

## Supporting Information

For

### **FeCl<sub>3</sub> promoted ring size dictating diversity-oriented synthesis (DOS) of *N*-heterocycles using *in situ* generated cyclic imines and enamines**

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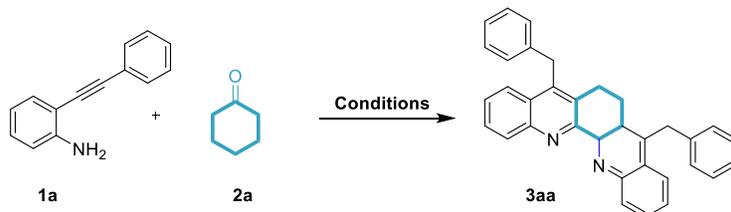
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## 1) General Information

Starting materials were prepared according to the literature reported protocols.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and DEPT NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz Varian Unity Plus or Varian Mercury plus spectrometer or JEOL 400 MHz. The chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) values are reported in parts per million (ppm), and the coupling constants ( $J$ ) are given in Hz. The spectra were recorded using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as a solvent. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts are referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) (0 ppm). <sup>13</sup>C NMR was referenced to CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.0 ppm). The abbreviations used are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; dd, doublet of doublet; ddd, doublet of doublet of doublet; dt, doublet of triplets; td, triplet of doublet; m, multiplet. Mass spectra and high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) was measured using the ESI (FT-MS solariX) at National Sun Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan or LTQ Orbitrap XL (Thermo Fischer Scientific) at National Chung Hsing University. Melting points were determined on an EZ-Melt (Automated melting point apparatus). All products reported showed <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in agreement with the assigned structures. Reaction progress and product mixtures were routinely monitored by TLC using Merck TLC aluminum sheets (silica gel 60 F254). Column chromatography was carried out with 230–400 mesh silica gel 60 (Merck)/neutral alumina and a mixture of hexane/ethyl acetate or hexane as an eluent.

## 2) Studies on reaction parameters

Table -S1 Optimization of reaction conditions for dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthrolines<sup>a,b</sup>

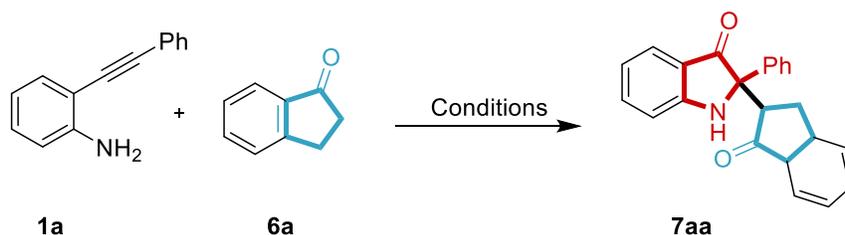


Entry	Lewis acids (equiv.)	Oxidant/Additive (equiv.)	Solvent	Time, h	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	--	DMSO	10	<10
2 <sup>c</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	O <sub>2</sub>	DMSO	14	24
3 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	TBHP(2.0)	DMSO	8	trace
4 <sup>e</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	DTBP(2.0)	DMSO	11	13
5 <sup>f</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	NCS(1.2)	DMSO	8	22
6	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.5)	--	DMSO	14	45
7	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.0)	--	DMSO	10	58
8	<b>FeCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5)</b>	--	<b>DMSO</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>83</b>
9	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (2.0)	--	DMSO	8	62
10	FeCl <sub>3</sub> ·6 H <sub>2</sub> O (1.5)	--	DMSO	8	47
11	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (1.5)	--	DMSO	8	15
12	FeBr <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	DMSO	14	0
13	AlCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	DMSO	14	40
14	I <sub>2</sub> (1)	--	DMSO	14	0
15	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH (2.0)	DMSO	8	45
16	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> COOH (2.0)	DMSO	9	66
17	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DDQ	DMSO	14	0
18 <sup>g</sup>	--	--	DMSO	14	0
19	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	Ethanol	10	40
20	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	DMF	14	traces
21	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	Toluene	14	0
22	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	Dioxane	14	0
23 <sup>h</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	H <sub>2</sub> O	14	0
24 <sup>i</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	--	DMSO	14	50
25	Zn, In, Cu, chlorides	--	DMSO	14	0

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out using **1a** (2.1 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), FeCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5 mmol) and solvent (0.5 mL) at 110 °C and the mixtures were stirred at indicated time unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> reaction performed under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. <sup>d</sup> both 70% Aq. TBHP and 5.5 M TBHP in decane were used. <sup>e</sup> Di-*tert*-butyl-peroxide (DTBP). <sup>f</sup> *N*-Chlorosuccinimide. <sup>g</sup> reaction performed without FeCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>h</sup> 10 equiv. DMSO was used. <sup>i</sup> Reaction performed at 90 °C.

Initially, the reaction between 2-ethynyl aniline (**1a**) and cyclohexanone (**2a**) in the presence of 20 mol% FeCl<sub>3</sub> in DMSO at 110 °C afforded the desired product **3aa** less than 10% (Table-1, entry 1). Even though we introduce different oxidants or additives in reaction conditions, it couldn't help to improve the yield of the reaction (Table-1, entry 2-5). When we increased the FeCl<sub>3</sub> quantity from a catalytic amount to stoichiometric amount, (Table-1, entry 6-8) considerable improvement in the reaction yield was observed (Table-1, entry 8). However, further increasing the amount of FeCl<sub>3</sub> to 2 equivalent suppressed product formation (Table-1, entry 9). We screened the reaction with different iron salts such as FeCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, FeCl<sub>2</sub>, FeBr<sub>3</sub> (Table-1, entry 10-12) and these all produce inferior yields. It confirmed the anhydrous FeCl<sub>3</sub> is the best choice for this reaction (Table-1, entry 8). Replacing FeCl<sub>3</sub> with AlCl<sub>3</sub> in the reaction medium resulted in 40% of **3aa**. Stoichiometric amount of I<sub>2</sub> failed to promote the reaction (Table-1, entry 14). The addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COOH and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>COOH in the reaction provided the moderate yield of 44 and 65% (Table-1, entry 15-16). Subsequent investigation of the reaction under the stoichiometric amount of DDQ ended up with sluggish reaction mixture (Table-1, entry 17). In the absence of FeCl<sub>3</sub>, **3aa** was not formed, which confirmed the role of FeCl<sub>3</sub> to promote the reaction (Table-1, entry 18). Further, we examined the reaction with different solvents, we found only ethanol to afford the 40% of the required product (Table-1, entry 19-23). While the reaction was carried out in the slightly lower temperature (90 °C), product formation was suppressed (Table-1, entry 24). Other common metal chlorides such as Cu, Zn, In were inferior to activate the reaction (Table-1, entry 25).

**Table -S2 Optimization of reaction conditions for 2(-inden-2-yl)-3-oxo-indolines derivatives<sup>a</sup>**

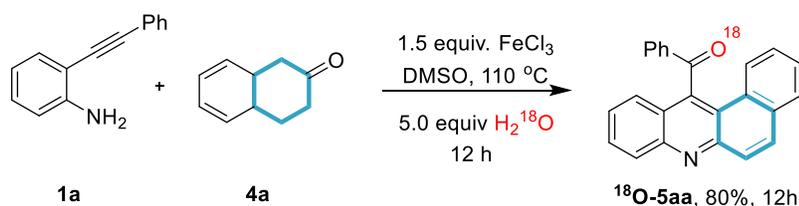


Entry	Lewis acids (equiv.)	Solvent	Time, h	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	8	80
2	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.7)	DMSO	8	48
3	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.4)	DMSO	8	25
4	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.1)	DMSO	8	<10
5	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (2.0)	DMSO	8	75
6 <sup>c</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	8	22
7 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (0.1)	DMSO	8	ND
<b>8<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>FeCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5)</b>	<b>DMSO</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88</b>
9	FeCl <sub>3</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O (1.5)	DMSO	10	20
10	FeBr <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
11	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
12	Fe(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	20
13	FePC (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
14	AlCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
15	InCl <sub>3</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O (1.5)	DMSO	10	45
16	AgNO <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
17	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	<10
18	BF <sub>3</sub> .OEt <sub>2</sub> (2)	DMSO	7	65
19	ZnCl <sub>2</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	10	ND
20	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMF	10	ND
21	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	Toluene	10	ND
22	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	Dioxane	10	ND
23	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	H <sub>2</sub> O	10	ND
24	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DCE	10	ND
25	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	<i>t</i> -Butanol	10	ND
26 <sup>f</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (1.5)	DMSO	8	ND
27 <sup>g</sup>	--	DMSO	8	ND

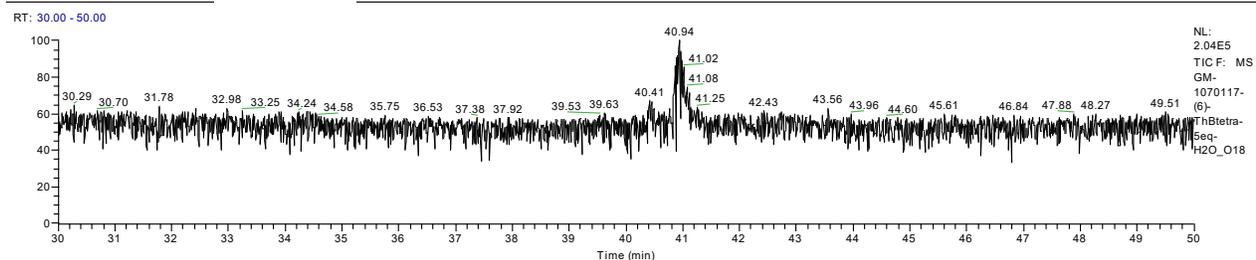
<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out using **1a** (1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 mmol), FeCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5 mmol) and solvent (1 mL) at 110 °C and reaction mixture were stirred at indicated time unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> reaction performed under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. <sup>d</sup> both 70% Aq. TBHP and 5.5 M TBHP in decane was used. <sup>e</sup> Reaction performed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. <sup>f</sup> Reaction carried out in 70 °C. <sup>g</sup> Without FeCl<sub>3</sub> reaction was performed.

### 3) Mechanistic studies

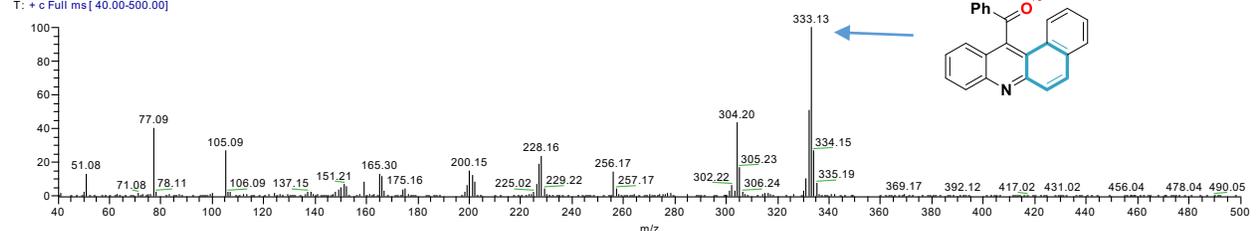
(1)  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotope labeling experiment of compound **5aa**.



In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (193 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of dry DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (243 mg, 1.5 mmol)  $\beta$ -tetralone **4a** (219 mg, 1.5 mmol) and  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  (90  $\mu\text{l}$ , 5 equivalent). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at  $110\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 25.0 mL of cooled water. The water layer was extracted with (3X25 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The crude product submitted for GC-MS analysis. The obtained crude was purified using column chromatography by eluting from hexane to 8-15% ethyl acetate/hexane to afford pure of benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(phenyl)methanone as a brown color solid.



GM-1070117-(6)-ThBTetra-Seq-H2O\_O18 #4361-4371 RT: 40.88-40.96 AV: 11 SB: 37 40.60-40.80, 41.10-41.20 NL: 9.20E3  
T: + c Full ms[40.00-500.00]



GM-1070117-(6)-ThBTetra-Seq-H2O\_O18 #4361-4371 RT: 40.88-40.96 AV: 11 SB: 38 40.60-40.80, 41.10-41.20 NL: 9.19E3  
T: + c Full ms[40.00-500.00]

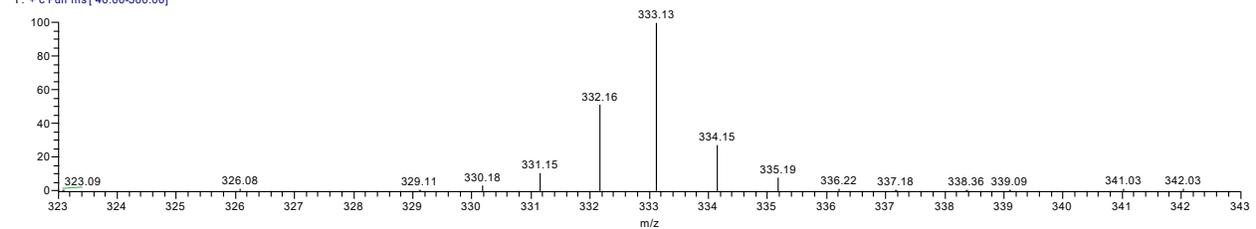


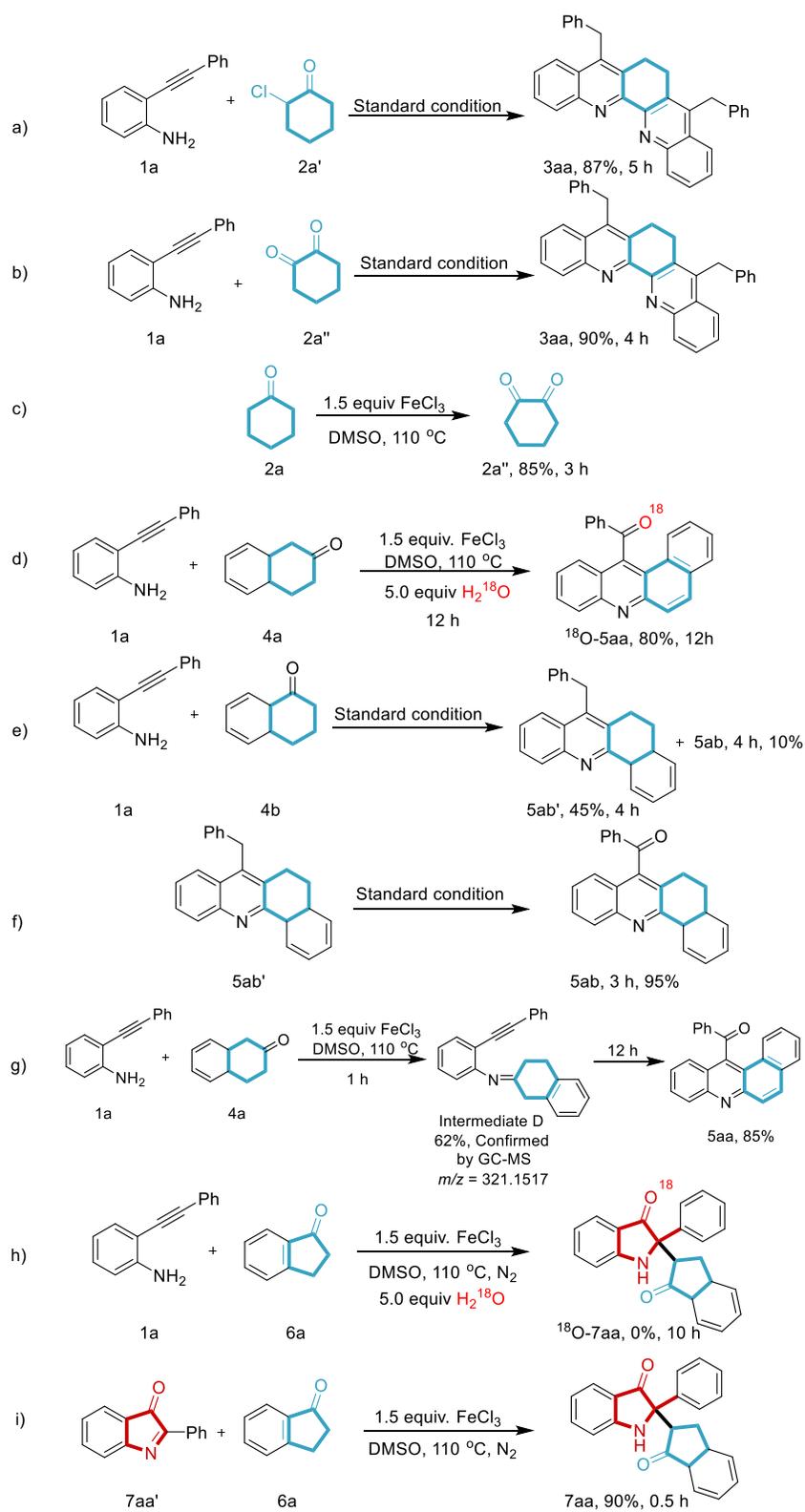
Figure S1. GC-MS spectra of the  $^{18}\text{O}$ - and  $^{16}\text{O}$ -labeling products

(2)  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotope labeling experiment of compound **7aa**.



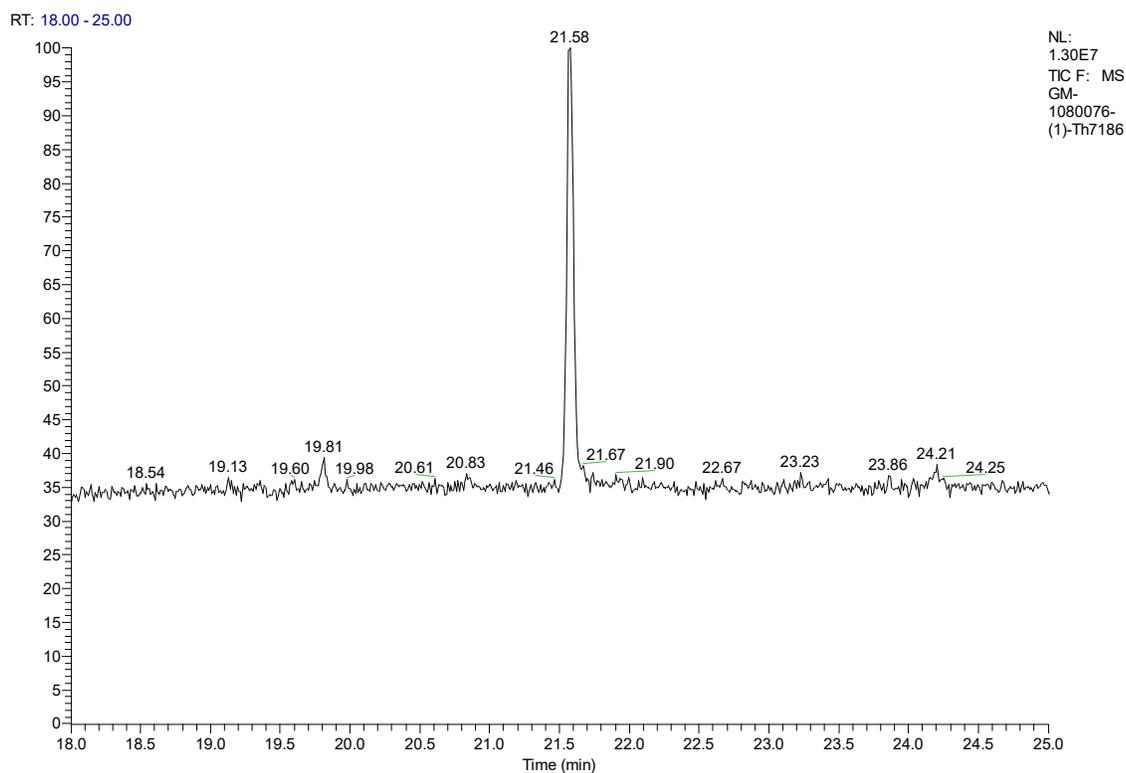
In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (193 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (243 mg, 1.5 mmol), 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-one **6a** (198 mg, 1.5 mmol) and  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  (90  $\mu\text{l}$ , 5 equivalent).. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 110  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 7 h at nitrogen atmosphere. We did not observed any product formation (**7aa**) in presence of 5 equivalent of  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$ .

## Scheme 1 Control Experiments

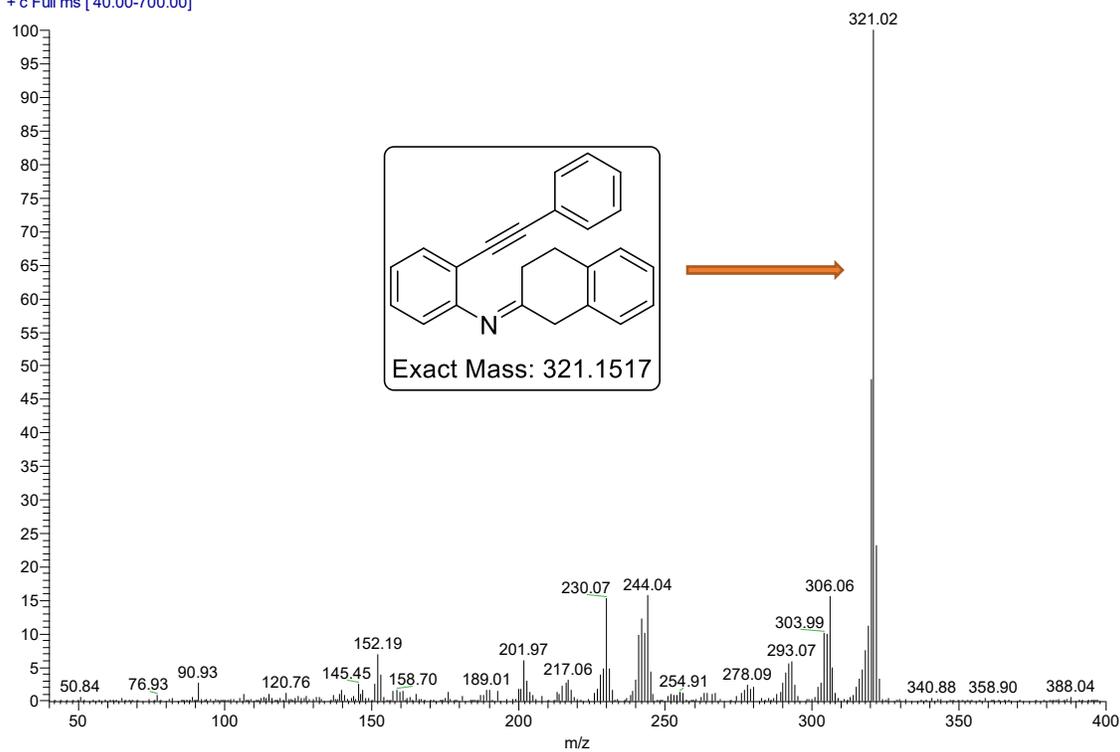


To understand the reaction mechanism of these all annulation reactions, we carried out various control studies. In case of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthrolines cyclization reactions, we envisioned 1,2-cyclohexadione and 2-chlorocyclohexan-1-one were possible intermediates. This hypothesis was confirmed by control studies (Scheme 1, a and b). The cyclohexanone treated under the standard reaction conditions in the absence of *o*-alkynylaniline, it converted into 1,2-cyclohexadione. These results support the *in situ* generation of 1,2-cyclohexadione in the reaction medium (Scheme 1, c). <sup>18</sup>O labelling studies with benzoylated acridines confirmed that water was the source of oxygen atom in the carbonyl group (Scheme 1, d). At the short reaction time (4 hr), we isolated the cyclized intermediate **5ab'** and the desired product **5ab** in the reaction of 2-(phenylethynyl)aniline **1a** and  $\alpha$ -tetralone **4b** (Scheme 1, e). When this cyclized intermediate **5ab'** subjected to our standard reaction conditions, it readily underwent benzylic oxidation to afford the final product **5ab** in 95% yield (Scheme 1, f). These results ruled out the *in situ* generation of 1,2-dicarbonyl group from oxidation of alkyne and consecutive Friedlander type cyclization.<sup>3a</sup> when we have monitored the reaction in short reaction time (1 hour) through GC-MS analysis, we found 62% of imine intermediate J was formed *in situ* in reaction medium. Further continue the reaction up to 12 hour, we isolated the product **5aa** with 85% yield. It confirm our proposed mechanism of imine formation as an initiation step of aerobic dehydrogenative aromatization reaction (Scheme 1, g). The <sup>18</sup>O labelling studies with dihydro-1*H*-indenone was failed, even the desired product **7aa** was not formed in the presence of water This result rationalized the source of oxygen should be DMSO (Scheme 1, h). Furthermore, our anticipated intermediate 2-phenyl-3*H*-indol-3-one **7a'** efficiently reacted with dihydro-1*H*-indenone and transformed into our desired product **7aa** (Scheme 1, i).

Figure S2. GC-MS spectra of the imine intermediate **D**

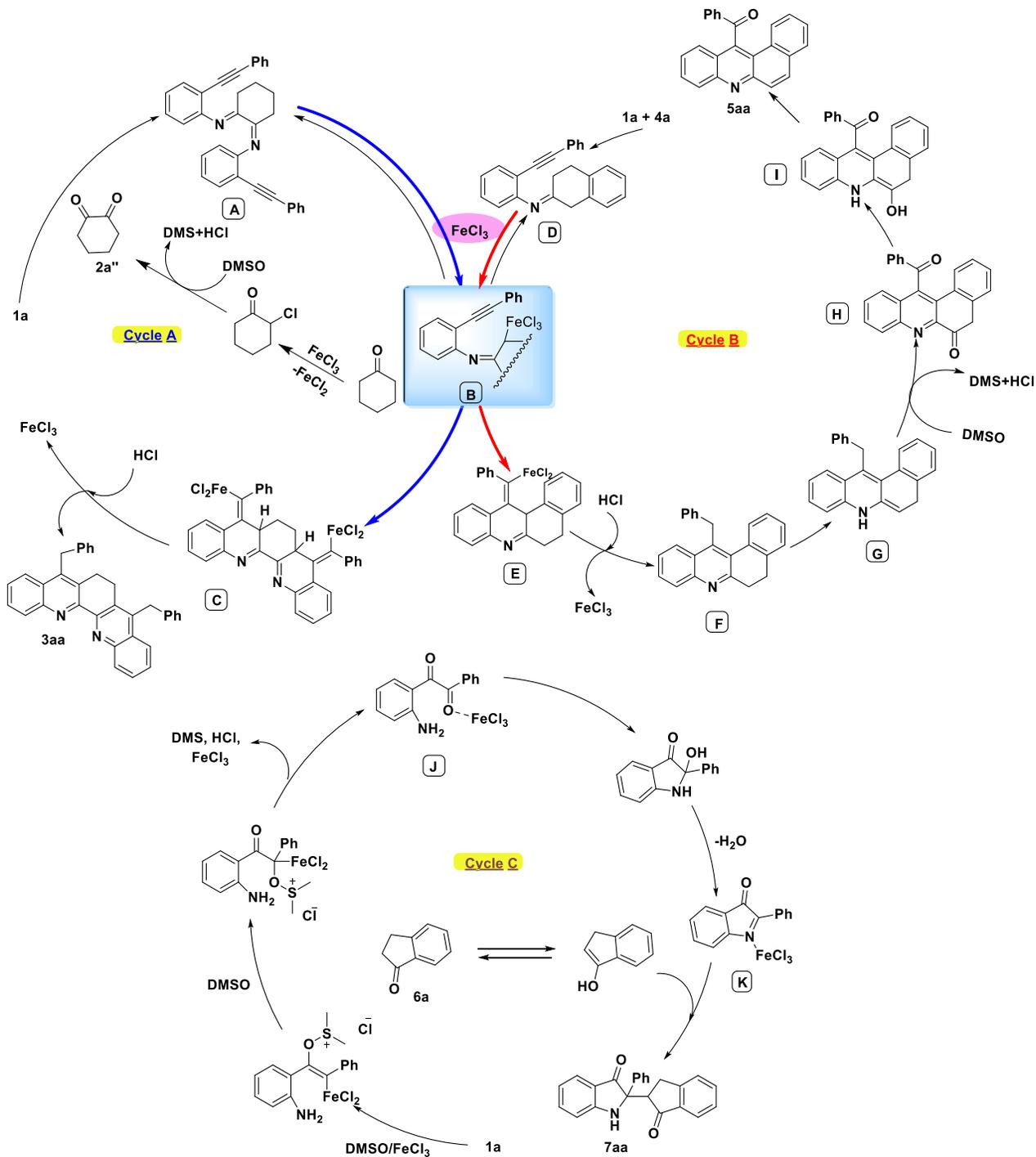


GM-1080076-(1)-Th7186 #1703-1709 RT: 21.55-21.61 AV: 7 SB: 41 21.30-21.50, 21.70-21.90 NL: 1.28E6  
T: + c Full ms [40.00-700.00]



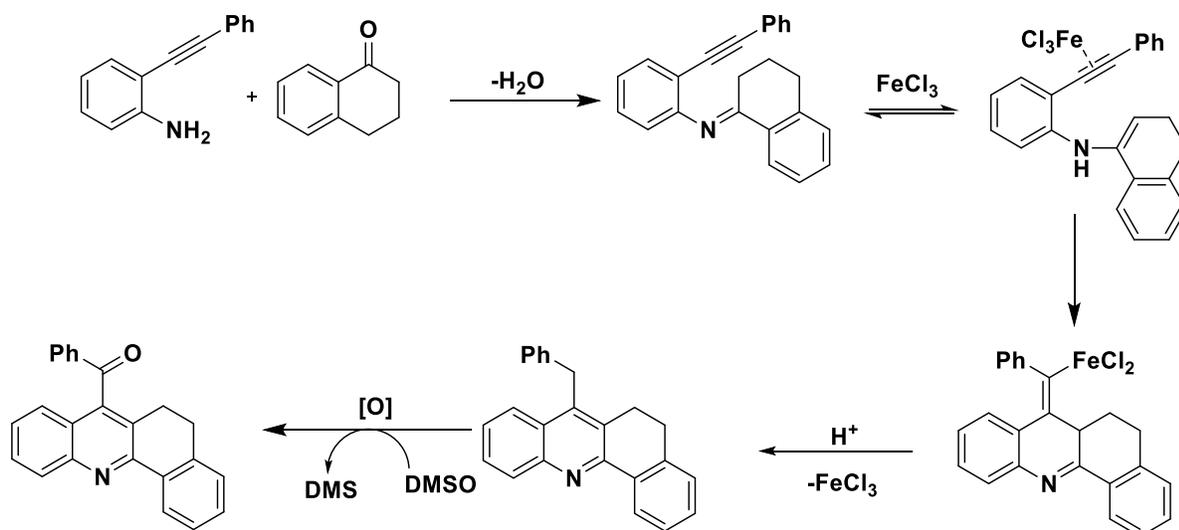
## 4) Reaction Mechanisms

i) Alternative mechanism for dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline and benzoylated benzo[*a*]acridine derivatives formation.

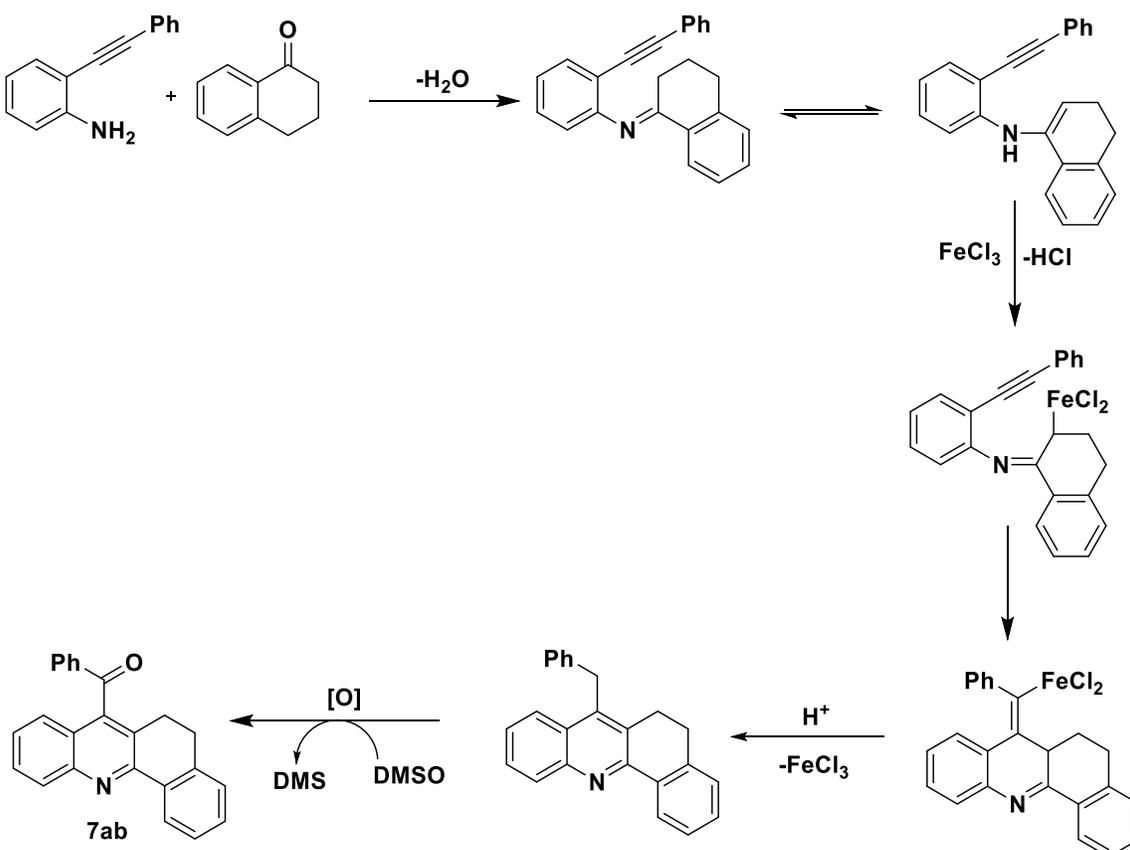


ii) Mechanism for formation of benzoylated benzo[*c*]acridine formation.

