

Supporting Information

Transition-Metal Free Selective C(α)-C(β) Bond Cleavage of Trifluoromethyl Ketones with Amidines under Air: Facile Access to 5-Trifluoromethylated Imidazol-4-ones

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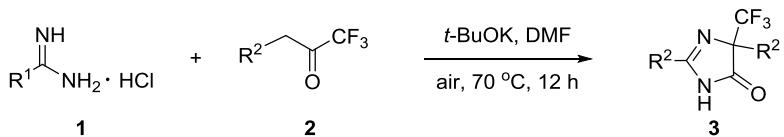
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A. General Information

Melting points were measured using a melting point instrument and are uncorrected. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from the solvent resonance as the internal standard (d_6 -DMSO $\delta_H = 2.50$ ppm, $\delta_C = 39.50$ ppm). Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). IR spectra were obtained with an infrared spectrometer on either potassium bromide pellets or liquid films between two potassium bromide pellets. GC-MS data were obtained using electron ionization. HRMS was carried out on a high-resolution mass spectrometer (LCMS-IT-TOF). TLC was performed using commercially available 100–400 mesh silica gel plates (GF₂₅₄). X-ray structural analyses were conducted on an x-ray analysis instrument.

Materials. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were distilled from sodium/benzophenone; 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE) was distilled from calcium hydride; acetonitrile (CH₃CN) was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide. Other commercially available reagents were purchased and used without further purification. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on 0.20 mm silica gel plates (GF₂₅₄) using UV light as a visualizing agent. Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (200–300 mesh) with the indicated solvent system. All reactions were conducted in oven-dried Schlenk tubes. All the reaction temperatures reported are oil bath temperatures.

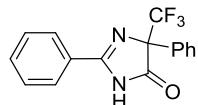
B. General Procedure for the Synthesis of 5-Trifluoromethylated Imidazol-4-ones



A 25 mL oven-dried test tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, amidine **1** (0.2 mmol), trifluoromethyl ketone **2** (0.2 mmol), *t*-BuOK (0.5 mmol), and DMF (2 mL) was vigorously stirred at 70 °C for 12 h under air. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, added water (15 mL), extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (15 mL × 3), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) provided the product **3**.

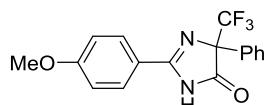
C. Analysis Data for the Products

2,5-Diphenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (**3a**)



58.4 mg, 96% yield; white solid, mp: 186–187 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.47 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.52 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 164.7, 133.5, 132.0, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.3 Hz), 75.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.4 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3187, 1735, 1629, 1443, 1257, 1172 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁F₃N₂O+H, 305.0896; found, 305.0898

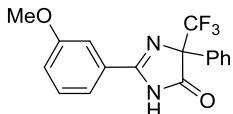
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (**3b**)



64.8 mg, 97% yield; light yellow solid, mp: 192–193 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.29 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (s, 2H), 7.47 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.6, 164.1, 163.6, 132.2, 130.0, 129.9, 129.0, 127.8, 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.4 Hz), 119.9, 114.9, 75.0, 56.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR

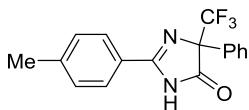
(KBr): 3062, 2851, 2743, 1757, 1609, 1441, 1262, 1175 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O₂+H, 335.1002; found, 335.1005

2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3c)



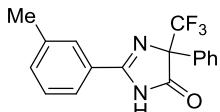
53.4 mg, 80% yield; light yellow solid, mp: 140–141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.45 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.49–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 164.6, 160.0, 131.9, 130.7, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 127.9, 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.4 Hz), 120.3, 119.6, 112.9, 75.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.8 Hz), 55.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3197, 3095, 2930, 1734, 1606, 1468, 1262, 1168 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O₂+H, 335.1002; found, 335.1006

5-Phenyl-2-(*p*-Tolyl)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3d)



57.9 mg, 91% yield; white solid, mp: 214–215 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.38 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.5, 164.5, 143.9, 132.1, 130.0, 130.0, 129.1, 128.0, 127.9, 125.0, 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.2 Hz), 75.2 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.2 Hz), 21.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3188, 1735, 1628, 1446, 1251, 1179 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O+H, 319.1053; found, 319.1057

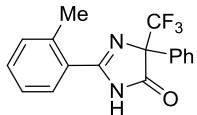
5-Phenyl-2-(*m*-Tolyl)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3e)



54.1 mg, 85% yield; light yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.38 (s, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.94 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.48 (m, 5H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 164.7, 139.0, 134.1, 132.0, 130.0, 129.4, 129.1, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 125.2, 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 75.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.5 Hz), 21.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr):

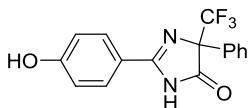
3061, 2926, 2859, 2739, 1749, 1621, 1458, 1260, 1177 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O+H, 319.1053; found, 319.1058

5-Phenyl-2-(*o*-Tolyl)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3f)



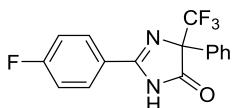
60.4 mg, 95% yield; light yellow solid, mp: 127–128 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.16 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.54 (m, 4H), 7.37–7.44 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.0, 166.0, 138.2, 132.0, 131.8, 130.0, 129.5, 129.1, 127.9, 126.5, 123.2 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 75.7 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.4 Hz), 21.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.8 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3070, 2839, 1750, 1624, 1444, 1259, 1175 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O+H, 319.1053; found, 319.1057

2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3g)



38.4 mg, 60% yield; colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.23 (s, 1H), 10.43 (s, 1H), 7.91–8.01 (m, 4H), 7.47–7.47 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.5, 164.0, 162.3, 132.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.0, 127.9, 123.4 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 118.4, 116.2, 75.2 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3459, 3131, 2843, 1745, 1608, 1458, 1263, 1177 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁F₃N₂O₂+H, 321.0845; found, 321.0850

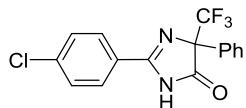
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3h)



52.2 mg, 81% yield; white solid, mp: 226–227 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.47 (s, 1H), 8.22–8.31 (m, 2H), 7.93–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.46 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 165.3 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 250.0 Hz), 163.7, 132.0, 130.8 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 9.3 Hz), 130.0, 129.1, 127.9, 124.4, 123.2 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 116.7 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.1 Hz), 75.5 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F), -106.0 (s, 1F); IR (KBr): 3183, 2919, 1734, 1631, 1447,

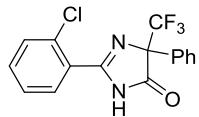
1250, 1174 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀F₄N₂O+H, 323.0802; found, 323.0804

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3i)



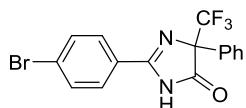
62.9 mg, 93% yield; white solid, mp: 193–194 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.49 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50–7.51 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 164.0, 138.5, 131.8, 130.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 127.8, 126.6, 123.2 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.2 Hz), 75.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 28.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3177, 1732, 1625, 1437, 1251, 1173 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀ClF₃N₂O+H, 339.0507; found, 339.0512

2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3j)



58.1 mg, 86% yield; light yellow solid, mp: 145–146 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.27 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.57 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 177.7, 164.7, 133.6, 132.2, 131.5, 131.3, 130.9, 130.1, 129.2, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 123.0 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.3 Hz), 75.6 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3265, 3070, 1756, 1624, 1437, 1257, 1179 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀ClF₃N₂O+H, 339.0507; found, 339.0510

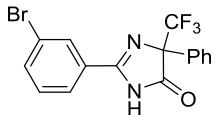
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3k)



71.8 mg, 94% yield; white solid, mp: 243–244 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.53 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.52 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.4, 164.2, 132.6, 131.8, 130.0, 130.0, 129.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.9, 123.1 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 75.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3178, 1733, 1626, 1436, 1251, 1176 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI,

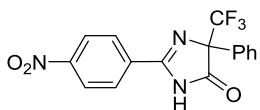
m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀BrF₃N₂O+H, 383.0001; found, 383.0002

2-(3-Bromophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3l)



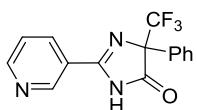
64.9 mg, 85% yield; white solid, mp: 168–169 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90–7.93 (m, 3H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.52 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.2, 163.7, 136.3, 132.7, 131.7, 131.7, 130.5, 130.1, 129.9, 129.2, 127.9, 127.1, 123.1 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.4 Hz), 122.7, 75.5 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 24.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3442, 3201, 1738, 1627, 1448, 1257, 1174 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀BrF₃N₂O+H, 383.0001; found, 383.0005

2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3m)



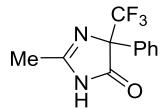
59.3 mg, 85% yield; yellow solid, mp: 202–203 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.73 (s, 1H), 8.39–8.47 (m, 4H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.52 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.2, 163.8, 150.5, 133.3, 131.5, 130.2, 129.6, 129.2, 127.8, 124.6, 123.1 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 75.7 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 26.7 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.5 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3173, 3106, 2883, 1737, 1610, 1531, 1442, 1349, 1255, 1175 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀F₃N₃O₃+H, 350.0747; found, 350.0750

5-Phenyl-2-(Pyridin-3-yl)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4*H*-Imidazol-4-one (3n)



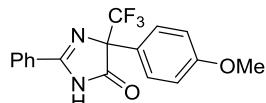
52.5 mg, 86% yield; white solid, mp: 187–188 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 12.60 (s, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.87 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 178.3, 163.7, 154.0, 148.9, 135.6, 131.7, 130.1, 129.1, 127.9, 124.5, 124.0, 123.1 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 278.1 Hz), 75.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.4 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3443, 3064, 1756, 1615, 1476, 1267, 1173 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₀F₃N₃O+H, 306.0849; found, 306.0853

2-Methyl-5-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3o)



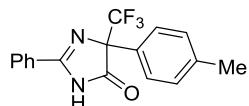
18.9 mg, 39% yield; light yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 11.63 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44–7.48 (m, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 177.8, 166.5, 131.8, 129.9, 129.0, 127.9, 123.2 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 280.9 Hz), 75.2 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 27.7 Hz), 16.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.8 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3274, 3058, 2924, 2848, 1752, 1643, 1441, 1260, 1178 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}$, 243.0740; found, 243.0745

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3p)



60.8 mg, 91% yield; orange solid, mp: 107–108 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.41 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.7, 164.4, 160.6, 133.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.0, 127.8, 123.7, 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 281.2 Hz), 114.5, 75.1 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 27.4 Hz), 55.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.8 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3175, 2933, 1738, 1622, 1509, 1453, 1252, 1171 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{H}$, 335.1002; found, 335.1006

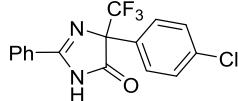
2-Phenyl-5-(*p*-Tolyl)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3q)



54.1 mg, 85% yield; white solid, mp: 209–210 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.6, 164.5, 139.6, 133.5, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 122.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 281.3 Hz), 75.2 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 26.5 Hz), 21.1; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.6 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3194, 3126, 1736, 1629, 1506, 1458, 1423, 1256, 1183 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}$,

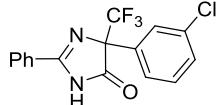
319.1053; found, 319.1052

5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3r)



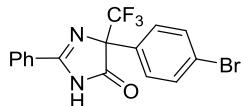
54.8 mg, 81% yield; light yellow solid, mp: 149–150 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.51 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.68 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.1, 165.1, 135.1, 133.6, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.1, 127.6, 123.0 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 281.2 Hz), 74.9 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 27.6 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.8 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3184, 2942, 2858, 1748, 1622, 1469, 1257, 1177 cm $^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}$, 339.0507; found, 339.0503

5-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3s)



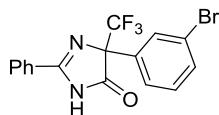
54.1 mg, 80% yield; white solid, mp: 223–224 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (s, 2H), 7.58–7.72 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 177.9, 165.3, 134.0, 133.8, 133.7, 131.1, 130.2, 129.5, 128.1, 127.6, 126.7, 123.0 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 281.5 Hz), 74.8 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 27.6 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.7 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3187, 2924, 1736, 1631, 1457, 1255, 1177 cm $^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}$, 339.0507; found, 339.0508

5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3t)



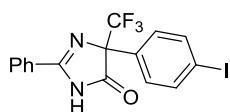
62.6 mg, 82% yield; yellow solid, mp: 141–142 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.52 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.67–7.72 (m, 3H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.1, 165.1, 133.7, 132.2, 131.2, 130.0, 129.5, 128.1, 127.6, 123.8, 123.0 (q, $^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 281.4 Hz), 75.0 (q, $^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 27.3 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.7 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3185, 2923, 1737, 1631, 1461, 1255, 1177 cm $^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H] $^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrF}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{H}$, 383.0001; found, 382.9998

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3u)



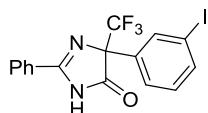
61.1 mg, 80% yield; white solid, mp: 202–203 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.56 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 177.9, 165.3, 134.2, 133.7, 133.1, 131.4, 130.4, 129.5, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 122.9 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 281.5 Hz), 122.3, 74.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 27.4 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.7 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3177, 3123, 1734, 1631, 1456, 1255, 1182 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀BrF₃N₂O+H, 383.0001; found, 382.9999

5-(4-Iodophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3v)



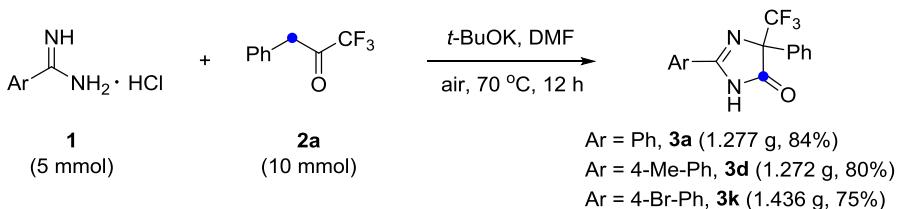
57.6 mg, 67% yield; pale green solid, mp: 187–188 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67–7.71 (m, 3H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.1, 165.1, 138.0, 133.6, 131.7, 130.0, 129.5, 128.1, 127.6, 122.9 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 281.5 Hz), 97.2, 75.1 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 27.8 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.6 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3194, 2921, 1737, 1628, 1458, 1251, 1175 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀F₃IN₂O+H, 430.9863; found, 430.9864

5-(3-Iodophenyl)-2-Phenyl-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,5-Dihydro-4H-Imidazol-4-one (3w)



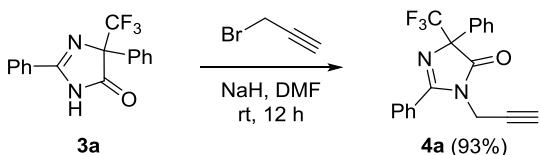
55.9 mg, 65% yield; white solid, mp: 170–171 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 12.54 (s, 1H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.71 (m, 3H), 7.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 178.0, 165.3, 138.9, 136.2, 134.0, 133.7, 131.3, 129.6, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 123.0 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 281.5 Hz), 95.3, 74.6 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 27.8 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ = -73.6 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3180, 2920, 1733, 1633, 1456, 1253, 1178 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₀F₃IN₂O+H, 430.9863; found, 430.9865

D. Procedure for the Gram-Scale Synthesis of 3



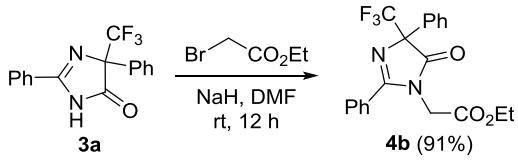
A 250 mL oven-dried round-bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser and a magnetic stirring bar, amidine **1** (5 mmol), trifluoromethyl ketone **2a** (10 mmol), *t*-BuOK (12.5 mmol), and DMF (50 mL) was vigorously stirred at 70 °C for 12 h under air. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, added water (150 mL), extracted with EtOAc (150 mL × 3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (150 mL × 3), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) provided the products **3**.

E. Procedure for the Transformations of 3a



A 25 mL oven-dried round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, **3a** (60.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), NaH (8 mg, 60% in oil, 0.4 mmol), and DMF (2 mL) was vigorously stirred at room temperature for 30 min under N₂. Then propargyl bromide (47.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was then stirred at room temperature for another 12 h, quenched with water (15 mL), extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (15 mL × 3), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) provided the products **4a**.

63.6 mg, 93% yield; colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.91–7.93 (m, 4H), 7.63–7.73 (m, 3H), 7.51 (s, 3H), 4.40–4.52 (m, 2H), 3.34 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 175.8, 166.2, 132.8, 131.1, 130.3, 129.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 123.0 (q, ¹J_{C-F} = 281.5 Hz), 77.9, 76.1, 74.6 (q, ²J_{C-F} = 27.6 Hz), 32.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.6 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3297, 3066, 2928, 1748, 1623, 1494, 1448, 1381, 1324, 1254, 1165 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₃F₃N₂O+H, 343.1053; found, 343.1056

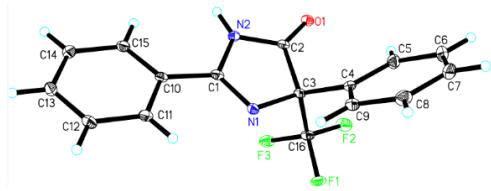


A 25 mL oven-dried round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, **3a** (60.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), NaH (8 mg, 60% in oil, 0.4 mmol), and DMF (2 mL) was vigorously stirred at room temperature for 30 min under N₂. Then ethyl bromoacetate (66.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was then stirred at room temperature for another 12 h, quenched with water (15 mL), extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (15 mL × 3), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) provided the products **4b**.

71.0 mg, 91% yield; colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.91–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59–7.70 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.52 (m, 3H), 4.48–4.58 (m, 2H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 176.3, 167.3, 166.5, 132.5, 131.2, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 123.0 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 281.4 Hz), 74.8 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 27.8 Hz), 61.9, 43.7, 14.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ = -73.3 (s, 3F); IR (KBr): 3067, 2987, 2934, 1750, 1629, 1450, 1380, 1327, 1260, 1211 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇F₃N₂O₃+H, 391.1264; found, 391.1268

F. X-ray Crystallographic Data

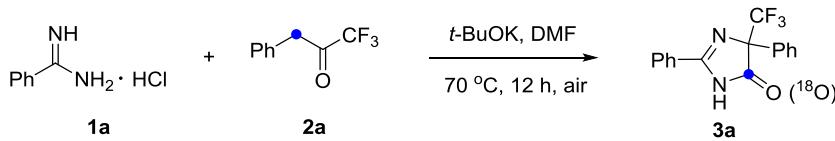
The X-ray crystallographic structures for **3a**. ORTEP representation with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. Crystal data have been deposited to CCDC, number 1847590.



Empirical formula	C ₁₆ H ₁₁ F ₃ N ₂ O
Formula weight	304.27
Temperature	100.00(10)K
Wavelength	1.54184

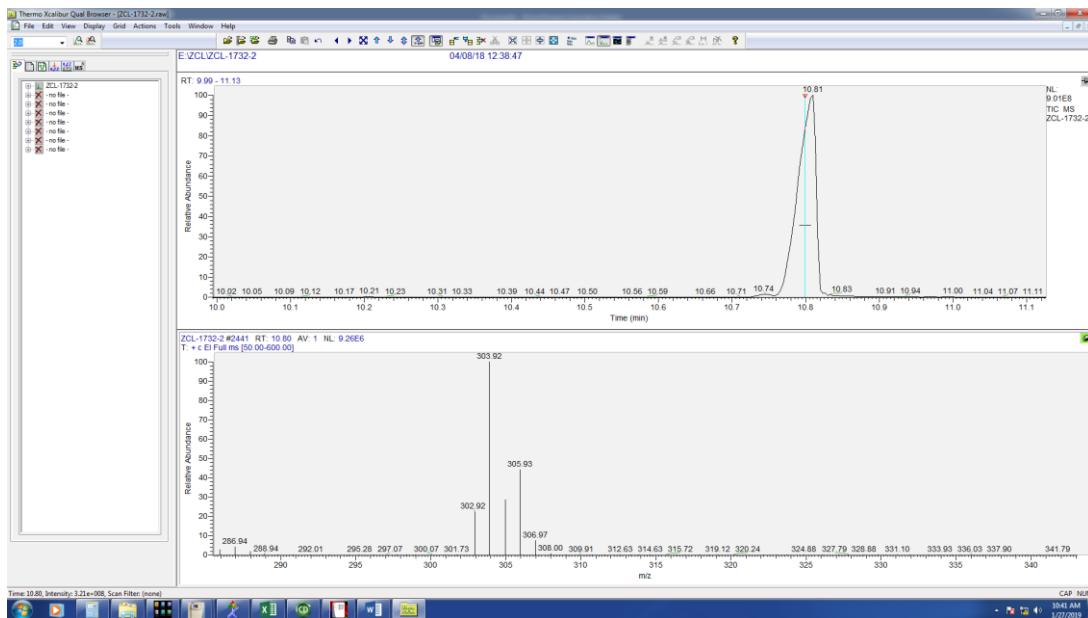
Crystal system, space group	monoclinic, P2 ₁ /c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.59270(10) Å alpha = 90 deg. b = 24.4163(4) Å beta = 108.268(2) deg. c = 9.1339(2) Å gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1396.18(5) Å ³
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.448 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	1.028 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	624.0
Crystal size	0.13 × 0.12 × 0.11 mm
Theta range for data collection	3.621 to 73.527 deg.
Limiting indices	-4 ≤ h ≤ 7, -28 ≤ k ≤ 29, -11 ≤ l ≤ 11
Reflections collected / unique	5053 / 2717 [R(int) = 0.0312]
Completeness to theta = 66.97	99.88%
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	2717/0/203
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.048
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R ₁ = 0.0470, wR ₂ = 0.1251
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.0517, wR ₂ = 0.1316
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.25 and -0.29 e. Å ⁻³

G. GC-MS Analysis for ^{18}O -labeled Experiments



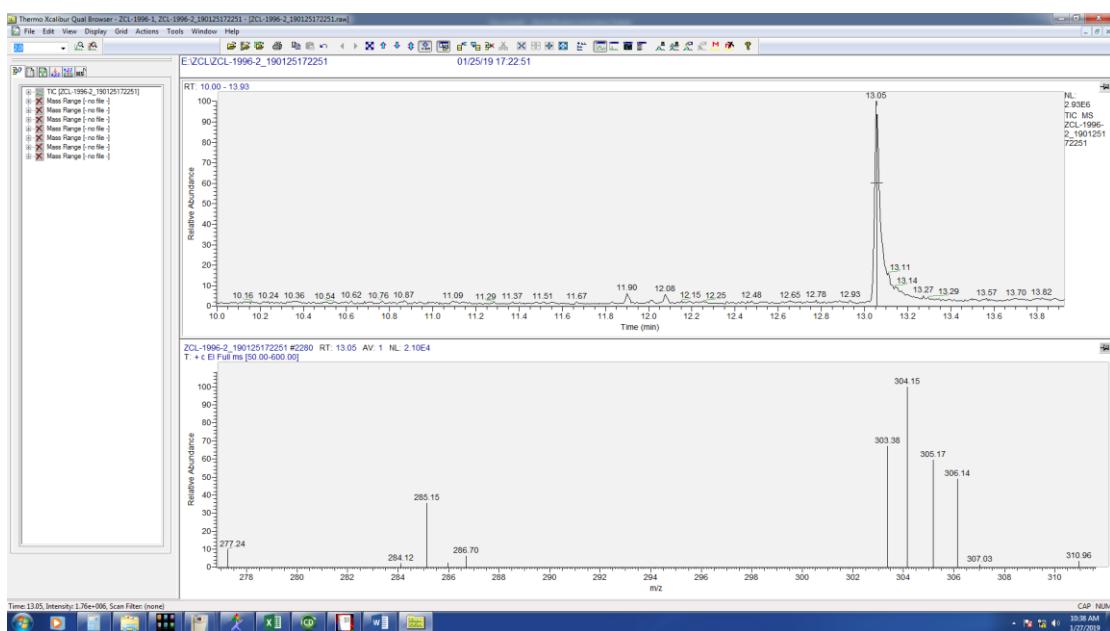
1) Variation the standard reaction conditions: under $^{18}\text{O}_2$ atmosphere instead of air.

The ^{18}O -labeled ratio of **3a** under $^{18}\text{O}_2$ is 23%



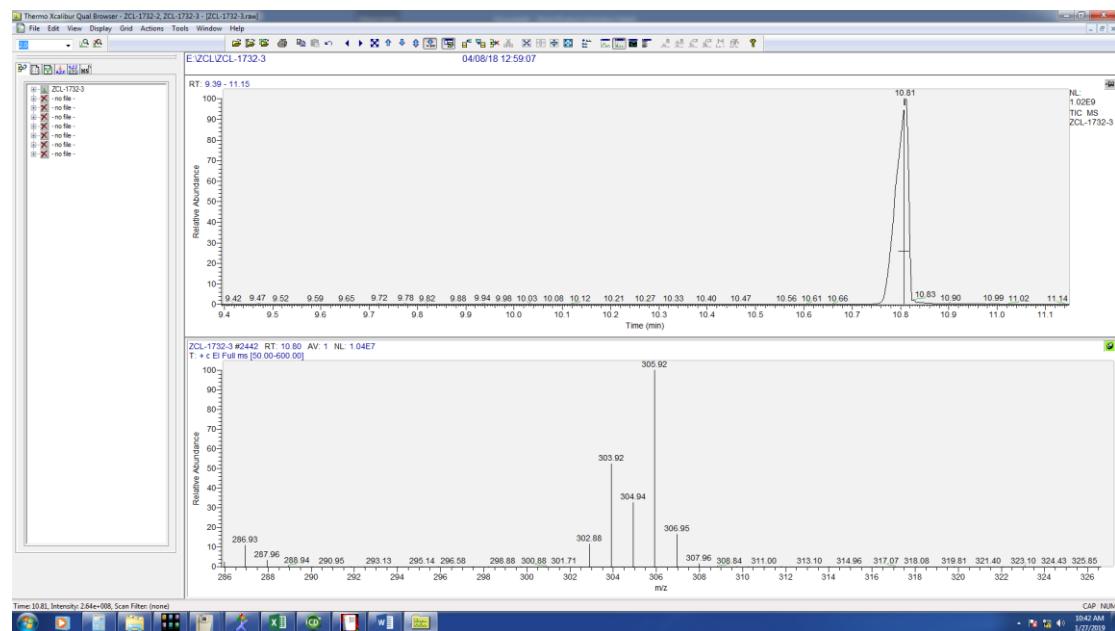
2) Variation the standard reaction conditions: under $^{18}\text{O}_2$ atmosphere instead of air, and using molecular sives dried DMF as the solvent.

The ^{18}O -labeled ratio of **3a** under $^{18}\text{O}_2$ is 33%



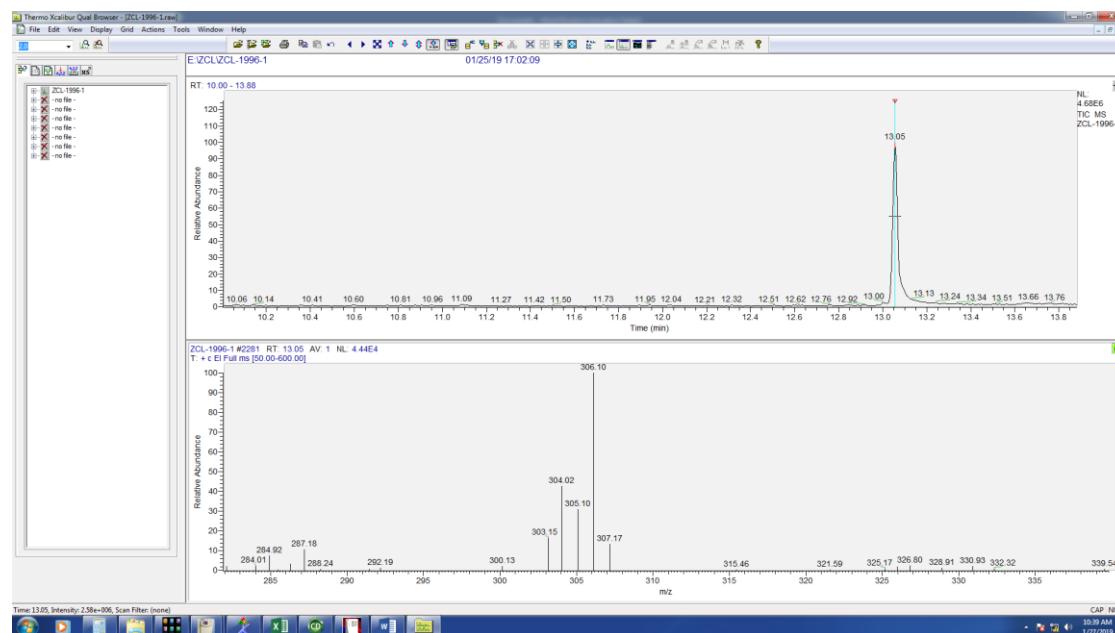
3) Variation the standard reaction conditions: with H₂¹⁸O (10 equiv) as additive.

The ¹⁸O-labeled ratio of **3a** under ¹⁸O₂ is 67%

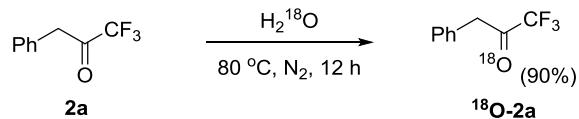


4) Variation the standard reaction conditions: with H₂¹⁸O (10 equiv) as additive, and using molecular sives dried DMF as the solvent.

