Supporting Information

Aqueous protocol for allylic arylation of cinnamyl acetates with sodium tetraphenylborate using Bedford-type palladacycle catalyst

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1. General information:

All reactions were carried out under air atmosphere. Cinnamyl acetate used as purchased from suppliers while all other cinnamyl acetates were prepared by reported literature method.⁷ If not stated otherwise, reactions were run under air atmosphere in Carousel 12 PlusTM Reaction Stations from *Radleys*, which allow simultaneously stirring and heating of up to 12 reactions. HPLC-grade water was used as the solvent. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica coated glass plates (Merck 60, F-254) with detection by irradiation of 254 nm UV light. Product was purified by simple purification using silica gel (60-120) mesh. All yields reported in Table 5 referred to NMR yields and products are purified by simple purification and confirmed by NMR and GCMS. While yields reported in Table 1-4 are GC yields. For the combination of gas chromatography with mass spectroscopic detection (GC-MS), a GC from Agilent 7890 A with an Agilent 5975C instrument for MS detection (inert XL EI/CI MSD with Triple-Axis Detector, EI, 70 eV) was used. GC/MS Method (80-280 °C DB-5MS): Initial 80 °C, 3 min; Ramp 25 °C/min, 280 °C, 6 min; total 17 min. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer at 295K in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (δ) relative to tetamethylsilane as internal standard or to the used solvent. J (coupling constant) were reported in Hz, splitting patterns of proton are described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet). All products obtained and discussed in this work have been previously reported (except product 3h and 3i) and characterized by suitable technique such as ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, MS and were compared with previously reported data.

2. Experimental Procedures:

2.1 Synthesis of the palladacycle catalyst A

Step 1. ([1,1'-Biphenyl]-2-yloxy)diisopropylphosphine (Ligand A)¹

In a Schlenk tube 2-phenylphenol (1.70 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in 50 mL of dry toluene and triethylamine (1.51 g, 14.9 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added. After stirring the solution for 15 min at r.t. chlorodiisopropylphosphine (1.51 g, 9.9 mmol, 0.95 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 16 h. After cooling to r.t. pentane (50 mL) was added. A white solid precipitated, which was removed by filtration through a pad of Celite® and washed with pentane (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic fractions were evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*yielding the phosphiniteligand (2.63 g, 92%), which was used without further purification.

Step II. Synthesis of $[\{Pd(\mu-Cl)\{\kappa^2-P,C-P(iPr)_2(OC_6H_3-2-Ph)\}\}_2]$ (Catalyst A)¹

In a Schlenk tube ([1,1'-Biphenyl]-2-yloxy)diisopropylphosphine (2.63 g, 9.9 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and PdCl₂ (1.75 g, 9.9 mmol, 1.0 eq.) were dissolved in dry toluene (50 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 19 h. After cooling to r.t. the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was extracted with DCM (20 mL) and filtered through a pad of Celite®. The product was precipitated from the organic solution by addition of ethanol, collected by filtration and recrystallized from DCM/EtOH.

2.2 General procedure for allylic arylation: In a 10 mL glass tube (provided with Carousel 12 PlusTM from *Radleys*) **Cat. A** (0.002 mol %, 0.1 mL stock solution in Dichloromethane) were added and Dichloromethane is evaporated under vacuum. Then corresponding (*E*)-cinnamyl acetate (**1a**, 0.20 mmol), and water (2 mL) was added followed by addition of NaBPh₄ (**2a**, 0.40 mmol). After addition of reactants the reaction tube containing reaction mixture was closed under air atmosphere (can be kept open as well) and magnetically stirred at 50 °C for 8 hours under air atmosphere. After completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. Then the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated on rotatory evaporator to afford the crude

product. Next, product yield was checked by NMR using internal standard in CDCl₃ solvent. To avoid use of excess of solvents instead of column chromatography a simple purification was performed to confirm the products. The crude product was loaded on silica and transferred to sintered funnel, then simply washed with solvent heptane (5 mL X 5) followed by subsequently increasing polarity using ethyl acetate if necessary. All fractions were analyzed on GC-MS and pure fractions were mixed together and spectroscopic analysis such as GC-MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR were performed to confirm the products.

3. Effect of Concentration

Table 1. Effect of solvent volume (Concentration)^a

Entry	Water (mL)	3a yield ^b [%]
1	5	98
2	4	98
3	3	98
4	2	98

^aReaction Conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol), **2a** (0.40 mmol), Cat. A (5 mol %), water, 30 °C, 16 h, under air atmosphere. ^bGC yield.

