

Supporting Information

Metal-free Sulfonyl Radical-initiated Cascade Cyclization to Access Sulfonated Indolo[1,2-*a*]quinolines

Kai Sun,^a Xiao-Lan Chen,^{a*} Yin-Li Zhang,^a Kai Li,^{a*} Xian-Qiang Huang,^b Yu-Yu Peng,^c Ling-Bo Qu,^a and Bing Yu^{a*}

^a College of Chemistry, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, China.

^b School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Liaocheng University, Liaocheng, Shandong 252059, People's Republic of China.

^c Hunan Provincial Key Laboratory of Materials Protection for Electric Power and Transportation, Changsha University of Science and Technology, Changsha 410114, People's Republic of China

E-mail: chenxl@zzu.edu.cn; likai@zzu.edu.cn; bingyu@zzu.edu.cn

Table of Contents

1. General information.....	S2
2. Experimental procedures.....	S2
3. Cell viability measured by MTT.....	S5
4. Characterization of compounds.....	S5
5. NMR copies of products.....	S16
6. X-ray crystallographic data.....	S52

1. General information

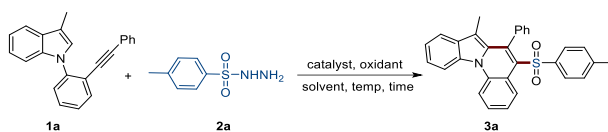
1.1 Materials and instruments

Tert-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP), tetrabutylammonium iodide (TBAI) were purchased from Energy Chemical Co., Shanghai, China. Other reagents were purchased from Zhengzhou Alfa chem Co., Ltd. Unless otherwise stated, all commercially available reagents were directly used without further purification. All solvents were purified by standard methods prior to use. Twice-distilled water was used throughout all experiments. All reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC), and column chromatography was carried out on 100-200 mesh of silica gel purchased from Qing Dao Hai Yang Chemical Industry Co. All nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz in CDCl₃ at room temperature (20 ± 3 °C), using tetramethylsilane as internal standard. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were conducted on a 3000-mass spectrometer, using Waters Q-ToF MS/MS system with the ESI technique. UV-Vis spectra were measured on an Agilent 8453 and one-photon fluorescence spectra were obtained with Hitachi F-4600 spectrophotometer, respectively. MTT assay was performed using a TRITURUS microplate reader. X-ray single-crystal diffraction data were collected on a Bruker SMART1000 CCD diffractometer at variable temperatures. The bioimaging of HepG-2 cells performed on the Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscopy system.

2. Experimental procedures

We initiated the study by establishing optimal experimental conditions using the model reaction of 3-methyl-1-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)indole (**1a**) with TsNHNH₂ (**2a**) under open-air condition, as summarized in Table S1. Gratifyingly, the desired product **3a** was isolated in 54% yield when using 10 mol% of KI and 4 equiv. of TBHP in CH₃CN at 65 °C for 8 h (entry 1). The screening on four other iodine-containing reagents, including NaI, NH₄I, I₂ and TBAI, indicated that TBAI was the best choice, giving **3a** in 62% yield (entries 2-5). The ideal amount of TBAI was also explored (entries 5-7). As it can be seen, the yield increased from 45% to 62% with the increase of the amount of TBAI from 5 mol% to 10 mol% (entries 5-6), and then a slight decrease was observed as the amount of TBAI continuously increased up to 15 mol% (entry 7). Following that, three other commonly used oxidants including DTBP, BPO and K₂S₂O₈ were tested (entries 8-10), however, no better results were observed. The ideal amount of TBHP was explored either (entries 5, 11-12). As can be seen, the yield of **3a** was increased gradually from 48% to 64% with the increase of the amount of TBHP from 2 to 3 equiv. (entries 11-12). More solvents were then examined as shown in entries 13-17. Much to our delight, the yield of **3a** was dramatically increased to 85% (entry 15) when the reaction was performed in MeOH. Both reaction temperature and time were examined. The results showed that 65 °C and 8 h were still the best choices (entries 18-22). Besides, the results from entries 23-24 reminded that the reaction could not occur in the absence of TBAI or TBHP. After intensive experimentation, the optimized reaction conditions were established as follows: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (1 mmol), TBAI (10 mol%) and TBHP (3 equiv.) were mixed in MeOH at 65 °C for 8 h.

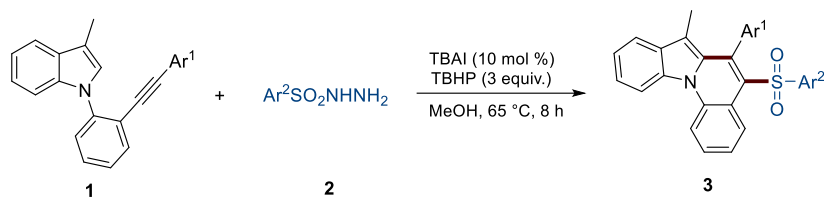
Table S1. Optimization of reaction conditions^a



entry	catalyst (mol%)	oxidant (equiv.)	solvent	yield ^[b] %
1	KI (10)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	54
2	NaI (10)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	56
3	NH ₄ I (10)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	47
4	I ₂ (10)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	28
5	TBAI (10)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	62
6	TBAI (5)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	45
7	TBAI (15)	TBHP (4)	CH ₃ CN	58
8	TBAI (10)	DTBP (4)	CH ₃ CN	trace
9	TBAI (10)	BPO (4)	CH ₃ CN	16
10	TBAI (10)	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (4)	CH ₃ CN	45
11	TBAI (10)	TBHP (2)	CH ₃ CN	48
12	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	CH ₃ CN	64
13	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	DMSO	trace
14	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	DMF	trace
15	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	85
16	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	EtOH	76
17	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	DCE	43
18 ^c	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	52
19 ^d	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	82
20 ^e	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	N.D.
21 ^f	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	42
22 ^g	TBAI (10)	TBHP (3)	MeOH	76
23	---	TBHP (3)	MeOH	N.D.
24	TBAI (10)	---	MeOH	N.D.

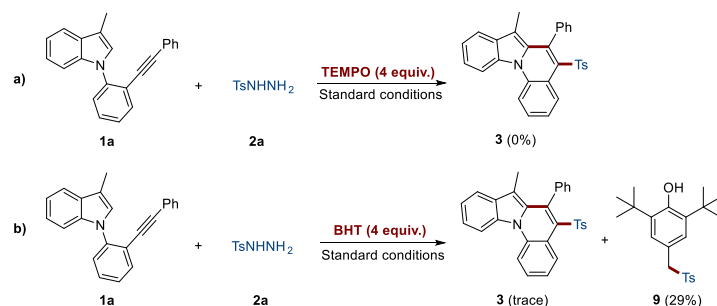
^[a]Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (1 mmol), catalyst (5-15 mol%), oxidant (2-4 equiv.), solvent (10 mL) at 65 °C for 8 h. TBHP = *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (70% aqueous solution), TBAI = tetrabutylammonium iodide, DTBP = di-*tert*-butyl peroxide, BPO = benzoyl peroxide, DCE = 1,2-Dichloroethane, N.D. = Not detected. ^[b]Isolated yields. ^[c]For 6 h. ^[d] For 12 h. ^[e] At room temperature. ^[f]At 45 °C. ^[g]At 85 °C.

2.1 General experimental procedures for sulfonyl substituted indolo[1,2-*a*]quinolines (3)



In a 25 mL flask, 1-(2-(arylethynyl)phenyl)indoles **1** (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃CN (5 mL), and sulfonyl hydrazides **2** (2.0 equiv.), TBAI (10 mol%), TBHP (3 equiv.) were added. The mixture was allowed to stir at 65 °C for 8 h. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then, the residue was quenched with water (5 mL), and then the dichloromethane (15 mL) was added three times for extraction. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1) to afford the desired product.

2.2 Control experiments



Scheme S1. Control experiments

In a 25 mL flask, 1-(2-(arylethynyl)phenyl)indoles **1** (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃CN (5 mL), and sulfonyl hydrazides **2** (2.0 equiv.), TBAI (10 mol %), TBHP (3 equiv.) were added. Afterward, ((2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxidanyl) (TEMPO, 4 equiv.) was added in the mixture. The mixture was allowed to stir at 65 °C for 8 h. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then, the residue was quenched with water (5 mL), and then the dichloromethane (15 mL) was added three times for extraction. The reaction mixture was tested using HRMS and no desired product was detected.

In a 25 mL flask, 1-(2-(arylethynyl)phenyl)indoles **1** (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃CN (5 mL), and sulfonyl hydrazides **2** (2.0 equiv.), TBAI (10 mol%), TBHP (3 equiv.) were added. Afterward, (2,6-di-*t*-butyl-4-methylphenol) (BHT, 4 equiv.) was added in the mixture. The mixture was allowed to stir at 65 °C for 8 h. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then, the residue was quenched with water (5 mL), and then the dichloromethane (15 mL) was added three times for extraction. The reaction mixture was tested using HRMS and product **9** was successfully detected. Furthermore, product **9** was isolated in 29% yield.

3. Cell viability measured by MTT assay

HepG-2 cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% penicillin-streptomycin and incubated in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator at 37 °C with the medium changed every other day. A standard MTT assay was used to evaluate the cytotoxicity of TPAP-BB. Cells were seeded in 96-well plates at a density of 50000 cells per well. After an overnight incubation, the medium was replaced with 100 μ L of fresh medium supplemented with different concentrations of **3z** for 24 h. 10 μ L of MTT (5 mg/mL in PBS) was added. After 4 h incubation, 100 μ L of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was then added. After 15 min, the absorbance at 570 nm was then monitored by the microplate Reader. Each experiment (i.e., each **3z** concentration) was conducted in quintuplicate.

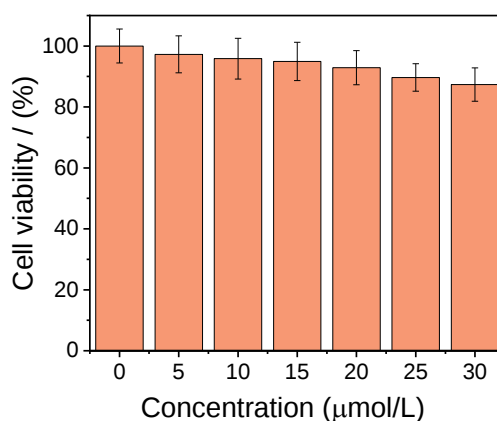
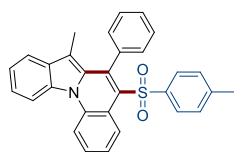


Figure S1 Cell viability of **3z** to HepG-2 cells measured by MTT assay

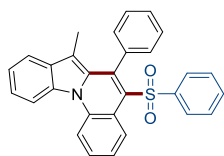
4. Characterization of compounds

7-methyl-6-phenyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3a)



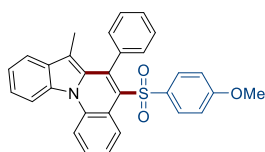
196 mg, 85%; Yellow solid, m.p. 159-161°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.34 (m, 6H), 7.31-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.4, 140.4, 140.1, 136.1, 135.8, 132.4, 131.6, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.7, 126.7, 124.6, 122.8, 122.0, 120.1, 119.2, 115.4, 114.6, 114.4, 21.6, 10.1. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 462.1522, Found: 462.1524

7-methyl-6-phenyl-5-(phenylsulfonyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3b)



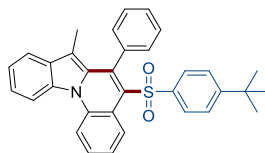
188 mg, 84%; Yellow solid, m.p. 204-205 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.4, 140.4, 136.1, 135.6, 132.5, 132.4, 131.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 126.6, 124.7, 122.8, 122.0, 120.1, 119.2, 115.4, 114.6, 114.5, 10.1. HRMS Calcd for C₂₉H₂₂NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 448.1366, Found: 448.1367

5-((4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3c)



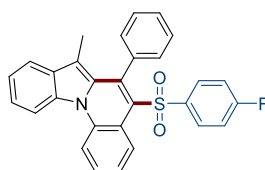
176 mg, 74%; Yellow solid, m.p. 125-128 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 3H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.8, 139.8, 136.1, 135.9, 135.0, 132.4, 131.6, 130.4, 130.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 124.6, 122.8, 122.0, 120.1, 119.3, 115.5, 114.6, 114.3, 114.1, 55.6, 10.1. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO₃S [M + H]⁺: m/z 478.1471, Found: 478.1469

5-((4-tert-butylphenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3d)



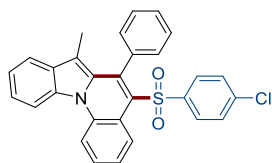
161 mg, 64%; Yellow solid, m.p. 192-195 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (d, *J* = 7.6, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.0, 2H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 140.3, 139.9, 136.1, 135.6, 132.4, 131.6, 130.4, 130.3, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 126.5, 125.8, 124.5, 122.8, 122.0, 120.0, 119.3, 115.4, 114.6, 114.2, 35.1, 31.1, 10.1. HRMS Calcd for C₃₃H₃₀NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 504.1992, Found: 504.1992

5-((4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3e)



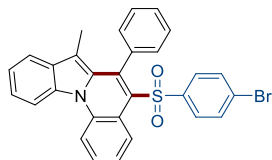
165 mg, 71%; Yellow solid, m.p. 178-180 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.78 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.95 (m, 2H), 1.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.8 (d, *J* = 256.1 Hz), 140.2, 139.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 136.1, 135.4, 132.5, 131.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.5 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.1, 116.0 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 115.5, 114.6, 114.6, 10.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -105.1. HRMS Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁FNO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 466.1272, Found: 466.1263

5-((4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3f)



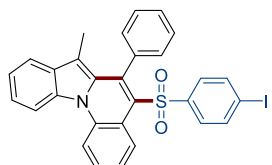
170 mg, 71%; Yellow solid, m.p. 217-218 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.60-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8, 140.4, 139.0, 136.0, 135.4, 132.5, 131.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.1, 115.5, 114.7, 114.6, 100.0, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁ClNO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 482.0976, Found: 482.0989

5-((4-bromophenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3g)



200 mg, 76%; Yellow solid, m.p. 233-235 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.75 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.4, 140.4, 136.0, 135.3, 132.5, 132.0, 131.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.1, 115.5, 114.7, 114.6, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁BrNO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 526.0471, Found: 526.0481

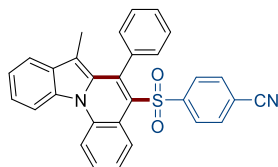
5-((4-iodophenyl)sulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3h)



167 mg, 58%; m.p. 246-248 °C; Yellow solid, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 1.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C

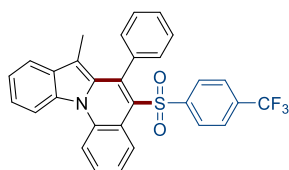
NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.1, 140.4, 138.0, 136.0, 135.3, 132.5, 131.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.0, 115.5, 114.7, 114.6, 100.0, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁INO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 574.0332, Found: 574.0339

4-((7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinolin-5-yl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile (**3i**)



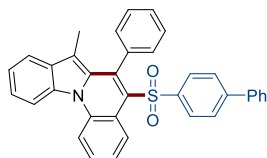
163 mg, 69%; Yellow solid, m.p. 253-256 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4, 2H), 7.65-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 2H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.5, 140.9, 136.0, 134.9, 132.5, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.0, 127.4, 127.2, 125.1, 123.0, 122.3, 120.3, 118.9, 117.3, 116.0, 115.6, 115.2, 114.7, 10.3. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₁N₂O₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 473.1318, Found: 473.1322

7-methyl-6-phenyl-5-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3j**)



136 mg, 53%; Yellow solid, m.p. 235-236 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.77 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 1.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.8, 140.6, 136.0, 135.1, 134.0 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 132.6, 131.6, 130.5, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 127.9, 127.5, 127.1, 125.9 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.9, 123.6 (q, *J* = 226.6 Hz), 123.0, 122.2, 120.2, 119.0, 115.5, 114.9, 114.7, 10.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.2. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₁F₃NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 516.1240, Found: 516.1242

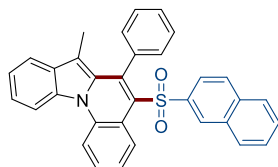
5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)-7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (**3k**)



167 mg, 64%; Yellow solid, m.p. 194-197 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.89 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.53 (m, 6H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.4, 141.9, 140.1, 139.3, 136.1, 135.6, 132.5, 131.6, 130.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4,

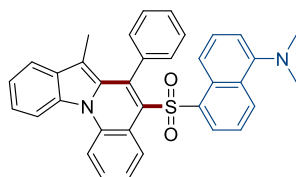
128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 124.6, 122.9, 122.0, 120.1, 119.3, 115.5, 114.6, 114.4, 10.1.
HRMS Calcd for C₃₅H₂₆NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 524.1679, Found: 524.1675

7-methyl-5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3l)



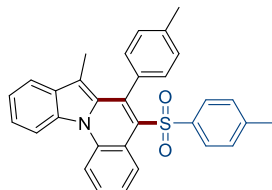
184 mg, 74%; Yellow solid, m.p. 212-216 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.89 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 5H), 1.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.3, 140.0, 136.1, 135.4, 134.7, 132.5, 132.0, 131.6, 130.35, 130.31, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.82, 127.80, 127.7, 127.3, 124.6, 122.9, 122.0, 121.9, 120.1, 119.3, 115.4, 114.6, 114.4, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₃₃H₂₄NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 498.1522, Found: 498.1521

N,N-dimethyl-5-((7-methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinolin-5-yl)sulfonyl)naphthalen-1-amine (3m)



116 mg, 43%; Yellow solid, m.p. 237-239 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.07 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.6, 1H), 6.76-6.74 (m, 2H), 2.78 (s, 6H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.6, 138.5, 138.2, 136.3, 134.3, 132.4, 131.7, 130.7, 130.5, 129.7, 129.6, 129.33, 129.31, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 124.4, 123.6, 122.8, 122.0, 119.8, 119.3, 118.8, 115.3, 114.9, 114.7, 113.7, 77.4, 45.4, 10.4. HRMS Calcd for C₃₅H₂₉N₂O₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 541.1944, Found: 541.1942

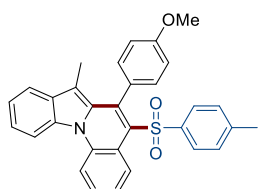
7-methyl-6-(p-tolyl)-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3n)



187 mg, 79%; Yellow solid, m.p. 173-176 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H),

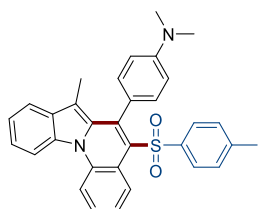
7.52-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.24 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.3, 140.5, 140.3, 138.2, 136.1, 132.7, 132.4, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 126.8, 124.5, 122.7, 122.0, 120.1, 119.3, 115.4, 114.6, 114.4, 21.6, 21.6, 10.3. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 476.1679, Found: 476.1668

6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3o)



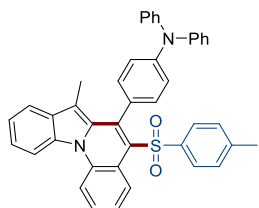
182 mg, 74%; Yellow solid, m.p. 207-209 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.85 (dd, $J = 8.3$, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, $J = 8.4$, 1H), 8.40 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.96-6.93 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.8, 143.2, 140.6, 139.9, 136.0, 132.5, 131.6, 131.5, 130.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 127.7, 126.7, 124.5, 122.7, 122.0, 120.0, 119.4, 115.4, 114.6, 114.2, 113.3, 55.4, 21.6, 10.5. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 492.1628, Found: 492.1625

N, N-dimethyl-4-(7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinolin-6-yl)aniline (3p)



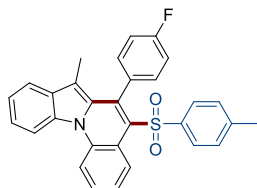
131 mg, 53%; Yellow solid, m.p. 204-206 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.88 (dd, $J = 8.4$, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, $J = 8.4$, 1H), 8.40 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.68 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 6H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.76 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.5, 142.7, 140.8, 140.4, 135.9, 132.5, 131.7, 131.5, 131.3, 129.2, 128.8, 127.9, 126.7, 124.3, 122.8, 122.6, 121.8, 120.0, 119.7, 115.2, 114.7, 114.1, 111.4, 40.5, 21.5, 10.8. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 505.1944, Found: 505.1956

4-(7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinolin-6-yl)-N,N-diphenylaniline (3q)



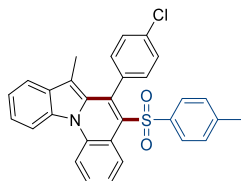
160 mg, 51%; Yellow solid, m.p. 238-240 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 6H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 6H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 147.5, 143.3, 140.7, 140.1, 136.0, 132.5, 131.7, 131.2, 130.8, 129.4, 129.4, 129.0, 129.0, 128.5, 127.8, 126.7, 124.8, 124.5, 123.3, 122.8, 122.2, 122.0, 120.0, 119.4, 115.3, 114.7, 114.1, 21.6, 10.4. HRMS Calcd for C₄₂H₃₃N₂O₂S [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 629.2257, Found: 629.2260

6-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3r)



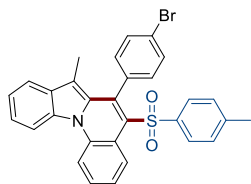
143 mg, 60 %; Yellow solid, m.p. 224-227 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.16-6.95 (m, 4H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.0 (d, *J* = 252.5 Hz), 143.6, 140.4, 139.0, 136.1, 132.5, 132.0 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 131.7 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 131.6, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.7, 127.8, 126.7, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.2, 115.5, 115.0 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 114.6, 114.2, 21.6, 10.4. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.8. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃FN₂O₂S [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 480.1428, Found: 480.1421

6-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3s)



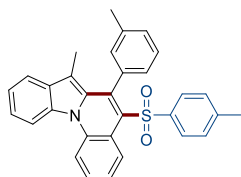
188 mg, 76%; Yellow solid, m.p. 204-206 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.75 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.6, 140.3, 138.7, 136.1, 134.6, 134.3, 132.5, 131.6, 131.5, 130.0, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.8, 126.7, 124.8, 122.9, 122.1, 120.1, 119.1, 115.4, 114.6, 114.1, 21.6, 10.5. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃ClN₂O₂S [M + H]⁺: *m/z* 496.1133, Found: 496.1135

6-(4-bromophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3t)



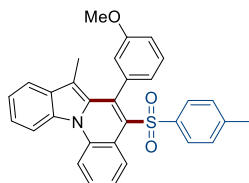
209 mg, 78%; Yellow solid, m.p. 210-212 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (q, *J* = 6.9, 5.0 Hz, 6H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.11 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.7, 140.2, 138.6, 136.1, 134.8, 132.5, 131.8, 131.6, 131.1, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.5, 127.8, 126.7, 124.8, 122.9, 122.8, 122.1, 120.1, 119.0, 115.5, 114.6, 114.1, 21.6, 10.5. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃BrNO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 540.0627, Found: 540.0628

7-methyl-6-(m-tolyl)-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3u)



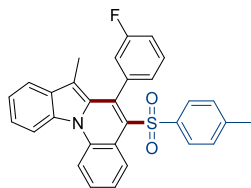
203 mg, 85%; Yellow solid, m.p. 161-163 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.82 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 140.6, 140.1, 137.3, 136.0, 135.4, 132.4, 131.6, 130.9, 130.4, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 124.5, 122.8, 122.0, 120.0, 119.4, 115.4, 114.6, 114.2, 21.6, 21.5, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 476.1679, Found: 476.1681

6-(3-methoxyphenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3v)



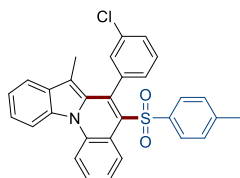
210 mg, 86%; Yellow solid, m.p. 165-167 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.80 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (dt, *J* = 8.6, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.63 (s, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 143.3, 140.4, 139.4, 136.7, 136.1, 132.4, 131.6, 130.2, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 127.9, 126.9, 124.6, 123.1, 122.8, 122.0, 120.1, 119.3, 115.6, 115.4, 114.6, 114.5, 114.2, 55.2, 31.6, 21.5, 10.2. HRMS Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO₃S [M + H]⁺: m/z 492.1628, Found: 492.1629

6-(3-fluorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3w)



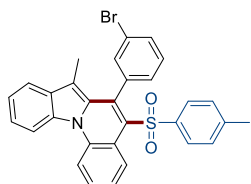
189 mg, 79%; Yellow solid, m.p. 187-190 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.7 (d, J = 247.7 Hz), 143.8, 140.2, 138.3 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 137.9 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 136.1, 132.4, 131.6, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 129.4, 128.5, 127.8, 126.8, 126.3 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 124.8, 122.9, 122.2, 120.1, 119.0, 117.4 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 115.5, 115.4 (d, J = 20.6 Hz), 114.6, 114.2, 21.6, 10.2. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -113.3. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{FNO}_2\text{S}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$: m/z 480.1428, Found: 480.1424

6-(3-chlorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3x)



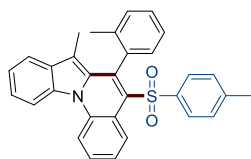
187mg, 76%; Yellow solid, m.p. 198-200 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.88 (d, J = 8.4, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.8, 140.2, 138.0, 137.4, 136.1, 133.9, 132.4, 131.6, 130.2, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 126.8, 124.8, 122.9, 122.2, 120.1, 119.1, 115.5, 114.6, 114.0, 21.6, 10.4. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNO}_2\text{S}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$: m/z 496.1133, Found: 496.1134

6-(3-bromophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3y)



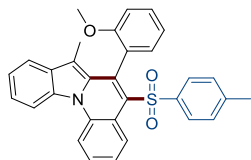
214 mg, 79%; Yellow solid, m.p. 205-207 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.85 (dd, J = 8.3, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.9, 140.2, 137.9, 137.5, 136.1, 133.0, 132.4, 131.6, 131.5, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.4, 129.4, 129.1, 127.9, 126.8, 124.8, 122.9, 122.2, 121.9, 120.1, 119.1, 115.5, 114.6, 114.0, 21.7, 10.4. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_2\text{S}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$: m/z 540.0627, Found: 540.0638

7-methyl-6-(o-tolyl)-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3z)



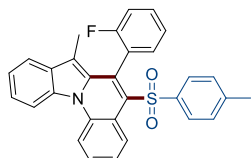
178 mg, 75%; Yellow solid, m.p. 215-217 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.6, 143.6, 140.4, 140.4, 139.9, 137.7, 136.2, 136.2, 135.7, 132.6, 131.6, 129.8, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.8, 127.9, 127.6, 126.9, 126.9, 125.5, 125.5, 124.7, 124.7, 122.9, 122.9, 122.1, 122.0, 120.2, 119.2, 115.6, 115.6, 114.7, 114.2, 21.6, 20.1, 20.1, 9.3, 9.3. HRMS Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 476.1679, Found:476.1680

6-(2-methoxyphenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3aa)



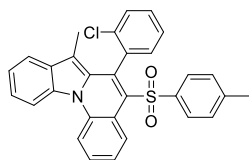
172 mg, 70%; Yellow solid, m.p. 180-182 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.68 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.4, 143.3, 140.5, 137.4, 136.3, 132.4, 131.5, 131.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.1, 127.5, 126.8, 125.1, 124.4, 122.7, 121.9, 120.5, 120.1, 119.2, 115.6, 114.6, 113.6, 110.4, 77.3, 55.4, 21.6, 9.5. HRMS Calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO₃S [M + H]⁺: m/z 492.1628, Found:492.1627

6-(2-fluorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3ab)



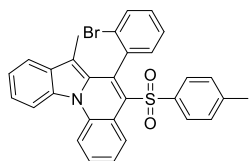
163 mg, 68%; Yellow solid, m.p. 208-210 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.3 (d, *J* = 245.0 Hz), 143.7, 140.0, 136.3, 134.1, 132.5, 132.0 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 131.5, 130.7 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 129.6, 129.3, 128.9 (d, *J* = 79.3 Hz), 127.6, 126.8 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 124.7, 124.1 (d, *J* = 17.1 Hz), 123.9 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 122.5 (d, *J* = 76.4 Hz), 120.2, 118.8, 115.6, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz), 114.5, 113.8, 21.6, 9.4. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -113.3. HRMS Calcd for C₃₀H₂₃FO₂S [M + H]⁺: m/z 480.1428, Found:480.1427

6-(2-chlorophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3ac)



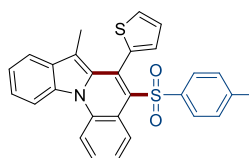
149 mg, 60%; Yellow solid, m.p. 243-245 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.56 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.53-7.35 (m, 7H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.7, 140.1, 137.3, 136.3, 135.4, 134.1, 132.6, 131.6, 131.5, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 129.3, 128.9, 127.7, 127.5, 126.9, 126.6, 124.7, 122.8, 122.1, 120.2, 118.6, 115.5, 114.6, 113.9, 21.6, 9.2. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClNO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 496.1133, Found: 496.1133

6-(2-bromophenyl)-7-methyl-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3ad)



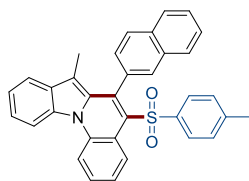
175 mg, 65%; Yellow solid, m.p. 247-249 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.55 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.7, 140.1, 138.8, 137.3, 136.4, 132.6, 132.4, 131.6, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 127.5, 127.1, 127.0, 124.7, 124.4, 122.8, 122.1, 120.2, 118.6, 115.6, 114.6, 114.0, 21.6, 9.4. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 540.0627, Found: 540.0635

7-methyl-6-(thiophen-2-yl)-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3ae)



