Electronic Supporting Information for Publication

Access to 2-Subtituted 1-Pyridin-3-yl-β-Carboline Derivatives by an Intramolecular Radical Cyclization-Ring Opening-S_NAr Substitution

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Table of contents

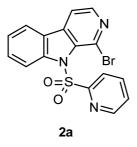
I.	Experimental details and characterization data for compounds:		
	2a,b	S2–S4	
	6	S4	
	8a–j	S5-S10	
II.	X-ray crystallographic data for 2b and 6	S13–S14	
III.	Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C-NMR spectra for compounds:		
	2a,b, 6, and 8a–l	S15–S47	

General Information

Reagents of the highest commercial quality were purchased and used without further purification, unless stated otherwise. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel plates (60FS-254) using UV light for visualization. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (60 F254, 70-200 mm) as the stationary phase. All melting points were determined in open capillary tubes, on a Stuart Scientific SMP3 melting point apparatus. IR spectra were obtained on a Perkin–Elmer FTIR spectrum 2000 spectrophotometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded with either a Varian Mercury VX-300, Varian Unity 300, or Varian Unity 500 MHz spectrometer at room temperature. Chemical shifts are given in ppm (δ) downfield from TMS. Coupling constants (J) are in hertz (Hz), and signals are described as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quadruplet; m, multiplet; br, broad; ap, apparent. Samples were analyzed by high pressure liquid chromatography (HP 1260 series) coupled to a mass spectrometer Quadrupole (6120 series) from Agilent Techhologies. The chromatographic separation was carried out with a Luna C18 column (100 mm x 4,6 mm x 3 µm) (supplied by Phenomenex). LC conditions were: flow rate, 1 mL/min; mobile phases, water containing 0,1 % formic acid (A) and methanol containing 0.1 % formic acid (solvent B); elution gradient: 10-100 % B in 20 minutes, 100-10% for 1 min, and 10% for 5 min in order to re-equilibrate the column at the initial conditions; injected volumen, 5 µL; temperature 50°C. High-resolution analyses (HRMS) were performed on an Agilent 6210 time-of-flight LC/MS. Compounds 1^{9} , $3a^{10}$ and $3b^{18}$ have been previously described.

Preparation of compounds 2a and 2b

1-Bromo-9-(2-pyridylsulfonyl)pyrido[3,4-b]indole 2a



Method A: To a stirred solution of 1-bromo-9*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole **1** (247 mg, 1 mmol) and TEBACl (57 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), a solution of KOH (35% in H₂O, 10 mL) was added, at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to room temperature and pyridine-2-sulfonyl chloride **3a** (887 mg, 5 mmol) was portionwise added during 1 h. The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at 35 °C for an additional period of 5 h. Then, at room temperature, the reaction mixture was neutralized with aq HCl 1M solution and EtOAc (20 mL) were added. The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under

⁹ (*a*) G. La Regina, V. Famiglini, S. Passacantilli, S. Pelliccia, P. Punzi and R. Silvestri, *Synthesis*, 2014, **46**, 2093; (*b*) F. Bracher and D. Hildebrand, *Tetrahedron*, 1994, **50**, 12329.

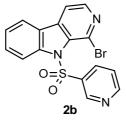
¹⁰ E. Dupont-Passelaigue, I. Le Roy and C. Pignier, PCT. Int. Appl., WO 2012069503 A1, 2012.

¹⁸ M. Birch, G. E. M. Sibley, D. Law and J. D. Oliver, PCT. Int. Appl., WO 2009144473 A1, 2009.

reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (2:8 EtOAc/ hexanes) to supply **2a** as a white solid (194 mg, 0.50 mmol, 50%).

Method B: To a stirred solution of 1-bromo-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 1 (247 mg, 1 mmol) in dry THF (3 mL) NaH 99.9% (24 mg, 1 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at 35 °C and then pyridine-2-sulfonyl chloride 3a (177 mg, 1 mmol) was added in portions during 10 min and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at the same temperature for 10 additional min. The process was repeated, at 35° C, until a total of 4 equiv of NaH and 4 equiv 3a. Then, at room temperature, the reaction mixture was neutralized with aq HCl 1M solution and EtOAc (20 mL) was added. The two layers were separated, and the aqueous one was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (2:8 EtOAc/ hexanes) to supply 2a as a white solid (20-87%). Mp: 196–197° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3092, 1547, 1426, 1399, 1369, 1186, 1118, 1149, 958, 751, 585. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.66 (td, J = 4.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.39–8.35 (m, 2H), 8.22 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.00–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dt, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, J = 7.7, 4.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 156.7, 150.1, 144.2, 141.9, 138.0, 137.8, 136.2, 130.2, 128.7, 127.6, 125.0, 124.8, 122.7, 121.0, 118.9, 113.6. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 388.0, 390.0 [M + H]⁺, t_R 14.375 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₁⁷⁹BrN₃O₂S [M + H]⁺ 387.9749, found: 387.9750.

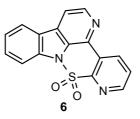
1-Bromo-9-(3-pyridylsulfonyl)pyrido[3,4-b]indole 2b



Method A: To a stirred solution of 1-bromo-9*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole **1** (247 mg, 1 mmol) and TEBACI (57 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added, at 0 °C, a solution of KOH (35% in H₂O, 10 mL). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and pyridine-3-sulfonyl chloride **3b** (887 mg, 5 mmol) was added in portions during 1 h. The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred at 35 °C for additional 5 h. Then, at room temperature, the reaction mixture was neutralized with aq HCl 1M solution and EtOAc (20 mL) were added. The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (2:8 EtOAc/ hexanes) to supply **2b** as a white solid (217 mg, 0.56 mmol, 56%). Mp: 181–182 °C. IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3124, 3036, 2974, 1612, 1571, 1543, 1421, 1393, 1183, 1104, 1045, 921, 776. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.71 (brs, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 4.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 154.1, 147.5, 145.6, 141.6, 139.2, 134.4, 133.6, 131.0, 130.7, 126.3, 126.0, 125.8, 123.1,

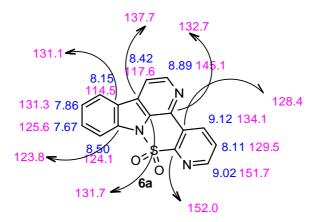
121.1, 119.1, 113.5. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 388.0, 390.0 [M + H]⁺, t_R 14.332 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₁⁷⁹BrN₃O₂S [M + H]⁺ 387.9749, found: 387.9751.

8-Thia-6,7b,9-triazabenzo[e]acephenanthrylene-8,8-dioxide 6



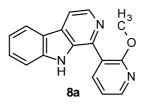
A solution of TTMSS (620 mg, 2.5 mmol) and AIBN (328 mg, 2 mmol) in m-xylene (10 mL) was added dropwise, by using a syringe pump during 24 h, to a stirred solution of 2a (194 mg, 0.5 mmol) in mxylene/acetonitrile(9:1), (1.5 mL) at 80 °C (bath temperature), under an atmosphere of dry argon. When the addition was finished, the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 24 h period, at the same temperature, until full consumption of 2a (TLC analysis). The resulting solution was concentrated and the crude mixture was separated of the by product 7 (β -carboline, norharmane)²⁶ by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc (95:5)). The resulting pale yellow solid was triturated in CH₂Cl₂ to furnish **6a** as a white solid (89 mg, 0.13 mmol, 58%). Mp: 231–232° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3057, 1622, 1418, 1353, 1215, 1176, 1118, 986, 745, 601. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 9.12 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 9.02 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.89 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (brd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (brd, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 8.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dt, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ (ppm) 152.0, 151.7, 145.1, 137.7, 134.1, 132.7, 131.7, 131.3, 131.1, 129.5, 128.4, 125.6, 124.1, 123.8, 117.6, 114.5. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 308.0 $[M + H]^+$, t_R 14.828 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{10}N_3O_2S$ [M + H]⁺ 308.0488, found: 308.0492. Compound 7 was identical in all respects to an authentic sample obtained from Aldrich (13 mg, 0.077 mmol, 15%).

Full assignation of 6, in basis of ¹H, ¹³C, COSY, HSQZ, HMBC and TOCSY spectra.



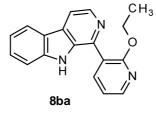
²⁶ S. Li, B. Yang, Q. Zhang, J. Zhang, J. Wang and W. Wu, Nat. Prod. Communications, 2010, 5, 1591.

1-(2-Methoxy-3-pyridyl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8a



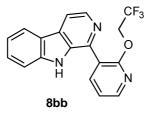
A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) in dry THF: MeOH (2:1) (30 mL), under dry argon atmosphere was stirred at 60 °C for 2 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was allowed to room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ EtOAc (7:3)) to give **8a** as a white solid (100 mg, 0.36 mmol, 72%). Mp: 195–196° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3061, 2920, 1626, 1583, 1463, 1402, 1235, 1018, 745. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.73 (brs, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 5.2, 1H), 8.33 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.21–8.15 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 160.1, 147.5, 141.2, 140.4, 139.0 (2C), 138.7, 134.5, 129.9, 128.6, 121.7, 121.6, 120.1, 117.9, 114.1, 111.6, 53.8. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 276.2 [M + H]⁺, *t*_R 7.205 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₃O [M + H]⁺ 276.1131, found: 276.1143.

1-(2-Ethoxy-3-pyridyl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8ba



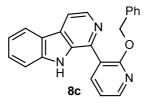
A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) in dry THF: EtOH (2:1) (30 mL), and under an atmosphere of dry argon was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc (7:3)) to give **8ba** as a white solid (113 mg, 0.39 mmol, 78%). Mp: 128–129° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3153, 3060, 2981, 2926, 2858, 1796, 1628, 1580, 1437, 1383, 321, 1234, 1032, 745. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 8.39 (d, *J* = 5.5, 1H), 8.36 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (brd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 161.1, 149.3, 143.2, 141.6, 139.3, 136.4, 135.6, 131.8, 130.4, 122.9, 121.8, 121.1, 120.5, 118.1, 115.8, 112.9, 63.5, 15.1. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 290.0 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 8.609 min (94%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₆N₃O [M + H]⁺ 290.1287, found: 290.1288.

1-[2-(2,2,2-Trifluoroethoxy)-3-pyridyl]-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8bb



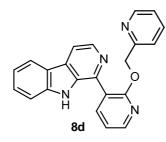
A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) in dry THF: trifluoroethanol (2:1) (30 mL), and under an atmosphere of dry argon was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeCN (9:1)) to give **8bb** as a white solid (120 mg, 0.35 mmol, 70%). Mp: 162–164° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3229, 1627, 1422, 1324, 1163, 796, 743. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.67–8.56 (m, 2H), 8.35–8.28 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dt, *J* = 7.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H), 4.98 (q, ⁴*J*_{H-F} = 8.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 157.4, 147.0, 142.5, 140.4, 139.5, 137.6, 134.4, 130.1, 128.7, 123.8 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 278.0 Hz, CF₃), 122.1, 121.6, 121.4, 120.2, 119.6, 114.5, 111.6, 62.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 35.6.0 Hz, CH₂). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₃F₃N₃O [M + H]⁺ 344.1005, found: 344.1006.

1-(2-Benzyloxy-3-pyridyl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8c



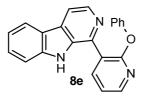
A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (270 mg, 2.5 mmol, 0.26 mL) in dry THF (10 mL), under dry argon atmosphere was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc (8:2)) to give **8c** as a white solid (154 mg, 0.44 mmol, 88%). Mp: 130–131° C. IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3060, 2922, 2851, 1626, 1581, 1454, 1420, 1320, 1233, 1019, 743. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.57–8.53 (m, 2H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.4, 147.2, 141.9, 140.2, 139.4, 138.8, 136.8, 134.5, 130.0, 129.9, 128.9 (2C), 128.5 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 122.3, 121.5, 119.9, 118.2, 114.1, 111.5, 67.6. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 352.2 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 11.289 min (98%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃O [M + H]⁺ 352.1443, found: 352.1440.

