

Supporting Information

One-step assembly of alkoxyppyrroloindolines via iodine-catalyzed alkoxycyclization of indole derivatives

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A. General Information

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received unless noted. All products were purified by flash chromatography on silica gel. The chemical yields referred are isolated products. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz or 600 MHz Bruker spectrometers. Chemical shifts of ^1H NMR were reported in part per million relative to the CDCl_3 residual peak (δ 7.26). Chemical shifts of ^{13}C NMR were reported relative to CDCl_3 (δ 77.16). The used abbreviations are as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), quart. (quartet), quint. (quintet), m (multiplet), br (broad). Multiplets which arise from accidental equality of coupling constants of magnetically non-equivalent protons are marked as virtual (*virt.*). Melting points were measured on a SGW® X-4B and are not corrected. Reactions were monitored by TLC analysis using silica gel 60 Å F-254 thin layer plates and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm or 365 nm. Further visualization was achieved by staining with KMnO_4 followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 Å, 10–40 μm .

Substrate **1** were synthesized by following known procedures.¹

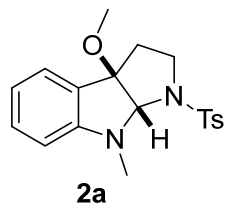
B. Representative Procedure

A 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with I_2 (5.1 mg, 10 mol %), tryptamine substrates **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alcohol (12 mL), then TBHP (70% in water, 57.2 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was heat to 65 °C for 3 h before cooled down to room temperature. Saturated aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (10 mL) solution was slowly introduced and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexane/EtOAc, 30:1 to 10:1) to afford methoxypyrrroloindolenine **2**. In the case of using pentanol and hexanol, distillation was performed under reduced pressure to recovered the alcohols before chromatography.

¹ D. Liu, Z. Hu, Y. Zhang, M. Gong, Z. Fu, W. Huang, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2019**, *25*, 11223 – 11227.

C. Analytical Data of the Alkoxy pyrroloindoline Products

3a-Methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole 2a



Compound **2a** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 50.2 mg, 70% yield.

m.p.: 117 – 119 °C.

TLC: $R_f = 0.74$ (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

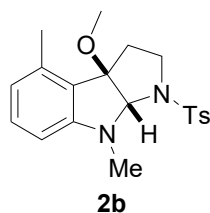
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.21 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 7.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 3.56 (ddd, $J = 11.4, 7.7, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.14 – 3.06 (m, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.07 (ddd, $J = 12.2, 5.7, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.80 (ddd, $J = 12.3, 11.0, 7.7$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.0, 143.8, 136.4, 130.7, 129.9, 127.4, 124.9, 124.0, 117.9, 106.9, 93.9, 86.2, 52.8, 47.6, 38.8, 31.5, 21.7.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3054.2, 2946.0, 2828.4, 1608.9, 1491.2, 1464.9, 1347.3, 1160.0, 1091.1, 1021.1, 928.0, 813.1, 748.2, 664.8.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₉H₂₃N₂O₃S [(M+H)⁺]: calcd.: 359.1424; found: 359.1433.

3a-Methoxy-4,8-dimethyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole 2b



Compound **2b** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 46.9 mg, 63% yield.

m.p.: 139 – 141 °C.

TLC: $R_f = 0.73$ (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

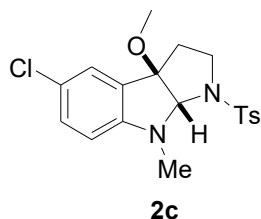
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.10 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 3.60 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.20 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 10.8, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.18 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.79 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.9, 143.8, 136.3, 135.3, 130.5, 129.8, 127.5, 122.0, 120.0, 104.4, 94.9, 86.4, 52.8, 47.5, 38.1, 31.7, 21.7, 17.1.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3034.8, 2924.7, 2854.9, 1735.4, 1614.8, 1496.7, 1465.9, 1347.2, 1161.1, 1090.6, 1023.7, 935.1, 809.8, 622.4.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₀H₂₄N₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 395.1400; found: 395.1405.

5-Chloro-3a-methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2c



Compound **2c** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 53.4 mg, 68% yield.

m.p.: 125 – 127 °C.

TLC: *R_f* = 0.82 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

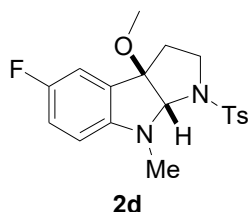
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 3.63 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.10 (*virt. td*, *J* ≅ 11.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.03 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (*virt. td*, *J* ≅ 11.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.4, 143.9, 136.1, 130.5, 129.9, 127.4, 126.8, 124.1, 122.5, 107.7, 93.5, 86.3, 53.0, 47.5, 38.7, 31.5, 21.6.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3061.3, 2926.5, 1734.1, 1605.3, 1491.2, 1348.1, 1263.2, 1161.3, 1080.0, 1022.3, 933.6, 807.8, 748.7, 665.2, 574.7, 546.7.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₉H₂₁³⁵ClN₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 415.0854; found: 415.0856.

5-Fluoro-3a-methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2d



Compound **2d** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A liquid, 44.4 mg, 59% yield.

TLC: *R_f* = 0.77 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

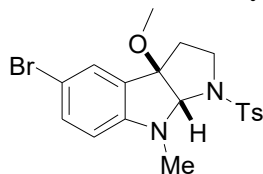
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 6.94 – 6.89 (m, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 3.59 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.12 (*virt. td*, *J* ≅ 11.0, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.76 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.5 (d, *J* = 235.5 Hz), 148.2, 143.9, 136.2, 129.9, 127.4, 126.3 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 117.0 (d, *J* = 23.3 Hz), 111.2 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz), 107.4 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 93.6, 86.7, 53.0, 47.6, 38.7, 32.2.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3062.9, 2928.7, 1622.5, 1497.1, 1373.5, 1243.4, 1161.2, 1125.5, 1024.2, 942.7, 840.6, 745.8, 663.7.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₉H₂₁FN₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 399.1149; found: 399.1151.

5-Bromo-3a-methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2e**



2e

Compound **2e** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 53.4 mg, 61% yield.

m.p.: 116 – 118 °C.

TLC: $R_f = 0.74$ (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.21 (*virt. t.*, $J \cong 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (*virt. t.*, $J \cong 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 3.63 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.10 (*virt. td.*, $J \cong 12.4, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.07 (dd, $J = 12.4, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.85 – 1.77 (m, 1H).

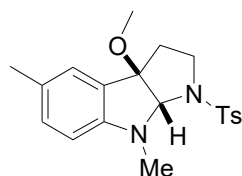
$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.0, 143.8, 136.4, 130.7, 129.9, 127.4, 124.9, 124.0, 117.9, 106.9, 93.9, 86.2, 52.8, 47.6, 38.8, 31.6, 21.6.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3053.8, 2953.2, 1727.6, 1609.0, 1491.2, 1464.1, 1347.4, 1160.0, 1091.0, 1021.2, 928.0, 813.1, 748.2, 664.8, 572.7, 545.7.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}^{79}\text{BrN}_2\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 459.0348; found: 459.0351.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}^{81}\text{BrN}_2\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 461.0328; found: 461.0331.

3a-Methoxy-5,8-dimethyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2f**



2f

Compound **2f** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 45.5 mg, 61% yield.

m.p.: 108 – 110 °C.

TLC: $R_f = 0.80$ (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

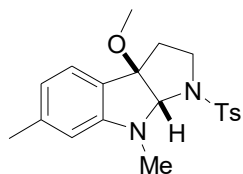
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.02 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 3.58 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.16 – 3.06 (m, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.06 (ddd, $J = 12.3, 5.8, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.82 (ddd, $J = 12.3, 10.7, 7.7$ Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.0, 143.7, 136.4, 131.1, 129.8, 127.4, 127.3, 125.1, 124.5, 107.0, 93.9, 86.6, 52.8, 47.7, 38.6, 32.1, 21.6, 20.8.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3057.5, 2927.6, 2856.1, 1736.4, 1614.5, 1497.5, 1465.8, 1349.2, 1163.9, 1090.7, 1028.2, 936.0, 806.3, 669.4.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 395.1400; found: 395.1403.

3a-Methoxy-6,8-dimethyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2g**



2g

Compound **2g** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 46.9 mg, 63% yield.

m.p.: 103 – 105 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.70 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

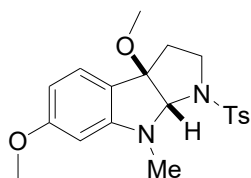
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 3.58 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.11 (*virt. td*, J ≅ 11.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.76 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.0, 143.7, 136.4, 131.1, 129.8, 127.4, 127.3, 125.1, 124.5, 107.0, 93.9, 86.6, 52.8, 47.7, 38.6, 32.1, 21.6, 20.8.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3067.9, 2931.5, 2856.9, 1737.9, 1632.0, 1497.4, 1460.7, 1345.6, 1159.8, 1096.1, 1033.2, 935.2, 811.5, 667.8.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₀H₂₄N₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: *calcd.*: 395.1400; *found*: 395.1400.

3a,5-Dimethoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2h**



2h

Compound **2h** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 36.5 mg, 47% yield.

m.p.: 138 – 140 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.71 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

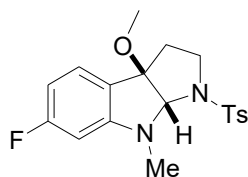
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.79 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.58 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.55 (ddd, J = 11.2, 7.7, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.07 (ddd, J = 11.8, 5.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (ddd, J = 12.4, 10.3, 7.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.0, 146.4, 143.8, 136.4, 129.8, 127.5, 126.3, 115.9, 110.4, 108.0, 93.9, 87.0, 56.1, 52.9, 47.7, 38.7, 32.8, 21.7.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3362.6, 2924.1, 2853.2, 1738.4, 1620.2, 1499.2, 1346.5, 1249.8, 1160.5, 1102.7, 1027.0, 934.9, 814.3, 703.4.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₀H₂₄N₂NaO₄S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 411.1349; found: 411.1351.

6-Fluoro-3a-methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2i



2i

Compound **2i** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 48.2 mg, 64% yield.

m.p.: 109 – 111 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.79 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

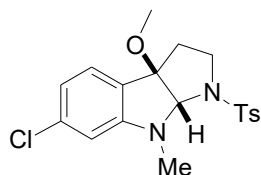
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.36 (*virt.* t, *J* ≅ 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 3.63 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.08 (td, *J* = 11.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.69 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6 (d, *J* = 244.8 Hz), 153.6 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 143.9, 136.3, 129.9, 127.4, 125.0 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 120.4, 104.0 (d, *J* = 25.1 Hz), 94.5 (d, *J* = 25.1 Hz), 93.4, 86.5, 52.7, 47.5, 38.7, 31.2, 21.6.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3063.8, 2929.8, 1600.3, 1457.2, 1345.7, 1163.2, 1095.6, 1024.3, 942.7, 840.6, 705.8, 665.7.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₉H₂₁FN₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 399.1149; found: 399.1150.

6-Chloro-3a-methoxy-8-methyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2j



2j

Compound **2j** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 47.9 mg, 61% yield.

m.p.: 105 – 107 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.76 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

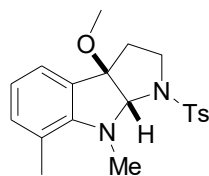
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 3.62 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.08 (*virt.* td, *J* ≅ 11.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.09 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.9, 143.9, 136.6, 136.2, 129.9, 127.4, 124.9, 123.5, 117.6, 106.9, 93.4, 86.2, 52.8, 47.5, 38.7, 31.2, 21.6.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3063.5, 2927.9, 1735.3, 1607.2, 1493.4, 1427.9, 1300.7, 1203.8, 1114.1, 1023.3, 981.1, 877.4, 809.2, 752.3, 665.5, 593.3, 575.2.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₉H₂₁³⁵ClN₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 415.0854; found: 415.0855.

3a-Methoxy-7,8-dimethyl-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2k**



2k

Compound **2k** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 44.7 mg, 60% yield.

m.p.: 77 – 79 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.81 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

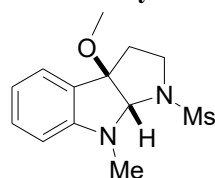
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.97 (*virt. dt*, $J \cong 7.6, 2.1, 0.81$ Hz, 2H), 6.77 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 3.62 – 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.95 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.20 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 3H), 2.19 – 2.15 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.4, 143.3, 137.2, 133.4, 129.5, 127.4, 127.4, 122.0, 121.9, 120.7, 93.5, 88.8, 53.0, 46.6, 38.5, 38.3, 21.6, 18.9.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3057.9, 2988.3, 2854.7, 1755.8, 1613.3, 1498.7, 1348.9, 1162.5, 1092.3, 1025.4, 937.8, 812.2, 669.8.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₀H₂₅N₂O₃S [(M+H)⁺]: calcd.: 373.1580; found: 373.1581.

3a-Methoxy-8-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole **2l**



2l

Compound **2l** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A liquid, 40.7 mg, 72% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.27 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

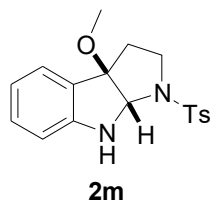
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 3.72 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 – 3.11 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.52 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.35 (dd, $J = 11.4, 5.0$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3, 130.9, 125.3, 124.3, 118.7, 107.8, 94.2, 86.5, 53.1, 47.2, 39.2, 38.5, 33.1.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3363.4, 3195.4, 2927.7, 2829.7, 1736.8, 1609.2, 1490.9, 1465.0, 1337.3, 1203.1, 1153.9, 1105.5, 1024.8, 929.6, 875.5, 815.1, 755.8.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₁H₂₅N₂O₄S [(M+H)⁺]: calcd.: 401.1530; found: 401.1534.

3a-Methoxy-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole **2m**



Compound **2m** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 33.1 mg, 48% yield.

m.p.: 121 – 123 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.66 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

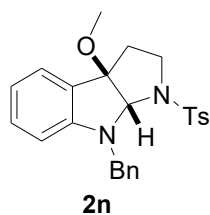
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J = 15.8, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 3.47 – 3.34 (m, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 15.9, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.35 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.13 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.5, 143.9, 135.5, 130.7, 129.9, 127.4, 125.1, 124.5, 119.5, 110.3, 94.2, 80.1, 52.6, 46.9, 37.4, 21.6.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3400.1, 3369.1, 3053.5, 2951.6, 2923.8, 2854.1, 1737.3, 1609.4, 1468.2, 1335.6, 1201.7, 1159.2, 1092.1, 1055.4, 937.9, 812.3, 751.4, 662.5.

HRMS (ESI): C₁₈H₂₁N₂O₃S [(M+H)⁺]: calcd.: 345.1267; found: 345.1280.

8-Benzyl-3a-methoxy-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole **2n**



Compound **2n** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A liquid, 78.2 mg, 90% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.79 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

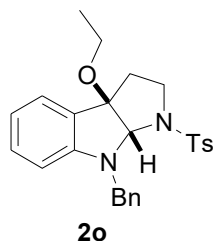
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.16 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 1H), 4.79 – 4.62 (m, 2H), 3.73 – 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.18 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.8, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.08 (*virt. dt*, $J \cong 11.8, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.87 – 1.70 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.3, 143.8, 138.3, 136.5, 130.7, 129.9, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 124.8, 124.4, 117.9, 107.2, 94.2, 84.5, 52.8, 48.2, 47.4, 39.6, 21.7.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3394.6, 3030.3, 2925.3, 2853.5, 1733.7, 1607.1, 1489.8, 1452.7, 1349.3, 1297.4, 1160.7, 1091.1, 928.1, 813.0, 738.5, 664.7.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₅H₂₇N₂O₃S [(M+H)⁺]: calcd.: 435.1737; found: 435.1739.

