

Supporting information

Rh(III)-catalyzed Synthesis of Tetracyclic Isoquinolinium Salts via C-H Activation and [4+2] Annulation of 1-Phenyl-3,4-Dihydroisoquinolines and Alkynes in Ethanol

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1. General Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. $[(Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$, $AgOOCF_3$ and diphenylacetylene was purchased from aladdin. Symmetrical diarylalkynes **2b-e**¹ and 1-phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolines² were prepared according to the literature procedures. Ethanol was obtained by atmospheric distillation.

NMR spectra were obtained on a JNM-ECZ600R/S1 spectrometer. NMR data were obtained for 1H at 600 MHz, and for ^{13}C at 150 MHz. The 1H NMR (600 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to $CDCl_3$ or $DMSO-d_6$ or CD_3OD as the internal references ($CDCl_3$: $\delta = 7.26$, $DMSO-d_6$: $\delta = 2.50$, CD_3OD : $\delta = 3.31$). The ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz) chemical shifts were given using $CDCl_3$ or $DMSO-d_6$ or CD_3OD as the internal references ($CDCl_3$: $\delta = 77.16$, $DMSO-d_6$: $\delta = 39.52$, CD_3OD : $\delta = 49.00$). ESI HRMS was recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2 and Water XEVO G2 Q-ToF. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. Column chromatography was performed on silicagel (300-400 mesh), eluting with dichloromethane and methanol.

2. Optimization of the reaction conditions

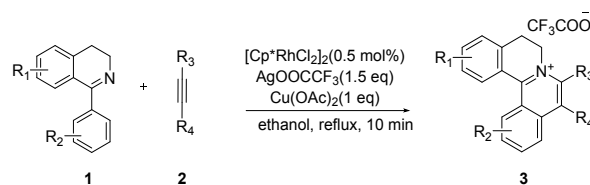
Table S1. Screening for the optimal reaction conditions^{a,b}

Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Additive	Acid/base	T/ °C	Solvent	Time	3aa (%)
1	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	-	-	-	Reflux	dioxane	4 h	Trace
2	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOTf$			Reflux	dioxane	4 h	40
3	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$Ag(OAc)_2$			Reflux	dioxane	4 h	Trace
4	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgSbF_6$			Reflux	dioxane	4 h	34
6	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgBF_4$			Reflux	dioxane	4h	30
7	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	dioxane	4 h	68
8	-	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	dioxane	4 h	ND
9 ^c	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$		NaOH	Reflux	dioxane	4 h	24
10 ^d	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$		Na_2CO_3	Reflux	dioxane	4 h	57
11	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	TFA	4 h	Trace
12	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	DCE	4 h	70
13	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	toluene	4 h	95
14	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	DCM	4 h	25
15	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			120	decalin	4 h	Trace
16	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			120	DMF	4 h	70
17	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			120	DMSO	4 h	45
18	$[Cp^*RhCl_2)_2]$	$AgOOCF_3$			Reflux	H ₂ O	4 h	30

19 ^e	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			Reflux	H ₂ O+CTAB	4 h	52
20	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			Reflux	EtOH	4 h	99
21	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			Reflux	EtOH	1 h	69
22	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			Reflux	isopropanol	1 h	65
23	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			120	butyl alcohol	1 h	67
24	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃			Reflux	TFEA	1 h	67
25	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	air		Reflux	EtOH	10min	73
26	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	81
27	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	C ₆ H ₅ I(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	90
28	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	DDQ		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	Trace
29	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	CuSO ₄		Reflux	EtOH	1 h	74
30	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	CuCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O		Reflux	EtOH	1 h	65
31	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(NO ₃) ₃ ·2H ₂ O		Reflux	EtOH	1 h	66
32	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OOCFF ₃) ₂ ·H ₂ O		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	95
33 ^f	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OOCFF ₃) ₂ ·H ₂ O		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	75
34	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	99
35 ^f	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	99
36 ^g	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂	AgOOCFF ₃		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	99
37 ^h	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂	AgOOCFF ₃		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	99
38 ⁱ	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂	AgOOCFF ₃		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	85
39 ^j	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂	AgOOCFF ₃		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	81
40	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	air		Reflux	EtOH	10min	73
41	-	-	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	ND
42	-	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	ND
43	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂	-		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	85
44	[RuCl ₂ cyme] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	Trace
45	[Cp*IrCl ₂] ₂	AgOOCFF ₃	Cu(OAc) ₂		Reflux	EtOH	10 min	Trace

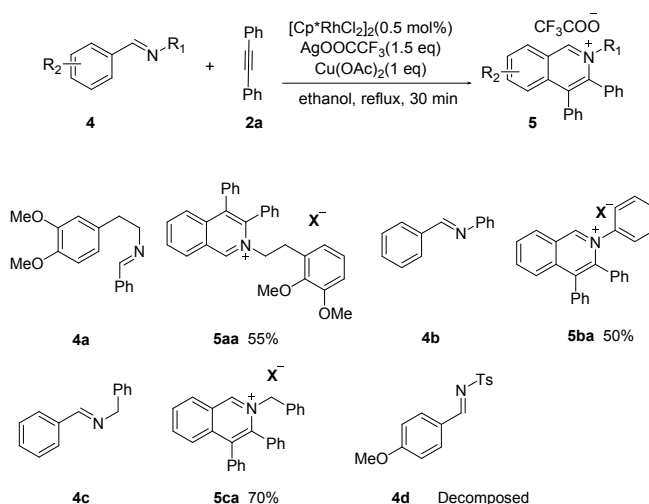
^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.32 mmol), **2a** (0.32 mmol), 0.5 mol% of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂, 1 eq of additive, 1 eq of oxidants, 3 mL of solvent, ND = Not Detected; ^bisolated yields; ^cNaOH (20 mol%); ^dNa₂CO₃ (20 mol%); ^eCTAB (Cetyltrimethyl Ammonium Bromide) (5 mol%); ^fS/C = 400; ^g1.0 eq of AgOOCFF₃, ^h0.5 eq AgOOCFF₃, ⁱ0.1 eq AgOOCFF₃, ^j0.05eq AgOOCFF₃.

3. General Procedure for Synthesis of Tetracyclic Isoquinolinium Salts and the Scope of Non-Cyclicimine Substrates



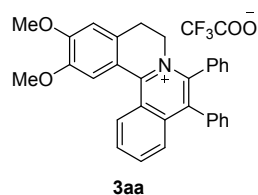
General procedure: A reaction tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1** (0.32 mmol, 1 eq), **2** (0.32 mmol, 1 eq), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.5 mol%), AgOOCF₃ (1.5 eq) and Cu(OAc)₂ (1 eq) and ethanol (3 mL), reflux. The resulting mixture was stirred for 10 min. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with methanol and dichloromethane (1:20) to give the product.

Table S2. Scope of Non-Cyclicimine Substrates

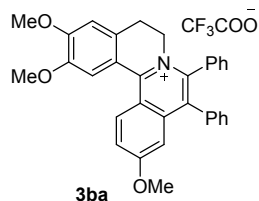


General procedure: A reaction tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **4** (0.32 mmol, 1 eq), 1, 2-diphenylethyne **2a** (0.32 mmol, 1 eq), [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (0.5 mol%), AgOOCF₃ (1.5 eq) and Cu(OAc)₂ (1 eq) and ethanol (3 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with methanol and dichloromethane (1:20) to give the product.

4. Characterization Data

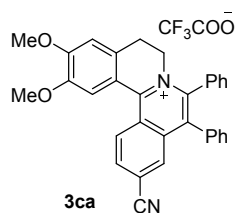


2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3aa). A yellow solid (176.9 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 8.89 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, *J* = 7.38 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.68 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.52 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 4.44 (t, *J* = 5.25, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.25 (t, *J* = 5.25, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.6, 154.1, 148.5, 144.3, 139.0, 136.1, 135.5, 133.8, 136.6, 131.6, 130.7, 130.5, 130.4, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 125.1, 119.0, 116.2, 110.9, 56.8, 56.7, 52.4, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 444.19634, found 444.1989.



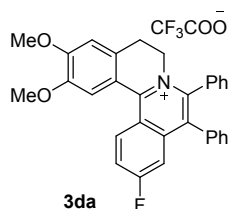
2,3,11-trimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ba). A yellow solid (186.5 mg, 98% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.60 (d, J = 8.63 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.03 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.34 (s, 5H), 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.3, 154.2, 152.6, 148.4, 144.4, 141.9, 134.5, 134.0, 133.4, 132.8, 131.7, 130.4, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 122.7, 120.2, 119.0, 115.9, 110.9, 106.0, 56.9, 56.7, 56.2, 51.9, 27.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 474.20690, found 474.2079.



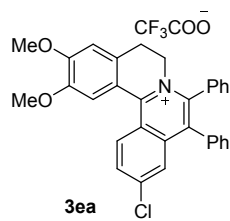
11-cyano-2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ca). A yellow solid (179.5 mg, 96% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.89 (s, 1H), 8.66 (d, J = 9.36 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 9.36 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 4.29 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.0, 155.0, 153.8, 149.2, 144.1, 138.8, 132.6, 131.7, 131.0, 130.5, 130.3, 130.2, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.0, 126.1, 119.0, 116.2, 110.6, 57.0, 56.8, 52.3, 27.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 469.19159, found 469.1938.



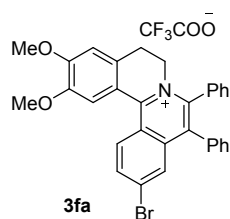
11-fluoro-2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3da). A yellow solid (176.5 mg, 95% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.73 (q, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 8.44 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 3.78, 2H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.4 (d, J = 261.1 Hz), 154.6, 154.0, 148.6, 145.1, 141.7 (d, J = 10.5 Hz), 135.3, 135.4, 134.6, 134.5, 133.5 (d, J = 11.5 Hz), 131.5, 130.4, 130.3 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 122.4, 120.7 (d, J = 24.3 Hz), 118.9, 116.2, 111.6 (d, J = 23.1 Hz), 110.8, 56.9, 56.7, 52.2, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{FNO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 462.18691, found 462.1881.



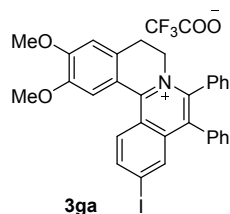
3ea **11-chloro-2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-**

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ea). A yellow solid (191.7 mg, 98% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.31 (m, 10H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.8, 154.3, 148.7, 145.5, 143.0, 140.0, 135.1, 133.7, 133.3, 132.5, 131.5, 131.2, 130.6, 130.5, 130.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 126.1, 123.7, 118.9, 116.1, 110.9, 56.9, 56.8, 52.4, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClINO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 478.15737, found 478.1592.



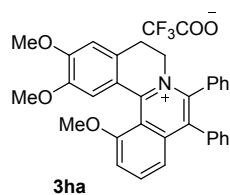
3fa **11-bromo-2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-**

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3fa). A yellow solid (203.2 mg, 99% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.54 (d, $J = 8.50$ Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 7.82$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.7, 154.4, 148.7, 145.6, 140.0, 135.0, 133.9, 133.6, 133.3, 132.2, 130.6, 130.6, 130.4, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 123.9, 118.9, 116.1, 110.9, 56.9, 56.8, 52.5, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{BrINO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 522.10690, found 522.1081.



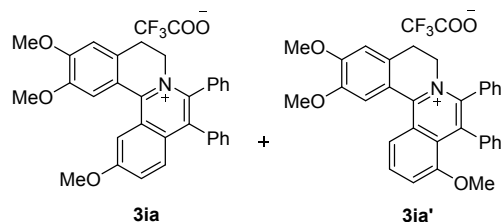
3ga **11-iodo-2,3-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-**

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ga). A yellow solid (210.9 mg, 97% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (d, $J = 8.91$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 9.06, 1.41$ Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.36 (t, $J = 6.03$, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.21 (t, $J = 6.17$, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.8, 154.5, 148.6, 145.6, 139.5, 139.2, 136.0, 134.5, 133.8, 133.3, 131.4, 130.5, 130.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 124.1, 118.8, 116.0, 110.9, 105.4, 56.8, 56.8, 52.4, 27.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{INO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 570.09317, found 570.0945.



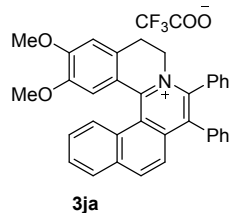
3ha

1,11,12-trimethoxy-5,6-diphenylisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ha). A yellow solid (176.5 mg, 93% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3OD): δ 7.97 (t, $J = 7.80\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 9.60\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.06 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.27 (m, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_3OD): δ 159.8, 155.7, 154.8, 149.3, 145.3, 141.7, 138.4, 136.6, 135.9, 133.4, 132.5, 131.0, 129.9, 129.5, 123.4, 119.7, 118.3, 118.0, 111.9, 110.2, 57.1, 56.8, 56.5, 53.2, 49.0, 27.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 474.20690, found 474.2079.



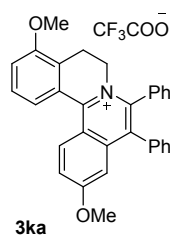
2,3,12-trimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-

dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ia). A yellow solid (182.5 mg, 96% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3Cl_3): δ : 8.24 (d, $J = 8.95\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 8.33\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 9.10\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 14H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 9H), 4.38-4.30 (m, 4H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 4H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_3OD): δ : 160.8, 156.7, 153.6, 148.3, 144.6, 138.2, 136.1, 134.7, 134.0, 131.7, 131.2, 130.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.6, 128.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 122.6, 119.3, 115.4, 111.0, 110.7, 108.3, 56.8, 56.8, 56.3, 56.1, 52.7, 52.6, 27.4, 27.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 474.20690, found 474.2079

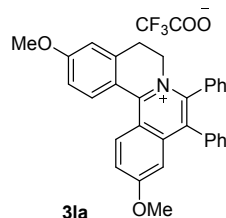


13,14-dimethoxy-4,5-diphenyl-1,2-dihydrobenzo[h]isoquinolino[1,2-

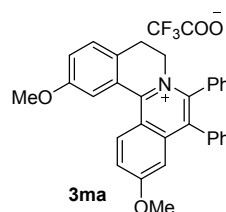
a]isoquinolin-3-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ja). A yellow solid (178.8 mg, 92% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.18 (d, $J = 8.47\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 9.42\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.16\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.68-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 6.8\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 4.66 (d, $J = 14.19\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.23 (t, $J = 15.12\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, $J = 15.48\text{ Hz}$, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.21 (d, $J = 15.37\text{ Hz}$, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.4, 151.3, 148.5, 147.0, 141.0, 137.7, 135.8, 134.0, 133.7, 131.6, 131.3, 131.2, 130.8, 130.7, 130.3, 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 124.6, 122.8, 122.0, 115.6, 110.5, 56.7, 56.0, 52.6, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 494.21199, found 494.2135.



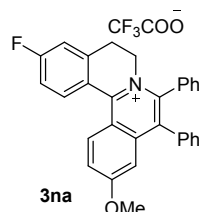
4,11-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ka). A yellow solid (171.2 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.76 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.56, 1H), 7.43-7.26 (m, 9H), 7.21-7.20 (m, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.5, 155.9, 152.6, 144.7, 142.0, 135.5, 134.0, 133.2, 131.8, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.0, 125.4, 123.2, 120.8, 115.5, 105.7, 56.2, 56.1, 52.1, 20.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 444.19634, found 444.1989.



3,11-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3la). A yellow solid (165.5 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.26-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.37 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.4, 164.3, 152.9, 144.4, 141.8, 141.3, 135.3, 134.3, 134.1, 133.3, 131.9, 130.4, 130.2, 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 122.8, 120.3, 119.4, 114.2, 113.5, 106.0, 56.2, 51.8, 28.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 444.19634, found 444.1989.

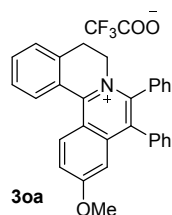


2,11-dimethoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ma). A yellow solid (176.2 mg, 98% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.46 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 2.40 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 2H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.5, 158.8, 152.5, 144.9, 142.1, 135.5, 134.0, 132.8, 131.8, 130.4, 130.3, 130.3, 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.7, 123.4, 120.6, 119.1, 119.1, 105.8, 56.2, 56.0, 52.8, 27.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 444.19634, found 444.1989.

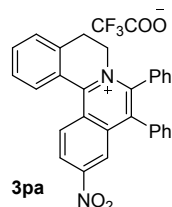


3-fluoro-11-methoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3na). A yellow solid (158.3 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.56 (d, *J* = 9.60, 1H), 7.98 (t, *J* = 7.52, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.51, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.38, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.21 (t, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 2.76, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.6 (d, *J* = 256.5 Hz), 165.4, 151.8, 144.9, 142.1, 142.0 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 135.8 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 135.4, 134.1, 132.7, 131.9, 130.4 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 130.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 123.4, 120.6, 115.5 (d, *J* =

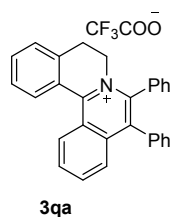
23.0 Hz), 115.3 (d, $J = 21.4$ Hz) 105.8, 56.2, 51.9, 20.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{30}H_{23}FNO^+$ $[M-CF_3COO]^+$ 432.17635, found 432.1788.



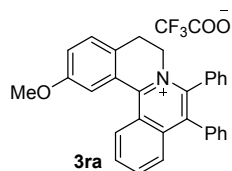
11-methoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3oa). A yellow solid (167.6 mg, 99% yield). 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 8.56 (d, $J = 9.60$, 1H), 7.98 (t, $J = 7.52$, 1H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.51$, 1H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.38$, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.21 (t, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 2.76$, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 165.5, 152.6, 144.9, 142.1, 138.8, 135.5, 134.0, 133.8, 133.2, 133.0, 131.8, 130.4, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 126.9, 123.3, 120.7, 105.8, 56.2, 52.2, 28.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{30}H_{24}NO^+$ $[M-CF_3COO]^+$ 414.18577, found 414.1873.



11-nitro-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3pa). A yellow solid (166.5 mg, 95% yield). 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.84 (d, $J = 10.56$, 1H), 8.55-8.53 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, $J = 7.81$, 1H), 7.74 (t, $J = 7.62$, 1H), 7.64 (t, $J = 7.71$, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 6H), 7.27-7.26 (m, 2H), 4.52 (t, $J = 6.25$, 2H), 3.31 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 155.1, 150.9, 146.8, 139.5, 138.9, 138.8, 134.7, 133.8, 133.5, 132.8, 131.2, 130.6, 130.5, 130.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 126.8, 123.3, 122.7, 53.4, 27.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{29}H_{21}N_2O_2^+$ $[M-CF_3COO]^+$ 429.16029, found 429.1621.

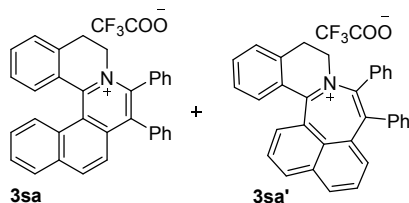


8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3qa). A yellow solid (104.2 mg, 65% yield). 1H NMR (600 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$): δ 8.12 (t, $J = 7.86$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 7H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.86$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.77 (m, 2H), 4.32 (t, $J = 7.86$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (t, $J = 7.86$ Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$): δ 156.2, 150.0, 141.7, 138.0, 137.2, 135.9, 134.2, 130.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 126.6, 122.5, 121.3, 120.0, 50.9, 32.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{29}H_{22}N^+$ $[M-CF_3COO]^+$ 384.17521, found 384.1764.



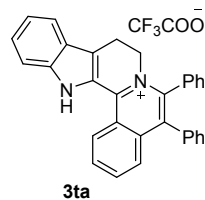
2-methoxy-8,9-diphenyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium

2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ra). A yellow solid (161.5 mg, 95% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.73 (d, $J = 8.26\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.98 (t, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 7.92 (t, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.34 (s, 3H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.8, 154.1, 144.8, 139.1, 137.5, 135.8, 133.8, 131.6, 130.7, 130.5, 130.5, 130.3, 129.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.3, 125.5, 119.5, 119.4, 56.1, 53.5, 27.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 414.18577, found 414.1872.



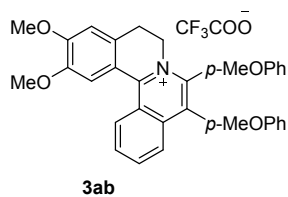
4,5-diphenyl-1,2-dihydrobenzo[h]isoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-3-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3sa). A yellow solid (167.5 mg, 95% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.15 (d, $J = 7.92$, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 7.92$, 1H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.81$, 2H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 8H), 7.45 (d, $J = 0.96$, 2H), 7.38-7.26 (m, 16H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 6H), 4.73 (d, $J = 8.46$ 2H), 4.16 (t, $J = 8.46$, 2H), 3.81 (t, $J = 7.92$, 2H), 3.15 (d, $J = 7.92\text{H}$) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.7, 147.6, 141.2, 137.9, 137.1, 137.0, 134.1, 133.9, 133.8, 133.1, 131.7, 131.0, 131.0, 130.5, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.6, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8, 127.5, 122.7, 53.2, 28.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 434.19086, found 434.1926.



5,6-diphenyl-9,14-dihydro-8H-indolo[2',3':3,4]pyrido[2,1-a]isoquinolin-7-

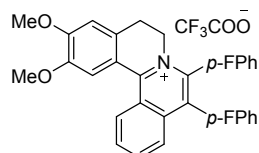
ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ta). A yellow solid (120.8 mg, 86% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 11.14 (s, 1H), 7.82 (t, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.4$, 1H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.30-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 3H), 6.85 (t, $J = 7.2$, 1H), 4.26 (t, $J = 7.8$, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 7.2$, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 150.7, 142.1, 137.1, 136.1, 135.5, 134.3, 133.6, 130.9, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.3, 127.7, 126.4, 126.1, 125.4, 124.3, 121.2, 120.7, 120.3, 118.8, 53.7, 21.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 423.18611, found 423.1879.



8,9-bis(4-methoxy)-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

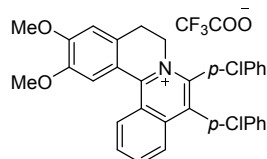
a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ab). A yellow solid (139.4 mg, 70% yield). ^1H

NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.65 (d, J = 8.16, 1H), 7.95 (t, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.89 (t, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.40, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.09-7.08 (m, 3H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 4H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.80 (d, 6H), 3.19 (t, J = 6.00, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.7, 159.5, 154.5, 153.8, 148.5, 144.7, 139.4, 136.3, 135.4, 133.6, 131.9, 131.8, 130.6, 130.2, 127.4, 126.1, 125.0, 123.8, 119.1, 116.1, 114.5, 114.1, 110.9, 56.8, 56.7, 56.5, 55.4, 52.3, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₃H₃₀NO₄⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 504.21746, found 504.2198.



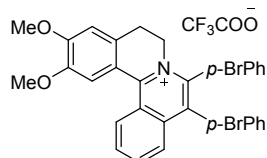
3ac

8,9-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ac). A yellow solid (143.2 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.67 (d, J = 7.86, 1H), 7.96 (t, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.00 (m, 5H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.4 (d, J = 250.39 Hz), 162.6 (d, J = 247.71 Hz), 154.4, 148.5, 143.8, 139.0, 135.6, 135.4, 133.5, 133.0 (d, J = 8.55 Hz), 132.5 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 130.9, 130.3, 129.9 (d, J = 4.83 Hz), 127.8, 127.0 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 125.3, 119.2, 116.5 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 116.3, 115.8 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 110.7, 56.8, 56.7, 52.3, 27.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₄F₂NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 480.17749, found 480.1795.



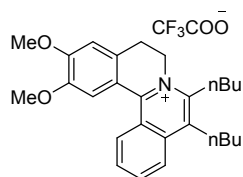
3ad

8,9-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ad). A yellow solid (141.3 mg, 70% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.66 (d, J = 9.00, 1H), 7.96 (t, J = 7.20, 1H), 7.90 (t, J = 7.86, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 9.00, 1H), 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.38 (t, J = 6.00, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.23 (t, J = 5.40, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.7, 154.5, 148.5, 143.2, 138.7, 136.7, 135.7, 135.0, 134.9, 133.5, 132.3, 132.0, 131.9, 130.8, 130.4, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 127.0, 125.2, 119.0, 116.1, 110.7, 56.7, 52.3, 27.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₄Cl₂NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 512.11839, found 512.1198.



3ae

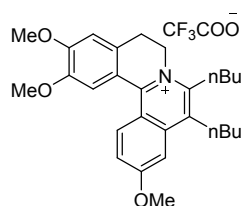
8,9-bis(4-bromophenyl)-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ae). A yellow solid (183.8 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.65 (d, J = 9.00, 1H), 7.95 (t, J = 7.86, 1H), 7.89 (t, J = 7.80, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.40, 1H), 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.38 (t, J = 6.30, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.5, 160.2, 154.7, 154.5, 148.5, 143.1, 138.7, 135.7, 134.9, 133.3, 132.8, 132.6, 132.2, 132.0, 127.0, 125.2, 125.1, 123.2, 119.1, 116.2, 110.6, 56.7, 56.7, 52.2, 27.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₁H₂₄Br₂NO₂⁺ [M-CF₃COO]⁺ 600.01747, found 600.0197.



3af

8,9-dibutyl-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-

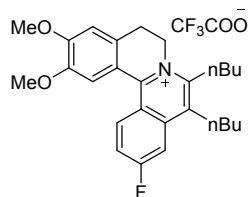
ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3af). A yellow solid (165.1 mg, 99% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.50 (d, $J = 8.46$, 1H), 8.18 (d, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 8.06 (d, $J = 8.1$, 1H), 7.84 (t, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.35 (m, 4H), 3.13 (t, $J = 8.46$, 2H), 1.70-1.60 (m, 8H), 1.06-0.99 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.3, 153.1, 148.3, 145.5, 138.3, 135.5, 133.8, 133.5, 131.2, 129.4, 124.5, 124.2, 118.8, 115.9, 110.9, 56.7, 50.2, 32.4, 31.1, 29.6, 28.8, 27.3, 22.9, 13.9, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 404.25893, found 404.2599.



3bf

8,9-dibutyl-2,3,11-trimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

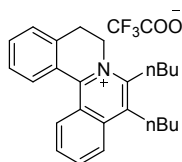
a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3bf). A yellow solid (167.8 mg, 95% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.38 (d, $J = 10.14$, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 9.54$, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.13 (m, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.32-3.25 (m, 4H), 3.06 (t, $J = 8.52$, 2H), 1.68 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.03-1.01 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.1, 153.9, 151.8, 148.2, 145.4, 140.9, 133.6, 133.2, 131.5, 121.6, 119.5, 118.8, 115.6, 110.9, 103.1, 56.7, 56.3, 49.5, 31.6, 31.0, 29.6, 28.7, 27.4, 23.2, 22.9, 13.9, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_3^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 434.26950, found 434.2699.



3df

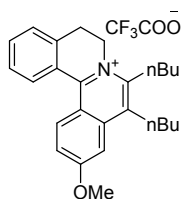
8,9-dibutyl-11-fluoro-2,3-dimethoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3df). A yellow solid (162.7 mg, 94% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.54 (q, $J = 7.2$, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.92$, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 8.1$, 1H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.34-3.30 (m, 4H), 3.04 (t, $J = 8.1$, 2H), 1.67-1.59 (m, 8H), 1.05-1.01 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.5 (d, $J = 260.86$ Hz), 154.5, 153.1, 148.4, 146.4, 140.8 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz), 135.0 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 134.0, 132.6 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz), 121.7, 120.0 (d, $J = 25.8$ Hz), 119.7, 115.7, 110.9, 108.6 (d, $J = 22.3$ Hz), 56.6, 50.0, 32.1, 30.9, 29.7, 29.0, 27.2, 23.3, 22.9, 13.9, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{33}\text{FNO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 422.24951, found 422.2508.



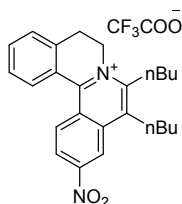
3qf

8,9-dibutyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3qf). A yellow solid (125.3 mg, 85% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.42 (d, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 8.18 (d, $J = 9.06$, 1H), 8.08 (m, 1H), 7.82 (t, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.26$, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 3.34 (s, 4H), 3.12 (t, $J = 7.56$, 8H), 1.67-1.54 (m, 8H), 0.99-0.97 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0, 145.6, 138.6, 138.2, 136.0, 135.0, 133.7, 133.0, 131.0, 130.1, 129.8, 128.0, 127.5, 126.6, 124.5, 124.2, 50.3, 32.3, 30.9, 29.5, 29.1, 28.8, 27.7, 23.2, 22.8, 13.7, 13.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 344.23781, found 344.2398.



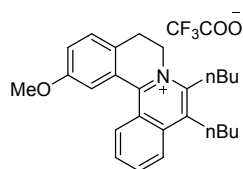
3of

8,9-dibutyl-11-methoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3of). A yellow solid (143.2 mg, 91% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.35 (d, $J = 9.60$, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.20$, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, $J = 9.60$, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 2.40$, 1H), 4.77 (s, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.29 (m, 4H), 3.07 (t, $J = 7.80$, 2H), 1.70-1.56 (m, 8H), 1.05-0.99 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.3, 151.7, 145.8, 141.0, 138.7, 133.5, 133.3, 132.8, 128.1, 127.6, 126.8, 122.3, 119.9, 103.0, 56.3, 49.7, 31.6, 31.0, 29.6, 28.9, 28.0, 23.2, 22.9, 13.8, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 374.24837, found 374.2499.



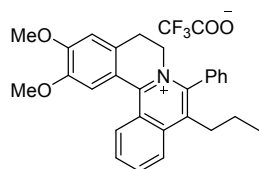
3pf

8,9-dibutyl-11-methoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3pf). A yellow solid (143.8 mg, 89% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.03 (d, $J = 2.40$, 1H), 8.65 (d, $J = 9.60$, 1H), 8.47 (d, $J = 9.60$, 1H), 7.75-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.42 (m, 4H), 3.23 (m, 2H), 1.74 (m, 4H), 1.63 (m, 4H), 1.08-1.02 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.0, 150.9, 148.7, 139.0, 138.5, 136.8, 134.6, 134.1, 133.2, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 126.6, 122.5, 120.0, 51.0, 32.7, 30.8, 30.0, 29.3, 27.5, 23.2, 23.0, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 389.22288, found 389.2253.



3rf

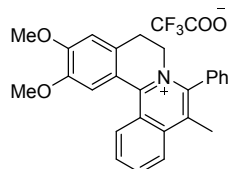
8,9-dibutyl-2-methoxy-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3rf). A yellow solid (154.2 mg, 98% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.54 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 8.10 (t, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 7.20$, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.29 (m, 4H), 3.16 (t, $J = 8.40$, 2H), 1.70-1.59 (m, 8H), 1.05-0.98 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.6, 153.0, 146.0, 138.4, 135.6, 131.1, 130.6, 129.9, 127.5, 124.7, 124.2, 118.9, 56.0, 51.0, 49.5, 32.4, 31.0, 29.6, 28.9, 27.0, 23.3, 22.9, 13.9, 13.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 374.24837, found 374.2497.



3ag

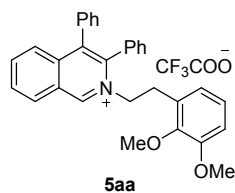
2,3-dimethoxy-9-phenyl-8-propyl-5,6-dihydroisoquinolino[1,2-

a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ag). A yellow solid (165.6 mg, 95% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.64 (d, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 8.26 (d, $J = 7.20$, 1H), 8.15 (m, 1H), 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.65 (s, 3H), 7.51 (s, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 2H), 2.78 (t, $J = 7.80$, 2H), 1.52 (d, $J = 6.66$, 2H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.20$, 8H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.4, 153.2, 148.4, 138.2, 135.8, 134.8, 131.8, 131.4, 131.0, 130.2, 130.1, 129.7, 125.2, 125.0, 118.8, 116.0, 111.0, 56.8, 52.4, 31.9, 27.1, 23.9, 14.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 410.21199, found 410.2135.

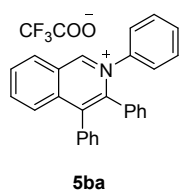


3ah

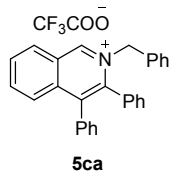
ino[1,2-a]isoquinolin-7-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (3ah). A yellow solid (155.0 mg, 97% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.62 (d, $J = 7.86$, 1H), 8.27 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 8.16 (d, $J = 6.60$, 1H), 7.93 (t, $J = 7.20$, 1H), 7.63 (s, 3H), 7.50 (s, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.3, 153.1, 148.4, 143.6, 138.8, 135.9, 133.1, 132.0, 131.1, 131.0, 130.5, 130.4, 130.2, 129.6, 125.0, 124.7, 118.8, 116.0, 110.8, 56.7, 52.4, 27.1, 16.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 382.18069, found 382.1823.



2-(2,3-dimethoxyphenethyl)-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-2-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (5aa). A light yellow solid (99.3 mg, 55% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 11.26 (s, 1H), 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.00 (t, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 7.93 (t, $J = 7.20$, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.20$, 2H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.62-6.21 (m, 2H), 6.30 (m, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 1.70-1.59 (m, 8H), 1.05-0.98 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.7, 149.3, 148.3, 143.6, 139.2, 137.6, 137.4, 133.2, 131.2, 130.8, 130.6, 130.4, 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 126.1, 120.8, 112.2, 111.3, 60.4, 56.0, 37.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2^+$ 446.21199, found 446.2135.