1-(2-Pyridylmethoxy-3-pyridyl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8d



A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) and 2-pyridinemethanol (1.635 g, 15 mmol, 1.5 mL) in dry THF (25 mL), under dry argon atmosphere, was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/CH₂Cl₂ (7:4)) to give **8d** as a white solid (140 mg, 0.40 mmol, 81%). Mp: 155–156° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3238, 3058, 2983, 2946, 1625, 1578, 1450, 1413, 1321, 1234, 1032, 743. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 12.66 (s, 1H), 8.80 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 158.7, 157.6, 148.3, 146.9, 141.5, 141.4, 139.0, 138.6, 137.5, 137.3, 135.0, 129.5, 128.0, 122.8, 121.7, 121.6, 121.3, 119.1, 117.9, 114.1, 111.7, 65.8. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 353.2 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 9.385 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₁₇N₄O [M + H]⁺ 353.1395, found: 353.1404.

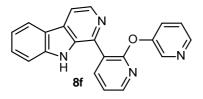
1-(2-Phenoxy-3-pyridyl)-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8e



A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) and phenol (376 mg, 4 mmol, 0.37 mL) in dry THF (20 mL), under dry argon atmosphere, was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc (8:2)) to give **8e** as a white solid (98 mg, 0.29 mmol, 58%). Mp: 222–224° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3167, 3060, 1623, 1577, 1493, 1420, 1320, 1232, 1070, 753. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.90 (brs, 1H), 8.63 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.35–8.32 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.6, 153.9, 148.1, 142.4, 140.4, 139.6, 138.4, 134.6, 130.0, 129.7 (2C), 128.7, 124.7,

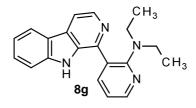
122.6, 121.7, 121.6, 120.6, 120.2 (2C), 120.0, 114.4, 111.6. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 338.0 $[M + H]^+$, t_R 10.739 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₁₆N₃O $[M + H]^+$ 338.1287, found: 338.1293.

1-[2-(3-Pyridyloxy)-3-pyridyl]-9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8f



A mixture of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.5 mmol) and 3-pyridinol (1.187 g, 12.5 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL), under dry argon atmosphere, was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and concentrated, and then filtered through a pad of Celite, eluting with MeOH. The resulting filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/EtOH (9:1)) to give **8f** as a white solid (120 mg, 0.36 mmol, 71%). Mp: 207–210° C. IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3214, 3165, 3088, 1626, 1569, 1475, 1412, 1237, 1023, 749. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.81 (brs, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (brd, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (dd, *J* = 4.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.27 (dd, *J* = 3.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (brd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.24 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.2, 150.5, 148.1, 145.9, 143.2, 142.6, 140.6, 139.6, 138.0, 134.7, 130.3, 129.1, 128.6, 124.1, 123.3, 122.0, 121.7, 120.6 (2C), 114.8, 111.7. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 339.2 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 8.166 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₁₅N₄O [M + H]⁺ 339.1239, found: 338.1240.

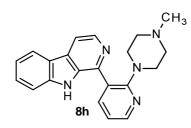
N,N-Diethyl-3-(9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1-yl)pyridin-2-amine 8g



A solution of *i*PrMgCl·LiCl (1.3 M in THF, 3.84 mL, 5 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of diethylamine (365 mg, 5 mmol, 0.5 mL) in dry THF (15 mL), at 0 °C and under dry argon atmosphere. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then 15 min at 25 °C before being added to a solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h, until full consumption of **6** was observed (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc (8:2)) to give **8g** as a yellow solid (136 mg, 0.43 mmol, 86%). Mp: 228–230° C. IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3141, 3054, 2976, 1623, 1588, 1560, 1488, 1434, 1359, 1236, 1013, 755. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 9.61 (brs, 1H), 8.62

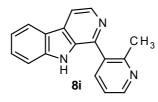
(d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (dd, J = 4.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.5, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 157.9, 147.6, 142.1, 141.5, 140.5, 139.7, 139.5, 133.7, 129.7, 128.6, 122.0, 121.8, 120.2, 117.2, 113.6, 111.8, 44.6 (2C), 12.5 (2C). HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 317.2 [M + H]⁺, *t*_R 9.213 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₀H₂₁N₄ [M + H]⁺ 317.1758, found: 317.1766.

1-[2-(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridy]-(9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1-yl)pyridin-2-amine 8h



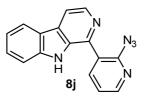
A solution of *i*PrMgCl·LiCl (1.3 M in THF, 3.8 mL, 5 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 1 methylpiperazine (500 mg, 5 mmol, 0.5 mL) in dry THF (15 mL), at 0 °C and under an atmosphere of dry argon. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then 15 min at 25 °C before being added to a solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred 1 h at 25 °C until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/EtOH (9:1)) to give **8h** as a yellow oil (106 mg, 0.31 mmol, 62%). IR (NaCl) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3270, 3058, 2938, 2846, 1667, 1625, 1433, 1140, 1007, 938, 781, 745. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 9.61 (brs, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (dd, *J* = 4.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.28–3.14 (m, 4H), 2.30–2.17 (m, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 158.1, 147.8, 142.2, 140.9, 140.3, 139.7, 133.4, 129.9, 128.8, 125.3, 121.9, 121.8, 120.3, 118.1, 114.0, 111.8, 54.8 (2C), 49.5 (2C), 45.9. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 344.2 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 3.371 min (98%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₂N₅ [M + H]⁺ 344.1870, found: 344.1874

1-(2-Methyl-3-pyridyl]-(9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8i



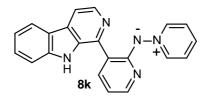
A solution of CH₃MgBr (1.0 M in dibutyl ether, 2.0 mL, 2 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at 0 °C and under an atmosphere of dry argon. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then at 25 °C 24 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/EtOH (99:1)) to give **8i** as a yellow semisolid (62 mg, 0.24 mmol, 48%). IR (KBr) umax (cm–1) 3391, 2922, 2852, 1644, 1428, 1365, 1319, 1239, 1102, 746. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 8.62 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.31 (ddd *J* = 7.9, 6.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 157.6, 149.7, 142.9, 142.1, 139.5, 138.3, 135.6, 134.3, 131.3, 129.9, 122.9, 122.7, 122.1, 121.0, 115.8, 112.9, 22.3. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 260.1 [M + H]⁺, *t*_R 6.559 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁/H₁A_N [M + H]⁺ 260.1182, found: 260.1190.

1-(2-Azido-3-pyridyl]-(9H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole 8j



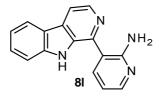
NaN₃ (163 mg, 2.5 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (6 mL) at 0 °C and under an atmosphere of dry argon. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min and then at 50 °C 24 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated under reduced pressure to supply a yellow solid, purified by washing and filtration from MeCN. Yellow solid (86 mg, 0.23 mmol, 60%). Mp: 177–180° C. IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3102, 3056, 2922, 2853, 1525, 1499, 1402, 1294, 1212, 1136, 1108. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 12.49 (brs, 1H), 9.08 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.91 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (at, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 147.4, 140.9, 138.9, 134.8, 133.5, 131.1, 132.1, 129.0, 127.4, 124.5, 121.4, 121.1, 120.1, 117.7, 115.9, 112.5. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 257.2 [M – N₂]⁺, *t*_R 9.423 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₁N₆ [M + H]⁺ 287.1038, found: 287.1040.

N-[3-(9*H*-Pyrido[3,4-*b*]indol-1-yl)pyridin-2-yl]pyridinium aminide 8k



A suspension of *N*-aminopyridinium iodide (167 mg, 0.75 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (207 mg, 1.5 mmol) in MeCN (4 mL) at 25 °C and under an atmosphere of dry argon was stirred for 45 min. Then, a solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in MeCN (2 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was dissolved in ethyl acetate (10 mL), vigorously stirred and treated again with an excess of solid K₂CO₃. The inorganic salts were filtered and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate (1:1)) supply **8k** as a brown semisolid (89 mg, 0.26 mmol, 53%). IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3433, 2918, 2850, 1623, 1454, 1401, 1229, 748. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 8.86 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93–7.90 (m, 3H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 5.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 161.0, 148.2, 146.7, 142.8, 142.1, 141.2, 140.6, 138.5, 135.9, 131.3, 129.7 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 122.6, 122.5, 120.9, 120.4, 115.3, 114.2, 113.0. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 338.2 [M + H]⁺, *t*_R 4.207 min (96%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₅ [M + H]⁺ 338.1198, found: 338.1400.

3-(9H-Pyrido[3,4-b]indol-1-yl)pyridin-2-amine 8l



A suspension of *N*-aminopyridinium iodide (833 mg, 3.75 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (345 mg, 2.5 mmol) in MeCN (4 mL) at 25 °C and under an atmosphere of dry argon was stirred for 1 h, and CH₃I (156 μ L, 355 mg, 2.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 30 min. Then, K₂CO₃ (207 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added and after stirring 30 min at the same temperature, a solution of **6** (154 mg, 0.5 mmol) in MeCN (2 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h, until full consumption of **6** (TLC analysis). The reaction was warmed to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was dissolved glacial acetic acid (10 mL), vigorously stirred and treated with zinc dust (1.44 g, 22.1 mmol) for 2 h at 25°C. When almost all the zinc had disappeared, another portion of zinc (504 mg,

7.75 mmol) was added and the mixture was kept stirring, at the same temperature, 16 h more. The resulting suspension was passed through a cellite column, and eluted with acetic acid. The eluate was dissolved in EtOAc, neutralized with solid NaHCO₃, the inorganic salts were filtered and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate (1:1)) supply **8k** as a white solid (77 mg, 0.30 mmol, 59%). IR (KBr) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3464, 1624, 1606, 1565, 1454, 1230, 744. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.96 (brs, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17–8.11 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (brs, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 156.5, 148.0, 140.3, 140.2, 138.6, 137.4, 133.6, 130.2, 128.6, 121.6 (2C), 120.3, 117.1, 114.0, 113.9, 111.7. HPLC-Ms (ES-API) 261.2 [M + H]⁺, *t_R* 5.462 min (100%). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₄ [M + H]⁺ 261.1134, found: 261.1135.

X-ray crystallographic data for 2b and 6

Colourless crystals of 2b and 6 were obtained from recrystallization processes in acetone and dichloromethane respectively. The crystals were covered with a layer of a viscous perfluoropolyether (FomblinY). Suitable crystals were selected with the aid of a microscope, mounted on a cryoloop, and placed in the low temperature nitrogen stream of the diffractometer. The intensity data sets were collected at 200 K on a Bruker-Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryostream 700 unit. Crystallographic data are presented in Table S1. The structures were solved, using the WINGX package,²⁷ by intrinsic phasing methods (SHELXT),²⁸ and refined by least-squares against F² (SHELXL-2014/7).²⁹ In the crystallographic study of 2b and 6 all non-hydrogen atoms were anisotropically refined, whereas hydrogen atoms were included, positioned geometrically and refined by using a riding model.

	2b	6
$CCDC^a$ code	1897908	1897274
Formula	$C_{16}H_{10}BrN_3O_2S$	$C_{16}H_9N_3O_2S$
$M_{ m r}$	388.24	307.32
<i>T</i> [K]	200(2)	200(2)
λ[Å]	0.71073	0.71073
crystal system	Triclinic	Orthorhombic
space group	<i>P</i> -1	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$
<i>a</i> [Å]; α [°]	8.325(1); 65.08(1)	5.168(1)
<i>b</i> [Å]; β [°]	9.840(1); 71.70(1)	15.659(1)
<i>c</i> [Å]; γ [°]	11.187(1); 67.23(1)	15.934(1)
V [Å ³]	753.7(2)	1289.5(2)
Z	2	4
$ ho_{ m calcd} [m g cm^{-3}]$	1.711	1.583
$\mu_{MoK\alpha} [mm^{-1}]$	2.878	0.262
<i>F(000)</i>	388	632
crystal size [mm ³]	0.30×0.30×0.31	0.15×0.18×0.27
θ range (deg)	3.03 to 27.50	3.65 to 27.50
index ranges	-10 to 10,	-6 to 6,
	-12 to 12,	-20 to 20,
	-14 to 14	-20 to 20
Reflections collected	24452	18859
Unique data	$3451 [R_{int} = 0.107]$	2968 $[R_{int} = 0.074]$
obsd data [I> $2\sigma(I)$]	2972	2401
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.087	1.087
final R^a indices [I>2 σ (I)]	R1 = 0.036,	R1 = 0.044,
	wR2 = 0.082	wR2 = 0.084
R^b indices (all data)	R1 = 0.047,	R1 = 0.069,
2	wR2 = 0.088	wR2 = 0.094
largest diff. peak/hole[e.Å ⁻³]	0.859/-0.798	0.231/-0.277

Table S1. Experimental Data for the X-ray Diffraction Study on 2b and 6.

