

Supporting Information

Transition Metal Free C-C Bond Cleavage/Borylation of Cycloketone Oxime Esters

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Table of Contents

General Information	S2
Starting Materials	S2
Optimization of Reaction Conditions	S3
Representative Procedure for the Borylation of Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters	S7
Characterization of Products 2 , 3a and Starting Materials	S9
Investigation of the Reaction Mechanism	S24
Representative Procedure for Synthesis of 2a on Gram Scale	S29
Representative Procedure for the Oxidation/Hydrolysis of 2a	S29
Synthetic Applications	S31
Reference	S33
DFT Computational study	S34
¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR Spectra of the Products	S41
¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR and ¹⁹ F Spectra of the Starting Materials	S77

General Information

^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III-400 in solvents as indicated. Chemical shift are reported in ppm referenced to the solvent resonance (CDCl_3 : ^1H NMR: $\delta = 7.26$; ^{13}C NMR: $\delta = 77.00$). IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer and only major peaks are given in cm^{-1} . HRMS were obtained on a Q-TOF micro spectrometer or Orbitrap mass spectrometer. All reactions were conducted in oven-dried Schlenk-tube under an atmosphere of nitrogen, unless otherwise stated. Reagents were purchased at commercial quality and were used without further purification. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel.

Starting Materials

All of cyclobutanone oxime esters **1** were synthesized from the corresponding cyclobutanones and carboxylic acids according to the literature.¹ The substituted cyclobutanones were prepared according to the reported procedure.² All of the NMR spectra of the known compounds were in full accordance with the data in the literatures.³

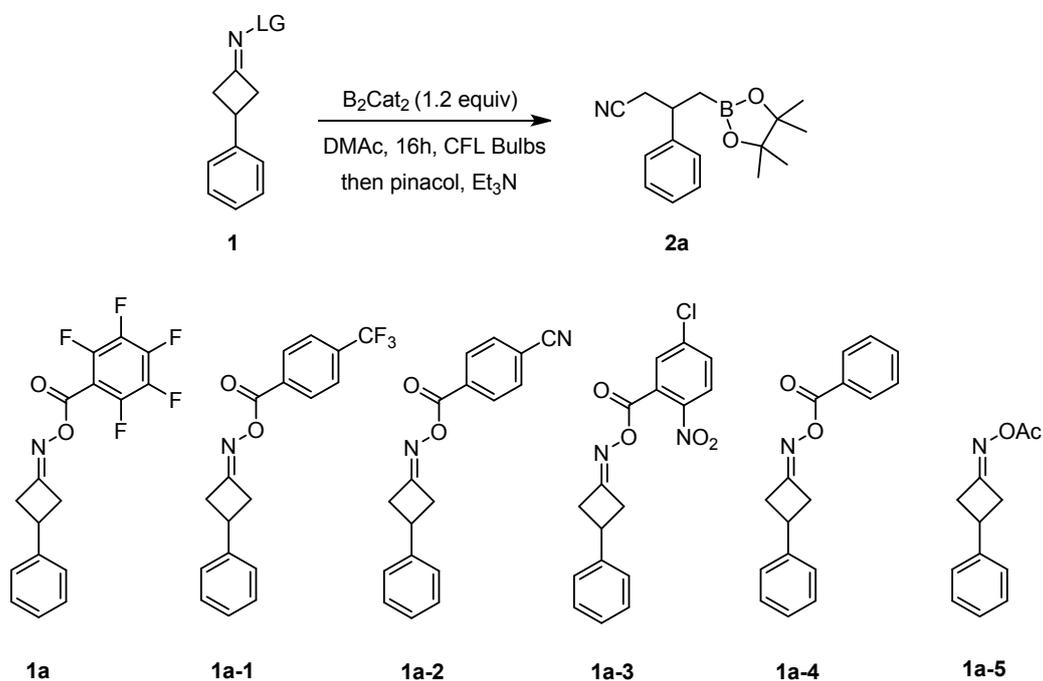
Optimization of Reaction Conditions

General Procedure

A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) under a nitrogen atmosphere, boron source and additives. Then 2.0 mL solvent were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred under the irradiation of two 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs or without irradiation at room temperature for 16 h. Pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et₃N (0.7 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. The mixture was then quenched with H₂O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (5 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), and then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure. Then the internal standard dibromomethane (0.2 mmol) was added into the crude product mixture for the NMR yield study.

Table S1 Optimization of the reaction conditions.

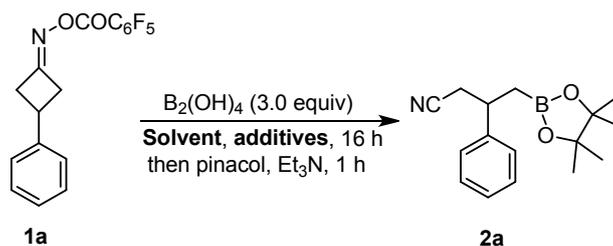
Leaving Group^a



Entry	1	Yield ^b (%)
1	1a	52
2	1a-1	48
3	1a-2	10
4	1a-3	15
5	1a-4	trace
6	1a-5	trace

^a Reaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), B₂cat₂ (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), in 2.0 mL of DMAc at room temperature were irradiated by two 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs for 16 h under N₂; pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et₃N (0.7 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. ^b NMR yields using CH₂Br₂ as internal standard.

Solvents and Additives^a



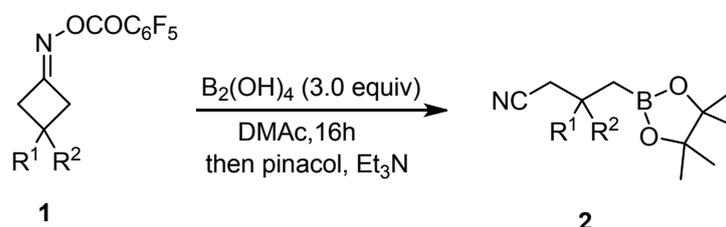
Entry	Solvent	Additives (equiv.)	Yield ^b (%)
1	NMP	-	66
2	DMF	-	52
3	MeCN	-	20
4	acetone	-	15
5	DCM	-	NR
6	DCM	DMAc (1.0)	trace
7	DMAc	4-phenylpyridine (1.0)	56
8	DMAc	4-cyanopyridine (1.0)	trace ^c
9	DMAc	DMAP (1.0)	63
10	DMAc	Cs_2CO_3 (1.0)	26

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{B}_2(\text{OH})_4$ (0.60 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), additives, in 2.0 mL of solvent at room temperature for 16 h under N_2 ; then pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et_3N (0.7 mL), was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. ^b NMR yields using CH_2Br_2 as internal standard. ^c 3-Phenylbutanenitrile was observed as a major product.

Representative Procedure for the Borylation of Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters **1a-t**

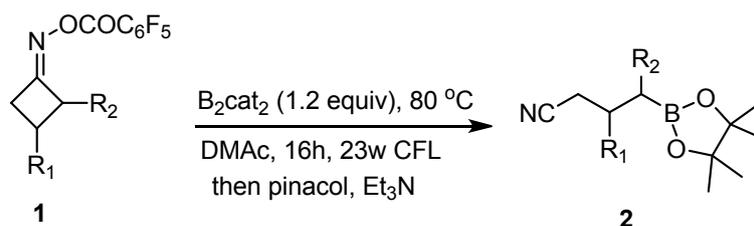
Oximes

For Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters **1a-t**



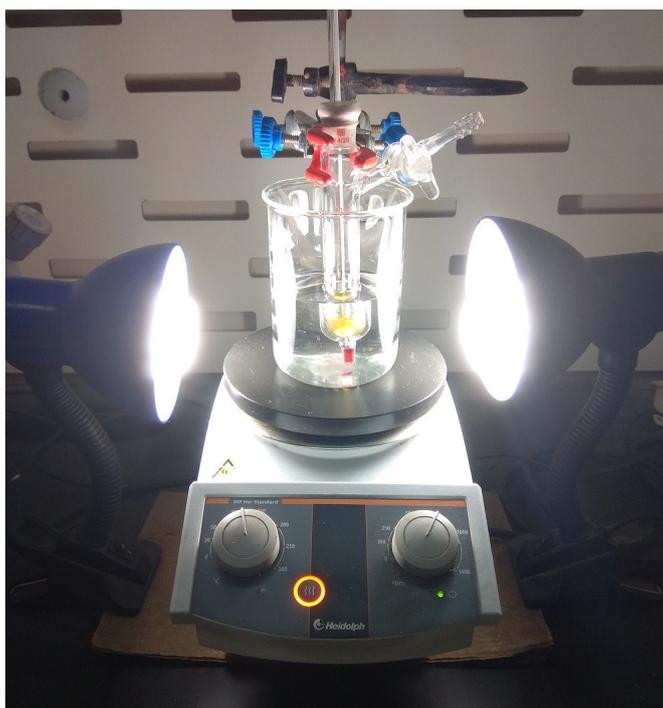
A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), B₂(OH)₄ (0.60 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). Then 2.0 mL of DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. Pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et₃N (0.7 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. The mixture was then quenched with H₂O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/15 to 1/5) to give the corresponding products **2a-t** in Table 2, **7a-c** in Figure 2.

For Cyclobutanone Oxime Esters **1u** and **1v**

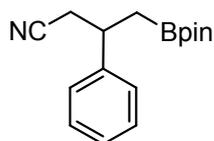


A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), B_2Cat_2 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and additives. Then 2.0 mL of DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred under the irradiation of two 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs at 80 °C for 16 h. Pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et_3N (0.7 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/15 to 1/5) to give the corresponding products **2u** and **2v** in eqs (1) and (2).

Picture of Reaction Set-Up

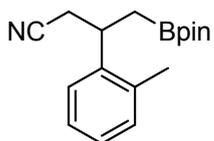


Characterization of Products 2



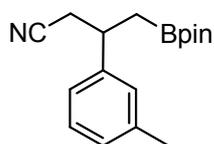
3-Phenyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2a):

Colorless oil (75%, 40.7 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.36 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 3.30 – 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.66 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.12 (s, 6H), 1.09 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.3, 128.6, 127.2, 127.0, 118.7, 83.4, 38.0, 26.9, 24.7, 24.6 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2977, 2927, 2245, 1369, 1141, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 272.1816, found 272.1810.



4-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3-(*o*-tolyl)butanenitrile (2b):

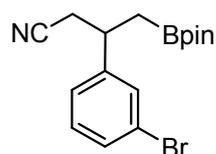
Colorless oil (71%, 41 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.25 – 7.08 (m, 4H), 3.60 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 2.60 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.43 – 1.32 (m, 2H), 1.07 (s, 6H), 1.03 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 141.4, 135.6, 130.4, 126.8, 126.5, 125.3, 118.8, 83.3, 32.7, 26.2, 24.6, 24.5, 19.6; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2926, 2246, 1370, 1142, 733, 702 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1973, found 286.1967.



4-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3-(*m*-tolyl)butanenitrile (2c):

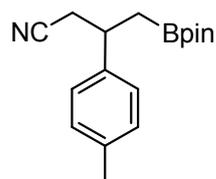
Colorless oil (78%, 44.4 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.19 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 7.02 (m, 3H), 3.26 – 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.65 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.42 – 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.12 (s, 6H), 1.10 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.3, 138.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 123.9, 118.8, 83.4, 37.9, 26.7, 24.7, 24.6, 21.4 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2977, 2927, 2245, 1368, 1141,

702 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1973, found 286.1970.



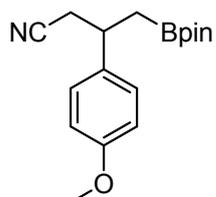
3-(3-Bromophenyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile

(2d): Colorless oil (60%, 42 mg); R_f 0.30 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 3.28 – 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.68 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 16.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.39 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.14 (s, 6H), 1.11 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 145.6, 130.3, 130.2, 125.6, 122.6, 118.4, 83.6, 37.8, 26.4, 24.7, 24.6 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2977, 2928, 2360, 2246, 1372, 1143 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{BBrNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 350.0921, found 350.0920.



4-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (2e):

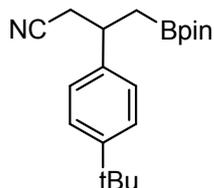
Colorless oil (78%, 44.5 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.14 (m, 4H), 3.29 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 16.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 16.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.38 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 1.13 (s, 6H), 1.11 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 140.4, 136.7, 129.3, 126.8, 118.8, 83.4, 37.6, 26.9, 24.7, 24.6, 21.0 ppm; IR (KBr): ν_{max} 2977, 2927, 2245, 1368, 1142, 813 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1973, found 286.1965.



3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-

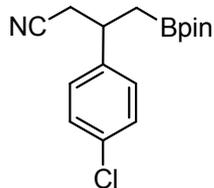
yl)butanenitrile (2f): Colorless oil (72%, 44 mg); R_f 0.30 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:5); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.18 (dd, J = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (dd, J = 6.8,

2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.28 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dd, $J = 16.4, 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.59 (dd, $J = 16.8, 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.34 – 1.29 (m, 2H), 1.13 (s, 6H), 1.11 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 158.6, 135.5, 128.0, 118.8, 113.9, 83.4, 55.3, 37.2, 27.2, 24.7, 24.6$; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2926, 2242, 1514, 1372, 1250, 1143 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 302.1922, found 302.1923.



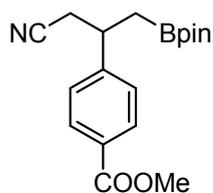
3-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-

yl)butanenitrile (2g): White solid (76%, 49.7 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.34 - 7.30$ (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 3.30 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.65 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.42 – 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.10 (s, 6H), 1.09 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 150.0, 140.3, 126.6, 125.4, 118.9, 83.3, 37.5, 34.4, 31.3, 26.8, 25.0, 24.6$ ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2966, 2241, 1367, 1144, 832 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 328.2442, found 328.2459.

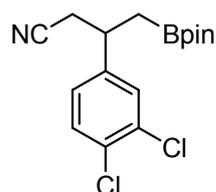


3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile

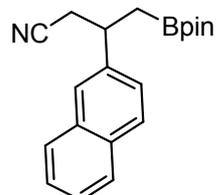
(2h): Colorless oil (61%, 37.2 mg); R_f 0.30 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.29$ (dd, $J = 6.6, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 6.8, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.31 – 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.65 (dd, $J = 16.8, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, $J = 16.4, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.39 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 1.15 (s, 6H), 1.13 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 141.8, 132.9, 128.7, 128.4, 118.4, 83.5, 37.4, 26.7, 25.0, 24.7, 24.5$ ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2978, 2930, 2245, 1370, 1141, 826 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{BClNaNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 328.1246, found 328.1257.



Methyl-4-(1-cyano-3-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)propan-2-yl)benzoate (2i): Colorless oil (30%, 22.6 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.99 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.35 – 3.27 (m, 1H), 2.69 (dd, J = 18.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 16.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.41 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 1.11 (s, 6H), 1.08 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 166.7, 148.5, 130.0, 129.1, 127.1, 118.2, 83.5, 52.0, 38.0, 26.4, 24.7, 24.5 ppm; IR (KBr): ν_{max} 2978, 2245, 1718, 1276, 1141, 844 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 330.1871, found 330.1863.

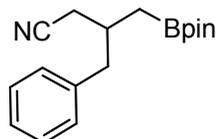


3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2j): Colorless oil (48%, 31.1 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 3.92 – 3.81 (m, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.15 (s, 6H), 1.10 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 142.7, 133.4, 131.9, 129.2, 127.5, 125.8, 118.0, 83.6, 34.3, 24.8, 24.7, 24.5 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2923, 2247, 1371, 1141, 845 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{BCl}_2\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 340.1037, found 340.1048.



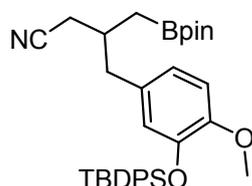
3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2k): Colorless oil (75%, 48.2 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 4.27 – 4.12 (m, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H),

2.77 (dd, $J = 16.6, 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.63 – 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.08 (s, 6H), 0.99 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 139.2, 133.9, 130.9, 129.1, 127.7, 126.3, 125.6, 125.4, 123.3, 122.6, 118.7, 83.4, 31.9, 26.1, 24.6, 24.5$ ppm; IR (neat): $\nu_{\text{max}} 2976, 2360, 2245, 1141, 778, 734$ cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{BNNaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 344.1792, found 344.1789.



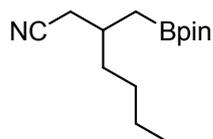
3-Benzyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2l):

Colorless oil (65%, 37.1 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.30$ (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 2.78 (dd, $J = 13.8, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, $J = 13.6, 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.18 (m, 3H), 1.25 (s, 12H), 1.01 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 139.2, 129.2, 128.5, 126.5, 118.9, 83.4, 42.1, 33.8, 24.9, 24.8, 23.1$ ppm; IR (KBr): $\nu_{\text{max}} 2977, 2926, 2245, 1371, 1141, 700$ cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1973, found 286.1970.



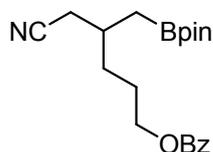
3-(3-((tert-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-4-methoxybenzyl)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2m):

White solid (42%, 45.6 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.72 - 7.66$ (m, 4H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 6.63 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.64 (dd, $J = 13.8, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, $J = 13.6, 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 2.18 – 2.05 (m, 1H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 1.11 (s, 9H), 0.94 (dd, $J = 7.0, 3.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 150.4, 143.6, 135.4, 133.6, 132.4, 129.5, 127.4, 121.0, 120.1, 119.0, 113.1, 83.4, 55.3, 41.7, 33.8, 26.7, 24.9, 24.8, 22.9, 19.7$ ppm; IR (neat): $\nu_{\text{max}} 2928, 2856, 2246, 1514, 1112, 800$ cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{44}\text{BNNaO}_4\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 592.3025, found 592.3035.



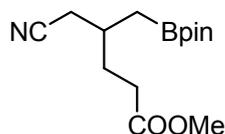
3-((4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)methyl)heptanenitrile (2n):

Colorless oil (62%, 31.1 mg); R_f 0.4 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.40 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.0 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.48 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 1.36 – 1.28 (m, 4H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 0.96 – 0.89 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 119.2, 83.3, 35.6, 31.6, 28.9, 24.8, 23.9, 22.6, 14.0 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2958, 2927, 2857, 2360, 2245, 1373, 1144 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{27}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 252.2129, found 252.2127.



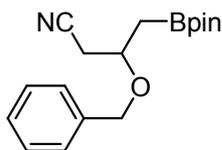
5-Cyano-4-((4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)methyl)pentyl benzoate (2o):

Colorless oil (70%, 50.0 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.06 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 4.31 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.12 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.67 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.22 (s, 12H), 1.01 – 0.98 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 166.5, 132.9, 130.2, 129.5, 128.3, 118.8, 83.4, 64.63, 32.3, 31.4, 26.1, 24.8, 23.9 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2977, 2245, 1716, 1270, 721 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{BNNaO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 380.2004, found 380.2008.



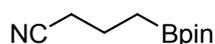
Methyl-5-cyano-4-((4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-

yl)methyl)pentanoate (2p): Colorless oil (38%, 21.4 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.05 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 1.03 – 0.90 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 173.4, 118.7, 83.5, 51.7, 31.5, 31.1, 31.0, 24.8, 23.71 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2977, 2927, 2245, 1734, 1371, 1141, 845 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{BNNaO}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 304.1691, found 304.1691.



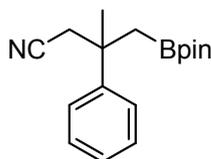
3-(Benzyloxy)-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2q):

Colorless oil (58%, 34.9 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 4.59 (dd, J = 25.4, 11.4 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.90 (m, 1H), 2.69 (dd, J = 16.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.37 – 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 137.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 118.0, 83.6, 72.4, 71.2, 25.0, 24.8, 24.7 ppm; IR (KBr): ν_{max} 2978, 2249, 1371, 1142, 697 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{BNNaO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 324.1741, found 324.1732.



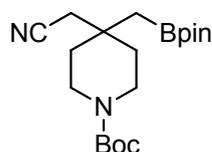
4-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile (2r):

Colorless oil (85%, 33.1 mg); R_f 0.4 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 119.9, 83.4, 24.8, 20.4, 19.1 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2978, 2929, 2360, 2245, 1373, 1320, 1143, 780 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{19}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 196.1503, found 196.1496.

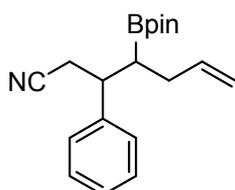


3-Methyl-3-phenyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)butanenitrile

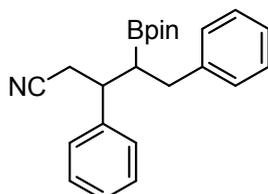
(2s): White solid (76%, 43.3 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 23.2, 16.4 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.43 (dd, J = 24.4, 15.6 Hz, 2H), 1.08 (s, 6H), 1.06 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 146.2, 128.4, 126.6, 125.4, 118.7, 83.2, 38.4, 32.5, 28.1, 24.6, 24.5 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2975, 2248, 1334, 700 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1973, found 286.1969.



***tert*-Butyl-4-(cyanomethyl)-4-((4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)methyl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (2t):** Colorless oil (34%, 24.8 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.52 (m, 2H), 3.31 – 3.19 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 2H), 1.54 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 4H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 1.10 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 154.8, 118.1, 83.4, 79.6, 36.1, 33.1, 28.4, 25.0, 24.8, 22.7, 14.1 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2924, 2246, 1690, 1365, 1143 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{34}\text{BN}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 365.2606, found 365.2616.

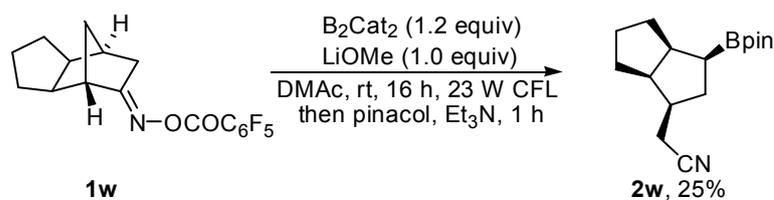


3-Phenyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)hept-6-enenitrile (2u): Colorless oil (40%, 24.9 mg); R_f 0.30 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); the title compound as a 1.6:1 mixture of inseparable diastereomers; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 5.90 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.15 – 4.85 (m, 2H), 3.11 – 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.84 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.38 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.90 (m, 2 H), 1.68 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.27 (s, 7.5H), 0.97 (s, 4.5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 142.0, 141.6, 136.9, 136.7, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 118.8, 118.6, 116.3, 116.1, 83.75, 83.3, 42.8, 42.7, 33.7, 25.0, 24.8, 24.6, 24.5, 23.7 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 3734, 2924, 2245, 1373, 1141, 700 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 312.2129, found 312.2130.

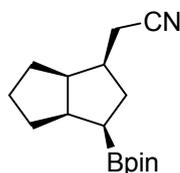


3,5-Diphenyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)pentanenitrile (2v): White solid (42%, 30.3 mg); R_f 0.30 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); the title compound as a 1.9:1 mixture of inseparable diastereomers; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.40 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.07 (m, 5H), 3.12 – 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.96 – 2.54 (m, 4H), 2.02 – 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3.9H), 1.09 (s, 3.9H), 0.85 (s, 2.1H), 0.77 (s, 2.1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 141.8, 141.6, 140.7, 140.4, 128.9, 128.8,

128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 126.2, 126.0, 118.7, 118.5, 83.6, 83.2, 43.8, 43.7, 35.8, 35.7, 24.9, 24.7, 24.5, 24.4, 24.3, 24.1 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 2925, 2245, 1139, 1018, 798, 698 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 362.2286, found 362.2282.

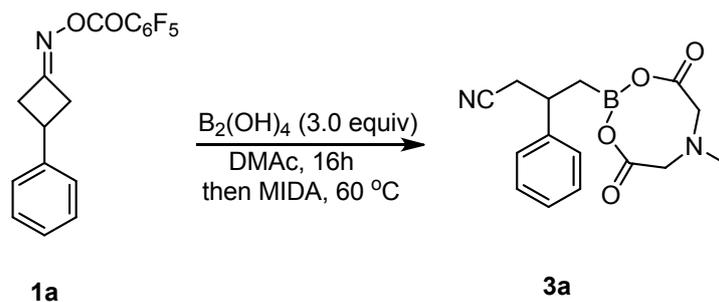


A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1w** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), B_2Cat_2 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and LiOMe (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). Then 2.0 mL of DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred under the irradiation of two 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs at room temperature for 16 h. Pinacol (0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) dissolved in Et_3N (0.7 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc /petroleum ether: 1/15 to 1/5) to give the corresponding products **2w** in eq (3).



2-(3-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)octahydropentalen-1-

yl)acetonitrile (2w): Colorless oil (25%, 13.8 mg); R_f 0.4 (EtOAc /petroleum ether = 1:10); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.60 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.47 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.97 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.44 (m, 6H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 0.93 – 0.84 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 119.3, 83.0, 49.9, 46.9, 45.5, 36.9, 33.1, 32.1, 24.8, 24.7, 24.6, 21.9 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2934, 2360, 2343, 1507, 1144, 668 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{BNNaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 298.1949, found 298.1961.

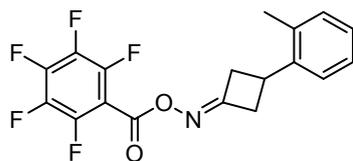


A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1a** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $B_2(OH)_4$ (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). Then 2.0 mL of DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. Methyliminodiacetic acid (MIDA, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc) to give the corresponding product **3a** in Scheme 1.

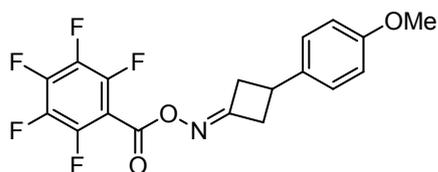
4-(6-Methyl-4,8-dioxo-1,3,6,2-dioxazaborocan-2-yl)-3-phenylbutanenitrile (3a):

White solid (60%, 36 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc); 1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ = 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 4.18 (dd, J = 19.8, 17.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (dd, J = 32.2, 17.0 Hz, 2H), 3.10 – 3.03 (m, 1H), 2.82 – 2.78 (m, 5H), 1.04 – 1.02 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*6): δ = 169.4, 169.3, 145.8, 128.8, 127.6, 127.1, 120.0, 62.0, 61.9, 46.0, 38.2, 25.9 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2920, 2247, 1741, 1309, 1022, 859, 697 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{18}BN_2O_4$ $[M+H]^+$ 301.1354, found 301.1357.

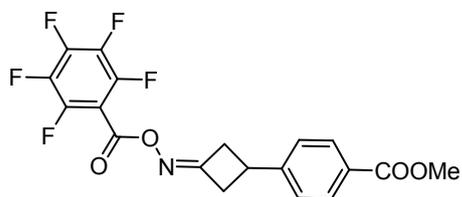
Characterization of Substrates



3-(*o*-Tolyl)cyclobutanone *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1b): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.30 - 7.12$ (m, 4H), 3.83 – 3.77 (m, 1H), 3.59 – 3.52 (m, 2H), 3.31 – 3.16 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.9, 156.4, 146.6, 144.1, 139.6, 139.0, 136.3, 135.9, 130.5, 126.9, 126.2, 124.5, 38.2, 37.8, 30.0, 19.6$; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -137.02 - -137.13$ (m, 2F), $-147.61 - -147.72$ (m, 1F), $-159.78 - -159.94$ (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2930, 2250, 1745, 1494, 994, 753 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 370.0861, found 370.0866.

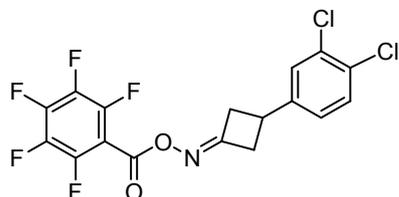


3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)cyclobutanone *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1f): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.23 - 7.14$ (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.68 – 3.62 (m, 1H), 3.58 – 3.48 (m, 2H), 3.26 – 3.09 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 168.2, 158.5, 156.6, 146.7, 144.0, 138.8, 136.6, 134.6, 127.3, 114.1, 55.3, 39.9, 39.5, 31.6$; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -137.02 - -137.13$ (m, 2F), $-147.60 - -147.71$ (m, 1F), $-159.76 - -159.92$ (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2924, 2358, 1742, 1494, 1000, 827 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_5\text{NNaO}_3^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 408.0630, found 408.0628.

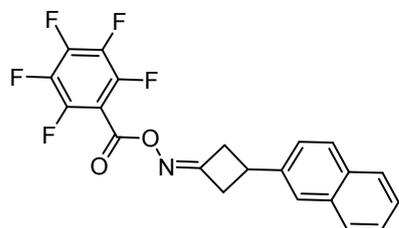


Methyl 4-(3-(((perfluorobenzoyl)oxy)imino)cyclobutyl)benzoate (1i): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.03$ (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 10.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.84 – 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.68 – 3.51 (m, 2H), 3.35 – 3.06 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.29, 166.66, 156.50, 147.64, 146.73, 144.04, 142.19, 136.46, 130.09$,

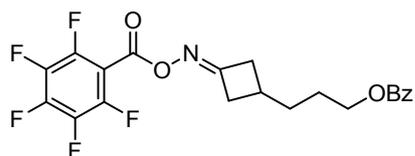
129.0, 126.3, 52.1, 39.5, 39.1, 32.3. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -136.97$ (m, 2F), $-147.30 - -147.47$ (m, 1F), $-159.64 - -159.86$ (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2960, 1714, 1491, 1001, 704 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_4^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 414.0759, found 414.0763.



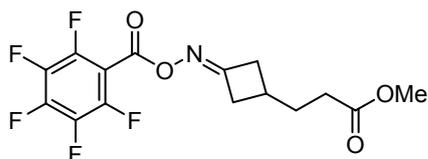
3-(2,3-Dichlorophenyl)cyclobutanone *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1j): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 7.40$ (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.69 – 3.47 (m, 2H), 3.33 – 3.08 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.0$, 156.4, 144.1, 142.3, 141.3, 139, 136.4, 133.7, 132.1, 129.1, 128.9, 127.4, 127.3, 124.6, 53.0, 38.2, 37.5, 31.3, 27.5. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -135.42 - -137.07$ (m, 2F), $-145.92 - -147.65$ (m, 1F), $-158.11 - -159.82$ (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2928, 2253, 1759, 1495, 1324, 1200, 728 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_9\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 423.9925, found 423.9932.



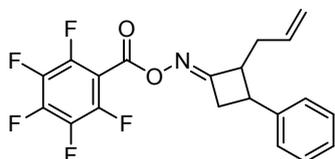
3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)cyclobutanone *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1k): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 8.07 - 7.71$ (m, 3H), 7.52 (m, 4H), 4.34 (m, 1H), 3.84 – 3.59 (m, 2H), 3.49 – 3.26 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = 167.9$, 156.6, 146.7, 144.1, 142.2, 137.2, 133.9, 131.1, 129.0, 127.8, 126.4, 126.0, 125.3, 123.3, 122.3, 38.4, 37.8, 30.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -136.88 - -136.97$ (m, 2F), $-147.38 - -147.58$ (m, 1F), $-159.69 - -159.81$ (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2924, 2361, 1760, 1497, 1325, 1203, 1002, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 406.0861, found 406.0855.



3-(3-(((Perfluorobenzoyl)oxy)imino)cyclobutyl)propyl benzoate (1o): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.03 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (m, 2H), 2.81 – 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.50 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.63 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 168.9, 166.5, 156.6, 146.6, 144.0, 142.1, 138.9, 136.0, 133.0, 130.1, 129.5, 128.4, 64.3, 37.6, 37.2, 32.43, 27.86, 26.60; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -136.15 – -137.30 (m, 2F), -147.82 – -147.99 (m, 1F), -159.63 – -160.26 (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2940, 2253, 1715, 1497, 1274, 906, 710 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_4^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 442.1072, found 442.1070.



Methyl 3-(3-(((perfluorobenzoyl)oxy)imino)cyclobutyl)propanoate (1p): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 3.20 (m, 2H), 2.77 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.54 – 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.32 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.89 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 173.2, 168.5, 156.5, 146.6, 144.0, 51.7, 37.4, 37.0, 31.7, 30.9, 27.60. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -136.26 – -137.23 (m, 2F), -147.72 (m, 1F), -159.80 – -160.12 (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2954, 2253, 1738, 1505, 1207, 851 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_5\text{NNaO}_4^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 388.0579, found 388.0579.

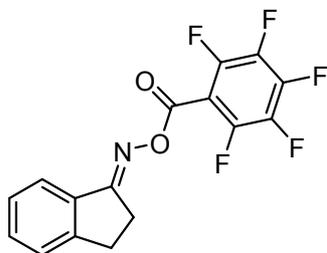


2-Allyl-3-phenylcyclobutanone O-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1u): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.50 – 7.15 (m, 5H), 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.12 (m, 2H), 3.58 – 3.42 (m, 2H), 3.40 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.77 – 2.53 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 170.8, 156.6, 146.6, 144.3, 144.0, 142.1, 139.0, 136.5, 134.0, 128.7, 127.0, 126.5, 117.8, 53.0, 38.6, 37.0, 35.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -137.08 – -

137.20 (m, 2F), -147.74 – -147.85 (m, 1F), -159.64 – -159.98 (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 2924, 1757, 1495, 1324, 1204, 994 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 396.1017, found 396.1017.

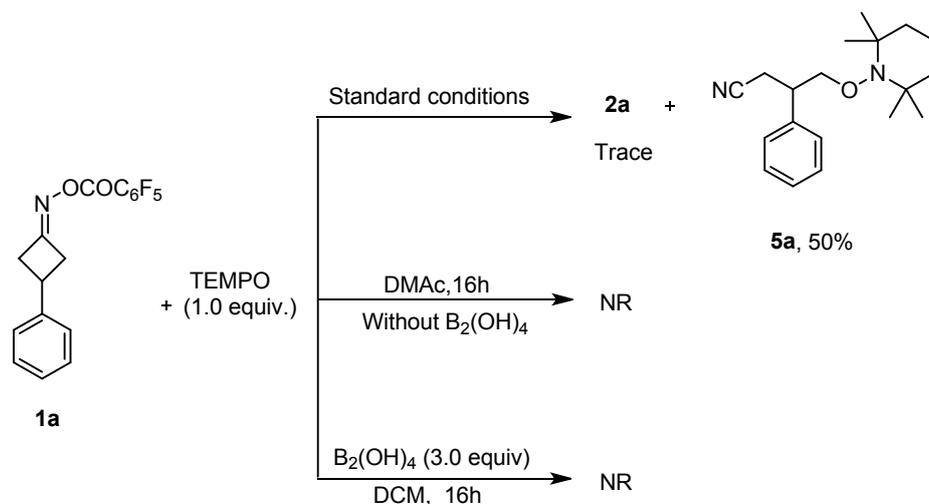


2-Phenylcyclopentan-1-one *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1x) : ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.84 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 178.9, 156.7, 144.5, 143.9, 142.0, 139.6, 138.9, 136.5, 136.4, 136.2, 128.6, 127.8, 126.9, 107.2, 49.4, 34.7, 30.4, 22.4; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -137.17 – -137.33 (m, 2F), -148.16 – -148.27 (m, 1F), -160.04 – -160.15 (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 2970, 1651, 1523, 1048, 808 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 370.0861, found 370.0854.



2,3-Dihydro-1H-inden-1-one *O*-perfluorobenzoyl oxime (1y) : ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.94 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.14 – 3.08 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 172.6, 152.6, 150.3, 146.8, 144.7, 144.2, 142.1, 139.0, 138.9, 136.5, 133.5, 132.7, 127.4, 125.7, 123.4, 107.3, 107.1, 28.5, 28.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -136.99 – -137.07 (m, 2F), -147.76 – -147.89 (m, 1F), -159.86 – -160.02 (m, 2F) ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 1637, 1526, 1465, 982, 732 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_9\text{F}_5\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 342.0548, found 342.0544.

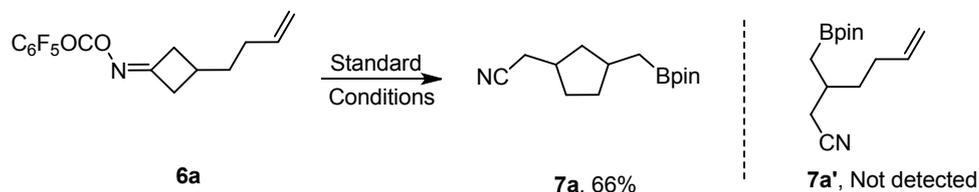
Investigation of the Reaction Mechanism



When TEMPO, a typical radical scavenger was added to the reaction of **1a** with boron source, no **2a** was obtained. While the alkyl-TEMPO adduct **5a** was isolated in 50% yield. In addition, the reaction of TEMPO with **1a** in the absence of boron source or DMAC results no reaction. These results suggest that alkyl radical intermediate might be involved, $B_2(OH)_4$ and solvent played the important roles in this transformation.

3-Phenyl-4-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-piperidin-1-yloxy)-butyronitrile (**5a**):³

Colorless oil (50%, 30 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.36-7.24 (m, 5H), 3.98 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.26-3.20 (m, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.26 (s, 2H), 1.11-1.07 (m, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 139.2, 128.7, 127.6, 127.5, 118.7, 78.1, 60.0, 42.0, 39.7, 33.0, 25.0, 21.1, 20.2, 20.1, 17.0 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{max} 2926, 2246, 1454, 1360, 1261, 799, 760, 698 cm^{-1} ;

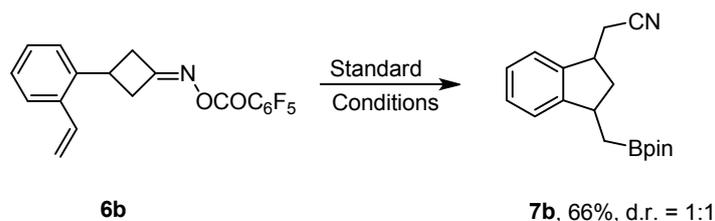


Treatment of a radical-clock substrate **6a** under the standard conditions furnished the ring-closing product **7a** in 66% yield with no linear coupling product detected.

2-(3-((4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)methyl)cyclopentyl)acetonitrile (**7a**):

Colorless oil (66%, 33 mg); R_f 0.4 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); 1H NMR

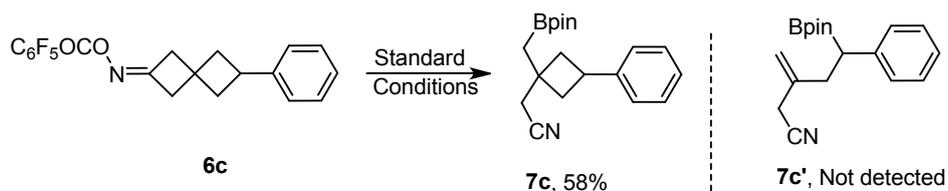
(400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.37 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.27 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 2.00 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.24 (s, 12H), 1.21 – 1.10 (m, 1H), 0.88 – 0.82 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 119.5, 83.0, 41.9, 40.1, 36.3, 36.2, 35.2, 35.0, 34.6, 33.7, 32.4, 31.1, 25.0, 24.8, 23.4, 23.2 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 2926, 2247, 1735, 1371, 1144, 847 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₇BNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 250.1973, found 250.1970.



