

Supporting Information

Organocatalytic asymmetric synthesis of tetrahydrocarbazoles *via* inverse-electron-demand Diels-Alder reaction of 2,3-indole-dienes with enals

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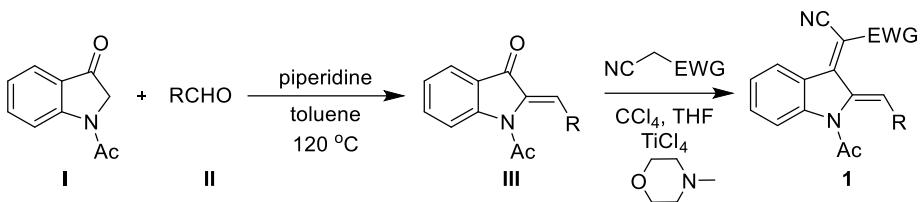
Table of Contents

1. General information	S2
2. General procedure for the synthesis of indole-diene derivatives	S3
3. General procedure for the asymmetric synthesis of tetrahydrocarbazoles	S8
4. General procedure for the synthesis of 4ab	S18
5. The absolute configuration determination of (3<i>R</i>, 4<i>S</i>)-3df	S19
6. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra	S21
7. Chiral HPLC Chromatograms	S54

1. General information

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm with the internal TMS signal at 0.0 ppm as a standard. The spectra's multiplicities are interpreted as: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, brs = broad singlet, coupling constant(s) *J* are reported in Hz and relative integrations are reported. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃ and are proton decoupled. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the internal chloroform signal at 77.00 ppm as a standard. Diastereomeric ratios were determined from crude ¹H NMR spectroscopy interpretation or by analysis of HPLC traces. Enantiomer ratios were determined by analysis of HPLC traces, obtained by using chiralpak IF, IA, AD-H with *n*-hexane and *i*-propanol as solvents. (Chiralpak IF, IA and AD-H columns were purchased from Daicel Chemical Industries, LTD.) Mass spectra were recorded on TOF mass Finigann MAT8401 spectrometer. Solvents were dried and distilled following usual protocols.

2. General procedure for the synthesis of indole-diene derivatives

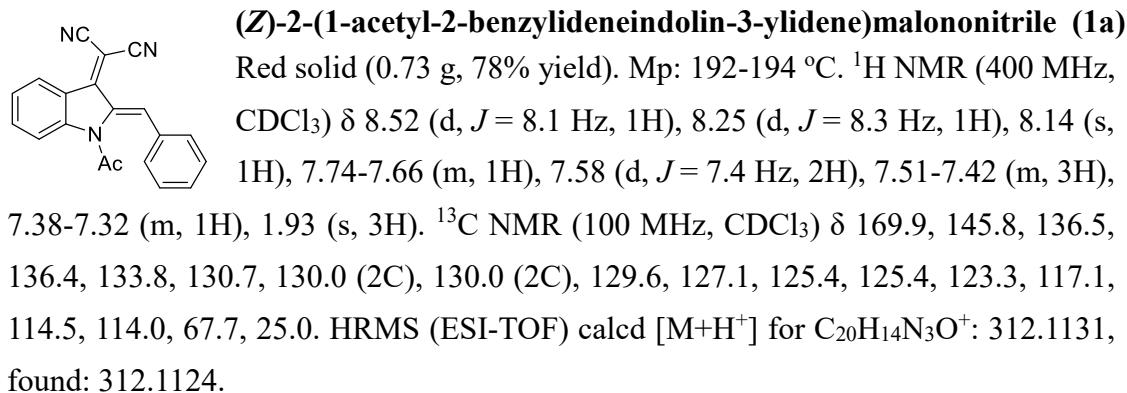


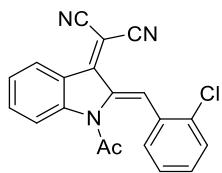
General procedure: To a solution of the 1-acetylindolin-3-one **I** (1.75 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (30 mL), were added aldehyde **II** (12.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and piperidine (0.1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 12 h. Solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was directed purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 80/1 to 20/1) to afford crude compound **III**.^[1]

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, TiCl_4 (6.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was dissolved in CCl_4 (8 mL) and stirred at 0 °C for approximately 0.5 h. Then THF (10 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h. Next, the solution of **III** (3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and malononitrile (methyl 2-cyanoacetate) (3.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in THF was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h. Finally, the solution of 4-methylmorpholine (9.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. Once the starting material was consumed (monitored by TLC), the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The residue was purified by recrystallization (ethanol) to afford the product **1**.

Reference:

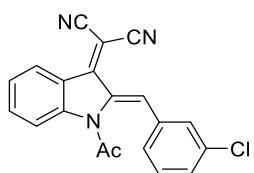
[1] Buzas, A.; Merour, J. Y. *Synthesis* **1989**, 6, 458-461.





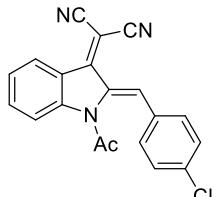
(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(2-chlorobenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1b**)**

Red solid (0.72 g, 70% yield). Mp: 201-203 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H) 7.73-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, $J = 7.4, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.31 (m, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 157.6, 145.7, 137.6, 136.7, 135.5, 132.8, 131.3, 130.6, 129.7, 127.6, 125.5, 125.4, 123.3, 123.0, 116.9, 114.0, 113.8, 69.1, 24.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$: 346.0742, found: 346.0741.



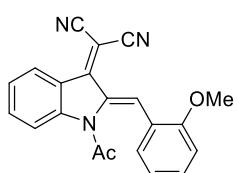
(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(3-chlorobenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1c**)**

Red solid (0.67 g, 65% yield). Mp: 151-153 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.47 (dd, $J = 6.2, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 157.8, 145.8, 137.3, 136.7, 135.7, 135.5, 130.8, 130.5, 129.8, 127.6, 125.6, 125.4, 124.9, 123.2, 117.1, 114.2, 113.7, 68.6, 25.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$: 346.0742, found: 346.0744.



(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(4-chlorobenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1d**)**

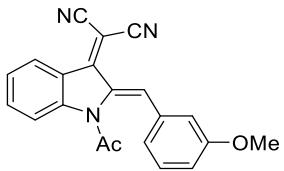
Red solid (0.77 g, 74% yield). Mp: 190-191 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.70 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 157.9, 145.8, 136.8, 136.8, 136.6, 132.2, 131.2 (2C), 130.0 (2C), 125.6, 125.5, 125.4, 123.3, 117.1, 114.4, 113.9, 68.2, 25.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$: 346.0742, found: 346.0747.



(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(2-methoxybenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1e**)**

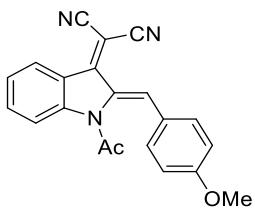
Red solid (0.61 g, 60% yield). Mp: 207-208 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.53 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J =$

7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.9, 158.4, 157.9, 145.8, 136.3, 136.0, 132.6, 129.6, 125.3, 125.2, 123.4, 123.3, 122.9, 121.3, 116.9, 114.6, 114.5, 111.6, 67.1, 56.0, 24.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 342.1237, found: 342.1236.



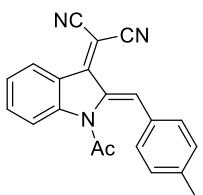
(Z)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(3-methoxybenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1f)

Red solid (0.62 g, 61% yield). Mp: 149-151 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dt, J = 15.3, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.2, 160.3, 158.0, 145.9, 136.7, 136.6, 135.0, 130.7, 127.0, 125.4, 125.3, 123.2, 122.5, 117.0, 117.0, 114.5, 114.5, 114.1, 67.8, 55.4, 25.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 342.1237, found: 342.1240.



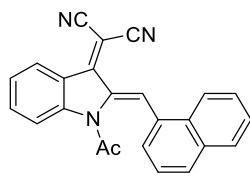
(Z)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(4-methoxybenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1g)

Red solid (0.72 g, 71% yield). Mp: 197-199 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.3, 161.7, 158.0, 145.8, 136.2, 134.6, 132.5 (2C), 127.8, 126.0, 125.3, 125.3, 123.7, 117.1, 115.2 (2C), 115.0, 114.4, 66.0, 55.5, 25.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 342.1237, found: 342.1232.



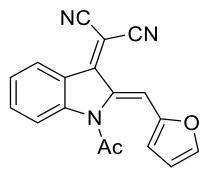
(Z)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(4-methylbenzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1h)

Red solid (0.72 g, 74% yield). Mp: 156-158 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.44 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.1, 158.1, 145.8, 141.7, 136.3, 135.7, 130.9, 130.4 (2C), 130.2 (2C), 127.6, 125.3, 125.3, 123.4, 117.1, 114.7, 114.2, 67.0, 25.1, 21.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$: 326.1288, found: 326.1290.



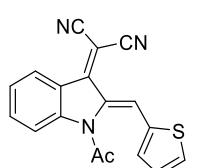
(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1i**)**

Red solid (0.73 g, 68% yield). Mp: 173-175 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.55 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.70 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 158.4, 145.9, 137.6, 136.7, 133.9, 131.5, 131.3, 131.0, 129.1, 128.3, 127.6, 127.2, 125.6, 125.4, 125.4, 124.7, 123.8, 123.1, 117.0, 115.0, 114.0, 68.0, 24.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$: 362.1288, found: 362.1287.



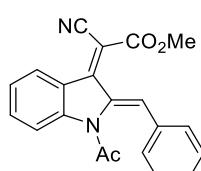
(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(furan-2-ylmethylene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1j**)**

Red solid (0.52 g, 58% yield). Mp: 175-177 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.48 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.67-6.61 (m, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.8, 157.3, 148.6, 147.5, 145.8, 136.2, 133.1, 125.1, 125.0, 123.0, 121.4, 116.4, 115.0, 114.4, 113.9, 113.4, 65.8, 24.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 302.0924, found: 302.0926.



(*Z*)-2-(1-acetyl-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene)indolin-3-ylidene)malononitrile (1k**)**

Red solid (0.47 g, 50% yield). Mp: 170-172 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.49 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.4, 157.8, 151.0, 145.9, 136.1, 135.2, 133.4, 129.0, 128.6, 125.6, 125.2, 123.9, 121.7, 117.5, 114.8, 114.2, 66.3, 25.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$: 318.0696, found: 318.0697.

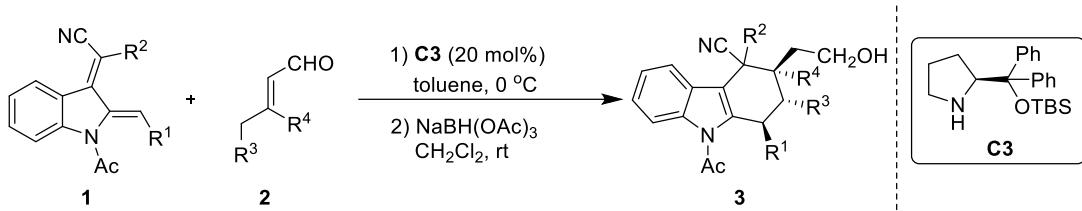


Methyl 2-((*Z*)-1-acetyl-2-((*Z*)-benzylidene)indolin-3-ylidene)-2-cyanoacetate (1l**)**

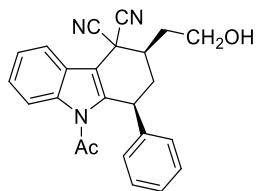
Red solid (0.62 g, 60% yield). Mp: 185-187 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.61 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 18.8, 7.7$ Hz, 3H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, S6

163.0, 157.5, 145.6, 138.3, 135.1, 134.1, 129.9, 129.6 (2C), 129.4 (2C), 128.7, 126.0, 124.8, 124.0, 118.0, 117.0, 92.4, 53.2, 24.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O₃⁺: 345.1234, found: 345.1236.

3. General procedure for the asymmetric synthesis of tetrahydrocarbazoles

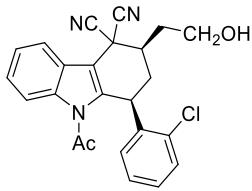


General procedure: Enal **2** (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added to a solution of catalyst **C3** (0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv) and indole-diene **1** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C until indole-diene **1** was consumed (indicated by TLC). Solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was directed purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1 to 4/1) to afford crude aldehyde compound. The IEDDA product was dissolved in dichloromethane, then NaBH(OAc)₃ (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added. After the reaction was completed (indicated by TLC), the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc=8/1 to 2/1) to afford product **3**.

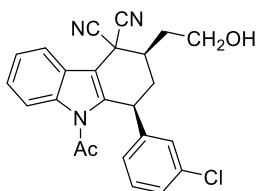


(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3aa)

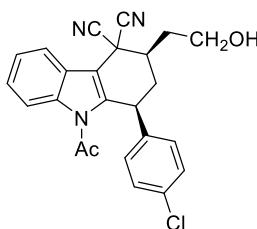
White solid (31.9 mg, 83% yield). Mp: 116-117 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.17 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dt, *J* = 10.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (ddd, *J* = 11.1, 8.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.62 (ddd, *J* = 14.5, 6.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.35-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.91 (ddt, *J* = 14.5, 9.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (ddd, *J* = 14.4, 12.8, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 142.9, 140.1, 135.7, 128.9 (2C), 127.1, 127.1 (2C), 125.7, 125.0, 123.9, 118.7, 114.6, 113.9, 113.3, 111.4, 59.2, 42.3, 39.8, 36.9, 36.7, 34.6, 26.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₄H₂₂N₃O₂⁺: 384.1707, found: 384.1708. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 12.49 min (minor), 28.43 min (major). [α]_D²² = +56.3 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ba)
 White solid (32.7 mg, 78% yield). Mp: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (dt, *J* = 10.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (td, *J* = 11.4, 10.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.94-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.33 (dq, *J* = 13.3, 4.7, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (ddt, *J* = 14.3, 9.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 1H), 1.62-1.50 (td, *J* = 13.7, 10.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 140.7, 139.1, 135.8, 133.3, 129.8, 128.4, 127.7, 126.4, 125.9, 125.1, 124.1, 118.8, 114.5, 114.4, 113.2, 112.2, 59.2, 39.7, 39.1, 36.6, 34.7, 34.1, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₄H₂₁³⁵ClN₃O₂⁺: 418.1317, found: 418.1323. 97% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/i-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 14.29 min (minor), 19.04 min (major). [α]_D²² = +62.5 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).

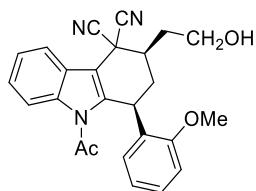


(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ca)
 White solid (34.7 mg, 83% yield). Mp: 110-112 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (td, *J* = 11.1, 9.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.61 (ddd, *J* = 14.3, 6.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.39-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.92 (ddd, *J* = 14.3, 9.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 145.1, 139.6, 135.6, 134.5, 130.1, 127.3, 127.3, 125.8, 125.2, 124.0, 118.9, 114.4, 114.4, 113.9, 113.2, 111.8, 59.2, 42.2, 39.8, 36.6, 36.6, 34.5, 26.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₄H₂₁³⁵ClN₃O₂⁺: 418.1317, found: 418.1321. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/i-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 12.45 min (minor), 24.99 min (major). [α]_D²² = +68.7 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



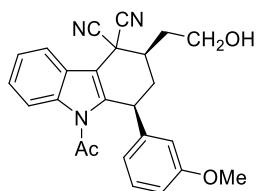
(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3da)
 White solid (33.9 mg, 81% yield). Mp: 105-107 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H),

4.71 (dd, $J = 10.5, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dt, $J = 10.3, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 2.86 (t, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, $J = 14.3, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.39-2.29 (m, 1H), 1.91 (ddt, $J = 13.9, 9.0, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.61 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.2, 141.6, 134.0, 135.6, 132.7, 129.0 (2C), 128.5 (2C), 125.8, 125.1, 124.0, 118.9, 114.4, 113.9, 113.2, 111.7, 59.2, 41.8, 39.8, 36.7, 36.6, 34.5, 26.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 418.1317, found: 418.1316. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 6.50 min (minor), 12.37 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +127.3$ ($c = 0.1$, CH_2Cl_2).



(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4*H*-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ea)

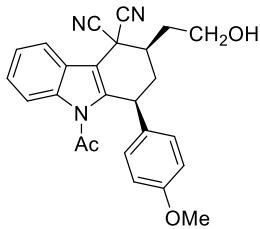
White solid (31.9 mg, 77% yield). Mp: 104-106 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.73 (m, 2H), 6.47 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.18-5.07 (m, 1H), 4.07-3.98 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92-3.84 (m, 1H), 2.94-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.68 (dd, $J = 14.5, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 (m, 4H), 1.92 (ddt, $J = 14.3, 9.5, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.58 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.8, 156.1, 139.7, 136.1, 131.3, 128.4, 126.3, 125.7, 125.0, 123.9, 121.4, 118.4, 114.8, 114.6, 113.3, 111.6, 110.7, 59.3, 55.7, 39.7, 36.7, 34.9, 34.9, 34.8, 26.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3^+$: 414.1812, found: 414.1810. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 16.14 min (minor), 37.16 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +81.6$ ($c = 0.1$, CH_2Cl_2).



(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4*H*-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3fa)

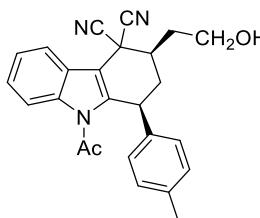
White solid (29.4 mg, 71% yield). Mp: 98-100 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.44 (dt, $J = 7.2, 2.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.1, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 2H), 4.65 (dd, $J = 10.7, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dt, $J = 10.7, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (ddd, $J = 11.1, 8.9, 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.92-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.66-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.91 (ddt, $J = 14.5, 9.7, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.78-1.66 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.5, 159.9, 144.6, 139.8, 135.7, 130.0, 130.0, 125.7, 125.7, 125.0, 123.8, 118.7, 114.6, 114.0, 113.2, 111.9, 111.4, 59.2, 55.2, 42.3, 39.8, 36.8, 36.7, 34.6, 26.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3^+$: 414.1812, found: 414.1815. 96%

ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 18.53 min (minor), 33.30 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +92.6$. ($c = 0.1$, CH₂Cl₂).



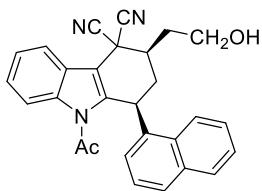
(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ga)

White solid (32.7 mg, 79% yield). Mp: 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.61 (dd, $J = 10.5, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dt, $J = 10.4, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.83 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.86 (t, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.64-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.27 (m, 1H), 1.91 (ddt, $J = 14.3, 9.6, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.77-1.64 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 158.5, 140.5, 135.8, 134.9, 128.3 (2C), 125.7, 125.0, 123.9, 118.7, 114.7, 114.3 (2C), 114.0, 113.3, 111.2, 59.7, 55.3, 41.5, 39.8, 37.2, 36.8, 34.6, 26.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₅H₂₄N₃O₃⁺: 414.1812, found: 414.1809. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 7.36 min (minor), 14.02 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +78.3$ ($c = 0.1$, CH₂Cl₂).



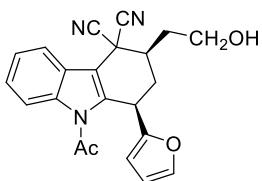
(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(p-tolyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ha)

White solid (31.9 mg, 83% yield). Mp: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.44 (q, $J = 4.8, 3.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.63 (dd, $J = 10.7, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dt, $J = 10.7, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (ddd, $J = 11.1, 8.9, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.63-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.90 (ddt, $J = 14.6, 9.8, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.77-1.62 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 140.2, 139.9, 136.8, 135.8, 129.6 (2C), 127.0 (2C), 125.7, 125.0, 123.8, 118.6, 114.6, 114.0, 113.3, 111.3, 59.2, 41.9, 39.7, 37.1, 36.7, 34.6, 26.7, 21.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₅H₂₄N₃O₂⁺: 398.1863, found: 398.1866. 92% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 10.35 min (minor), 20.72 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +57.3$ ($c = 0.1$, CH₂Cl₂).



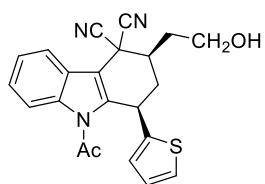
(1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ia)

White solid (34.7 mg, 80% yield). Mp: 130-132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (td, *J* = 6.8, 6.1, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dt, *J* = 10.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (ddd, *J* = 11.1, 8.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.04-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.85 (ddd, *J* = 14.6, 6.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.87 (ddt, *J* = 14.5, 8.7, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (ddd, *J* = 14.4, 12.8, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 140.2, 140.0, 135.8, 133.8, 130.8, 129.2, 127.7, 126.9, 126.1, 125.8, 125.7, 125.2, 124.0, 122.6, 122.0, 118.7, 114.7, 114.3, 113.3, 112.0, 59.2, 39.8, 37.5, 36.7, 35.6, 34.6, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₈H₂₄N₃O₂⁺: 434.1863, found: 434.1864. 92% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiraldak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 13.96 min (minor), 29.22 min (major). [α]_D²² = +102.1 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



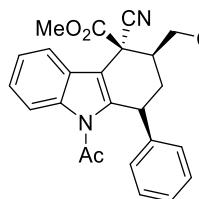
(1*R*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-1-(furan-2-yl)-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ja)

White solid (28.1 mg, 75% yield). Mp: 117-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.31-6.26 (m, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (dt, *J* = 10.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (td, *J* = 11.0, 9.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.91-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.64 (m, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.40-2.28 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.82 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 154.6, 141.4, 137.3, 135.9, 125.9, 125.0, 123.9, 118.8, 114.5, 114.0, 113.0, 110.9, 110.6, 105.9, 59.3, 39.5, 36.5, 35.8, 34.4, 33.5, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₂₂H₂₀N₃O₃⁺: 374.1499, found: 374.1498. 93% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiraldak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 9.86 min (minor), 14.12 min (major). [α]_D²² = -147.3 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



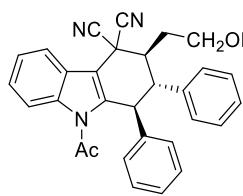
(1*R*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4H-carbazole-4,4-dicarbonitrile (3ka)

White solid (27.8 mg, 71% yield). Mp: 113-115 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 5.9, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.88 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, J = 10.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dt, J = 10.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (ddd, J = 11.1, 8.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.72 (ddd, J = 14.6, 6.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.40-2.28 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.61 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.7, 145.6, 139.4, 135.8, 126.8, 125.9, 124.9, 124.8, 124.0, 123.9, 118.9, 114.5, 113.9, 113.0, 111.0, 59.3, 39.8, 37.6, 37.3, 36.6, 34.5, 26.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$: 390.1271, found: 390.1274. 95% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 9.24 min (minor), 16.44 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -192.8$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



Methyl (1*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3la)

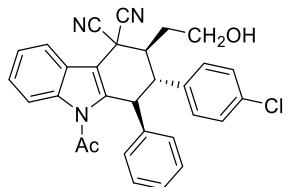
White solid (28.3 mg, 68% yield). Mp: 99-101 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (dd, J = 10.5, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.97-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.84-3.78 (m, 1H), 2.83 (ddt, J = 13.2, 10.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (ddd, J = 14.3, 6.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.27-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.66 (s, 1H), 1.52 (ddt, J = 13.9, 10.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.7, 167.3, 144.1, 140.0, 135.9, 128.6 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 126.7, 126.1, 125.1, 123.4, 118.8, 118.8, 114.4, 113.9, 60.0, 53.7, 47.9, 42.2, 39.8, 35.5, 34.2, 26.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$: 417.1809, found: 417.1816. 95% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 10.95 min (minor), 28.32 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -373.3$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



Methyl (1*S*,2*S*,3*S*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,2-diphenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ab)

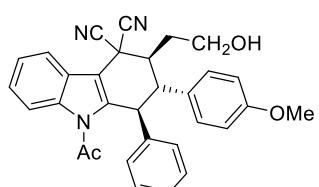
White solid (30.1 mg, 61% yield). Mp: 116-118 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 6.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.29 (s, 3H), 7.05 (dt, J = 14.0, 6.8 Hz, 5H), 6.51 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (d, J = 9.8

Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dt, J = 11.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dq, J = 11.5, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (dd, J = 11.9, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.02 (dq, J = 12.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.90–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.5, 140.9, 140.3, 138.6, 135.8, 128.8, 128.8 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 127.9 (2C), 126.8, 125.7, 124.9, 123.9, 119.1, 114.9, 113.7, 113.6, 110.8, 59.8, 54.9, 50.0, 42.2, 37.4, 35.1, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 460.2020, found: 460.2024. 95% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_{R} = 22.02 min (major), 27.60 min (minor). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +167.1$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



Methyl (1*S*,2*S*,3*S*)-9-acetyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ac)

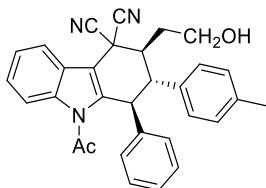
White solid (38.0 mg, 72% yield). Mp: 127–128 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (dd, J = 6.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 6.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15–6.94 (m, 5H), 6.51 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dt, J = 12.0, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.32–3.23 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dt, J = 11.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 11.9, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.06–1.96 (m, 1H), 1.82 (dq, J = 15.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.4, 140.6, 140.1, 137.2, 135.7, 133.7, 130.5 (2C), 130.4 (2C), 129.0 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 127.0, 125.7, 124.9, 123.9, 119.1, 114.8, 113.6, 113.5, 110.8, 59.6, 54.3, 50.0, 41.9, 37.3, 34.9, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 494.1630, found: 494.1630. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_{R} = 22.34 min (major), 30.41 min (minor). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +192.5$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



Methyl (1*S*,2*S*,3*S*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ad)

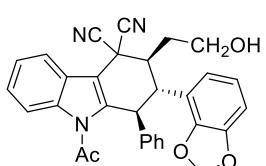
White solid (30.4 mg, 58% yield). Mp: 121–123 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (dd, J = 6.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 6.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.12–6.93 (m, 5H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.55–6.47 (m, 2H), 4.79 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.56 (dt, J = 12.0, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dt, J = 11.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dt, J = 10.9, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 12.0, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.00 (ddd, J = 11.9, 7.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (dq, J = 15.0, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.5, 159.0, 141.1, 140.4, 135.7,

130.4, 128.0 (2C), 126.8 (2C), 125.7 (2C), 124.9, 123.8, 119.0, 114.9, 114.1 (2C), 114.0, 113.7 (2C), 113.7, 110.8, 59.9, 55.2, 54.1, 50.0, 42.4, 37.5, 35.2, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₃₁H₂₈N₃O₃⁺: 490.2125, found: 490.2128. 98% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 85/15, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 16.74 min (major), 20.11 min (minor). [α]_D²² = +114.9 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



Methyl (1S,2S,3S)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ae)

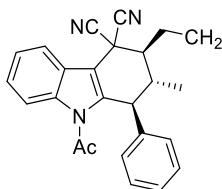
White solid (30.9 mg, 61% yield). Mp: 115-117 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.13-6.90 (m, 7H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dt, *J* = 12.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (ddt, *J* = 22.8, 10.9, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.85 (dq, *J* = 15.0, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 141.1, 140.4, 137.6, 135.8, 135.4, 129.5 (3C), 127.9 (3C), 126.8 (2C), 125.6 (2C), 124.9, 123.8, 119.0, 114.9, 113.7, 113.6, 110.8, 59.9, 54.4, 49.9, 42.3, 37.5, 35.1, 26.5, 21.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₃₁H₂₈N₃O₂⁺: 474.2176, found: 474.2170. 97% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IA, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 8.30 min (major), 11.08 min (minor). [α]_D²² = +126.1 (c = 0.1, CH₂Cl₂).



Methyl (1S,2S,3S)-9-acetyl-2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-4-yl)-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3af)

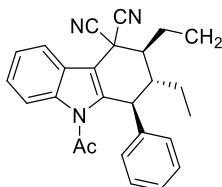
White solid (36.0 mg, 67% yield). Mp: 133-135 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.08 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 6.74–6.35 (m, 5H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.40–3.29 (m, 1H), 3.10 (dt, *J* = 11.3, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.06–1.97 (m, 1H), 1.95–1.85 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 148.0, 147.1, 141.0, 140.3, 135.7, 132.2, 128.2, 128.2, 128.0 (2C), 127.1, 126.9 (2C), 125.7, 124.9, 123.8, 119.0, 114.9, 113.7, 113.6, 110.7, 108.4, 101.3, 59.9, 54.6, 50.0, 42.4, 37.3, 35.0, 26.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H⁺] for C₃₁H₂₆N₃O₄⁺: 504.1918, found: 504.1921. 95% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 13.47 min (major), 16.50 min (minor). [α]_D²² = +251.7 (c = 0.1,

CH_2Cl_2).



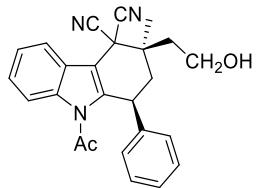
Methyl (1*S*,2*S*,3*S*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-methyl-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ag)

White solid (22.0 mg, 51% yield). Mp: 106–108 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99–7.94 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 6.96 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dt, J = 11.8, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dt, J = 11.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.65–2.58 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.24–2.17 (m, 2H), 2.02 (ddd, J = 11.4, 5.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 1H), 1.19 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 141.4, 140.8, 135.6, 129.2, 128.2 (2C), 127.1 (2C), 125.5, 124.9, 123.7, 119.0, 115.0, 113.8, 113.4, 110.7, 60.7, 49.6, 43.5, 41.6, 37.4, 34.5, 26.4, 16.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 398.1863, found: 398.1868. 96% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 16.05 min (minor), 17.70 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +16.7$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



Methyl (1*S*,2*S*,3*S*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-2-ethyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ah)

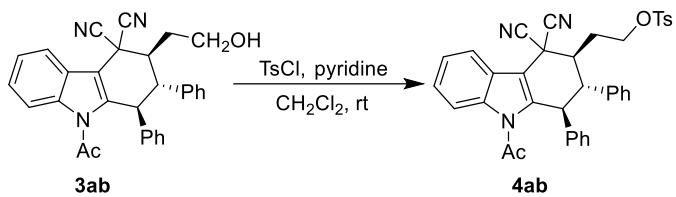
White solid (22.3 mg, 50% yield). Mp: 110–112 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94–7.87 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 9.9, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.52 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (dt, J = 11.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dt, J = 11.6, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dt, J = 11.5, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.17 (dq, J = 18.7, 6.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.07–1.95 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 1H), 1.57 (ddt, J = 11.5, 7.8, 4.1 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.7, 141.9, 140.9, 135.7, 128.8 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 127.1, 125.4, 125.0, 123.7, 119.1, 115.3, 113.8, 113.5, 110.1, 59.8, 45.5, 43.9, 40.3, 36.5, 33.9, 26.5, 20.0, 8.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 412.2020, found: 412.2015. 98% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 17.53 min (minor), 19.96 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +17.0$ (c = 0.1, CH_2Cl_2).



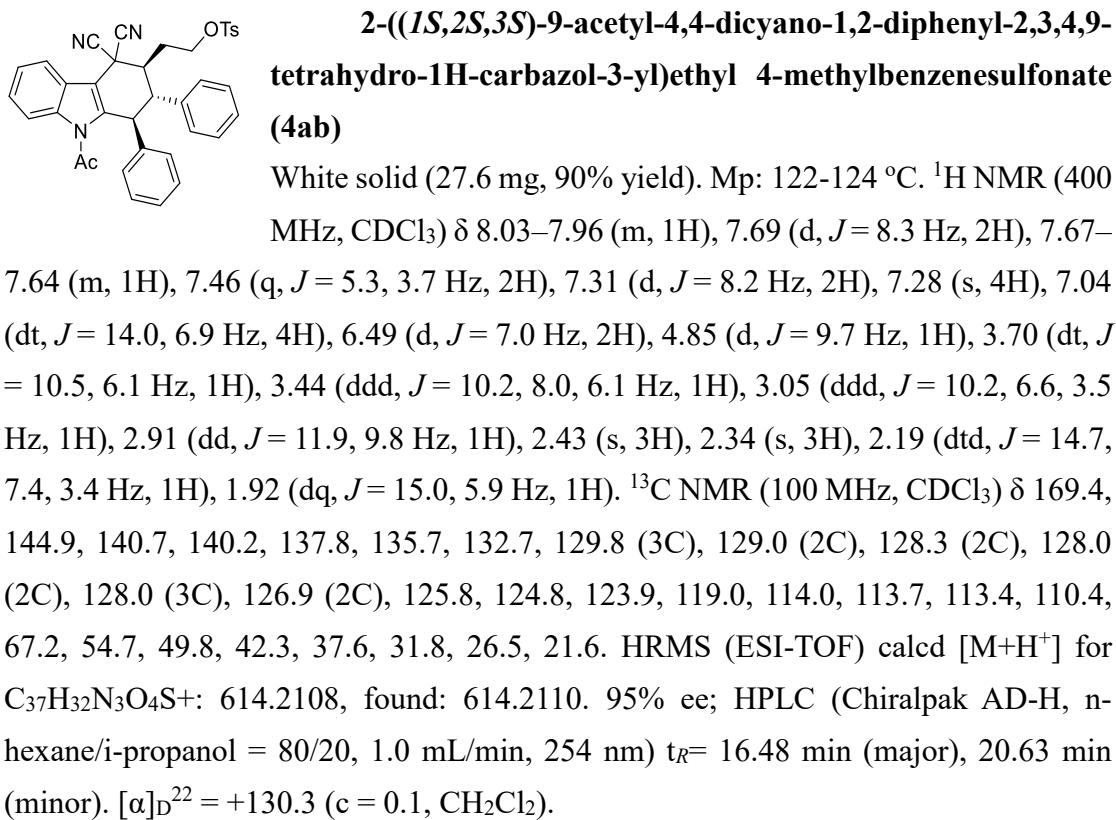
Methyl (1*S*,3*R*)-9-acetyl-4-cyano-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-methyl-1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazole-4-carboxylate (3ai)

White solid (30.6 mg, 71% yield). Mp: 107-109 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (dd, $J = 6.3, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dq, $J = 8.1, 4.0, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.25 (dt, $J = 15.3, 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 6.97 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.60 (dd, $J = 10.8, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (ddt, $J = 17.5, 10.9, 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.51 (dd, $J = 14.6, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.24-2.08 (m, 2H), 1.93 (dd, $J = 14.6, 10.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.61 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.5, 142.8, 139.0, 135.7, 128.8 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 127.0, 125.6, 125.5, 123.8, 118.9, 114.1, 113.8, 113.6, 110.1, 58.5, 43.0, 41.8, 41.5, 41.2, 39.5, 26.6, 18.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd [M+H $^+$] for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$: 398.1863, found: 398.1865. 43% ee; determined by HPLC (Chiralpak IF, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm) t_R = 17.02 min (minor), 20.91 min (major). $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +132.3$ ($c = 0.1$, CH_2Cl_2).

4. General procedure for the synthesis of 4ab



General procedure: To a solution of **3ab** (23.0 mg, 0.05 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) was added TsCl (15.3 mg, 0.08 mmol) and pyridine (0.1 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. Once the starting material was consumed (monitored by TLC), the residue was directed purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 8/1 to 2/1) to afford compound **4ab**.



5. The absolute configuration determination of (1*S*, 2*S*, 3*S*)-4ab

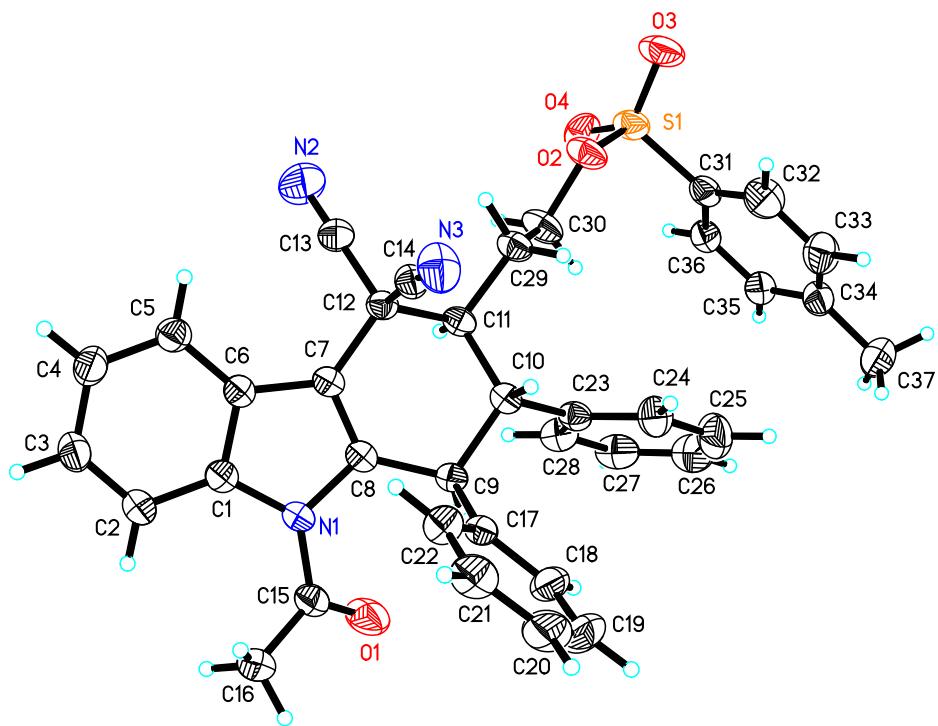


Fig S1. X-ray structure of (1*S*, 2*S*, 3*S*)-4ab. Ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level.