^{*a*}Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. ^{*b*}R1 = $\Sigma ||F_0| - |F_c|| / [\Sigma|F_0|]$, wR2 = {[$\Sigma w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2$] / [$\Sigma w(F_0^2)^2$]}^{1/2}

²⁷ L. J. Farrugia, J. Appl. Crystallogr., 2012, 45, 849.

²⁸ G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Crystallogr. Sect. A, 2015, 71, 3.

²⁹ G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Crystallogr. Sect. C, 2015, 71, 3.

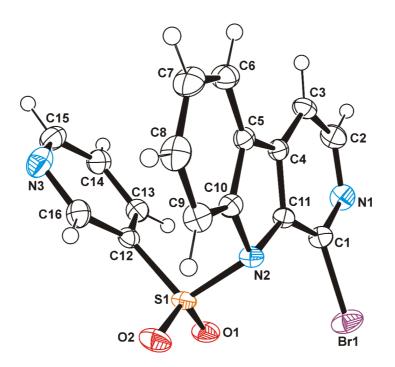
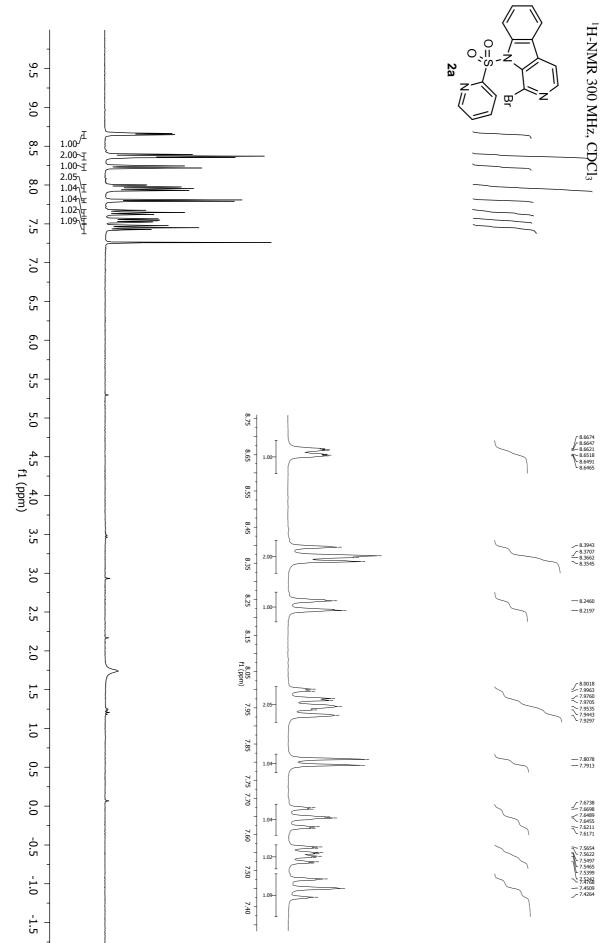
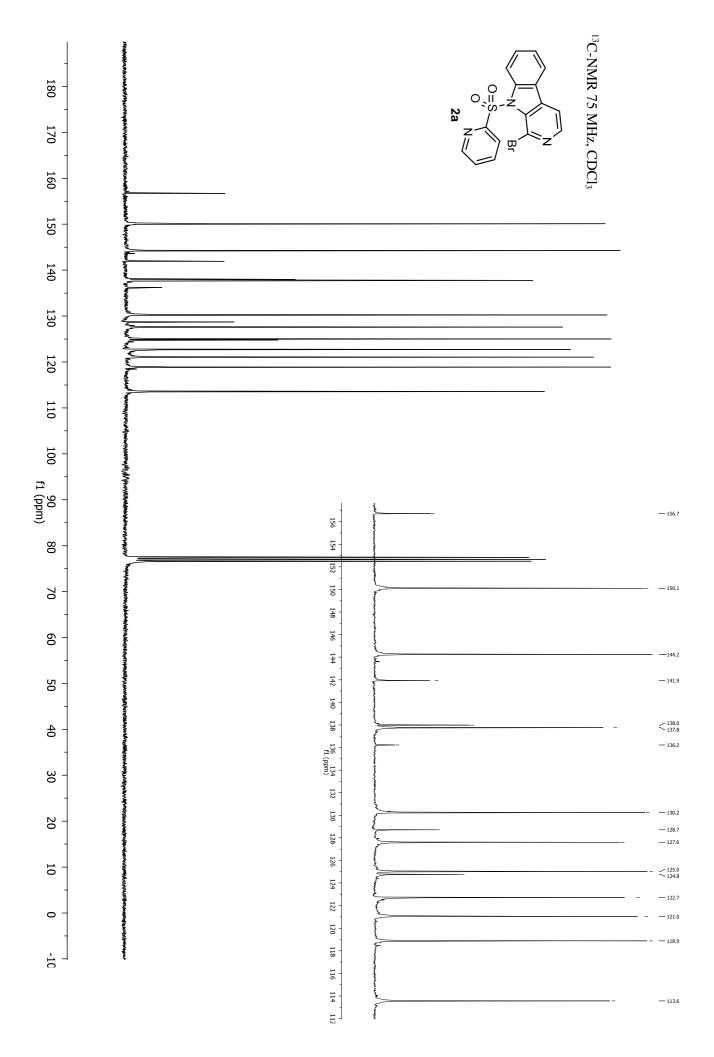
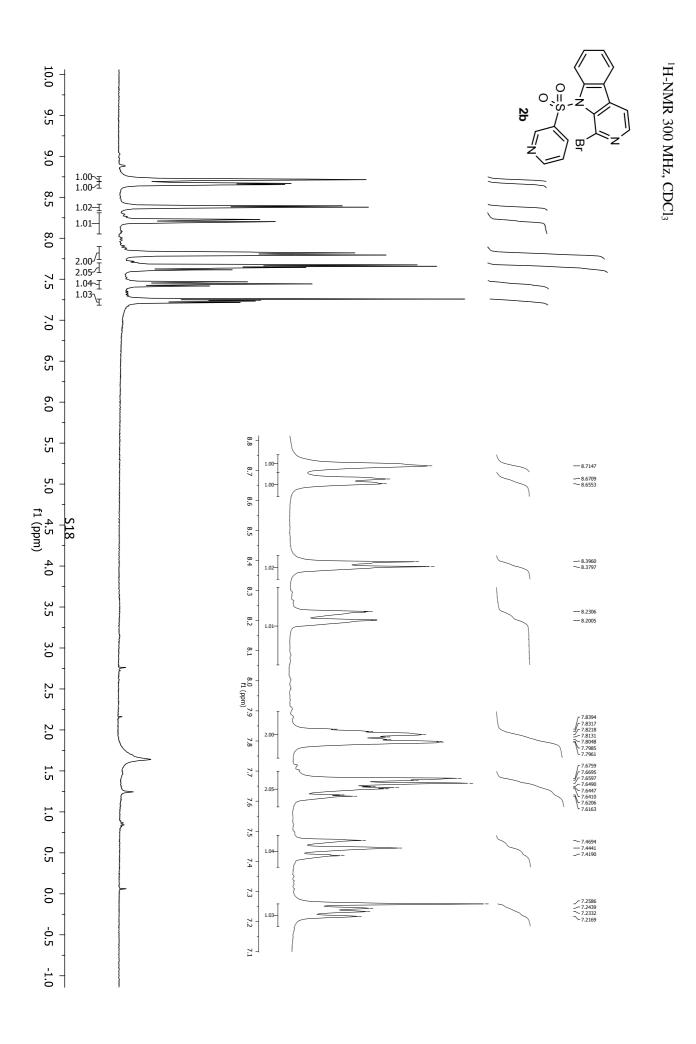


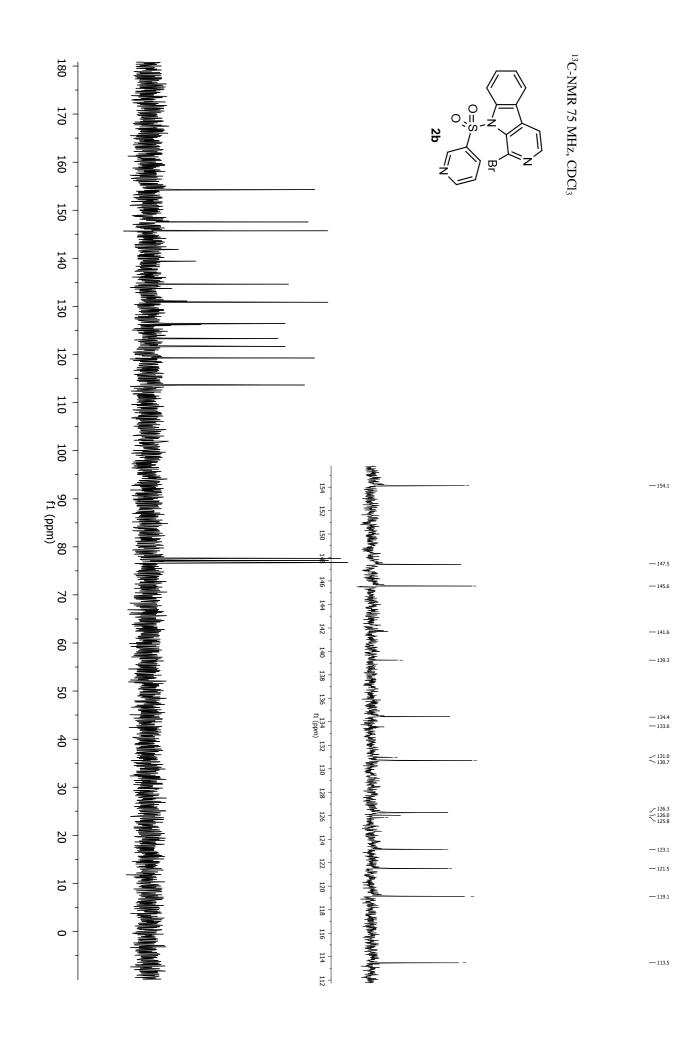
Figure S1. ORTEP diagram for compound 2b. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

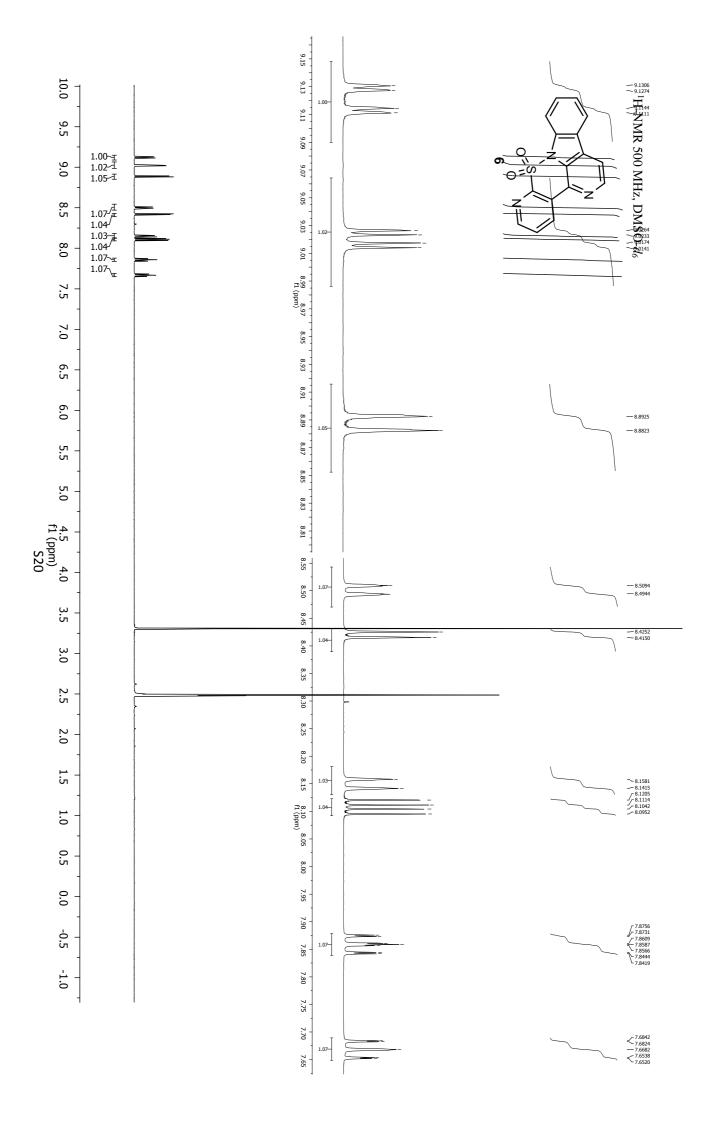
Copies of ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra for compounds **2a,b, 6**, and **8a–l**