Similarly, oxime ester **6b** with an *o*-vinylphenyl substituent at the 3-position reacted well to deliver the cyanoalkyl boronic ester **7b** in 66% yield via a ring-opening/cyclization/borylation cascade.

2-(3-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-

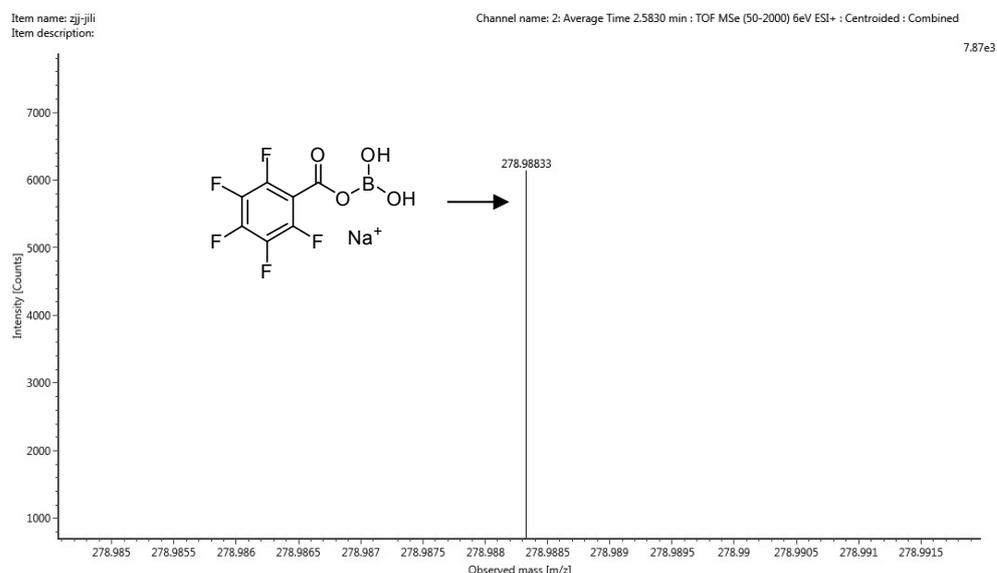
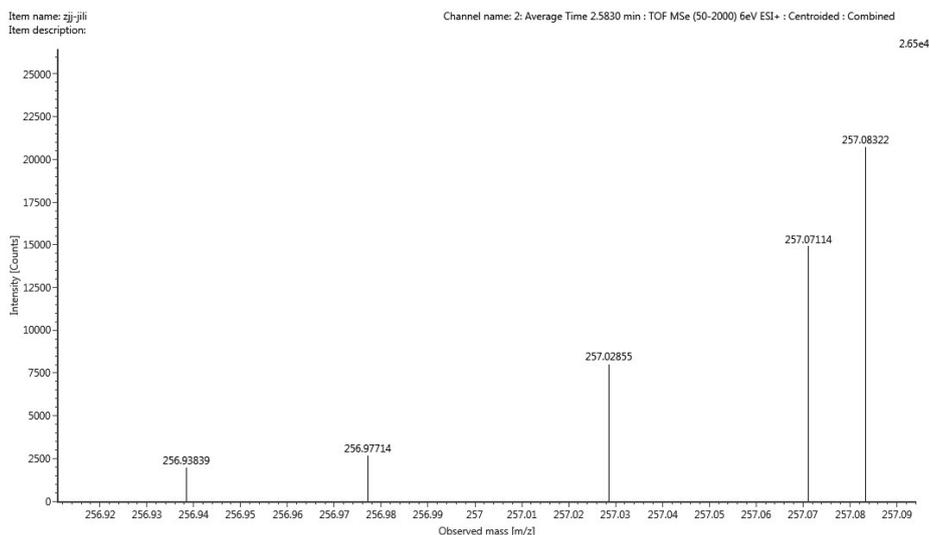
yl)acetonitrile (**7b**): Colorless oil (66%, 37 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); the title compound as a 1:1 mixture of inseparable diastereomers; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 3.56 – 3.48 (m, 0.5H), 3.40 (m, 0.5H), 3.33 – 3.22 (m, 0.5H), 2.83 (m, 0.5H), 2.77 – 2.65 (m, 0.5H), 2.63 – 2.46 (m, 1.5H), 2.24 – 2.12 (m, 0.5H), 2.08 – 1.98 (m, 0.5H), 1.40 (m, 1.5H), 1.28 (s, 6H), 1.23 (s, 6H), 1.00 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.8, 148.6, 142.9, 142.89, 127.8, 127.5, 126.8, 126.6, 124.0, 123.7, 123.5, 122.5, 119.0, 118.8, 83.3, 41.8, 40.4, 40.0, 39.8, 39.1, 38.5, 24.9, 24.7, 23.1, 22.30 ppm; IR (neat): ν_{\max} 2979, 2922, 2244, 1362, 1142, 763 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₅BNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 298.1973, found 298.1970.



Treatment of a radical-block substrate **6c** under the standard conditions furnished the unexpected product **7c** in 58% yield with no further ring-opened product detected.

2-(3-Phenyl-1-((4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)methyl)cyclobutyl)acetonitrile (7c): Colorless oil (58%, 36 mg); R_f 0.35 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); the title compound as a 1.3:1 mixture of inseparable diastereomers; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.36 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 3.63 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 2.78 (s, 1H), 2.62 (s, 1H), 2.49 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.36 – 2.10 (m, 3H), 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.26 (s, 6H), 1.23 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 145.0, 144.9, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 126.1, 126.0, 125.9, 119.2, 118.8, 83.4, 83.3, 40.78, 40.58, 39.9, 39.8, 34.68, 33.7, 32.9, 30.2, 28.7, 24.8 ppm. IR (neat): ν_{max} 2929, 2244, 1363, 1142, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{BNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 312.2129, found 312.2134.

HRMS of ArCOOB(OH)_2



UV-Vis spectrum of Cyclobutanone Oxime **1u** and B₂Cat₂.

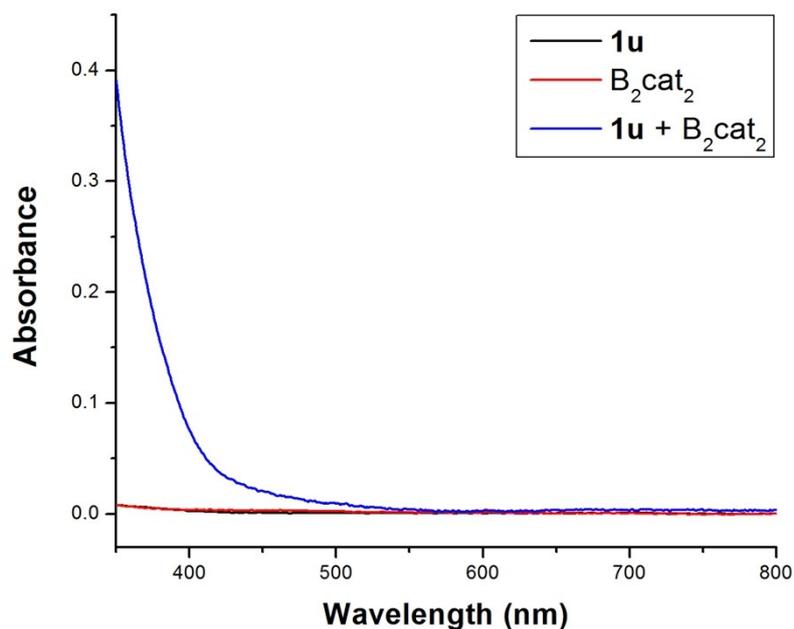


Fig 1. UV-Vis data from Cyclobutanone Oxime **1u** and B₂Cat₂.

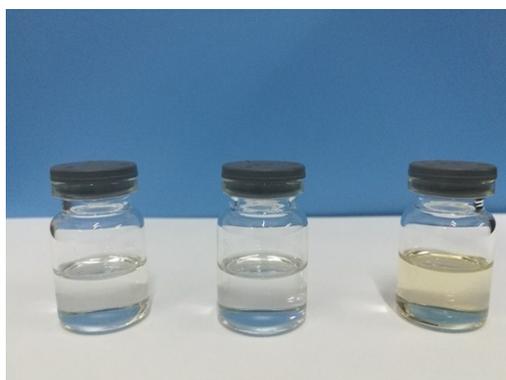
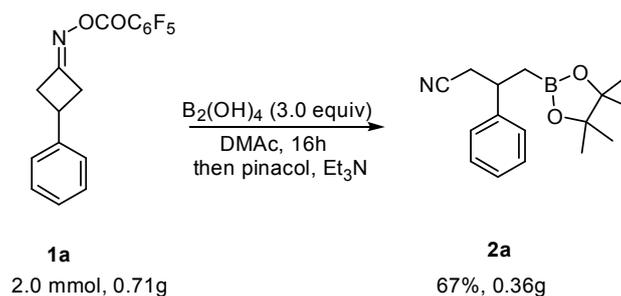


Fig 2. (left) Cyclobutanone Oxime **1u** in DMAc at 0.1 M (center) B₂Cat₂ in DMAc at 0.1 M
(right) mixture of **1u** and B₂Cat₂ in DMAc at 0.1 M.

Fig 1 shows the UV-Vis spectrum of cyclobutanone oxime **1u**, B₂Cat₂, and mixture of **1u** and B₂Cat₂. All data was measured in solvent of DMAc at 0.1 M with respect to **1u** and 0.125 M with respect to B₂Cat₂. From the results of measurement, the mixture of **1u** and B₂cat₂ have a clearly absorbance within the visible range, but nearly no absorbance were present in the separate compounds. Furthermore, there was no visible color change when **1u** and B₂Cat₂ were dissolved in DMAc separately, but the mixture of them have a very pale yellow color just like showed in Fig 2. These results

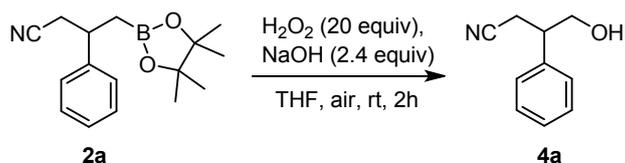
implied that direct photolysis of B_2Cat_2 accounts partly for the formation of **2u** and **2v**.

Representative Procedure for Synthesis of 2a on Gram Scale



A 50 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1a** (2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $B_2(OH)_4$ (6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). Then 20 mL solvent were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. Pinacol (8 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was dissolved in Et_3N (7 mL), added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 1 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O (10 mL) and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (15 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), and then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (50 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/15 to 1/10) to give the corresponding product **2a** in 67% yield.

Representative Procedure for the Oxidation/Hydrolysis of 2a

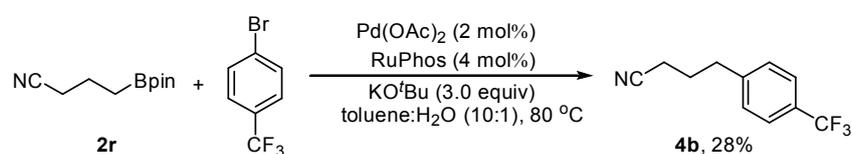


According to a literature procedure⁴: **2a** (0.2 mmol) was dissolved in THF (4.0 mL), then $NaOH$ (1M, 0.5 mL, 2.4 equiv.) and H_2O_2 (30% H_2O solution, 0.16 mL, 20.0 equiv.) were added sequentially. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours, the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/3 to 1/1) to give colorless oil **4a** in 80% yield.

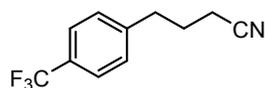
4-hydroxy-3-phenylbutanenitrile (4a): Colorless oil (80%, 25.6 mg); R_f 0.30

(EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:5); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 3.96 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.23 – 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.86 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, J = 17.0, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 138.66, 129.09, 127.97, 127.48, 118.46, 65.22, 44.22, 20.45 ppm. IR (neat): ν_{max} 2923, 2360, 2248, 1020, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 162.0913, found 162.0917.

Representative Procedure for the Cross Coupling of Cyanoalkylboronic Esters

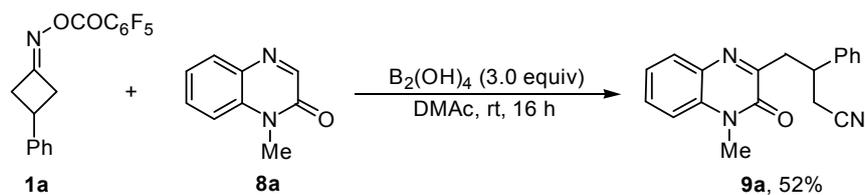


A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **2r** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.004 mmol, 2 mol%), RuPhos (0.008 mmol, 4 mol%) and KO^tBu (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv). Then, the tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). After that, 2 mL of solvent (toluene:H₂O=10:1, 0.1 M) followed by 4-bromobenzotrifluoride (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added by syringe under nitrogen. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 80 °C. The mixture was then cooled down to room temperature, quenched with water and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), the organic phases were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give product **4b** in 28% yield.



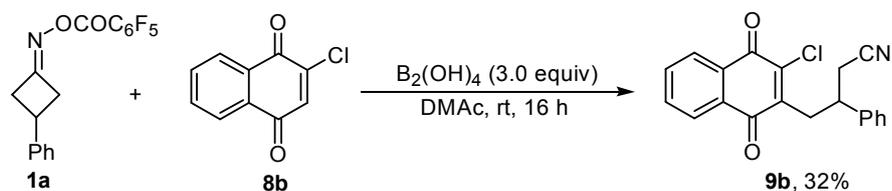
4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butanenitrile (4b): (known compound)⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.01 (q, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 143.8, 128.8, 125.7, 125.6, 119.1, 34.1, 26.6, 16.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = -62.47.

Synthetic Applications



General procedure: A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1a** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **8a** (0.30 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $B_2(OH)_4$ (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). Then 2.0 mL DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/3 to 1/1) to give faint yellow solid **9a** in 52% yield.

4-(4-methyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydroquinoxalin-2-yl)-3-phenylbutanenitrile (9a**):**^{6a} faint yellow solid (52%, 31.5 mg); R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:2); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ = 7.83 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 3.95 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.41 (m, 2H), 2.82 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.4, 154.8, 141.6, 133.0, 132.4, 130.1, 129.8, 128.8, 127.4, 127.3, 123.7, 118.5, 113.6, 38.8, 38.5, 29.1, 24.30 ppm.



General procedure: A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with **1a** (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **8b** (0.30 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), $B_2(OH)_4$ (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). Then 2.0 mL DMAc were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was then quenched with H_2O and transferred to a separatory funnel with EtOAc (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc

(3 x 10 mL), then the organic phases were combined and washed with brine (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/10 to 1/5) to give yellow liquid **9b** in 32% yield.

4-(3-Chloro-1,4-dioxo-1,4-dihydro-naphthalen-2-yl)-3-phenyl-butyronitrile (9b):

^{6b} Yellow liquid (32%, 19.0 mg); R_f 0.3 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:5); ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.12 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.75 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 3.56 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.31 – 3.22 (m, 2H), 2.75 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 182.2, 177.2, 144.8, 140.1, 134.4, 134.1, 131.3, 131.1, 128.9, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 118.1, 40.8, 34.4, 24.1 ppm.

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- 6 (a) Y.-R. Gu, X.-H. Duan, L. Yang and L.-N. Guo, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 5908; (b) L. Yang, P. Gao, X.-H. Duan, Y.-R. Gu and L.-N. Guo, *Org. Lett.*, 2018, **20**, 1034.

DFT Computational Study

All of relevant geometries were fully optimized by using M06-2X density functional theory (DFT) in conjunction with self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) method. The standard 6-31+G(d,p) basis set were used in computations. After geometry optimization, harmonic vibrational analyses were performed at the same level to confirm that each minimum has no imaginary frequency or each transition state (TS) has only one imaginary frequency. The minimum energy path (MEP) was also traced by using intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) method to ensure that each TS structure correctly links with two minima. The implicit CPCM solvent model was adopted to evaluate solvent effect on the reaction in n,n-dimethylacetamide (DMAc, $\epsilon = 37.781$). To describe the reaction in the solvent, the contribution of the transitional entropy is negligible because the translational motion would be quenched in the solvent. Therefore, the reported relative Gibbs free energy of each species was obtained by using the formula $\Delta G(T) = \Delta H(T) + T(\Delta S_{\text{rot}}(T) + \Delta S_{\text{vib}}(T))$. All computations were fulfilled with Gaussian 09 program.⁶ All 3-D structures were generated by CYLview program.⁷

6 Gaussian 09, Revision D.01, M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, Ö. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D. J. Fox, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, (2009).

7 CYLview, 1.0b; Legault, C. Y. Université de Sherbrooke, 2009, (<http://www.cylview.org>).

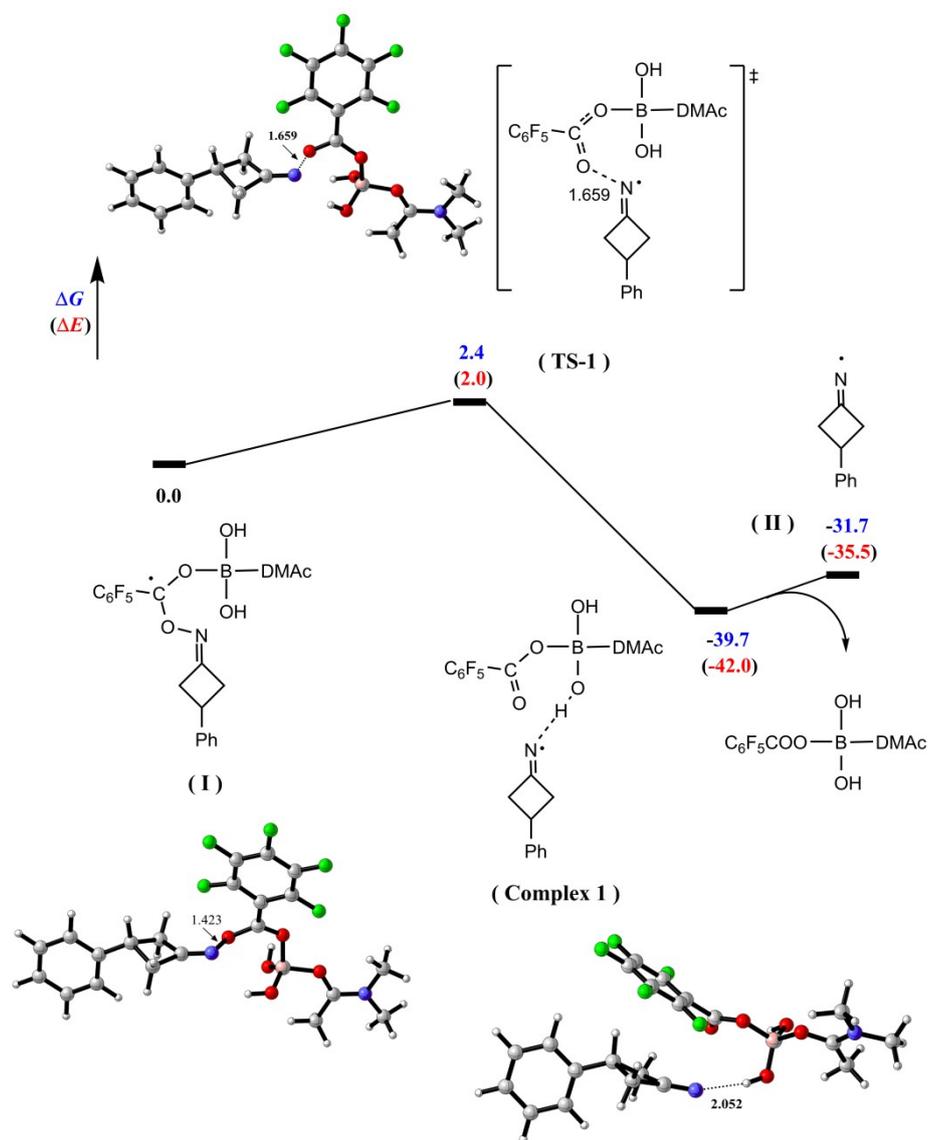


Figure S2. Relative energy (kcal/mol) profile in the N-O bond cleavage process.

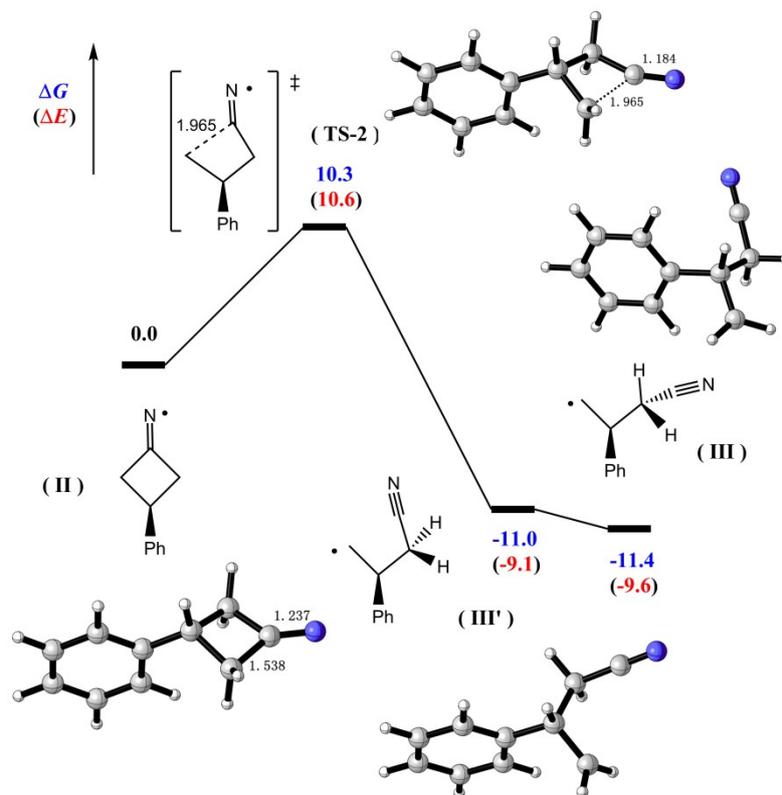


Figure S3. Relative energy (kcal/mol) profile in the C-C bond cleavage process.

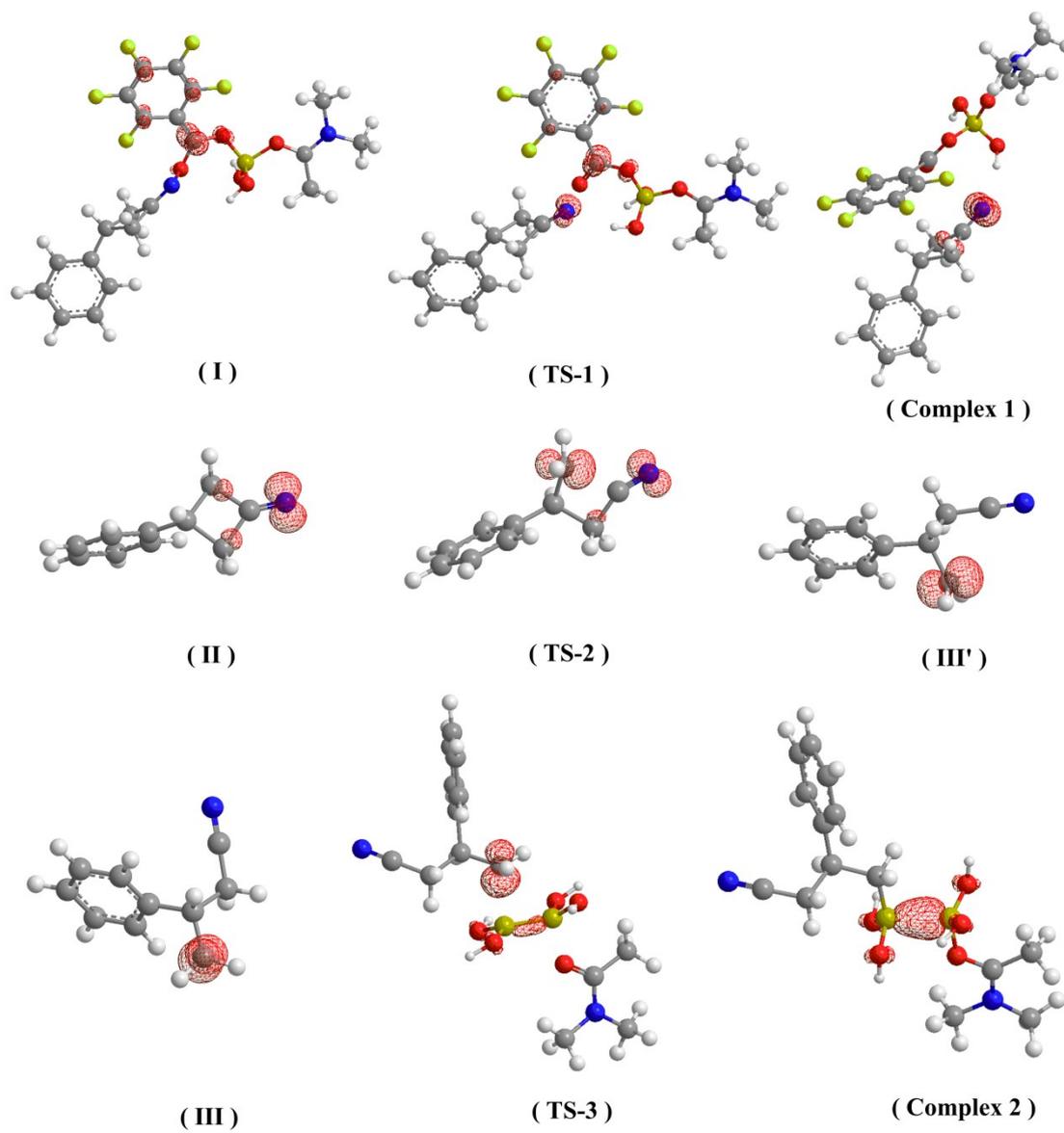


Figure S5. Spin density contours (isovalue=0.015) for some radical structures.

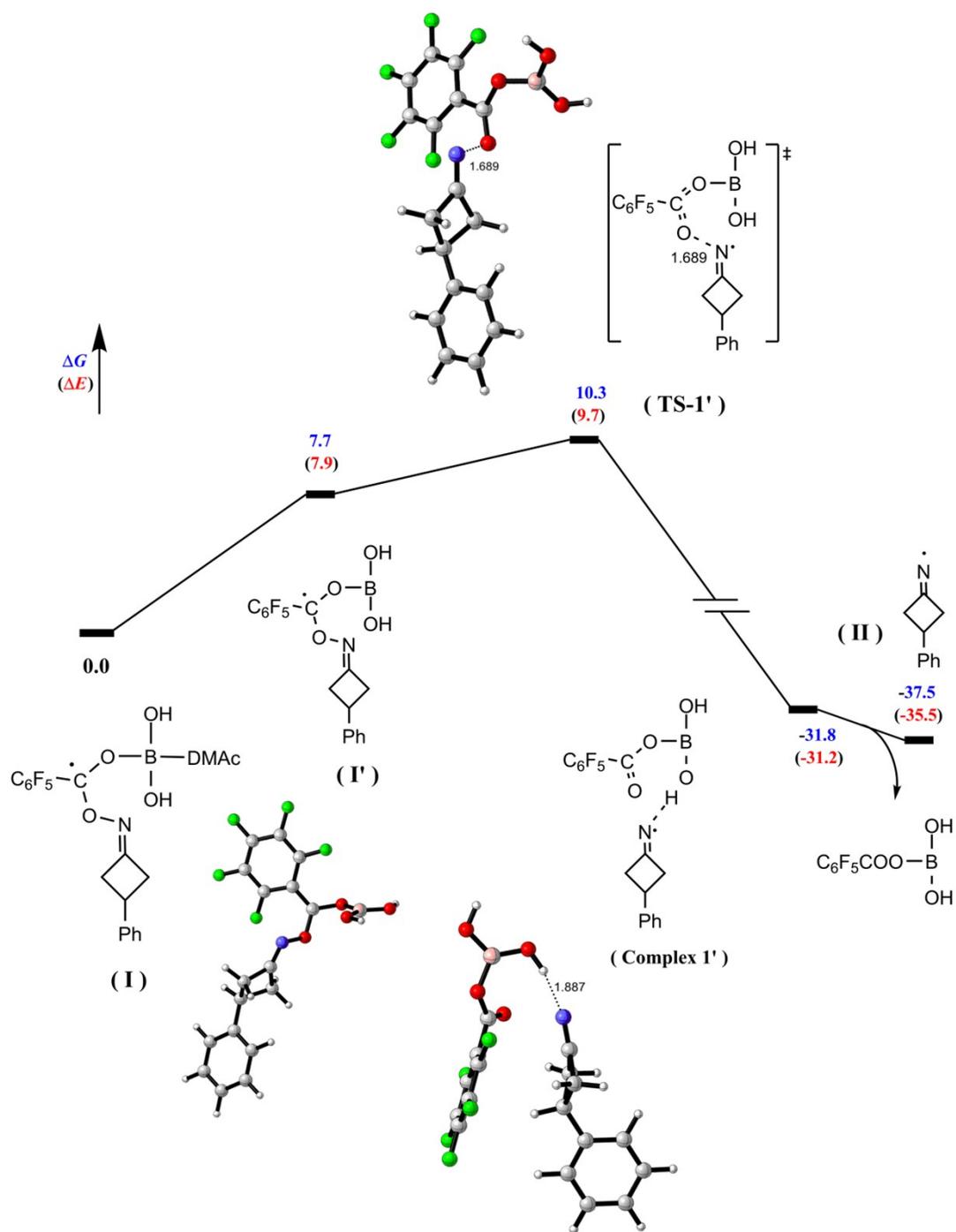


Figure S6. Relative energy (kcal/mol) profile in the N-O bond cleavage process without the explicit DMAc solvent.

