

Design, synthesis, and biological evaluation of *m*-amidophenol derivatives as a new class of antitubercular agents

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1. Synthesis and Chemical Information Data

Synthesis of methyl 3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzoate (**2**)

To a solution of methyl 3, 5-dinitrobenzoate (4.520 g, 20 mmol) in dry methanol (50 mL) was added lithium methoxide (2.2 M in methanol, 19 mL). The reaction solution was refluxed under an argon atmosphere for 4 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the solution was acidified with 1M HCl to pH=7 and extracted with ether (50 mL × 2). The combined extracts were washed with ice-cold saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate and brine. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 40:1 ~ 20:1) to give methyl 3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzoate **2** (2.53 g, 60%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.91 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H, CH₃OOC), 3.95 (s, 3H, CH₃O).

Synthesis of (3-methoxy-5-nitrophenyl) methanol (**3**)

To a solution of **2** (2.53 g, 12.0 mmol) in a mixed solvent (CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 9:1(V/V), 36 mL), was added sodium hydroxide (720 mg, 18.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the residue was diluted with water (30 mL). The solution was extracted with diethyl ether (30 mL). The aqueous phase was cooled in an ice-bath, acidified to pH=2–3 with 1M HCl and extracted with AcOEt (30 mL × 2). The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. 3-Methoxy-5-nitrobenzoic acid (2.32 g, 11.76 mmol, 98%) was obtained and used directly in next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.80 (s, 1H, COOH), 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H, CH₃).

To a suspension of NaBH₄ (889.7 mg, 23.52 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) at 0°C was added a solution of 3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzoic acid (2.32 g, 11.76 mmol) in THF (20 mL) and BF₃·OEt₂ (3.8 mL, 30.68 mmol). The resulting mixture was warmed to 25 °C and stirred for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with 1 M HCl (50 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was then washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, (3-methoxy-5-nitrophenyl) methanol **3** was obtained as an orange solid (1.94 g, 10.6 mmol, 99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 2H, CH₂), 3.90 (s, 3H, CH₃).

Synthesis of 1-benzyl-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzene (**4**)

3 (1.94 g, 10.6 mmol) and dry benzene (10 mL) were added to a flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a base trap. AlCl₃ (2.9 g, 21.2 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added portion-wise at 0°C under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then heated to 80°C and stirred for 5 h. After being cooled to room

temperature, the mixture was poured into cold water (20 mL) and stirred for 30 min. The aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt (20 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and brine (20 mL), and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 40:1~10:1) to give 1-benzyl-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzene **4** (1.35 g, 5.6 mmol, 53%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar), 3.83 (s, 3H, CH₃).

Synthesis of 3-amino-5-benzylphenol (**5**)

To a solution of compound **4** (1.35 g, 5.6 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added slowly a solution of BBr₃ in dichloromethane (1.0 M, 28 mL, 28 mmol) at -80°C. The resulting red solution was warmed to 0°C and stirred for 12 h. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (50 mL) was added at 0°C. The solution was extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 20:1~5:1) to give 3-benzyl-5-nitrophenol (760 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 4.03 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar).

A solution of 3-benzyl-5-nitrophenol (760 mg, 3.32 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (152 mg) in a mixed solvent (CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:1(V/V), 10 mL) was purged with H₂ three times. The reaction mixture was stirred with a balloon of H₂ at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The 3-amino-5-benzylphenol **5** was obtained and directly used in next step without further purification.

Synthesis of compounds **12a-12c**

To a solution of compound **3** (366 mg, 2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was added Celite® (520 mg) and PCC (518 mg, 2.4 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O (20 mL), filtered through a pad of silica gel and washed with Et₂O (20 mL). The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give 3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.07 (s, 1H, CHO), 8.29 (m, 1H), 7.98 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H, CH₃).

To a stirred suspension of CH₃CH₂PPh₃Br (445 mg, 1.2 mmol) in THF (4 mL) was added *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.5 M, 0.5 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then a solution of 3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde (144.8 mg, 0.8 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. After HCl (1M, 10 mL) was added, the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL).

The combined organic layer was washed with water, aqueous NaHCO₃, brine respectively, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel to afford 1-methoxy-3-nitro-5-(prop-1-en-1-yl)benzene **10a**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.44 – 5.88 (m, 2H), 3.88 (m, 3H, CH₃O), 1.94 – 1.86 (m, 3H, CH₃).

To a solution of compound **10a** (216 mg, 1.12 mmol) in methylene chloride (4 mL) was added slowly a solution of BBr₃ in dichloromethane (1.0 M, 5.6 mL, 5.6 mmol) at -80°C. The resulting red solution was warmed to 0°C and stirred for 12 h. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (10 mL) was added at 0°C. The solution was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 20:1~5:1) to give 3-nitro-5-(prop-1-en-1-yl)phenol.

A solution of 3-nitro-5-(prop-1-en-1-yl)phenol (118 mg, 0.66 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (30 mg) in a mixed solvent (CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:1(V/V), 2 mL) was purged with H₂ three times. The reaction mixture was stirred with a balloon of H₂ at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The 3-amino-5-propyl-phenol **11a** was obtained and directly used in next step without further purification.

To solution of 3-amino-5-propyl-phenol **11a** (75.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (76.3 μL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added slowly a solution of cyclohexanecarbonyl chloride (80 mg, 0.55 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/EtOAc=20:1~2:1) to afford *N*-(3-hydroxy-5-propylphenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide **12a** as a white solid (83 mg, 64%). m.p. 178.7–180.1°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.53 (bs, 1H, NH), 9.15 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 2.39(t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (m, 1H, cyclohexyl-CH), 1.75 (m, 4H), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.30 – 1.15 (m, 3H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 174.57 (CONH), 157.80 (C-OH), 143.77 (C-NH), 140.70, 110.57, 110.51, 104.38, 45.33 (cyclohexyl-CH), 37.94, 29.63, 25.89, 25.72, 24.28, 14.11 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₆H₂₃NO₂ [M-H]⁻: 260.1656, found: 260.1649. Purity: 98.4% (by HPLC).

***N*-(3-hydroxy-5-pentylphenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (12b)**

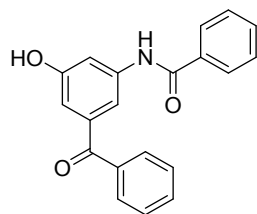
This compound was synthesized via a similar procedure of **12a**. White solid, yield 56%, m.p. 172.2–173.7°C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.55 (bs, 1H, NH), 9.16 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 2.41 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (m, 1H, cyclohexyl-CH), 1.74 (m, 4H), 1.64 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 1.54 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.33

(m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.17 (m, 7H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 174.58 (CONH), 157.80 (C-OH), 144.02 (C-NH), 140.72, 110.51, 110.41, 104.29, 45.34 (cyclohexyl-CH), 35.77, 31.33, 30.88, 29.62, 25.89, 25.72, 22.44, 14.37; **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₁₈H₂₇NO₂ [M-H]: 288.1969, found: 288.1964. Purity: 98.3% (by HPLC).

***N*-(3-hydroxy-5-isopentylphenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide (12c)**

This compound was synthesized via a similar procedure of **12a**. Yellow solid, yield 59%, m.p. 170.7–172.6°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 6.97 (t, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (m, 1H), 6.37 (m, 1H), 2.53 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.32 (m, 1H, cyclohexyl-CH), 1.83 (m, 4H), 1.71 (d, $J = 10.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.61 – 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.44 (m, 3H), 1.33 (m, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.92 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 176.24 (CONH), 157.25 (C-OH), 144.56 (C-NH), 139.45, 111.26, 110.71, 104.59, 45.83 (cyclohexyl-CH), 40.44, 33.45, 29.31, 27.33, 25.50, 25.40, 21.50 (CH₃); **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₁₈H₂₇NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 290.2115, found: 290.2102. Purity: 99.5% (by HPLC).

Synthesis of *N*-(3-benzoyl-5-hydroxyphenyl)benzamide (14)



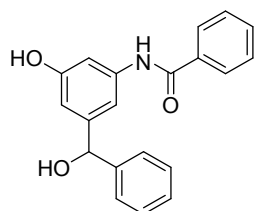
3-Methoxy-5-nitrobenzoic acid (394 mg, 2 mmol) and SOCl₂ (286 μ L, 4 mmol) was heated at 80 °C for 2 h. After excess SOCl₂ was evaporated, benzene (2 mL) and AlCl₃ (400 mg, 3 mmol) were added at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After the addition of ice (5 g), the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL \times 2). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated in vacuo. 3-Methoxy-5-nitrophenyl(phenyl)methanone **13** was obtained as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 – 8.15 (m, 1H), 7.93 (t, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.52 (M, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H, CH₃O).

To a solution of compound **13** (385 mg, 1.5 mmol) in methylene chloride (4 mL) was added slowly a solution of BBr₃ in dichloromethane (1.0 M, 7.5 mL, 7.5 mmol) at -80°C. The resulting red solution was warmed to 0°C and stirred for 12 h. Saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (8 mL) was added at 0°C. The solution was extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 20:1-5:1) to give (3-hydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (211 mg, 58%).

A solution of (3-hydroxy-5-nitrophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (211 mg, 0.87 mmol) and iron powder (243 mg, 4.4 mmol) in a mixed solvent (AcOH/MeOH/H₂O= 2:2:1(V/V/V), 5 mL) was heated at 106 °C for 1 h and then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 10:1-5:1) to give (3-amino-5-hydroxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanone.

To solution of (3-amino-5-hydroxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (76.3 μL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added slowly a solution of benzoyl chloride (63 μL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/EtOAc=10:1~2:1) to afford **14** as a white solid (111 mg, 70%). m.p. 221.7–222.8°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.36 (bs, 1H, NH), 9.91 (bs, 1H, OH), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 5H), 6.89 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 196.09 (ArCOAr), 166.22 (CONH), 158.06, 140.82, 138.68, 137.73, 135.19, 133.02, 132.16, 130.00, 128.98, 128.85, 128.18, 113.23, 111.97, 111.76; HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₁₅NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 318.1125, found: 318.1123. Purity: 98.2% (by HPLC).

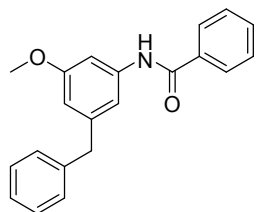
Synthesis of *N*-(3-hydroxy-5-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)phenyl)benzamide (**15**)



To a stirred solution of compound **14** (317 mg, 1 mmol) in methanol (3 mL) was added sodium borohydride (91 mg, 1.2 mmol) in portions at 0°C. The resulting mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. Excessive sodium borohydride was then quenched with water (10 mL). The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was washed with water (20 mL × 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. *N*-(3-Hydroxy-5-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)phenyl)benzamide **15** was obtained as a white solid (270 mg, 85%). m.p. 178.4–180.2°C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H, ArCHOHAr); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 167.55 (CONH), 157.44, 146.53, 144.33, 139.35, 134.98, 131.42, 128.20, 127.89, 127.21, 126.88, 126.41, 110.54, 109.60,

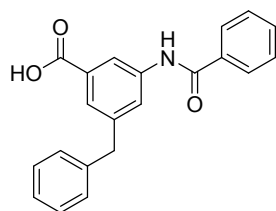
106.91, 75.50 (ArCHOHAr); **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for $C_{20}H_{17}NO_3$ [M-H]⁻: 318.1136, found: 318.1123. Purity: 99.5% (by HPLC).

Synthesis of *N*-(3-benzyl-5-methoxyphenyl)benzamide (**18**)



A mixture of **7a** (30.3 mg, 0.1 mmol), iodomethane (9.33 μ L, 0.15 mmol) and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) in acetone (2 mL) was refluxed for 12 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 9:1) to give *N*-(3-Benzyl-5-methoxyphenyl)benzamide **18** as a white solid (22 mg, 69%). m.p. 116.4–117.7°C; **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar), 3.75 (s, 3H, CH₃O); **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 159.40 (CONH), 152.04, 135.08, 132.83, 131.42, 126.81, 123.34, 120.45, 1120.09, 119.96, 119.10, 117.64, 105.54, 102.51, 96.12, 46.19 (CH₃O), 33.45 (ArCH₂Ar); **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for $C_{21}H_{19}NO_2$ [M+H]⁺: 318.1489 found: 318.1485. Purity: 98.7% (by HPLC).

Synthesis of 3-benzamido-5-benzylbenzoic acid (**19**)



To a solution of 3-(methoxycarbonyl)-5-nitrobenzoic acid (2.3 g, 10.0 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise BH_3 -THF (1 M in THF, 20.0 mmol) at 0°C. After the completion of the addition, the cooling bath was removed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The excess of borane was quenched by slow addition of saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$ (15 mL). After the addition of ethyl acetate (40 mL), the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL \times 2). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (50 mL \times 2) and dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography to provide methyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-5-nitrobenzoate as a white solid (1.3 g, 60%).

3-(Hydroxymethyl)-5-nitrobenzoate (1.3 g, 6.0 mmol) and dry benzene (6 mL) were added to a flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a base trap. AlCl₃ (1.2 g, 9 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added portion-wise at 0°C under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then heated to 80°C and stirred for 5 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was poured into cold water (20 mL) and stirred for 30 min. The aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt (15 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O (20 mL) and brine (10 mL), and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 20:1~10:1) to give methyl 3-benzyl-5-nitrobenzoate as a red solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 4.23 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar), 3.92 (s, 3H, COOCH₃).

A solution of methyl 3-benzyl-5-nitrobenzoate (542 mg, 2 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (108 mg) in a mixed solvent (CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:1(V/V), 8 mL) was purged with H₂ three times. The reaction mixture was stirred with a balloon of H₂ at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The methyl 3-amino-5-benzylbenzoate was obtained and directly used in next step without further purification.

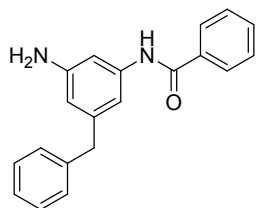
To a solution of methyl 3-amino-5-benzylbenzoate (120 mg, 0.5 mmol) and triethylamine (76.3 μL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added slowly a solution of benzoyl chloride (63 μL, 0.55 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/EtOAc=40:1~10:1) to afford methyl 3-benzamido-5-benzylbenzoate as a white solid (112 mg, 65%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.42 (s, 1H, NH), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.99 (m, 3H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 4.05 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar), 3.87 (s, 3H, COOCH₃).

To a solution of methyl 3-benzamido-5-benzylbenzoate (112 mg, 0.33 mmol) in a mixed solvent (CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 9:1(V/V), 2 mL), was added sodium hydroxide (20 mg, 0.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the residue was diluted with water (10 mL). The solution was extracted with diethyl ether (10 mL). The aqueous phase was cooled in an ice-bath, acidified to pH=2–3 with 1M HCl and extracted with AcOEt (10 mL × 2). The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to afford 3-benzamido-5-benzylbenzoic acid as a white solid. m.p. 262.1–263.8°C; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.9 (s, 1H, COOH), 10.37 (s, 1H, NH), 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.96 (m, 3H), 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 4.03 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar); **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 167.88 (COOH), 165.60 (CONH), 142.38, 140.81, 139.47, 134.78, 131.74, 131.34, 128.88, 128.56, 128.34, 127.68, 126.17,

124.83, 124.67, 119.16, 41.13 (ArCH₂Ar); HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₇NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 332.1281 found: 332.1277.

Purity: 99.2% (by HPLC).

Synthesis of *N*-(3-amino-5-benzylphenyl)benzamide (20)



To a solution of 3, 5-dinitrobenzoic acid (2.12 g, 10.0 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise BH₃·THF (1 M in THF, 20.0 mmol) at 0°C. After the completion of the addition, the cooling bath was removed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The excess of borane was quenched by slow addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (15 mL). After the addition of ethyl acetate (40 mL), the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (50 mL × 2) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography to provide (3, 5-dinitrophenyl)methanol as a white solid (970 mg, 49%).

(3, 5-Dinitrophenyl)methanol (970 mg, 4.9 mmol) and dry benzene (5 mL) were added to a flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a base trap.

AlCl₃ (978 mg, 7.4 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was added portion-wise at 0°C under an argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then heated to 80°C and stirred for 5 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was poured into cold water (20 mL) and stirred for 30 min. The aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt (15 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O (15 mL) and brine (10 mL), and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography over silica gel (petroleum/EtOAc = 20:1~10:1) to give 1-benzyl-3, 5-dinitrobenzene as a red solid.

3-Benzyl-5-nitroaniline was synthesized according to a reported method ^[1]. To a mixture of 1-benzyl-3, 5-dinitrobenzene (456 mg, 2 mmol) and iron phthalocyanine (FePc) (0.5 mol %) in water/ethanol (V/V=1:1, 15 mL) was added hydrazine hydrate (200 mg, 4 mmol) was added. The reaction solution was refluxed at 120 °C. After the completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC analysis, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and extracted with ethyl acetate (25 mL × 2). The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to afford 3-Benzyl-5-nitroaniline as a green solid.

To a solution of 3-benzyl-5-nitroaniline (342 mg, 1.5 mmol) and triethylamine (229 μL, 1.65 mmol) in THF (6 mL)

was added slowly a solution of benzoyl chloride (189 μ L, 1.65 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (25 mL \times 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/EtOAc=40:1~10:1) to afford *N*-(3-benzyl-5-nitrophenyl)benzamide as a white solid.

A solution of *N*-(3-benzyl-5-nitrophenyl)benzamide (166 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 10% Pd/C (33 mg) in a mixed solvent (CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ = 1:1(V/V), 5 mL) was purged with H₂ three times. The reaction mixture was stirred with a balloon of H₂ at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/EtOAc=10:1~2:1) to afford 20 as a white solid. Yield 38%. m.p. 155.3–157.1°C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.91 (bs, 1H, NH), 7.91 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.07 (s, 2H, NH₂), 3.75 (s, 2H, ArCH₂Ar); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.69 (CONH), 149.34, 142.18, 141.91, 140.22, 135.76, 131.74, 129.16, 128.77, 128.72, 128.06, 126.31, 110.79, 109.57, 104.62, 42.07 (ArCH₂Ar); HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O [M+H]⁺: 303.1492, found: 303.1497. Purity: 97.7% (by HPLC).

2. Mtb-InhA inhibition assay

The expression, isolation and purification of Mtb-InhA were performed as described in the reference.^[2] The substrate 2-*trans*-octenoyl coenzyme A (C8-CoA) was synthesized according to the reported procedure.^[3-4] The assays were performed via the comparison of the reduction rate of C8-CoA by NADH catalyzed by InhA with or without the tested compound. The percentage of InhA inhibition was measured by monitoring the transformation of NADH to NAD⁺.^[5] Triclosan was used as the positive control. The reaction system consisted of 100 nM InhA, 50 μ M inhibitor and 250 μ M NADH in the buffer with 30 mM PIPES, 150 mM NaCl and 1 mM EDTA (pH 6.8). After being incubated at 25°C for 5 minutes, C8-CoA was added to the solution and the final concentration was 25 μ M. The blank control was performed at the same conditions without the inhibitor. The inhibitory activity against Mtb-InhA was determined by observing the changes of UV absorbance at 340 nm.

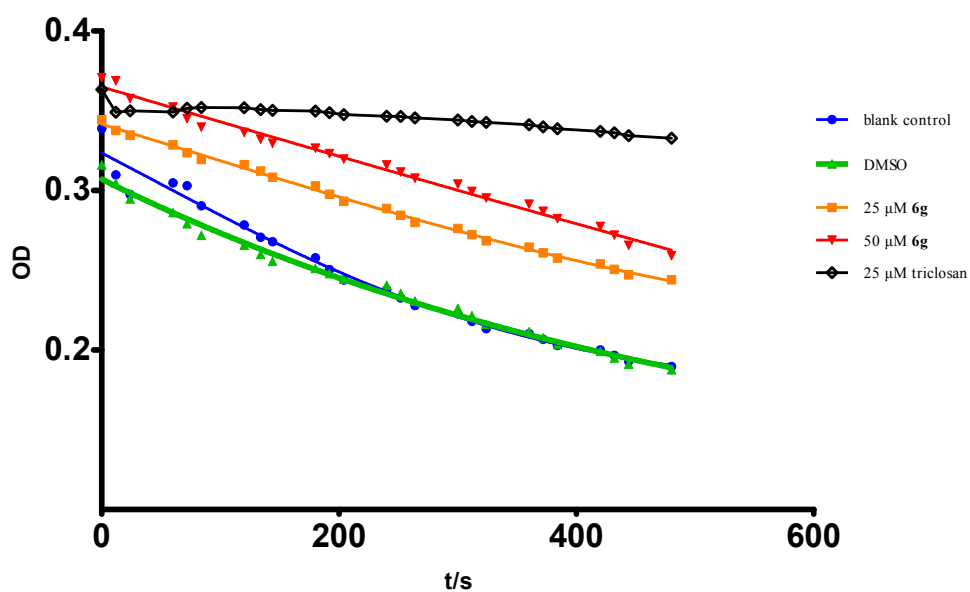


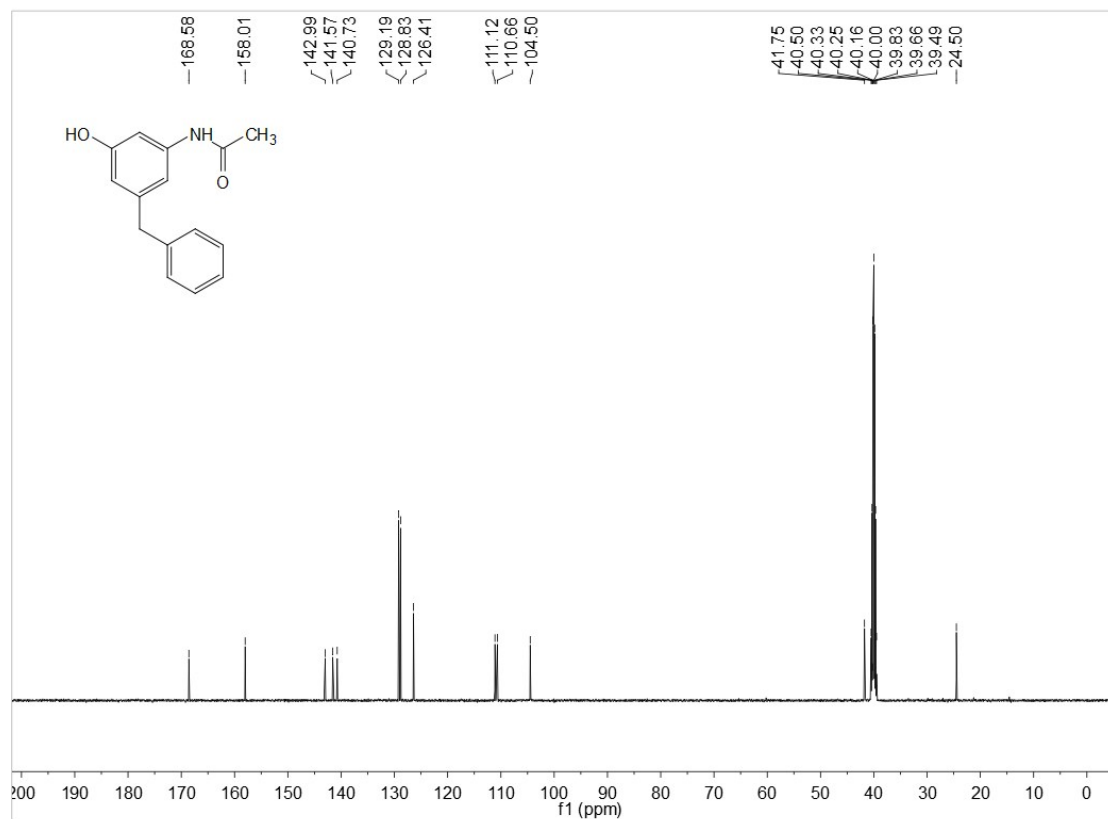
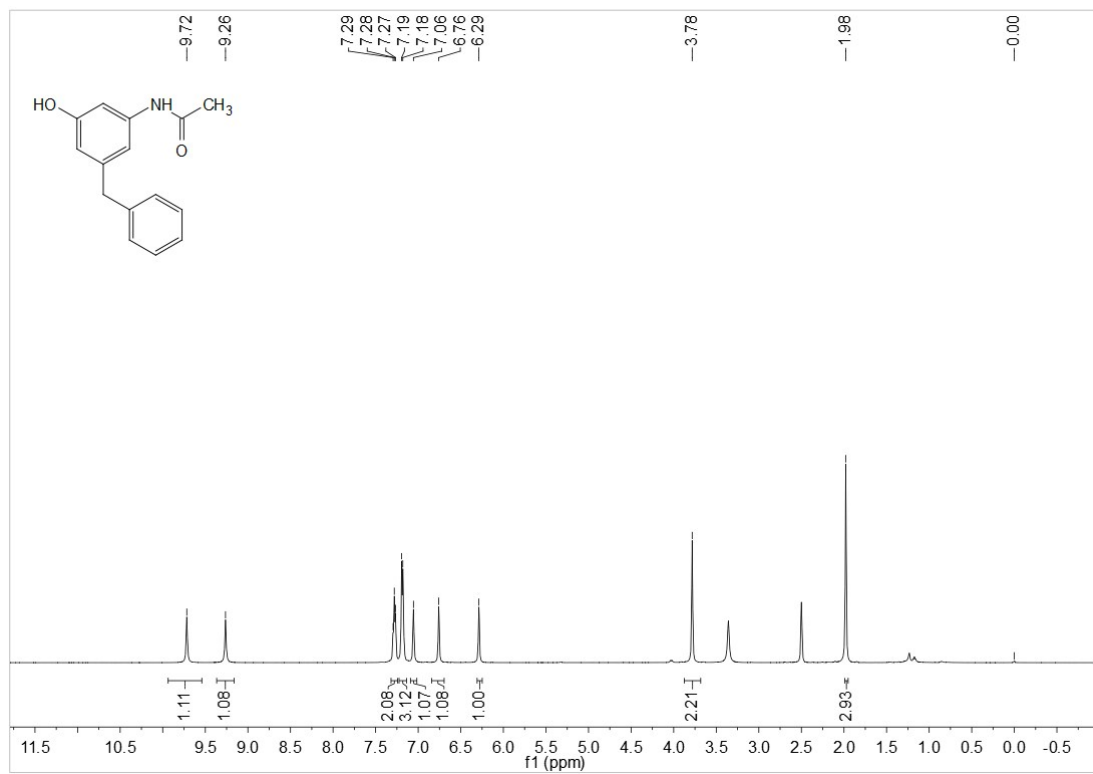
Figure1. Enzyme inhibition experiment of **6g** against Mtb-InhA.