**Path- A**



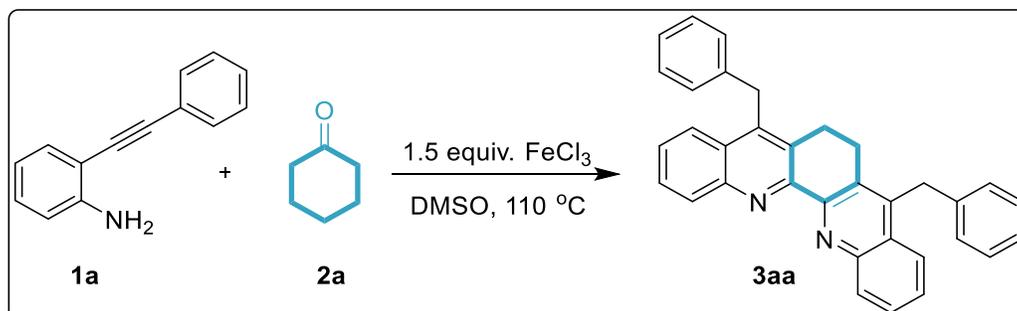
**Path- B**



## 2) General Experimental Procedure and Spectral Characterization.

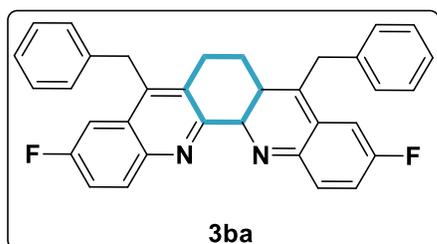
### 2.1 General procedure (A) for synthesis of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline.

#### Preparation of 5,8-dibenzyl-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (**3aa**).



In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (405 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous FeCl<sub>3</sub> (243 mg, 1.5 mmol) and cyclohexanone **2a** (98 mg, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 110 °C for 8 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 25.0 mL of ice water. The water layer was extracted with (3X25 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The obtained crude was purified using column chromatography by eluting from hexane to 30-55% ethyl acetate/hexane to afford pure of 5,8-dibenzyl-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (**3aa**) as a brown color solid (374 mg, 81%); m.p. 230-232 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 4.59 (s, 4H), 3.13 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.29, 147.84, 141.98, 138.45, 131.74, 131.13, 128.66, 128.54, 127.90, 127.32, 126.35, 123.69, 33.32, 24.95. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 463.2167; found: 463.2168.

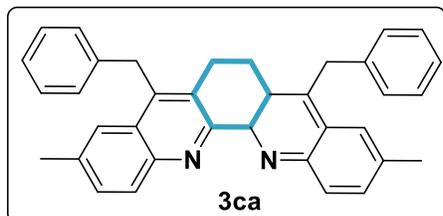
#### 5,8-dibenzyl-3,10-difluoro-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (**3ba**). Following



the general procedure (A) for 14 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (273 mg, 55%); m.p. 235-237 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ

8.47 (dd,  $J = 9.3, 5.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (dd,  $J = 10.3, 2.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (ddd,  $J = 9.3, 8.0, 2.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 6H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 4H), 4.52 (s, 4H), 3.14 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.32 (d,  $J_F = 248.7$  Hz), 151.70, 145.07, 141.59 (d,  $J_F = 5.8$  Hz), 137.92, 134.27 (d,  $J_F = 9.4$  Hz), 131.79, 128.92, 128.84, 127.85, 126.60, 119.05 (d,  $J_F = 25.8$  Hz), 107.44 (d,  $J = 22.9$  Hz), 33.60, 24.98;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -111.03 (s, 2F); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 498.1908; found: 462.2096.

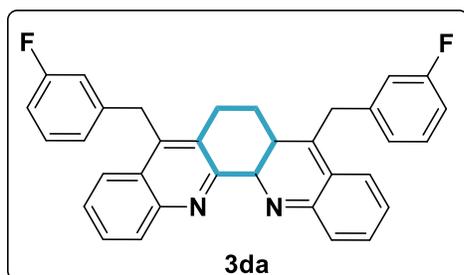
**5,8-dibenzyl-3,10-dimethyl-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ca).** Following



the general procedure (A) for 7 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as an off-white solid (441 mg, 90%); m.p. 290-291 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.37 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 2H), 7.53 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 1.6$  Hz, 2H),

7.25 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.06 (s, 4H), 2.50 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  151.46, 146.34, 140.83, 138.46, 136.97, 131.31, 130.91, 130.63, 128.49, 127.76, 127.72, 126.11, 122.40, 33.04, 24.79, 21.96; HRMS (EI) calcd for :  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}^+]$ : 490.2409; found: 490.2408.

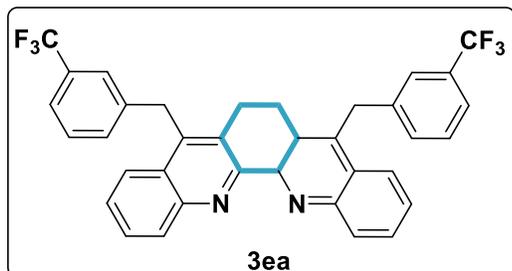
**5,8-bis(3-fluorobenzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3da).** Following the



general procedure (A) for 6 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (418 mg, 85%); m.p. 210-211 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 0.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.72 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.55 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.20 (td,  $J = 8.0, 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.84 (m, 4H), 6.78 (dd,  $J = 9.9, 1.7$  Hz,

4H), 4.57 (s, 4H), 3.12 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.06 (d,  $J_F = 246.5$  Hz), 152.30, 147.95, 141.22, 141.03 (d,  $J_F = 7.2$  Hz), 131.89, 131.09, 130.19 (d,  $J_F = 8.4$  Hz), 128.75, 127.77, 127.58, 123.56 (d,  $J_F = 2.9$  Hz), 123.50, 114.95 (d,  $J_F = 21.7$  Hz), 113.44 (d,  $J_F = 21.1$  Hz), 33.08, 24.97;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -112.56 (s, 2F); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}^+]$ : 498.1907; found: 498.1898.

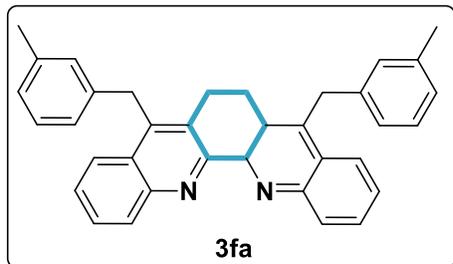
**5,8-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ea).**



Following the general procedure (A) for 10 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as an off-white color solid (466 mg, 78 %); m.p. 241-242 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.51 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (dd, *J* =

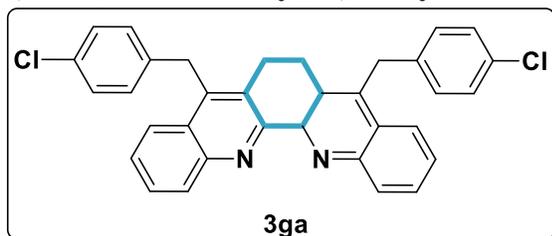
9.9, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (s, 4H), 3.11 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.33, 148.01, 140.83, 139.41, 132.00, 131.06, 130.91, 129.27, 128.84, 127.72, 127.67, 124.71 (q, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 3.8 Hz), 123.43 (q, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 3.7 Hz), 123.35, 33.09, 25.02; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.05 (s, 6F); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 598.1843; found: 598.1849.

**5,8-bis(3-methylbenzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3fa).**



Following the general procedure (A) for 8 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (382 mg, 78%); m.p. 254-256 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.47(d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.11 (s, 4H), 2.21 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.34, 147.84, 142.06, 138.40, 138.31, 131.68, 131.17, 128.61, 128.51, 127.96, 127.26, 127.10, 124.94, 123.75, 33.25, 24.97, 21.33; HRMS (ESI) calcd for: C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 491.2481; found: 491.2481.

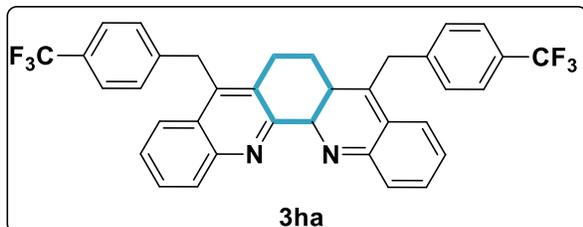
**5,8-bis(4-chlorobenzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ga).**



Following the general procedure (A) for 7 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as an off-white color solid (254 mg, 48%); m.p. 259-260 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.50 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J*

= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.54 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 4H), 4.55 (s, 4H), 3.09 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.36, 147.99, 141.41, 136.93, 132.26, 131.96, 131.02, 129.25, 128.87, 128.72, 127.74, 127.56, 123.49, 32.71, 24.98; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 530.1316; found: 530.1312.

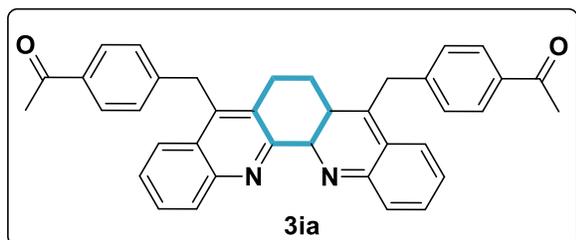
**5,8-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ha).**



Following the general procedure (A) for **h** on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a white color solid (484 mg, 81%); m.p. 252-253 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 (dd,  $J = 8.5,$

0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.57 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 4H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 4H), 4.66 (s, 4H), 3.12 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.35, 148.05, 142.58, 140.87, 132.07, 131.05, 128.85, 128.24, 127.73, 125.69 (q,  $J_F = 3.7$  Hz), 123.38, 33.19, 25.03;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.38 (s, 6F); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 598.1843; found: 598.1846.

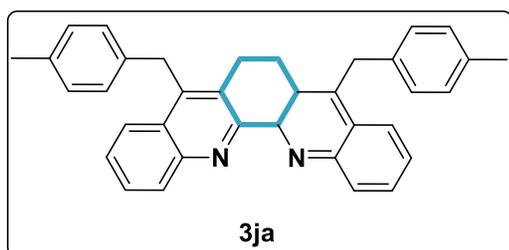
**1,1'-(((6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline-5,8-diyl)bis(methylene))bis(4,1-phenylene)) bis(ethan-1-one) (3ia).**



Following the general procedure (A) for **6 h** on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as brown color solid (425 mg, 78%); m.p. 178-180 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 0.8$  Hz, 2H),

7.93 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 0.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 4H), 7.72 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.54 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 4H), 4.63 (s, 4H), 3.09 (s, 4H), 2.52 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.53, 152.29, 147.97, 144.09, 141.07, 135.54, 131.91, 131.04, 128.83, 128.14, 127.73, 127.65, 123.44, 33.39, 26.51, 25.01. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 547.2380; found: 547.2380.

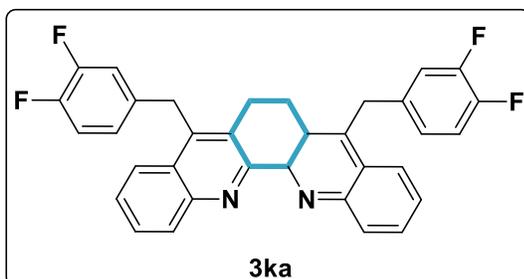
**5,8-bis(4-methylbenzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ja)** Following the



general procedure (A) for 7 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (313 mg, 64%); m.p. 253-254 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.50 (dd, *J* = 19.0, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (ddd, *J*

= 8.2, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.12 (s, 4H), 2.27 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.27, 147.78, 142.06, 135.80, 135.28, 131.62, 131.01, 129.23, 128.37, 127.83, 127.68, 127.14, 123.64, 32.81, 24.85, 20.79. HRMS (ESI) calcd for: C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 491.2481; found: 491.2481.

**5,8-bis(3,4-difluorobenzyl)-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline (3ka)**. Following

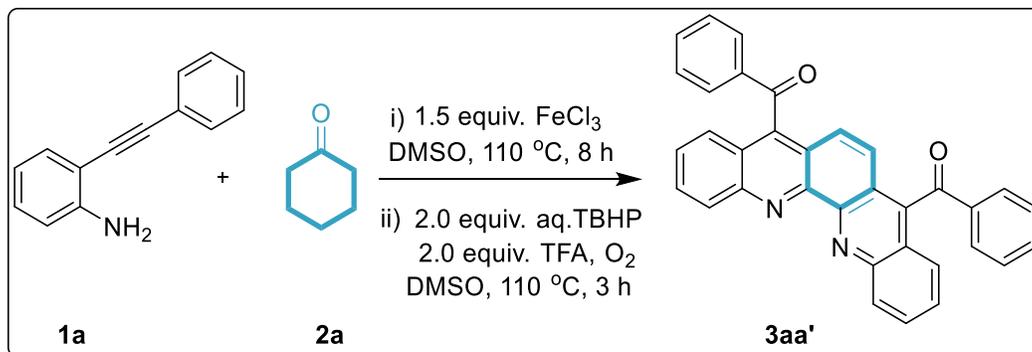


the general procedure (A) for 7 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as brown color solid (480 mg, 90%); m.p. 264-266 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.55 – 8.47 (m, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.77 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dd, *J* =

18.0, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.76 (m, 3H), 4.54 (s, 4H), 3.11 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, cdcl<sub>3</sub>) δ 150.15 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 432.1 Hz), 140.99, 131.98, 131.60, 130.94, 129.42 (d, *J* = 59.2 Hz), 128.87, 128.20 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 30.2 Hz), 127.74, 127.60, 123.73, 118.28 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 17.9 Hz), 117.49 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 17.1 Hz), 116.84 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 17.5 Hz), 32.46, 24.95; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -140.58 (s, 1F), -136.93 (s, 1F), 134.19 (s, 1F), -125.96 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 534.1719 ; found: 534.1725.

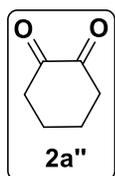
**Procedure for synthesis of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline-5,8-diylbis(phenyl methanone) (3aa').**

In an oven dried 10 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (40 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added in 250 μl of DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous FeCl<sub>3</sub> (24 mg, 1.5 mmol) and cyclohexanone **2a** (9 μl, 0.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 110 °C for 8 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 10.0 mL of ice water. The water layer was extracted with (3X10 mL) of ethyl



acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The crude product directly carried to next step without further purification. In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube was loaded crude 5,8-dibenzyl-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[*b,j*] [1,10] phenanthroline **3aa** (consider the crude had 80% product, 36 mg 1 mmol) in 250  $\mu\text{l}$  of DMSO followed by the addition of 70% TBHP in water ( 19  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2 mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid ( 14  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2 mmol). The resulting solution was sealed under  $\text{O}_2$  and stirred at 110 °C for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 5 mL of water and neutralized with 10% aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with (3X5 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined organic layer was given brine wash (2X5 mL). The final organic layer was evaporated in a rotary evaporator to remove the volatile components. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (40% ethyl acetate/ hexane to 60% ethyl acetate/hexane) to afford pure dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthroline-5,8-diylbis(phenyl methanone) (**3aa'**) as a yellow color solid (21 mg, 45%); m.p. 255-256 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.82 – 7.77 (m, 8H), 7.62 (dd,  $J$  = 12.9, 6.5 Hz, 3H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.29, 151.67, 147.95, 143.63, 136.47, 134.82, 131.52, 130.11, 129.78, 129.71, 129.30, 128.39, 128.32, 125.25, 124.69. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 489.1596; found: 489.1597.

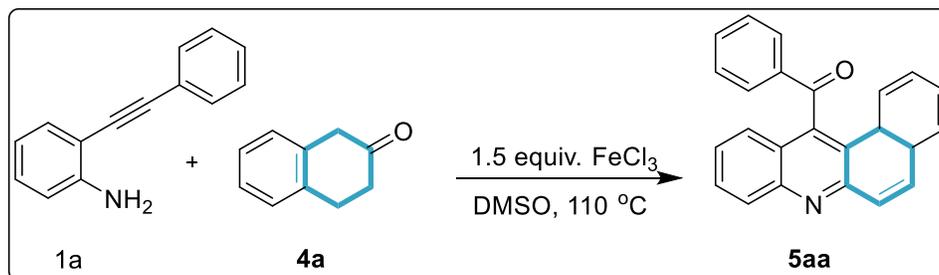
#### Cyclohexane-1,2-dione (**2a''**).



Semi solid,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.24 – 6.11 (m, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 2.55 (td,  $J$  = 6.8, 3.8 Hz, 2H), 2.48 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.15 – 1.87 (m, 2H).

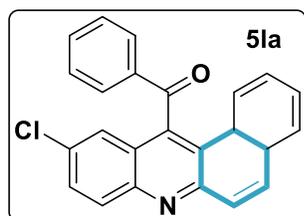
## General procedure (B) for synthesis of Benzoylated Acridines.

Preparation benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(phenyl)methanone (**5aa**).



In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (193 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (243 mg, 1.5 mmol) and  $\alpha$ -tetralone **4a** (219 mg, 1.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at  $110^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 25.0 mL of cooled water. The water layer was extracted with (3X25 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The obtained crude was purified using column chromatography by eluting from (8% ethyl acetate/ hexane to 15% ethyl acetate/hexane) afford pure benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(phenyl)methanone (**5aa**) as a brown color solid (300 mg, 91%); m.p.  $213\text{--}214^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.36 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.74 (m, 5H), 7.63 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  200.15, 149.66, 147.26, 142.55, 136.72, 134.60, 133.24, 132.55, 130.20, 129.67, 129.41, 129.27, 129.20, 128.97, 128.71, 127.82, 127.67, 127.27, 126.94, 125.37, 123.62, 120.72; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 333.1153; found: 333.1152.

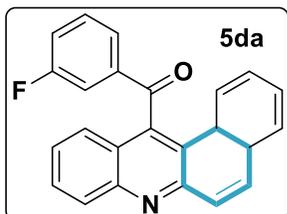
(10-chlorobenzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**5la**). Following the general procedure



(B) for 12 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a yellow color solid (220 mg, 60%); m.p.  $221\text{--}222^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.35 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.34 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$

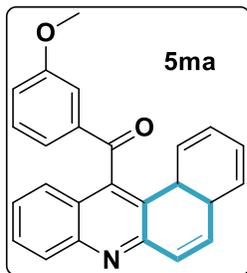
NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  199.50, 149.76, 145.64, 141.51, 136.34, 134.85, 133.54, 132.89, 132.69, 131.38, 131.09, 129.69, 129.33, 129.29, 128.83, 128.41, 128.18, 127.87, 127.40, 123.98, 123.88, 121.28; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClNO [M<sup>+</sup>]: 367.0763; found: 367.0755.

**Benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(3-fluorophenyl)methanone (5da).** Following the general procedure (B)



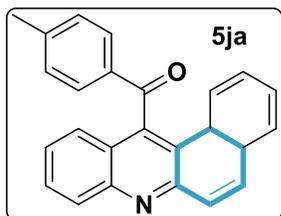
for 10 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a yellow color solid (298 mg, 85%); m.p. 180-181 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.36 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 6.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.64 (td, *J* = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.91, 163.06 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 249.6 Hz), 149.63, 147.28, 141.67, 138.71 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 6.2 Hz), 133.30, 132.61, 130.97 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 7.6 Hz), 129.56, 129.39, 128.99, 128.54, 127.98, 127.51, 127.34, 127.15, 125.72 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 3.0 Hz), 125.07, 123.42, 121.76 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 21.6 Hz), 120.69, 115.82 (d, *J<sub>F</sub>* = 22.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -110.45 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FNO [M<sup>+</sup>]: 351.1059; found: 351.1063.

**Benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(3-methoxyphenyl)methanone (5ma).** Following the general procedure



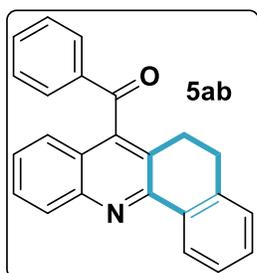
(B) for 24 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (326 mg, 90%); m.p. 164-165 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.33 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (td, *J* = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 1.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 2.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  199.64, 159.89, 149.34, 146.90, 142.24, 137.72, 132.90, 132.22, 129.93, 129.85, 129.07, 128.96, 128.65, 128.38, 127.48, 127.35, 126.95, 126.59, 125.04, 123.35, 122.71, 120.88, 120.41, 112.65, 55.16; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 363.1259; found: 363.1254.

**(10-methylbenzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl)(phenyl)methanone (5ja).** Following the general procedure



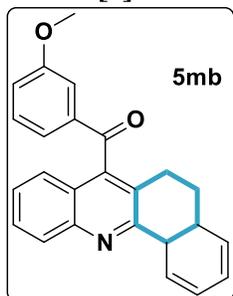
(B) for 12 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a yellow color solid (301 mg, 87%); m.p. 160-161 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.40 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.80 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.51- 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.69, 149.66, 147.25, 145.81, 142.79, 134.40, 133.15, 132.48, 130.10, 129.90, 129.78, 129.36, 129.19, 128.98, 128.75, 127.71, 127.67, 127.22, 126.81, 125.44, 123.65, 120.62, 21.80; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 347.1310; found: 347.1316.

**(5,6-dihydrobenzo[*c*]acridin-7-yl)(phenyl)methanone (5ab).** Following the general procedure



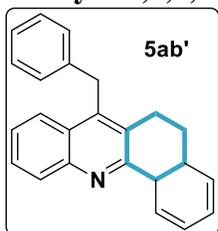
(B) for 14 h on 1.0 mmol scale giving the compound as a yellow color solid (234 mg, 70%); m.p. 125-126 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.77 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 2.87 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.95, 153.03, 147.20, 142.61, 139.05, 136.55, 134.54, 134.33, 130.06, 129.94, 129.68, 129.20, 129.12, 127.88, 127.47, 126.84, 126.59, 126.26, 124.67, 124.53, 27.77, 26.25. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ]: 336.1384; found: 336.1382.

**benzo[*c*]acridin-7-yl(3-methoxyphenyl)methanone (5mb).** Following the general procedure (B)



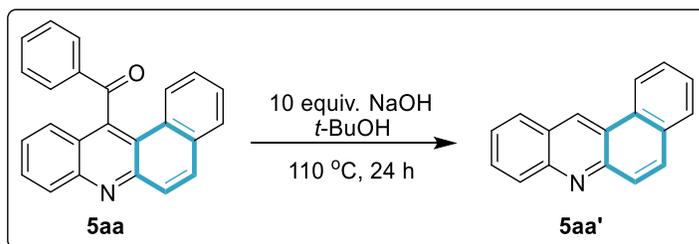
for 48 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (237 mg, 65%); m.p. 150-152 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62 (dd,  $J = 7.7$ , 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (ddd,  $J = 8.5$ , 1.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (ddd,  $J = 8.4$ , 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.38 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (ddd,  $J = 7.8$ , 2.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.62, 160.06, 152.83, 147.03, 142.51, 138.88, 137.76, 134.17, 129.98, 129.89, 129.77, 129.03, 127.71, 127.30, 126.68, 126.42, 126.12, 124.51, 124.40, 122.91, 121.10, 112.59, 55.38, 27.65, 26.12; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ]: 366.1486; found: 366.1489.

**7-benzyl-4a,5,6,12b-tetrahydrobenzo[*c*]acridine (5ab’)**. Following the general procedure (B)



for 4 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound yellow color solid; m.p. 109-110 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.59 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35 (td,  $J = 7.4, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.08 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.94 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 5.6$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.90, 147.18, 141.27, 138.92, 138.65, 134.93, 130.10, 129.42, 129.28, 128.53, 128.25, 127.86, 127.41, 127.35, 127.14, 126.24, 126.16, 126.10, 123.86, 33.20, 28.03, 25.38; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 322.1589; found: 322.1590.

**Procedure for synthesis of benzo[*a*]acridine (5aa’)**.



In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube benzo[*a*]acridin-12-yl(phenyl)methanone **5aa** (333 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of *t*-butanol followed by the addition of NaOH (400 mg, 10 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 110 °C for 24 h. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 25.0 mL of cooled water. The water layer was extracted with (3X25 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The obtained crude was purified using column chromatography by eluting from hexane to 8-15% ethyl acetate/hexane to afford benzo[*a*]acridine (**5aa’**) as a brown color solid (170 mg, 74%); m.p. 102-103 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.42 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.26 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 0.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 0.5$  Hz, 1H),  $\delta$  8.00 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.7, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.57 (m, 3H;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.33, 148.15, 132.53, 131.22, 130.49, 130.08, 129.96, 129.01, 128.85, 128.40, 128.26, 127.70, 127.44, 126.49, 126.04, 124.14, 122.87; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 230.0966; found: 230.0964.

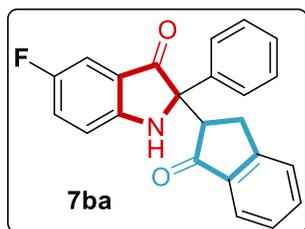
### General procedure (C) for synthesis of 2-(indenyl-2-yl)-3-Oxoindoline.

Preparation of 2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (**7aa**).



In an oven dried 15 ml seal tube 2-(phenylethynyl) aniline **1a** (193 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 1 ml of DMSO followed by the sequential addition of anhydrous FeCl<sub>3</sub> (243 mg, 1.5 mmol) and 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-one **6a** (198 mg, 1.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 110 °C for 7 h at nitrogen atmosphere. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with 25.0 mL of cooled water. The water layer was extracted with (3X25 mL) of ethyl acetate and the combined ethyl acetate layer was given brine wash (1X10 mL). The final ethyl acetate layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude compound. The obtained crude was purified using column chromatography by eluting from hexane to 10-16% ethyl acetate/hexane to afford pure of 2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (**7aa**) as a yellow color solid (298 mg, 88%); m.p. 215-216 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.46 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 3.68 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 4.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.30, 200.25, 189.74, 167.70, 159.77, 153.45, 137.09, 136.91, 136.57, 135.06, 128.71, 127.89, 127.56, 126.39, 126.18, 125.28, 124.08, 120.71, 119.56, 112.14, 71.53, 53.88, 29.57; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 339.1259; found: 339.1263.

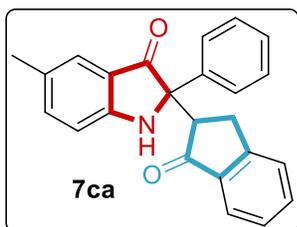
**5-fluoro-2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (**7ba**).** Following the



general procedure (C) for 8 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (160 mg, 45%); m.p. 172-174 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 4H),

7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 3.71 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 4.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.06, 199.86, 158.07, 155.69, 154.83 (d,  $J_F = 294.8$  Hz), 156.31, 153.36, 136.55 (d,  $J_F = 20.0$  Hz), 135.14, 128.83, 128.06, 127.75, 127.65, 126.39, 126.03, 125.09, 124.96 (d,  $J_F = 25.5$  Hz), 113.22 (d,  $J_F = 7.6$  Hz), 110.15 (d,  $J_F = 22.7$  Hz), 72.68, 54.13, 29.58;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -124.08 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 357.1165; found: 357.1157.

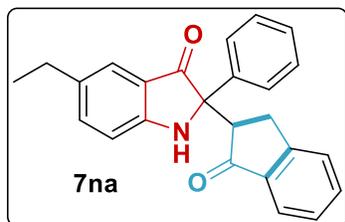
**5-methyl-2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (7ca).** Following the



general procedure (C) for 5.5 h on 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as yellow color solid (289 mg, 82%); m.p. 212-213 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.65 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H),  $\delta$  7.37 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23 (ddd,  $J = 7.3, 3.6, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H),

3.70 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd,  $J = 17.8, 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.07, 200.21, 158.18, 153.36, 138.39, 137.20, 136.57, 134.91, 129.11, 128.67, 127.76, 127.47, 126.31, 126.04, 124.59, 124.01, 120.91, 112.01, 71.96, 53.90, 29.64, 20.51; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 353.1415; found: 353.1424.

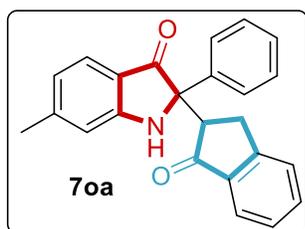
**5-ethyl-2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (7na).** Following the



general procedure (C) for 9 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as an yellow color solid (275 mg, 75%); m.p. 213-214 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.66 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.39 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m,

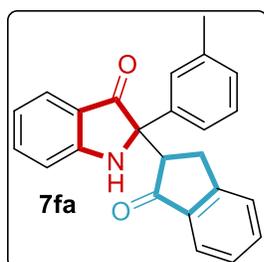
4H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.68 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd,  $J = 17.8, 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.60 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.34 – 0.85 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.11, 200.22, 158.28, 153.31, 137.45, 137.08, 136.50, 135.54, 134.85, 128.55, 127.67, 127.39, 126.23, 126.02, 123.93, 123.27, 120.78, 112.01, 71.85, 53.76, 29.52, 27.87, 15.38; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 367.1572; found: 367.1577.

**6-methyl-2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (7oa).** Following the



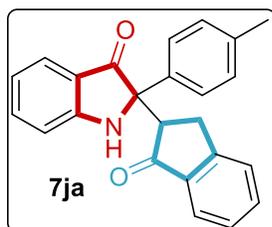
general procedure (C) for 9 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a white solid (282 mg, 80%); m.p. 258-259 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.65 (m, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.64 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.39, 199.52, 160.25, 153.48, 148.71, 137.18, 136.64, 135.01, 128.66, 127.81, 127.52, 126.39, 126.19, 124.99, 124.07, 121.36, 118.50, 112.24, 71.74, 53.80, 29.62, 22.47; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 353.1415; found: 353.1417.

**2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-(*m*-tolyl)indolin-3-one (7fa).** Following the general



procedure (C) for 10 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a yellow color solid (317 mg, 90%); m.p. 193-194 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 5.1 Hz, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.47, 200.60, 160.12, 153.73, 138.75, 137.31, 137.26, 136.93, 135.29, 129.00, 128.92, 127.85, 127.05, 126.69, 125.57, 124.37, 123.44, 121.12, 119.81, 112.40, 71.95, 54.30, 30.02, 21.93; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 353.1415; found: 353.1418.

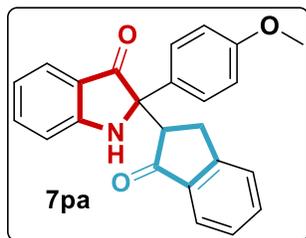
**2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)indolin-3-one (7ja).** Following the general



procedure (C) for 12 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (307 mg, 87%); m.p. 183-184 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (s, 1H), δ 3.65 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 17.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.23, 200.27, 159.65, 153.34, 137.55, 136.87, 136.49, 134.87,

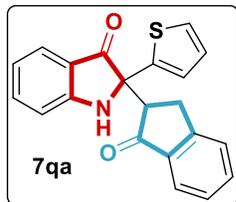
133.78, 129.30, 127.40, 126.26, 125.93, 125.14, 123.93, 119.33, 111.97, 53.69, 29.50, 20.78; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 353.1415; found: 353.1422.

**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)indolin-3-one (7pa).** Following the



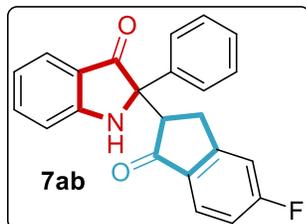
general procedure (C) for 12 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound a red color solid (295 mg, 80%); m.p. 189-190 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.66 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.79 (m, 4H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.46, 200.47, 159.58, 159.02, 153.42, 136.91, 136.45, 134.90, 128.58, 127.38, 127.35, 126.26, 125.10, 123.88, 120.52, 119.26, 113.90, 70.92, 55.07, 53.67, 29.37. HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M<sup>+</sup>]: 369.1364; found: 369.1372.

**2-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)indolin-3-one (7qa).** Following the



general procedure (C) for 10 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (243 mg, 65%); m.p. 164-165 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2, 1H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6, 1H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (ddd, *J* = 6.3, 4.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 6.91 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.43 – 3.24 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 204.17, 199.24, 159.51, 154.09, 137.54, 136.49, 135.35, 127.53, 126.91, 126.49, 125.43, 125.37, 125.02, 124.06, 119.94, 119.74, 112.71, 69.73, 53.73, 28.94. HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M<sup>+</sup>]: 345.0823; found: 345.0832.

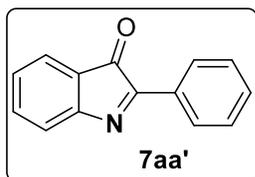
**2-(5-fluoro-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (7ab).** Following the



general procedure (C) for 14 h on a 1.0 mmol scale, giving the compound as a brown color solid (178 mg, 50%); m.p. 172-174 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.10 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s,

1H), 3.65 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd,  $J = 18.1, 4.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  202.53, 200.08, 167.31 (d,  $J_F = 257.2$  Hz), 159.75, 156.37 (d,  $J = 10.3$  Hz), 137.19, 136.60, 128.75, 127.99, 126.43 (d,  $J = 10.6$  Hz), 126.18, 125.30, 120.67, 119.67, 115.99 (d,  $J = 23.8$  Hz), 114.29, 113.04 (d,  $J = 22.3$  Hz), 112.23, 71.35, 54.02, 29.45;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -101.68 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_2$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ]: 357.1165; found: 357.1167.

**2-phenyl-3H-indol-3-one (7aa')** The 2-phenyl-3H-indol-3-one was prepared according to the reported procedures.<sup>2</sup> Red color solid; m.p. 158-159 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400



MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.39 – 8.36 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.47 (m, 5H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.25(d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H).

## 6) References

1. (a) E. Chong, S. A. Blum, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2015, **137**, 10144-10147; (b) T. Saito, H. Nihei, T. Otani, T. Suyama, N. Furukawa, M. Saito, *Chem. Commun.* 2008, **0**, 172-174; (c) G. K. Dhandabani, M. R. Mutra and J.-J. Wang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2018, **360**, 4754-4763.
2. (a) J.-S. Li, Y.-J. Liu, G.-W. Zhang and J.-A. Ma, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 6364-6367; (b) J.-X. Liu, Q.-Q. Zhou, J.-G. Deng and Y.-C. Chen, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2013, **11**, 8175-8178; (c) P. Li, W. Yong, R. Sheng, W. Rao, X. Zhu and X. Zhang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2019, **361**, 201-207.
3. (a) G. C. Senadi, G. K. Dhandabani, W.-P. Hu and J.-J. Wang, *Green Chem.*, 2016, **18**, 6241-6245; (b) G. K. Dhandabani, M. R. Mutra, J.-J. Wang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2018, **360**, 4754-4763; (c) G. C. Senadi, T.-Y. Lu, G. K. Dhandabani J.-J. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 1172-1175; (d) M. R. Mutra, G. K. Dhandabani, J.-J. Wang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2018, **360**, 3960-3968; (e) S. S. K. Boominathan, G. C. Senadi, J. K. Vandavasi, J. Y.-F. Chen and J.-J. Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2015, **21**, 3193-3197; (f) G. C. Senadi and J.-J. Wang, *Green Chem.*, 2018, **20**, 3420-3425.

