

Supporting Information for

***N,O*-Bidentate ligand-tunable copper(II) complexes as catalyst
for Chan-Lam coupling reactions of arylboronic acids with
1*H*-imidazole derivatives**

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1. General experimental information

All coupling reactions were performed under air conditions. Imidazole derivatives and arylboronic Acids were purchased and directly used without purification. The solvents were distilled prior to use. Preparative thin layer chromatography was performed on GF-254 silica gel. The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-600 spectrometer using CDCl_3 as the solvent at 600 and 150 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are given as δ value with $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{Si}$ as the internal standard. The coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). HRMS data were obtained by ESI on a TOF mass spectrometer.

2. NMR data of the products (3aa-3ak)

1-Phenyl-1H-benzimidazole (3aa).^{1,2} Slightly yellow oil (39.6 mg, 92% yield); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.93 (dd, $J = 2.4, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.21, 136.14, 133.64, 130.13, 128.28, 127.46, 124.16, 123.97, 123.15, 120.43, 110.62.

1-(4-Methylphenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ab).¹ Pale yellow solid (43.8 mg, 96% yield); mp: 114-115 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.87 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.87, 142.44, 138.17, 133.89, 133.76, 130.59, 124.02, 123.63, 122.73, 120.51, 110.51, 21.14.

1-(4-*t*-Butylphenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ac).³ Pale yellow solid (50.8 mg, 94% yield); mp: 108-109 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.31(m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.35, 143.89, 142.45, 133.86, 133.70, 126.94, 123.72, 123.62, 122.74, 120.51, 110.61, 34.80, 31.35.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ad).^{2, 4} Pale yellow solid (43 mg, 88% yield); mp: 93-94 °C (lit.¹³ 96-97 °C); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.23(m, 2H), 6.99(d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.37, 141.44, 133.19, 128.02, 124.73, 122.59, 121.68, 119.39, 114.11, 111.95, 109.37, 54.62.

1-(2-Methylphenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ae).⁵ Pale yellow solid (39.7 mg, 87% yield); mp: 164-165 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.30, 142.98, 135.40, 134.77, 134.72, 131.54, 129.35, 127.69, 127.19, 123.53, 122.51, 120.42, 110.52, 17.62.

1-(3-Benzyloxyphenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3af). Pale yellow solid (62.7 mg, 98% yield); mp: 102-103 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 1.8

Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 1.2, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, $J = 1.8, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 3H), 5.13 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.86, 144.01, 142.24, 137.40, 136.30, 133.54, 130.91, 128.79, 128.27, 127.47, 123.76, 122.87, 120.60, 116.27, 114.52, 110.78, 110.64, 70.35. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 301.1341 found 301.1335.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ag).³ Slightly yellow oil (45.5 mg, 98% yield); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.89 (dd, $J = 1.8, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, $J = 2.4, 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.86, 161.21, 143.81, 142.33, 133.91, 132.36 ($J = 3.0$ Hz), 126.11 ($J = 9.0$ Hz), 123.89, 122.96, 120.66, 117.14, 116.99, 110.19.

1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ah). Slightly yellow oil (45.3 mg, 97% yield); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.11 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.87 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.01, 141.99, 137.46, 135.75, 133.35, 131.13, 128.21, 124.17, 124.06, 123.16, 122.08, 120.79, 110.32. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{Cl}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 229.0532, found 229.0538.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-1H-benzimidazole (3ai). Pale yellow solid (37.3 mg, 72% yield); mp: 172-173 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.33 (dd, $J = 1.2, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.90-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.81 (t, J

= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.26, 144.17, 141.72, 137.52, 133.08, 131.23, 129.44, 124.49, 123.56, 122.58, 121.07, 118.72, 110.01. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 240.0773, found 240.0768.

1-Naphthyl-1H-benzimidazole (3aj).⁶ Pale yellow solid (49.1 mg, 93% yield); mp: 72-73 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.79, 143.40, 135.67, 134.46, 132.39, 129.82, 129.71, 128.50, 127.58, 127.09, 125.50, 124.96, 123.64, 122.73, 122.59, 120.60, 110.85.

1-Thienyl-1H-benzimidazole (3ak).⁷ Pale yellow solid (39.2 mg, 89% yield); mp: 48-49 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 1.2, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, $J = 1.2, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, $J = 3.6, 5.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.19, 132.33, 130.92, 128.85, 126.44, 124.13, 123.44, 123.20, 121.94, 120.16, 110.53.

3. NMR data of the products (3ba-3ia)

1-Phenyl-1H-imidazole (3ba).^{1,13} Pale yellow solid (27.7 mg, 96% yield); mp: 52-53 °C (lit.¹³ 54-55 °C); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88

(s, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.38, 135.65, 130.40, 129.91, 127.54, 121.54, 118.29.

1-Phenyl-4-methyl-1H-imidazole (3ca).⁸ Pale yellow solid (26.6 mg, 84% yield); mp: 58-59 °C (lit:⁸ 61-63 °C); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.36(d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.33(d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.53, 137.51, 134.54, 130.45, 129.83, 127.12, 122.02, 121.11, 114.63, 13.7.

1-Phenyl-4-nitro-1H-imidazole (3da).⁹ Pale yellow solid (28.7 mg, 76% yield); mp: 184-185 °C (lit:⁹ 187-188 °C); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.73(d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H) , 7.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.53, 131.32, 128.86, 127.66, 127.22, 123.37, 121.90, 119.34, 109.34.

1-Phenyl-2-chloromethyl-1H-benzimidazole(3ea).¹⁰ Pale yellow solid (39.2 mg, 81% yield); mp: 98-99 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, $J = 1.2, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.28 (dd, $J = 1.2, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H) ; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 150.22, 142.29, 136.46, 135.68, 129.77, 128.86, 126.93, 123.63, 122.81, 120.11, 110.58, 66.27, 58.39.

1-Phenyl-2-mercapto-1H-benzimidazole (3fa). Pale yellow solid (42.1 mg, 93% yield); mp: 124-125 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.13(s, 1H), 7.89-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.05, 142.31, 136.39, 133.73, 130.08, 128.07, 124.10, 123.72, 122.83, 120.63, 110.48. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N₂S [M + H]⁺ 227.0643, found 227.0651.

1-Phenyl-2-acetonitrile-1H-benzimidazole (3ga).¹¹ Pale yellow solid (34 mg, 73% yield); mp: 115-116 °C (lit.¹¹ 118-120 °C); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09(d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 - 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 0.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.14, 145.53, 136.02, 131.32, 129.90, 128.86, 127.66, 127.22, 123.37, 121.90, 119.35, 109.35, 59.38.

1-Phenyl-1H-1,2,4-triazole (3ha).^{8, 12} Pale yellow solid (27.9 mg, 96% yield); mp: 42-43 °C (lit.⁸ 44-44.5 °C); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.01, 136.87, 134.53, 130.99, 129.86, 128.48, 127.78, 120.18.

1-Phenyl-1H-benzotriazole (3ia).⁸ Pale yellow solid (34.7 mg, 89% yield); mp: 88-89 °C (lit.⁸ 85-86 °C) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08

(d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, $J = 1.2, 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dt, $J = 0.6, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dt, $J = 1.2, 7.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 146.54, 137.04, 132.34, 129.88, 128.68, 128.25, 124.40, 122.91, 120.35, 110.38.

