

## ***Electronic Supplementary Information†***

### **A Semiconducting Supramolecular Co(II)-metallohydrogel: An Efficient Catalyst for Single-pot Aryl-S Bond Formation at Room Temperature**

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**Table S1.** Representative influence of the metal counter anion on the gelation ability<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Metal Salt	[Metal Salt] <sup>b</sup>	[Ligand]	Vol. Water	Phase <sup>c</sup>	Picture
1	 Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> .4H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mM	500 µl	500 µl	S	
2	 Co(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mM	500 µl	500 µl	G	
3	 CoCl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mM	500 µl	500 µl	P	

<sup>a</sup>Gelation tests were performed as described in the Experimental Section. <sup>b</sup>Concentration of metal salt as per minimum gelation concentration. <sup>c</sup>Abbreviations: S = solution; G = stable gel; P = precipitates.

**Table S2.** Gelation process of CoMEA metallocopolymer<sup>a</sup> with Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O salt in various solvents<sup>b</sup>

Entry	Solvent <sup>b</sup>	Phase <sup>c</sup>	Conc. <sup>d</sup>	Vol. <sup>e</sup>	Gelation Time	Gel-Phase Colour	Picture
1.		Lq	291	1	30s	Wine red	
2.		Lq	291	1	>30s	Wine red	
3.		Lq	291	1	1min	Wine red	
4.		I	291	1	-	-	
5.		Lq	291	1	1min	Wine red	
6.		I	291	1	-	-	
7.		I	291	1	-	-	
8.		Lq	291	1	-	Wine red	
9.		I	291	1	-	-	

10.		Lq	291	1	-	Wine red	
11.		I	291	1	-	-	
12.		I	291	1	-	-	
13.		I	291	1	-	-	
14.		I	291	1	-	-	

<sup>a</sup>Gelation tests were performed as discussed in the Experimental Section: Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.291g, 1mM) and 500μl monoethanolamine ligand at room temperature instantaneously. <sup>b</sup>Solvent abbreviations: DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide; MeOH = Methanol, EtOH = Ethanol, EtOAc = Ethyl Acetate, DMSO = Dimethyl sulfoxide, CH<sub>3</sub>CN = Acetonitrile, DCM = Dichloromethane, THF = Tetrahydrofuran, CHCl<sub>3</sub> = Chloroform, PET = Petroleum ether. <sup>c</sup>Salt Solution Phases: Lq = liquid; I = insoluble. <sup>d</sup>Minimum Gelation Concentration (MGC) of CoMEA metallohydrogel is 291 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>e</sup>Total volume of the solvents.

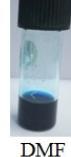
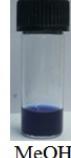
**Table S3.** Gelation process of CoMEA metallohydrogel<sup>a</sup> with Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O salt in various solvents<sup>b</sup>

Entry	Solvent <sup>b</sup>	Phase <sup>c</sup>	Conc. <sup>d</sup>	Vol. <sup>e</sup>	Gelation Time	Gel-Phase Colour	Picture
1.	 H <sub>2</sub> O	Lq	249	1	30s	Wine red	
1.	 DMF	Lq	249	1	30s	Wine red	
2.	 MeOH	Lq	249	1	>30s	Wine red	
3.	 EtOH	Lq	249	1	1min	Wine red	
4.	 EtOAc	I	249	1	-	-	
5.	 DMSO	Lq	249	1	1min	Wine red	
6.	 CH <sub>3</sub> CN	I	249	1	-	-	
7.	 DCM	I	249	1	-	-	

8.		Lq	249	1	-	Wine red	
9.		I	249	1	-	-	
10.		Lq	249	1	-	Wine red	
11.		I	249	1	-	-	
12.		I	249	1	-	-	
13.		I	249	1	-	-	
14.		I	249	1	-	-	

<sup>a</sup>Gelation tests were performed as discussed in the Experimental Section: Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.249g, 1mM) and 500μl monoethanolamine ligand at room temperature instantaneously. <sup>b</sup>Solvent abbreviations: DMF = N,N-dimethylformamide; MeOH = Methanol, EtOH = Ethanol, EtOAc = Ethyl Acetate, DMSO = Dimethyl sulfoxide, CH<sub>3</sub>CN = Acetonitrile, DCM = Dichloromethane, THF = Tetrahydrofuran, CHCl<sub>3</sub> = Chloroform, PET = Petroleum ether. <sup>c</sup>Salt Solution Phases: Lq = liquid; I = insoluble. <sup>d</sup>Minimum Gelation Concentration (MGC) of CoMEA metallohydrogel is 291 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> (i.e. 1 mM of Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O salt). <sup>e</sup>Total volume of the solvents.

**Table S4.** Gelation process of CoMEA metallohydrogel<sup>a</sup> with CoCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O salt in various solvents<sup>b</sup>

Entry	Solvent <sup>b</sup>	Phase <sup>c</sup>	Conc. <sup>d</sup>	Vol. <sup>e</sup>	Gelation Time	Gel-Phase Colour	Picture
1.		Lq	238	1	30s	Wine red	
1.		Lq	238	1	30s	Wine red	
2.		Lq	238	1	>30s	Wine red	
3.		Lq	238	1	1min	Wine red	
4.		I	238	1	-	-	
5.		Lq	238	1	1min	Wine red	
6.		I	238	1	-	-	
7.		I	238	1	-	-	

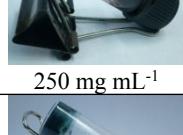
8.	 THF	Lq	238	1	-	Wine red	
9.	 n-Hexane	I	238	1	-	-	
10.	 Acetone	Lq	238	1	-	Wine red	
11.	 Toluene	I	291	1	-	-	
12.	 CHCl <sub>3</sub>	I	238	1	-	-	
13.	 Benzene	I	238	1	-	-	
14.	 PET	I	238	1	-	-	

<sup>a</sup>Gelation tests were performed as discussed in the Experimental Section: CoCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.238g, 1mM) and 500μl monoethanolamine ligand at room temperature instantaneously. <sup>b</sup>Solvent abbreviations: DMF = N,N-dimethylformamide; MeOH = Methanol, EtOH = Ethanol, EtOAc = Ethyl Acetate, DMSO = Dimethyl sulfoxide, CH<sub>3</sub>CN = Acetonitrile, DCM = Dichloromethane, THF = Tetrahydrofuran, CHCl<sub>3</sub> = Chloroform, PET = Petroleum ether. <sup>c</sup>Salt Solution Phases: Lq = liquid; I = insoluble. <sup>d</sup>Minimum Gelation Concentration (MGC) of CoMEA metallohydrogel is 291 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> (i.e. 1 mM of Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O salt). <sup>e</sup>Total volume of the solvents.

**Table S5.** Investigation of minimum critical gelation concentration (MGC) of CoMEA metallohydrogel

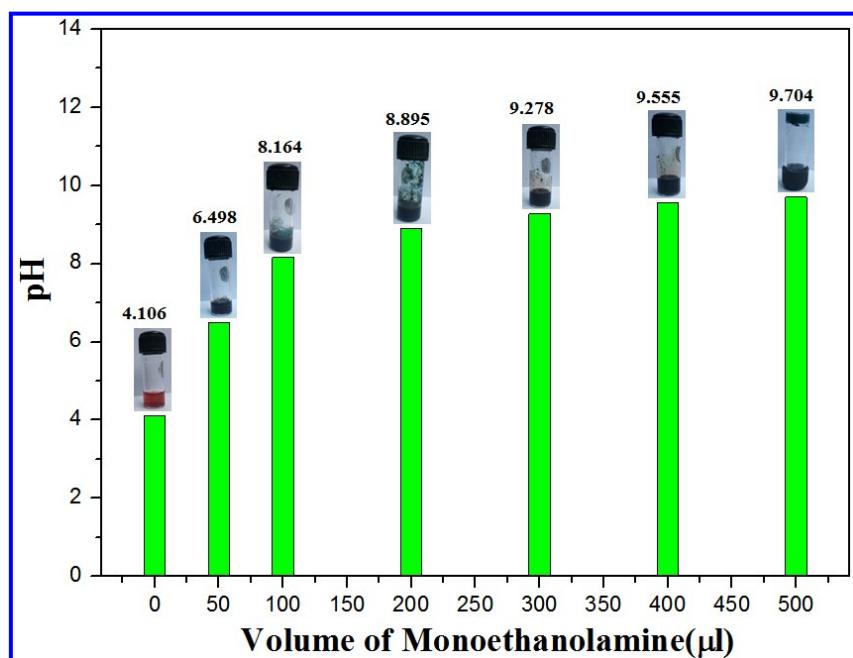
Entry	Weight of $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Vol. of Monoethanolamine	Vol. of Water	Picture
1	10 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 10 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
2	20 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 20 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
3	50 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 50 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
4	100 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 100 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
5	150 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 150 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
6	200 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 200 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
7	250 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 250 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
8	291 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 291 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$

**Table S6.** Investigation of minimum critical gelation concentration (MGC) of CoMEA metallohydrogel with varying monoethanolamine.

Entry	Weight of $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Vol. of Monoethanolamine	Vol. of Water	Picture
1	291 mg	10 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 10 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
2	291 mg	50 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 20 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
3	291 mg	100 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 50 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
4	291 mg	200 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 100 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
5	291 mg	250 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 150 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
6	291 mg	300 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 200 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
7	291 mg	400 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 250 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$
8	291 mg	500 $\mu\text{l}$	500 $\mu\text{l}$	 291 mg $\text{mL}^{-1}$

### pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy

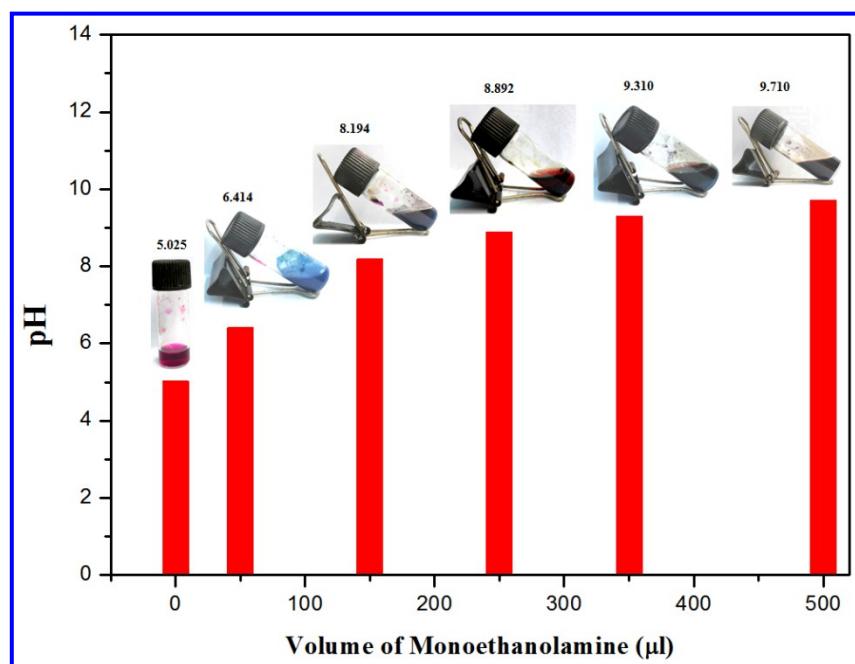
pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy with water solution of  $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt and monoethanolamine clearly shows that the CoMEA metallohydrogel is formed at pH = 9.704. The variation of pH is maintained by monoethanolamine and it also supports minimum critical gelation concentration (MGC) where it is clearly show that the CoMEA metallohydrogel only formed with 500  $\mu\text{l}$  of monoethanolamine and 0.291 gm of  $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt.



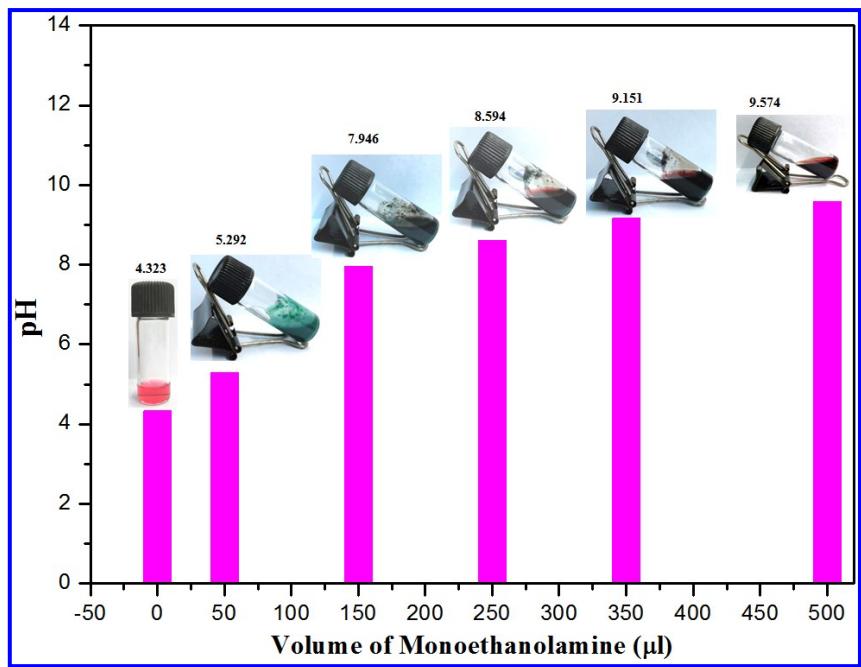
**Fig. S1.** pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy with water solution of  $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt and monoethanolamine.

## pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy with $\text{Co(OAc)}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ salt

pH dependent CoMEA Metallohydrogel formation strategy with water solution of  $\text{Co(OAc)}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt and monoethanolamine clearly shows that the CoMEA metallohydrogel is not formed by varying pH, maintained by monoethanolamine (Fig. S2, S3). This results also supports that CoMEA metallohydrogel is only formed with 500  $\mu\text{l}$  of monoethanolamine and 0.291 gm of  $\text{Co(NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt.

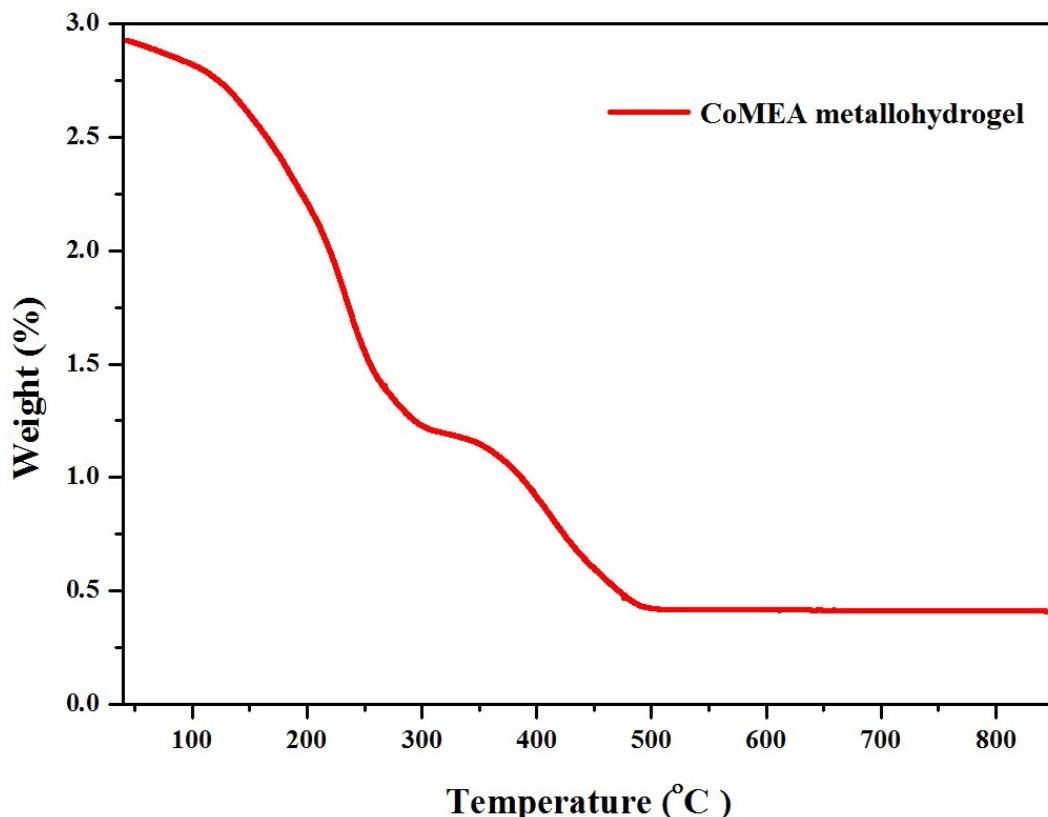


**Fig. S2.** pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy with water solution of  $\text{Co(OAc)}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt and monoethanolamine.