## 7) X-ray Crystallography Data

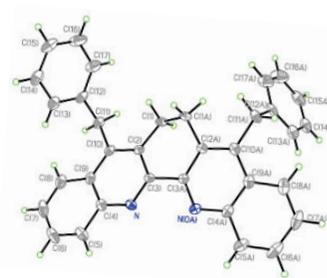
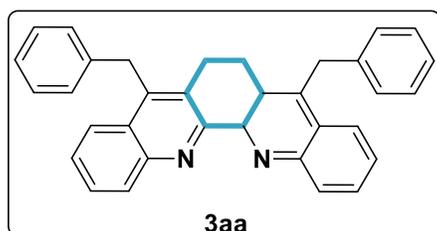


Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for th3175.

Identification code	th3175	
Empirical formula	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>26</sub> N <sub>2</sub>	
Formula weight	462.57	
Temperature	150(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	monoclinic	
Space group	C 2/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 20.9893(8) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 11.0183(4) Å	β = 97.8192(16)°.
	c = 11.5218(4) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	2639.83(17) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.164 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.068 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	976	
Crystal size	0.520 x 0.300 x 0.190 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	3.570 to 26.389°.	
Index ranges	-26 ≤ h ≤ 26, -13 ≤ k ≤ 13, -14 ≤ l ≤ 14	
Reflections collected	23416	
Independent reflections	2696 [R(int) = 0.0438]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.9281 and 0.8284	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	2696 / 0 / 163	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.024	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0531, wR2 = 0.1434	

R indices (all data)

R1 = 0.0688, wR2 = 0.1544

Extinction coefficient

n/a

Largest diff. peak and hole

0.335 and -0.403 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>

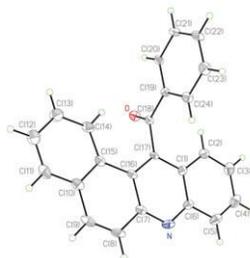
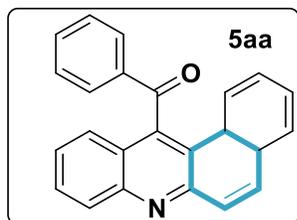


Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for th4036.

Identification code	th4036
Empirical formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>19.90</sub> N O <sub>0.45</sub>
Formula weight	329.51
Temperature	150(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P-1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.2367(4) Å b = 10.2565(5) Å c = 11.0747(6) Å α = 104.8513(17)° β = 109.5128(15)° γ = 108.1988(15)°
Volume	859.89(7) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	2
Density (calculated)	1.273 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.075 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	349
Crystal size	0.520 x 0.420 x 0.210 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	3.203 to 26.384°
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 11, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -13 ≤ l ≤ 13
Reflections collected	28959
Independent reflections	3517 [R(int) = 0.0419]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.7 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9281 and 0.8922
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	3517 / 0 / 238

Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.005
Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R1 = 0.0425$ , $wR2 = 0.1020$
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0598$ , $wR2 = 0.1139$
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.190 and $-0.218 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-3}$

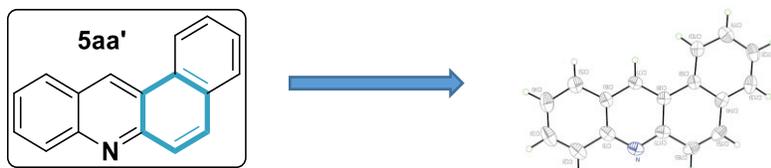


Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for th6194.

Identification code	th6194	
Empirical formula	$C_{17} H_{11} N$	
Formula weight	229.27	
Temperature	150(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 $\text{\AA}$	
Crystal system	orthorhombic	
Space group	$P 21 21 21$	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 4.5356(4) \text{\AA}$	$\alpha = 90^\circ$ .
	$b = 17.1340(14) \text{\AA}$	$\beta = 90^\circ$ .
	$c = 17.5416(14) \text{\AA}$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$ .
Volume	$1363.2(2) \text{\AA}^3$	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	$1.117 \text{ Mg/m}^3$	
Absorption coefficient	$0.065 \text{ mm}^{-1}$	
F(000)	480	
Crystal size	$0.450 \times 0.120 \times 0.050 \text{ mm}^3$	
Theta range for data collection	$3.324$ to $26.413^\circ$ .	
Index ranges	$-5 \leq h \leq 5$ , $-21 \leq k \leq 21$ , $-21 \leq l \leq 21$	
Reflections collected	18945	
Independent reflections	2789 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0583$ ]	
Completeness to $\theta = 25.242^\circ$	99.3 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.9281 and 0.8151	

Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	2789 / 0 / 163
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.032
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0509, wR2 = 0.1307
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0781, wR2 = 0.1496
Absolute structure parameter	1.1(10)
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.164 and -0.197 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

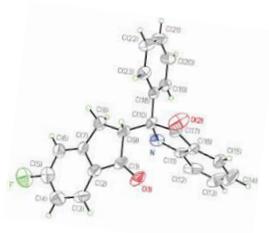
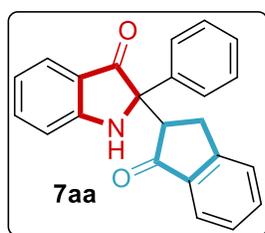


Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for th5094.

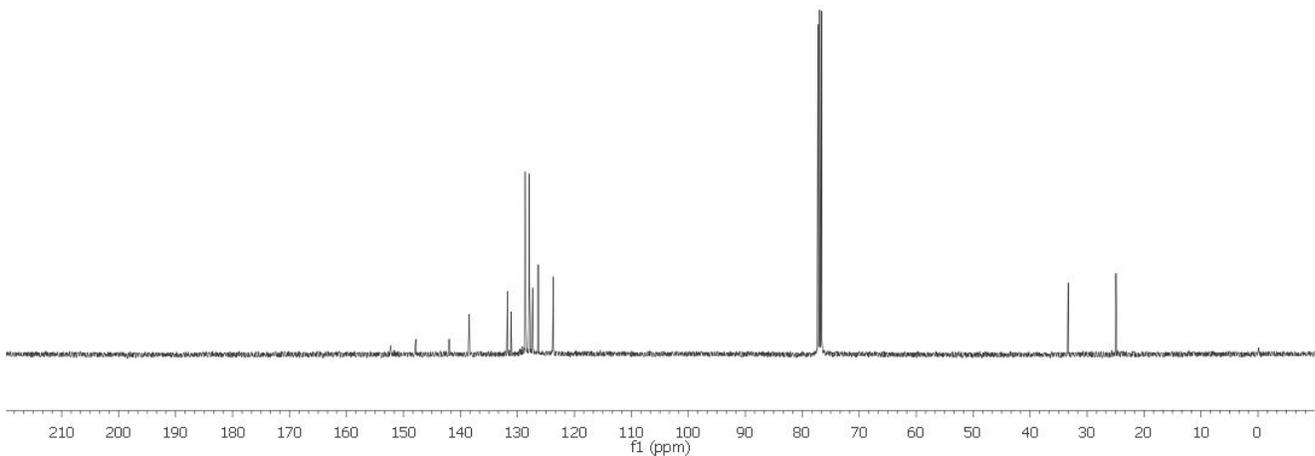
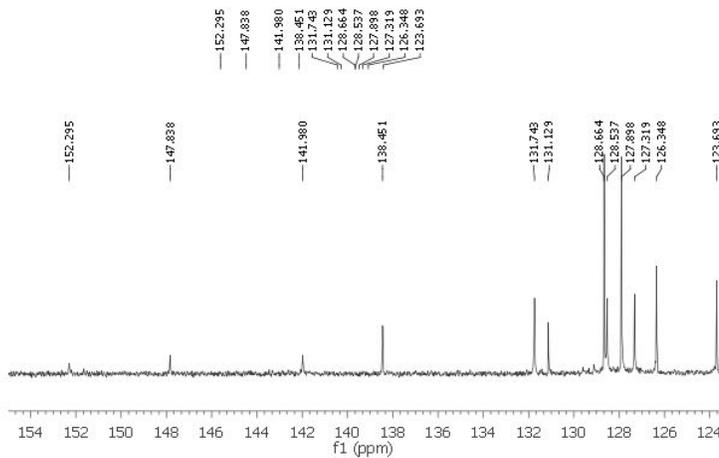
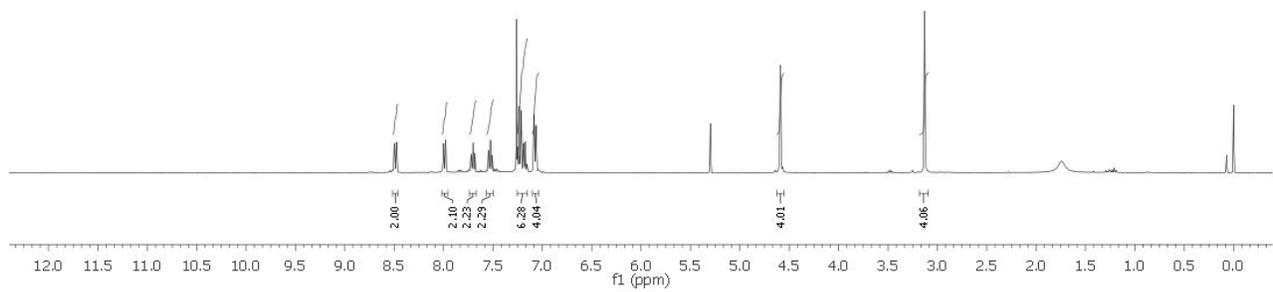
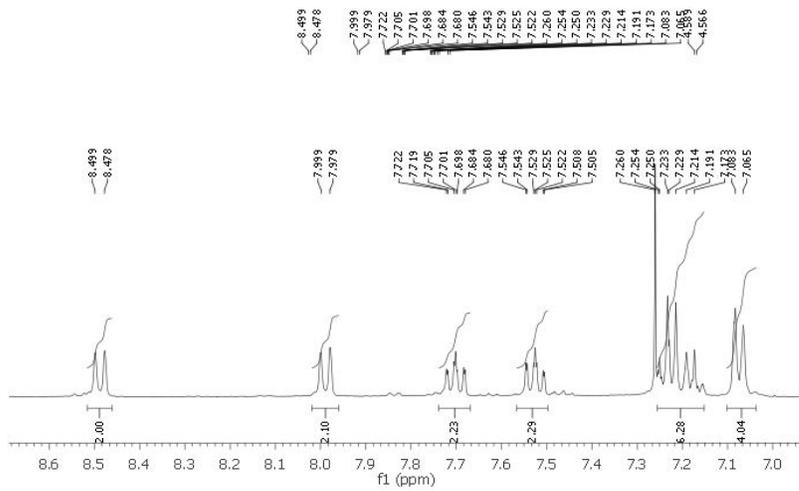
Identification code	th5094	
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>16</sub> F N O <sub>2</sub>	
Formula weight	357.37	
Temperature	150(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	trigonal	
Space group	R 3 c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 29.6855(15) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 29.6855(15) Å	β = 90°.
	c = 11.124(2) Å	γ = 120°.
Volume	8489.4(18) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	18	
Density (calculated)	1.258 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.087 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	3348	
Crystal size	0.350 x 0.100 x 0.070 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	2.745 to 26.387°.	
Index ranges	-36<=h<=37, -36<=k<=37, -13<=l<=13	

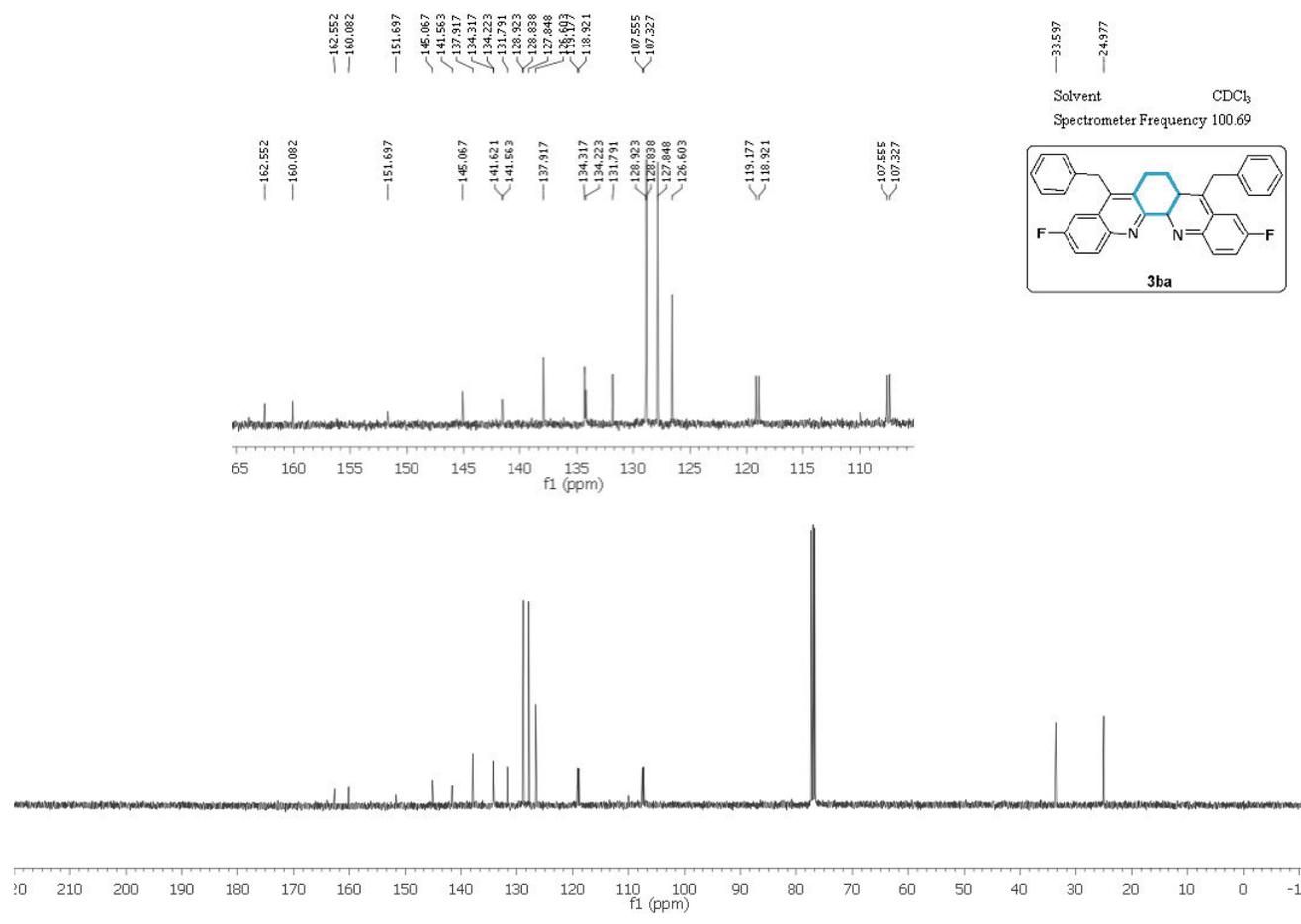
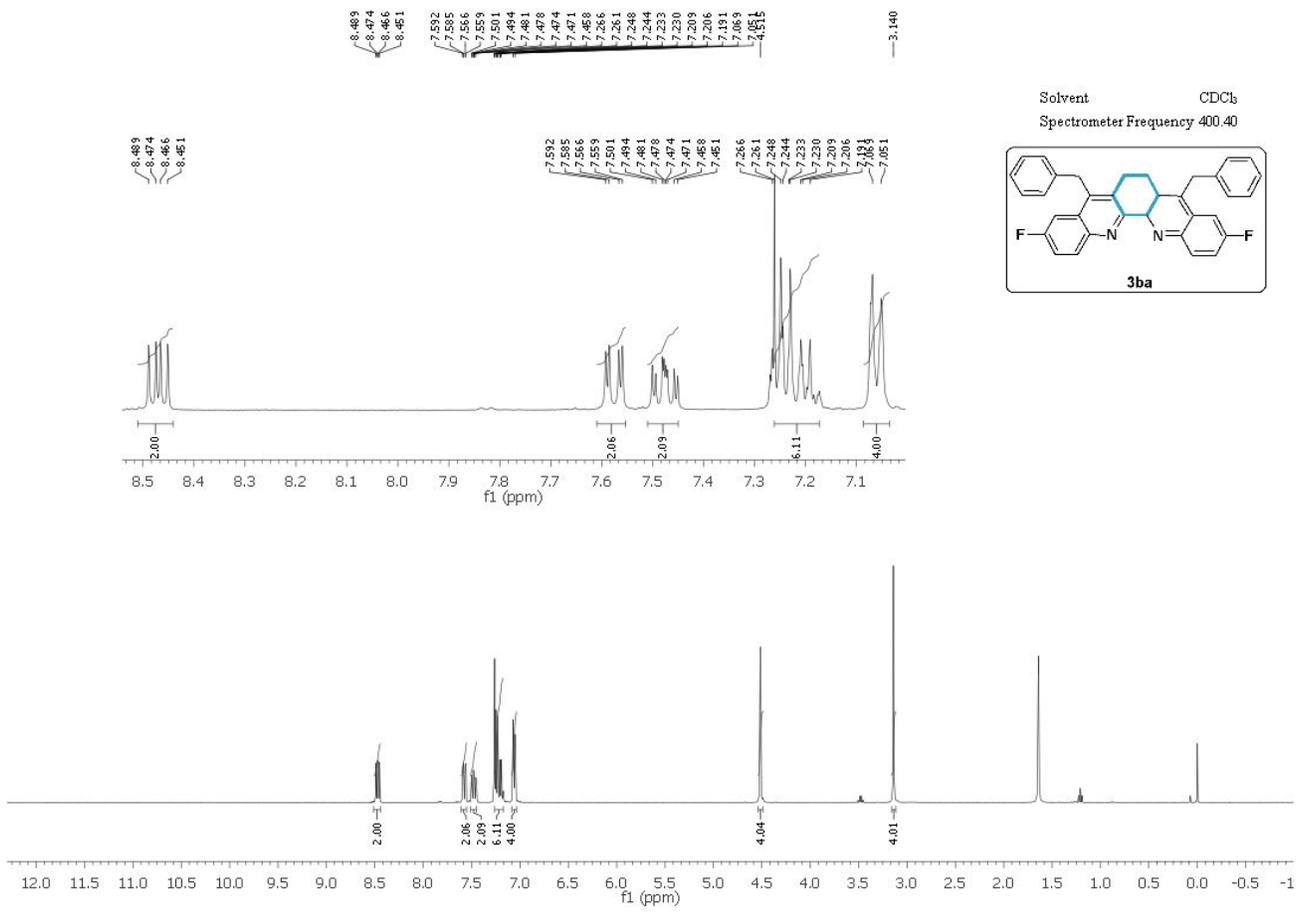
Reflections collected	41148
Independent reflections	3846 [R(int) = 0.1156]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9281 and 0.8247
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	3846 / 1 / 249
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.060
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0523, wR2 = 0.0995
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0912, wR2 = 0.1127
Absolute structure parameter	-0.1(5)
Extinction coefficient	0.00066(16)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.232 and -0.239 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

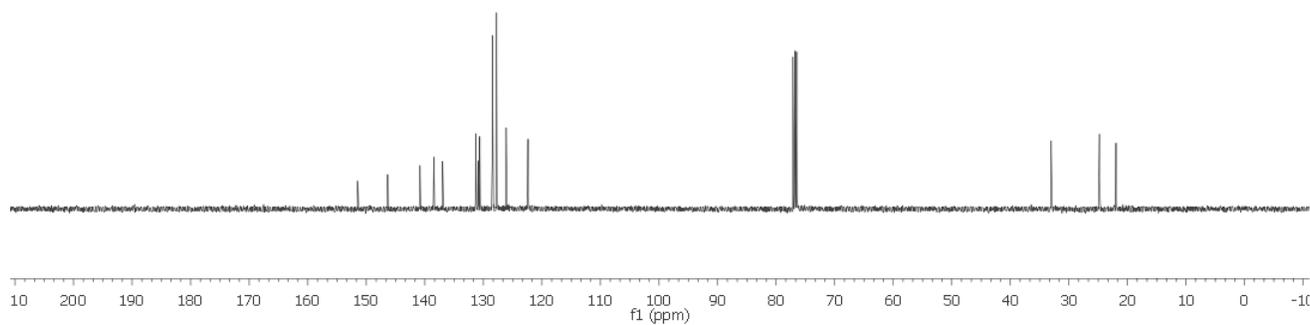
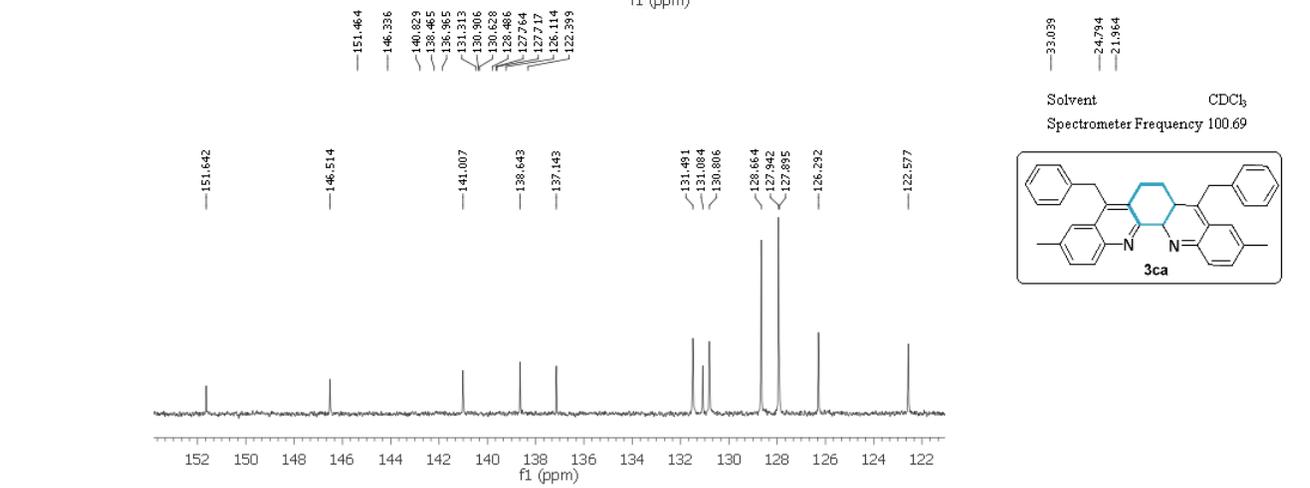
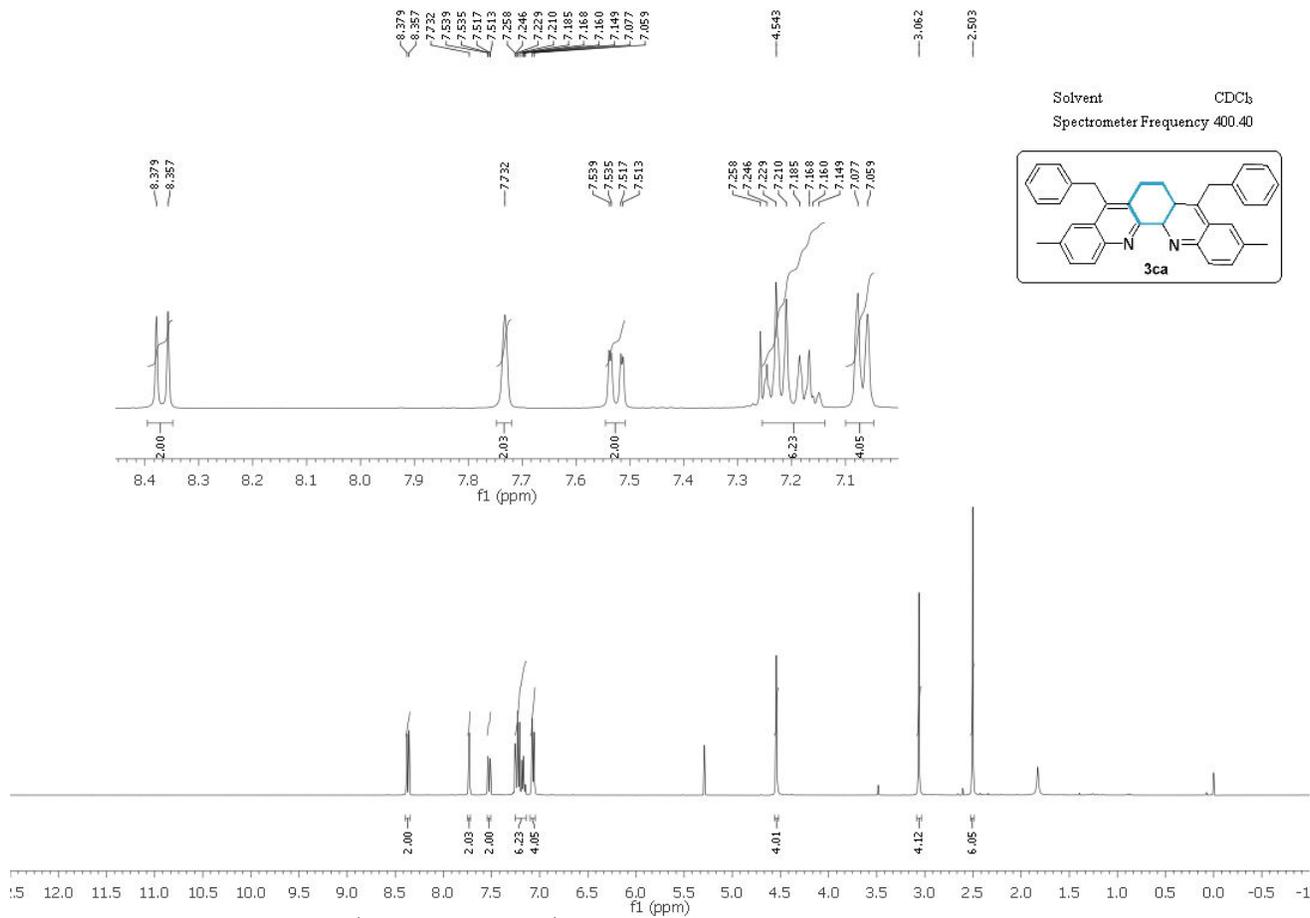
Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for th5094.

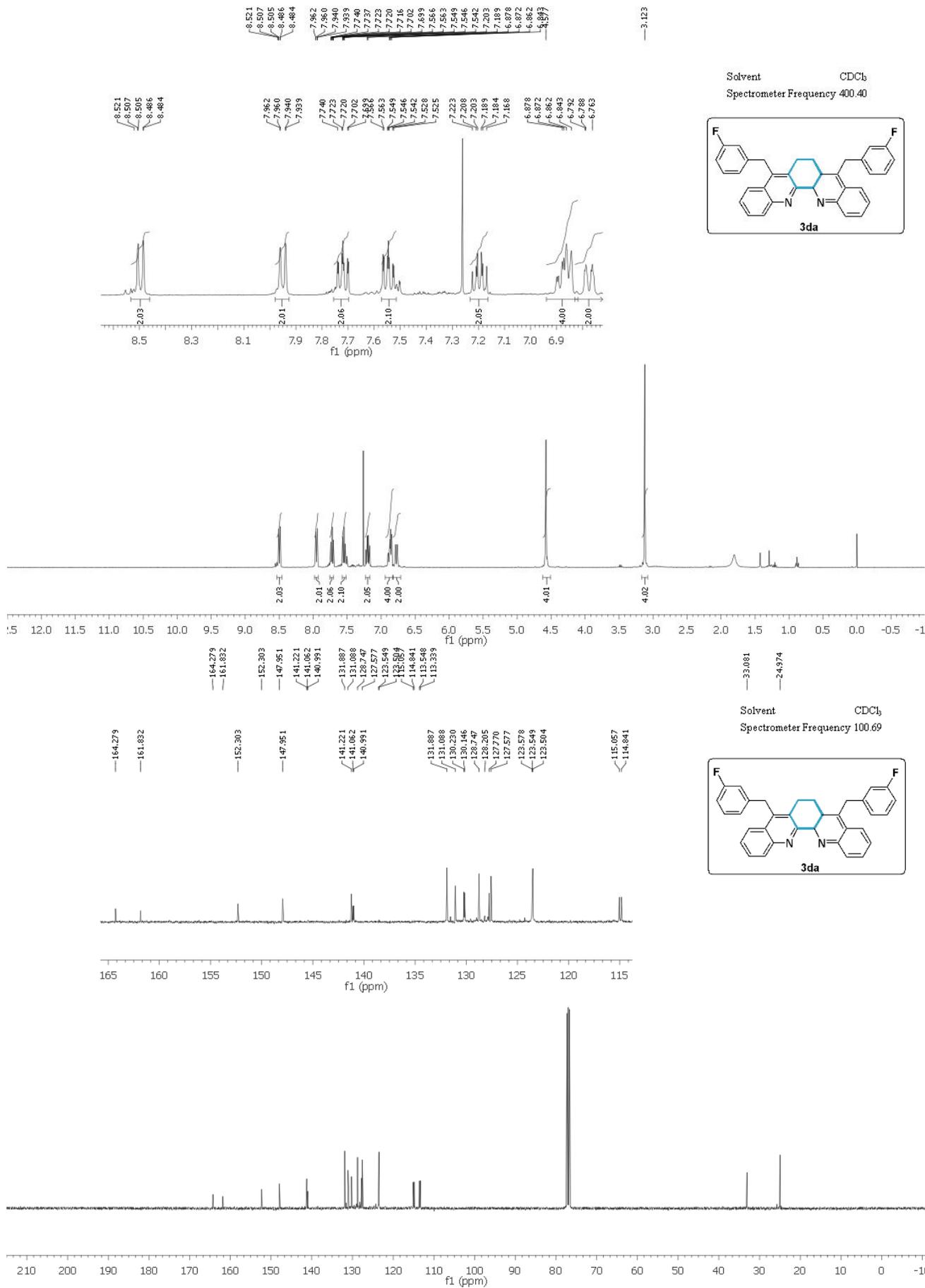
Identification code	th5094
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>16</sub> F N O <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	357.37
Temperature	150(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	trigonal
Space group	R 3 c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 29.6855(15) Å α = 90°. b = 29.6855(15) Å β = 90°. c = 11.124(2) Å γ = 120°.
Volume	8489.4(18) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	18
Density (calculated)	1.258 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.087 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	3348
Crystal size	0.350 x 0.100 x 0.070 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	2.745 to 26.387°.
Index ranges	-36 ≤ h ≤ 37, -36 ≤ k ≤ 37, -13 ≤ l ≤ 13
Reflections collected	41148
Independent reflections	3846 [R(int) = 0.1156]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %

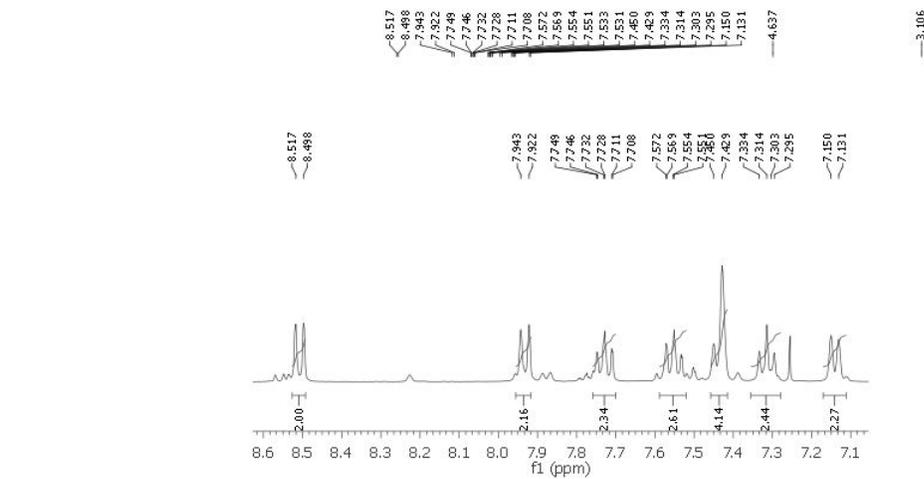
Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents  
Max. and min. transmission 0.9281 and 0.8247  
Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F2  
Data / restraints / parameters 3846 / 1 / 249  
Goodness-of-fit on F2 1.060  
Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] R1 = 0.0523, wR2 = 0.0995  
R indices (all data) R1 = 0.0912, wR2 = 0.1127  
Absolute structure parameter -0.1(5)  
Extinction coefficient 0.00066(16)  
Largest diff. peak and hole 0.232 and -0.239 e. $\text{\AA}^{-3}$



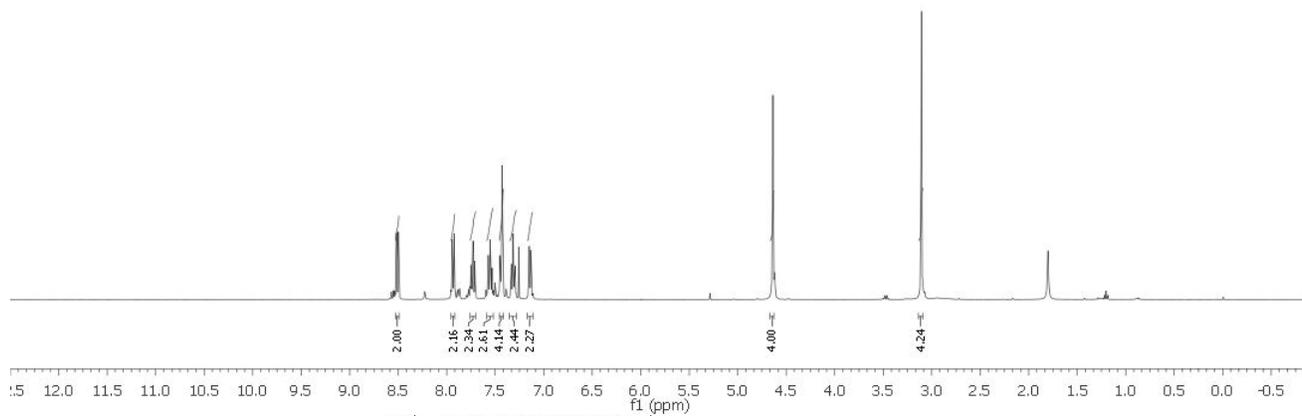
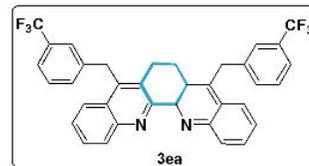