4. Spectroscopic data of products:

(E)-Prop-1-ene-1,3-diyldibenzene (3a):²

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 194 (M⁺, 100), 193 (60),179 (48), 178 (38), 165 (15), 117 (16), 116 (38), 115 (65), 91 (25); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 – 7.21 (m, 10H), 6.57 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J = 15.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.33, 137.64, 131.25, 129.39, 128.85, 128.68, 127.28, 126.36, 126.31, 39.54.

(E)-1-Methyl-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3b):²

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 208 (M⁺, 100), 207 (19), 194 (16), 193 (99), 178 (36), 129 (16), 116 (25), 115 (88), 91 (29); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.21 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dt, J = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 6.7

Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.34, 136.83, 134.69, 130.92, 129.19, 128.66, 128.45, 128.16, 126.12, 126.01, 39.36, 21.15.

(E)-1-Methoxy-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3c):²

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 224 (M⁺, 100), 223 (27), 209 (20), 193 (27), 178 (16), 165 (16), 121 (18), 115 (44), 91 (20); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 6.90 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.43 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dt, J = 15.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.03, 140.65, 130.57, 130.51, 128.84, 128.65, 127.42, 127.25, 126.30, 114.12, 55.48, 39.54.

(E)-1-Nitro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3d):²

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 239 (M⁺, 100), 222 (34), 193 (27), 192 (78), 191 (46), 189 (18), 178 (45), 165 (28), 115 (76), 91 (40); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 6.64 – 6.55 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.61, 143.94, 139.01, 134.61, 128.71, 128.68, 126.58, 126.54, 123.97, 123.63, 39.46.

(E)-1-Chloro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3e):³

GC-MS m/z (% relative intensity) 228(M⁺,64), 193 (87), 192 (16), 191 (16), 178 (39), 165 (16), 116 (21), 115 (100), 91 (23); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 – 7.21 (m, 9 H), 6.42 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.31 (m, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.05, 136.1,132.83, 130.2, 130.02, 128.85, 128.81, 128.73, 127.51, 126.47, 39.50.

(E)-1-Fluoro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3f):³

GC-MS m/z (% relative intensity) 161.01, 140.02, 133.84, 130.05, 129.21, 128.85, 128.72, 127.90, 126.43, 115.66, 115.45, 39.50; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.30 –

7.18 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dt, J = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212 (M⁺, 100), 211 (54), 197 (35), 196 (28), 134 (21), 133 (100), 116 (17), 115 (38), 109 (17), 91 (19).

(E)-1-(3-Phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3g):²

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 262 (M⁺, 100), 261 (26), 247 (13), 193 (62), 183 (17), 178 (27), 116 (17), 115 (64), 91 (28); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 5H), 6.52 – 6.48 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.90, 139.50, 132.10, 129.78, 128.67, 128.58, 126.37, 126.22, 125.45, 125.41, 39.34.

(E)-2,4-dimethyl-1-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3h):

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 222(M⁺, 98), 208 (18), 207 (100), 192 (29), 129 (37), 128 (16), 116 (20), 115 (64), 91 (25); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J = 15.2, 6.7 Hz, 3H), 7.04 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.41 – 6.33 (m, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.52, 138.13, 137.59, 131.38, 129.04, 128.88, 128.66, 127.37, 126.33, 124.24, 39.59, 21.46.

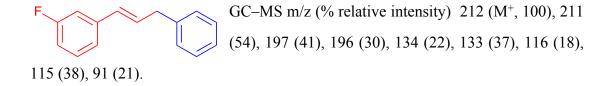
(E)-2,4-Dimethoxy-1-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3i):

GC–MS m/z (% relative intensity) 254 (M⁺, 100), 253 (25), 239 (23), 223 (42), 179 (10), 178 (16), 151 (15), 115 (30), 91 (23); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.23 (m, 6H), 6.79 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.29 (dd, J = 8.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.06, 157.54, 140.87, 128.43, 127.72, 127.31, 126.02, 125.45, 119.65, 104.72, 98.48, 55.47, 55.39, 39.92.