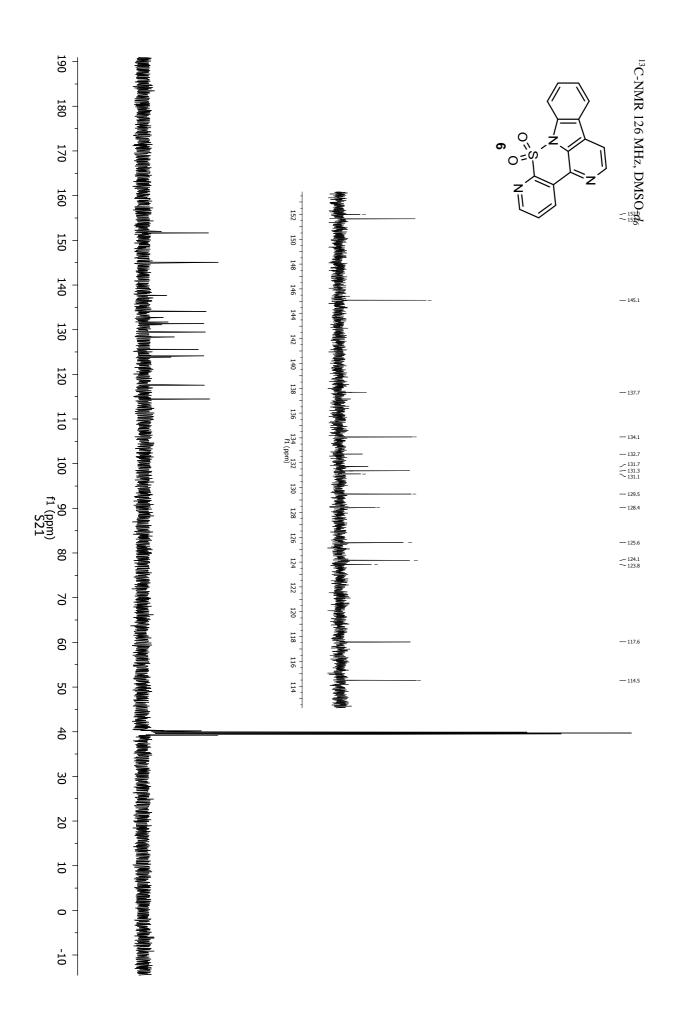


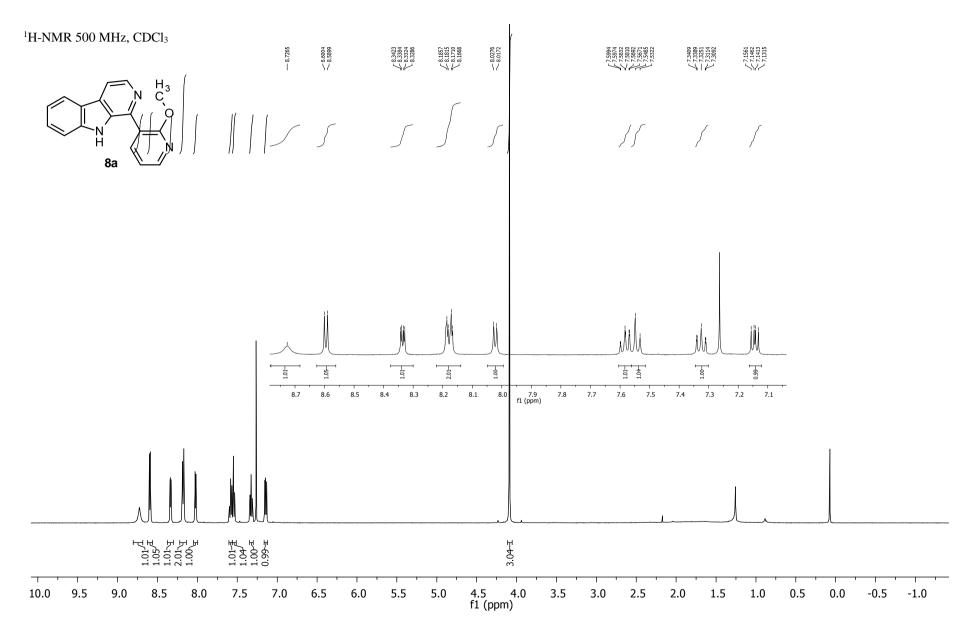


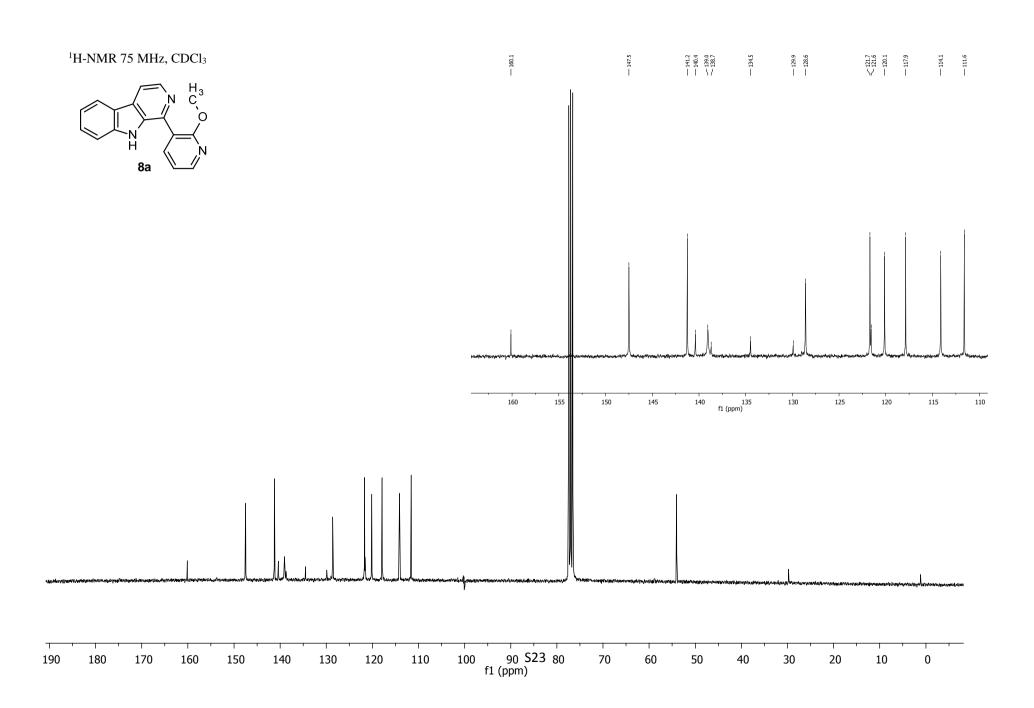


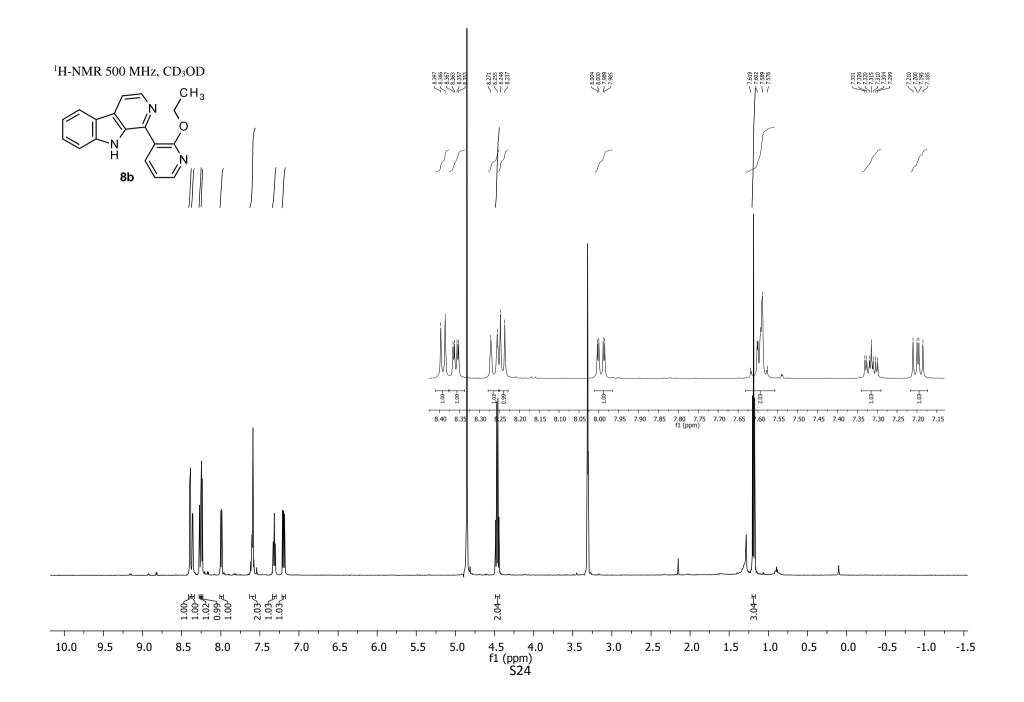


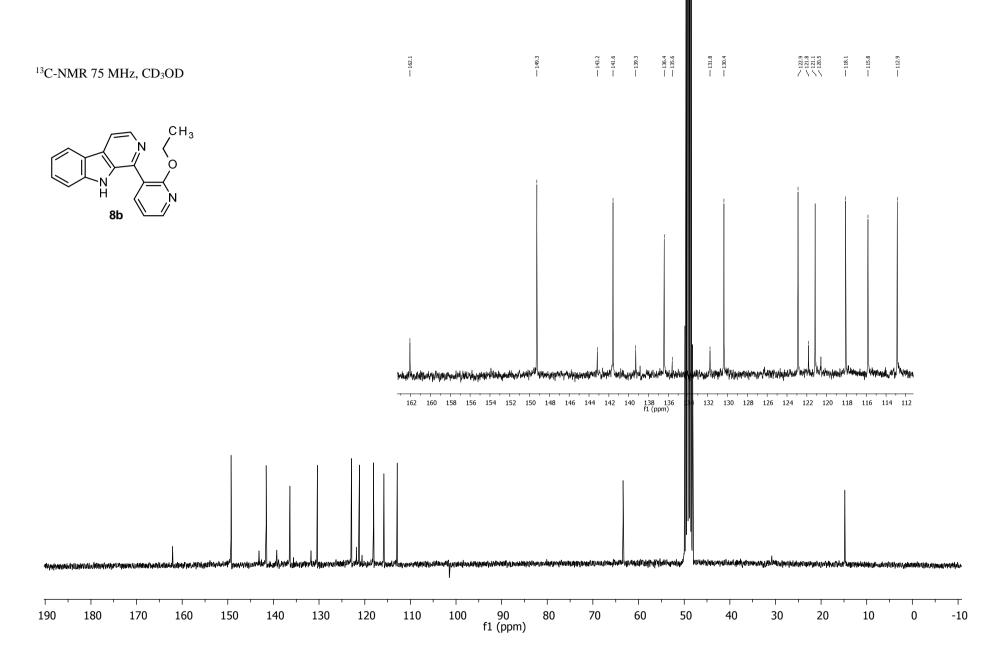


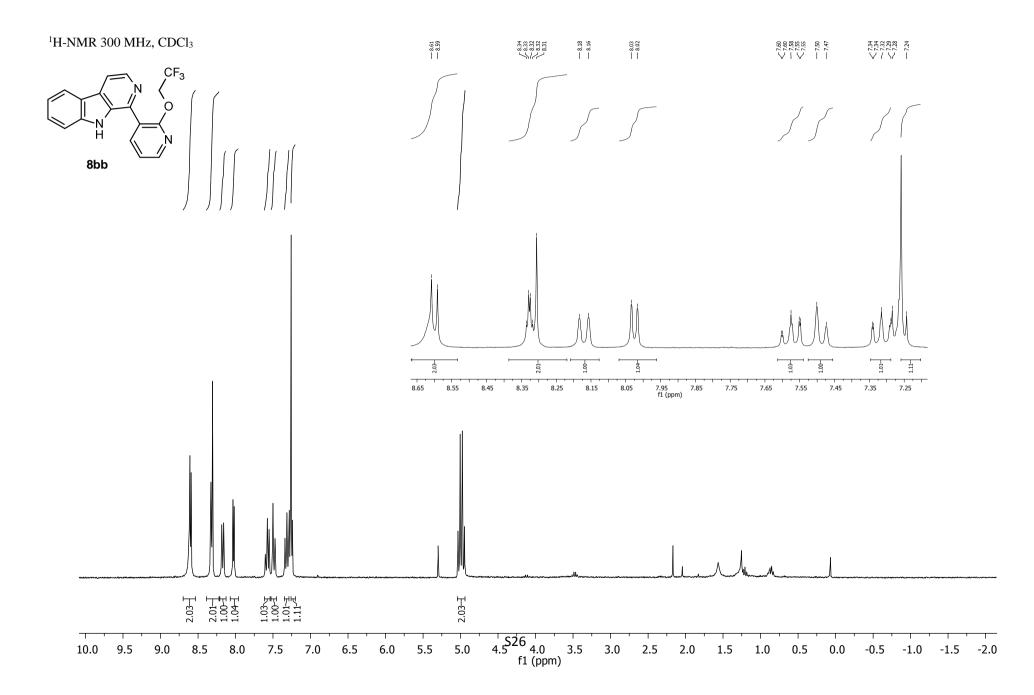




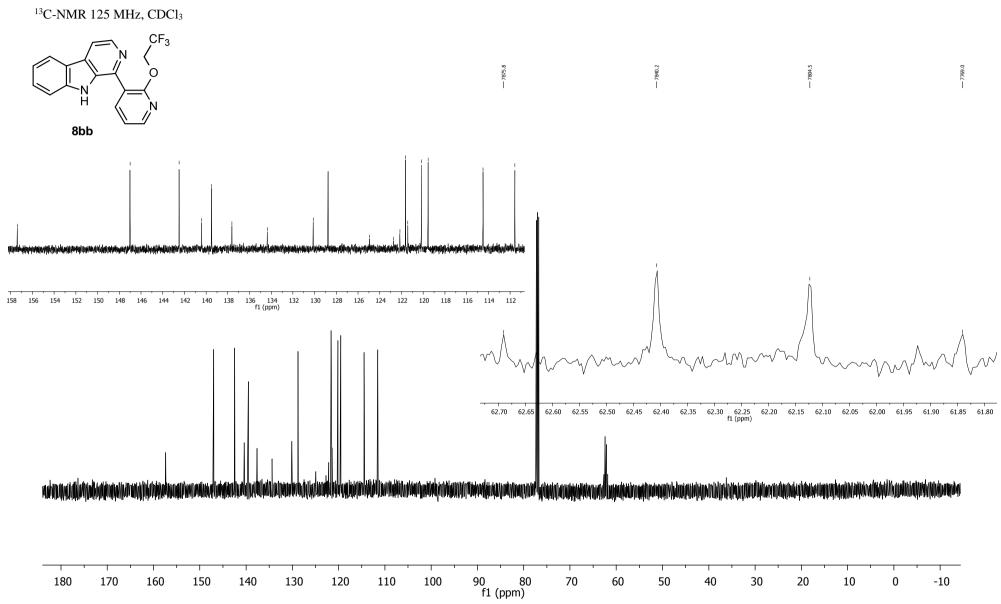


