

Supporting information

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S1. Materials and method

General Information: The chemicals were procured from S.D. Fine, India and Merck Ltd. without additional purification. SEM image along with EDS was taken on JEOL, JSM-6330 LA taken at 20.0 kV and 1.0000 nA. TPD and BET surface area has been identified by N₂ adsorption at 77 K performed on a Quanta chrome CHEMBET 3000 instrument. The X-ray powder diffraction patterns of catalyst was recorded on Bruker 8D advance XRD using Cu-K α radiation of wavelength=1.54056 Å. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck-pre-coated silica gel 60-F254 plates. FT-IR spectrum of catalyst was recorded on JASCO FT-IR-4100. A Retsch 01.462.0220 Agate Grinding Jar for Planetary Ball Mill 100 having 250 mL Capacity. All the products are identified compounds and their physical information, FT-IR, mass spectra and ¹H NMR was basically the same with those of genuine samples.

S2. Preparation of catalyst

A combination of sodium dodecyl sulphate (0.720 gm, 2.5 mmol) and sodium hydroxide (10 mL, 0.1N) in distilled water was added to a magnetically stirred lead nitrate (0.662 gm, 2 mmol) in methanol (10 ml). The reaction combination was agitated for 2 h at 30 °C. The whitish polycrystalline product was formed which was filtered, washed with distilled water (3x2 ml) and dried at 120 °C for 2 h. The white solid material was calcined at 650 °C for 2 h. During this process, the white PbO NPs turned to pale yellow colour.

S3. General Procedure for synthesis of xanthenedione derivatives using ball milling technique: Representative experimental procedure for the synthesis of 7-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2A):

A mixture of 3,4-dimethoxybenzaldehyde aldehydes (166.2 mg, 1 mmol), 2-hydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (138.1 mg, 1 mmol), 3,4-methylenedioxyphenol (171.1 mg, 1.0 mmol) and PbO NPs (25 mg, 15 mol %) was taken in 25 ml stainless steel beaker and ball-milling was done at 600 rpm with six balls (d = 10 mm) for 60 min. The ball-milling was carried out at inverted rotation directions, with the time interval of 10 minutes and having an interval break of 30 s. Extraction of the reaction mixture by elution with ethanol (5 ml) followed by solvent evaporation to furnished the crude product (2a-l). The products were purified by recrystallization in ethanol. This methodology was applicable for all the reactions listed in (Table 2). The remaining catalyst was washed with ethanol (2 ml) followed by acetone (2 ml)s, dried up under vacuum and reused for next run.

S4. Analytical data for selected products

7-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2a):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ : 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz,

1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 177.9, 175.6, 160.0, 155.0, 146.5, 147.5, 146.7, 142.9, 140.6, 137.8, 135.0, 131.3, 130.2, 128.4, 124.3, 119.4, 115.0, 113.4, 111.0, 110.8, 106.8, 99.8, 98.5, 53.5, 53.5, 36.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₆H₁₉O₇ ([M+H]⁺): 443.1126. Found: 443.1133.

7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2b):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.87 – 6.76 (m, 3H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 176.8, 176.6, 156.9, 155.9, 145.7, 143.9, 141.7, 136.3, 134.0, 130.3, 129.2, 129.2, 127.6, 127.4, 123.3, 116.0, 113.4, 112.8, 106.8, 100.7, 97.5, 54.0, 35.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₇O₆ ([M+H]⁺): 413.1021. Found: 413.1001.

7-(2-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2c):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (td, *J* = 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 177.7, 177.6, 157.8, 156.1, 146.6, 144.7, 142.8, 135.1, 133.0, 131.3, 130.3, 130.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 124.2, 120.6, 116.6, 113.4, 111.7, 107.0, 101.7, 98.4, 55.7, 32.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₇O₆ ([M+H]⁺): 413.1022. Found: 413.1003.

7-(3-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2d):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 6.90 – 6.88 (m, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 176.8, 176.5, 158.2, 156.2, 145.8, 145.5, 143.9, 141.7, 133.9, 130.3, 129.2, 129.2, 128.5, 178.3, 123.3, 118.6, 115.5, 113.0, 112.8, 110.4, 106.7, 100.8, 97.5, 53.9, 36.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₇O₆ ([M+H]⁺): 413.1022. Found: 413.1029.

7-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2e):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.02 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.04 (d, *J*

= 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 177.8, 177.6, 157.0, 146.7, 144.9, 142.6, 142.5, 136.1, 135.0, 134.4, 131.3, 130.3, 130.2, 129.5, 128.5, 128.3, 124.9, 124.3, 116.9, 114.3, 107.8, 101.7, 98.5, 37.2, 19.4, 18.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 411.1229. Found: 411.1241.

7-(*p*-tolyl)-6H-benzo[*h*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*b*]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2f):

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.13 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.04 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 177.7, 177.5, 157.0, 146.7, 144.9, 142.6, 142.2, 135.6, 135.0, 131.3, 130.2, 130.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.4, 124.3, 116.8, 114.2, 107.7, 101.7, 98.5, 37.2, 20.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 397.1072. Found: 397.1090.

7-(4-chlorophenyl)-6H-benzo[*h*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*b*]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2g):

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 8.17 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.09 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.10 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 176.7, 176.4, 156.2, 146.0, 144.0, 142.9, 141.7, 133.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.3, 129.1, 128.5, 127.3, 123.3, 115.1, 112.7, 106.7, 100.8, 97.6, 35.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 417.0524. Found: 417.0526.

7-(4-bromophenyl)-6H-benzo[*h*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*b*]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2h):

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.14 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.06 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 177.7, 177.4, 157.1, 147.0, 145.0, 144.3, 142.6, 134.9, 131.4, 131.2, 130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 128.3, 124.3, 119.6, 116.0, 113.6, 107.7, 101.8, 98.6, 37.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 461.0019. Found: 461.0034.

7-(4-nitrophenyl)-6H-benzo[*h*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*b*]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2i):

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 – 8.10 (m, 2H), 8.00 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.06 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 177.6,

177.3, 157.3, 152.2, 147.2, 146.1, 145.1, 142.7, 134.9, 131.5, 130.4, 130.0, 129.1, 128.3, 124.4, 123.6, 115.0, 112.9, 107.7, 101.9, 98.7, 37.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₄NO₇ ([M+H]⁺): 428.0765. Found: 428.0777.

7-(3-nitrophenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2j):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.20 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.05 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.89 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 177.7, 177.3, 157.3, 147.8, 147.3, 147.0, 145.2, 142.8, 134.9, 134.7, 131.5, 130.6, 130.1, 129.9, 128.3, 124.4, 122.6, 121.7, 115.4, 113.1, 107.8, 102.0, 98.8, 37.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₄NO₇ ([M+H]⁺): 428.0765. Found: 428.0763.

7-(thiophen-2-yl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2k):

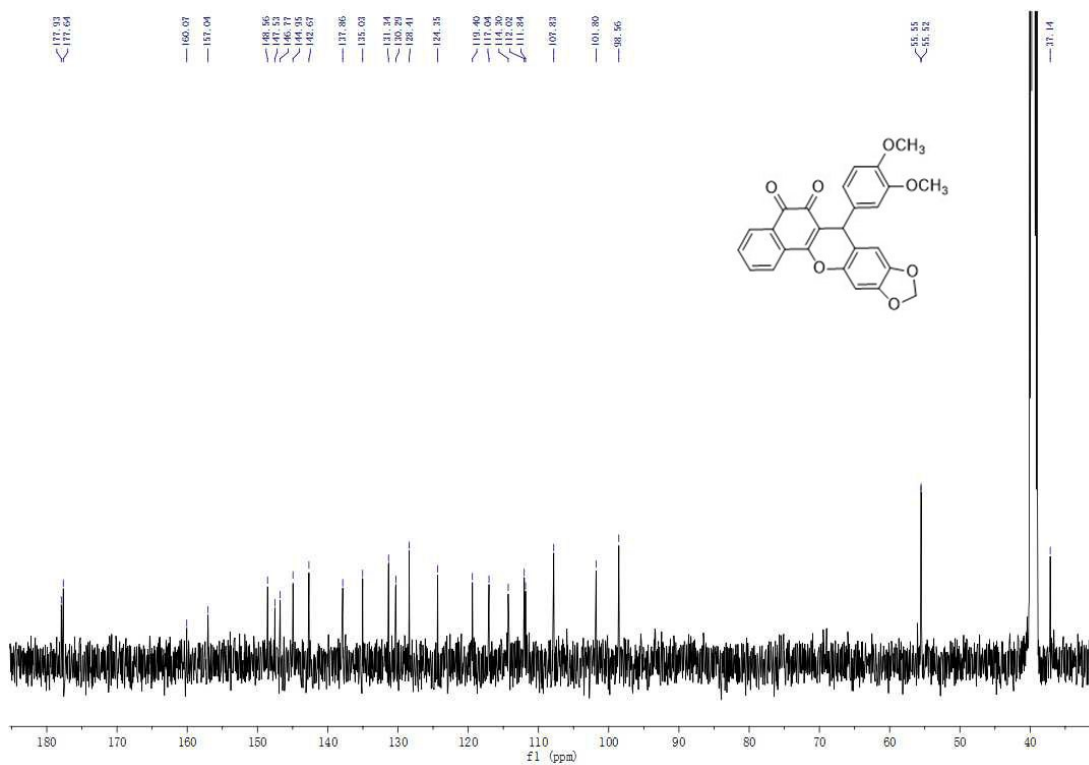
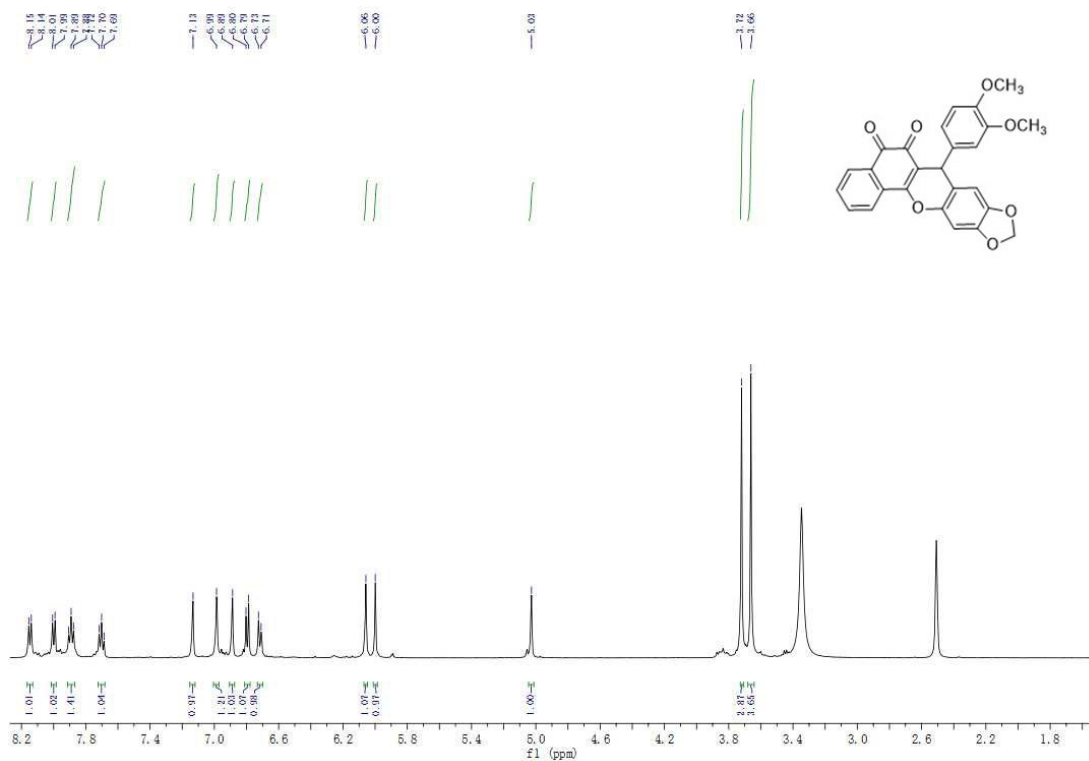
¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 176.7, 176.4, 156.2, 147.8, 146.2, 144.1, 142.0, 134.1, 130.6, 129.2, 129.0, 127.5, 125.9, 123.8, 123.7, 123.4, 115.2, 113.1, 106.9, 100.9, 97.6, 31.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₃O₅S ([M+H]⁺): 389.0478. Found: 389.0491.

