Electronic Supplementary Information

The decarboxylative C-H heteroarylation of azoles catalyzed by nickel catalysts to access unsymmetrical biheteroaryls

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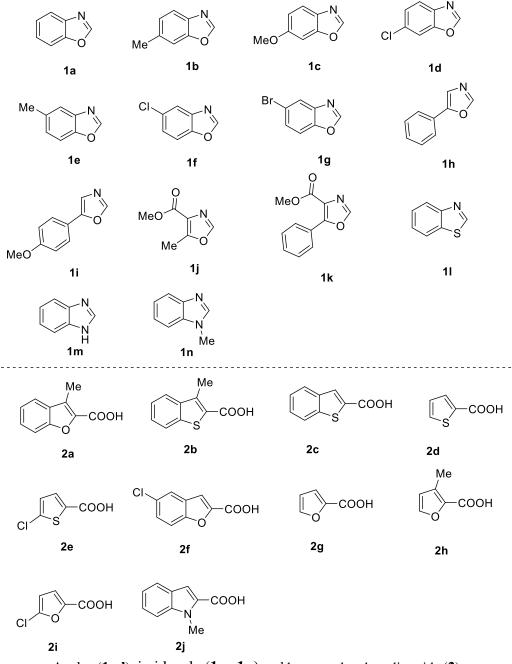
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I. General Information

All the solvents and commercially available reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used directly. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on EMD precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254, Art 5715) and visualized by fluorescence quenching under UV light. Column chromatography was performed on EMD Silica Gel 60 (200–300 Mesh) using a forced flow of 0.5–1.0 bar. Melting points were measured by an X4-A microscopic melting point apparatus. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AVANCE III–500, 400 or 300 spectrometers. ¹H NMR data were reported as: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), and integration. ¹³C NMR data were reported in terms of chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, and coupling constant (Hz). Mass (HRMS) analysis was obtained using Agilent 6200 Accurate-Mass TOF LC/MS system with Electrospray Ionization (ESI).

II. Experimental Section

Starting materials:



Azoles (1a-l), imidazole (1m-1n) and heteroaryl carboxylic acids (2)

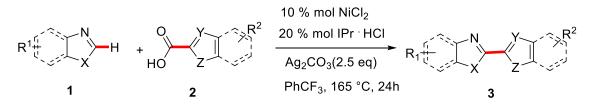
Azoles (1a-1b, 1d-1h, 1l) and benzoic acids (2) were purchased from Adamas-beta, TCI, Alfa Aesar and J&K[@]. Imidazole (1m-1n) were purchased from Adamas-beta. Azoles (1c)

was prepared from condensation of the corresponding 2-aminophenols and triethyl orthoformate according to the reported procedure.¹ Azoles (**1i**) was prepared from *p*-toluenesulfonylmethylisocyanide and the corresponding benzaldehyde in methanol according to the reported procedure.² Azoles (**1j** and **1k**) were prepared from methyl 2-isocyanoacetate and the corresponding anhydrides in THF according to the reported procedure.³

Optimization of the reaction conditions for the decarboxylative arylation

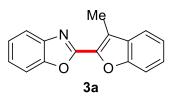
A 35 mL oven-dried pressure tube was charged with benzoxazole (**1a**, 0.2 mmol), 3methylbenzofuran-2-carboxylic acid (0.6 mmol), Ni source (0.02 mmol), ligand (0.04 mmol), Ag₂CO₃ (0.5 mmol) and solvent (1.5 mL). The tube was then sealed and stirred vigorously at 160 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (15 mL), filtered through a pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo, and the crude product was analyzed by ¹H NMR in CDCl₃. Yields and conversions are based on **1a**, determined by crude ¹H NMR using dibromomethane as the internal standard. And the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of 10% DCM in petroleum ether, v/v) to yield the product **3a**.

General procedure for the scope study

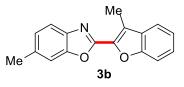


A 35 mL oven-dried pressure tube was charged with azoles (1, 0.2 mmol), heteroaryl carboxylic acids (2, 0.6 mmol), NiCl₂ (2.6 mg, 0.02 mmol), IPr HCl (17 mg, 0.04 mmol), Ag₂CO₃ (138 mg, 0.5 mmol) and PhCF₃ (1.5 mL). The tube was then sealed and stirred vigorously at 165 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (15 mL), filtered through a pad of Celite, and then the filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient eluent of 10% DCM in petroleum ether, v/v) to give the desired product **3**.

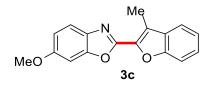
Data of compounds



White solid, 34.9 mg, yield: 70%, m.p. 97-98 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 2.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.18, 154.84, 150.04, 141.55, 139.29, 129.42, 126.94, 125.33, 124.86, 123.22, 121.64, 120.47, 120.18, 111.80, 110.59, 9.13. HRMS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₁₆H₁₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 250.0863, found: 250.0862.