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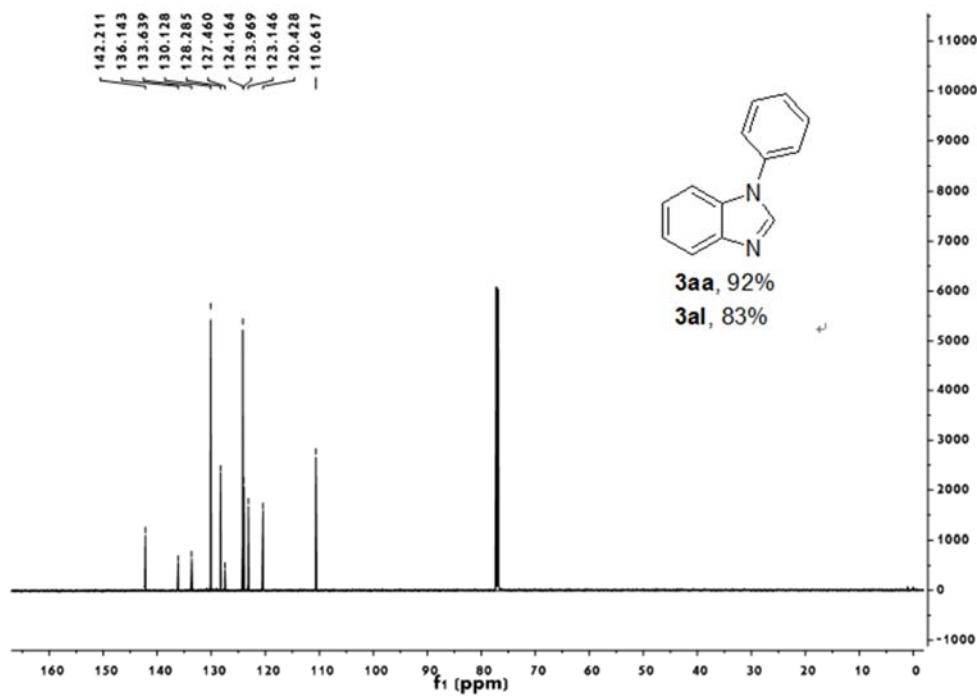
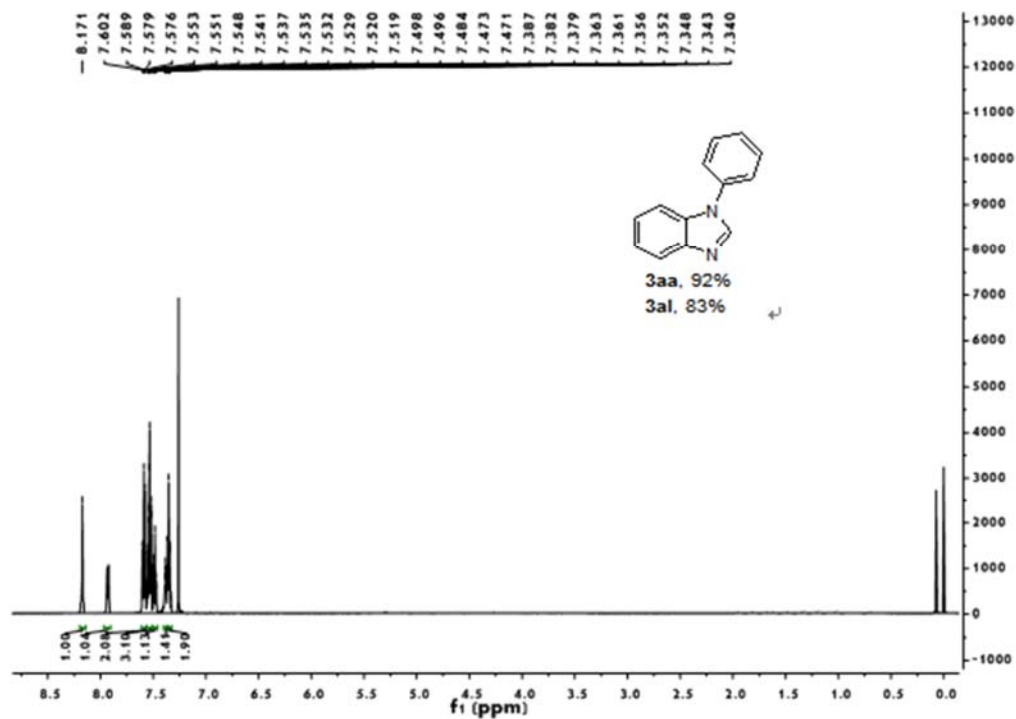
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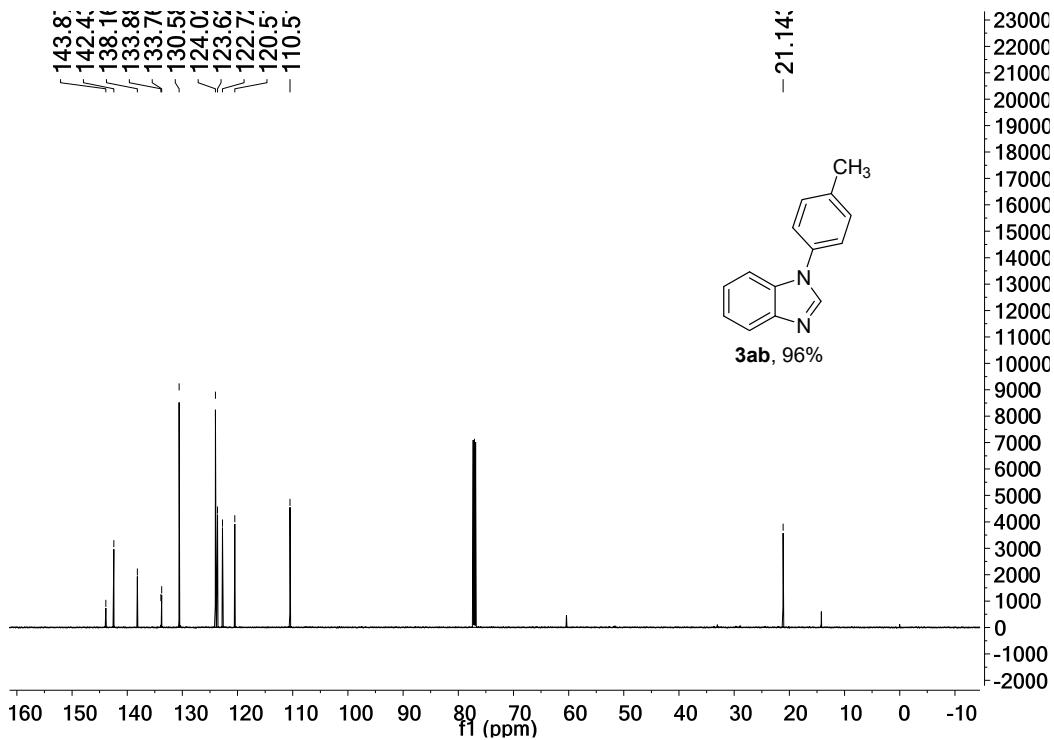
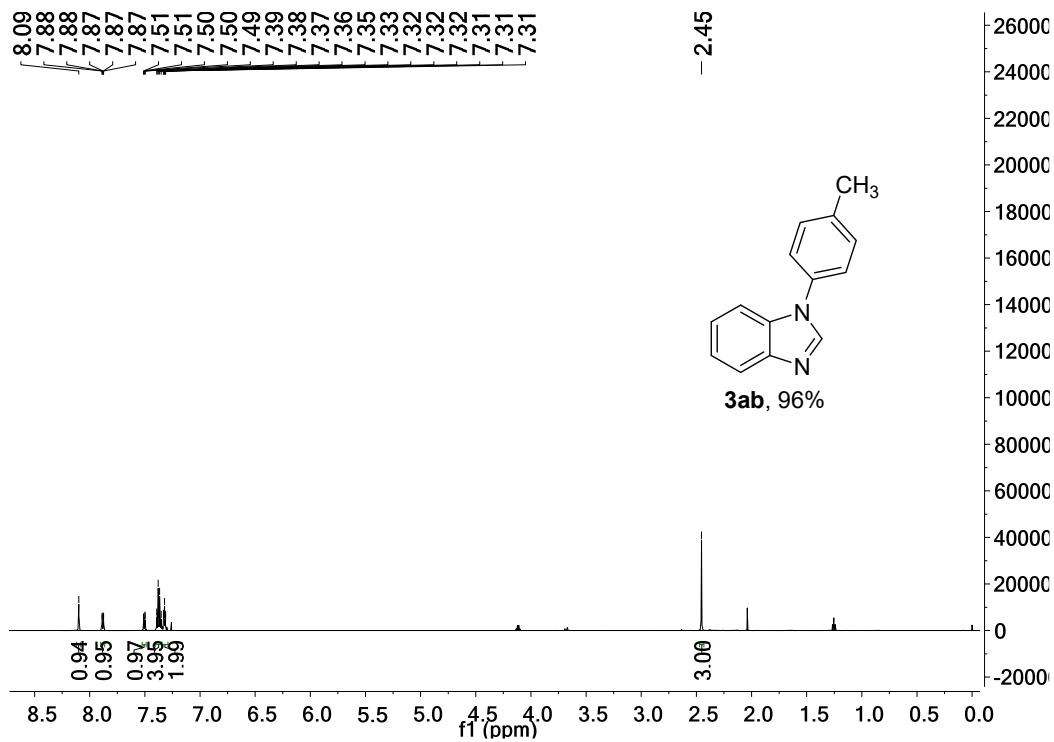
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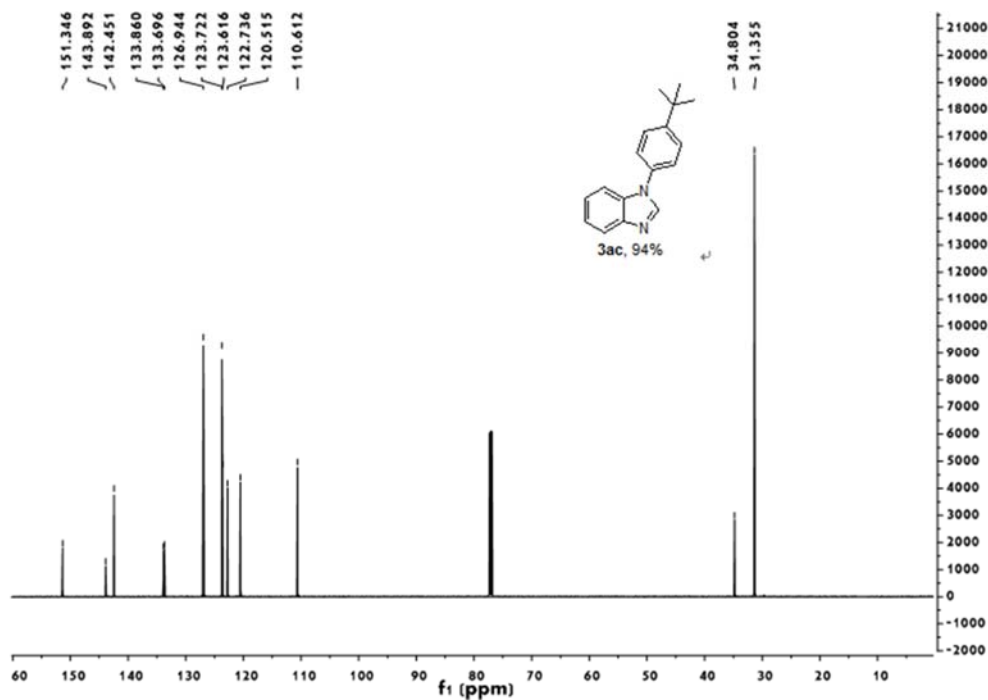
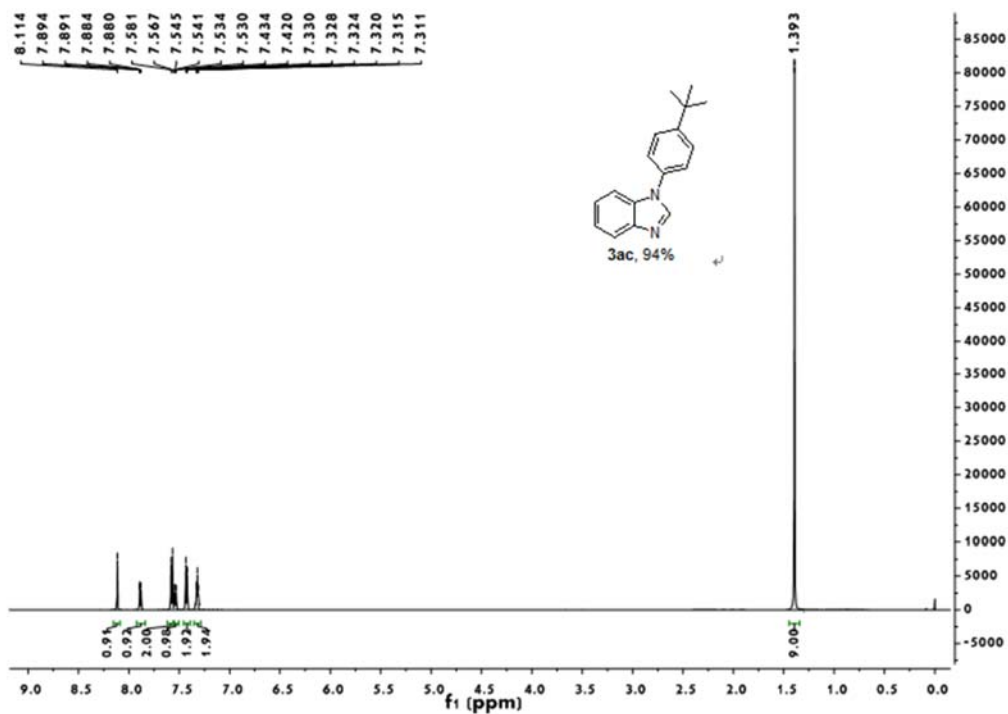
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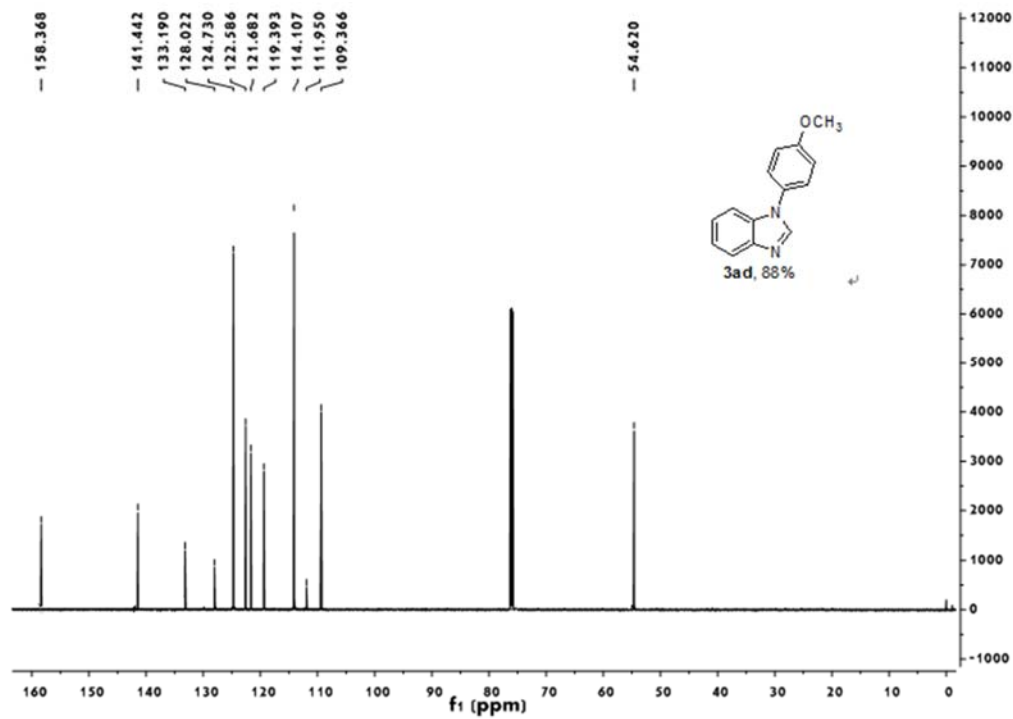
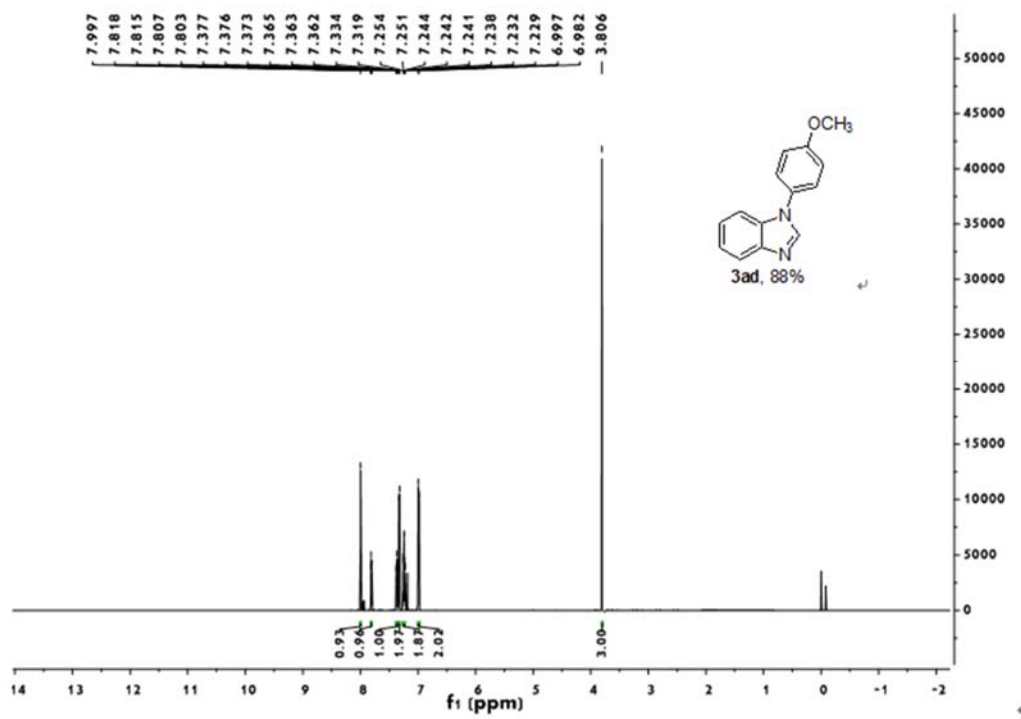
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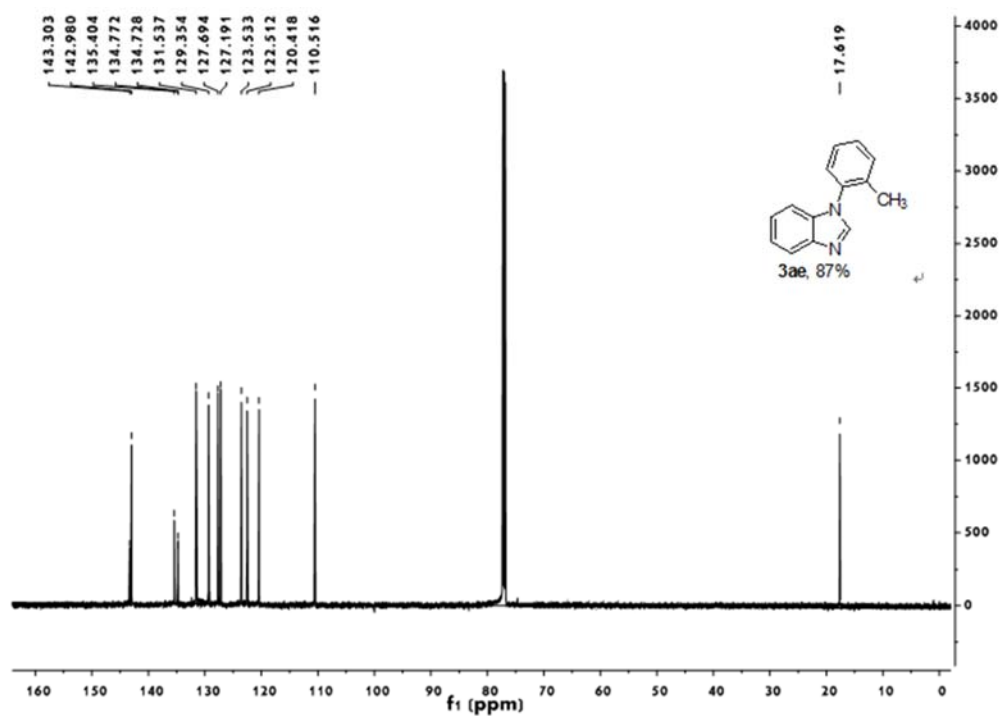
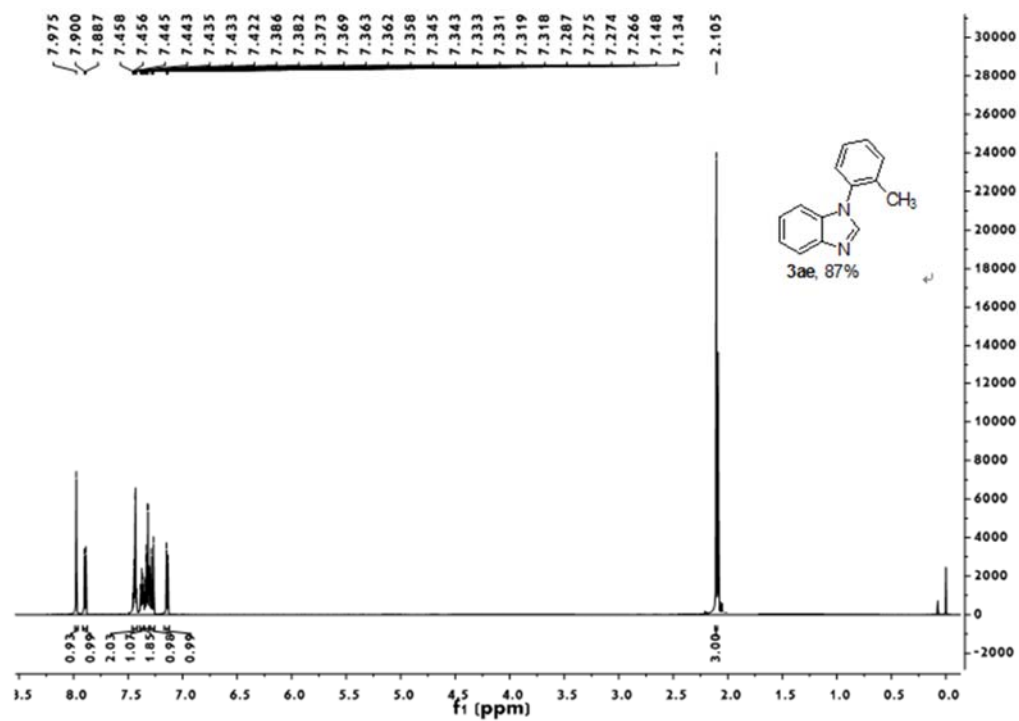
5. NMR Spectral Copies of the products (3aa-3ak)