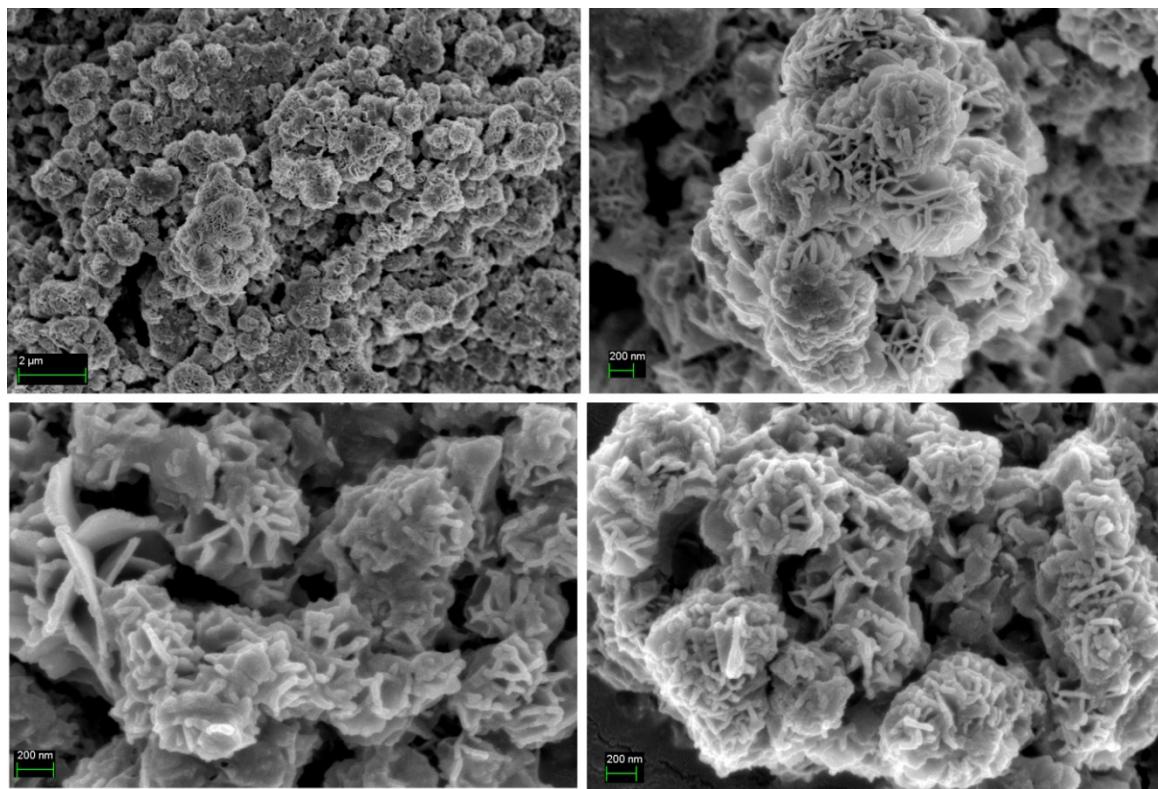
**Fig. S3.** pH dependent CoMEA metallohydrogel formation strategy with water solution of  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  salt and monoethanolamine.

#### Thermogravimetric analysis of CoMEA metallohydrogel:

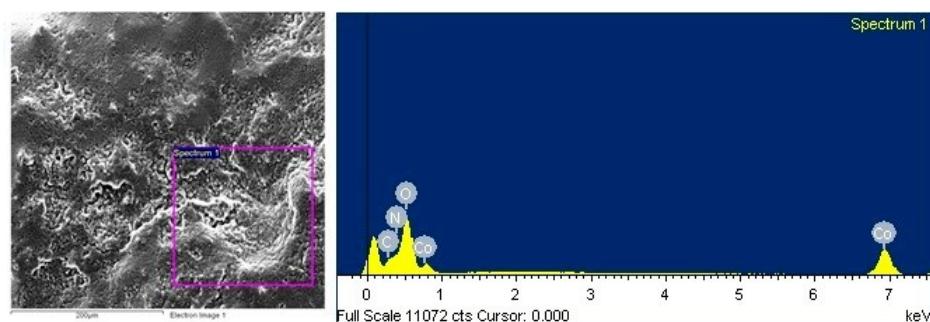


**Fig. S4.** Thermogravimetric analysis curve of the xerogel from of CoMEA metallohydrogel.

**FESEM Microstructural study and EDX spectral analysis.**



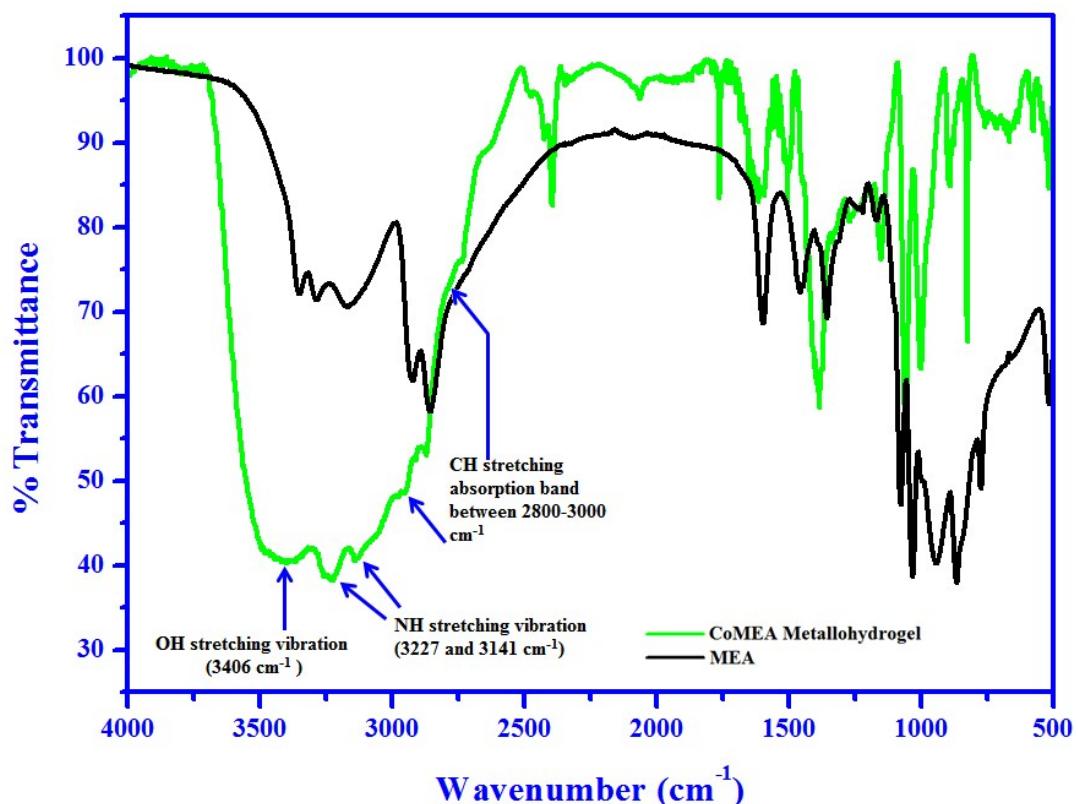
**Fig. S5.** The FESEM microstructural feature of CoMEA metallocopolymer hydrogel.



**Fig. S6.** EDX pattern of CoMEA metallocopolymer hydrogel showing the presence of C, N, O, and Co elements.

### Infrared Spectral Study.

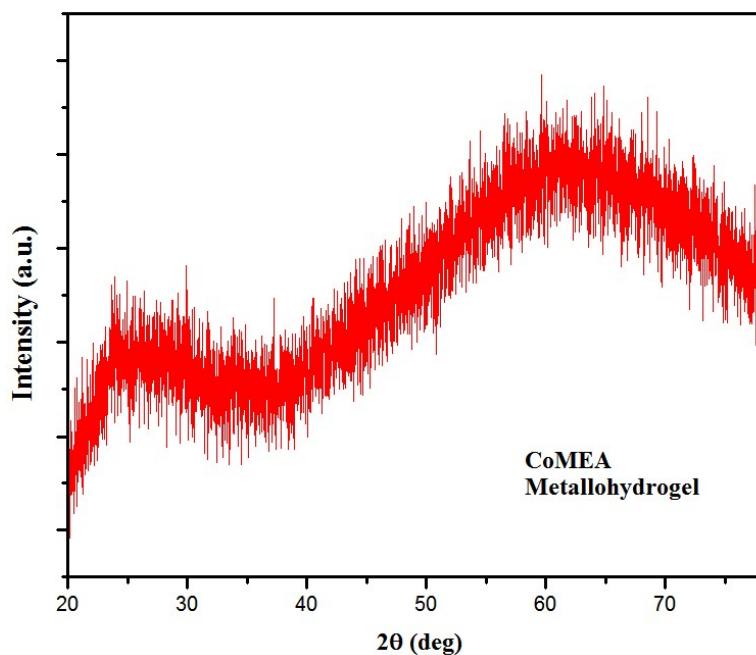
Fig. S7 provides the FT-IR spectra of CoMEA metallohydrogel. The FT-IR spectra of CoMEA metallohydrogel shows broad absorption band at  $3406\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for OH stretching vibration, due to strong hydrogen bonding.<sup>1</sup> Another two sharp bands at 3227 and  $3141\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are for NH stretching vibration. CH stretching absorption band between 2800-3000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicates the presence of ethanolate functional group.<sup>2</sup>



**Fig. S7.** FT-IR spectra of CoMEA metallocopolymer.

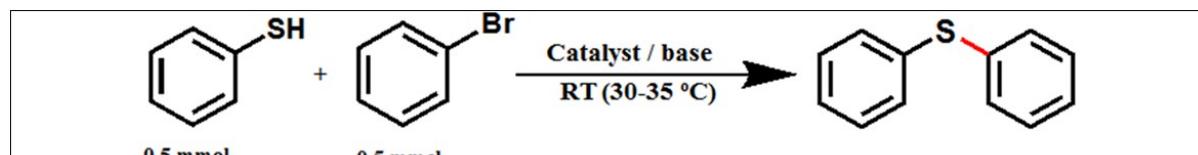
### PXRD of CoMEA metallohydrogel.

Powder X-Ray Diffraction pattern of CoMEA metallocydrogel exhibits the amorphous nature of the CoMEA (Fig. S6).



**Fig. S8.** PXRD pattern of xerogel form of CoMEA metallocydrogel.

**Table S7.** Optimization Studies for the Co-Catalyzed Coupling of Aryl Iodides and Thiophenols<sup>a</sup>



The reaction scheme illustrates the coupling of thiophenol (0.5 mmol) and bromobenzene (0.5 mmol) in the presence of a catalyst/base at room temperature (RT, 30–35 °C) to yield biphenyl-4-thiol.

entry	catalyst (mol %)	base	solvent	time (h)	yields (%)
1	CoI <sub>2</sub> (10)	pyridine	DMF	24	trace
2	CoI <sub>2</sub> (10)	pyridine	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	24	trace
3	CoCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	Et <sub>3</sub> N	ethyl acetate	24	trace
4	CoI <sub>2</sub> (10)	pyridine	DMF	24	trace
5	CoI <sub>2</sub> (10)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	ethyl acetate	24	trace
6	Co(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (10)	MEA	ethyl acetate	48	50
7	CoCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	MEA	ethyl acetate	48	52
8	Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (10)	MEA	ethyl acetate	48	51
9	CoMEA (5)	pyridine	ethyl acetate	12	61
10	CoMEA (5)	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	ethyl acetate	12	45
11	CoMEA (5)	Et <sub>3</sub> N	ethyl acetate	12	39
<b>12</b>	<b>CoMEA (5)</b>	<b>Zn</b>	<b>ethyl acetate</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>
13	CoMEA (5)	Zn	toluene	24	trace
14	CoMEA (5)	Zn	chloroform	12	44
15	CoMEA (5)	Zn	acetone	12	40
16	CoMEA (5)	Zn	DMF	24	trace
17	CoMEA (5)	Zn	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	12	42
18	-	Zn	ethyl acetate	48	nr <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.50 mmol of bromobenzene, 0.50 mmol of thiophenol, 1.5 equiv of Zn, or 0.50 mmol of base in 2 mL of ethylacetate at room temperature for 6 h. Yields were determined by the <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>b</sup>No reaction.

**General experimental procedure for the synthesis of diphenylsulfide (entry 1, table 2):**

The mixture of thiol (0.50 mmol), bromobenzene (0.50 mmol), zinc (0.750 mmol), CoMEA metallohydrogel (10 mol %) and ethyl acetate (2 mL) were taken in a reaction vessel (tube) equipped with a magnetic stir bar, and the mixture was allowed to stir for 6 h at room temperature (~30-35 °C). The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with chloroform (25 mL) and then CoMEA metallohydrogel washed with deionized water due to its compatibility with the aqueous solvent and separated from the reaction mixture by simple filtration process followed by drying to reuse. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the concentrated pure coupling product of diphenylsulfane (Table 2, entry 1) was obtained with 89% yield without any column chromatographic purification protocol.

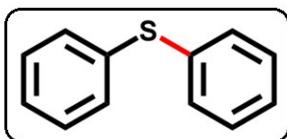
**Table S8.** Optimization Studies for the CoMEA metallocopolymer Catalyzed Coupling of Aryl Iodides and Thiophenols<sup>a</sup>

entry	aryl halide	Thiophenol	aryl sulfide	yield (%)
1				89
2				84
3				83
4				87
5				85
6				82
7				79
8				80
9				78
10				82
11				90

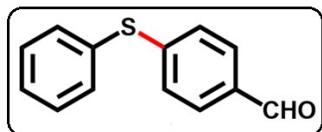
<b>12</b>				<b>84</b>
<b>13</b>				<b>82</b>
<b>14</b>				<b>85</b>

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.50 mmol of aryl halide, 0.5 mmol of thiophenol, 1.5 equiv of Zn, and in 2 mL of ethyl acetate at room temperature for 6h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

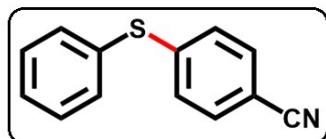
## Characterization data of the isolated compounds



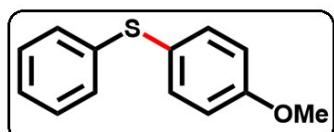
**Diphenylsulfane (entry 1, Table 2):** colourless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.54-7.56 (d, 4H,  $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$ ), 7.32-7.36 (t, 4H,  $J = 14.8\text{Hz}$ ), 7.25-7.28 (dd, 2H,  $J = 14.8\text{Hz}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  127.2, 127.6, 129.1, 137.1.



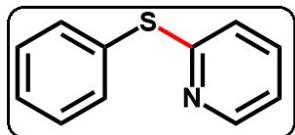
**4-(phenylthio)benzaldehyde (entry 2, Table 2):** yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.873 (s, 1H), 7.633-7.654 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$ ), 7.565-7.585 (d, 2H,  $J = 8\text{Hz}$ ), 7.407-7.426 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.6\text{Hz}$ ), 7.19-7.22 (t, 2H,  $J = 12\text{Hz}$ ), 7.114-7.149 (dd, 1H,  $J = 14\text{Hz}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  127.11, 127.34, 129.03, 130.90, 132.33, 134.96, 136.50, 136.85, 191.04.



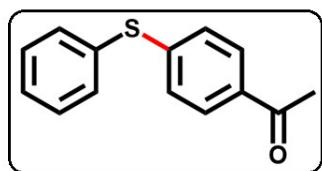
**4-(phenylthio)benzonitrile (entry 3, Table 2):** Colourless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.50-7.53 (m, 4H,  $J = 13.6\text{Hz}$ ), 7.48-7.49 (dd, 1H,  $J = 3.2\text{Hz}$ ), 7.46-7.15 (d, 1H,  $J = 2\text{Hz}$ ), 7.41-7.44 (m, 2H,  $J = 14\text{Hz}$ ), 7.14-7.17 (dd, 2H,  $J = 12.4\text{Hz}$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  108.8, 118.9, 127.4, 129.5, 130.0, 130.9, 132.5, 134.6, 145.8.



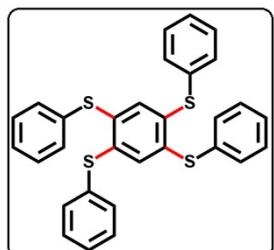
**(4-methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)sulfane (entry 4, Table 2):** Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.32-7.34 (dd, 2H,  $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$ ), 7.13-7.17 (m, 2H,  $J = 15.2\text{Hz}$ ), 7.03-7.09 (m, 3H,  $J = 24\text{Hz}$ ), 6.79-6.83 (dd, 2H,  $J = 14.8\text{ Hz}$ ), 3.73 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.4, 115.1, 122.9, 124.4, 125.8, 128.3, 129.0, 135.5, 138.7, 159.9.