3. References

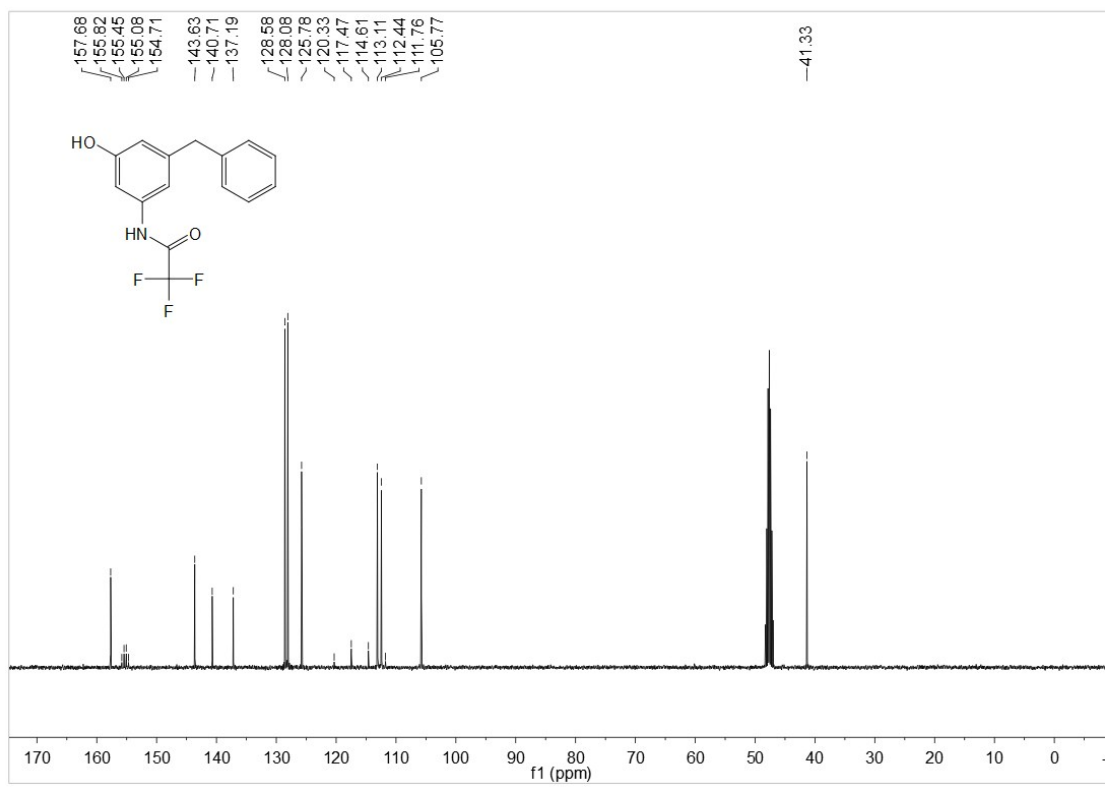
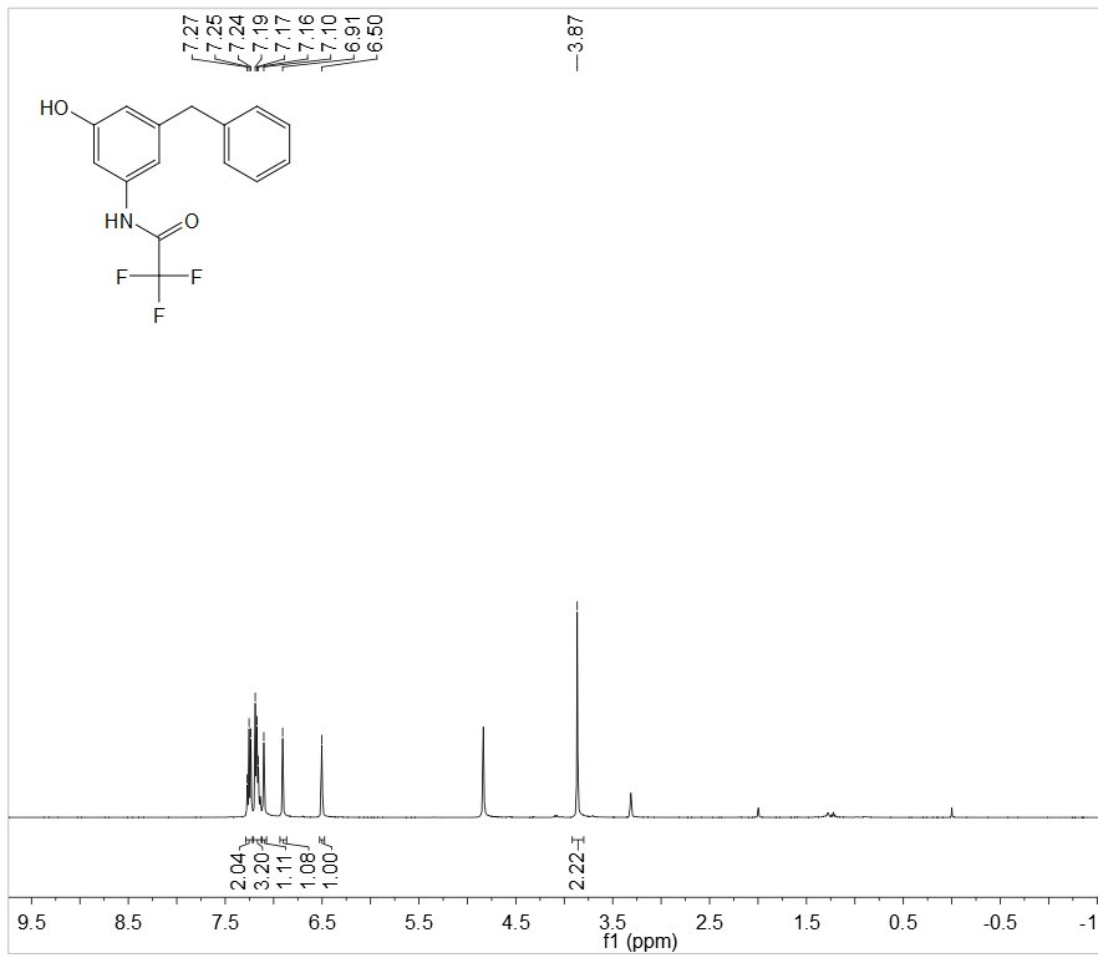
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4. Copies of NMR spectra