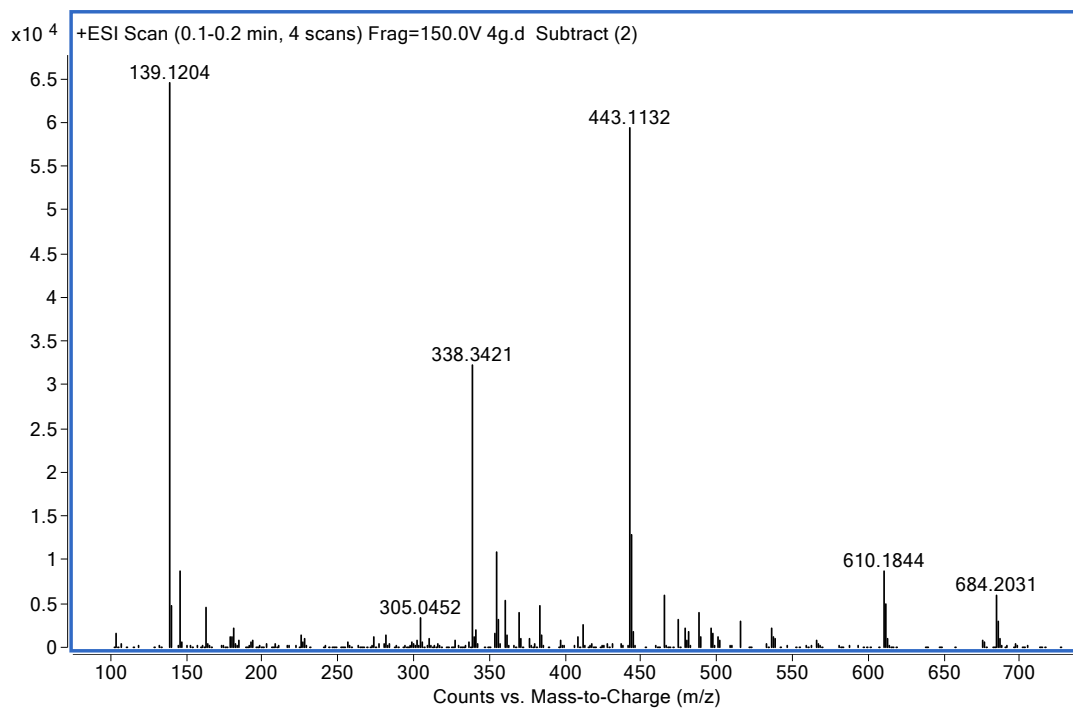
7-phenyl-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2l):

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 178.2, 178.0, 157.6, 147.3, 145.5, 145.4, 143.2, 135.4, 131.8, 130.7, 130.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 127.0, 124.8, 117.2, 114.6, 108.2, 102.3, 99.0, 38.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₅O₅ ([M+H]⁺): 383.0914. Found: 383.0928.

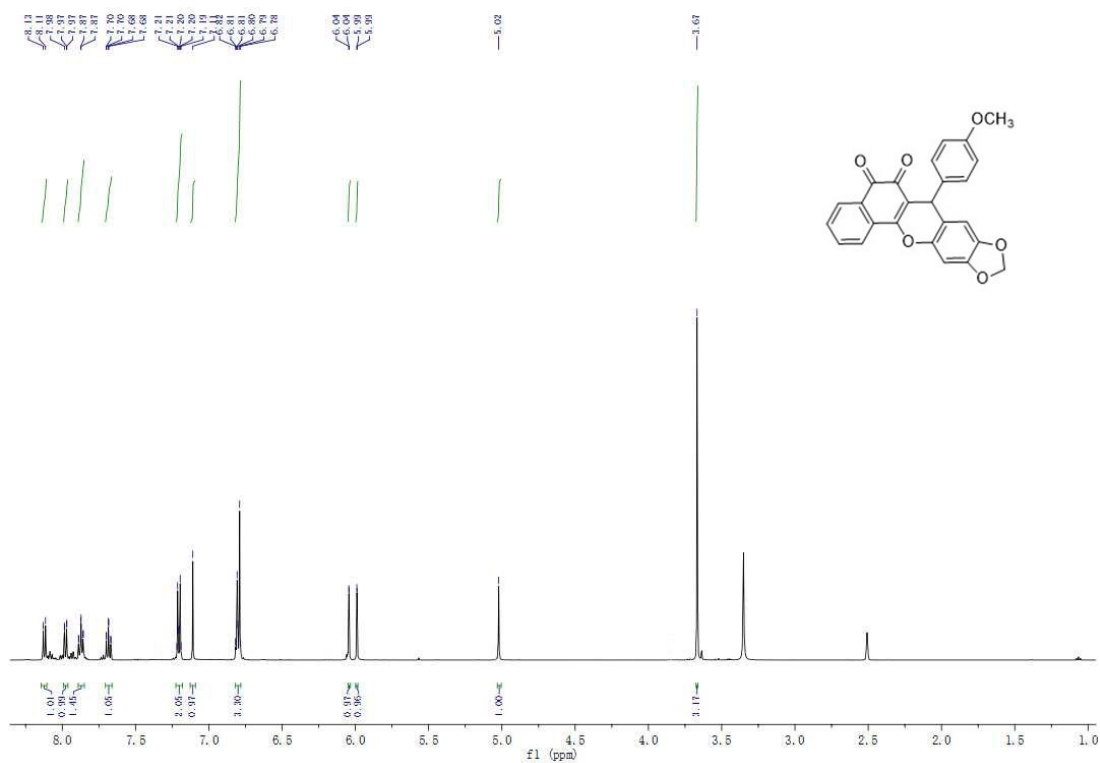
S5. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, MS spectra of compounds (2a-2l):

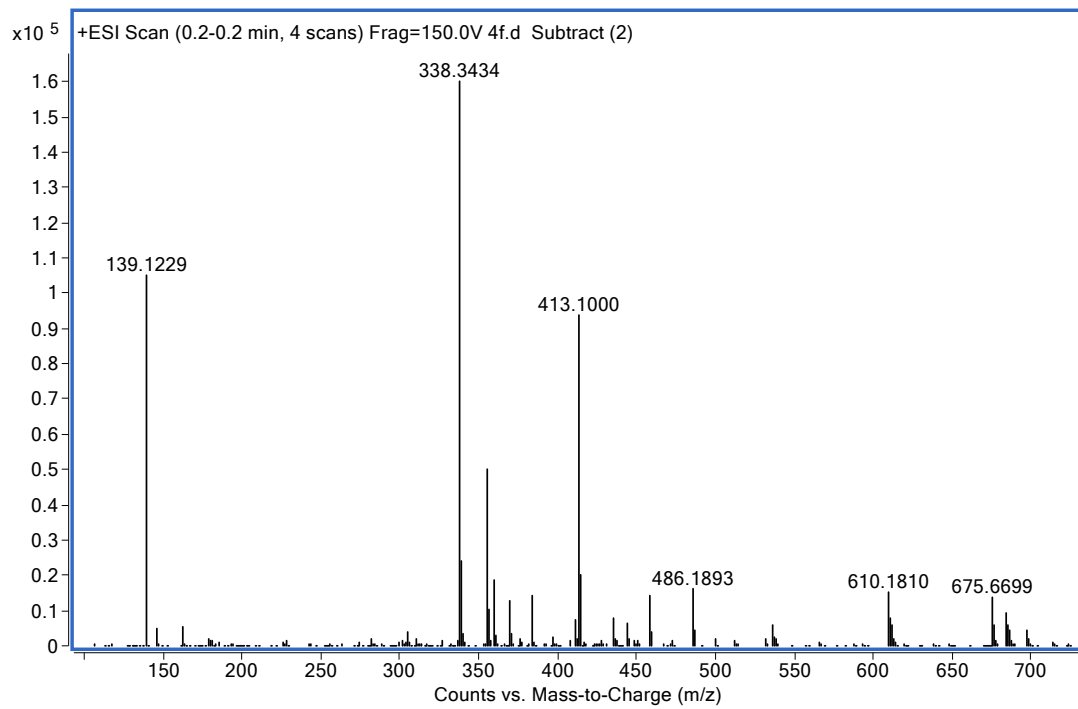
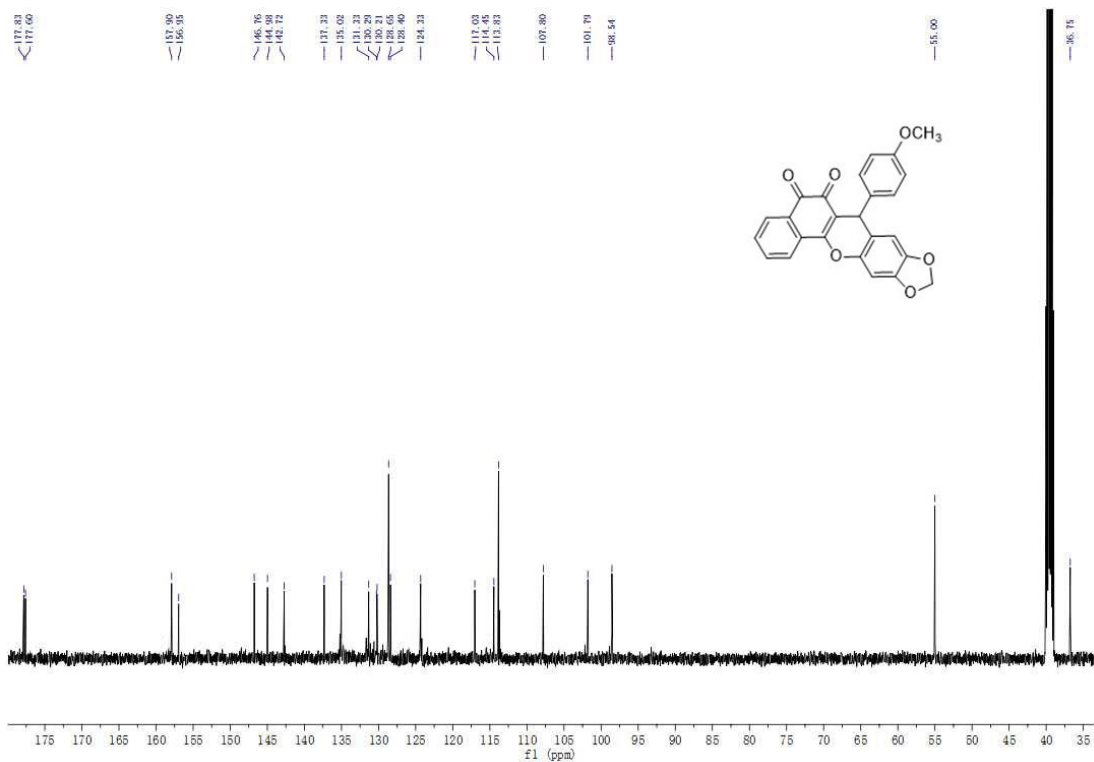
7-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2a):