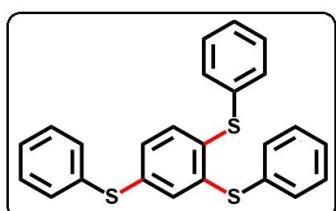
**2-(phenylthio)pyridine (entry 5, Table 2):** Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.42-8.43 (m, 1H,  $J = 5.2$  Hz), 7.57-7.61 (m, 2H,  $J = 13.6$  Hz), 7.40-7.47 (m, 4H,  $J = 26.8$  Hz), 6.97-7.01 (m, 1H,  $J = 13.2$  Hz), 6.84-6.89 (d, 1H,  $J = 17.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  120.0, 121.4, 129.2, 129.7, 131.1, 135.1, 136.8, 149.7, 161.7.



**1-(4-(phenylthio)phenyl)ethanone (entry 6, Table 2):** Yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.654-7.676 (dd, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.434-7.456 (dd, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.350-7.373 (m, 2H,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 7.136-7.208 (m, 2H,  $J = 28.8$  Hz), 7.061-7.096 (m, 1H,  $J = 14$  Hz), 2.432 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  26.45, 127.10, 127.36, 129.01, 129.76, 131.76, 135.68, 136.86, 196.84.

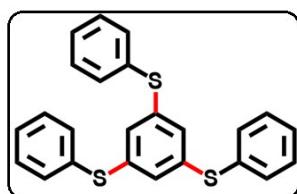


**1,2,4,5-tetrakis(phenylthio)benzene (entry 7, Table 2):** Yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.390-7.411 (d, 10H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.173-7.210 (t, 8H,  $J = 14.8$  Hz), 7.114-7.132 (dd, 4H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  124.40, 127.25, 127.59, 129.16, 136.69, 137.10, 137.24.

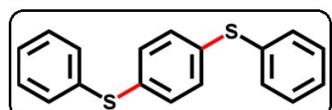


**benzene-1,2,4-triyltris(phenylsulfane) (entry 8, Table 2):** Colourless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.748-7.754 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 7.472-7.502 (dd, 6H,  $J = 12$  Hz), 7.435-7.457 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.300-7.305 (d, 1H,  $J = 2$  Hz), 7.254-7.287 (m, 6H,  $J = 13.2$  Hz),

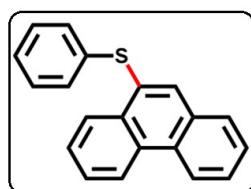
7.190-7.234 (m, 3H,  $J = 17.6$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.46, 123.81, 125.89, 127.25, 127.59, 129.17, 131.78, 134.71, 136.12, 137.11.



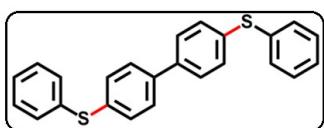
**1,3,5-tris(phenylthio)benzene (entry 9, Table 2):** Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.456 (s, 3H), 7.370-7.391 (dd, 6H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.141-7.179 (t, 6H,  $J = 15.2$  Hz), 7.065-7.102 (dd, 3H,  $J = 14.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  123.45, 127.20, 127.57, 129.12, 129.51, 133.04, 136.68, 137.09.



**1,4-bis(phenylthio)benzene (entry 10, Table 2):** Colourless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.428-7.436 (dd, 2H,  $J = 3.2$  Hz), 7.413-7.414 (d, 3H,  $J = 0.4$  Hz), 7.214-7.242 (m, 4H,  $J = 11.2$  Hz), 7.195-7.199 (d, 2H,  $J = 1.6$  Hz), 7.155-7.157 (m, 3H,  $J = 0.8$  Hz),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.11, 127.20, 127.54, 129.13, 133.18, 136.64, 137.07.

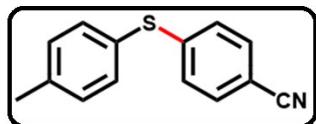


**Phenanthren-9-yl(phenyl)sulfane (entry 11, Table 2):** White solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.69-8.75 (m, 2H,  $J = 23.6$  Hz), 8.498-8.522 (m, 1H,  $J = 9.6$  Hz), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.86-7.88 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.79-7.81 (m, 2H,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 7.66-7.76 (m, 4H,  $J = 40.4$  Hz), 7.42-7.46 (dd, 2H,  $J = 15.2$  Hz), 7.34-7.38 (m, 1H,  $J = 14.4$  Hz),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.7, 122.7, 122.8, 127.0, 127.2, 127.4, 127.5, 127.5, 127.8, 128.0, 128.2, 129.1, 129.7, 130.3, 130.5, 131.3, 132.2, 137.1.

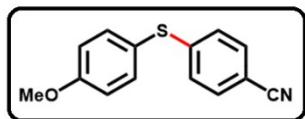


**4,4'-bis(phenylthio)-biphenyl (entry 12, Table 2):** Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.381-7.442 (dd, 4H,  $J = 24.4$  Hz), 7.260-7.281 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.158-7.196 (t, 2H,  $J = 15.2$  Hz), 7.082-7.118 (dd, 1H,  $J = 14.4$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  122.05,

127.23, 127.57, 128.57, 129.15, 132.10, 137.10, 138.92.

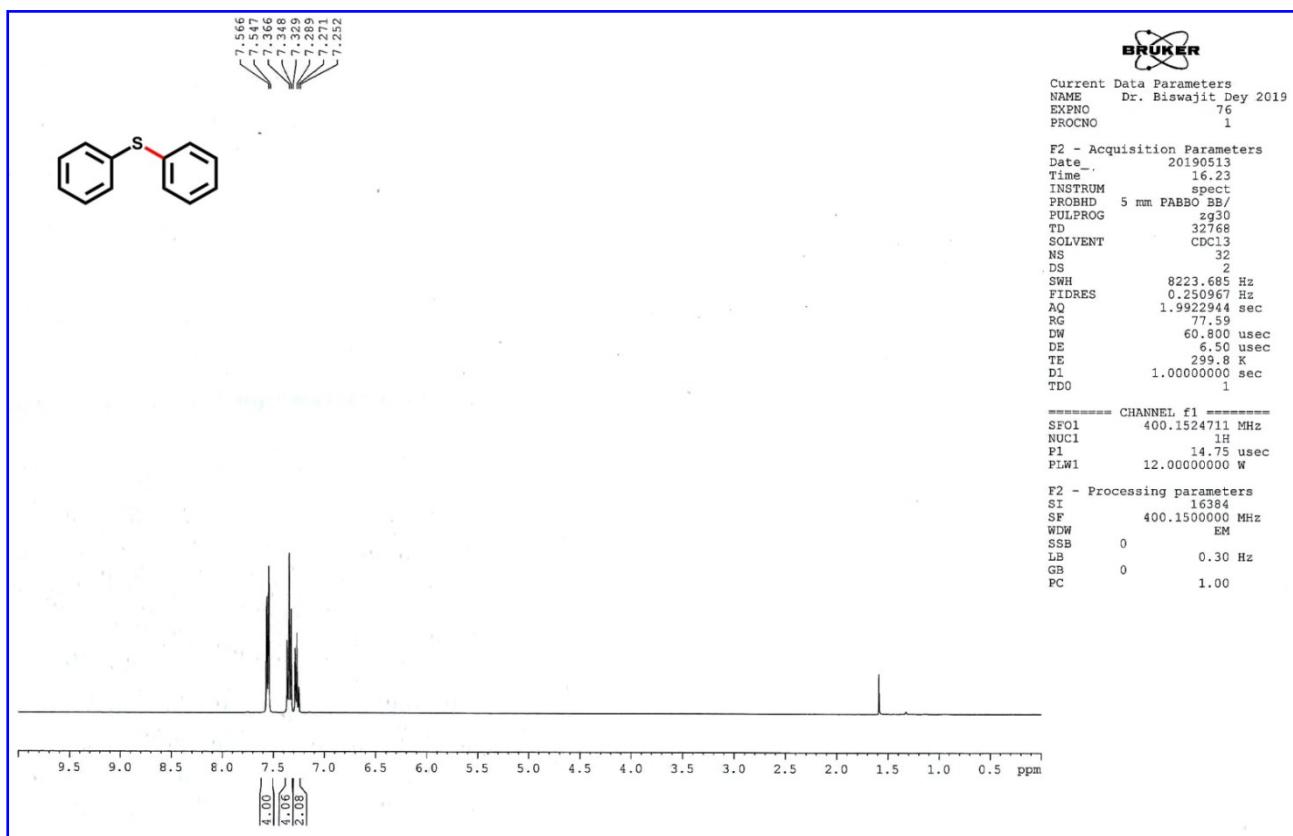


**4-(p-tolylthio)benzonitrile (entry 13, Table 2):** White solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.42-7.48 (m, 4H,  $J = 23.6$  Hz), 7.25-7.28 (d, 2H,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 7.12-7.14 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 2.427 (s, 3H,);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.4, 108.4, 119.0, 126.8, 130.8, 132.4, 135.0, 140.1, 146.7.

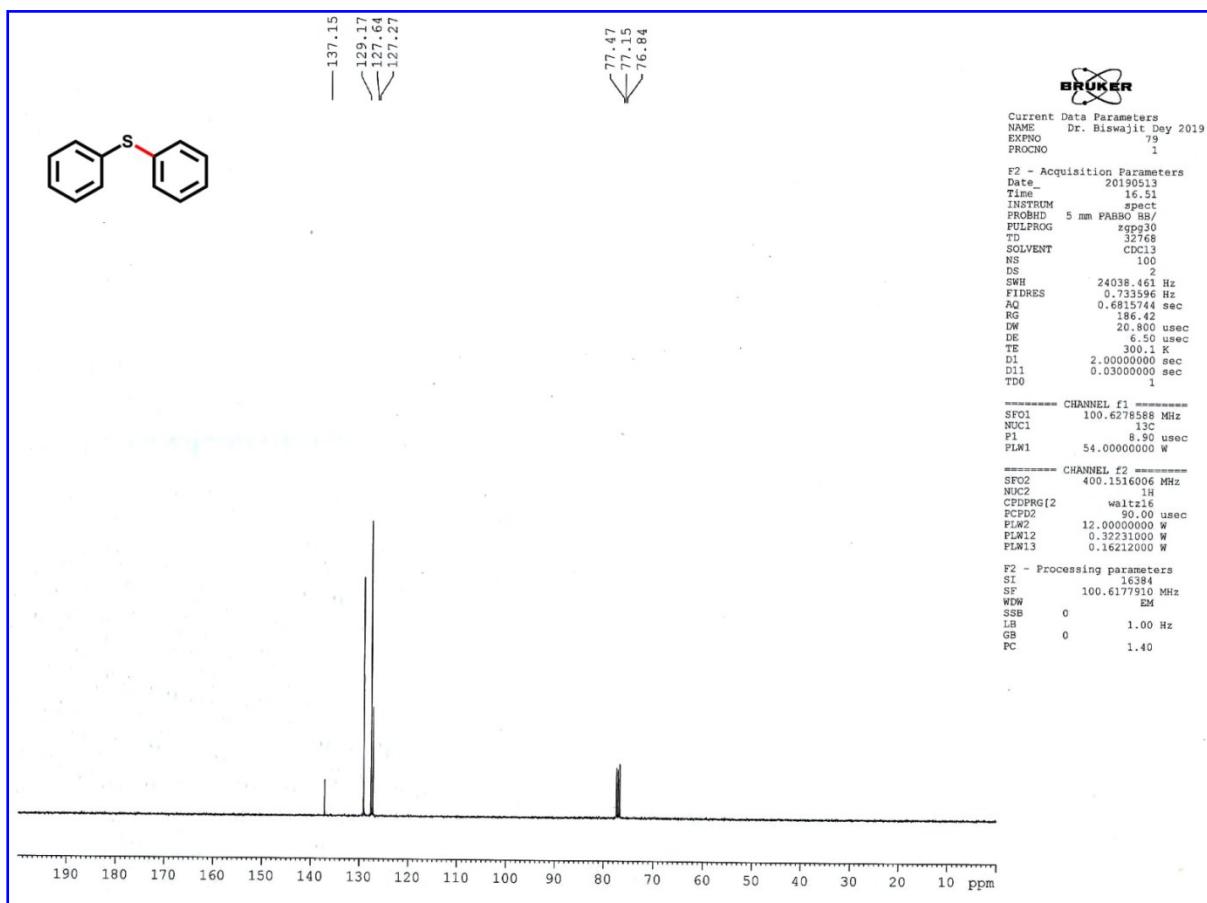


**4-(4-methoxyphenylthio)benzonitrile (entry 14, Table 2):** White solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.47-7.48 (t, 1H,  $J = 5.2$  Hz), 7.44-7.46 (m, 2H,  $J = 5.2$  Hz), 7.42-7.43 (t, 1H,  $J = 4$  Hz), 7.05-7.07 (dd, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.95-6.99 (dd, 2H,  $J = 15.2$  Hz), 3.856 (s, 3H,);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.5, 108.1, 115.7, 119.0, 120.5, 126.1, 132.3, 137.2, 147.5, 161.0.

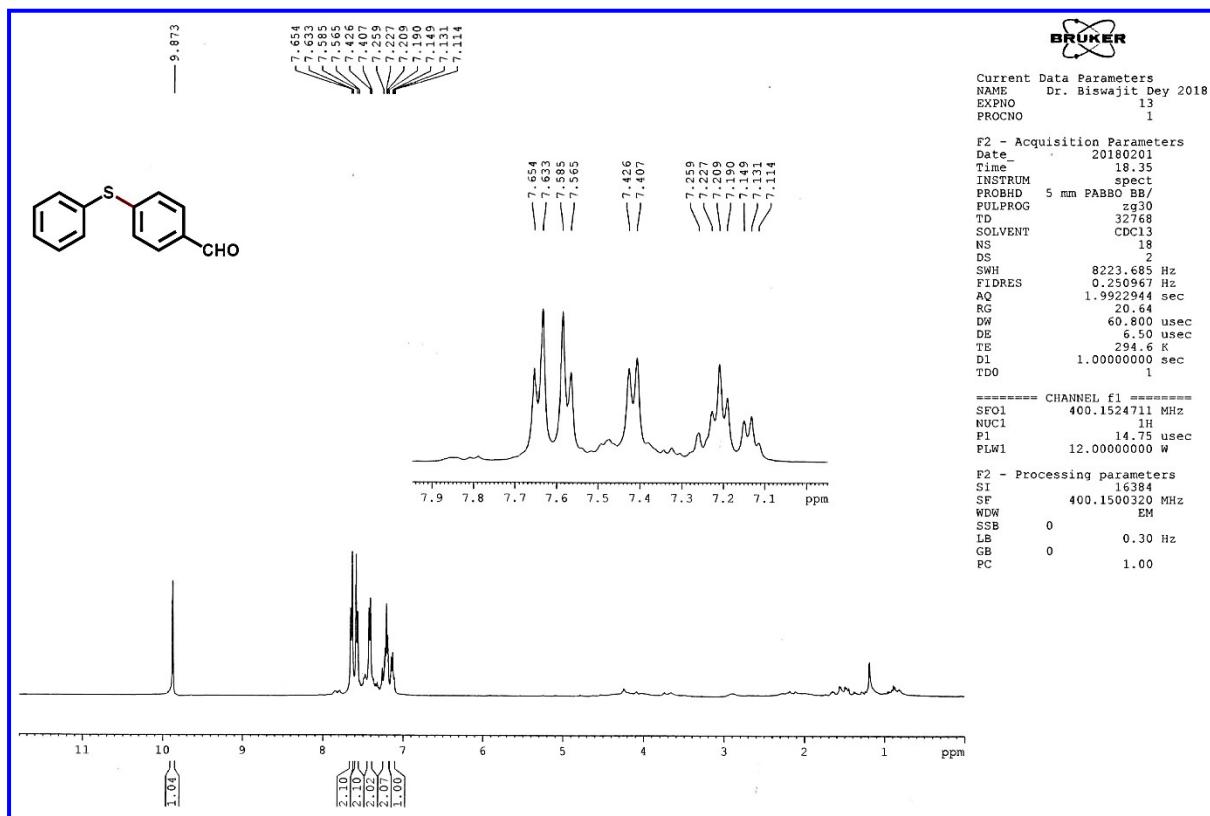
**Fig. S9**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 1, Table 2)