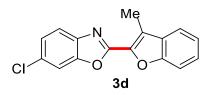


White solid, 35.2 mg, yield: 67% (known compound⁴). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 – 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.46 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.92, 154.98, 150.55, 139.67, 139.54, 136.09, 129.68, 126.96, 126.30, 123.35, 121.27, 120.59, 119.69, 111.97, 110.91, 21.97, 9.26.

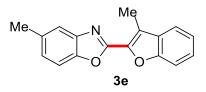


White solid, 27.9 mg, yield: 50%, m.p. 127-128 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (dd, J = 17.4, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.69 - 6.87 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.77, 157.11, 155.00, 144.90, 142.64, 139.59, 129.66, 127.07, 123.40, 121.55, 120.64,

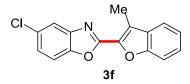
114.24, 111.99, 110.90, 103.04, 56.06, 9.29. HRMS (ESI, *m*/*z*): calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 280.0968, found: 280.0972.



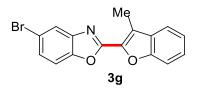
White solid, 35.7 mg, yield: 63%, m.p. 98-99 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 - 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.46 - 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.37 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.01, 155.14, 150.44, 140.59, 139.07, 131.12, 129.54, 127.42, 125.82, 123.55, 122.53, 120.79, 120.78, 112.07, 111.44, 9.35. HRMS (ESI, *m*/*z*): calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁ClNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 284.0473, found: 284.0469.



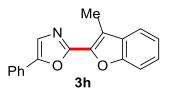
White solid, 39.5 mg, yield: 75%, m.p. 120-121 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 - 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.51, 155.04, 148.55, 141.92, 139.69, 134.96, 129.69, 127.06, 126.70, 123.40, 121.53, 120.65, 120.27, 112.02, 110.13, 21.66, 9.30. HRMS (ESI, *m*/*z*): calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 264.1019, found: 264.1018.



White solid, 34.5 mg, yield: 61%, m.p. 100-102 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 17.3, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.49, 154.01, 147.70, 141.76, 137.89, 129.42, 128.36, 126.33, 124.62, 122.41, 121.64, 119.66, 119.10, 110.92, 110.32, 8.20. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁ClNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 284.0473, found: 284.0472.



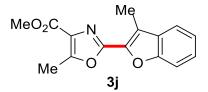
Yellow solid, 39.2 mg, yield: 60%, m.p. 142-143 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 19.7, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 - 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.41, 155.14, 149.24, 143.35, 138.96, 129.48, 128.47, 127.47, 123.54, 123.24, 122.83, 120.79, 117.83, 112.05, 111.94, 9.34. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁BrNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 327.9968, found: 327.9973.



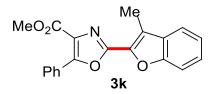
White solid, 31.9 mg, yield: 58%, m.p. 105-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 - 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.49 - 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.42 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.90, 154.69, 151.29, 139.97, 129.81, 129.15, 128.81, 127.78, 126.44, 124.46, 123.61, 123.26, 120.37, 118.58, 111.88, 9.07. Ms (ESI): *m*/*z* = 276.1 [M + H⁺]. HRMS (ESI, *m*/*z*): calcd. for C₁₈H₁₄NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 276.1091, found: 276.1090.



White solid, 36.6 mg, yield: 60%, m.p. 122-123 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40 - 7.28 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.13, 154.63, 154.31, 151.37, 140.08, 129.86, 126.28, 126.03, 123.21, 122.09, 120.62, 120.29, 118.09, 114.61, 111.82, 55.52, 9.03. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 306.1125, found: 306.1120.

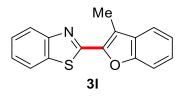


White solid, 34.1 mg, yield: 63%, m.p. 110-112 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.80, 156.26, 154.69, 153.32, 139.02, 129.60, 128.73, 126.72, 123.34, 120.53, 119.54, 111.91, 52.17, 29.84, 12.27, 9.08. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₅H₁₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 272.0917, found: 272.0921.



White solid, 46.6 mg, yield: 70%, m.p. 115-116 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.50 (m, 5H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H),

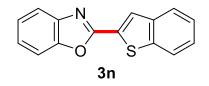
3.99 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.68, 155.04, 154.87, 153.42, 138.88, 130.66, 129.52, 128.69, 128.49, 126.91, 126.76, 123.37, 120.54, 120.17, 111.99, 52.49, 9.13. HRMS (ESI, *m*/*z*): calcd. for C₂₀H₁₆NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 334.1074, found: 334.1070.