The ¹⁸O-labeled ratio of **3a** under ¹⁸O₂ is 69%



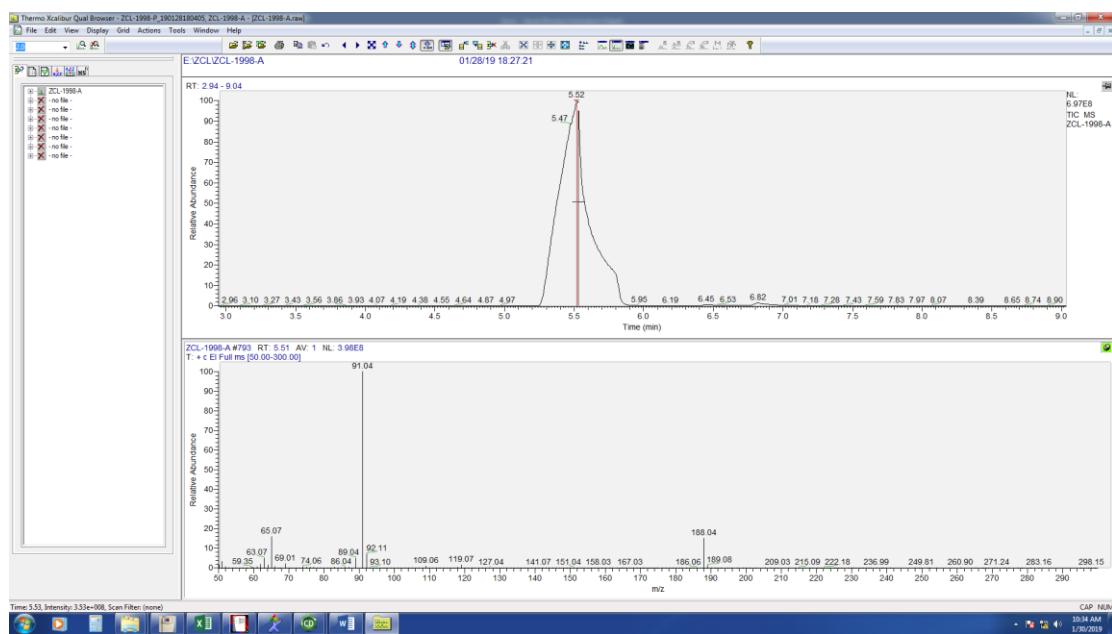
For the synthesis of ^{18}O -labeled **2a**



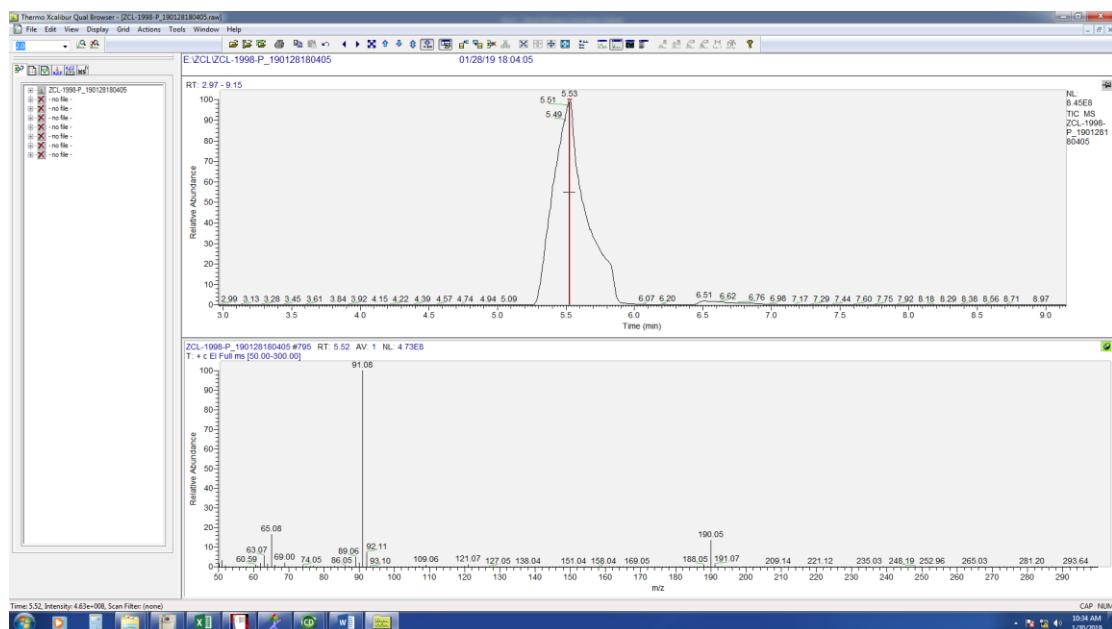
A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, **2a** (188 mg, 1 mmol), and H_2^{18}O (0.6 mL, 30 mmol) was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h under N_2 . Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* at 0 °C to give the desired the $^{18}\text{O}-\textbf{2a}$ in 76% yield.

144.4 mg, colorless oil, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.30–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.9 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 34.8$ Hz), 130.4, 129.7, 128.9, 127.9, 115.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 290.7$ Hz), 43.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) $\delta = -78.3$ (s, 3F).

The GC-MS spectrum of **2a**

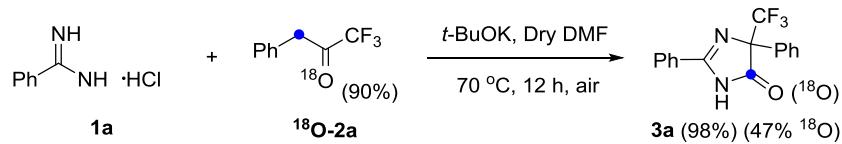


The GC-MS spectrum of ¹⁸O-2a

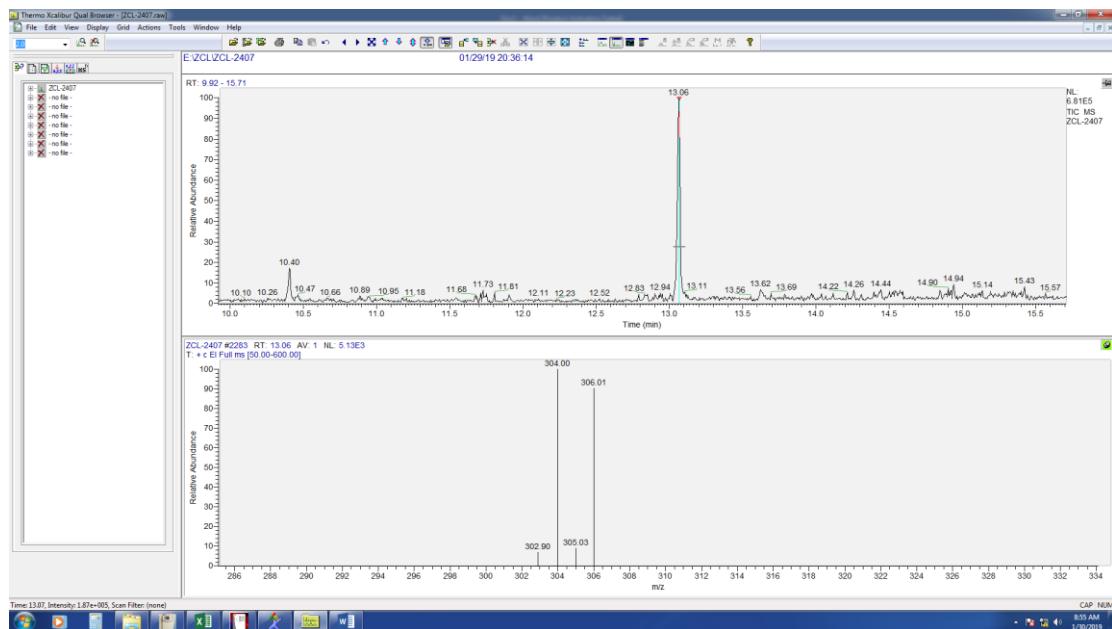


The ¹⁸O-labeled ratio of **2a** is 90%

Using ¹⁸O-labeled **2a** as the starting material.

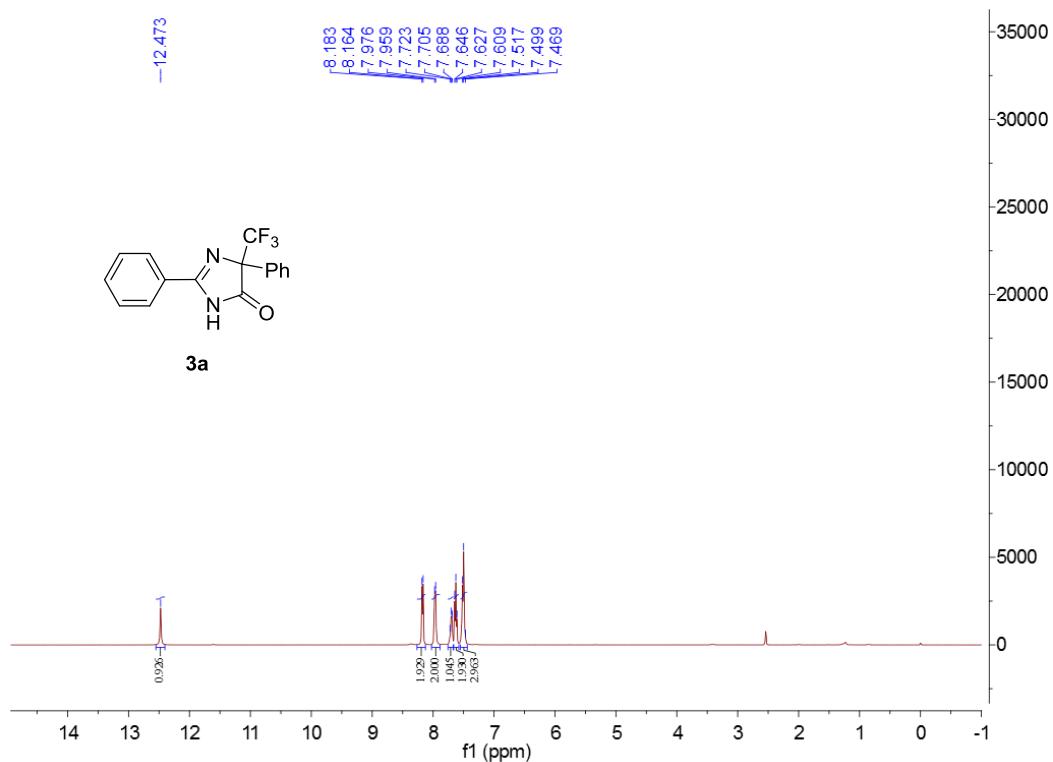


The ¹⁸O-labeled ratio of **3a** is 47%

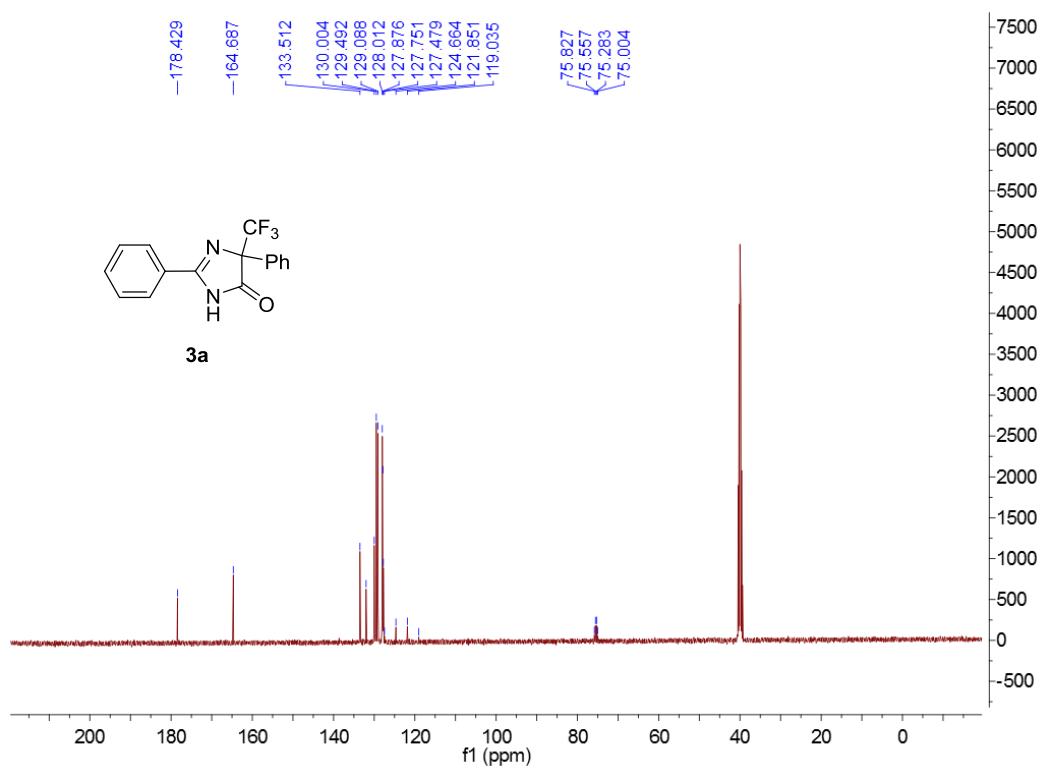


H. NMR Spectra of New Compounds

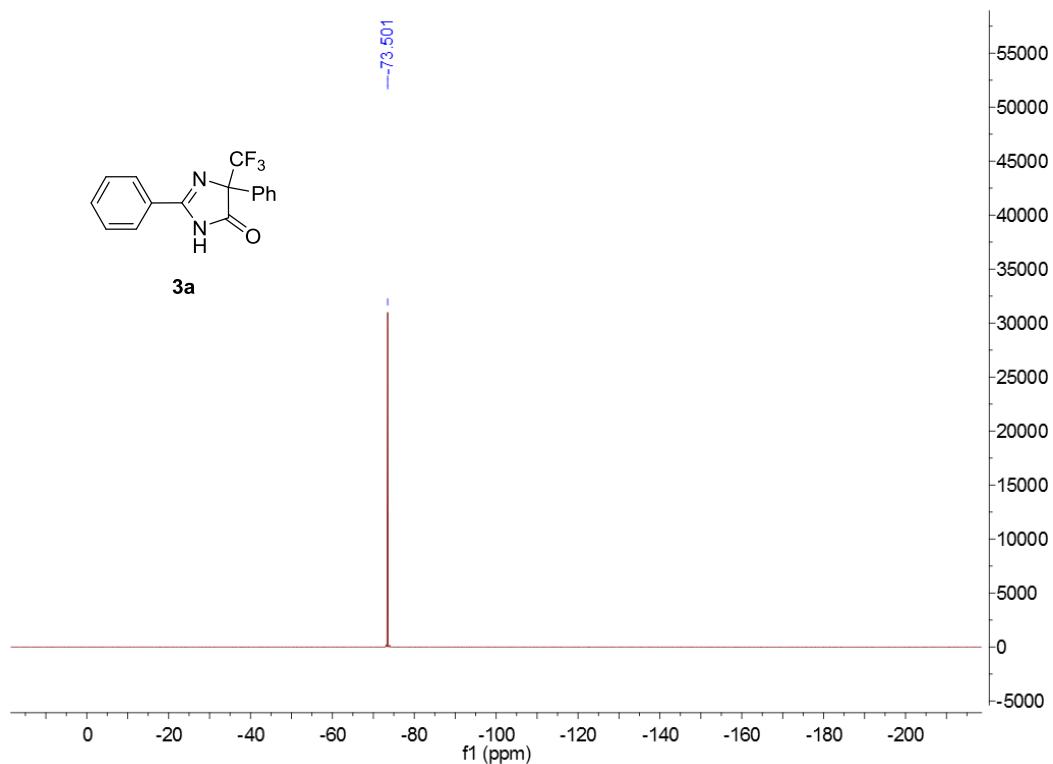
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3a



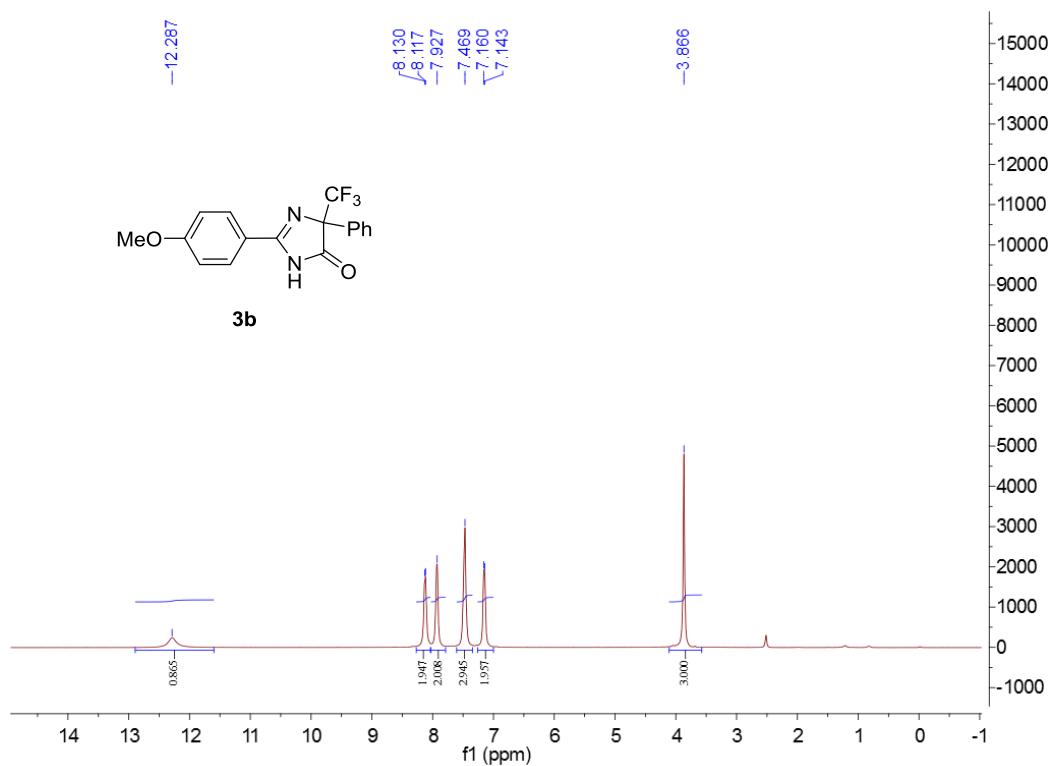
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3a



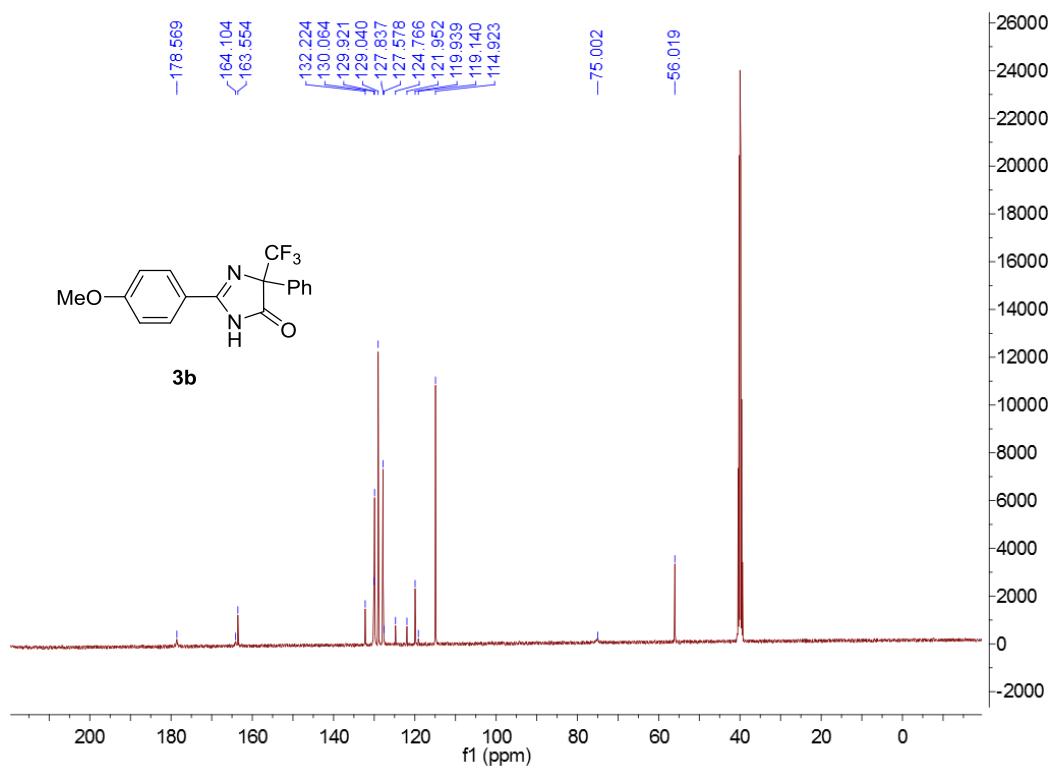
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3a



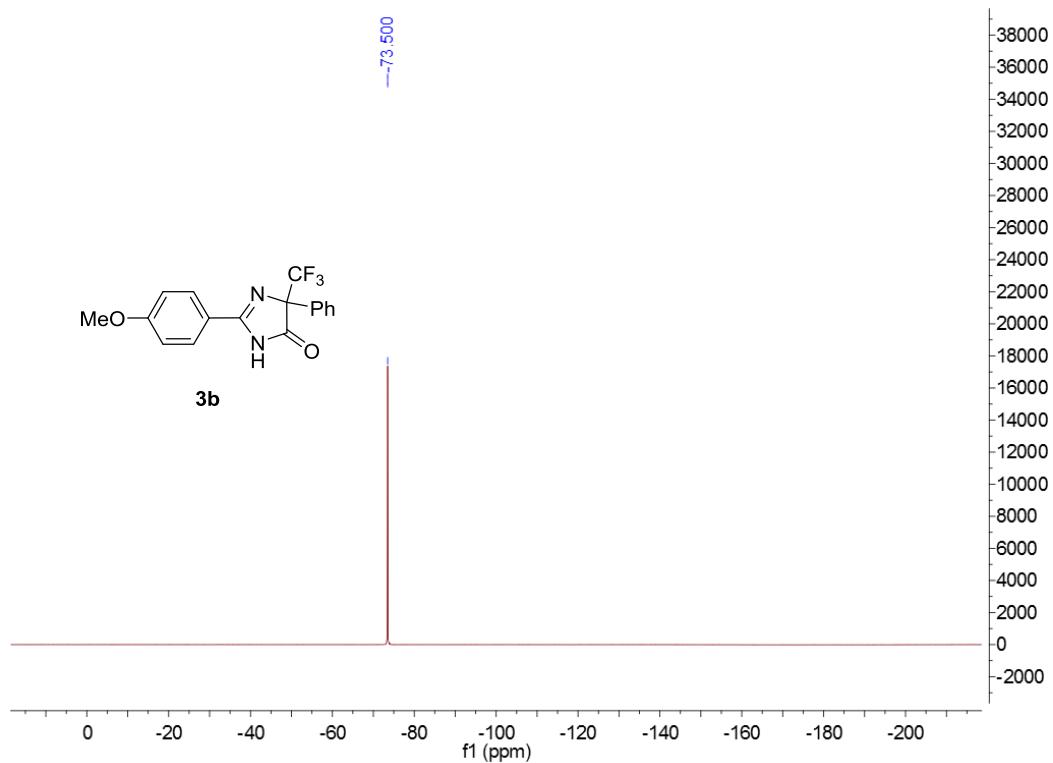
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3b



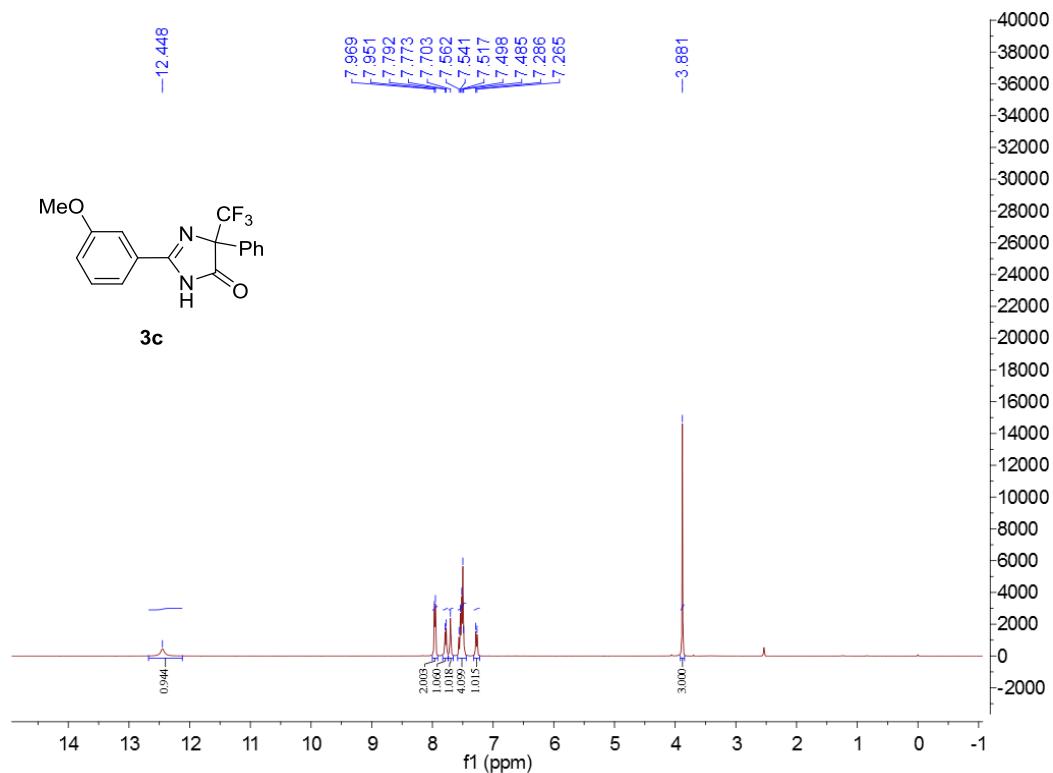
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3b



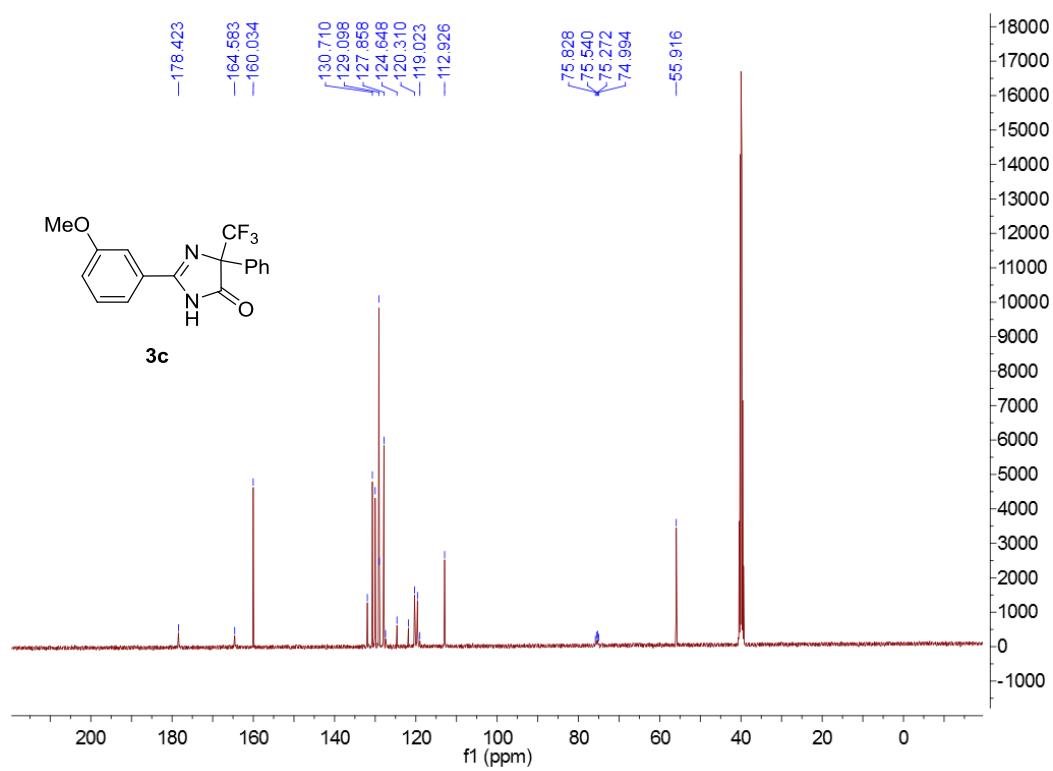
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3b



