

## Supporting Information

### Thermally Regulated Molybdate-based Ionic Liquids Toward Molecular Oxygen

#### Activation for One-pot Oxidative Cascade Catalysis

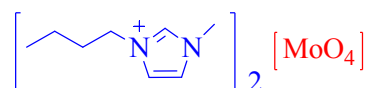
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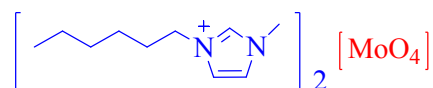
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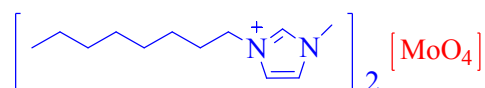
## Characterization results



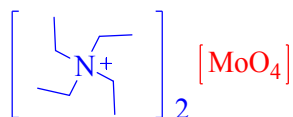
**[Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 8.67 (s, 2 H), 7.42 (s, 2 H), 7.38 (s, 2 H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4 H), 3.84 (s, 6 H), 1.76-1.83 (m, 4 H), 1.23-1.29 (m, 4 H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 136.0, 123.6, 122.3, 49.3, 35.8, 31.4, 18.9, 12.9 ppm. ESI-MS: 139.1217 for [Bmim] (calculated: 139.1235), 161.9016 for [MoO<sub>4</sub>] (calculated: 161.8851). Elemental analysis (%), calculated: C 43.84, H 6.90, N 12.78, Mo 21.89, found: C 44.24, H 7.20, N 11.89, Mo 20.75.



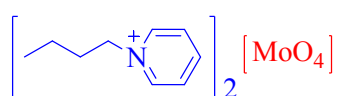
**[Hmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 8.80 (s, 2 H), 7.55 (s, 2 H), 7.52 (s, 2 H), 4.24-4.27 (m, 4 H), 3.96 (s, 6 H), 1.91-1.92 (m, 4 H), 1.34 (s, 12 H), 0.88-0.89 (m, 6 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ 135.9, 123.6, 122.3, 49.6, 35.7, 30.4, 29.2, 25.1, 21.8, 13.3 ppm. ESI-MS: 167.1567 for [Hmim] (calculated: 167.1548), 161.9016 for [MoO<sub>4</sub>] (calculated: 161.8851). Elemental analysis (%), calculated: C 48.58, H 7.75, N 11.33, Mo 19.40, found: C 49.16, H 8.18, N 10.49, Mo 18.52.



**[Omim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 8.85 (s, 2 H), 7.54-7.55 (m, 4 H), 4.24-4.28 (m, 4 H), 3.97-3.98 (m, 6 H), 1.90-1.93 (m, 4 H), 1.28-1.34 (m, 20 H), 0.86-0.88 (m, 6 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 136.0, 123.7, 122.2, 49.6, 35.8, 31.3, 29.4, 28.5, 28.4, 25.6, 22.2, 13.6 ppm. ESI-MS: 195.1858 for [Omim] (calculated: 195.1861), 161.9016 for [MoO<sub>4</sub>] (calculated: 161.8851). Elemental analysis (%), calculated: C 52.35, H 8.42, N 10.18, Mo 17.43, found: C 54.02, H 9.73, N 9.81, Mo 16.75.



**[N<sub>2222</sub>]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]:** slight yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 3.18 (q, *J* = 6.8, 16 H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 24 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 52.1, 6.8 ppm. ESI-MS: 130.1613 for [N<sub>2222</sub>] (calculated: 130.1596), 161.9016 for [MoO<sub>4</sub>] (calculated: 161.8851). Elemental analysis (%), calculated: C 45.71, H 9.59, N 6.66, Mo 22.82, found: C 46.44, H 10.21, N 6.29, Mo 21.93.

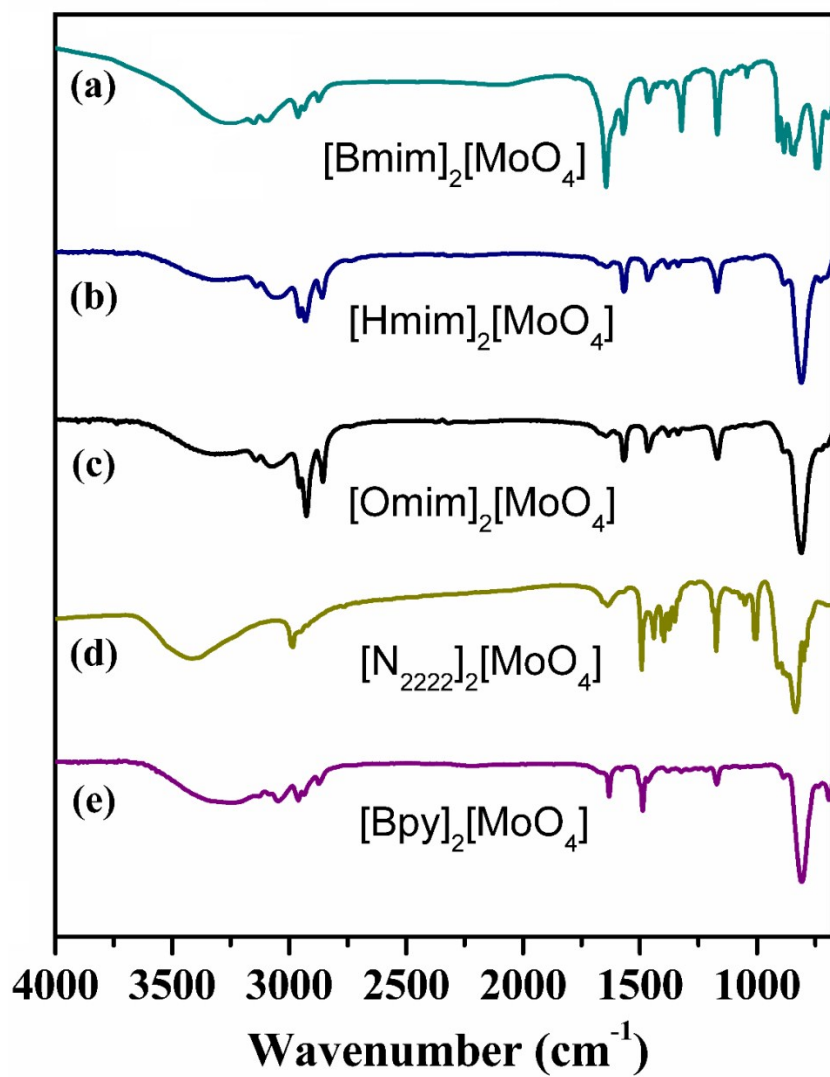


**[Bpy]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]:** slight yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 8.92-8.93 (m, 4 H), 8.59-8.63 (m, 2 H), 8.13-8.15 (m, 4 H), 4.68 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4 H), 2.02 – 2.06 (m, 4 H), 1.435-1.44 (m, 4 H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O): δ = 145.6, 144.3, 128.3, 61.8, 32.6, 18.8, 12.8 ppm. ESI-MS: 136.1137 for [Bpy] (calculated: 136.1126), 161.9016 for [MoO<sub>4</sub>] (calculated: 161.8851). Elemental analysis (%), calculated: C 50.00, H 6.53, N 6.48, Mo 22.19, found: C 51.18, H 7.31, N 6.08, Mo 21.66.

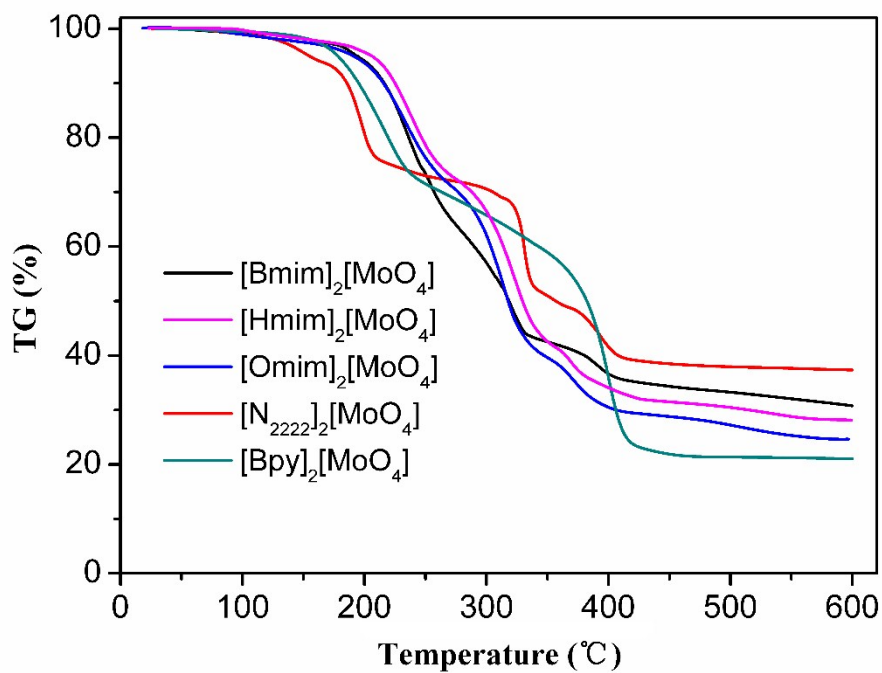
**Flavone:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.24-8.26 (m, 1 H), 7.93-7.96 (m, 2 H), 7.69-7.74 (m, 1 H), 7.58-7.60 (m, 1 H), 7.54-7.55 (m, 3 H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 1 H), 6.86 (s, 1 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 178.5, 163.5, 156.3, 133.8, 131.8, 131.6, 129.1, 126.3, 125.7, 124.0, 118.1, 107.6 ppm.