(E)-1-Fluoro-2-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3j):⁴

(E)-1-Chloro-2-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (3k):⁵

(E)-1-fluoro-3-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene $(31)^6$

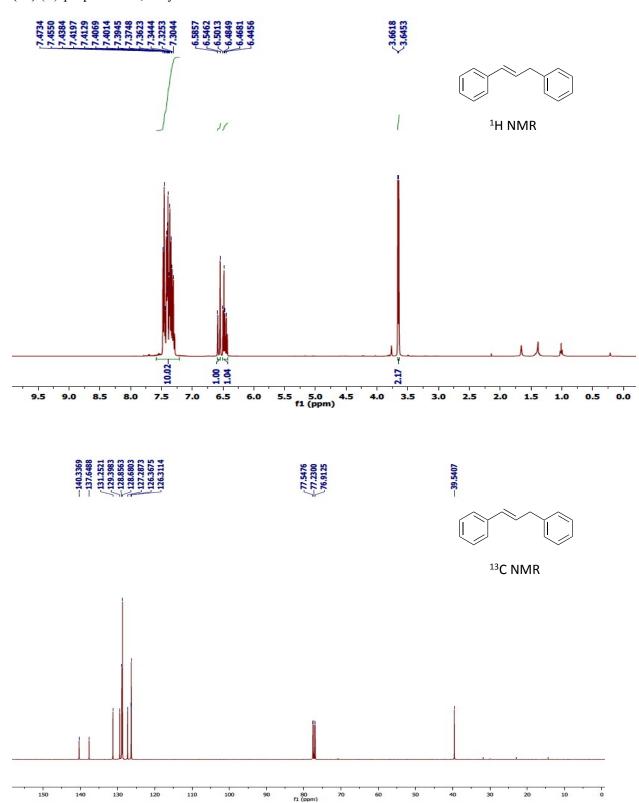


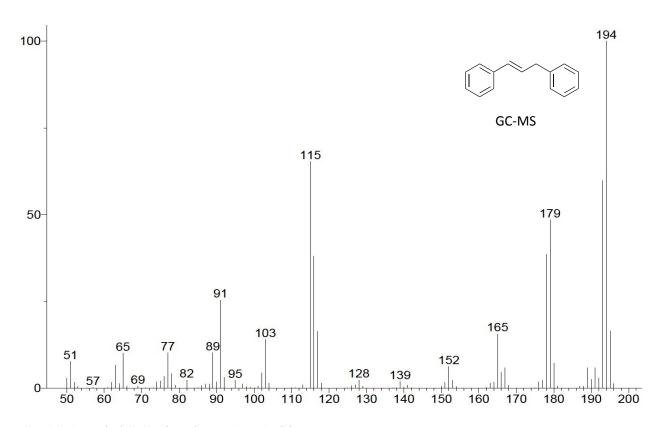
5. References:

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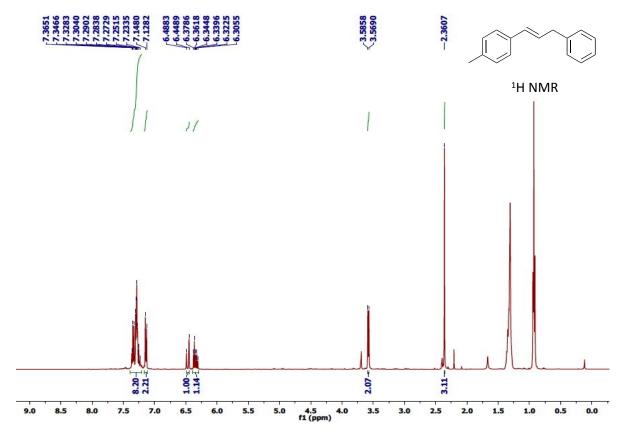
6. Analytical Spectra's

