

**Lewis Acid Catalyst-steered Divergent Synthesis of
Functionalized Vicinal Amino Alcohols and Pyrroles from
Tertiary Enamides**

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1. General information

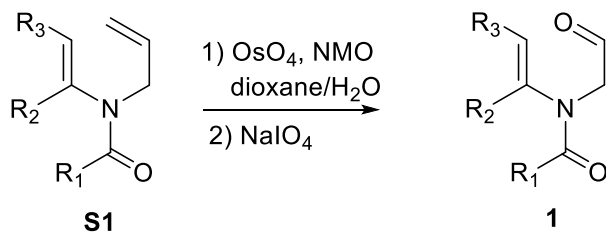
Reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and preserved under argon. More sensitive compounds were stored in a desiccator or glove-box if required. Reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. All reactions were performed under argon (or nitrogen) and stirring unless otherwise noted. When needed oven dried glassware was used ($T^{\circ} > 100\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) or under vacuum with a heat gun ($T > 200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$).

Anhydrous solvents were purified and dried following standard procedures. Flash column chromatography was performed using Silicycle SiliaFlash[®] P60 230-400 mesh. TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. TLC's were revealed by UV fluorescence (254 nm) then one of the following: KMnO_4 , phosphomolybdic acid, ninhydrin, pancaldi, *p*-anisaldehyde, vanillin.

Melting points were uncorrected. The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECX-400 400 MHz spectrometers or ECX-300 300 MHz spectrometers. ^1H NMR chemical shifts were reported relative to residual CDCl_3 (7.26 ppm) or acetone- d_6 (2.05 ppm). ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were reported relative to the central line of CDCl_3 (77.2 ppm) or acetone- d_6 (29.8 ppm, 206.2 ppm). Abbreviations are used in the description of NMR data as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constant (J , Hz). The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a GCT-MS Micromass UK spectrometer or a micrOTOF-Q spectrometer. Infrared spectra were recorded using a PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer with KBr pellets in the 4000-400 cm^{-1} region.

2. Preparation of substrates 1

2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of substrates 1

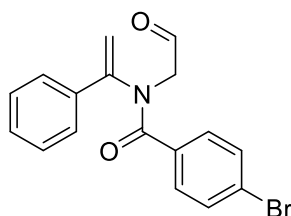


The synthesis of compounds **S1** and **1** were completed according to a slightly modified literature procedure^[1-2]. To a mixture of **S1** (5 mmol) and aqueous NMO (50%) solution (15 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane/H₂O (60 mL, v/v=2:1) at rt was added OsO₄ (0.8 mL, 0.075 M in water, 0.06 mmol). After the mixture was stirred at rt overnight, NaIO₄ (2.14g, 10 mmol) was added. Upon stirring at rt for another 2 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous NaS₂O₃ and H₂O. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **1**.

2.2 Characterization of substrates 1

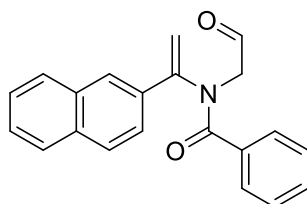
Compounds **1a-q**, **1c'** have been reported. The analytical data were in accordance with those reported in the literature^[3]

4-bromo-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(1-phenylvinyl)benzamide (**1n'**)



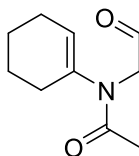
White solid (53% yield). **m.p.** 106-108 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3429, 2912, 2865, 1749, 1723, 1644, 1589 cm^{-1} ; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.69 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.38 (m, 9H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 195.9, 170.6, 147.7, 135.2, 133.3, 131.2, 129.7, 129.6, 129.2, 126.2, 125.2, 114.1, 57.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 344.0281. Found: 344.0278.

N-(1-(naphthalen-2-yl)vinyl)-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)benzamide (**1p'**)



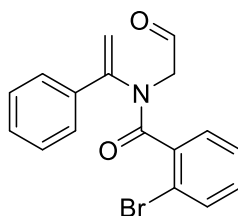
Light yellow solid (60% yield). **m.p.** 138-139 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3051, 2816, 1747, 1720, 1636 cm^{-1} ; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.74 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.85 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.51 (m, 5H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 196.4, 171.9, 147.9, 134.5, 133.7, 133.4, 132.8, 130.8, 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 127.96, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 125.6.3, 123.8, 114.8, 57.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 316.1332. Found: 316.1328.

N-(cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)acetamide (**1q'**)



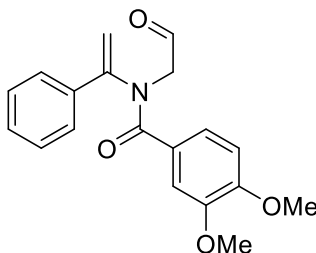
Light yellow oil (40% yield). **IR** (KBr) ν 3359, 2935, 2861, 1724, 1656 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.56 (s, 1H), 5.83-5.81 (m, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 2.16-2.05 (m, 7H), 1.77-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.57 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 198.0, 170.7, 139.6, 128.2, 56.5, 28.0, 24.7, 22.7, 21.4, 21.0; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 182.1176. Found: 182.1178.

2-bromo-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(1-phenylvinyl)benzamide (1r)



Light yellow oil (77% yield). **IR** (KBr) ν 3446, 3058, 1733, 1661, 1652, 1377, 1027, 776 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 2H), 5.33 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 196.2, 169.6, 146.8, 137.1, 135.7, 132.8, 130.4, 129.2, 128.8, 127.4, 126.7, 126.0, 120.4, 113.0, 57.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 344.0281; Found: 344.0277.

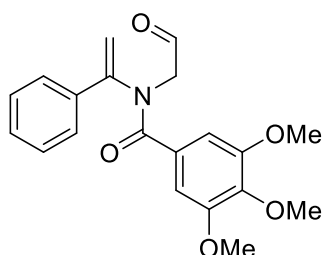
3,4-dimethoxy-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(1-phenylvinyl)benzamide (1s)



Light yellow solid (62% yield). **m.p.** 114-115 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; **IR** (KBr) ν 3429, 3006, 2942, 2842, 1725, 1630 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.71 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.55

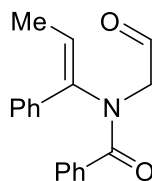
(m, 2H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.24 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 196.7, 171.3, 151.1, 148.2, 148.1, 135.5, 129.4, 129.1, 126.4, 126.1, 121.7, 113.6, 111.7, 109.9, 57.7, 55.9, 55.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 326.1387. Found: 326.1384.

3,4,5-trimethoxy-*N*-(2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(1-phenylvinyl)benzamide (1t)



Light yellow oil (63% yield). IR (KBr) ν 3429, 2939, 2837, 1732, 1646, 1585 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.72 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 3H), 6.83 (s, 2H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 196.3, 171.4, 152.6, 147.8, 139.9, 135.4, 129.43, 129.38, 129.1, 125.9, 113.7, 105.5, 60.8, 57.8, 55.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_5$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 356.1492. Found: 356.1488.

***N*-(2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzamide (1u)**

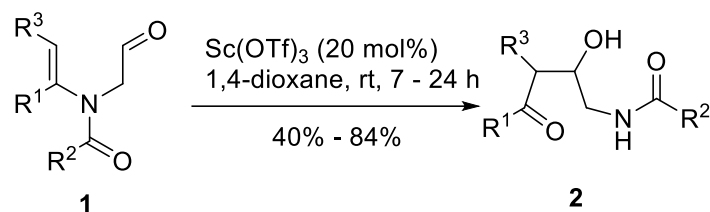


White solid (65% yield). m.p. 93-95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr) ν 3445, 3058, 2813, 1735, 1652, 1626, 1589 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 5.86 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (dd, $J = 17.6, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 196.5, 171.5, 140.8, 136.3, 134.3, 130.9, 129.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.7, 125.9, 122.9, 57.7, 14.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for

C₁₈H₁₈NO₂, [M+H]⁺ 280.1332. Found: 280.1331.

3. Scope of the reactions

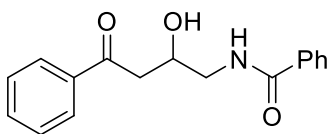
3.1 General procedure for the synthesis of vicinal amino alcohols **2**



To a solution of **1** (0.3 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (4 mL) was added Sc(OTf)₃ (30 mg, 0.06 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the disappearance of **1** (monitored by TLC). The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (5 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and concentration *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **2**.

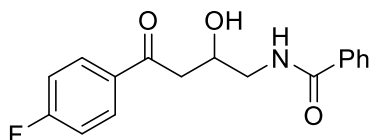
3.2. Characterization of vicinal amino alcohols 2

N-(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4-phenylbutyl)benzamide (2a)



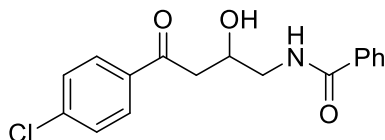
White solid (47 mg, 84% yield). **m.p.** 155-156 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3378, 1685, 1623, 1531 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.42 (m, 5H), 6.73 (br, 1H), 4.45 (ddd, $J = 12.0, 6.7, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 6.2, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.57 (ddd, $J = 13.8, 6.7, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, $J = 17.9, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, $J = 17.9, 8.8$ Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 200.5, 170.7, 138.5, 135.6, 134.4, 132.70, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.3, 68.2, 46.8, 44.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 306.1101. found: 306.1103.

N-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2b)



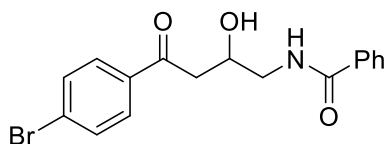
White solid (44 mg, 73% yield). **m.p.** 168-169 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3390, 1688, 1625, 1597, 1534 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 8.08-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.48-4.42 (m, 1H), 3.58 (dd, $J = 13.6, 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, $J = 13.6, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.25-3.14 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 198.8, 170.7, 168.5, 166.0, 135.6, 135.2, 132.7, 132.2 (d, $J = 37.2$ Hz), 129.5, 128.3, 116.6 (d, $J = 88$ Hz), 68.2, 46.8; 44.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3\text{F}$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 324.1006. found: 324.1007.

N-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2c)



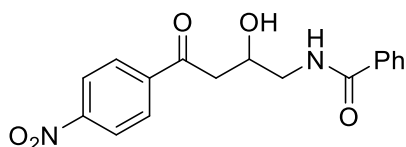
White solid (48 mg, 76% yield). **m.p.** 169-171 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3382, 3354, 1685, 1624, 1528 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 5H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.82-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.55 (m, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 17.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dd, J = 17.7, 8.6 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 198.9, 168.9, 140.2, 134.9, 133.8, 131.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 127.1, 67.2, 45.1, 42.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3\text{Cl}$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 340.0711. found: 340.0712.

***N*-(4-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2d)**



White solid (53 mg, 73% yield). **m.p.** 172-173 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3351, 3304, 1691, 1630, 1541 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.83-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 1H), 3.78 (ddd, J = 13.8, 6.1, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 17.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 17.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 199.6, 168.3, 135.2, 134.3, 132.3, 131.9, 129.8, 129.3, 128.8, 127.1, 67.6, 44.9, 42.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3\text{Br}$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 384.0206. found: 384.0207.

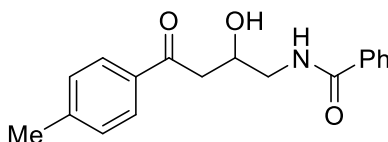
***N*-(2-hydroxy-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2e)**



Light yellow solid (30 mg, 46% yield). **m.p.** 180-182 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3346, 1700, 1631, 1515 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 8.31 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.43 (m, 3H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 4.47 (ddd, J = 10.0, 6.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (ddd, J = 14.0, 6.0, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.65-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.30

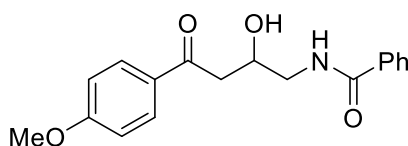
(dd, $J = 17.9, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, $J = 18.0, 8.3$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + \text{Methanol-}d_4$, TMS) δ (ppm) 198.2, 169.0, 150.5, 141.2, 133.8, 131.8, 129.3, 128.6, 127.1, 123.9, 67.0, 45.2, 43.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$, $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 351.0951. found: 351.0955.