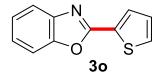
Yellow solid, 29.0 mg, yield: 55% (known compound⁴). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.35, 154.66, 154.08, 145.40, 134.47, 130.37, 126.63, 126.56, 125.33, 123.48, 123.29, 121.61, 120.58, 118.80, 111.78, 9.54.



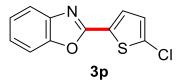
Yellow solid, 35.0 mg, yield: 66% (known compound⁴). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 - 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.62 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.47 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.40 - 7.36 (m, 2H), 2.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.95, 150.46, 142.01, 140.72, 140.29, 136.92, 126.67, 125.35, 124.92, 124.78, 123.58, 123.34, 122.69, 120.17, 110.67, 13.66.



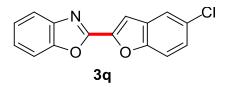
Yellow solid, 26.1 mg, yield: 52% (known compound⁵). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.98 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.85 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.01, 150.71, 142.01, 141.25, 139.38, 129.31, 126.81, 126.45, 125.54, 125.10, 124.97, 124.89, 122.64, 120.15, 110.57.



White solid, 28.5 mg, yield: 71% (known compound⁶). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 - 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.57 - 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, J = 4.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.19, 150.57, 142.13, 130.40, 130.09, 129.79, 128.40, 125.22, 124.86, 119.94, 110.57.

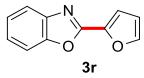


Yellow solid, 29.2 mg, yield: 62% (known compound⁷). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 - 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.37 - 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.94, 150.48, 141.92, 135.41, 129.34, 128.21, 127.69, 125.46, 125.02, 120.00, 110.59.

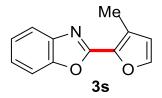


White solid, 32.3 mg, yield: 60% (known compound⁸). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 - 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 - 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.57 - 7.54 (m, 2H), s10

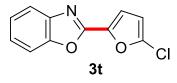
7.42 - 7.37 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.96, 154.29, 150.60, 145.15, 141.65, 129.76, 128.99, 127.36, 126.26, 125.36, 121.84, 120.76, 113.23, 110.93, 109.61.



Yellow solid, 24.0 mg, yield: 65% (known compound⁹). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 - 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.58 - 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.38 - 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J =3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.44, 150.28, 145.88, 142.75, 141.77, 125.43, 124.99, 120.28, 114.42, 112.41, 110.71.



White solid, 27.9 mg, yield: 70%, m.p. 57-58 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 - 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.57 - 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.46 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.27, 149.96, 144.82, 141.80, 138.68, 127.08, 124.96, 124.80, 120.05, 115.44, 110.58, 11.40. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 200.0706, found: 200.0705.



White solid, 26.7 mg, yield: 61%, m.p. 93-94 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 - 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.56 - 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.37 - 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d,

J = 3.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.30, 150.21, 142.05, 141.61, 140.71, 125.65, 125.14, 120.34, 116.20, 110.75, 109.31. HRMS (ESI, *m/z*): calcd. for C₁₁H₇ClNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 220.0160, found: 220.0160.

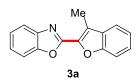


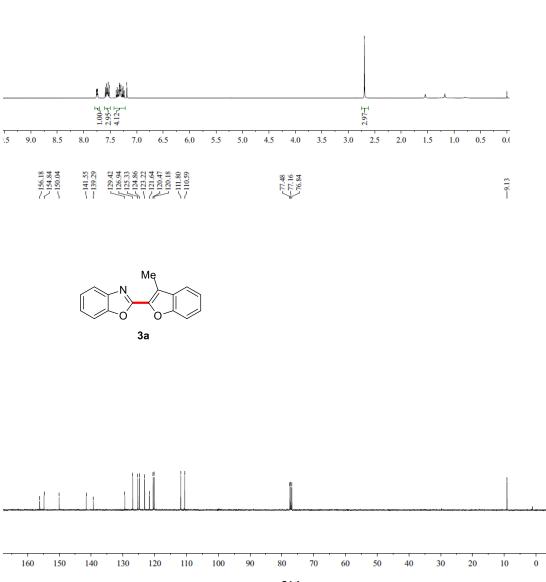
White solid, 24.8 mg, yield: 50% (known compound¹⁰). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 - 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 - 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.44 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.83, 149.96, 142.17, 139.91, 127.02, 126.34, 125.29, 124.70, 124.54, 122.11, 120.75, 120.00, 110.51, 110.22, 107.64, 32.28.