2,3,4-triphenylisoquinolin-2-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (5ba). A white solid (76.2 mg, 50% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 10.60 (s, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H), 8.07 (t, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 9.00$, 1H), 7.55 (s, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.01 (m, 5H), 6.62-6.21 (m, 2H), 6.30 (m, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 1.70-1.59 (m, 8H), 1.05-0.98 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.7, 144.1, 142.2, 139.0, 138.5, 138.0, 133.2, 132.8, 131.4, 131.2, 130.6, 130.4, 129.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 126.9, 126.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 358.15956, found 358.1611.

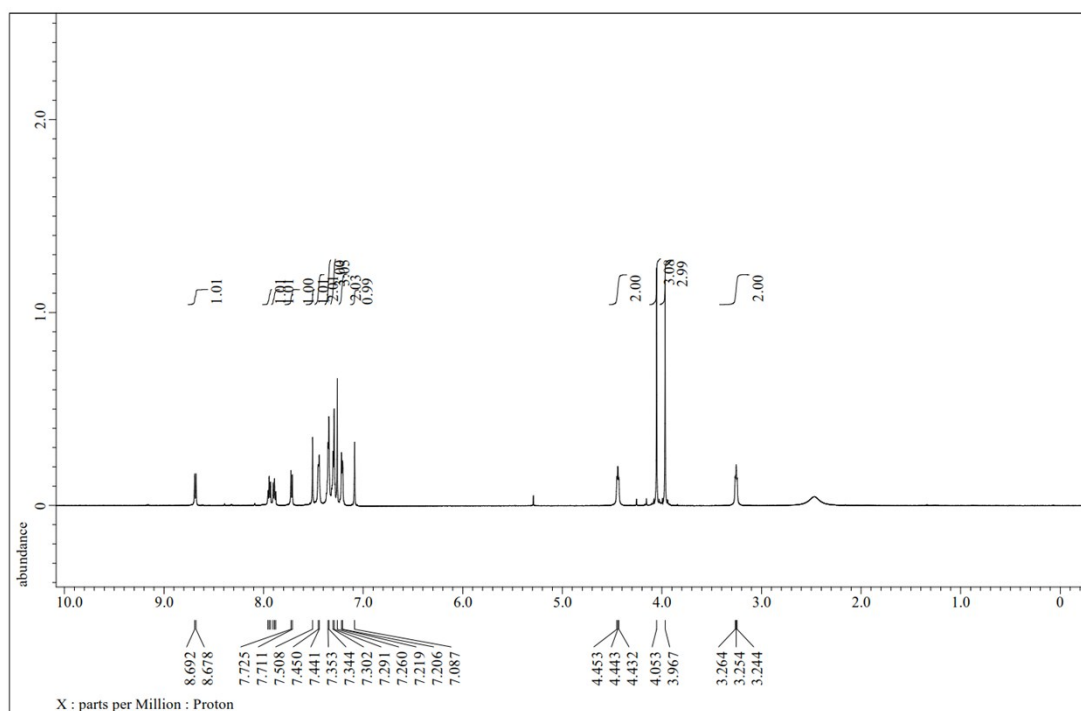
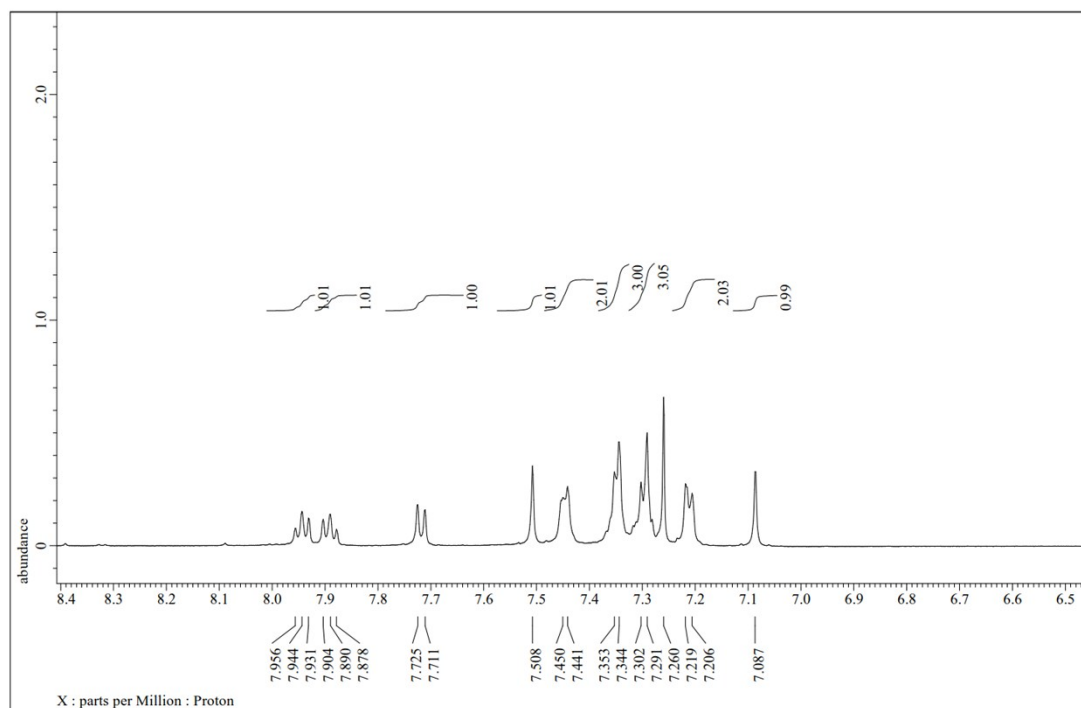
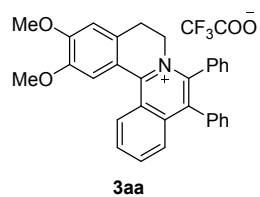


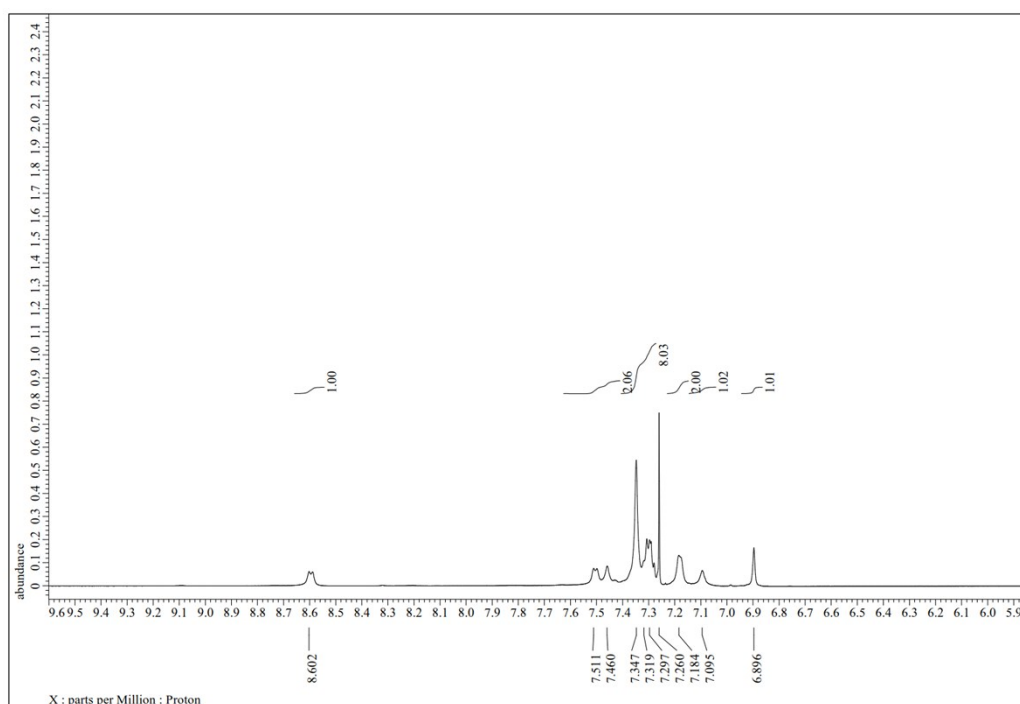
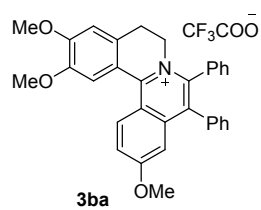
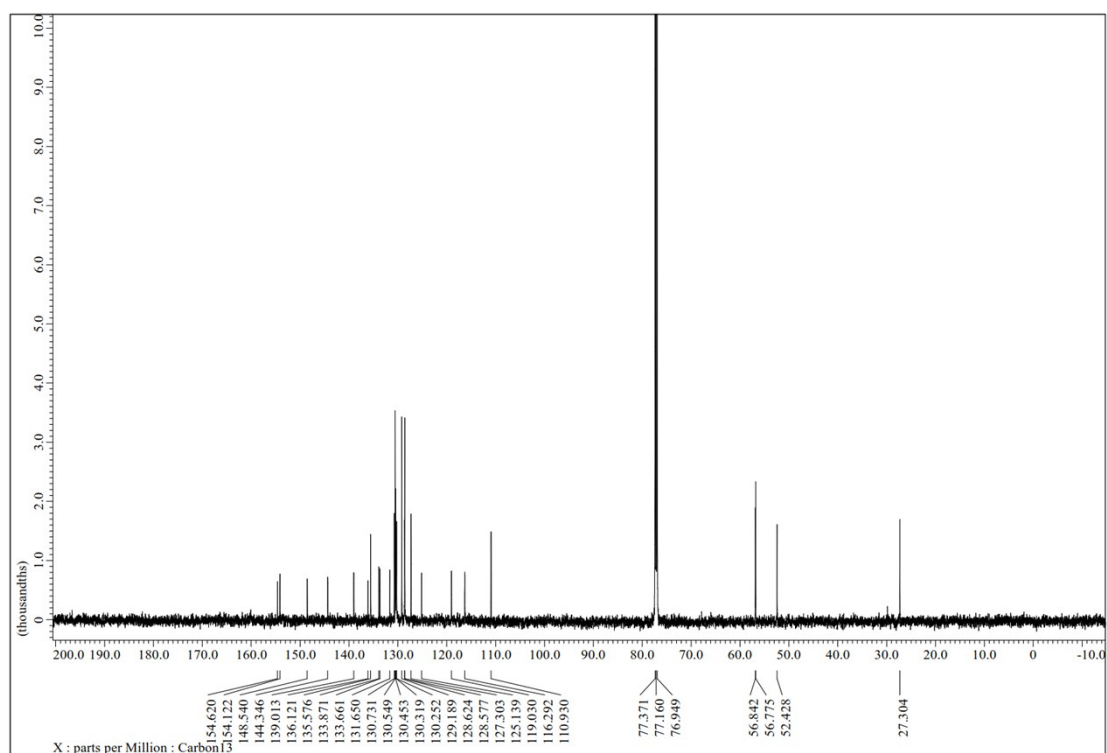
2-benzyl-3,4-diphenylisoquinolin-2-ium 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (5ca). A white solid (109.5 mg, 70% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 11.29 (s, 1H), 8.91 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 8.01 (t, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 7.96 (t, $J = 7.80$, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.40$, 1H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.20$, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.05 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.06 (s, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.1, 144.1, 139.6, 138.0, 137.5, 133.6, 133.2, 132.5, 131.2, 130.8, 130.7, 130.2, 130.1, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 126.3, 63.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+ [\text{M}-\text{CF}_3\text{COO}]^+$ 372.17521, found 372.1767.

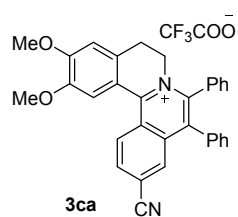
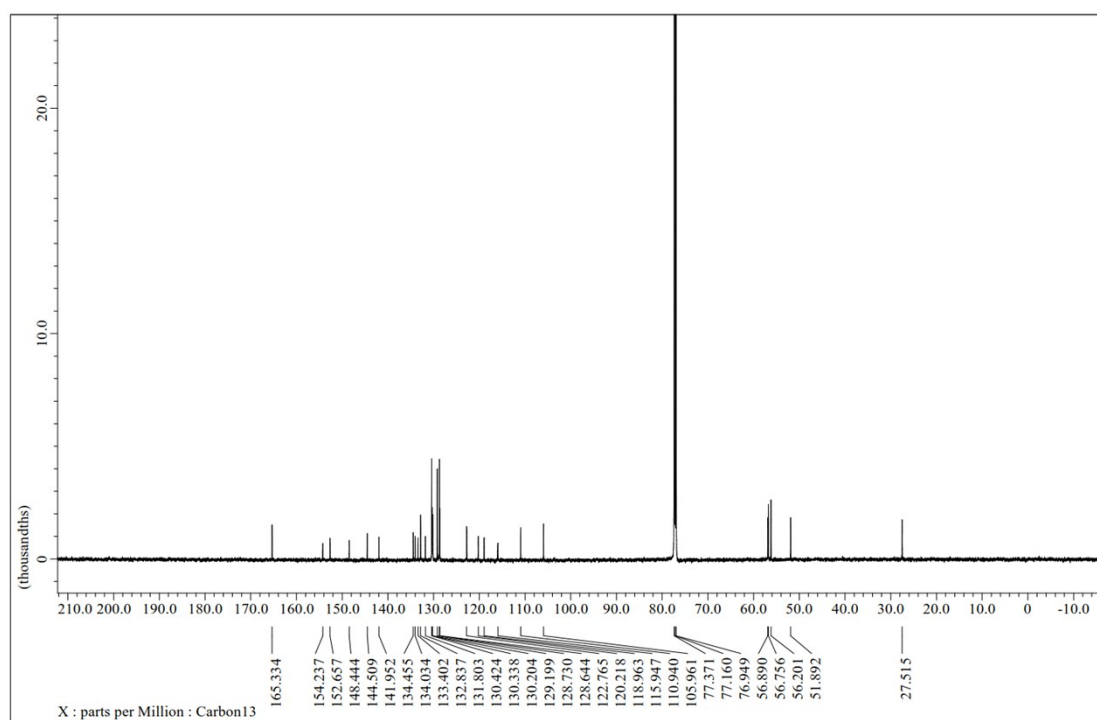
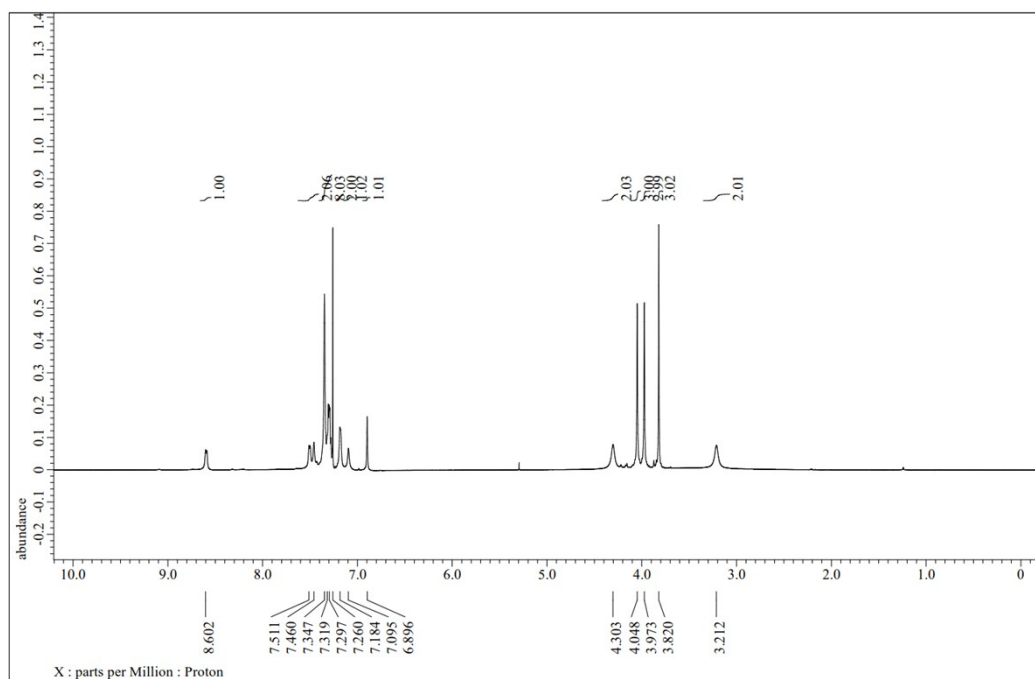
5. Reference

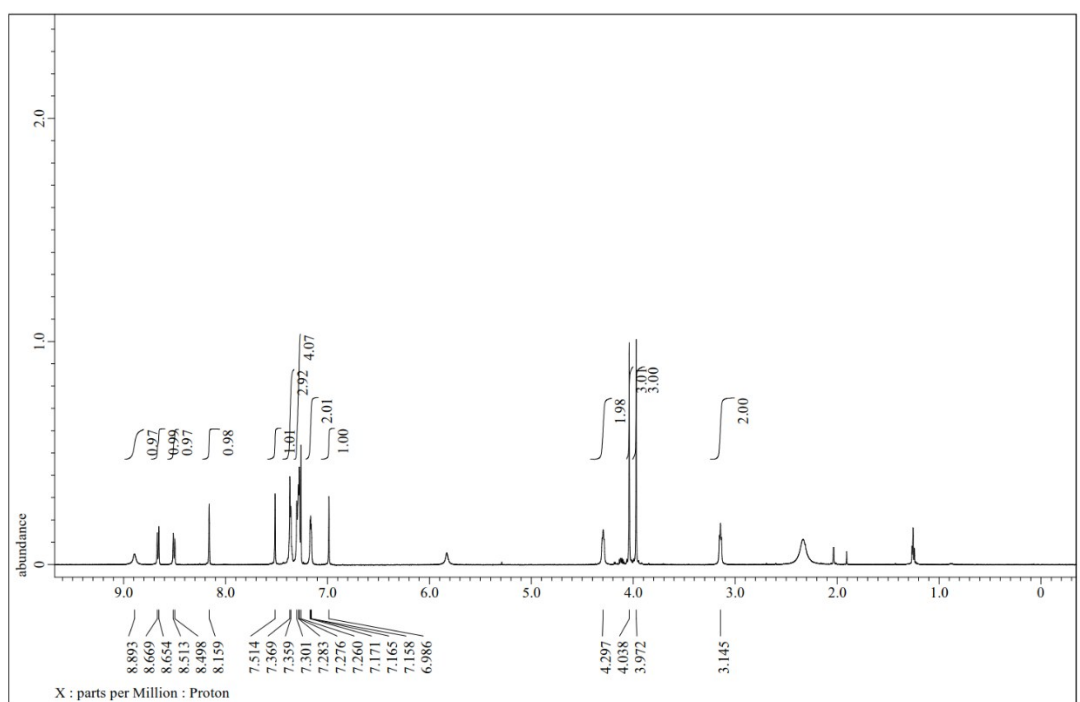
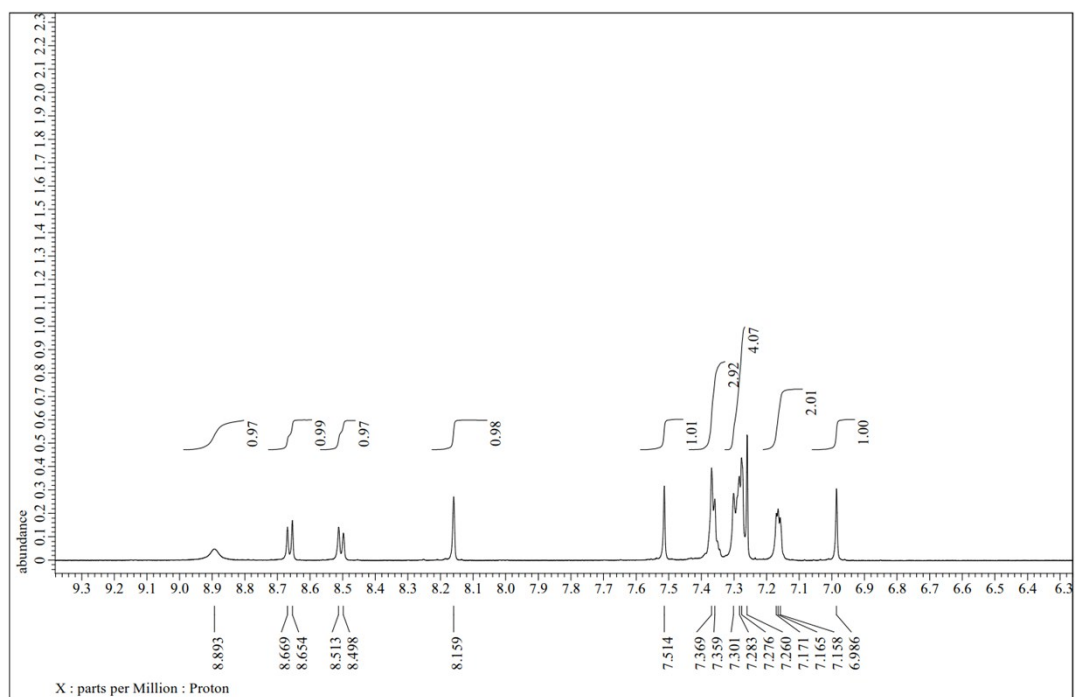
- Mio, M. J.; Kopel, L. C.; Braun, J. B.; Gadzikwa, T. L.; Hull, K. L.; Brisbois, R. G.; Markworth, C. J.; Grieco, P. A., *Org. Lett.* 2002, **4**, 3199.
- Perez, M.; Wu, Z.; Scalone, M.; Ayad, T.; Ratovelomanana-Vidal, V., *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2015, **2015**, 6503.

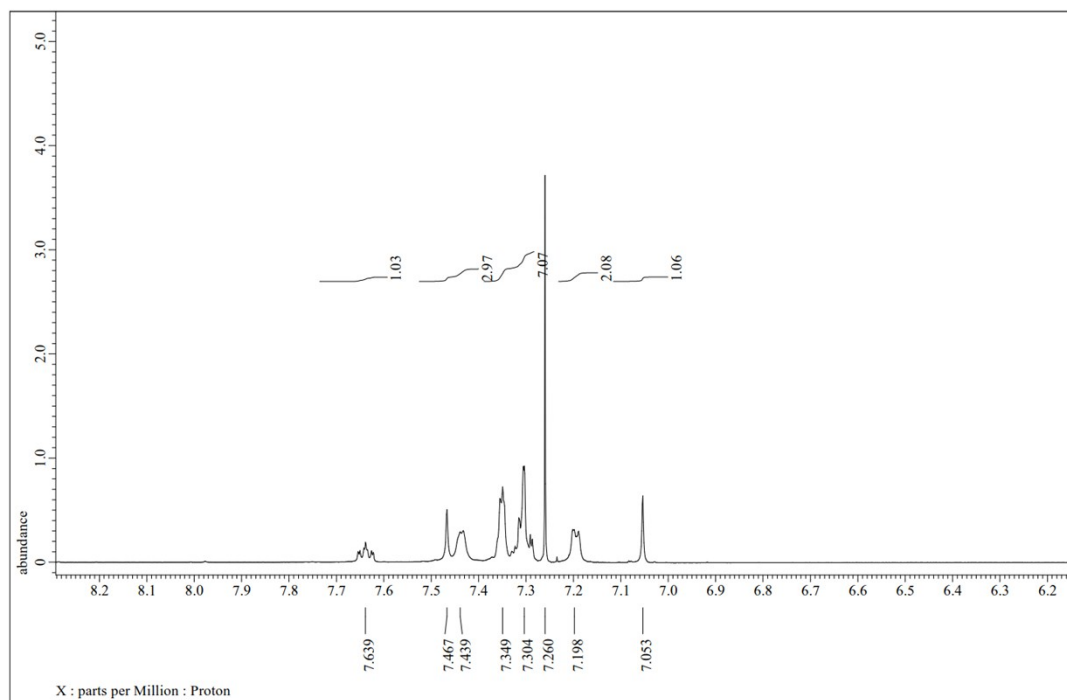
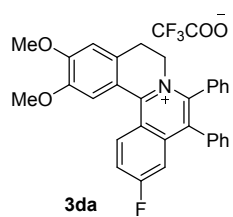
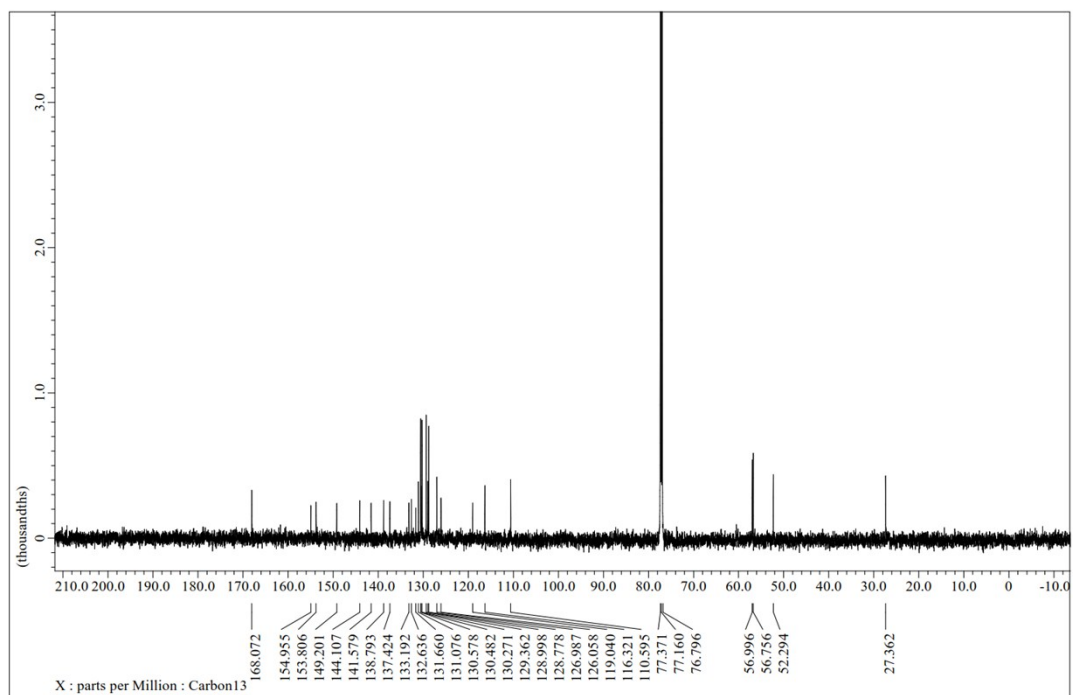
6. NMR Spectra

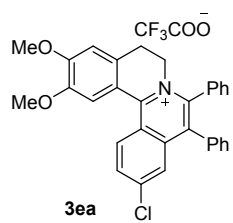
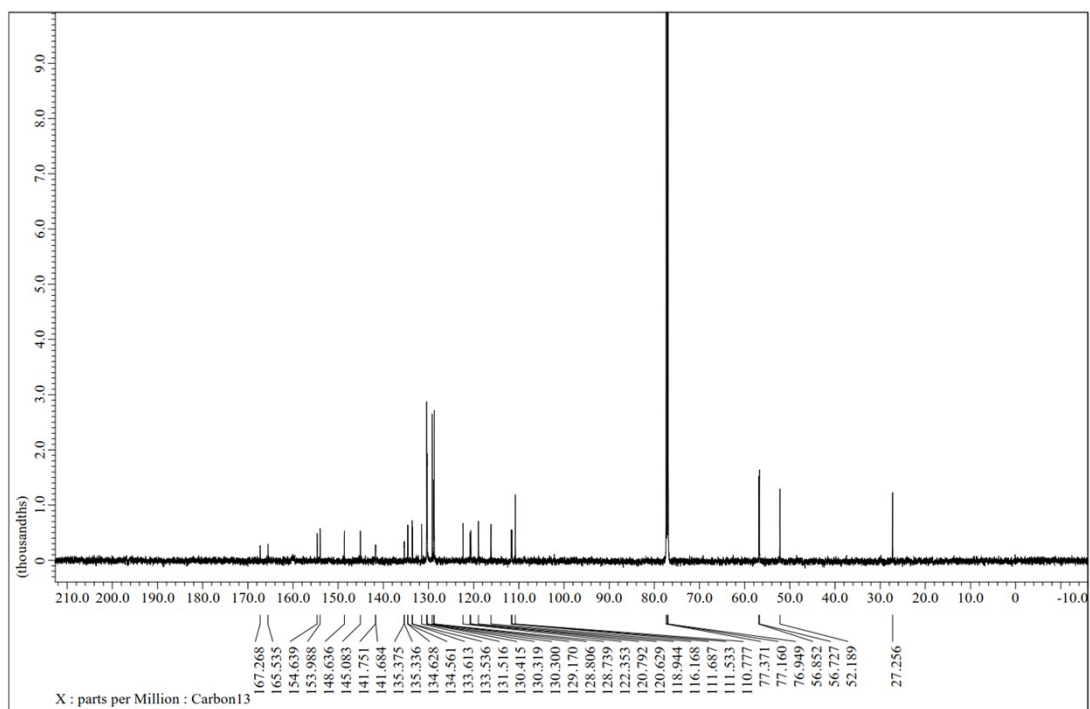
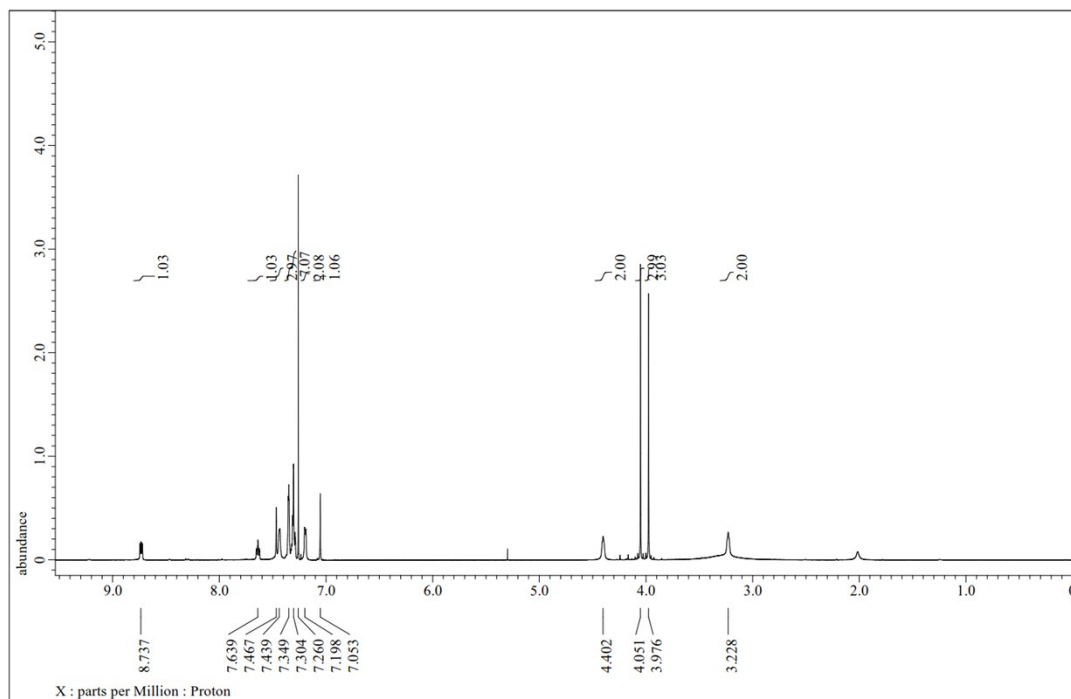


