

Base-promoted C–C bond cleavage for the synthesis of 2,3,4-trisubstituted pyrroles from *N*-propargyl β -enaminones

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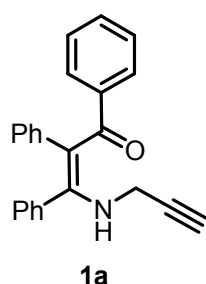
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1. General information:

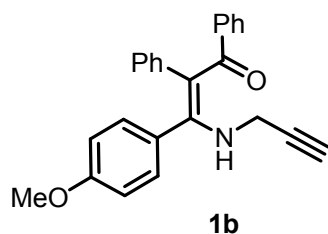
All the solvents were used without further purification. The other commercial chemicals were used without further purification. All reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen in flame-dried glassware, unless otherwise stated. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F254. Visualization was carried out with UV light and Vogel's permanganate. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker DRX-500 instrument (500 MHz). ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker DRX-500 instrument (126MHz) were fully decoupled by broad band proton decoupling. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 1290 Mass spectrometer using ESI-TOF (electrospray ionization-time of flight). NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 . ^1H NMR spectra were referenced to residual CHCl_3 at 7.26 ppm, and ^{13}C NMR spectra were referenced to the central peak of CDCl_3 at 77.0 ppm. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm, and coupling constants (J) are in Hertz (Hz). Multiplicities are reported using the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet.

2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 1a-1e, 1aa-1ag.

To a mixture of the *N*-propargyl enaminone (2.0 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and CsF (759.5 mg, 5.0 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL, 0.2 M) in an oven dried 50 mL glass vial was added the *o*-silyl aryltriflate (745.9 mg, 2.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was dissolved in H₂O (10 mL) and was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined EtOAc extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column using EtOAc/hexanes (1:50 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product.

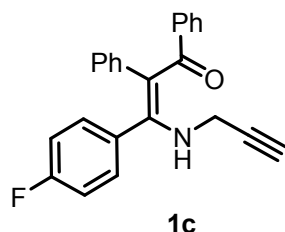


(*Z*)-1,2,3-triphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1a). The title compound as a yellow solid (593.8 mg, 88%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.41 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.15 – 7.03 (m, 5H), 6.85 – 6.77 (m, 3H), 6.76 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.7, 165.7, 142.4, 139.2, 133.4, 133.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.1, 110.2, 79.6, 72.4, 72.3, 34.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₄H₂₀NO⁺ [*M*+H]⁺: 338.1539, found: 338.1539.



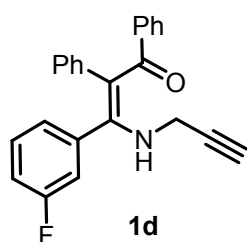
(*Z*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1b). The title compound as a yellow solid (572.9 mg, 78%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.43 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.87 – 6.81 (m, 3H), 6.76 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.5 Hz,

2H), 3.73 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 2.31 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 193.7, 165.9, 159.5, 142.6, 139.5, 133.3, 130.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.1, 127.1, 125.7, 125.0, 113.5, 110.5, 79.8, 72.3, 55.1, 34.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 368.1645, found: 368.1647.



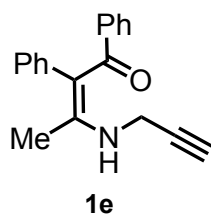
(Z)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,2-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1c).

The title compound as a yellow solid (532.1 mg, 75%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 12.36 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (q, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 4H), 6.94 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.84 (m, 3H), 6.74– 6.69 (m, 2H), 3.83 (dd, $J = 6.1, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.31 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 194.0, 164.7, 162.4 (d, $J = 249.2$ Hz), 142.3, 139.1, 133.3, 130.7 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 129.5 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 128.8, 128.1, 127.2 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz), 125.3, 115.3 (d, $J = 21.7$ Hz), 110.6, 79.6, 72.5, 34.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{FNO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 356.1445, found: 356.1444.

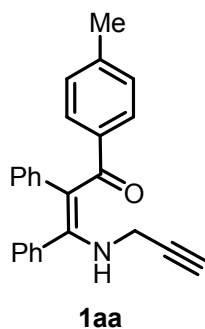


(Z)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-1,2-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1d).

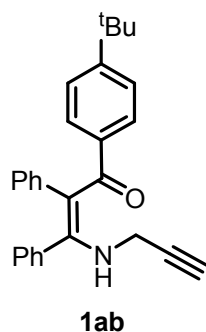
The title compound as a yellow solid (504.9 mg, 71%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 12.44 – 12.08 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.81 (m, 6H), 6.79 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 3.83 (dd, $J = 6.1, 2.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 194.1, 163.9, 162.2 (d, $J = 248.0$ Hz), 142.2, 138.8, 135.4 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 133.2, 129.9 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 128.8, 128.2, 127.2 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz), 125.4, 124.5 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 115.9 (d, $J = 22.7$ Hz), 115.6 (d, $J = 20.9$ Hz), 110.4, 79.5, 72.6, 34.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{FNO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 356.1445, found: 356.1448.



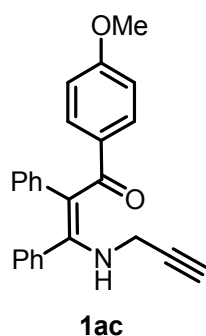
(Z)-1,2-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)but-2-en-1-one (1e). The title compound as a yellow solid (457.1 mg, 83%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.62 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.08 (m, 6H), 7.07 – 6.99 (m, 4H), 4.15 (dd, $J = 5.9, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.3, 164.3, 142.6, 139.9, 133.0, 128.2, 127.9, 127.9, 127.1, 126.0, 110.1, 79.0, 72.4, 32.9, 17.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 276.1383, found: 276.2382.



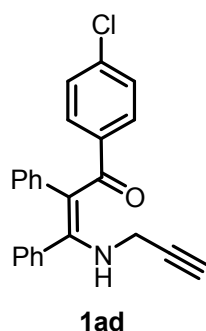
(Z)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)-1-p-tolylprop-2-en-1-one (1aa). The title compound as a yellow solid (562.8 mg, 80%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.39 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 – 6.82 (m, 3H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (dd, $J = 6.0, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.29 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.5, 139.6, 139.5, 138.8, 133.6, 133.3, 128.6, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 125.1, 110.3, 79.8, 72.3, 34.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 352.1696, found: 352.1697.



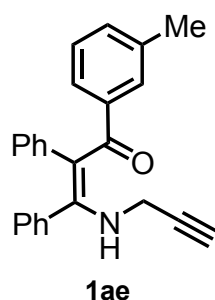
(Z)-1-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1ab). The title compound as a yellow solid (629.5 mg, 80%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.41 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.15 – 7.06 (m, 6H), 6.88 – 6.81 (m, 3H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 3.92 – 3.75 (m, 2H), 2.30 (td, $J = 2.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.5, 165.5, 151.9, 139.4, 139.4, 133.6, 133.3, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 125.0, 124.1, 110.3, 79.8, 76.8, 72.3, 34.6, 34.4, 31.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 394.2164, found: 394.2164.



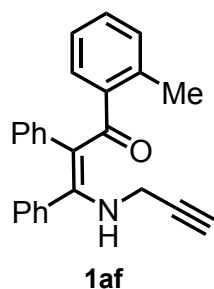
(Z)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1ac). The title compound as a yellow solid (609.5 mg, 83%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.34 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 5.2, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.62 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 3.81 (dd, $J = 6.1, 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.29 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.7, 165.4, 160.0, 139.6, 134.8, 133.6, 133.3, 130.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.2, 125.1, 112.4, 110.1, 79.8, 72.2, 55.1, 34.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 368.1645, found: 368.1646.



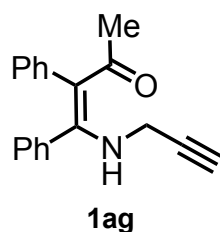
(Z)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1ad). The title compound as a yellow solid (669.5 mg, 90%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.43 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 3H), 6.76 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 3.84 (dd, $J = 6.0, 2.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.31 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.0, 166.2, 140.7, 138.9, 134.6, 133.2, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.4, 127.3, 125.3, 110.0, 79.5, 72.5, 34.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 372.1150, found: 372.1148.



(Z)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)-1-m-tolylprop-2-en-1-one (1ae). The title compound as a yellow solid (527.2 mg, 75%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.39 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 6.97 – 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.85 – 6.80 (m, 3H), 6.77 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 3.82 (dd, $J = 6.0, 2.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.29 (t, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.9, 165.6, 142.3, 139.3, 136.7, 133.5, 133.3, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.0, 126.8, 125.3, 125.0, 110.4, 79.7, 72.3, 34.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 352.1696, found: 352.1694.



(Z)-2,3-diphenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)-1-o-tolylprop-2-en-1-one (1af). The title compound as a yellow solid (541.2 mg, 77%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.36 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21– 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.77 – 6.72 (m, 3H), 6.71 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 196.5, 165.6, 142.6, 138.4, 133.7, 133.4, 132.9, 129.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.5, 126.8, 126.7, 125.0, 124.4, 111.5, 79.7, 72.3, 34.4, 19.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₅H₂₂NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 352.1696, found: 352.1697.

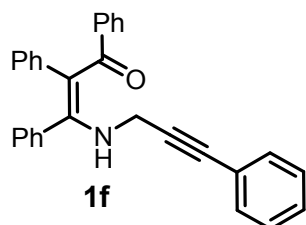


(Z)-3,4-diphenyl-4-(prop-2-ynylamino)but-3-en-2-one (1ag). The title compound as a yellow solid (490.2 mg 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 11.78 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.07 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 7.01 – 6.92 (m, 3H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.5, 163.1, 139.6, 133.3, 132.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 125.8, 111.1, 80.0, 72.0, 34.1, 29.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 276.1383, found: 276.2384.

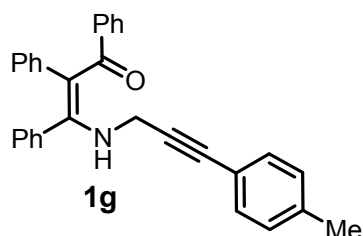
2.2 General procedure for the synthesis of (1f-1r).

To a 15 mL oven-dried vial were added **1a** (337.4 mg, 1.0 mmol), aryl iodide (1.2 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (35.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol), Et₃N (15.8 mg, 1.5 mmol), and DMF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 12 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was dissolved in H₂O (10 mL) and was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined EtOAc extracts

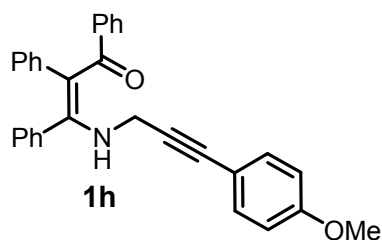
were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column using a EtOAc/hexanes (1:50 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product.



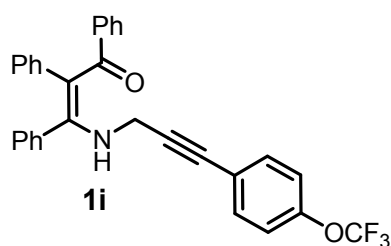
(Z)-1,2,3-triphenyl-3-(3-phenylprop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1f). The title compound as a yellow solid (207.2 mg, 53%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.51 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.25 – 7.04 (m, 11H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 3H), 6.78 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.7, 165.9, 142.5, 139.3, 133.6, 133.4, 131.7, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.1, 122.6, 110.2, 85.0, 84.0, 35.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 414.1852, found: 414.1854.



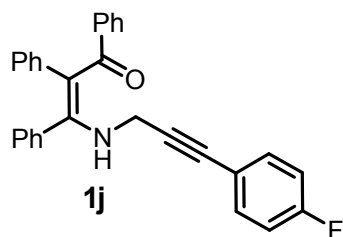
(Z)-1,2,3-triphenyl-3-(3-p-tolylprop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1g). The title compound as a yellow solid (321.1 mg, 75%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 4H), 7.11 – 7.04 (m, 3H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.9, 142.5, 139.3, 138.5, 133.6, 133.4, 131.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 119.5, 110.1, 84.3, 84.1, 35.3, 21.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 428.2009, found: 428.2008.



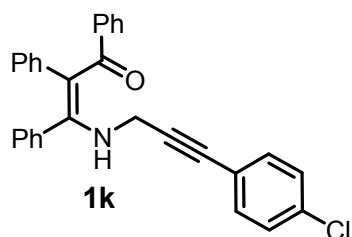
(Z)-3-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1h). The title compound as a yellow solid (271.3 mg, 62%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (q, $J = 5.1, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.15– 7.11(m, 3H), 7.05– 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.86 – 6.80 (m, 5H), 6.77– 6.72 (m, 2H), 4.04 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.9, 159.7, 142.5, 139.3, 133.6, 133.4, 133.1, 128.6, 128.54, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 114.7, 113.9, 110.1, 83.9, 83.6, 55.3, 35.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 444.1958, found: 444.1963.



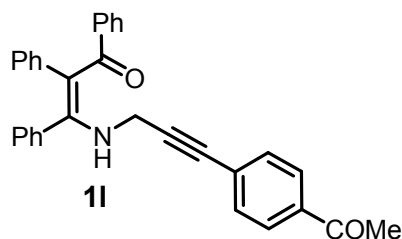
(Z)-1,2,3-triphenyl-3-(3-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1i). The title compound as a yellow solid (248.5 mg, 50%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (t, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 10H), 7.11 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.86 – 6.81 (m, 3H), 6.79 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 4.06 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.8, 165.8, 149.0, 148.9, 142.4, 139.2, 133.5, 133.3, 133.2, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 127.1, 125.1, 120.7, 120.3 (q, $J = 257.7$ Hz), 110.3, 86.0, 82.5, 35.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 498.1675, found: 498.1673.



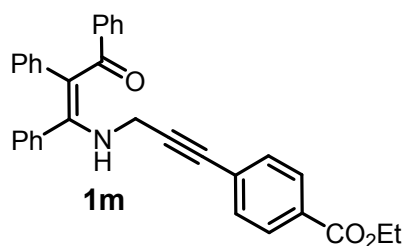
(Z)-3-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1j). The title compound as a yellow solid (323.6 mg, 75%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, $J = 5.1, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dd, $J = 8.1, 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.87 – 6.80 (m, 3H), 6.78 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 4.05 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.7, 165.8, 162.6 (d, $J = 249.5$ Hz), 142.5, 139.3, 133.7, 133.6 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 133.3, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1 (d, $J = 20.0$ Hz), 127.1 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz), 125.1, 118.7 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz), 115.7, 115.5, 110.3, 84.7, 82.9, 35.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{FNO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 432.1758, found: 432.1760.



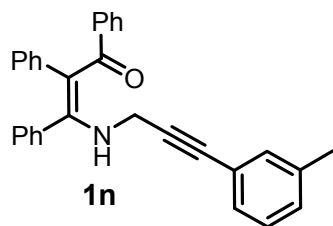
(Z)-3-(3-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1k). The title compound as a yellow solid (313.7 mg, 70%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, $J = 5.1, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dd, $J = 8.1, 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.84 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.78 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 4.05 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.8, 165.8, 142.4, 139.2, 134.5, 133.6, 133.3, 132.9, 128.6, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.2, 127.1, 125.1, 121.1, 110.3, 86.1, 82.9, 35.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 448.1463, found: 448.1464.



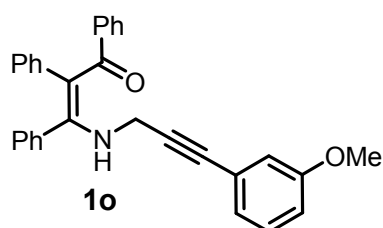
(Z)-methyl 4-(3-(3-oxo-1,2,3-triphenylprop-1-enylamino)prop-1-ynyl)benzoate (1l). The title compound as a yellow solid (276.4 mg, 70%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.50 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.85 – 6.82 (m, 3H), 6.78 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 4.09 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.2, 193.9, 165.8, 142.4, 139.2, 136.4, 133.5, 133.3, 131.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 125.1, 110.4, 88.4, 83.2, 35.2, 26.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 456.1958, found: 456.1958.



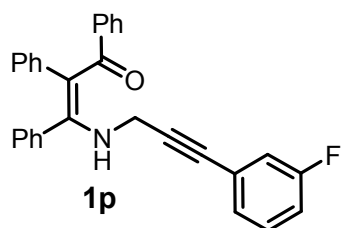
(Z)-ethyl 4-(3-(3-oxo-1,2,3-triphenylprop-1-enylamino)prop-1-ynyl)benzoate (1m). The title compound as a yellow solid (325.2 mg, 68%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.50 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.05 (m, 10H), 6.84 (dd, $J = 4.9, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.76 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.08 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.8, 166.0, 165.8, 142.4, 139.2, 133.6, 133.3, 131.6, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.2, 127.1, 127.1, 125.1, 110.4, 88.0, 83.3, 61.1, 35.2, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 486.2064, found: 486.2064.



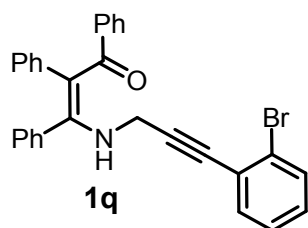
(Z)-1,2,3-triphenyl-3-(3-m-tolylprop-2-ynylamino)prop-2-en-1-one (1n). The title compound as a yellow solid (294.3 mg, 69%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 8H), 7.16 – 7.11 (m, 4H), 7.07 (dd, $J = 8.1, 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 5.0, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.05 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.9, 142.5, 139.3, 137.9, 133.6, 133.4, 132.3, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 122.4, 110.2, 84.6, 84.1, 35.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 428.2009, found: 428.2009.



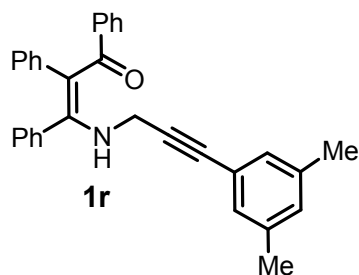
(Z)-3-(3-(3-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1o). The title compound as a yellow solid (301.3 mg, 68%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (s, 1H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 10H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, $J = 2.6, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.86 (m, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 4.9, 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.06 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.8, 159.2, 142.5, 139.2, 133.6, 133.3, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 124.2, 123.5, 116.5, 115.0, 110.2, 84.8, 83.8, 55.2, 35.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 444.1958, found: 444.1956.



(Z)-3-(3-(2-fluorophenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1p). The title compound as a yellow solid (215.4 mg, 50%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.49 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.00 (m, 14H), 6.84 (m, 3H), 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.8, 165.8, 162.3 (d, *J* = 247.0 Hz), 142.5, 139.2, 133.6, 133.3, 129.9 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 127.1 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz), 125.1, 124.5, 118.5 (d, *J* = 22.7 Hz), 115.8 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 110.4, 86.1, 82.8, 35.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₀H₂₃FNO⁺ [M+H]⁺:432.1758, found:432.1760



(Z)-3-(3-(2-bromophenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1q). The title compound as a yellow solid (295.4 mg, 60%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.50 (s, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.12 (m, 9H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.8, 165.9, 142.5, 139.3, 133.7, 133.6, 133.4, 132.4, 129.6, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.6, 125.1, 124.7, 89.8, 82.6, 35.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₀H₂₃BrNO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 492.0958, found: 492.0961.

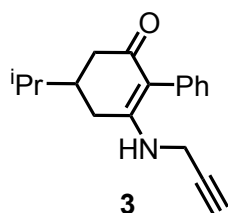


(Z)-3-(3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)prop-2-ynylamino)-1,2,3-triphenylprop-2-en-1-one (1r). The title compound as a yellow solid (281.6 mg, 64%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 12.48 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.11 (m, 8H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 4H), 6.96 – 6.94 (m, 1H), 6.85 – 6.80 (m, 3H), 6.77 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 4.04 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126

MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.6, 165.9, 142.6, 139.4, 137.8, 133.7, 133.4, 130.3, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 127.1, 125.1, 122.2, 110.2, 84.3, 84.3, 35.3, 21.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₂H₂₈NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 442.2165, found: 442.2166.

2.3 General procedure for the synthesis of 3

To a mixture of the 5-isopropyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (382.5 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and CsF (759.5 mg, 5.0 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL, 0.2 M) in an oven dried 50 mL glass vial was added the *o*-silyl aryltriflate (745.9 mg, 2.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was dissolved in H₂O (10 mL) and was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined EtOAc extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column using EtOAc/hexanes (1:5 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product 3.

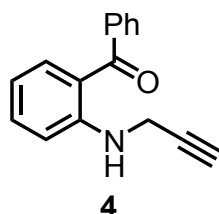


5-isopropyl-2-phenyl-3-(prop-2-ynylamino)cyclohex-2-enone (3). The title compound as a yellow solid (192.5 mg, 36%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 16.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.37 – 2.27 (m, 2H), 2.19 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.04 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.73 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 194.4, 160.5, 134.2, 131.1, 129.0, 127.1, 114.1, 79.3, 72.4, 40.3, 39.6, 32.6, 32.0, 28.8, 19.7, 19.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₈H₂₂NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 268.1696, found: 268.1694.

2.4 General procedure for the synthesis of 4

A solution of (2-aminophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (986.2 mg, 5 mmol, 1 eq.), propargyl bromide (890.2 mg, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 eq.), and K₂CO₃ (1.38g, 10 mmol, 2.0 eq.) in DMF (15 mL) was stirred at 60°C for 12 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room

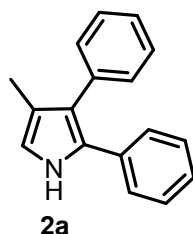
temperature and the mixture was filtered through a celite. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc for 3 times. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether / ethyl acetate = 50 / 1) to afford the product **4**.



phenyl(2-(prop-2-ynylamino)phenyl)methanone (4). The title compound as a yellow solid (647.1 mg, 55%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 2.24 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.2, 150.3, 140.1, 135.3, 134.8, 130.8, 129.0, 127.9, 118.2, 114.9, 111.8, 80.1, 71.3, 32.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₆H₁₄NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 236.107, found: 236.106.

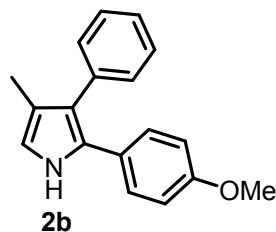
2.5 General procedure for the synthesis of 2,3,4-trisubstituted pyrroles (2a-r).

To a 15 mL oven-dried vial were added the substrates (0.1 mmol), KO^tBu (13.5 mg, 0.12 mmol), and acetonitrile (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 50 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 12 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was purified by silica gel column using EtOAc/hexanes (1:50 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product (**2a-r**).

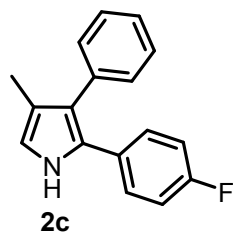


4-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2a). The title compound as a white solid (yield=87%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.07 (s, 3H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 15H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (d, *J* =

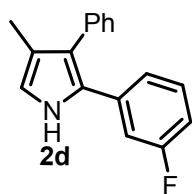
1.0 Hz, 7H), 1.57 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 136.2, 133.3, 130.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 126.8, 126.2, 125.9, 122.2, 119.7, 116.2, 11.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:234.1277, found:234.1280.



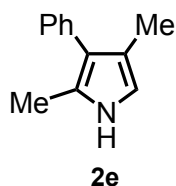
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-3-phenyl-1H-pyrrole (2b). The title compound as a gray solid (yield=72%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.81 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 2.5, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.2, 136.3, 130.3, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 126.0, 125.7, 121.3, 119.4, 115.6, 114.0, 55.2, 11.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:264.1383, found:264.1386.



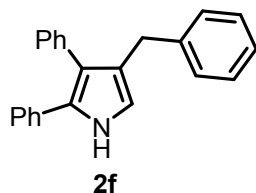
2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-3-phenyl-1H-pyrrole (2c). The title compound as a white solid (yield=79%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.71 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 6.69 (dd, $J = 2.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (dd, $J = 2.6, 0.9$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.42 (d, $J = 246.0$ Hz), 135.94, 130.29, 129.48 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 128.50 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 128.23, 127.89, 125.96, 122.14, 119.61, 116.14, 115.45 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), 10.94; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:252.1183, found:252.1181.



2-(3-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-3-phenyl-1H-pyrrole (2d). The title compound as a white solid (yield=74%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.97 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.89 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.72 (dd, $J = 2.5, 1.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 162.8 (d, $J = 245.1$ Hz), 135.7, 135.4 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 130.3, 129.9 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 128.3, 127.4 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 126.2, 123.1, 122.2 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 120.0, 116.7, 113.3 (d, $J = 22.6$ Hz), 112.9 (d, $J = 21.3$ Hz), 10.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:252.1183, found:252.1185.

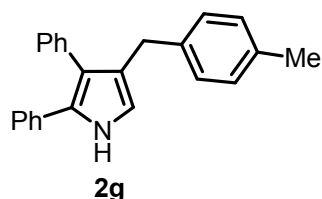


2,4-dimethyl-3-phenyl-1H-pyrrole (2e). The title compound as a colorless liquid (yield=60%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.52 (dd, $J = 2.4, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 136.4, 129.7, 128.0, 125.3, 124.7, 121.3, 117.7, 113.7, 12.1, 11.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 174.1039, found: 174.1037.

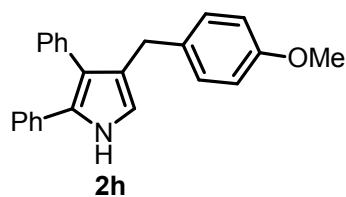


4-benzyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2f). The title compound as a white solid (yield=67%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.06 (m, 13H), 6.51 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 141.9, 136.0, 133.1, 130.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 128.2, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.6, 124.2, 122.0,

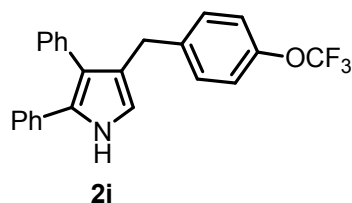
116.7, 32.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{23}H_{19}NNa^+$ $[M+Na]^+$:332.141, found:234.137.



4-(4-methylbenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2g). The title compound as a white solid (yield=84%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 8H), 7.06 (s, 4H), 6.50 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.8, 136.1, 135.0, 133.2, 130.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.7, 126.2, 126.1, 124.5, 122.0, 116.7, 31.5, 21.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{24}H_{22}N^+$ $[M+H]^+$:324.1747, found:324.1749.

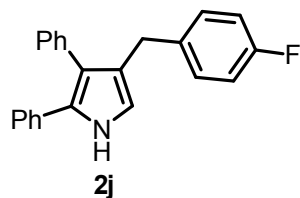


4-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2h). The title compound as a white solid (yield=79%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 7H), 7.15 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.10 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.82 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 6.50 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.6, 136.0, 134.0, 133.1, 130.6, 129.6, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 124.7, 121.9, 116.6, 113.6, 55.2, 31.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{24}H_{22}NO^+$ $[M+H]^+$:340.1696, found:340.1694.

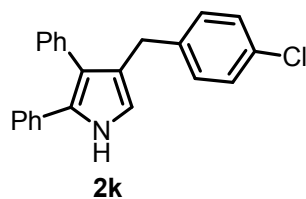


2,3-diphenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzyl)-1H-pyrrole (2i). The title compound as a white solid (yield=64%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 10H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.3, 140.7, 135.9, 132.9, 130.5, 129.9, 128.9, 128.5,

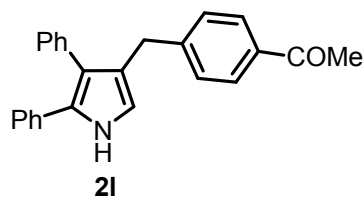
128.3, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 123.6, 122.0, 120.7, 120.5 (q, $J = 256.3$ Hz), 116.6, 31.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{24}H_{19}F_3NO^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 394.1413, found: 394.1416.



4-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2j). The title compound as a white solid (yield=76%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.06 (m, 9H), 6.95 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.54 – 6.49 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.2 (d, $J = 243.1$ Hz), 137.5 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 135.9, 133.0, 130.5, 130.0 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 128.9, 128.5, 128.2, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 124.1, 121.9, 116.6, 114.8 (d, $J = 21.2$ Hz), 31.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{23}H_{19}FN^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 328.1496, found: 328.1498.

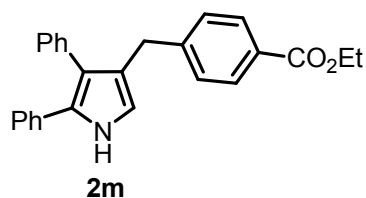


4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2k). The title compound as a white solid (yield=83%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.11 (m, 10H), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.52 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 140.4, 135.9, 133.0, 131.3, 130.5, 130.1, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 123.6, 122.0, 116.6, 31.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{23}H_{19}ClN^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 344.1201, found: 344.1202.

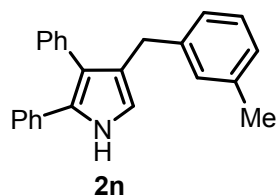


Methyl 4-((4,5-diphenyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)methyl)benzoate (2l). The title compound as a white solid (yield=62%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.2$

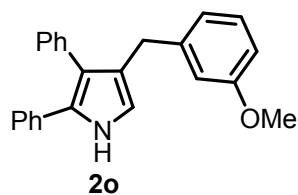
Hz, 2), 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.13 (m, 10H), 6.54 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 198.0, 147.8, 135.8, 134.9, 132.9, 130.5, 128.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 123.0, 122.0, 116.7, 32.0, 26.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:352.1696, found:352.1698.