***N*-(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4-*p*-tolylbutyl)benzamide (2f)**



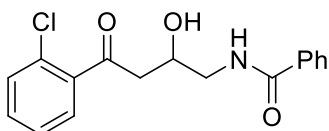
White solid (45 mg, 76% yield). **m.p.** 171-172 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3383, 1681, 1625, 1531 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.85 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 3H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 1H), 3.78 (ddd, $J = 13.8, 6.2, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.55 (ddd, $J = 13.7, 6.7, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, $J = 17.7, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, $J = 17.7, 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 200.3, 168.2, 145.0, 134.4, 134.1, 131.8, 129.6, 128.7, 128.4, 127.1, 67.7, 44.9, 42.2, 21.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$, $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 320.1257. found: 320.1257.

***N*-(2-hydroxy-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2g)**



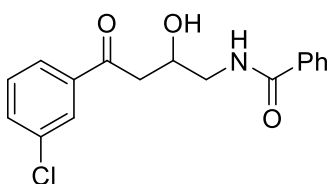
White solid (43 mg, 69% yield). **m.p.** 158-159 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3386, 1678, 1626, 1601, 1532 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, $\text{Methanol-}d_4$, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.46-4.40 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 13.6, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, $J = 13.6, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.21-3.11 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $\text{Methanol-}d_4$, TMS) δ (ppm) 199.4, 170.7, 165.4, 135.7, 132.6, 131.7, 131.6, 129.5, 128.3, 114.9, 68.6, 56.1, 46.9, 44.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$, $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 336.1206. found: 336.1208.

***N*-(4-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2h)**



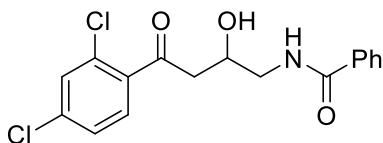
White solid (38 mg, 60% yield). **m.p.** 114-115 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3317, 1702, 1633, 1544 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.81-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 1H), 6.72 (br, 1H), 4.43 (ddd, $J = 11.8, 6.8, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 6.2, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.53 (ddd, $J = 13.8, 6.8, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 17.8, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 17.8, 8.6$ Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 203.3, 168.4, 138.4, 134.3, 132.5, 131.8, 131.3, 131.0, 129.4, 128.8, 127.2, 127.1, 67.8, 47.0, 45.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 340.0711. found: 340.0714.

***N*-(4-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2i)**



White solid (42 mg, 66% yield). **m.p.** 127-128 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3339, 1693, 1631, 1538 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.96-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 4H), 4.48-4.42 (m, 1H), 3.60-3.50 (m, 2H), 3.20 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 199.0, 170.7, 140.2, 135.9, 135.5, 134.1, 132.7, 131.4, 129.6, 129.1, 128.3, 127.7, 68.0, 46.7, 44.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 340.0711. found: 340.0711.

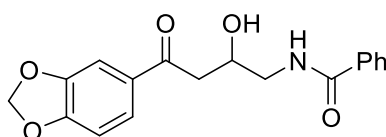
***N*-(4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2j)**



White solid (31 mg, 43% yield). **m.p.** 151-152 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3339, 1704, 1632, 1543 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.85-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H),

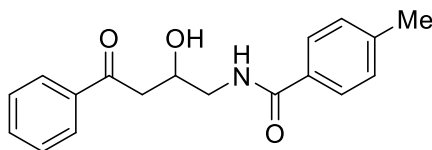
7.46-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 4.42 (ddd, $J = 11.7, 6.8, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 6.2, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.57-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 17.8, 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 17.8, 8.5$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 201.8, 168.4, 138.4, 136.5, 134.2, 132.6, 131.9, 130.9, 130.7, 128.8, 127.7, 127.1, 67.8, 47.0, 45.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 374.0321. found: 374.0324.

***N*-(4-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2k)**



White solid (26 mg, 40% yield). **m.p.** 180-181 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3370, 3313, 1671, 1633, 1542 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.77 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 3H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 2H), 4.39-4.33 (m, 1H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 13.8, 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.13-3.05 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 +Methanol- d_4 , TMS) δ (ppm) 198.2, 169.3, 152.5, 148.5, 134.1, 131.9, 131.6, 128.7, 127.3, 125.2, 108.1, 107.9, 102.2, 67.5, 45.4, 42.8; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 350.0999. found: 350.0999.

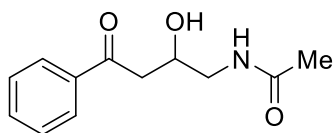
***N*-(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4-phenylbutyl)-4-methylbenzamide (2l)**



White solid (44 mg, 74% yield). **m.p.** 163-165 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3378, 1685, 1621, 1539 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 4.46-4.41 (m, 1H), 3.78 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 6.1, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.60-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.29 (dd, $J = 17.8, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, $J = 17.9, 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 200.7, 168.2, 142.3, 136.5, 134.0, 131.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.3, 127.1,

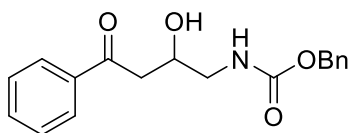
67.7, 44.9, 42.4, 21.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉NO₃, [M+H]⁺ 298.1438. found: 298.1435.

N-(2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4-phenylbutyl)acetamide (2m)



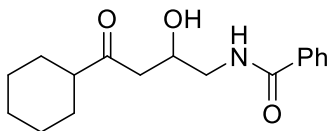
White solid (27 mg, 61% yield). **m.p.** 132-133 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3354, 1680, 1664, 1551 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.96-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.36-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.58 (ddd, J = 13.8, 6.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.37-3.30 (m, 1H), 3.22 (dd, J = 17.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 17.8, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 200.6, 171.0, 136.5, 134.0, 128.9, 128.3, 67.5, 44.6, 42.4, 23.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₅NO₃, [M+H]⁺ 222.1125. found: 222.1127.

benzyl 2-hydroxy-4-oxo-4-phenylbutylcarbamate (2n)



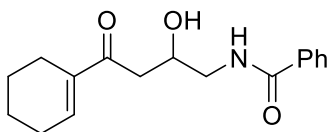
White solid (49 mg, 79% yield). **m.p.** 92-93 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3432, 3358, 1713, 1680, 1535 cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.93 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 4.36-4.31 (m, 1H), 3.66 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (ddd, J = 13.6, 6.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.34-3.27 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 17.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 17.8, 9.0 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 200.5, 157.1, 136.6, 136.5, 133.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 67.5, 67.0, 46.0, 42.2; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₉NO₄, [M+Na]⁺ 336.1206. found: 336.1206.

N-(4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2o)



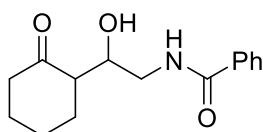
White solid (33 mg, 57% yield). **m.p.** 130-131 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3405, 2926, 1710, 1628, 1528 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.23-4.19 (m, 1H), 3.66 (ddd, J = 13.7, 6.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.45-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 17.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, J = 17.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 1H), 1.80 (dd, J = 25.8, 10.3 Hz, 4H), 1.66 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.35-1.13 (m, 5H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 215.5, 168.1, 134.3, 131.8, 128.7, 127.1, 67.4, 51.5, 44.8, 44.1, 28.43, 28.37, 25.8, 25.6; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 312.1570. found: 312.1572.

***N*-(4-cyclohexenyl-2-hydroxy-4-oxobutyl)benzamide (2p)**



White solid (40 mg, 69% yield). **m.p.** 127-128 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3376, 2938, 1663, 1626, 1530 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.80 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dt, J = 14.0, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.75 (br, 1H), 4.27 (ddd, J = 12.2, 6.5, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (br, 1H), 3.74-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.43 (m, 1H), 2.96 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, J = 17.4, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (d, J = 18.5 Hz, 4H), 1.62 (br, 4H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 201.7, 168.1, 142.5, 139.3, 134.4, 131.7, 128.7, 127.1, 67.8, 44.9, 40.6, 26.3, 22.9, 21.9, 21.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3$, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 310.1414. found: 310.1416.

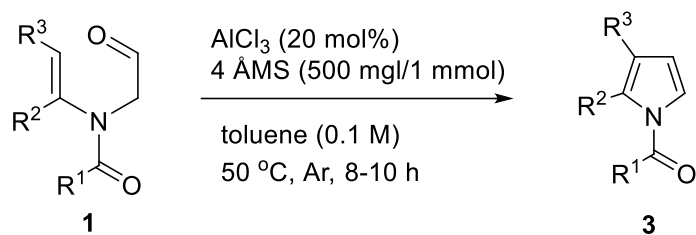
***N*-(2-hydroxy-2-(2-oxocyclohexyl)ethyl)benzamide (2q)**



White solid (39 mg, 75% yield). **m.p.** 137-138 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3303, 1701, 1633, 1551

cm⁻¹; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.25(m, 3H), 2.06-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.66 (m, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃, TMS) δ (ppm) 214.2, 170.7, 135.6, 132.7, 129.5, 128.3, 69.0, 54.7, 45.1, 43.2, 29.3, 28.8, 25.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₉NO₃, [M+Na]⁺ 284.1257. found: 284.1252.

3.3. General procedure for the synthesis of substituted pyrroles **3**

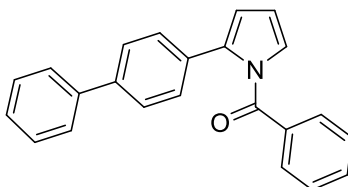


To a solution of **1** (0.5 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added AlCl₃ (0.1 mmol, 0.2 equiv) and 4 Å molecular sieves (250 mg). The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C until the disappearance of **1** (monitored by TLC). After filtration and concentration *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the substituted pyrroles **3**.

3.4. Characterization of substituted pyrroles 3

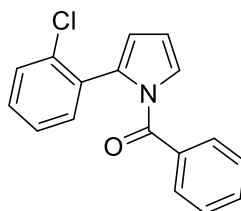
The products **3a-g**, **3k** and **3m** have been reported. The analytical data were in accordance with those reported in the literature^[4].

(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3c'**)



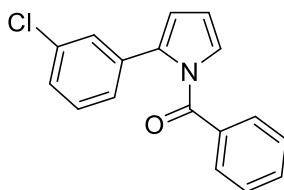
Yellow solid (158 mg, 98% yield). **m.p.** 143-145 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3062, 1699, 1598, 1469, 1449 cm^{-1} ; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.83-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.08 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.8, 140.7, 139.6, 136.1, 133.3, 133.0, 132.0, 130.4, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.8, 124.9, 115.1, 111.2; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 324.1383. Found: 324.1387.

(2-(2-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3h**)



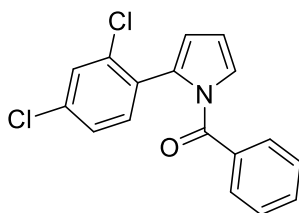
White solid (129 mg, 92% yield). **m.p.** 106-107 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3382, 3105, 3061, 1700, 1598, 1449 cm^{-1} ; **¹H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.79-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.3, 133.4, 133.0, 132.7, 132.6, 131.3, 130.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.3, 126.7, 124.0, 115.8, 110.9; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NOCl}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 282.0680. Found: 282.0685.

(2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3i)



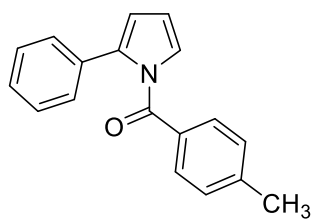
White solid (129 mg, 92% yield). **m.p.** 67-68 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3057, 1695, 1598, 1492, 1447 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, J = 3.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.5, 134.9, 134.8, 133.8, 133.1, 130.3, 129.2, 128.5, 127.9, 127.0, 126.2, 125.2, 115.7, 111.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NOCl}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 282.0680. Found: 282.0685.

(2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3j)



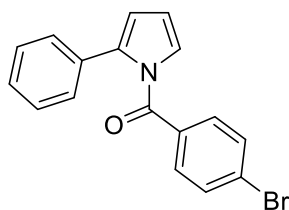
White solid (142 mg, 90% yield). **m.p.** 92-93 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3063, 1704, 1599, 1560, 1489, 1448 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.79-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.2, 134.1, 134.0, 132.9, 132.7, 131.9, 131.6, 131.4, 130.4, 129.2, 128.4, 127.0, 124.4, 116.2, 111.0; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{NOCl}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 316.0291. Found: 316.0294.