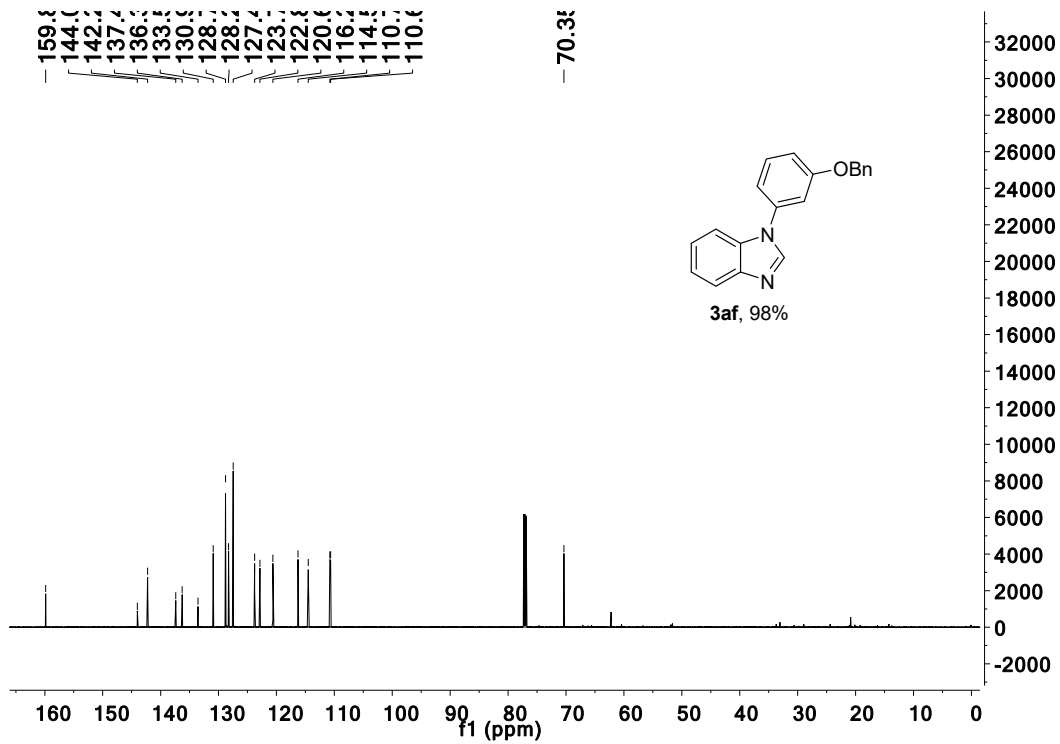
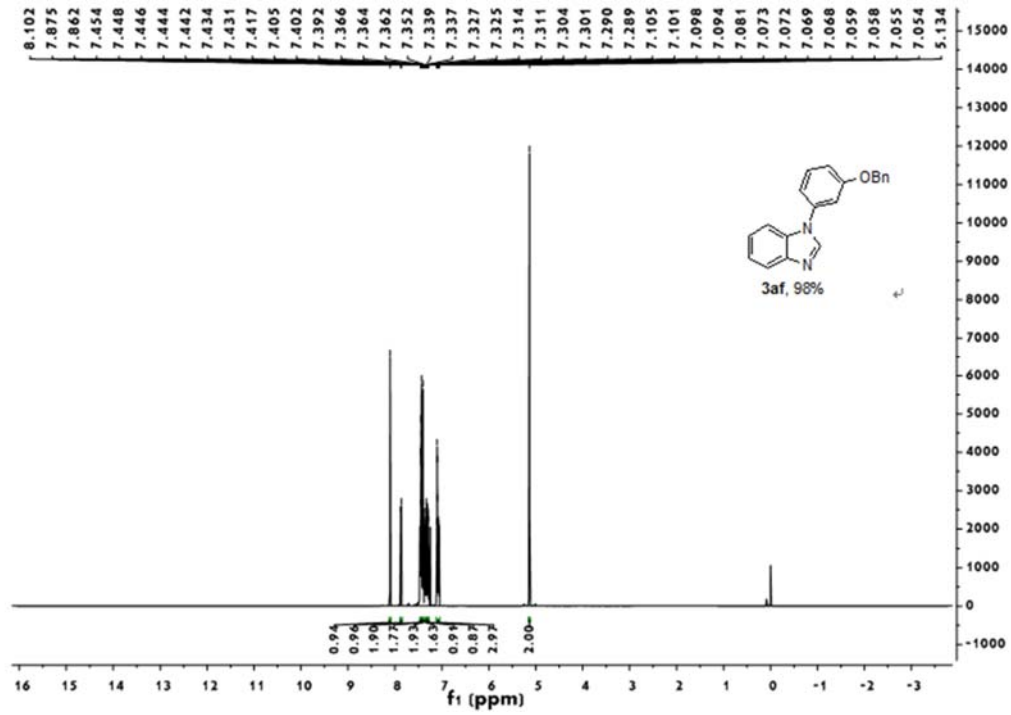


