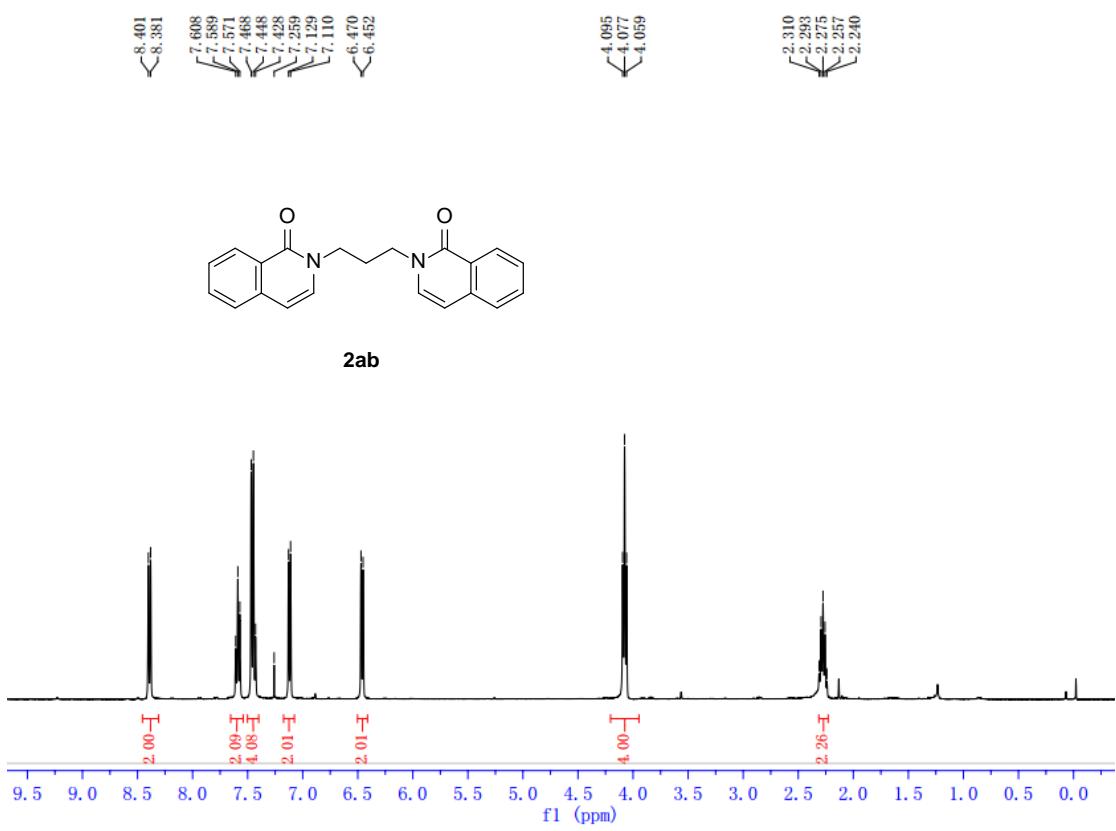
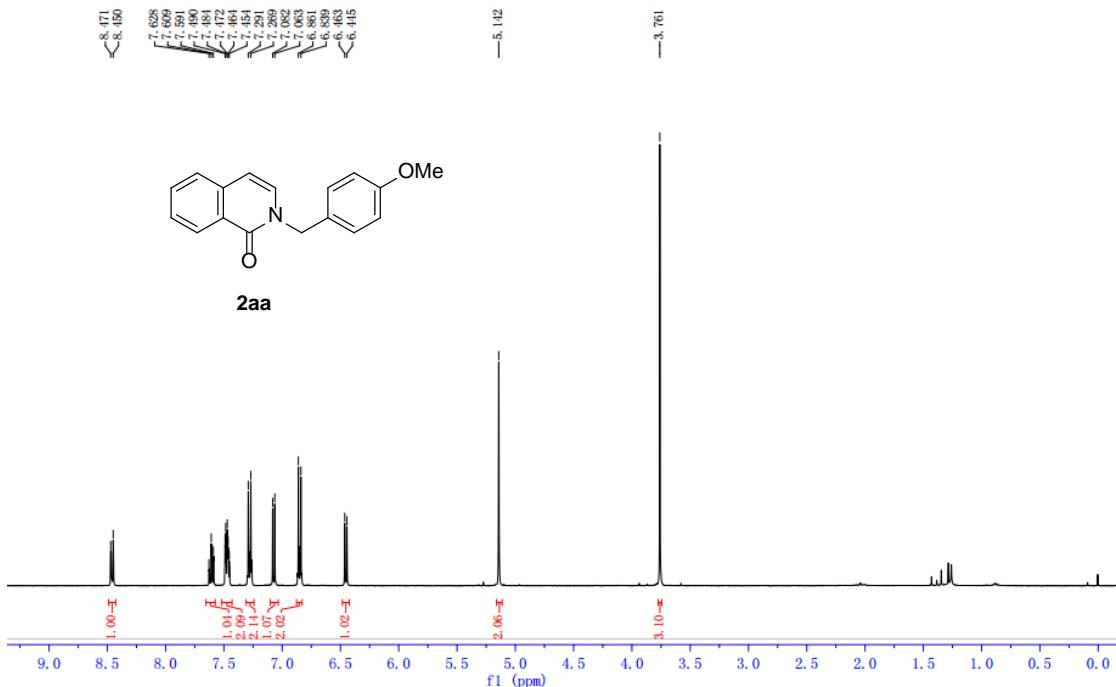


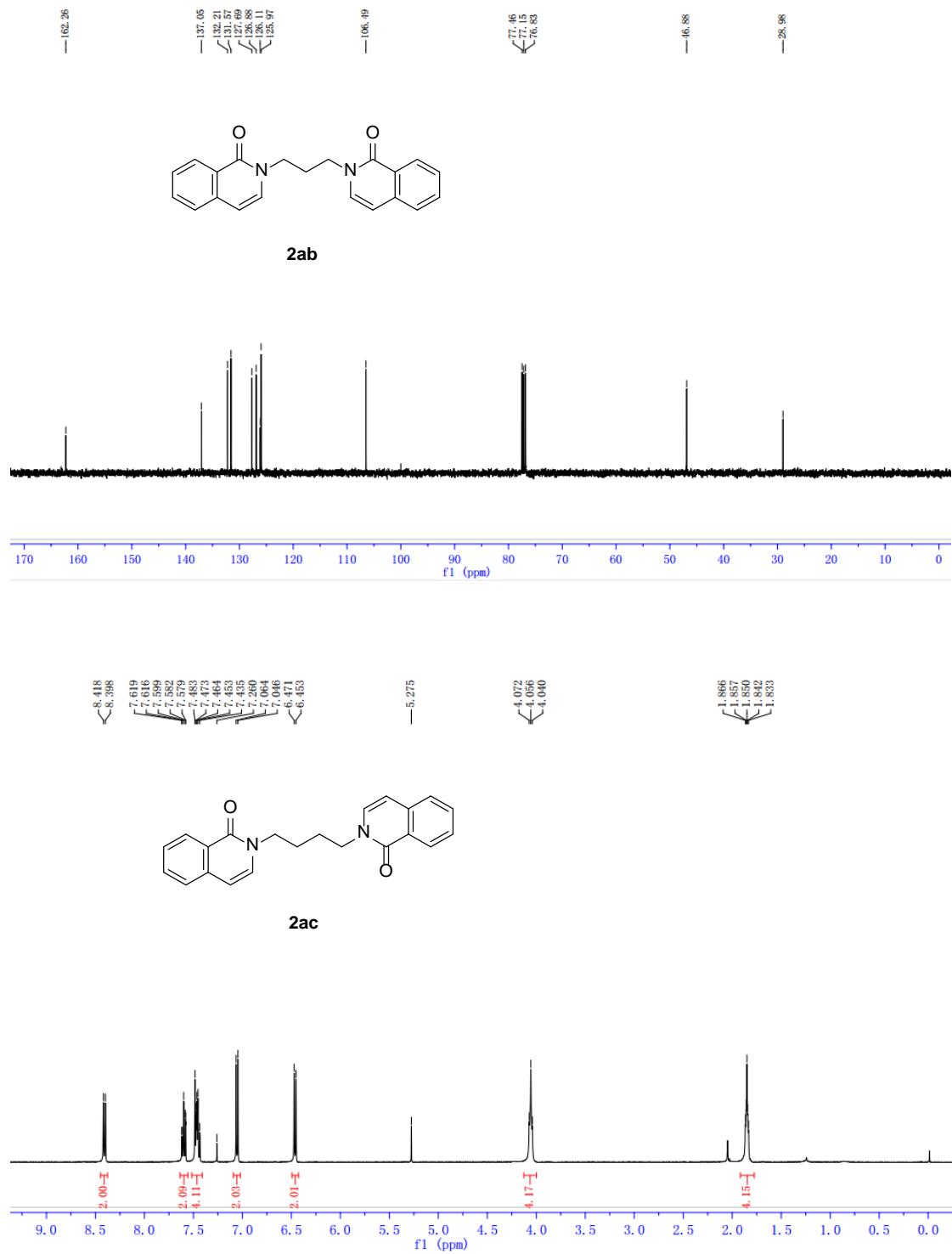
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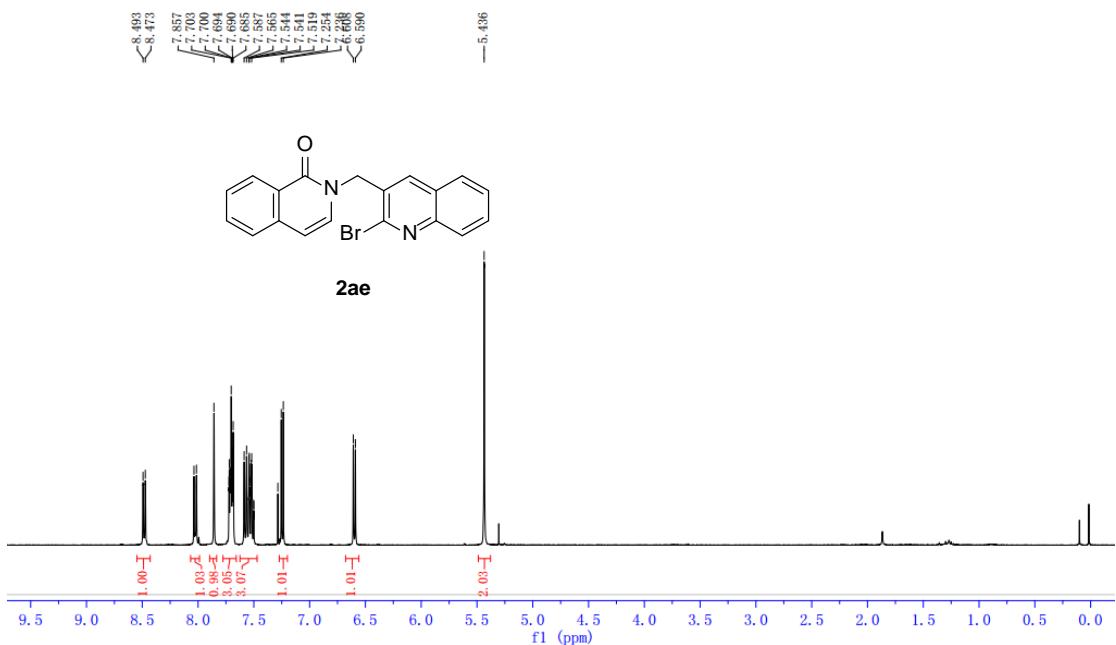
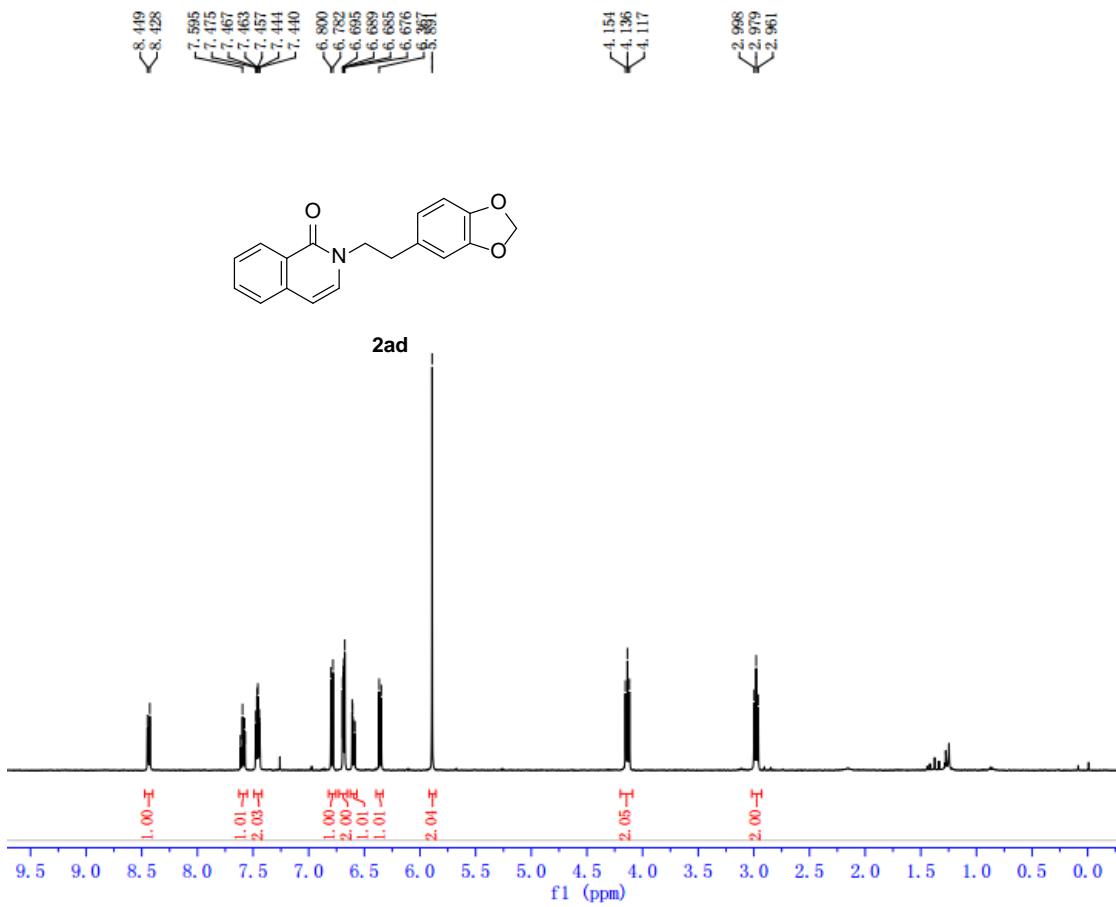


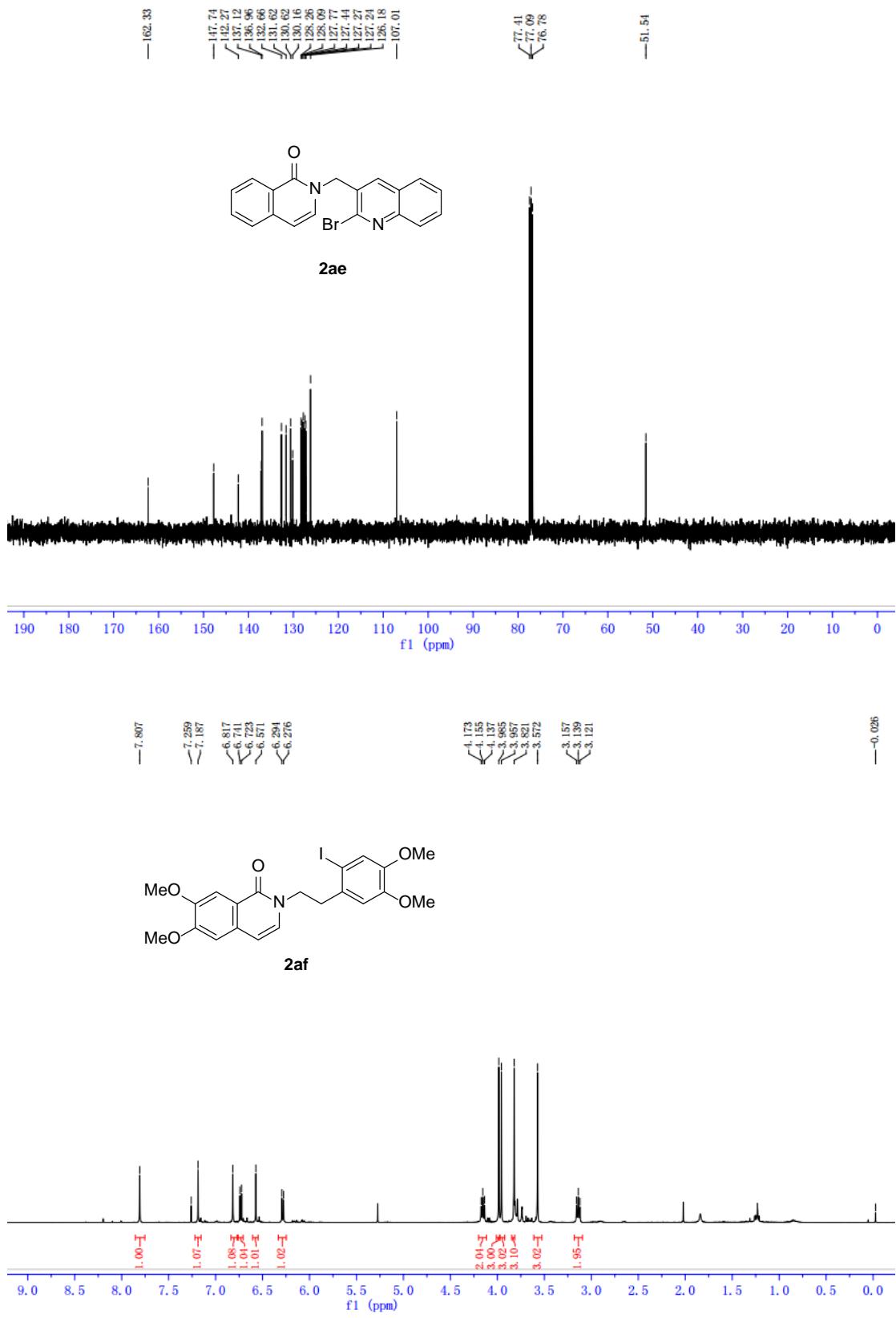
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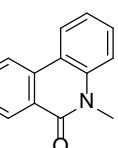
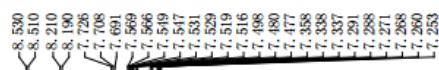
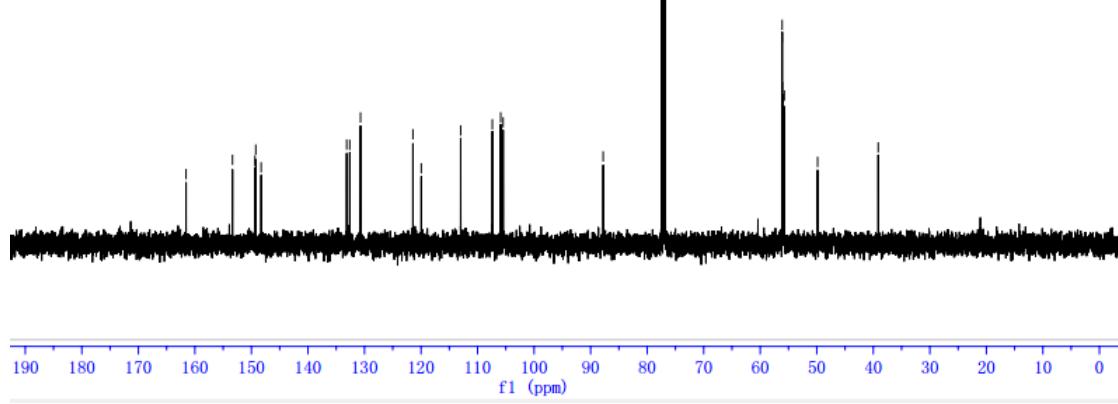
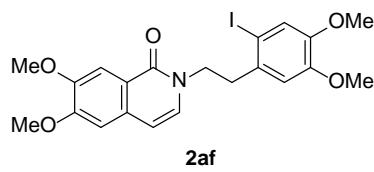