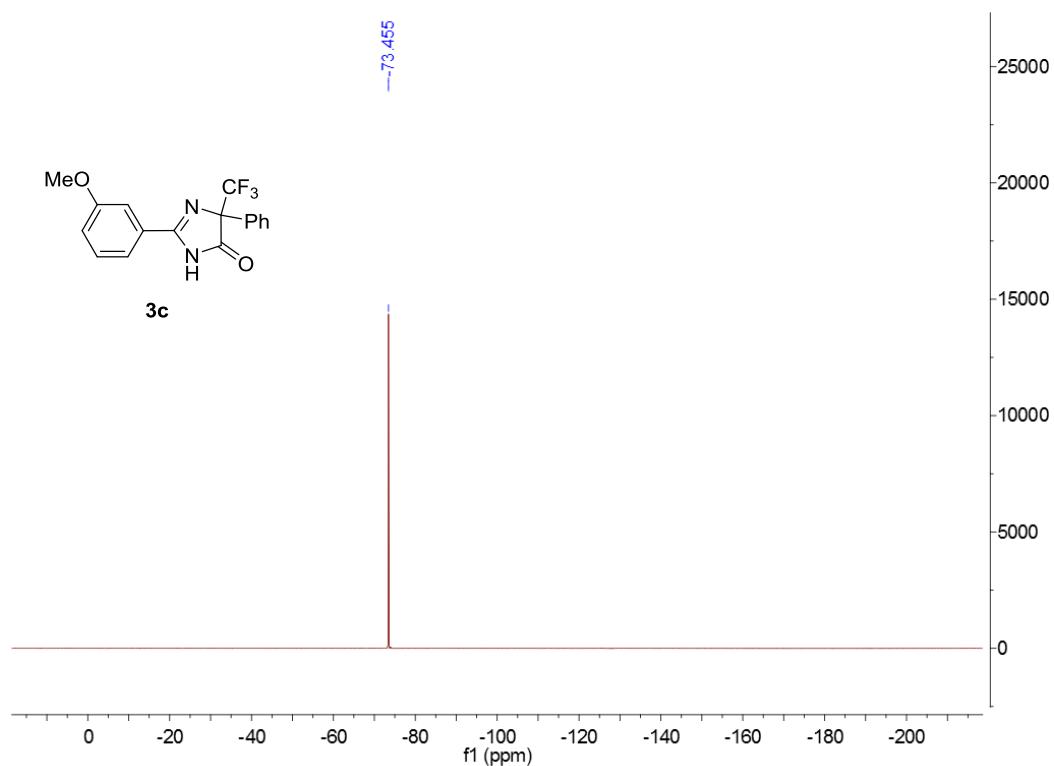
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3c



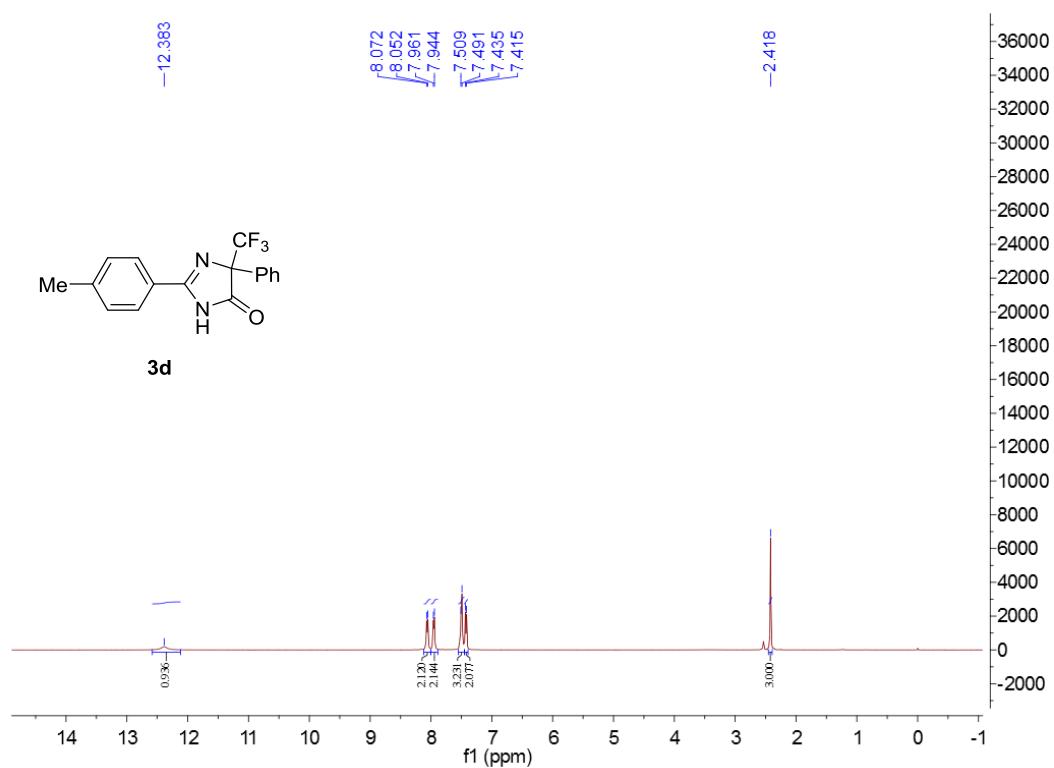
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3c



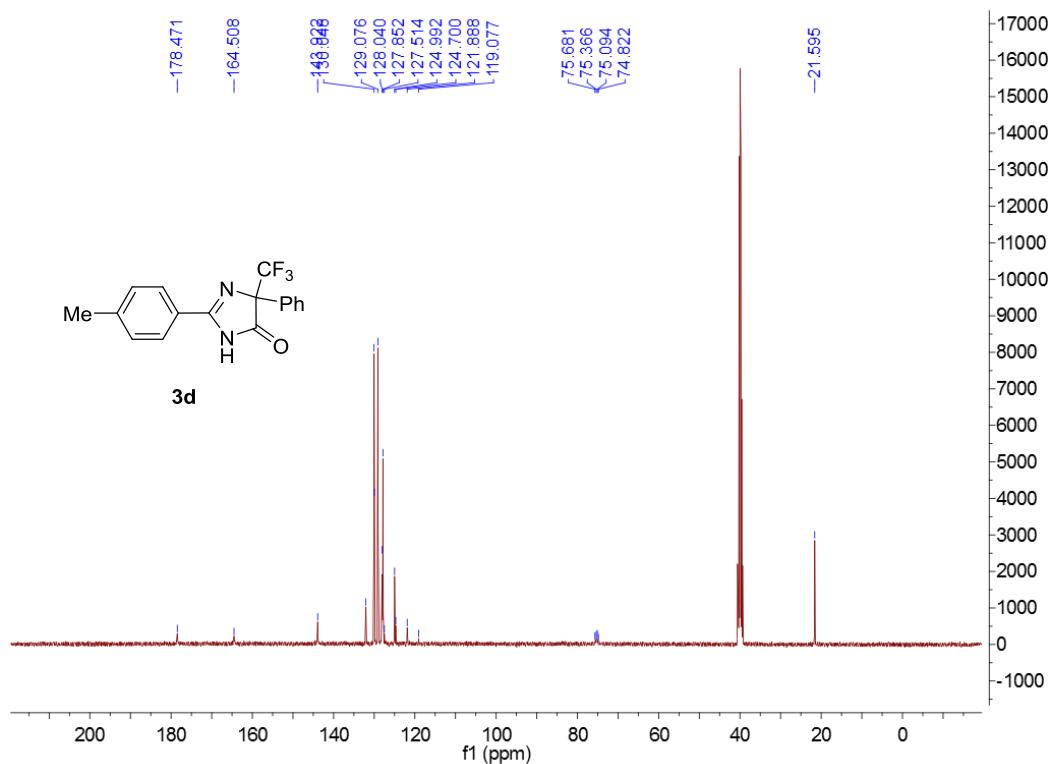
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3c



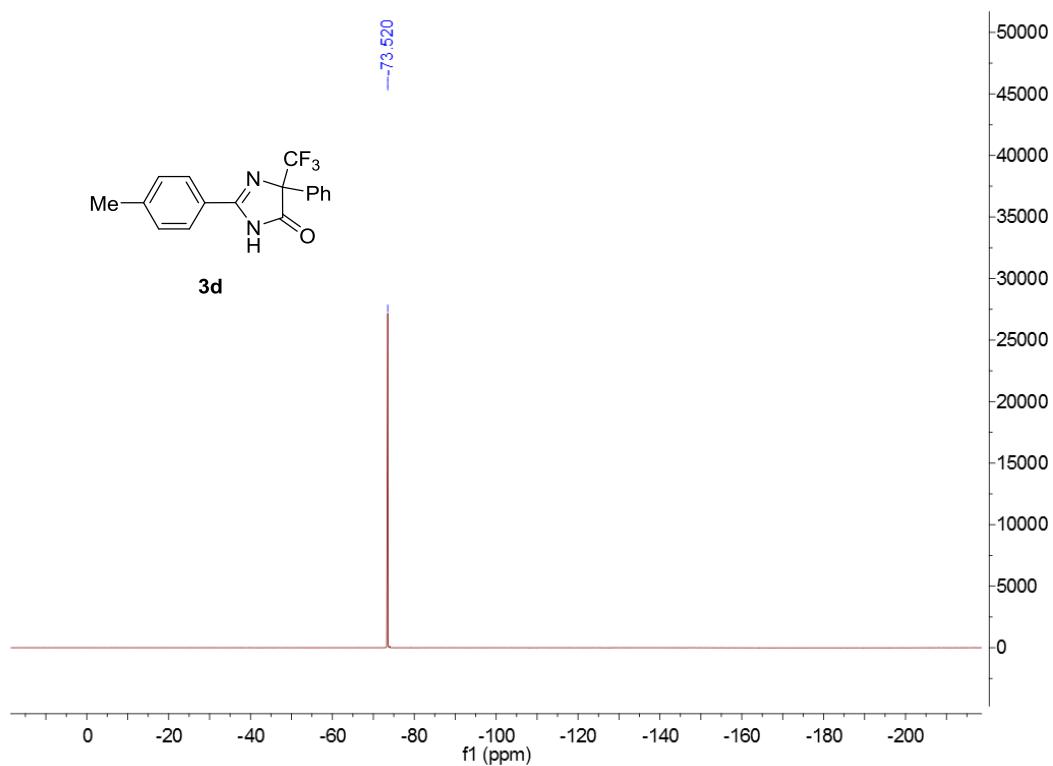
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3d



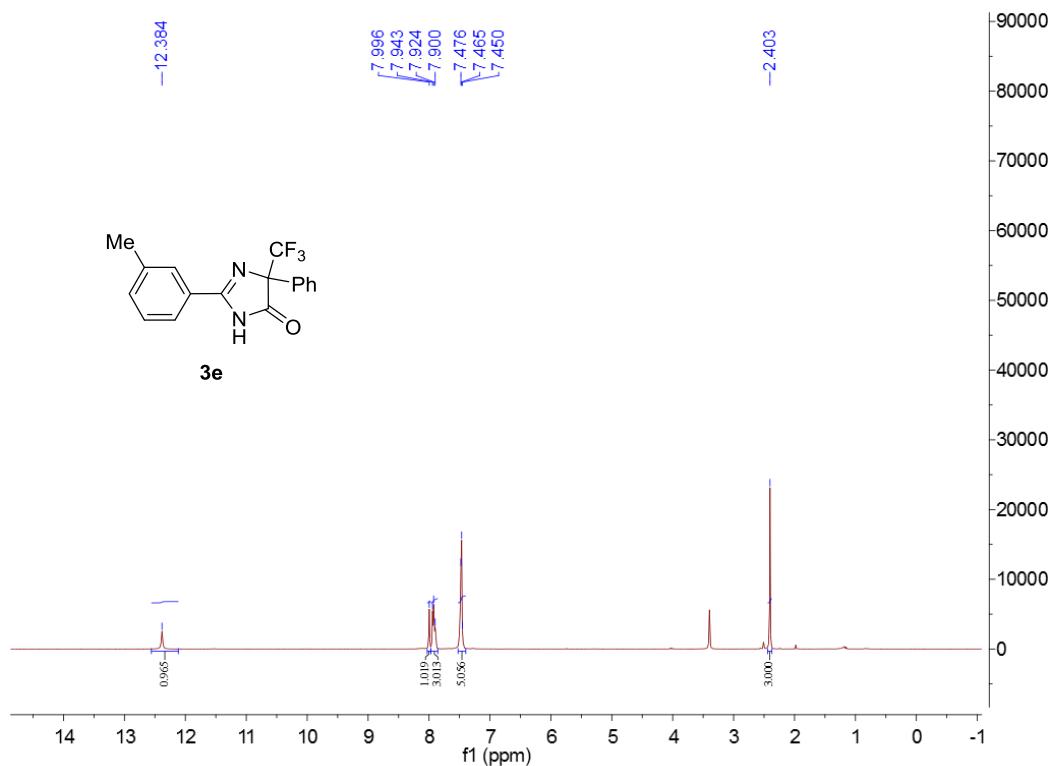
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3d



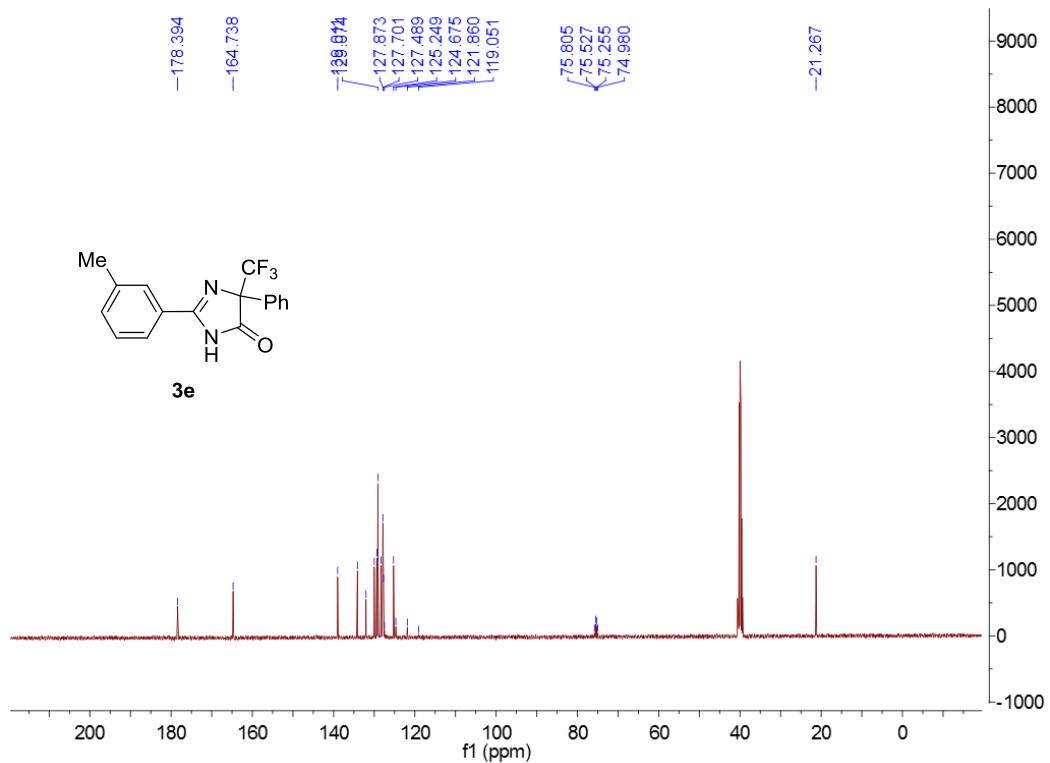
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3d



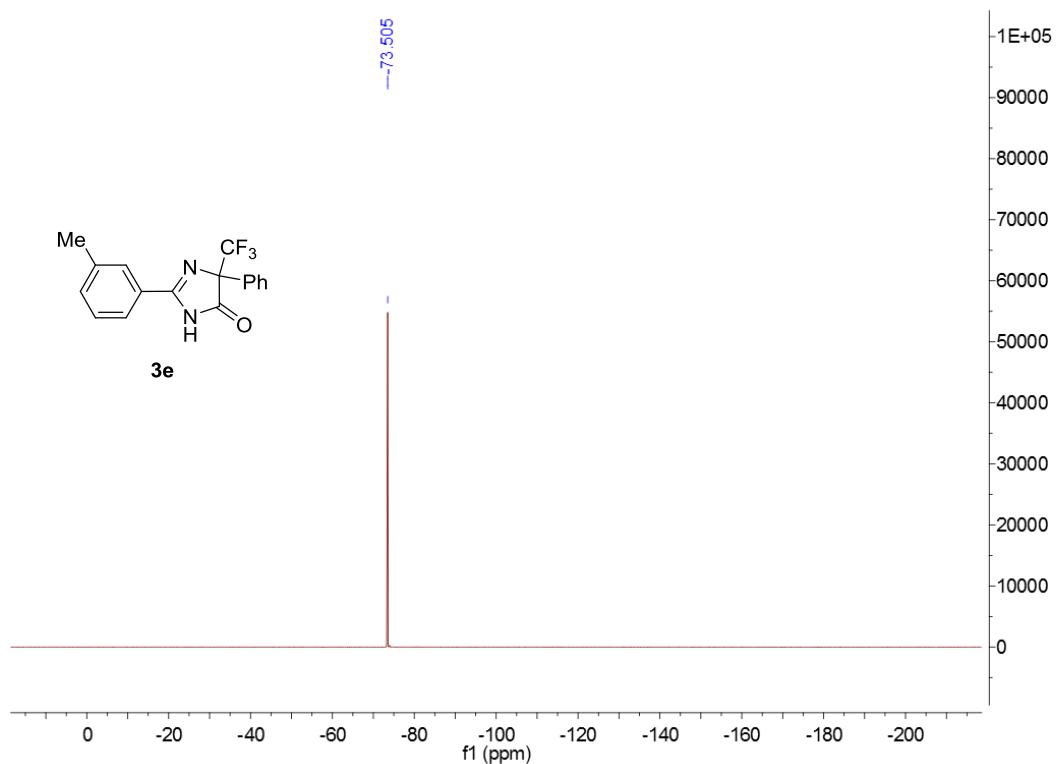
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3e



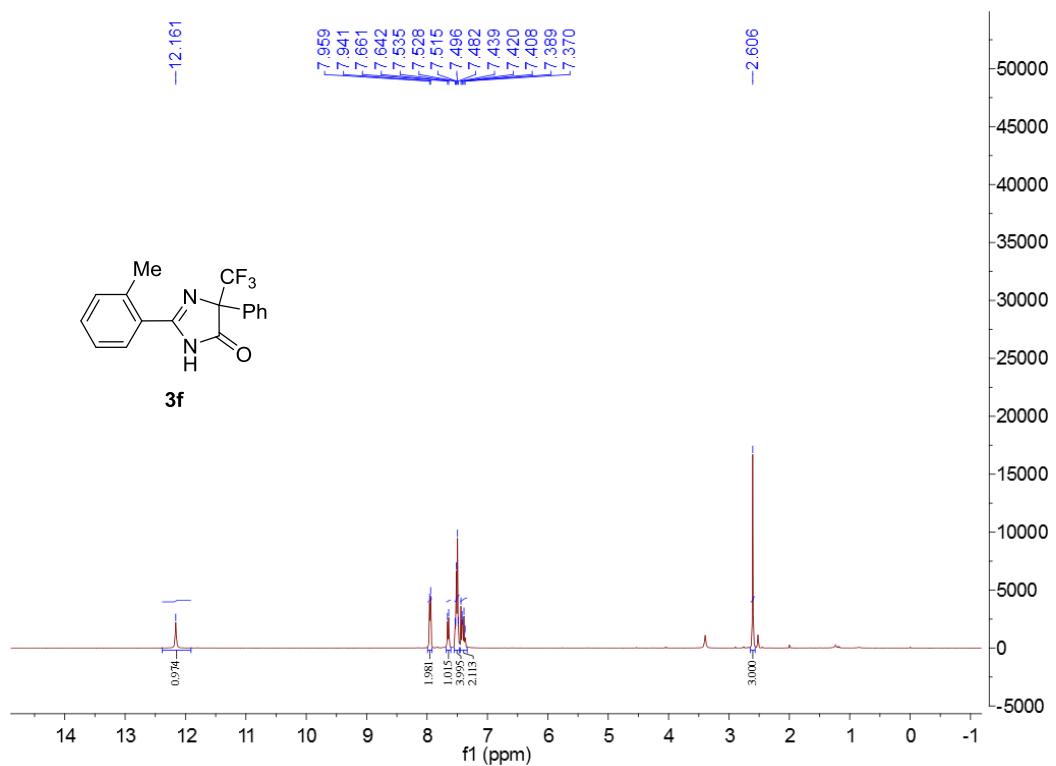
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3e



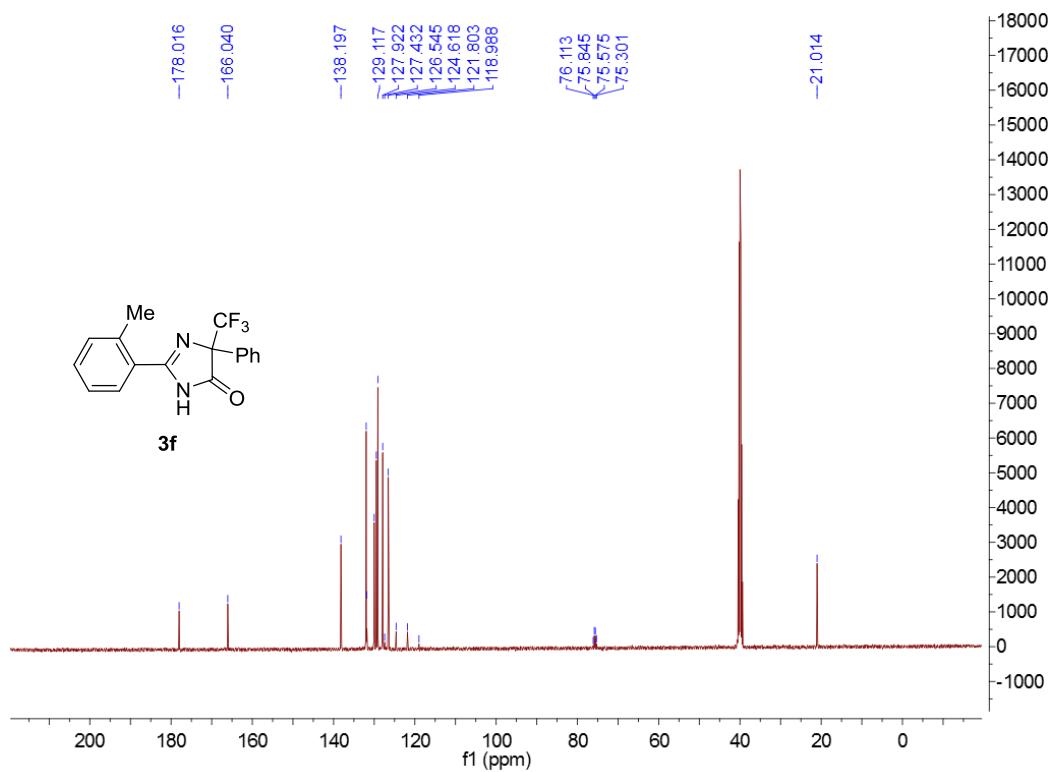
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3e



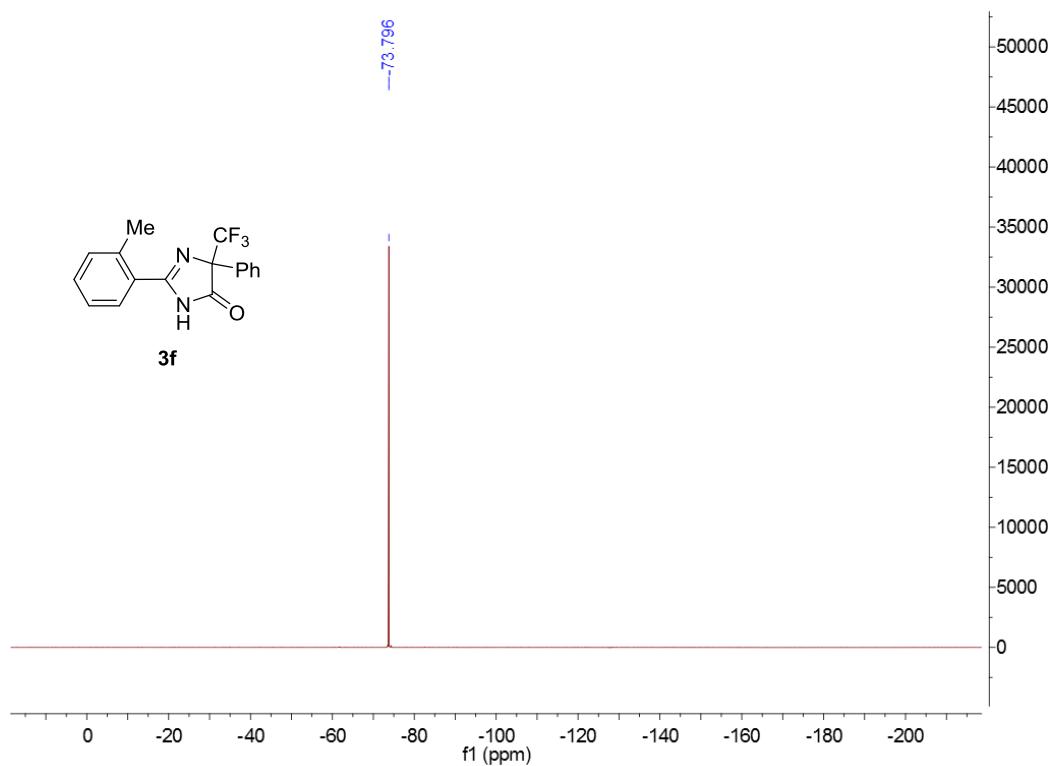
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3f



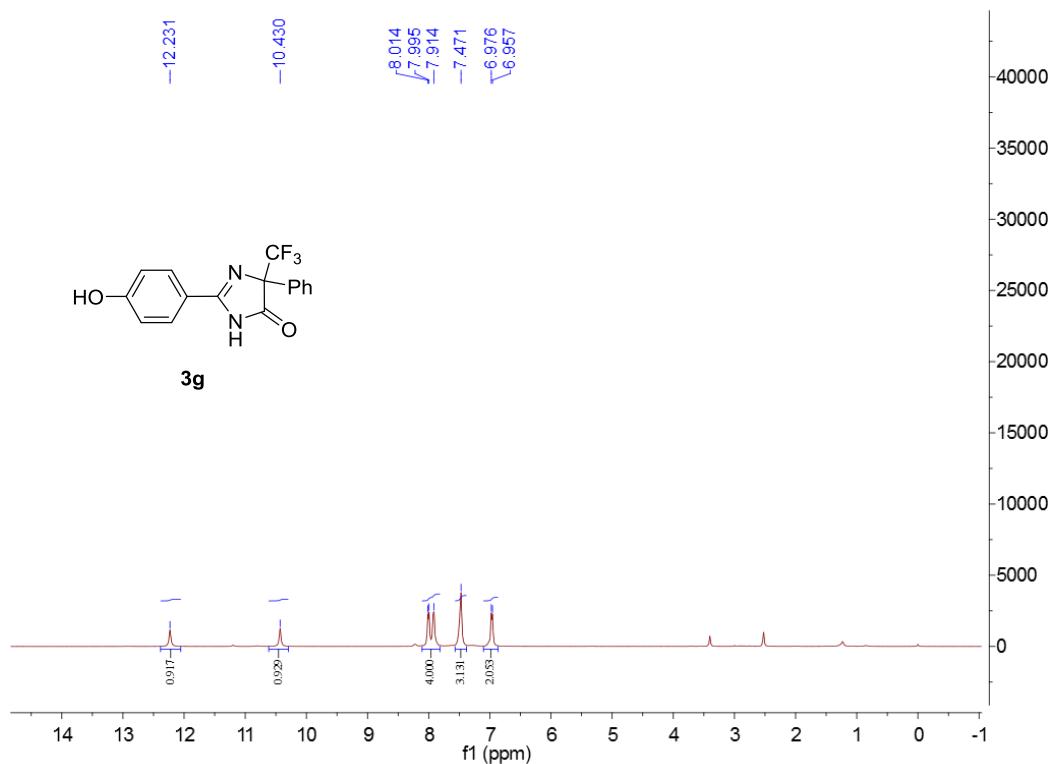
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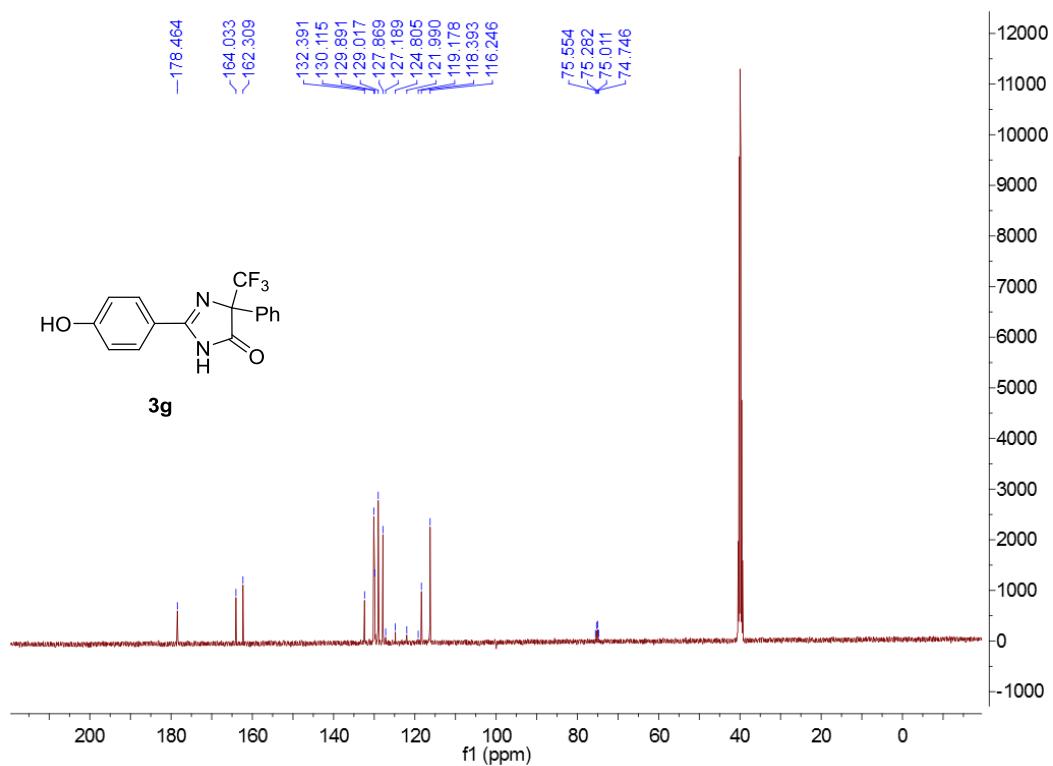
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3f