III. References and notes:

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IV. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra

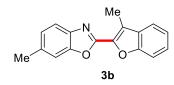


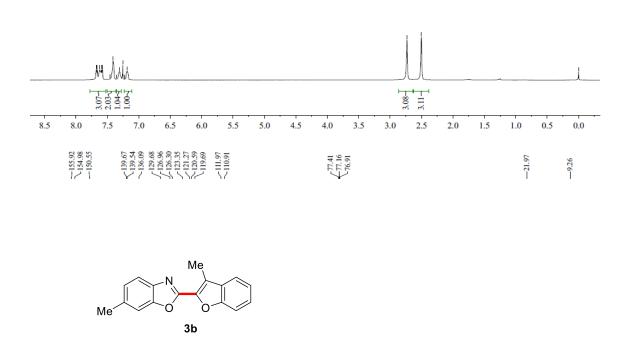


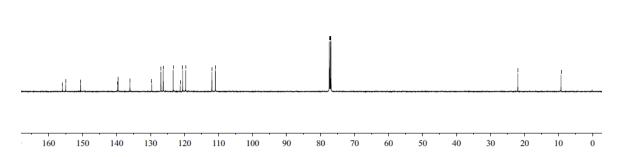
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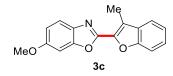


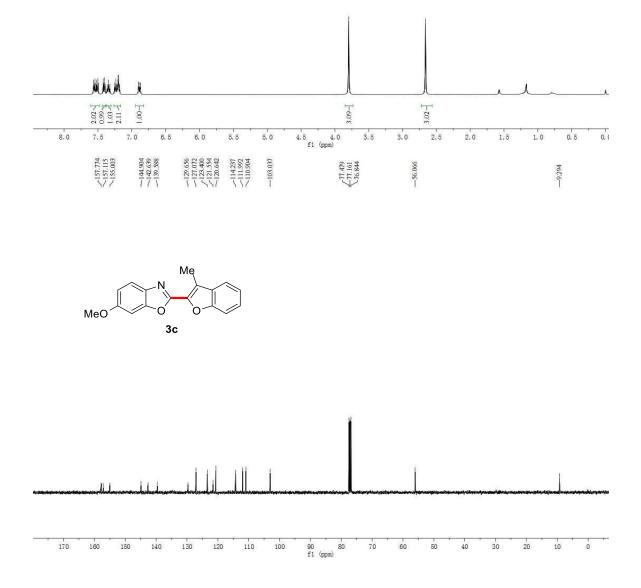




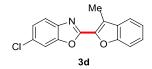
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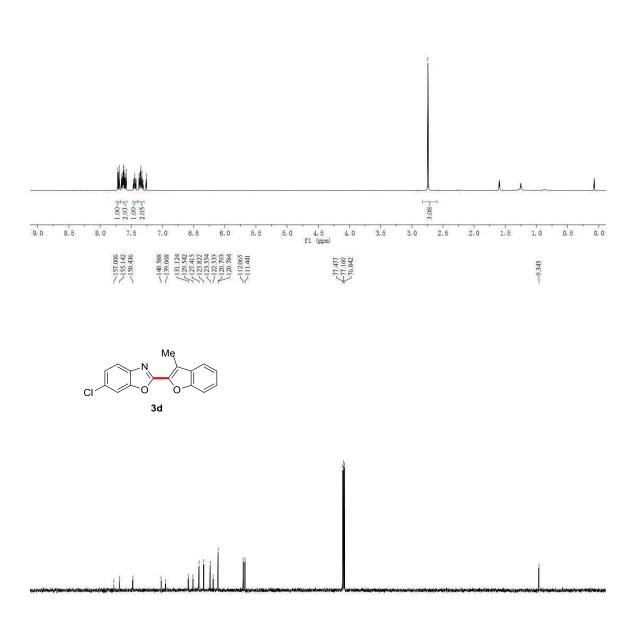
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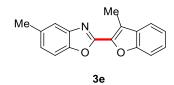
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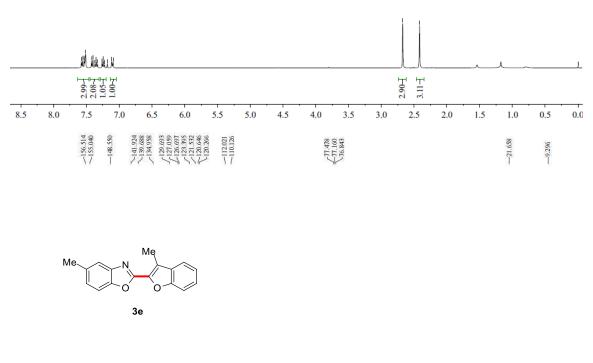