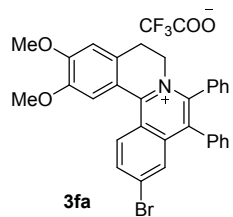
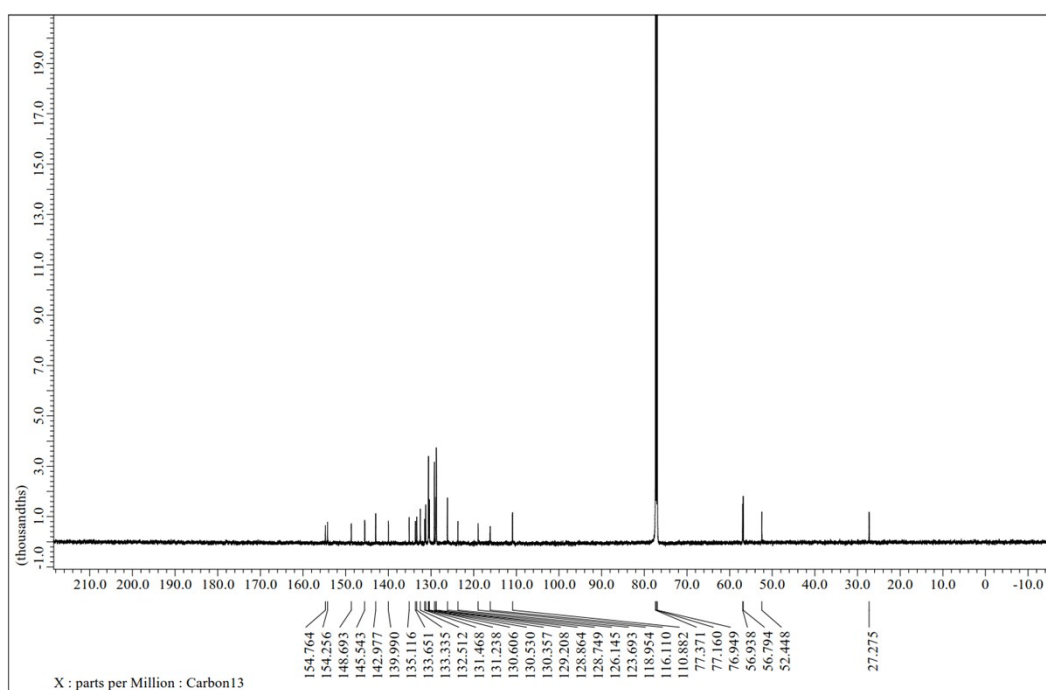
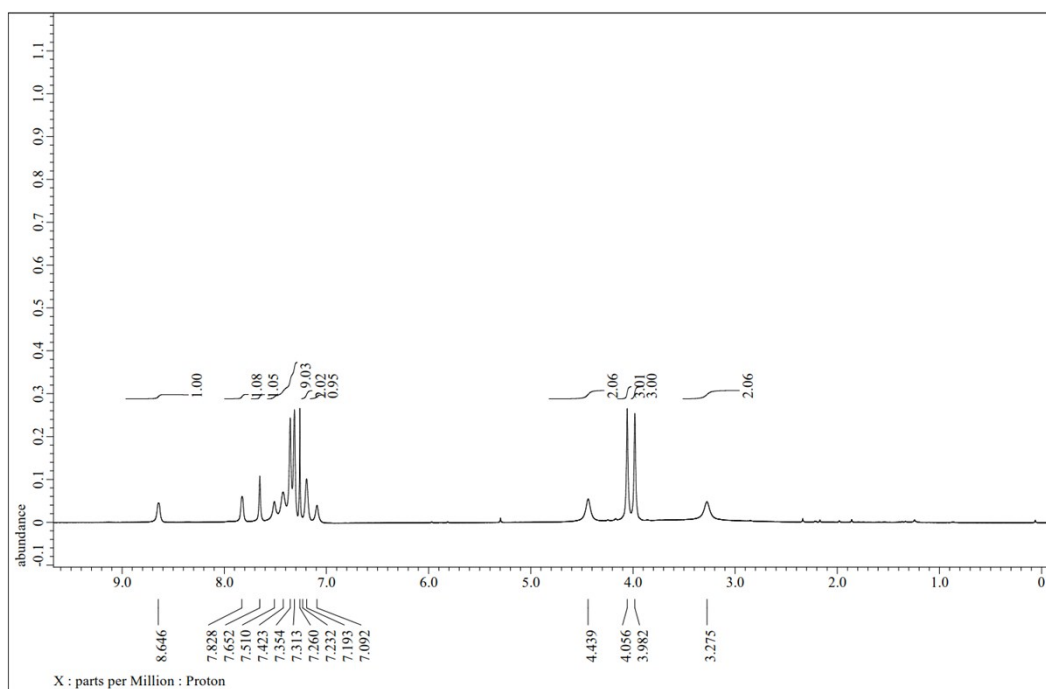


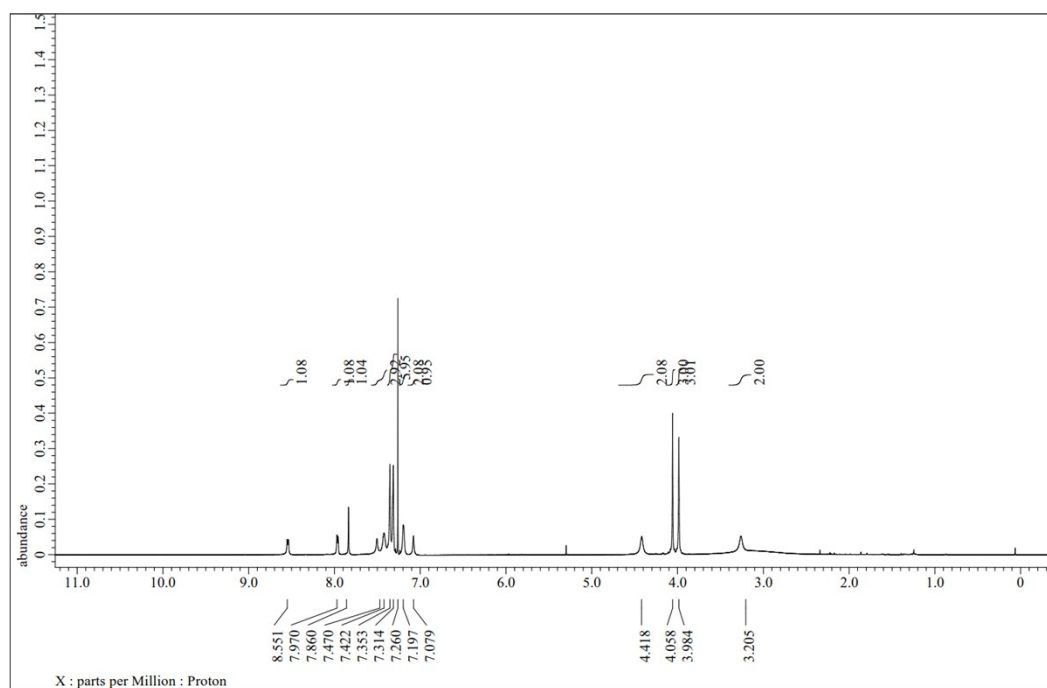
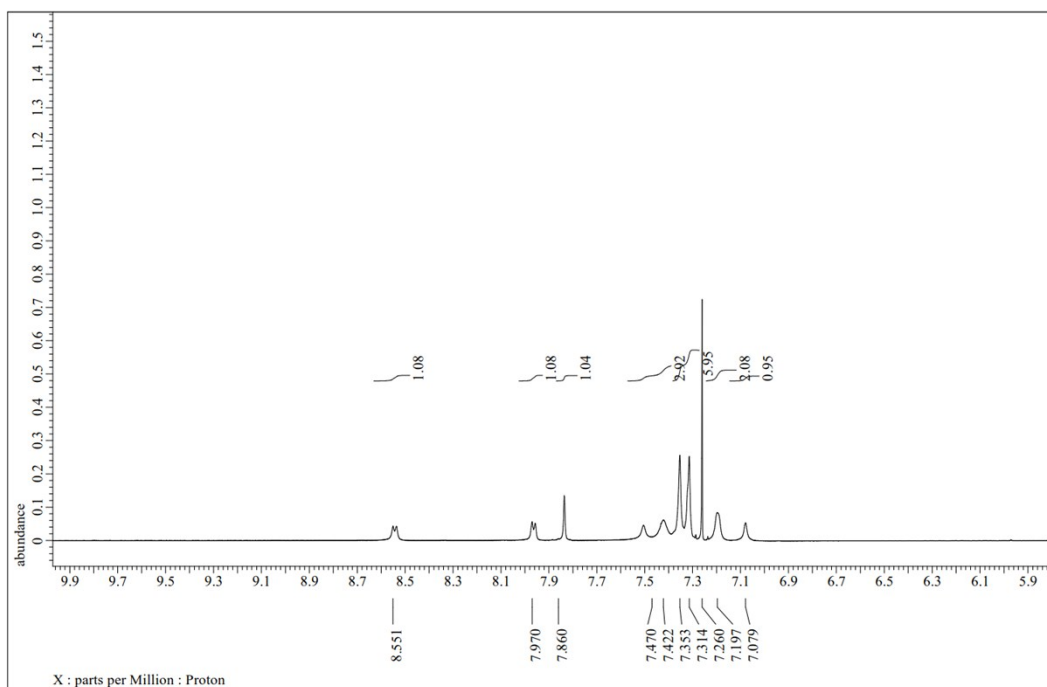


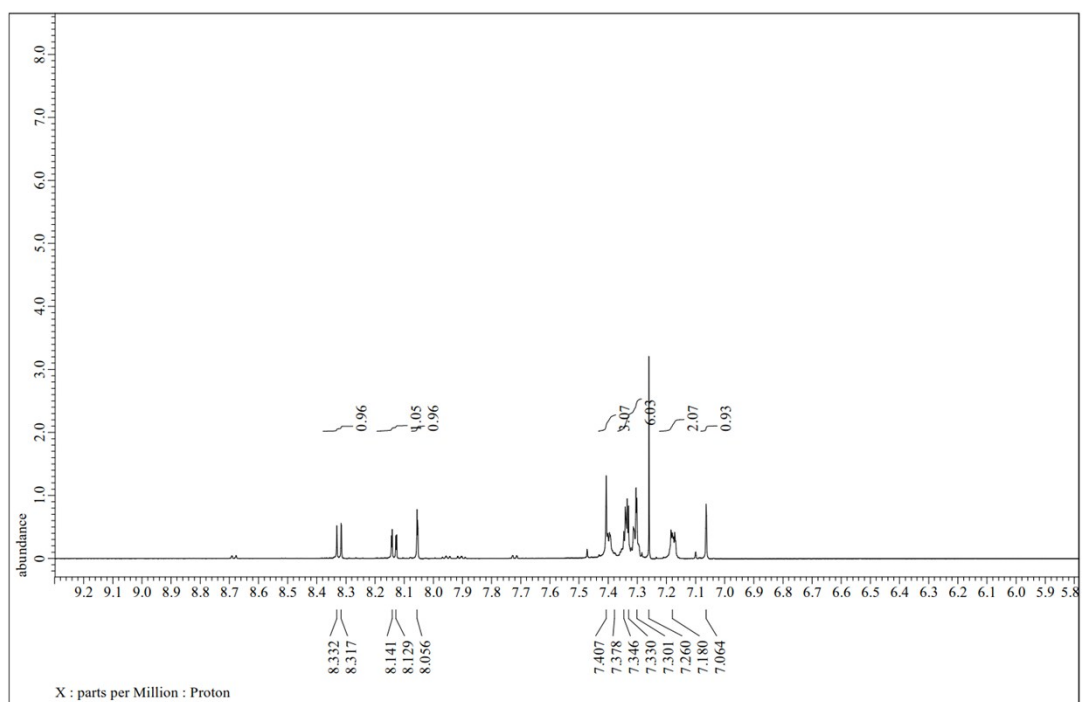
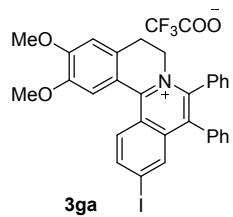
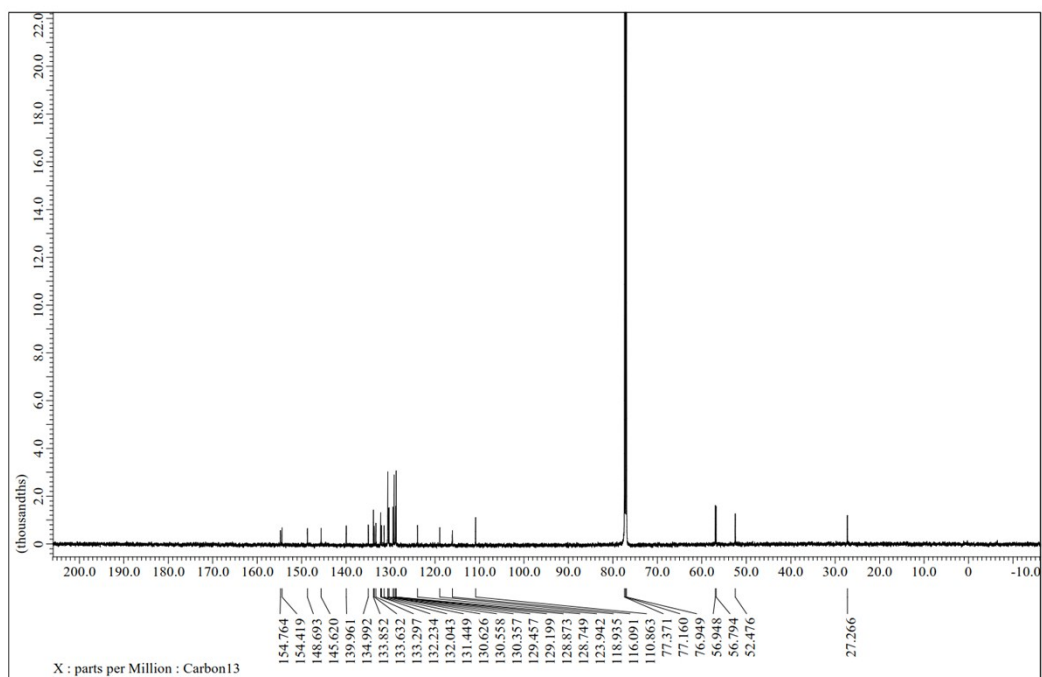


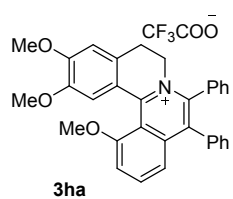
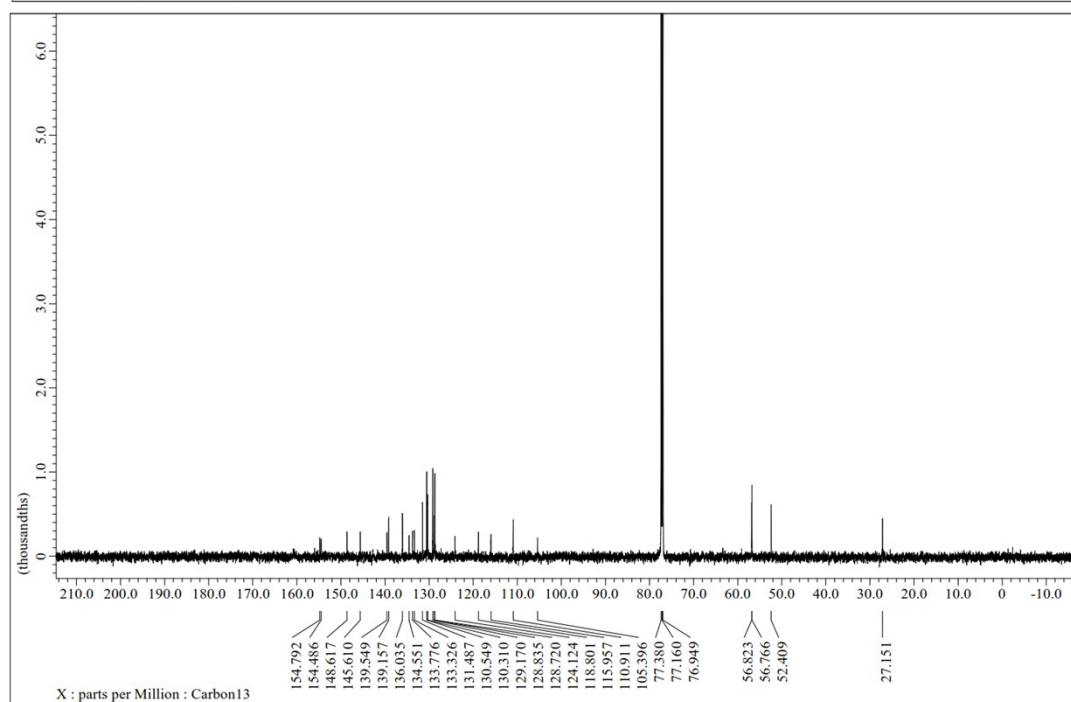
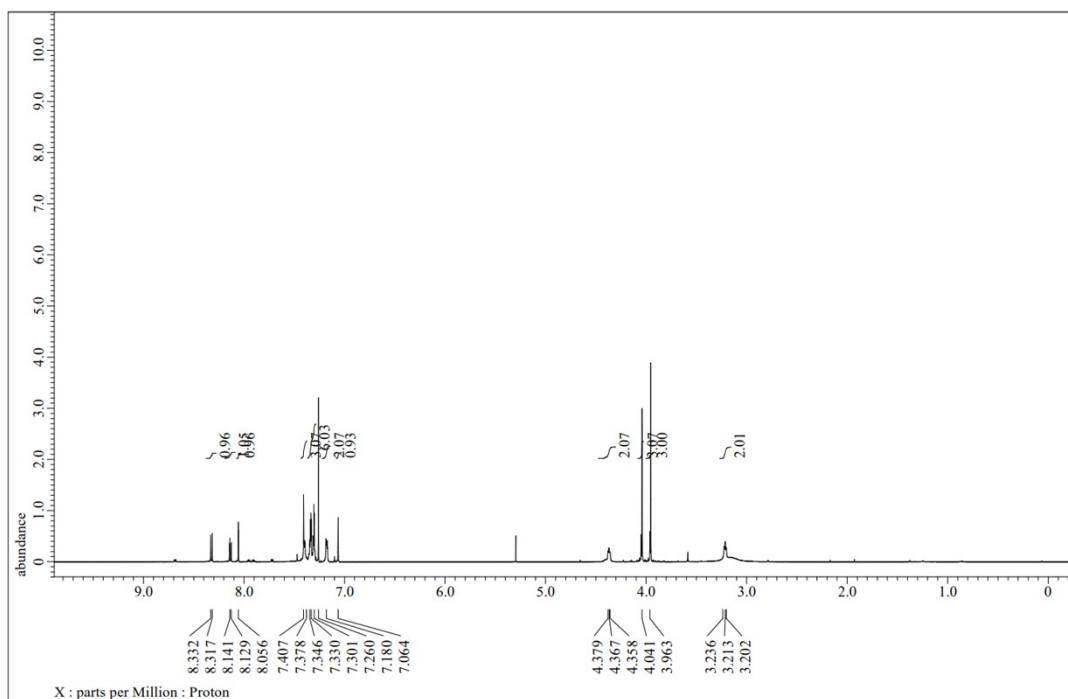


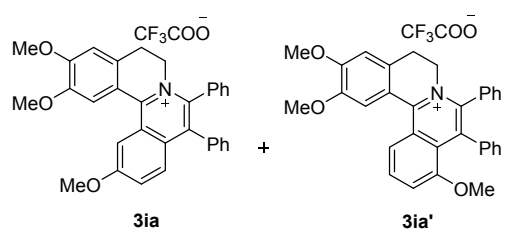
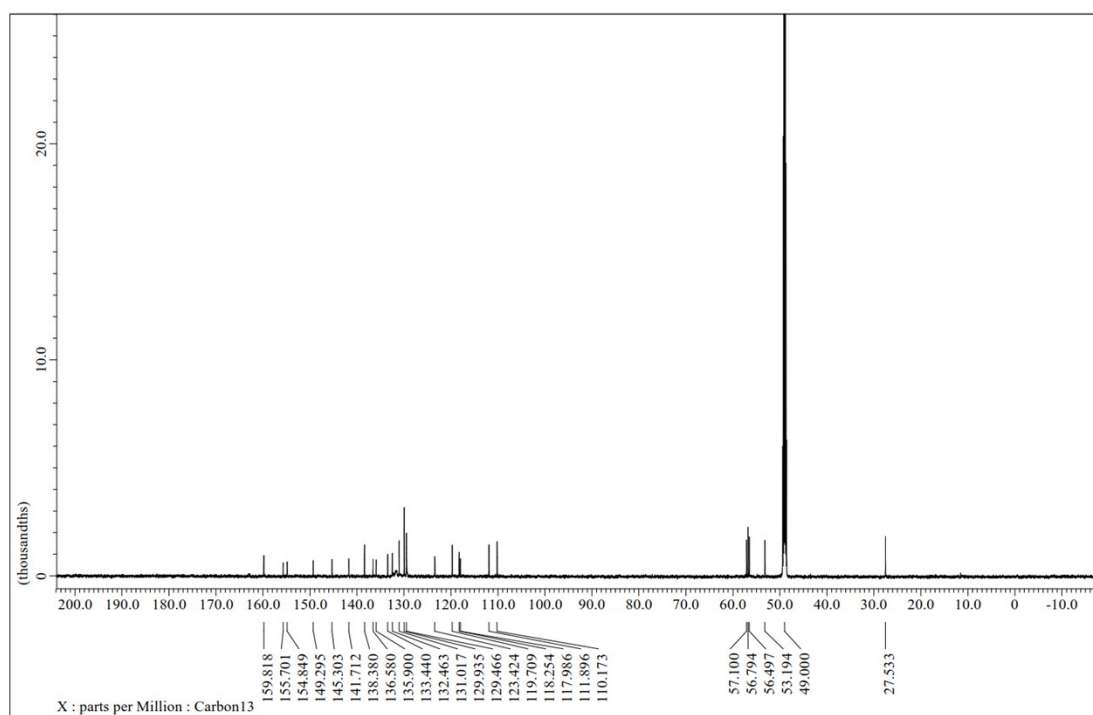
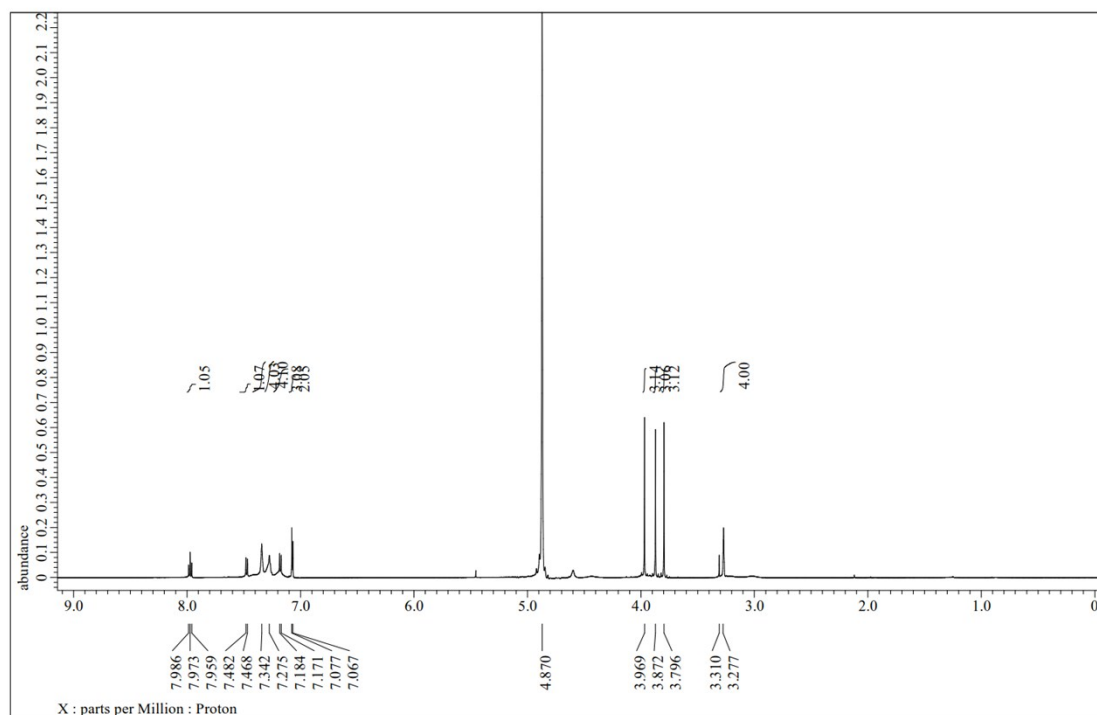


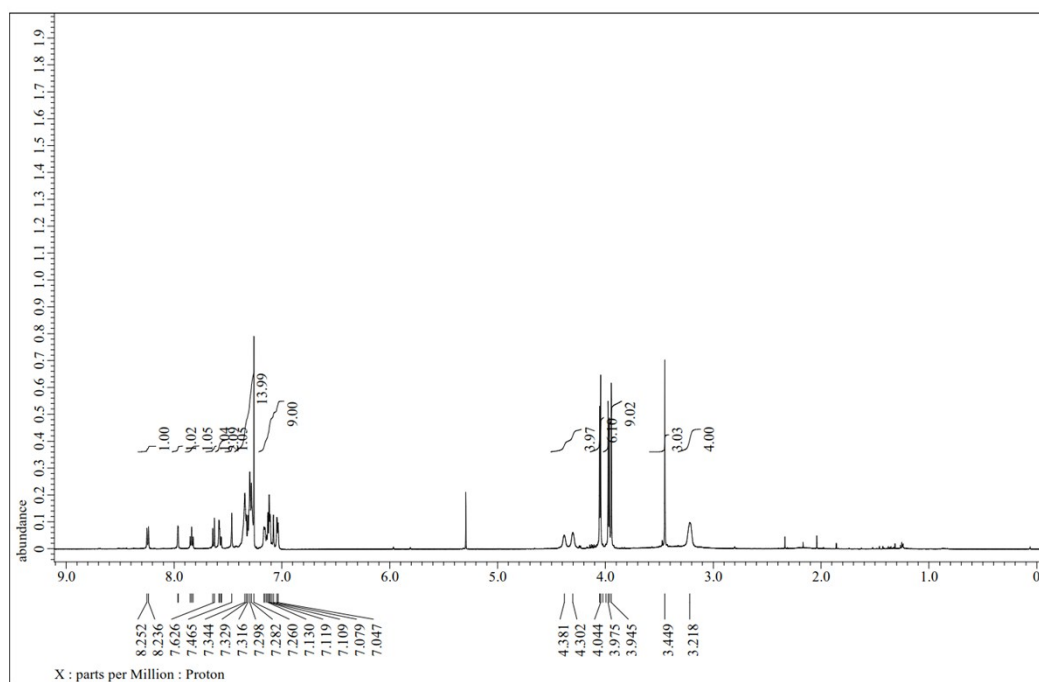
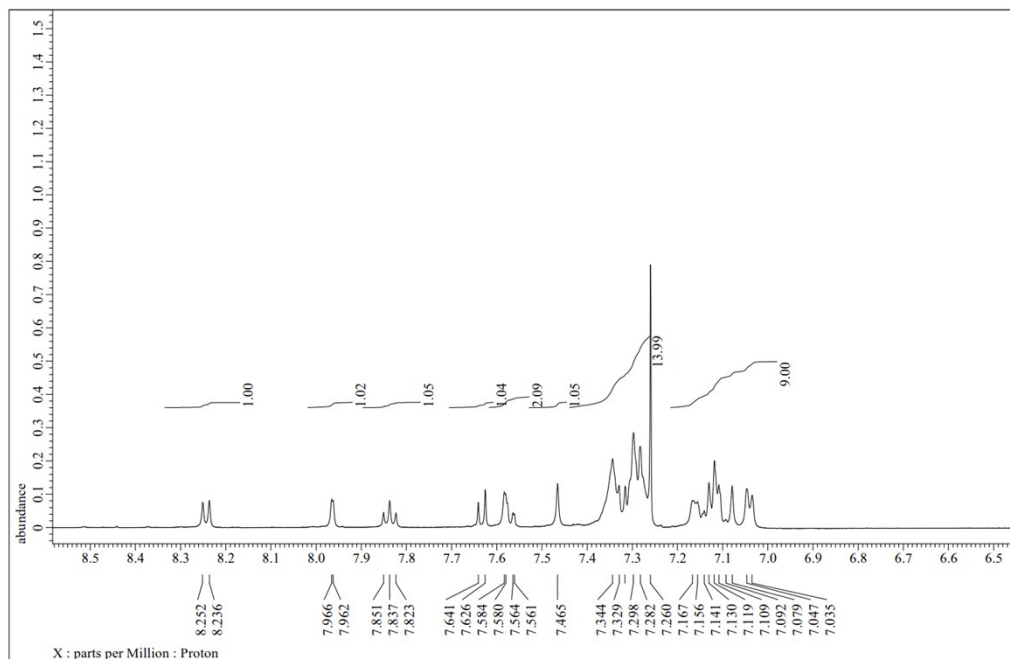


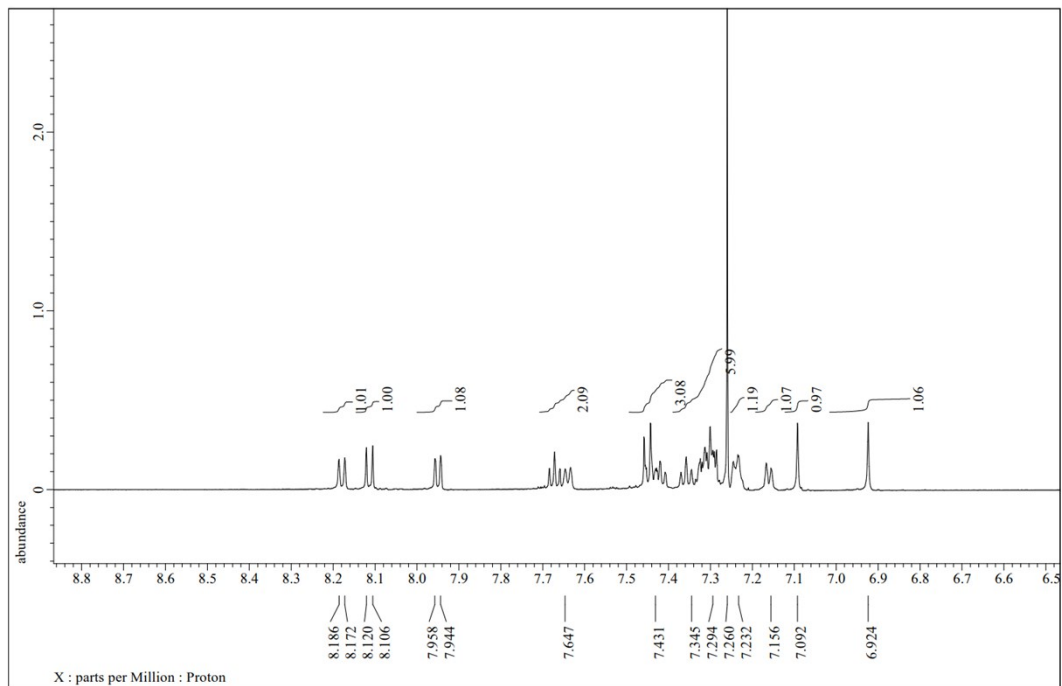
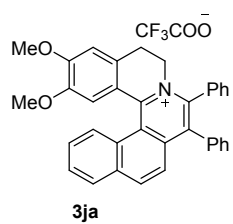
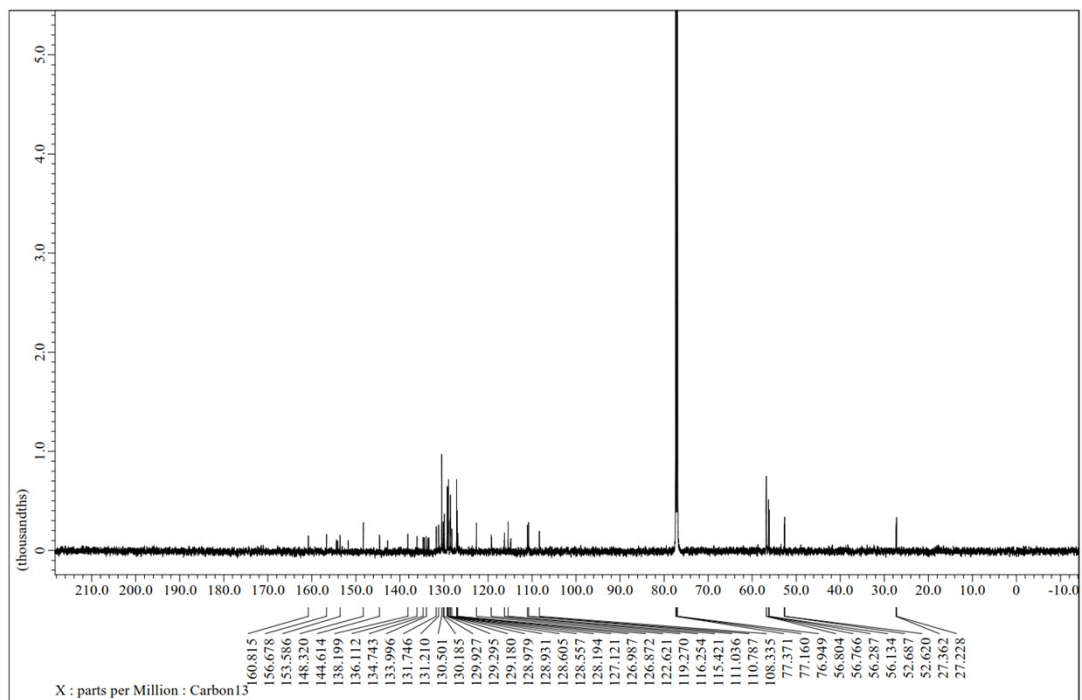