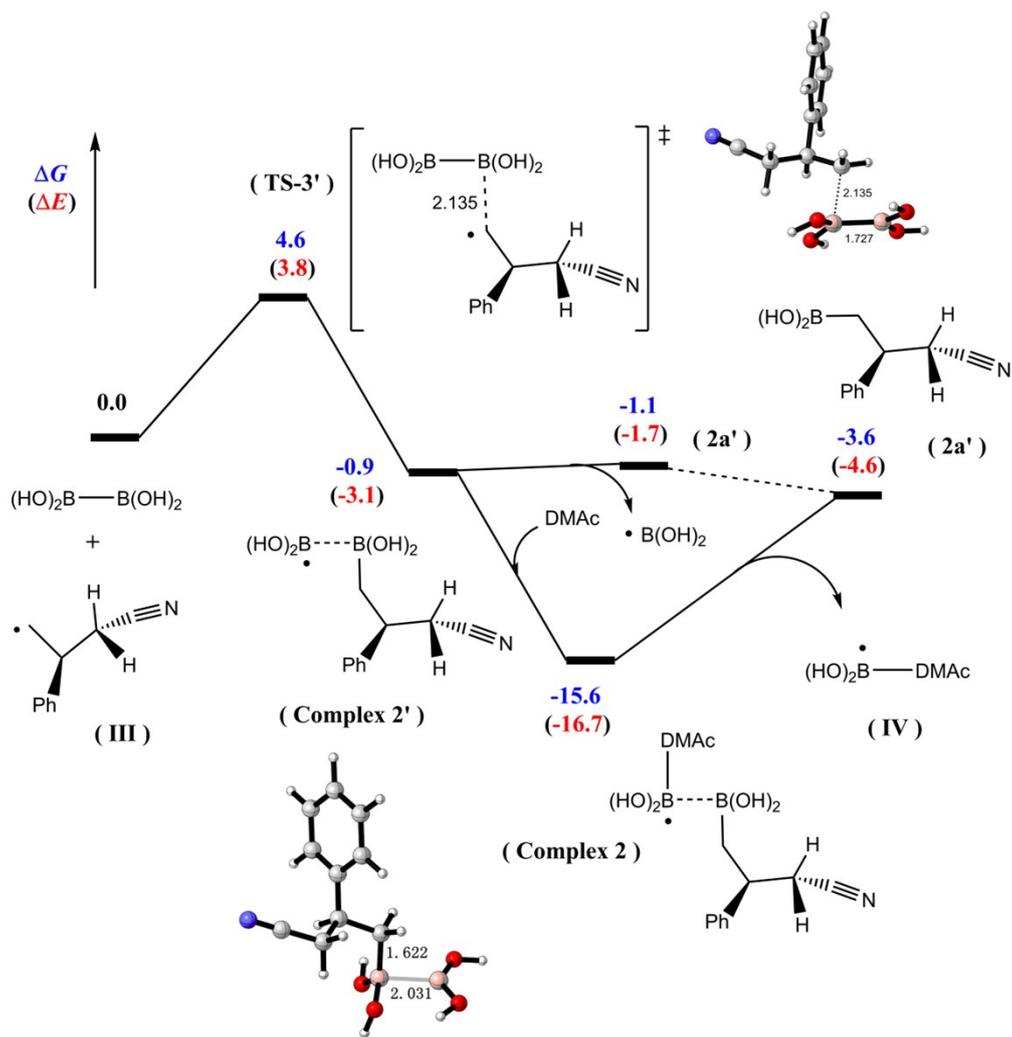
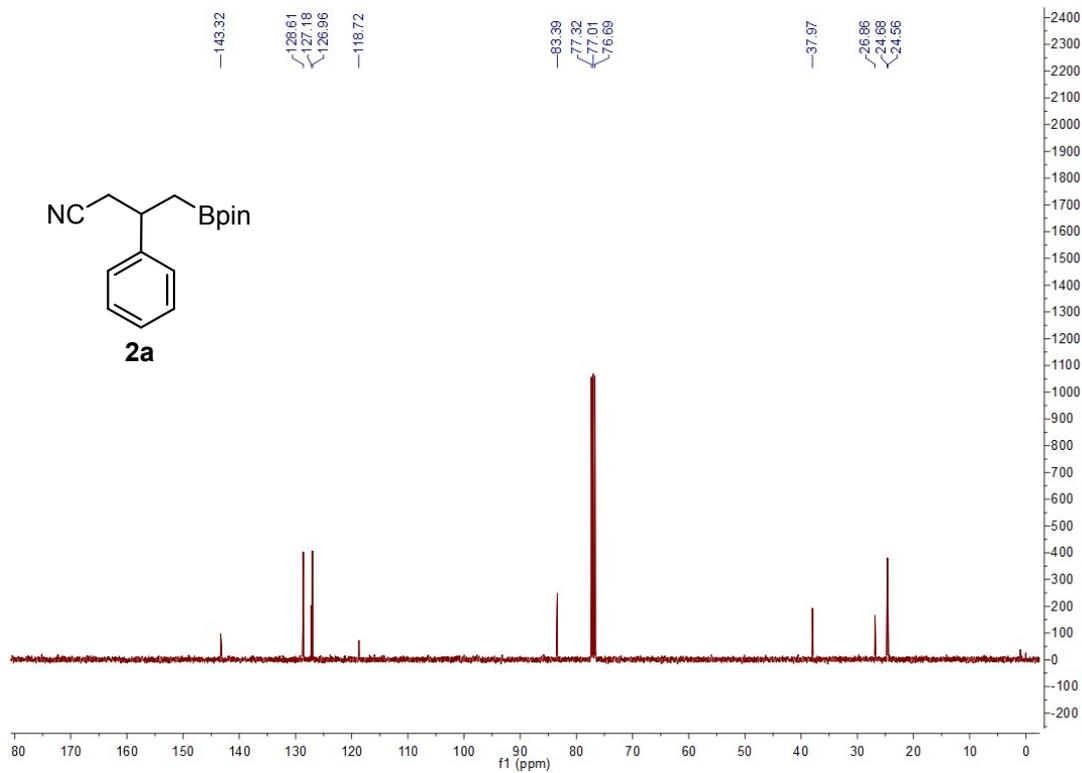
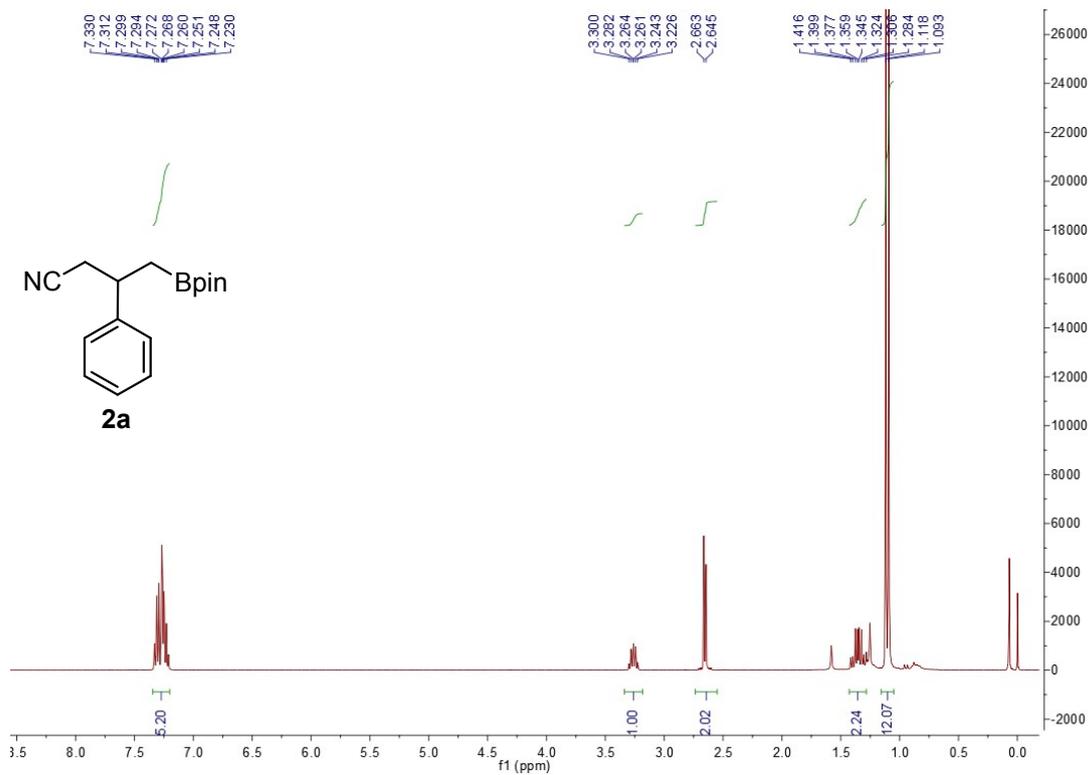
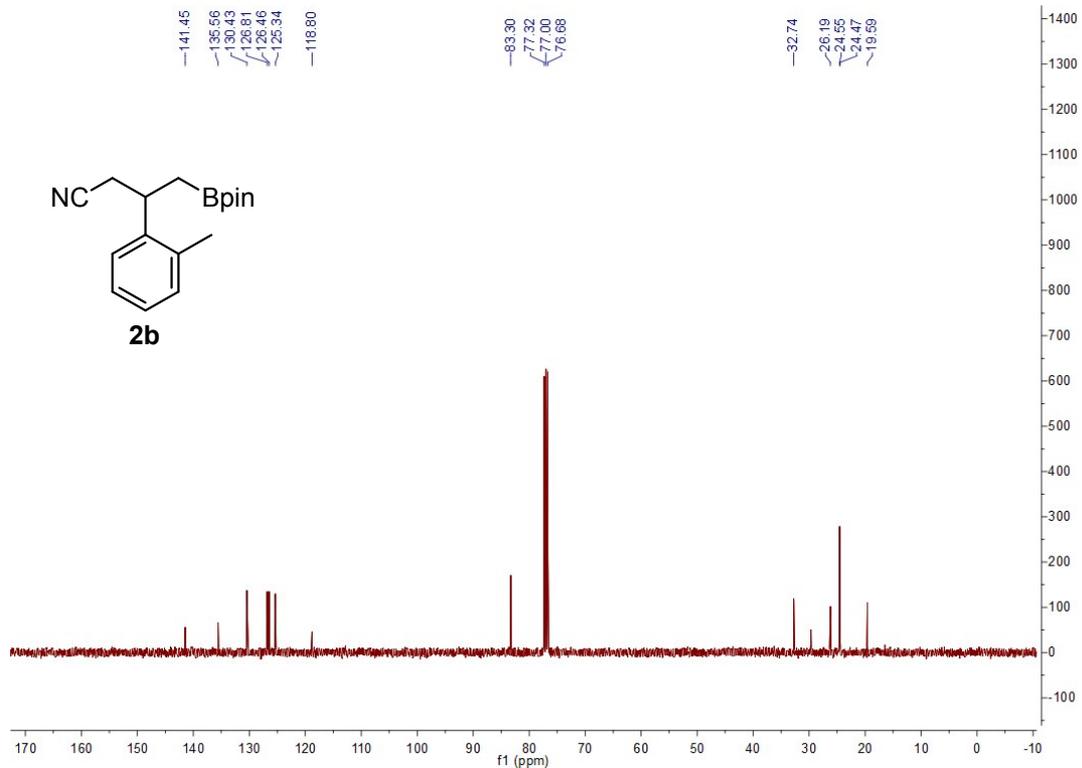
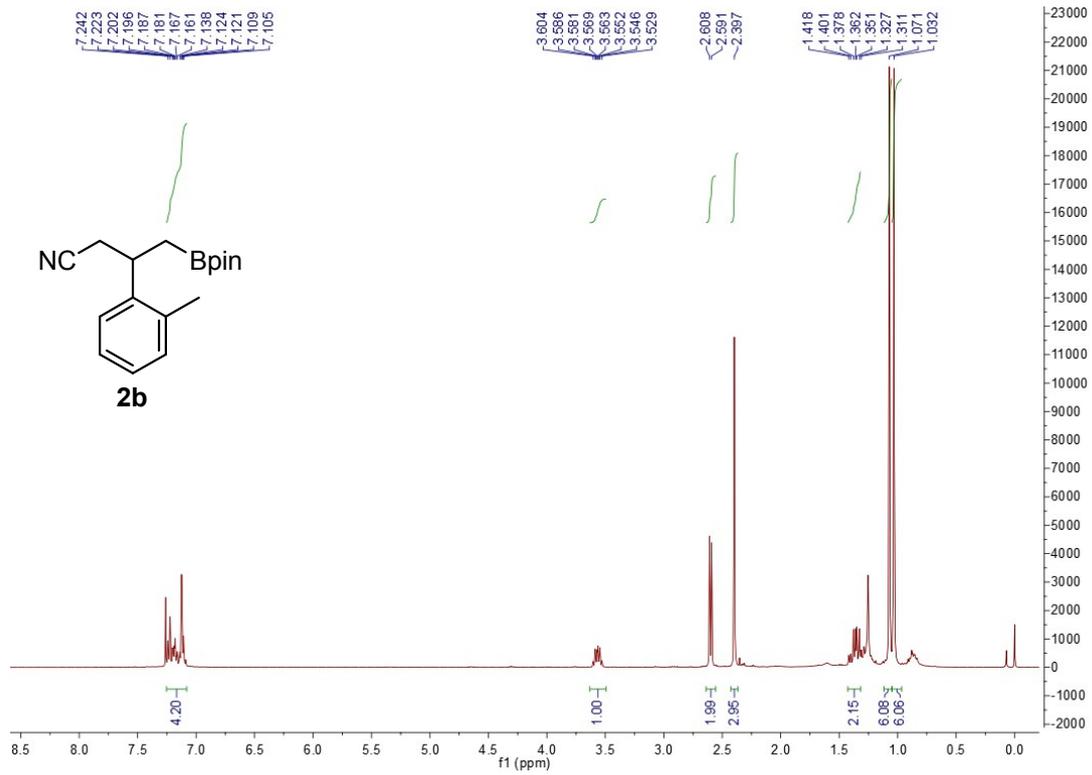
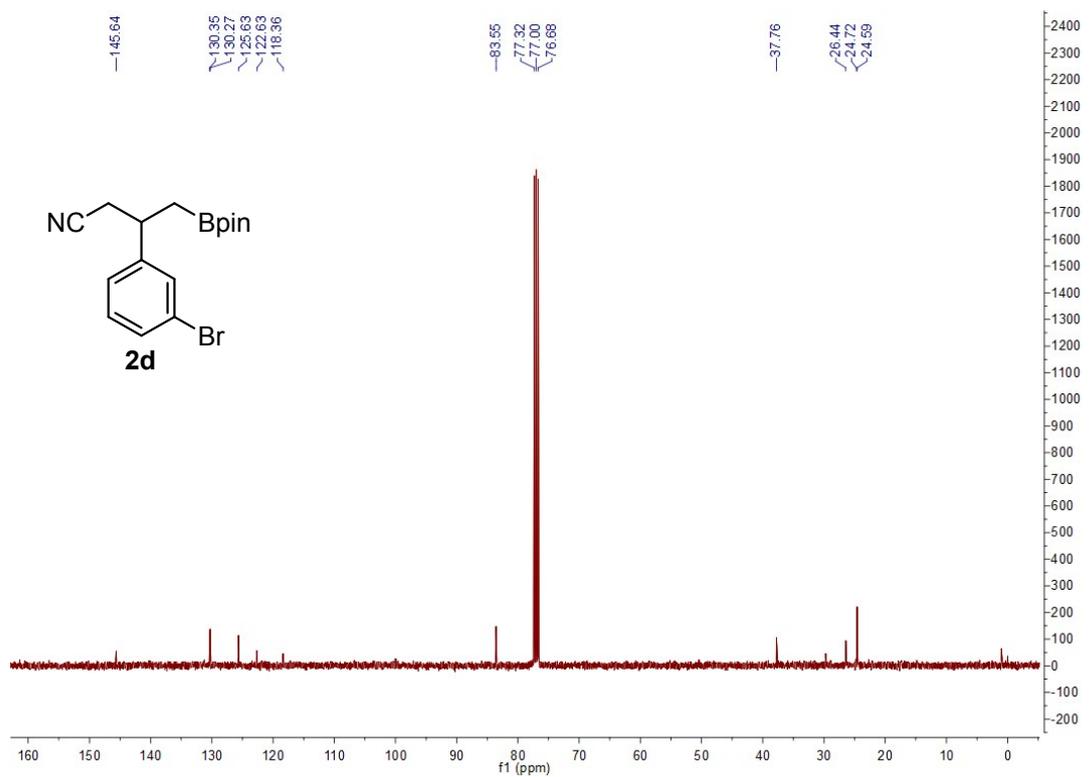
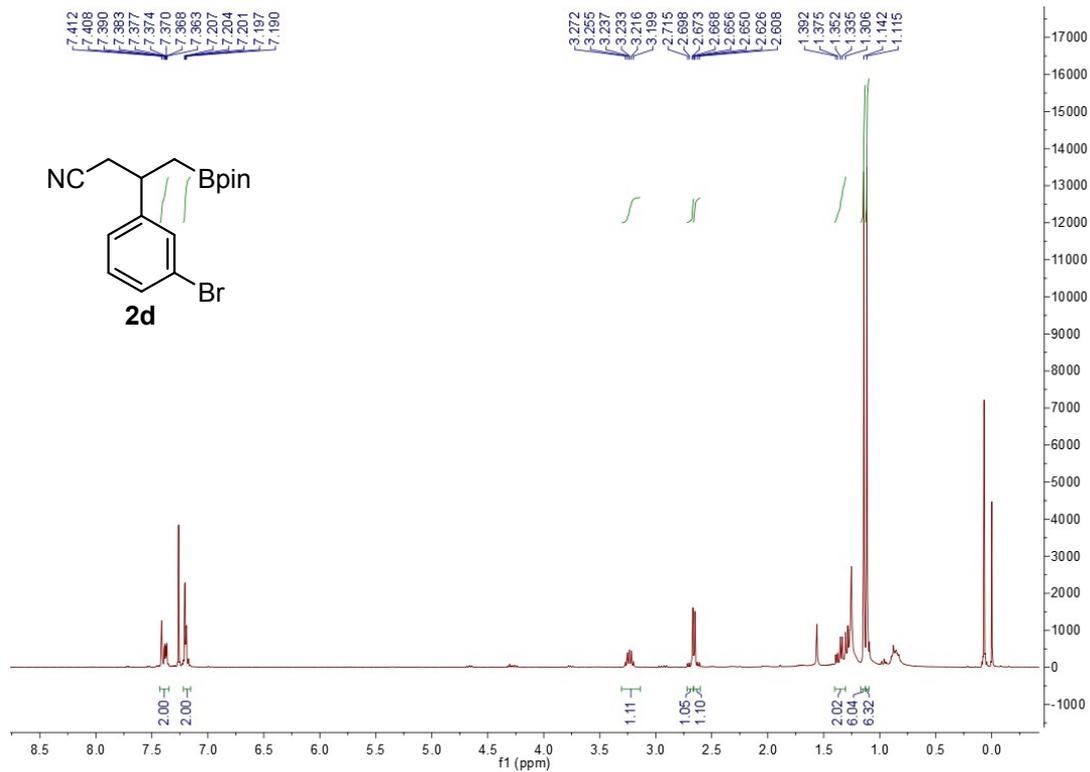


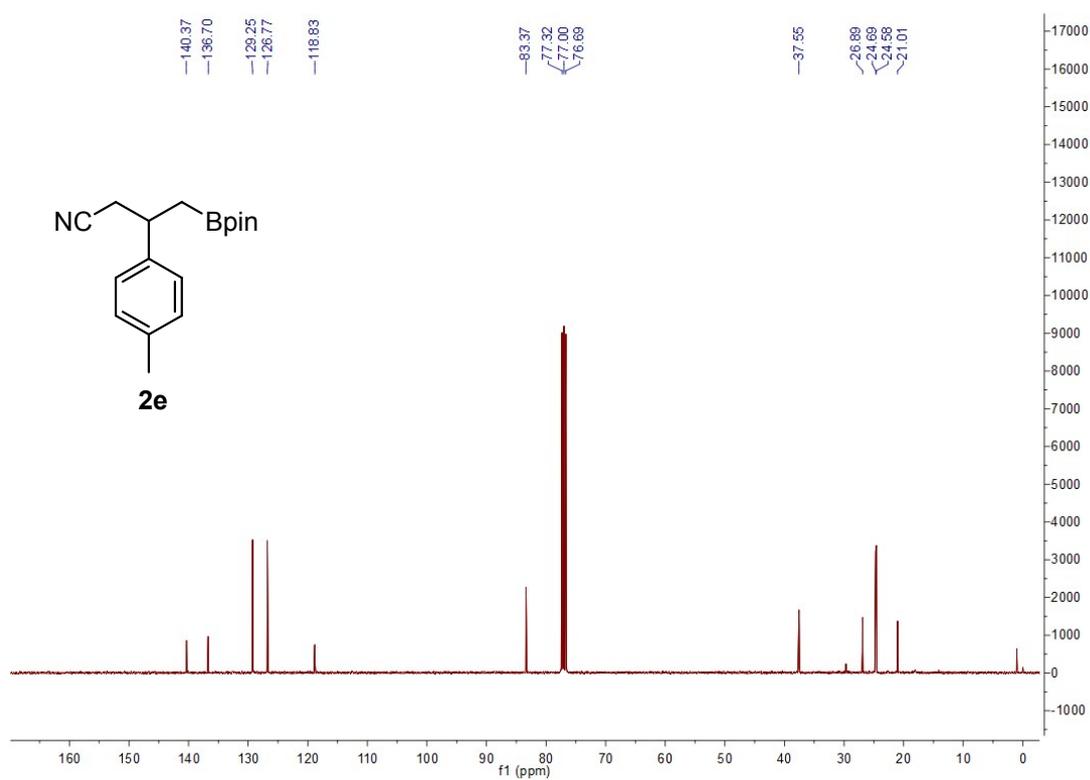
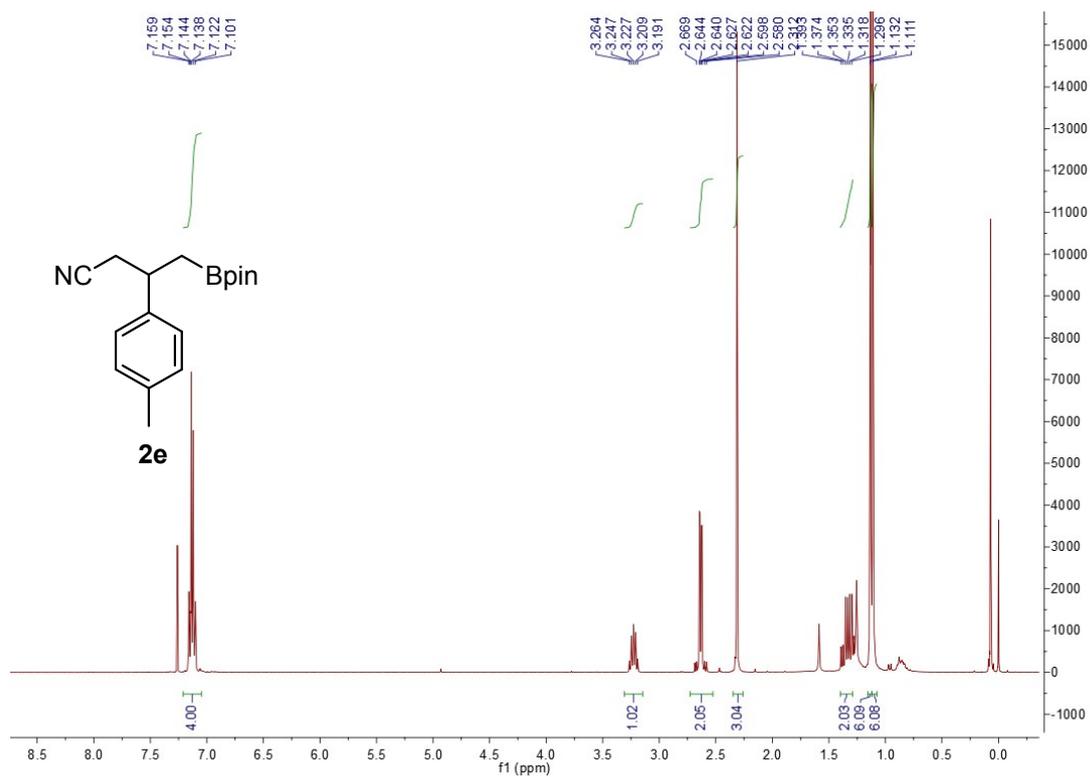
Figure S7. Relative energy (kcal/mol) profile in the formation of product without the explicit DMAc solvent.

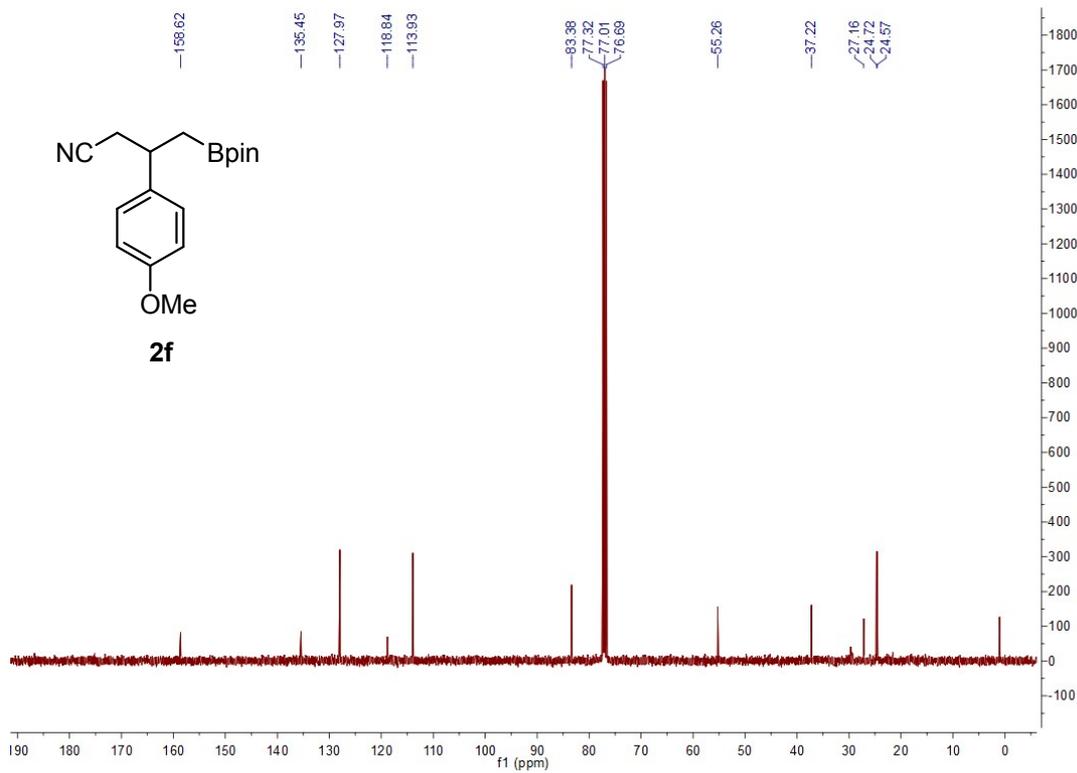
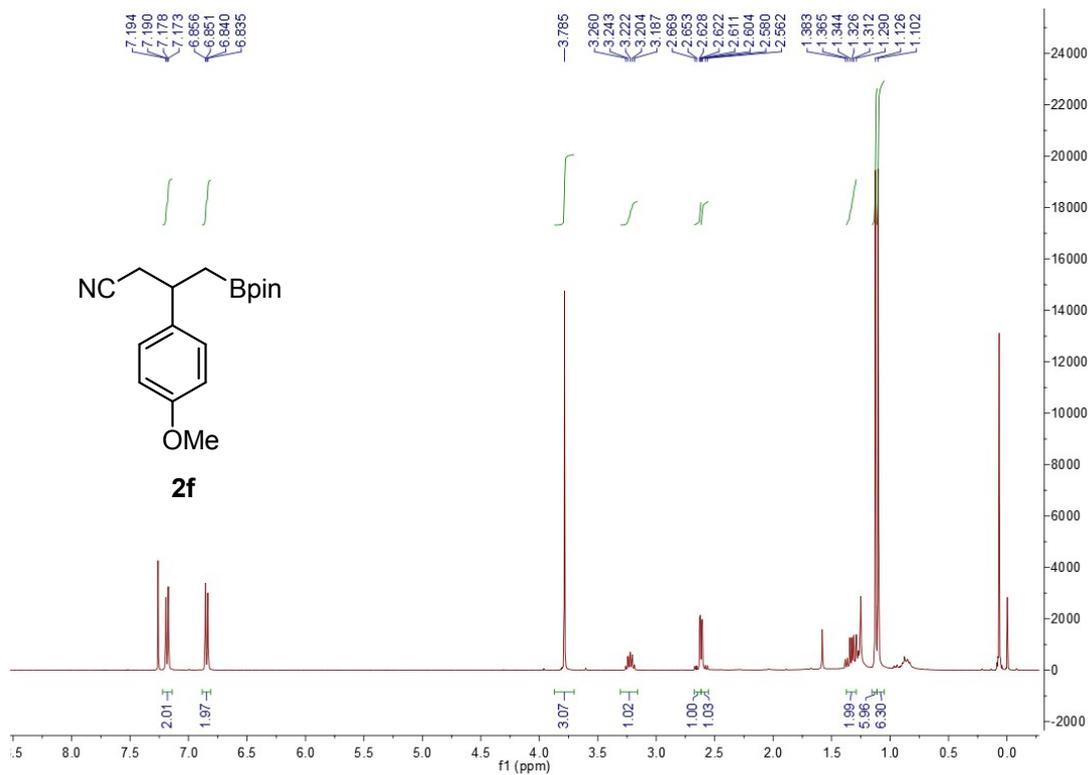
¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of the Products 2

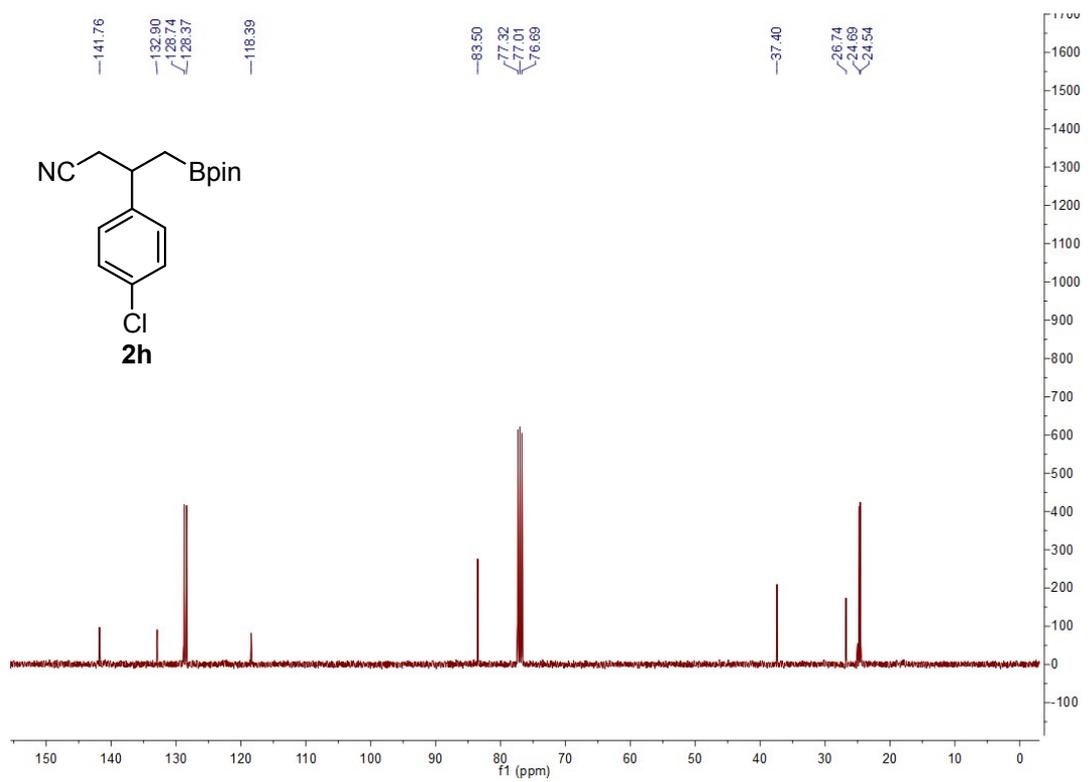
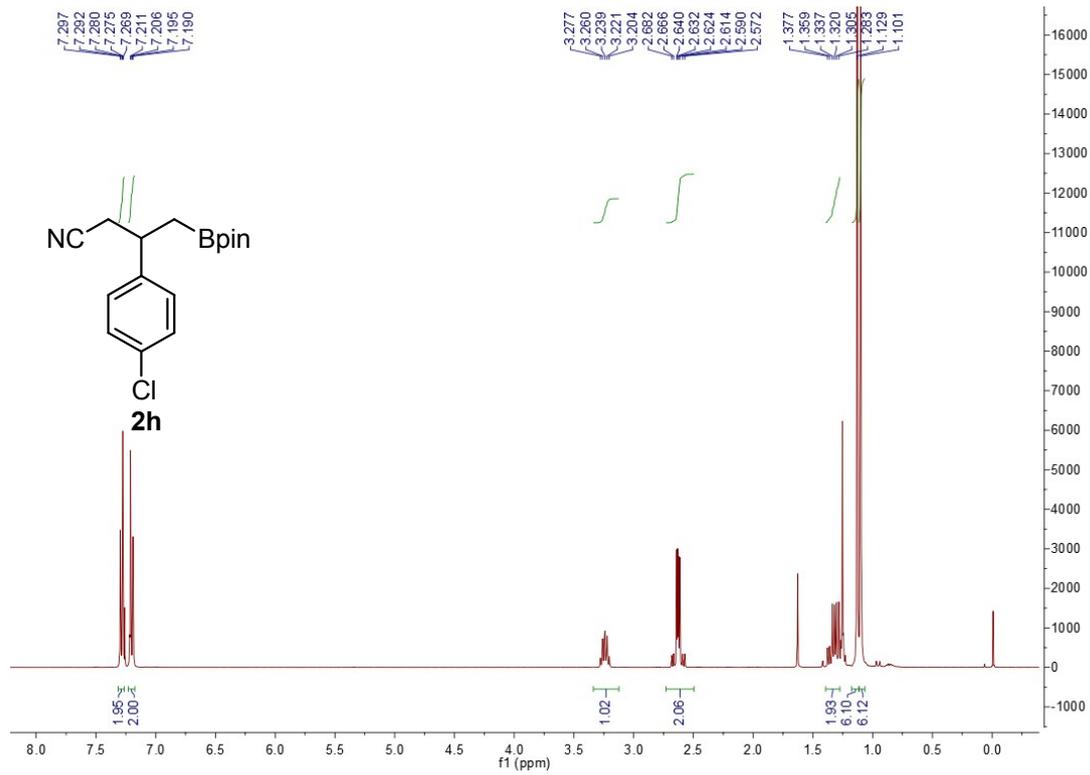


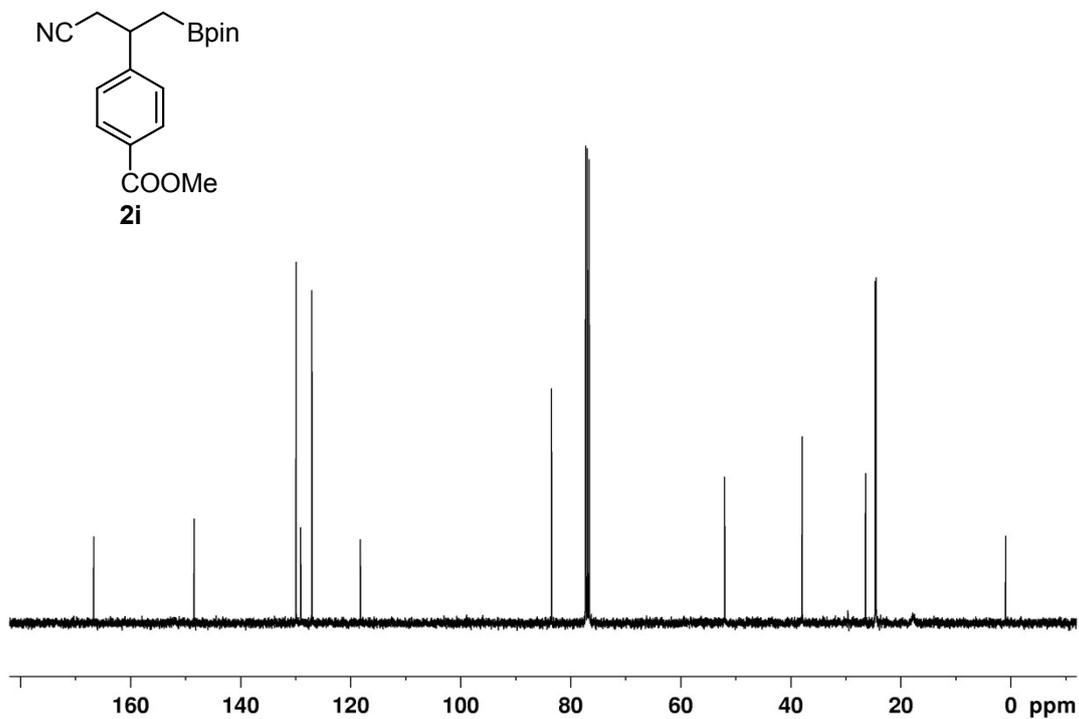
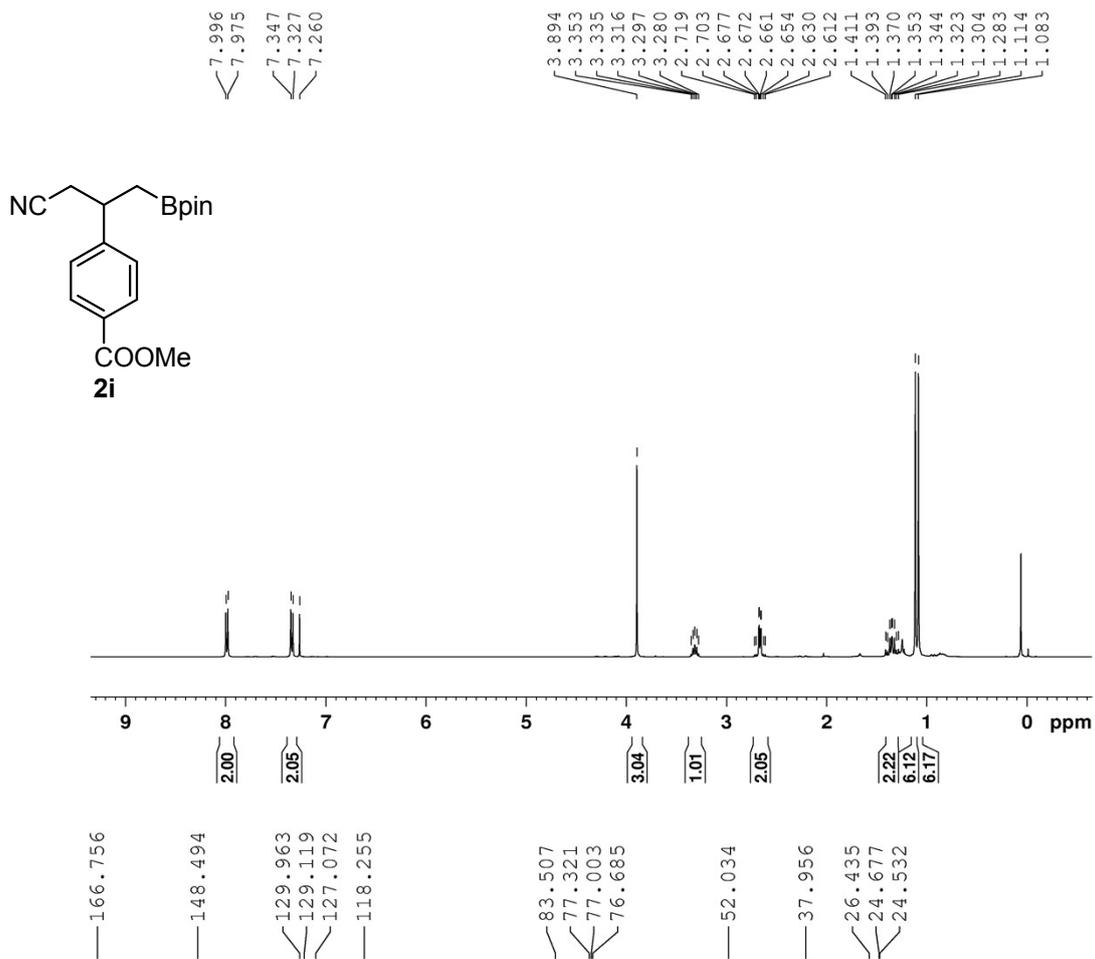


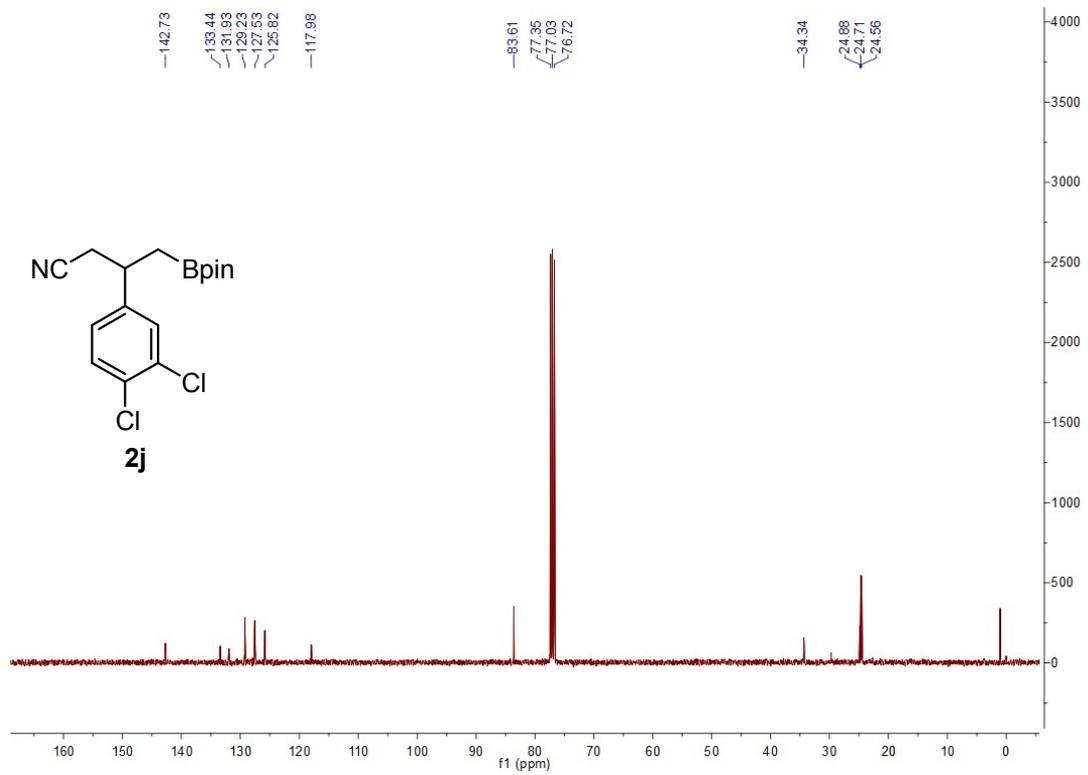
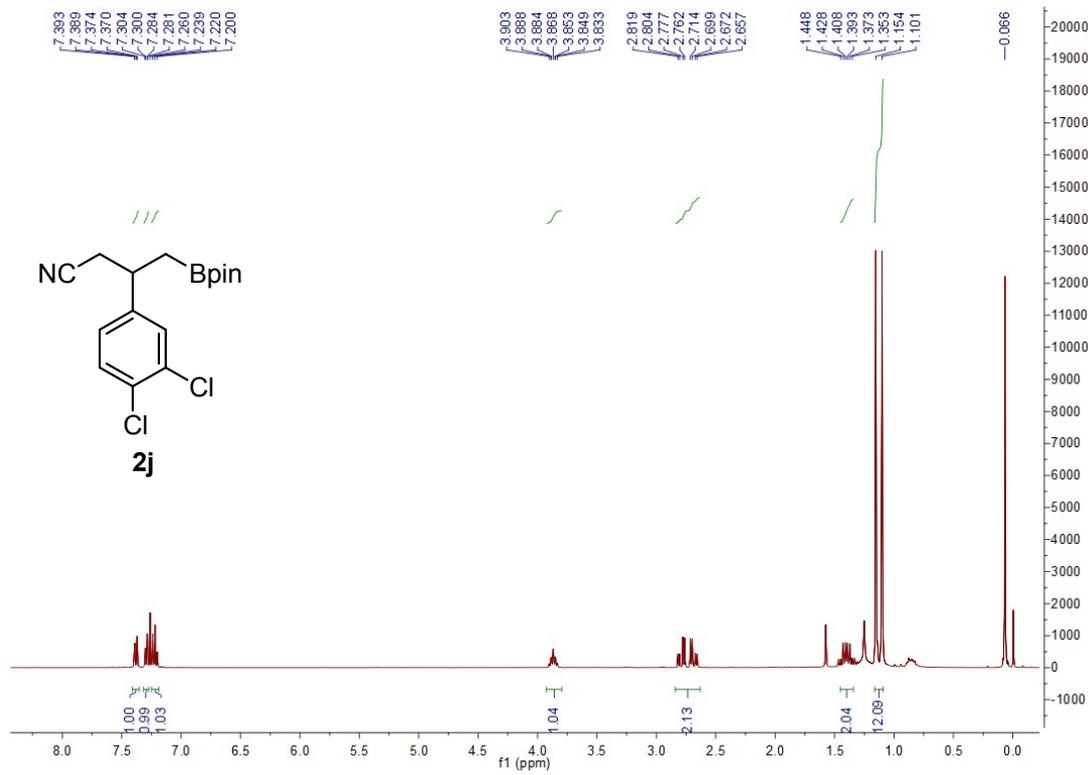