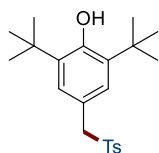
167 mg, 66%; Yellow solid, m.p. 205-208 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.04 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.4, 140.3, 136.3, 135.3, 132.6, 132.4, 131.6, 130.8, 130.6, 130.4, 129.5, 129.4, 128.0, 127.7, 126.7, 126.6, 124.6, 122.7, 122.1, 120.1, 119.1, 115.3, 114.6, 114.4, 21.5, 9.5. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 468.1086, Found: 468.1089

7-methyl-6-(naphthalen-2-yl)-5-tosylindolo[1,2-a]quinoline (3af)



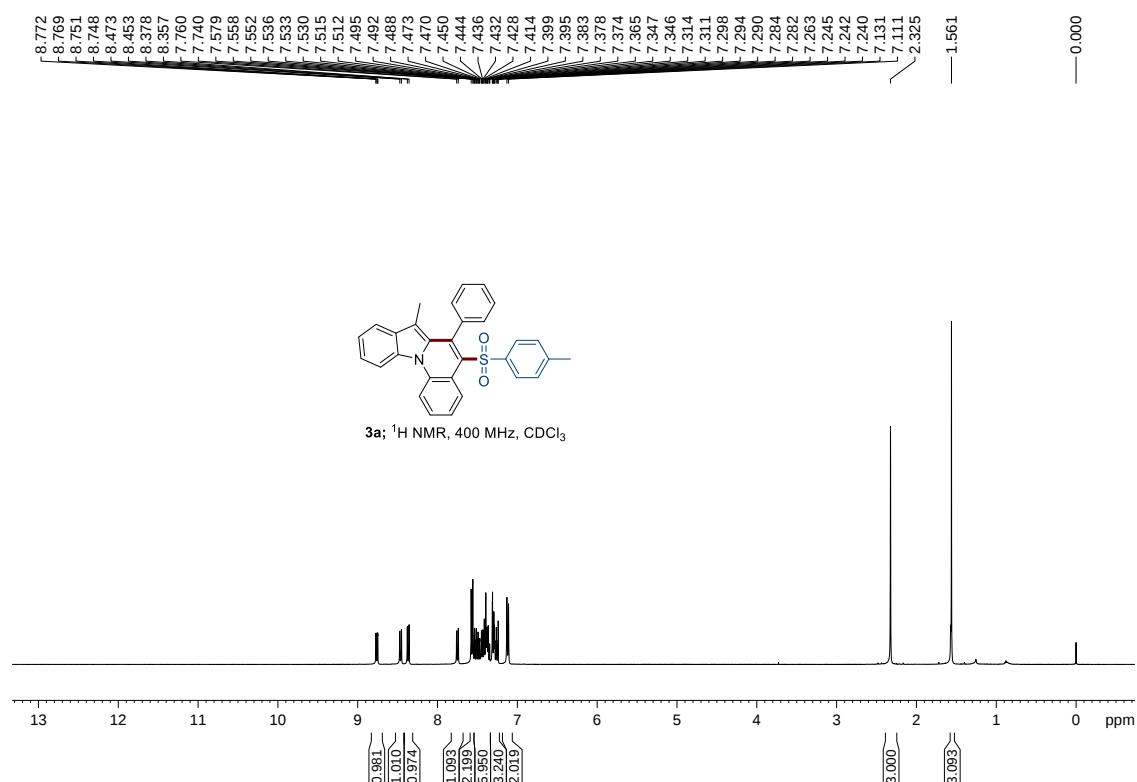
174 mg, 68%; Yellow solid, m.p. 235-237 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.91 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.4, 140.4, 139.6, 136.1, 133.0, 133.0, 132.7, 132.4, 131.6, 130.5, 129.3, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.9, 127.2, 126.8, 126.6, 126.3, 124.6, 122.8, 122.0, 120.0, 119.4, 115.4, 114.6, 114.2, 21.5, 10.4. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 512.1679, Found: 512.1679

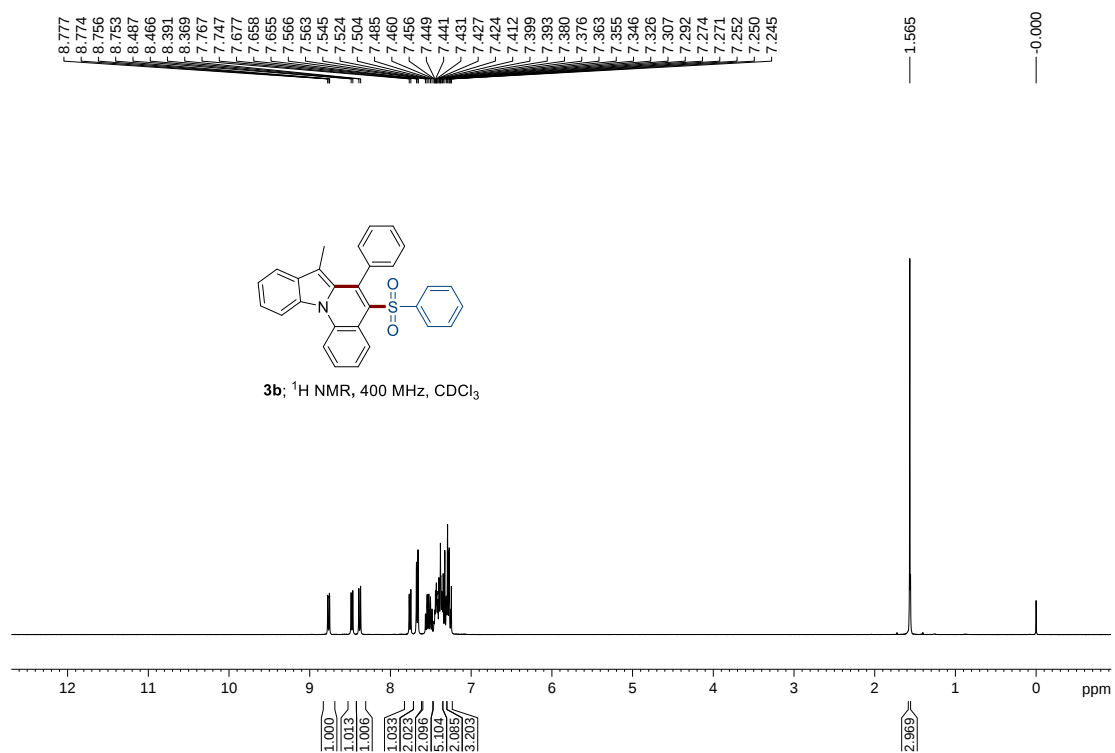
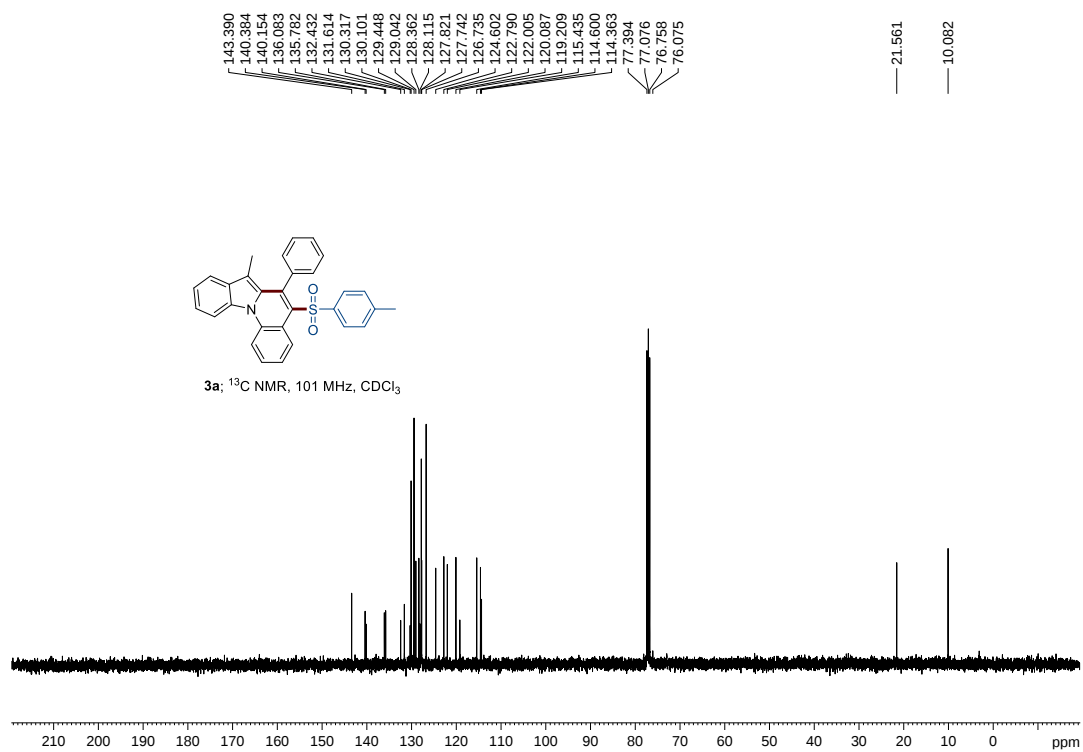
2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-(tosylmethyl)phenol (9)

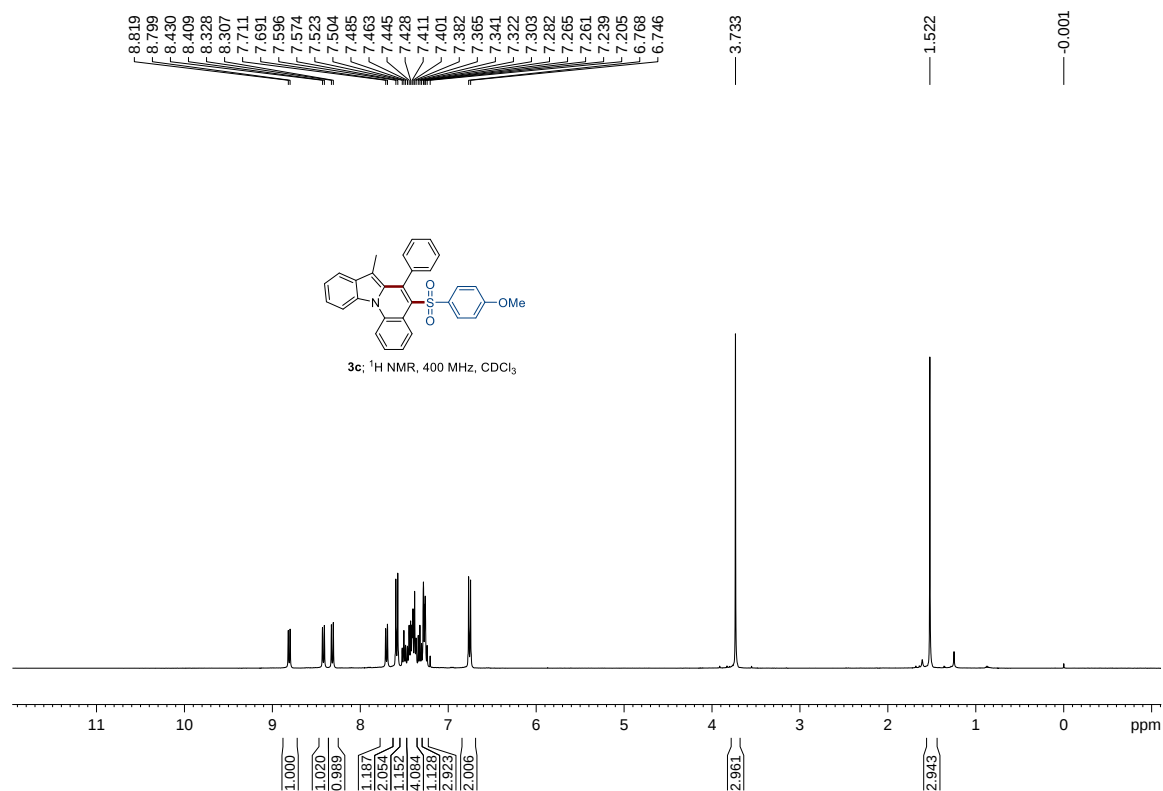
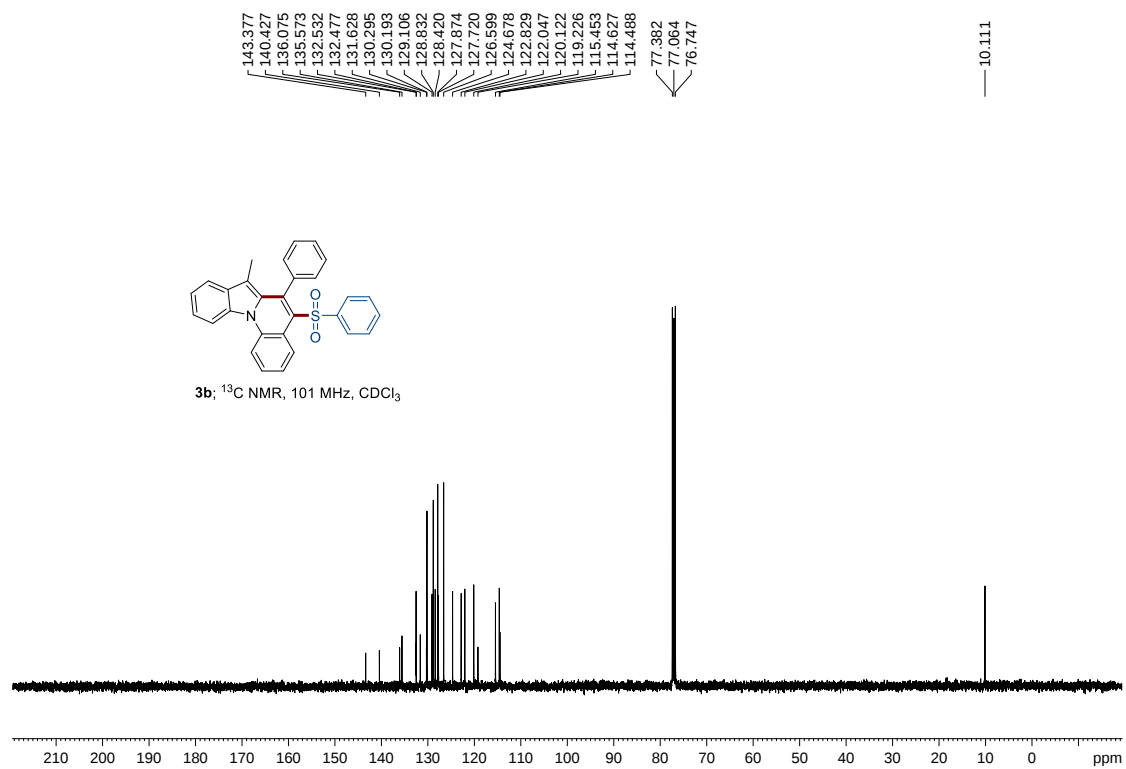


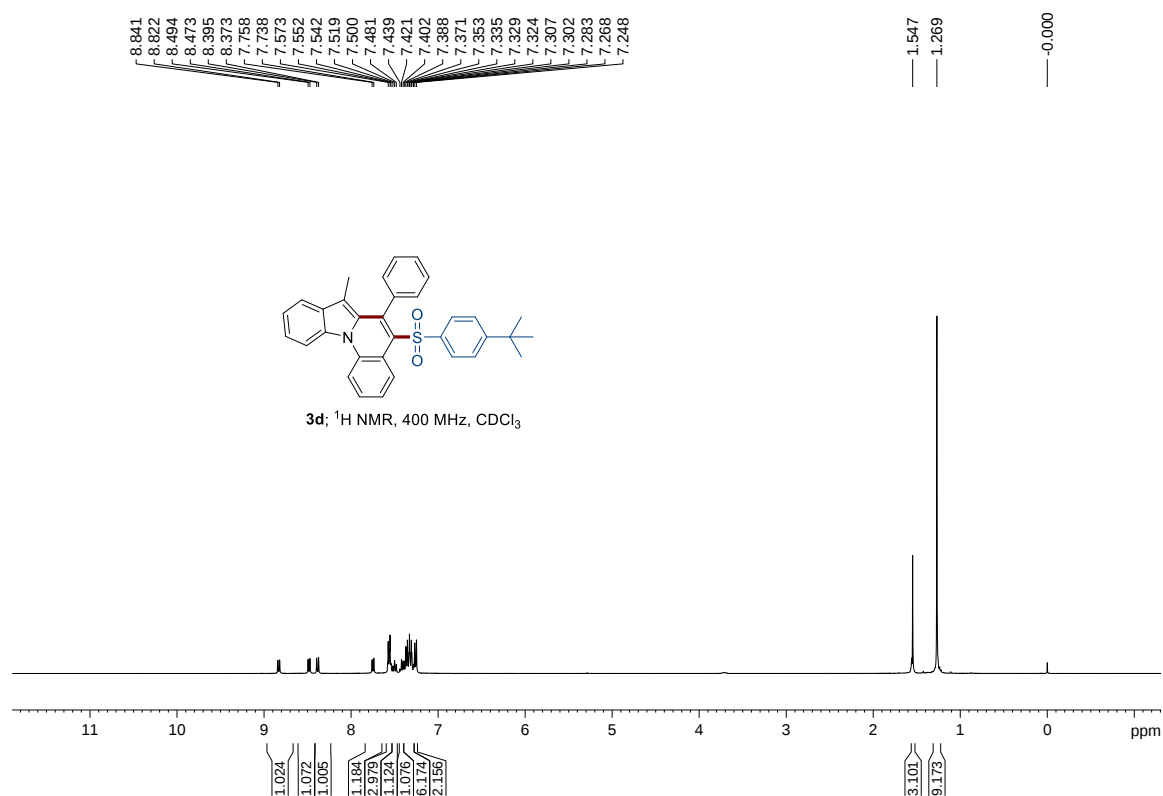
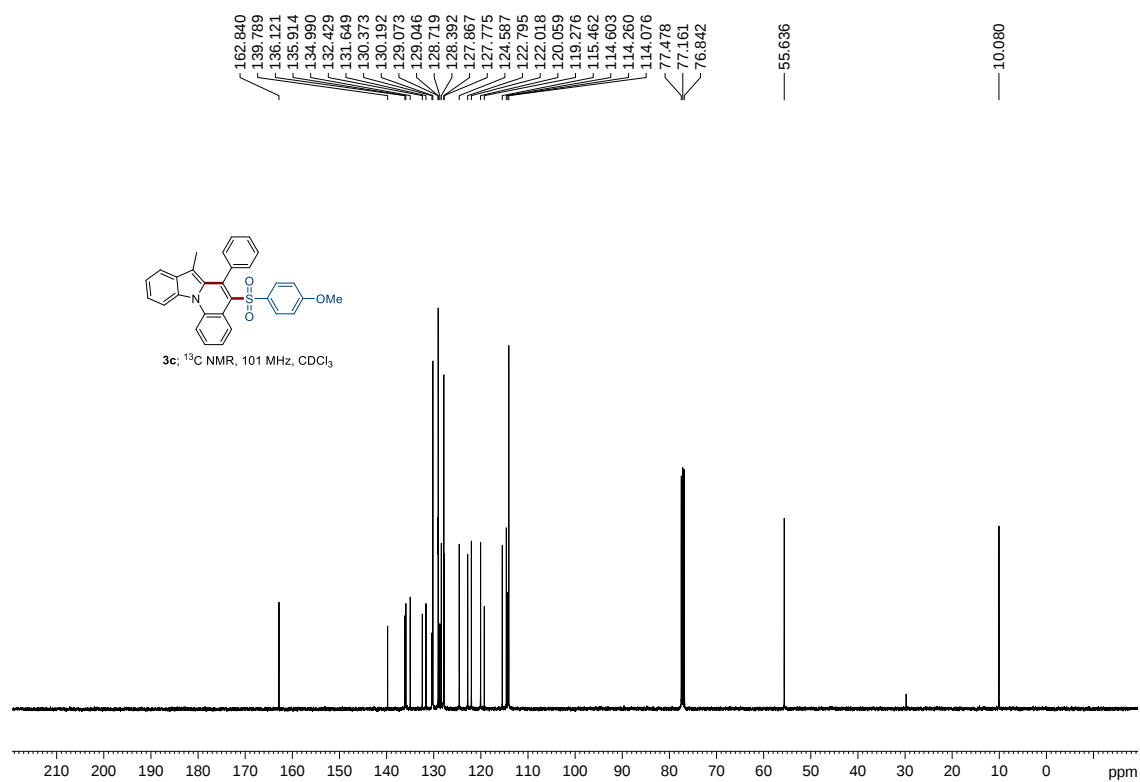
White solid, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.75 (s, 2H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 19H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 144.3, 136.0, 134.9, 129.3, 128.9, 127.7, 118.9, 63.3, 34.1, 30.0, 21.5. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_3\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: m/z 375.1988, Found: 375.1984

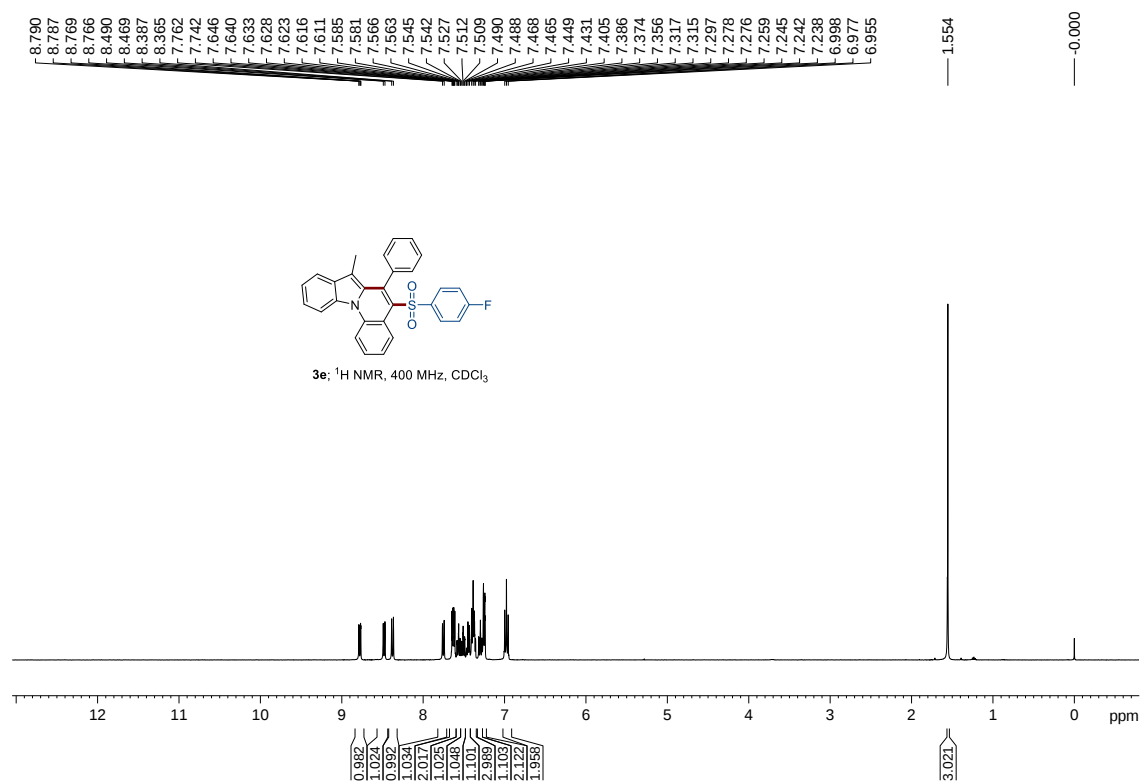
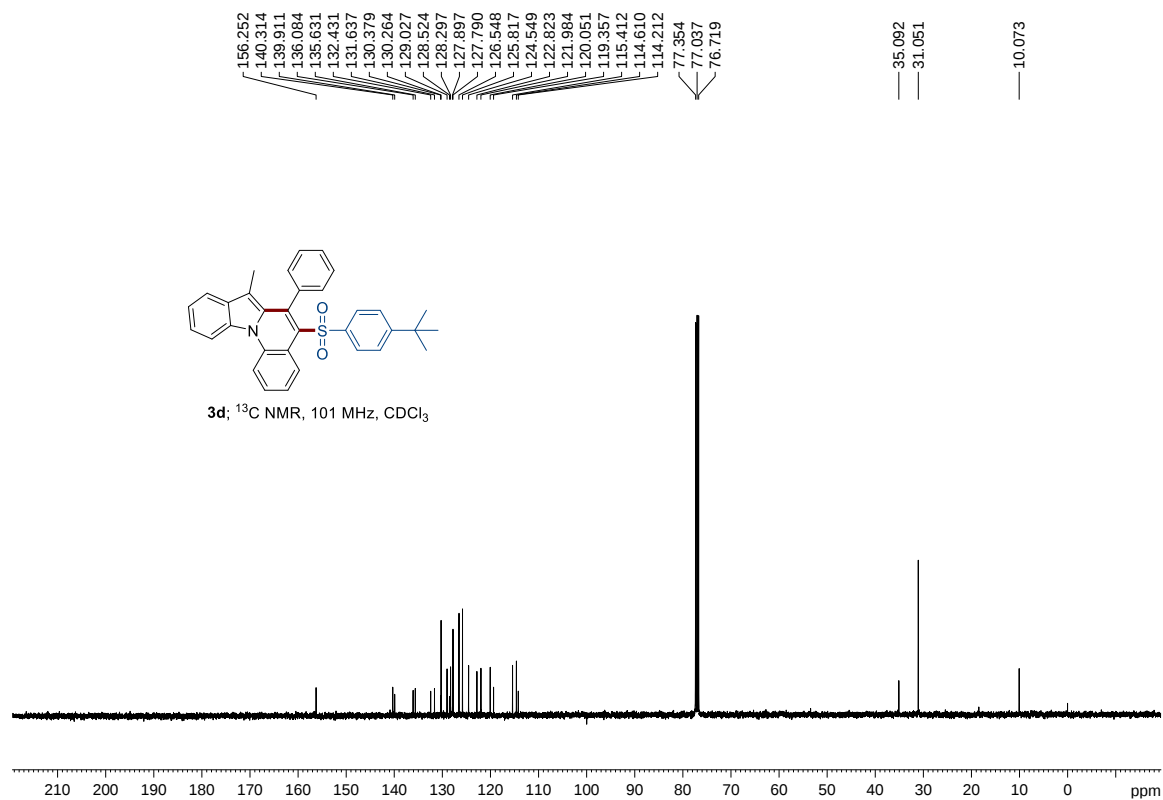
5. NMR copies of products

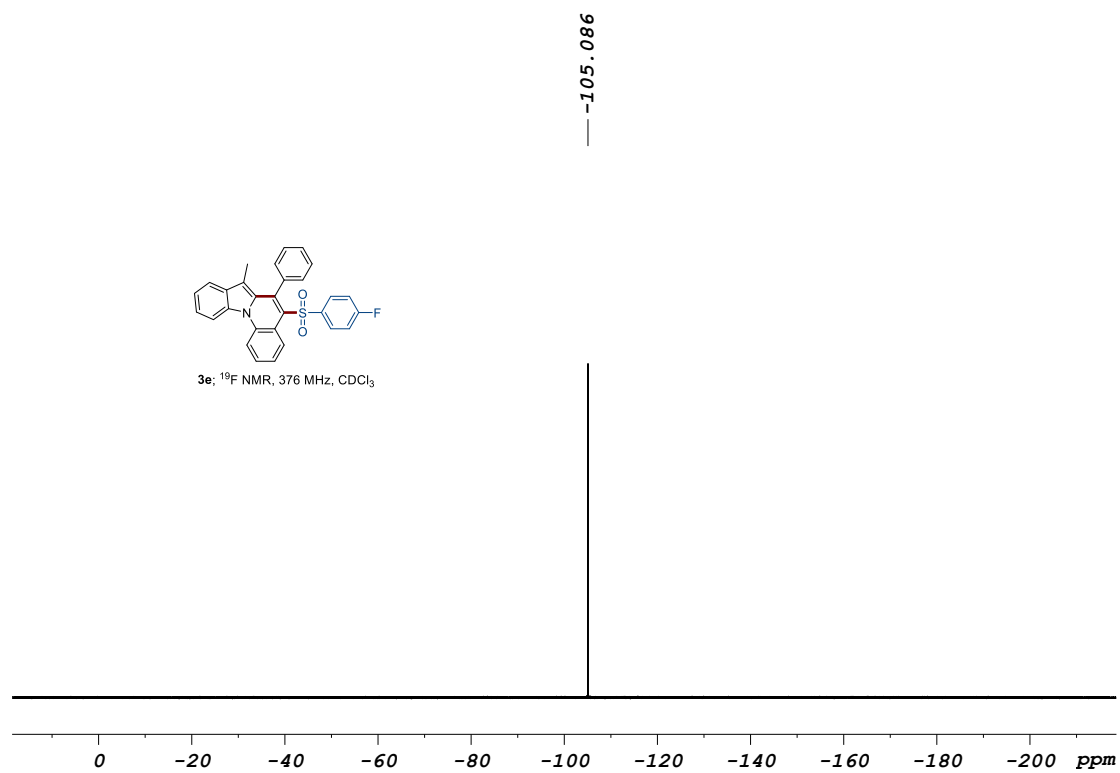
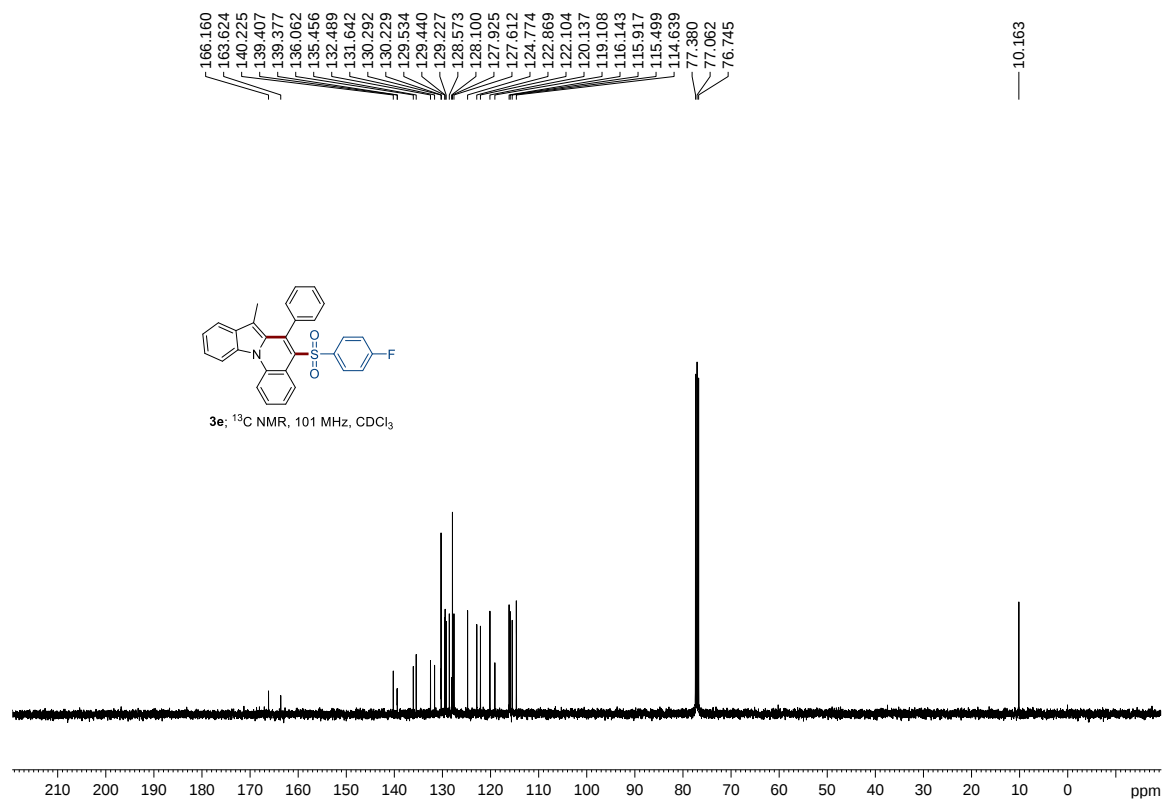