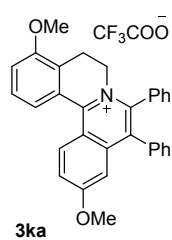
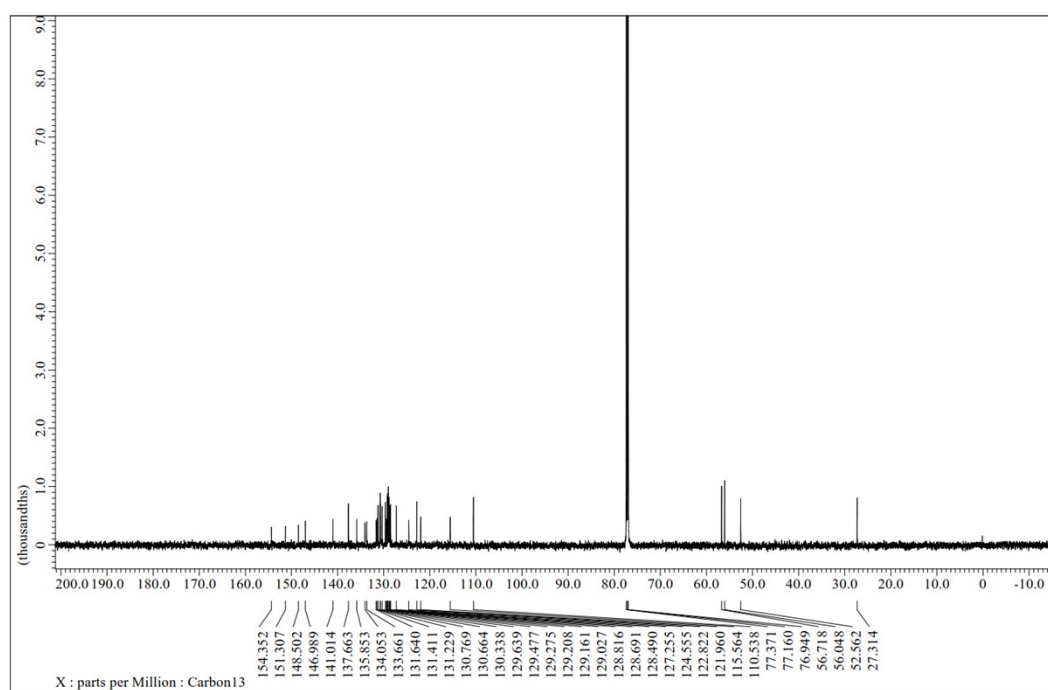
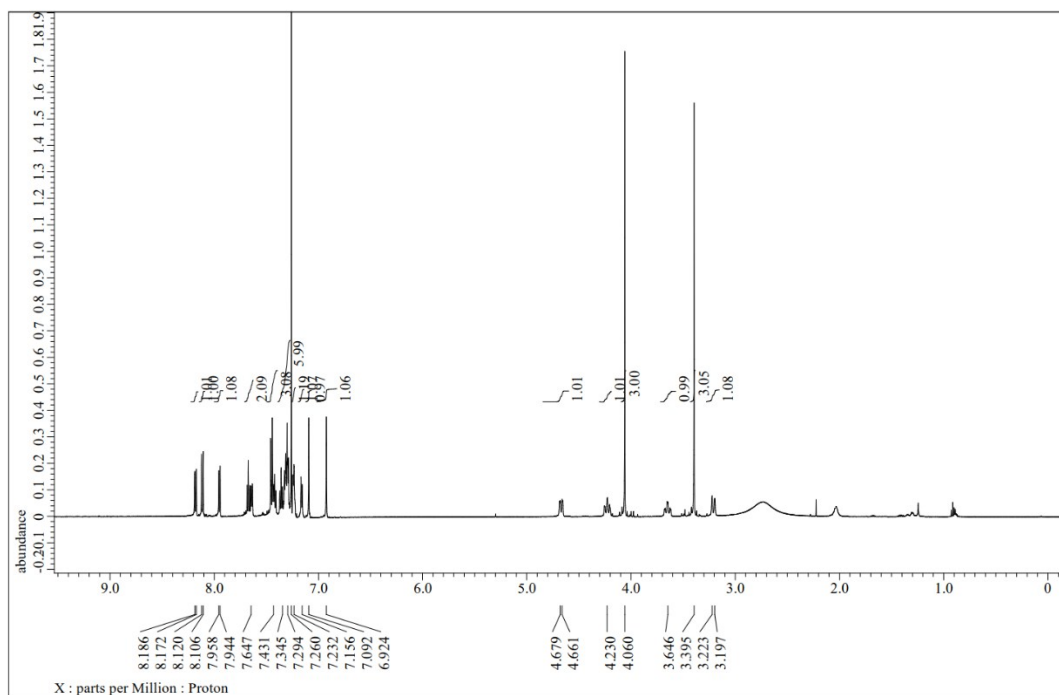


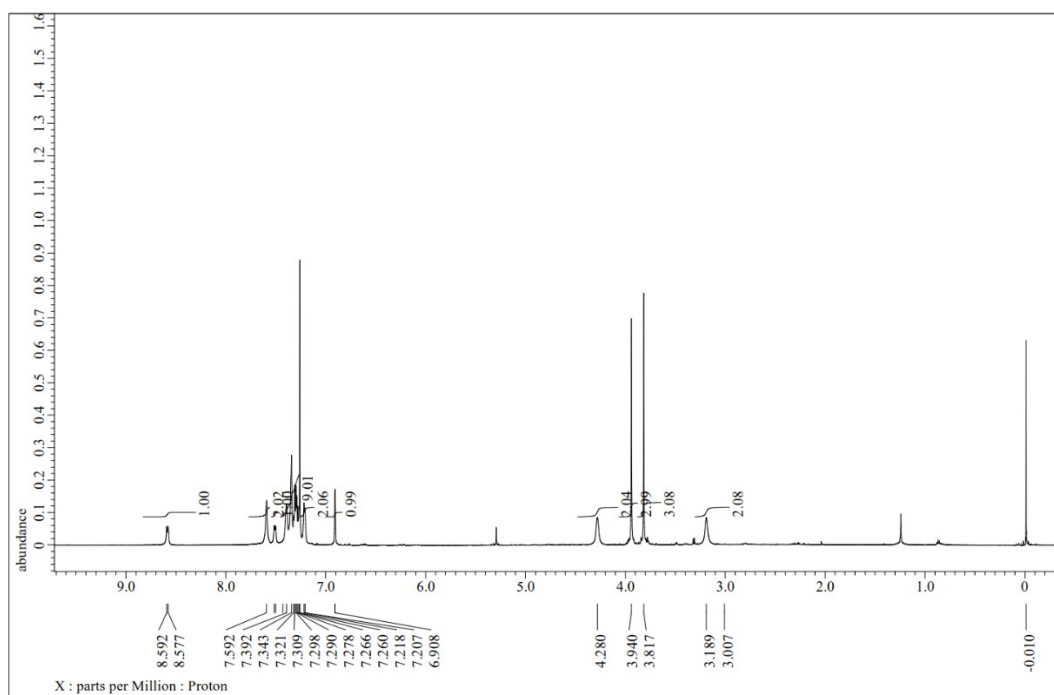
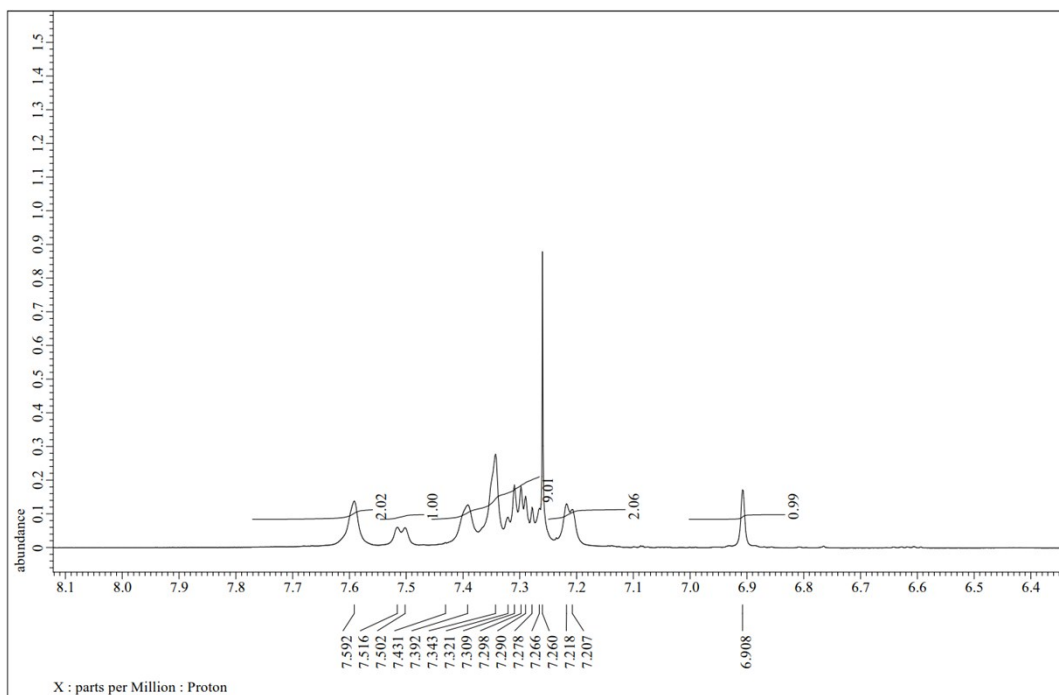


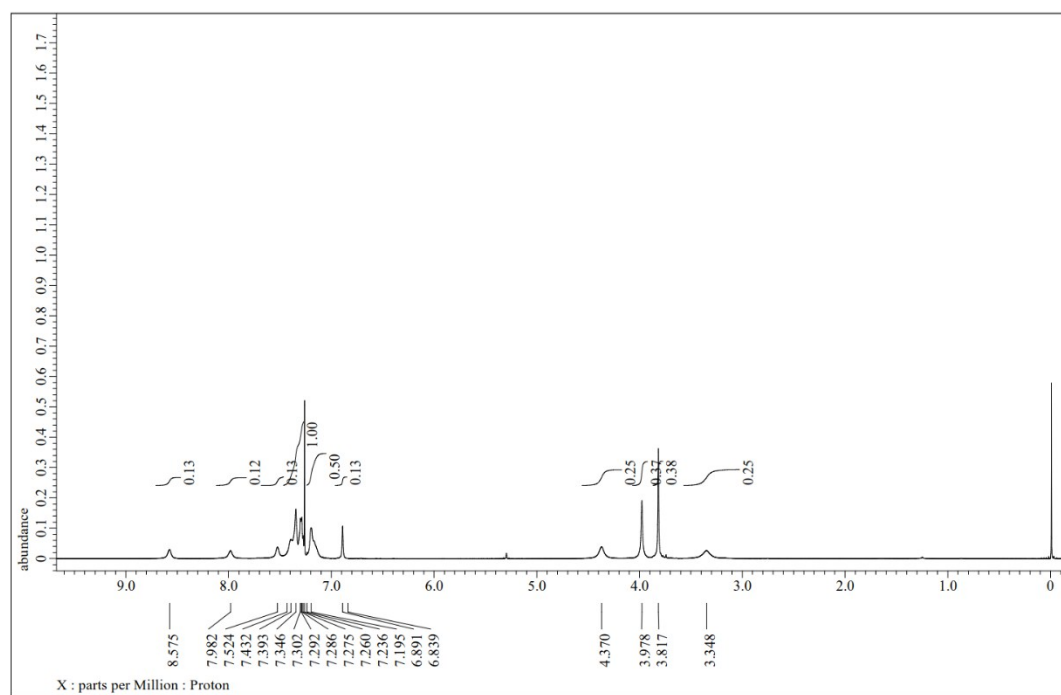
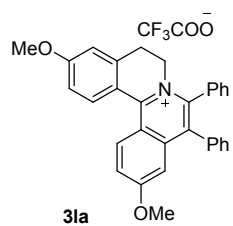
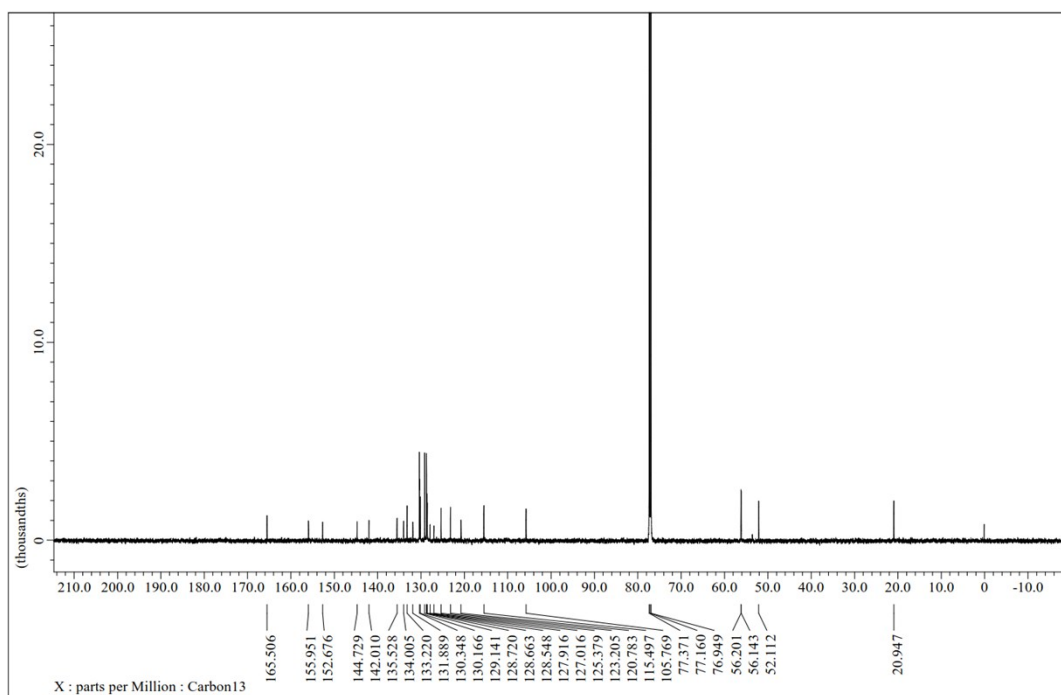


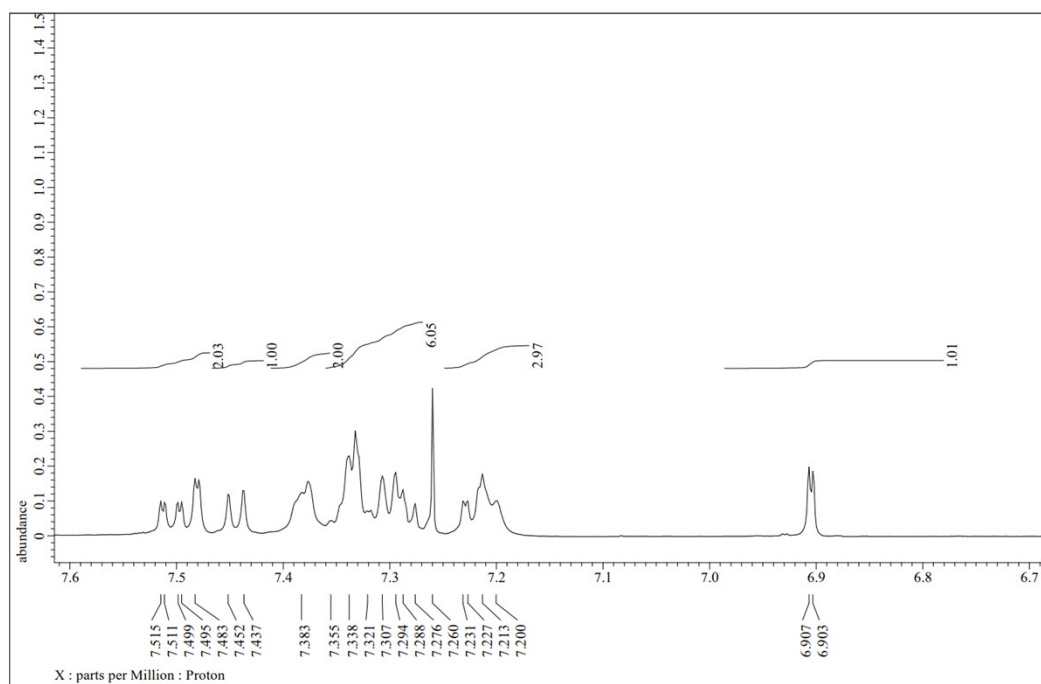
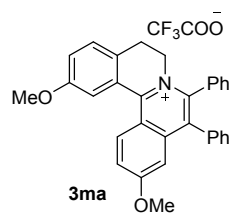
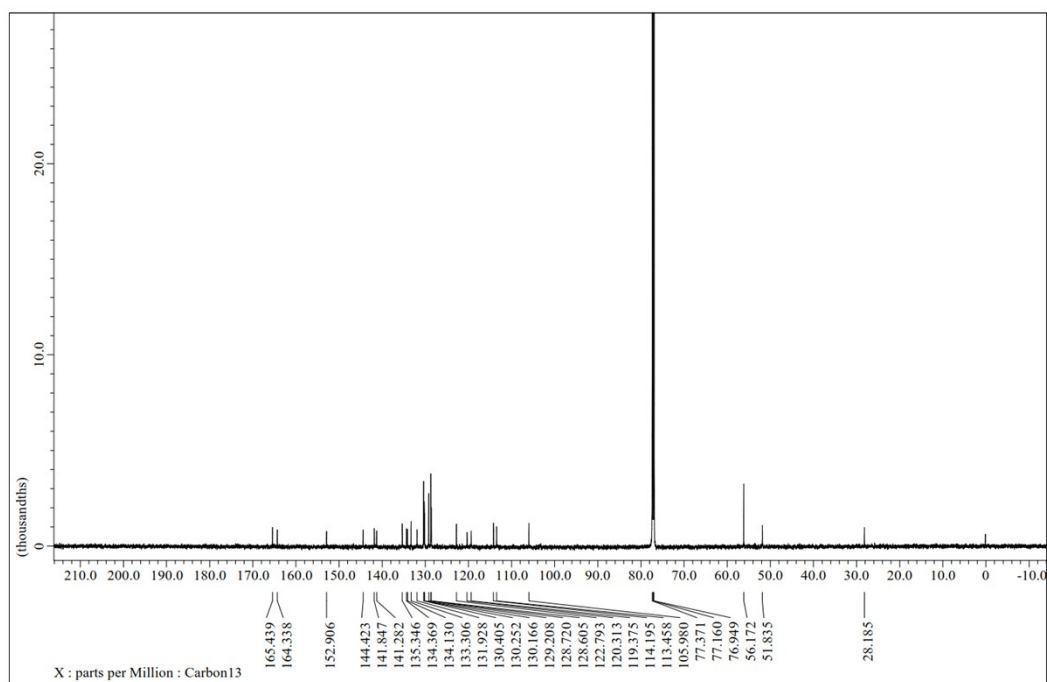


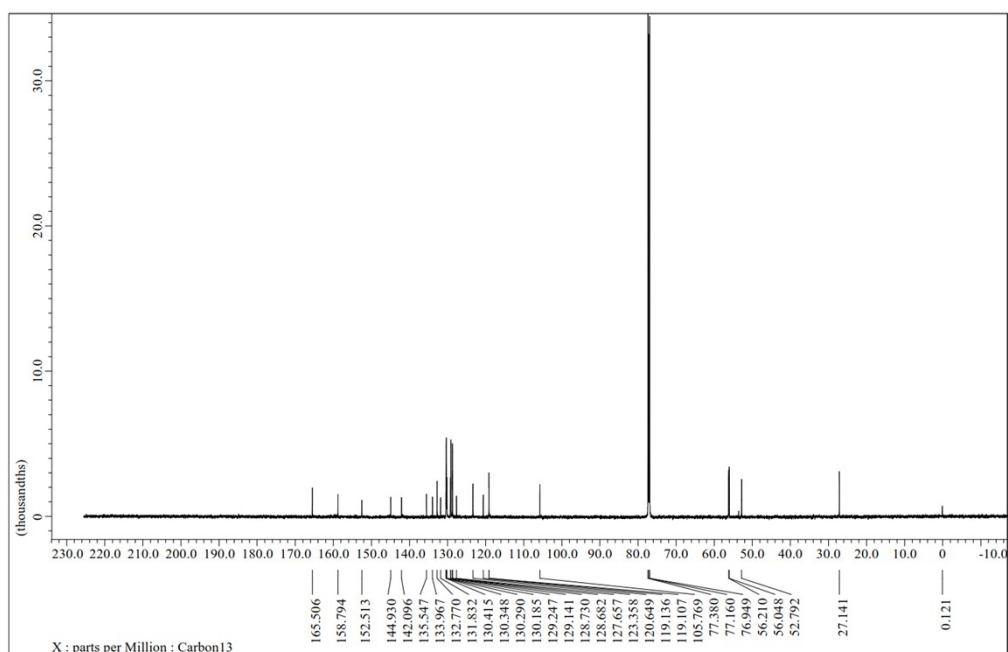
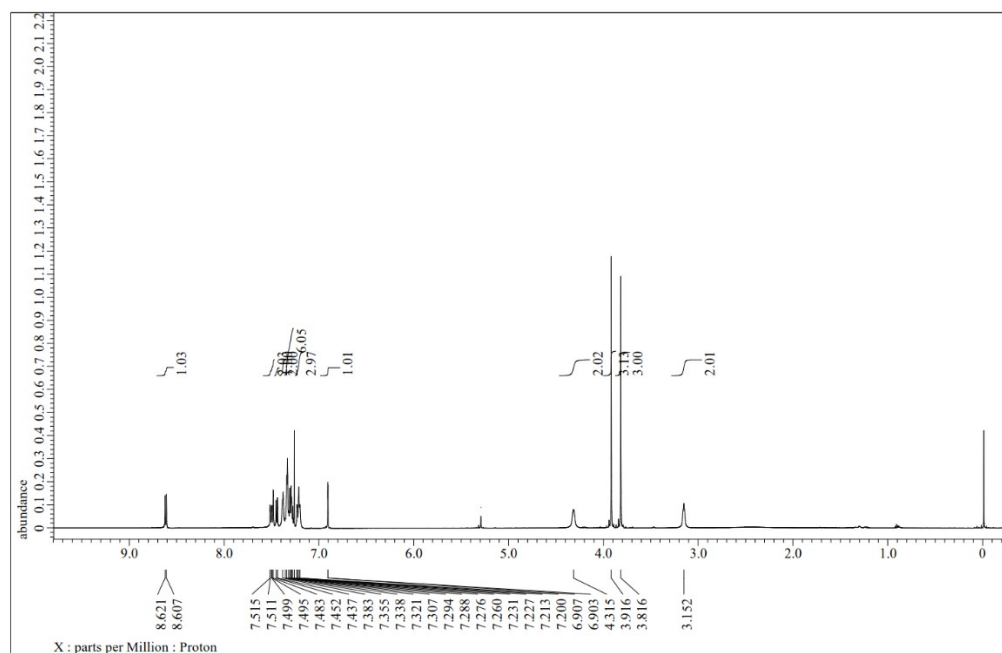


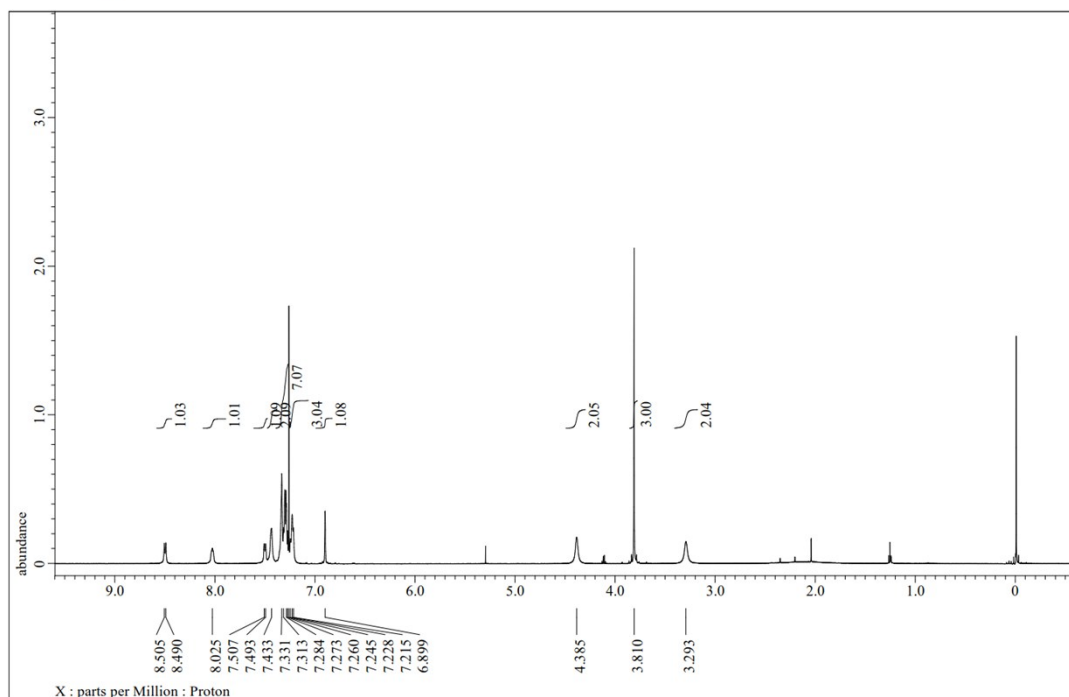
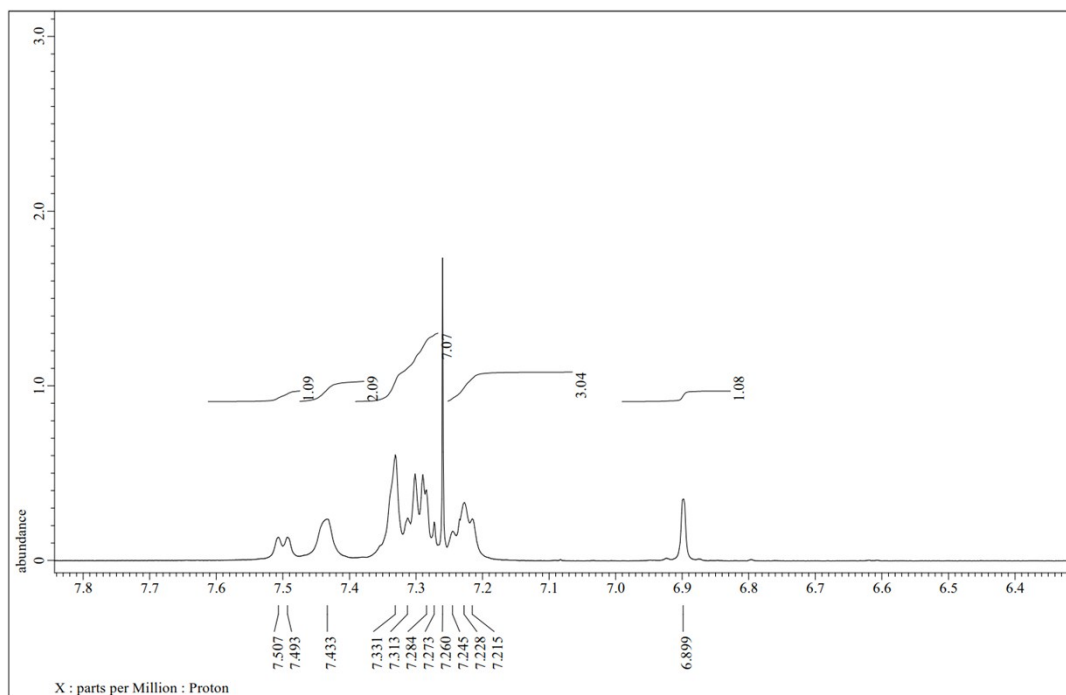
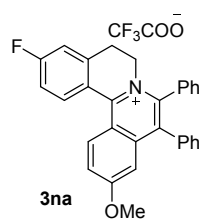


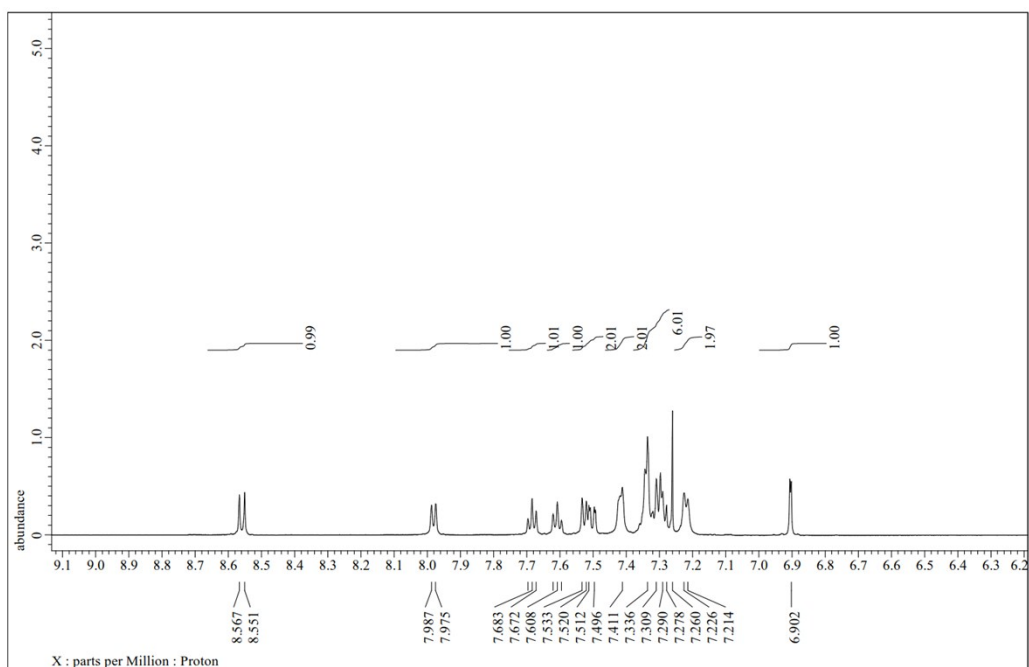
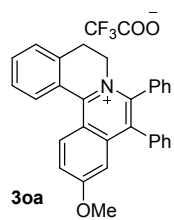
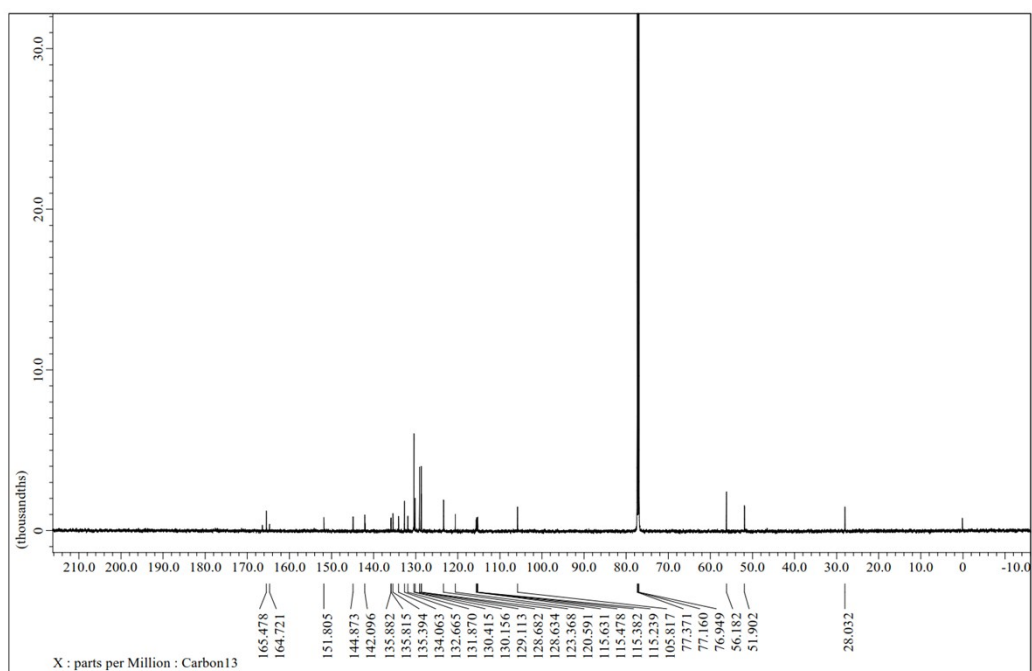