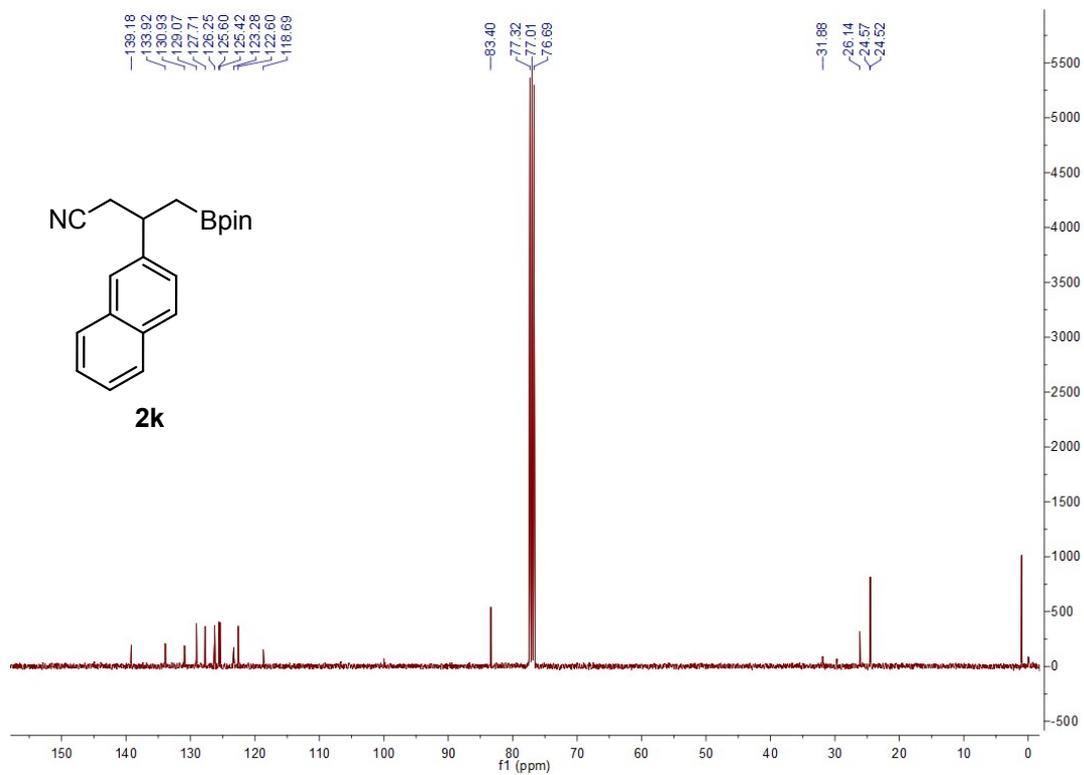
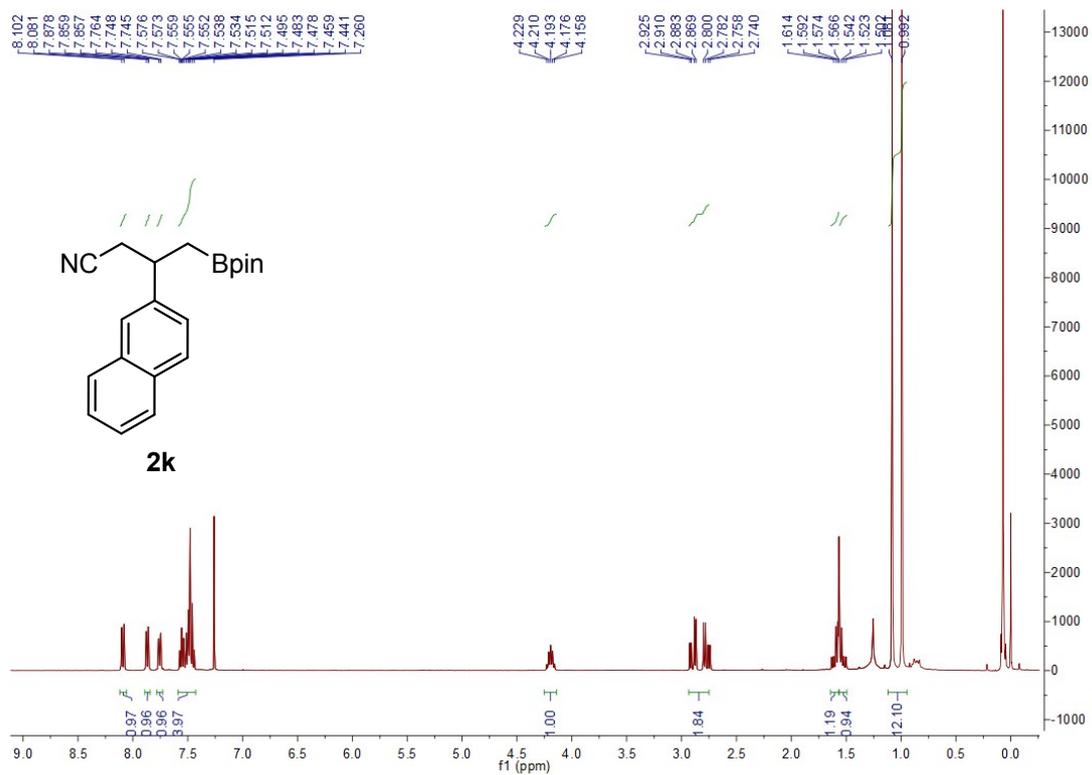


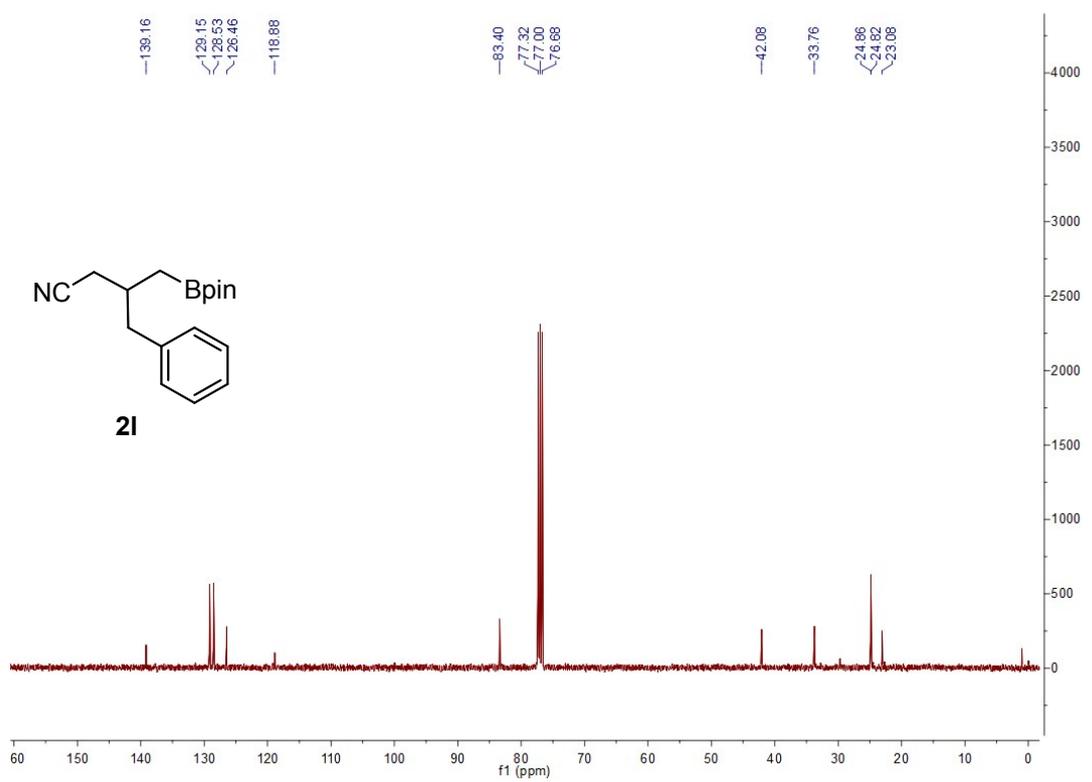
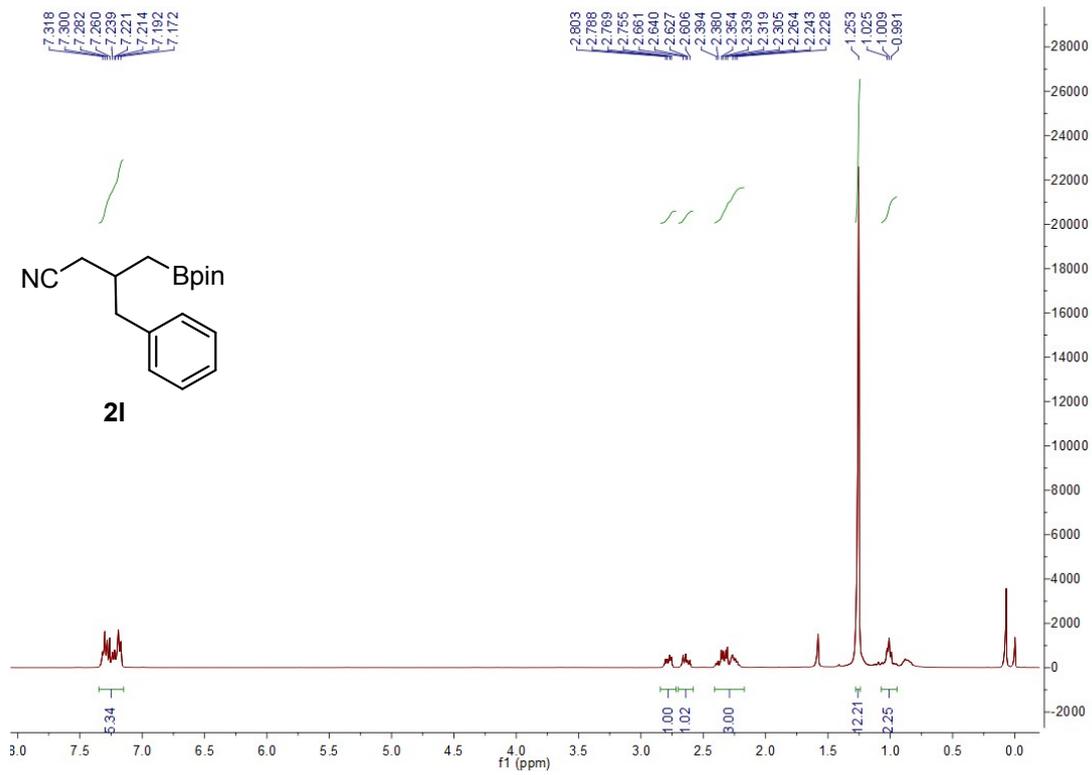


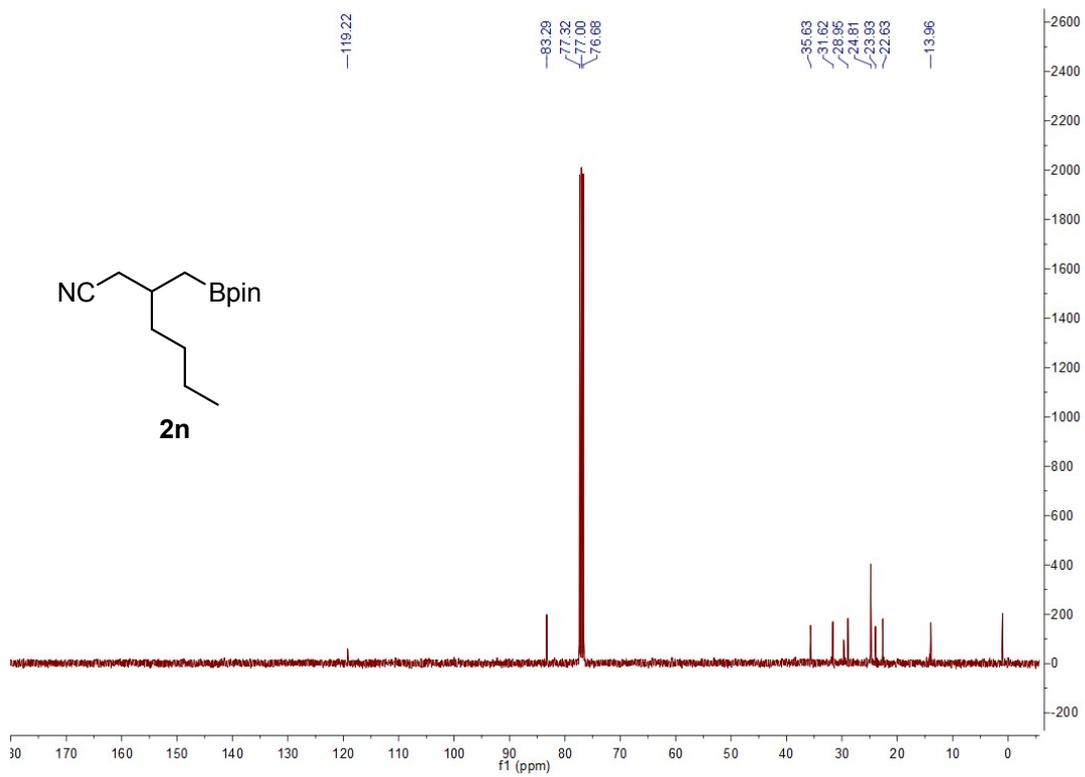
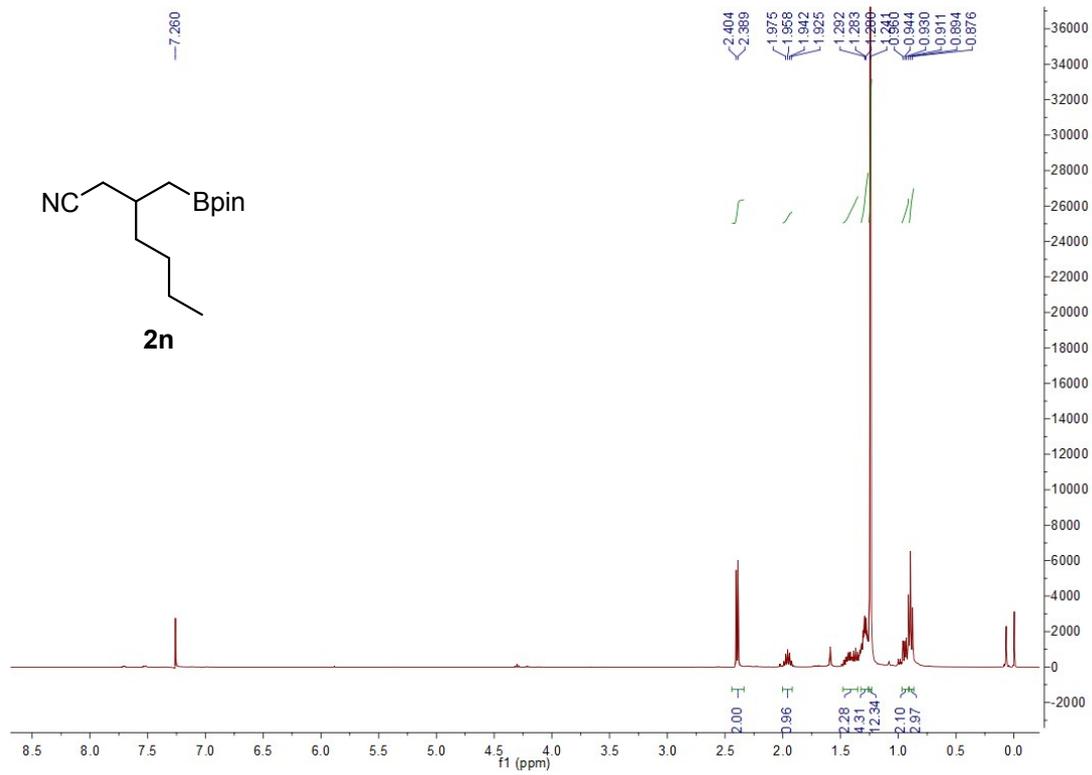


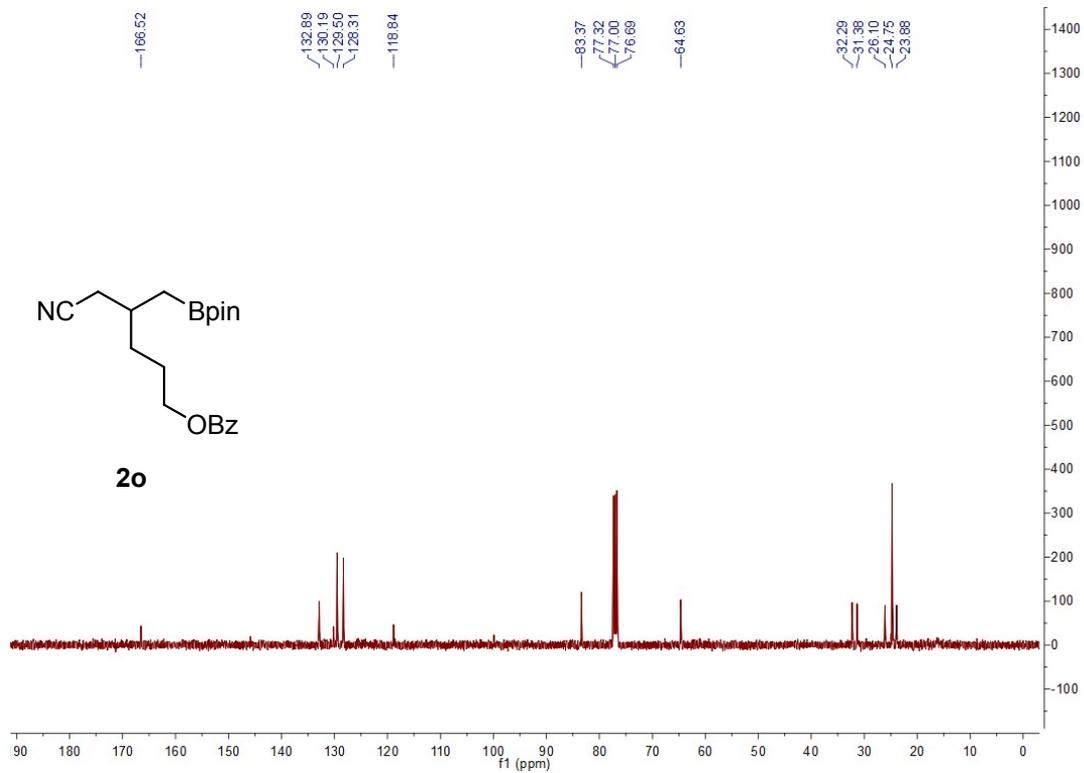
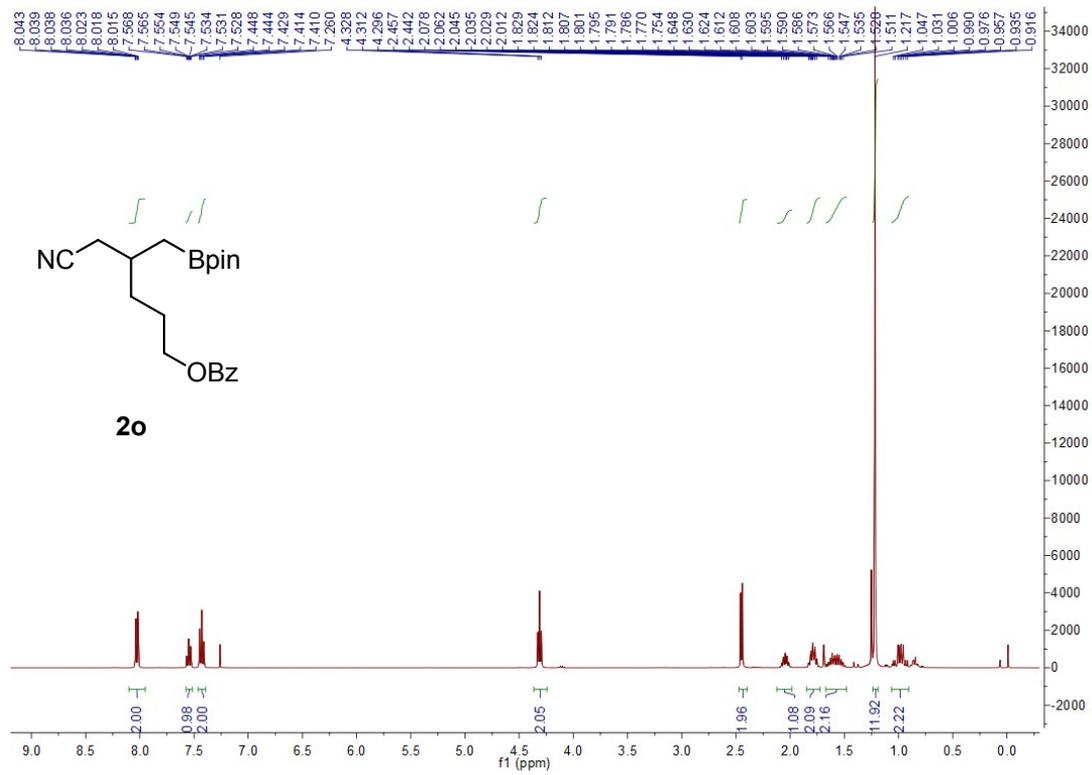


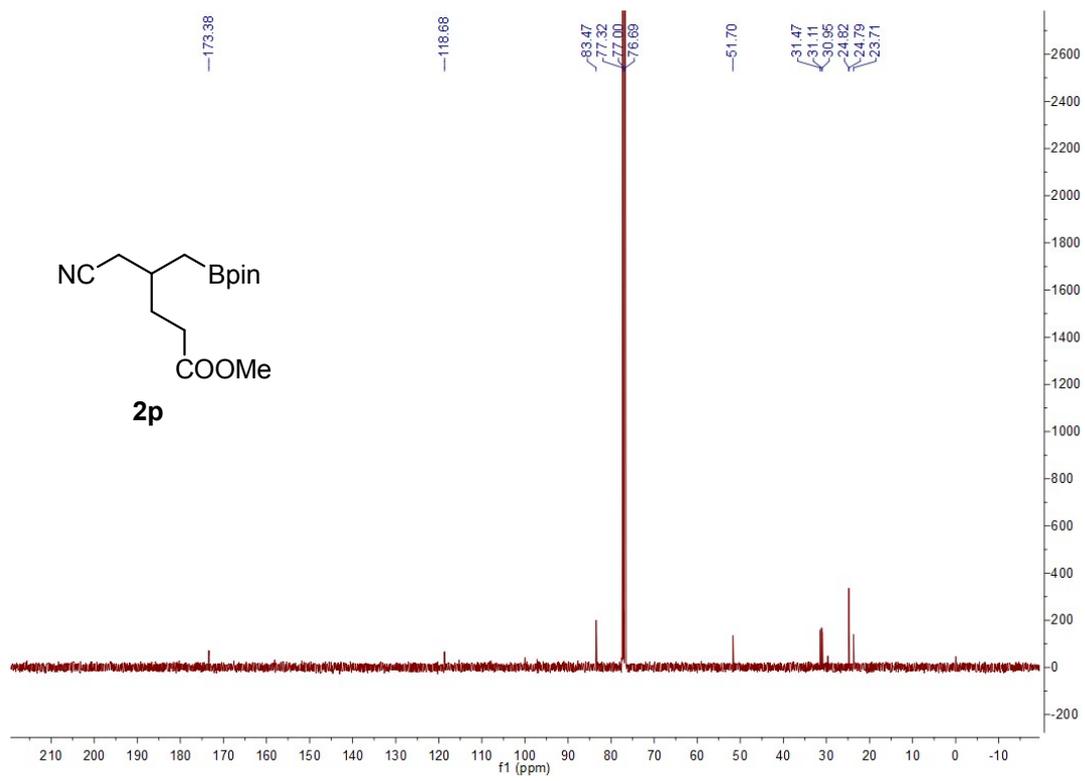
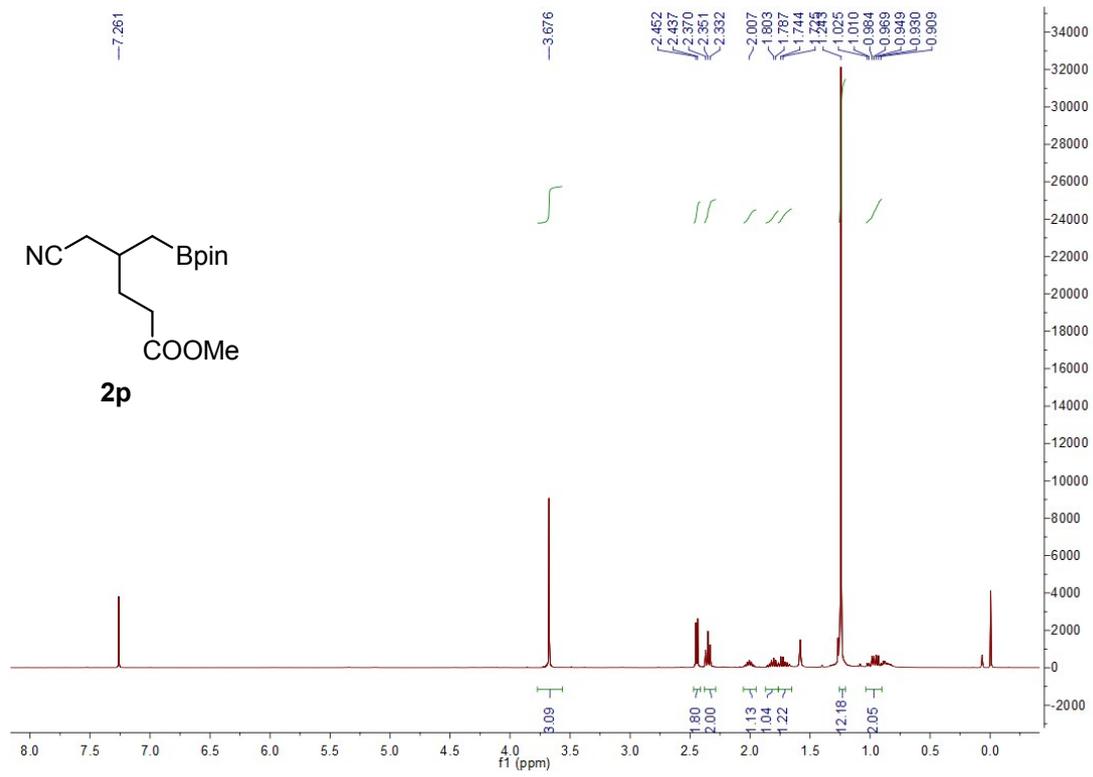


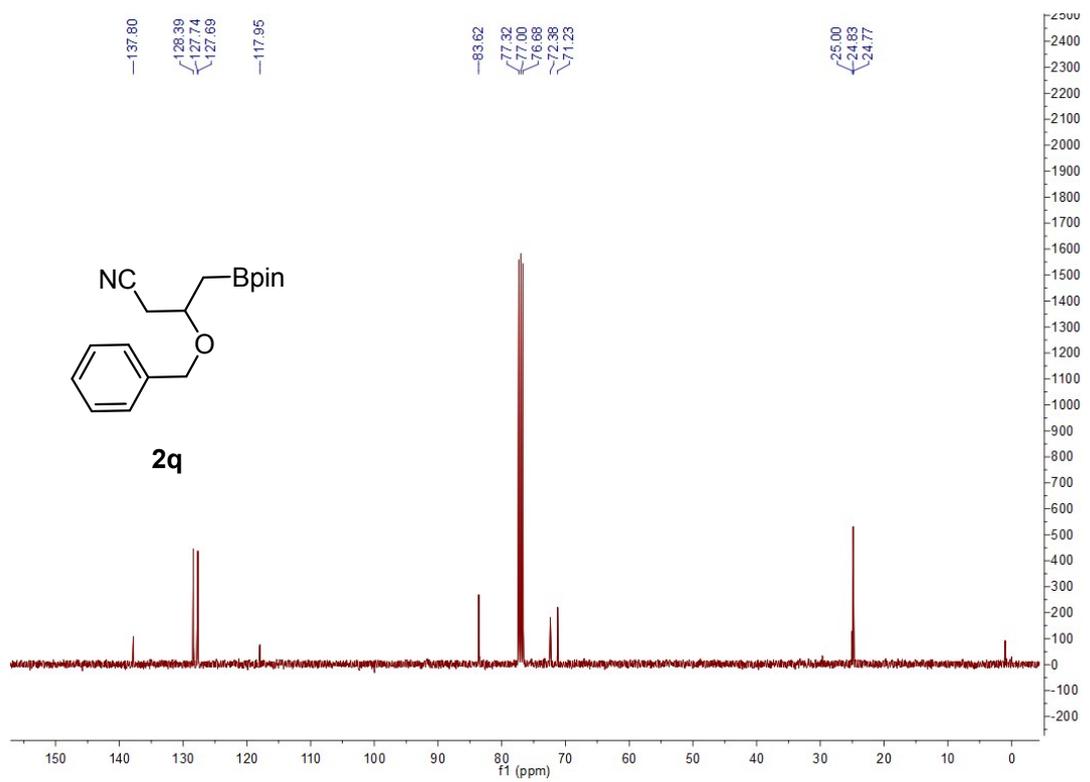
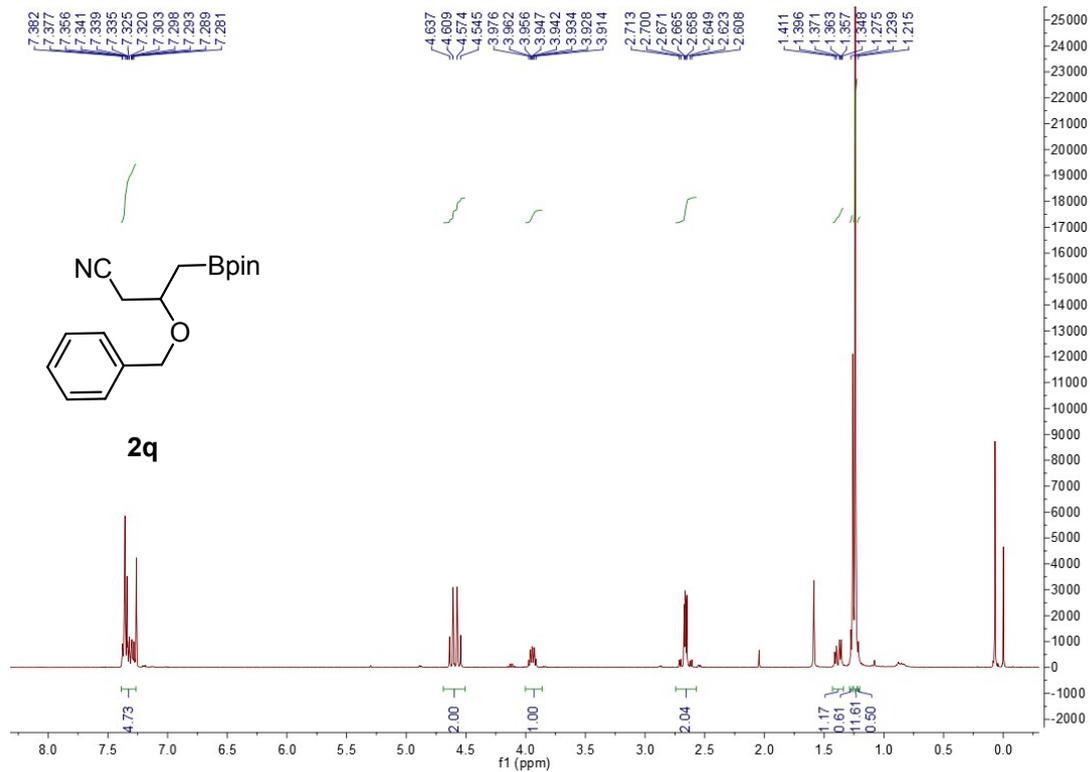


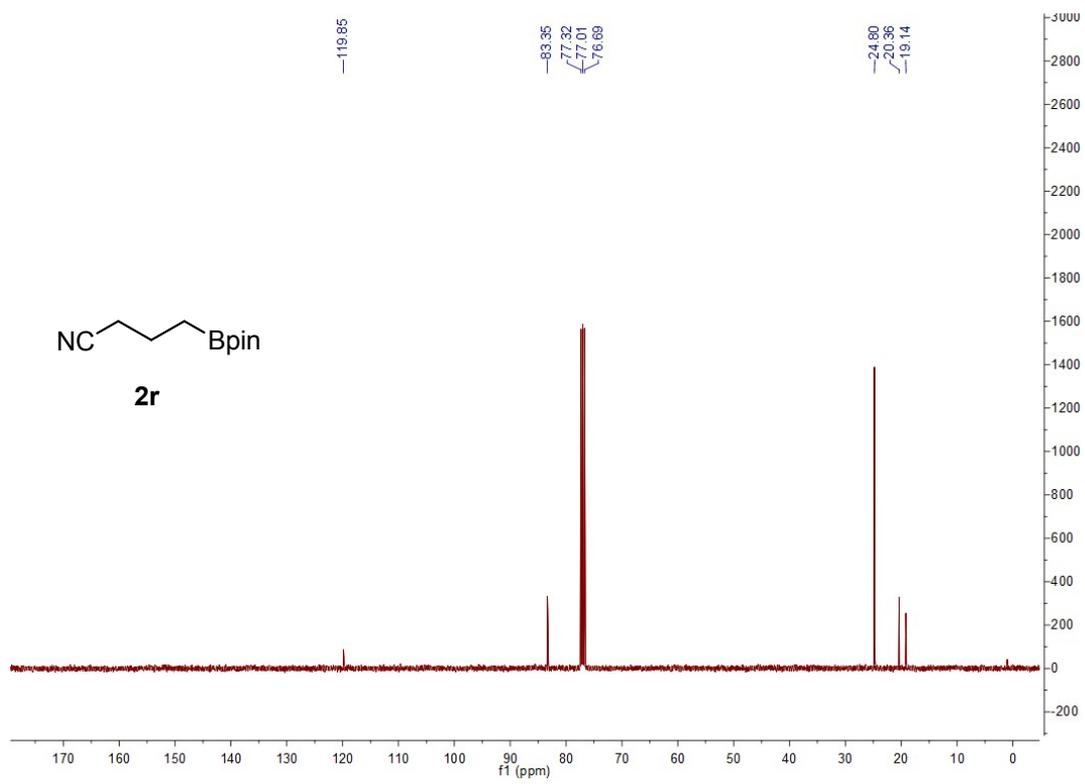
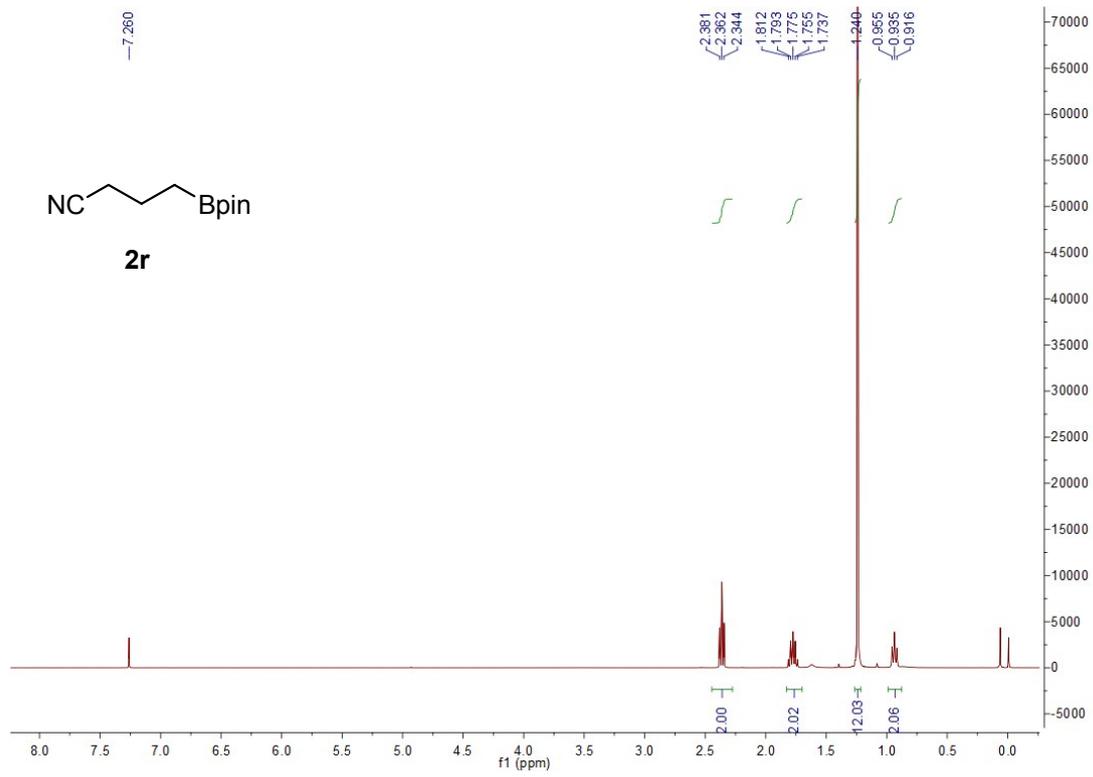


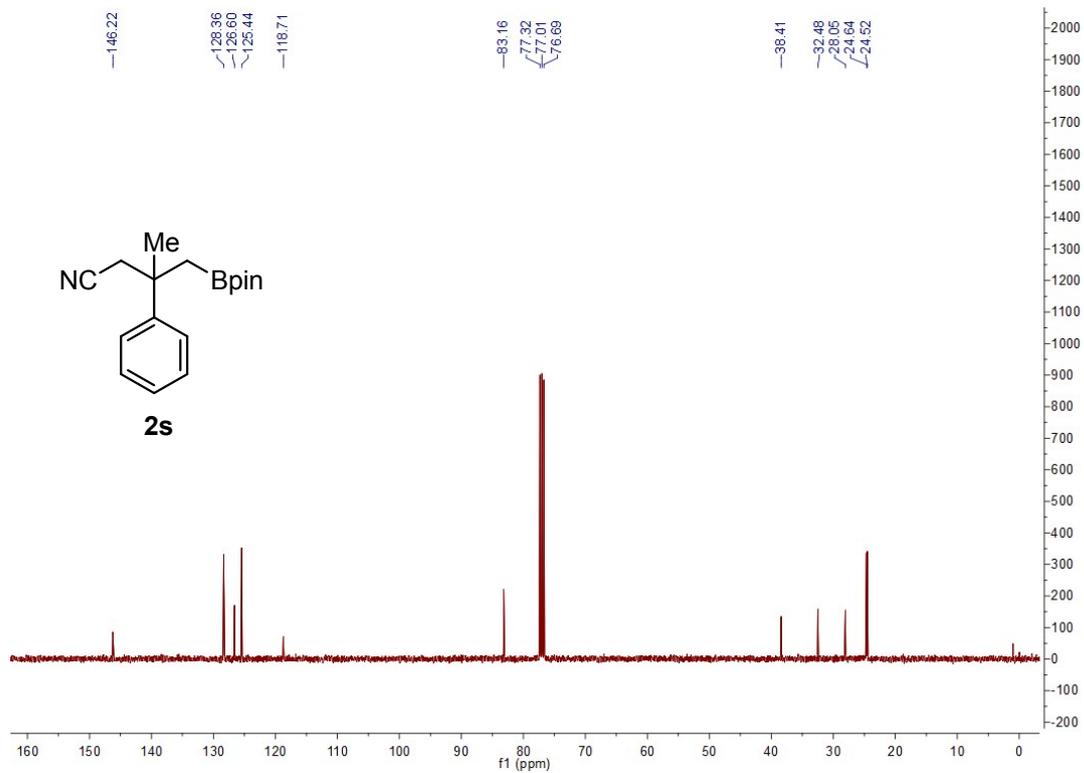
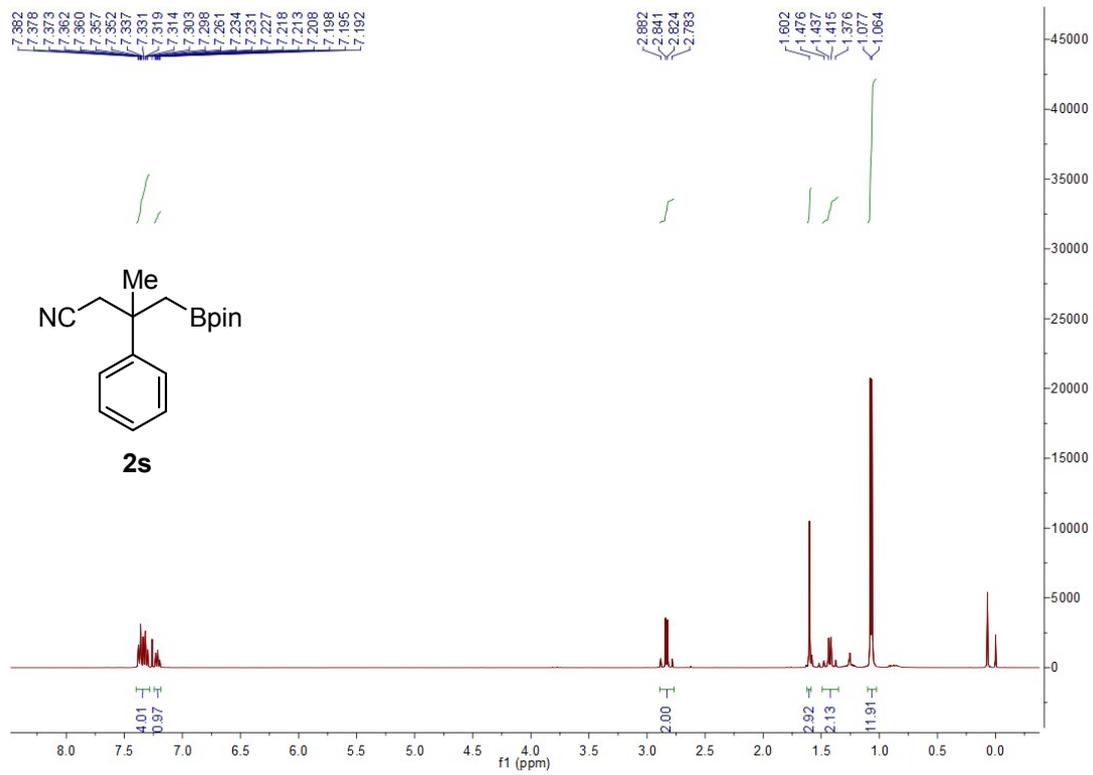