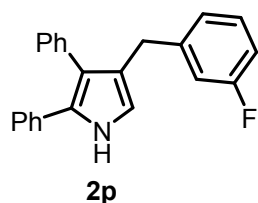
Ethyl 4-((4,5-diphenyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)methyl)benzoate (2m). The title compound as a white soiled (yield=57%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.12 (m, 12H), 6.53 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 1.38 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8, 147.4, 135.8, 132.9, 130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 123.2, 122.0, 116.7, 60.7, 32.1, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$:404.1621, found:404.1624.



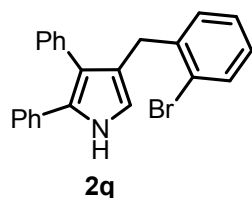
4-(3-methylbenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2n). The title compound as a white soiled (yield=49%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.01 – 6.94 (m, 3H), 6.51 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 141.8, 137.7, 136.1, 133.1, 130.6, 129.6, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 126.6, 126.4, 126.1, 126.1, 125.8, 124.3, 122.0, 116.7, 31.9, 21.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:324.1747, found:324.1749.



4-(3-methoxybenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2o). The title compound as a white solid (yield=72%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.10 (m, 9H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.5, 143.6, 136.0, 133.1, 130.6, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 123.9, 122.0, 121.2, 116.7, 114.3, 111.2, 55.1, 32.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₄H₂₂NO⁺ [M+H]⁺:340.1696, found:340.1699.

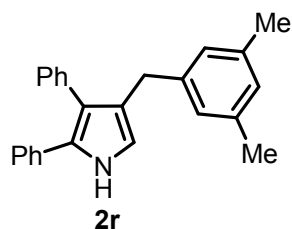


4-(2-fluorobenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2p). The title compound as a light yellow solid (yield=66%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 9H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 162.9 (d, *J* = 244.7 Hz), 144.6 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 135.9, 133.0, 130.5, 129.4 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 124.3 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 123.3, 122.0, 116.7, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 112.5 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 31.7 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₃H₁₉FN⁺ [M+H]⁺:328.1496, found:328.1495.



4-(2-bromobenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2q). The title compound as white solid (yield=64%); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.09 (m, 12H), 7.05 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 141.2, 135.9, 133.0, 132.5, 130.8, 130.5, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3,

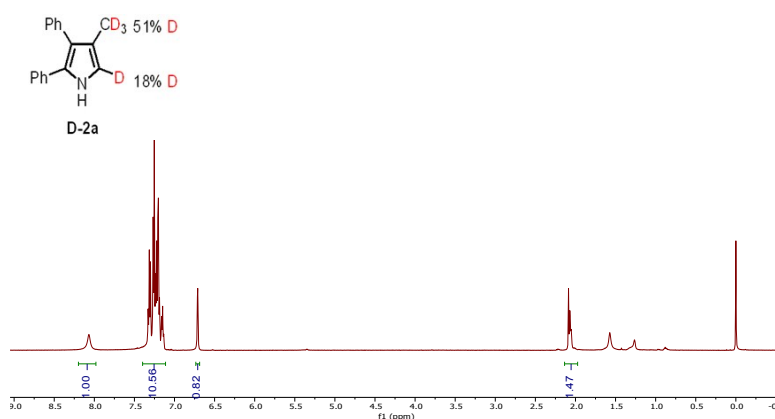
127.4, 127.2, 126.6, 126.2, 126.2, 124.5, 122.3, 122.1, 116.9, 32.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{23}H_{19}BrN^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 388.0695, found: 388.0696.



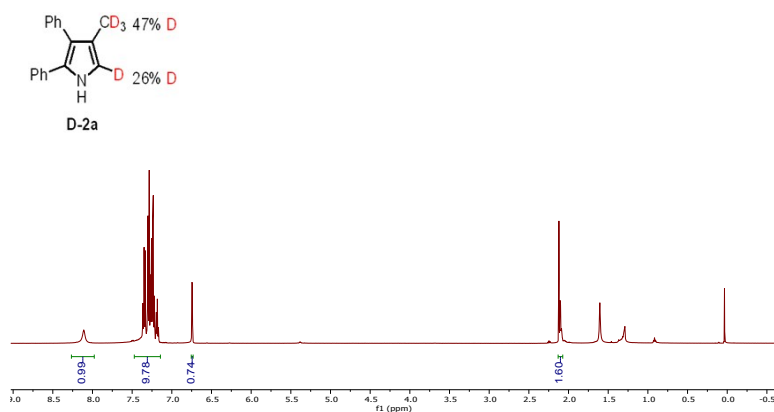
4-(3,5-dimethylbenzyl)-2,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrrole (2r). The title compound as a white solid (yield=70%); 1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.10 (m, 8H), 6.82 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 6.52 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 141.7, 137.6, 136.2, 133.2, 130.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 127.3, 126.7, 126.6, 126.1, 126.1, 124.4, 116.7, 31.8, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{25}H_{24}N^+$ $[M+H]^+$:338.1903, found:338.1904.

3. Control experiments

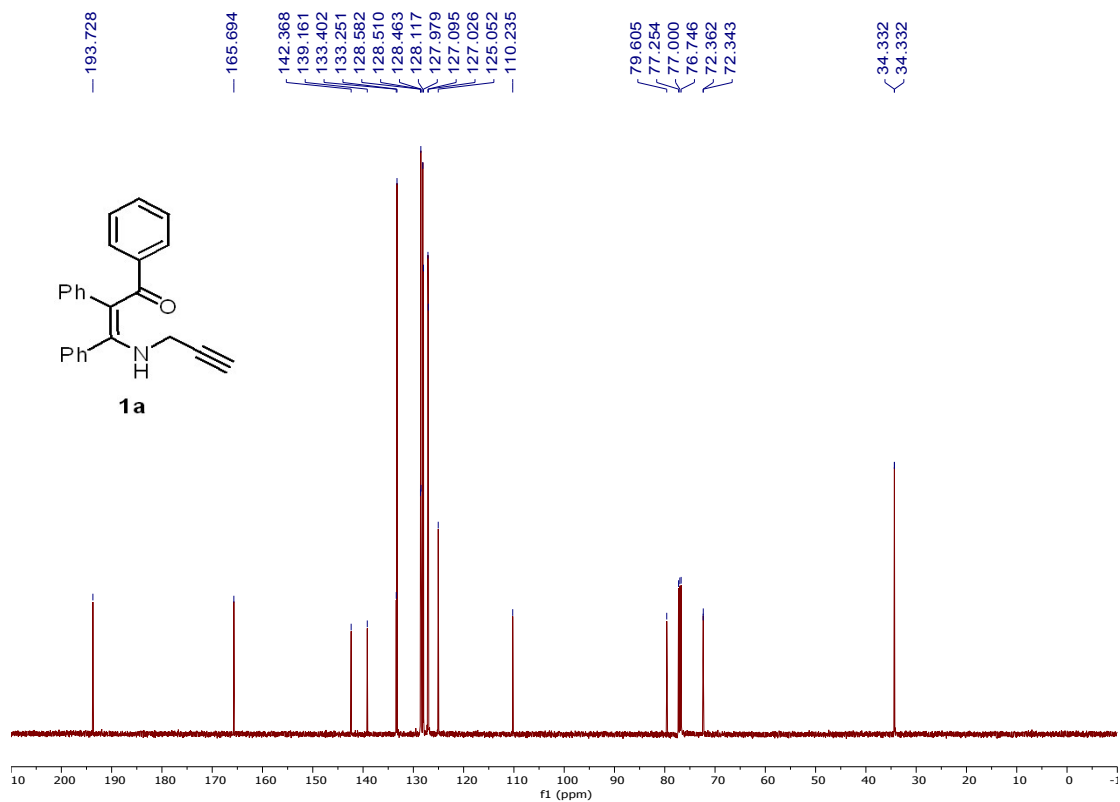
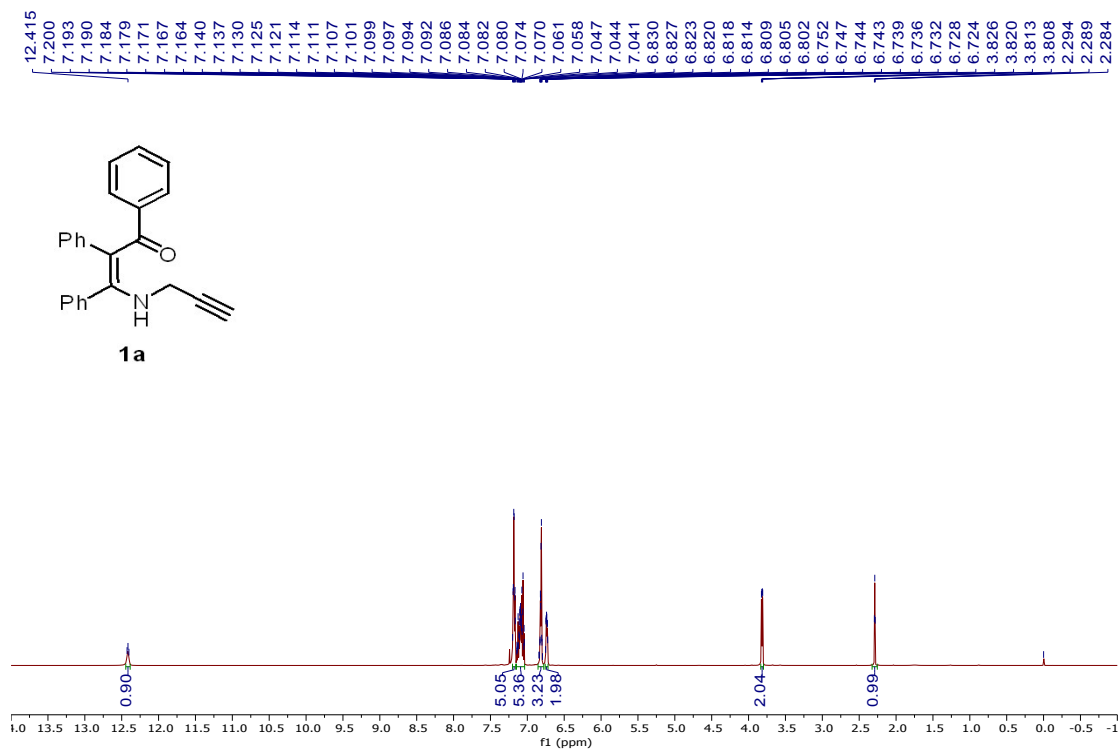
To a 15 mL oven-dried vial were added **1a** (33.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), KO^tBu (13.5 mg, 0.12 mmol), and CD₃CN (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 50 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 12 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was purified by silica gel column using EtOAc/hexanes (1:50 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product **D-2a** (21.0 mg, 90%).

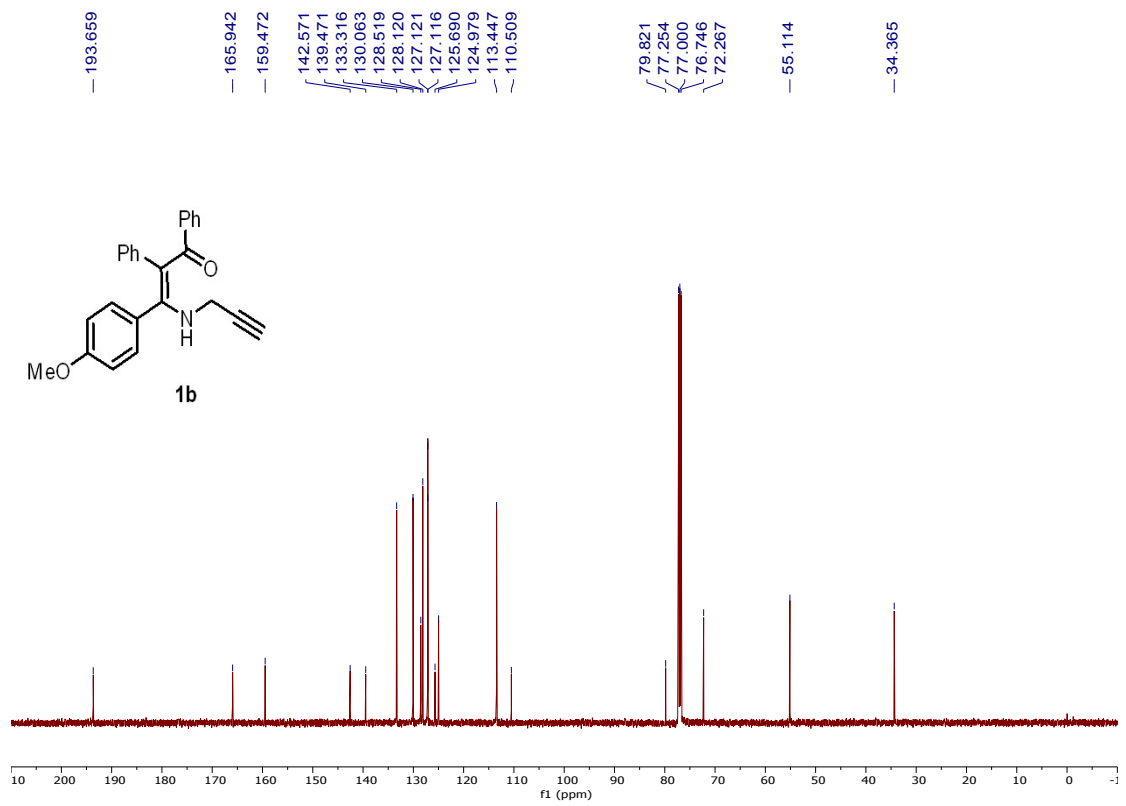
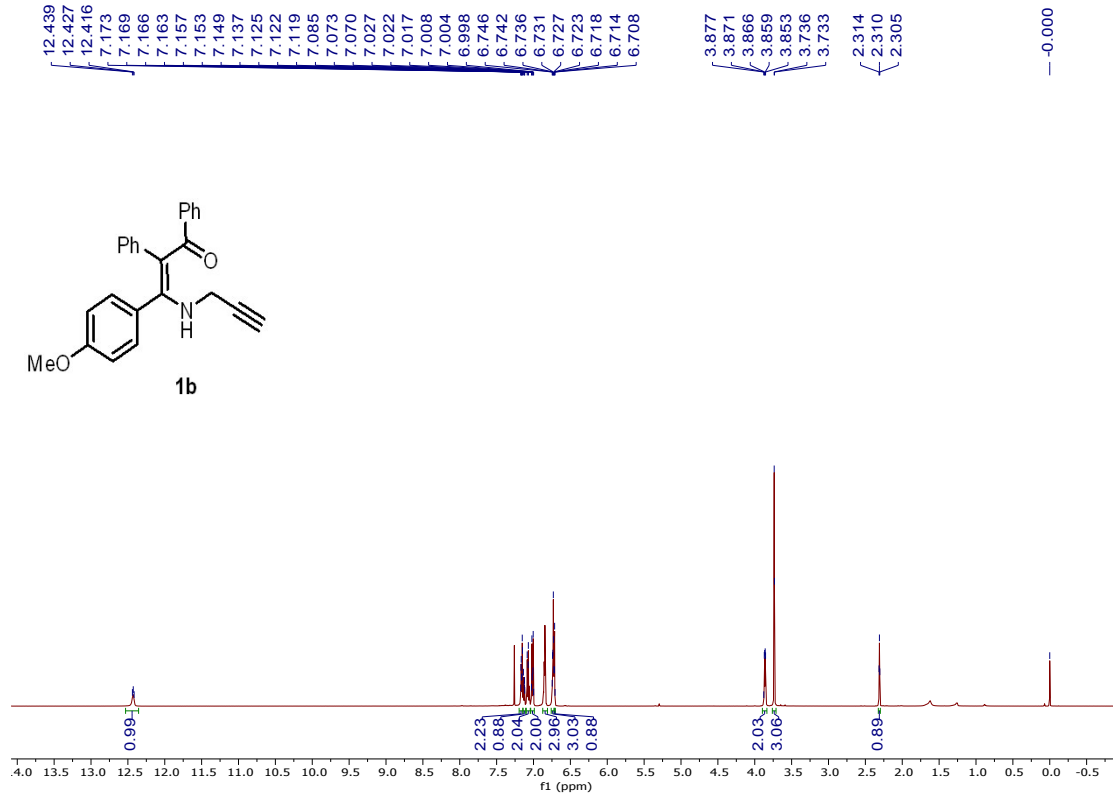


To a 15 mL oven-dried vial were added **1a** (33.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), KO^tBu (13.5 mg, 0.12 mmol), D₂O (20.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), and acetonitrile (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 50 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 12 h, and was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was purified by silica gel column using EtOAc/hexanes (1:50 v/v) as eluent to afford the desired product **D-2a** (18.4 mg, 79%).

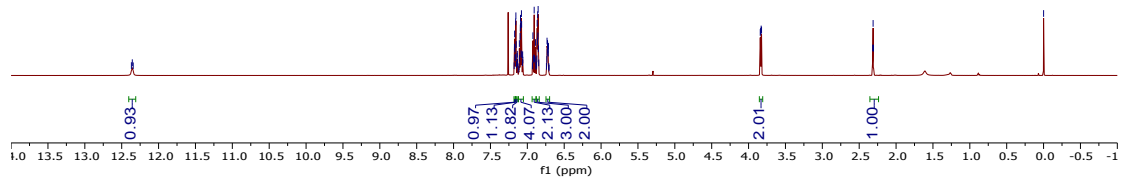
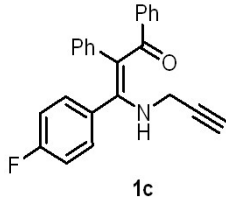


4. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra

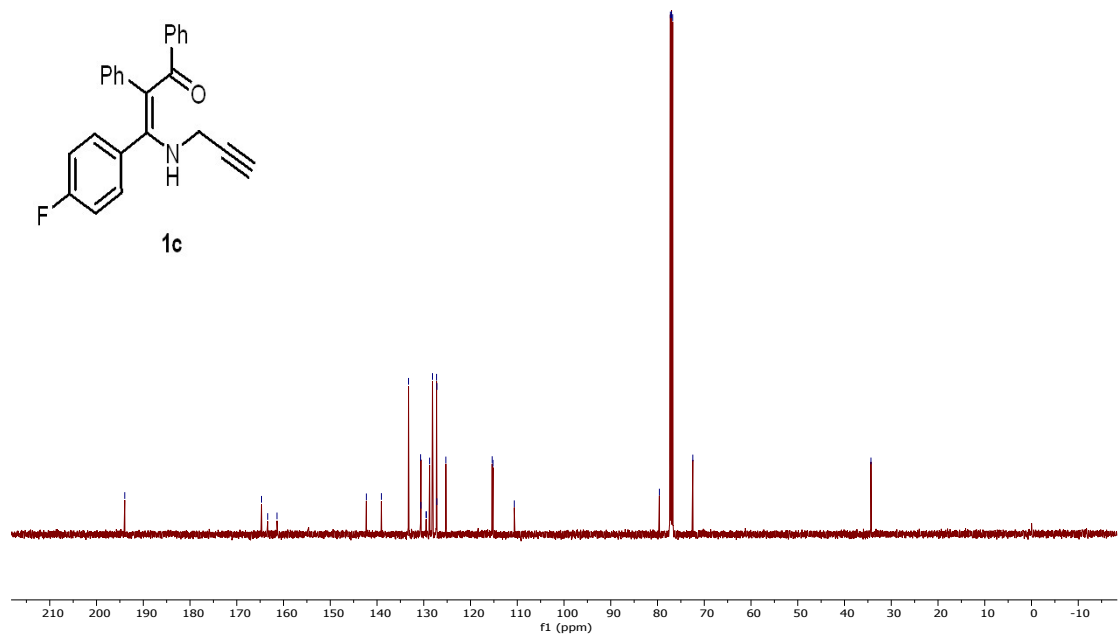
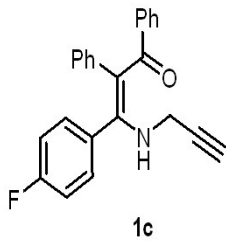


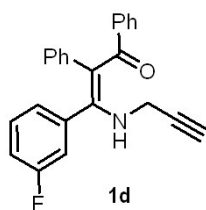
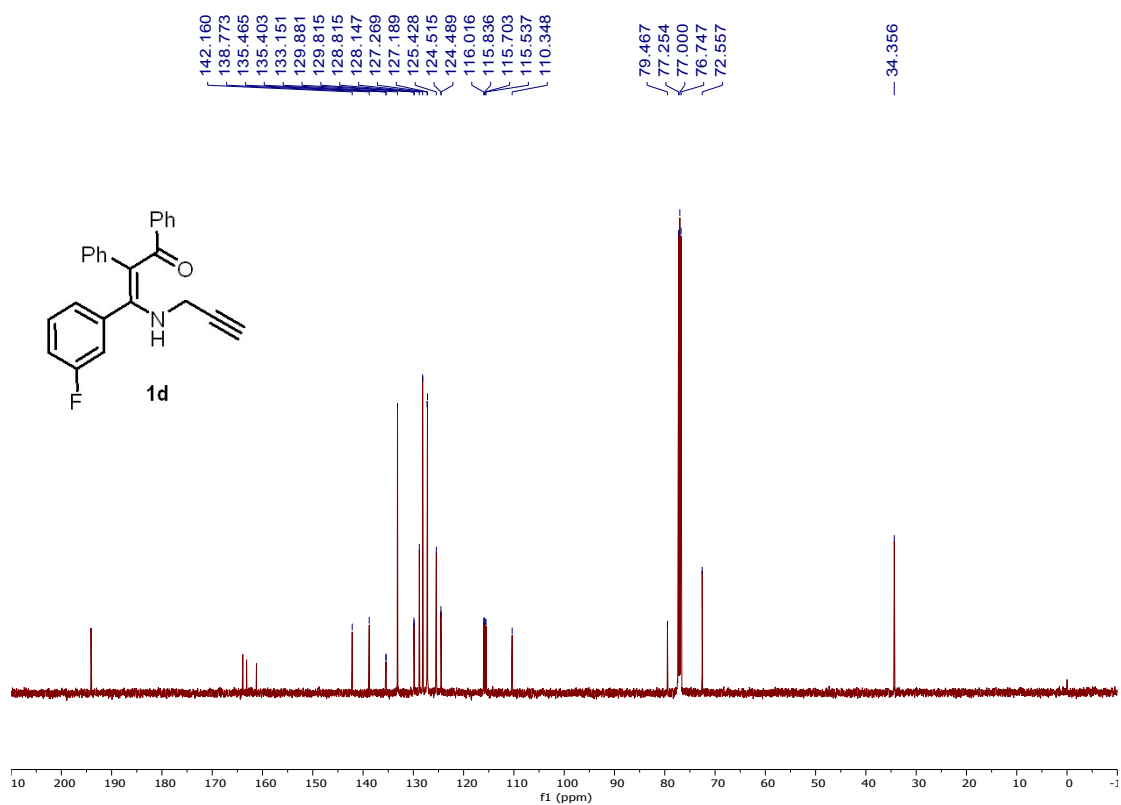
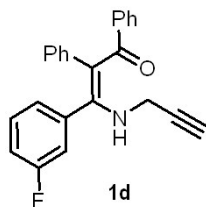
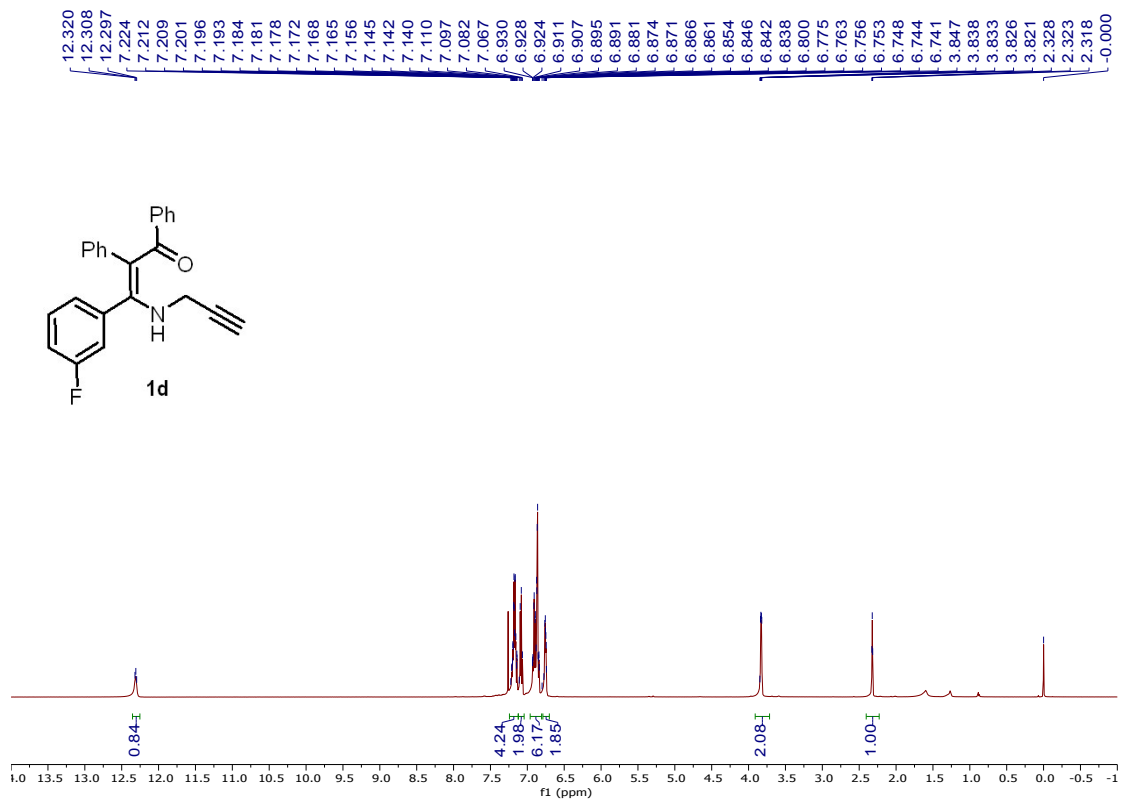


