

**Scope of regioselective Suzuki reactions in the synthesis of arylpyridines and
benzylpyridines and subsequent intramolecularcyclizations to azafluorenes and
azafluorenones**

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General considerations

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. All reactions were performed in a screw capped vial. The proton (¹H) and carbon (¹³C) NMR spectra were obtained using 400 MHz with Me₄Si as an internal standard and are reported in δ units. Coupling constants (J values) are reported in hertz (Hz). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-120#, 100-200#, and 230-400#). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained using electron spray ionization (ESI) and a time-of-flight (TOF) mass analyzer.

General Procedure for the Suzuki Coupling of Bromoheteroarenes with Arylboronic acids (3a-3j)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a bromoheteroarene (bromopyridines) (1 equiv, 0.5 mmol), arylboronic acid (1.2 equiv), Pd₂(dba)₃ (1 mol%), X-Phos (2 mol%), and K₃PO₄.H₂O (3 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. Dioxane (3 mL) and H₂O (1 mL) were added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8 ~ 3:7) to give the desired product.

General Procedure for the Regioselective Suzuki Coupling of 2,3-Dihalopyridines with 2-Methylphenylboronic acids derivatives (3k-3s)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a bromoheteroarene (e.g. 2,3-dibromopyridine or 3-bromo-2-chloropyridine) (1 equiv, 0.5 mmol), 2-methylphenylboronic acid derivative (1.2 equiv), Pd₂(dba)₃ (1 mol%), X-Phos (2 mol%), and K₃PO₄.H₂O (3 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. 1,4Dioxane (3 mL) and H₂O (1 mL) were added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant

stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8 ~ 3:7) to give the desired product(**3k-3s**).

Typical Procedure for the synthesis of 3-(Chloromethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3aa)

In an oven dried 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a 3-Methyl-2-phenylpyridine **3a** (0.5 mmol), NCS (1.2 equiv), AIBN (5 mol%), and CCl_4 (4 mL). The mixture was refluxed at 90 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated solution of Na_2CO_3 (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the synthesis of 3-(Chloromethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ab)

In an oven dried 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a 3-Methyl-2-phenylpyridine **3a** (0.5 mmol), NBS (1.2 equiv), AIBN (5 mol%), and CCl_4 (4 mL). The mixture was refluxed at 90 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated solution of Na_2CO_3 (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the reduction of Ethyl 2-phenylnicotinate (3i) to (2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol (3j)

To the solution of ethyl 2-phenylnicotinate **3i**(1 mmol) in THF:MeOH (2:1, 8 mL), NaBH_4 (10 equiv) was added portionwise at 0 °C. The mixture was refluxed at 70 °C for 4 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. Water was added (20 mL) and the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:6) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of 3-(Chloromethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3aa) from (2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol (3j)

To the solution of (2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol^{3j} (0.5 mmol), Et₃N (1.5 equiv) in DCM (4 mL), methane sulphonyl chloride (1.5 equiv) was added drop by drop at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated solution of Na₂CO₃ (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (20 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of 3-(Bromomethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ab) from (2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol (3j)

To the solution of (2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol^{3j} (0.5 mmol) in DCM (4 mL), PBr₃ (1.5 equiv) was added drop by drop at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated solution of Na₂CO₃ (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (20 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

General Procedure for the Regioselective Suzuki Coupling of 2-Halo-3-halomethylpyridine with Arylboronic acids (3t-3x)

A solution of 2-halo-3-halomethylpyridine (0.5 mmol), arylboronic acid (1.2 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol%), sodium carbonate (2 equiv) in THF:Water (4:1, 3 mL) was heated at 70 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, neutralized with a saturated solution of Na₂CO₃ (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 1:9 ~ 2:8) to give the desired product.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 1-Azafluorenes (4a-4e)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a substrate (**3i**, **3k**, **3m** or **3n**, 0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) and Na₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv).

The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. DMA (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 14 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8 ~ 3:7) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the One-Pot Synthesis of 1-Azafluorene (4a)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a 3-bromo-2-chloro pyridine (0.25 mmol), 2-methylphenylboronic acid (1.2 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) and Na₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. DMA (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 3:7) to give the desired product.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 4-Azafluorenes (4f-4i)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a substrate (**3o, 3p, 3q, or 3r**, 0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), X-Phos(10 mol%) and K₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. Toluene (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of 3-Azafluorene (4j)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a 3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-methylpyridine **3e** (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), PCy₃ (10 mol%) and Na₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. DMF (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 3:7) to give the desired product.

Typical Procedure for the Intramolecular Cyclization of 3-(2-chloromethyl)phenyl)pyridine (3y)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a 3-(2-(chloromethyl)phenyl)pyridine **3y** (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), rac-BINAP (10 mol%) and Cs₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. Toluene (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 3:7) to give the desired cyclized products.

Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of 4-Azafluorenone (4l)

An oven-dried screw cap vial equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with a substrate 3-benzyl-2-bromopyridine **3t** (0.25 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), X-Phos (10 mol%) and K₂CO₃ (1.2 equiv). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen. DMF (1mL) was added via a syringe under a flow of nitrogen. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and it was neutralized with a saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) by constant stirring. It was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure, and

purified by column chromatography (100-200# silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 2:8) to give the desired product.

2. Characterization data

*3-Methyl-2-phenylpyridine (3a)*¹. Yellow oil; yield 89% (75 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.7, 146.9, 140.6, 138.4, 130.8, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9, 122.0, 20.0; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N [M+H]⁺ 170.0970, found 170.0978.

2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-3-methylpyridine (3b). Colorless oil; yield 81% (41 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.1, 146.7, 139.5, 137.7, 132.7, 132.1, 130.4, 129.4, 129.3, 126.9, 122.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₀NCl [M+H]⁺ 204.0580, found 203.0570.

4-Methyl-3-phenylpyridine (3c).² Brown oil; yield 85% (68 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.45 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.21 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.6, 147.9, 144.8, 137.8, 137.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 127.7, 125.3, 115.7, 19.8; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N [M+H]⁺ 170.0970, found 170.0973.

2-(2-Bromophenyl)-3-methylpyridine (3d). Yellow oil; yield 77% (95 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.52 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.5, 146.6, 141.4, 137.8, 132.6, 131.8, 130.2, 129.5, 127.5, 122.9, 122.5, 18.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁NBr [M+H]⁺ 248.0075 and 250.0054 found 248.0068 and 250.0060.

3-(2-Bromophenyl)-4-methylpyridine (3e). Colorless oil; yield 79% (98 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 149.1, 147.0, 141.3, 133.2, 131.3, 129.6, 127.4, 125.5, 123.4, 121.8, 21.1; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁BrN [M+H]⁺ 248.0075 and 250.0054 found 248.0065 and 250.0060.

*3-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)pyridine(3f).* Colorless oil; yield 87% (96 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.43 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.7, 146.9, 138.4, 137.7, 137.6, 130.7, 128.8, 121.8, 21.3, 20.1; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 184.1126 found 184.1113.

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methylpyridine (3g). Colorless oil; yield 83% (92 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.52 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.11 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7, 157.6, 146.9, 138.6, 136.6, 130.8, 115.1.2, 114.9, 20.0; ^{19}F NMR (150 MHz CDCl_3 ; CFCl_3) -113.75 (s), HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{FN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 188.0876 found 188.0871.

4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile(3h). Colorless oil; yield 80% (98 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.56 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 156.5, 147.3, 145.0, 138.9, 132.0, 130.9, 129.8, 123.0, 118.8, 111.7, 19.8; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 195.0922 found 195.920.

*Ethyl 2-phenylnicotinate (3i).*³ Colorless oil; yield 76% (86 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.12 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.1, 158.8, 151.2, 140.2, 137.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 121.6. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 241.1103 found 241.1100, IR (KBr): 2923, 2853, 1721, 763, 751 cm^{-1} .

*(2-Phenylpyridin-3-yl)methanol (3j).*³ Colorless oil; yield 71% (65 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H); 4.73 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.4, 147.7, 139.2, 136.4, 134.4, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 122.4, 61.4; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 186.0919 found 186.0919; IR (KBr): 3345, 2955, 2916, 1708 cm^{-1} .

*2-Bromo-3-(*o*-tolyl)pyridine(3k).* Yellow oil; yield 27% (33 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.65 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.9, 138.5, 136.5, 135.5, 130.2, 130.0,

129.8, 127.5, 124.8, 121.6, 19.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}BrN$ $[M+H]^+$ 248.0075 and 250.0054 found 248.0078 and 250.0058.

2,3-di-o-tolylpyridine (3k'). Yellow oil; yield 27% (33 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.73 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 158.5, 147.9, 139.6, 138.7, 138.5, 136.5, 135.9, 135.5, 130.3, 130.2, 130.0, 129.8, 127.6, 127.5, 125.2, 124.8, 121.6, 20.0, 19.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}BrN$ $[M+H]^+$ 259.1361 found 259.1367.

2-Chloro-3-(o-tolyl)pyridine (3l). Colorless oil; yield 80% (81 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.42 (dd, J = 4.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 150.5, 148.6, 139.6, 136.0, 129.3, 128.6, 125.8, 122.3, 19.8. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}ClN$ $[M+H]^+$ 204.0580 found 204.0593.

Methyl 4-(2-chloropyridin-3-yl)-3-methylbenzoate (3m). Colorless oil; yield 68% (88 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.47 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 166.8, 149.1, 141.7, 139.2, 136.6, 136.0, 131.3, 130.3, 129.5, 127.0, 122.3, 52.2, 19.79; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}ClNO_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 262.0635 found 262.0636; IR (KBr): 2981, 2930, 1731, 1705, 1436, 776 cm^{-1} .

2-Chloro-3-(2-methyl-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)pyridine (3n). White solid; yield 84% (120 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.46 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 150.5, 149.2, 149.05, 139.6, 138.5, 135.8, 130.7, 122.3, 121.7, 119.2, 118.1, 19.9.; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}ClF_3NO$ $[M+H]^+$ 288.0403 found 288.0411.

N-(4-(2-Chloropyridin-3-yl)-3-methylphenyl)acetamide (3o). Yellow solid; yield 76% (98 mg); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.41 (dd, J = 4.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.57 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 168.6, 150.7, 148.6, 139.9, 138.1, 137.1, 136.4, 133.2, 129.9, 122.3,

121.2, 117.3, 24.6, 20.0; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}ClN_2O$ $[M+H]^+$ 261.0795 found 261.07805, IR (KBr): 3299, 2926, 1668, 1594, 1533, 1445, 1389, 1315 cm^{-1} .

Methyl 3-(2-chloropyridin-3-yl)-4-methylbenzoate (3p). Colorless oil; yield 71% (92 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.46 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.7, 150.4, 149.0, 141.8, 139.6, 137.4, 136.0, 130.5, 130.3, 129.7, 128.0, 122.4, 52.1, 20.0. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}ClNO_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 262.0635 found 262.0644; IR (KBr): 2951, 2924, 2853, 1717, 1385, 1256, 1237, 760 cm^{-1} .

2-Chloro-3-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)pyridine (3q). Colorless oil; yield 78% (88 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.41 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.81 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.6, 151.1, 148.4, 140.1, 137.6, 136.7, 130.4, 129.8, 122.2, 115.5, 111.1, 55.2, 20.1. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{13}ClNO$ $[M+H]^+$ 234.0686 found 234.0699.

2-chloro-2'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3r). Colorless oil; yield 82% (88 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.36 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.81 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.6, 151.1, 148.4, 140.1, 137.6, 136.7, 130.4, 129.8, 122.2, 115.5, 111.1, 55.2, 20.1. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{13}ClNO$ $[M+H]^+$ 234.0686 found 234.0699.

2-bromo-2'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (3s). Colorless oil; yield 33% (55 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.63 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 156.6, 151.0, 148.2, 140.3, 134.2, 130.7, 130.1, 126.5, 122.2, 120.5, 111.1, 55.5. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{12}BrO$ $[M+H]^+$ 264.0024 and 266.0004 found 264.0071 and 266.0010.

3-(Chloromethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3aa). Colorless oil; yield 77% (78 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.68 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 4.62 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.4, 149.3, 138.9, 138.7, 130.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 122.7, 43.6; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}ClN$ $[M+H]^+$ 204.0580 found 204.0589.

3-(Bromomethyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ab). Colorless oil; yield 83% (102 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 8.67 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 4H), 4.68 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 158.1, 149.7, 139.9, 139.5, 131.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 123.5, 32.6; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.0075 and 250.0054 found 248.0083 and 250.0060.

3-Benzyl-2-bromopyridine (3t). Viscous oil; yield 72% (89 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.26 (dd, J = 4.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.18 (m, 7H), 4.11 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.9, 147.4, 144.6, 138.8, 138.0, 137.9, 129.1, 128.7, 126.7, 122.9, 122.7, 40.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 248.0075 and 250.0054 found 248.0079 and 250.0062.

2-Bromo-3-(2-methylbenzyl)pyridine (3u). Colorless oil; yield 68% (89 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.25 (dd, J = 4.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.7, 144.7, 138.01, 137.3, 136.7, 136.1, 130.5, 129.9, 127.2, 126.3, 122.9. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 262.0231 and 264.0211 found 262.0243 and 264.0208.

1-(2-((2-Bromopyridin-3-yl)methyl)phenyl)ethanone (3v). Colorless oil; yield 62% (89 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.24 (dd, J = 4.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 3H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.2, 147.6, 144.6, 138.5, 138.0, 138.0, 137.7, 132.0, 131.8, 129.9, 126.9, 122.7; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 290.0181 and 292.0160 found 290.0184 and 292.0188. IR (KBr): 2955, 2916, 2849, 1672, 1398, 1355, 1238, 1049, 751 cm^{-1} .

1-(4-((2-Bromopyridin-3-yl)methyl)phenyl)ethanone (3w). Colorless oil; yield 64% (92 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.29 (dd, J = 4.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 4.17 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.6, 148.3, 144.6, 143.6, 138.9, 136.9, 135.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 123.0, 40.9, 26.6. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 290.0181 and 292.0160 found 290.0188 and 292.0167. IR (KBr): 2924, 2853, 1679, 1400, 1356, 1265, 1049, 790 cm^{-1}

3-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)pyridine (3x). Colorless oil; yield 38% (53 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.57 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.28-

2.23 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 4.00 (s, 2H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.9, 161.4, 158.1, 147.5, 138.4, 136.2, 130.7, 130.1, 122.5, 115.5, 115.1, 37.7 ^{19}F (150 MHz CDCl_3 ; CFCl_3) -113.75 (s), -116.63 (s), HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 282.1094 found 282.1107.

*9H-Indeno[2,1-*b*]pyridine (4a).*⁴ Yellow solid; yield 87% (36 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.49 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.5, 147.5, 141.3, 139.2, 135.1, 127.7, 127.1, 125.3, 121.7, 120.6, 38.7. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 168.0813 found 168.0815; IR (KBr): 2923, 2853, 1726, 753 cm^{-1} .

*Methyl 9H-indeno[2,1-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylate (4b).* Yellow solid; yield 62% (34 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.55 (dd, J = 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (dd, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 167.7, 151.0, 141.6, 139.5, 136.2, 135.2, 131.7, 130.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.5, 124.6, 122.0, 65.5, 52.7; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 226.0868 found 226.0880; IR (KBr): 2958, 2954, 2864, 1721, 1276, 1257, 746 cm^{-1} .

*6-Methoxy-9H-indeno[2,1-*b*]pyridine (4c).* Yellow solid; yield 71% (35 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.40 (dd, J = 4.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.0, 159.8, 146.2, 143.2, 135.1, 132.1, 126.0, 121.6, 121.5, 113.5, 110.6, 55.5, 38.8. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 198.0919 found 198.0925.

3-(2-Methyl-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)pyridine (4e). Colorless oil; yield 42% (26 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.63 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 254.0793 found 254.0802.

*5H-Indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridine (4f).* Yellow solid; yield 87% (35 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.62 (dd, J = 4.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ

160.4, 148.2, 143.6, 132.4, 128.7, 127.3, 125.2, 121.1, 120.9, 34.5. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}N$ [M+H]⁺ 168.0813 found 168.0821.

*6-Methyl-5H-indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridine (4g).* Yellow solid; yield 54% (24 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.7, 148.1, 142.4, 140.4, 136.6, 134.3, 132.4, 129.6, 127.7, 121.0, 118.4, 33.4, 18.5. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{12}N$ [M+H]⁺ 182.0970 found 182.0977. IR (KBr): 2926, 2854, 736 cm⁻¹

*1-(5H-Indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridin-6-yl)ethanone (4h).* Yellow solid; yield 74% (38 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.2, 158.9, 148.2, 144.5, 142.4, 137.6, 133.5, 132.5, 130.1, 127.7, 125.2, 121.7, 60.3, 36.6. HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}NO$ [M+H]⁺ 210.0919 found 210.0925; IR (KBr): 2923, 2853, 1680, 1356, 1257, 782 cm⁻¹.

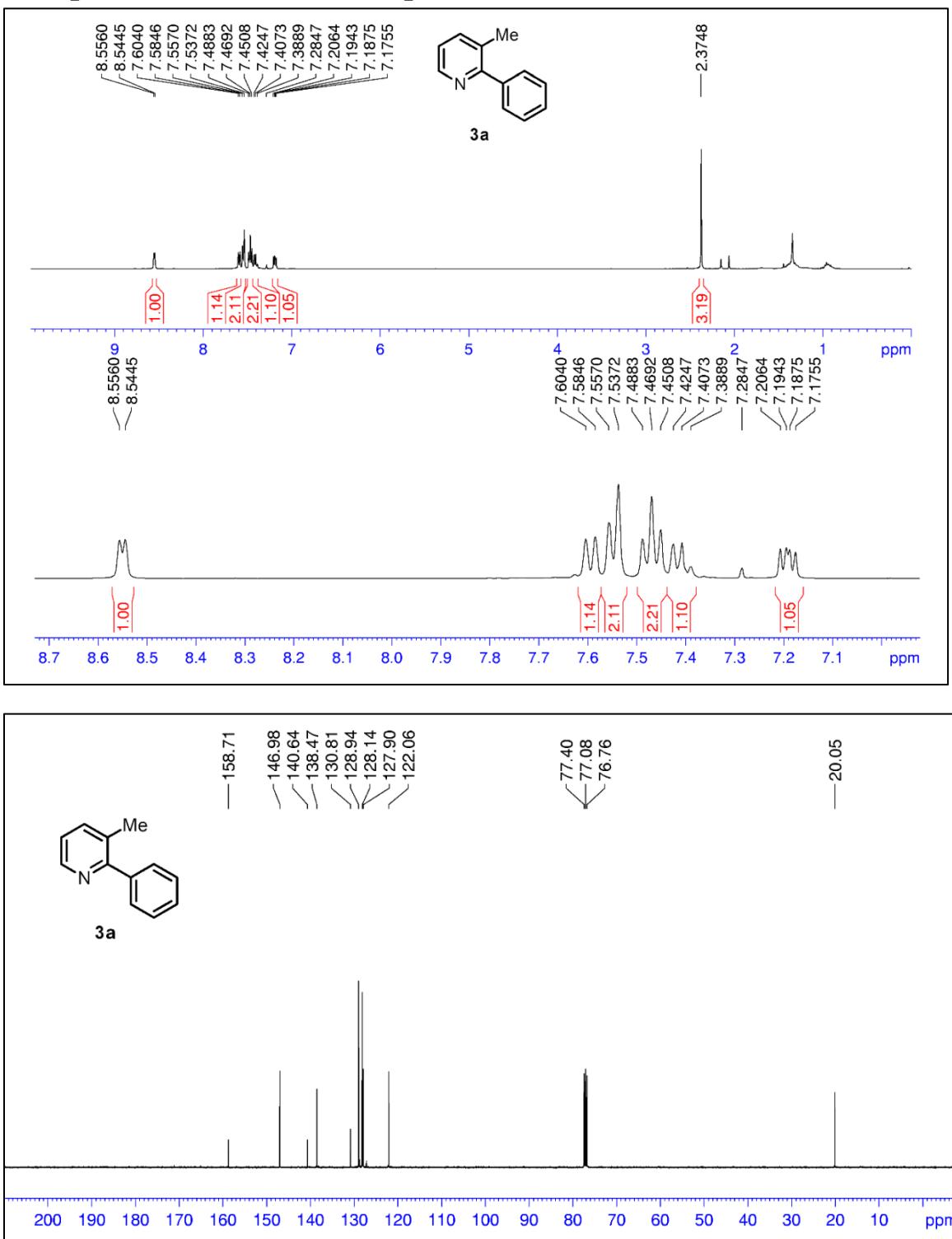
*1-(5H-Indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridin-8-yl)ethanone (4i).* Yellow solid; yield 51% (26 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68-8.65 (m, 2H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.6, 139.4, 136.9, 135.2, 132.7, 131.8, 128.4, 125.4, 121.8, 121.2, 118.3, 34.8, 26.9; HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}NO$ [M+H]⁺ 210.0919 found 210.0928. IR (KBr): 2955, 2918, 2851, 1709, 1685, 1377, 783 cm⁻¹.

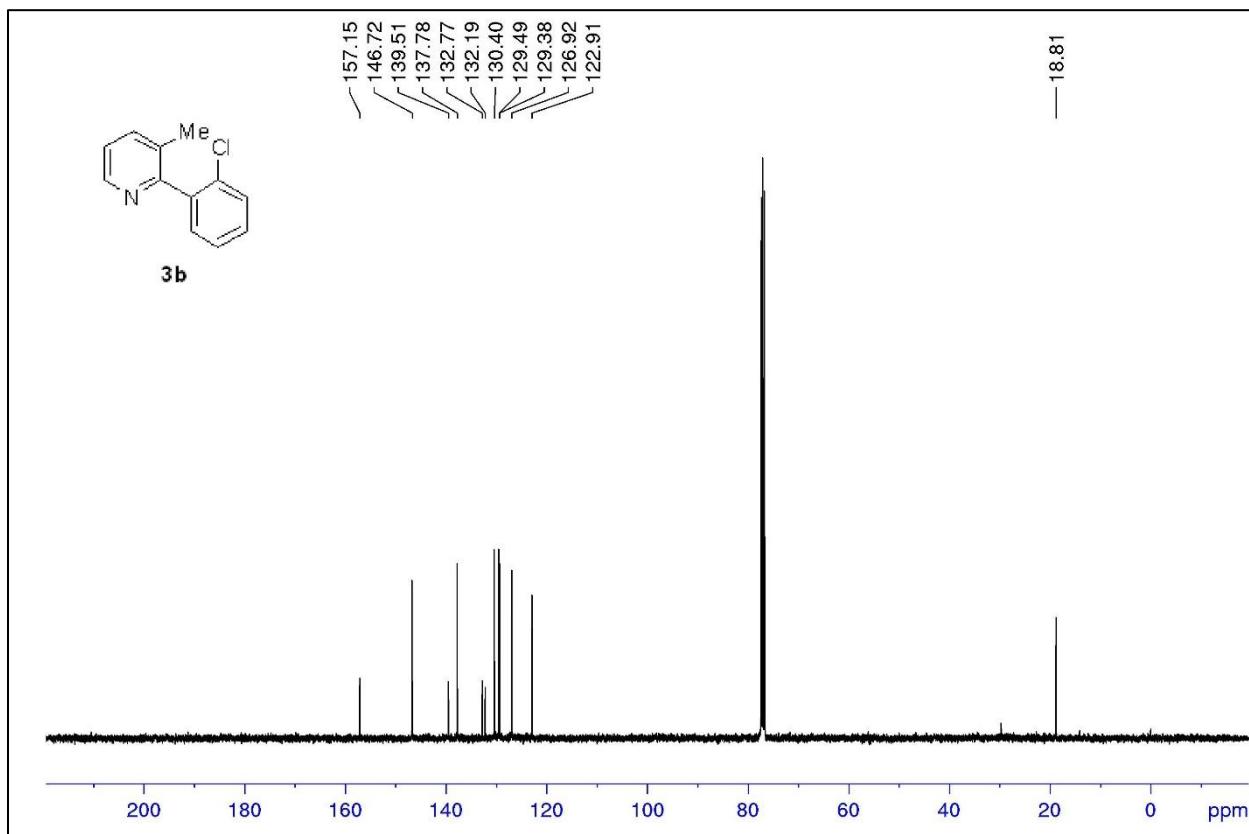
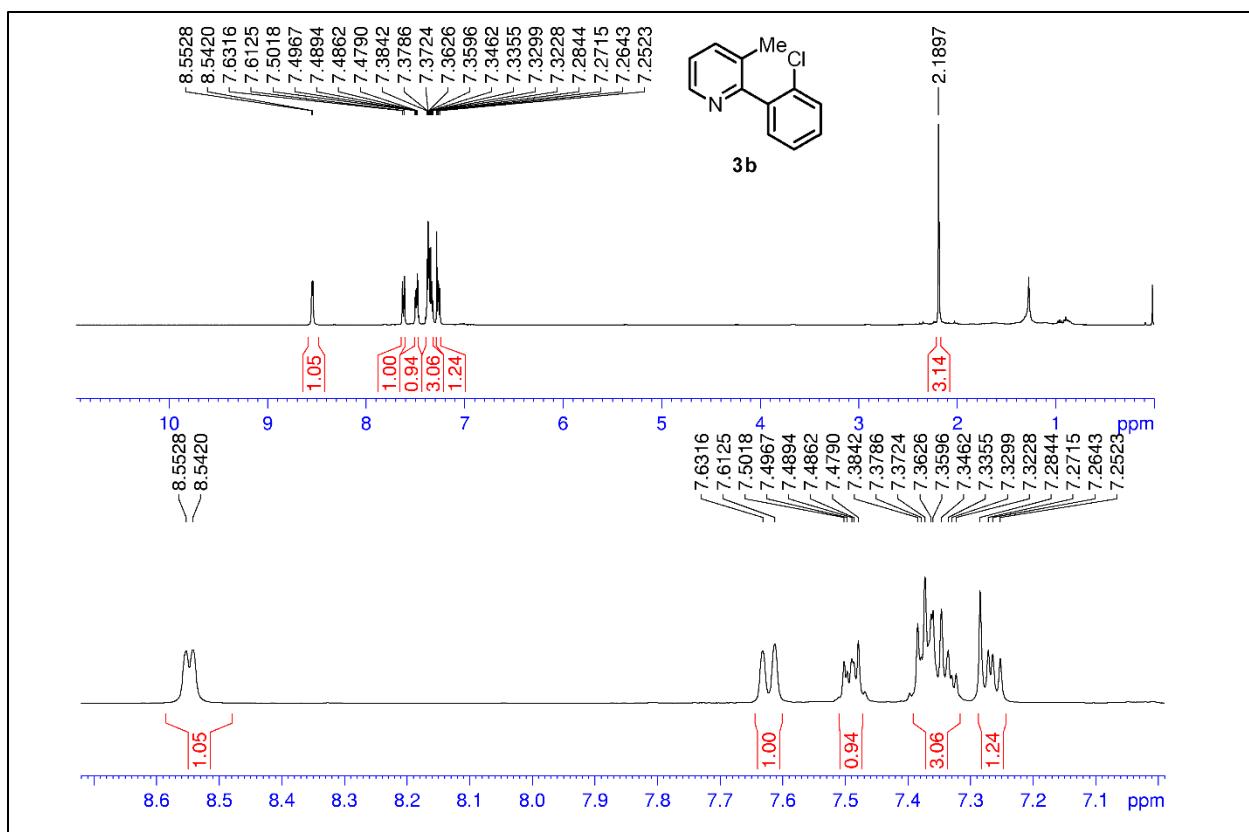
*5H-indeno[1,2-*c*]pyridin-5-one(4j).* Yellow solid; yield 42% (19 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 8.70 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (td, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H). IR (KBr): 2921, 2851, 1715, 739 cm⁻¹.

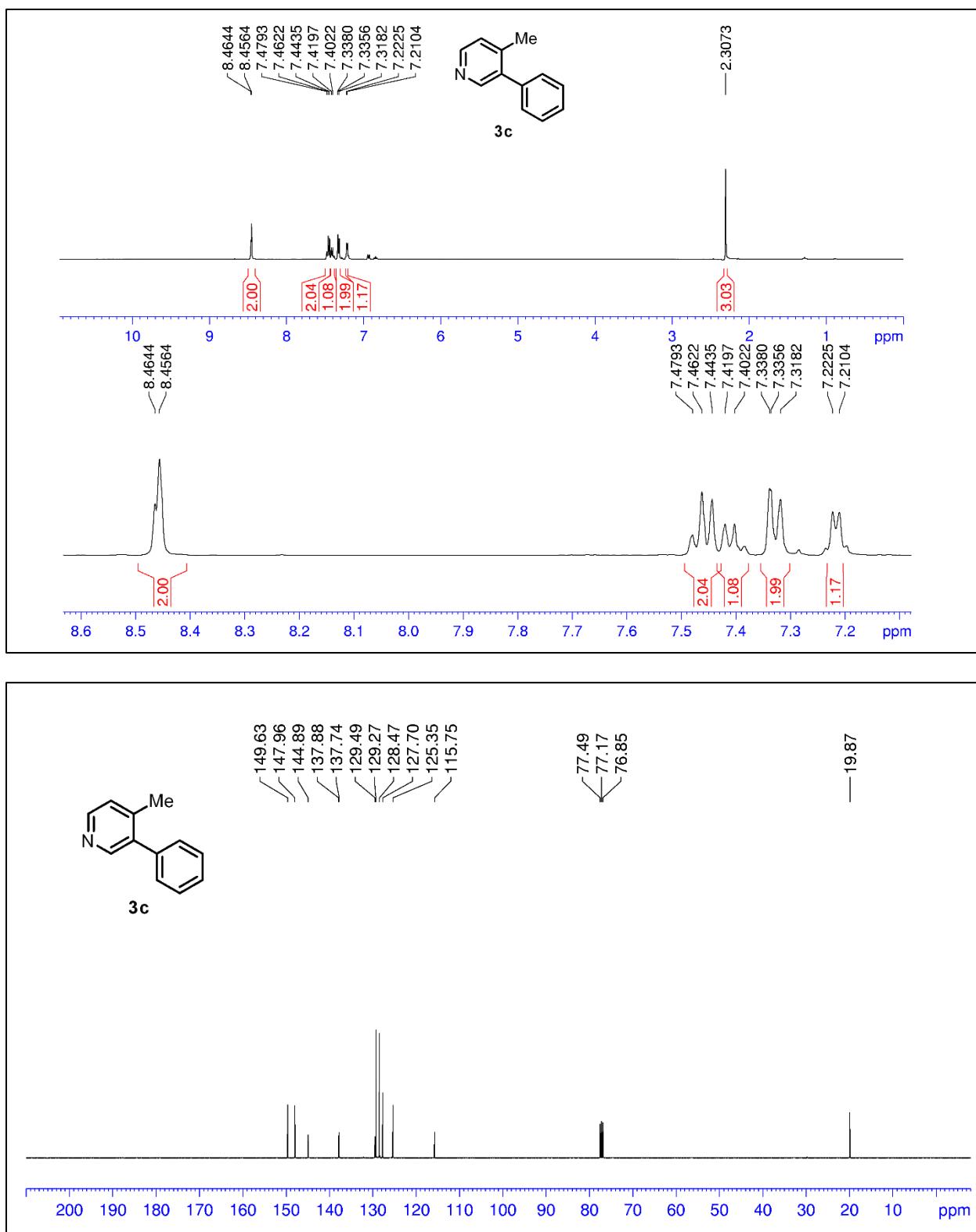
*9H-indeno[2,1-*b*]pyridin-9-one (4k)⁵.* Yellow solid; yield 13% (6 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.60 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 192.6, 153.1, 150.3, 141.6, 140.0, 135.5, 132.3, 130.0, 127.8, 127.1, 124.8, 121.1. IR (KBr): 2920, 2851, 1719, 758 cm⁻¹.