8-Benzyl-3a-ethoxy-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole 2o



Compound **2o** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 70.0 mg, 78% yield.

m.p.: 127 – 129 °C.

TLC: R_f = 0.60 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

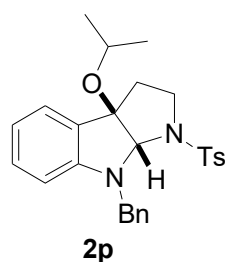
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.9$ Hz, 4H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.13 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 3.69 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.18 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.6, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.05 – 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.89 – 2.77 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.82 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 0.94 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 6.5$ Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.0, 143.8, 138.3, 136.5, 130.5, 129.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 125.7, 124.2, 117.9, 107.2, 93.7, 85.0, 60.7, 48.2, 47.3, 39.9, 21.6, 15.5.

IR (KBr/cm⁻¹) 3393.9, 3030.1, 2956.4, 2924.1, 2853.9, 1737.3, 1606.8, 1489.2, 1451.4, 1349.6, 1161.1, 1073.6, 937.8, 813.1, 737.8, 664.5.

HRMS (ESI): C₂₆H₂₈N₂NaO₃S [(M+Na)⁺]: calcd.: 471.1713; found: 471.1716.

8-Benzyl-3a-isopropoxy-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole 2p



Compound **2p** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A pink liquid, 49.1 mg, 53% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.59 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

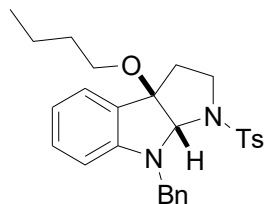
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.69 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.69 (dd, $J = 41.5, 16.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 12.2, 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.22 – 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.06 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 12.5, 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.05 (dd, $J = 12.0, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.73 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 0.86 – 0.77 (m, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.4, 143.8, 138.4, 136.7, 130.6, 129.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.4, 127.2, 126.4, 124.9, 117.7, 107.0, 93.5, 85.4, 67.7, 47.9, 46.9, 40.3, 24.3, 23.8, 21.7.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3030.0, 2960.2, 2925.3, 1729.4, 1604.2, 1488.4, 1460.8, 1346.0, 1308.6, 1246.6, 1159.9, 1054.8, 946.9, 813.2, 747.8, 699.9.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_4\text{S}$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 485.1869; found: 485.1872.

8-Benzyl-3a-butoxy-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2q



2q

Compound **2q** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A yellow liquid, 66.7 mg, 70% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.61 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

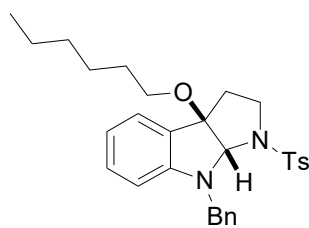
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.69 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 8.3, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 4.73 – 4.64 (m, 2H), 3.67 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.18 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.9, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (*virt. dt*, $J \cong 8.8, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.70 (*virt. dt*, $J \cong 8.8, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.12 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.75 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.9, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.31 – 1.20 (m, 3H), 1.18 – 1.08 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.1, 143.7, 138.3, 136.5, 130.5, 129.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 125.7, 124.3, 117.8, 107.1, 93.6, 84.8, 65.0, 48.1, 47.4, 39.8, 32.0, 21.6, 19.3, 13.9.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3391.8, 3030.4, 2956.9, 2925.9, 2869.3, 1607.3, 1489.6, 1462.0, 1349.9, 1161.5, 1088.0, 1048.7, 934.3, 813.0, 738.1, 664.2.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [(M+H) $^+$]: calcd.: 477.2206; found: 477.2214.

8-benzyl-3a-(hexyloxy)-1-tosyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-*b*]indole 2r



2r

Compound **2r** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A yellow liquid, 67.6 mg, 67% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.63 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

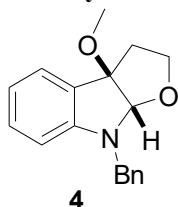
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.15 (td, $J = 7.9, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.70 (td, $J = 7.9, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.75 – 4.64 (m, 2H), 3.67 – 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.18 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.9, 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (*virt. dt*, $J \cong 8.8, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dt, $J = 8.8, 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.79 – 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.31 – 1.24 (m, 4H), 1.19 – 1.06 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.1, 143.7, 138.3, 136.5, 130.5, 129.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 125.7, 124.3, 117.8, 107.1, 93.6, 84.8, 65.4, 48.1, 47.3, 39.8, 31.7, 29.9, 25.8, 22.7, 21.6, 14.2.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3059.1, 3030.5, 2927.1, 2857.7, 1739.4, 1607.6, 1489.7, 1462.0, 1350.7, 1161.7, 1090.1, 937.3, 812.7, 739.5, 664.2.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 527.2339; found: 527.2340.

8-benzyl-3a-methoxy-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-furo[2,3-*b*]indole 4



Compound **4** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A white solid, 36.6 mg, 65% yield.

m.p.: 72 – 74 °C.

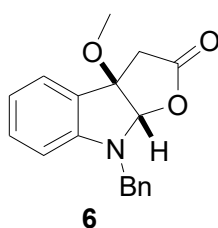
TLC: R_f = 0.88 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.14 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 4.58 – 4.44 (m, 2H), 4.05 (*virt. t*, $J \cong 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.47 (*virt. td*, $J \cong 11.6, 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, $J = 11.8, 4.2$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.6, 138.2, 130.3, 128.6, 127.4, 127.2, 126.2, 124.7, 117.9, 106.2, 98.6, 93.6, 66.9, 53.2, 48.6, 41.0.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3029.3, 2932.9, 2870.9, 1735.5, 1607.8, 1490.3, 1458.8, 1358.8, 1316.8, 1130.9, 1112.4, 1057.4, 944.8, 742.8, 699.3.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ [(M+H) $^+$]: calcd.: 282.1489; found: 282.1491.

8-Benzyl-3a-methoxy-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-furo[2,3-*b*]indol-2-one 6



Compound **6** was synthesized following the *general procedure*.

A liquid, 20.1 mg, 34% yield.

TLC: R_f = 0.83 (Hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) [UV, KMnO_4].

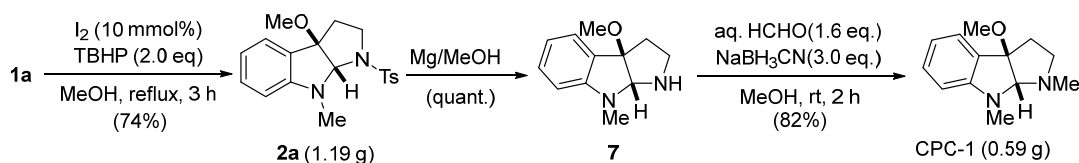
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.07 (m, 5H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 137.5, 136.6, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 126.9, 122.1, 119.5, 119.2, 109.8, 107.6, 52.0, 50.1, 31.2.

IR ($\text{KBr}/\text{cm}^{-1}$) 3029.8, 2952.2, 2925.0, 1737.5, 1613.8, 1466.3, 1356.6, 1334.3, 1255.7, 1160.6, 1012.7, 740.6, 700.8.

HRMS (ESI): $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_3$ [(M+Na) $^+$]: calcd.: 318.1101; found: 318.1104.

D. Scale-up Reaction and Synthesis of CPC-1



A 500 mL round bottom flask was charged with I₂ (114.3 mg, 10 mol %), substrate **1** (4.5 mmol, 1.49 g, 1.0 equiv) and methanol (250 mL), then TBHP (70% in water, 1.16 mL, 9.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was slowly added. The reaction mixture was heat to reflux for 3 h before cooled down to room temperature. Saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (100 mL) solution was slowly introduced and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexane/EtOAc, 30:1 to 10:1) to afford adduct **2a** (1.19 g, 74%).

To a solution of compound **2a** (1.19 g, 3.30 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (200 mL) was added activated Mg (3.96 g, 165 mmol). Then the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at ambient temperature for 24 h and then filtered over celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuum to give intermediate **7** in quantitative yield. This intermediate was dissolved in MeOH (40 mL) was added formaldehyde (37% water solution, 0.43 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h at room temperature. Then, NaBH₃CN (621.7 mg, 9.9 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O (50 mL), and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated in vacuum. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexane/EtOAc, 20:1 to 5:1) to afford CPC-1 as an oil (0.59 g, 82%).

TLC: *R*_f = 0.24 (DCM/MeOH = 20:1) [UV, KMnO₄].

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.74 (*virt. td*, *J* ≅ 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 3.24 – 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.84 – 2.76 (m, 1H), 2.63 – 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.20 – 2.16 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.11, 129.80, 127.98, 124.10, 118.04, 107.87, 94.03, 91.71, 52.52, 52.45, 39.29, 38.60, 36.32.

The spectra data are matched with those reported².

² Q. Ren, J. Huang, L. Wang, W. Li, H. Liu, X. Jiang, J. Wang, *ACS Catal.* **2012**, *2*, 2622.

E. X-Ray crystallographic analysis of **2a**

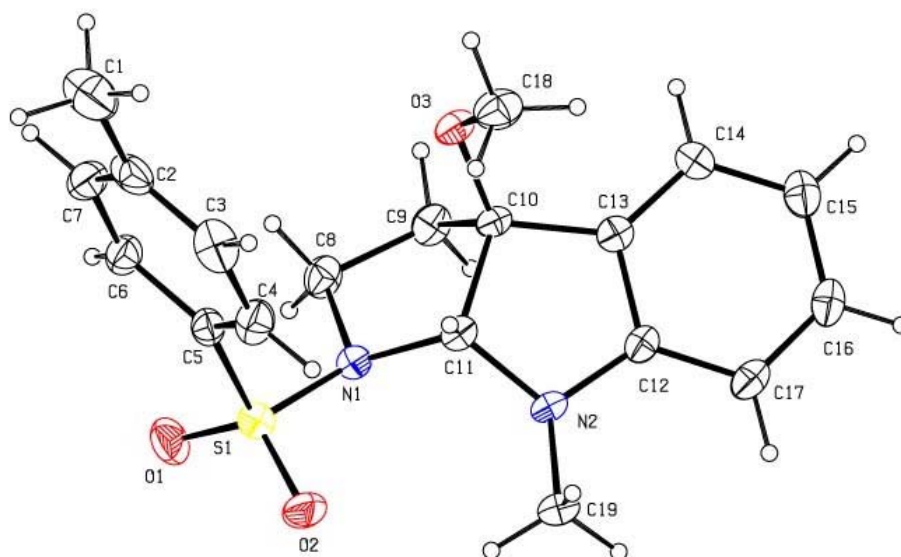


Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement for T.

Identification code T

Empirical formula C₁₉H₂₂N₂O₃S

Formula weight 358.44

Temperature/K 296(2)

Crystal system monoclinic

Space group P2₁/c

a/Å 19.181(6)

b/Å 7.746(3)

c/Å 12.126(4)

α/° 90

β/° 91.846(8)

γ/° 90

Volume/Å³ 1800.7(11)

Z 4

ρ_{calc}/cm³ 1.322

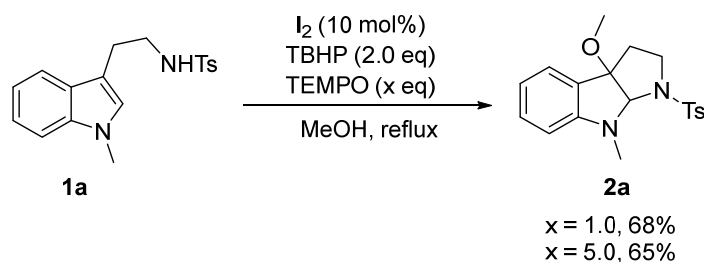
μ/mm⁻¹ 0.200

F(000) 760.0

Crystal size/mm³ 0.2 × 0.1 × 0.1

Radiation MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
2 Θ range for data collection / $^\circ$ 2.124 to 52.466
Index ranges $-23 \leq h \leq 21$, $-9 \leq k \leq 9$, $-15 \leq l \leq 10$
Reflections collected 13043
Independent reflections 3282 [Rint = 0.0634, Rsigma = 0.0777]
Data/restraints/parameters 3282/0/310
Goodness-of-fit on F2 1.018
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$] R1 = 0.0799, wR2 = 0.1827
Final R indexes [all data] R1 = 0.1509, wR2 = 0.2228
Largest diff. peak/hole / e \AA^{-3} 1.35/-0.32