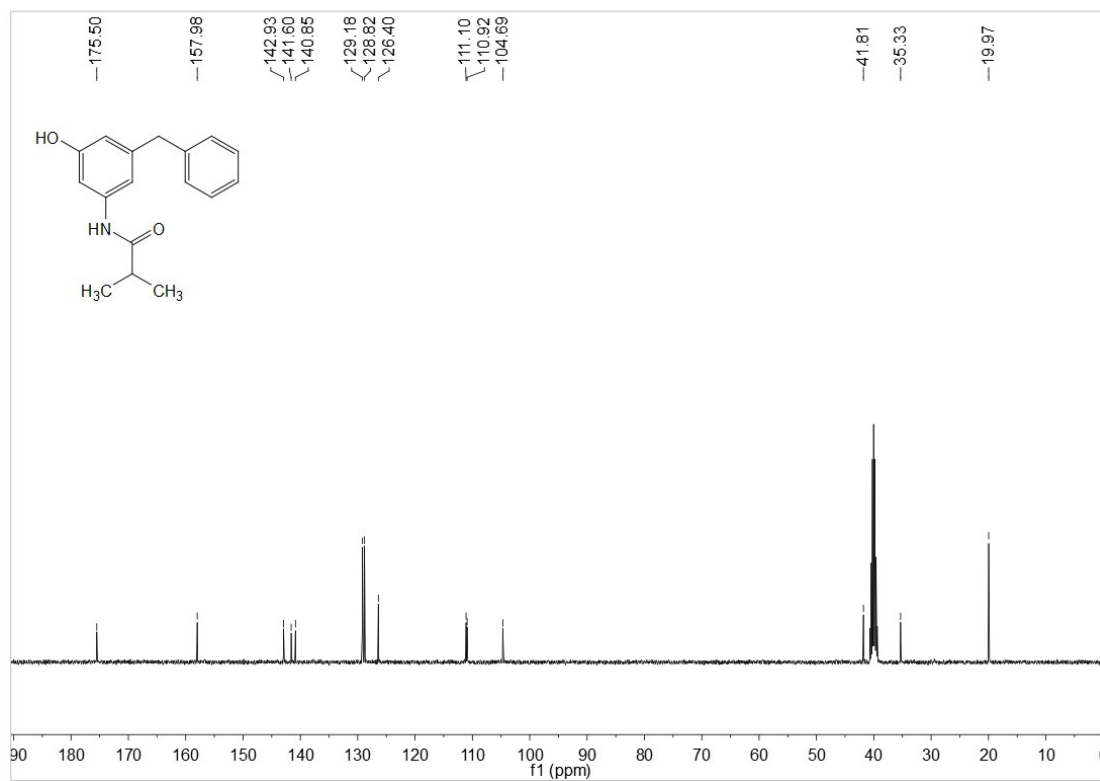
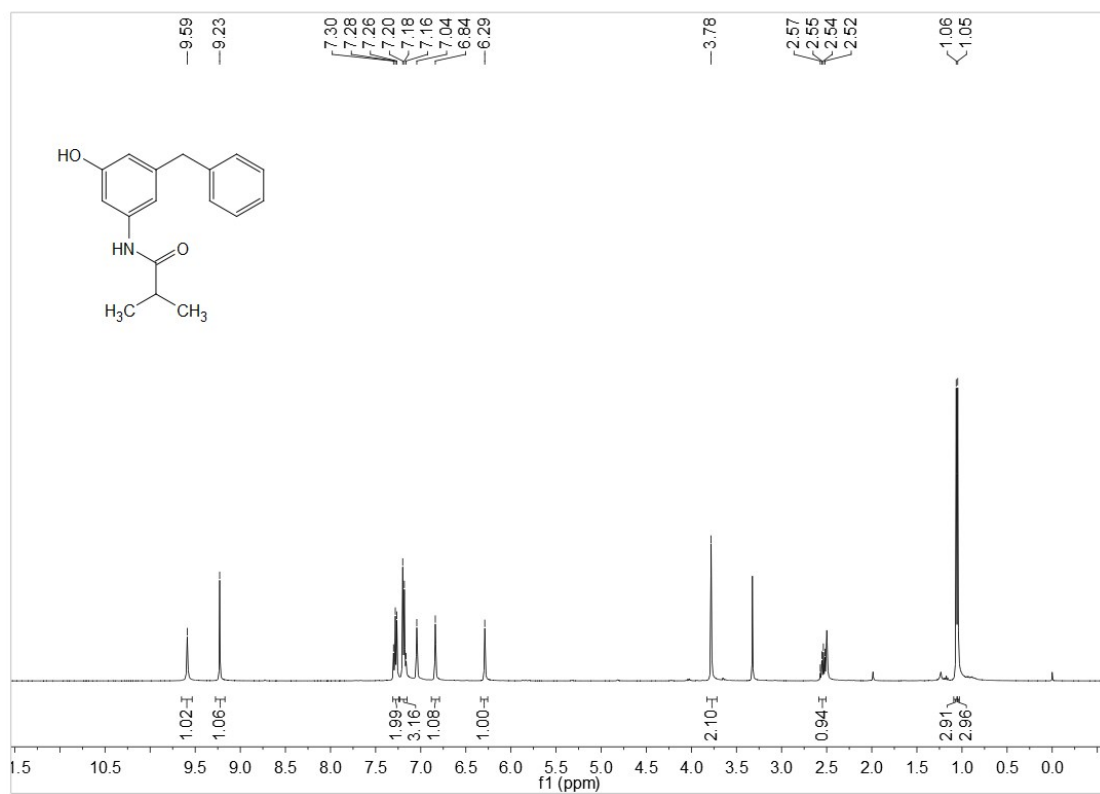
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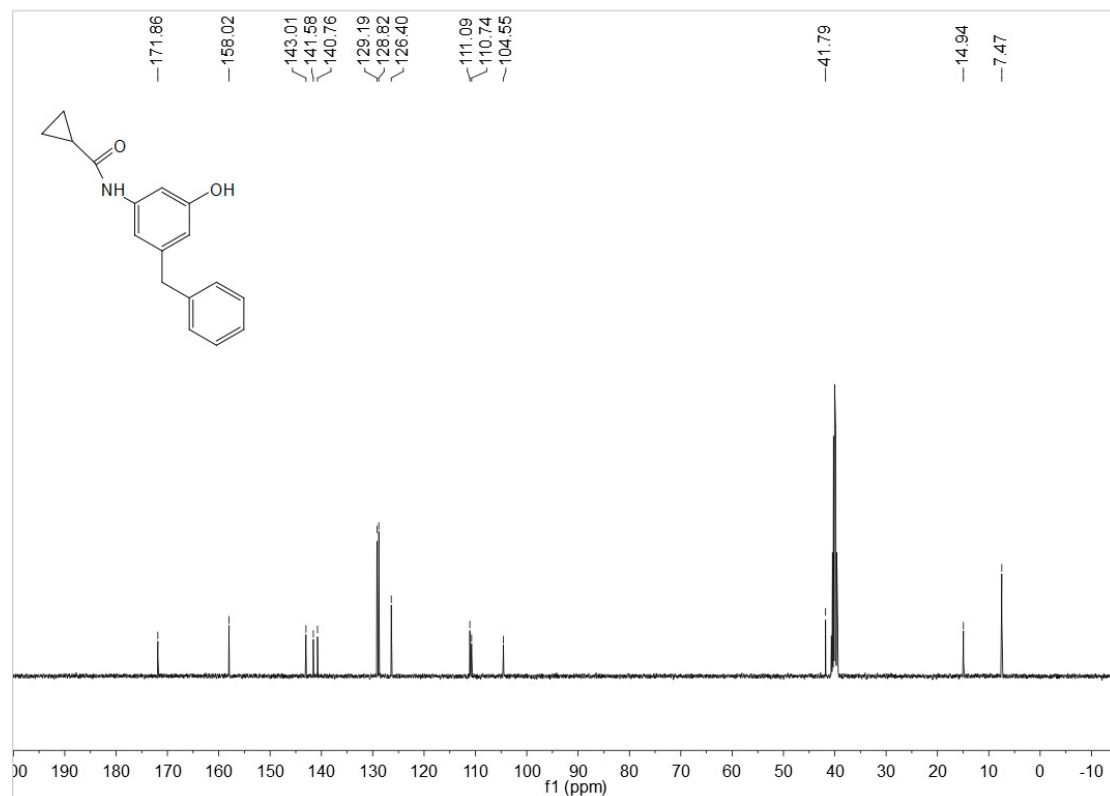
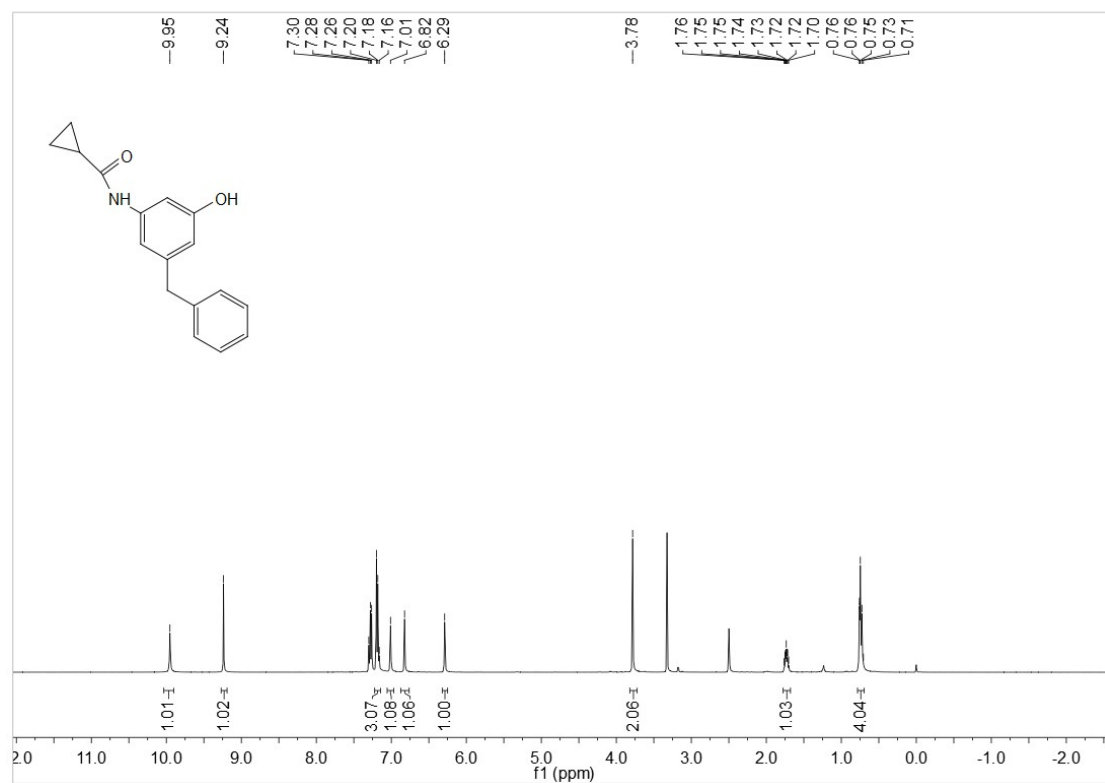
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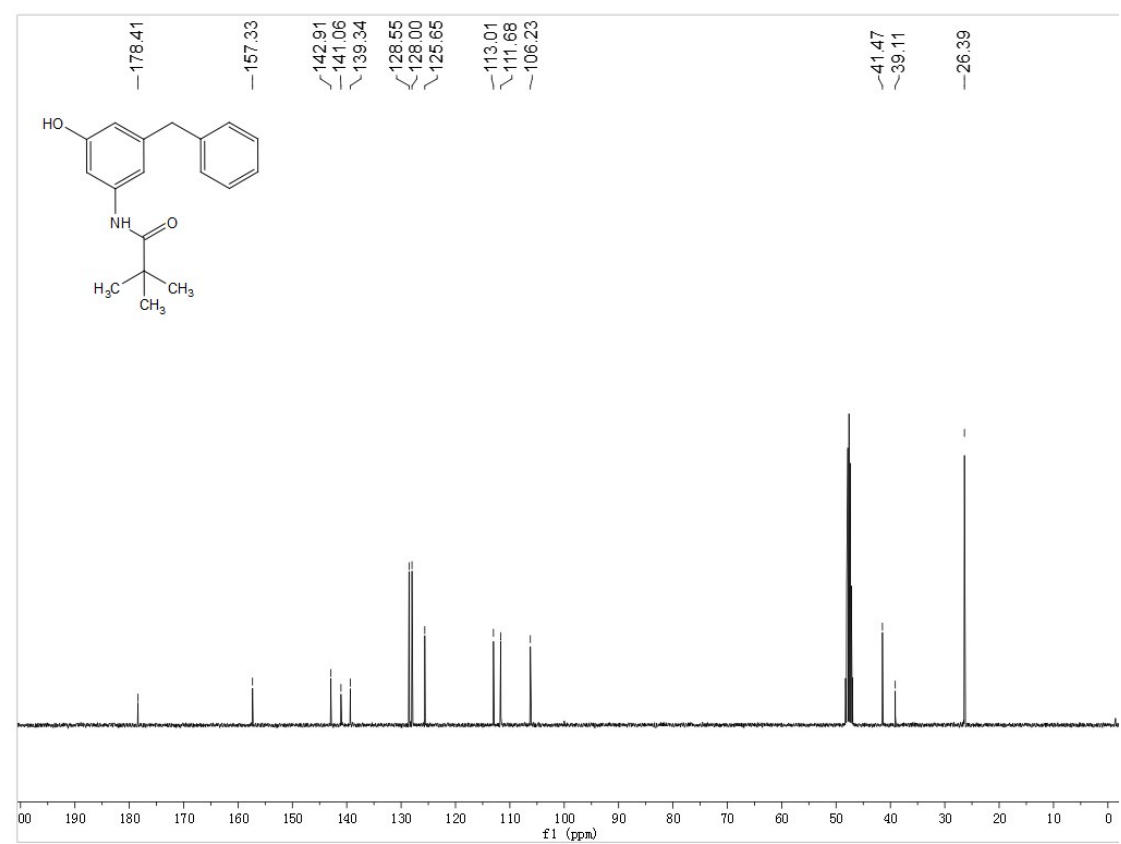
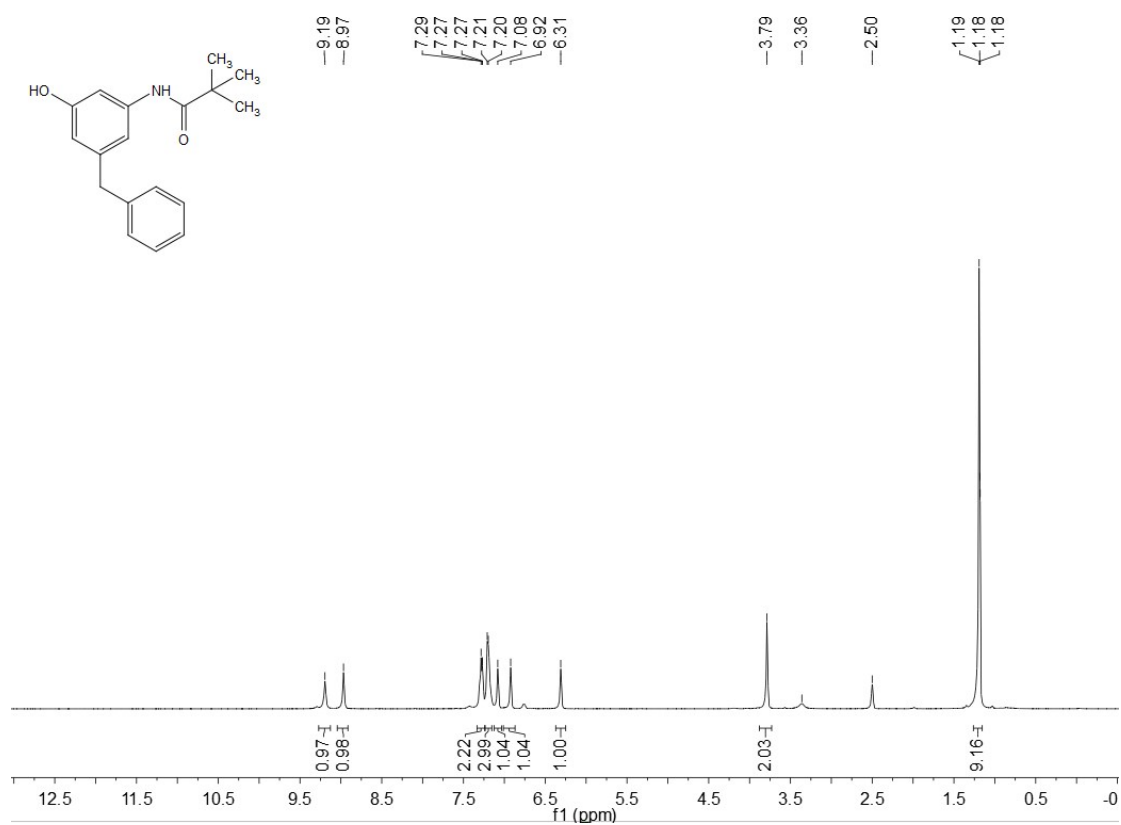
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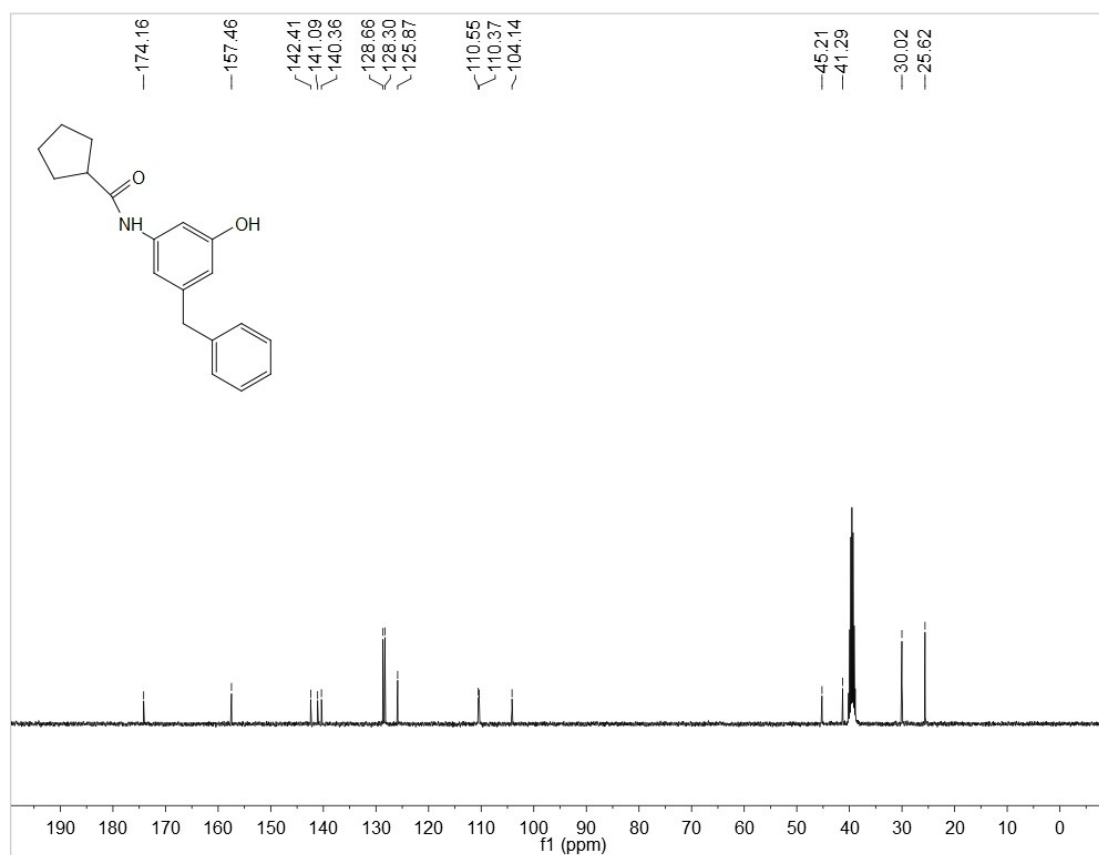
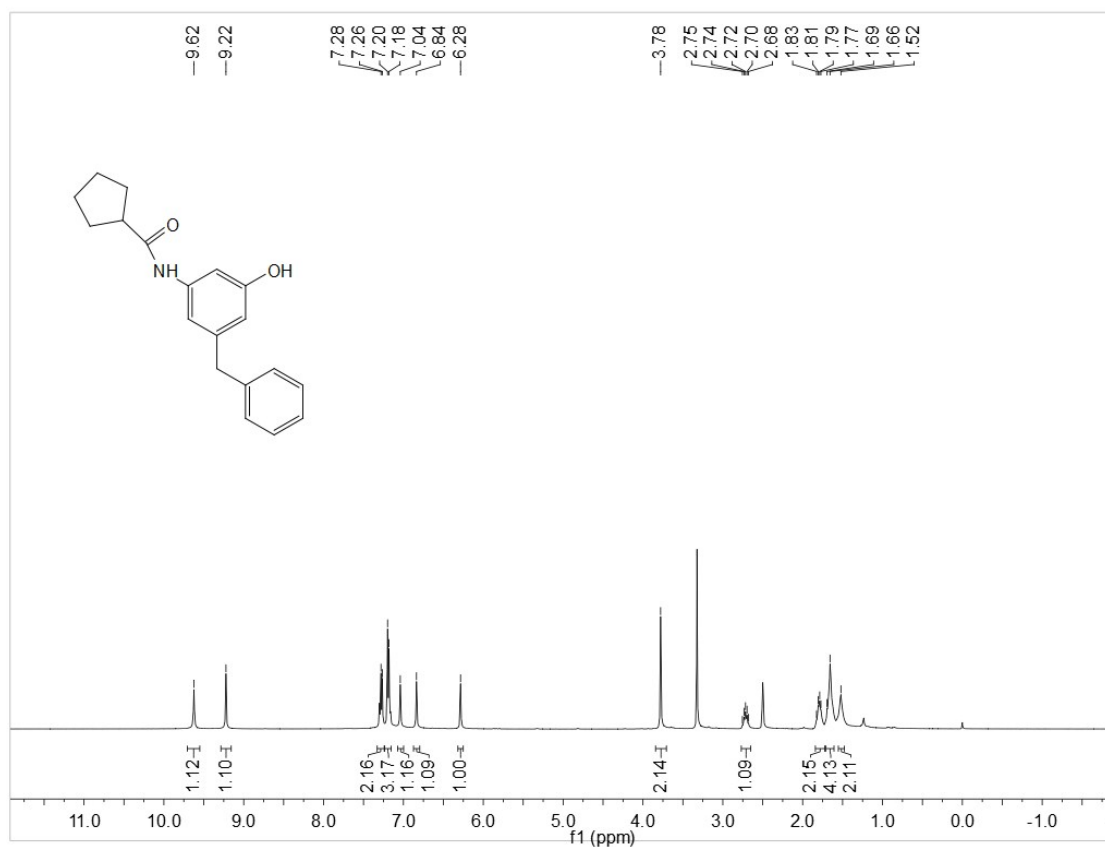
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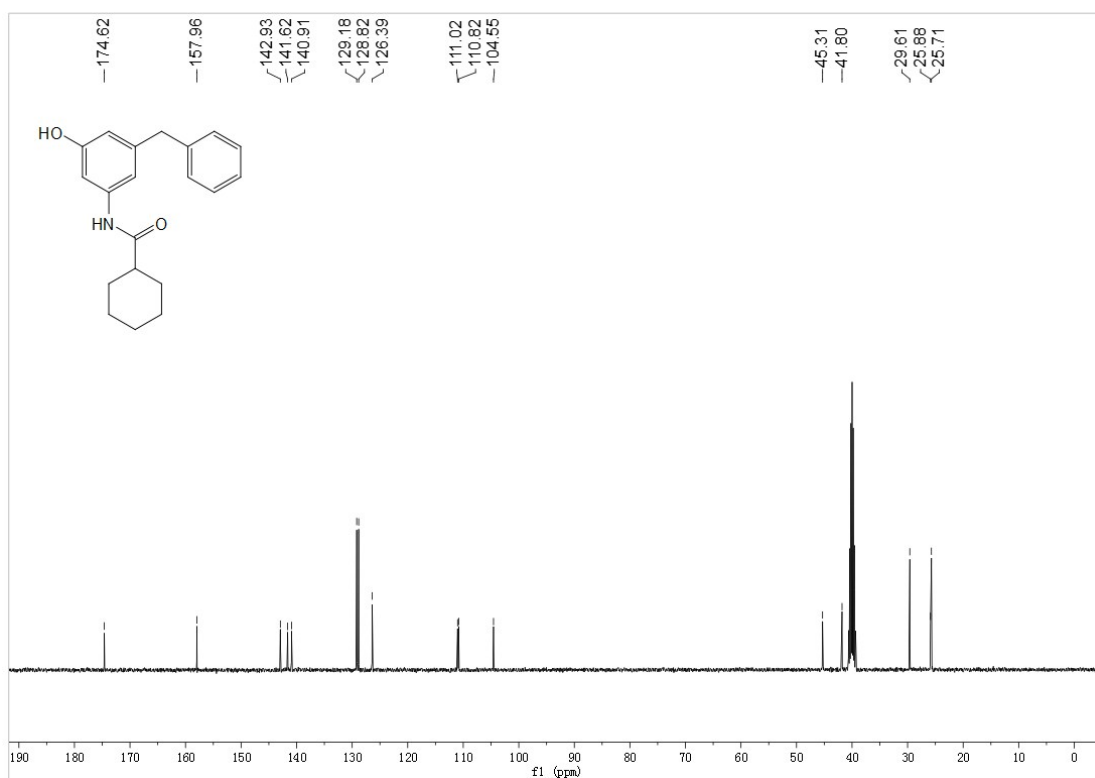
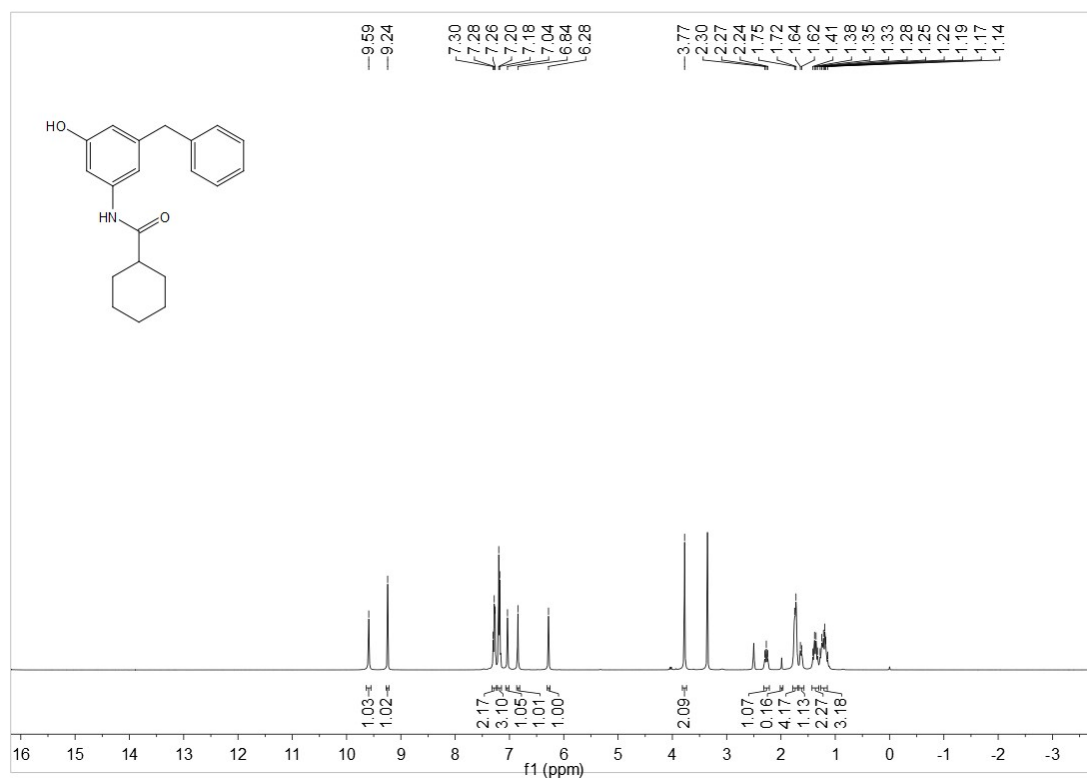
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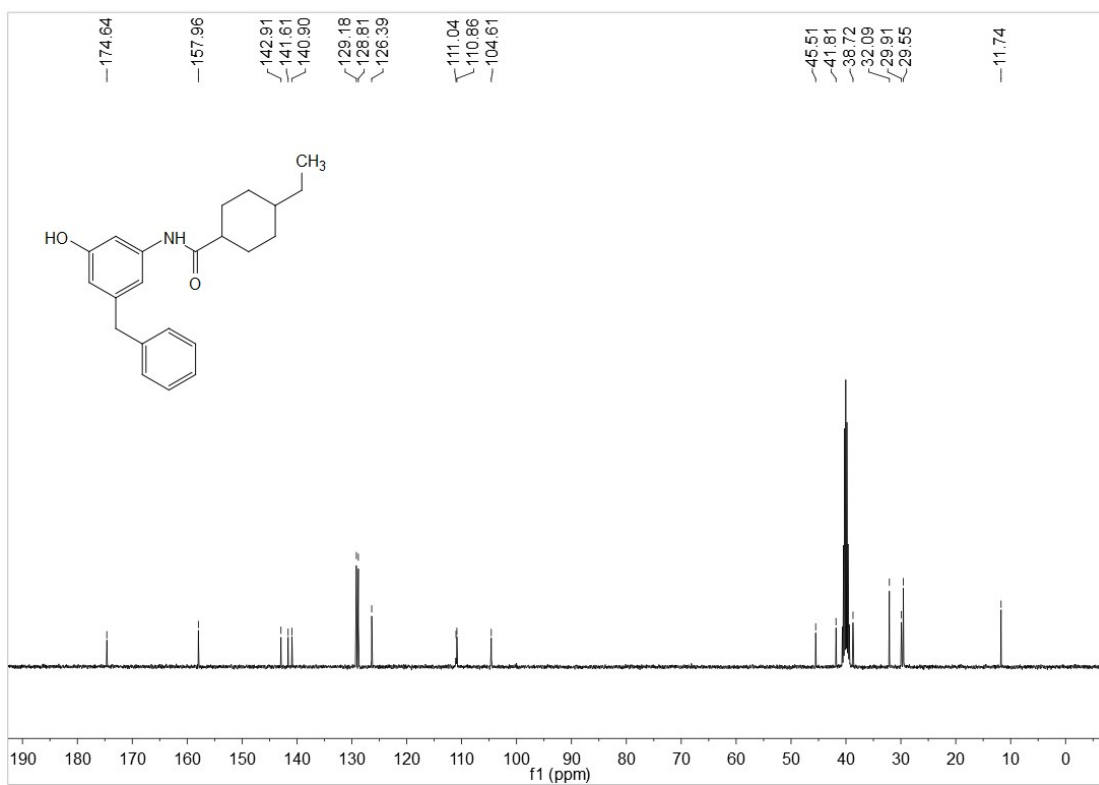
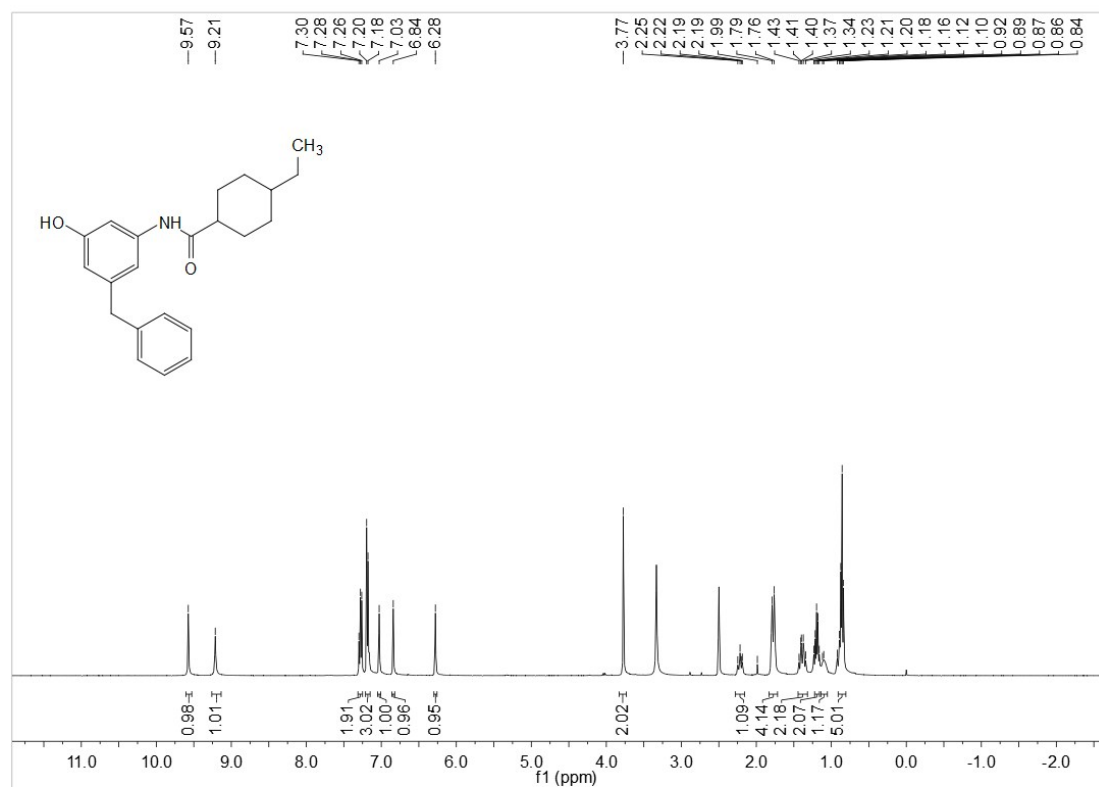
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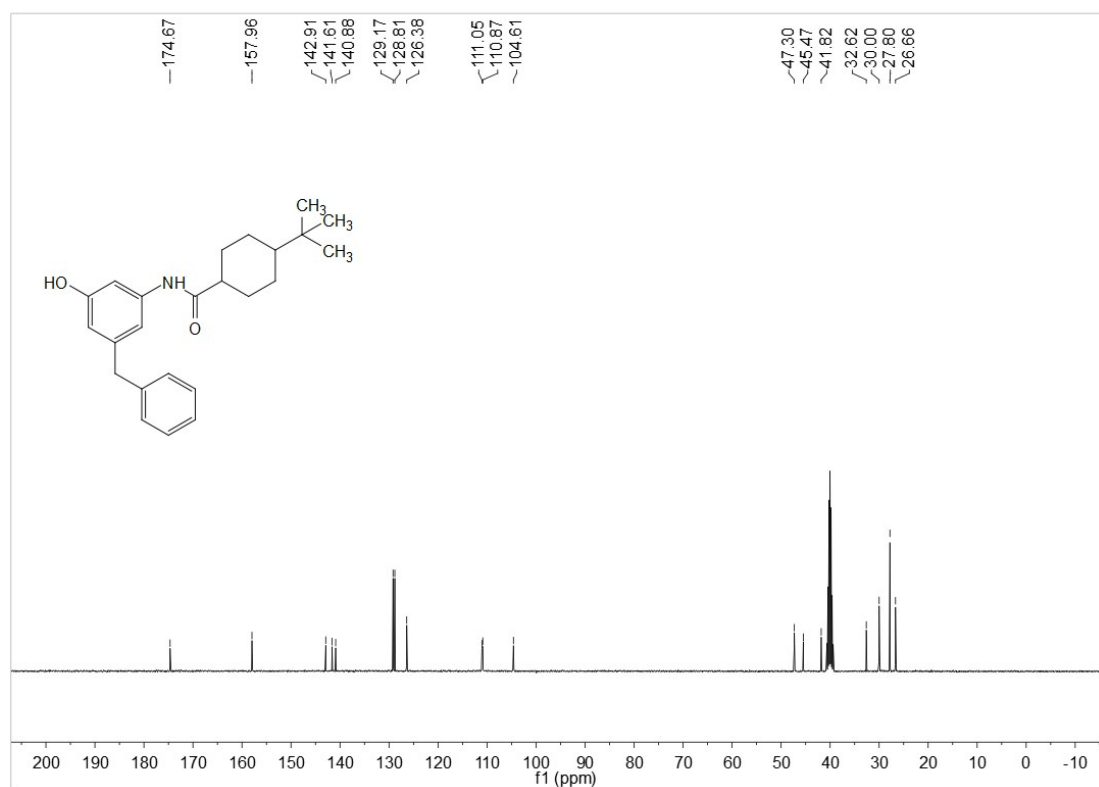
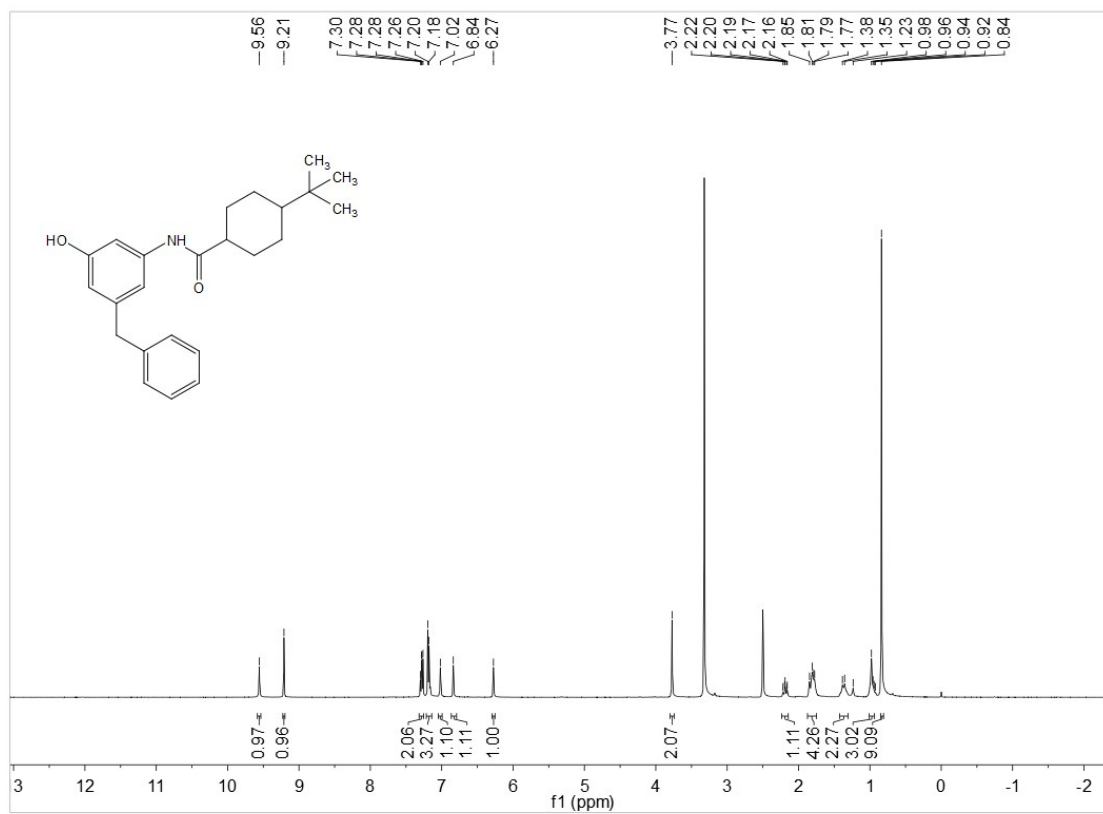
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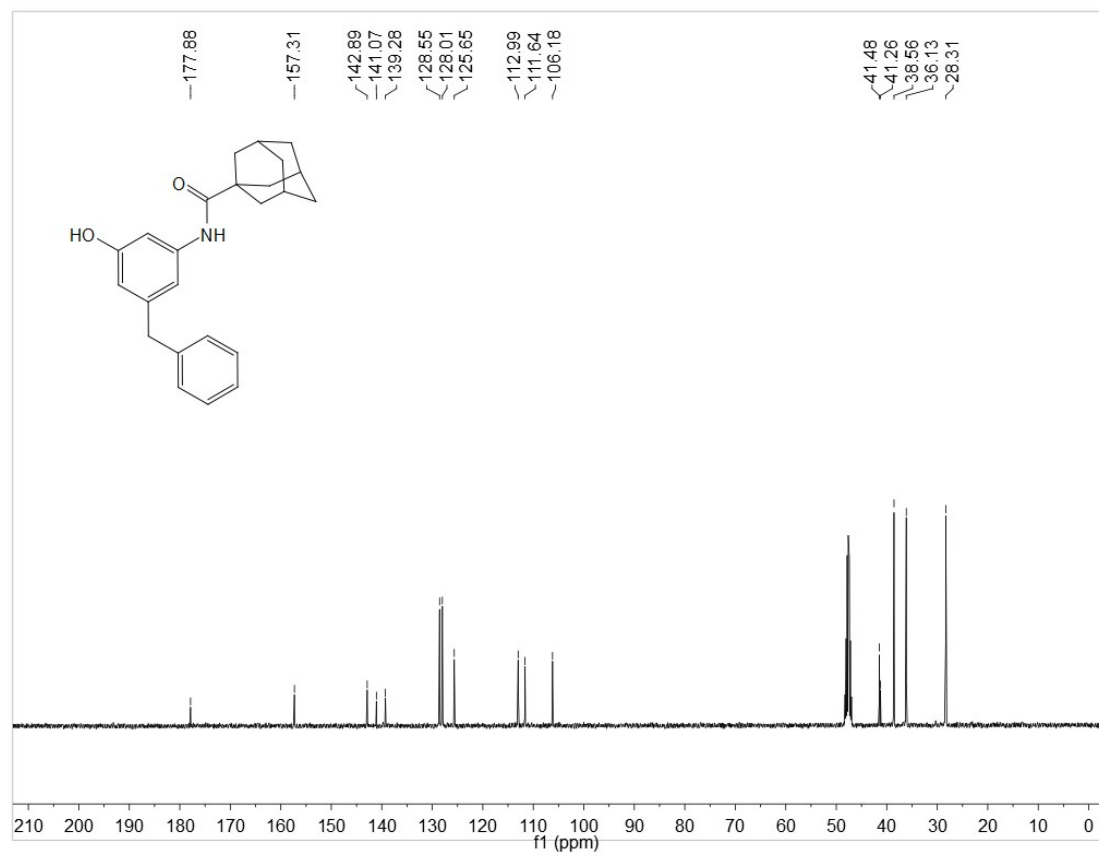
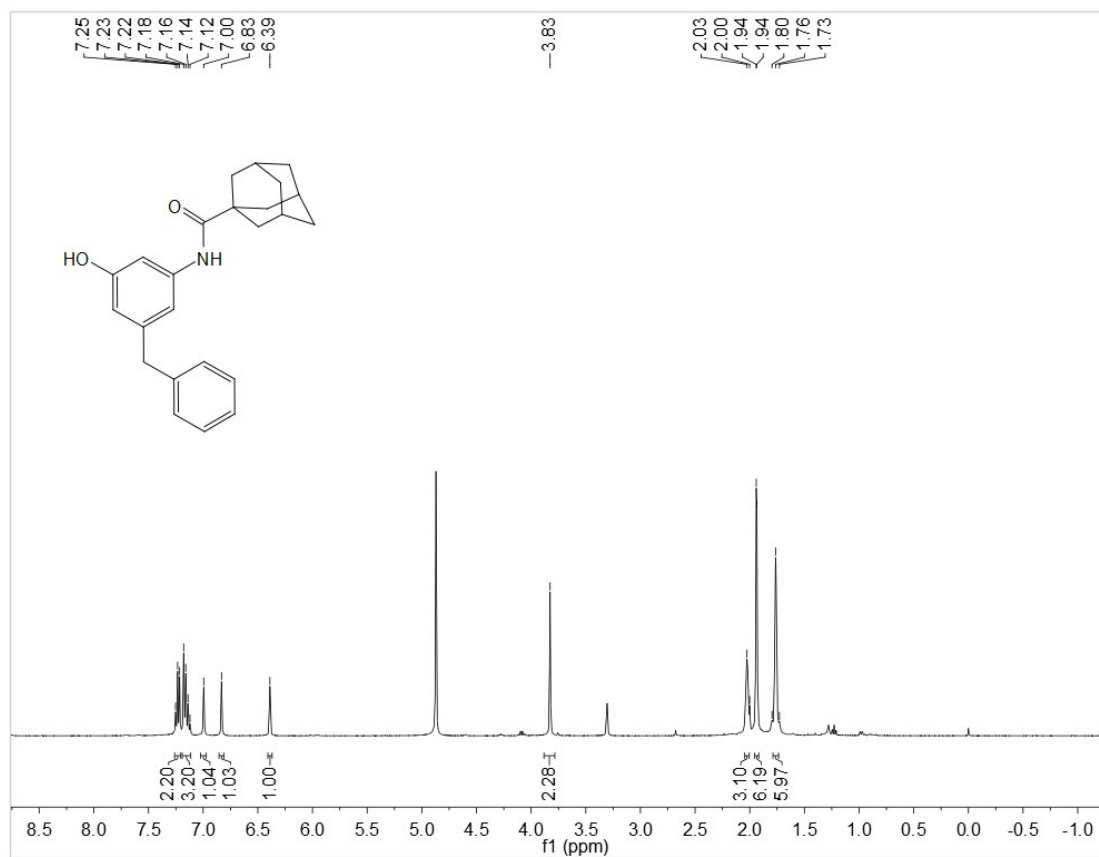
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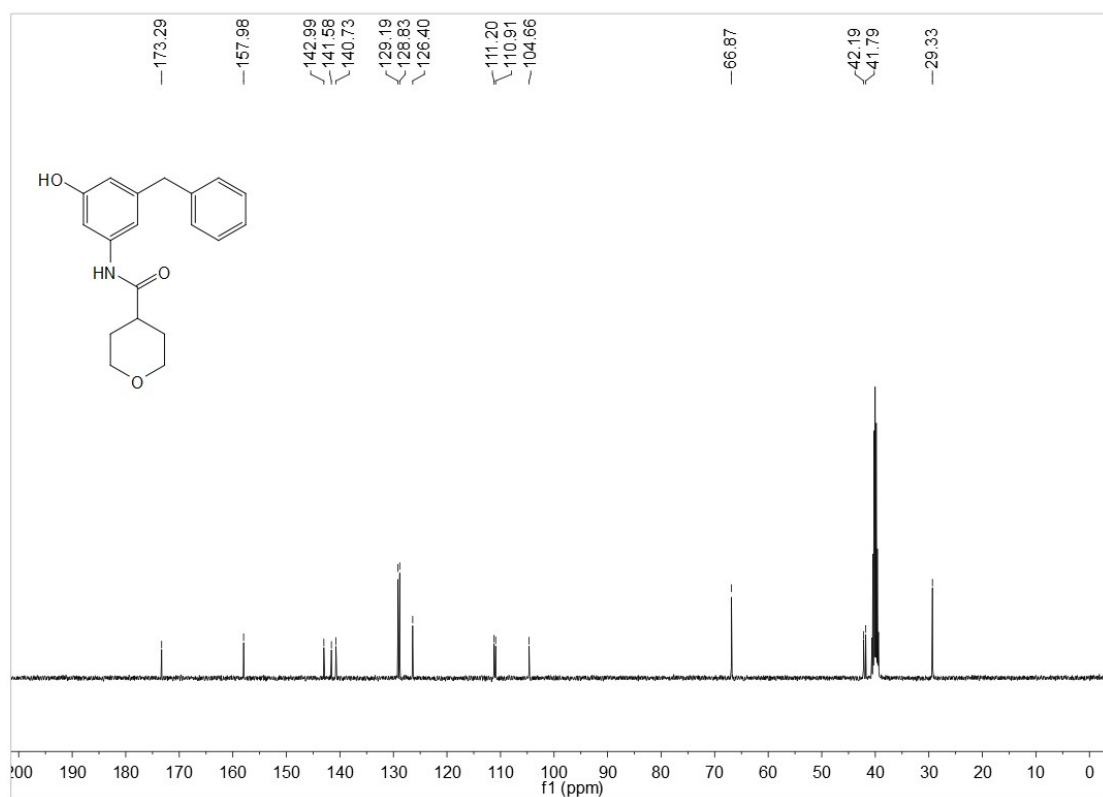
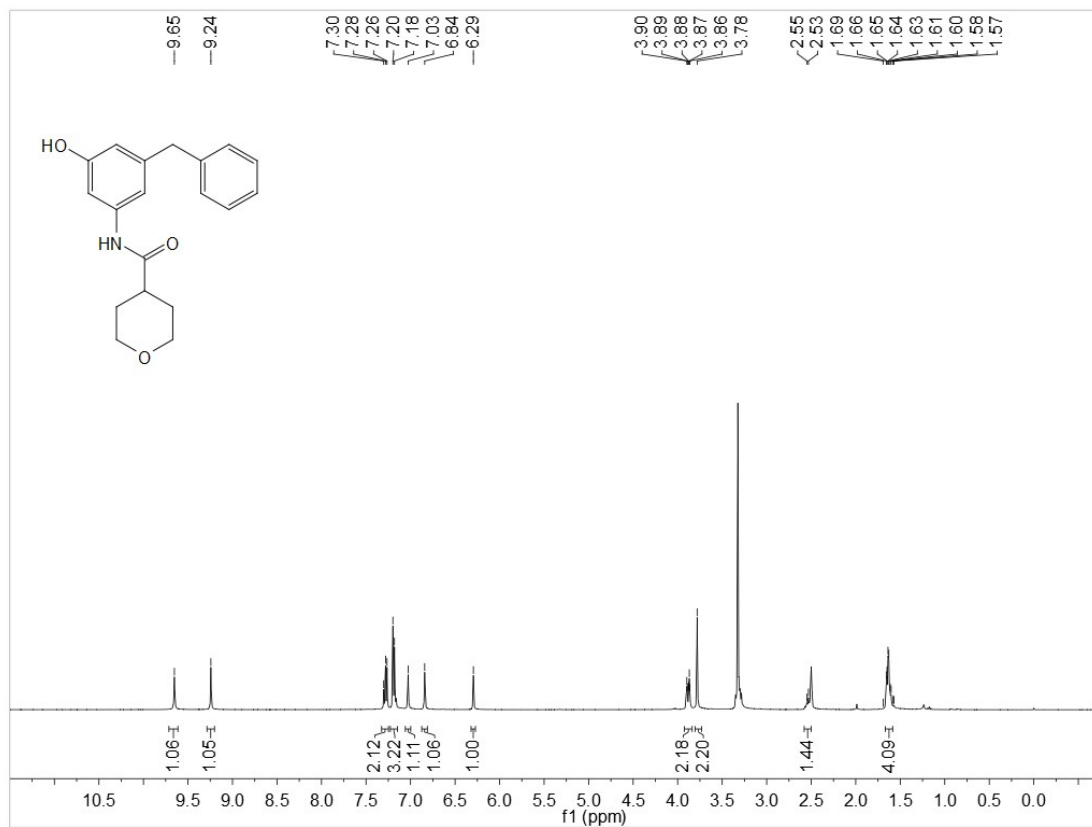
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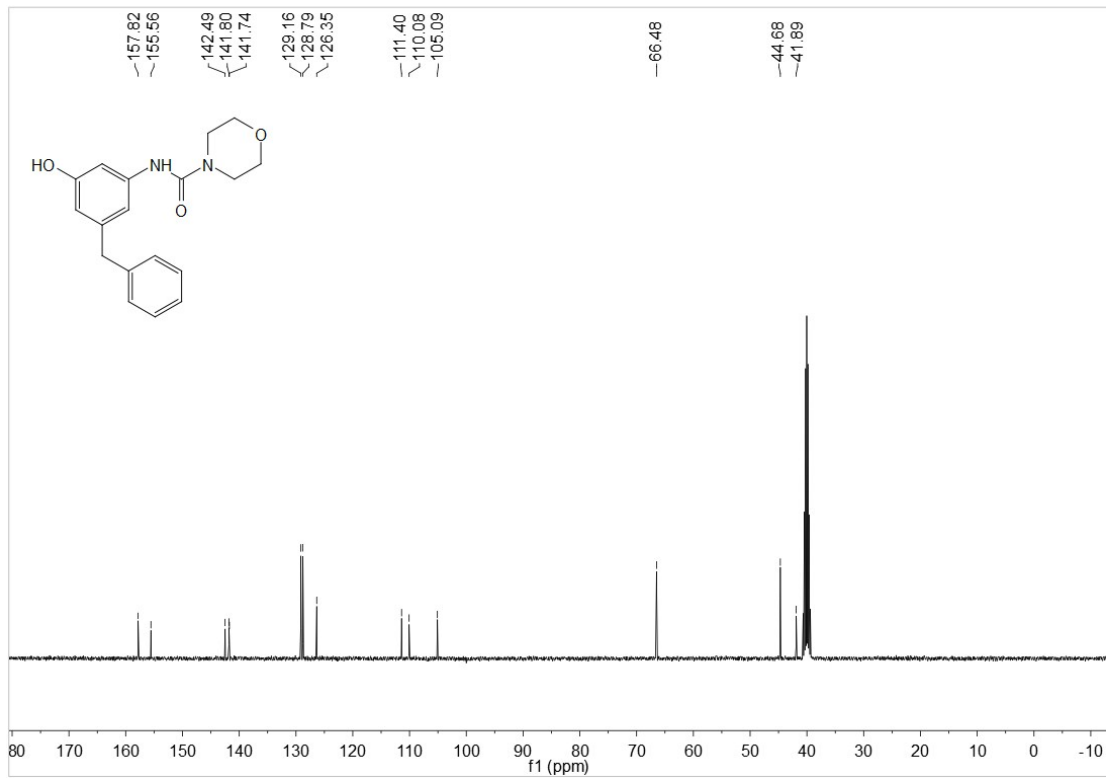
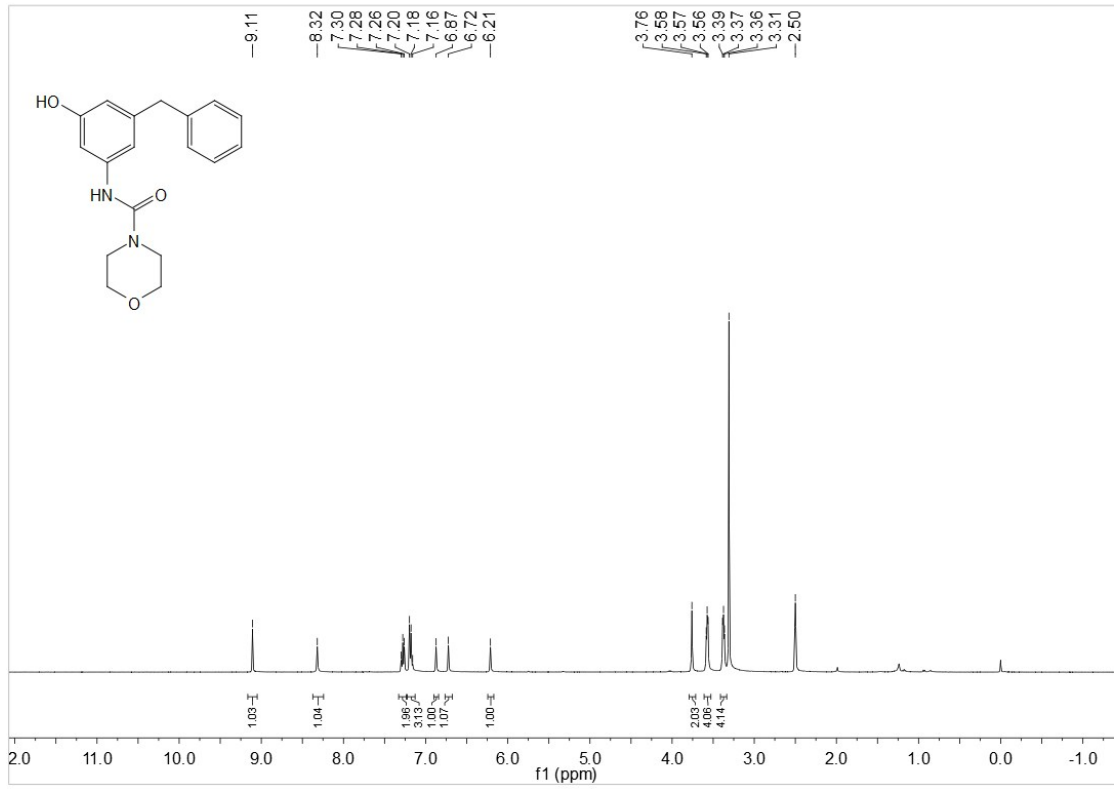
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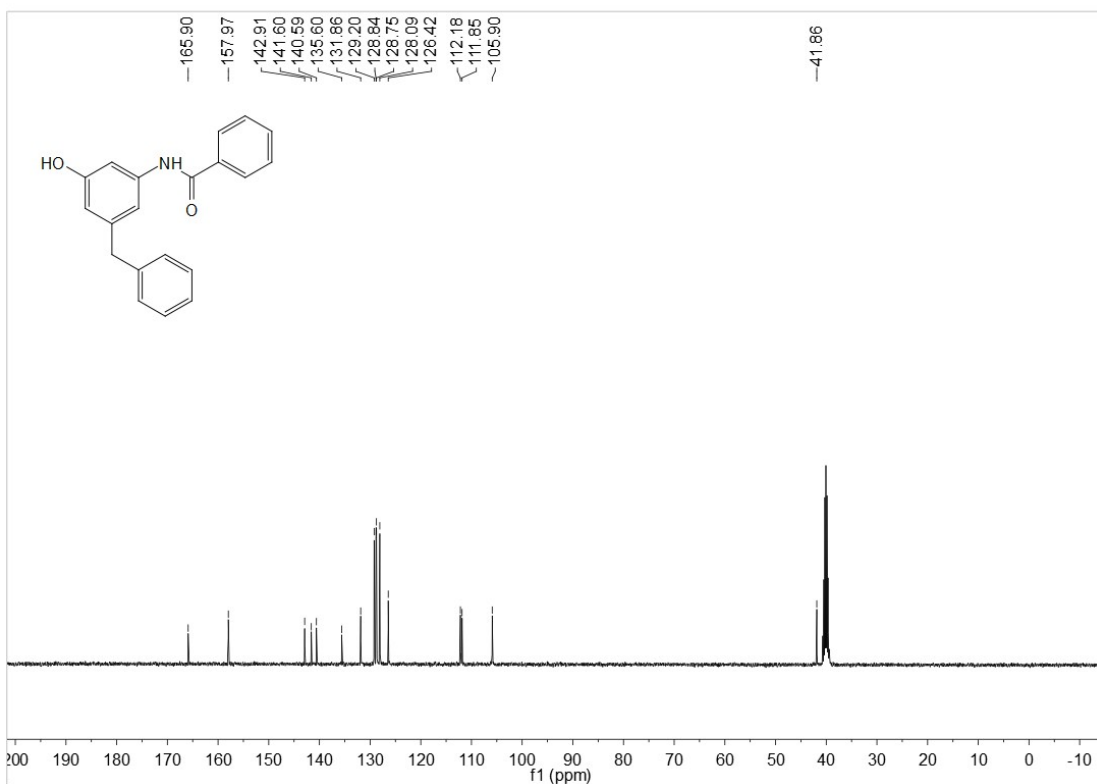
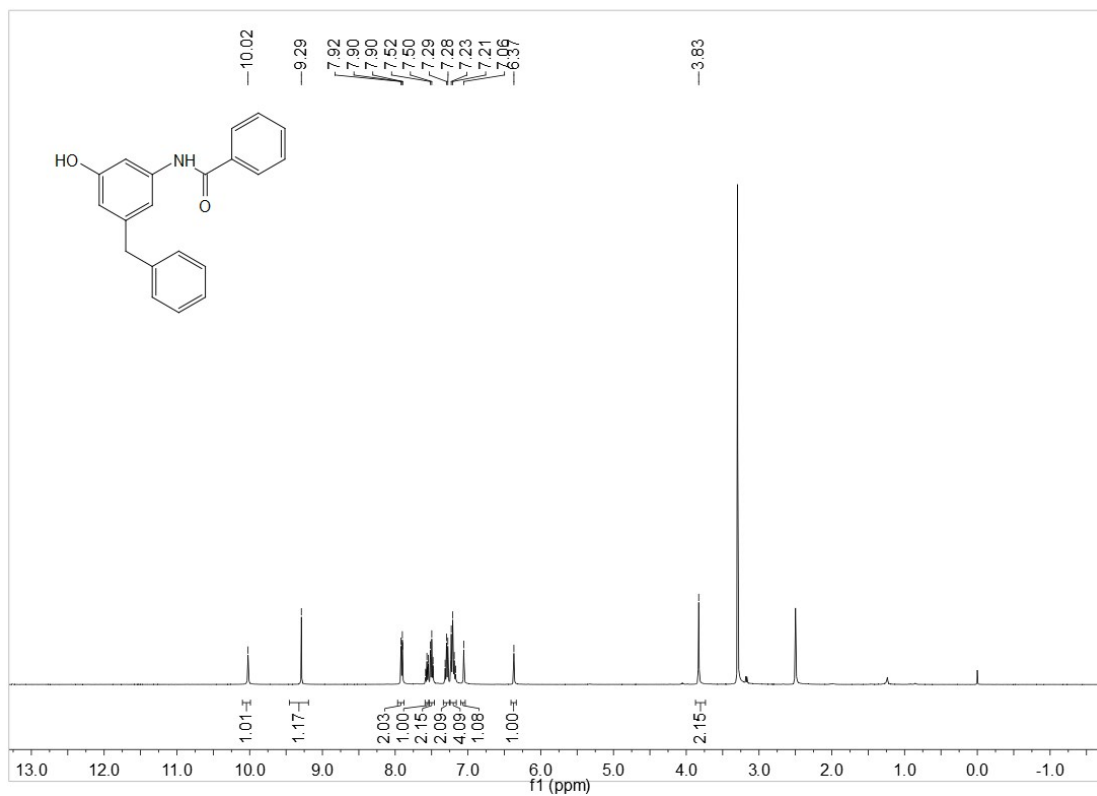
