

Supporting Information

Cyano-Borrowing Reaction: Nickel-Catalyzed Direct Conversion of Cyanohydrins and Aldehydes/Ketones to β -Cyano Ketone

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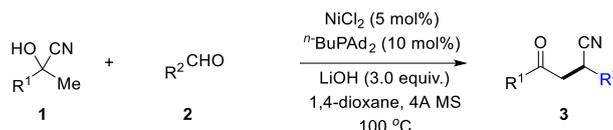
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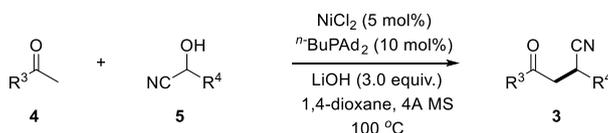
I General information

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 14A04336 (600 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: proton (chloroform δ 7.26), carbon (chloroform δ 77.0) or tetramethylsilane (TMS δ 0.00) was used as a reference. Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), bs (broad singlet). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). All high resolution mass spectra (**HRMS**) were obtained on a micrOTOF-Q II 10269 spectrometer. For thin layer chromatography (**TLC**), TLC plates were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm. Further visualization was achieved by staining with iodine, or potassium permanganate solution followed by heating using a heat gun. Flash chromatography separations were performed on 300-400 mesh silica gel. The cyanohydrins are commercially available or synthesis *via* the known procedures¹

II General Procedure for preparation of product from cyanohydrins



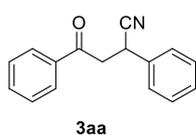
Method A: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added aldehydes (0.2 mmol) ketone cyanohydrins (0.4 mmol) NiCl₂ (5 mol%), ligand **L*** (5 mol%), LiOH (0.6 mmol), 100 mg 4Å MS and anhydrous dioxane (1 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 100 °C for 18 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products.



Method B: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added ketones (0.2 mmol) aldehyde cyanohydrins (0.4 mmol) NiCl₂ (5 mol%), ligand **L*** (5 mol%), LiOH (0.6 mmol), 100 mg 4Å MS and anhydrous dioxane (1 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 100 °C for 18 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products.

III Characterization of products

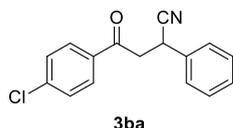
4-oxo-2,4-diphenylbutanenitrile (**3aa**)²



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 82% yield (**method A**), 83% yield (**method B**). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.59-4.52 (m, 1H), 3.71 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 5.7 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.66, 135.79, 135.36, 133.87, 129.28, 128.84, 128.38, 128.11, 127.51, 120.63, 44.49, 31.94.

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ba)²

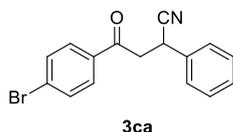


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 70% yield (**method A**) and 75% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.27 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.47 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.49, 140.48, 135.13, 134.09, 130.36–128.85, 128.46, 127.46, 120.42, 44.48, 31.94.

4-(4-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ca)²

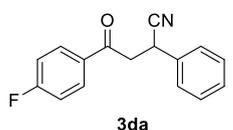


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 90% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 5.9 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.73, 135.11, 134.47, 132.19, 129.57, 129.33, 129.22, 128.47, 127.47, 120.43, 44.4, 31.93, 29.69.

4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3da)³



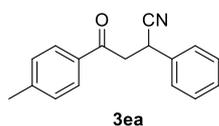
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was

performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 85% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 12.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.47 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.57 (dd, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 187.42, 142.76, 135.06, 134.73, 132.56, 129.30, 128.40 (d, $J = 13.7$ Hz), 127.49, 120.37, 44.81, 31.99.

4-oxo-2-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (3ea)²

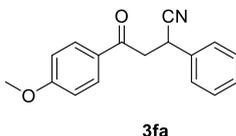


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 72% yield (**method A**) and 77% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.48 (s, 1H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.22, 144.86, 135.45, 133.37, 129.50, 129.25, 128.33, 128.23, 127.50, 120.67, 44.38, 31.96, 21.66.

4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3fa)³

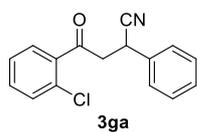


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 86% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.50 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.03, 164.12, 135.49, 130.44, 129.23, 128.88, 128.30, 127.49, 120.72, 114.00, 55.53, 44.16, 32.01.

4-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ga)⁴

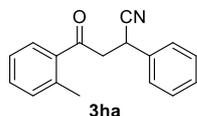


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 65% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 4.46 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.53, 137.67, 134.87, 132.67, 131.36, 130.77, 129.54, 129.28, 128.46, 127.51, 127.19, 120.23, 48.30, 32.26.

4-oxo-2-phenyl-4-(o-tolyl)butanenitrile (3ha)



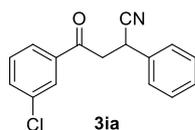
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 72% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (t, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.46 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.02, 139.05, 136.20, 135.29, 132.32, 132.18, 129.26, 128.57, 128.37, 127.50, 125.87, 120.62, 46.86, 32.22, 21.39.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 272.1046; Found: 272.1047.

4-(3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ia)⁴

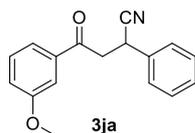


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 65% yield

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 1H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 2.9 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.47, 137.24, 135.28, 135.05, 133.81, 130.18, 129.34, 128.50, 128.23, 127.47, 126.15, 120.34, 44.62, 31.90.

4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ja)



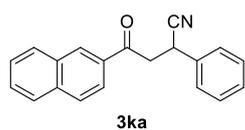
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 85% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40–7.24 (m, 8H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 5.8 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.49, 159.02, 136.11, 134.31, 128.78, 128.25, 127.35, 126.47, 119.59 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz), 119.36, 111.41, 54.47, 43.54, 30.97.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 288.0995; Found: 288.1000.

4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3ka)²



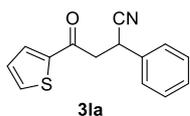
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 53% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, $J = 11.8, 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.54

(dd, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.56, 135.90, 135.40, 133.12, 132.42, 130.03, 129.61, 129.31, 128.94, 128.79, 128.40, 127.86, 127.55, 127.08, 123.50, 120.67, 44.59, 32.07.

4-oxo-2-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)butanenitrile (3la)²

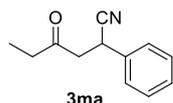


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 82% yield (**method A**), 80% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (t, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.07–7.02 (m, 1H), 4.47 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 17.3$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.44, 166.20, 140.29, 133.93, 129.82, 128.18, 52.40, 26.80.

4-oxo-2-phenylhexanenitrile (3ma)



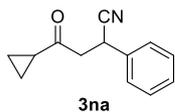
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 40% yield (**method A**), 45% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32–7.24 (m, 5H), 4.30 (dd, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (dq, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dq, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.89, 135.16, 129.24, 128.35, 127.36, 120.43, 47.53, 36.18, 31.69, 7.46.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 210.0889; Found: 210.0892.

4-cyclopropyl-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (3na)



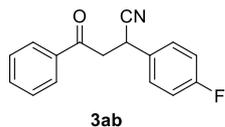
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 57% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33-7.24 (m, 5H), 4.30 (dd, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (tt, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.05 (m, 1H), 0.98 (m, 1H), 0.86 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.24, 135.23, 129.19, 128.28, 127.35, 120.44, 48.47, 31.73, 20.77, 11.43, 11.32.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 222.0889; Found: 222.0890.

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**3ab**)²

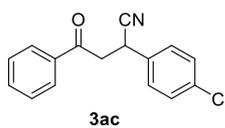


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane : ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 83% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.49 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.44, 163.37, 161.73, 135.68, 133.97, 131.12 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 129.34 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 128.87, 128.09, 44.43, 31.22.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**3ac**)²

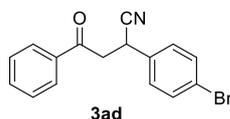


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 77% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (dd, $J = 8.3$, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 4H), 4.49 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.32, 135.62, 134.47, 134.01, 133.82, 129.45, 128.96, 128.88, 128.09, 44.27, 31.34.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**3ad**)²

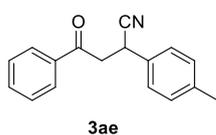


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 73% yield (**method A**), 78% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.46 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.32, 135.62, 134.37, 134.00, 132.41, 129.28, 128.88, 128.09, 122.50, 120.15, 44.19, 31.42.

4-oxo-4-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (**3ae**)²



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 66% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.48–4.39 (m, 1H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.74, 138.24, 135.84, 133.82, 132.32, 129.91, 128.82, 128.10, 127.36, 44.53, 31.56, 21.04.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**3af**)²

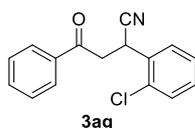


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 76% yield (**method A**), 79% yield (**method B**).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.45 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 6.2 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.76, 159.59, 135.85, 133.82, 128.81, 128.66, 128.08, 127.24, 120.85, 114.65, 55.36, 44.56, 31.17.

2-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ag)²

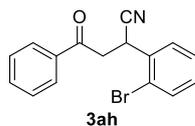


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 56% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dt, $J = 23.7$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d, $J = 9.3$, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.41, 135.67, 133.89, 132.75, 130.31, 129.88, 129.49, 128.84, 128.12, 127.77, 119.65, 42.42, 30.07.

2-(2-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ah)⁴

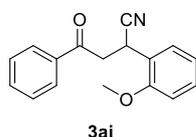


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 75% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 3.1 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.35, 135.66, 134.46, 133.89, 133.64, 130.08, 129.50, 128.84, 128.42, 128.13, 122.87, 119.72, 42.73, 32.49.

2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ai)²

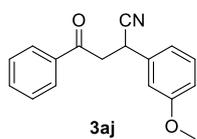


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 90% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 4.6 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.33, 156.31, 136.00, 133.65, 129.78, 128.95, 128.75, 128.09, 123.24, 121.11, 120.54, 111.10, 55.59, 42.19, 27.48.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3aj)³

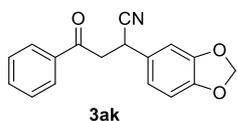


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 68% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.78 (dd, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.64 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 5.8 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.65, 160.23, 136.76, 135.78, 133.87, 130.35, 128.83, 128.11, 120.52, 119.64, 113.82, 113.35, 55.37, 44.47, 31.93.

2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ak)²

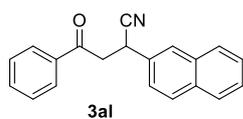


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 70% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.79 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 4.41 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.63, 148.35, 147.70, 135.76, 133.89, 128.84, 128.10, 121.02, 120.68, 108.77, 107.96, 101.46, 44.54, 31.59.

