

Supporting information

Ni-Catalyzed 1,2-Iminoacylation of Alkenes *via* a Reductive Strategy

Lin Wang and Chuan Wang*

Department of Chemistry, Center for Excellence in Molecular Synthesis, Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Science at the Microscale, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, 230026 (China). E-mail: chuanw@ustc.edu.cn

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1. General Information

^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400M NMR spectrometers at ambient temperature in CDCl_3 at 400 and 101 MHz. ^{19}F NMR were reported as ^{19}F exp. comp. pulse decoupling (F19CPD) unless otherwise noted. The chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane [^1H : $\delta = (\text{SiMe}_4) = 0.00$ ppm] as an internal standard or relative to the resonance of the solvent [^1H : $\delta = (\text{CDCl}_3) = 7.26$, ^{13}C : $\delta = (\text{CDCl}_3) = 77.16$ ppm]. Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); dd (doublet of doublets); dt (doublet of triplets); m (multiplets), etc. Coupling constants are reported as J values in Hz. High resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) was performed on Waters XEVO G2 Q-TOF. Flash chromatography was performed using 300-400 mesh silica gel with the indicated solvent system.

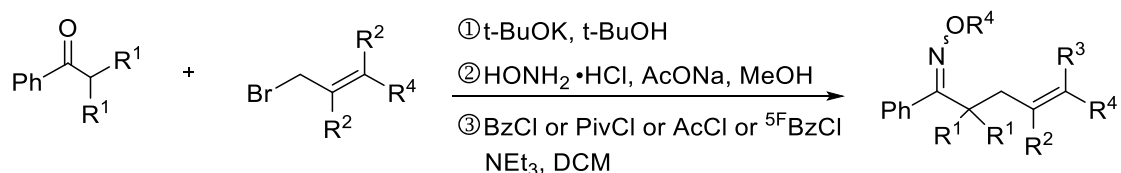
Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were set up on 10mL tube with 14# rubber stopper and carried out under nitrogen. $\text{Ni}(\text{dme})\text{Cl}_2$ was purchased from Strem and used as received. 2,2'-Biquinoline, Zinc powder (325 mesh) and all solvents were purchased from Adamas China. Acid chlorides were purchased from Adamas China and Energy Chemical. Other commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, TCI, Strem, Acros, Energy Chemical and were used as received.

Reactions were monitored through thin layer chromatography [Merck 60 F254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness)]. Subsequent to elution, spots were visualized using UV radiation (254 nm) on Spectroline Model ENF-24061/F 254 nm. Other visualization methods include staining with a basic solution of potassium permanganate or acidic solution of ceric molybdate, followed by heating.

2. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

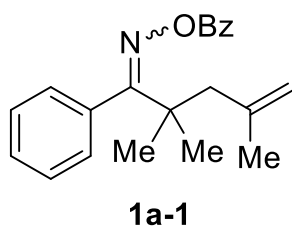
2.1 Preparation of γ,δ -unsaturated oxime ester

Procedure (A) for the synthesis of **1a-1**, **1a-2**, **1a-3**, **1a-4**, **1g**, **1i**, and **1l**.

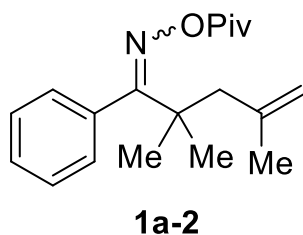


The reactions were performed according to an adapted version of the literature ¹.

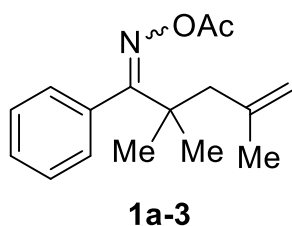
- (1) A mixture of isobutyrophenone or benzoylcyclobutane (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and potassium *t*-butoxide (15.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in *t*-butyl alcohol (30 mL, 3 mL/mmol) was heated under reflux for 10 min, before allyl bromide or (3-bromoprop-1-en-2-yl)benzene (12.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) (synthesized according to the literature ²) was added dropwise into the solution. After the reaction was complete according to the TLC analysis, the mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residual was treated with water (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL \times 3). The combined extracts were washed with saturated brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was used in the next step without other purified.
- (2) To a MeOH solution (30 mL, 3 mL/mmol) of γ,δ -unsaturated ketone (crude, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added NaOAc (20 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and hydroxylamine hydrochloride (20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The mixture was stirred under reflux a. After the reaction was complete according to the TLC analysis, the mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residual was treated with water (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL \times 3) and the combined extracts were washed with saturated brine, and dried with MgSO₄. The combined extracts were washed with saturated brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was used in the next step without other purified.
- (3) A mixture of ketoxime (crude, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and NEt₃ (20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in DCM (30 mL, 3mL/mmol) at room temperature was added dropwise benzoyl chloride or pivaloyl chloride or acetyl chloride or pentafluorobenzoyl Chloride (12.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv). After stirring overnight, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo until the ketoximes were consumed monitored by TLC. The residual was extracted from water (30ml) with ethyl acetate (30ml \times 3) and the combined extracts were washed with saturated brine, and dried with MgSO₄. The combined extracts were washed with saturated brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered, and removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified through flash chromatography to give the corresponding γ,δ -unsaturated oxime esters.



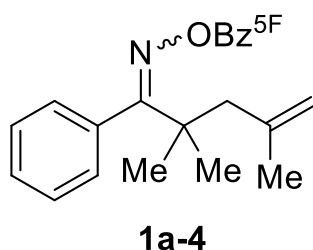
2,2,4-Trimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1a-1) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a white solid (1.76 g, 55% yield, over 3 steps). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ = 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ = 175.1, 163.6, 142.2, 133.5, 132.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.3, 128.0, 126.8, 115.2, 46.9, 41.5, 26.4, 25.4 ppm.



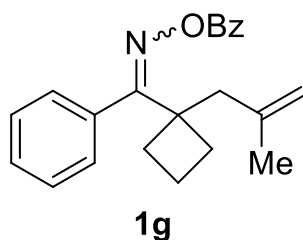
2,2,4-Trimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-pivaloyl oxime (1a-2) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc = 50:1) as a white solid (1.38g, 46% yield, over 3 steps). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.45 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 2H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 176.2, 175.1, 142.1, 133.4, 128.1, 127.8, 126.6, 115.1, 46.7, 41.4, 38.3, 26.7, 26.1, 25.4 ppm.



2,2,4-Trimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-acetyl oxime (1a-3) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a colourless oil (1.06g, 41% yield, over 3 steps). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.47 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 2H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 6H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 174.3, 168.9, 142.2, 133.1, 128.2, 127.9, 126.7, 115.0, 46.9, 41.4, 26.4, 25.3, 19.6 ppm.

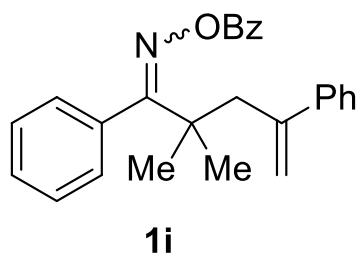


2,2,4-Trimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1a-4) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a yellow solid (1.23g, 30% yield, over 3 steps). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.53 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 2.35 (s, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 6H) ppm. **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = -137.17 – -137.82 (m, 2F), -148.26 – -148.72 (m, 1F), -160.36 (m, 2F) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 176.9, 141.9, 132.5, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 115.2, 46.8, 41.9, 26.2, 25.3 ppm (Signals corresponding to the perfluorinated benzoyl ester moiety were not resolvable due to their anticipated weak intensity).



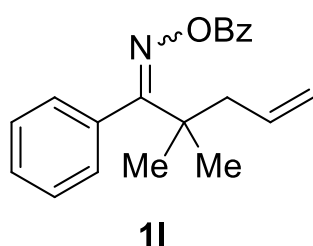
(1-(2-Methylallyl)cyclobutyl)(phenyl)methanone O-benzoyl oxime (1g) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a white solid (1.50g, 45% yield, over 3 steps). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.01 – 2.78 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 2H), 2.16 – 1.93 (m, 4H), 1.67 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101

MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 172.2, 163.8, 142.2, 133.0, 132.9, 129.4, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 126.7, 112.8, 47.2, 43.9, 31.2, 24.3, 15.8 ppm.



2,2-Dimethyl-1,4-diphenylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1i) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc = 50:1) as a white solid (1.53g, 40% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 7.33 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.11 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 1.17 (s, 6H) ppm.

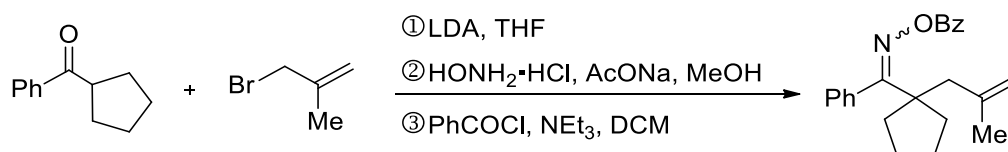
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 175.1, 163.6, 145.7, 143.2, 133.4, 132.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.0, 127.3, 126.7, 126.7, 118.1, 44.4, 42.0, 26.2 ppm.



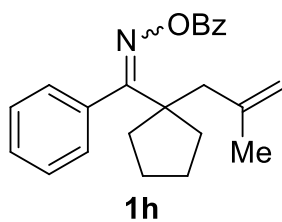
2,2-Dimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1l) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc = 50:1) as a colourless oil (1.29g, 42% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.58 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 5.95 (ddt, *J* = 17.4, 10.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.22 – 5.03 (m, 2H), 2.40 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 174.6, 163.6,

134.2, 133.3, 132.9, 129.3, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 126.7, 118.3, 44.2, 41.4, 25.7 ppm.

Procedures for the synthesis of **1h**.

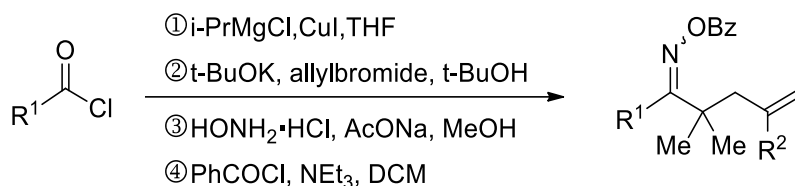


- (1) The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of literature ¹. To a THF solution (60 mL) of diisopropylamine (24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) contained in 250 mL round bottom flask under the N₂-protection was added *n*-butyllithium (24.0 mmol, 2.5 M in *n*-hexane) at -78°C, and the resulting solution was stirred for 0.5 h at this temperature. Then cyclopentyl phenyl ketone (20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added into the solution. After stirring at -78°C for 1 h allylbromide (24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to the mixture, which was then warmed to ambient temperature, and was stirred overnight. The reaction was then quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (50 mL), and the organic and aqueous layers were separated. The latter was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×30 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated in vacuum. The residual was used in the next step without other purified.
- (2) **1h** was prepared from the corresponding γ,δ -unsaturated ketone following the aforementioned procedure (Procedure A-2 and A-3).

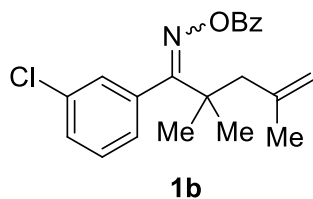


(1-(2-Methylallyl)cyclopentyl)(phenyl)methanone O-benzoyl oxime (1h) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a colourless oil (2.29g, 33% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ=7.56 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 5.01 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 2.43 – 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.33(s, 3H), 1.87 – 1.63 (m, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ= 173.5, 163.6, 142.9, 133.8, 132.9, 129.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 126.7, 113.8, 53.0, 44.5, 36.3, 24.8, 23.8 ppm.

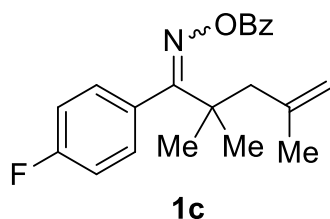
Procedures (B) for the synthesis of **1b-1f**.



- (1) *The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of literature*³. To a mixture of the acid chlorides (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CuI (191 mg, 1.0 mmol, 5 mol%) in THF (30 mL) was added 0.5M solution of isopropylmagnesium chloride in THF (40.8 mL, 20.4 mmol, 1.02 equiv) at -15°C dropwise under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at -15°C for 1h and at room temperature overnight, before it was quenched by adding sat. aq. NH_4Cl solution (50 mL). Then the aqueous solution was extracted with diethyl ether (3×50mL). The combined organic phases were washed with sat. aq. NH_4Cl solution and brine, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and removed in vacuo. The residue was roughly purified by column chromatography.
- (2) The **1b-1f** were prepared from the corresponding γ,δ -unsaturated ketones according to the aforementioned procedure (Procedure A-1 to A-3)..

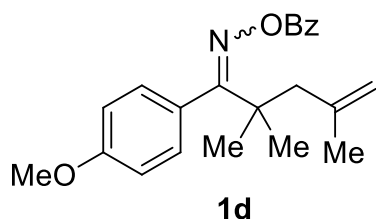


1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1b) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a white solid (2.49g, 35% yield, over 4 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ= 7.64 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 2H), 1.83(s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ= 173.5, 163.4, 142.0, 135.0, 134.2, 133.1, 129.43, 129.36, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 125.1, 115.3, 46.9, 41.6, 26.4, 25.4 ppm.



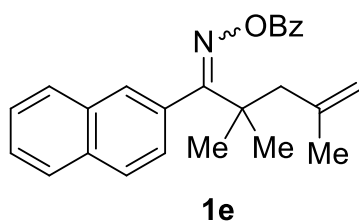
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1c) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a colourless oil (2.78g, 41% yield, over 4 steps). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.61 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 6H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 174.3, 163.7, 162.5 (d, J = 246.4 Hz), 142.1, 133.1, 129.3, 129.2 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 128.9, 128.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 128.4, 115.3 (d, J = 20.3Hz), 115.1, 46.9, 41.6, 26.4, 25.4 ppm.



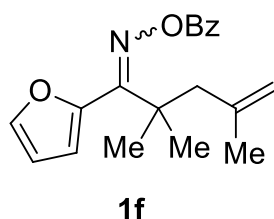
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1d) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 20 : 1) as a white solid (2.32g, 33% yield, over 4 steps). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s,

1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 6H)ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 175.0, 163.8, 159.4, 142.3, 132.9, 129.4, 129.2, 128.3, 128.2, 125.5, 115. 0, 113.4, 55.3, 47.0, 41.7, 26.7, 25.4 ppm .



2,2,4-Trimethyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)pent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1e) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a white solid (2.67g, 36% yield, over 4 steps). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ =7.95 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.66 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7

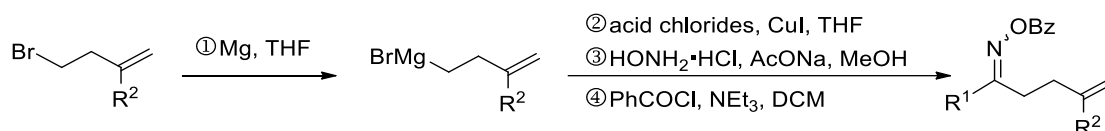
Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 2.52 – 2.34 (s, 2H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 6H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 175.0, 163.7, 142.2, 132.9, 132.8, 132.6, 131.0, 129.3, 129.0, 128.31, 128.26, 127.8, 127.7, 126.7, 126.6, 125.6, 125.1, 116.3, 47.0, 41.9, 26.5, 25.4 ppm.



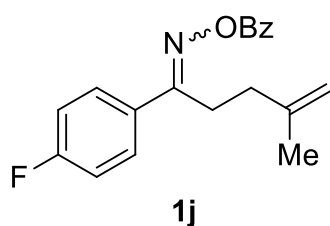
1-(Furan-2-yl)-2,2,4-trimethylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1f) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a colourless oil (1.25g, 20% yield, over 4 steps). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ =8.03 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 3.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (dd, J = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 2.59 (s, 2H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.45

(s, 6H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 163.9, 161.2, 144.7, 142.8, 142.6, 133.2, 129.7, 129.3, 128.6, 118.6, 114.6, 111.5, 48.2, 42.3, 27.3, 24.2 ppm .

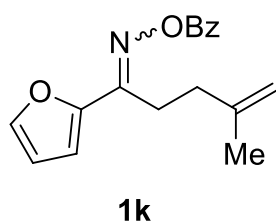
Procedures for the synthesis of **1j-1k, 1m**.



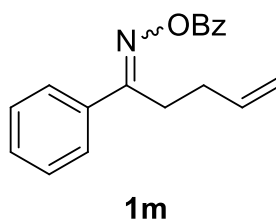
- (1) The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of patent ⁴. The temperature of the mixed solution consisting of magnesium (0.98 g, 40 mmol, 2 equiv), catalytic amount of iodine and 10ml THF was raised to 60°C under nitrogen atmosphere. A solution of 4-bromo-1-butene (2.1 mL, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) or 4-bromo-2-methyl-1-butene (synthesized according to a literature ⁵) (3.0 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 10 mL THF was added dropwise over 15min. Gentle foaming was observed immediately after dropwise addition. After stirring for 1h. The mixture was cooled after and the corresponding Grignard reagent was obtained.
- (2) The **1j-1k, 1m** was prepared according to the aforementioned procedure (procedure B-1 and B-2).



1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-methylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1j) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a white solid (2.18g, 35% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ= 8.20 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.91 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 3.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 166.0, 164.3 (d, *J* = 249.6 Hz), 163.7, 143.8, 133.4, 130.0 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.6, 129.5 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 129.0, 128.7, 115.8 (d, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 111.3, 34.6, 27.4, 22.4 ppm.



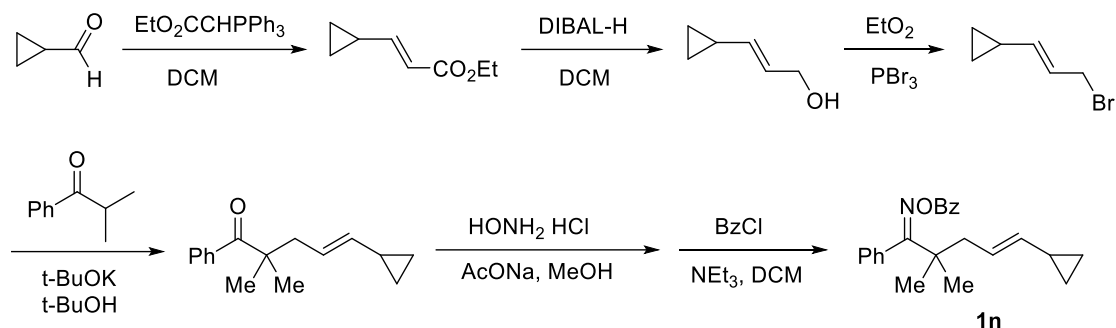
1-(Furan-2-yl)-4-methylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1k) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc = 50:1) as a colourless oil (2.43g, 43% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.10 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.55 – 6.50 (m, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 163.5, 158.3, 147.8, 145.3, 144.0, 133.4, 129.6, 128.9, 128.6, 113.5, 111.9, 111.3, 35.0, 26.7, 22.3 ppm.



1-Phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1m) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc = 50:1) as a white solid (2.79g, 50% yield, over 3 steps). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.20 – 8.06 (m, 2H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 5.88 (ddt, *J* = 16.9, 10.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.23 – 4.88 (m, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.52 – 2.29 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm.

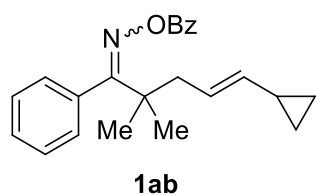
^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ =166.7, 163.8, 136.5, 133.9, 133.4, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.71, 128.65, 127.4, 116.0, 30.9, 28.2 ppm.

Procedures for the synthesis of **1n**



The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of literature ⁸.

- (1) To a solution of cyclopropanecarbaldehyde (2.2 mL, 30 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL) was added ethyl (triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate (12.6 g, 36 mmol, 1.2 equiv) as a solution in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) dropwise over 5 minutes at ambient temperature. After being stirred for 5 hours, the solution was poured into saturated aq. NaCl (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2×50 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc= 20:1) afforded the ethyl (*E*)-3-cyclopropylacrylate (3.1 g, 78%) as a colorless oil.
- (2) To a solution of ethyl (*E*)-3-cyclopropylacrylate (2.8 g, 20 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (60 mL) at -78°C was added DIBAL-H (1M in hexane, 42.0 mL, 42.0 mmol) over 5 minutes. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 15 minutes after which saturated aq. sodium potassium tartrate (50 mL) was added and the mixture was warmed to room temperature with vigorous stirring for 1h. The reaction mixture extracted with EtOAc (3 100 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with saturated aq. sodium potassium tartrate (50 mL), H_2O (50 mL), brine (50 mL), dried (MgSO_4) and filtered. Concentration in vacuo afforded the (*E*)-3-cyclopropylprop-2-en-1-ol (1.6g, 80%) as a yellow oil that was used without further purification.
- (3) To a diethyl ether solution (30ml) of (*E*)-3-cyclopropylprop-2-en-1-ol (1.5 g, 15 mmol) was added phosphorus bromide (2.3 mL, 24 mmol, 1.6 equiv) dropwise at 0°C and the mixture was stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into ice-water bath, extracted with Et_2O (3 × 30 mL). The organic layers were combined and concentrated in vacuo to afford the (*E*)-(3-bromoprop-1-en-1-yl) cyclopropane (crude, 1.6g, 67%) which was unstable and must be subjected to next step immediately.
- (4) According to the aforementioned procedure (Procedure A-1 to A-3), the terminal product was prepared from (*E*)-(3-bromoprop-1-en-1-yl)cyclopropane (10 mmol). The next 3 steps yielded 3 mmol of the terminal product (30% yield, 3 steps).

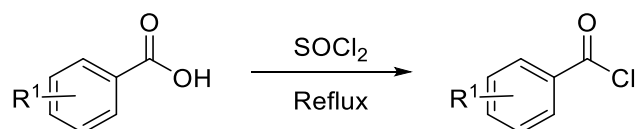


(4E)-5-cyclopropyl-2,2-dimethyl-1-phenylpent-4-en-1-one O-benzoyl oxime (1ab) was isolated by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane:EtOAc= 50:1) as a colourless oil. The NMR Data are in accordance with literature values¹. ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.58 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 5.60 (dt, *J* = 14.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (ddt, *J* = 15.1, 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (dtd, *J* = 13.1, 8.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (s, 6H), 0.71 – 0.62 (m, 2H), 0.34 (dt, *J* = 6.3, 4.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 174.9, 163.6, 138.0, 133.5, 132.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 126.8, 122.8, 43.0, 41.7, 25.6, 13.8, 6.5 ppm.

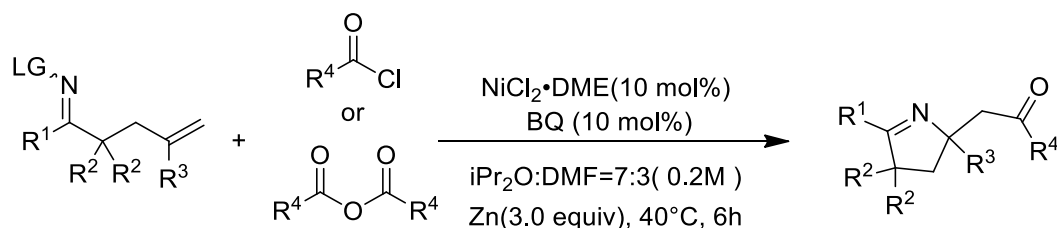
2.2 Preparation of acid chloride

Procedures for the synthesis of **2v**, **2w**, and **2aa**.



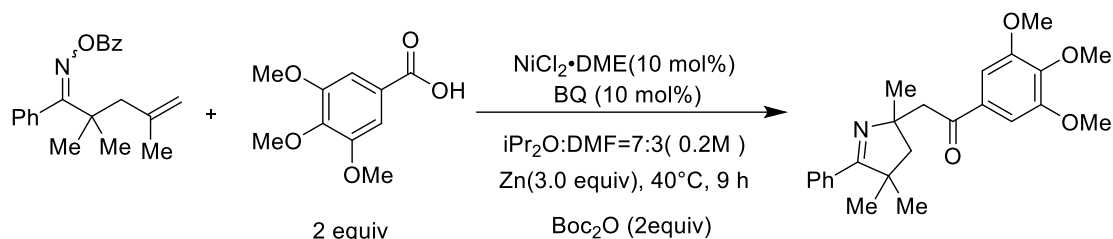
The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of literature ⁶. A mixture of aryl carboxyl acid (1.0 equiv) and SOCl₂ (5.0 equiv) was refluxed for 4h. Excess SOCl₂ was removed under reduced pressure to give a crude aryl chloride that was used for next step without further purification.

2.3 General procedure for the nickel-catalyzed 1,2-iminoacylation of alkenes

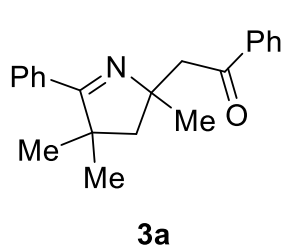


LG=OBz, OPiv, OAc, or OBz^{5F}

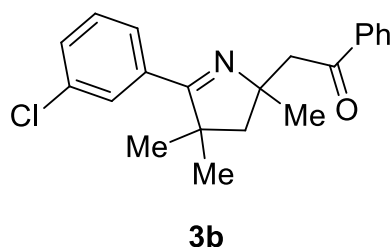
A mixture of Ni(dme)Cl₂·(10 mol%), 2,2'-biquinoline (10 mol%), Zinc(3.0 equiv), γ,δ -unsaturated oxime esters (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry *i*-Pr₂O:DMF (0.7 mL:0.3mL) was stirred in a sealed tube at 40 °C for 10 min under nitrogen atmosphere. To the resulting solution were added acid chlorides or acid anhydrides (synthesized according to the literature ⁷) (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 6h at 40 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was directly loaded to silica gel and purified by preparative TLC to afford the corresponding products.



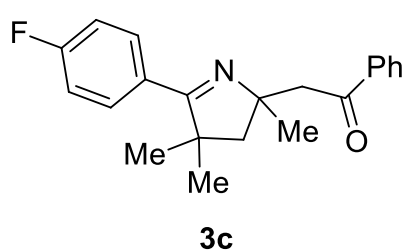
A mixture of Ni(dme)Cl₂ (10 mol%), 2,2'-biquinoline (10 mol%), Zinc (3.0 equiv), γ,δ -unsaturated oxime esters (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoic acid (2.0 equiv) and Boc₂O (2 equiv) in dry i-Pr₂O:DMF (0.7 mL:0.3 mL) was stirred in a sealed tube at 40 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 9 h. Then the mixture was cooled and directly loaded to silica gel and purified by preparative TLC to afford the corresponding products.



1-Phenyl-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethan-1-one (3a) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc=5:1) as a colourless oil (47mg, 77% yield (acid chloride); 55mg, 90% yield (acid anhydride)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.04 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.1, 177.7, 137.9, 135.0, 132.9, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 71.1, 51.72, 51.70, 50.5, 29.13, 29.08, 28.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₄NO [M+H]⁺: 306.1852, found: 306.1860.