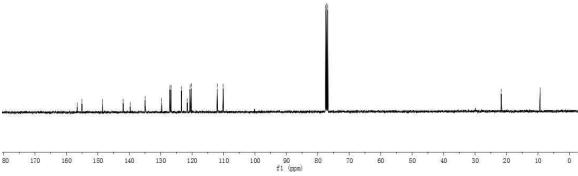


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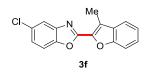
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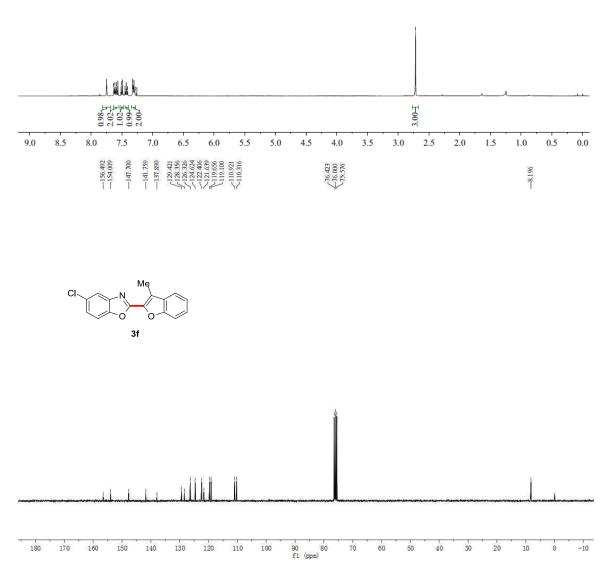




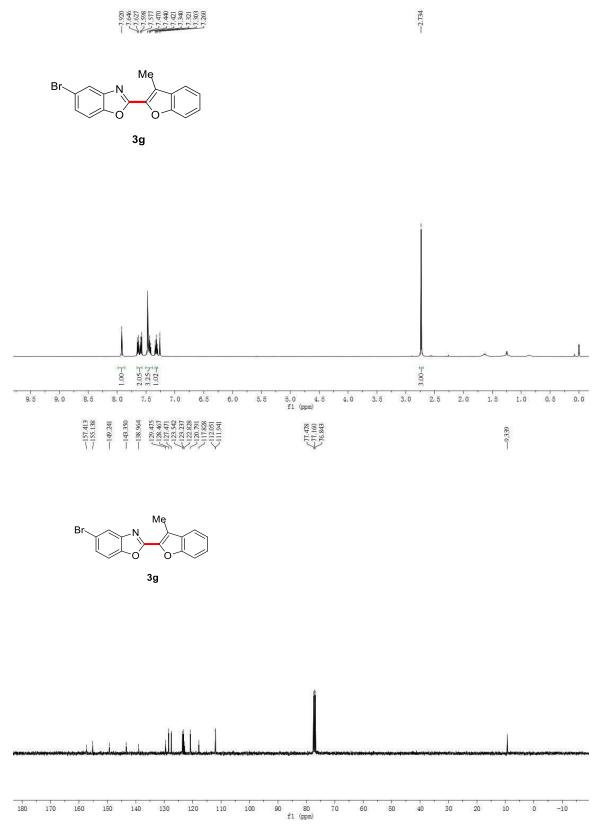


S18

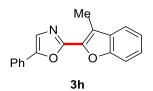


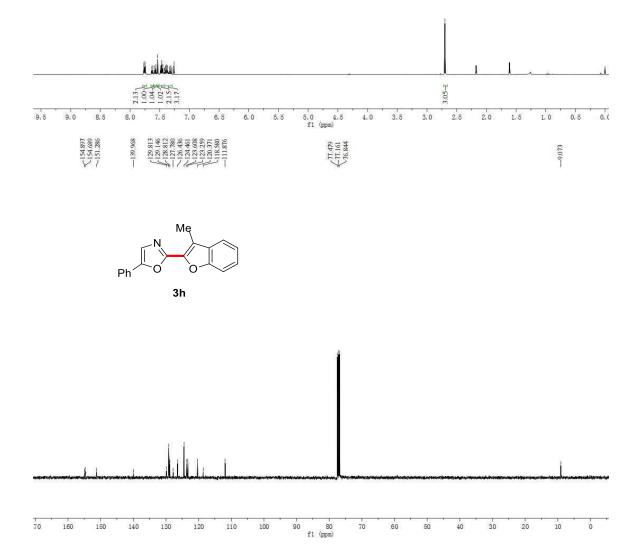


-2.72



S20

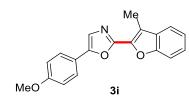


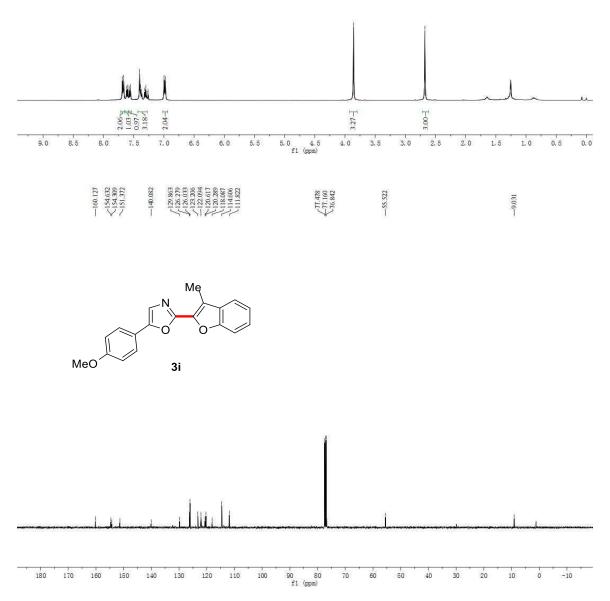


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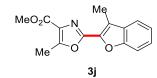