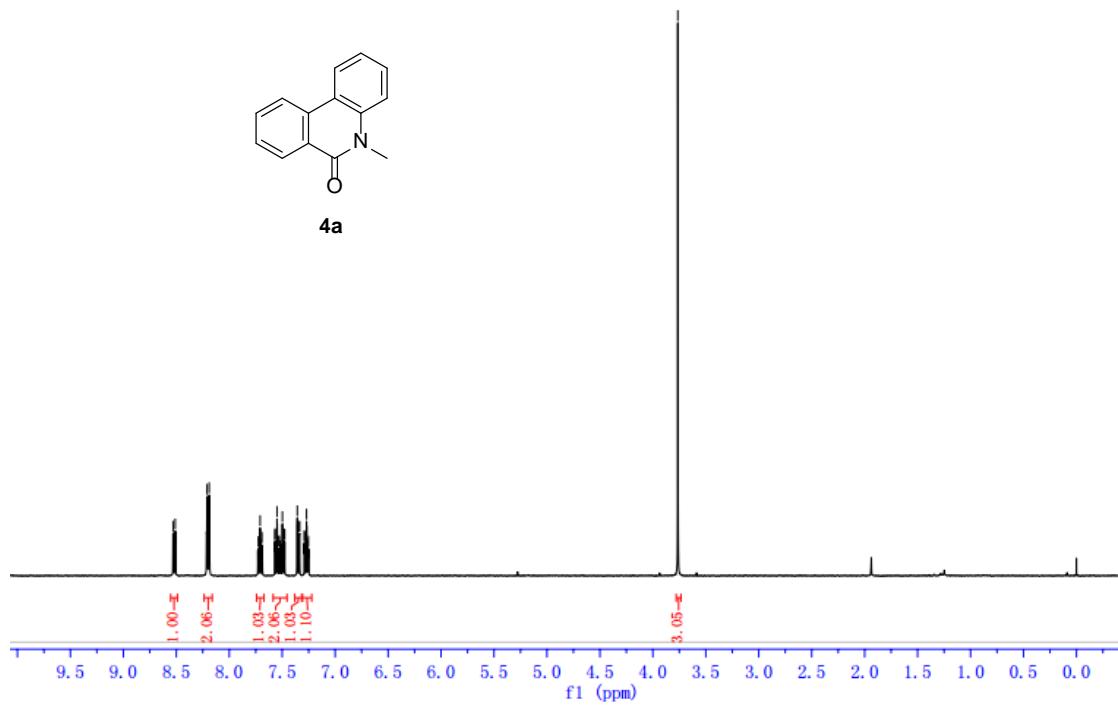


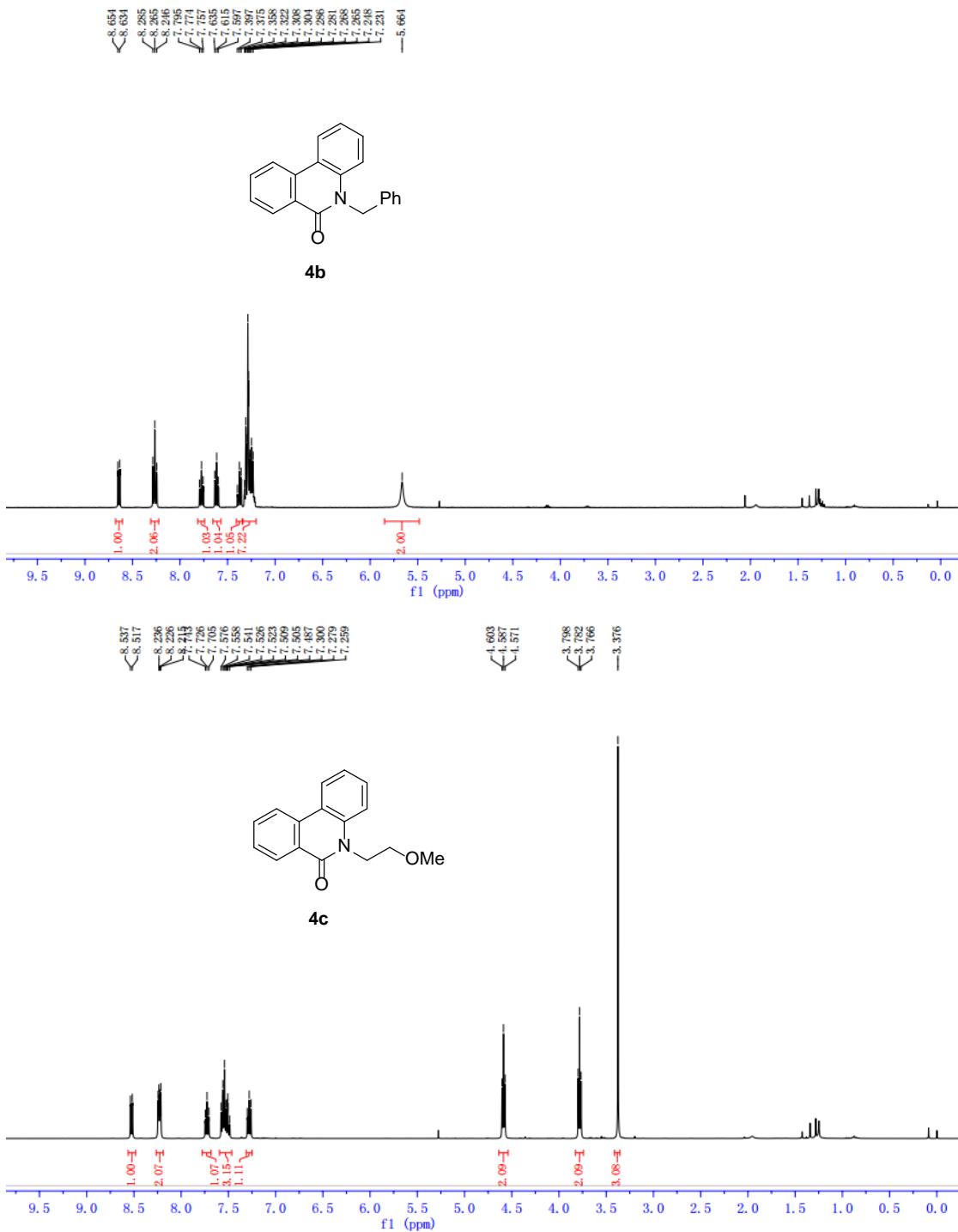


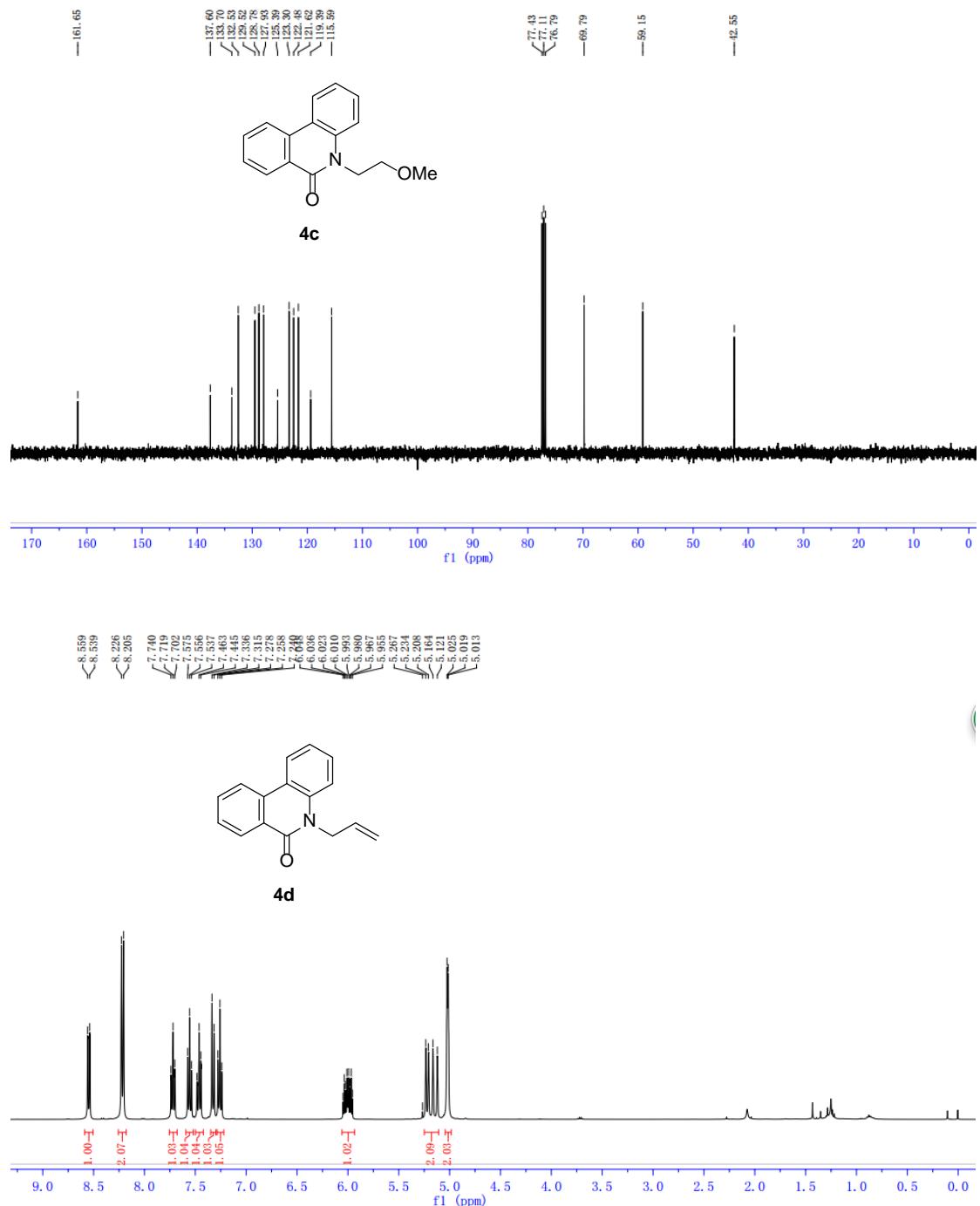


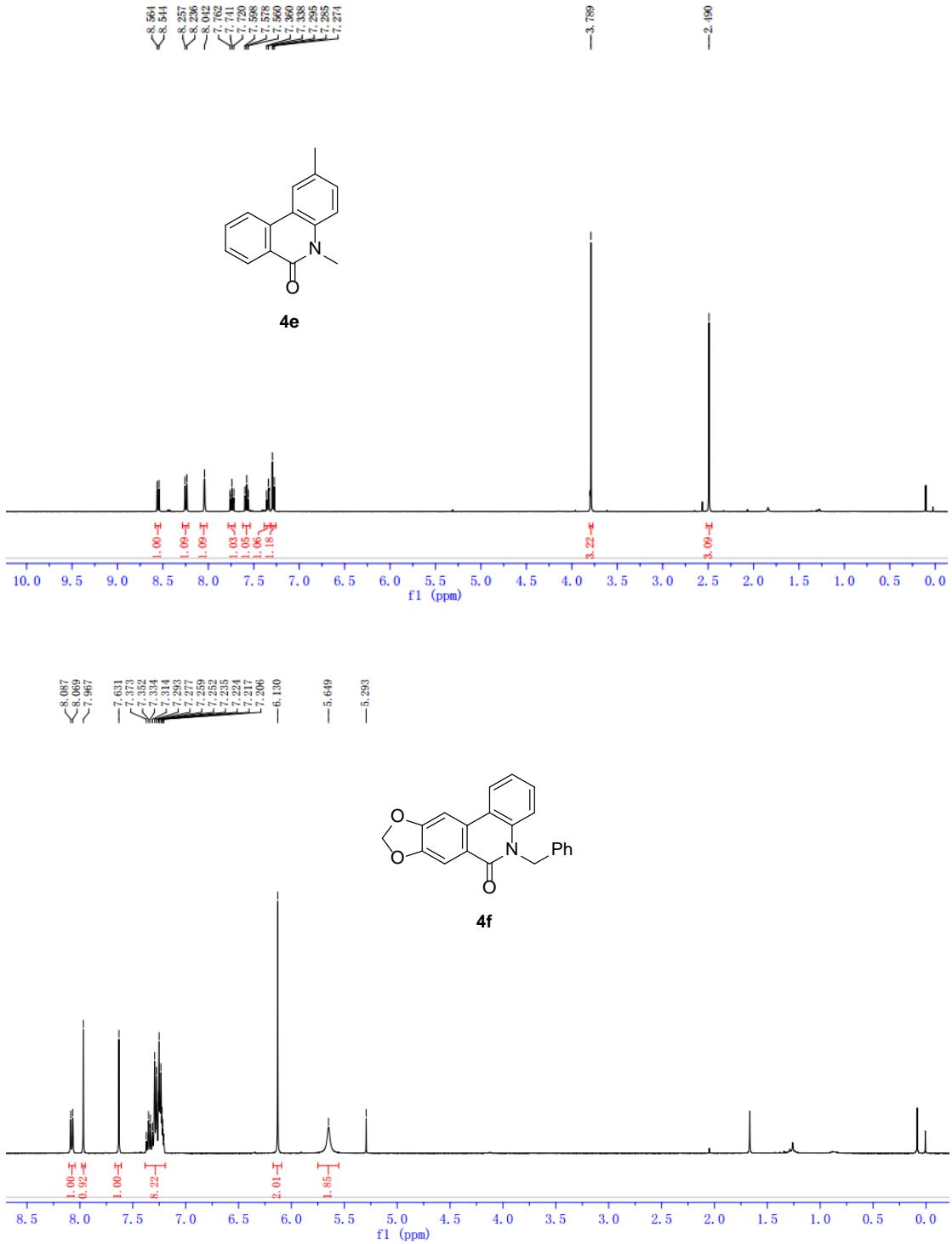


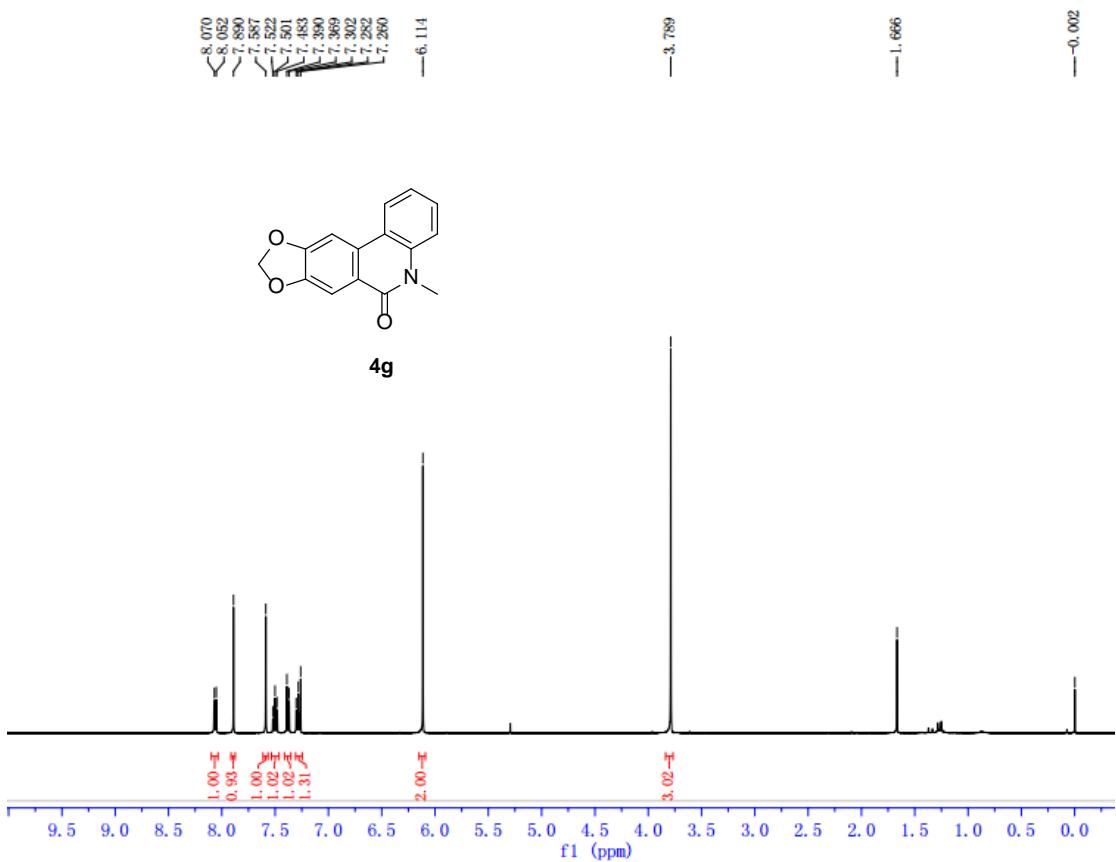
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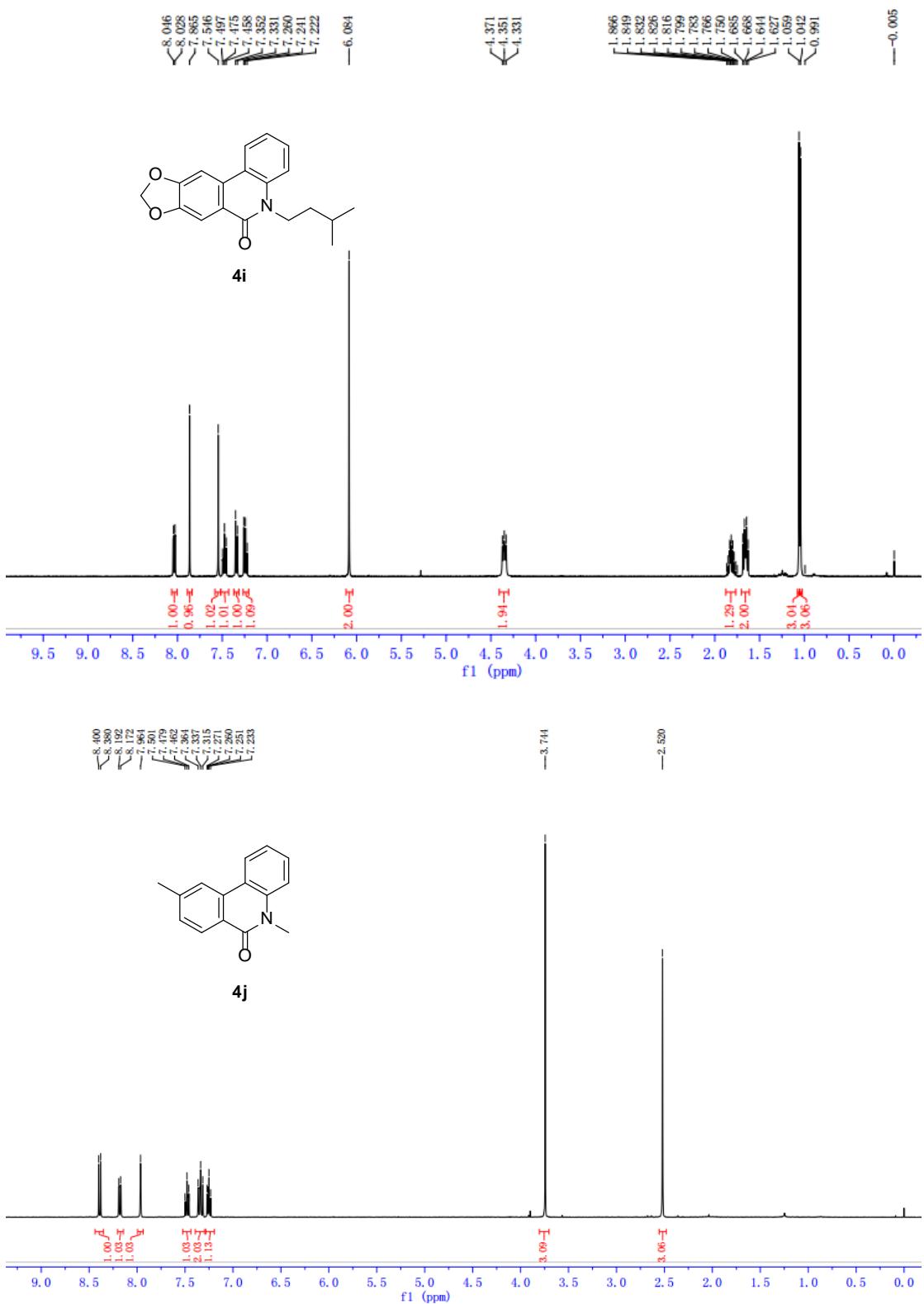


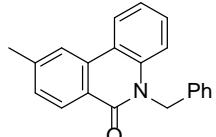
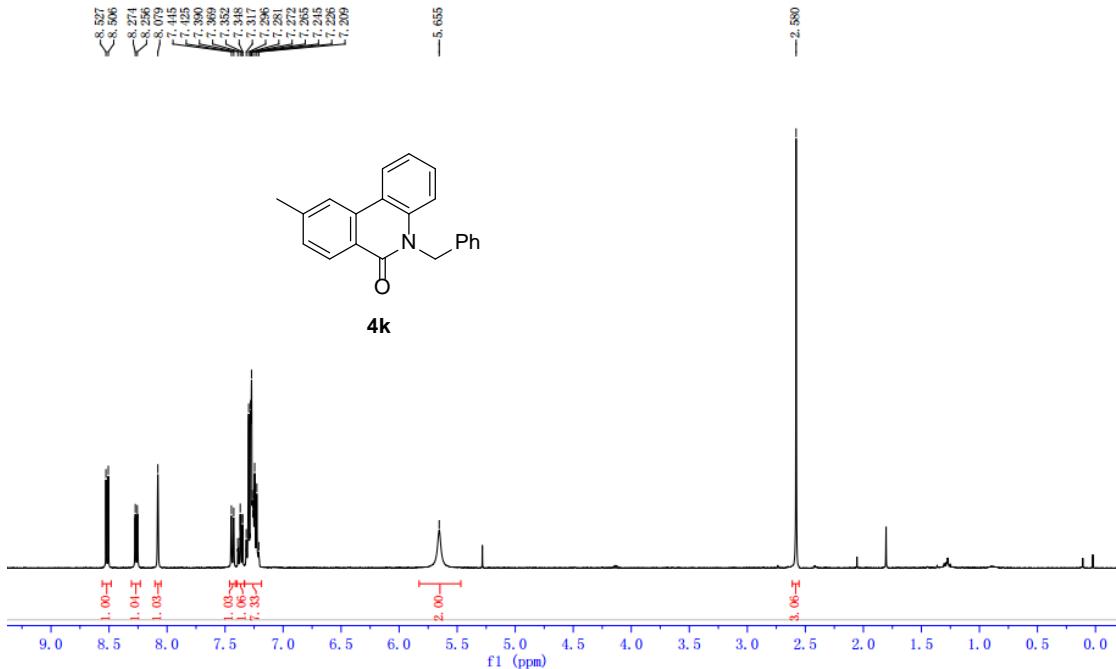




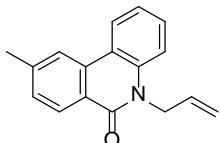
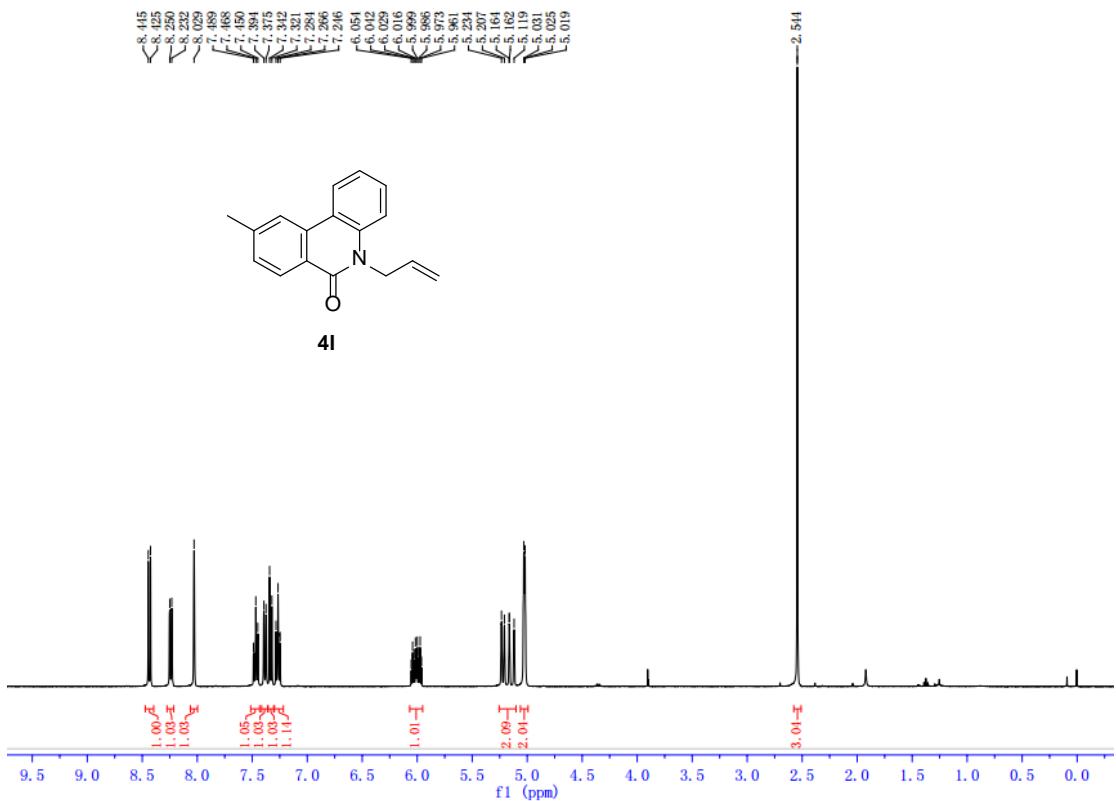




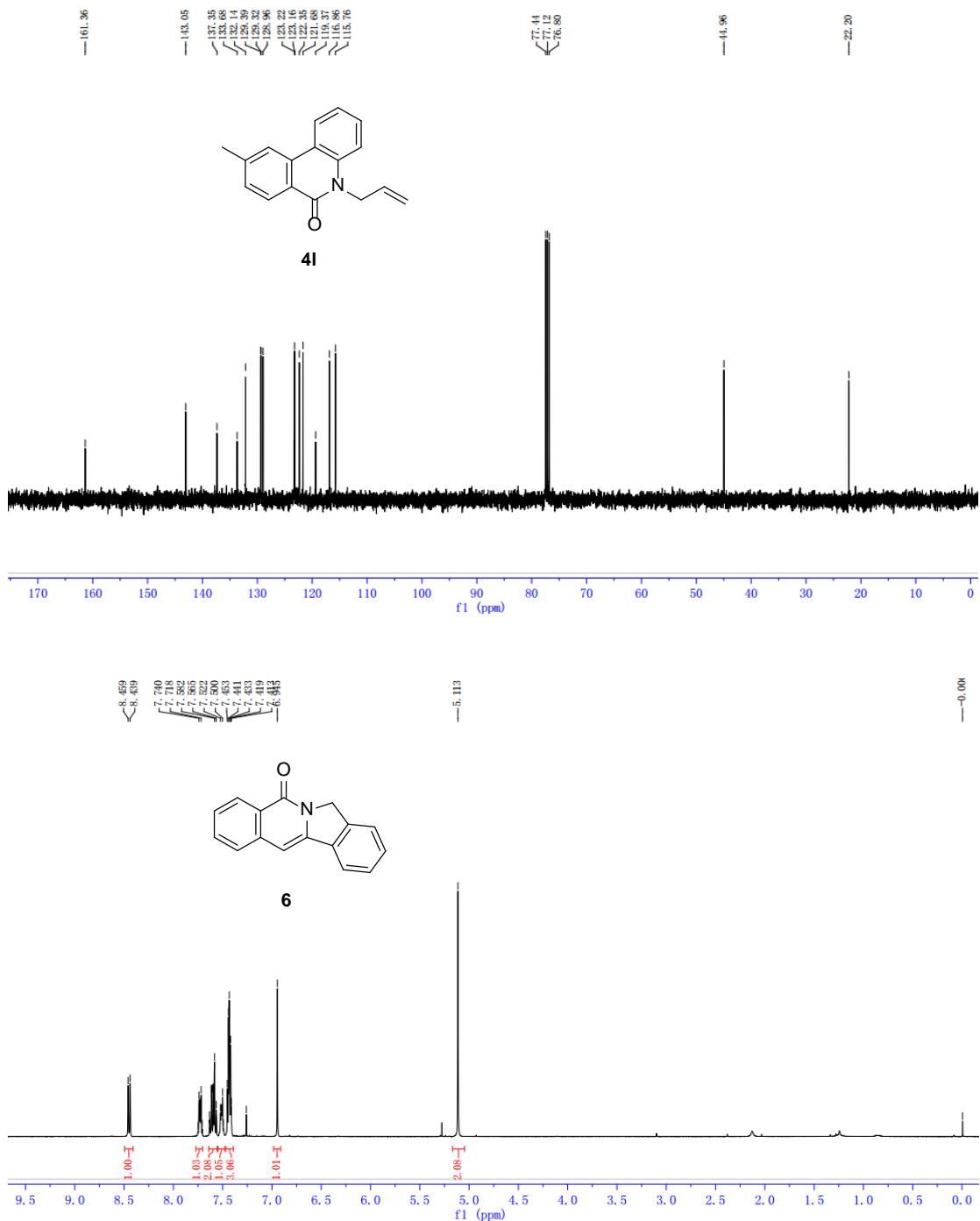


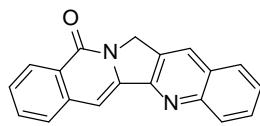


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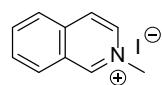
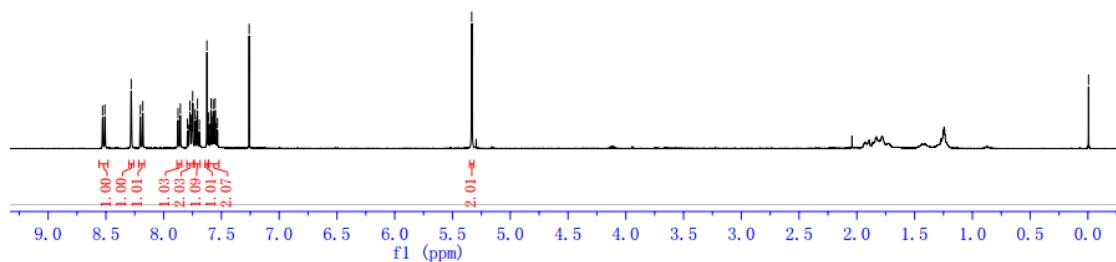