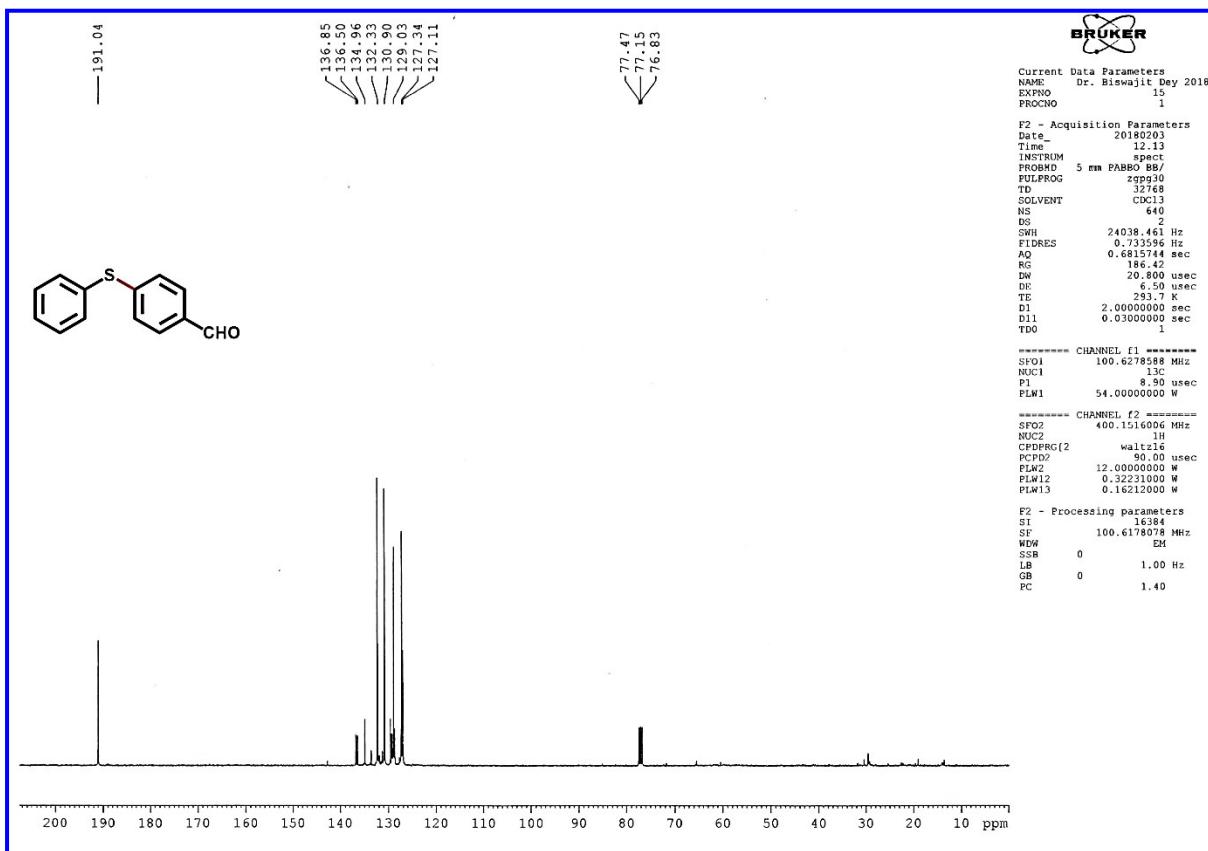
**Fig. S10**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 1, Table 2)



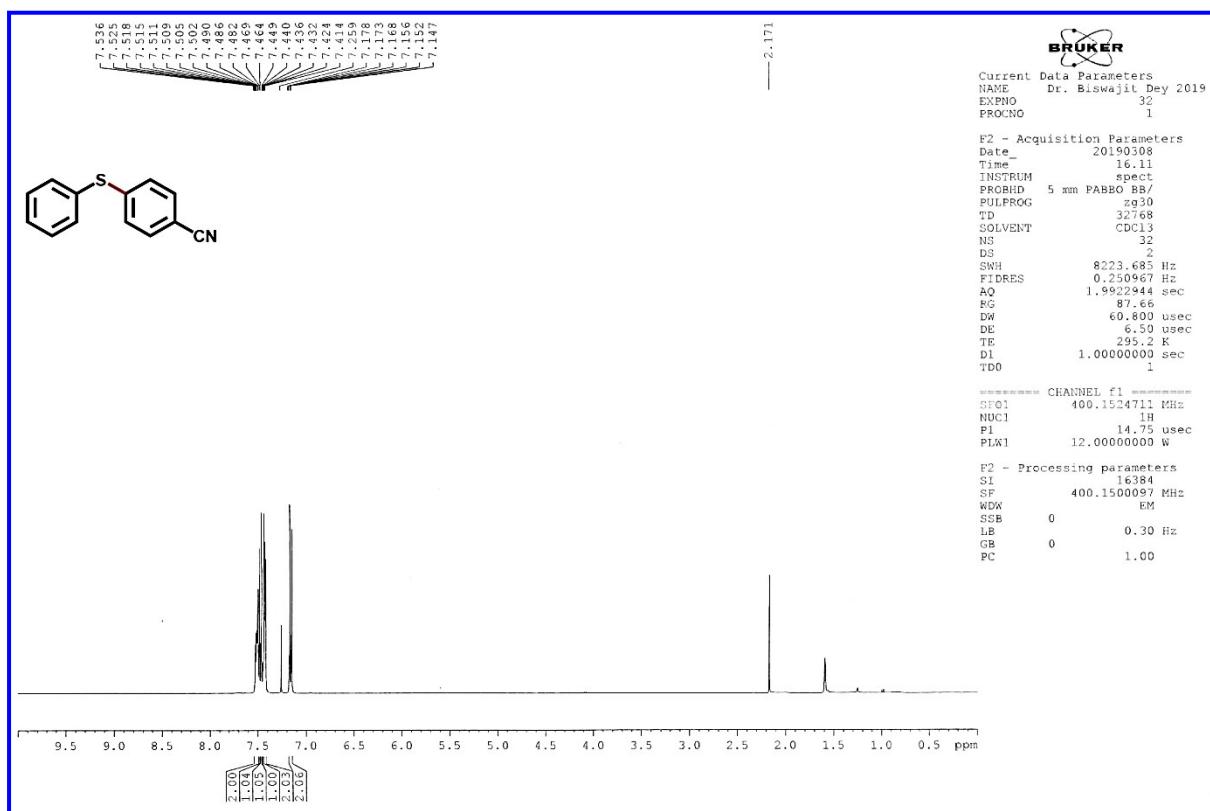
**Fig. S11**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 2, Table 2)



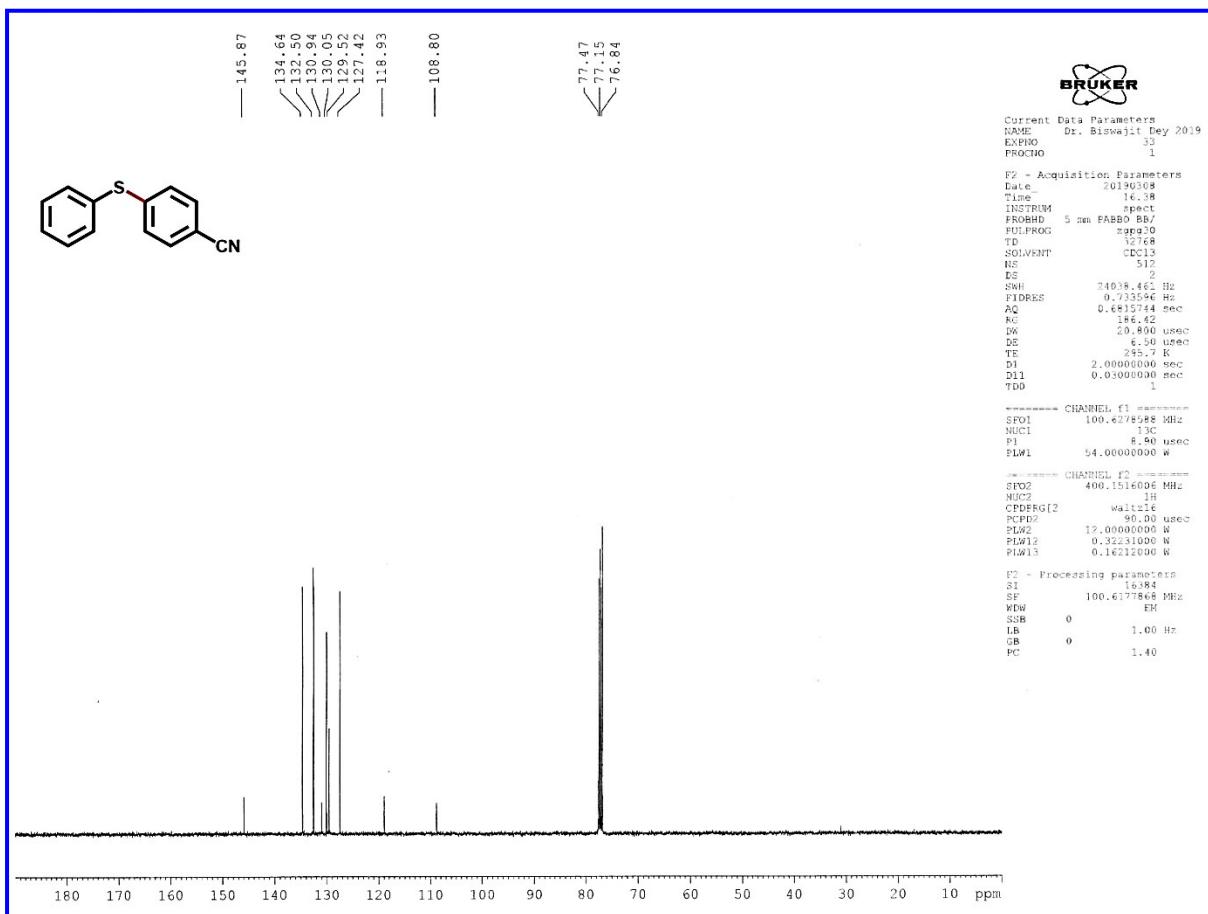
**Fig. S12**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 2, Table 2)



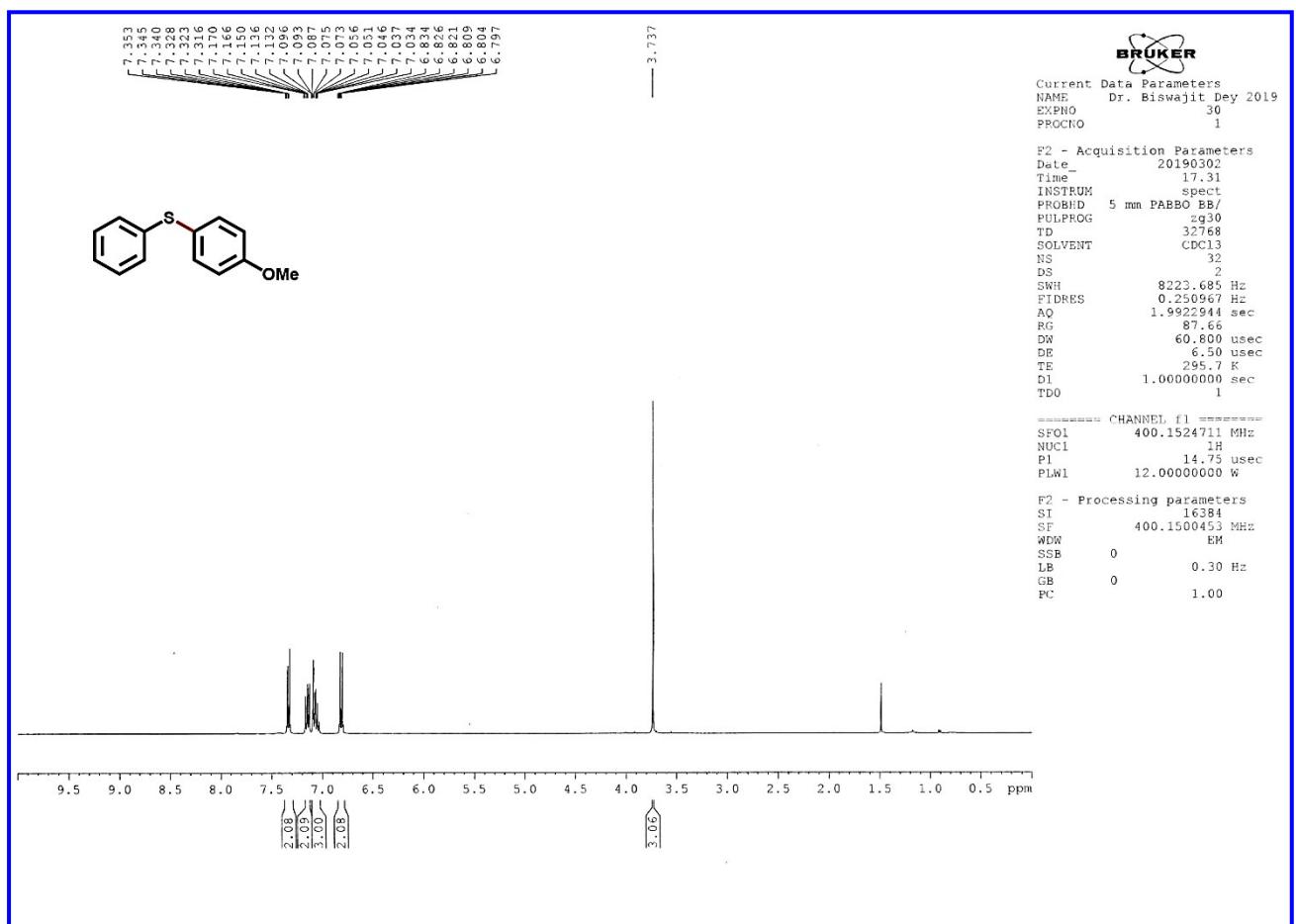
**Fig. S13**<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (entry 4, Table 2)



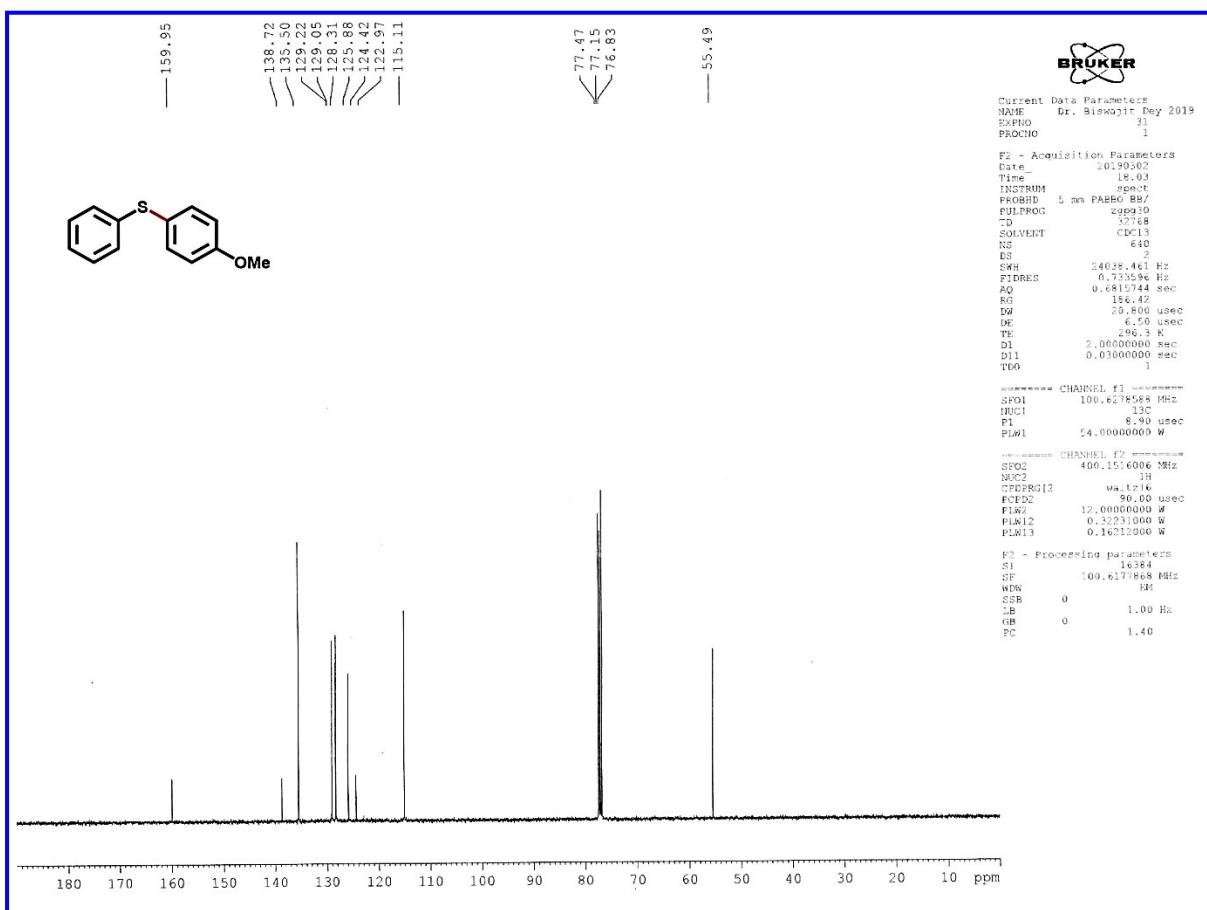
**Fig. S14**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 3, Table 2)