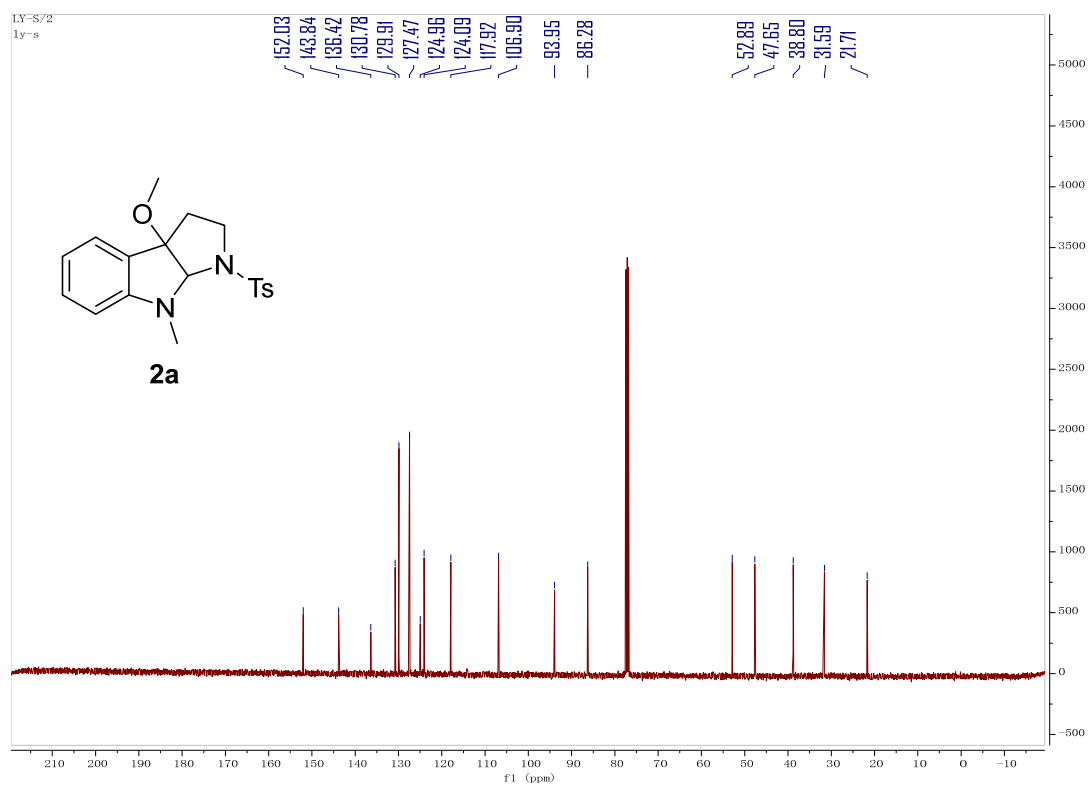
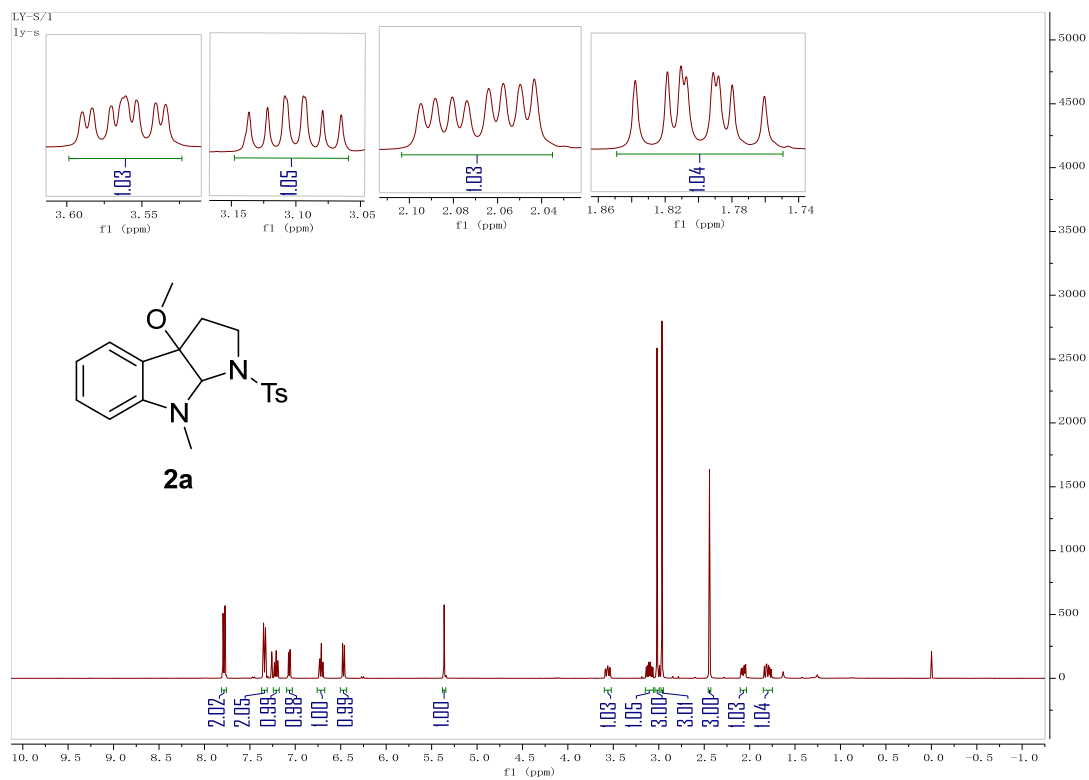
F. Mechanistic study

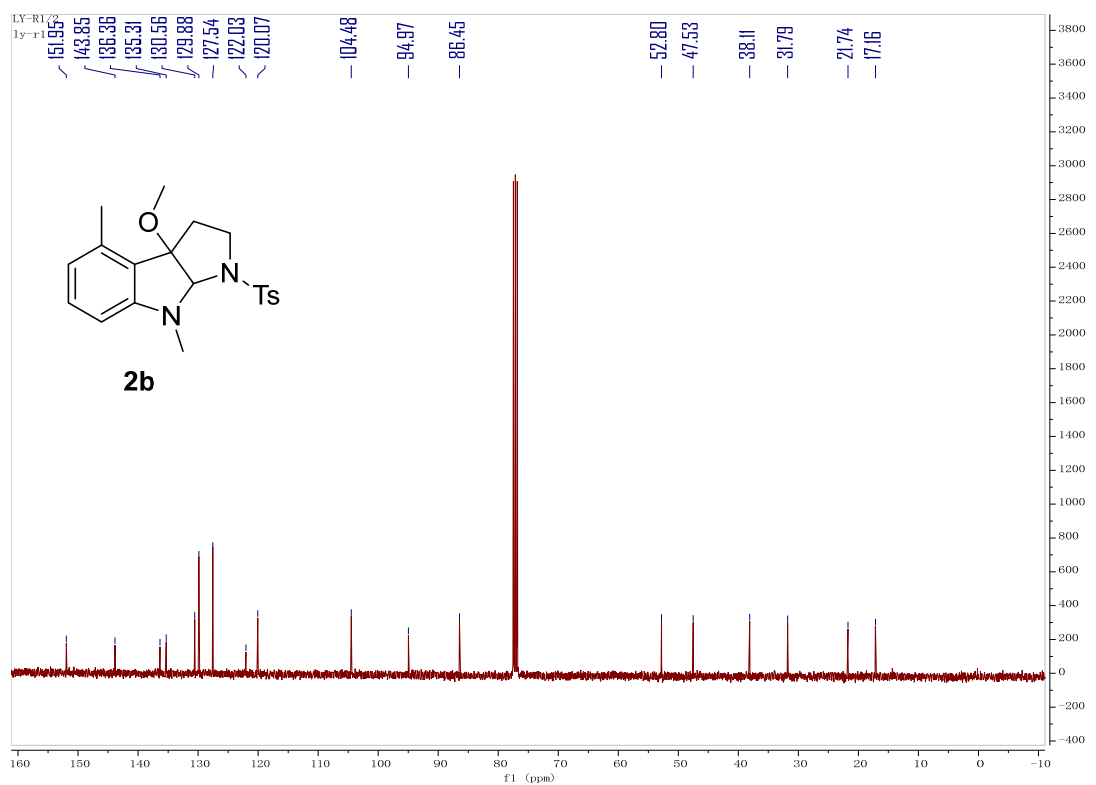
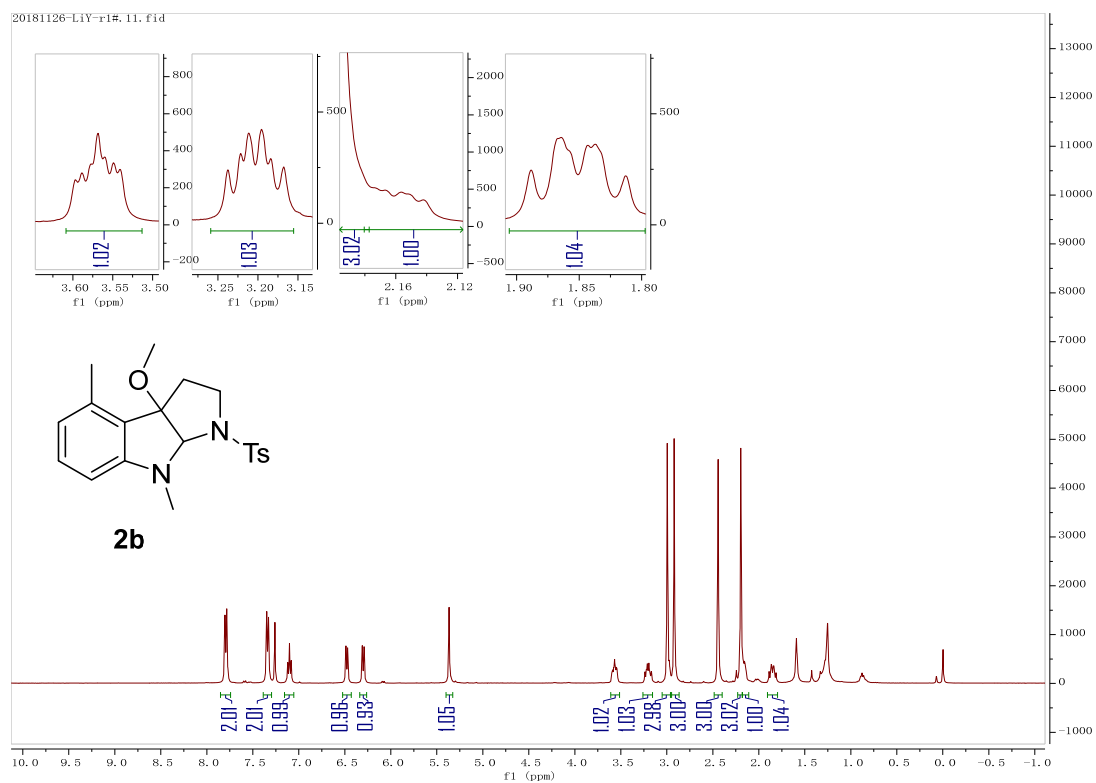


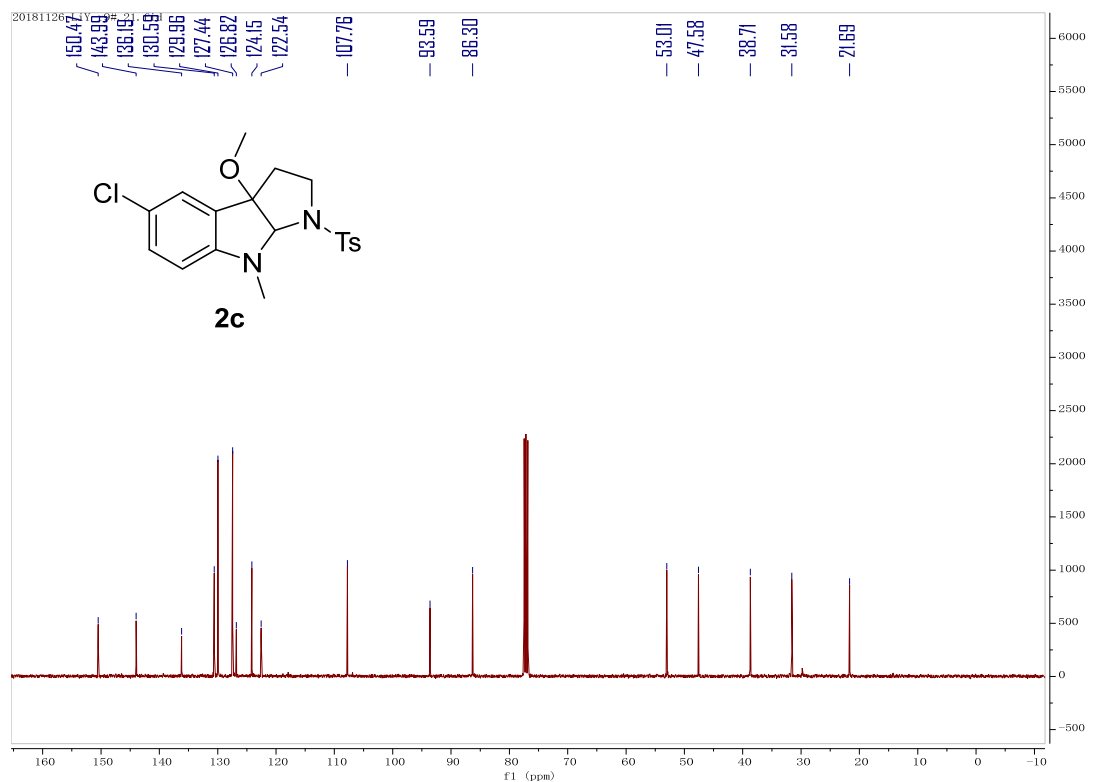
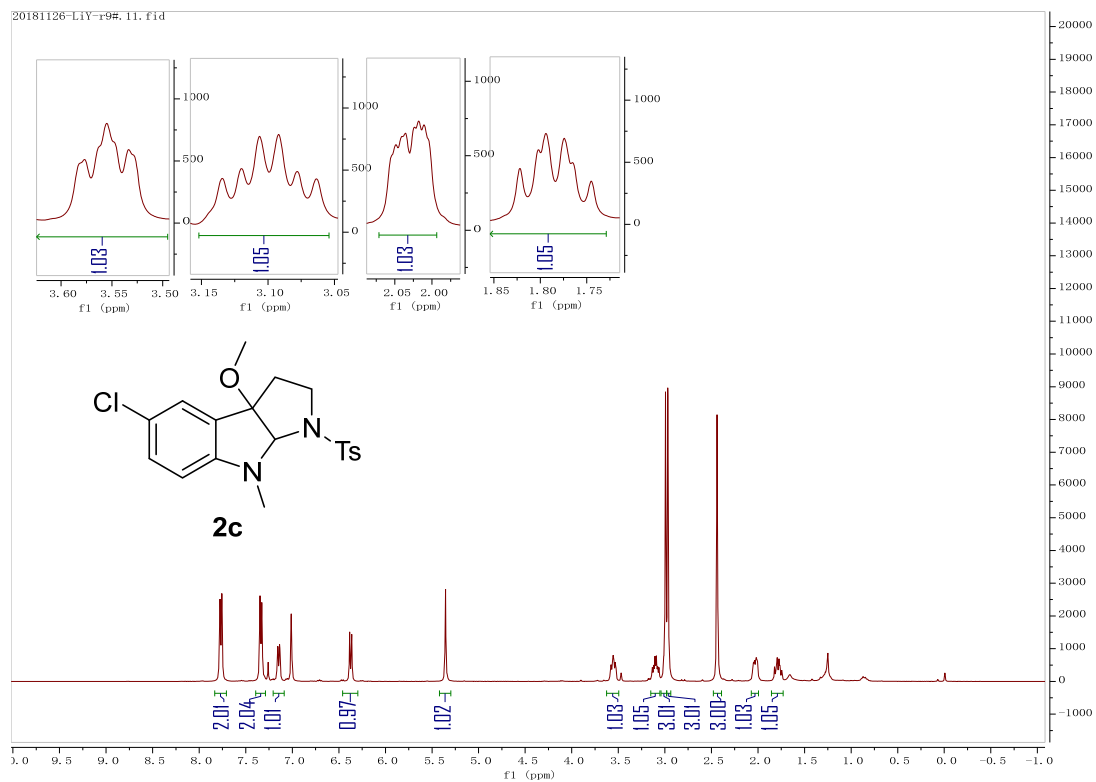
A 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with I_2 (5.1 mg, 10 mol %), tryptamine **1a** (0.2 mmol, 65.6 mg, 1.0 equiv) and MeOH (12 mL), then TBHP (70% in water, 57.2 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and TEMPO (0.2 mmol, 31.2 mg) was added. The reaction mixture was heat to reflux for 3 h before cooled down to room temperature. Saturated aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ (10 mL) solution was slowly introduced and the resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexane/EtOAc, 30:1 to 10:1) to afford methoxytryptamine **2a** (48.8 mg, 68% yield)