(2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone (3l)



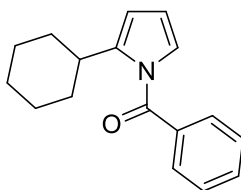
White solid (116mg, 89% yield). **m.p.** 103-105 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3044, 1697, 1605, 1466 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.18 (m, 7H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.7, 144.0, 136.4, 133.1, 130.7, 130.5, 129.1, 128.0, 127.9, 126.9, 124.8, 114.7, 110.9, 21.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 262.1226. Found: 262.1231.

(4-bromophenyl)(2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methanone (3n')



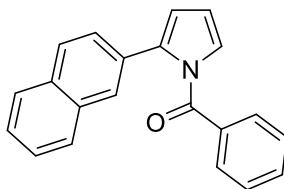
White solid (158mg, 97% yield). **m.p.** 90-91 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3146, 3020, 1701, 1588, 1470 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 167.9, 136.4, 132.9, 132.2, 131.8, 131.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.1, 124.4, 115.1, 111.5; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NOBr}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 326.0175. Found: 326.0179.

(2-cyclohexyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3o)



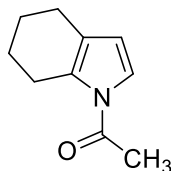
Light yellow oil (123 mg, 97% yield). **IR** (KBr) ν 3427, 2928, 2853, 1736, 1698, 1600, 1448 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.73 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.14-6.10 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.30 (m, 1H), 2.07 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.71 (m, 3H), 1.47-1.17 (m, 5H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 169.6, 143.6, 134.7, 132.3, 129.8, 128.3, 123.2, 110.2, 109.6, 36.4, 33.6, 26.6, 26.4; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 254.1539. Found: 254.1543.

(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3p')



Light yellow solid (146 mg, 98% yield). **m.p.** 144-145 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; **IR** (KBr) ν 3055, 1697, 1599, 1450 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.83-7.75 (m, 5H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.11 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.8, 136.5, 133.4, 133.2, 133.0, 132.3, 130.7, 130.4, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 126.45, 126.41, 126.1, 125.8, 124.9, 115.4, 111.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 298.1226. Found: 298.1231.

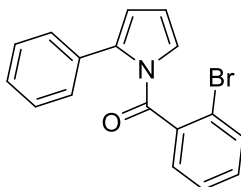
1-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3q')



White solid (75mg, 92% yield). **m.p.** 55-56 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; **IR** (KBr) ν 3405, 2934, 2855, 1713, 1497, 1433 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 6.96 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.47-2.43 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.67 (m, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.9,

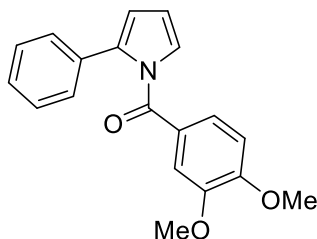
130.9, 122.9, 118.8, 112.6, 25.4, 23.8, 23.3, 22.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $C_{10}H_{14}NO$, $[M+H]^+$ 164.1070. Found: 164.1074.

(2-bromophenyl)(2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methanone (3r)



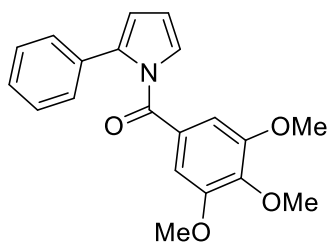
White solid (150mg, 92% yield). **m.p.** 85-87 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3063, 1714, 1327, 760 cm^{-1} ; **1H NMR** (400MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.54 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.01 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, J = 3.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (t, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ (ppm) 166.9, 136.2, 135.8, 133.2, 133.0, 132.0, 130.1, 128.7, 127.7, 127.24, 127.19, 123.5, 120.5, 116.1, 112.2; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $C_{17}H_{12}BrNO$, $[M+H]^+$ 326.0175. Found: 326.0172.

(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)(2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methanone (3s)



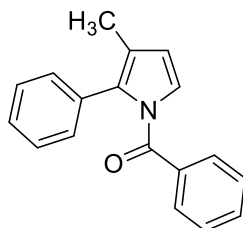
White solid (152mg, 99% yield). **m.p.** 146-147 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3133, 2935, 2841, 1682, 1596, 1510, 1466 cm^{-1} ; **1H NMR** (400MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ (ppm) 7.45 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 2.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, $CDCl_3$, TMS) δ (ppm) 168.3, 153.4, 148.9, 136.5, 133.2, 128.2, 127.9, 127.0, 125.6, 125.4, 124.9, 114.5, 113.1, 110.9, 110.1, 56.3, 56.1; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $C_{19}H_{18}NO_3$, $[M+H]^+$ 308.1281. Found: 308.1286.

(2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)methanone (3t)



White solid (157mg, 93% yield). **m.p.** 105-106 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3007, 2936, 2837, 1697, 1582, 1502, 1462 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.29-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 6.47-6.46 (m, 1H), 6.33 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 6H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.2, 152.8, 142.3, 136.4, 133.1, 128.1, 127.8, 127.0, 124.7, 114.7, 111.1, 108.1, 60.9, 56.3; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 338.1387. Found: 338.1391.

(3-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3u)

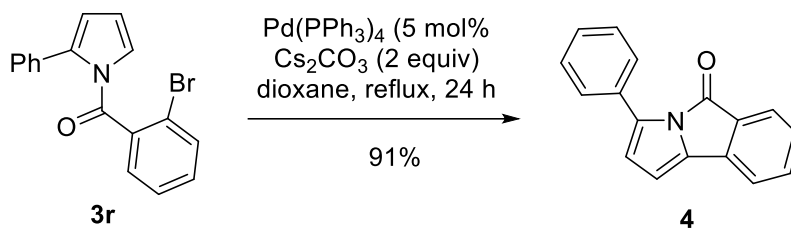


White solid (129mg, 99% yield). **m.p.** 83-84 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3060, 2943, 1694, 1599, 1476 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.75-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 168.3, 133.8, 132.8, 132.5, 131.7, 130.2, 129.5, 128.3, 127.9, 126.8, 123.3, 113.7, 11.7; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 262.1226. Found: 262.1231.

4. Procedure for the gram-scale synthesis of compounds **3a**, **3q'** and **3u**

To a solution of the corresponding substrate (**1a**, **1u** 5 mmol; **1q'** 7 mmol) in toluene (**1a**, **1u** 25 mL; **1q'** 35 mL) was added AlCl₃ (0.2 equiv, **1a**, **1u** 1 mmol; **1q'** 1.4 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieve (**1a**, **1u** 2.5 g; **1q'** 3.5 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C until the disappearance of the substrate (monitored by TLC). After filtration and concentration in vacuo, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **3a**, **3q'** and **3u**.

5. Synthetic application of 3r and characterization of compound 4



$\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$ (28.9 mg, 0.025 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (32.5 mg, 1.0 mmol) and **3r** (163.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) were added in a flame-dried round bottom flask fitted with a magnetic stir bar. The flask was purged with dry nitrogen for three times. Dry dioxane (5 mL) was added and the resulting solution was heated to 100 °C until the disappearance of **3r** (monitored by TLC). The reaction system was allowed to cool to room temperature and the solution was quenched with saturated NH_4Cl solution, extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvents were removed in vacuo and the residue was then purified by flash column chromatography (PE/Ea, 50:1) to afford compound **4** as an orange solid in 91% yield. **m.p.** 114-116 °C; **IR** (KBr) ν 3063, 1763, 1738, 1615, 1477, 1353, 1208, 753 cm^{-1} ; **^1H NMR** (400MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 7.81 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (100MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS) δ (ppm) 163.6, 137.1, 136.2, 135.9, 134.6, 132.1, 130.2, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.1, 125.9, 119.4, 116.8, 107.9; **HRMS** (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 246.0913. Found: 246.0911.