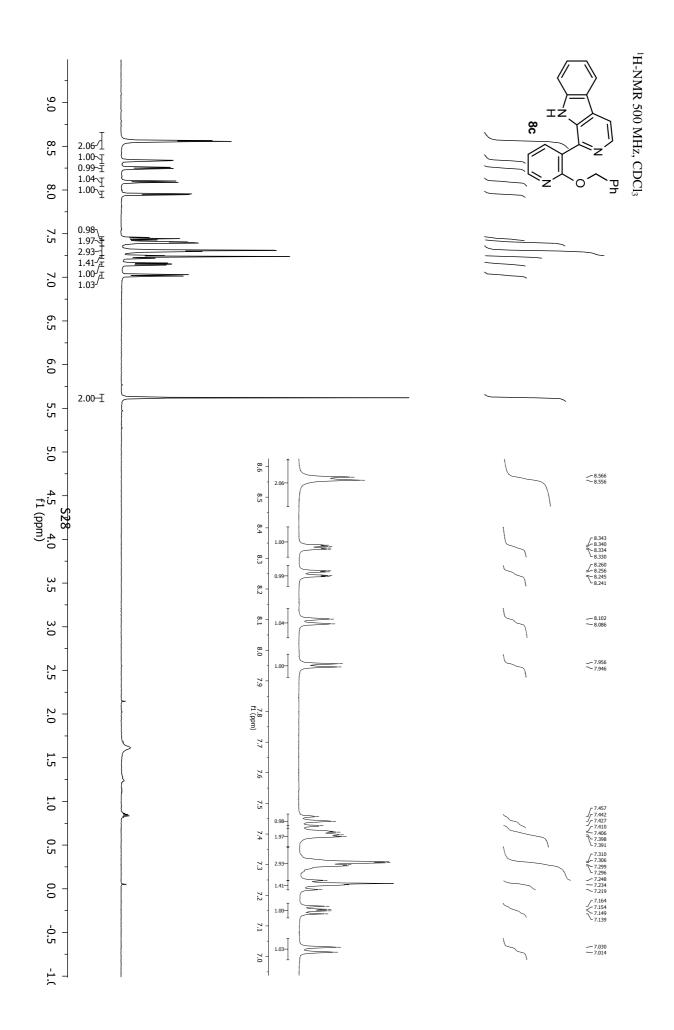


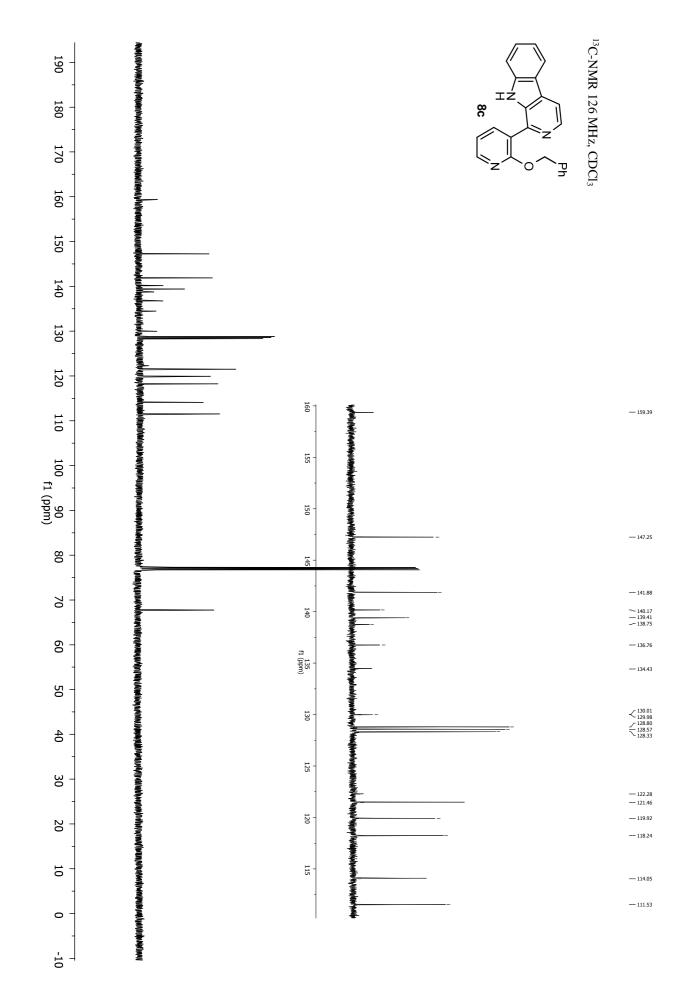


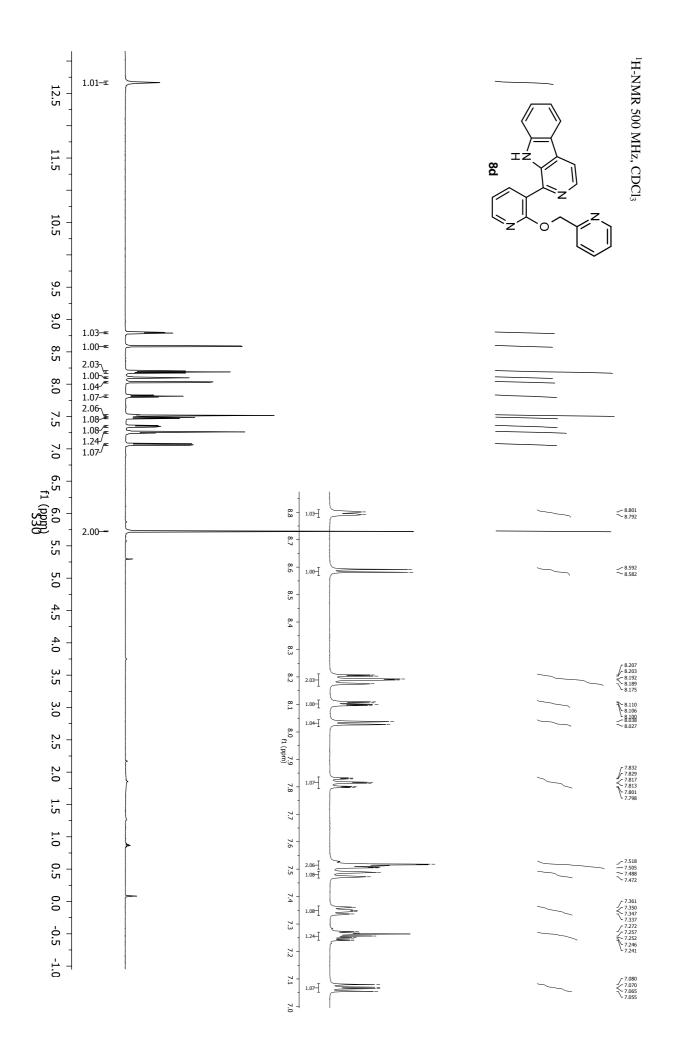


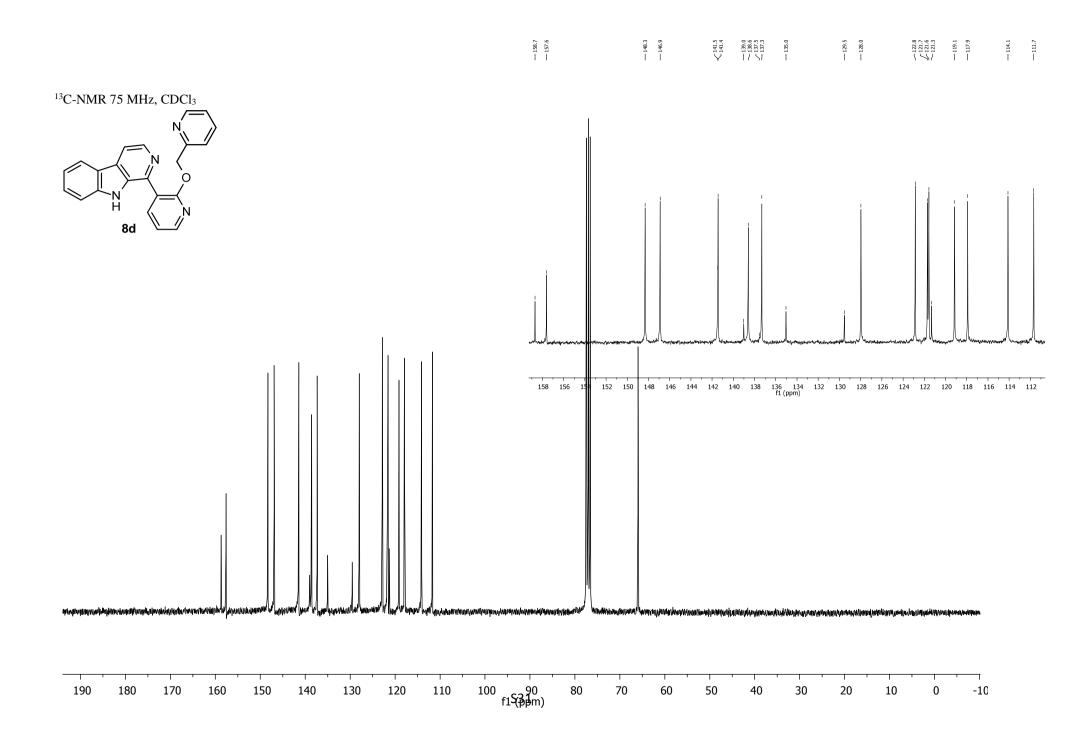
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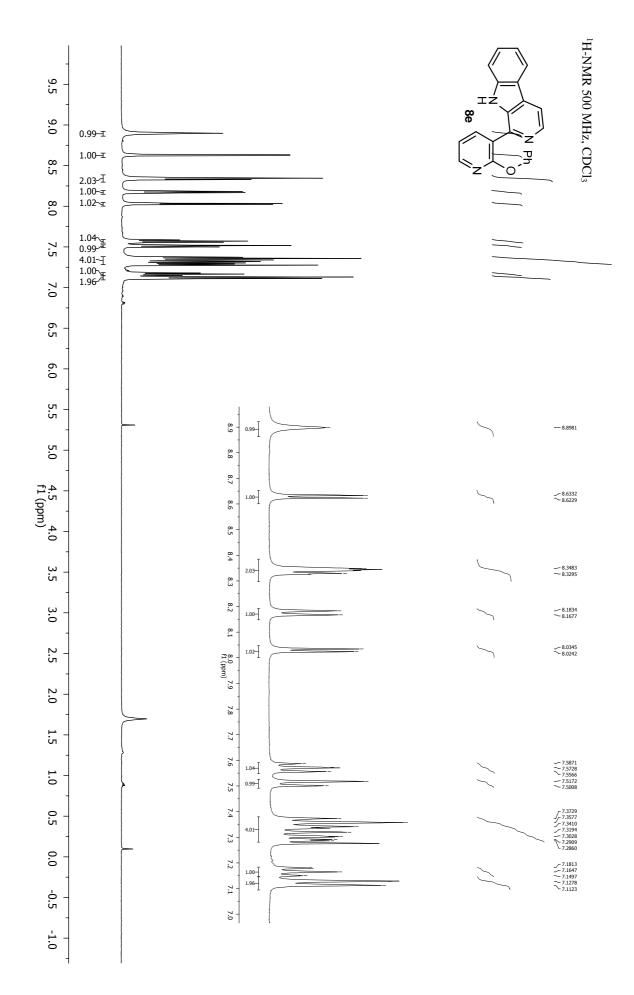