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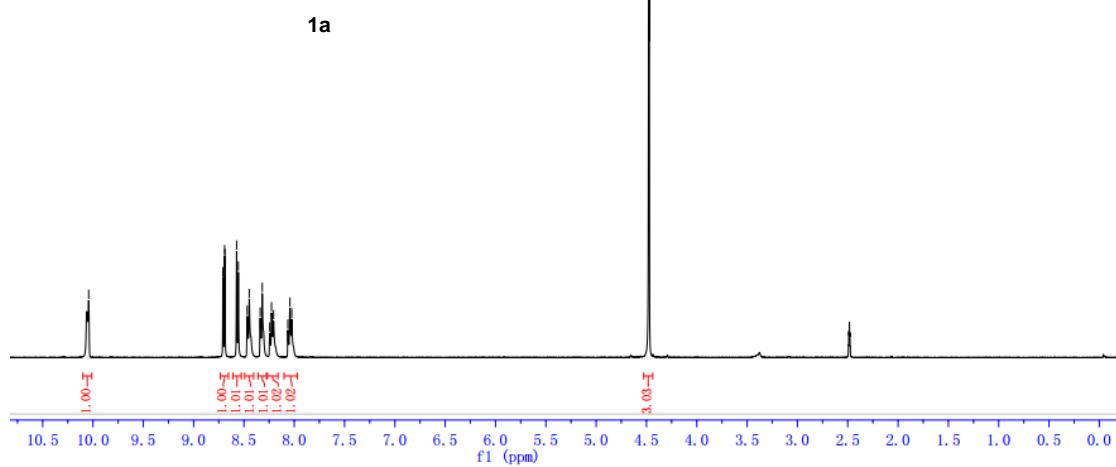


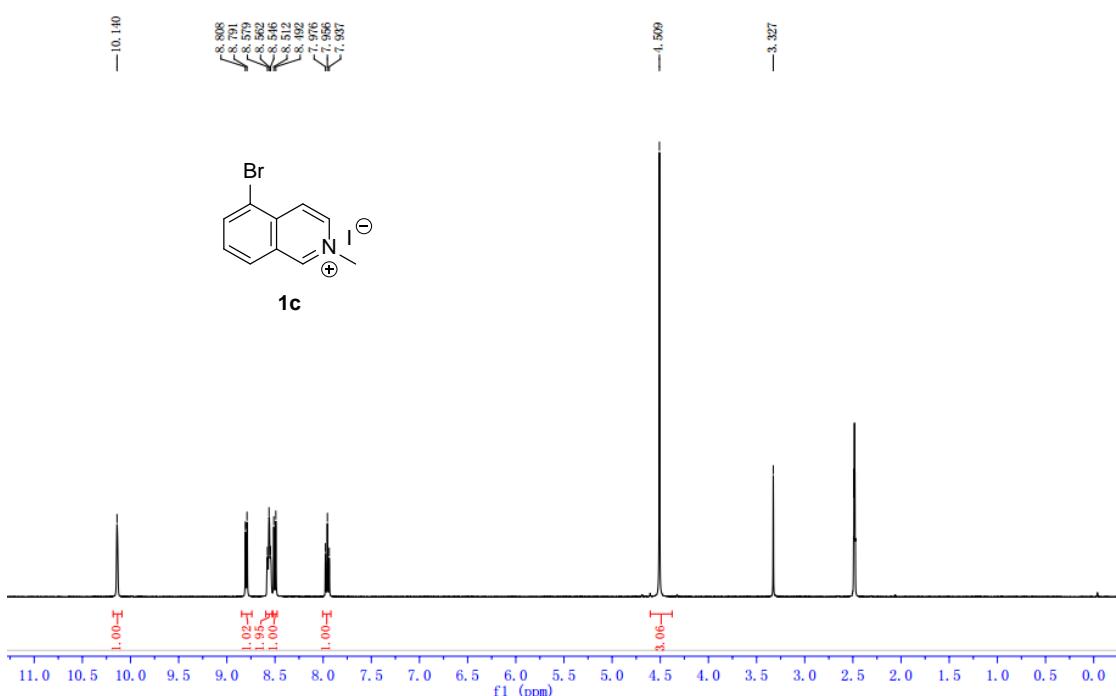
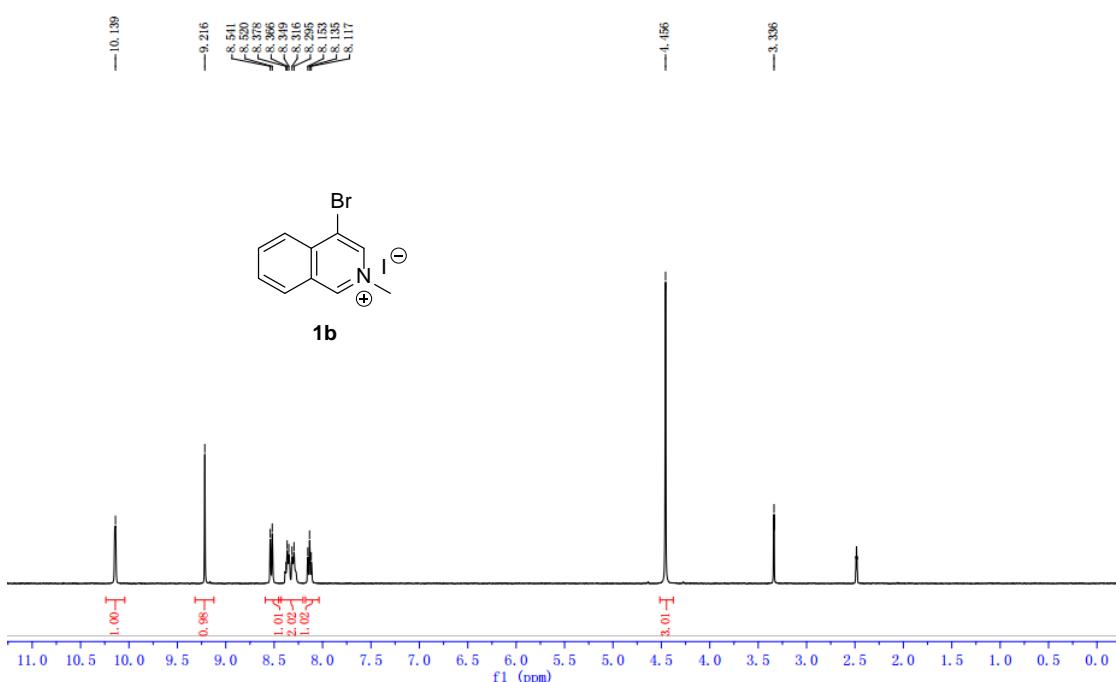


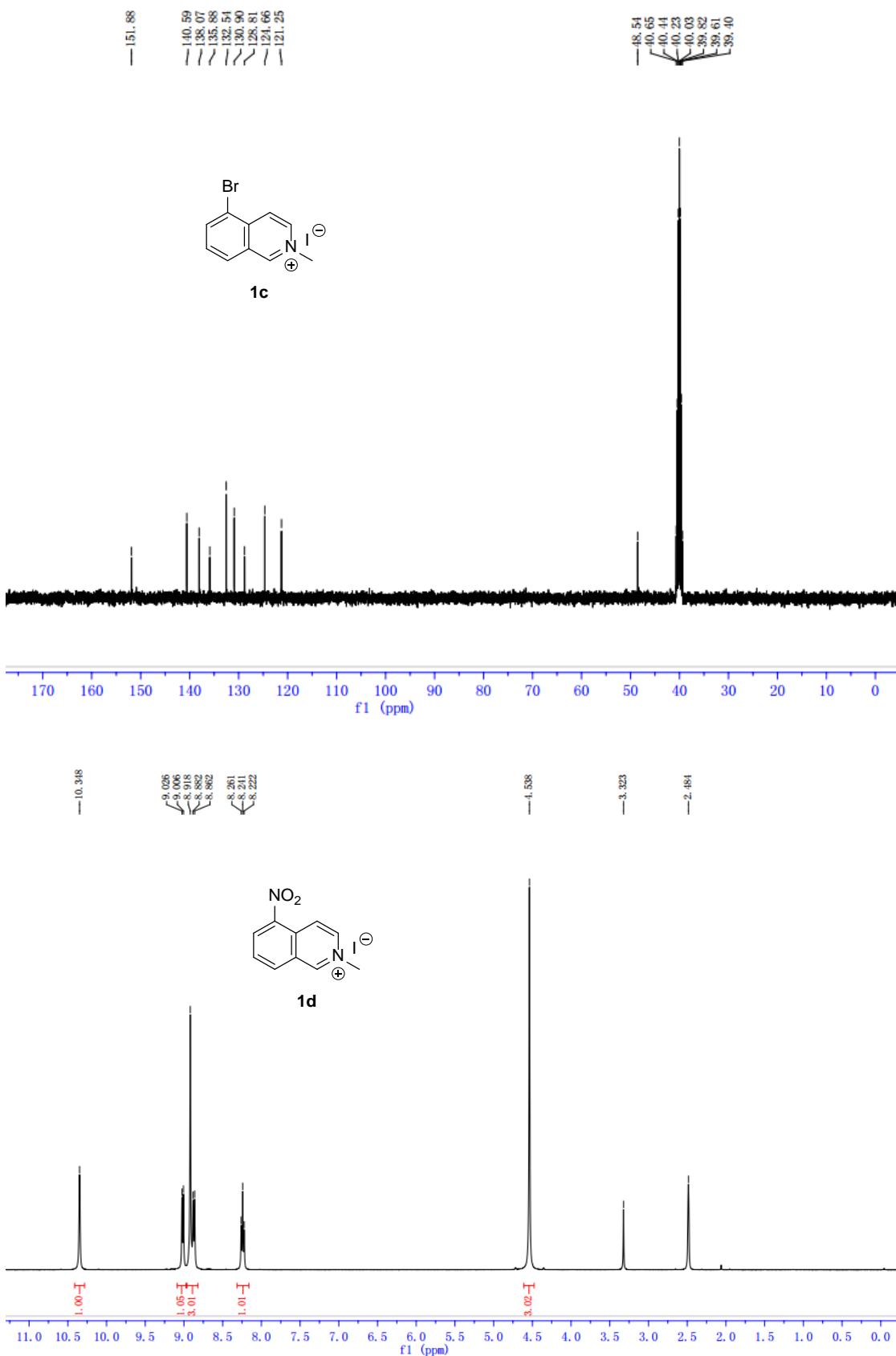
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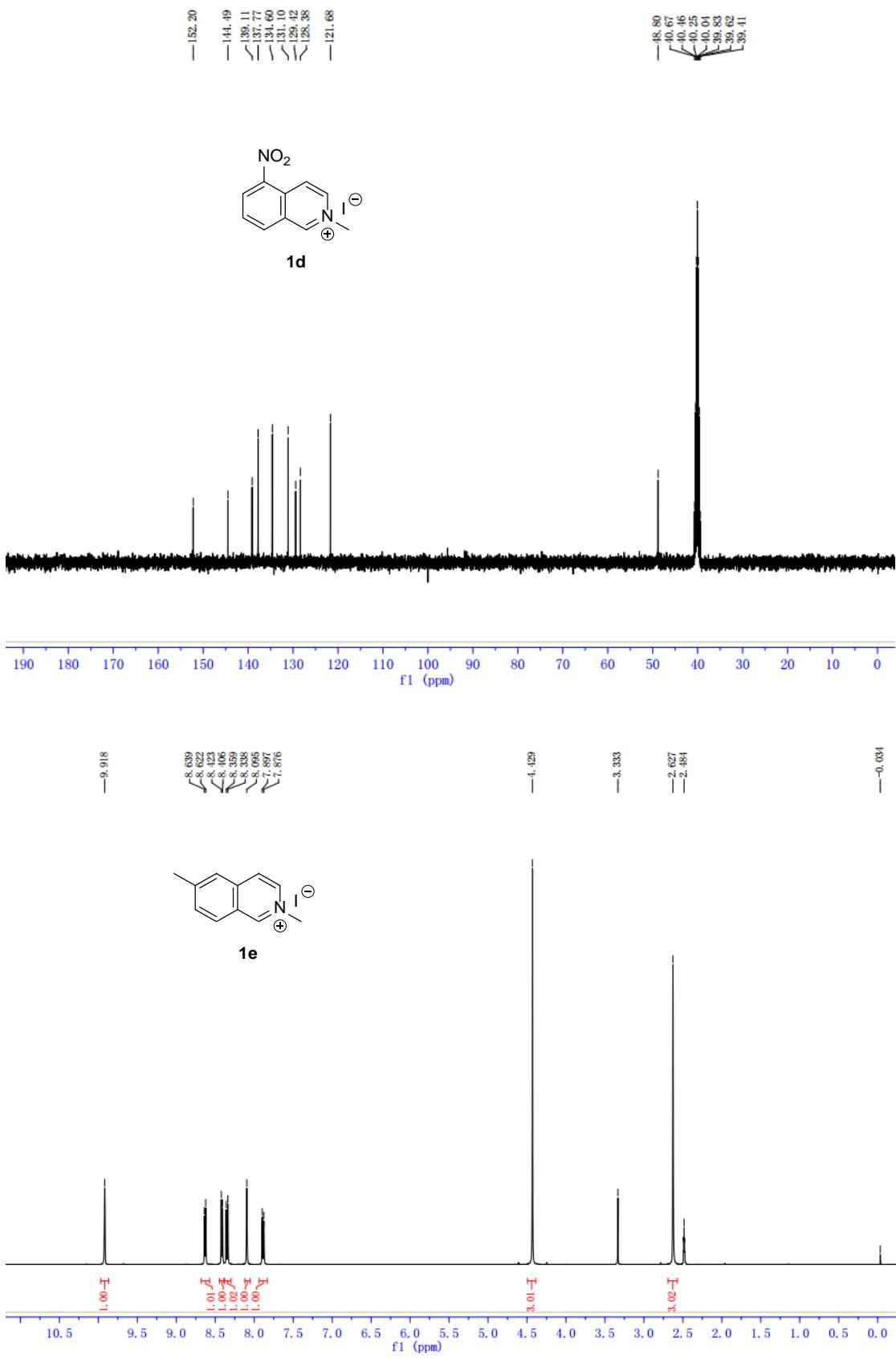


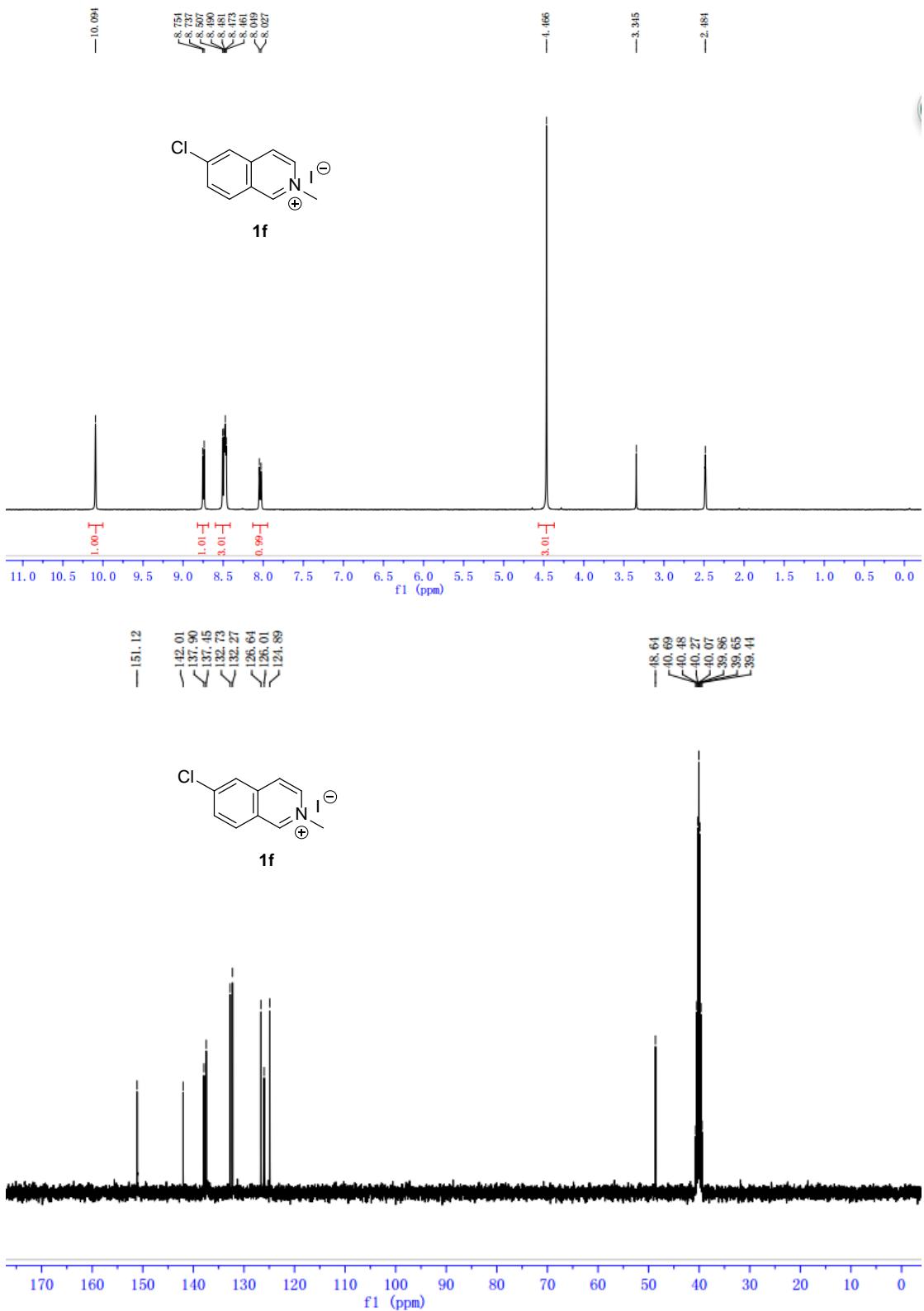
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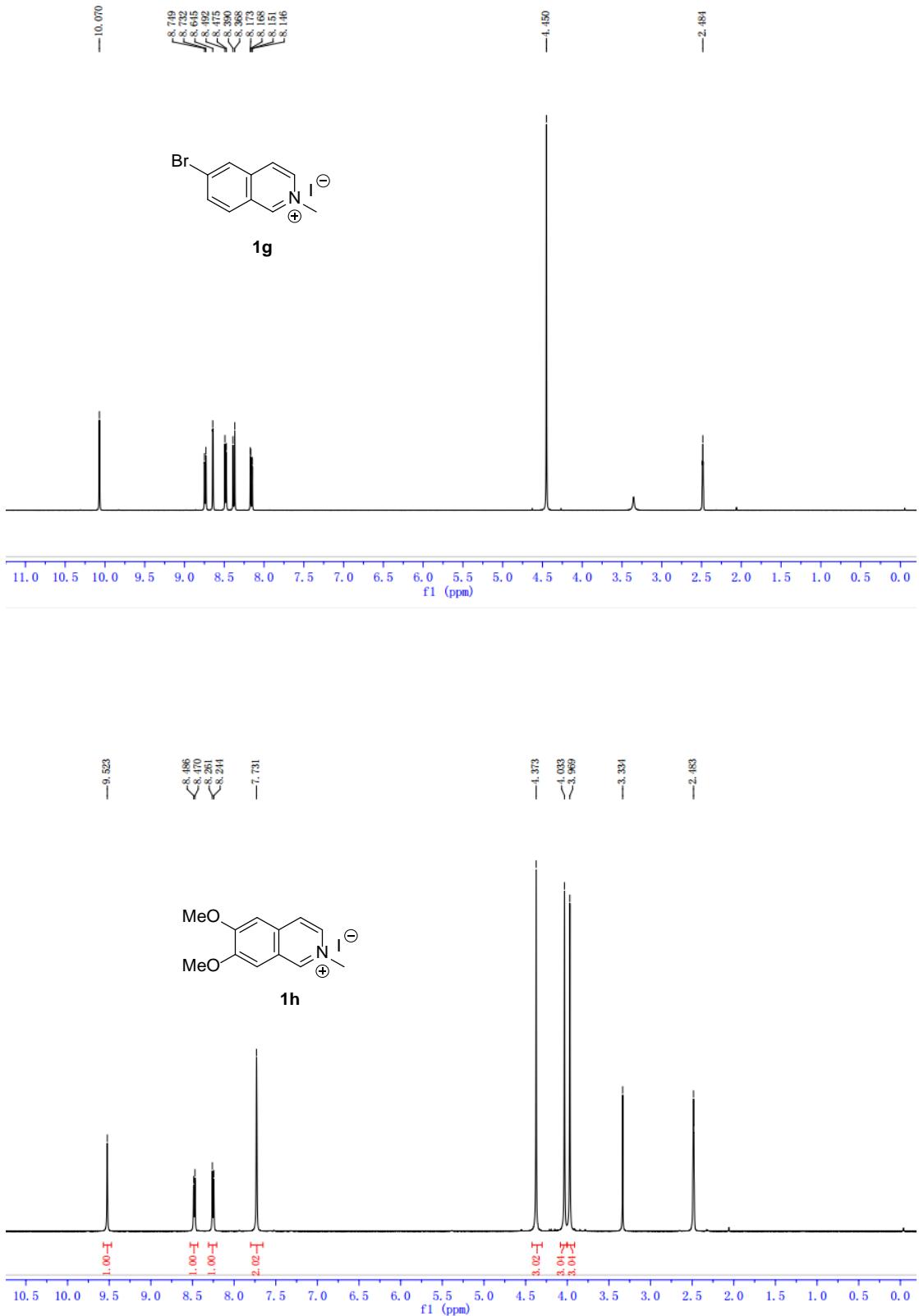