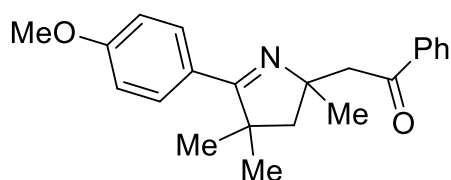


2-(5-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3b) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (39mg, 58% yield (acid chloride); 46 mg, 68% yield (acid anhydride)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.03 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.0, 176.5, 137.9, 136.7, 134.2, 133.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 125.9, 71.3, 51.7, 51.5, 50.3, 29.2, 29.1, 28.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₃ClNO [M+H]⁺: 340.1463, found: 340.1471.



2-(5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3c) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (36mg, 56% yield (acid chloride); 47mg, 73% yield (acid anhydride)). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.03 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.47 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 15.9

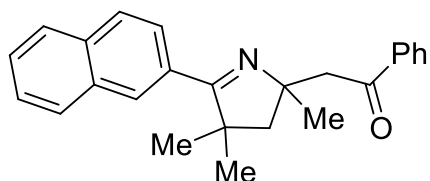
Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 199.0, 176.4, 163.4 (d, $J = 247.6$ Hz), 137.9, 132.9, 131.0 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz), 130.0 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 128.5, 128.3, 115.1 (d, $J = 21.3$ Hz), 71.0, 51.8, 51.6, 50.4, 29.2, 29.1, 28.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{FNO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 324.1758, found: 324.1758.



3d

2-(5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3d) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc = 5:1) as a colourless oil (44mg, 65% yield (acid chloride); 62mg, 93% yield (acid anhydride)). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.07 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.50

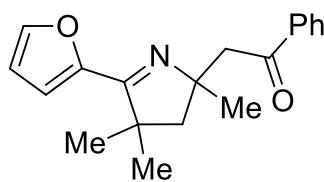
(d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.05 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 199.2, 176.5, 160.6, 138.0, 132.9, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.1, 113.5, 70.7, 55.3, 52.2, 51.3, 50.6, 29.2, 29.1, 28.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 336.1958, found: 336.1964.



3e

1-Phenyl-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethan-1-one (3e) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc = 5:1) as a colourless oil (44mg, 62% yield (acid chloride); 54mg, 76% yield (acid anhydride)). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.14 – 7.94 (m, 3H), 7.86 – 7.76 (m, 3H), 7.72 (dd, $J = 8.6$, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 3.53

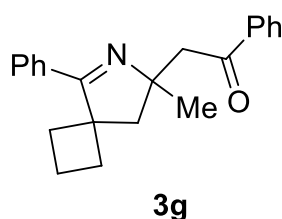
(d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.11 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 199.2, 177.4, 138.0, 133.6, 133.0, 132.8, 132.3, 128.61, 128.55, 128.45, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 126.7, 126.2, 125.7, 71.2, 52.0, 51.8, 50.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 356.2009, found: 356.2004.



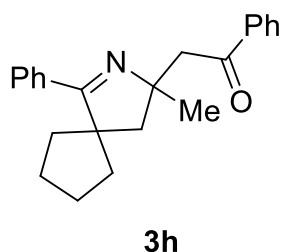
3f

2-(5-(Furan-2-yl)-2,4,4-trimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3f) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc = 5:1) as a colourless oil (44mg, 74% yield (acid chloride); 52mg, 88% yield (acid anhydride)). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.08 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 1H), 6.46 (dd, $J = 3.5$, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, $J = 16.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, $J = 16.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, $J =$

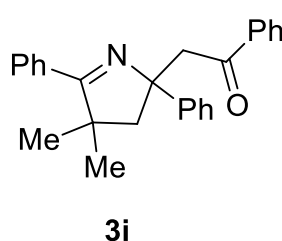
13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 198.7, 167.5, 148.9, 144.0, 138.0, 132.9, 128.5, 128.2, 112.9, 111.3, 72.1, 51.3, 51.0, 50.6, 29.0, 28.8, 28.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 296.1645, found: 296.1660.



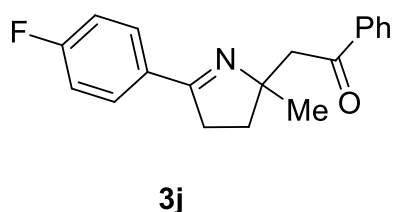
2-(7-Methyl-5-phenyl-6-azaspiro[3.4]oct-5-en-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3g) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (42mg, 66% yield (acid chloride); 53mg, 83% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.03 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 5H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.53 (m, 2H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.98 – 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.1, 176.1, 137.9, 135.2, 133.0, 129.3, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 71.3, 55.7, 52.1, 49.5, 34.0, 32.4, 27.7, 16.5. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₄NO [M+H]⁺: 318.1852, found: 318.1861.



2-(3-Methyl-1-phenyl-2-azaspiro[4.4]non-1-en-3-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3h) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (56mg, 85% yield (acid chloride); 65mg, 98% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.06 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.53 (m, 6H), 1.48 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.2, 177.0, 137.9, 135.0, 133.0, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 71.8, 61.8, 52.3, 50.3, 39.3, 39.1, 28.6, 25.5, 25.4 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₃H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺: 332.2009, found: 332.2020.

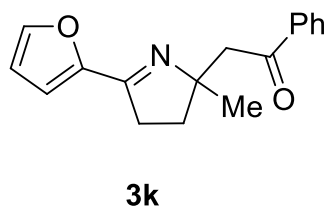


2-(4,4-Dimethyl-2,5-diphenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3i) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (43mg, 59% yield (acid chloride); 60mg, 81% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.93 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.23 (m, 7H), 7.23 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 3.69–3.59 (m, 2H), 2.79 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.0, 178.8, 148.2, 138.1, 134.8, 132.7, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.11, 128.07, 126.5, 126.1, 75.9, 51.7, 51.5, 51.4, 27.4, 27.4 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₆H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺: 368.2009, found: 368.2025.

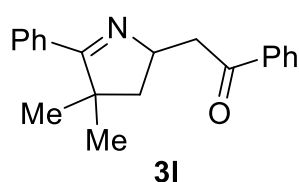


2-(5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3j) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (36mg, 60% yield (acid chloride); 18mg, 30% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.04 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.13 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.26 (ddd, *J* = 13.2, 9.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (ddd, *J* = 13.1, 9.1, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.2, 169.8, 164.1 (d, *J* = 248.8 Hz), 137.9, 132.9, 130.8 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 129.8 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 128.43, 128.37, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 75.3, 49.1,

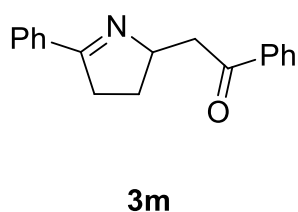
35.6, 34.1, 27.7 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{19}H_{19}FNO$ $[M+H]^+$: 296.1445, found: 296.1454.



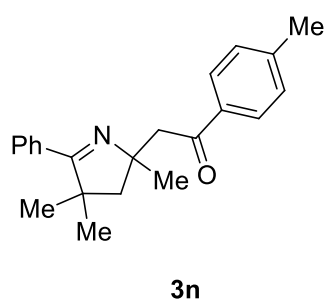
2-(5-(Furan-2-yl)-2-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3k) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (33mg, 61% yield (acid chloride); 29mg, 54% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 8.05 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 6.76 (dd, J = 3.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.04 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.29 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.06 (ddd, J = 13.2, 8.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =198.9, 161.6, 149.7, 144.6, 137.7, 132.9, 128.5, 128.2, 113.5, 111.5, 75.3, 49.0, 35.4, 33.6, 27.3 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{17}H_{18}NO_2$ $[M+H]^+$: 268.1332, found: 268.1342.



2-(4,4-Dimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3l) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (31mg, 53% yield (acid chloride); 47mg, 81% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =8.10 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.75 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 4.68 – 4.53 (m, 1H), 3.84 (dd, J = 16.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 16.8, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (dd, J = 12.7, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =198.8, 180.3, 137.1, 134.7, 133.2, 129.5, 128.6, 128.22, 128.20, 127.9, 64.4, 50.8, 48.7, 45.9, 27.4, 25.9 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{20}H_{22}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 292.1696, found: 292.1707.

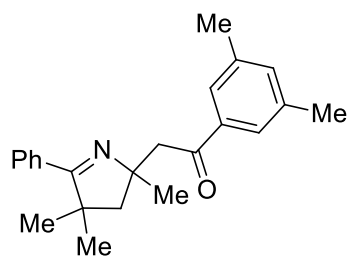


1-Phenyl-2-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethan-1-one (3m) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (24 mg, 46% yield (acid chloride); 11mg, 20% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =8.07 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.90 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 4.89 – 4.67 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, J = 16.8, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.23 – 2.85 (m, 3H), 2.52 – 2.40 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.58 (m, 1H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 198.8, 173.1, 137.0, 134.4, 133.1, 130.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 69.4, 45.5, 35.2, 29.3 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{18}H_{18}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 264.1383, found: 264.1390.



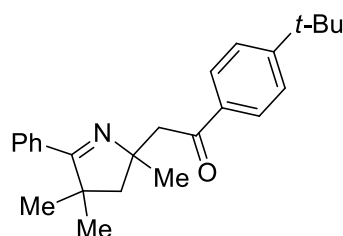
1-(p-Tolyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3n) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (33mg, 51% yield). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 7.97 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 3.50 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.29 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =198.7, 177.6,

143.7, 135.5, 135.0, 129.22, 129.19, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 71.1, 51.71, 51.69, 50.3, 29.11, 29.07, 28.5, 21.6 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{22}H_{26}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 320.2009, found: 320.2021.



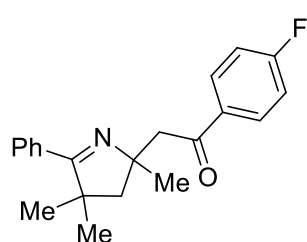
3o

1-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3o) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (40mg, 60% yield). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 7.67 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 199.5, 177.5, 138.10, 138.07, 135.0, 134.5, 129.3, 128.1, 128.0, 126.2, 71.1, 51.8, 51.7, 50.6, 29.1, 29.0, 28.5, 21.3 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{23}H_{28}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 334.2165, found: 334.2175.



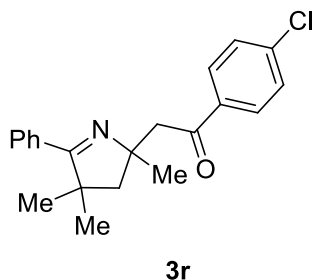
3p

1-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3p) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (49mg, 68% yield (acid chloride); 67mg, 93% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.01 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 3.48 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 1.28 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 198.8, 177.6, 156.7, 135.4, 135.0, 129.2, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 125.4, 71.2, 51.7, 51.6, 50.4, 35.1, 31.1, 29.2, 29.1, 28.5 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{25}H_{32}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 362.2478, found: 362.2493.

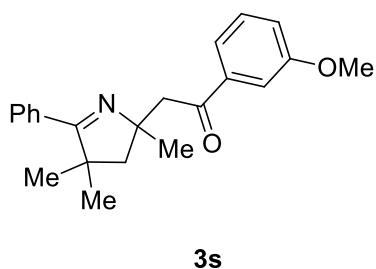


3q

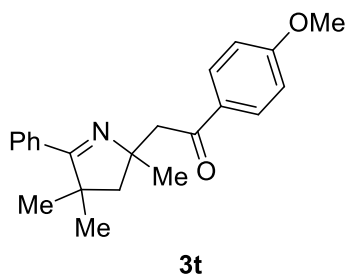
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3q) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (38mg, 58% yield (acid chloride); 51mg, 78% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.10 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 3.44 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 197.5, 177.7, 165.7 (d, J = 253.0 Hz), 134.9, 134.4 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 131.1 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 129.1, 128.1, 127.9, 115.5 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 71.1, 51.7, 51.6, 50.4, 29.2, 29.1, 28.4 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{21}H_{23}FNO$ $[M+H]^+$: 324.1758, found: 324.1776.



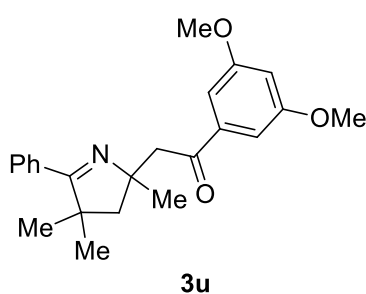
1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3r) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (25mg, 36% yield (acid chloride); 48mg, 70% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.99 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 197.9, 177.8, 139.4, 136.3, 134.8, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 127.9, 71.1, 51.7, 51.6, 50.4, 29.2, 29.1, 28.4 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₃ClNO [M+H]⁺: 340.1463, found: 340.1471.



1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3s) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 3 : 1) as a colourless oil (37mg, 55% yield (acid chloride); 65mg, 96% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.67 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.54 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 198.8, 177.6, 159.8, 139.3, 135.0, 129.5, 129.3, 128.1, 128.0, 121.1, 119.6, 112.2, 71.0, 55.4, 51.8, 51.7, 50.6, 29.04, 29.01, 28.5 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 336.1958, found: 336.1960.

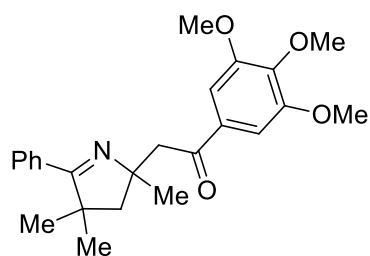


1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3t) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 3 : 1) as a colourless oil (24mg, 35% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.10 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.01 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.08–2.10 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 197.7, 177.6, 163.4, 135.0, 131.1, 130.7, 129.2, 128.1, 128.0, 113.6, 71.2, 55.5, 51.7, 51.6, 50.1, 29.2, 29.1, 28.5 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 336.1958, found: 336.1973.



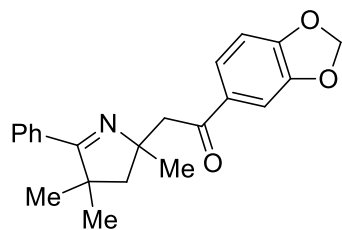
1-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3u) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 2 : 1) as a colourless oil (43mg, 59% yield (acid chloride); 62mg, 85% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 7.73 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 198.6,

177.6 , 160.8 , 139.9 , 135.0, 129.3 , 128.1 , 128.0 , 105.9 , 105.6 , 71.0 , 55.6 , 51.9 , 51.7 , 50.7 , 29.0 , 28.9 , 28.6 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{23}H_{28}NO_3$ $[M+H]^+$: 366.2064 , found: 366.2065.



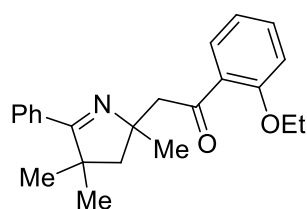
3v

1-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3v) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 1:1) as a colourless oil (38mg, 48% yield (acid chloride); 38mg, 48% yield (acid); 47.4mg, 81% yield (acid anhydride)). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 7.71 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.27 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.58 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 197.7 , 177.8 , 152.9 , 142.4 , 135.0 , 133.1 , 129.4 , 128.2 , 128.0 , 105.7 , 71.1 , 61.0 , 56.2 , 51.9 , 51.8 , 50.4 , 29.0 , 28.9 , 28.7 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{24}H_{30}NO_4$ $[M+H]^+$: 396.2169 , found: 396.2179.



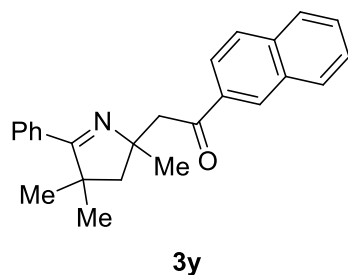
3w

1-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3w) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (25mg, 35% yield). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 7.67 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.47 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 3.42 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 197.1, 177.6, 151.6, 148.1, 135.0, 132.9, 129.3, 128.1, 128.0, 124.9, 108.1, 107.8, 101.8, 71.1, 51.7, 50.2, 29.1, 29.1, 28.5 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{22}H_{24}NO_3$ $[M+H]^+$: 350.1751 , found: 350.1760.

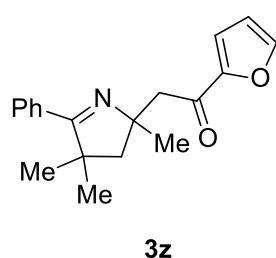


3x

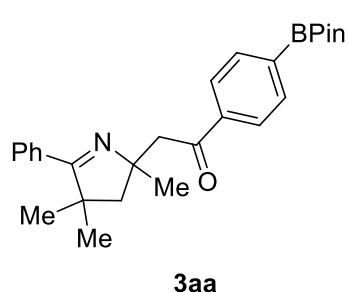
1-(2-Ethoxyphenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3x) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 3 : 1) as a colourless oil (22mg, 32% yield). **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 7.63 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.00 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.461 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.459 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm. **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 202.1 , 177.2 , 157.5 , 135.2 , 132.8 , 130.3 , 129.8 , 129.1 , 128.1 , 128.0 , 120.5 , 112.3 , 71.2 , 64.1 , 55.6 , 52.0 , 51.6 , 29.1 , 28.9 , 28.4 , 14.8 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{23}H_{28}NO_2$ $[M+H]^+$: 350.2115 , found: 350.2131.



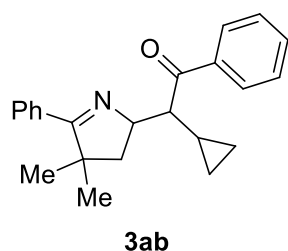
1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3y) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (39mg, 55% yield (acid chloride); 63mg, 88% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.61 – 8.45 (m, 1H), 8.06 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H)ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.1, 177.7, 135.5, 135.3, 134.9, 132.5, 130.4, 129.7, 129.3, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 126.7, 124.0, 71.2, 51.77, 51.75, 50.5, 29.2, 29.1, 28.5 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₅H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺: 356.2009 , found: 356.2022.



1-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3z) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (21mg, 35% yield (acid chloride); 27mg, 46% yield (acid anhydride)). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ =187.9, 177.8, 153.5, 146.4, 135.0, 129.2, 128.1, 128.0, 117.7, 112.2, 71.1, 51.8, 51.5, 50.2, 29.3, 29.1, 28.4 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₂₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 296.1645 , found: 296.1644.



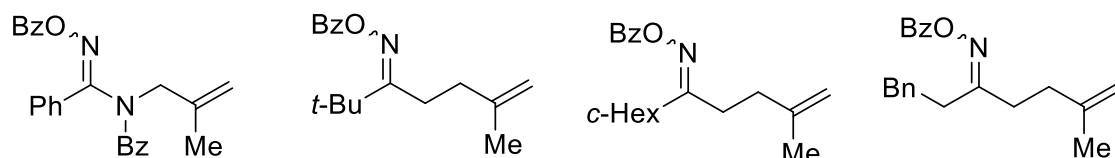
1-(4-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethanone (3aa) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (36mg, 42% yield). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 8.00 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.92 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 12H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm. **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ = 199.4, 177.7, 139.8, 135.0, 134.9, 129.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.3, 84.2, 71.0, 51.8, 51.7, 50.6, 29.1, 29.0, 28.5, 24.9 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₇H₃₅BNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 432.2705 , found: 432.2711.



2-cyclopropyl-2-(4,4-dimethyl-5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylethanone (3ab) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (17mg, 25% yield, dr=2:1). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ (mixture of two diastereomers)= 8.02 – 7.95 (m, 3H), 7.64 – 7.54 (m, 3.5H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 4.5H), 4.65 – 4.45 (m, 1.5H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 7.4 Hz, 0.5H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.7 Hz, 0.5H), 1.93 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 9.4 Hz, 0.5H), 1.41 (s,

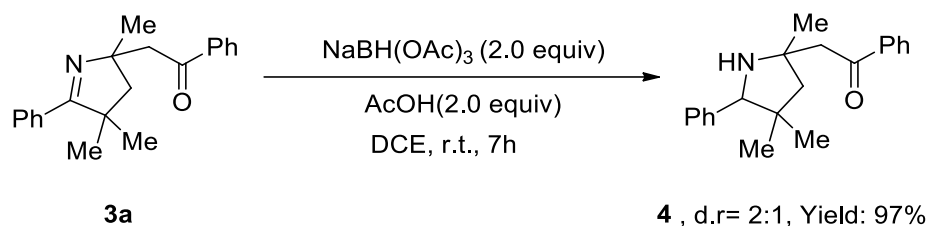
3H), 1.40 (s, 1.5H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 1.5H), 1.15 (m, 1H), 0.72 (m, 0.5H), 0.66 – 0.57 (m, 1H), 0.56 – 0.49 (m, 0.5H), 0.49 – 0.31 (m, 2H), 0.22 (ddt, $J = 9.2, 5.6, 4.7$ Hz, 0.5H), 0.15 – 0.05 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = (mixture of two diastereomers) 201.2, 200.9, 177.4, 176.8, 136.3, 136.0, 132.3, 130.6, 130.5, 127.2, 126.4, 126.3, 126.20, 126.18, 125.79, 125.75, 125.6, 125.5, 68.9, 68.5, 53.7, 53.2, 47.7, 47.6, 44.1, 43.2, 24.7, 24.6, 23.9, 23.6, 10.0, 8.3, 2.5, 2.3, 1.2 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 332.2009, found: 332.2006.

2.4 Unsuccessful oxime esters substrates

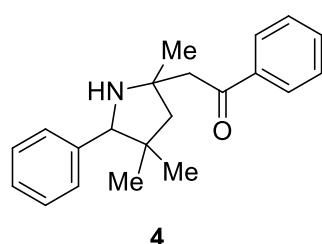


2.5 Derivatizations of 3a

2.5.1 Synthesis of compound 4



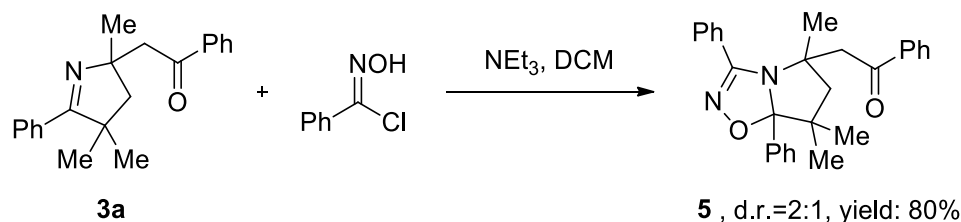
A mixture of **3a** (0.2 mmol, 61 mg, 1.0 equiv) and $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ (0.4 mmol, 85 mg, 2.0 equiv), in AcOH (23 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in 1,2-DCE (1.5 mL) was stirred at r.t. for 7h. The solvent was then removed in vacuo, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether: ethyl acetate 1:1 as eluent.



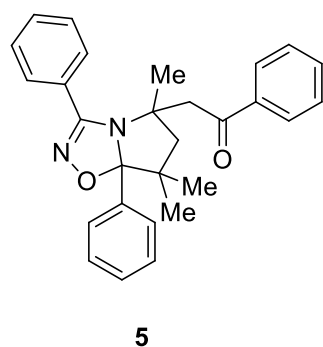
1-phenyl-2-(2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-yl)ethanone (5) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 5:1) as a colourless oil (60mg, 97% yield, dr=2:1). The diastereomers were separable. **Major diastereomer:** ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.99 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 4.05 (s, 1H), 3.33 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.87 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.80 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 0.70 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 200.5, 140.3, 138.1, 133.1, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 70.4, 57.6, 55.1, 48.8, 42.1, 30.0, 27.5, 24.6 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 308.2009, found: 308.2017. **Minor diastereomer:** ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.08 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 4.09 (s, 1H), 3.35 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.91 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 0.64 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 200.0, 140.7, 138.2,

132.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 126.8, 69.6, 56.6, 54.4, 52.1, 41.8, 28.6, 27.8, 25.0 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{21}H_{26}NO$ $[M+H]^+$: 308.2009, found: 308.2007.

2.5.2 Synthesis of compound 5



The reaction was performed according to an adapted version of literature ⁹. A mixture of **3a** (0.20 mmol, 61 mg, 1.0 equiv), N-hydroxybenzimidoyl chloride (synthesized according to the literature ¹⁰) (0.5 mmol, 77.8 mg, 2.5 equiv) and Et_3N (1.0 mmol, 148 μ L 5.0 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (2.0 mL) was stirred at r.t. for 2 h. The solvent was then removed in vacuo, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether:ethyl acetate 10:1 as eluent.