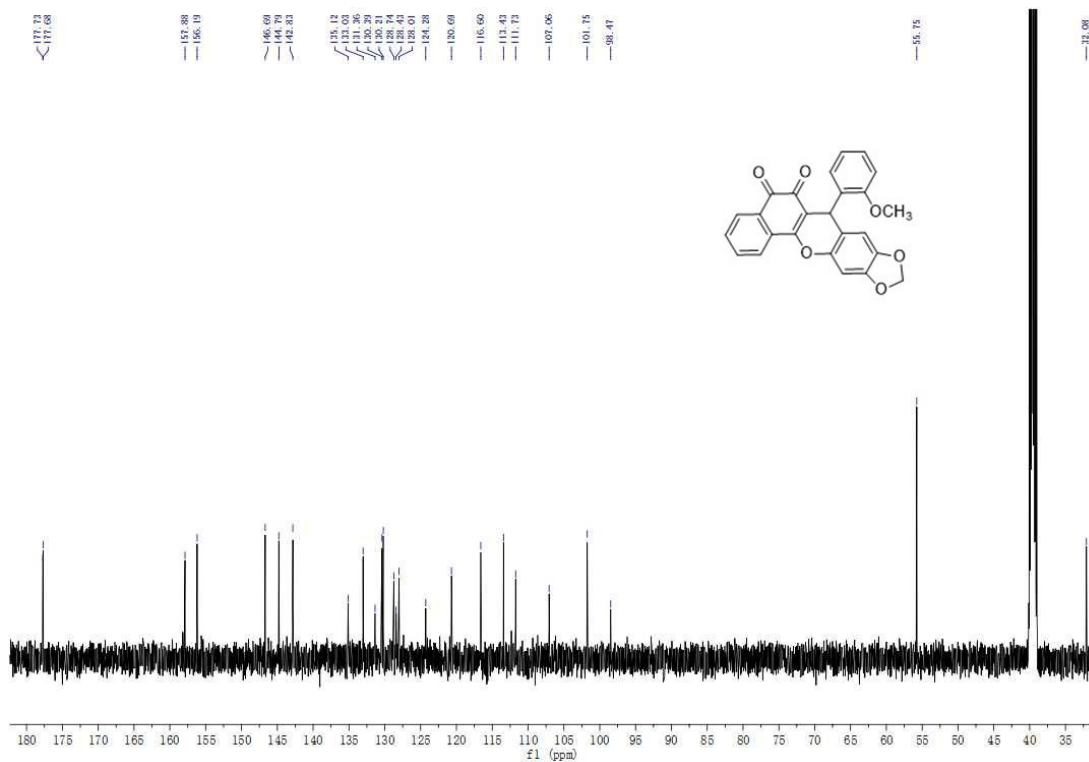
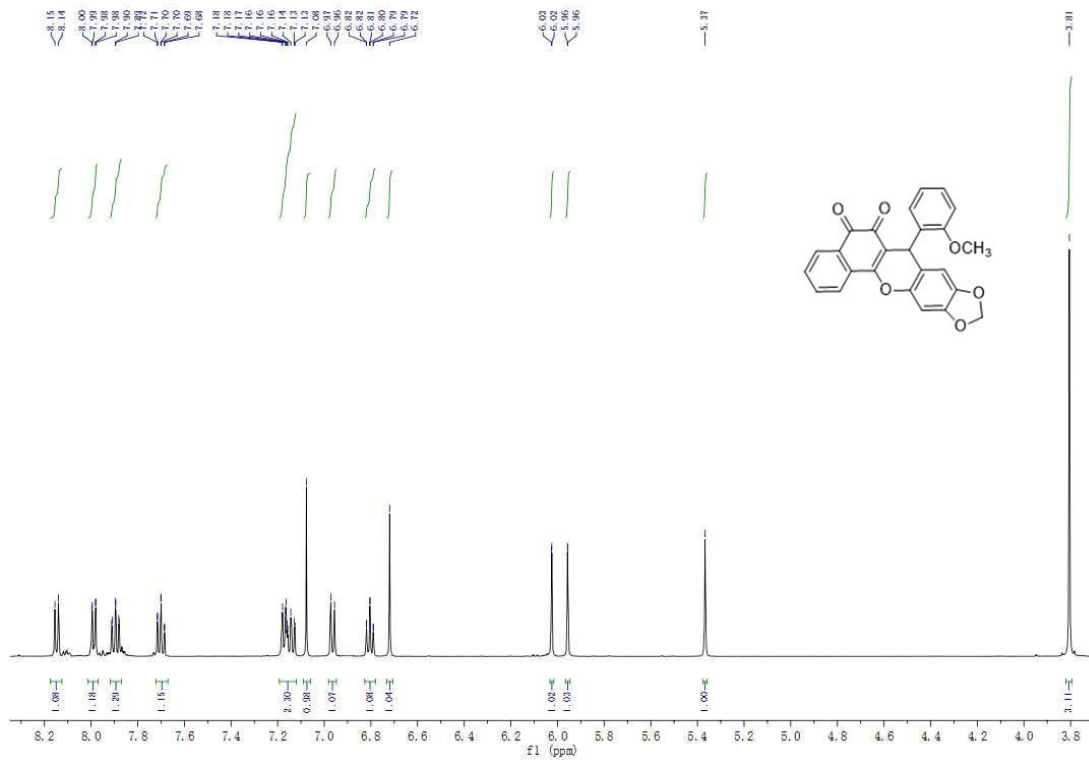


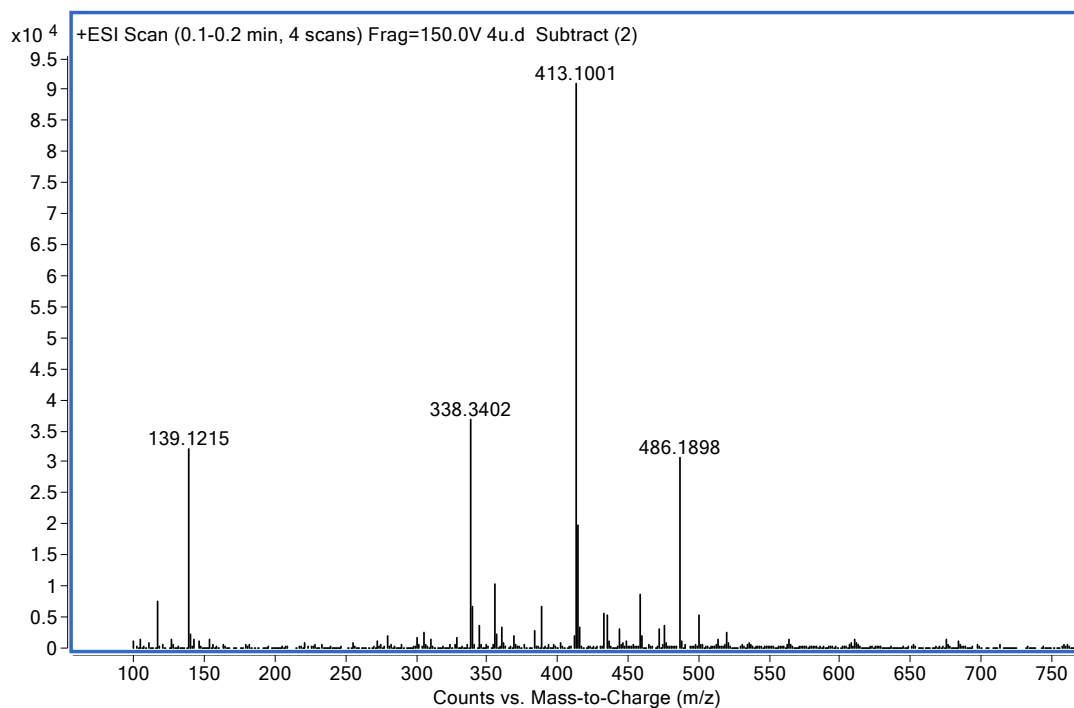
7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2B):