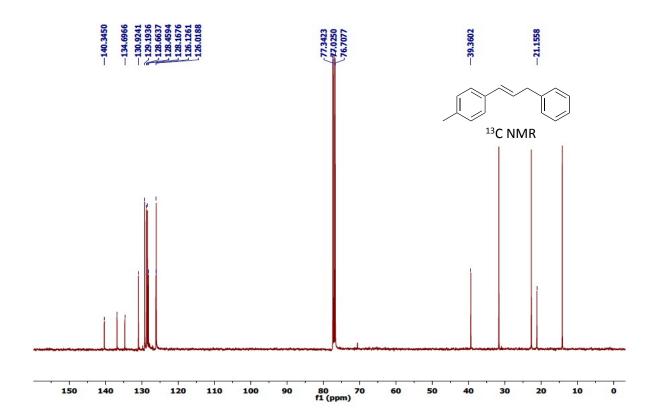
(3a) (E)-prop-1-ene-1,3-diyldibenzene

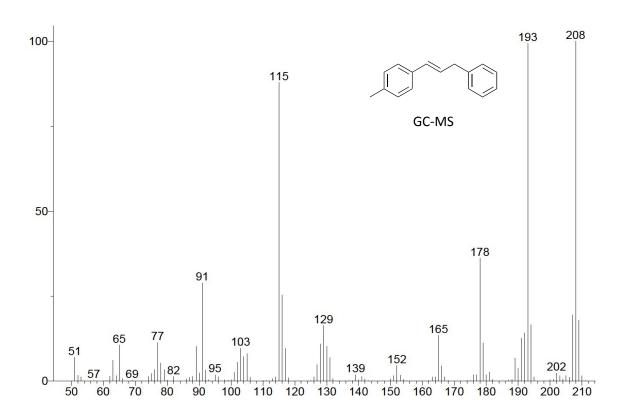




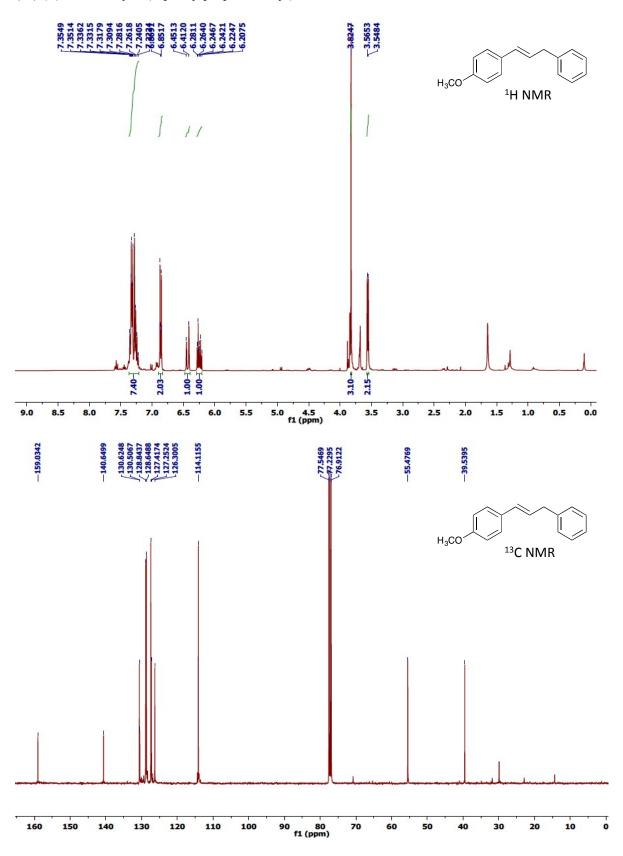
 $\textbf{(3b)} \ (E) \text{-} 1\text{-}methyl-4\text{-}(3\text{-}phenylprop-}1\text{-}en\text{-}1\text{-}yl) benzene$