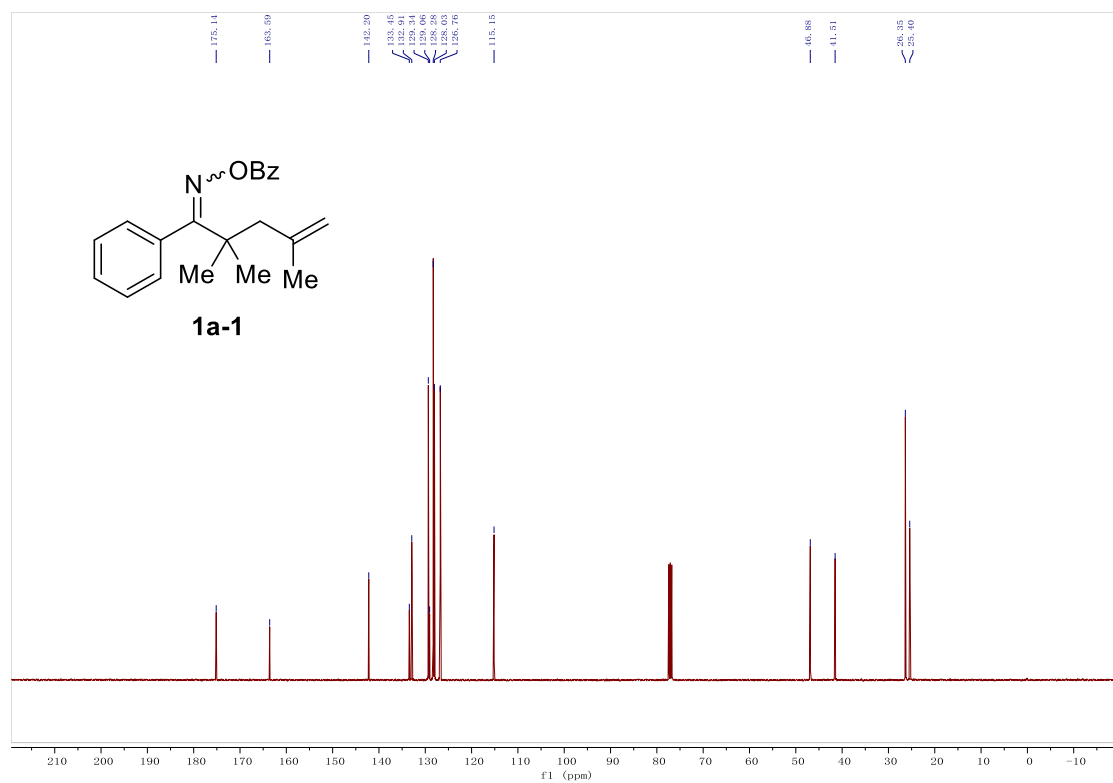
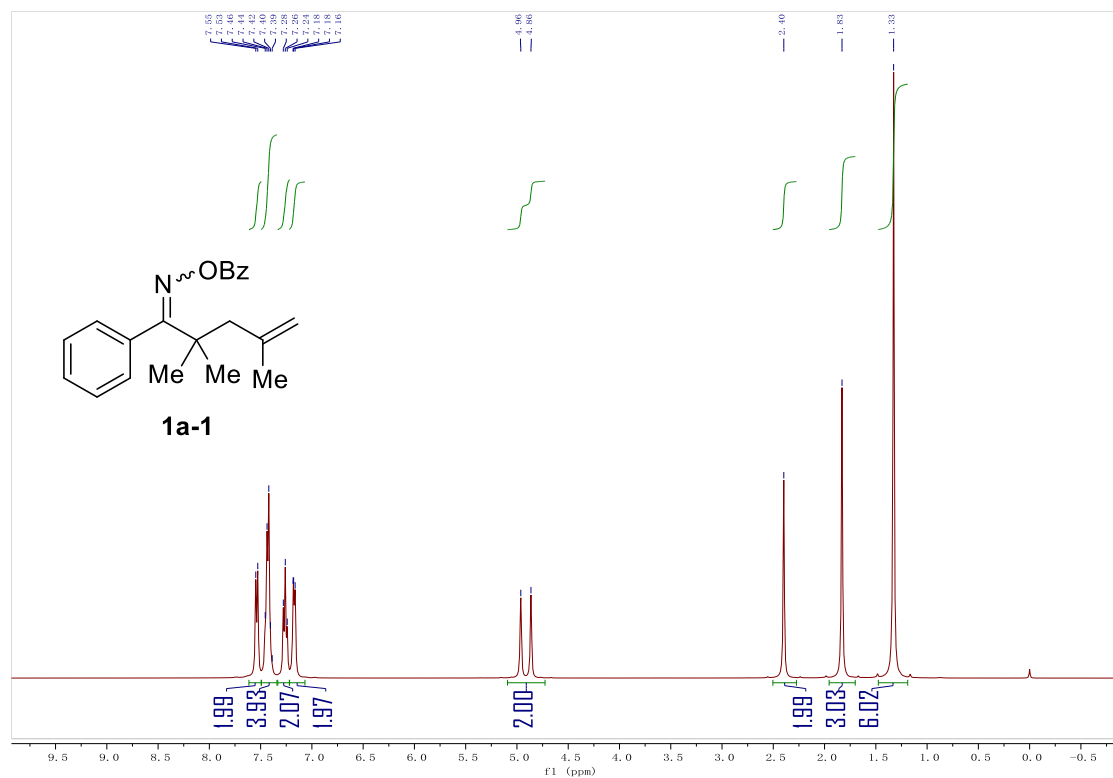


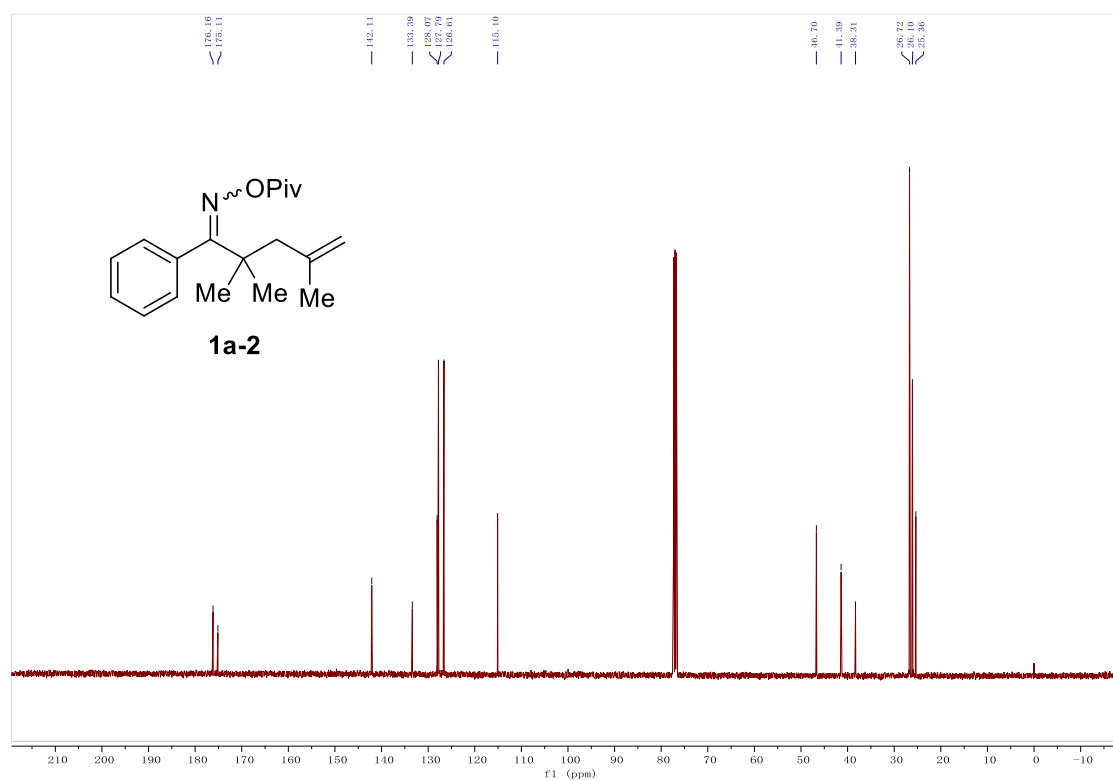
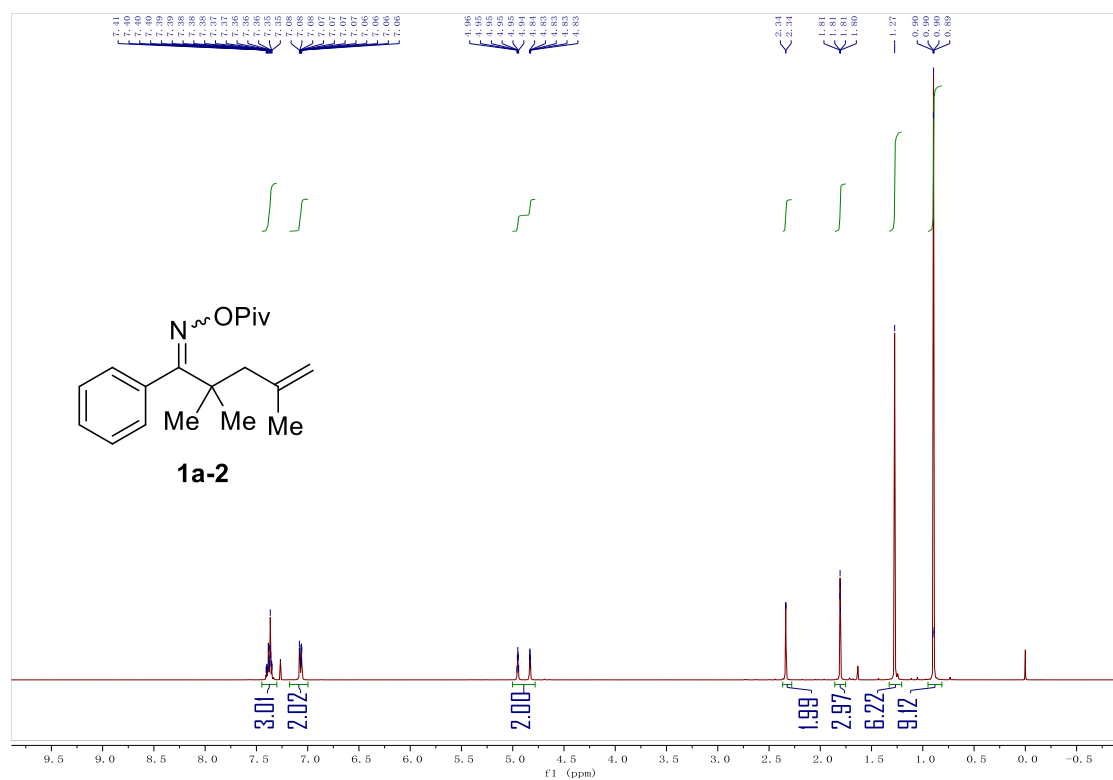
1-phenyl-2-(5,7,7-trimethyl-3,7a-diphenyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydropyrrolo[1,2-d][1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)ethanone (4) was isolated by preparative TLC (hexane:EtOAc= 1 : 1) as a colourless oil (68mg, 80% yield, dr=1.5:1). **Major diastereomer:** 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = 8.00 – 7.90 (m, 3H), 7.89 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.81– 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.25 (m, 8H), 3.19 (dd, J = 16.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H) ppm. **Minor diastereomer:** 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ =7.64 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 8H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 3.77 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ = (mixture of two diastereomers) 198.1, 196.6, 160.5, 160.3, 140.7, 140.4, 137.6, 137.1, 133.3, 133.2, 130.9, 130.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 127.77, 127.70, 127.65, 127.61, 127.5, 126.3, 126.1, 113.6, 65.9, 65.4, 54.4, 53.0, 50.7, 50.4, 44.0, 43.7, 29.8, 28.7, 28.5, 27.5, 24.8, 24.7 ppm. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{28}H_{29}N_2O_2$ $[M+H]^+$: 425.2224, found: 425.2223.

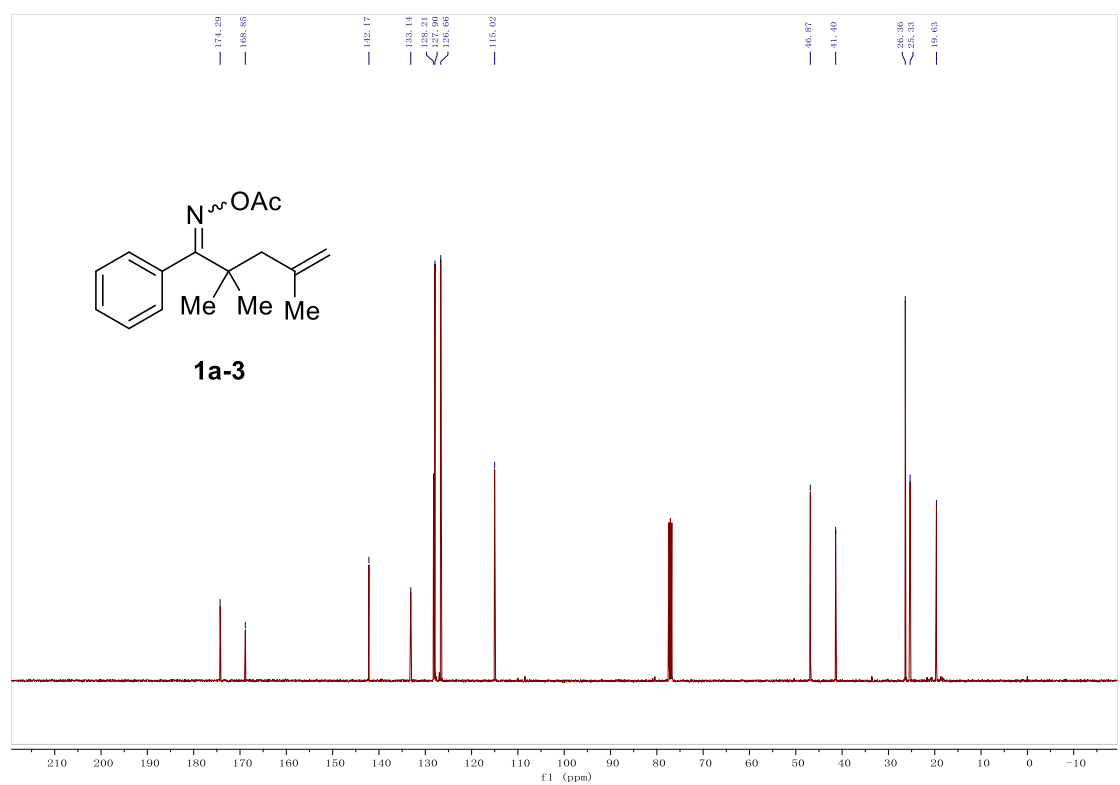
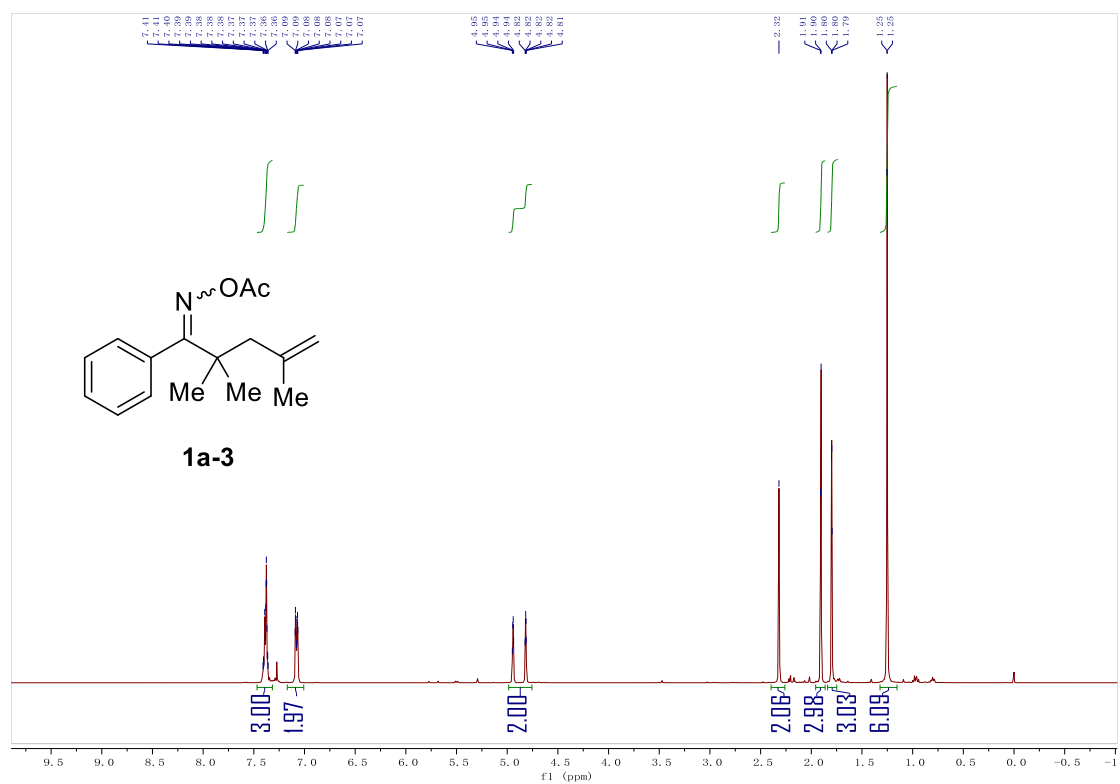
3. References

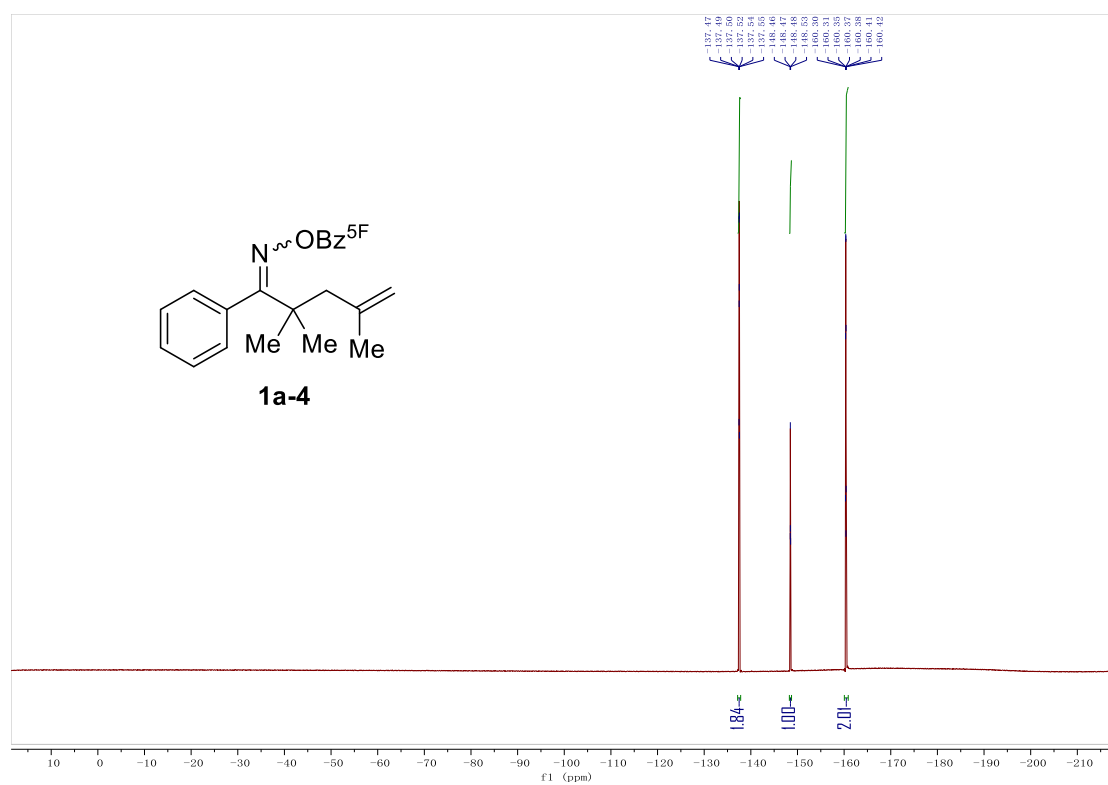
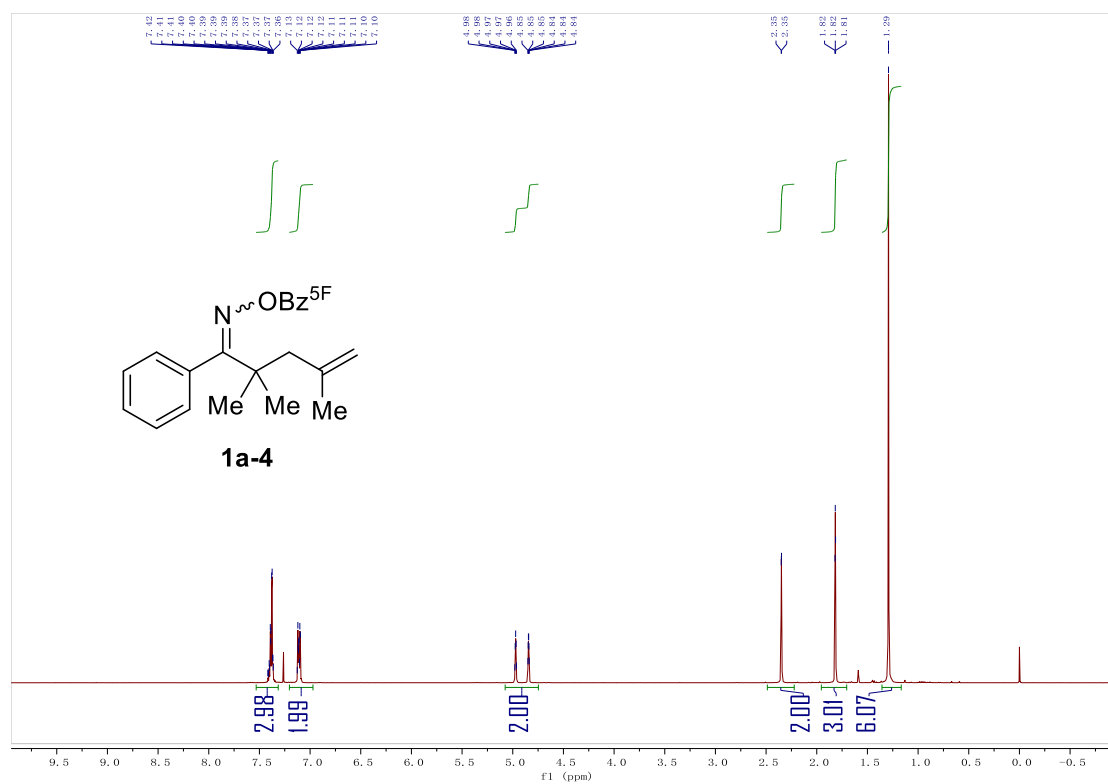
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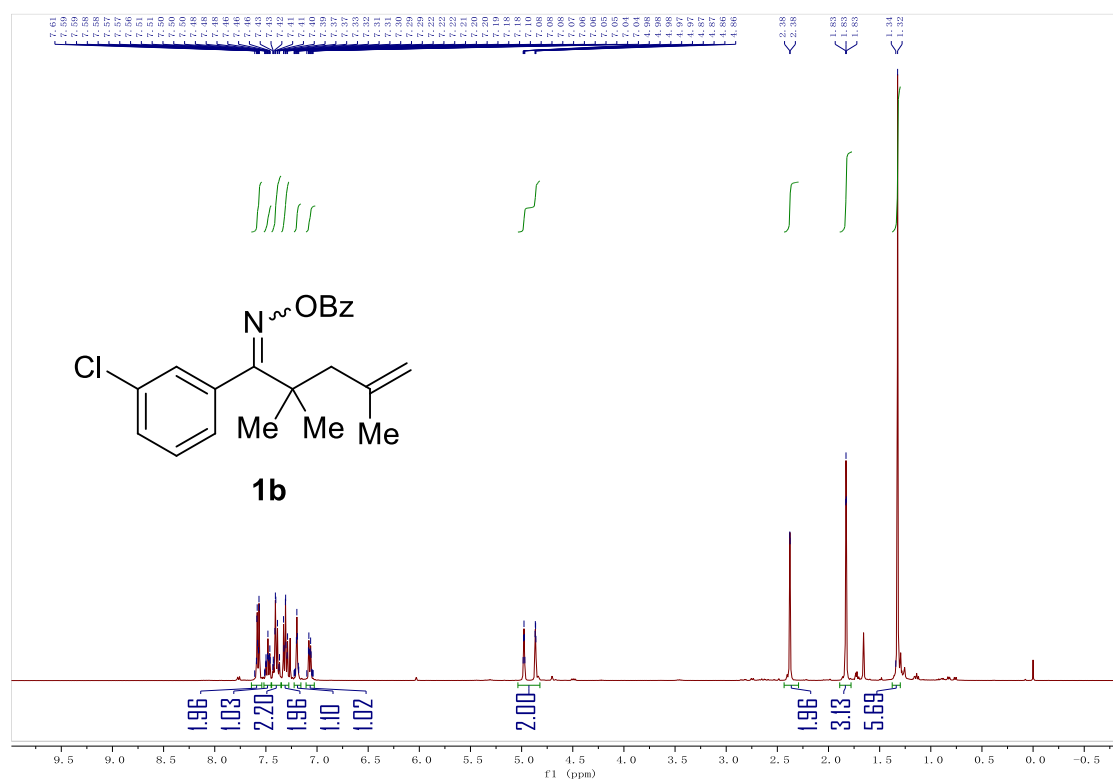
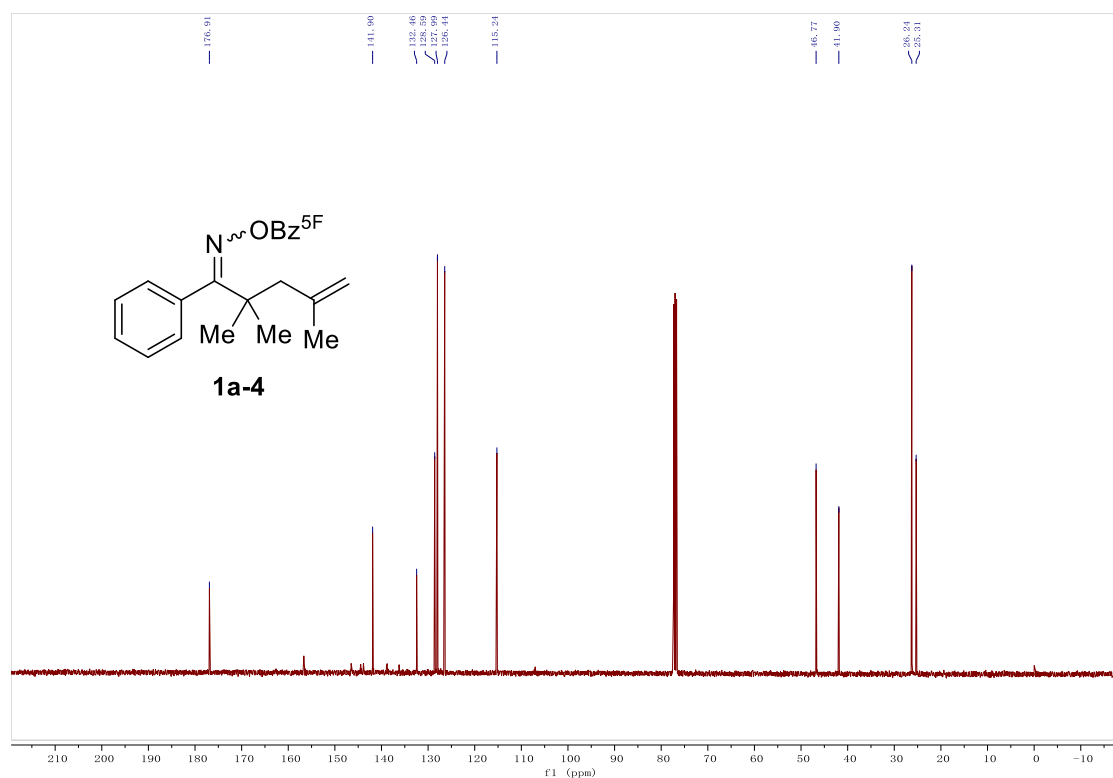
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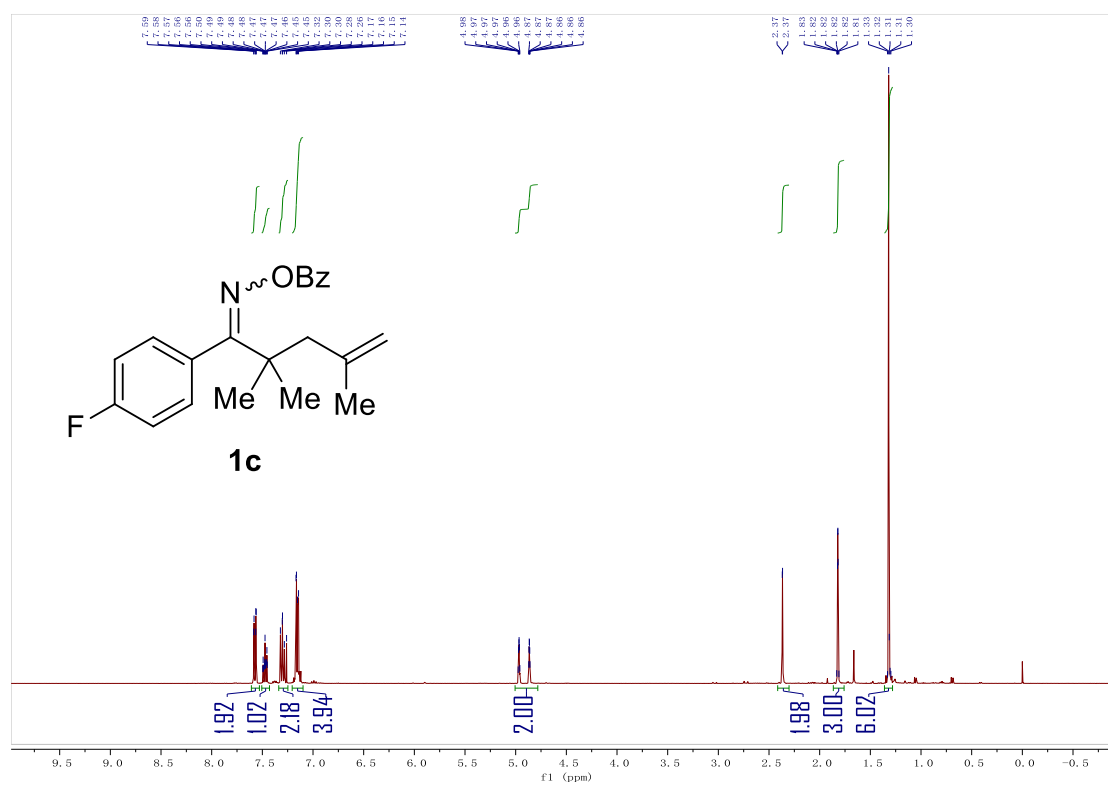
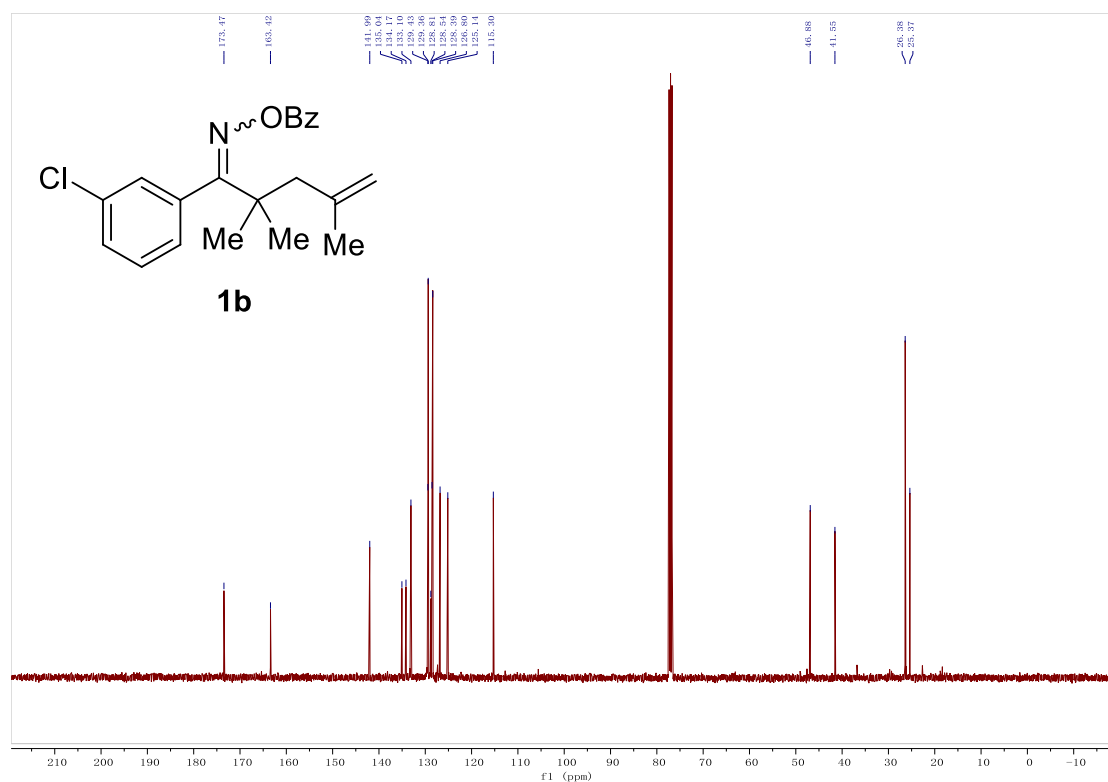