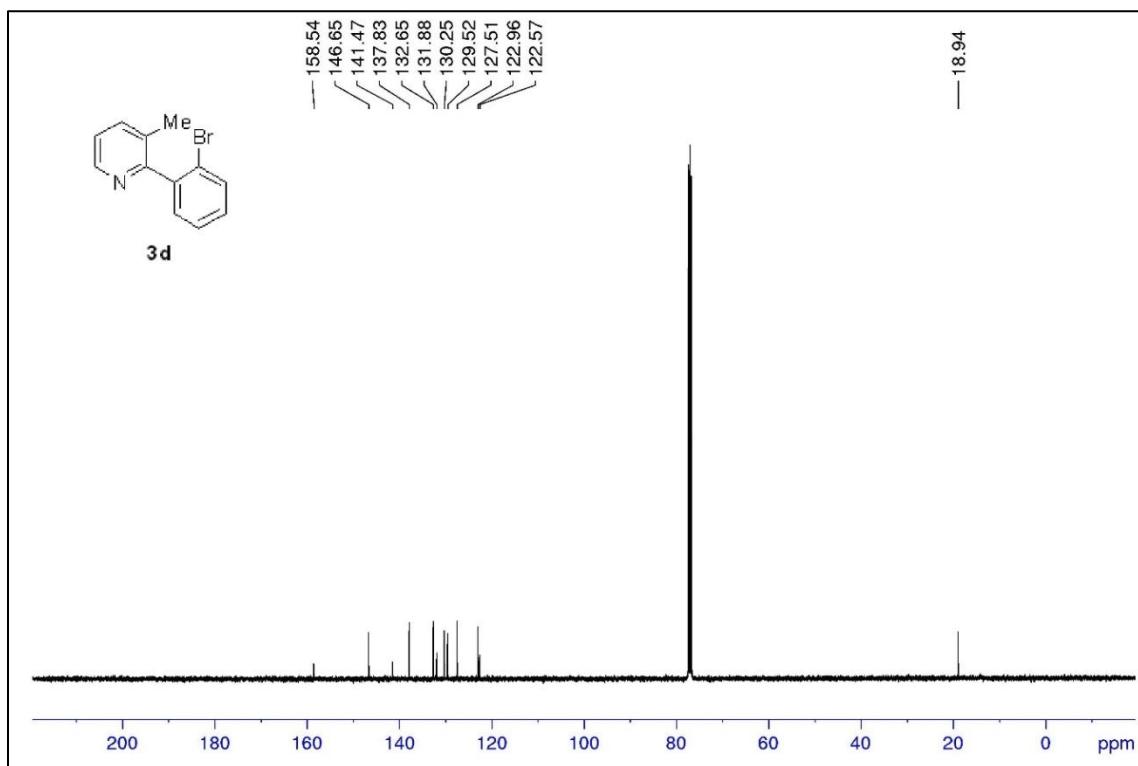
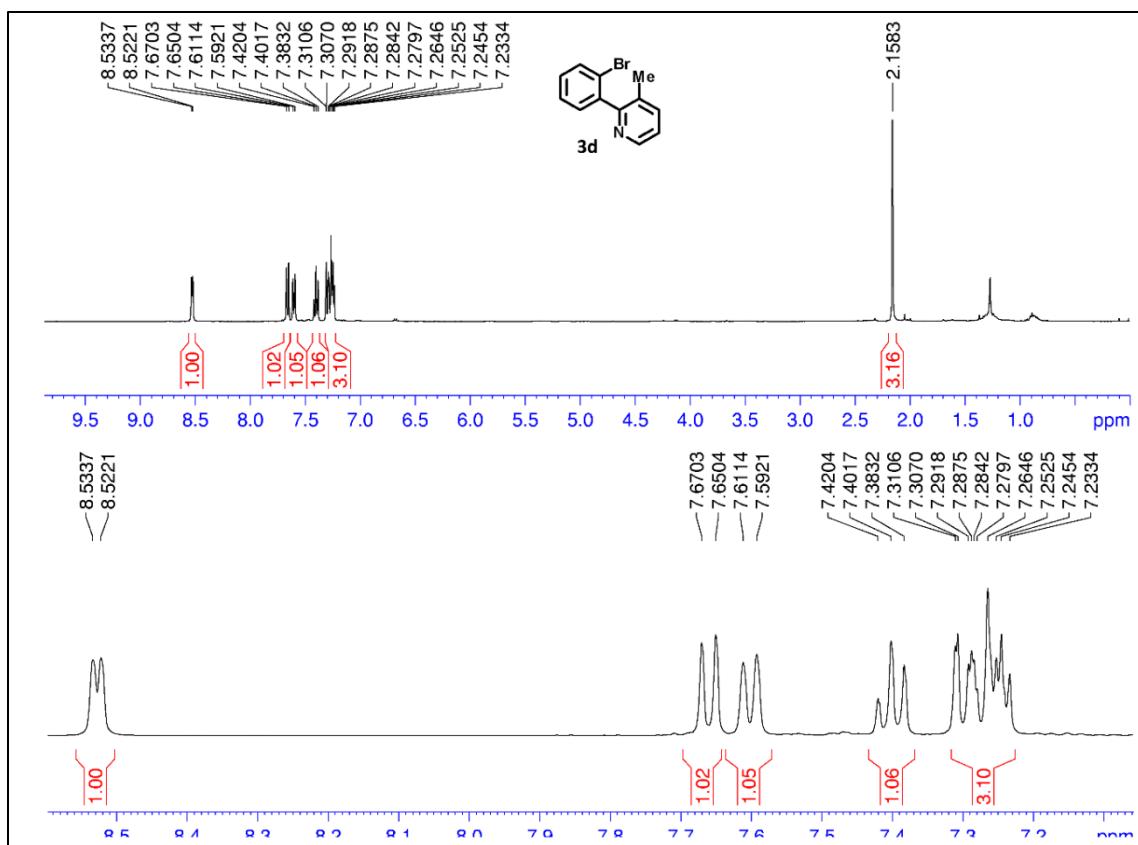
*5H-Indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridin-5-one (4l).* Yellow solid; yield 84% (38 mg); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (dd, J = 5.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (td, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H).); HRMS-ESI m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_7\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 182.0606 found 182.0606. IR (KBr): 2923, 2853, 1713, 743 cm^{-1} .

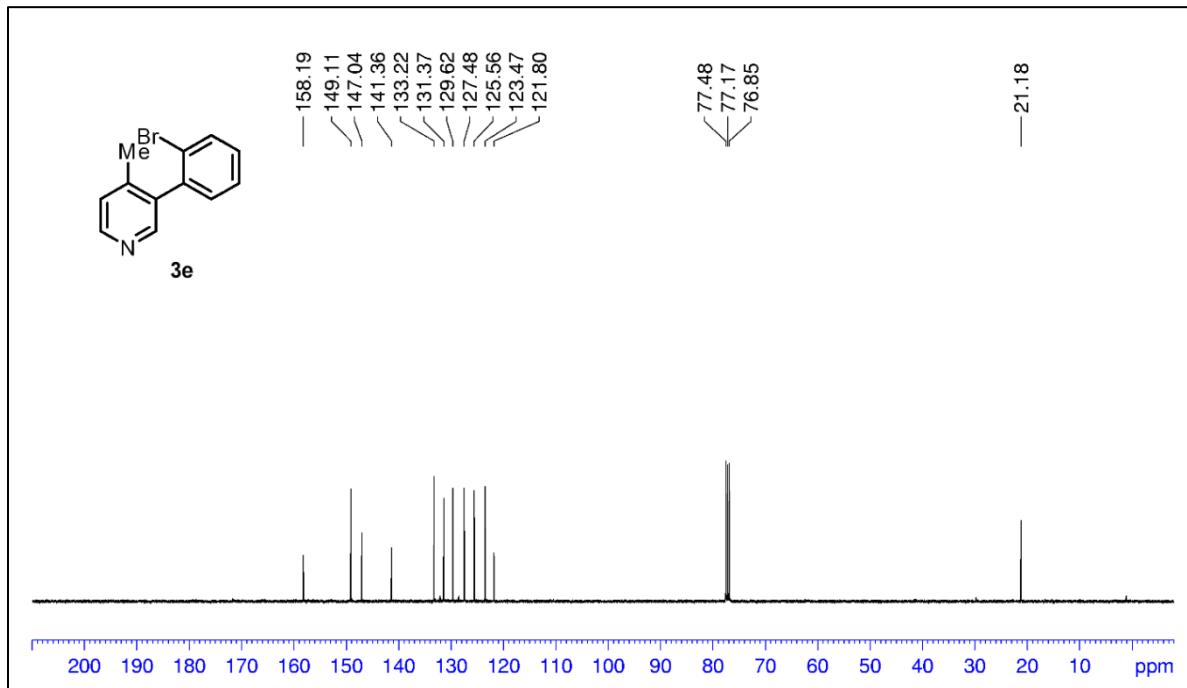
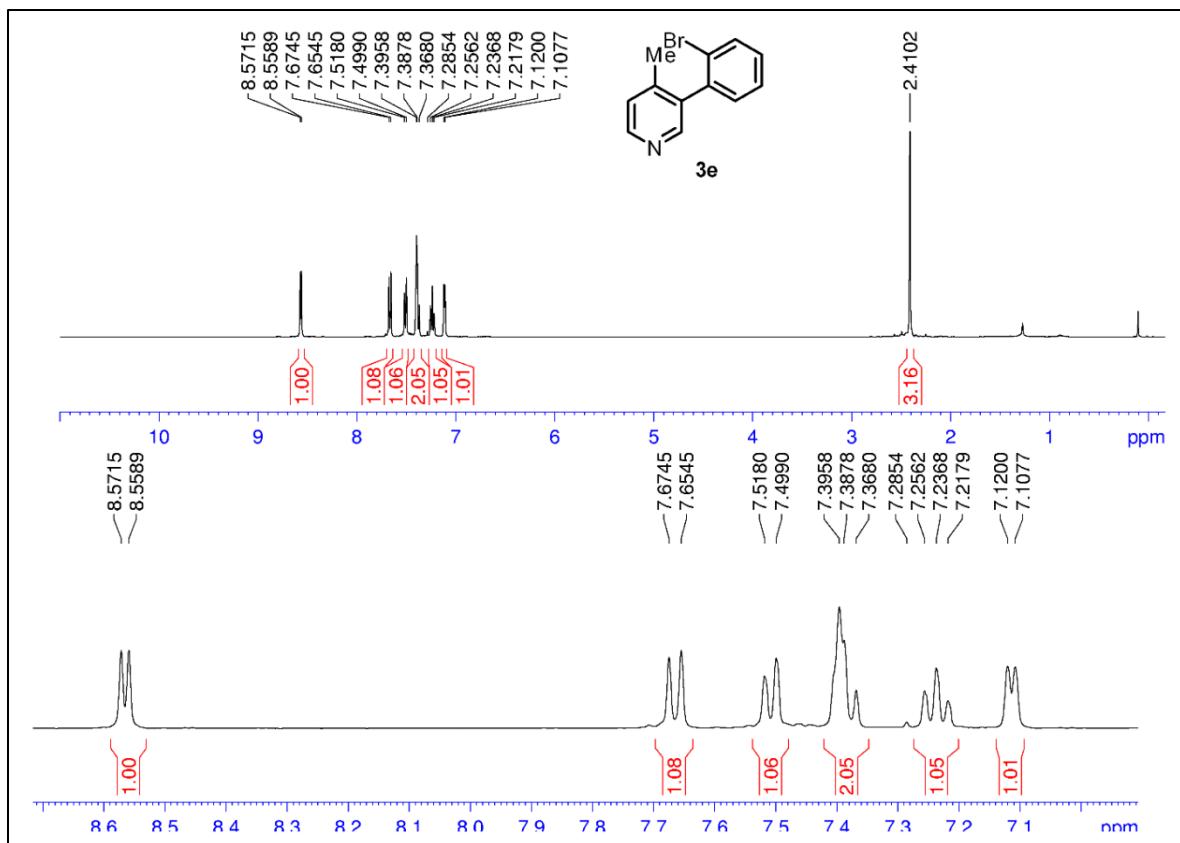
3. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

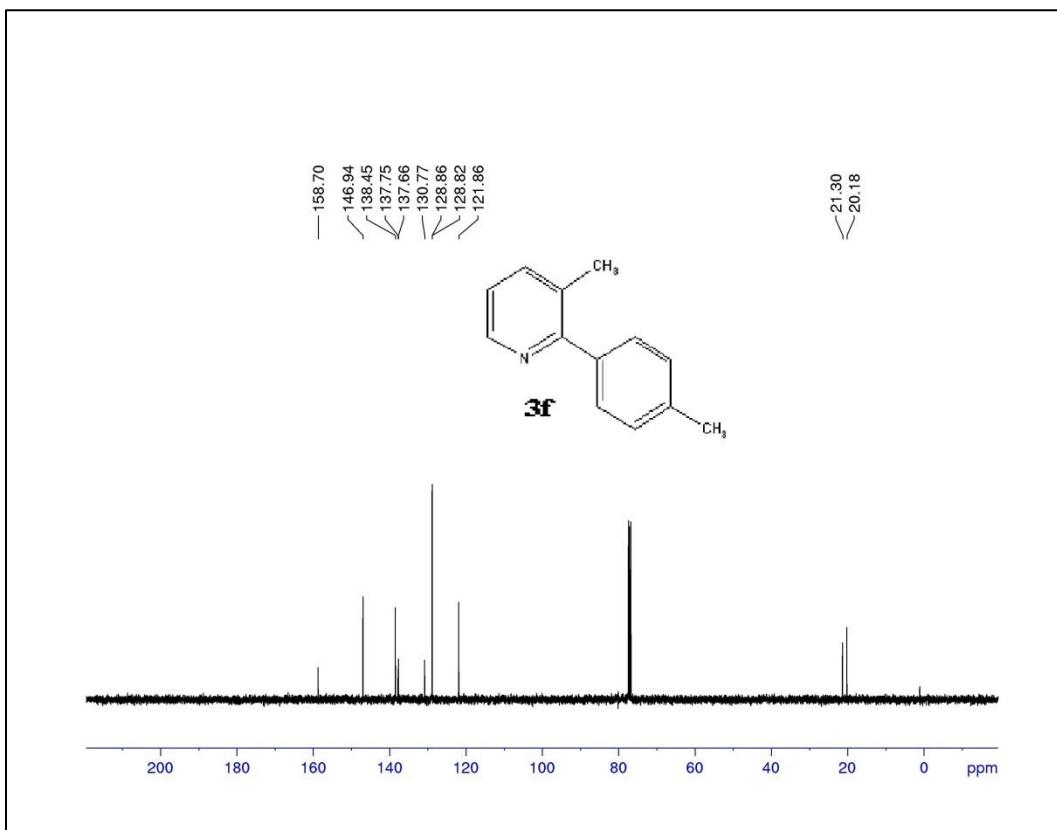
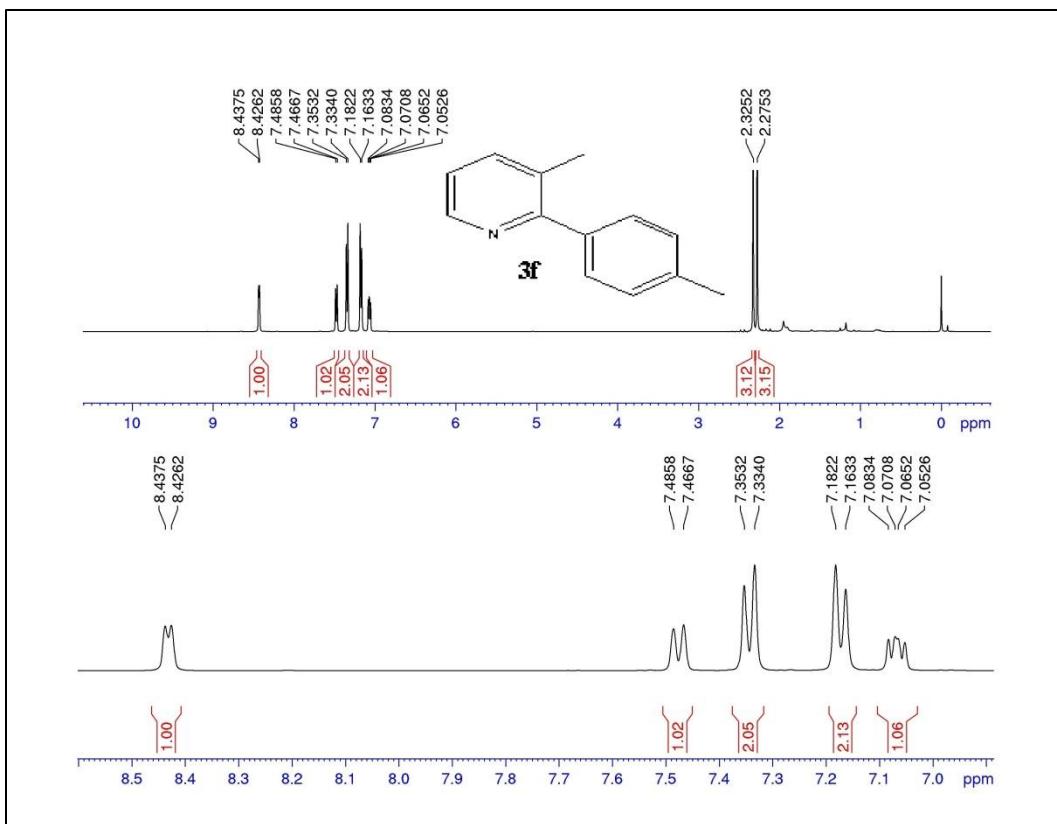


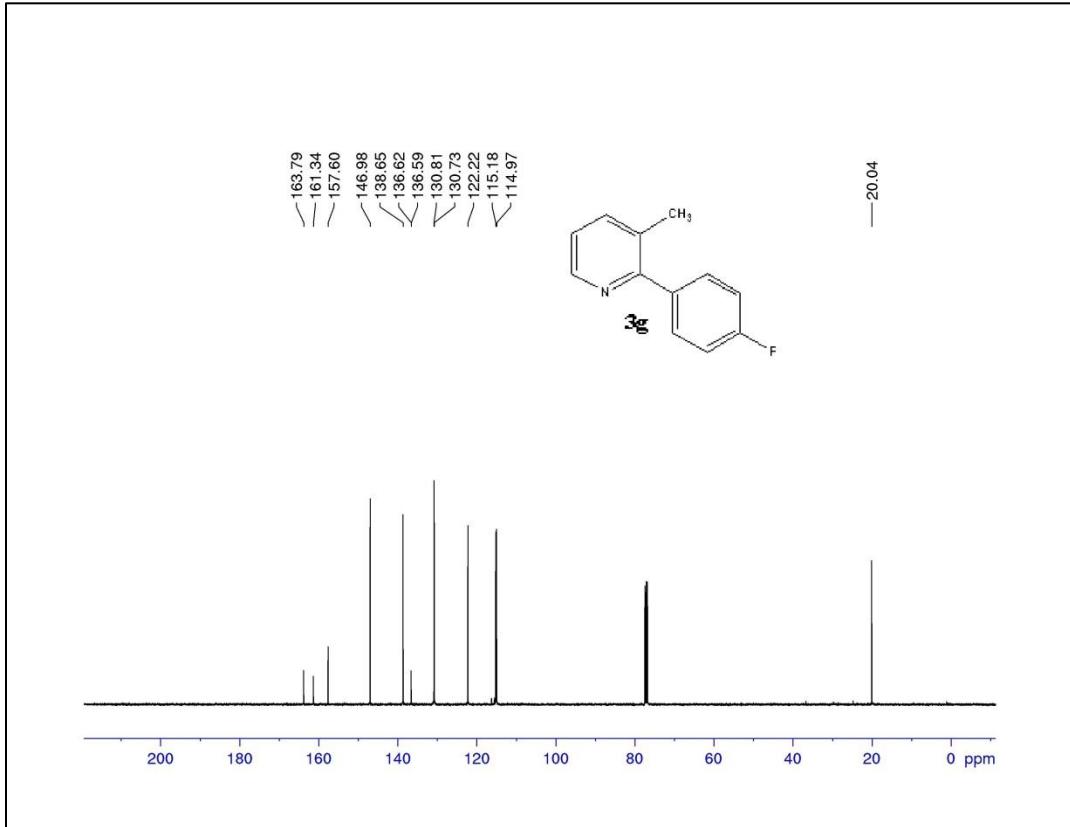
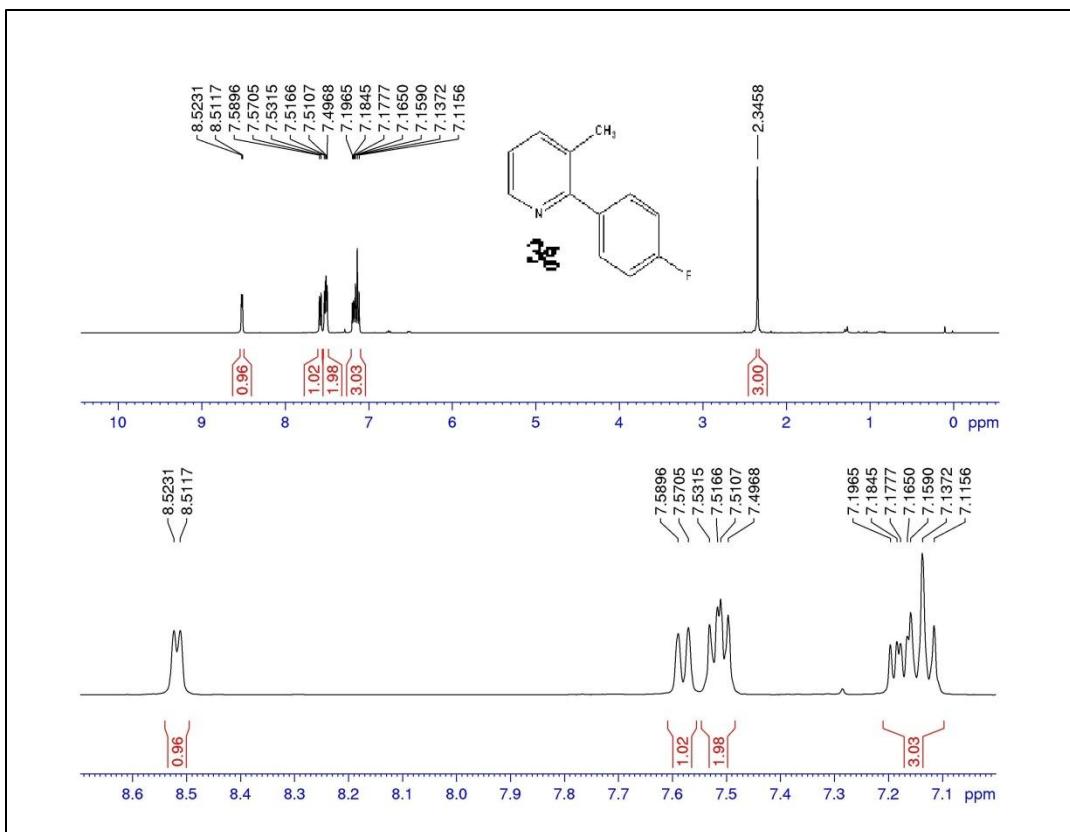


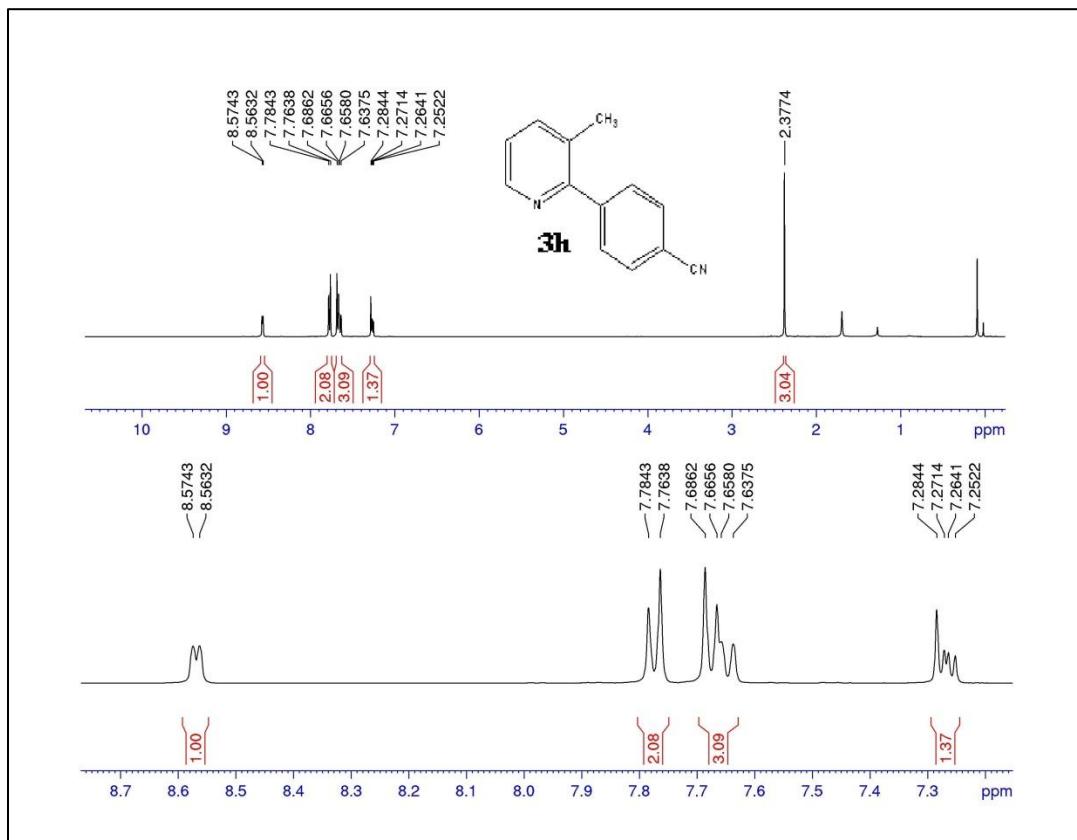
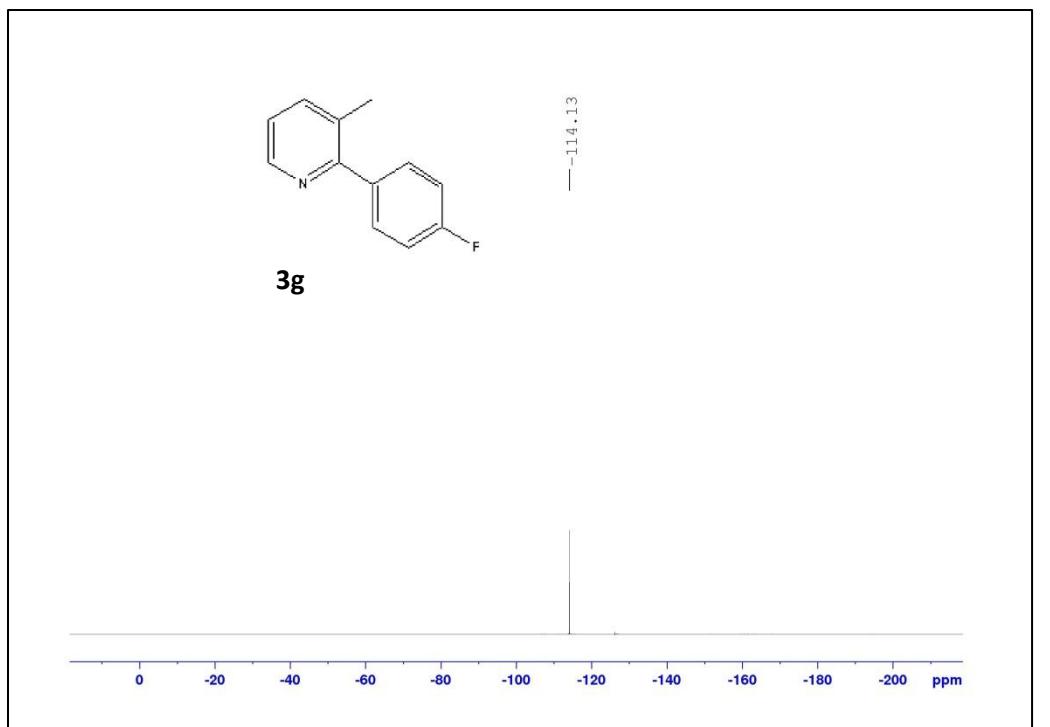