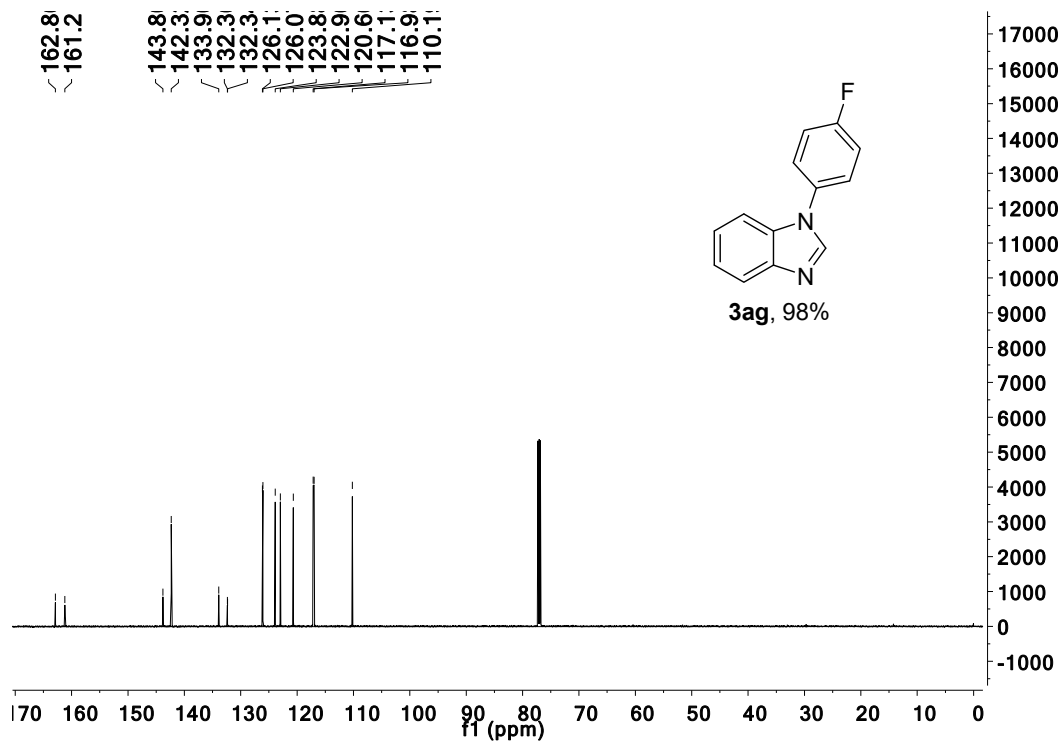
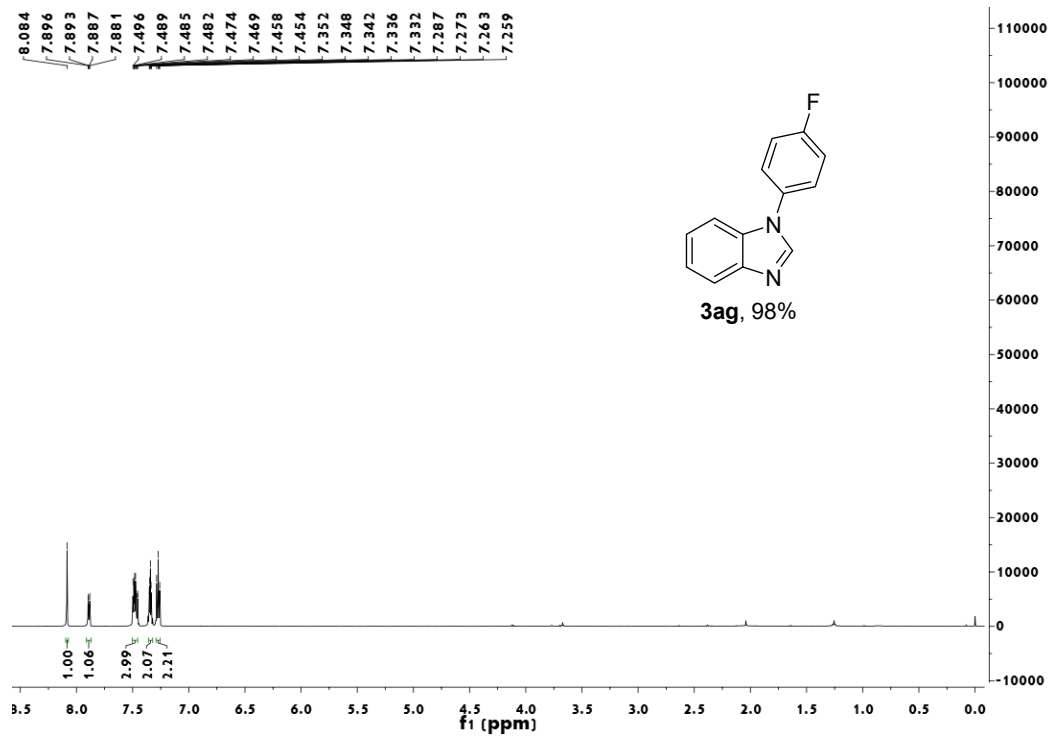