2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3al)⁴

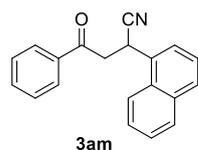


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.50$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 58% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89-7.82 (m, 3H), 7.82-7.73 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.66 (dd, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.63, 135.74, 133.91, 133.35, 132.9, 132.55, 129.32, 128.85, 128.13, 127.94, 127.75, 126.84, 126.76, 126.69, 124.83, 120.64, 44.53, 32.09.

2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3am)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.50$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 89% yield.

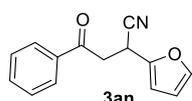
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.24 (dd, $J =$

9.7 Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, $J = 18.1$ Hz, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, $J = 18.1$ Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.91, 135.69, 134.17, 133.93, 130.81, 129.76, 129.47, 129.34, 128.85, 128.17, 127.29, 126.33, 125.93, 125.54, 122.02, 120.68, 43.74, 29.06.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 308.1046; Found: 308.1048.

2-(furan-2-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3an)²

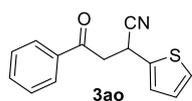


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 77% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.28 (dd, $J = 3.2, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.65-3.56 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.28, 146.94, 143.14, 135.61, 133.99, 128.88, 128.14, 118.36, 110.86, 108.24, 40.71, 26.02.

4-oxo-4-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)butanenitrile (3ao)²

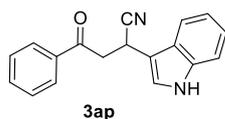


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 67% yield (**method A**), 69% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 6.5 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.26, 137.04, 135.63, 134.02, 128.89, 128.15, 127.18, 126.73, 125.90, 44.59, 27.27.

2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ap)



3ap

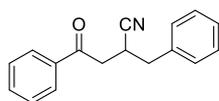
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 51% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, $J = 7.9$, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, $J = 17.9$, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, $J = 17.9$, 5.7 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.31, 136.50, 135.88, 133.82, 128.81, 128.11, 125.00, 122.93, 122.89, 120.79, 120.39, 118.36, 111.77, 109.76, 42.94, 23.73.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 297.0998; Found: 297.1003.

2-benzyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3aq)



3aq

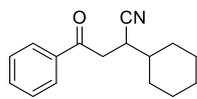
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure A as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.50$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 64% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (dd, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 5.0 Hz, 3H), 3.47 (dq, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, $J = 17.9$ Hz, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (qd, $J = 13.7$ Hz, 7.0 Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.25, 136.41, 135.93, 133.86, 129.20, 128.86, 128.04, 127.49, 121.42, 39.79, 37.55, 28.21.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 272.1046; Found: 272.1043.

2-cyclohexyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3ar)



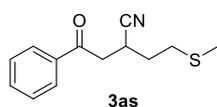
3ar

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.50$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 83% yield (**method A**), 82% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.31 (td, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dt, $J = 20.0$ Hz, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.72 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.62 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 1H), 1.25-1.06 (m, 5H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.55, 136.07, 133.74, 128.82, 128.05, 120.97, 38.97, 38.45, 32.55, 31.46, 29.20, 25.99, 25.86, 25.81.

2-(2-(methylthio)ethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (3as)



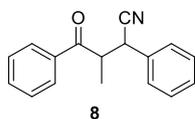
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 32% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.50-3.42 (m, 1H), 3.38 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 17.8$ Hz, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dt, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dt, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.93, 135.87, 133.90, 128.88, 128.04, 121.23, 40.50, 31.43, 31.25, 25.43, 15.44.

HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NOS}, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 256.0767; Found: 256.0769.

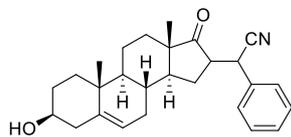
3-methyl-4-oxo-2,4-diphenylbutanenitrile (8)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **A** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane:ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a white solid in 31% yield (**method A**), 25% yield (**method B**).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.83-3.65 (m, 1H), 1.00 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

2-((3*S*, 8*R*, 9*S*, 10*R*, 13*S*, 14*S*)-3-hydroxy-10,13-dimethyl-17-oxo-2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-16-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (10)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure **B** as described. Silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (6:1) ($R_f = 0.40$

in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in a white solid in 57% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dt, $J = 15.1$ Hz, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.35-5.28 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.43 (m, 1H), 2.83 (ddd, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.26 (dd, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.16-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.92 (ddd, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 4.3 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.69 (m, 3H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.40 (m, 3H), 1.37-1.25 (m, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H).

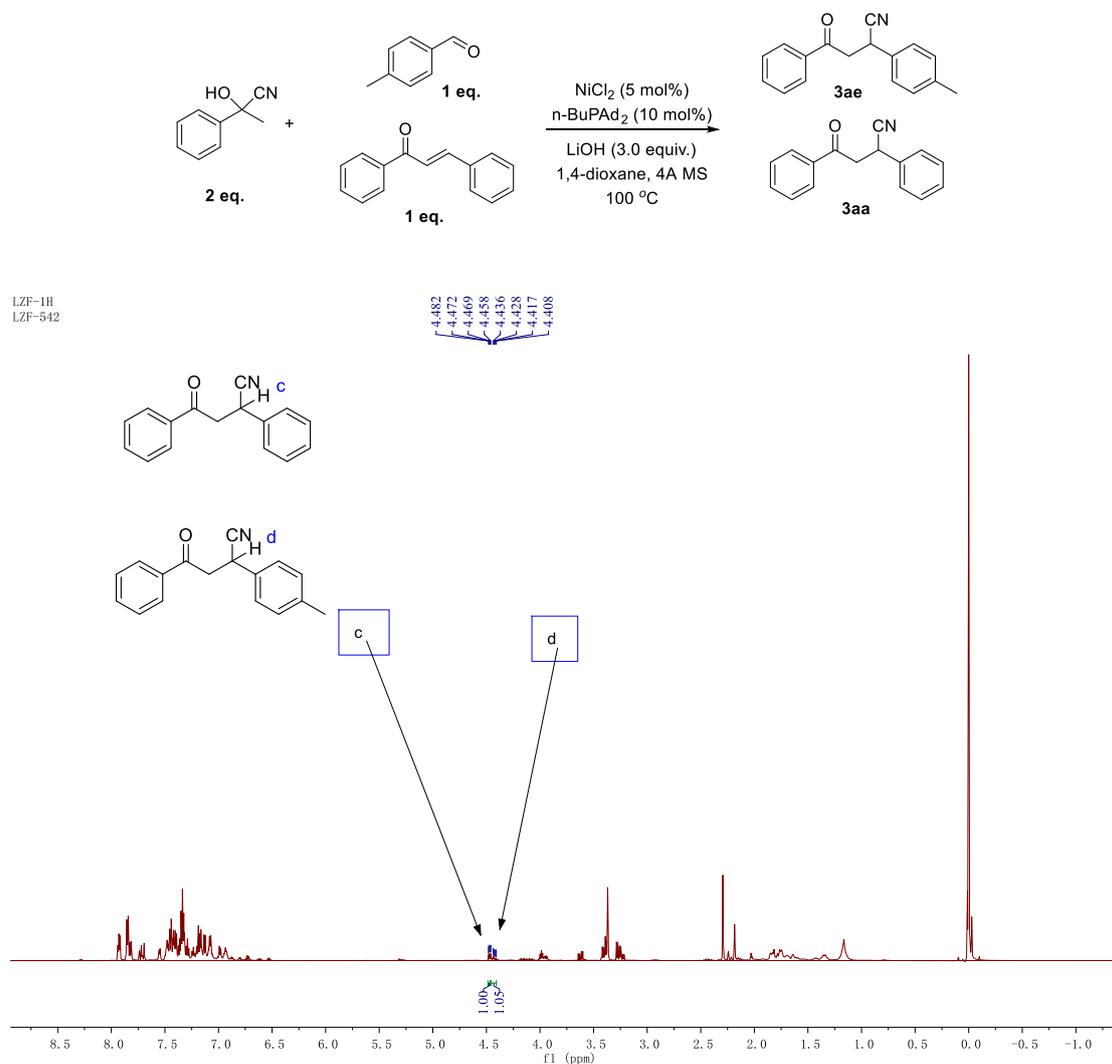
$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.61, 141.19, 135.99, 135.65, 133.08, 130.32, 128.68, 120.83, 71.62, 50.38, 49.92, 47.34, 42.25, 37.16, 36.75, 31.62, 31.60, 31.23, 30.95, 29.37, 20.44, 19.47, 14.23.

IV Procedure of gram scale reaction

To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added *o*-Anisaldehyde (5 mmol) acetophenone cyanohydrin (10 mmol) NiCl_2 (5 mol%), ligand **L** (5 mol%), LiOH (300 mol%), 300 mg 4Å MS and anhydrous dioxane (10 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 100 °C for 18 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure product 1.12 g, 85% yield.

V The mechanism study.

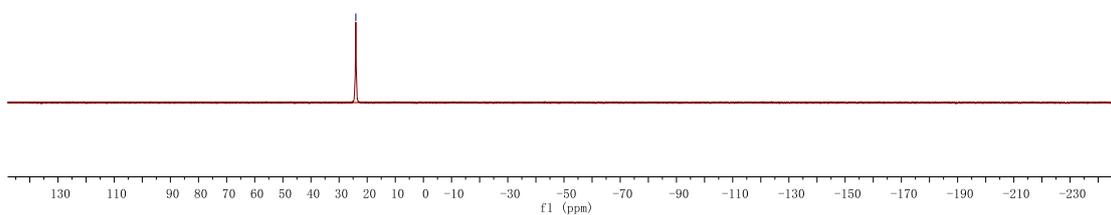
To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added Chalcone **11** (0.2 mmol), *p*-Tolualdehyde (0.2 mmol), acetophenone cyanohydrin (0.4 mmol), NiCl₂ (5 mol%), ligand L (5 mol%), LiOH (0.6 mmol), 100 mg 4Å MS and anhydrous dioxane (1 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 100 oC for 18 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and given ¹H NMR. We got the corresponding products **3aa** and **3ae** with the ratio of 1.05:1, which shows that the cyano group from the cleavage of C-CN bond of cyanohydrin was a free anion in this nickel-catalyzed protocol and has the same opportunity to conjugated addition to each chalcone.



prove that the coordination of CN toward Ni.