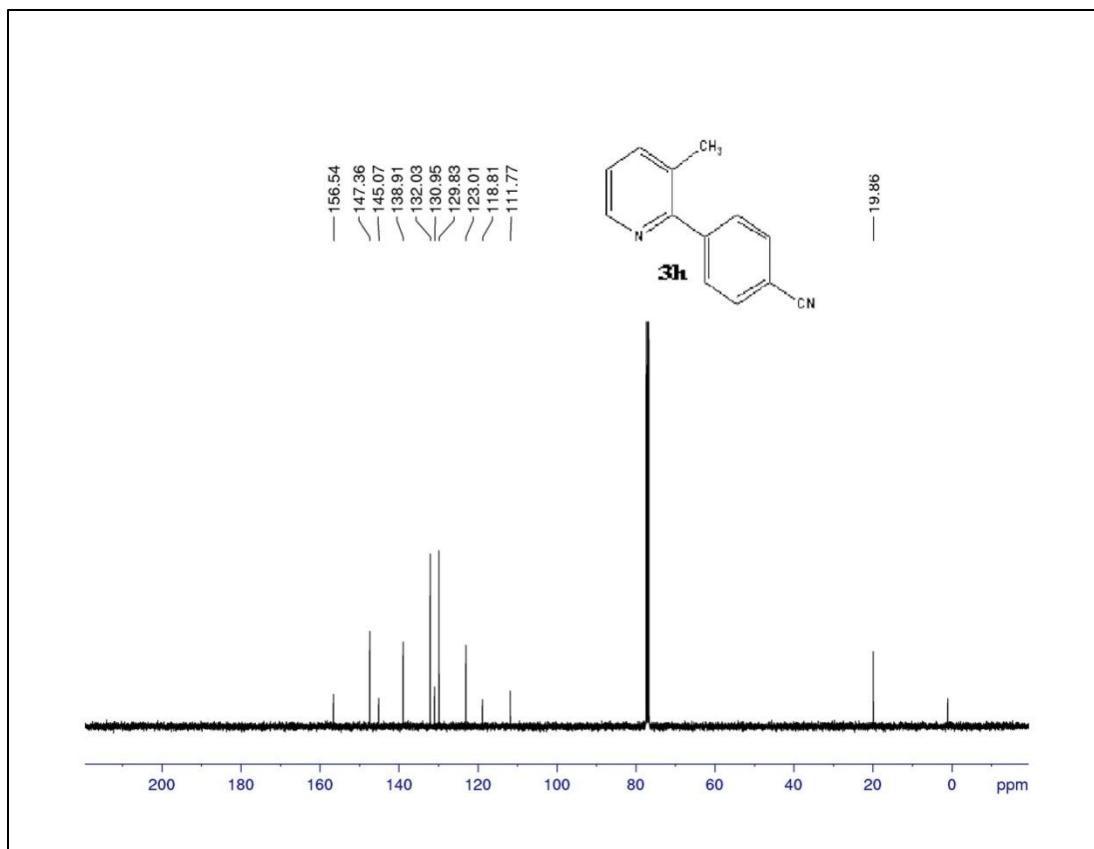


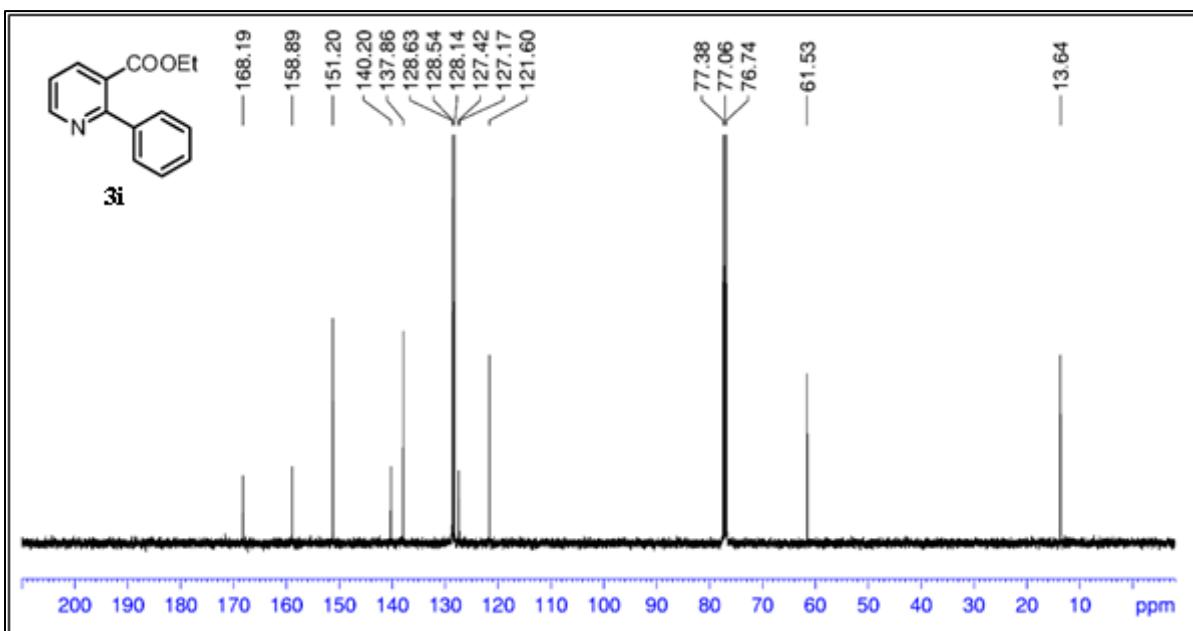
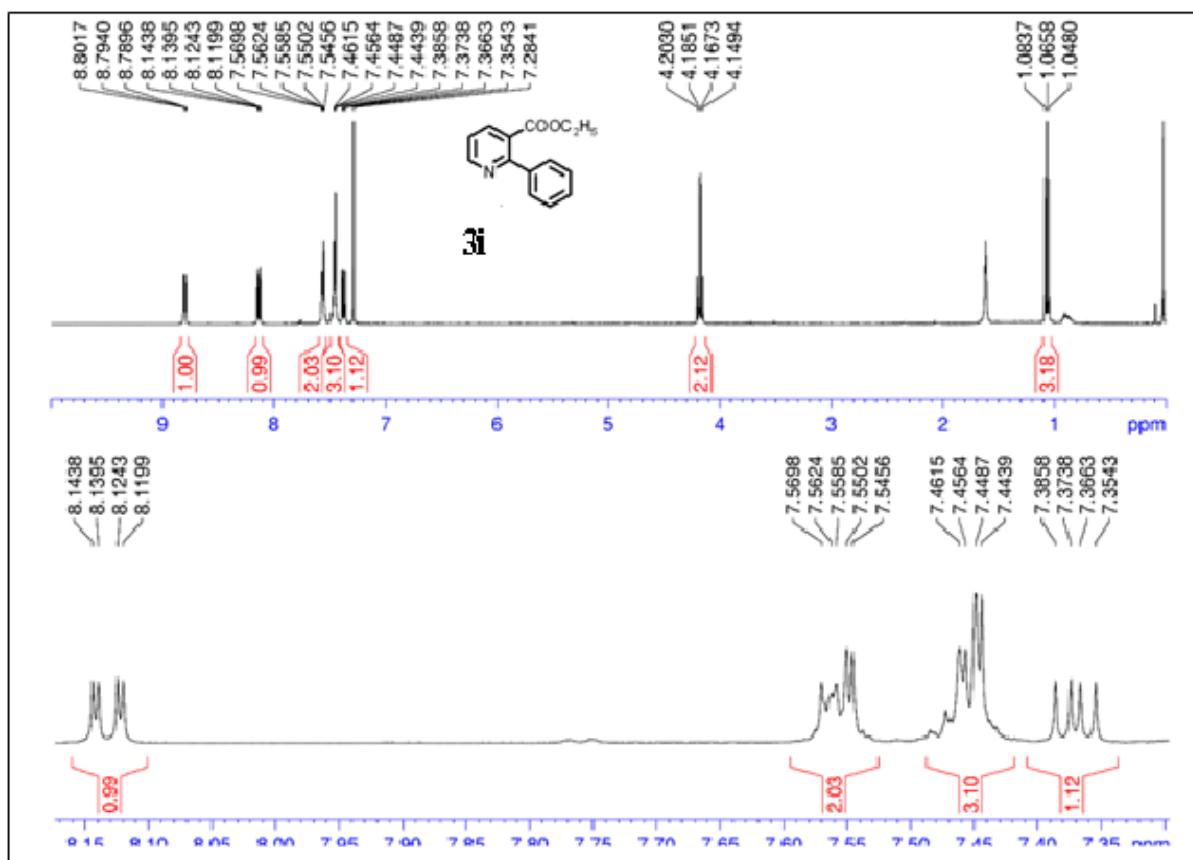


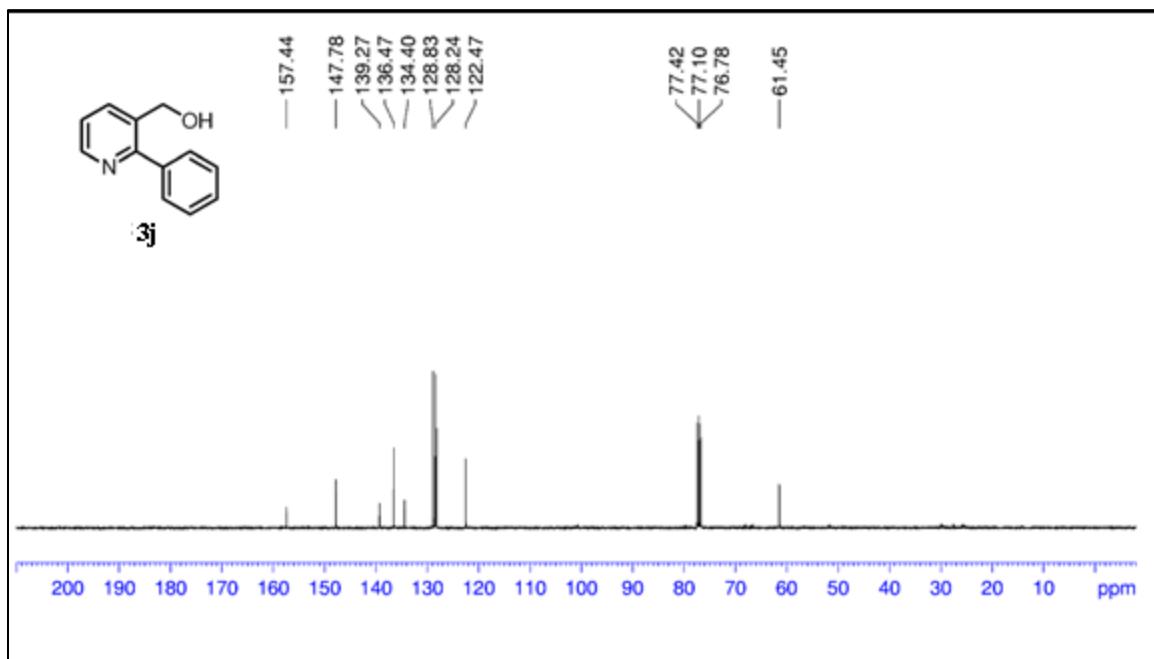
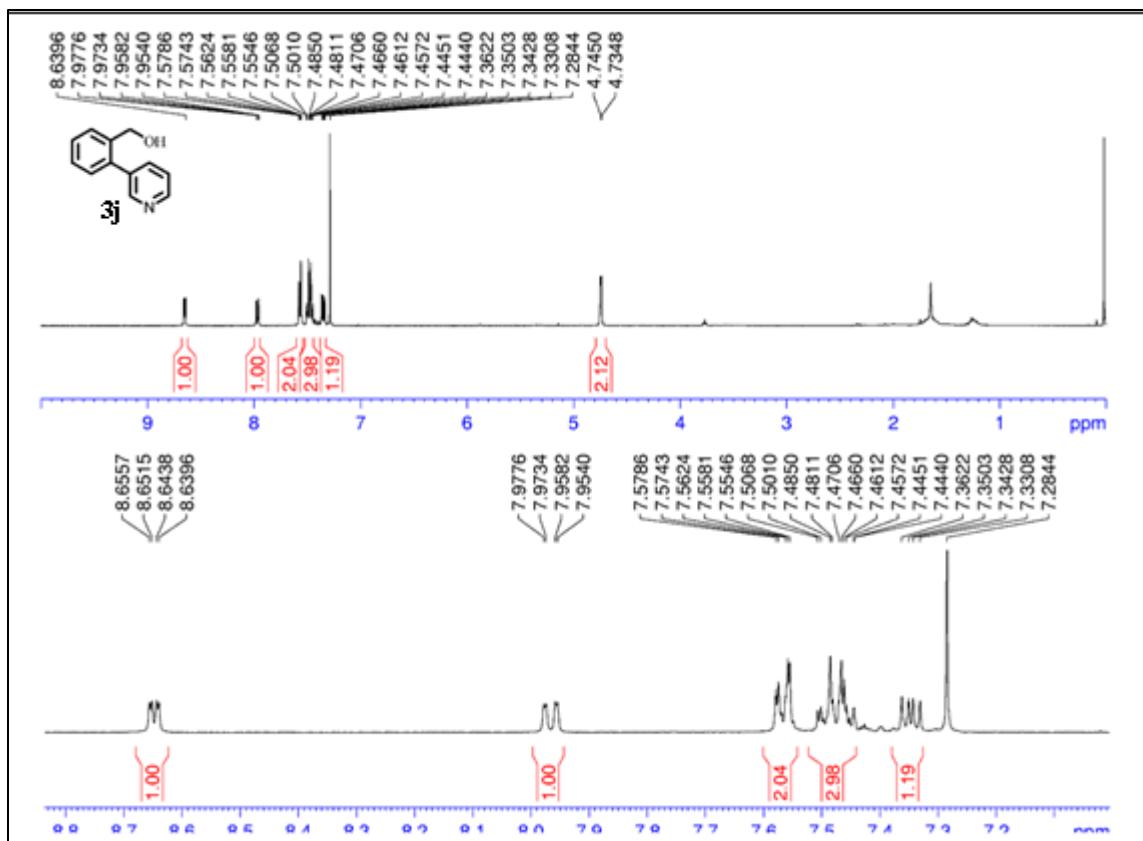


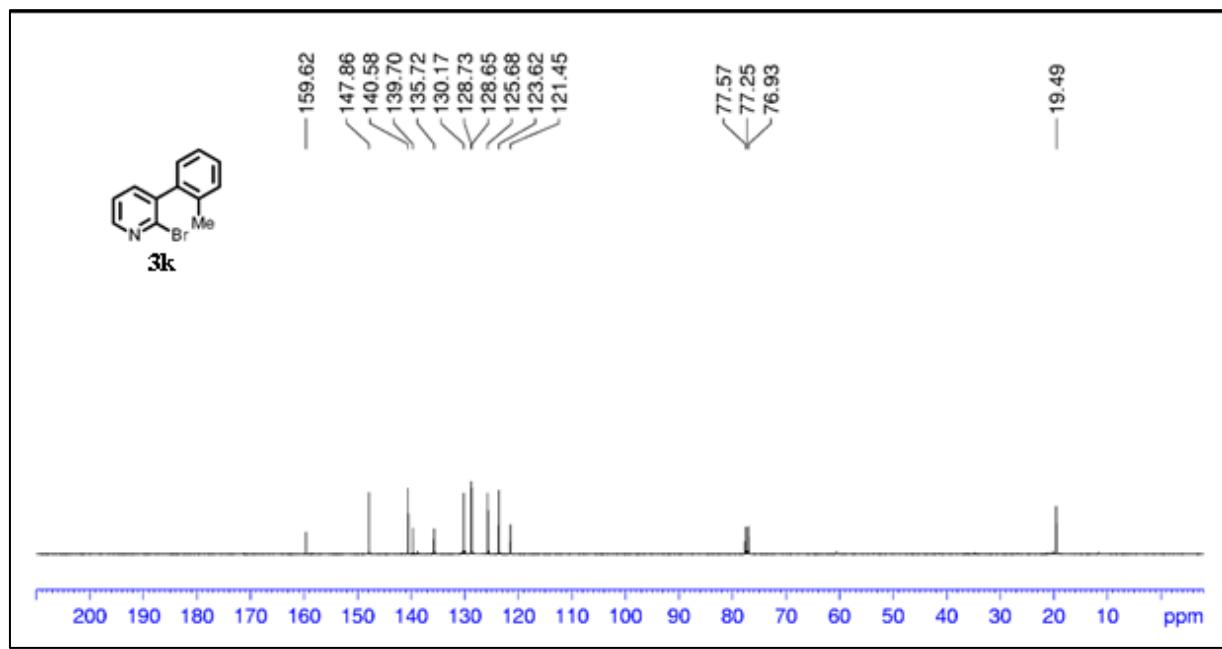
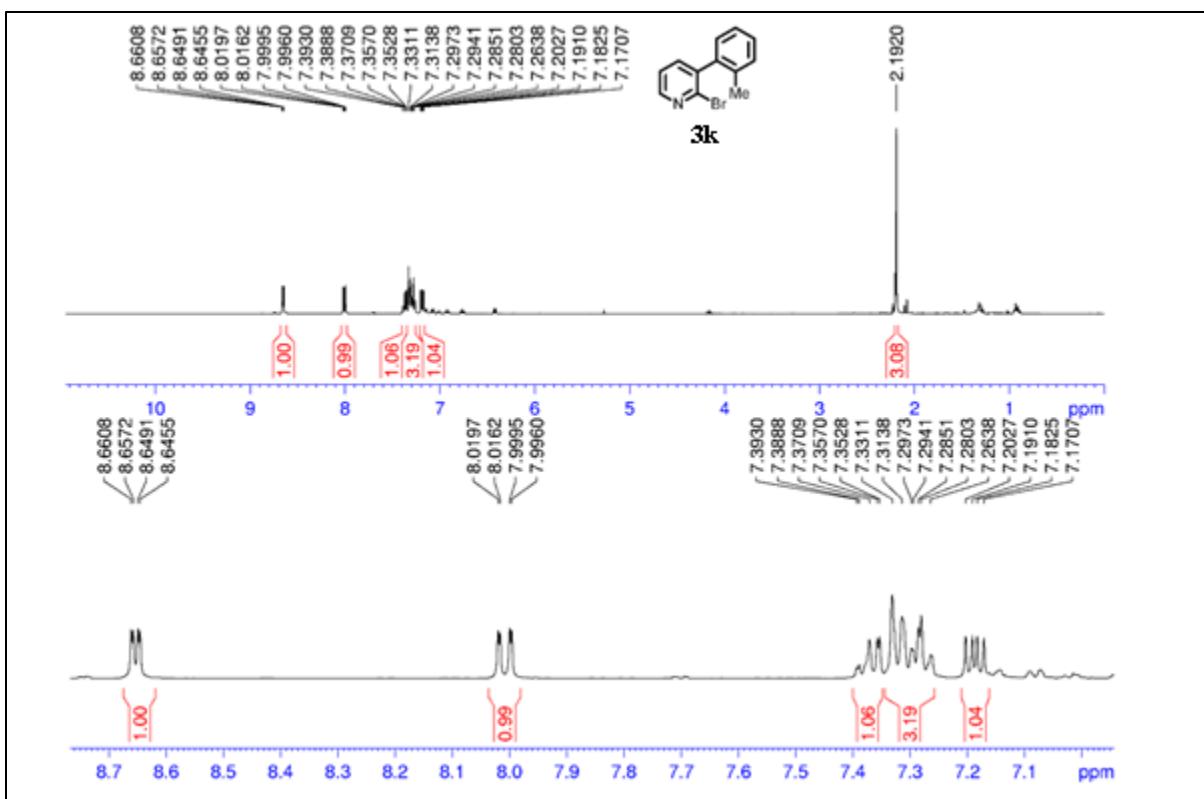