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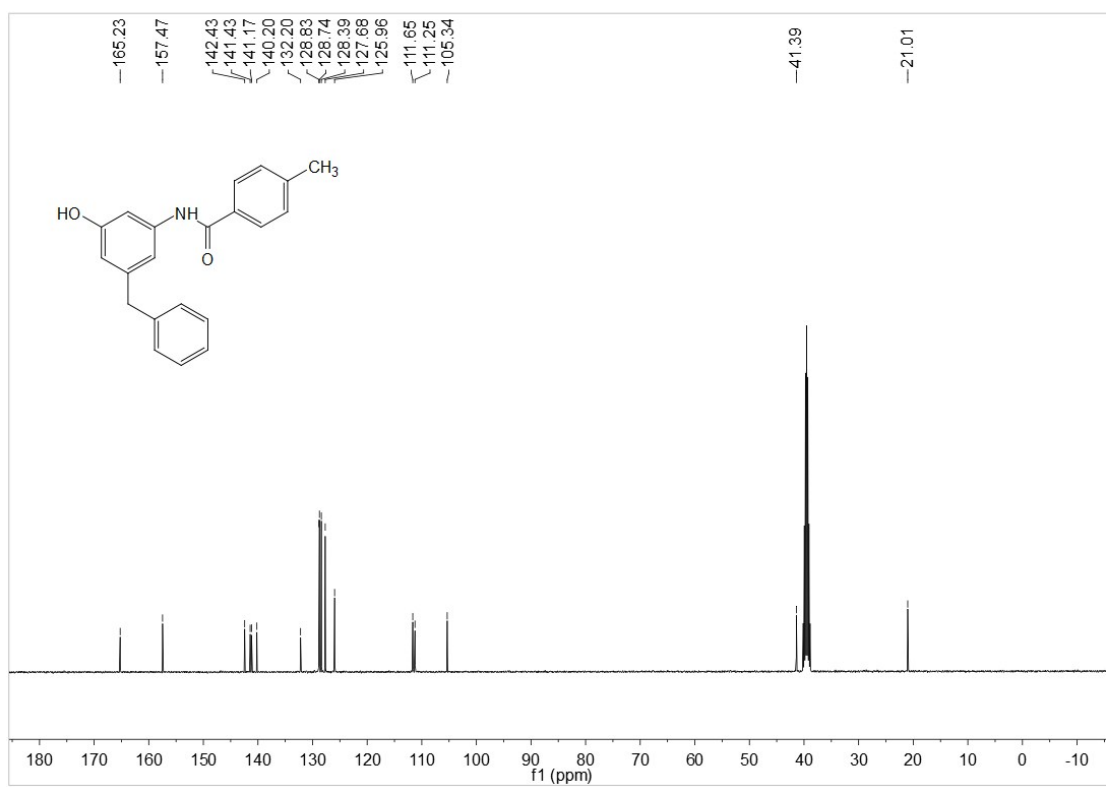
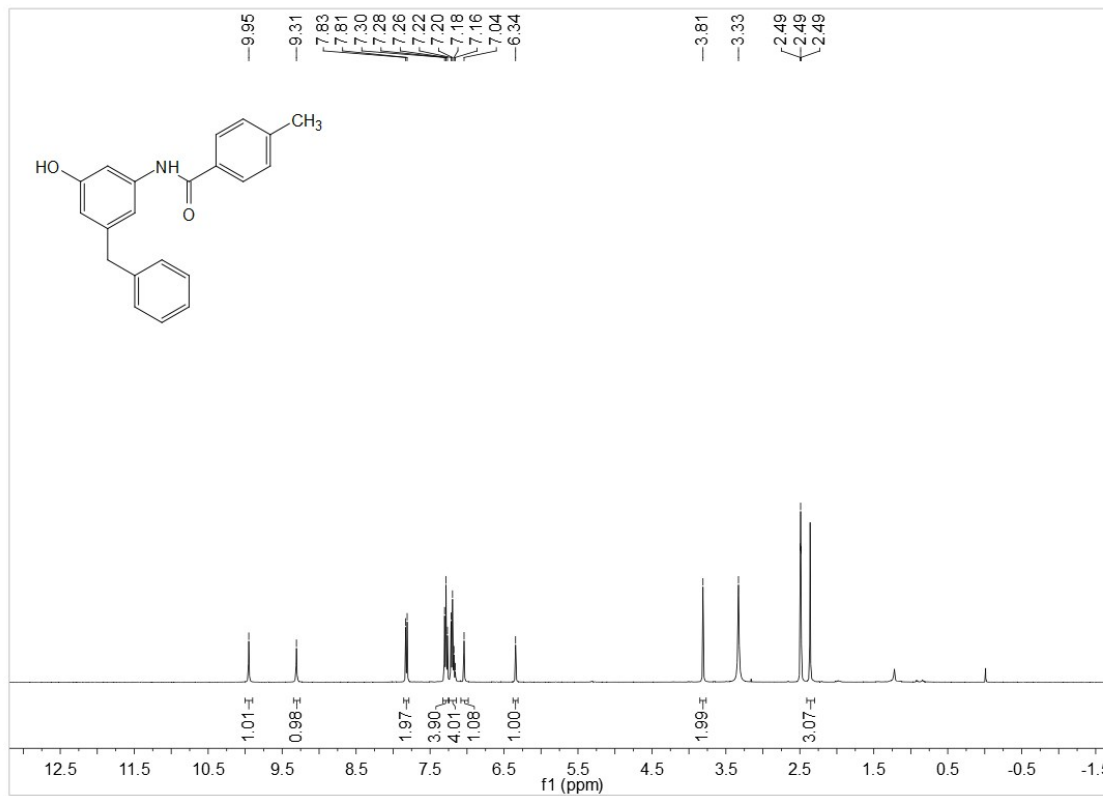
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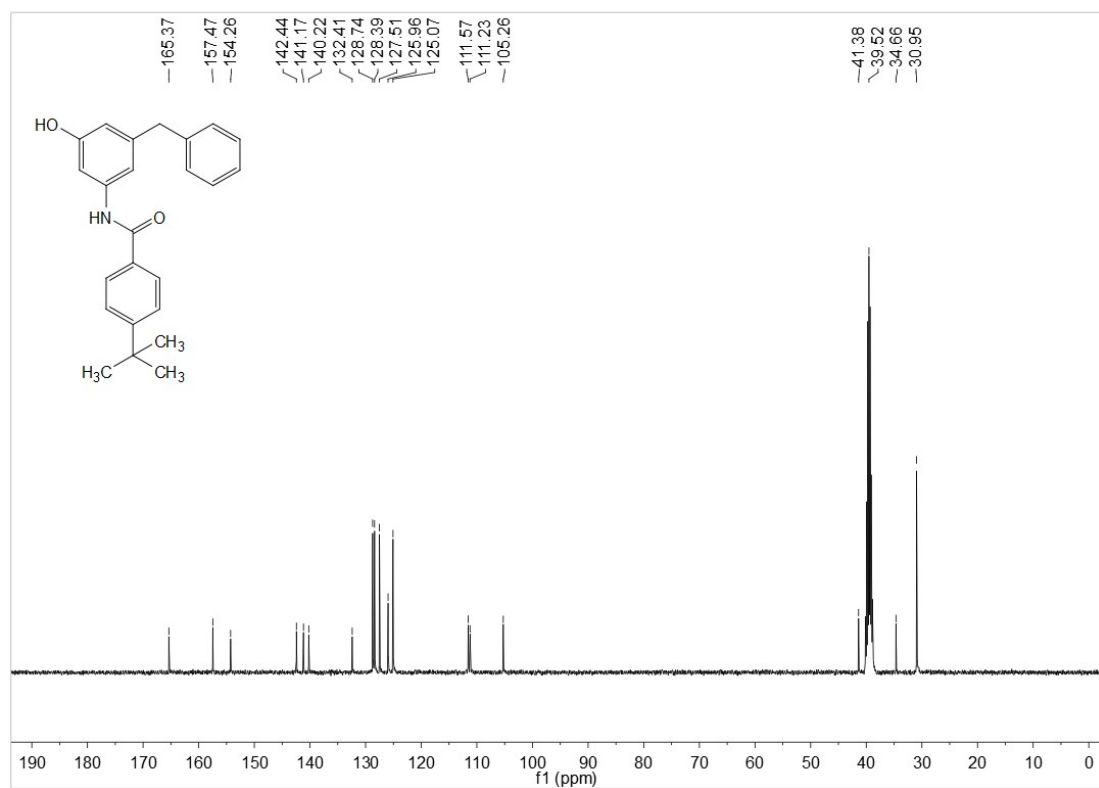
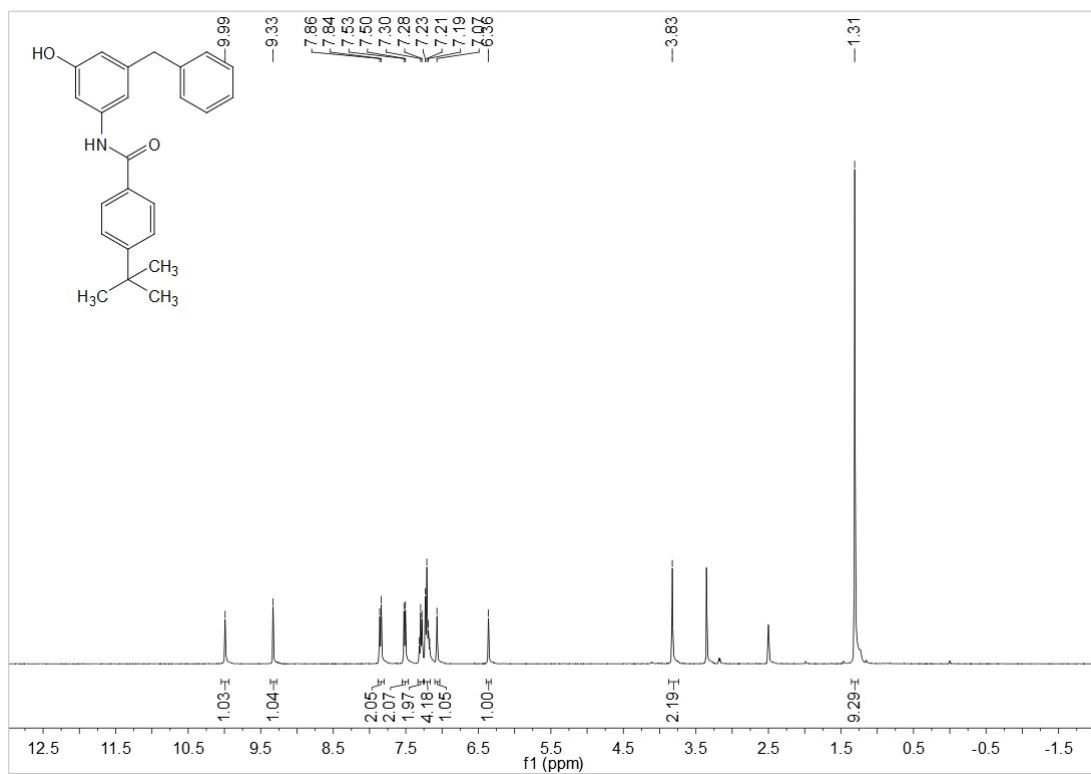
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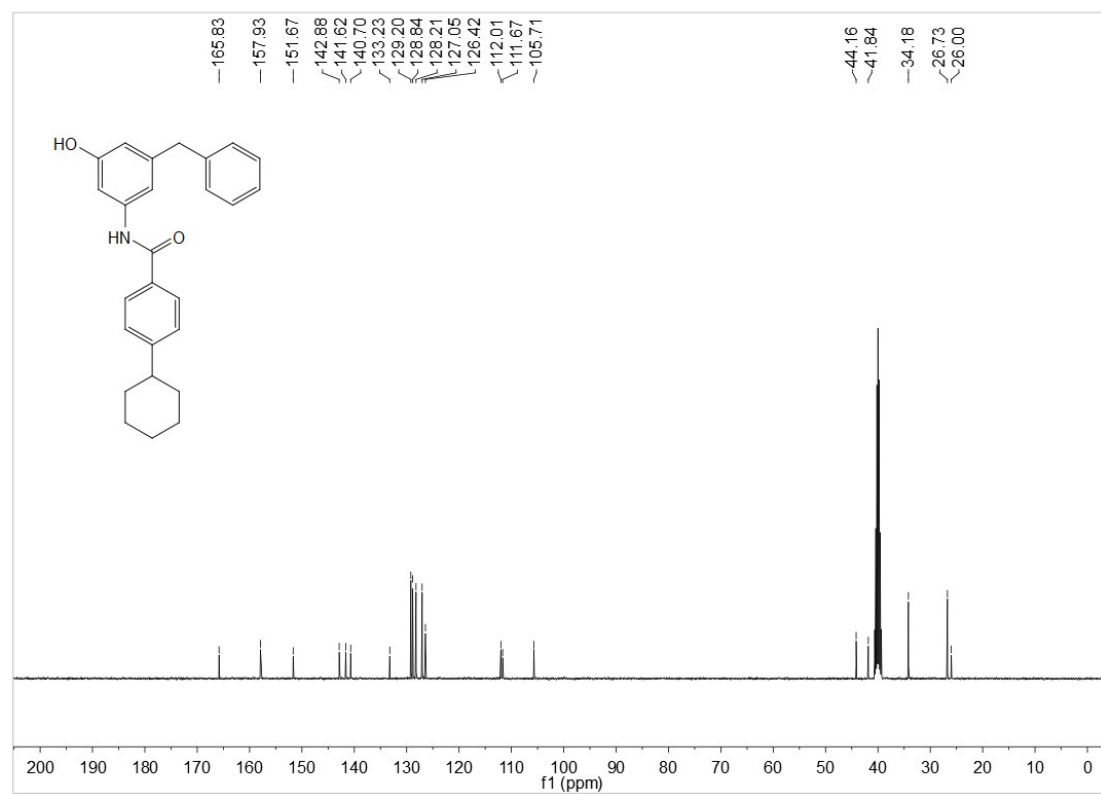
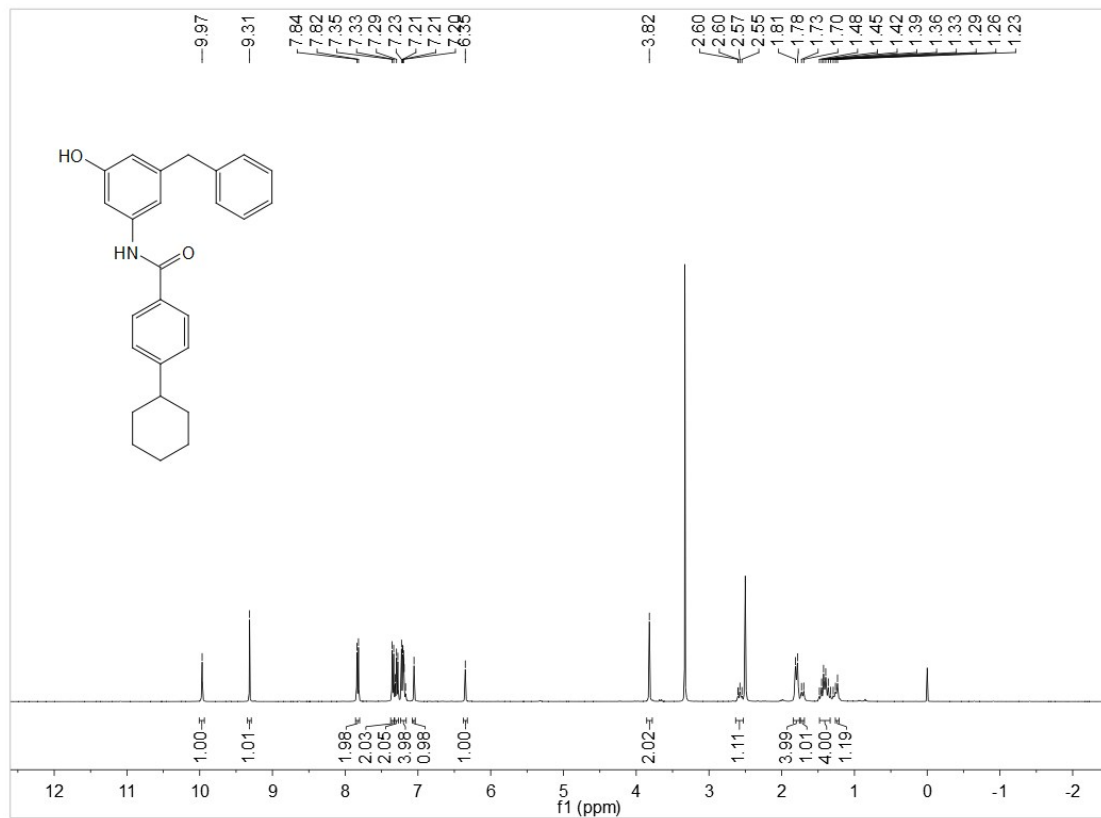
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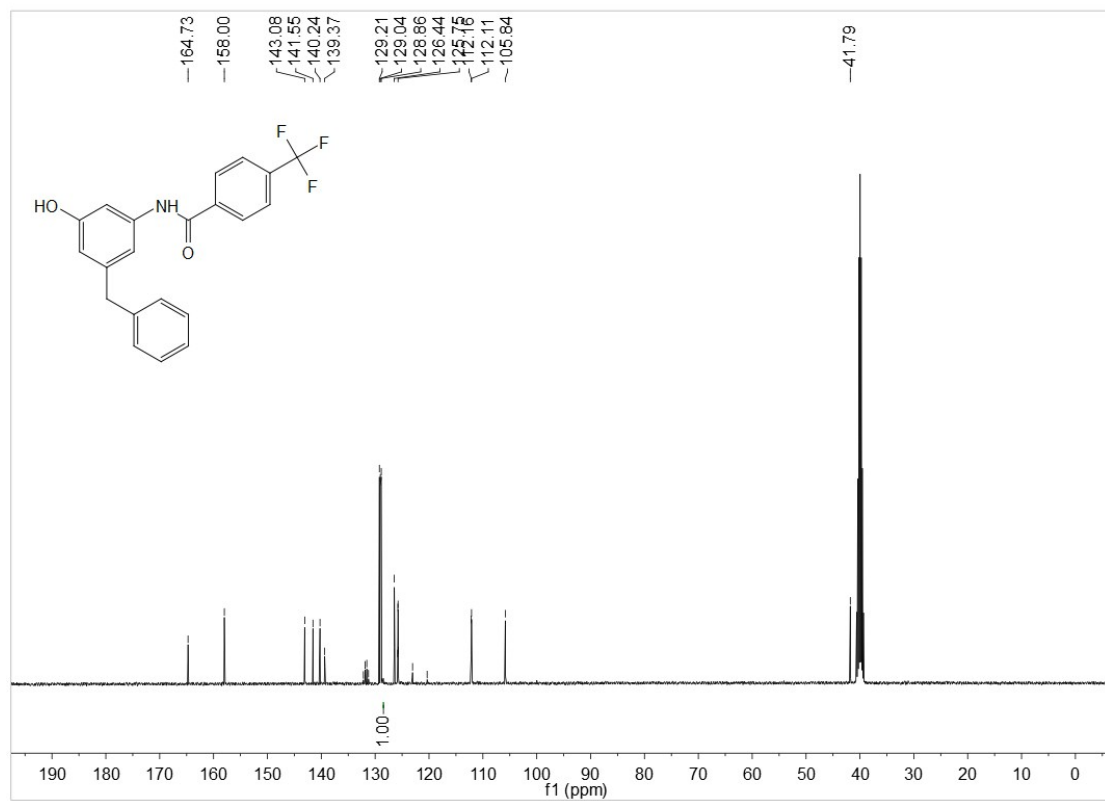
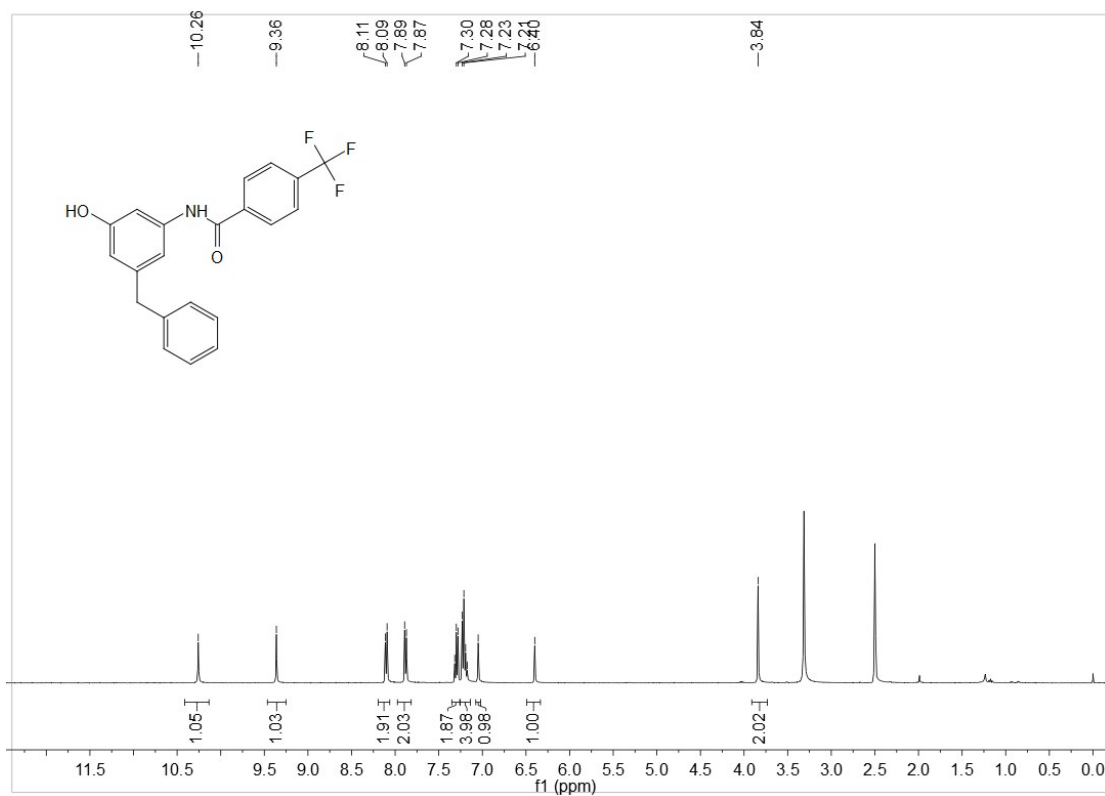
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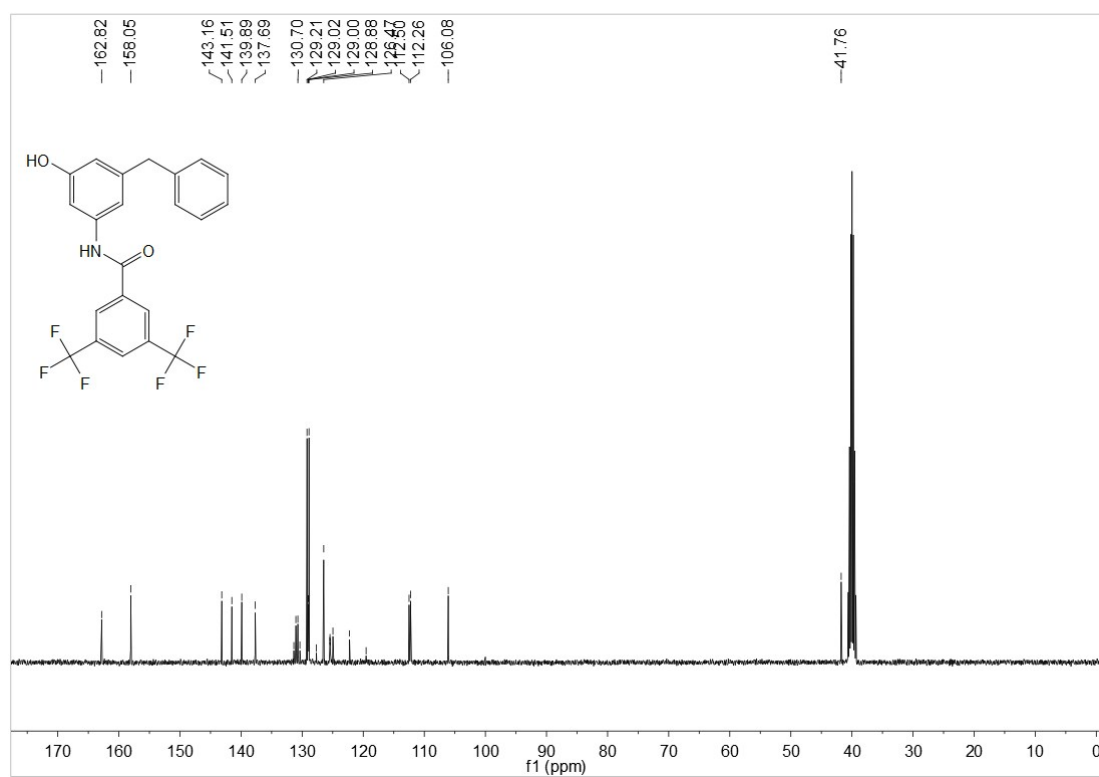
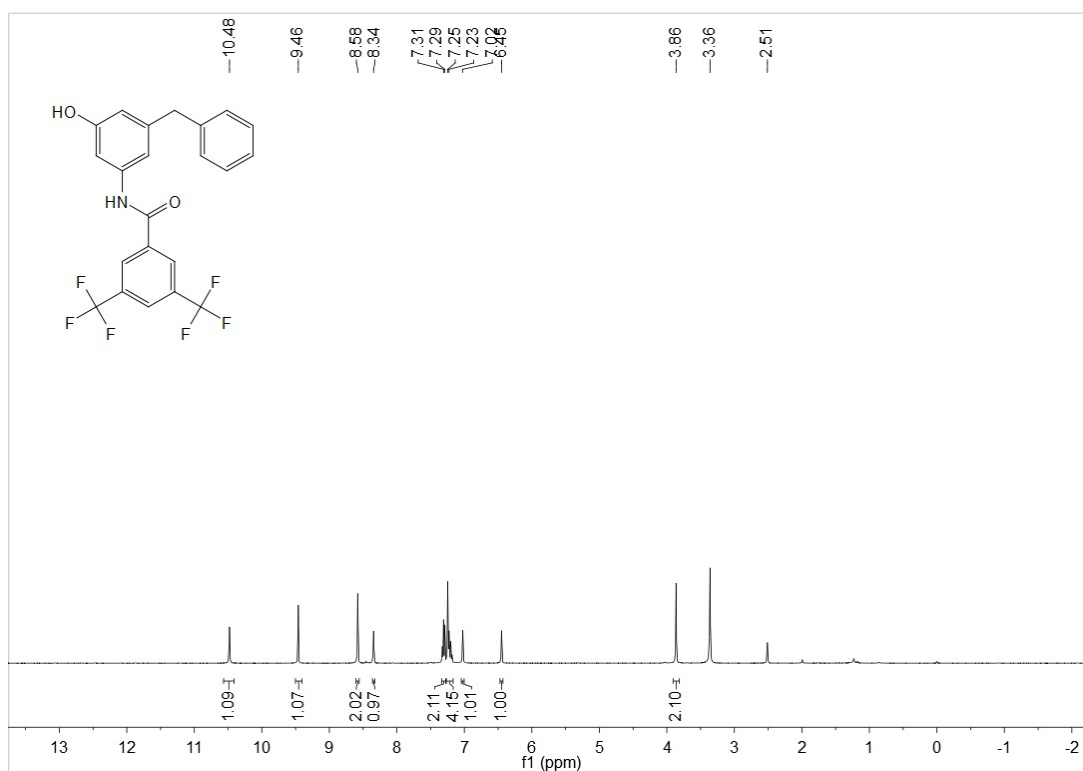
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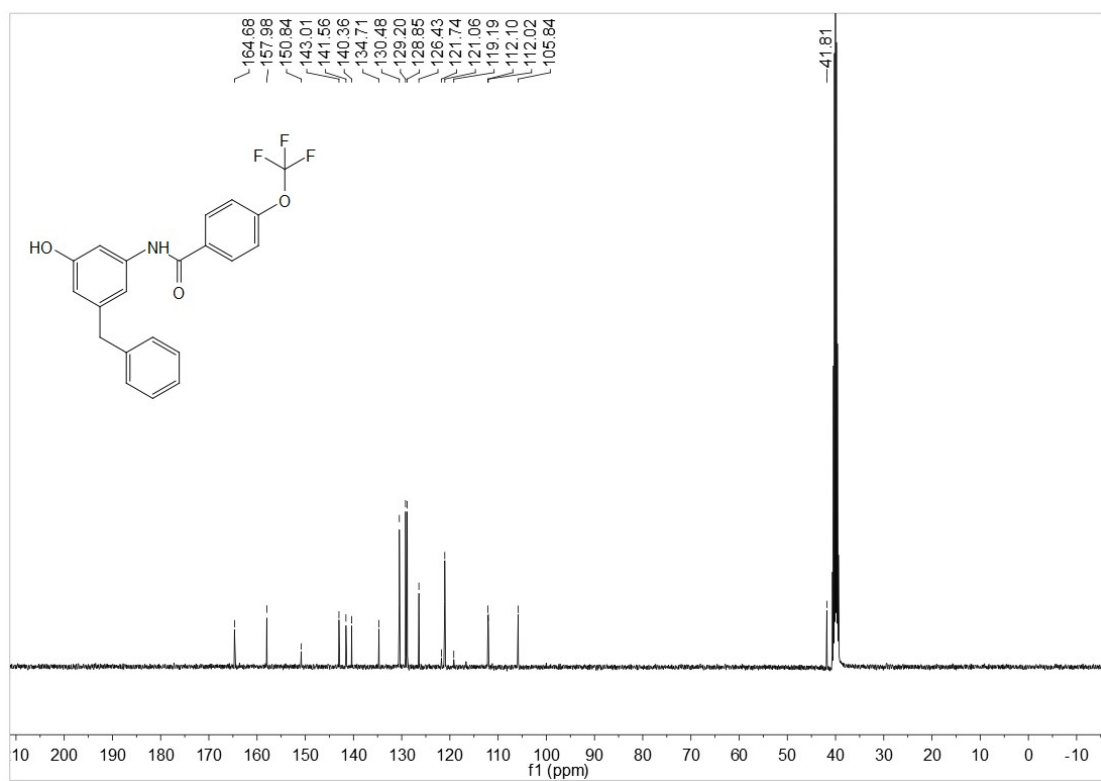
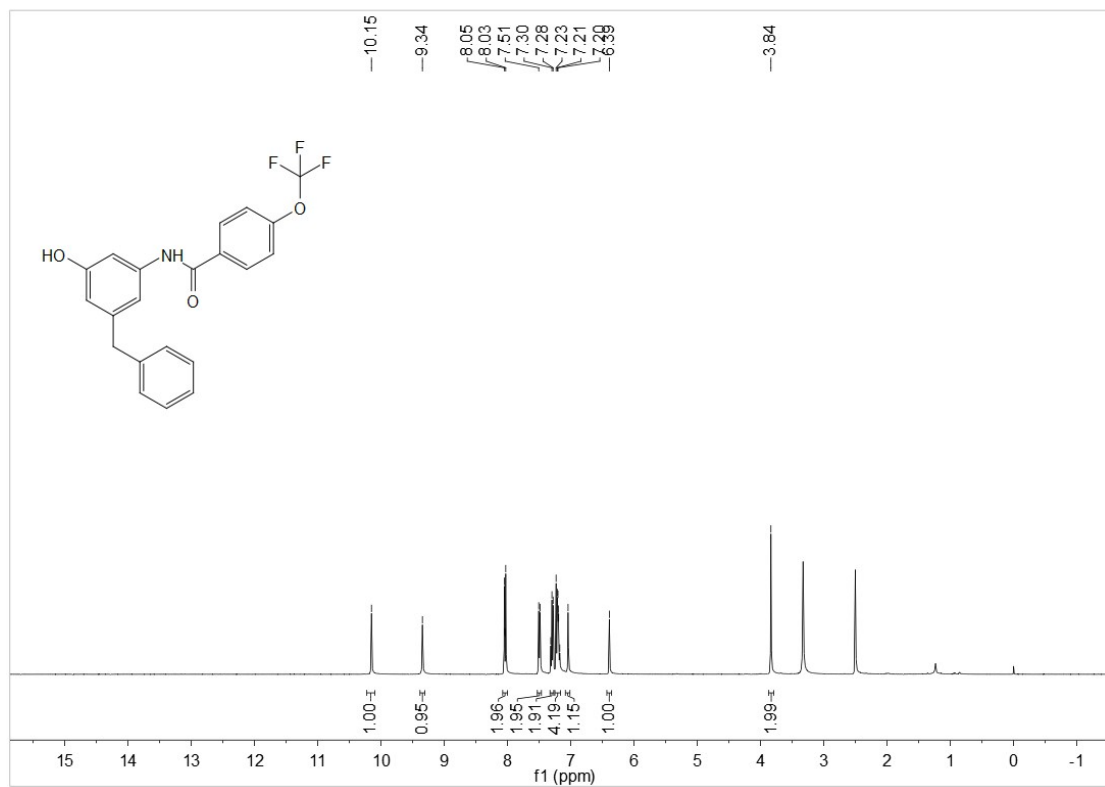
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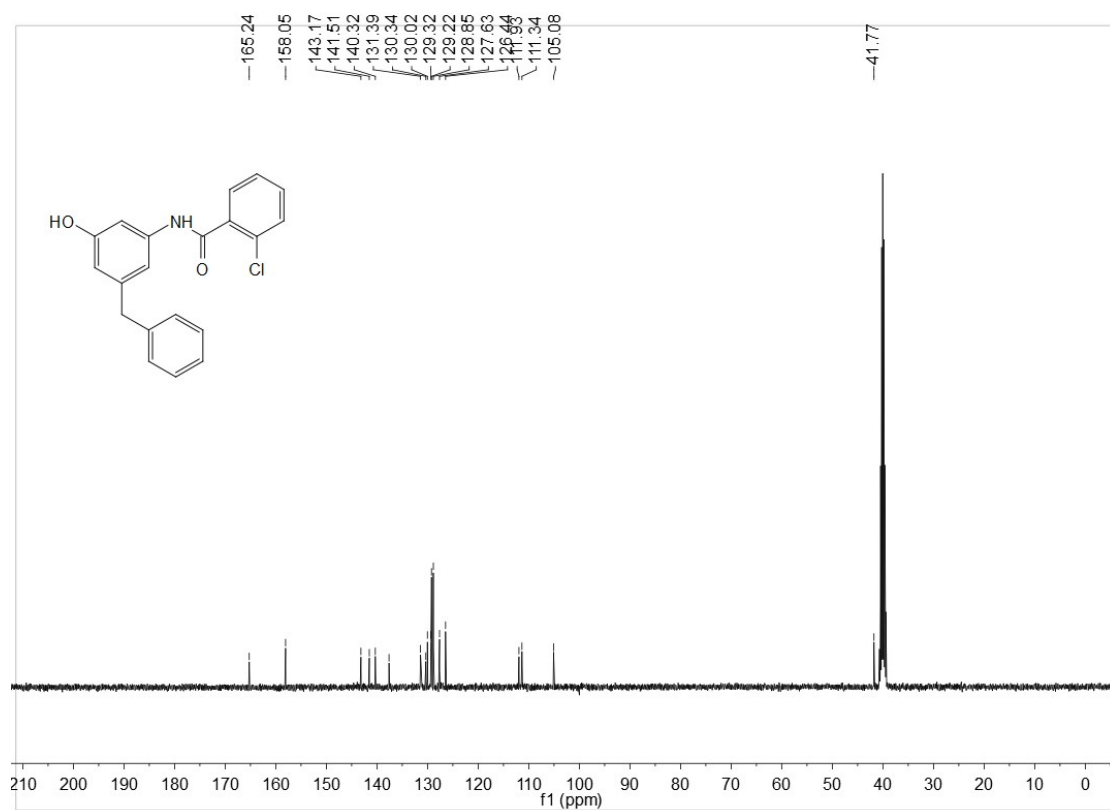
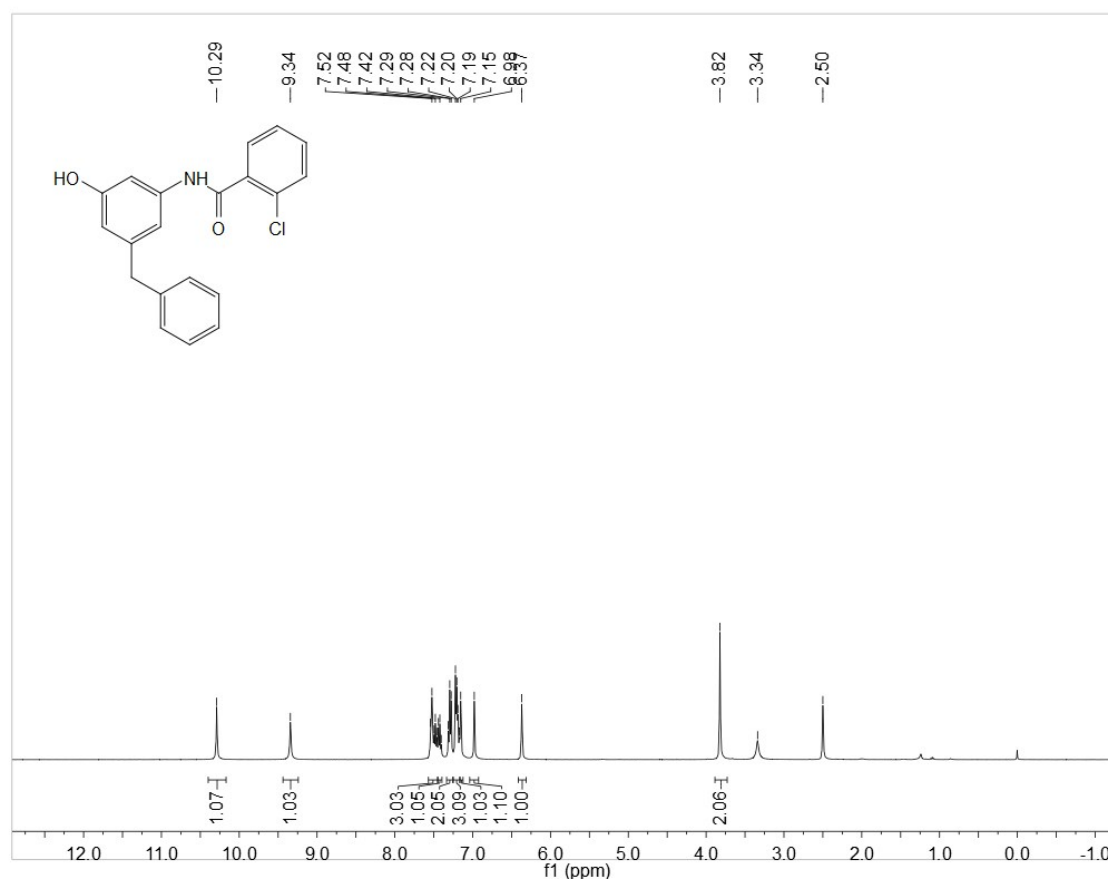
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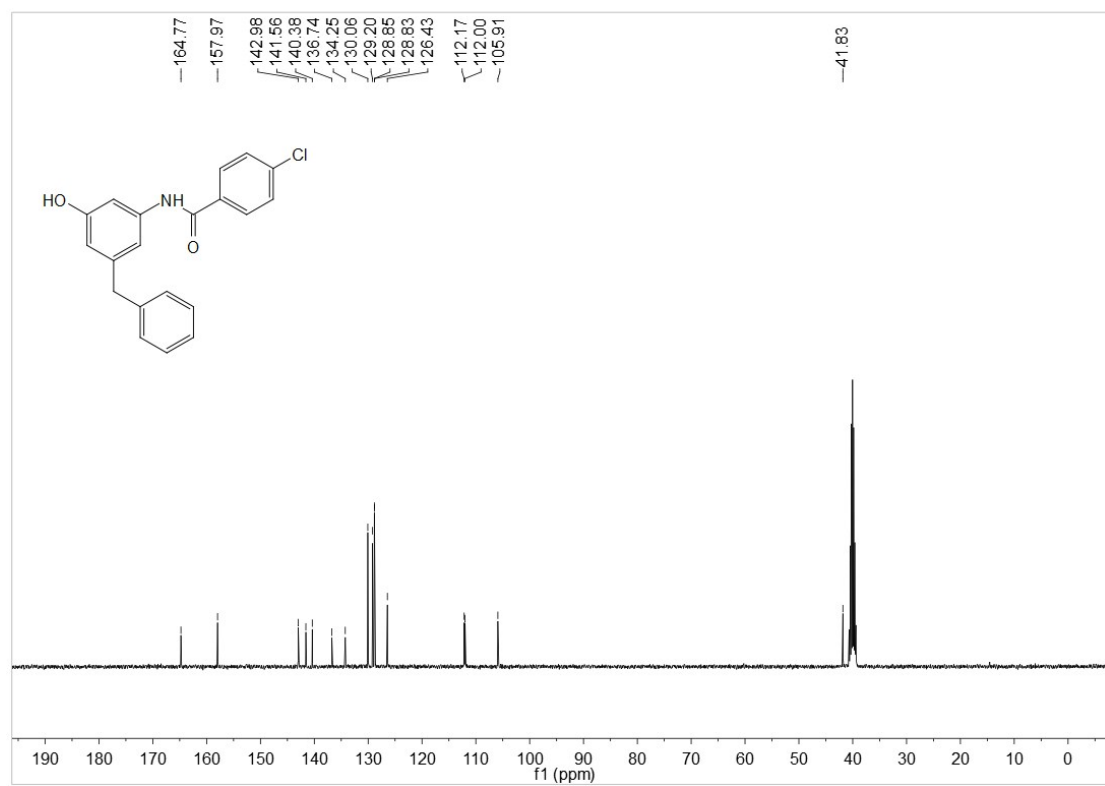
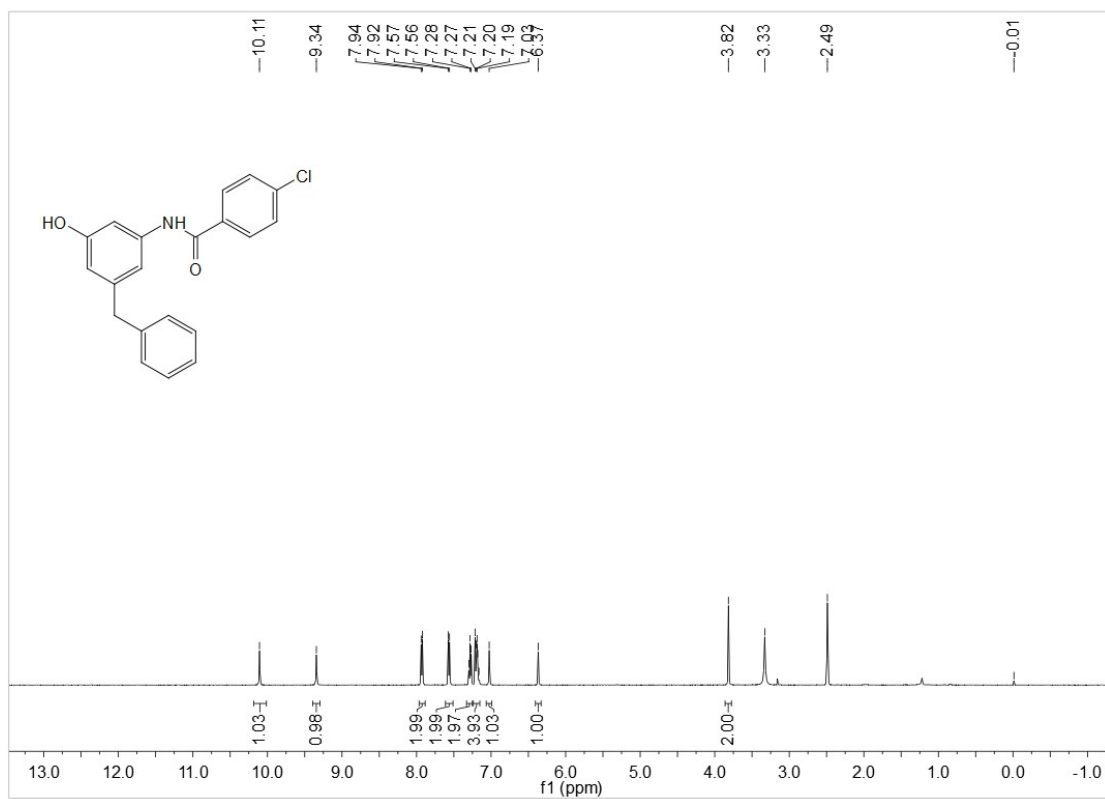
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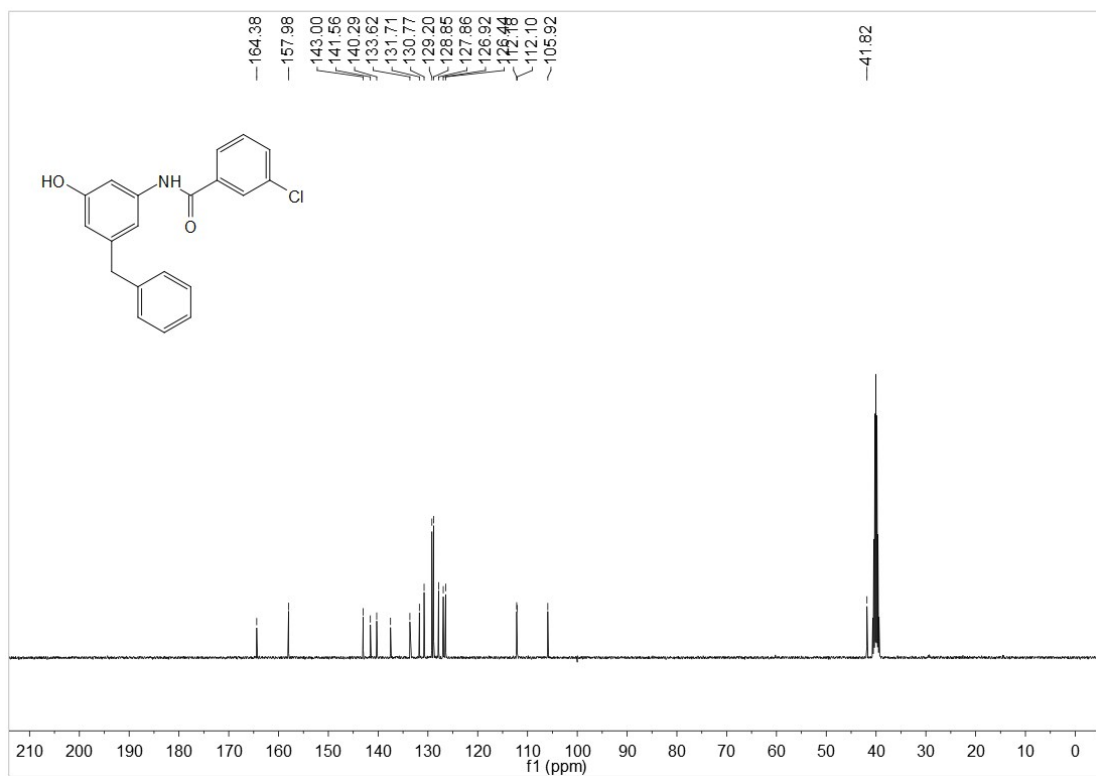
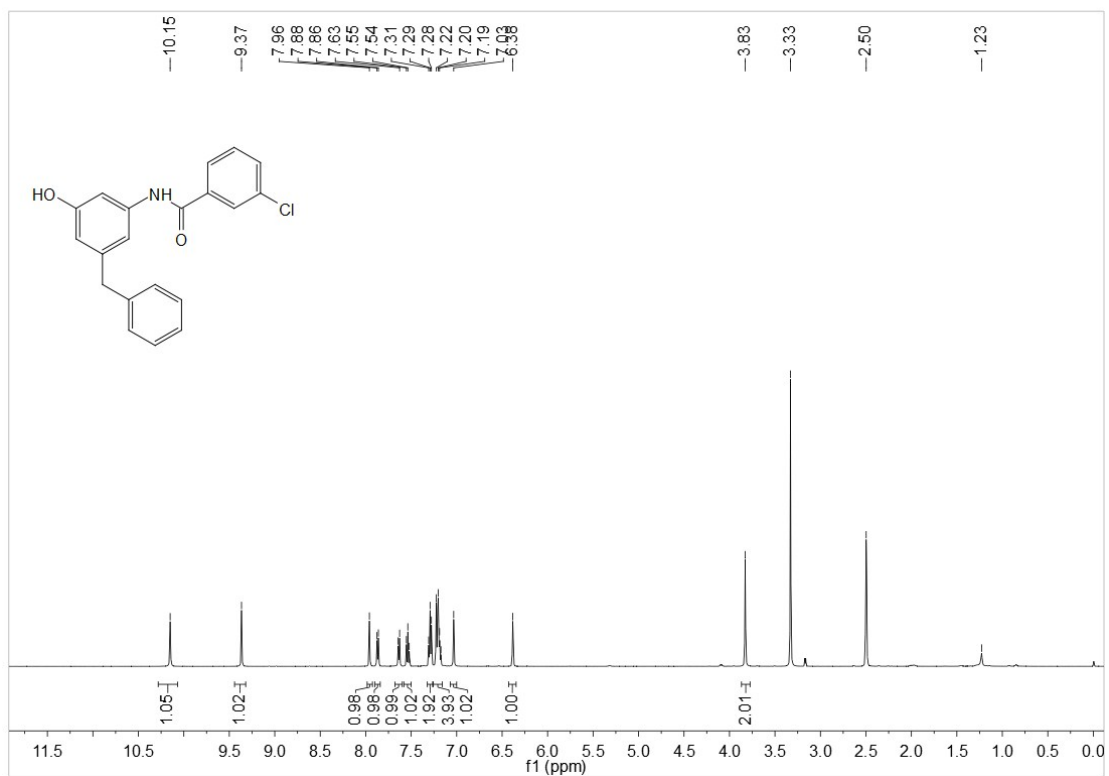
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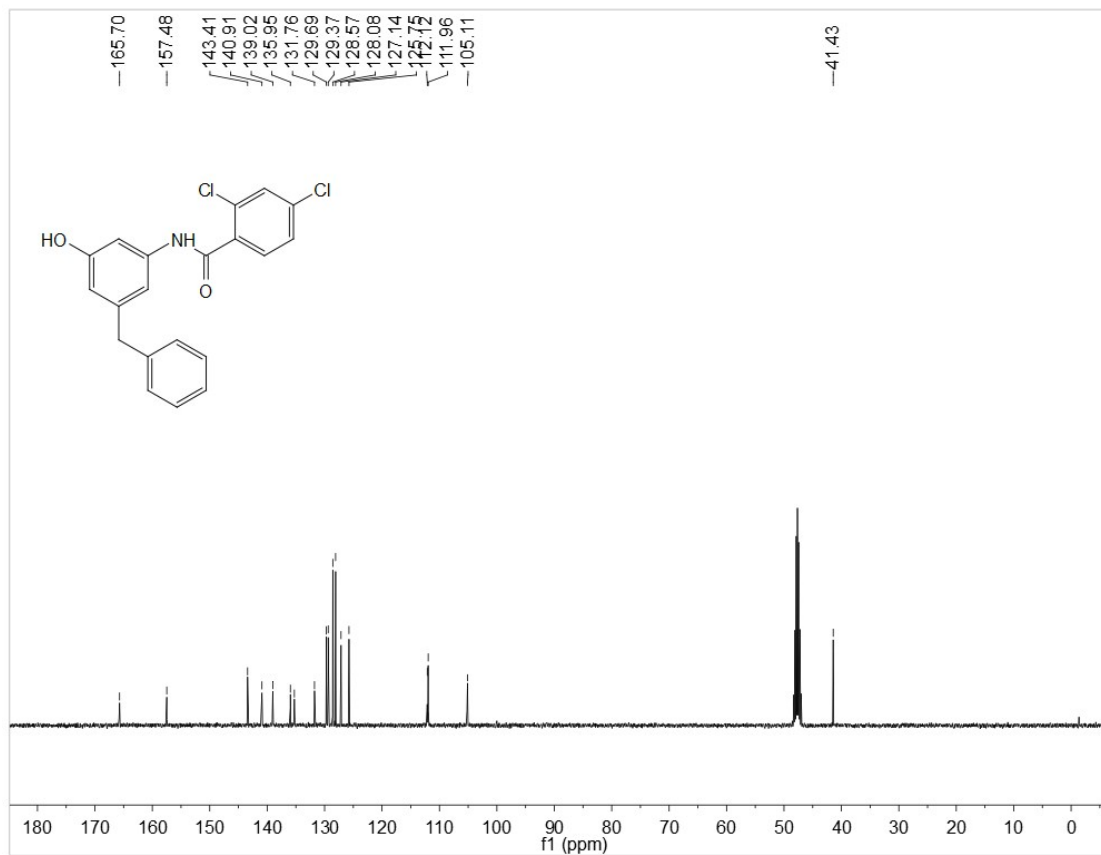
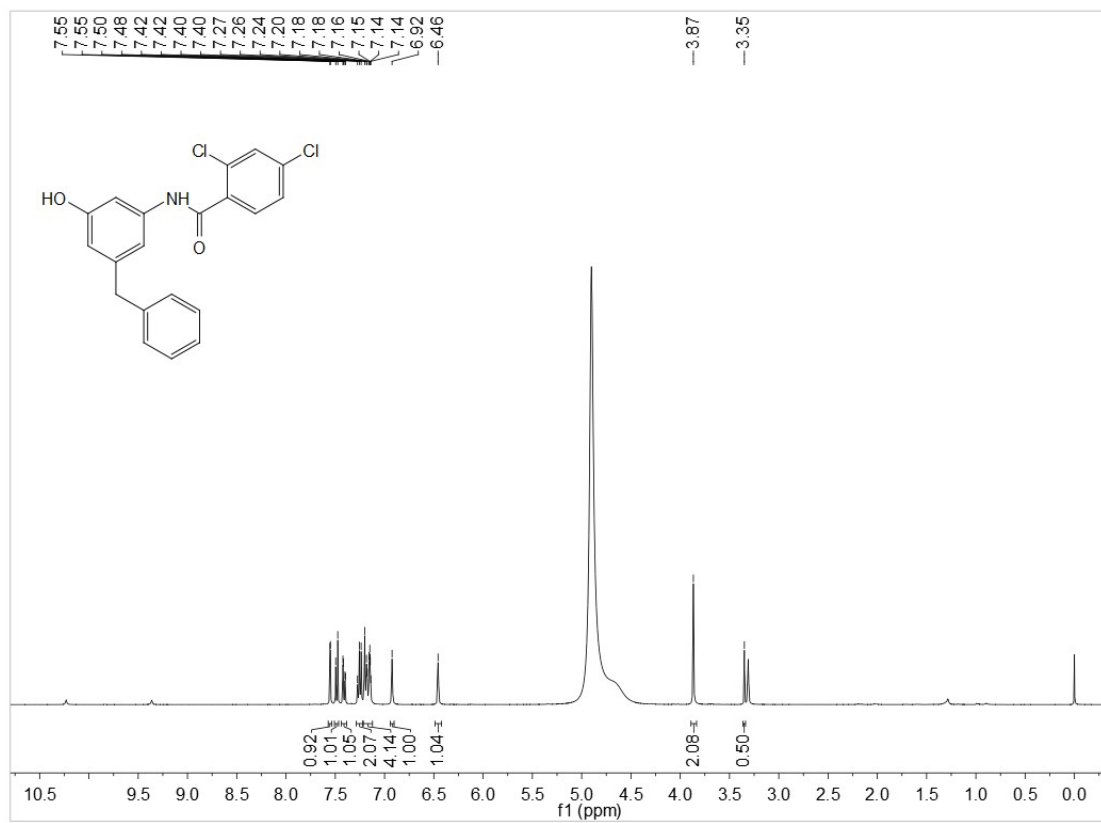
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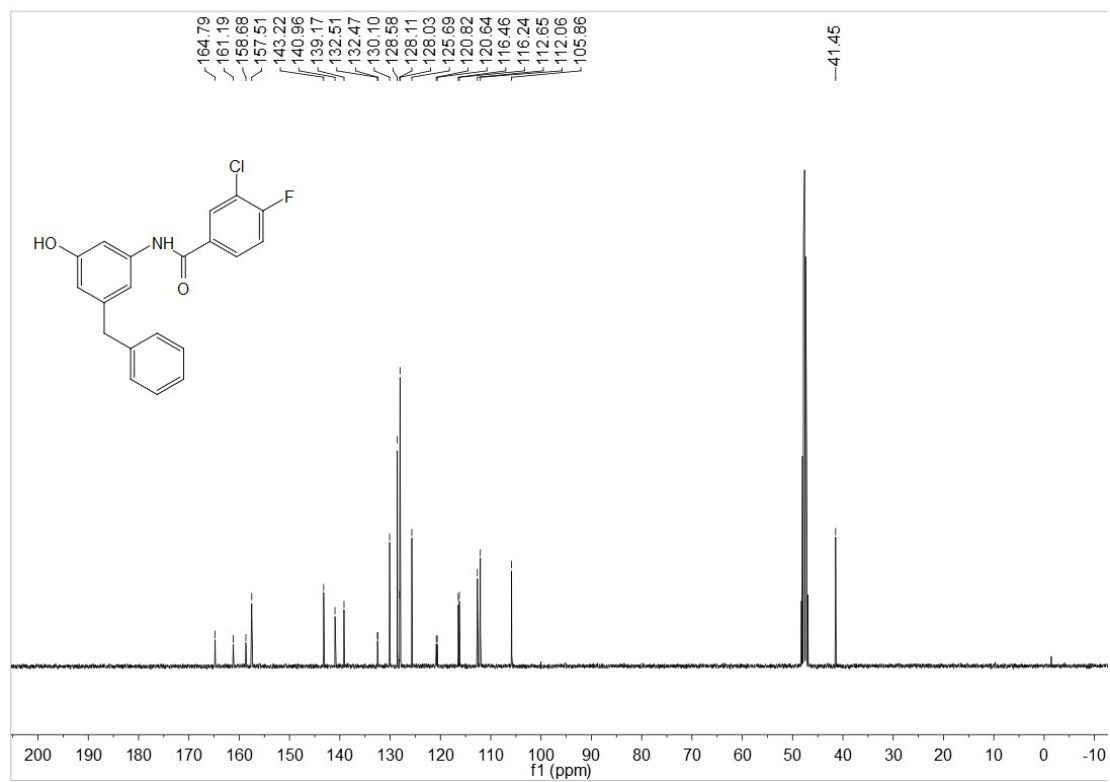
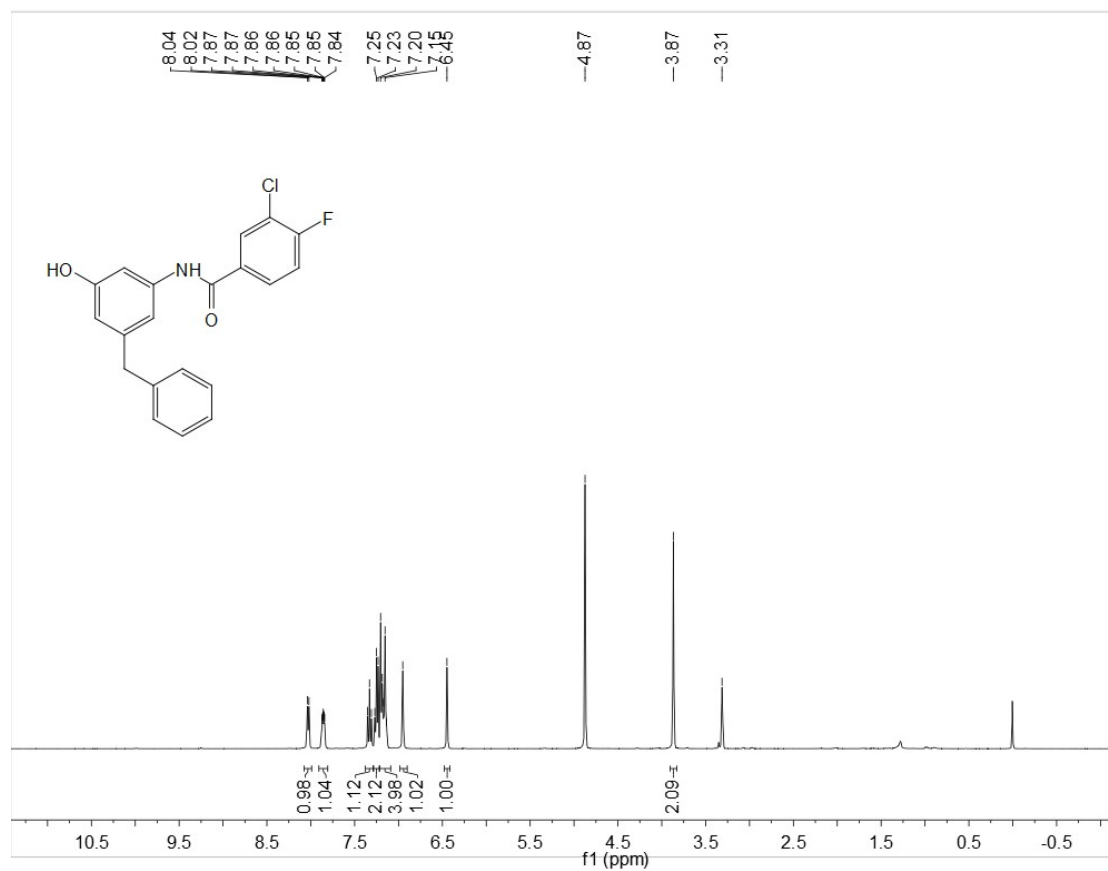