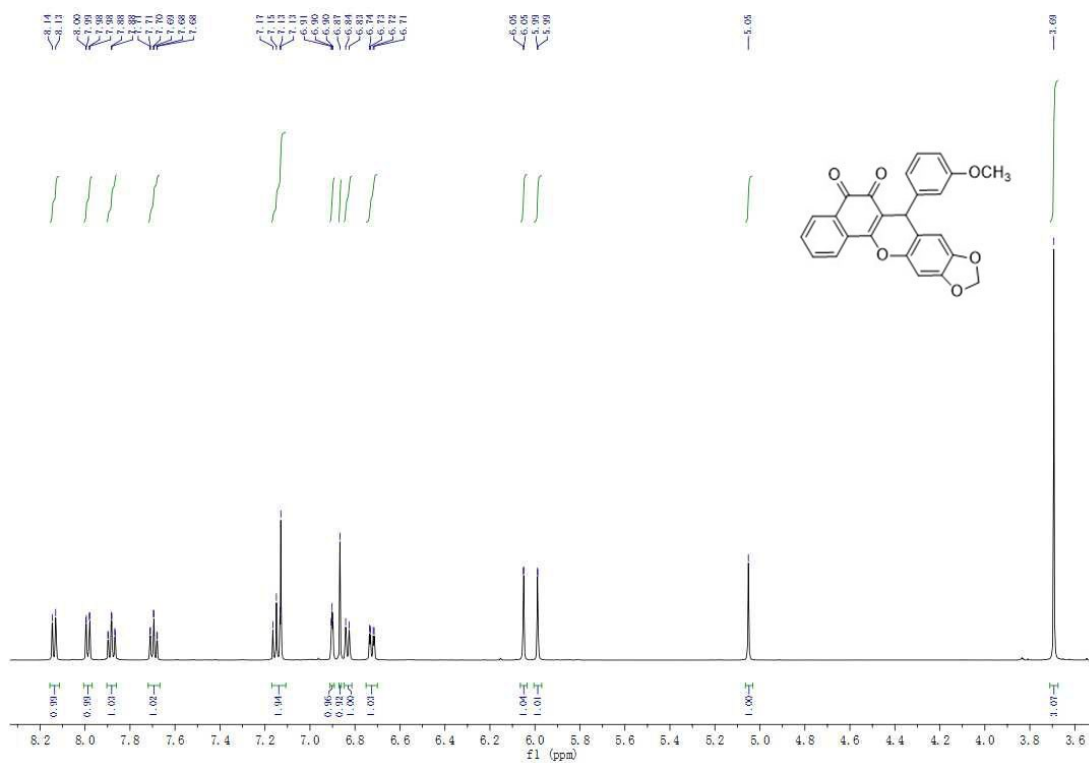


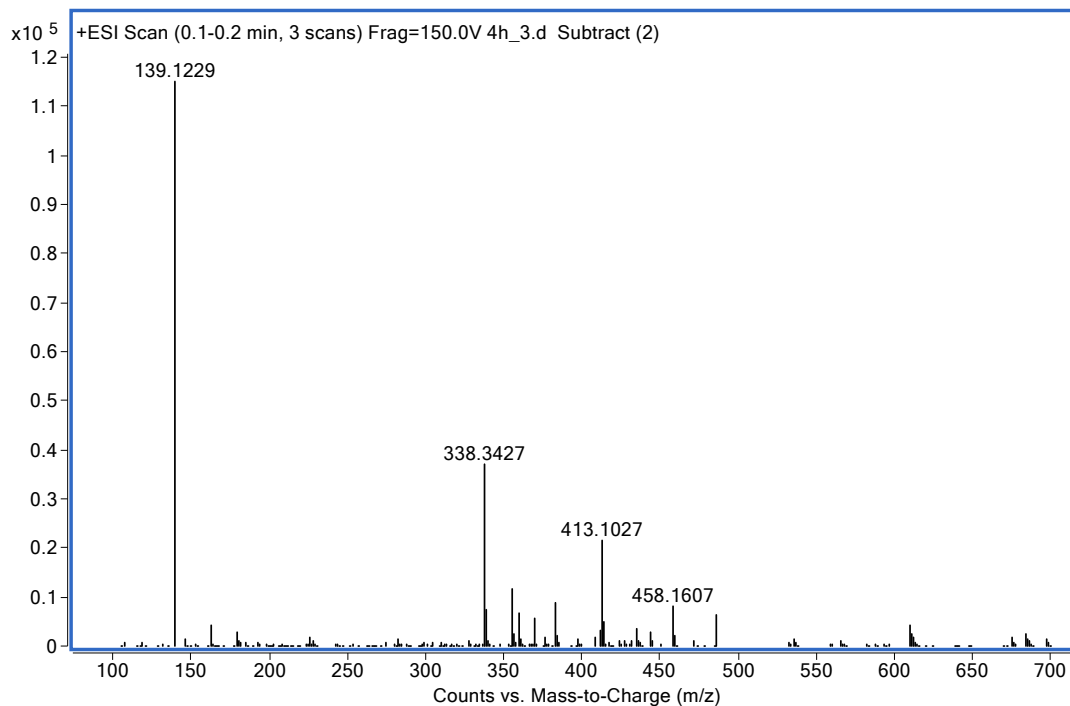
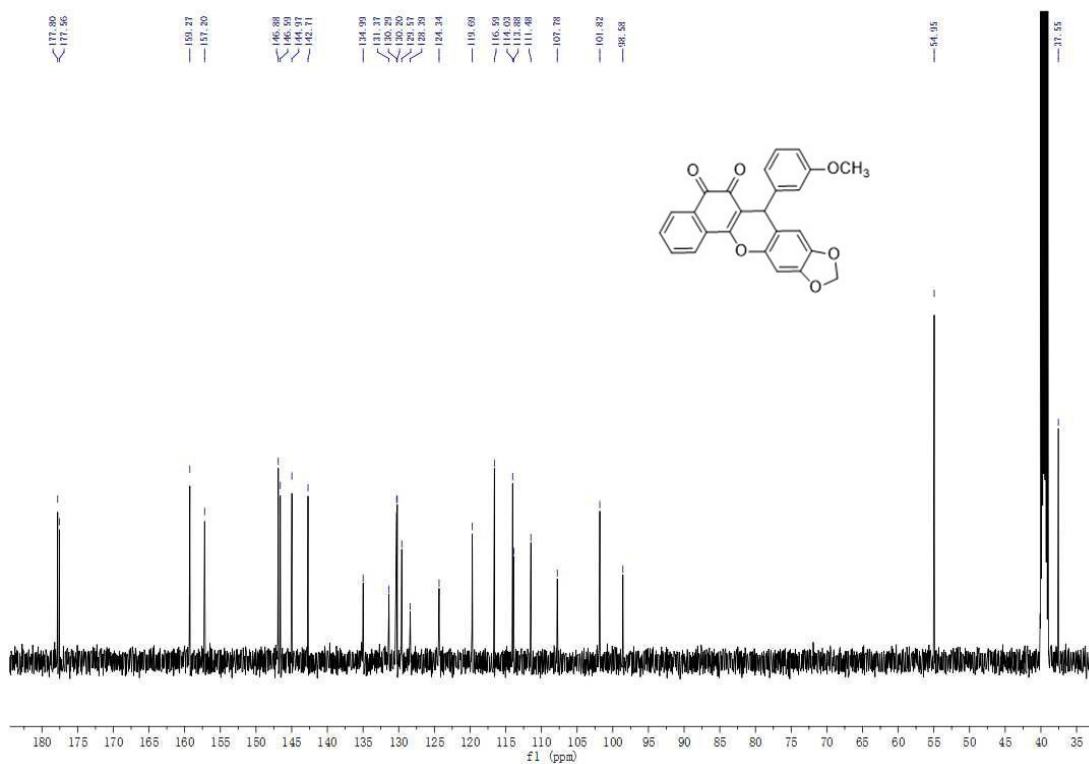
7-(2-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2C):



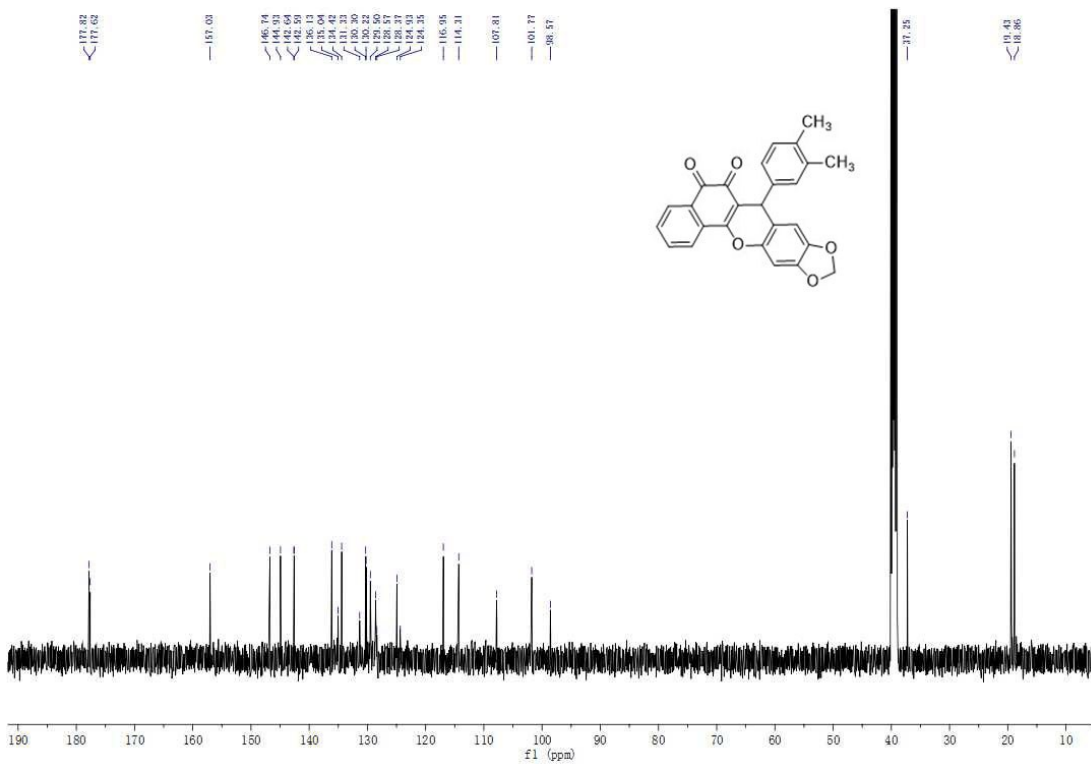
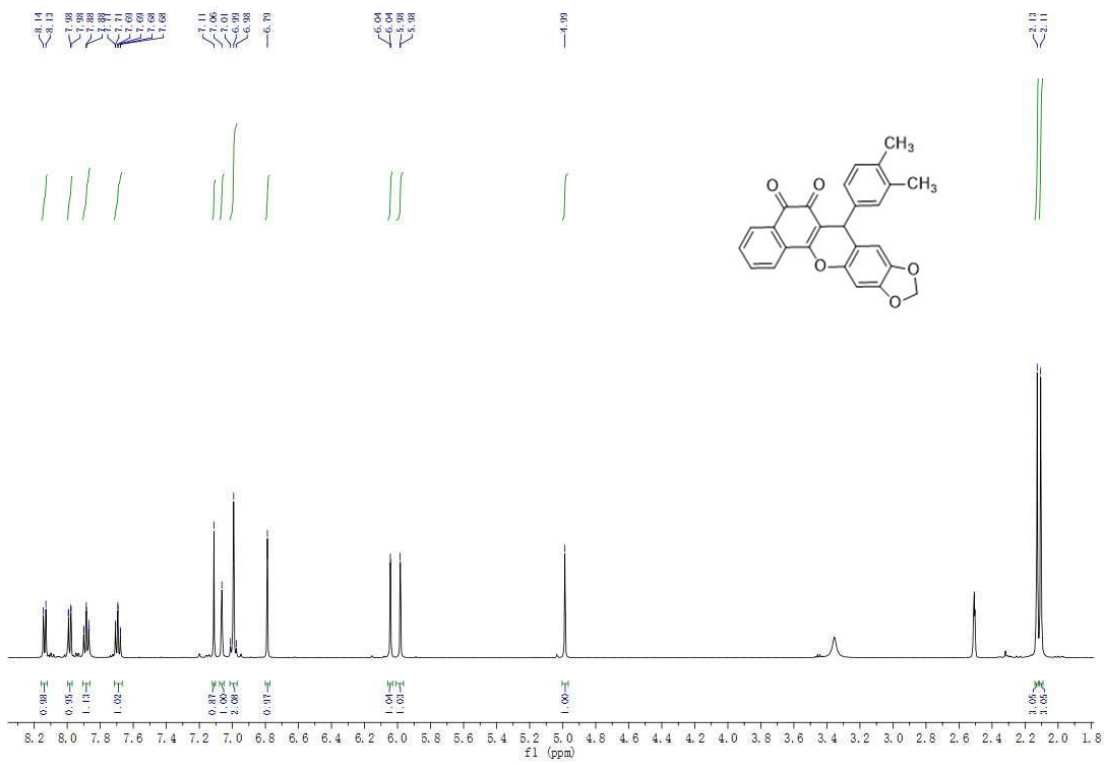


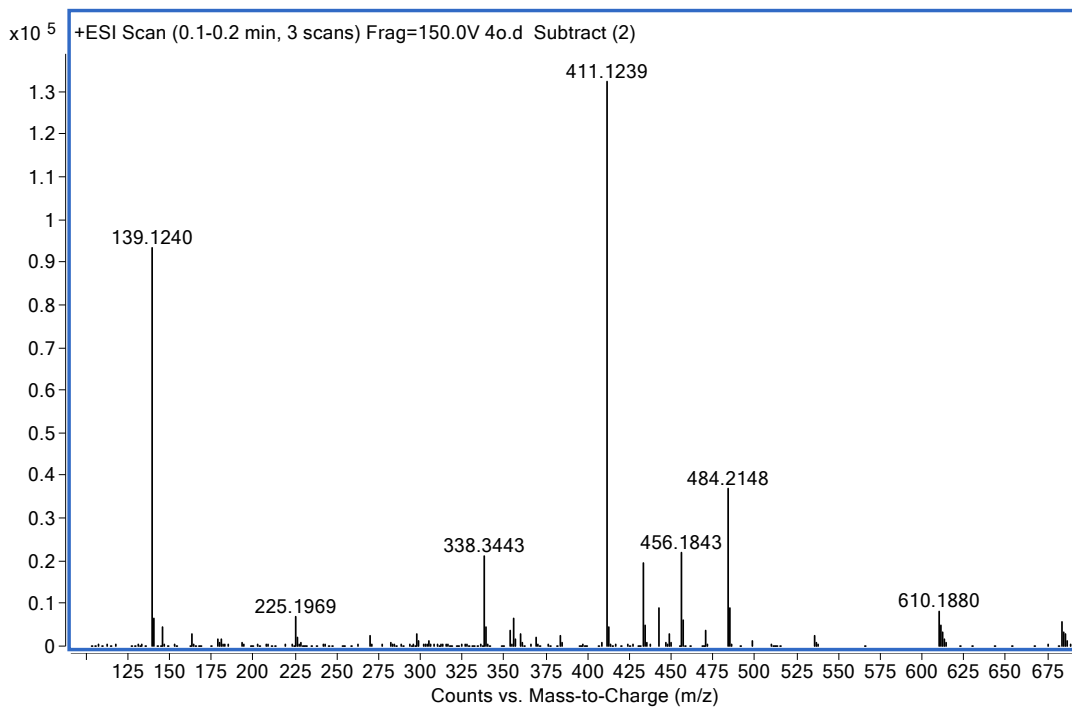
7-(3-methoxyphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2D):