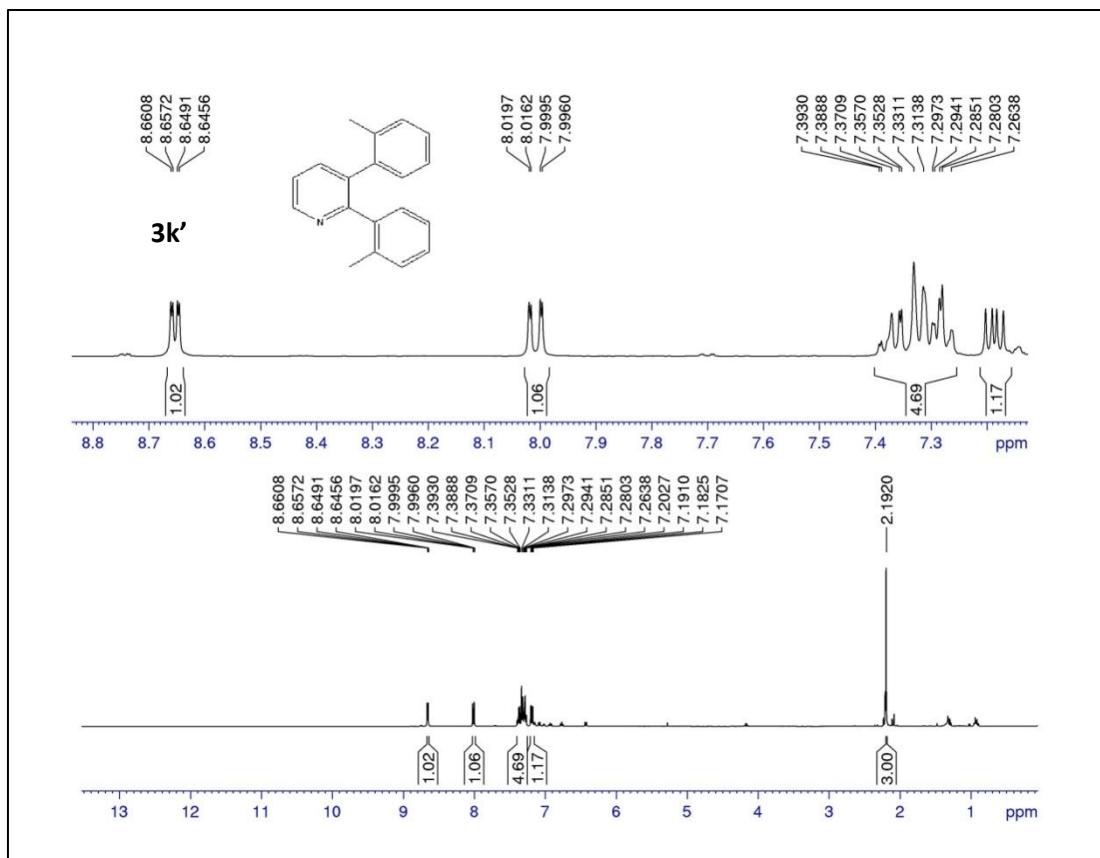


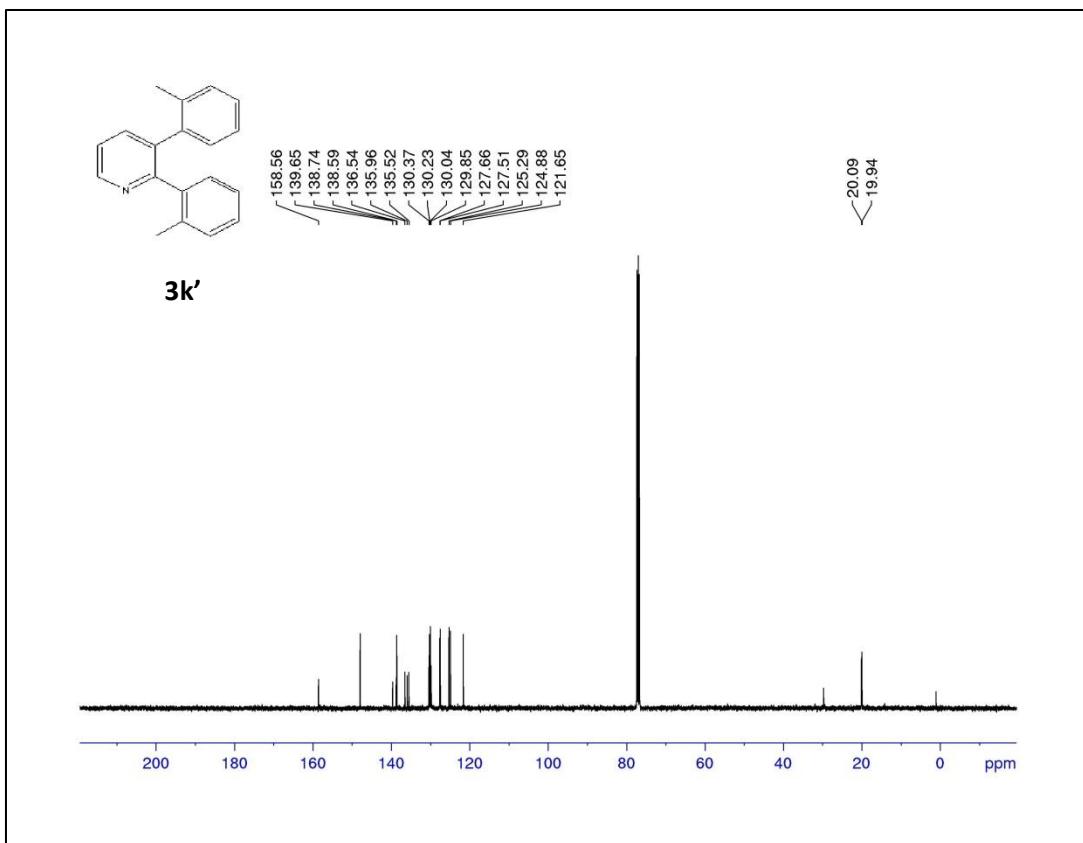


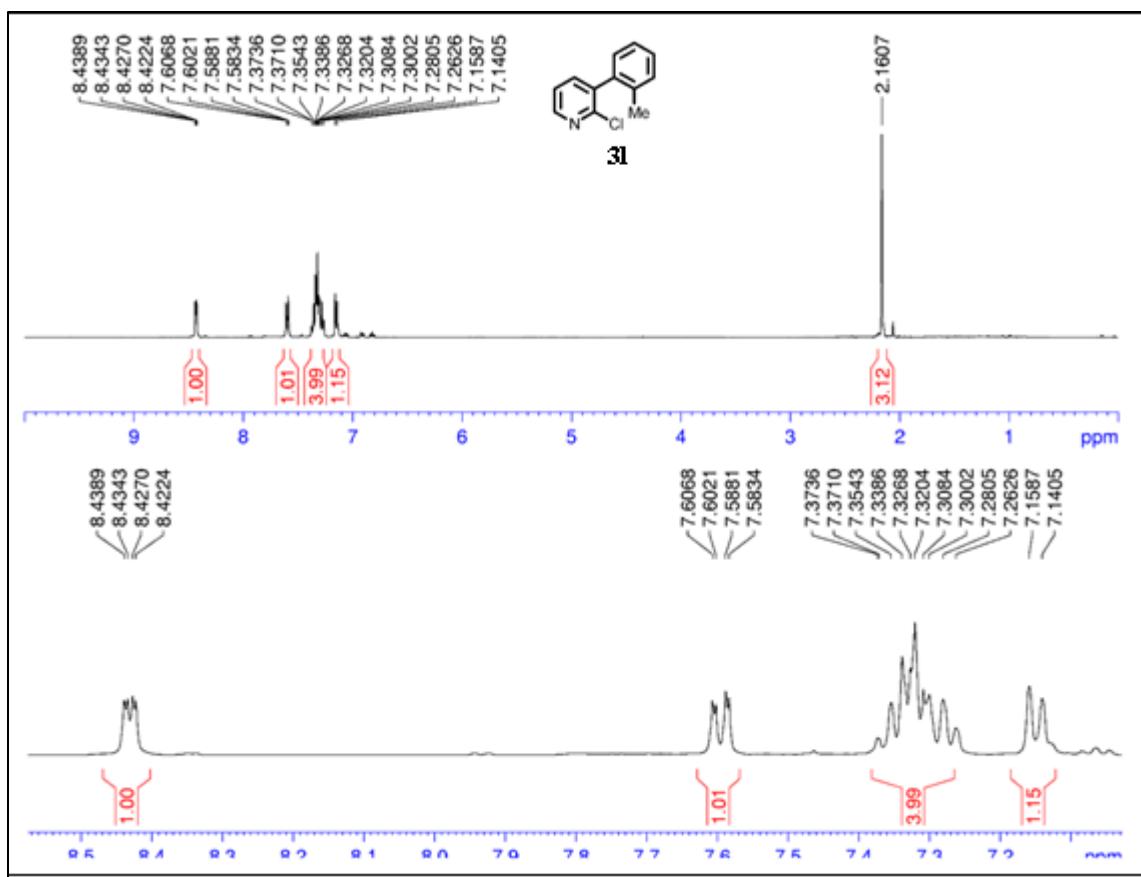


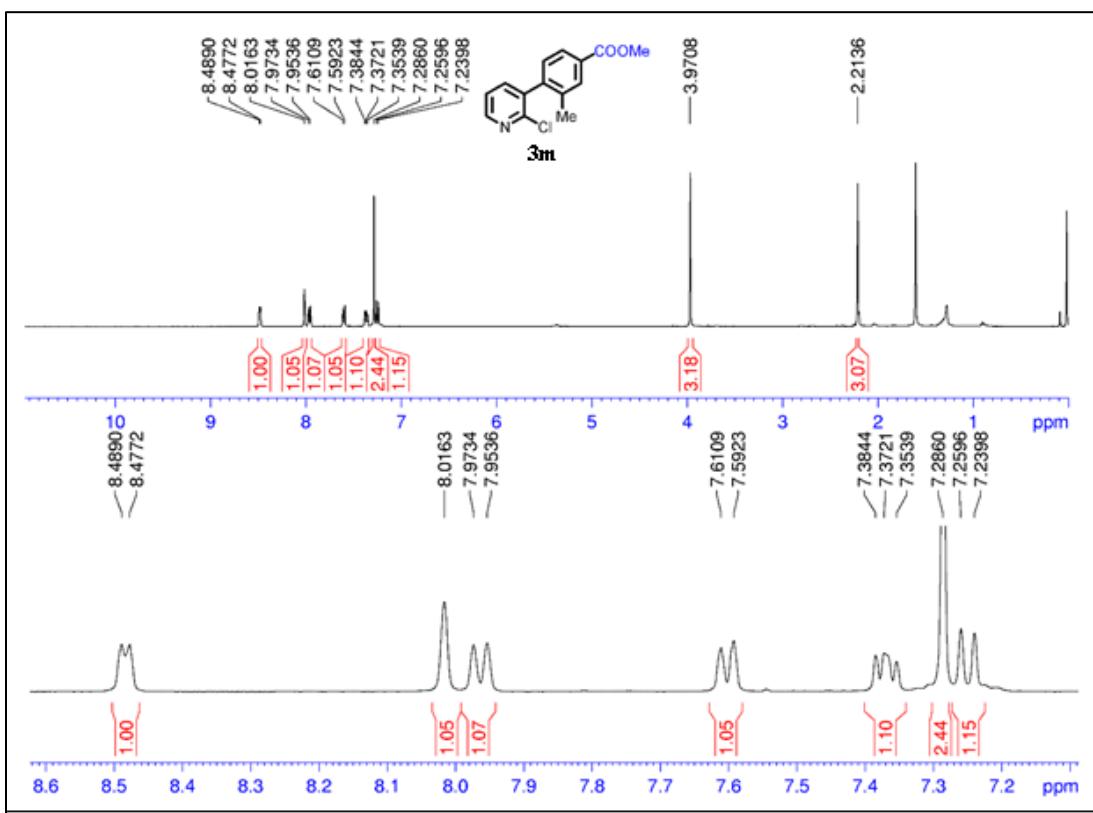
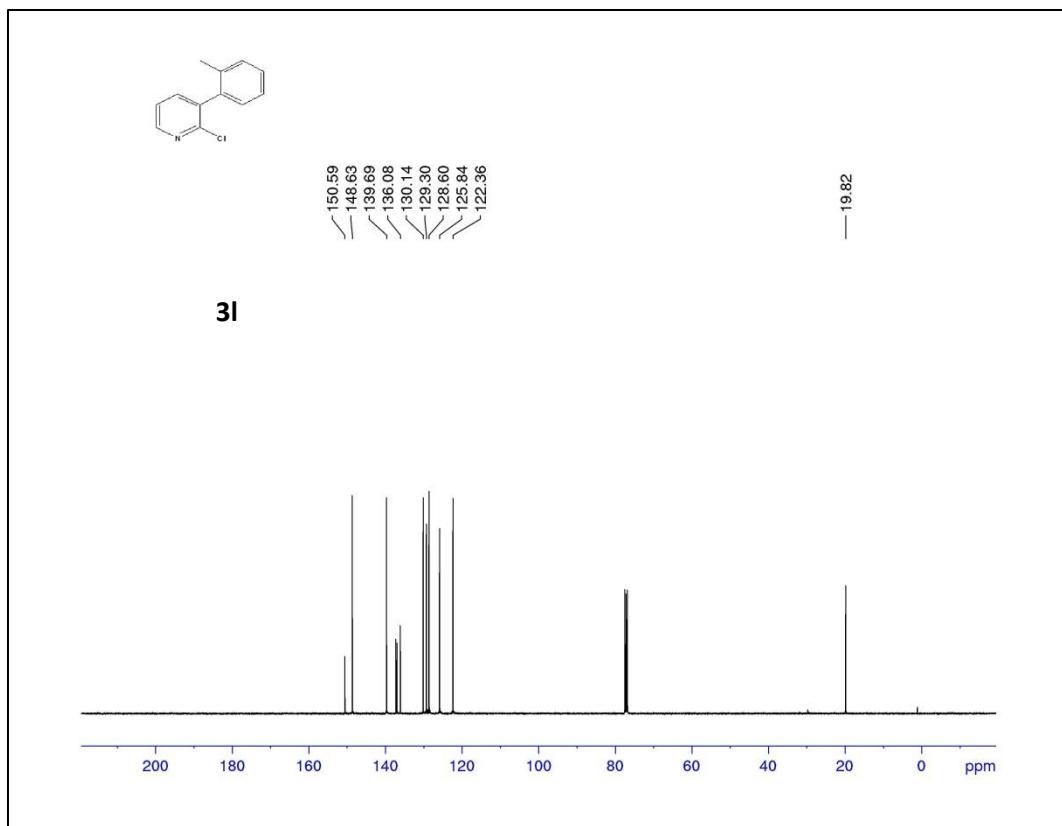


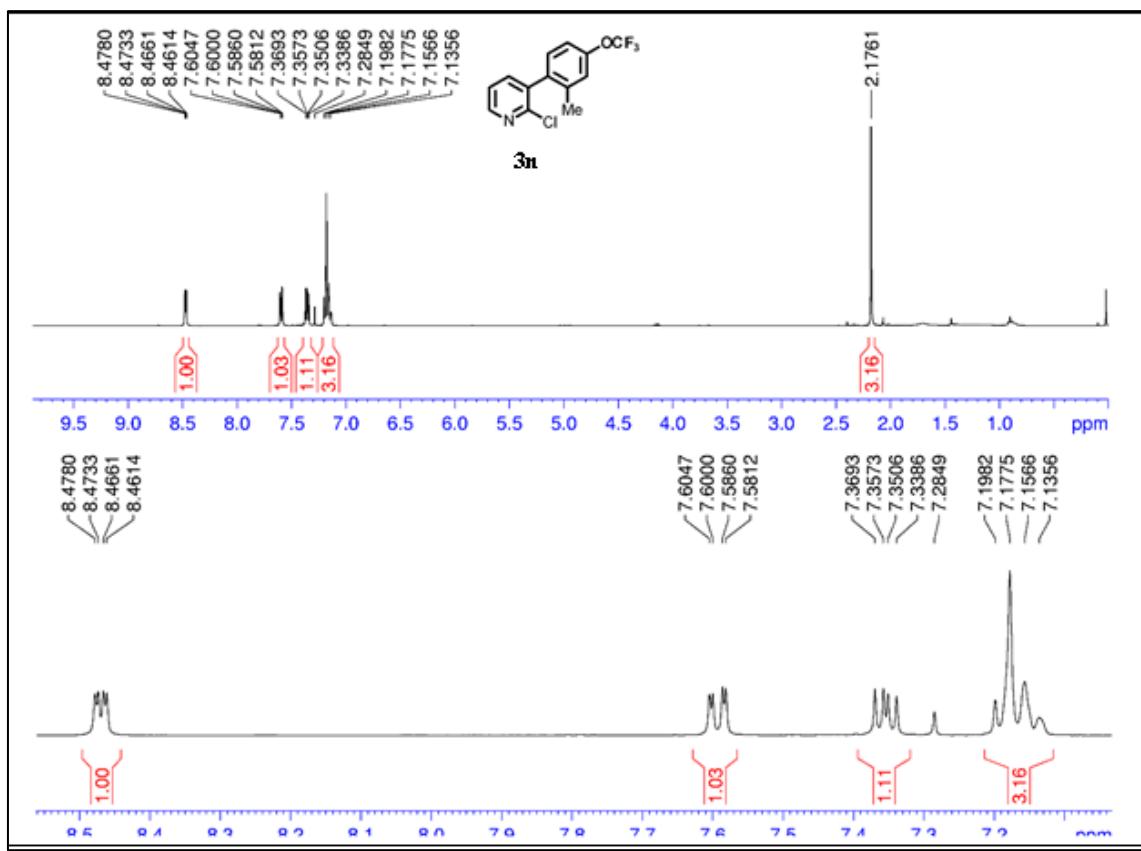
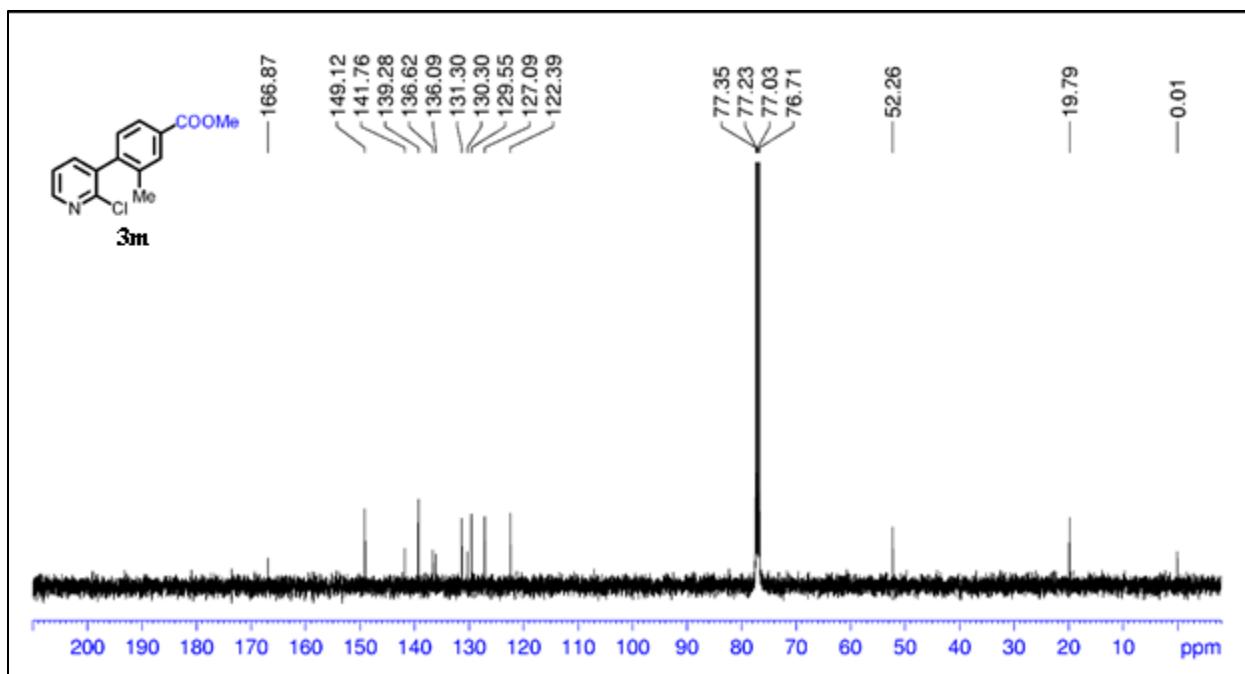


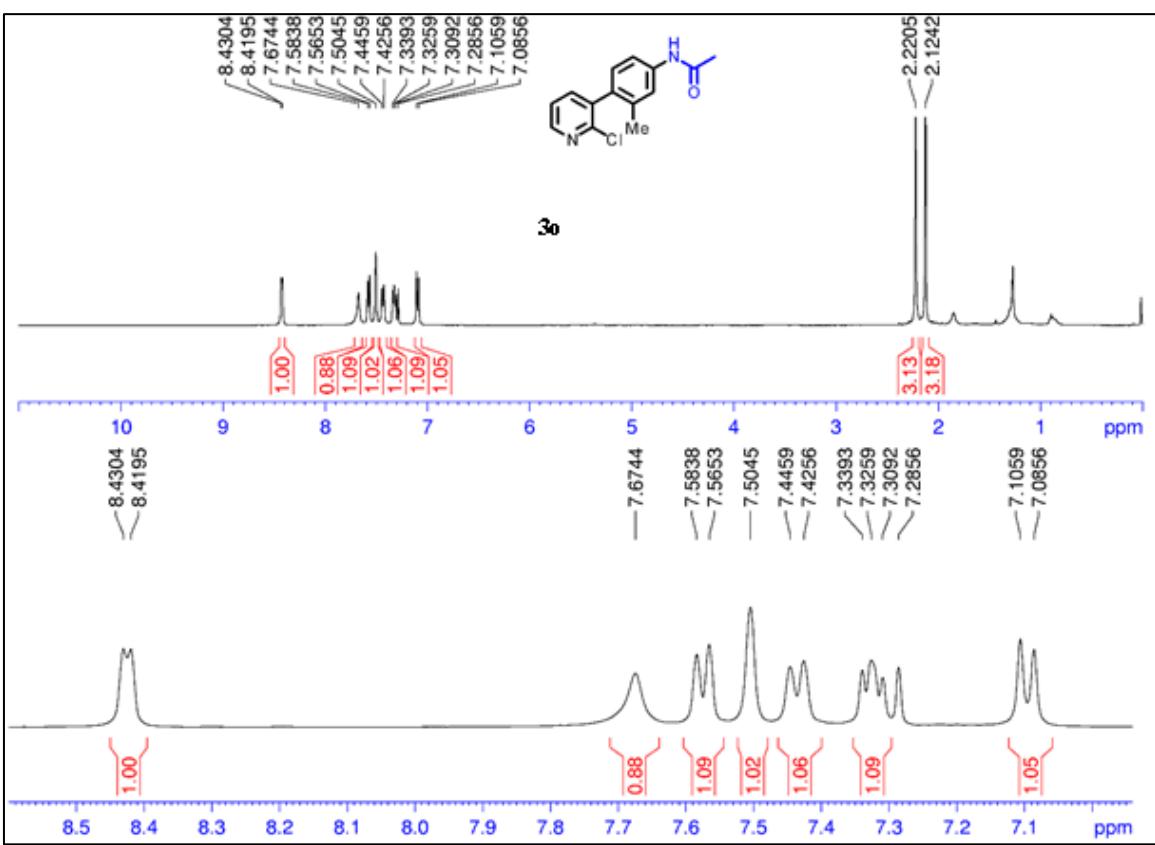
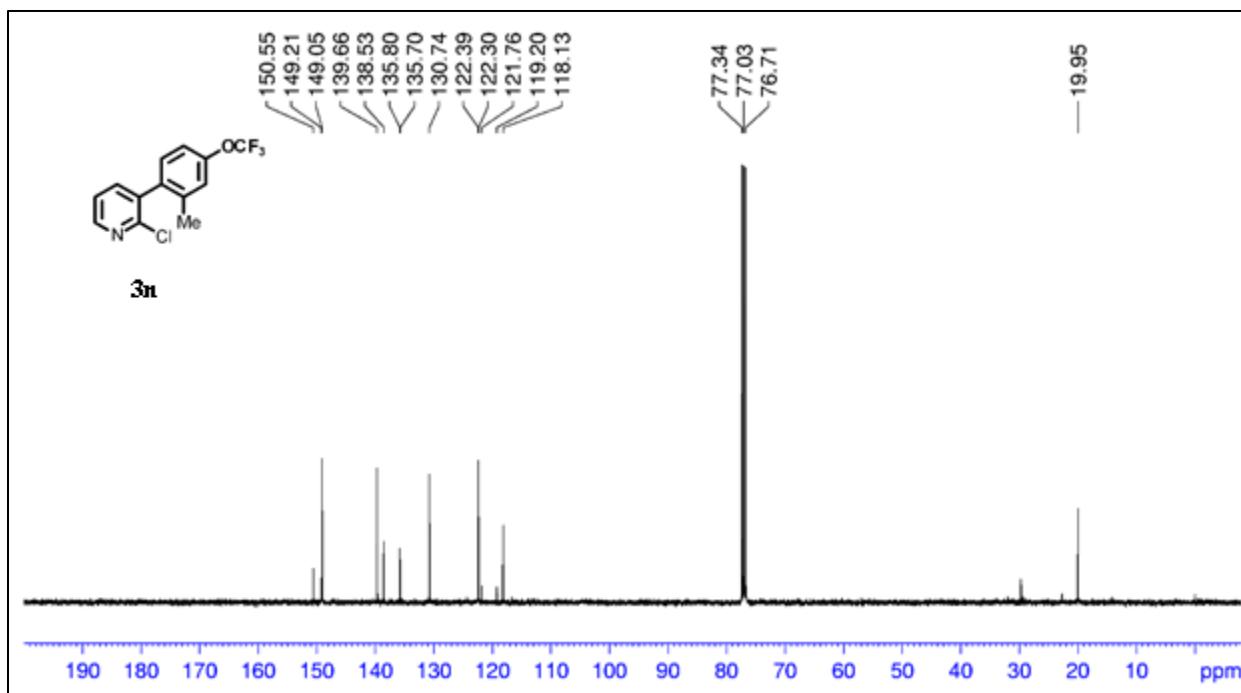


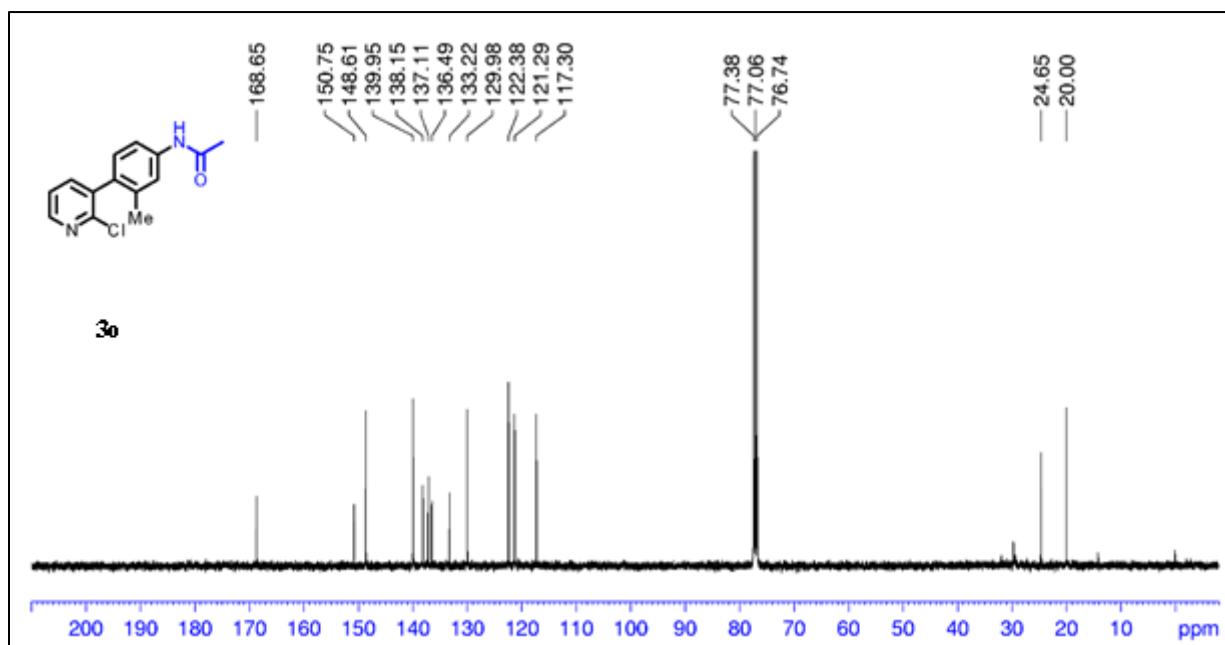


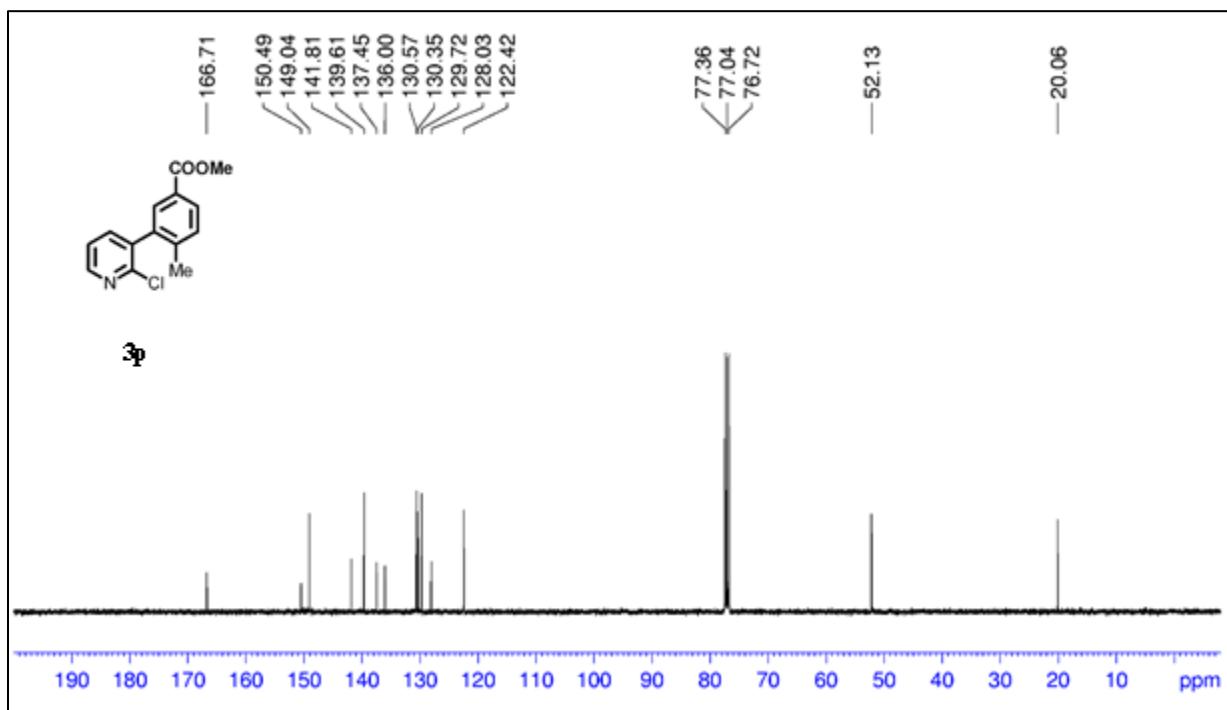
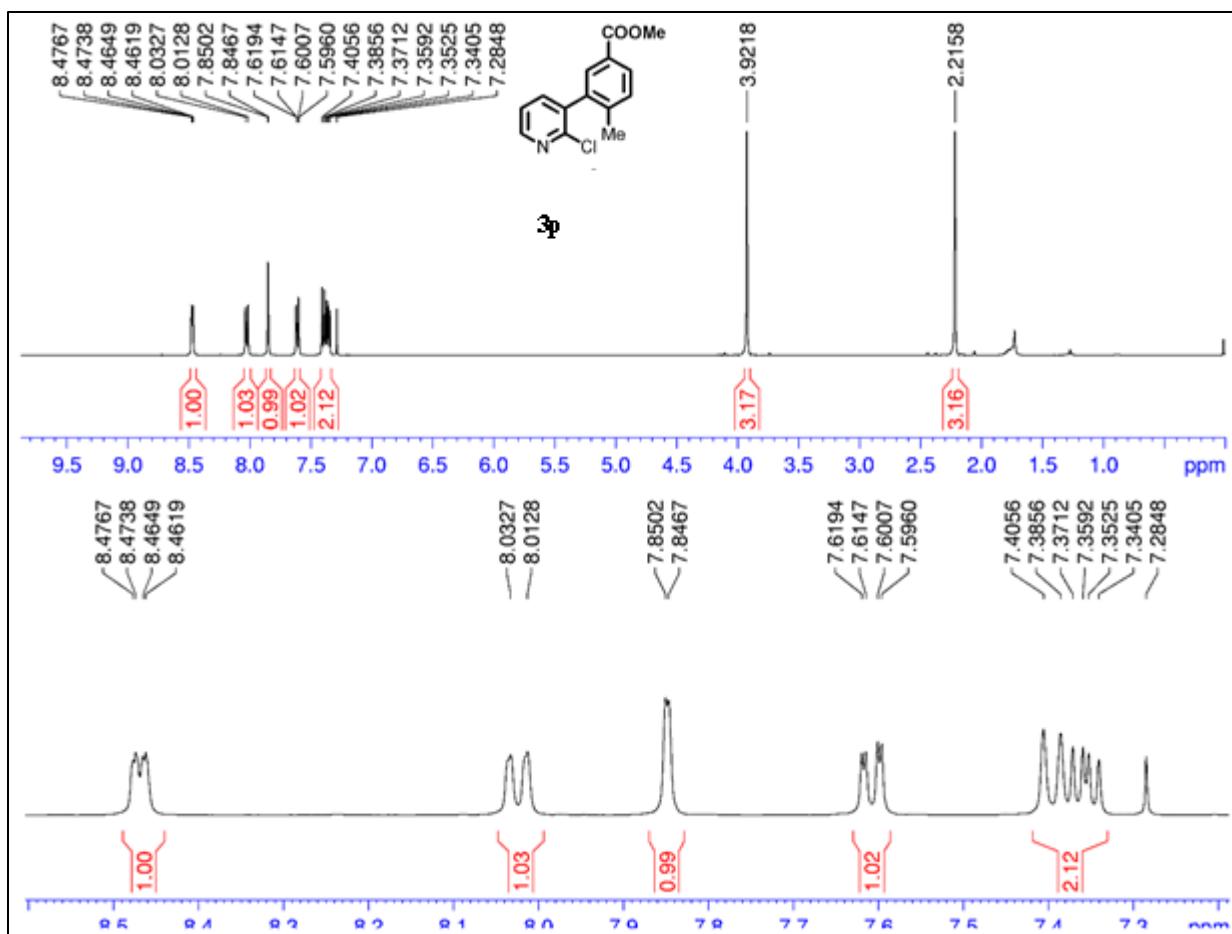


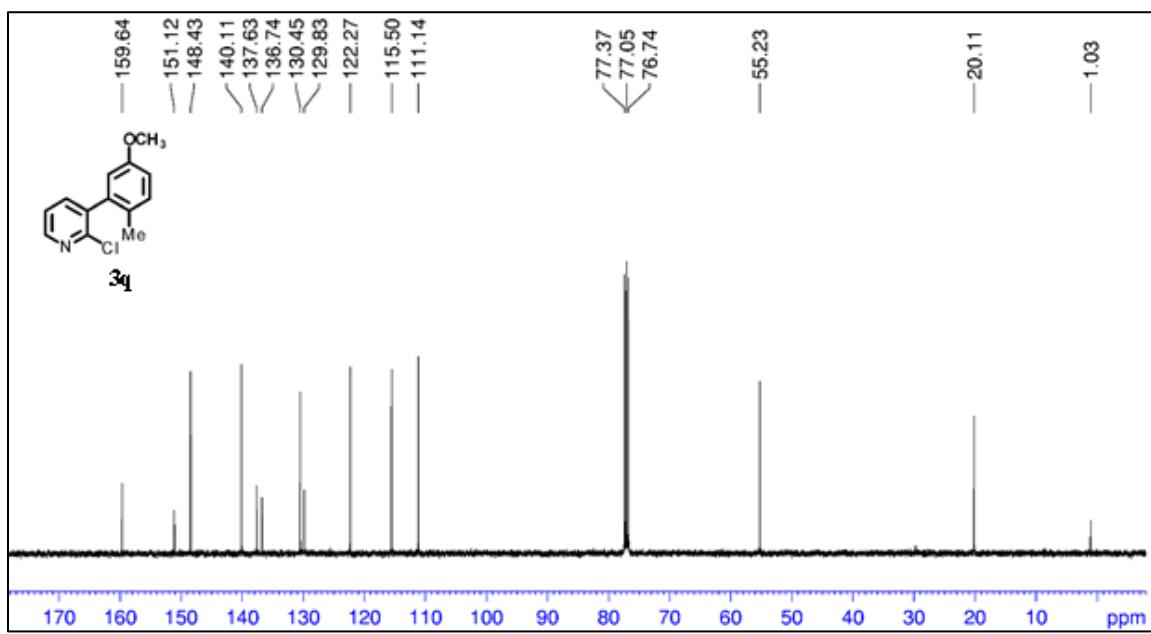
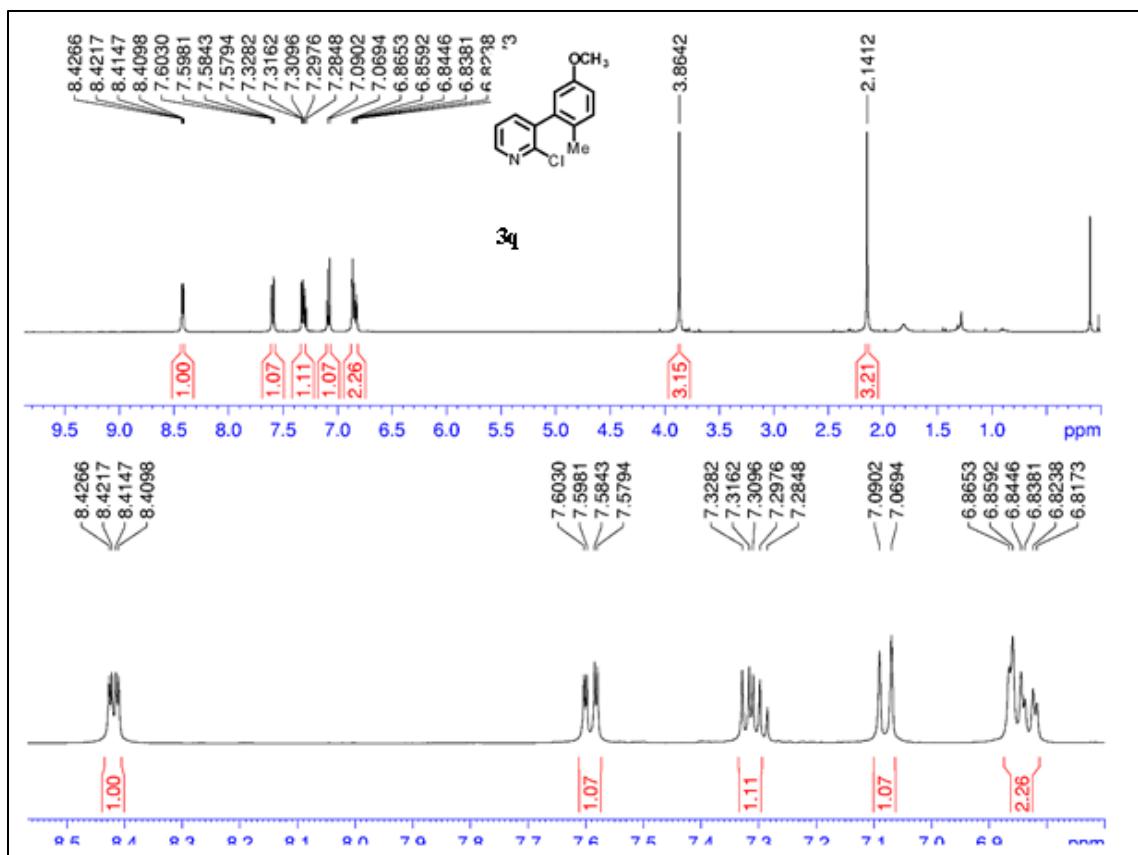