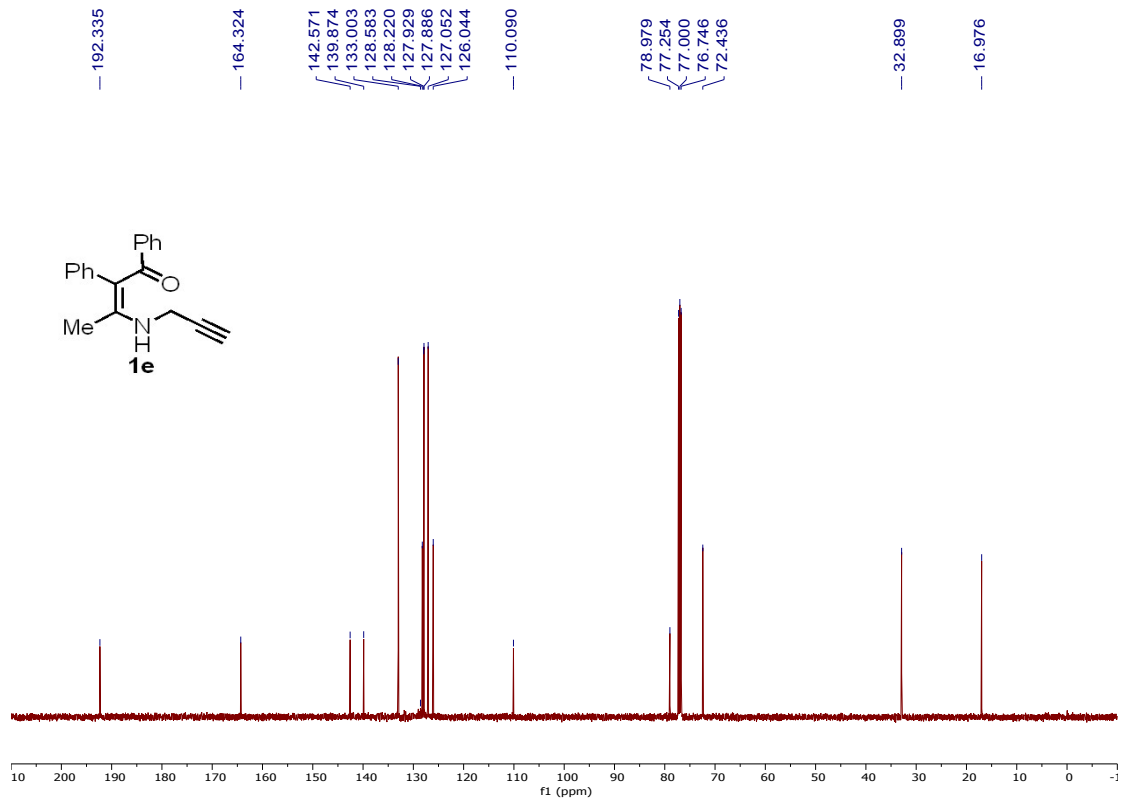
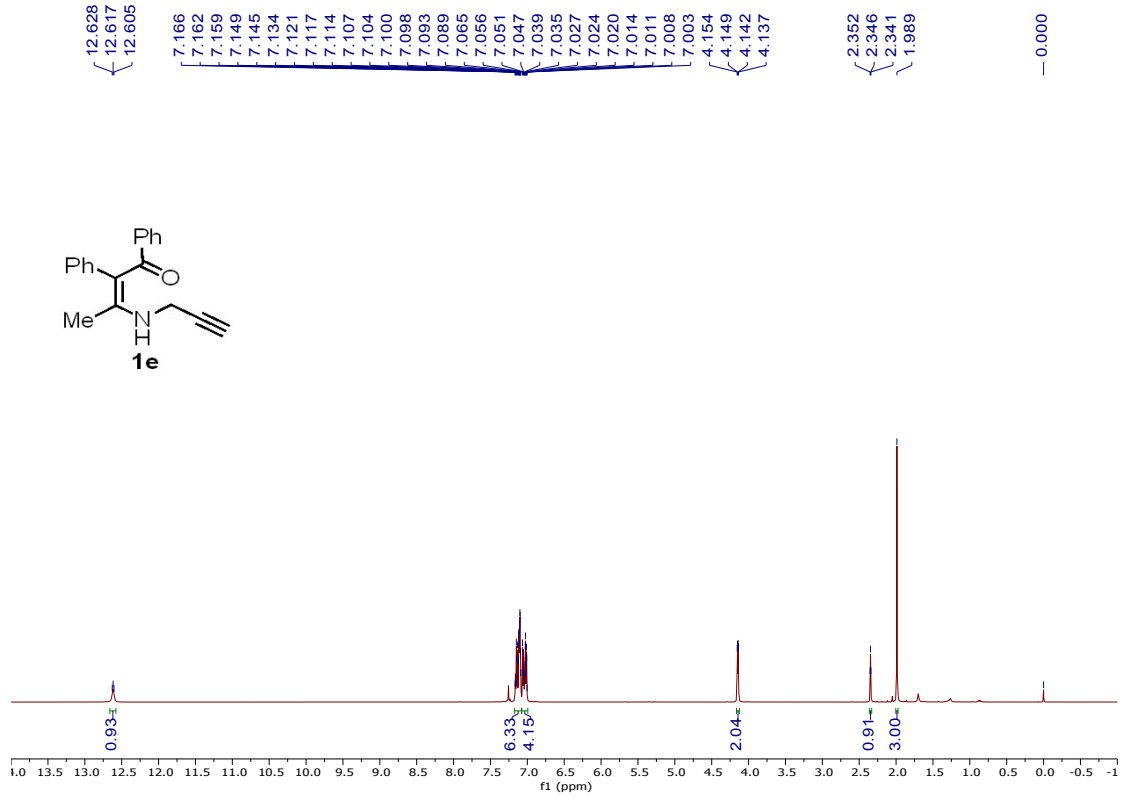
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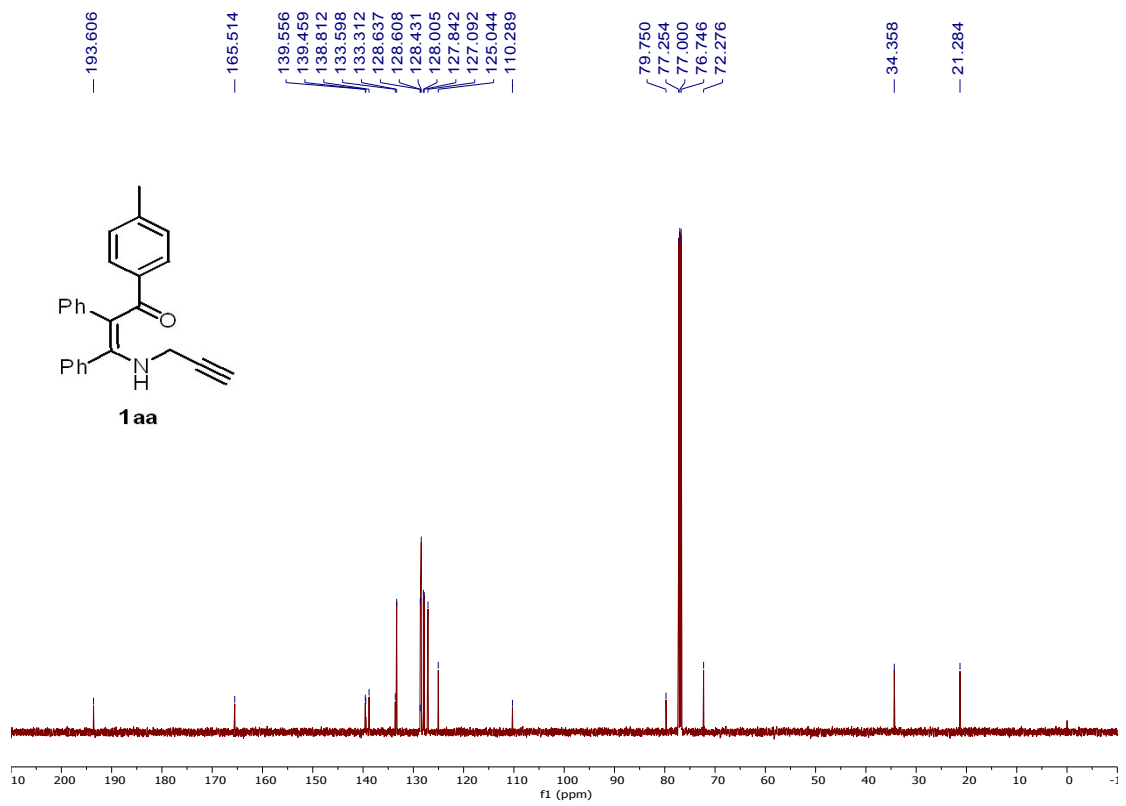
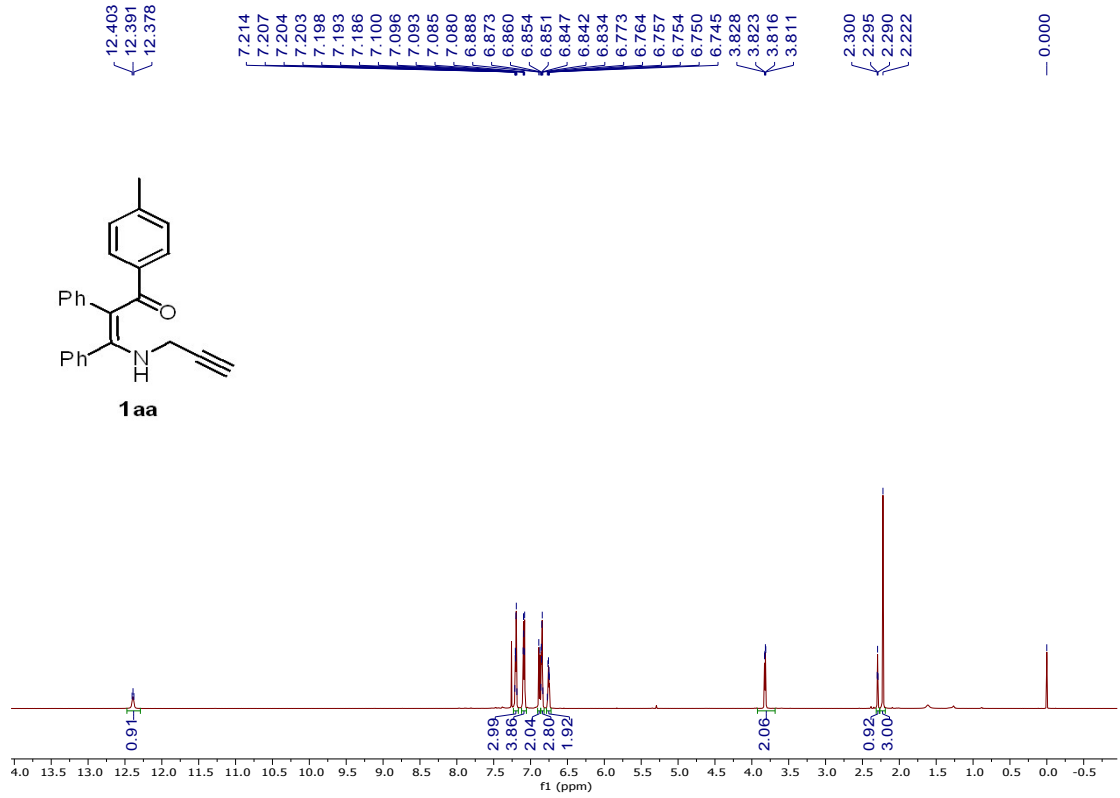


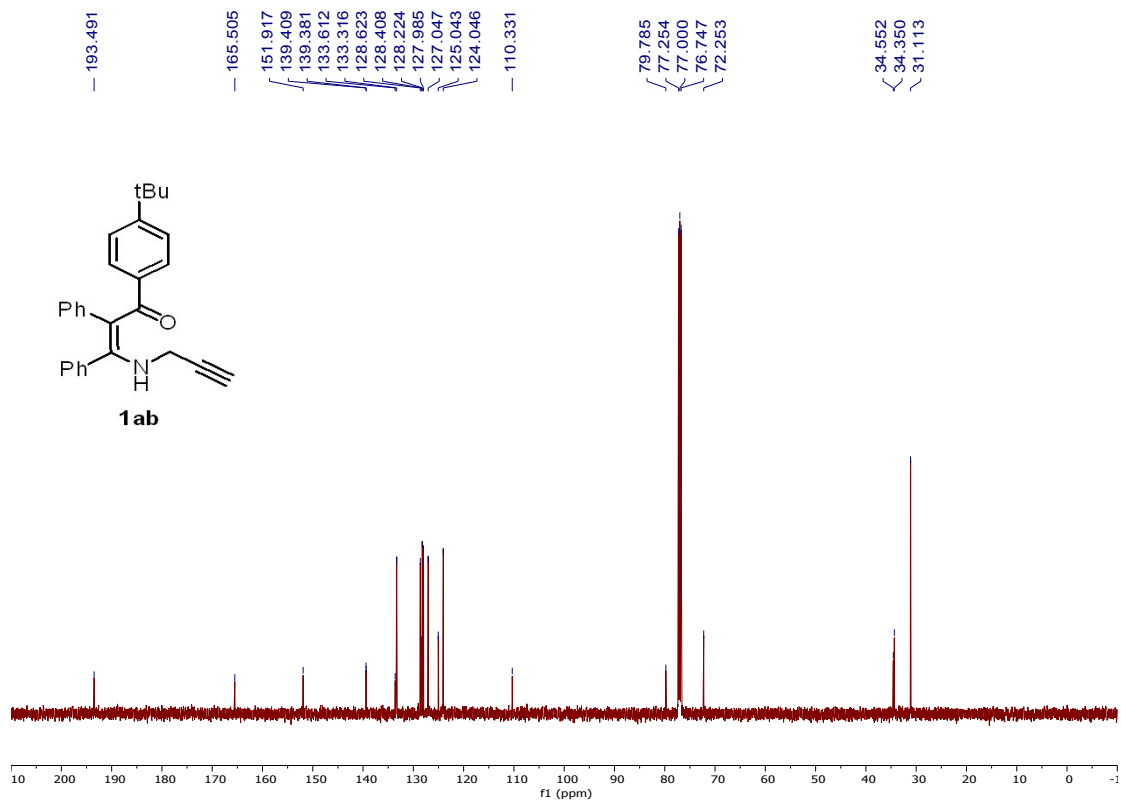
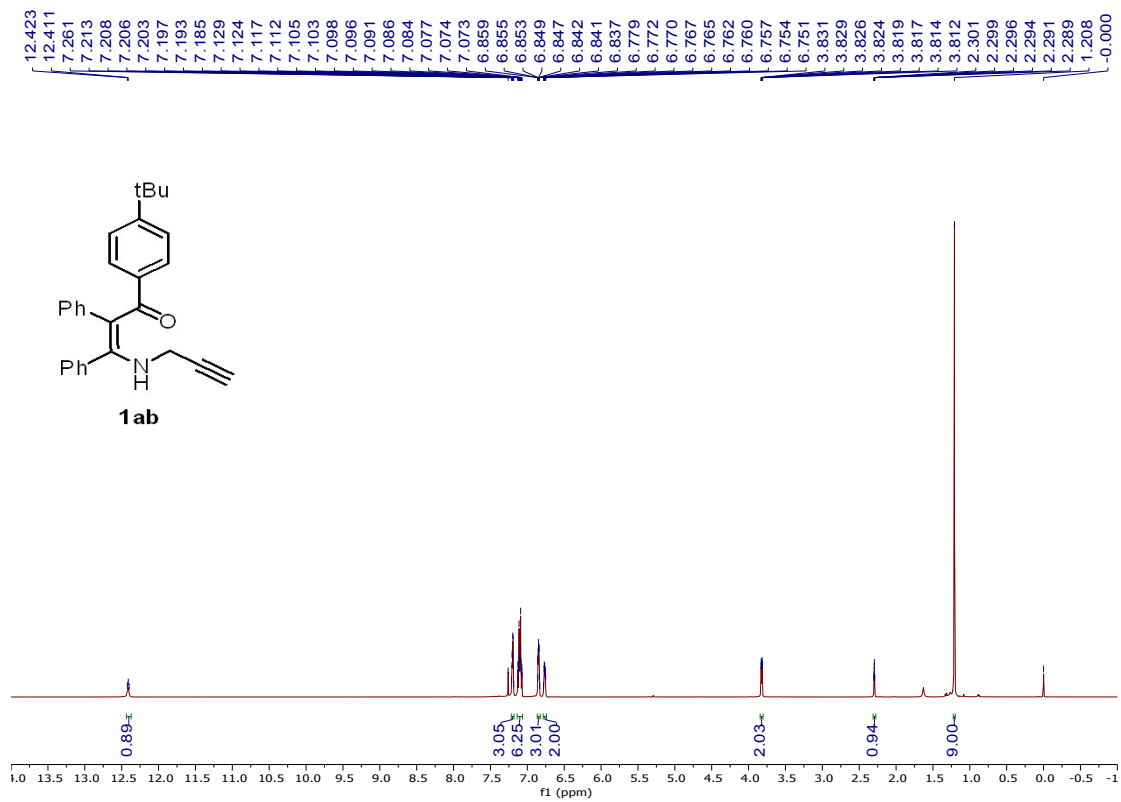
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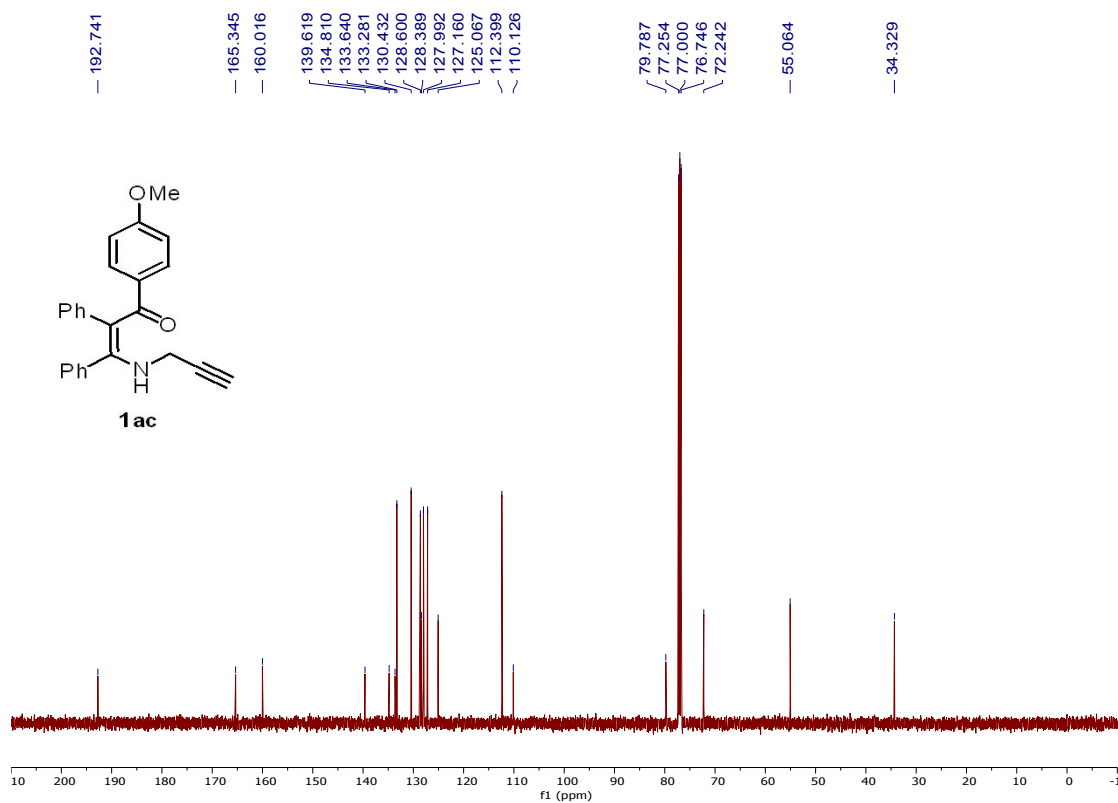
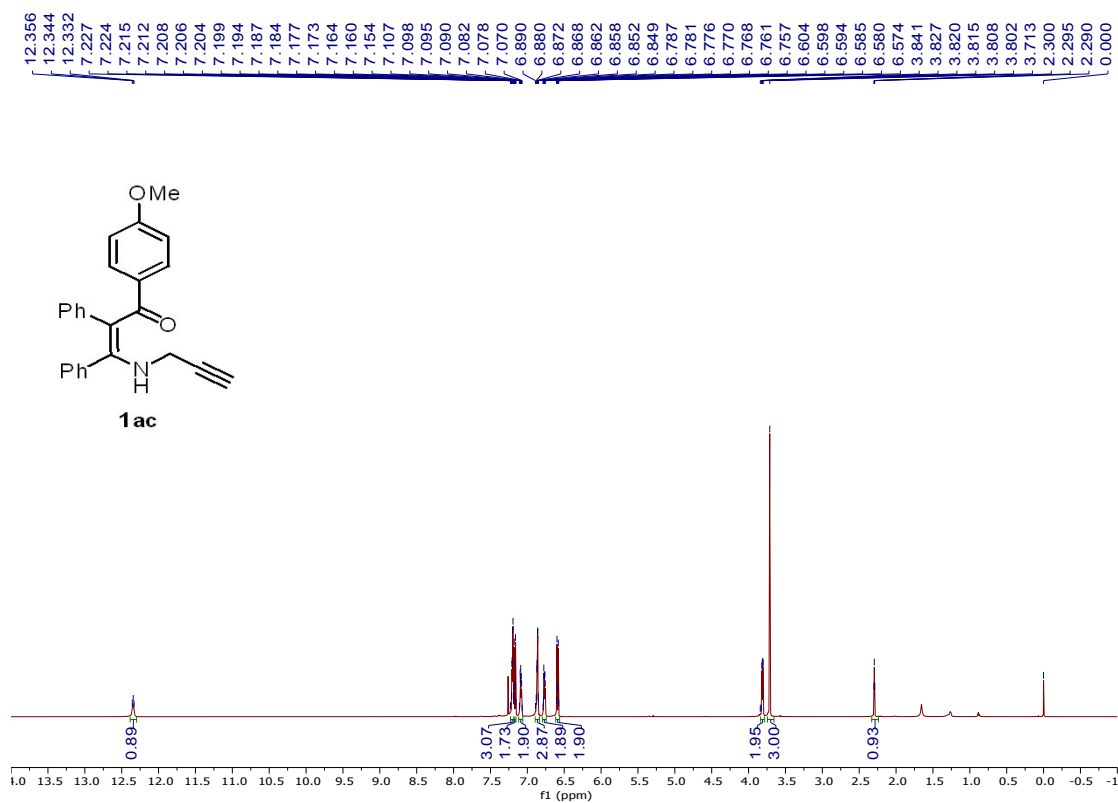


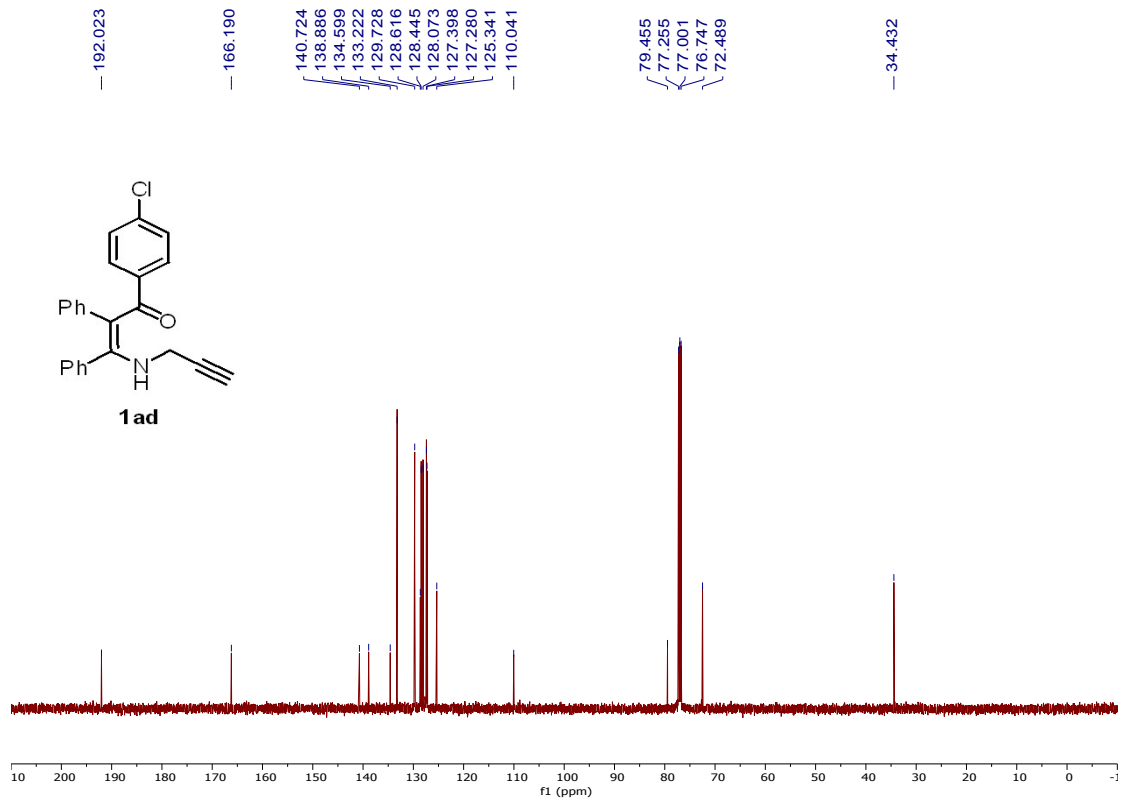
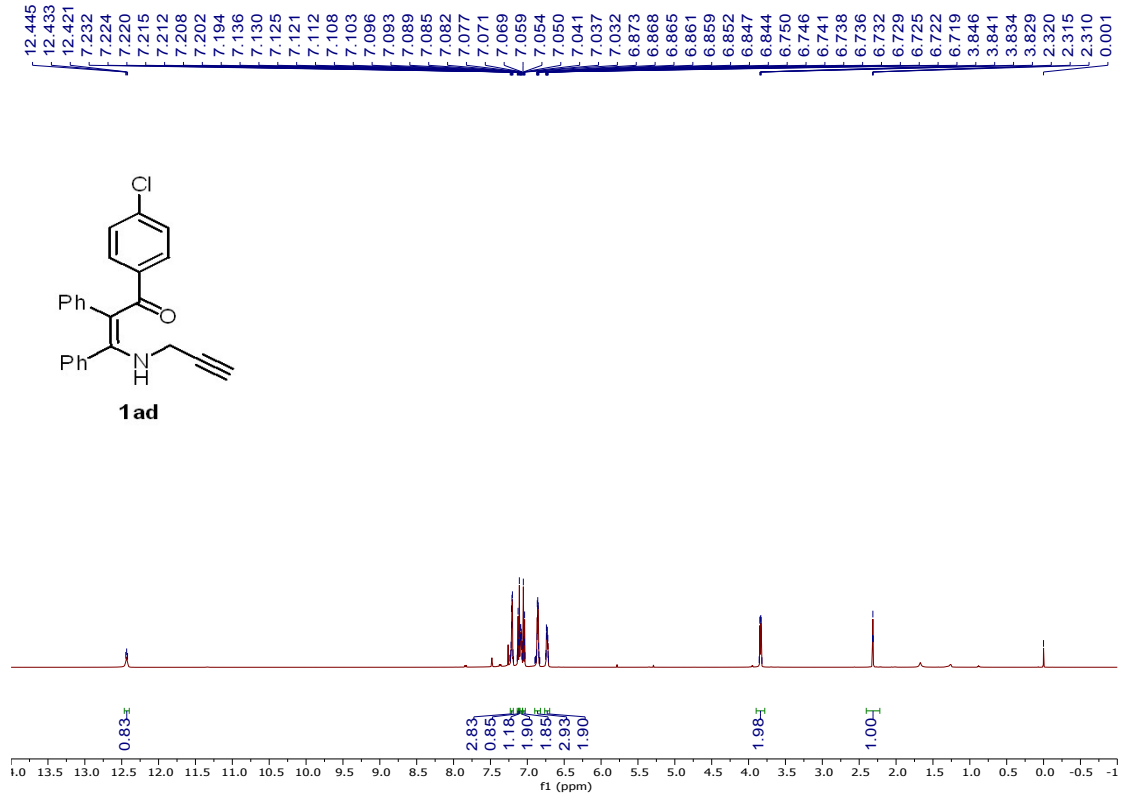


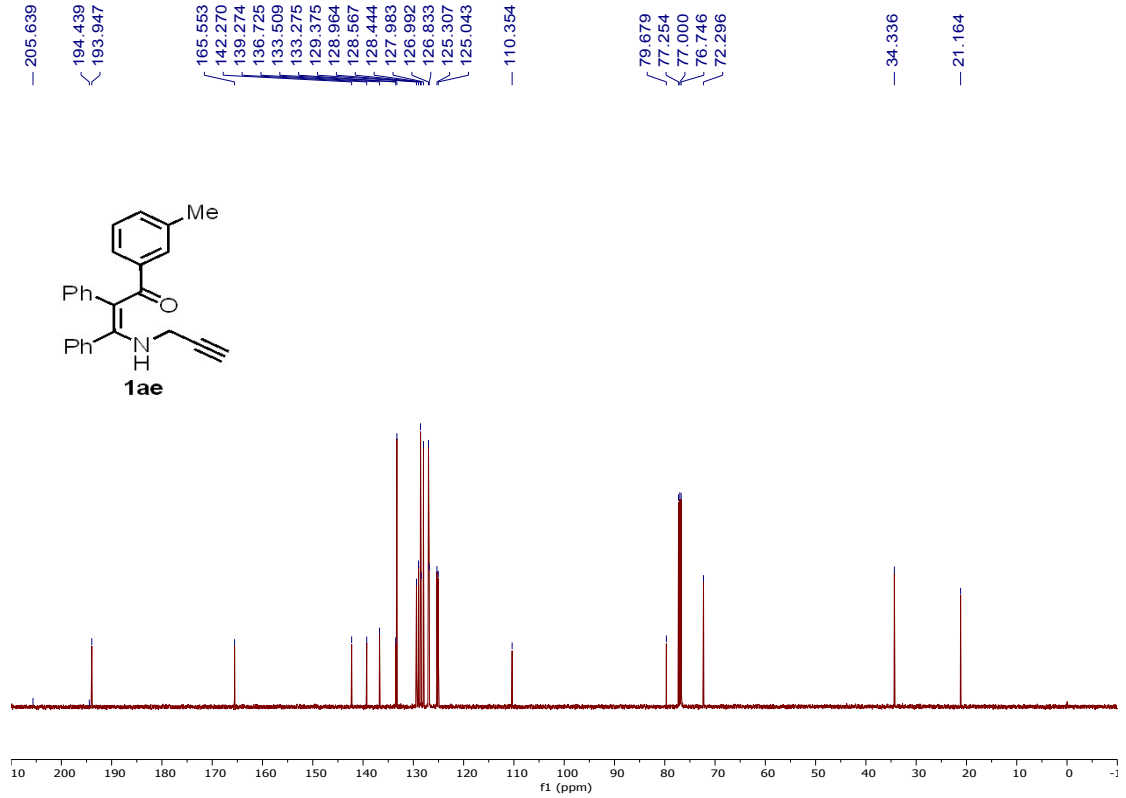
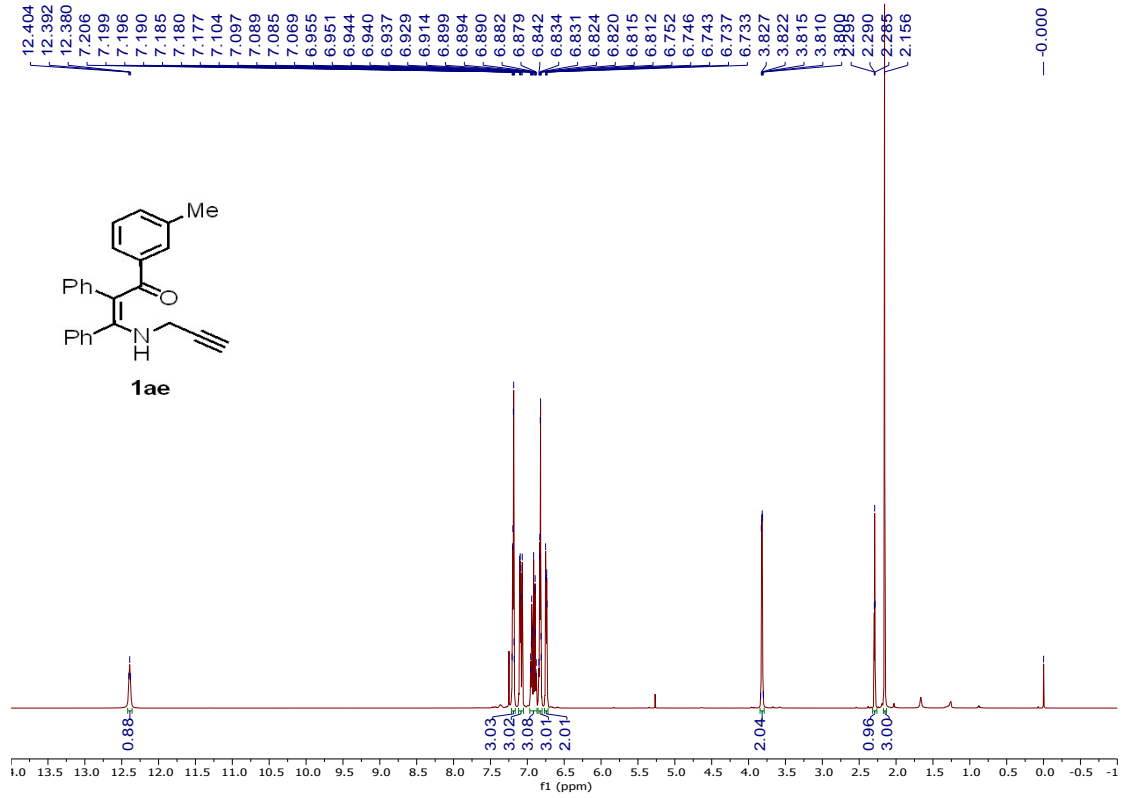