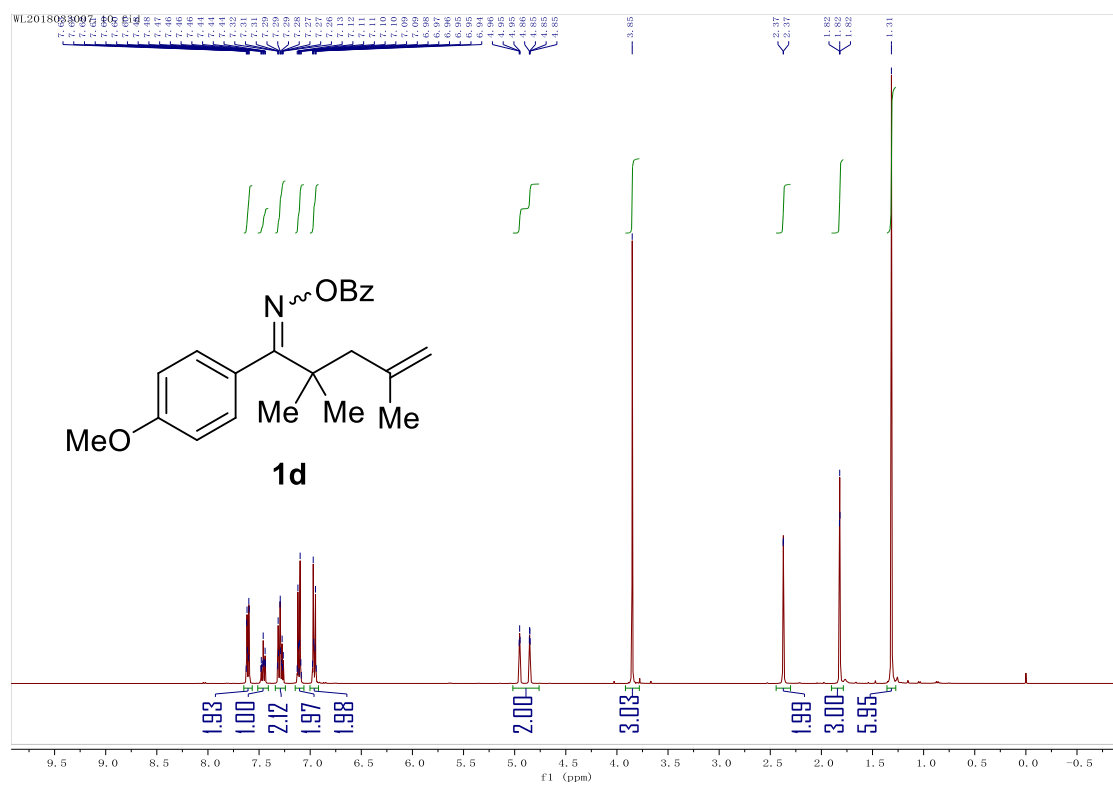
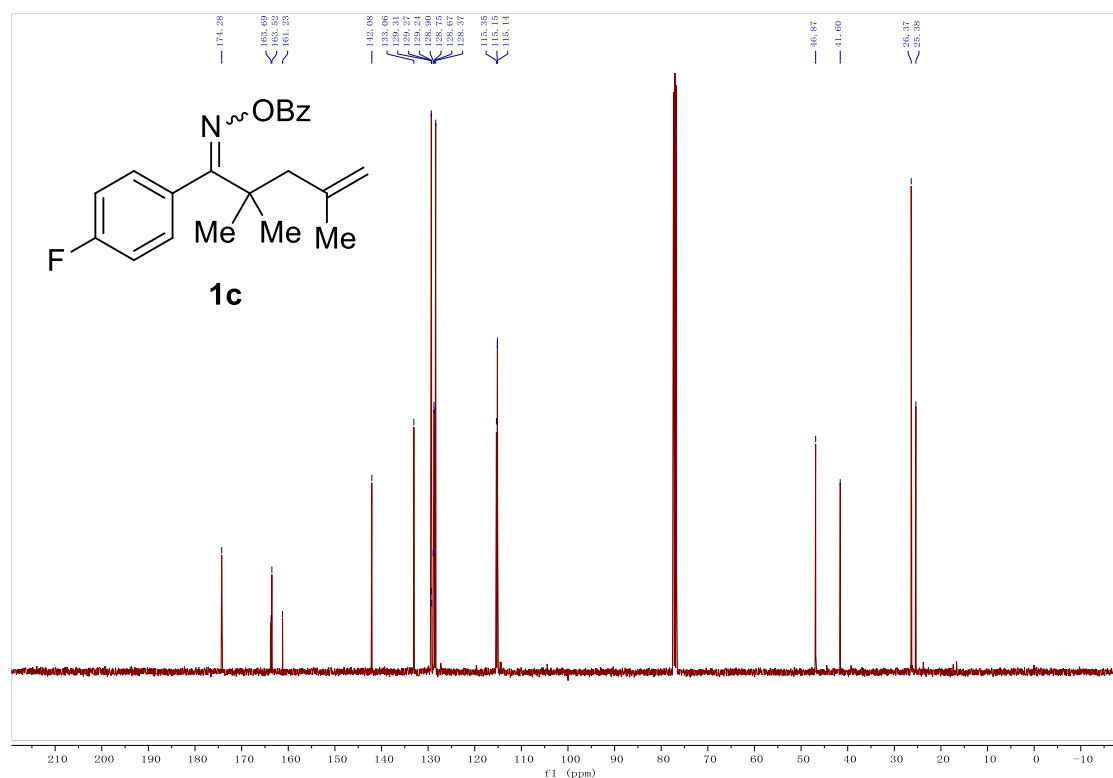


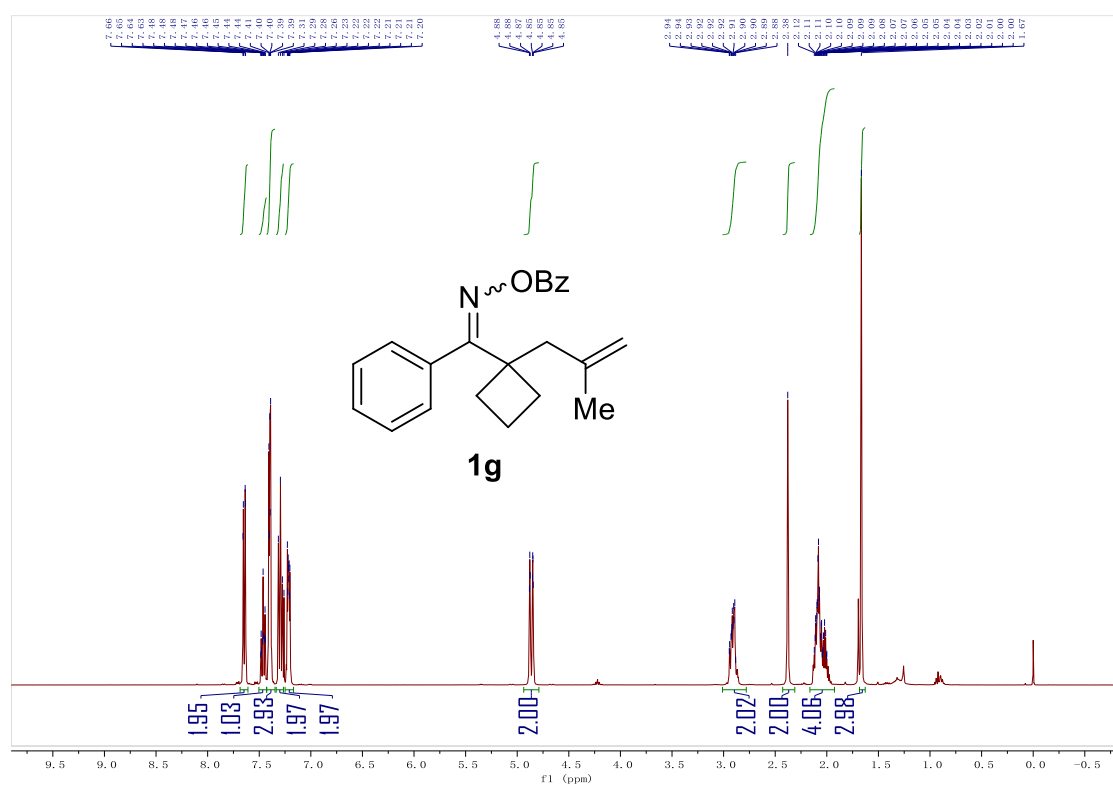
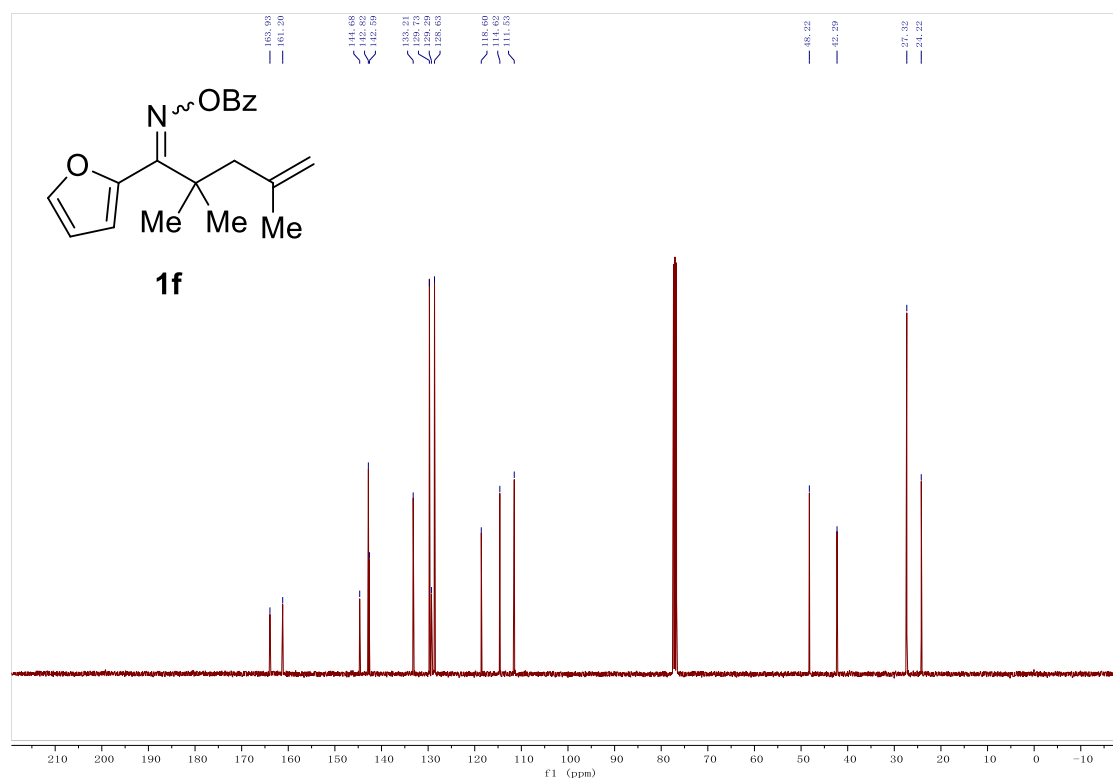


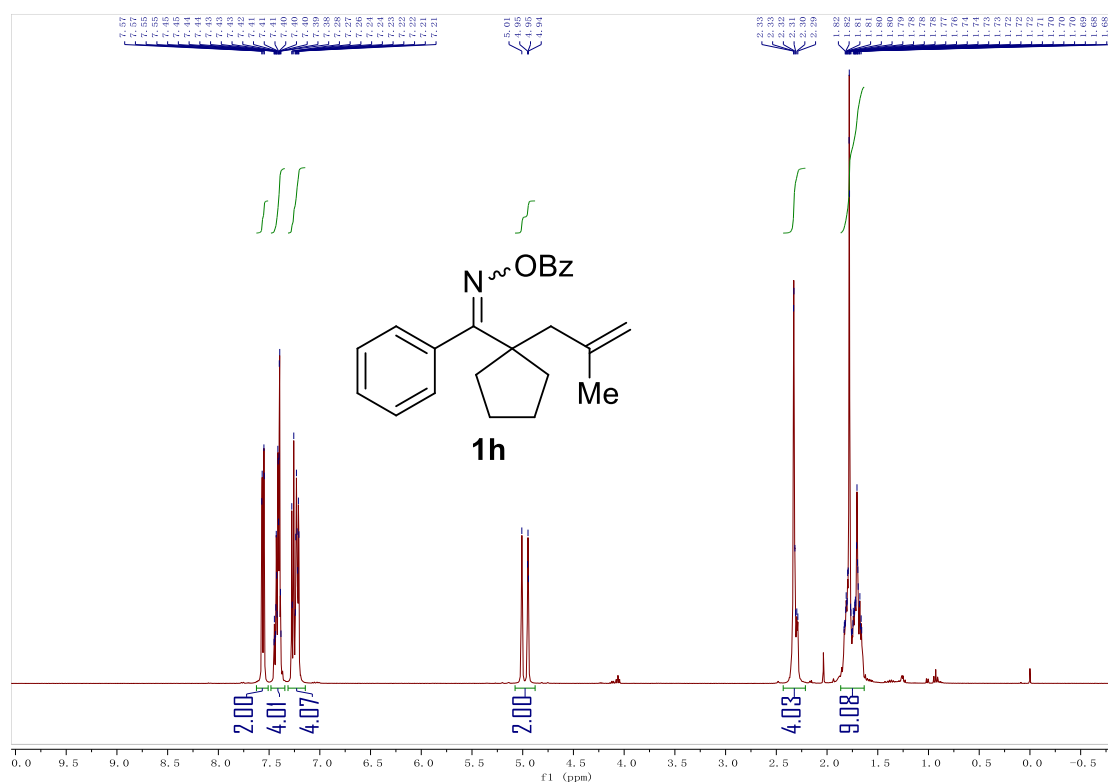
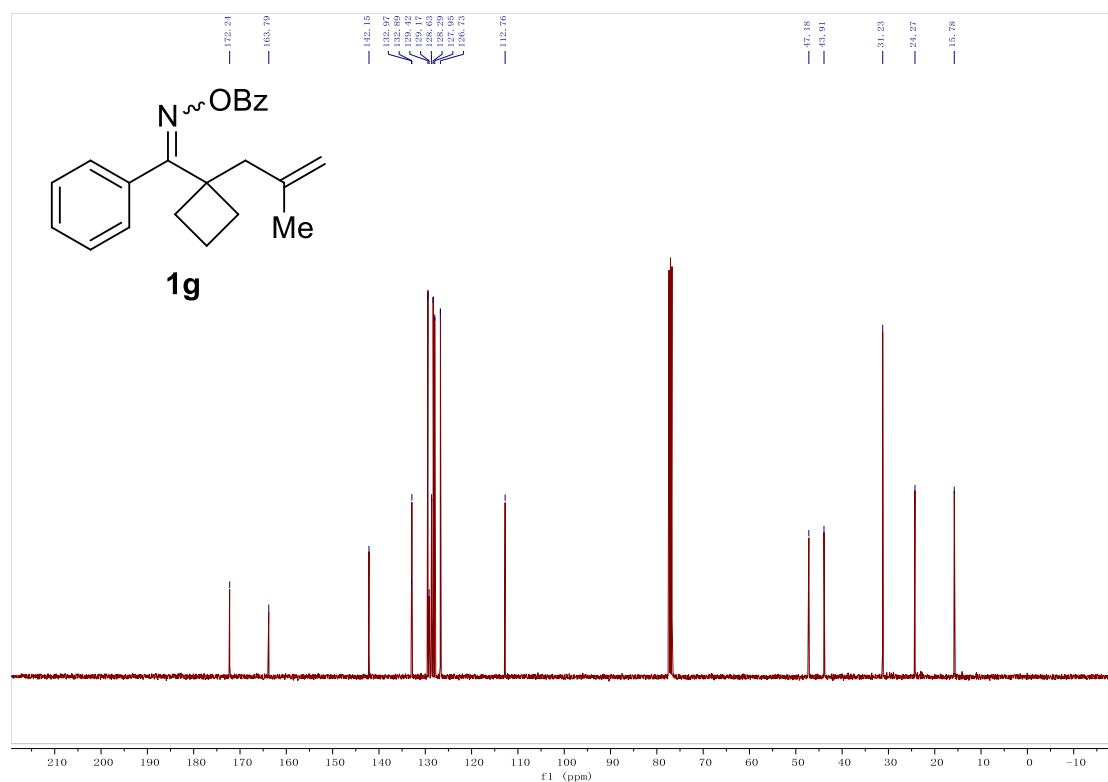


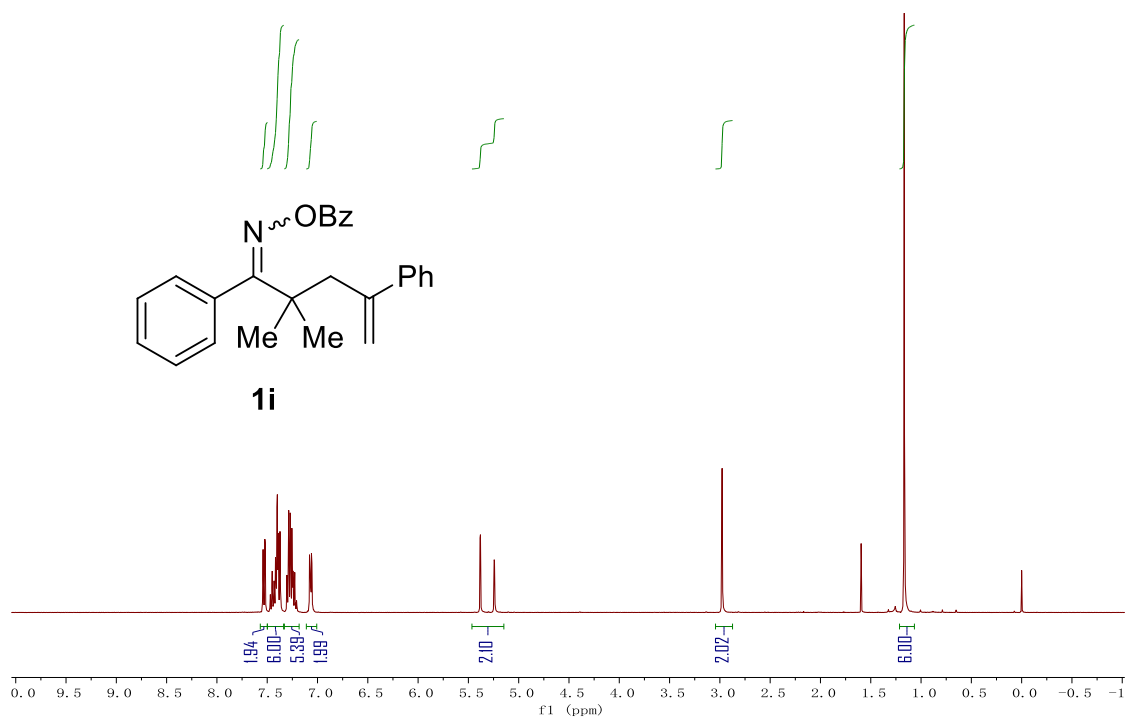
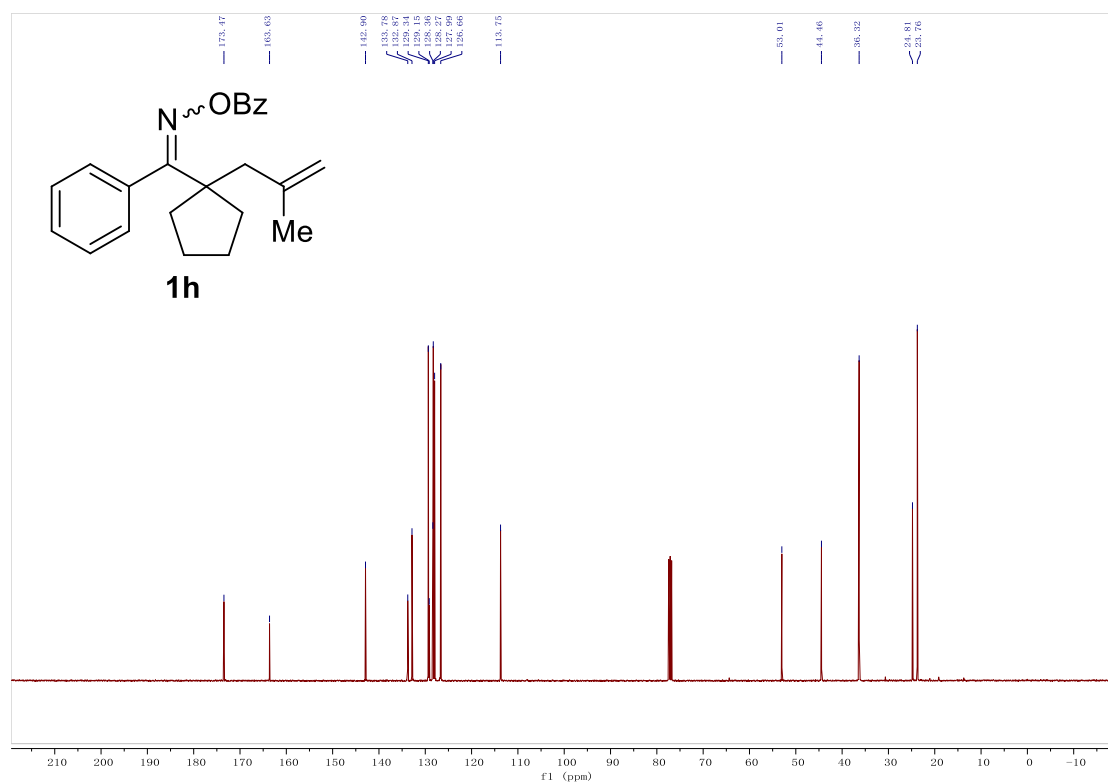