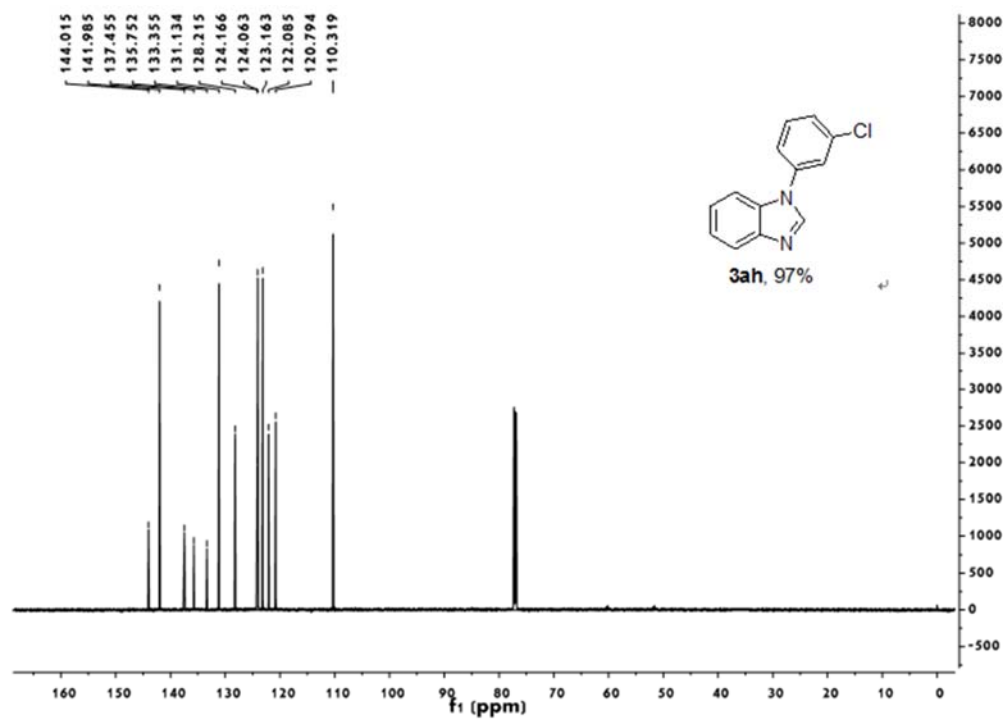
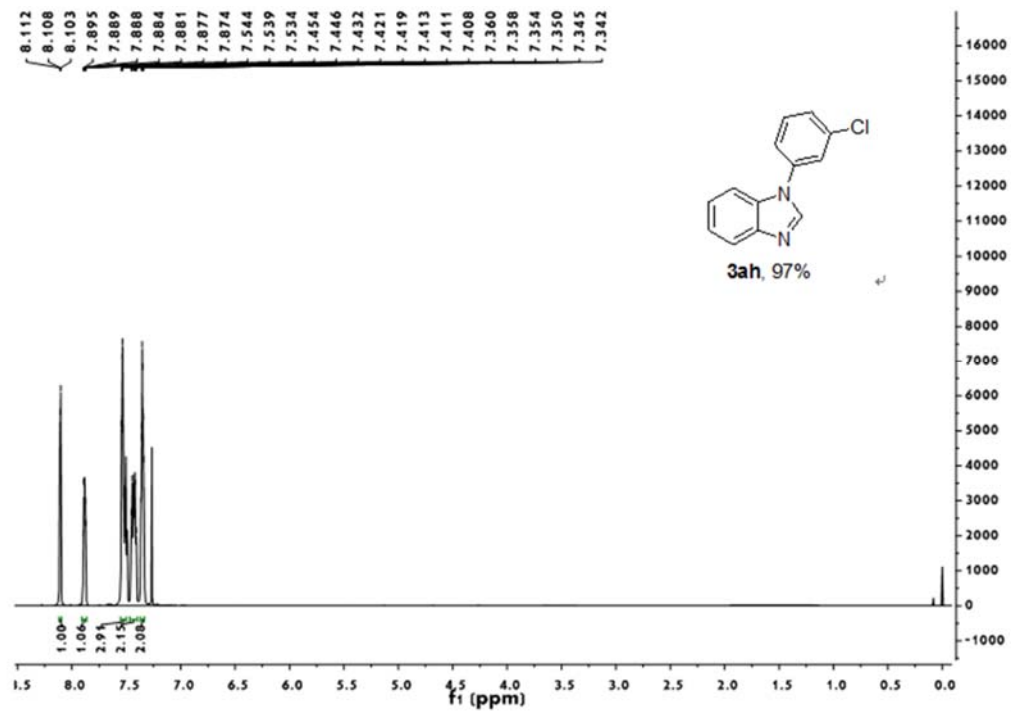