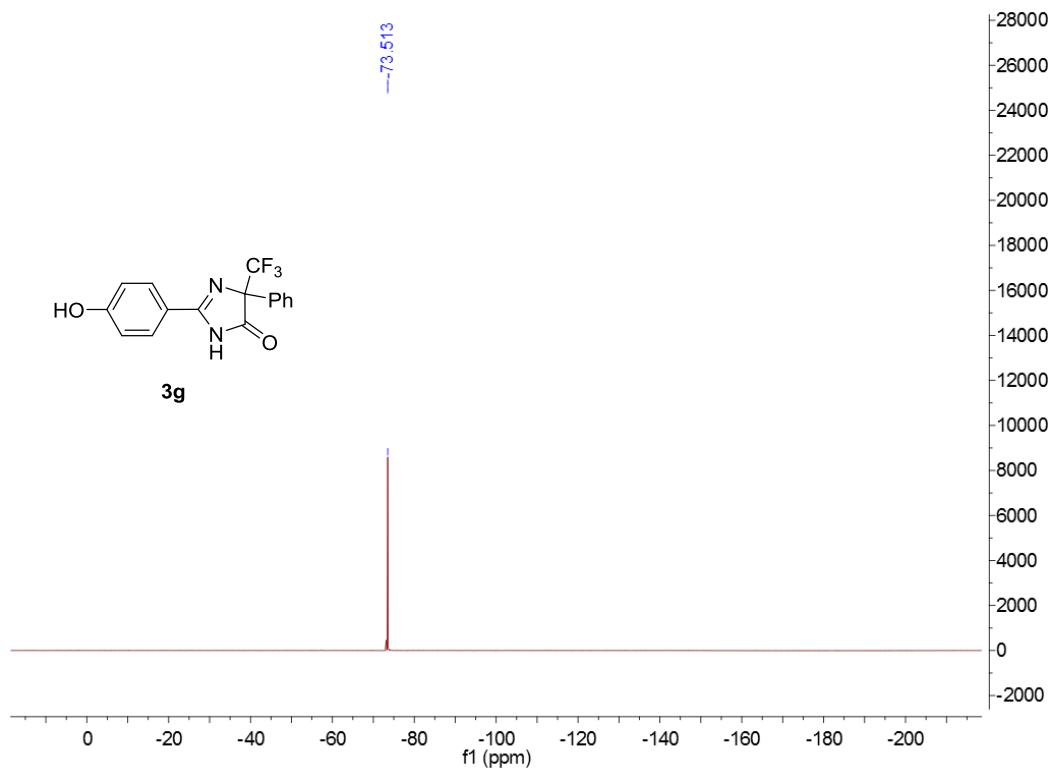
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3g



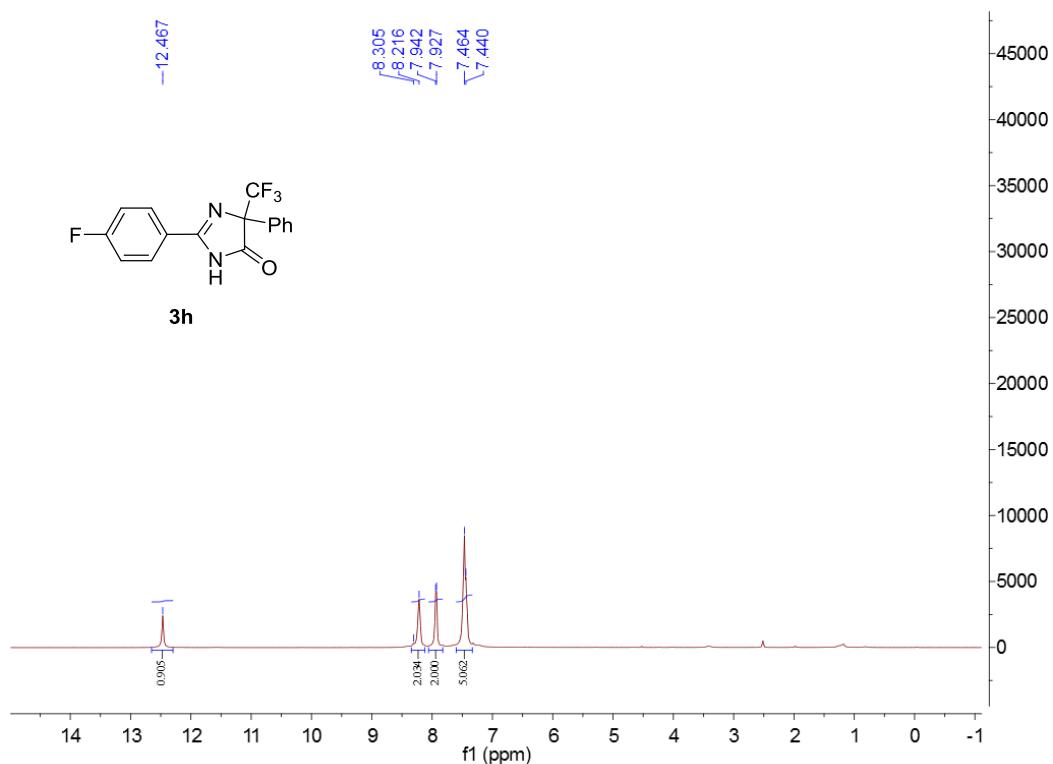
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3g



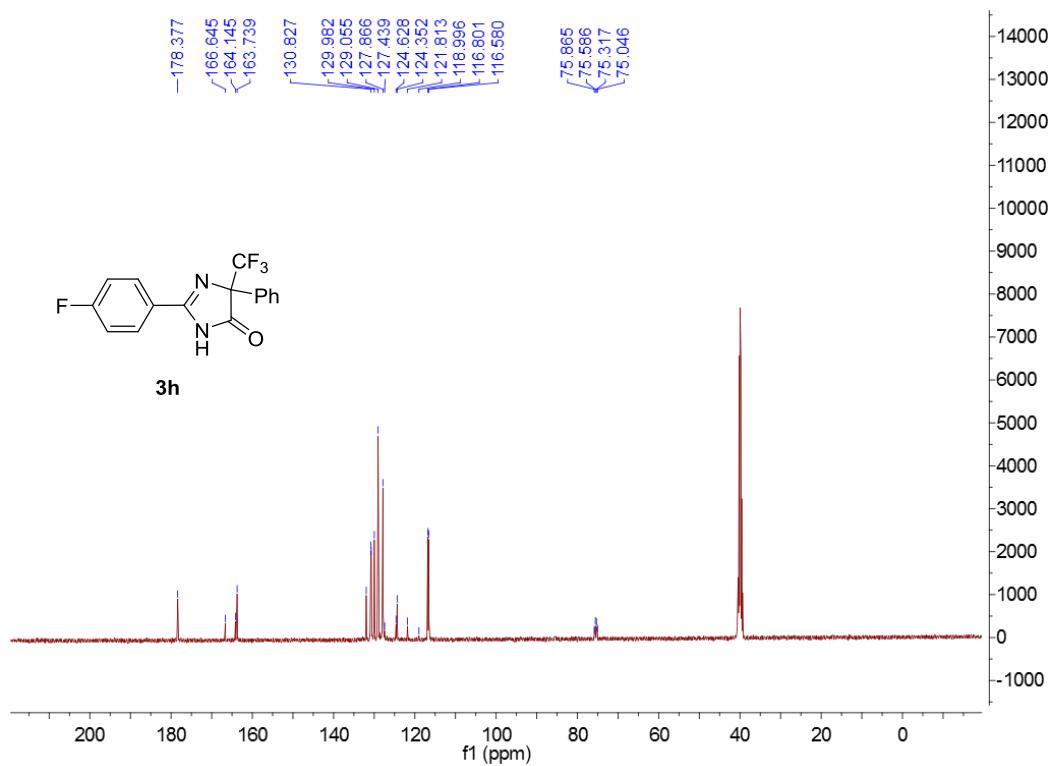
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3g



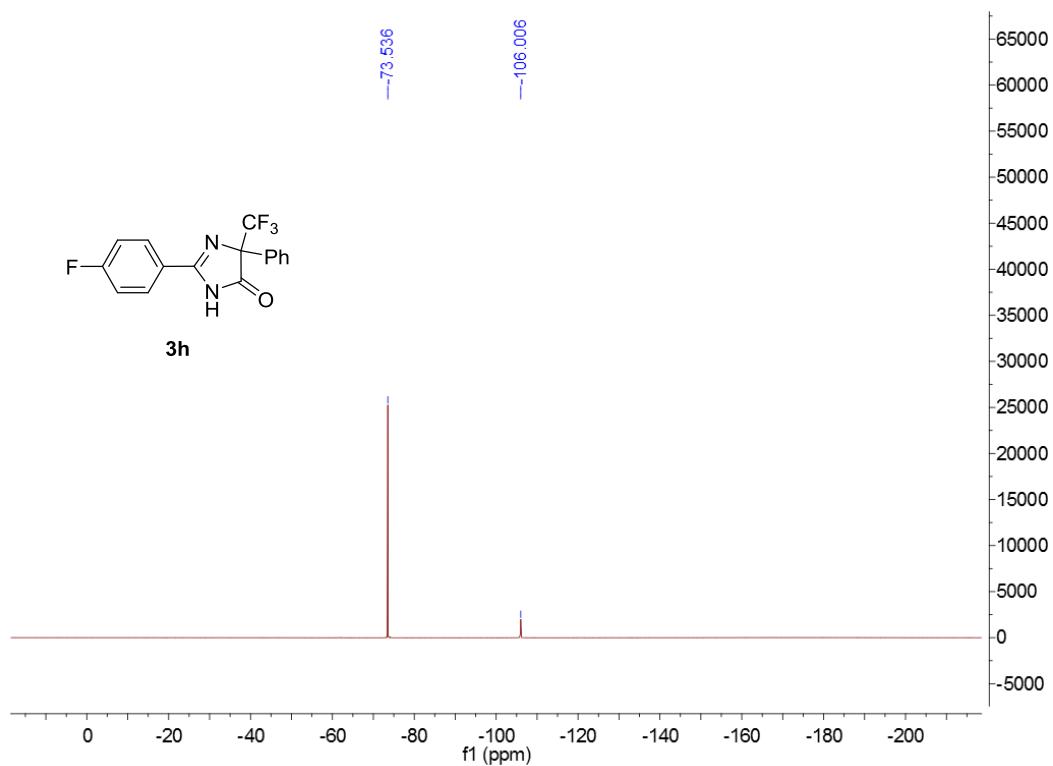
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3h



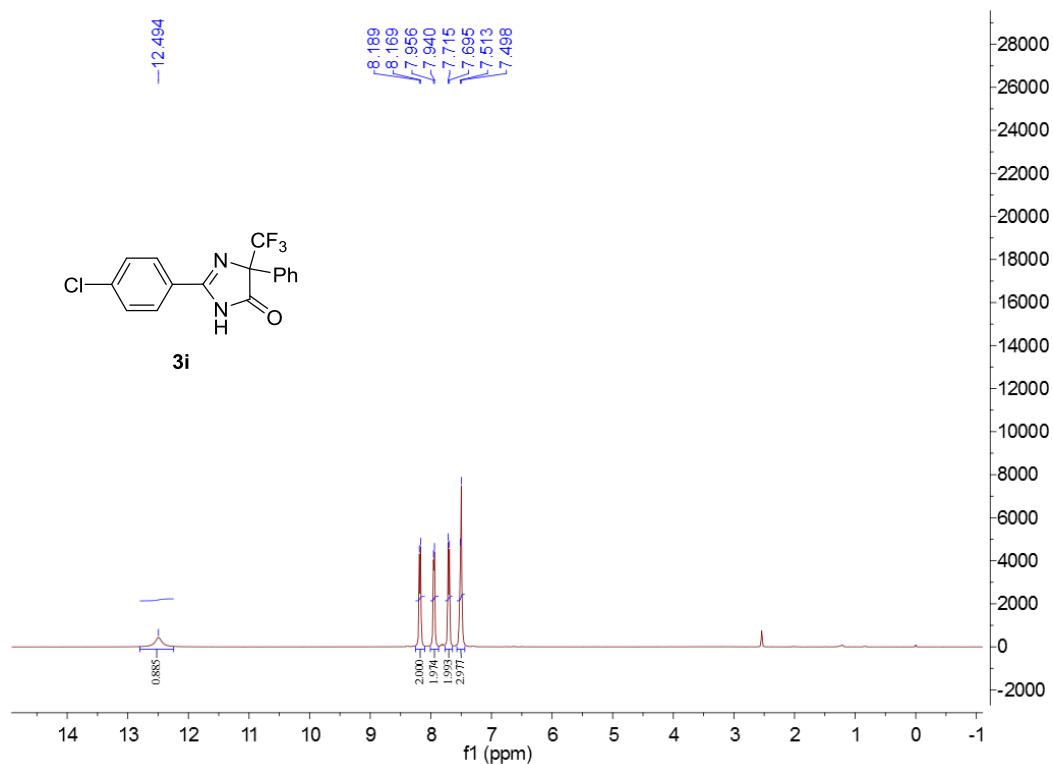
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3h



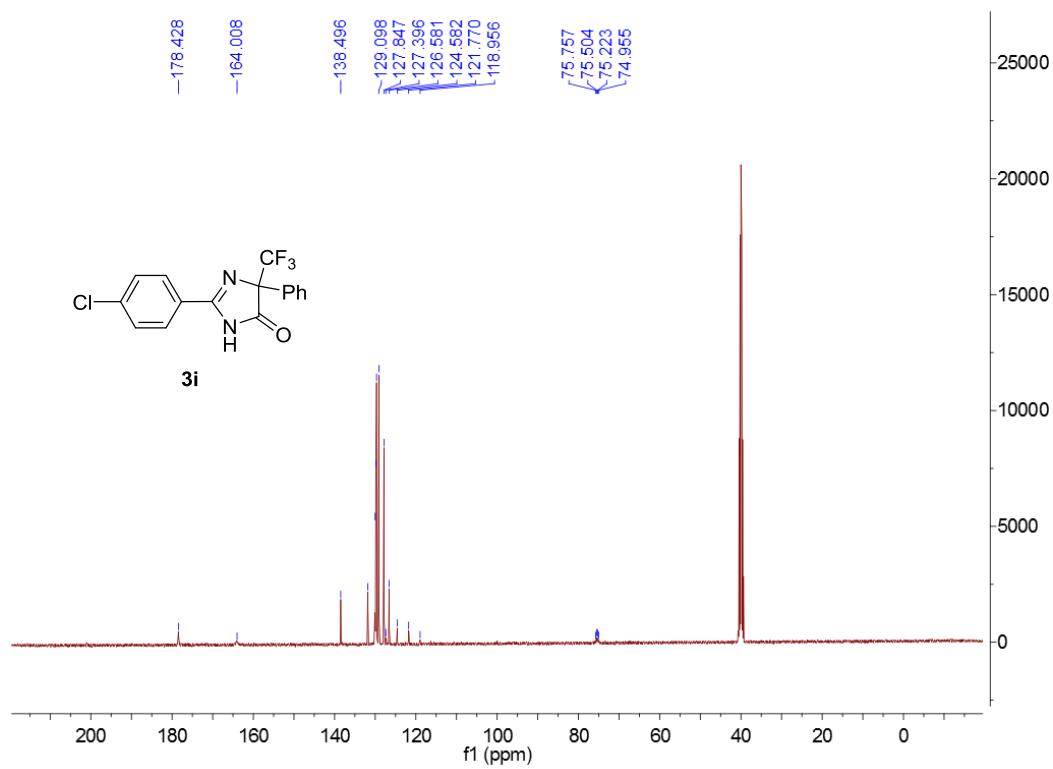
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3h



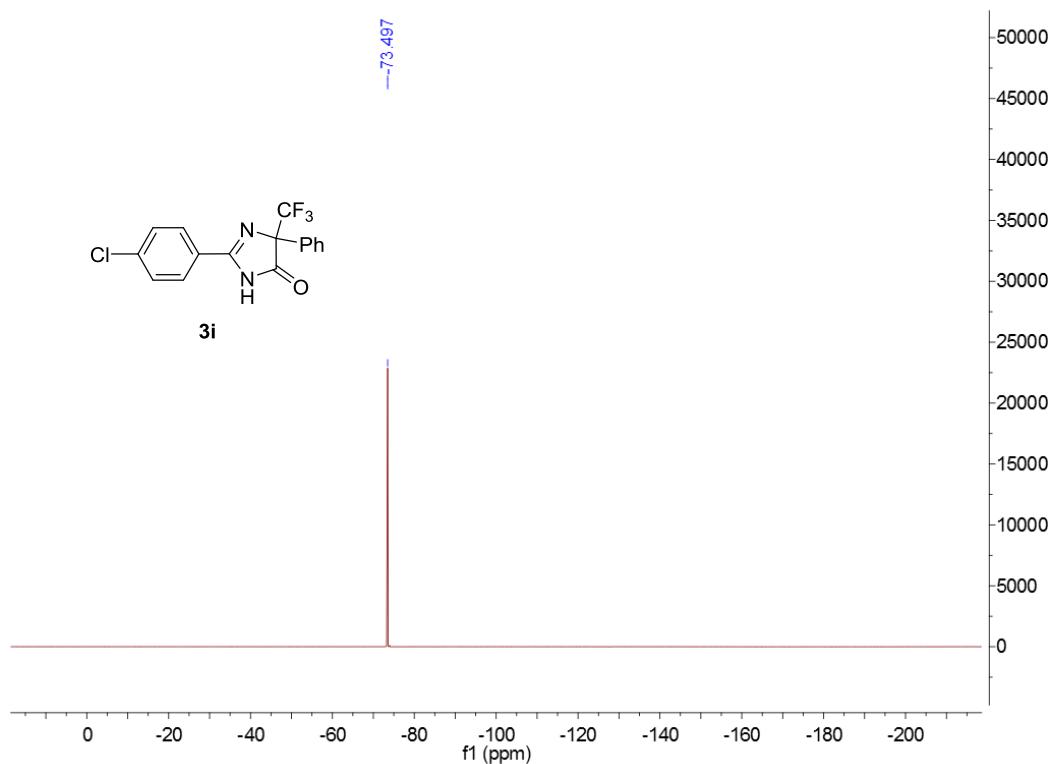
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3i



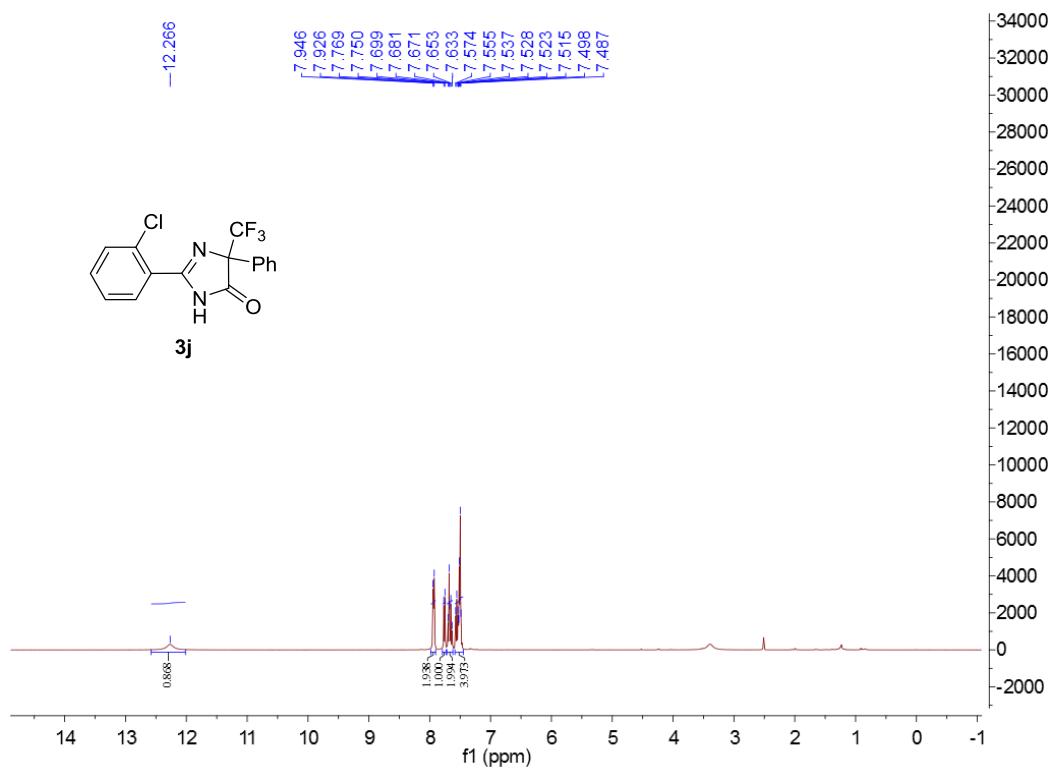
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3i



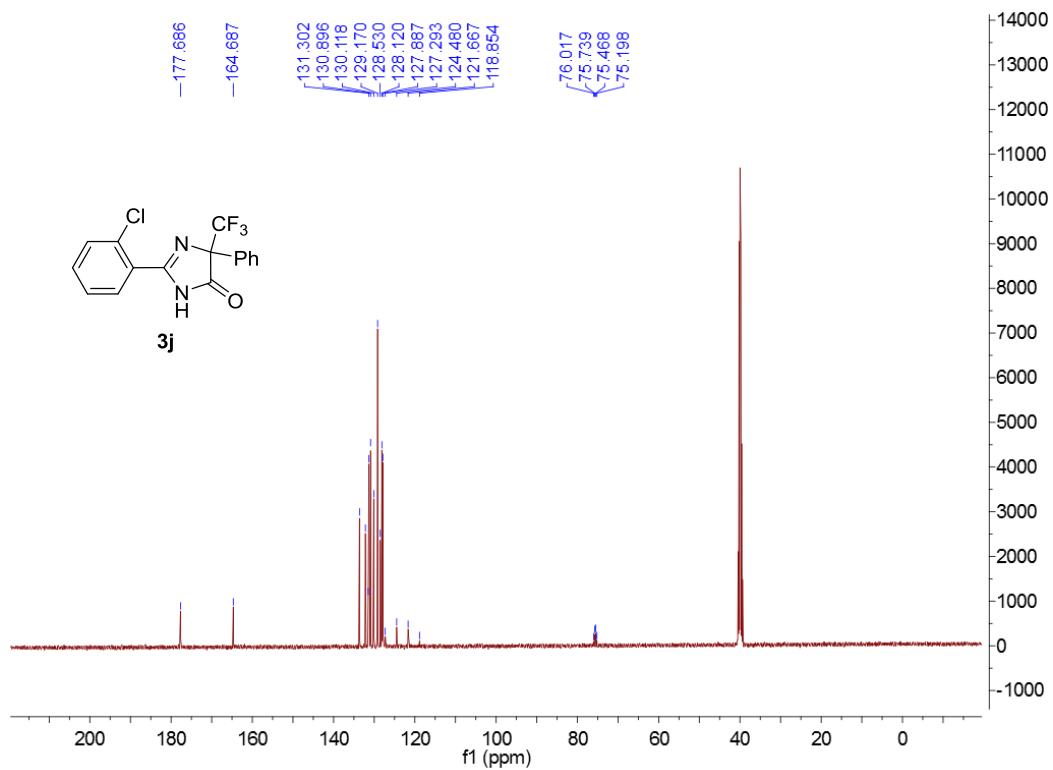
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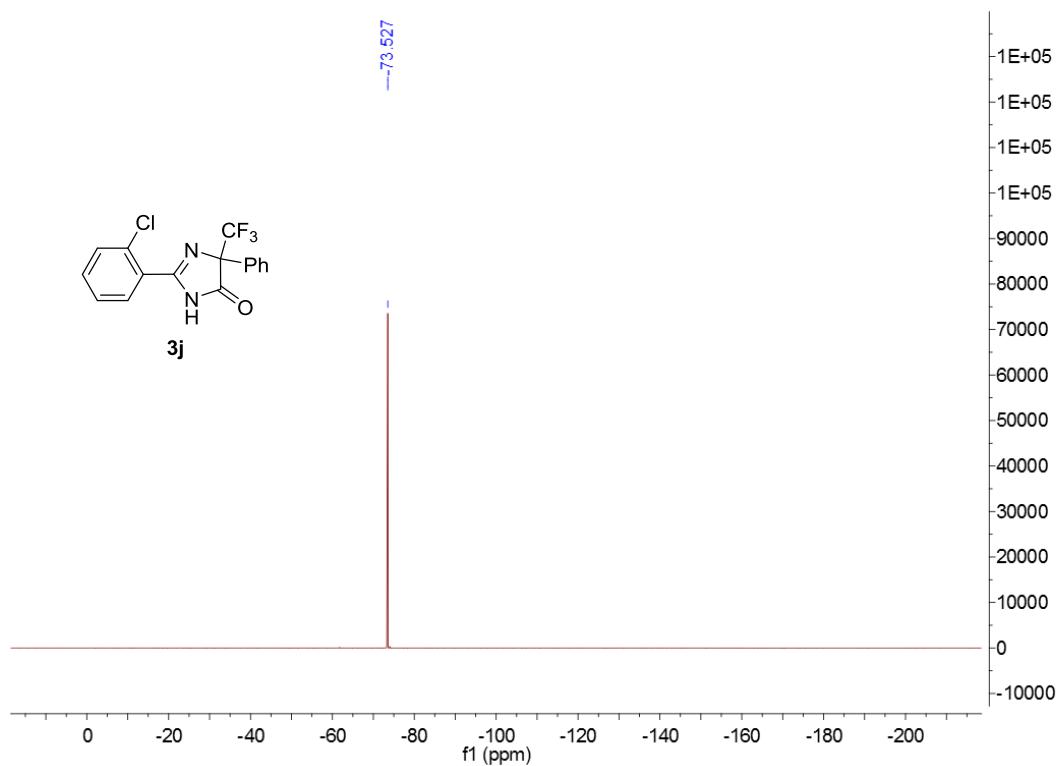
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3j



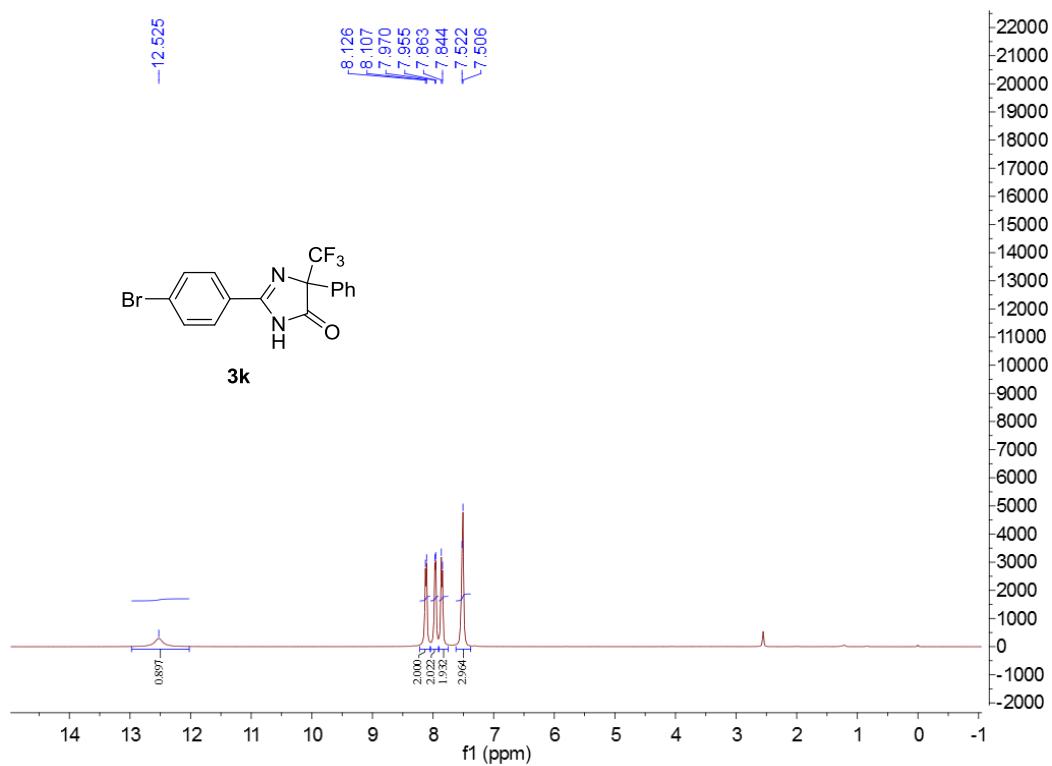
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3j