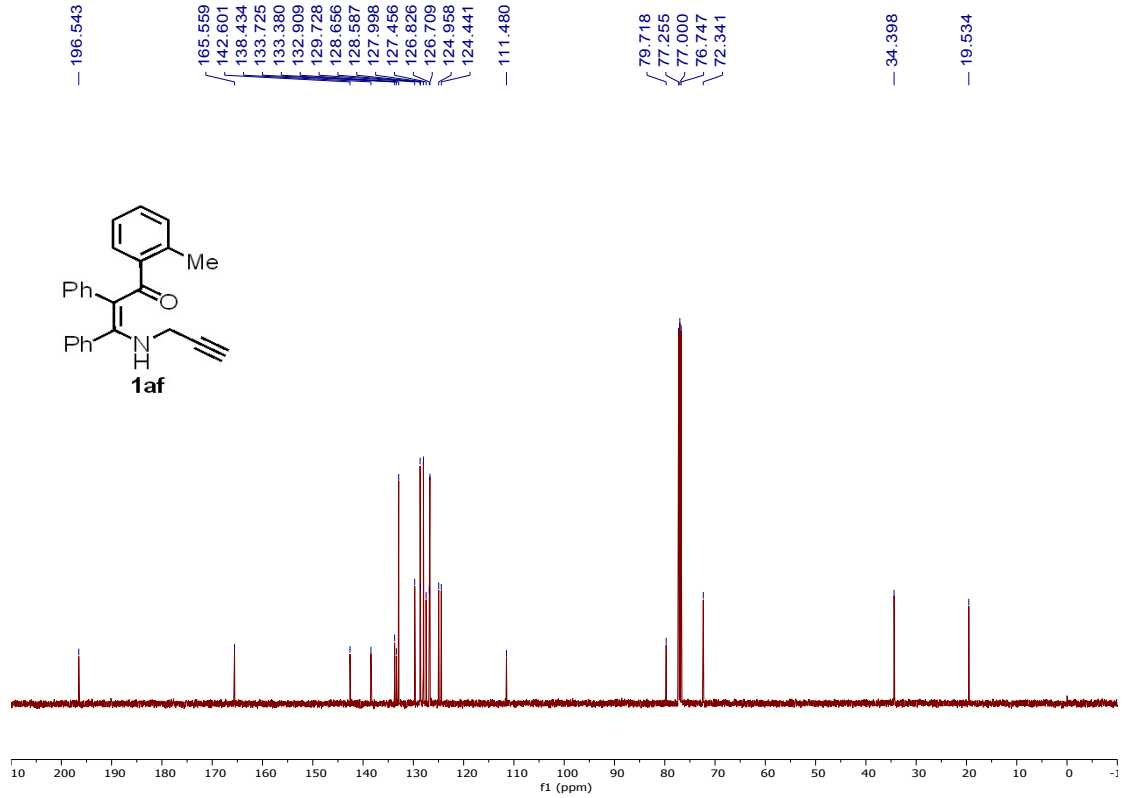
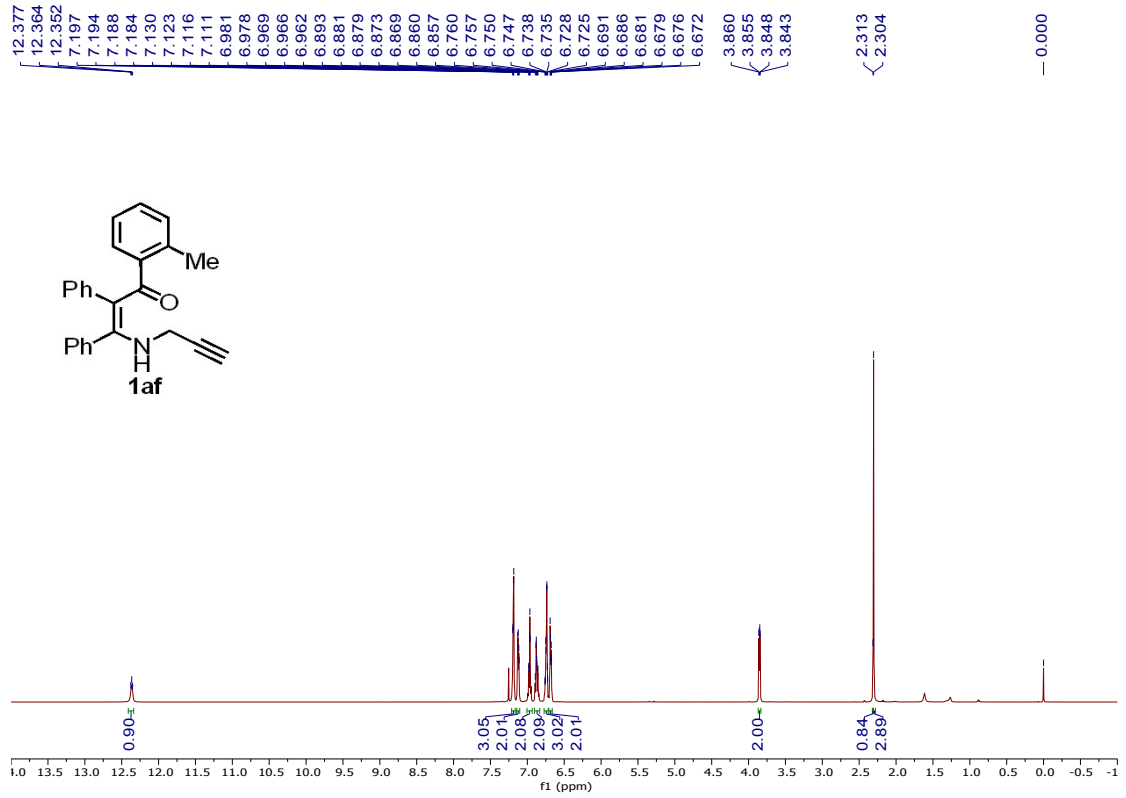


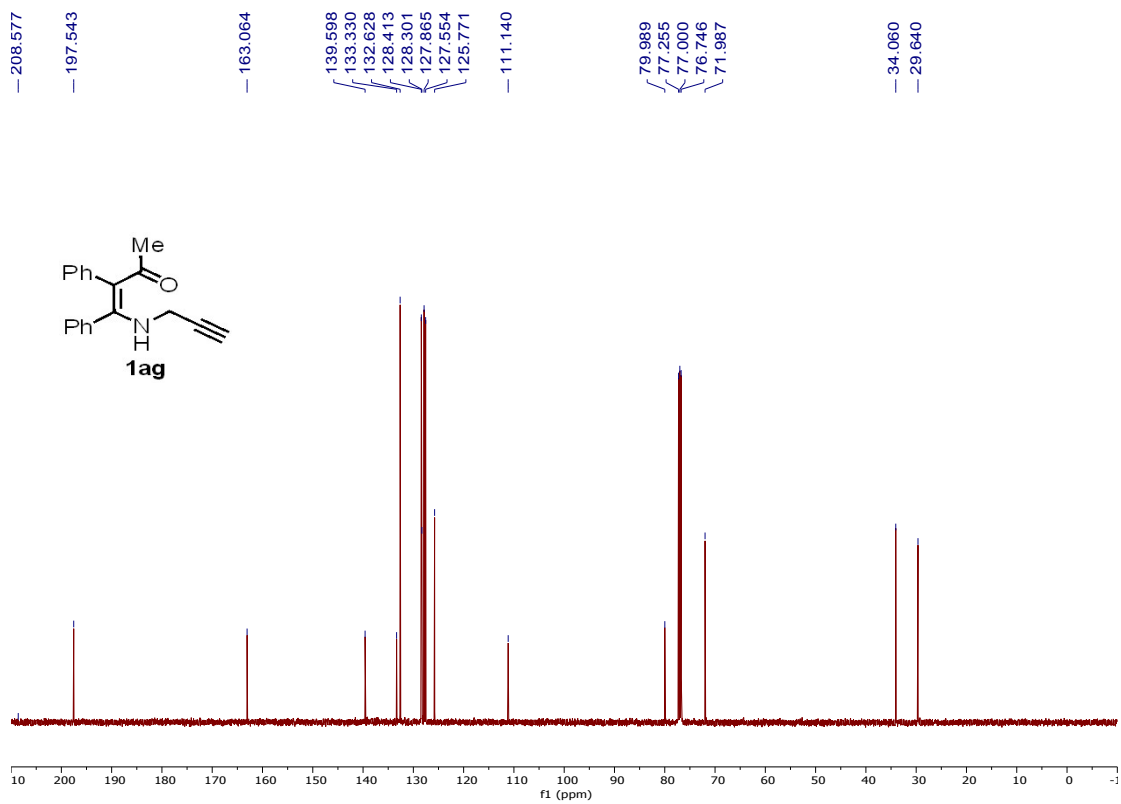
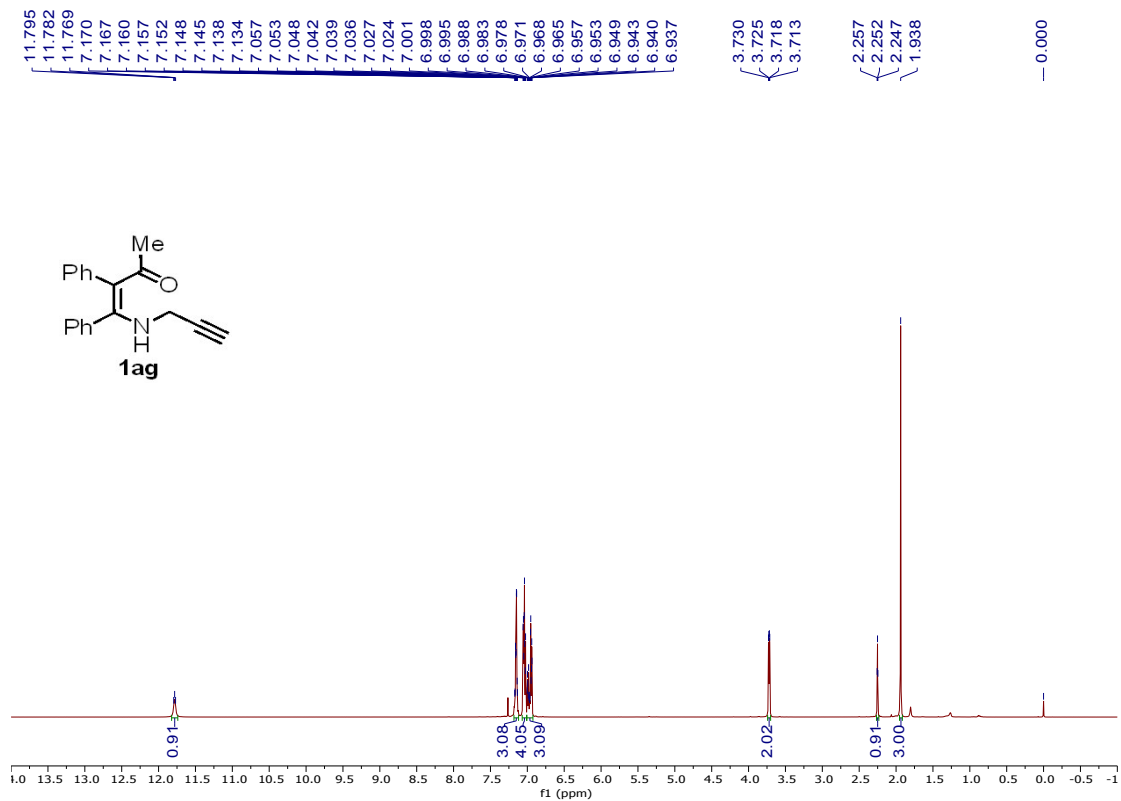


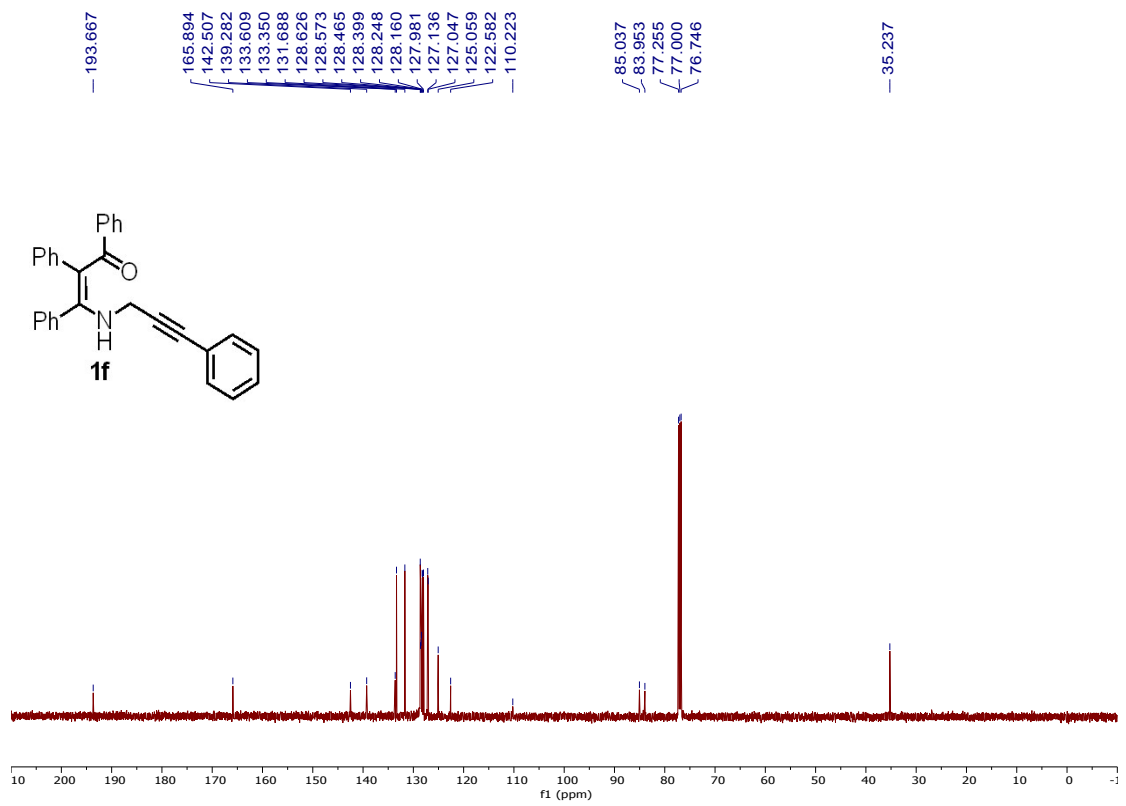
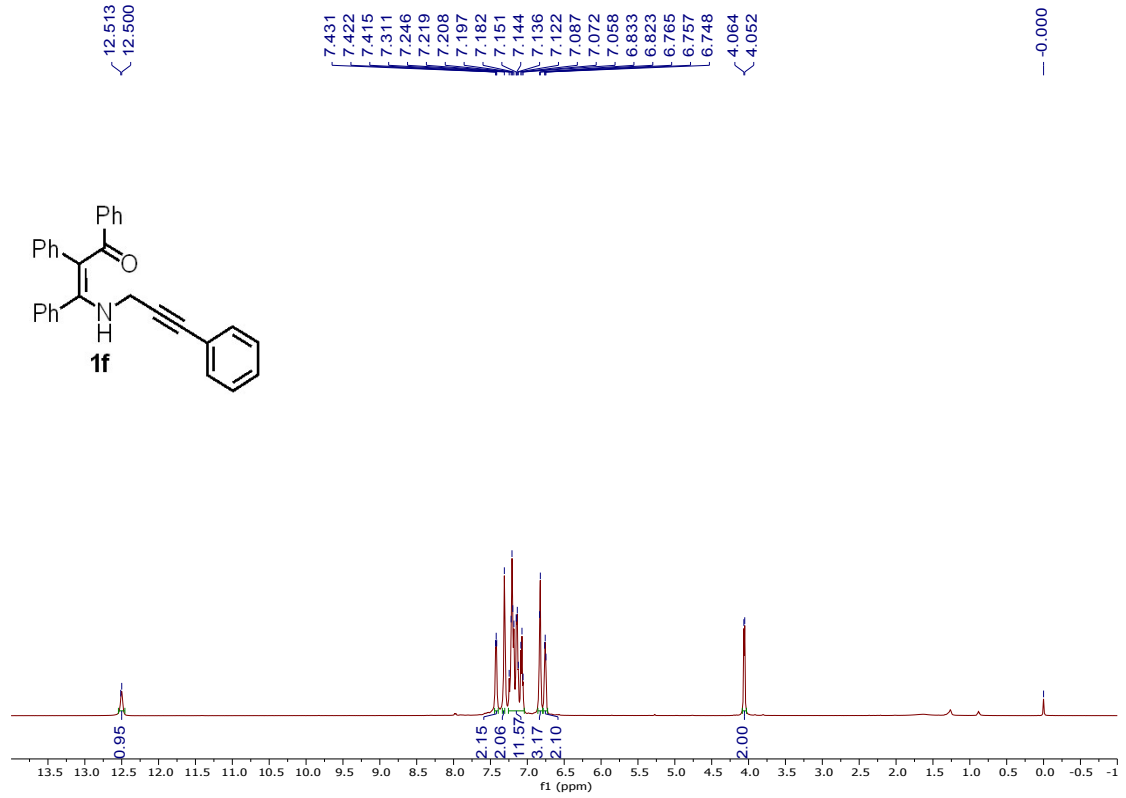


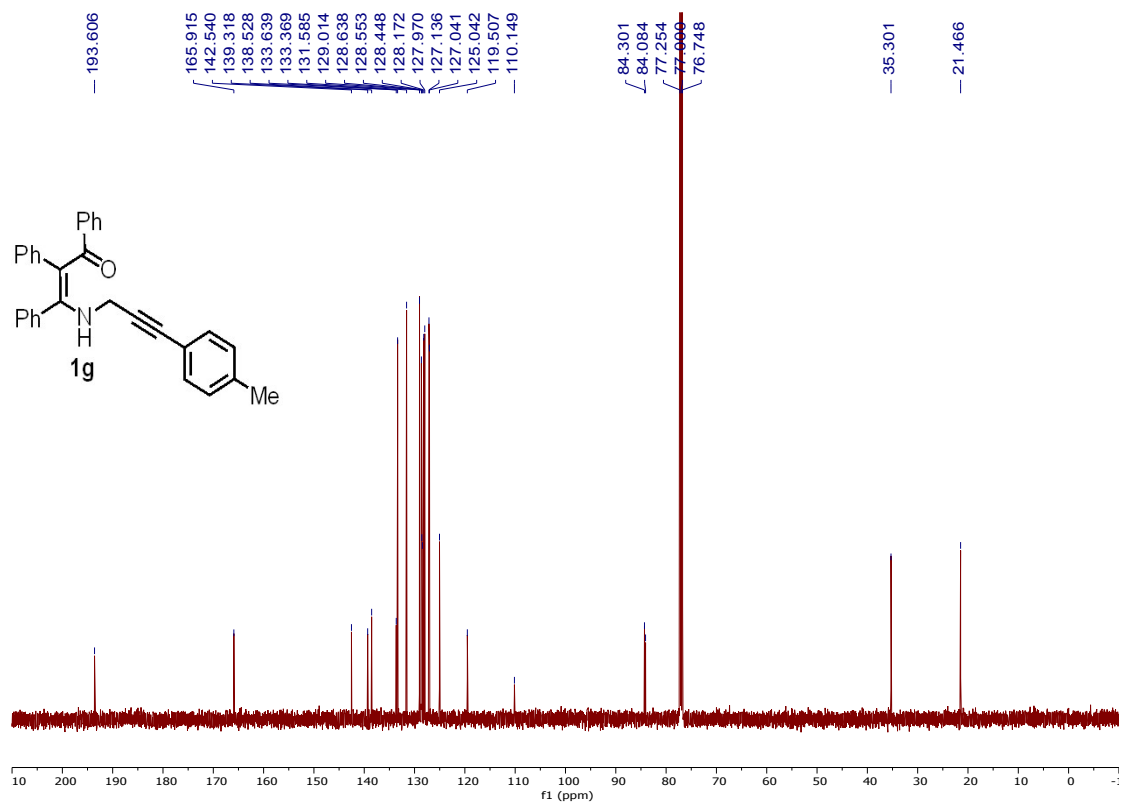
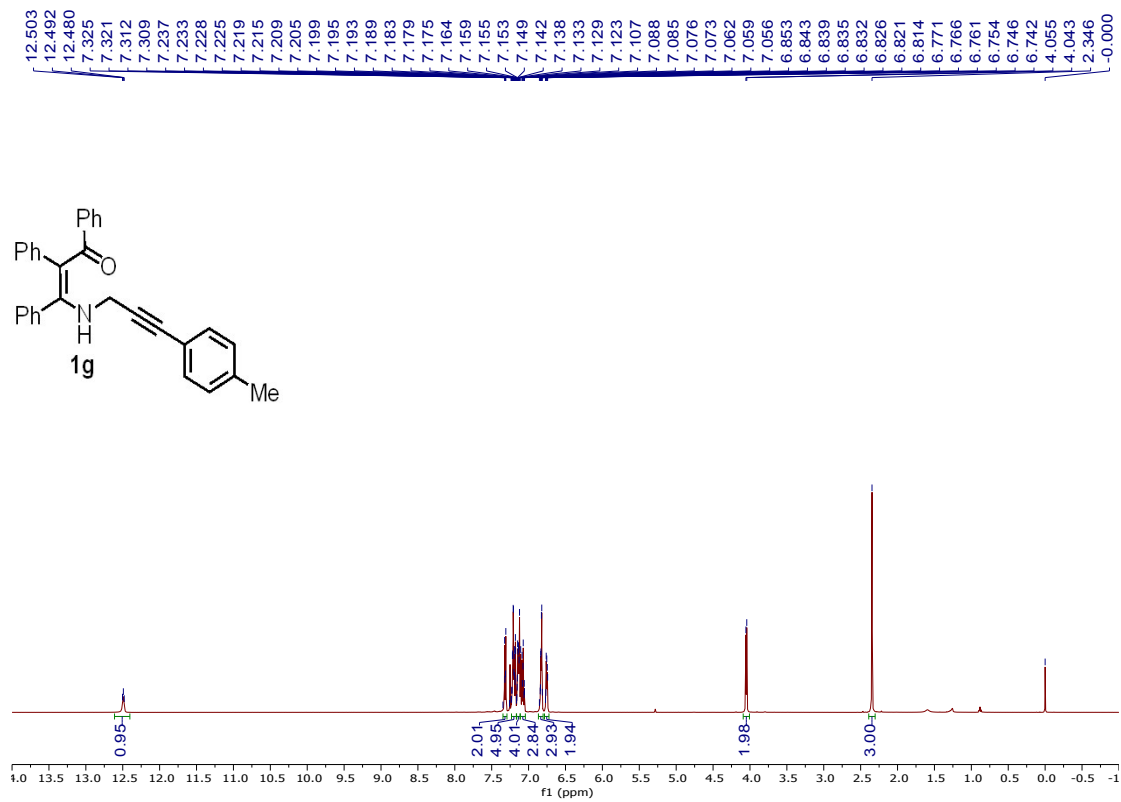


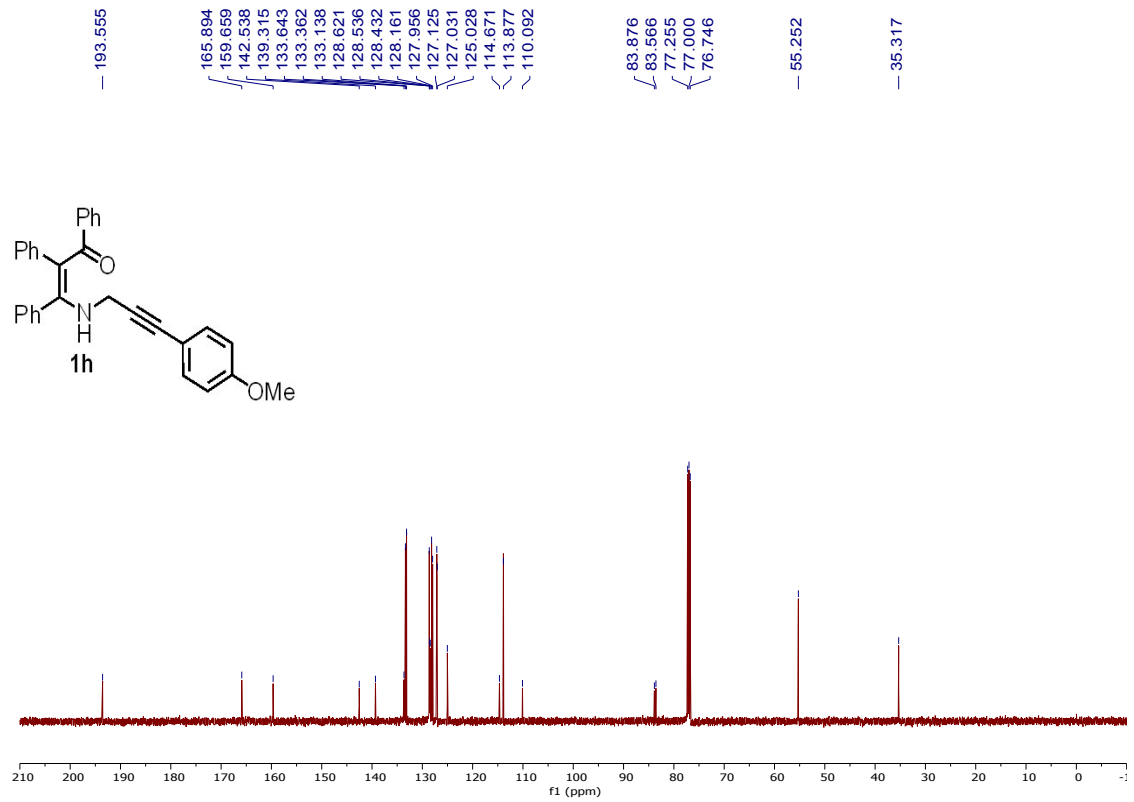
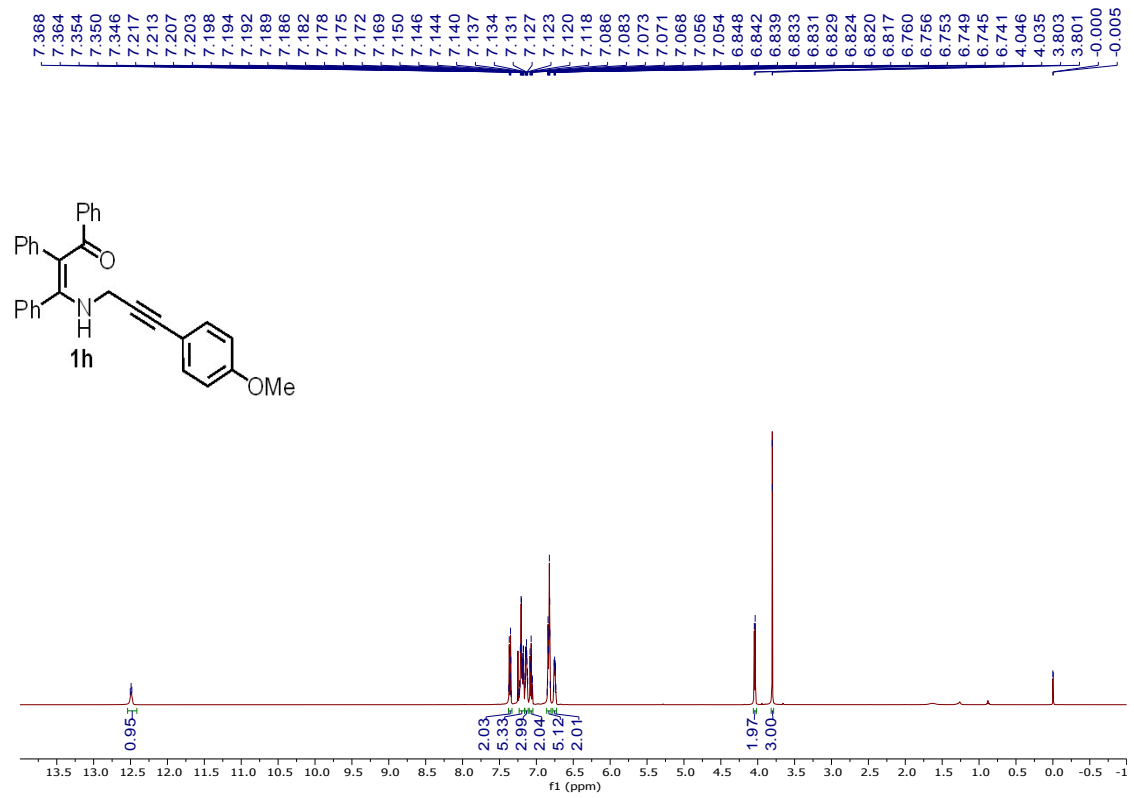