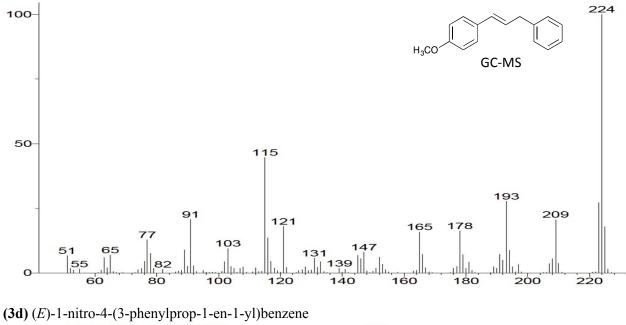


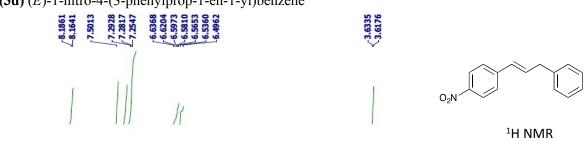


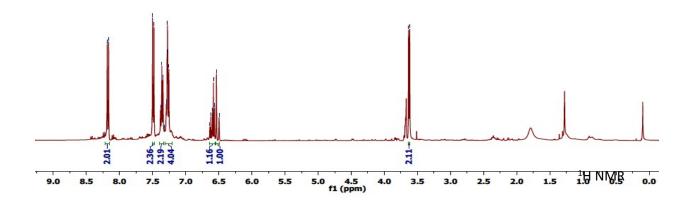


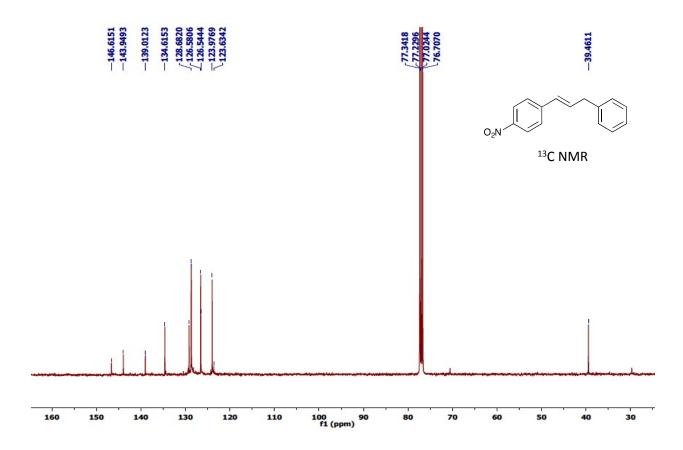
(3c) (*E*)-1-methoxy-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene

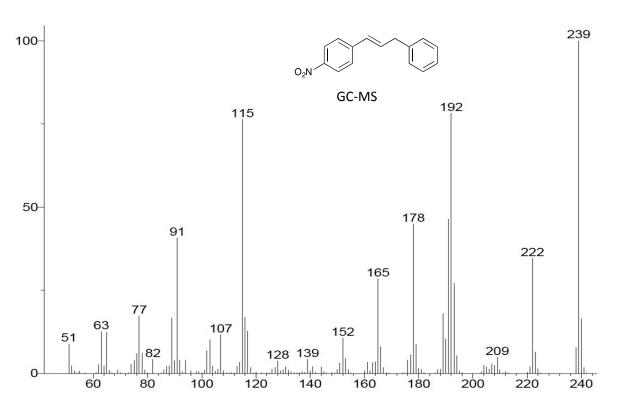




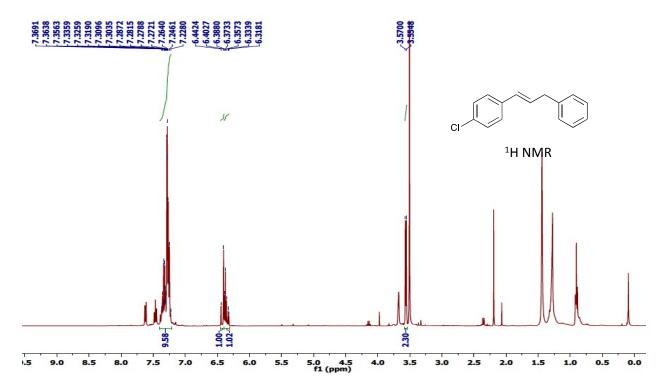


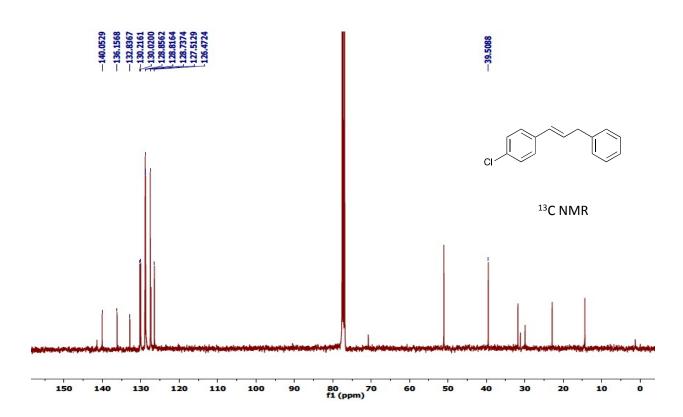


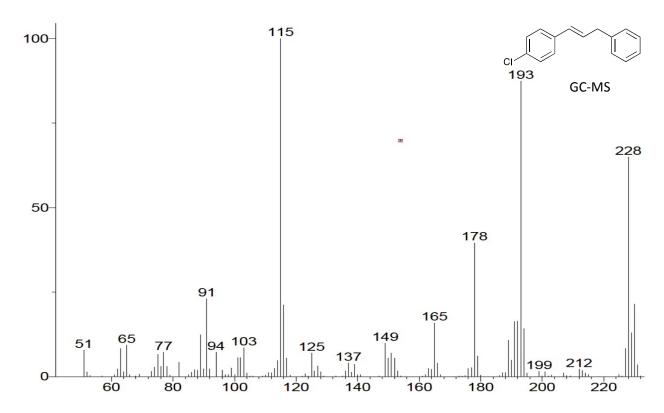




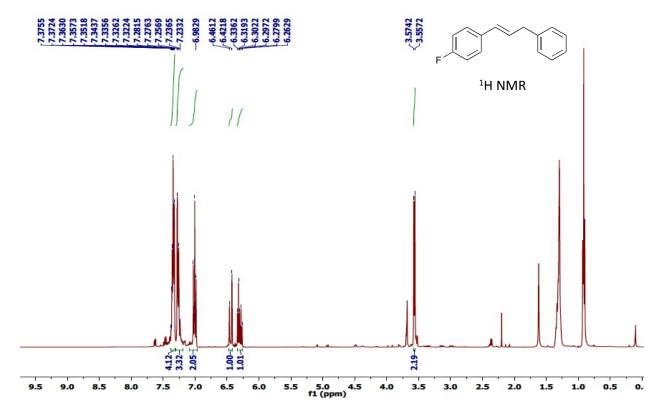
(3e) (*E*)-1-chloro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene

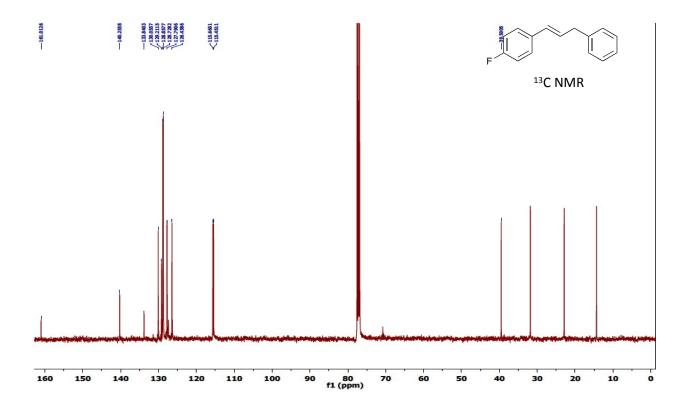


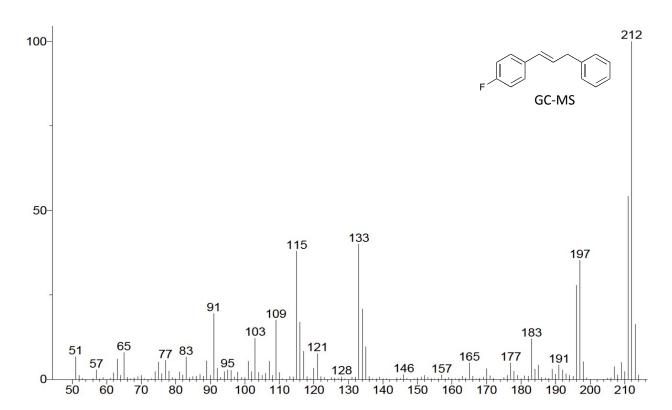




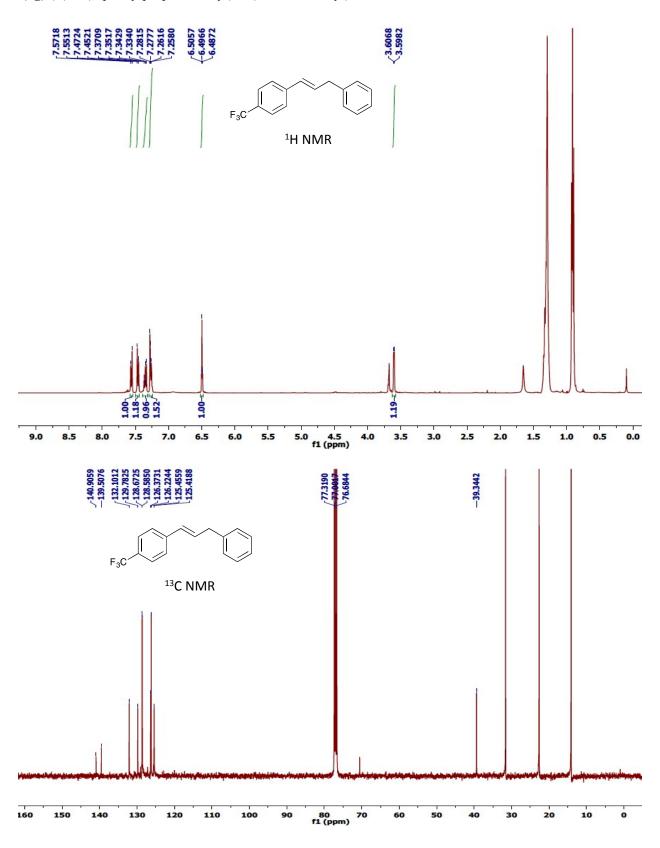
(3f) (*E*)-1-fluoro-4-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene