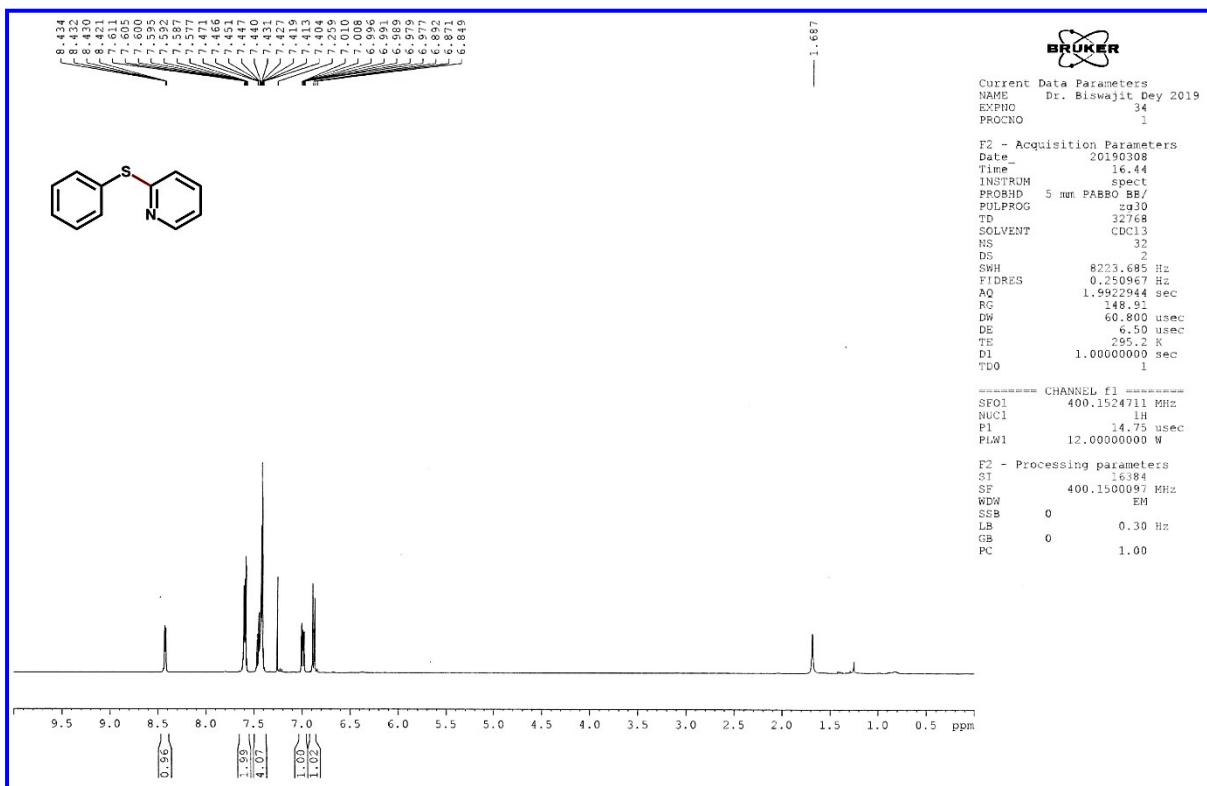
**Fig. S15**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 3, Table 2)



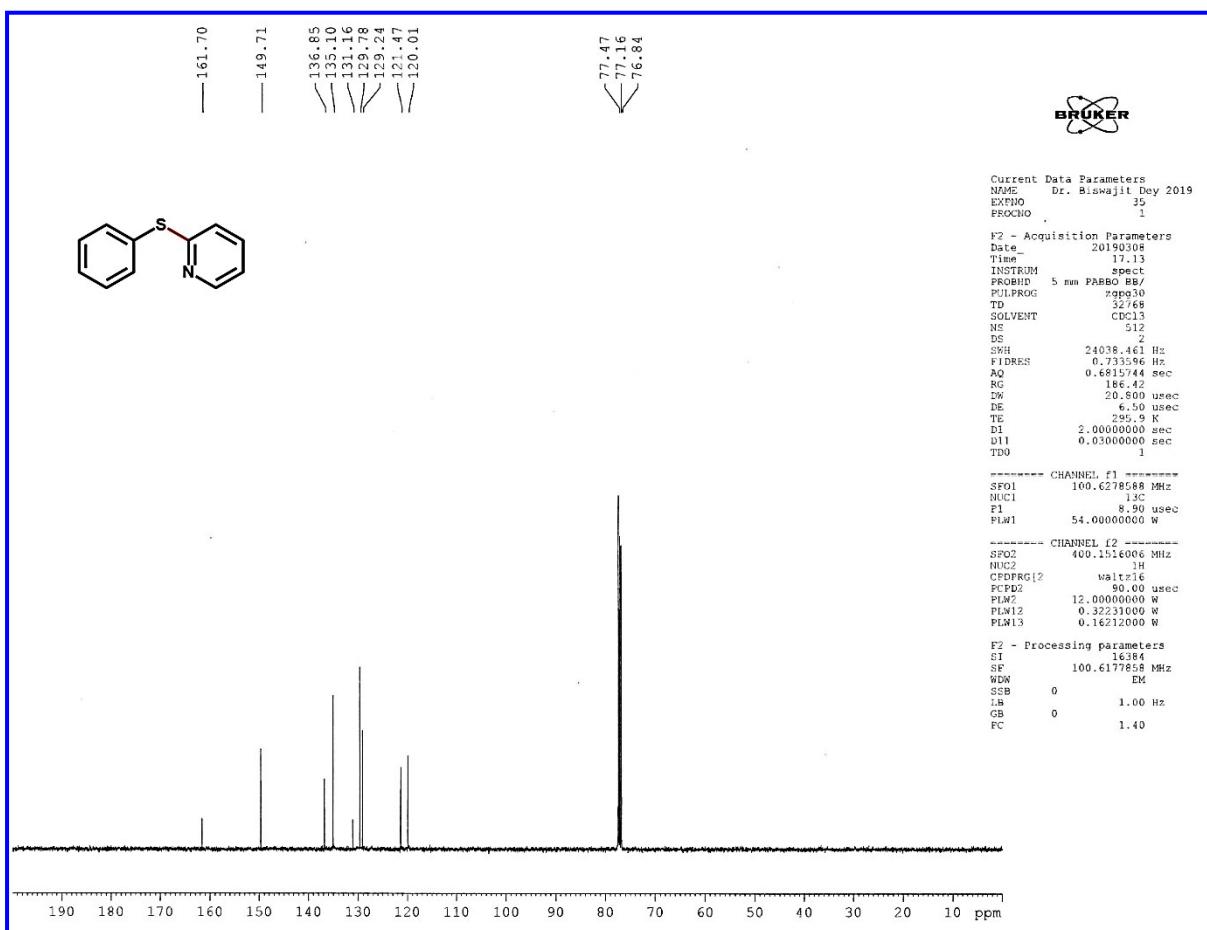
**Fig. S16**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 3, Table 2)



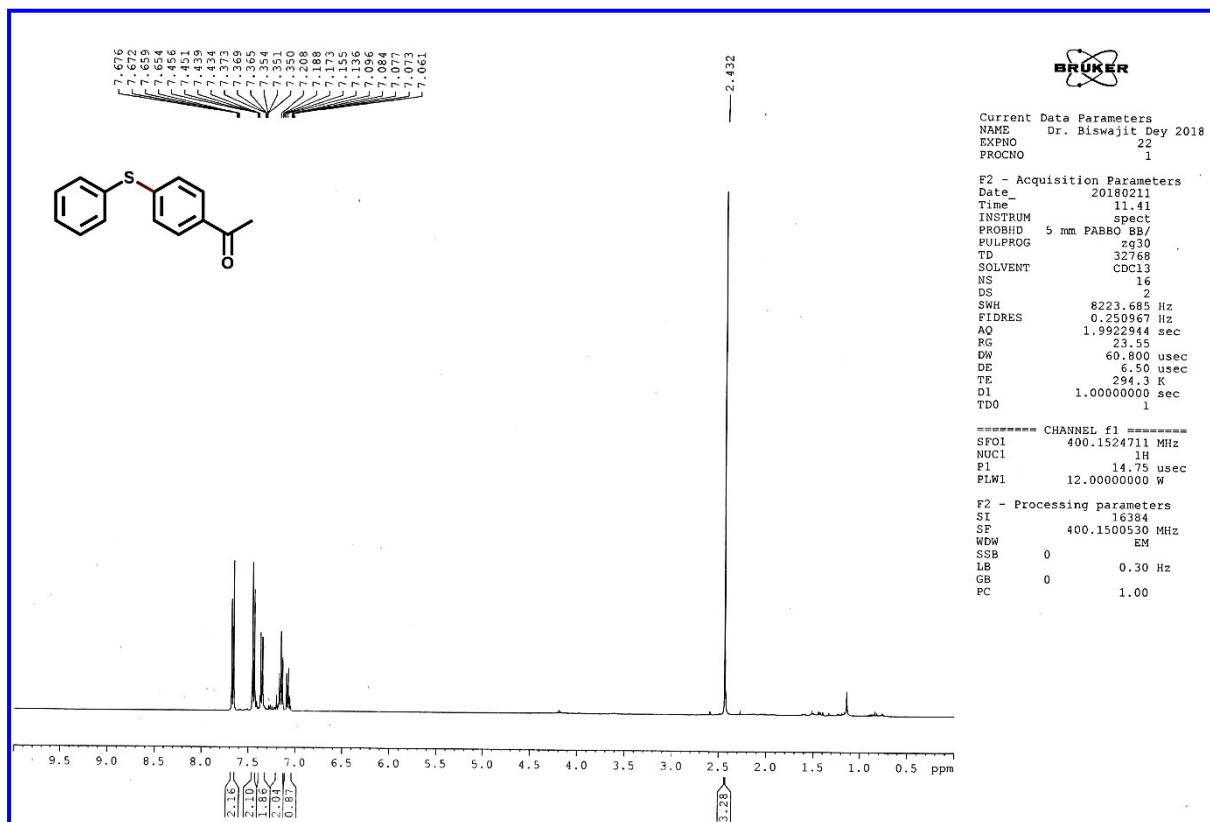
**Fig. S17**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 5, Table 2)



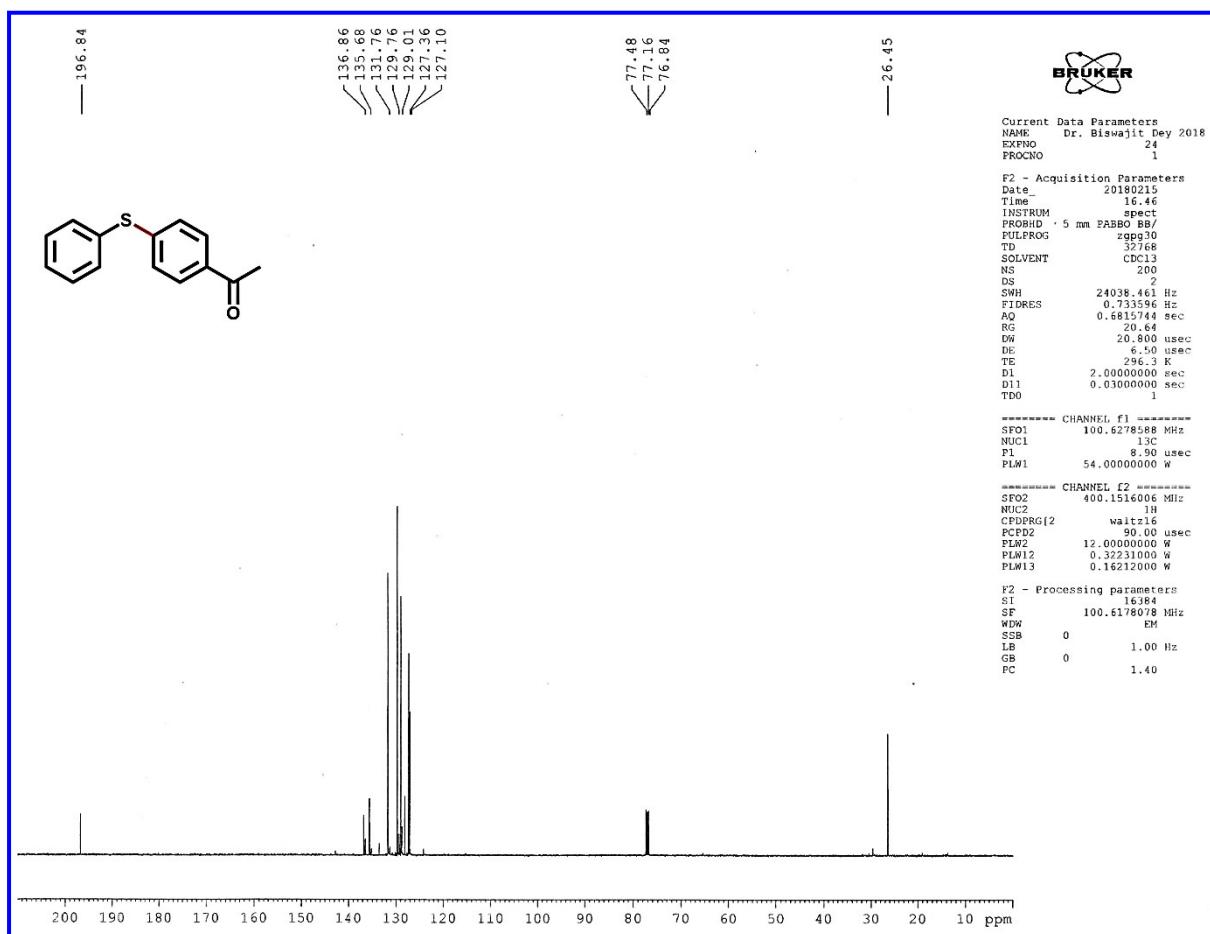
**Fig. S18**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 5, Table 2)



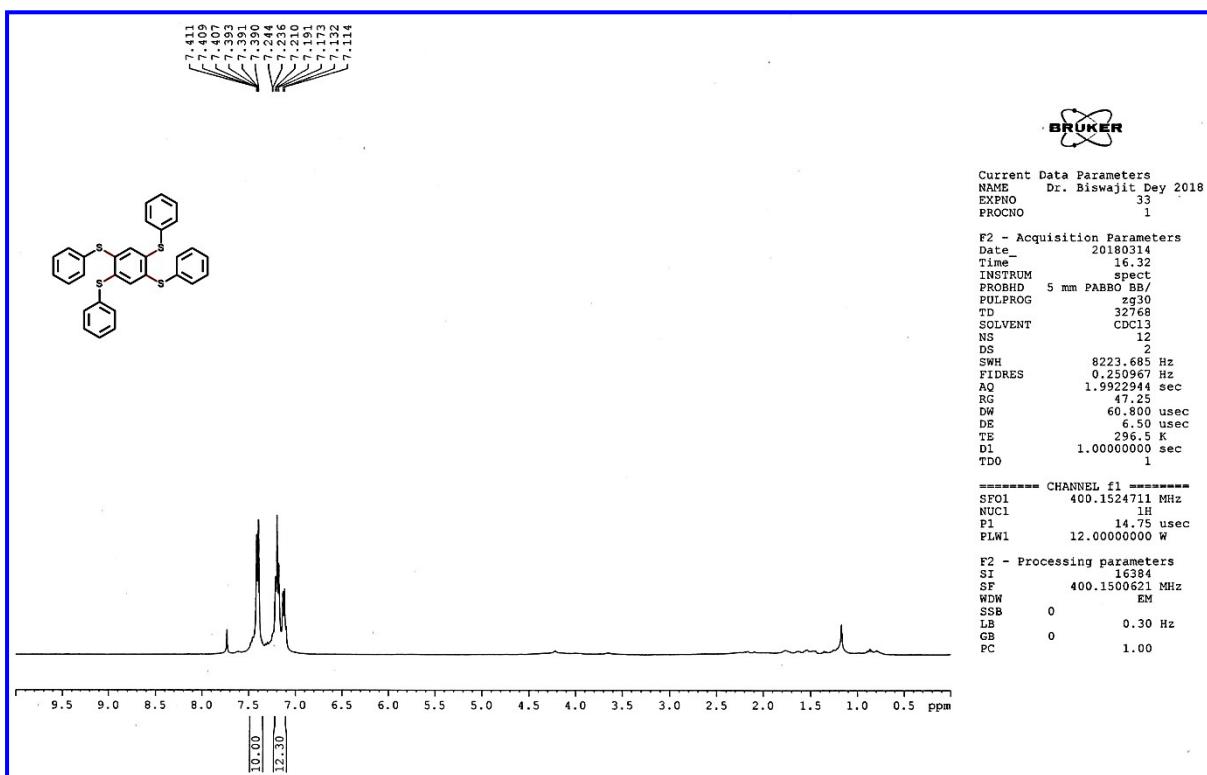
**Fig. S19**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 6, Table 2)