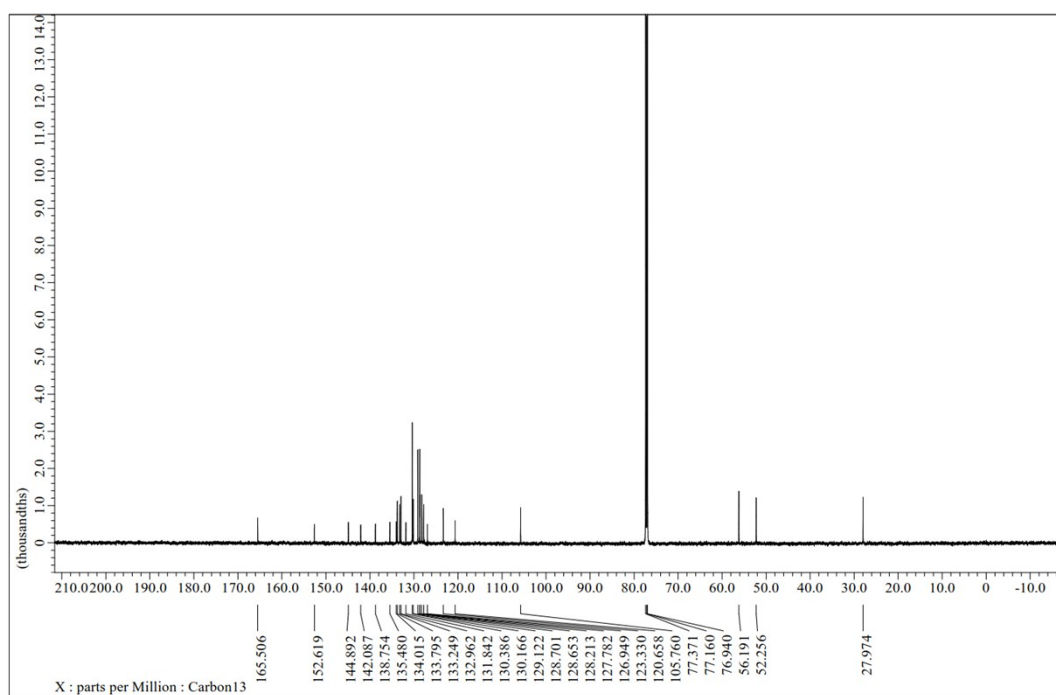
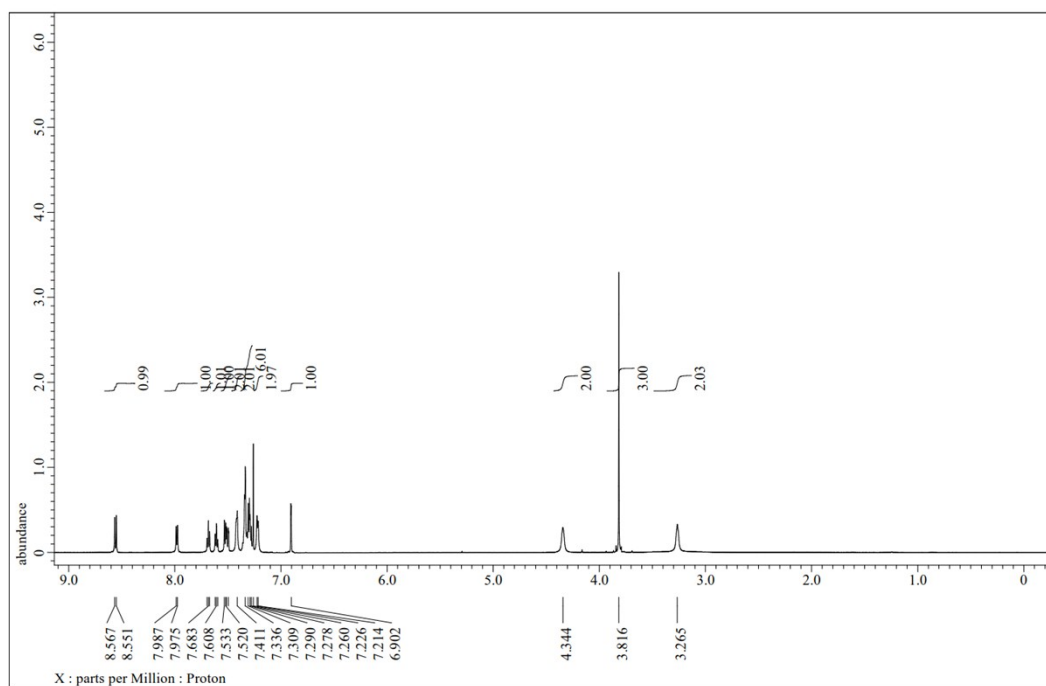


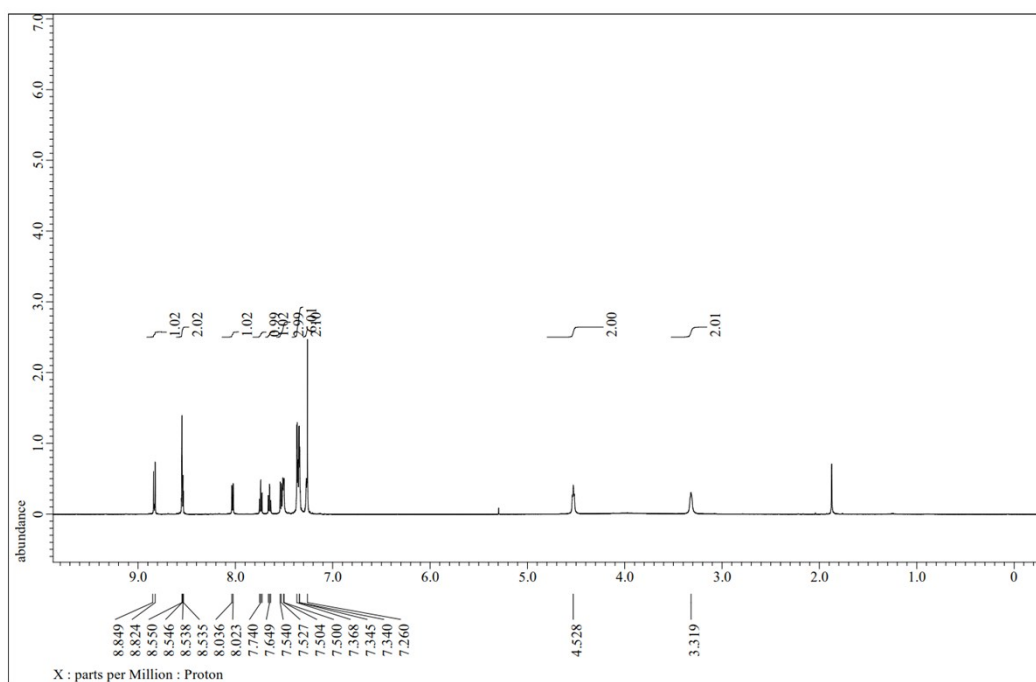
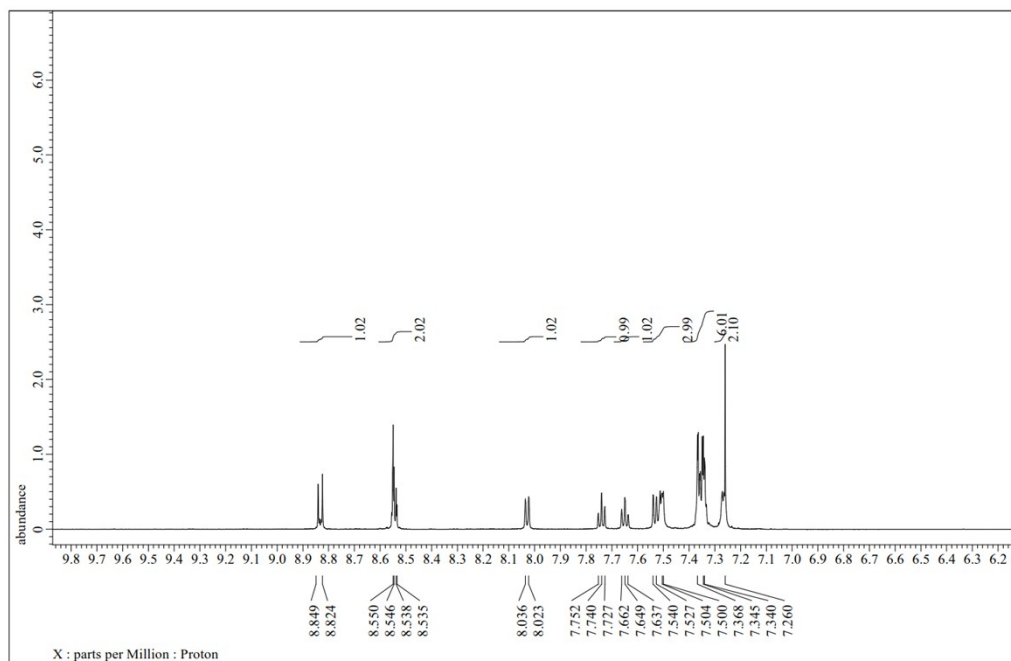
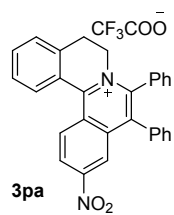


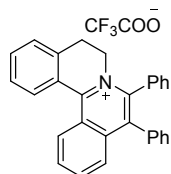
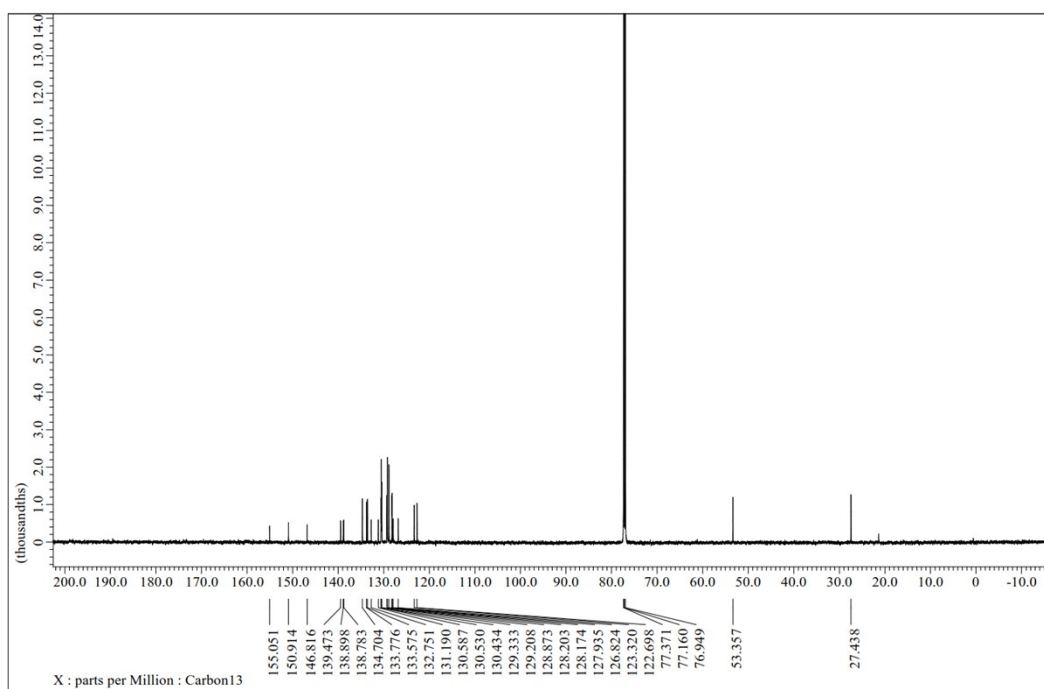




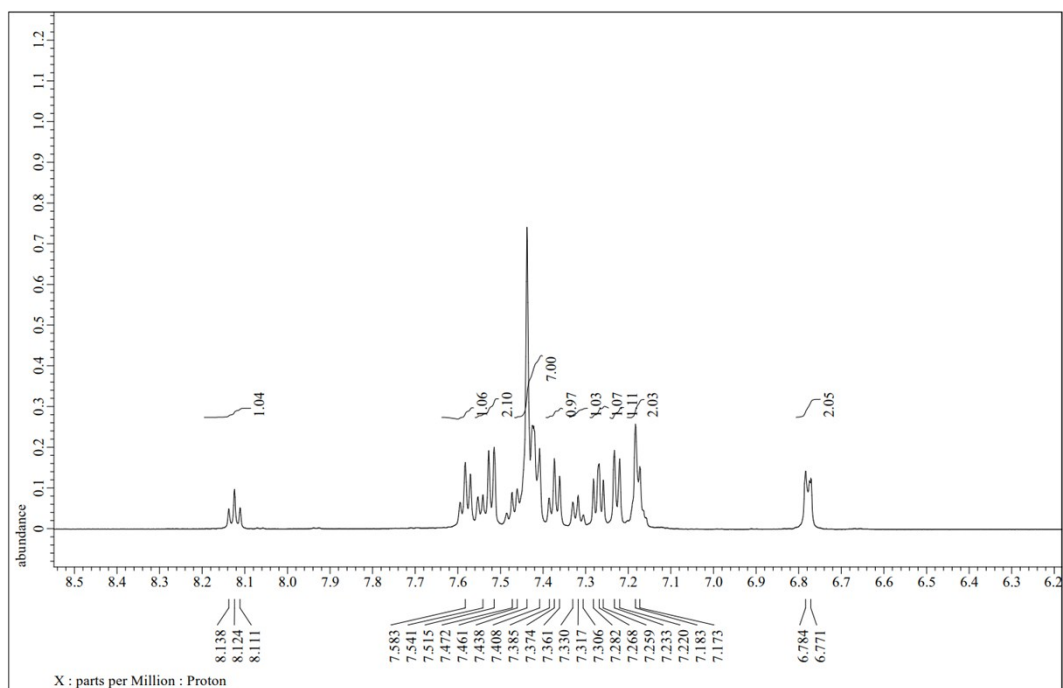


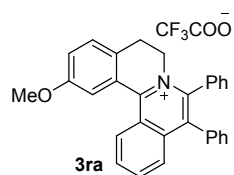
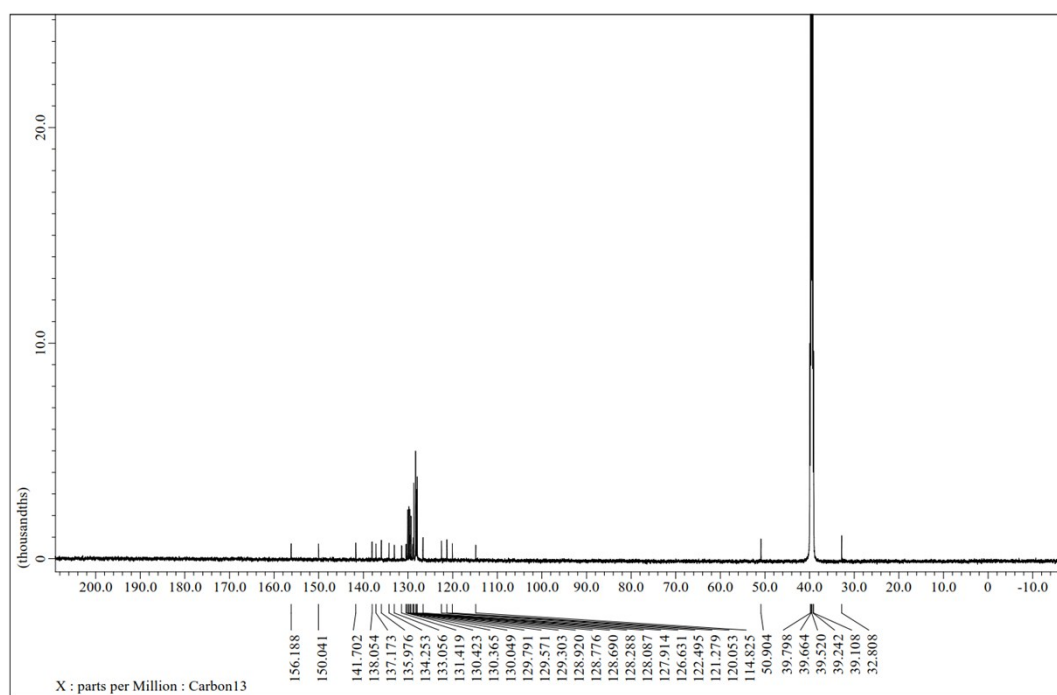
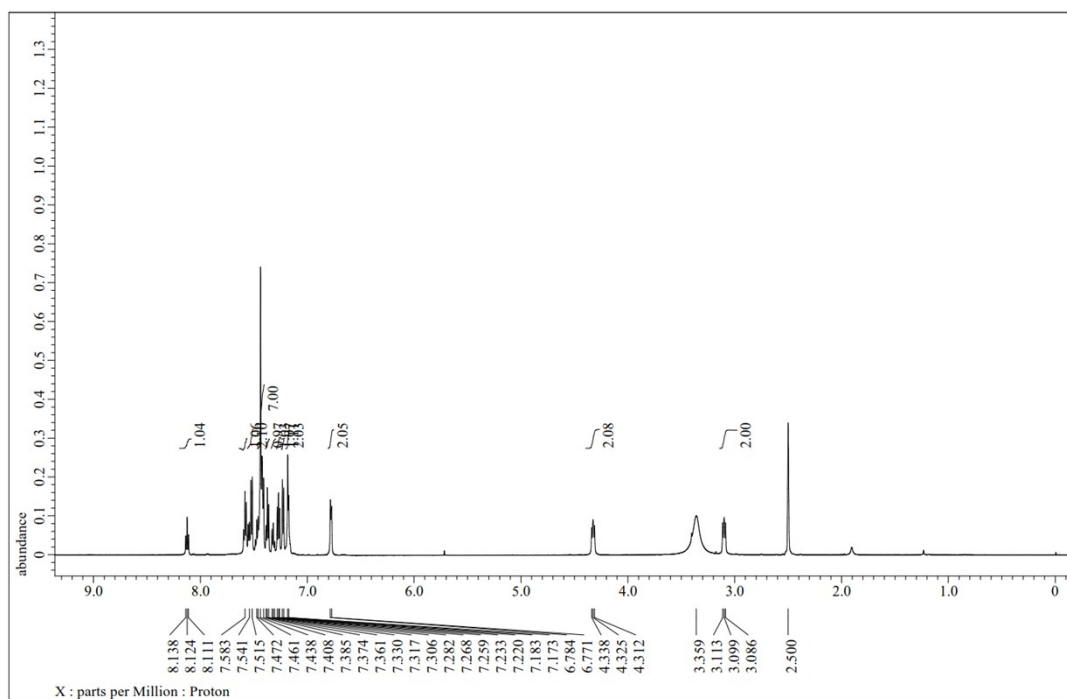


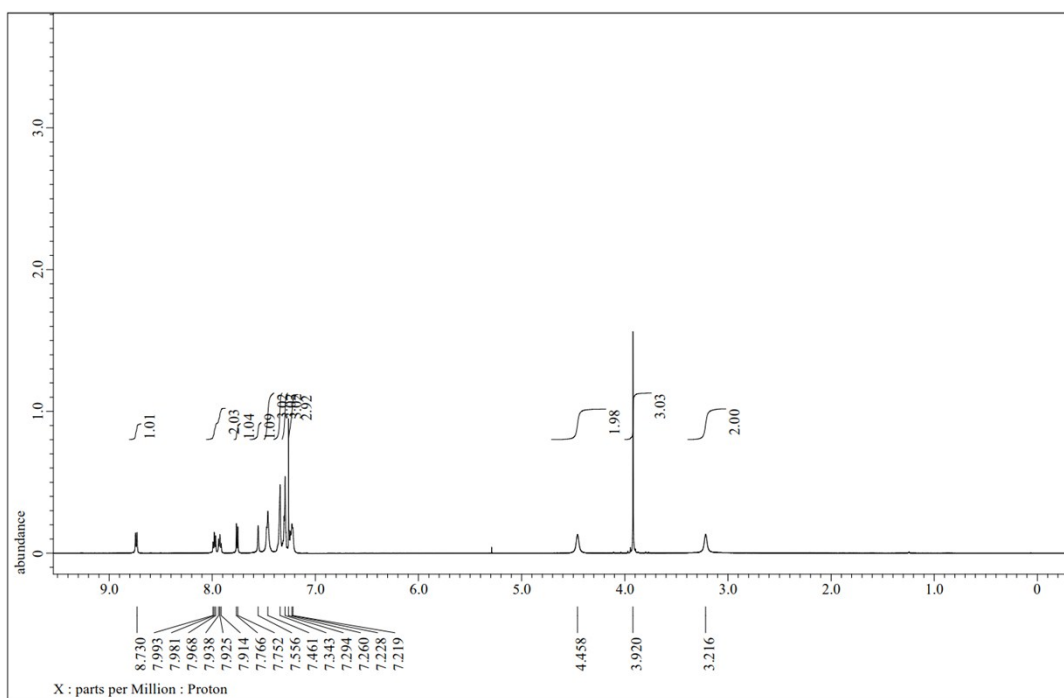
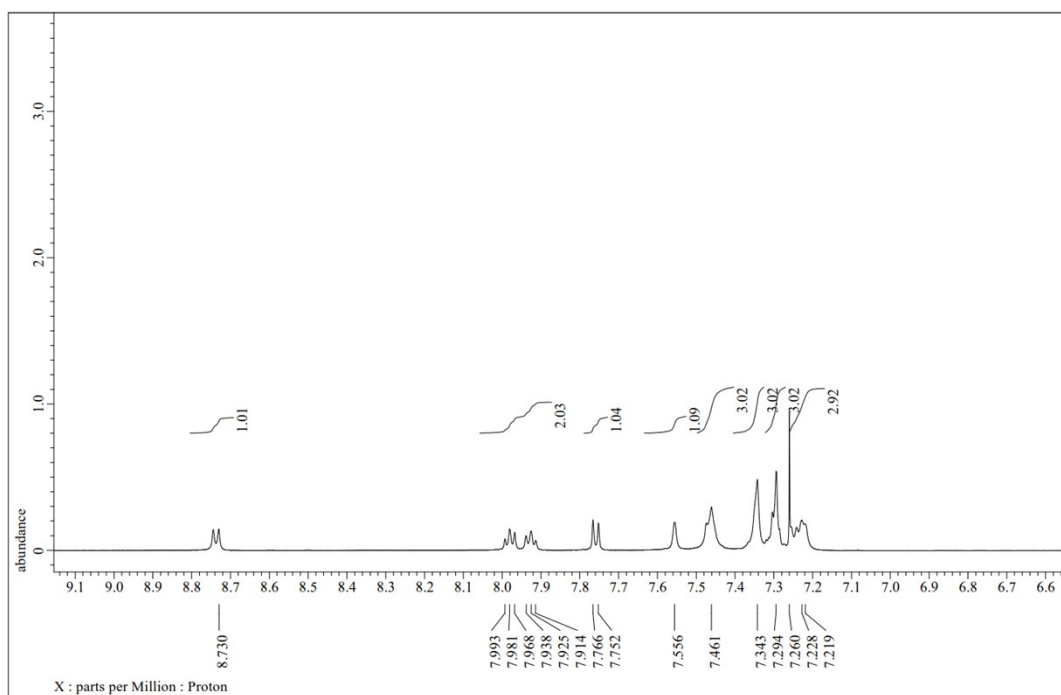


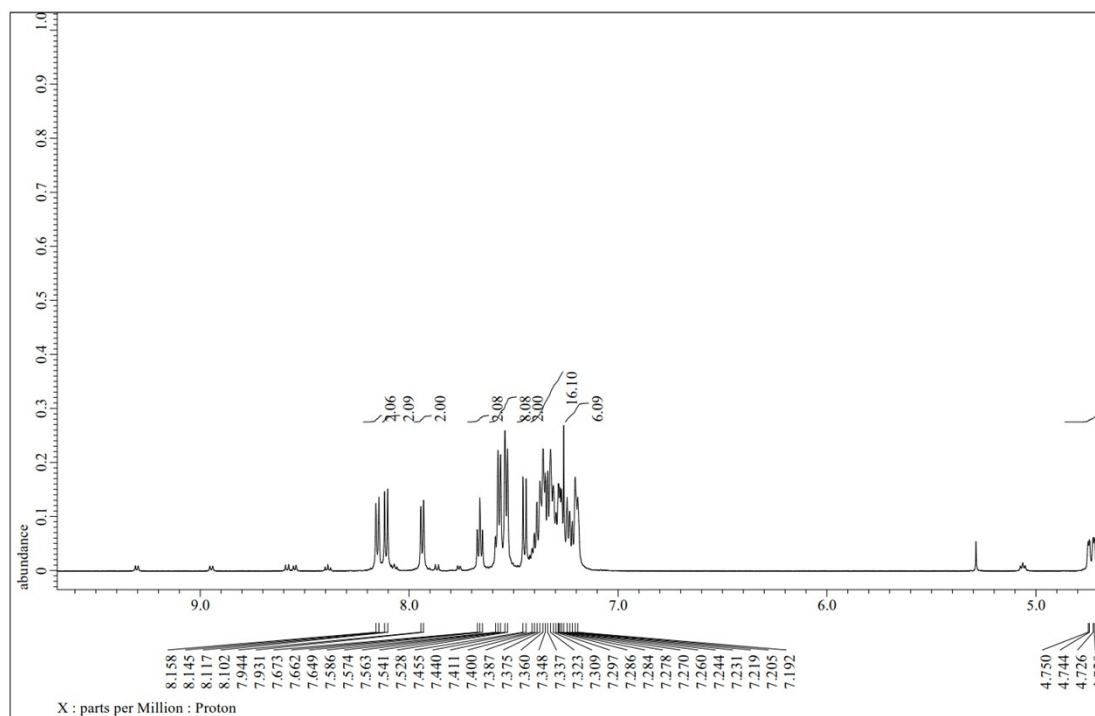
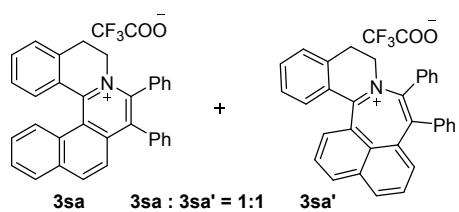
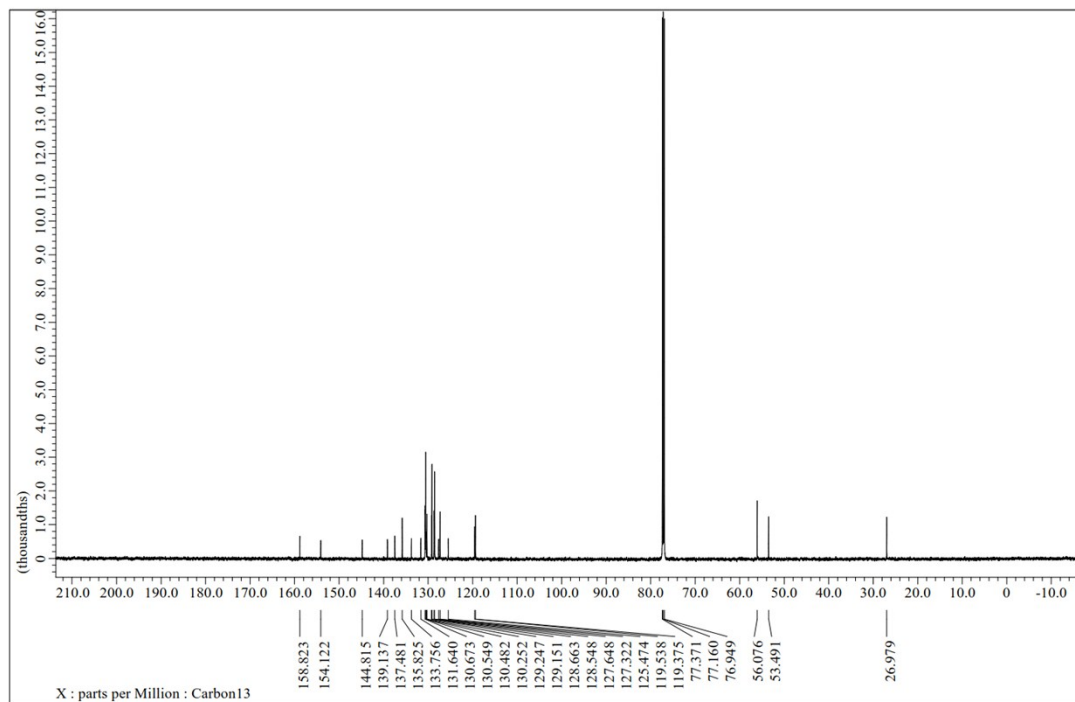


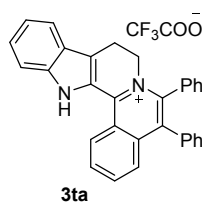
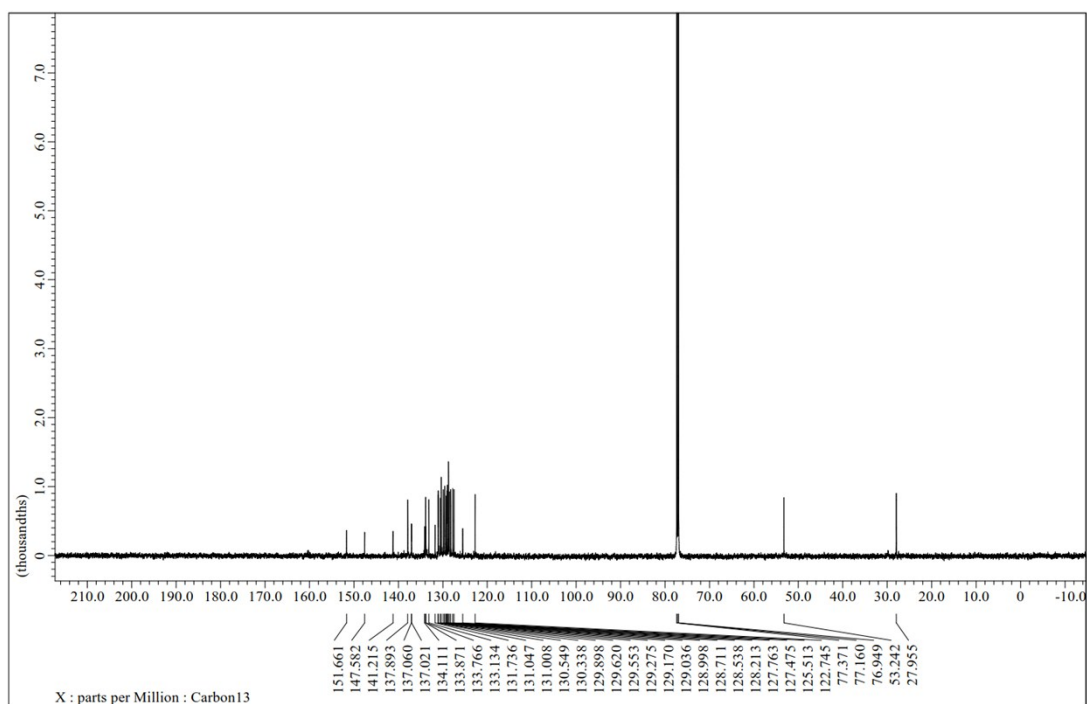
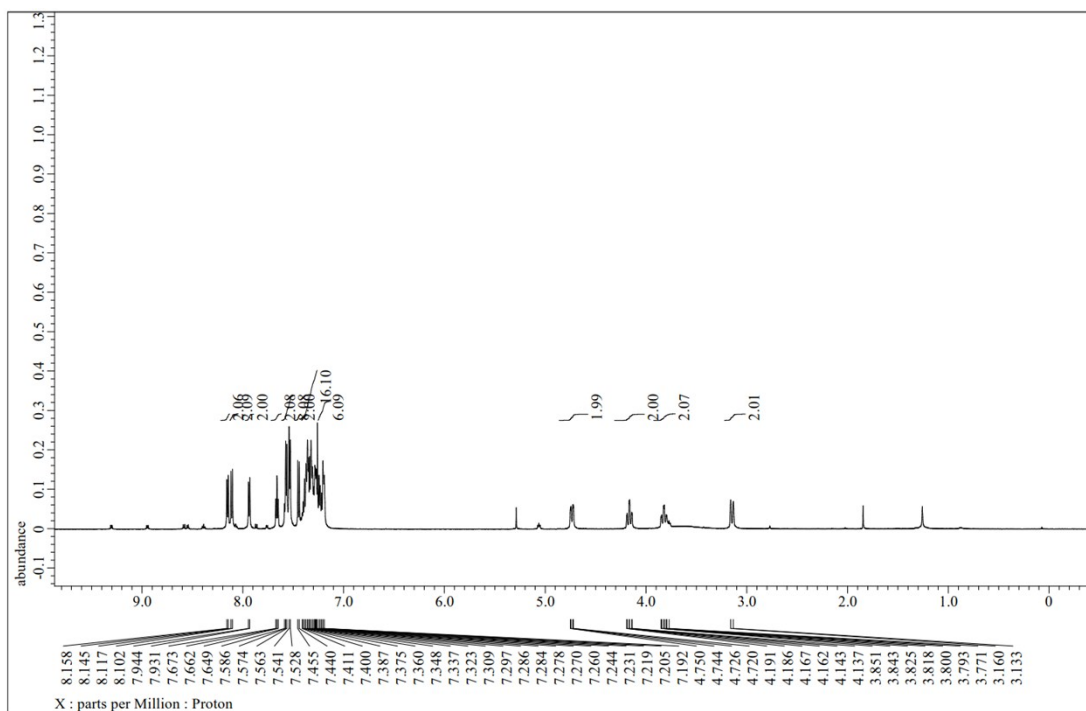
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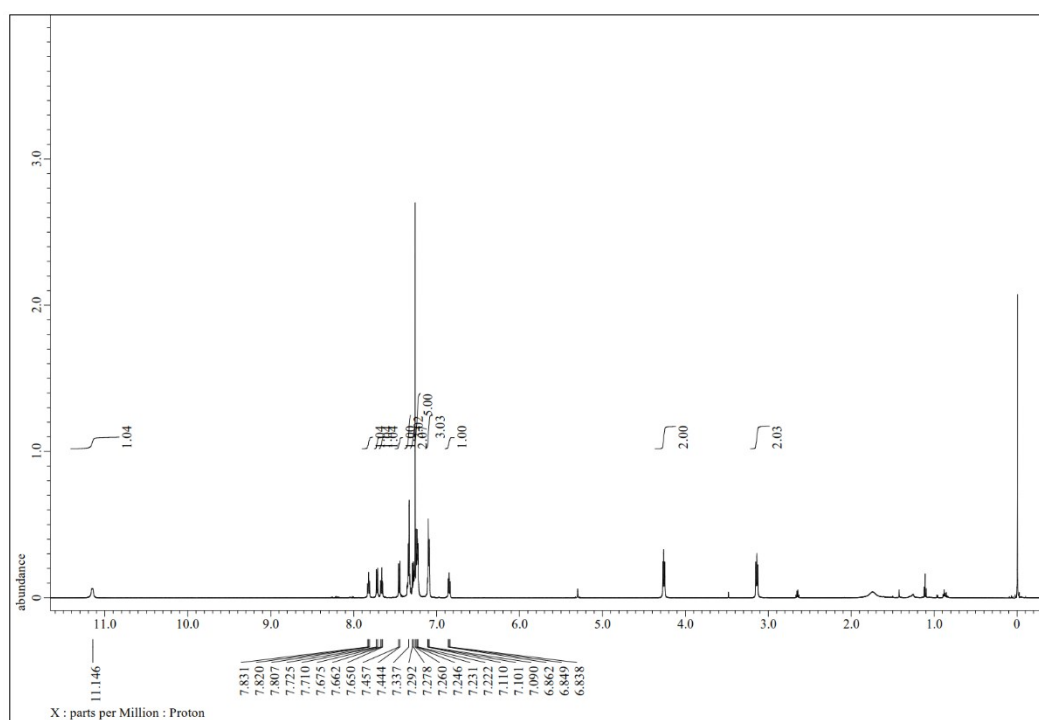
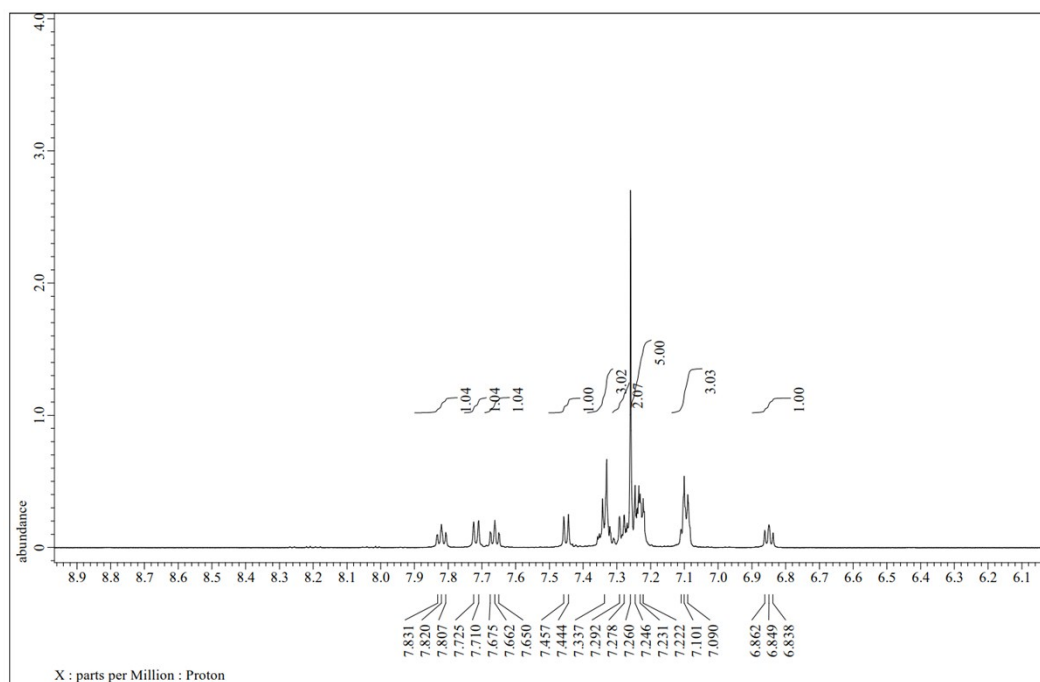