Desktop
LZF-1306

24.041

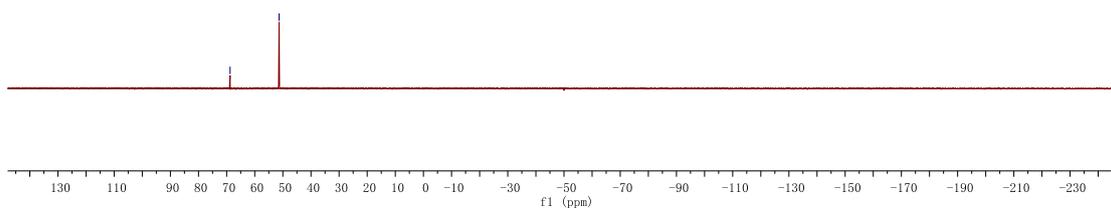
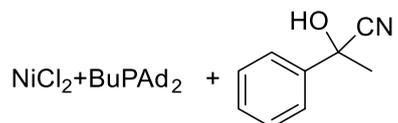


The ³¹P NMR of the mixture of NiCl₂ and ⁿBuPAD₂.

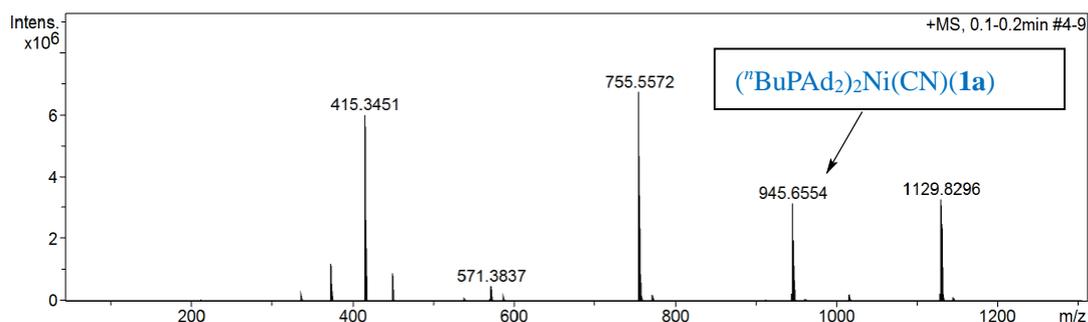
LZF-13C
LZF-1184-d

68.761

51.337

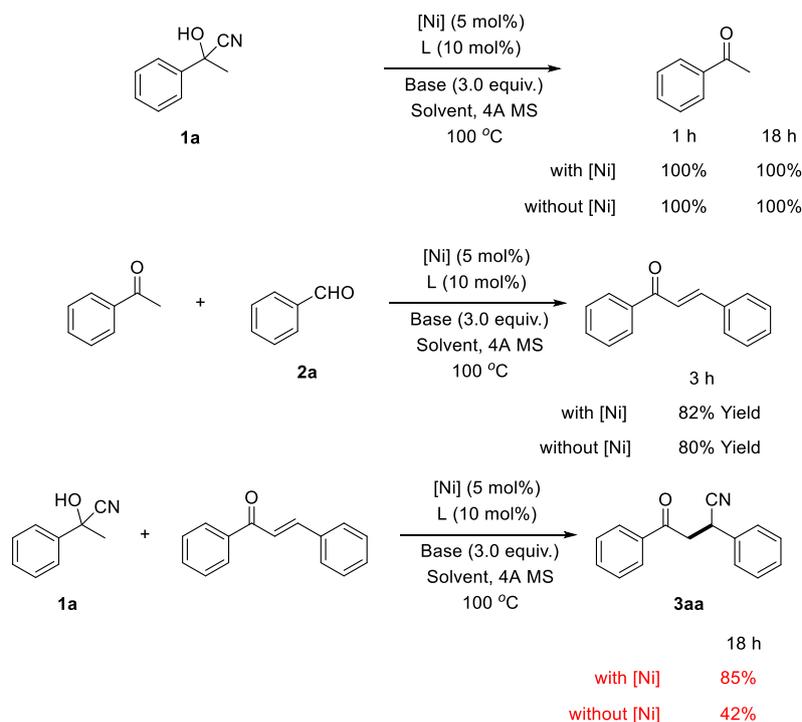


The ³¹P NMR of the mixture of NiCl₂, ⁿBuPAD₂ and acetophenone cyanohydrin 1a.

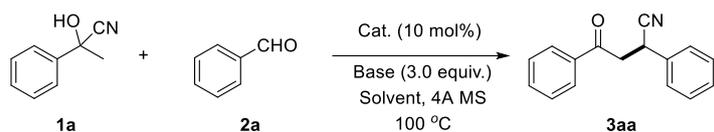


The HIMS of the reaction mixture under standard condition.

In order to understand the role of nickel catalyst in mechanism, we have tested every step of the reaction in the presence and absence of the nickel catalyst in 1 h and 18 h, respectively, as it shows in figure 1. We found that the nickel catalyst improves the conjugate 1,4-addition of the cyano group to chalcone.

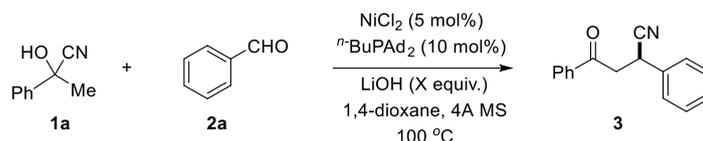


The control experiments with other Lewis acid catalyst, such as $\text{Ti}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_4$ was tested, and got 35% Yield. The Brønsted acid catalyst, such as benzoic acid (PhCO_2H) was used in this cyano-borrowing reaction, 23% Yield was obtained. These control experiments shown that the acid could improve the reaction, but nickel catalyst was the optimal choose. All these control experiments shows that the Lewis acid was the role playing for nickel complex, and the oxidation number of Ni does not change through the cyano borrowing process.



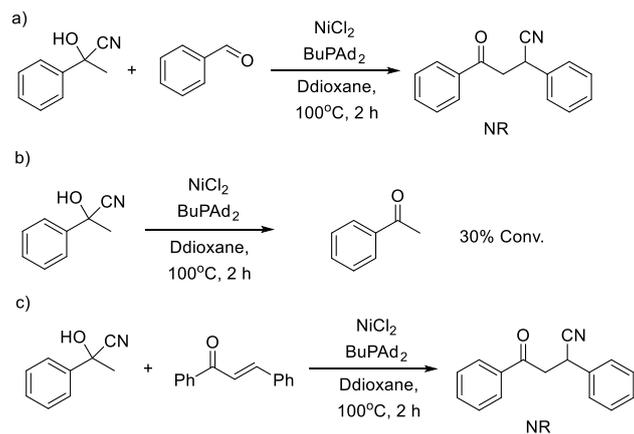
Cat. = $\text{Ti}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_4$ (Lewis acid): 35% Yield
 Cat. = PhCO_2H (Bronsted acid): 23% Yield

LiOH is very important in this nickel-catalyzed cyano borrowing process, and the reaction with different equivalents of LiOH were tested, the results were listed as below. The transformation did not work while catalytic amounts was tested, and trace desired product was obtained with one equivalent LiOH. But the desired product 3 was obtained in 64% yield while two equivalent of LiOH was introduced to the cyano borrowing reaction, and 85% yield was achieved under the standard reaction conditions.



Entry	LiOH (eq.)	Yield (%)
1	0.2	NR
2	0.5	NR
3	1.0	Trace
4	2.0	64
5	3.0	85

In addition, LiOH was very important in this transformation, not just work as the base for the Aldol condensation, but also important in the “Borrowing” and “Returning”. As it shows below, the nickel catalyzed cyano borrowing reaction has no activity at the absence of LiOH. Low conversion was achieved for the decyanoation of the cyanohydrins and no Micheal addition was occurred without the addition of LiOH. Overall, lithium hydroxide is the key additive for the transformation.

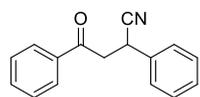


VI References

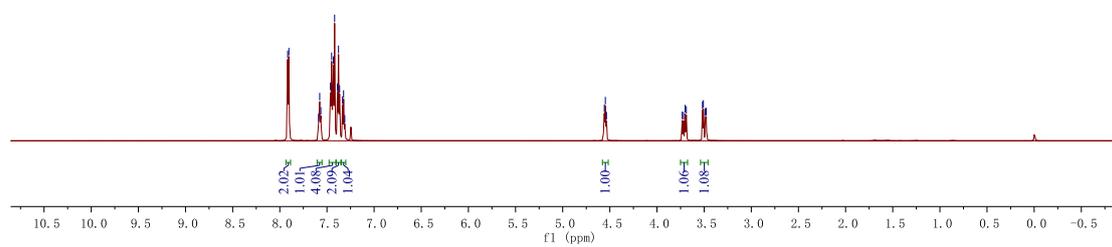
- 1, Huang, X.; Wang, W. *Synlett* **2017**, 28, 439-444.
- 2, Lin, S.; Wei, Y.; Liang, F. *Chem. Commun.*, **2012**, 48, 9879-9881.
- 3, Wang, Y.; Chen, X. F. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, 4624-463.
- 4, Zhang, J.; Liu, X.; Wang, R. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, 20, 4911 – 4915.

VII NMR of products

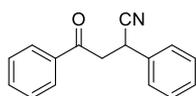
LZF-138



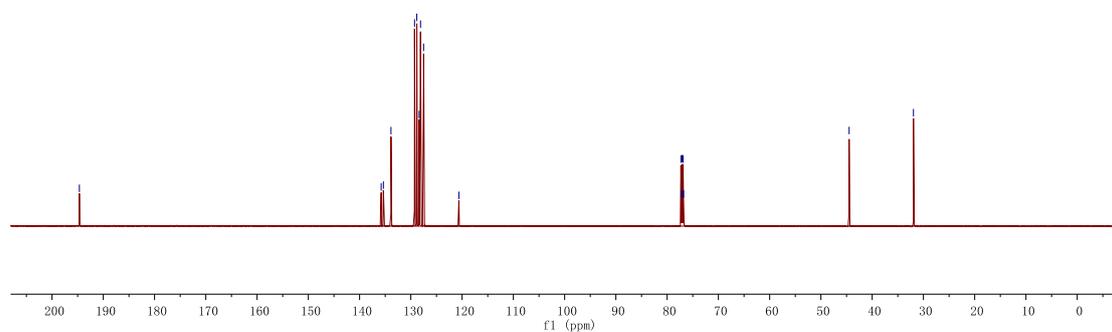
3aa



LZF-138



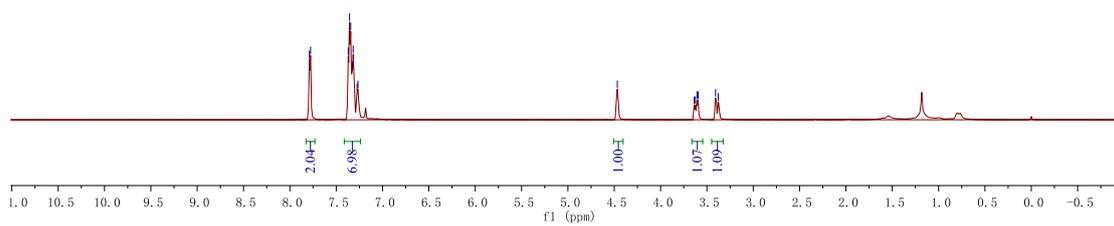
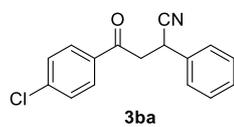
3aa