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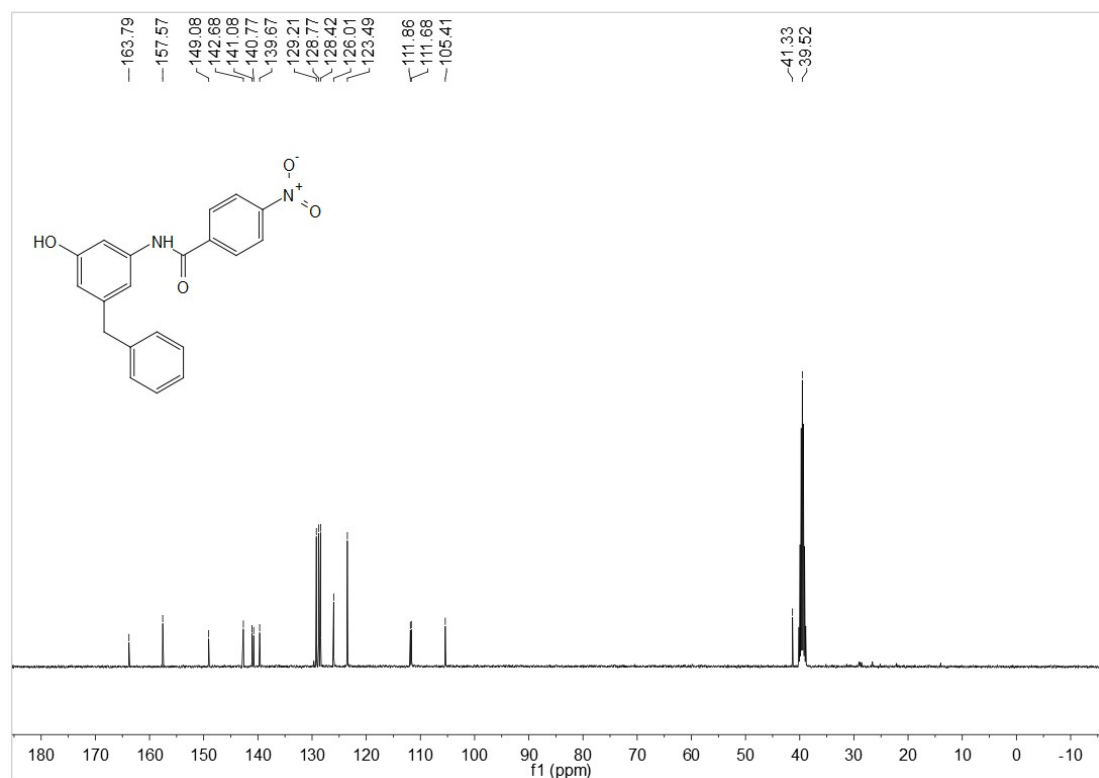
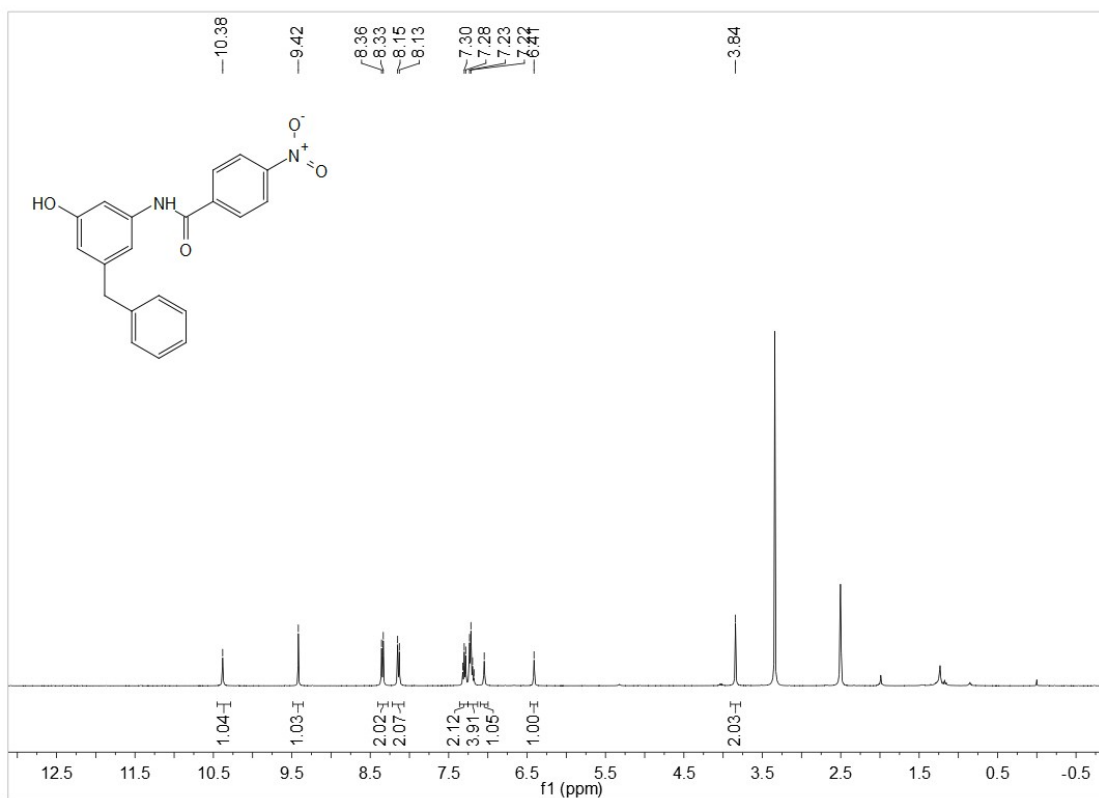