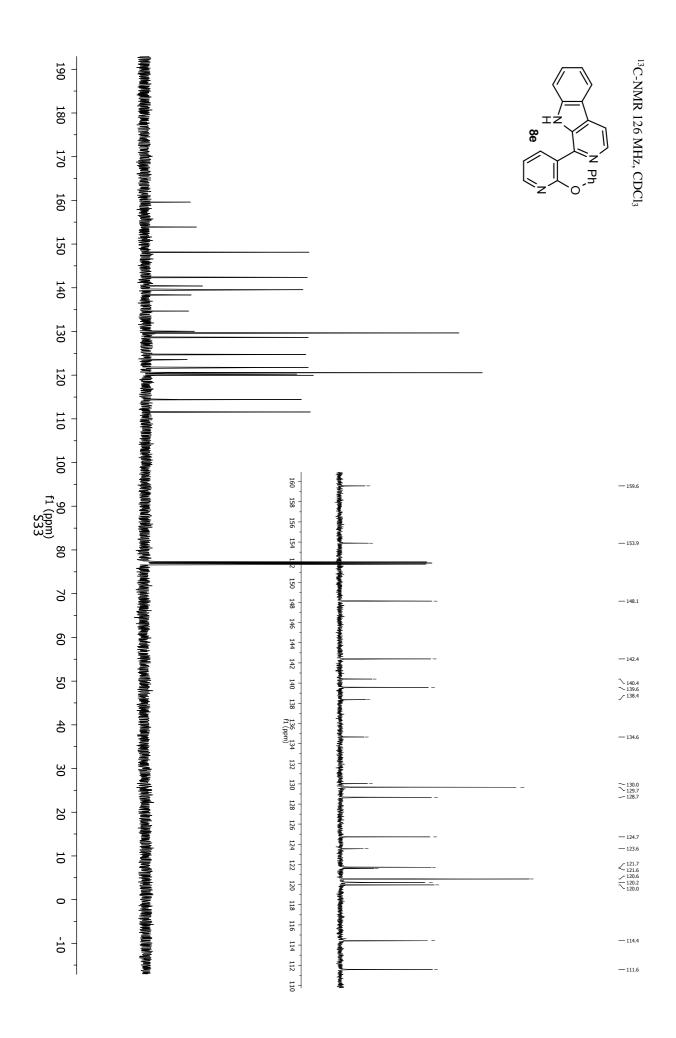


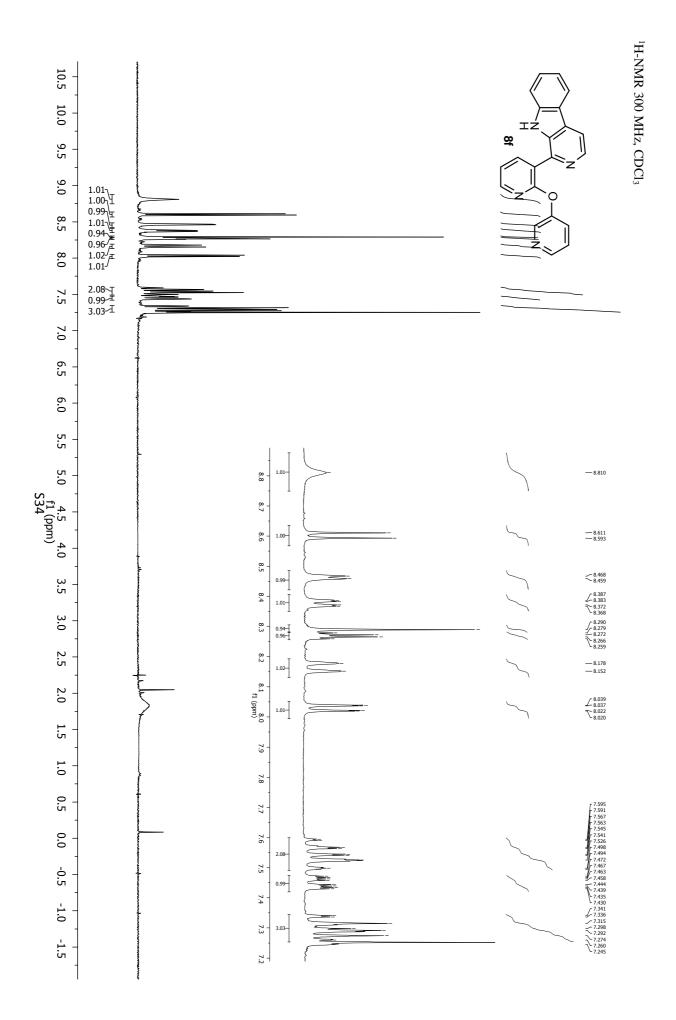


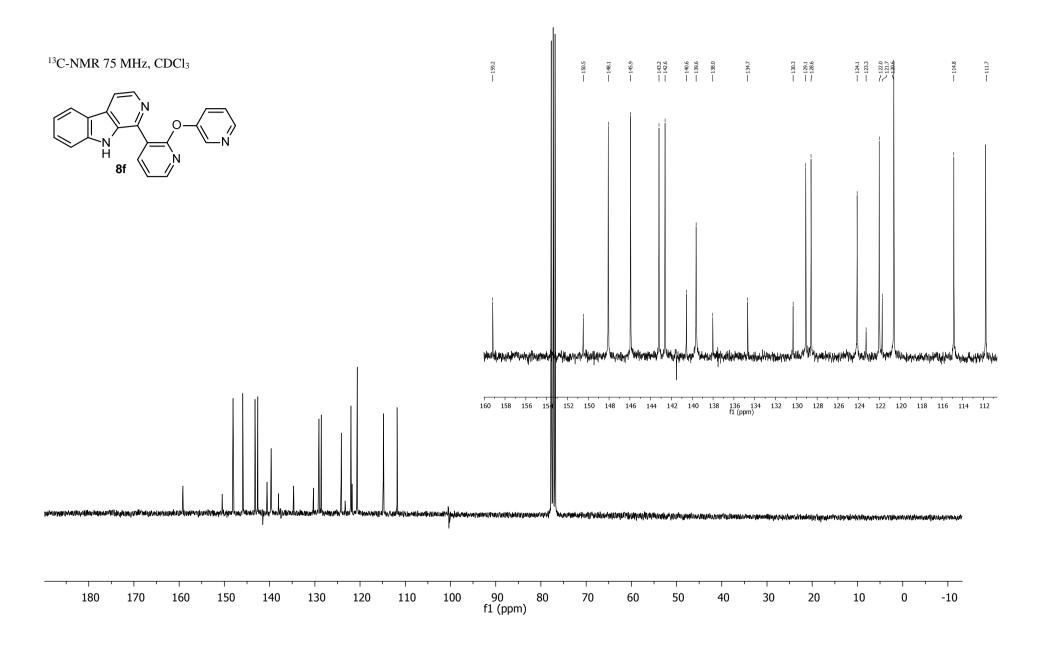


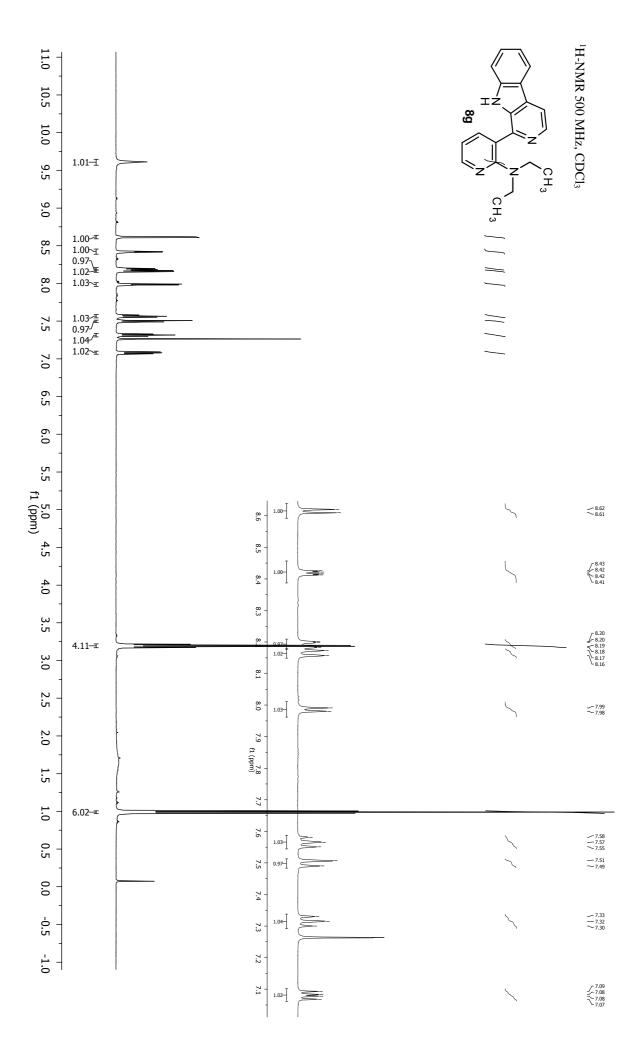


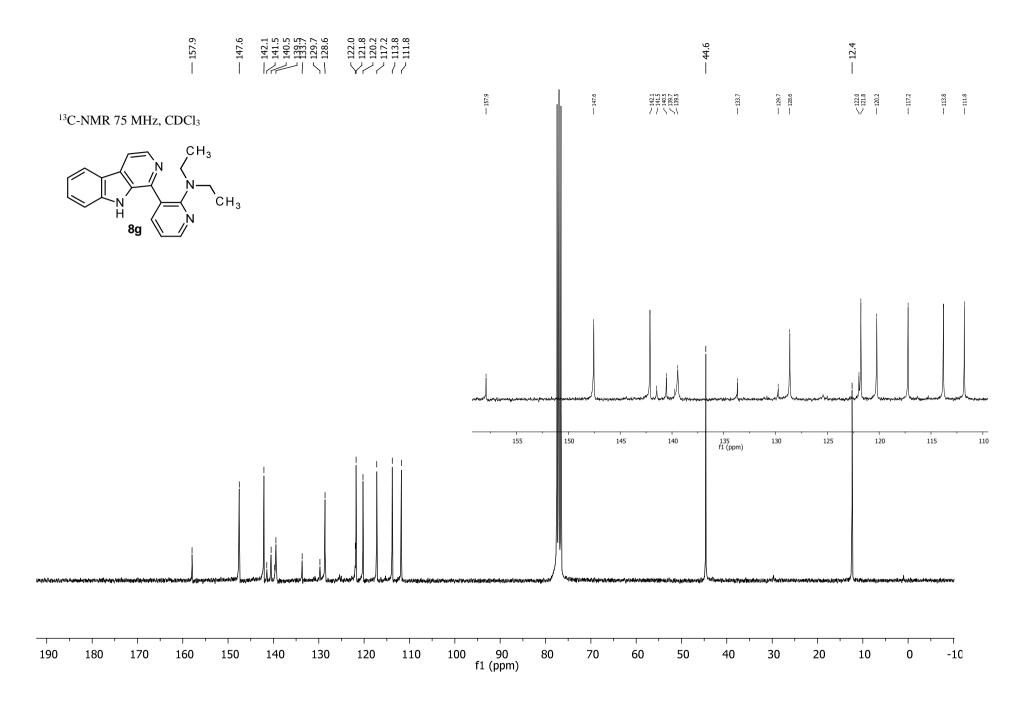


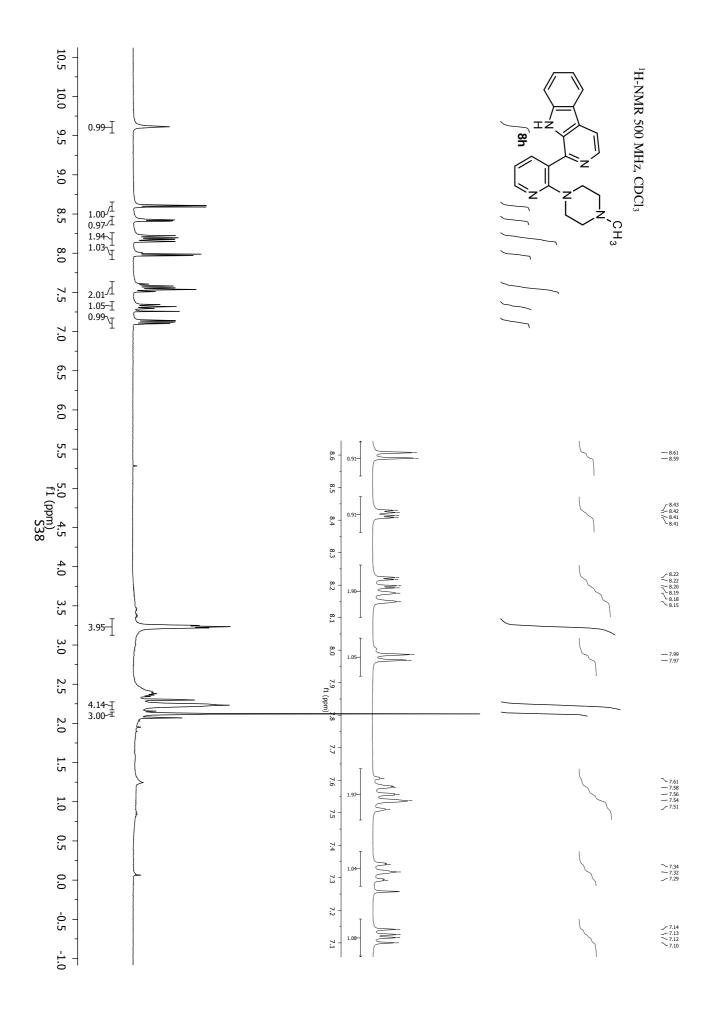