**Benzyl benzoate:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.07-8.09 (m, 2 H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 1 H), 7.32-7.46 (m, 7 H), 5.39 (s, 2 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 166.5, 136.1, 133.1, 130.2, 129.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 66.7 ppm.

***N*-benzylideneaniline:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.46 (s, 1 H), 7.92-7.94 (m, 2 H), 7.49-7.55 (m, 6 H), 7.11-7.13 (m, 2 H) ppm.



**Figure S1.** FT-IR spectra of five Mo-ILs catalysts.



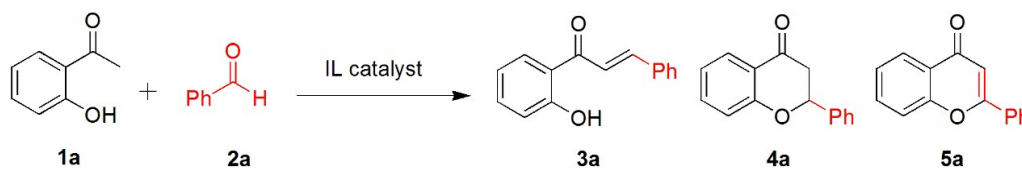
**Figure S2.** TG curves of five Mo-ILs catalysts.

**Table S1.** Thermal properties of five Mo-ILs.

Mo-ILs	$T_m$ (°C)	$T_d$ (°C)
[Bmim] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	NA <sup>[a]</sup>	200
[Hmim] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	NA <sup>[a]</sup>	207
[Omim] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	NA <sup>[a]</sup>	221
[N <sub>2222</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	69	173
[Bpy] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	47	175

[a] NA: not available.

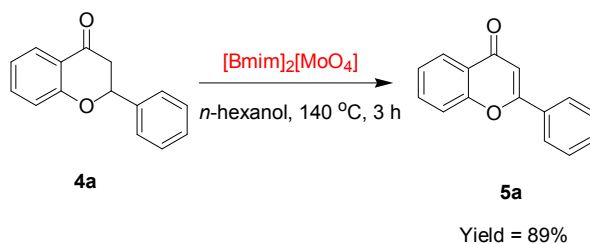
**Table S2.** Aerobic oxidative tandem reactions for synthesis of flavone using the Mo-IL  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  catalyst under different reaction conditions.<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Catalyst loading	Temperature (°C)	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield (%)		
					<b>3a</b>	<b>4a</b>	<b>5a</b>
1	0.6	110	<i>n</i> -HeOH	21	n.d.	17	65
2	0.6	120	<i>n</i> -HeOH	11	1	n.d.	82
3	0.6	130	<i>n</i> -HeOH	8	n.d.	6	88
4	0.2	140	<i>n</i> -HeOH	6	14	37	43
5	0.4	140	<i>n</i> -HeOH	4	n.d.	7	87
<b>6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>140</b>	<b><i>n</i>-HeOH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>n.d.</b>	<b>n.d.</b>	<b>98</b>
7	0.6	140	Glycol	3	8	30	34
8	0.6	140	DMSO	3	5	12	79
9	0.6	140	DMF	3	1	1	85
10	0.6	140	DMAC	3	7	15	70
11	0.6	140	<i>n</i> -BuOH	3	n.d.	3	91
12	0.6	140	THFA <sup>b</sup>	3	n.d.	4	94

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (2.0 mmol), **2a** (2.0 mmol),  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  as catalyst, solvent (1 mL), under an air atmosphere, determined by GC and GC-MS analysis.

<sup>b</sup> THFA (tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol).

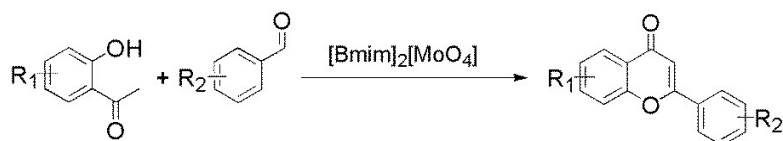


**Scheme S1.** The direct oxidative dehydrogenation of **4a** by  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$ .

**Table S3.** The Raman frequencies of various molybdenum species calculated at B3LYP/6-31+G(d)/LANL2DZ level. For comparison, the experimental peak of Mo-IL [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>] is at 890 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The neutral carbene after 2-H migration is labeled as [Bmim<sub>H</sub>] in the Table.

Species	Raman / cm <sup>-1</sup>
[MoO <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>	868.95
[Bmim] <sub>2</sub> [MoO <sub>4</sub> ]	885.72
[HMoO <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup>	949.15
[Bmim][Bmim <sub>H</sub> ][HMoO <sub>4</sub> ]	944.31
H <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub>	1022.05

**Table S4.** Synthesis of various flavone derivatives via selective aerobic cascade oxidation catalyzed by Mo-IL  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$ .<sup>a</sup>

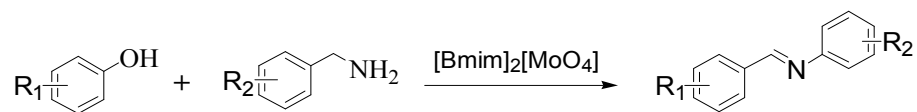


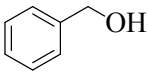
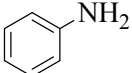
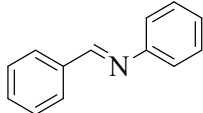
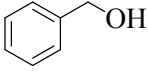
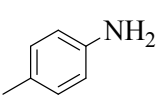
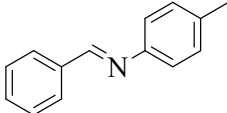
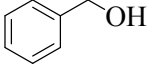
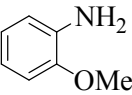
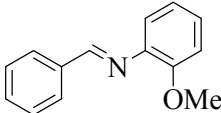
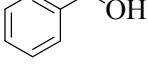
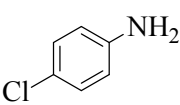
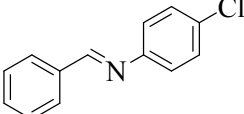
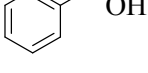
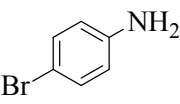
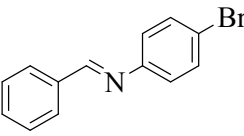
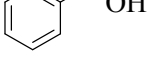
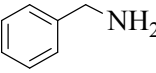
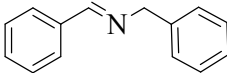
Entry	Aldehyde	Ketone	Products	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1				3	87
2				3	75
3				3	50
4				5	66
5				6	76

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: aldehyde (2.0 mmol), ketone (3.0 mmol),  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  (0.6 mmol), *n*-hexanol (1 mL), 140 °C, under an air atmosphere, determined by GC-MS analysis. <sup>b</sup> GC yield.