Crystal data and structure refinement for CCDC 1854800

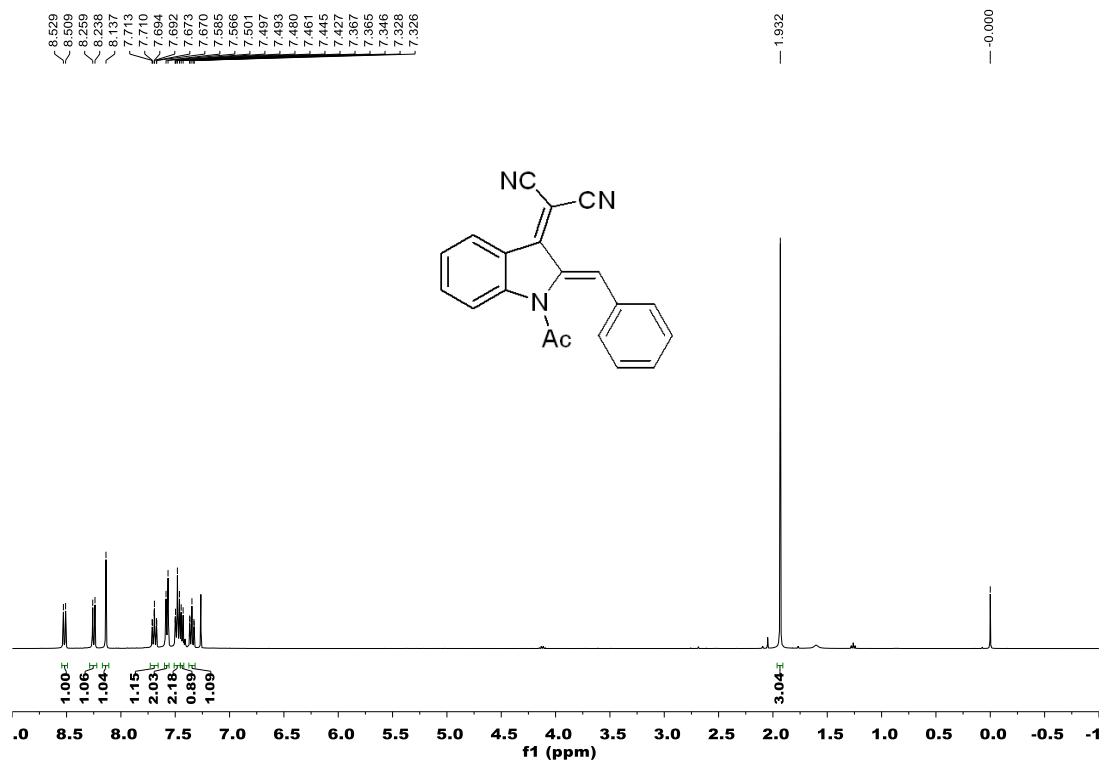
(CCDC 1854800 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html.)

Identification code	mo_d8v18344_0m	
Empirical formula	C ₃₇ H ₃₁ N ₃ O ₄ S	
Formula weight	613.71	
Temperature	296(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 21	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 13.6363(6) Å	α = 90 °
	b = 8.5322(3) Å	β = 116.2050(10) °
	c = 15.2209(8) Å	γ = 90 °
Volume	1588.90(12) Å ³	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	1.283 Mg/m ³	

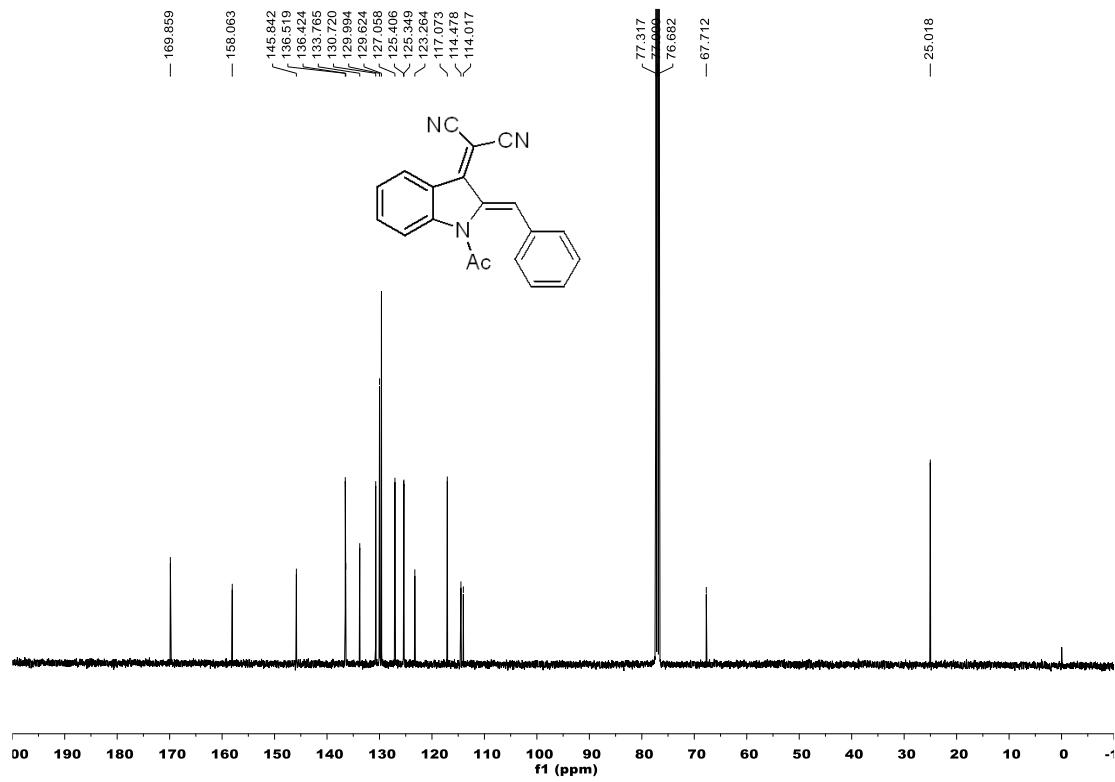
Absorption coefficient	0.147 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	644
Crystal size	0.200 x 0.170 x 0.130 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	2.681 to 25.999 °
Index ranges	-16<=h<=16, -10<=k<=10, -18<=l<=18
Reflections collected	23737
Independent reflections	6224 [R(int) = 0.0457]
Completeness to theta = 25.242 °	99.4 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.7065
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	6224 / 4 / 409
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.063
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0388, wR2 = 0.0783
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0513, wR2 = 0.0857
Absolute structure parameter	-0.03(4)
Extinction coefficient	0.028(3)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.127 and -0.173 e.Å ⁻³

6. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

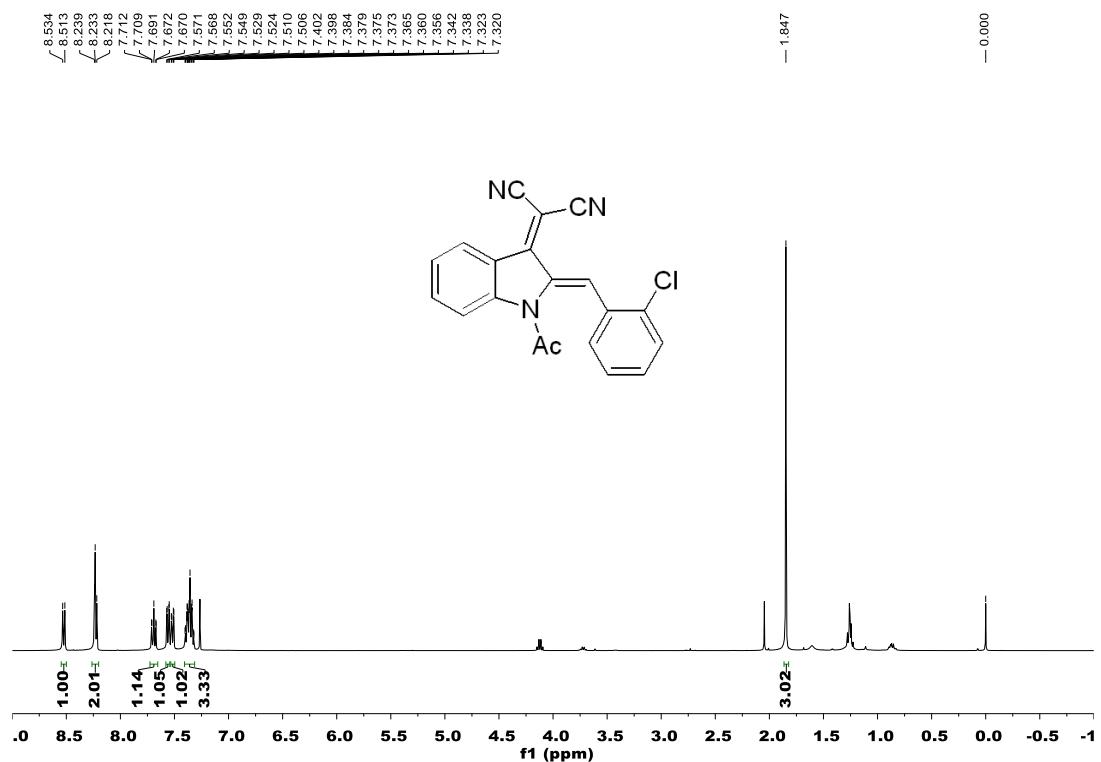
^1H NMR spectrum of 1a



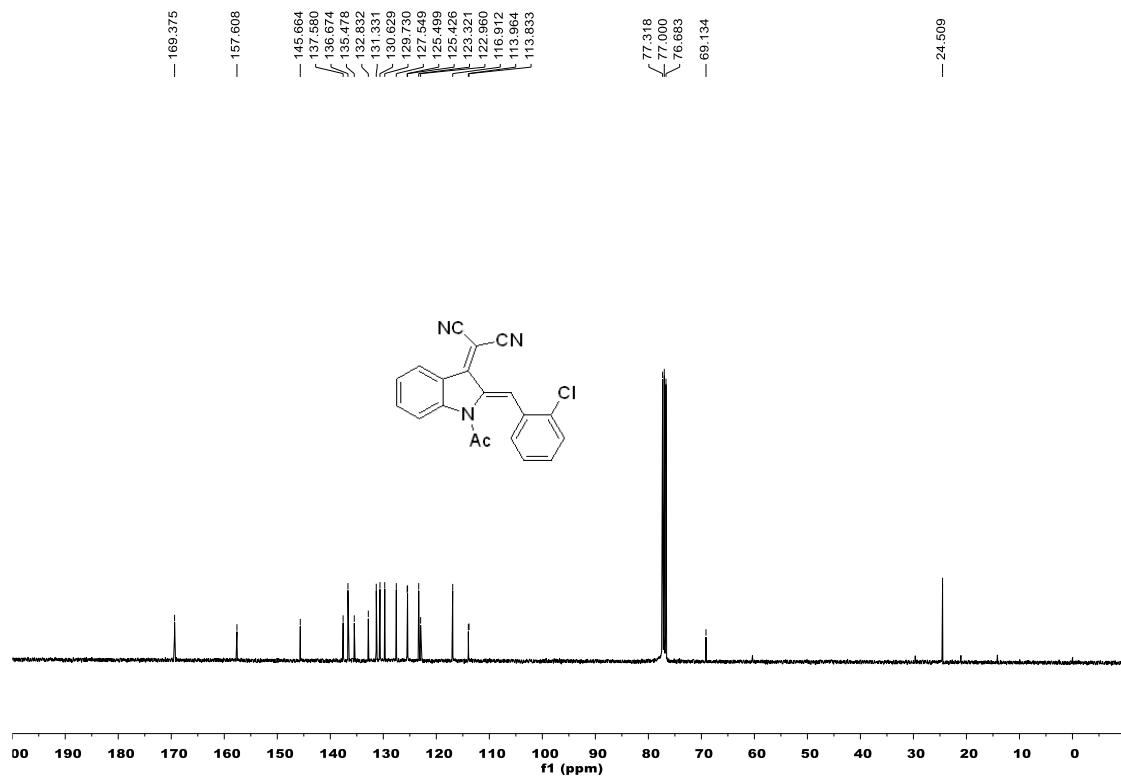
^{13}C NMR spectrum of 1a



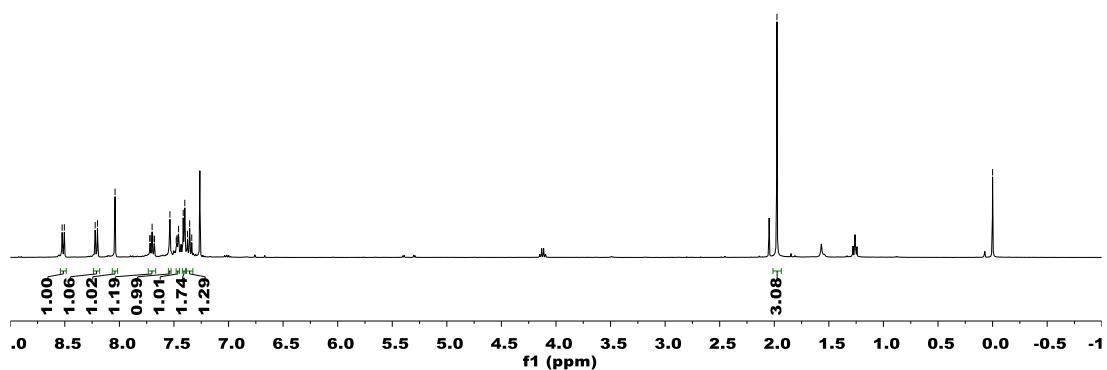
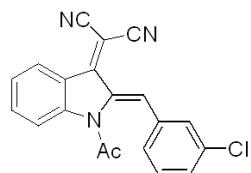
¹H NMR spectrum of 1b



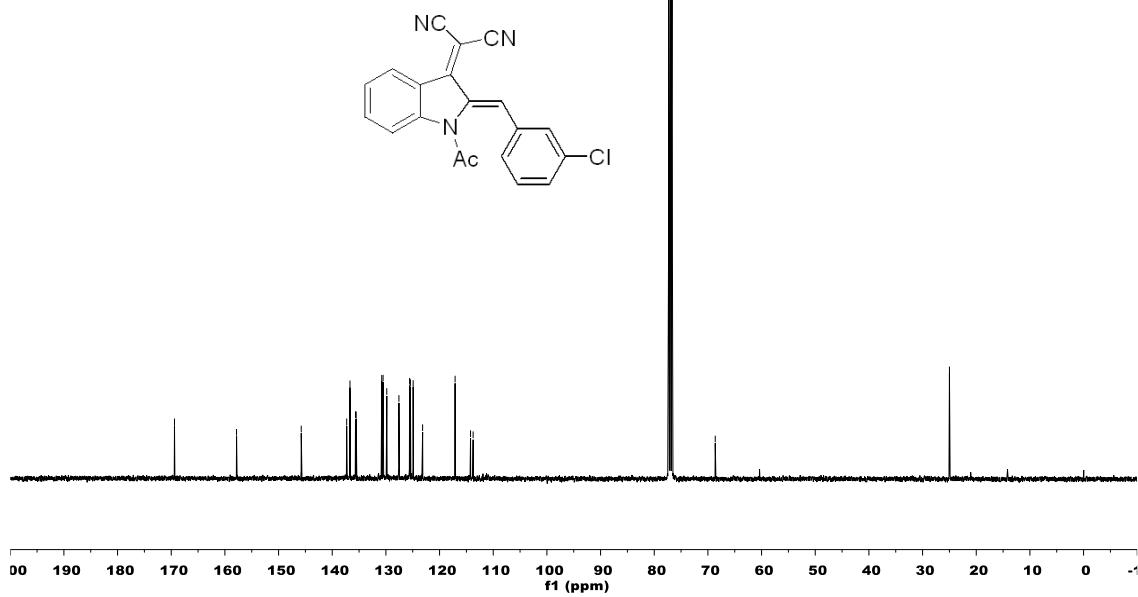
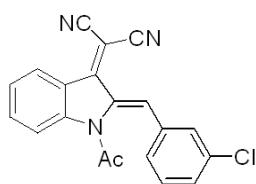
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1b



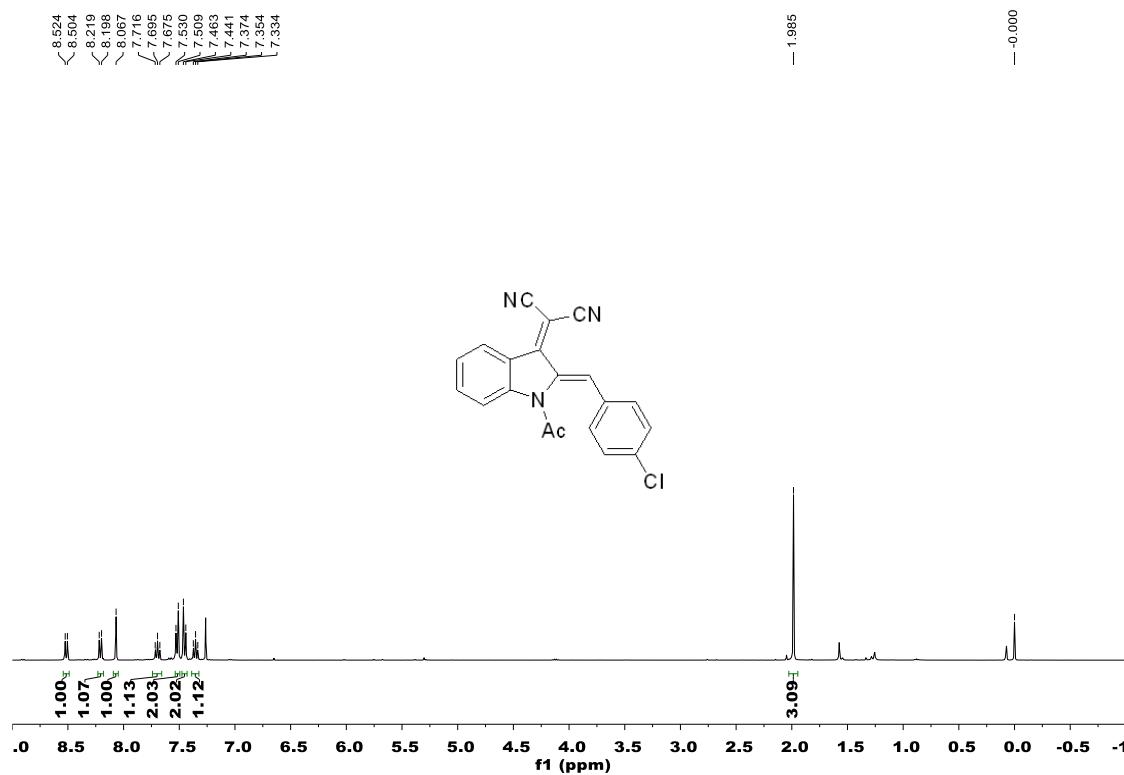
¹H NMR spectrum of 1c



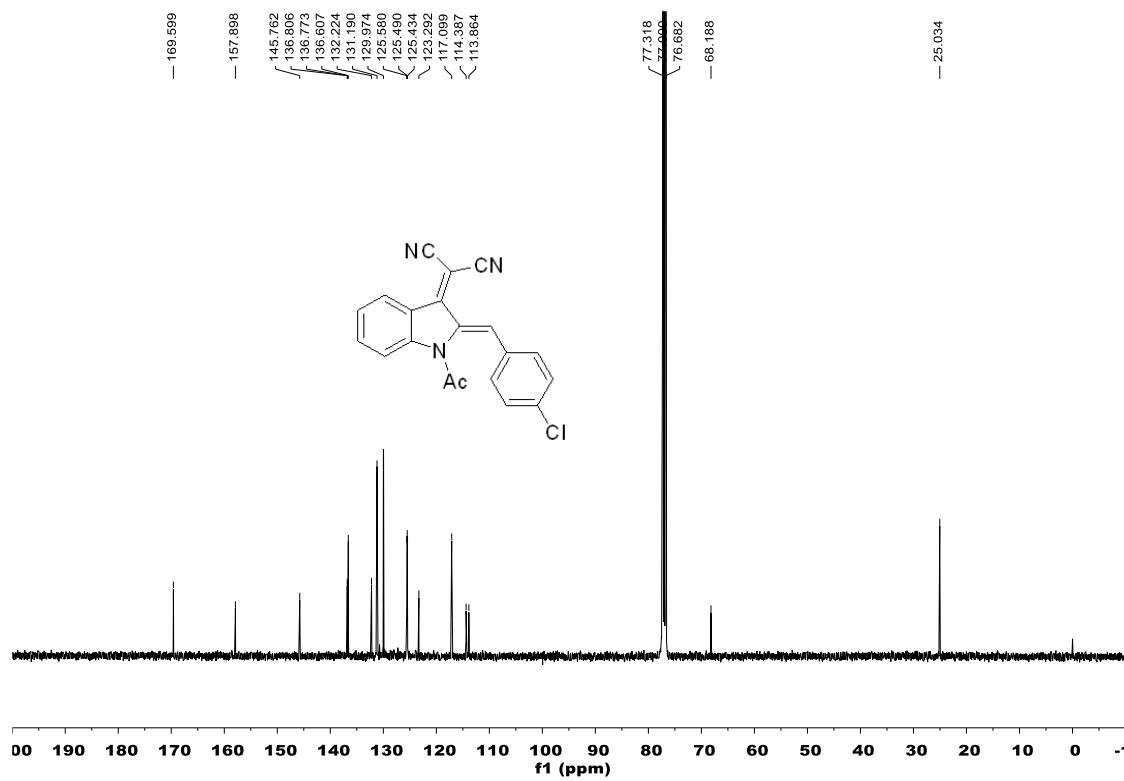
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1c



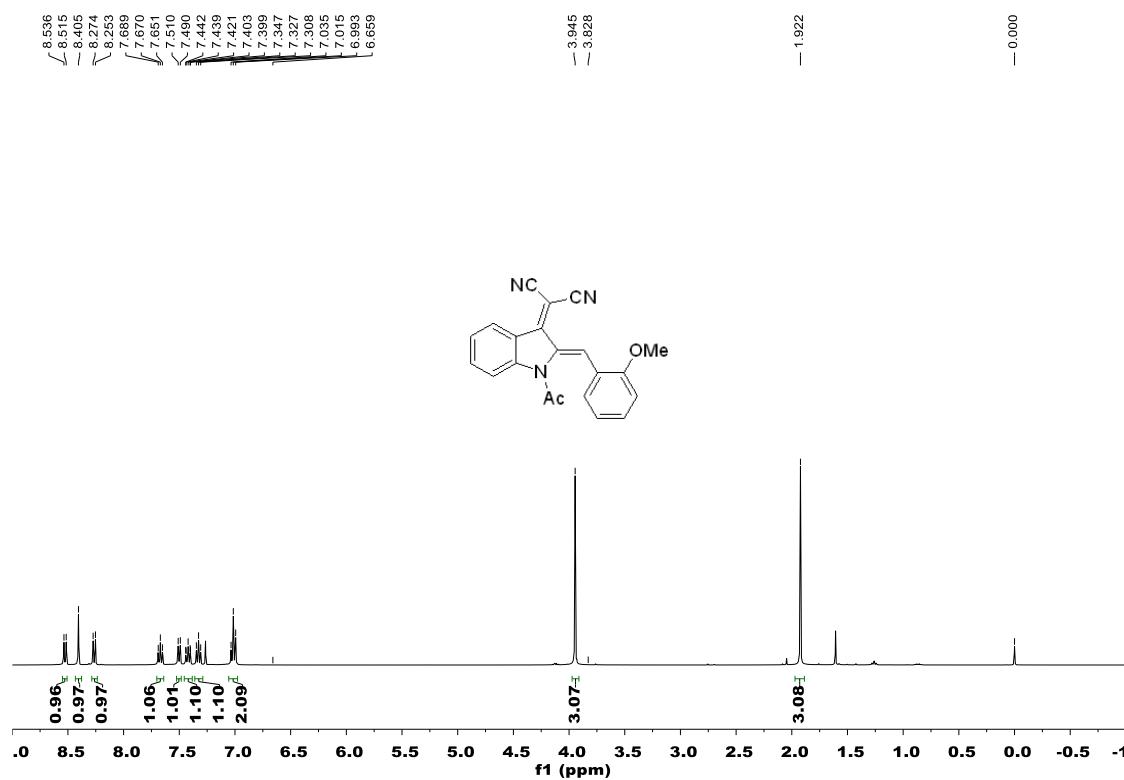
¹H NMR spectrum of 1d



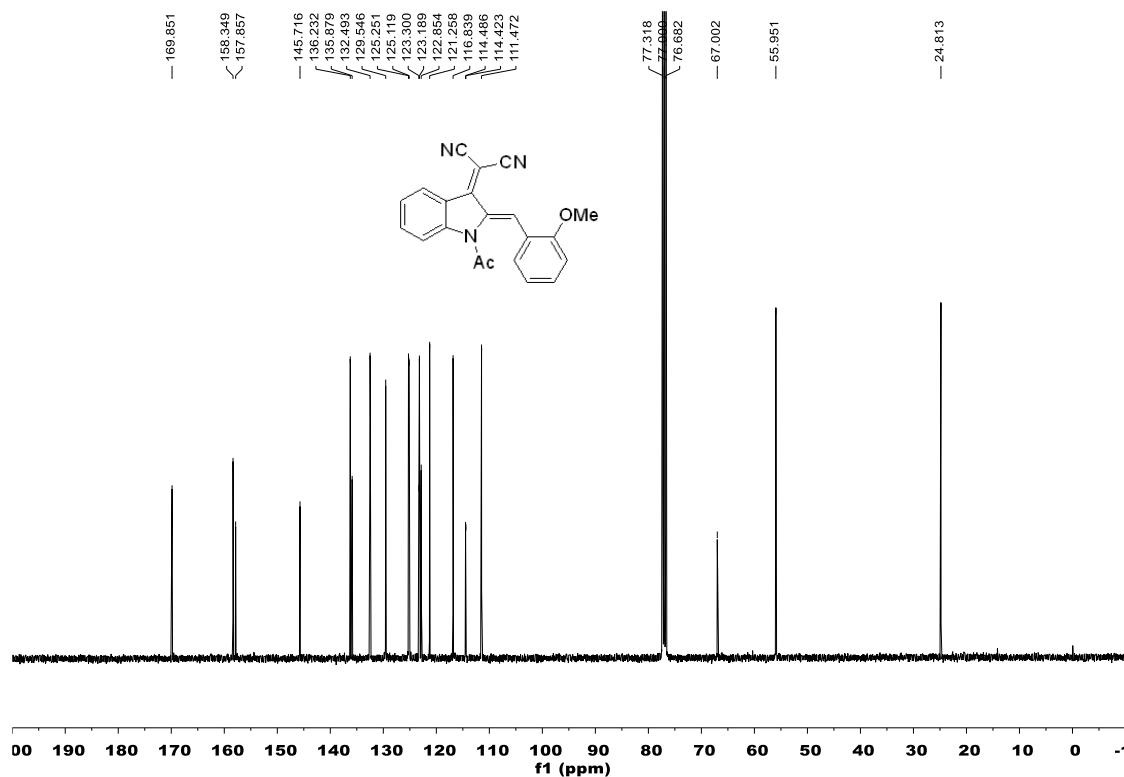
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1d



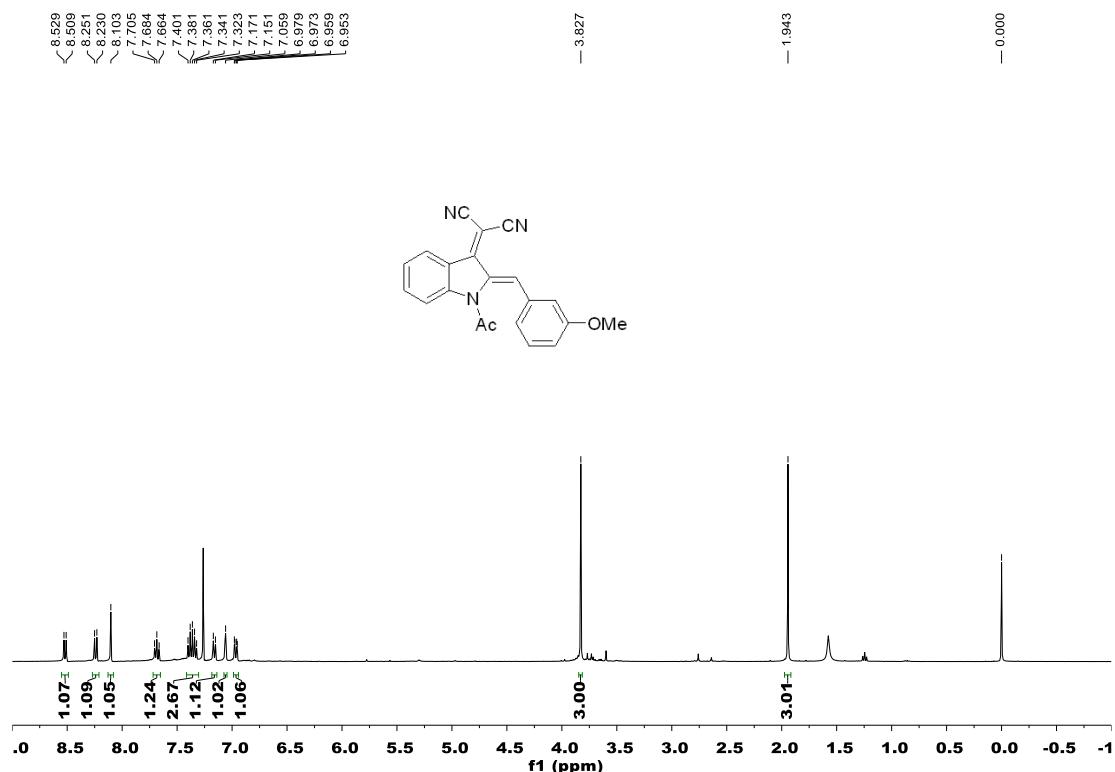
¹H NMR spectrum of 1e



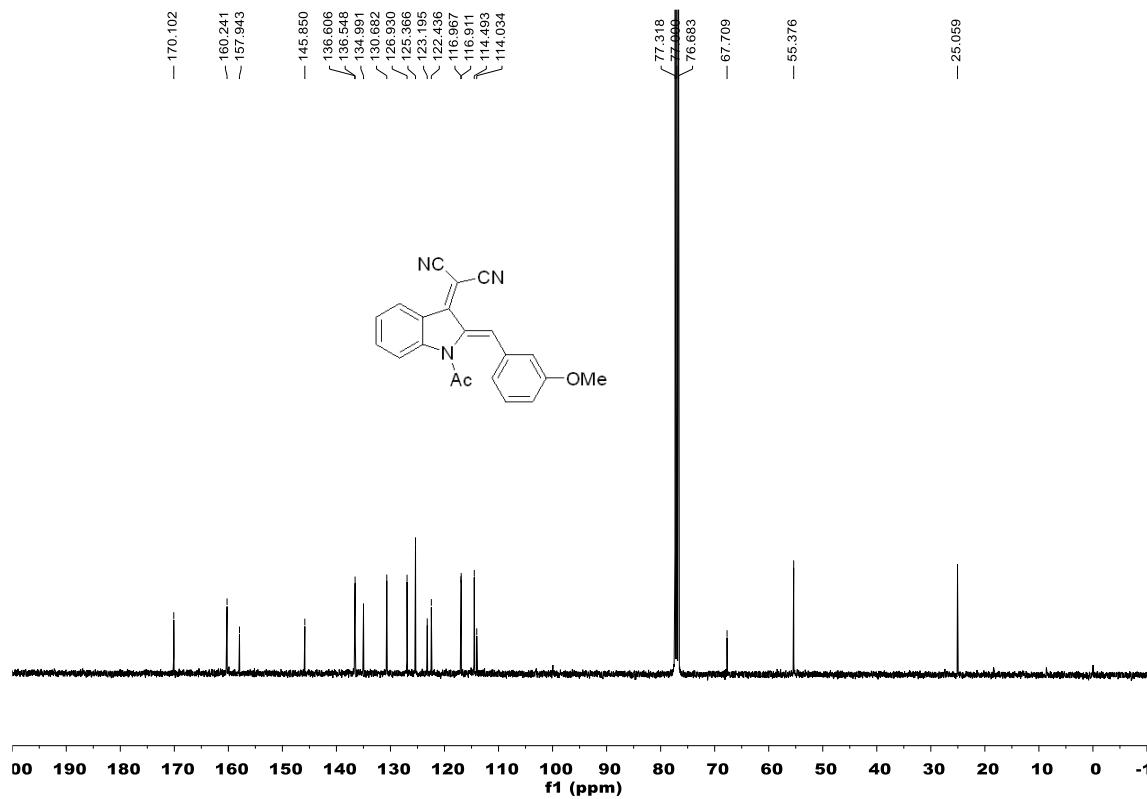
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1e



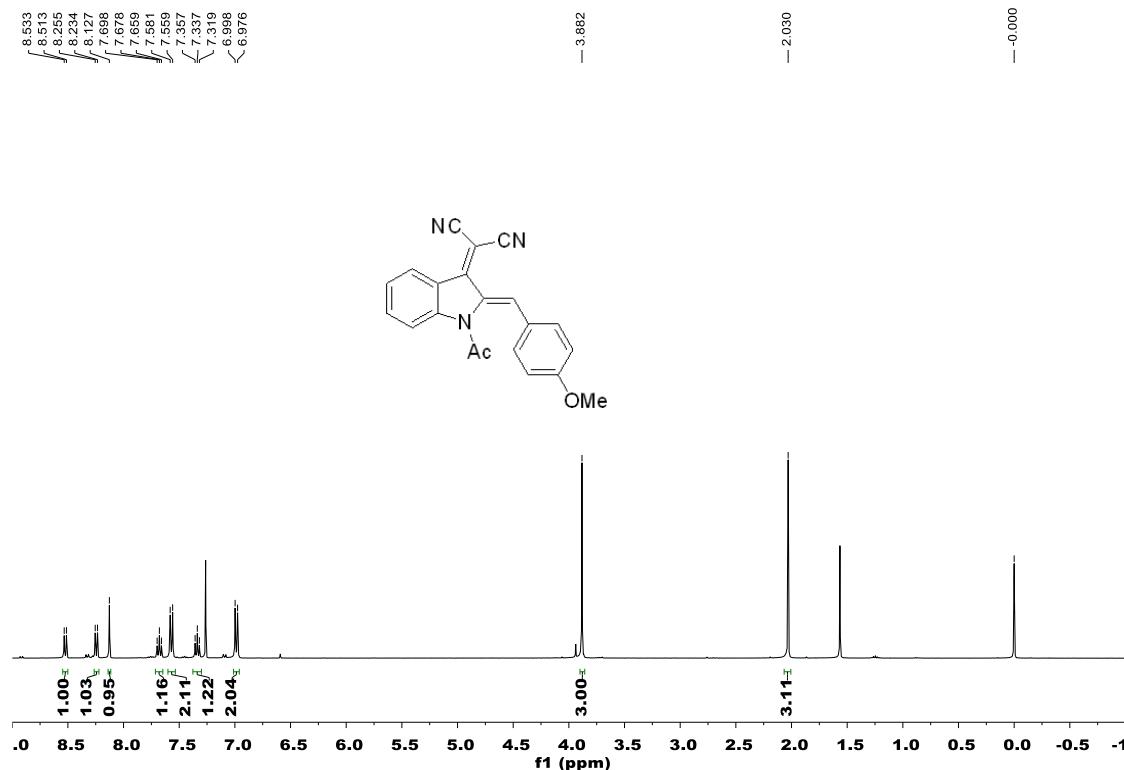
¹H NMR spectrum of 1f



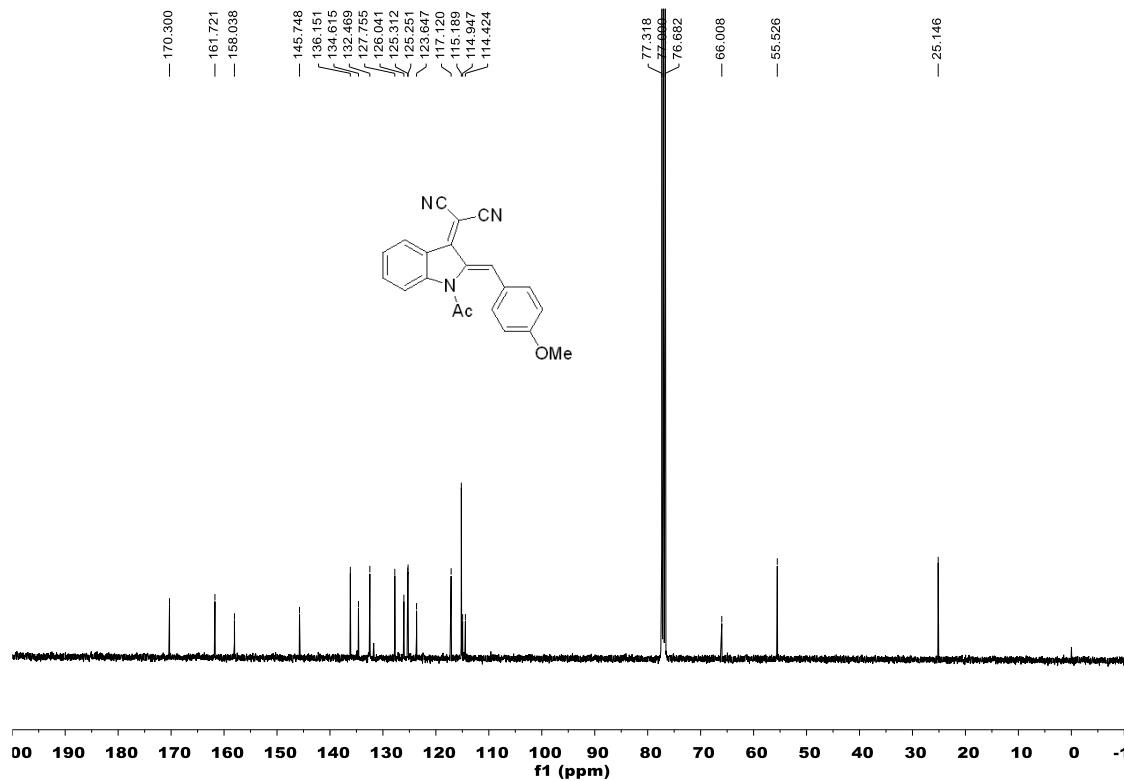
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1f