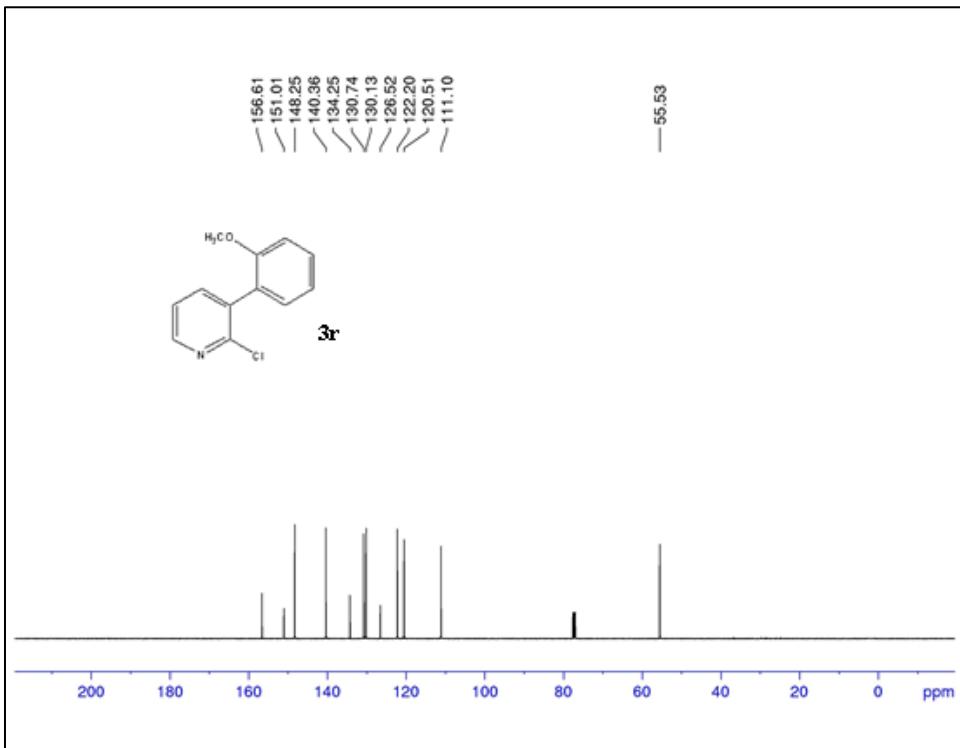
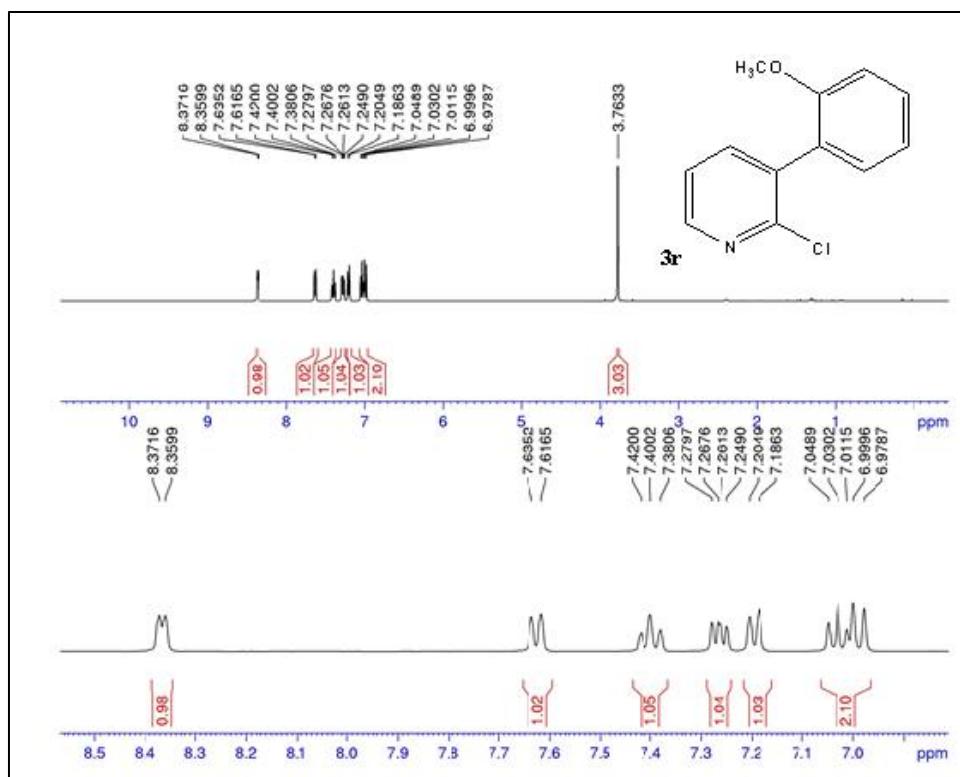


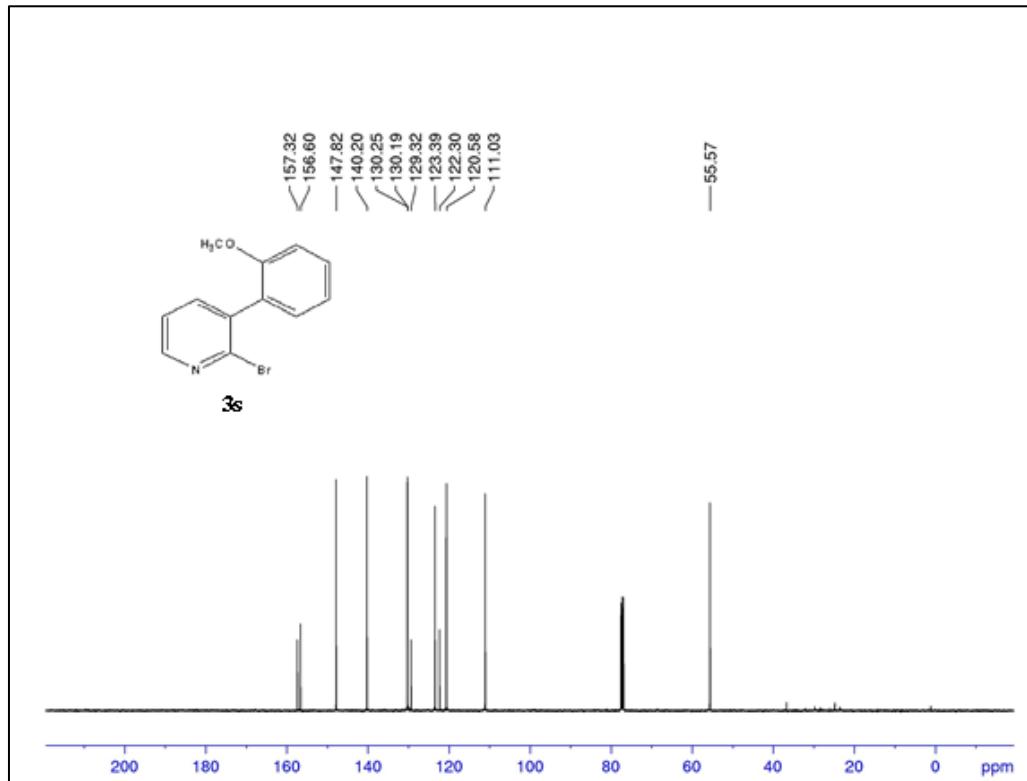
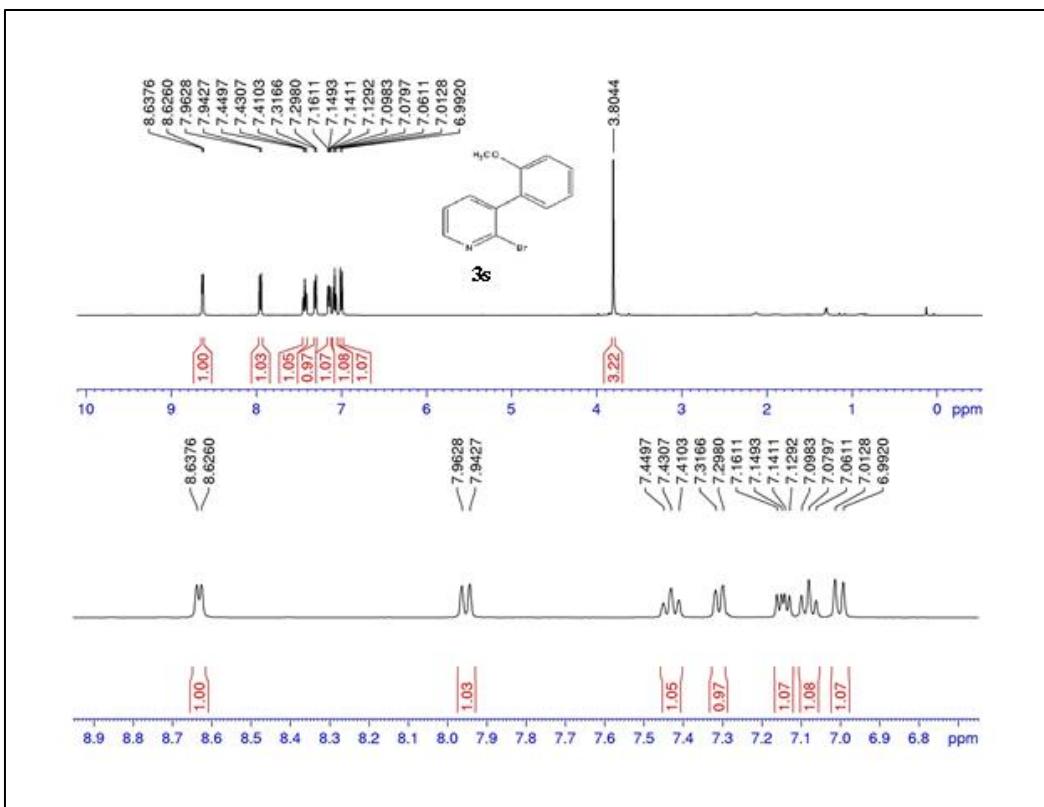


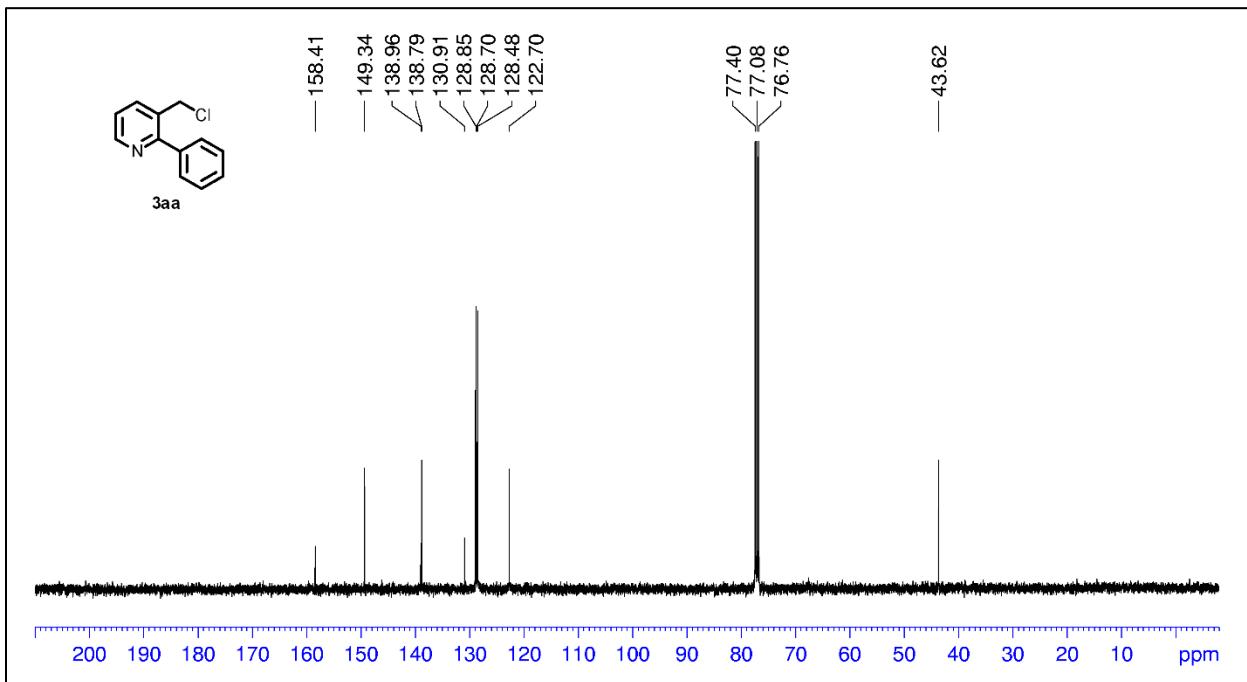
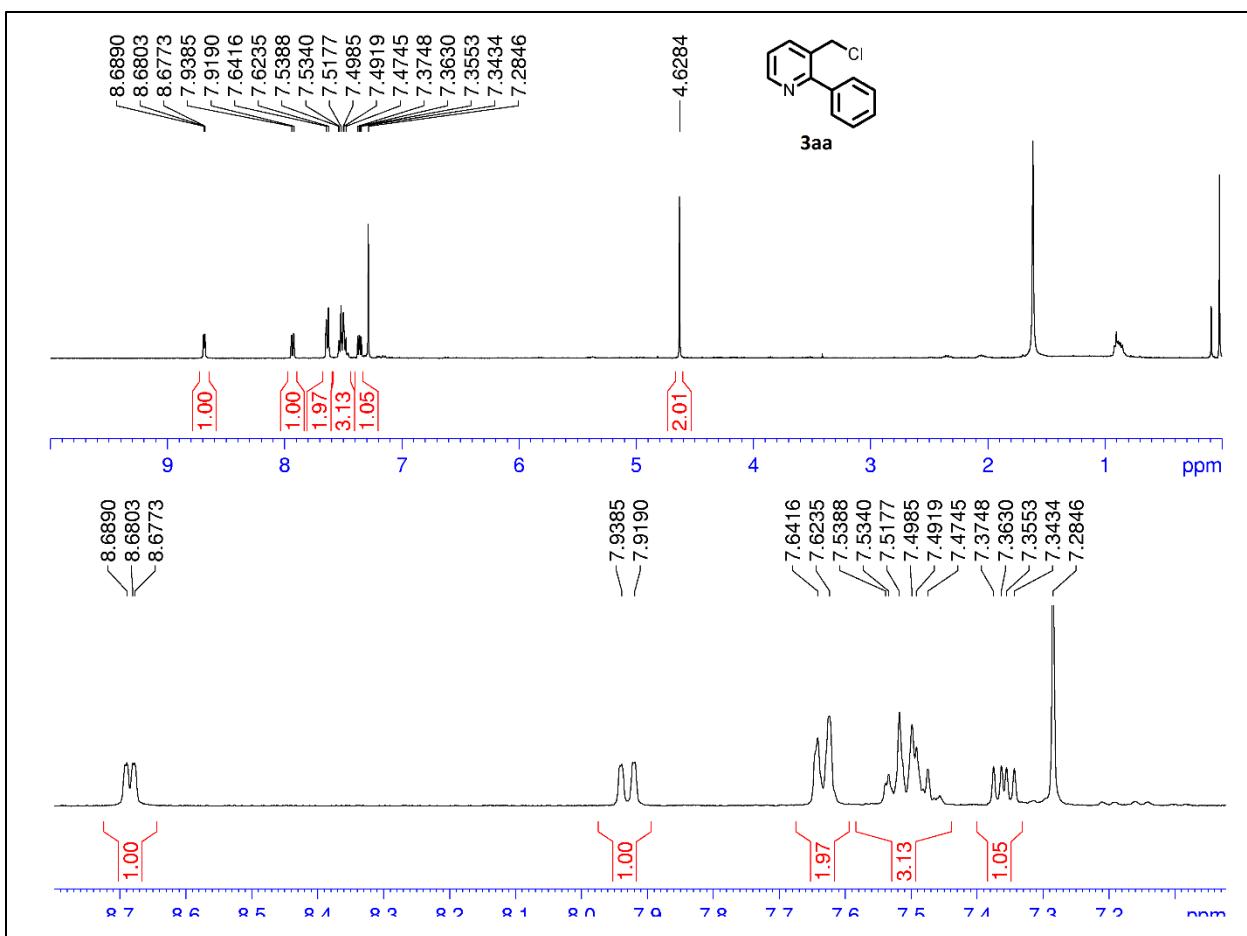


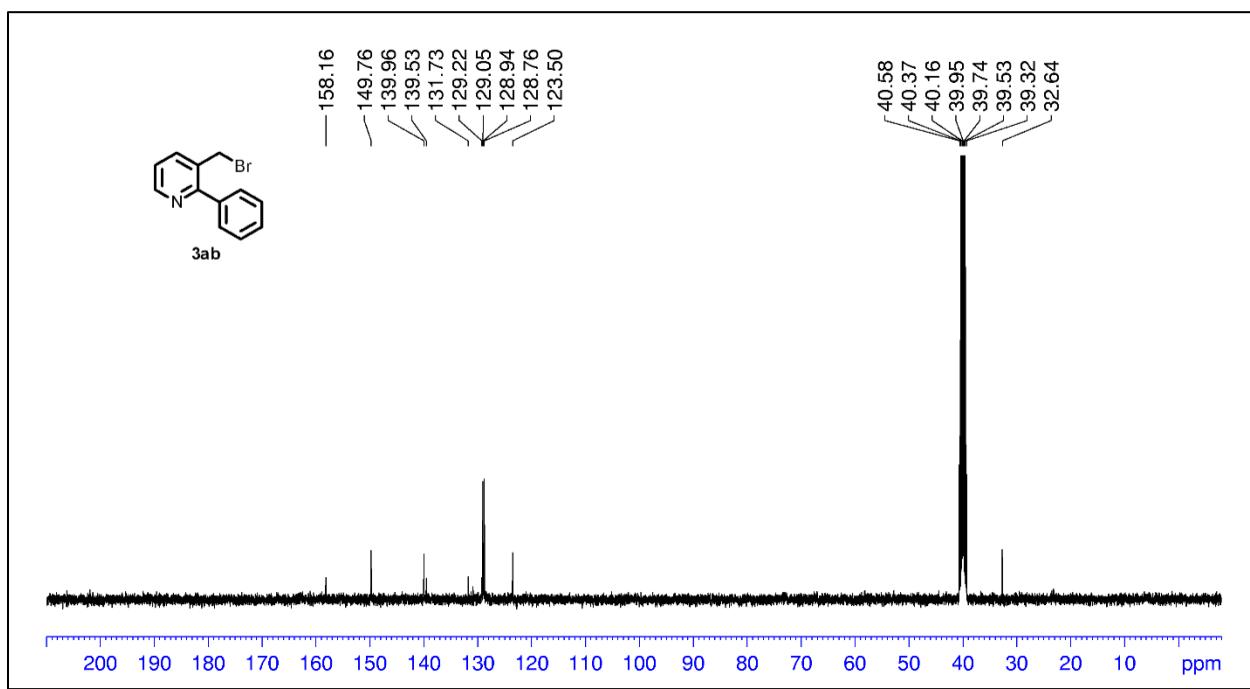
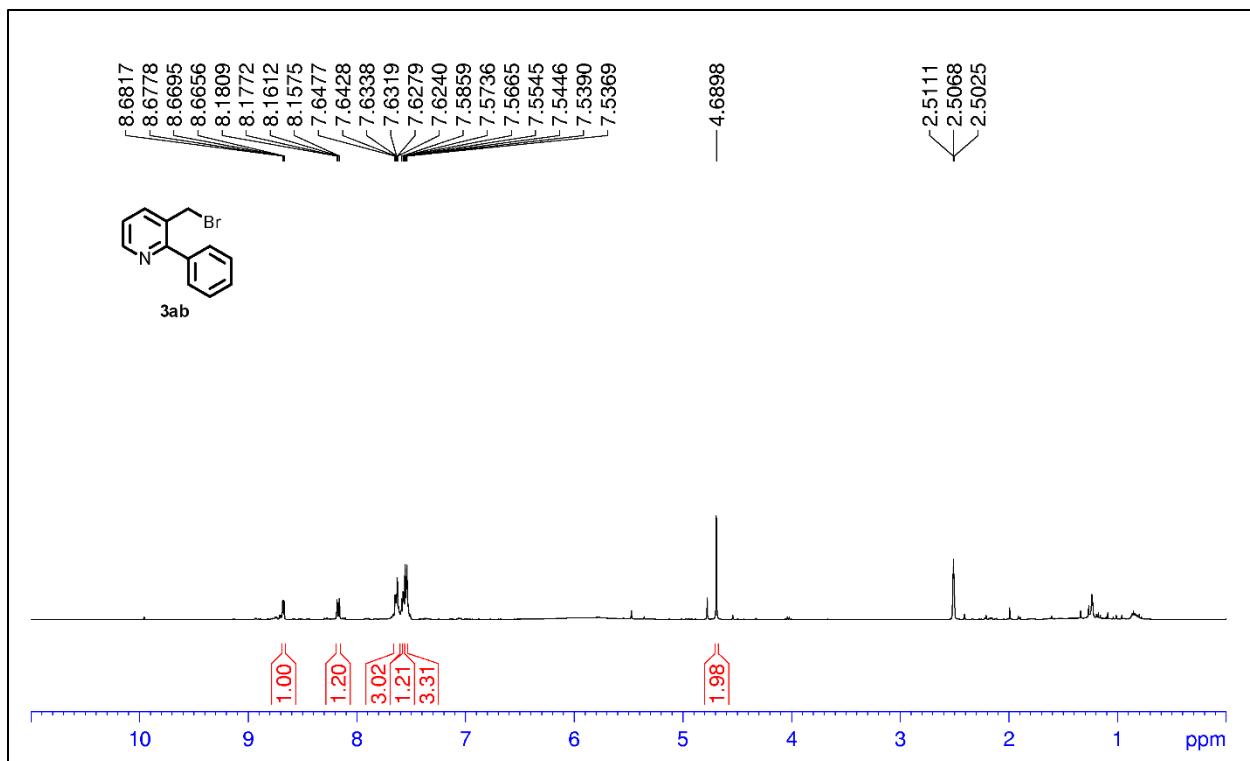


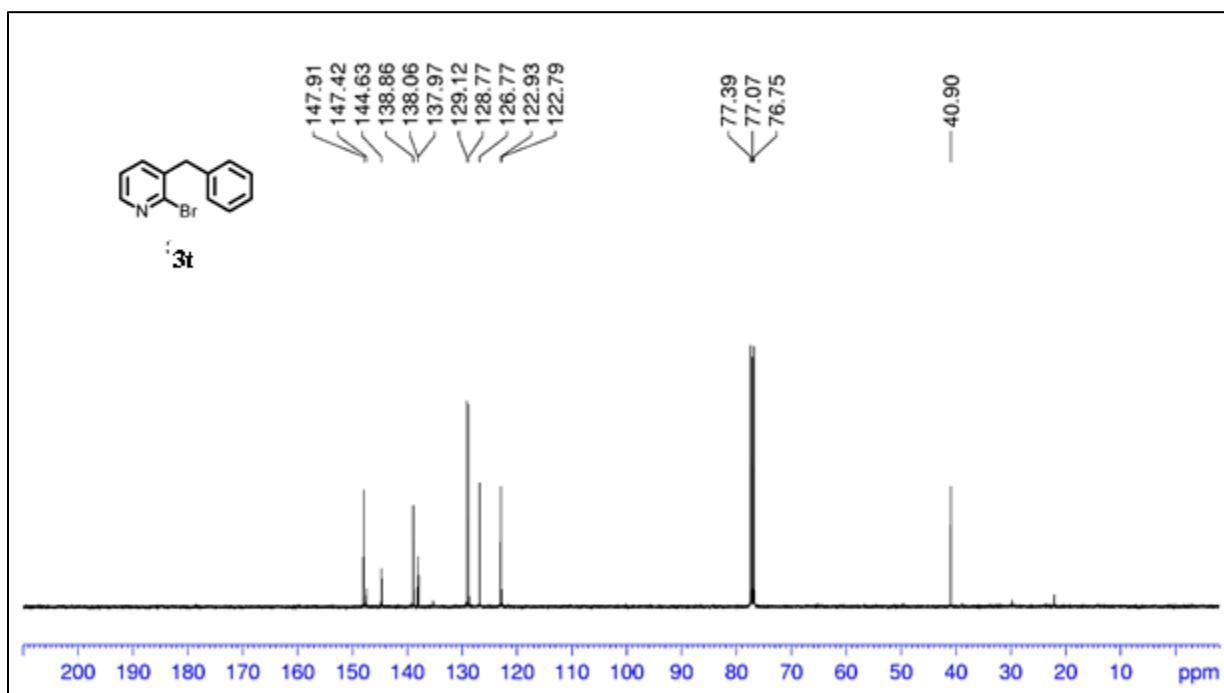
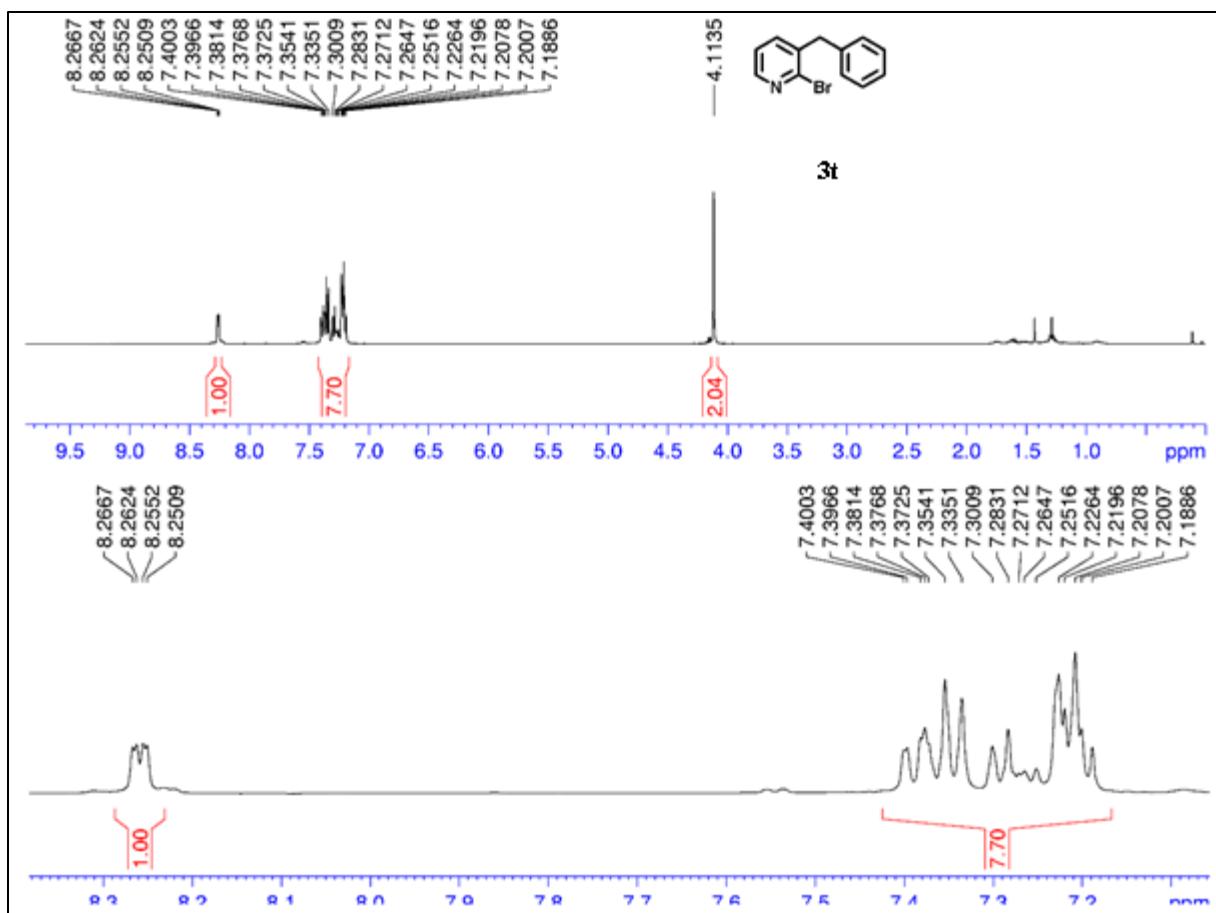