LZF-1H
LZF-384-1

7.790
7.777
7.370
7.356
7.344
7.326
7.317
7.275
7.265

4.467
3.637
3.624
3.607
3.595
3.407
3.378



LZF-13C
LZF-384-1

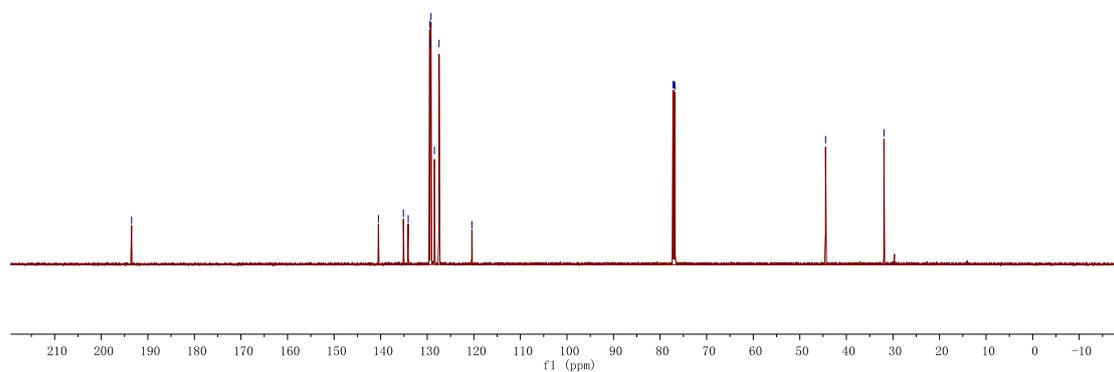
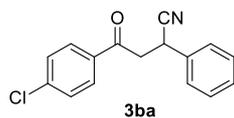
193.491

140.484
135.128
131.000
129.489
129.318
128.169
127.459
120.417

77.240
77.028
76.817

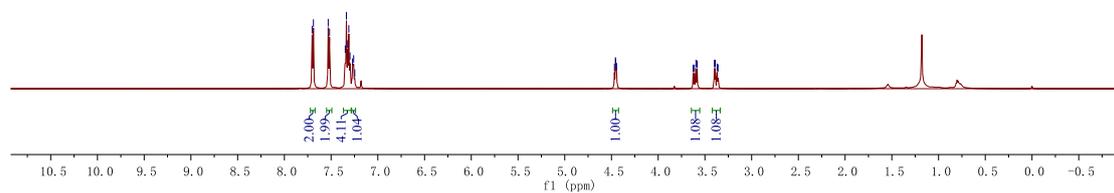
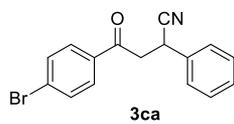
44.475

31.940



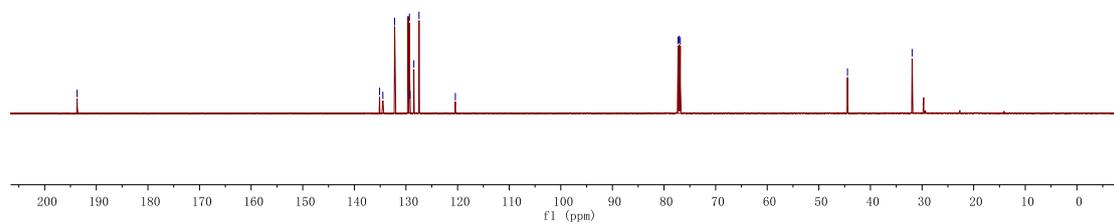
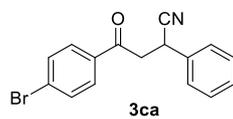
LZF-1H
LZF-437

7.703
7.689
7.531
7.517
7.348
7.336
7.323
7.311
7.298
7.270
7.259
7.247
4.468
4.458
4.455
4.445
3.626
3.613
3.596
3.583
3.399
3.390
3.370
3.360



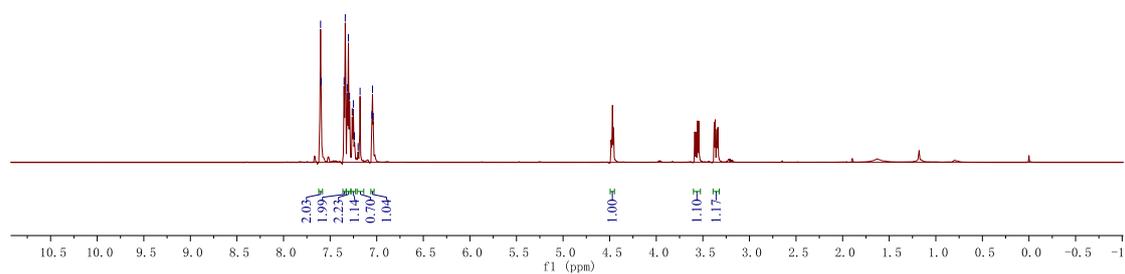
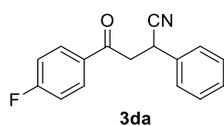
LZF-13C
LZF-437

193.725
135.108
134.475
132.194
129.327
129.218
128.474
127.469
120.432
77.772
77.660
76.848
44.449
31.926



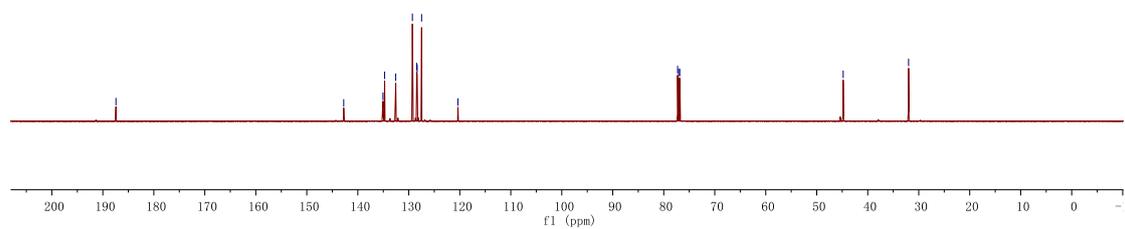
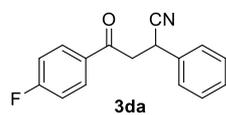
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LZF-430

7.603
7.595
7.350
7.338
7.316
7.304
7.292
7.263
7.251
7.239
7.200
7.179
7.052
7.045
7.038



LZF-13C
LZF-430

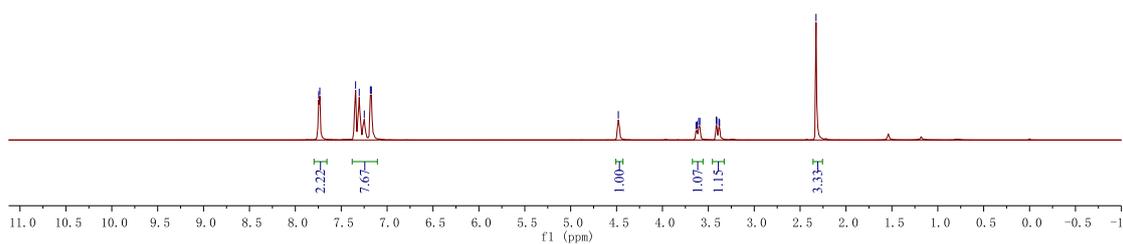
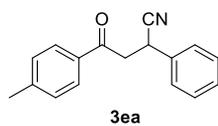
187.424
142.760
134.734
132.560
129.296
128.445
128.354
127.388
77.783
77.072
76.860
44.811
31.987



LZF-1H
LZF-383-1

7.745
7.734
7.534
7.504
7.249
7.182
7.172

4.481
3.635
3.622
3.605
3.592
3.414
3.407
3.384
3.378
2.326



LZF-13C
LZF-383-2

194.223

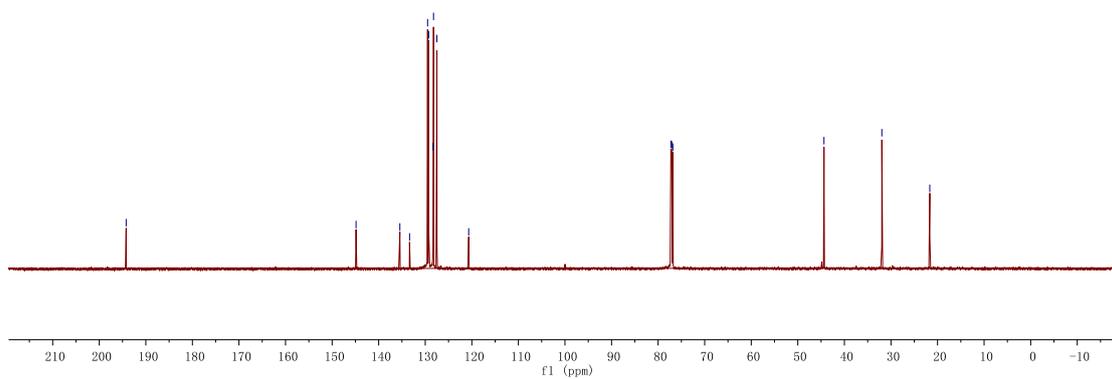
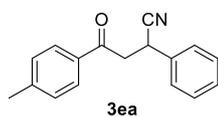
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135.449
133.370
129.500
129.247
128.525
128.226
127.496
120.673