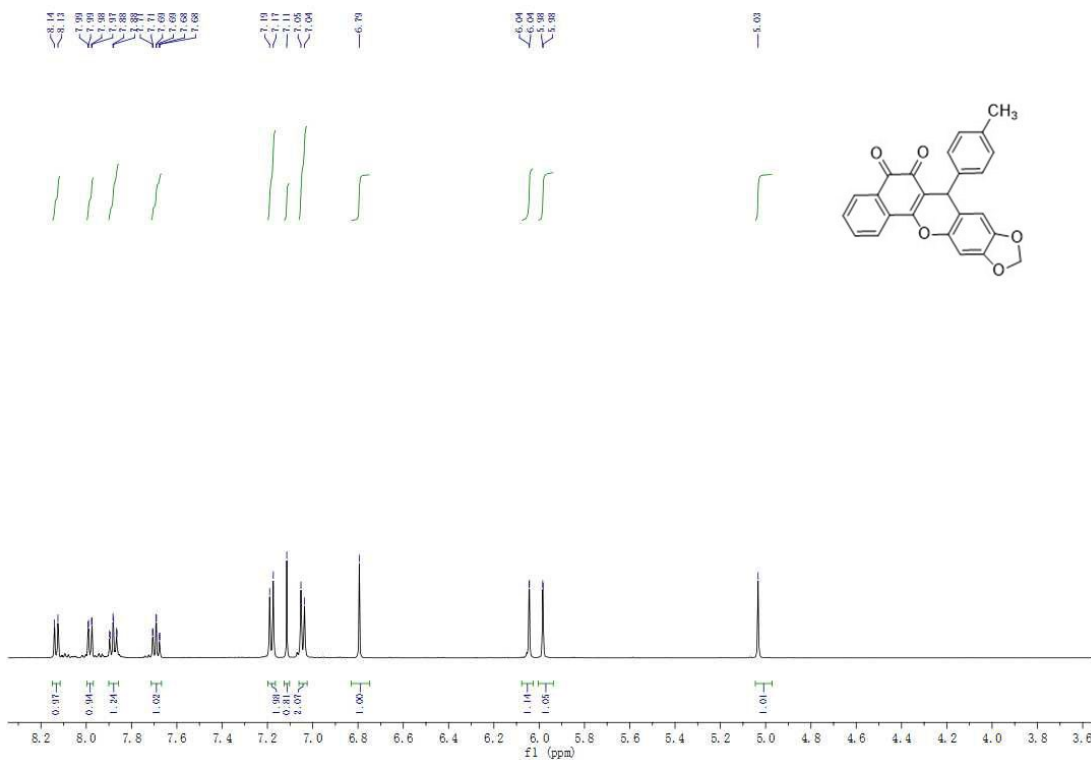


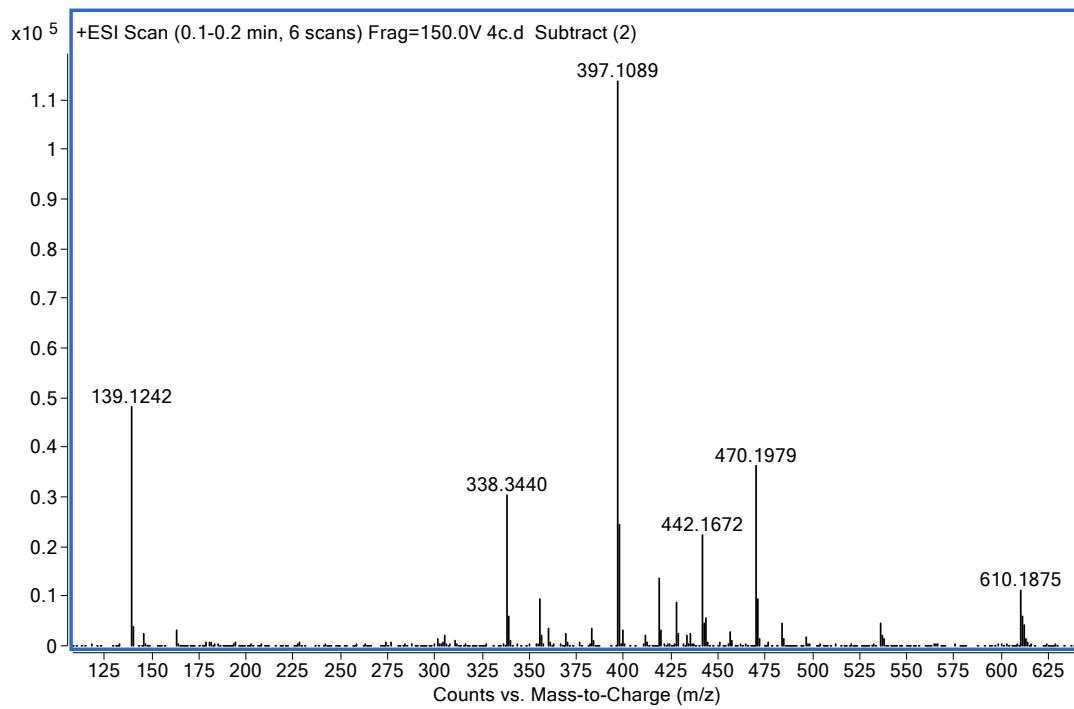
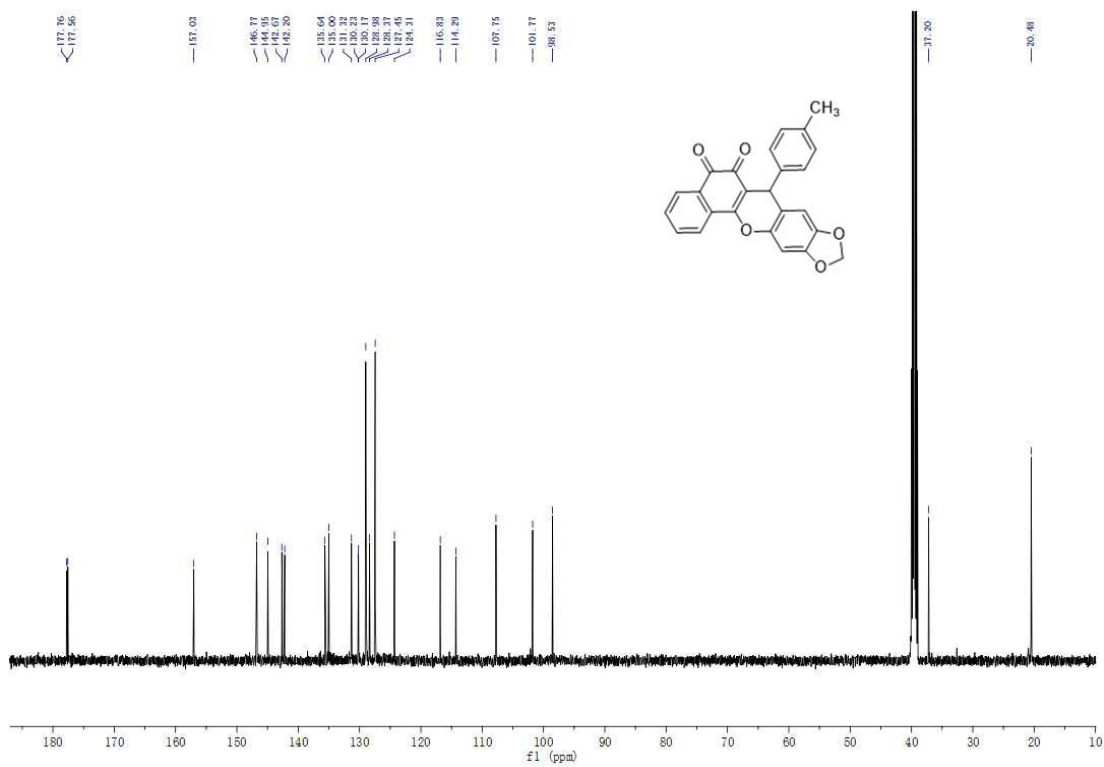
7-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2E):



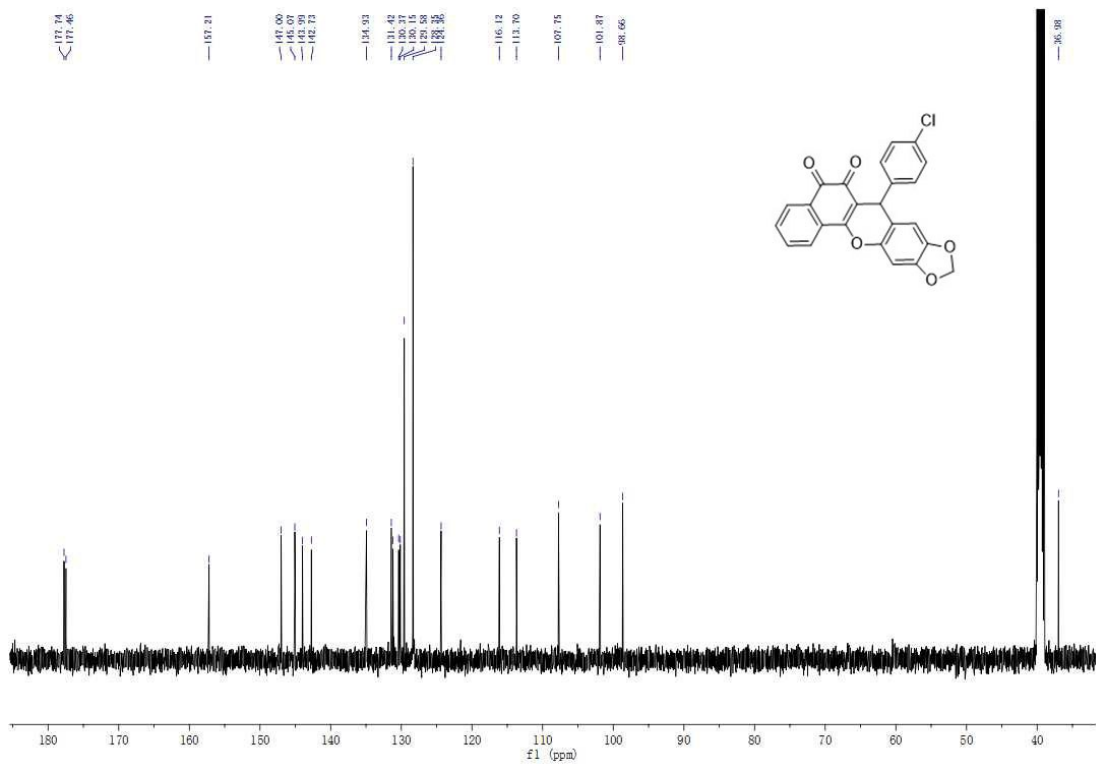
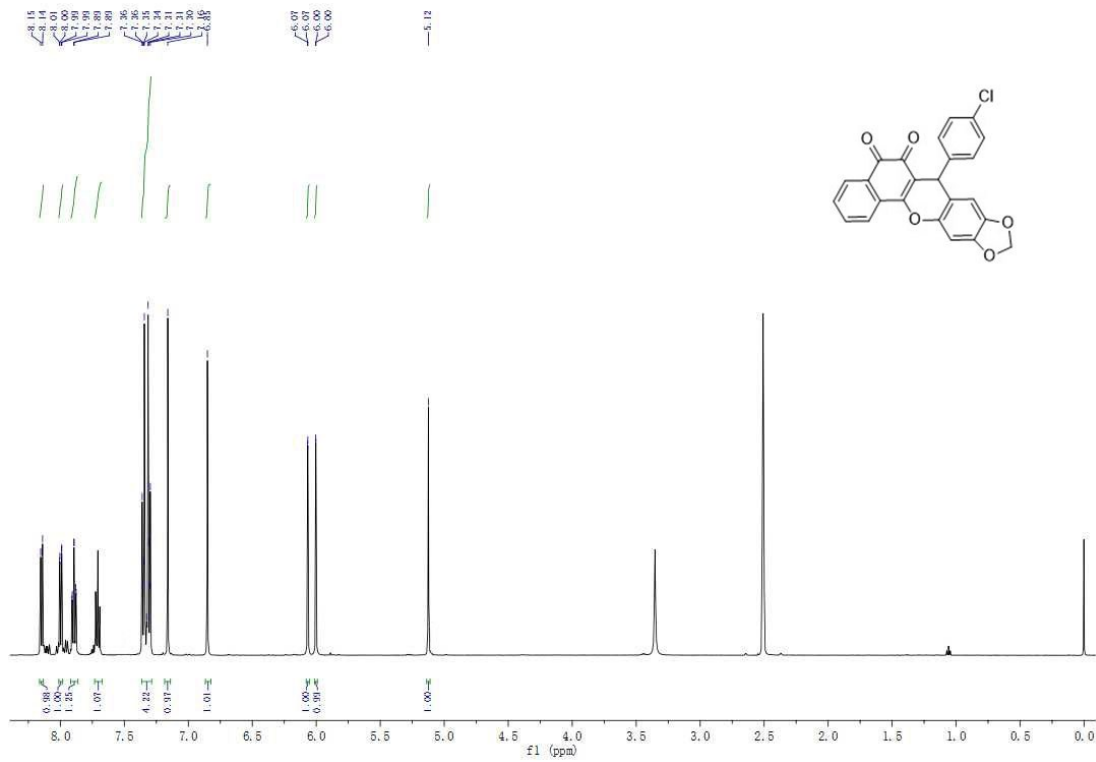