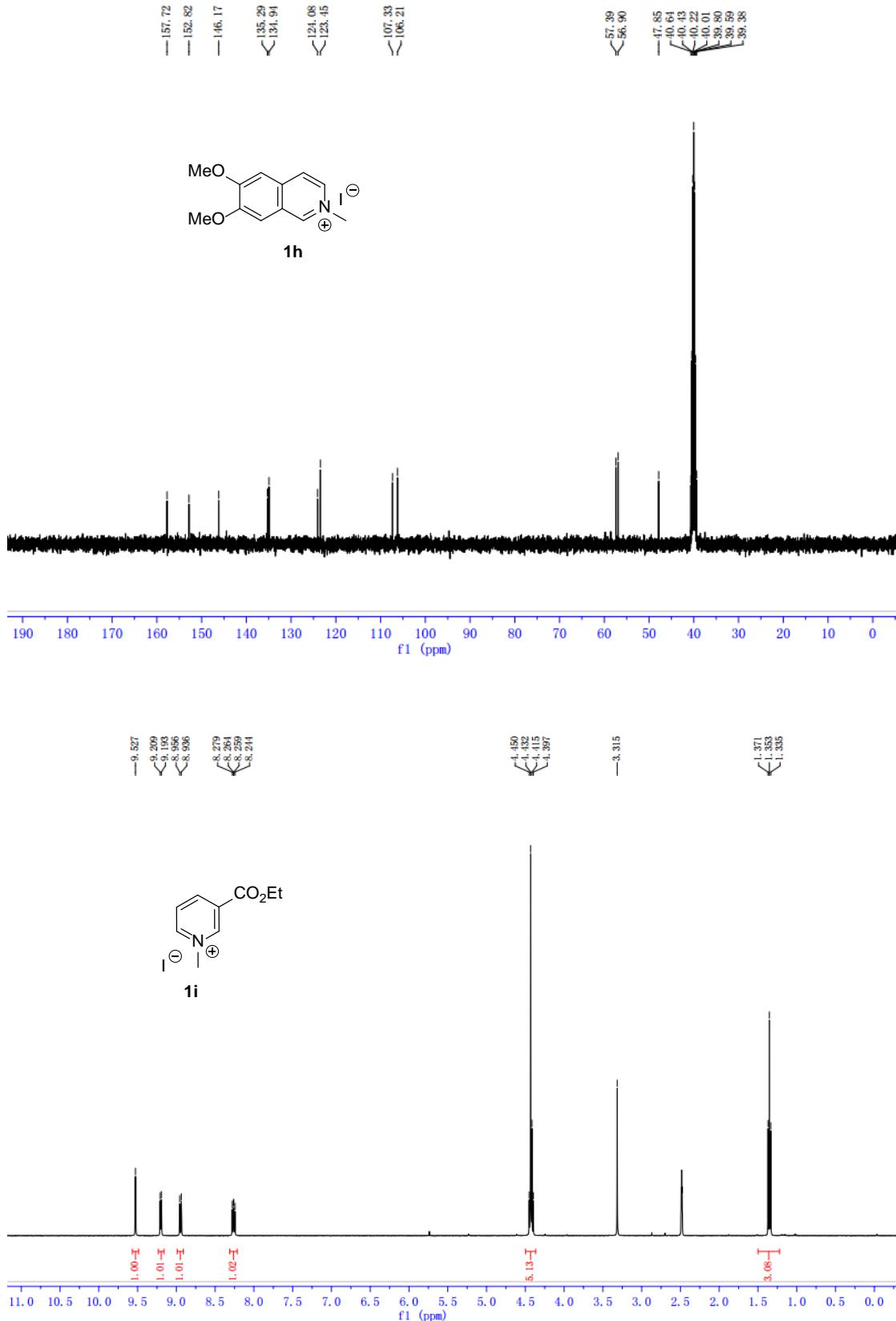


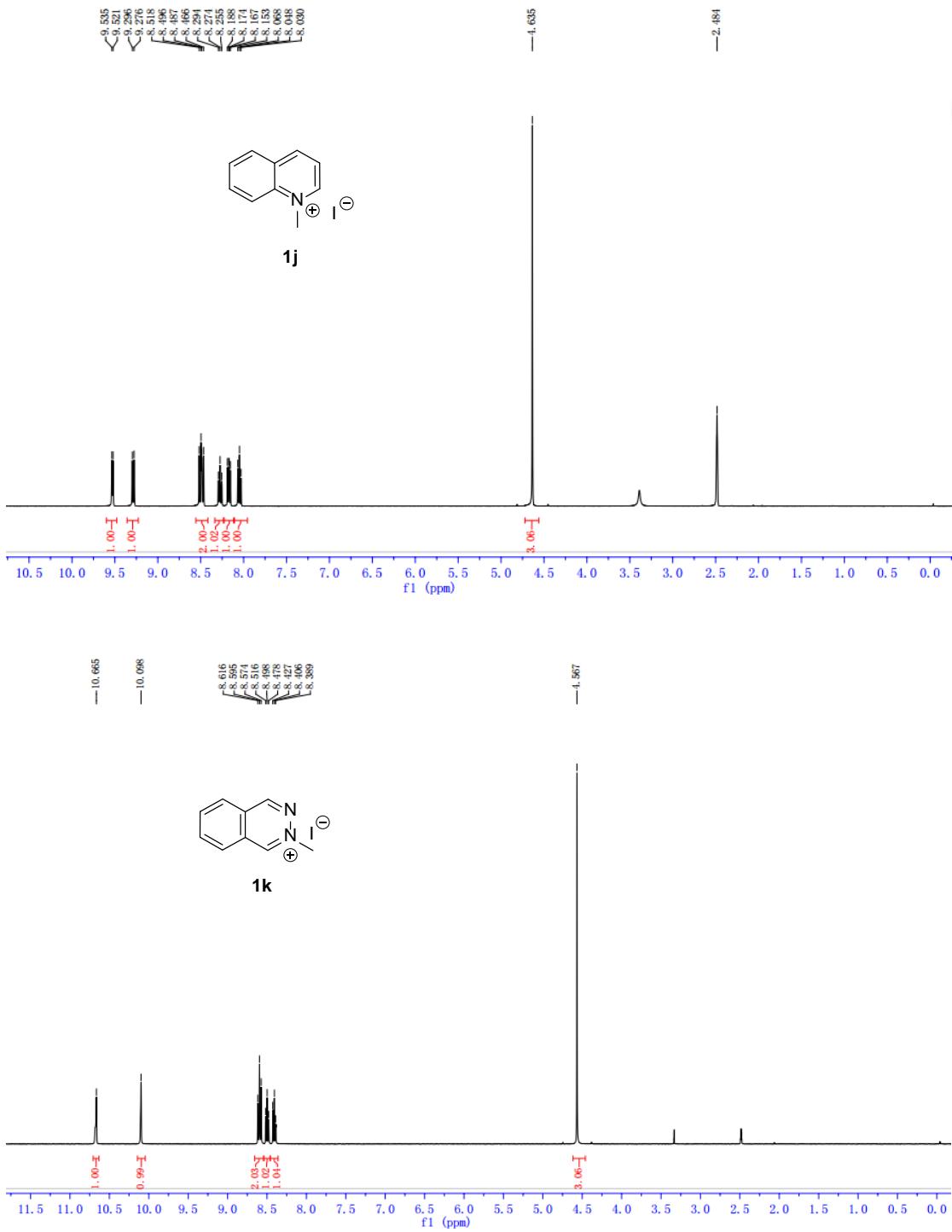


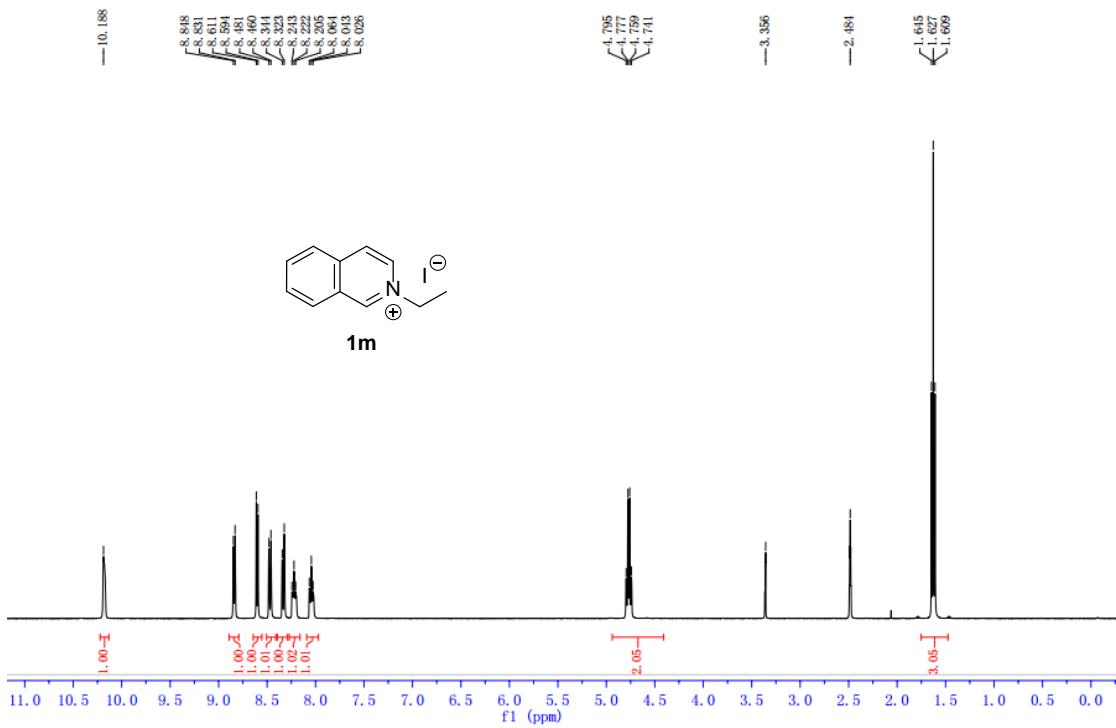
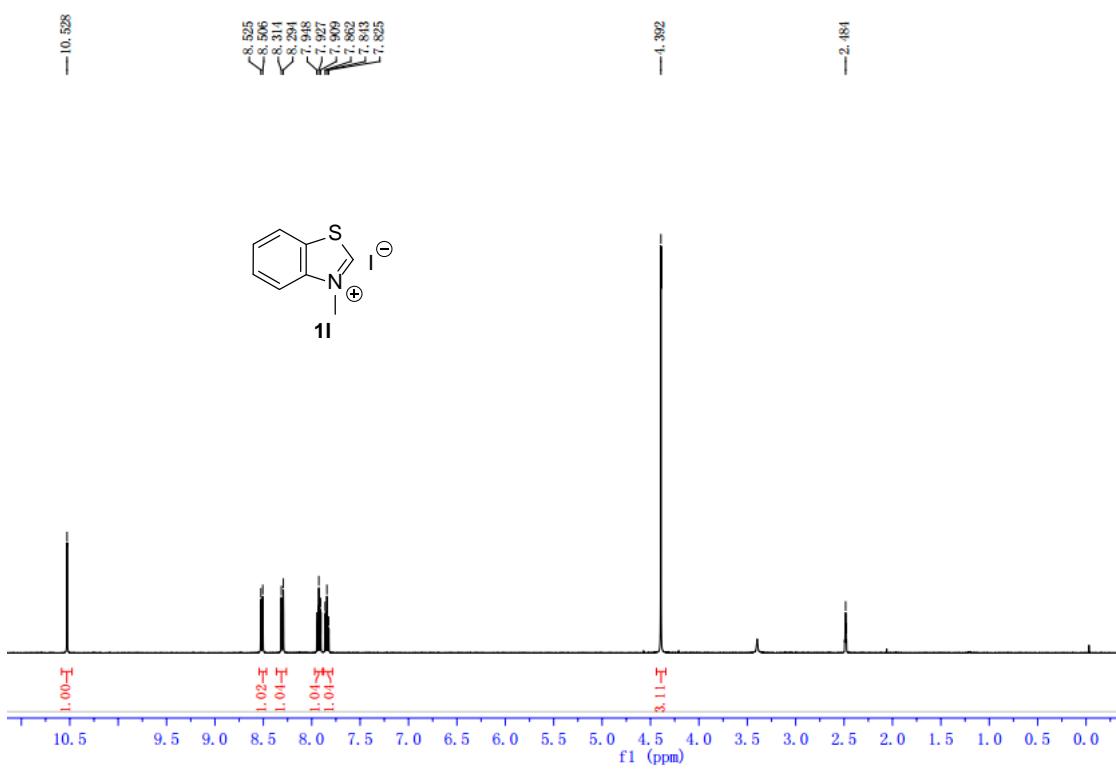


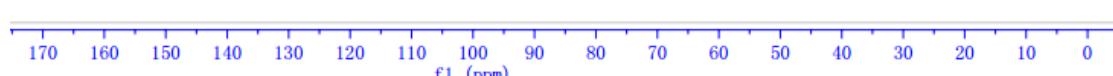
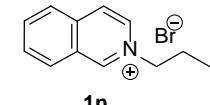
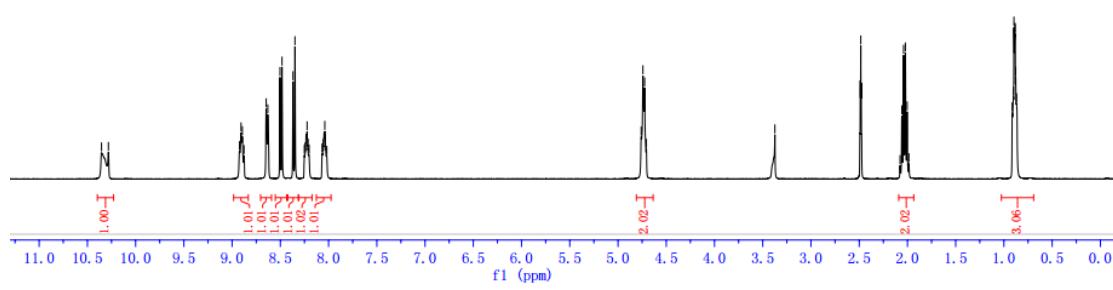