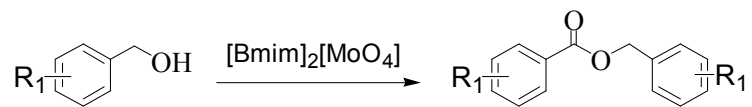
**Table S5.** Synthesis of various imine derivatives via selective aerobic cascade oxidation catalyzed by Mo-IL  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$ .<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Alcohol	Amine	Product	Time (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1				12	91
2				6	89
3				6	60
4				6	59
5				8	63
6				6	78

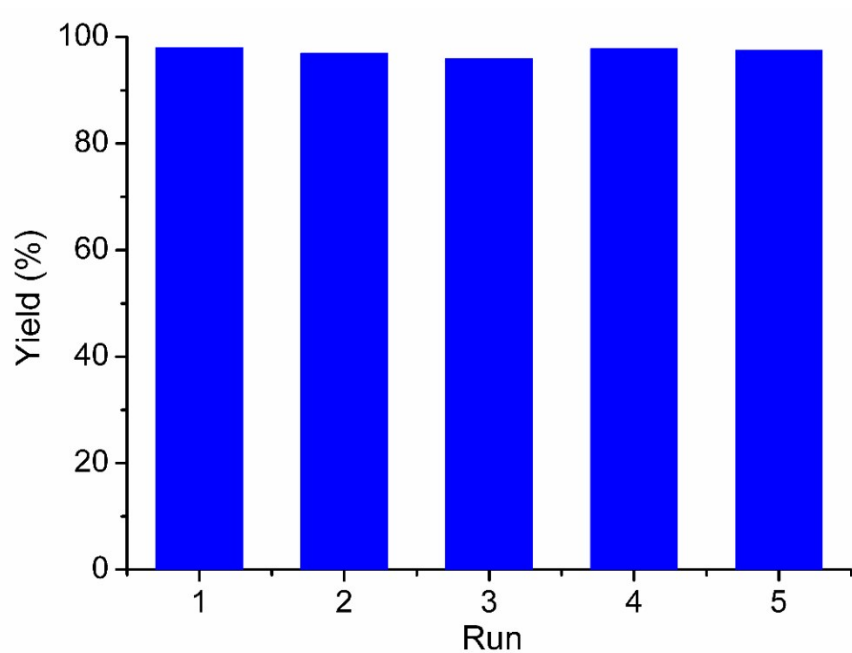
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alcohol (2.0 mmol), amine (2.0 mmol),  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  (0.6 mmol), 100 °C, under an air atmosphere, determined by GC-MS analysis. <sup>b</sup> GC yield.

**Table S6.** Synthesis of various benzyl benzoate derivatives via selective aerobic cascade oxidation catalyzed by Mo-IL  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$ .<sup>a</sup>

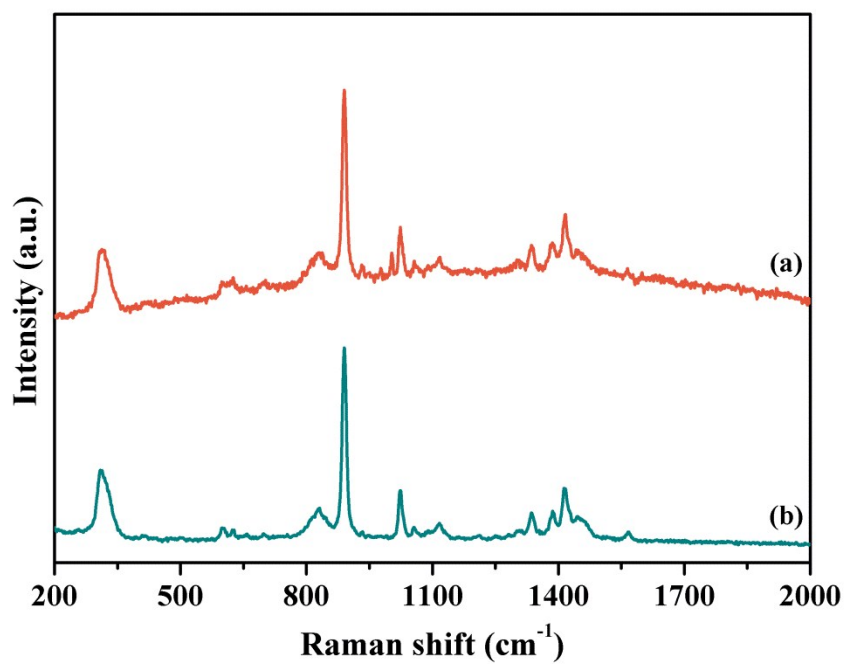


Entry	Alcohol	Product	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1			78
2			79
3			60
4			62

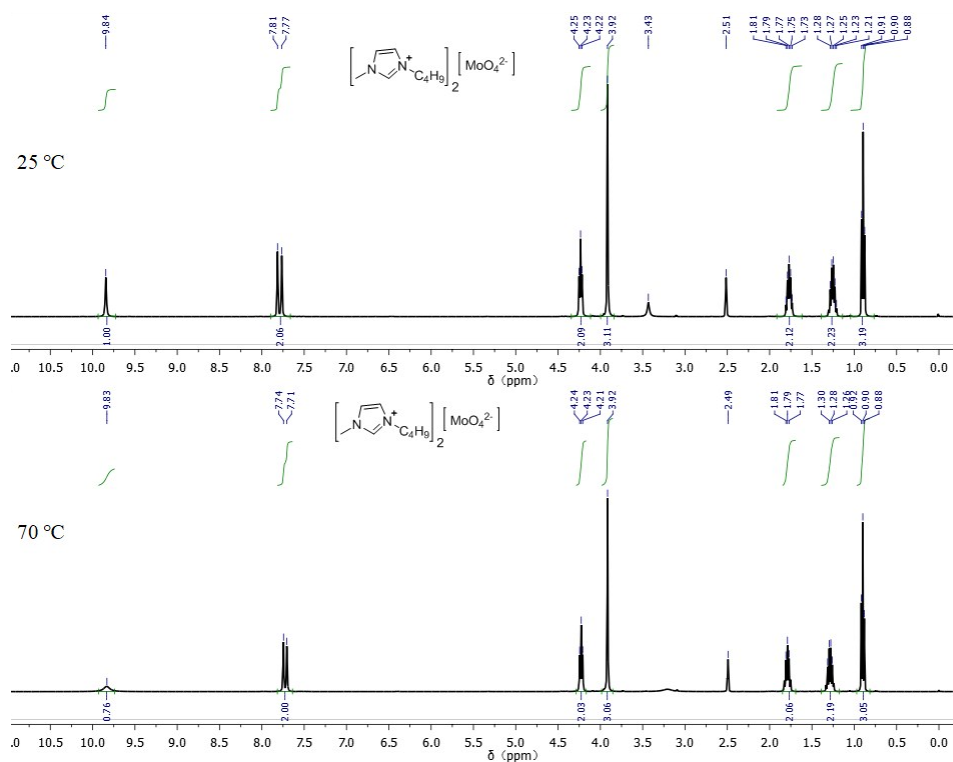
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alcohol (10.0 mmol),  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  (0.6 mmol), 110 °C, 48 h, under an air atmosphere, determined by GC-MS analysis. <sup>b</sup> GC yield.



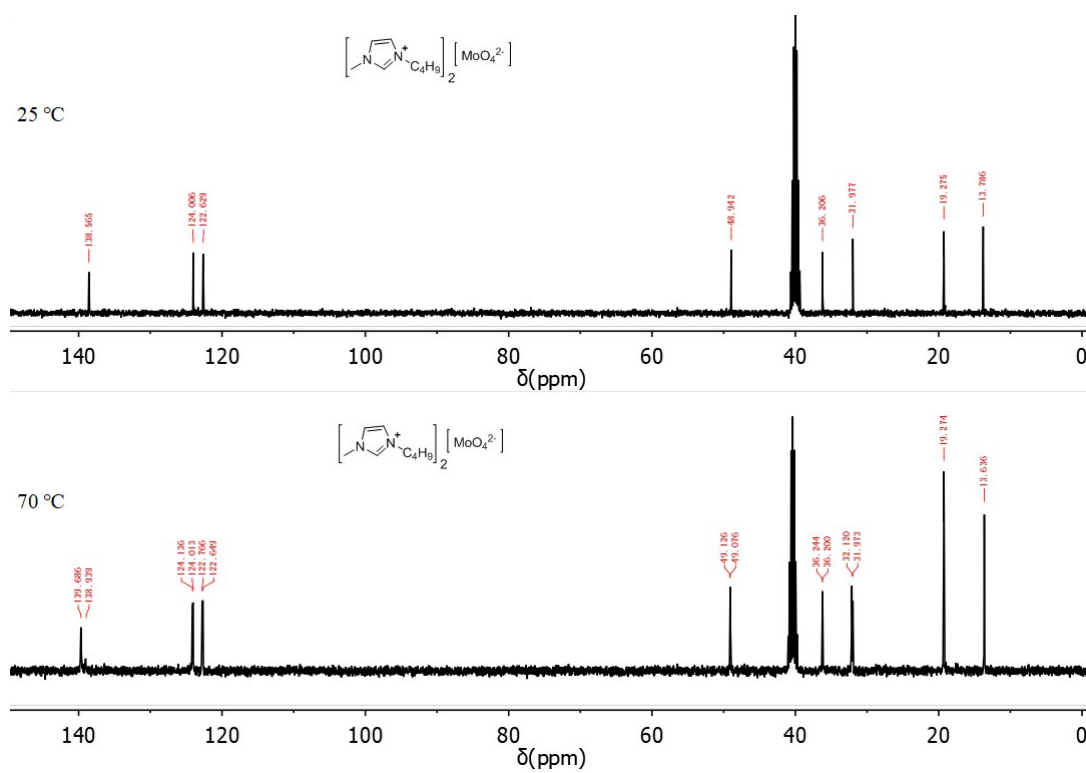
**Figure S3.** The recycle test of the Mo-based IL [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>] catalyst.