77.260
77.048
76.836

44.378

31.959

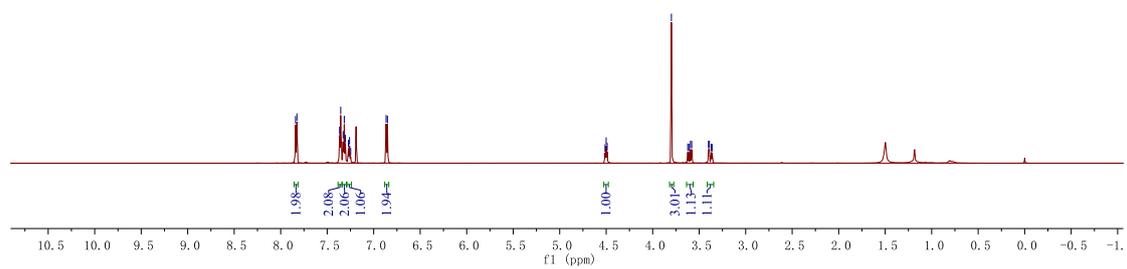
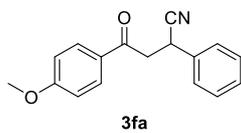
21.665



LZF-1H
LZF-428-1

7.840
7.826
7.367
7.355
7.316
6.886
6.852

4.512
4.500
4.489
3.799
3.623
3.610
3.594
3.581
3.400
3.390
3.371
3.361



LZF-13C
LZF-428-1

193.027

164.124

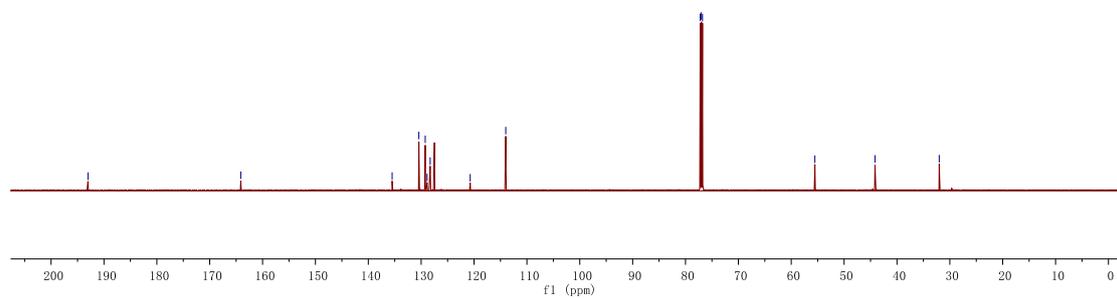
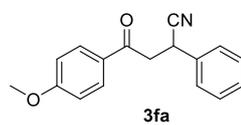
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130.439
129.232
128.883
128.300
120.721
114.003

77.213
77.001
76.790

55.530

44.159

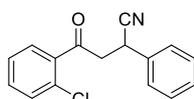
32.009



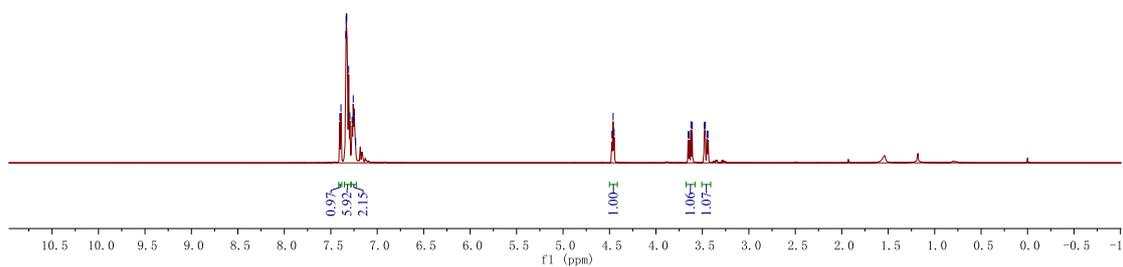
LZF-1H
LZF-387-1

7.403
7.390
7.339
7.334
7.333
7.328
7.308
7.295
7.270
7.259
7.250
7.246
7.232

4.474
4.461
4.450
3.654
3.640
3.624
3.600
3.580
3.470
3.451
3.440



3ga



LZF-13C
LZF-387

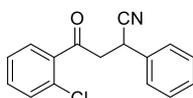
197.527

137.667
134.874
132.670
128.462
127.506
127.193
120.229

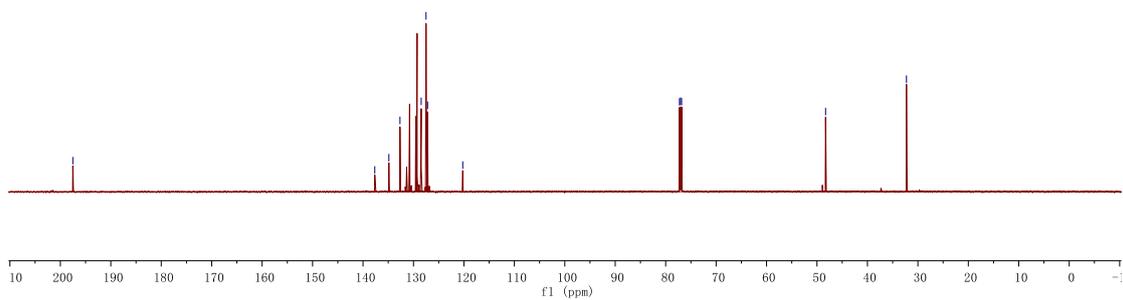
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77.053
76.841

48.299

32.260

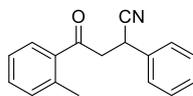


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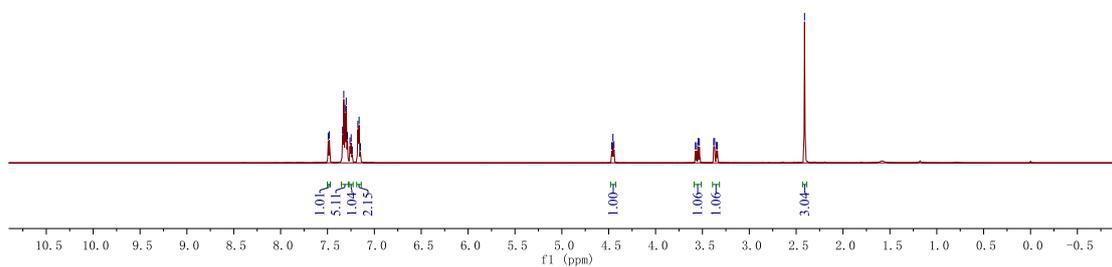


LZF-1H
LZF-388-1

7.492
7.480
7.339
7.326
7.312
7.300
7.287
7.260
7.248
7.236
7.176
7.163
7.149
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3.351
3.341
2.411

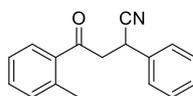


3ha

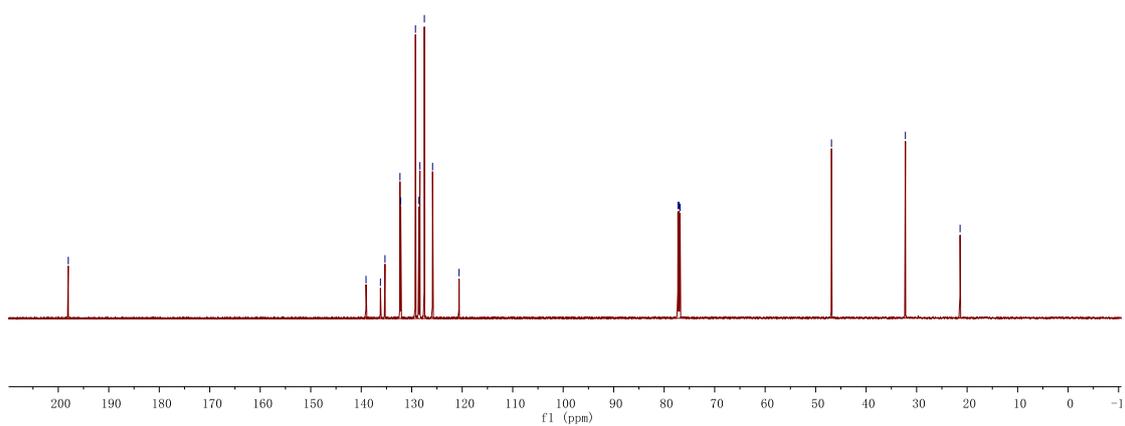


LZF-13C
LZF-388-1.5

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136.199
135.293
132.321
132.179
129.262
128.572
128.373
127.499
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120.616
77.275
77.064
76.852
46.863
32.220
21.392



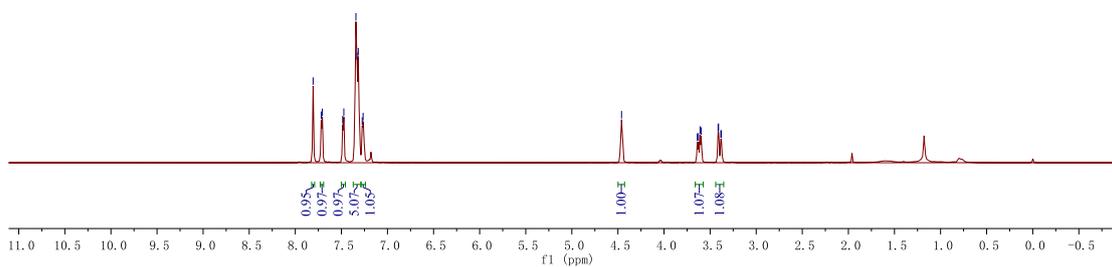
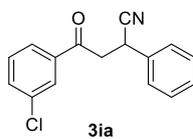
3ha



LZF-1H
LZF-385-1

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7.719
7.707
7.486
7.474
7.342
7.331
7.317
7.274
7.264

4.461
3.639
3.626
3.609
3.598
3.413
3.409
3.384
3.379

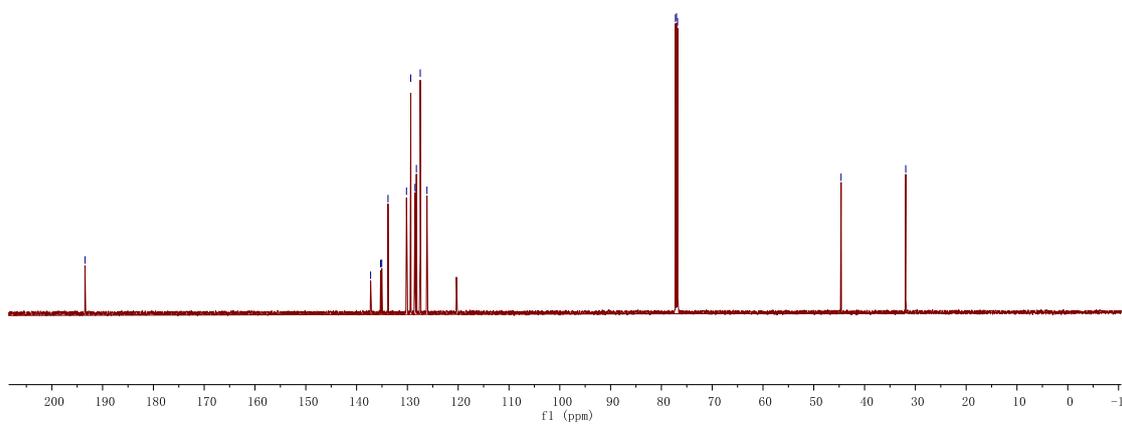
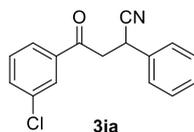