6. Crystallographic data and structure refinement of 4

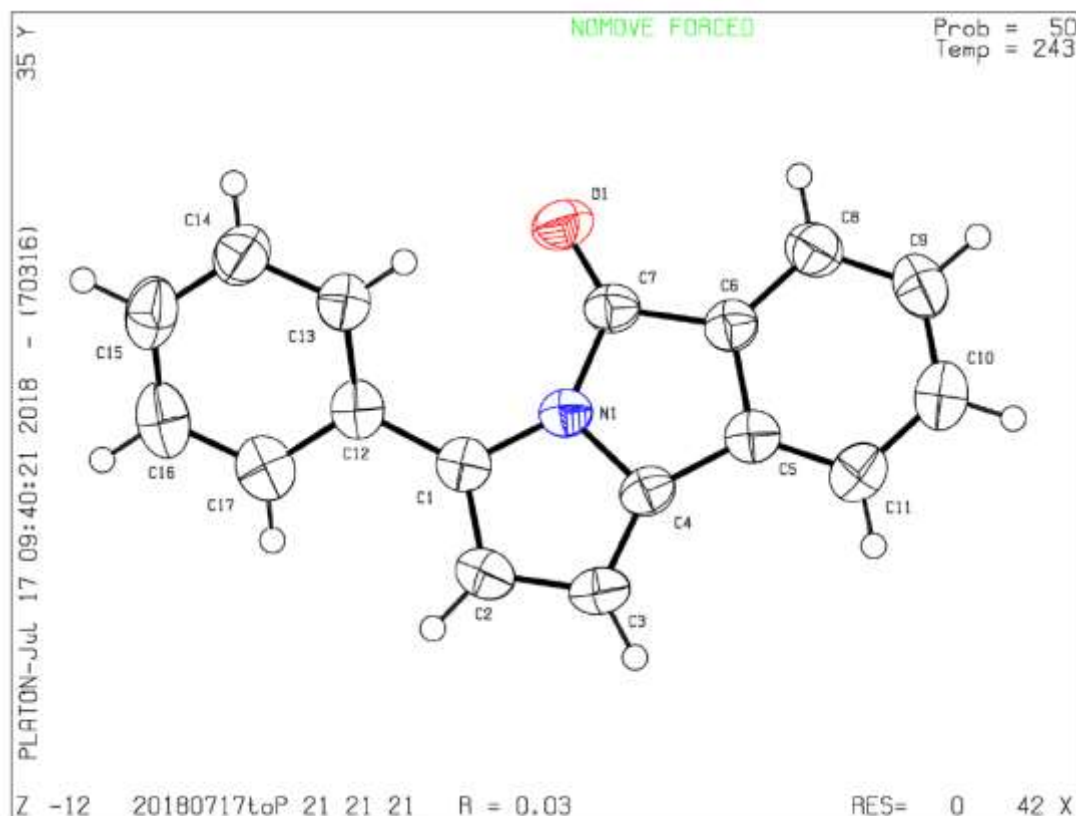


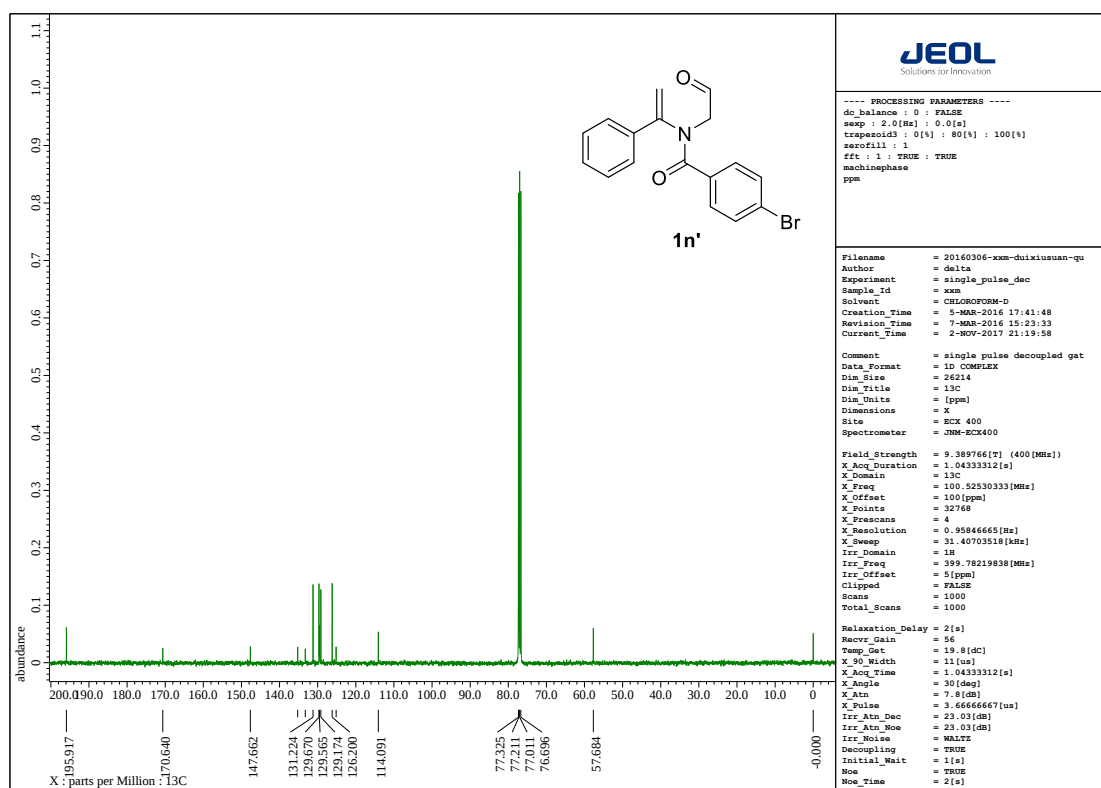
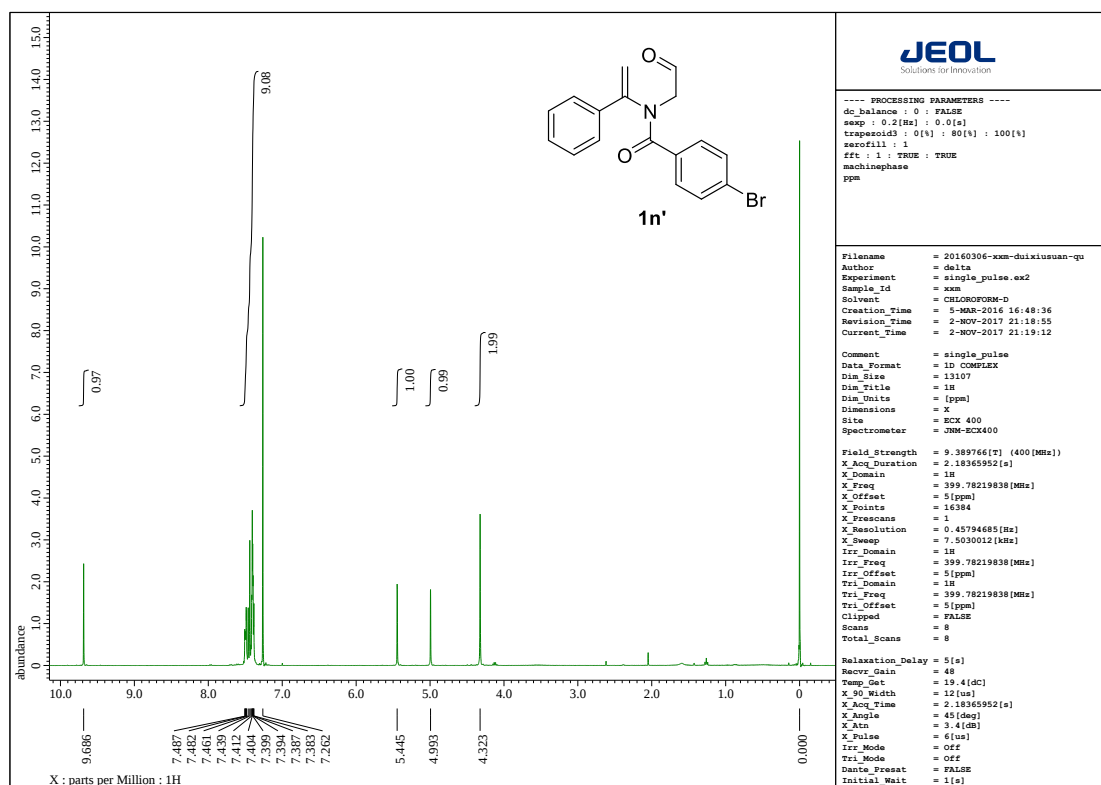
Figure S1. The structure of compound **4**

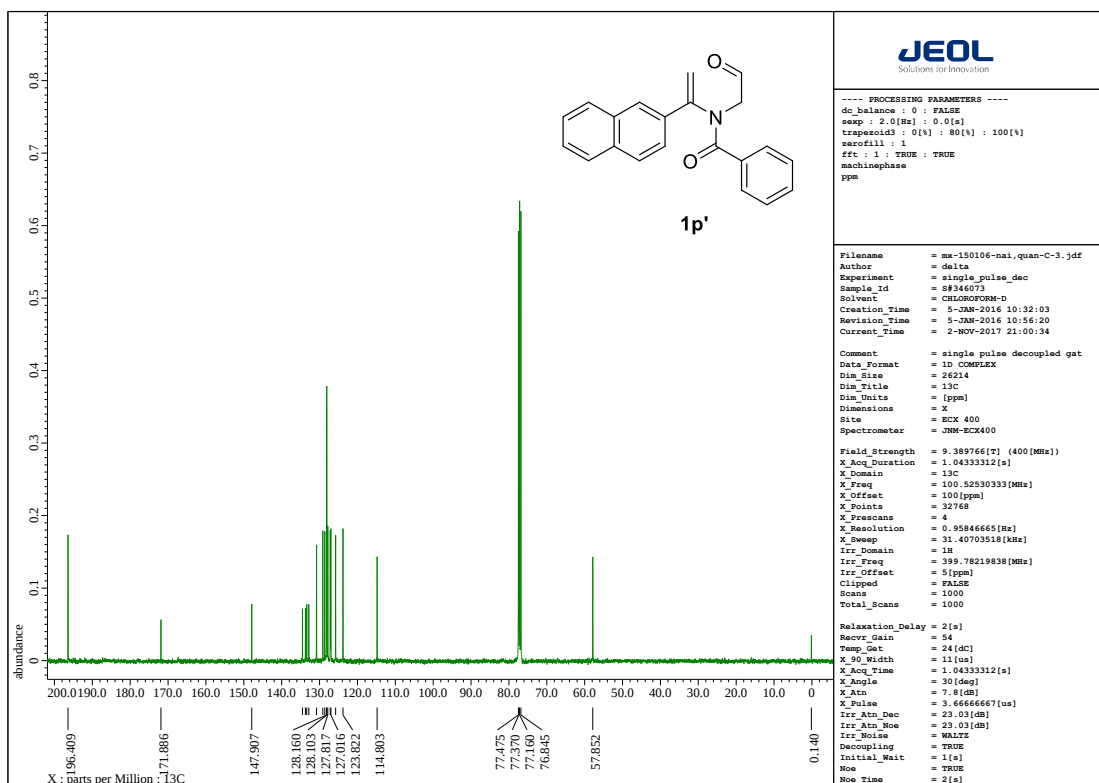
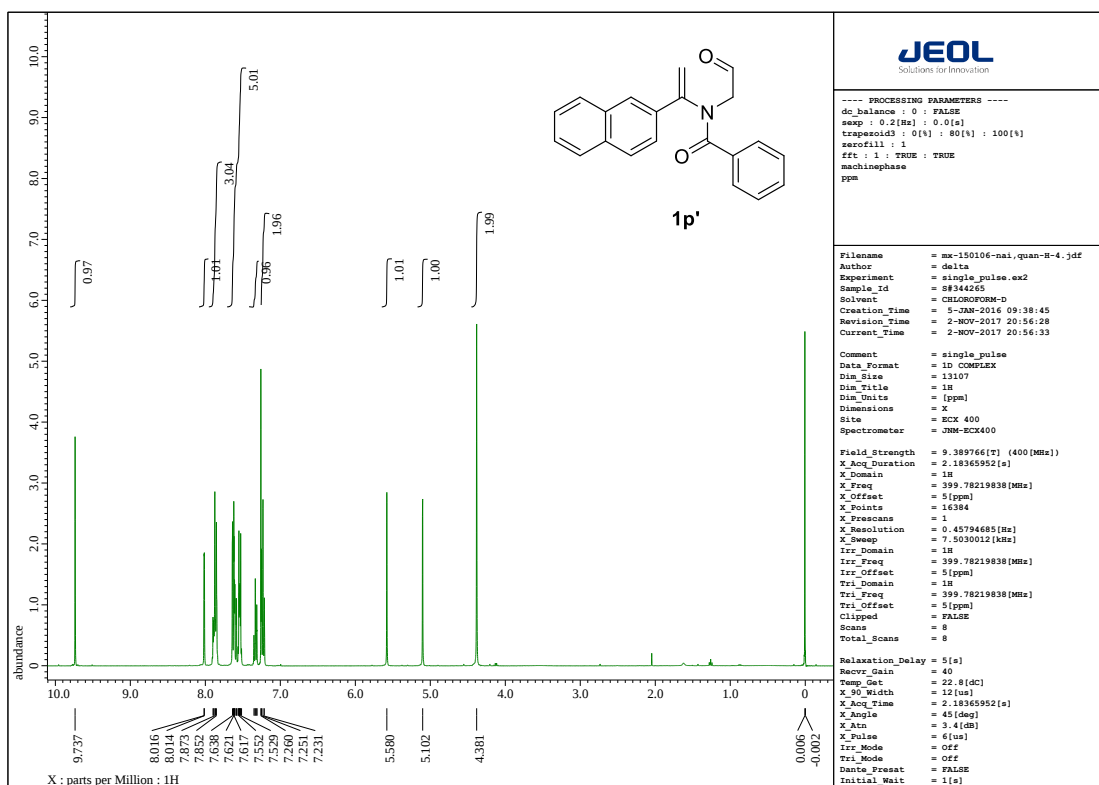
Identification code	4
Empirical formular	C ₁₇ H ₁₁ NO
Formula weight	245.2810
Temperature	243.00(10)
Wavelength	1.54184 Å
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	P 21 21 21
Unit cell dimen	a = 6.22900(10) Å α = 90.00° b = 13.6065(2) Å β = 90.00° c = 14.6177(3) Å γ = 90.00°
Volume	1238.92(4) Å ³
Z	4
Crystal size	0.55×0.45×0.3 mm
CCDC Number	1860475