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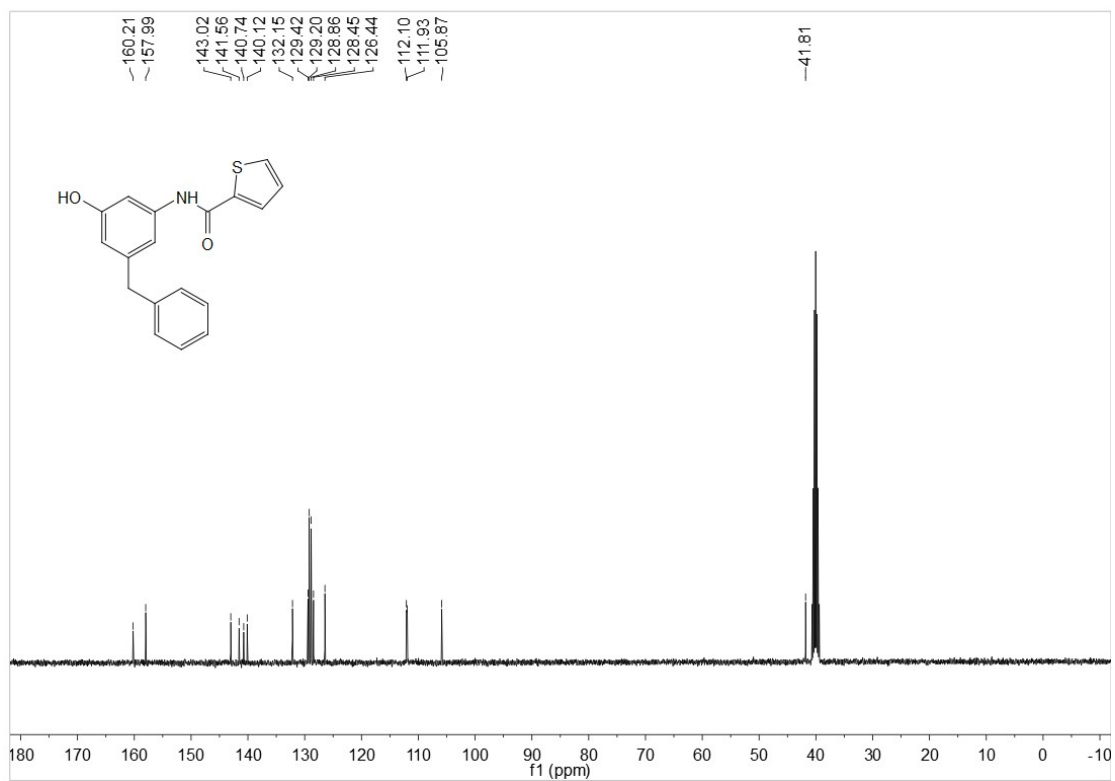
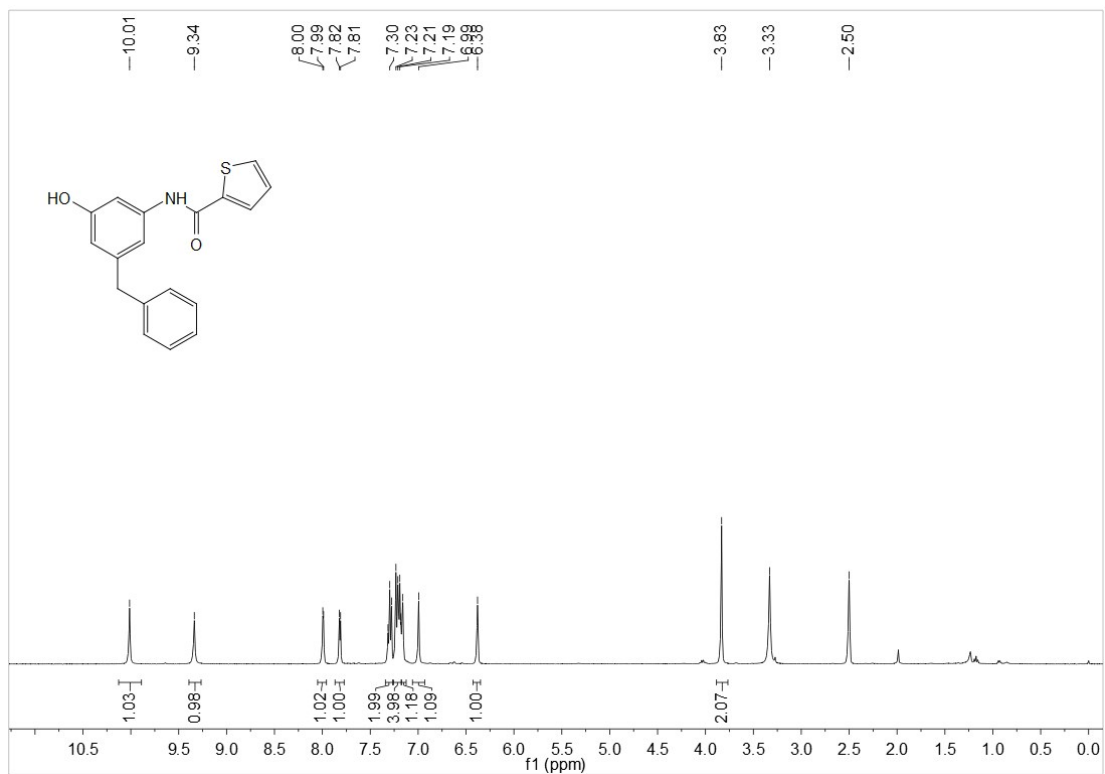