LZF-13C
LZF-385

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133.812
130.179
129.337
128.497
128.230
127.469
126.149

77.237
77.025
76.813

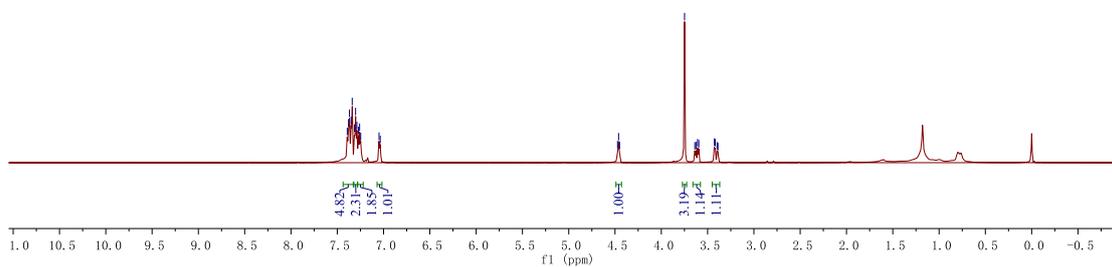
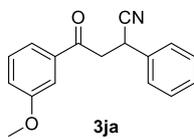
44.620
31.896



LZF-1H
LZF-386-1

7.392
7.378
7.368
7.350
7.339
7.314
7.302
7.288
7.272
7.259
7.247
7.049
7.036

4.473
4.462
4.451
3.749
3.638
3.625
3.609
3.595
3.428
3.418
3.398
3.388



LZF-13C
LZF-386-

159.018

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134.307
128.783
128.246
127.347
126.473
119.619
119.360

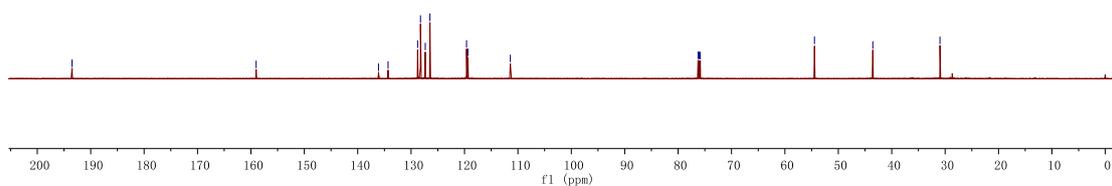
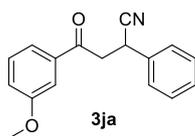
111.414

76.264
76.052
75.840

54.466

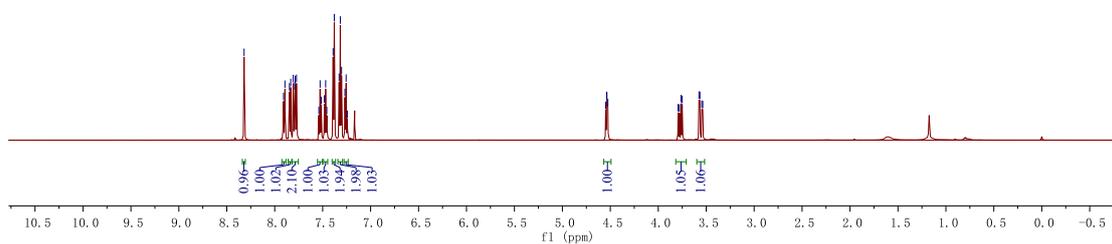
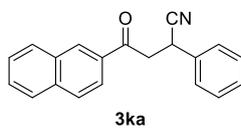
43.545

30.966



LZF-1H
LZF-431

8.320
7.908
7.894
7.847
7.833
7.807
7.792
7.787
7.773
7.540
7.527
7.515
7.482
7.469
7.391
7.379
7.328
7.316
7.303
7.268
7.256
4.538
4.536
4.525
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3.764
3.750
3.575
3.566
3.546
3.536



LZF-13C
LZF-431

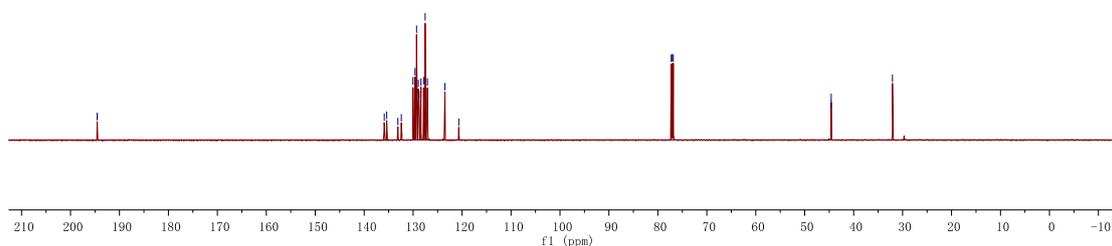
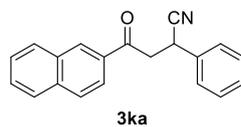
194.560

135.904
135.403
133.118
132.420
130.027
129.612
129.302
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127.546
127.080
125.504
120.673

77.268
77.057
76.845

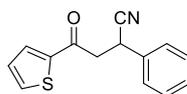
44.601
44.584

32.074

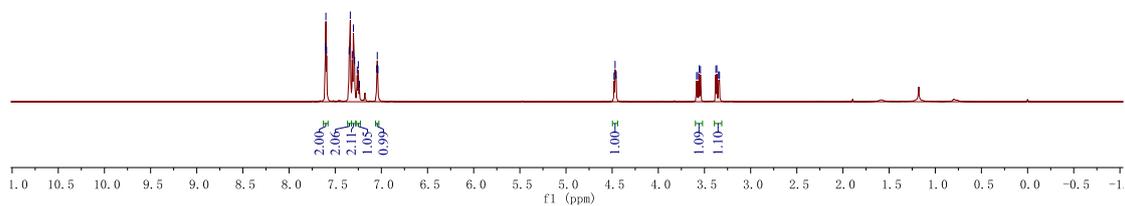


LZF-1H
LZF-439-1

7.606
7.601
7.593
7.349
7.337
7.315
7.305
7.296
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7.238
7.051
7.044
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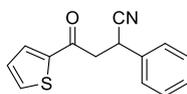


3la

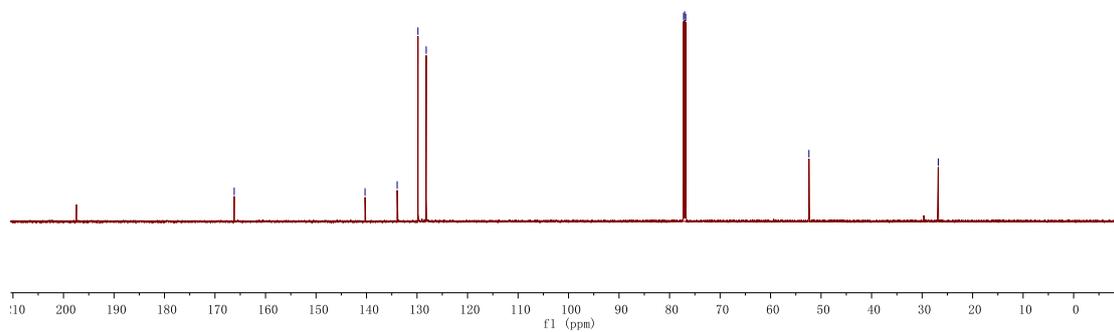


LZF-13C
LZF-439-1

166.197
140.293
133.932
129.817
128.180
77.227
77.015
76.803
52.405
26.801

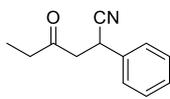


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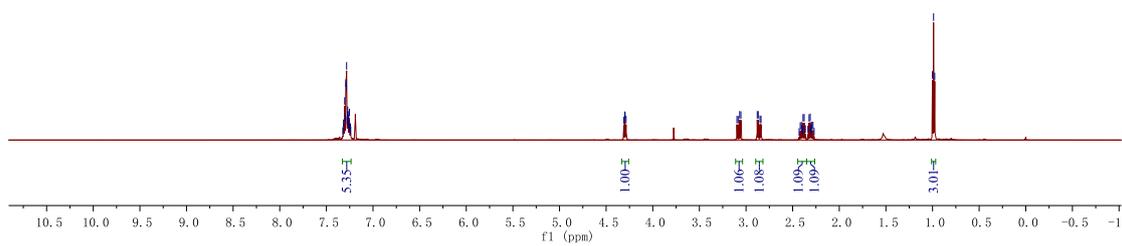


LZF-1H
LZF-432-3

7.324
7.316
7.313
7.304
7.296
7.292
7.286
7.283
7.279
7.274
7.272
7.268
7.265
7.262
7.257
7.253
7.249
7.245
7.242
7.239
4.310
4.299
4.297
4.286
3.098
3.068
3.055
2.879
2.869
2.850
2.839
2.418
2.406
2.389
2.376
2.324
2.312
2.294
2.282
1.989
0.977



3ma



LZF-13C
LZF-432-3
203.89

135.16
129.24
128.35
127.36
120.43

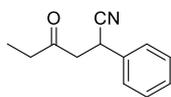
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76.81

47.53

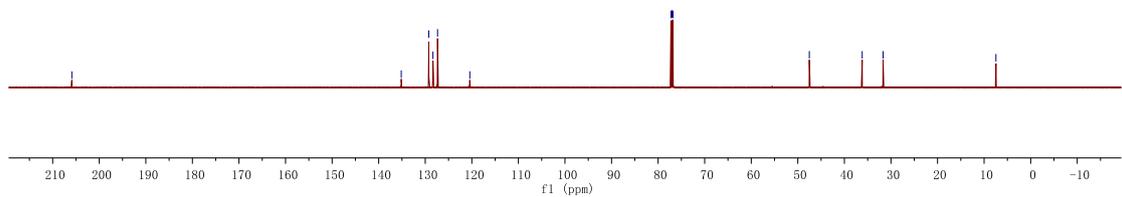
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31.69