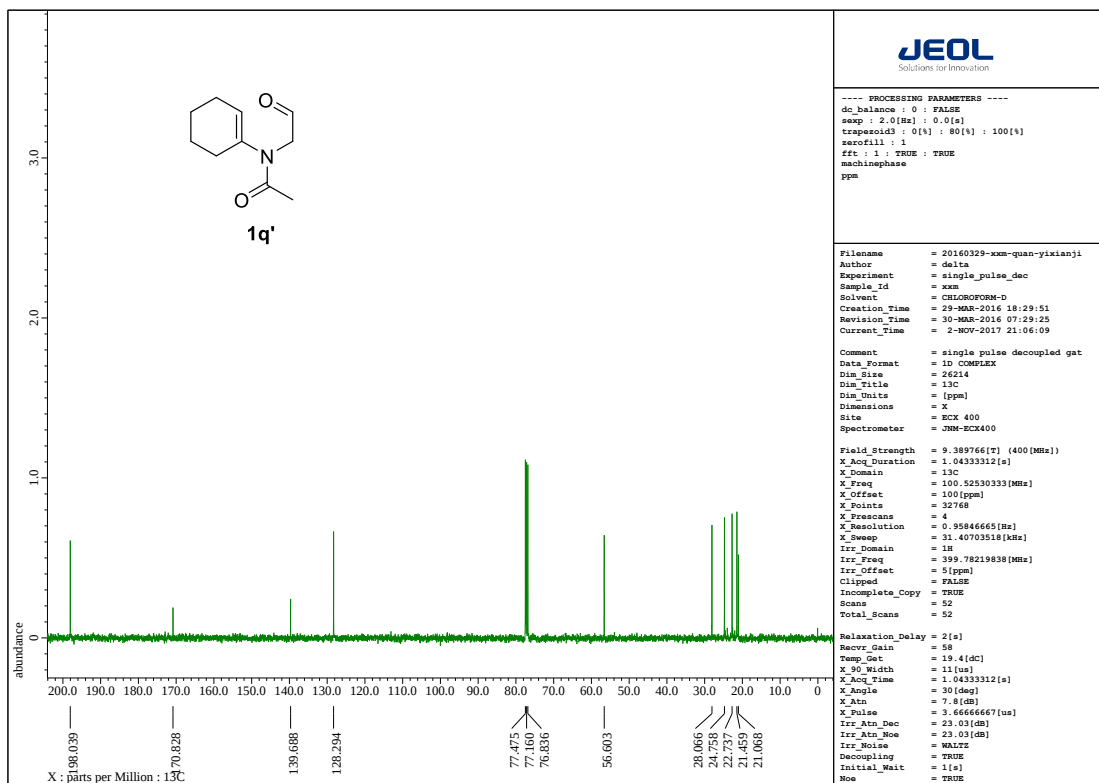
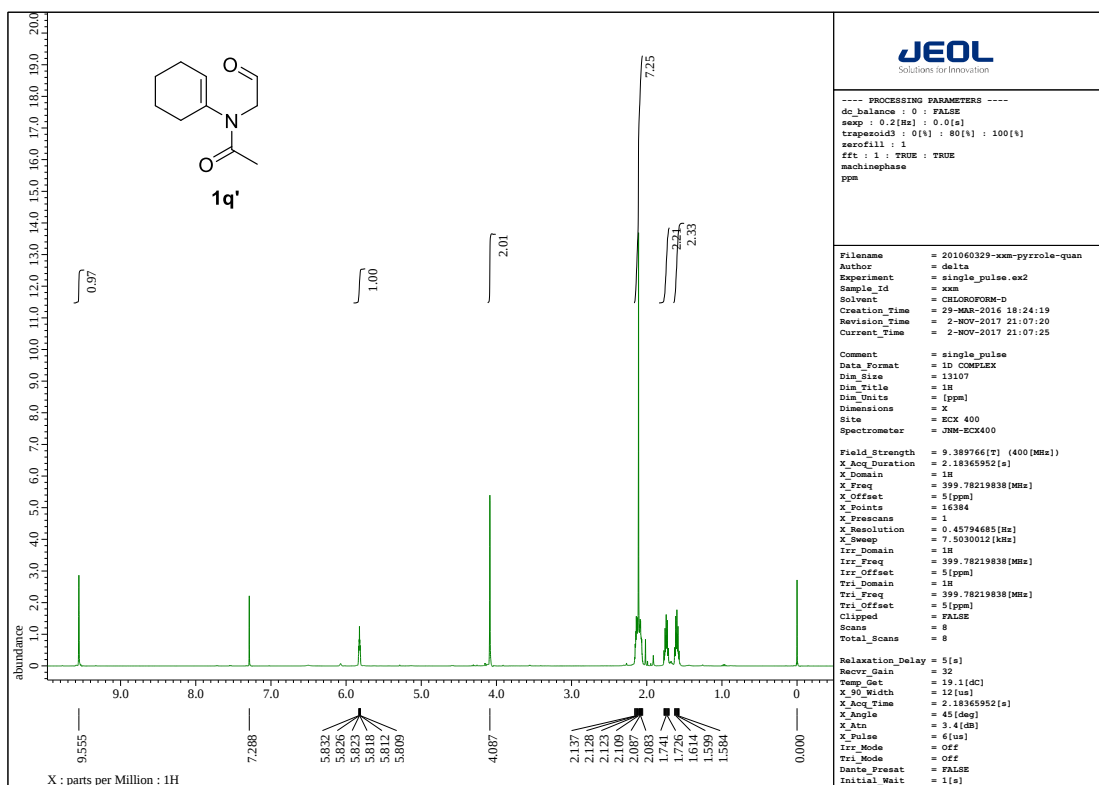
7. References

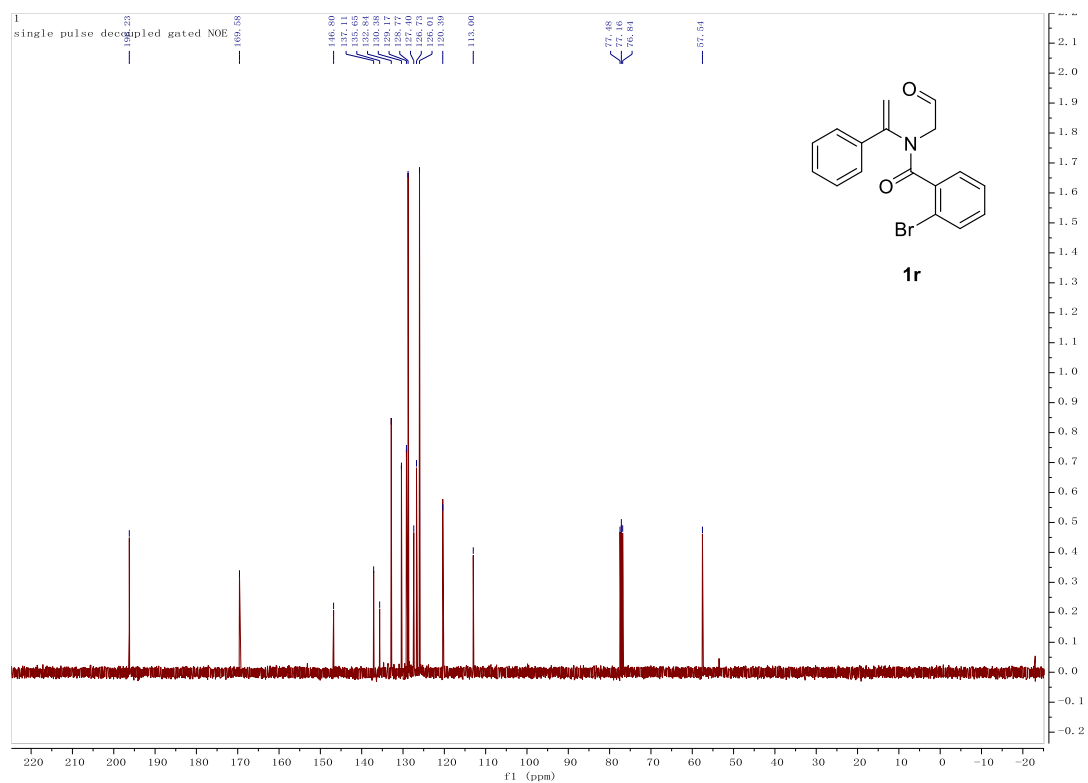
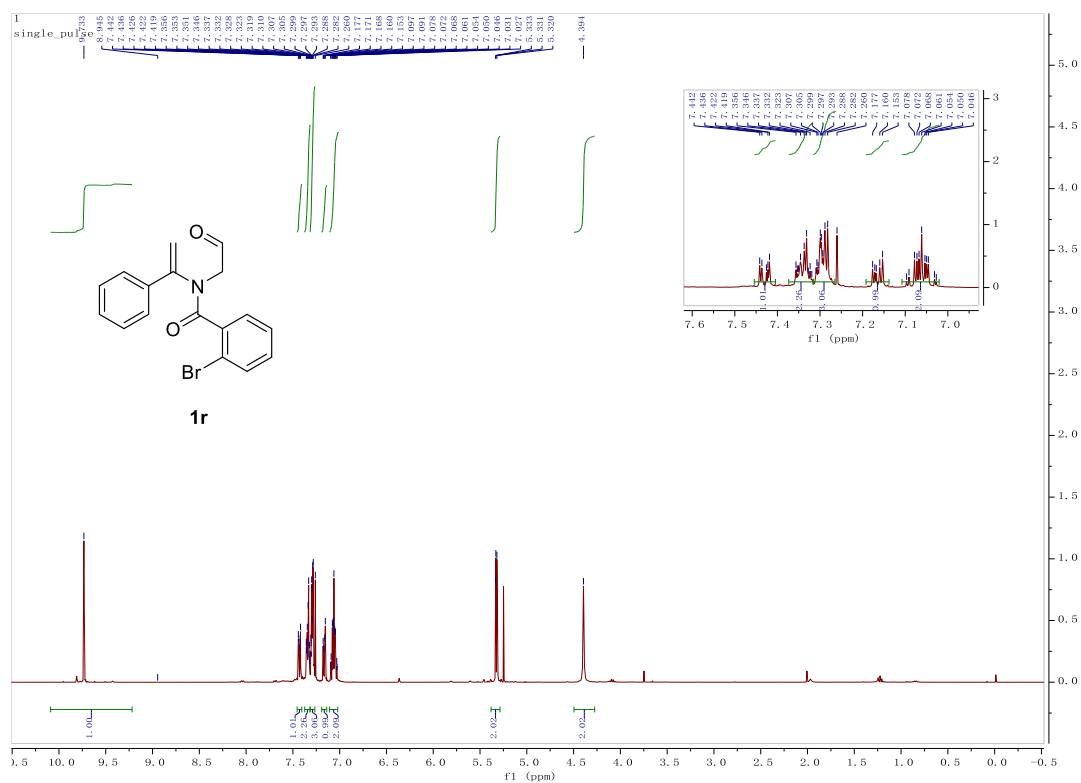
- [1] (a) L. Yang, D.-X. Wang, Z.-T. Huang and M.-X. Wang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2009**, *131*, 10390-10391. (b) L. Yang, C.-H. Lei, D.-X. Wang, Z.-T. Huang and M.-X. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, **2010**, *12*, 3918-3921.
- [2] C.-H. Lei, D.-X. Wang, L. Zhao, J. Zhu and M.-X. Wang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2013**, *135*, 4708.
- [3] C.-H. Lei, D.-X. Wang, L. Zhao, J. Zhu and M.-X. Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2013**, *19*, 16981.
- [4] Ueda H., Tokuyama H., et al. *Org. Lett.*, **2014**, *16*, 4948.

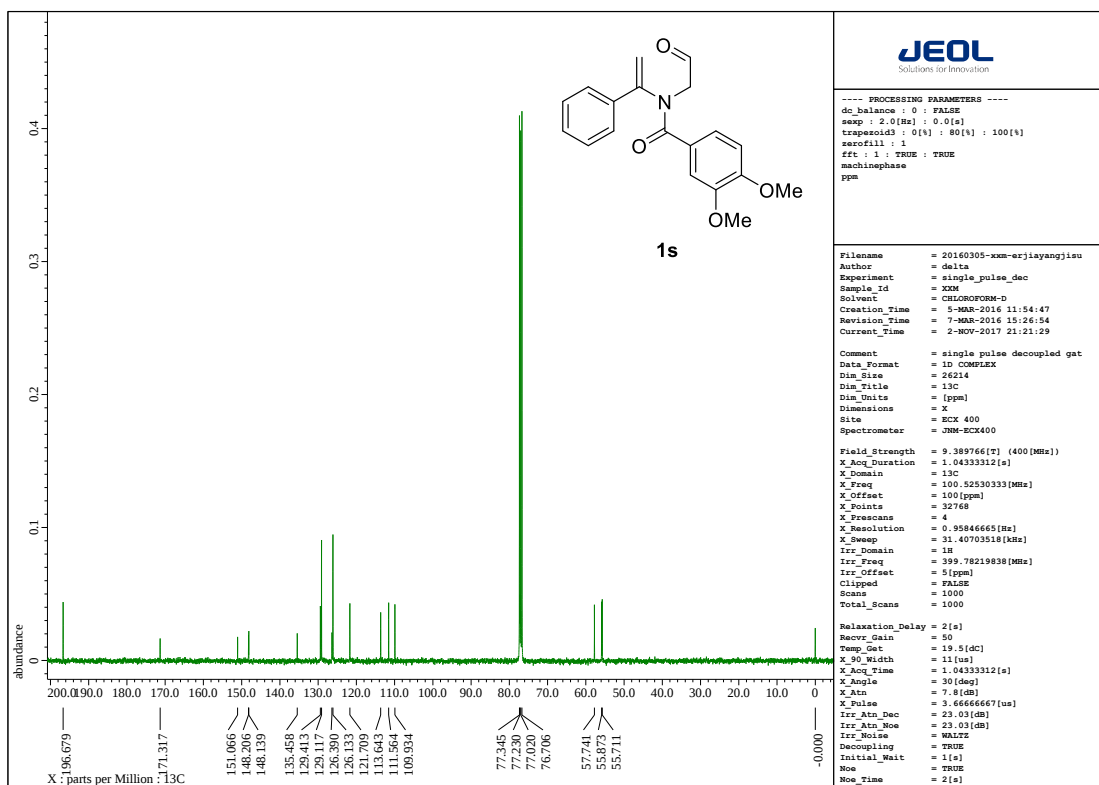
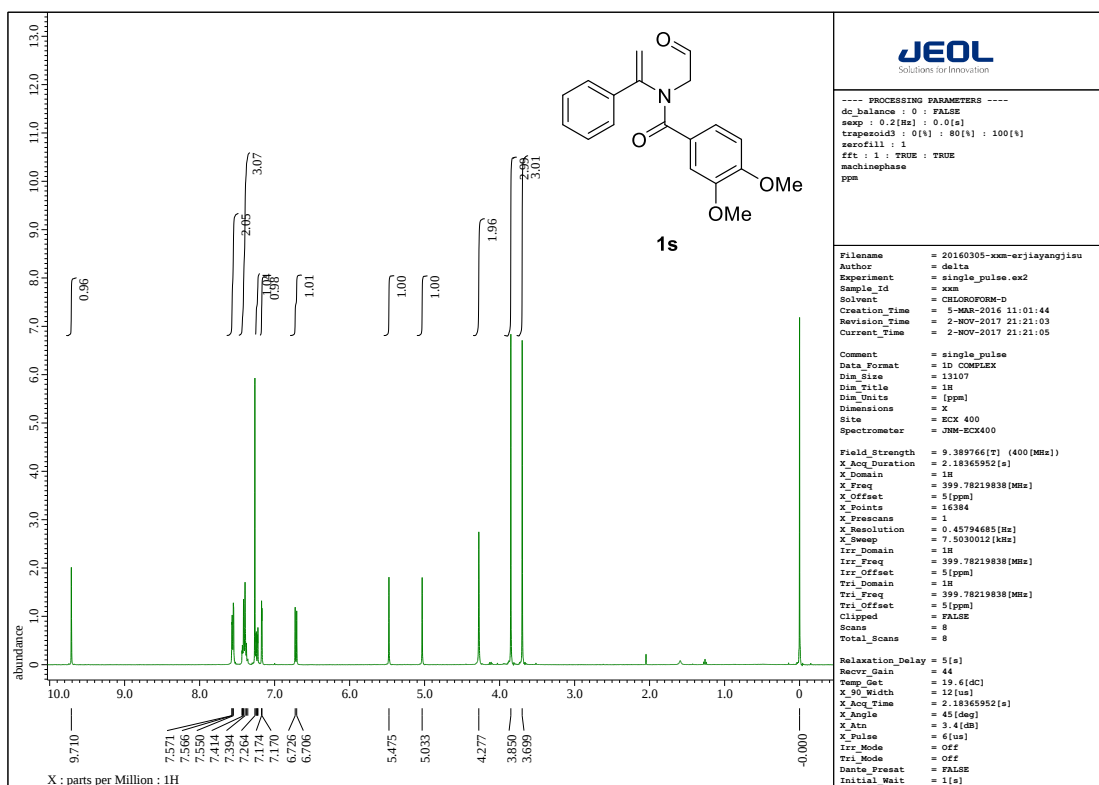
8. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