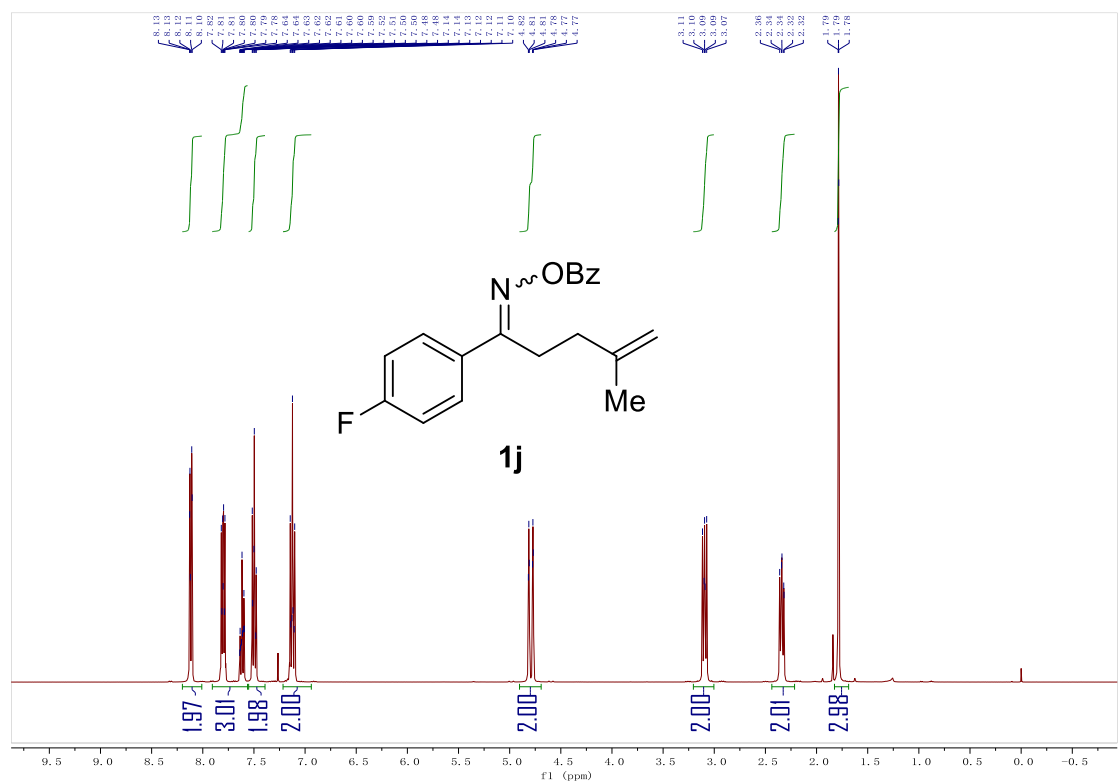
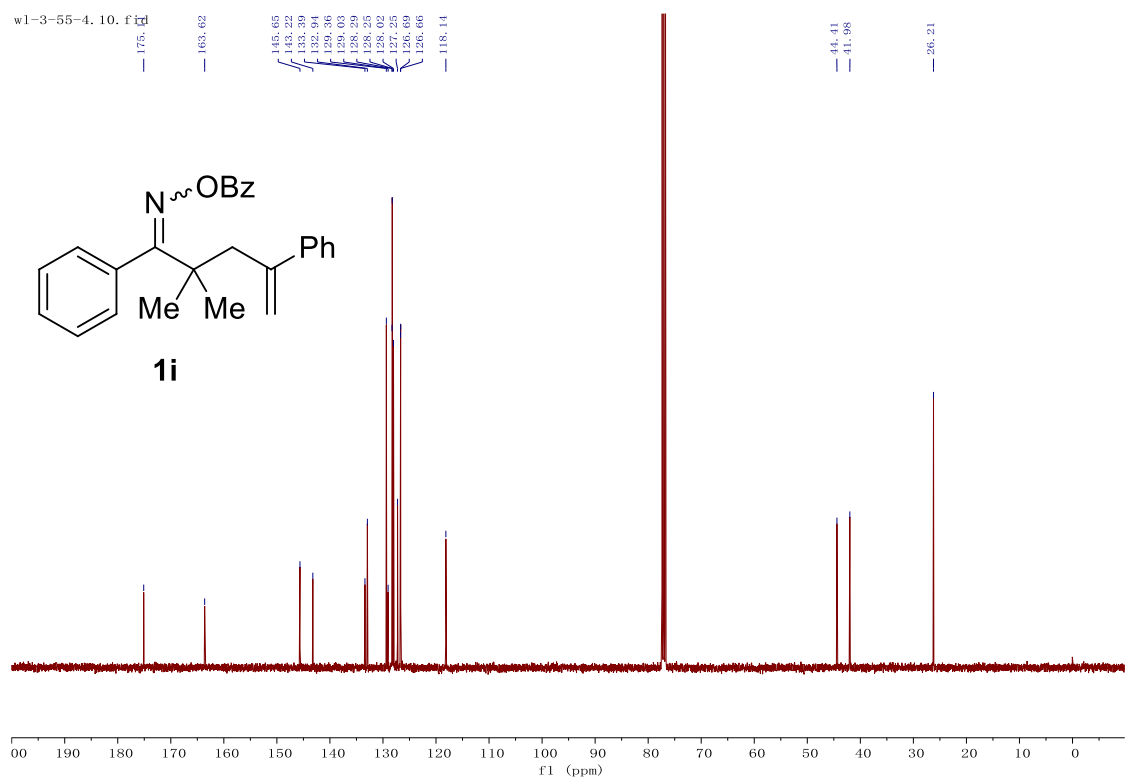


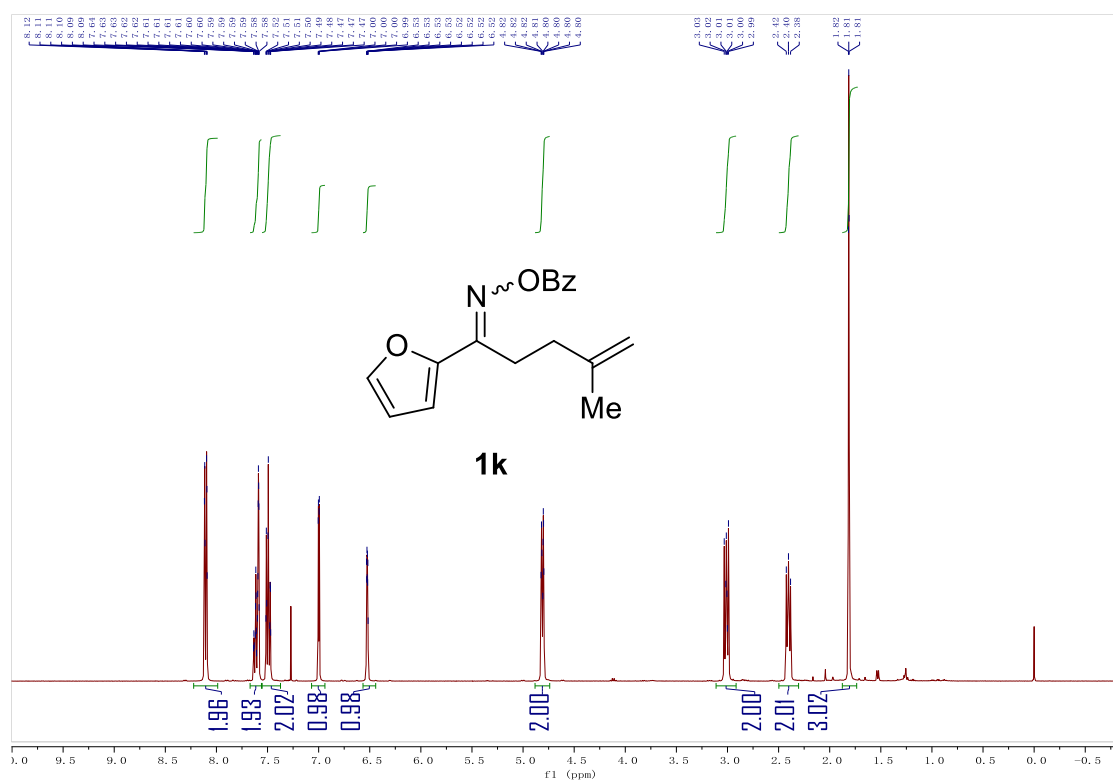
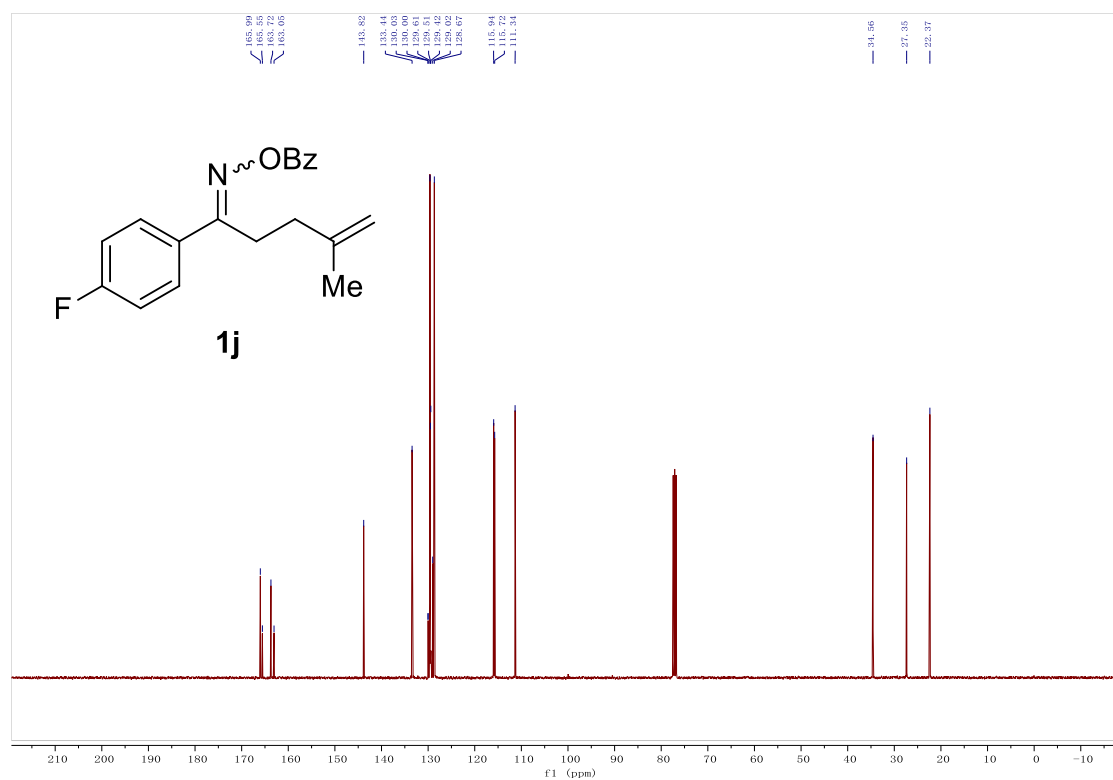


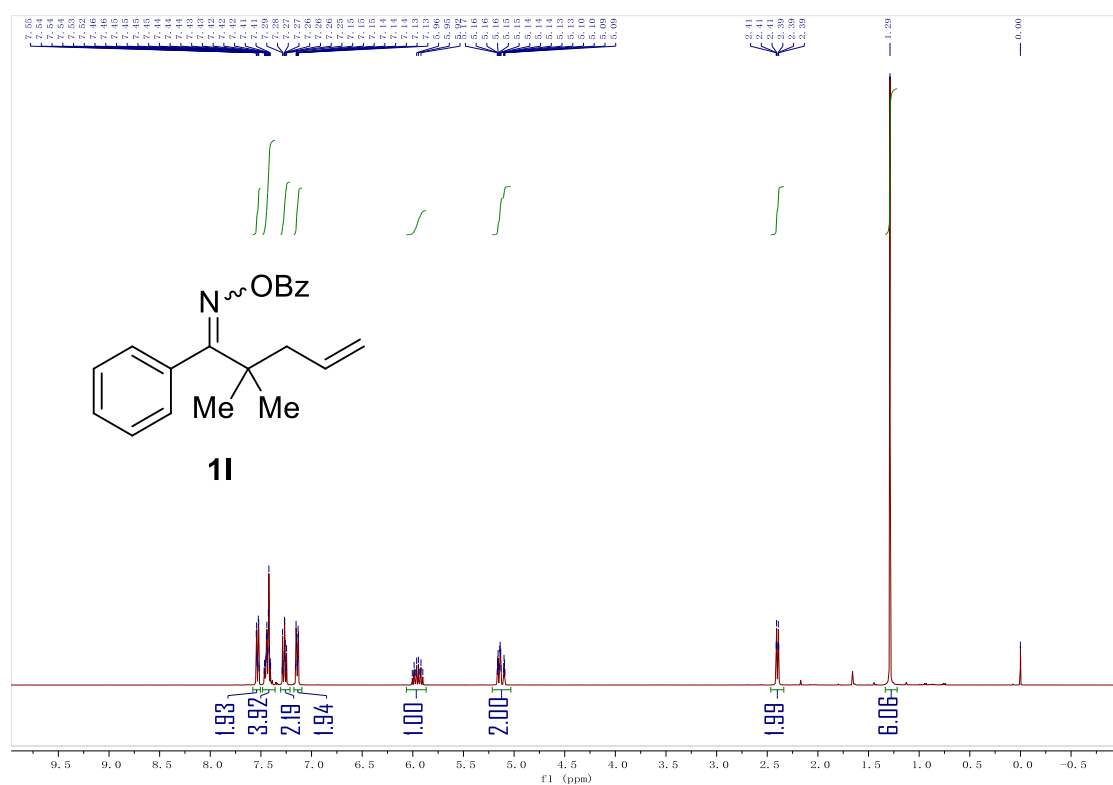
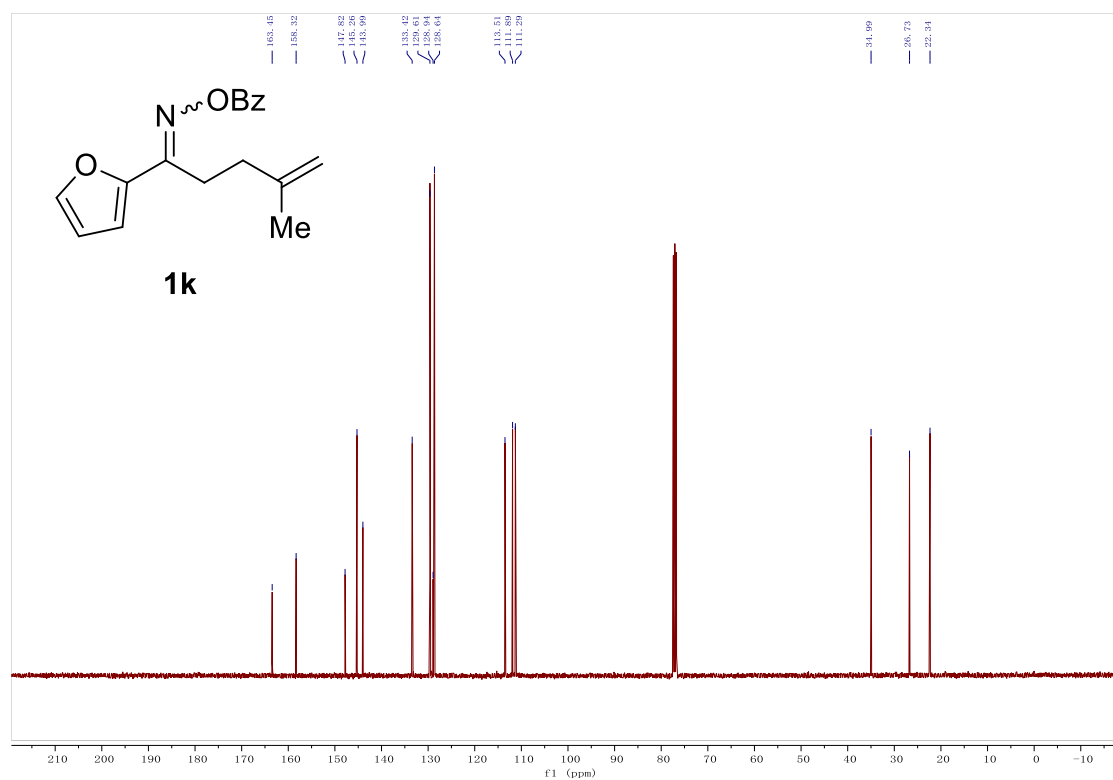


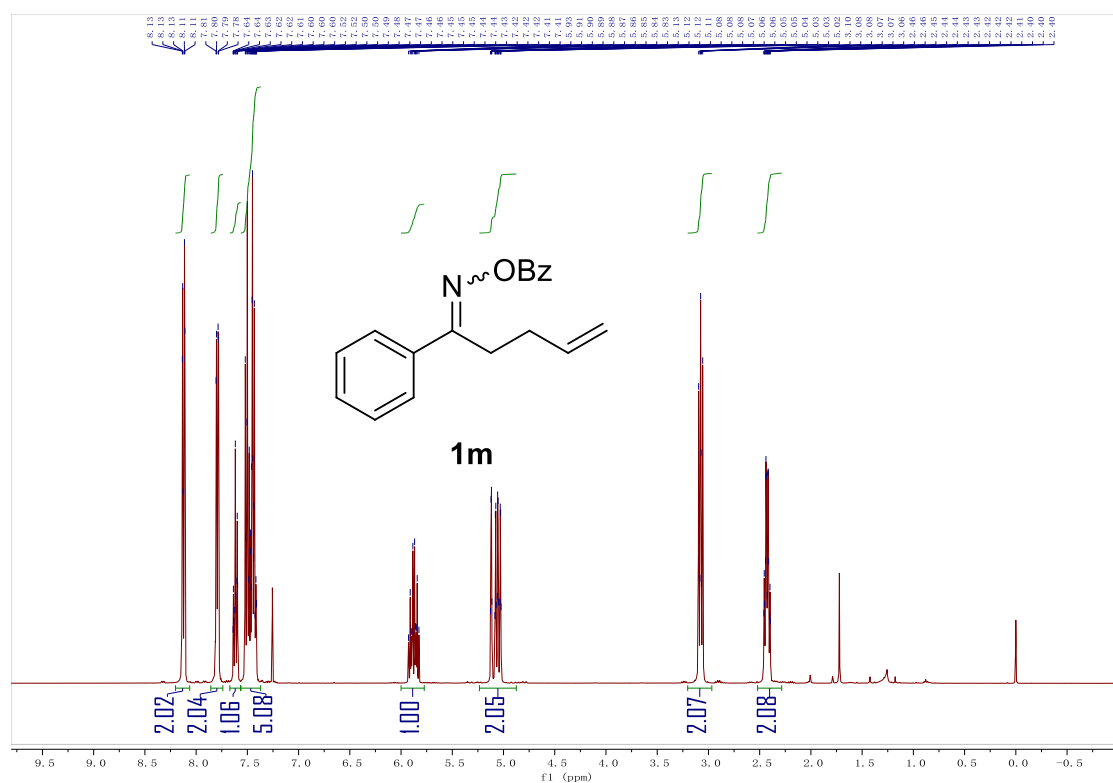
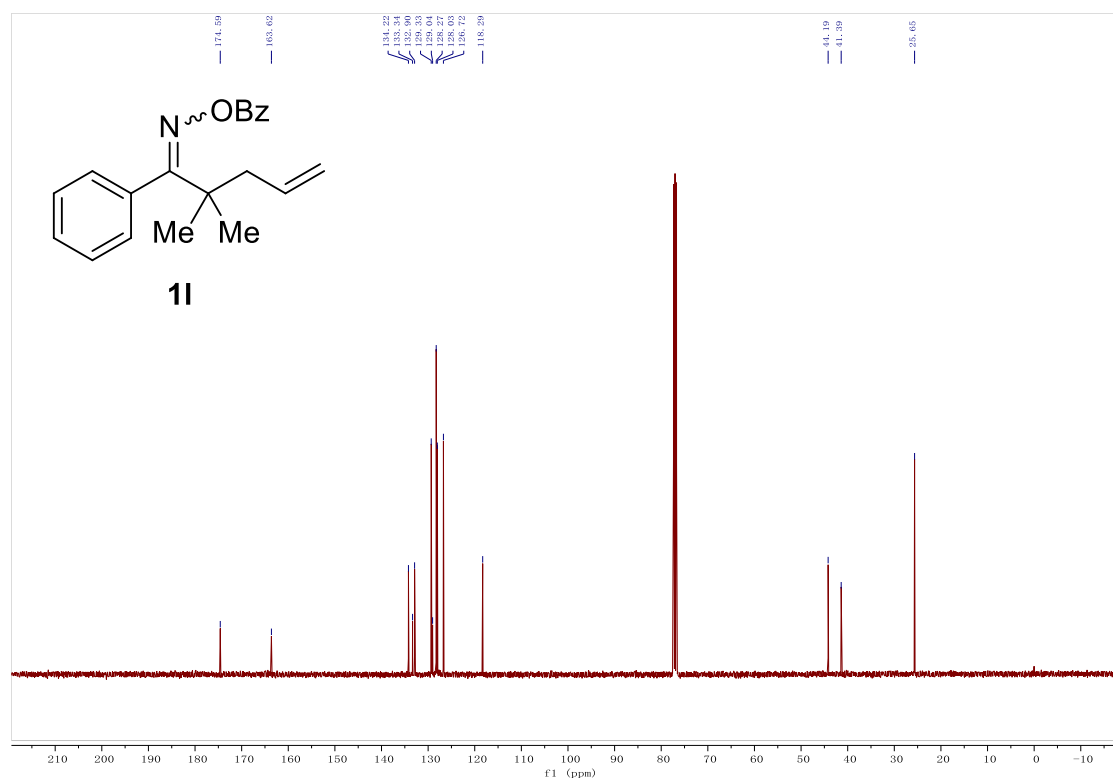


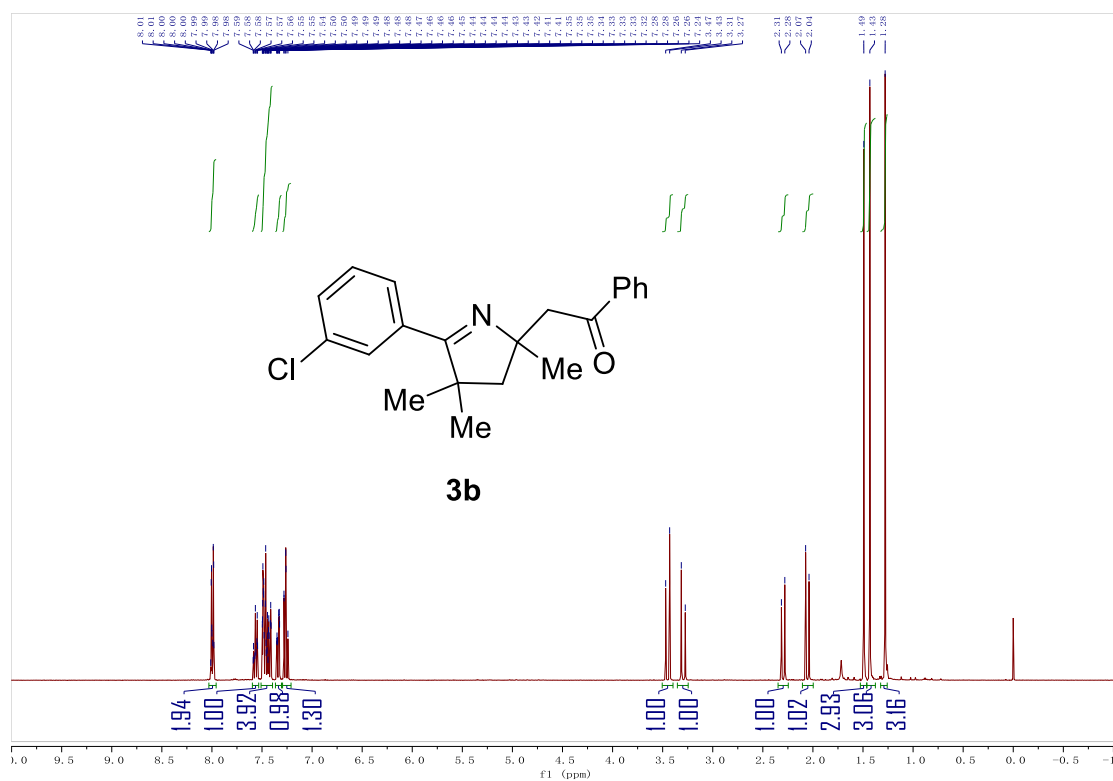
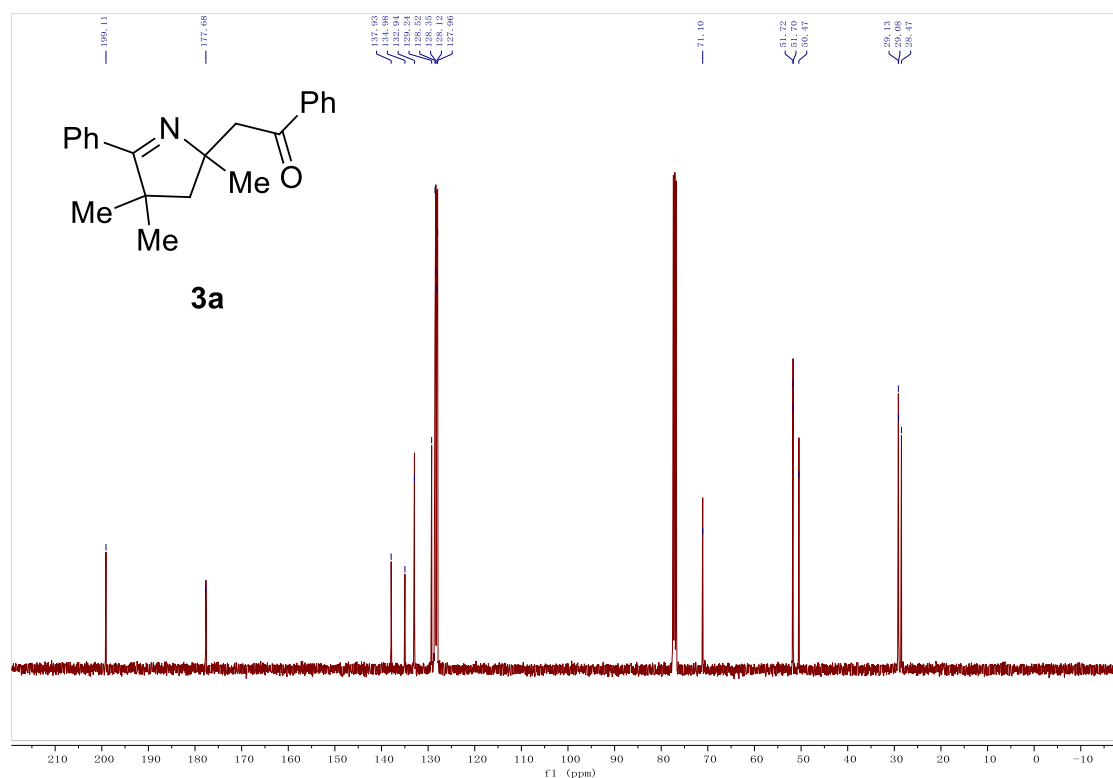