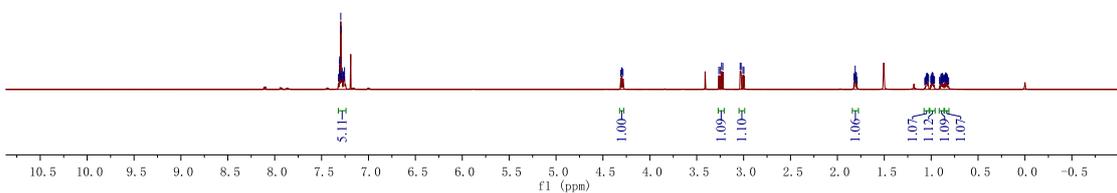
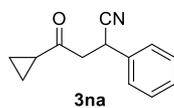
7.46



3ma



7.337
7.334
7.307
7.306
7.301
7.296
7.292
7.287
7.284
7.281
7.270
7.267
7.262
7.260
7.255
7.253
4.309
4.299
4.296
4.286
4.264
3.251
3.235
3.221
3.037
3.027
3.007
2.997
1.823
1.818
1.816
1.810
1.804
1.803
1.797
1.052
1.047
1.045
1.041
1.040
1.036
1.033
1.028
0.999
0.997
0.993
0.992
0.988
0.986
0.981
0.897
0.895
0.889
0.888
0.884
0.882
0.878
0.876
0.871
0.865
0.861
0.859
0.854
0.847
0.846
0.844
0.842
0.841
0.834
0.832
0.831
0.829



LZF-13C
Lzf-13C-6
205.54

135.225
129.192
128.284
127.354
120.439

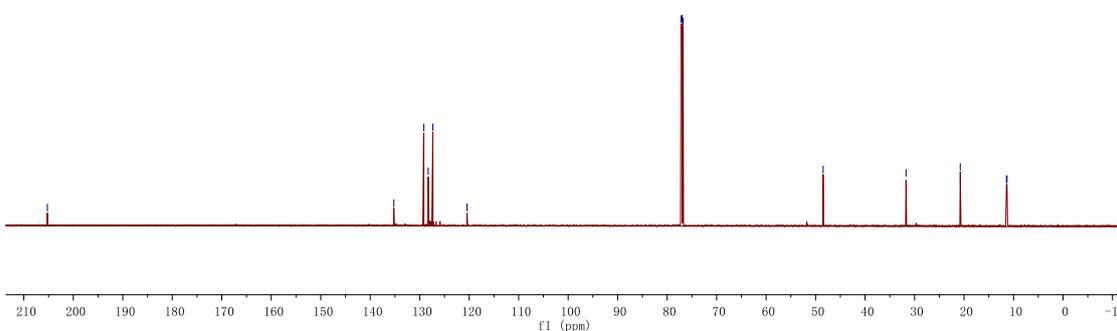
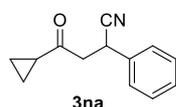
77.208
76.996
76.785

48.472

31.726

20.765

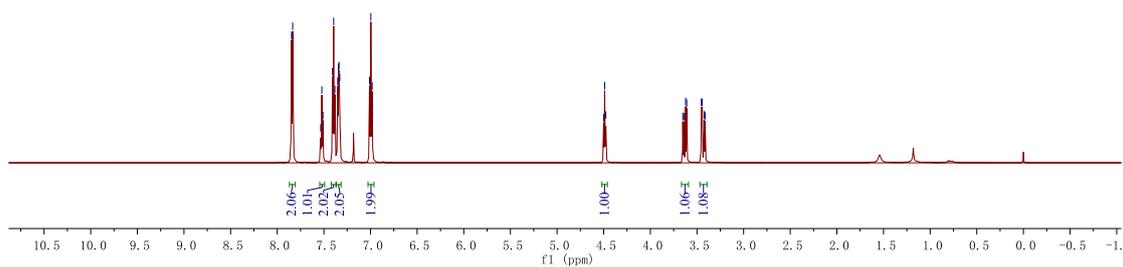
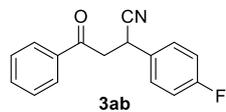
11.432
11.322



LZF-1H
LZF-464

7.847
7.834
7.534
7.522
7.510
7.408
7.395
7.382
7.352
7.343
7.338
7.329
7.011
6.996
6.982

4.501
4.489
4.478
3.652
3.640
3.622
3.610
3.453
3.443
3.424
3.413



LZF-13C
LZF-464

194.444

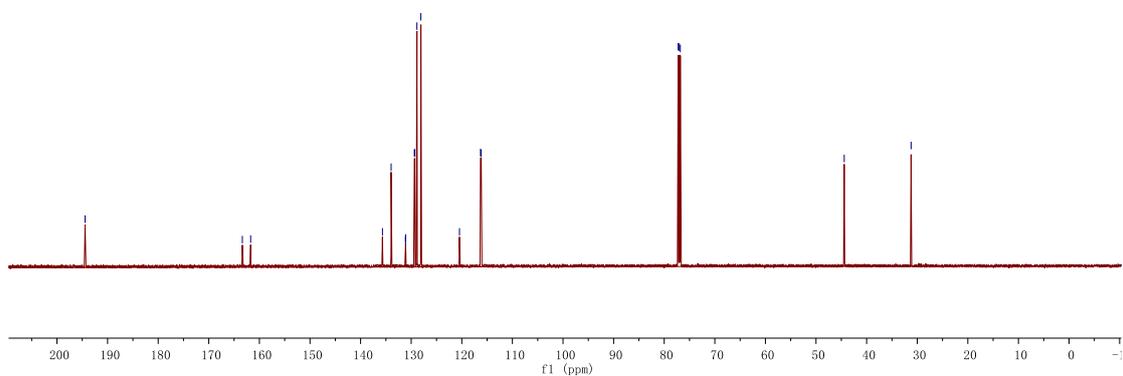
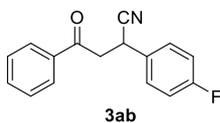
163.369
161.726

135.683
133.966
131.131
131.100
129.369
129.314
128.869
128.086
120.462
116.308
116.163

77.243
77.031
76.819

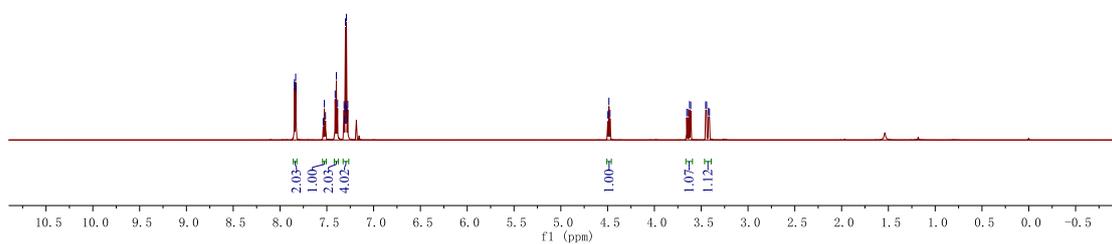
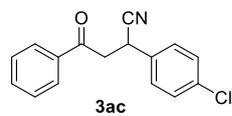
44.426

31.215



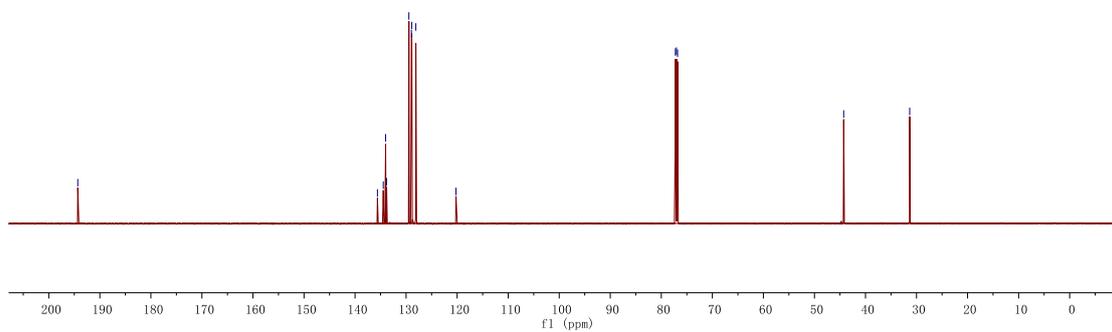
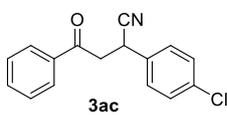
LZF-1H
LZF-450-3

7.846
7.845
7.833
7.831
7.539
7.527
7.514
7.411
7.398
7.385
7.316
7.312
7.305
7.301
7.291
7.287
7.280
7.276
4.497
4.486
4.474
3.654
3.642
3.625
3.612
3.453
3.442
3.423
3.412



LZF-13C
LZF-450-3

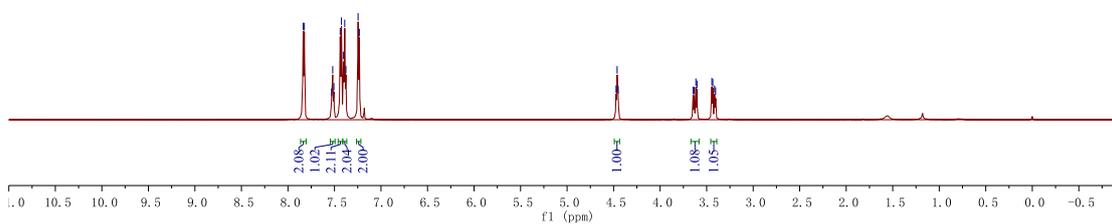
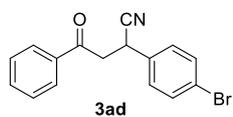
135.617
134.472
134.011
133.817
129.449
128.959
128.884
128.090
120.220
77.340
77.038
76.816
44.274
31.341