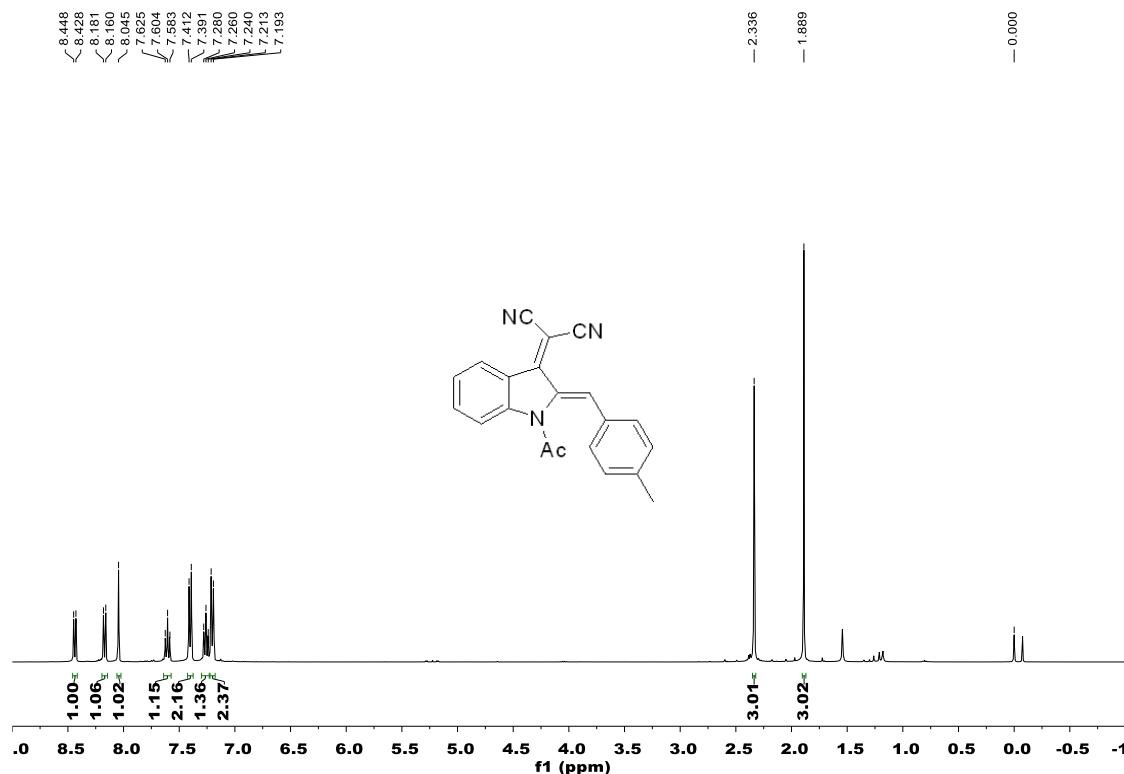
¹H NMR spectrum of 1g



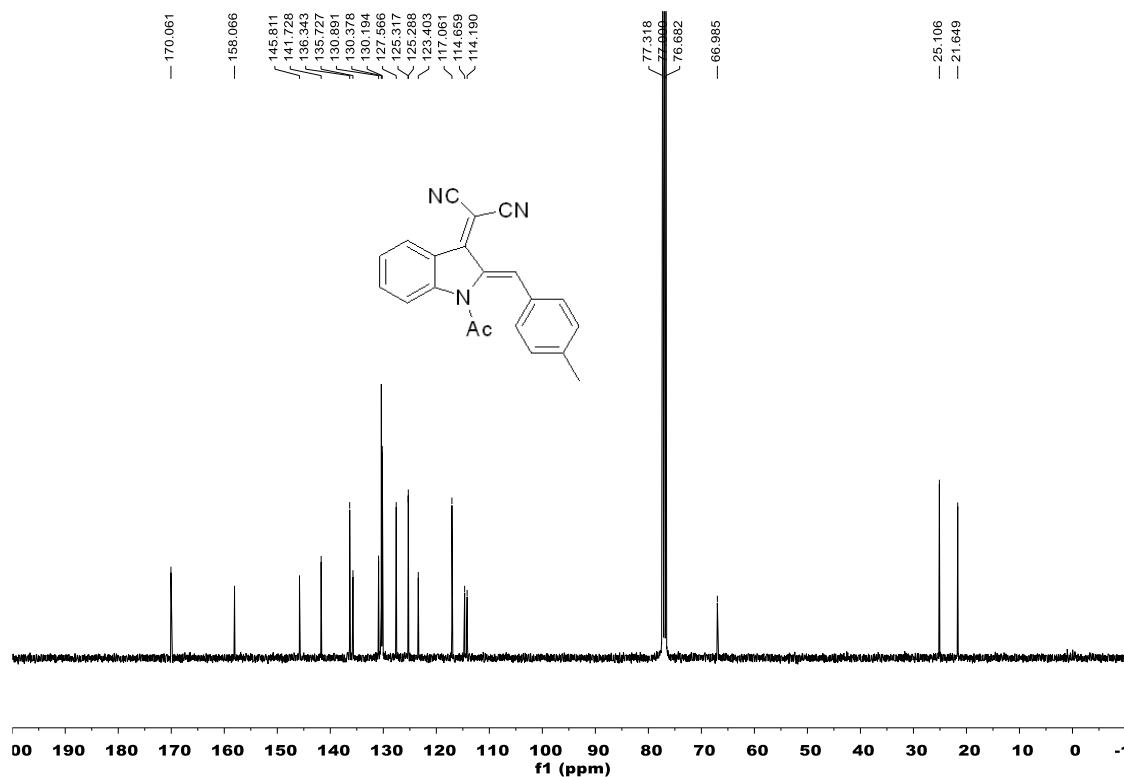
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1g



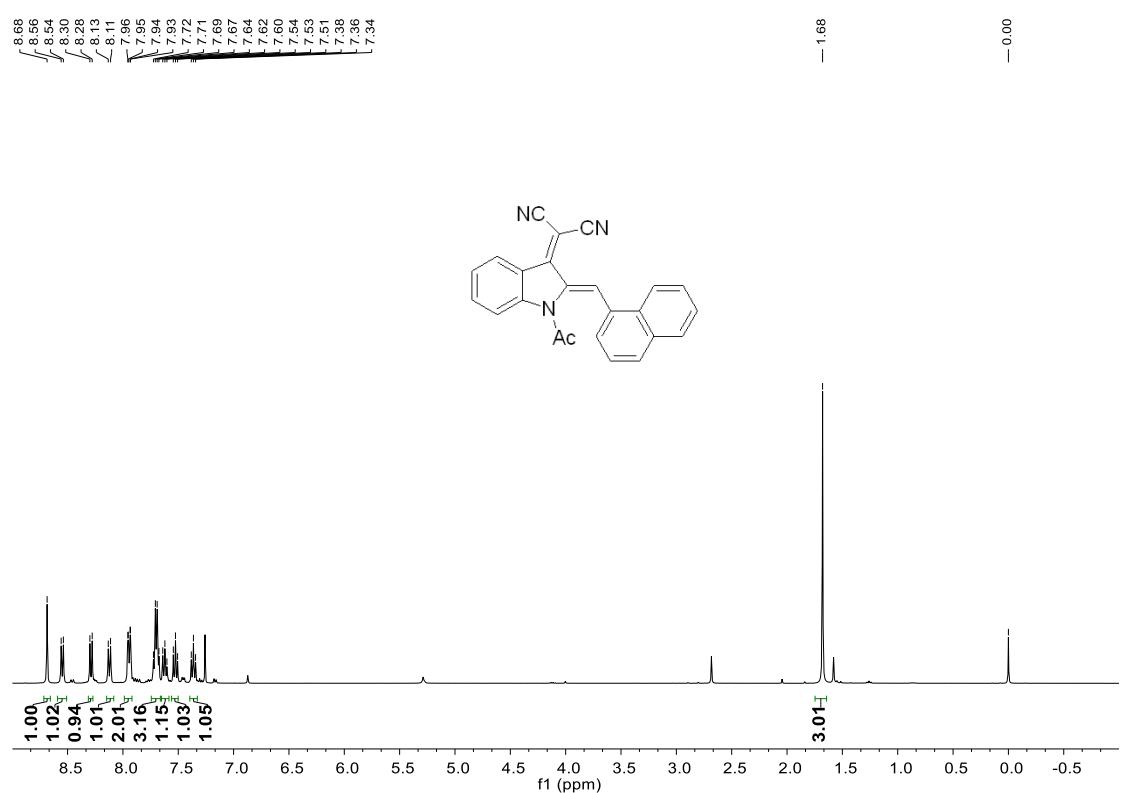
¹H NMR spectrum of 1h



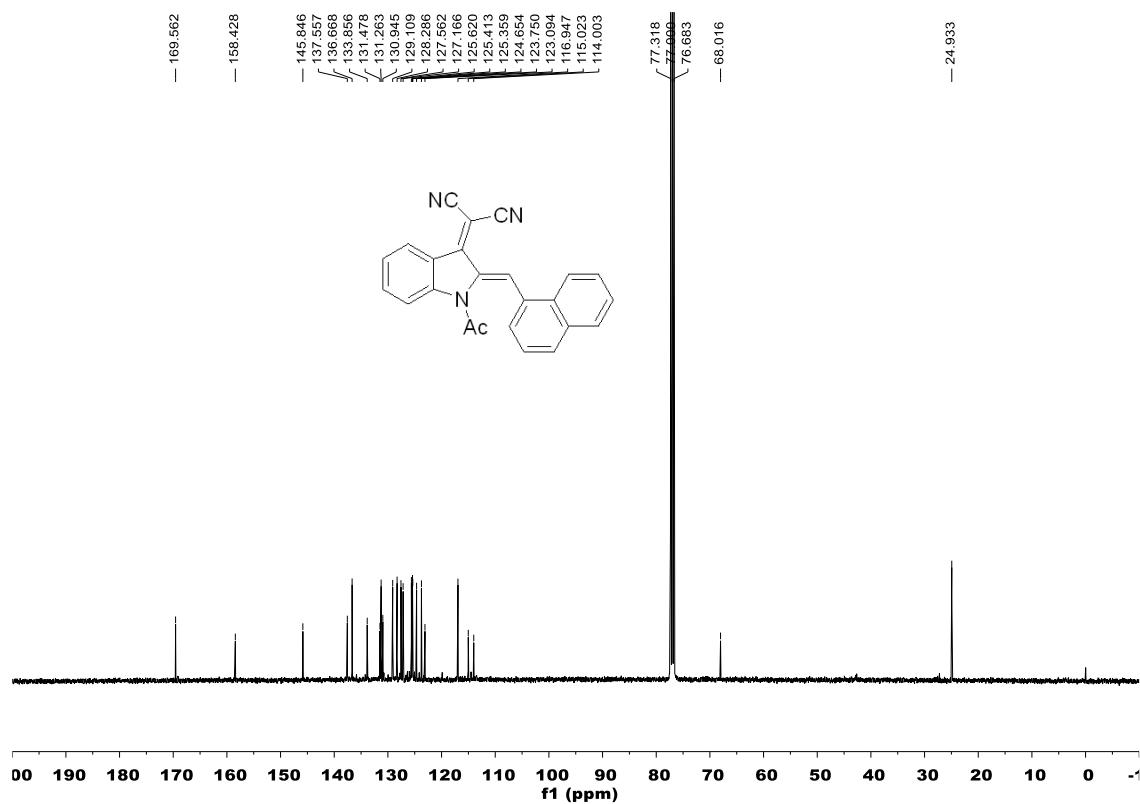
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1h



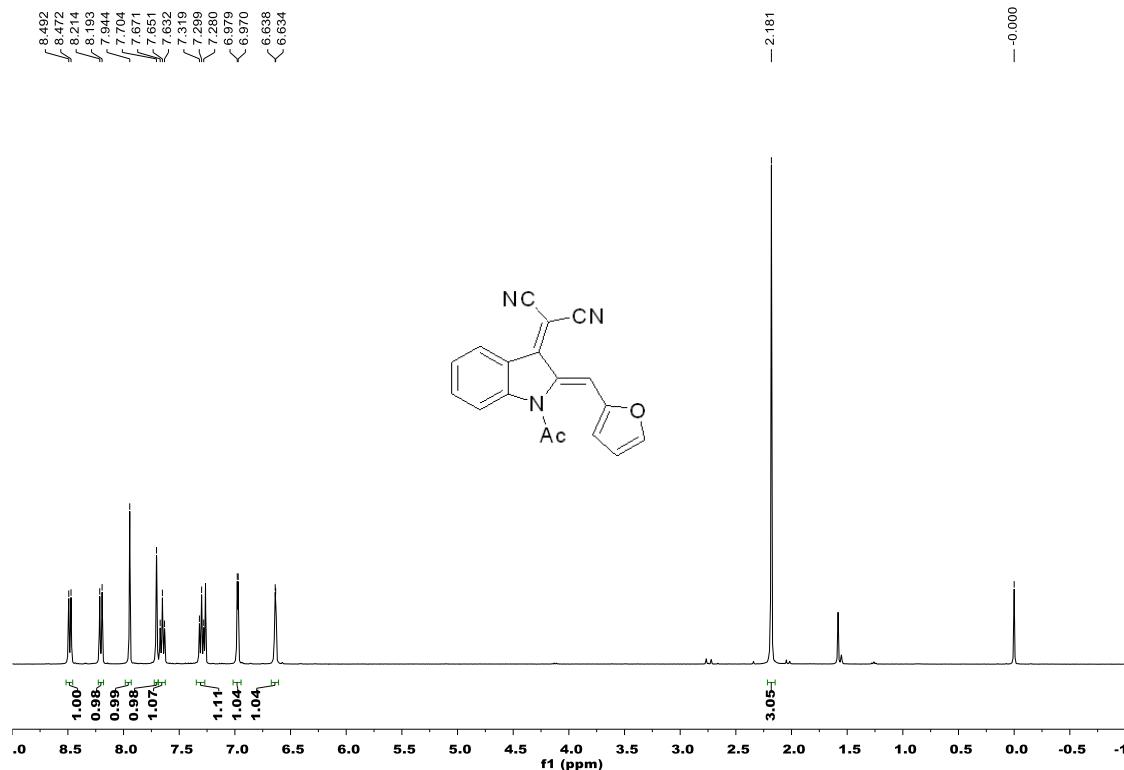
¹H NMR spectrum of 1i



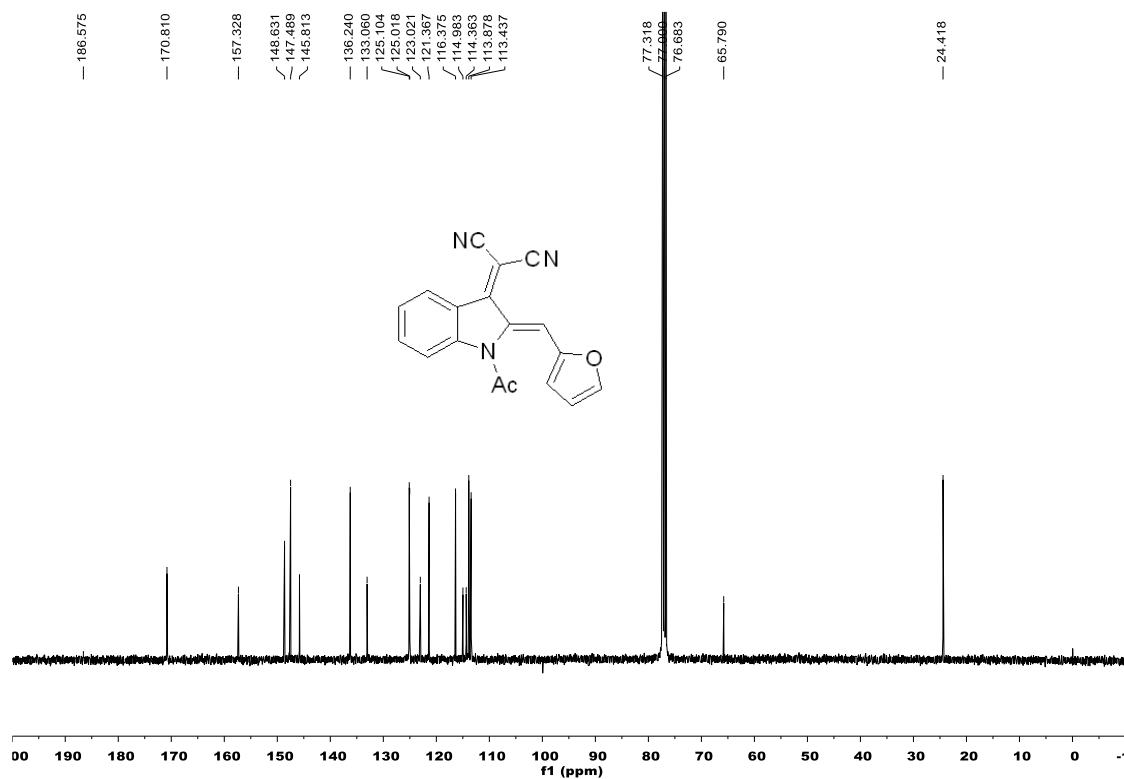
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1i



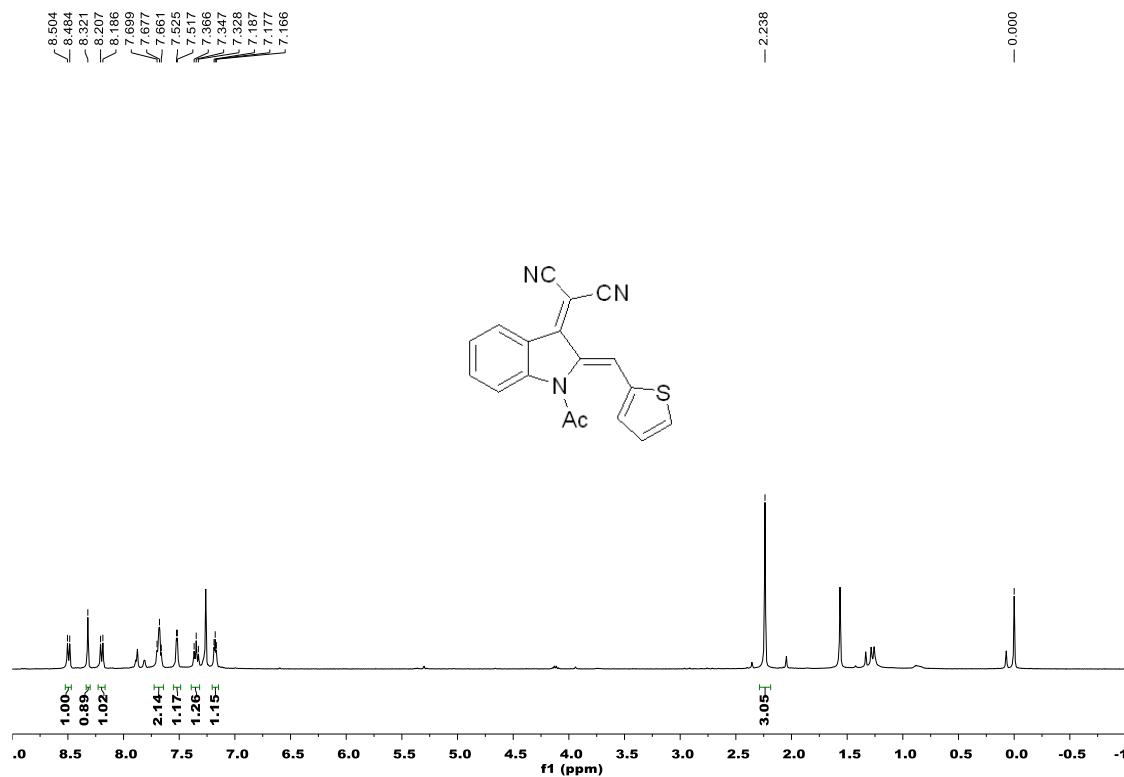
¹H NMR spectrum of 1j



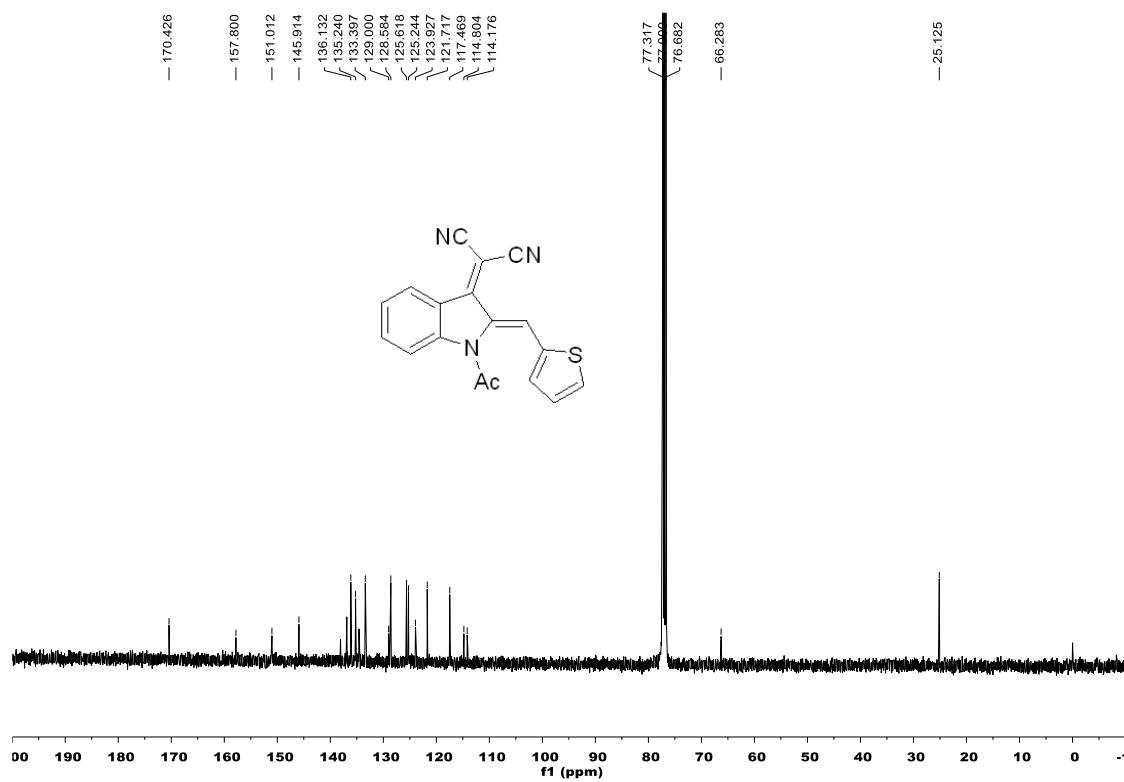
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1j



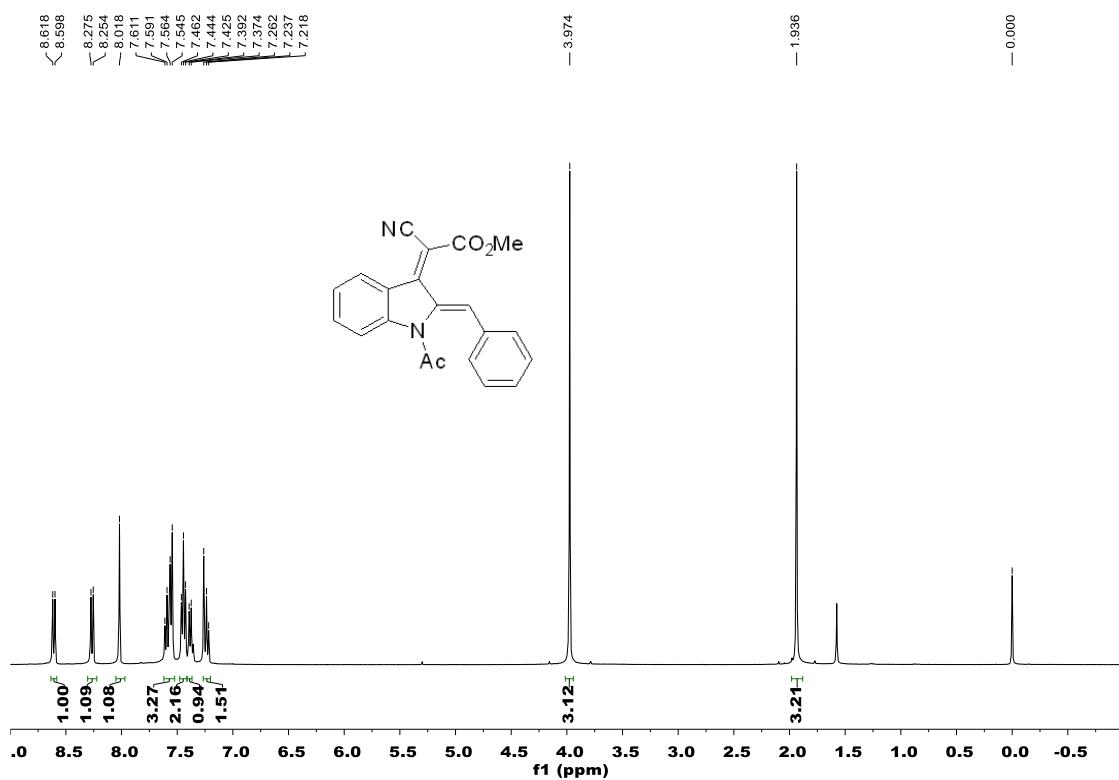
¹H NMR spectrum of 1k



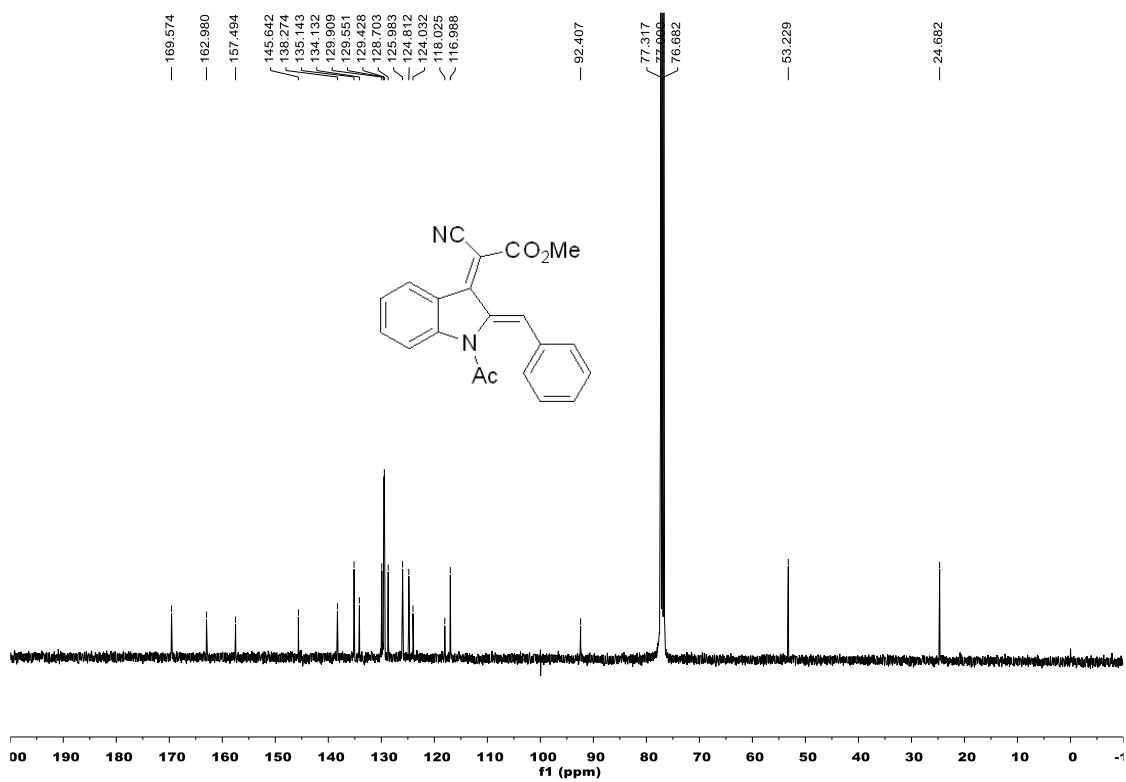
¹³C NMR spectrum of 1k



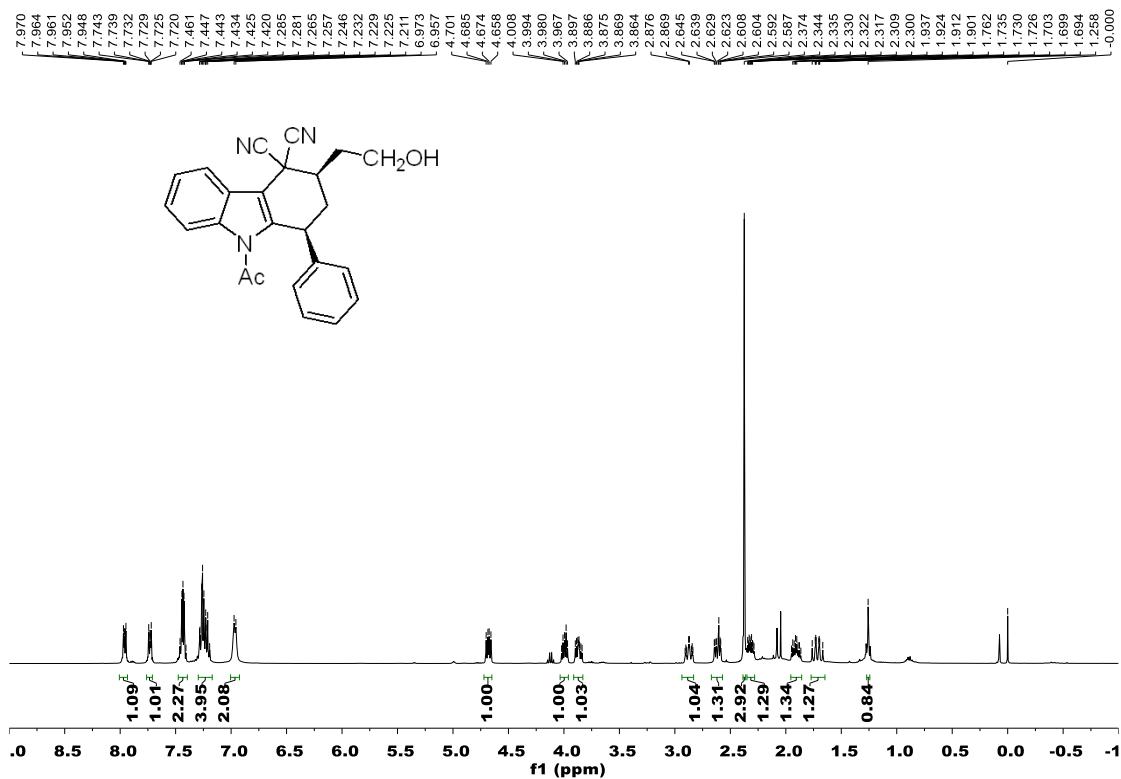
¹H NMR spectrum of 11



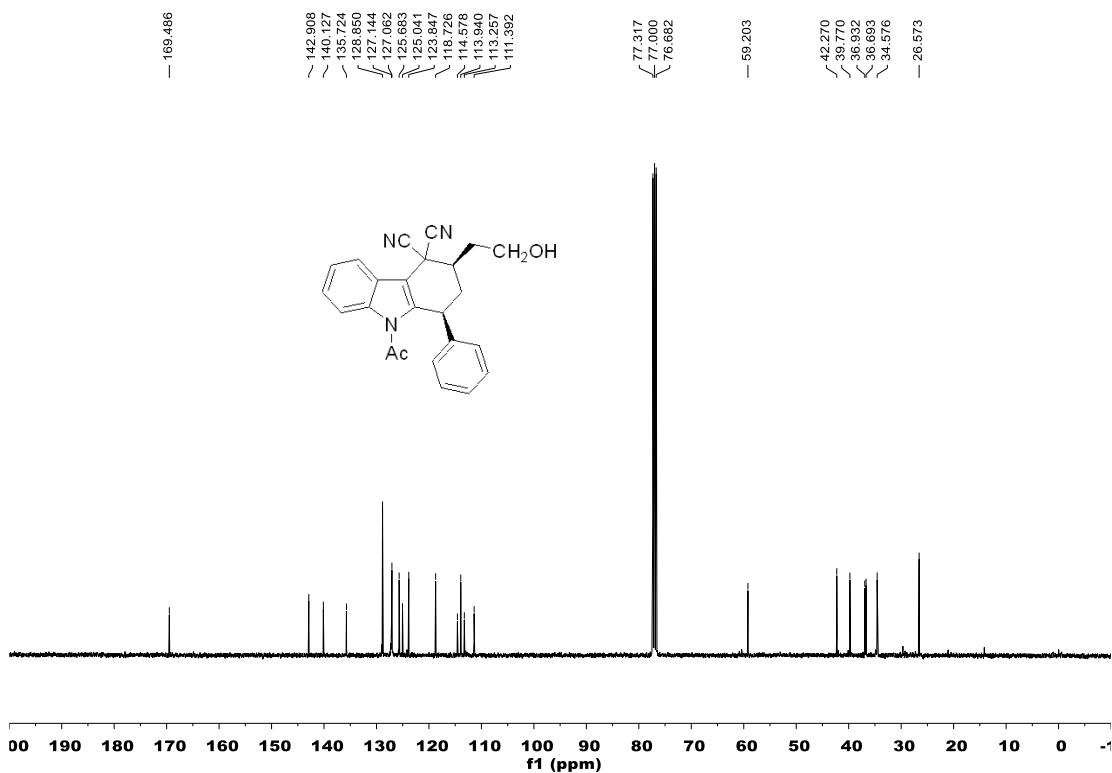
¹³C NMR spectrum of 11



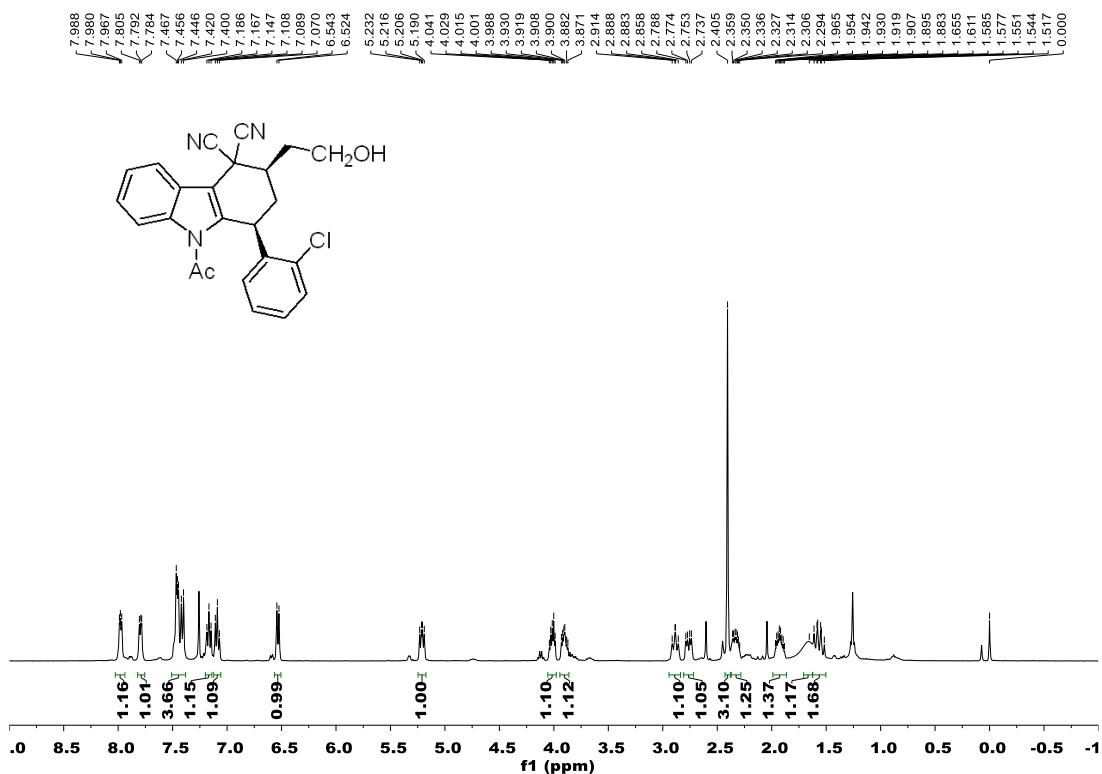
¹H NMR spectrum of 3aa



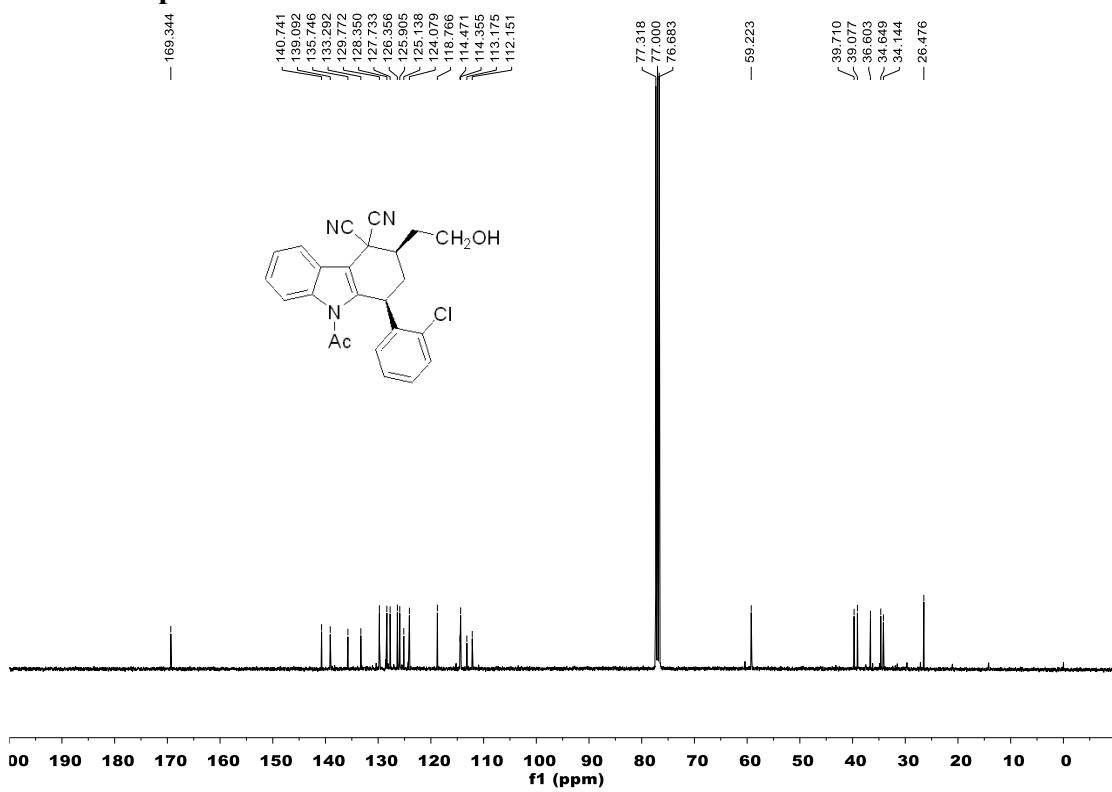
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3aa