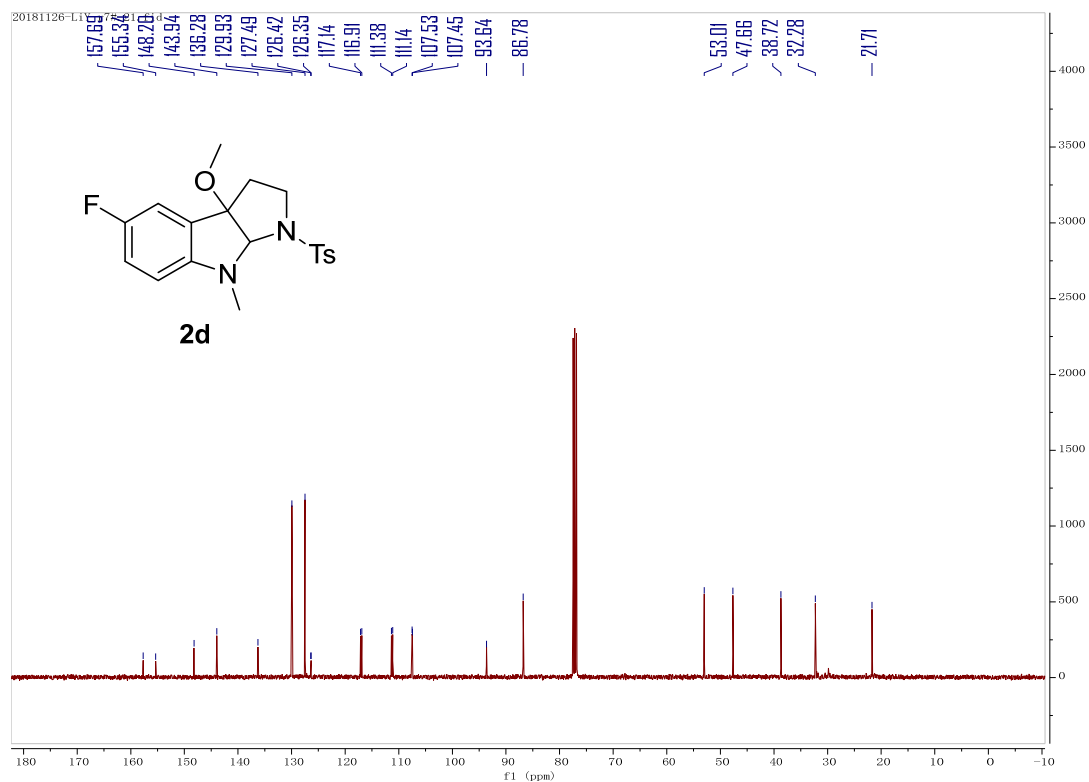
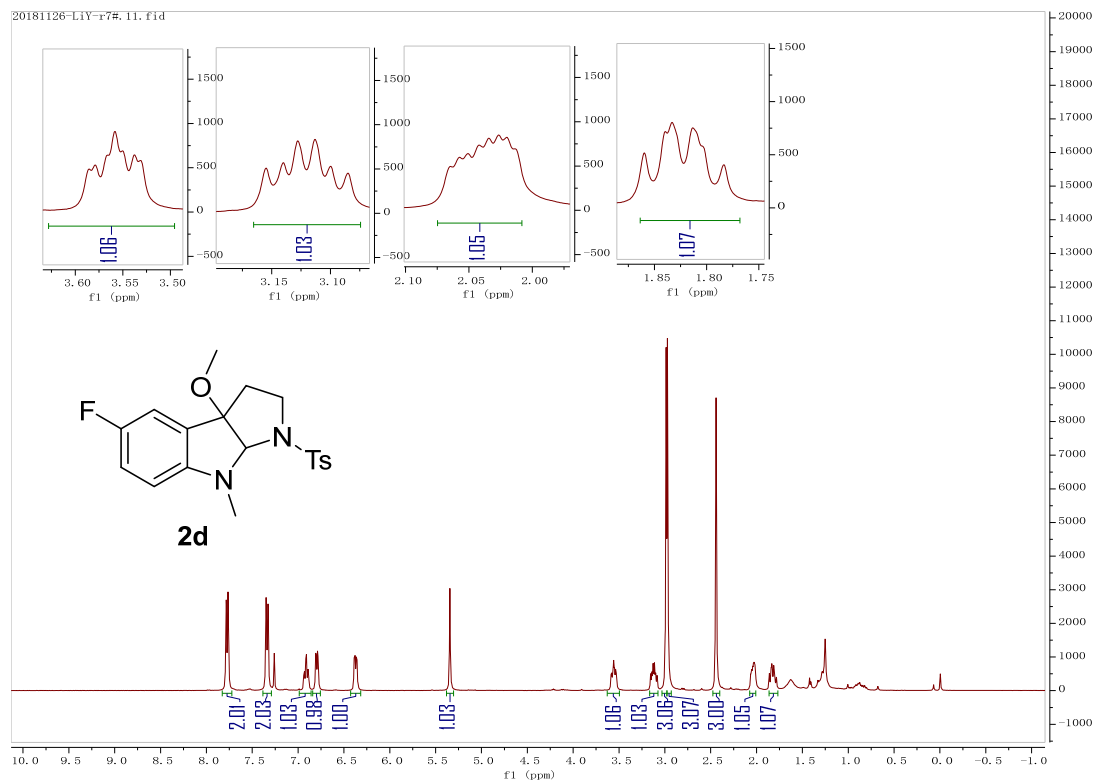
When TEMPO (1.0 mmol, 156 mg) was used by following the same protocol described above, the product **2a** was isolated in 65% yield (46.5 mg). These outcomes rule out the possibility of a radical process.

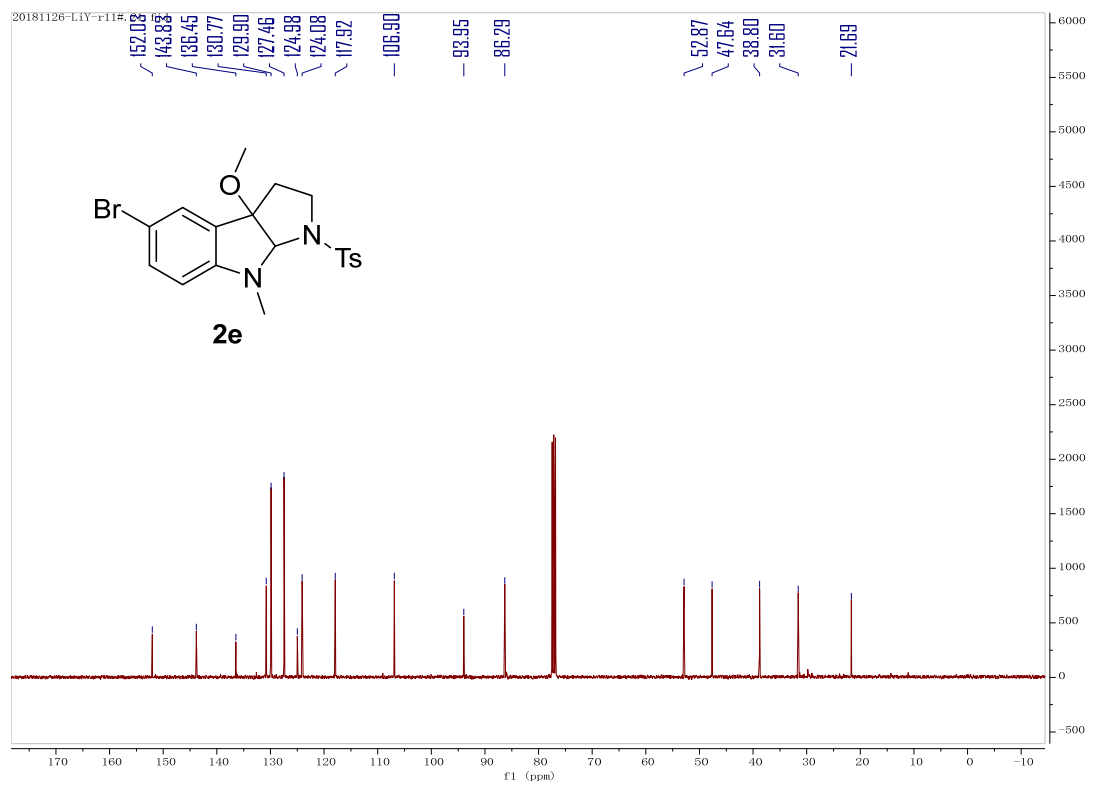
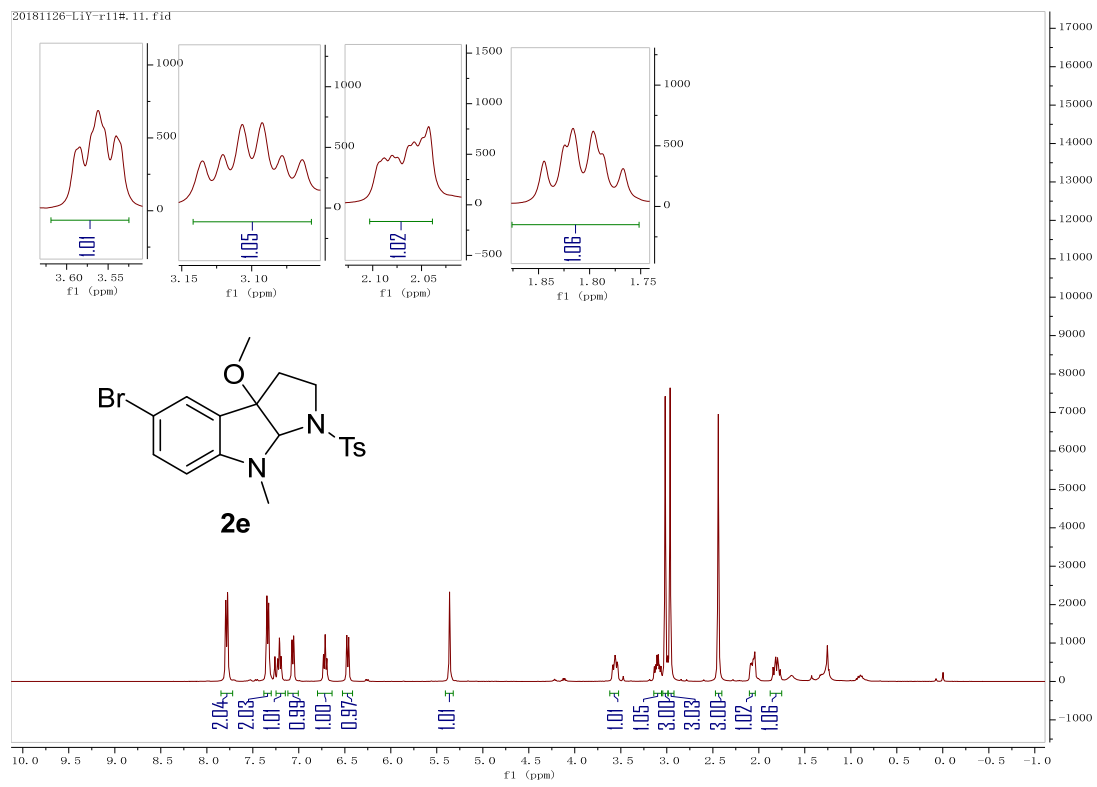
G. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra data of all products

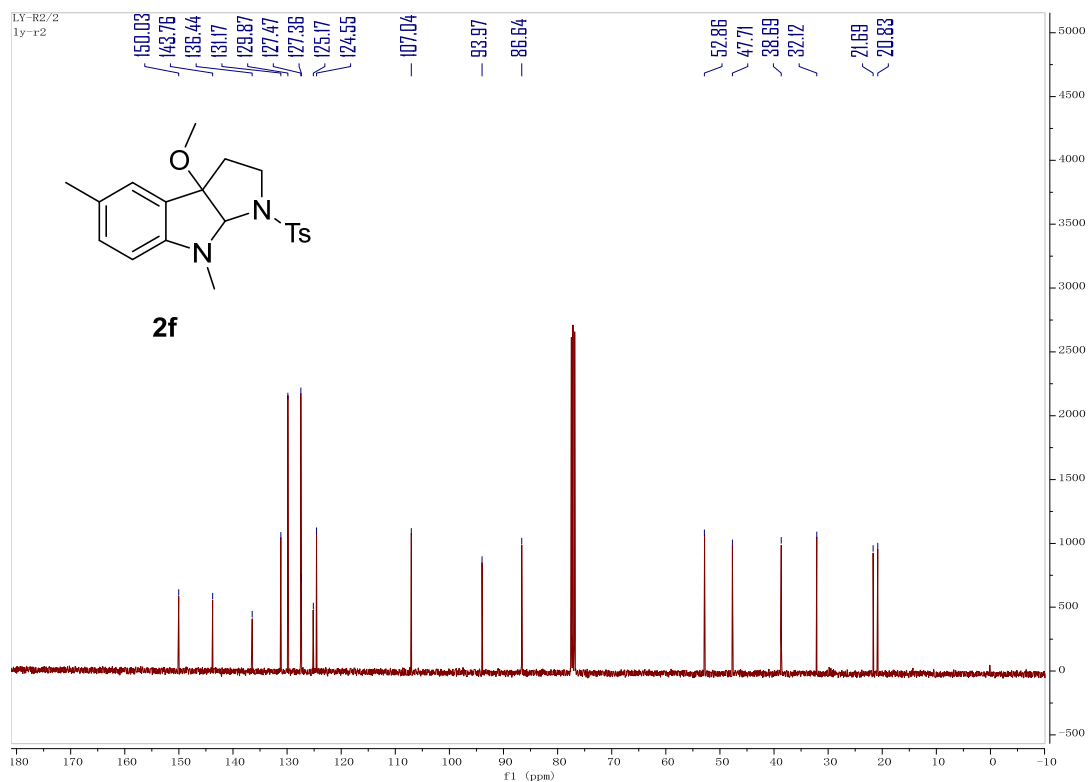
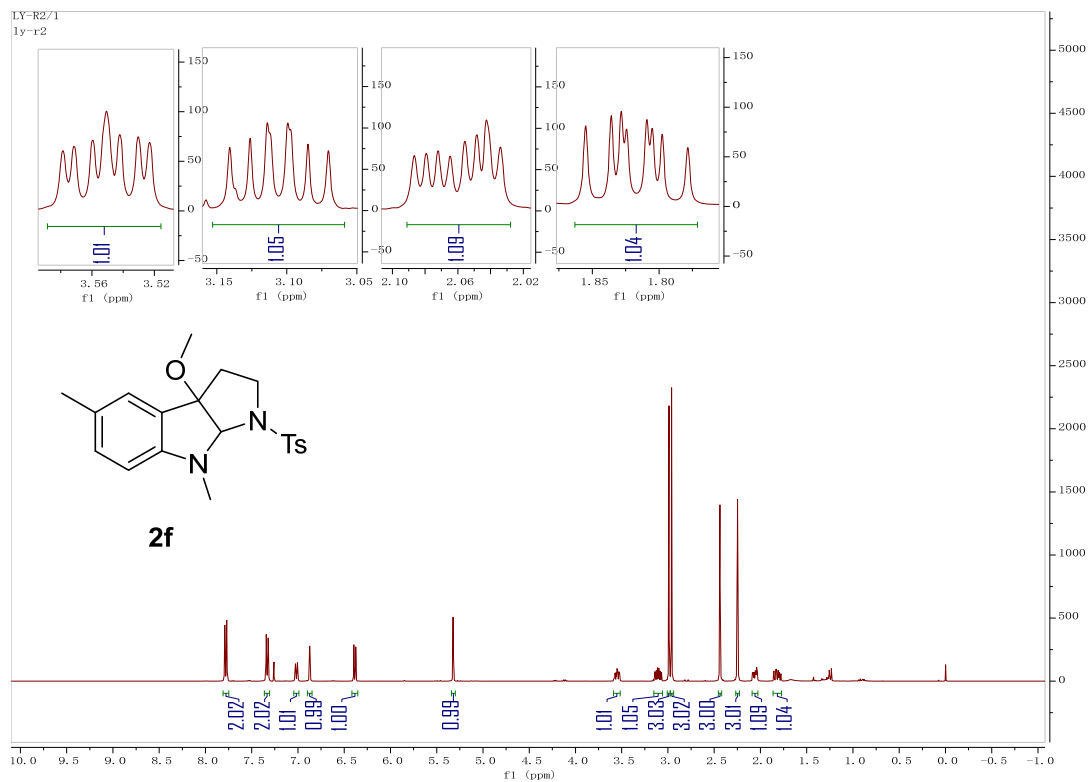