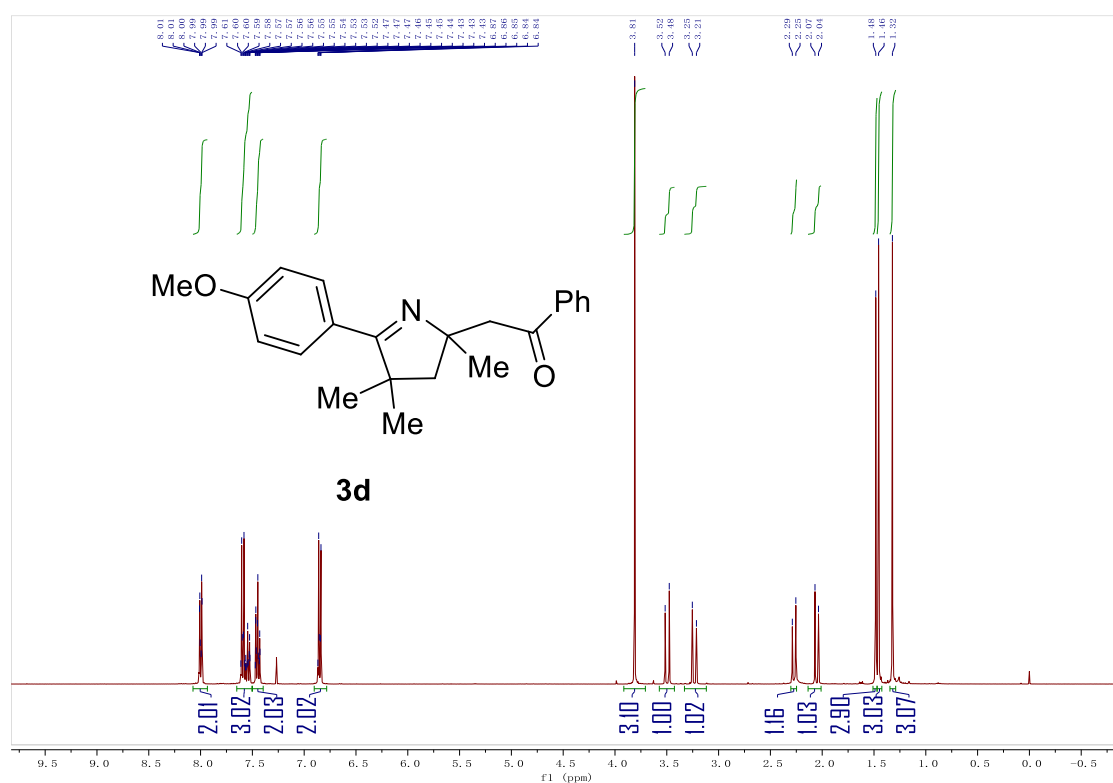
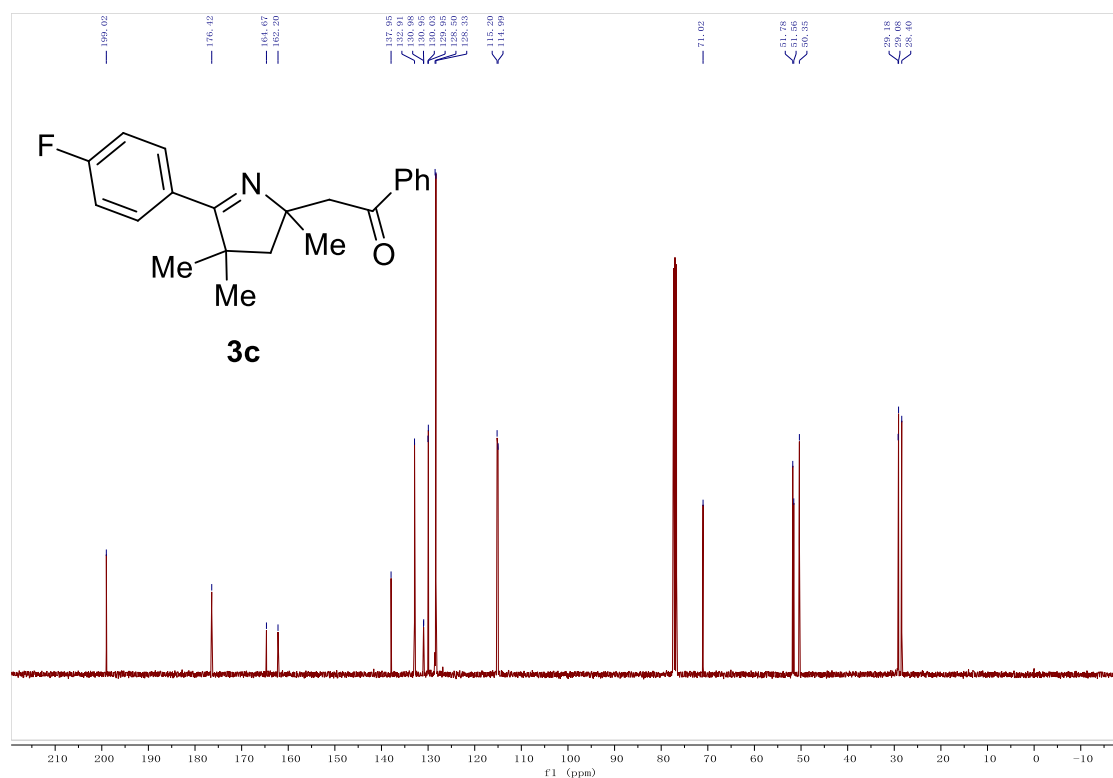


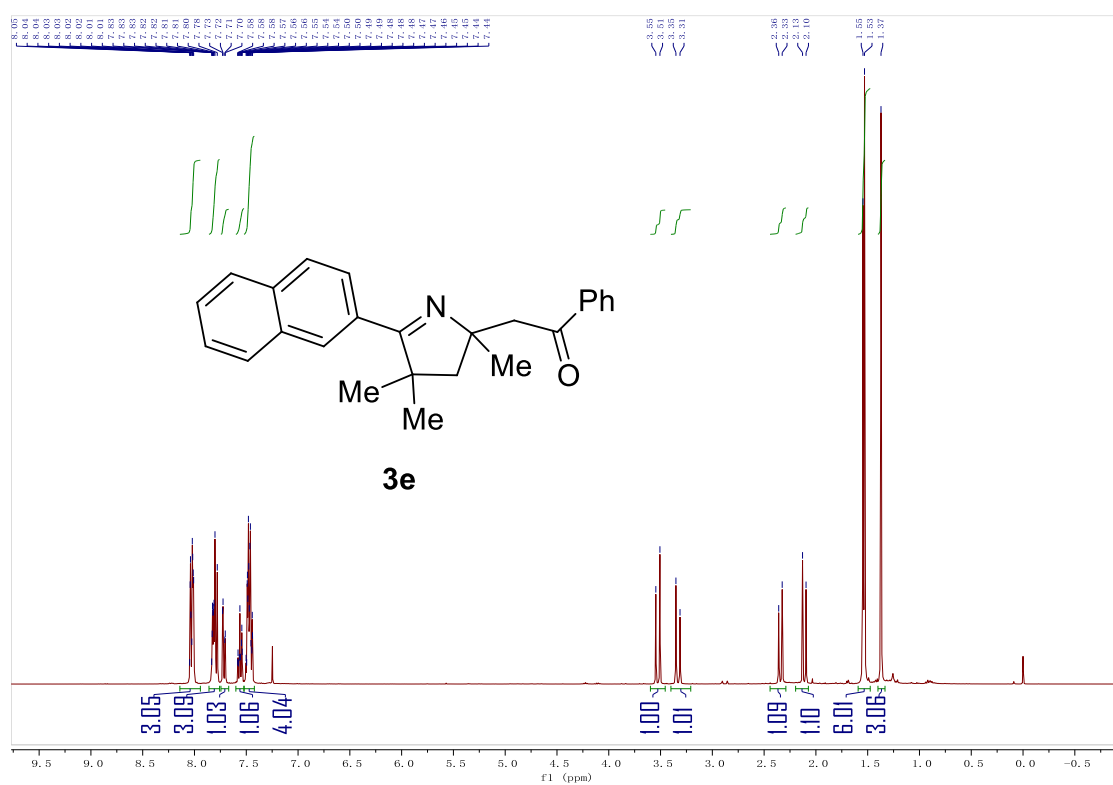
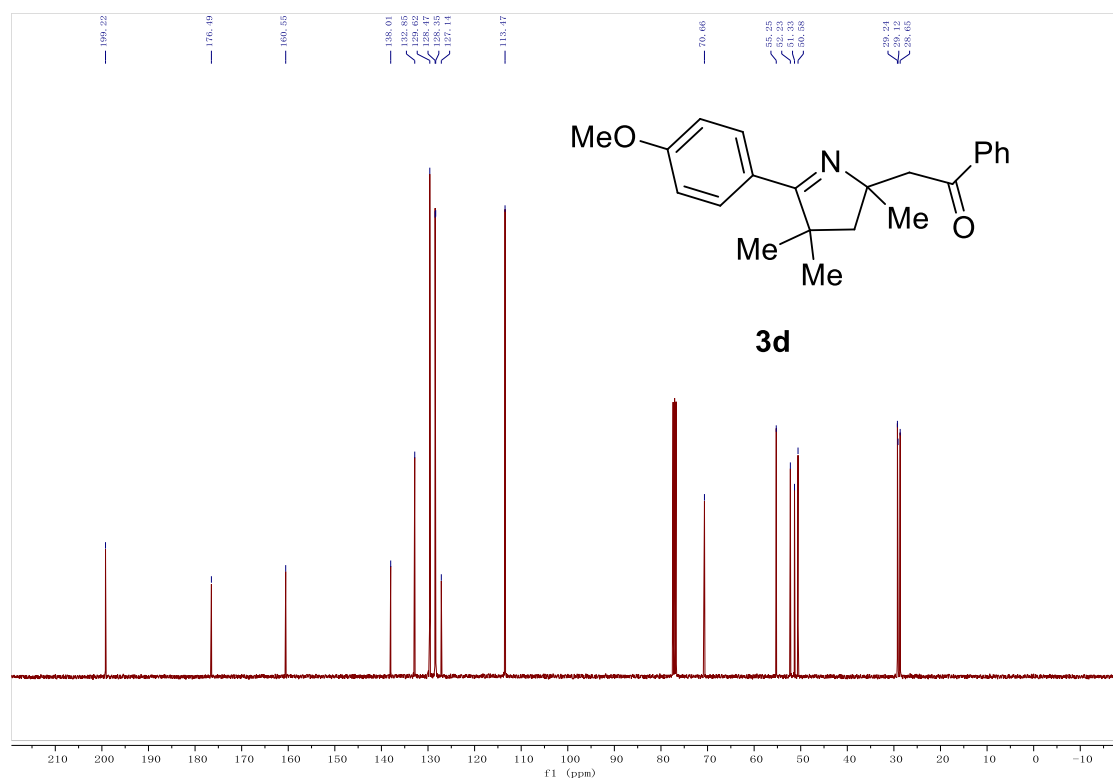


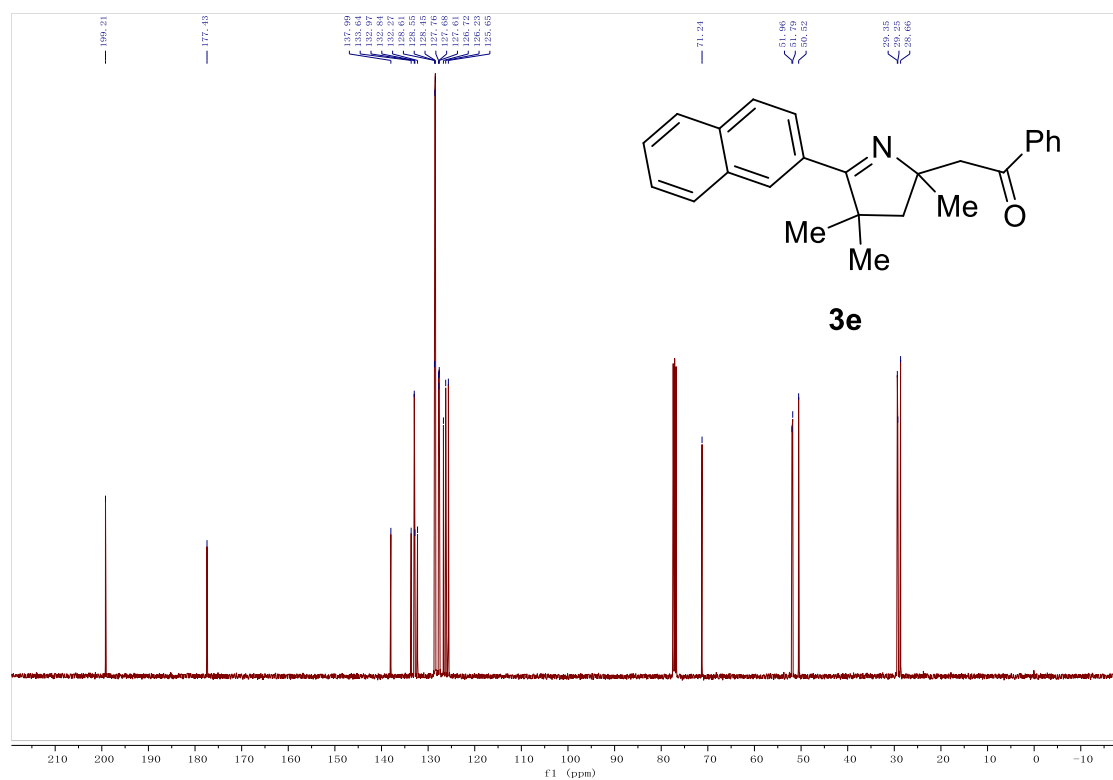


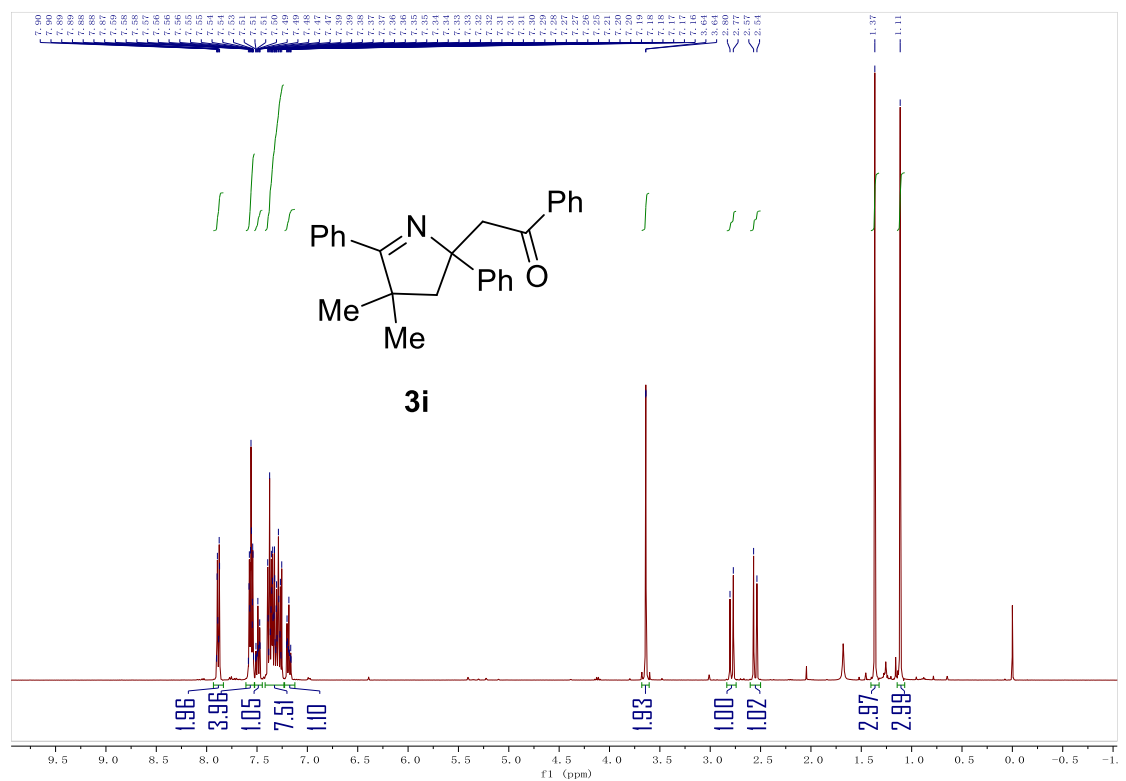
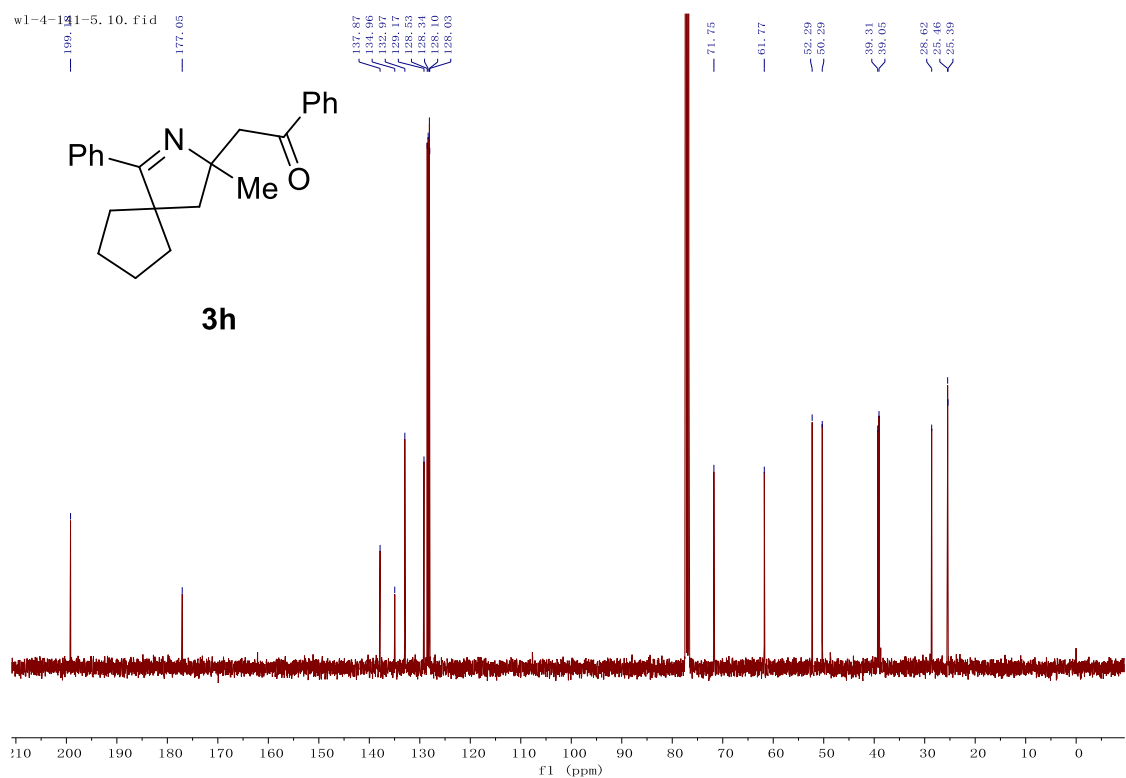


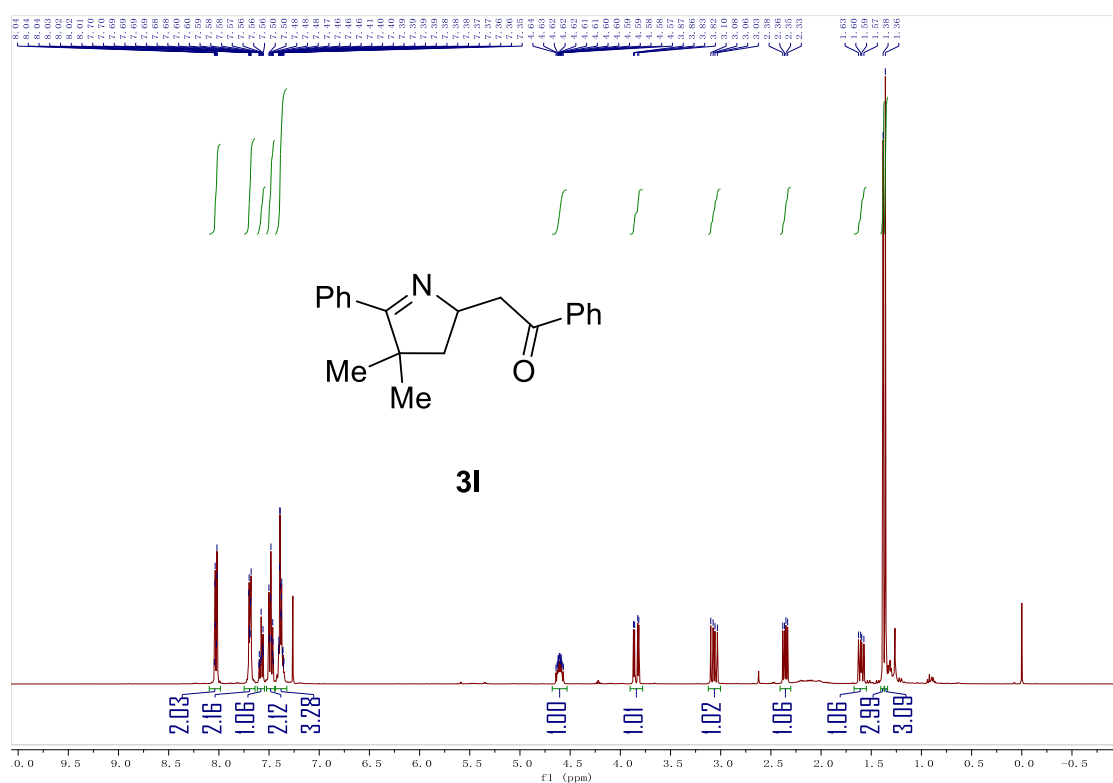
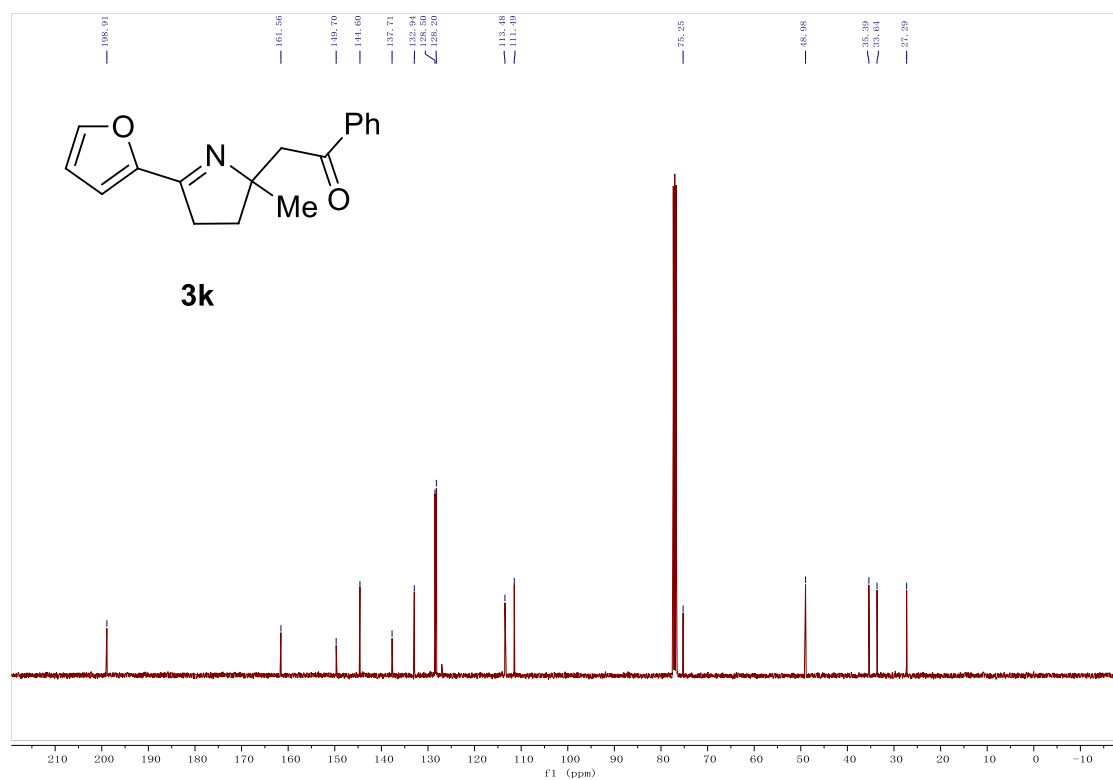


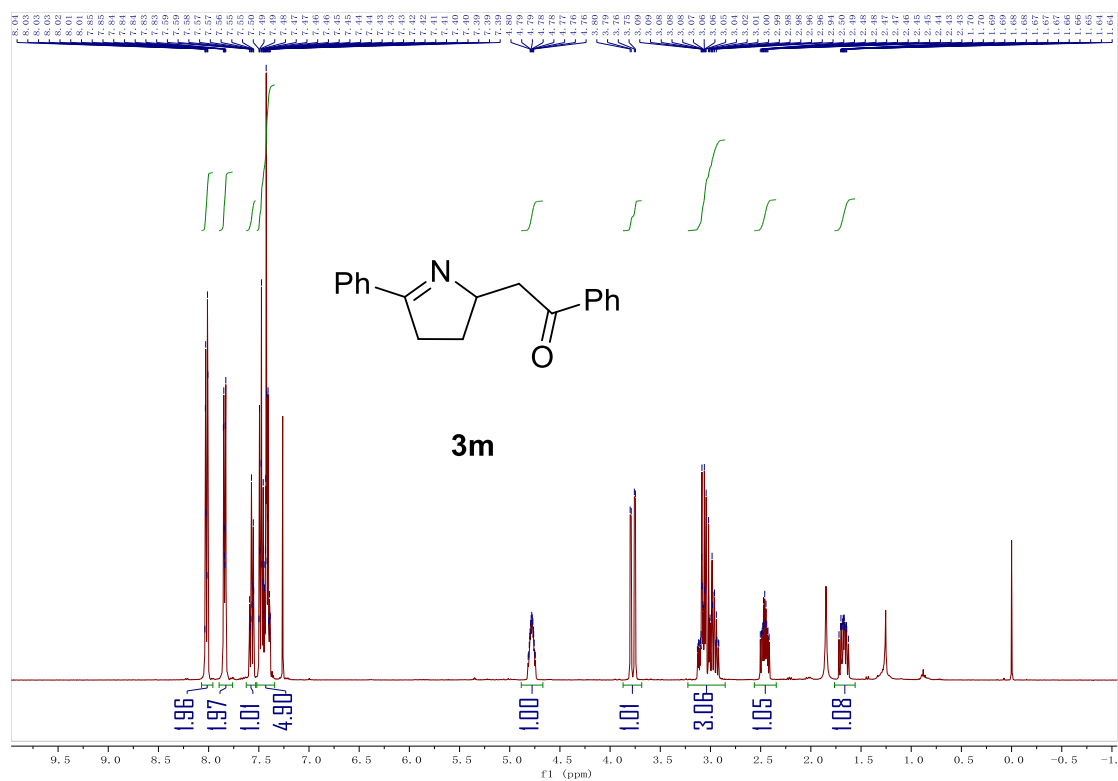
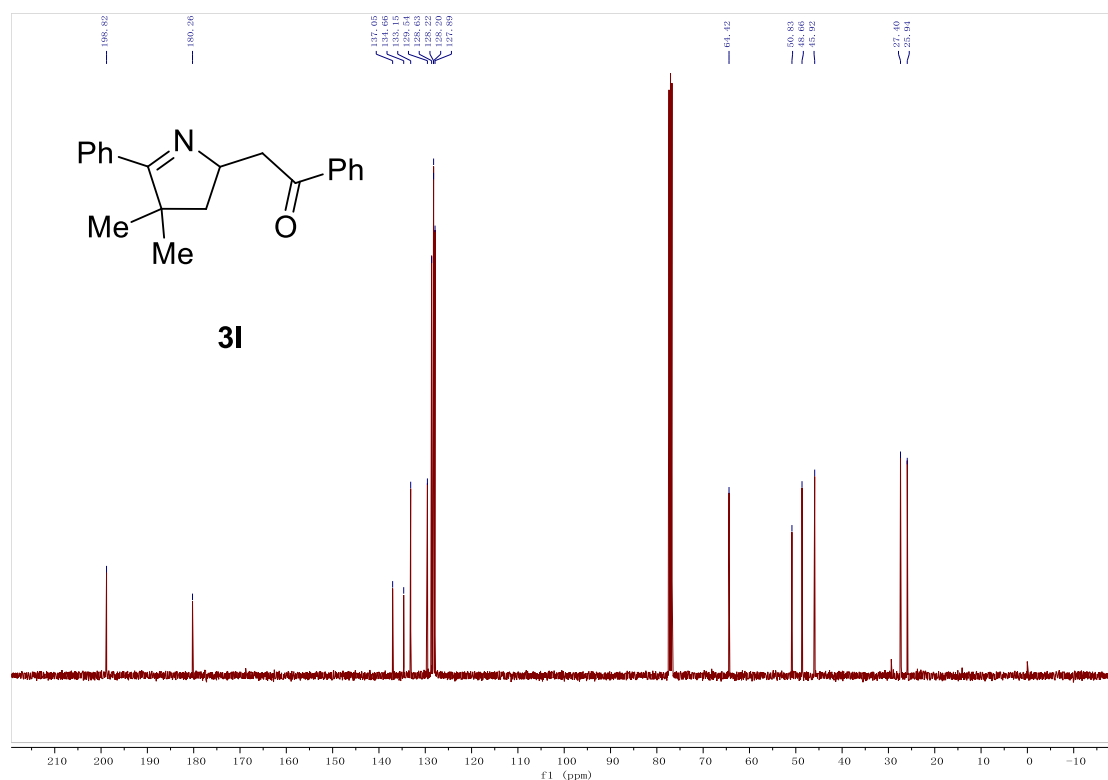