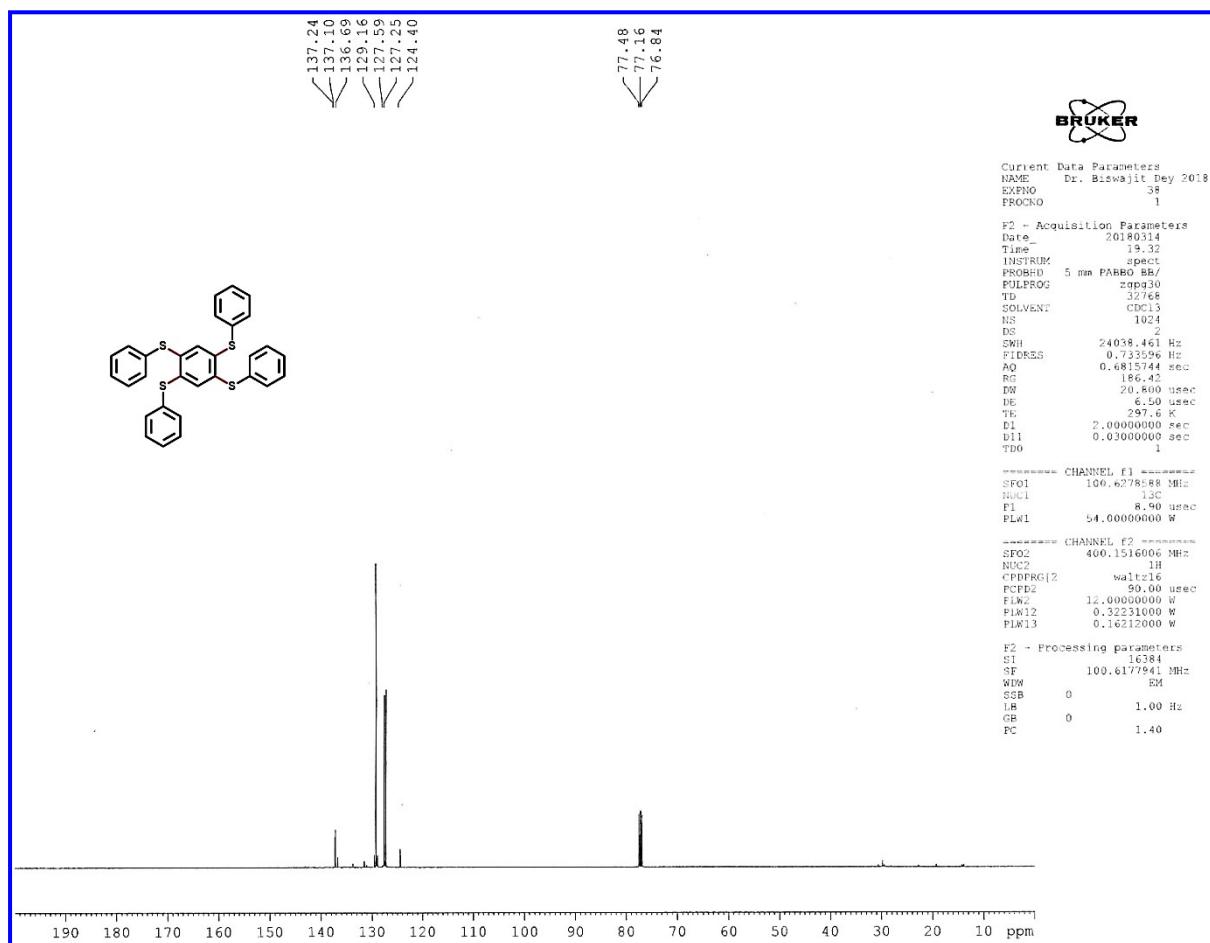
**Fig. S20**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 7, Table 2)



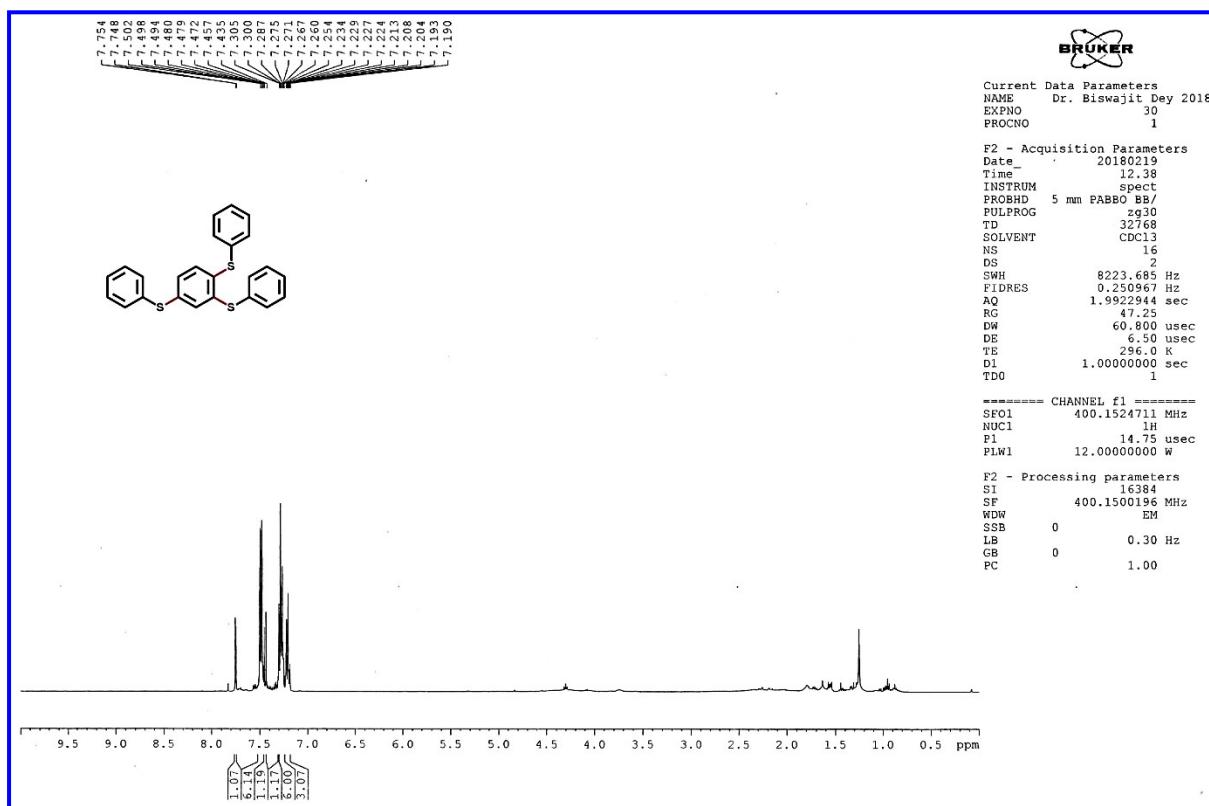
**Fig. S21**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 11, Table 2)



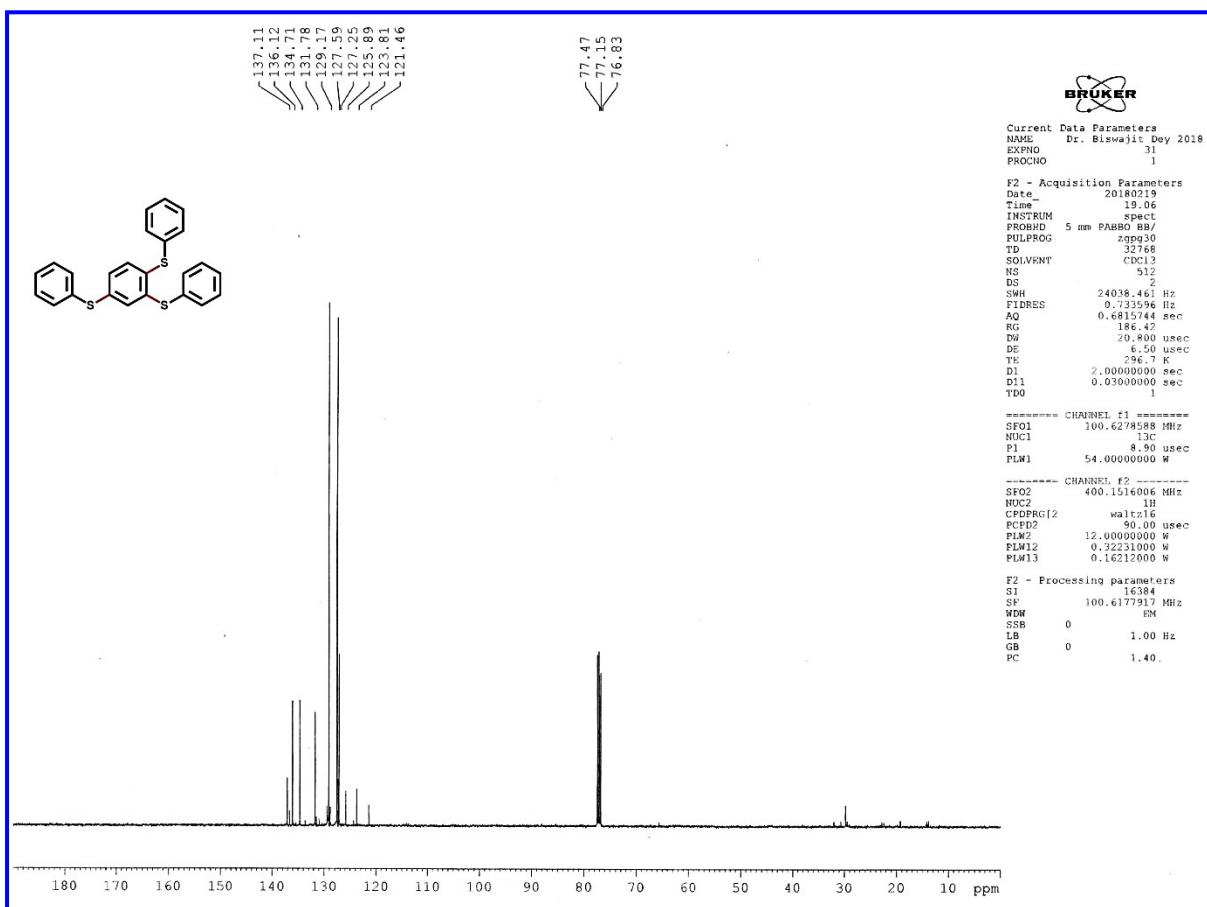
**Fig. S22**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 11, Table 2)



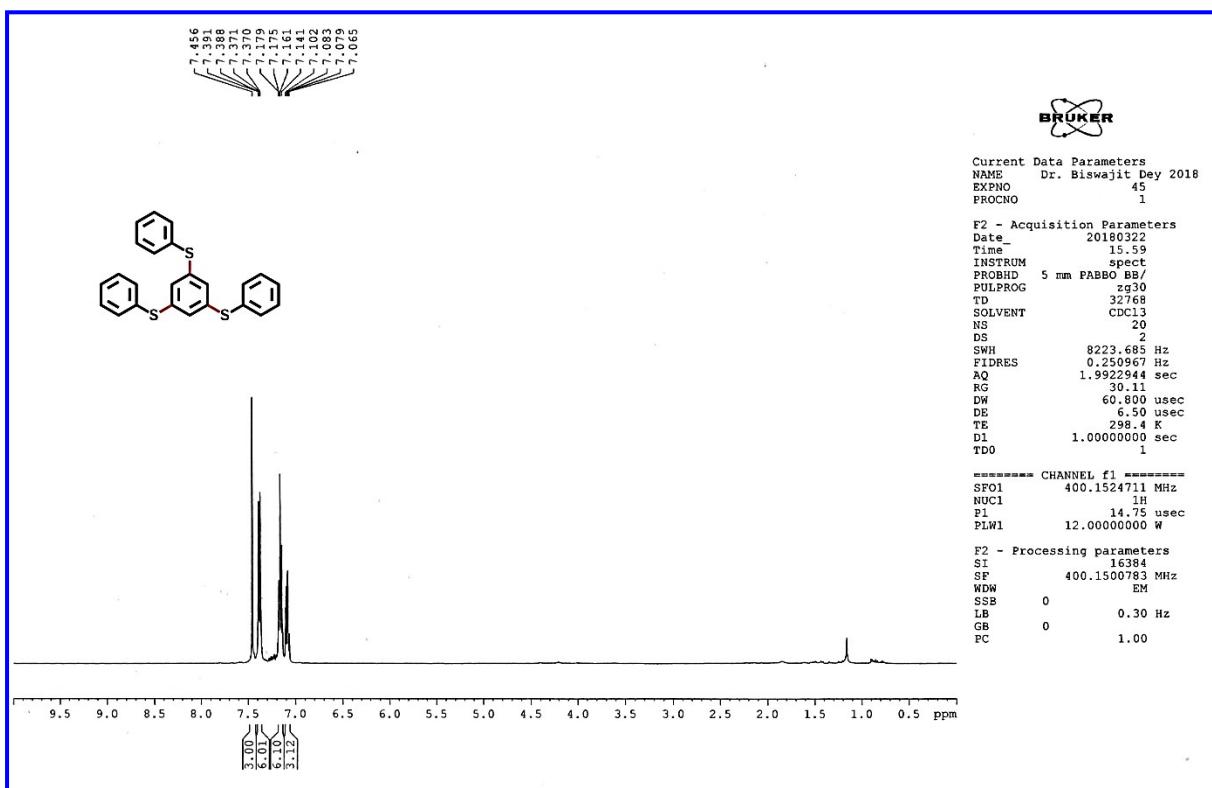
**Fig. S23**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 8, Table 2)



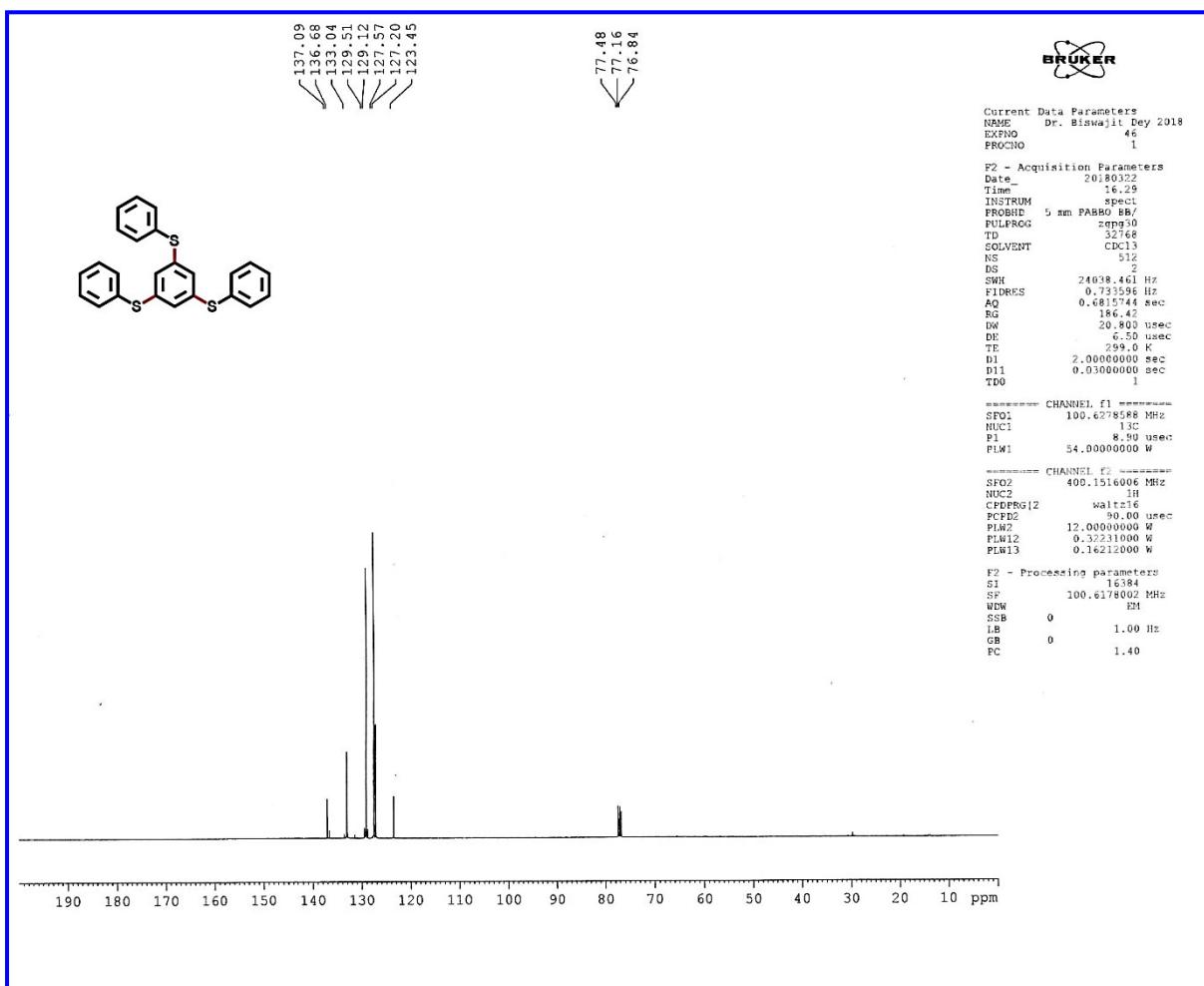
**Fig. S24**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 8, Table 2)