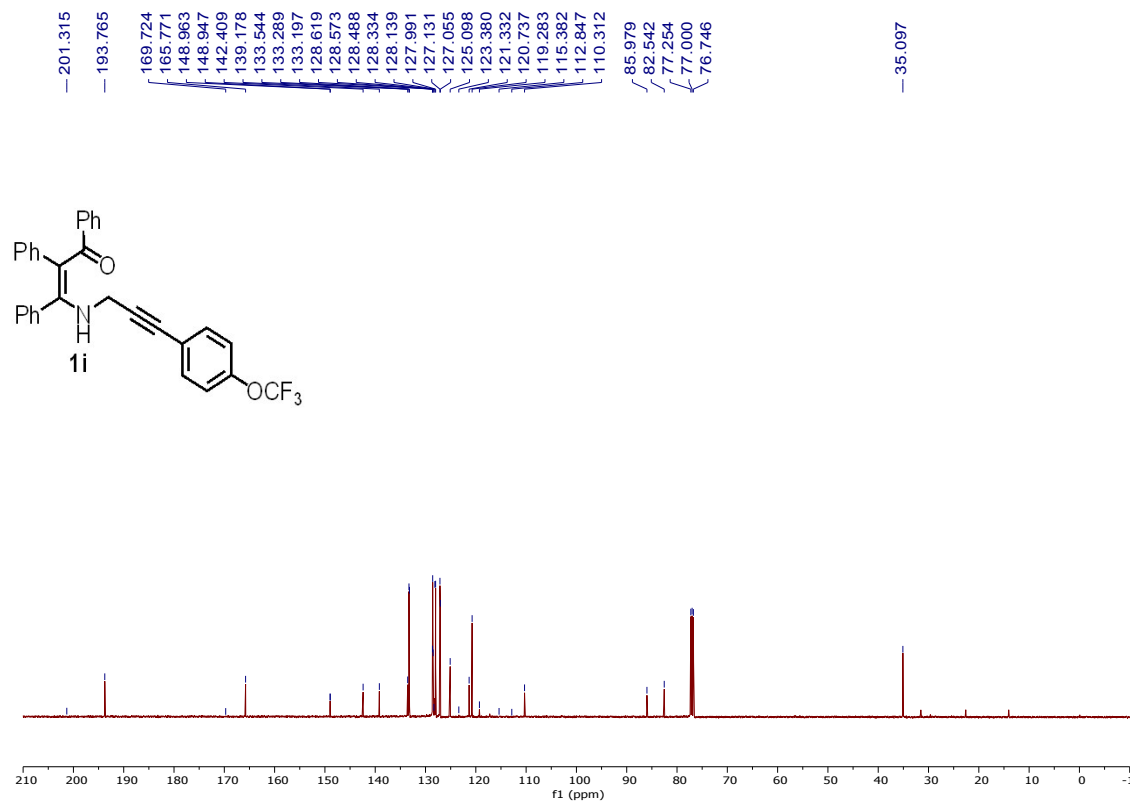
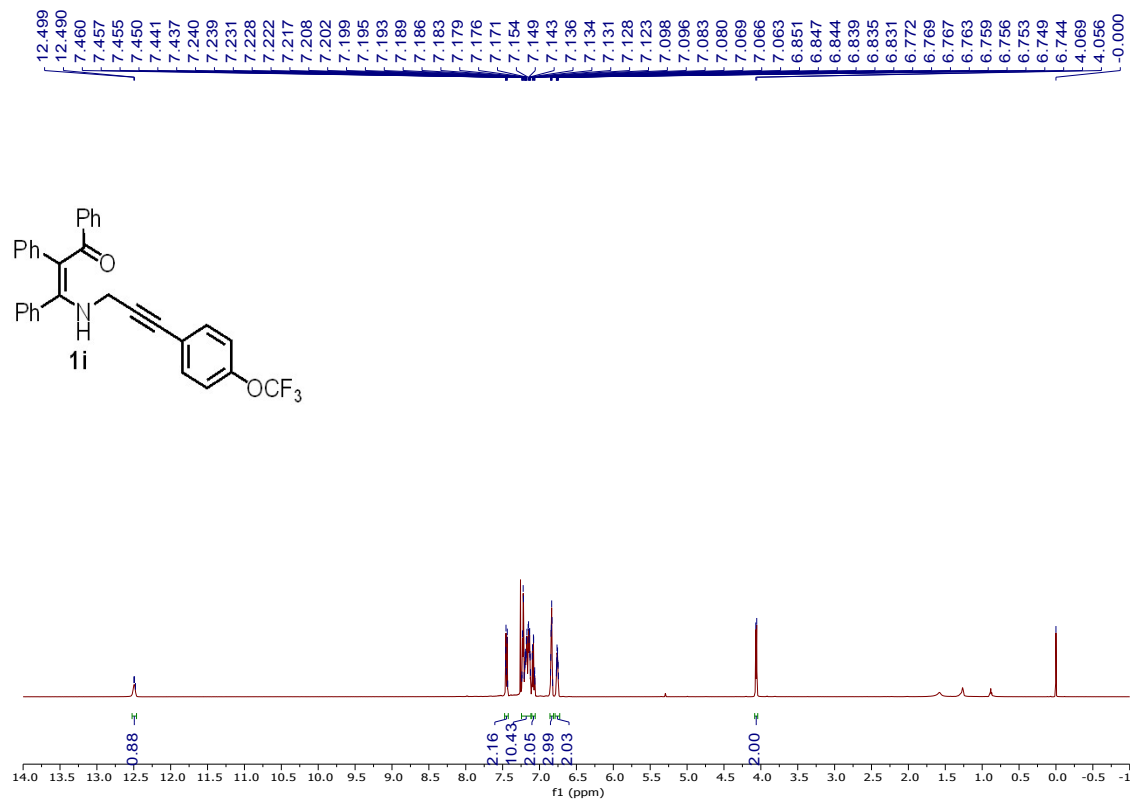


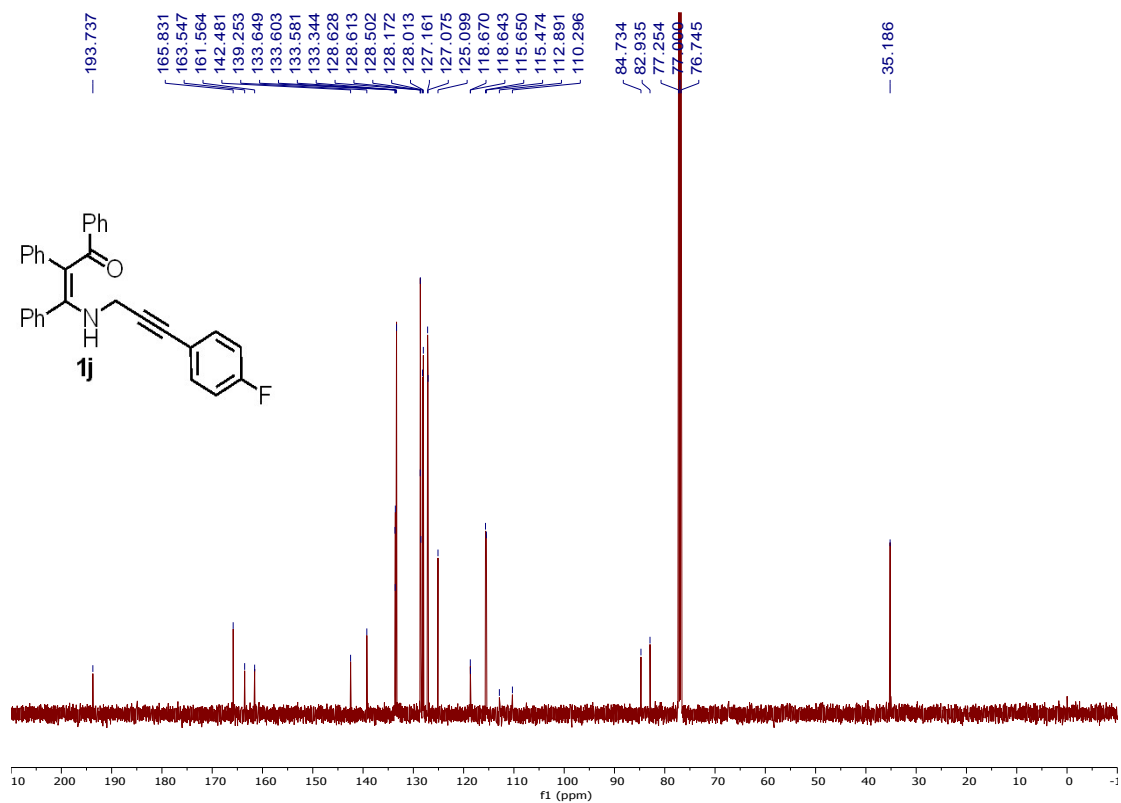
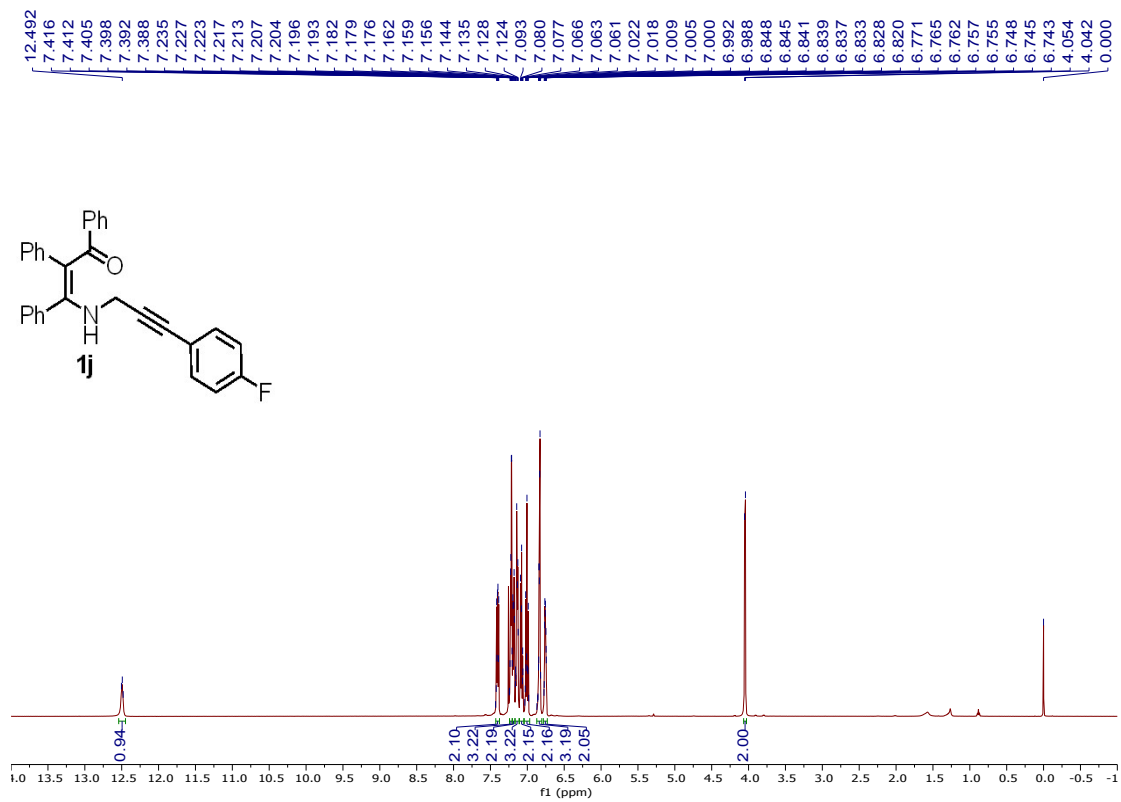


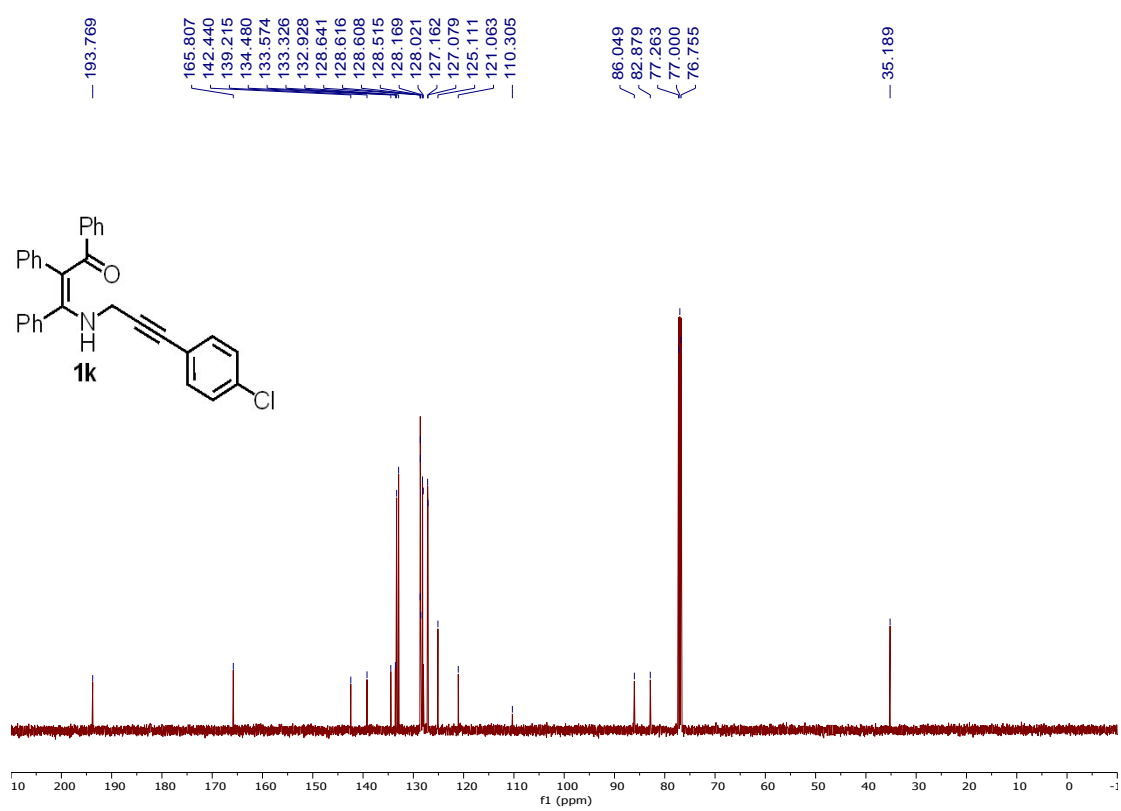
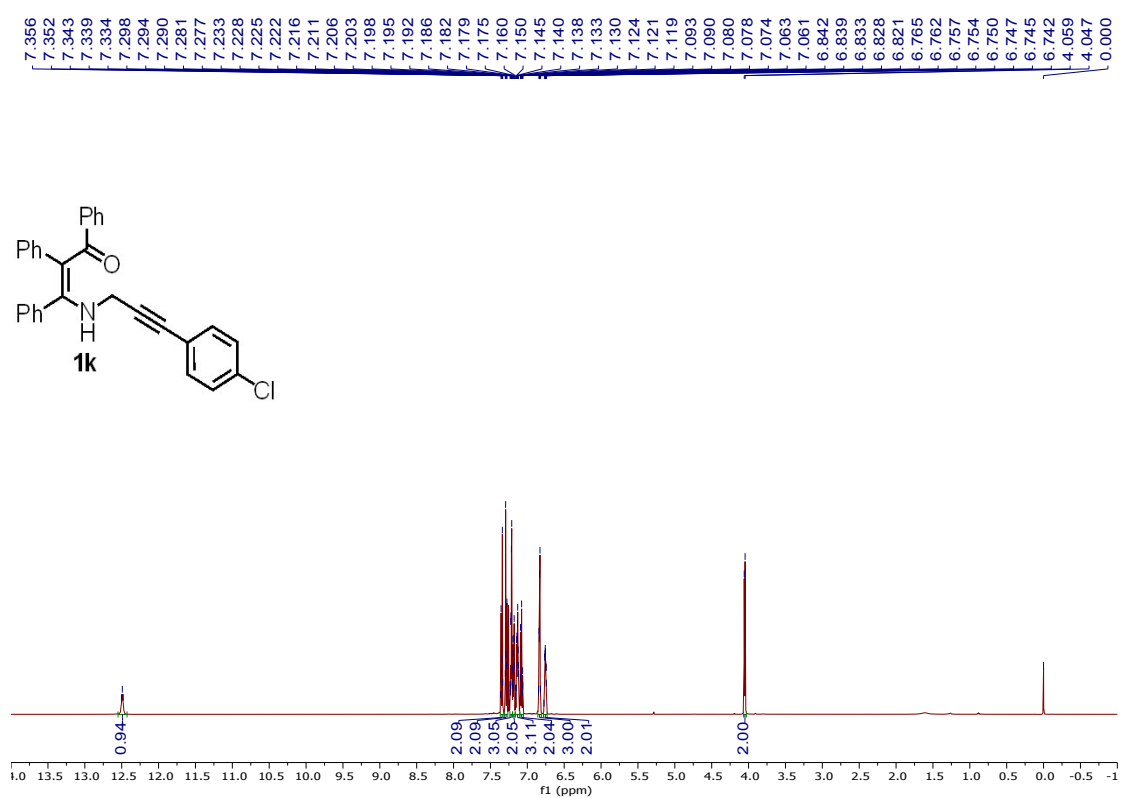


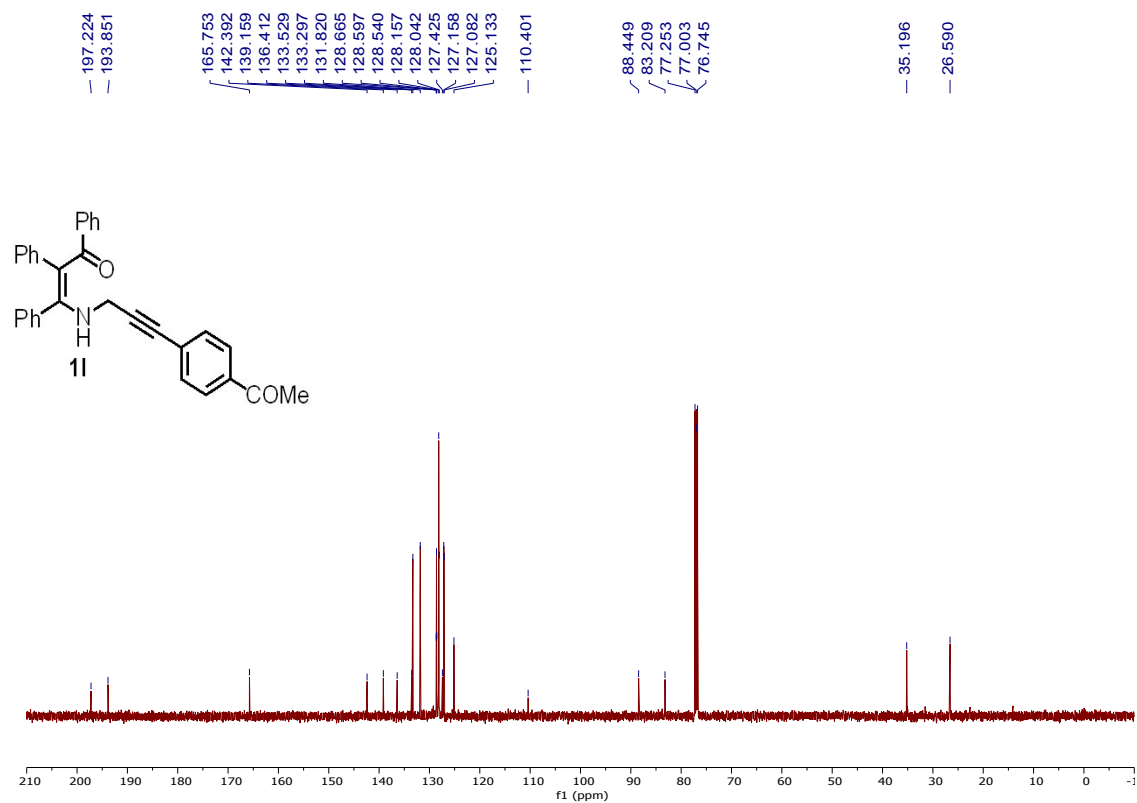
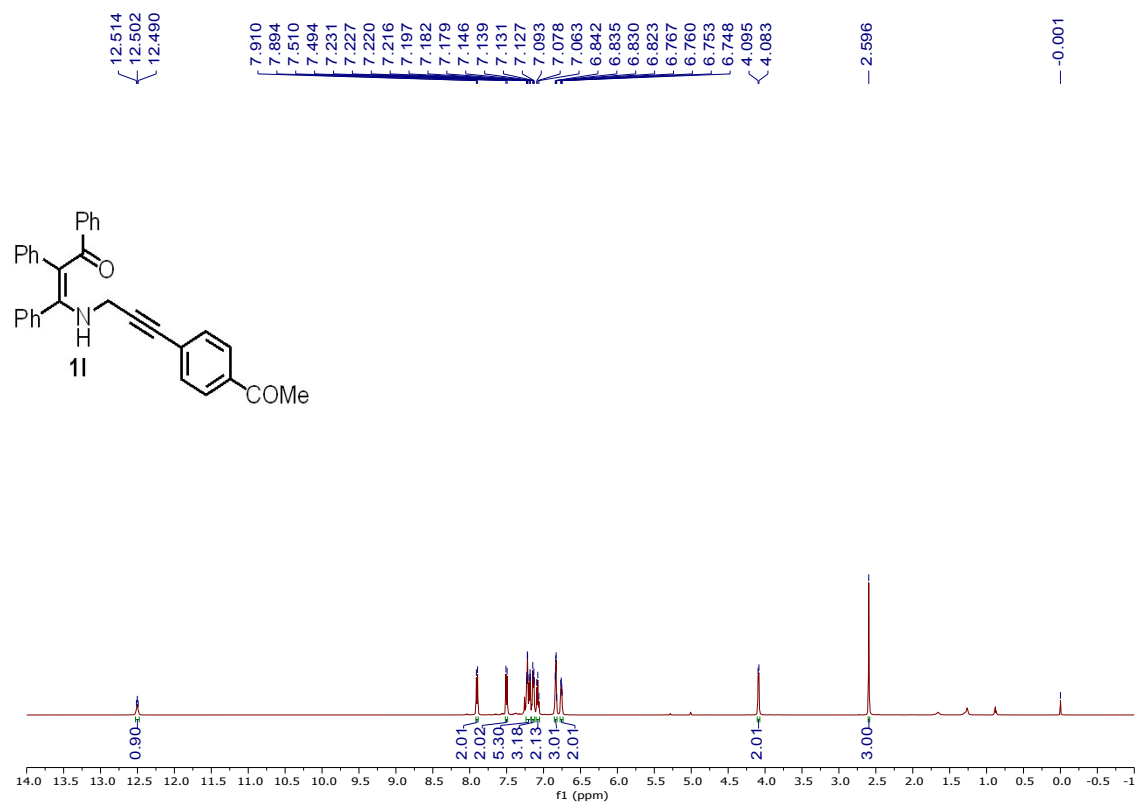


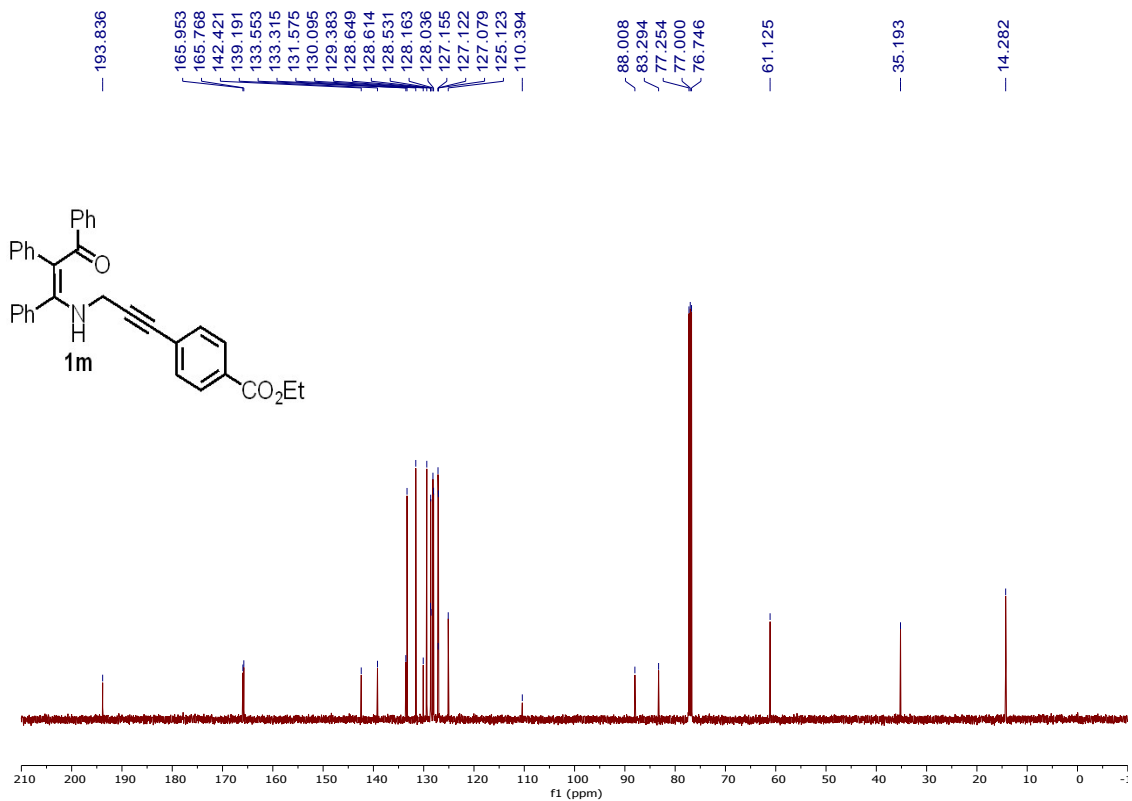
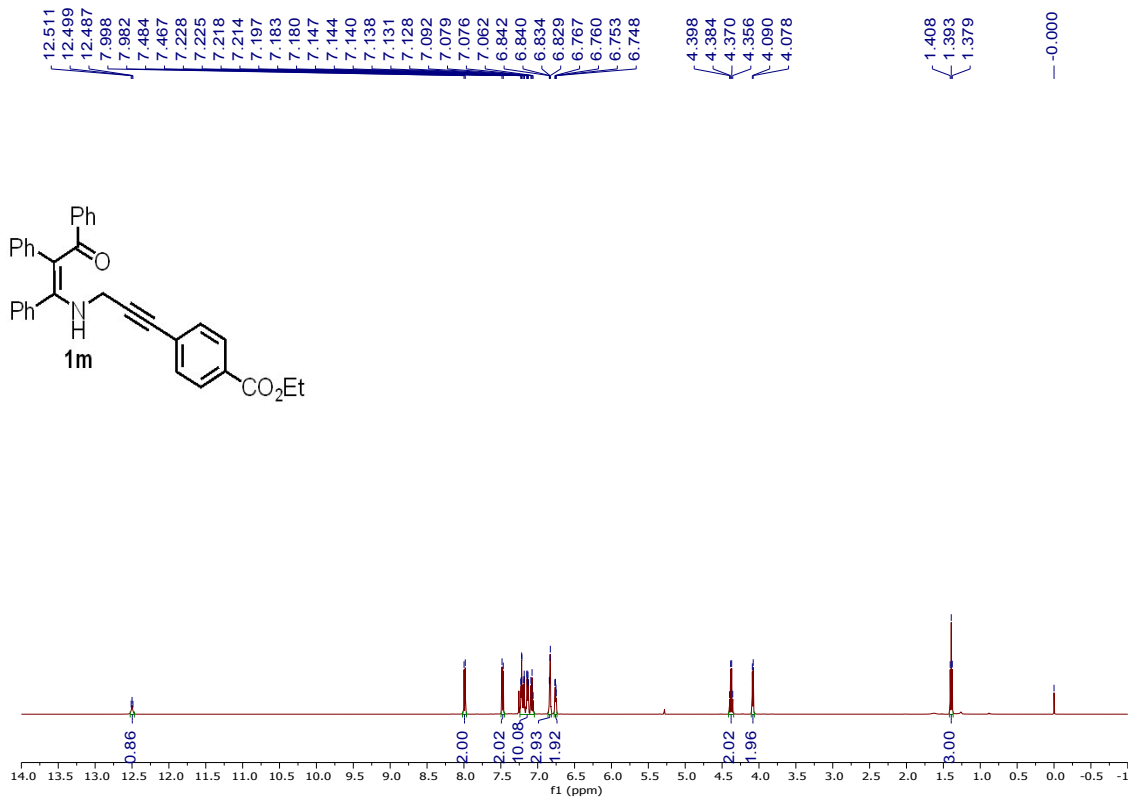