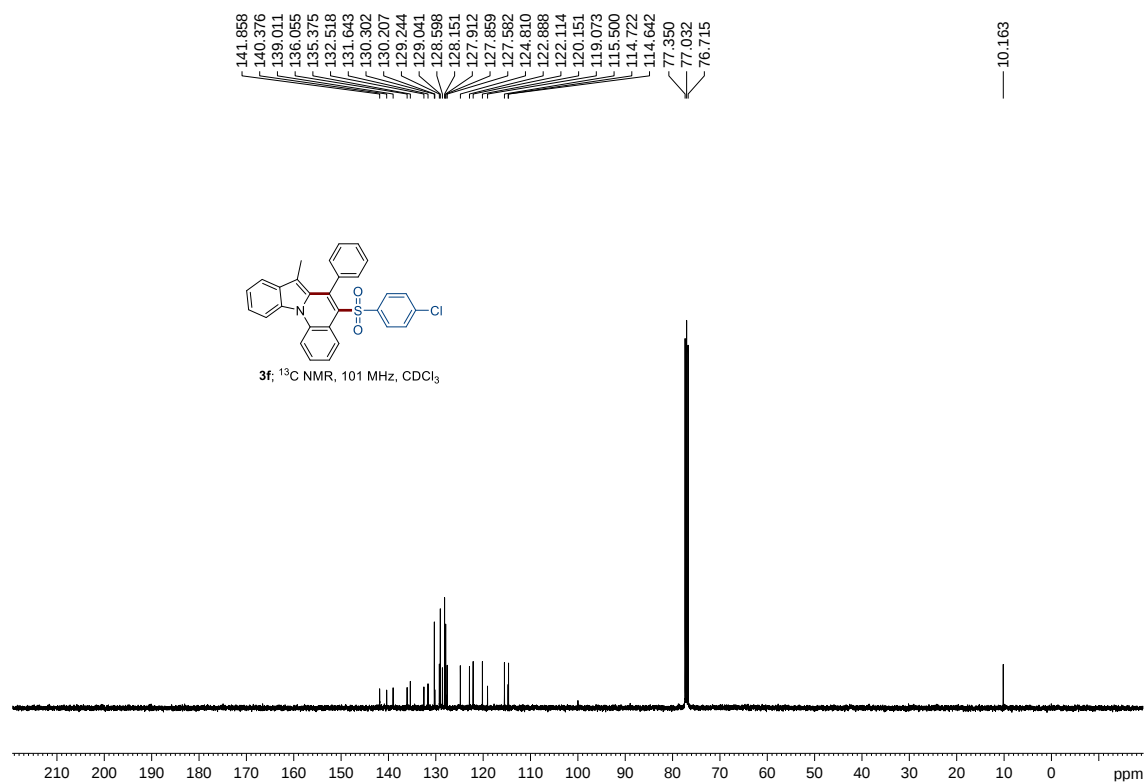
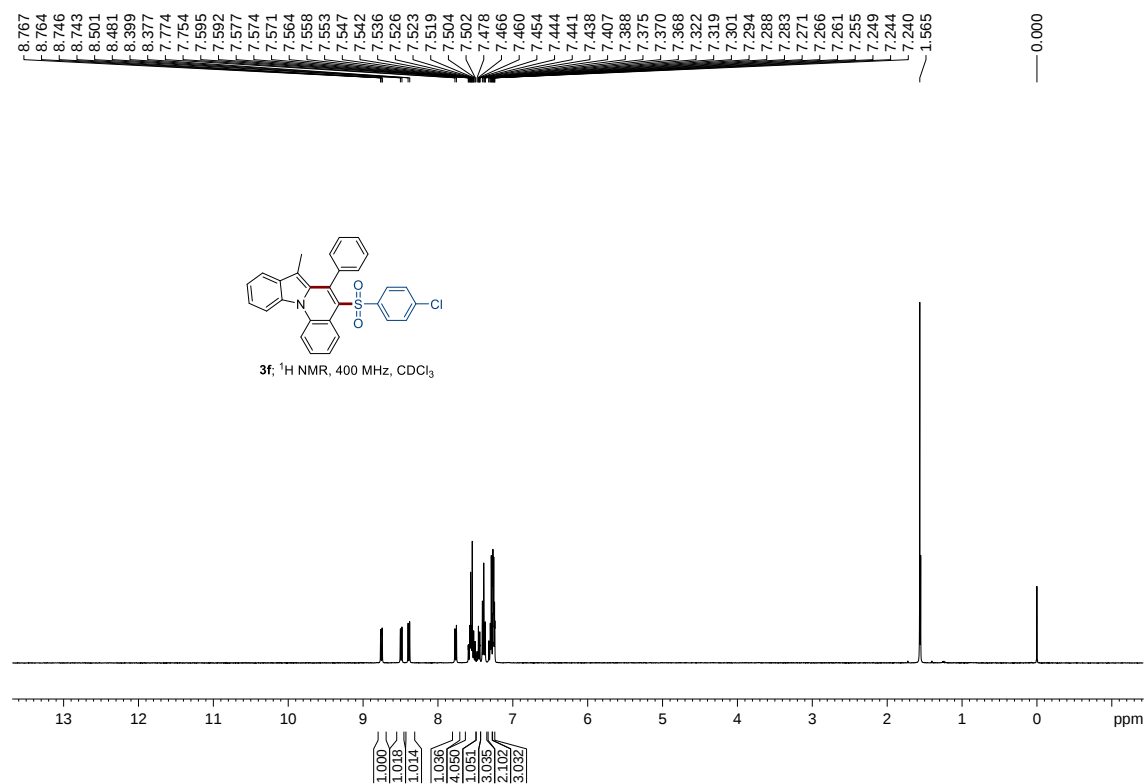


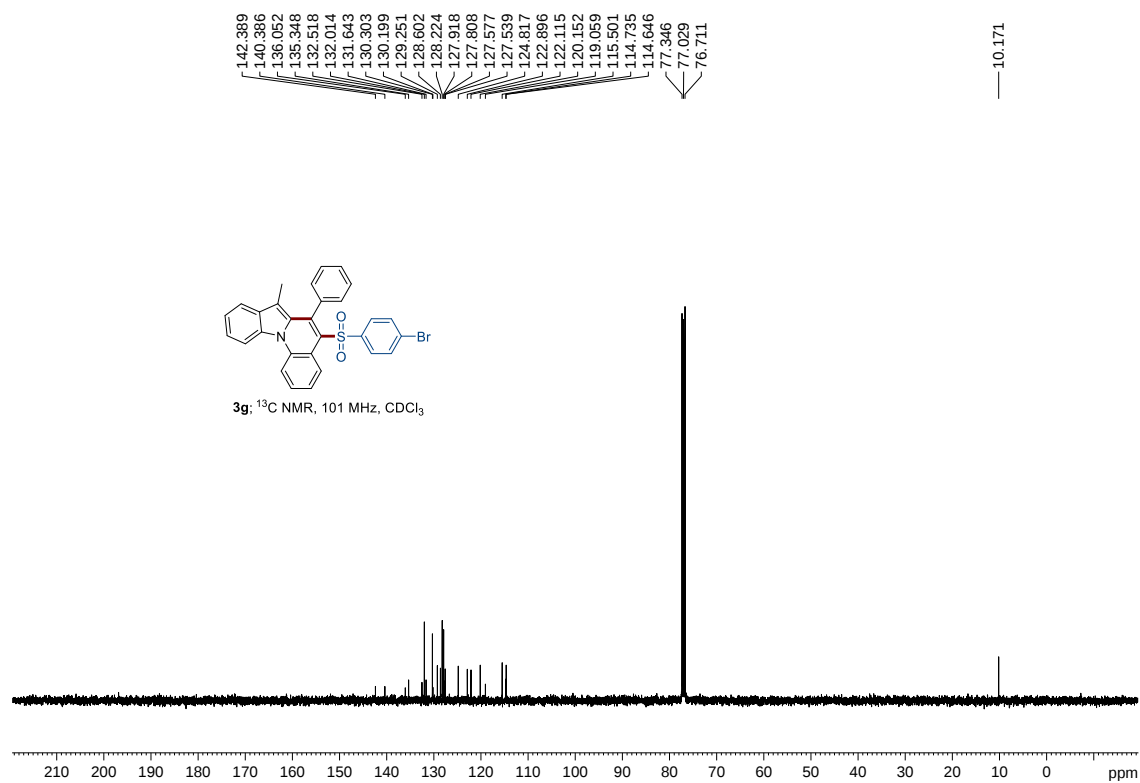
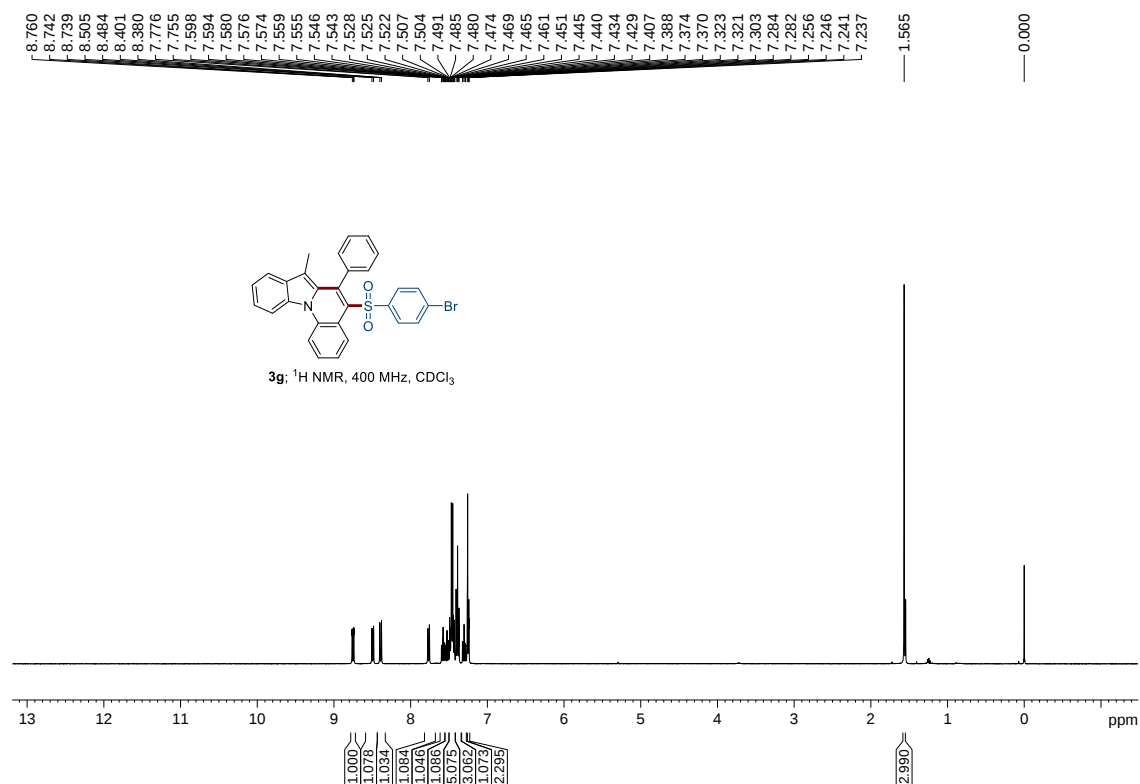


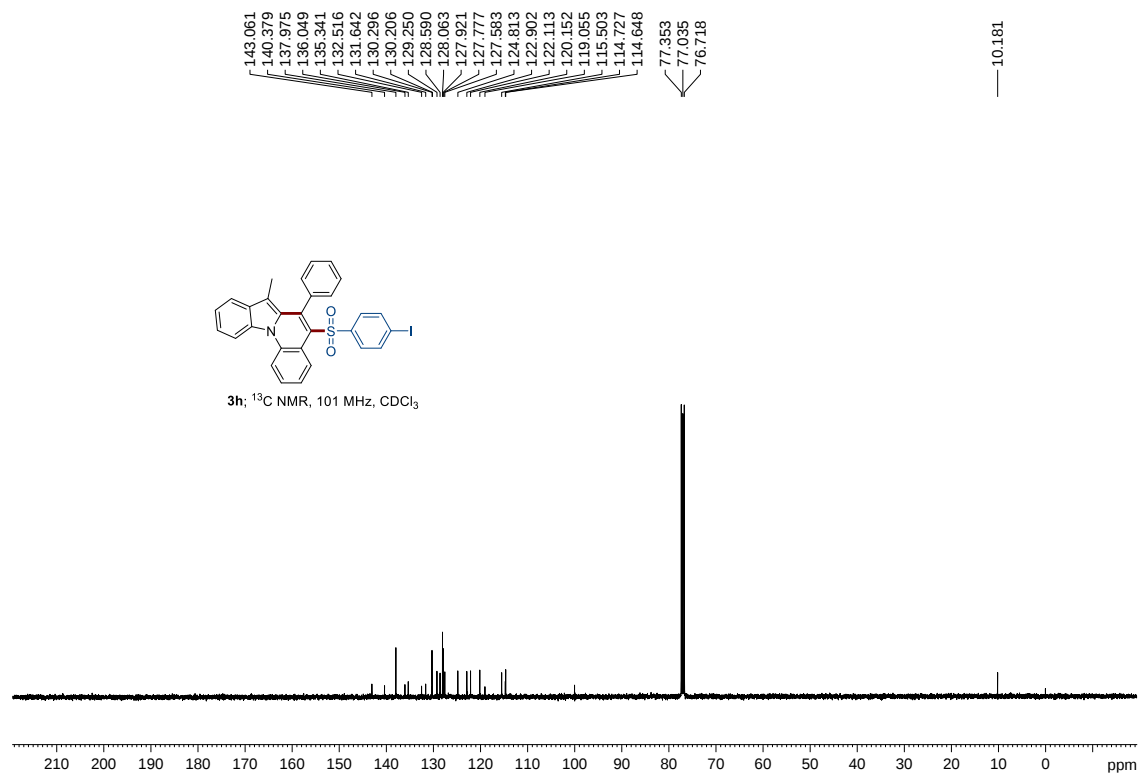
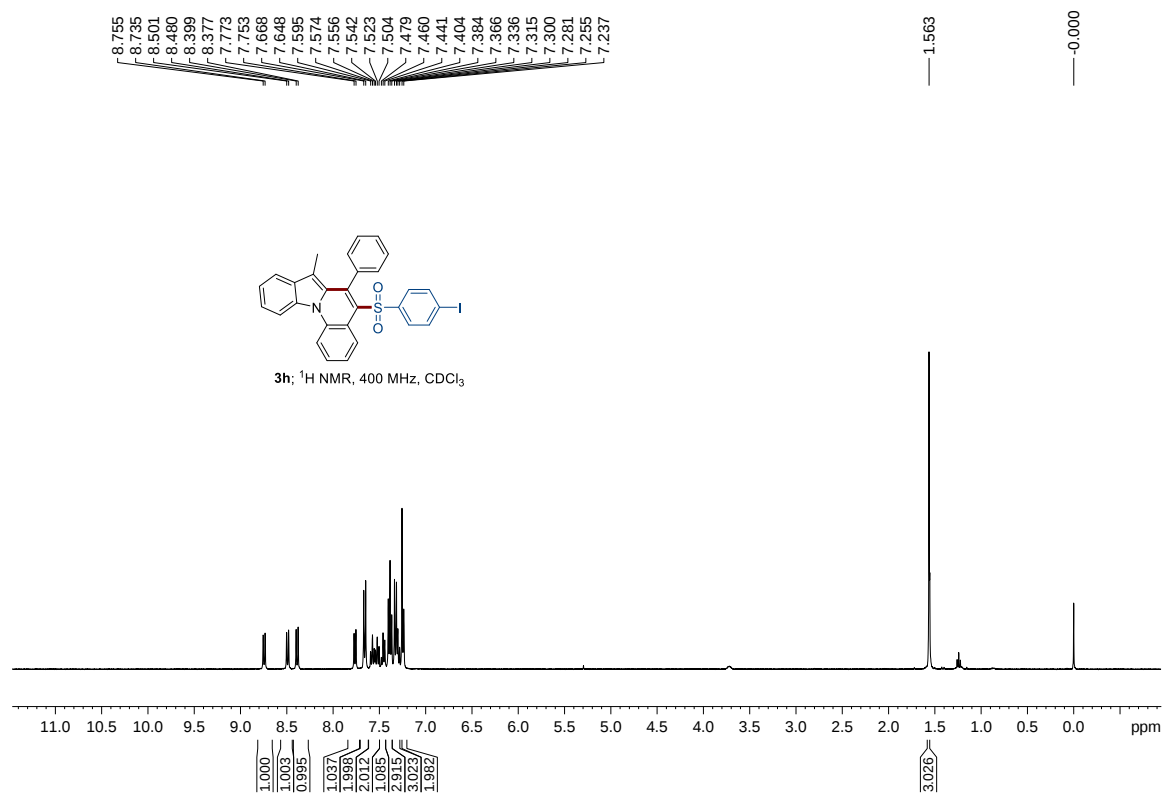


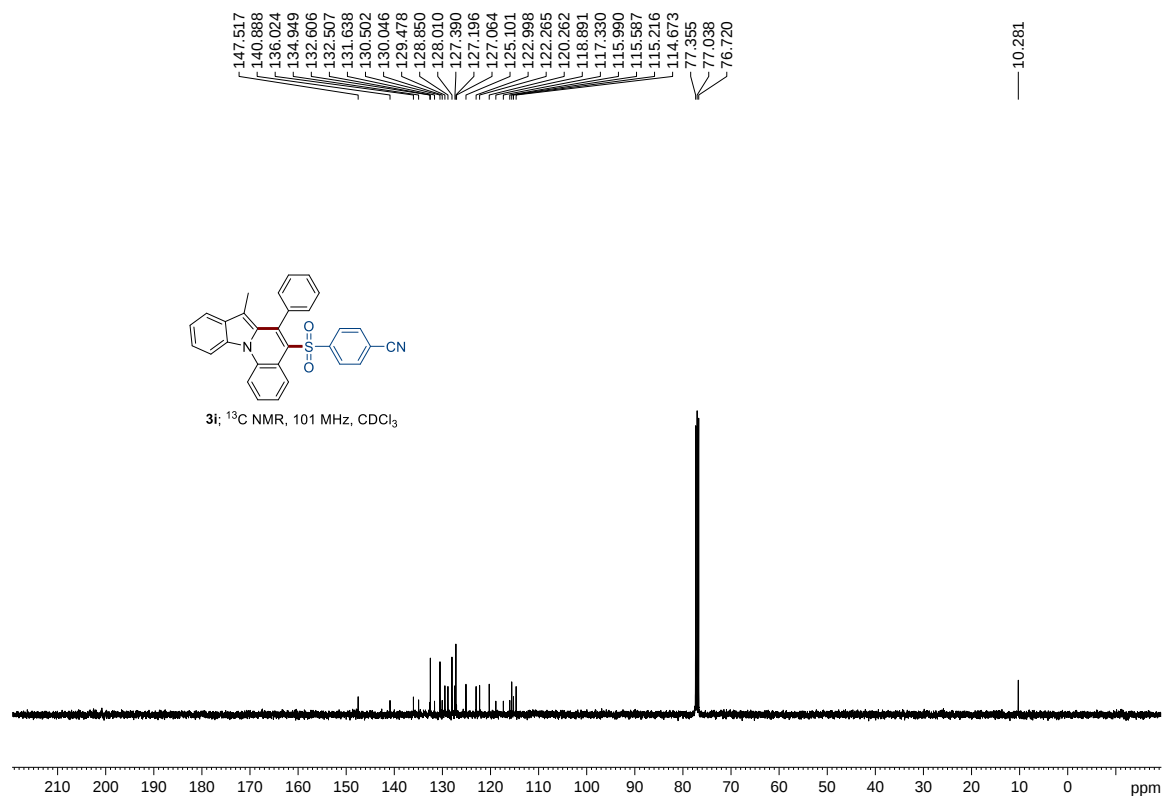
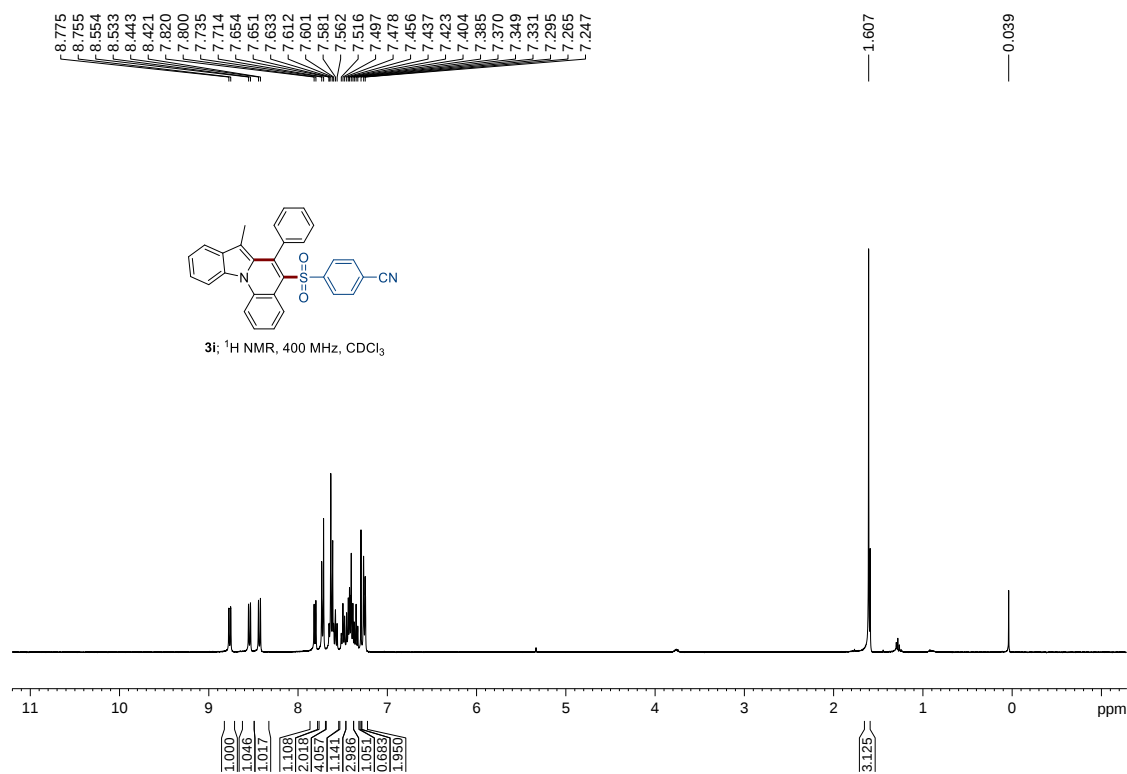


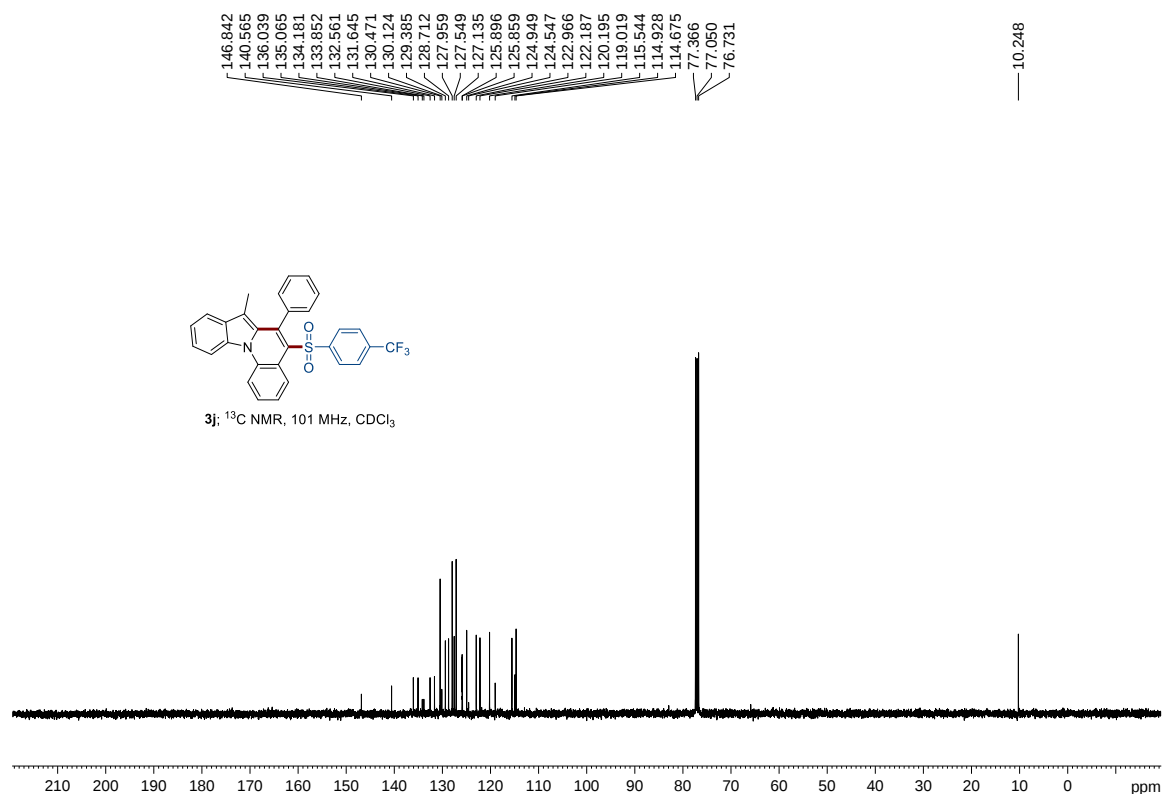
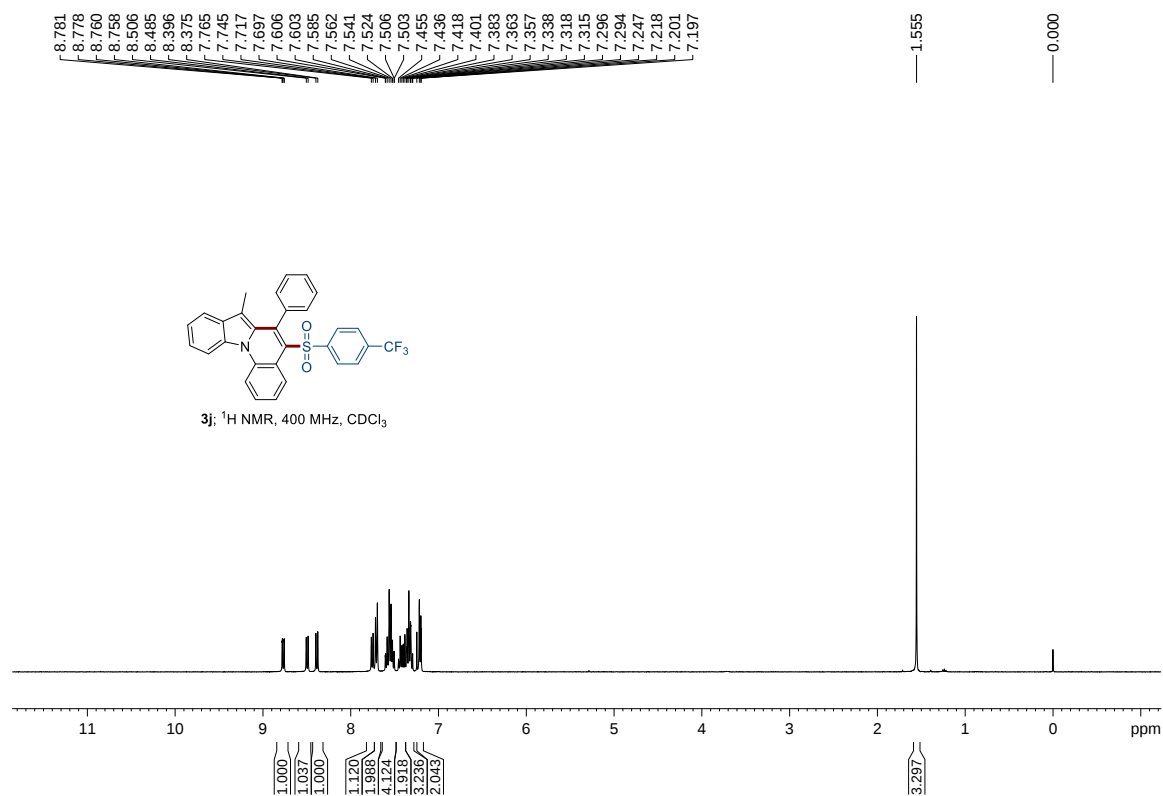