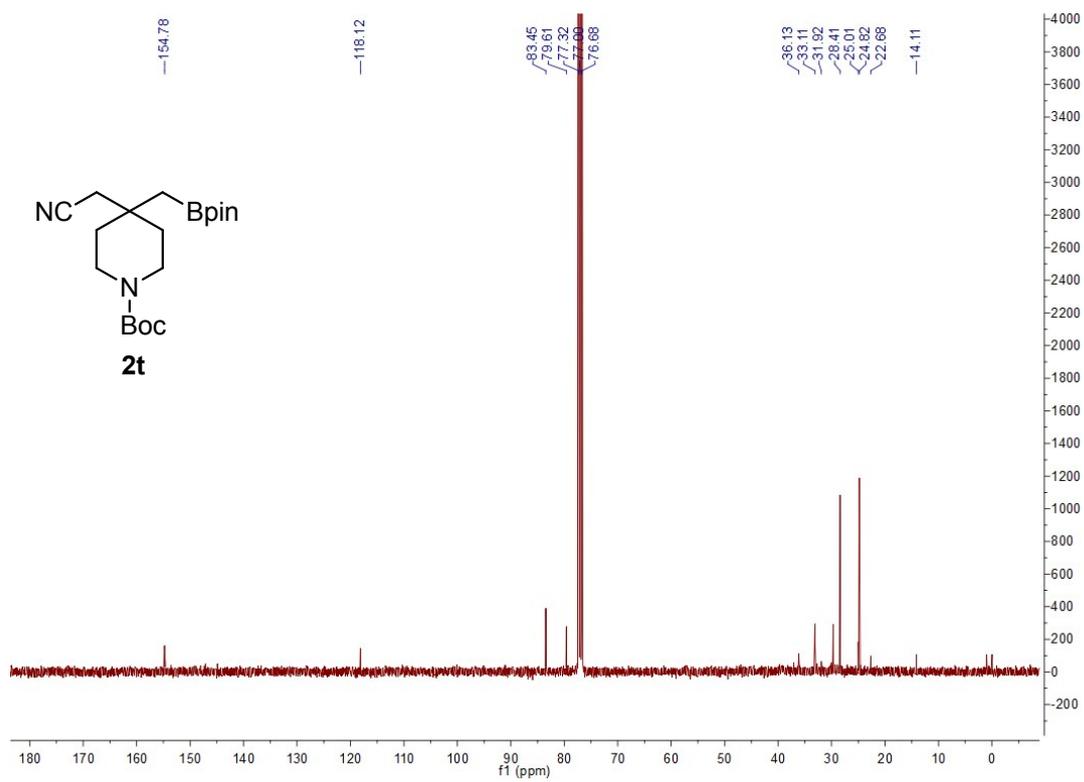
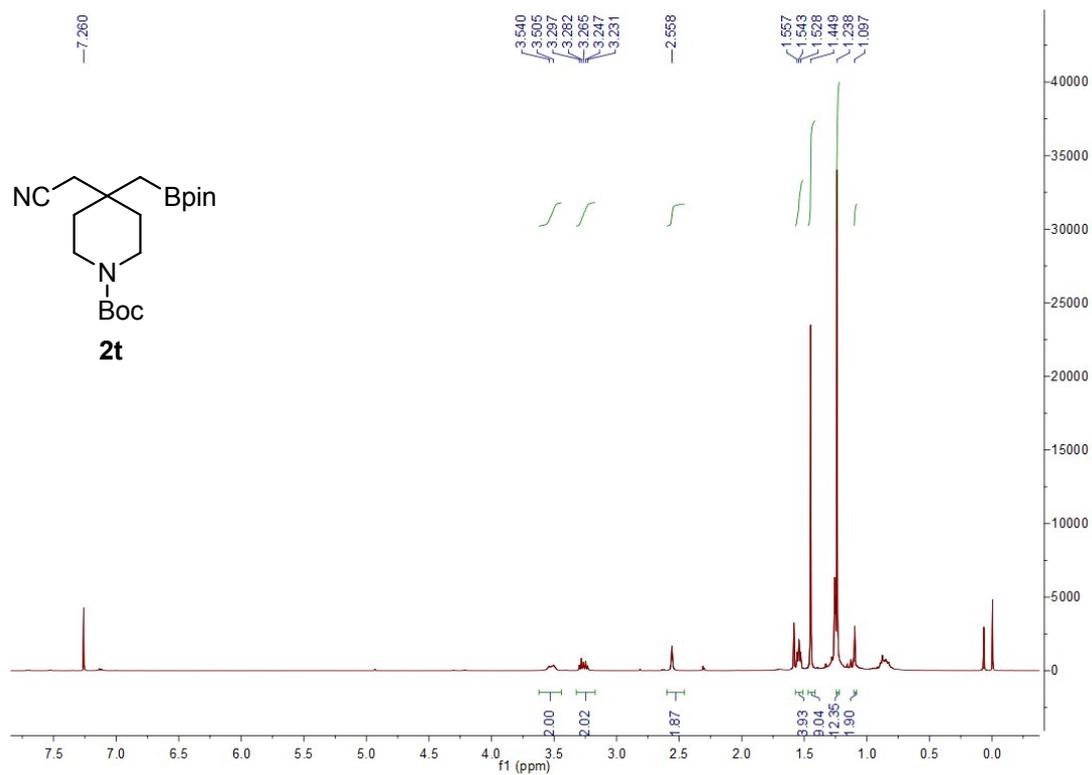


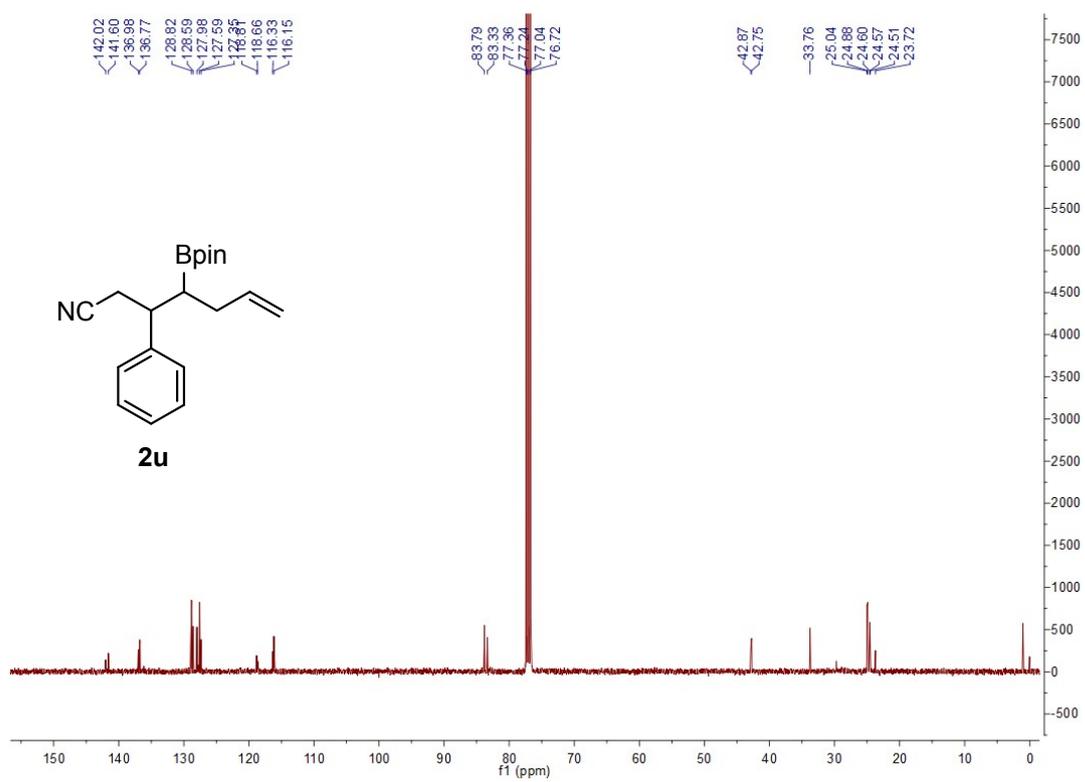
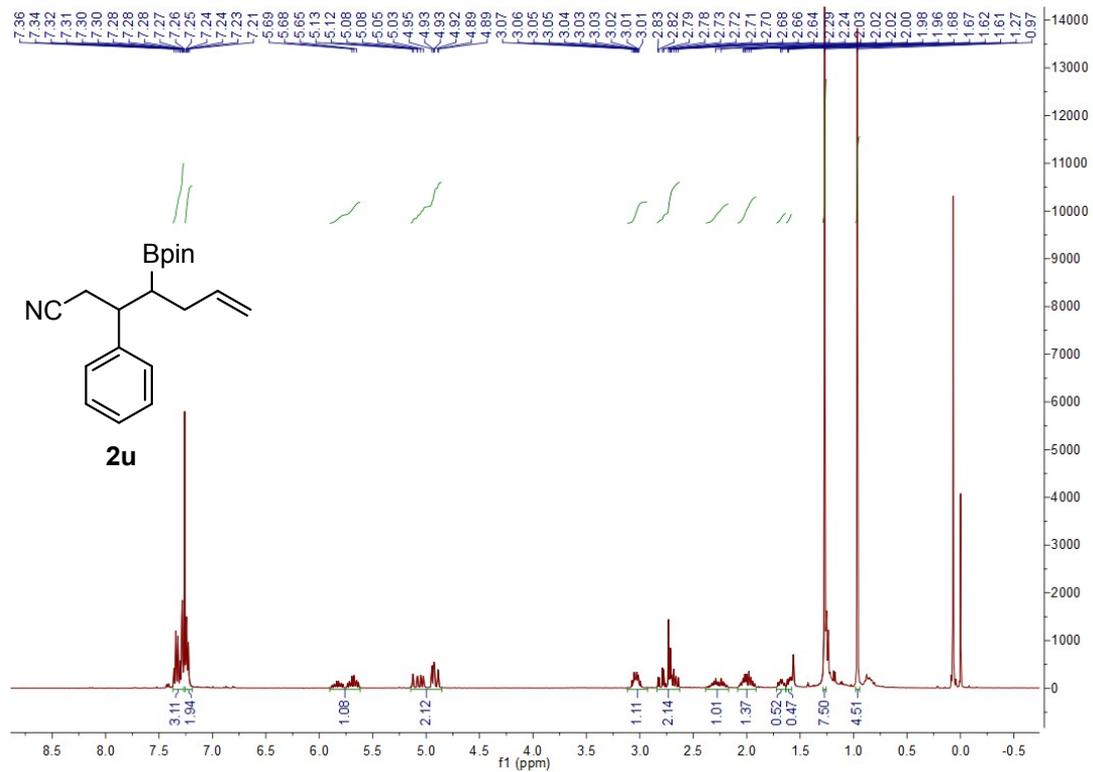


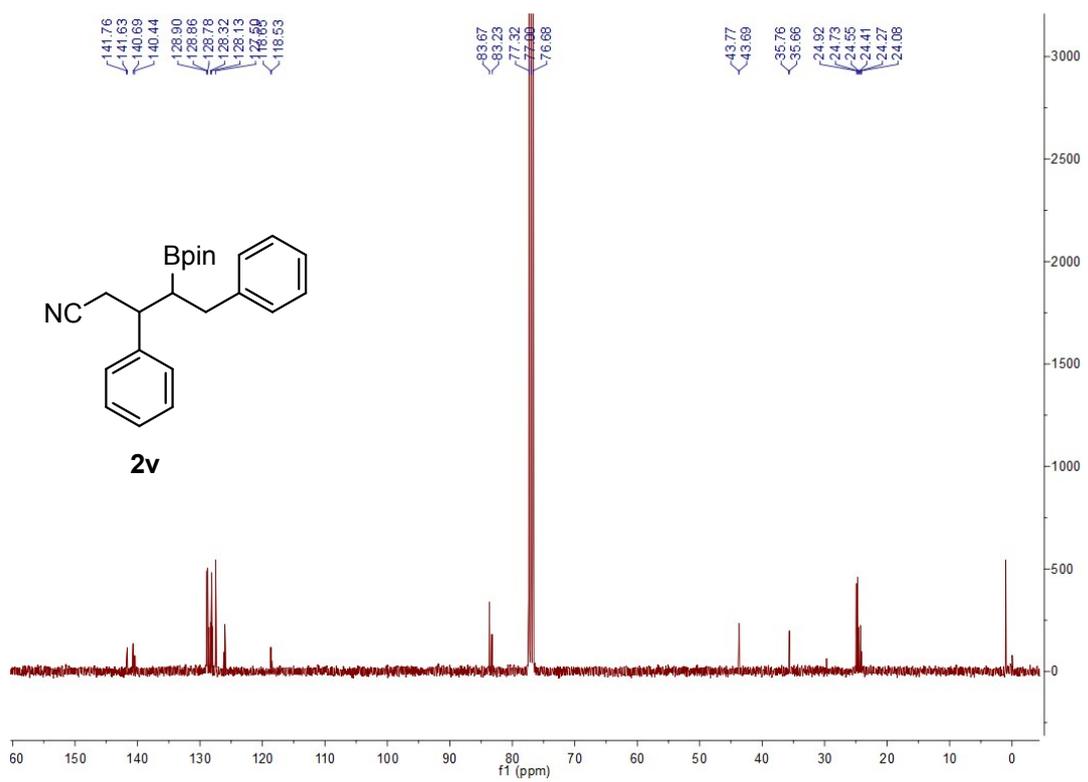
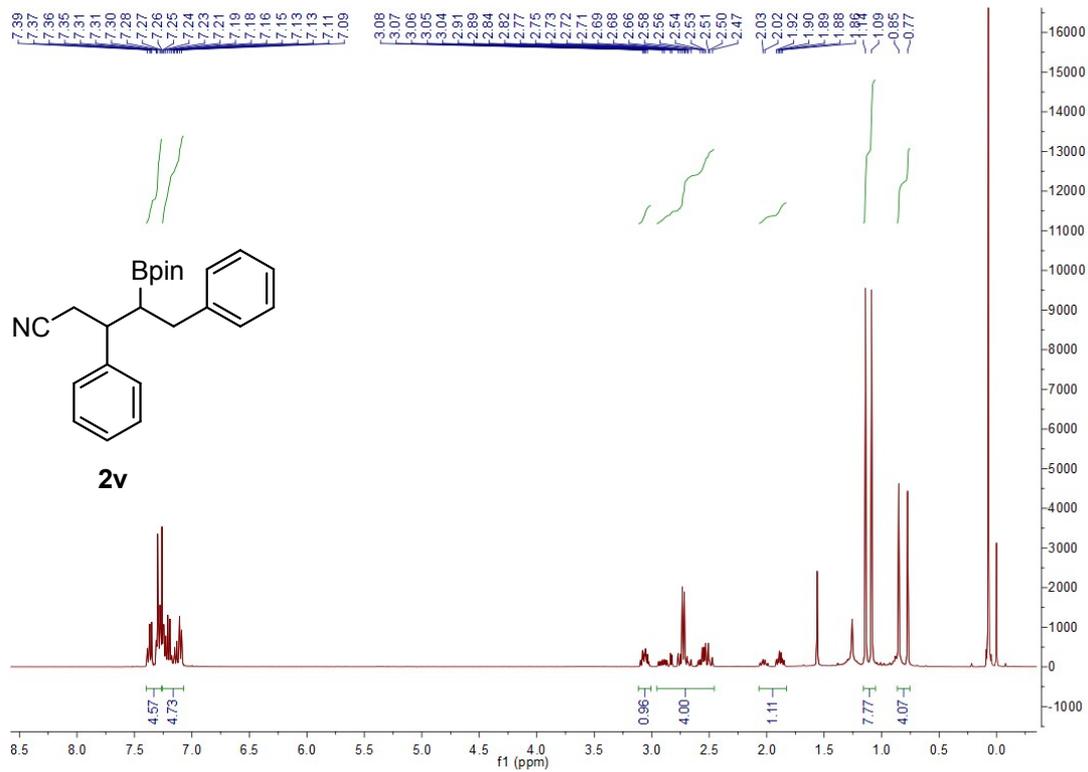


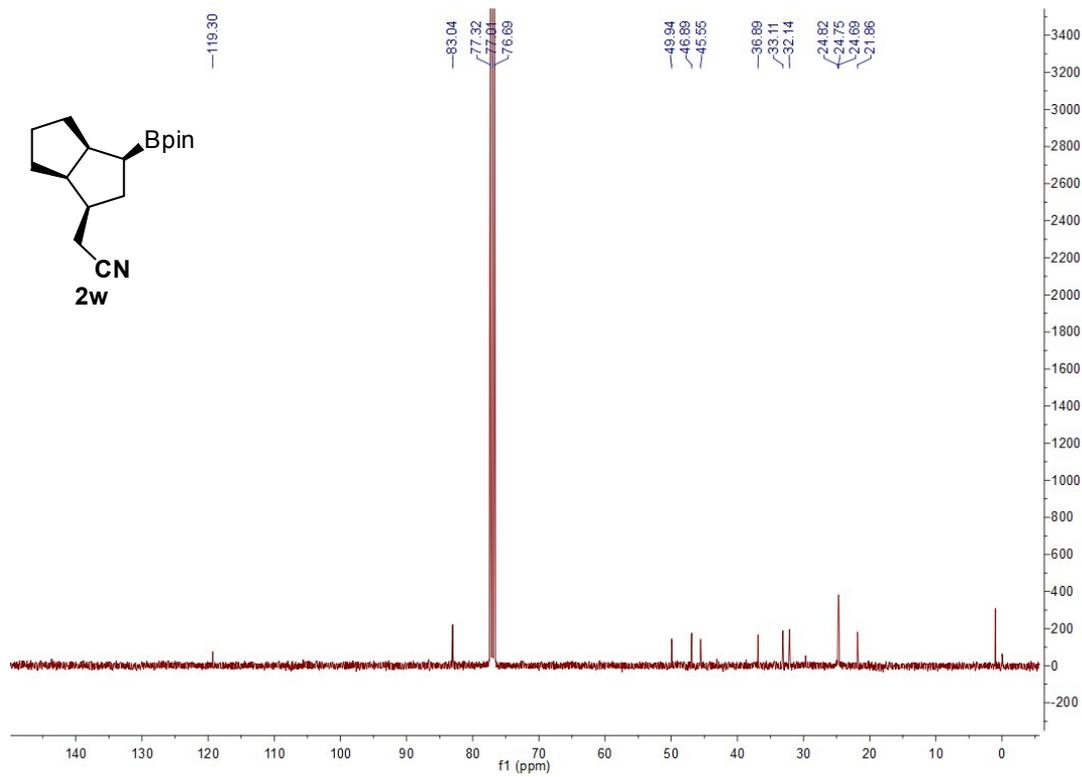
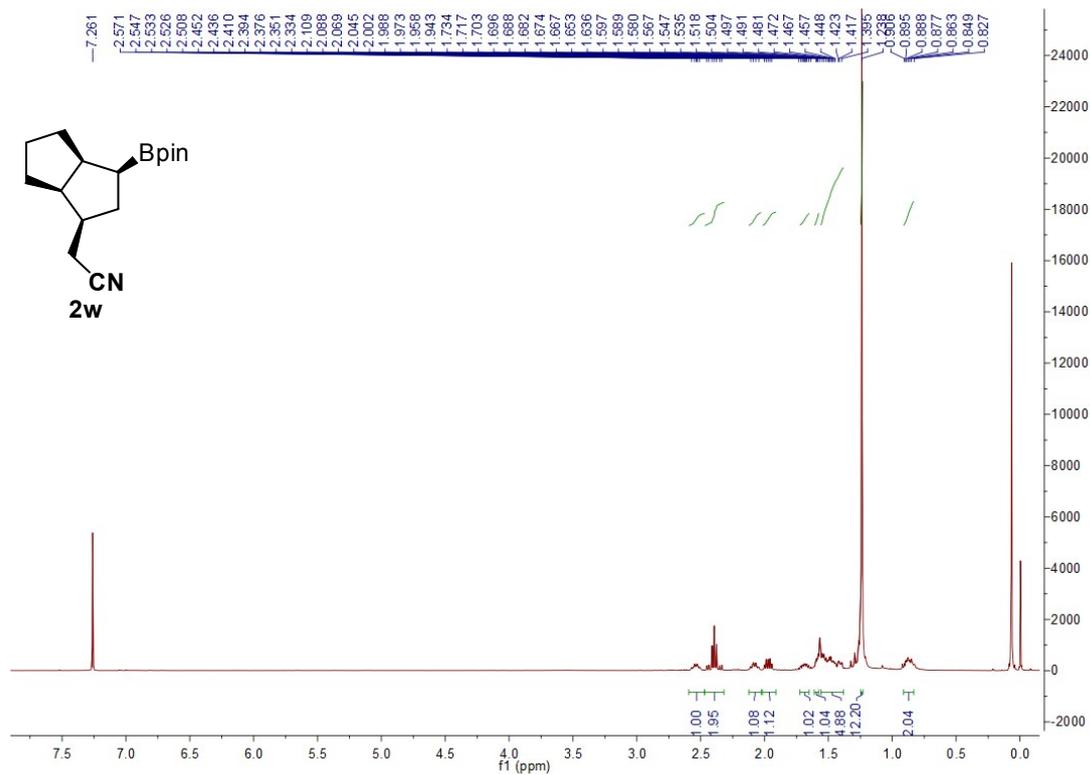




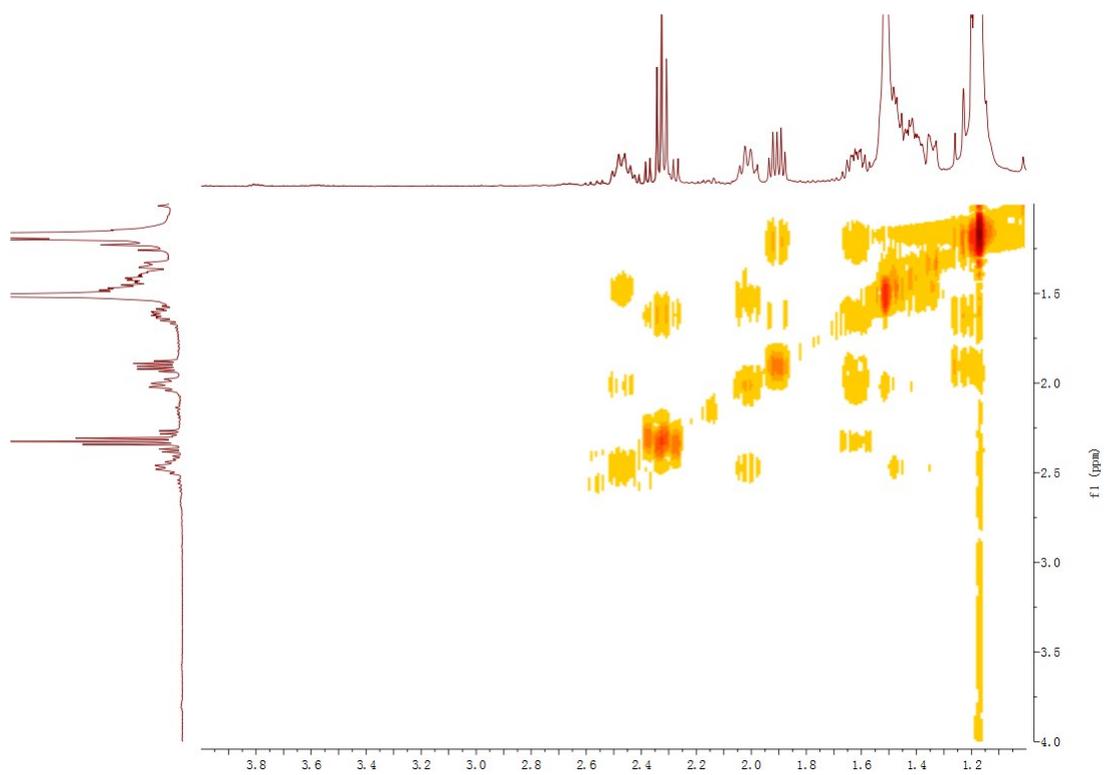
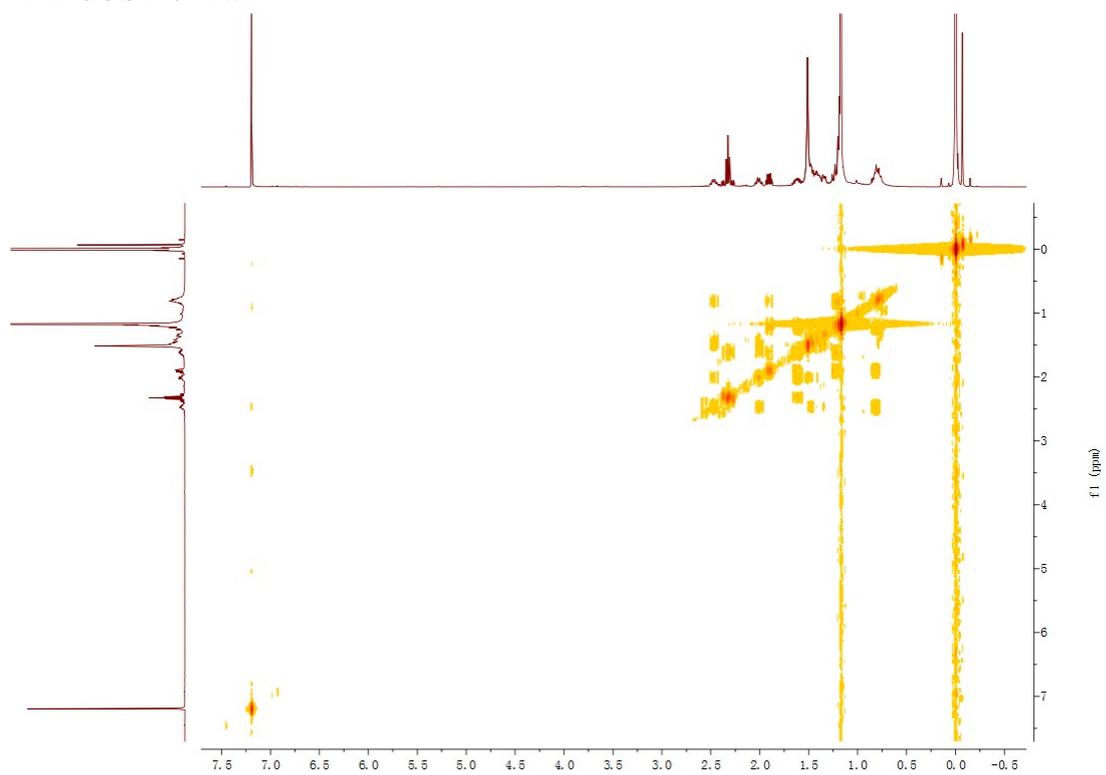




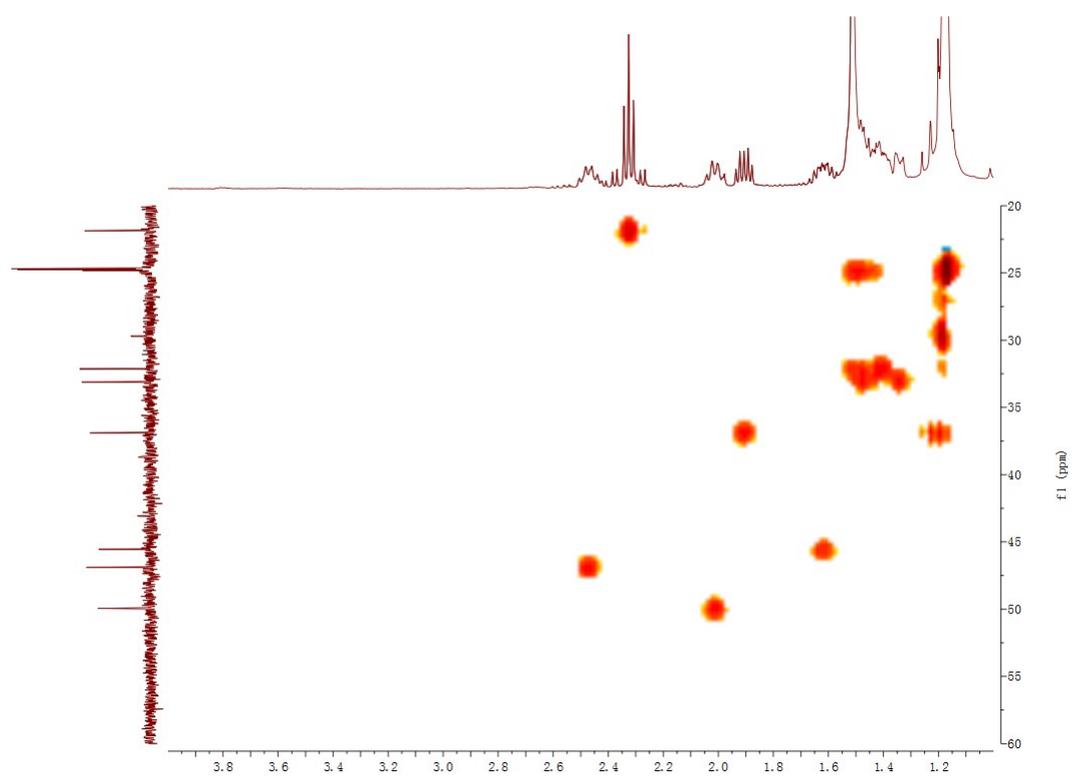
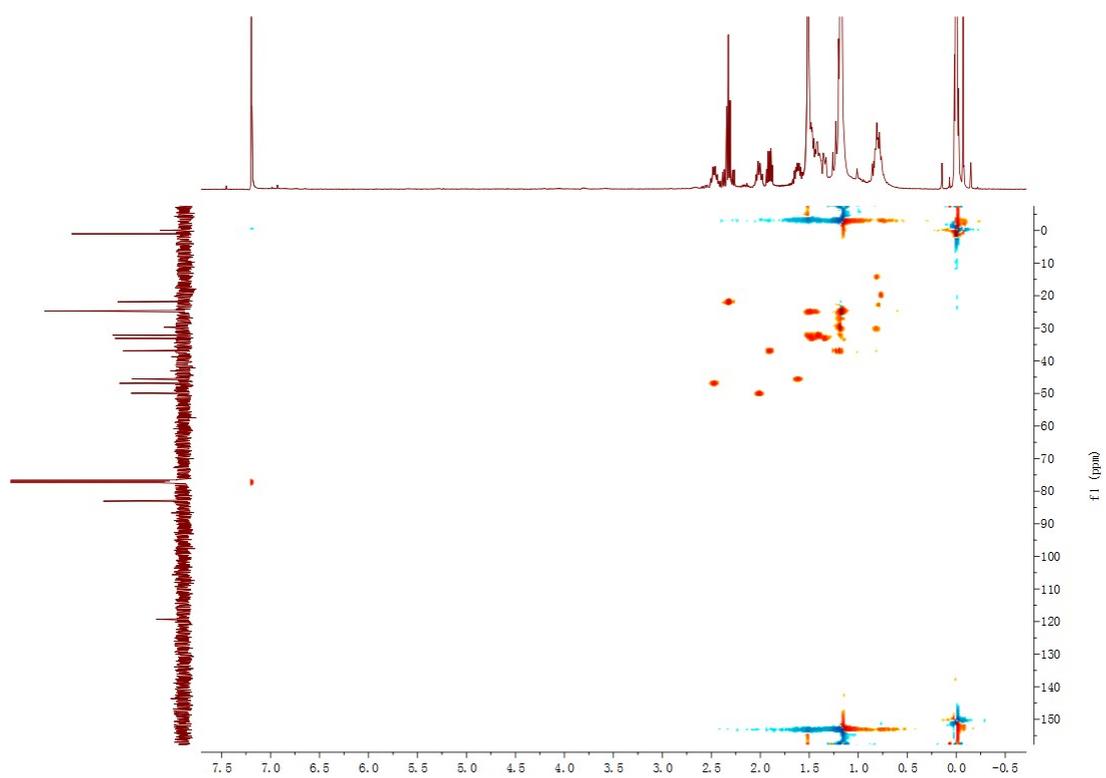