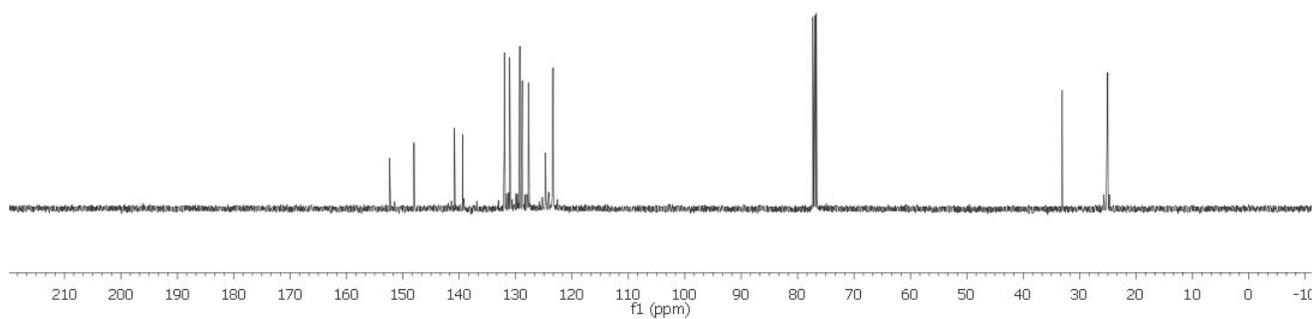
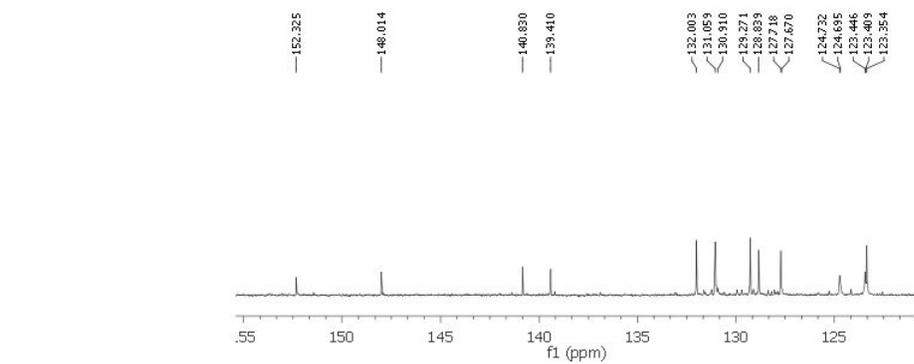
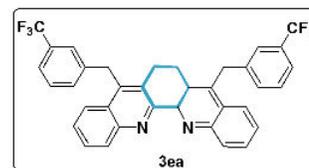


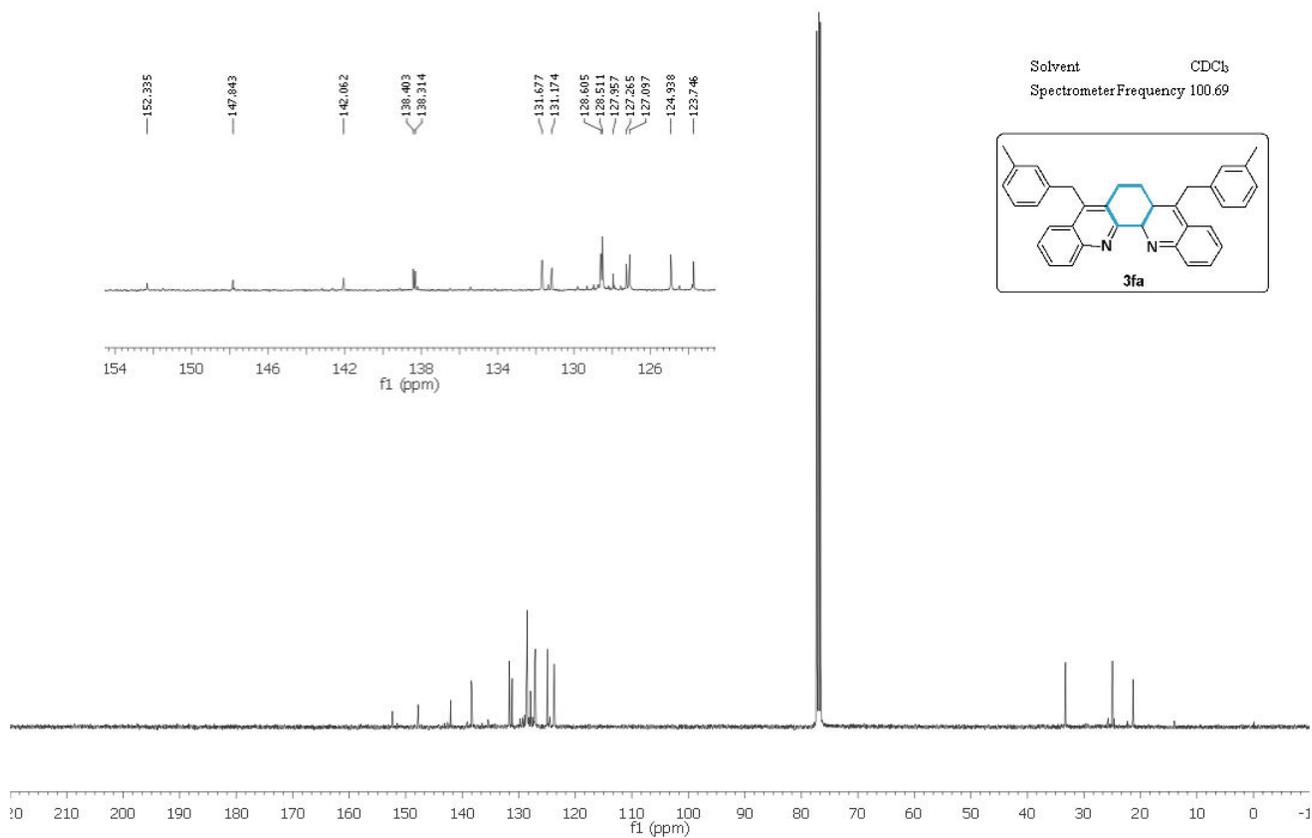
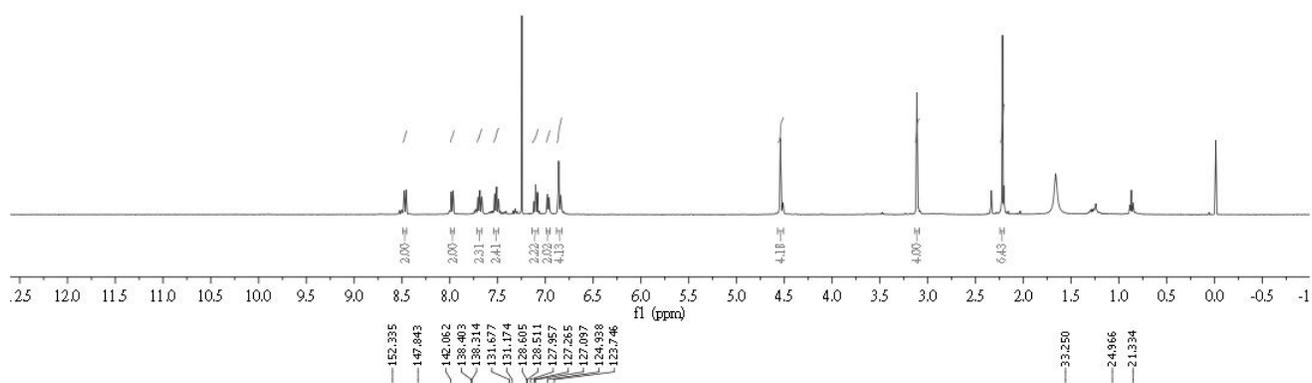
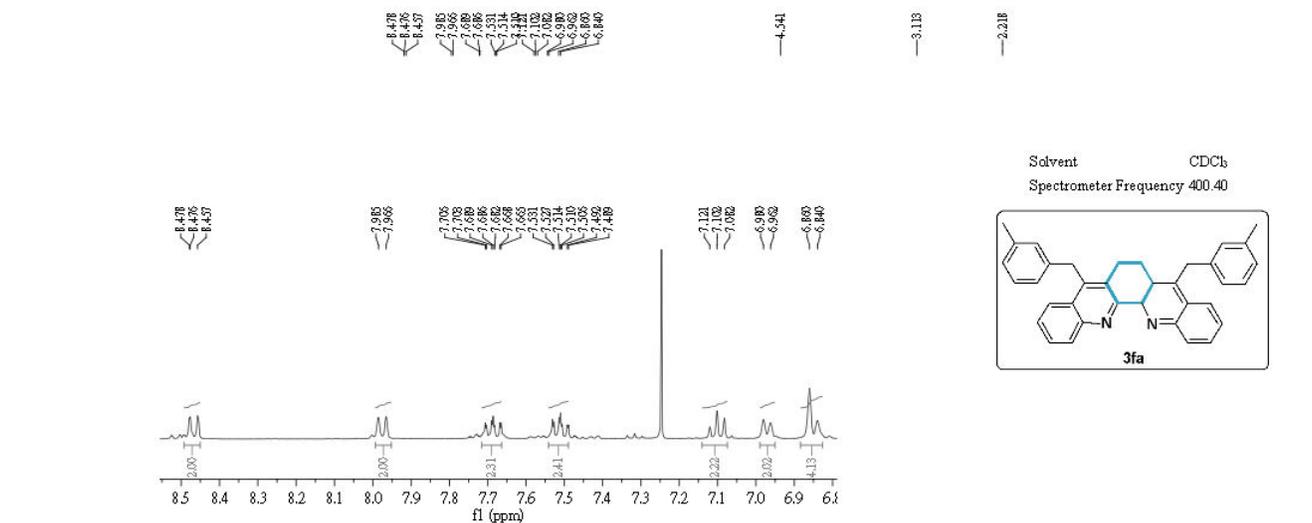


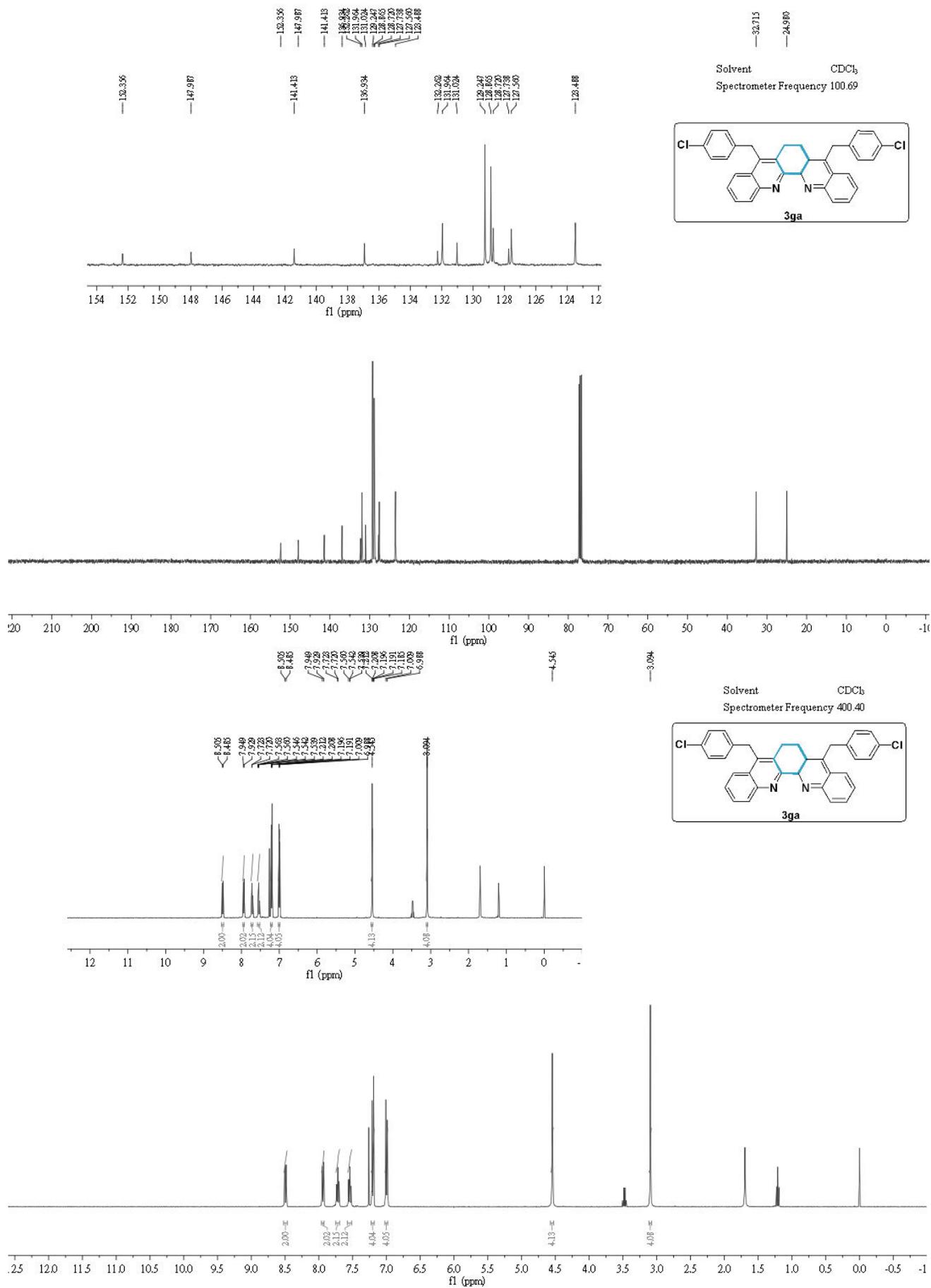
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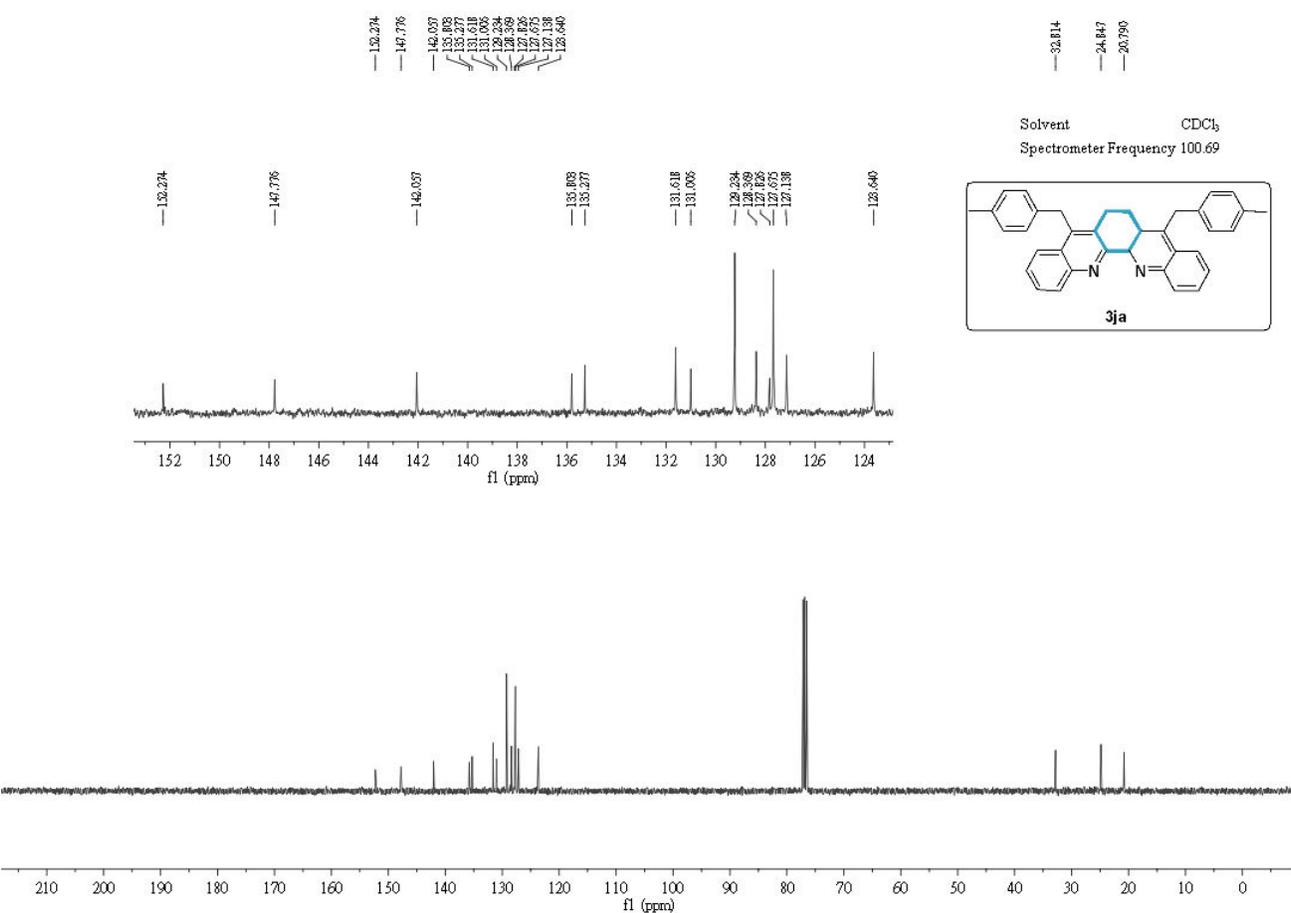
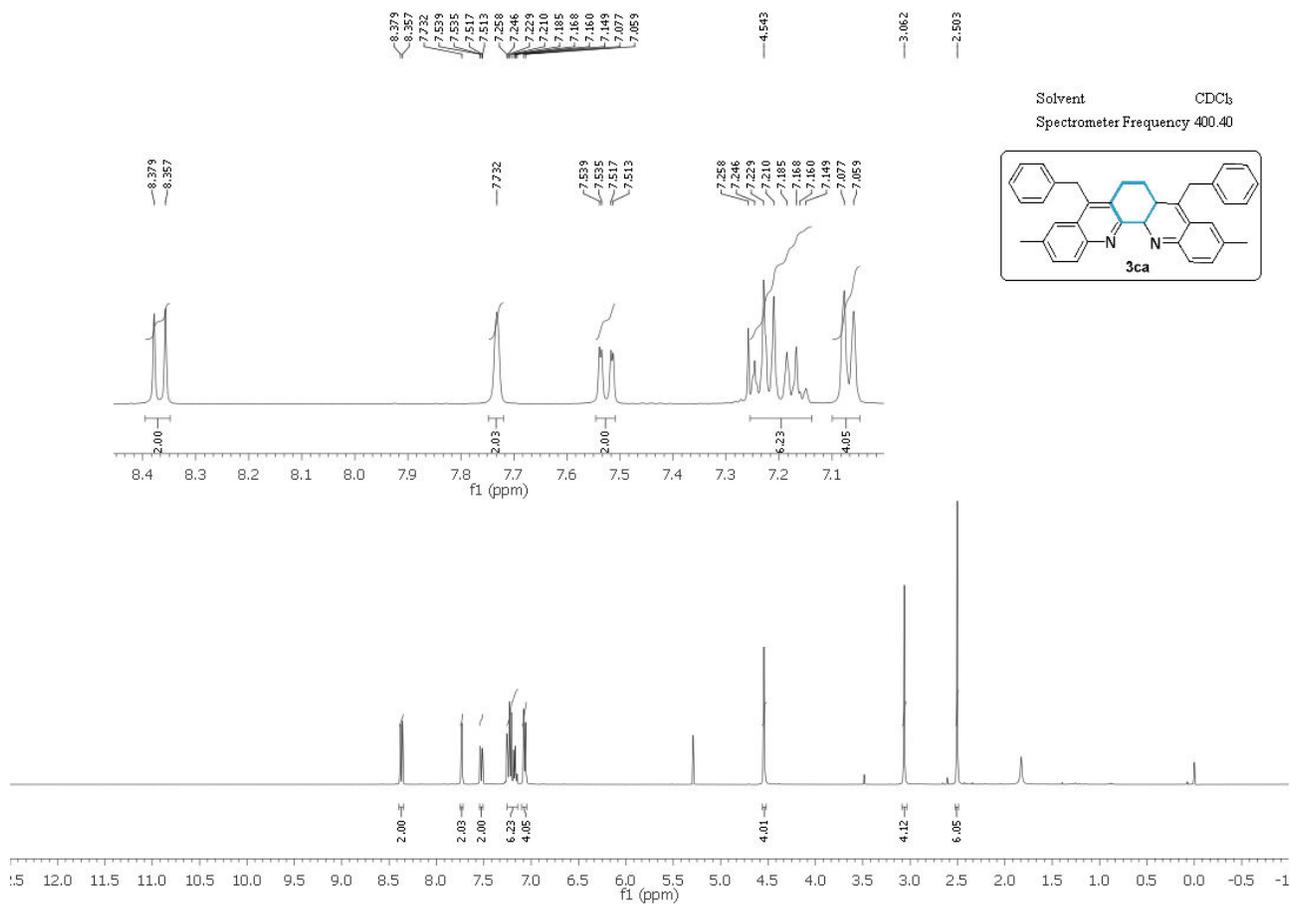


Solvent  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
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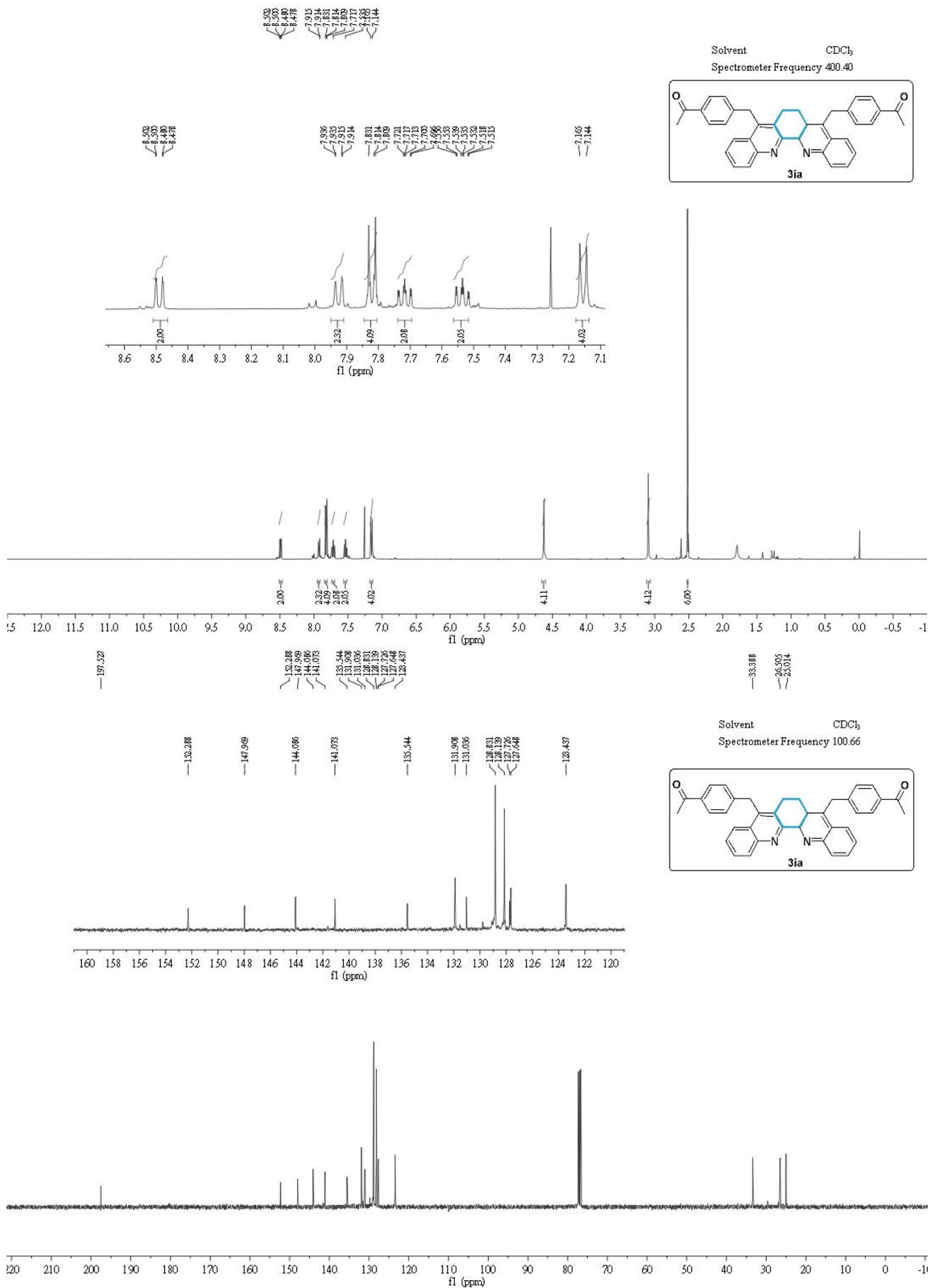


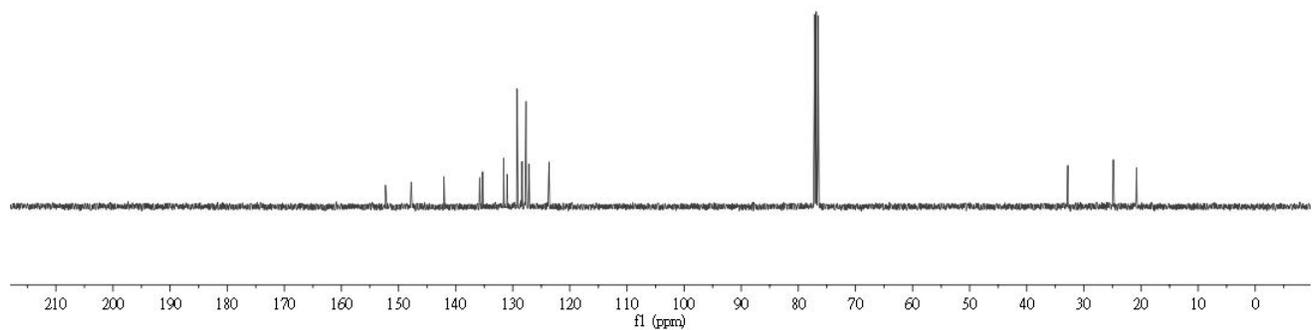
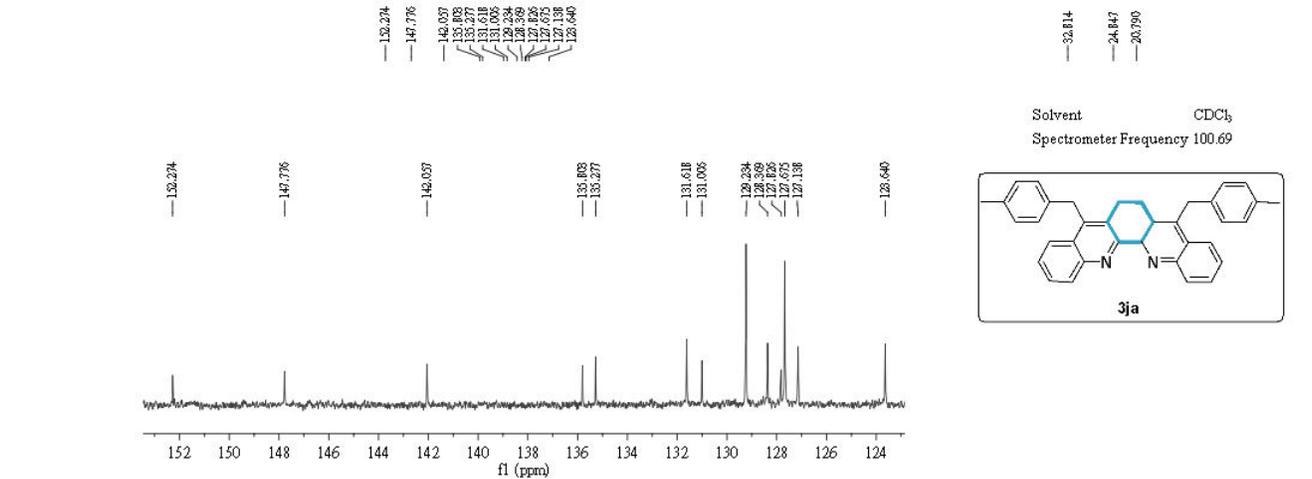
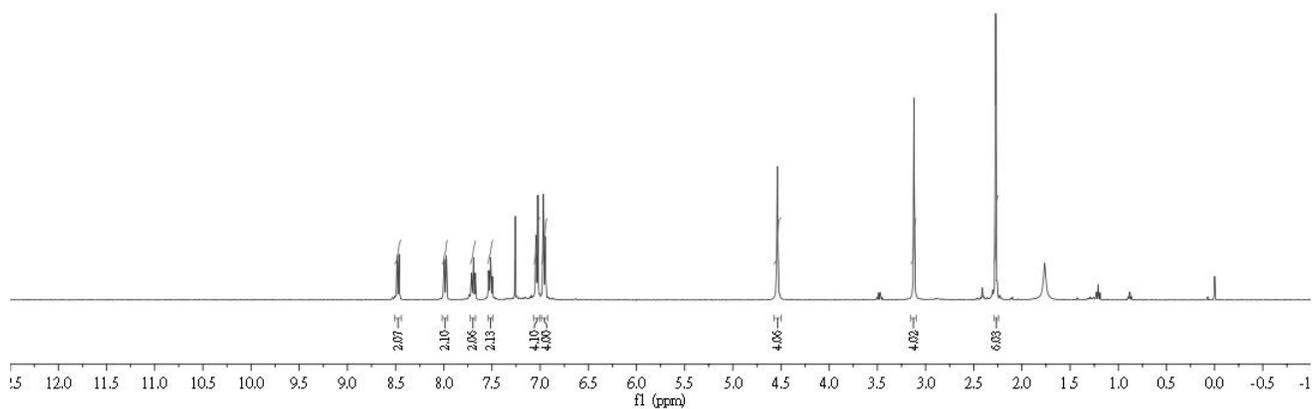
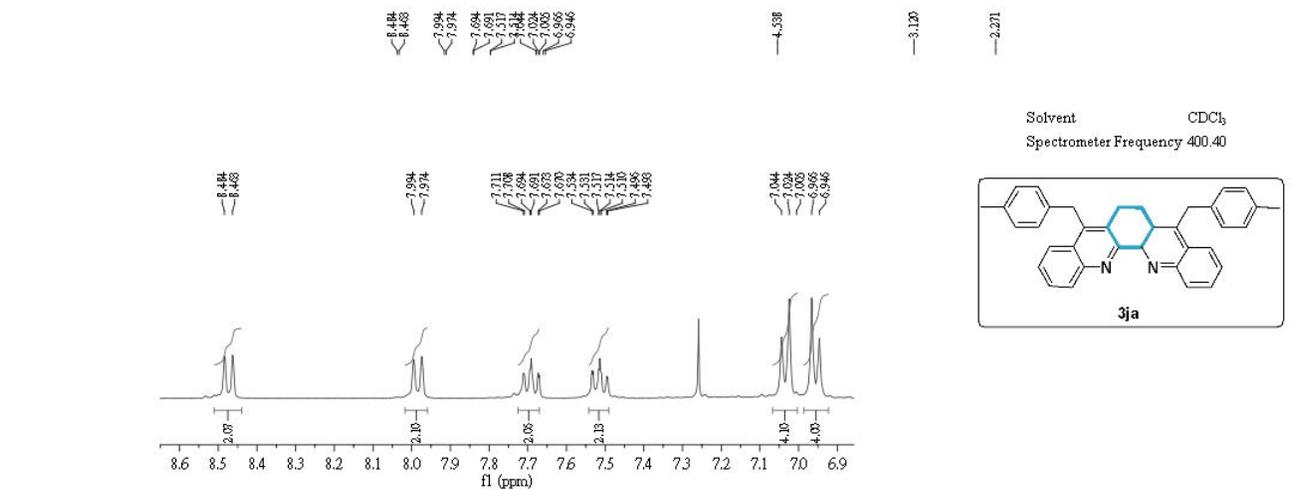