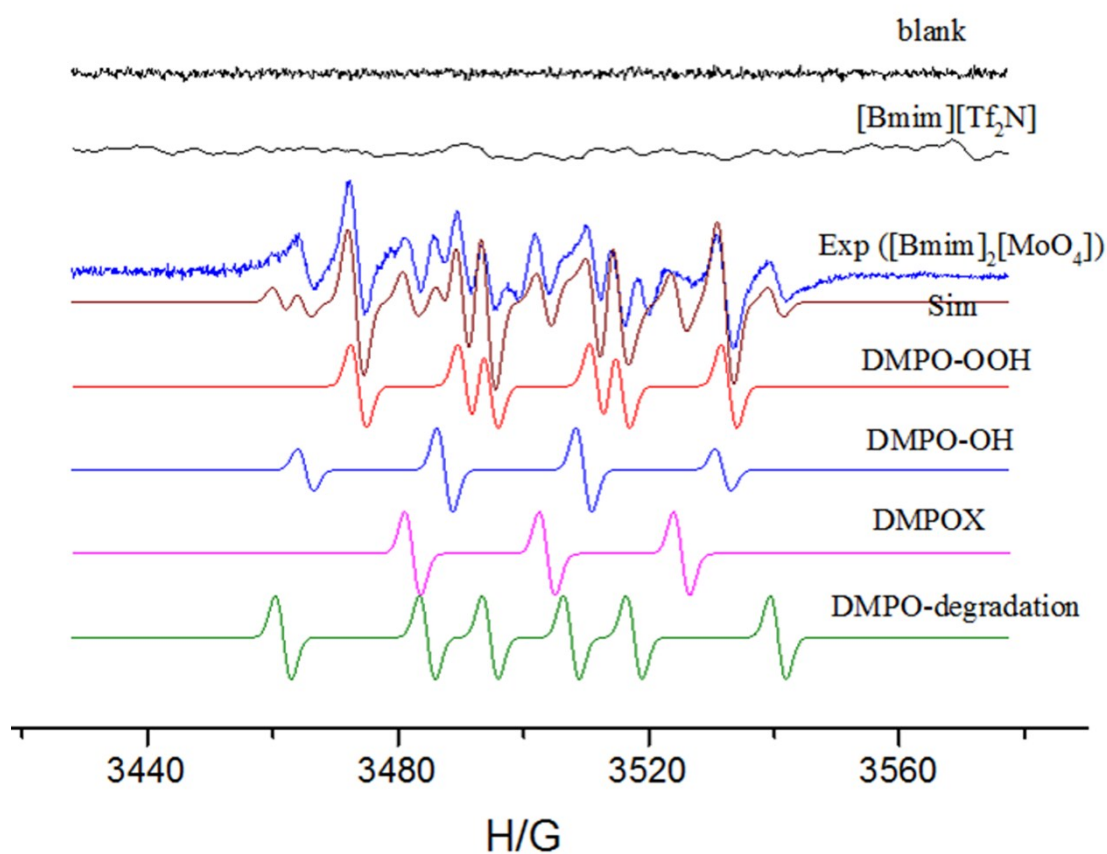
**Figure S4.** Raman spectra of (a) reused [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>] and (b) fresh [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>].



**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  at 25 °C and 70 °C.

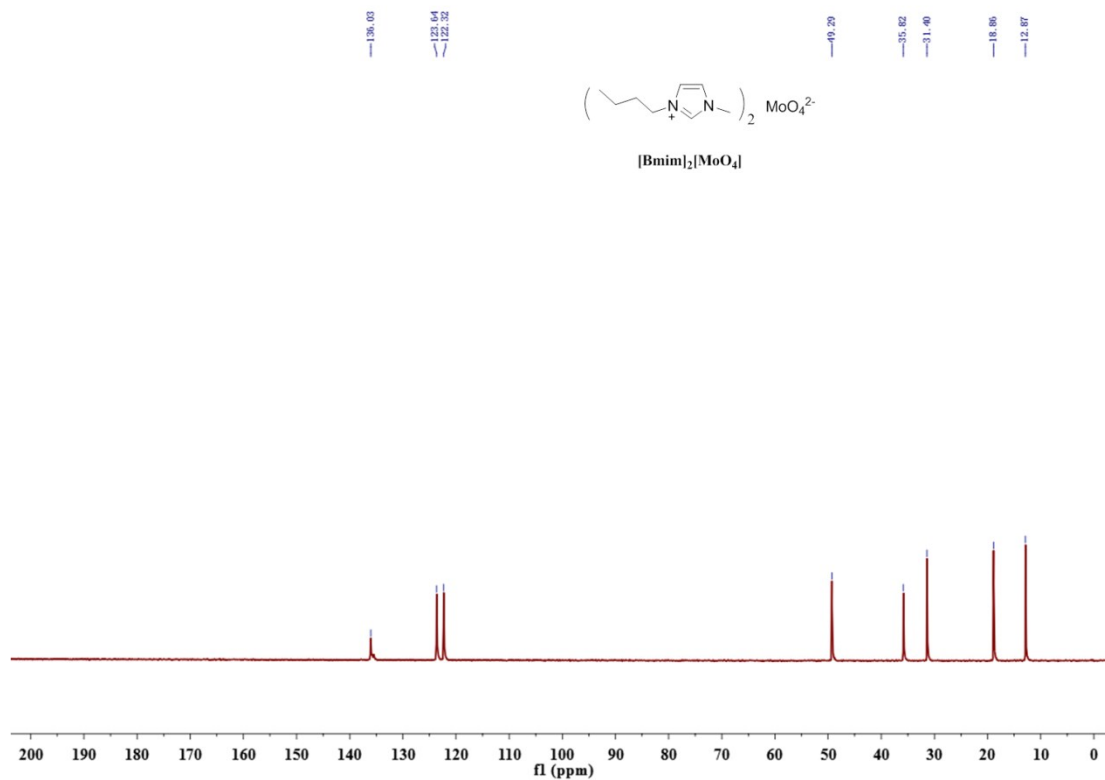
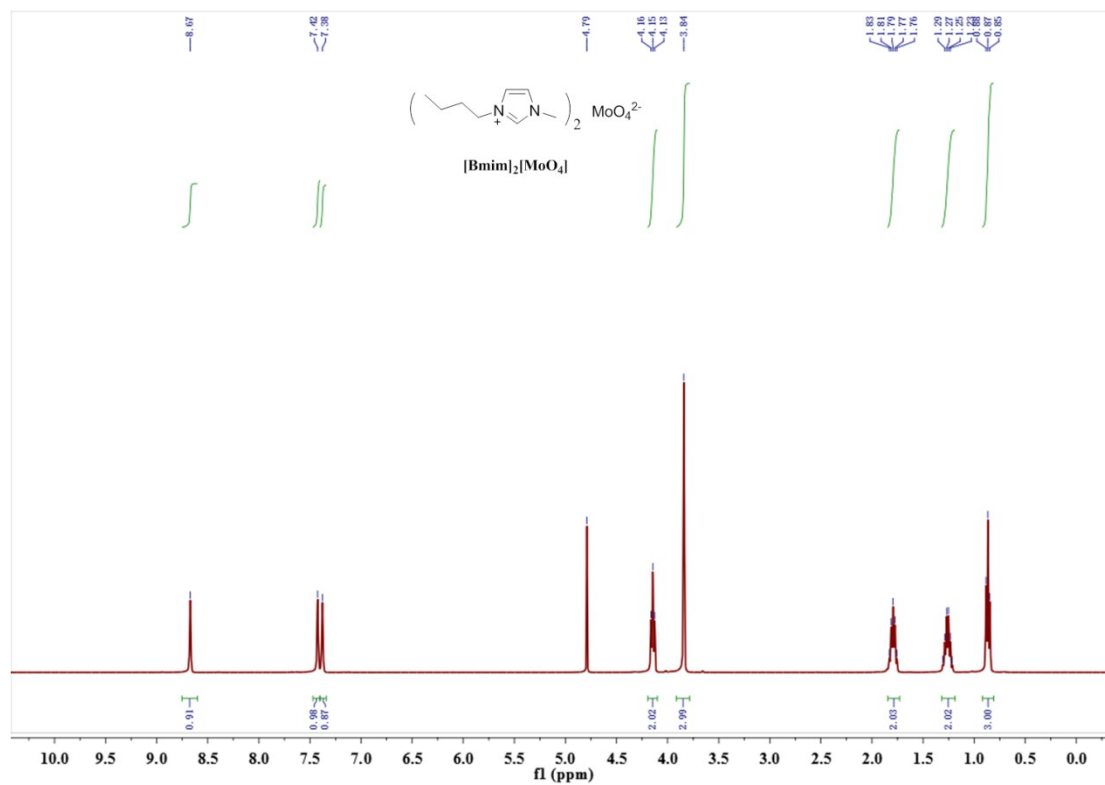