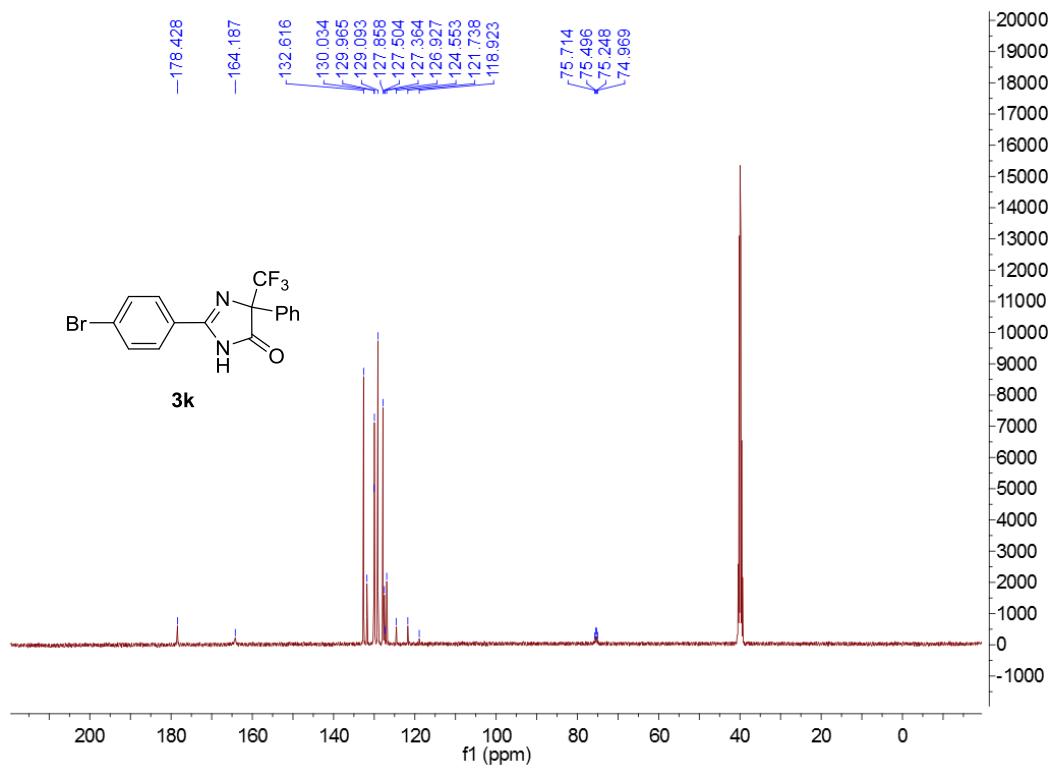
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3j



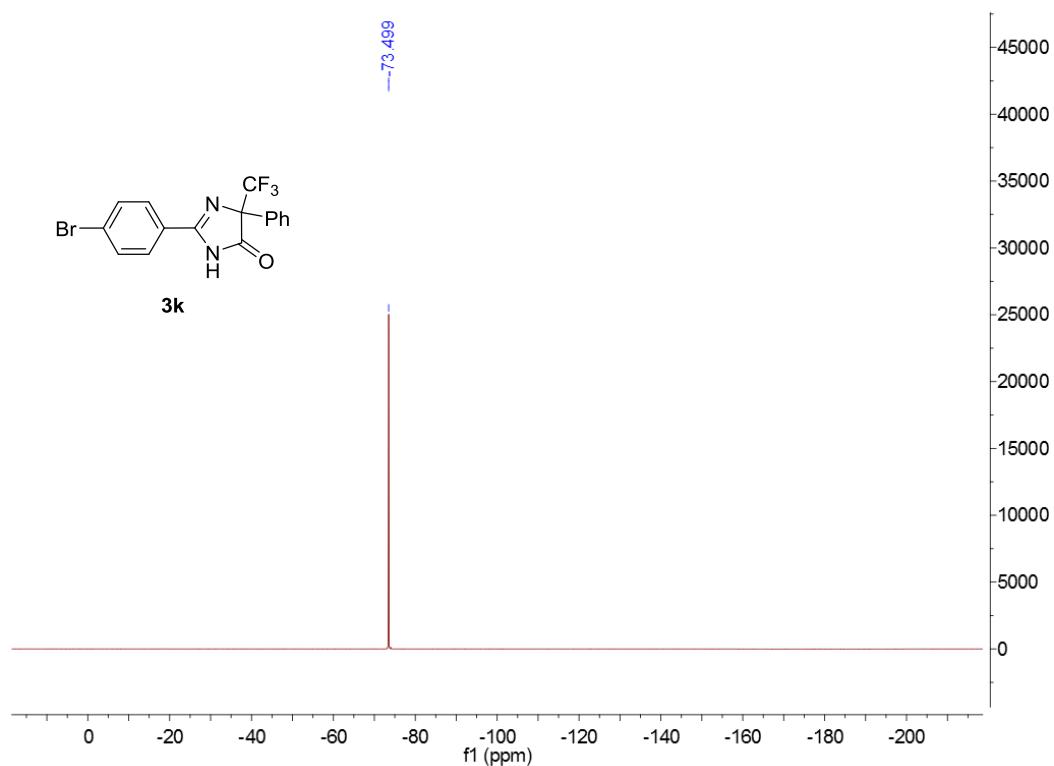
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3k



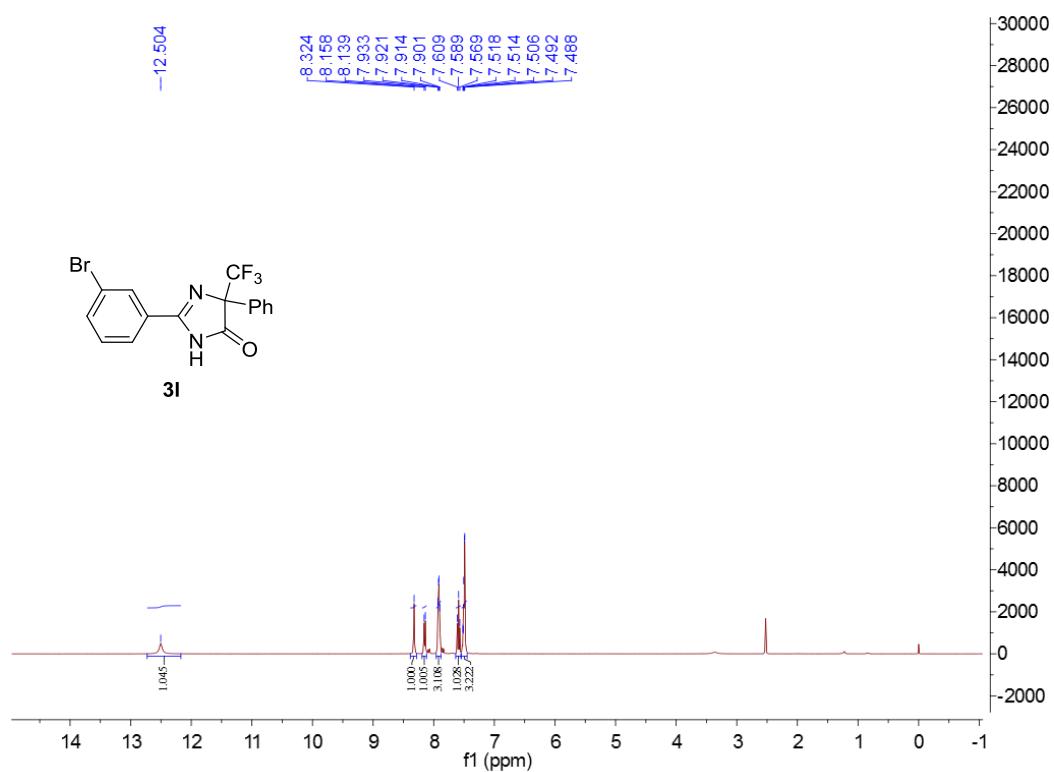
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3k



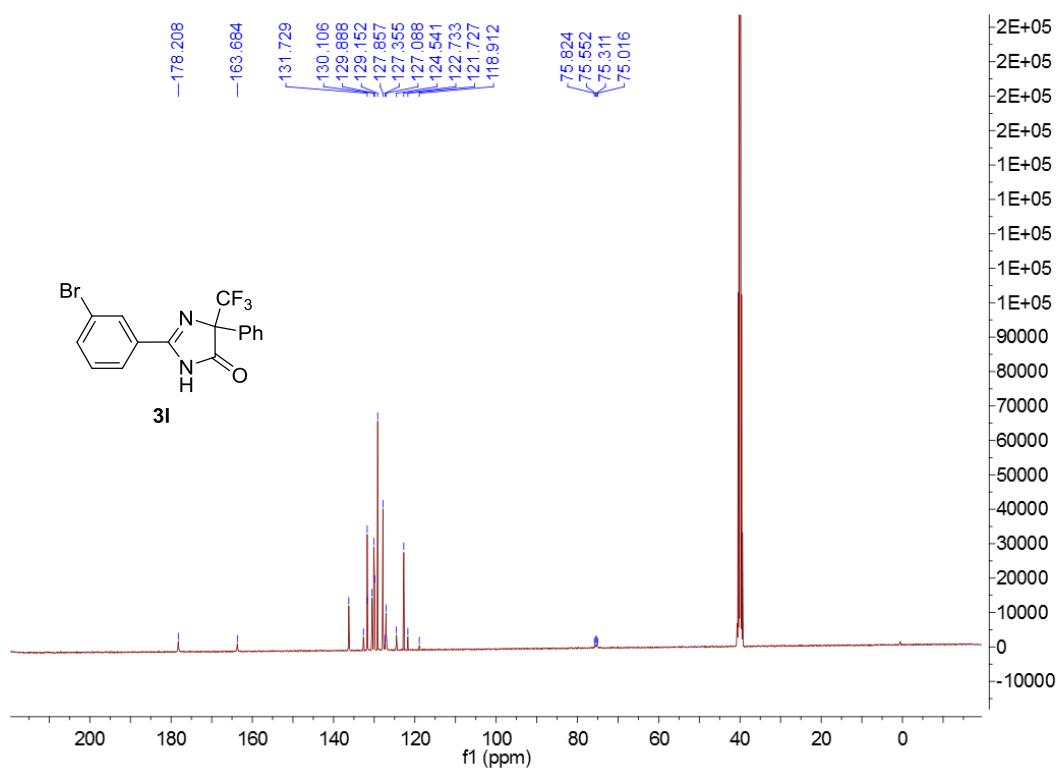
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3k



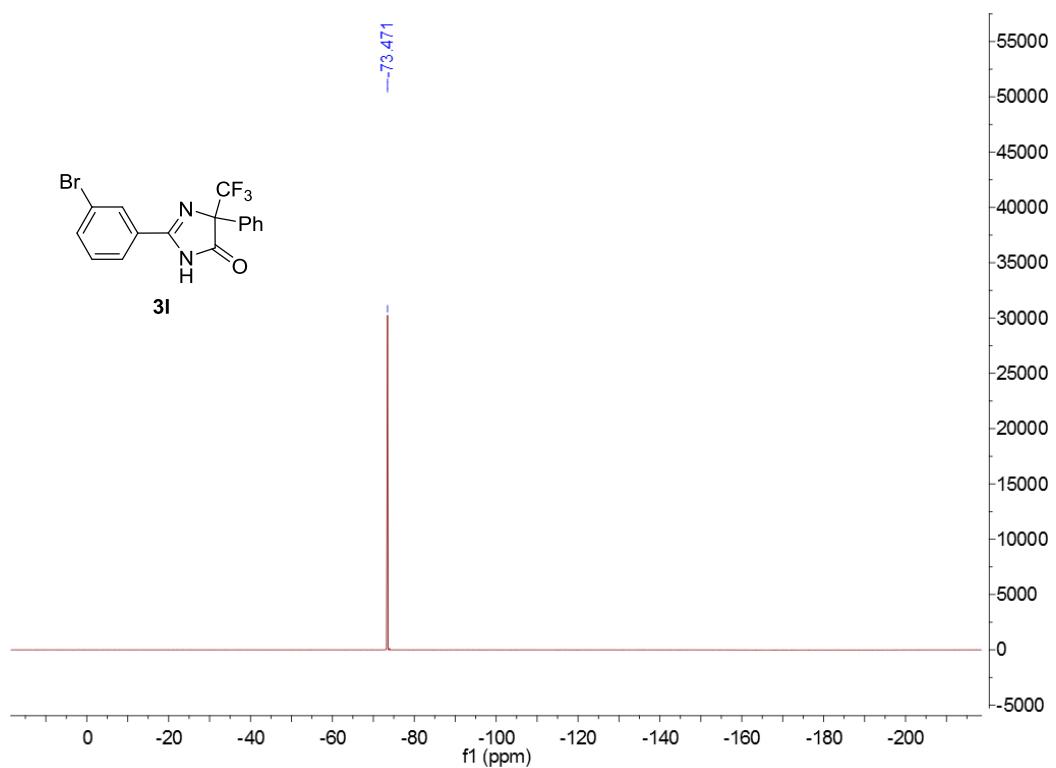
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3l



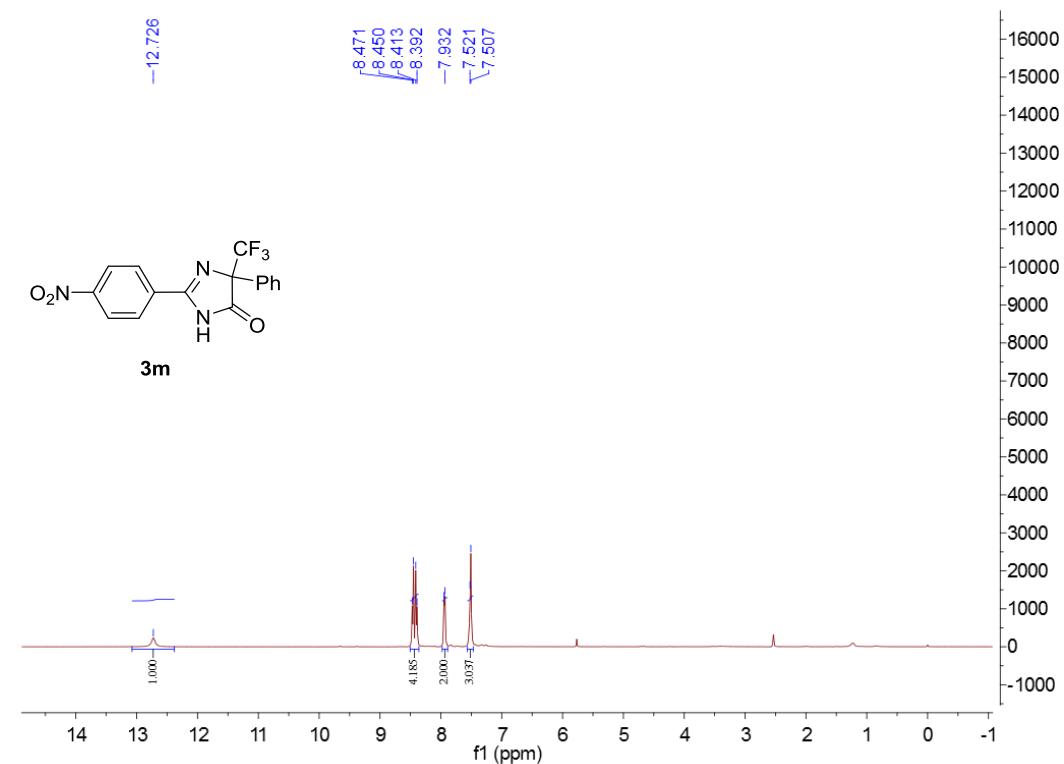
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3l



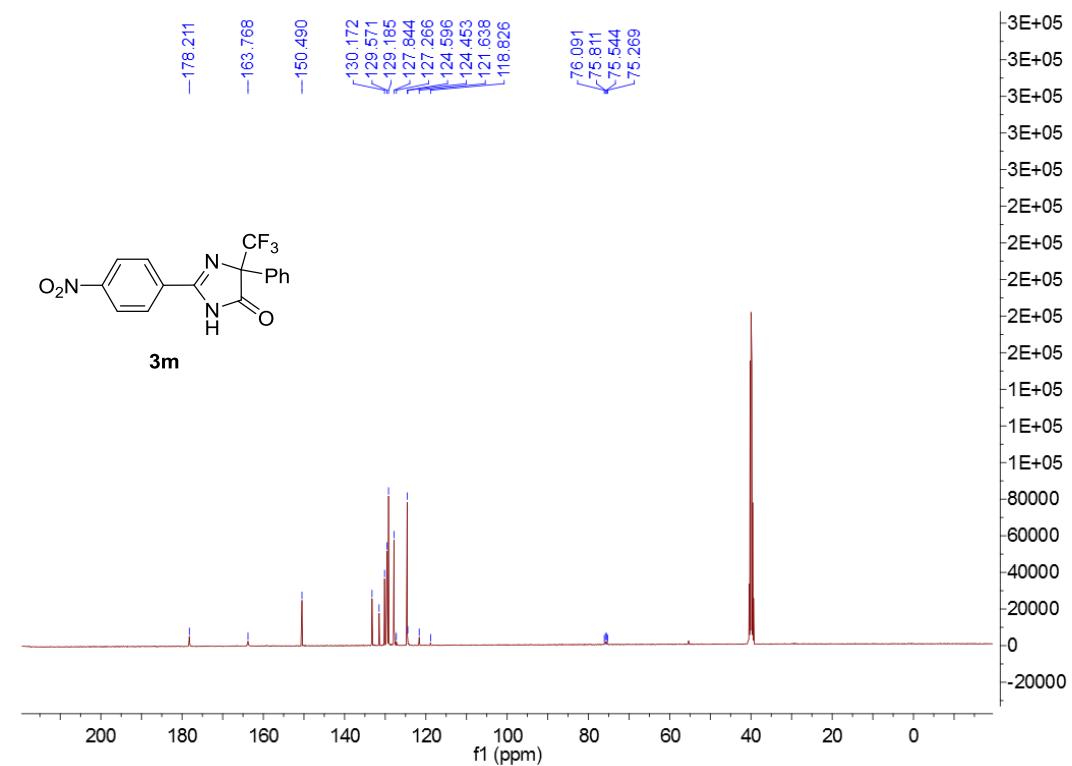
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3l



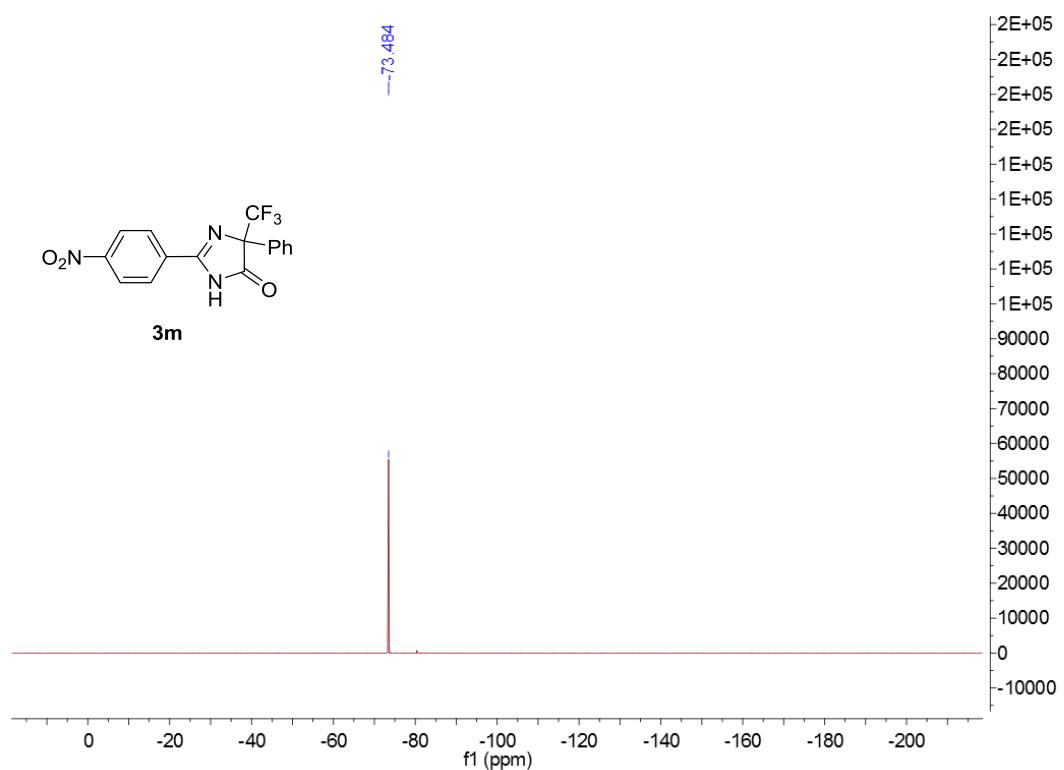
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3m



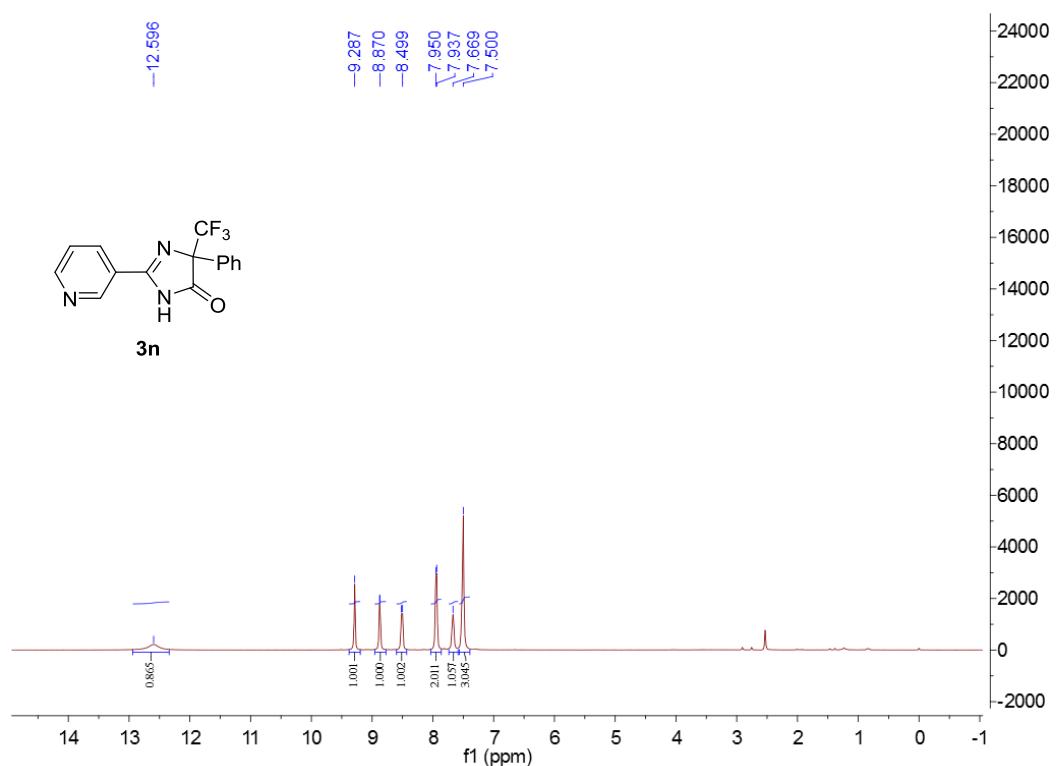
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3m



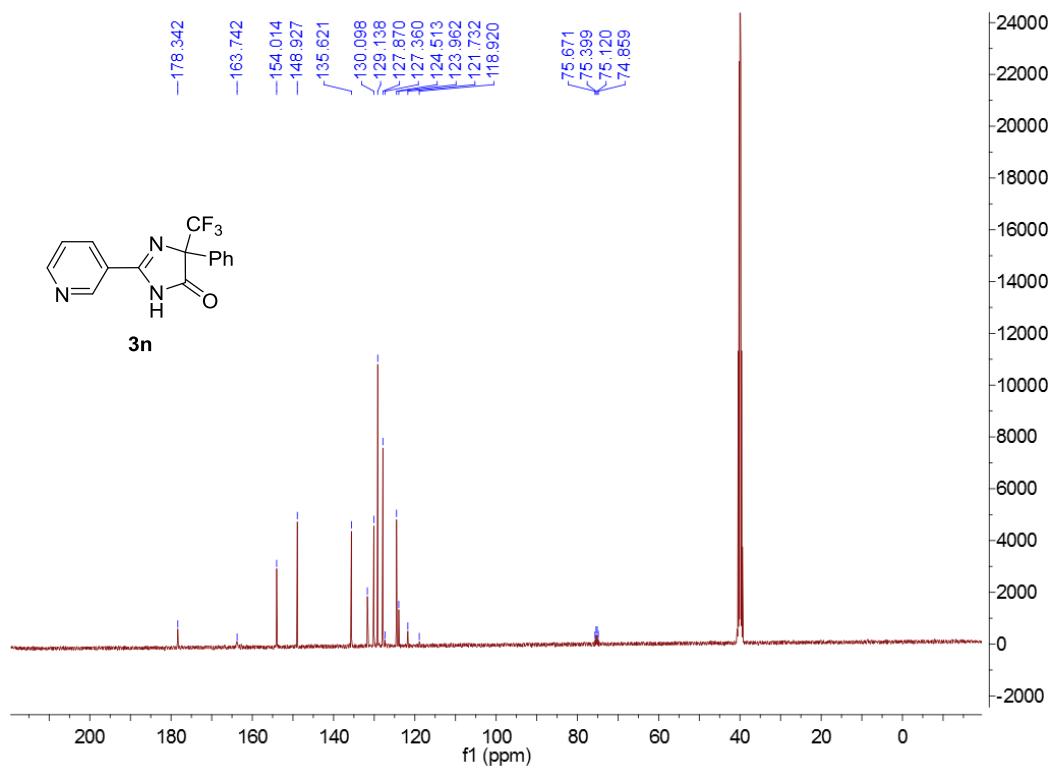
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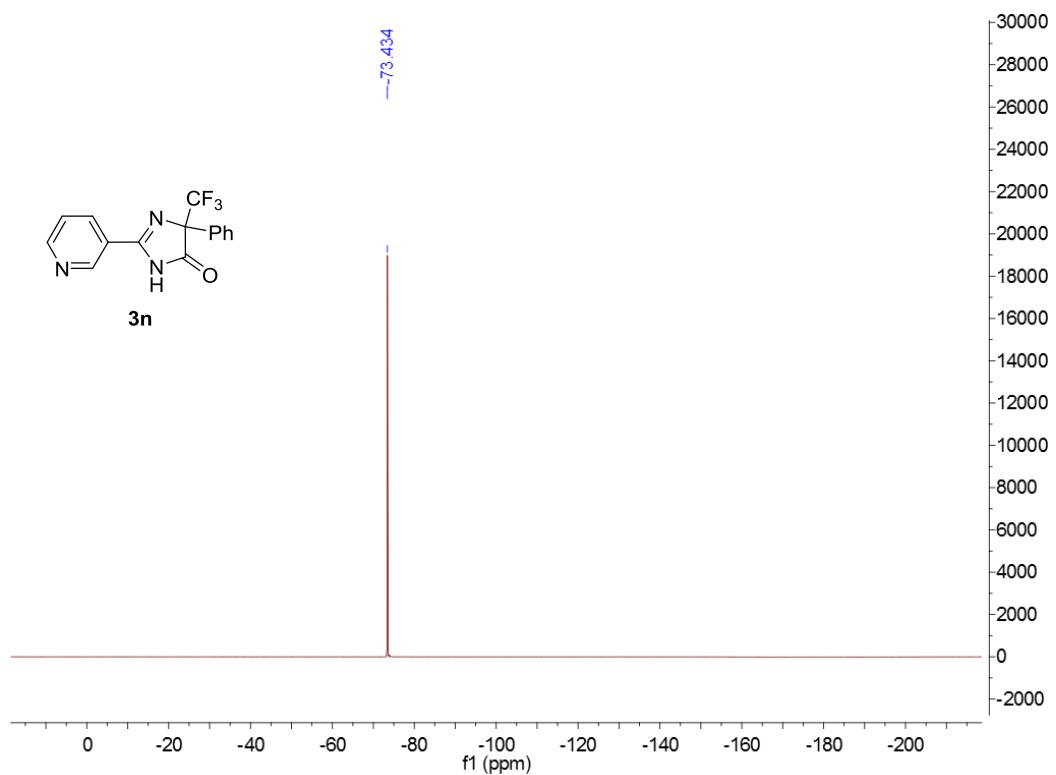
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3n



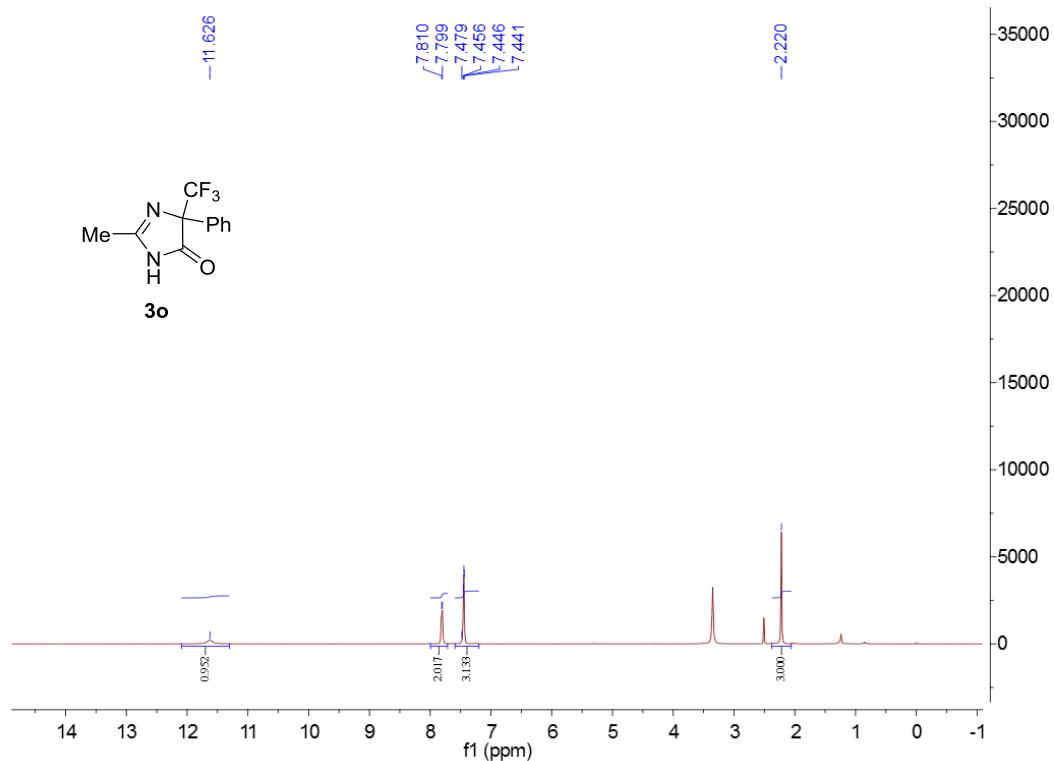
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3n