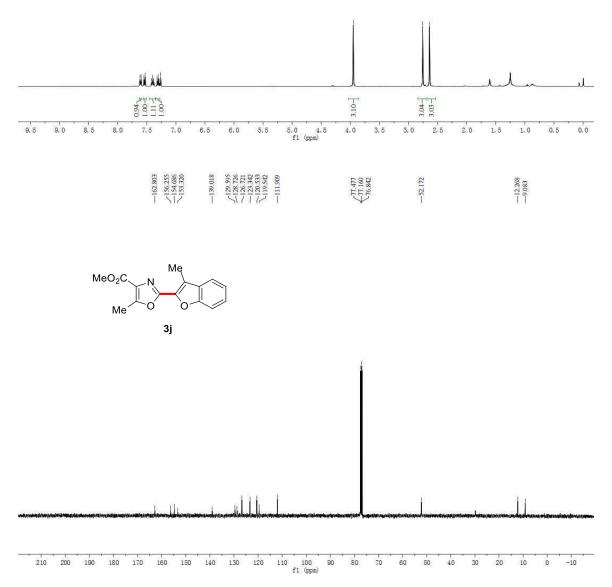




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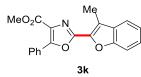


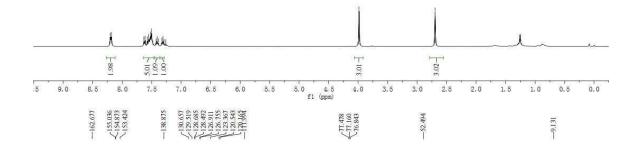


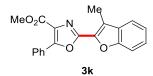
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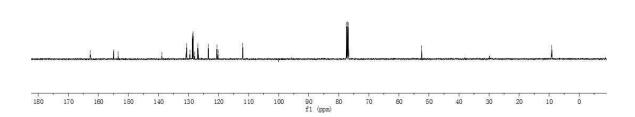


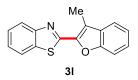


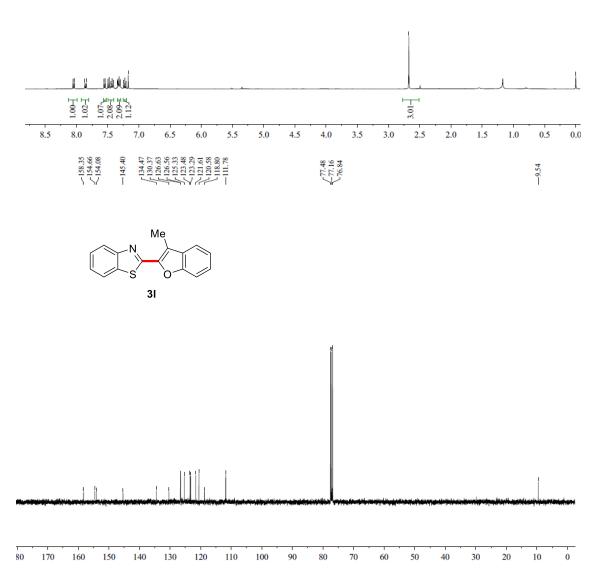












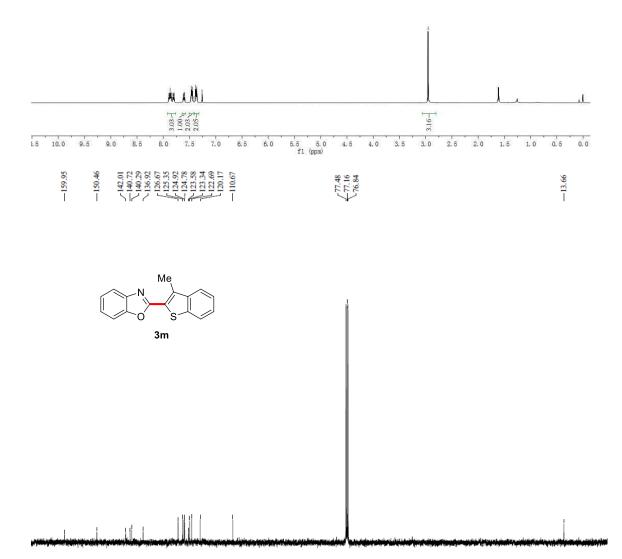
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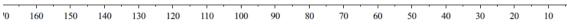
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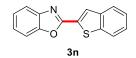