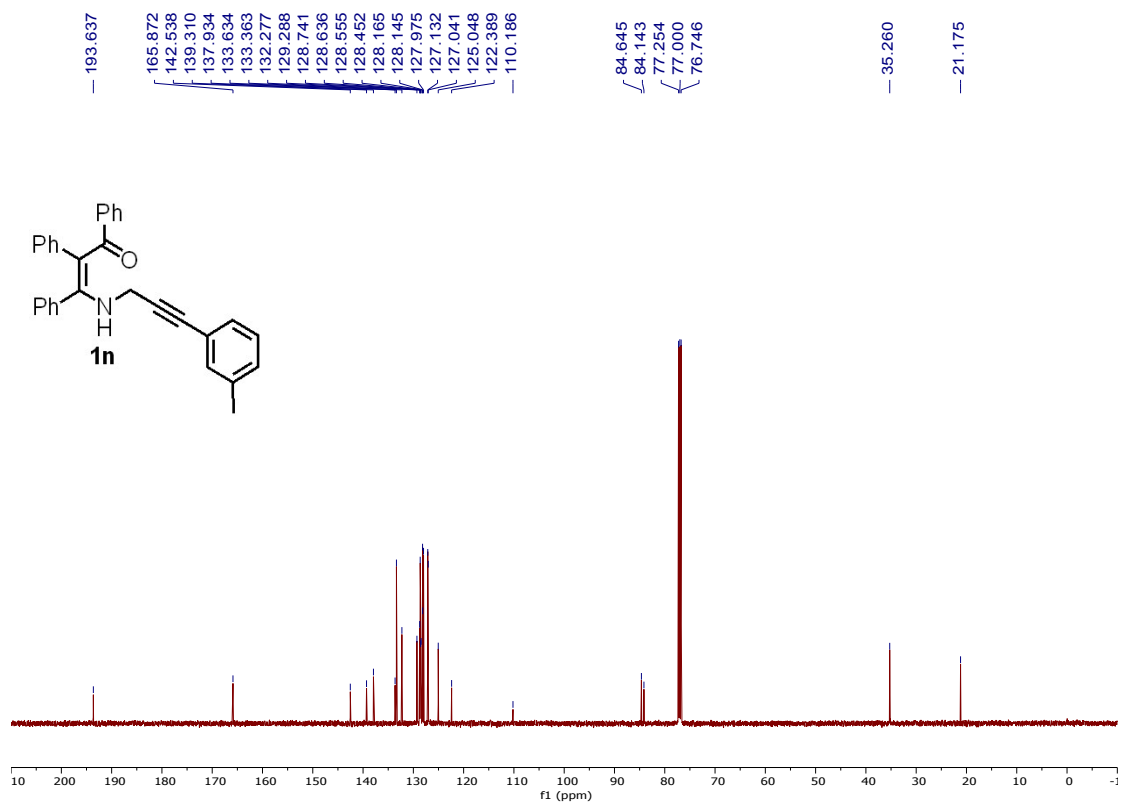
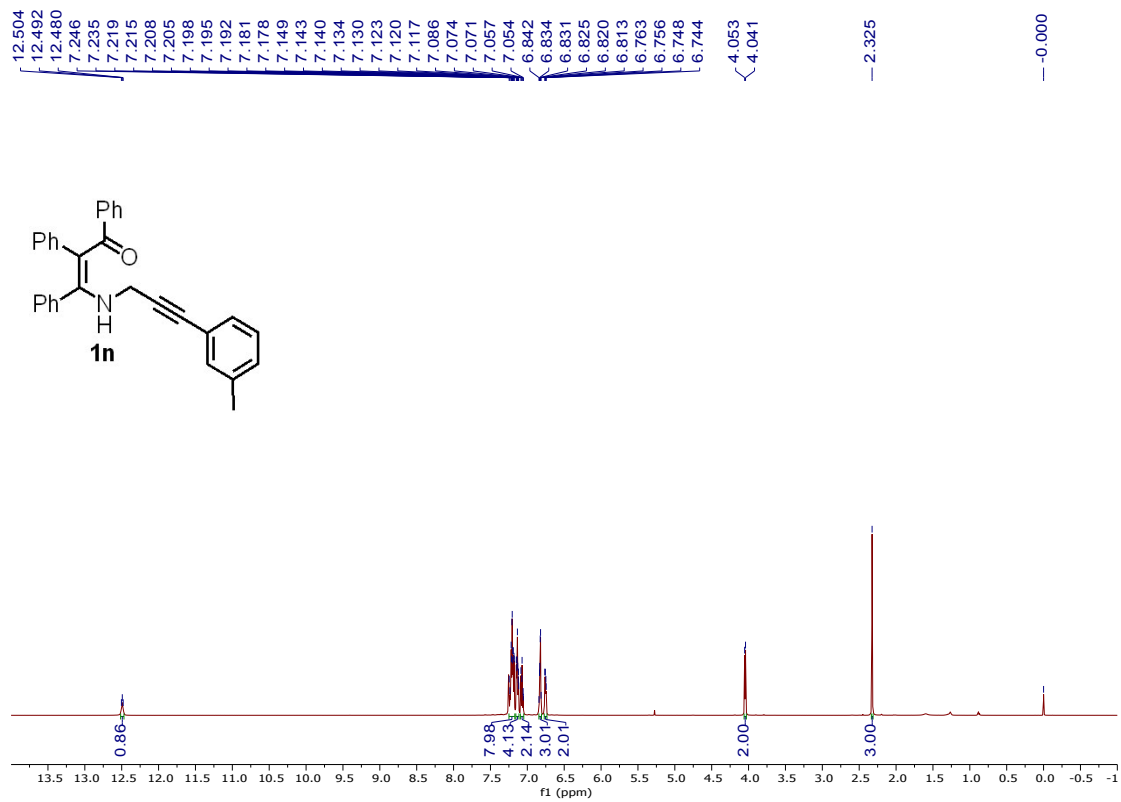


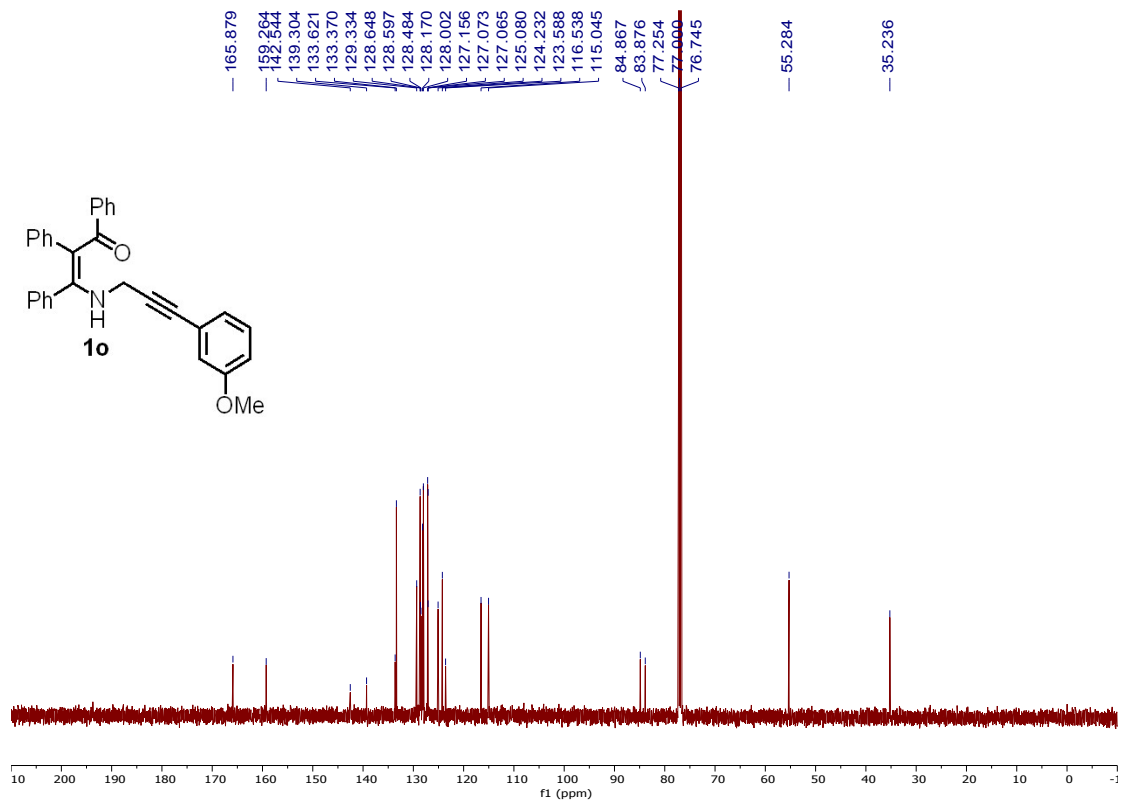
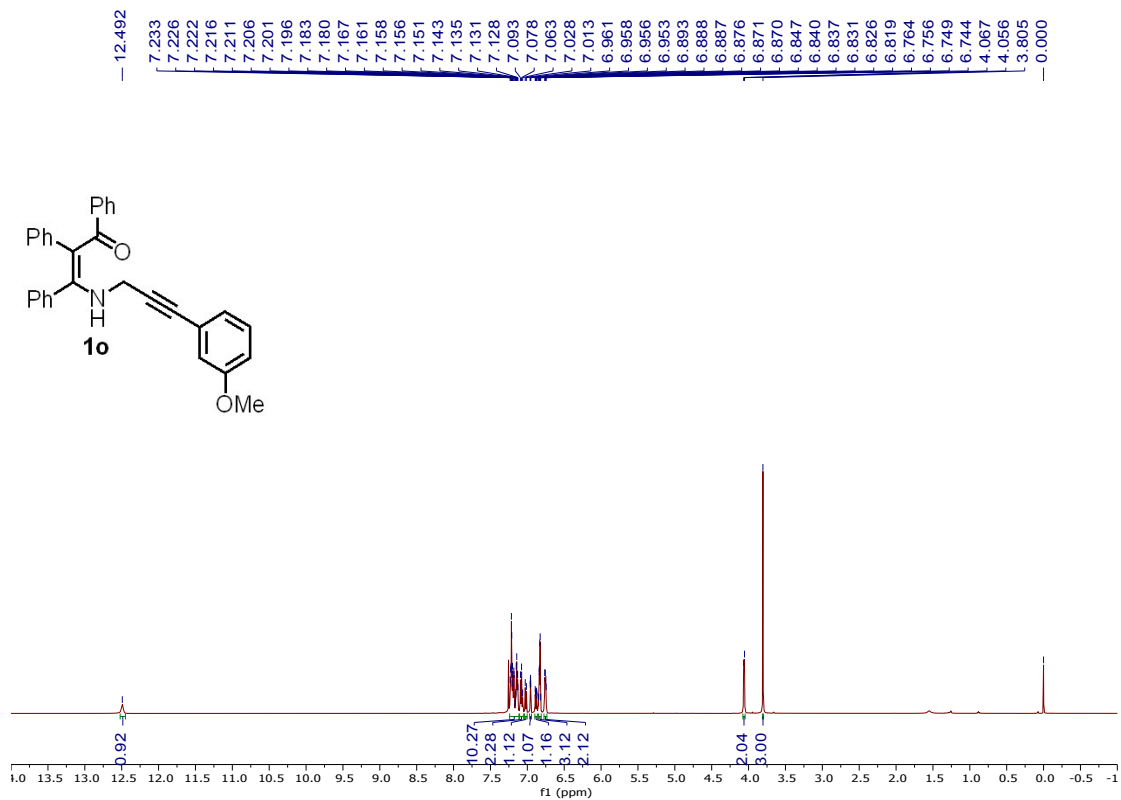


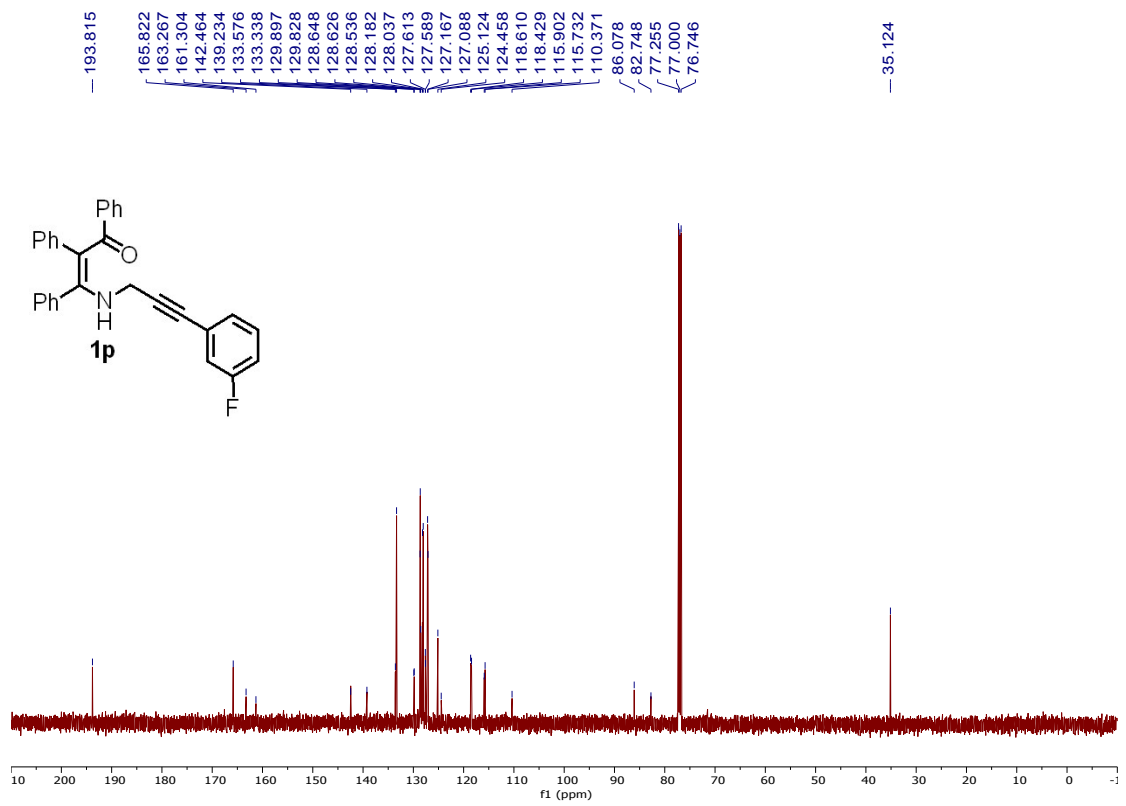
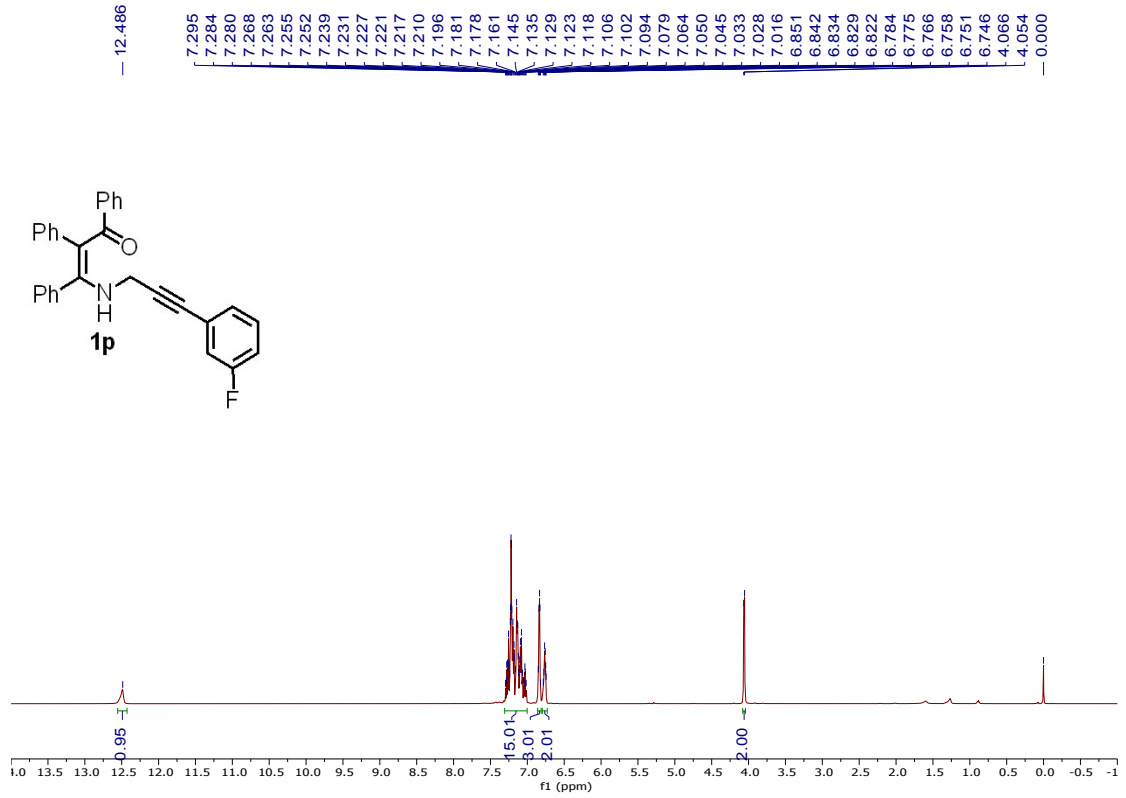


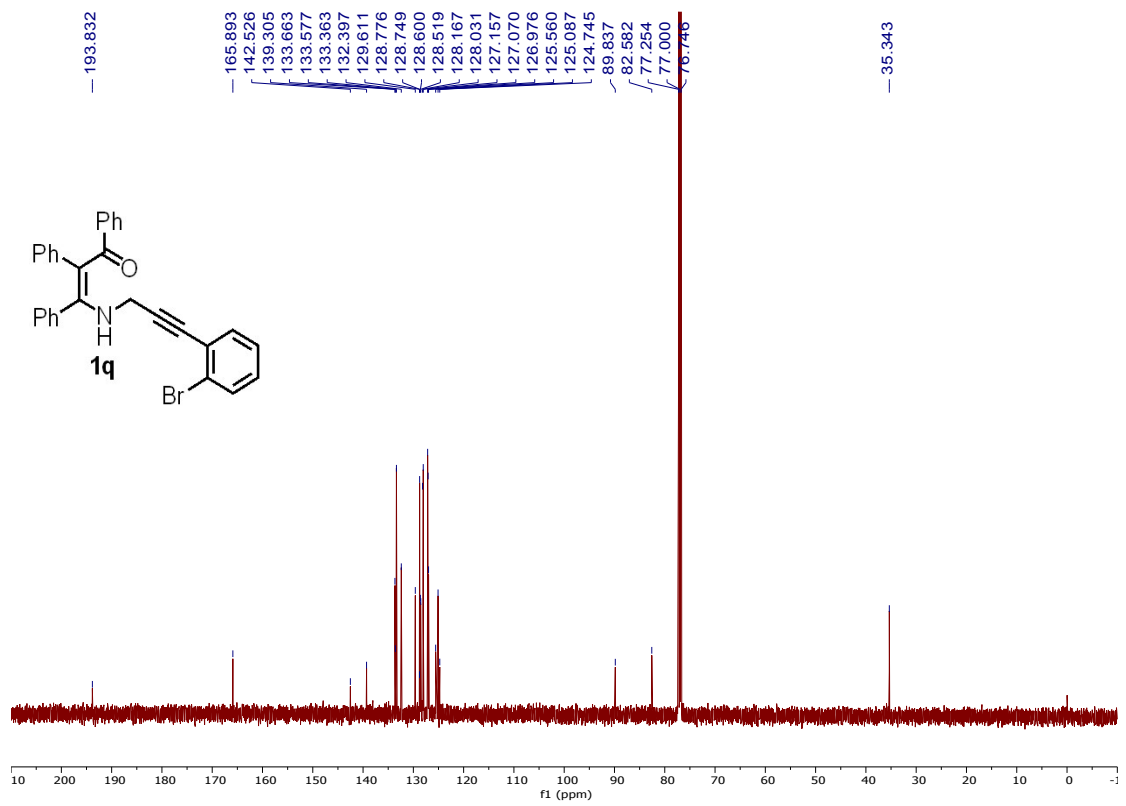
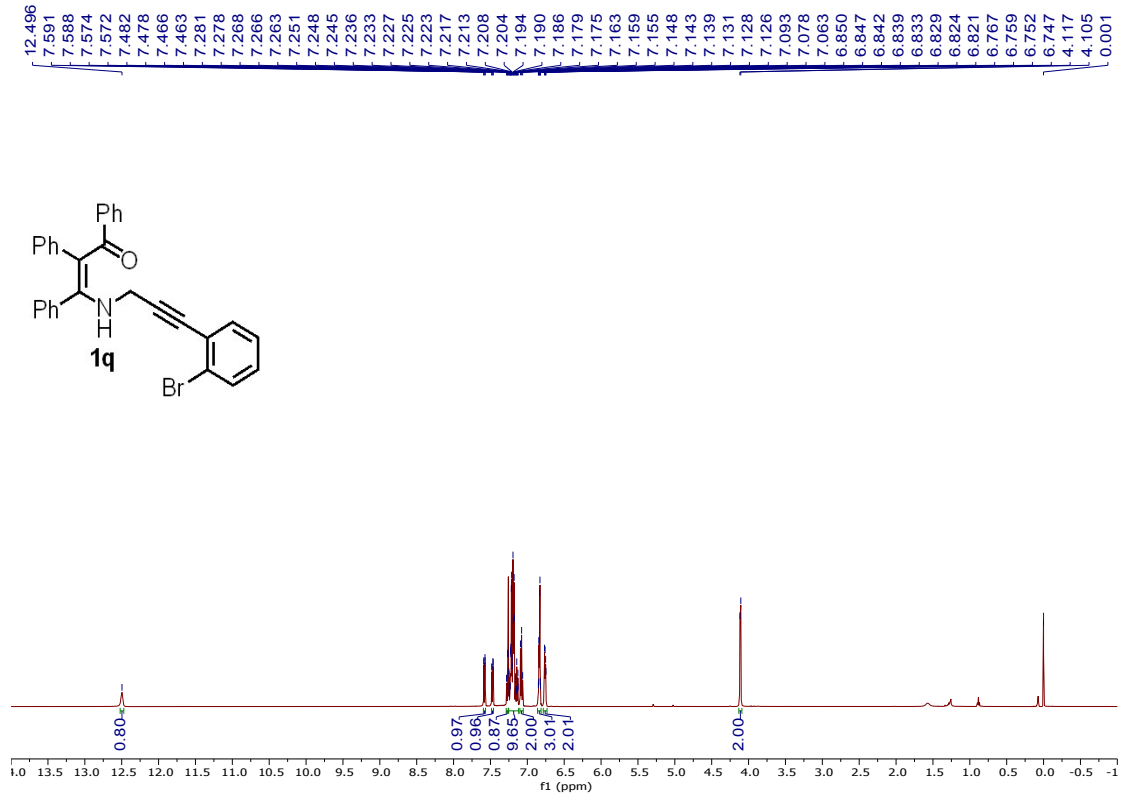




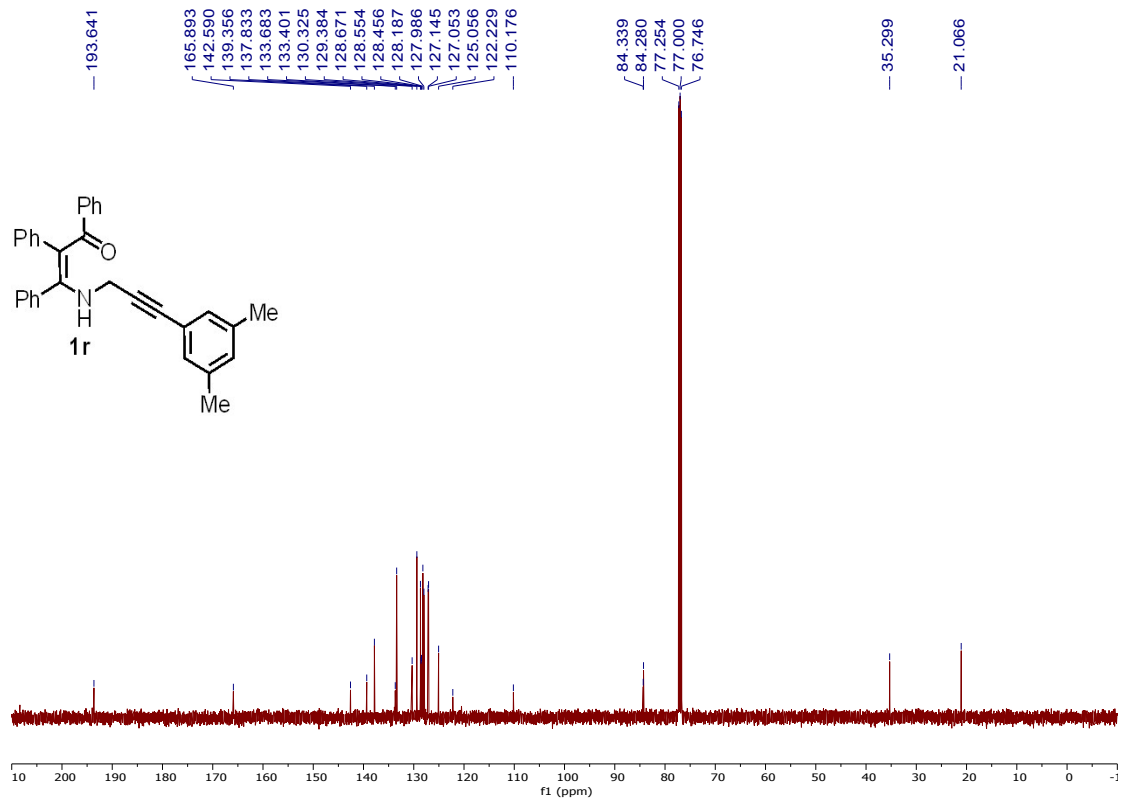
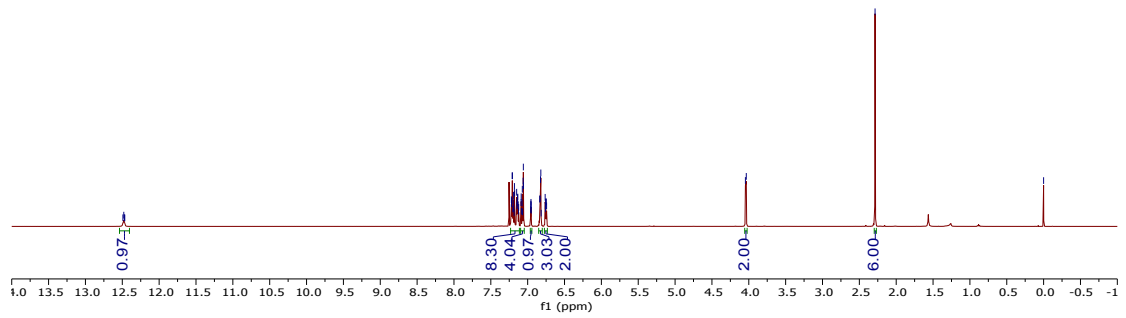
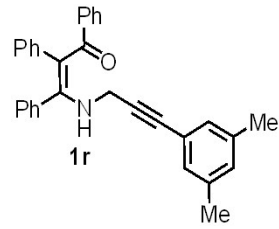


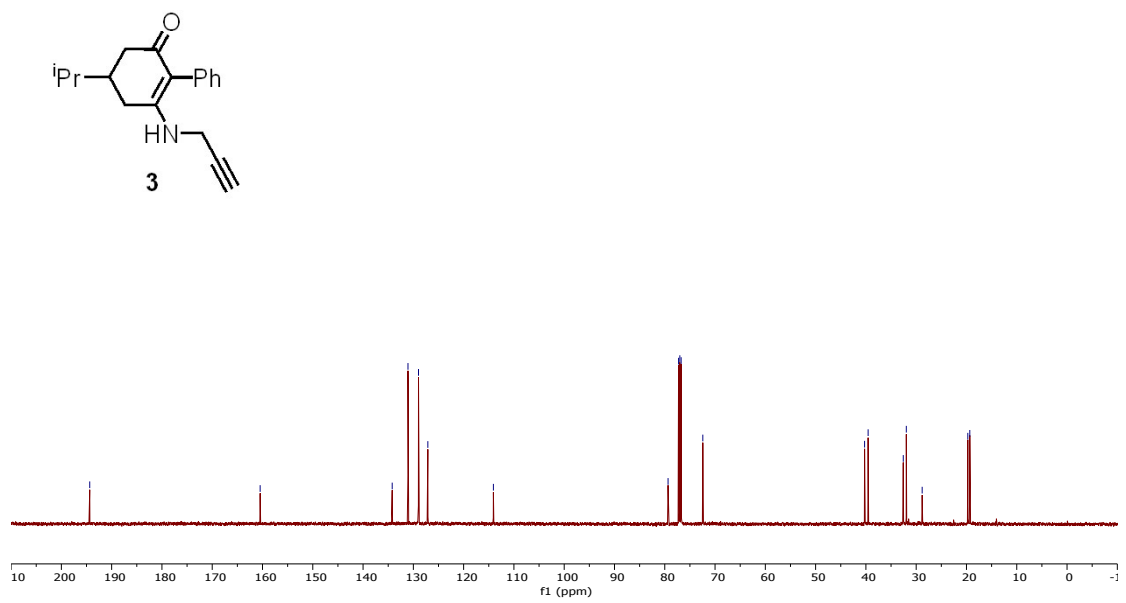
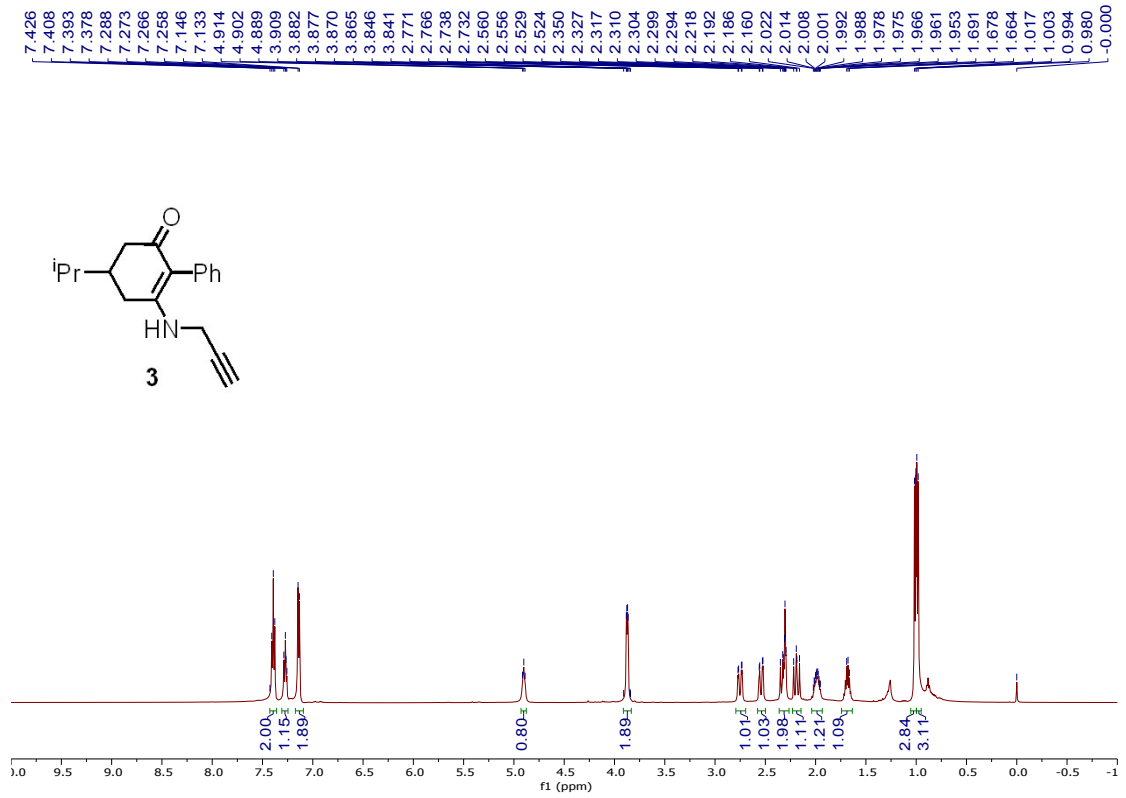