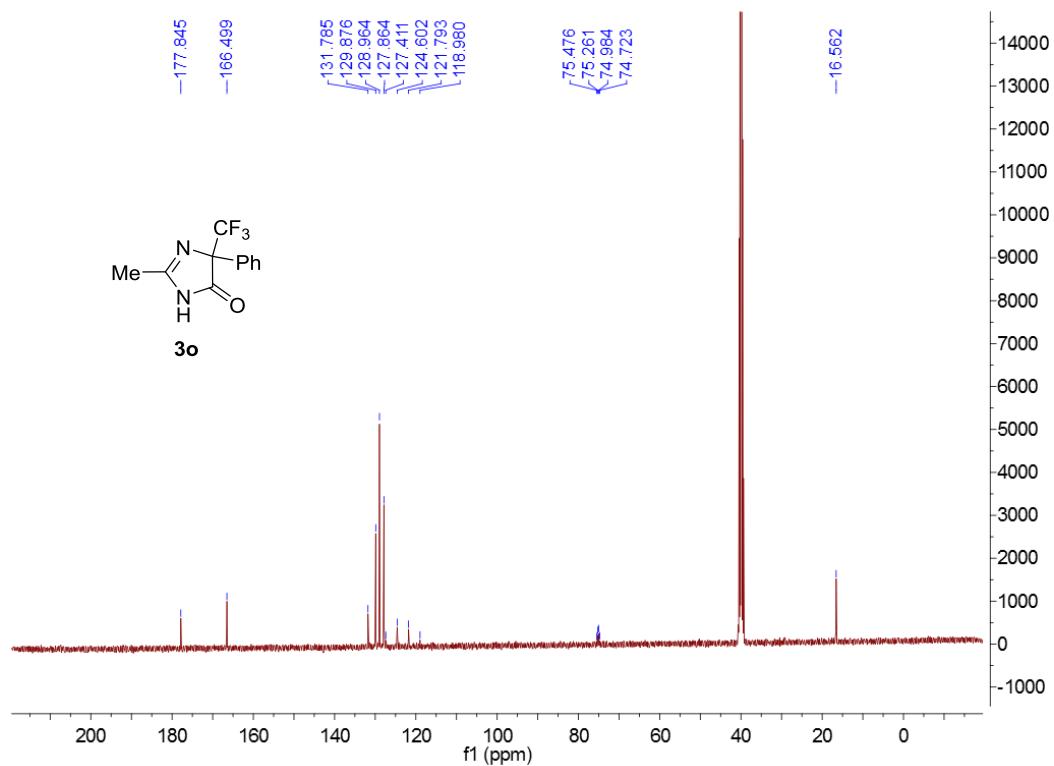
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3n



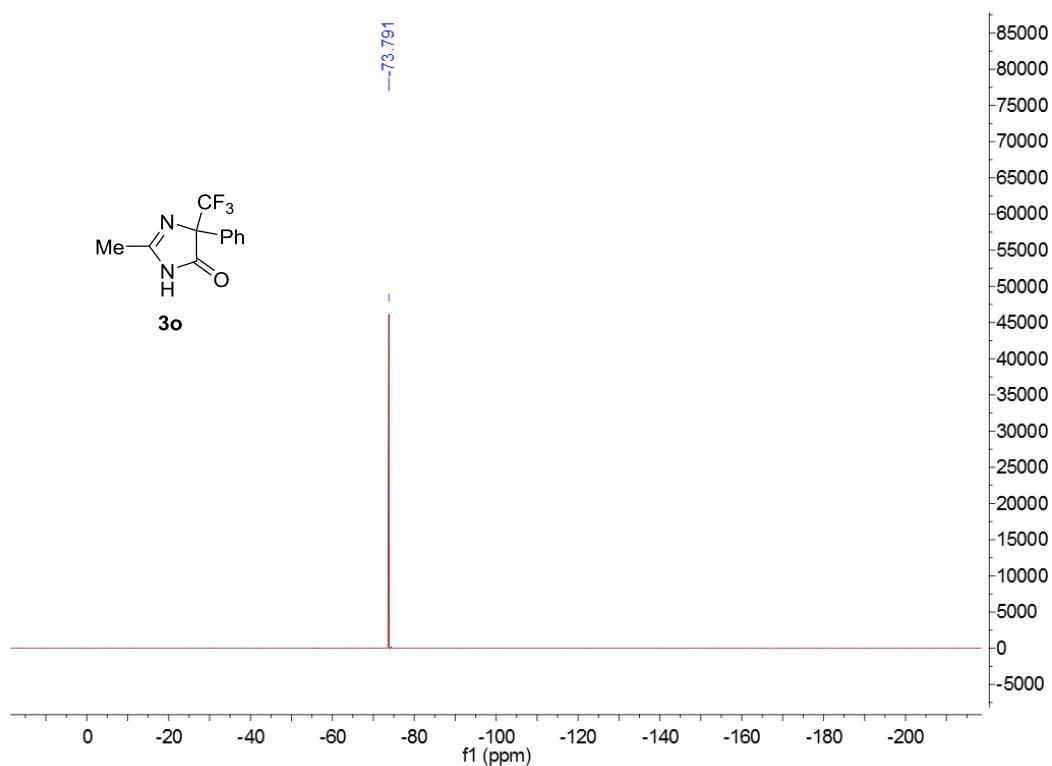
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3o



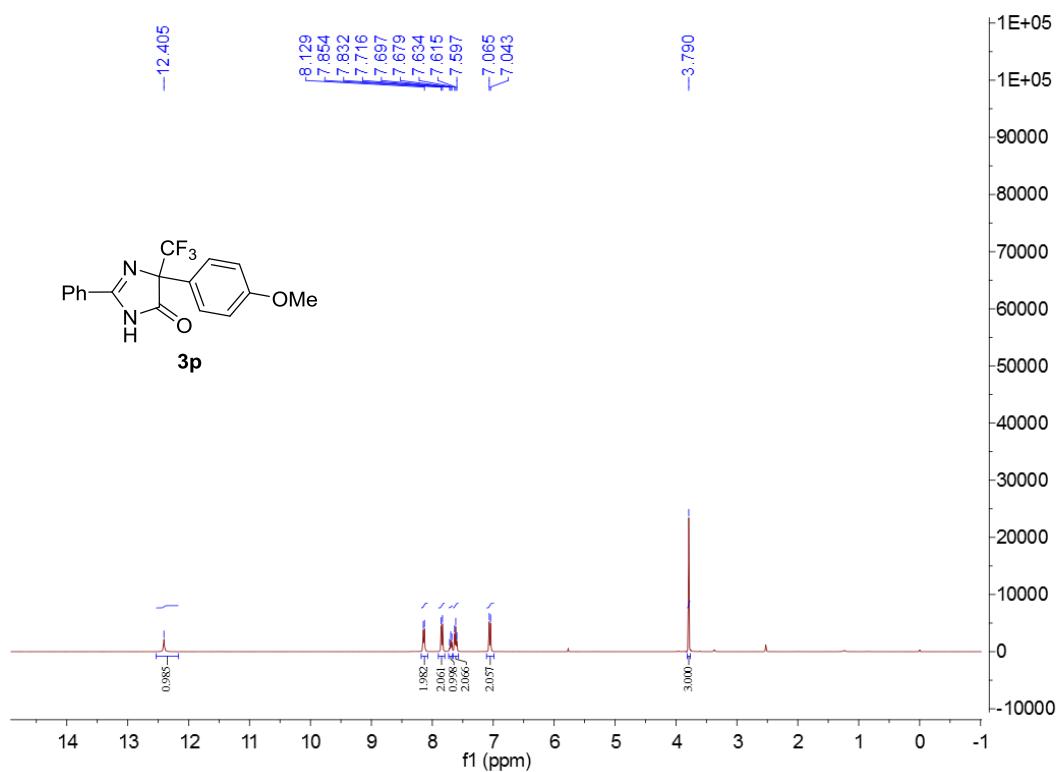
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3o



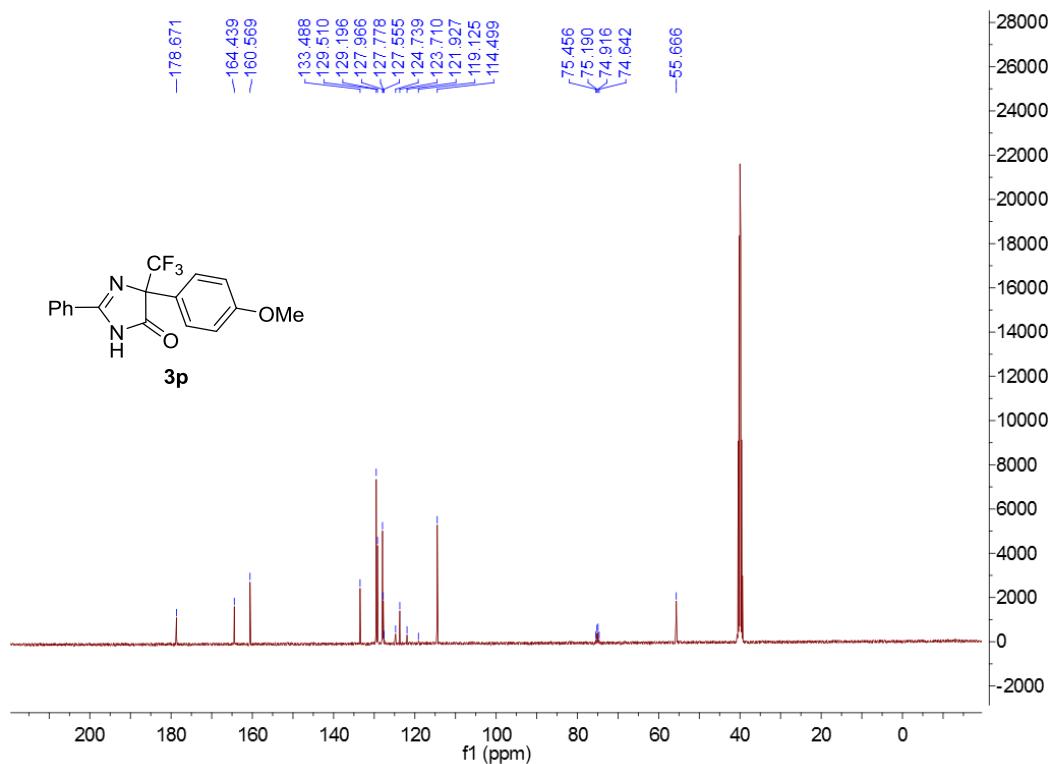
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3o



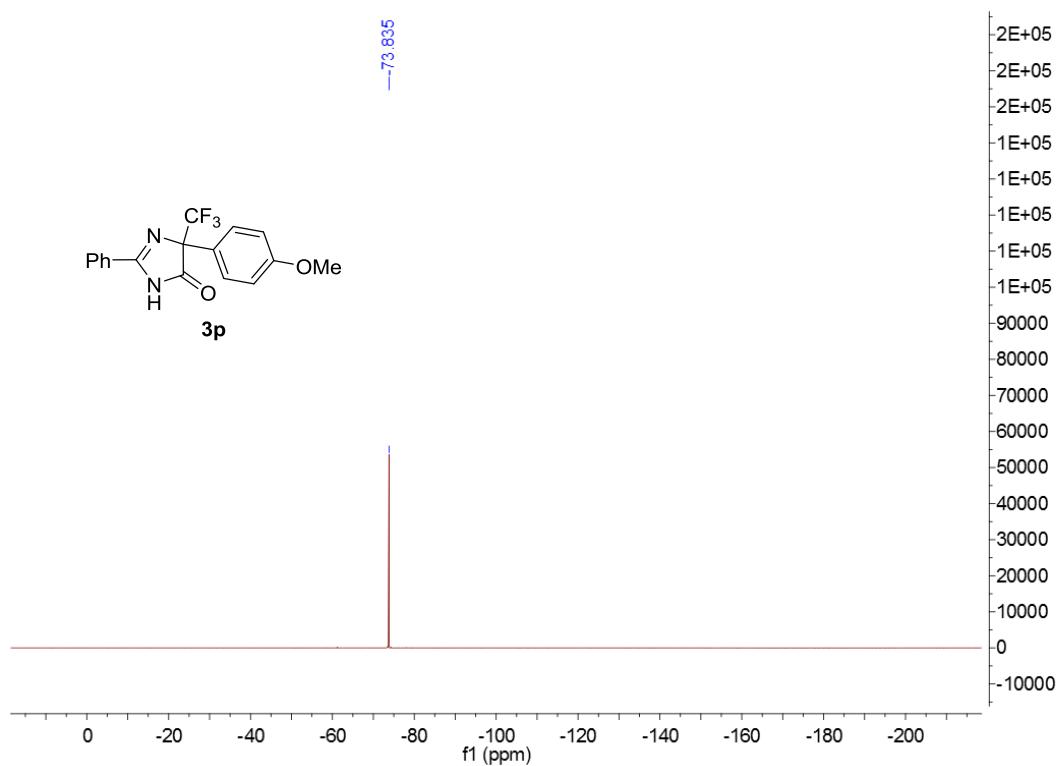
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3p



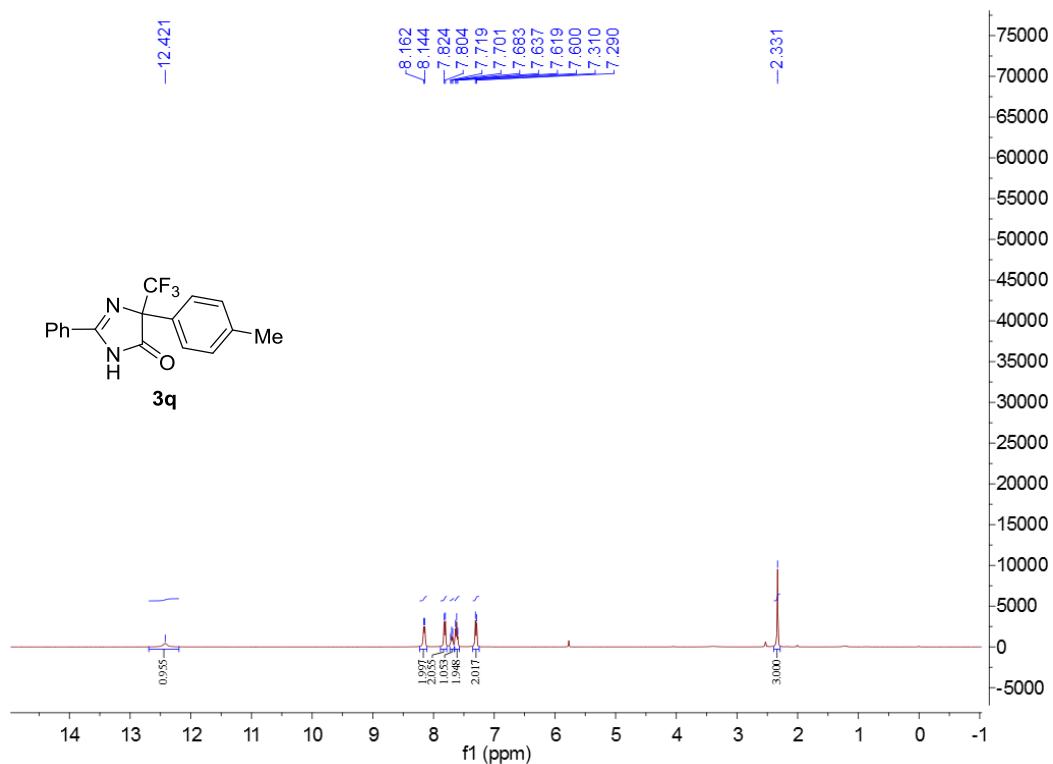
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3p



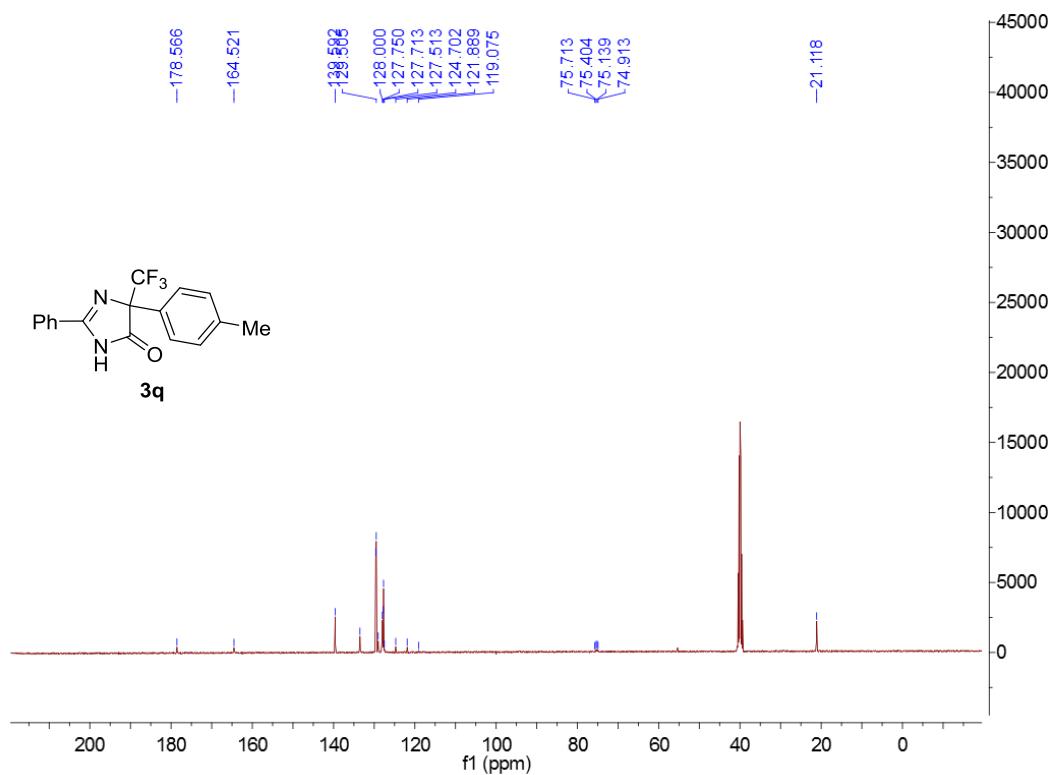
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3p



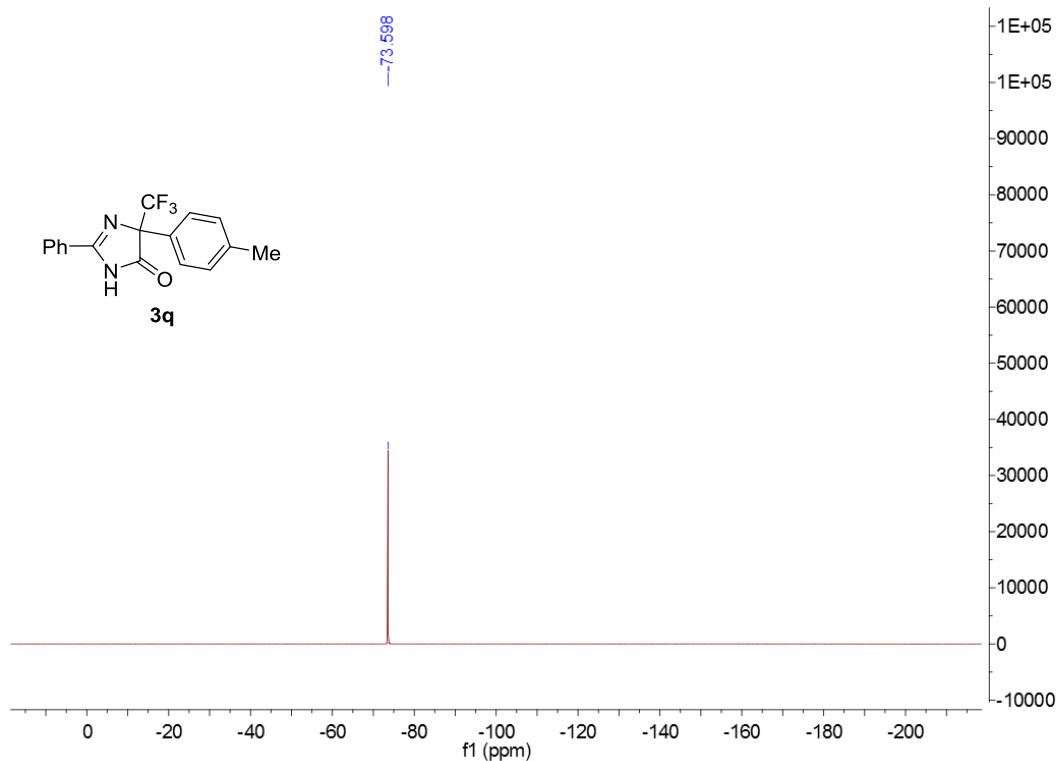
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3q



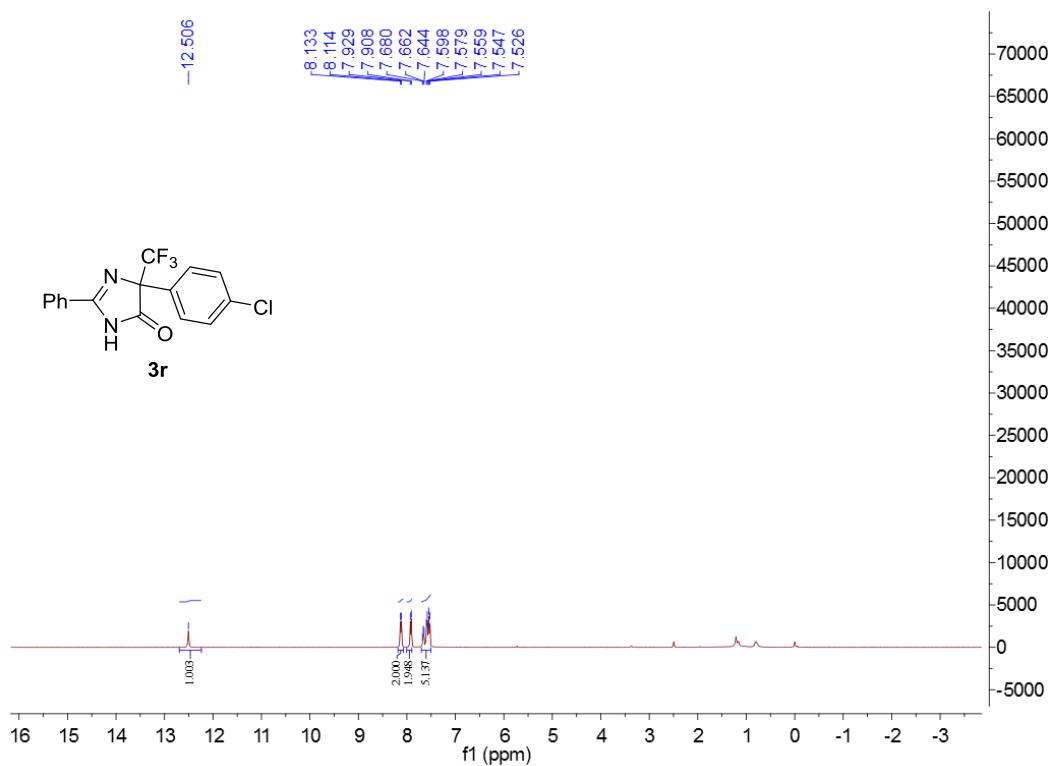
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3q



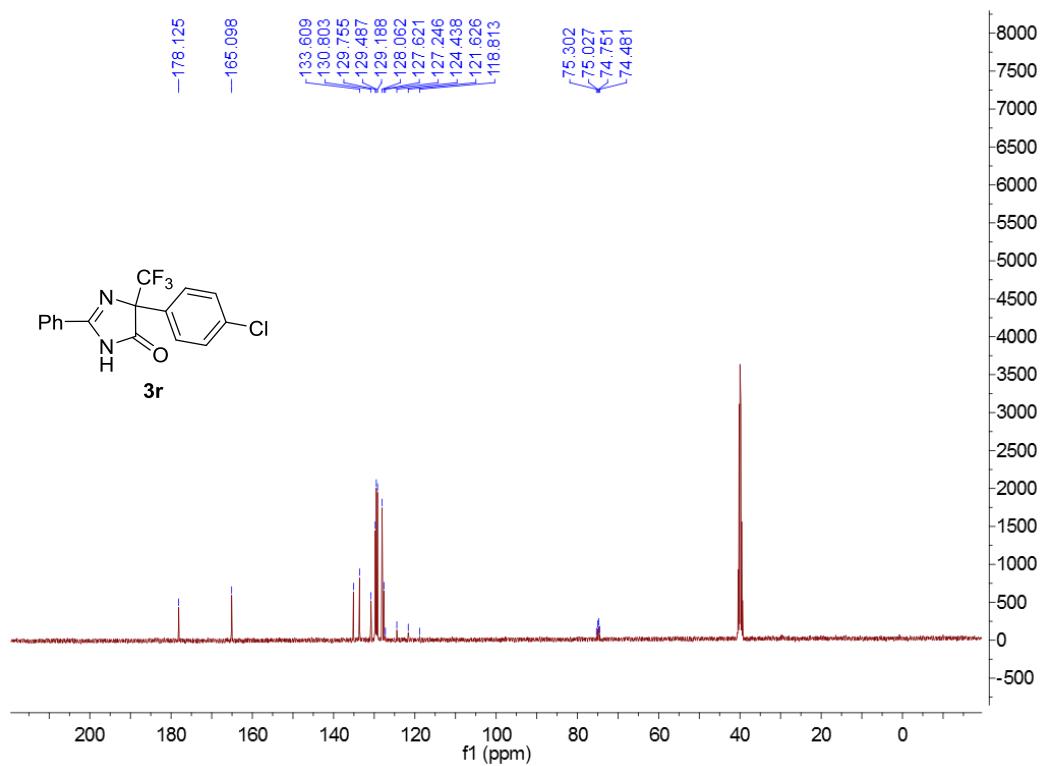
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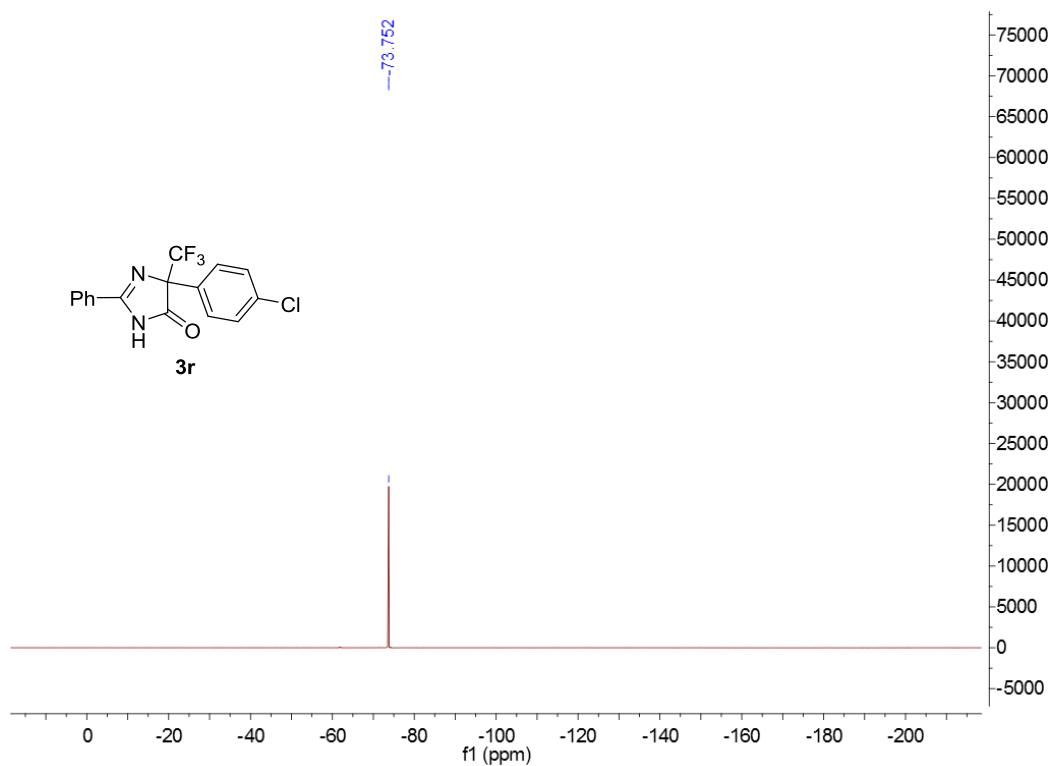
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3r