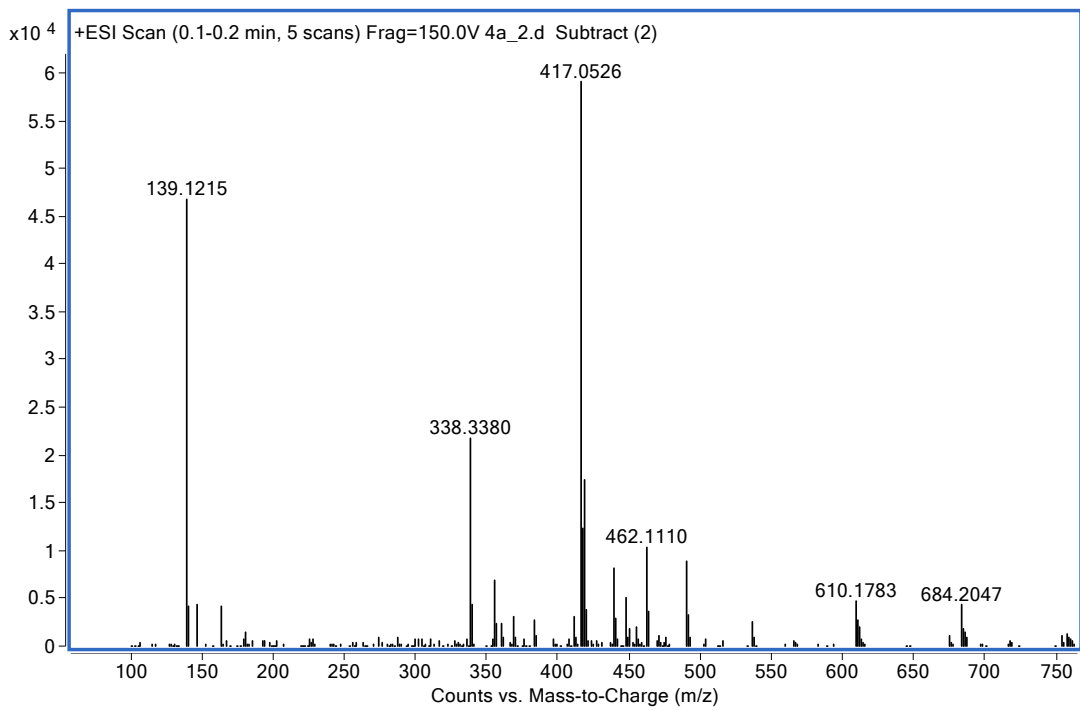
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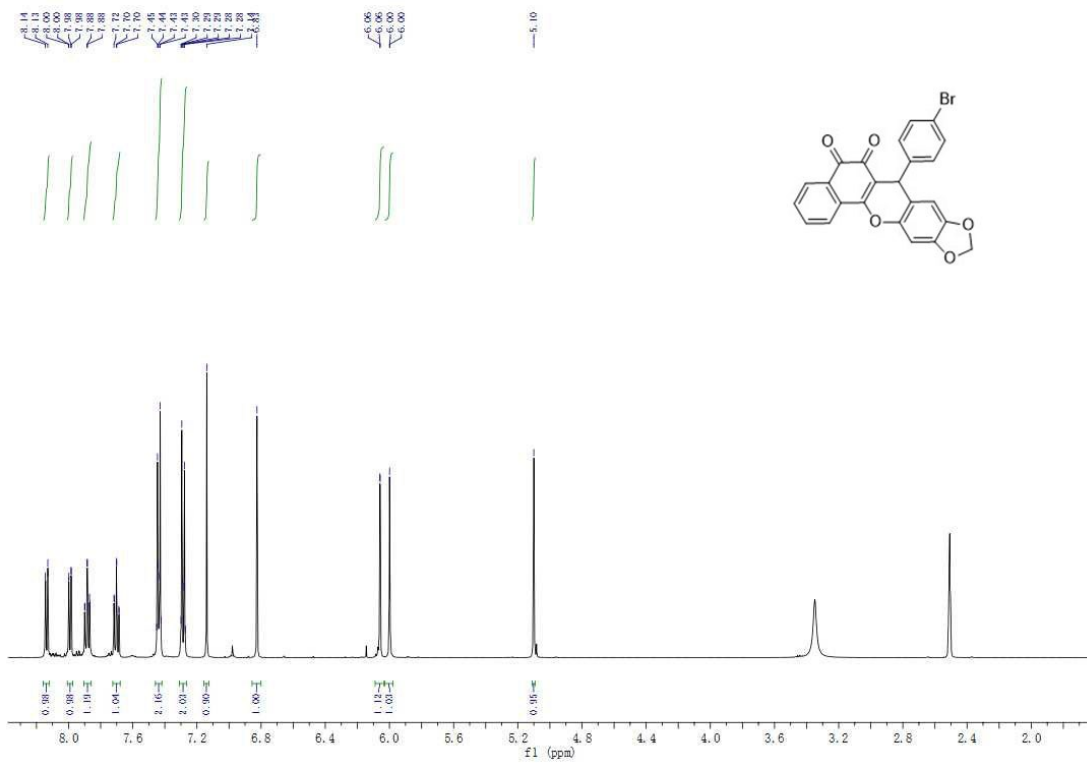


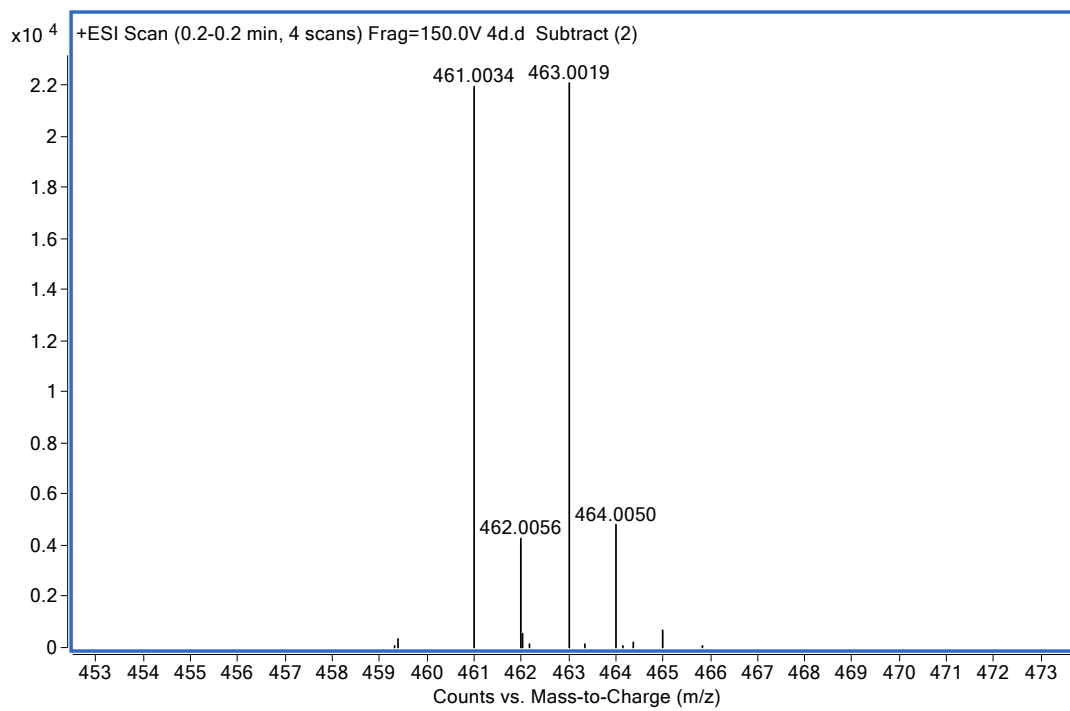
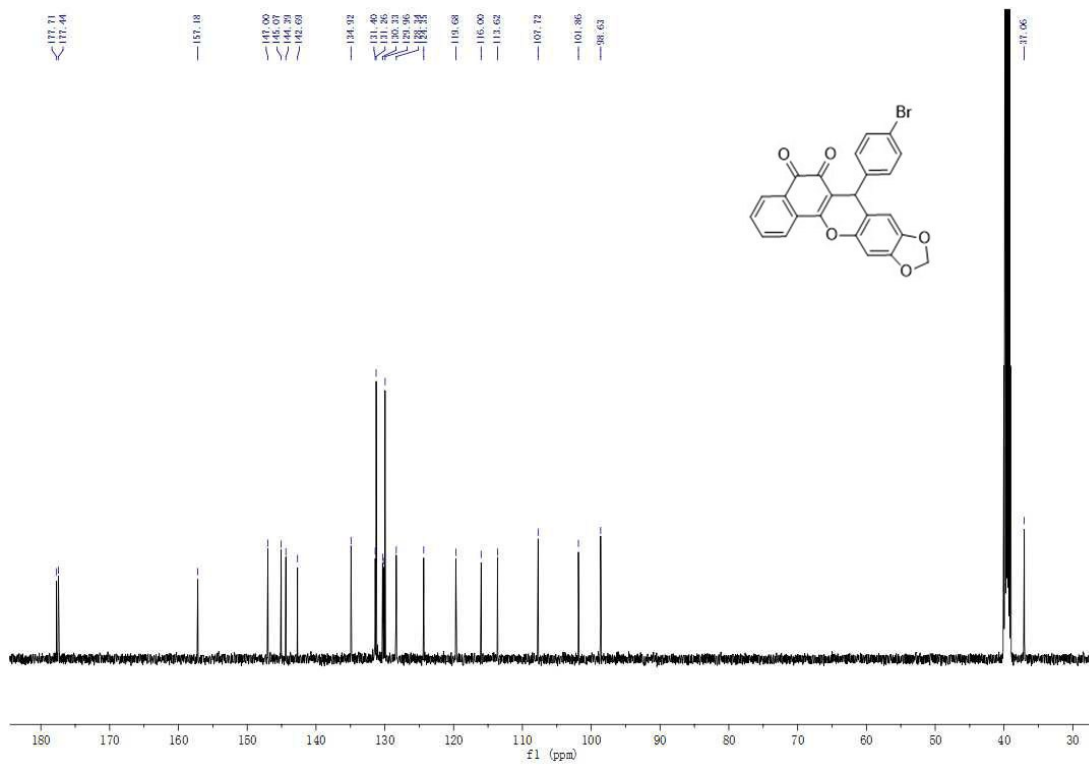
7-(4-chlorophenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2G):