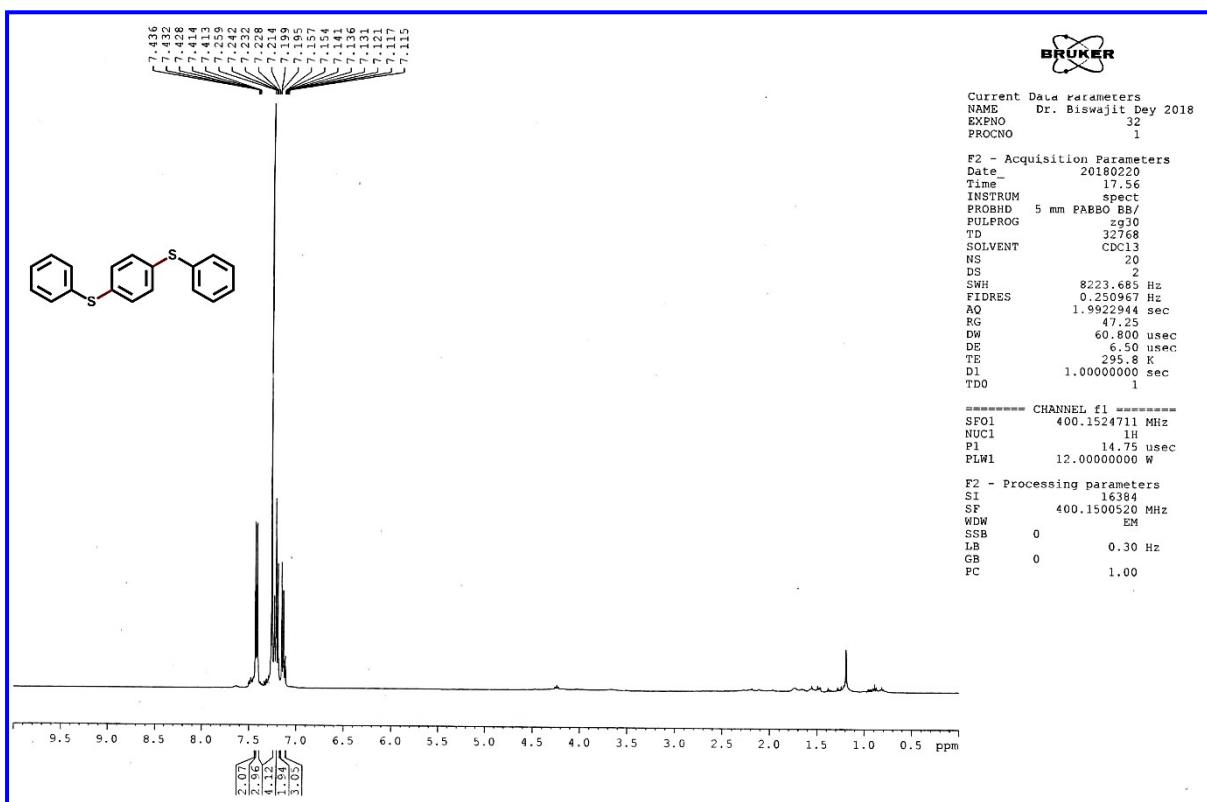
**Fig. S25**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 13, Table 2)



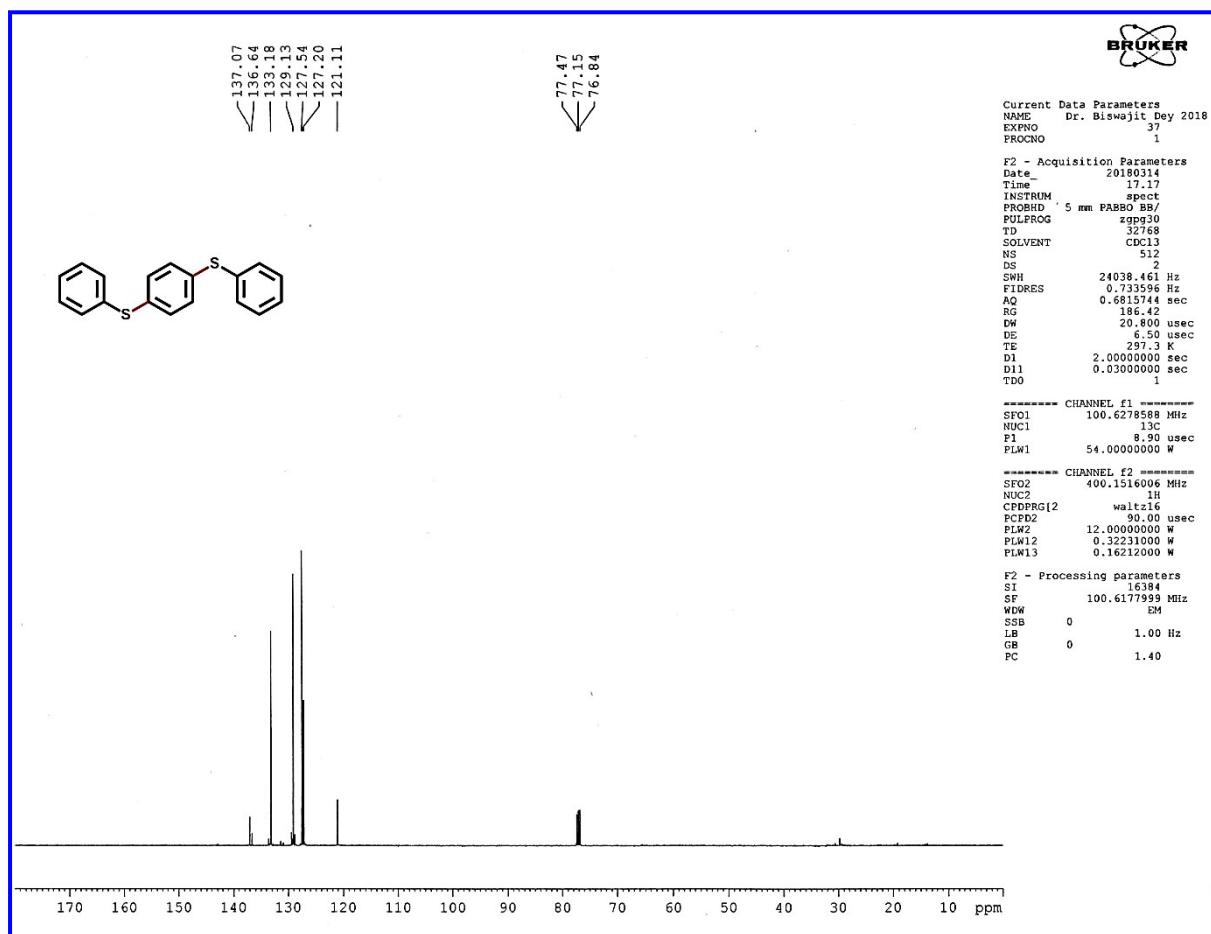
**Fig. S26**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 13, Table 2)



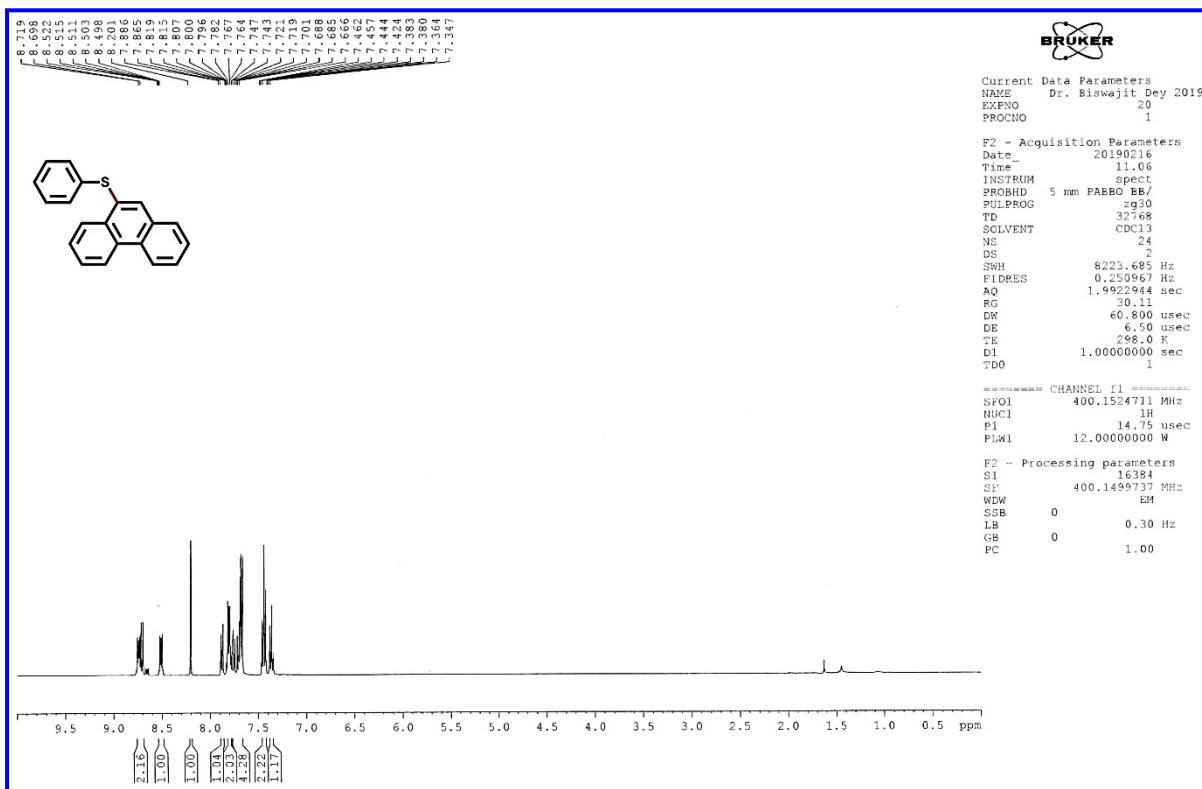
**Fig. S27**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 9, Table 2)



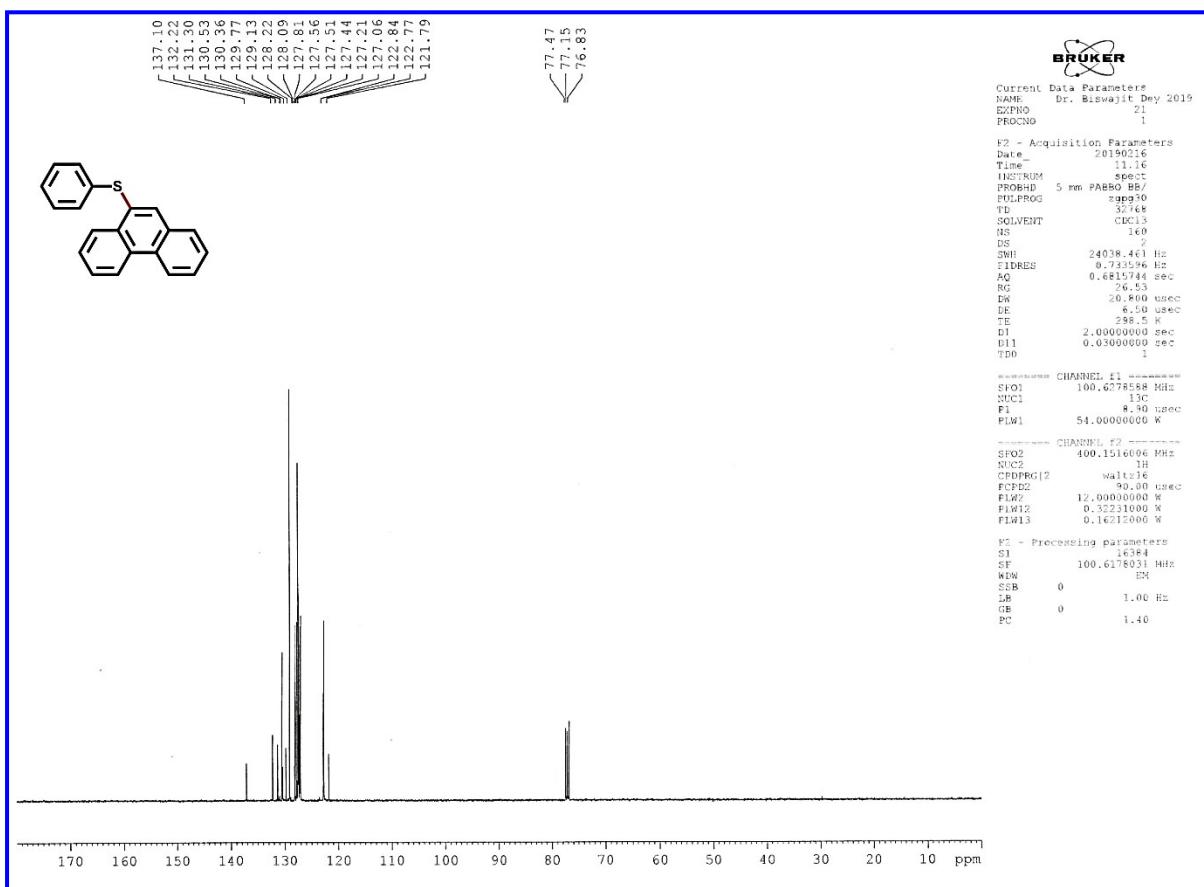
**Fig. S28**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 10, Table 2)



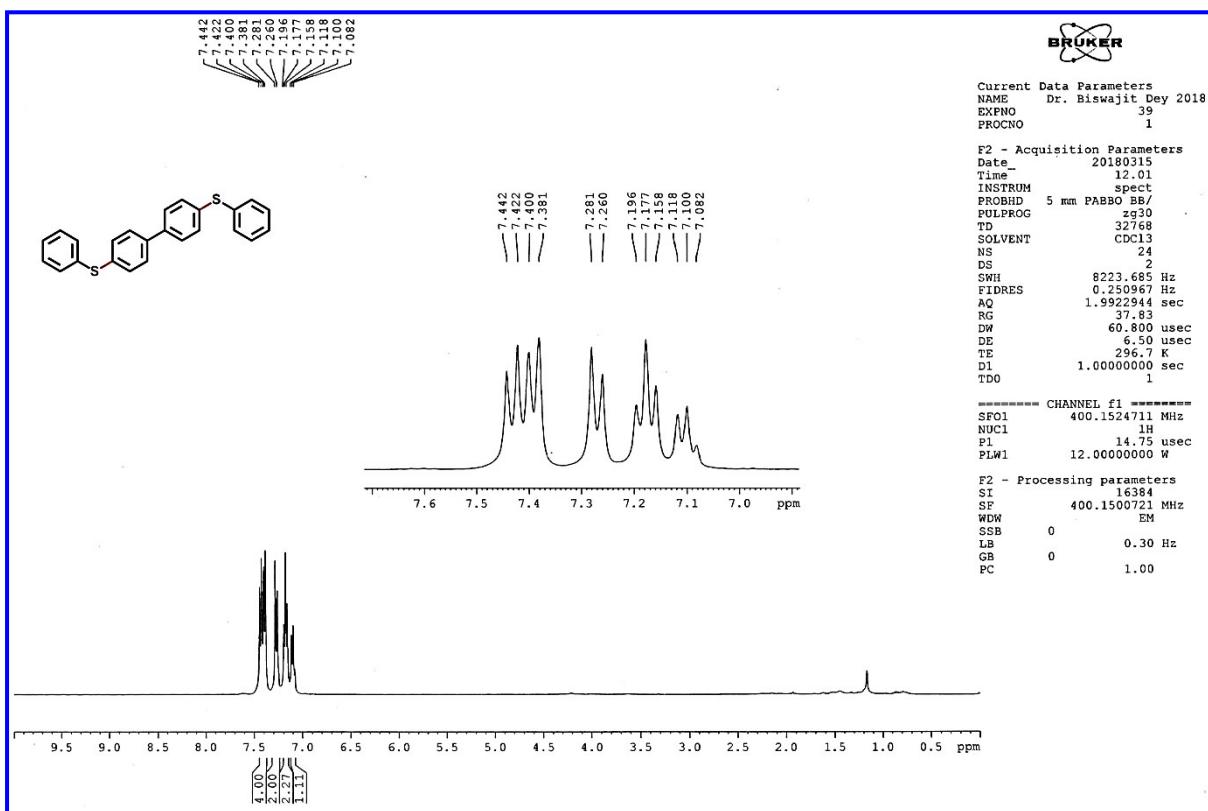
**Fig. S29**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