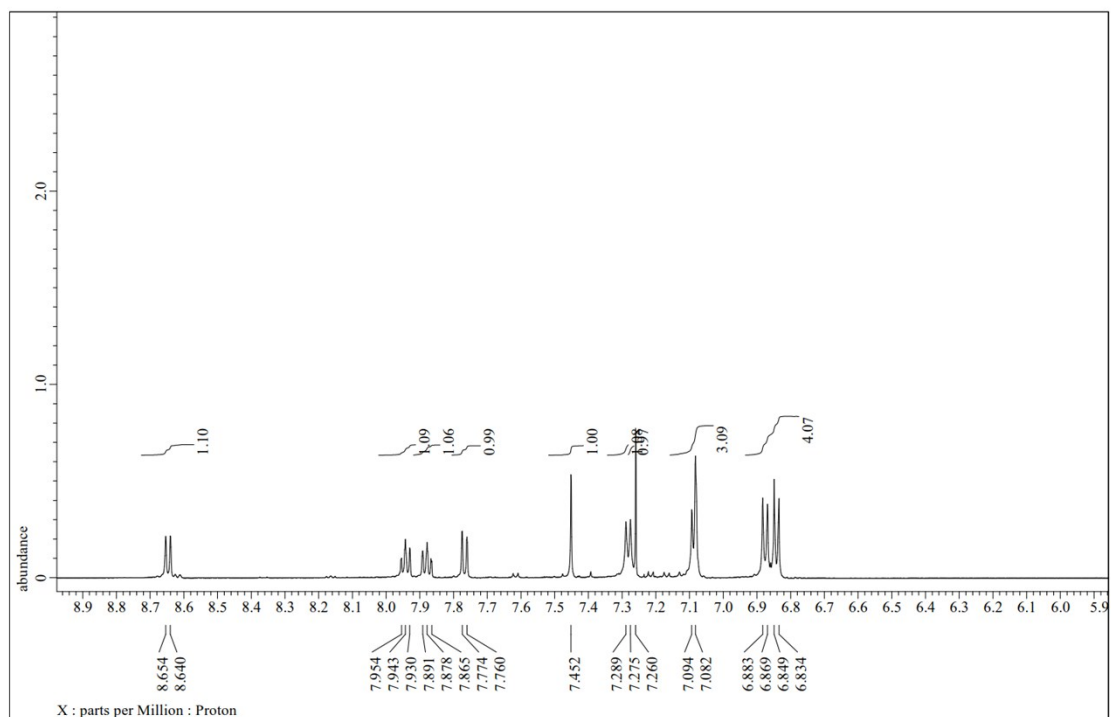
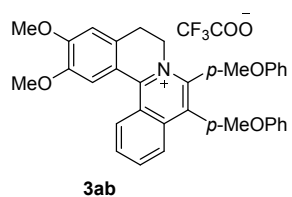
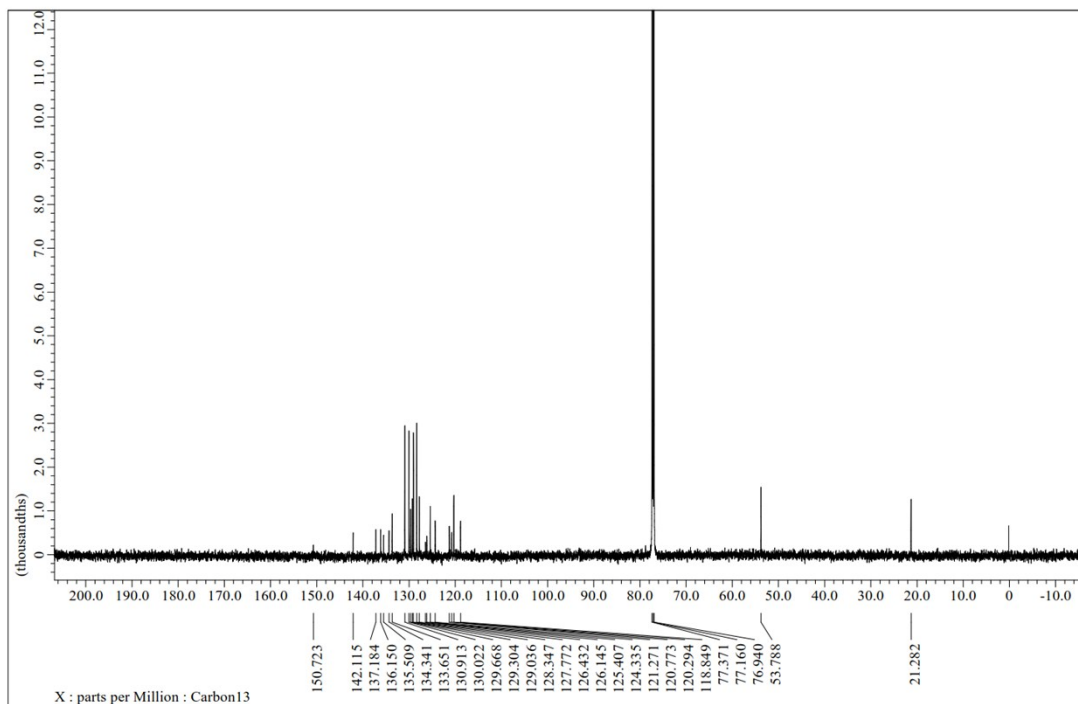


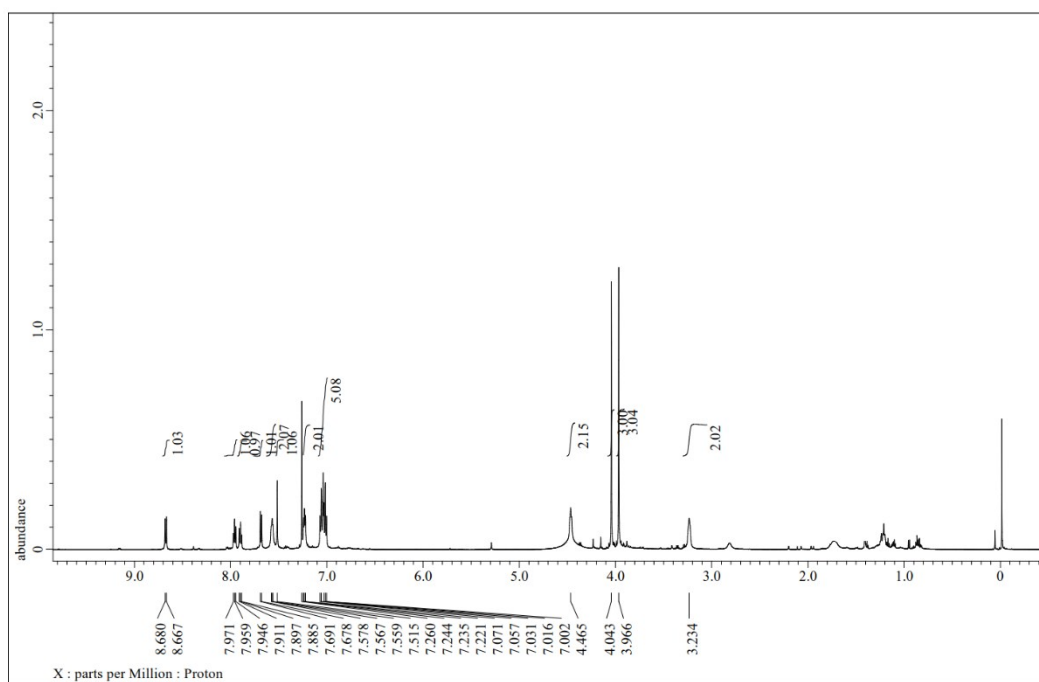
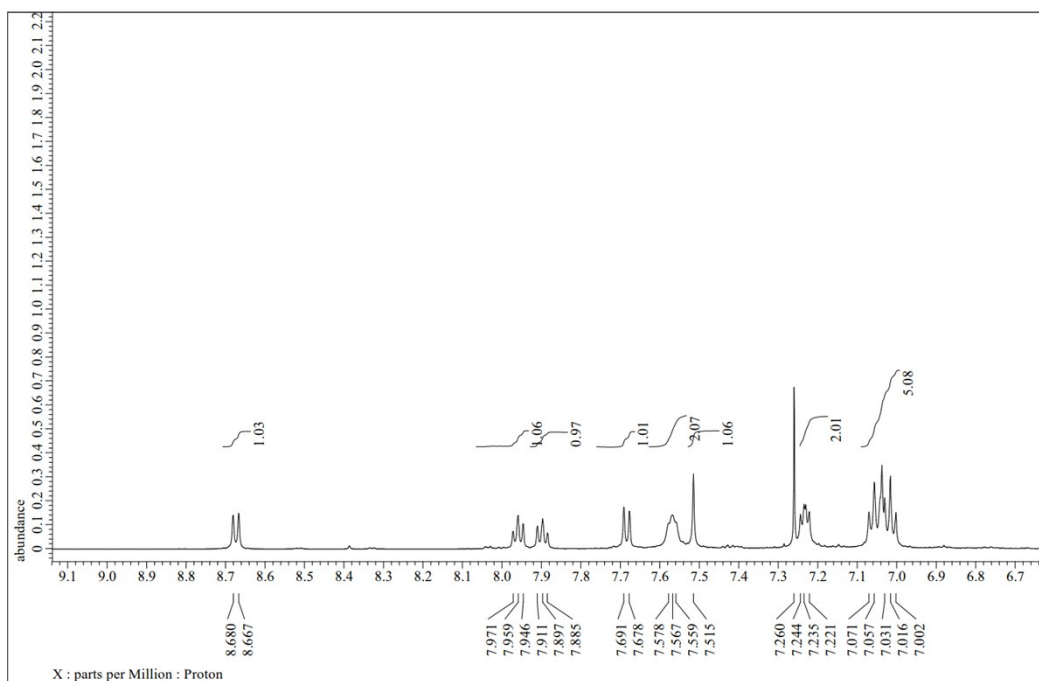


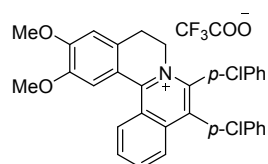
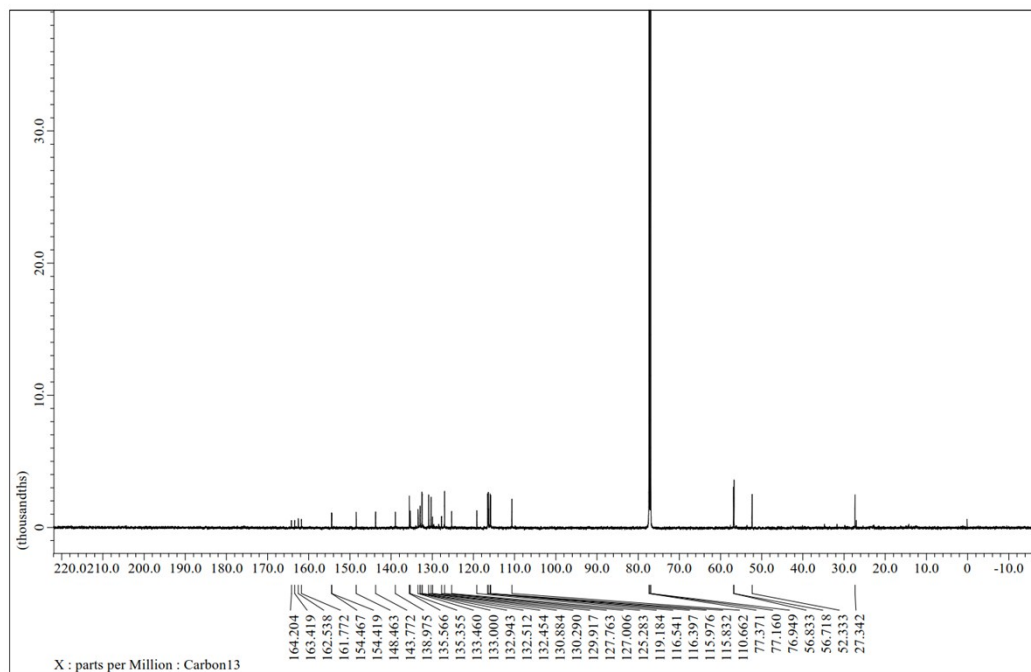




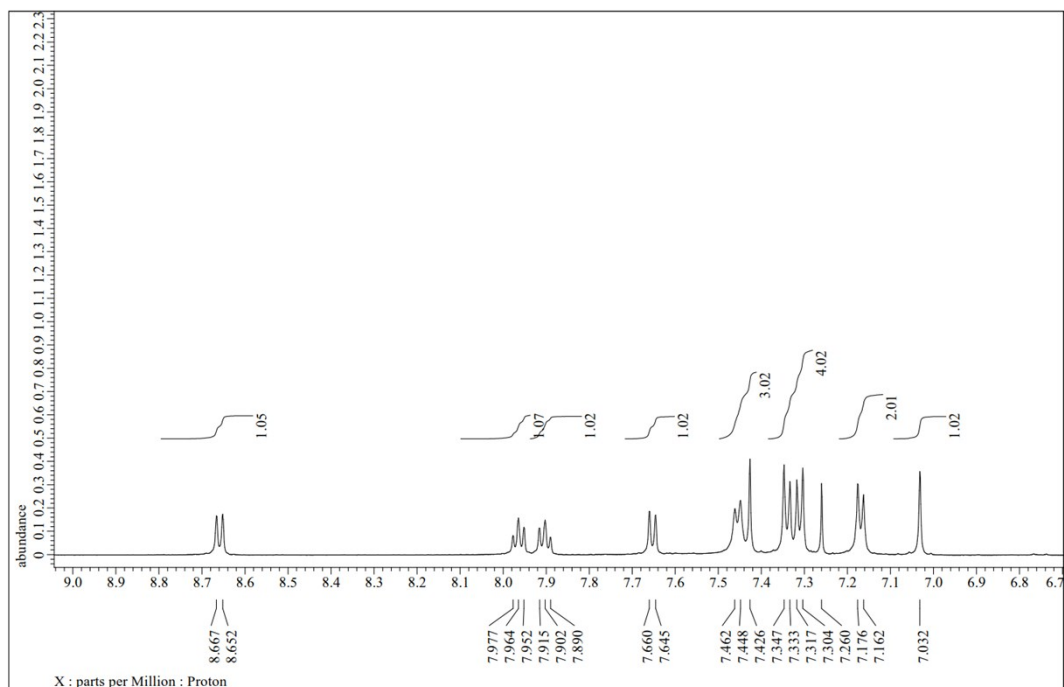


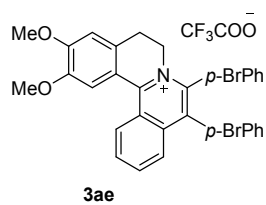
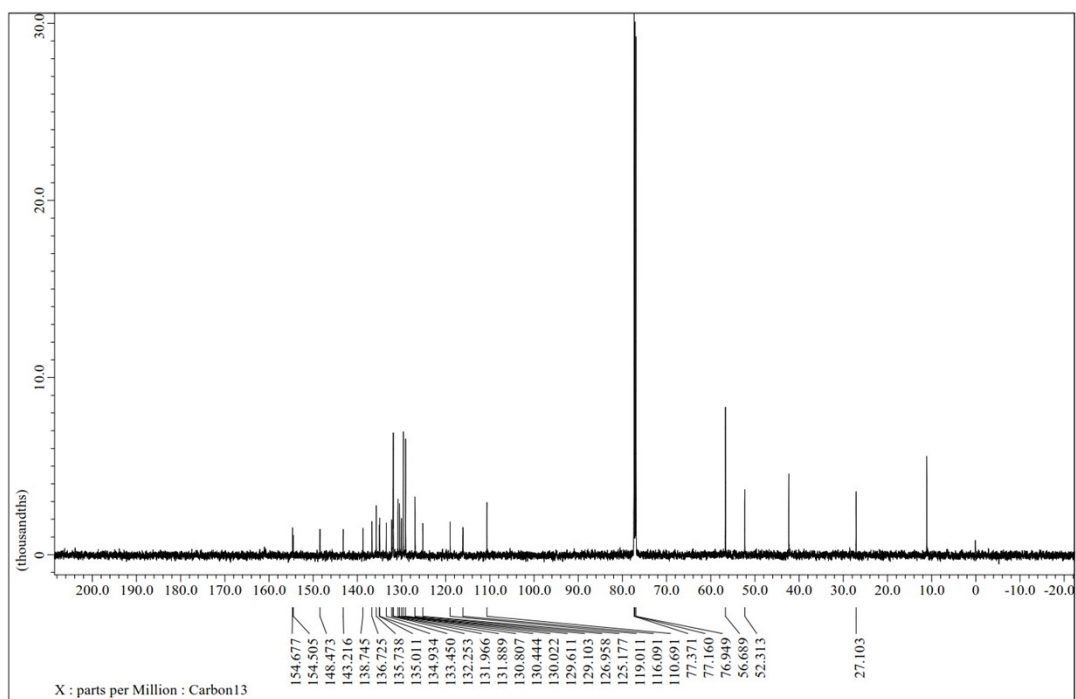
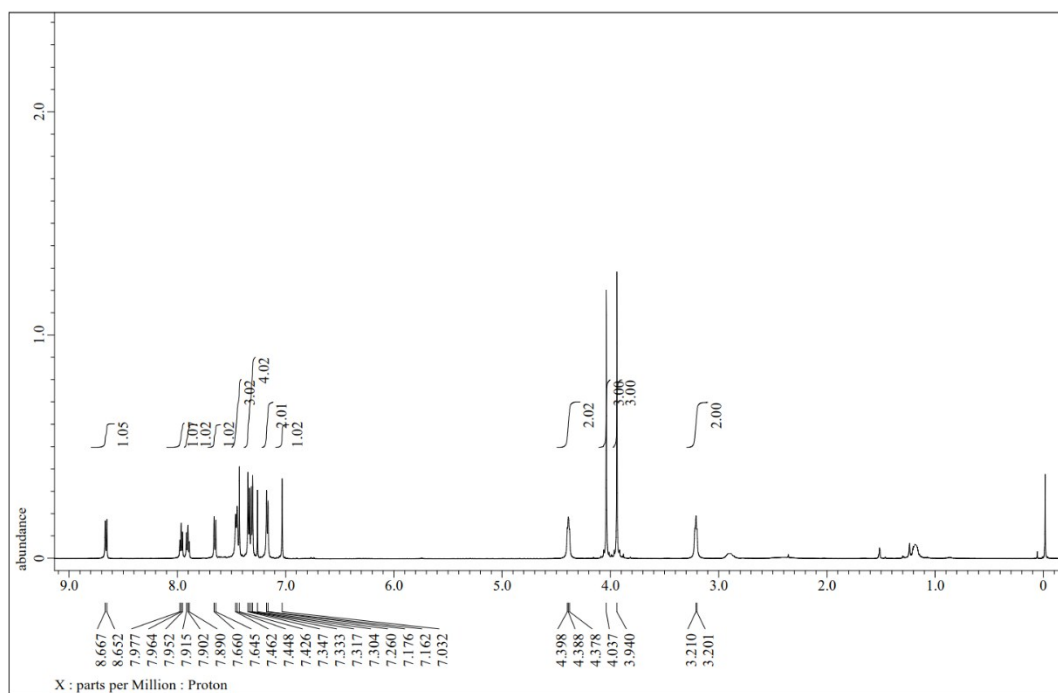


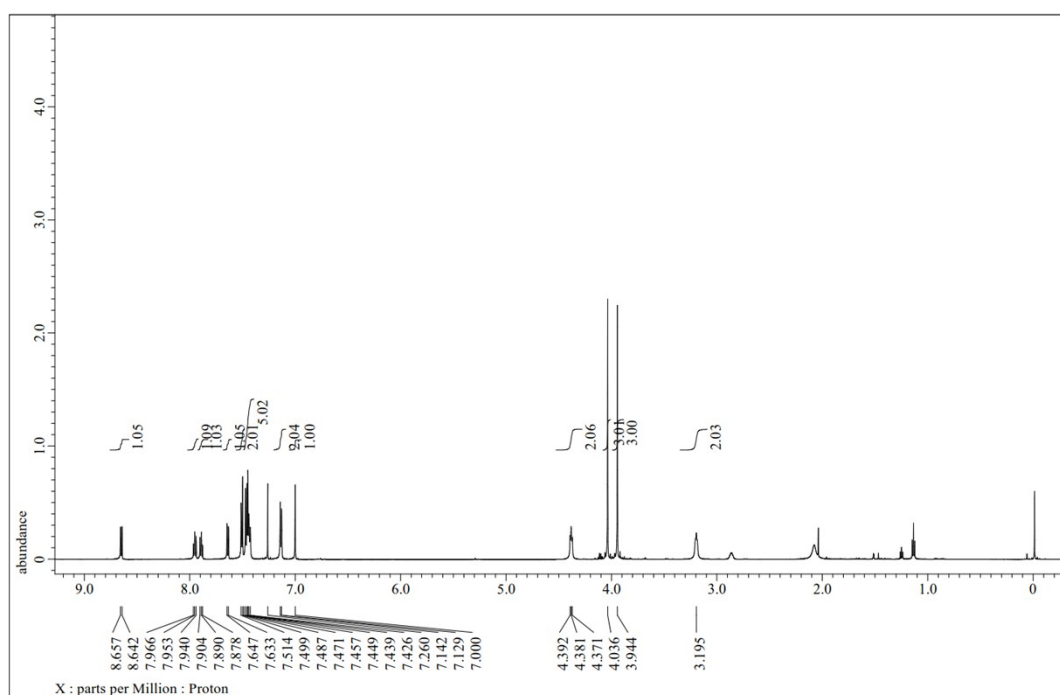
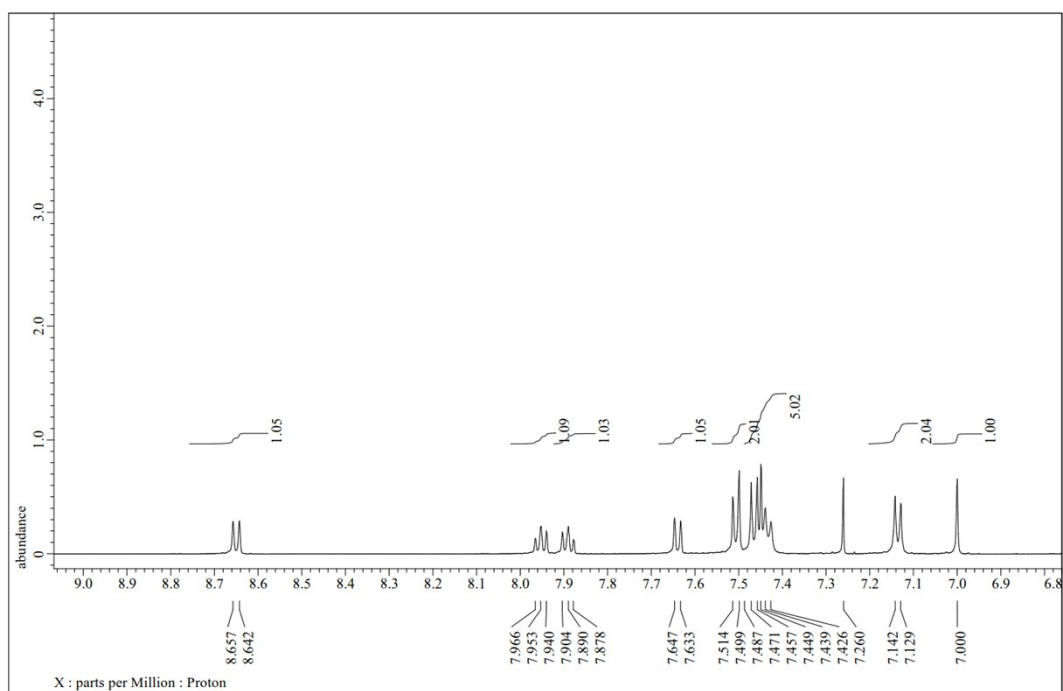


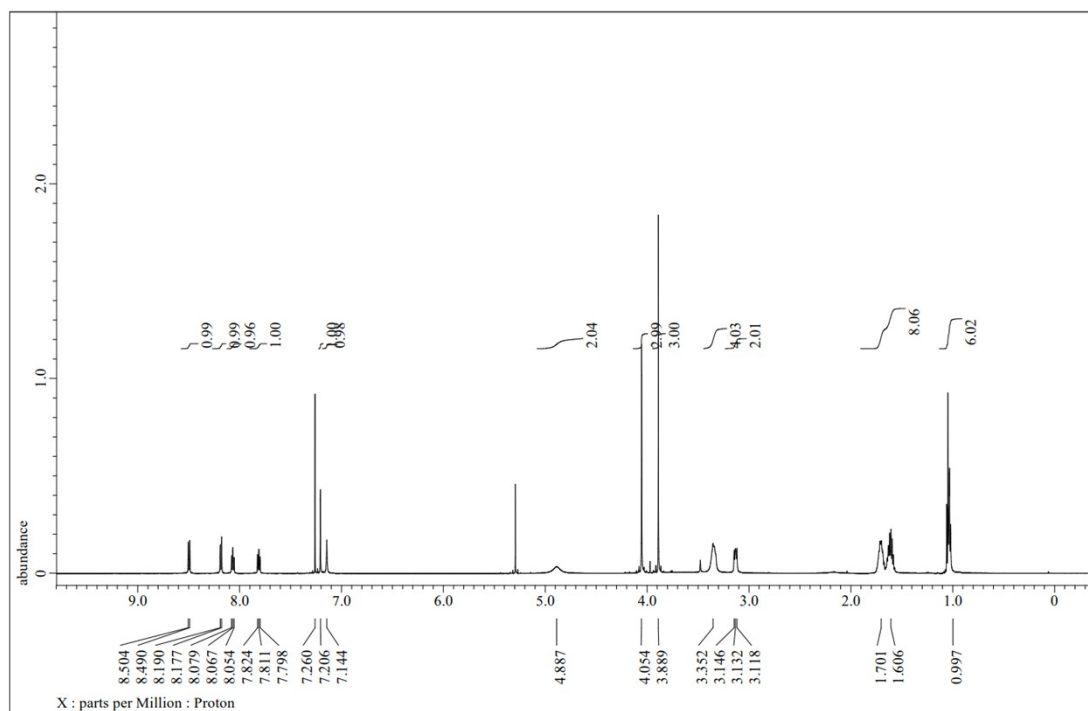
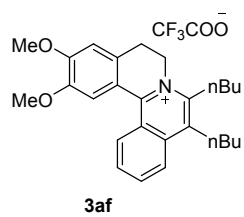
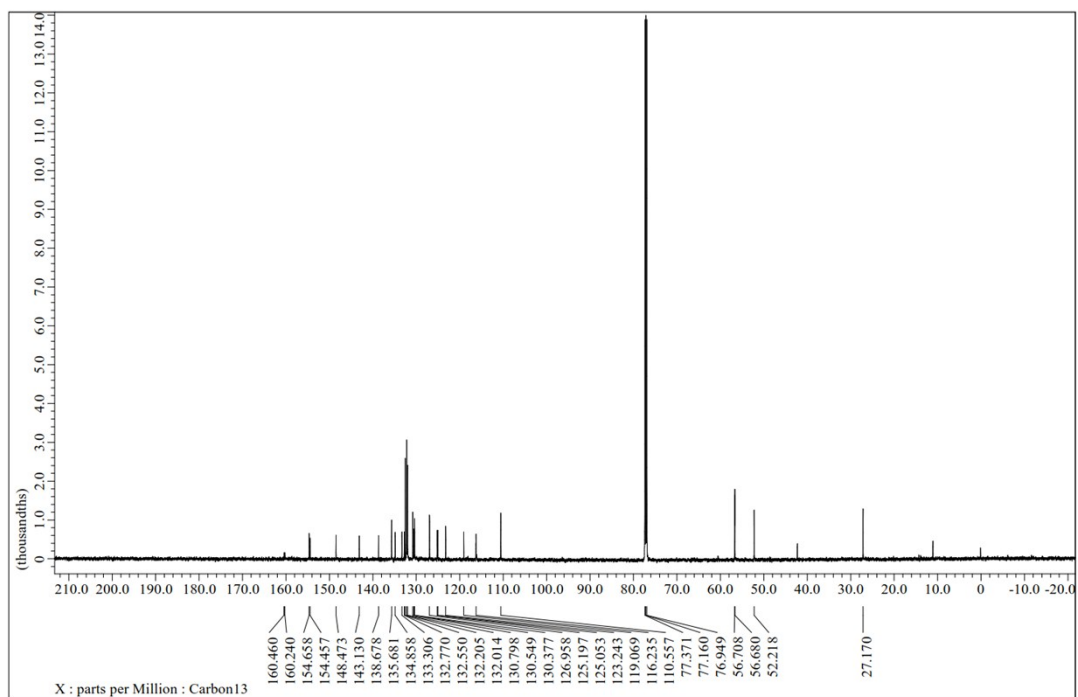