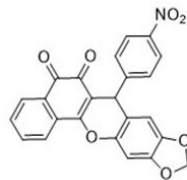
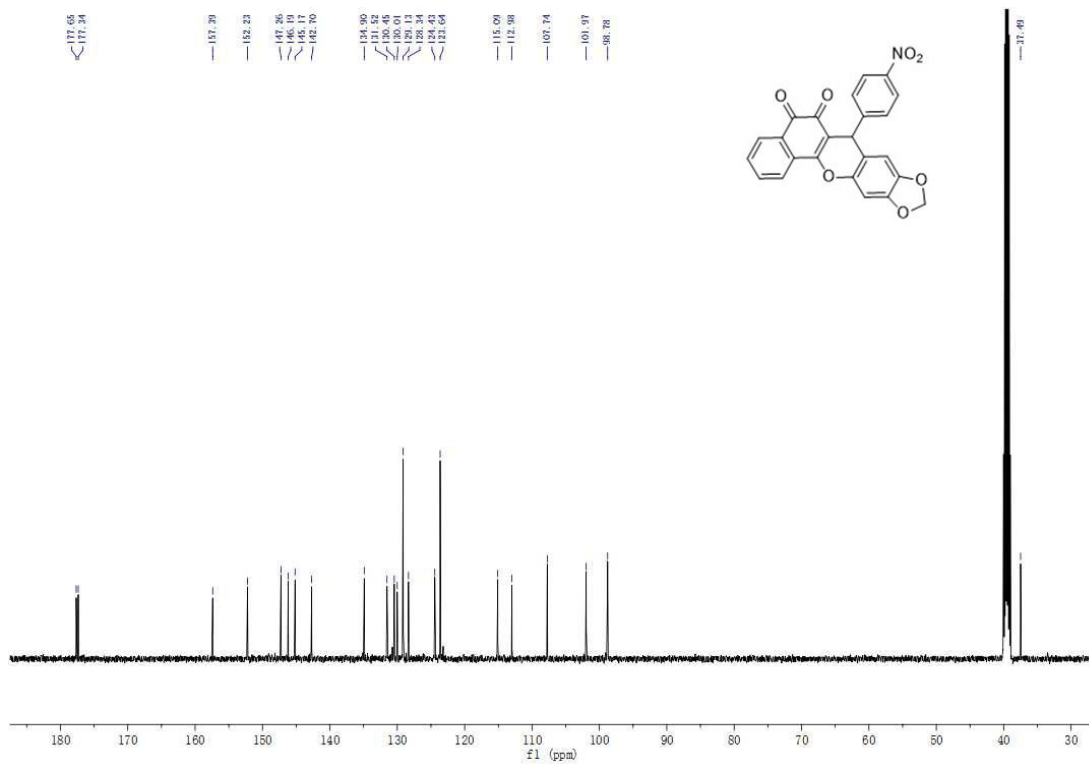
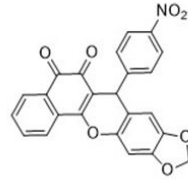
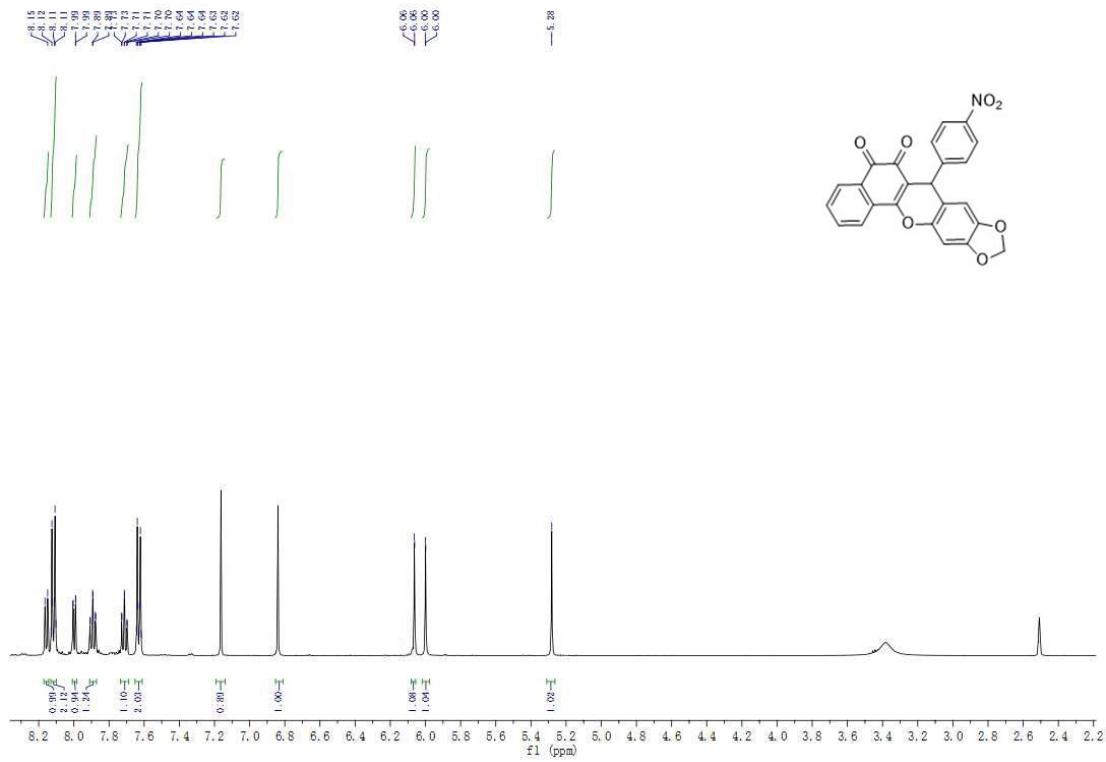


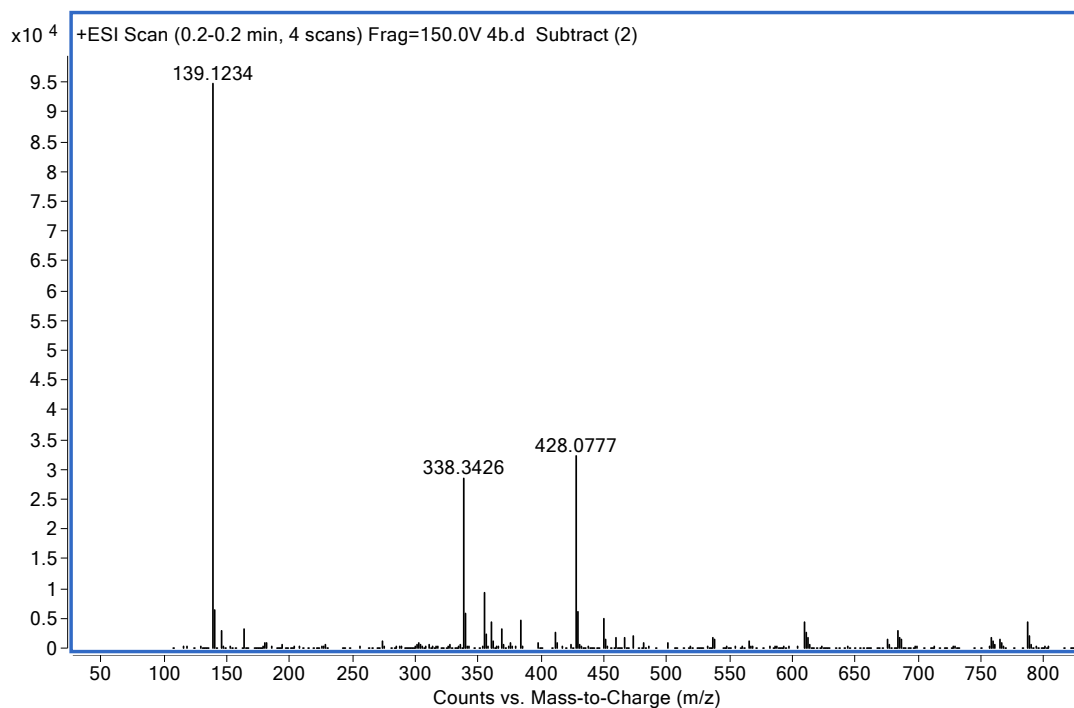
7-(4-bromophenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2H):