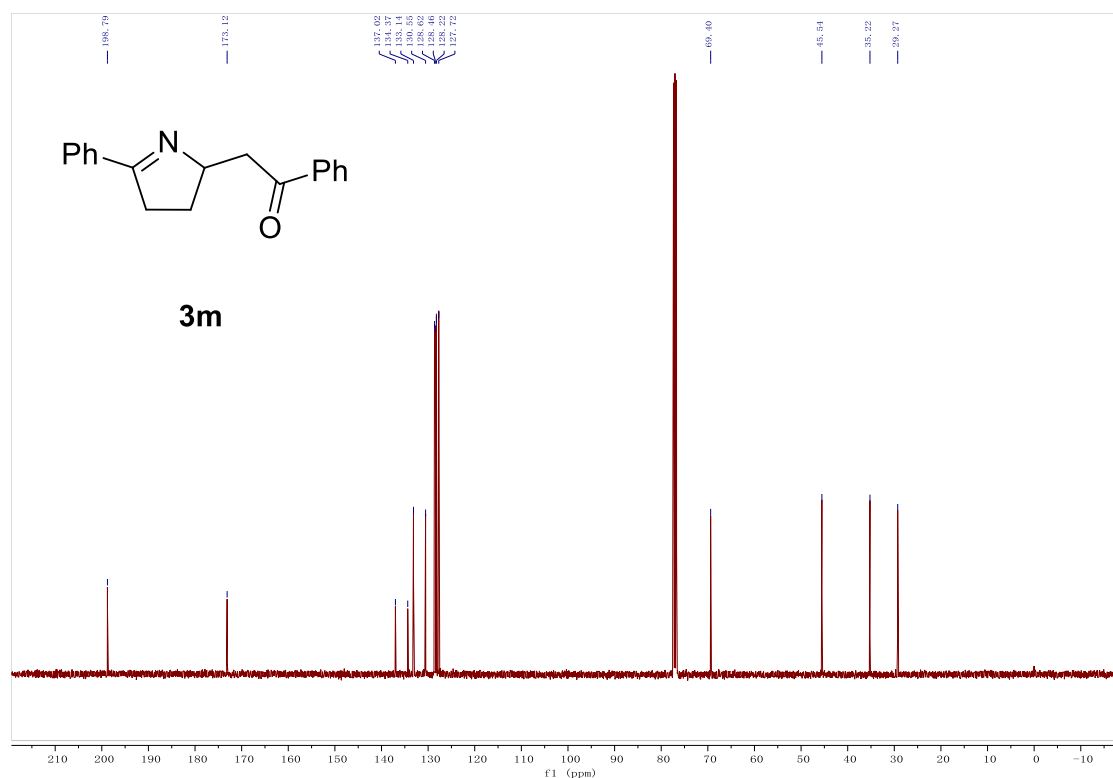




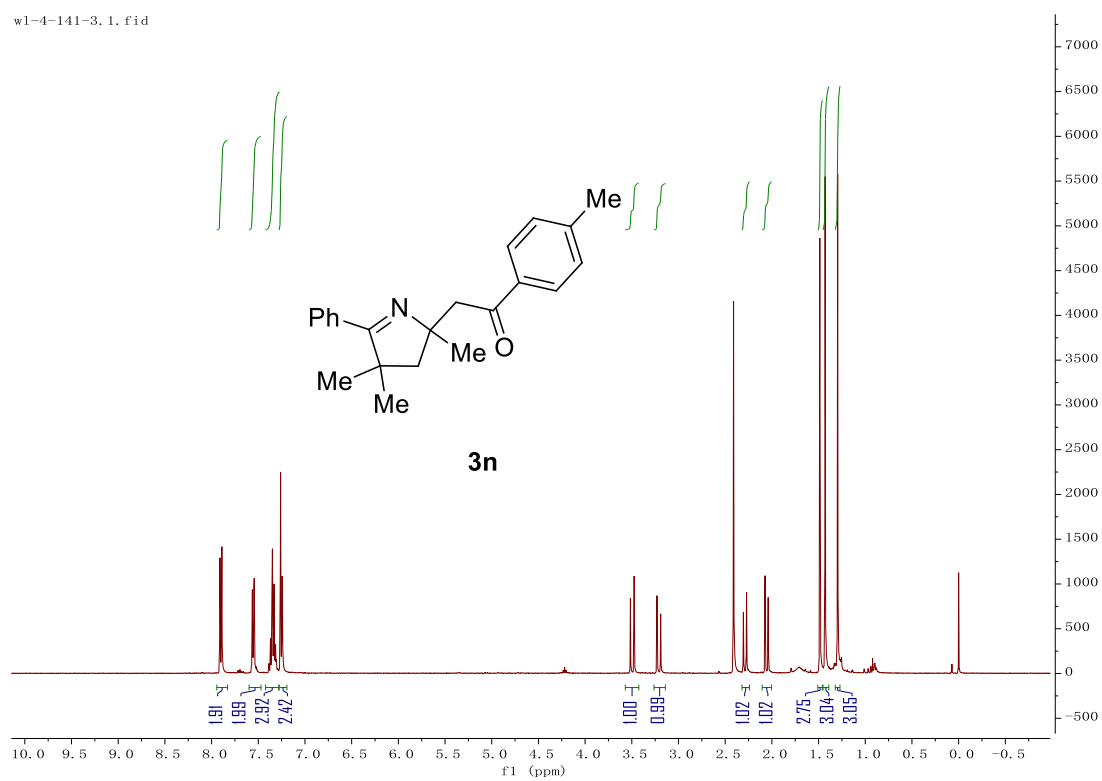


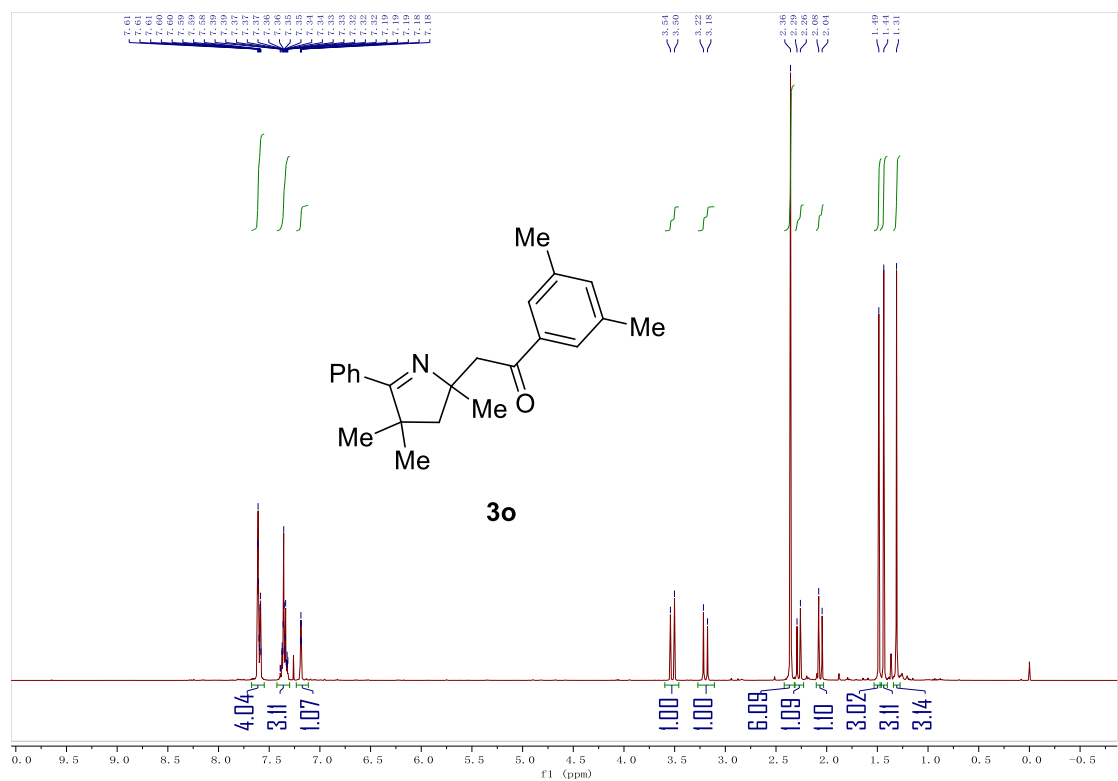
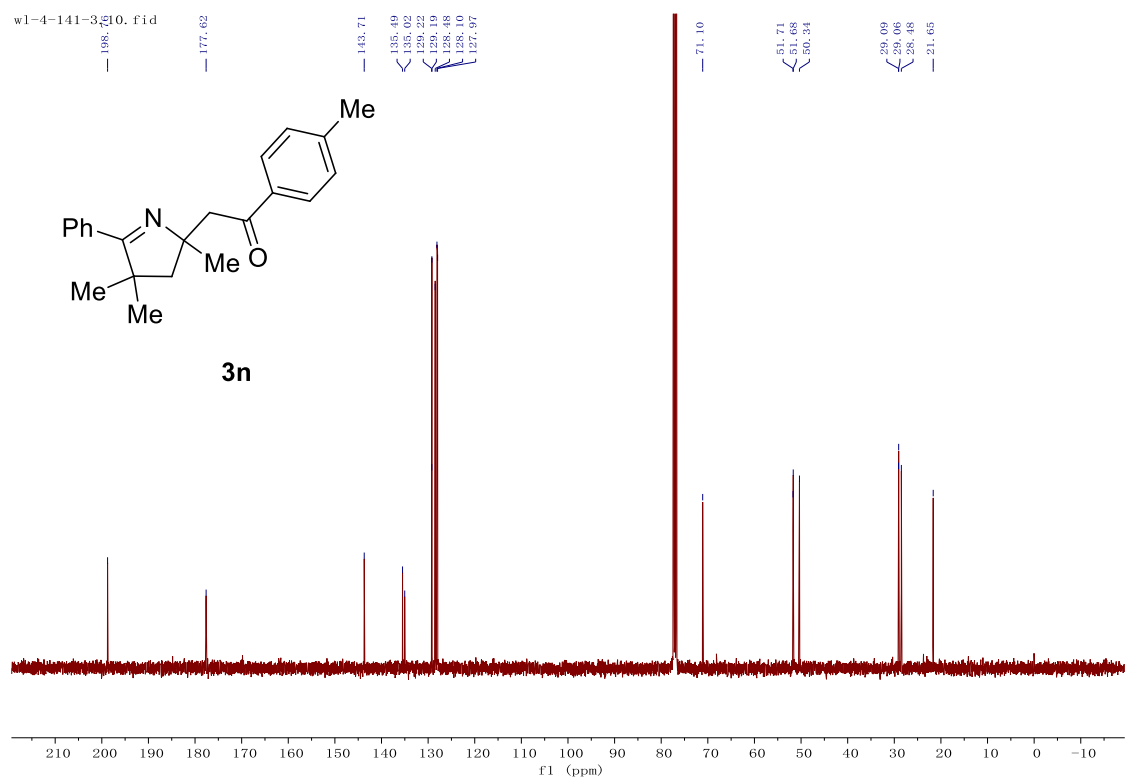


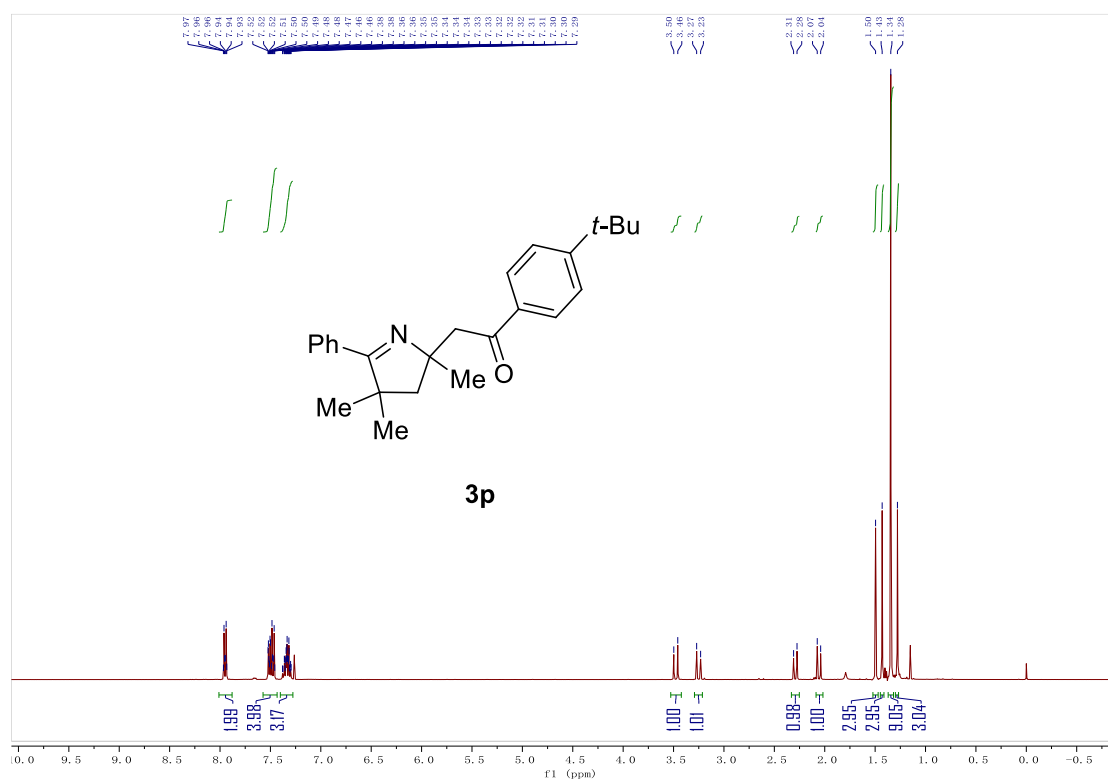
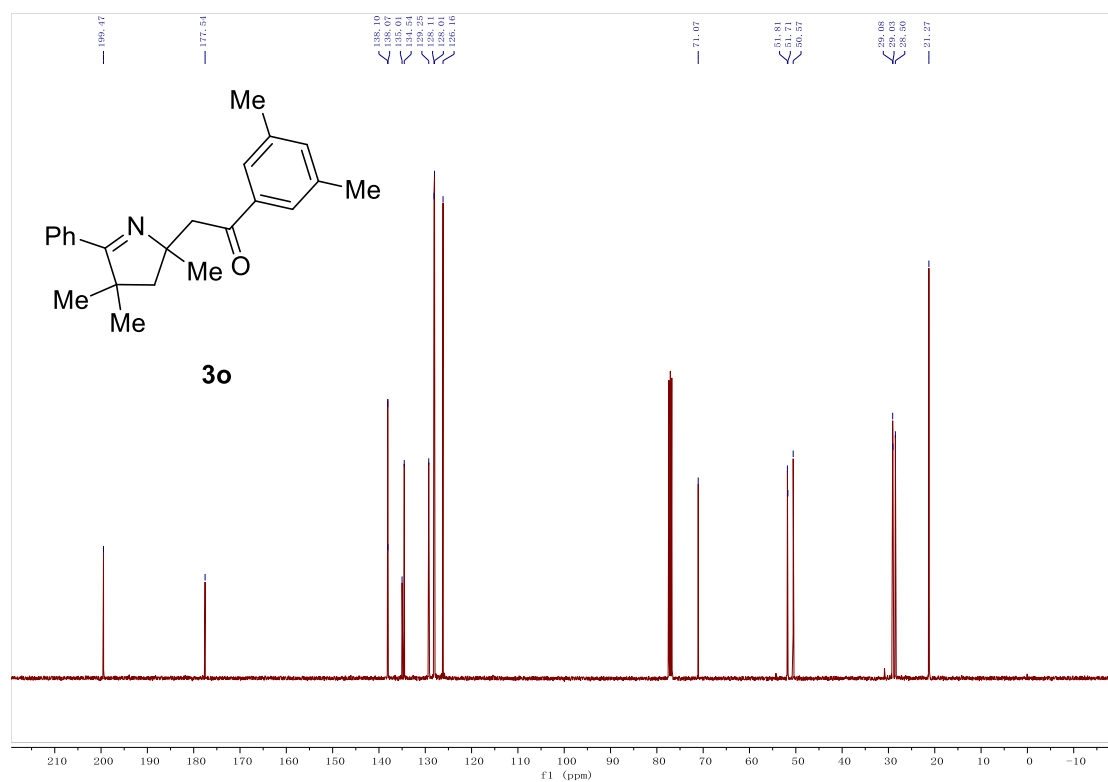


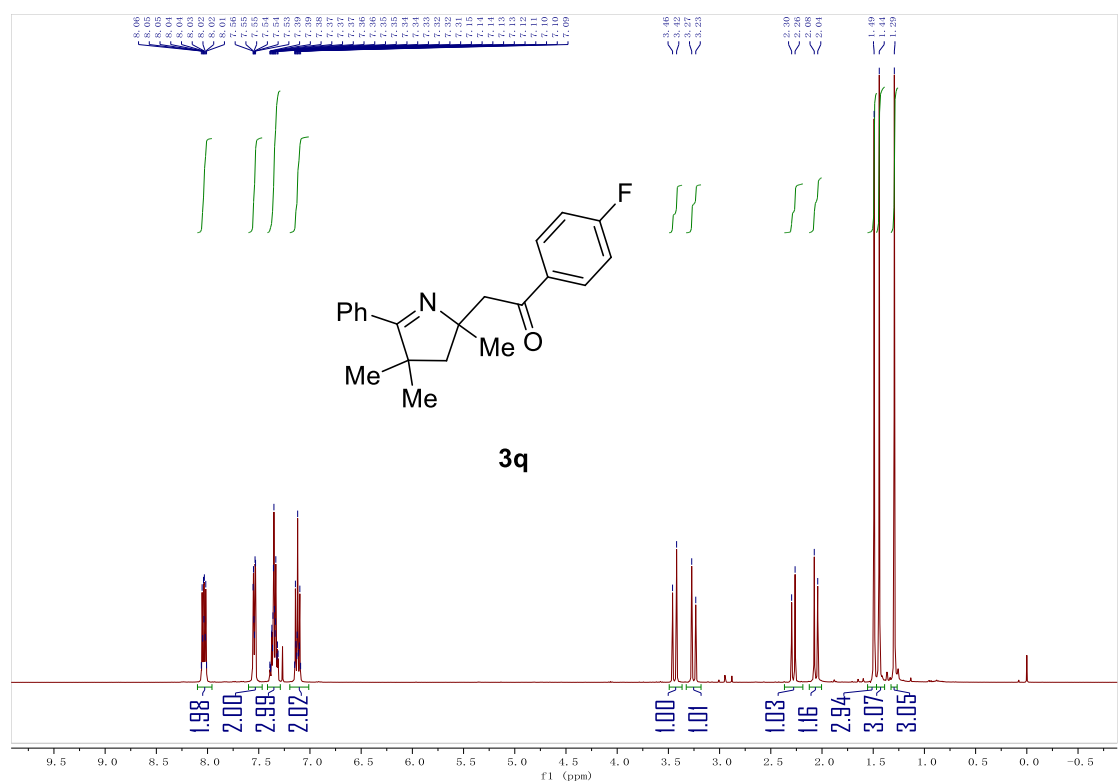
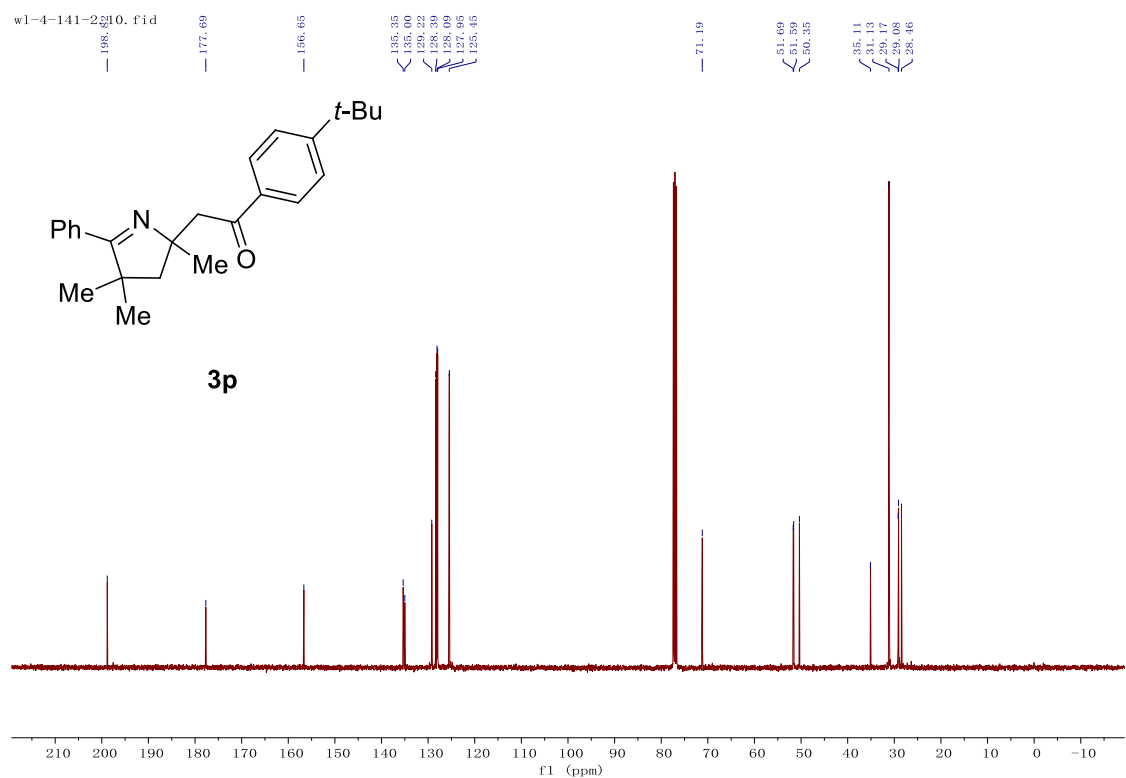