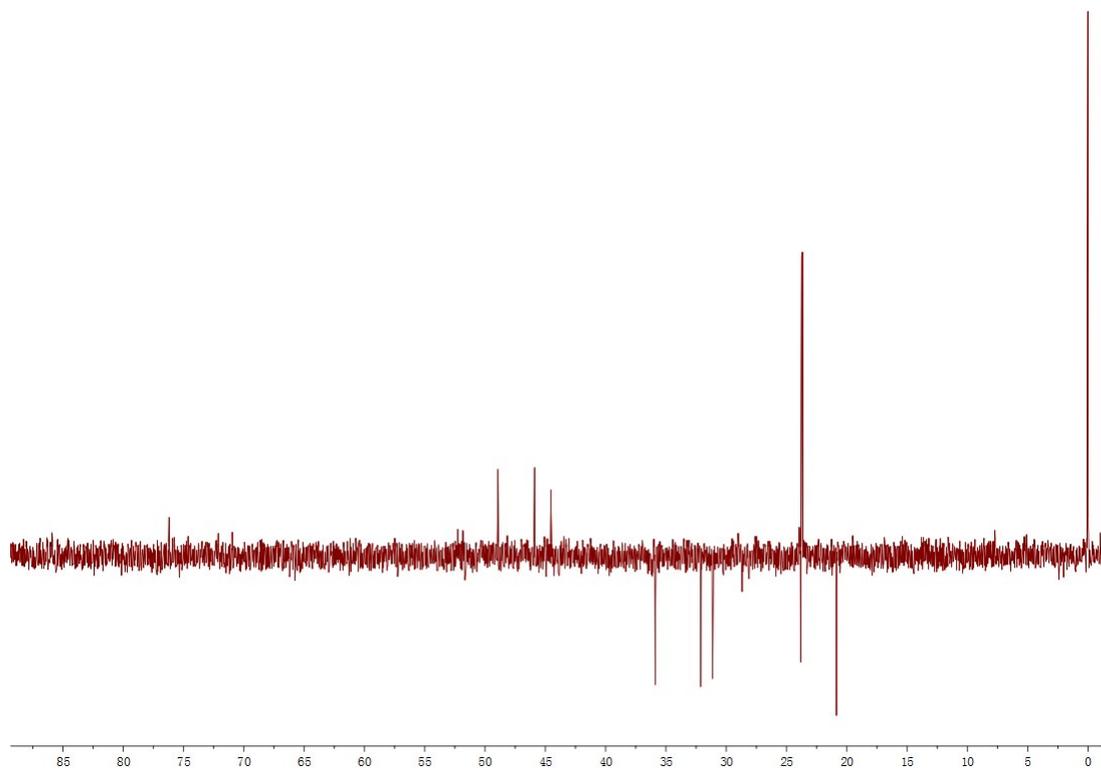
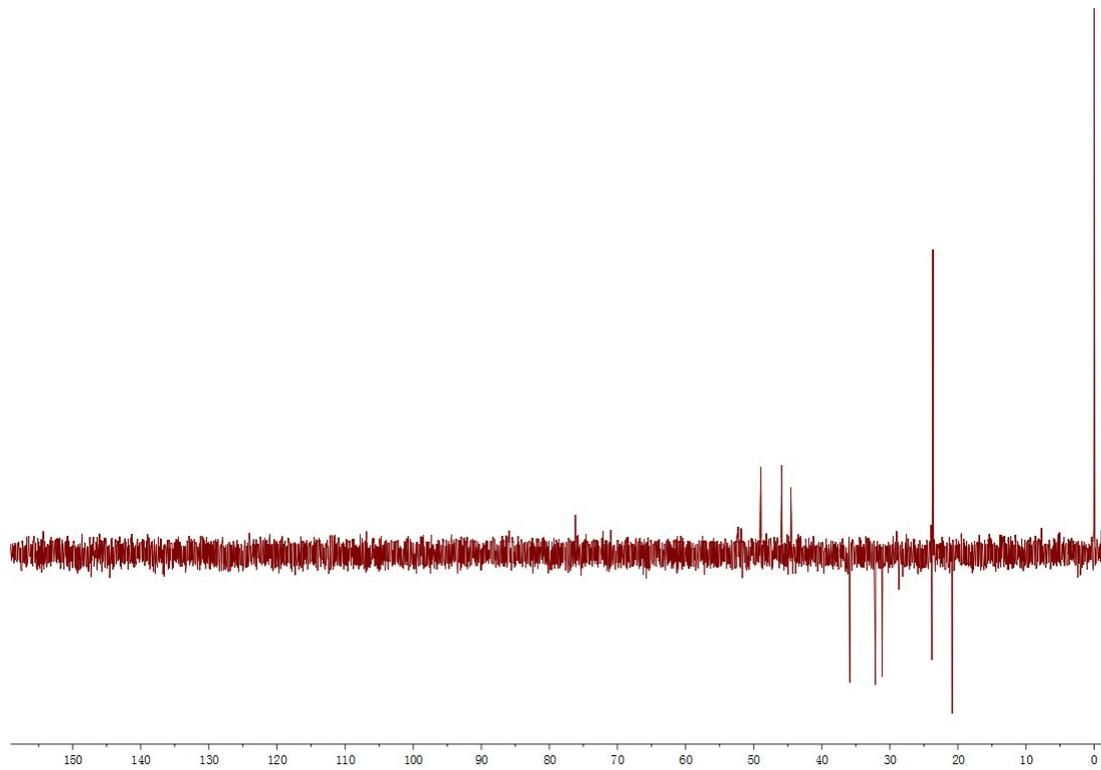
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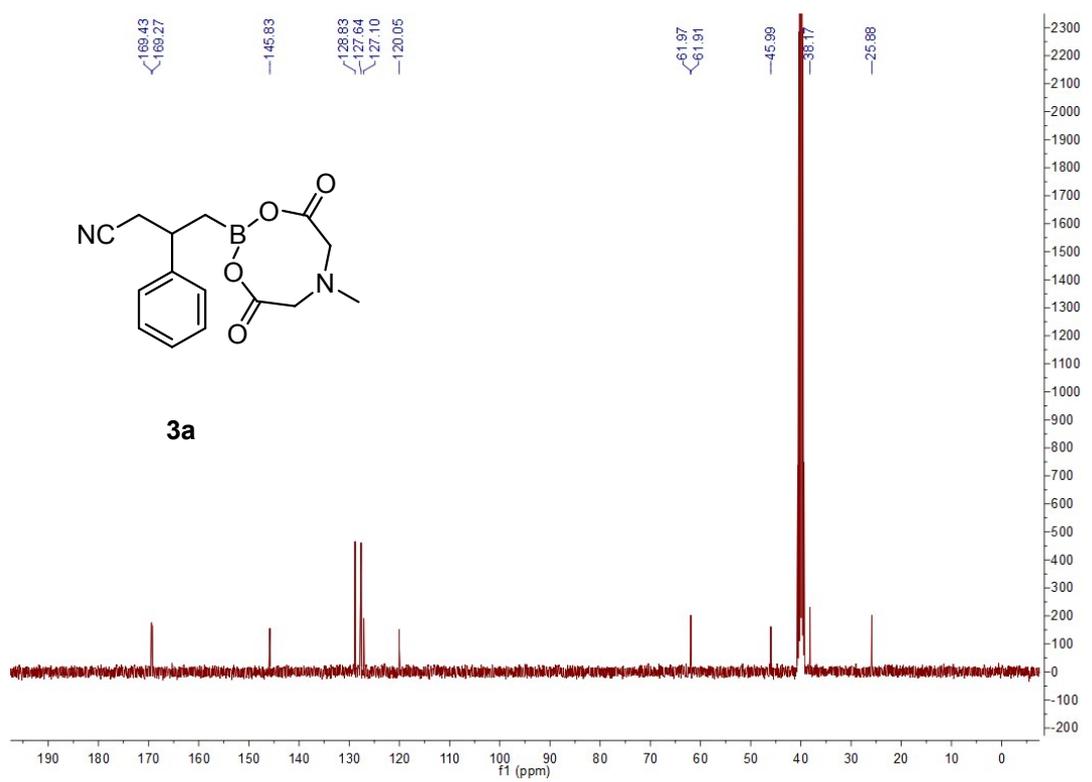
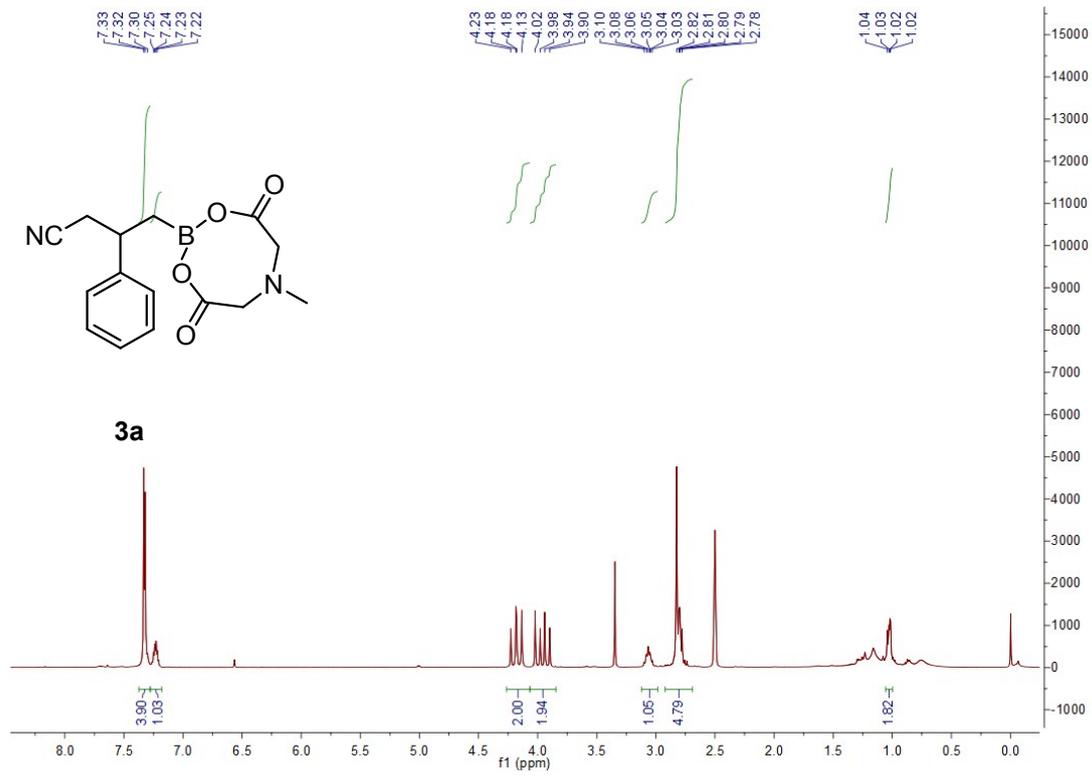


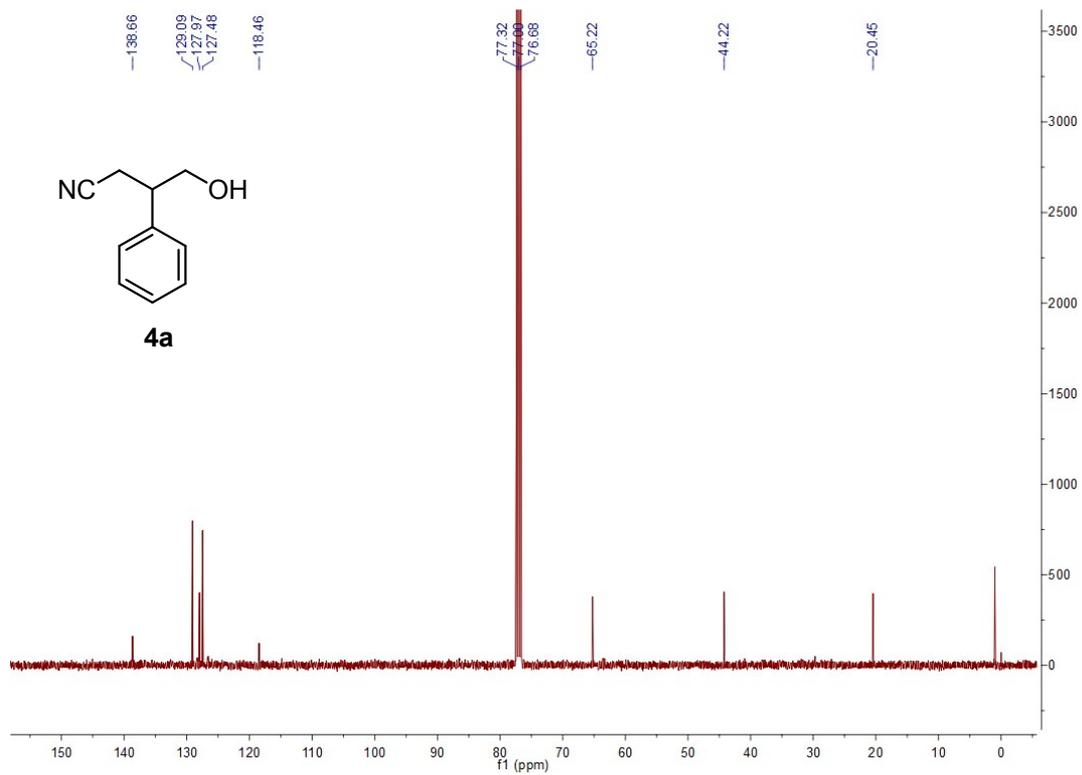
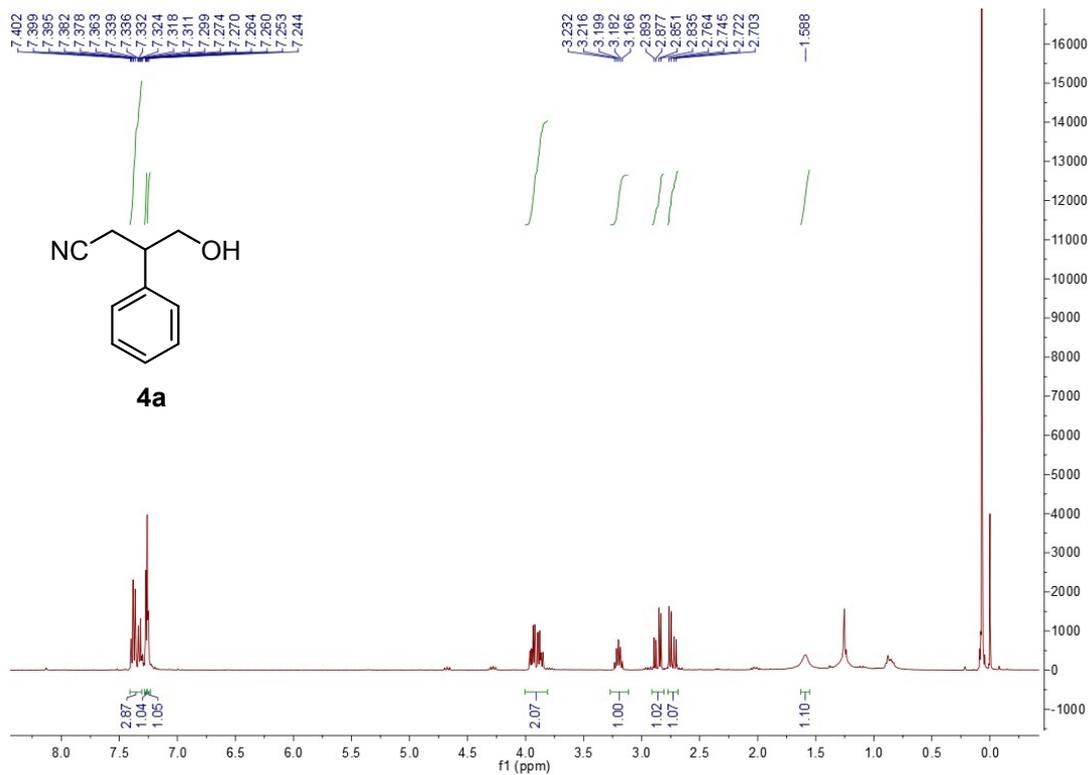
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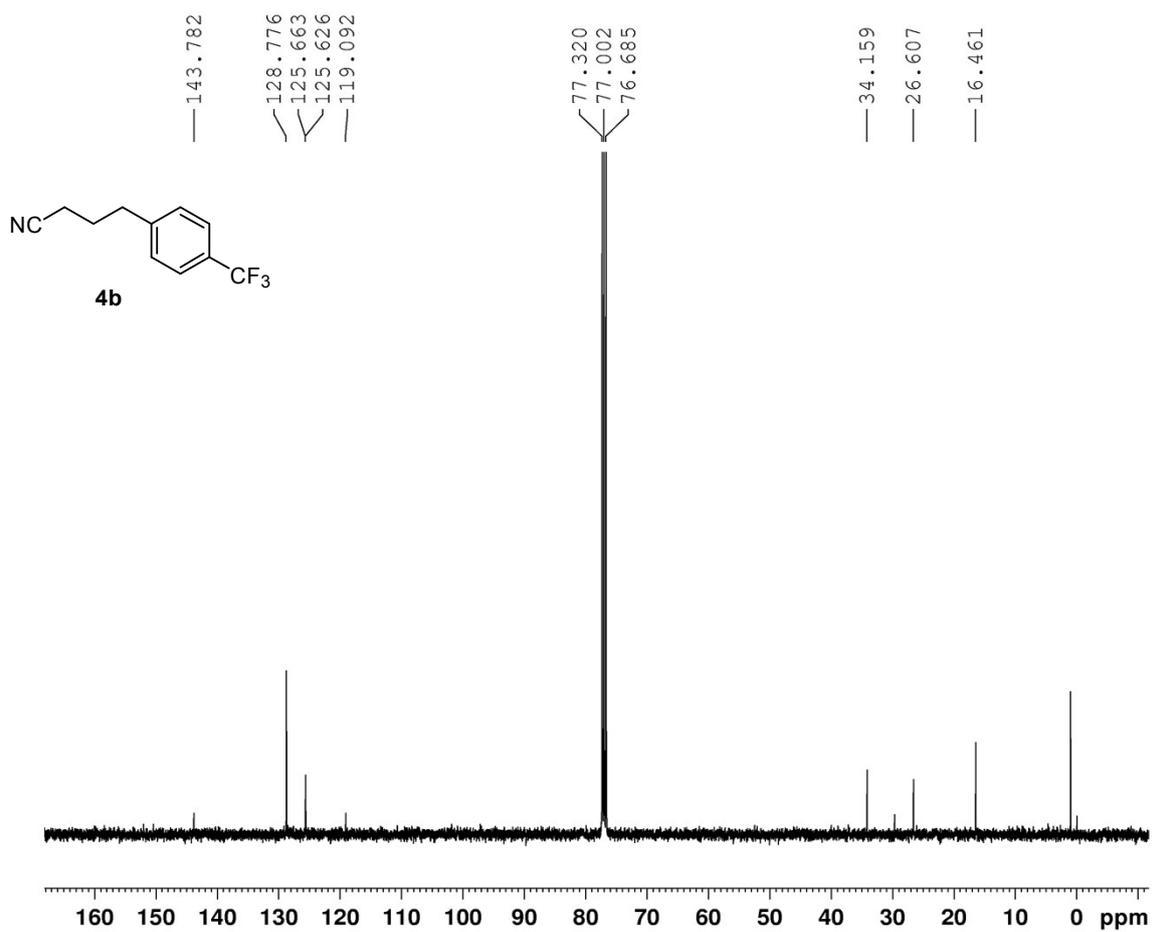
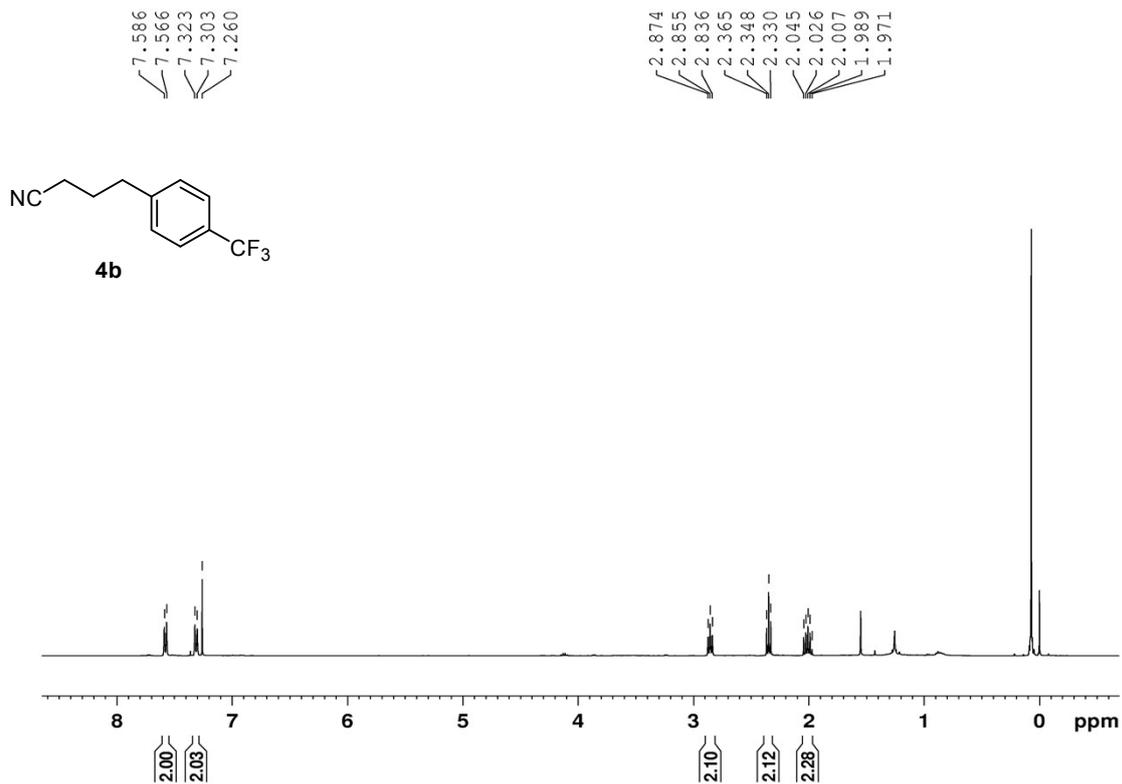


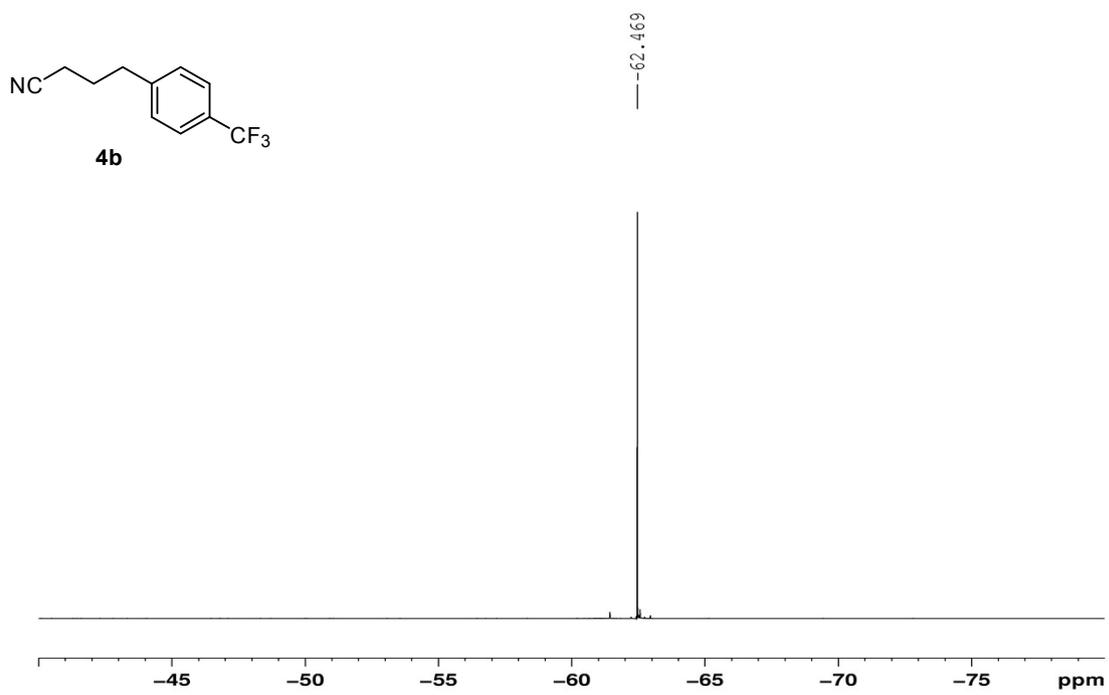
DEPT 135 of 2w

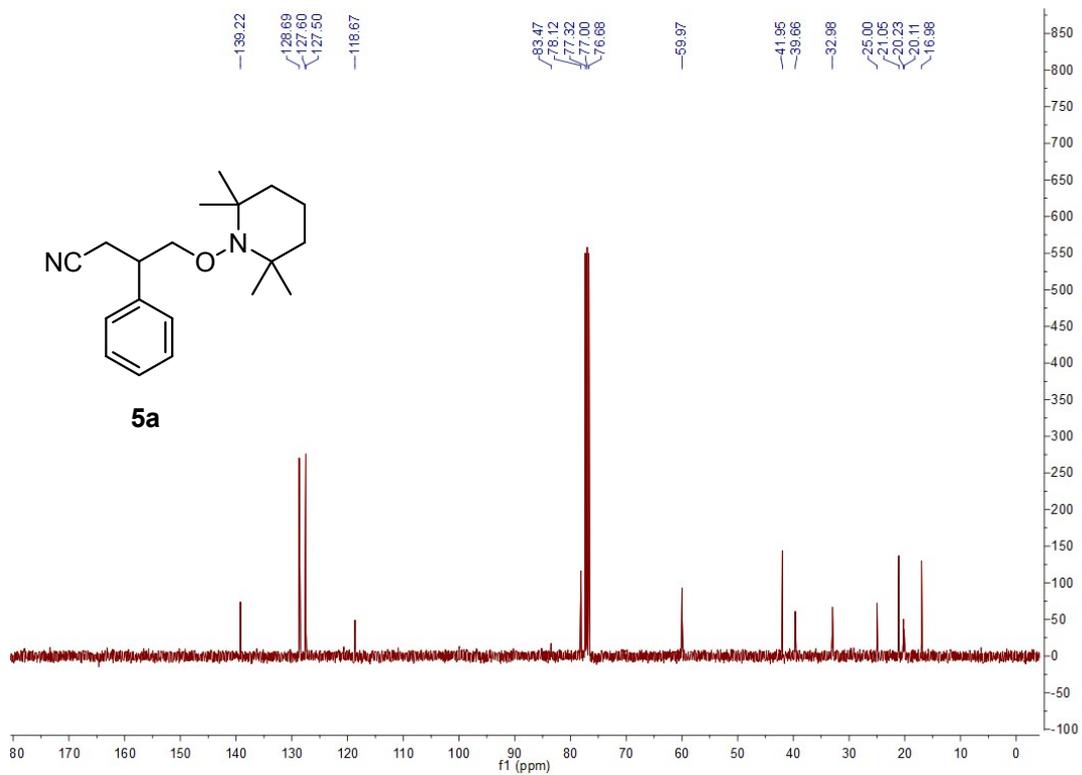
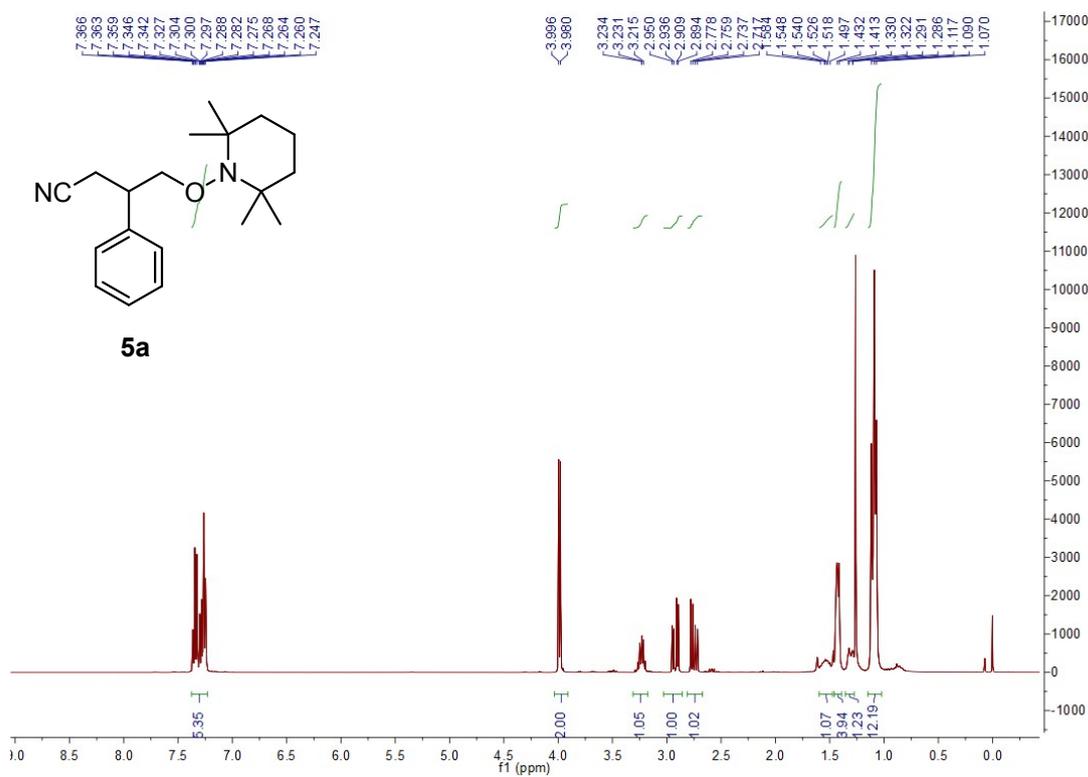


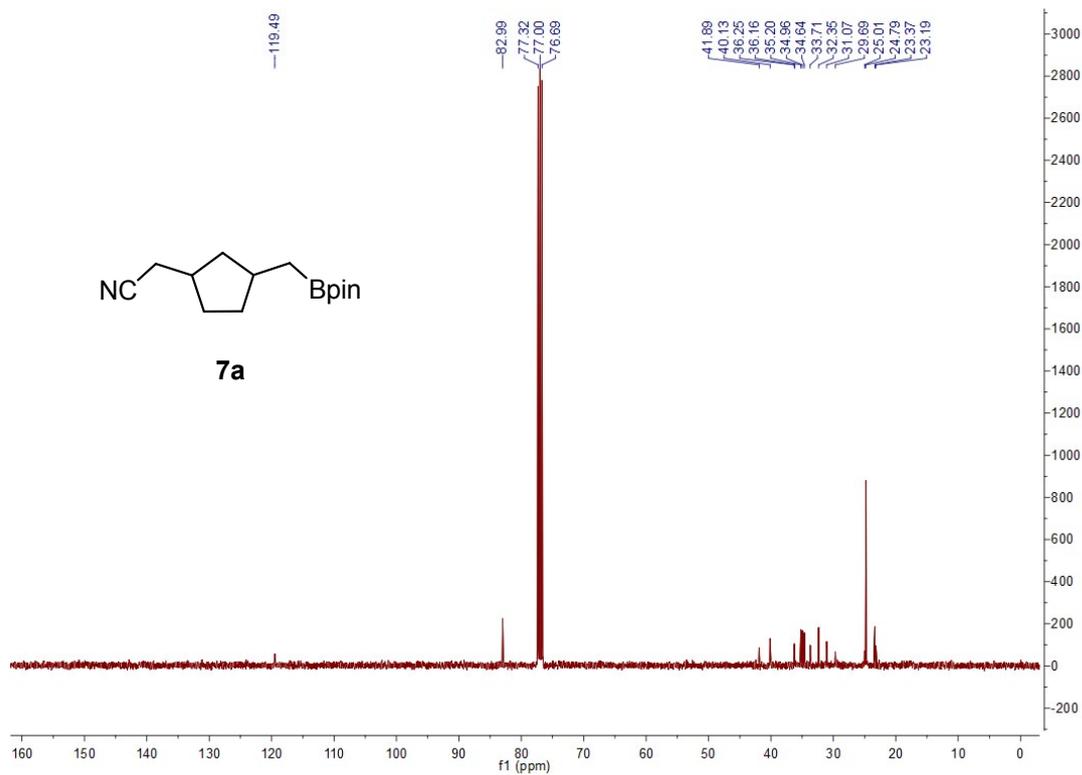
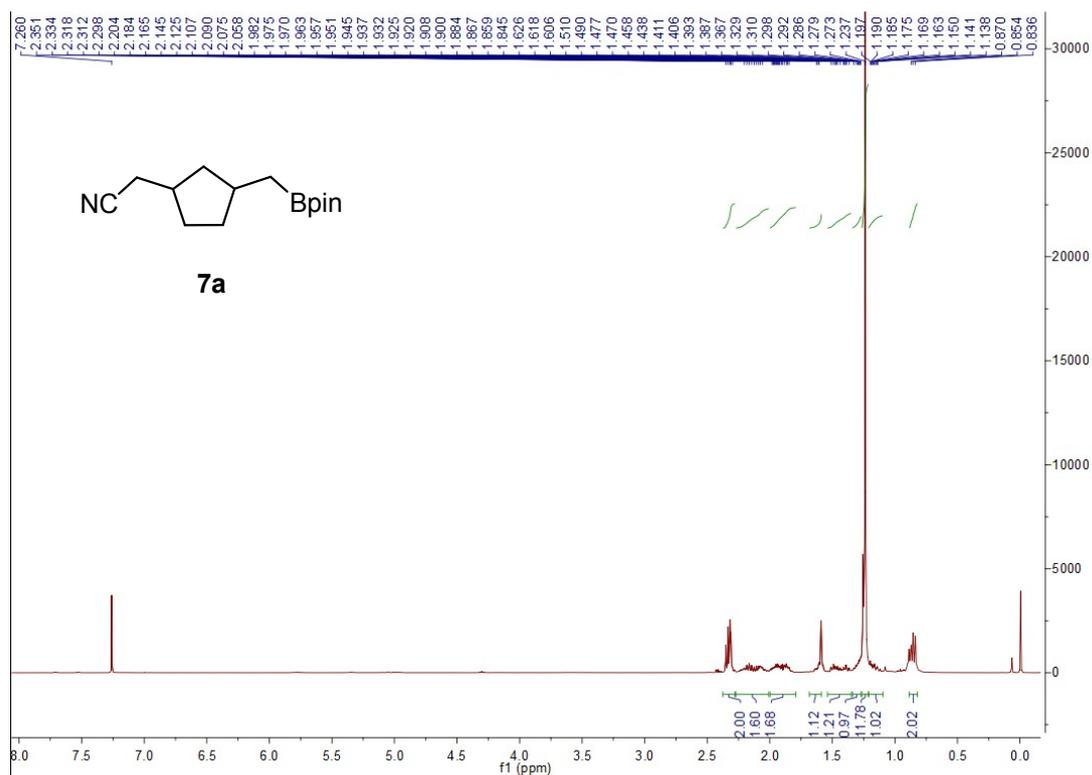


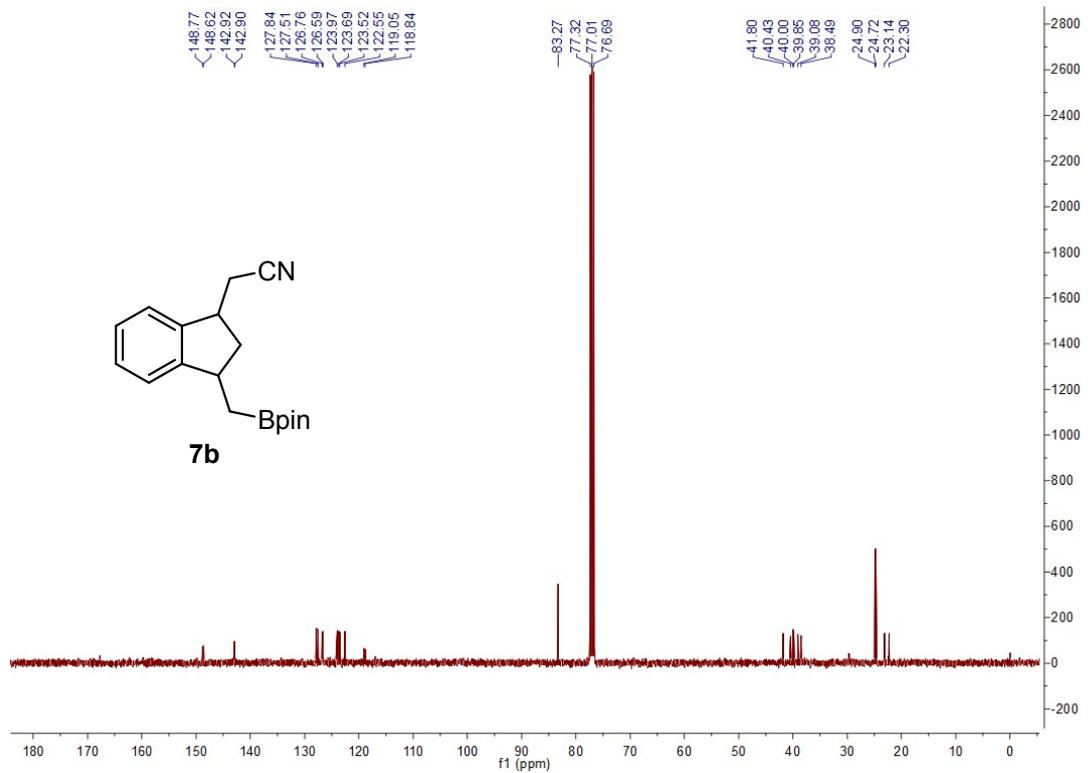
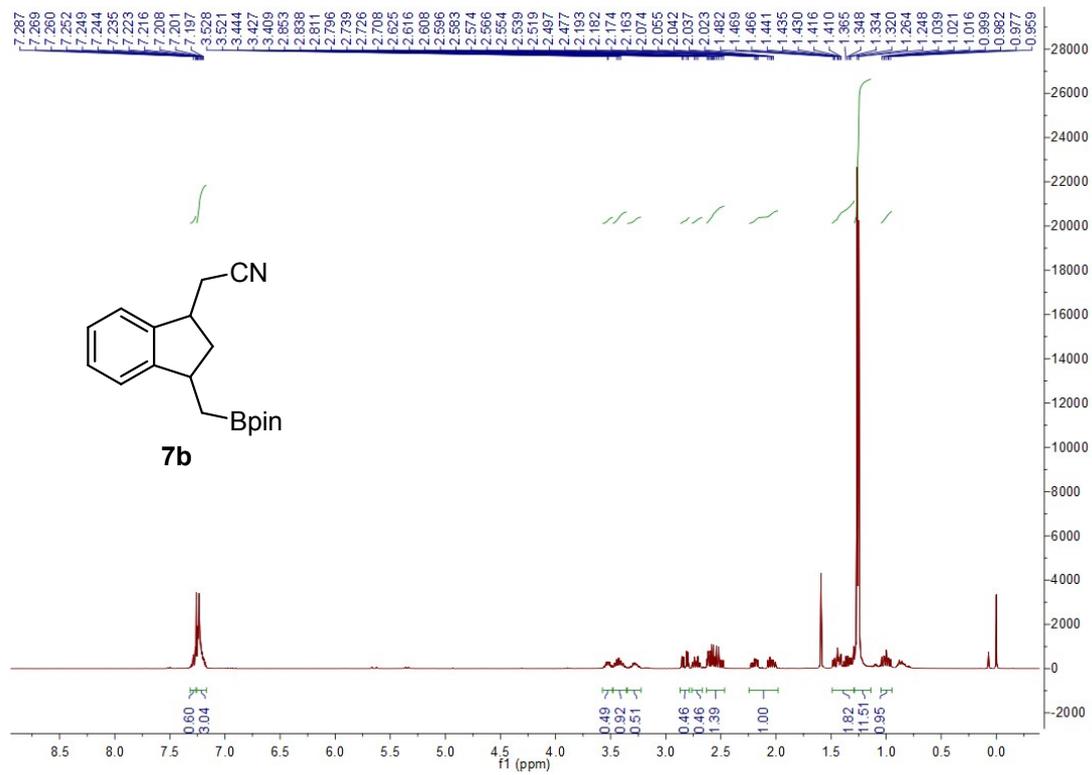