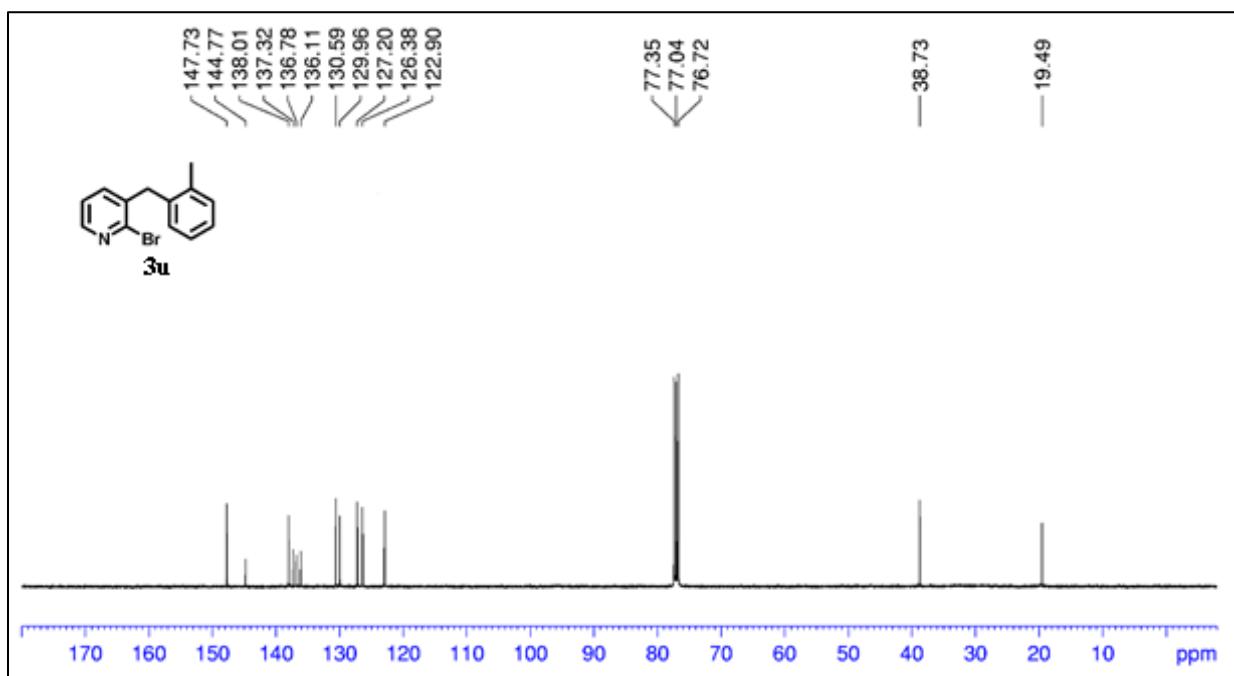
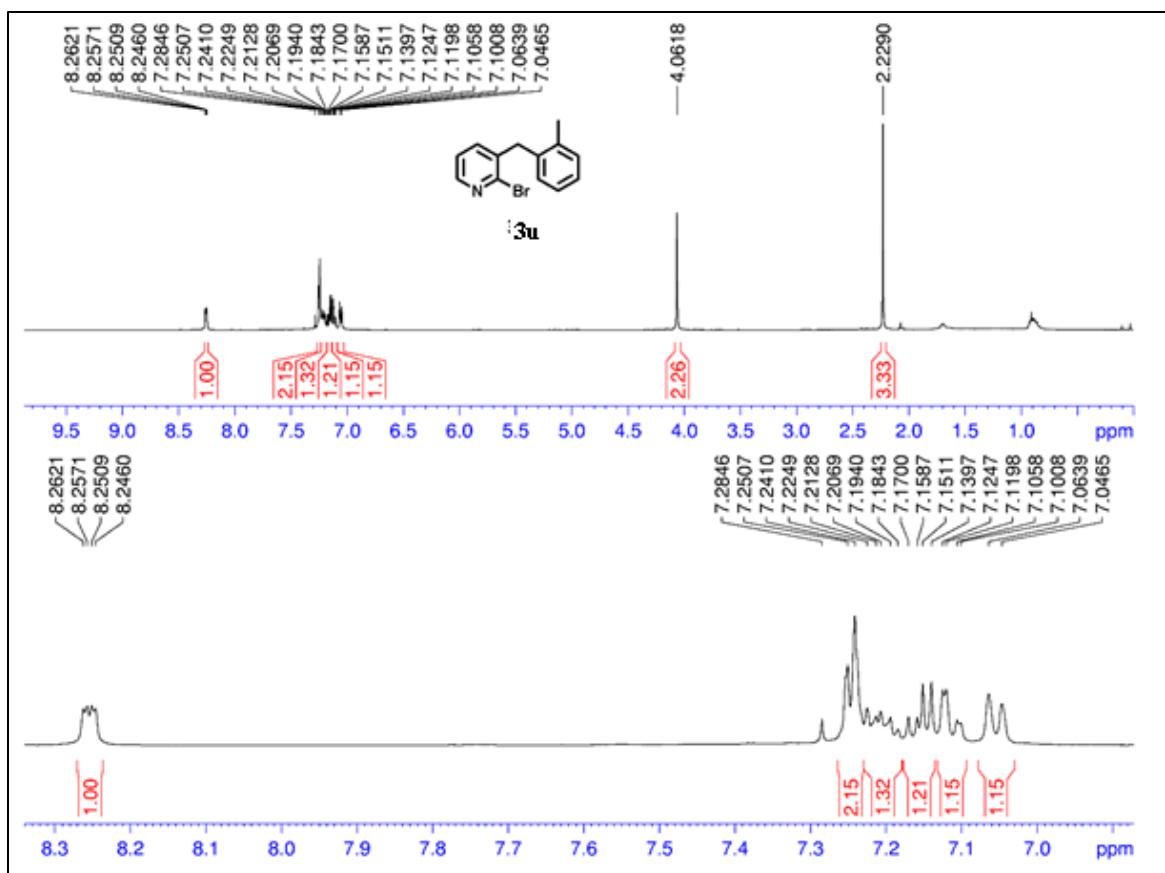


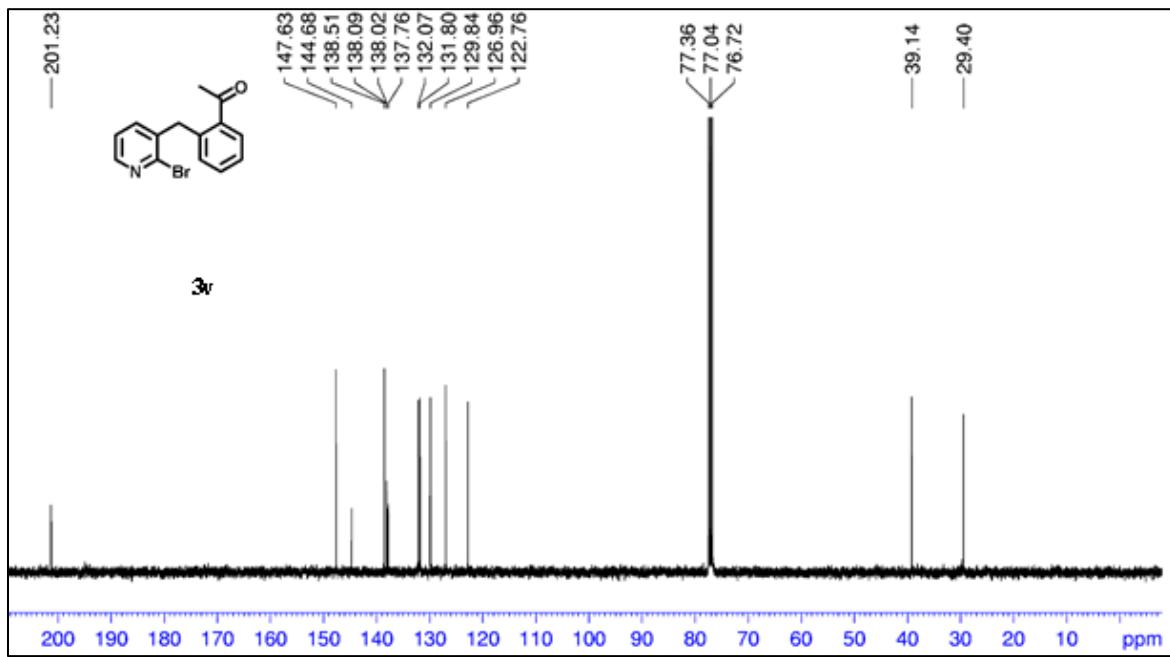
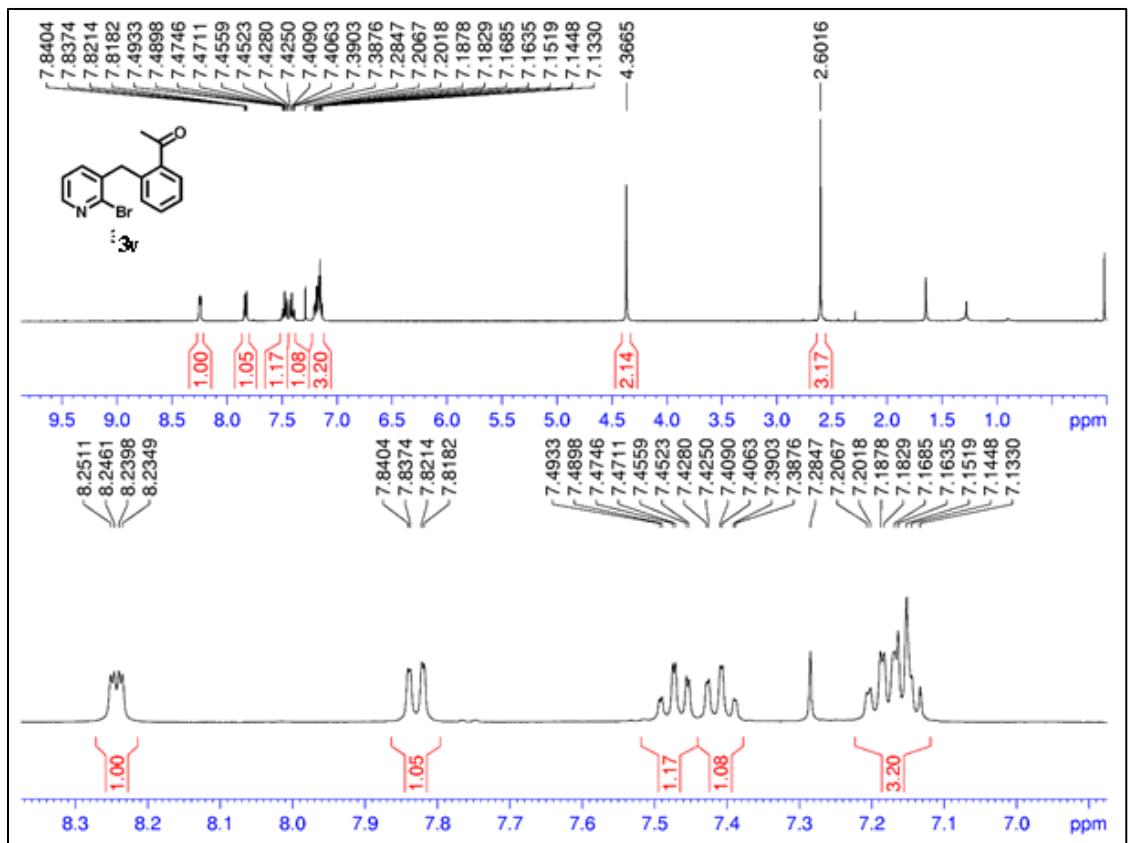


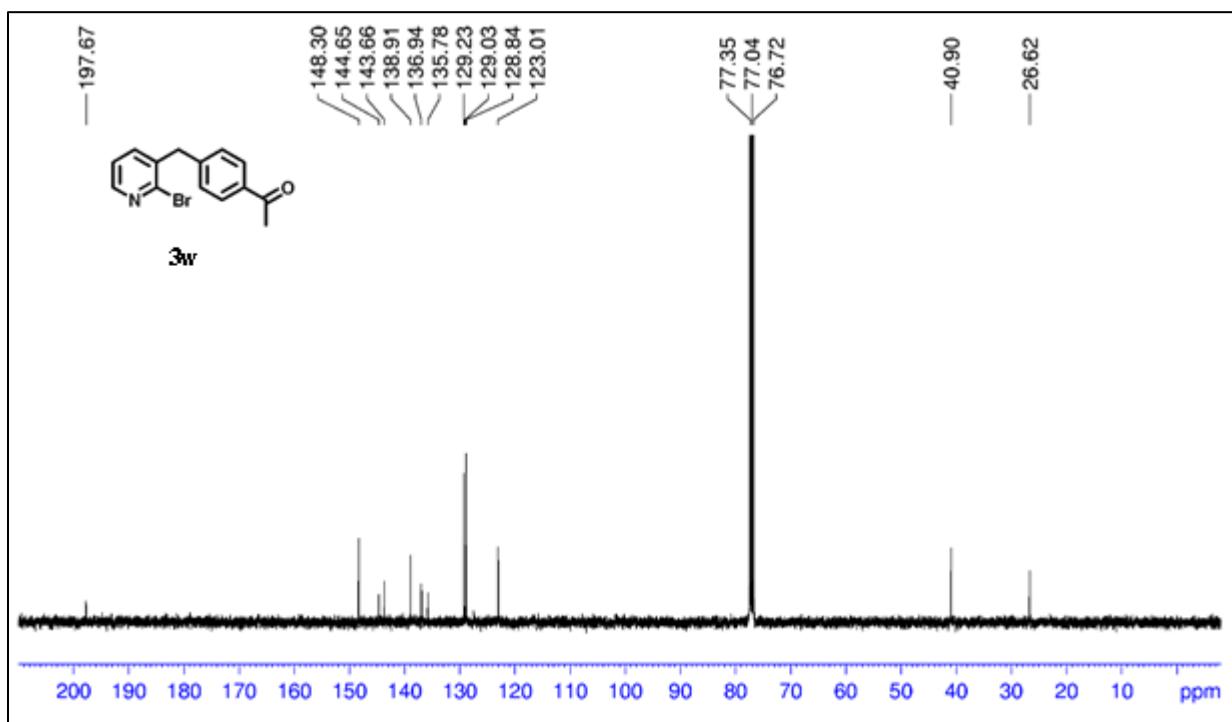
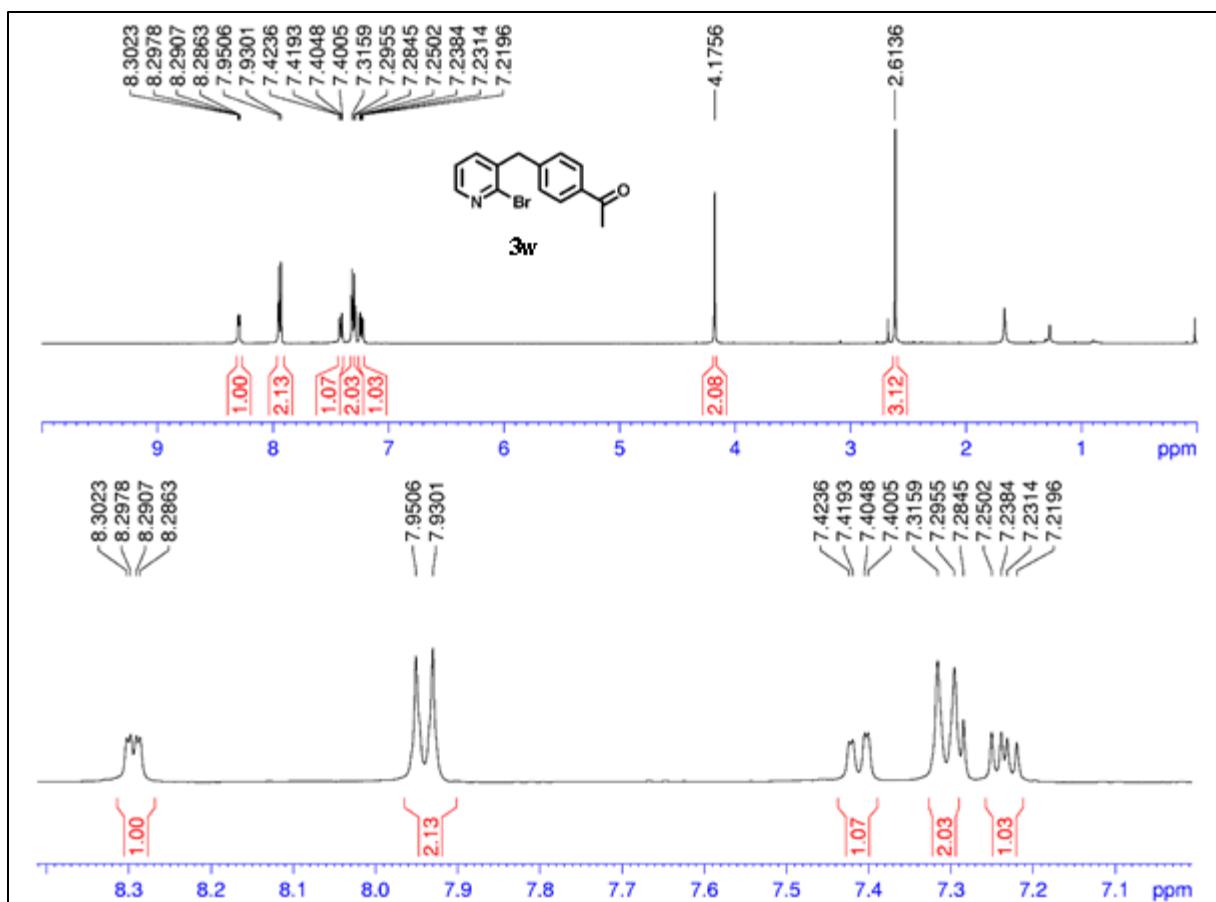


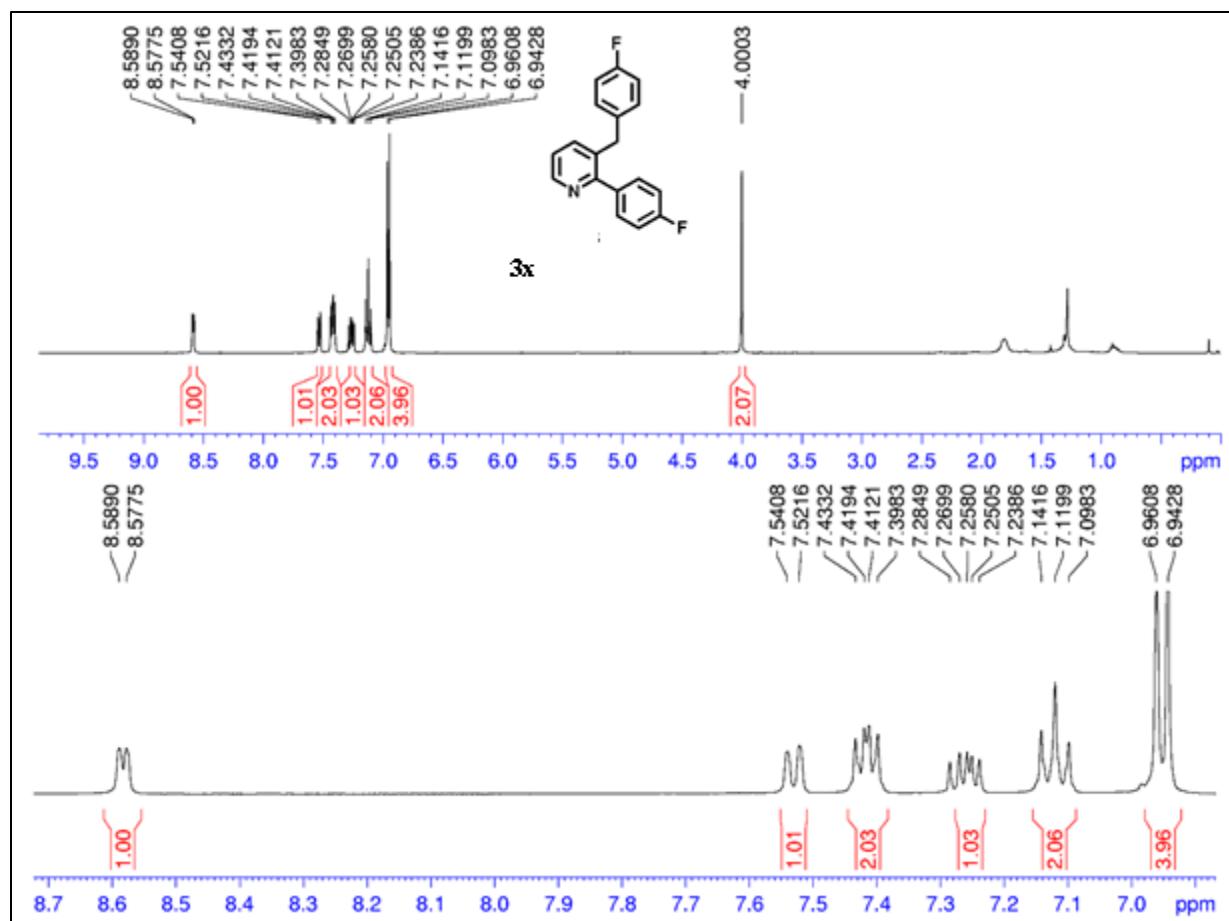


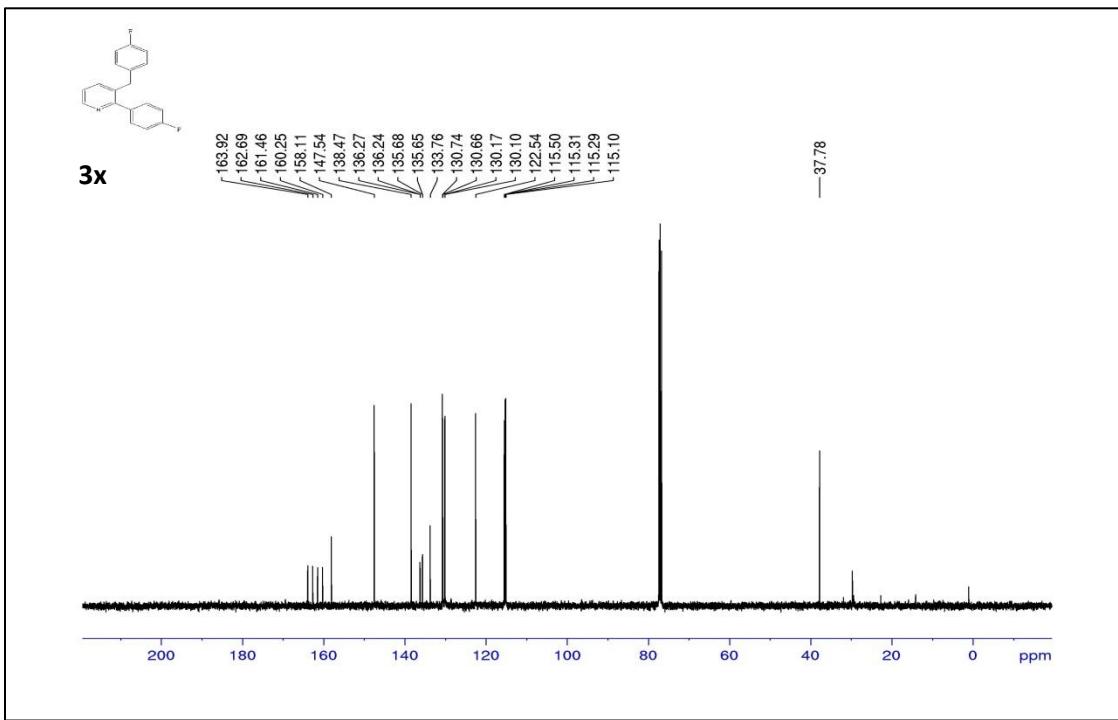
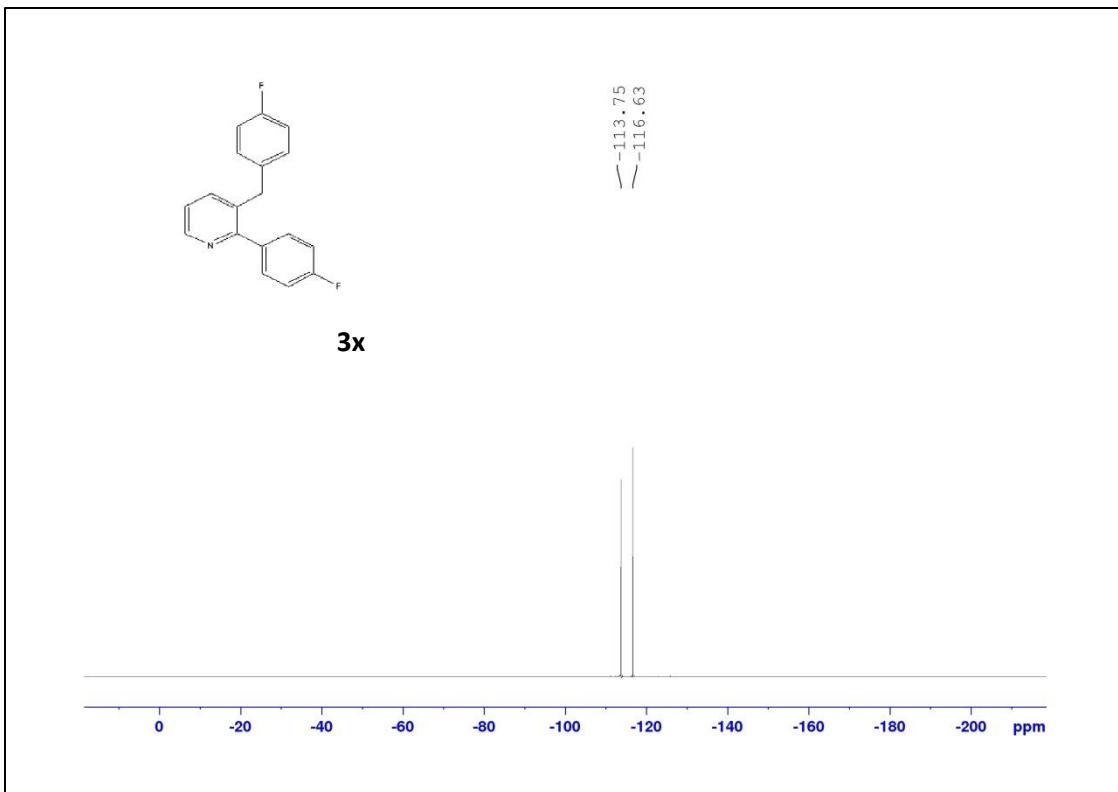


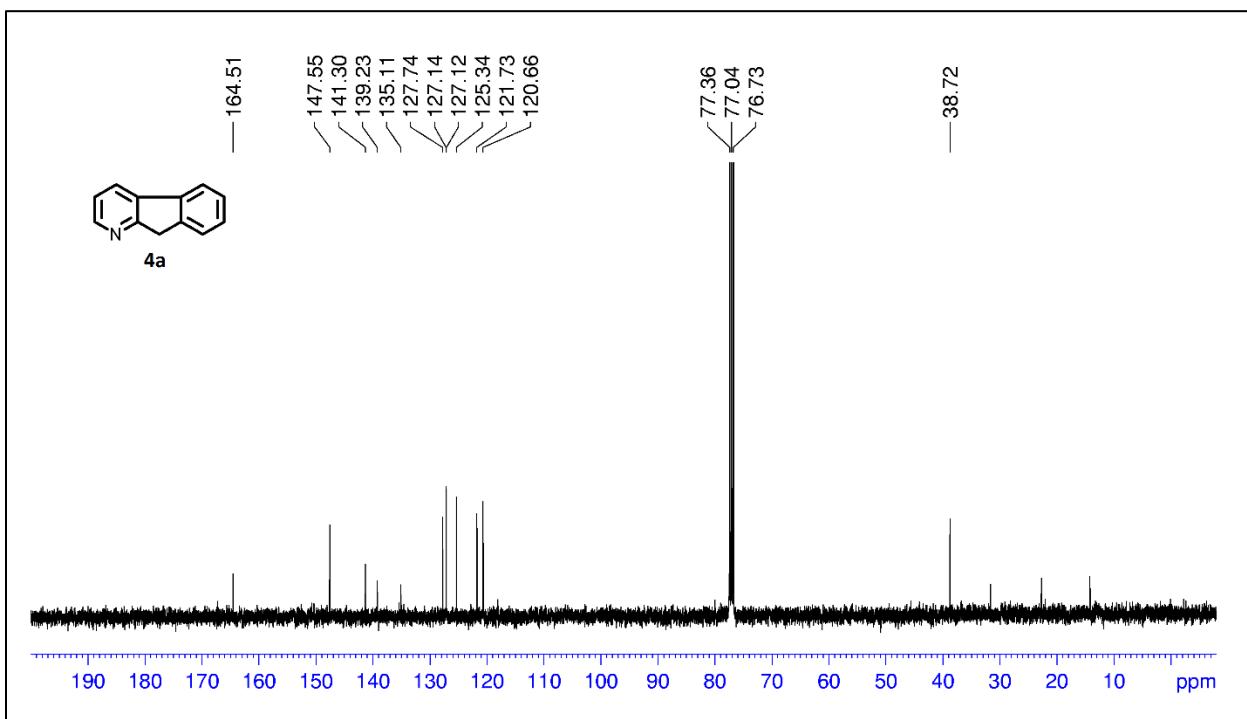
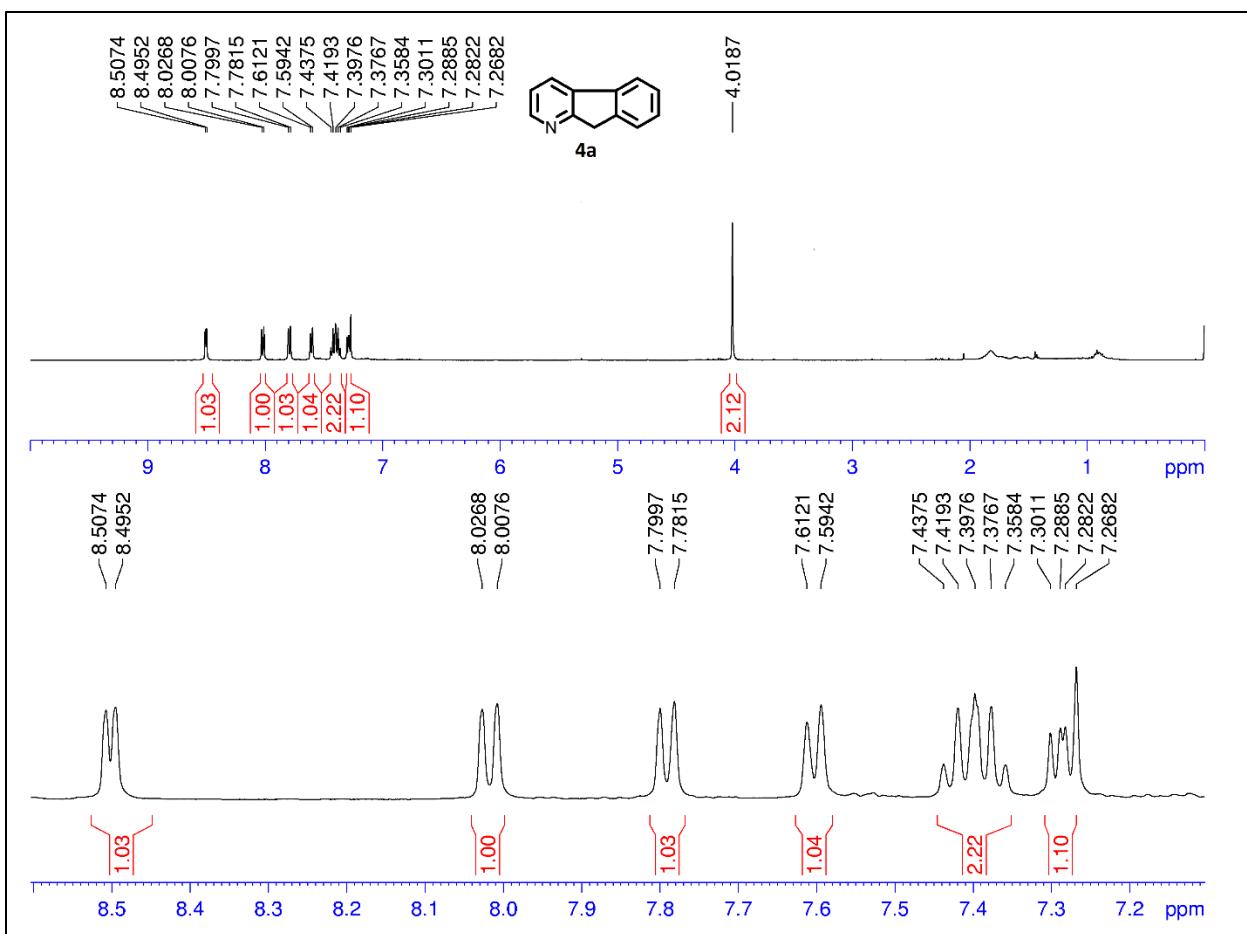