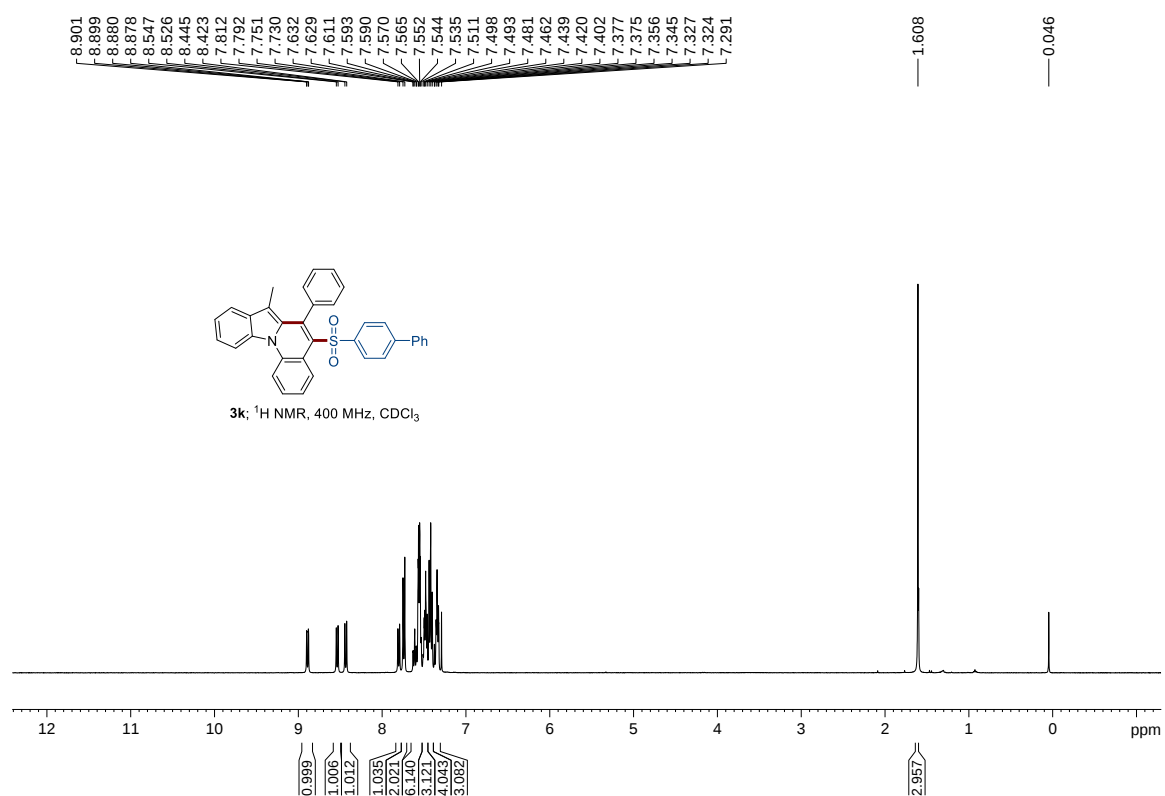
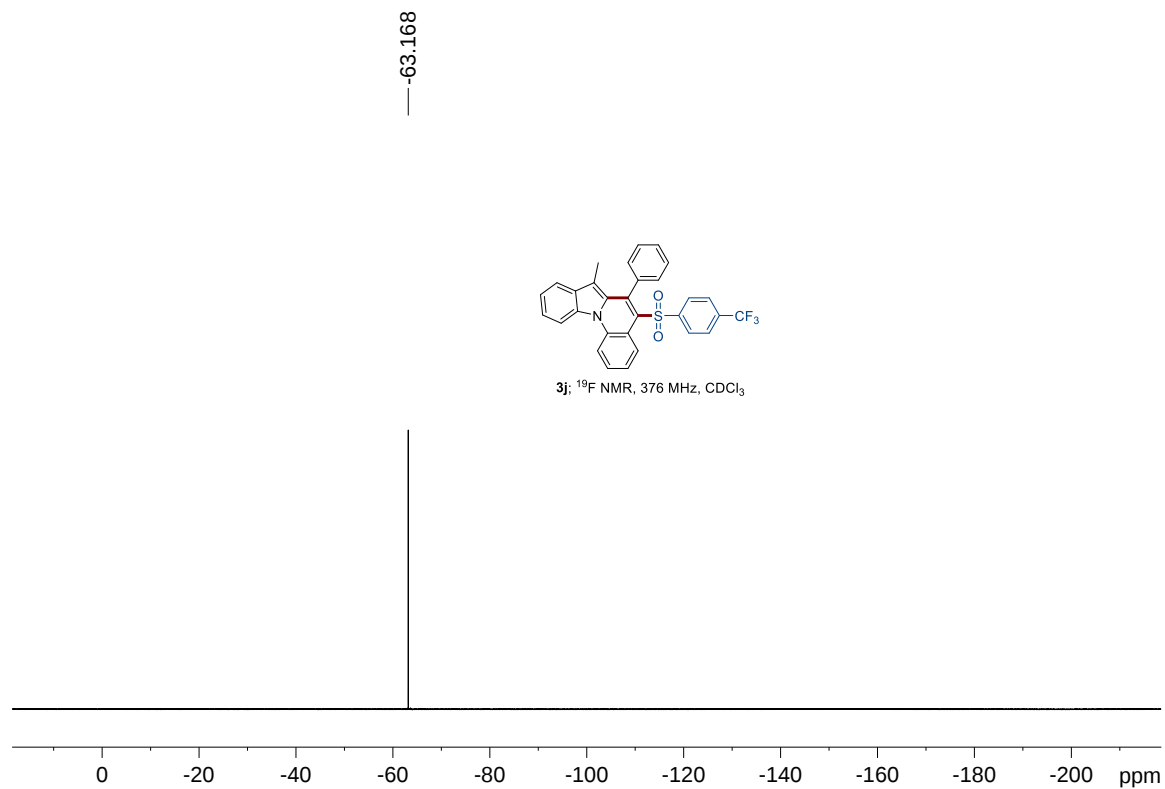


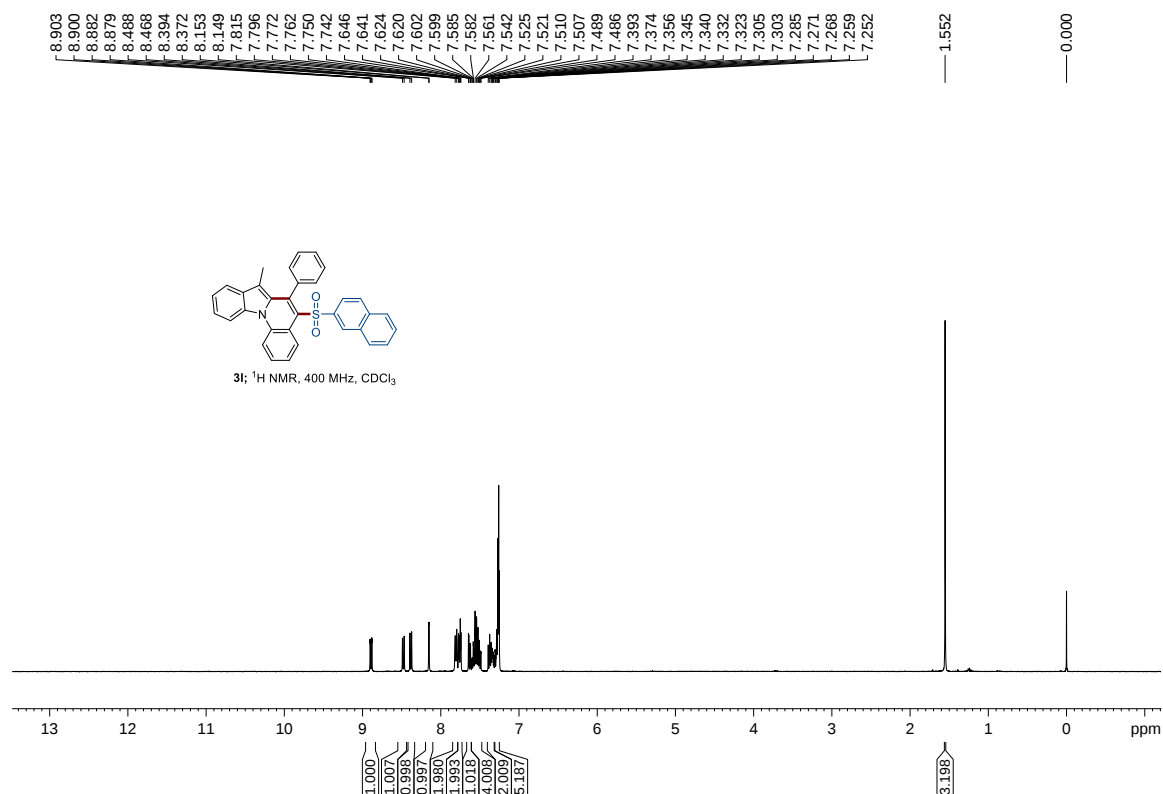
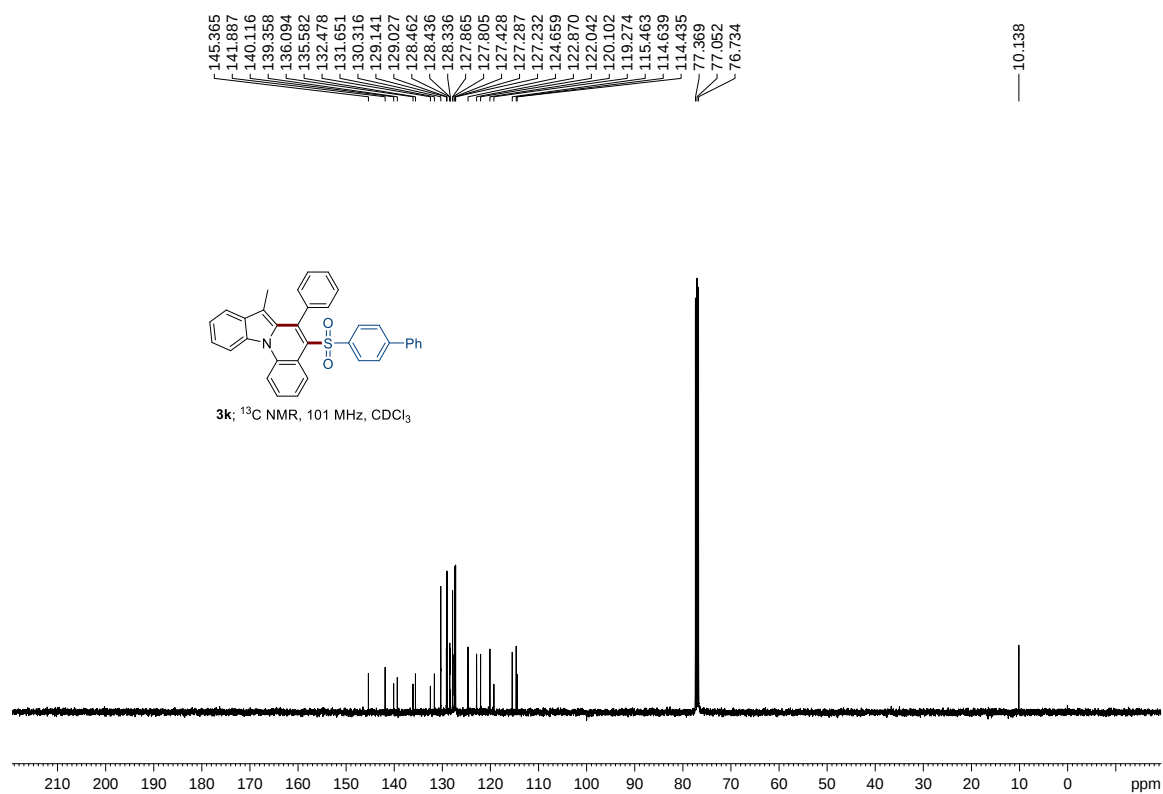


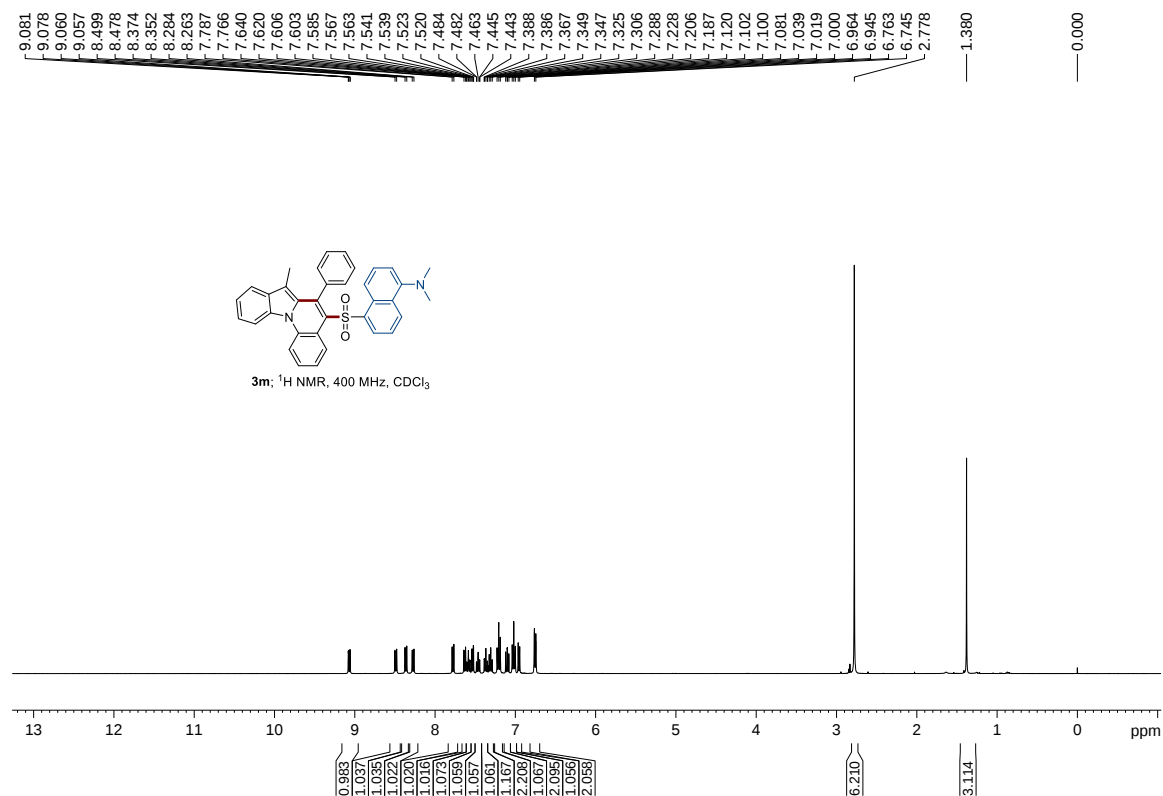
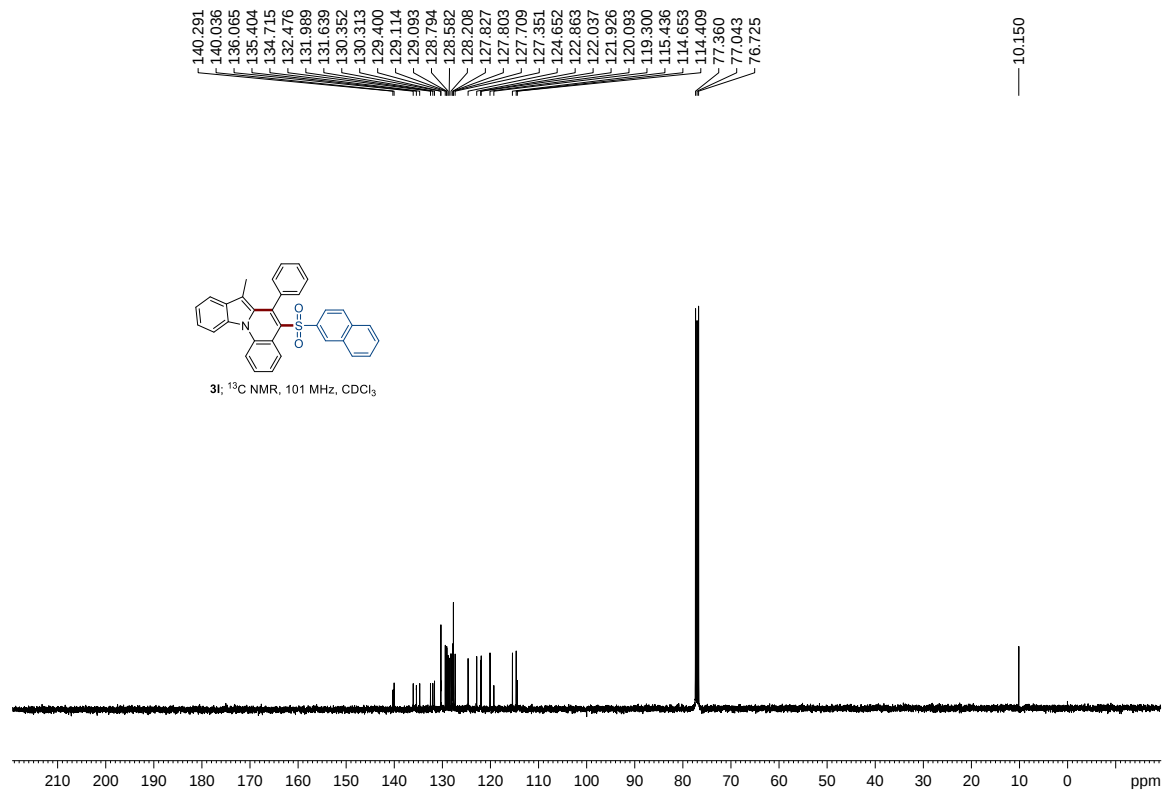


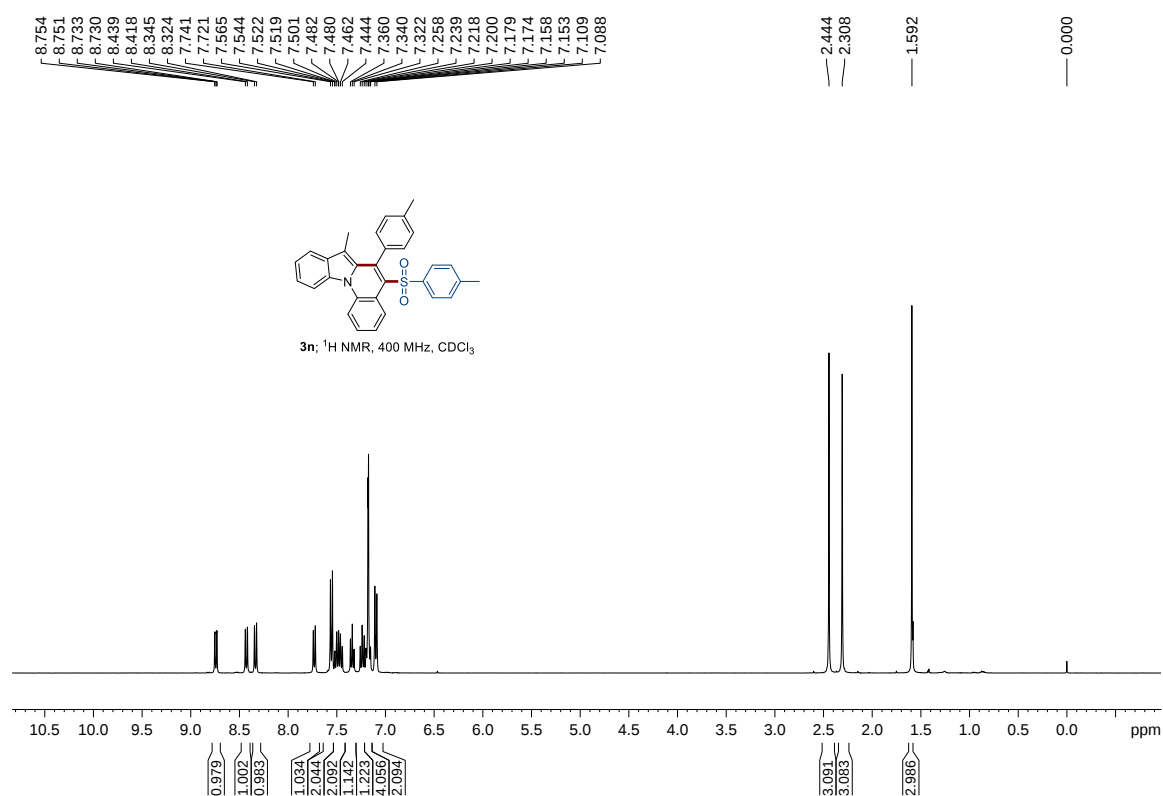
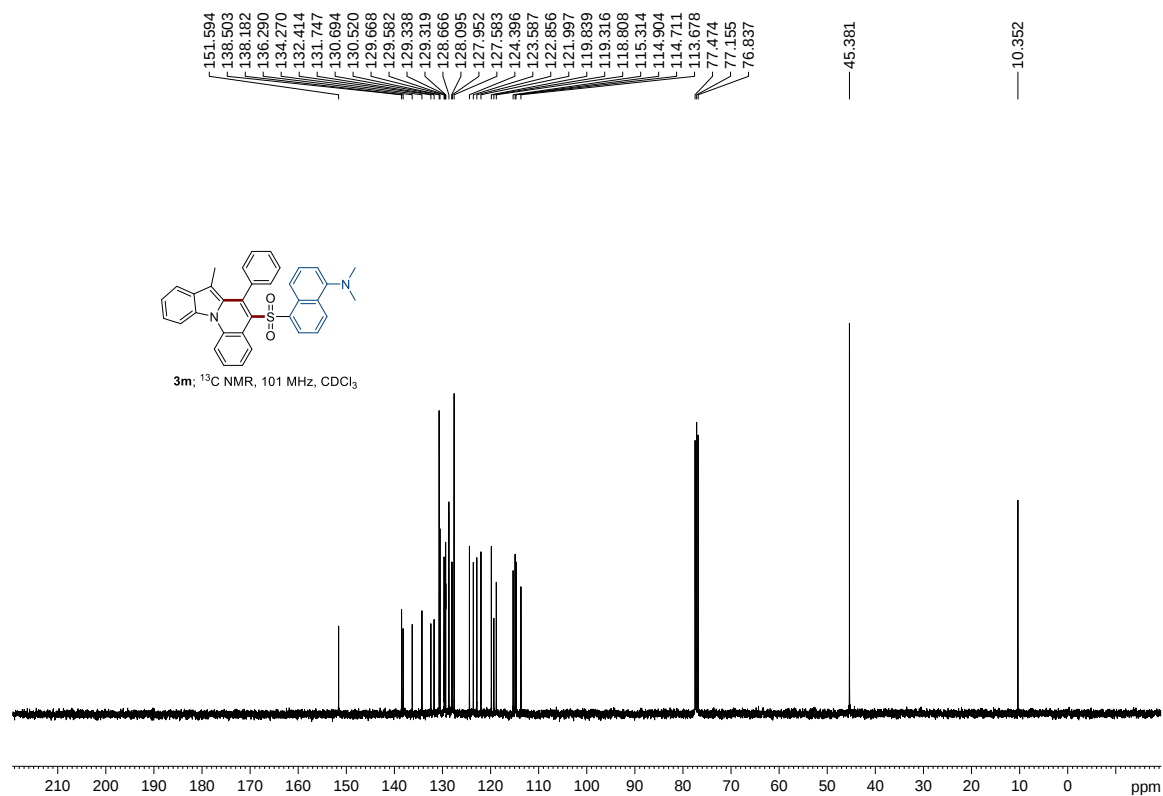


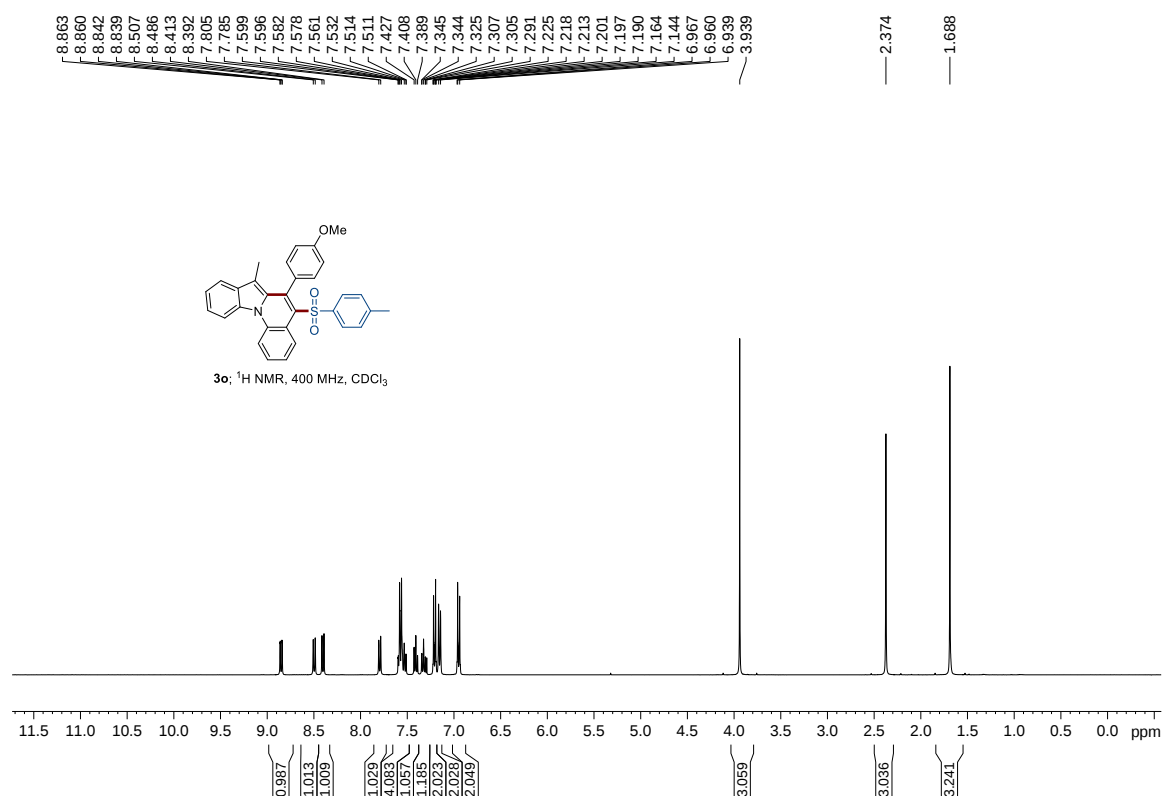
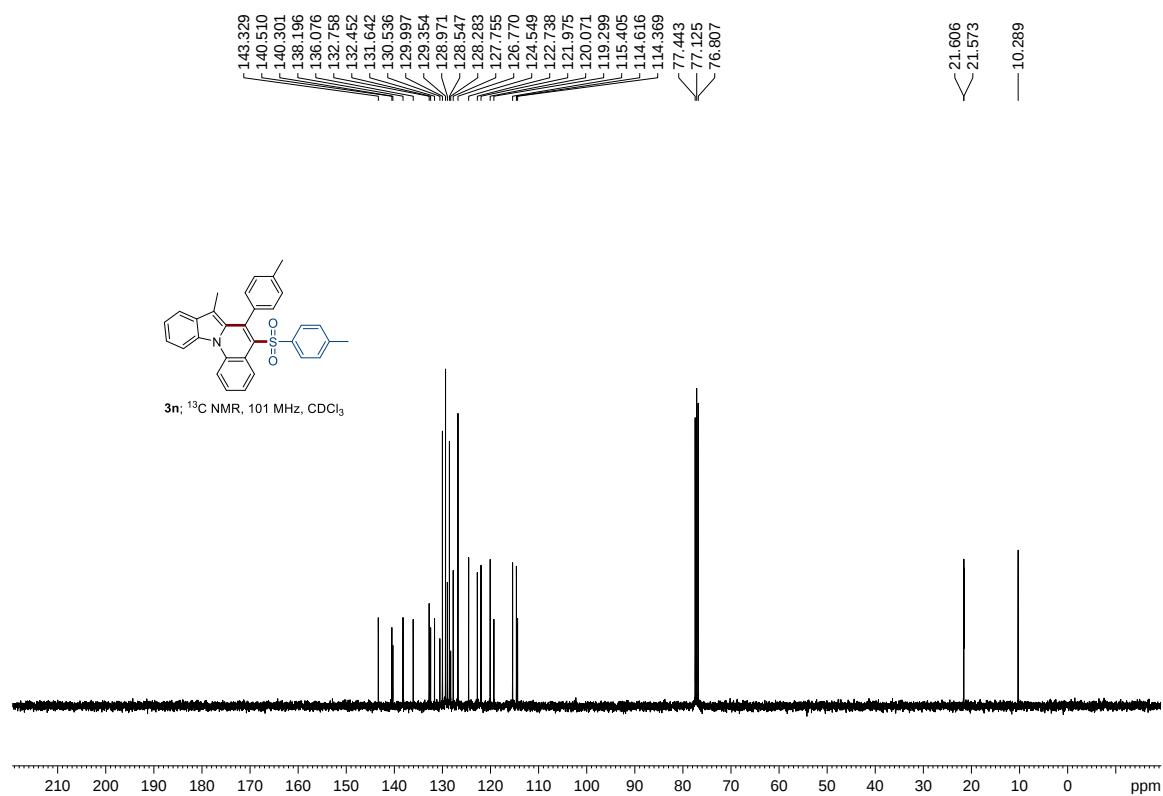