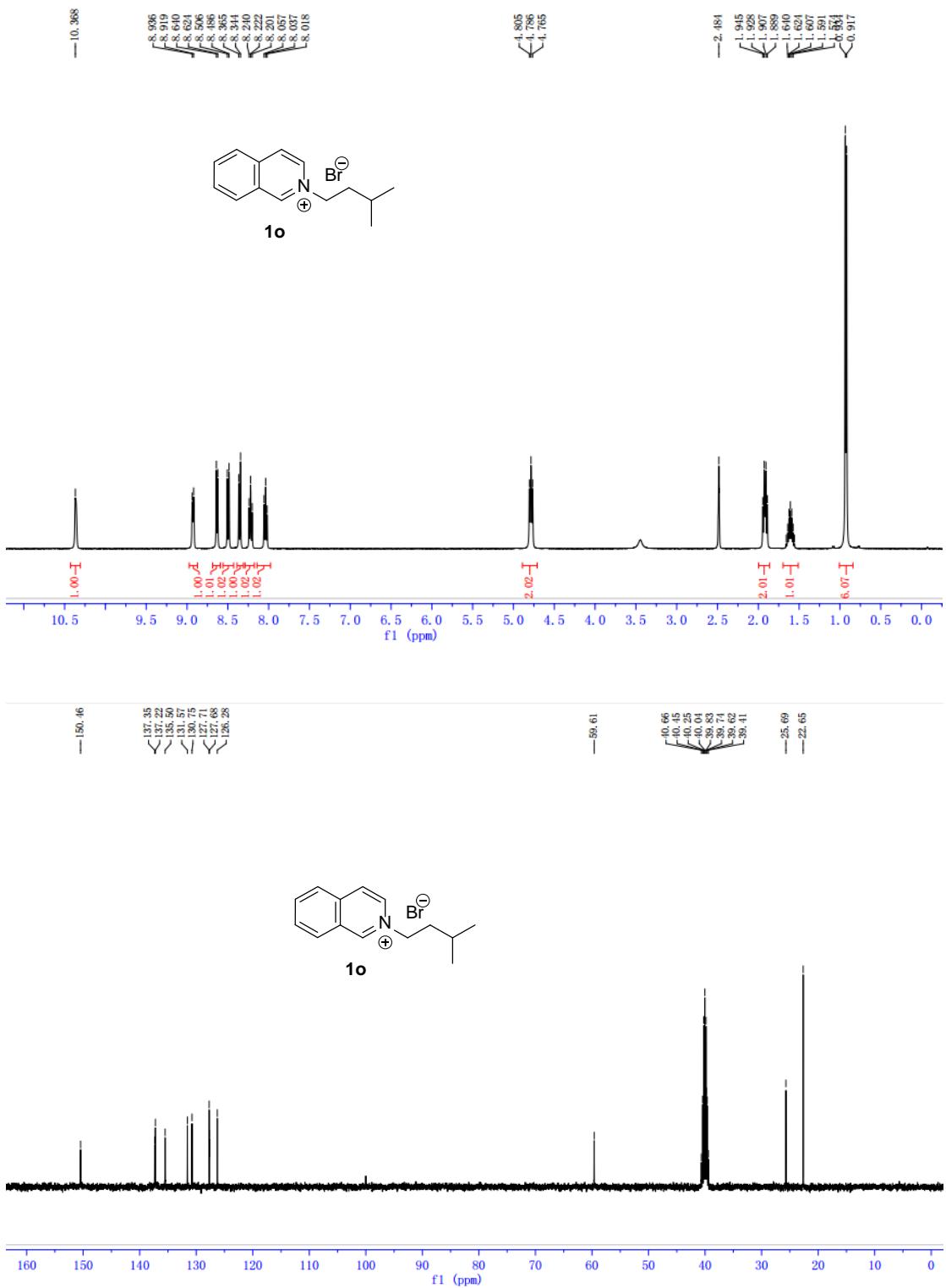


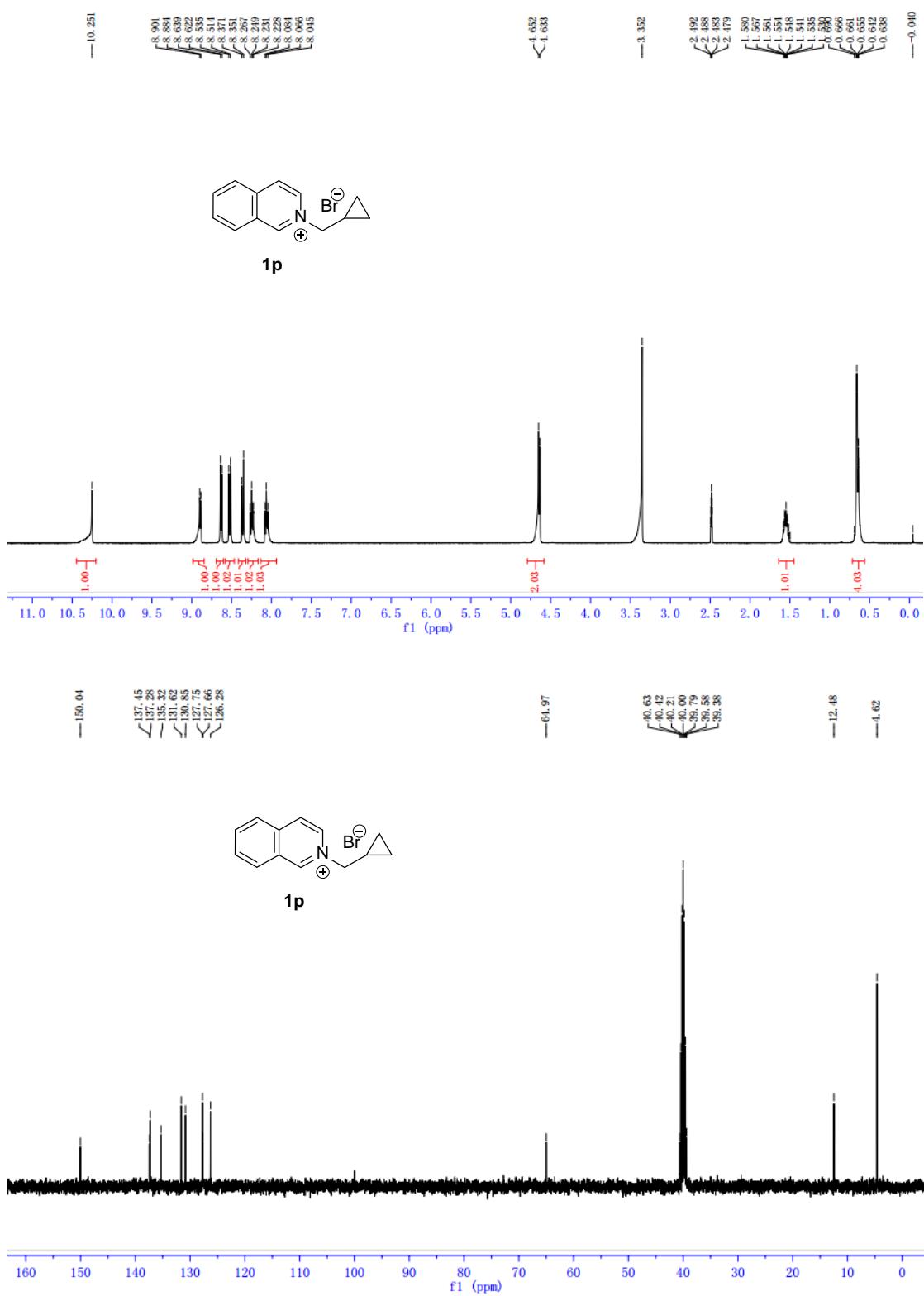


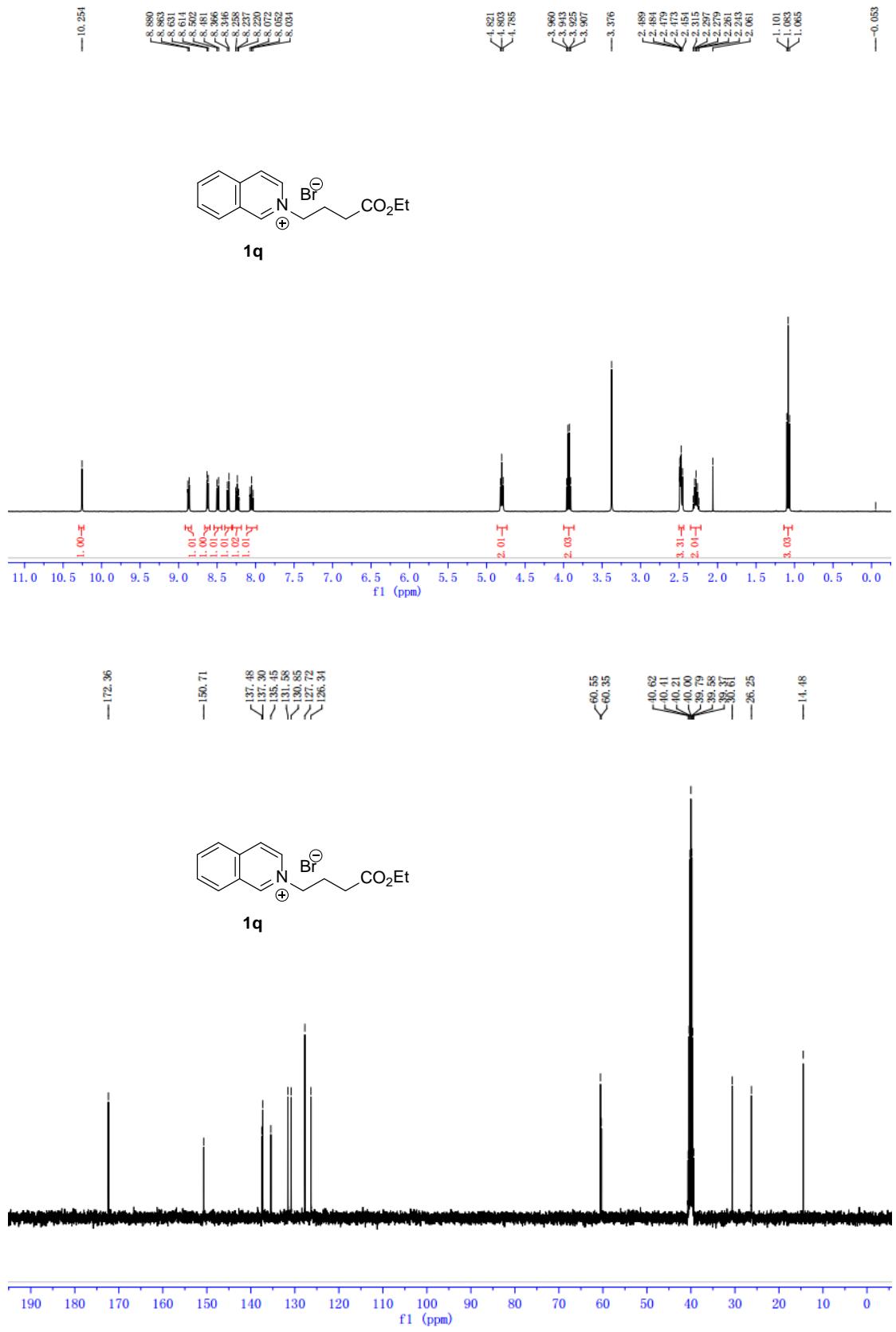


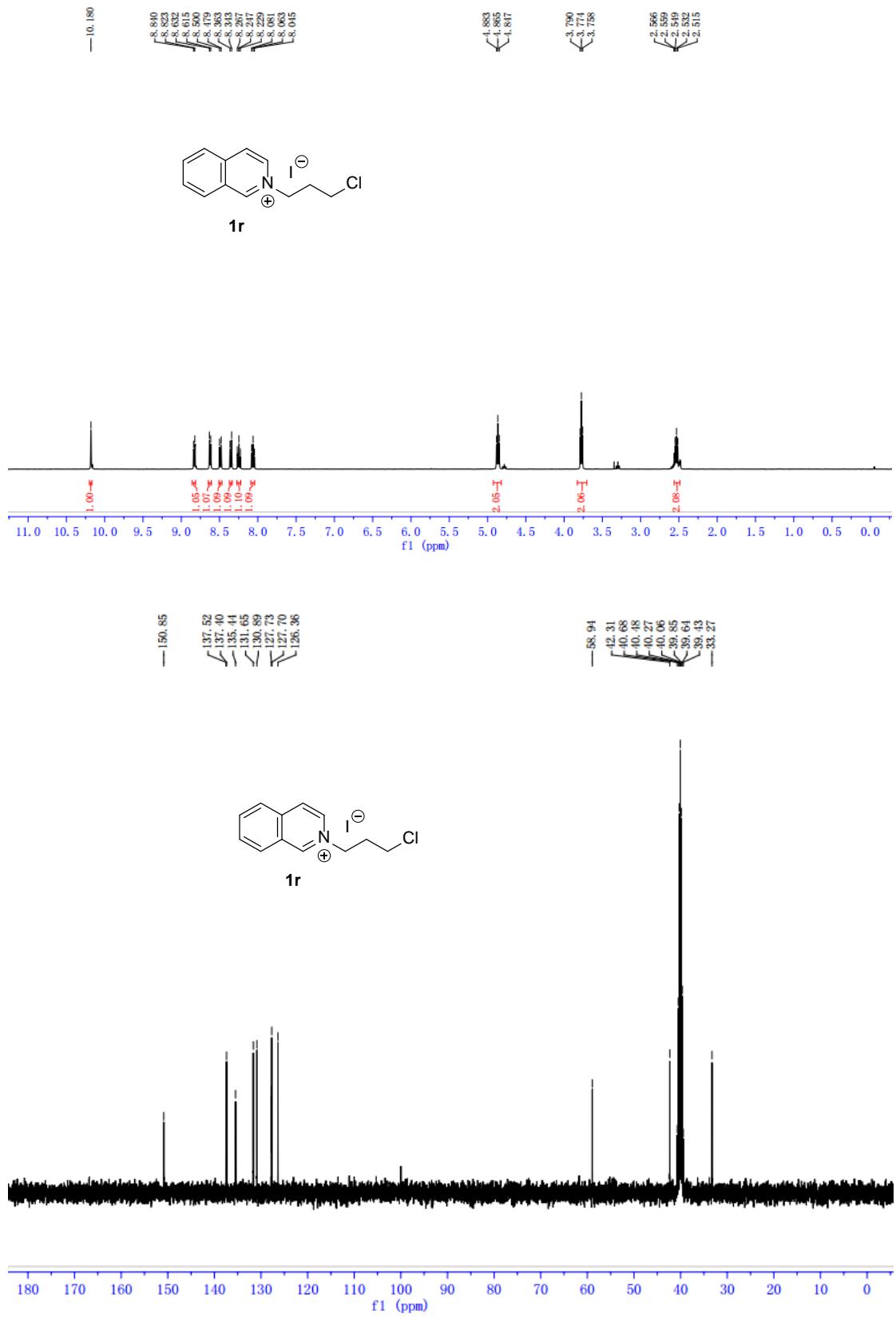


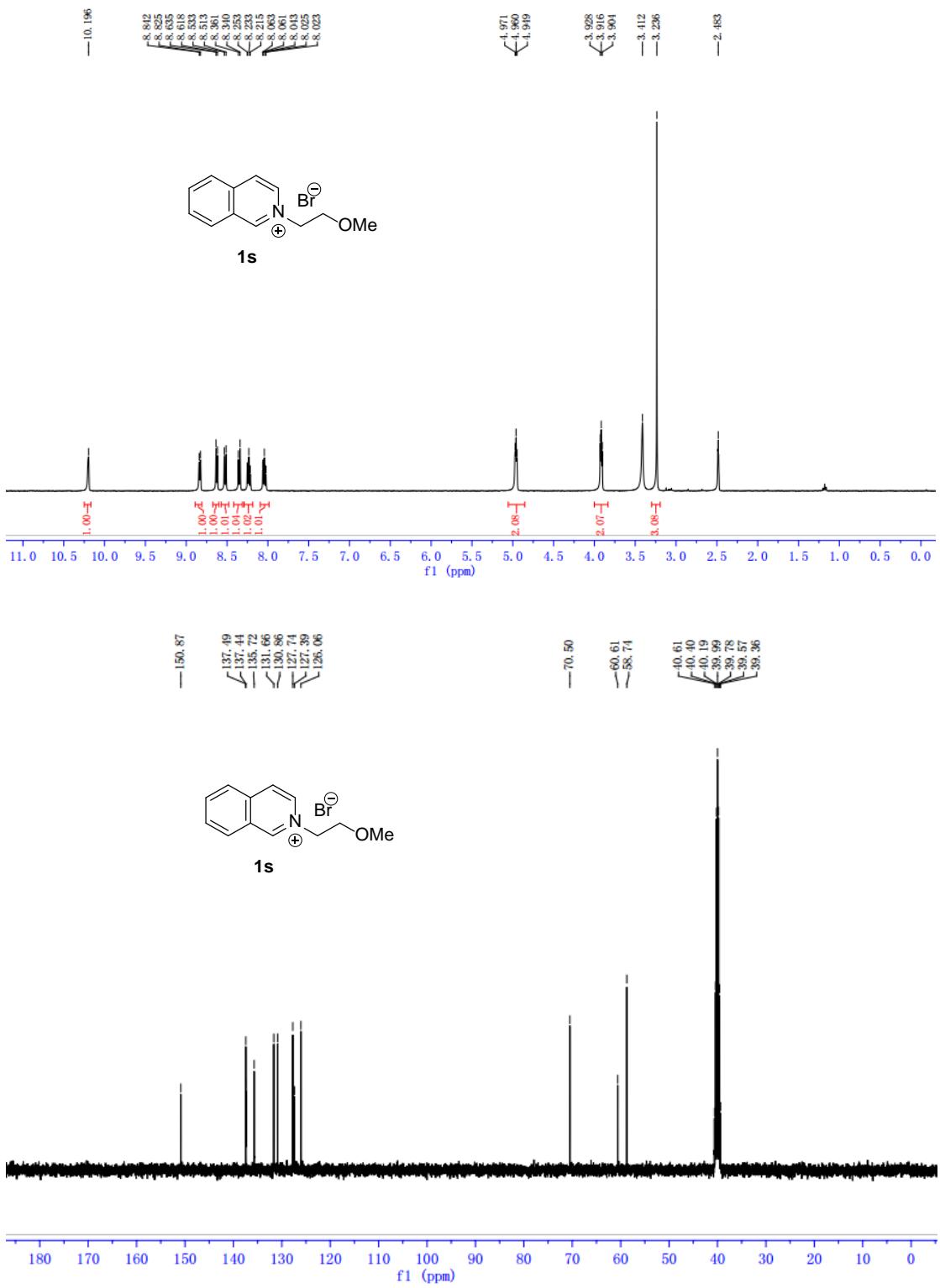


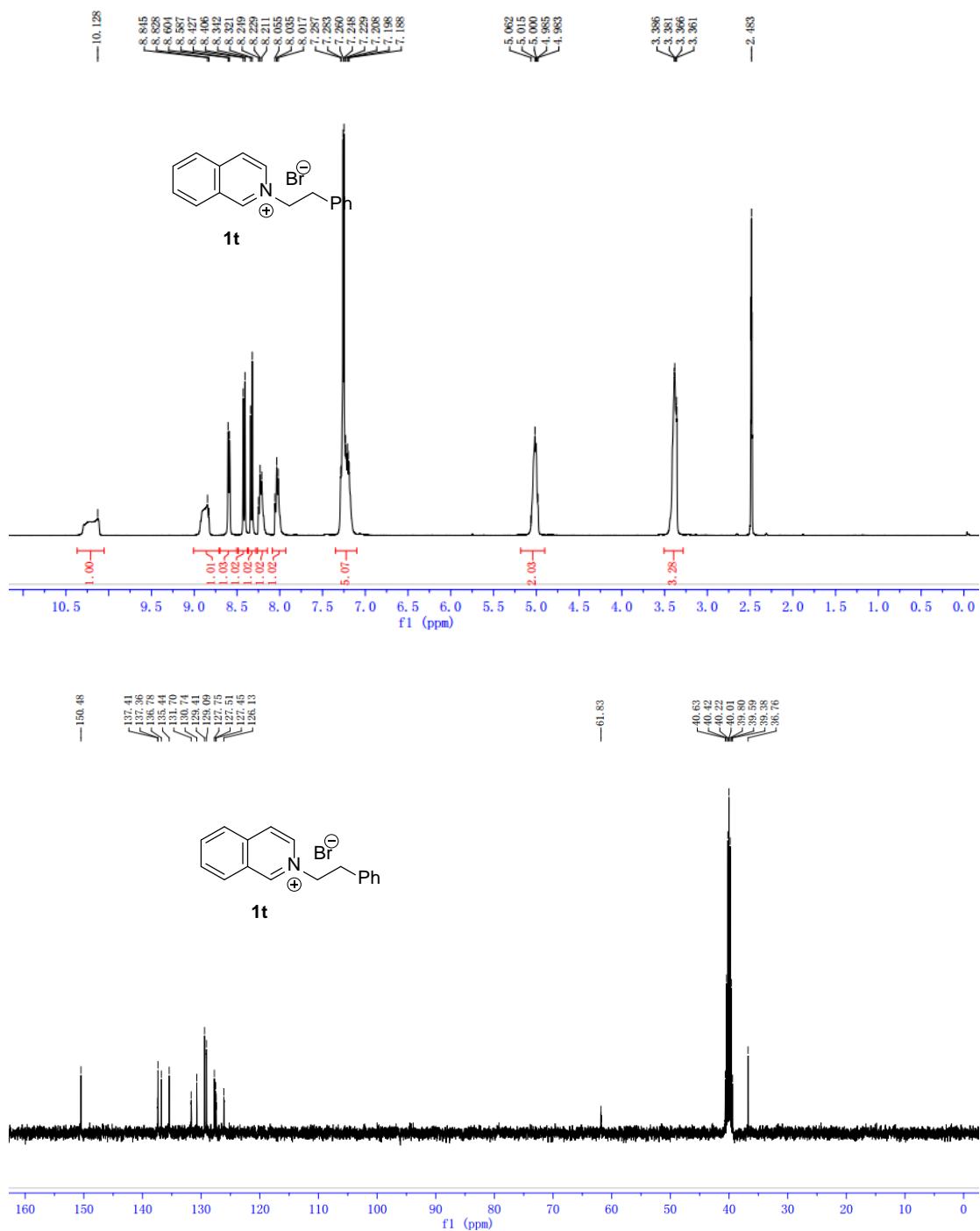


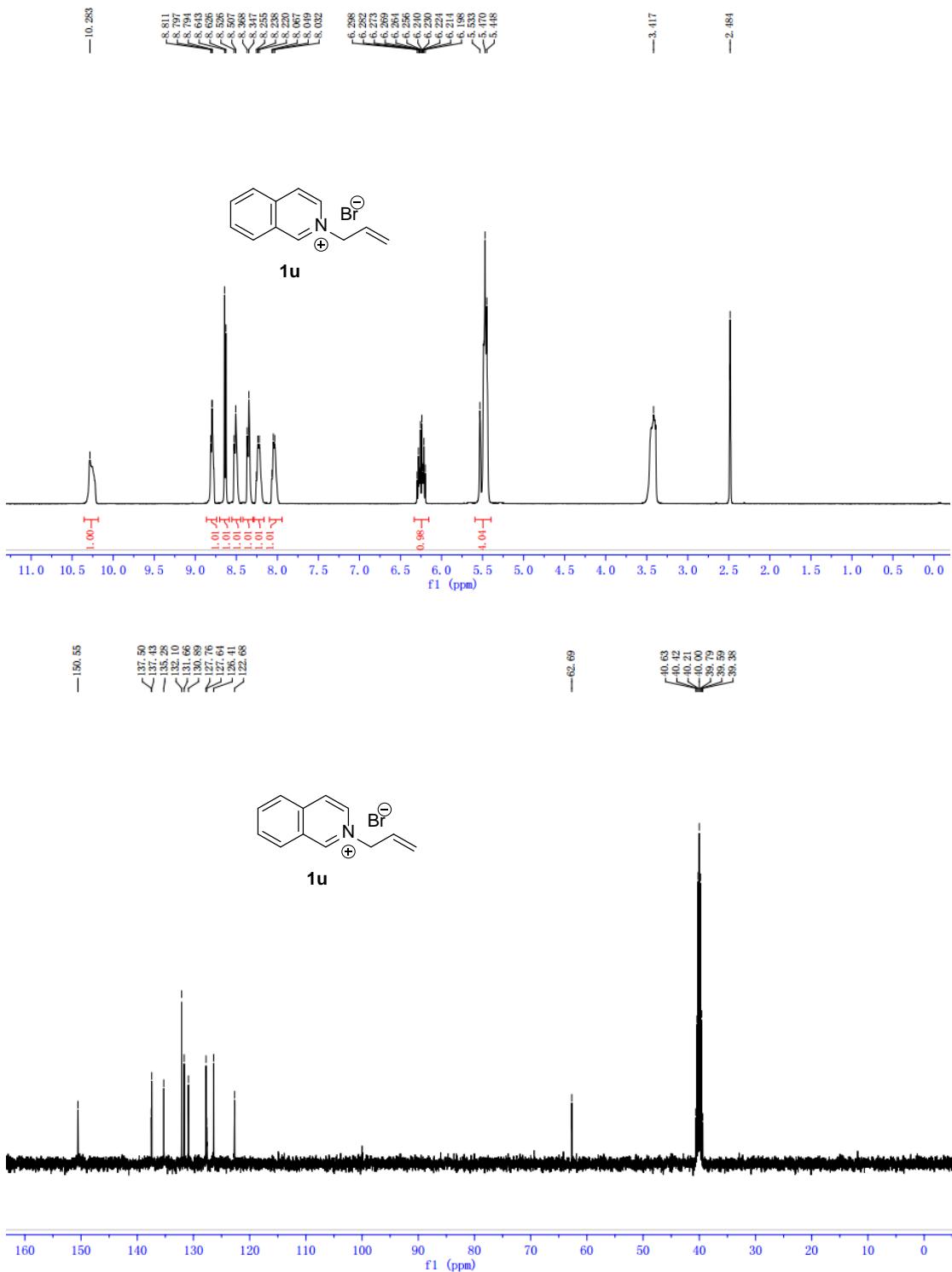


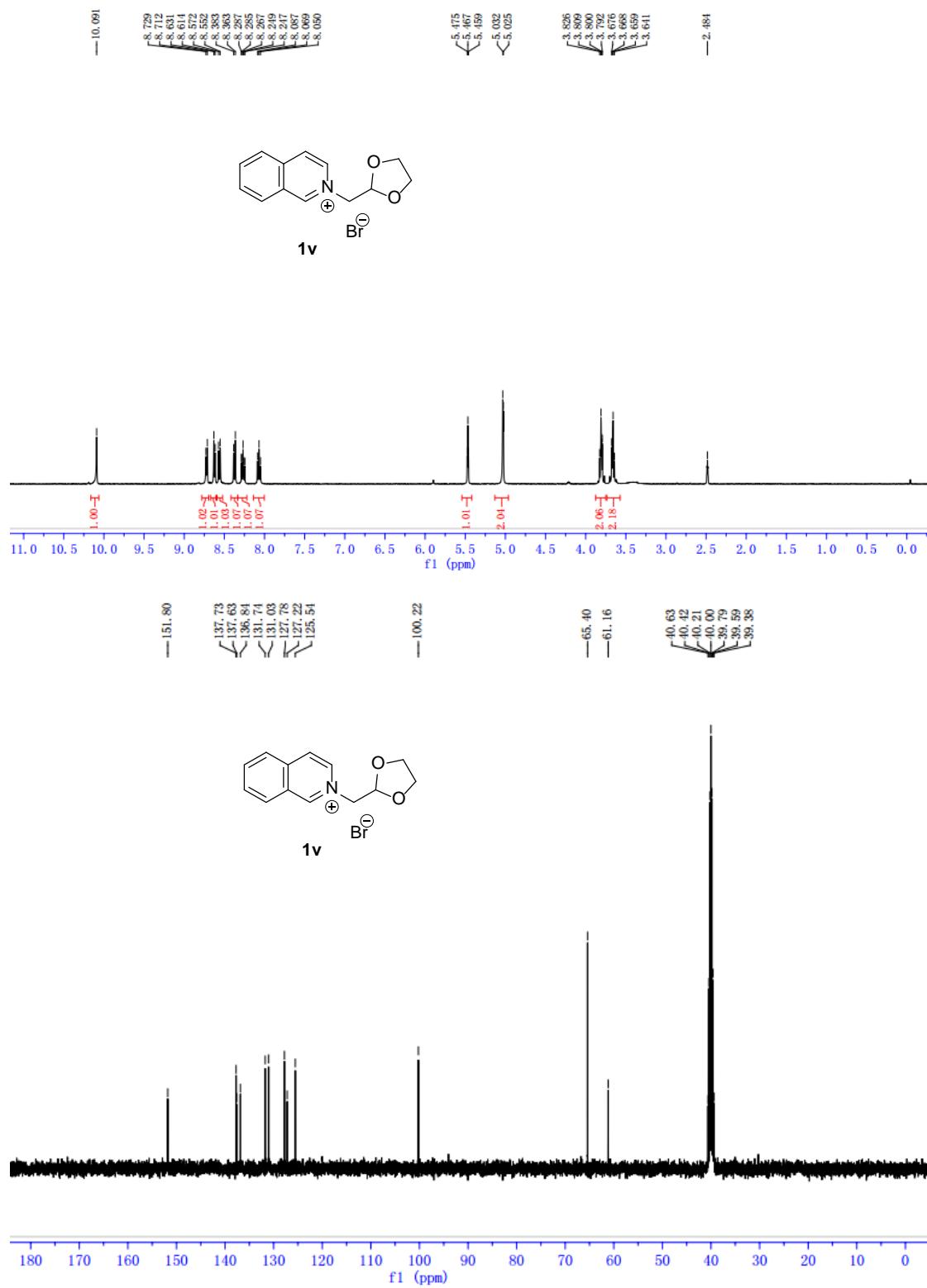


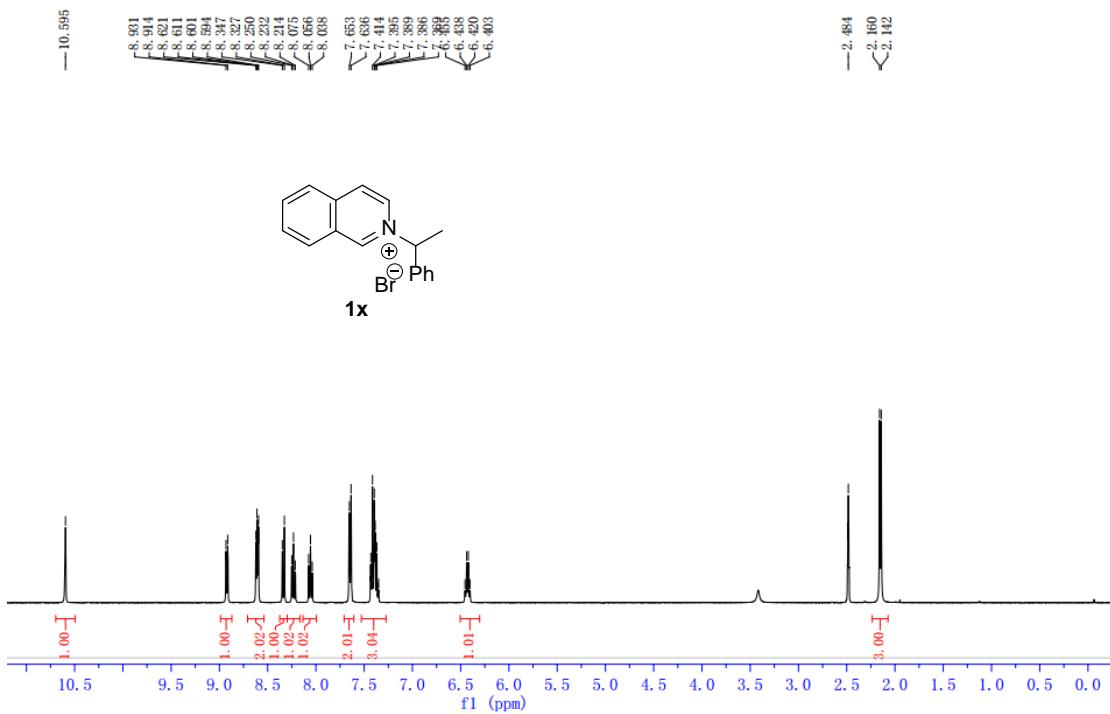
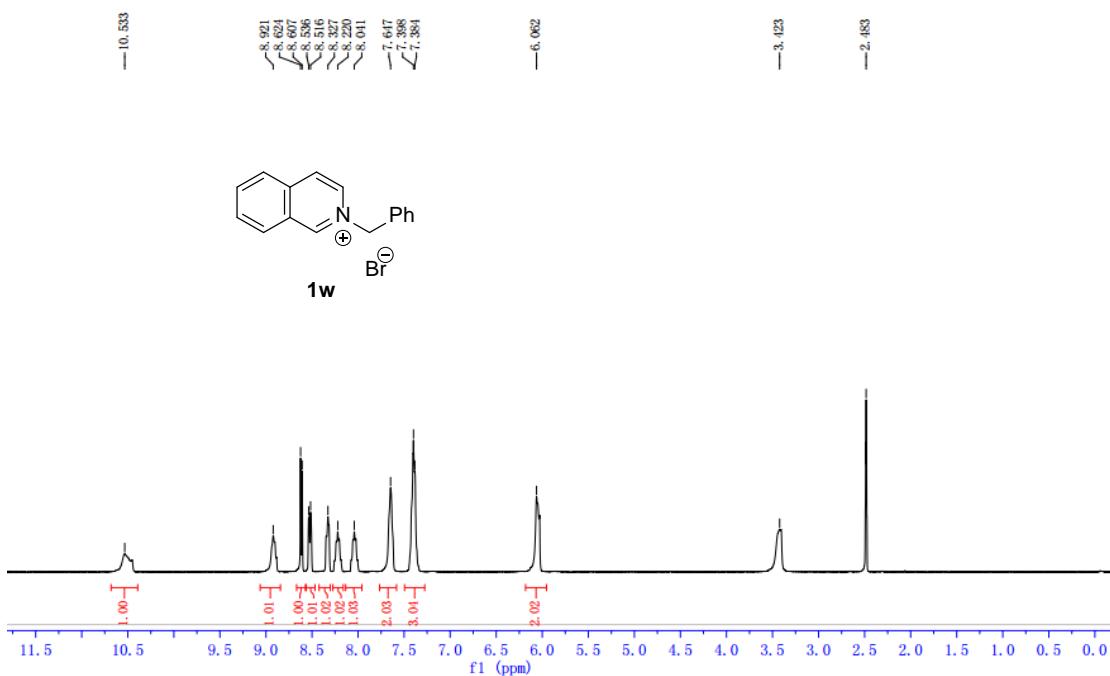


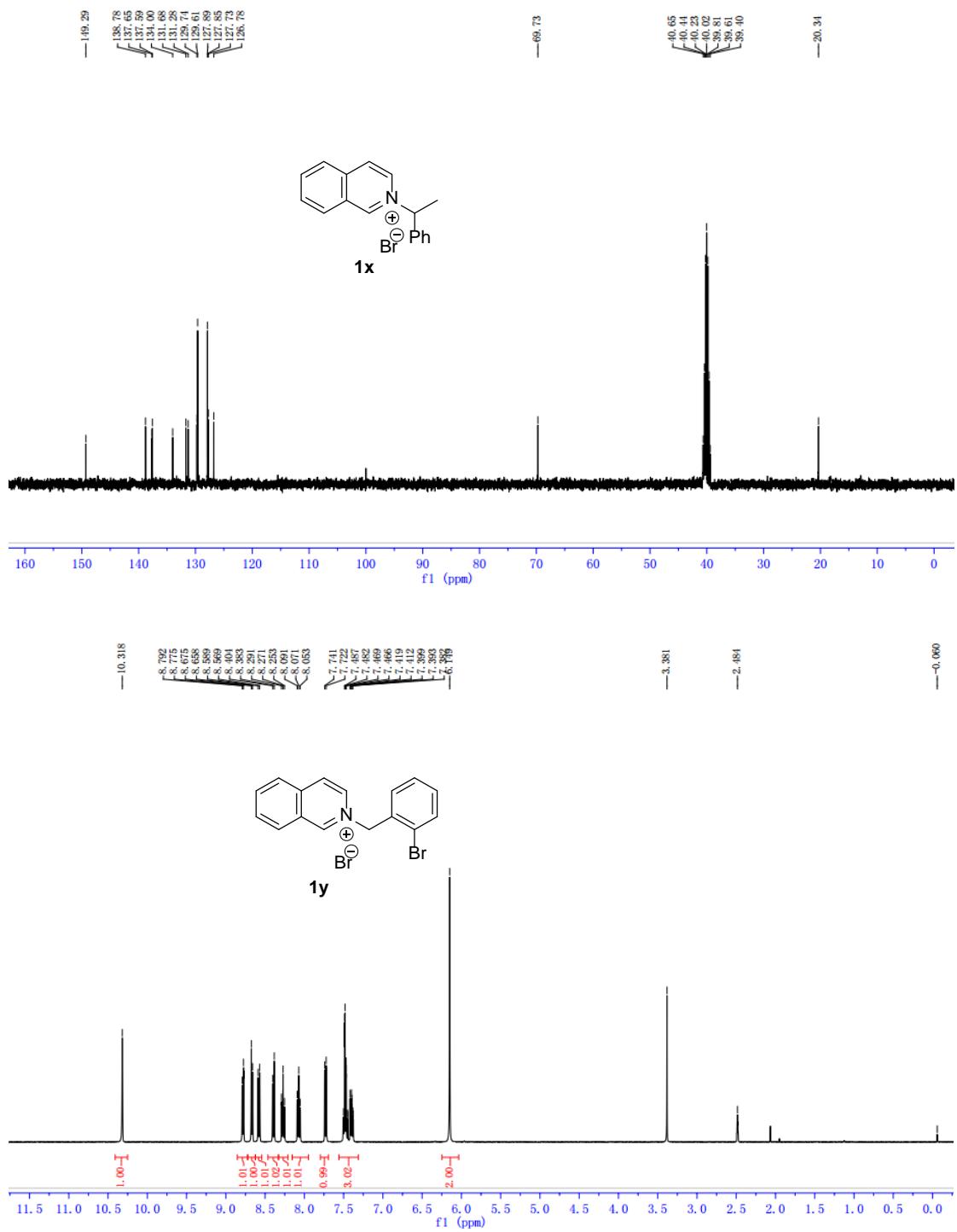


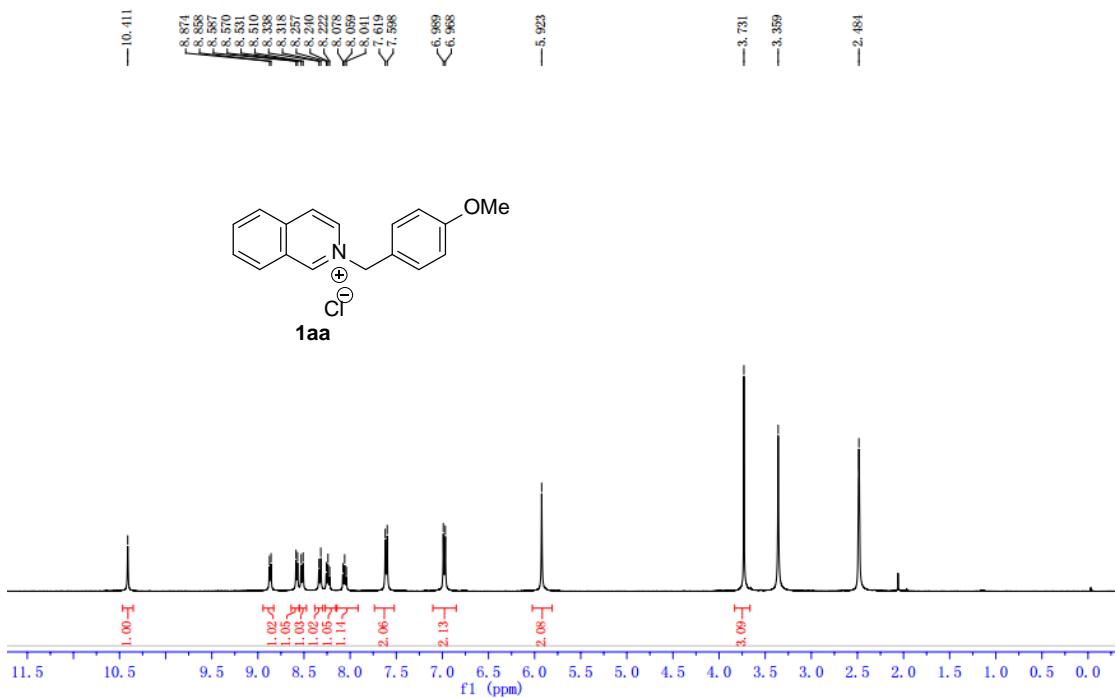
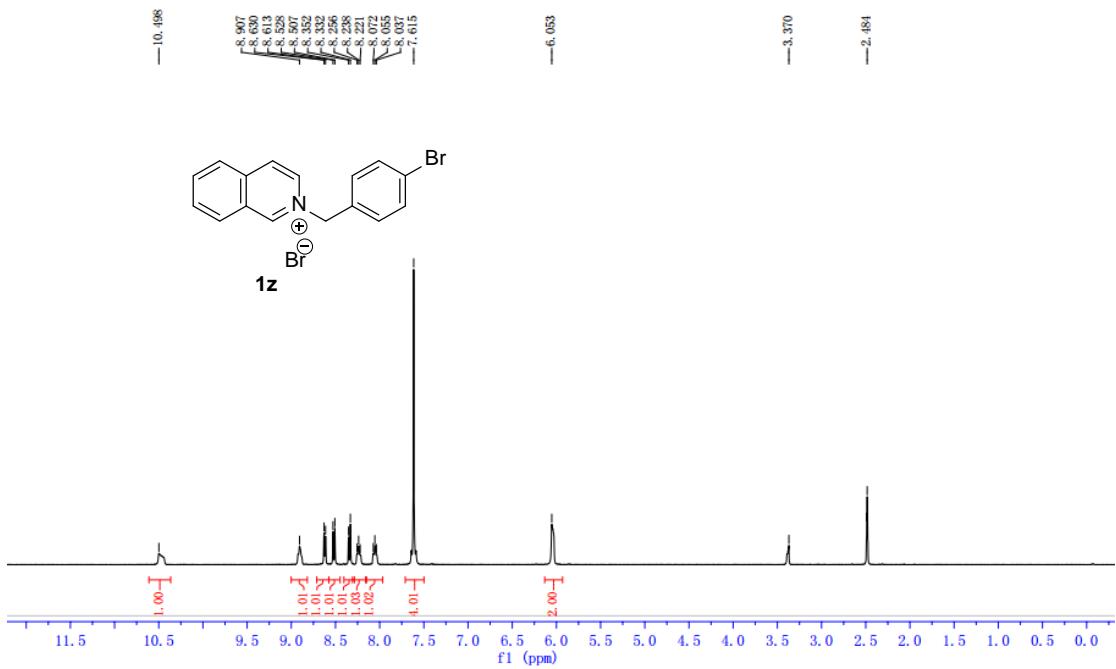