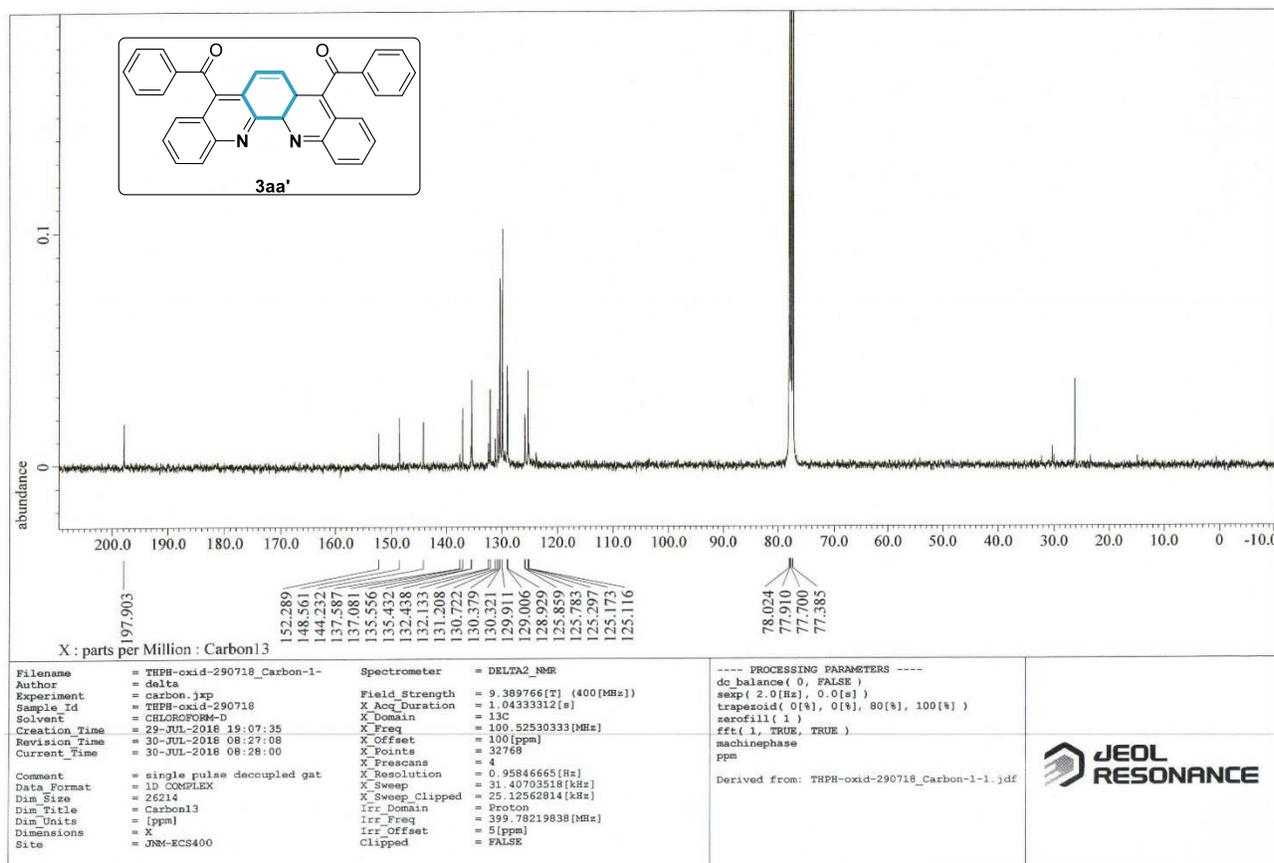
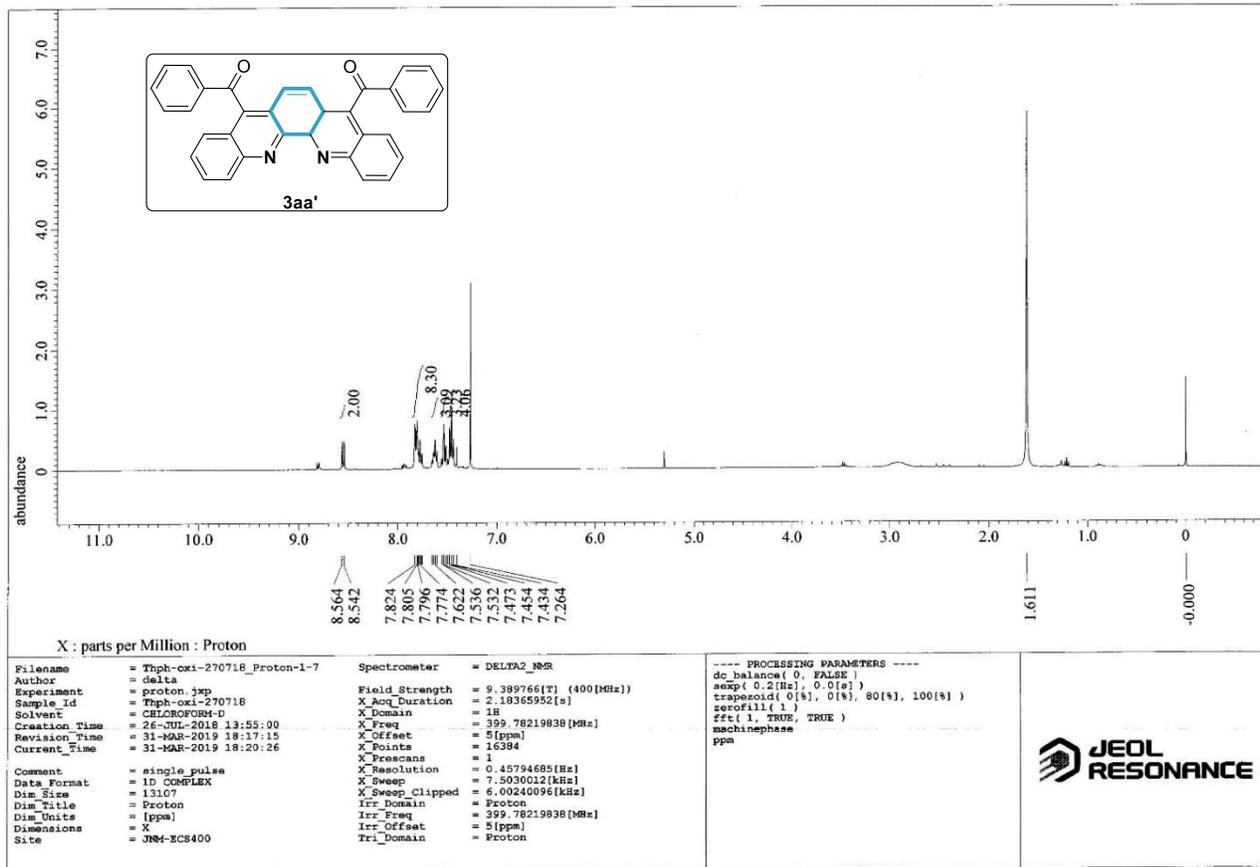


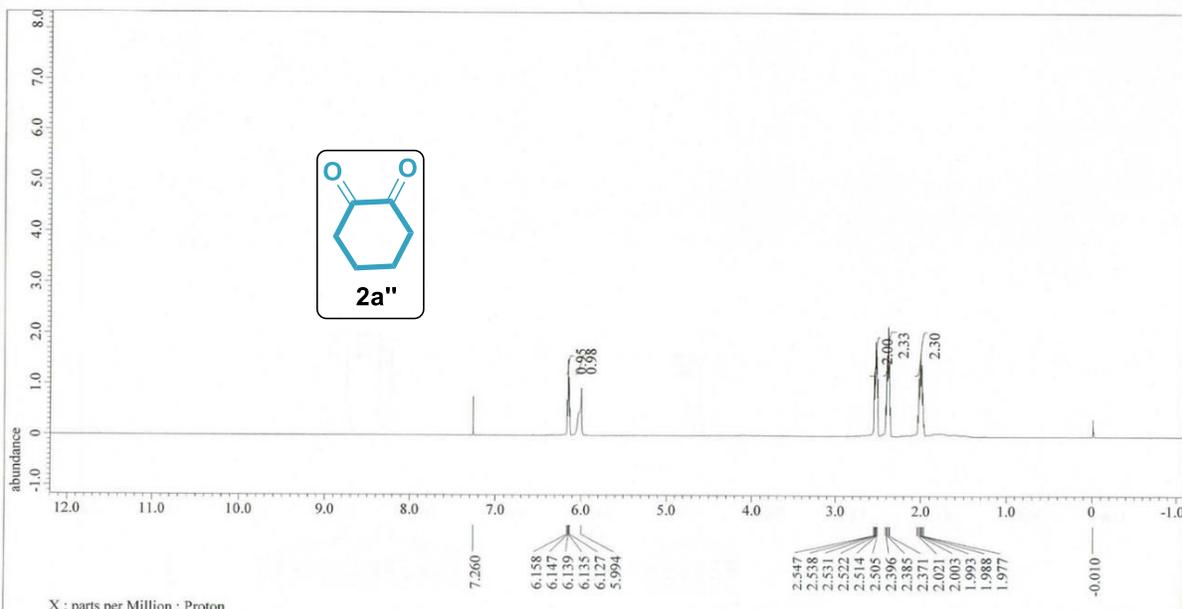










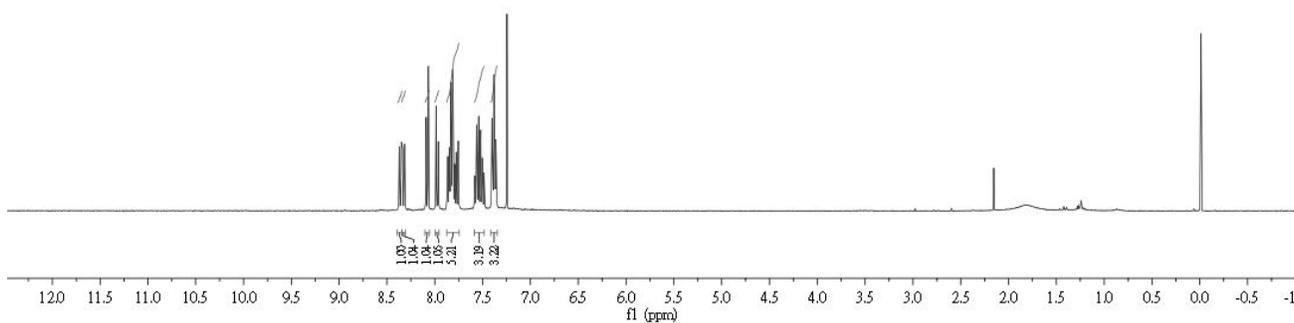
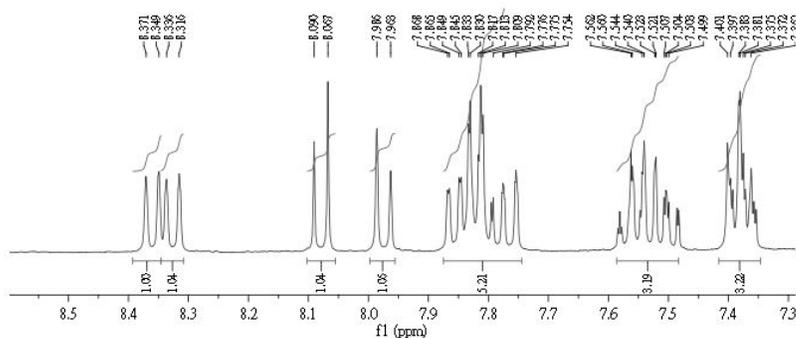
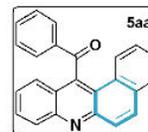


X : parts per Million : Proton

<pre> Filename      = Thphen-1,2 diketo_Proton-1 Author        = delta Experiment    = proton.jsp Sample Id     = Thphen-1,2 diketo Solvent       = CHLOROFORM-D Creation Time = 7-FEB-2019 13:14:50 Revision Time = 28-MAR-2019 11:40:47 Current Time  = 28-MAR-2019 11:43:00  Comment      = single pulse Data Format   = 1D COMPLEX Dim Size     = 13107 Dim Title    = Proton Dim Units    = [ppm] Dimensions   = X Site         = JNM-EC5400           </pre>	<pre> Spectrometer = DELTA2_NMR Field Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz]) X_Acq_Duration = 2.1836992[s] X_Domain       = 1H X_Freq         = 399.78219838 [MHz] X_Offset       = 5 [ppm] X_Points       = 16384 X_Fscans       = 1 X_Resolution   = 0.45794685 [Hz] X_Sweep        = 7.5030012 [kHz] X_Sweep_Clipped = 6.00240096 [kHz] Irr_Domain     = Proton Irr_Freq       = 399.78219838 [MHz] Irr_Offset     = 5 [ppm] Tri_Domain     = Proton           </pre>	<pre> ---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ---- dc balance( 0, FALSE ) sweep( 0.2 [Hz], 0.0 [s] ) trapezoid( 0 [s], 0 [s], 80 [s], 100 [s] ) zerofill( 1 ) fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE ) machinphase ppm           </pre>	
--	---	--	--

8.371  
8.349  
8.315  
8.090  
8.087  
7.966  
7.868  
7.865  
7.849  
7.835  
7.817  
7.815  
7.792  
7.776  
7.775  
7.750  
7.582  
7.560  
7.544  
7.540  
7.528  
7.521  
7.504  
7.508  
7.489  
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7.375  
7.372  
7.362  
7.354

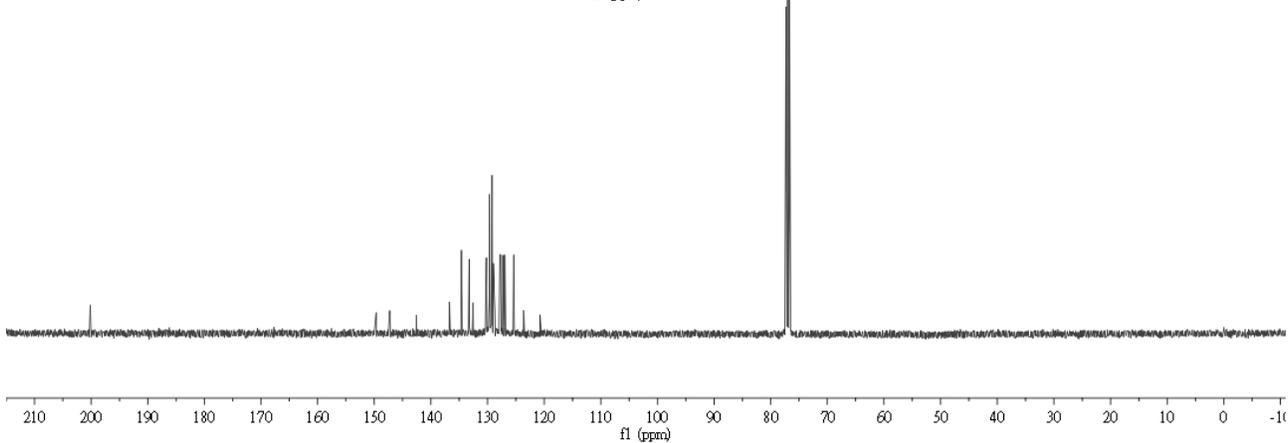
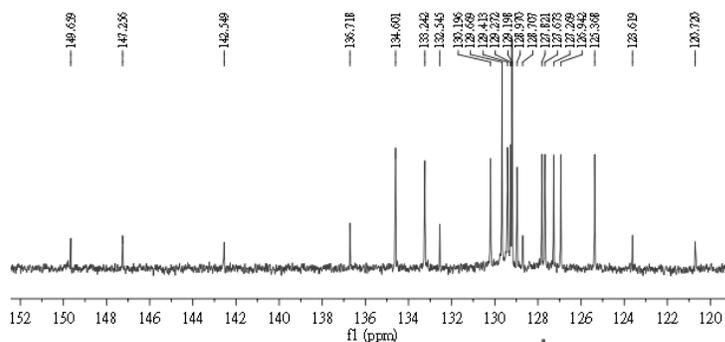
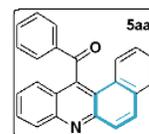
Solvent  $CDCl_3$   
Spectrometer Frequency 400.40



200.146

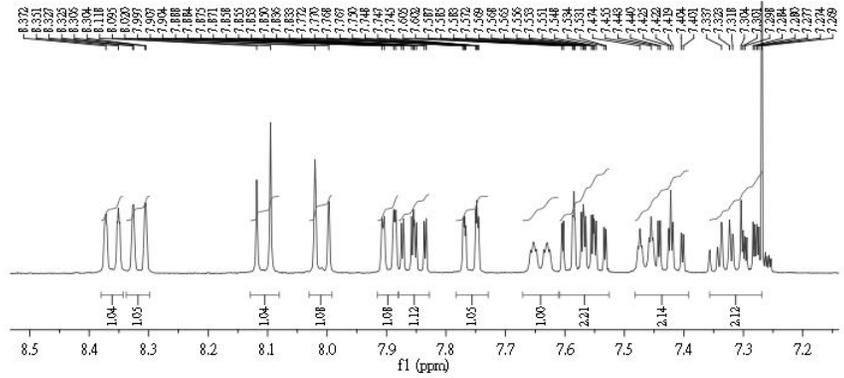
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142.549  
138.718  
138.243  
133.243  
133.196  
128.089  
128.072  
128.198  
128.970  
128.971  
127.873  
127.269  
126.942  
126.619  
120.720

Solvent  $CDCl_3$   
Spectrometer Frequency 100.69

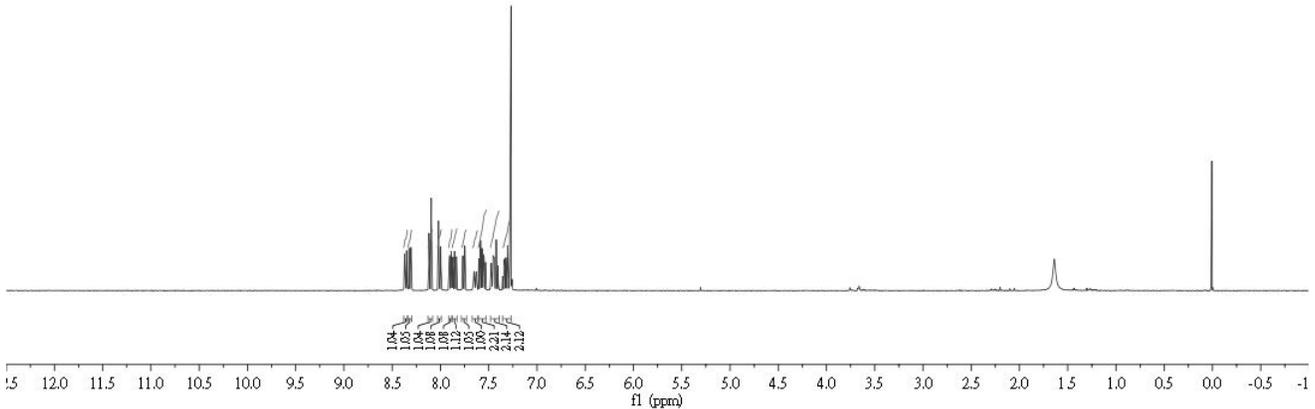
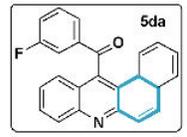




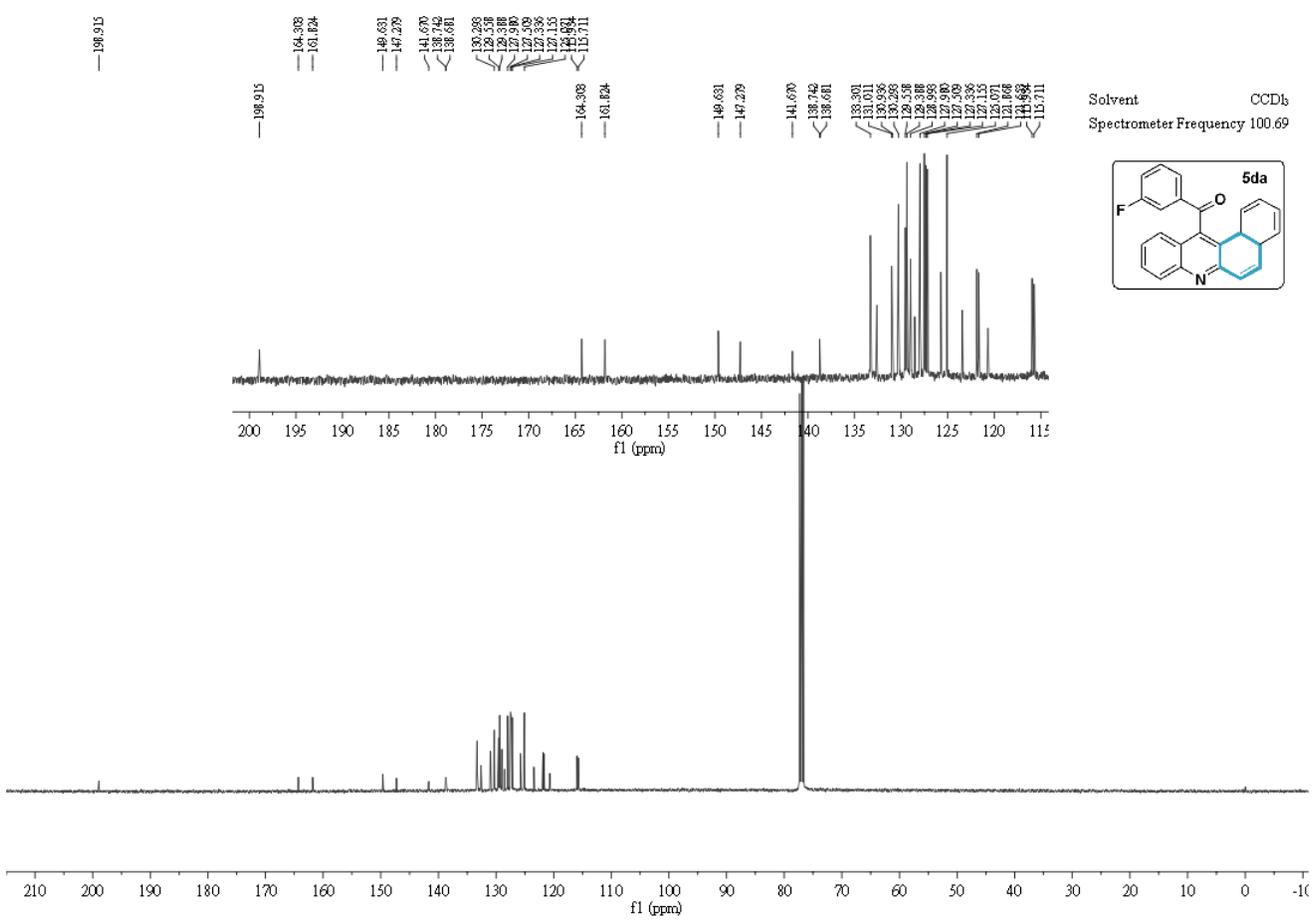
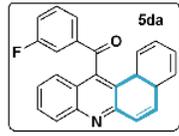
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8.325  
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7.884  
7.875  
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7.768  
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7.274



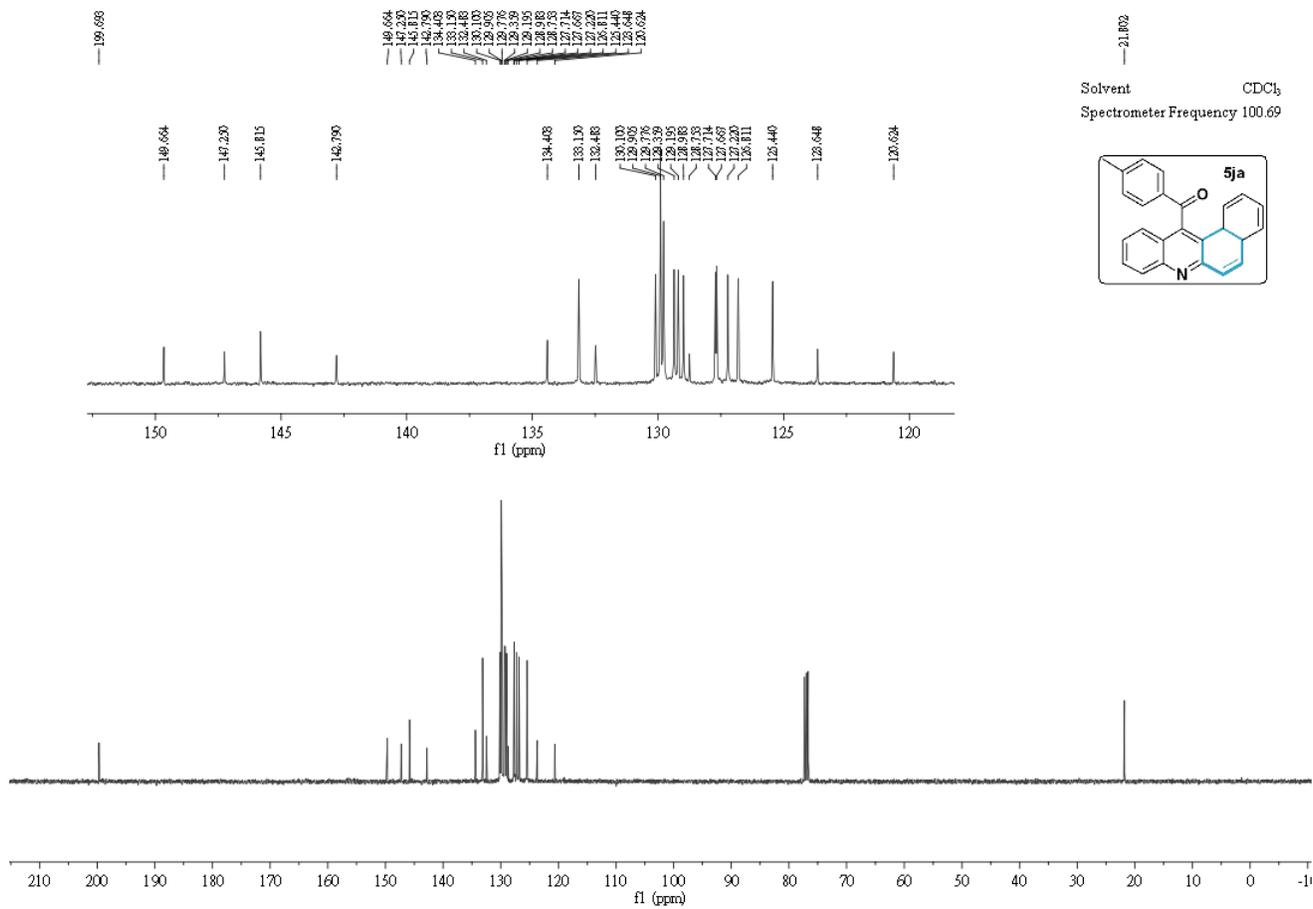
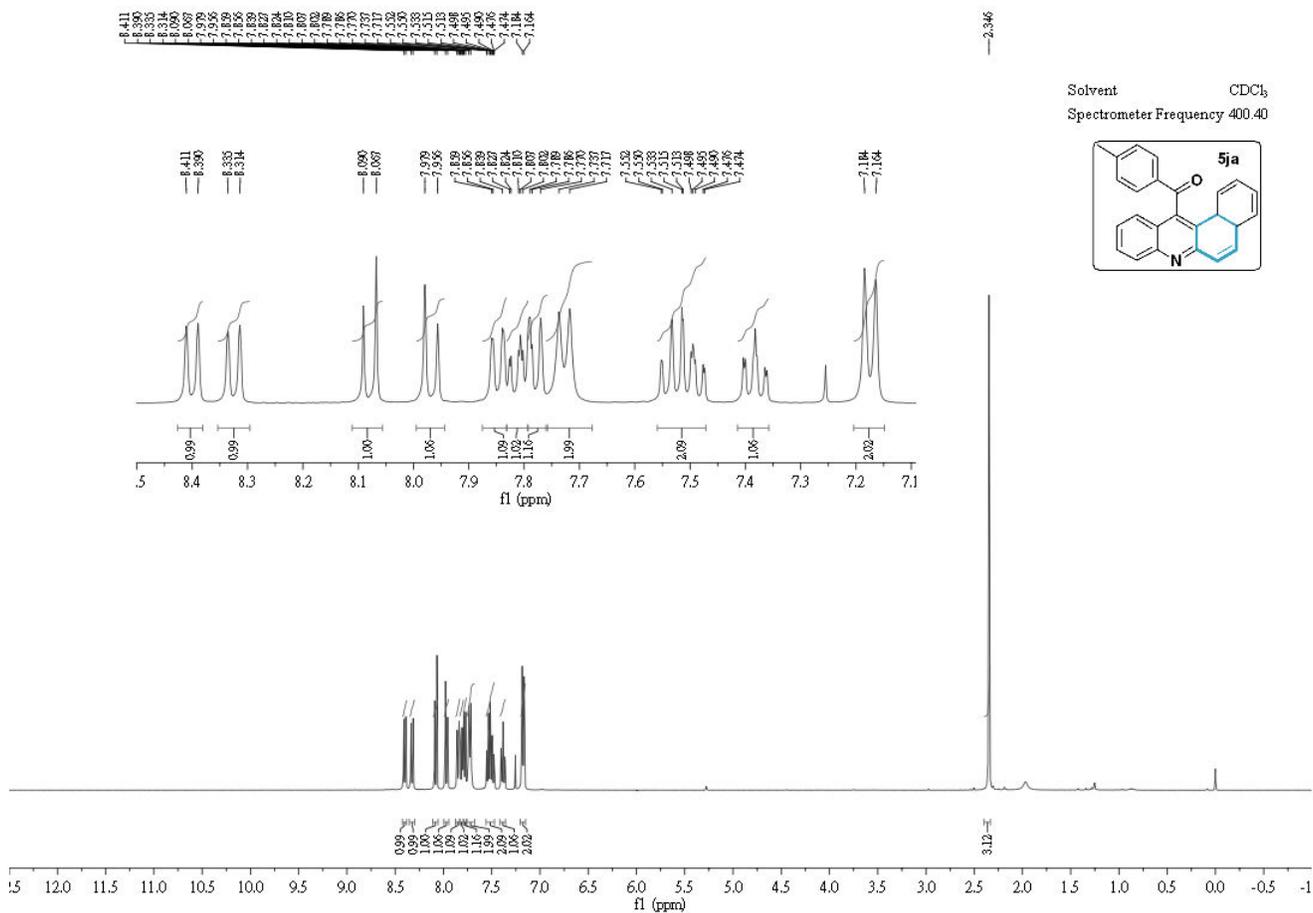
Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 400.40

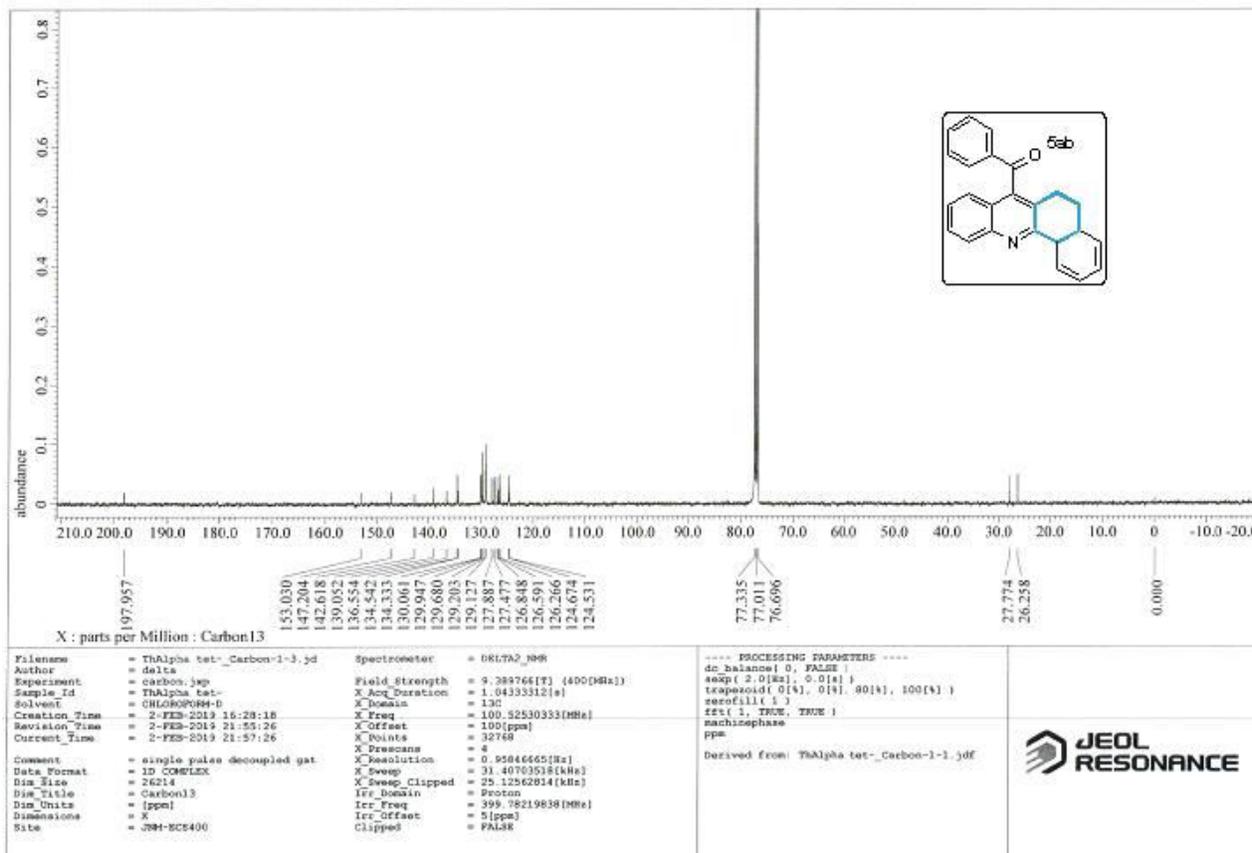
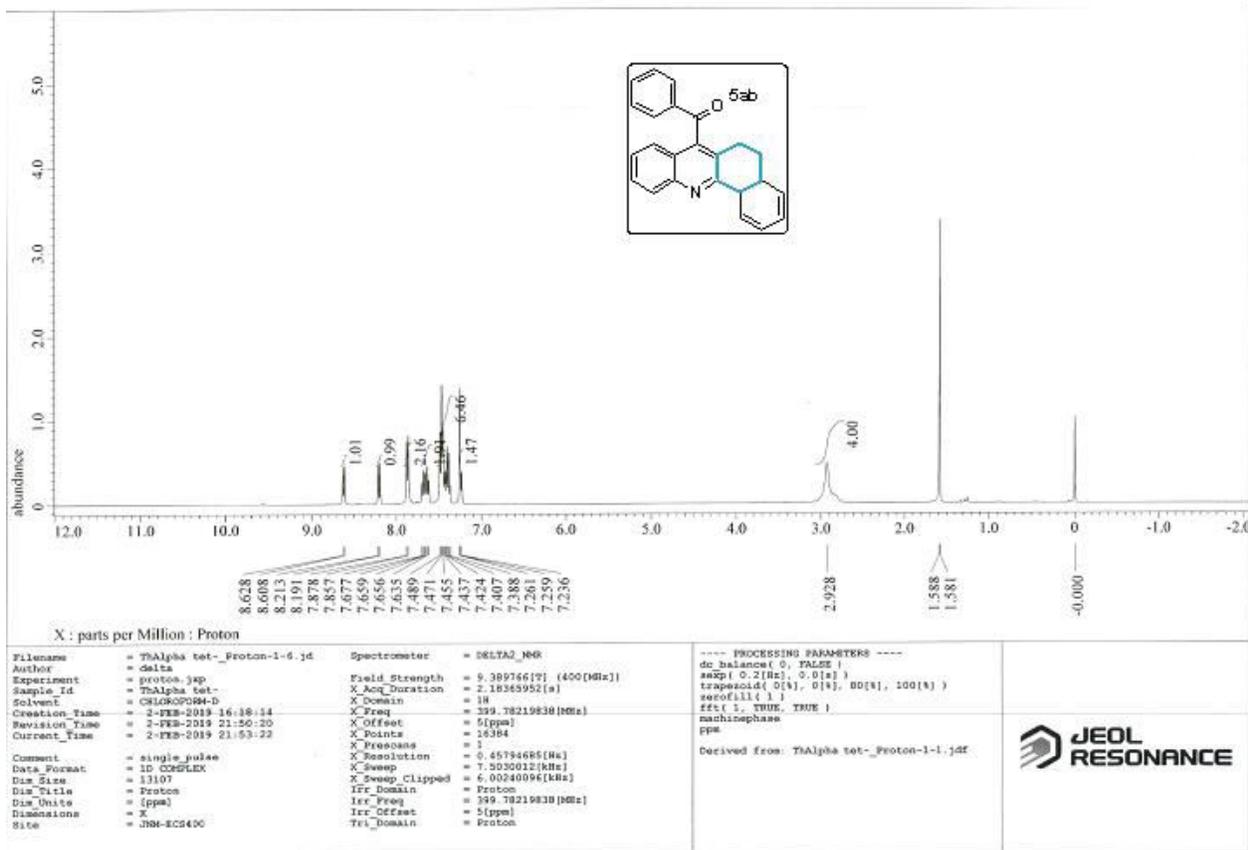