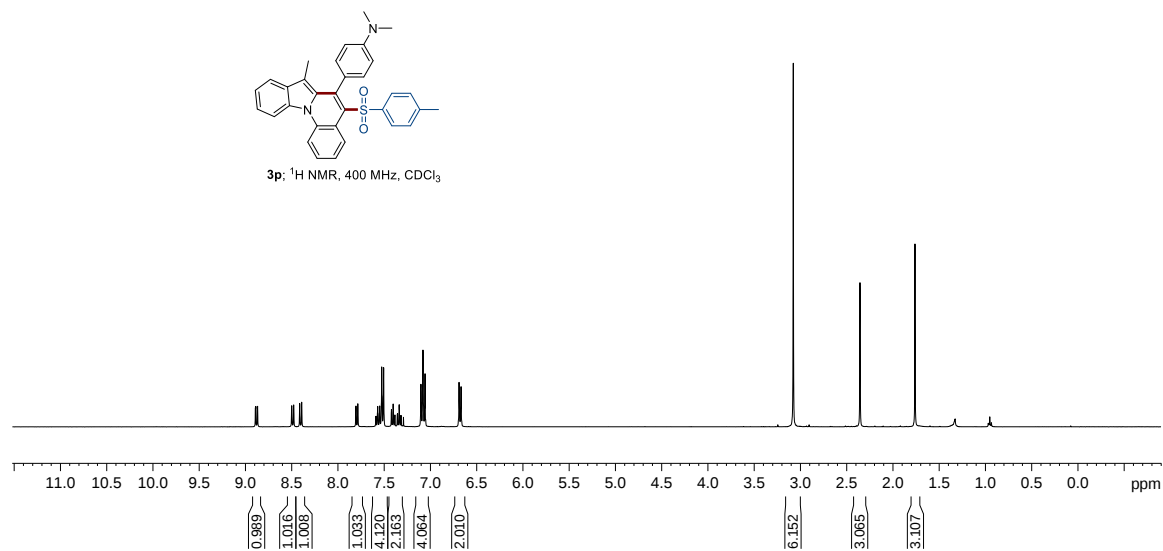
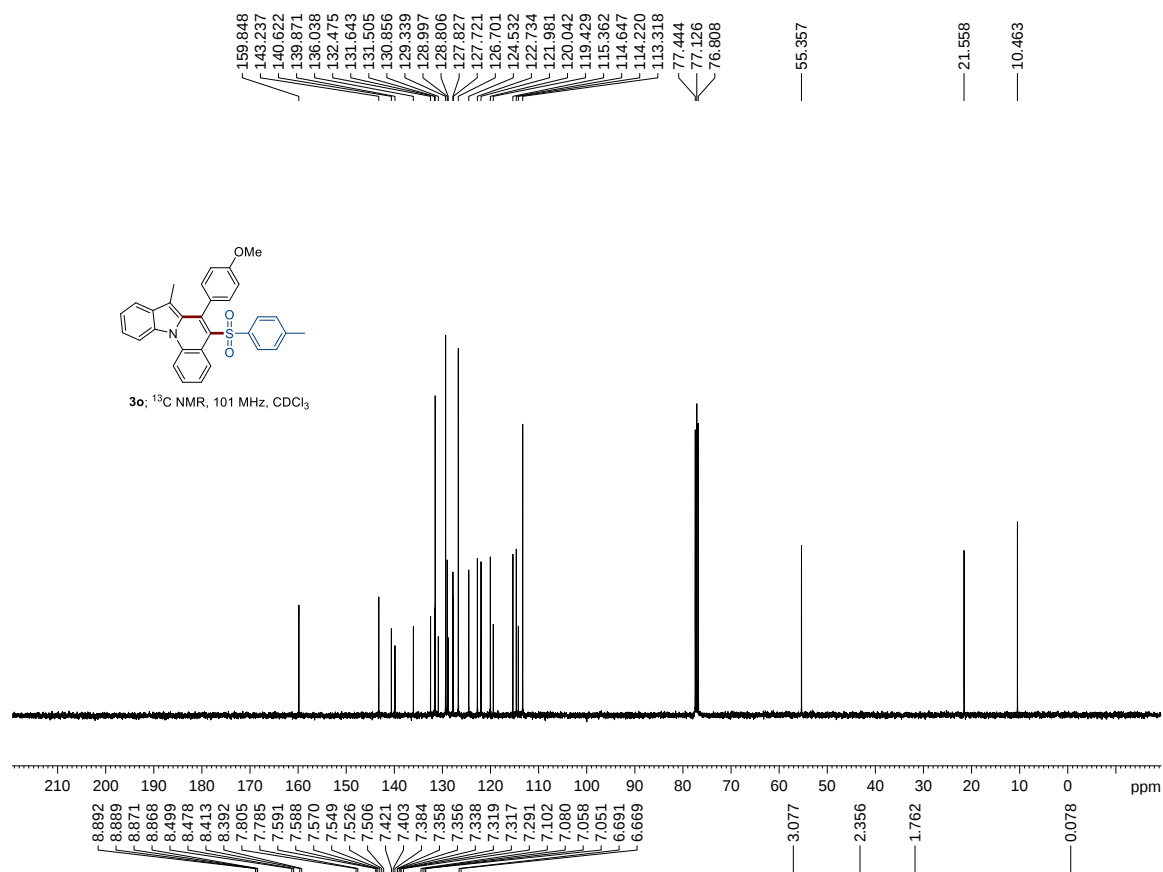


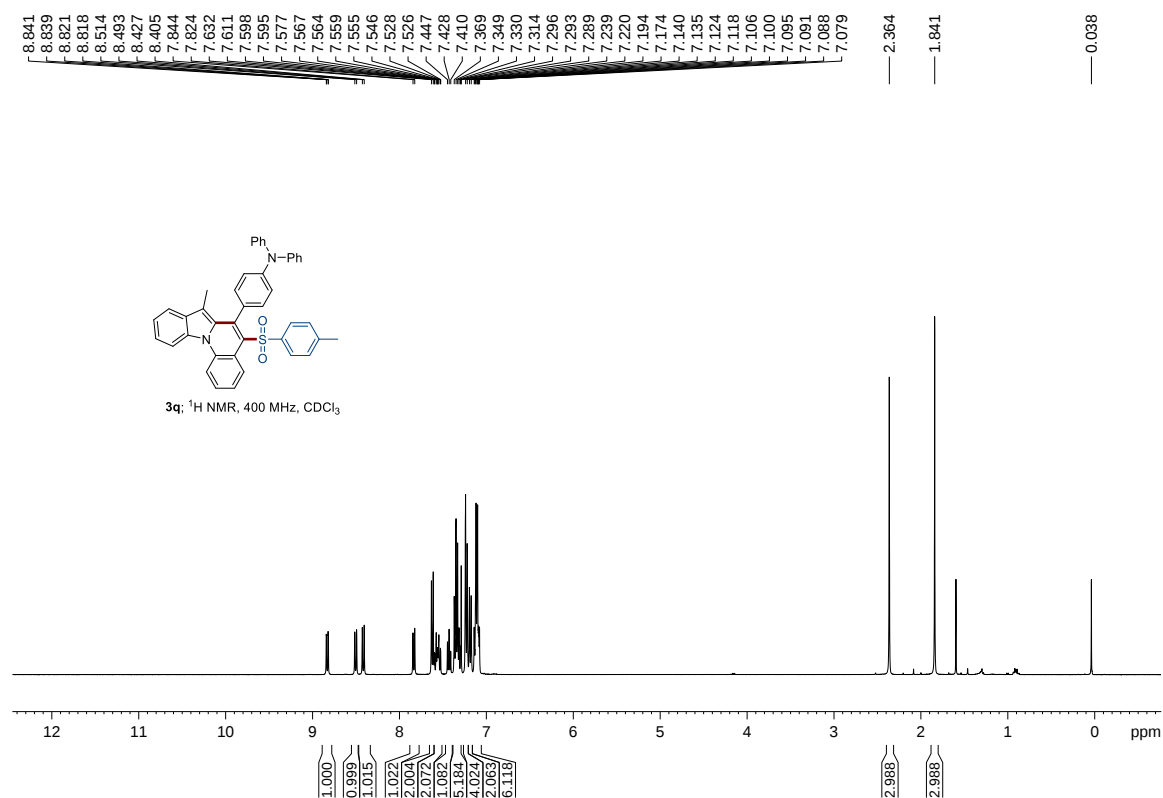
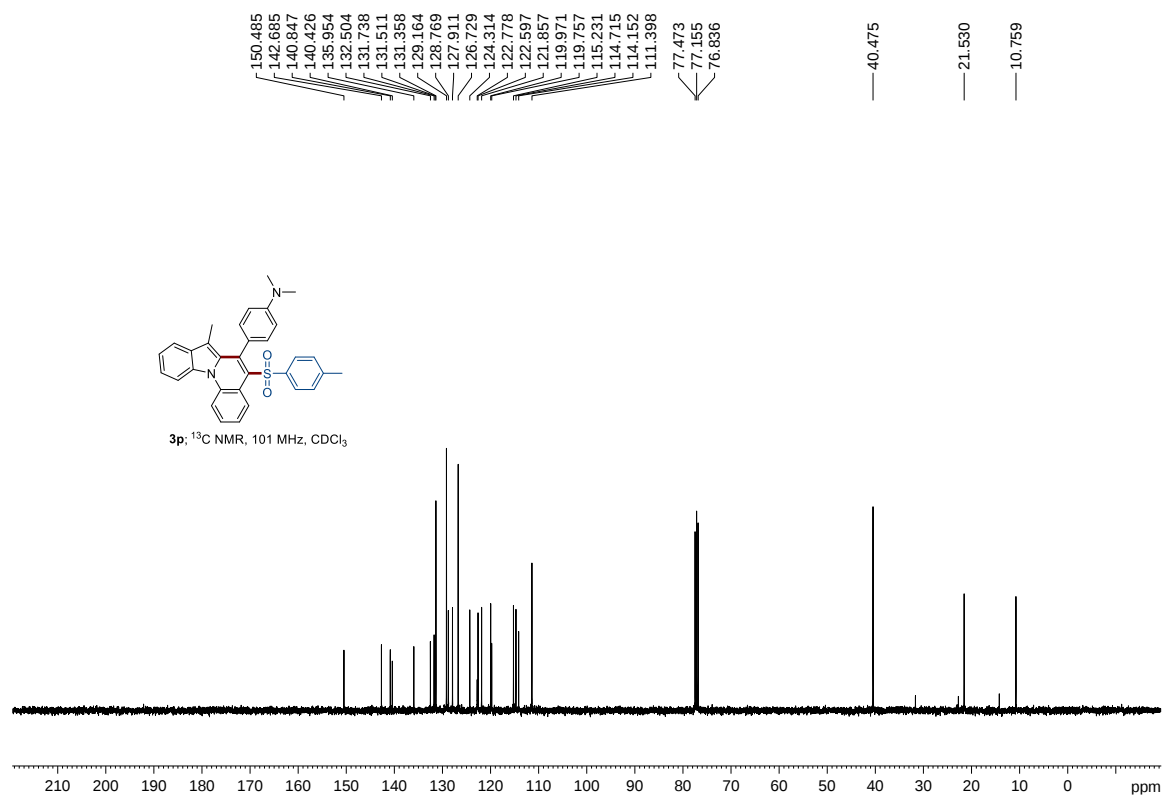


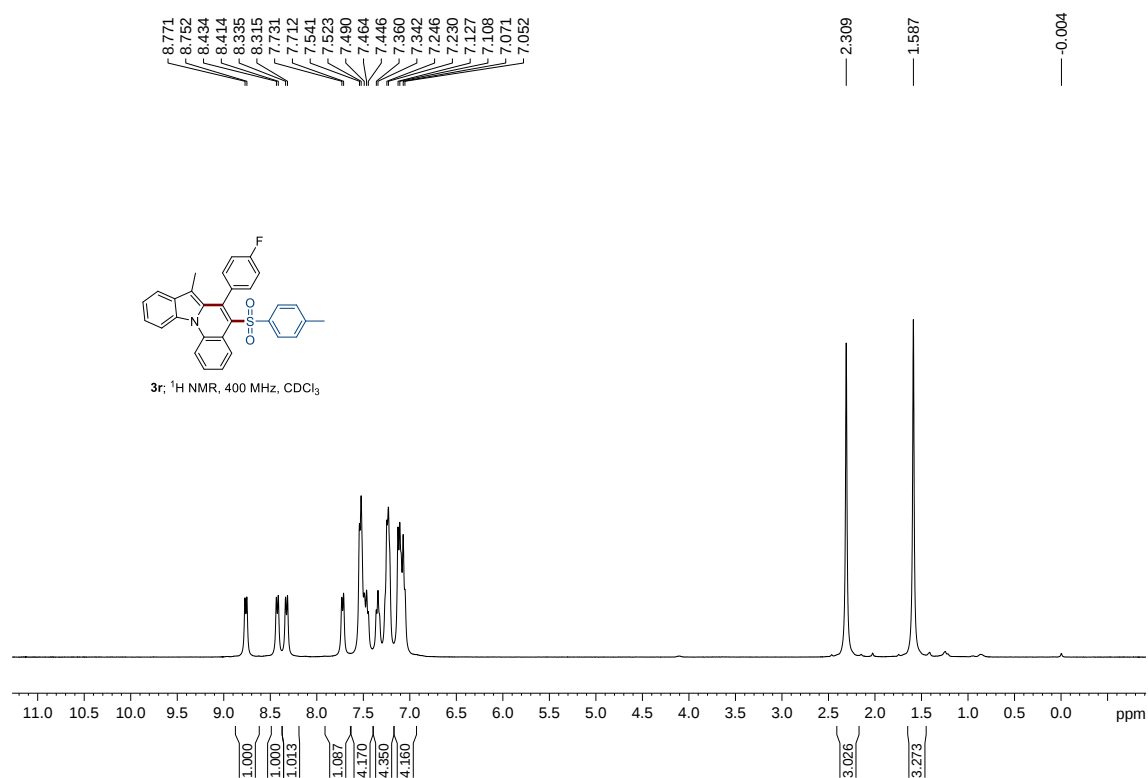
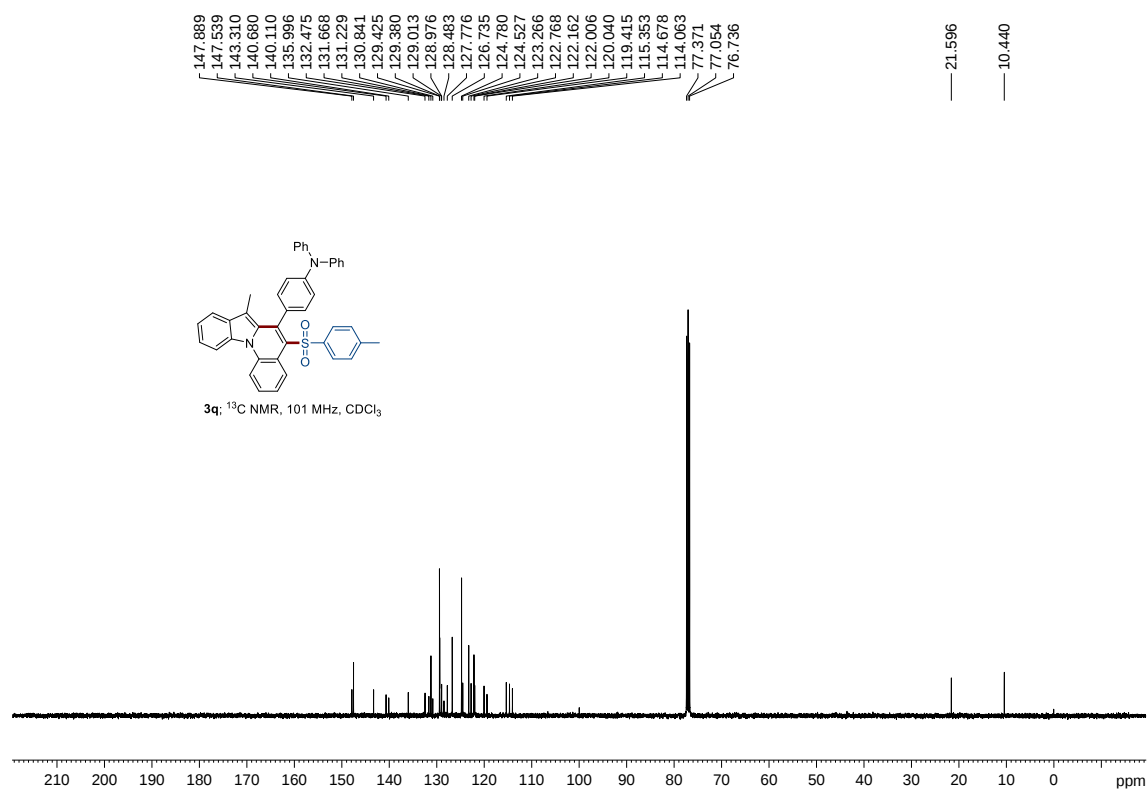


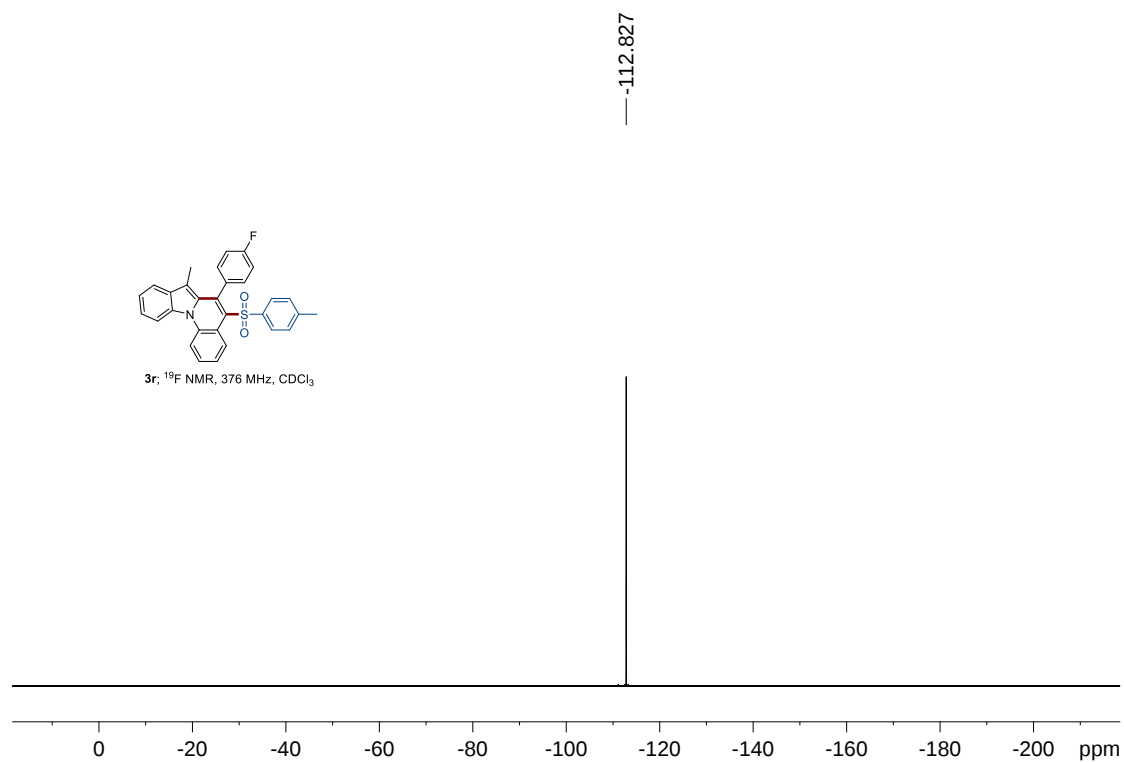
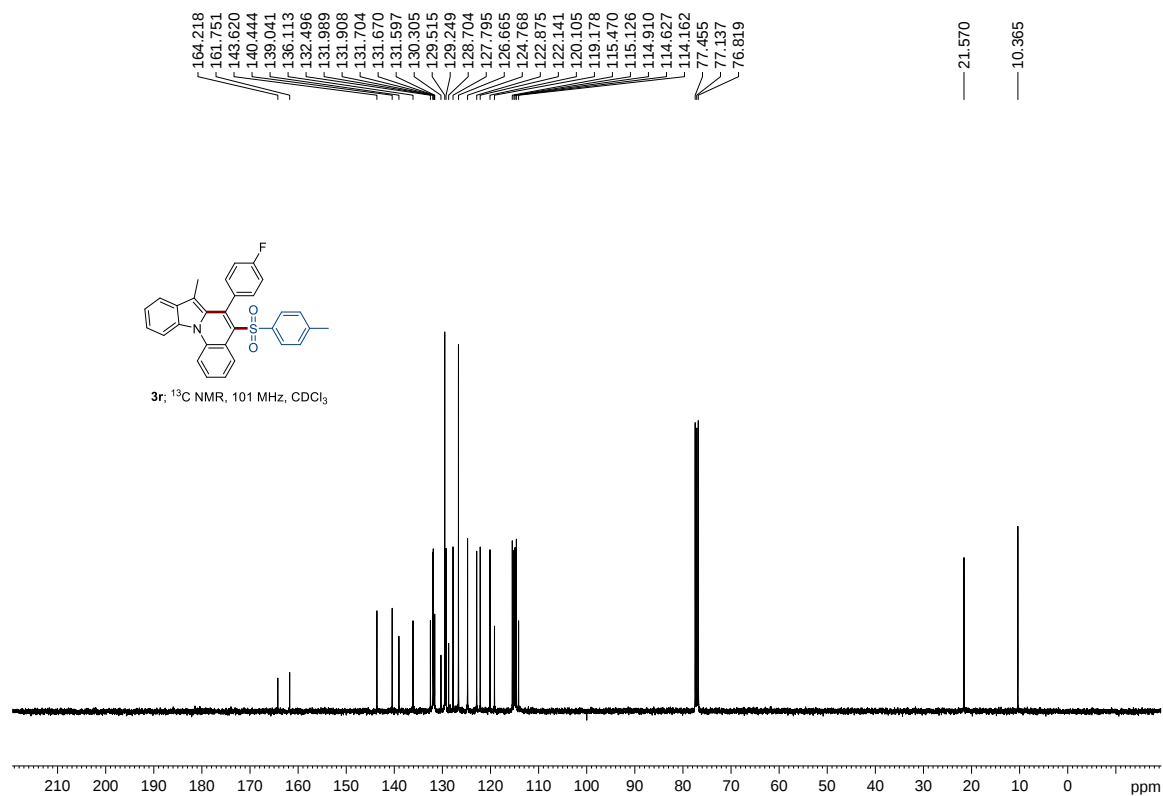


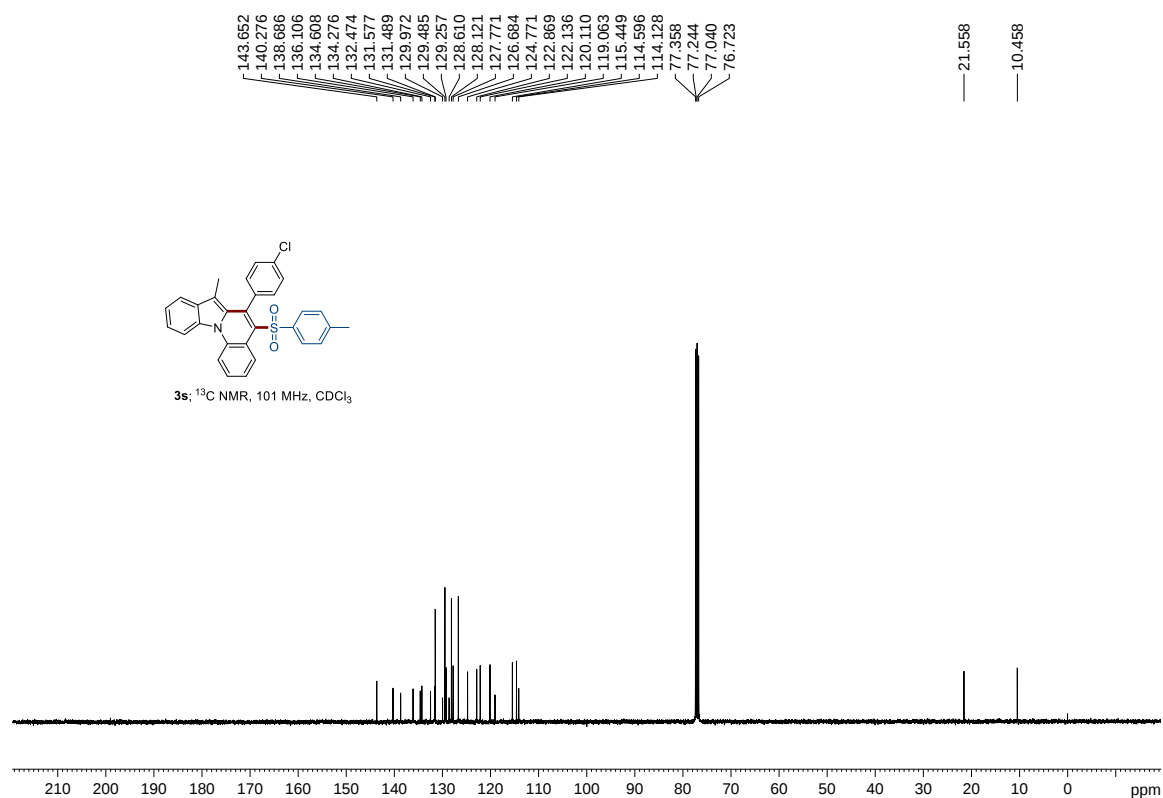
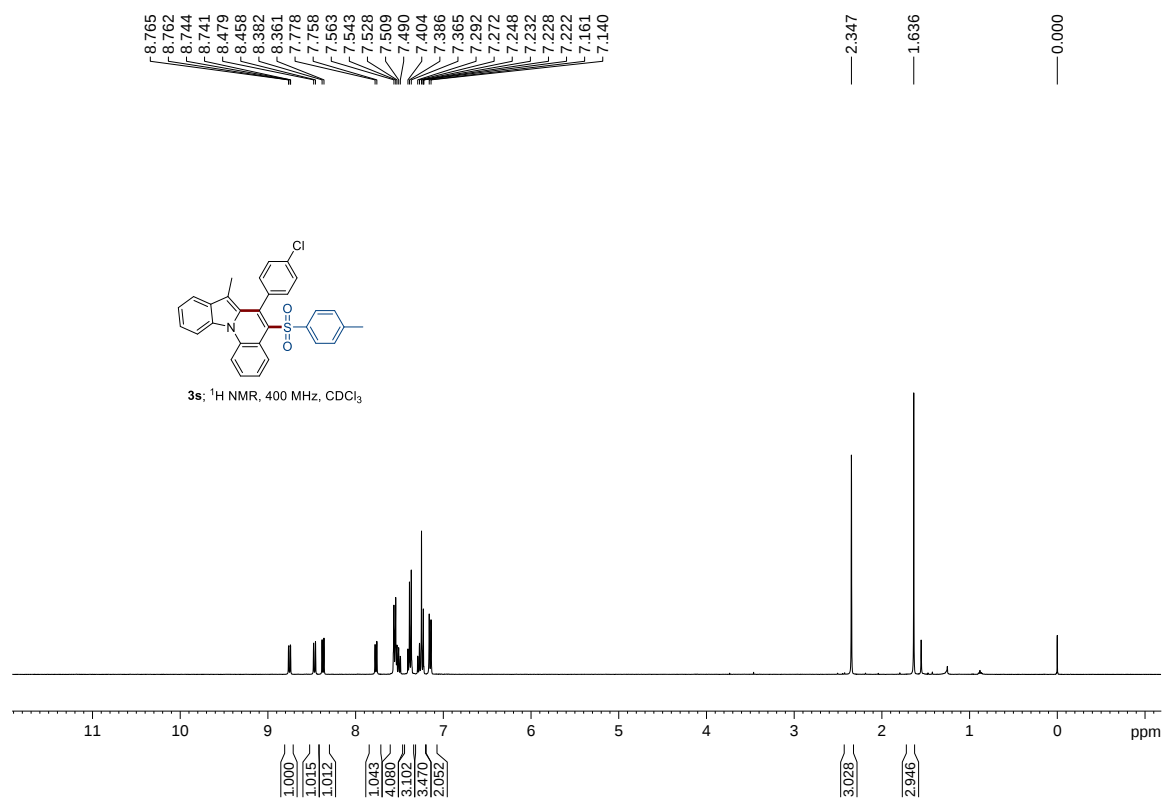