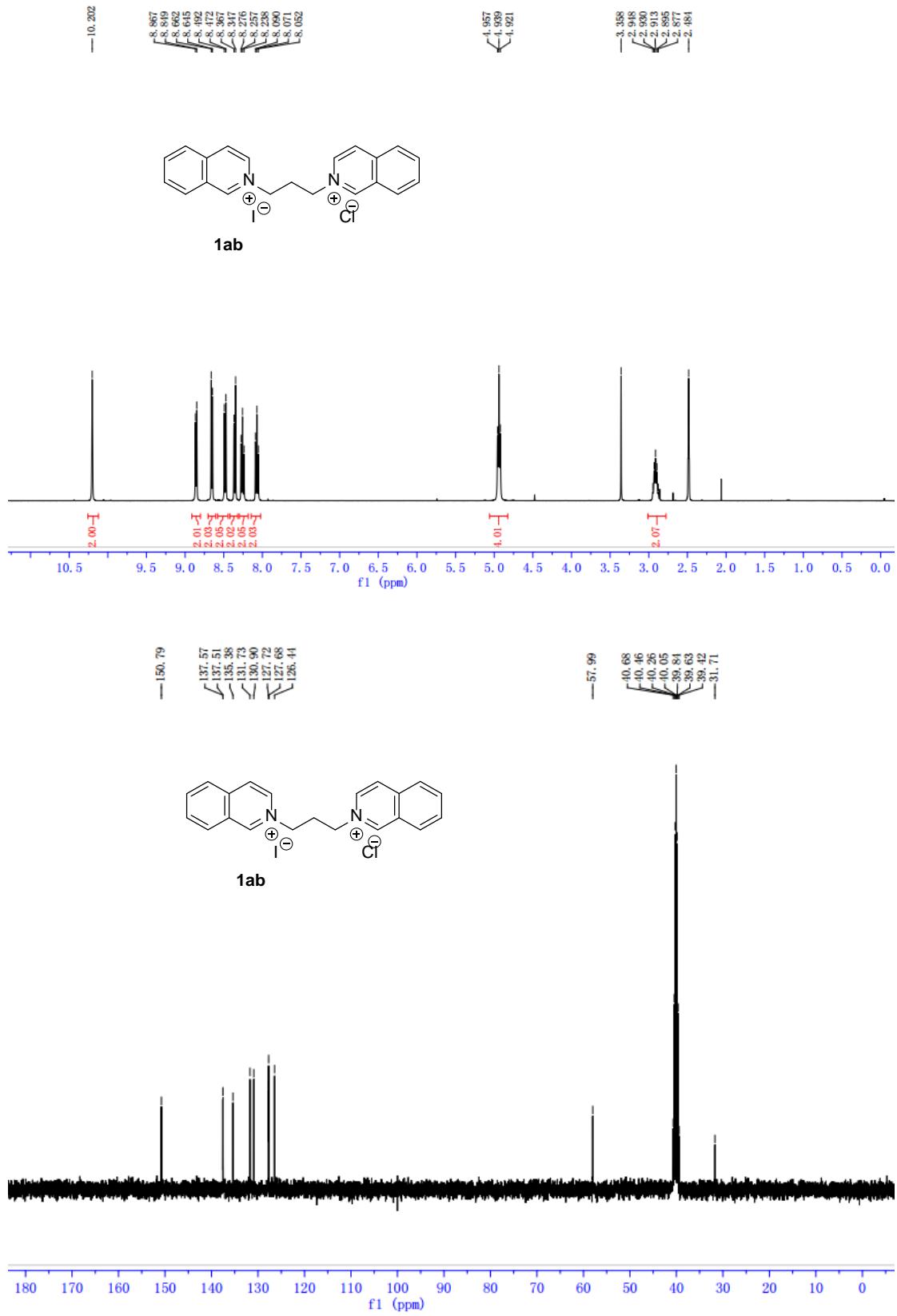


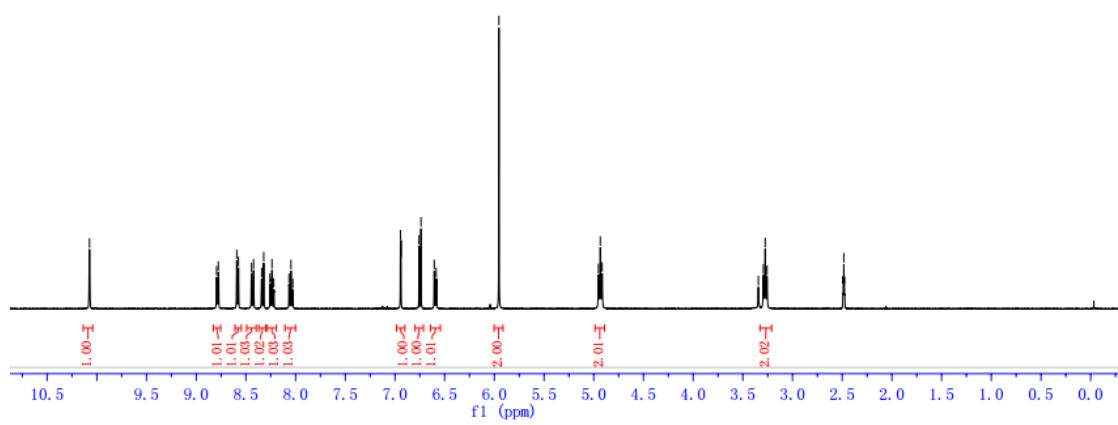
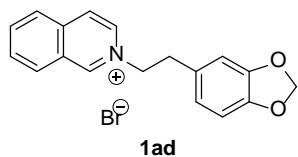
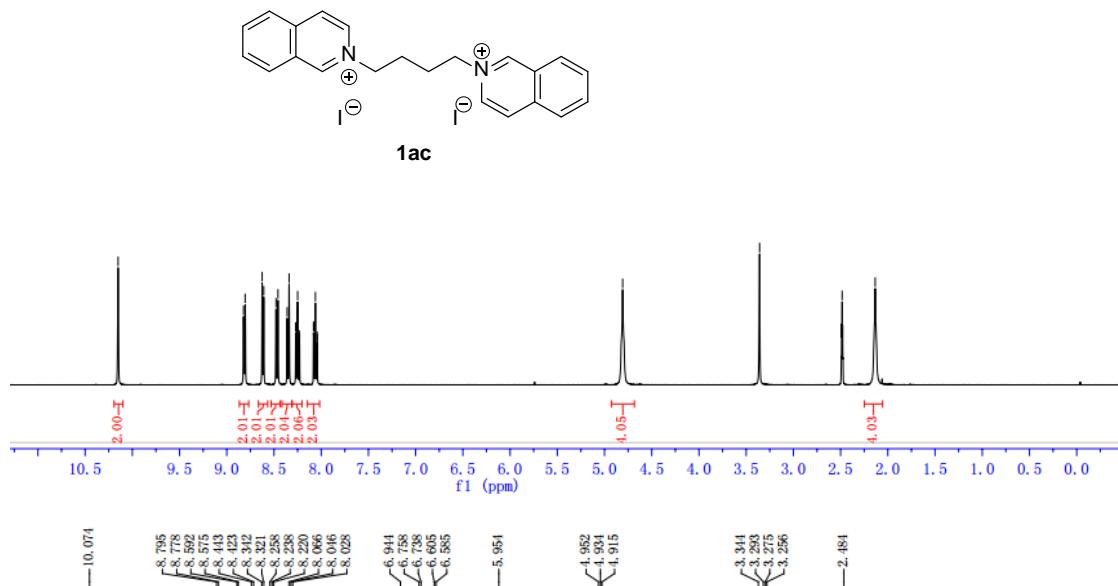