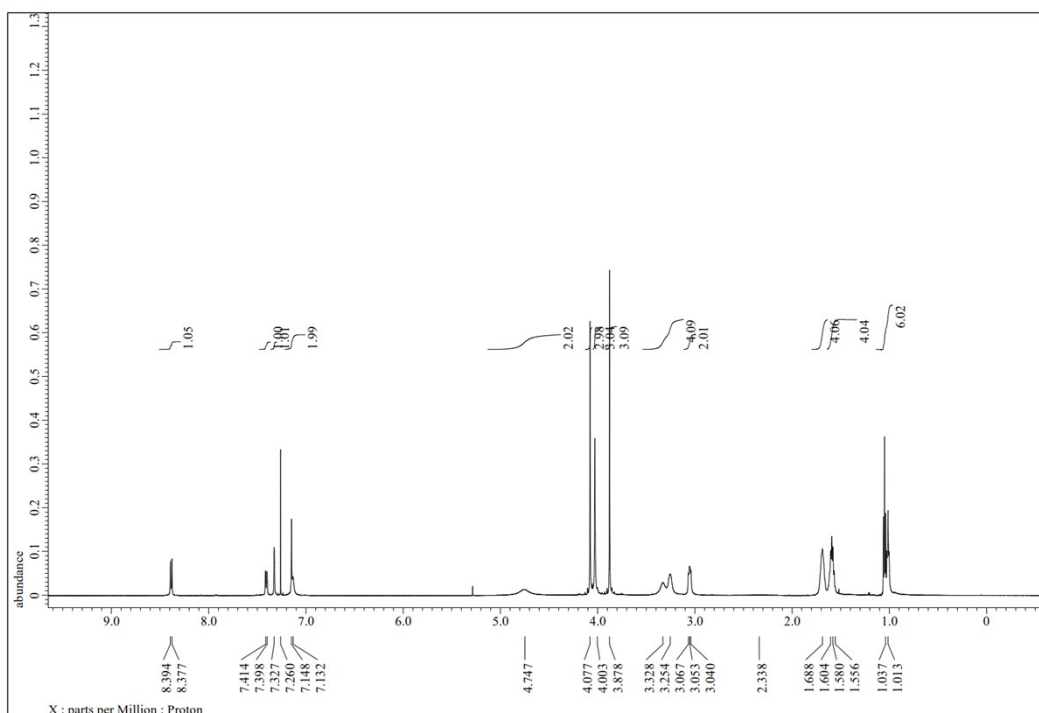
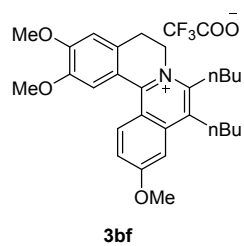
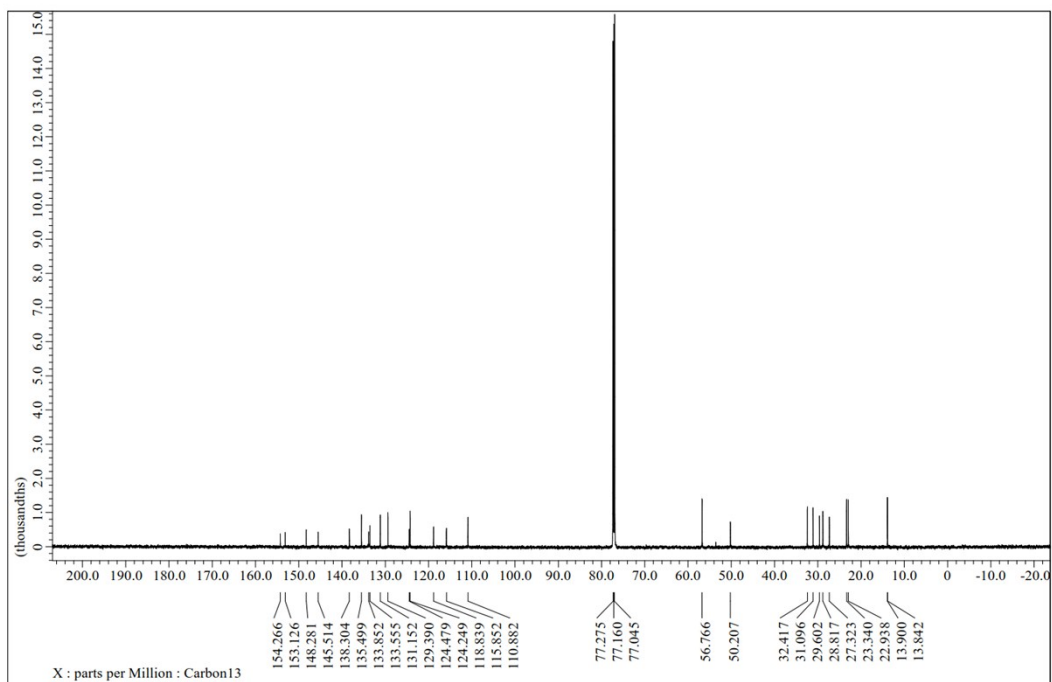
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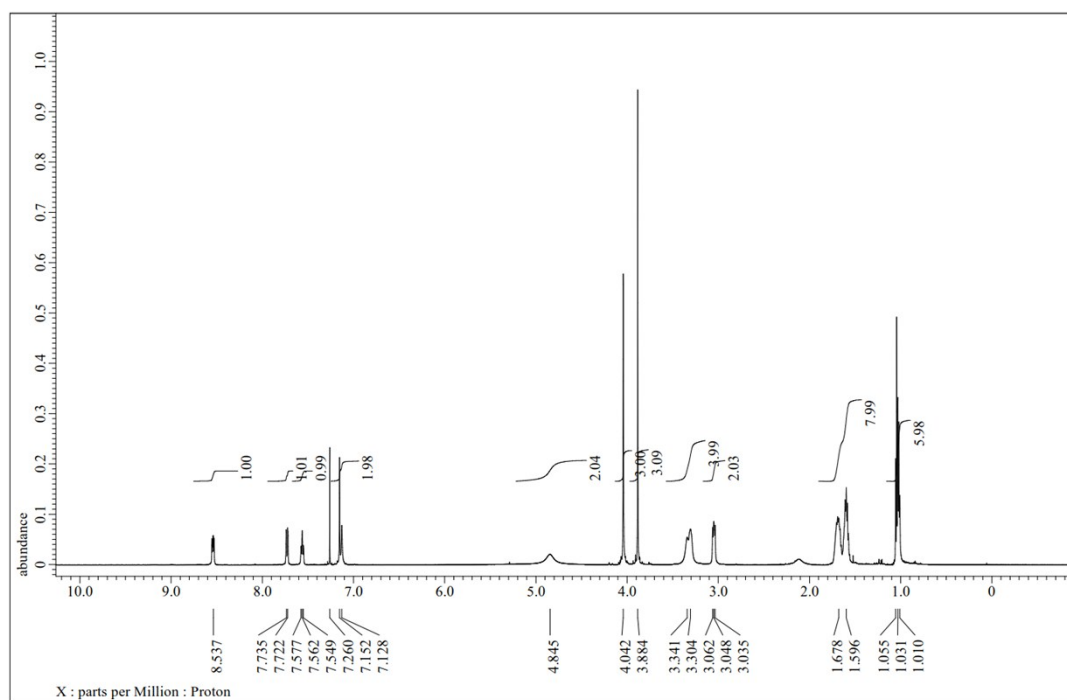
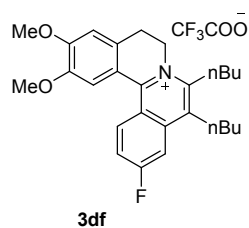
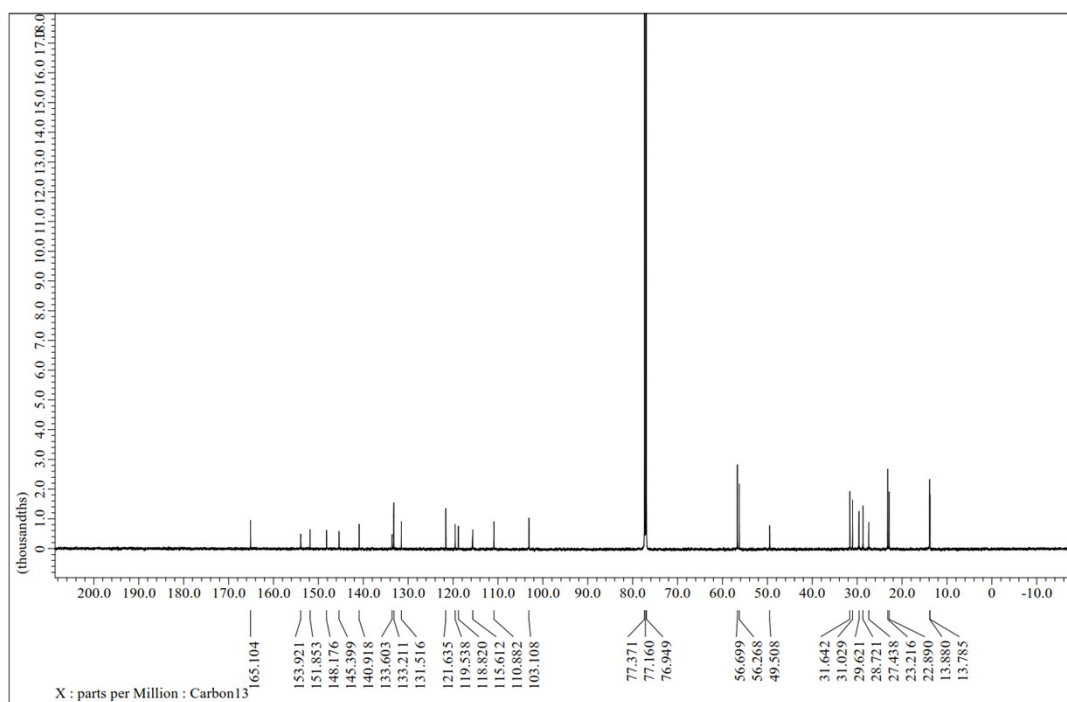


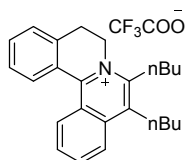
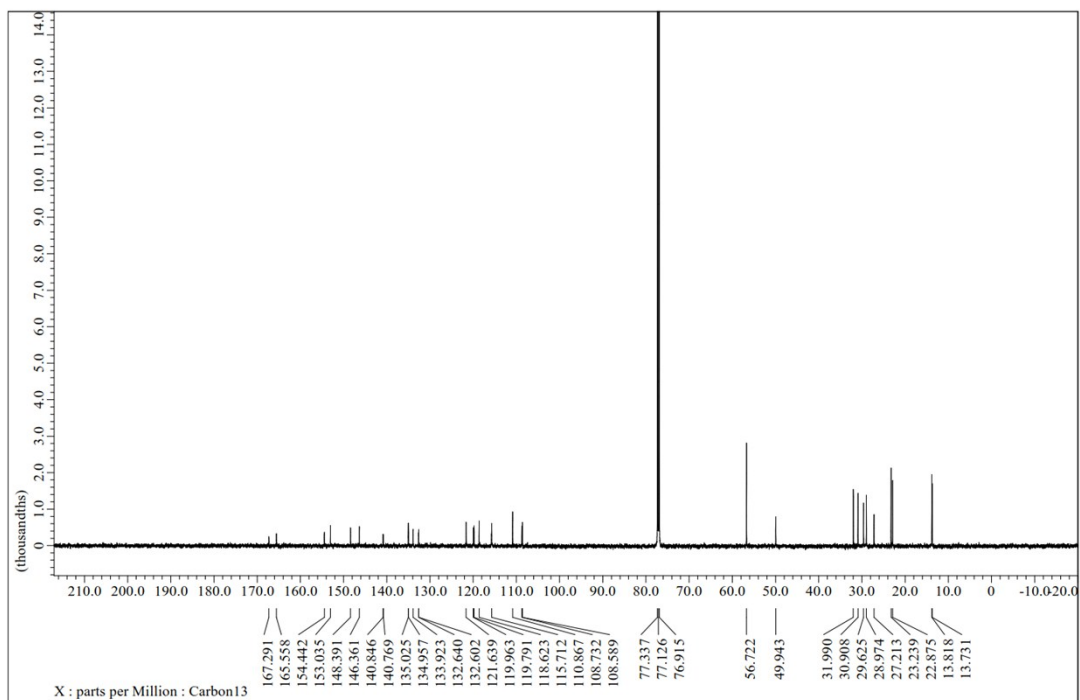




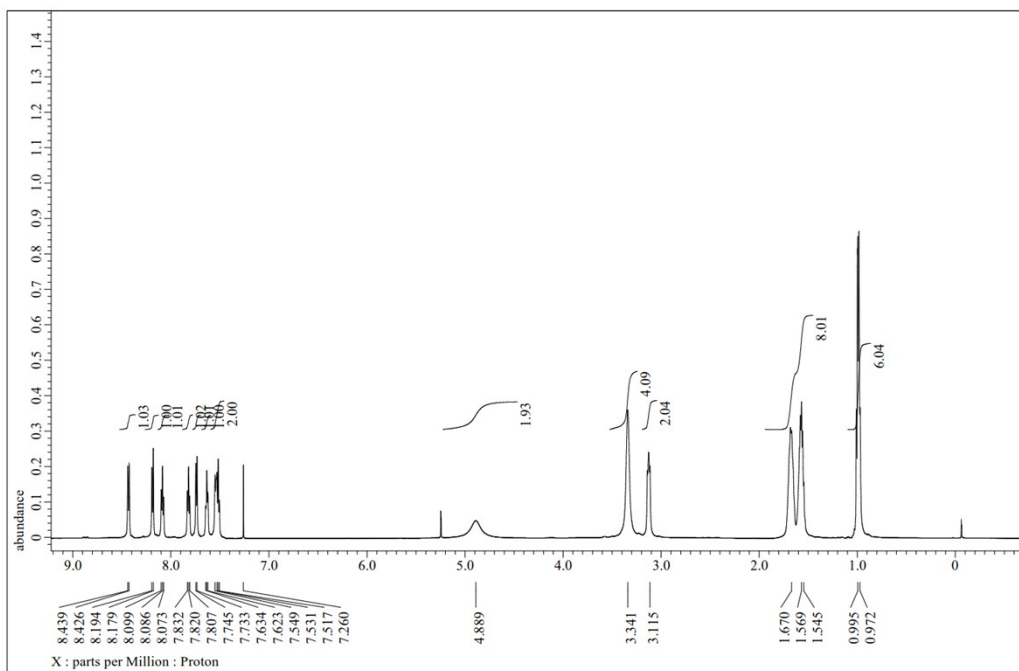


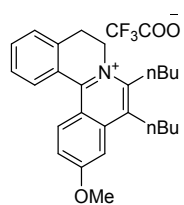
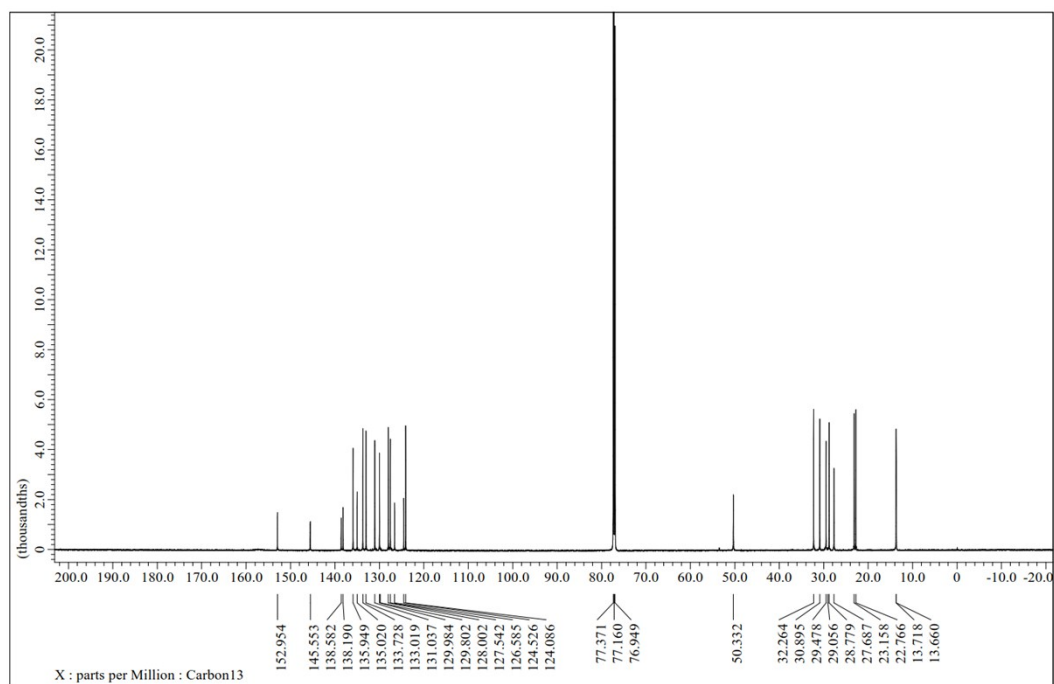




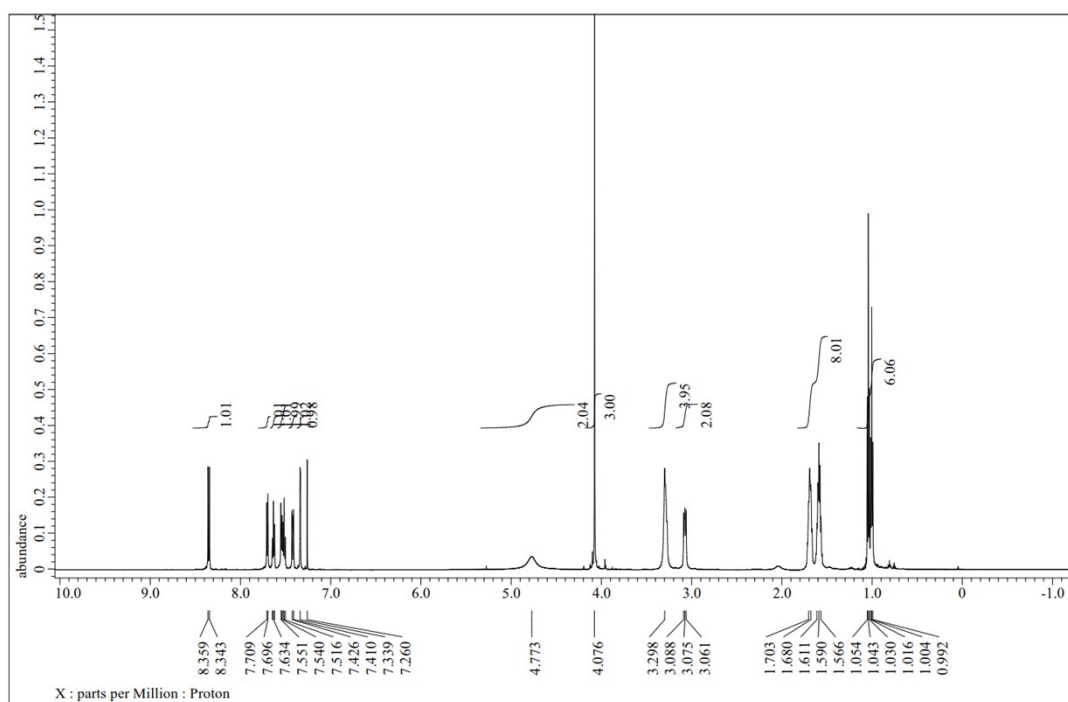


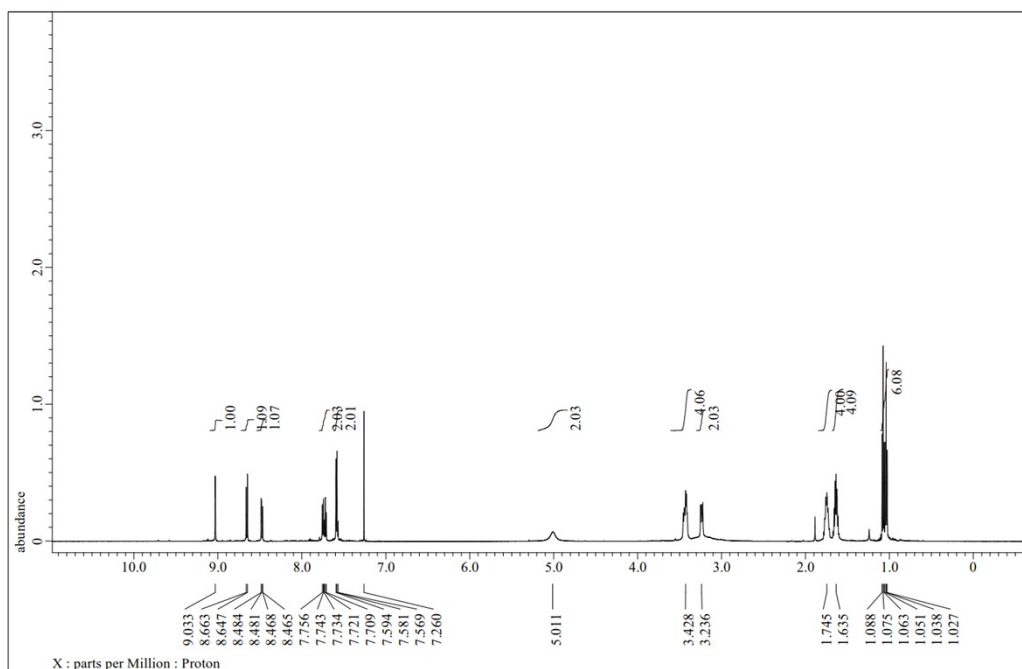
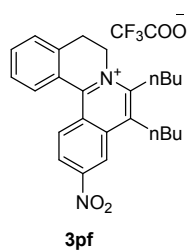
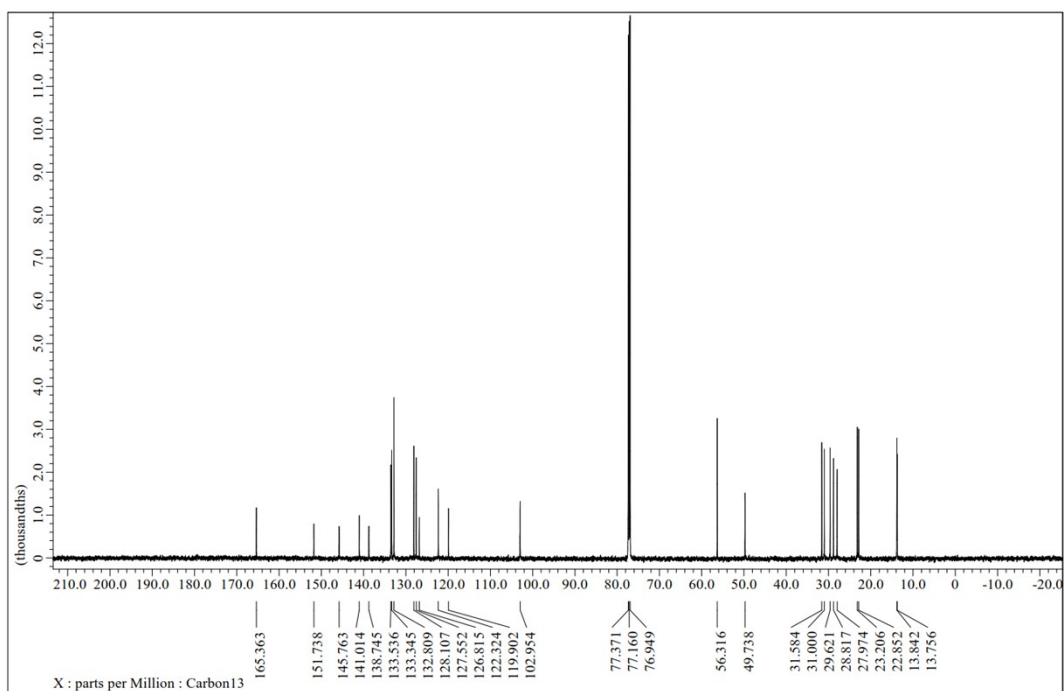
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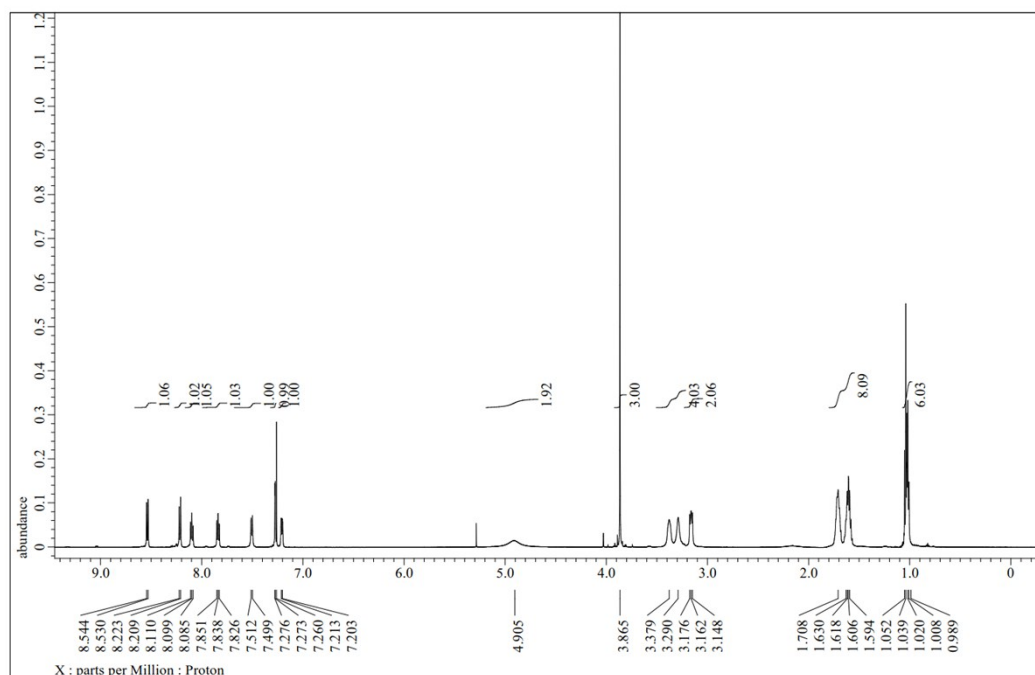
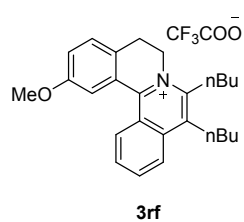
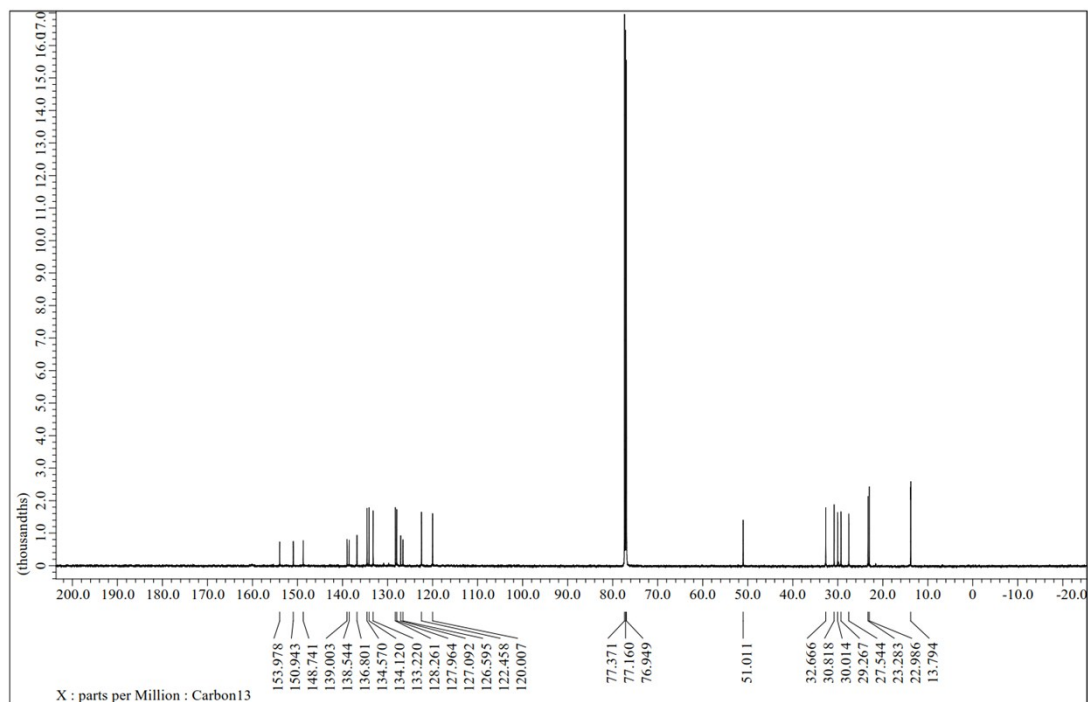


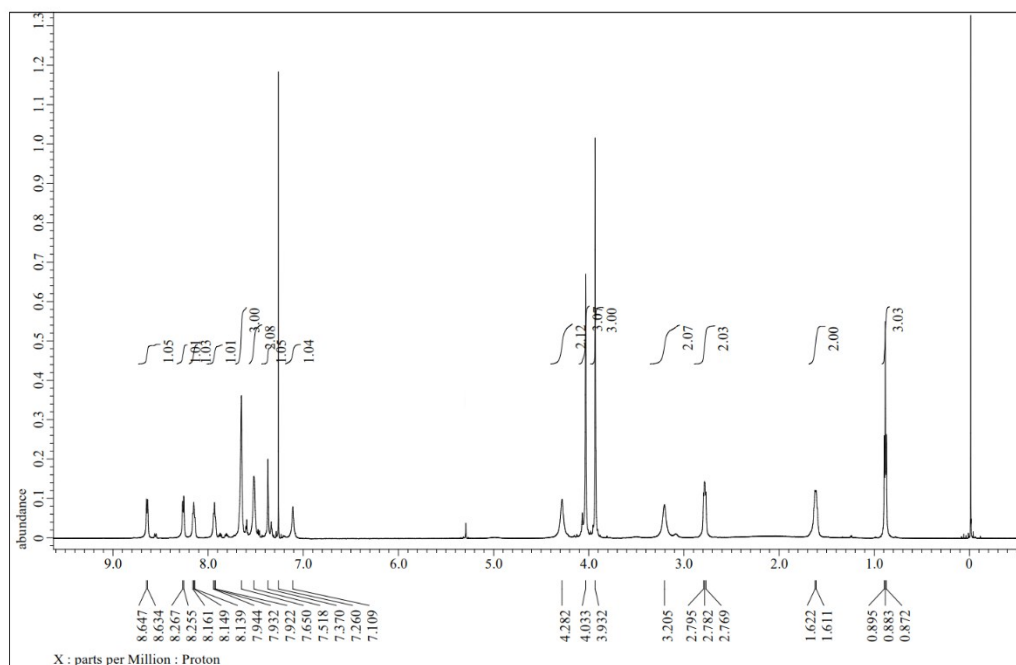
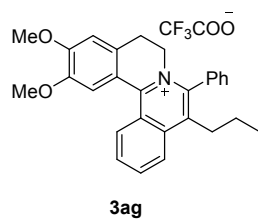
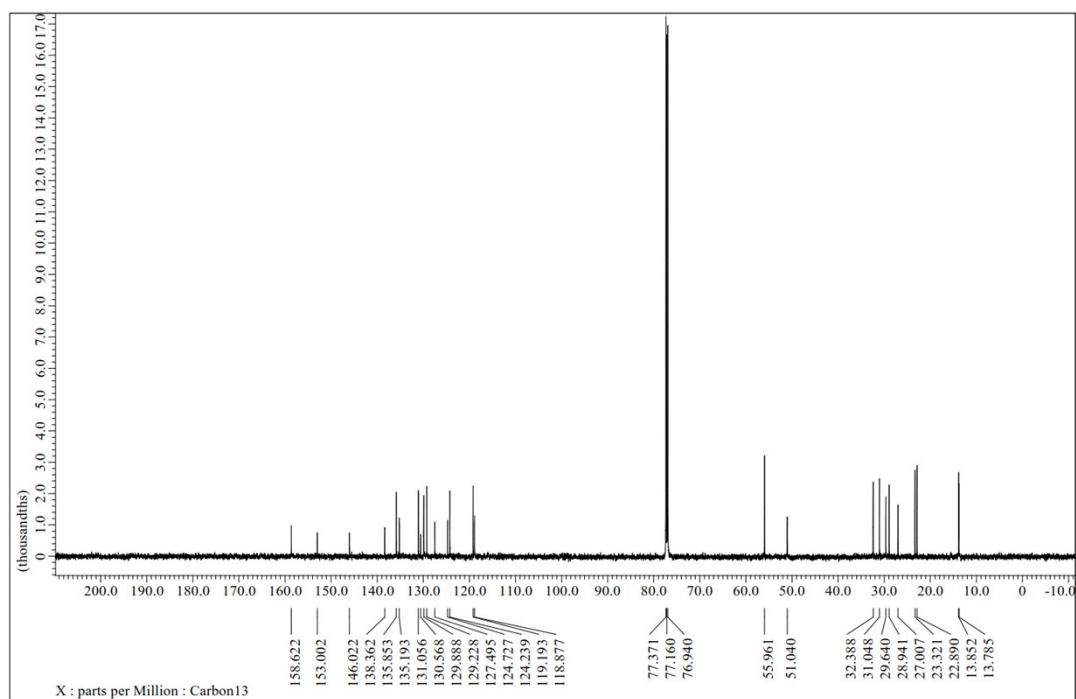