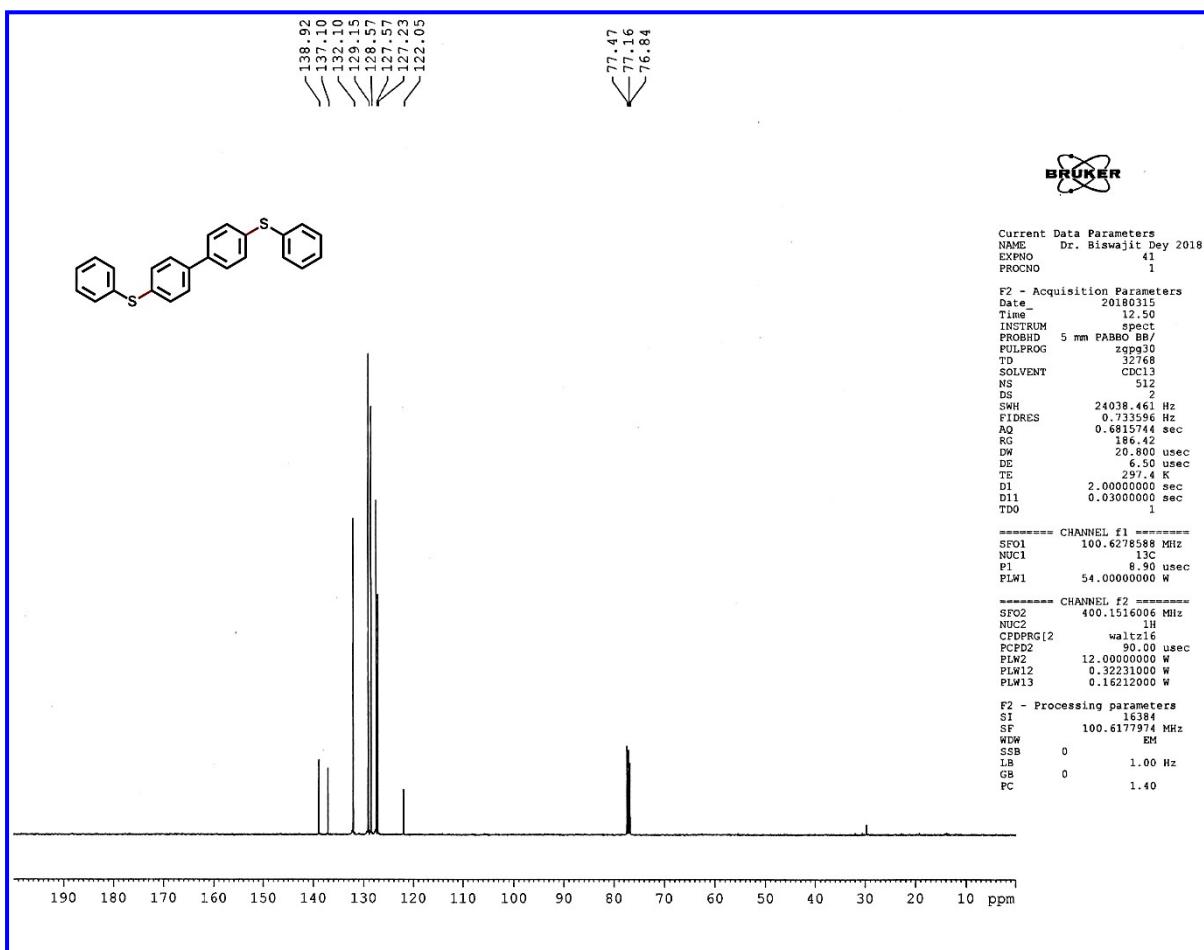
**Fig. S30**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



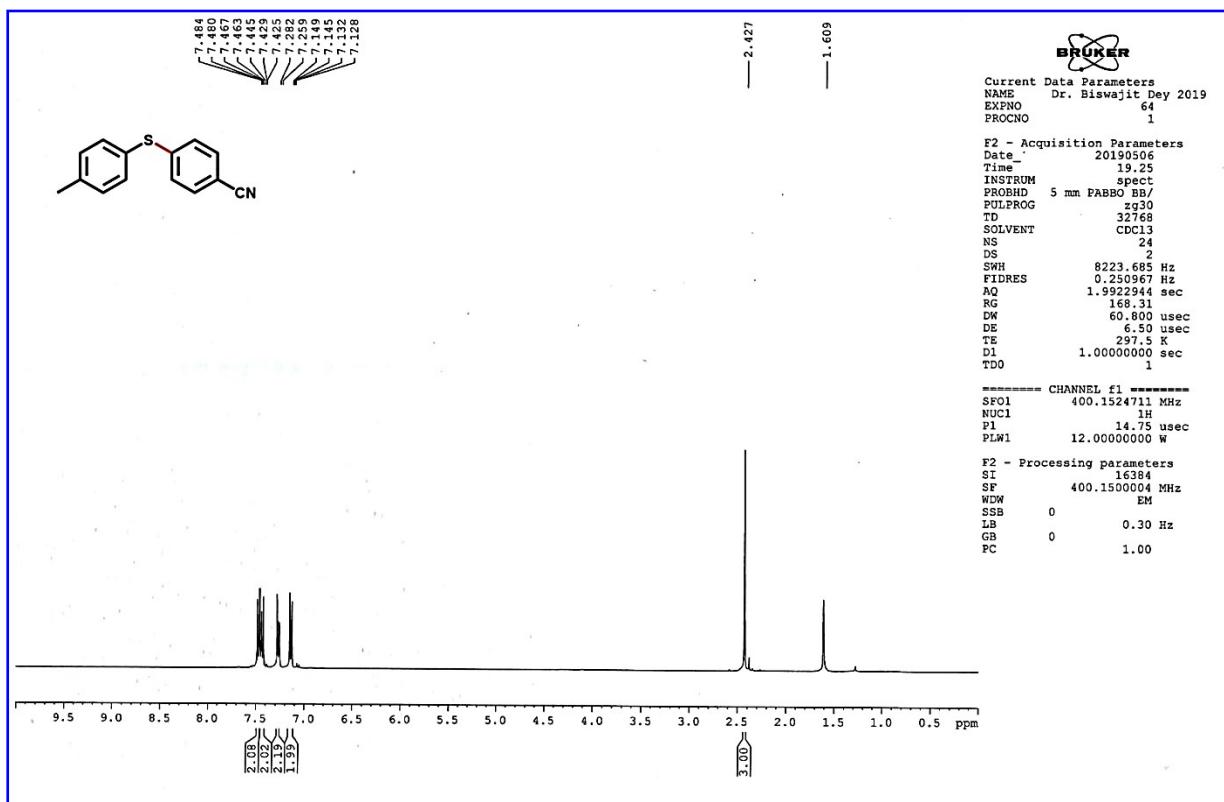
**Fig. S31**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



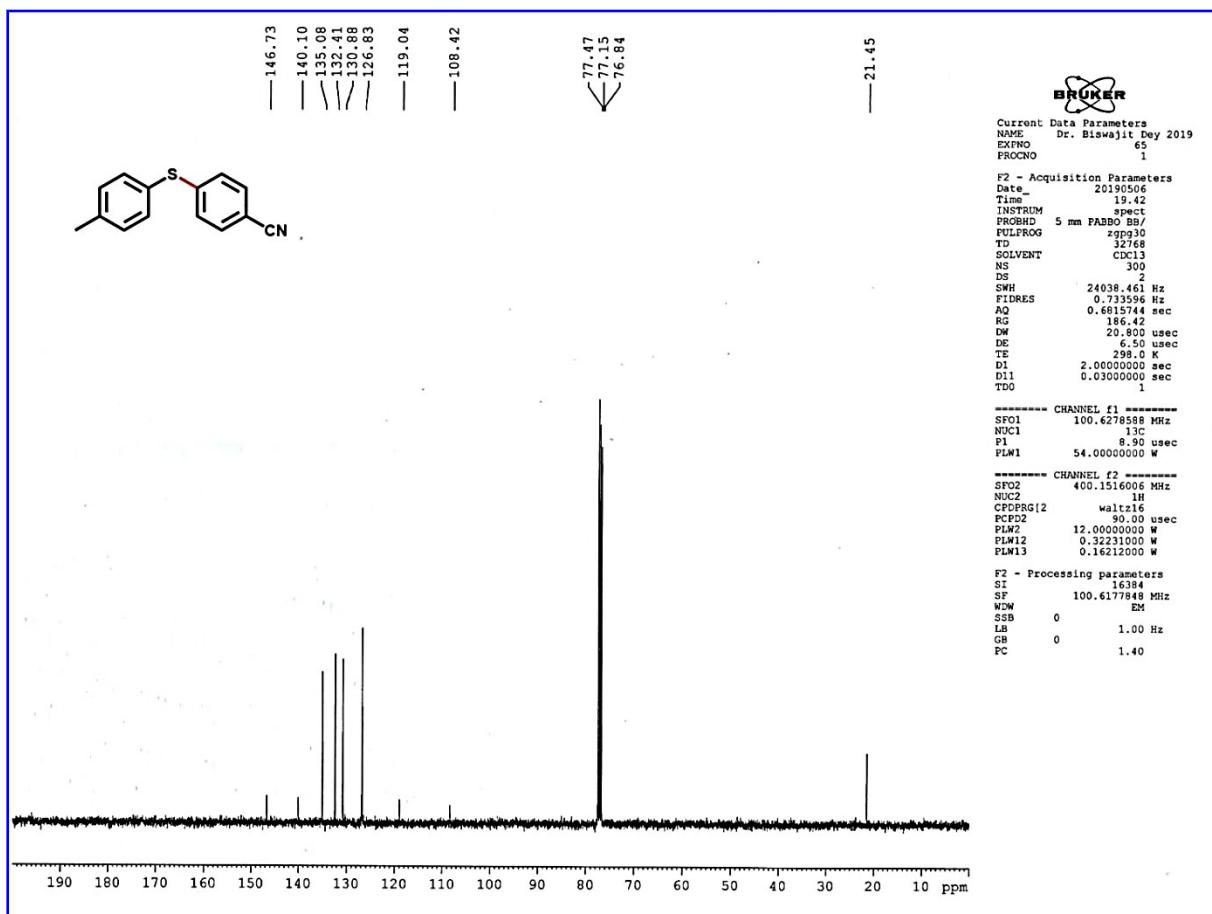
**Fig. S32**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



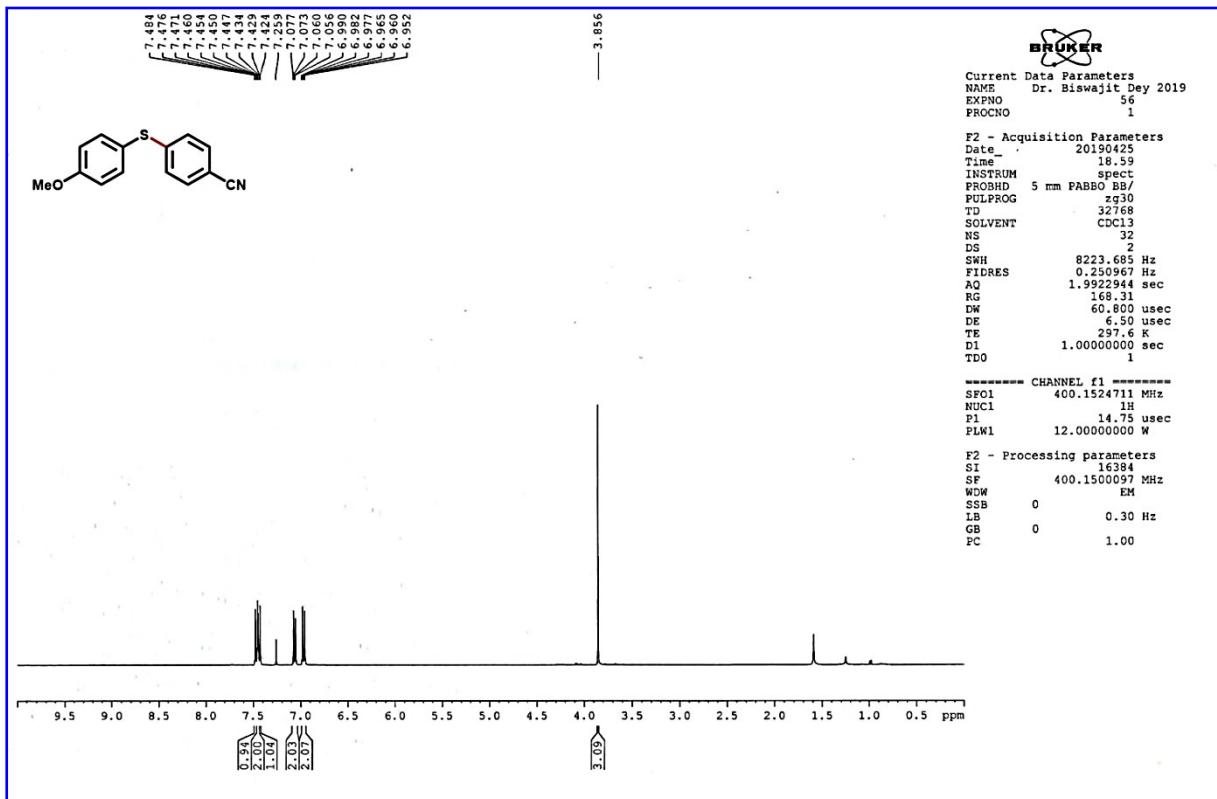
**Fig. S33**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 13, Table 2)



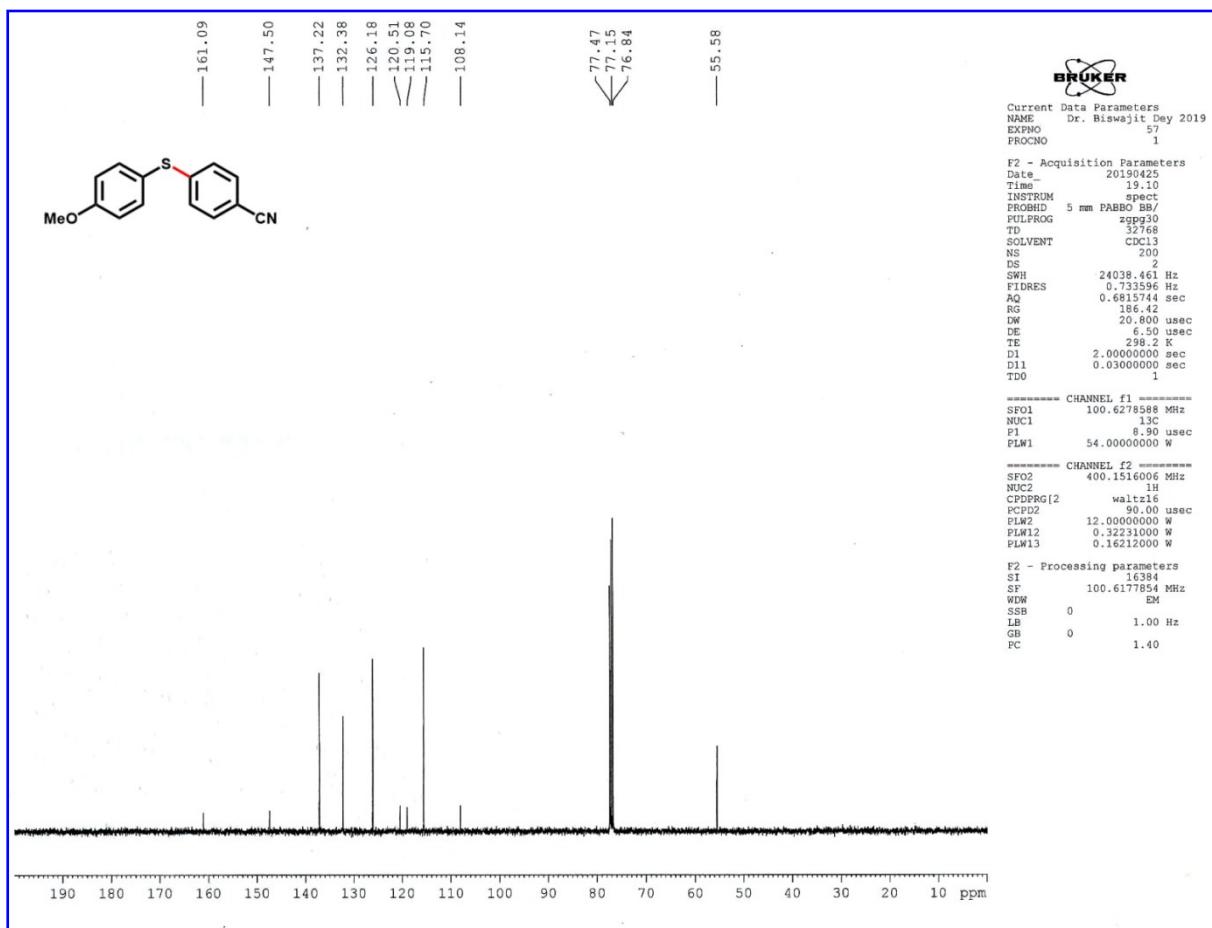
**Fig. S34**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



**Fig. S35**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (entry 13, Table 2)



**Fig. S36**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of (entry 12, Table 2)



**Reference:**

1. D. G. Brannon, R. H. Morrison, J. L. Hall, G. L. Humphrey, D. N. Zimmerman, *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.* **1971**, *33*, 981-990.
2. V. T. Yilmaz, O. Andac, A. Karadag, W. T. A. Harrison, *Journal of Molecular Structure*. **2001**, *641*, 119-124.