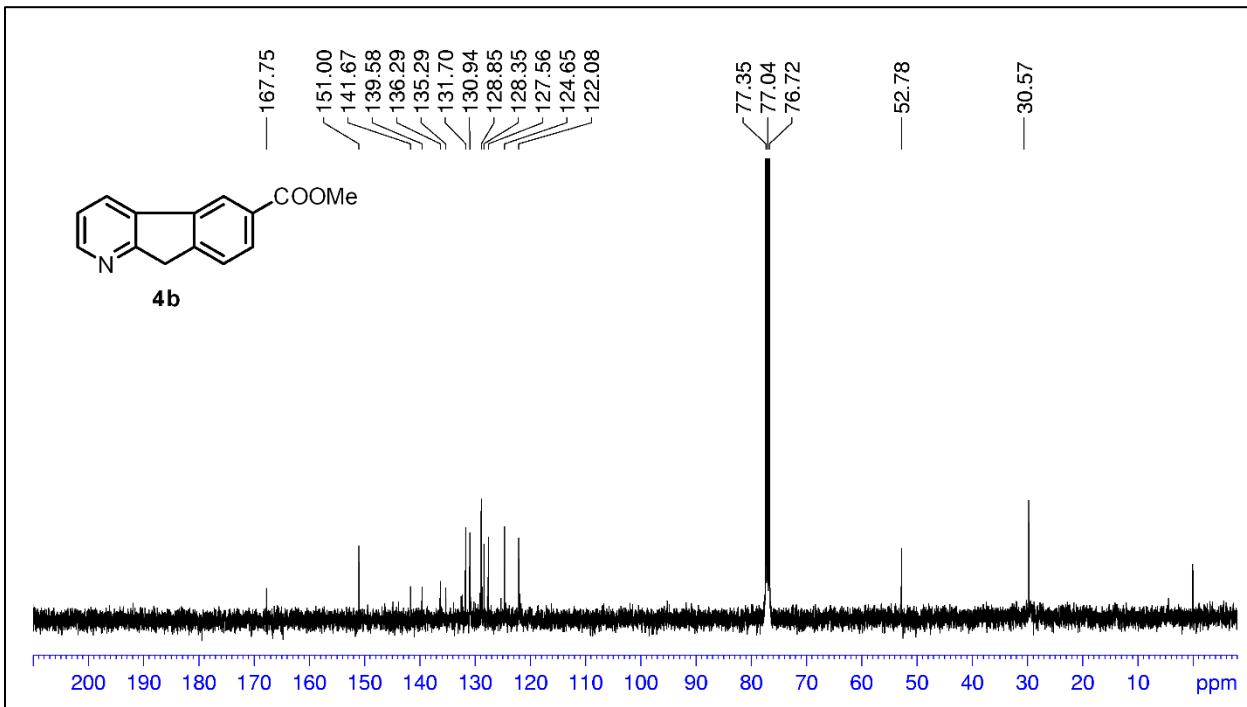
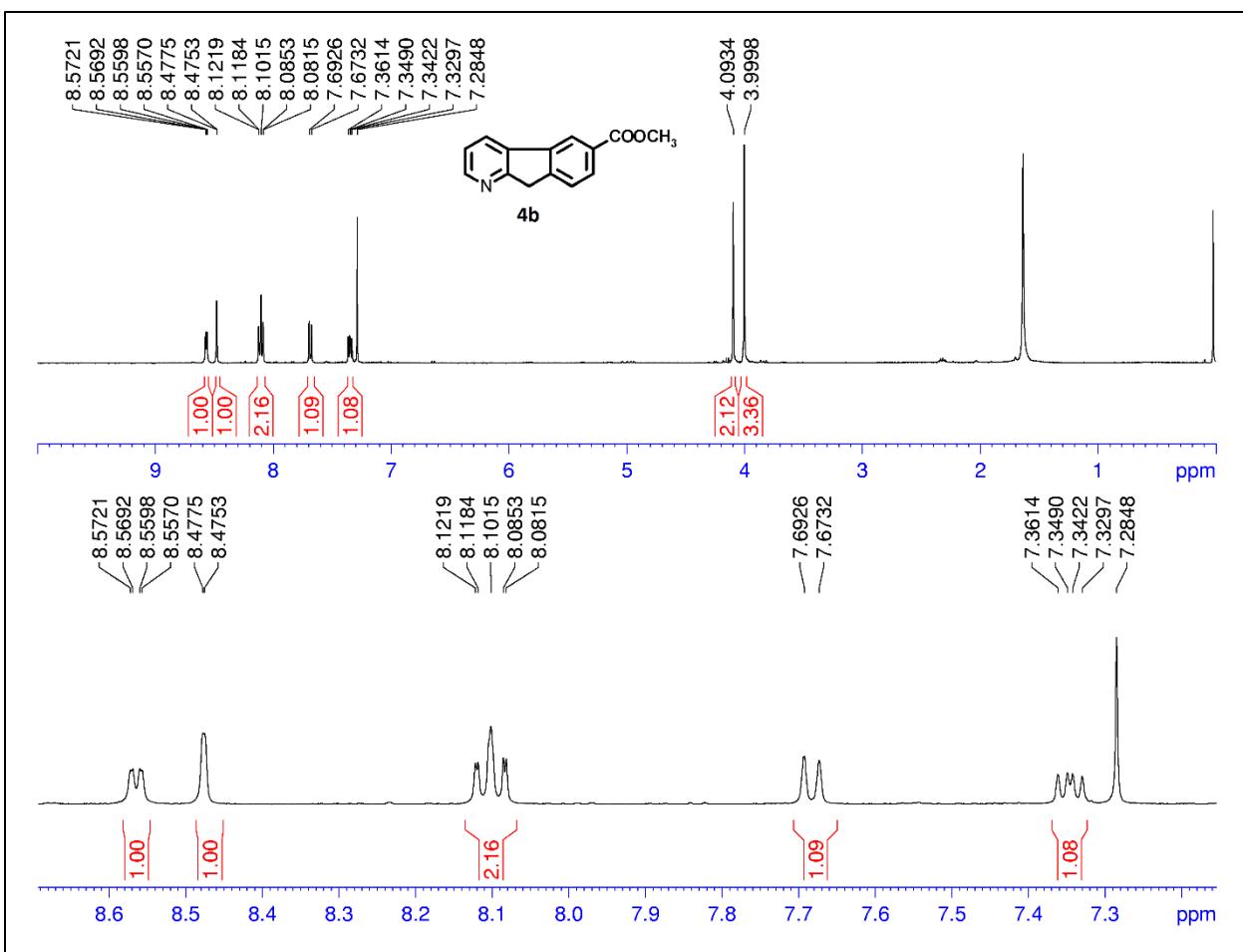


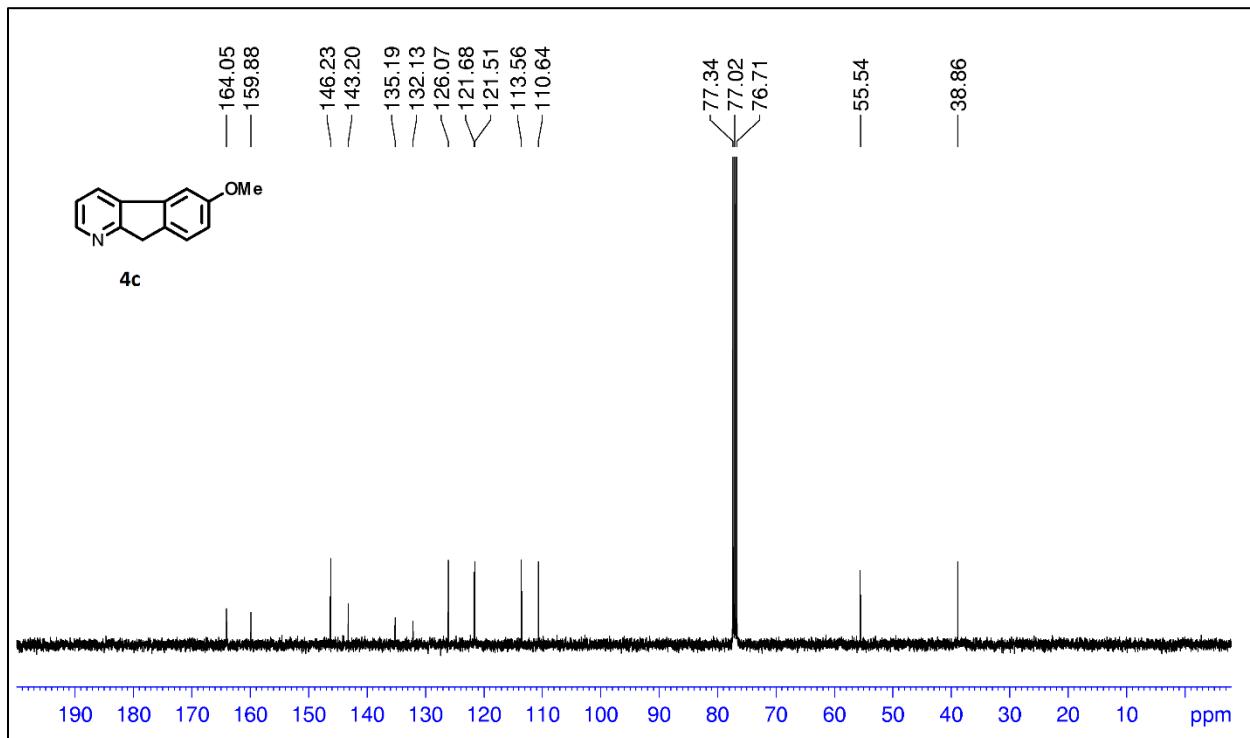
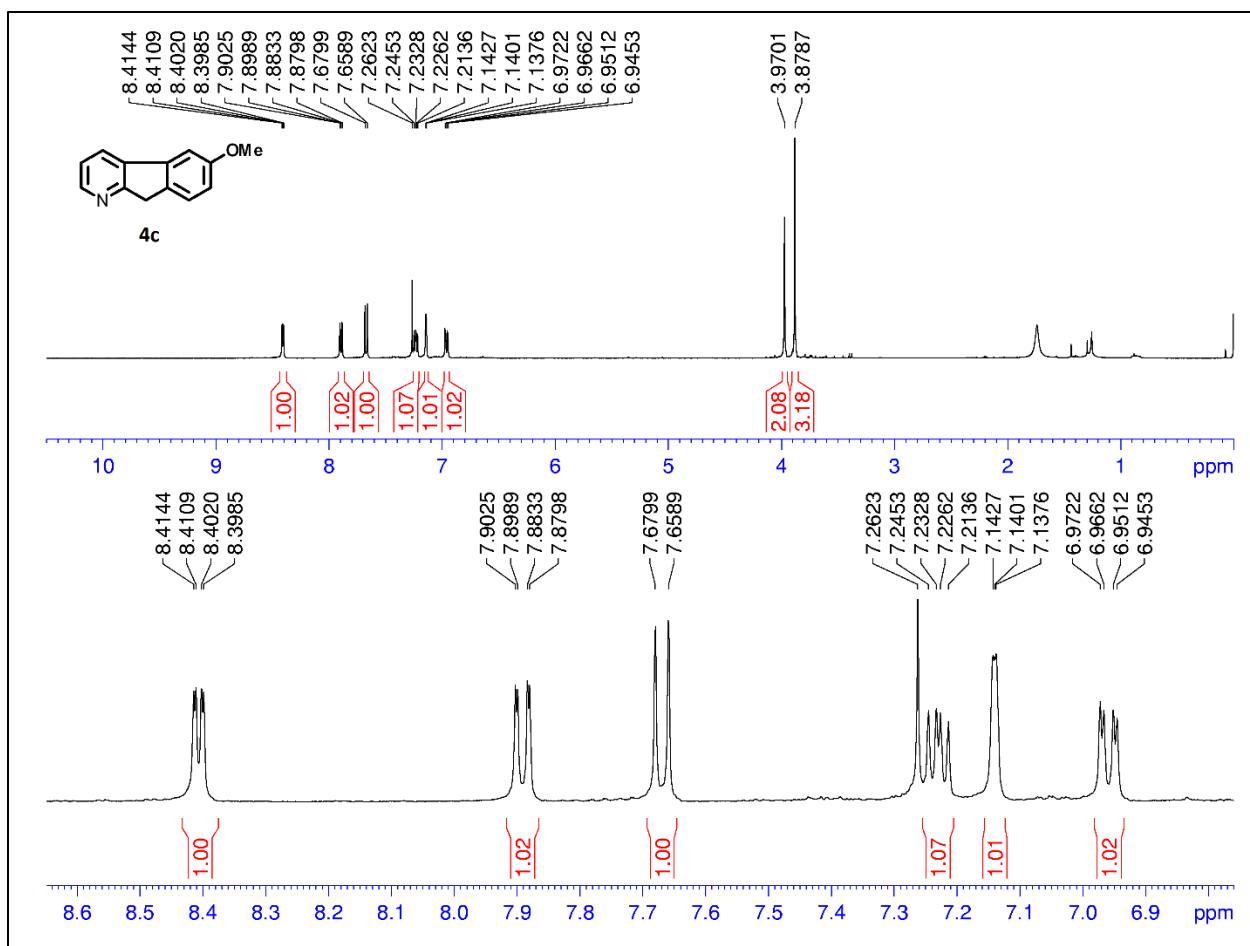


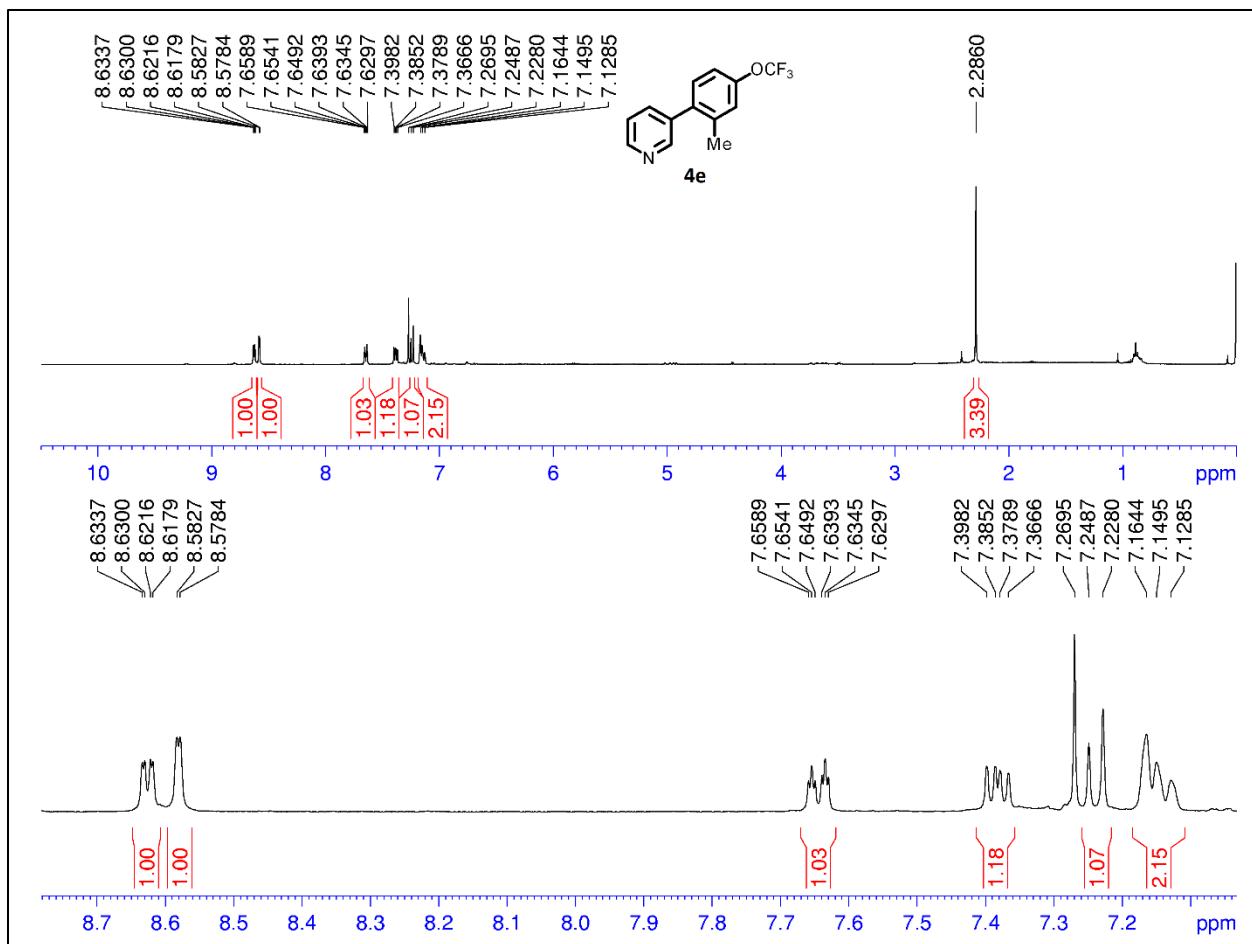


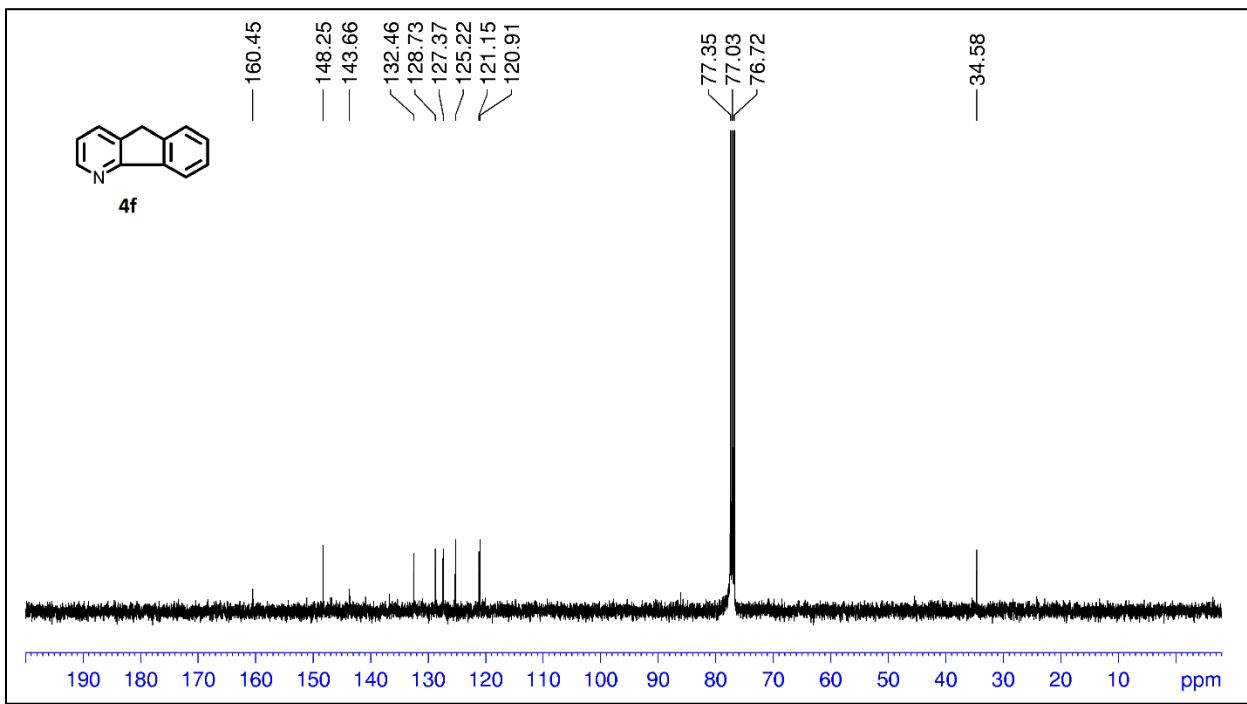
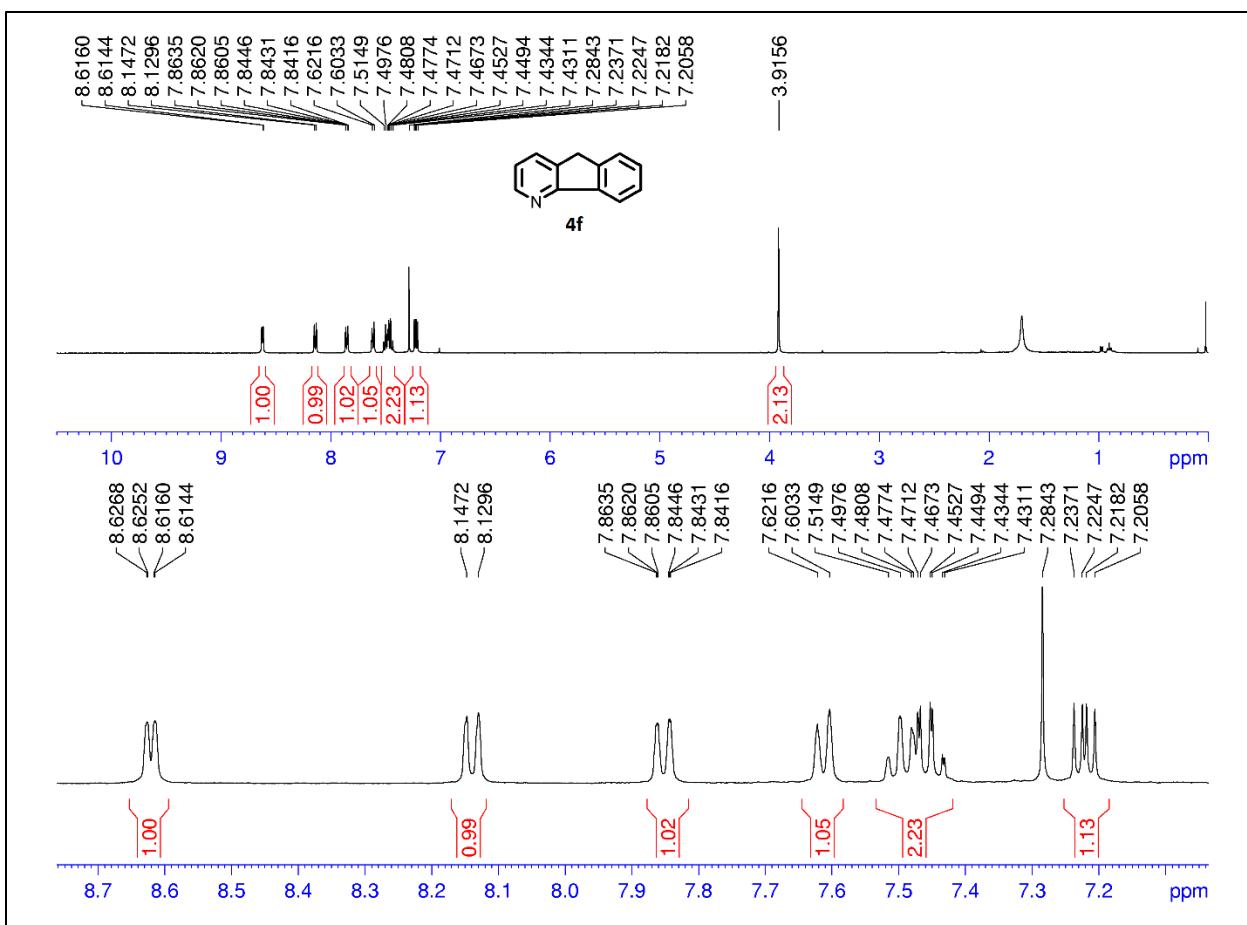