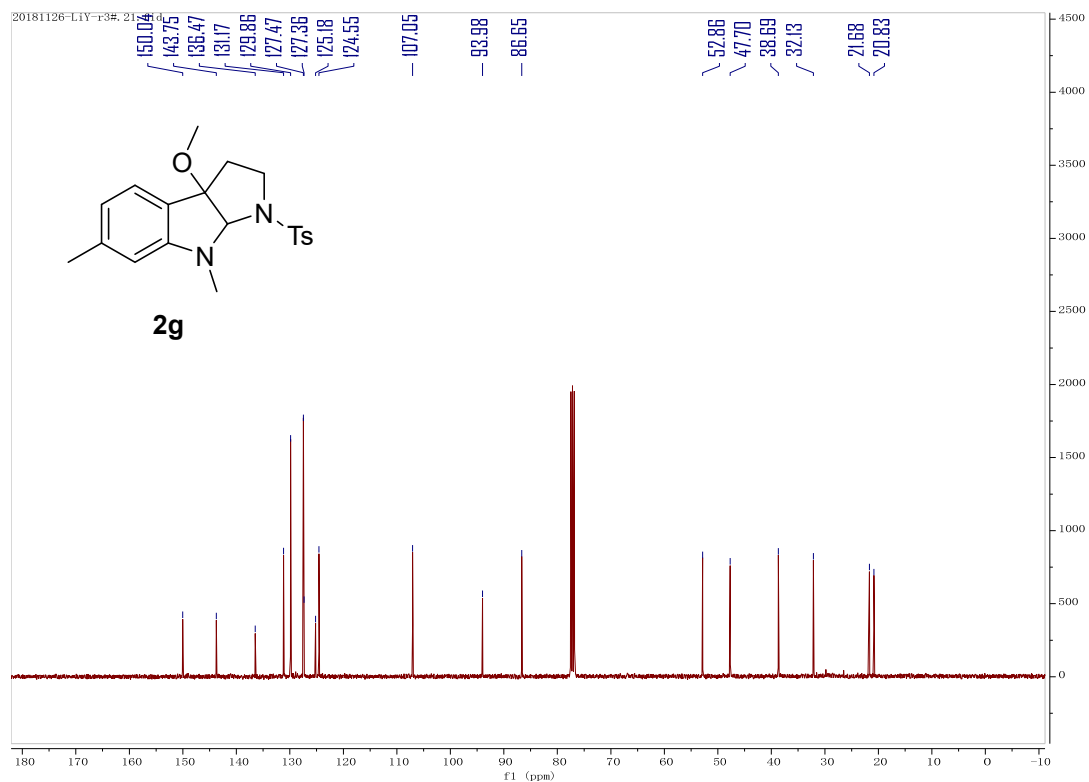
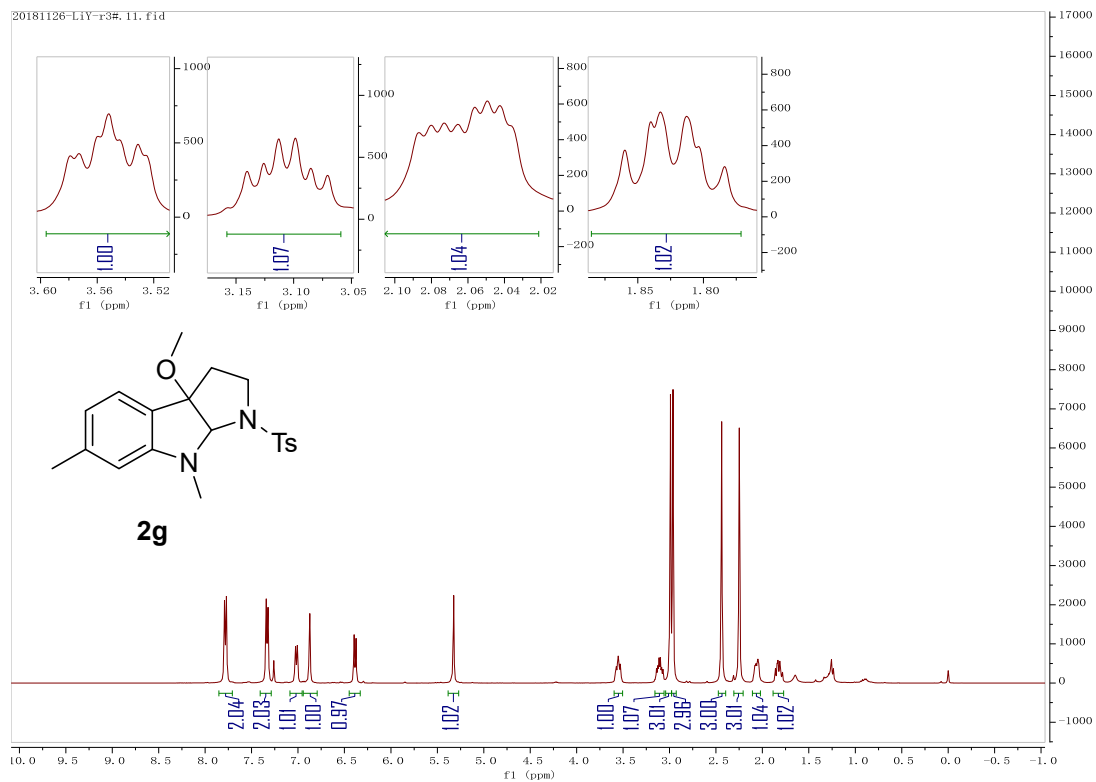


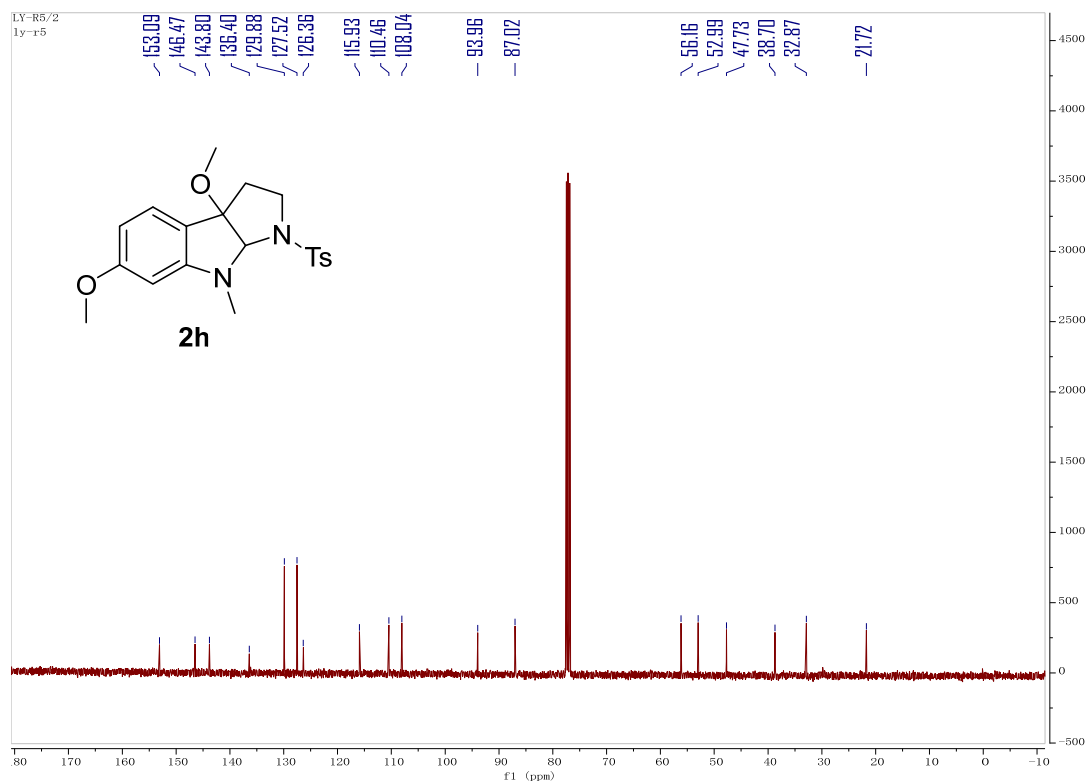
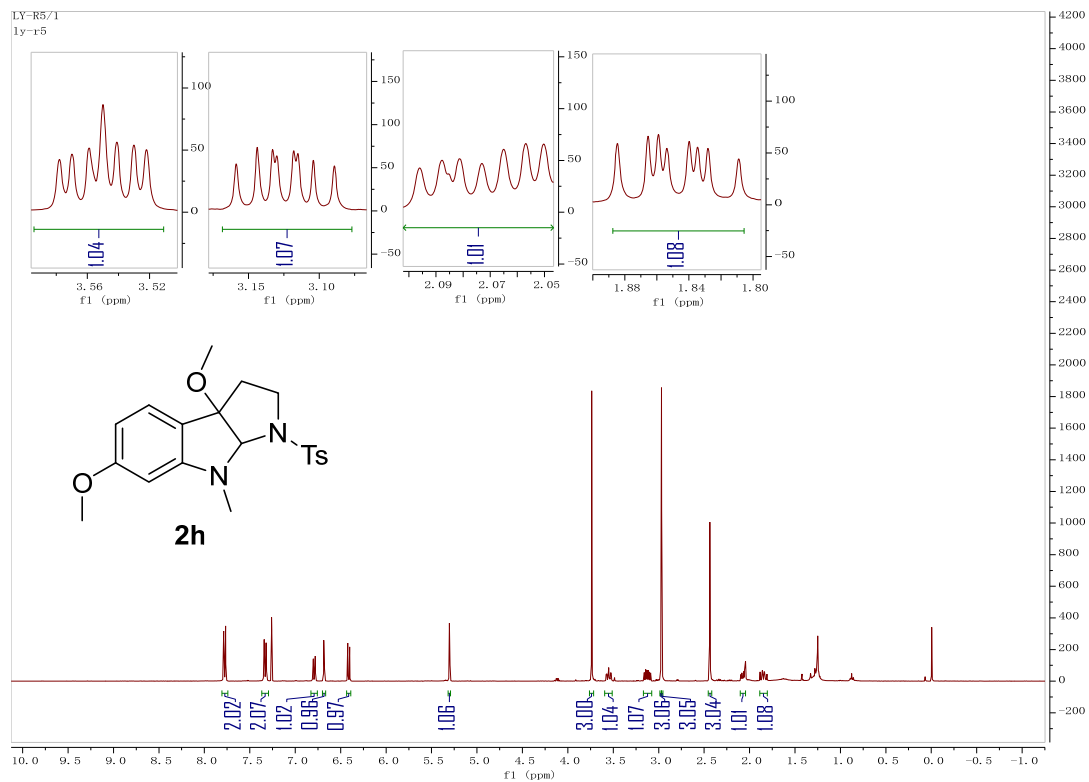


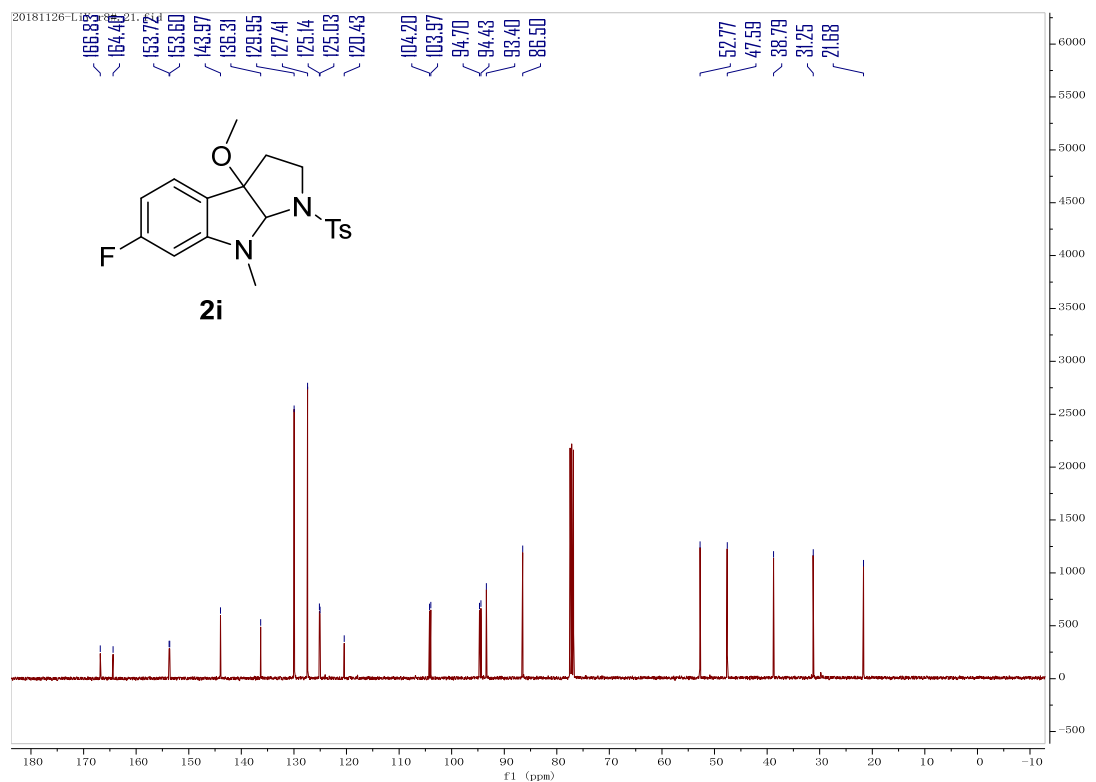
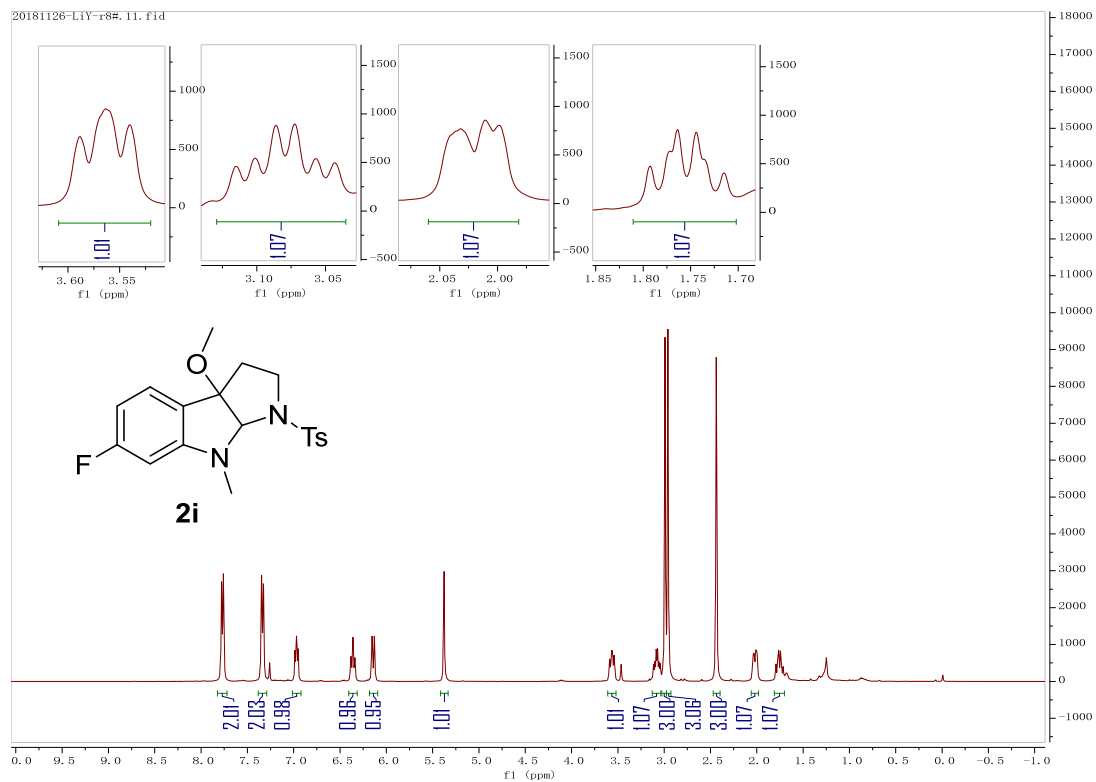