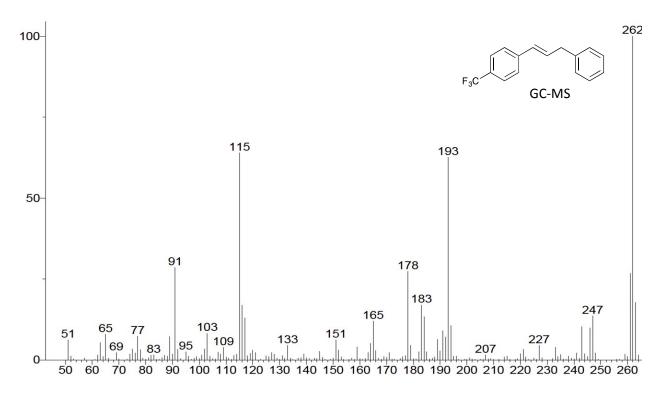




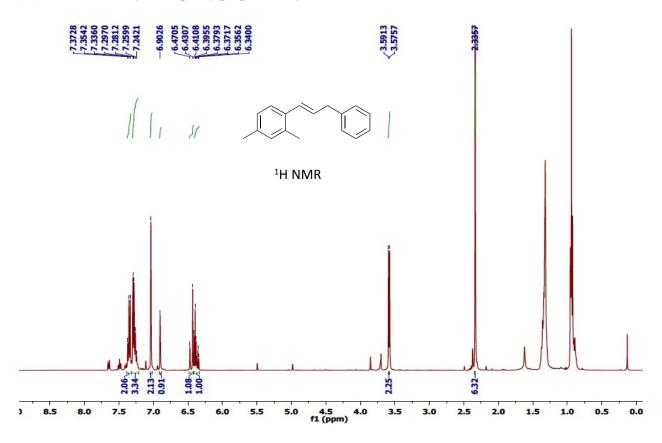


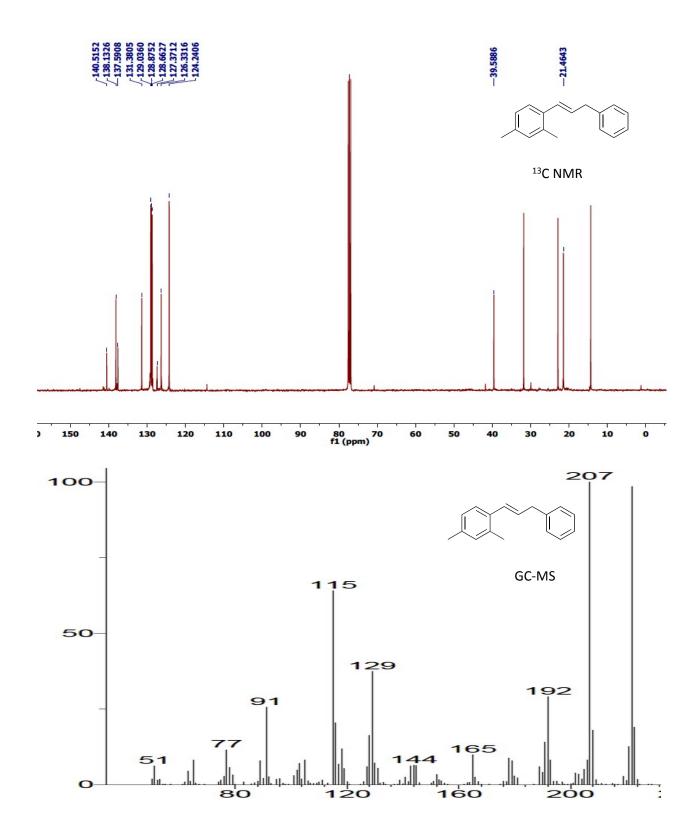
(3g) (E)-1-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene