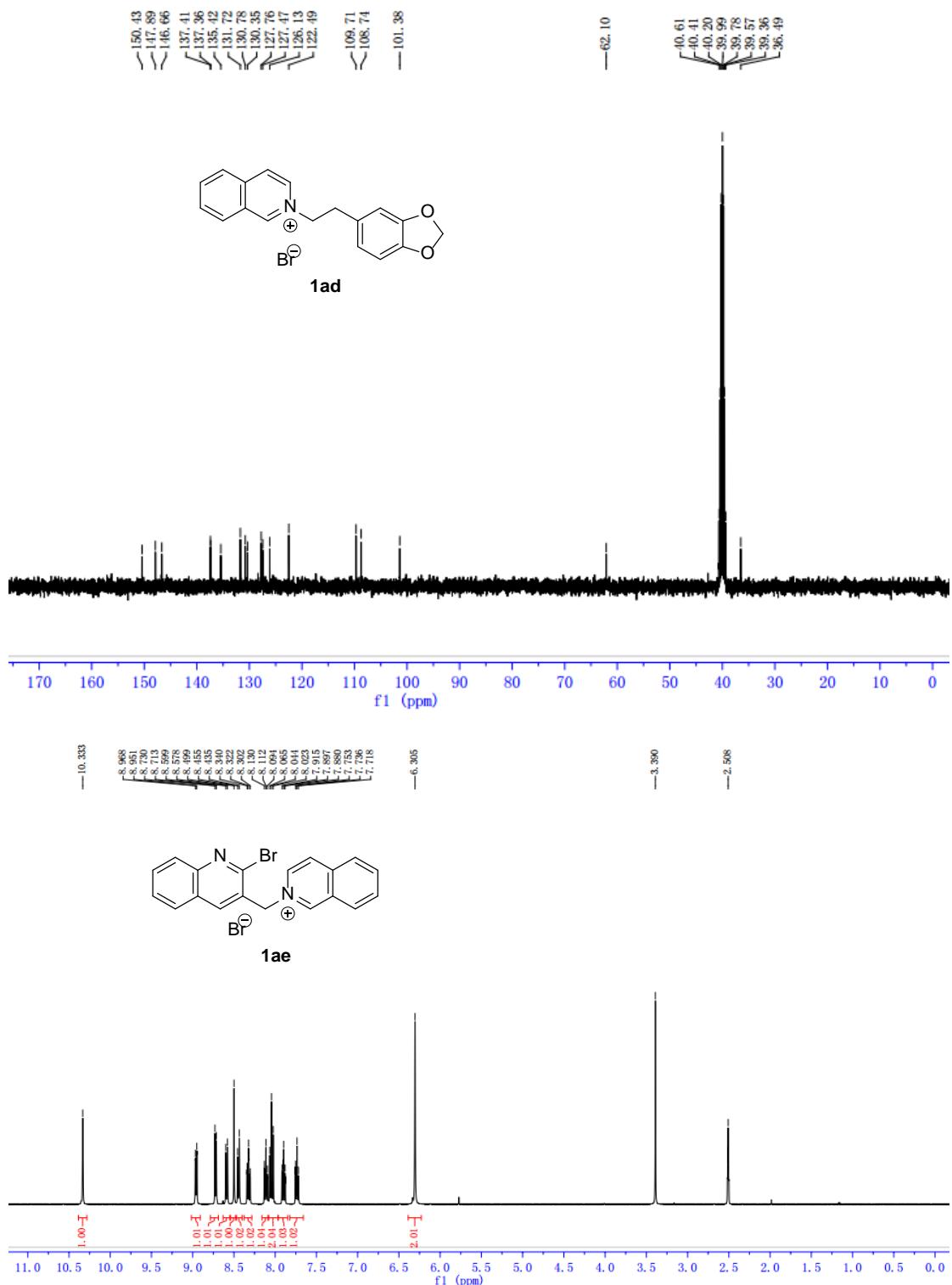


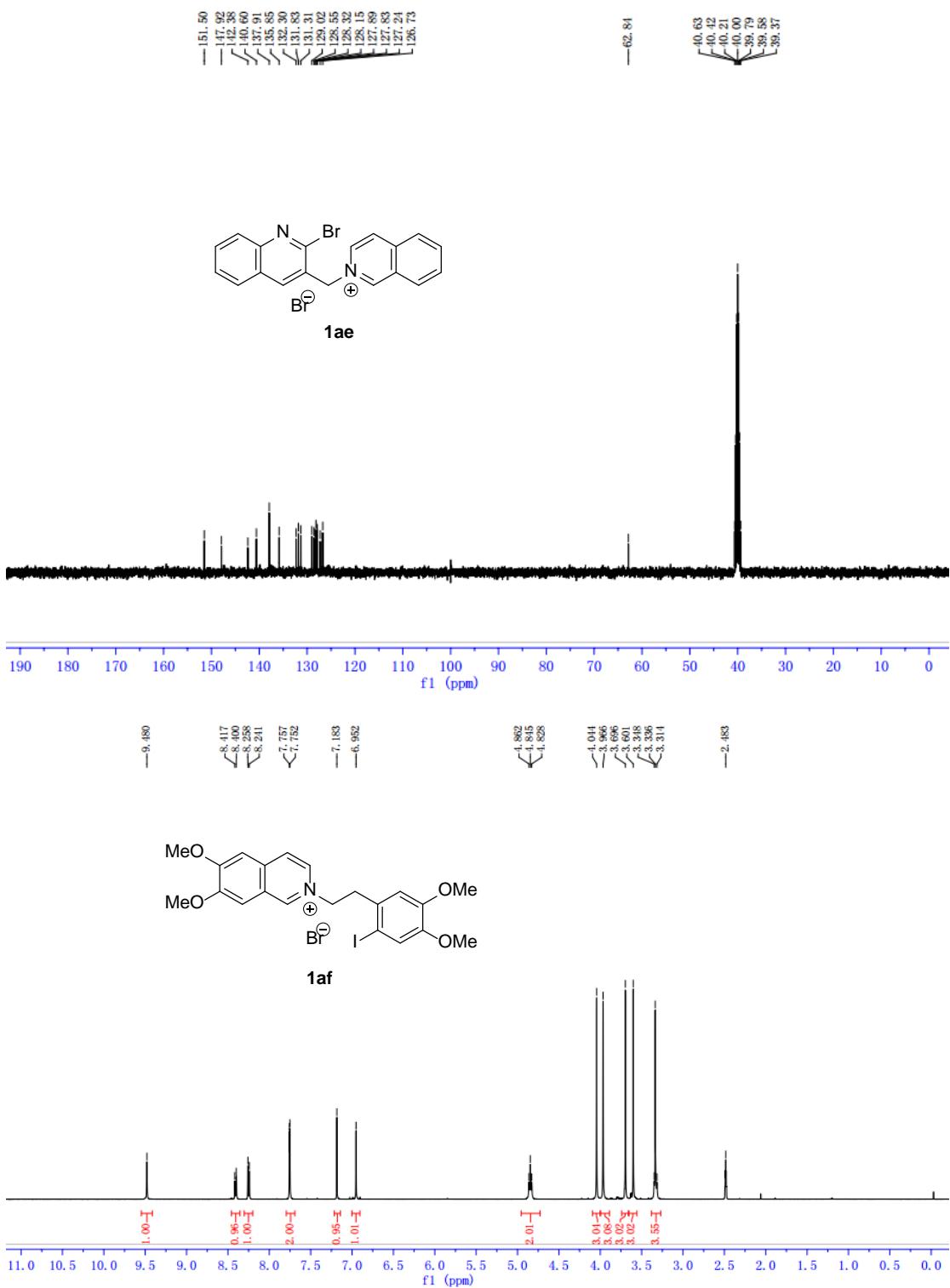


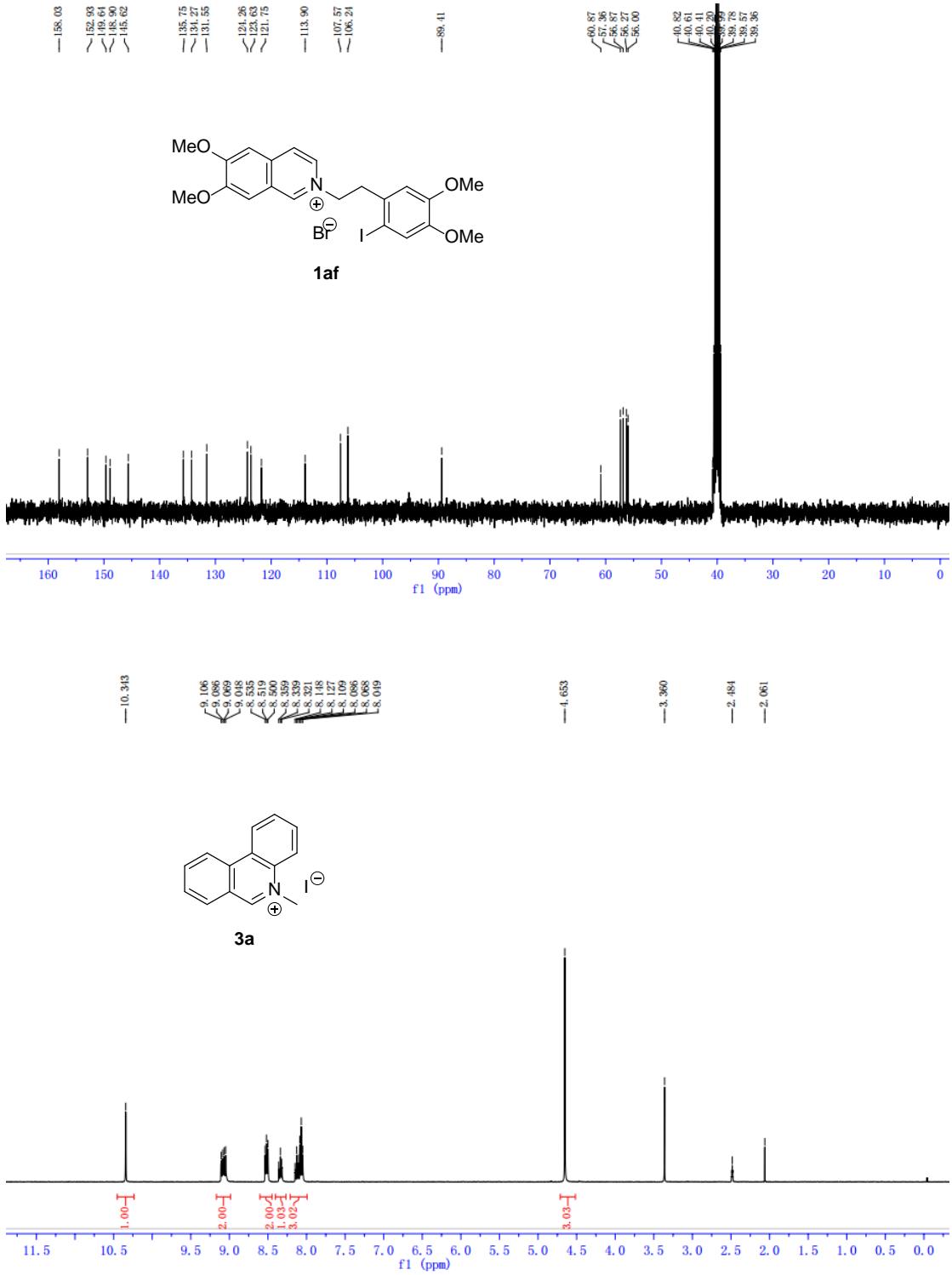


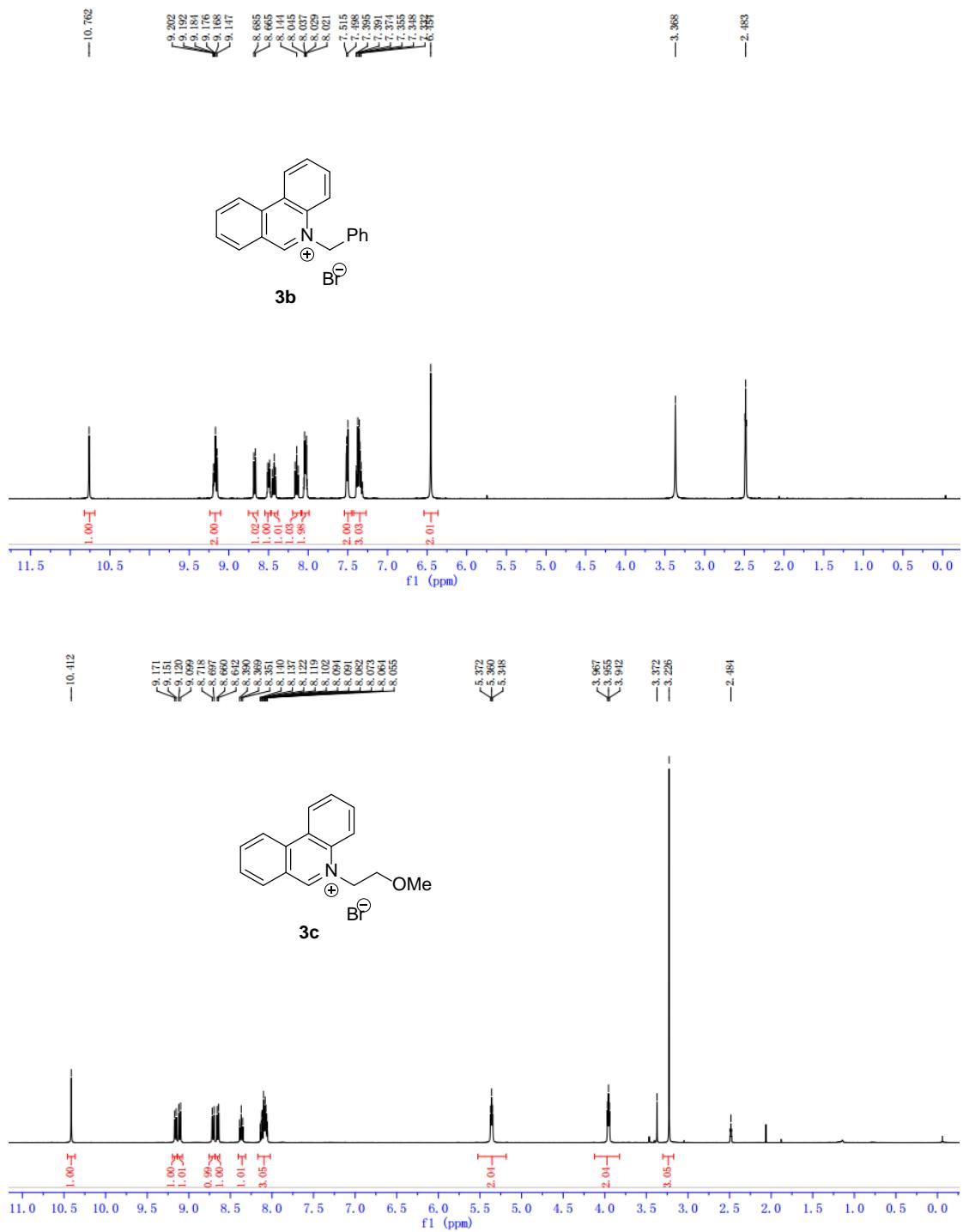


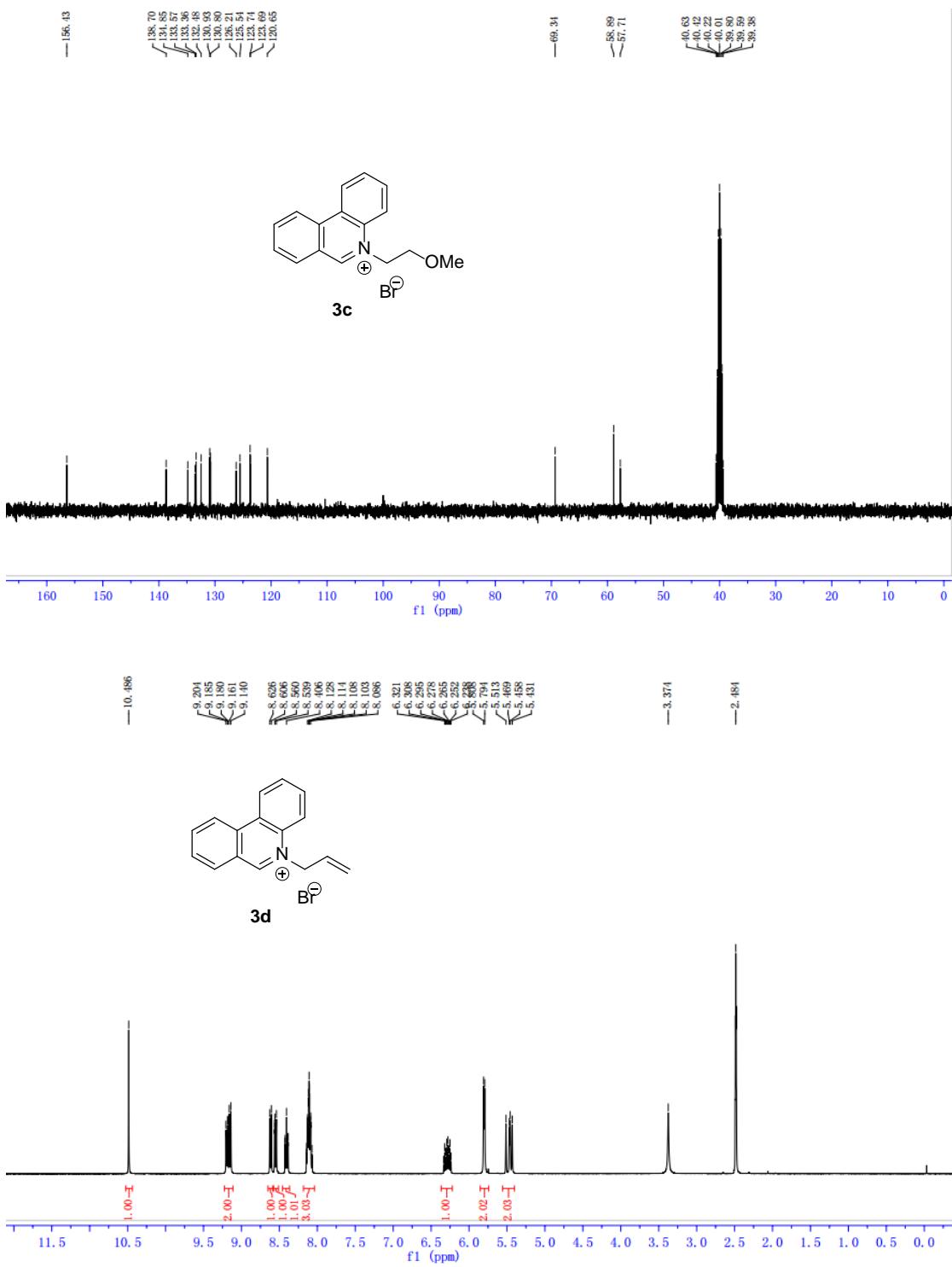


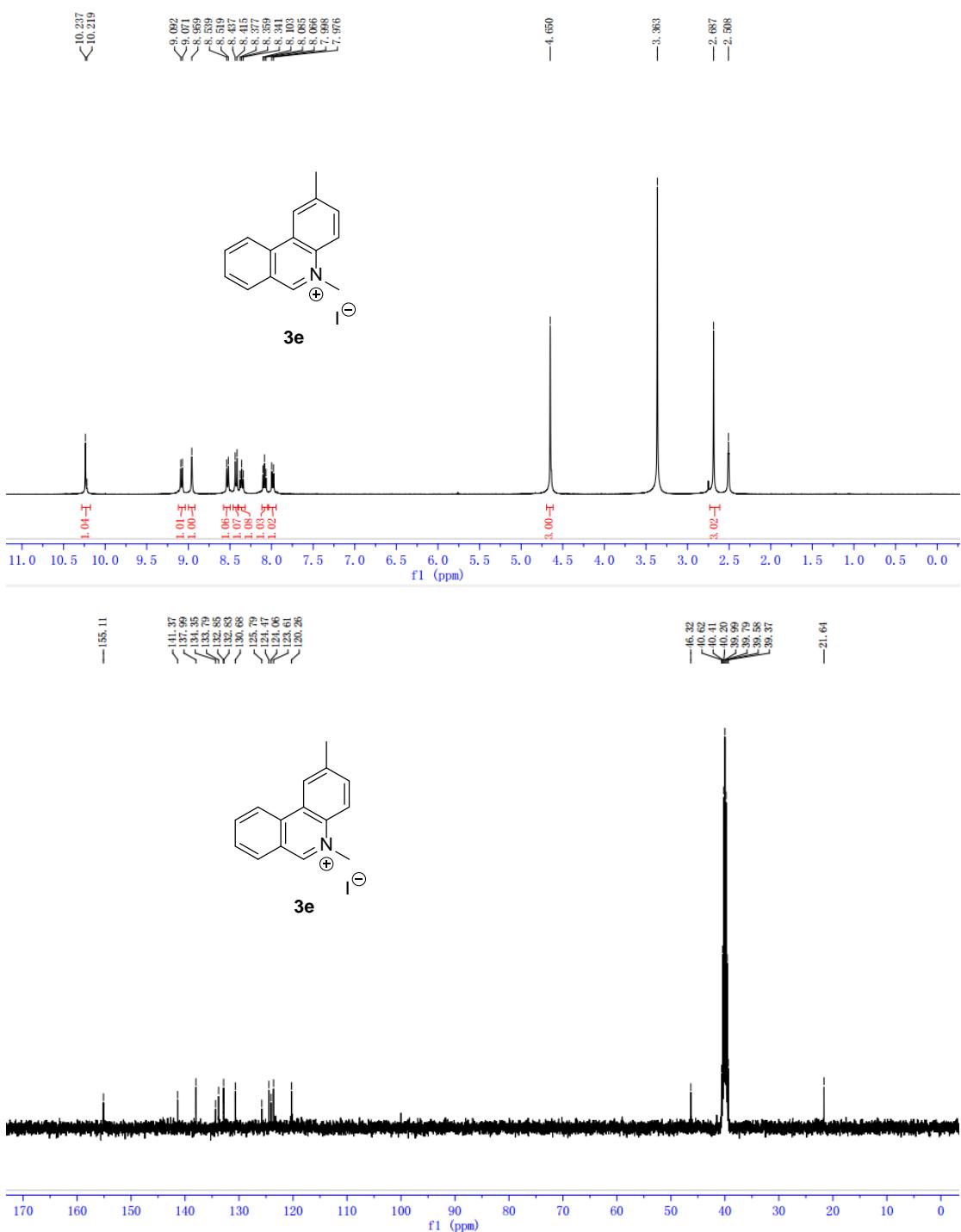


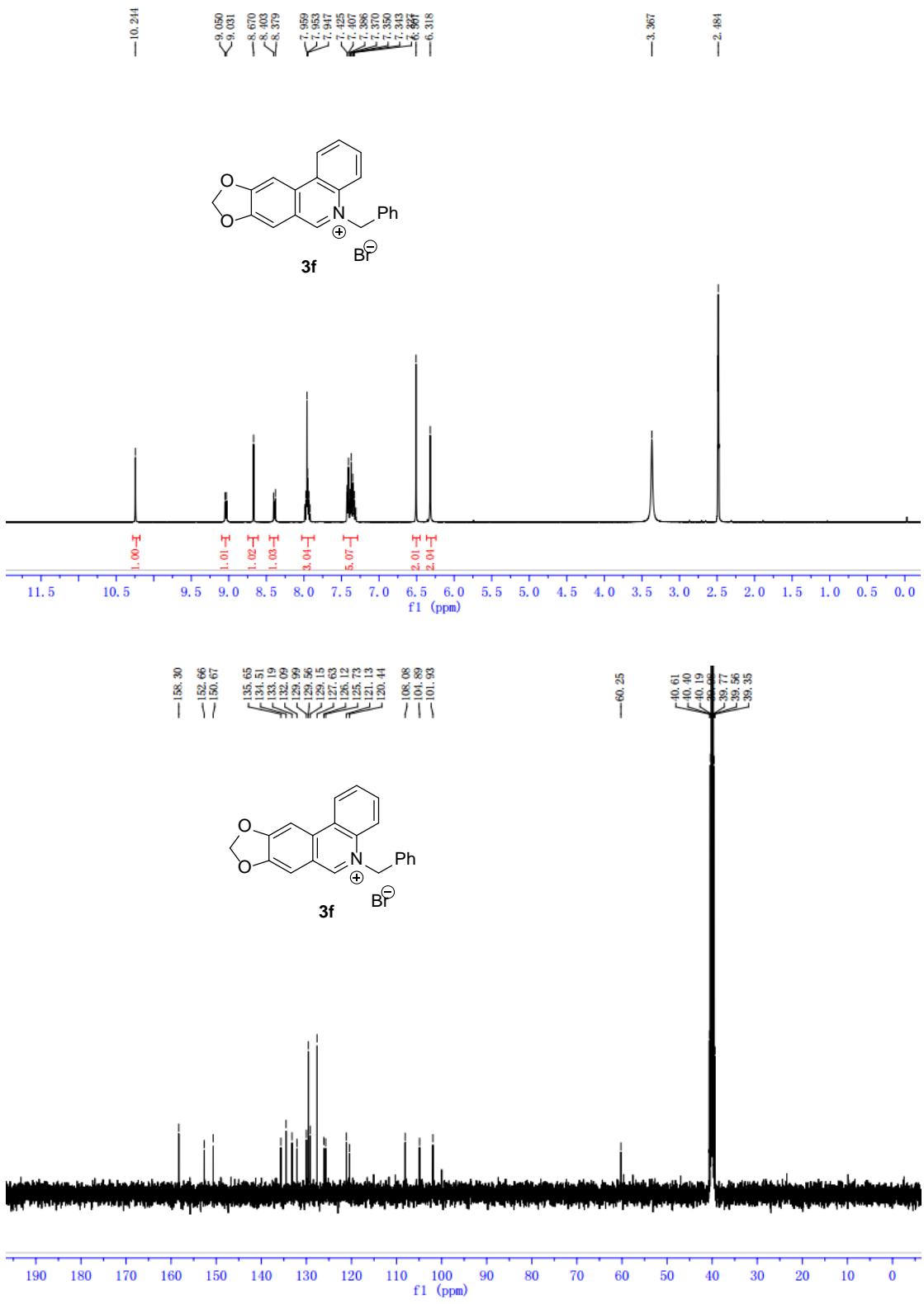


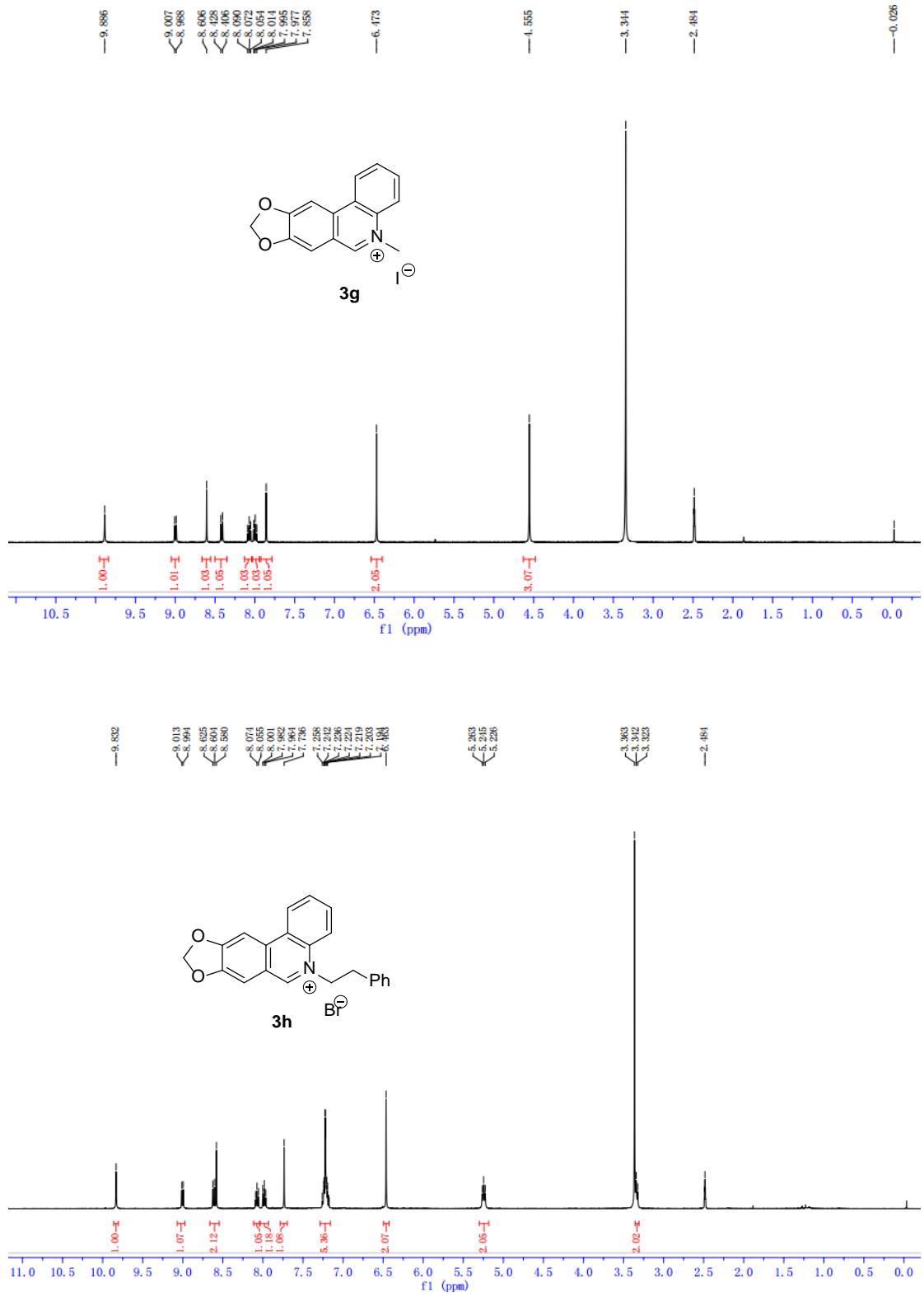


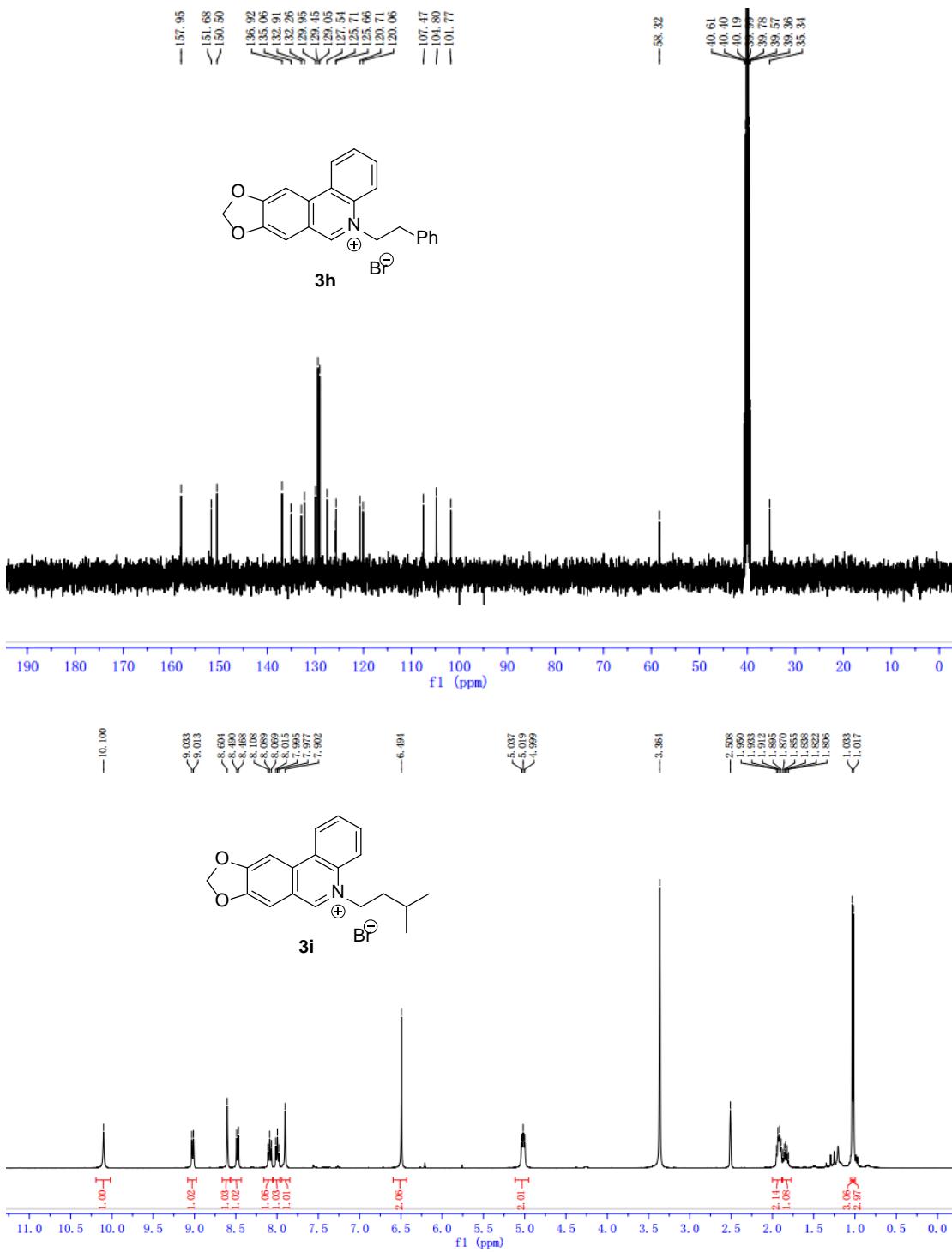


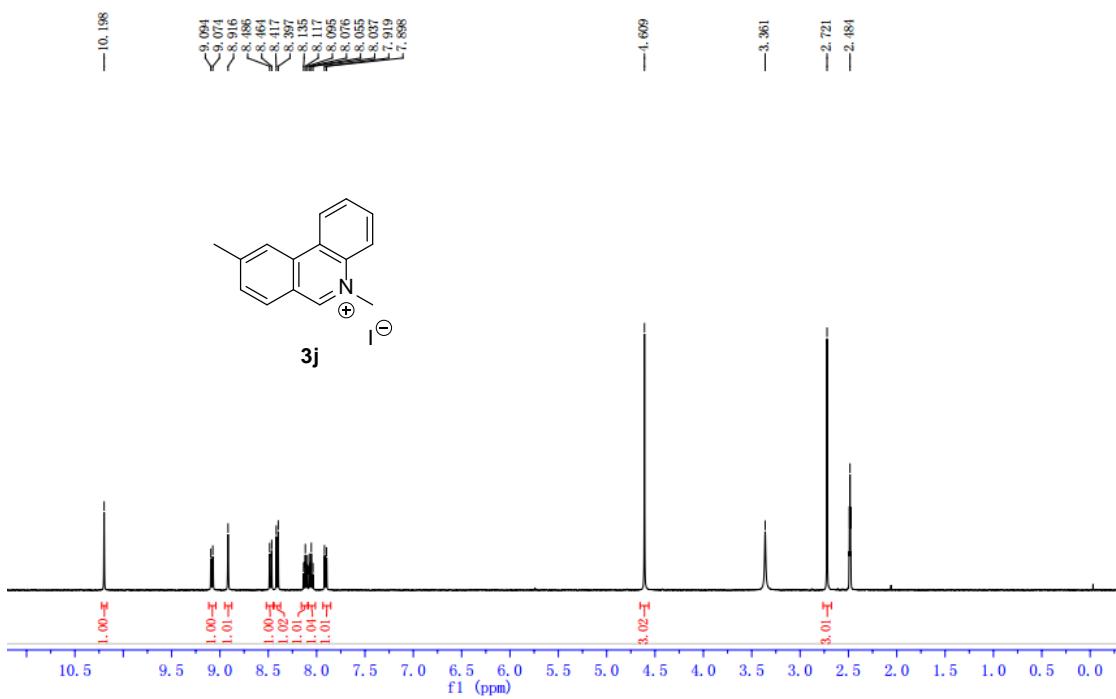
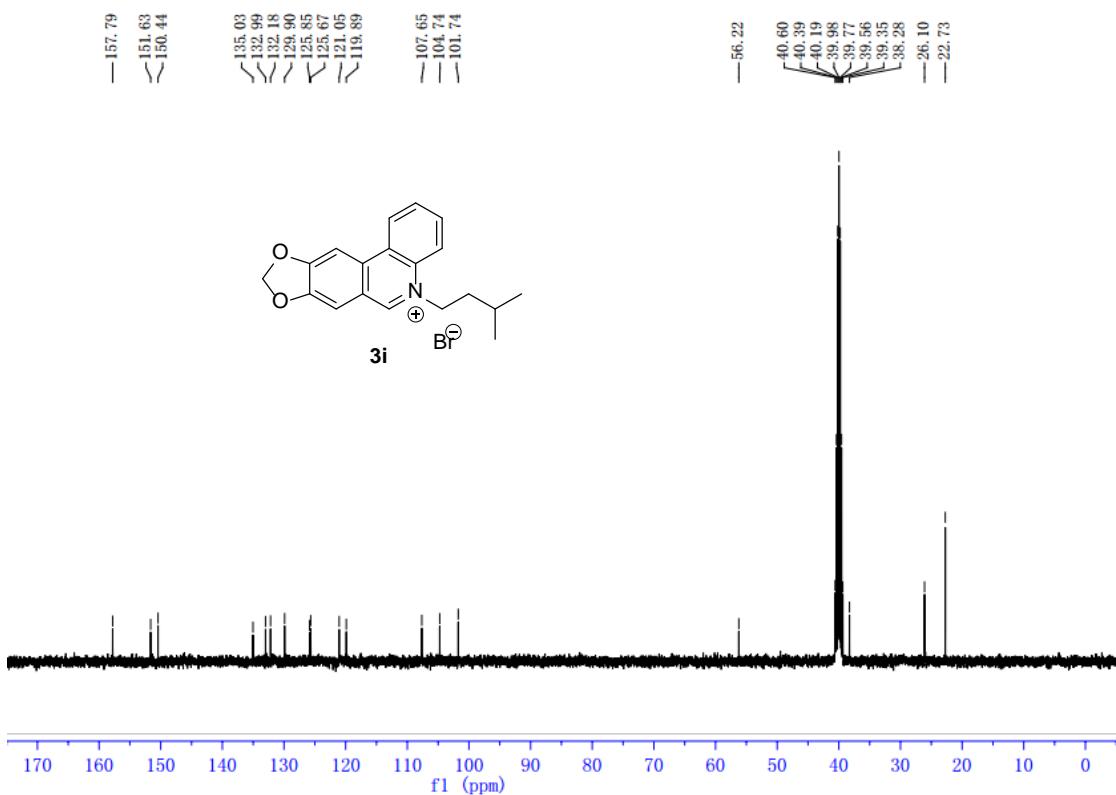


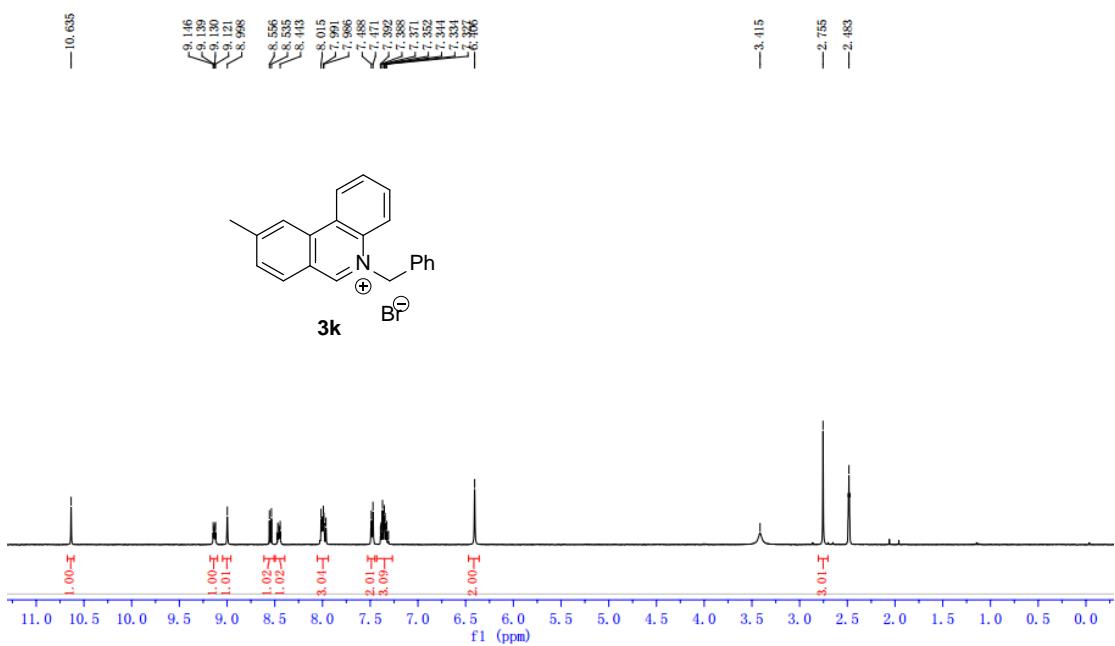
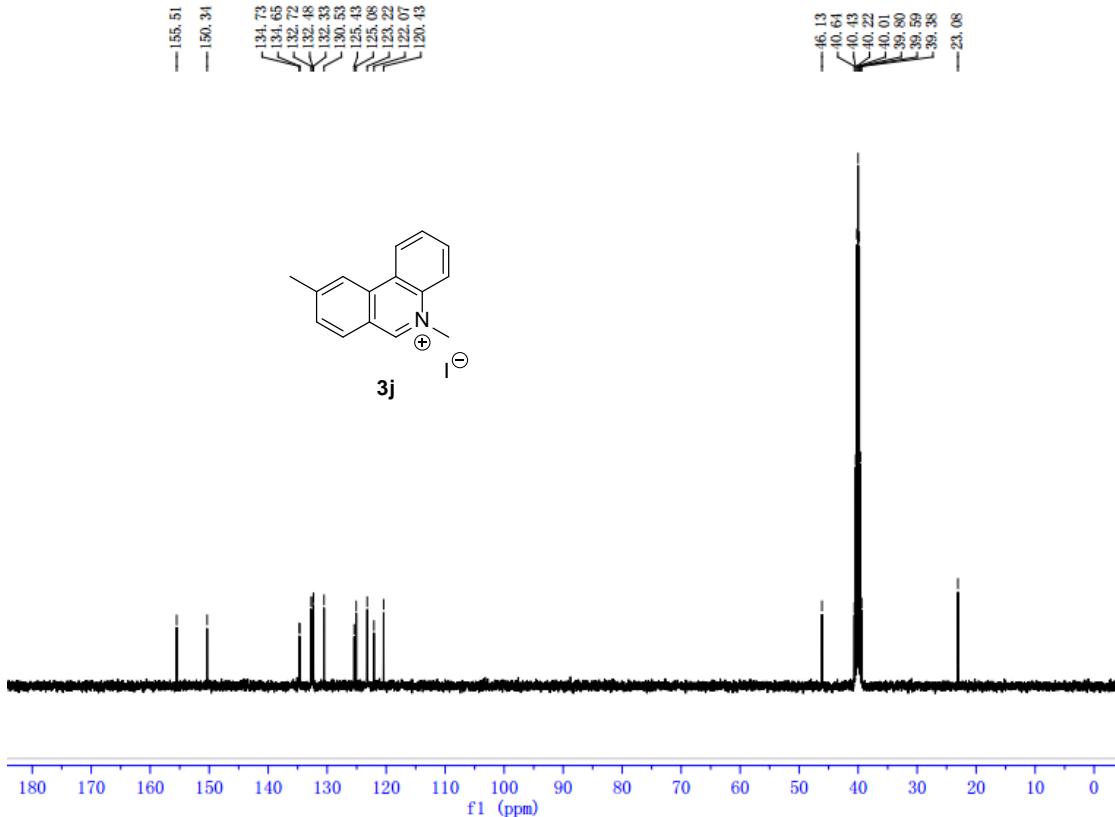