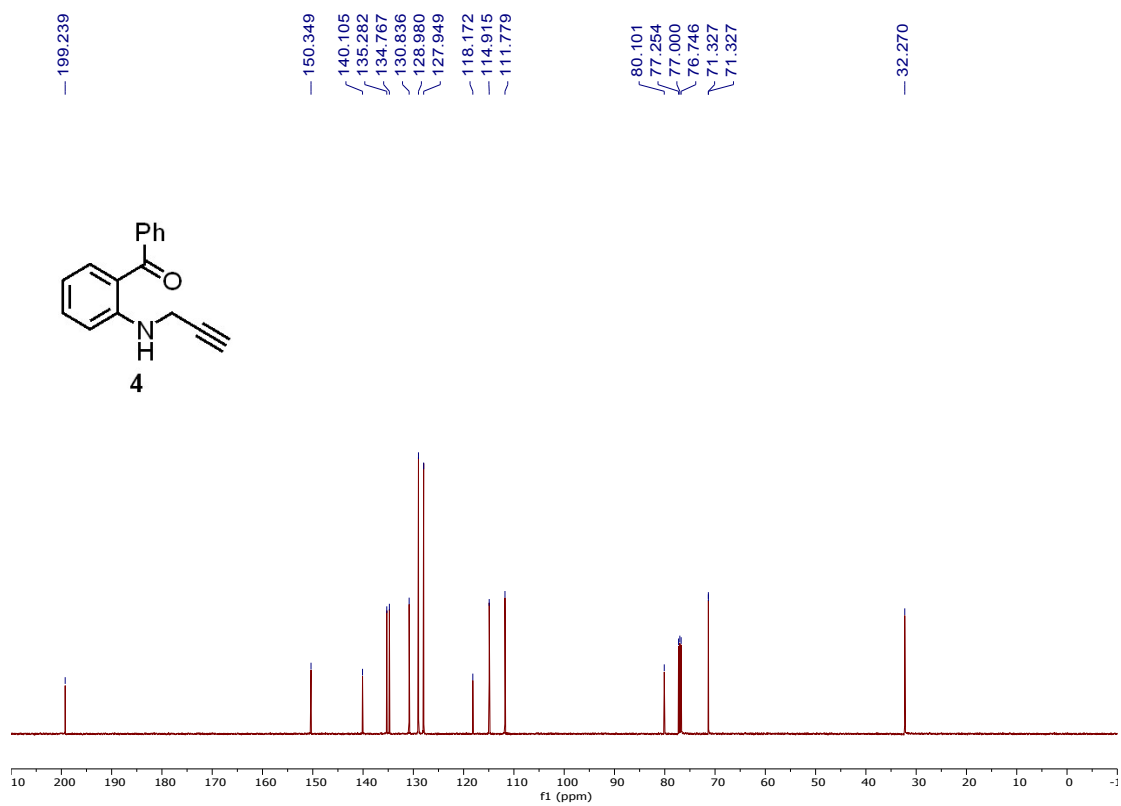
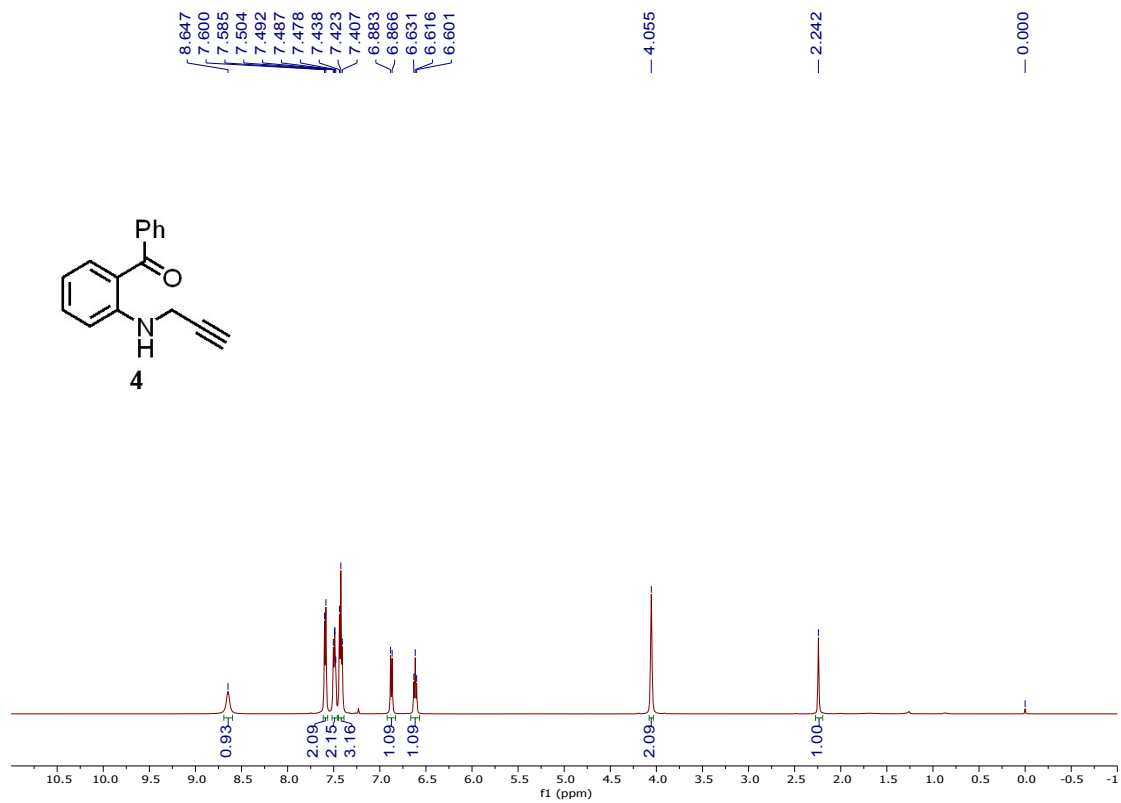


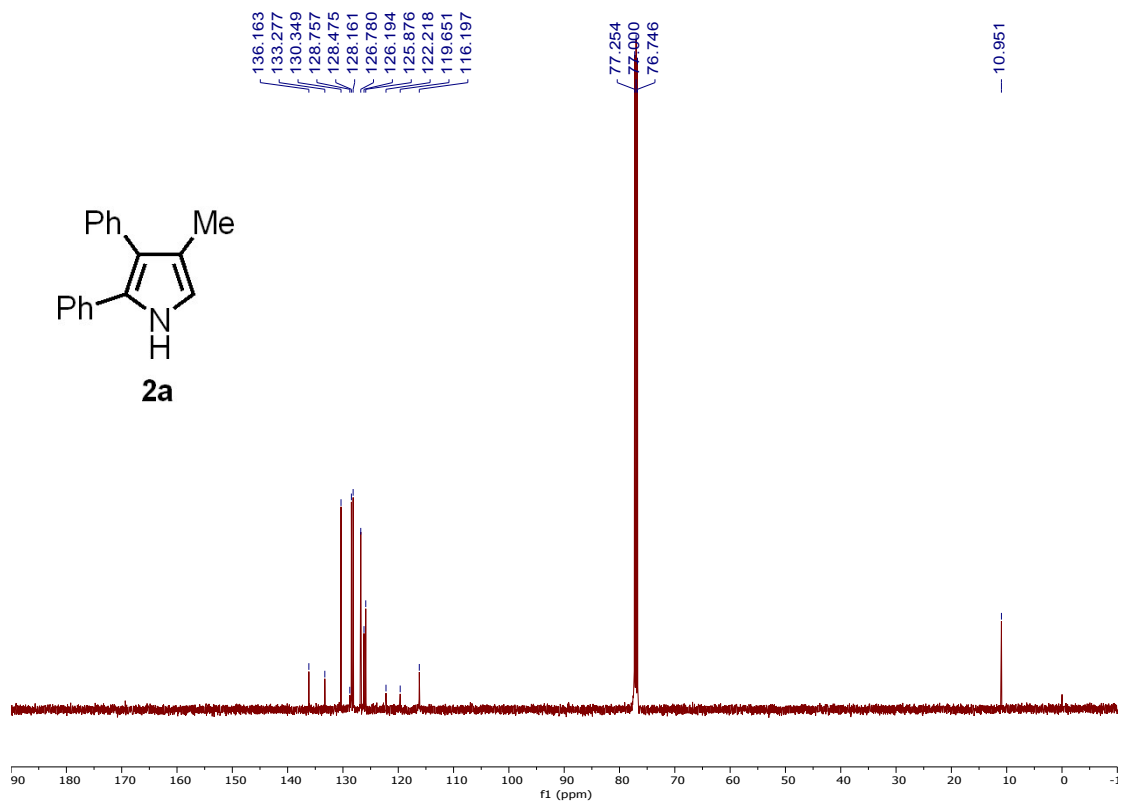
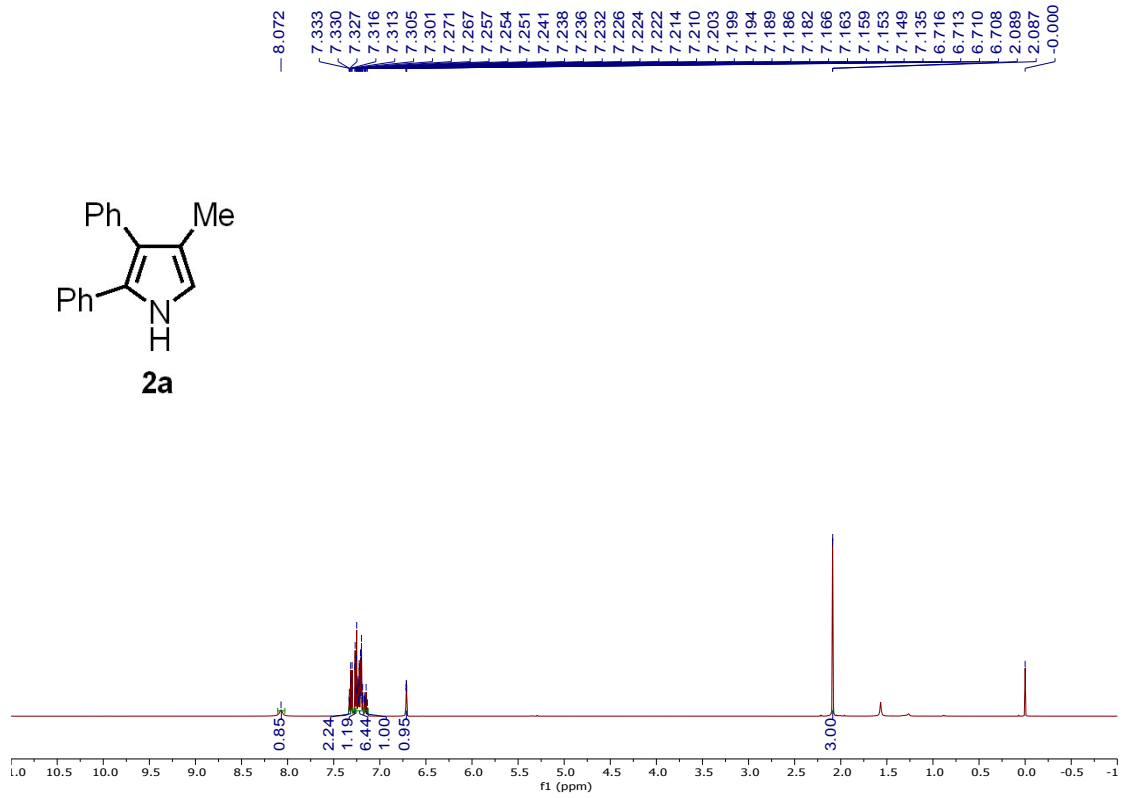


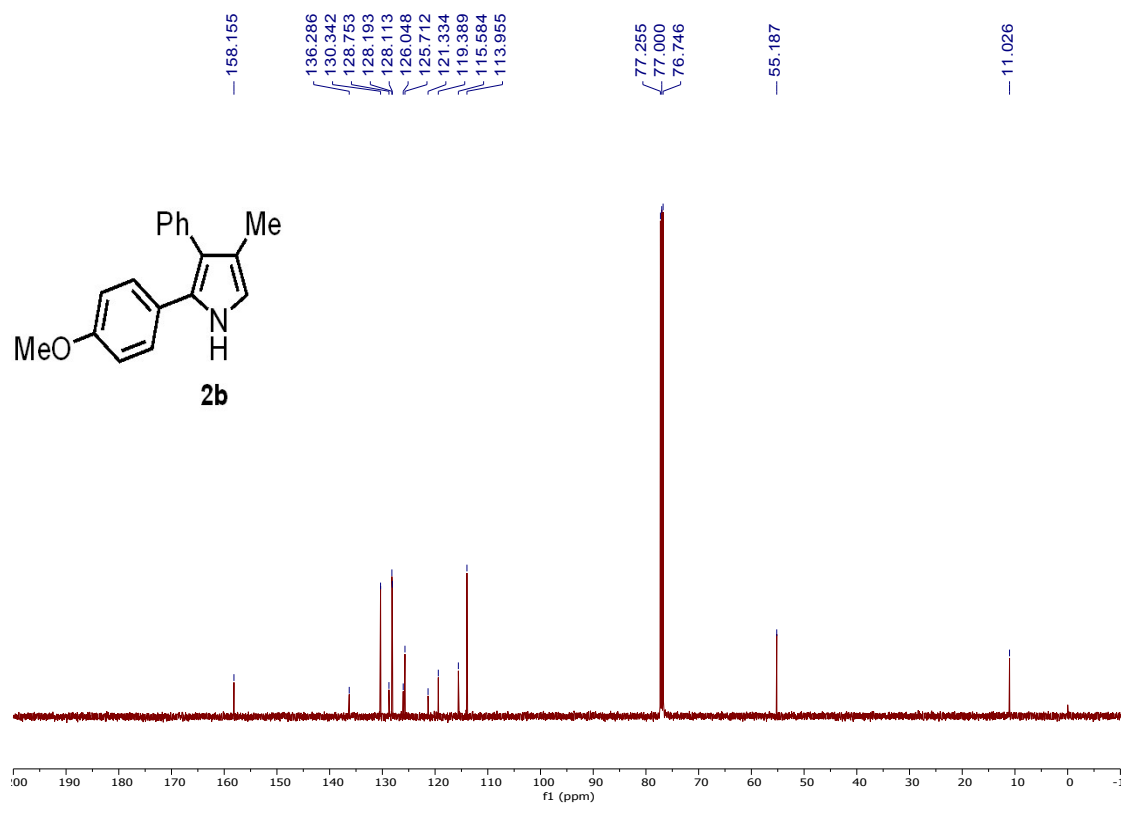
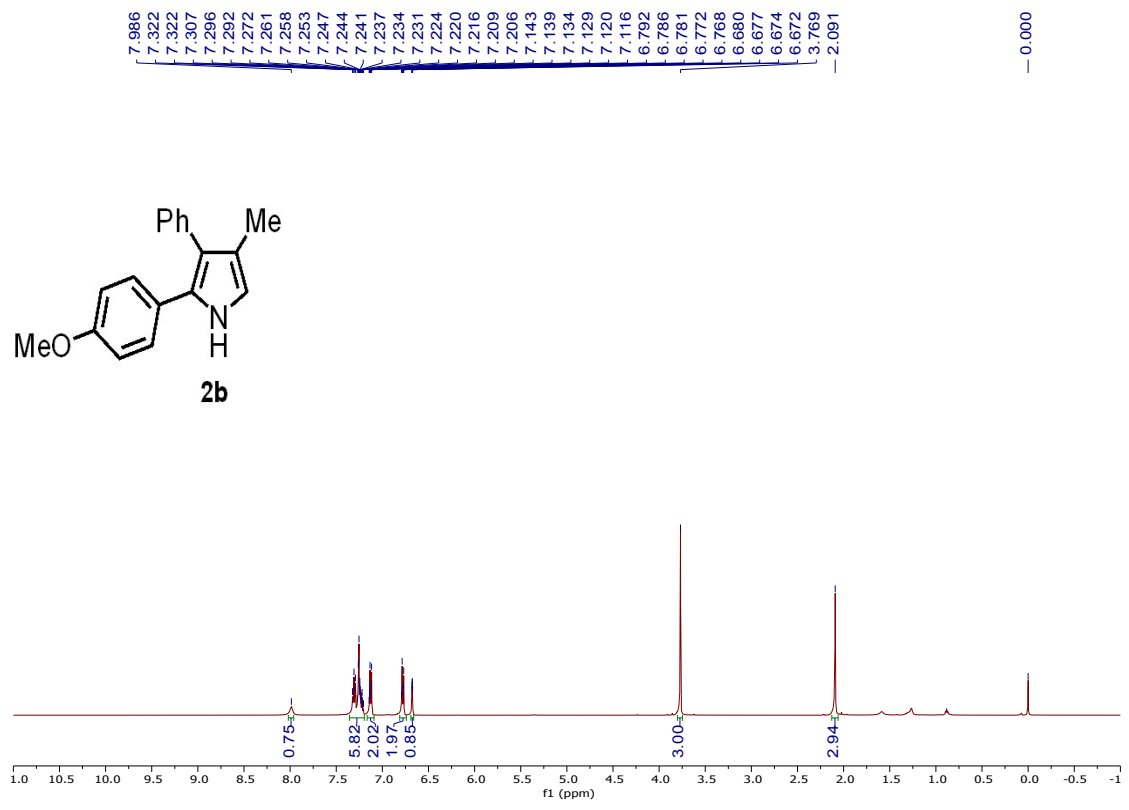
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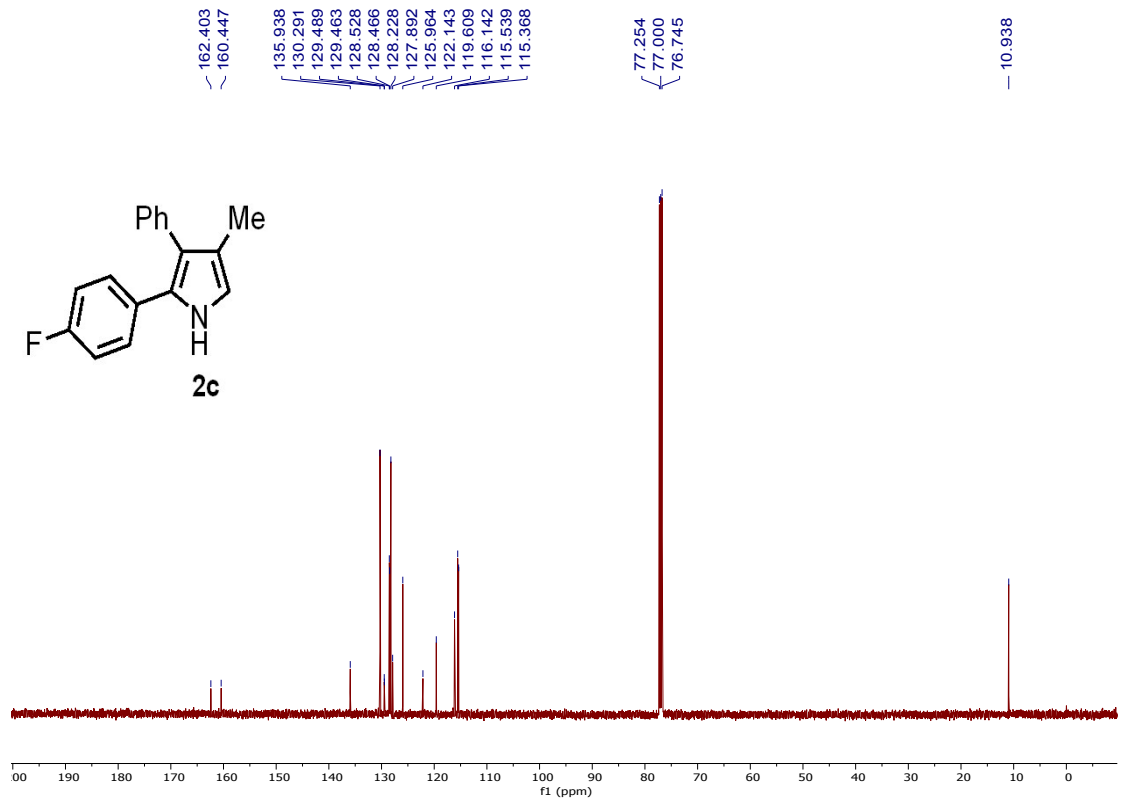
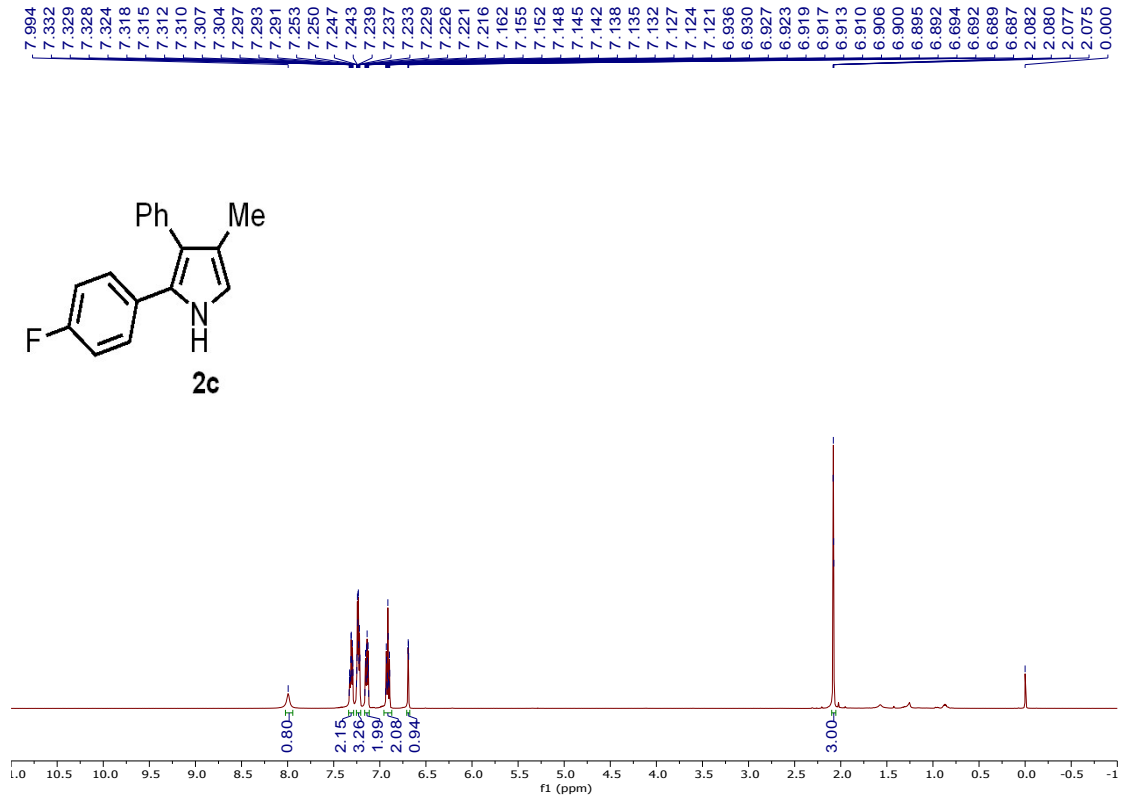


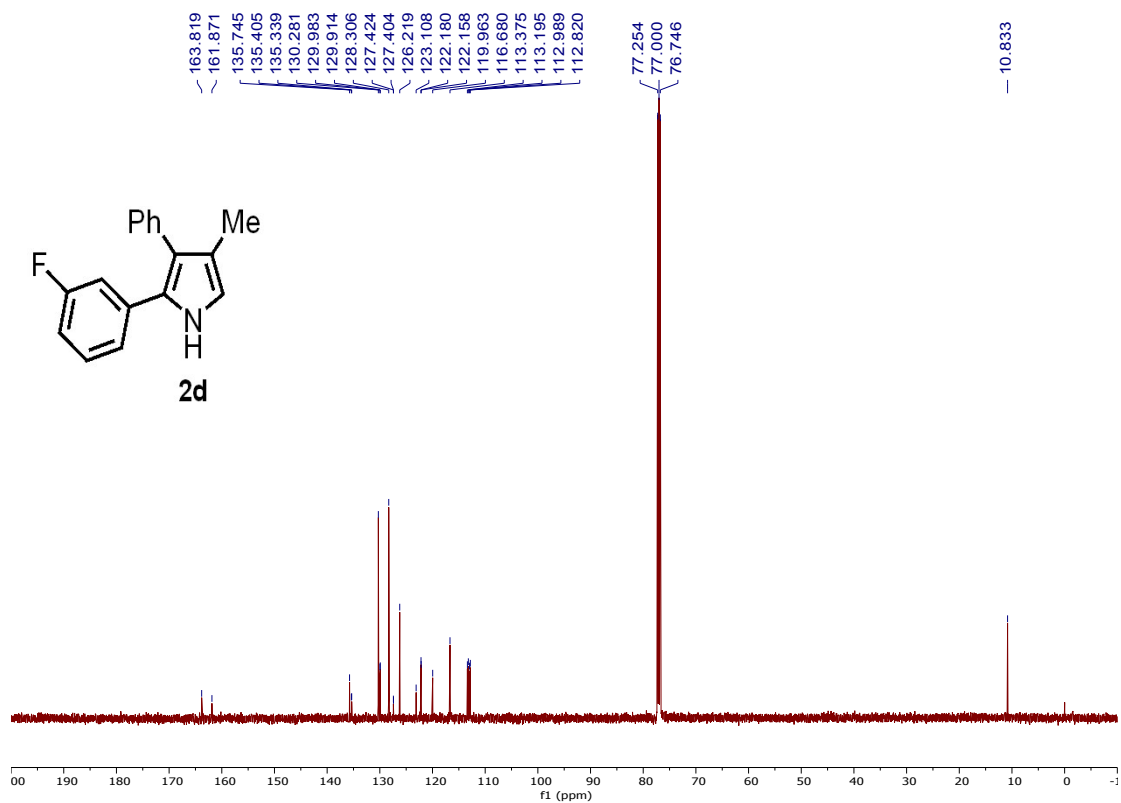
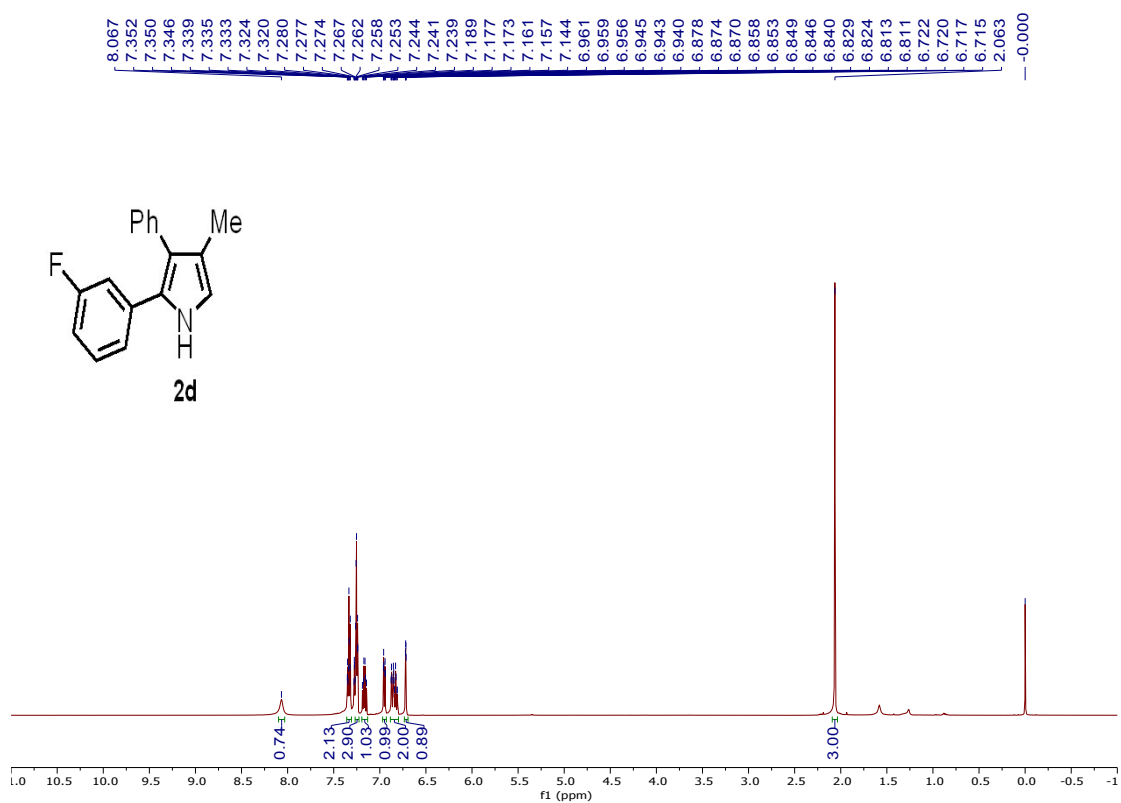