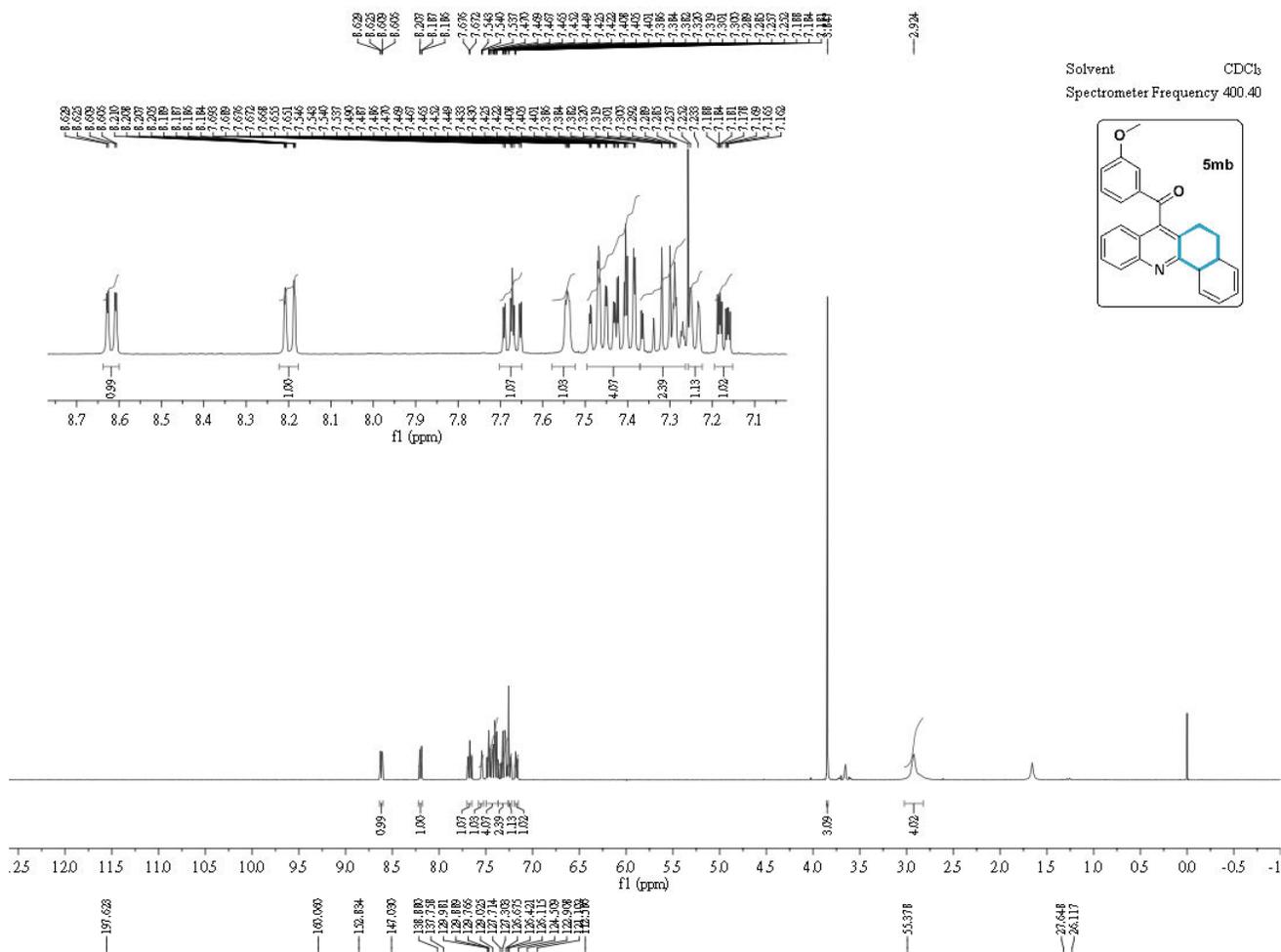
Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 100.69



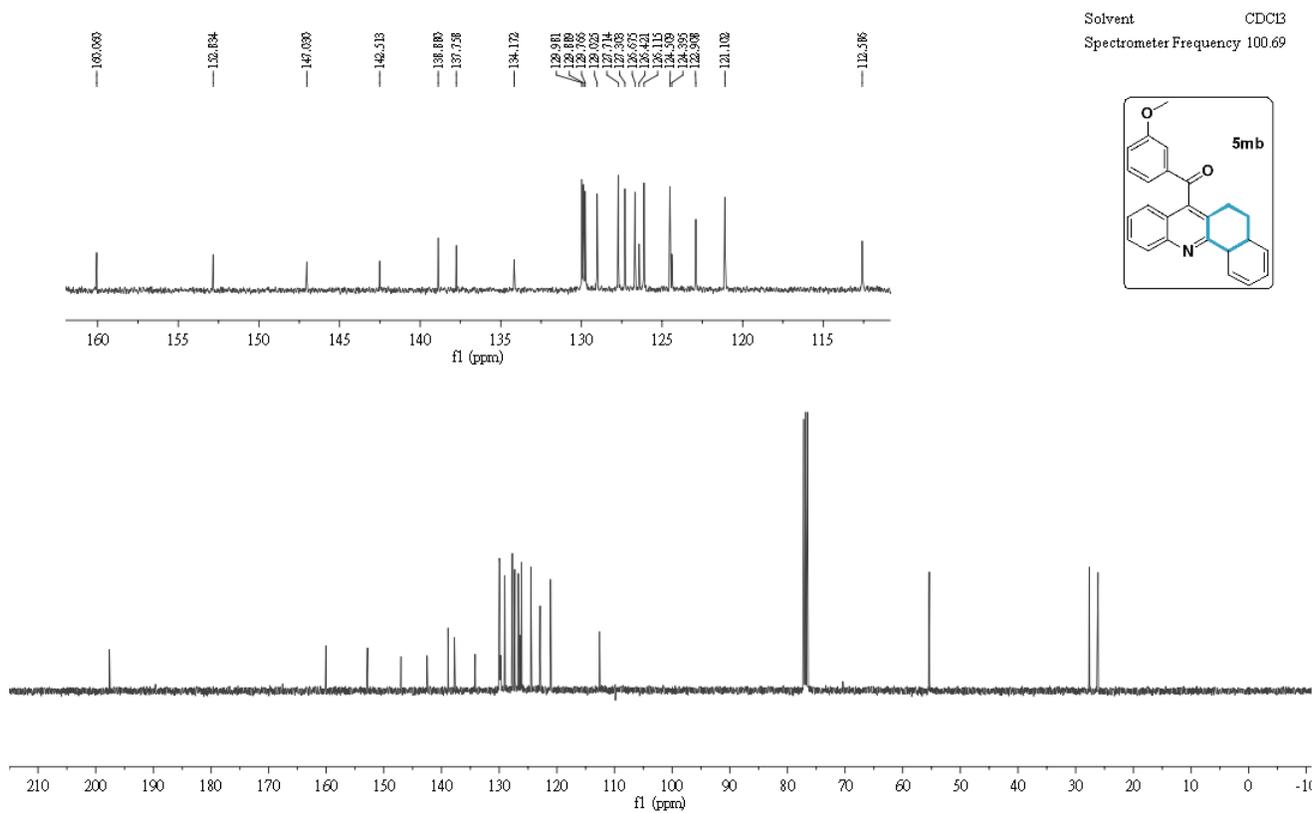
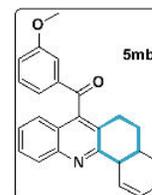




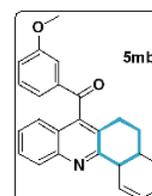


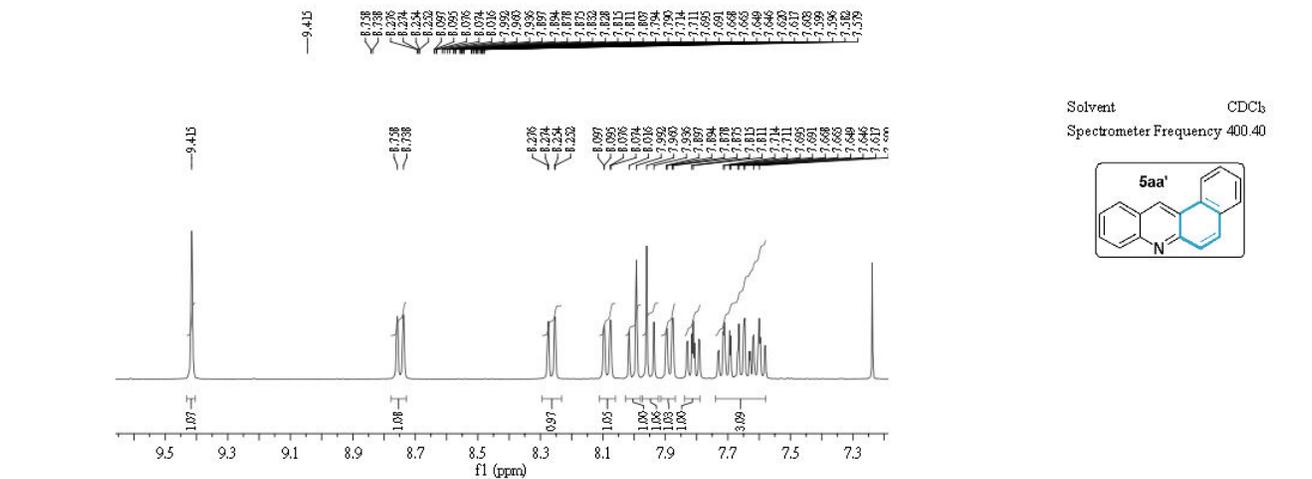


Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 400.40

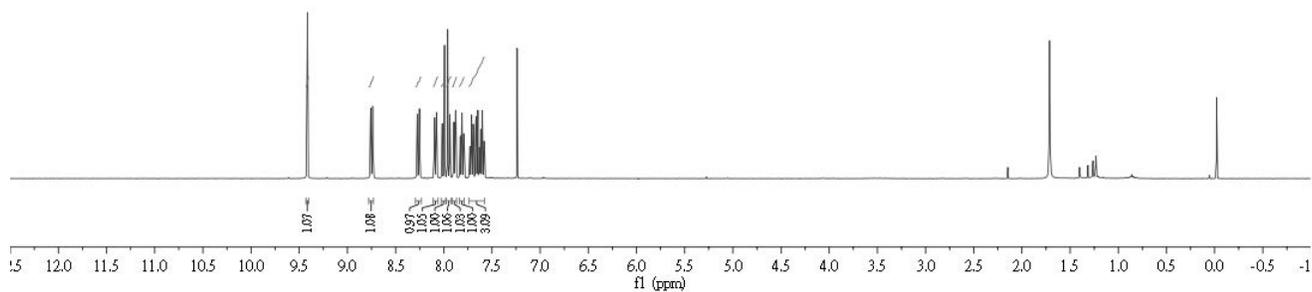
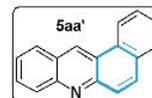


Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 100.69

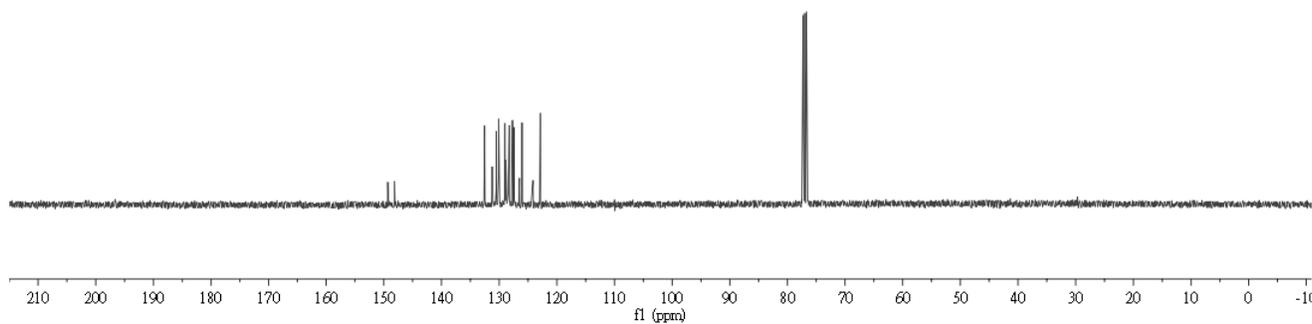
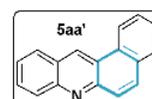


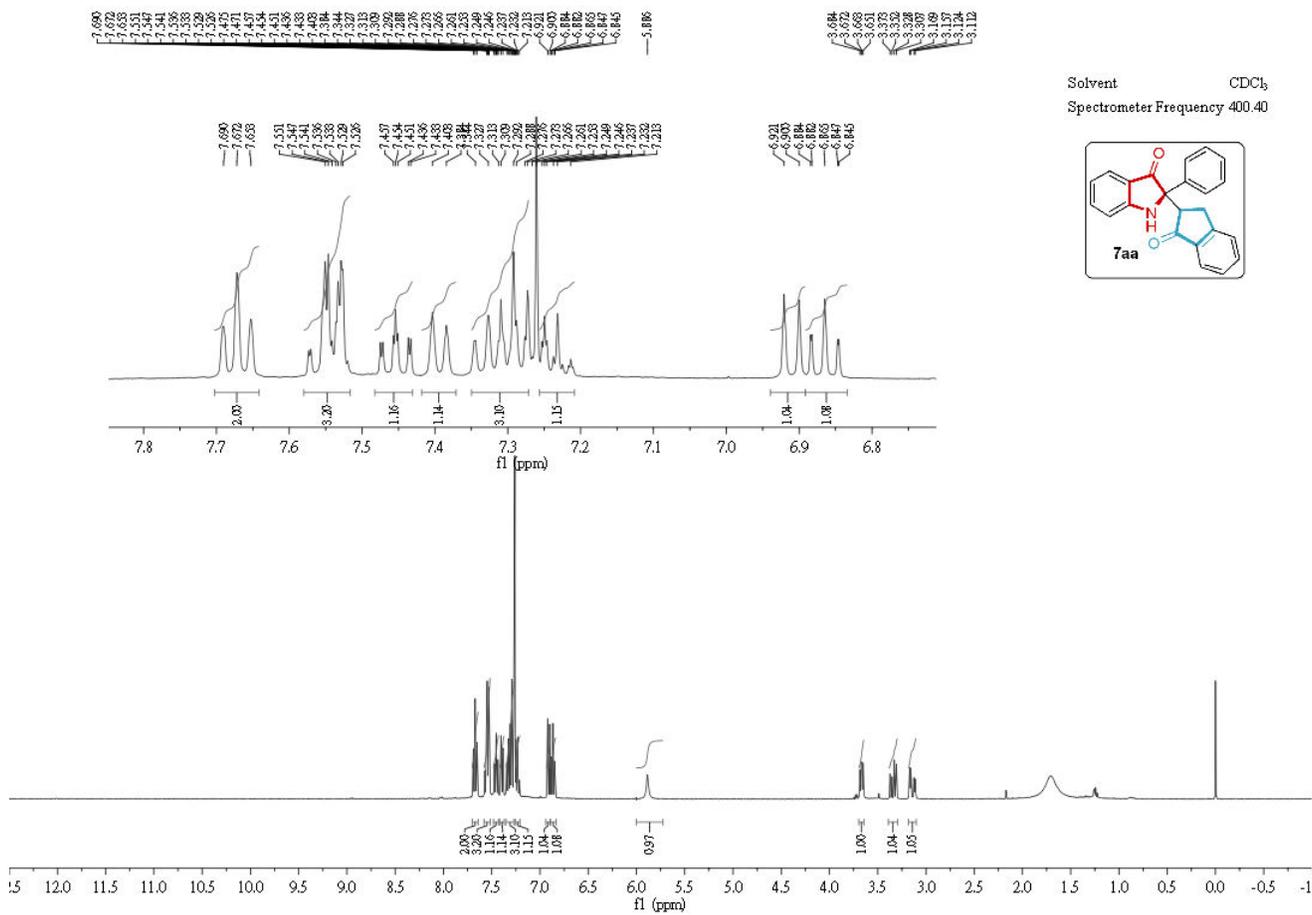


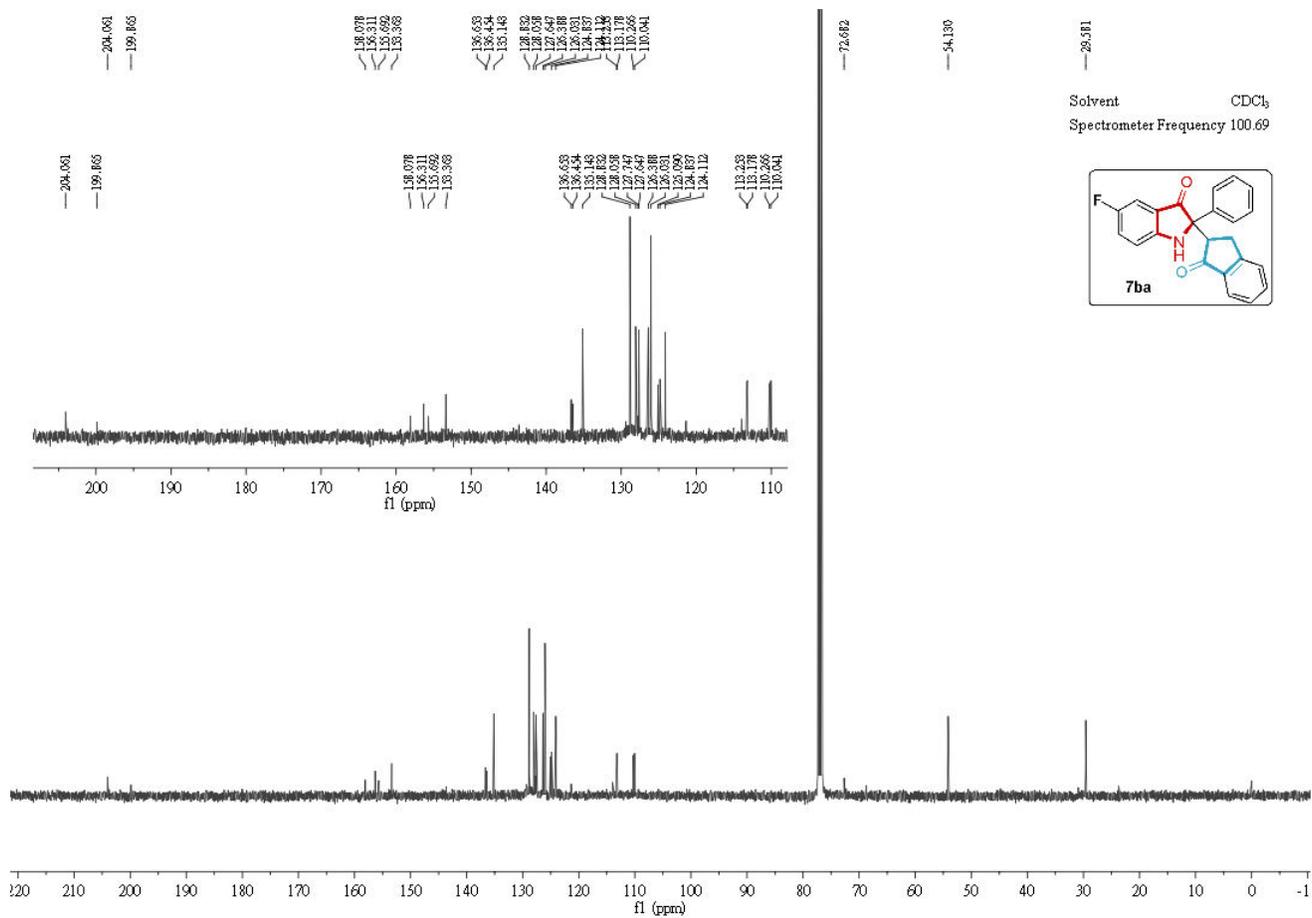
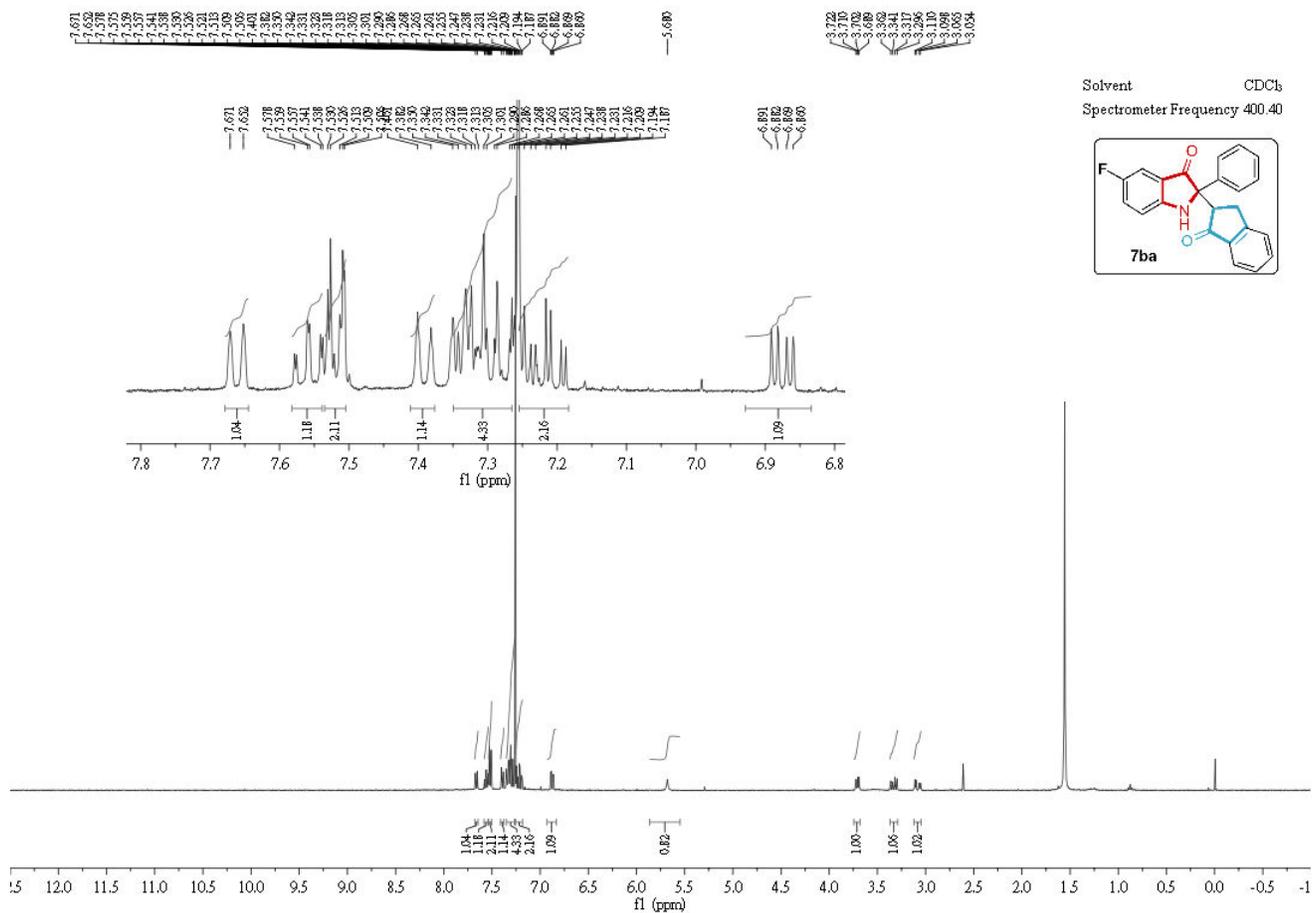
Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 400.40



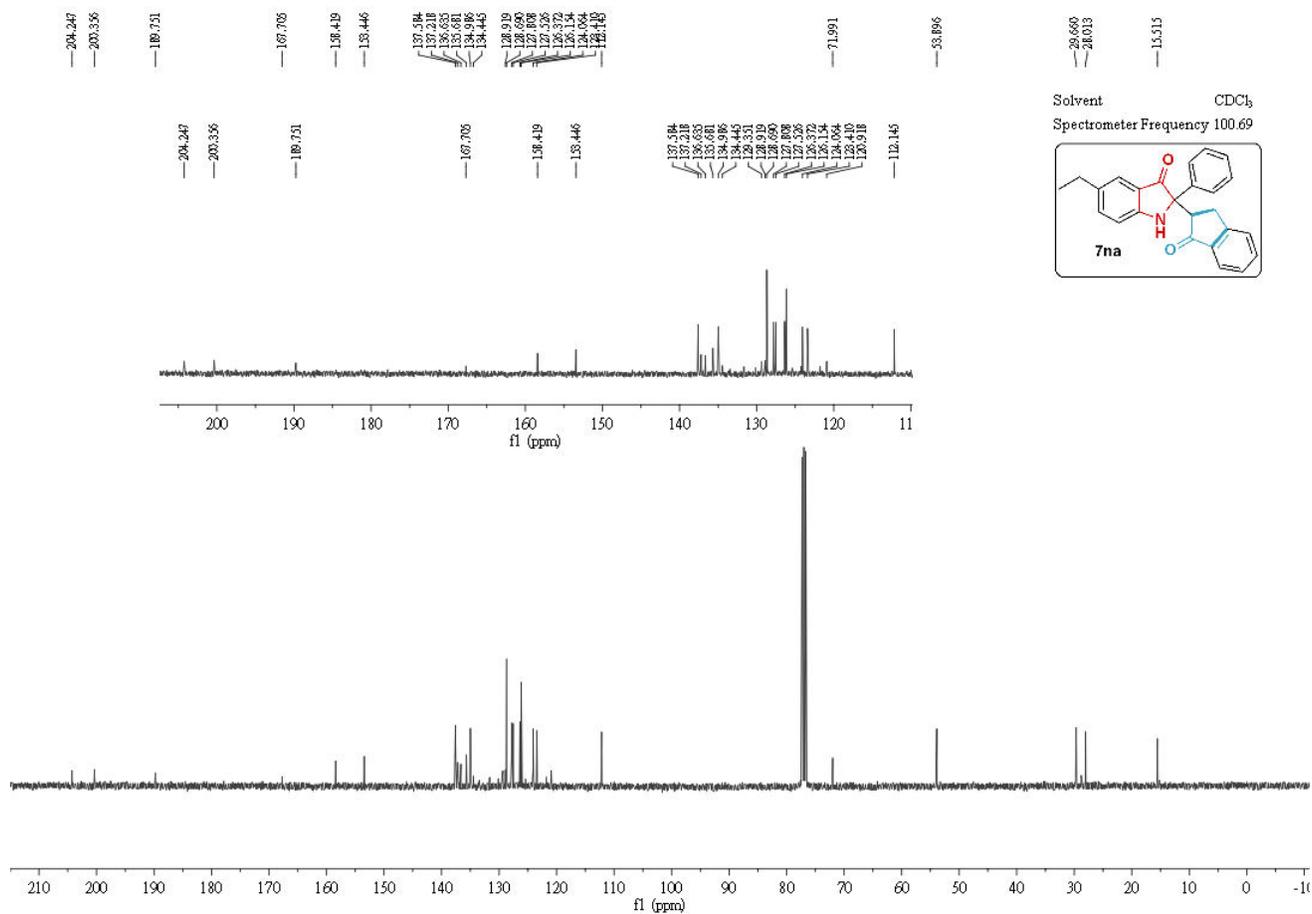
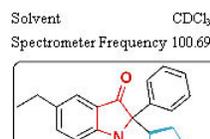
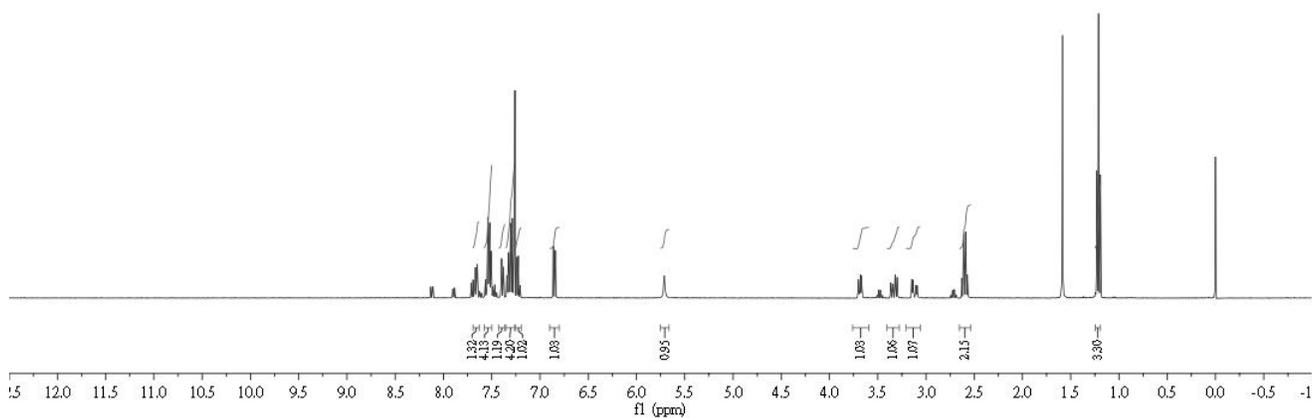
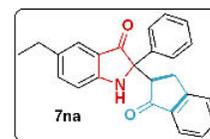
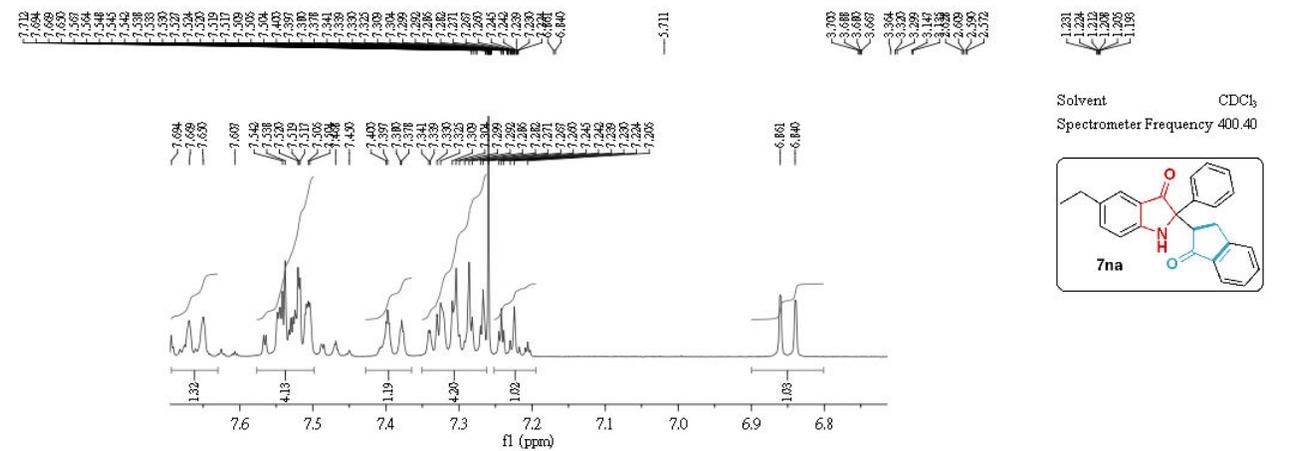
Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 100.69