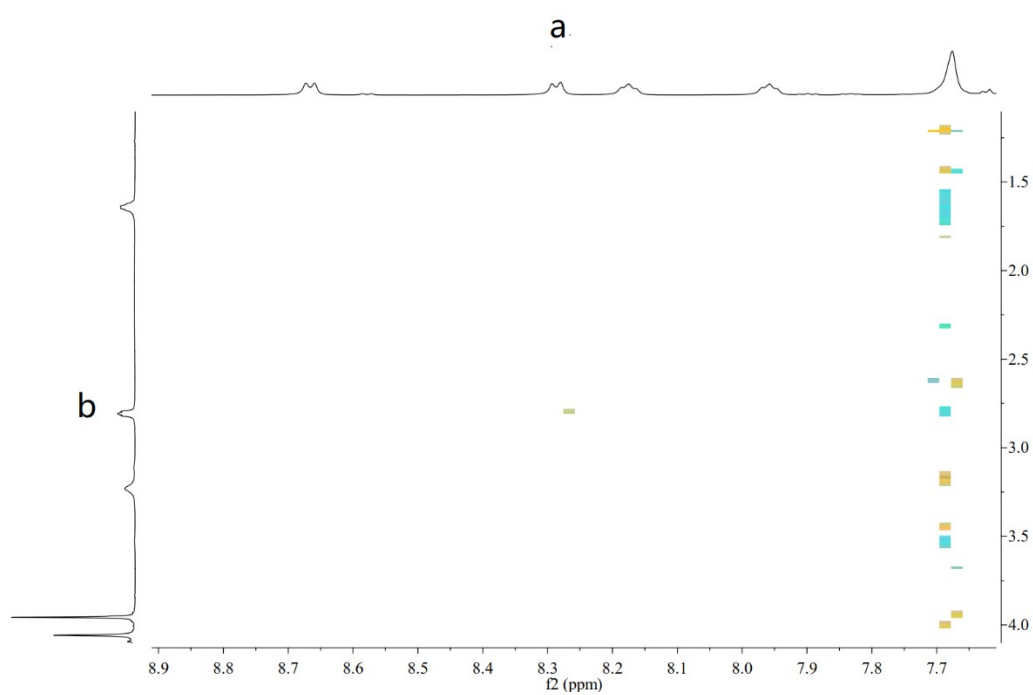
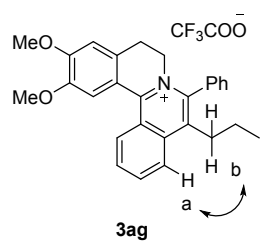
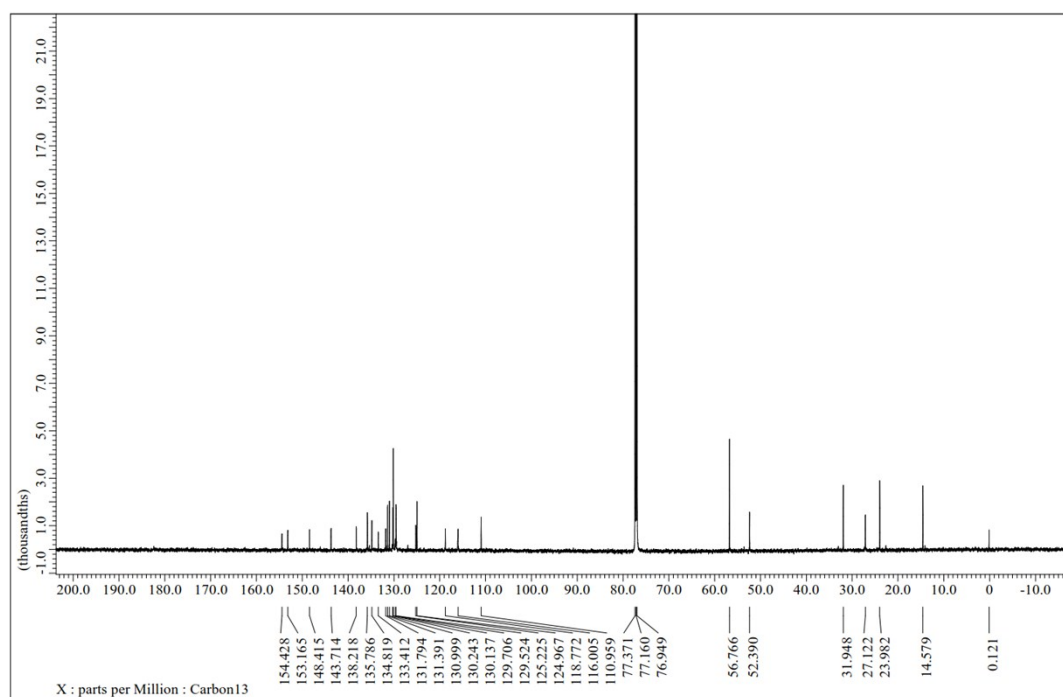
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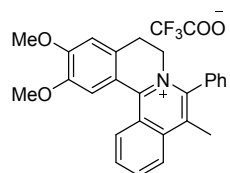




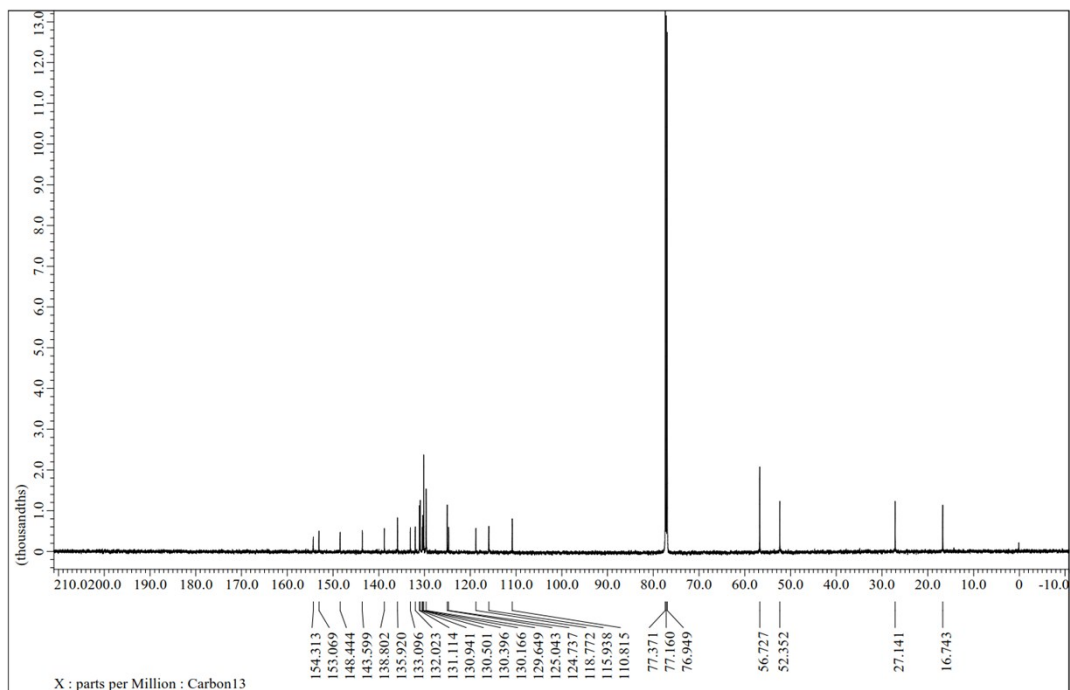
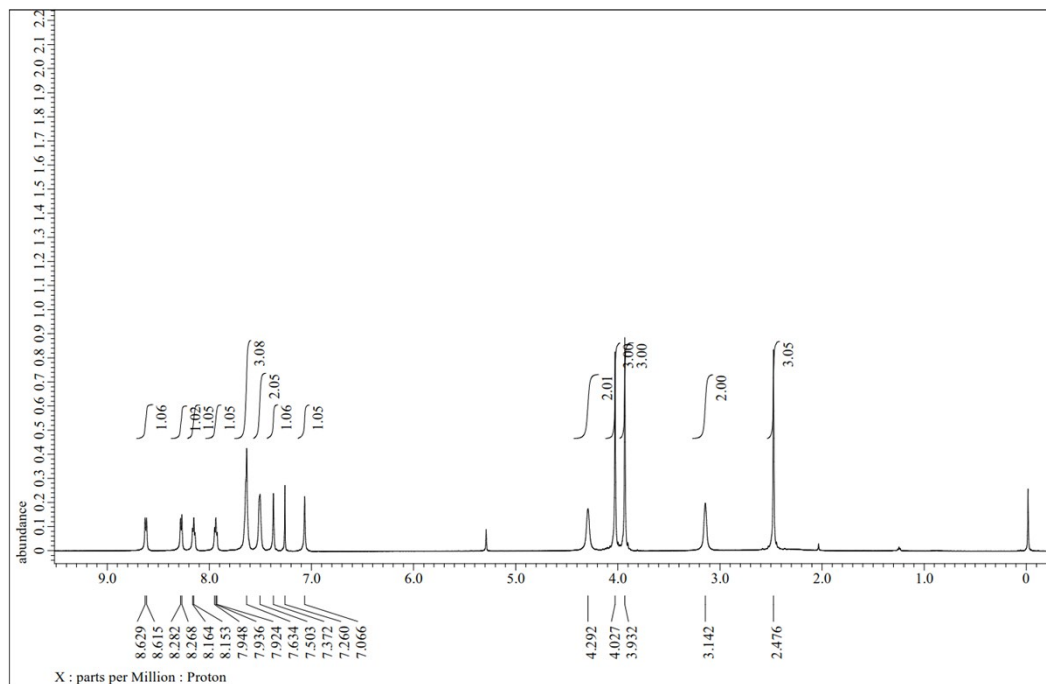


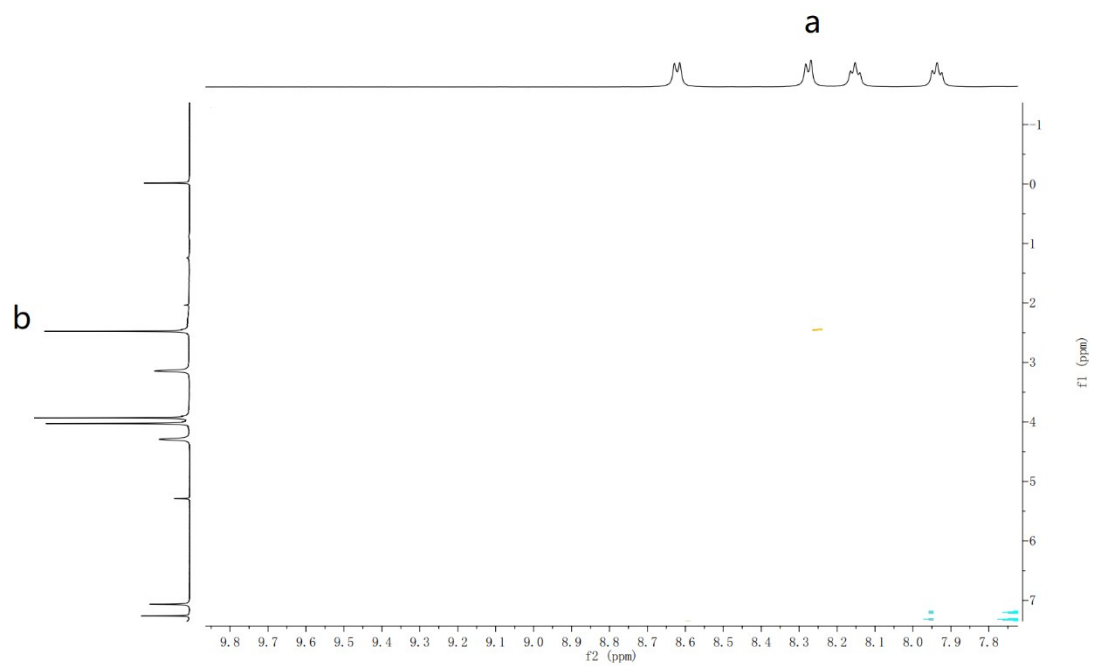
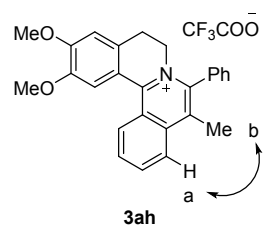




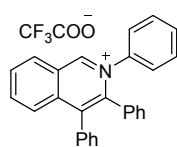
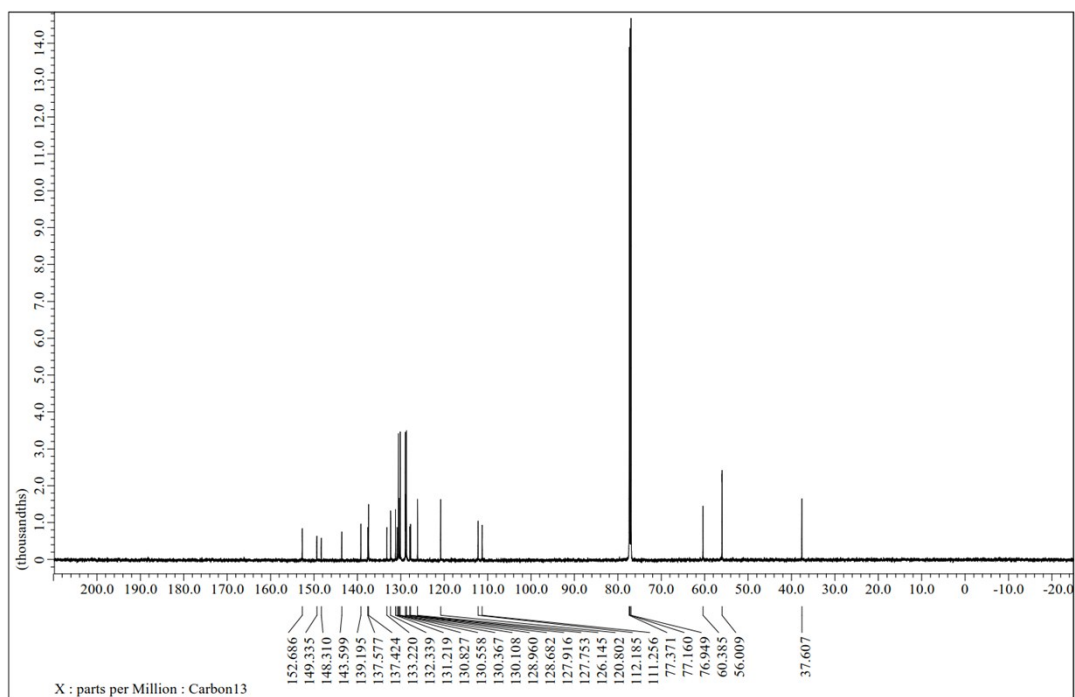


3ah

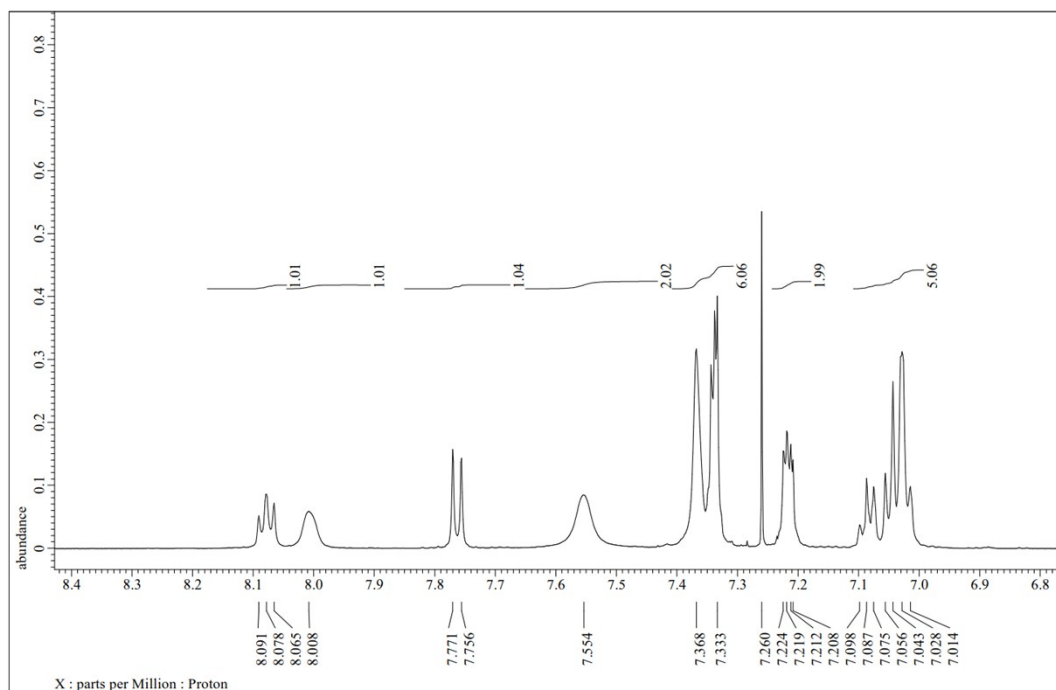


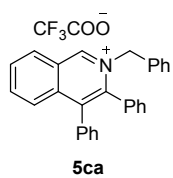
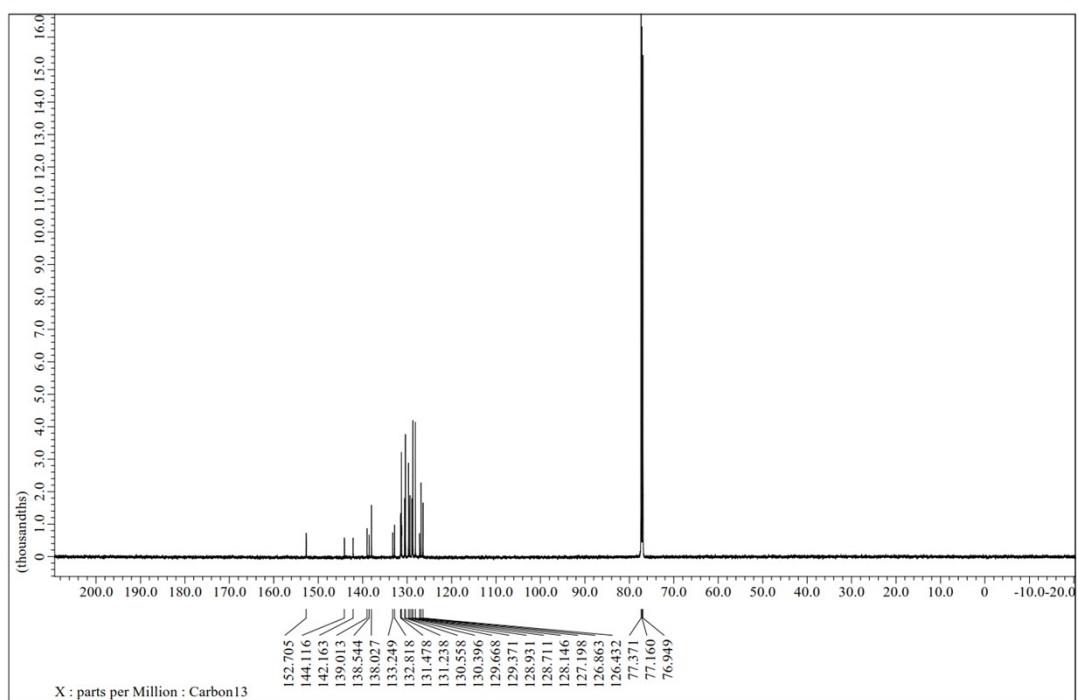
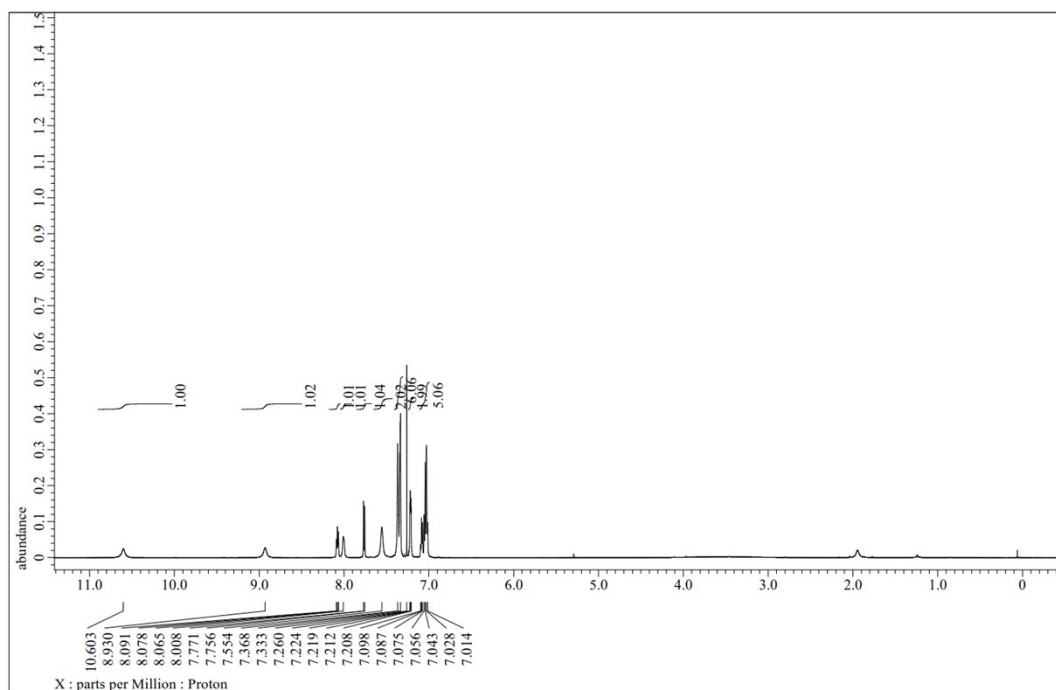


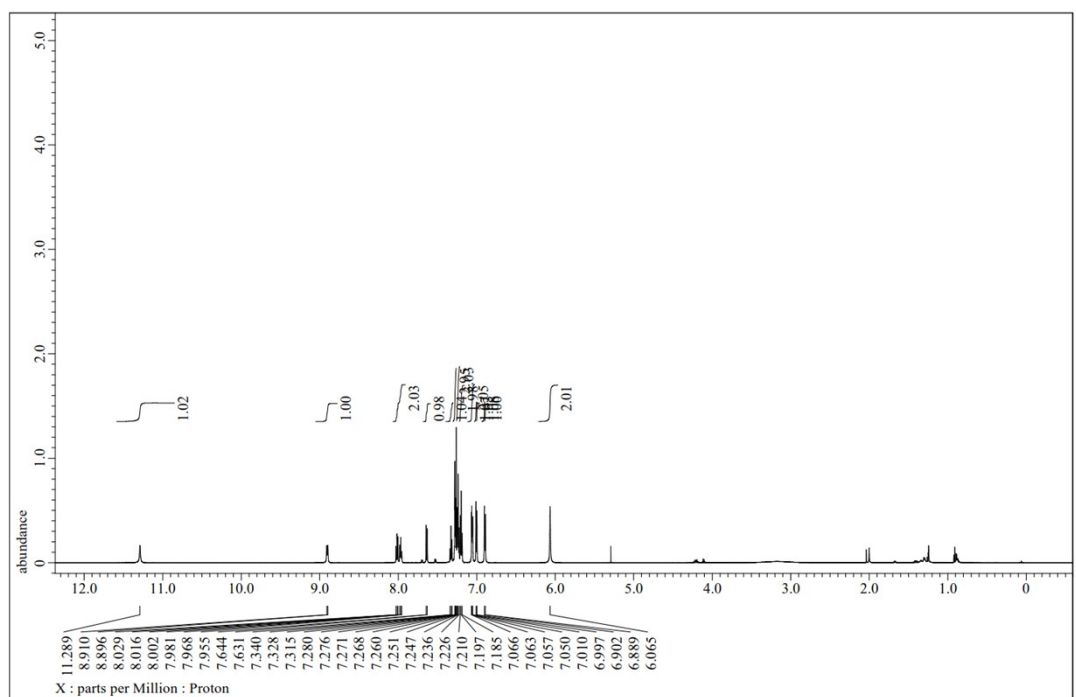
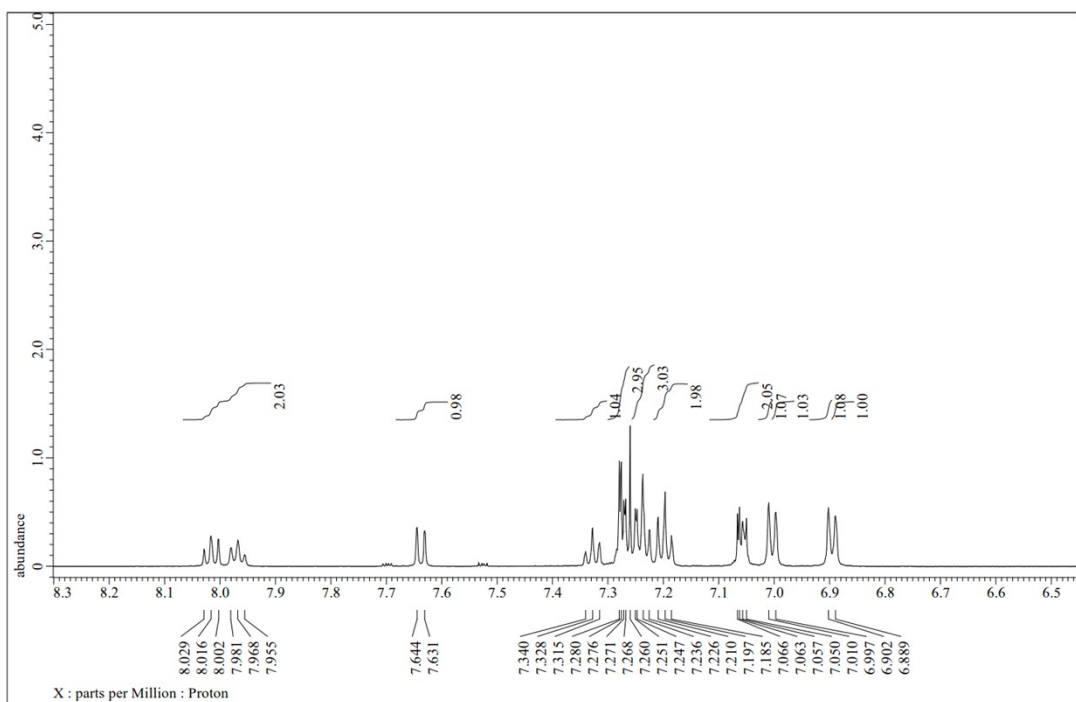


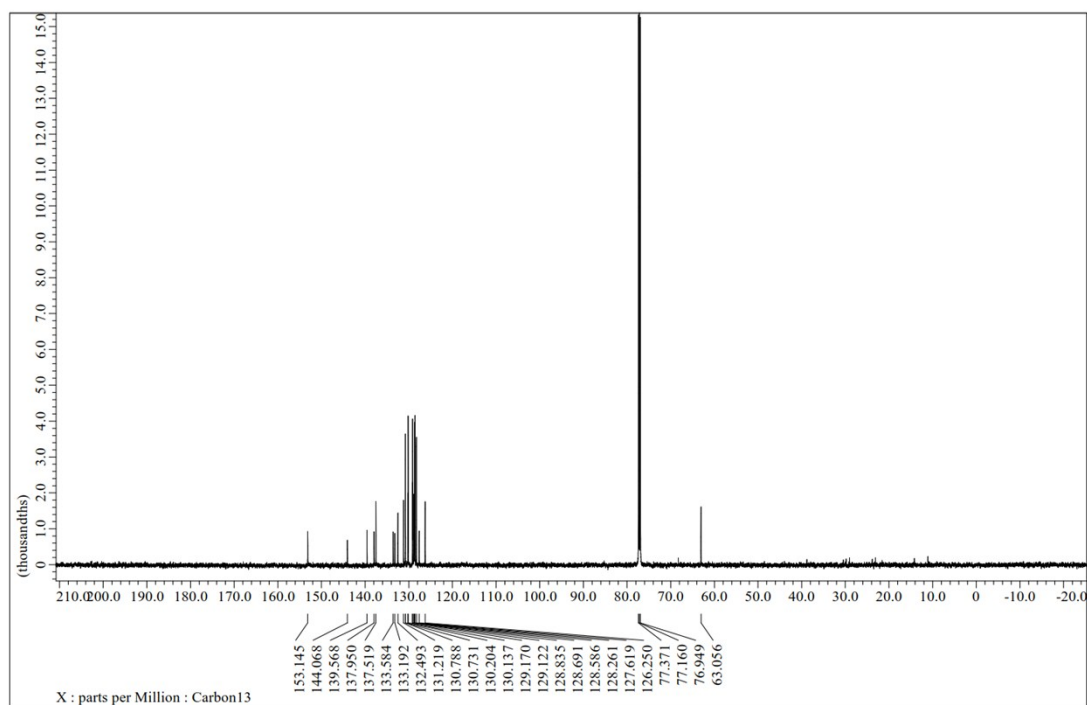


5ba









7. Crystal Data

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for 3ba

Empirical formula	C ₃₄ H ₂₈ F ₃ NO ₅
Formula weight	587.57
Temperature/K	293.15
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	10.8707(6)
b/Å	12.3194(7)
c/Å	13.1341(8)
α/°	87.958(5)
β/°	74.654(5)
γ/°	70.533(5)
Volume/Å ³	1596.56(17)
Z	2
ρ _{calc} /cm ³	1.222
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.093
F(000)	612.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.35 × 0.3 × 0.25
Index ranges	-10 ≤ h ≤ 13, -15 ≤ k ≤ 14, -16 ≤ l ≤ 16
Reflections collected	12890
Independent reflections	6531 [R _{int} = 0.0206, R _{sigma} = 0.0439]
Data/restraints/parameters	6531/0/401
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.113
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.0680, wR ₂ = 0.2025

Final R indexes [all data]
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³

R₁ = 0.1069, wR₂ = 0.2310
0.37/-0.33

Table S4. Bond Lengths for 3ba

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
O1	C1	1.353(3)	C18	C19	1.354(3)
O1	C10	1.423(4)	C18	C21	1.491(3)
O2	C2	1.351(3)	C19	C27	1.493(3)
O2	C11	1.428(3)	C21	C22	1.353(4)
O3	C15	1.360(3)	C21	C26	1.355(4)
O3	C20	1.415(3)	C22	C23	1.385(4)
N1	C5	1.348(3)	C23	C24	1.343(5)
N1	C6	1.472(3)	C24	C25	1.356(6)
N1	C19	1.394(3)	C25	C26	1.393(5)
C1	C2	1.405(3)	C27	C28	1.362(3)
C1	C9	1.380(3)	C27	C32	1.371(4)
C2	C3	1.374(3)	C28	C2	1.390(4)
C3	C4	1.406(3)	C29	C30	1.366(5)
C4	C5	1.465(3)	C30	C3	1.364(5)
C4	C8	1.386(3)	C31	C32	1.378(4)
C5	C12	1.420(3)	O4	C33	1.210(4)
C6	C7	1.473(4)	O5	C33	1.207(4)
C7	C8	1.481(3)	C33	C34	1.518(5)
C8	C9	1.387(3)	C34	F	1.347(5)
C12	C13	1.402(3)	C34	F2	1.331(6)
C12	C17	1.419(3)	C34	F3	1.316(6)
C13	C14	1.364(3)	C34	F1A	1.278(15)
C14	C15	1.393(3)	C34	F2A	1.083(17)
C15	C16	1.361(3)	C34	F3A	1.438(13)
C16	C17	1.405(3)	F1A	F3A	1.75(2)
C17	C18	1.431(3)			

Table S5. Bond Angles for 3ba

Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
C1	O1	C10	117.2(2)	C19	C18	C17	119.0(2)
C2	O2	C11	117.42(19)	C19	C18	C21	121.4(2)
C15	O3	C20	118.4(2)	N1	C19	C27	116.57(19)
C5	N1	C6	119.10(19)	C18	C19	N1	120.6(2)
C5	N1	C19	122.22(18)	C18	C19	C27	122.8(2)
C19	N1	C6	118.67(18)	C22	C21	C18	122.1(3)

O1	C1	C2	115.2(2)	C22	C21	C26	118.5(3)
O1	C1	C9	125.0(2)	C26	C21	C18	119.4(2)
C9	C1	C2	119.7(2)	C21	C22	C23	121.2(3)
O2	C2	C1	115.1(2)	C24	C23	C22	120.3(3)
O2	C2	C3	125.2(2)	C23	C24	C25	119.4(3)
C3	C2	C1	119.7(2)	C24	C25	C26	120.3(4)
C2	C3	C4	120.6(2)	C21	C26	C25	120.4(3)
C3	C4	C5	121.7(2)	C28	C27	C19	122.0(2)
C8	C4	C3	119.3(2)	C28	C27	C32	119.1(3)
C8	C4	C5	118.8(2)	C32	C27	C19	118.9(2)
N1	C5	C4	117.48(19)	C27	C28	C29	120.5(3)
N1	C5	C12	118.32(19)	C30	C29	C28	119.5(3)
C12	C5	C4	124.2(2)	C31	C30	C29	120.5(3)
N1	C6	C7	112.1(2)	C30	C31	C32	119.4(3)
C6	C7	C8	109.6(2)	C27	C32	C31	120.9(3)
C4	C8	C7	116.4(2)	O4	C33	C34	113.6(3)
C4	C8	C9	120.1(2)	O5	C33	O4	131.4(4)
C9	C8	C7	123.5(2)	O5	C33	C34	115.0(4)
C1	C9	C8	120.6(2)	F1	C34	C33	113.1(3)
C13	C12	C5	122.5(2)	F2	C34	C33	116.5(4)
C13	C12	C17	118.3(2)	F2	C34	F1	97.6(4)
C17	C12	C5	119.0(2)	F3	C34	C33	110.6(4)
C14	C13	C12	121.6(2)	F3	C34	F1	100.5(4)
C13	C14	C15	119.5(2)	F3	C34	F2	116.7(4)
O3	C15	C14	123.3(2)	F1A	C34	C33	122.1(6)
O3	C15	C16	115.8(2)	F1A	C34	F3A	80.2(9)
C16	C15	C14	120.9(2)	F2A	C34	C33	124.1(11)
C15	C16	C17	120.6(2)	F2A	C34	F1A	107.4(12)
C12	C17	C18	119.2(2)	F2A	C34	F3A	107.0(11)
C16	C17	C12	118.9(2)	F3A	C34	C33	105.5(5)
C16	C17	C18	121.9(2)	C34	F1A	F3A	53.9(6)
C17	C18	C21	119.6(2)	C34	F3A	F1A	45.9(7)