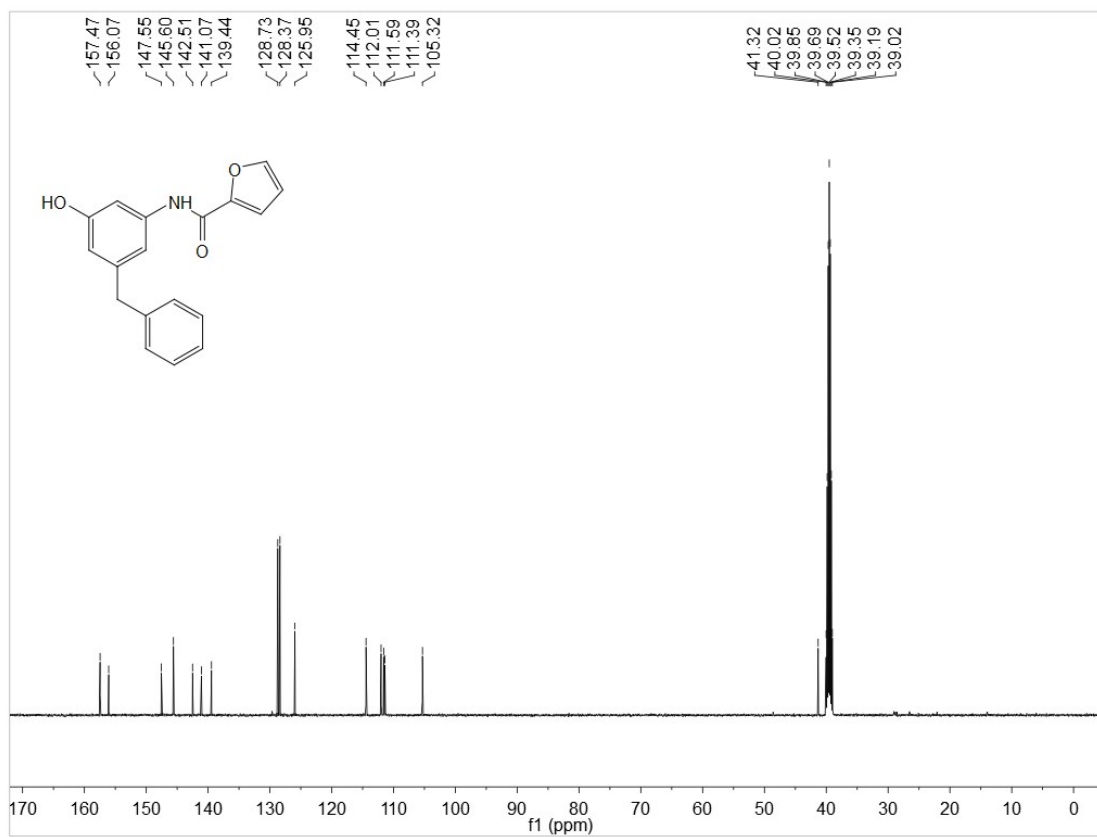
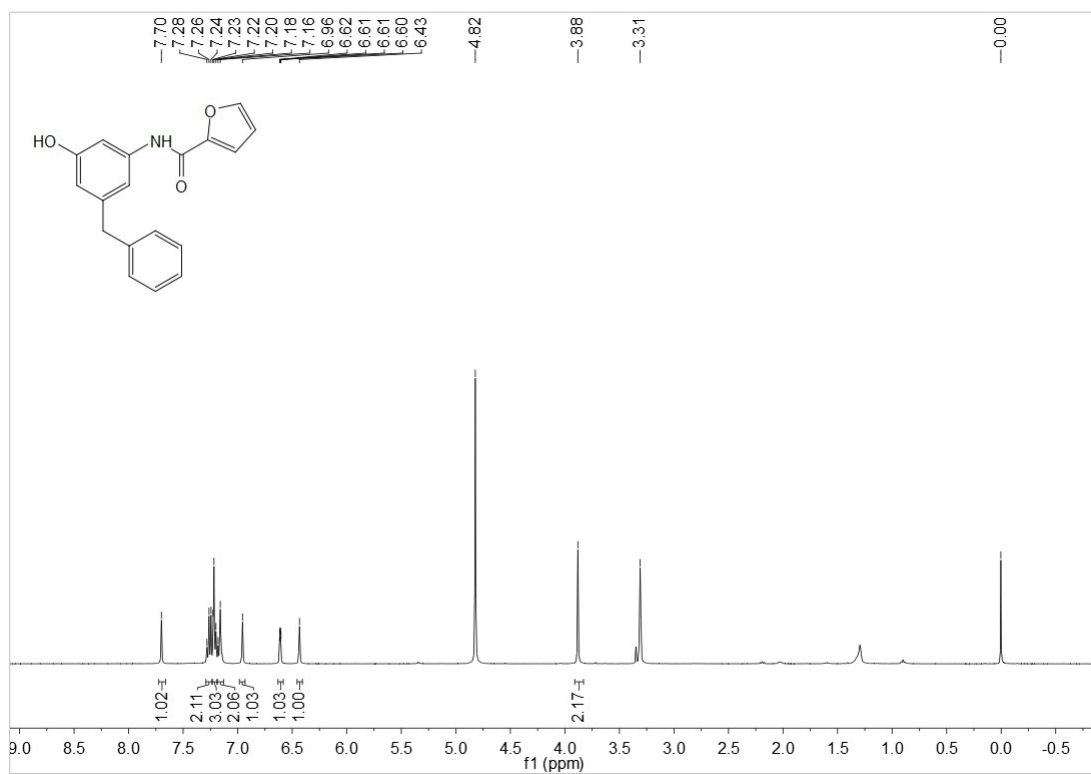
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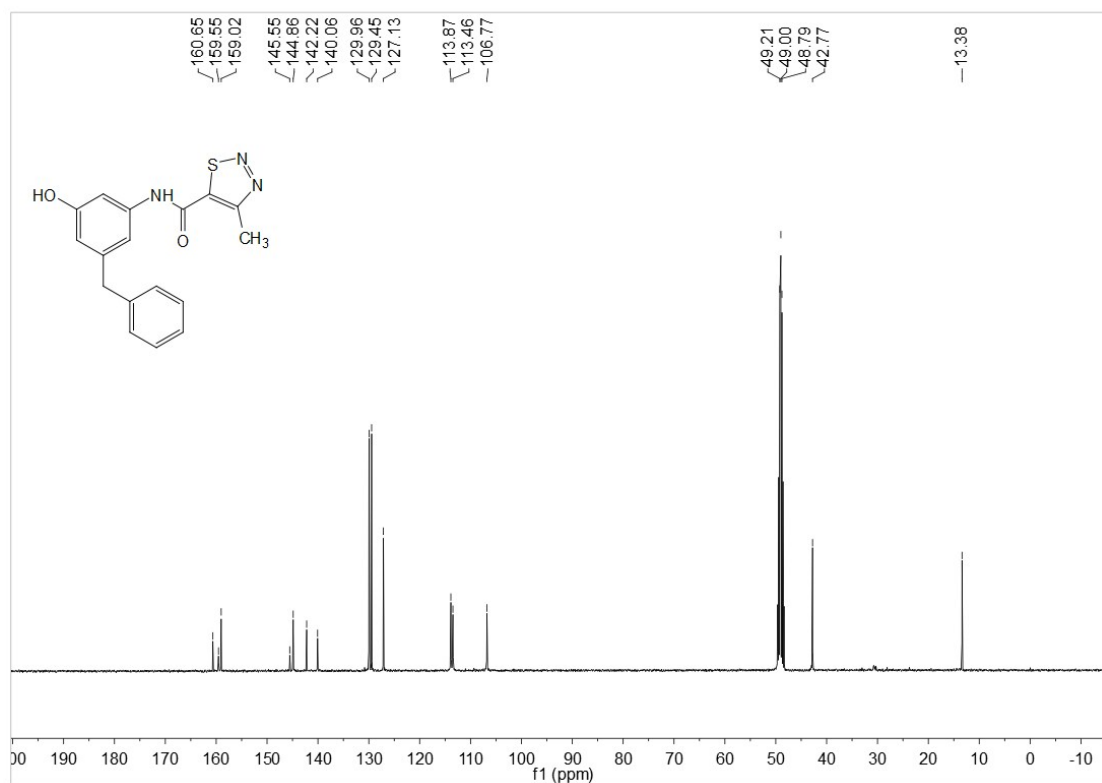
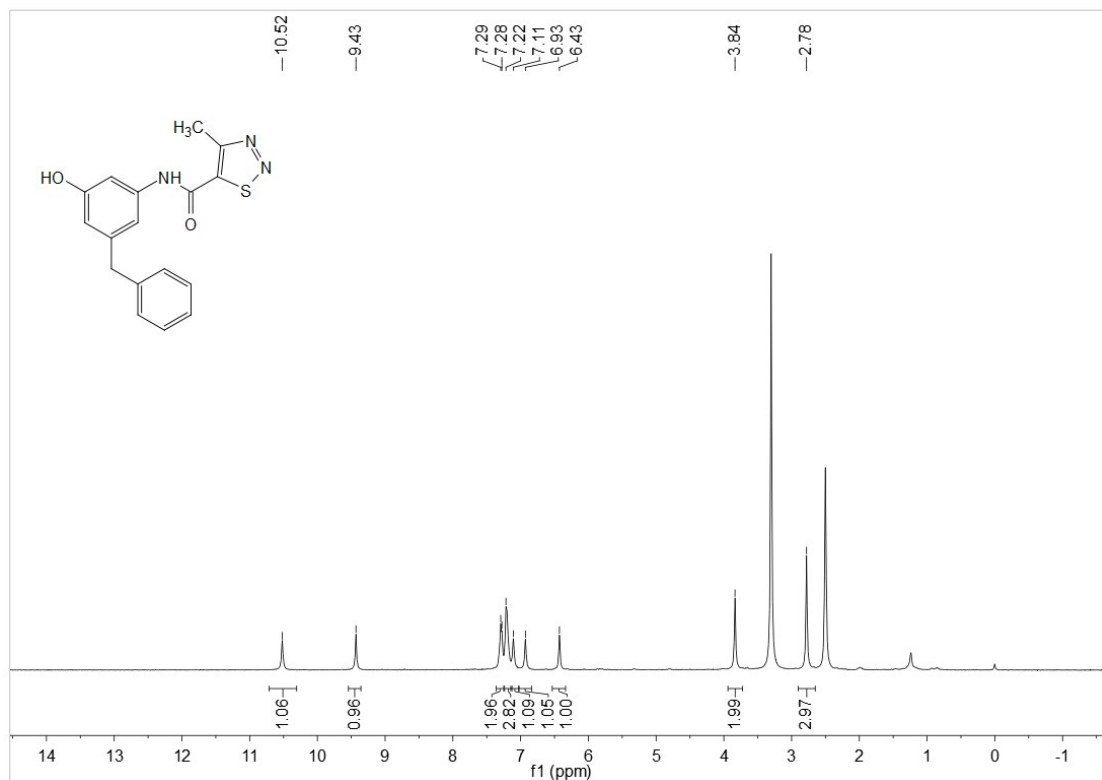
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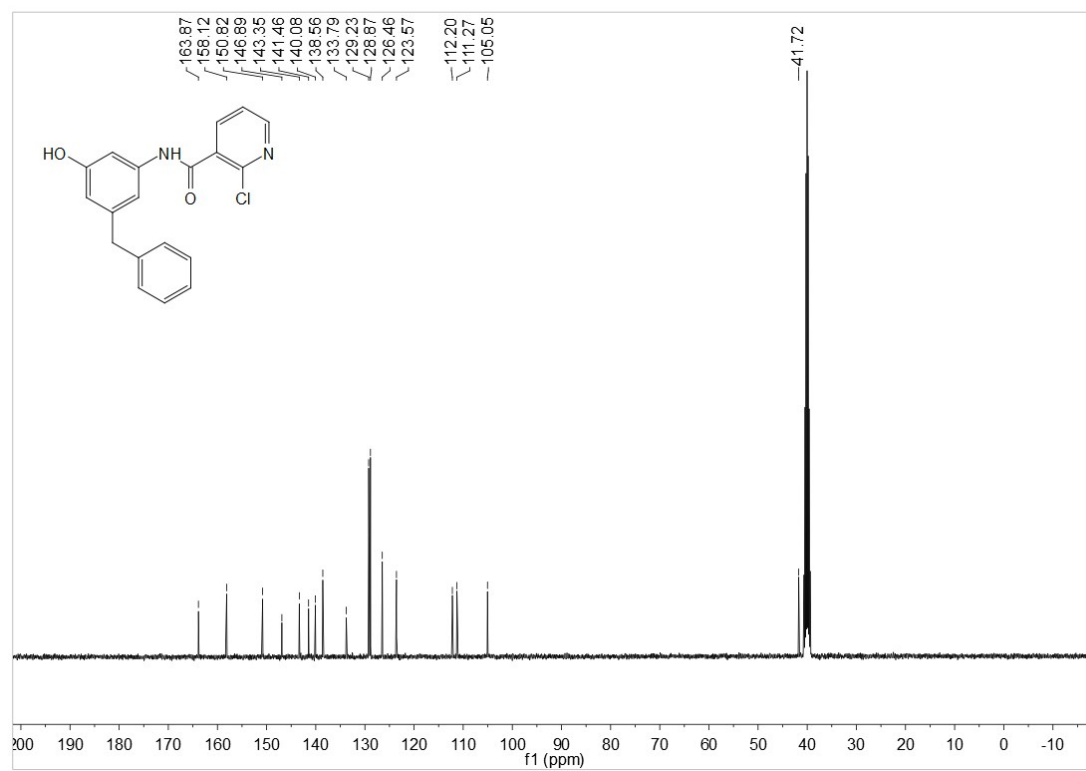
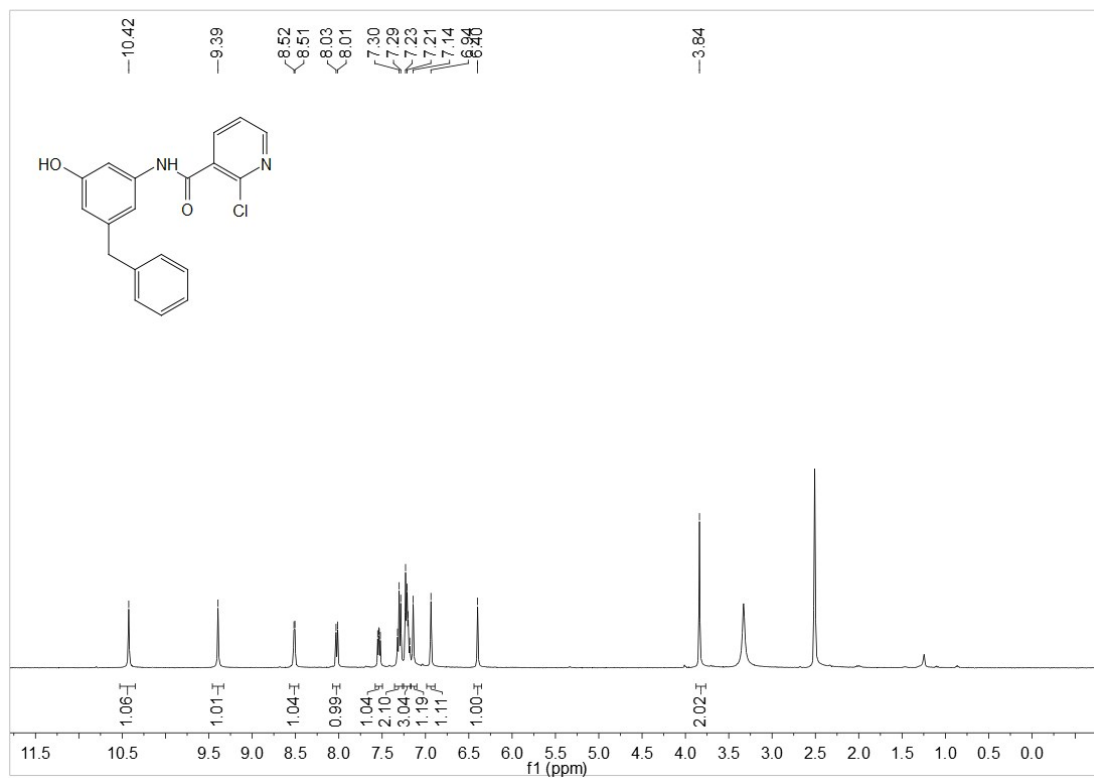
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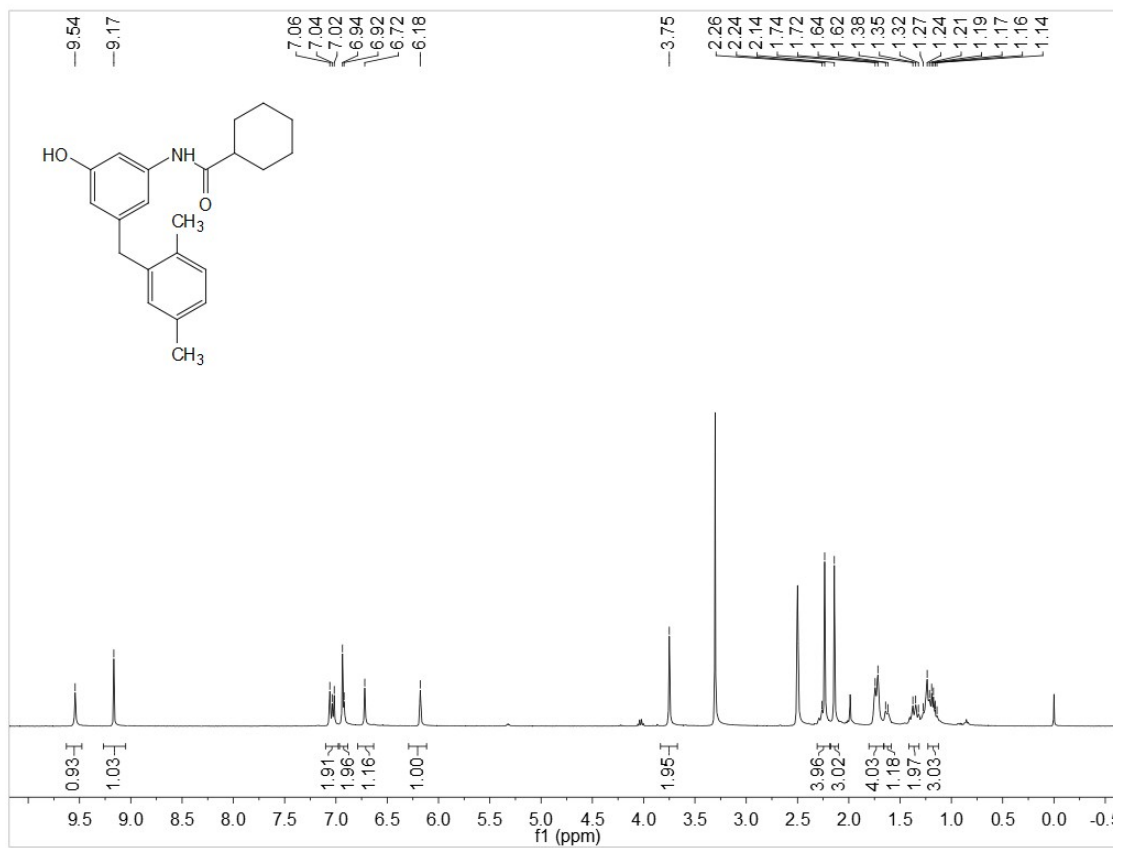
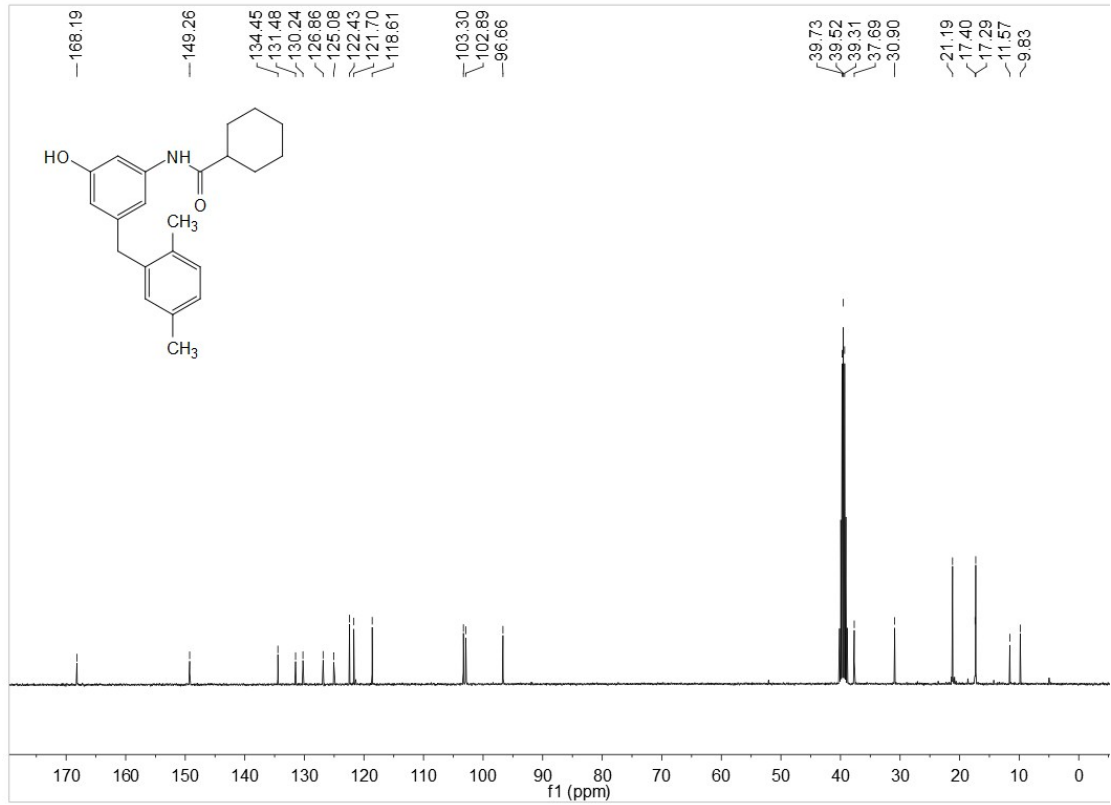
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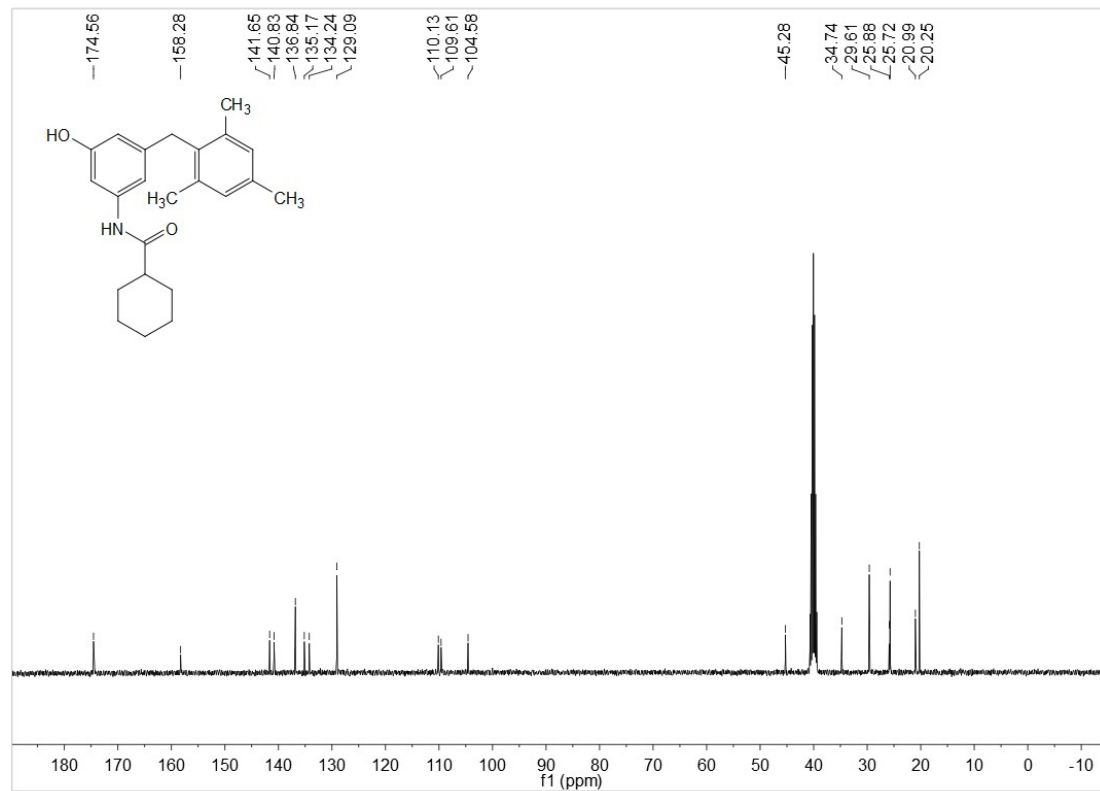
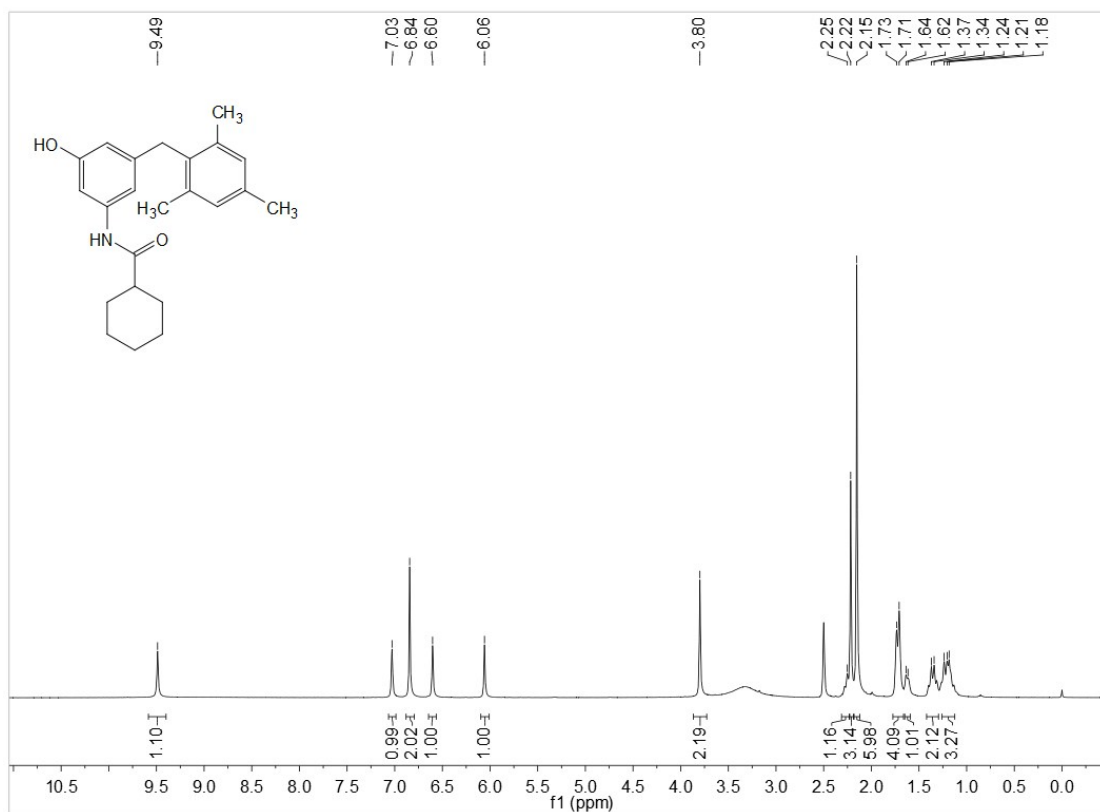
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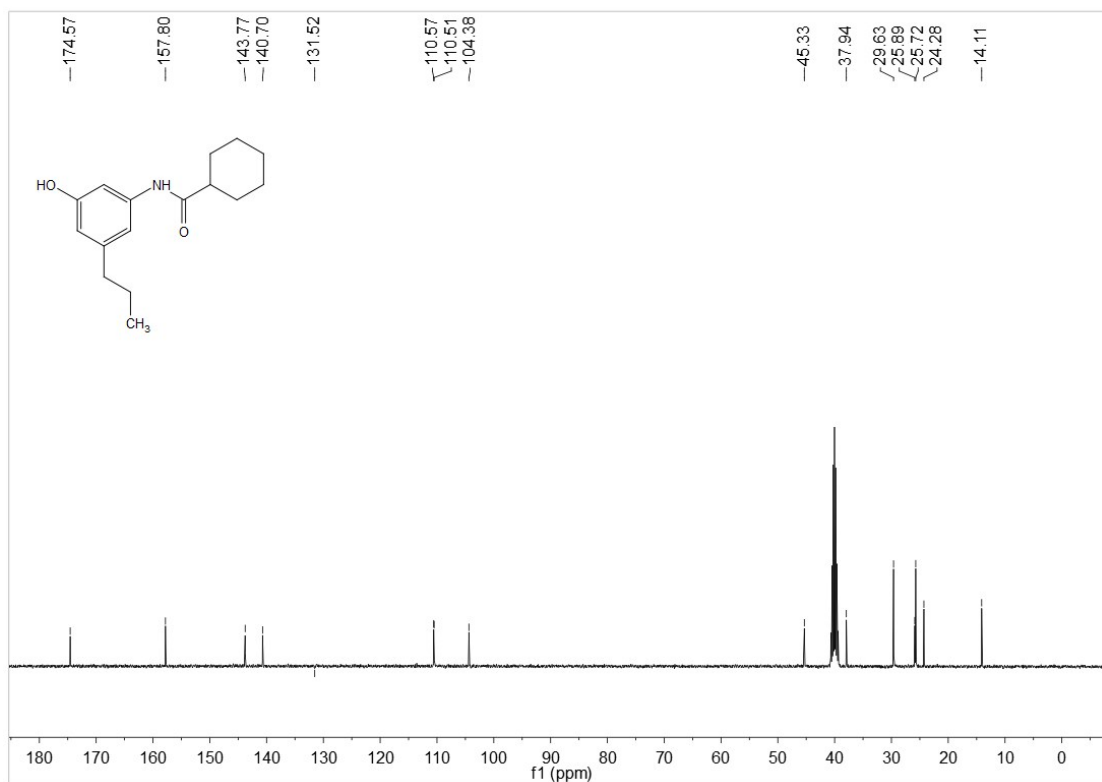
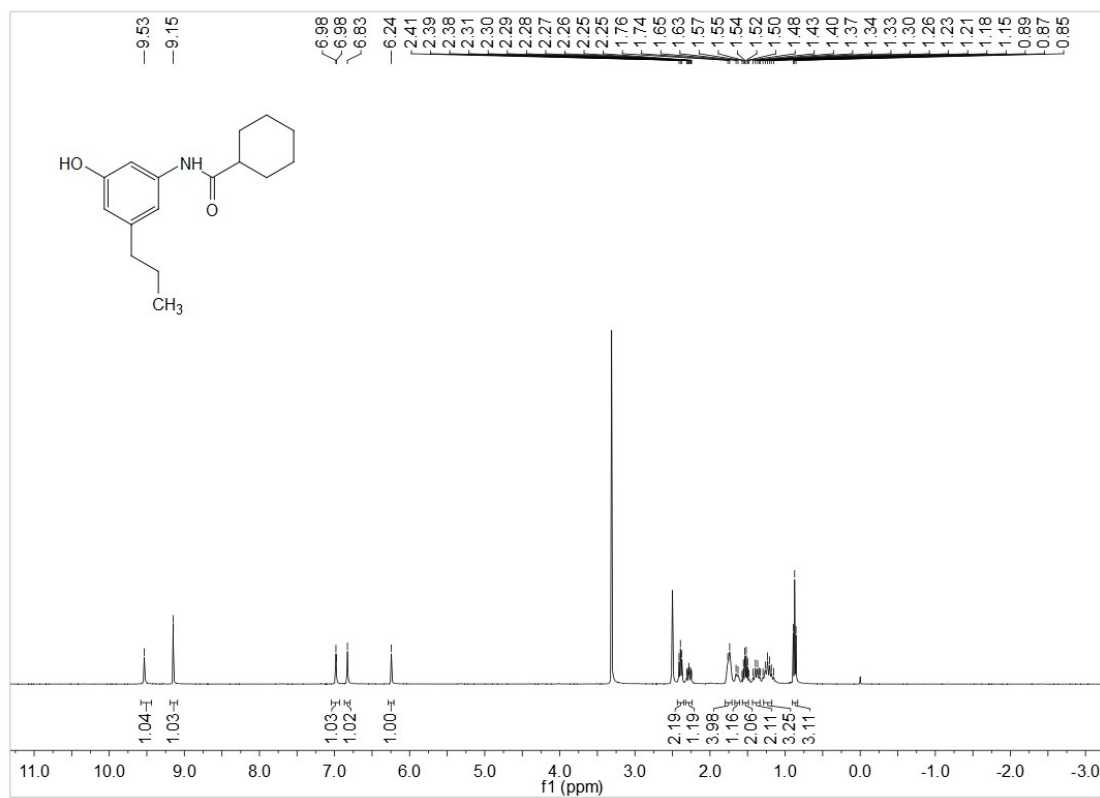
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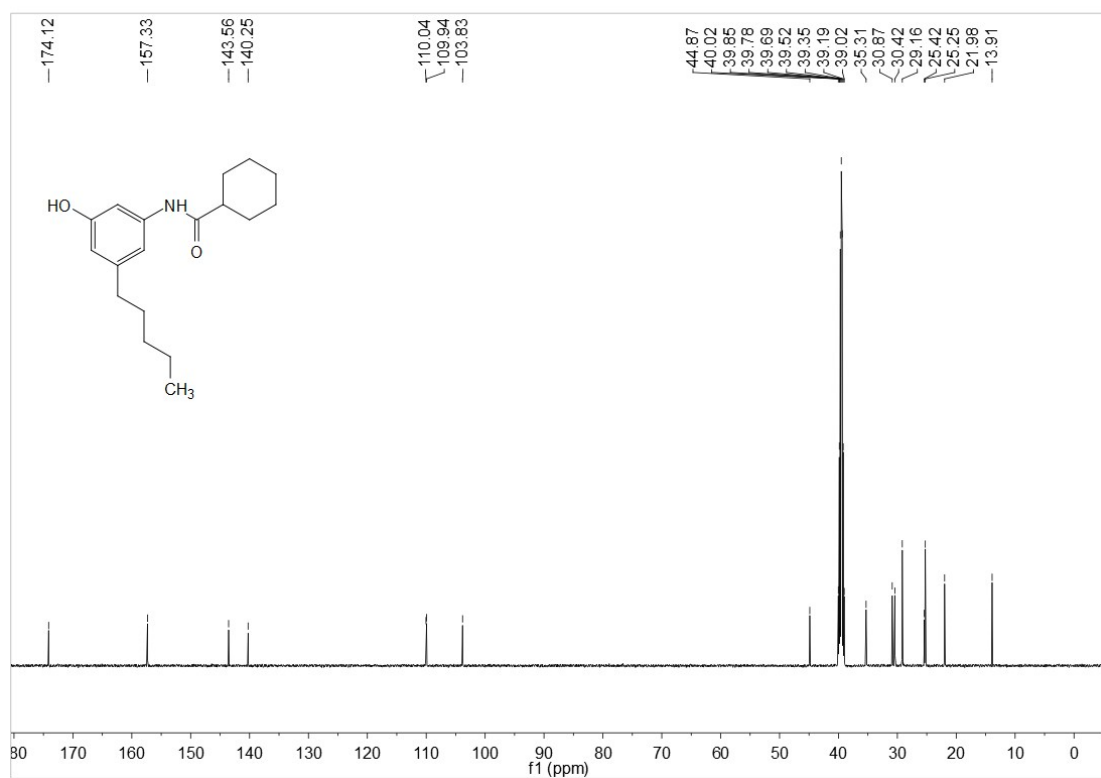
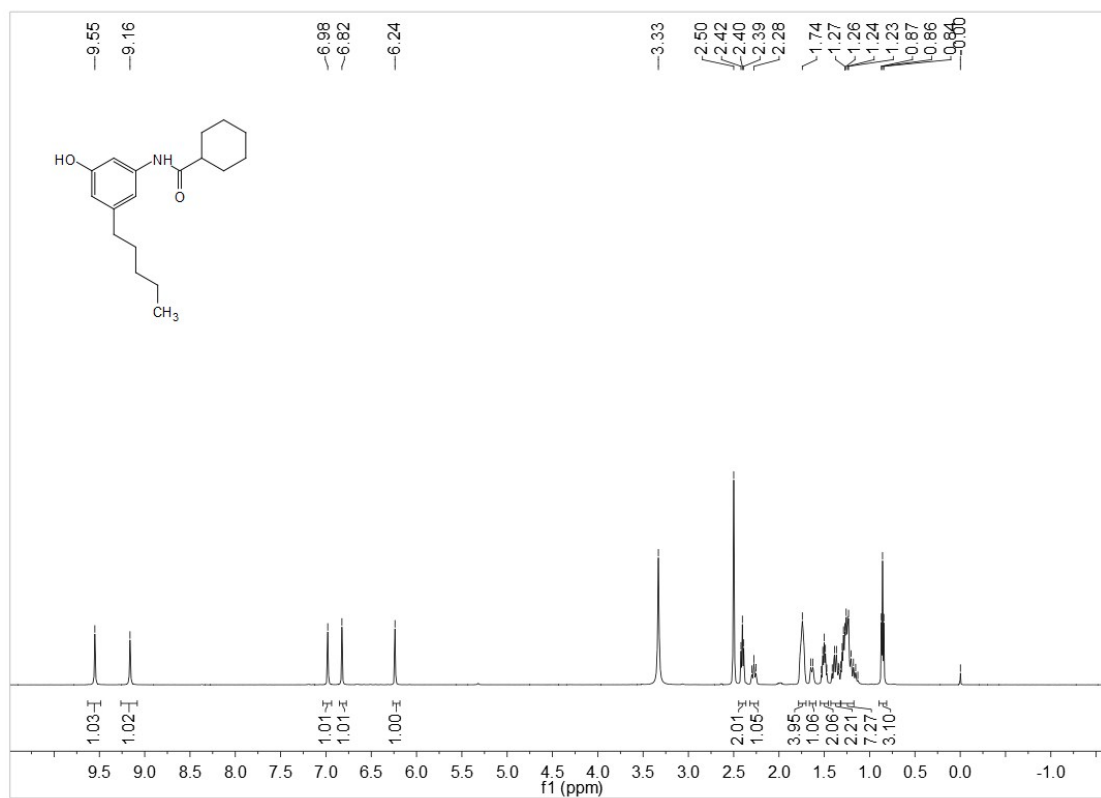
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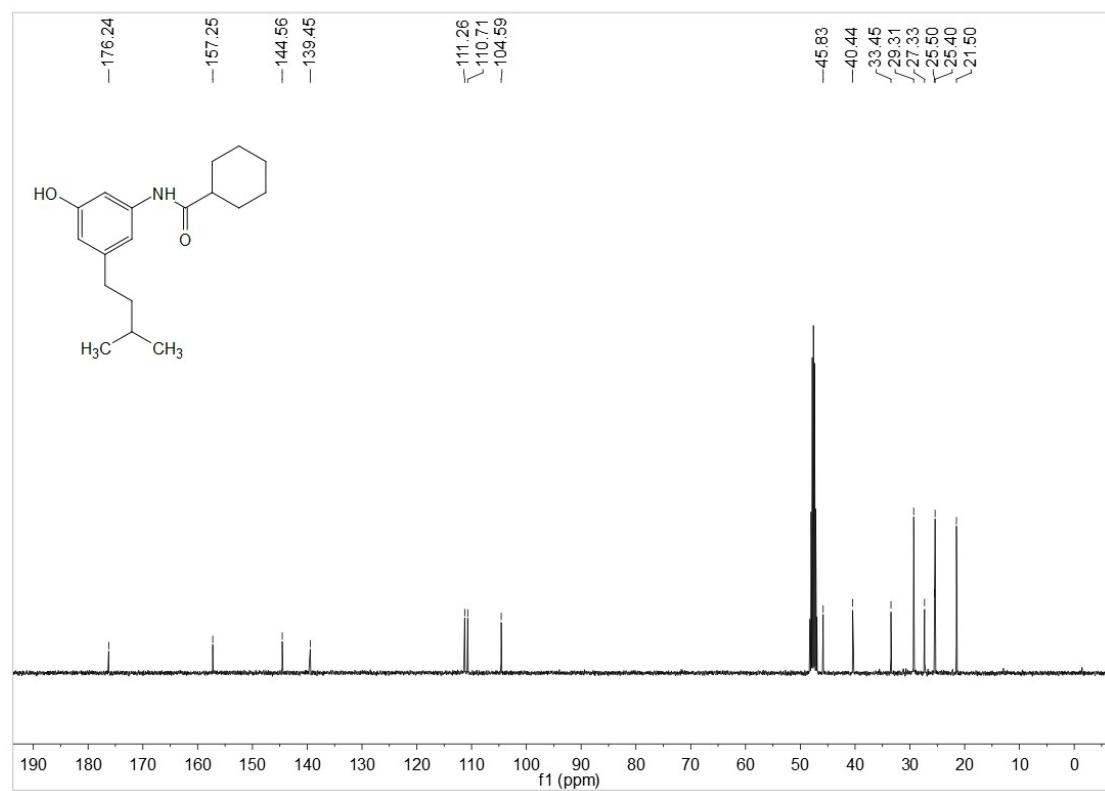
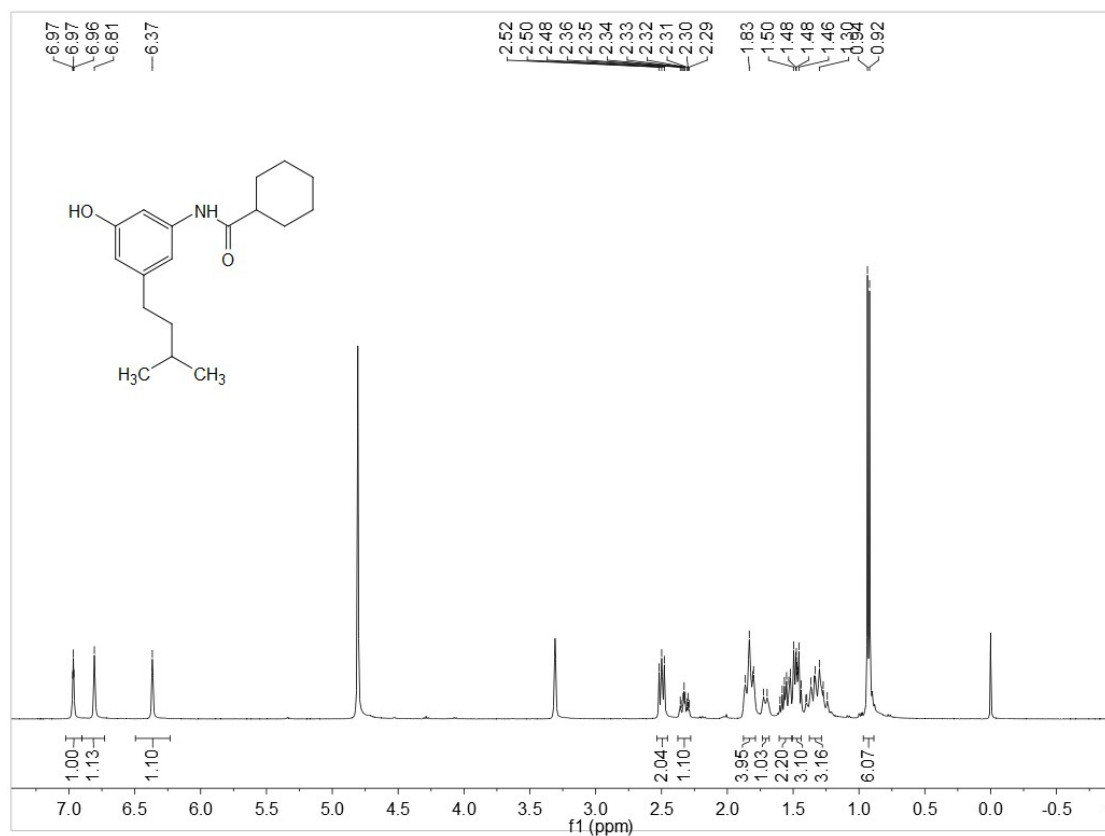
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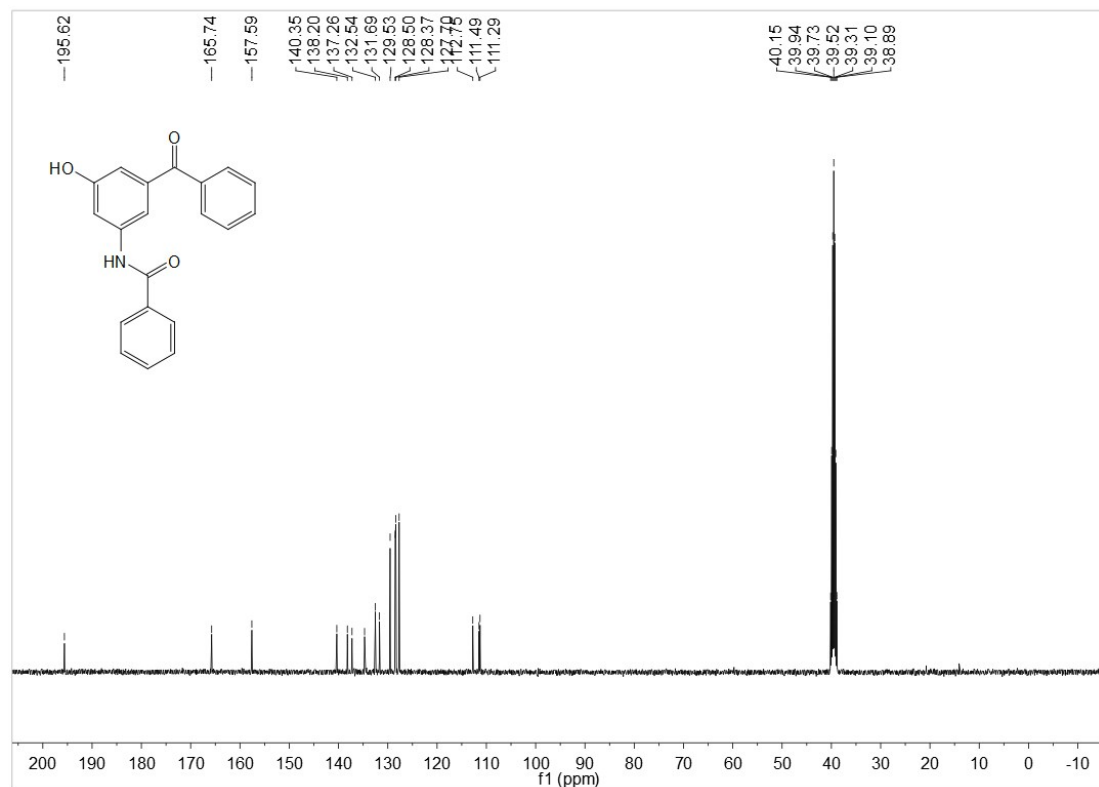
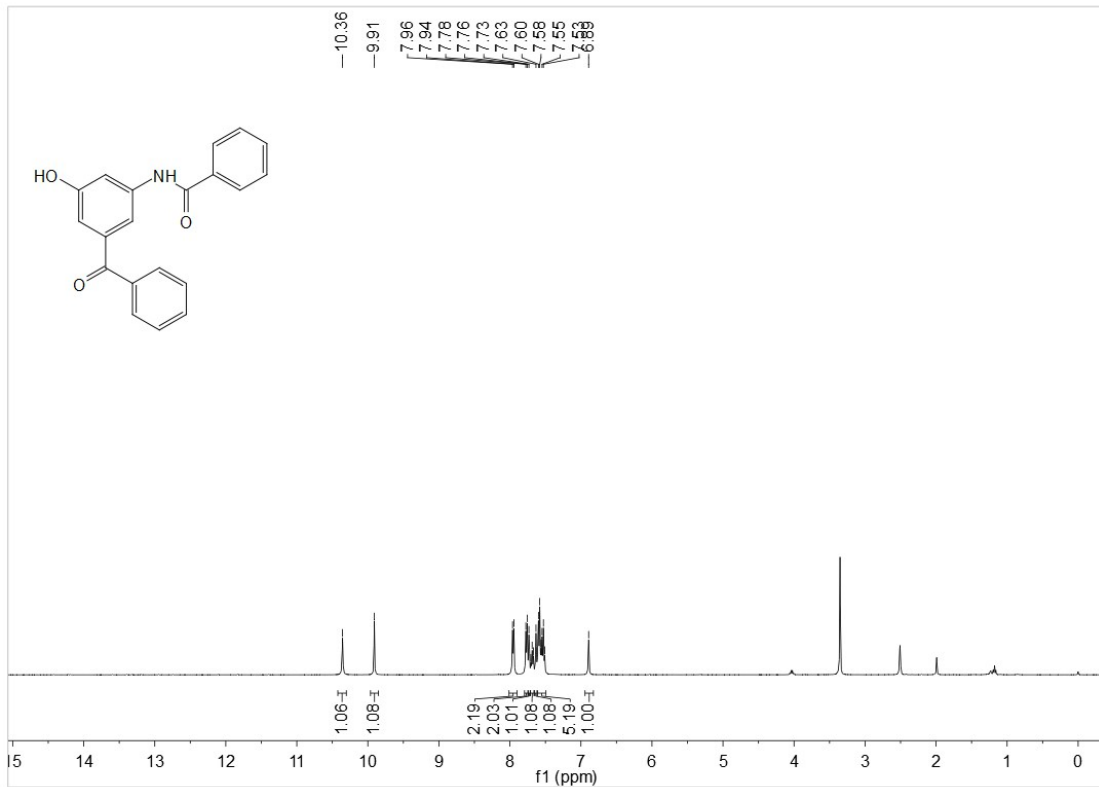
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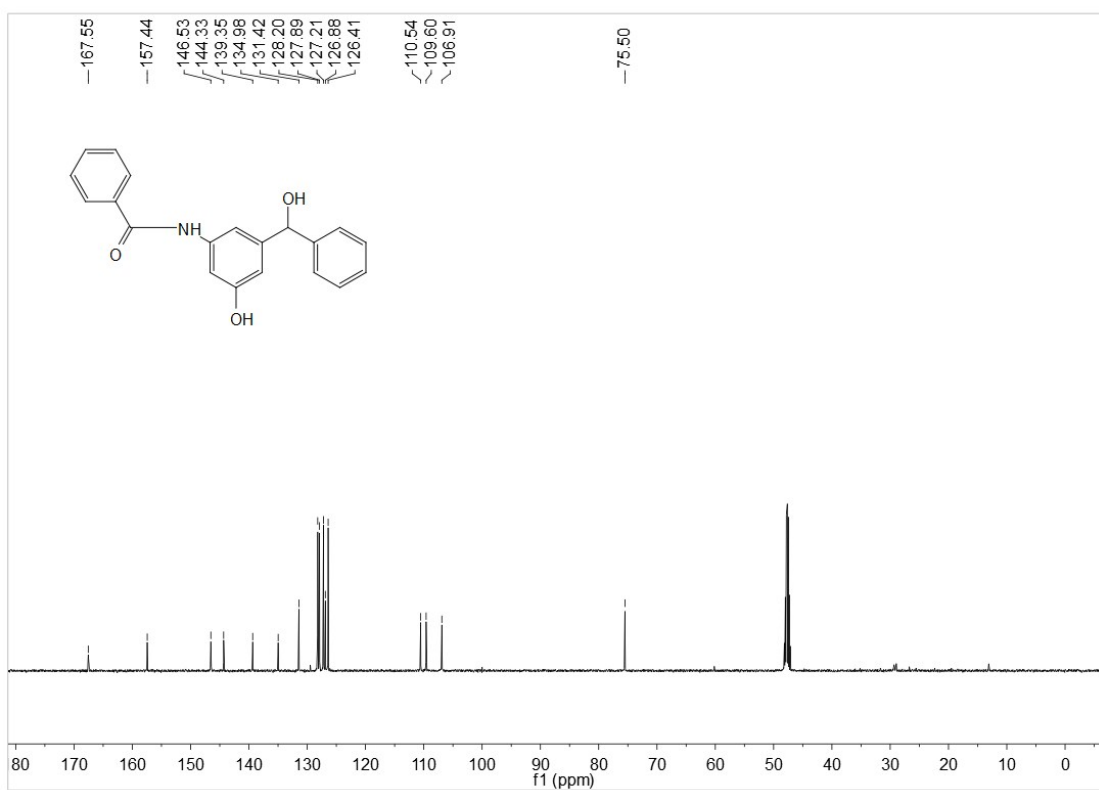
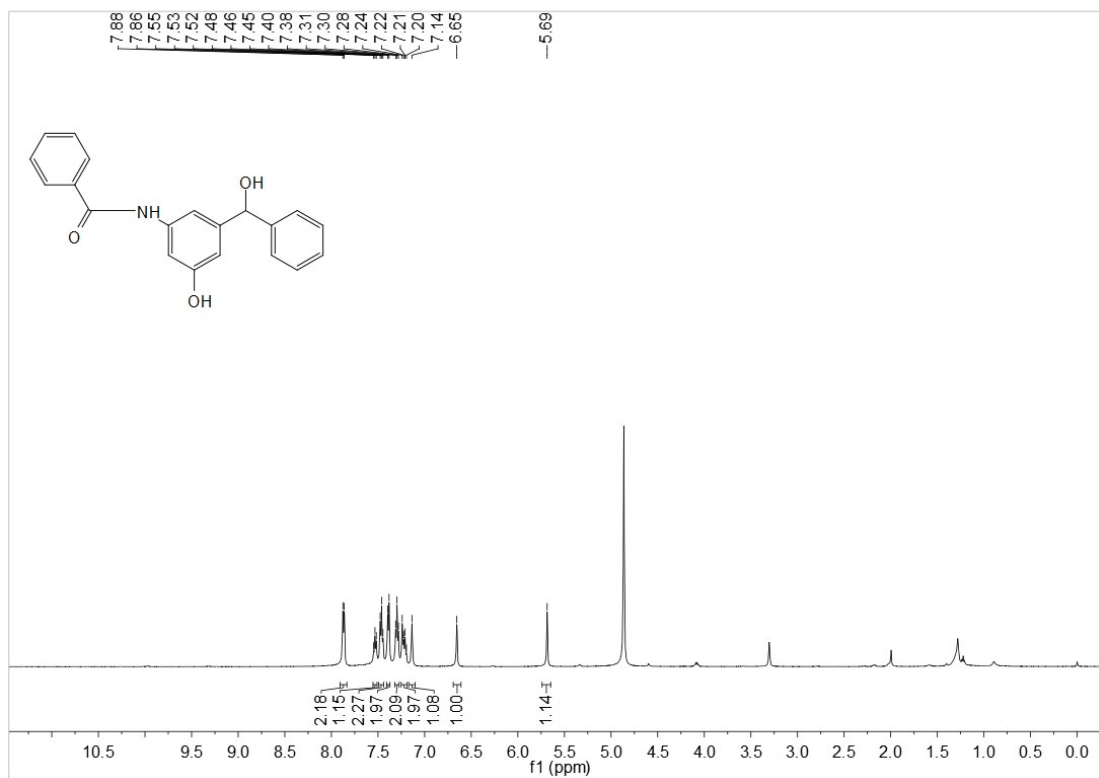