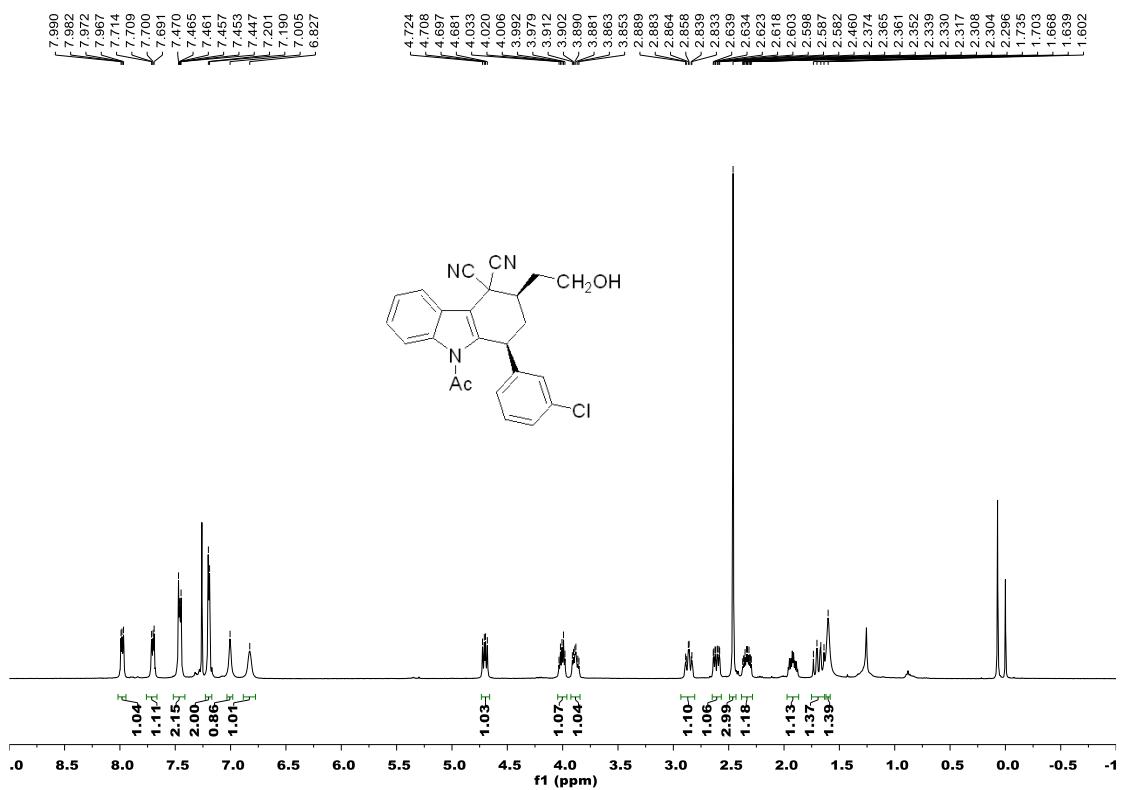
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ba



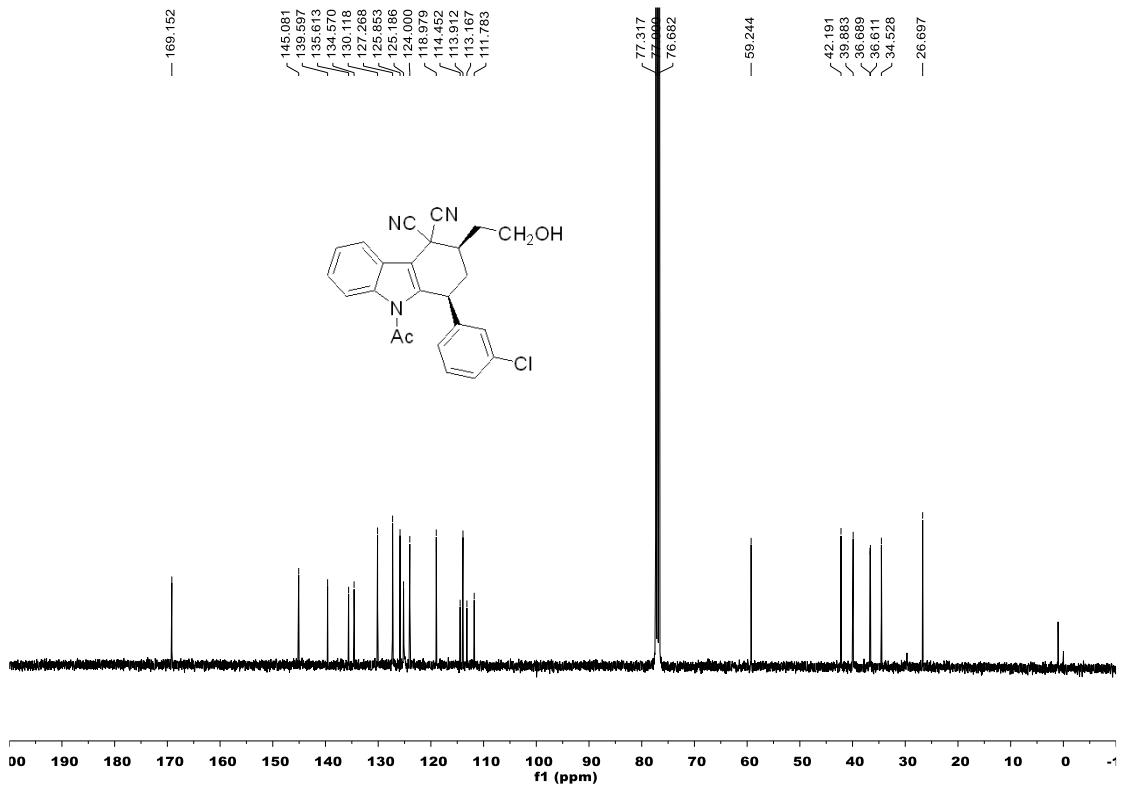
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ba



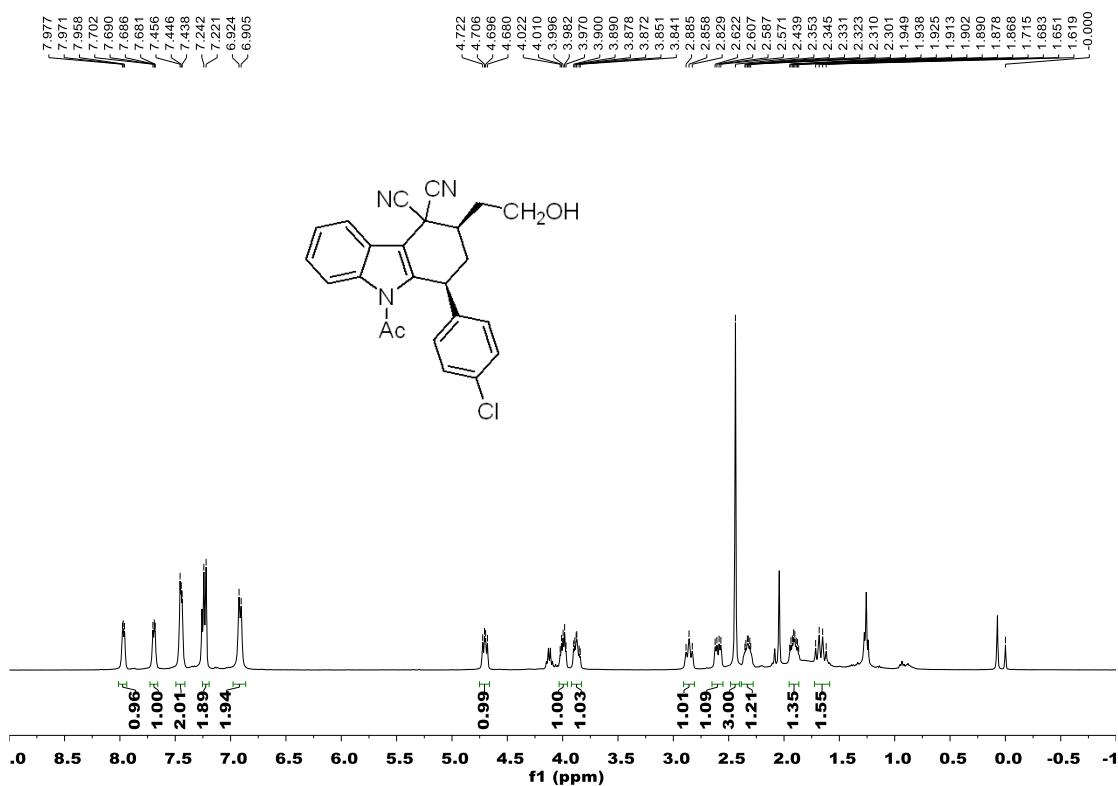
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ca



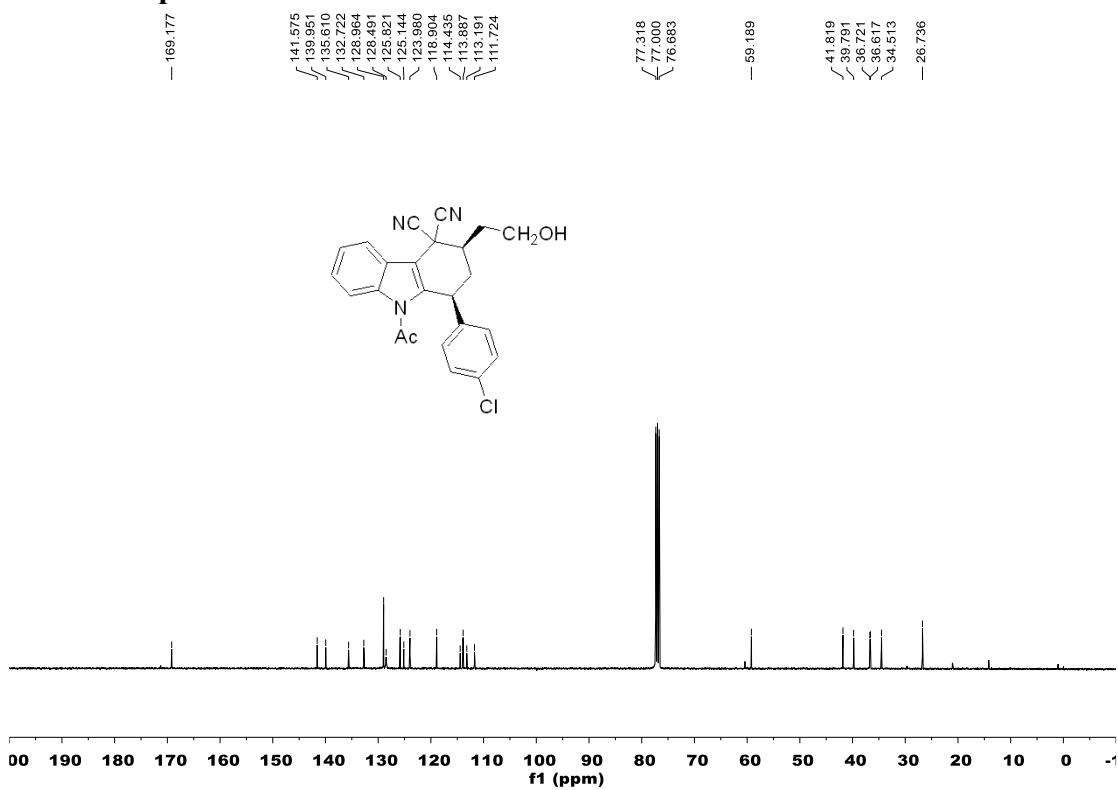
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ca



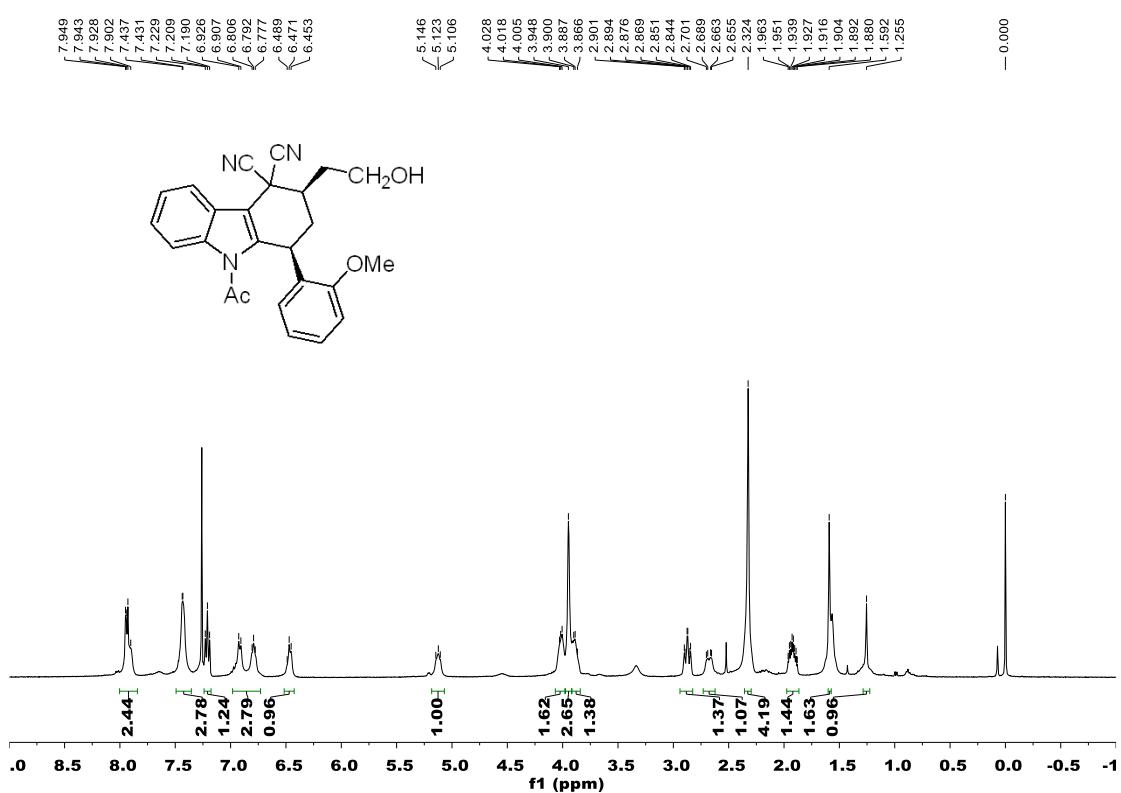
¹H NMR spectrum of 3da



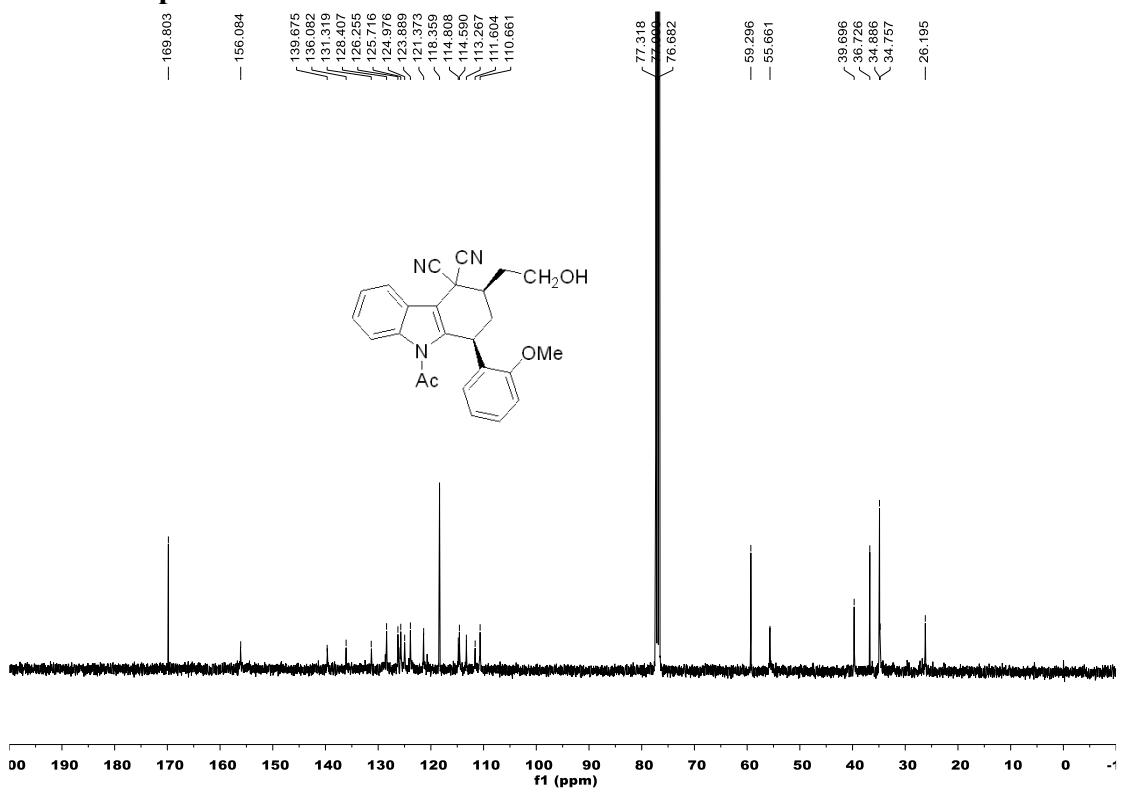
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3da



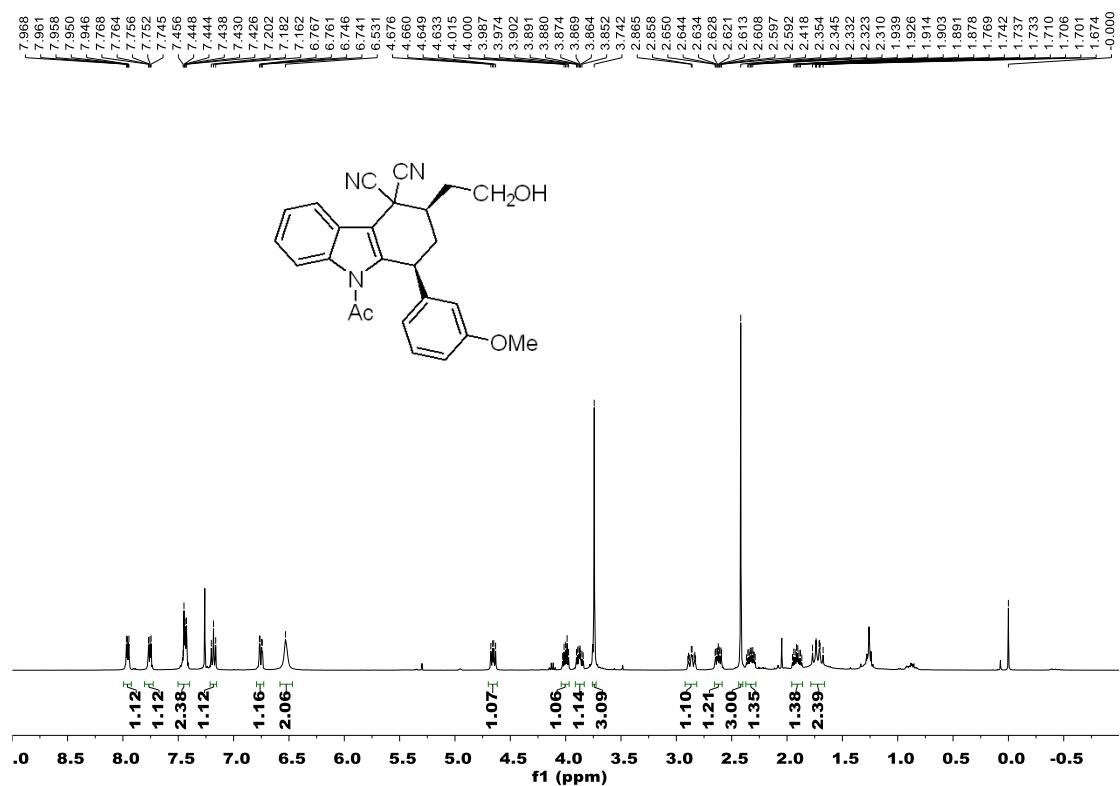
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ea



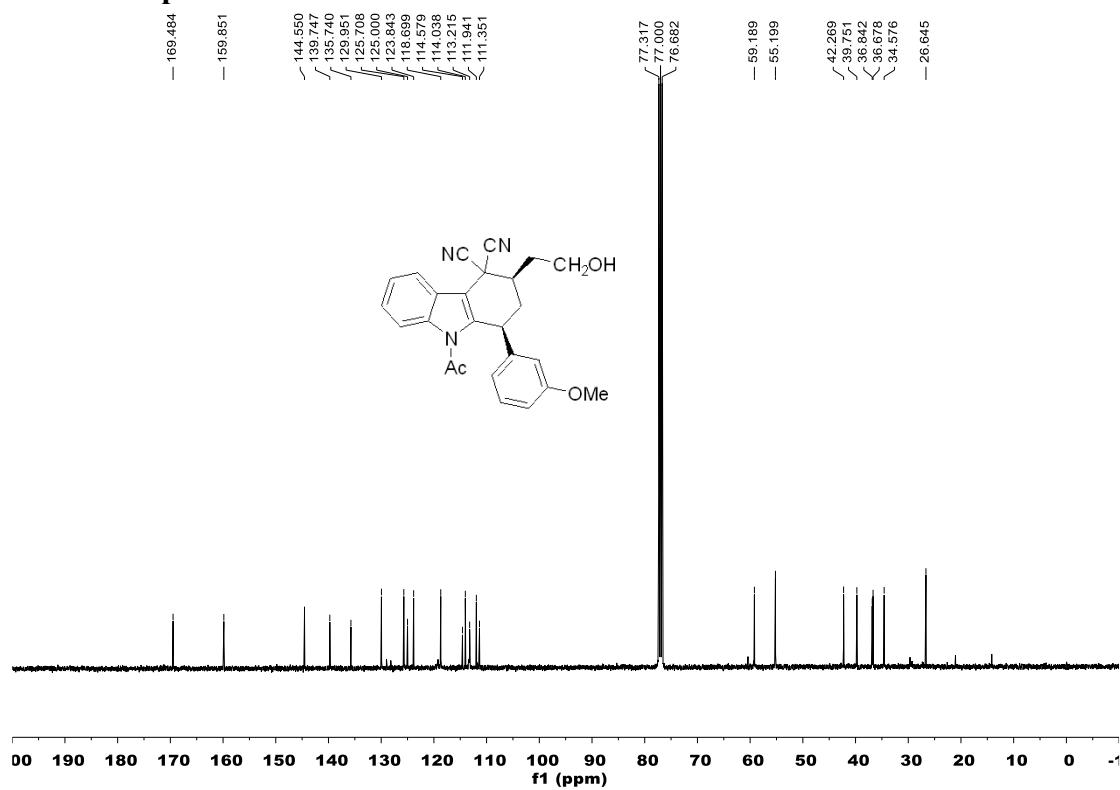
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ea



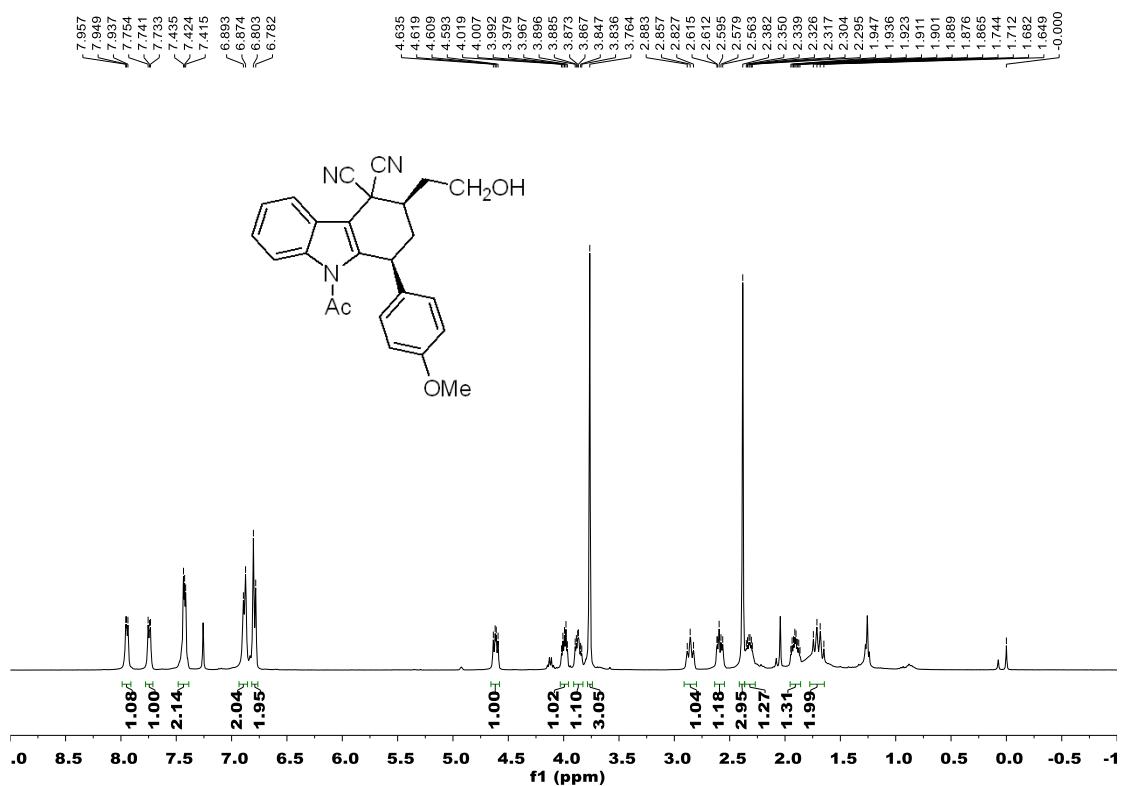
¹H NMR spectrum of 3fa



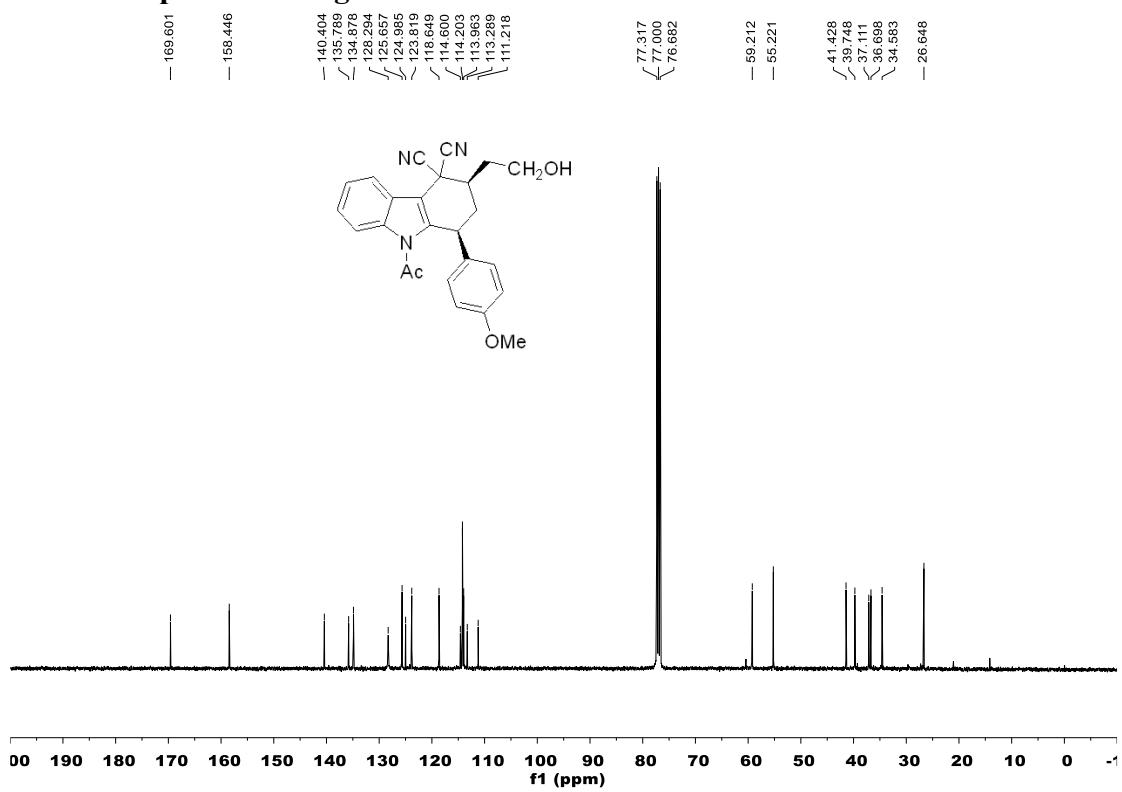
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3fa



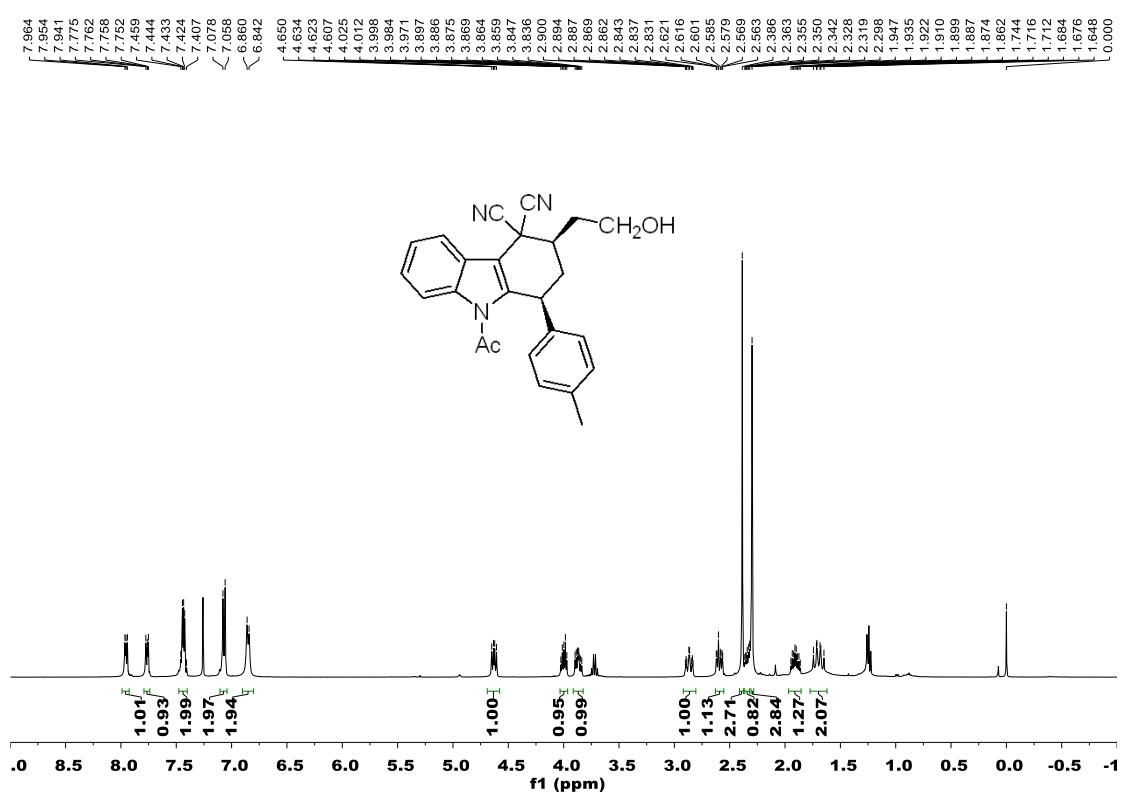
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ga



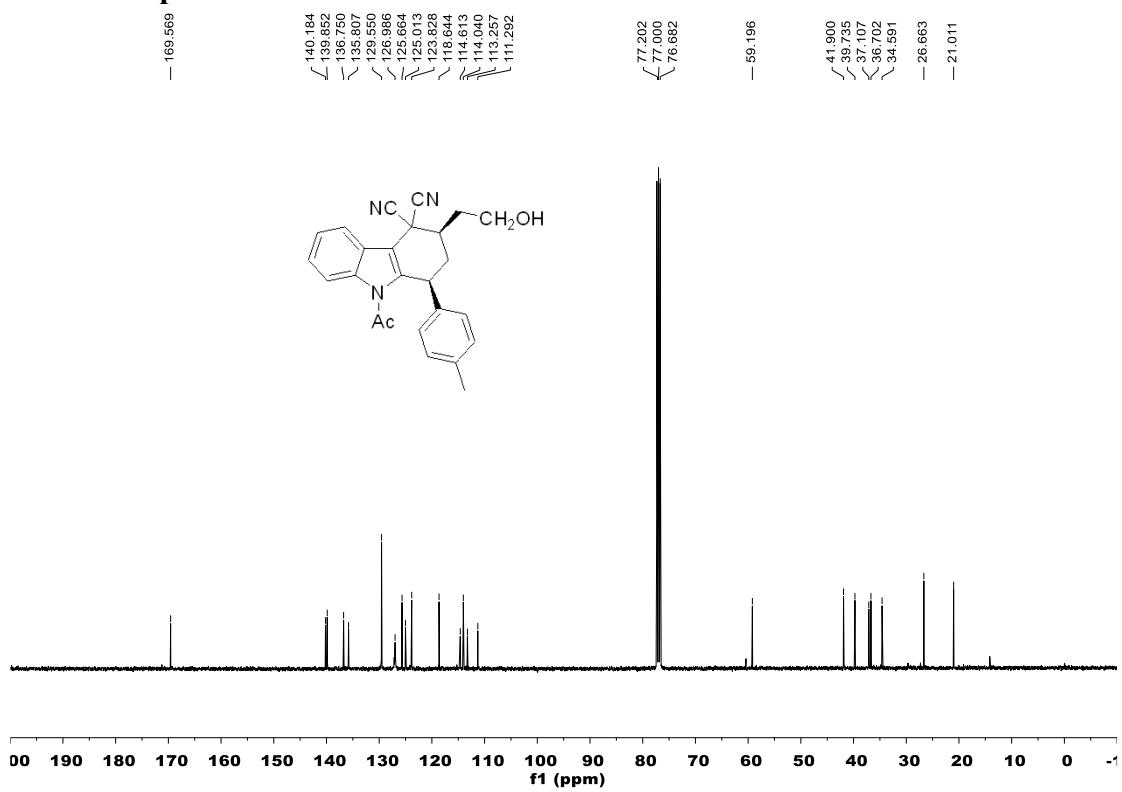
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ga