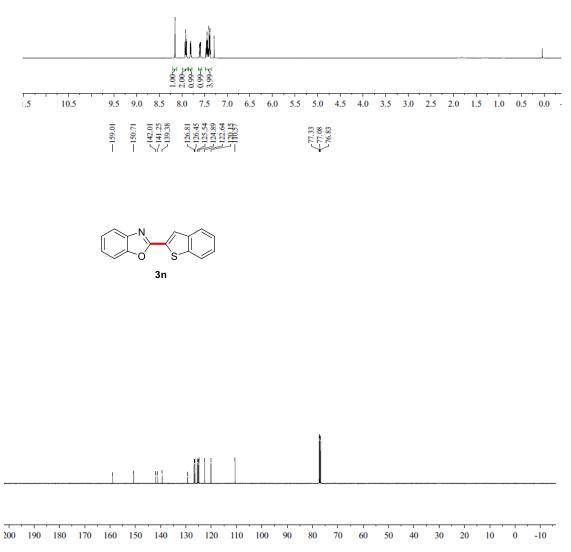


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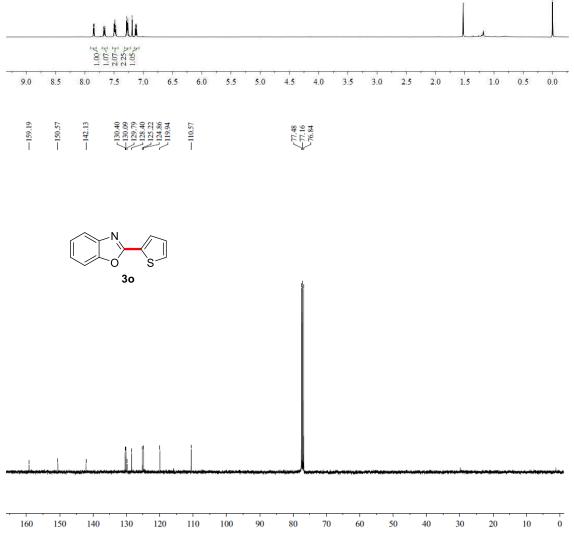


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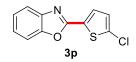


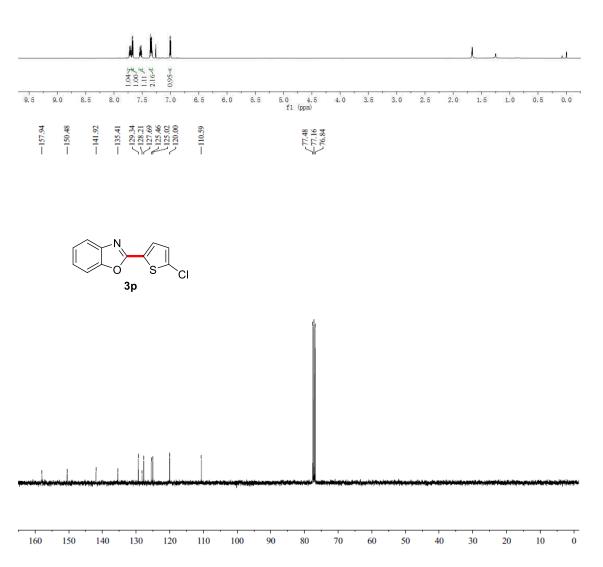


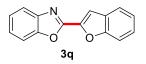
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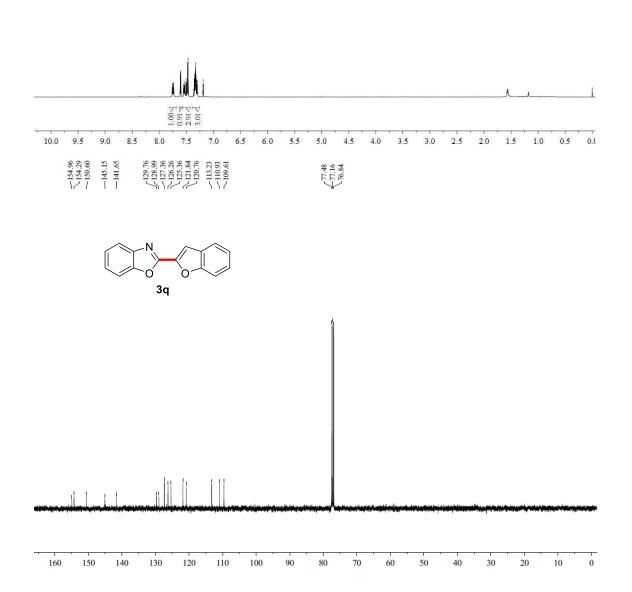


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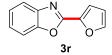