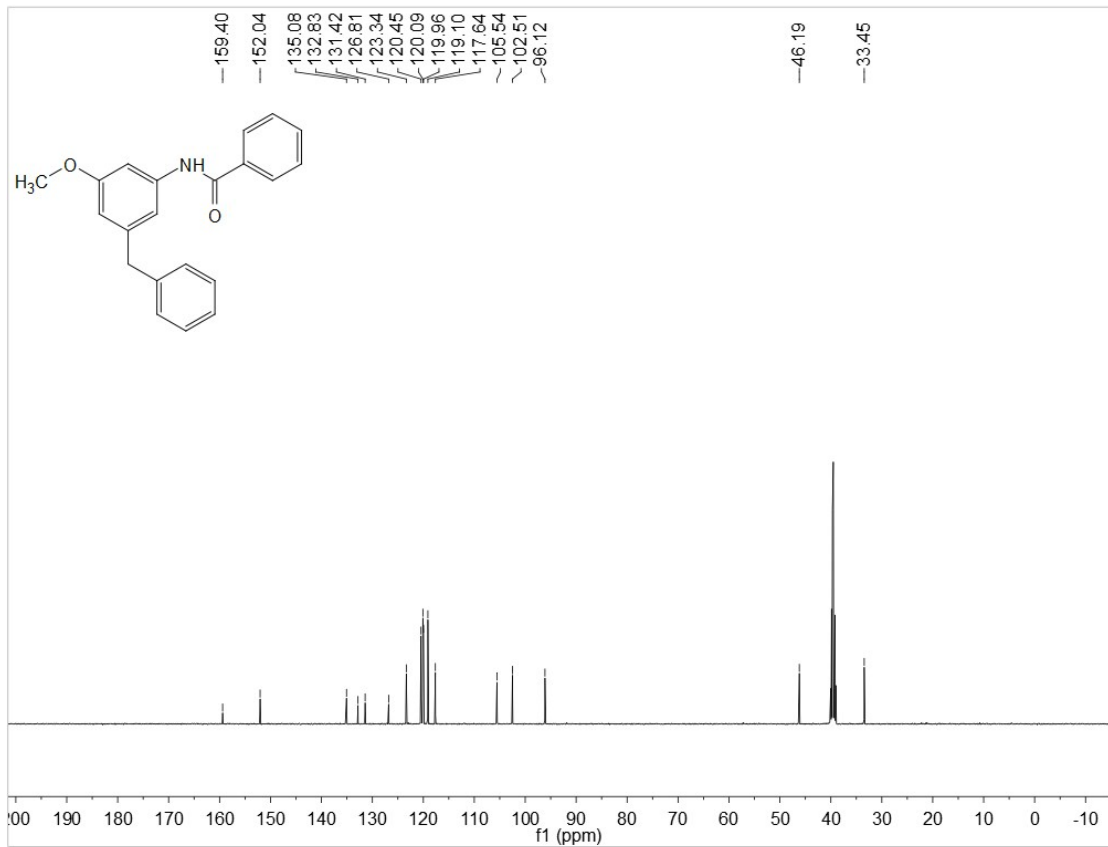
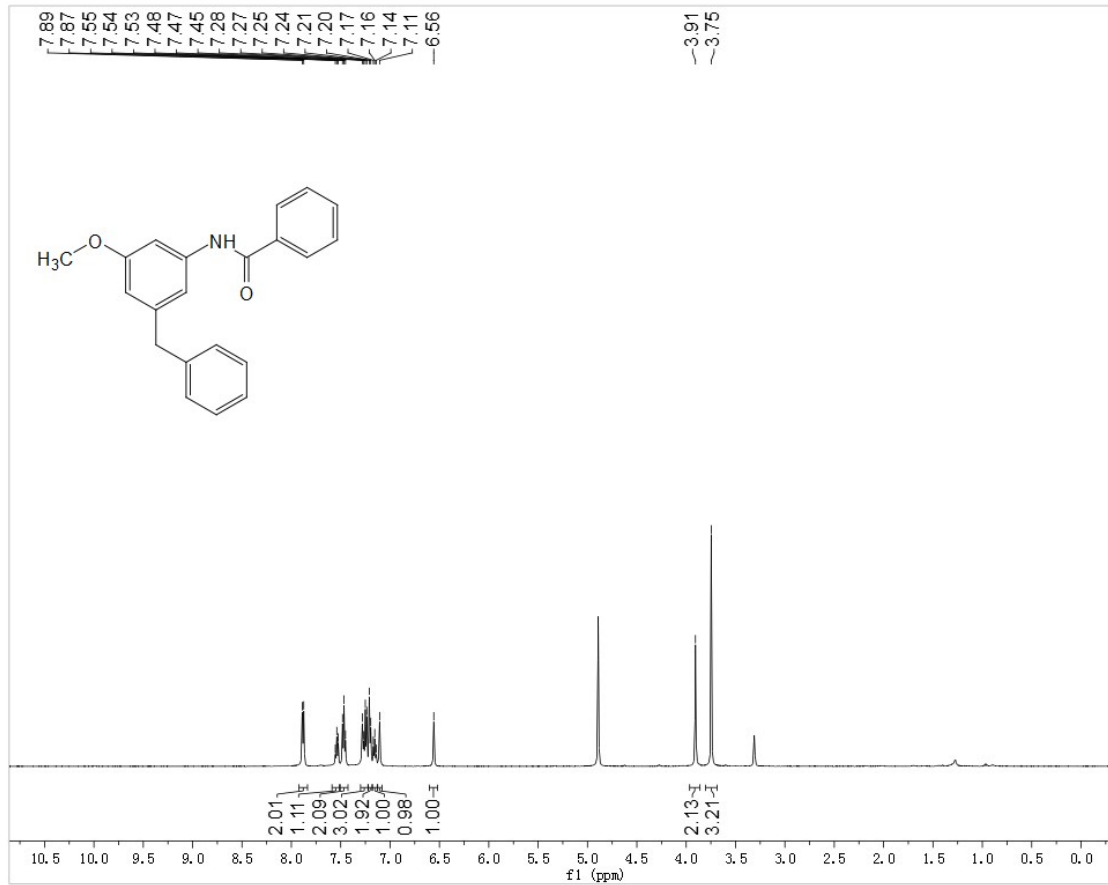
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14







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