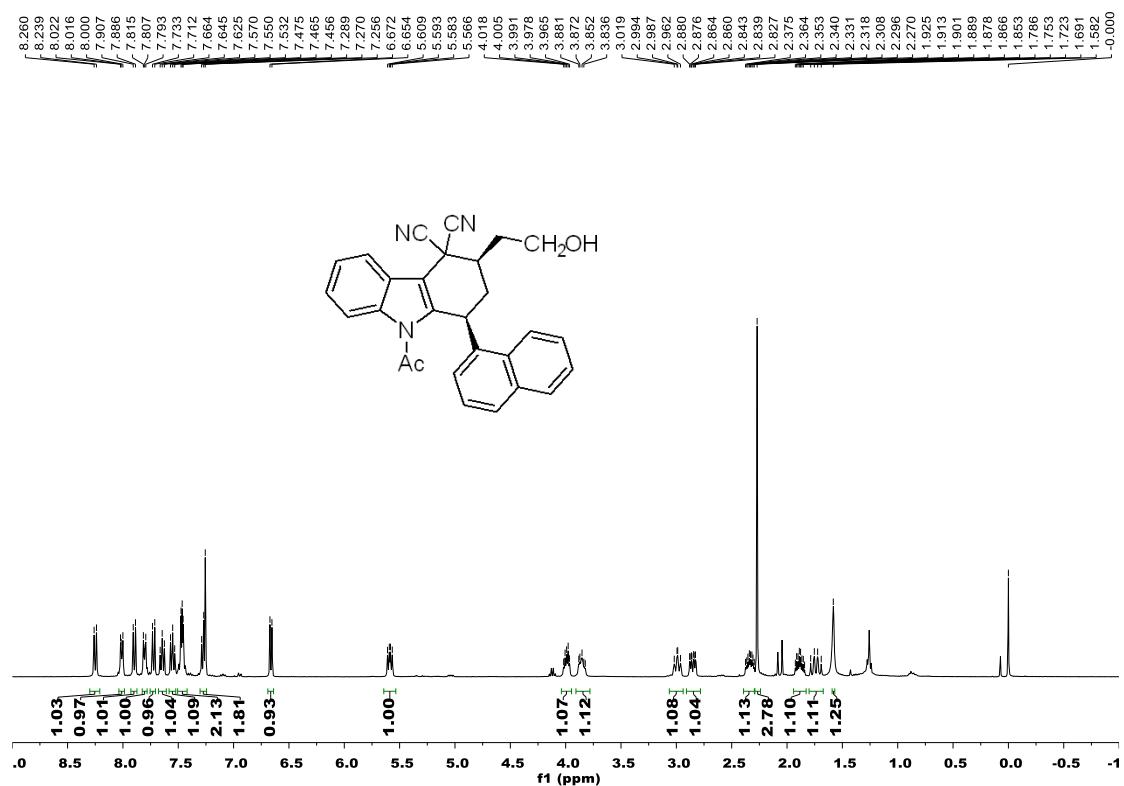
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ha



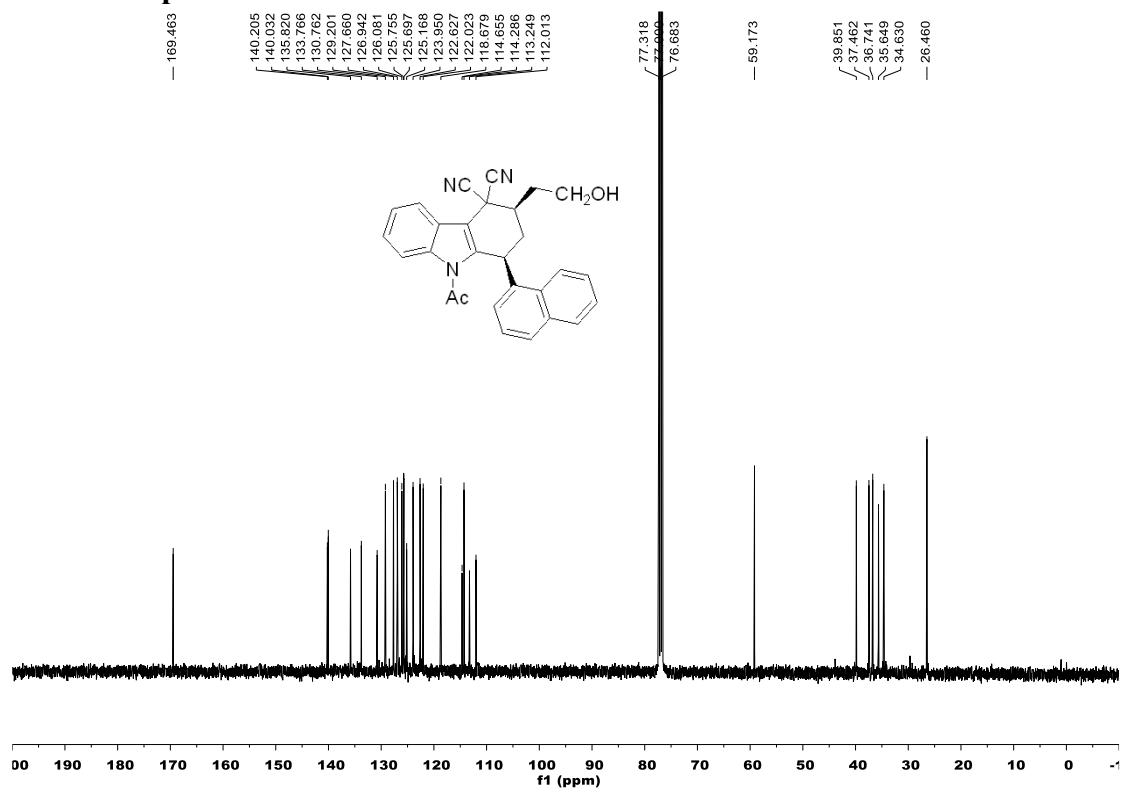
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ha



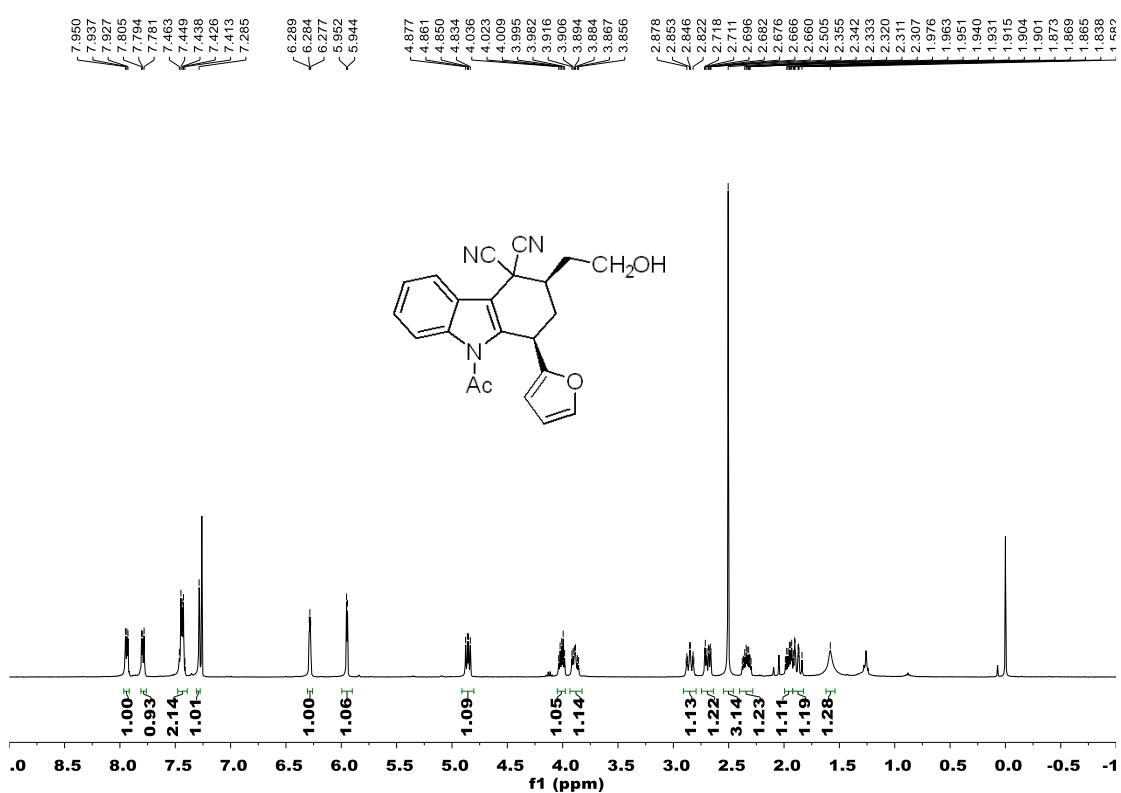
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ia



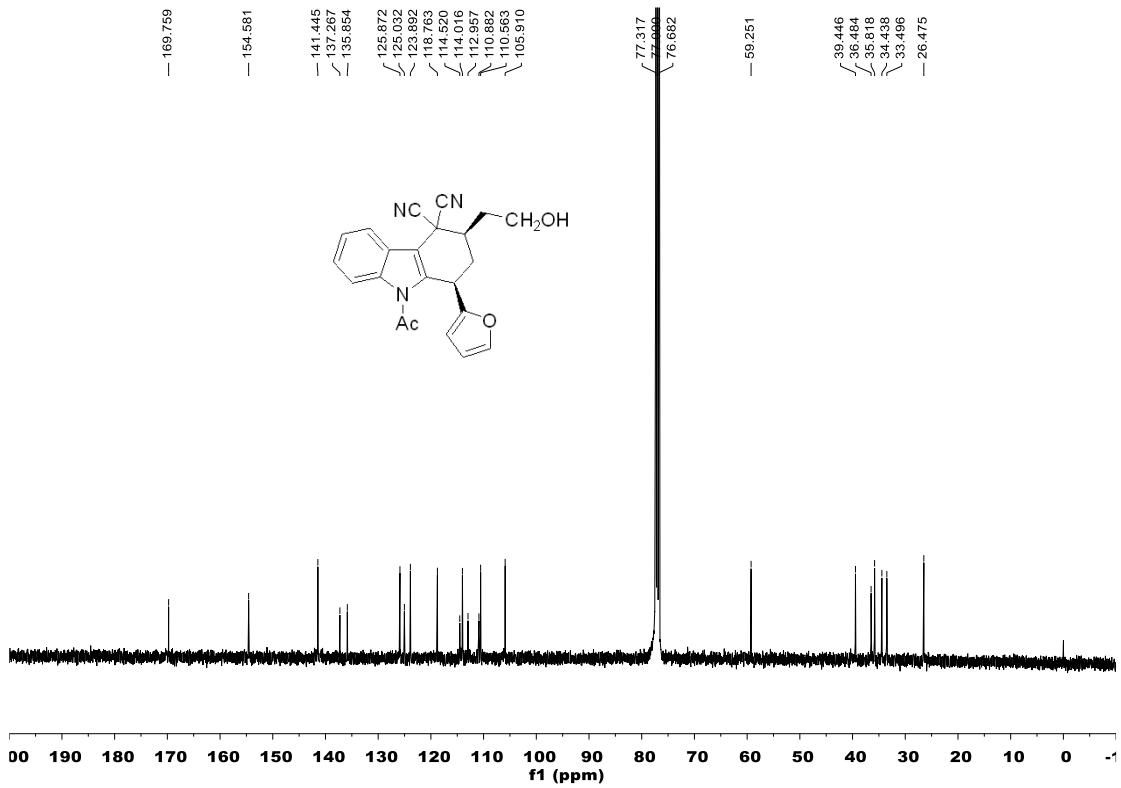
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ia



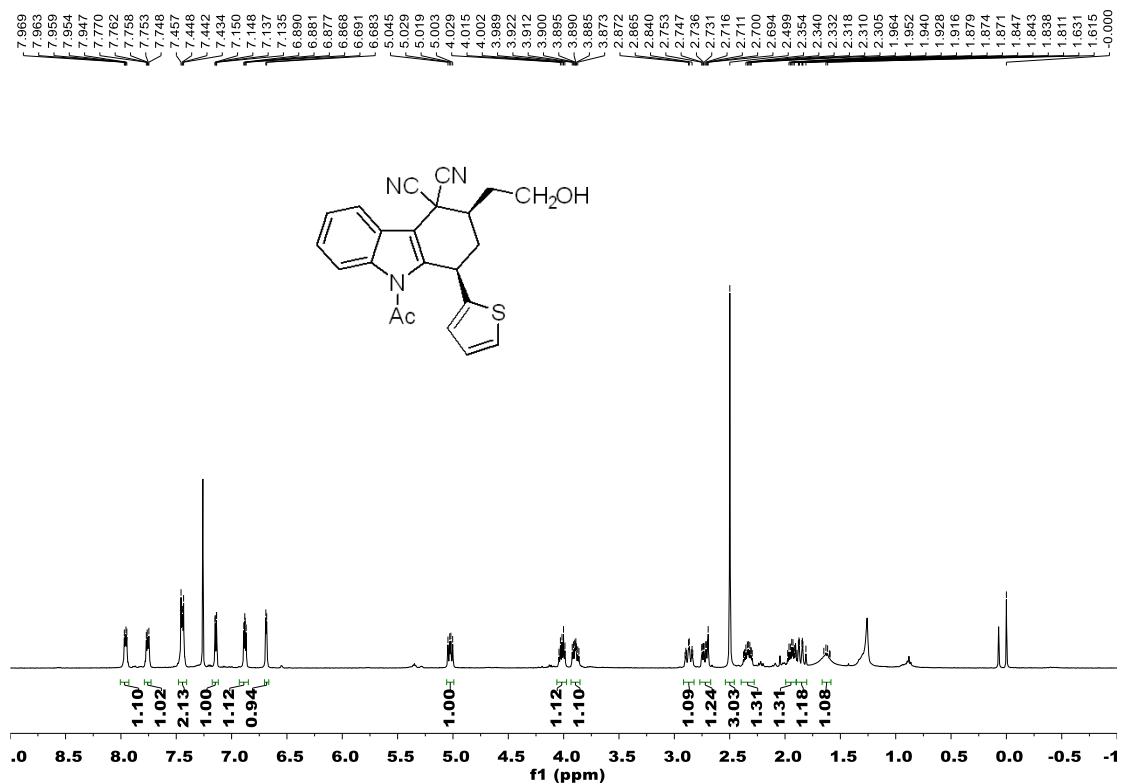
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ja



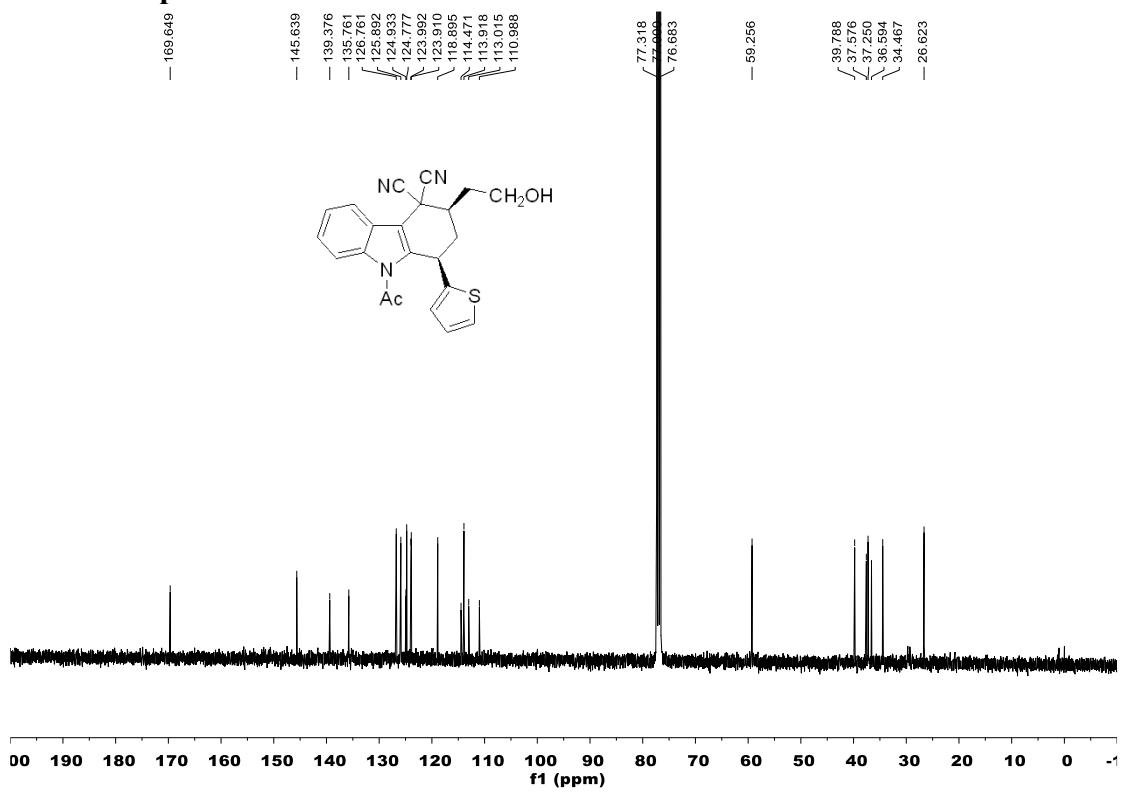
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ja



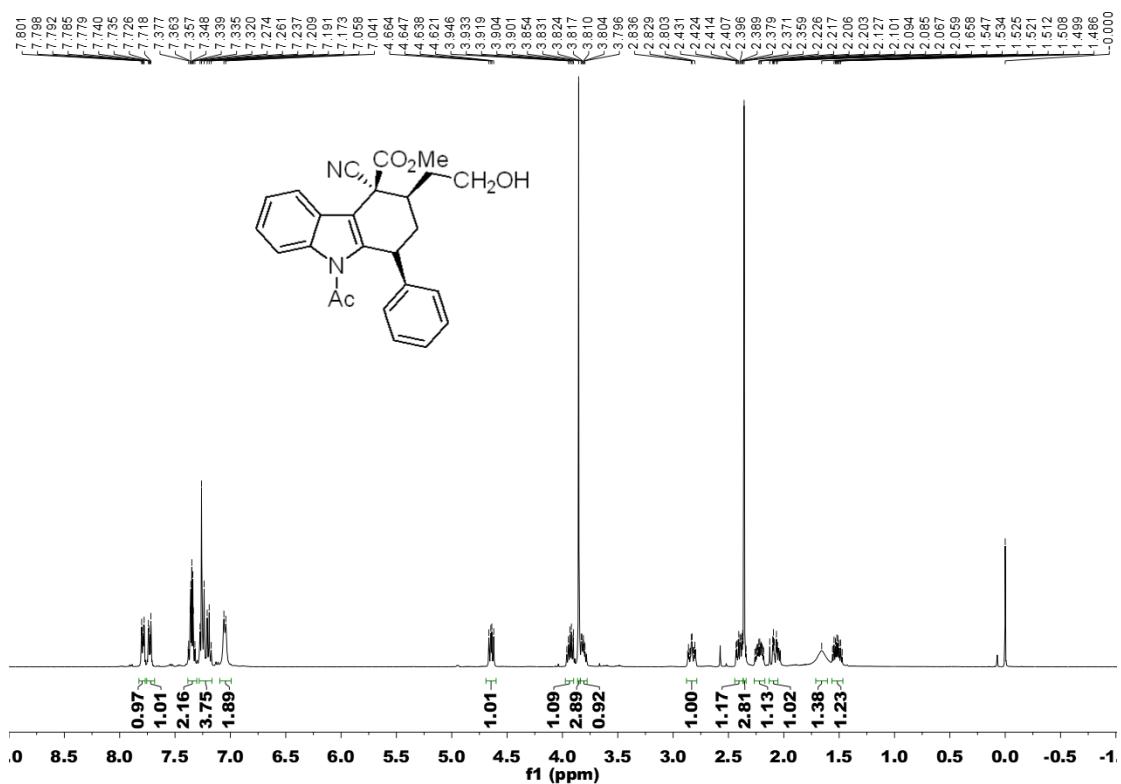
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ka



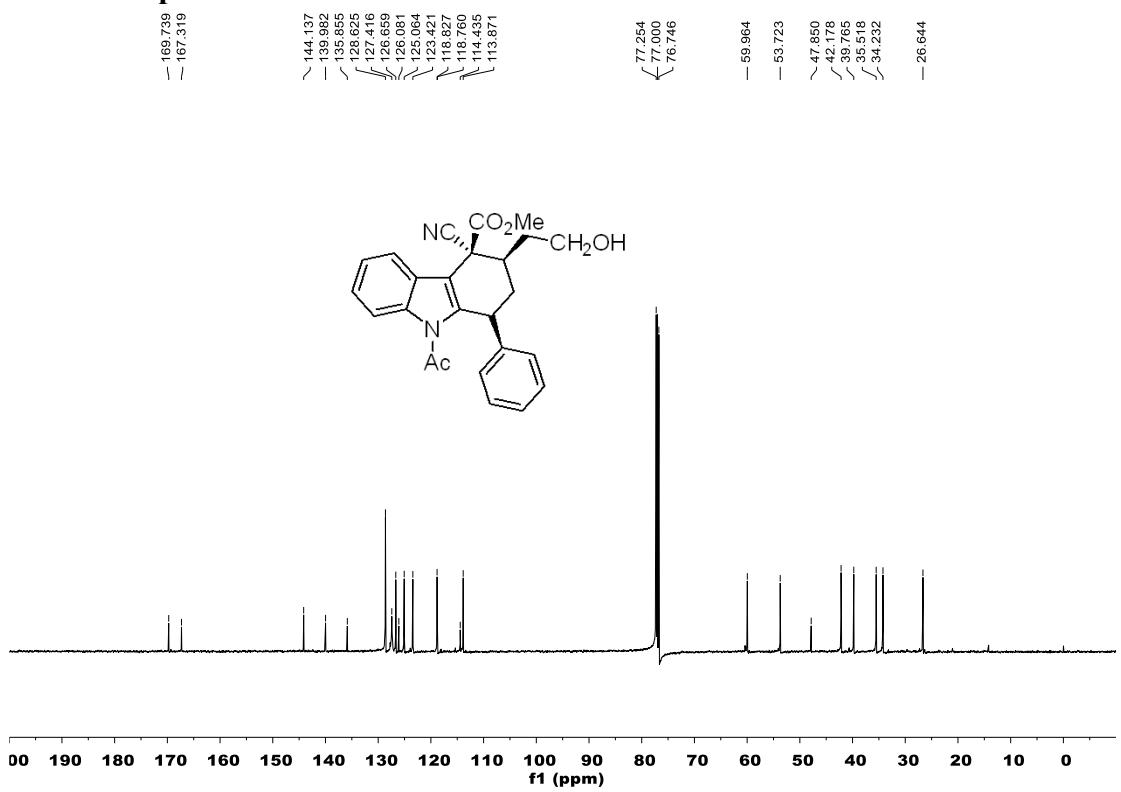
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ka



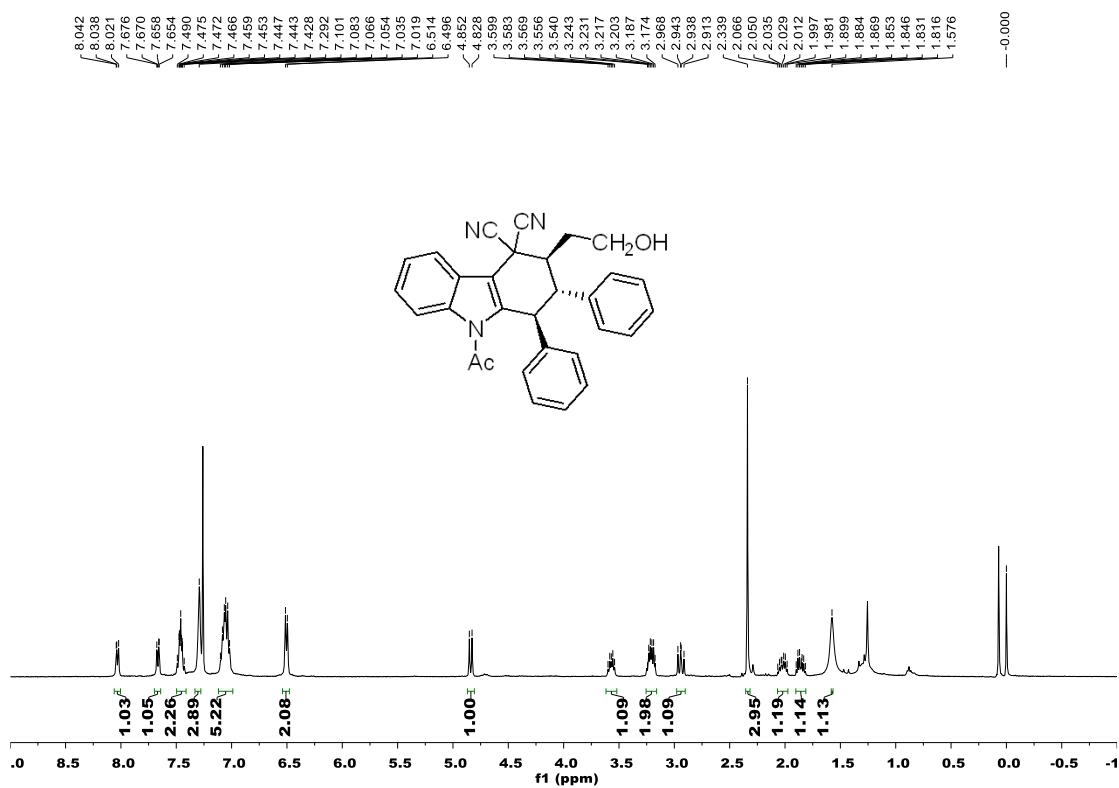
¹H NMR spectrum of 3la



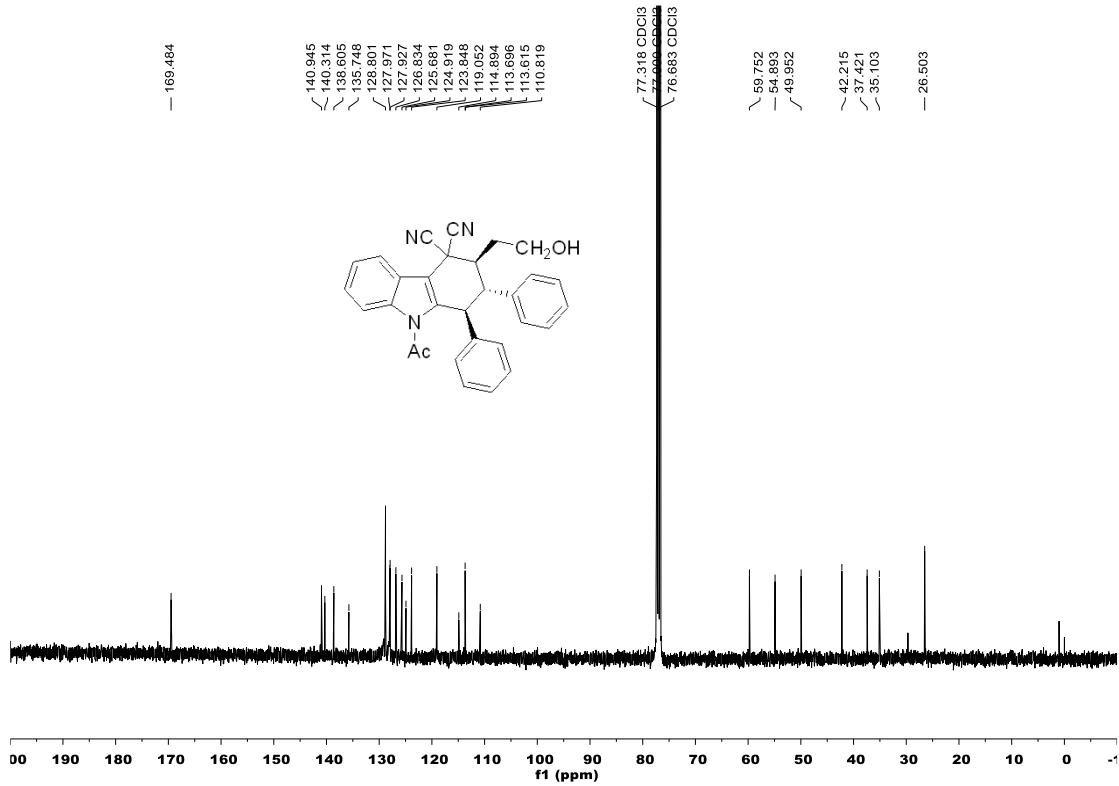
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3la



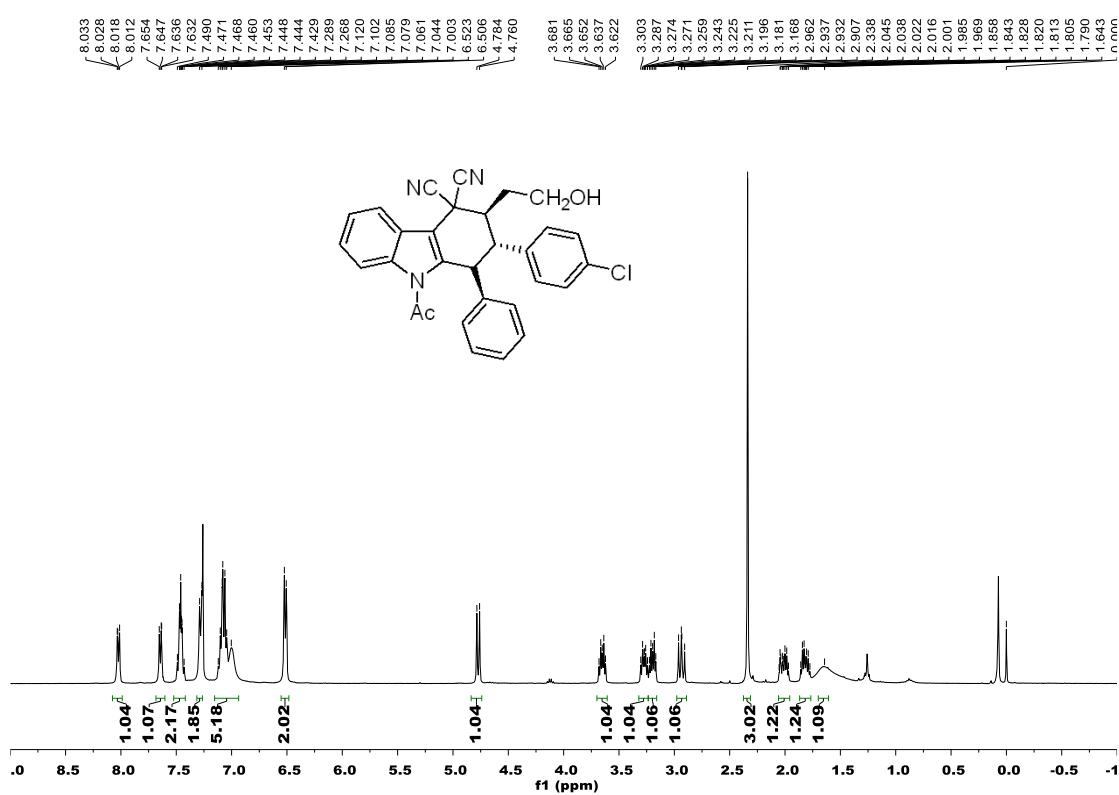
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ab



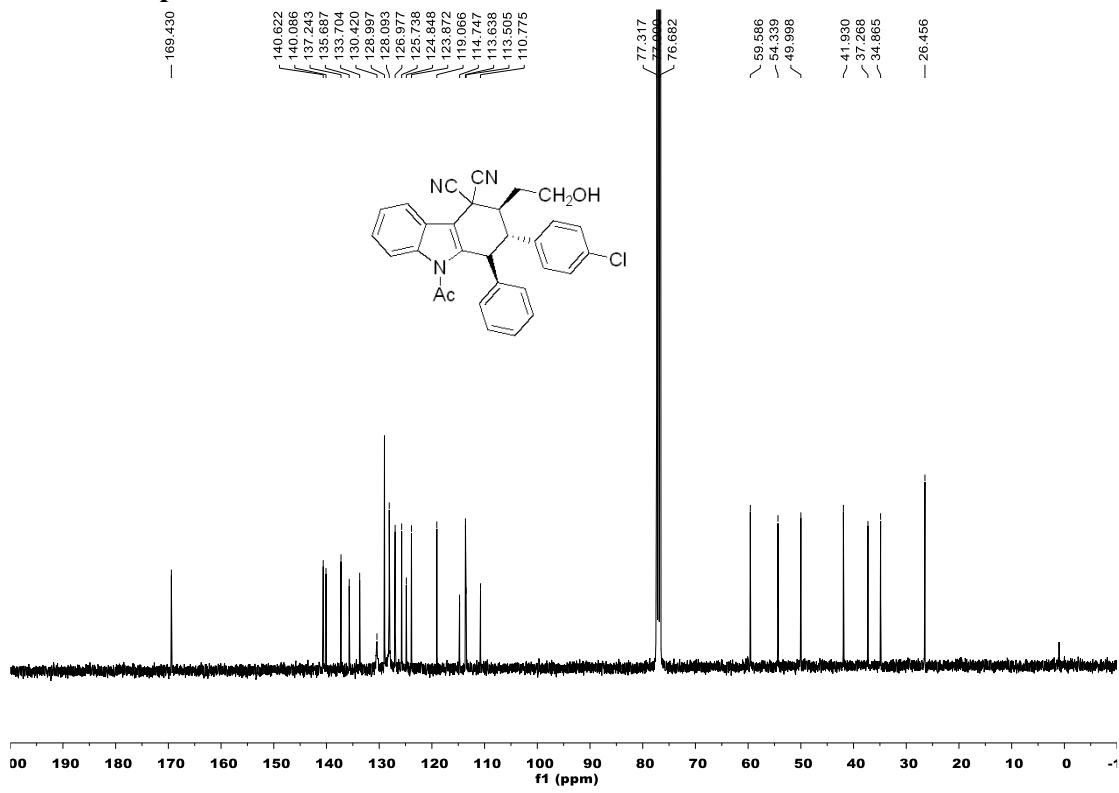
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ab



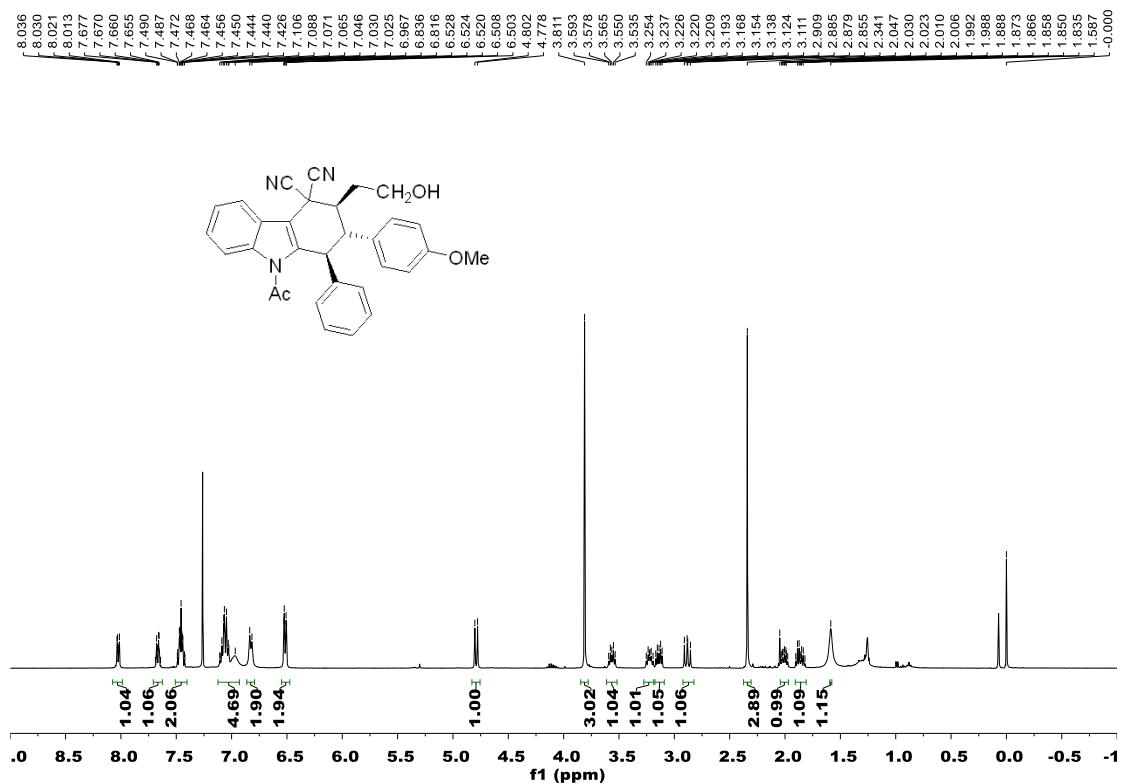
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ac