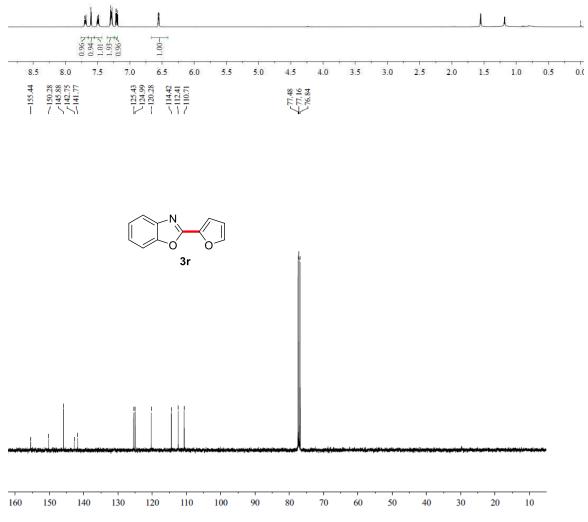




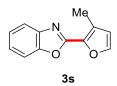


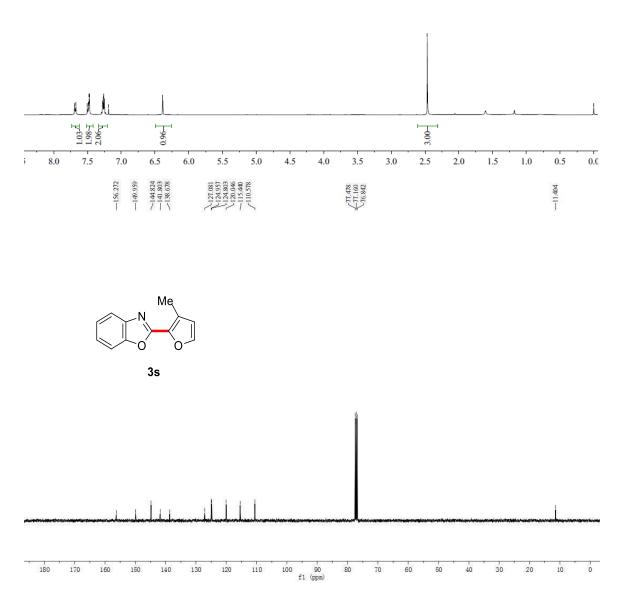
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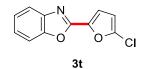


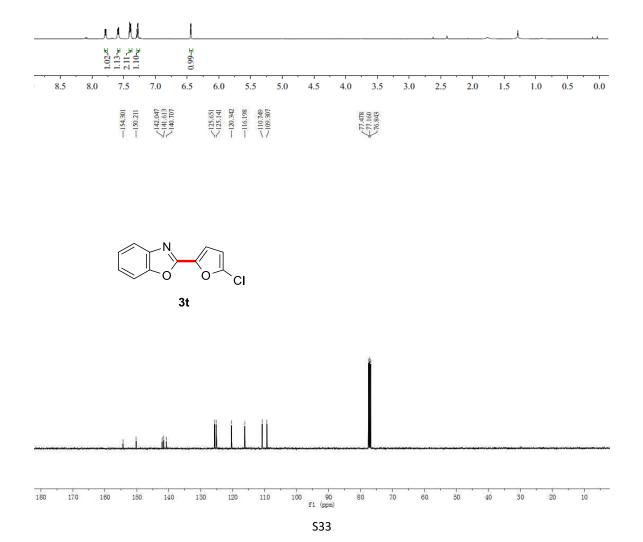


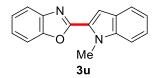
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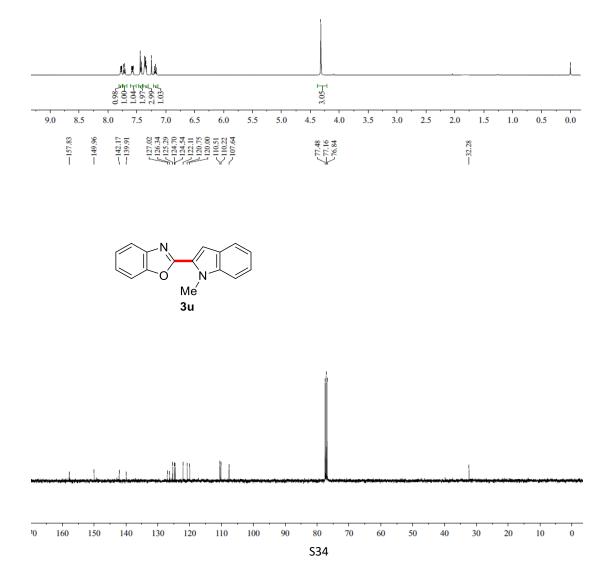
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S32









-4.32