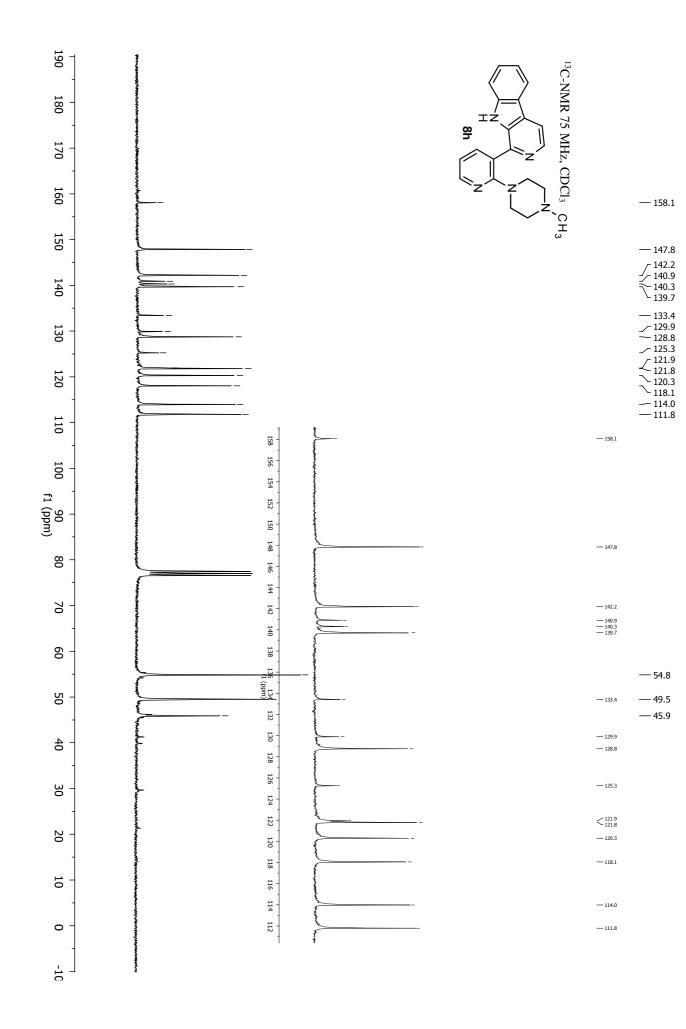


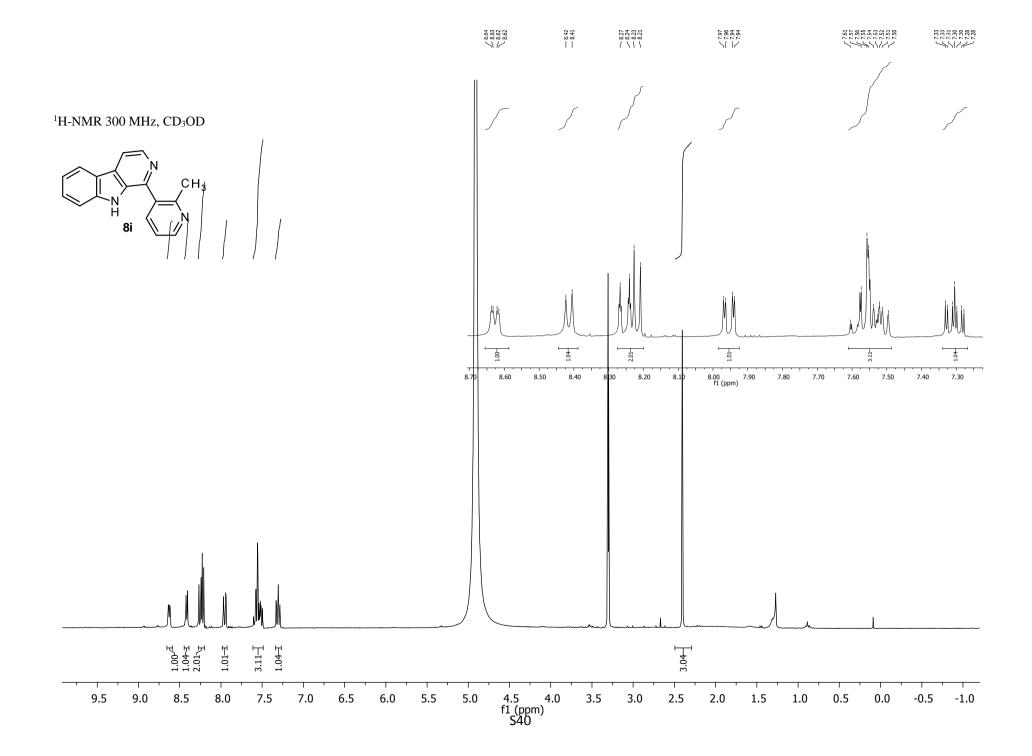


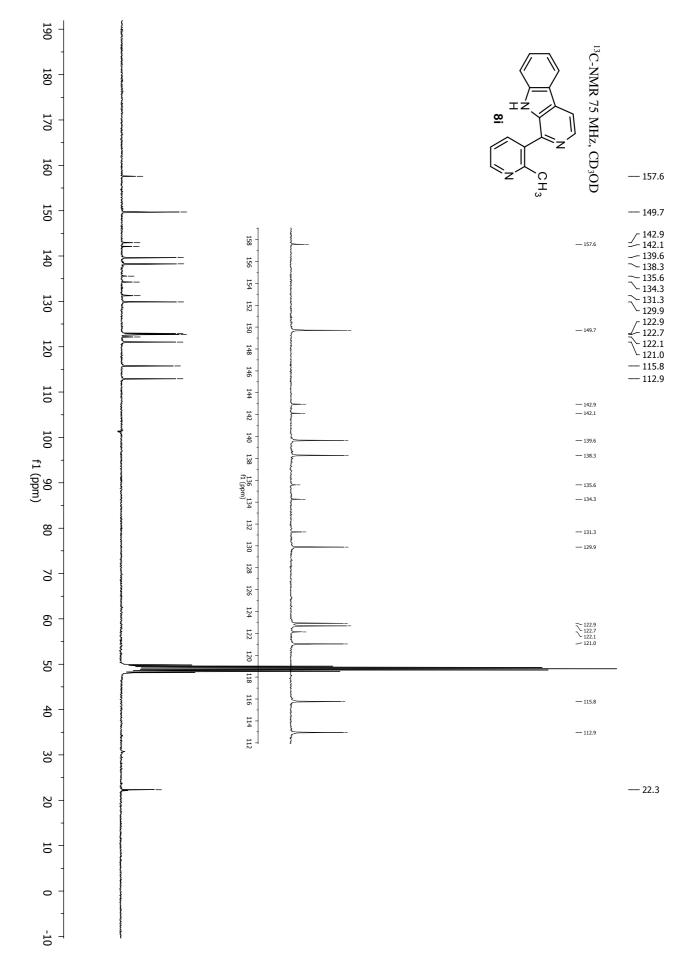


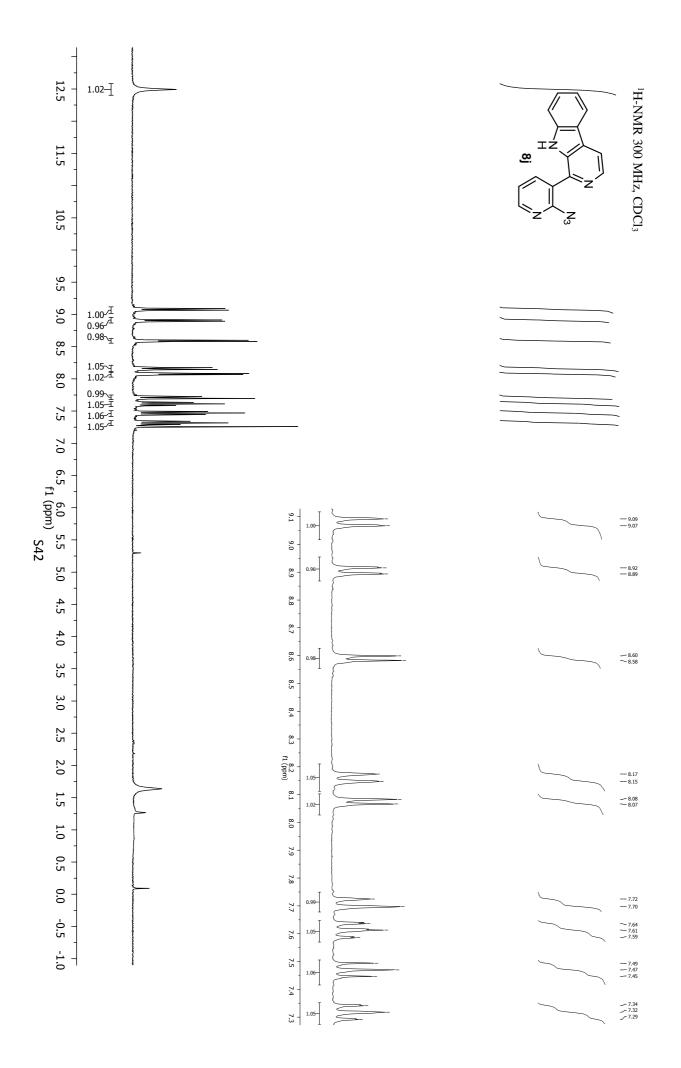


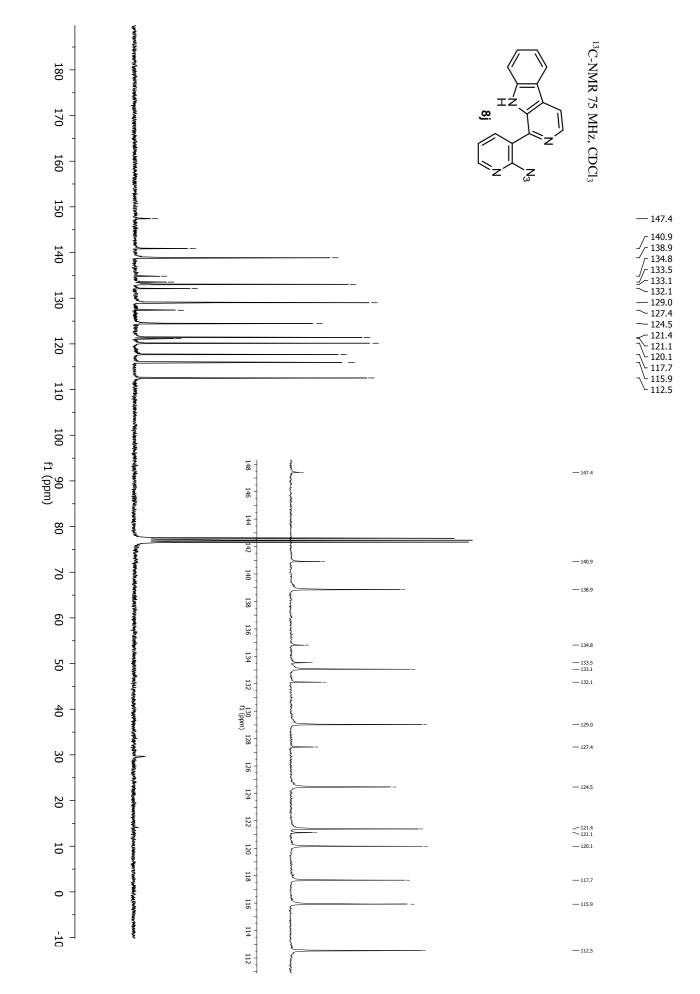