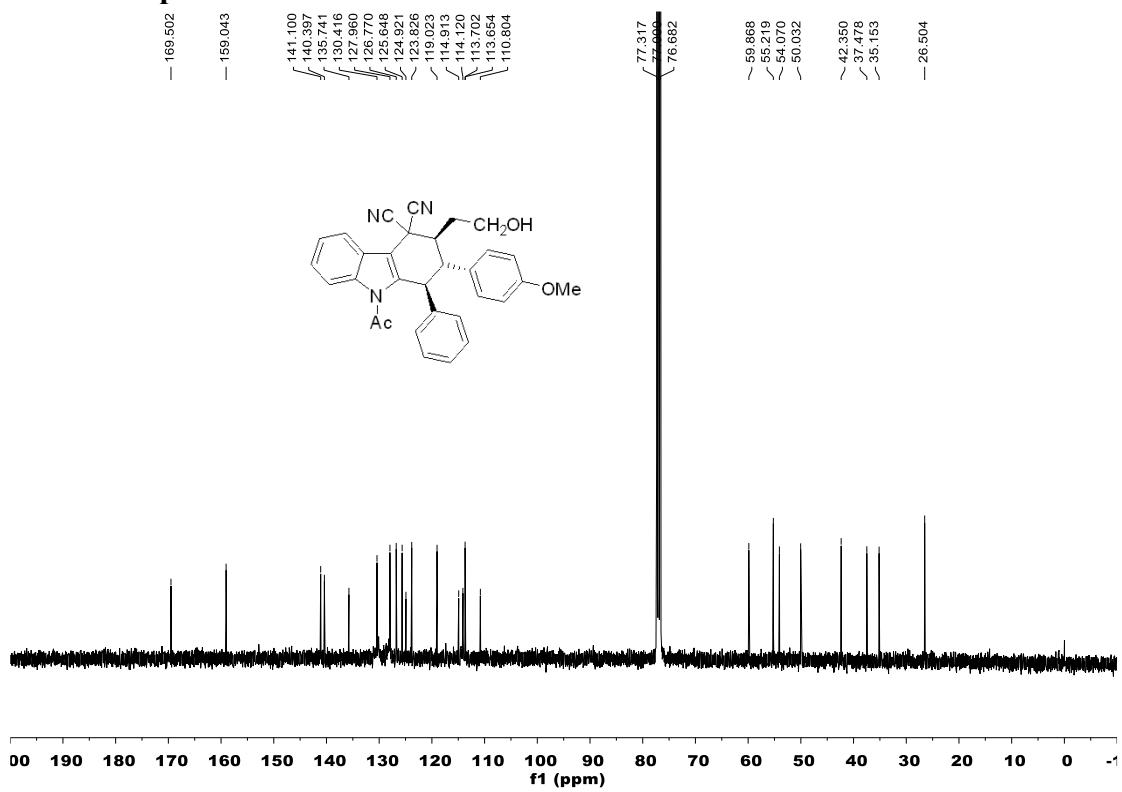
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ac



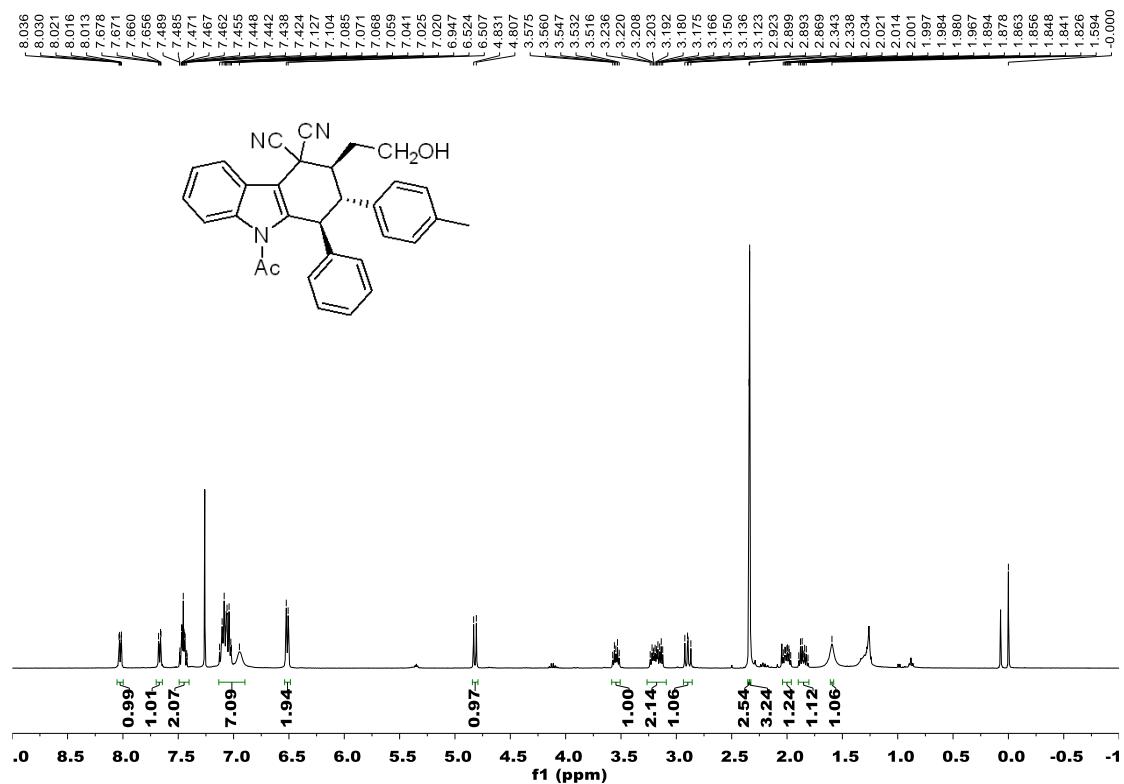
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ad



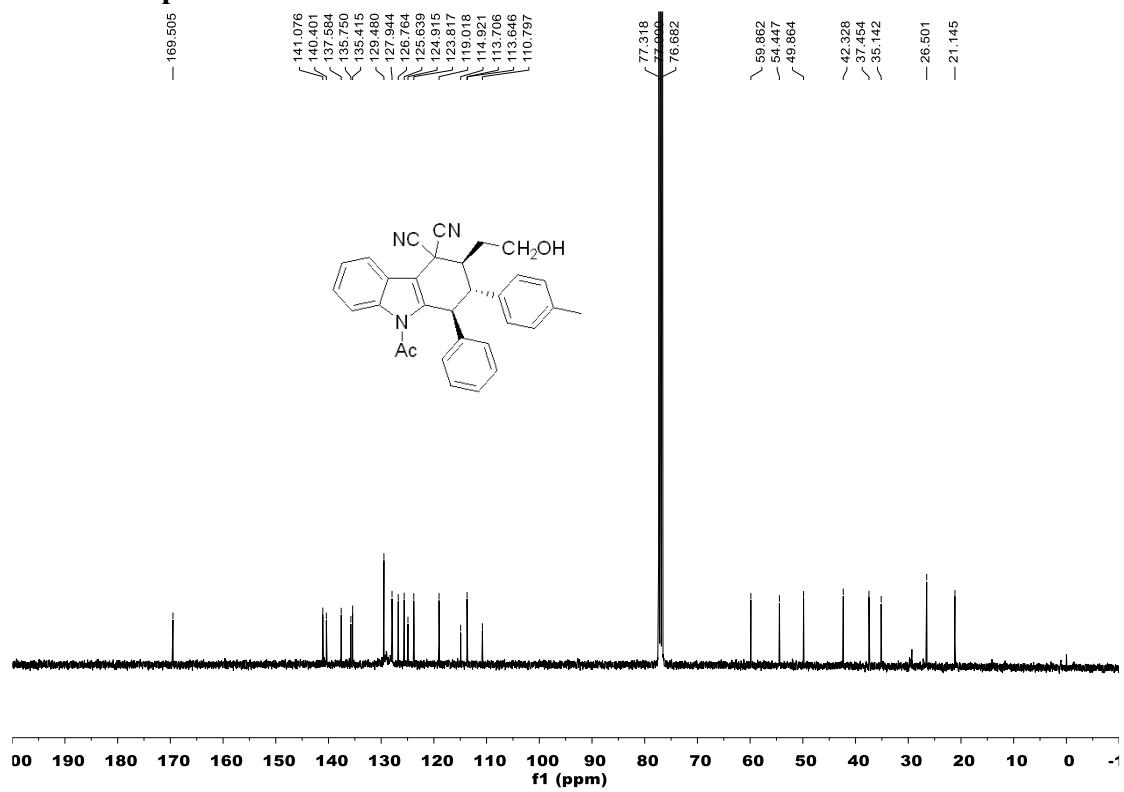
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ad



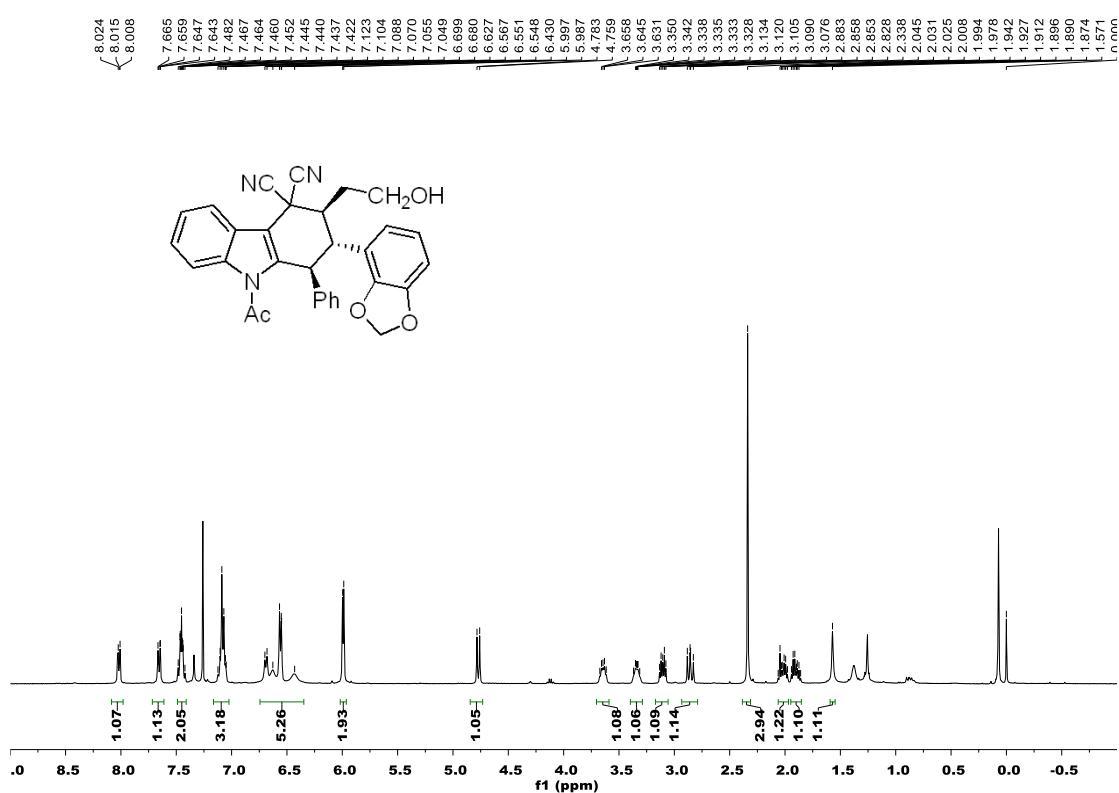
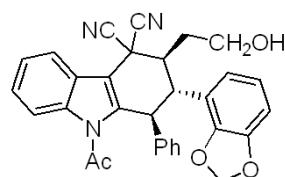
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ae



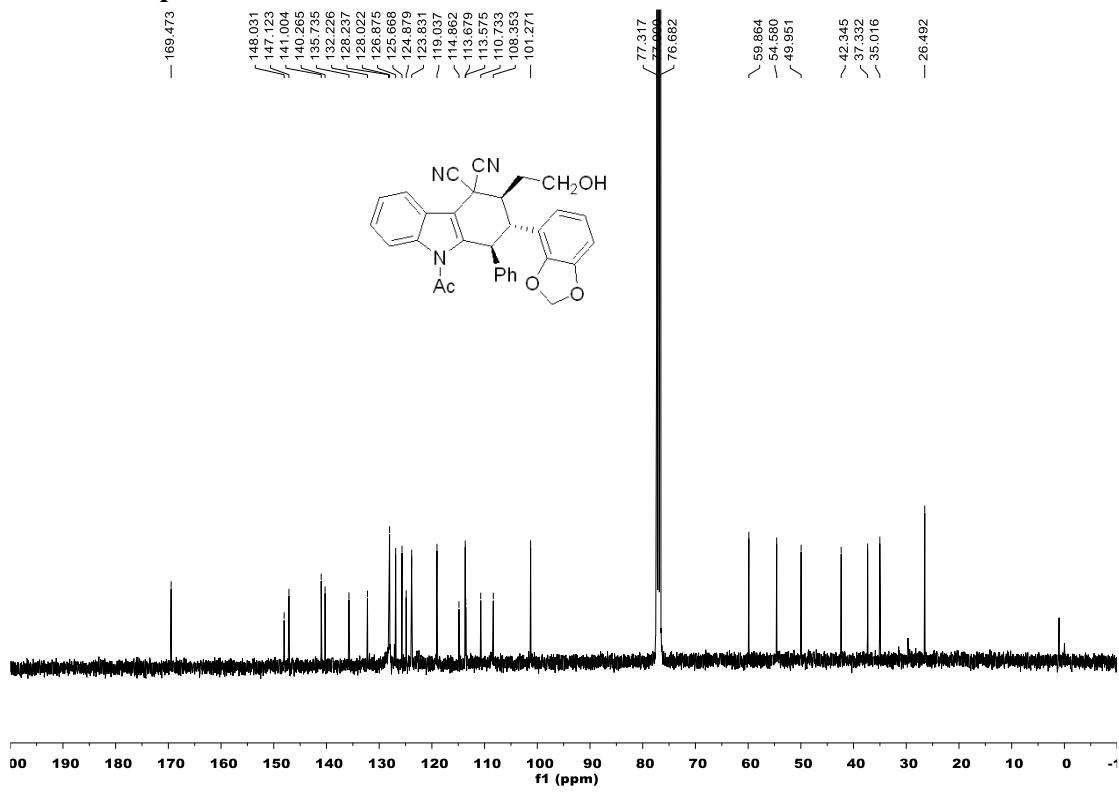
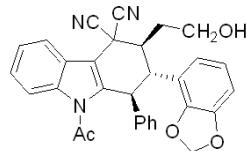
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ae



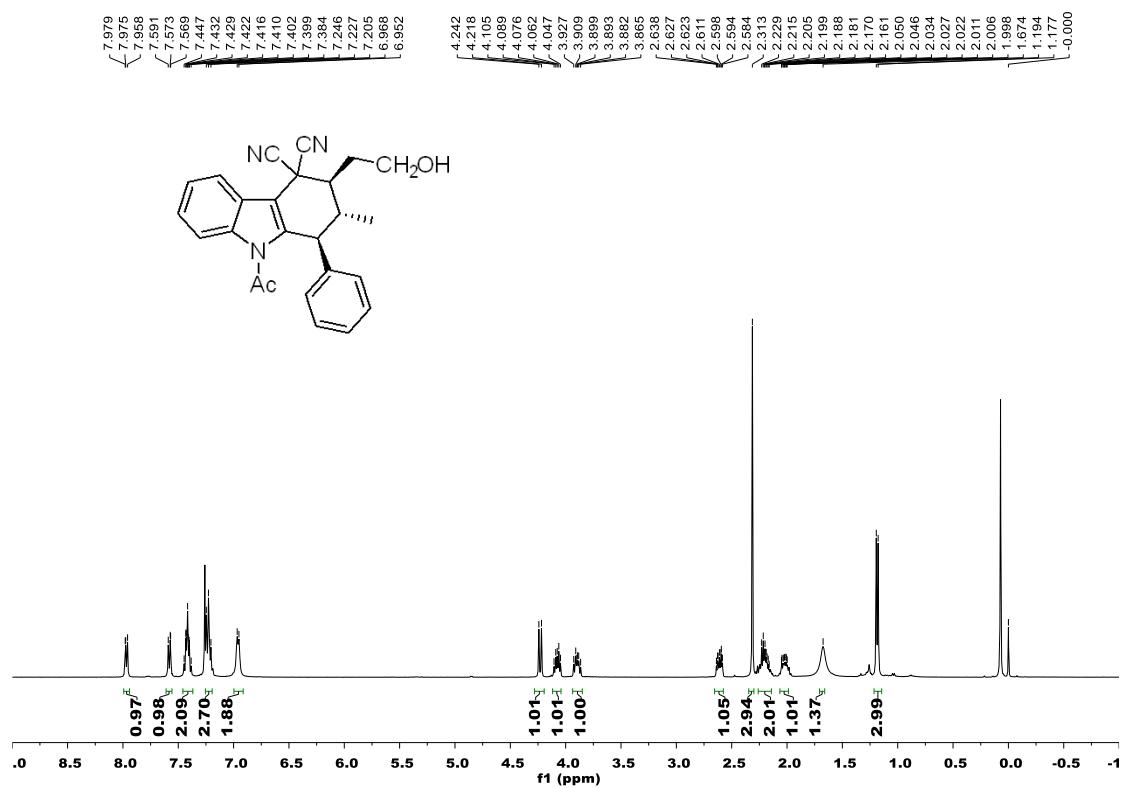
¹H NMR spectrum of 3af



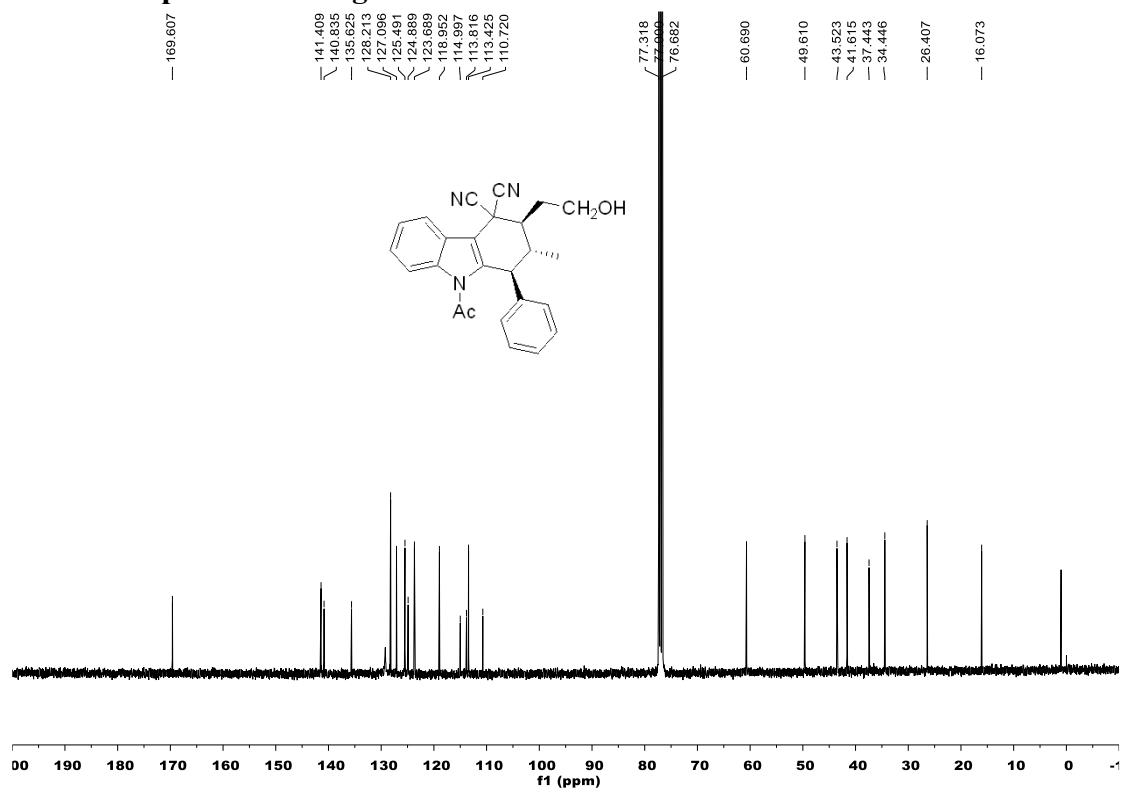
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3af



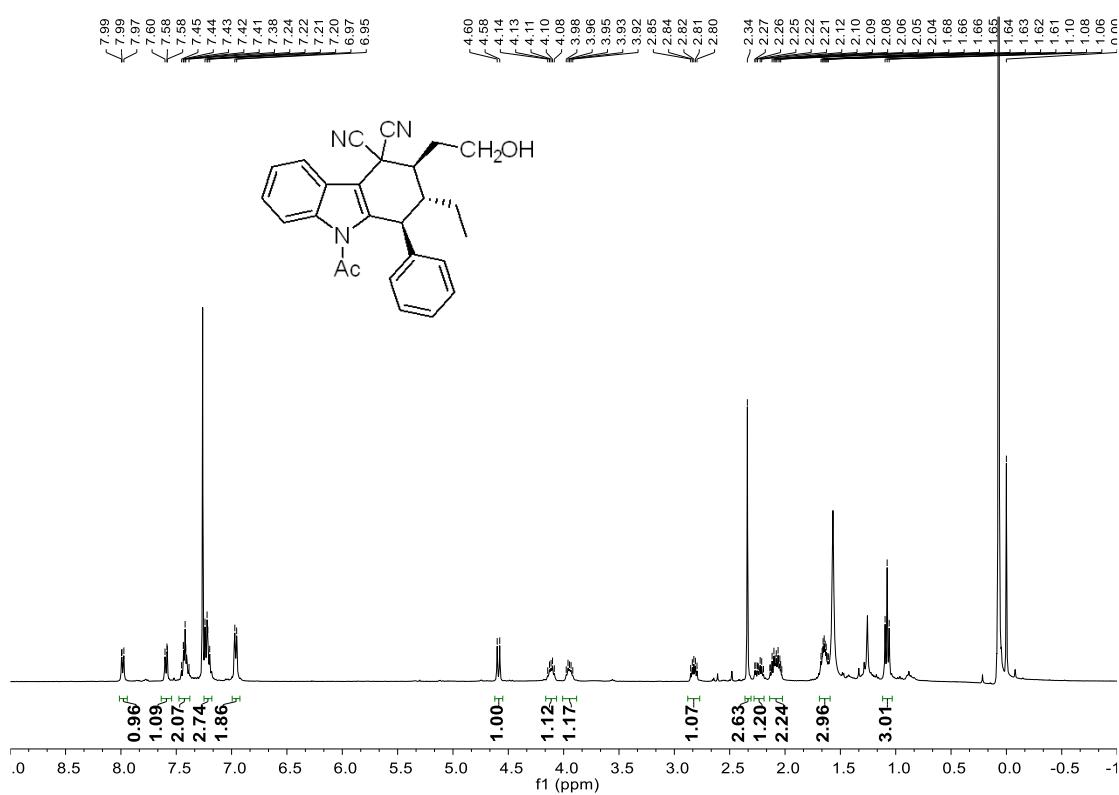
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ag



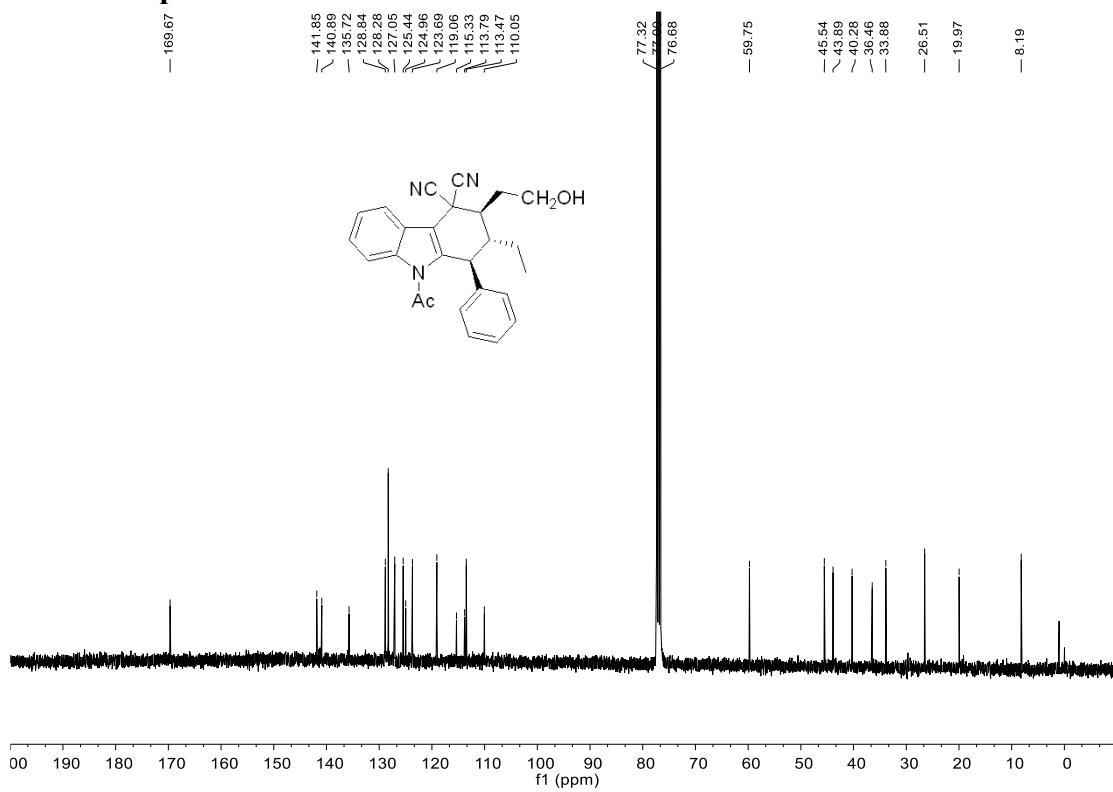
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ag



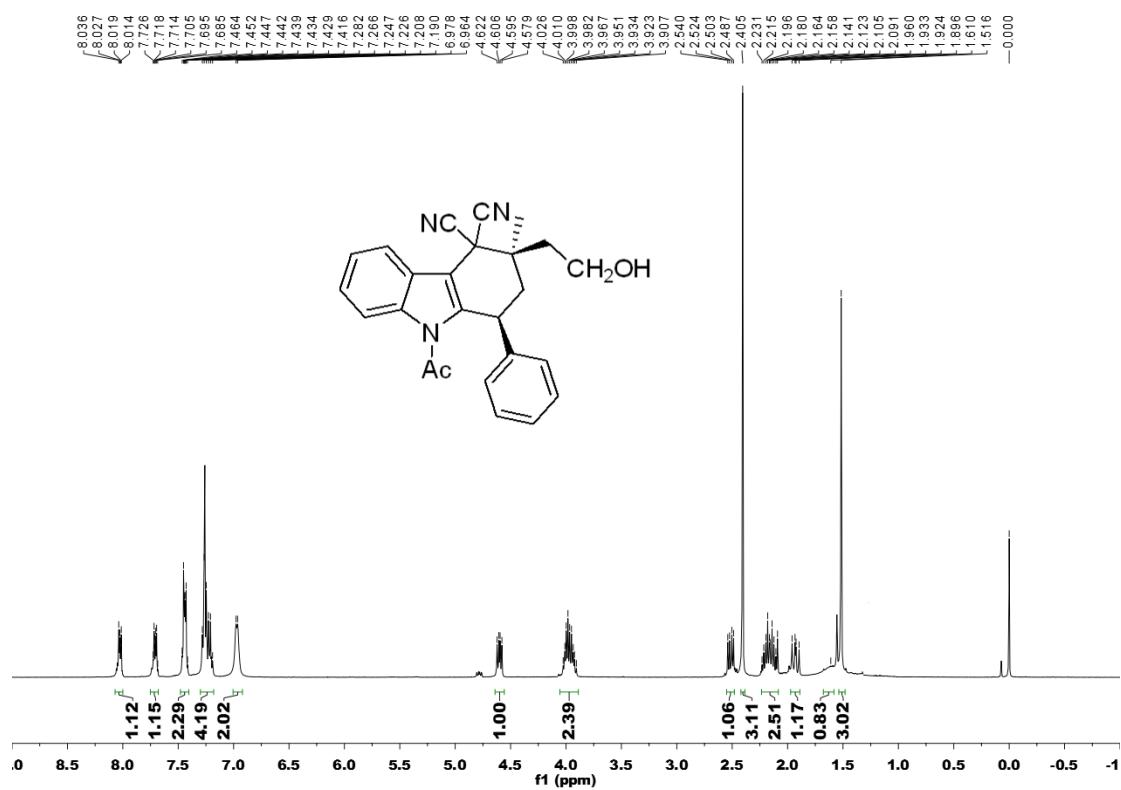
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ah



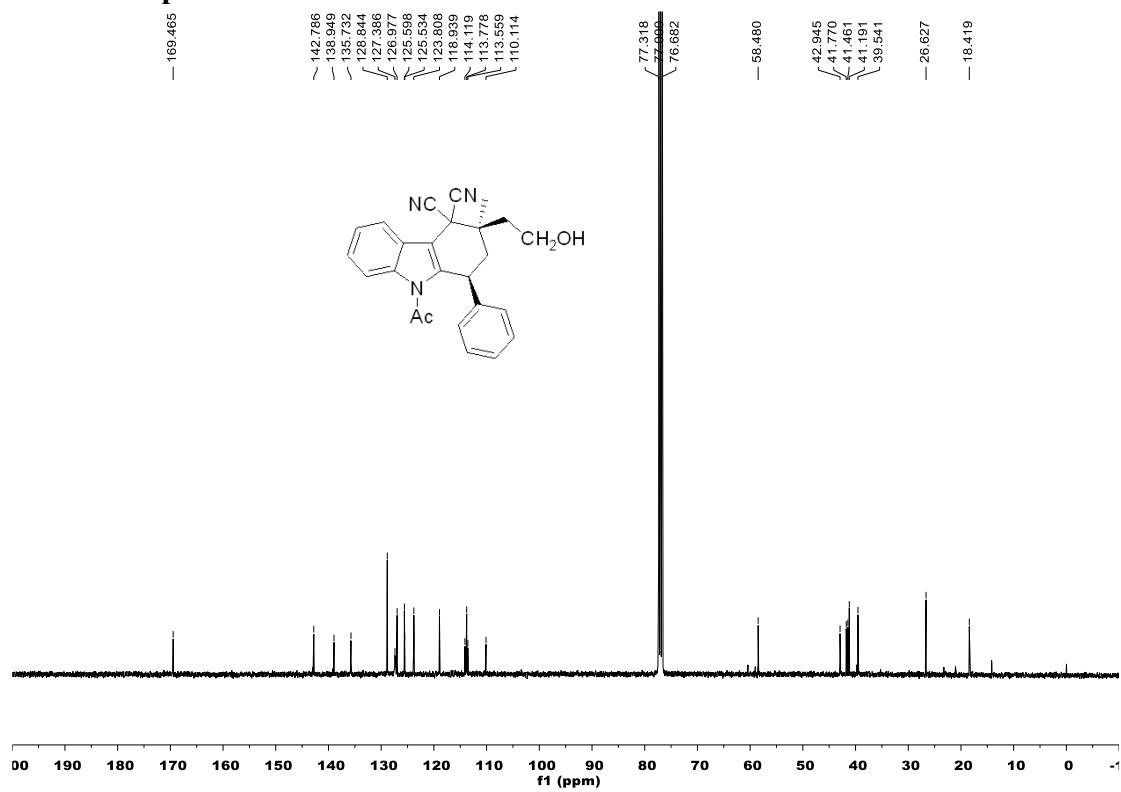
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ah



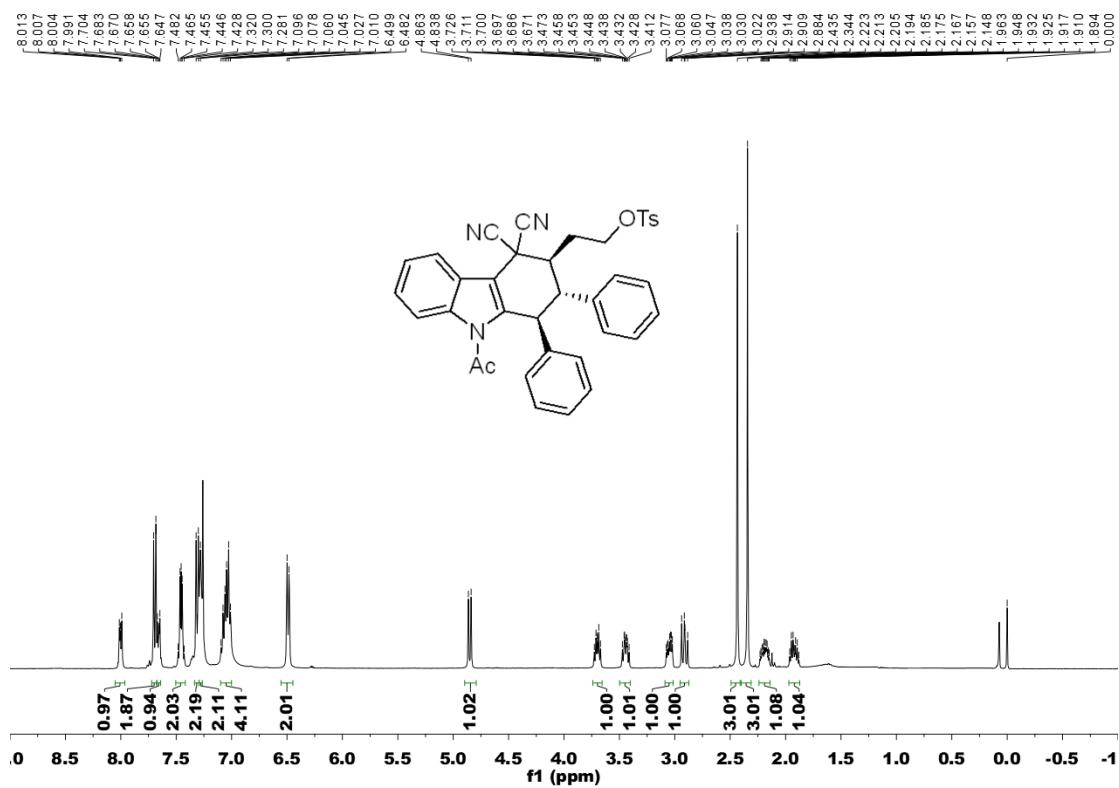
¹H NMR spectrum of 3ai



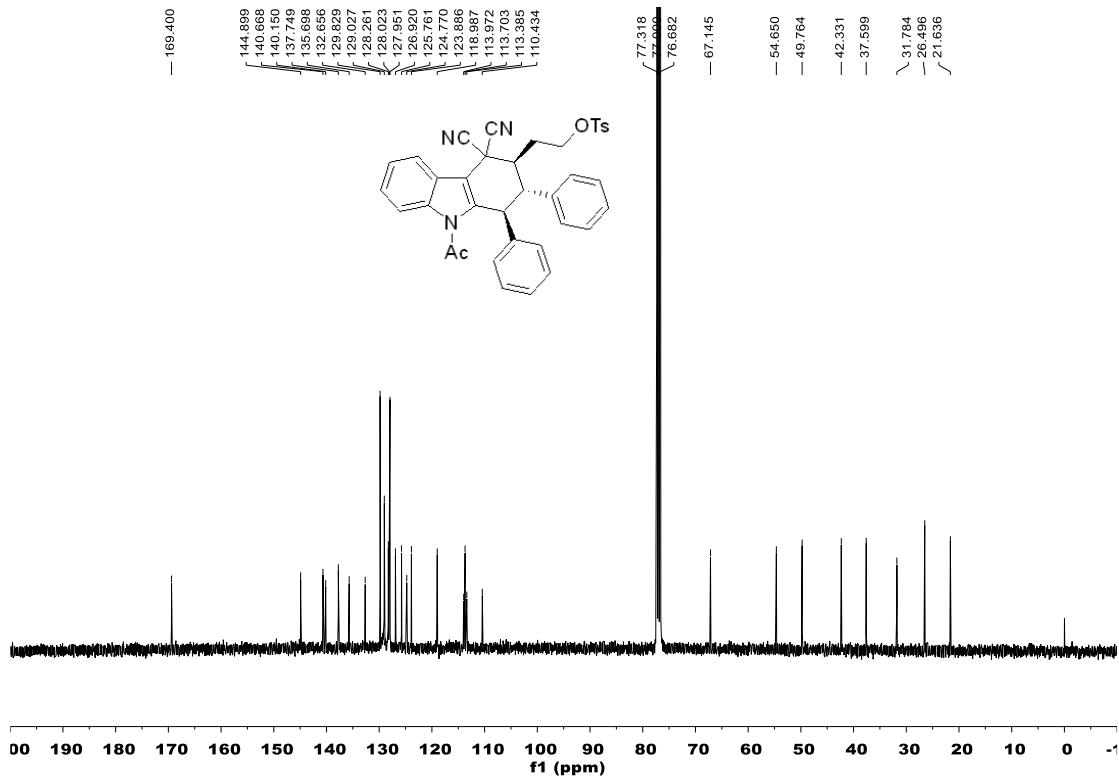
¹³C NMR spectrum of 3ai



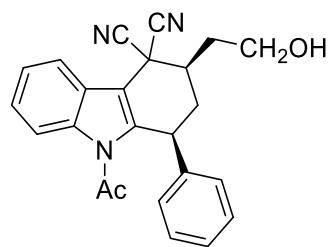
¹H NMR spectrum of 4ab



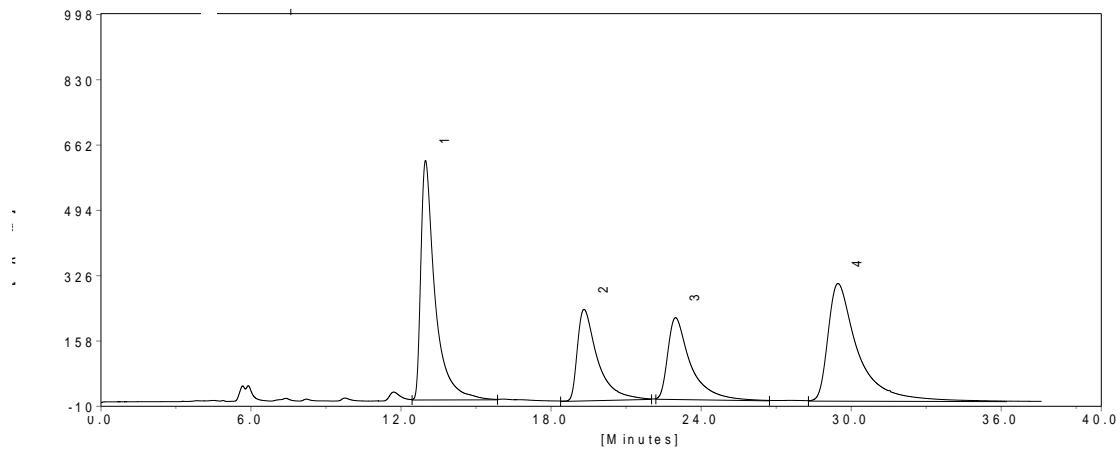
¹³C NMR spectrum of 4ab



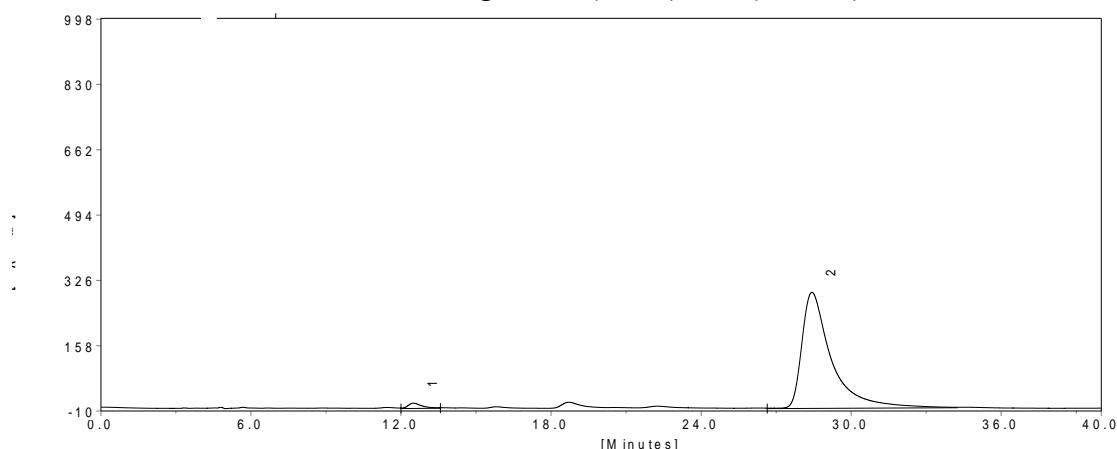
7. Chiral HPLC chromatograms

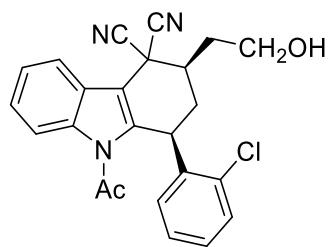


HPLC chromatogram of racemic 3aa

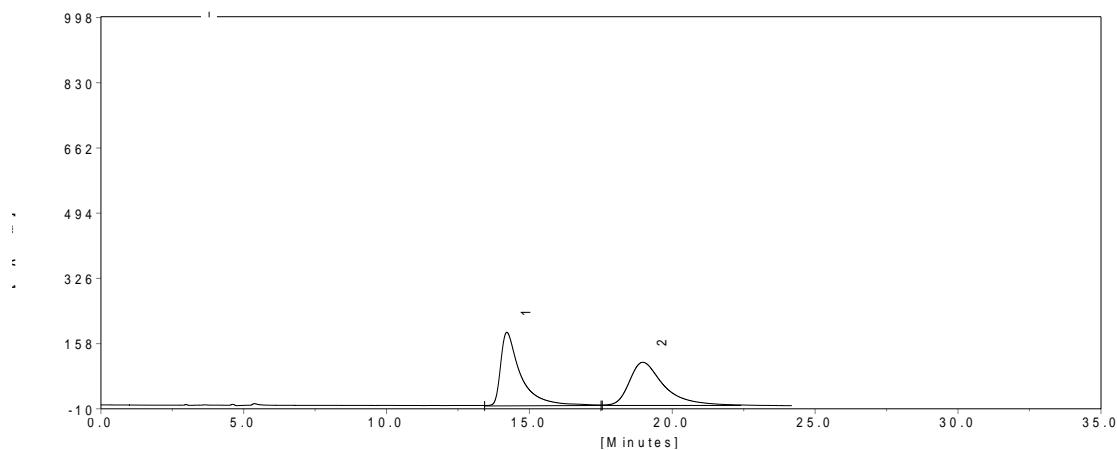


HPLC chromatogram of (1*S*,3*S*)-3aa (96% ee)