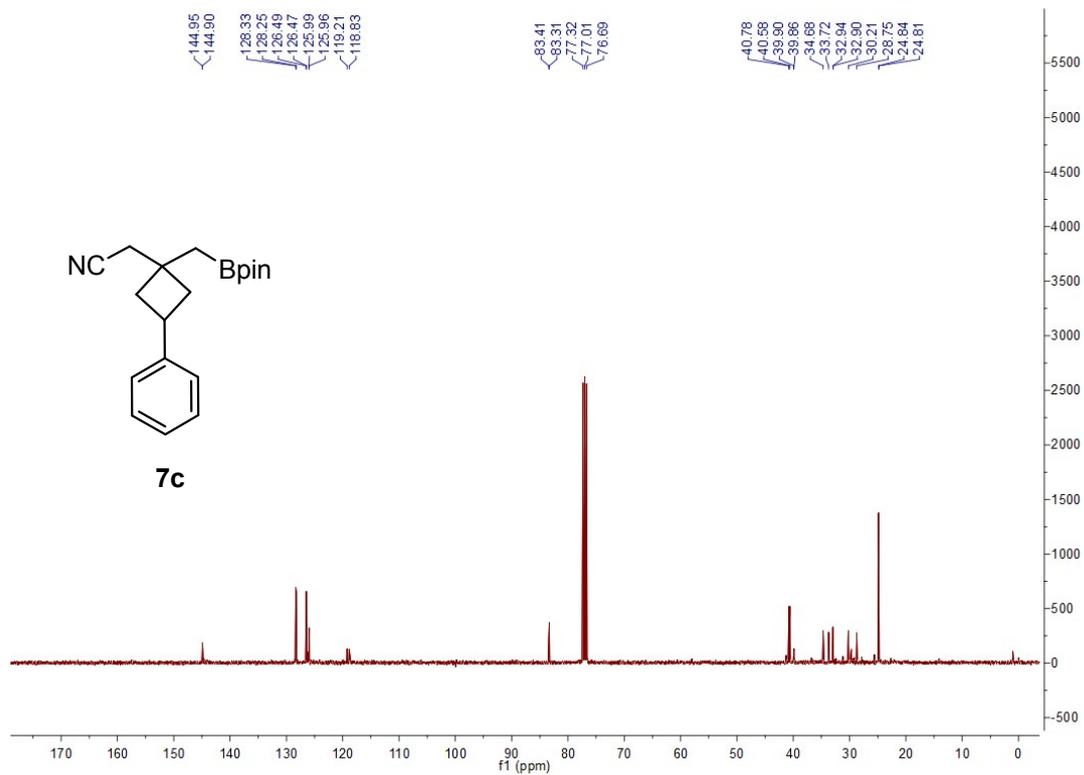
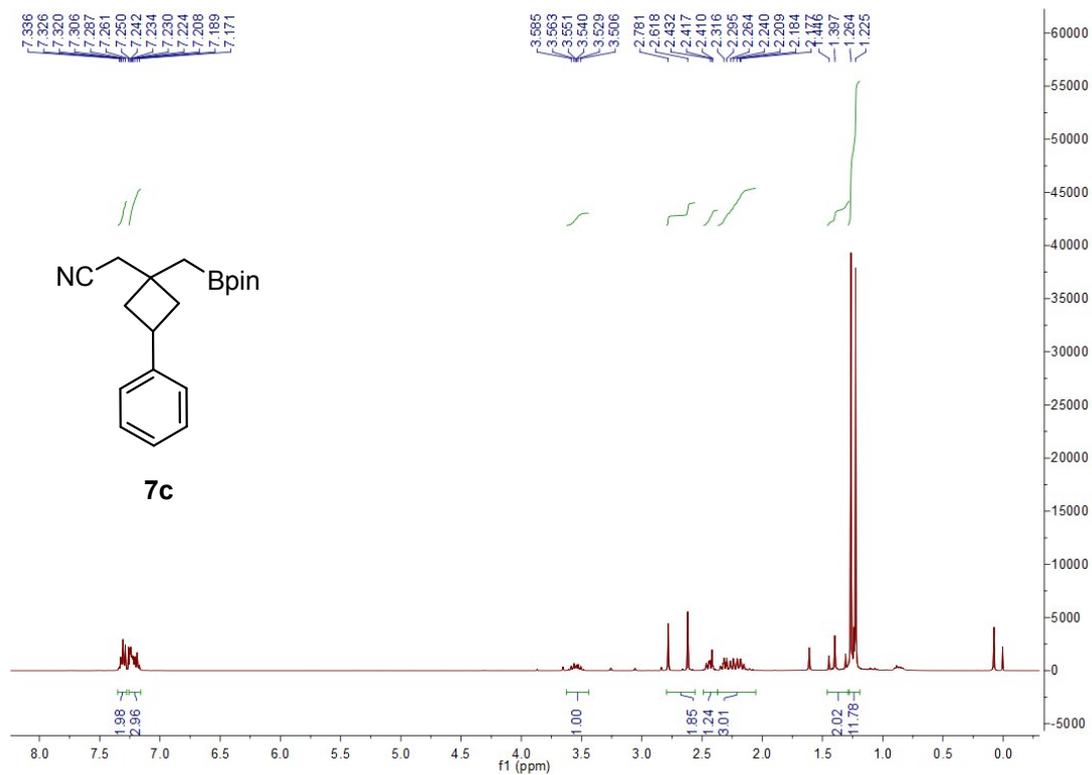


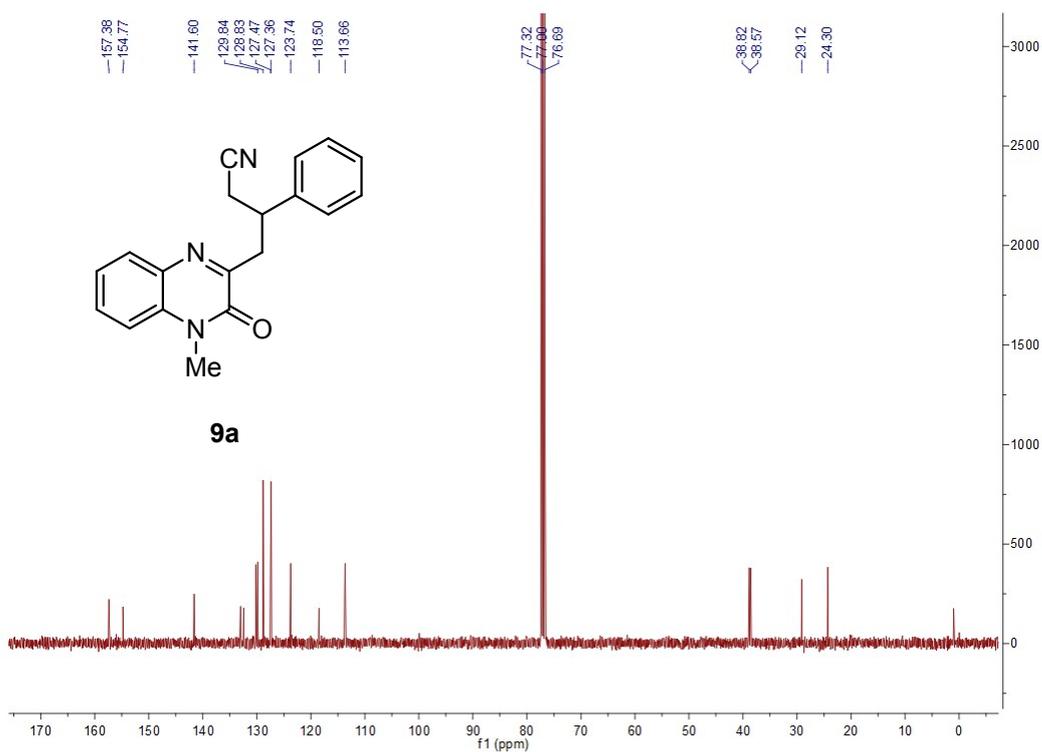
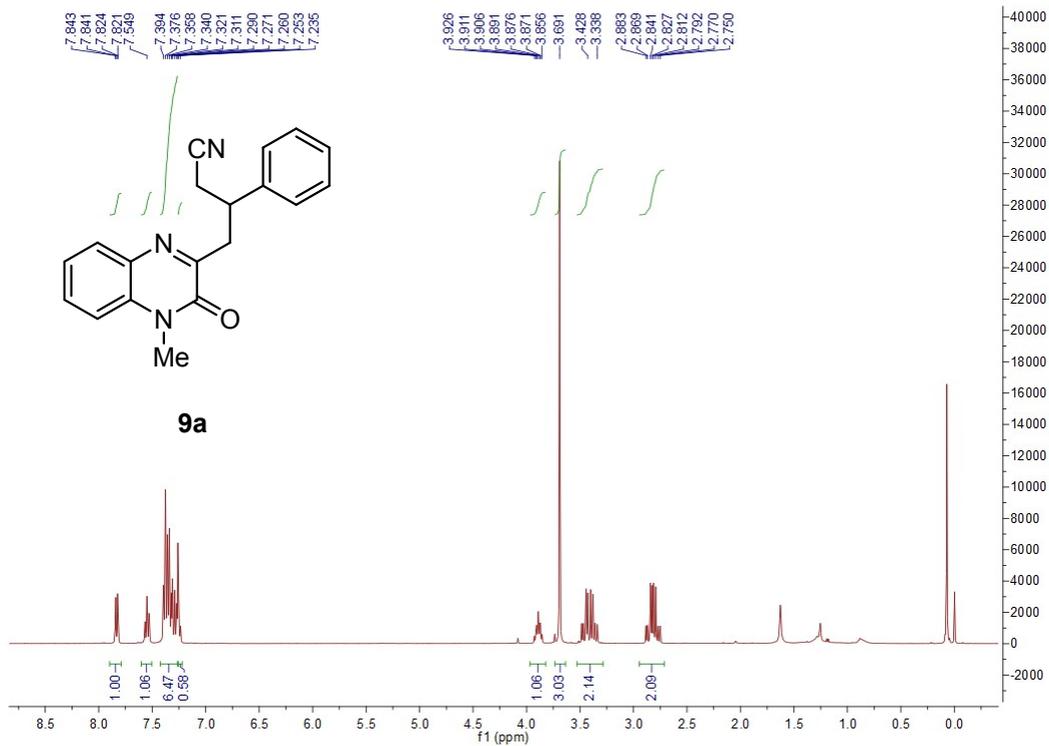


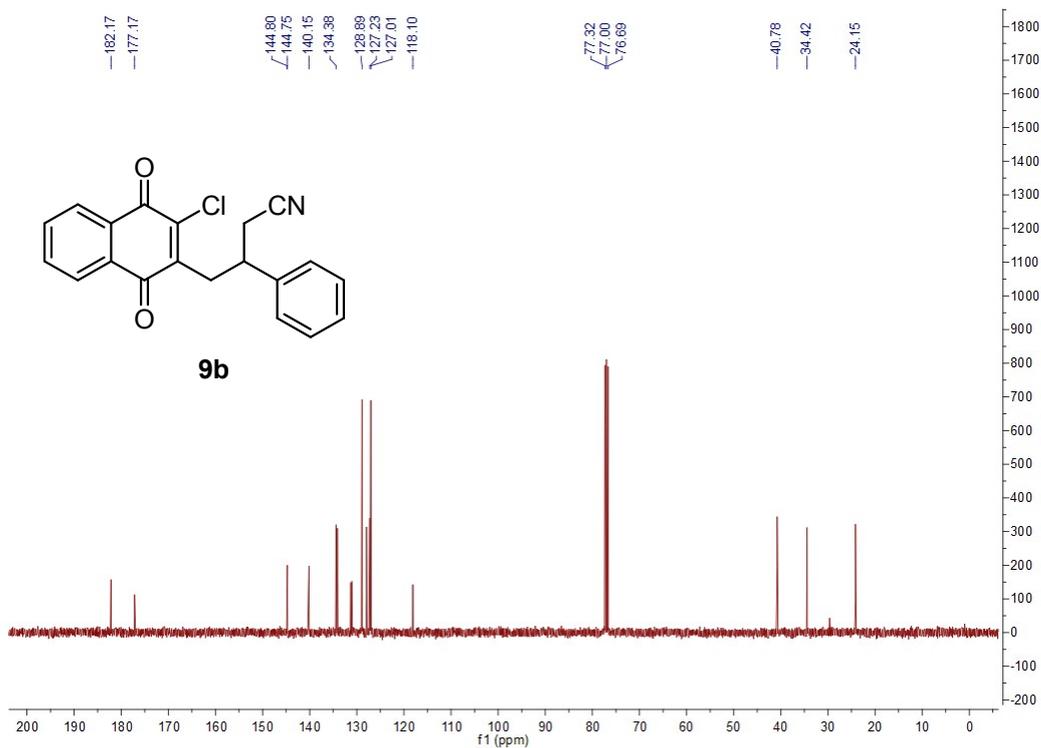
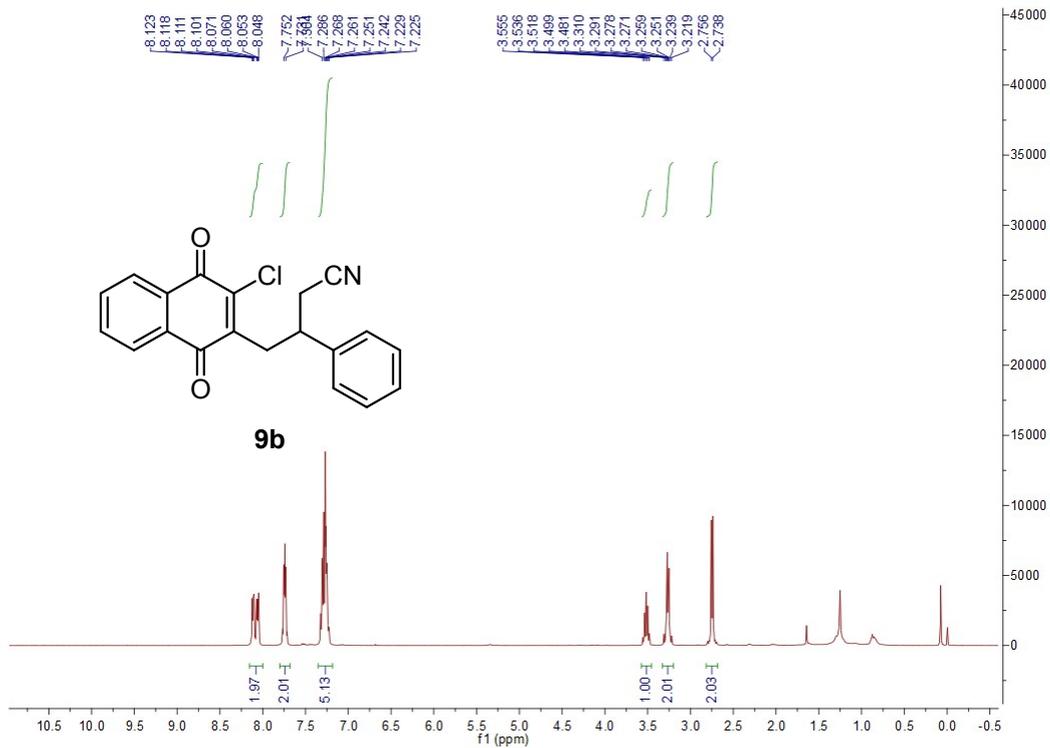




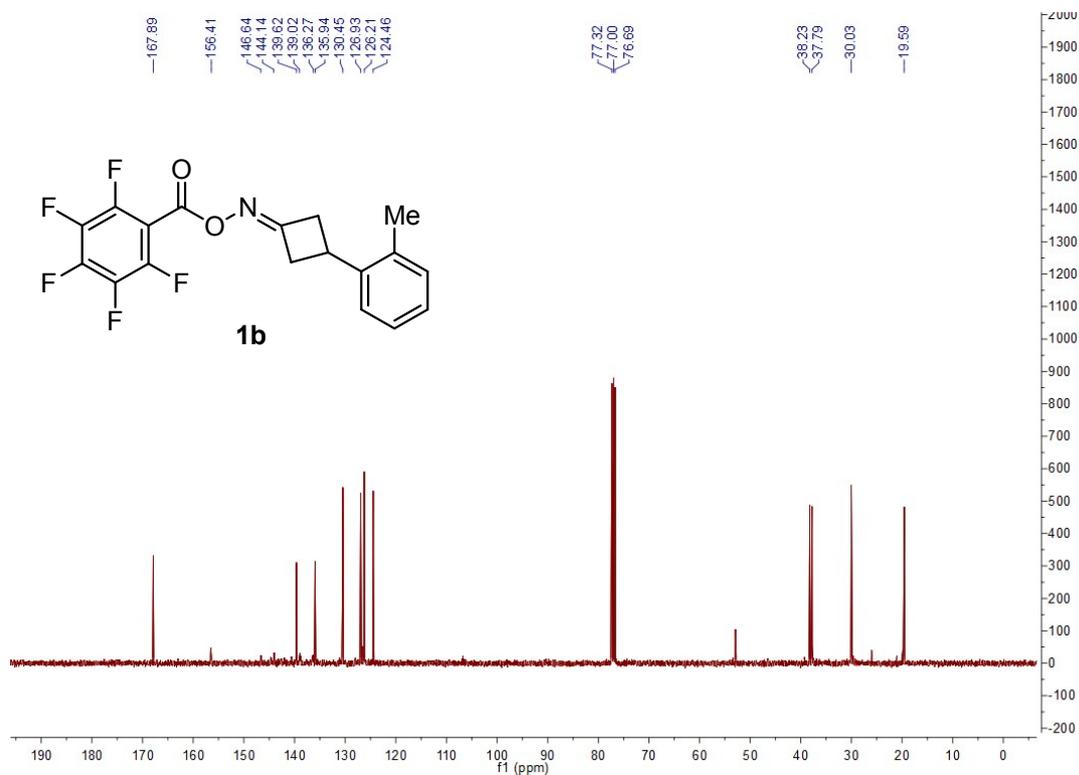
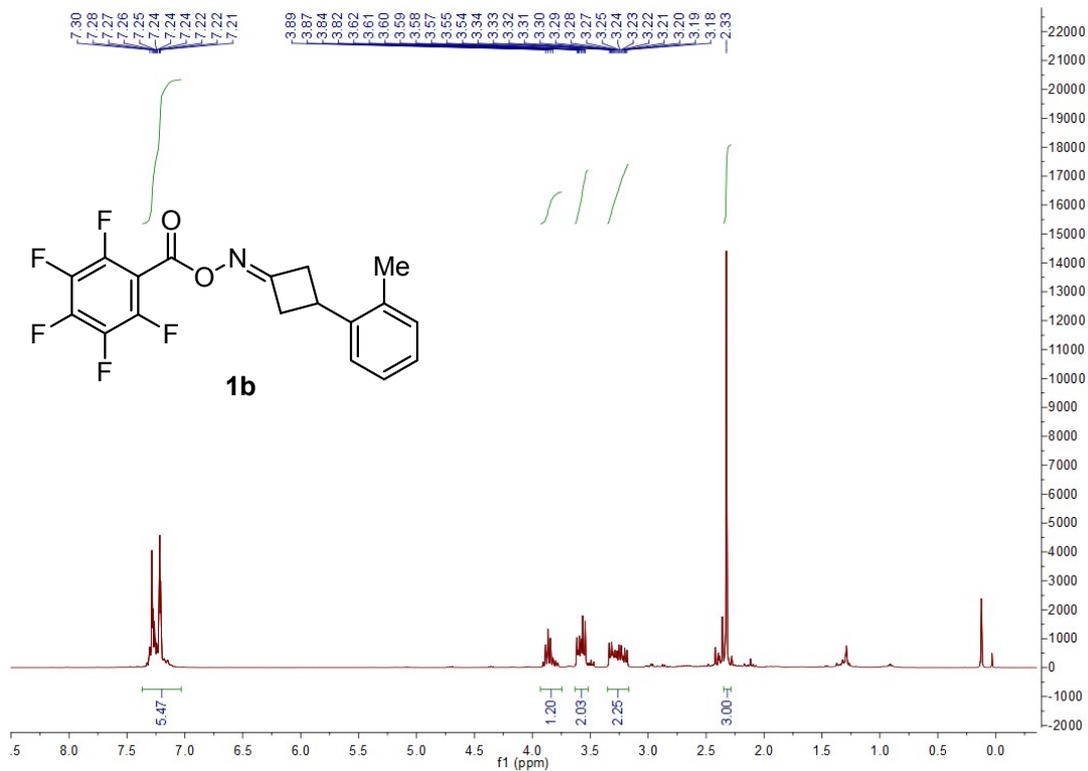


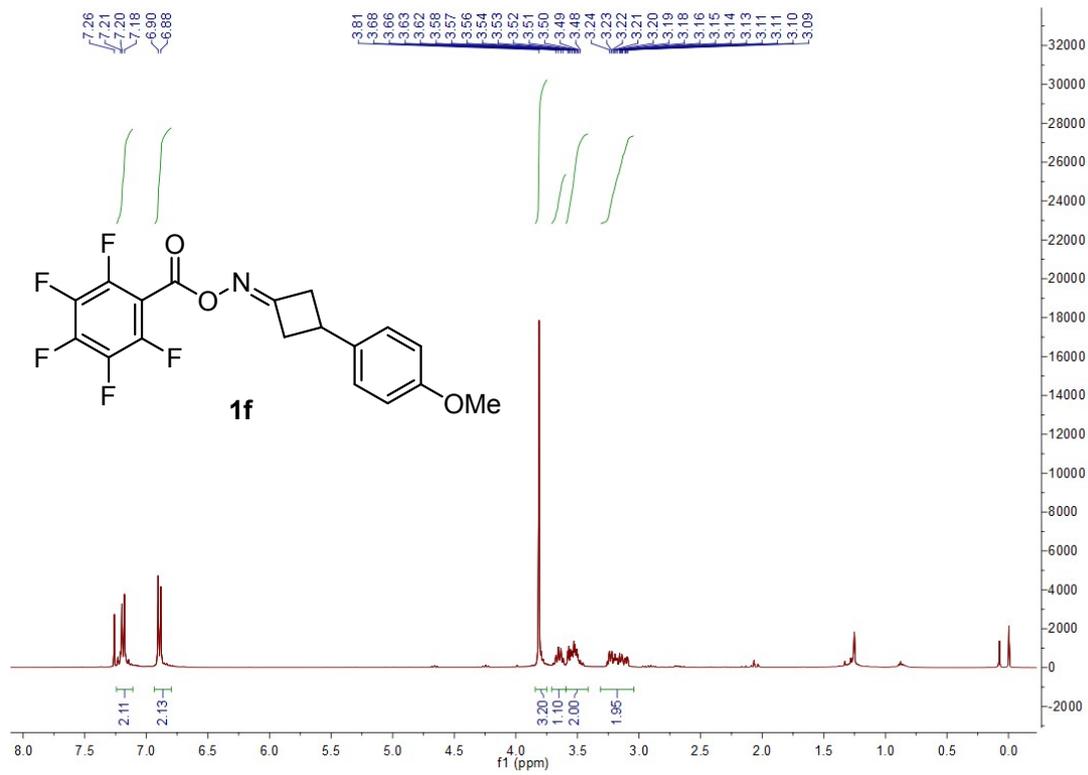
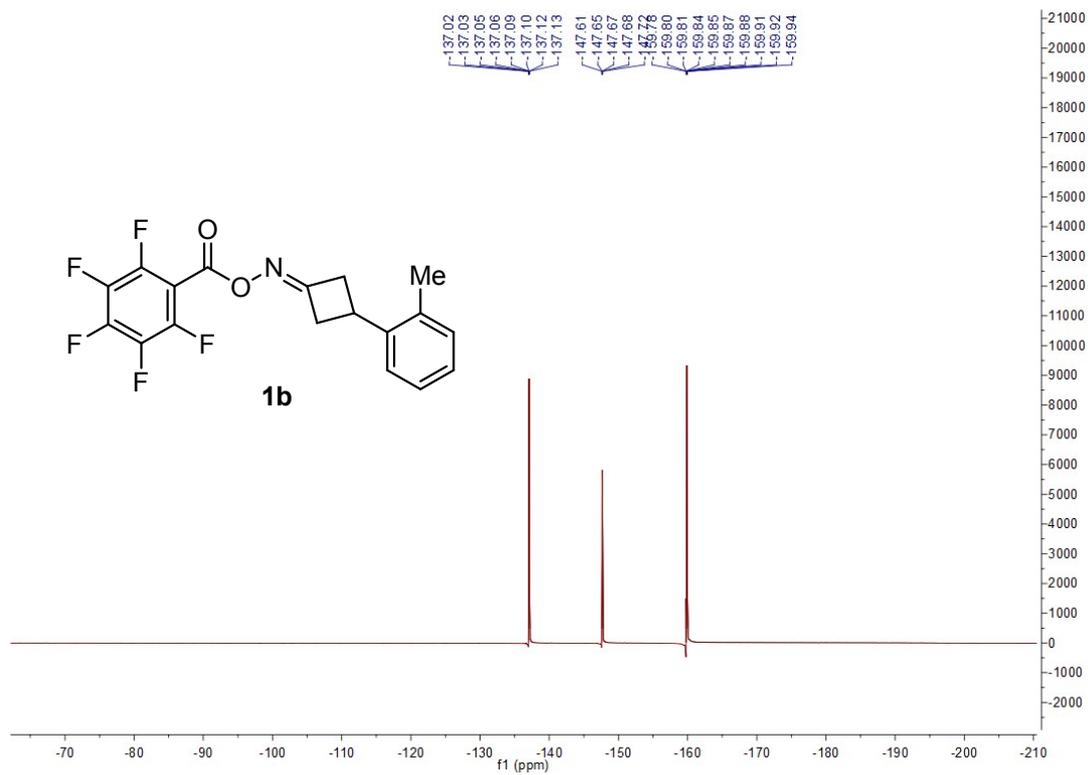


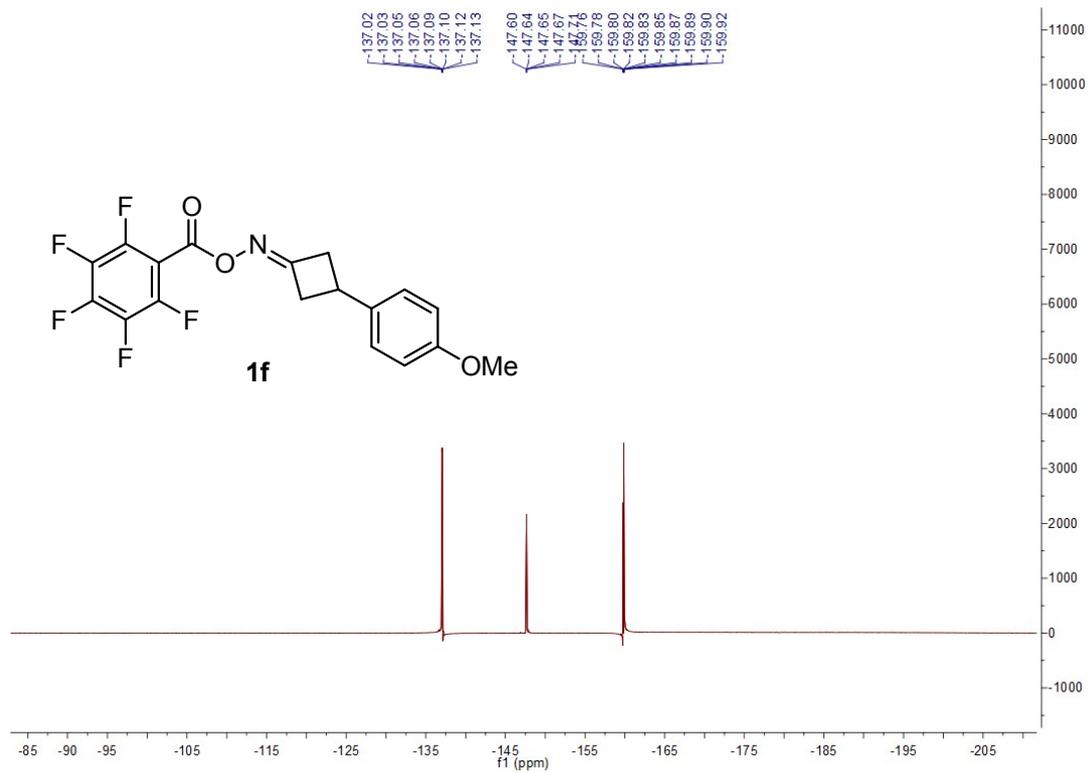
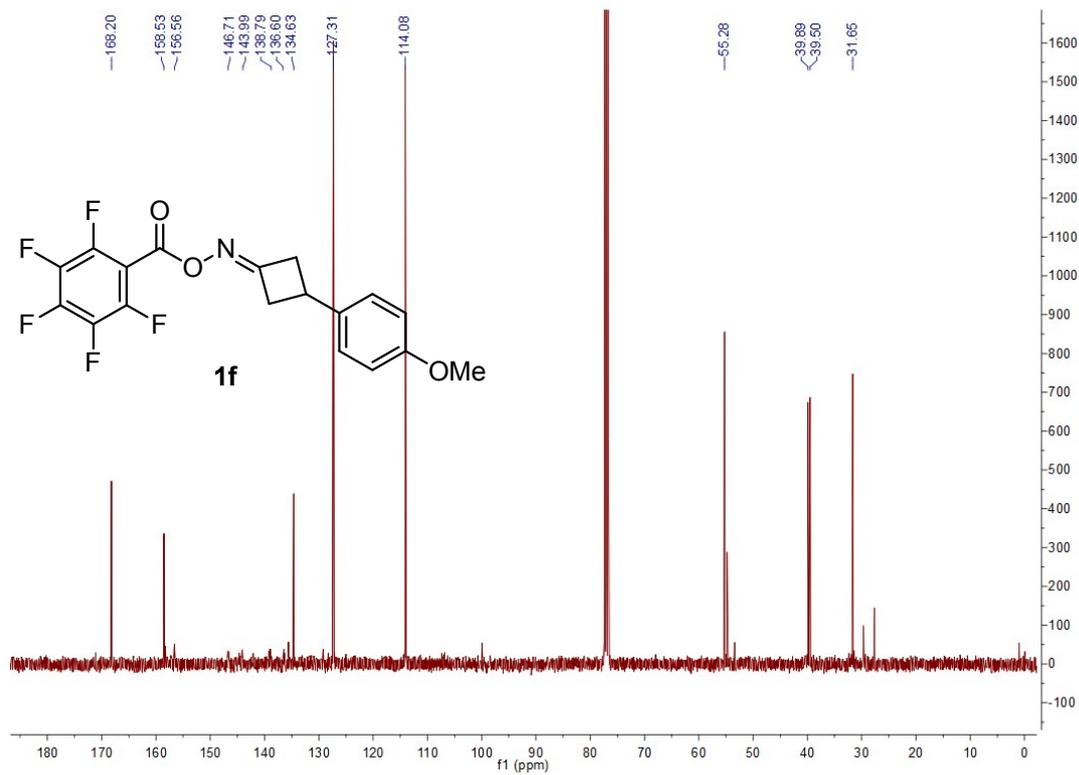


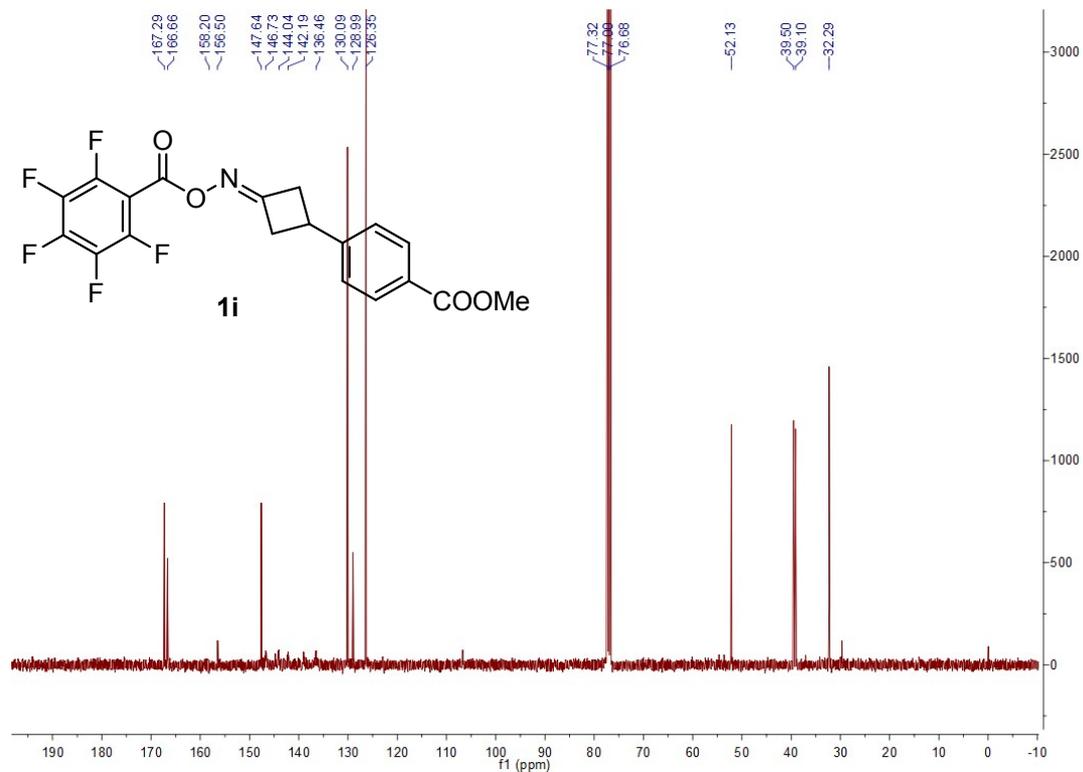
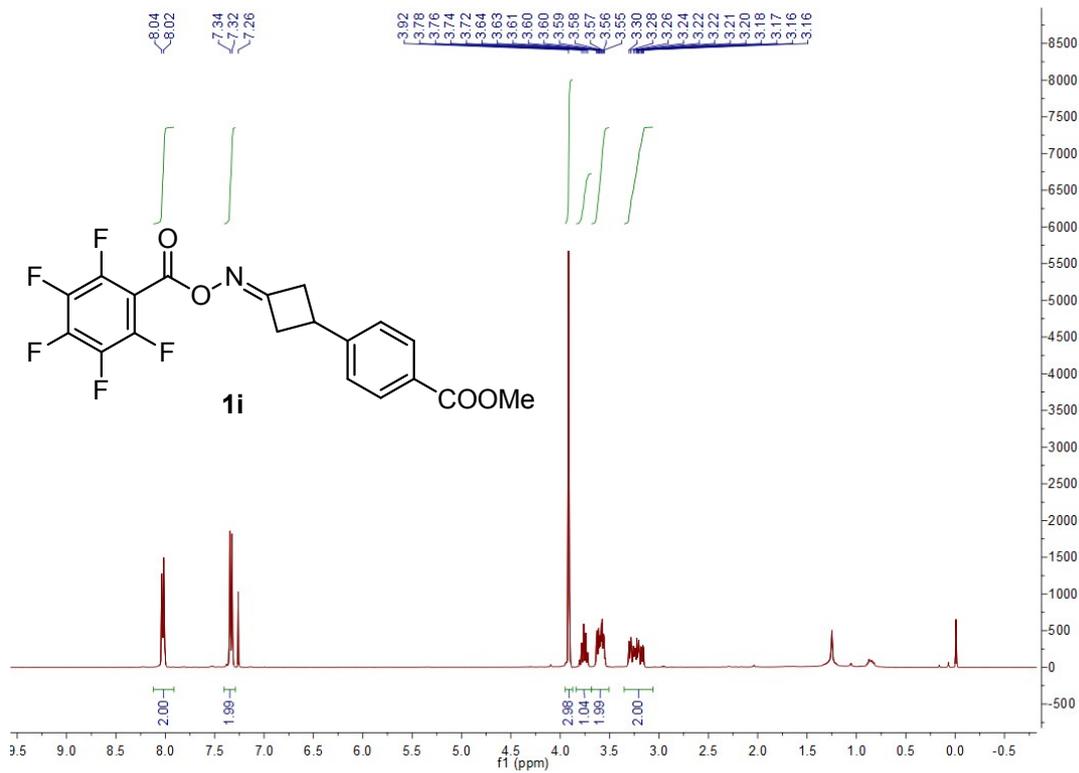


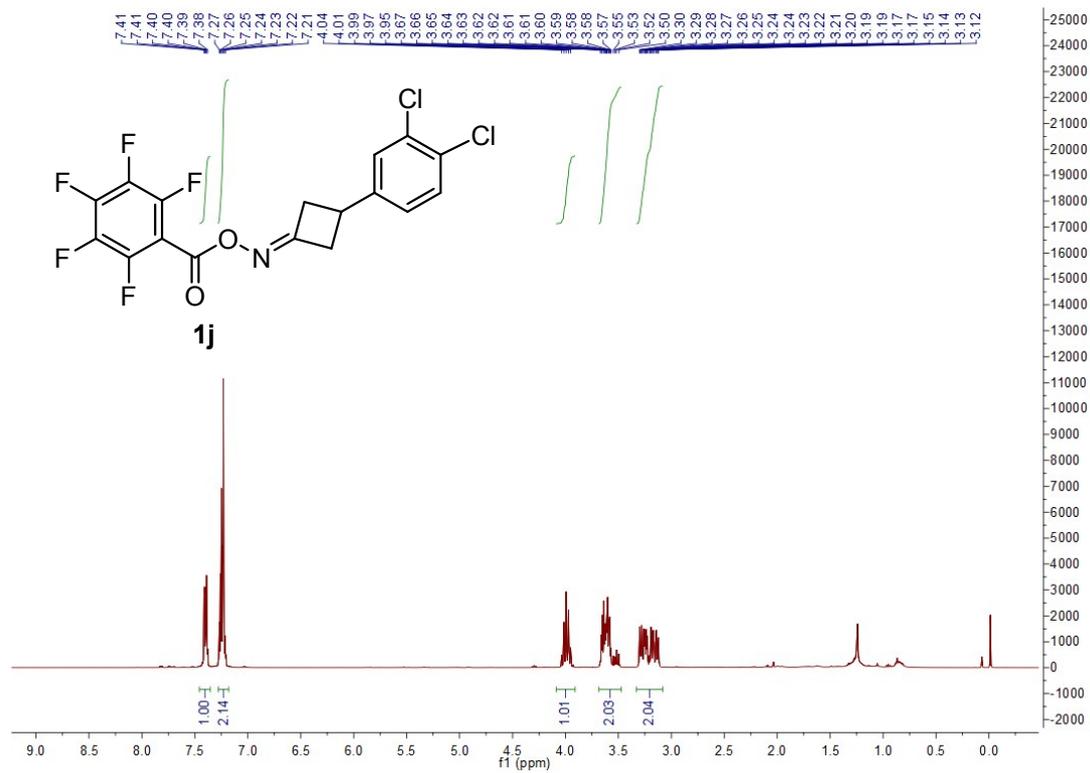
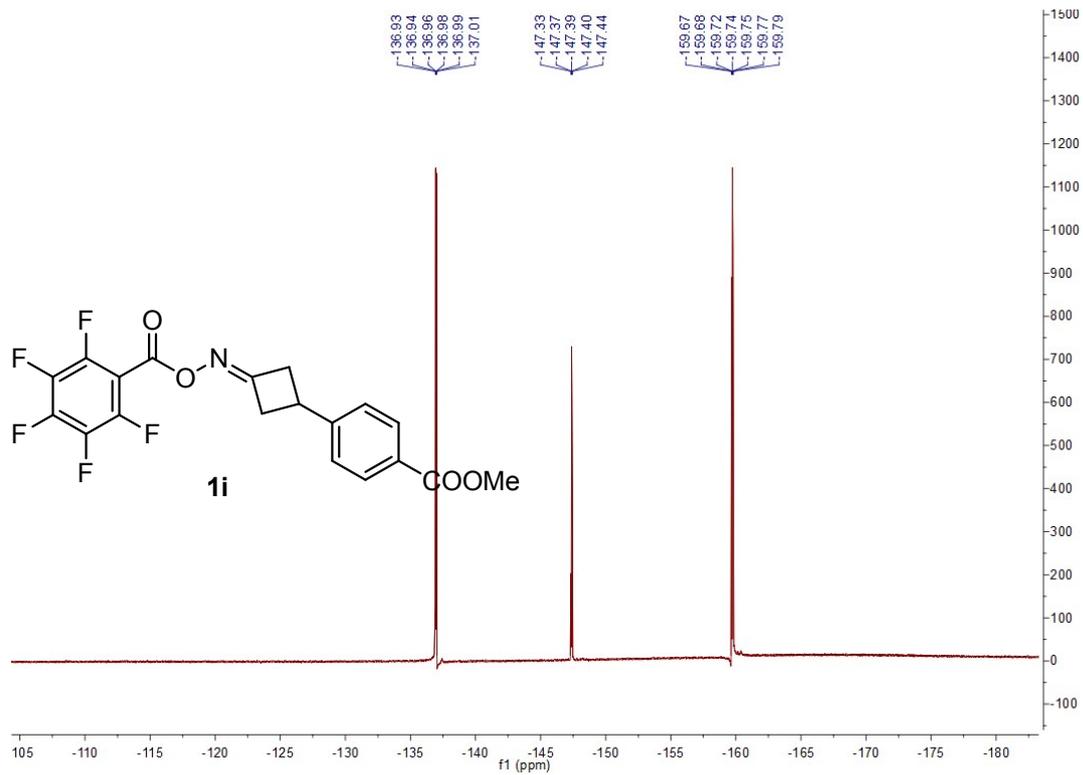
¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F Spectra of the Substrates