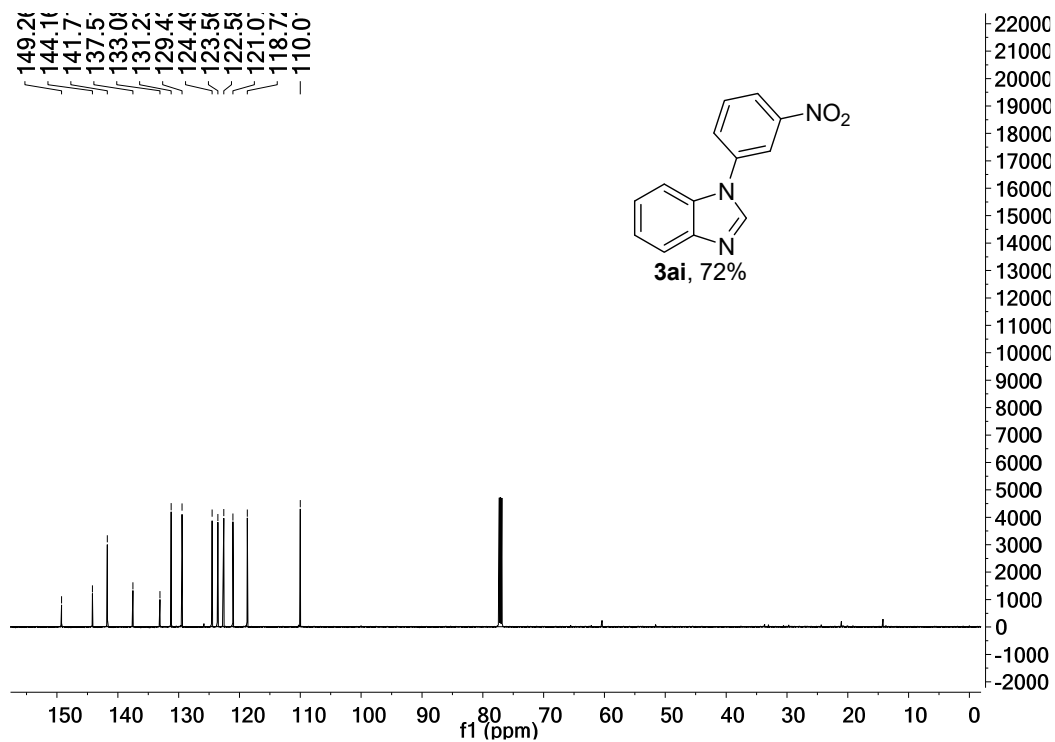
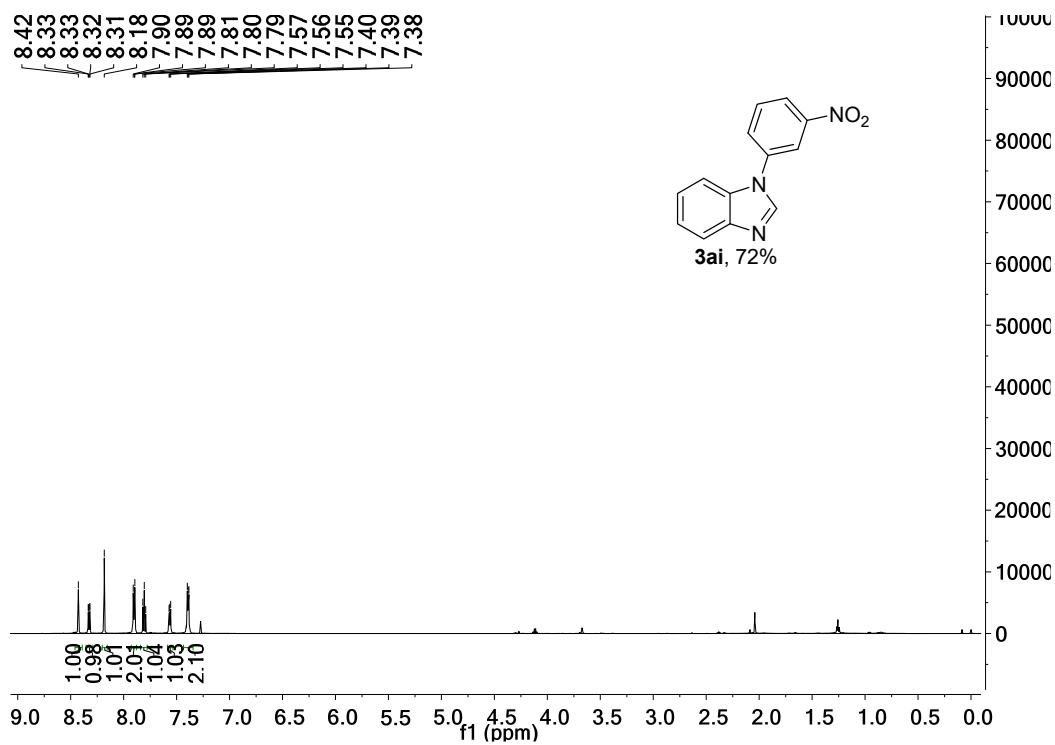