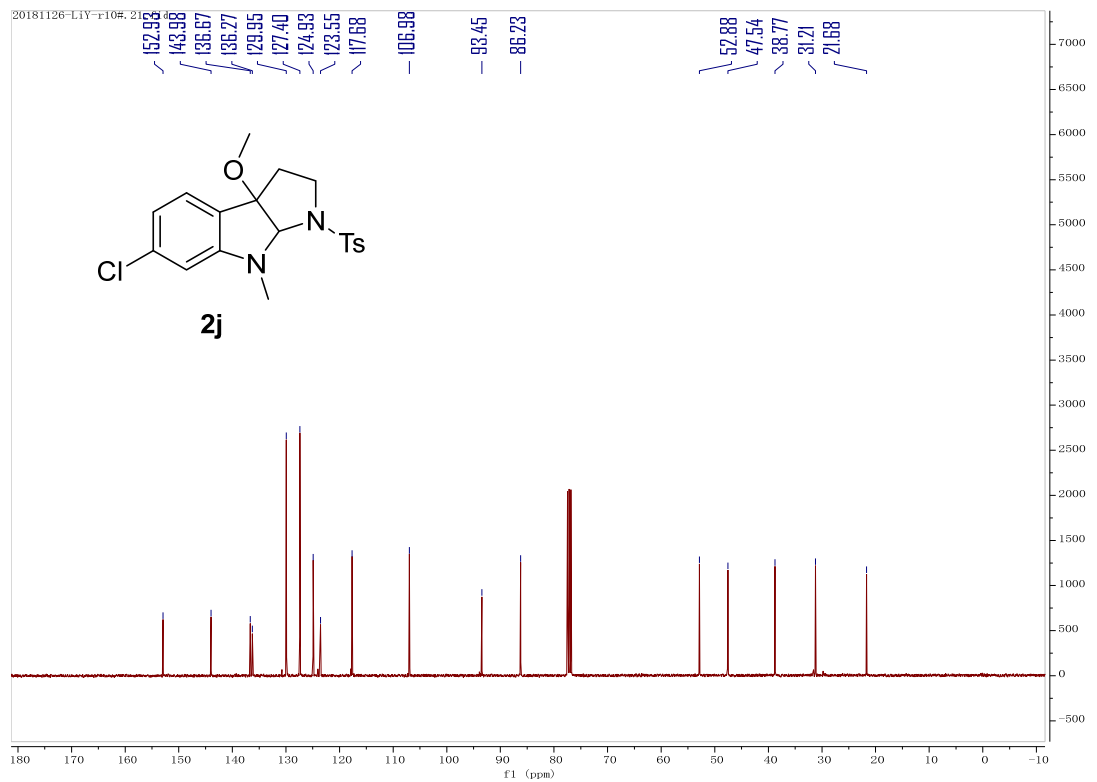
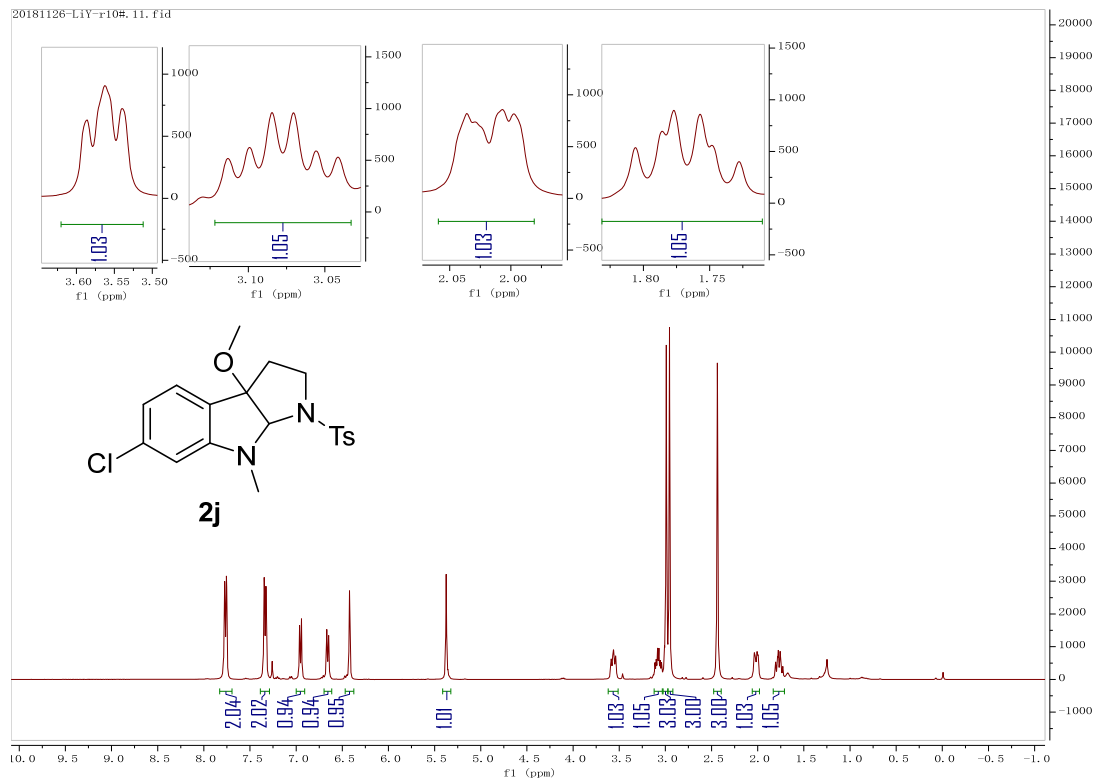


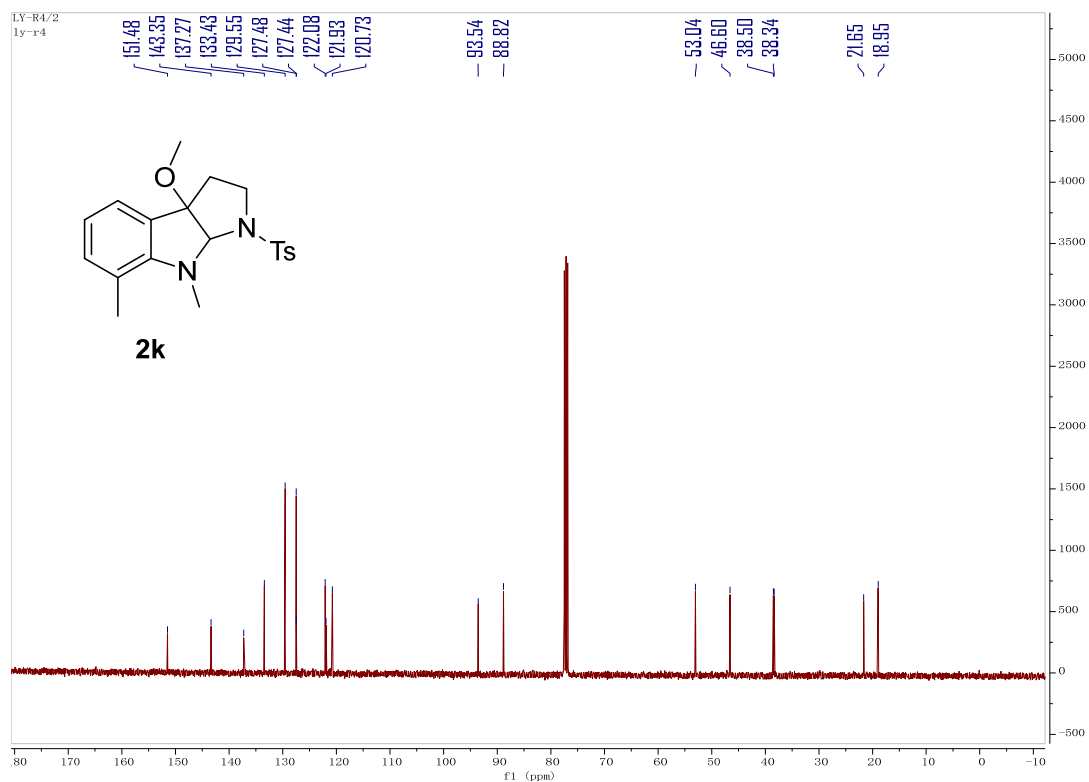
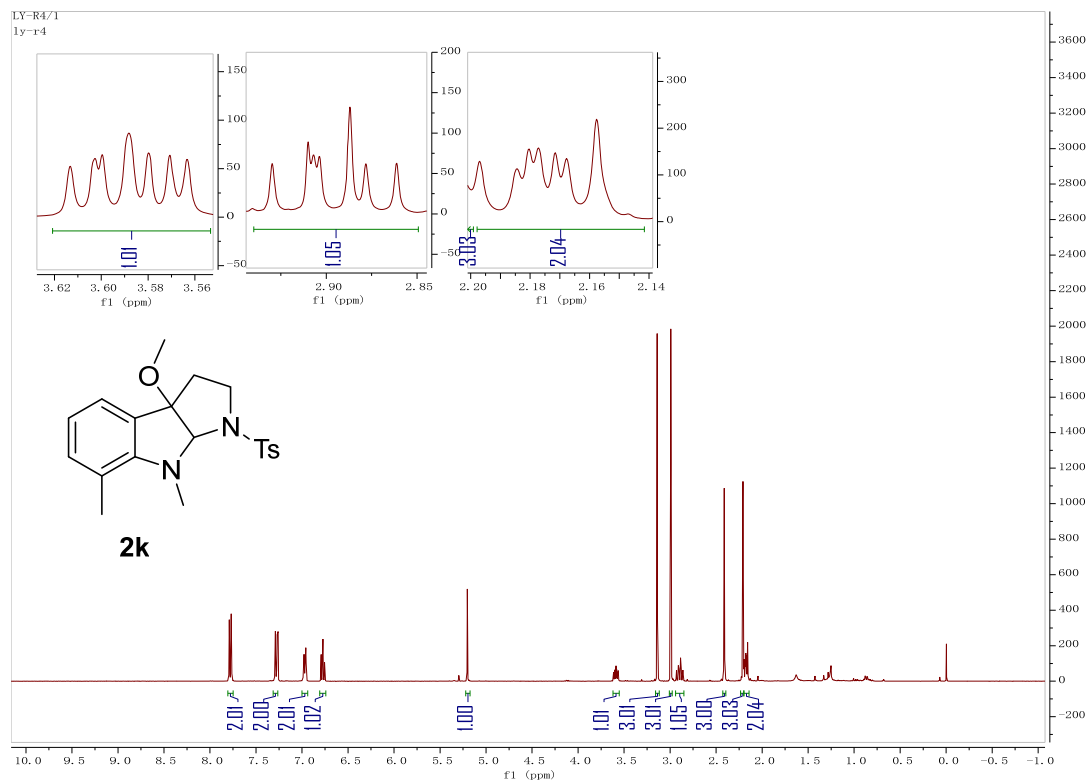