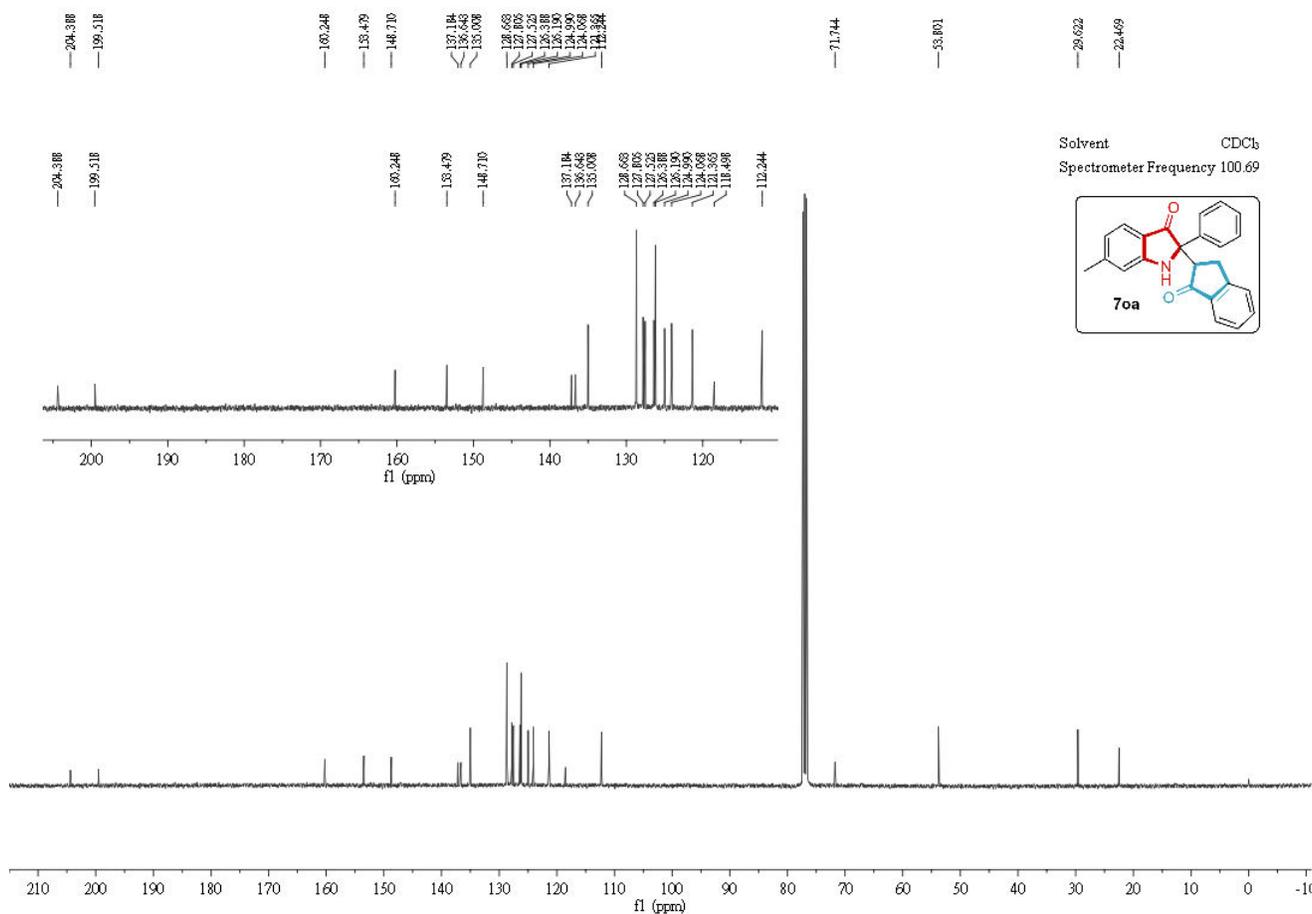
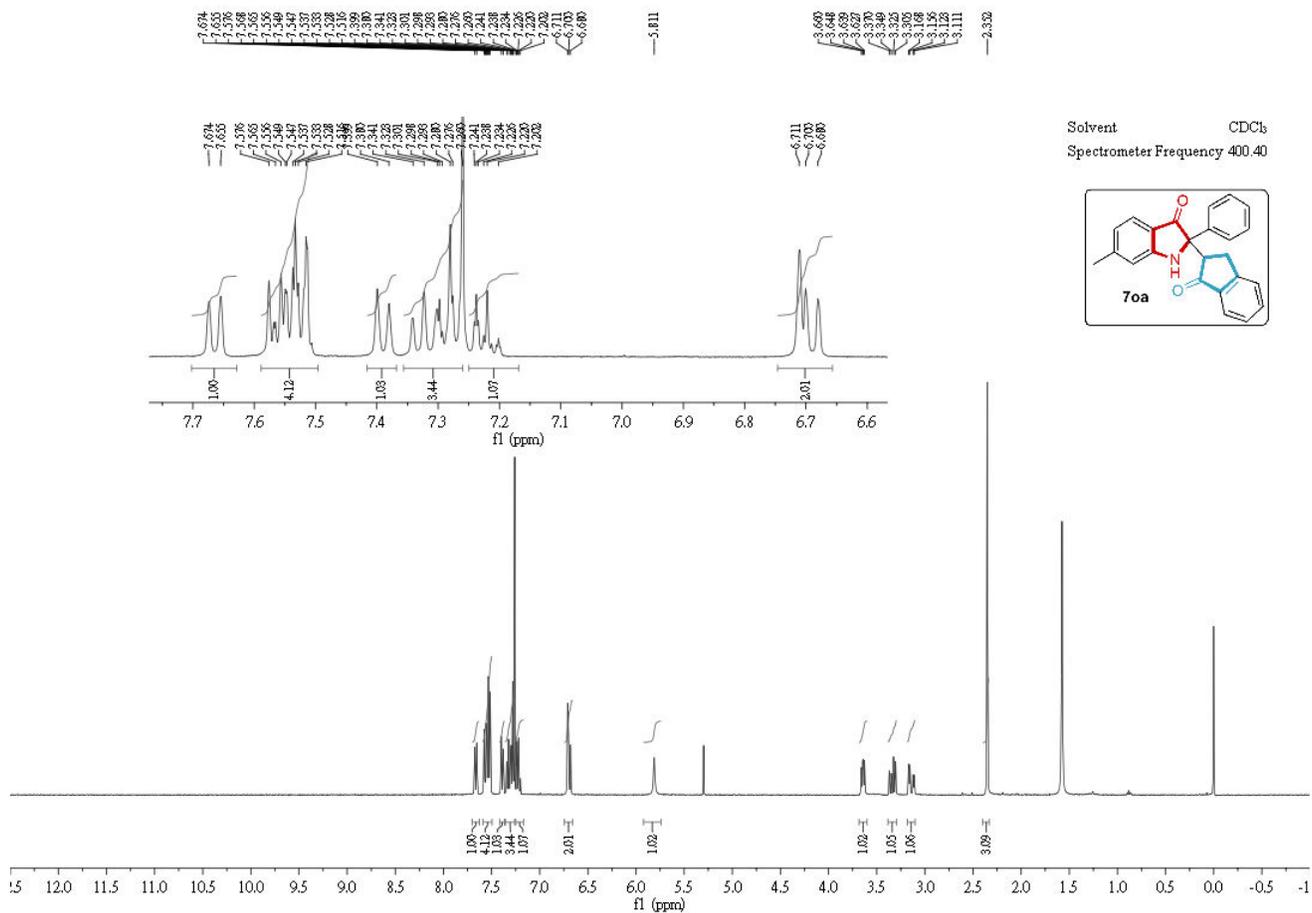


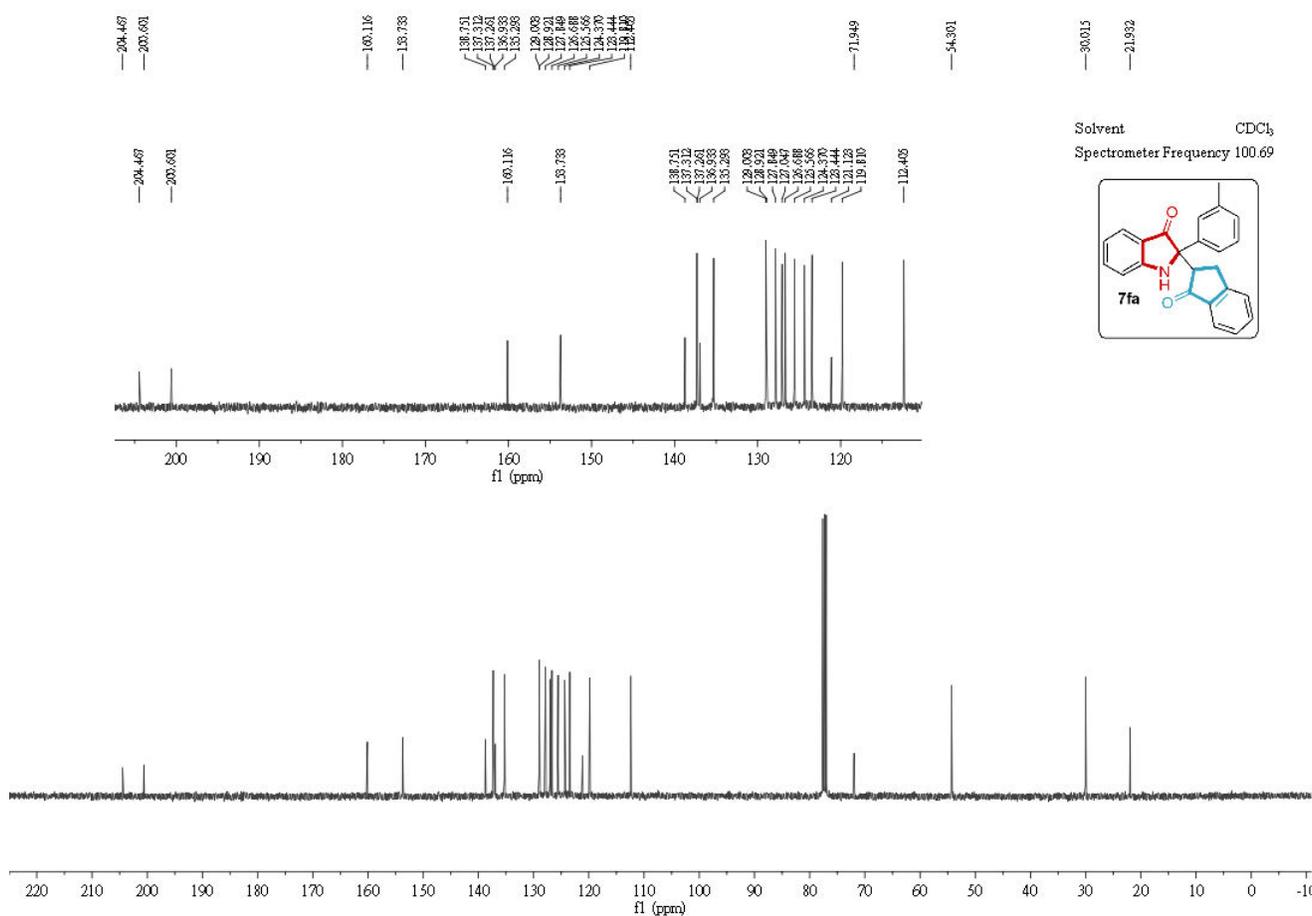
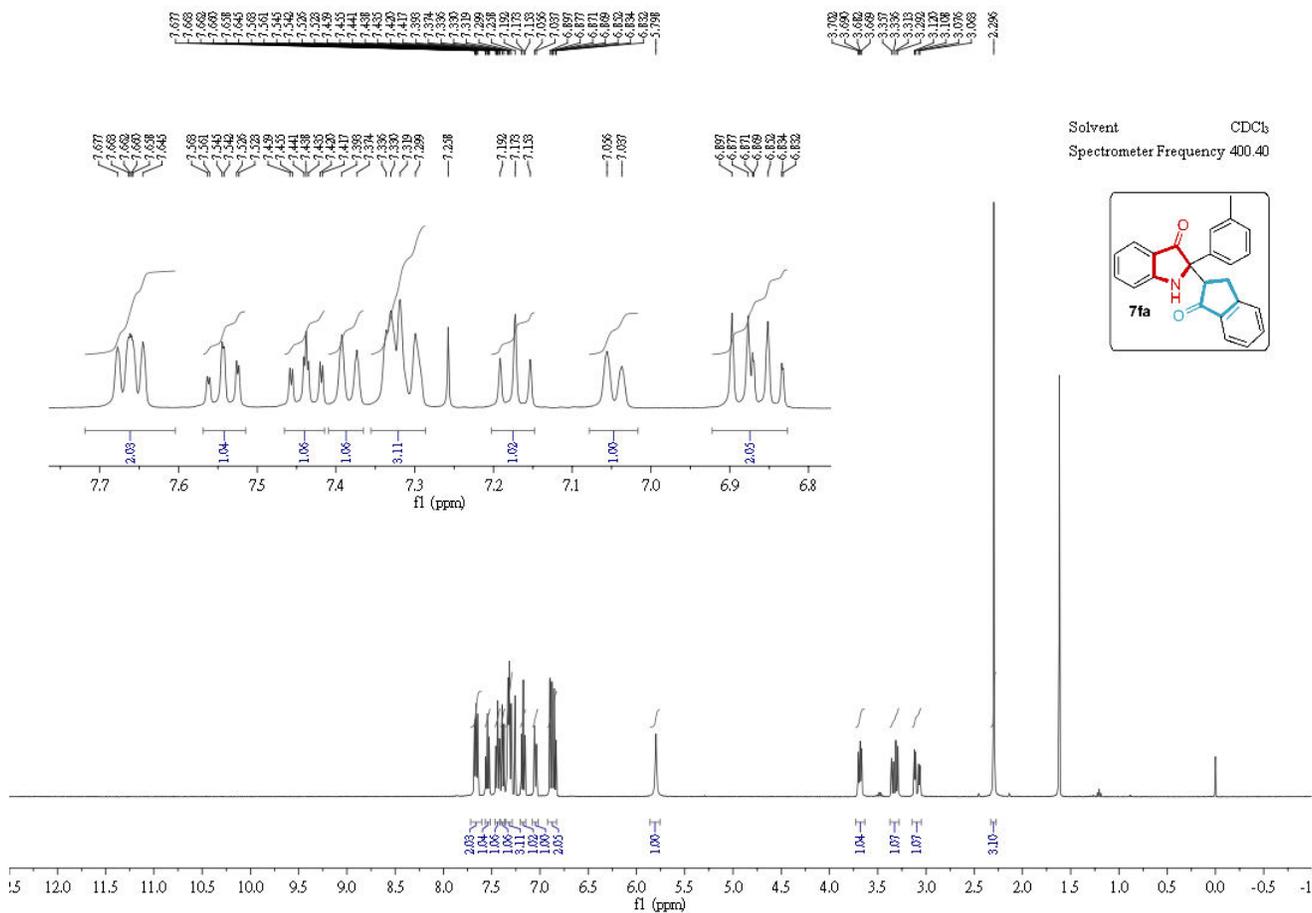




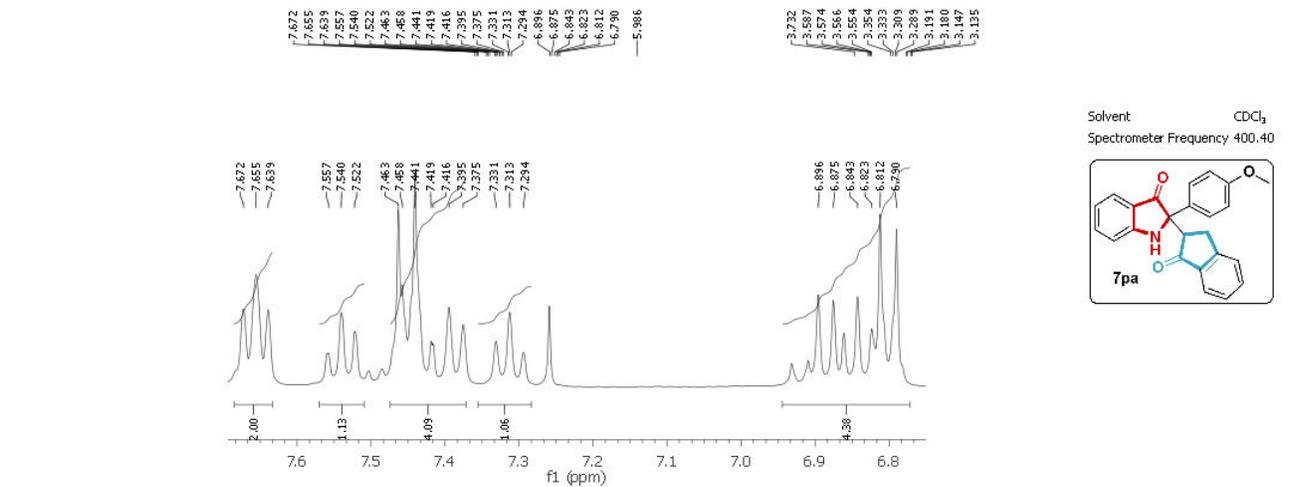




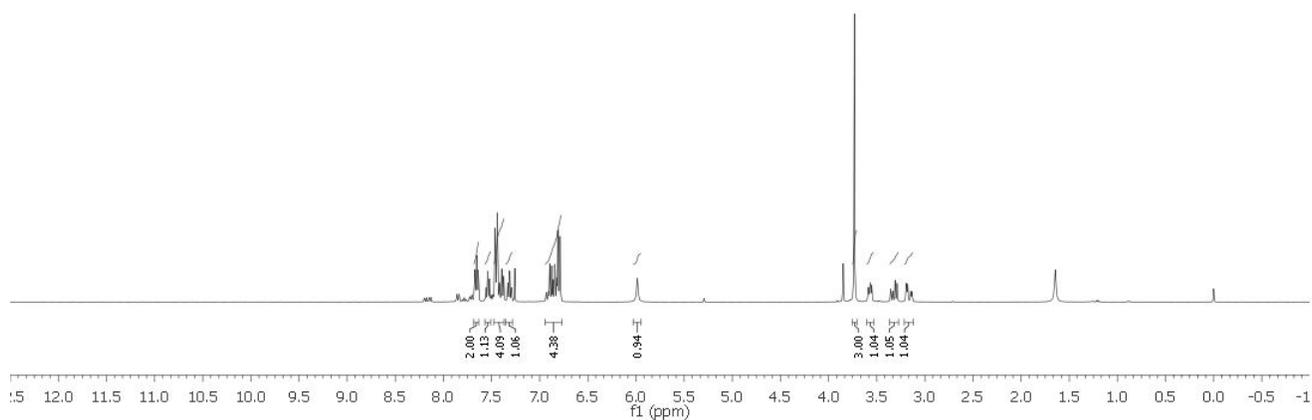
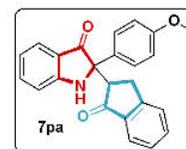




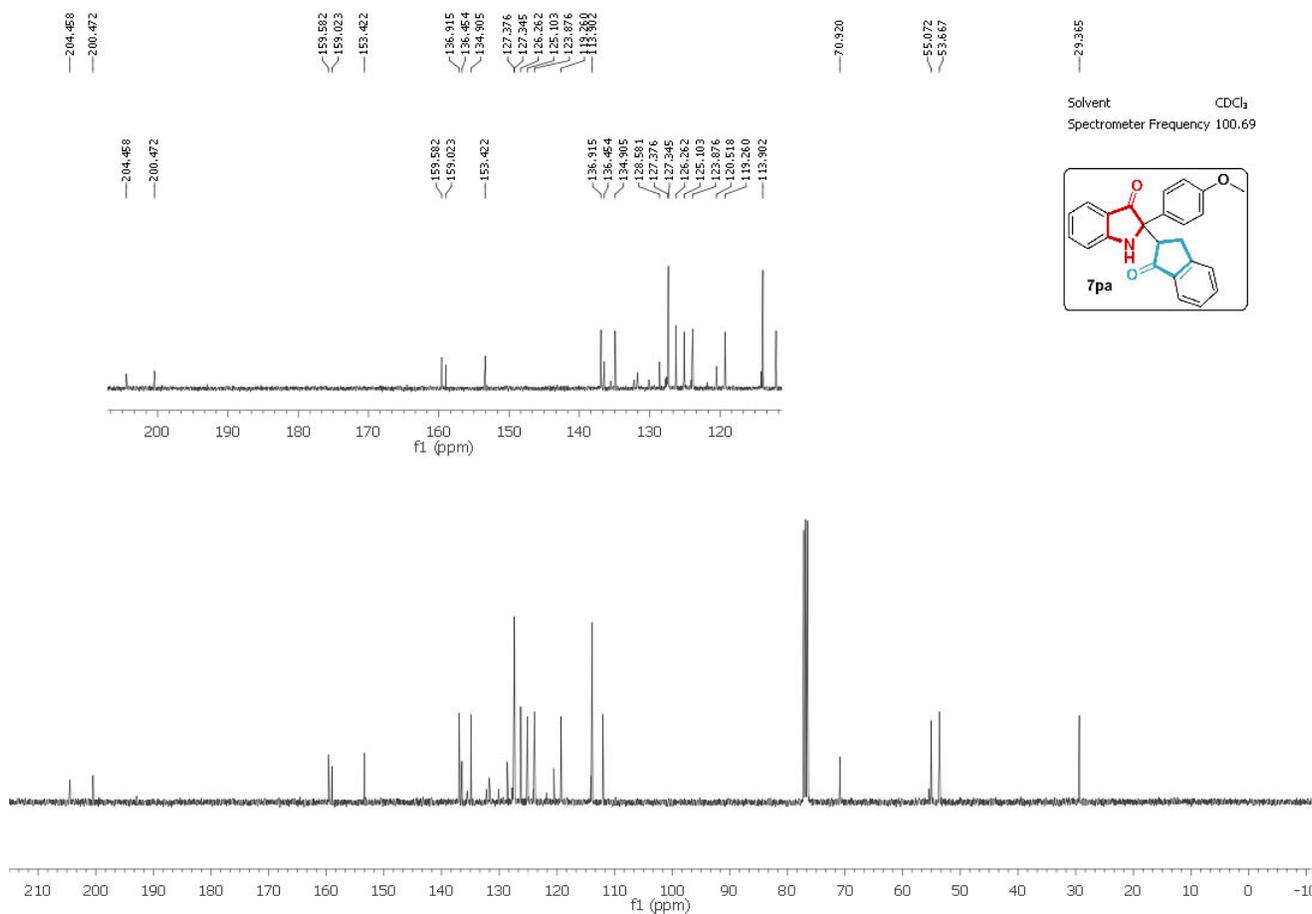
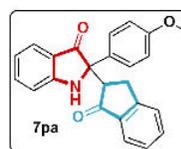


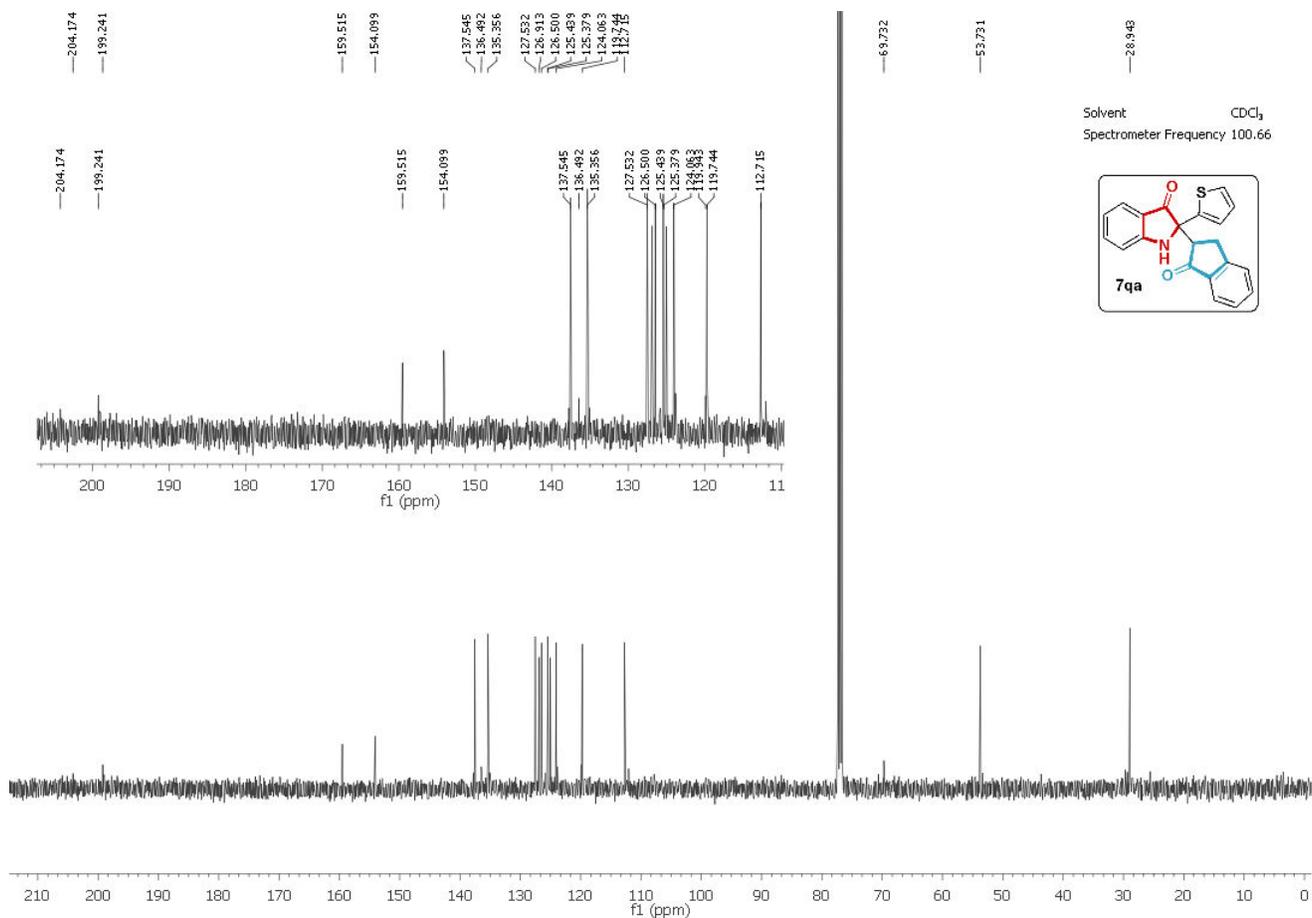
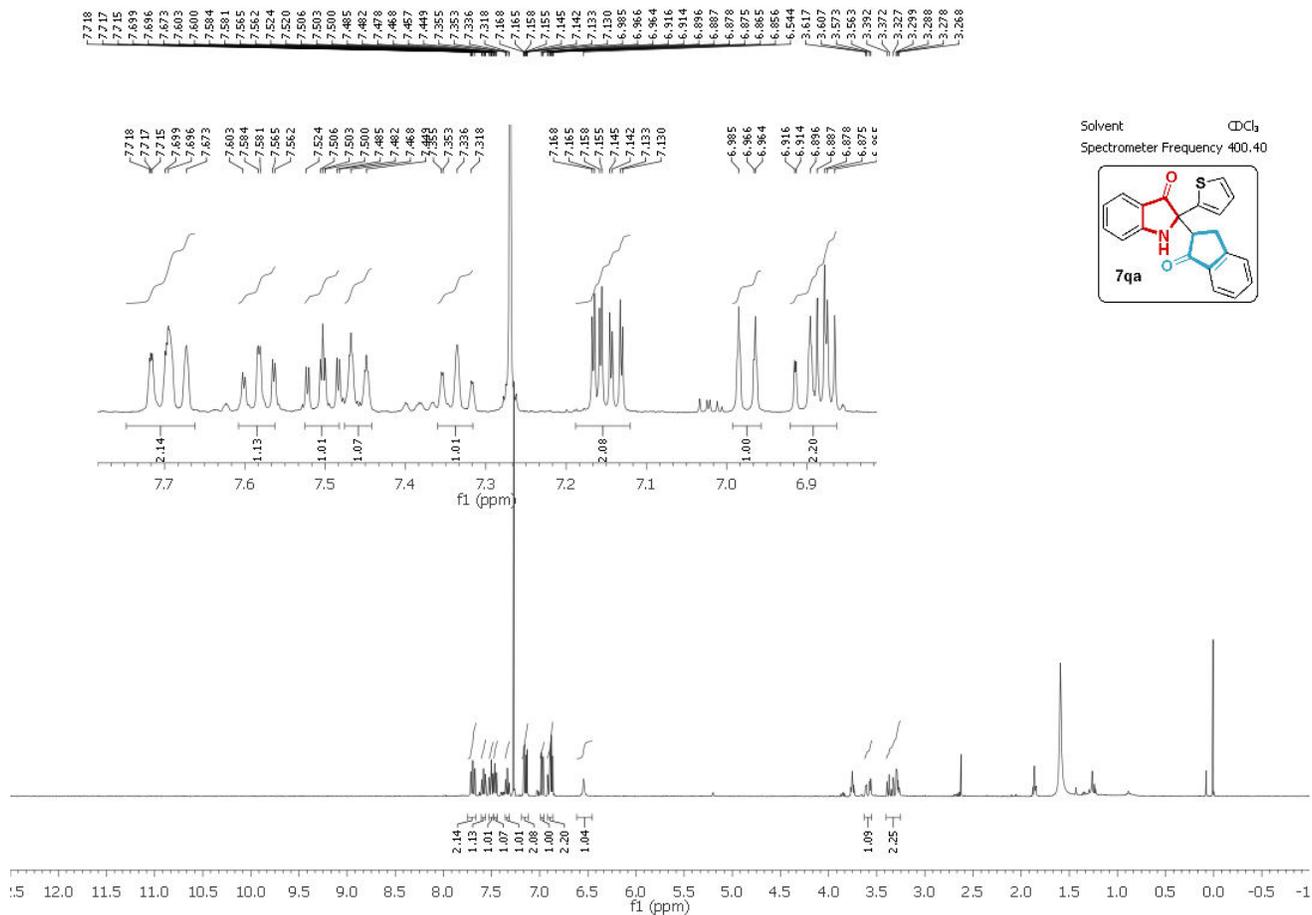


Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 400.40

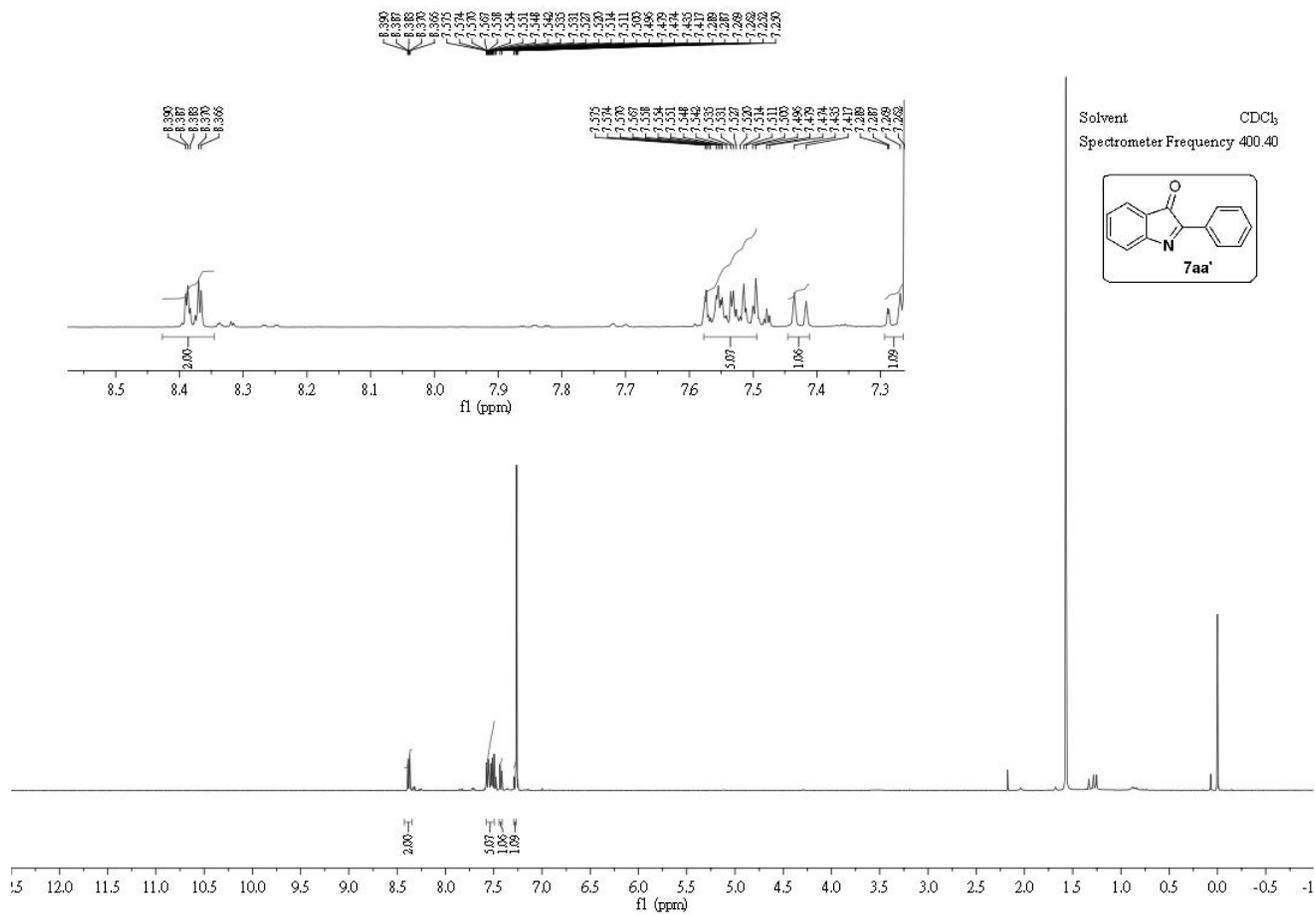


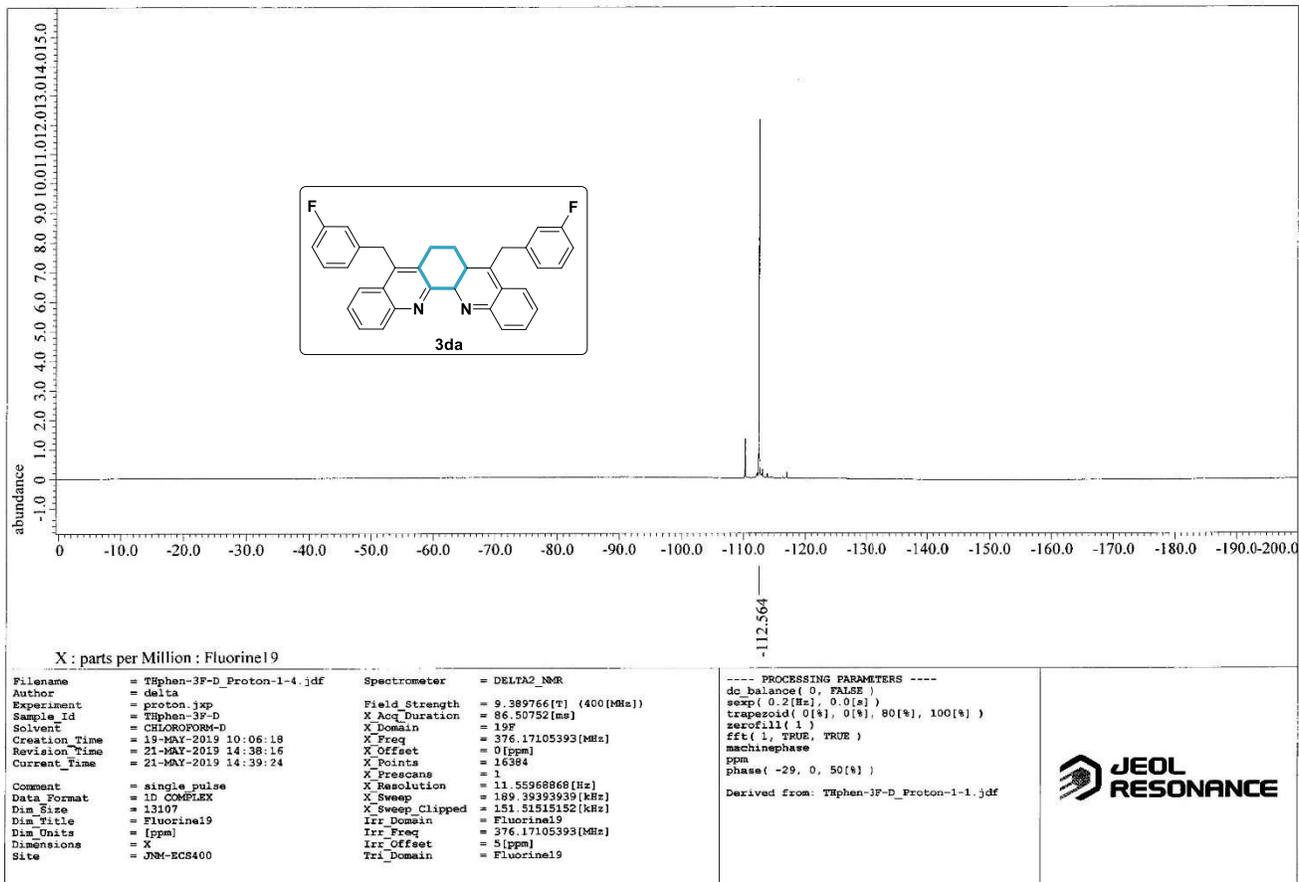
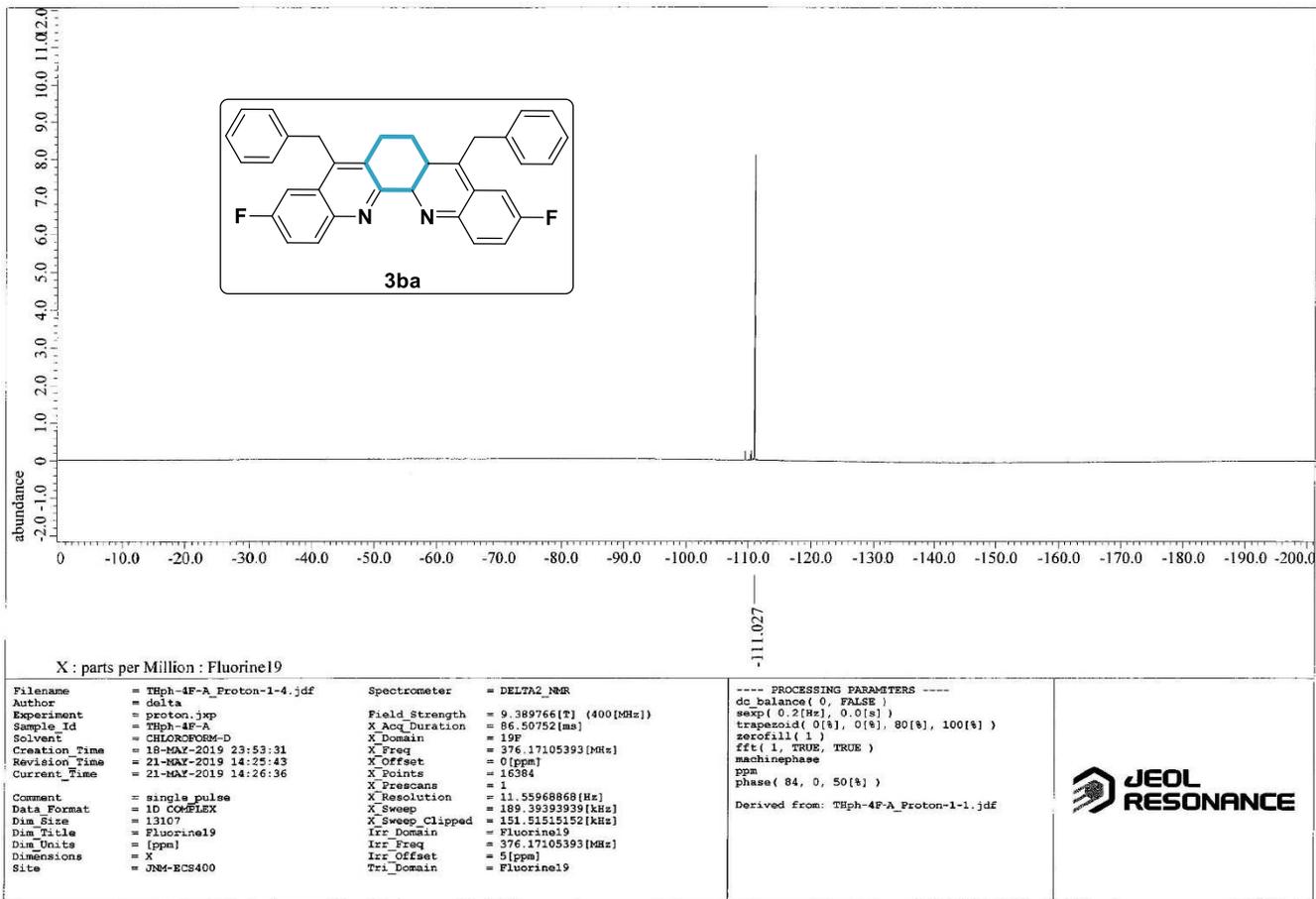
Solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Spectrometer Frequency 100.69