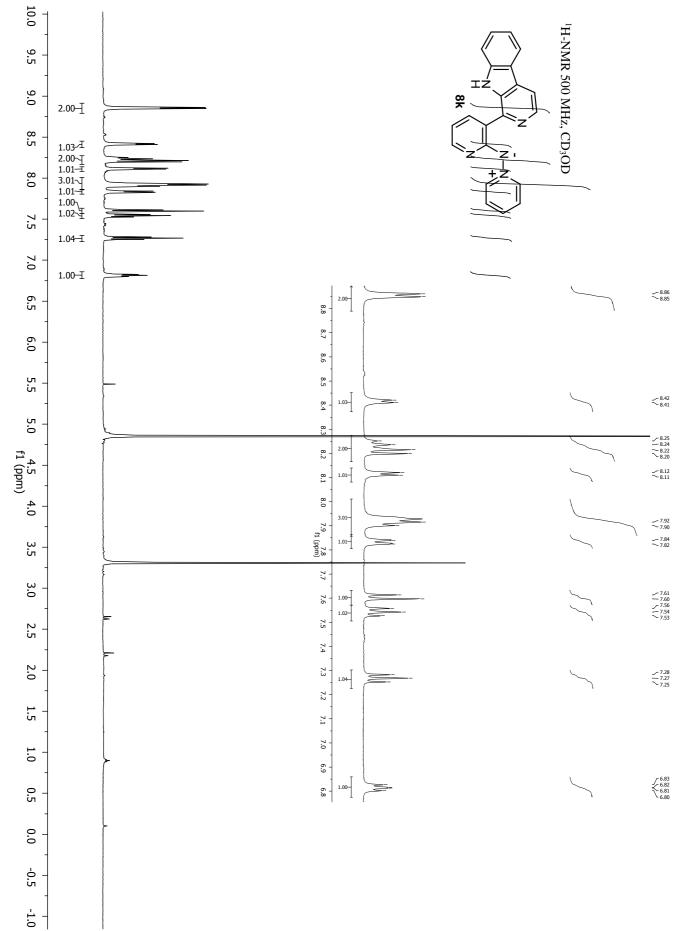


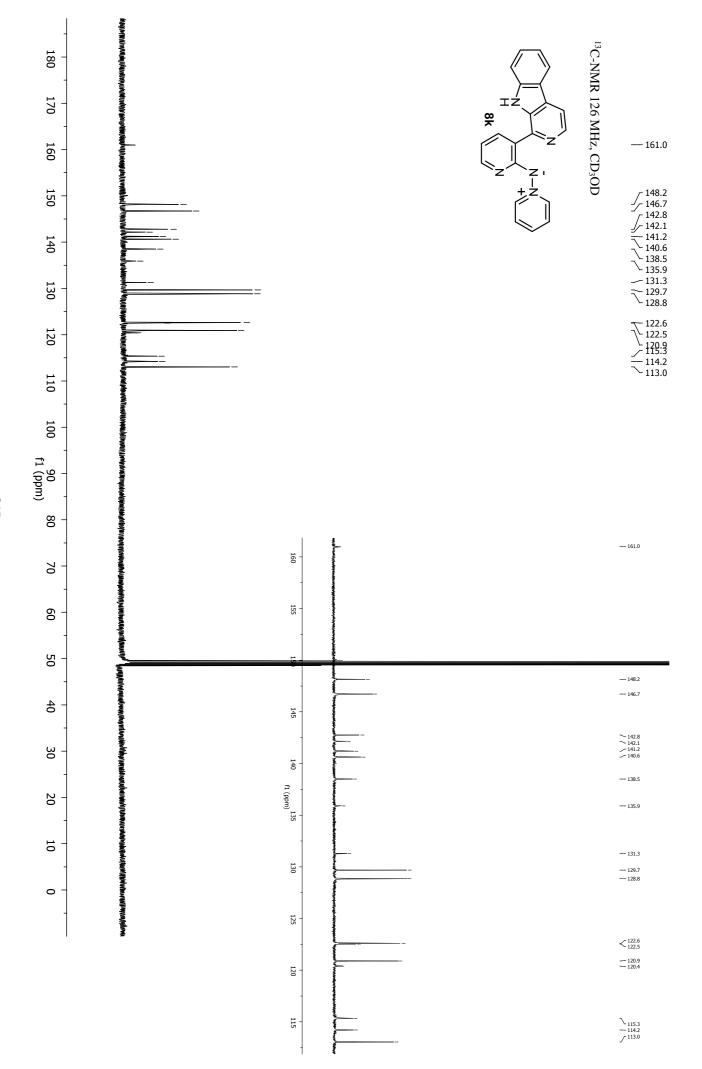


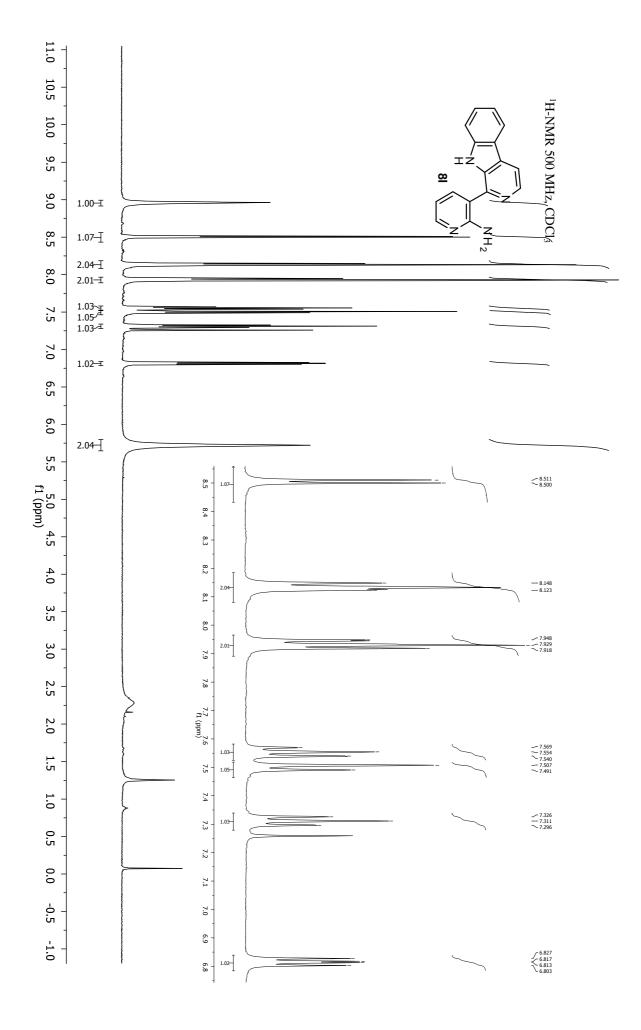


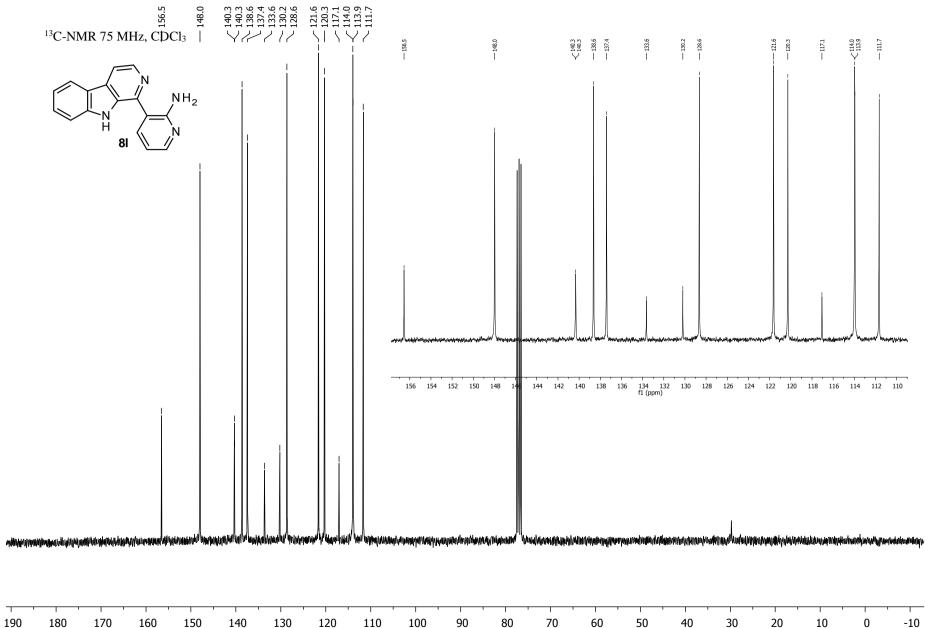














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