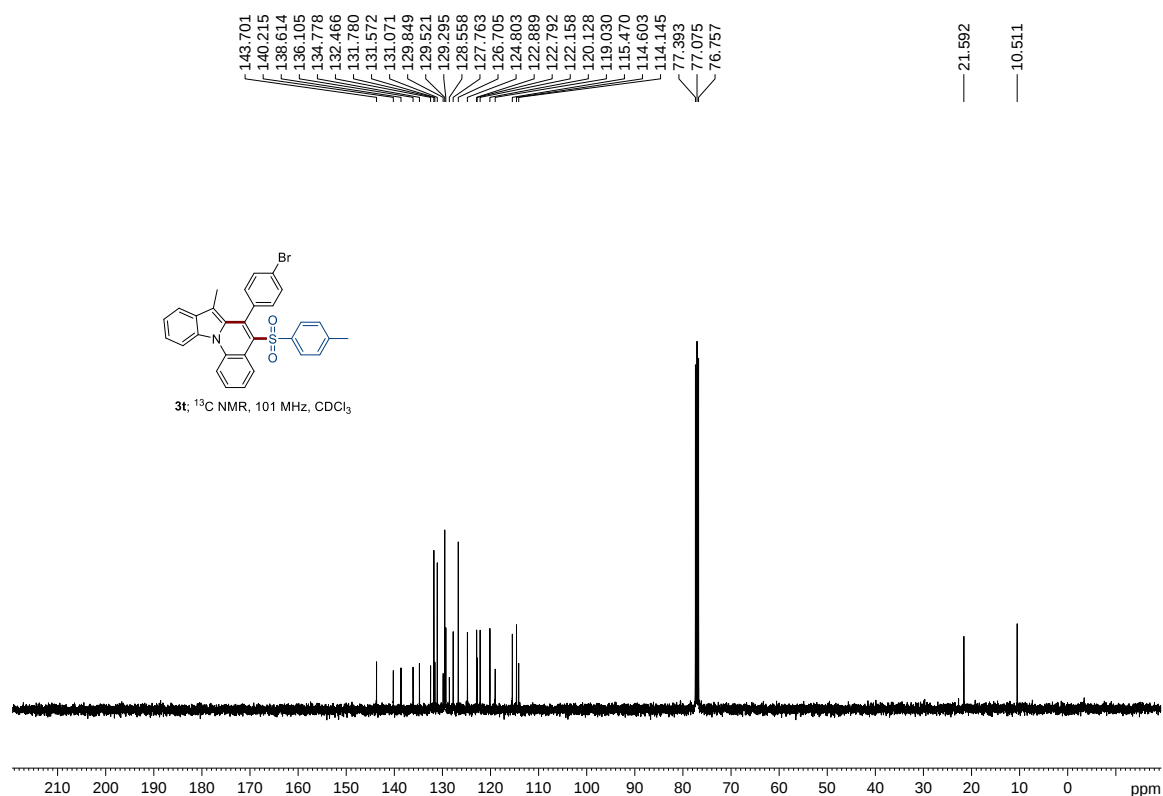
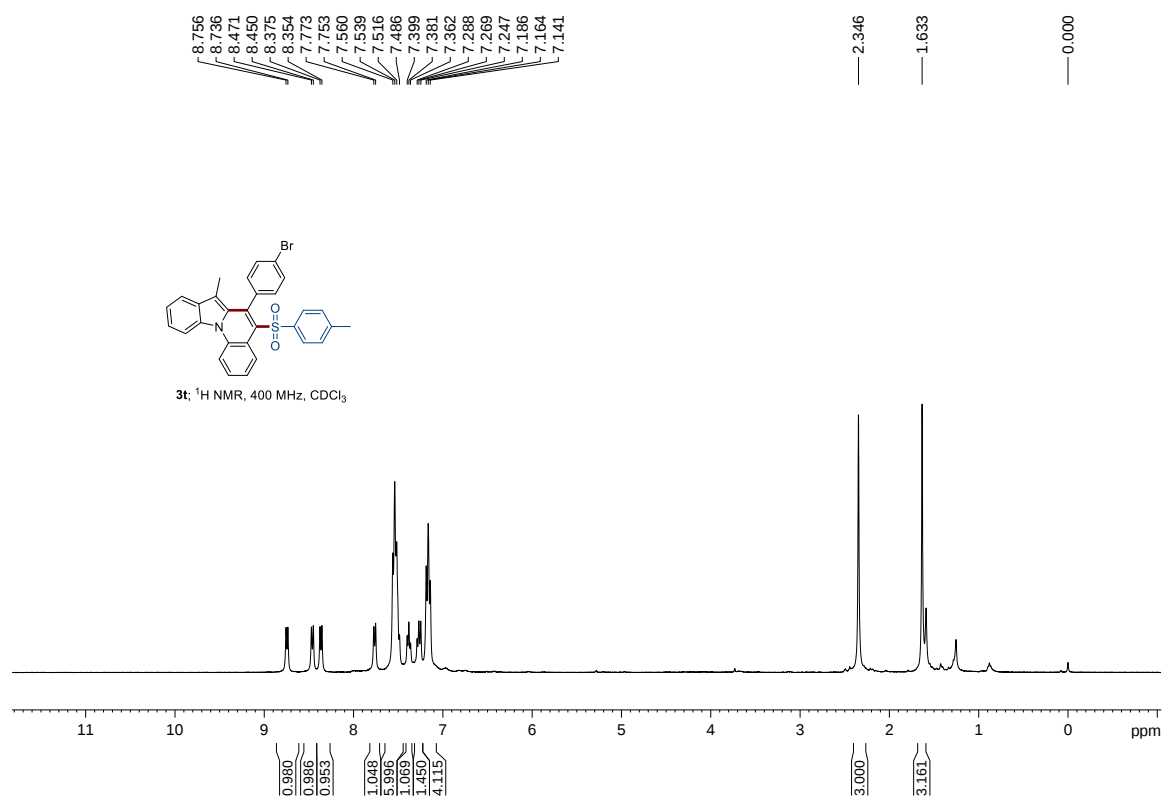


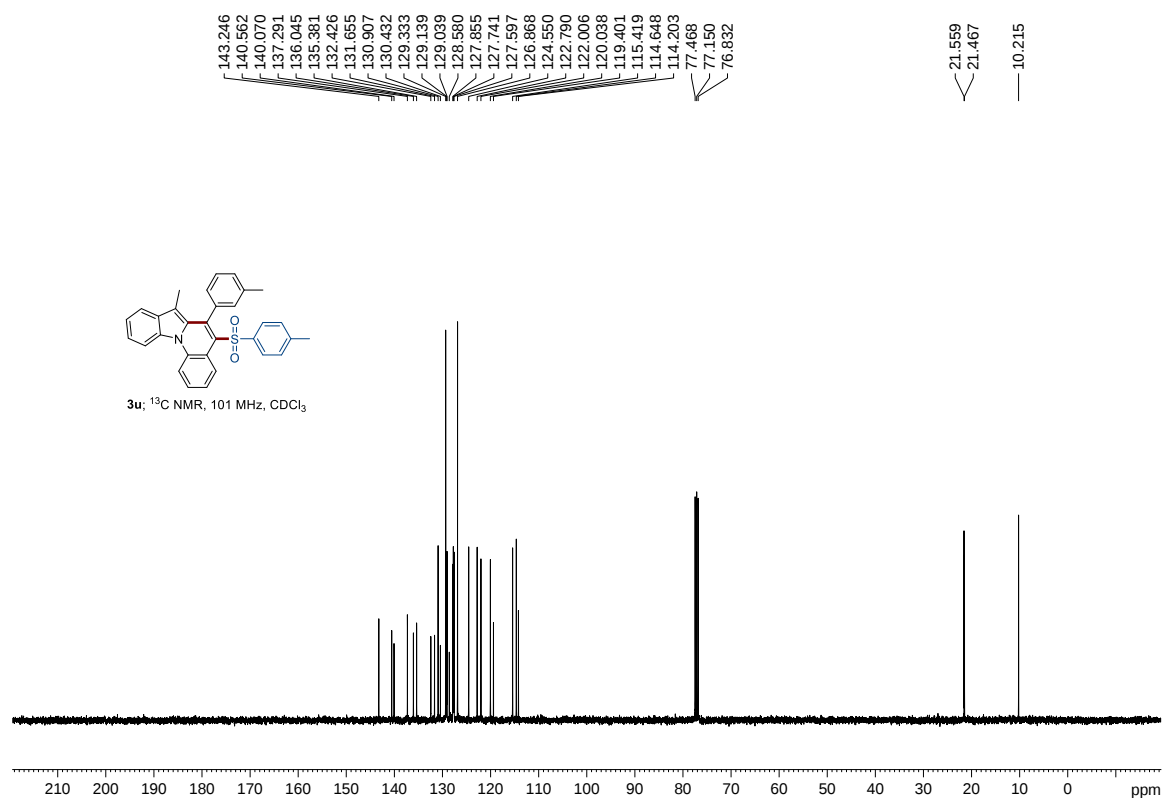
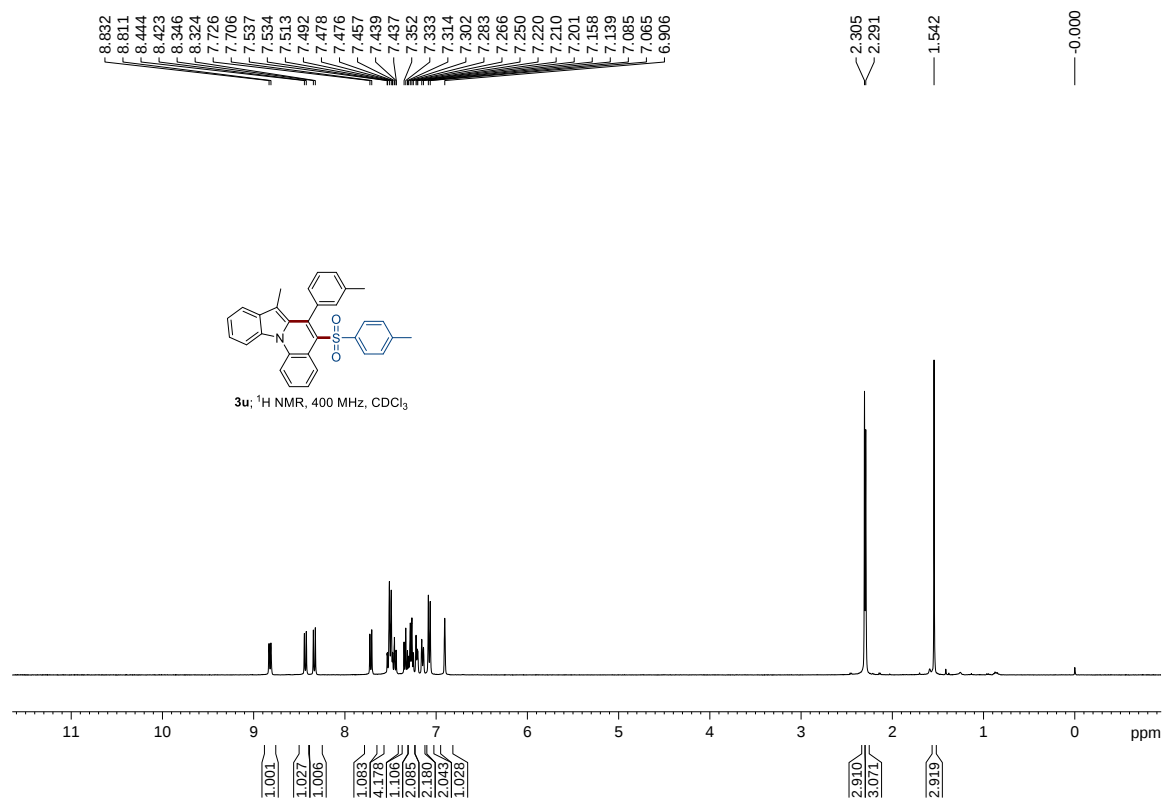


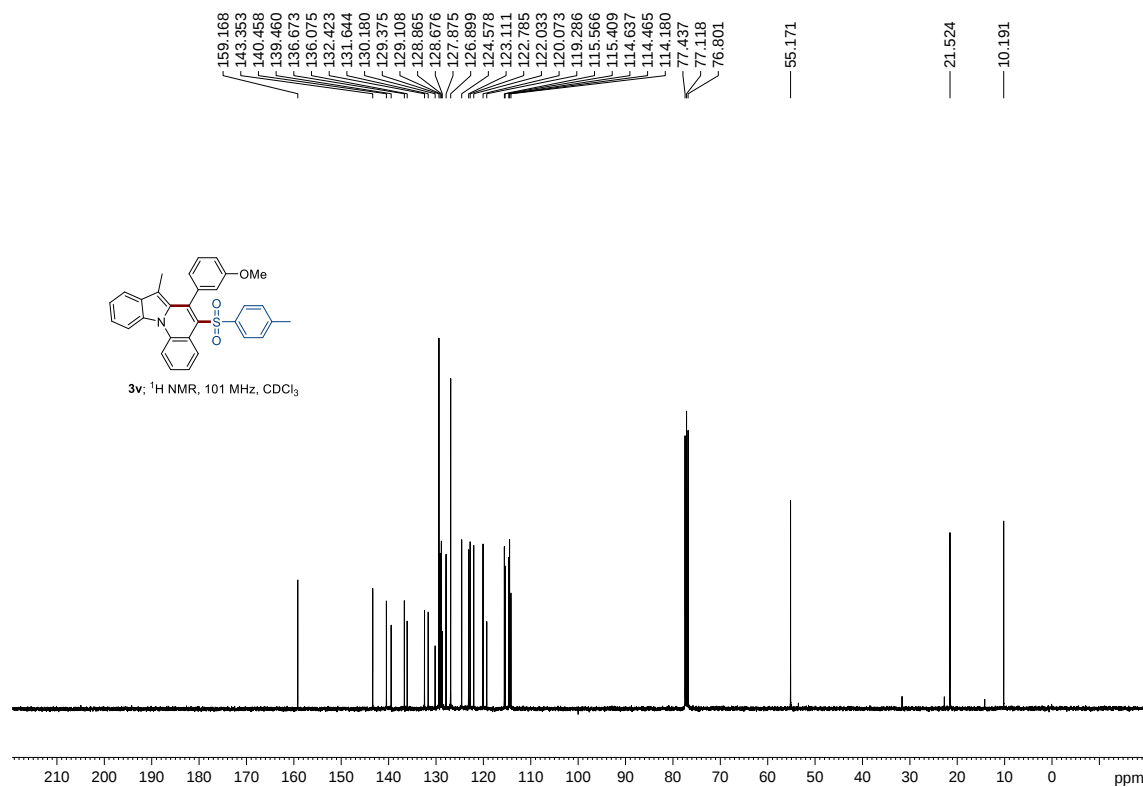
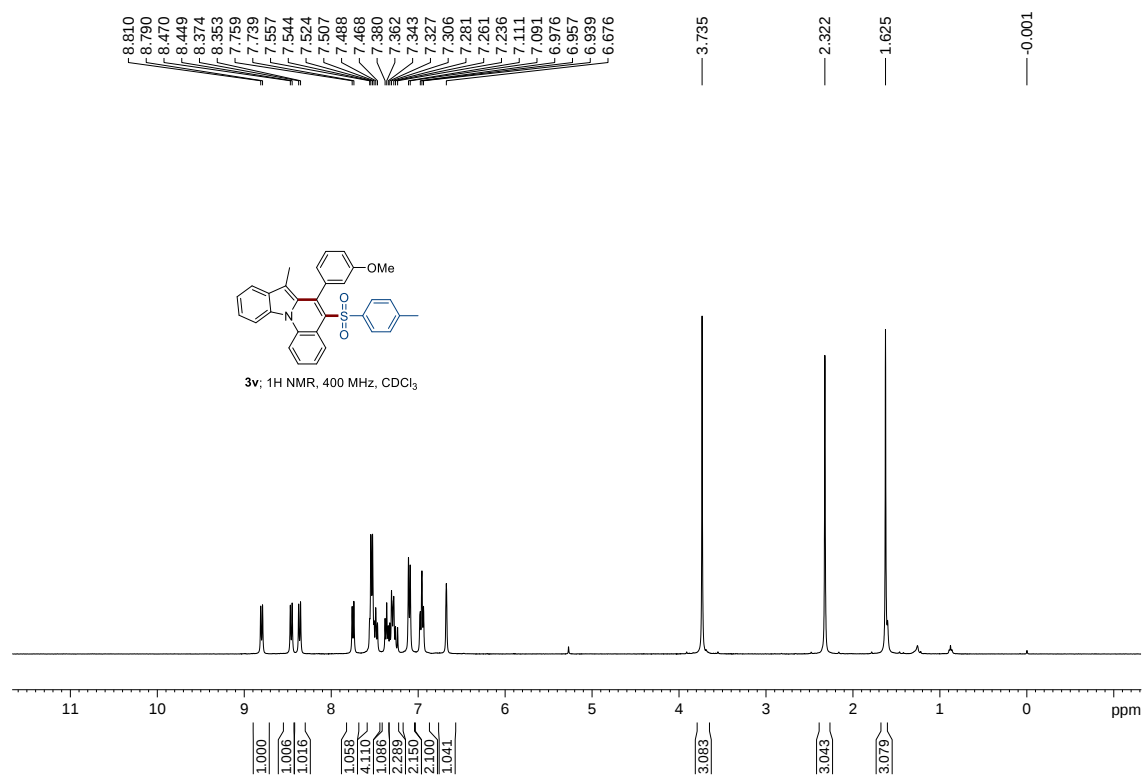


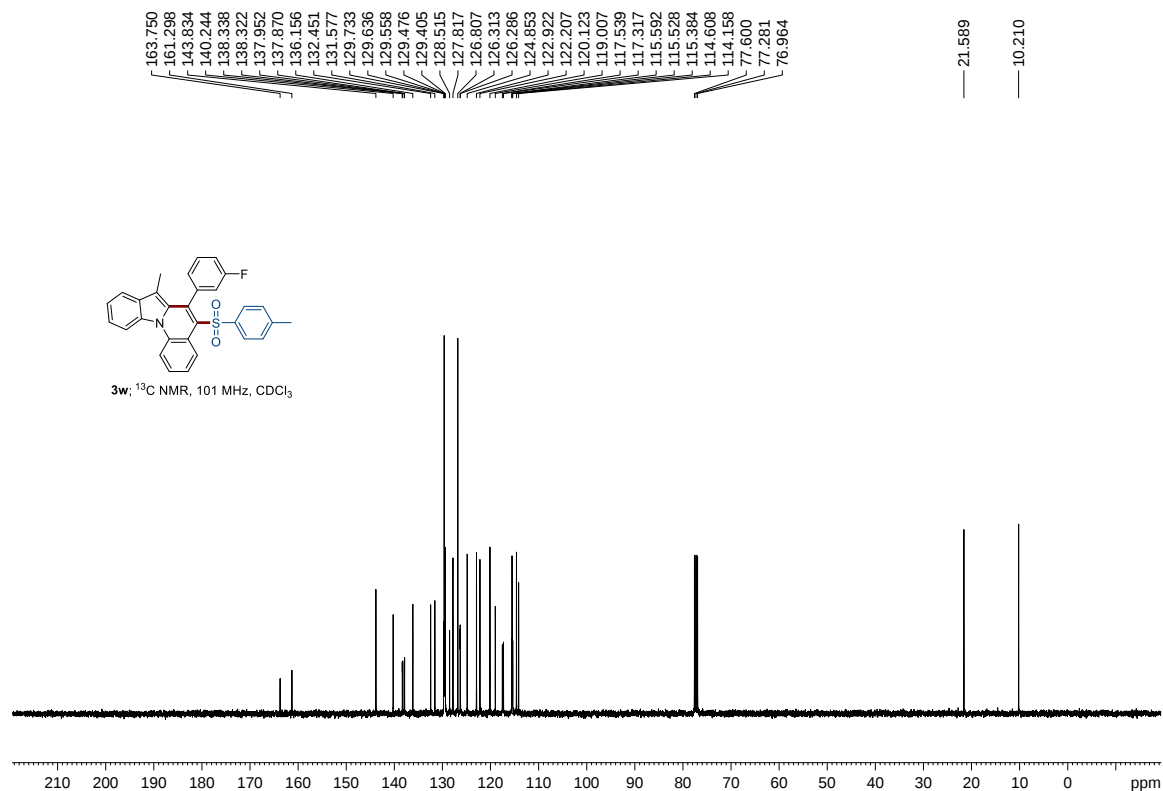
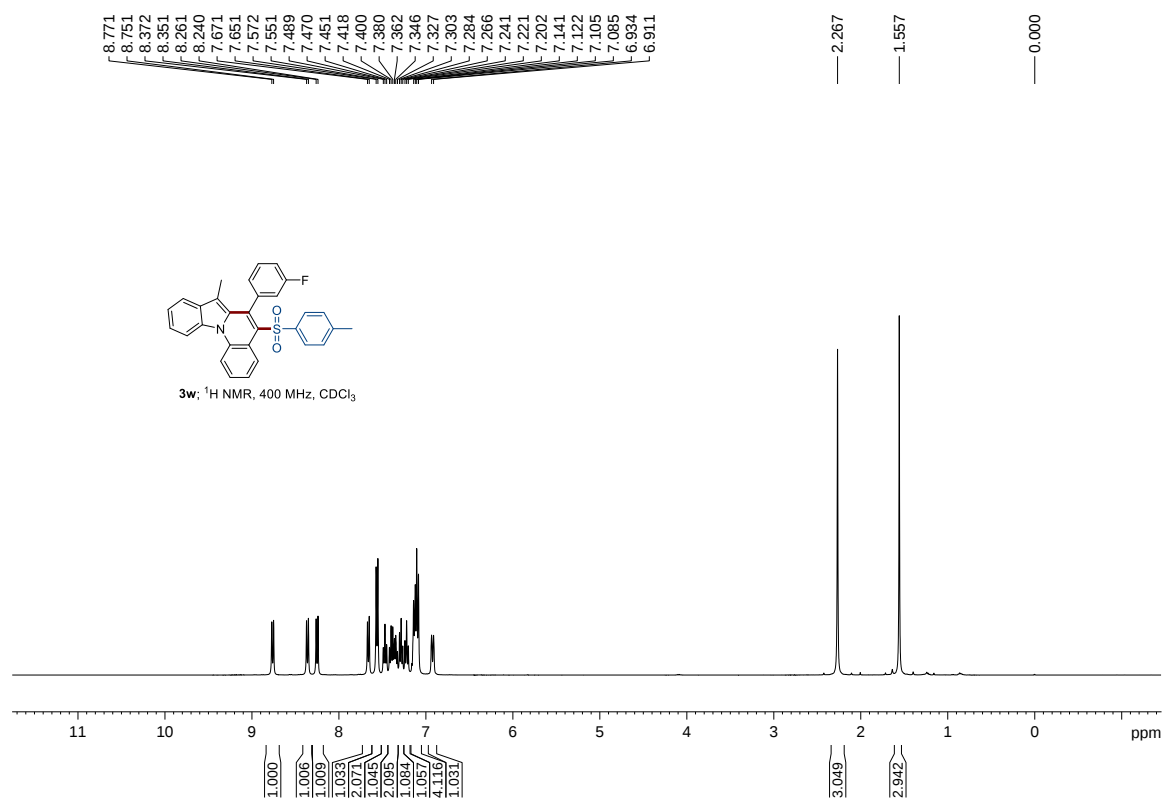


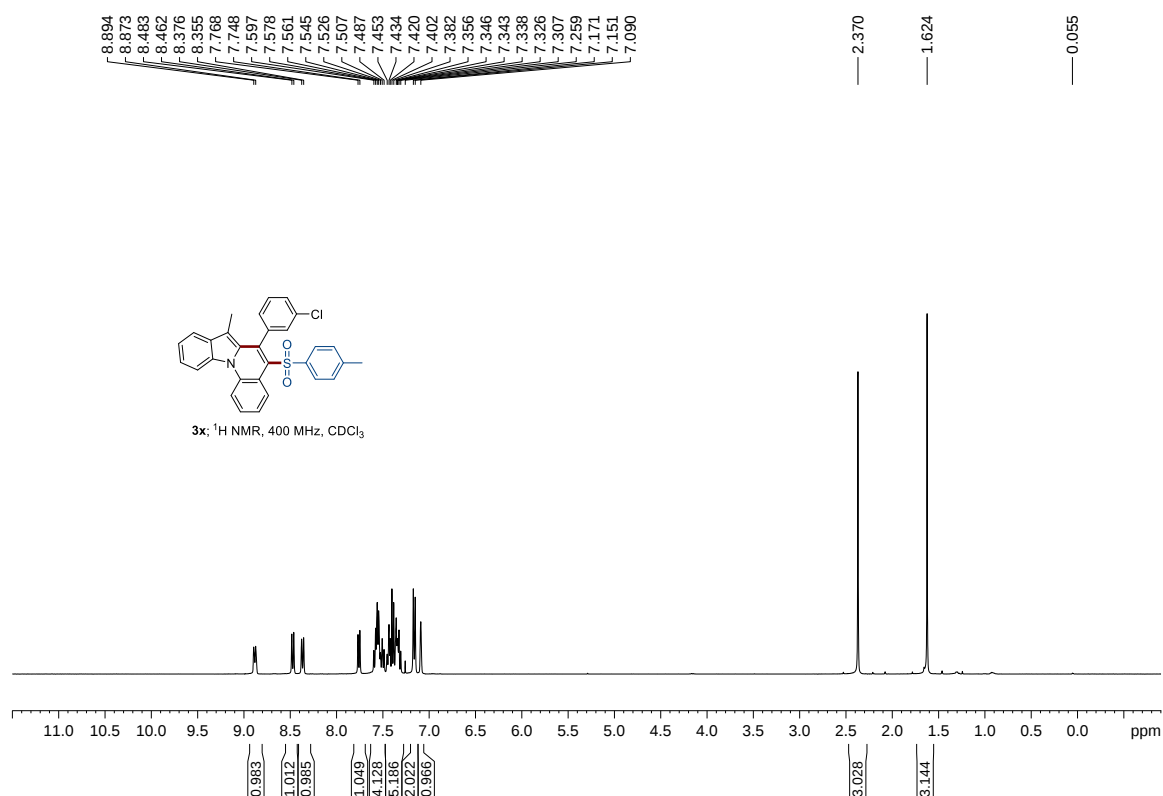
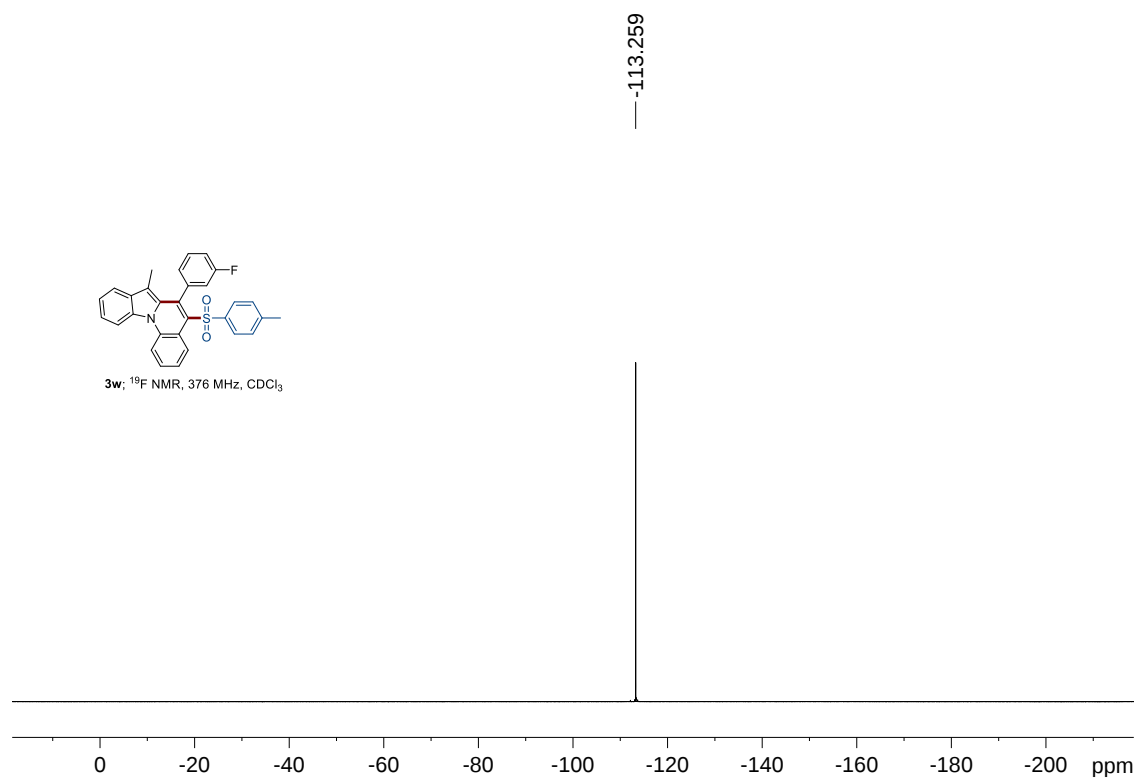