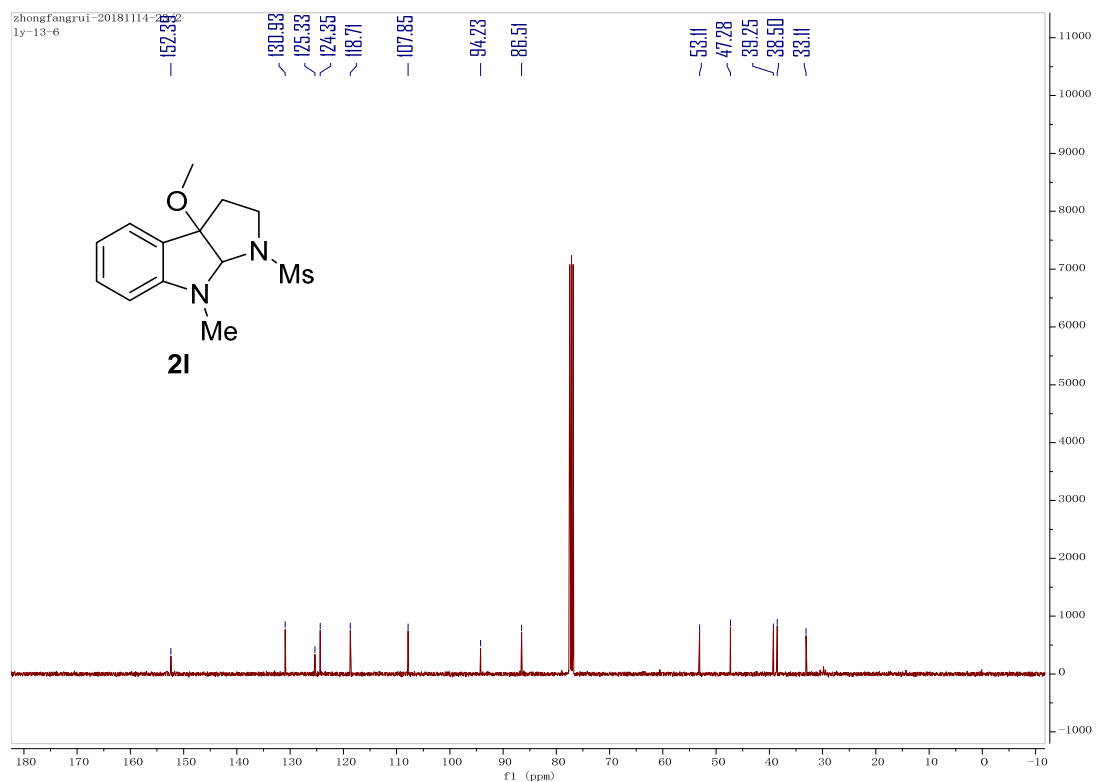
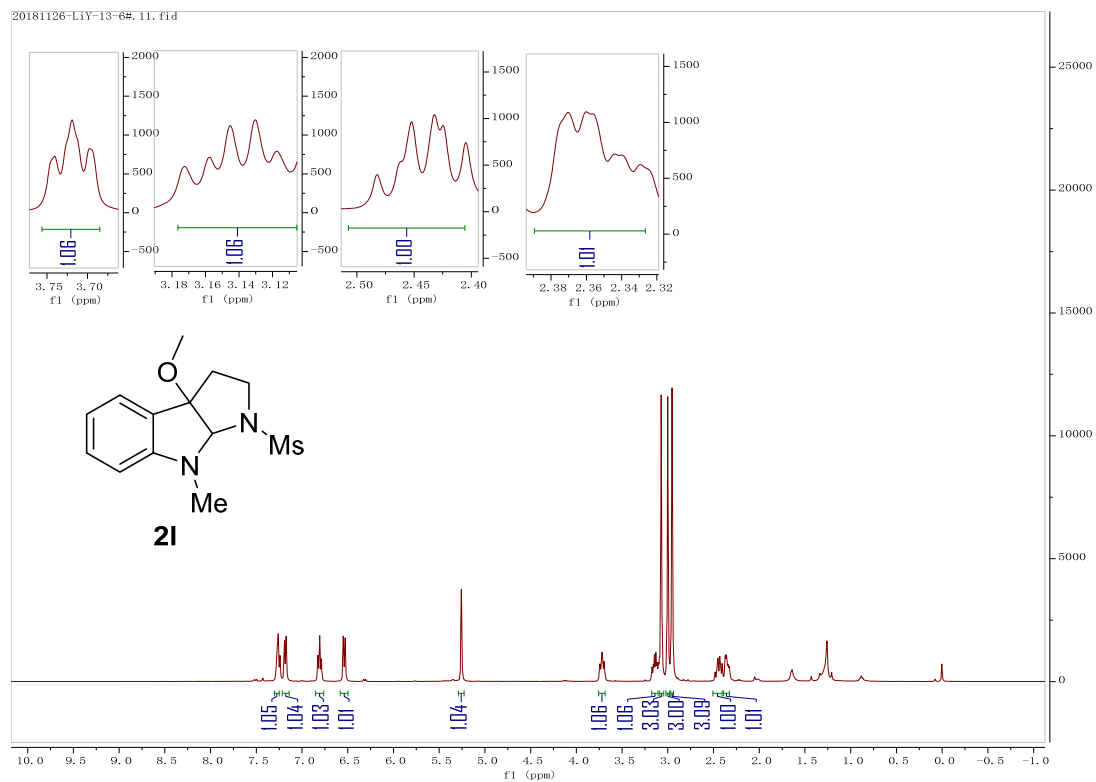


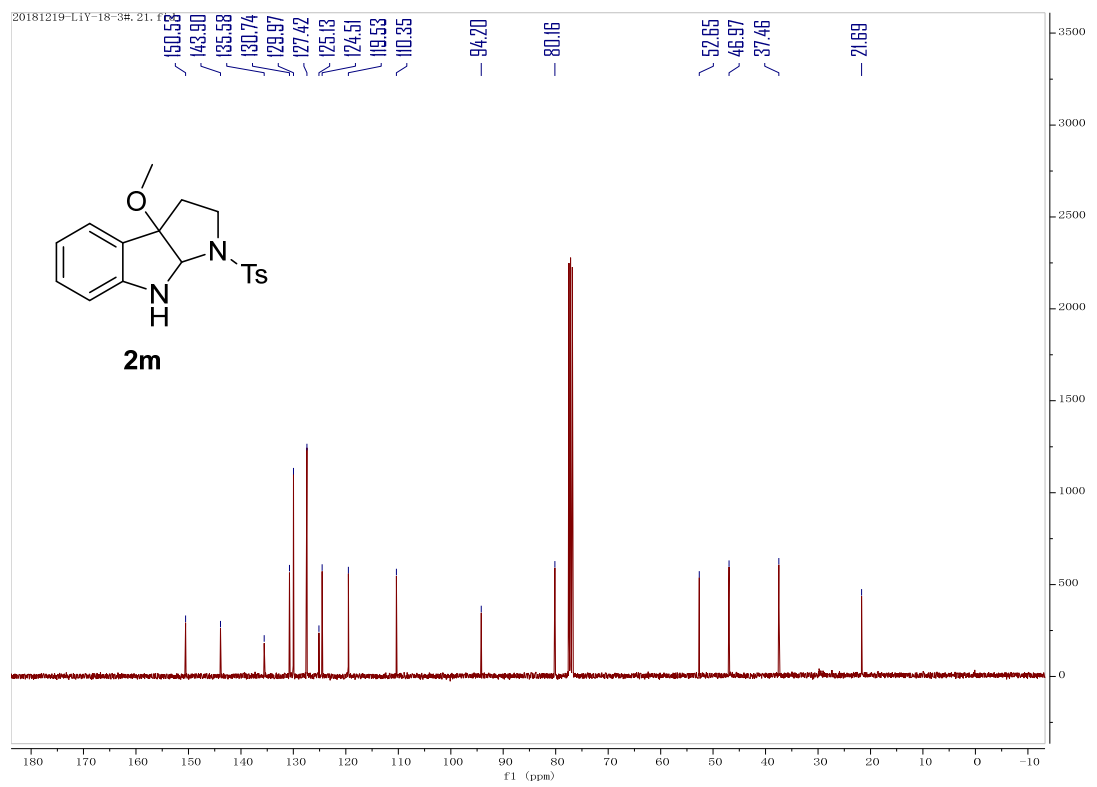
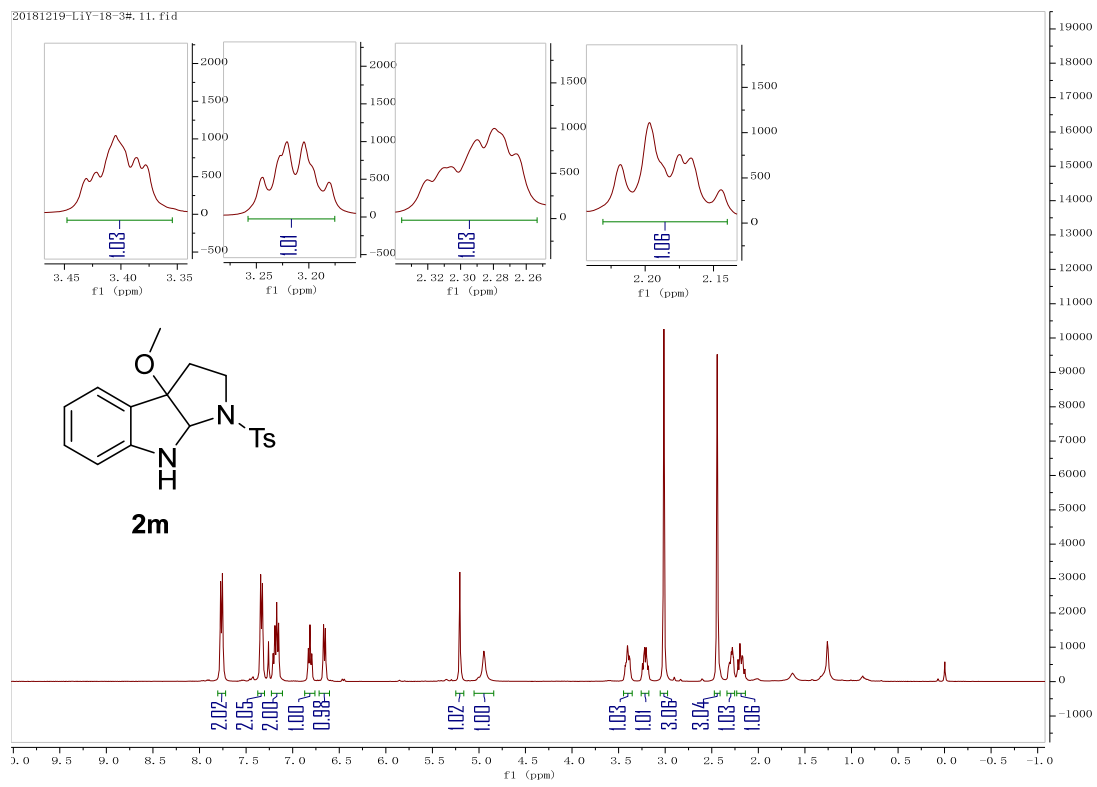


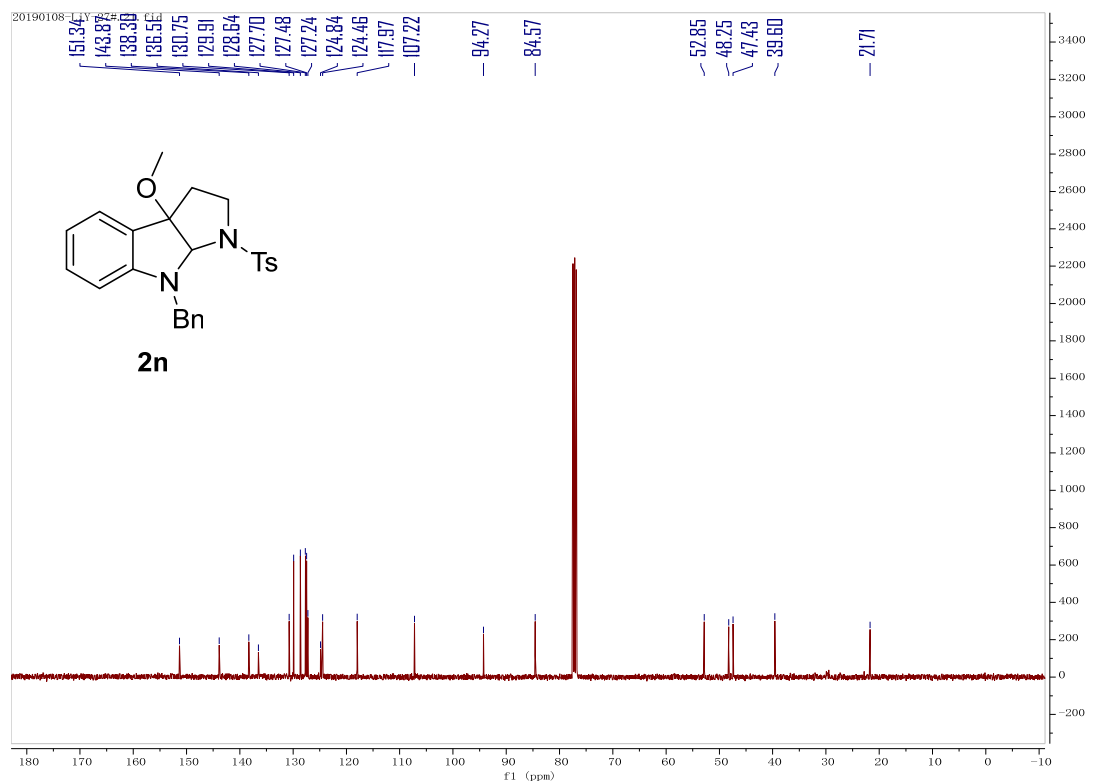
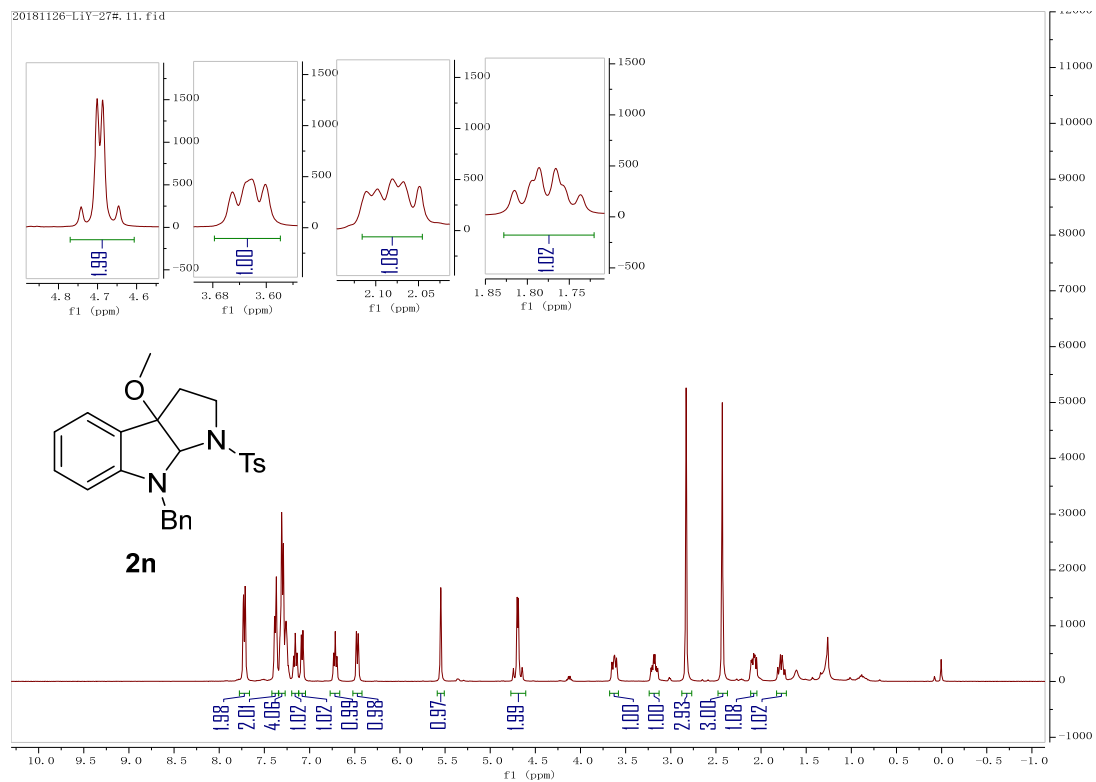