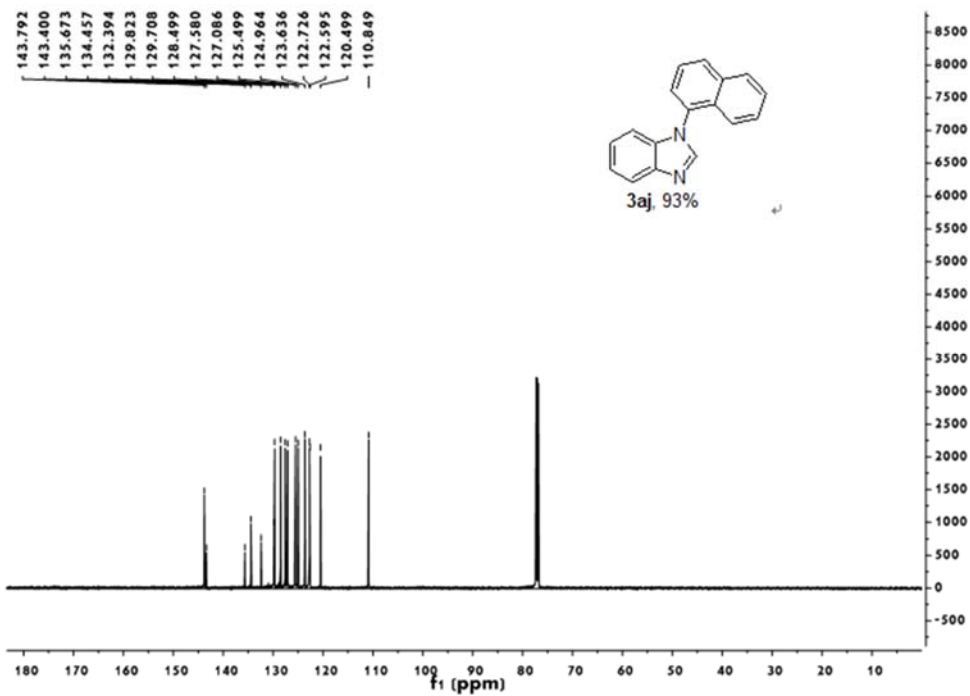
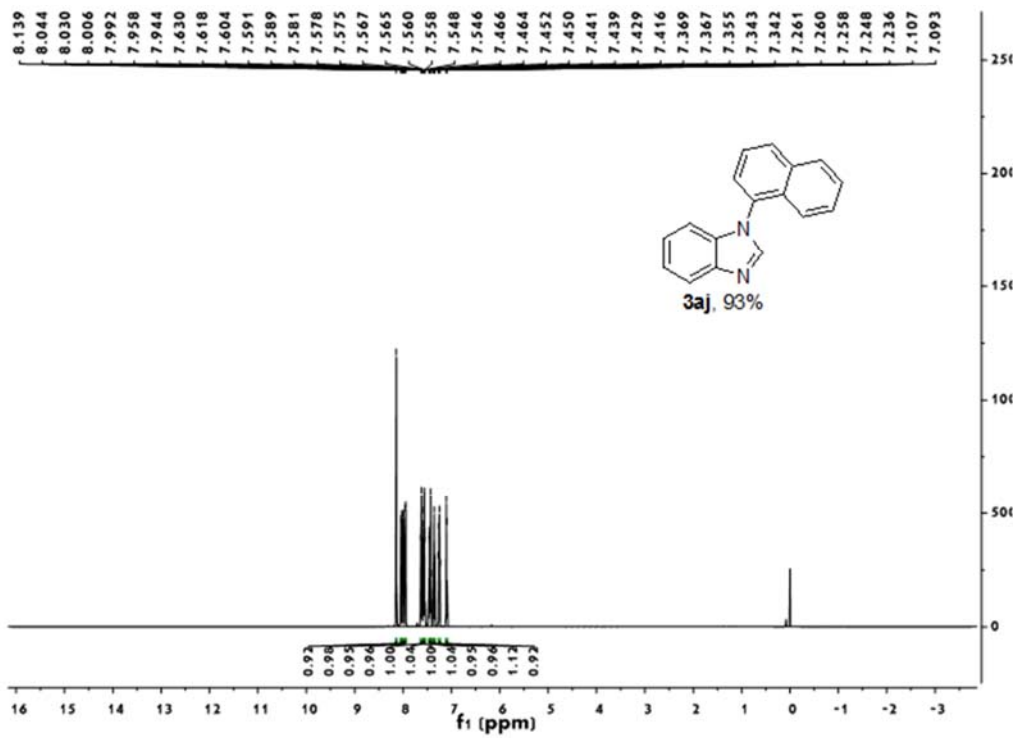