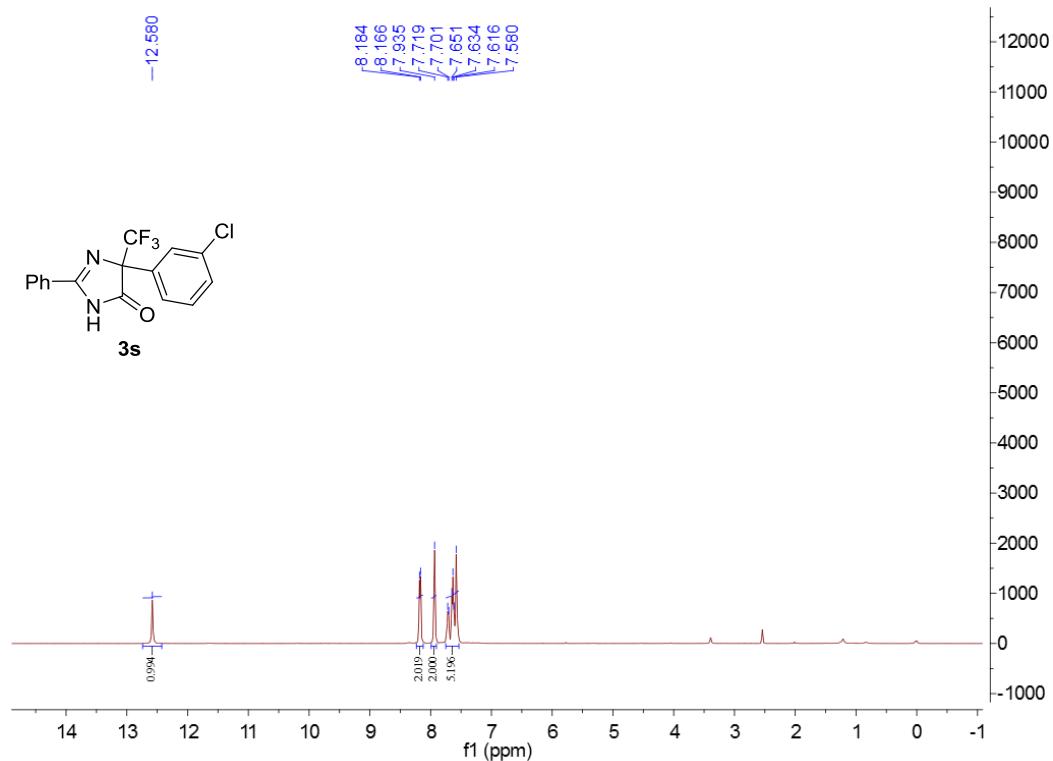
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3r



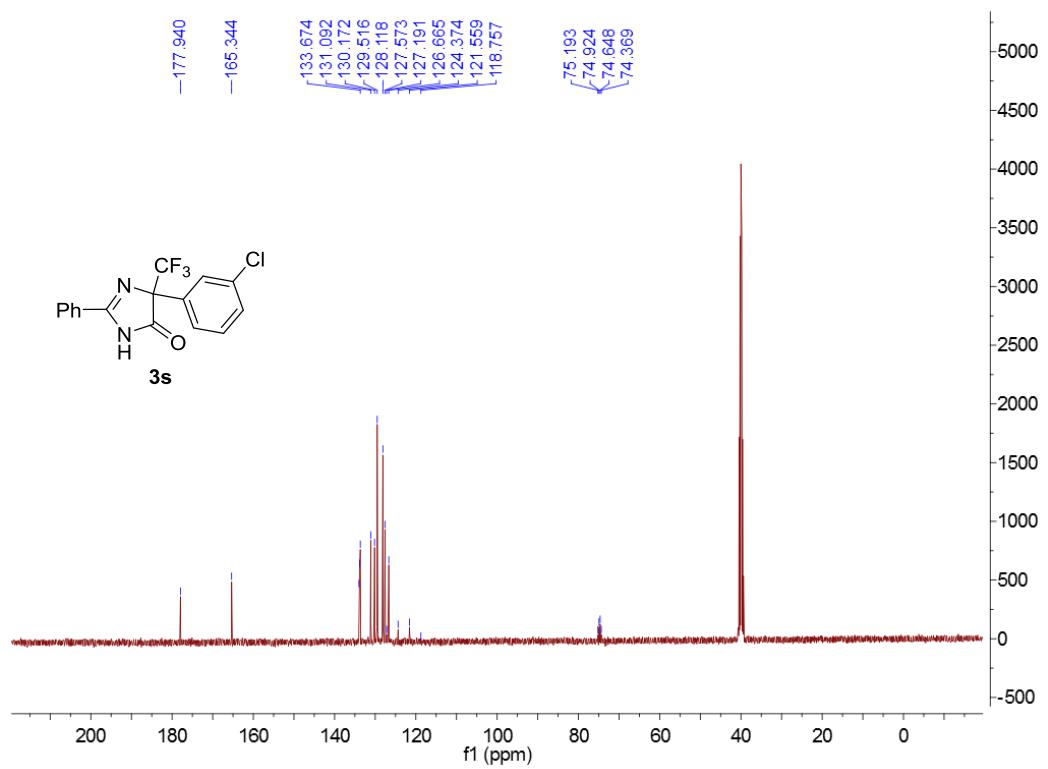
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3r



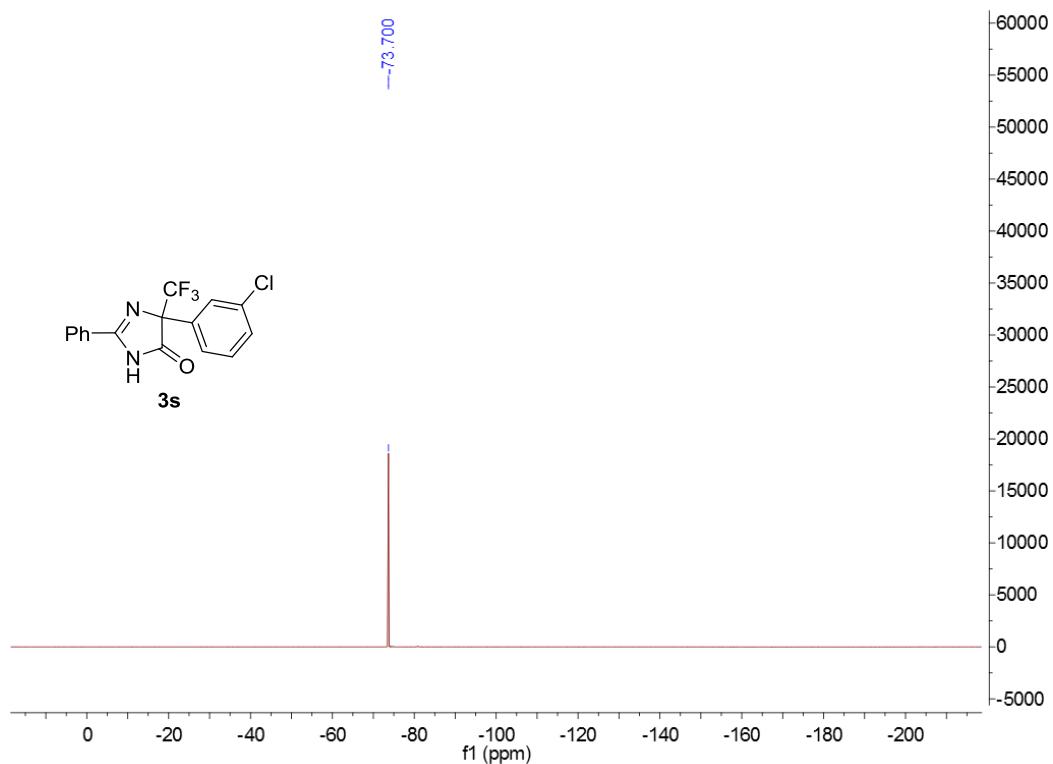
^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3s



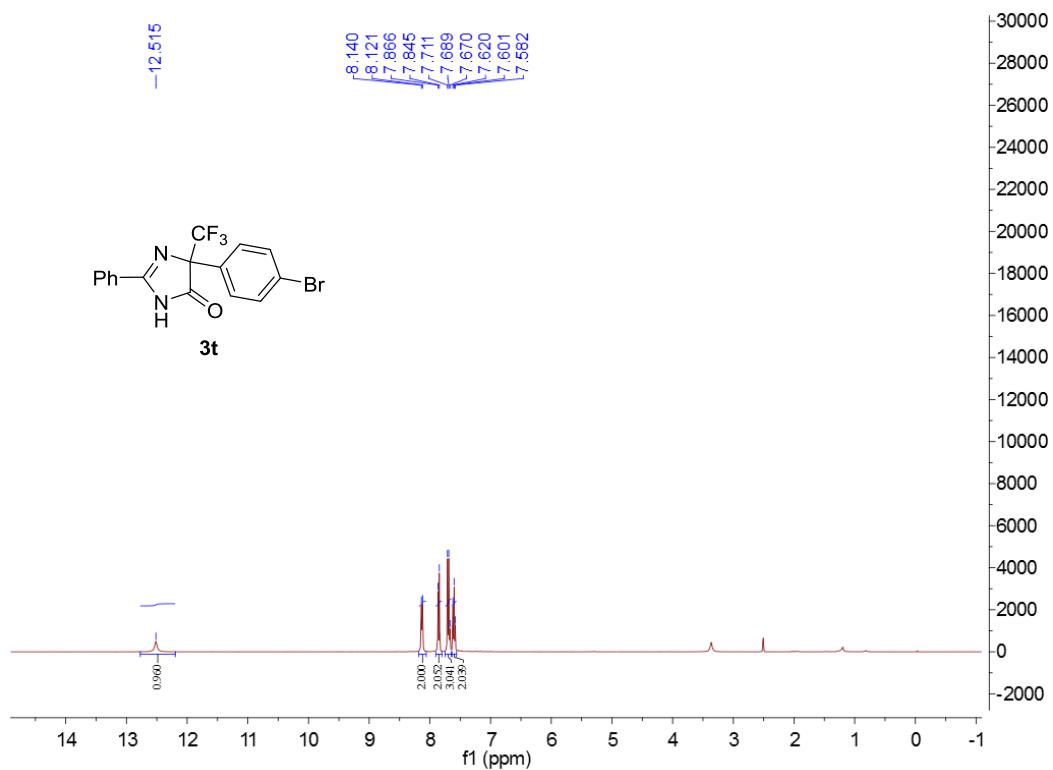
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3s



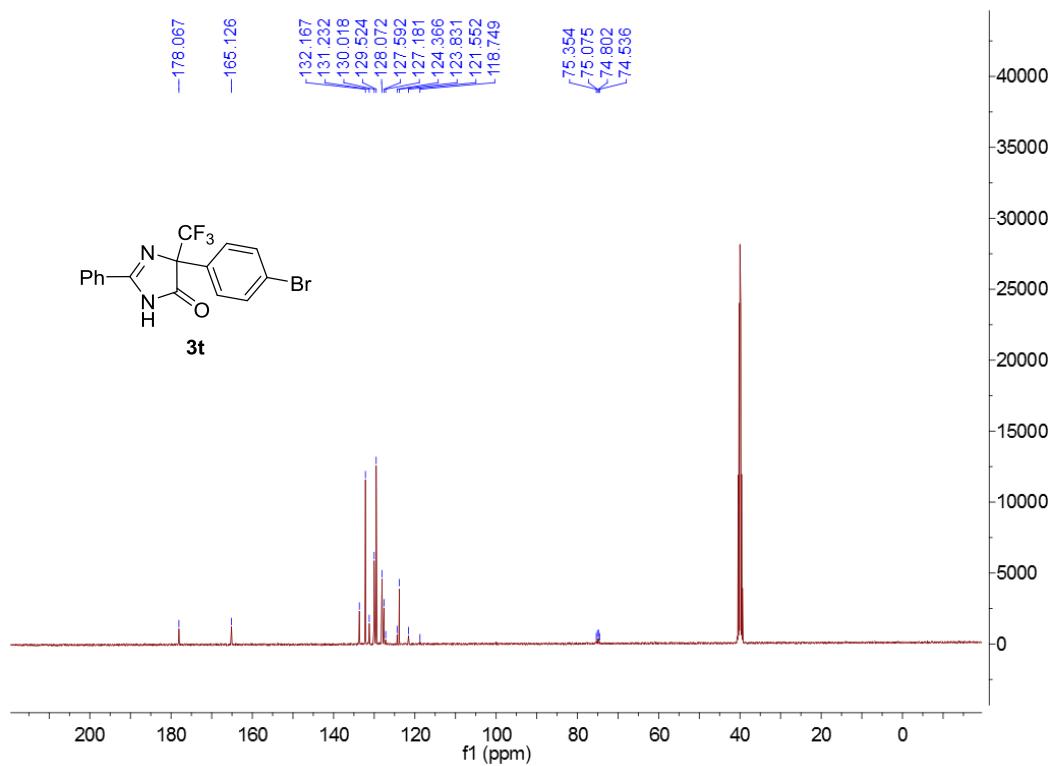
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3s



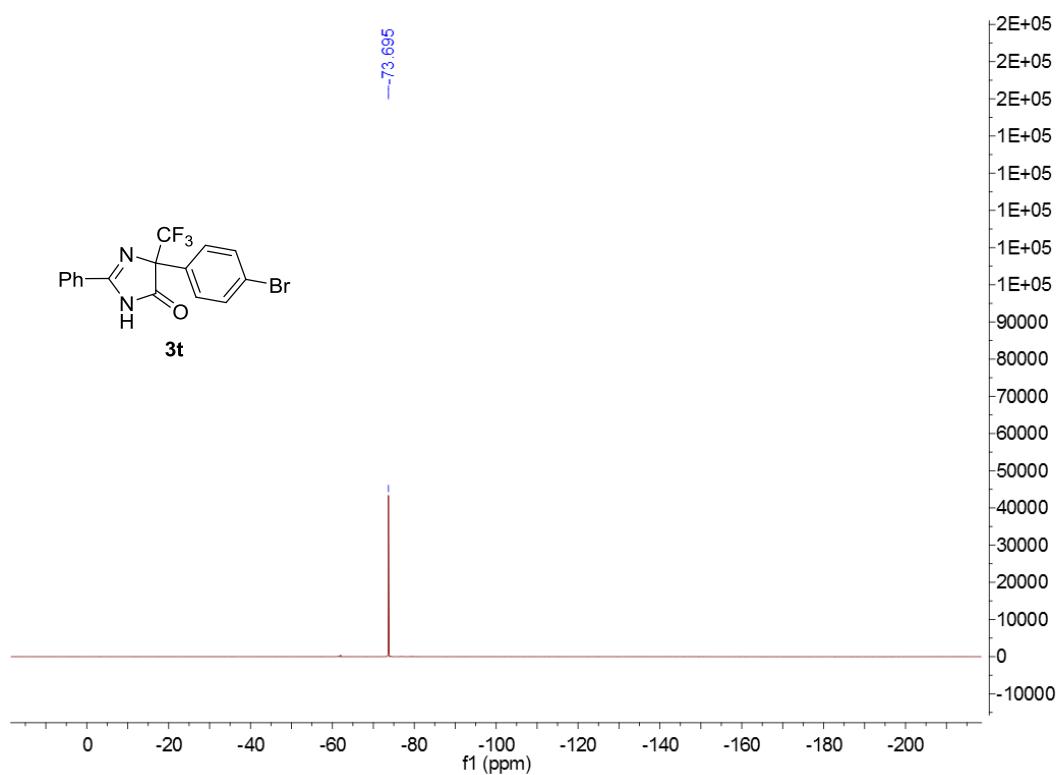
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3t



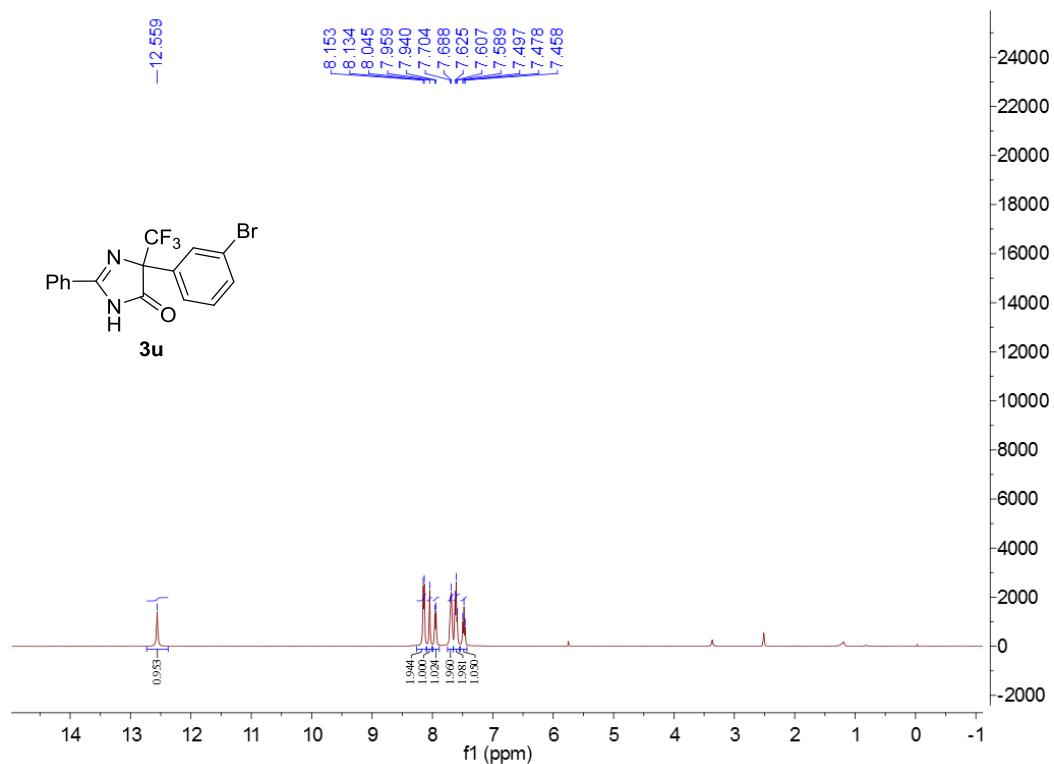
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3t



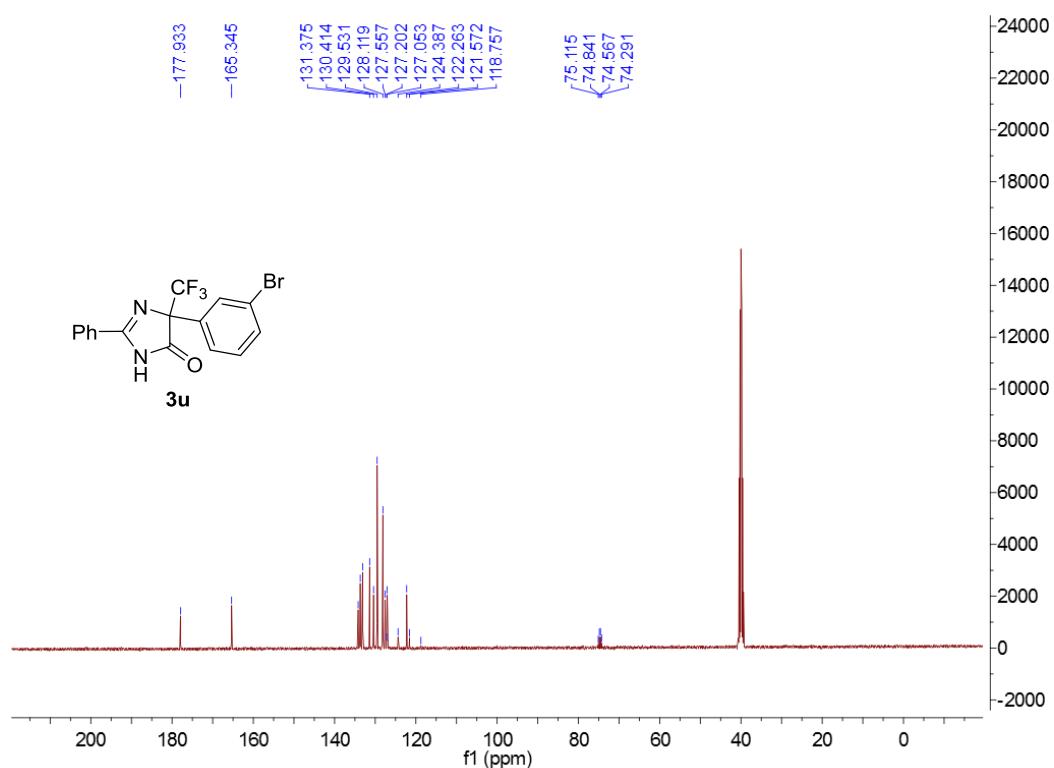
^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) spectrum for 3t



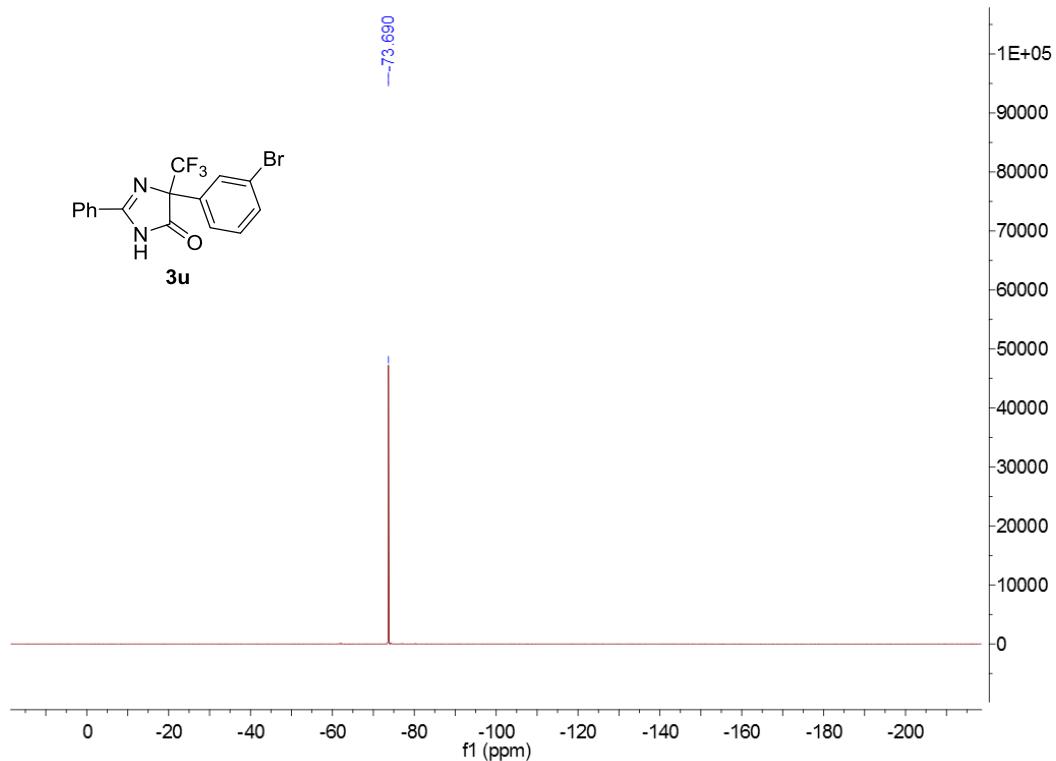
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3u