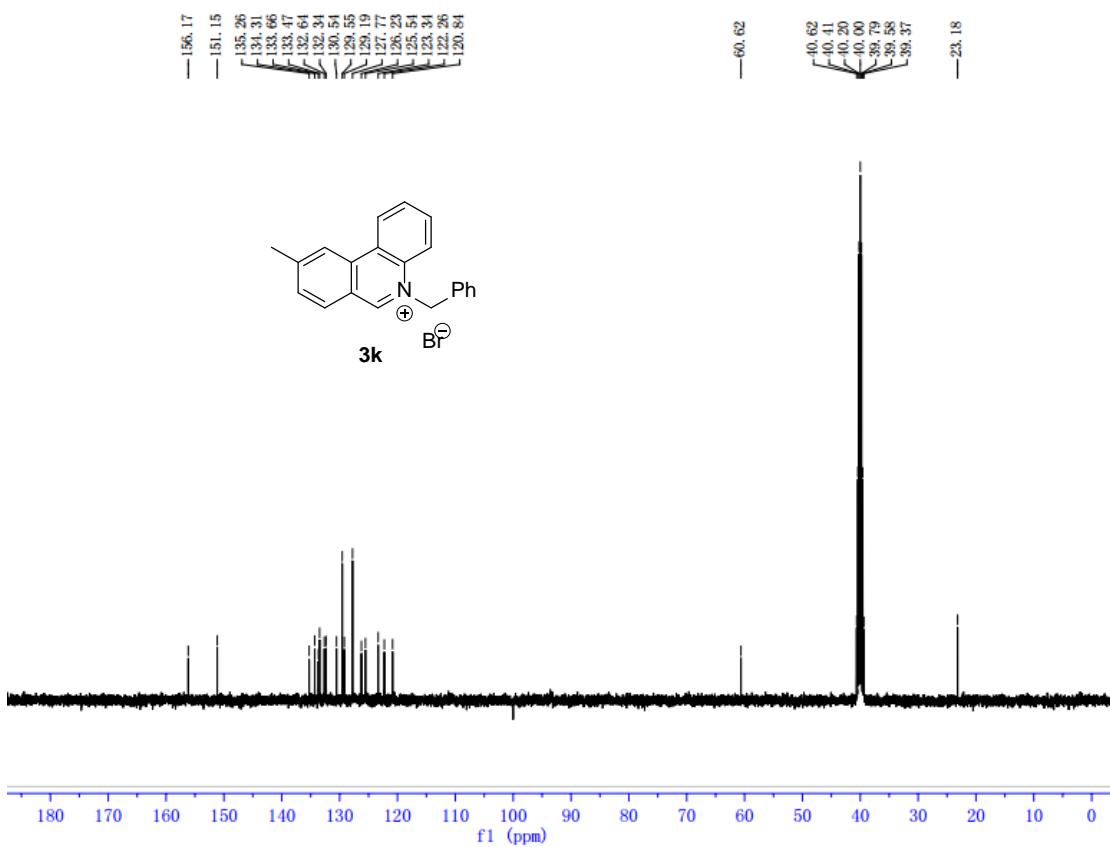


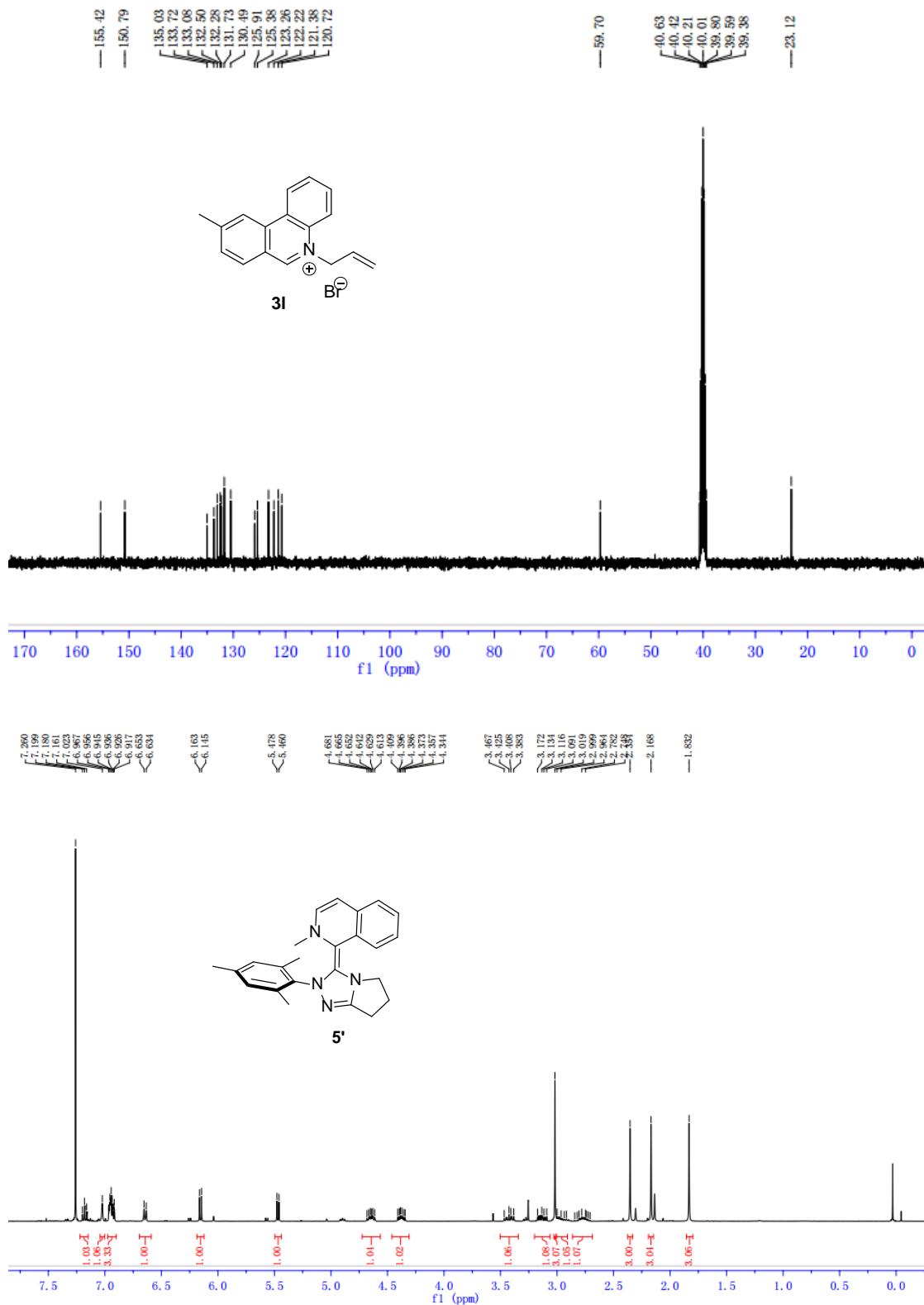


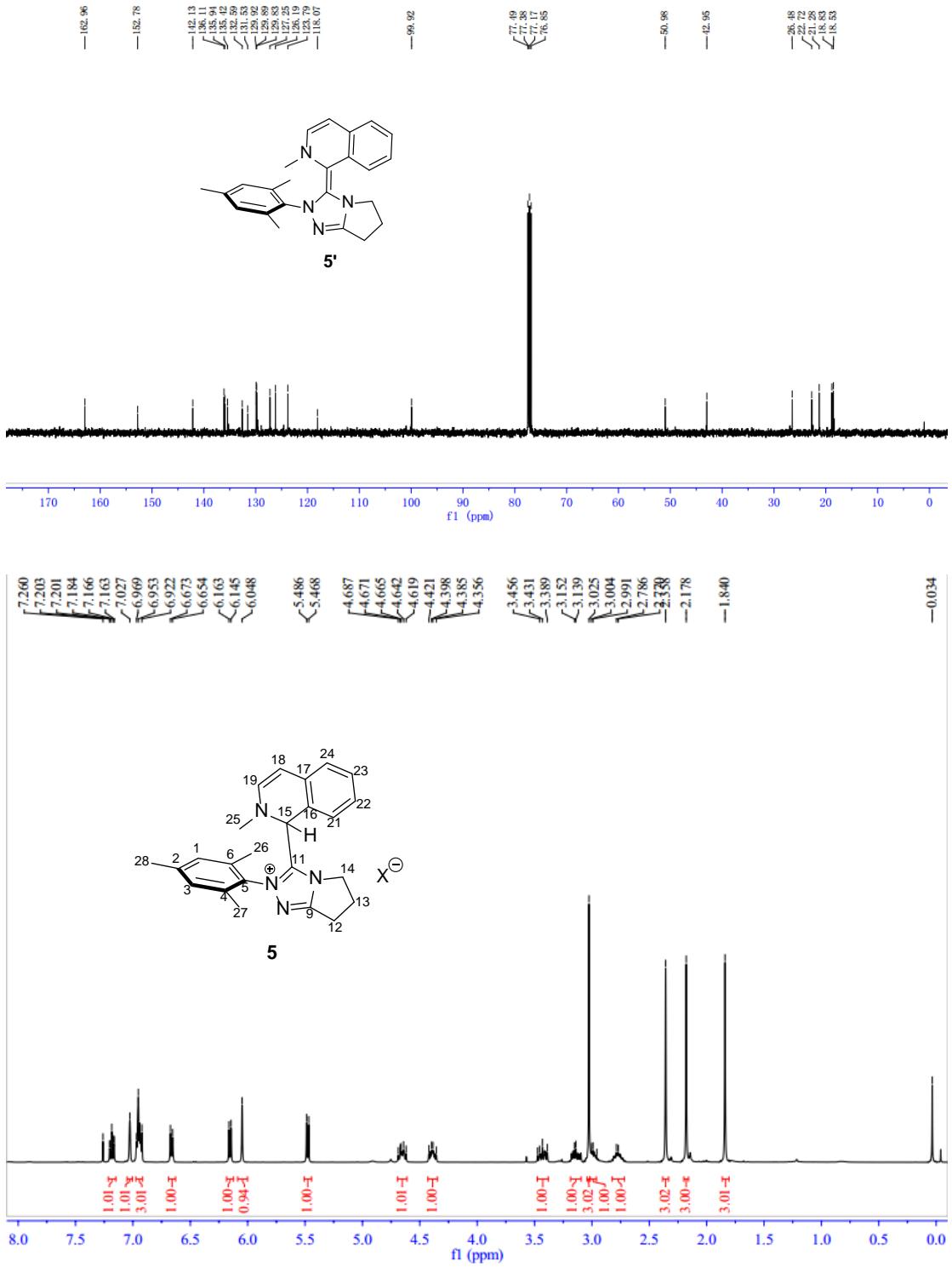


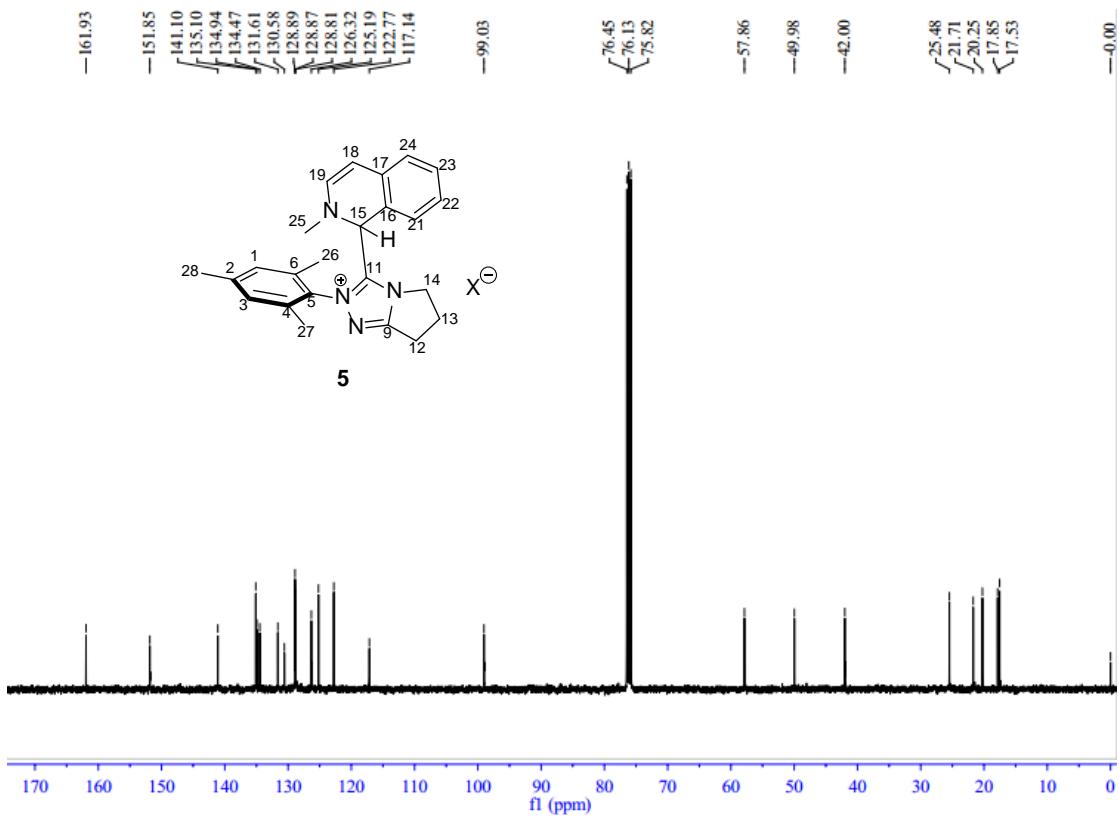




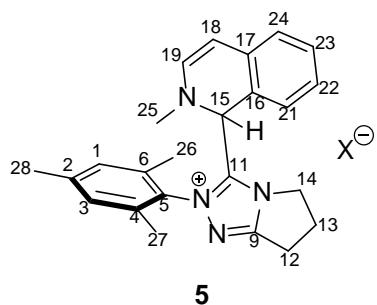


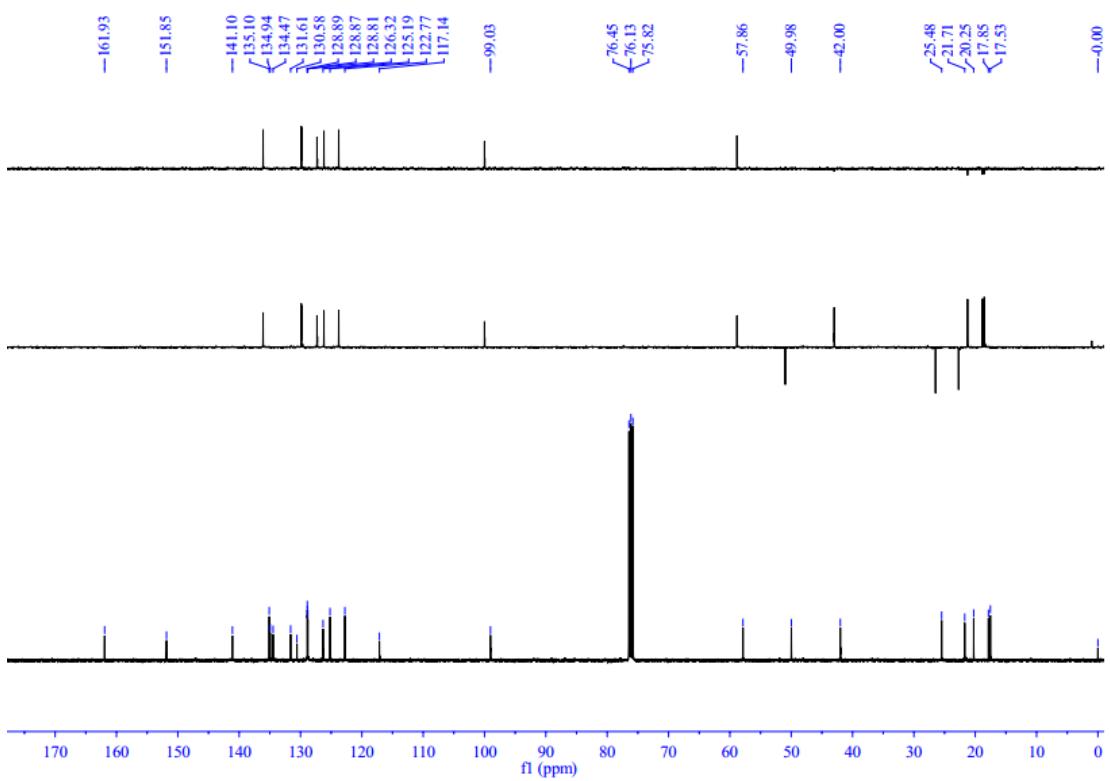




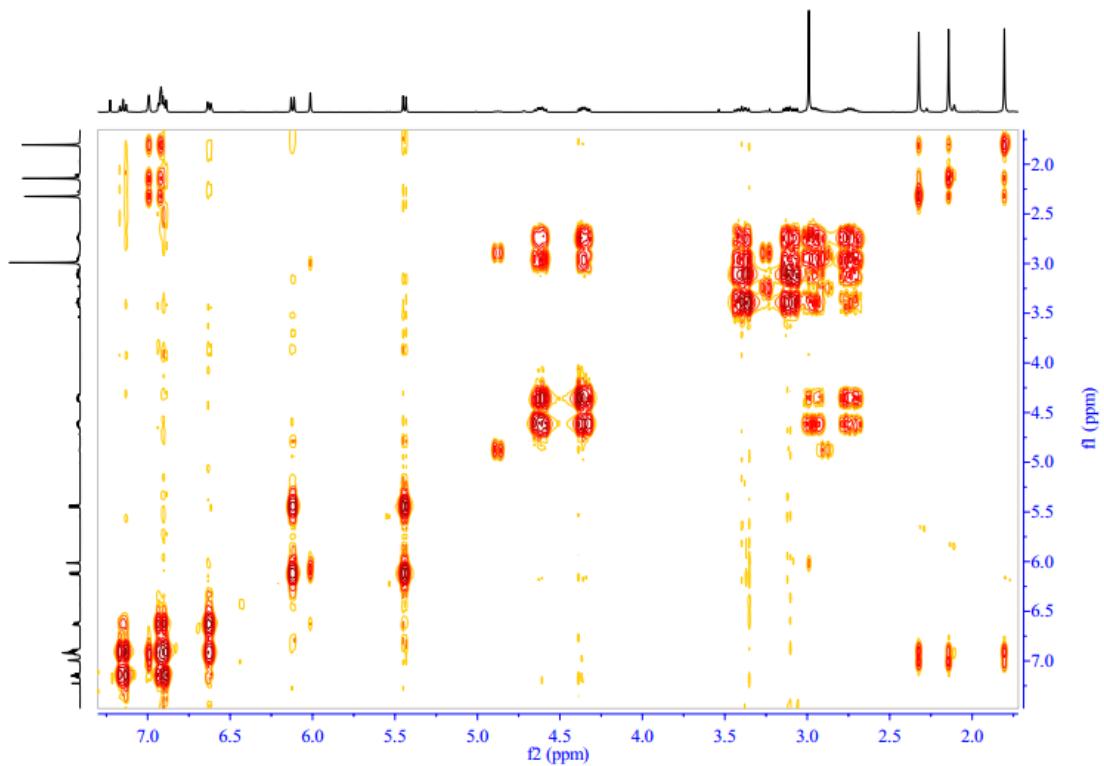


e) 2D NMR of intermediate 5

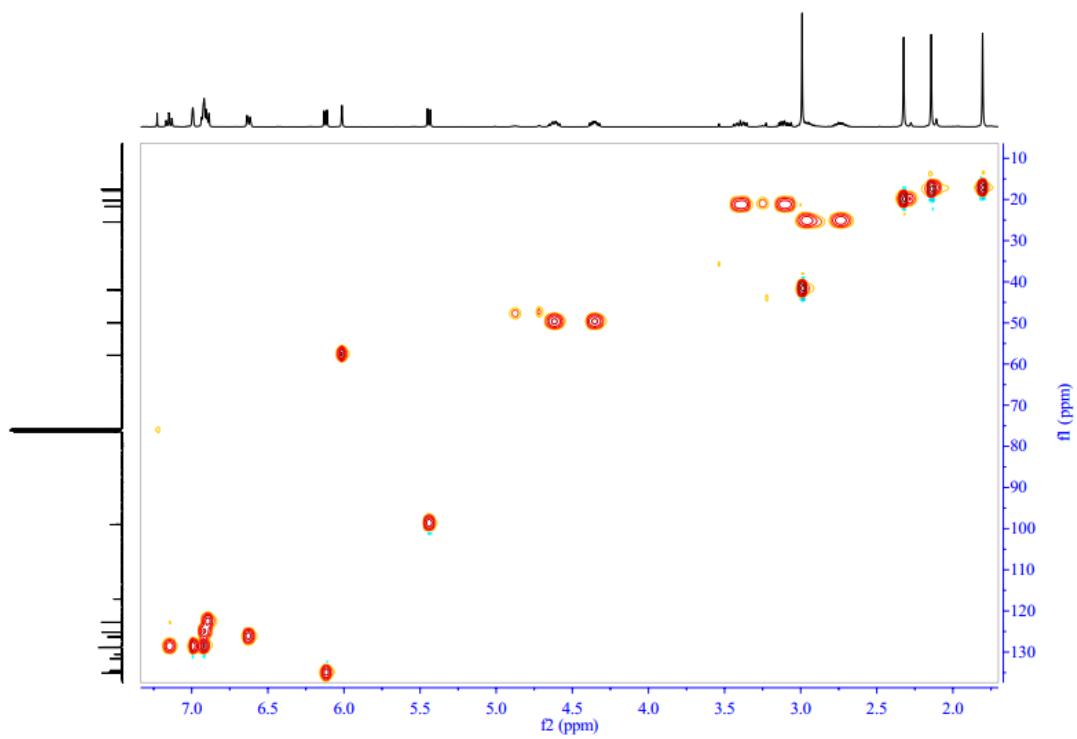




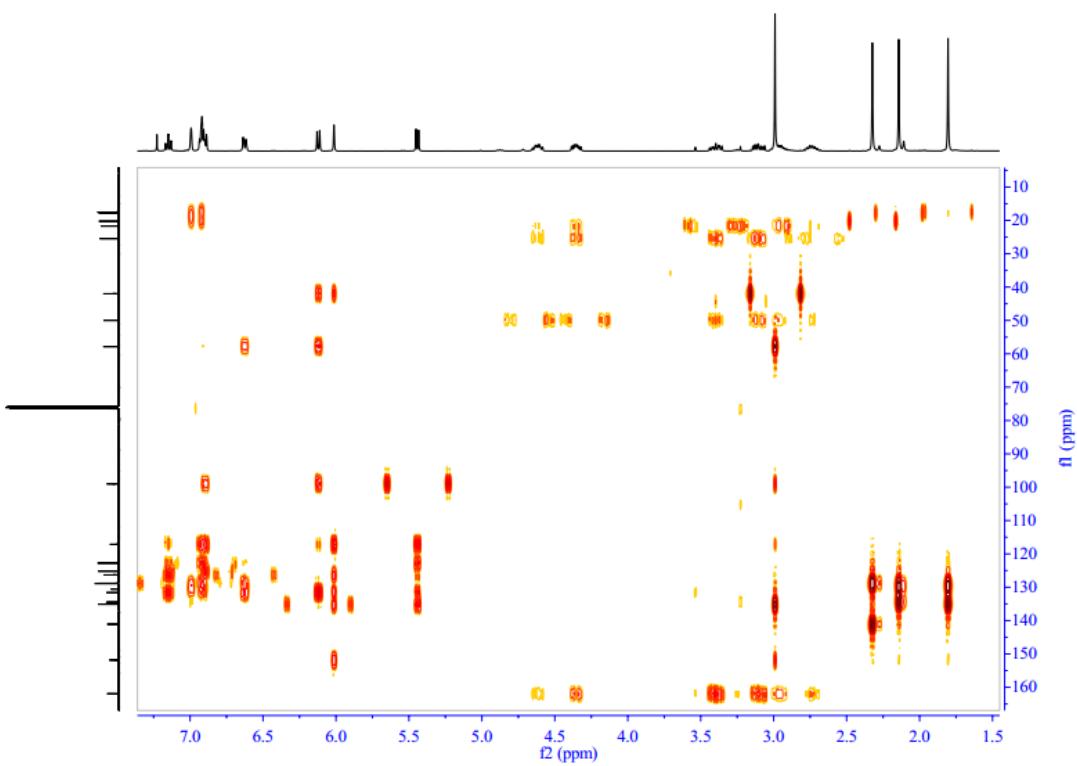
DEPT spectrum of **5**



COSY spectrum of **5**



HSQC spectrum of **5**



HMBC spectrum of **5**