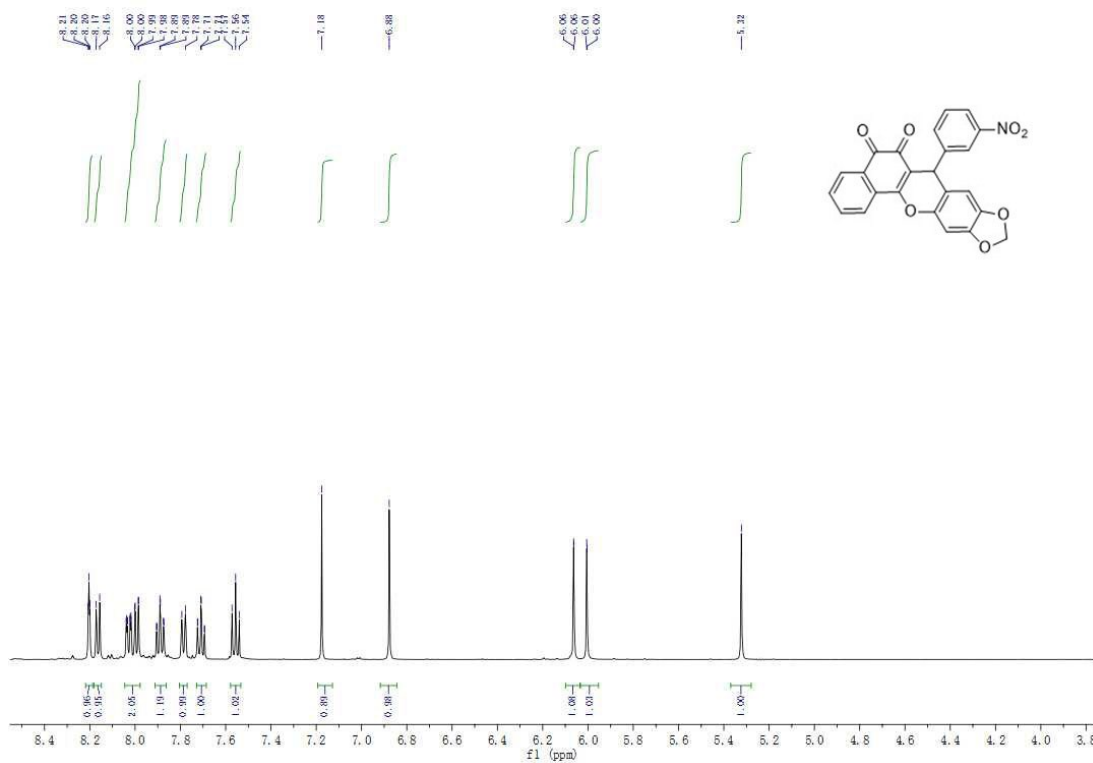


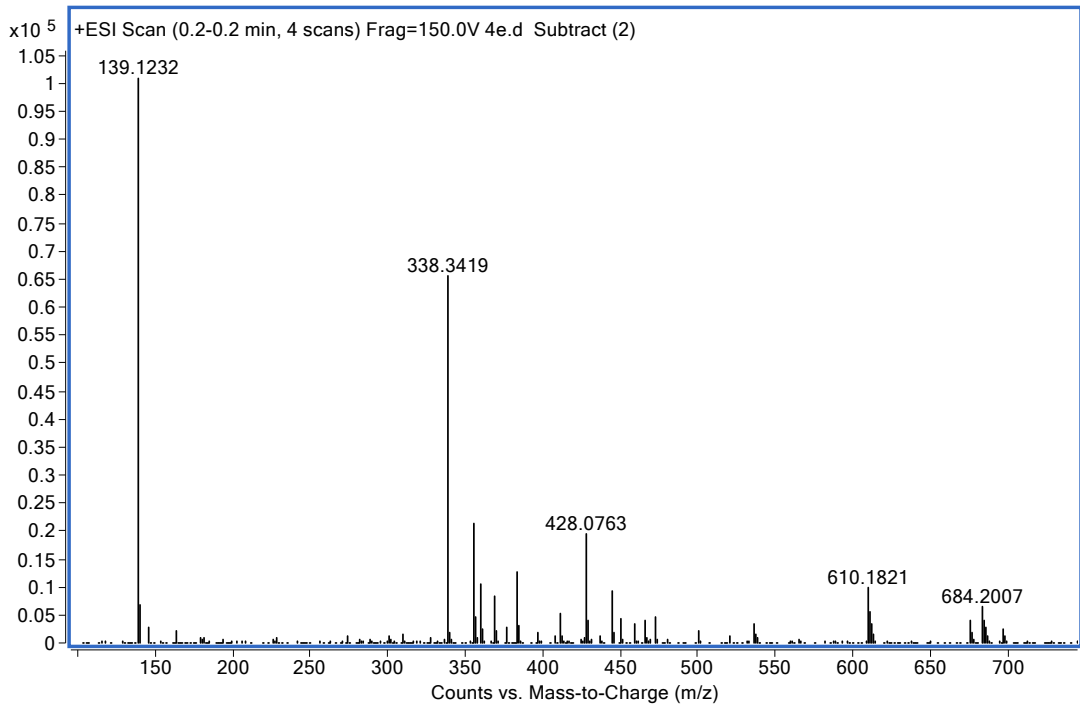
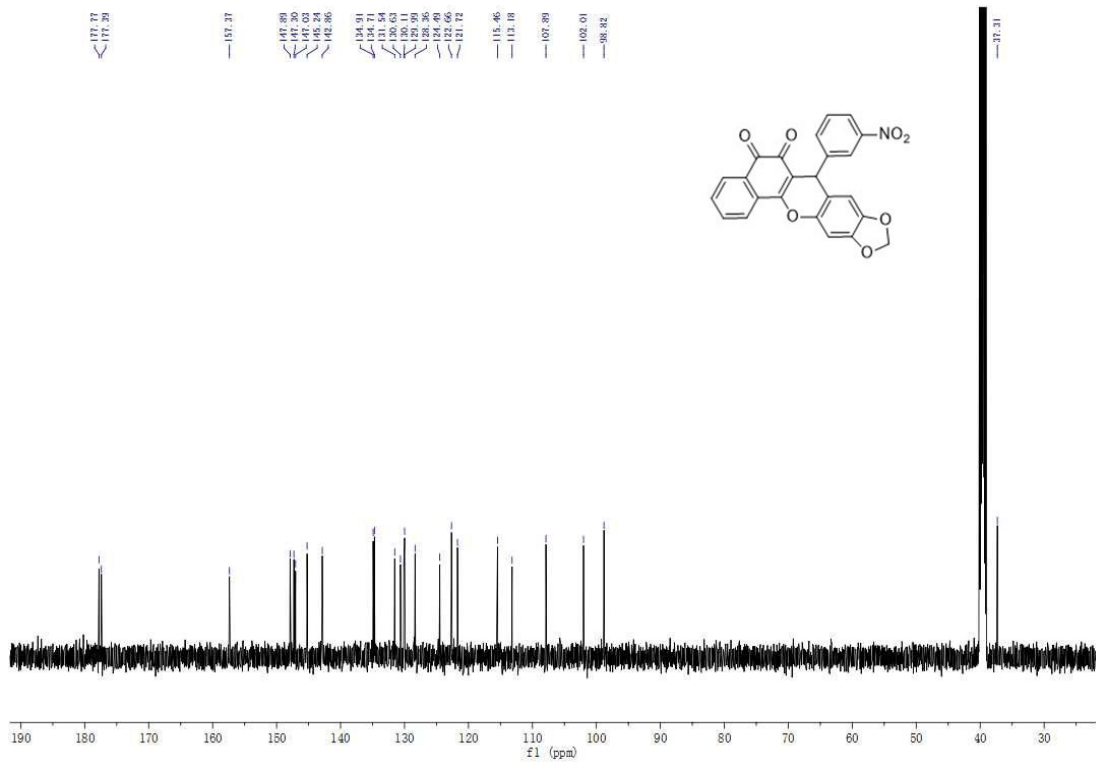
7-(4-nitrophenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2I):



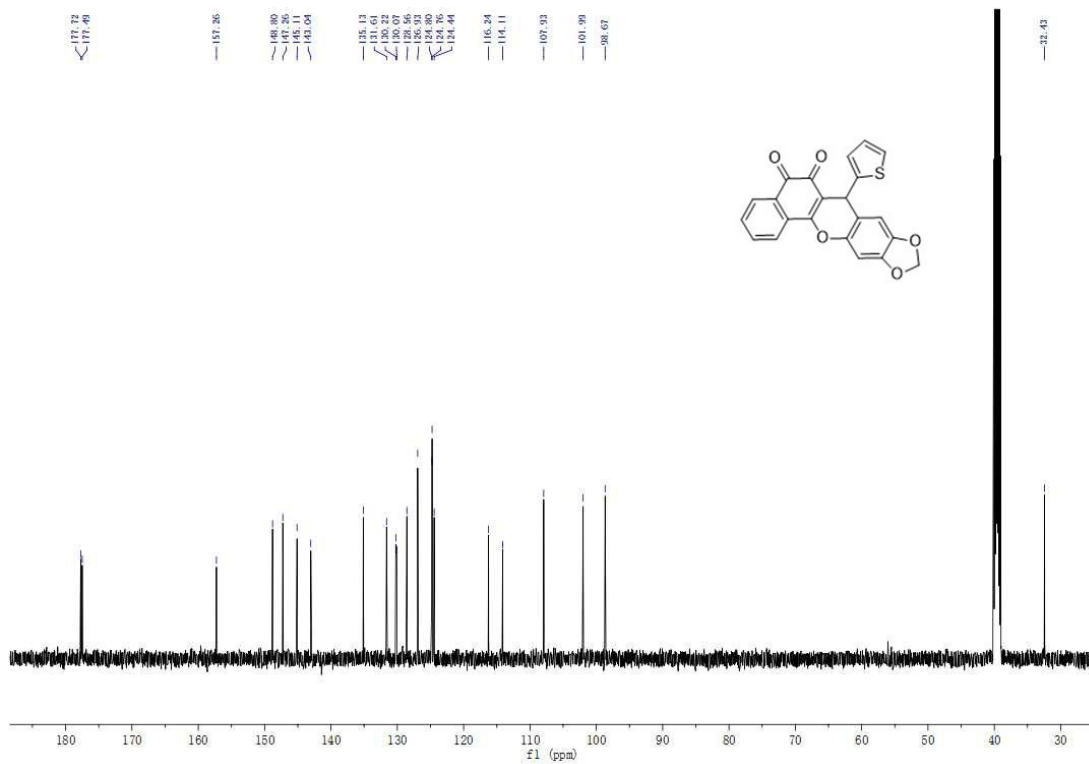
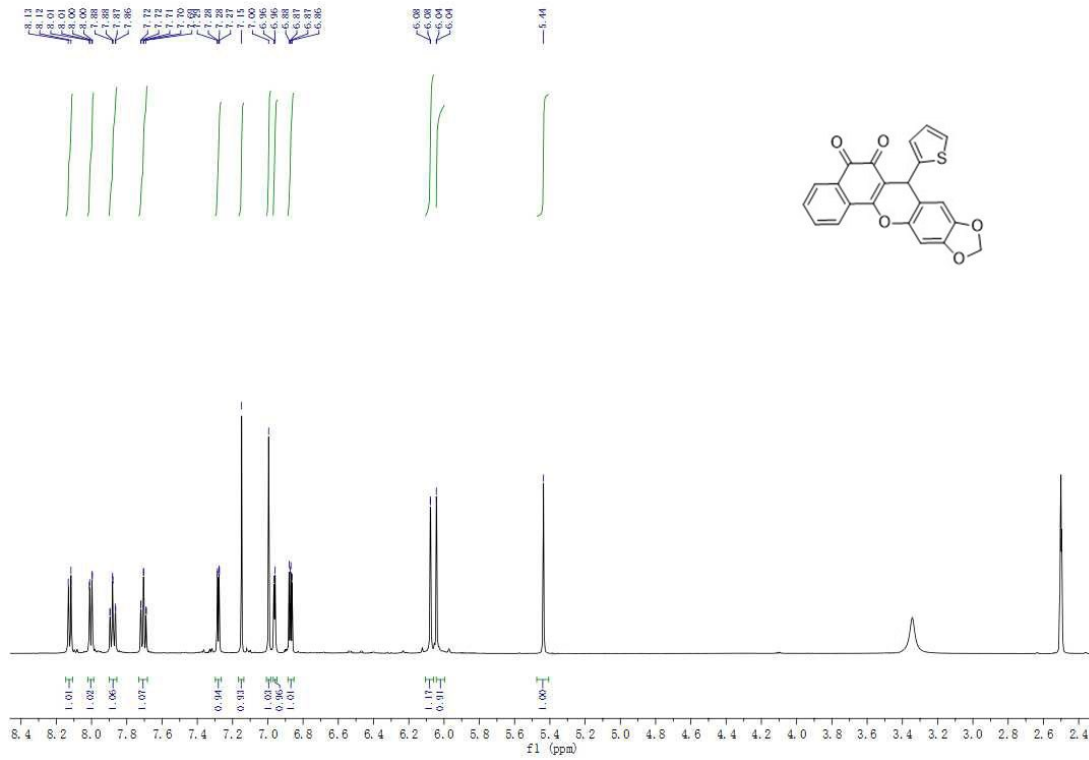


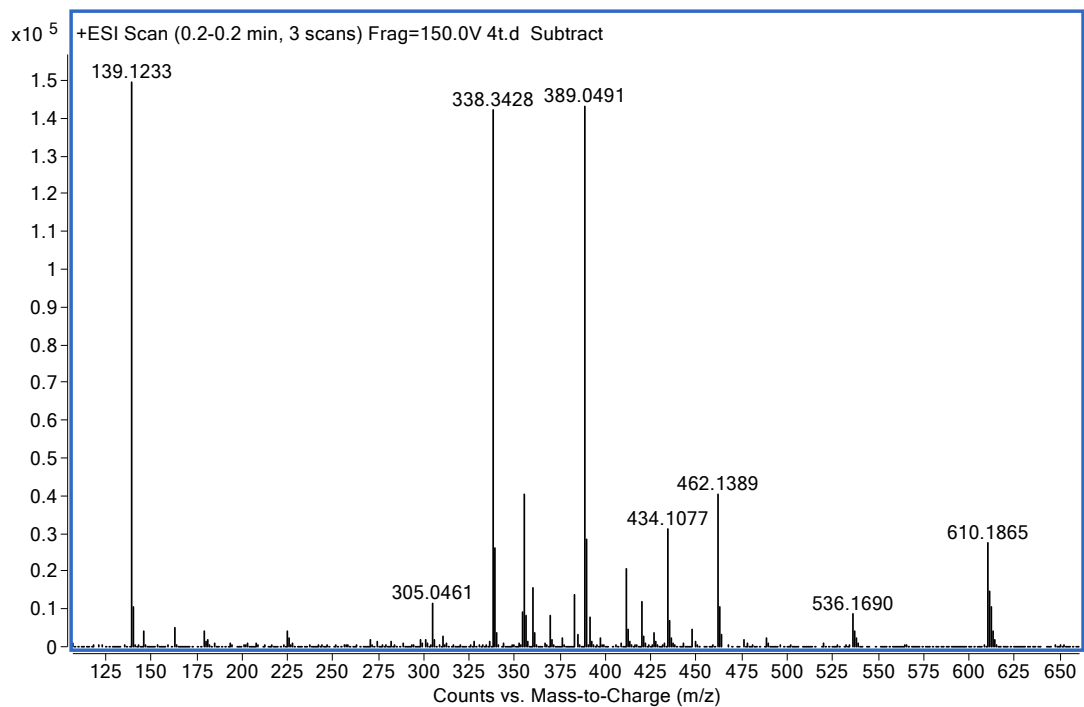
7-(3-nitrophenyl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2J):





7-(thiophen-2-yl)-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2K):





7-phenyl-6H-benzo[h][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-b]xanthene-5,6(7H)-dione (2L):