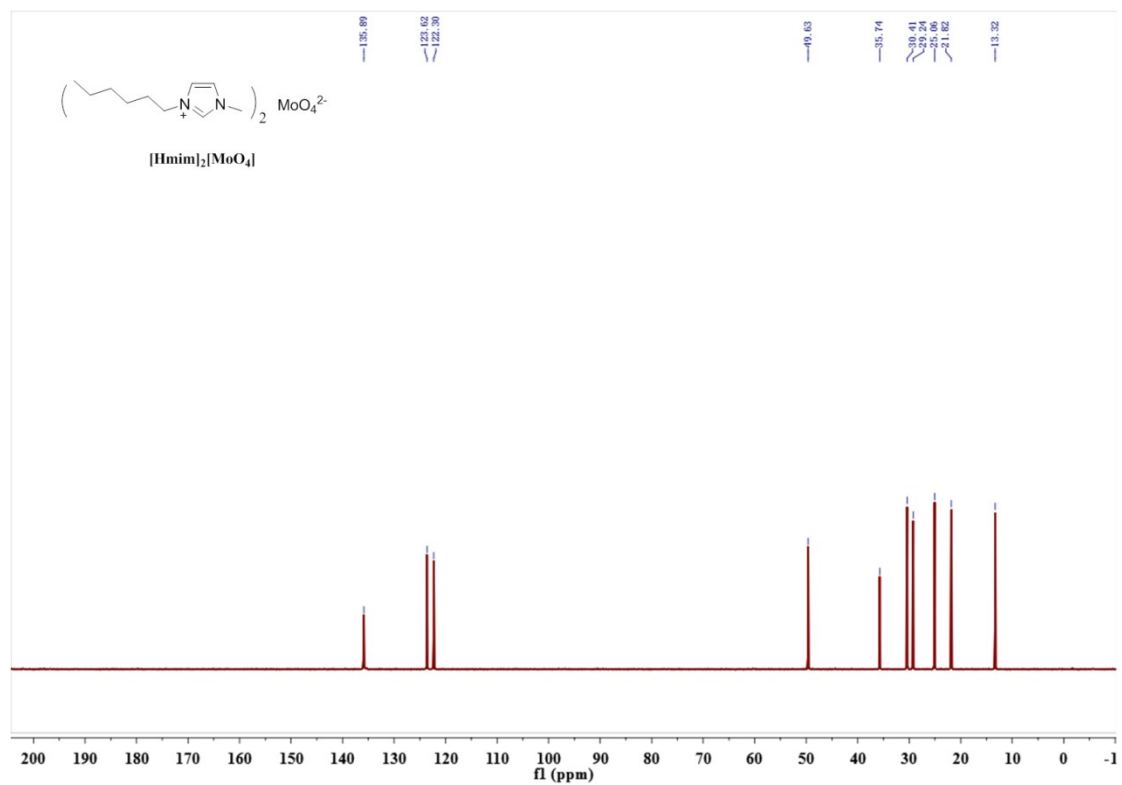
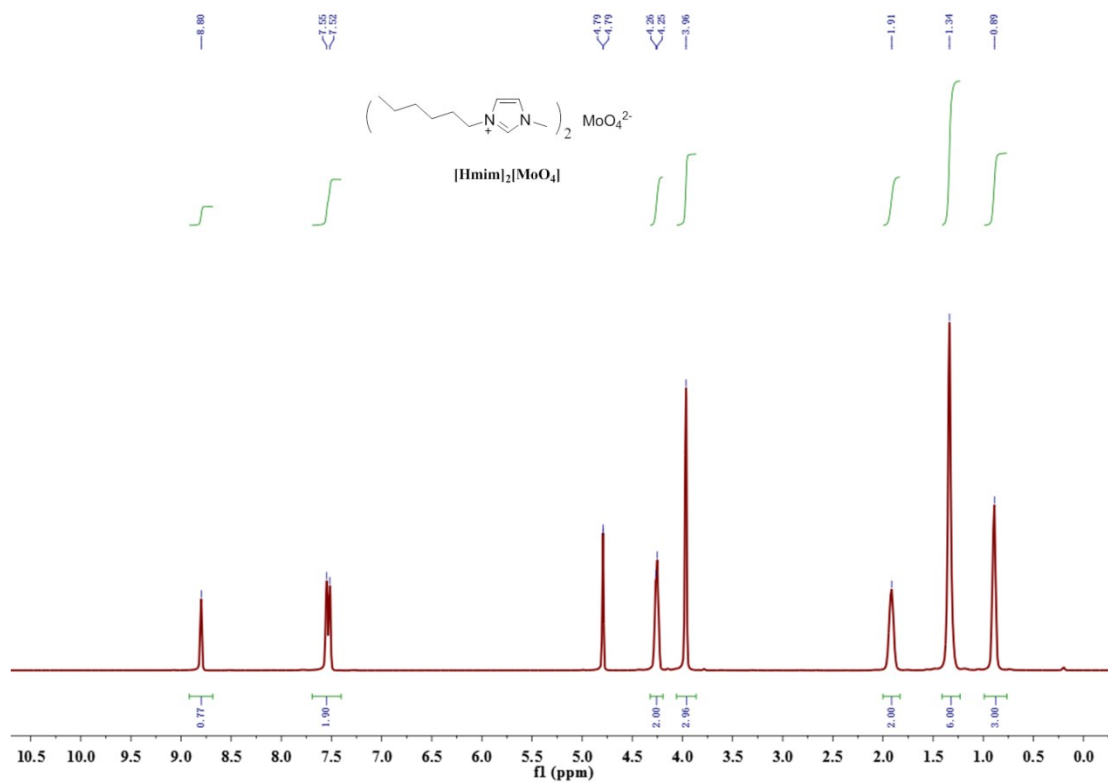
**Figure S6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{Bmim}]_2[\text{MoO}_4]$  at 25 °C and 70 °C

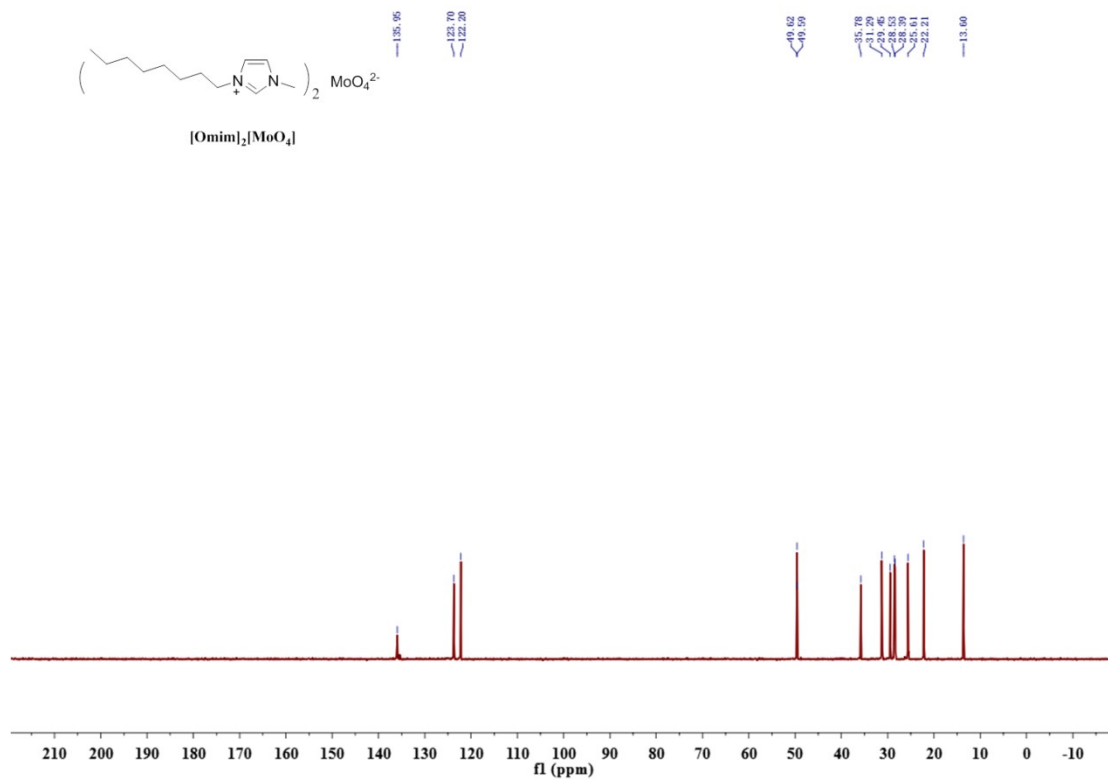
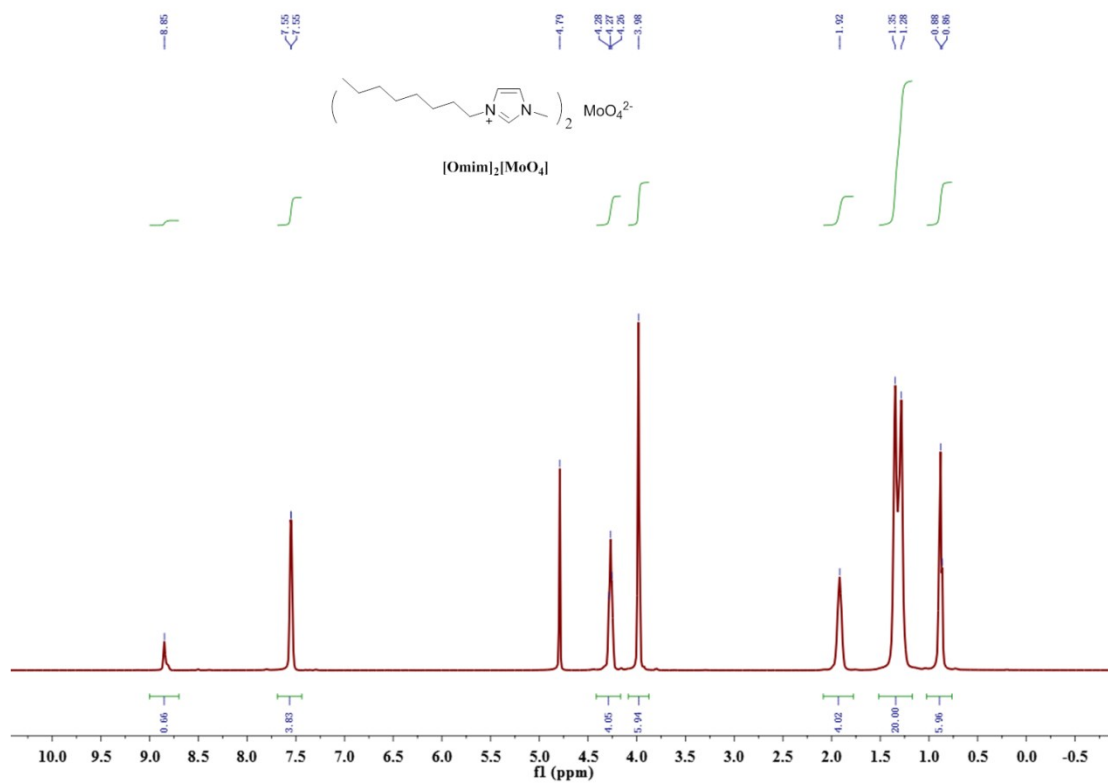