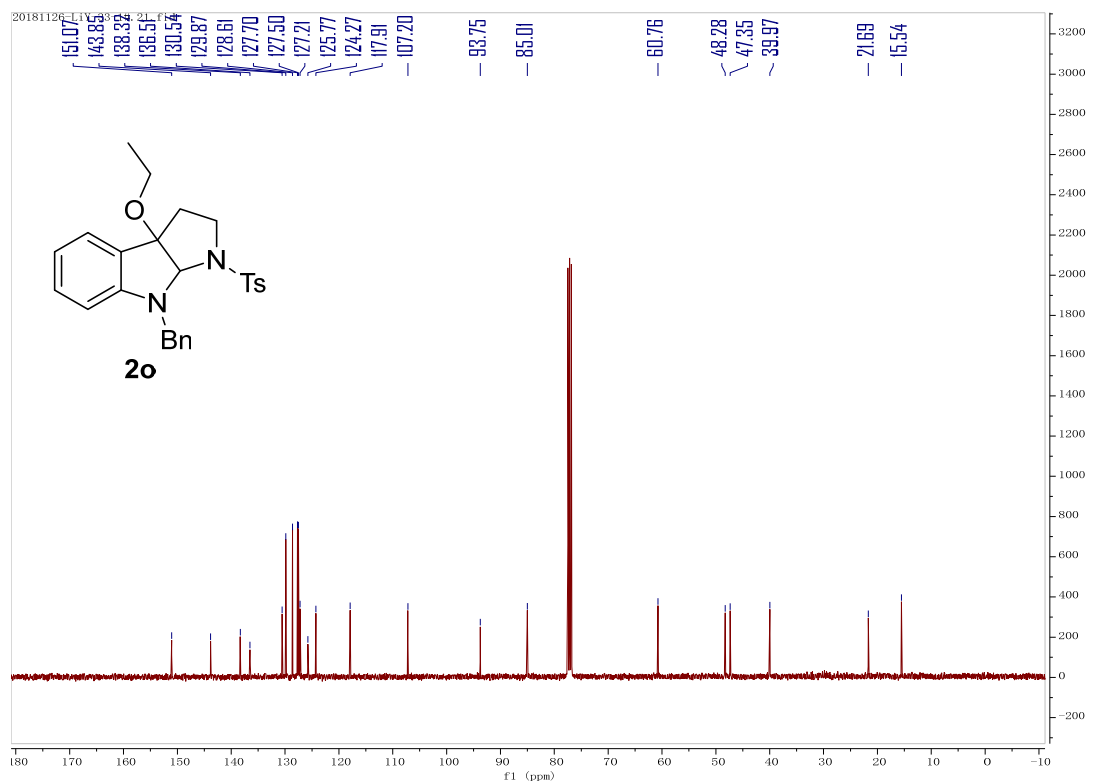
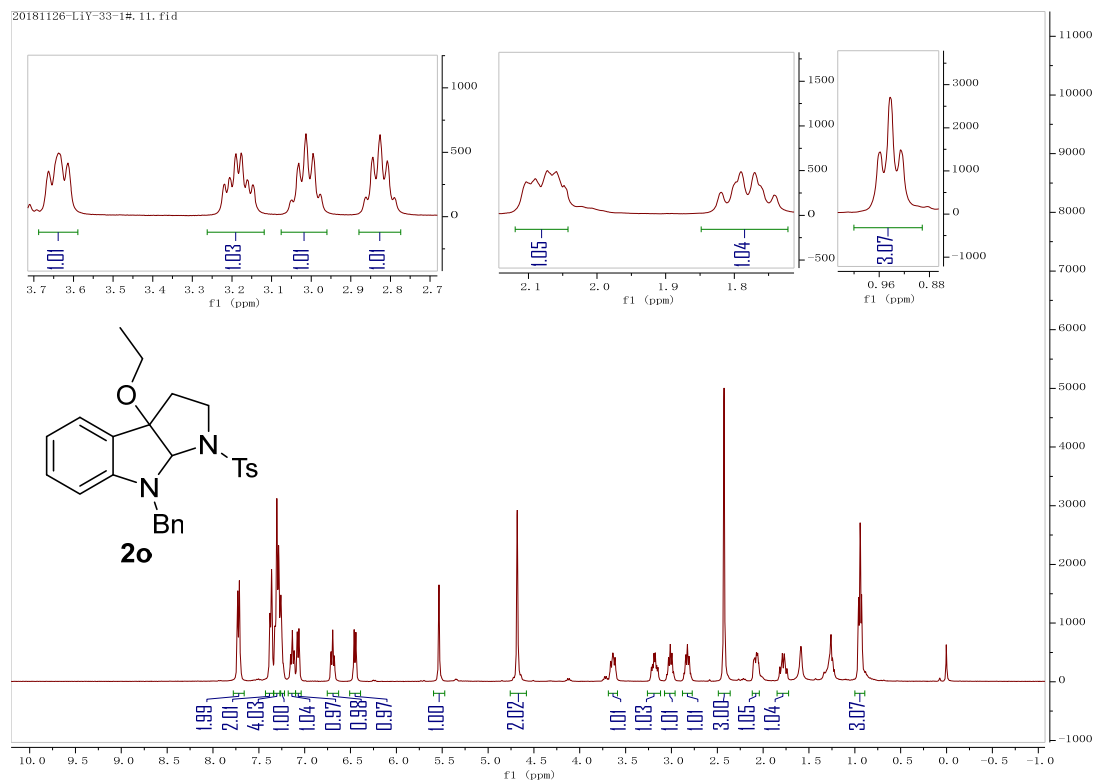


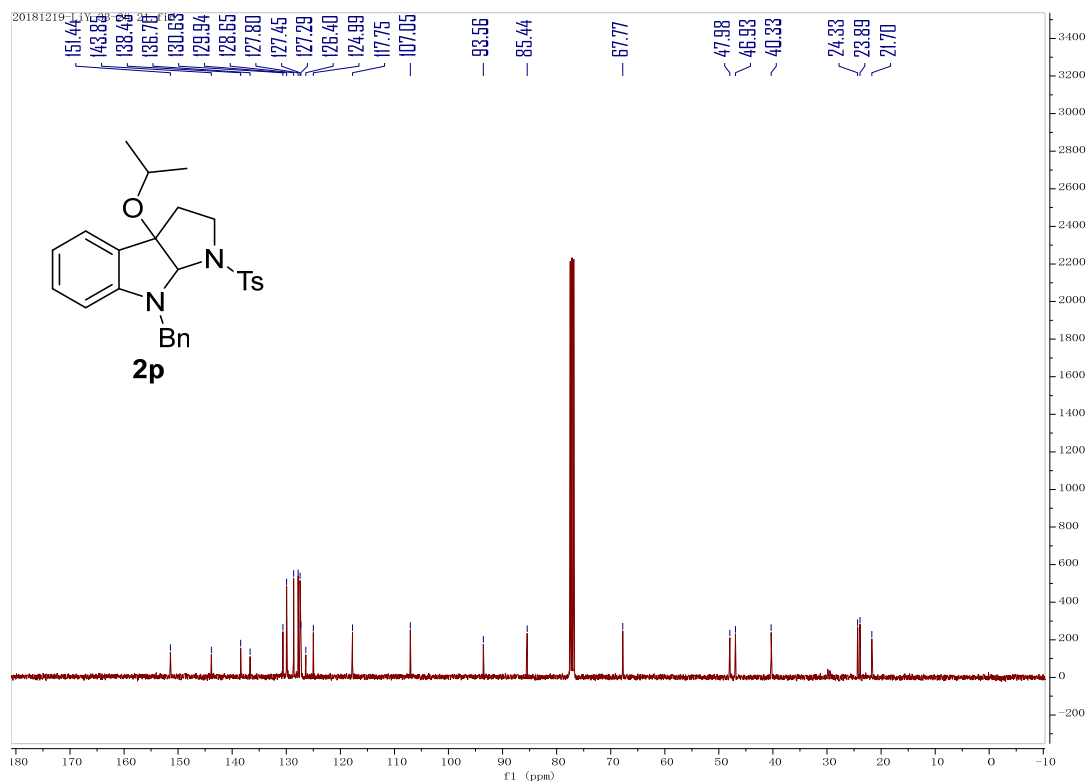
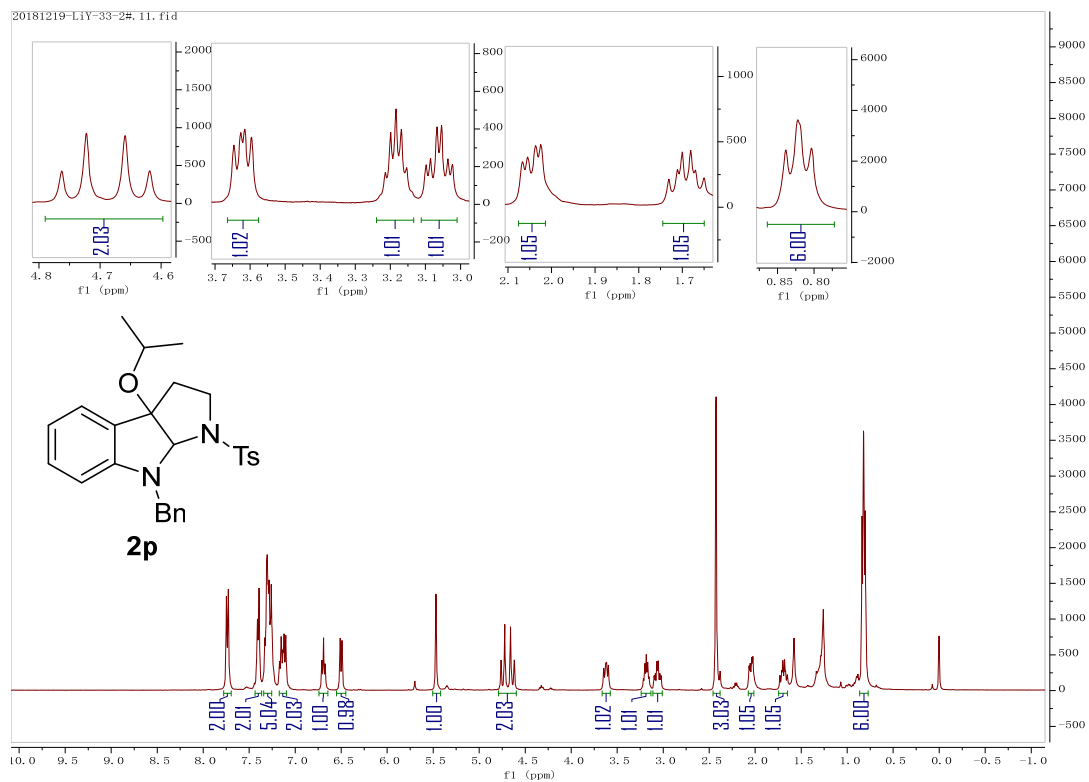




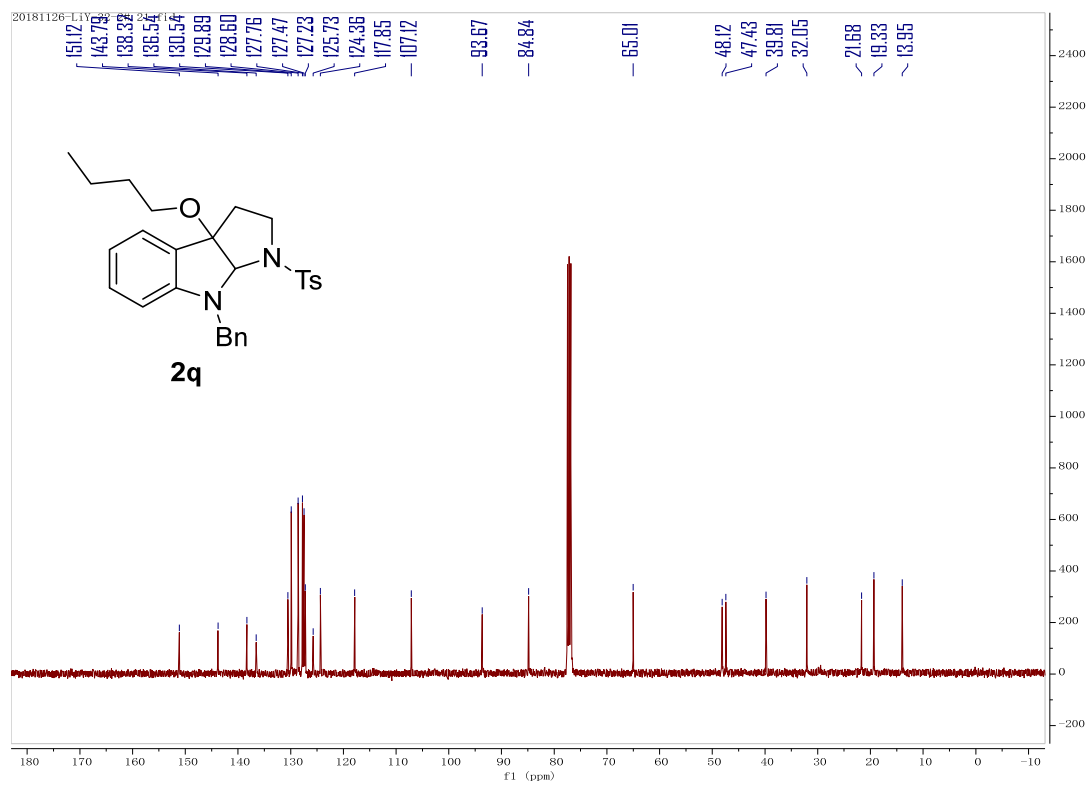
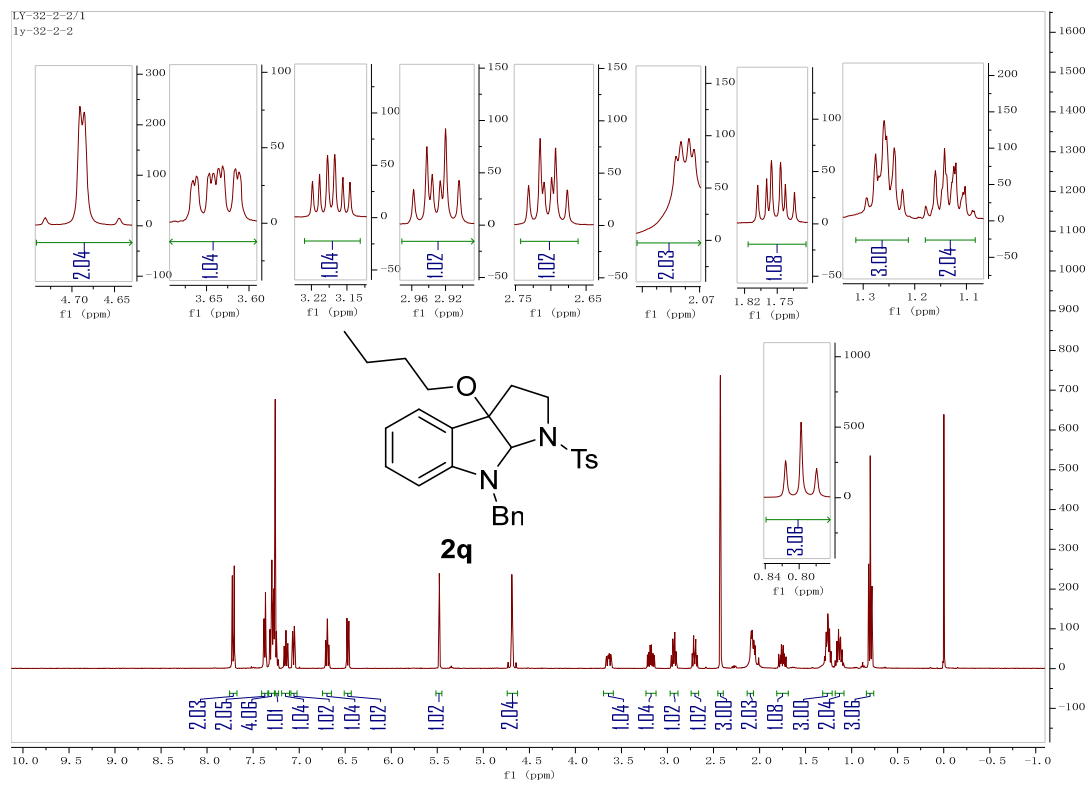








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LY-32-3-2/1
 ly-32-3-2