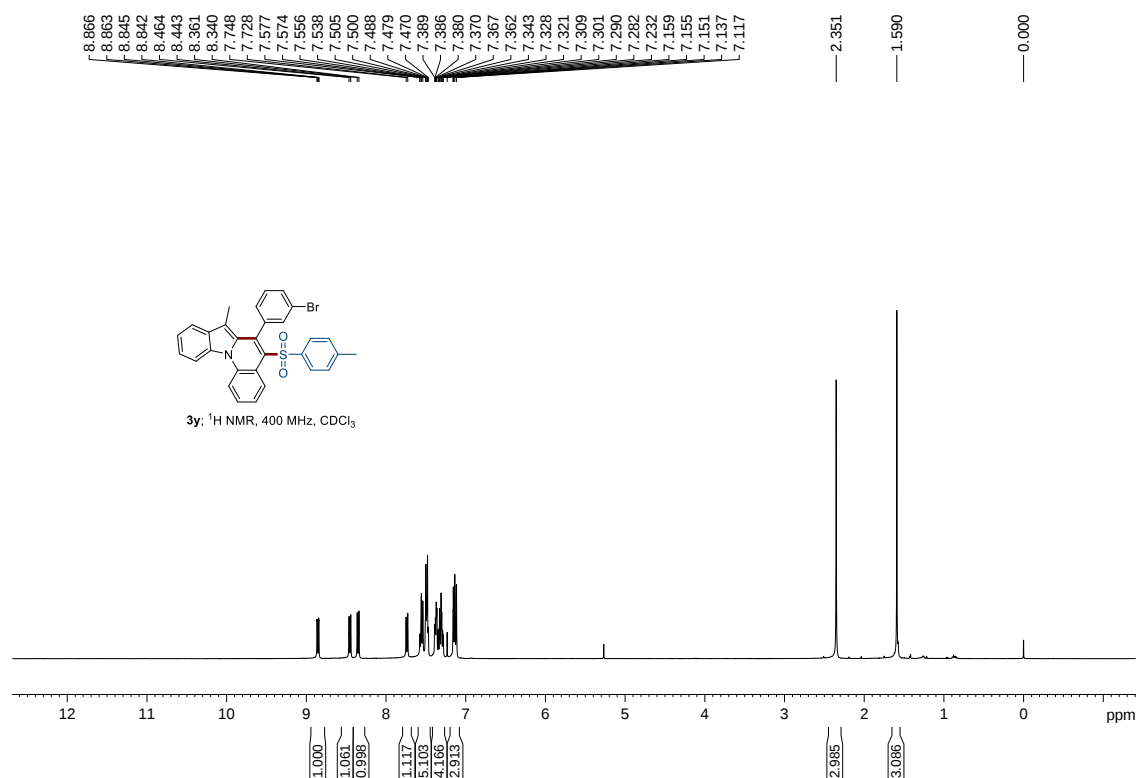
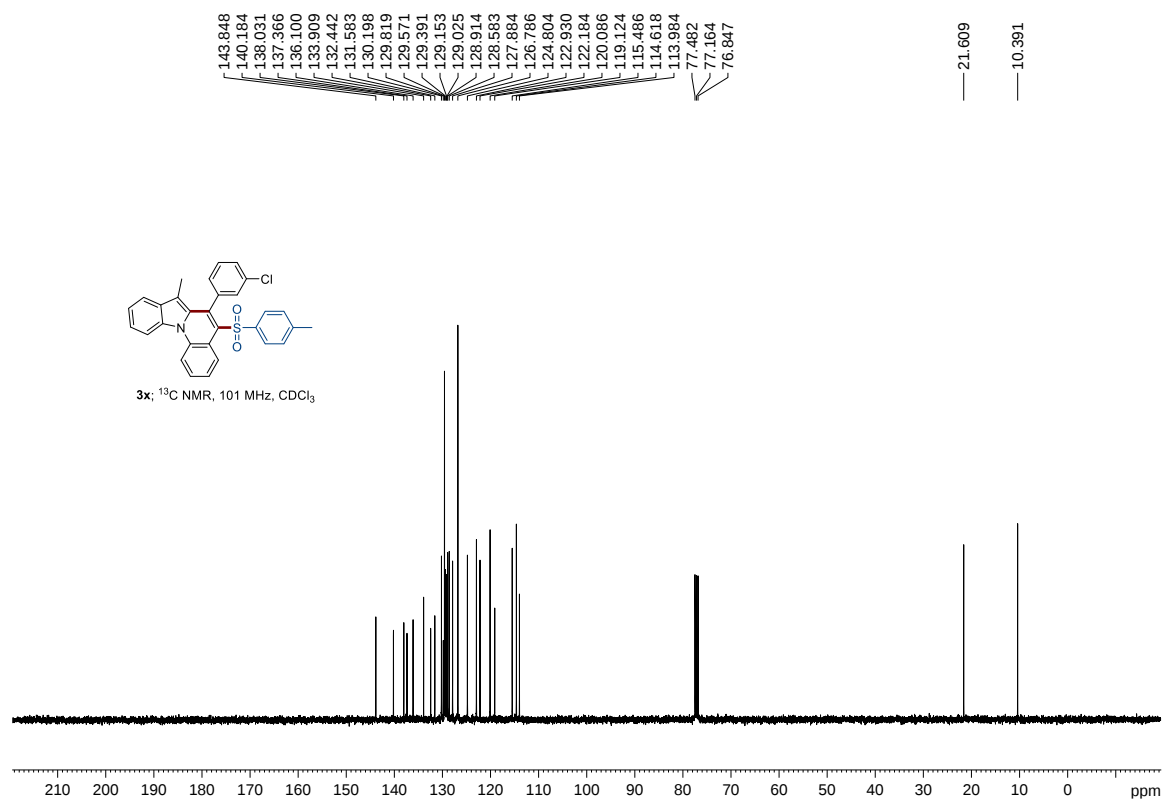


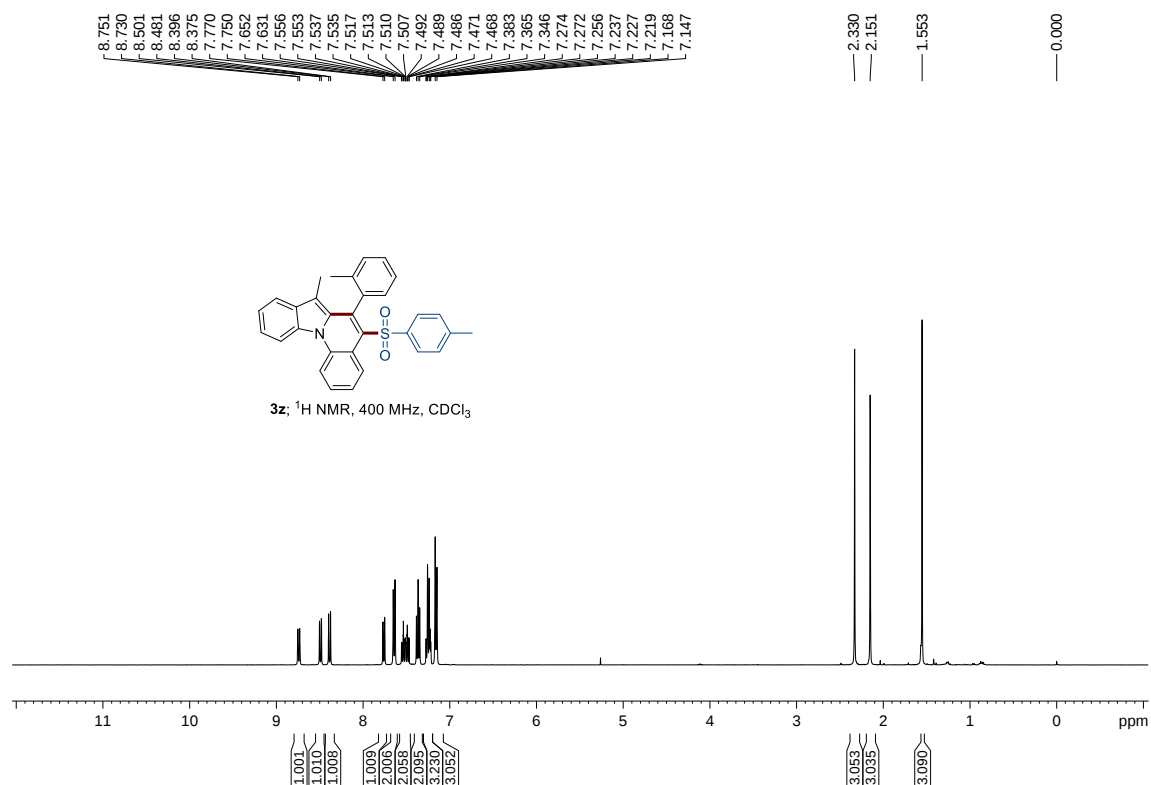
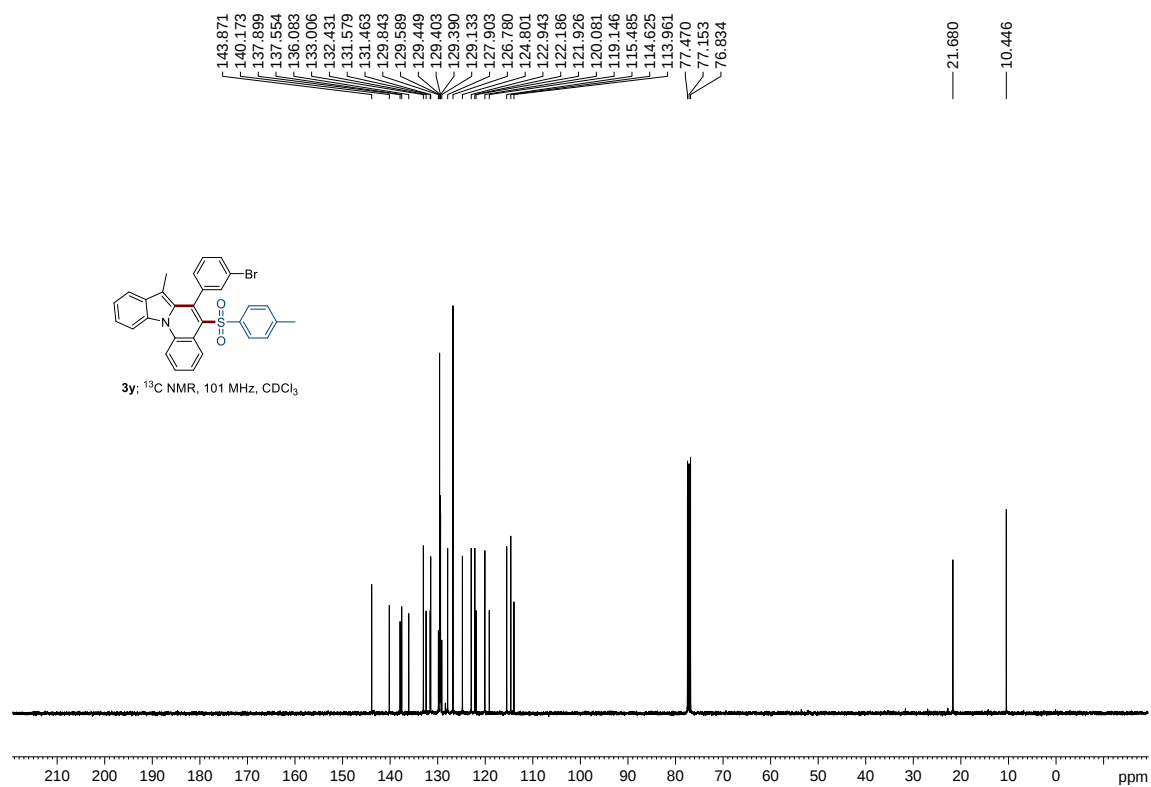


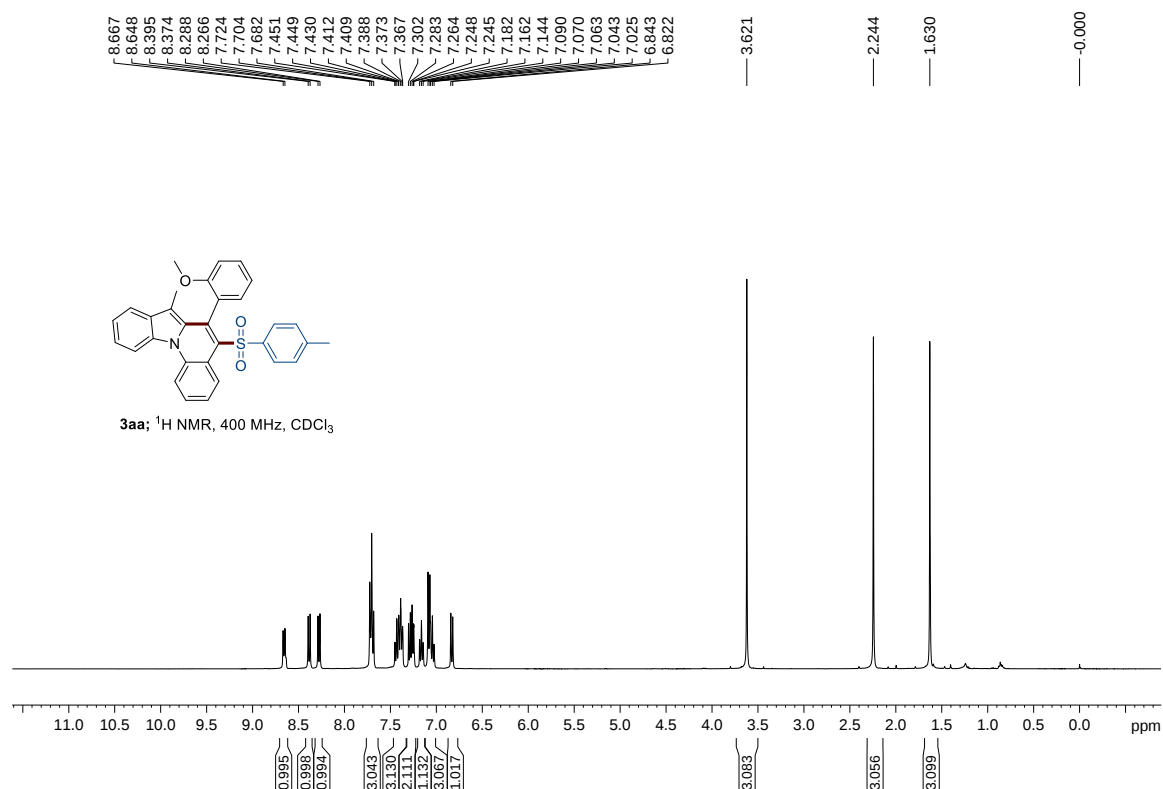
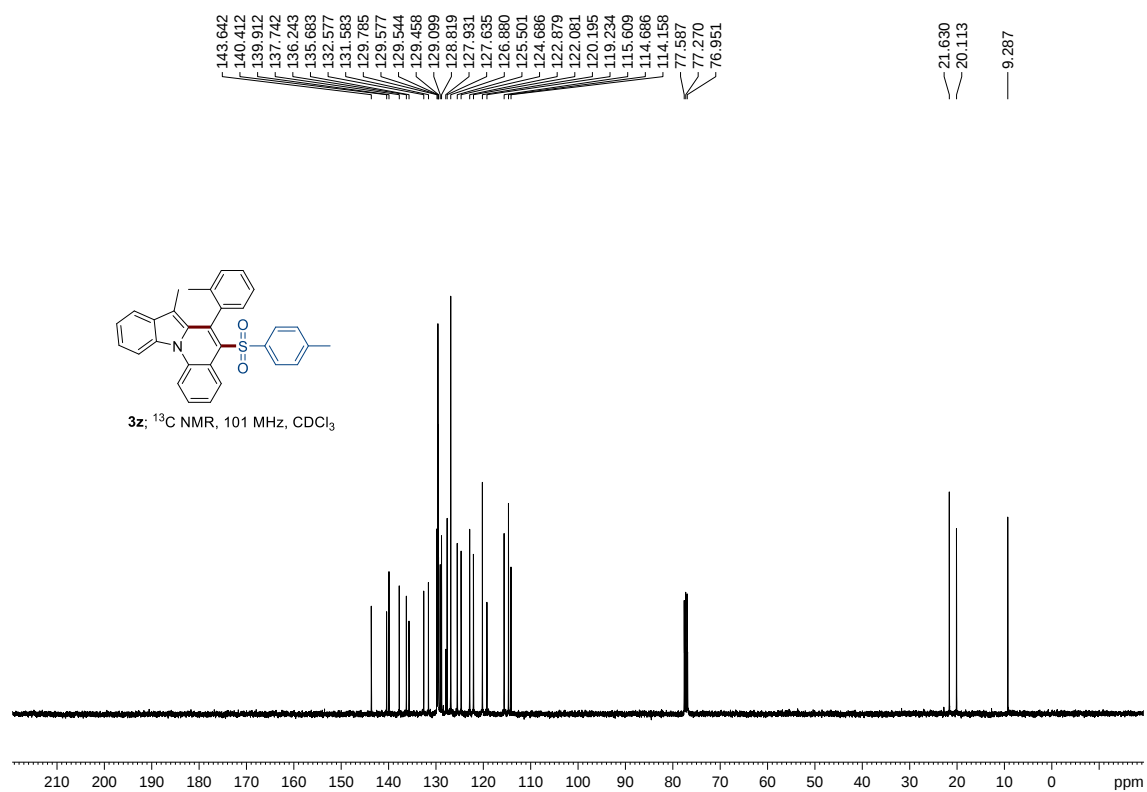


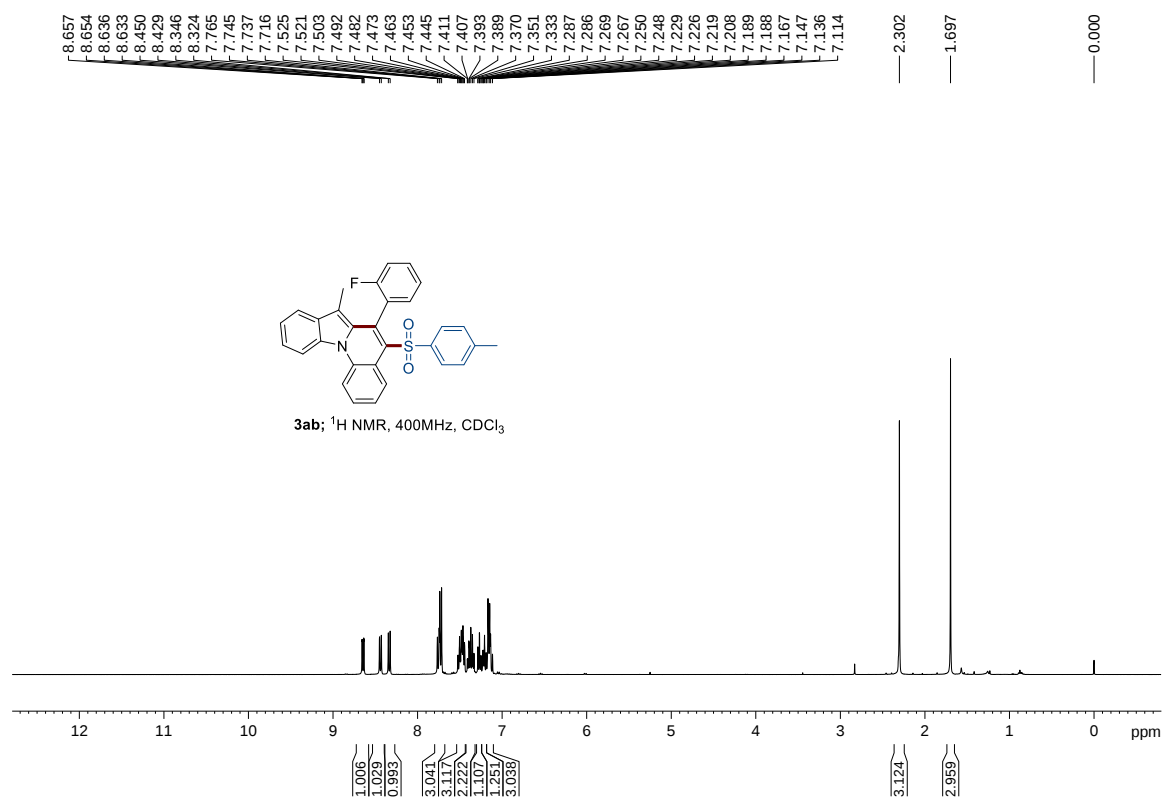
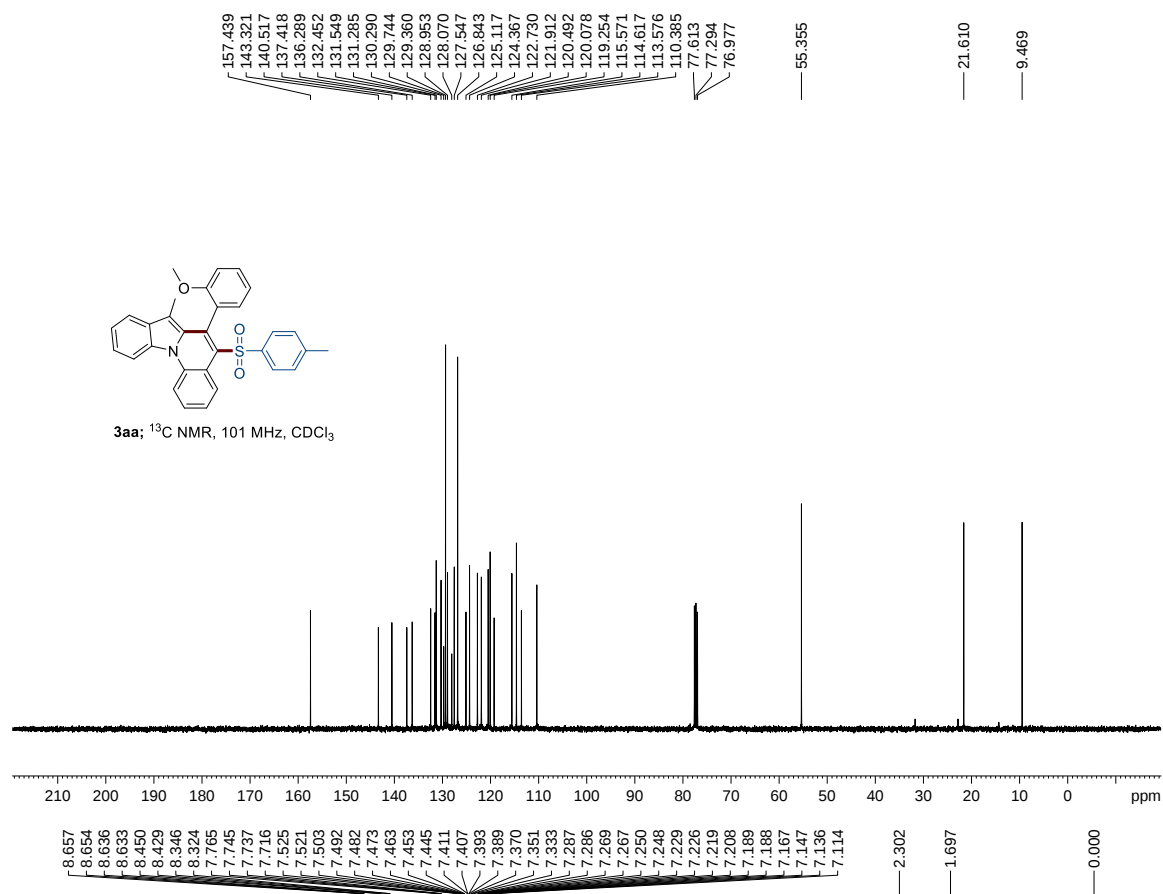


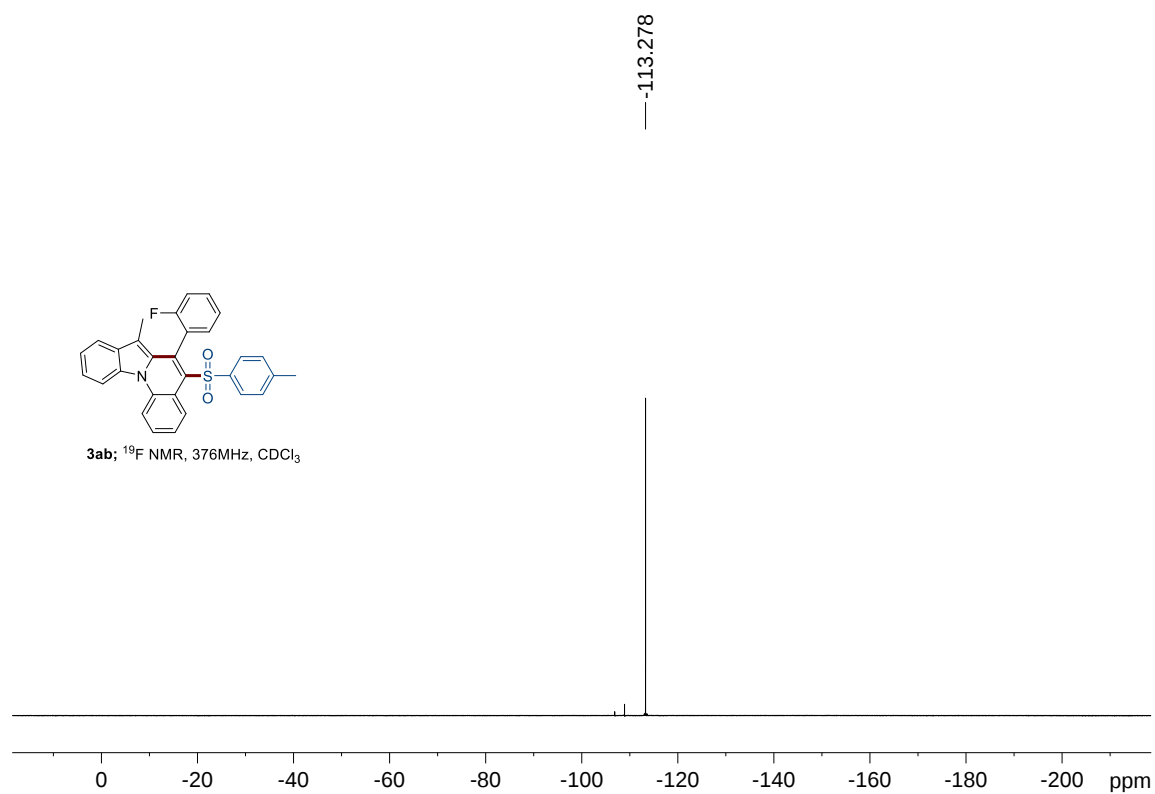
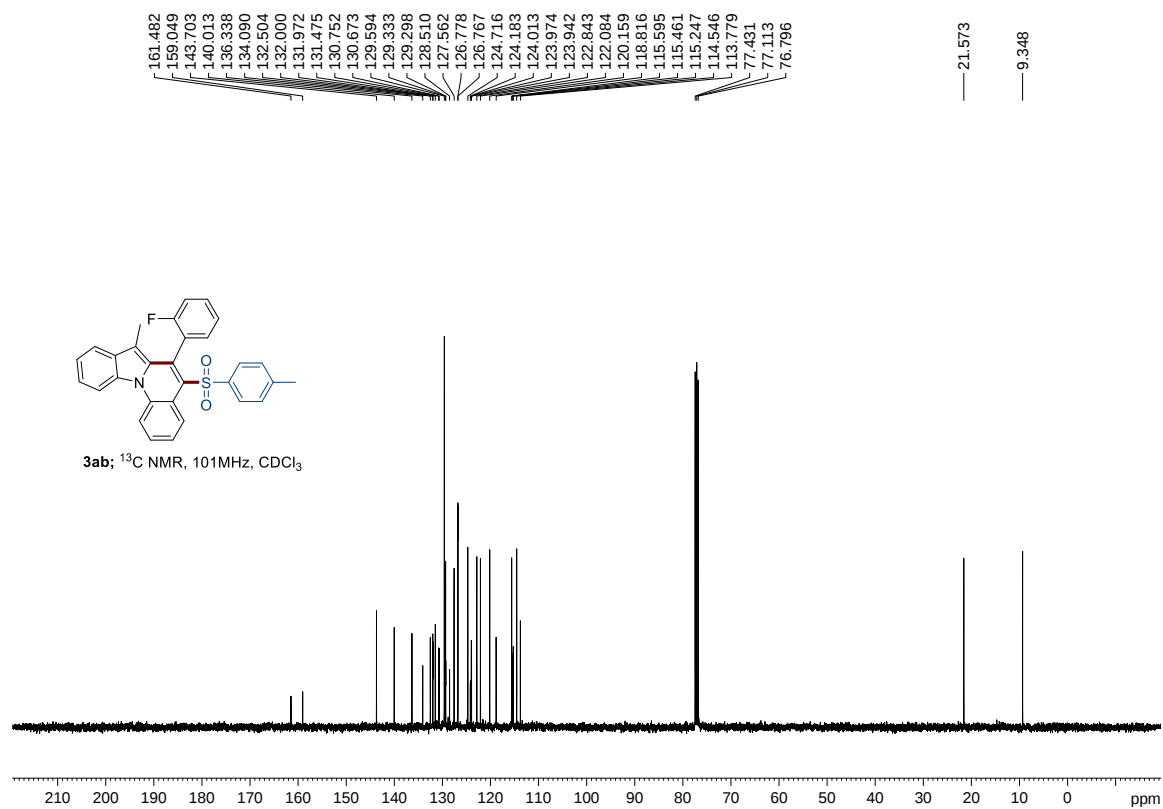