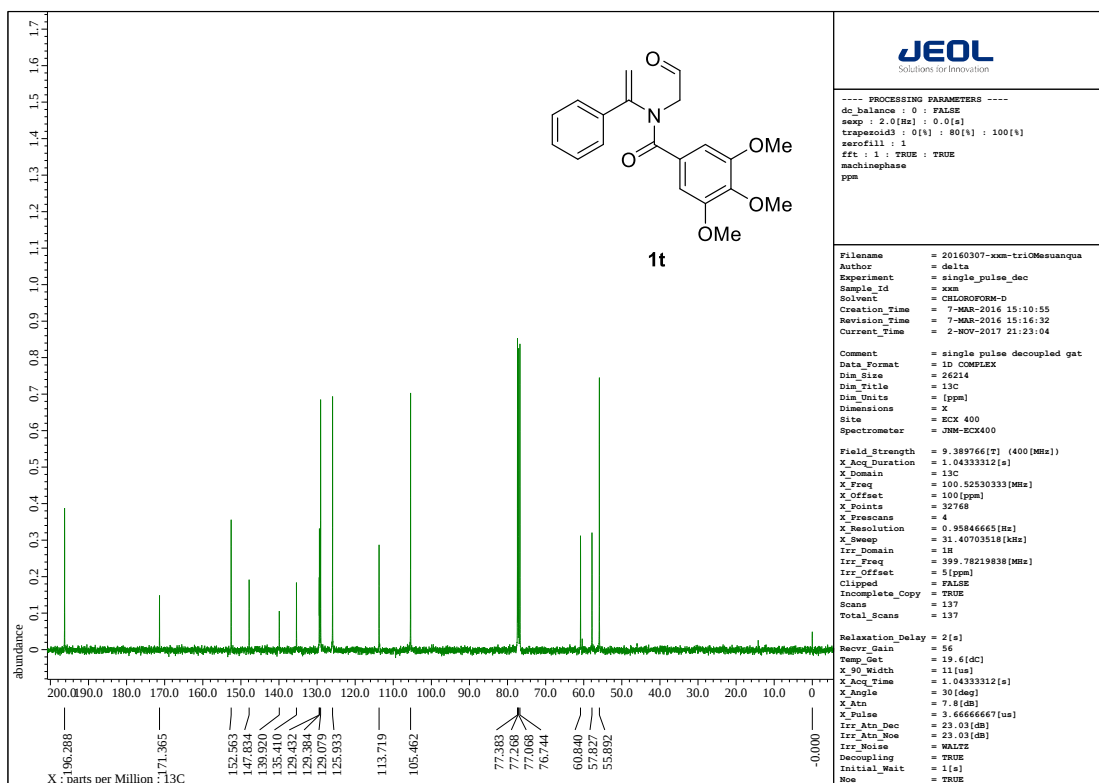
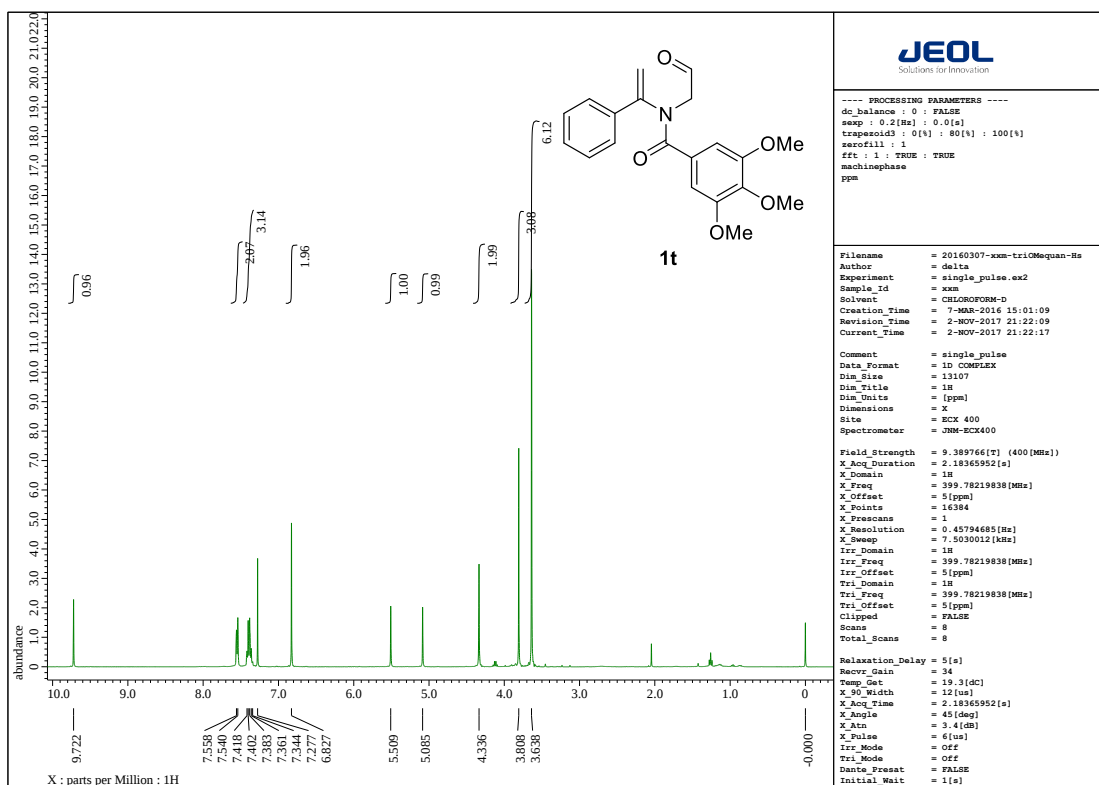


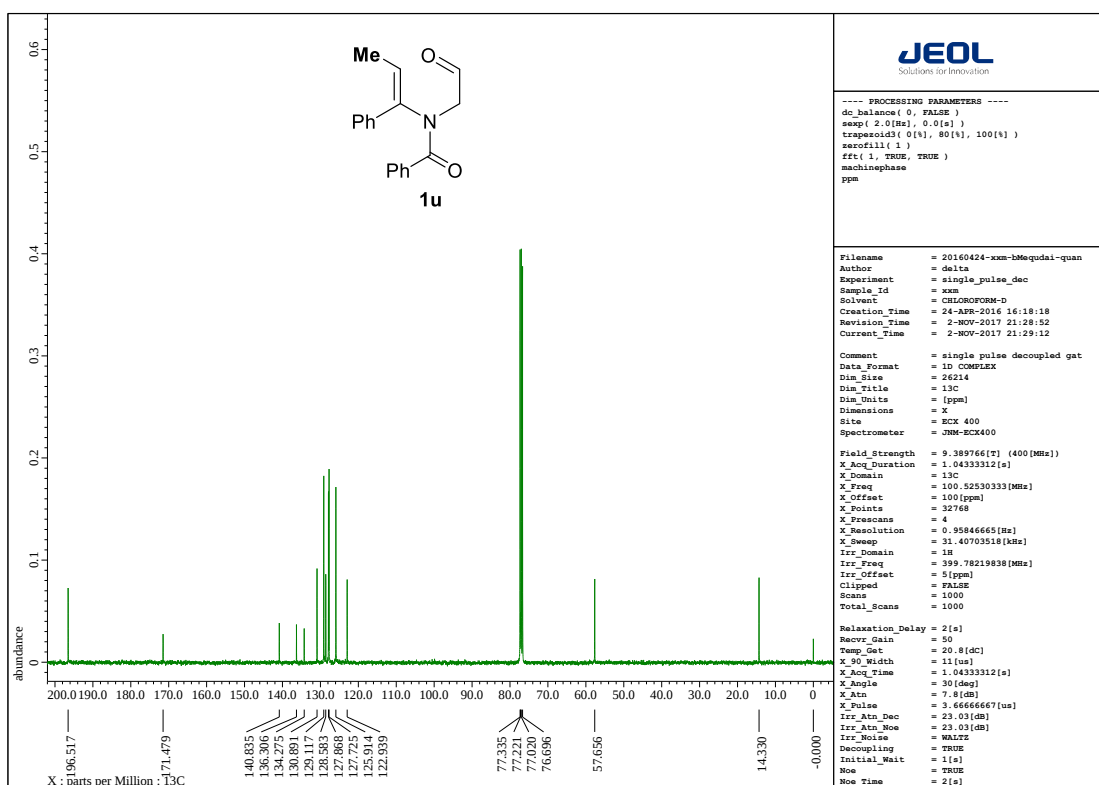
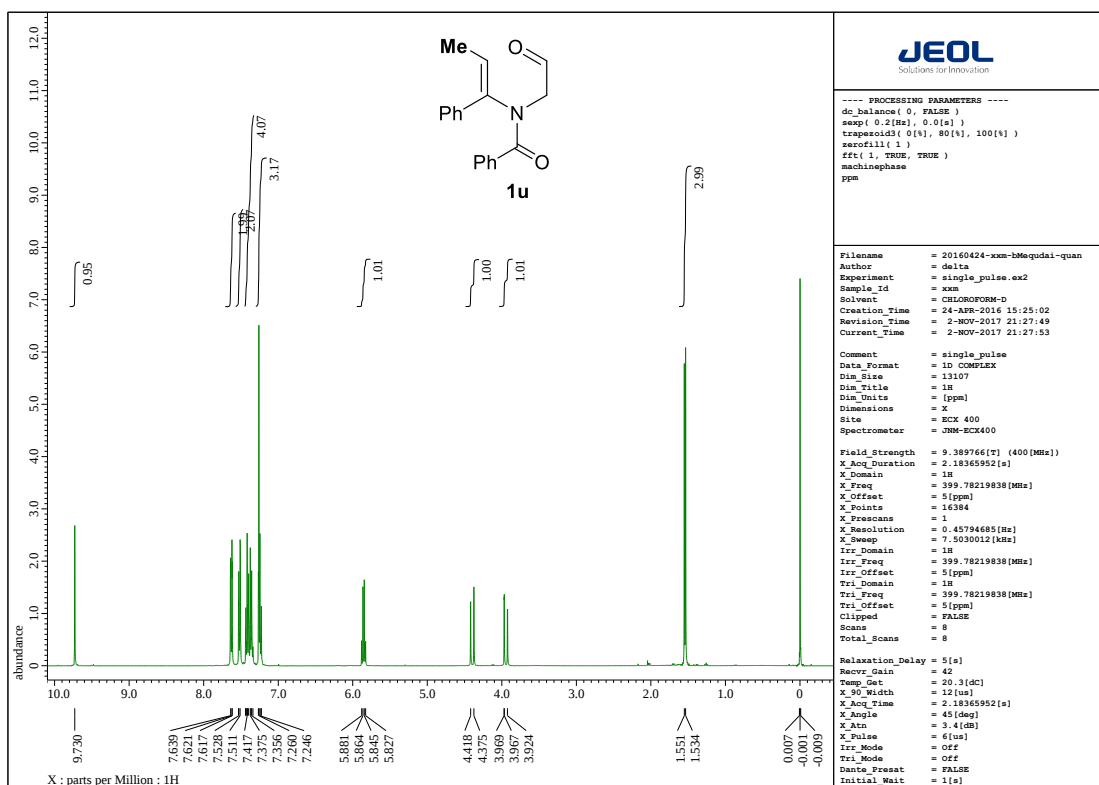