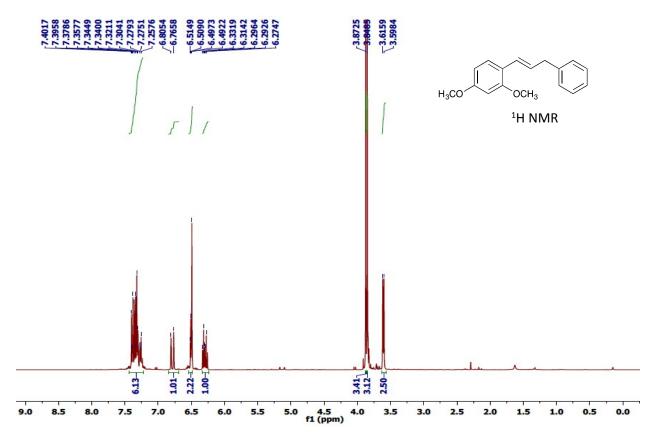


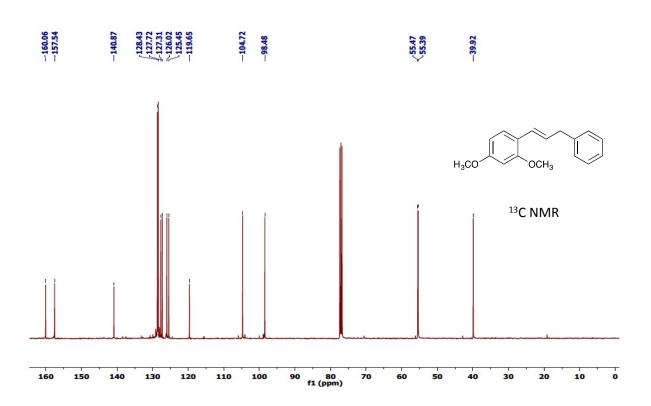
(3h) (*E*)-2,4-dimethyl-1-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene

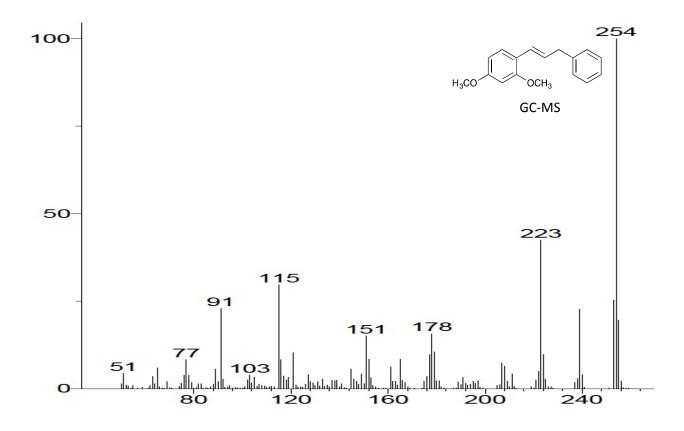


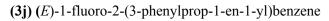


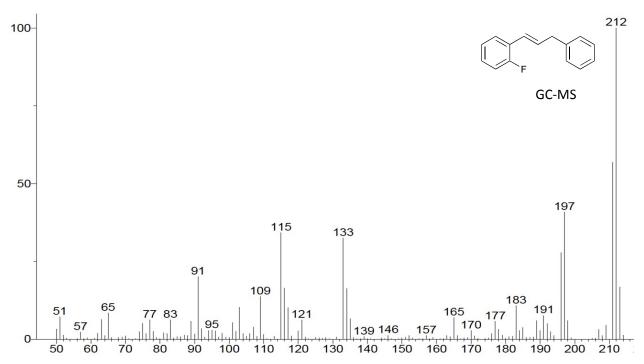
(3i) (E)-2,4-dimethoxy-1-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene



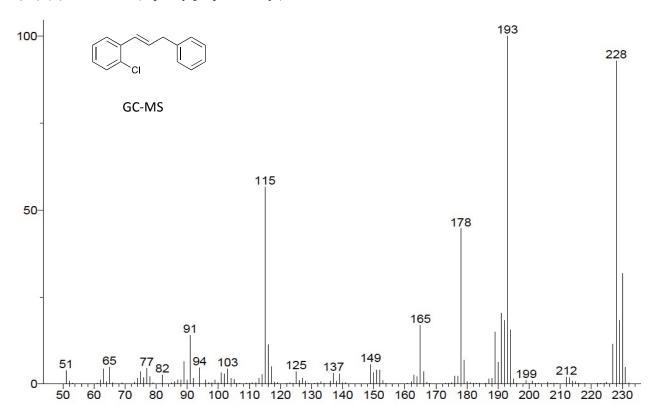








(3k) (*E*)-1-chloro-2-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene



(31) (*E*)-1-fluoro-3-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene