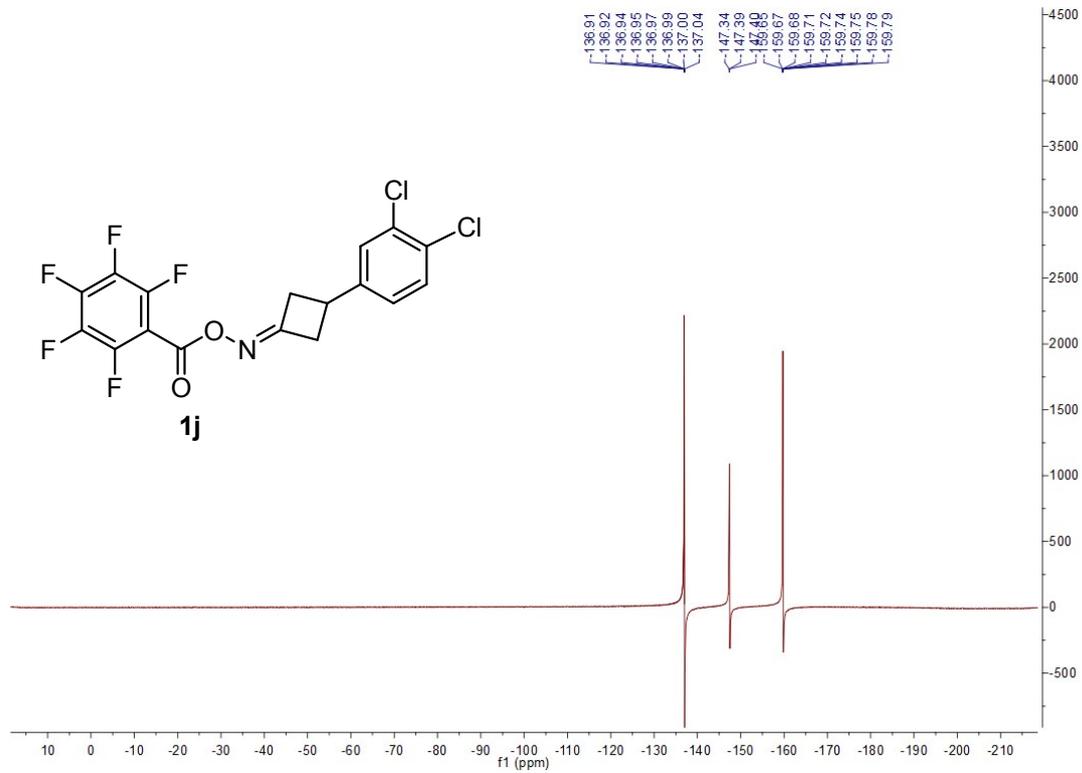
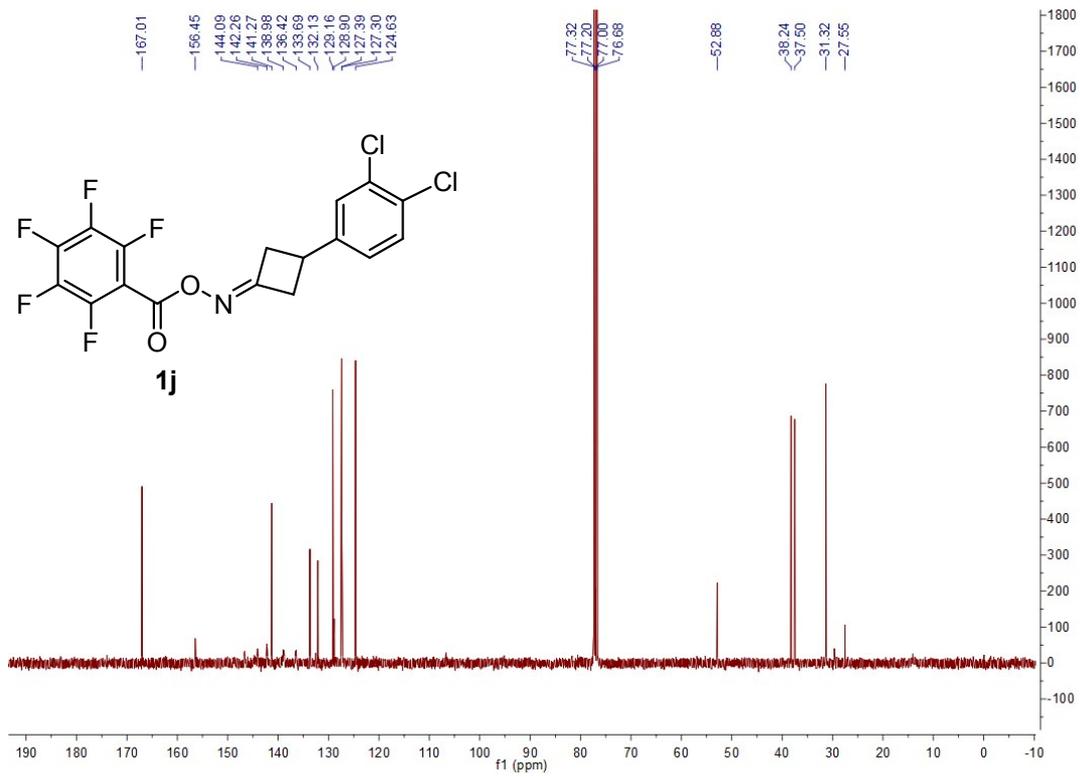


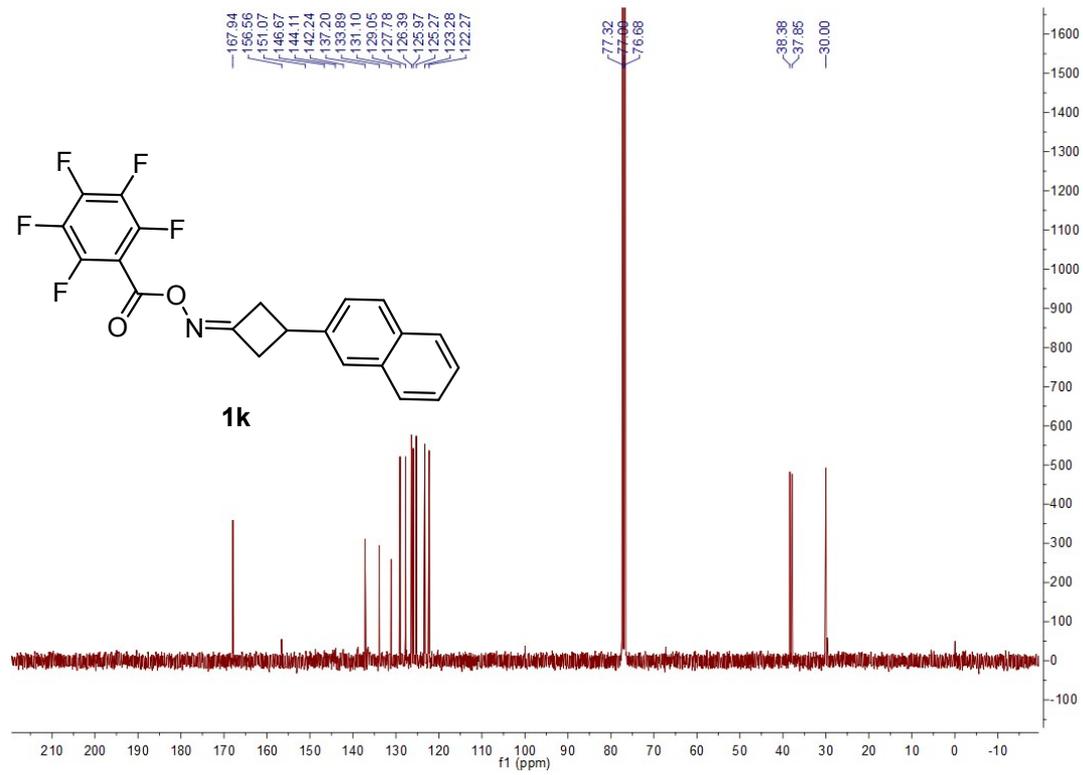
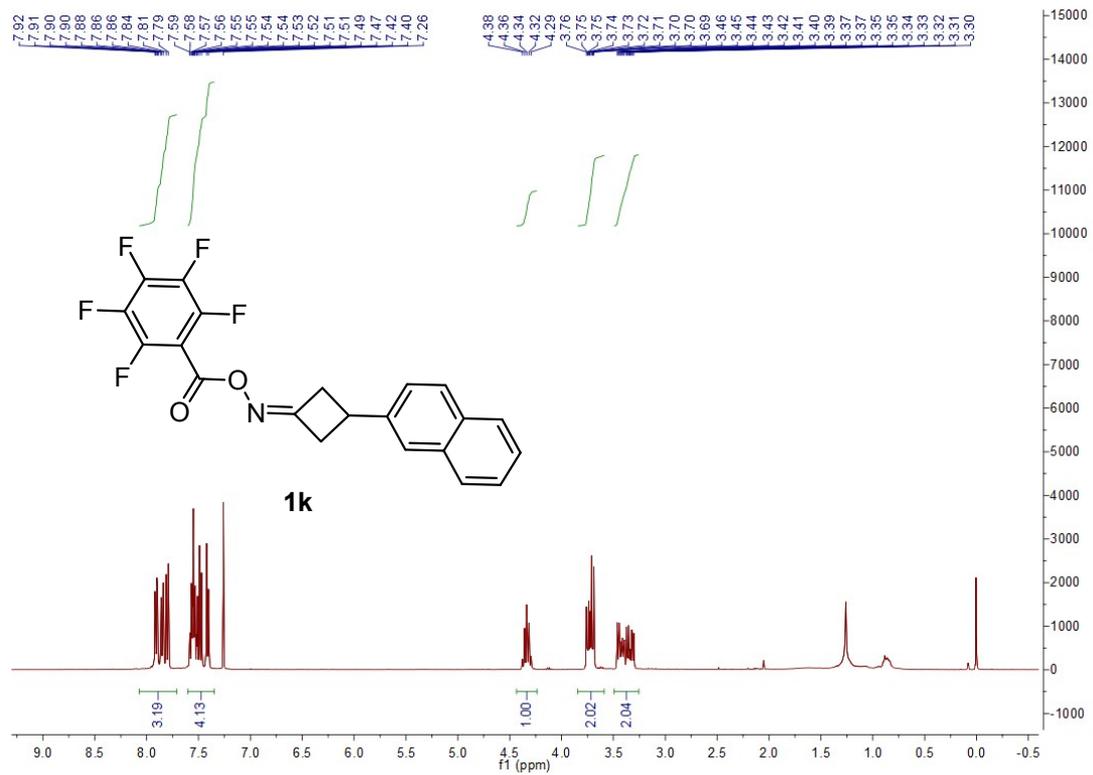


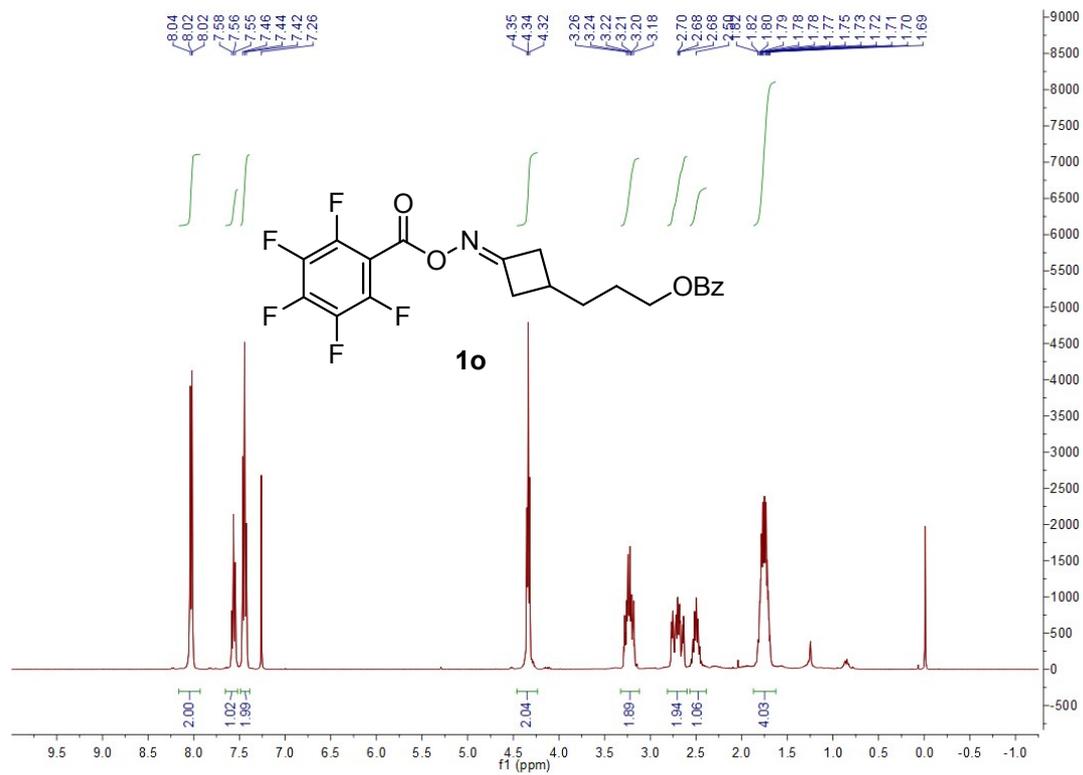
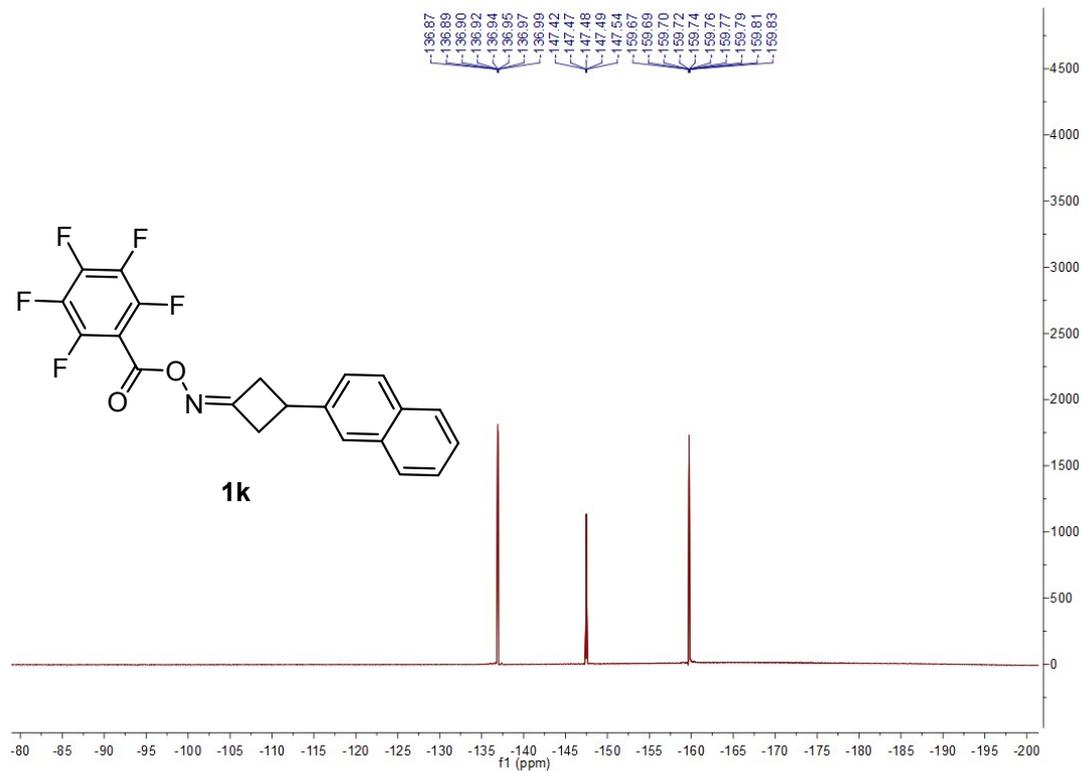


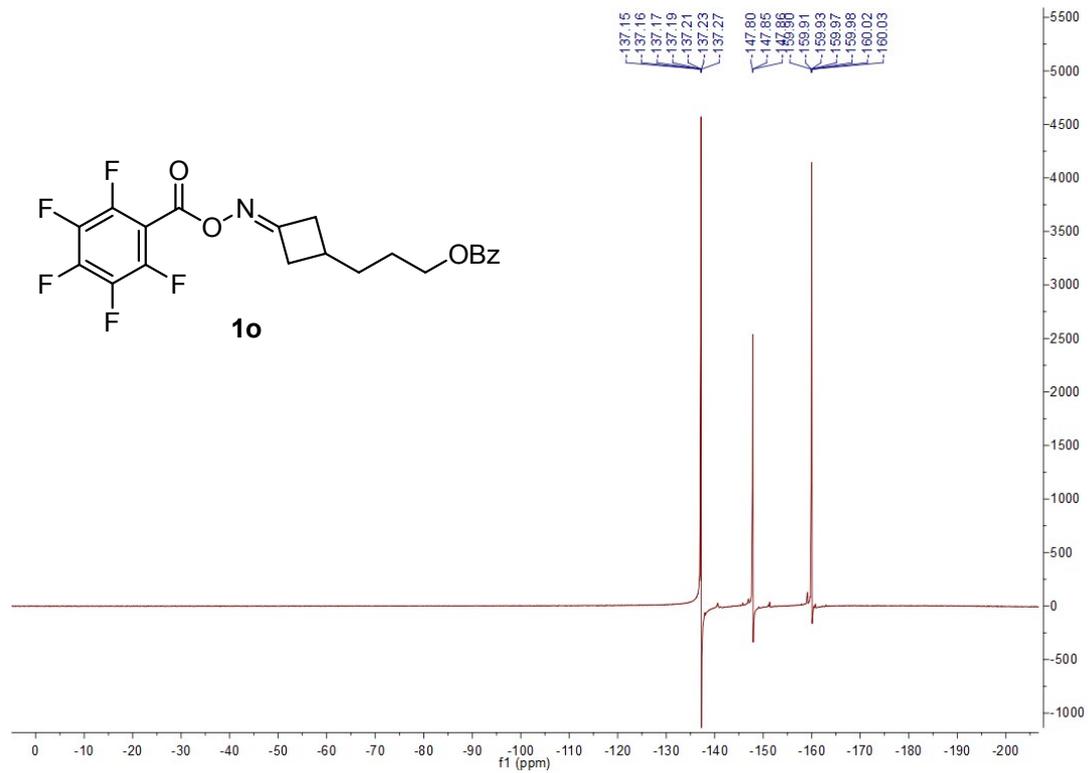
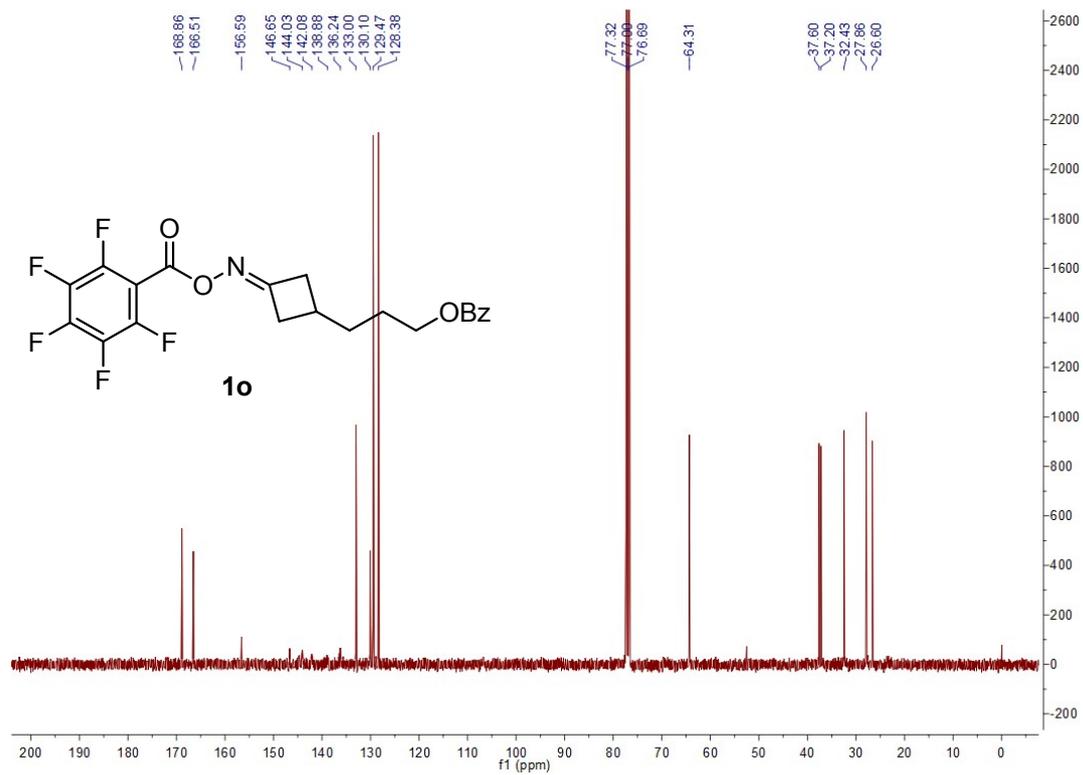


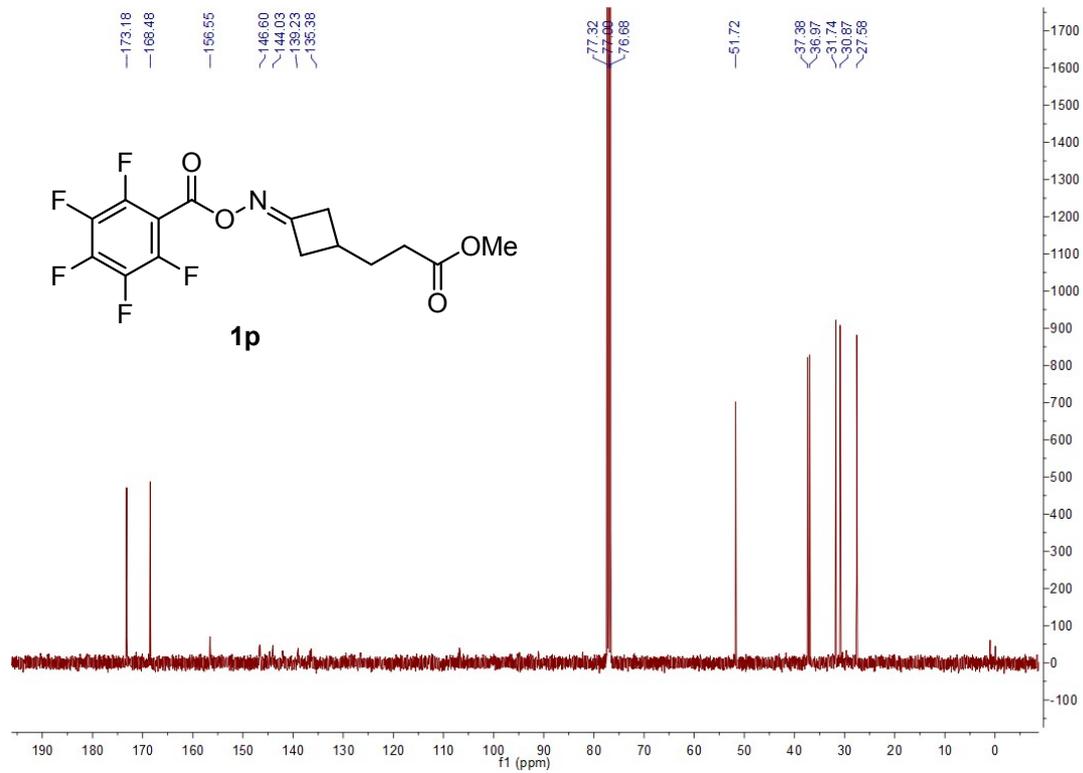
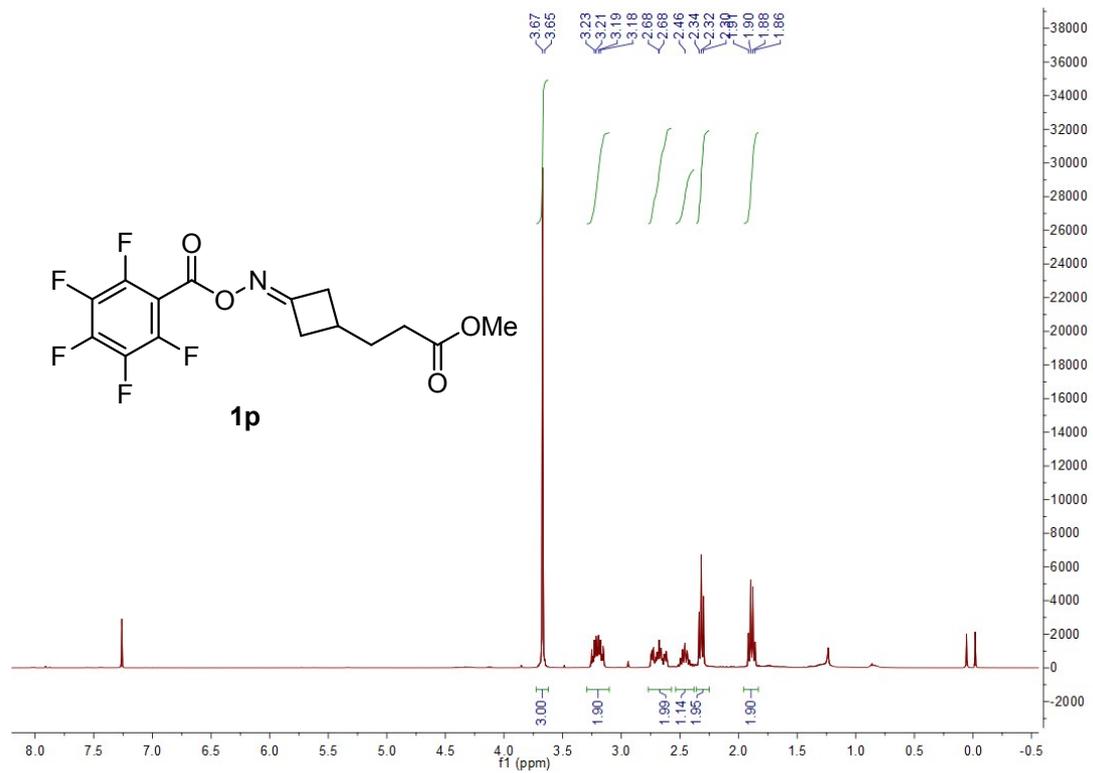


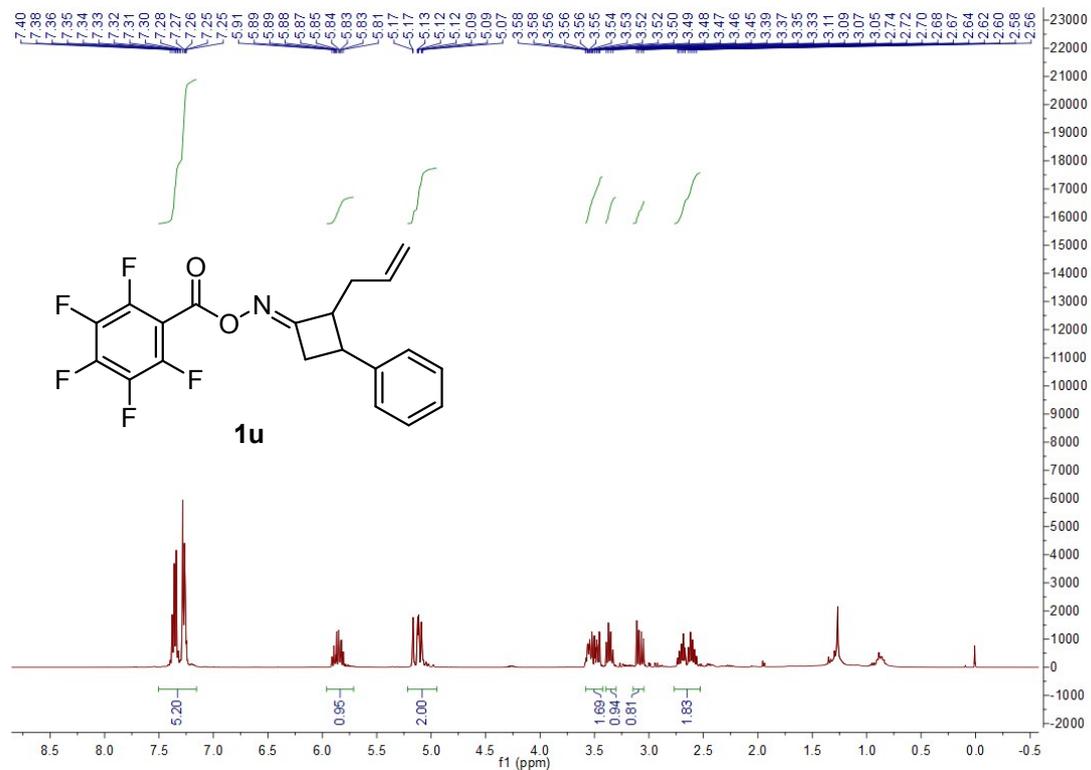
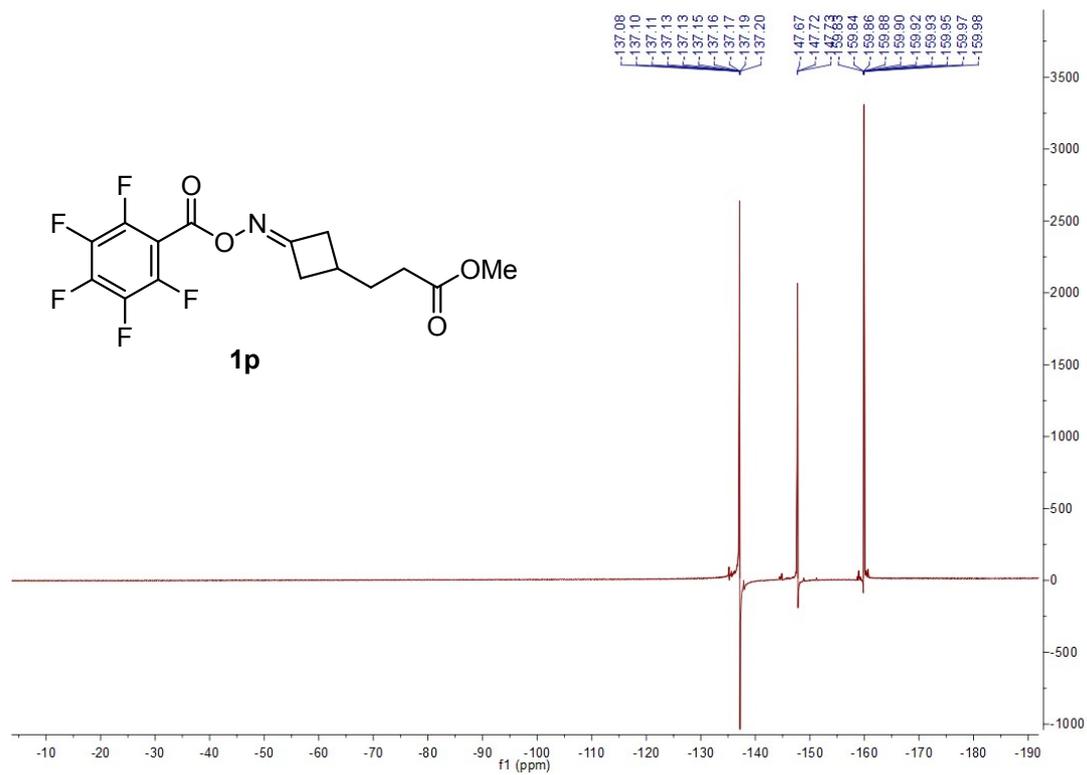


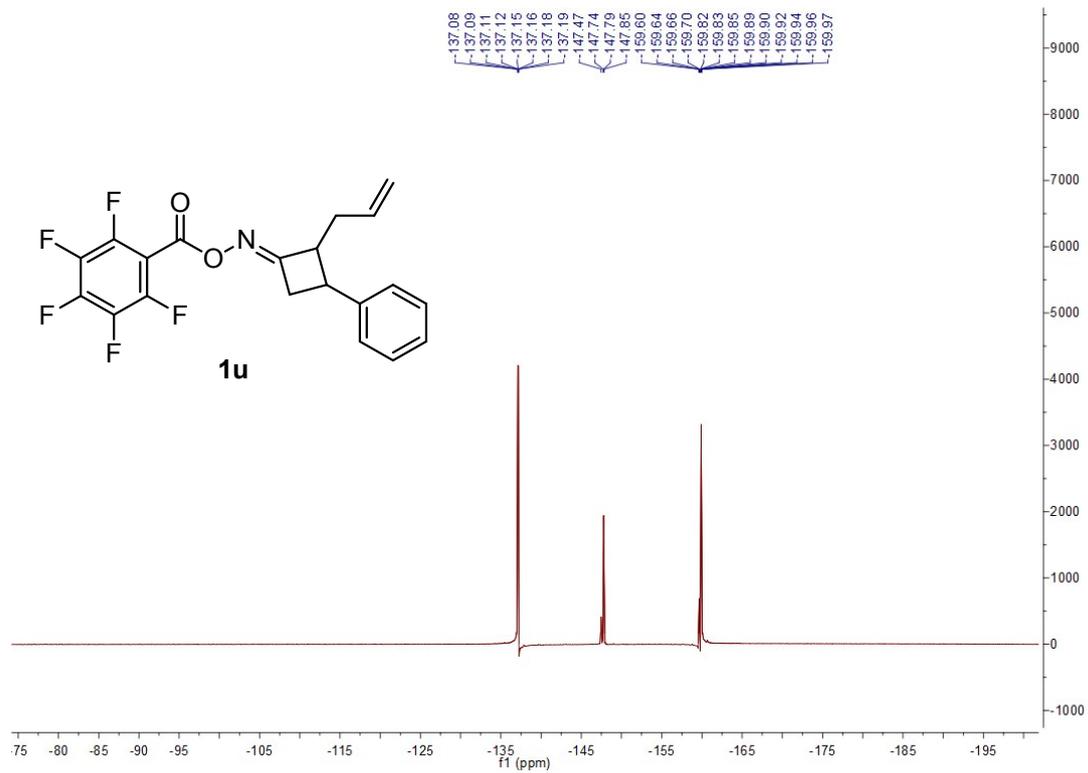
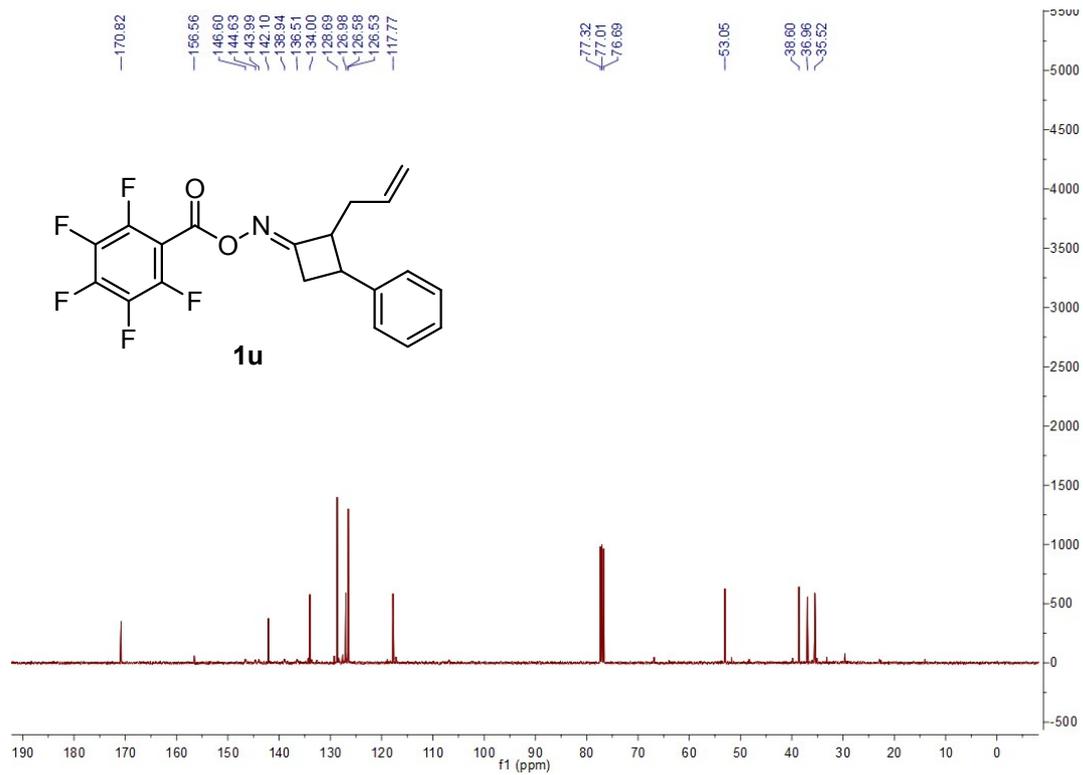




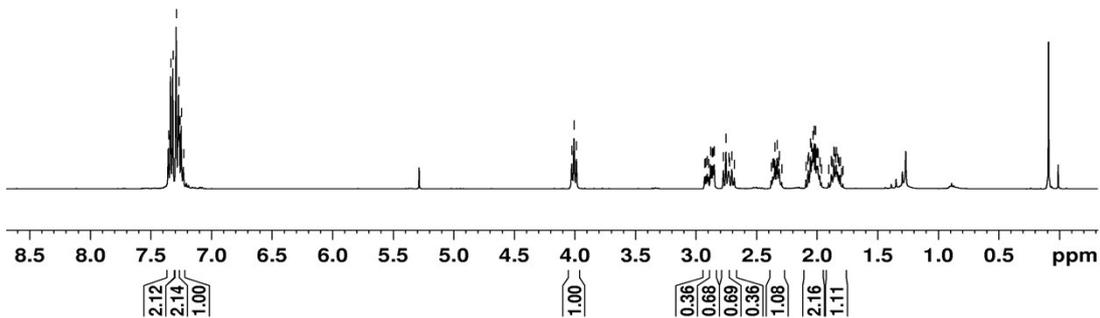
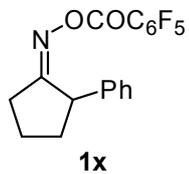








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