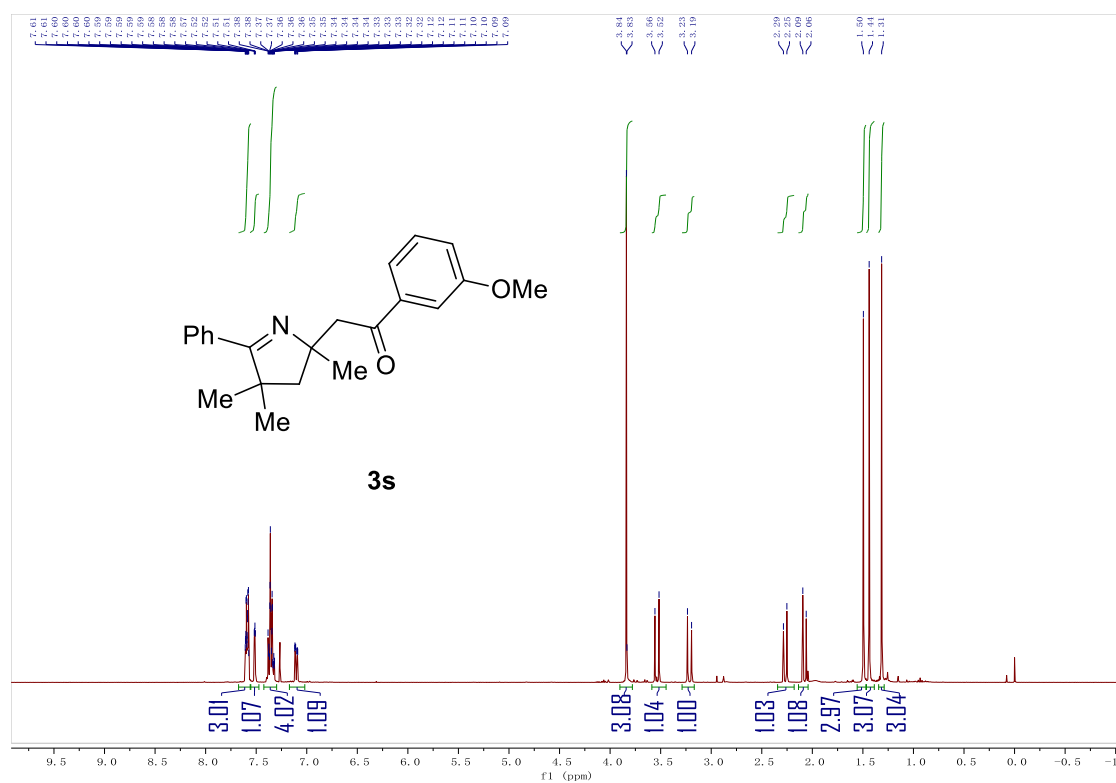
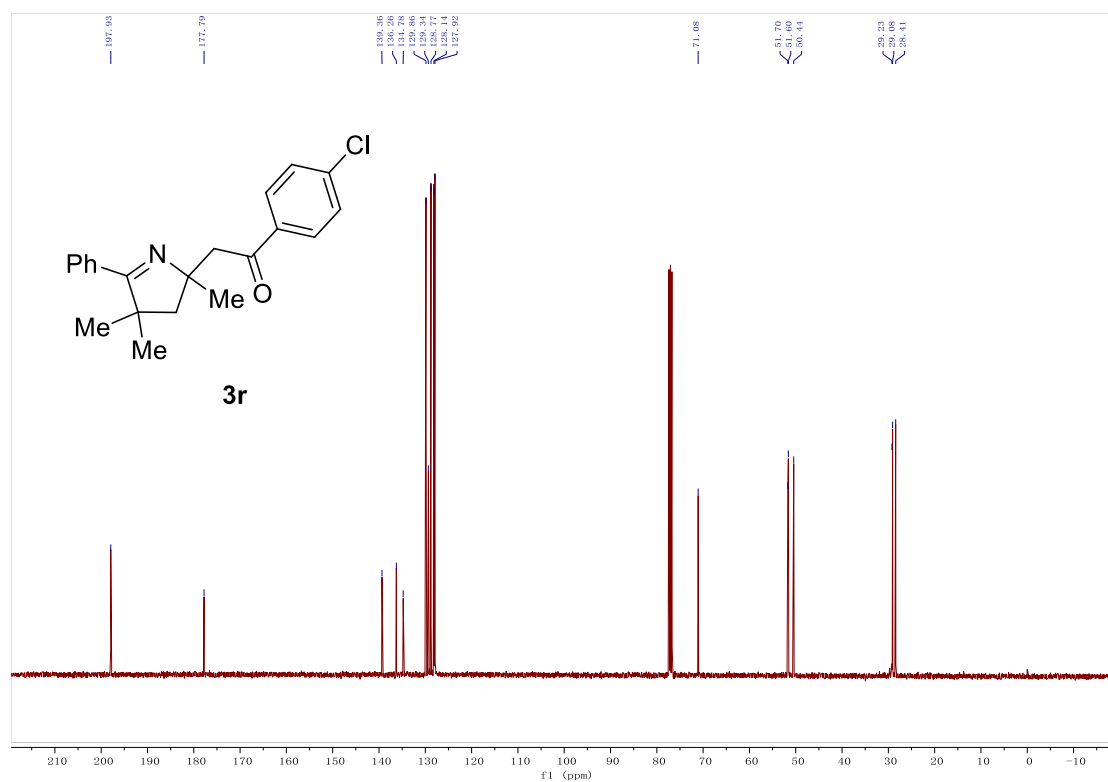
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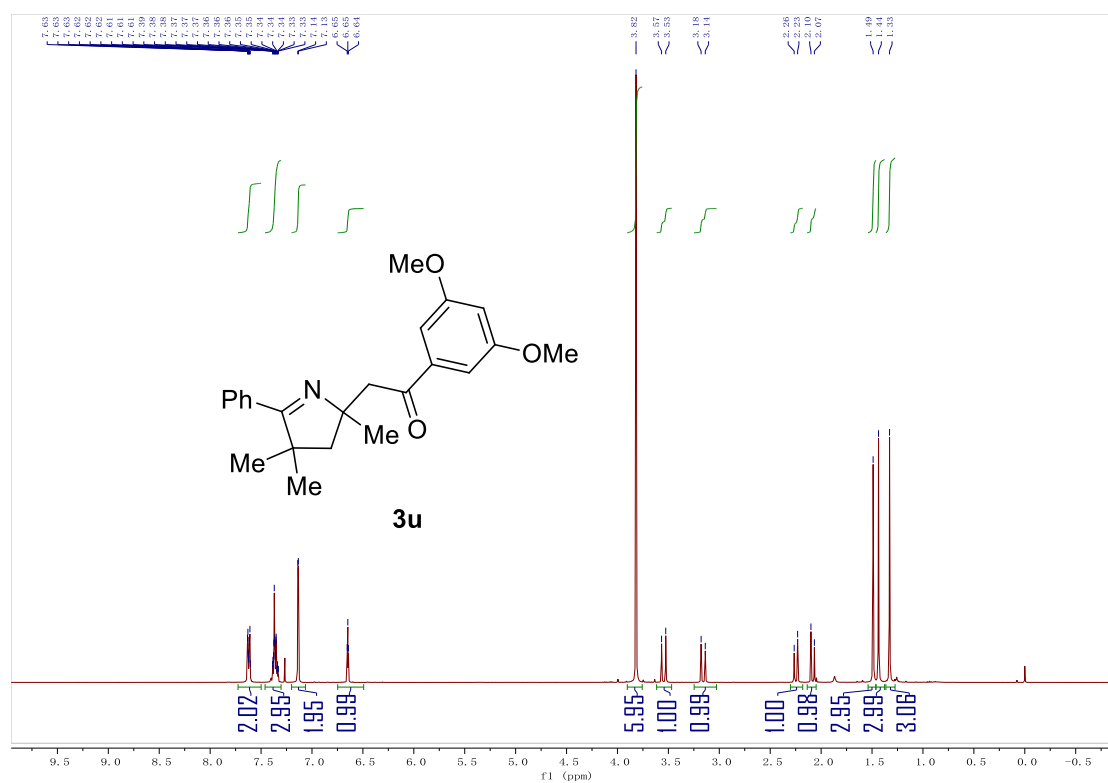
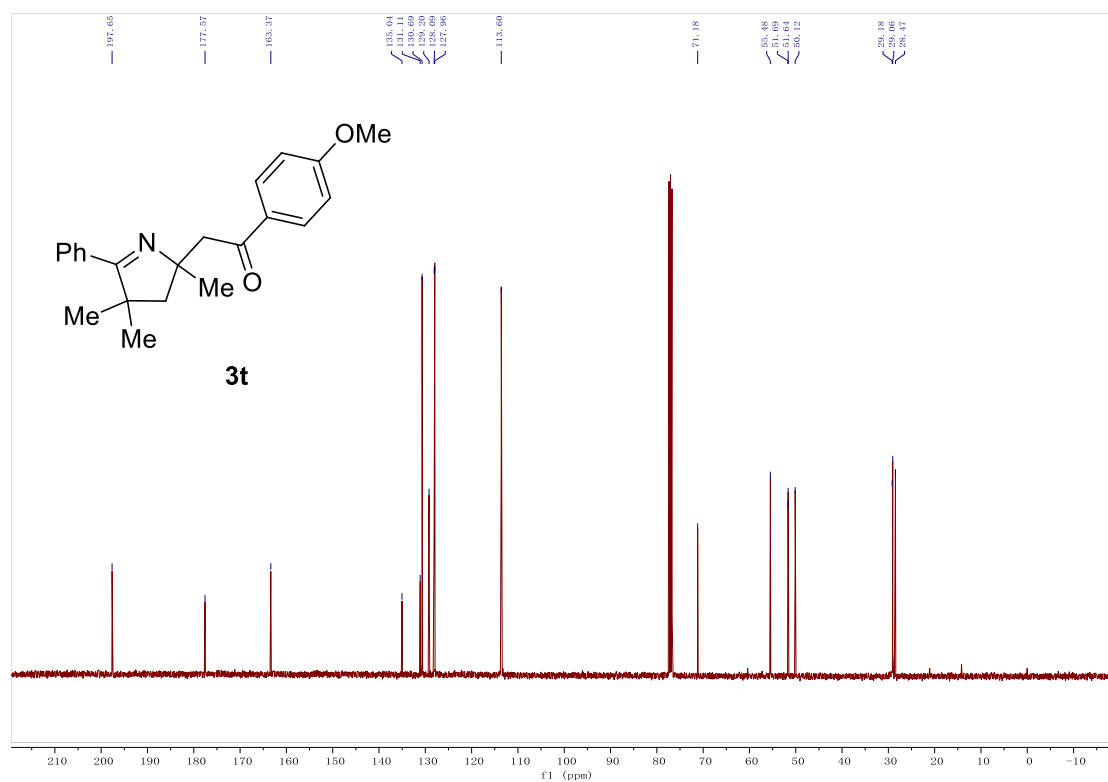


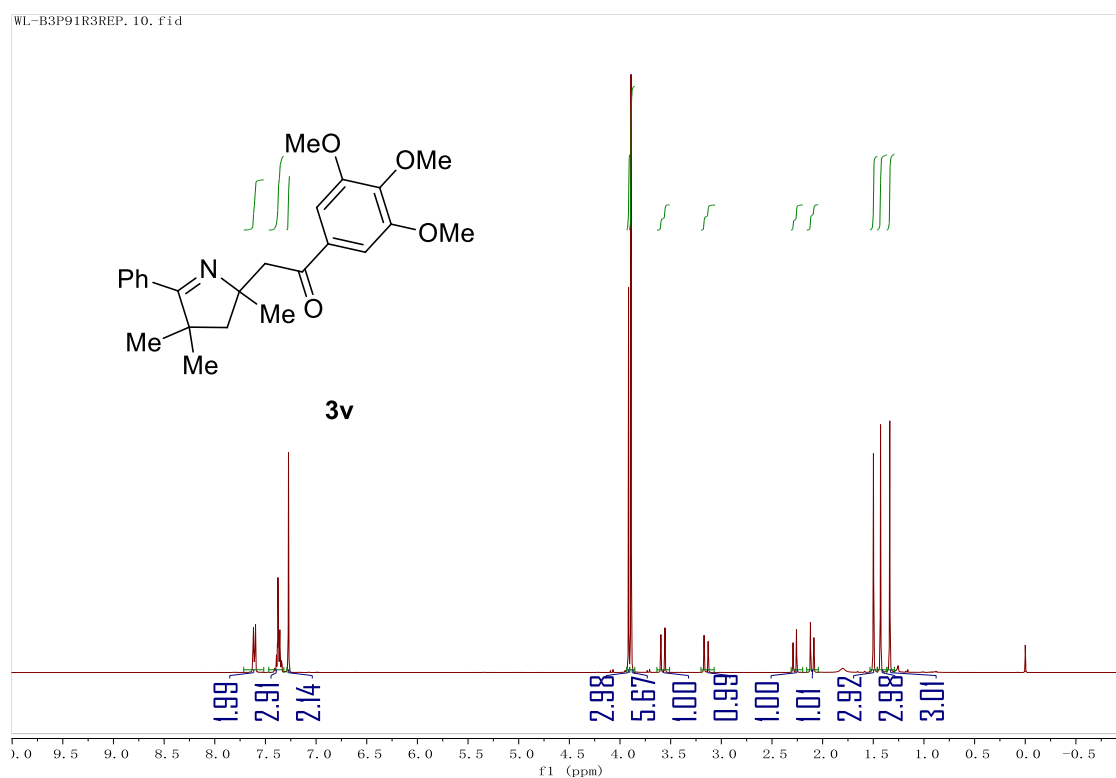
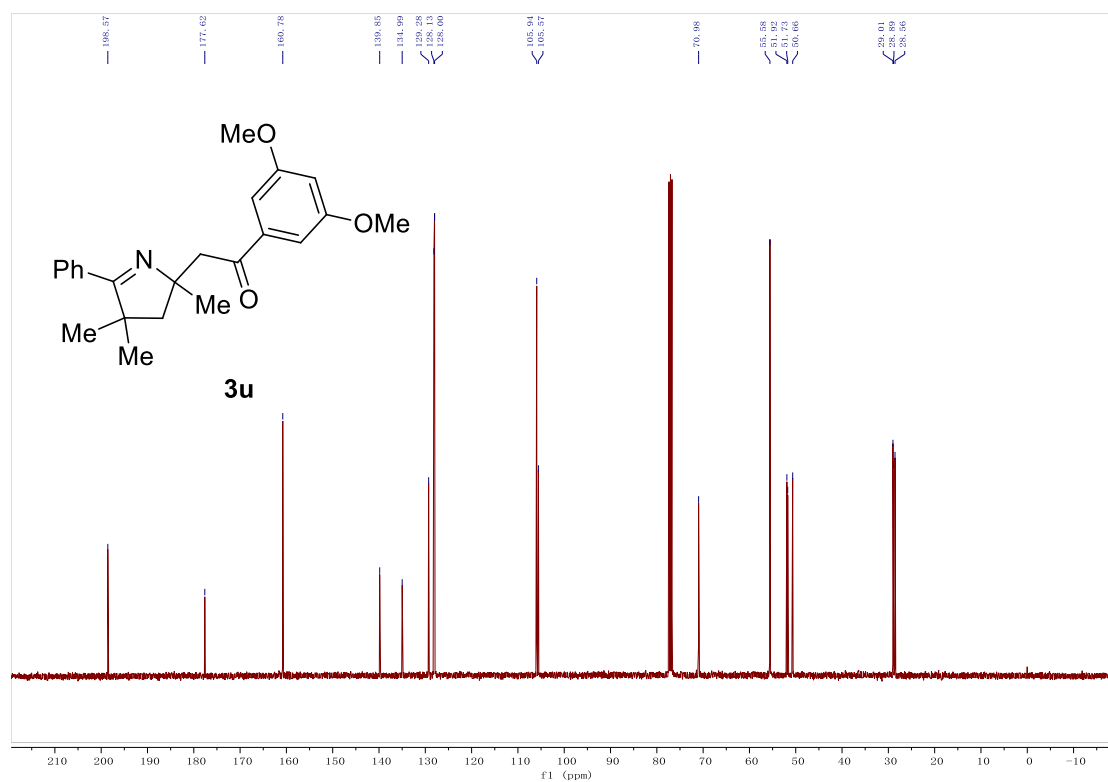


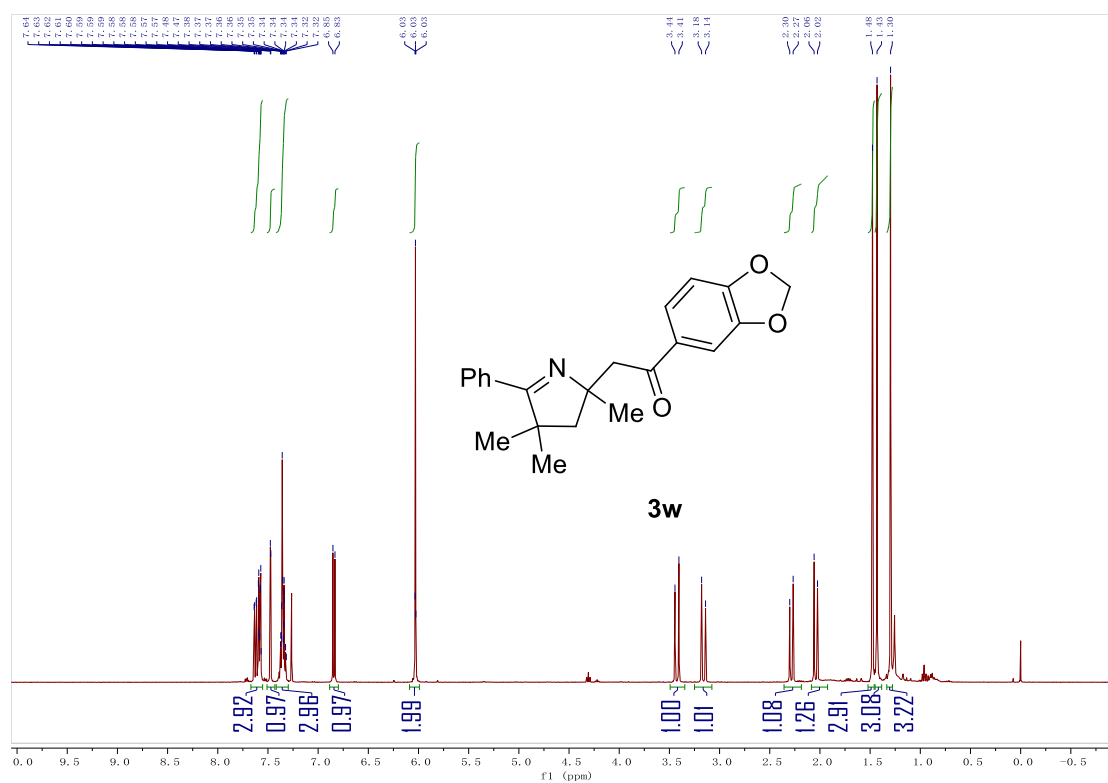
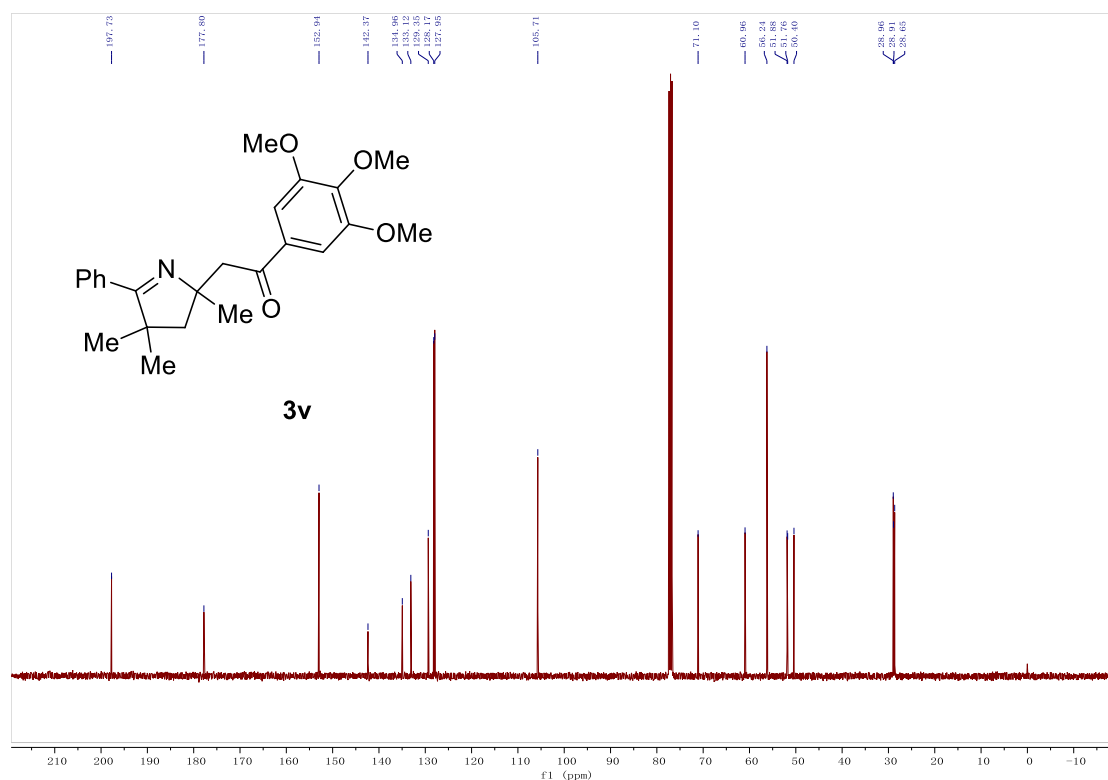


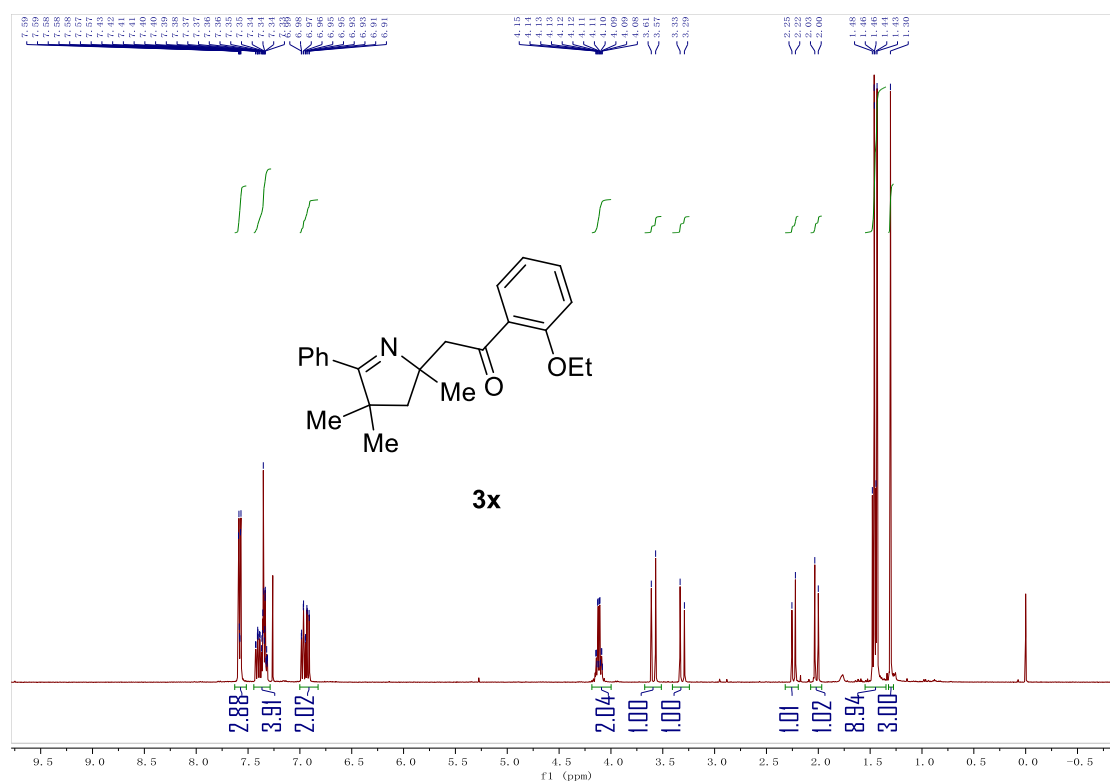
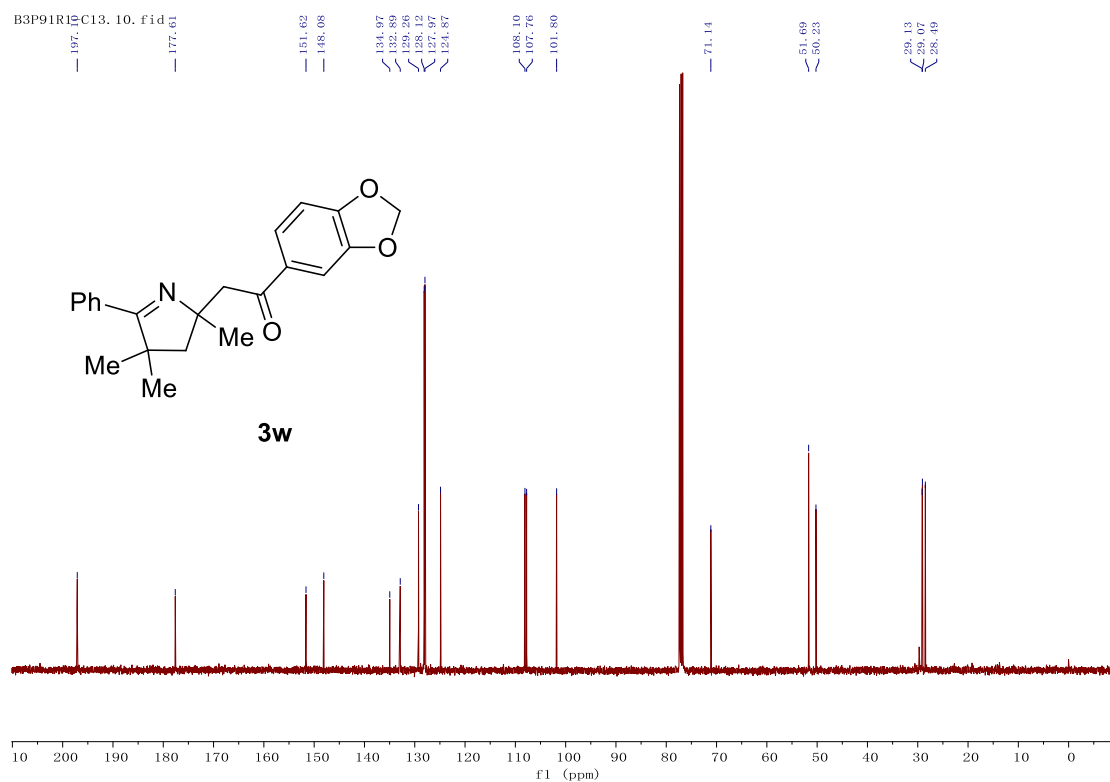


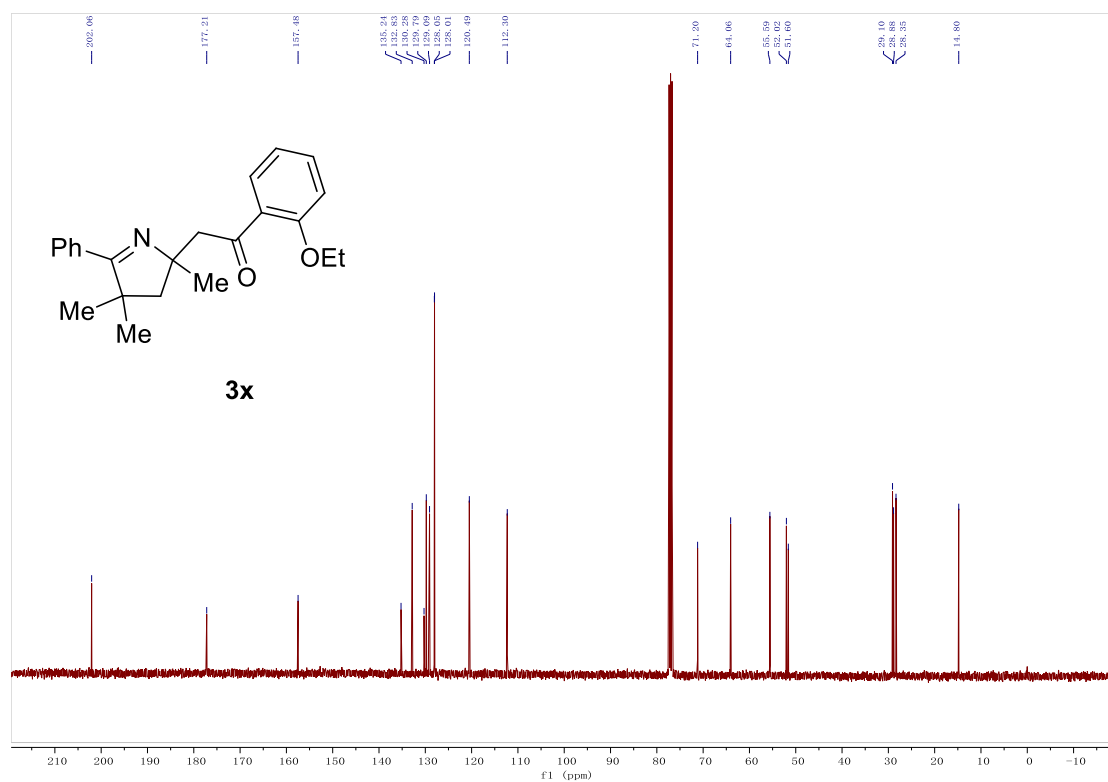












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