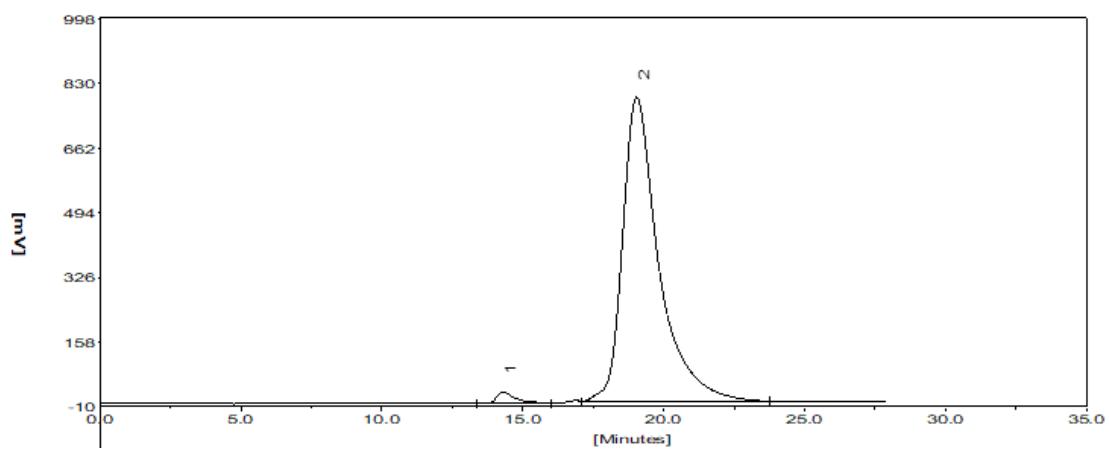


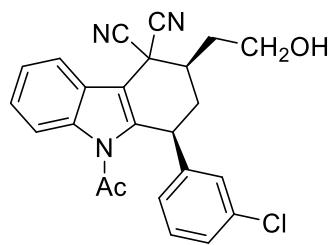


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ba**

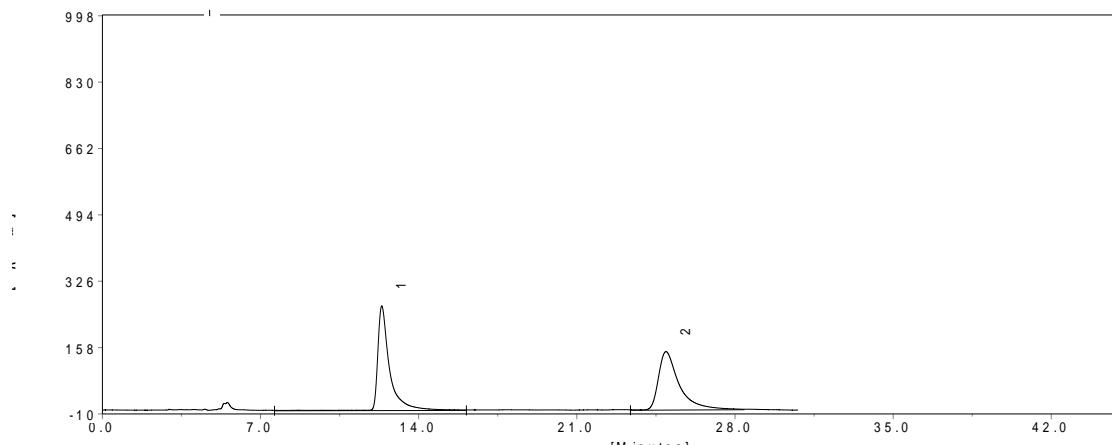


HPLC chromatogram of (1*S*,3*S*)-**3ba** (97% ee)

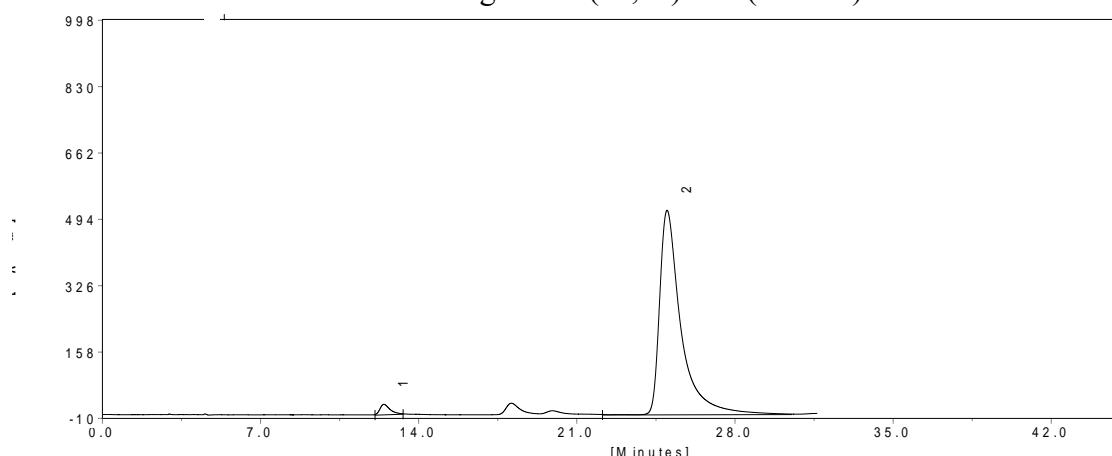


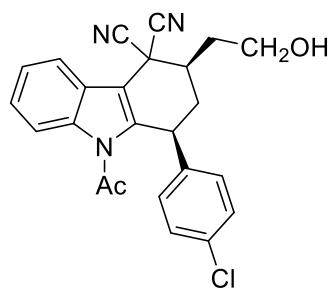


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ca**

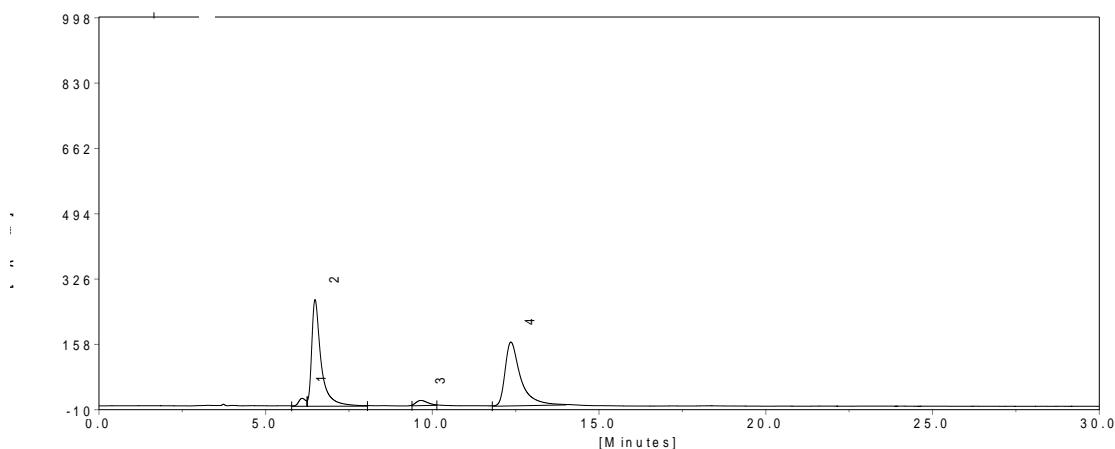


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ca** (96% ee)

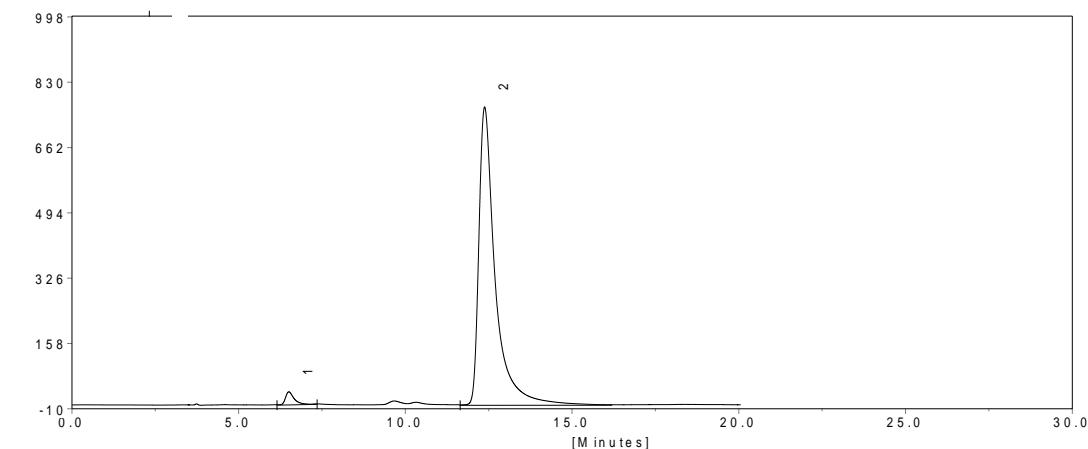


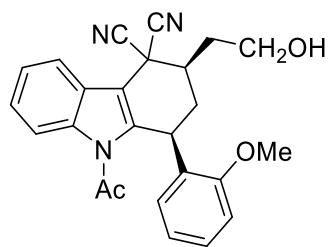


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3da**

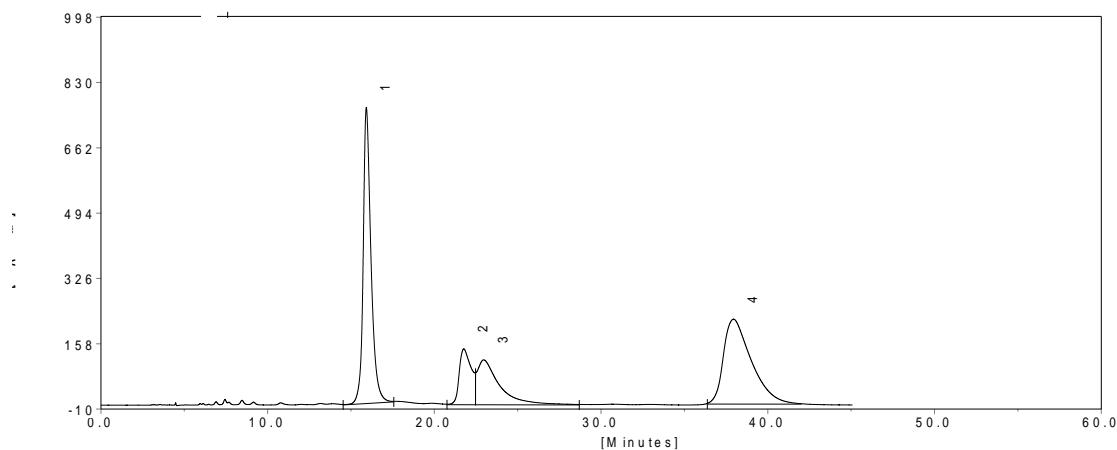


HPLC chromatogram of (1*S*,3*S*)-**3da** (96% ee)

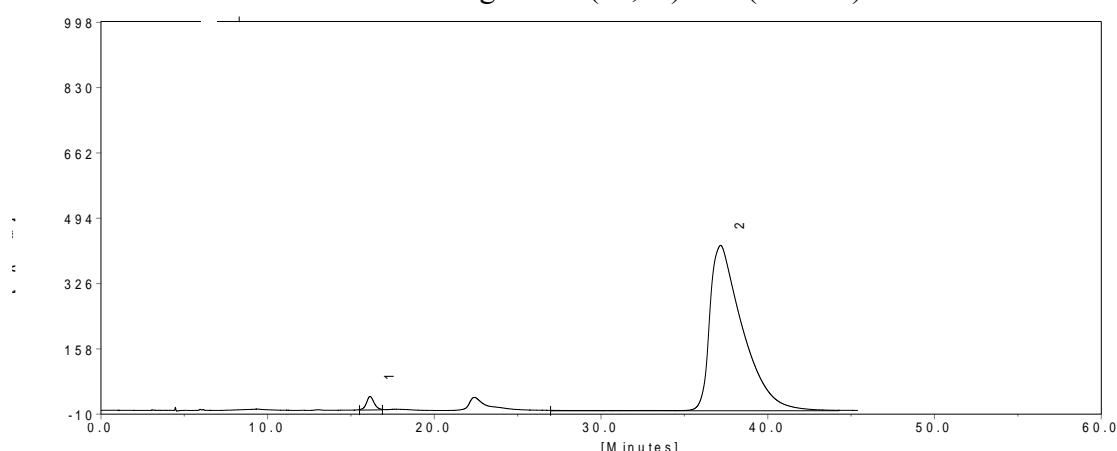


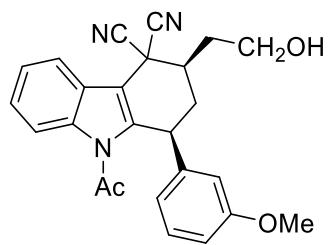


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ea**

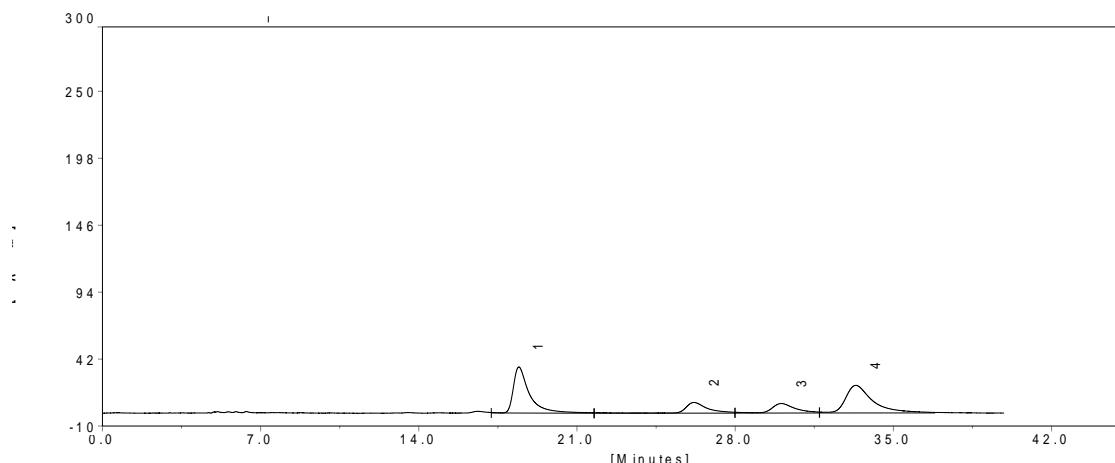


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ea** (96% ee)



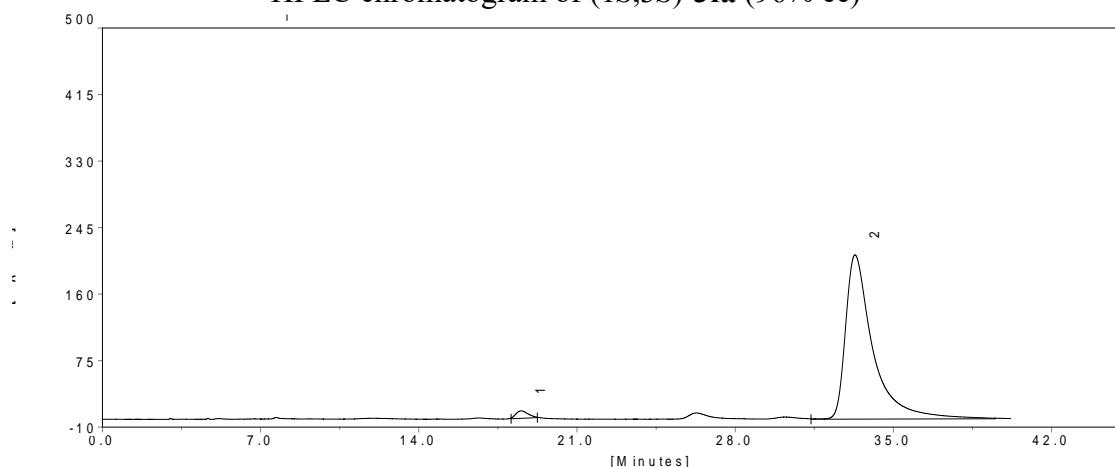


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3fa**

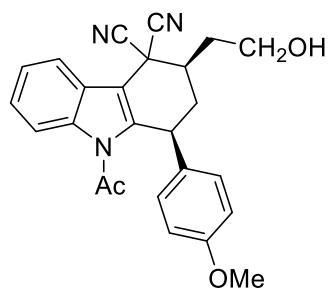


#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	18.42333	35.45	1673.48	39.4370
2	26.21167	7.86	425.80	10.0343
3	30.07833	6.99	460.35	10.8485
4	33.34750	21.09	1683.79	39.6802

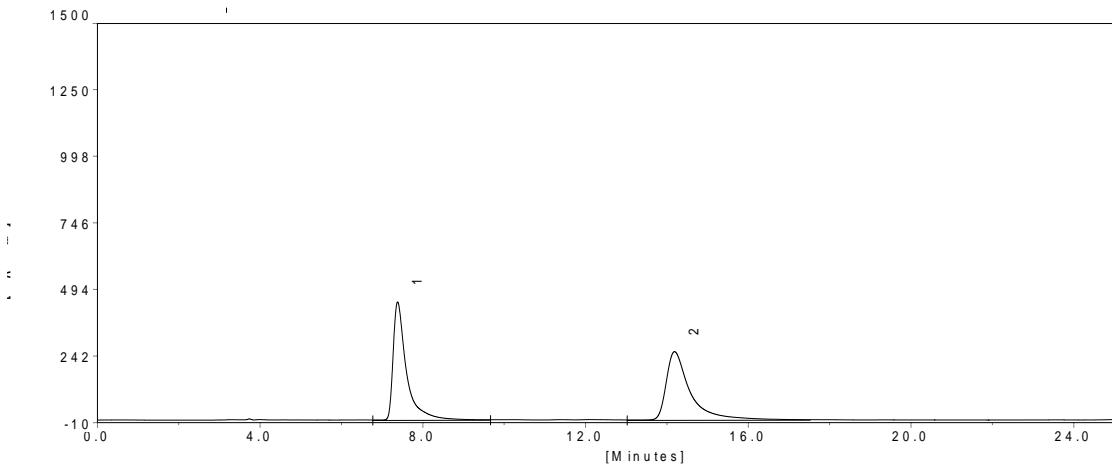
HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3fa** (96% ee)



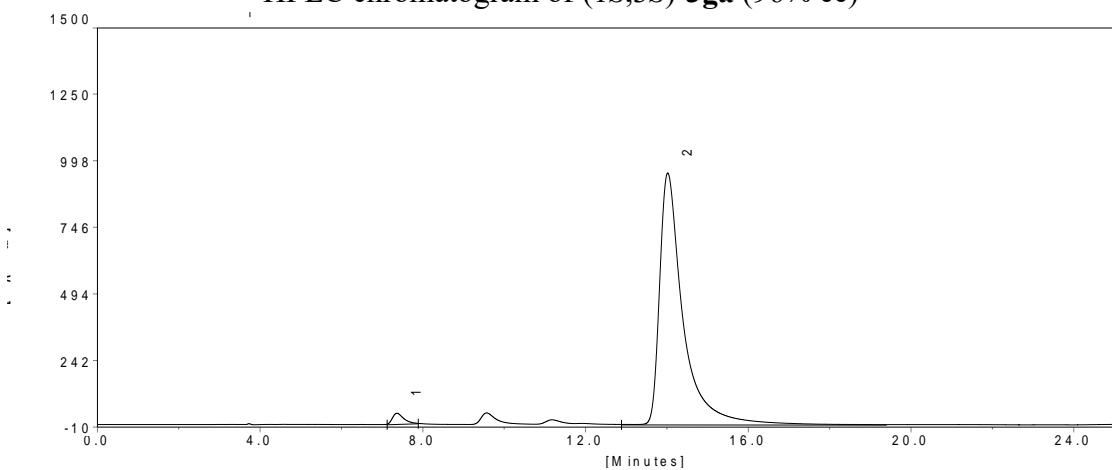
#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	18.53167	8.93	314.65	1.7779
2	33.30250	209.31	17382.93	98.2221

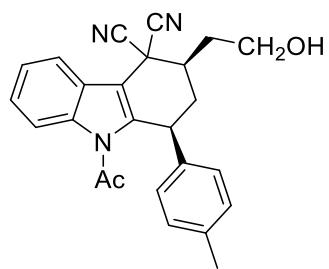


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ga**

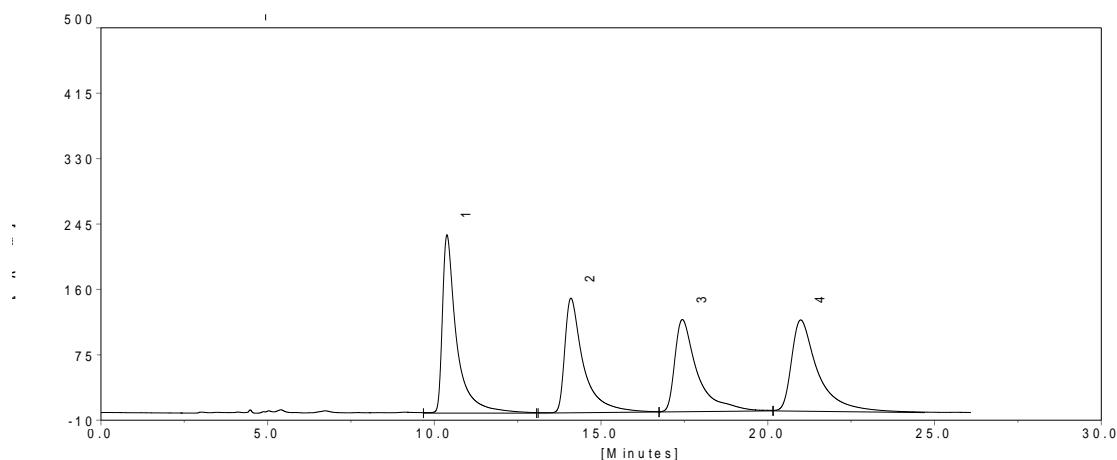


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ga** (96% ee)

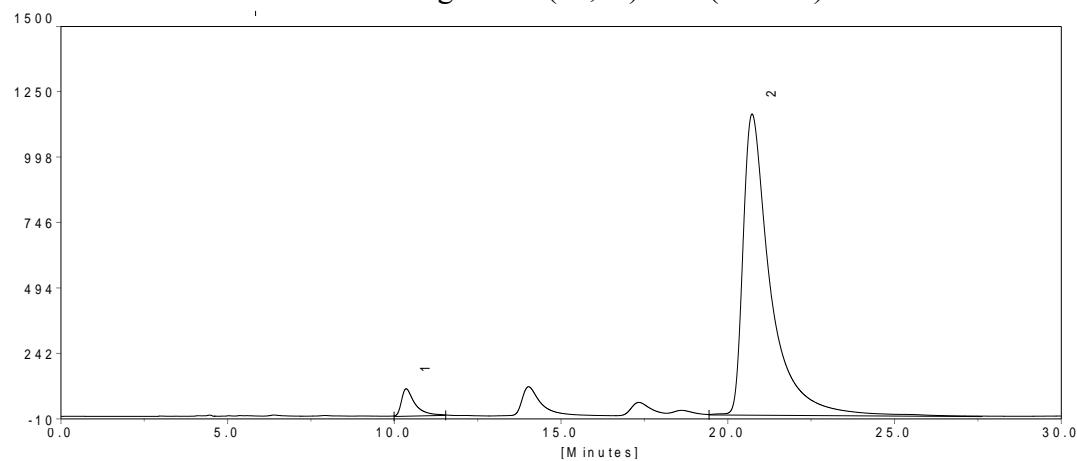


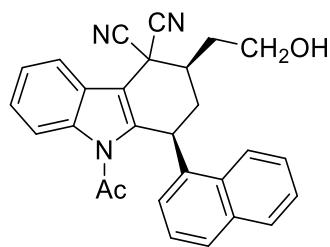


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ha**

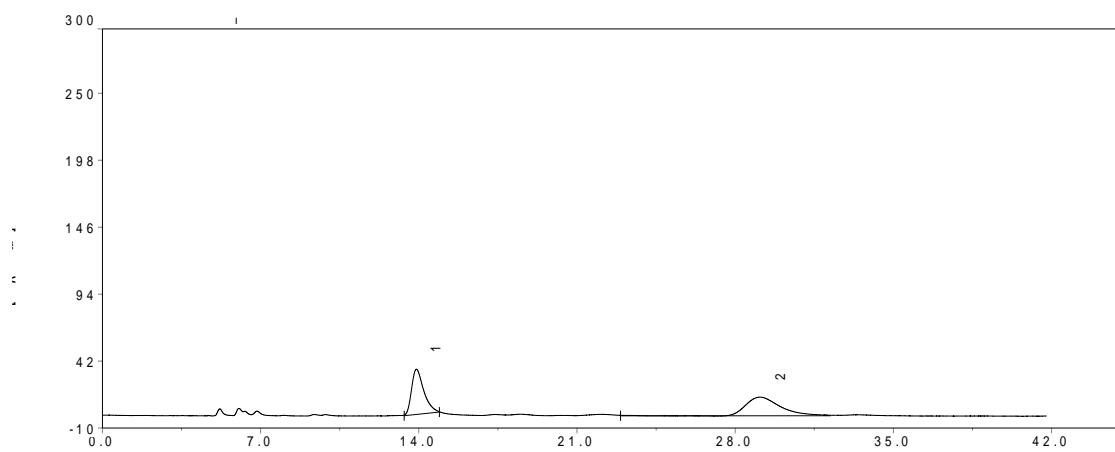


HPLC chromatogram of (1*S*,3*S*)-**3ha** (92% ee)

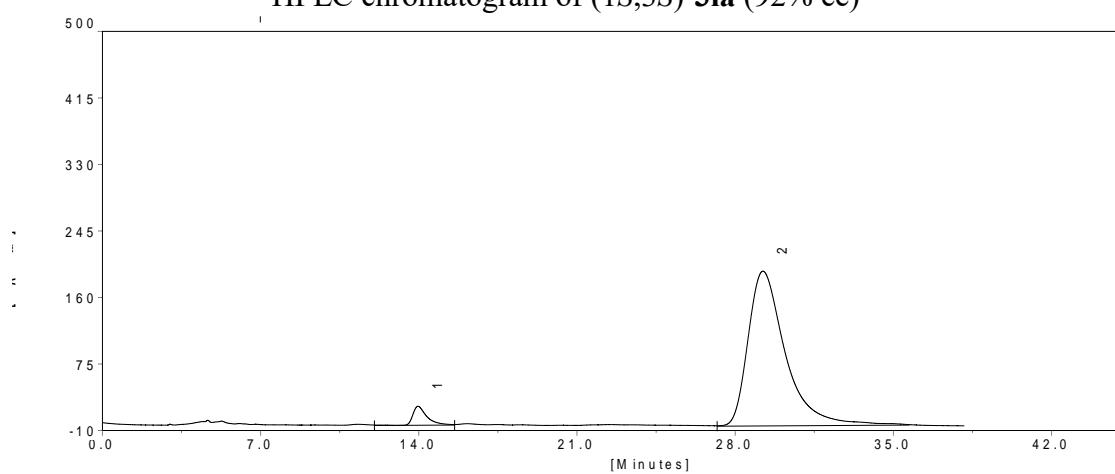


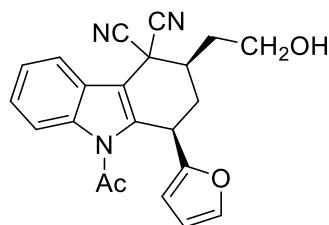


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ia**

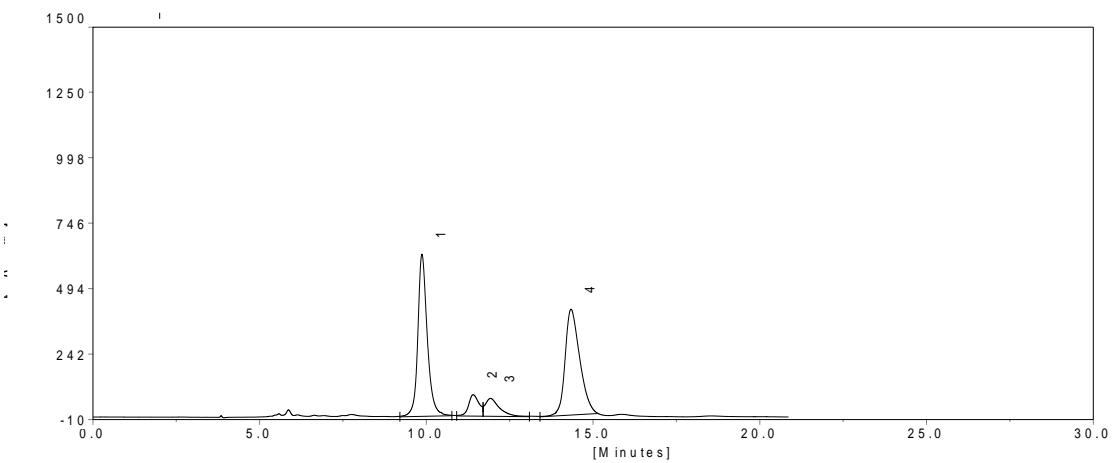


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ia** (92% ee)



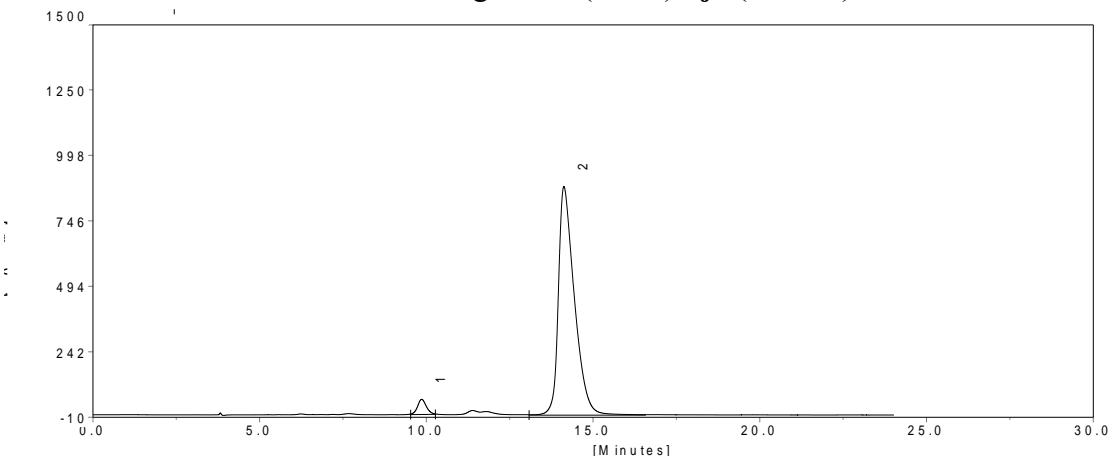


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ja**

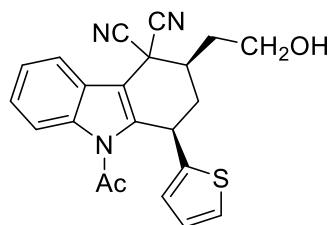


#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	9.86750	622.45	12132.15	43.4176
2	11.40583	80.62	1683.18	6.0236
3	11.92417	66.92	1922.77	6.8810
4	14.33917	405.49	12204.84	43.6777

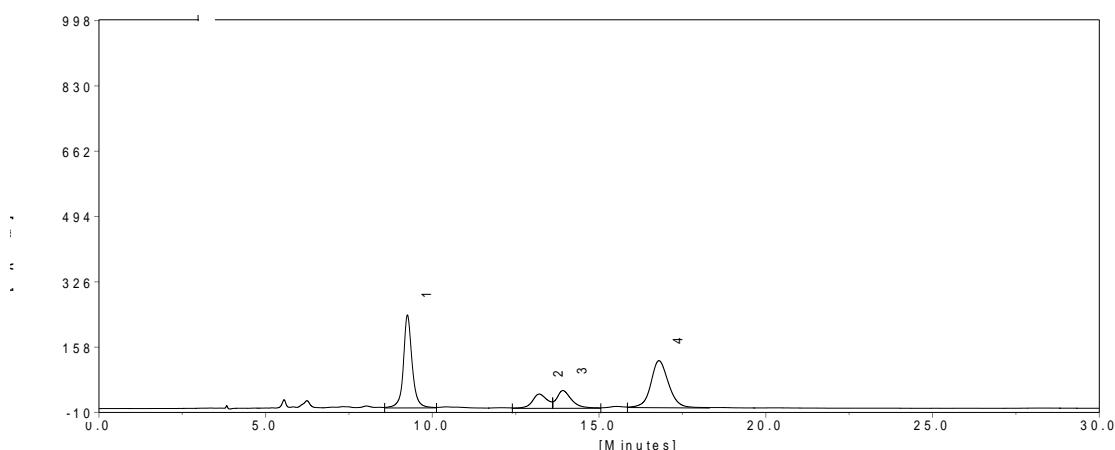
HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ja** (93% ee)