**Figure S7.** EPR spectra of experimental (black line: no catalyst, [Bmim][Tf<sub>2</sub>N]; blue line: [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>]) and simulated spectrum (wine red line). The simulated spectrum of [Bmim]<sub>2</sub>[MoO<sub>4</sub>] (wine red line) was composed of DMPO-OOH (red line), DMPO-OH (blue line), DMPOX (pink line) and DMPO-degradation (green line) radicals in a ratio roughly 1:0.3:0.2:0.2. Detection conditions: 70 °C, DMPO 10 μL, Mo-IL catalyst 25 mg, *n*-hexanol 30 mL, 1 mL of the solution was collected and detected by room-temperature EPR.

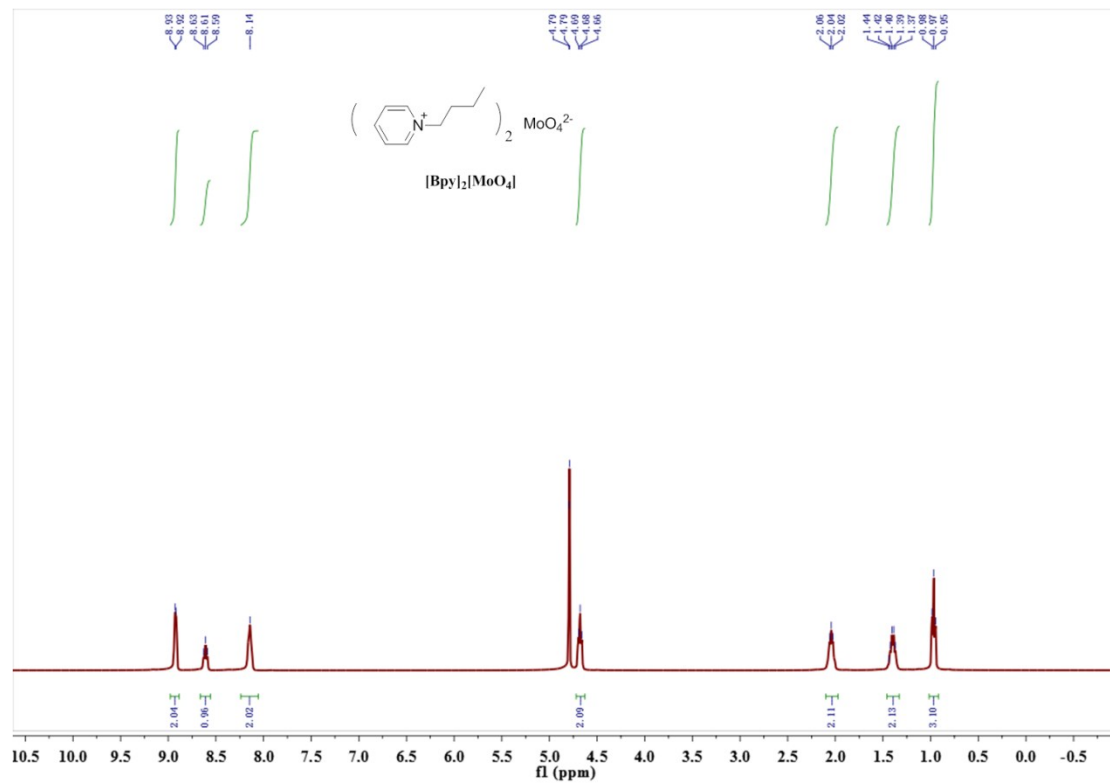
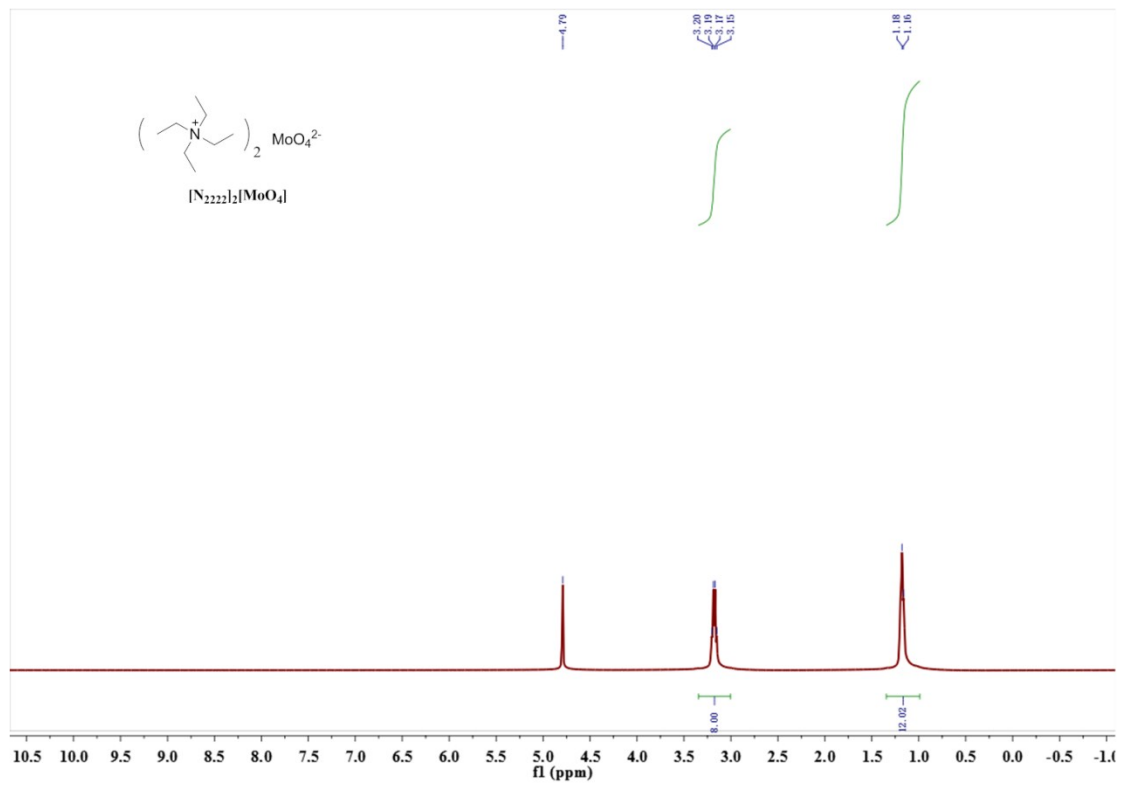
# NMR spectra of Mo-ILs