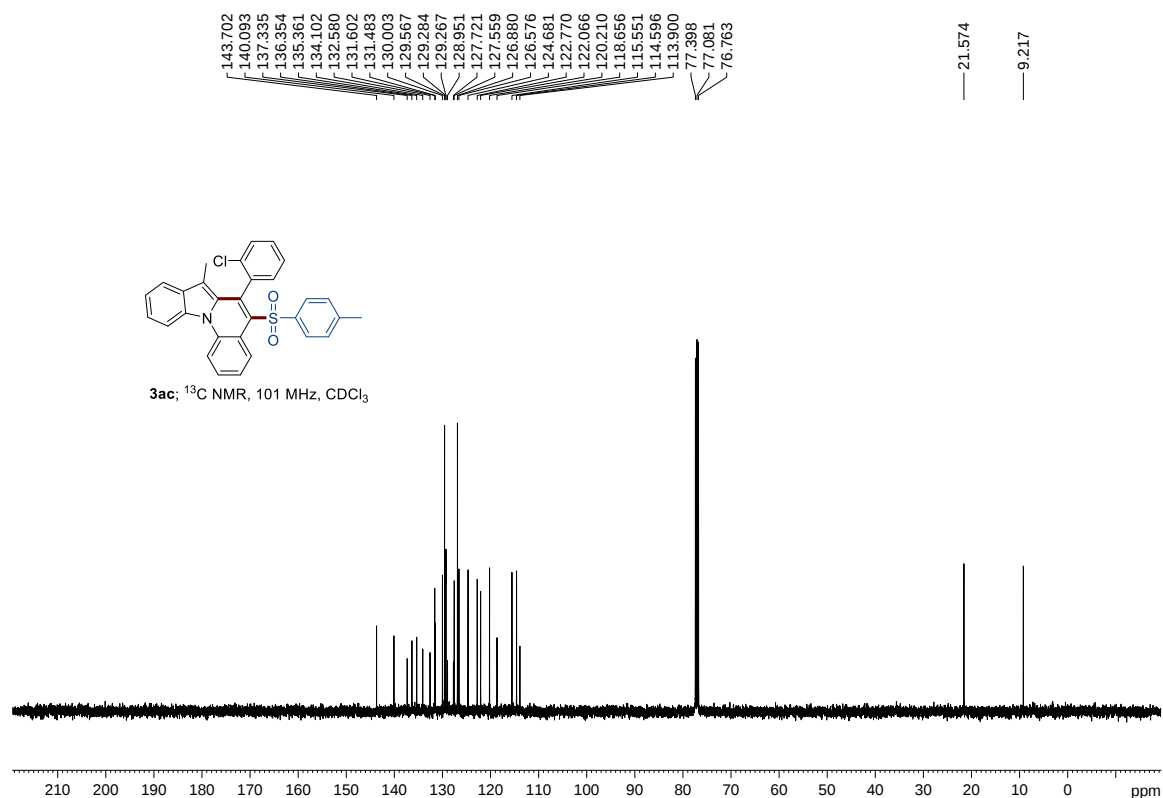
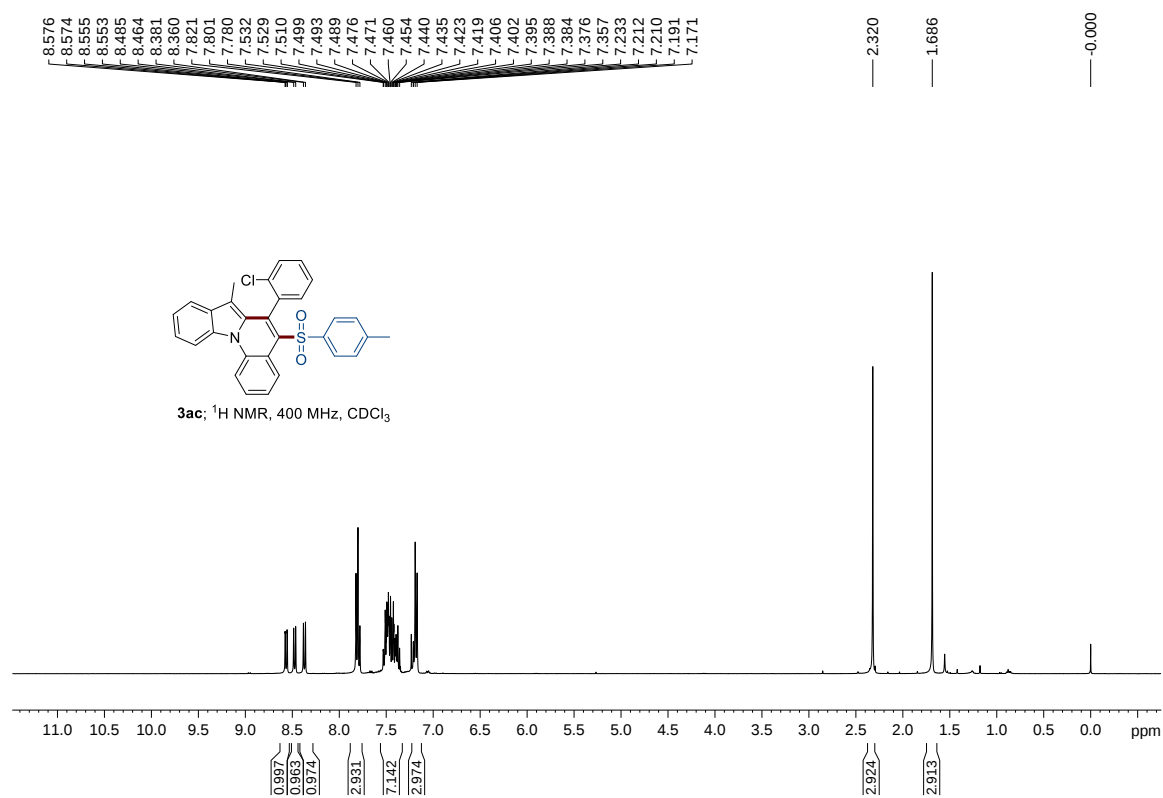


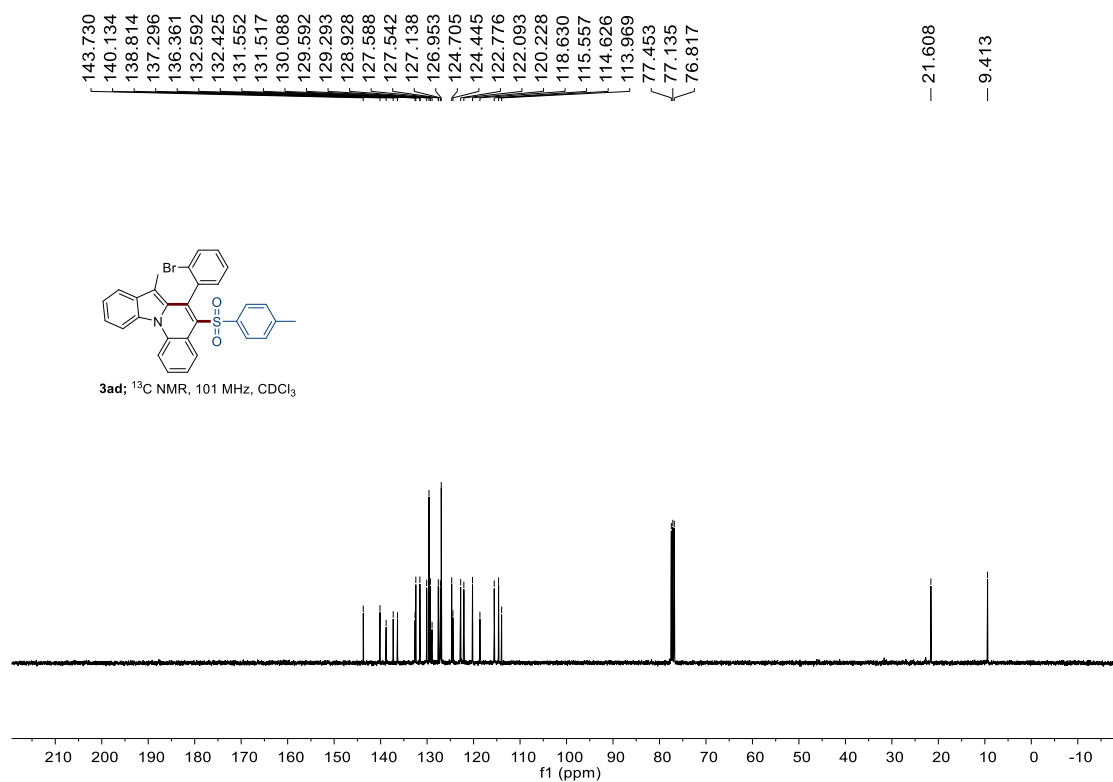
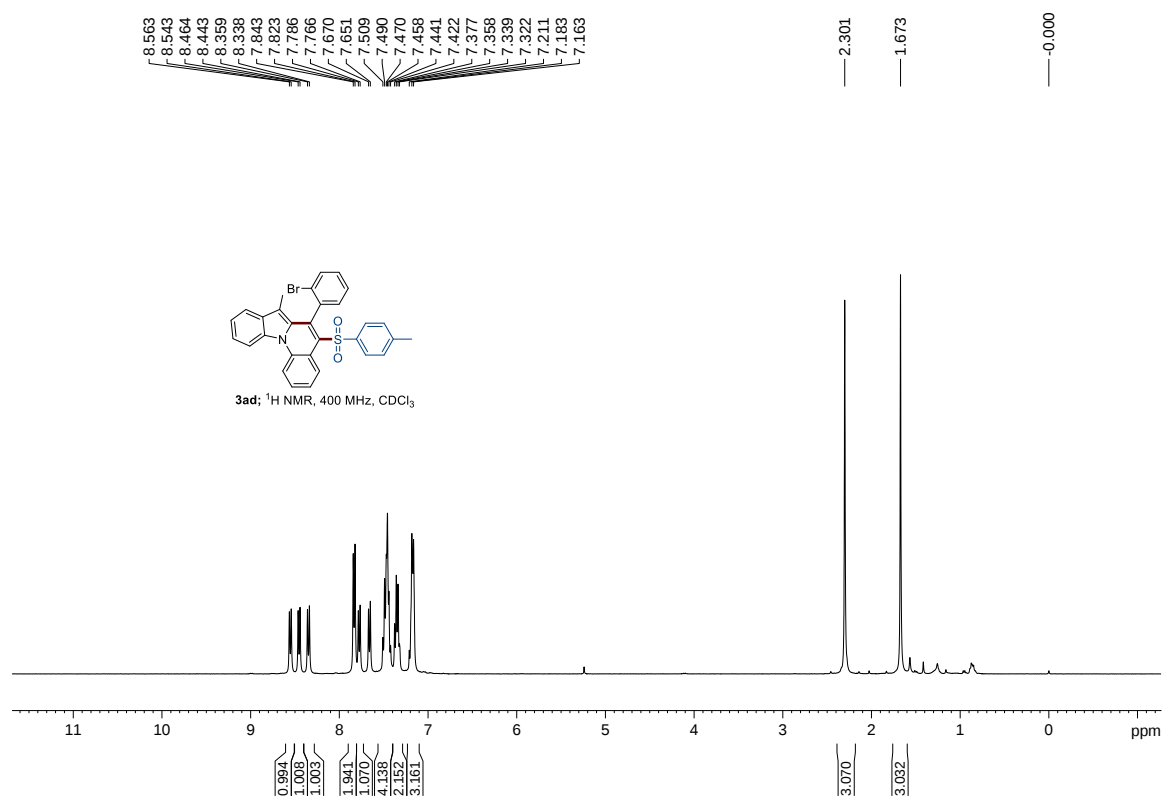


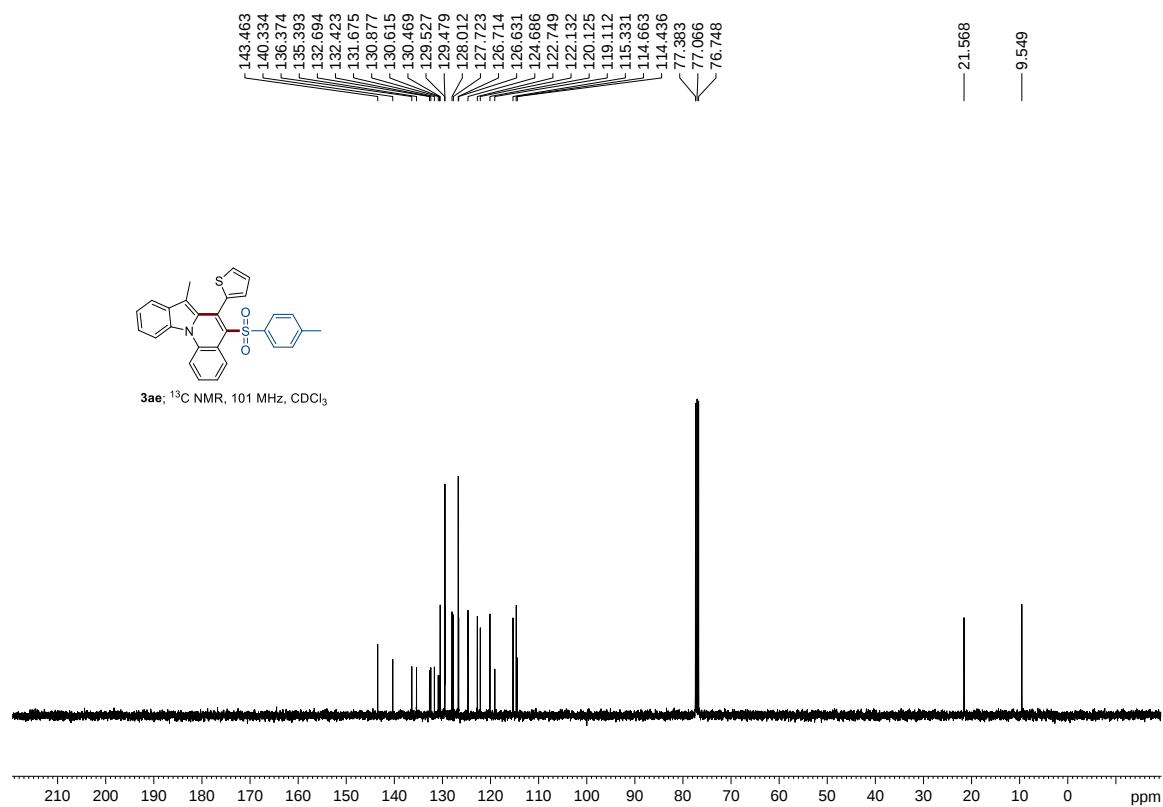
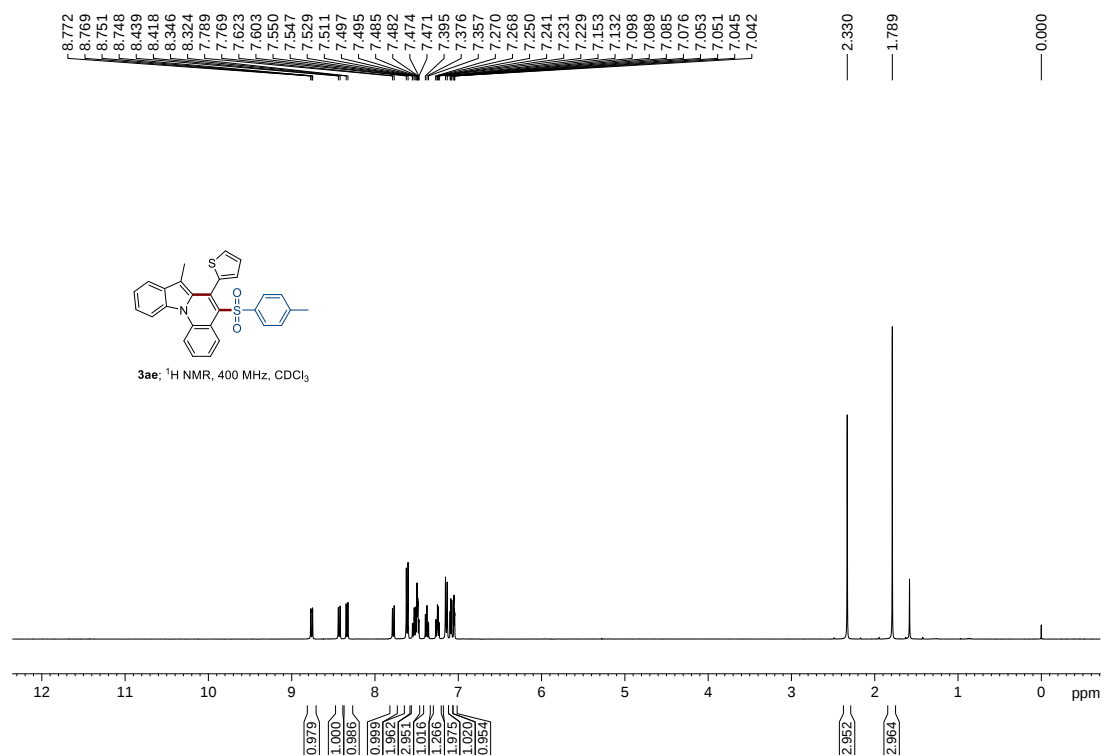


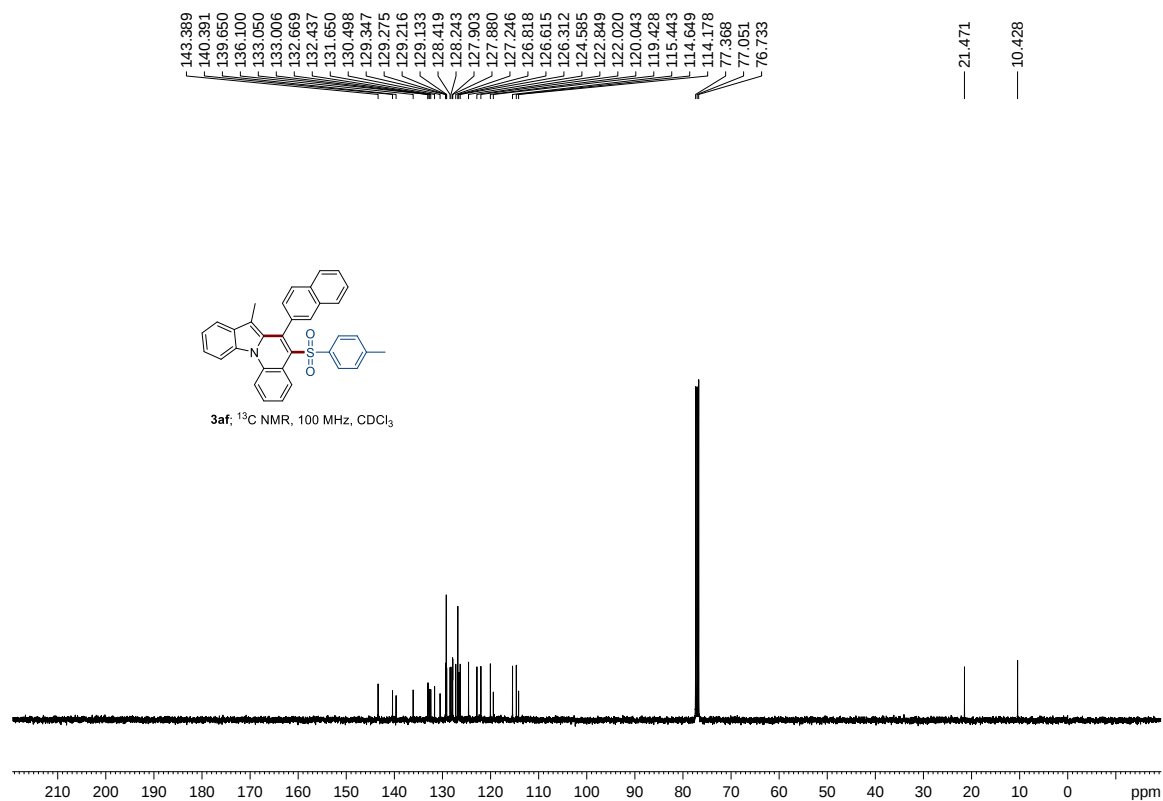
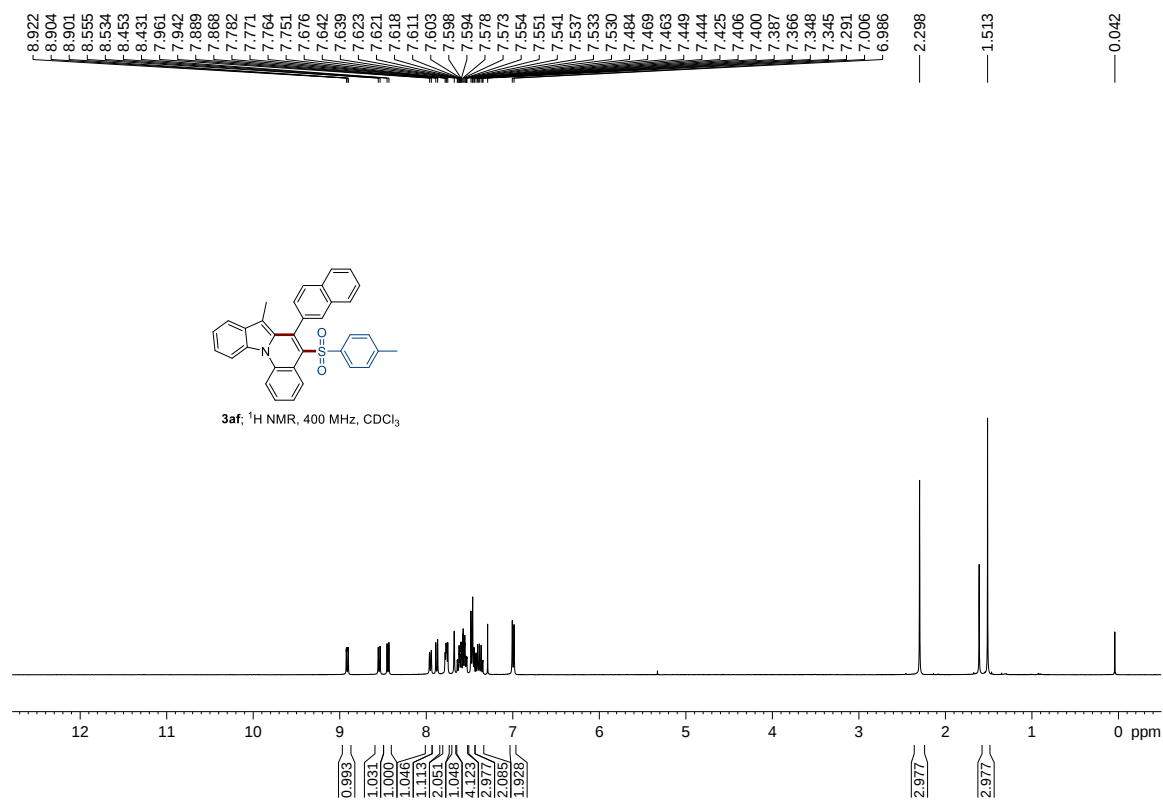












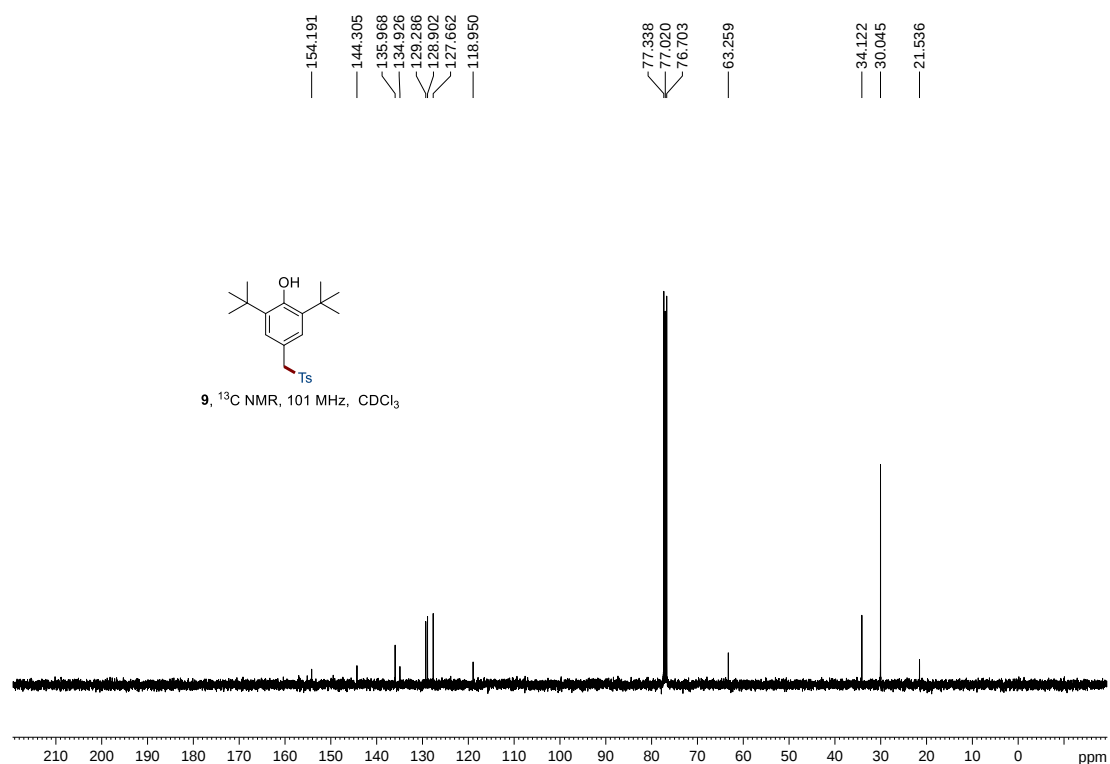
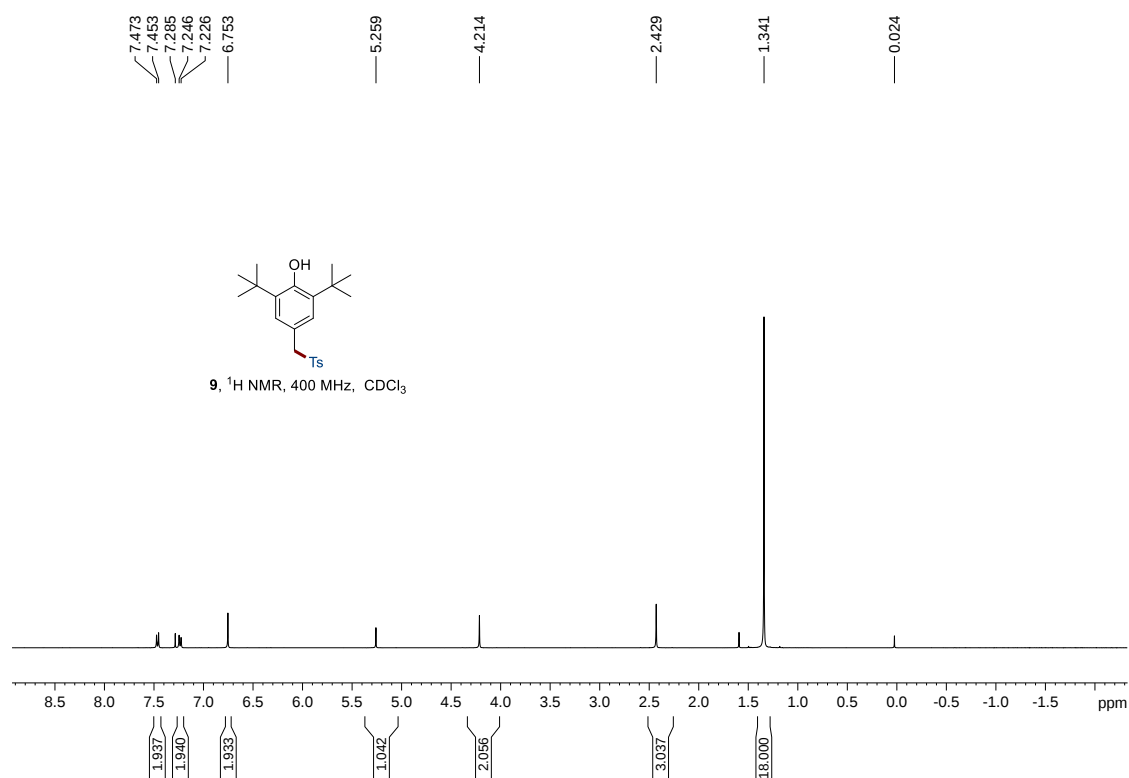


Table S2 Crystal data and structure refinement for 3a.

Identification code	3a
Empirical formula	C ₃₀ H ₂₃ NO ₂ S
Formula weight	461.55
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	11.3349(6)
b/Å	13.9186(7)
c/Å	16.1835(8)
α /°	67.849(5)
β /°	83.386(4)
γ /°	89.464(4)
Volume/Å ³	2347.4(2)
Z	4
ρ_{calc} /cm ³	1.306
μ /mm ⁻¹	1.442
F(000)	968.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.2 × 0.15 × 0.14
Radiation	CuK α (λ = 1.54184)
2 Θ range for data collection/°	6.862 to 134.156
Index ranges	-8 ≤ h ≤ 13, -16 ≤ k ≤ 16, -19 ≤ l ≤ 17
Reflections collected	17329
Independent reflections	8385 [R_{int} = 0.0331, R_{sigma} = 0.0485]
Data/restraints/parameters	8385/52/624
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.030
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.0517, wR_2 = 0.1373
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.0736, wR_2 = 0.1566
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.27/-0.31

Table S3 Crystal data and structure refinement for 3z.

Identification code	3z
Empirical formula	C ₃₁ H ₂₅ NO ₂ S
Formula weight	475.58
Temperature/K	298
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁
a/Å	10.3570(6)
b/Å	8.1337(4)
c/Å	14.8816(8)
α /°	90
β /°	108.017(2)
γ /°	90
Volume/Å ³	1192.16(11)
Z	2
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.325
μ/mm^{-1}	0.166
F(000)	500.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.2 × 0.2 × 0.05
Radiation	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)
2 θ range for data collection/°	4.136 to 55.156
Index ranges	-13 ≤ h ≤ 13, -10 ≤ k ≤ 10, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	23659
Independent reflections	5521 [R_{int} = 0.0487, R_{sigma} = 0.0477]
Data/restraints/parameters	5521/31/307
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.102
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R_1 = 0.1072, wR_2 = 0.2598
Final R indexes [all data]	R_1 = 0.1416, wR_2 = 0.2842
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.04/-0.65
Flack parameter	0.19(3)