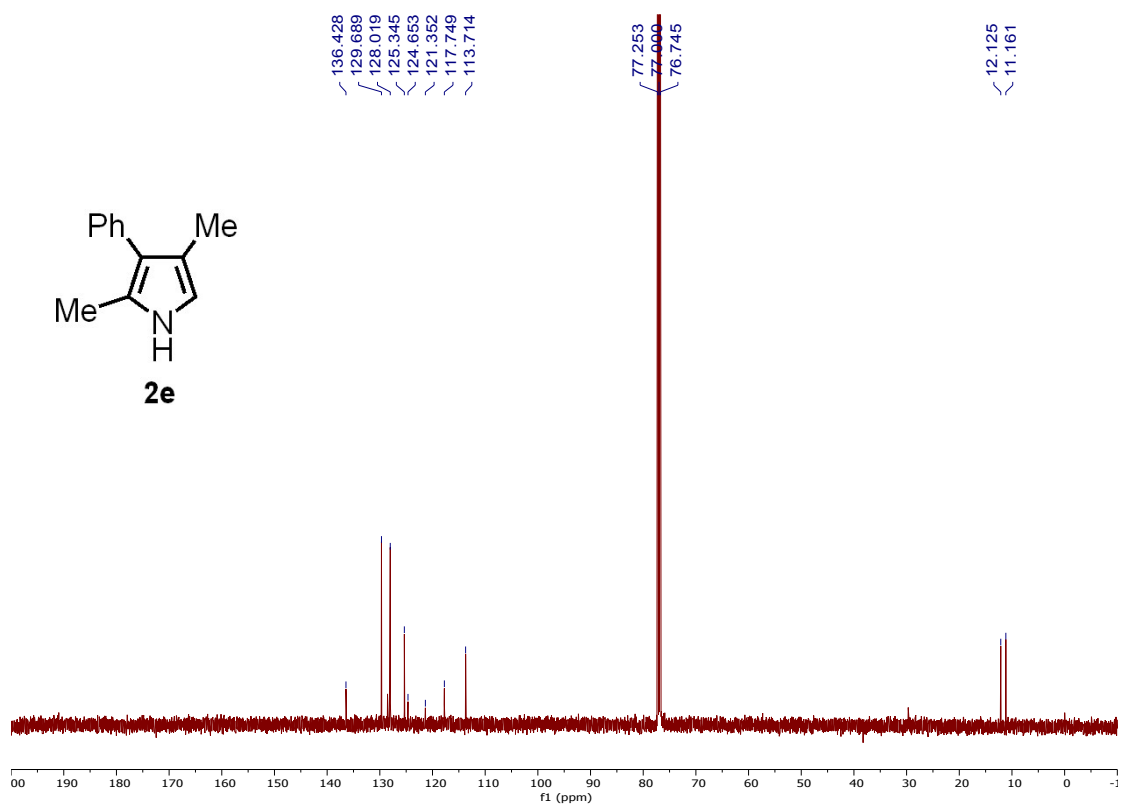
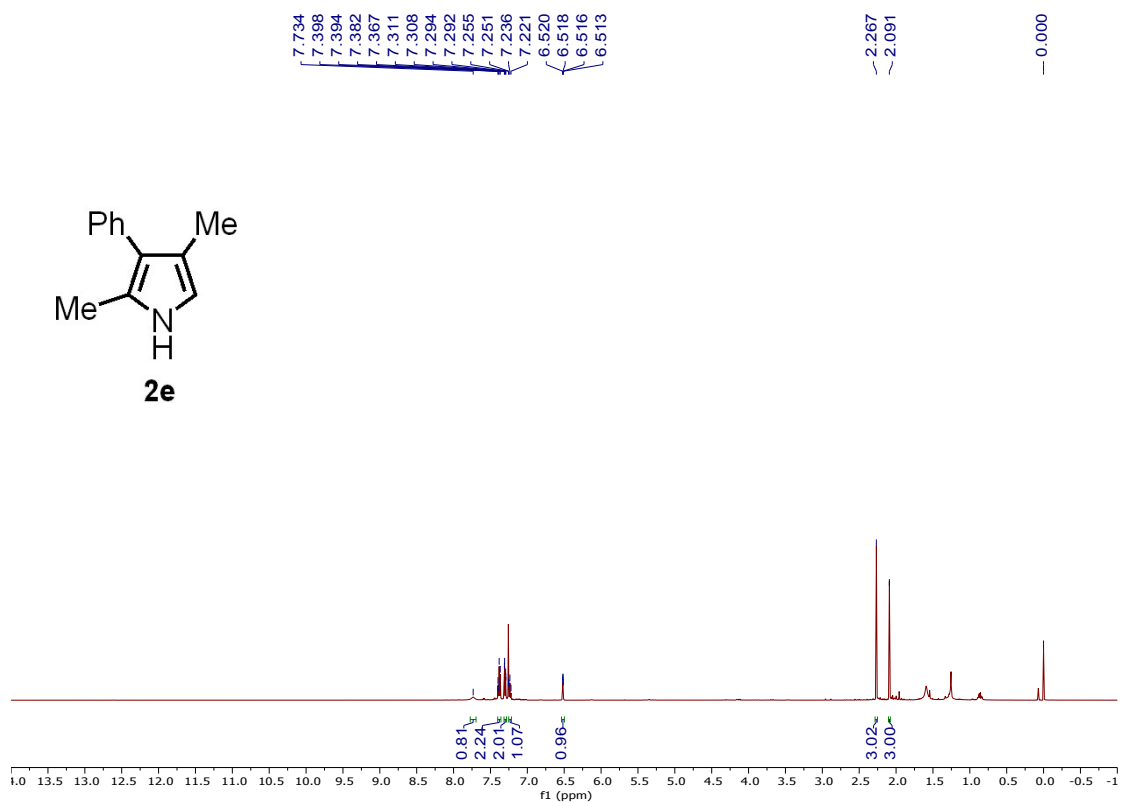


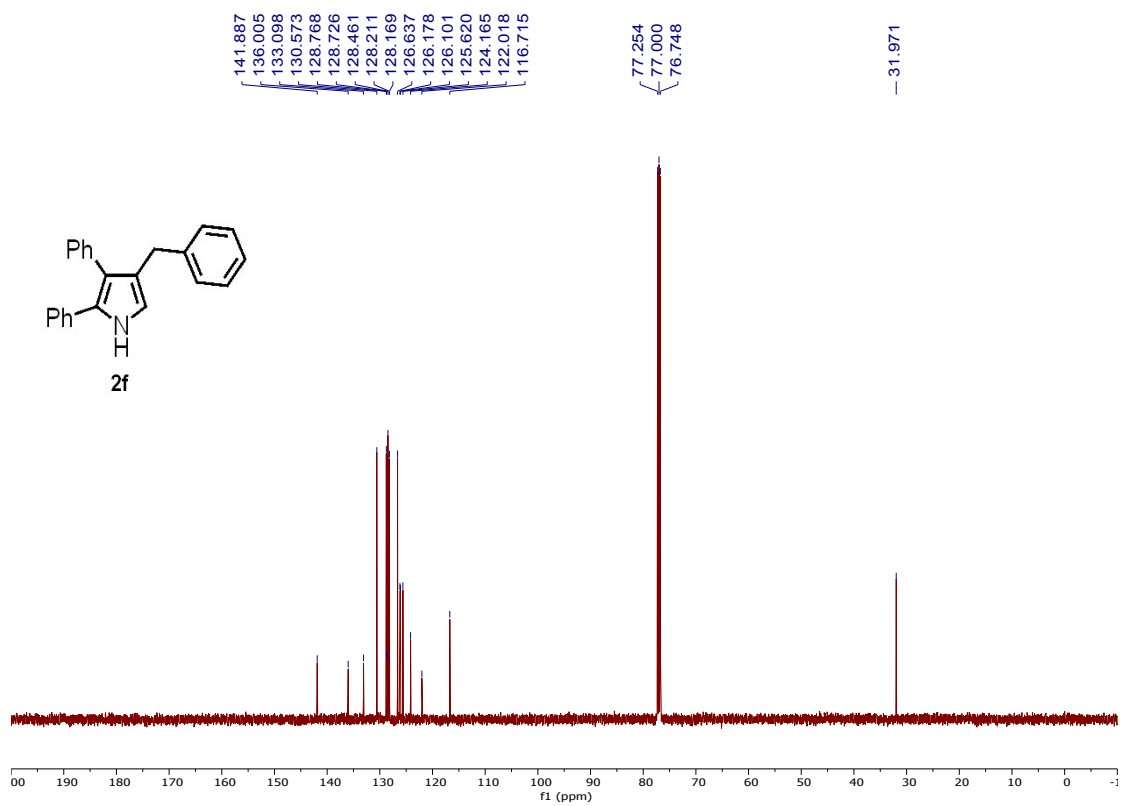
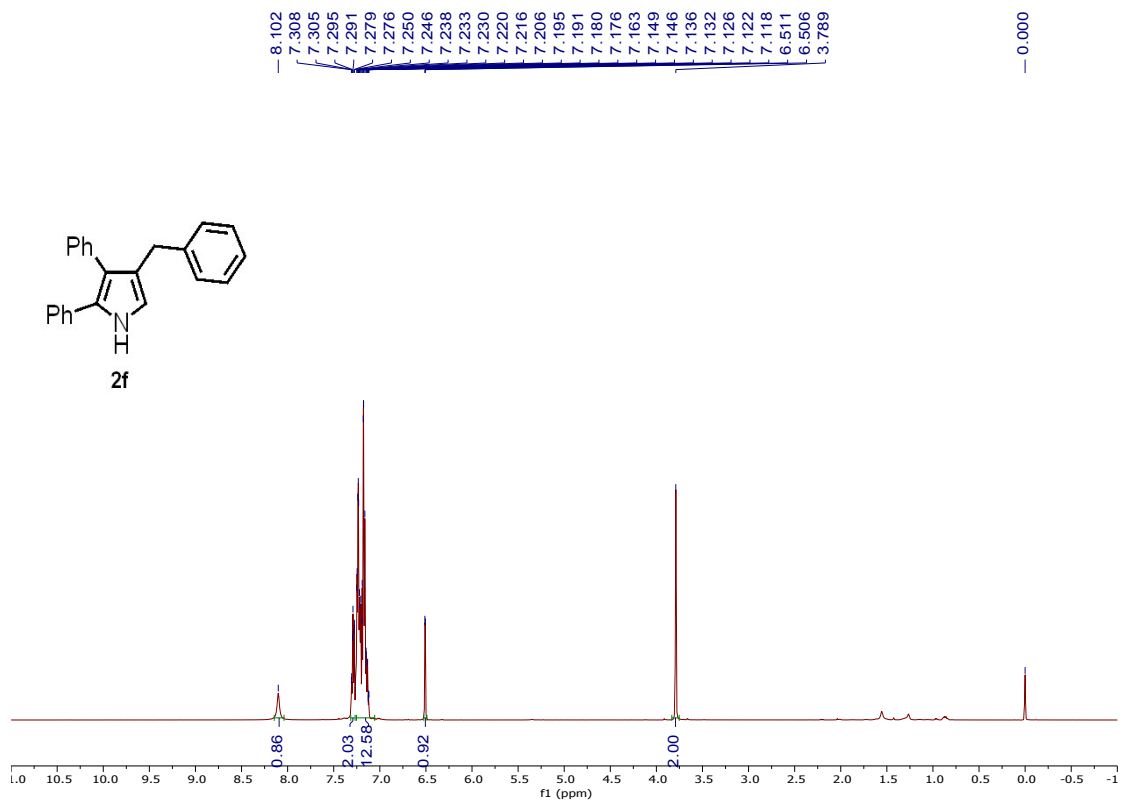


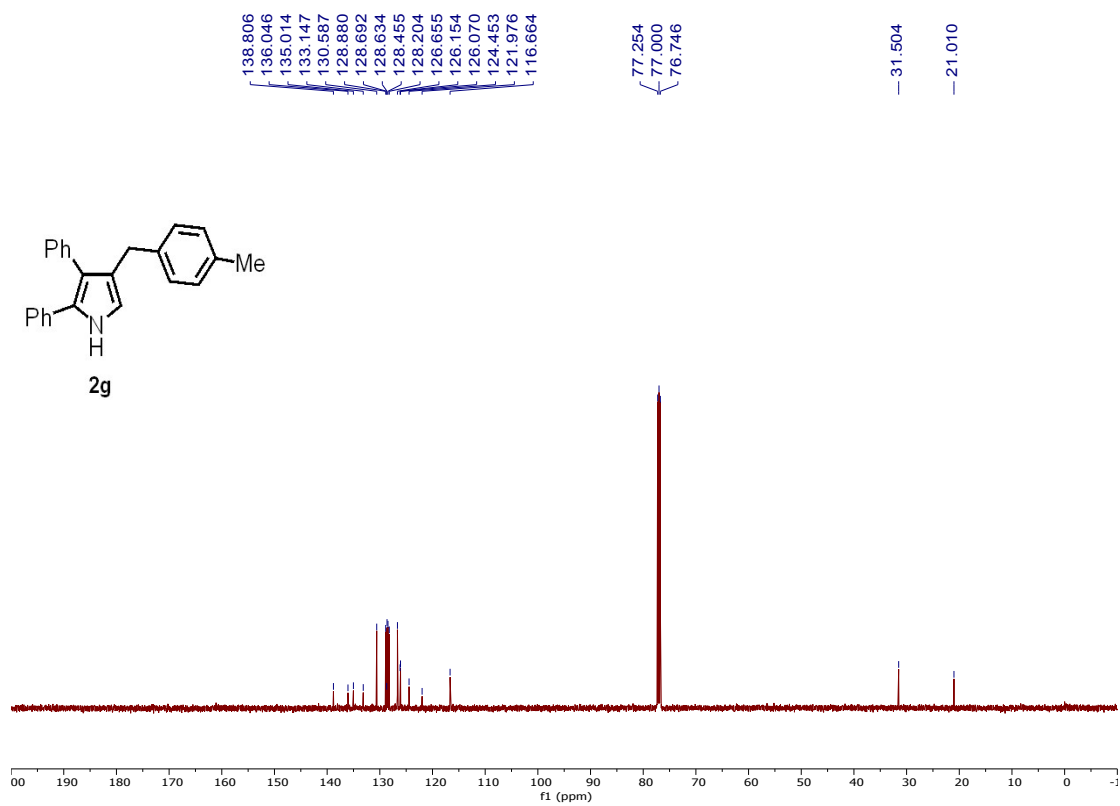
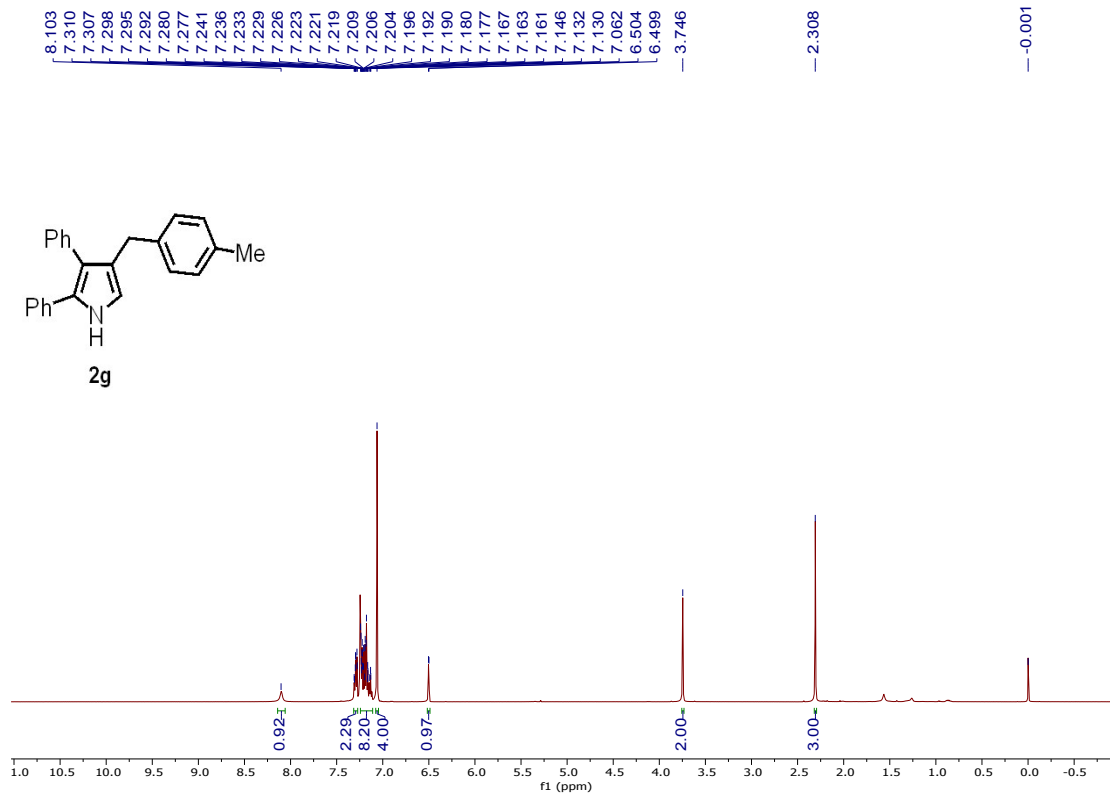


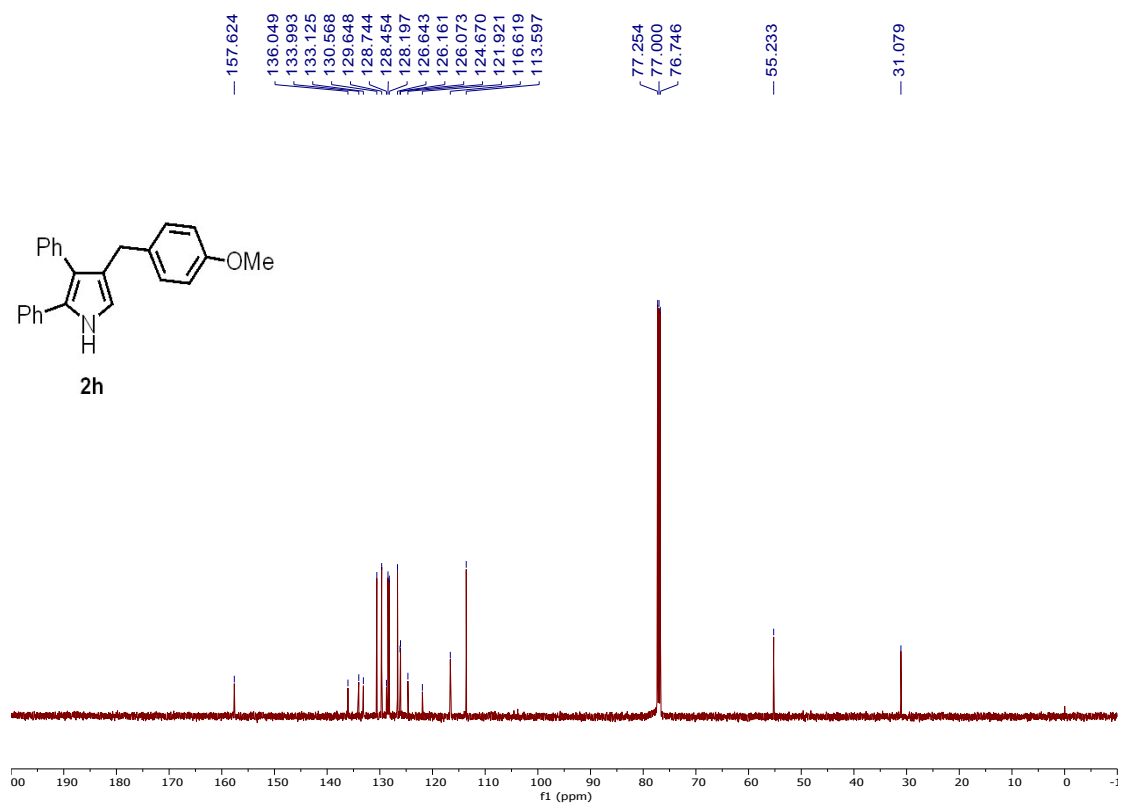
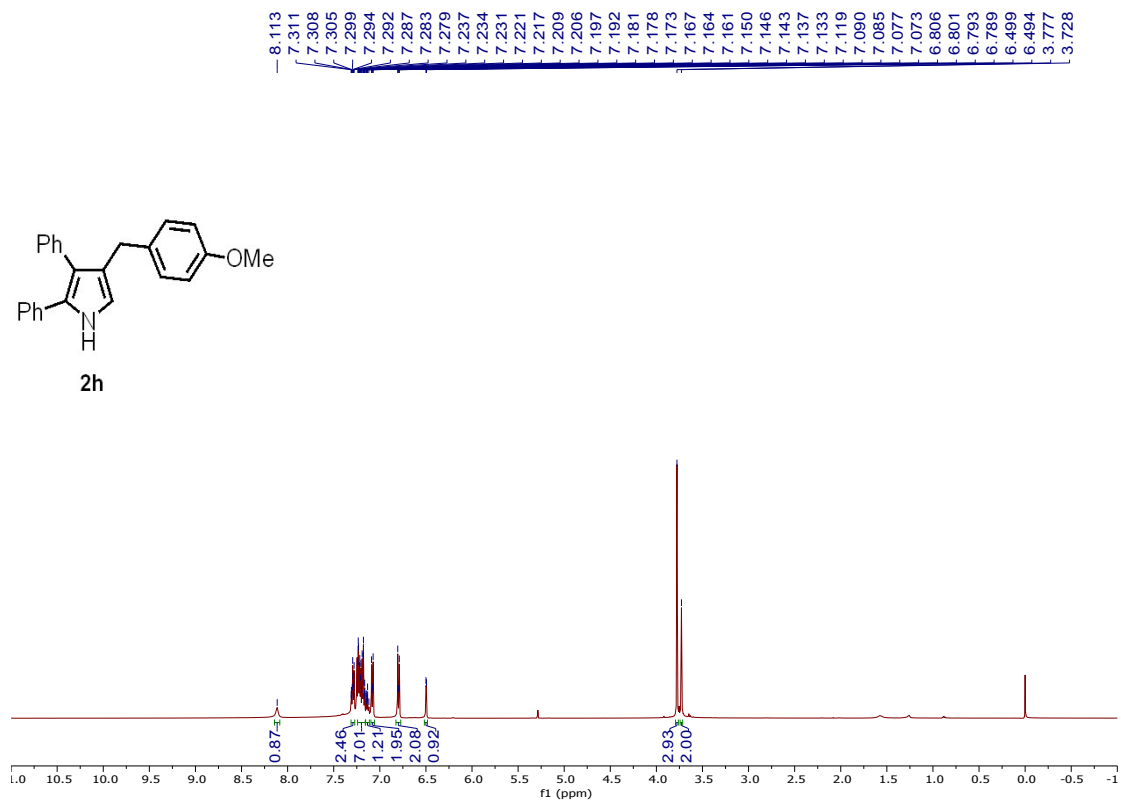


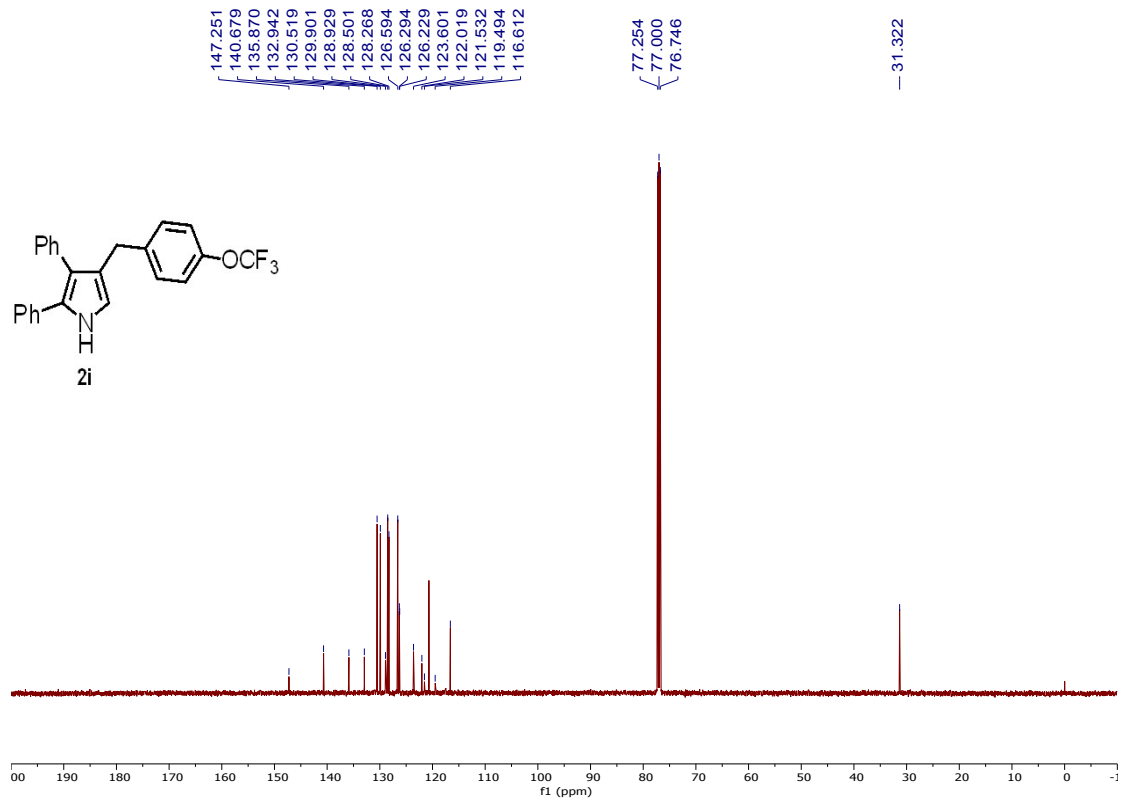
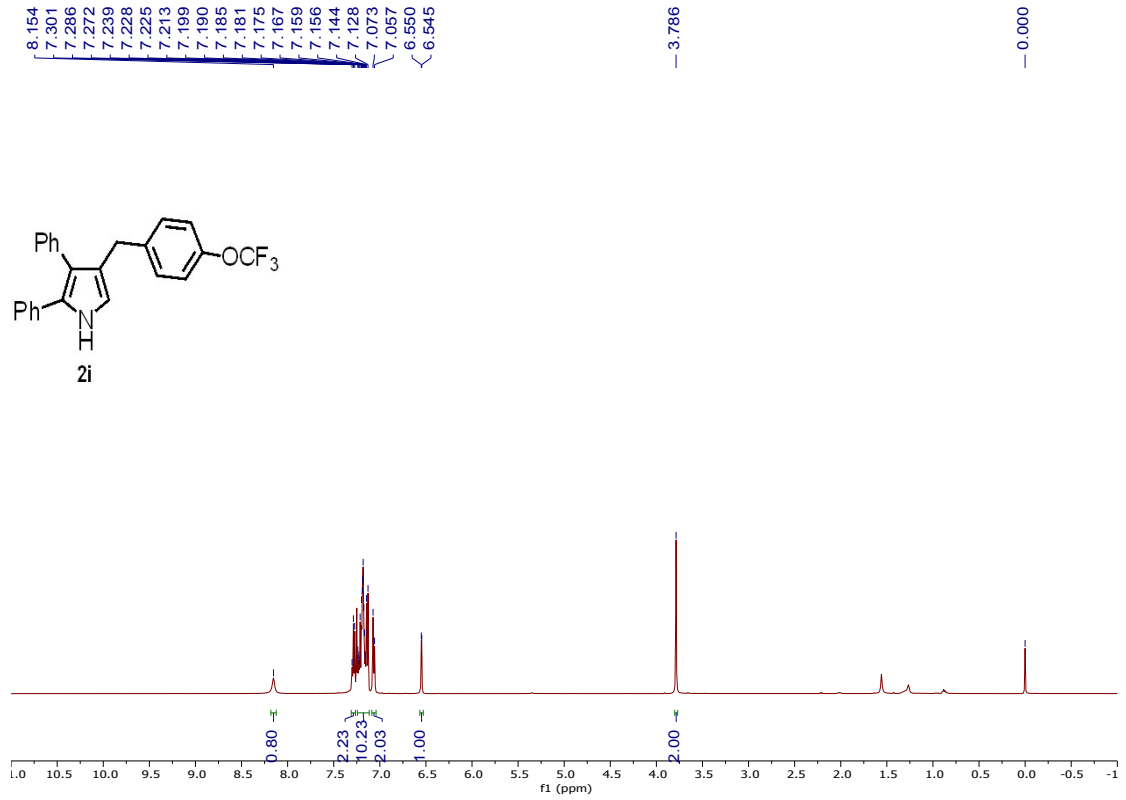












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