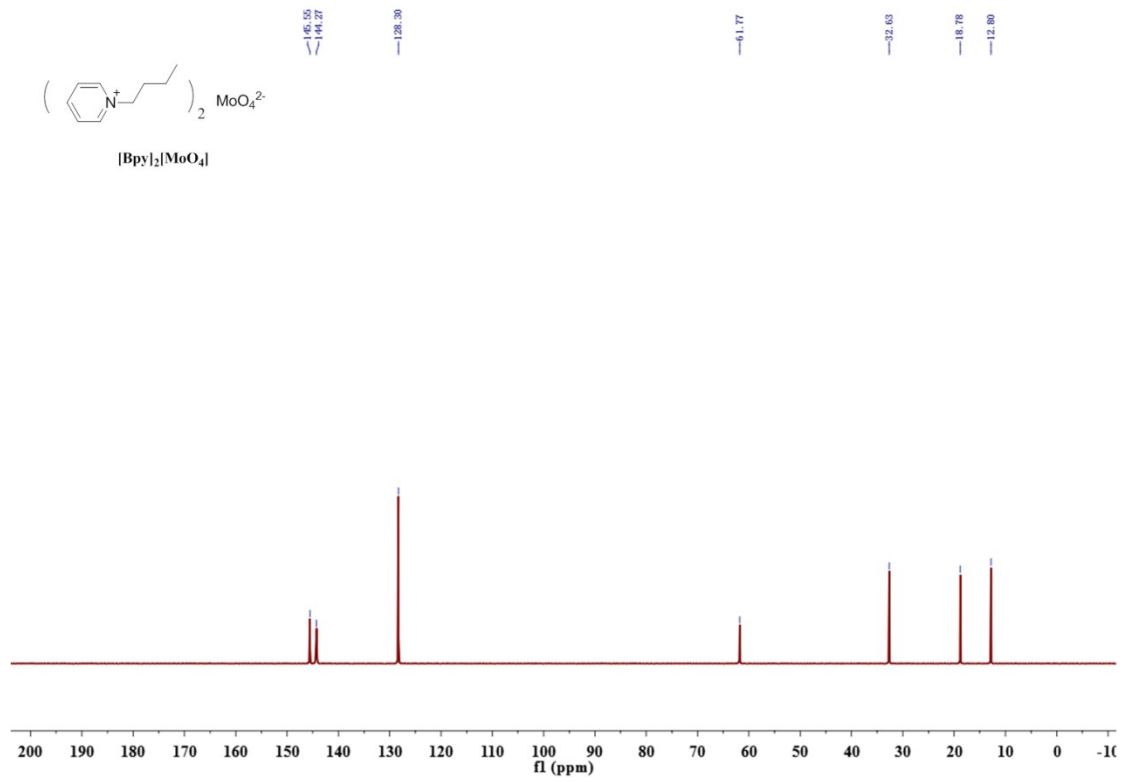
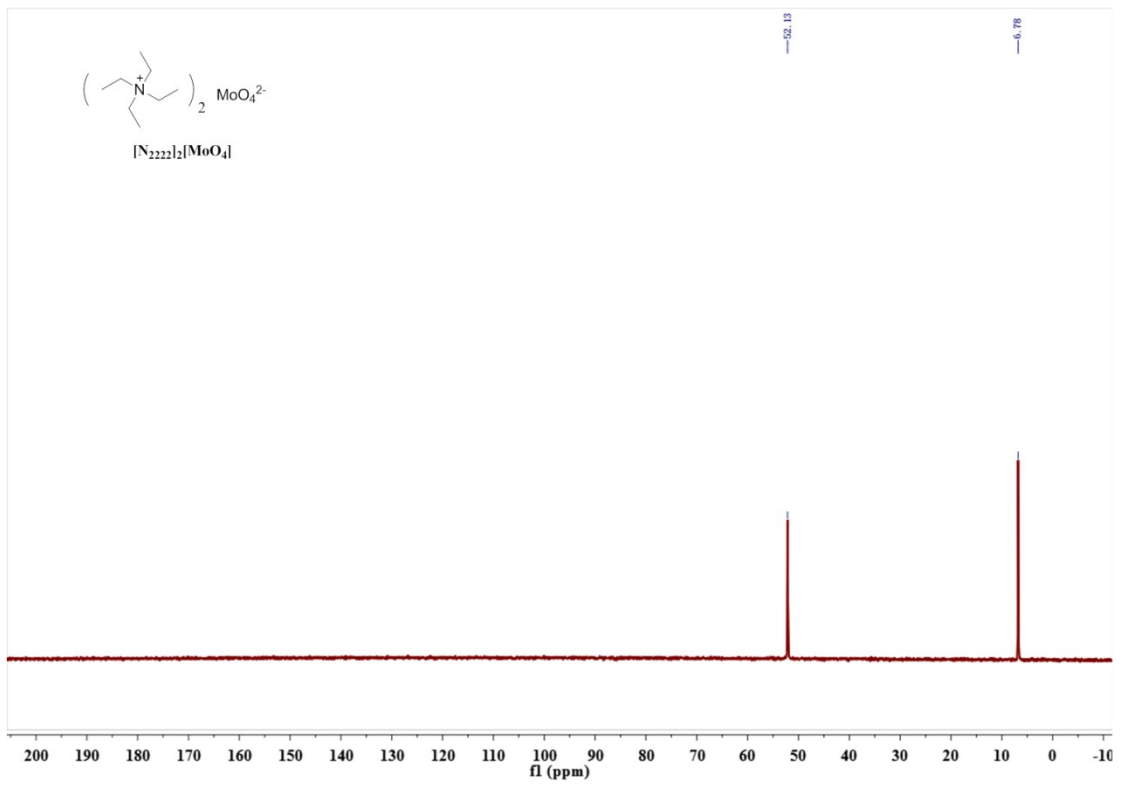