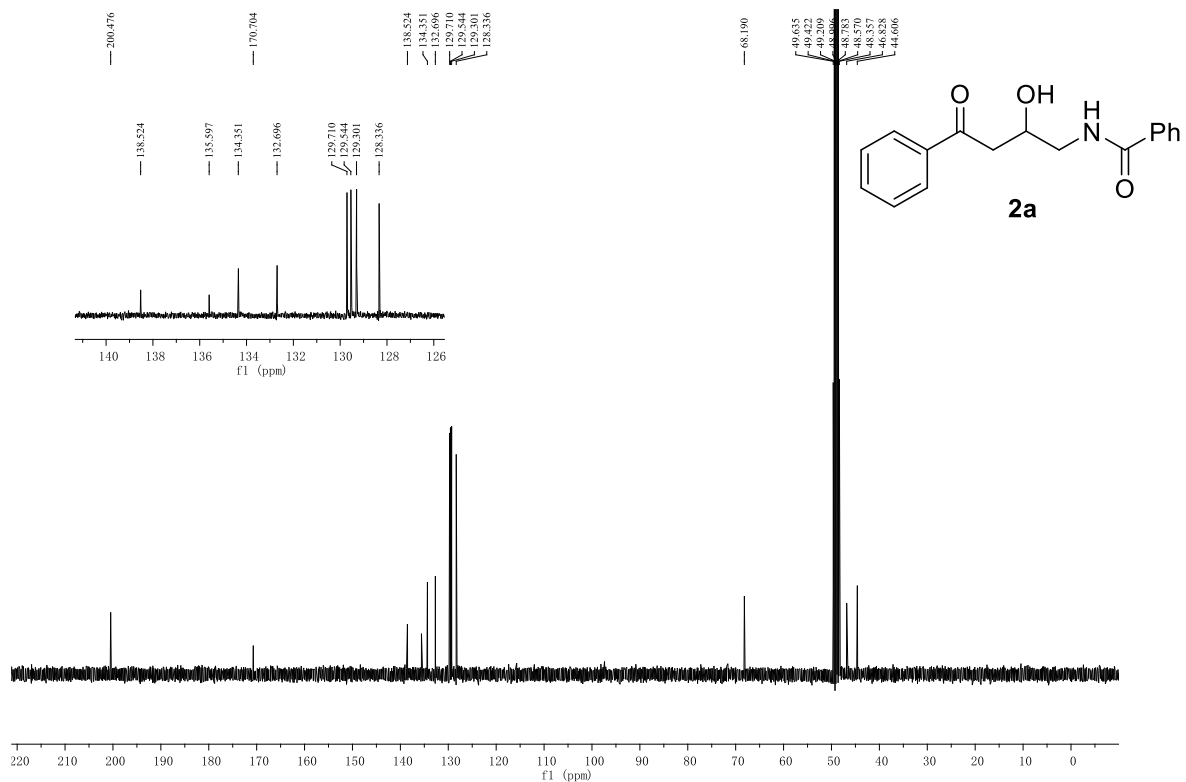
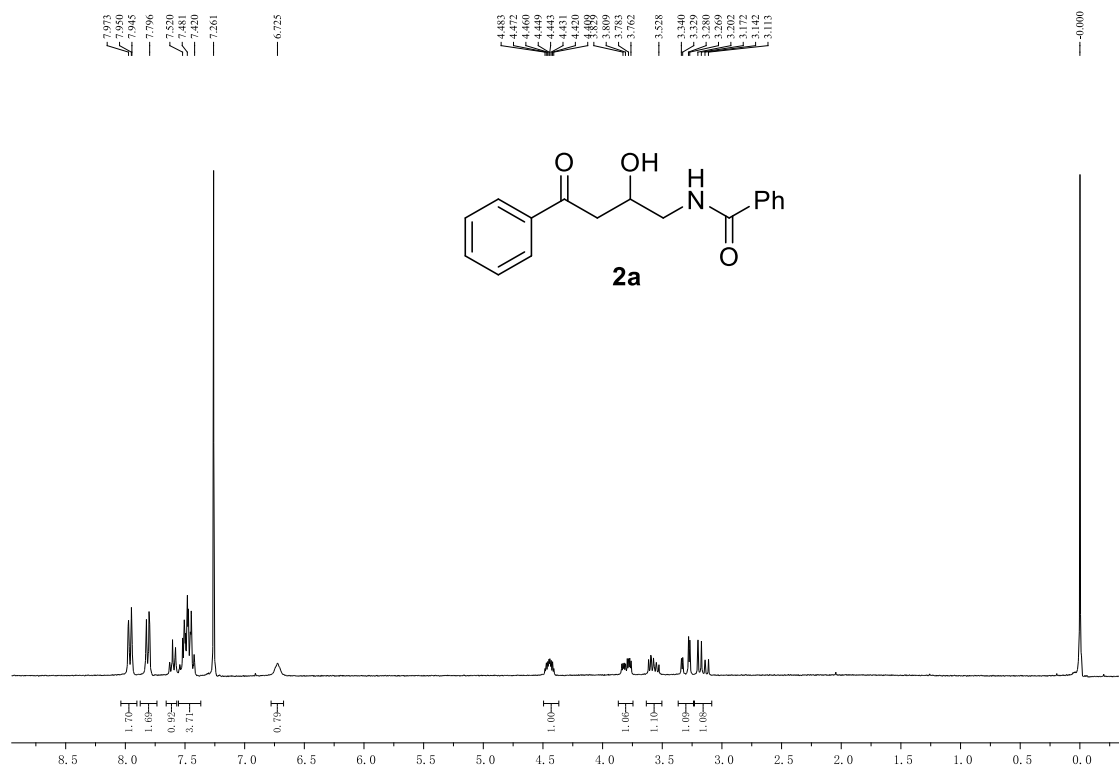