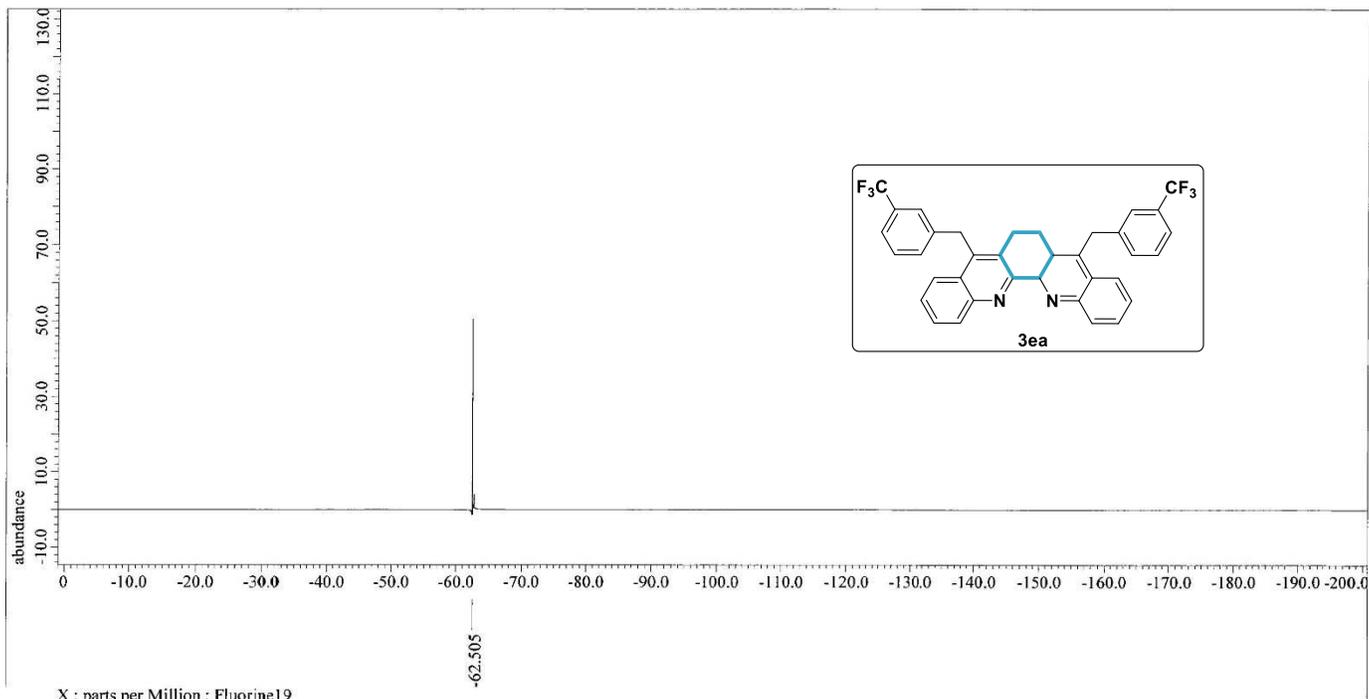










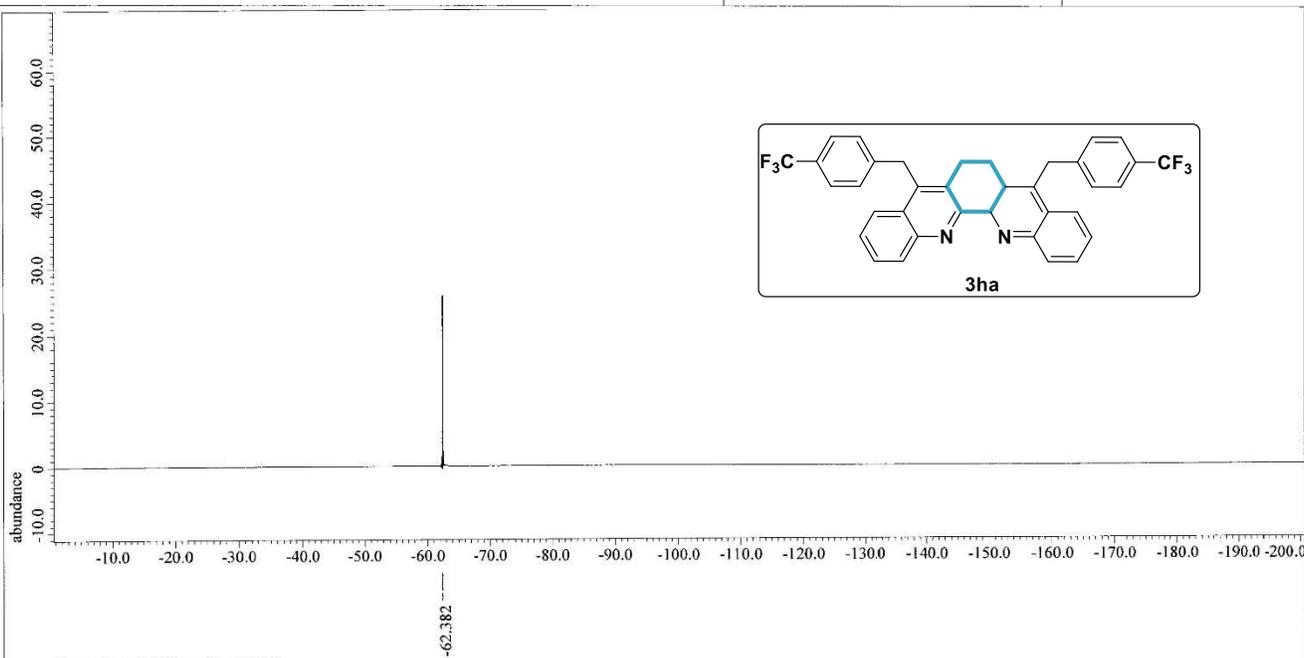


X : parts per Million : Fluorine19

Filename = TPhphen-3-CF3-D\_Proton-1-6.  
 Author = delta  
 Experiment = proton.jxp  
 Sample\_id = TPhphen-3-CF3-D  
 Solvent = CHLOROFORM-D  
 Creation Time = 19-MAY-2019 10:39:34  
 Revision Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:36:22  
 Current Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:36:24  
 Comment = single pulse  
 Data Format = 1D COMPLEX  
 Dim Size = 13107  
 Dim Title = Fluorine19  
 Dim Units = [ppm]  
 Dimensions = X  
 Site = JNM-ECS400

Spectrometer = DELTA2\_NMR  
 Field Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz])  
 X\_Acq\_Duration = 86.50752[ms]  
 X\_Domain = 19F  
 X\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 X\_Offset = 0[ppm]  
 X\_Points = 16384  
 X\_Prescans = 1  
 X\_Resolution = 11.55968868[Hz]  
 X\_Sweep = 189.39393939[kHz]  
 X\_Sweep\_Clippped = 151.51515152[kHz]  
 Irr\_Domain = Fluorine19  
 Irr\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 Irr\_Offset = 5[ppm]  
 Tri\_Domain = Fluorine19

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----  
 dc\_balance( 0, FALSE )  
 sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )  
 trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )  
 zerofill( 1 )  
 fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )  
 machinephase  
 ppm  
 phase( 21, 0, 50[%] )  
 Derived from: TPhphen-3-CF3-D\_Proton-1-1.jdf



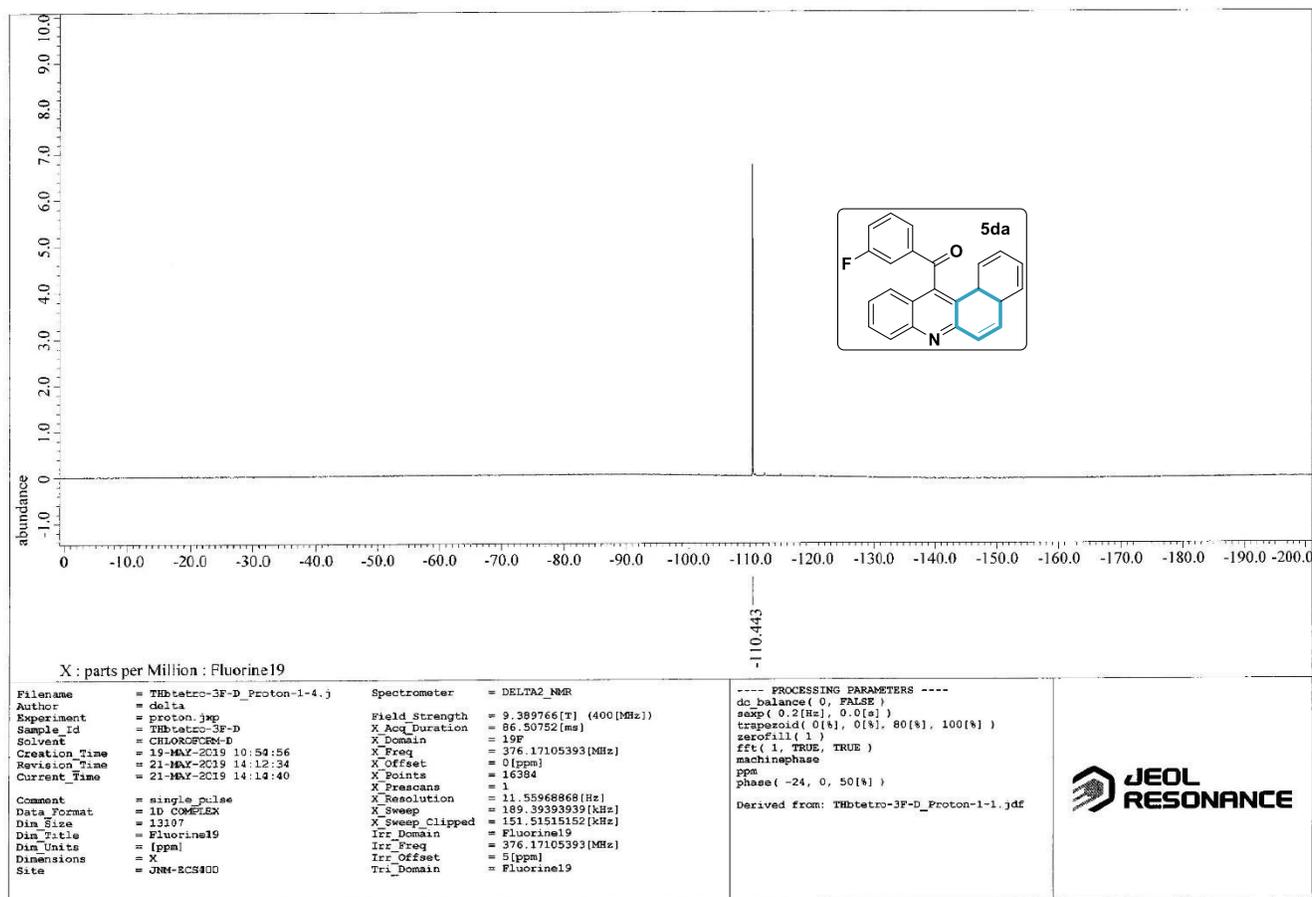
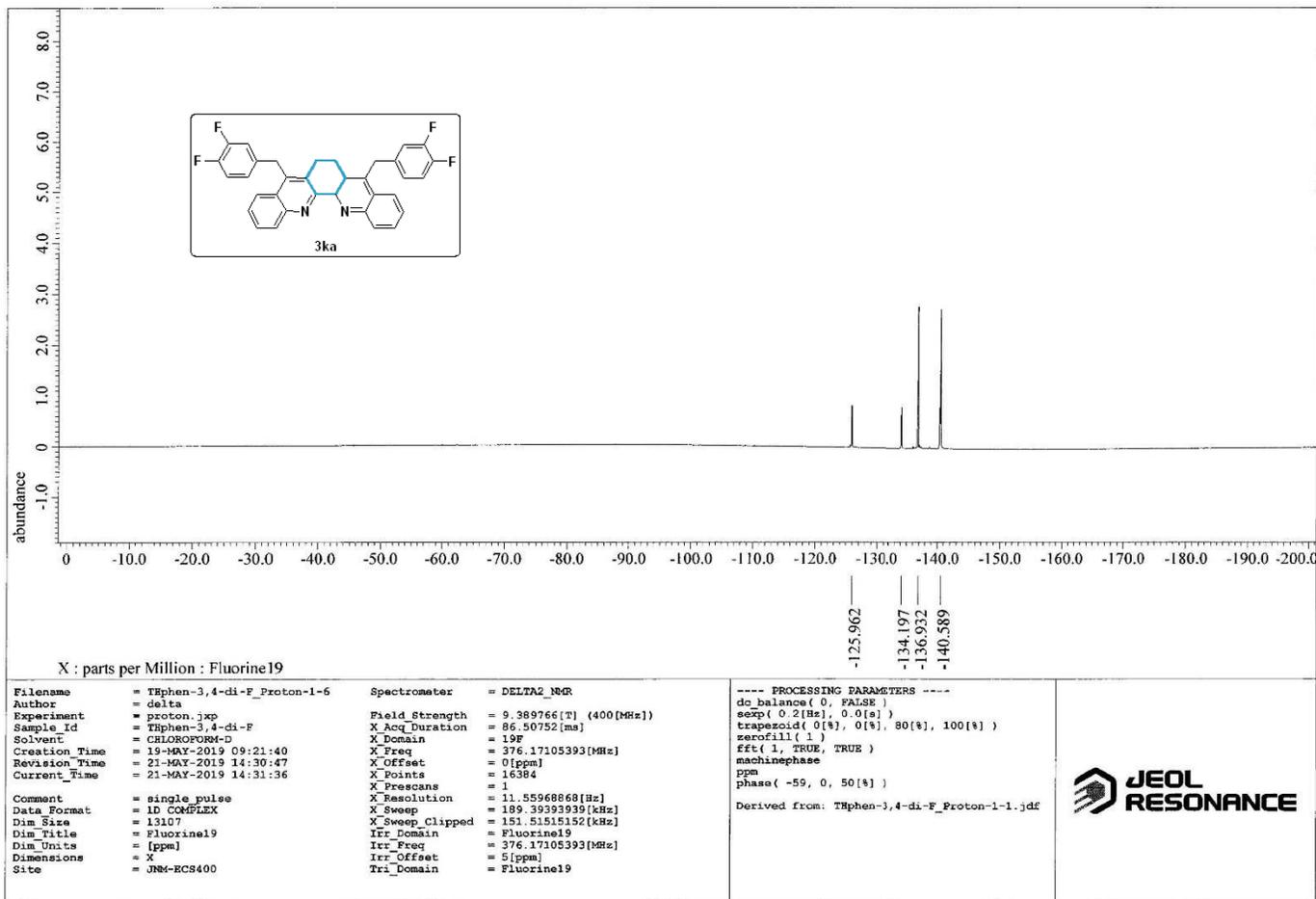
X : parts per Million : Fluorine19

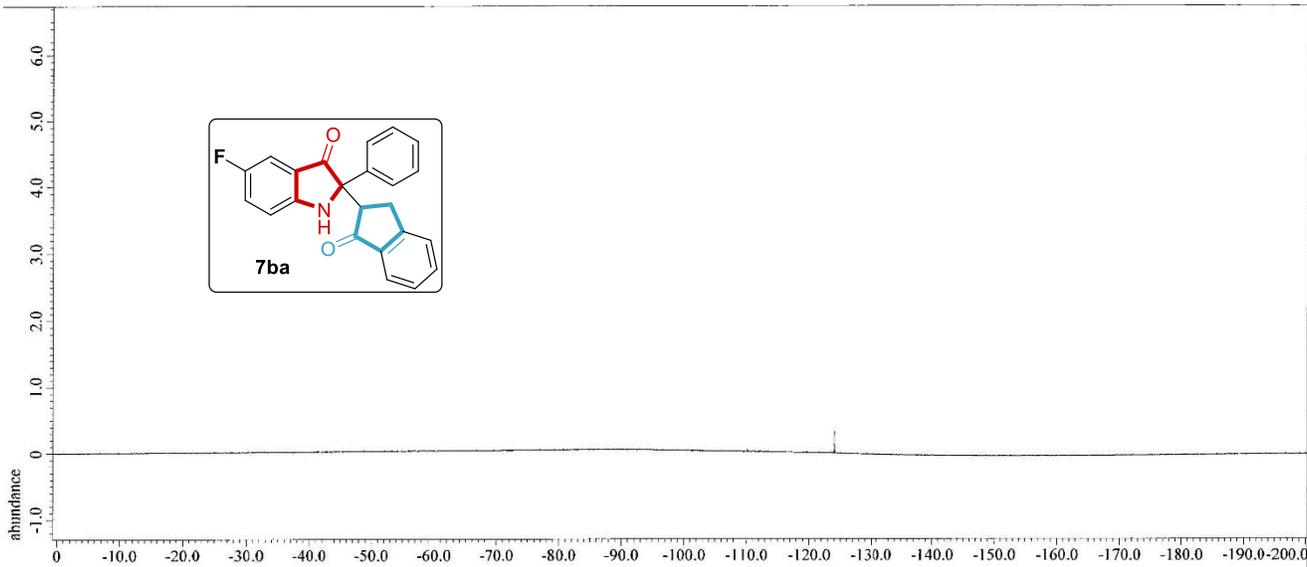
Filename = TPhphen-4-CF3-D\_Proton-1-5.  
 Author = delta  
 Experiment = proton.jxp  
 Sample\_id = TPhphen-4-CF3-D  
 Solvent = CHLOROFORM-D  
 Creation Time = 19-MAY-2019 10:27:03  
 Revision Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:41:58  
 Current Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:42:22  
 Comment = single pulse  
 Data Format = 1D COMPLEX  
 Dim Size = 13107  
 Dim Title = Fluorine19  
 Dim Units = [ppm]  
 Dimensions = X  
 Site = JNM-ECS400

Spectrometer = DELTA2\_NMR  
 Field Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz])  
 X\_Acq\_Duration = 86.50752[ms]  
 X\_Domain = 19F  
 X\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 X\_Offset = 0[ppm]  
 X\_Points = 16384  
 X\_Prescans = 1  
 X\_Resolution = 11.55968868[Hz]  
 X\_Sweep = 189.39393939[kHz]  
 X\_Sweep\_Clippped = 151.51515152[kHz]  
 Irr\_Domain = Fluorine19  
 Irr\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 Irr\_Offset = 5[ppm]  
 Tri\_Domain = Fluorine19

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----  
 dc\_balance( 0, FALSE )  
 sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )  
 trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )  
 zerofill( 1 )  
 fft( 1, TRUE, TRUE )  
 machinephase  
 ppm  
 phase( 22, 0, 50[%] )  
 Derived from: TPhphen-4-CF3-D\_Proton-1-1.jdf





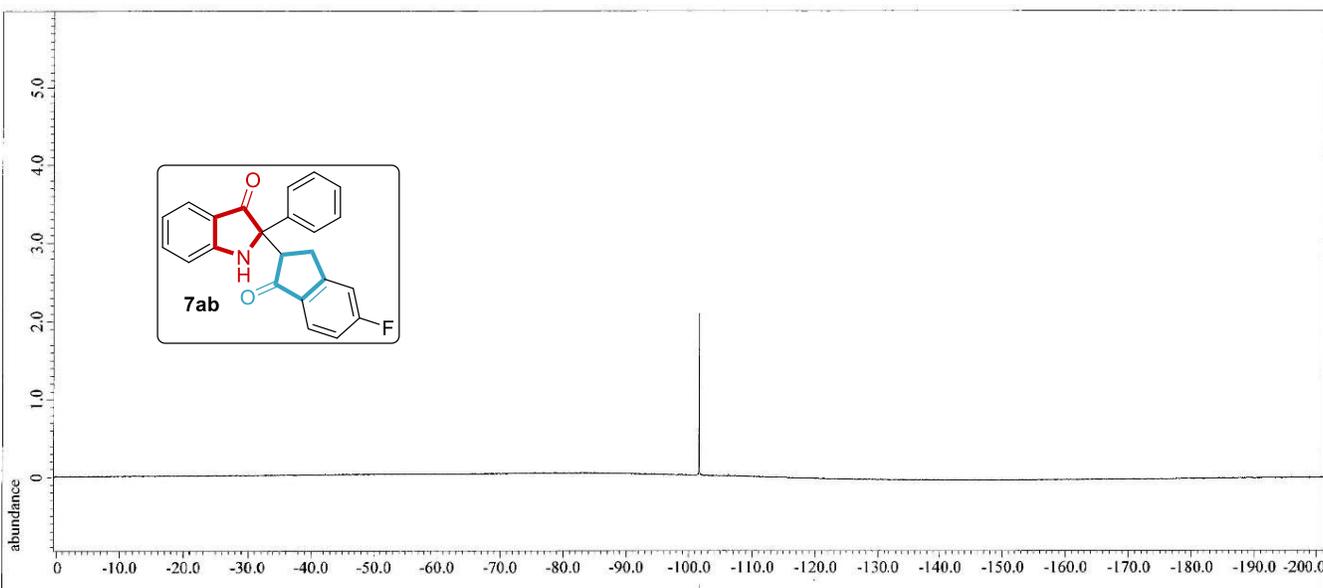


X : parts per Million : Fluorine19

Filename = Tboxyind-4F-A\_Proton\_copyl  
 Author = delta  
 Experiment = proton\_jxp  
 Sample\_Id = Tboxyind-4F-A  
 Solvent = CHLOROFORM-D  
 Creation\_Time = 19-MAY-2019 11:13:11  
 Revision\_Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:16:15  
 Current\_Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:19:40  
 Comment = single\_pulse  
 Data\_Format = ID COMPLEX  
 Dim\_Size = 13107  
 Dim\_Title = Fluorine19  
 Dim\_Units = [ppm]  
 Dimensions = X  
 Site = JNM-ECS400

Spectrometer = DELTA2\_NMR  
 Field\_Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz])  
 X\_Acq\_Duration = 0[s]  
 X\_Domain = 19F  
 X\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 X\_Offset = 0[ppm]  
 X\_Points = 16384  
 X\_Prescans = 1  
 X\_Resolution = 11.55968868[Hz]  
 X\_Sweep = 189.3939393[kHz]  
 X\_Sweep\_Clipped = 151.51515152[kHz]  
 Irr\_Domain = Fluorine19  
 Irr\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 Irr\_Offset = 5[ppm]  
 Tri\_Domain = Fluorine19

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----  
 dc\_balance( 0, FALSE )  
 sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )  
 trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )  
 zeroFill( 1 )  
 fft( 1, TRUE, machinephase )  
 ppm  
 phase( -49, 0, 50[%] )  
 Derived from: Tboxyind-4F-A\_Proton\_copyl-1-1.



X : parts per Million : Fluorine19

Filename = Tboxyind-5F-indeoneone\_Prot  
 Author = delta  
 Experiment = proton\_jxp  
 Sample\_Id = Tboxyind-5F-indeoneone  
 Solvent = CHLOROFORM-D  
 Creation\_Time = 19-MAY-2019 11:03:39  
 Revision\_Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:23:49  
 Current\_Time = 21-MAY-2019 14:23:53  
 Comment = single\_pulse  
 Data\_Format = ID COMPLEX  
 Dim\_Size = 13107  
 Dim\_Title = Fluorine19  
 Dim\_Units = [ppm]  
 Dimensions = X  
 Site = JNM-ECS400

Spectrometer = DELTA2\_NMR  
 Field\_Strength = 9.389766[T] (400[MHz])  
 X\_Acq\_Duration = 86.50752[ms]  
 X\_Domain = 19F  
 X\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 X\_Offset = 0[ppm]  
 X\_Points = 16384  
 X\_Prescans = 1  
 X\_Resolution = 11.55968868[Hz]  
 X\_Sweep = 189.3939393[kHz]  
 X\_Sweep\_Clipped = 151.51515152[kHz]  
 Irr\_Domain = Fluorine19  
 Irr\_Freq = 376.17105393[MHz]  
 Irr\_Offset = 5[ppm]  
 Tri\_Domain = Fluorine19

---- PROCESSING PARAMETERS ----  
 dc\_balance( 0, FALSE )  
 sexp( 0.2[Hz], 0.0[s] )  
 trapezoid( 0[%], 0[%], 80[%], 100[%] )  
 zeroFill( 1 )  
 fft( 1, TRUE, machinephase )  
 ppm  
 phase( -61, 0, 50[%] )  
 Derived from: Tboxyind-5F-indeoneone\_Proton-1-



## 10) Uv-visible absorption and emission spectra of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthrolines

Figure. S3 Uv-visible absorption spectra of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthrolines compounds in chloroform .

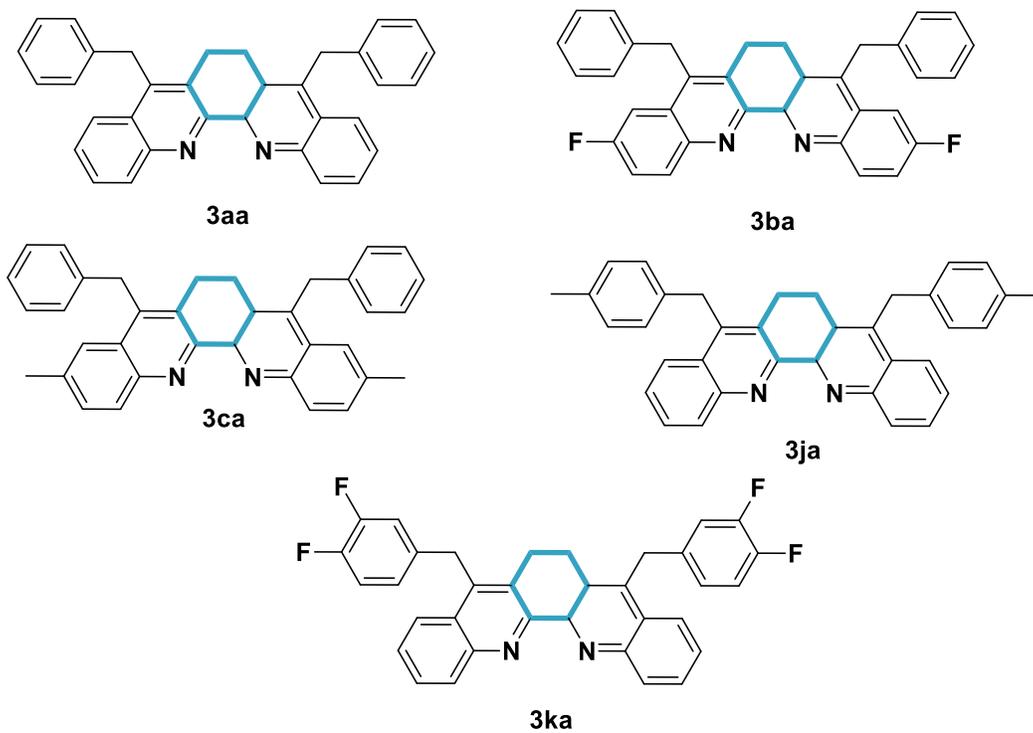
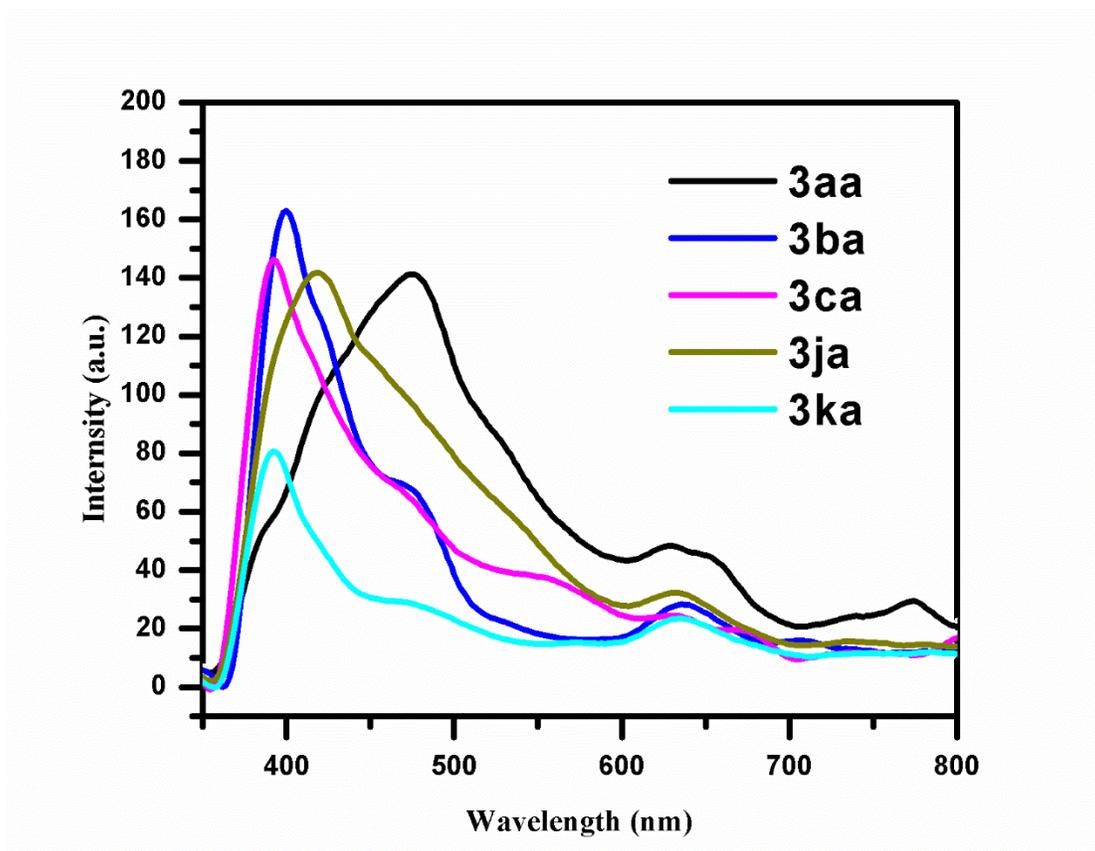


Figure. S4 Uv-visible emission spectra of dibenzo[*b,j*][1,10]phenanthrolines compounds in chloroform .