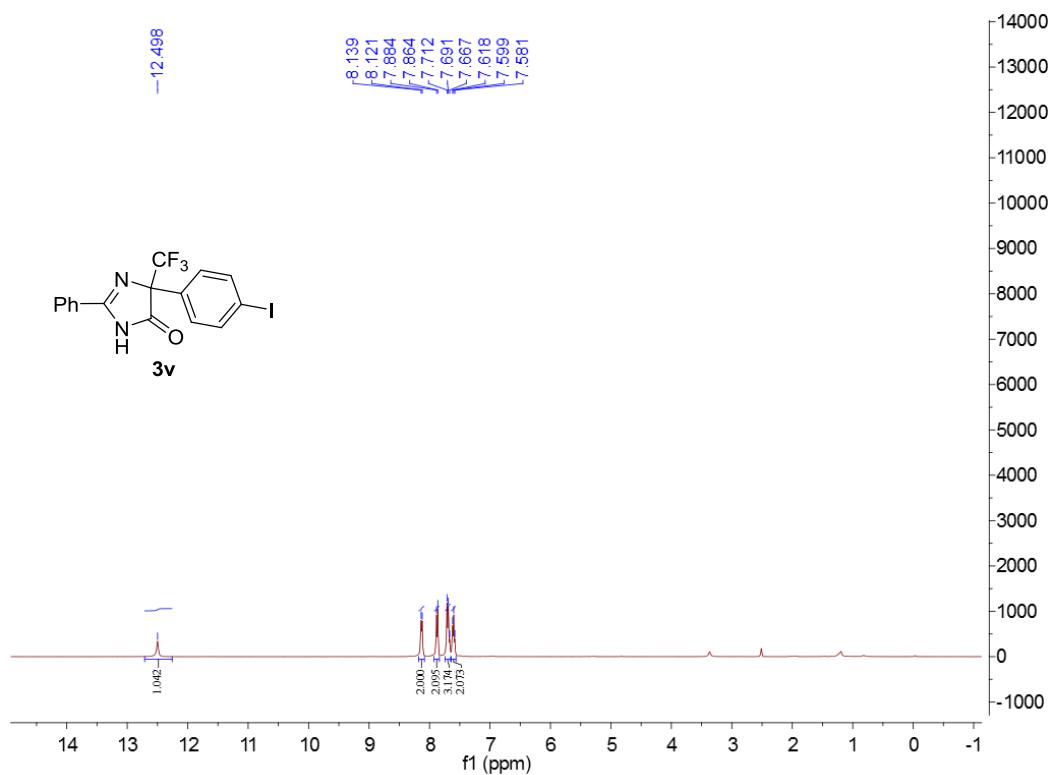
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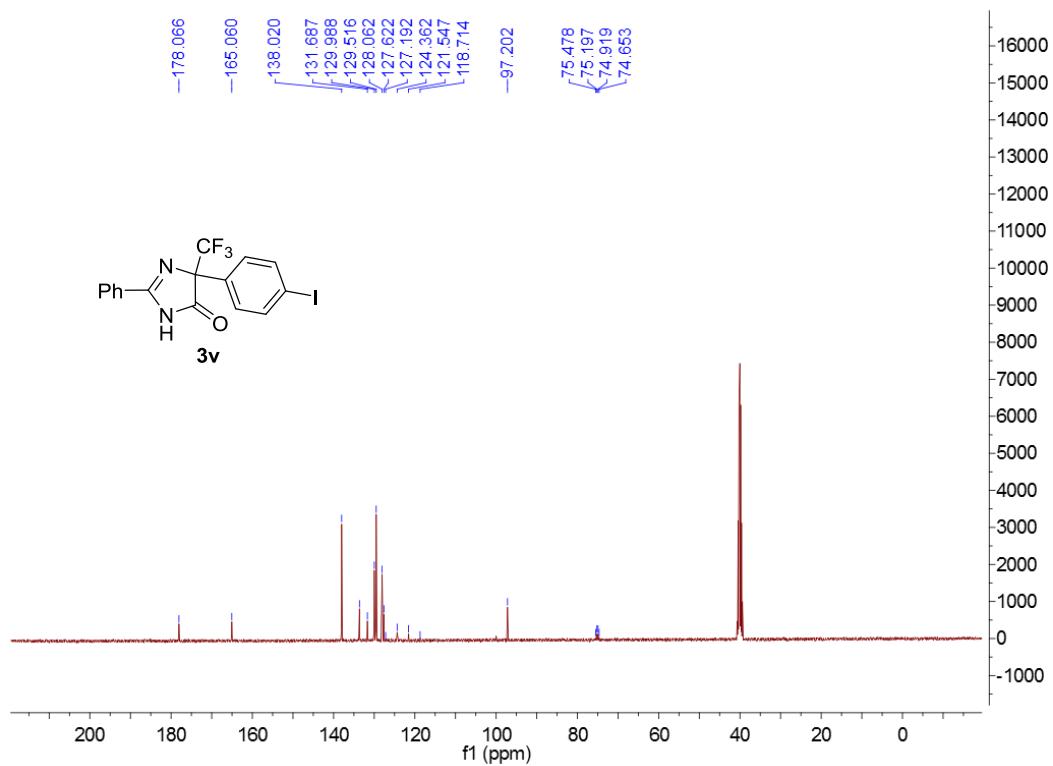
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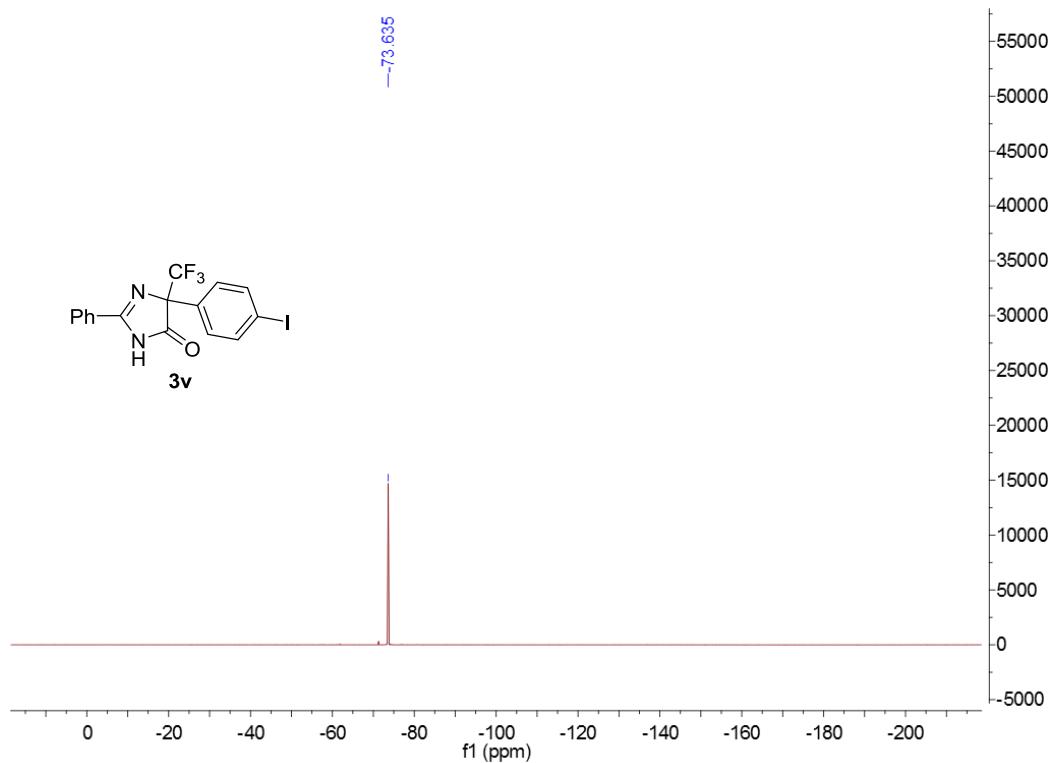
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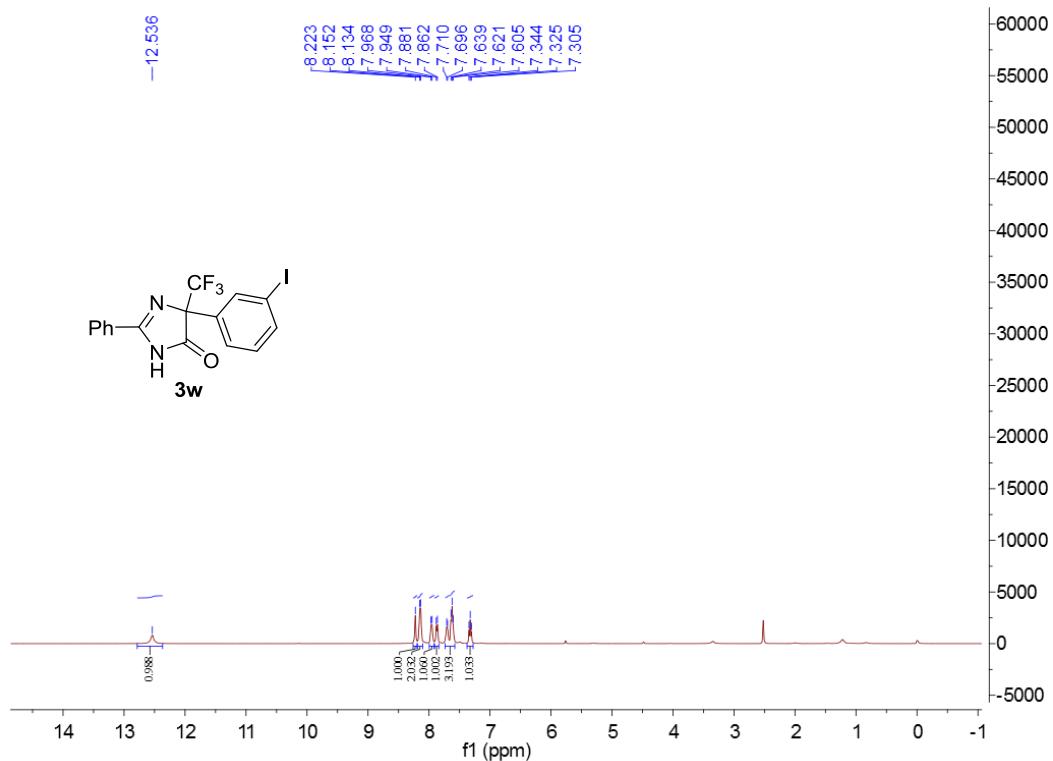
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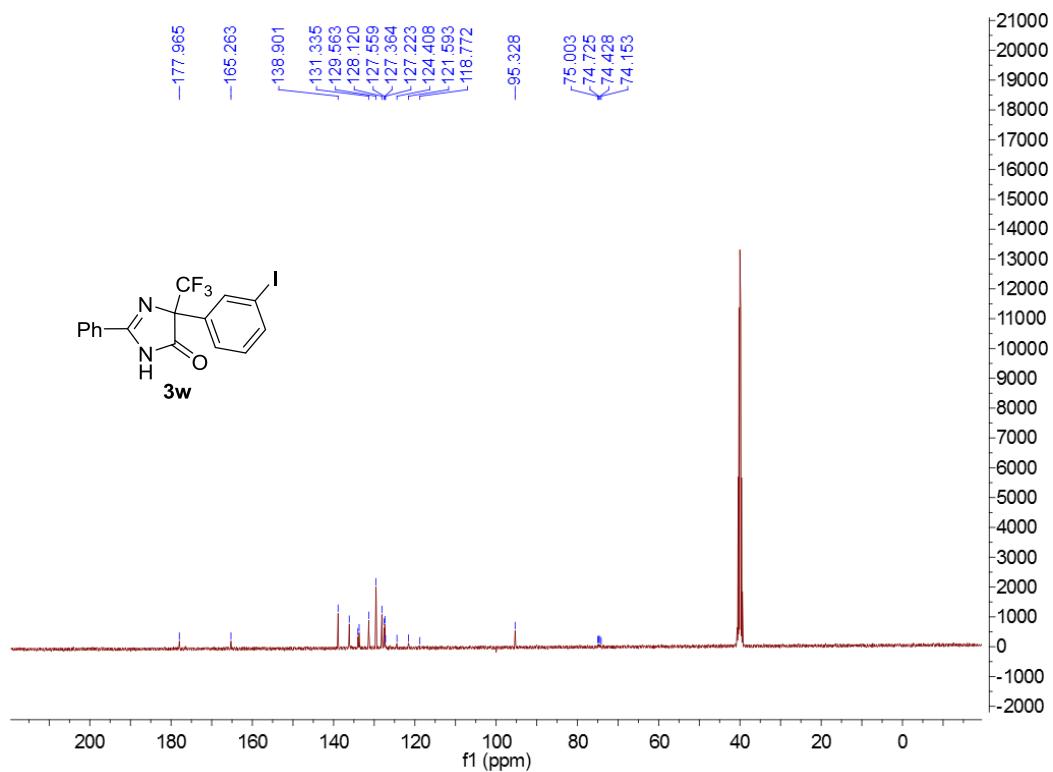
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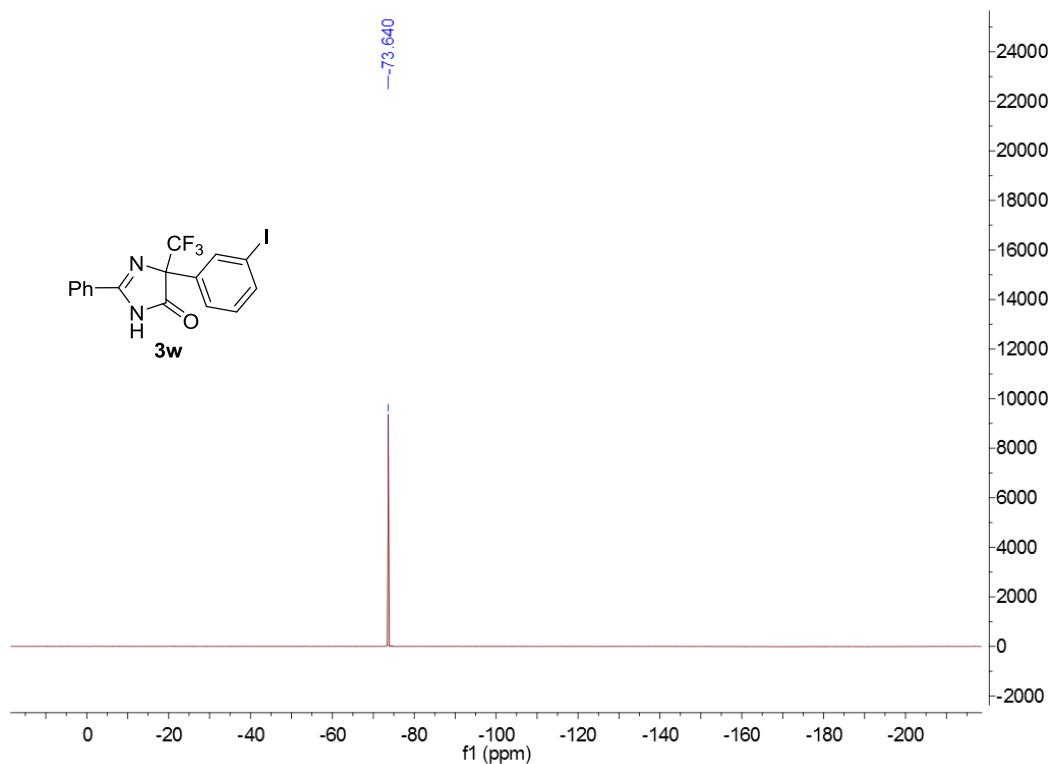
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 3w



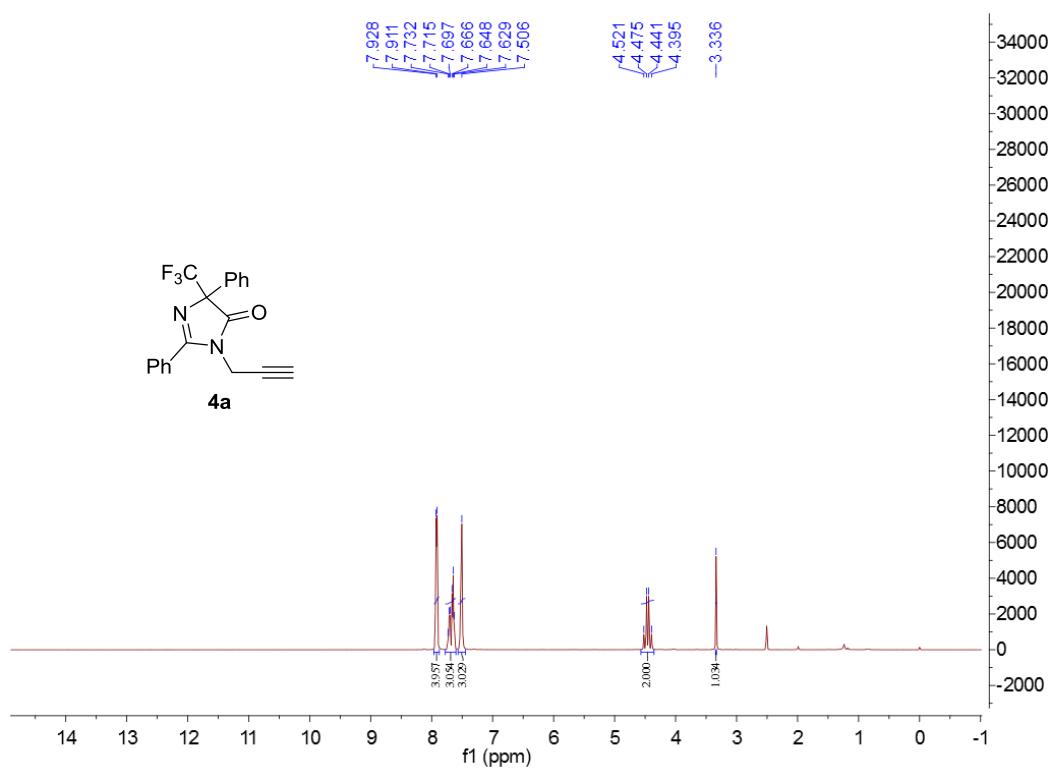
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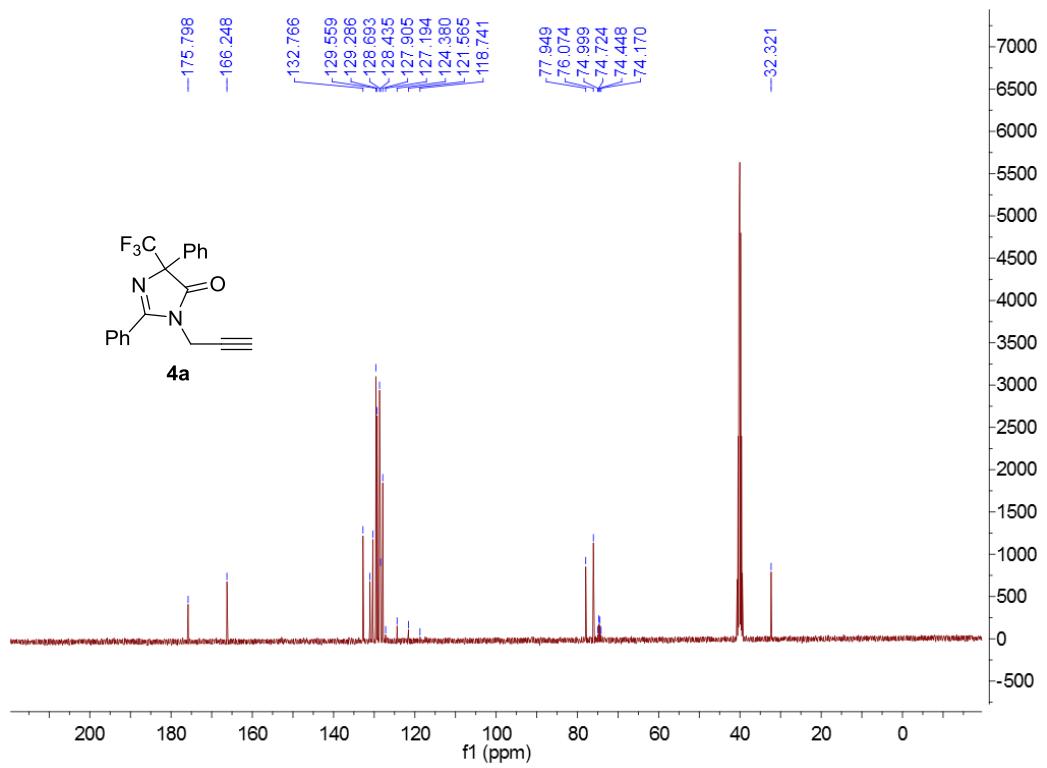
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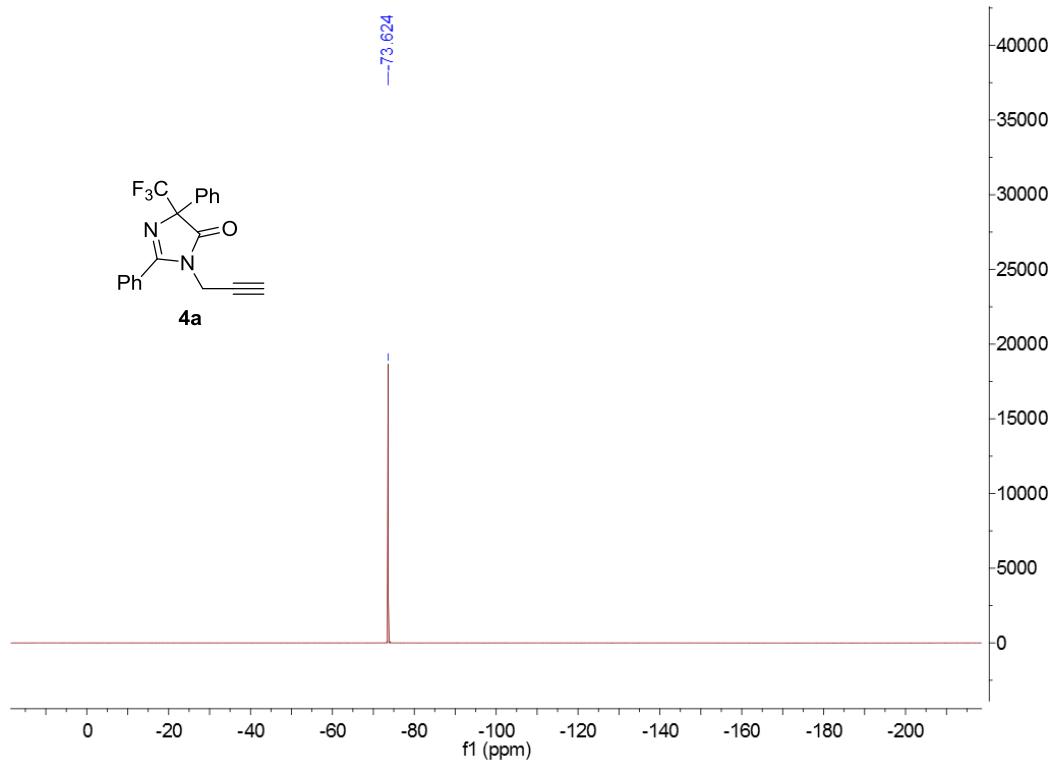
¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 4a



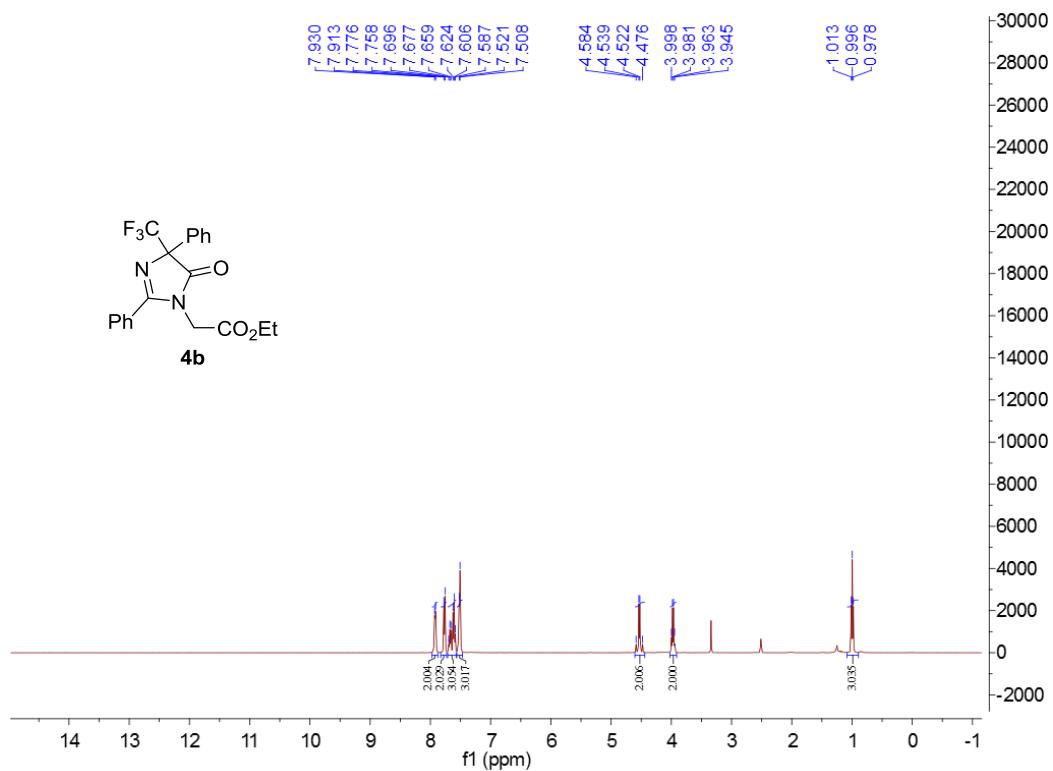
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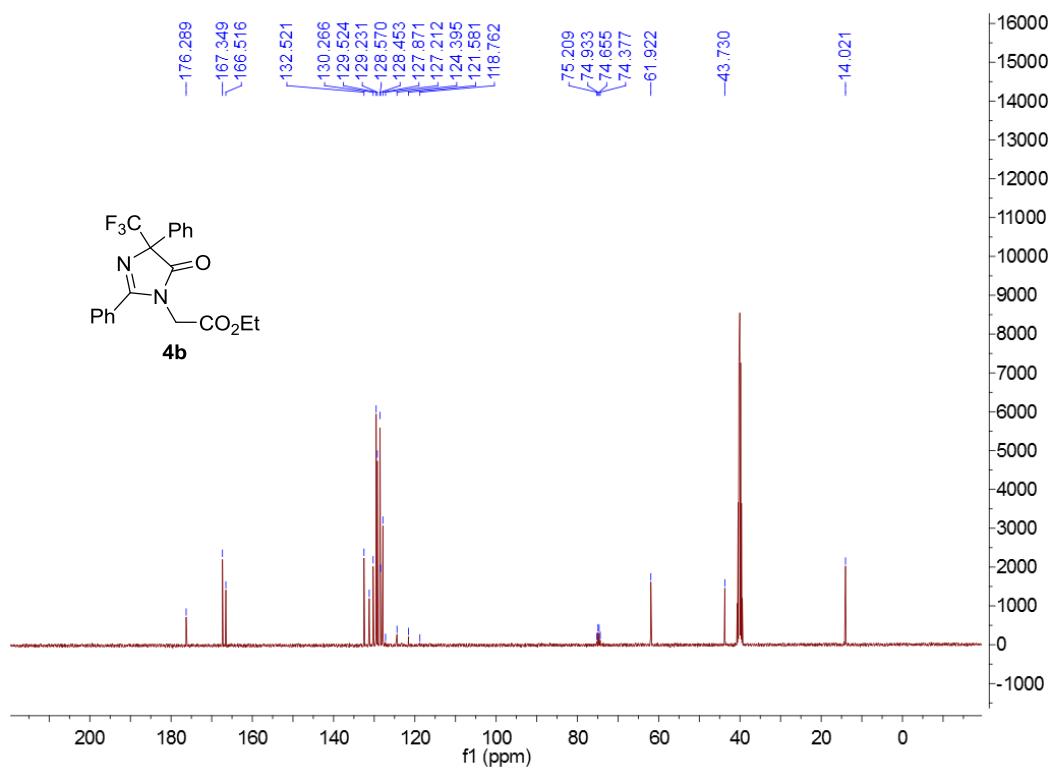
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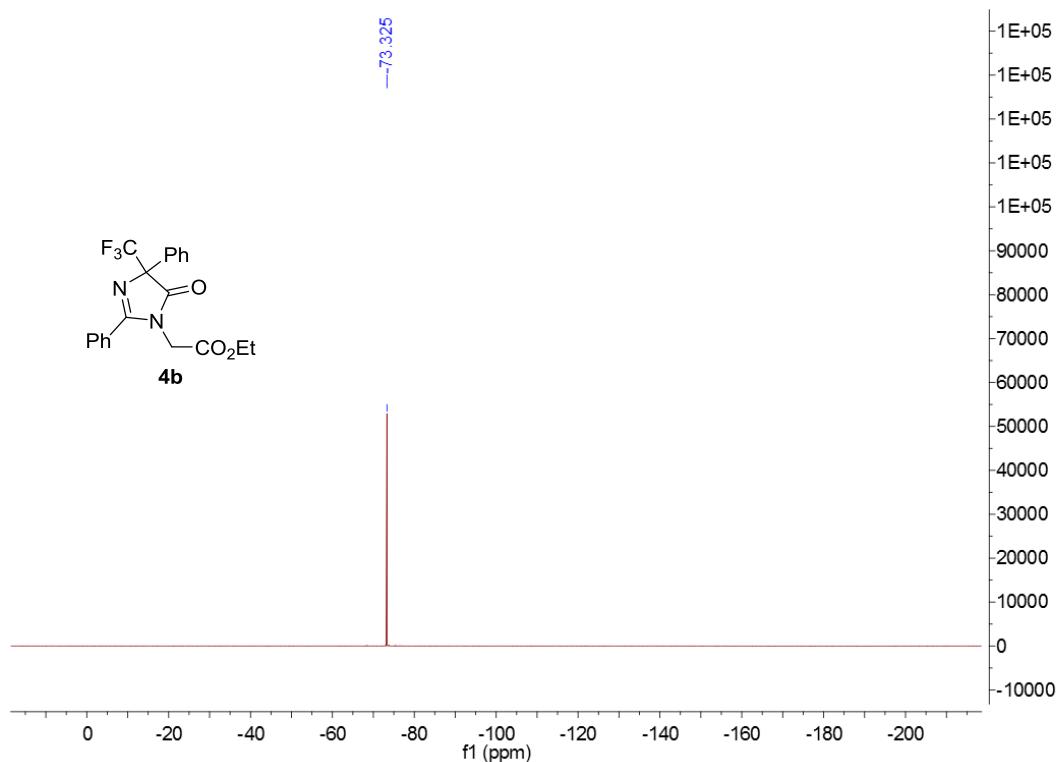
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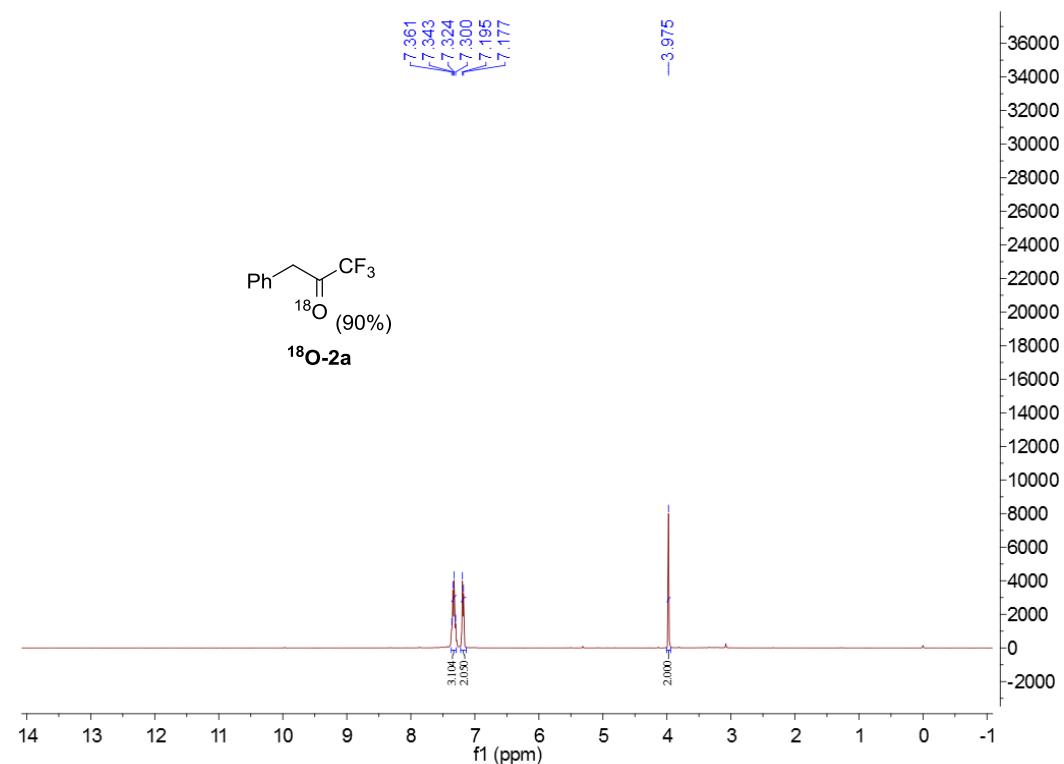
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 4b



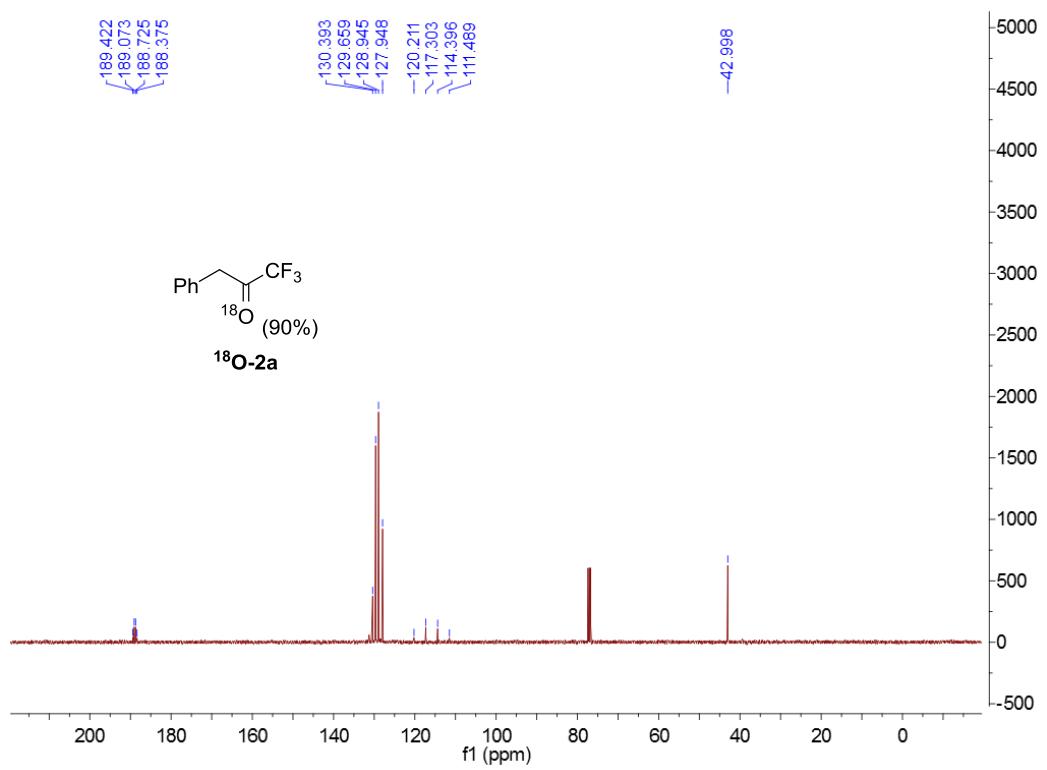
¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) spectrum for 4b



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum for ¹⁸O-2a



^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) spectrum for $^{18}\text{O}-\text{2a}$



^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) spectrum for $^{18}\text{O}-\text{2a}$