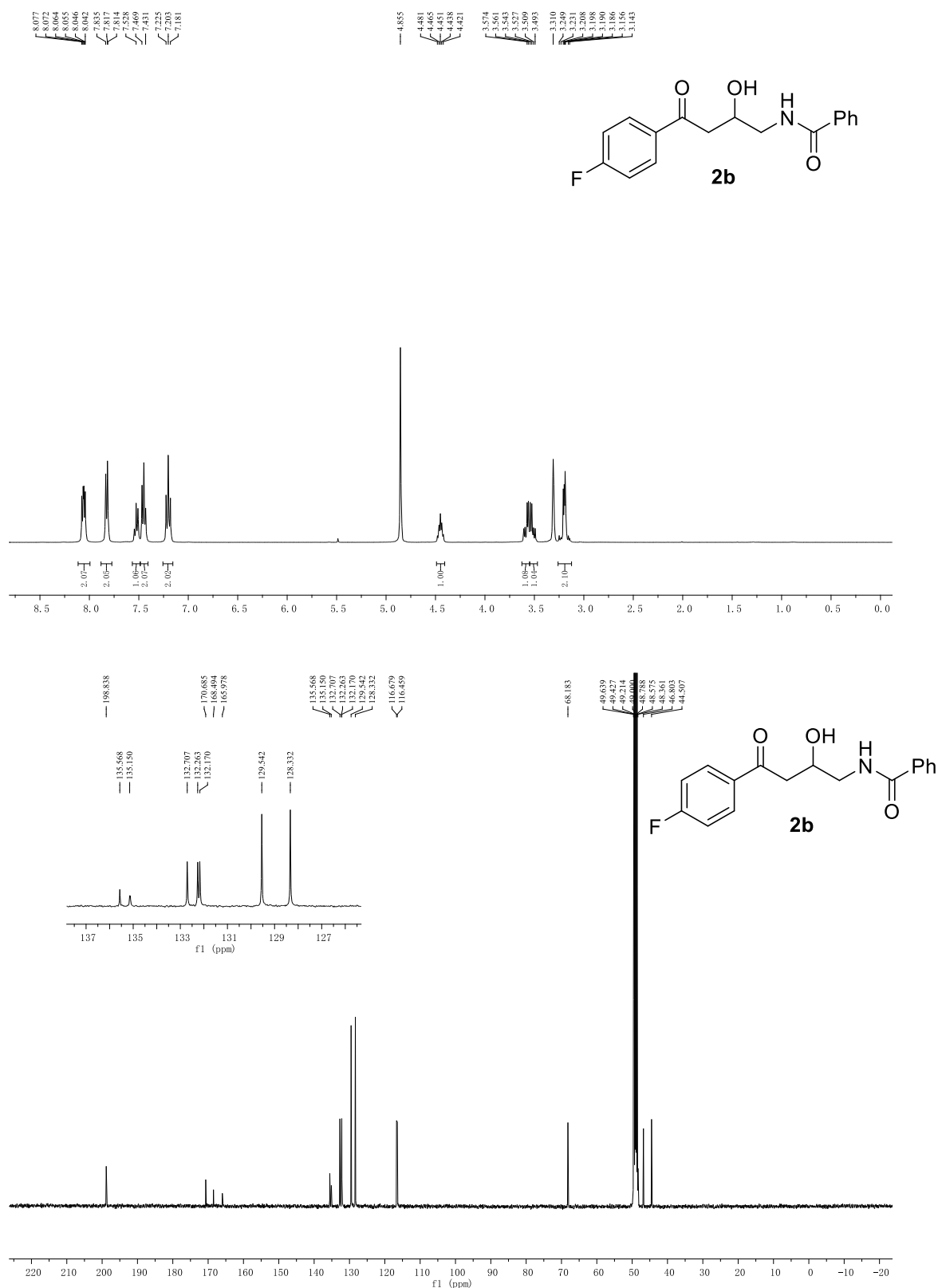


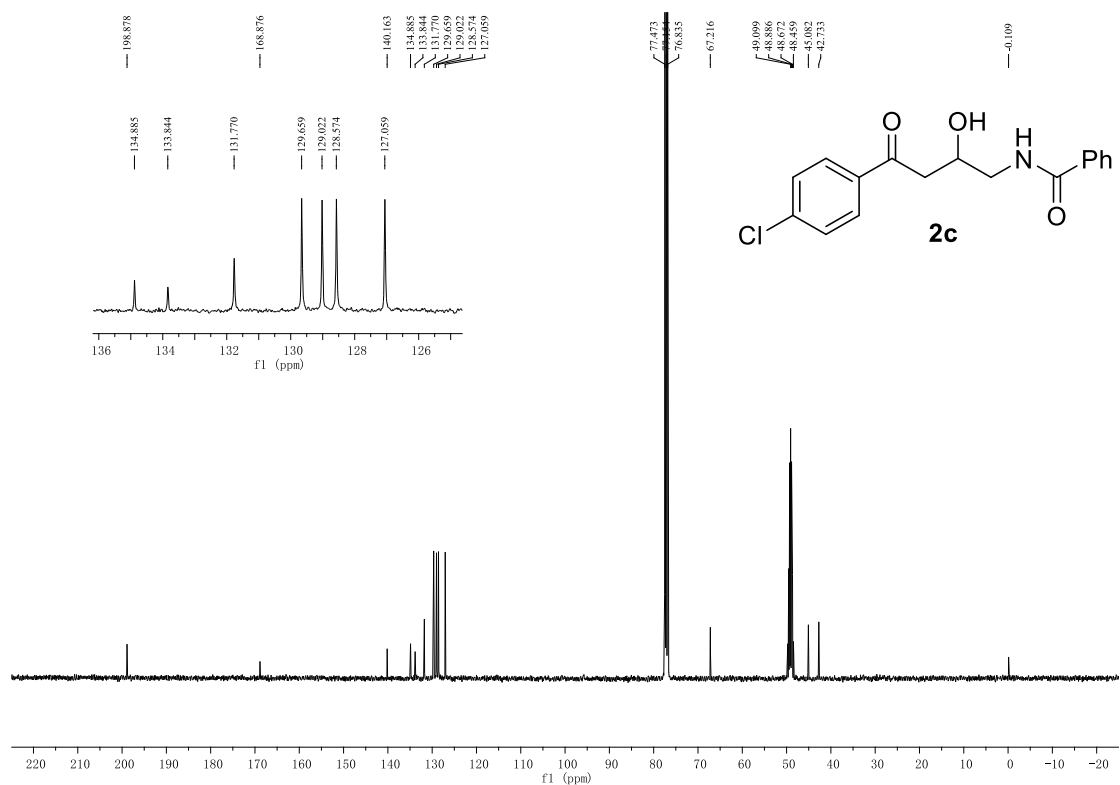
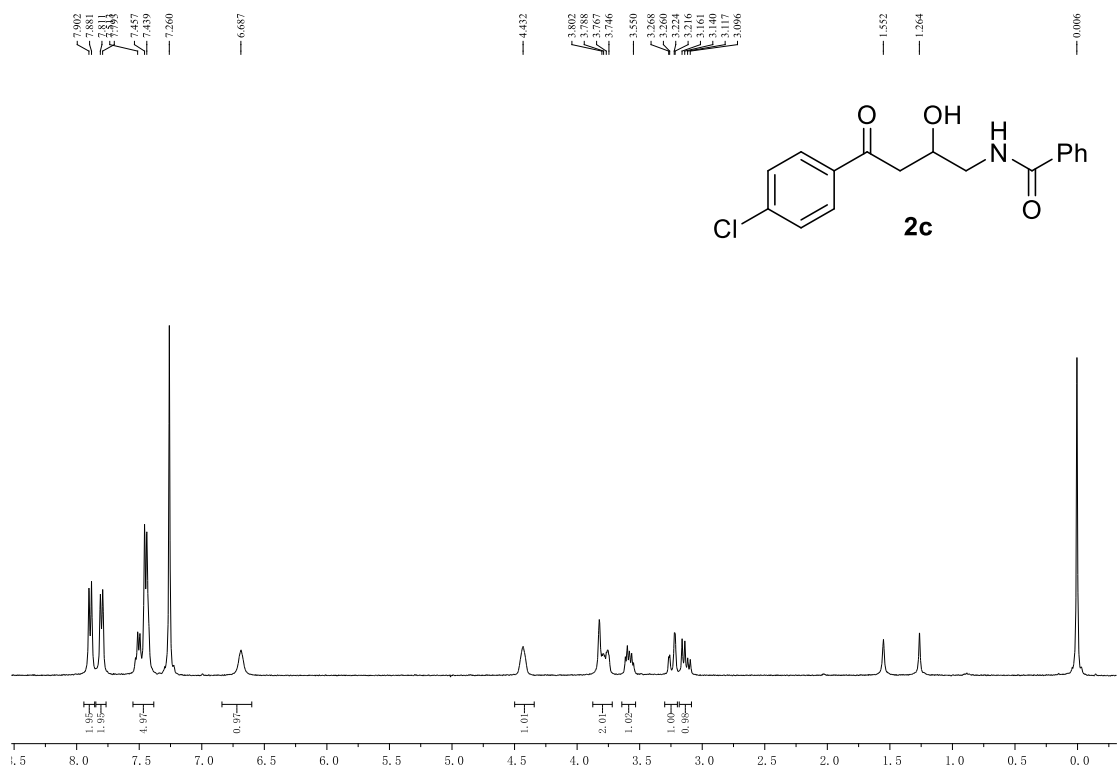


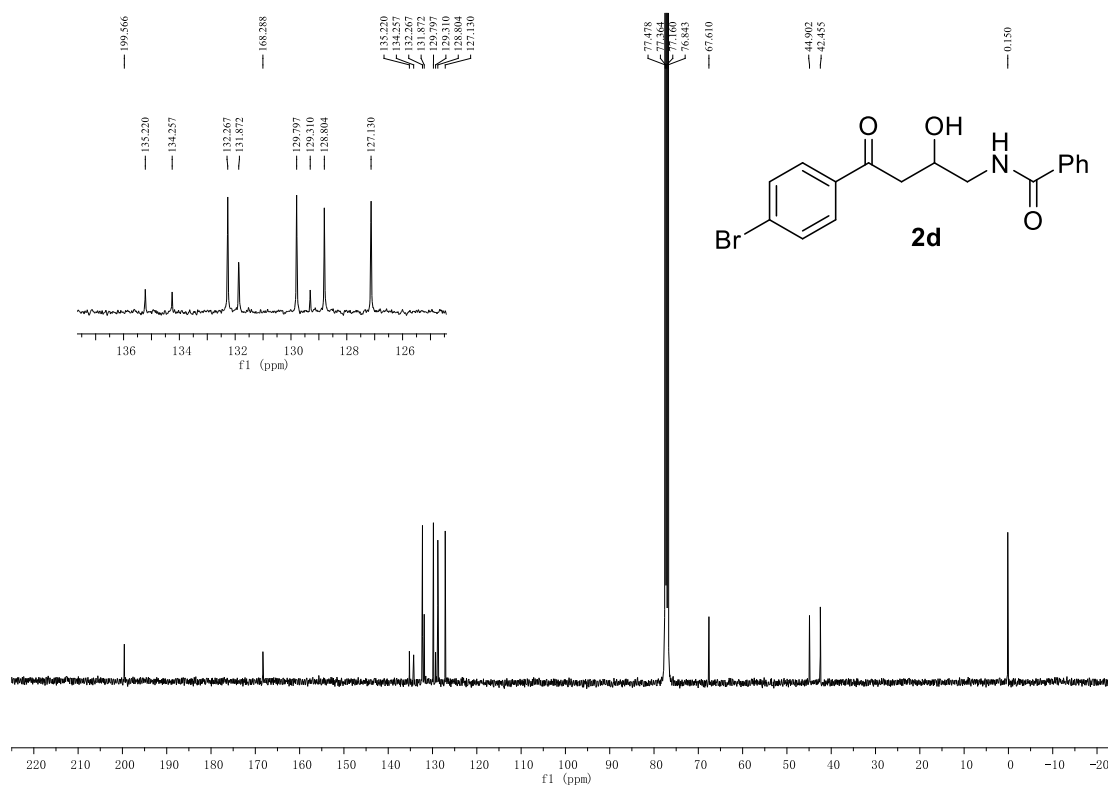
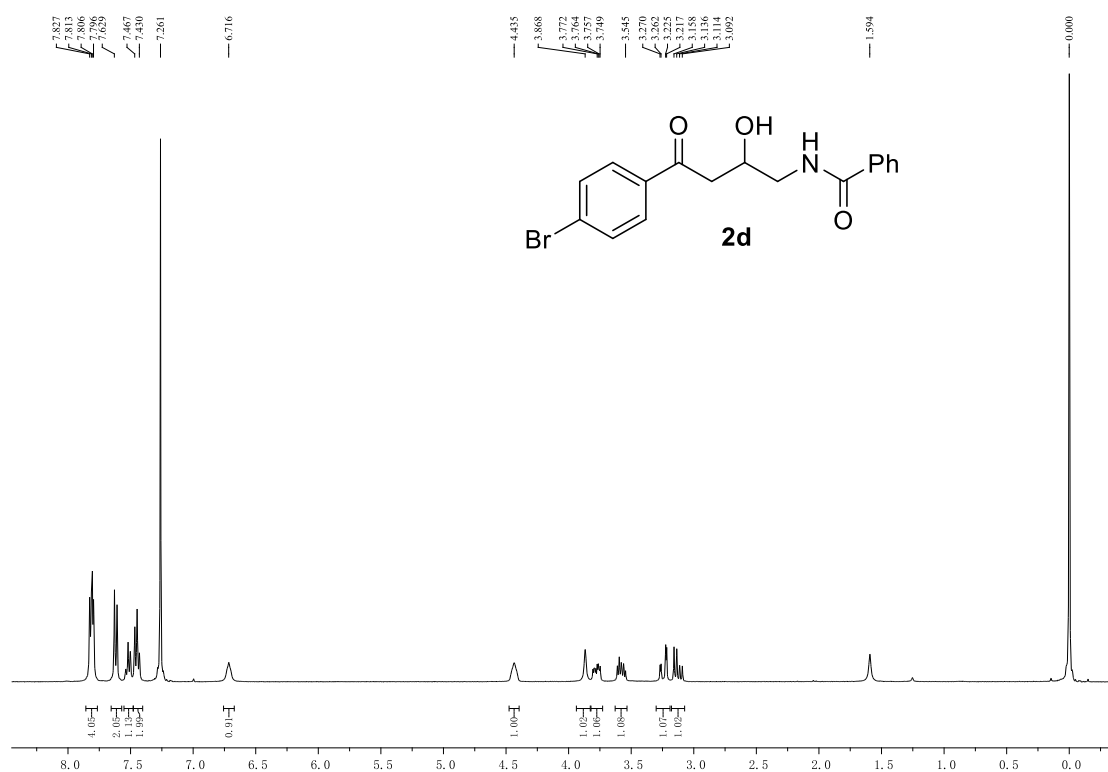




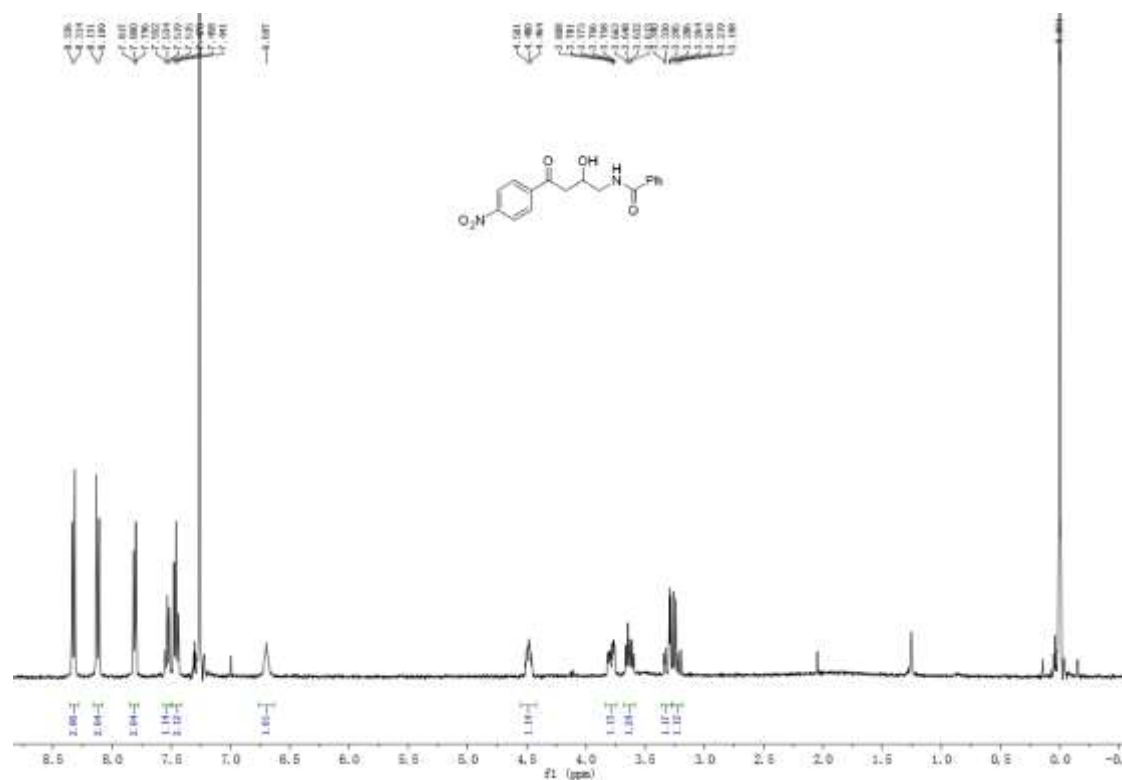








¹H NMR spectra of **2e**



¹³C NMR spectra of **2e**