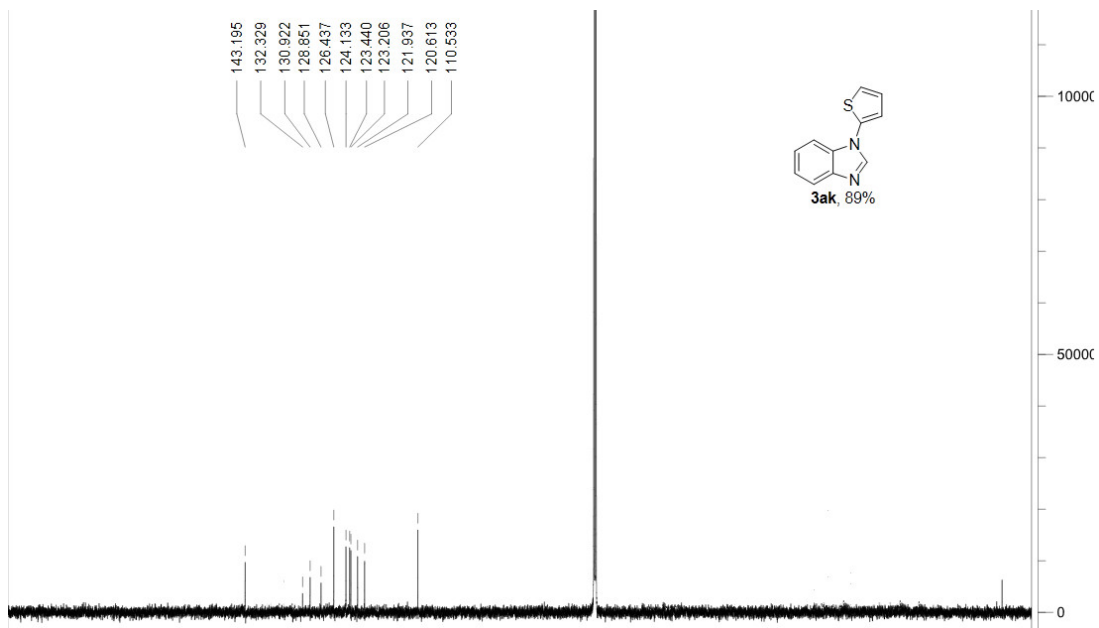
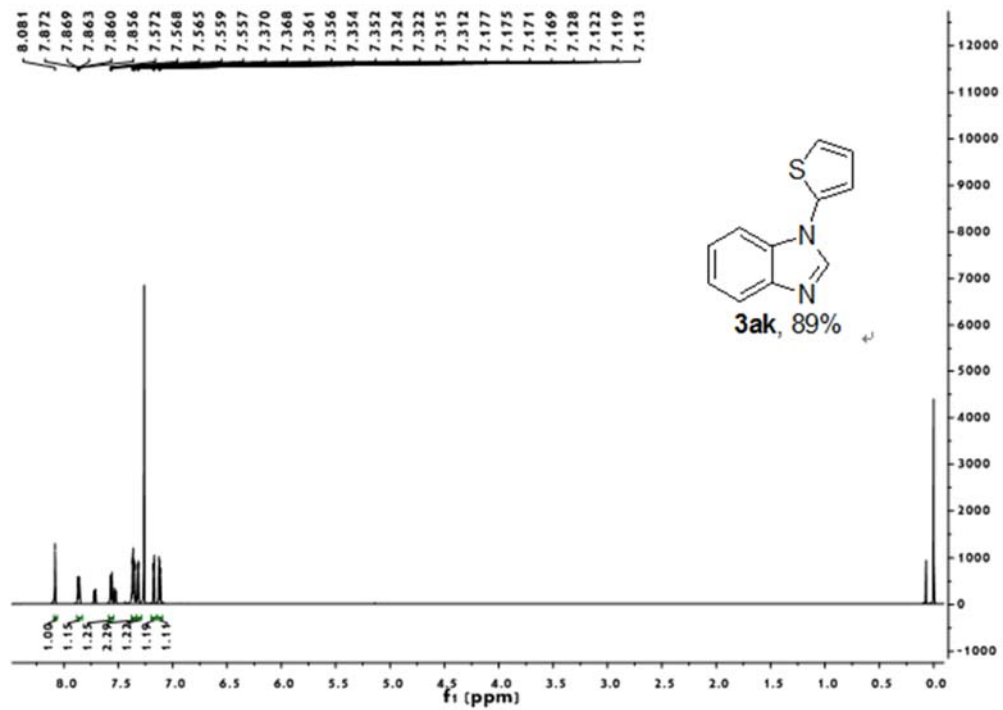












6. NMR Spectral Copies of the products (3ba-3ia)