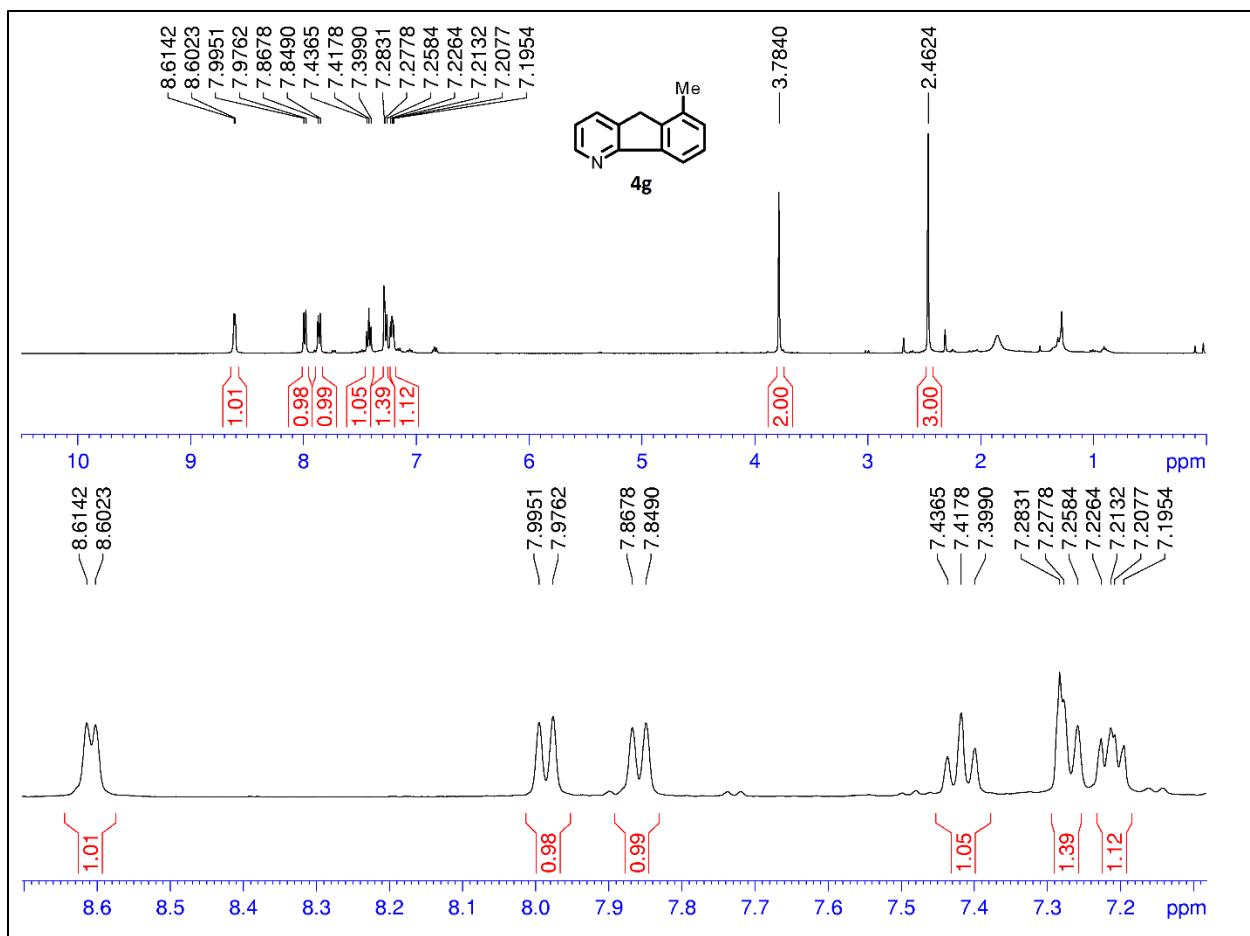


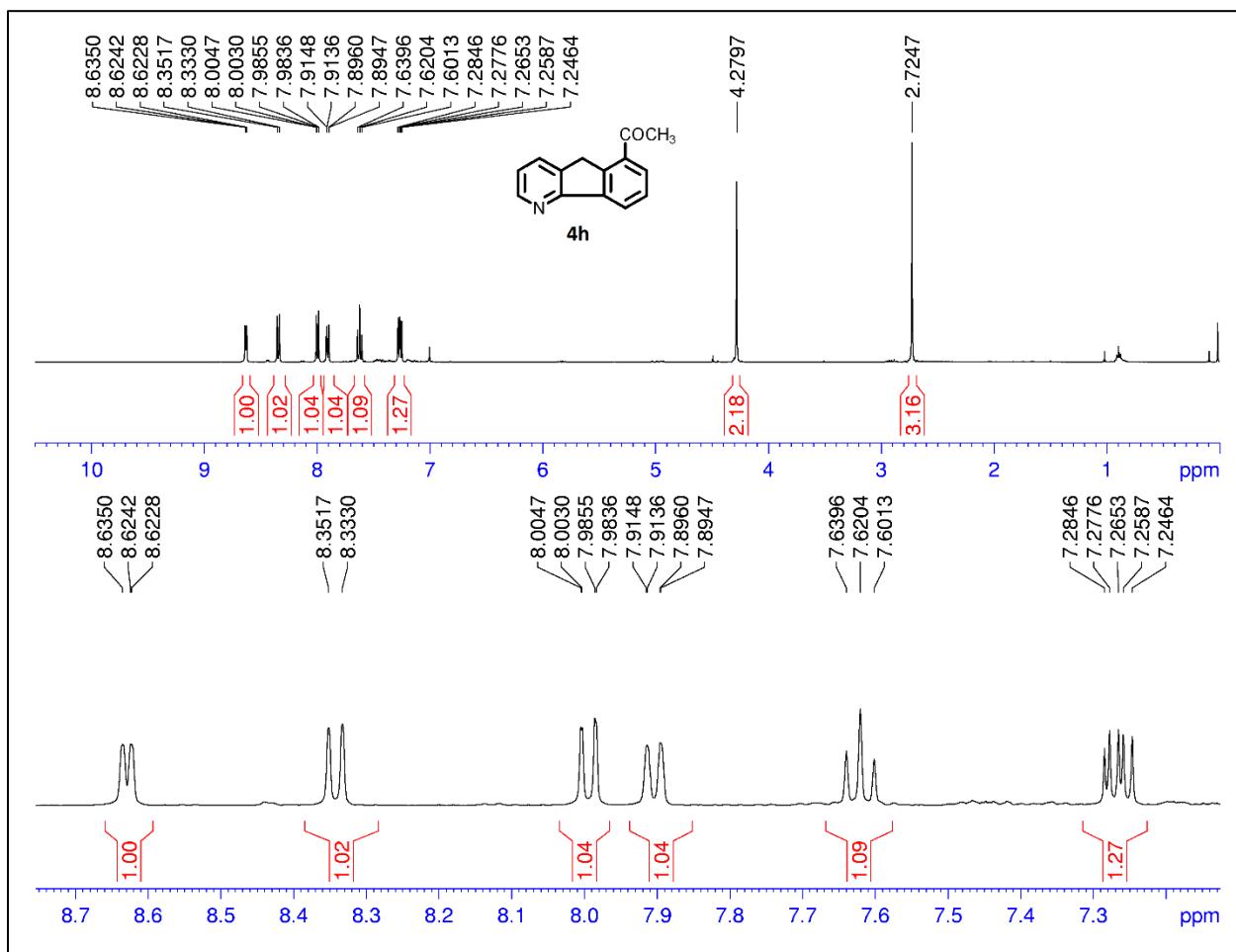
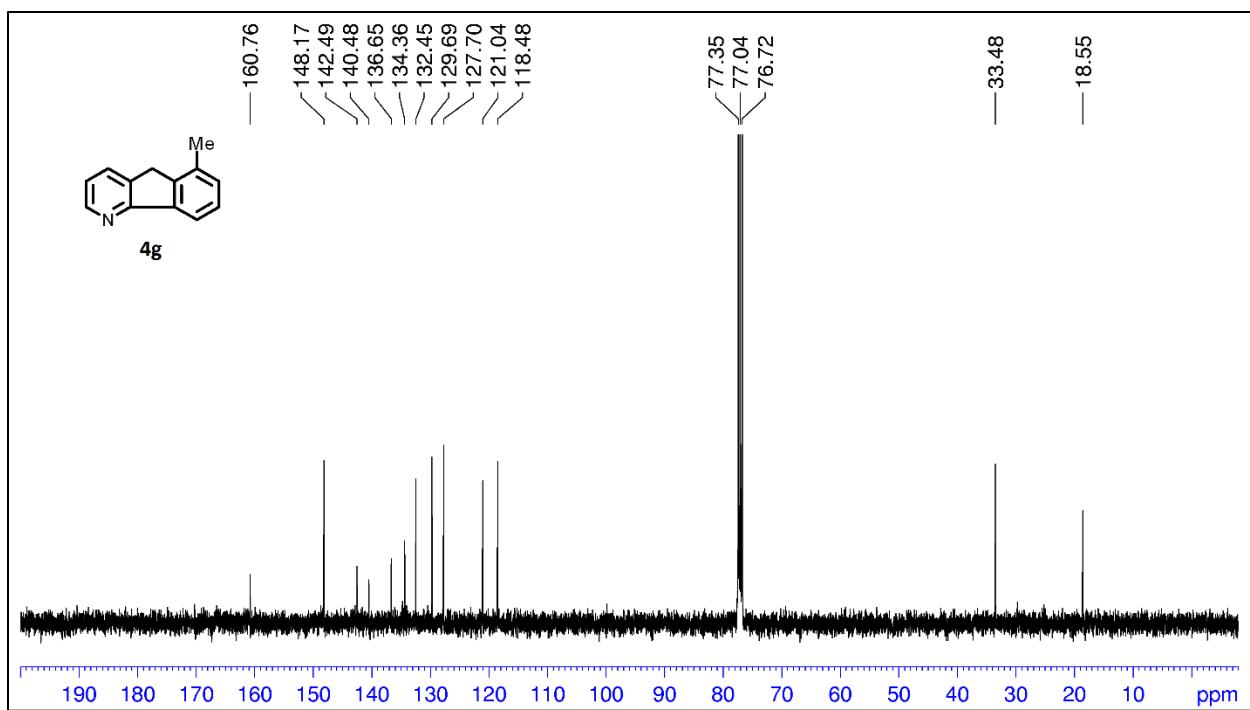


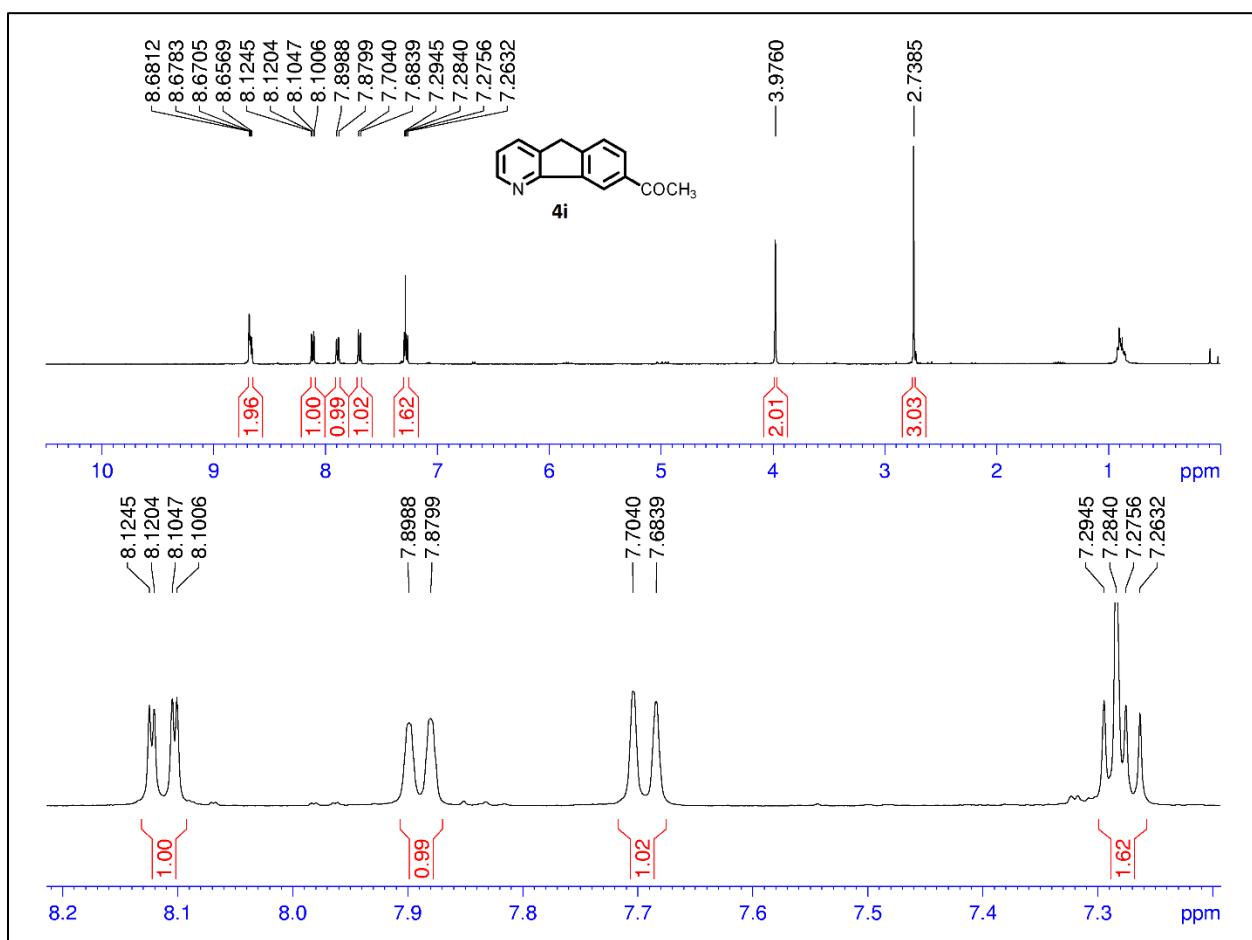
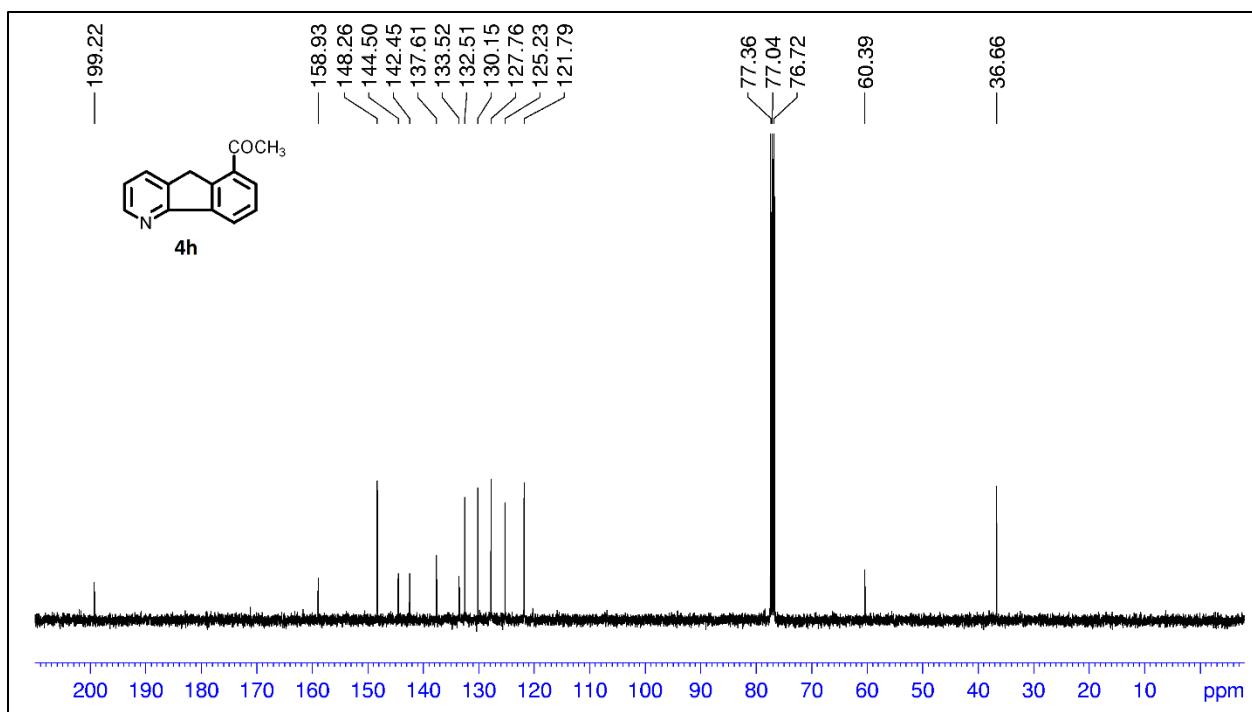


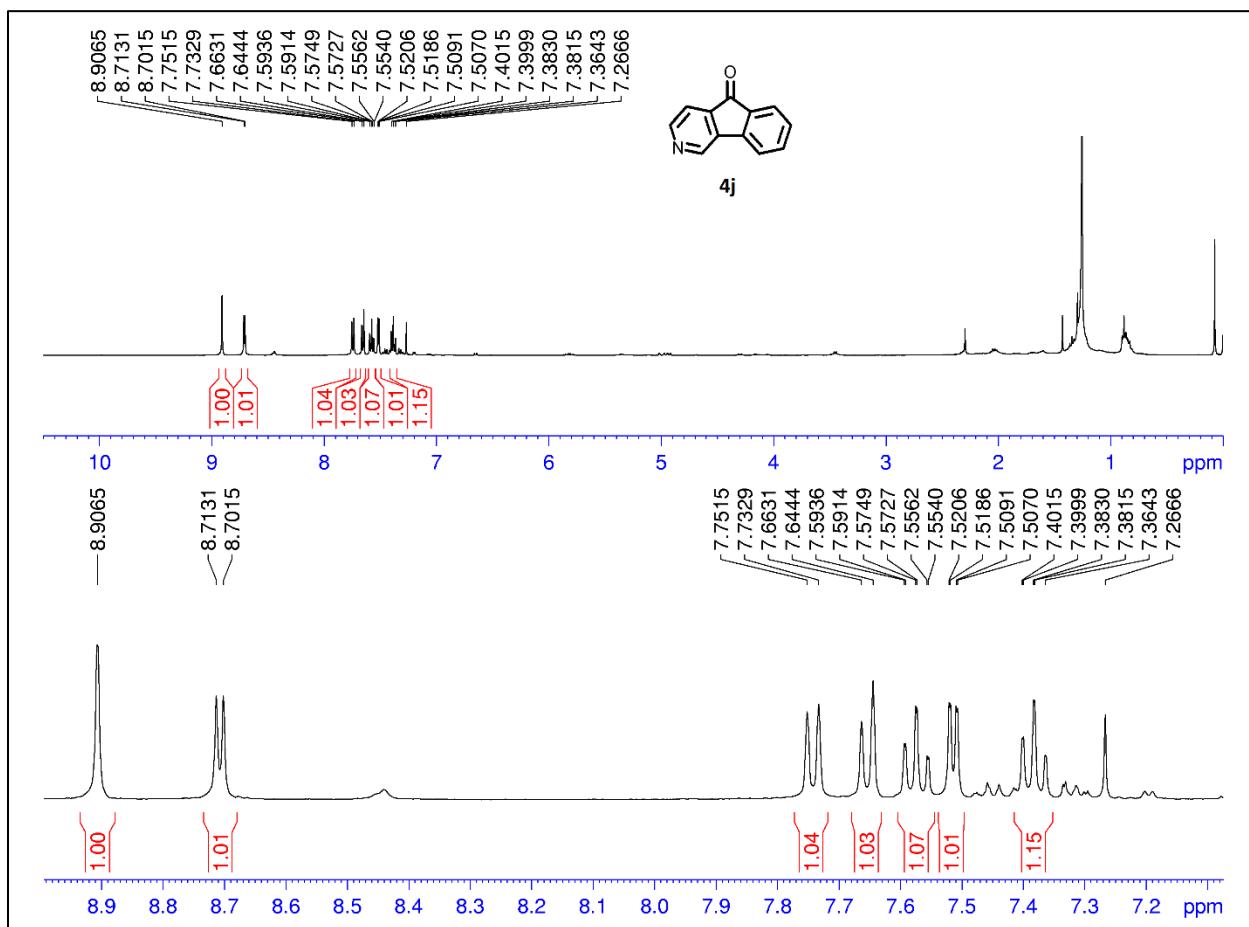
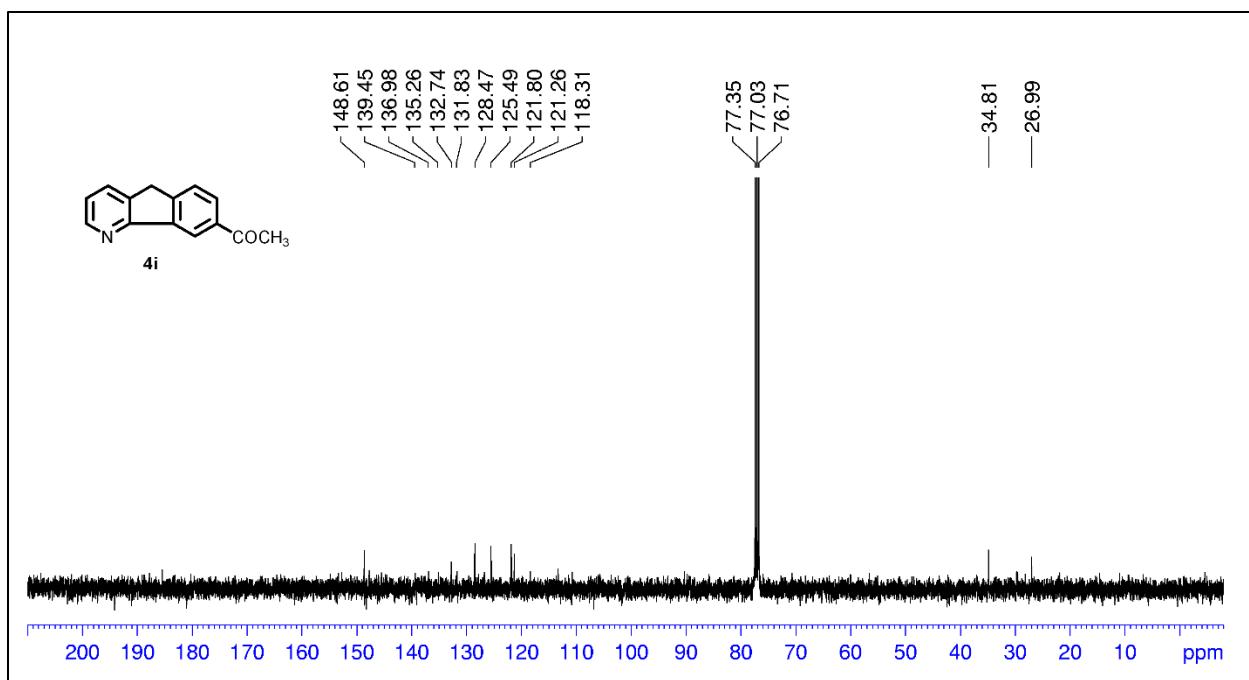


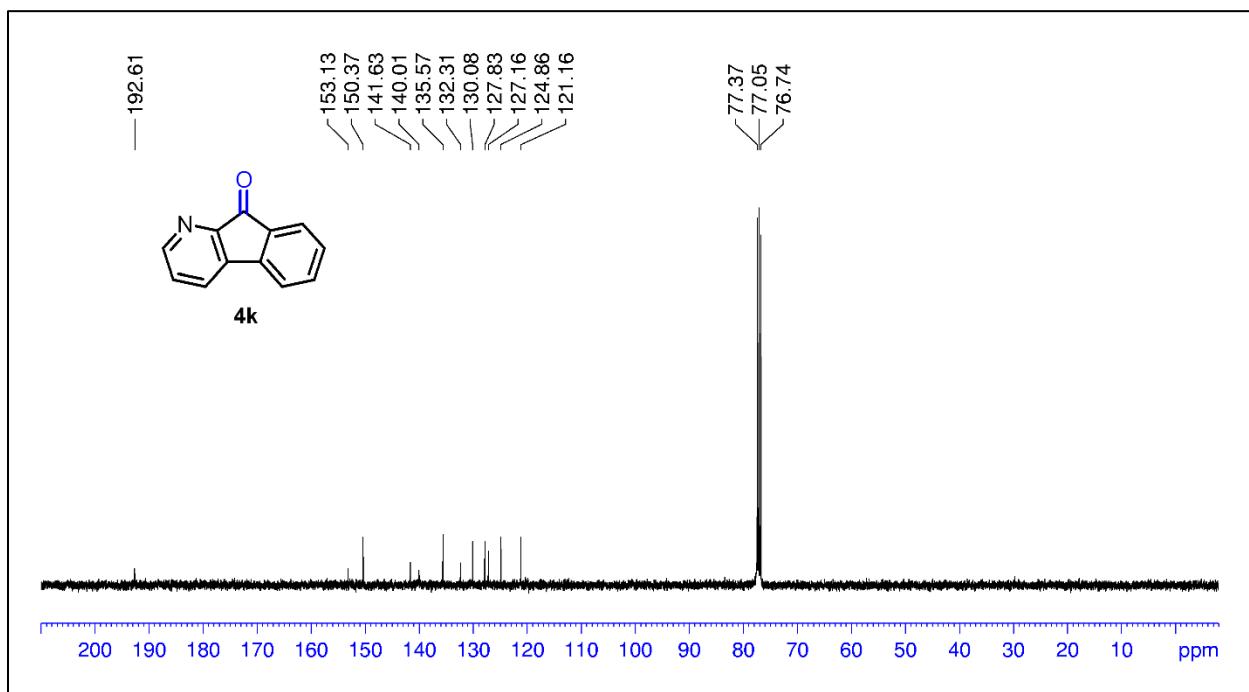
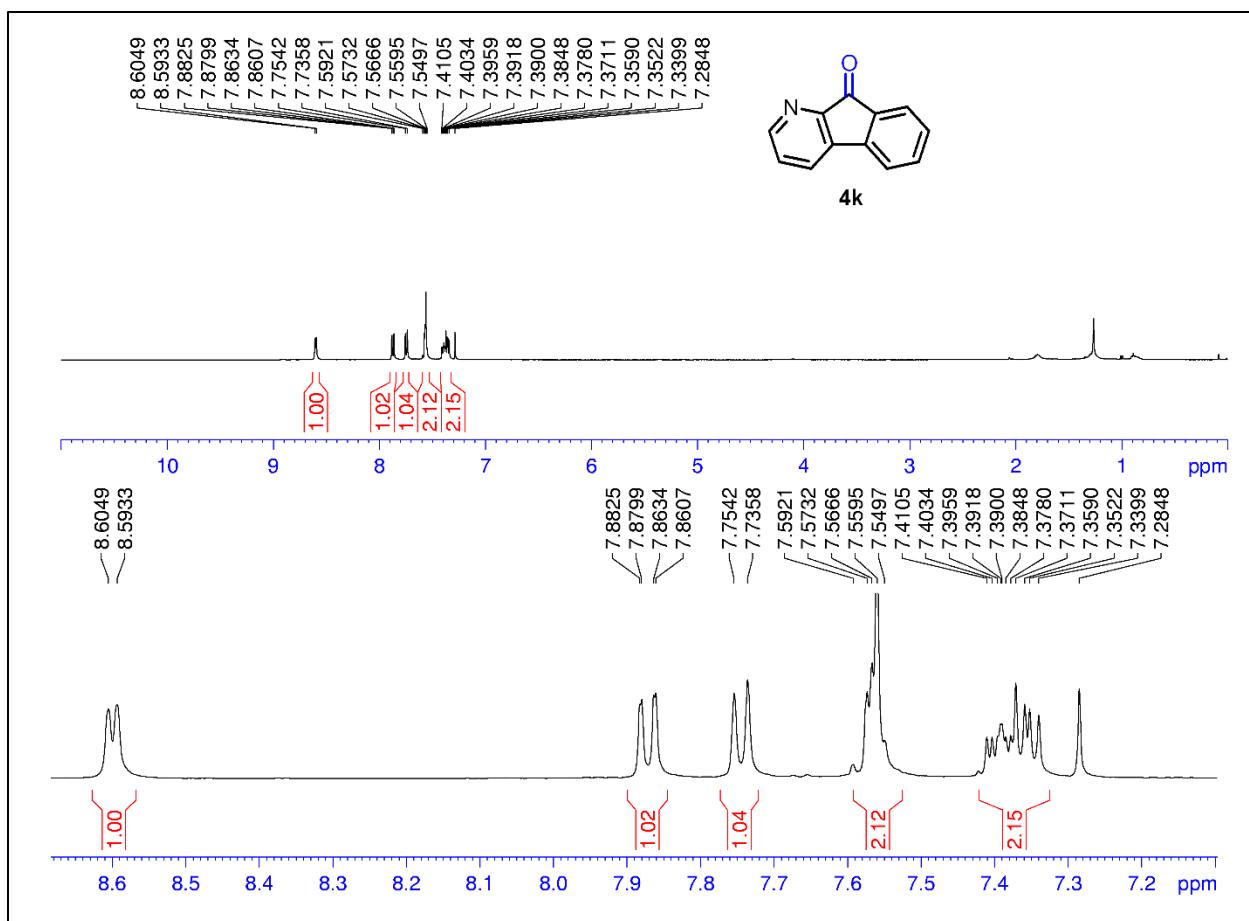


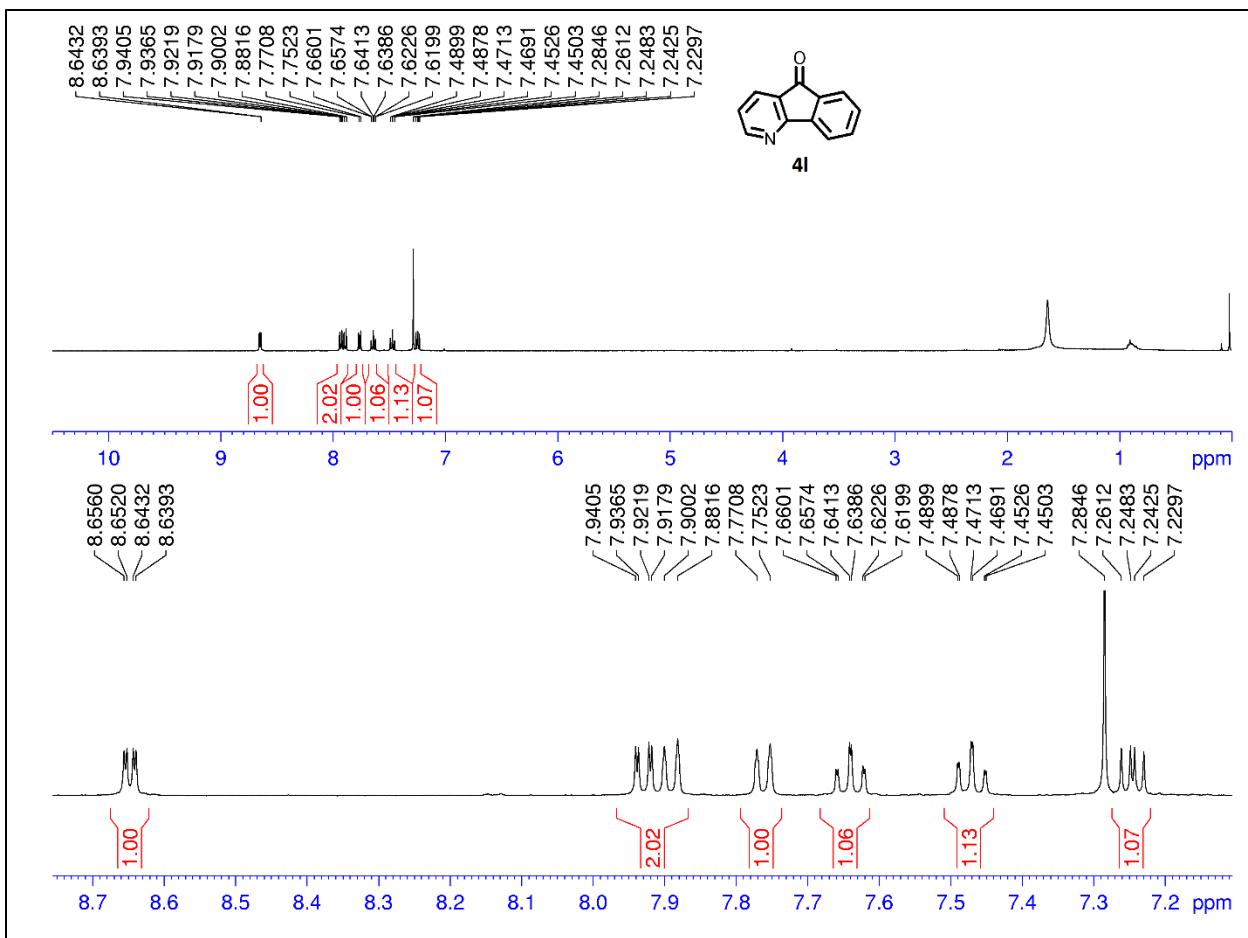












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