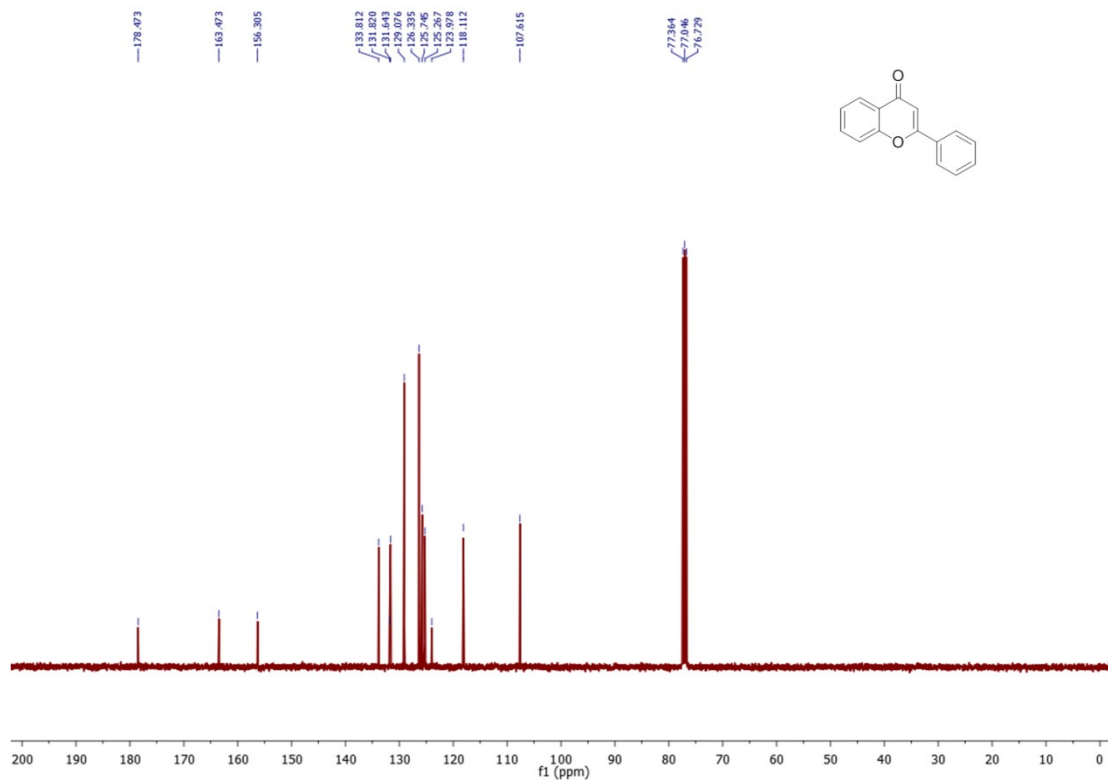
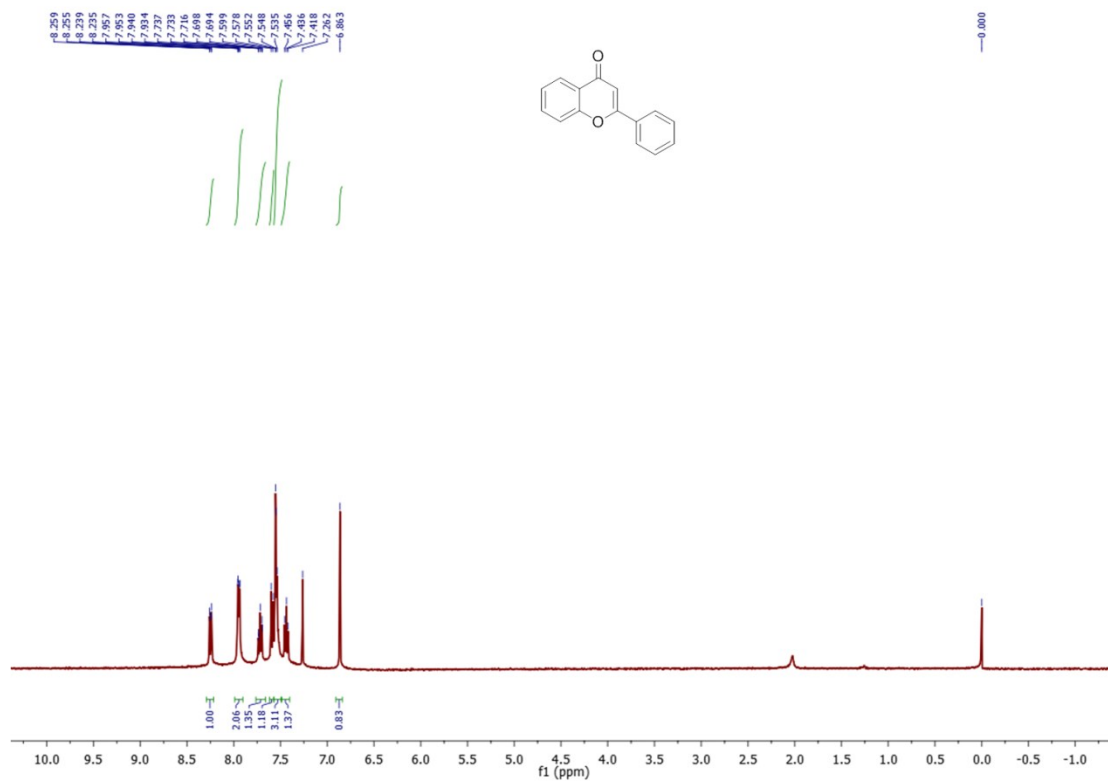


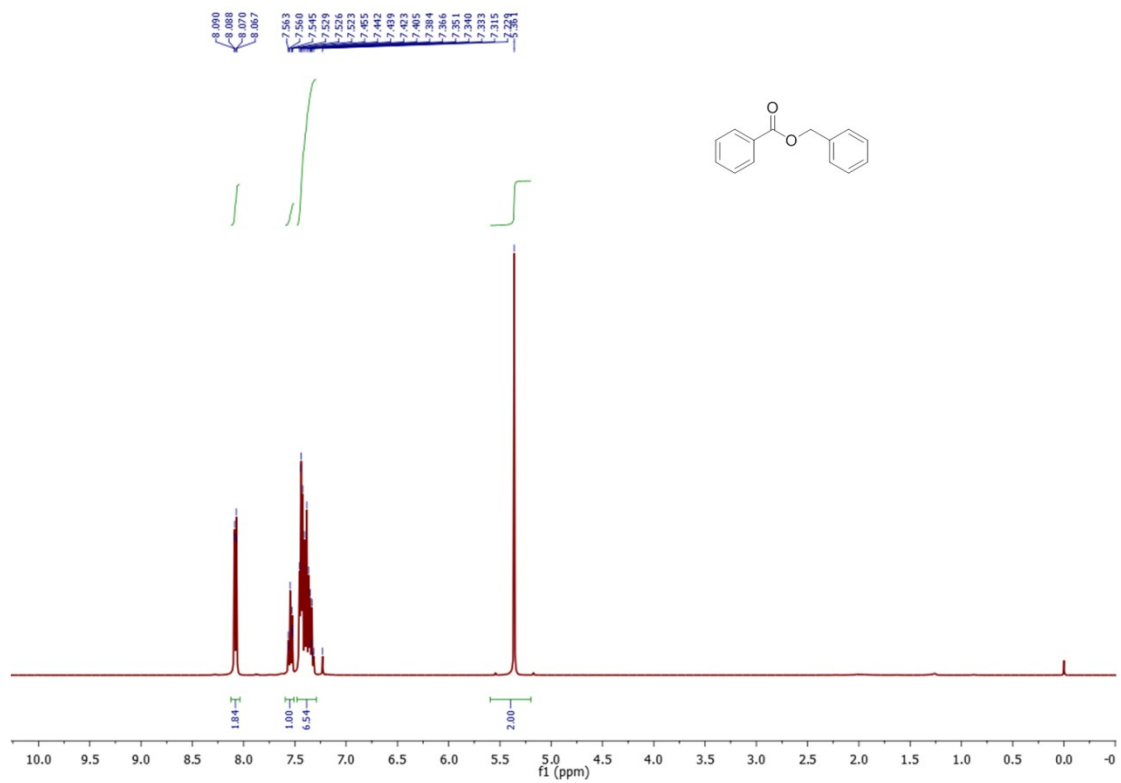




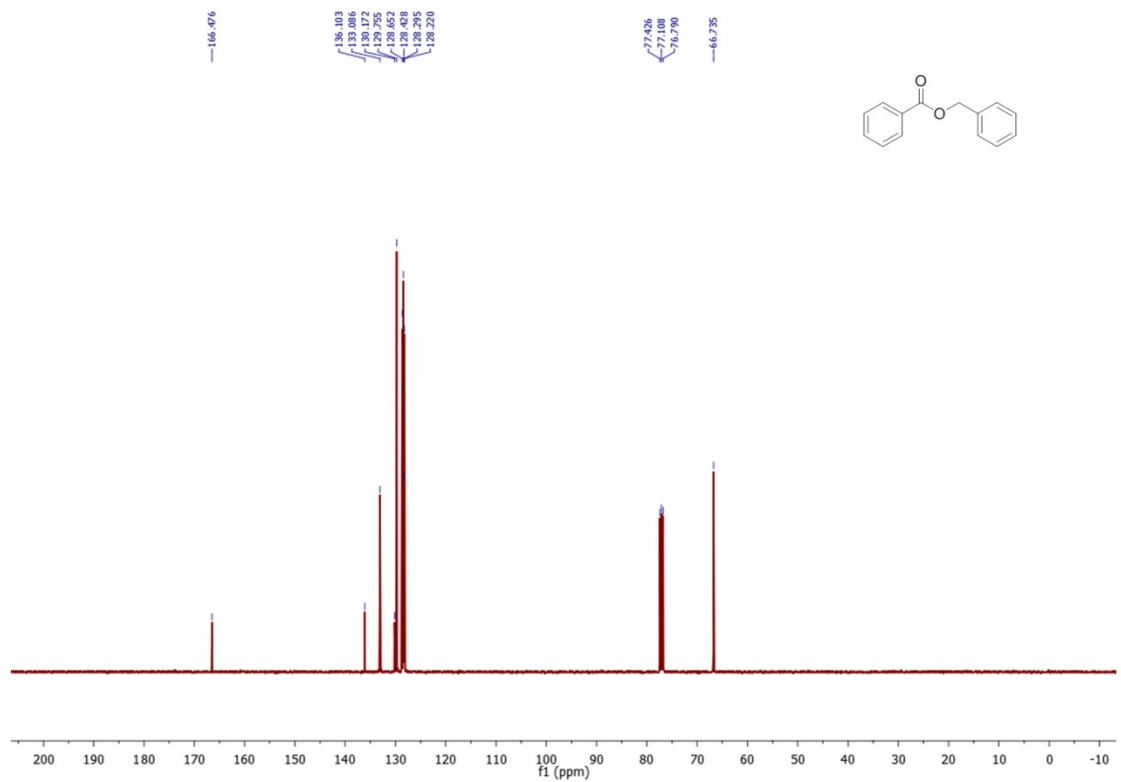


# NMR spectra of products

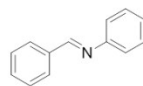




### <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of benzyl benzoate



8.466  
7.998  
7.994  
7.915  
7.546  
7.541  
7.524  
7.486  
7.480  
7.286  
7.133  
7.128  
7.112



0.039