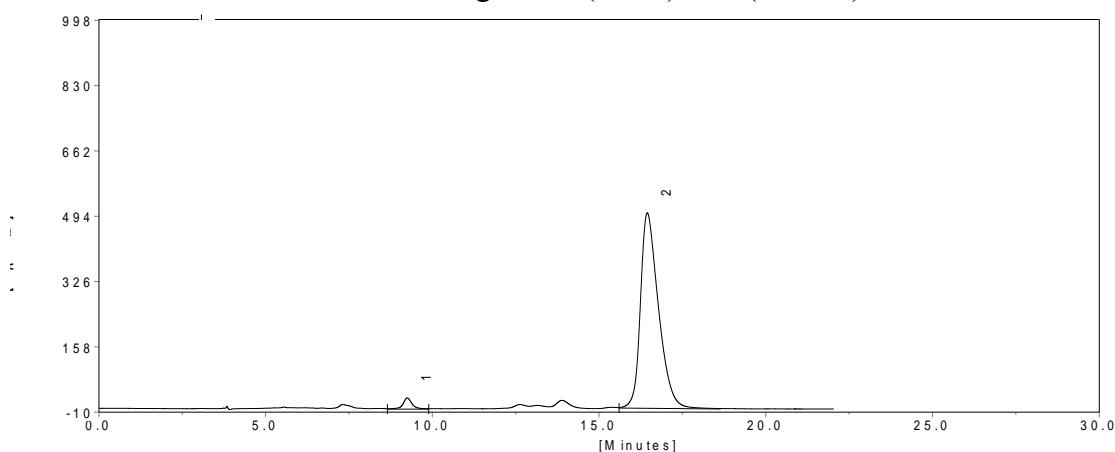
#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	9.86000	56.58	995.71	3.3121
2	14.12583	878.52	29067.03	96.6879

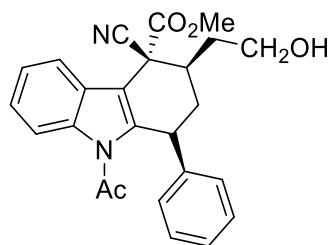


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ka**

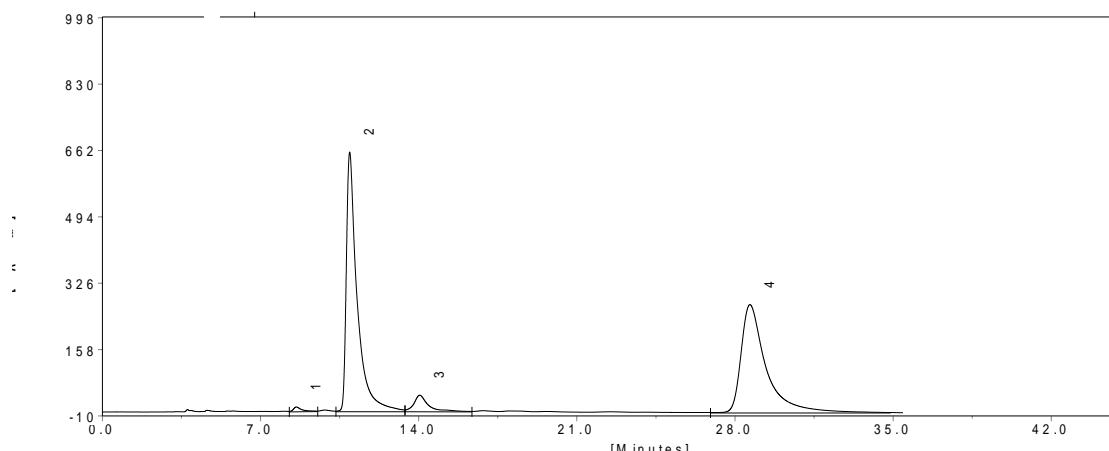


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S,3S*)-**3ka** (95% ee)

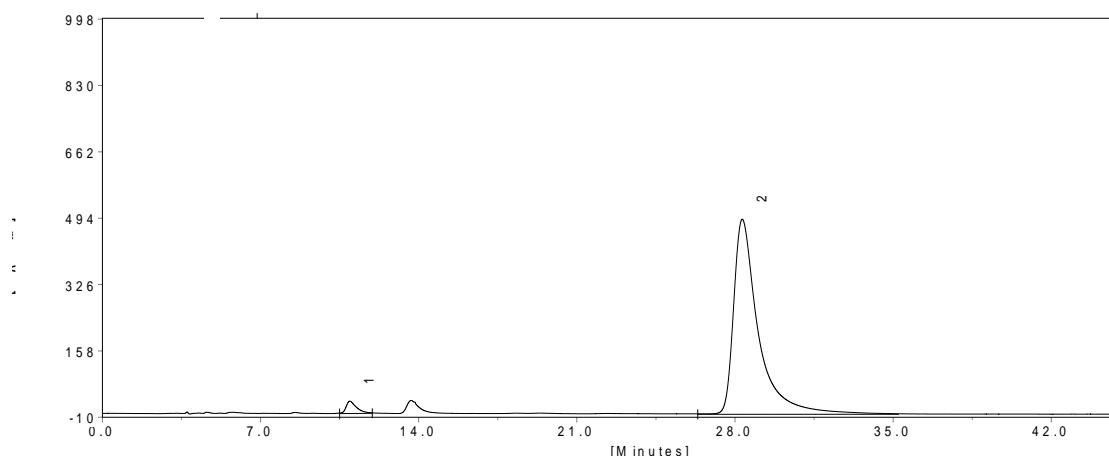


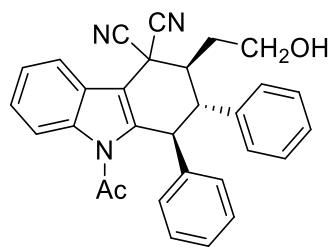


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3la**

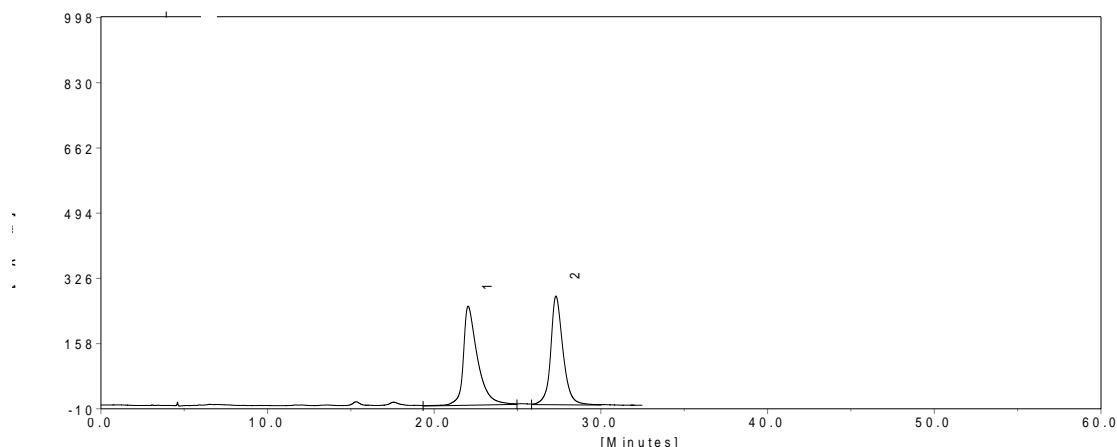


HPLC chromatogram of (*1R, 3R, 4R*)-**3la** (95% ee)

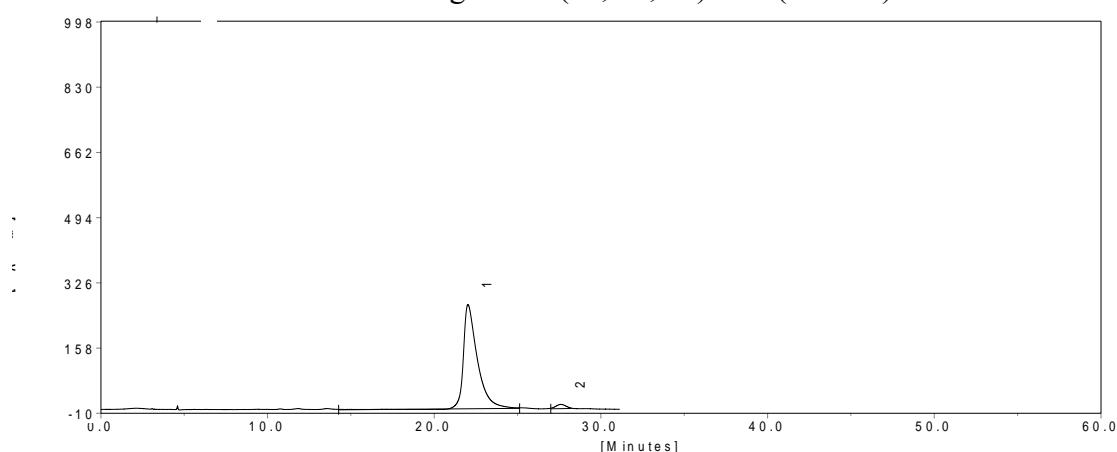


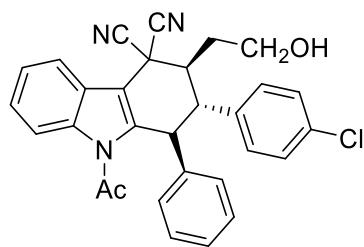


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ab**

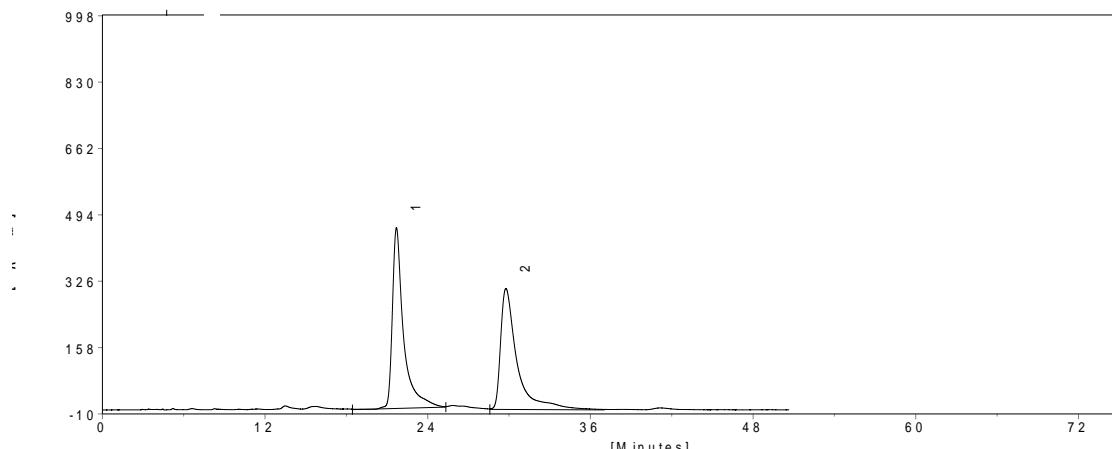


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ab** (95% ee)

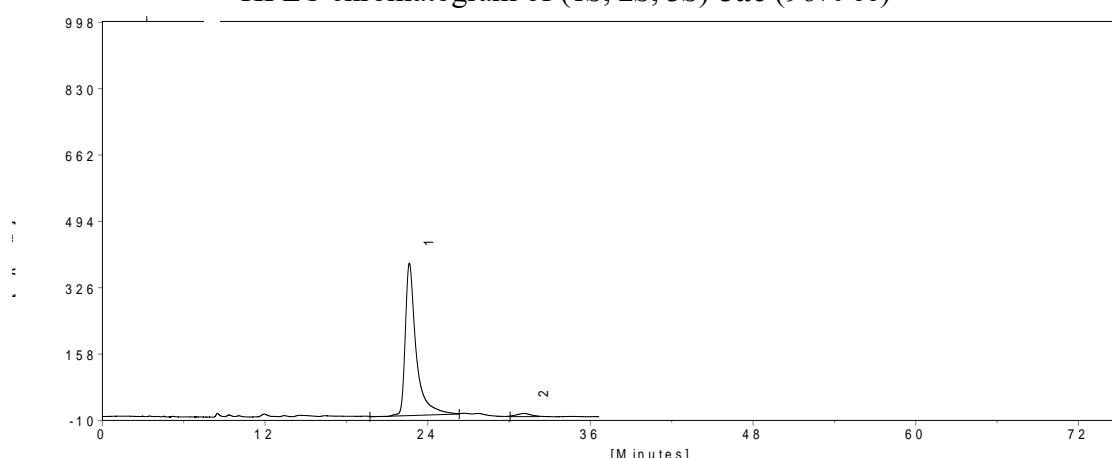


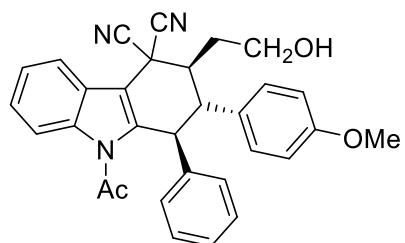


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ac**

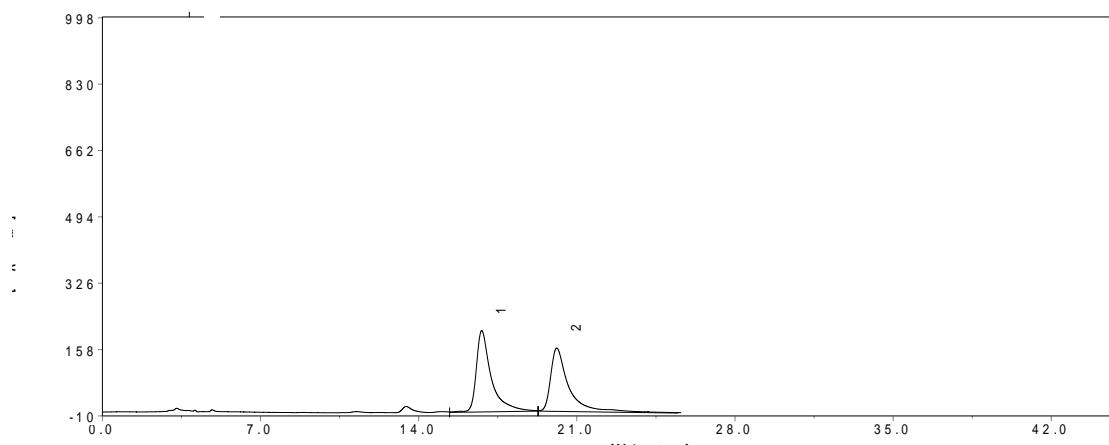


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ac** (96% ee)

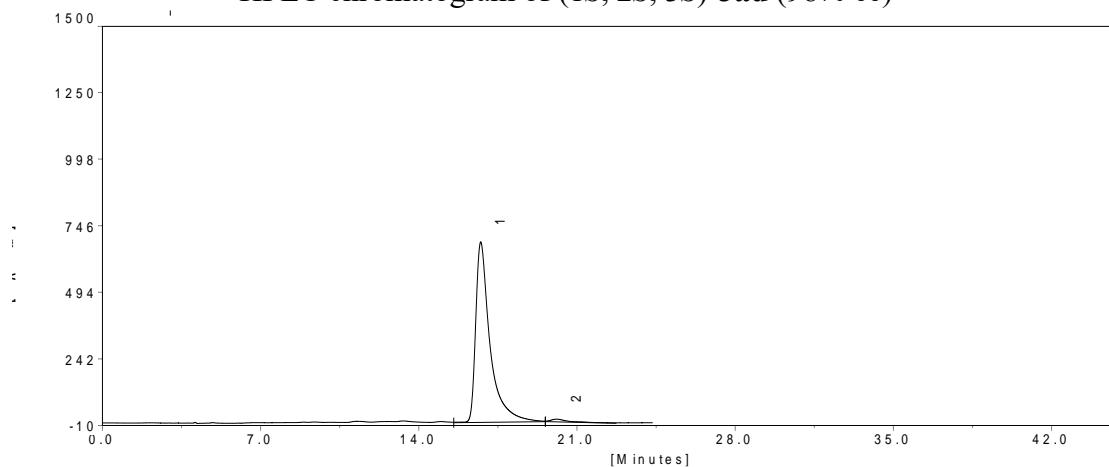


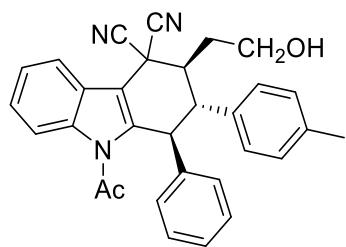


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ad**

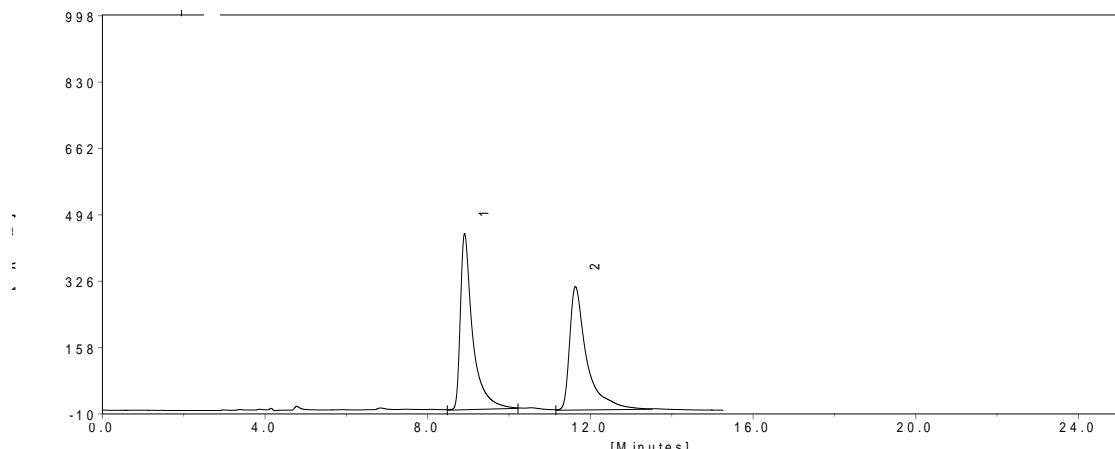


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ad** (98% ee)

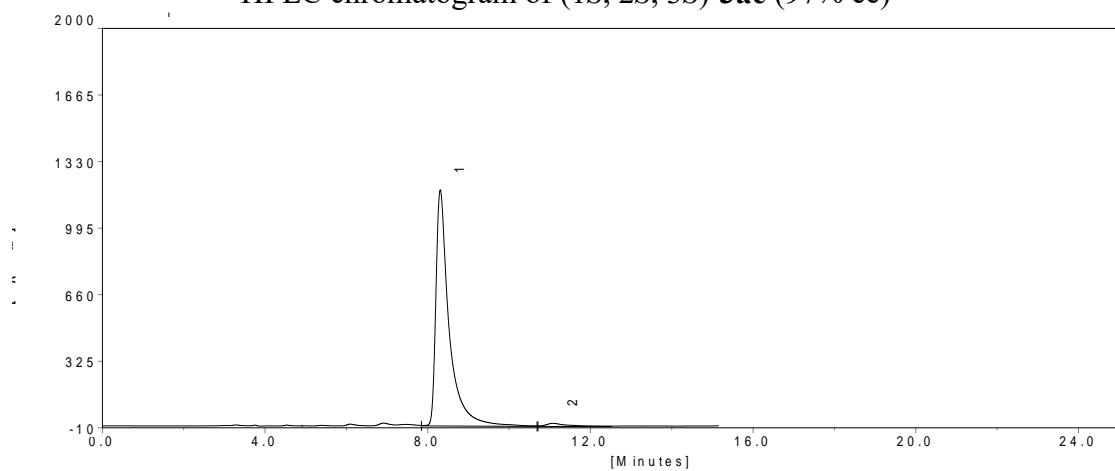


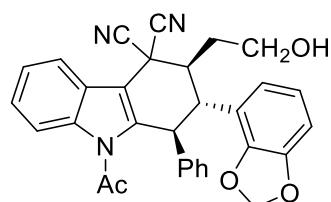


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ae**

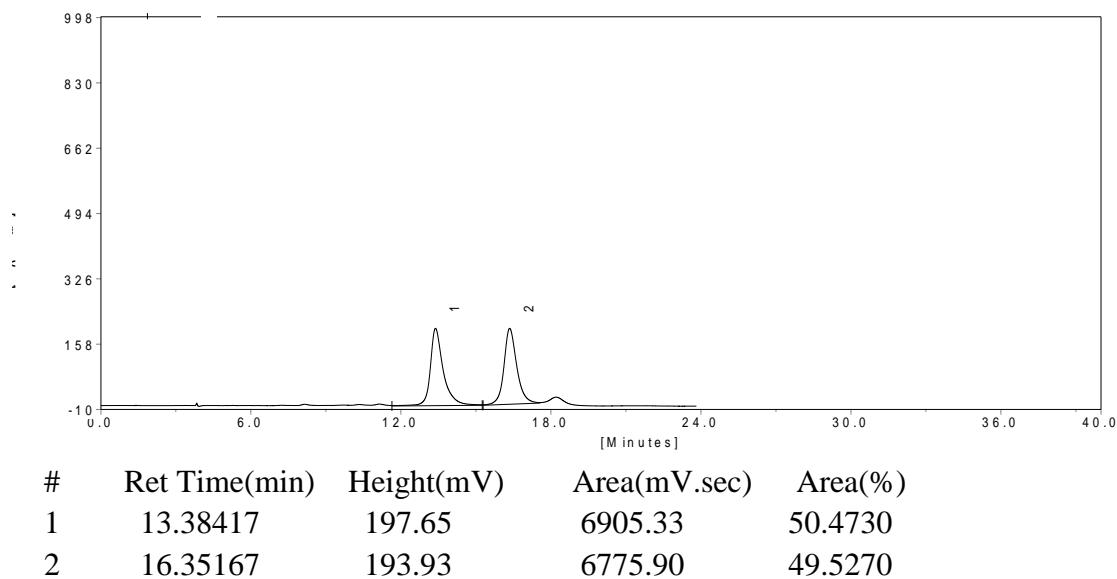


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ae** (97% ee)

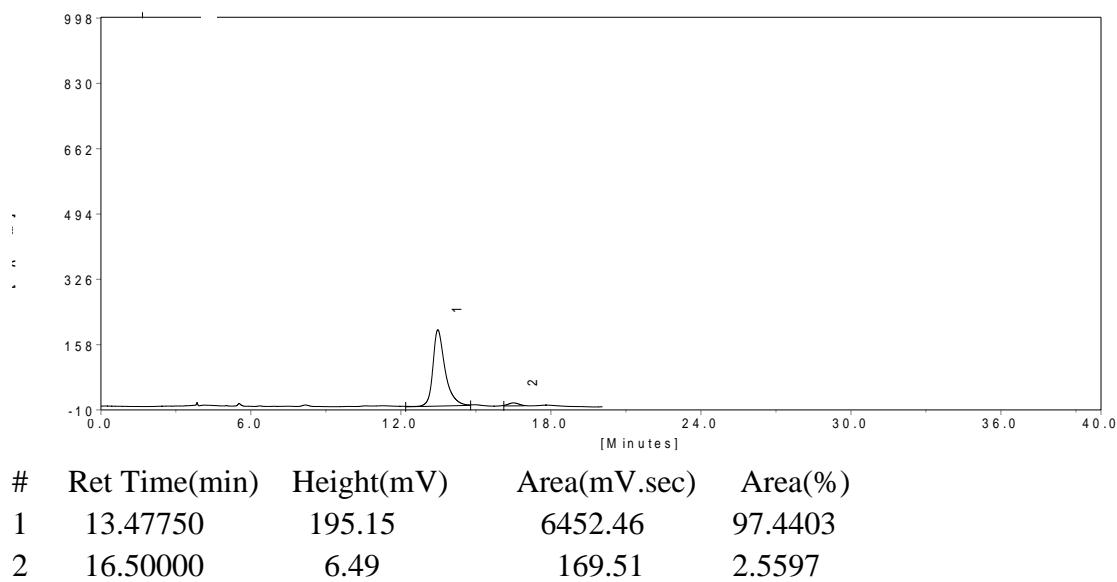


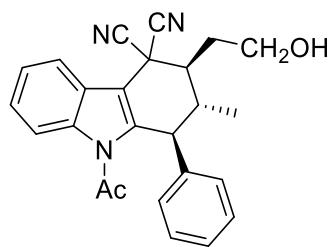


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3af**

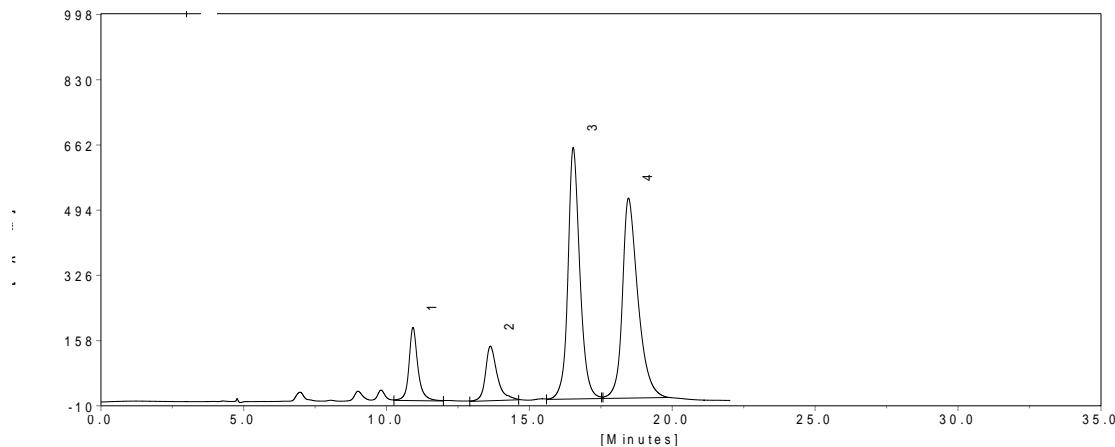


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3af** (95% ee)

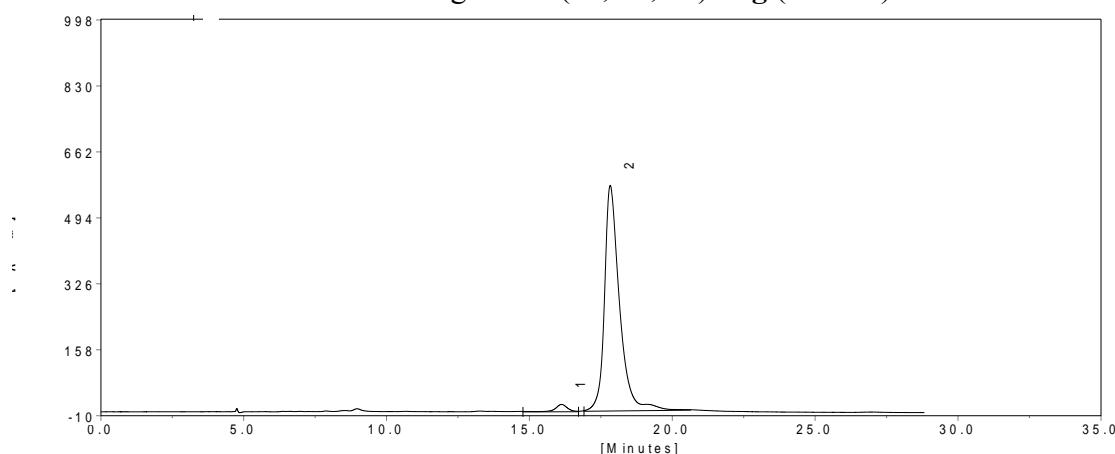


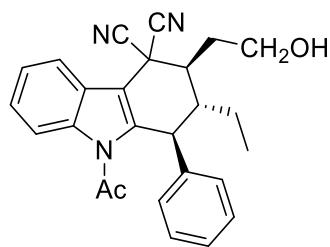


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ag**

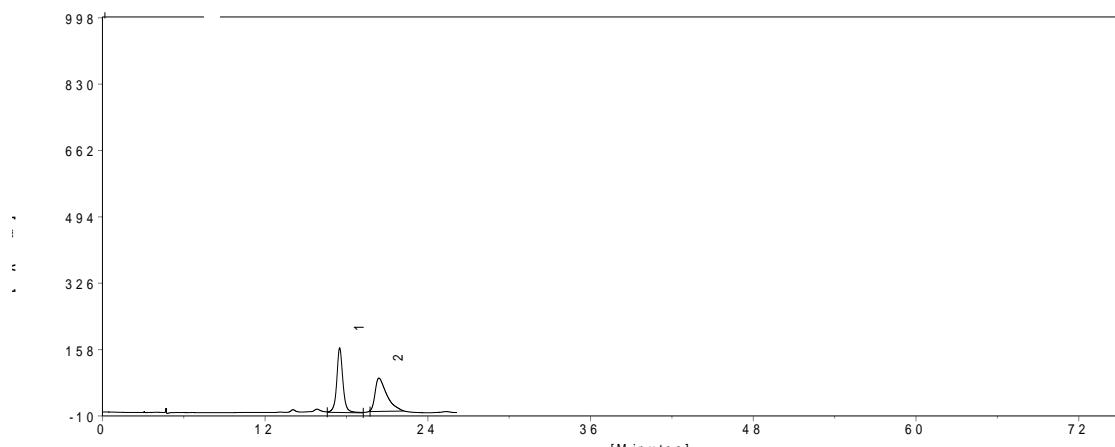


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ag** (95% ee)

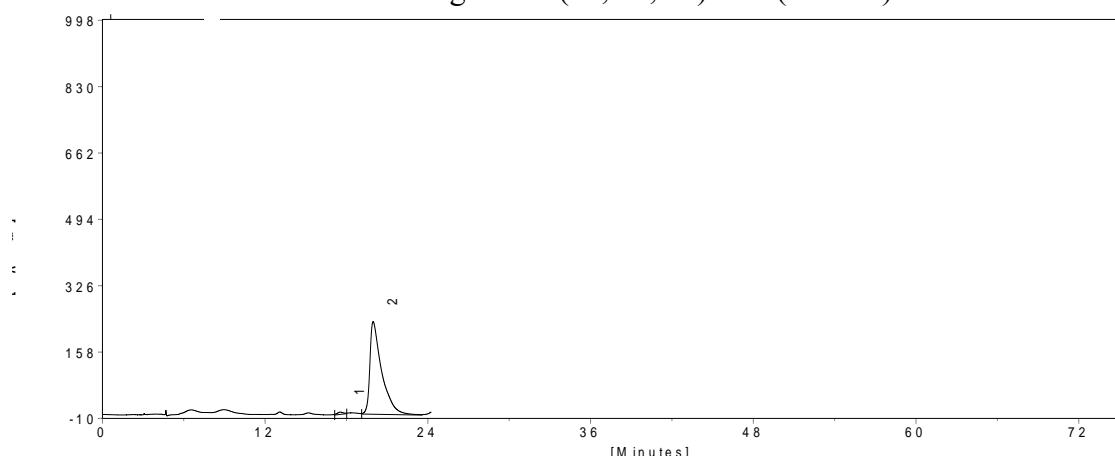


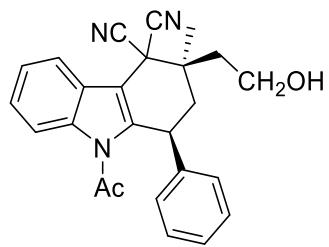


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ah**

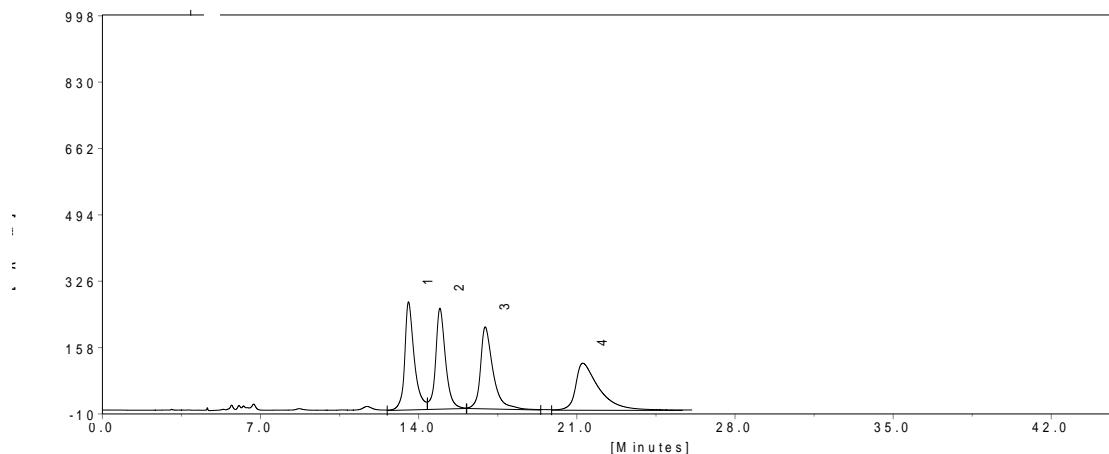


HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 2S, 3S*)-**3ah** (98% ee)



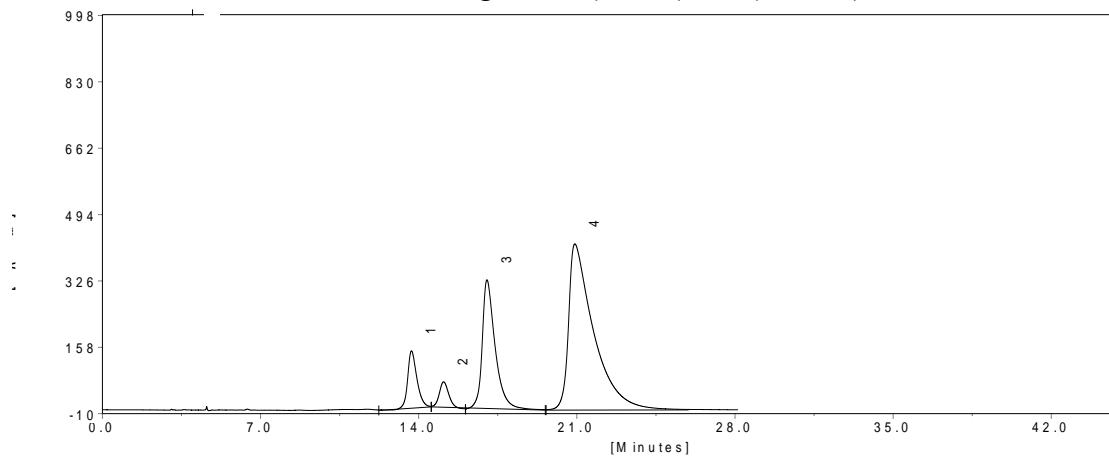


HPLC chromatogram of racemic **3ai**

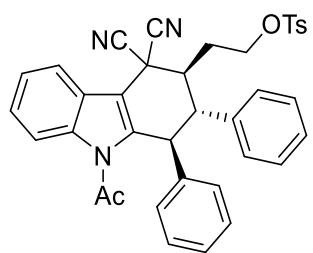


#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	13.54917	272.57	7946.47	25.0931
2	14.94000	254.21	7649.74	24.1560
3	16.94500	206.35	7799.75	24.6297
4	21.26417	117.97	8272.04	26.1212

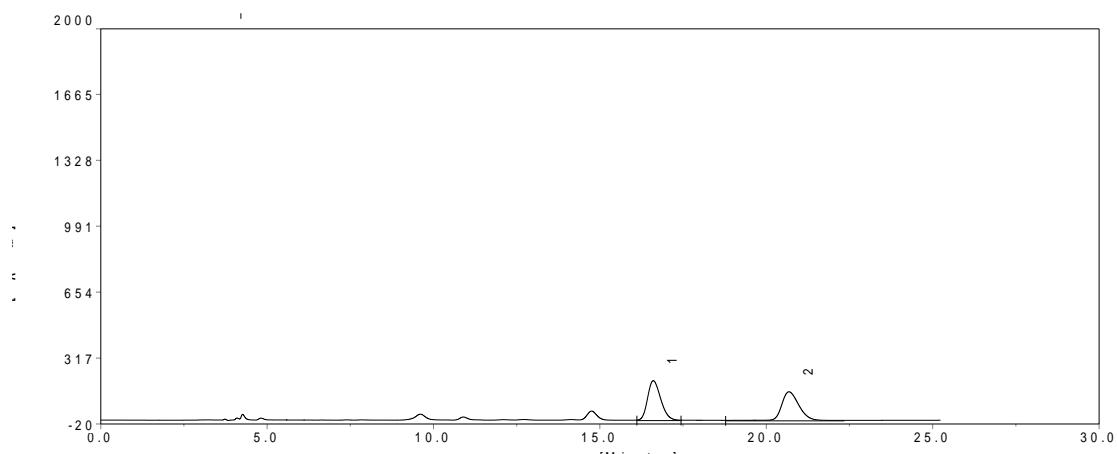
HPLC chromatogram of (1*S*, 3*S*)-**3ai** (43% ee)



#	Ret Time(min)	Height(mV)	Area(mV.sec)	Area(%)
1	13.68083	144.00	3940.34	7.8241
2	15.10333	63.17	1682.46	3.3408
3	17.02333	324.48	12619.83	25.0586
4	20.91250	419.46	32118.66	63.7765



HPLC chromatogram of racemic **4ab**



HPLC chromatogram of (*1S, 3S*)-**4ab** (95% ee)