LZF-1H
LZF-452

7.836
7.824
7.531
7.519
7.507
7.439
7.425
7.403
7.390
7.377
7.246
7.233

4.473
4.462
4.451
3.646
3.634
3.616
3.604
3.444
3.434
3.415
3.404



LZF-13C
LZF-452

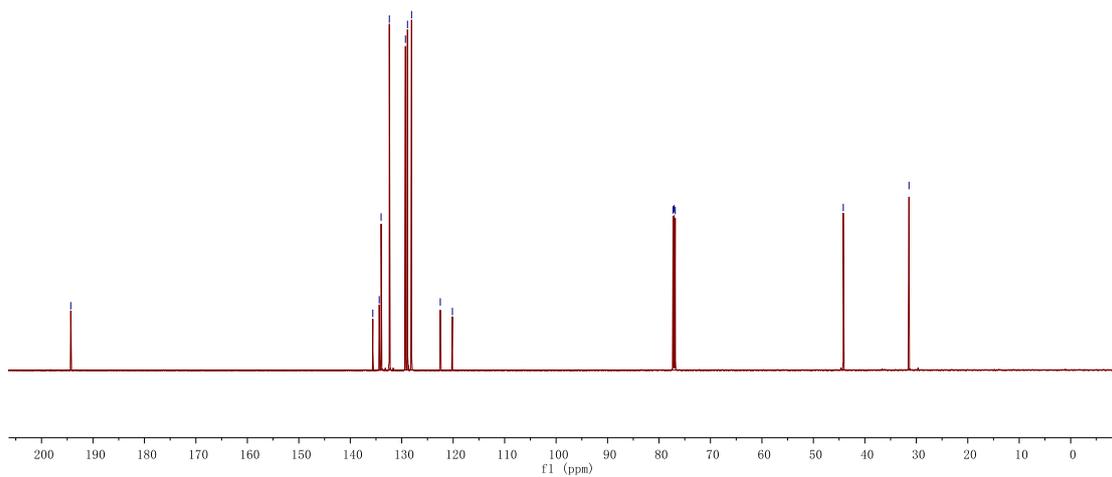
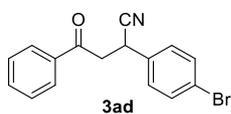
— 194.315

135.622
134.370
134.003
132.409
129.278
128.883
128.092
122.504
120.148

77.269
77.057
76.845

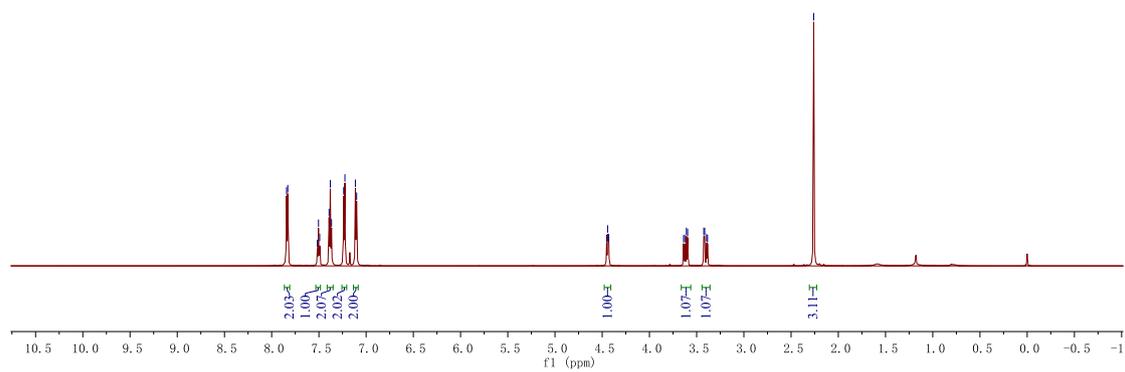
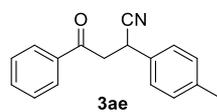
— 44.193

— 31.424



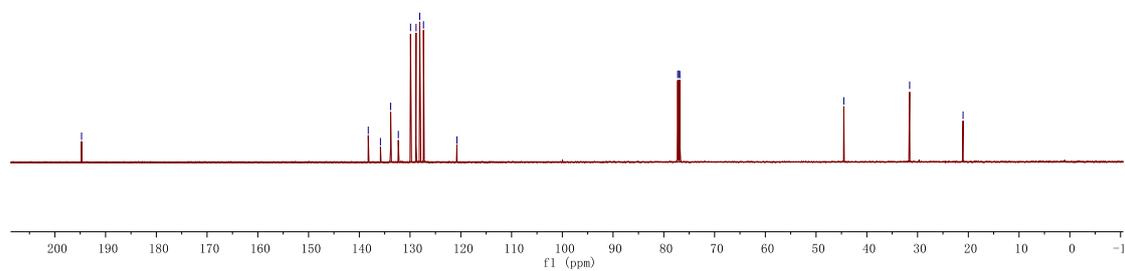
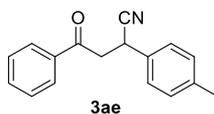
LZF-1H
LZF-462

7.842
7.830
7.516
7.504
7.492
7.392
7.379
7.367
7.238
7.225
7.114
7.101
4.453
4.443
4.430
3.638
3.625
3.609
3.595
3.425
3.415
3.395
3.385
2.261



LZF-13C
LZF-462

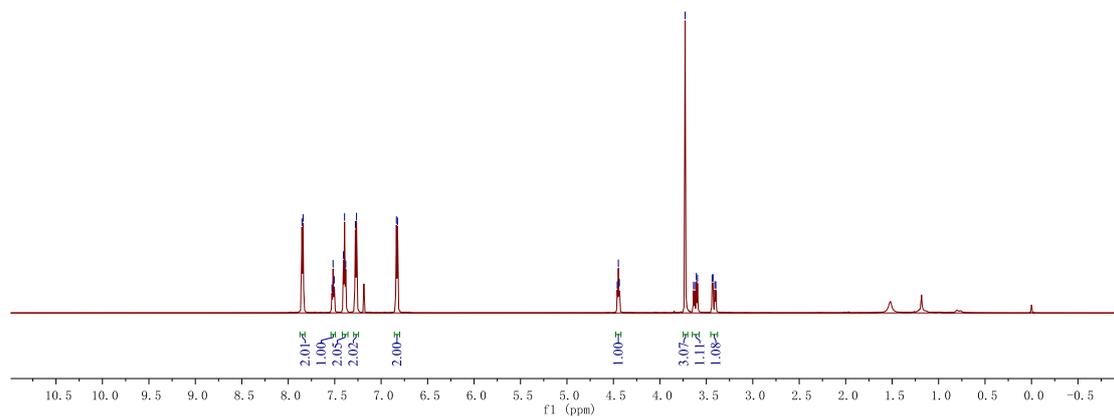
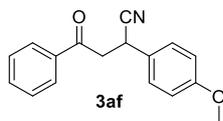
138.239
135.839
133.825
132.317
129.911
128.817
128.096
127.360
120.767
77.768
77.056
76.845
44.535
31.561
21.036



LZF-1H
LZF-454

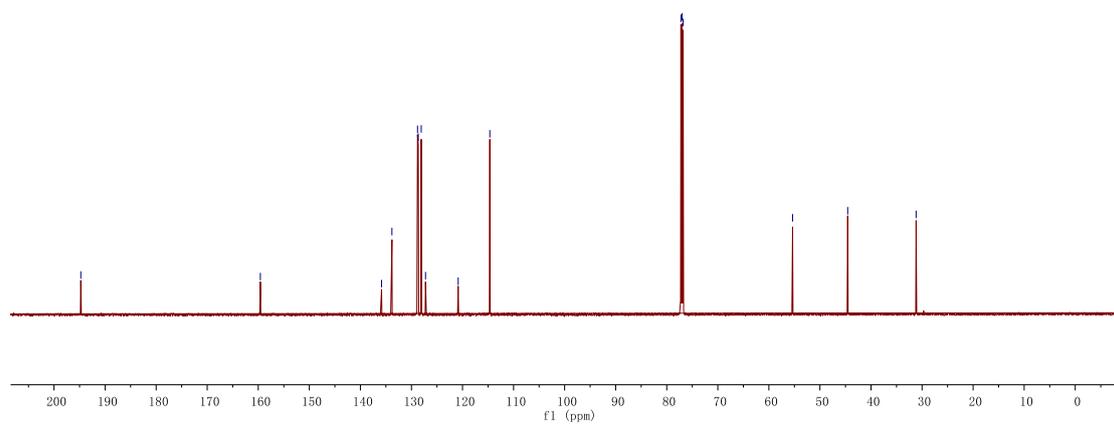
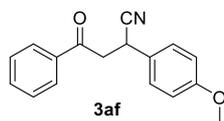
7.853
7.840
7.529
7.518
7.506
7.406
7.394
7.381
7.277
7.265
6.836
6.824

4.459
4.447
4.436
3.728
3.637
3.625
3.607
3.595
3.438
3.427
3.408
3.398



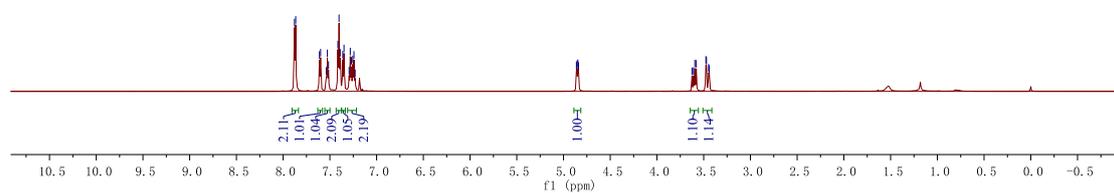
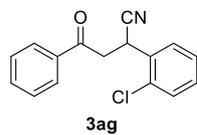
LZF-13C
LZF-454

194.757
159.590
135.853
133.822
128.814
128.664
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127.245
120.848
114.653
77.222
77.010
76.799
55.356
44.562
31.167



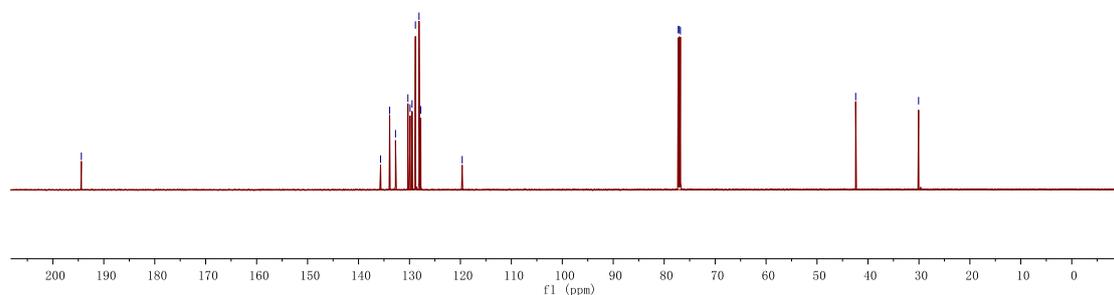
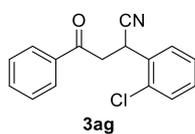
LZF-1H
LZF-449

7.878
7.866
7.612
7.599
7.539
7.527
7.515
7.414
7.402
7.389
7.362
7.349
7.294
7.282
7.269
7.255
7.242
7.230
4.862
4.855
4.846
4.839
3.625
3.609
3.595
3.580
3.477
3.470
3.447
3.440



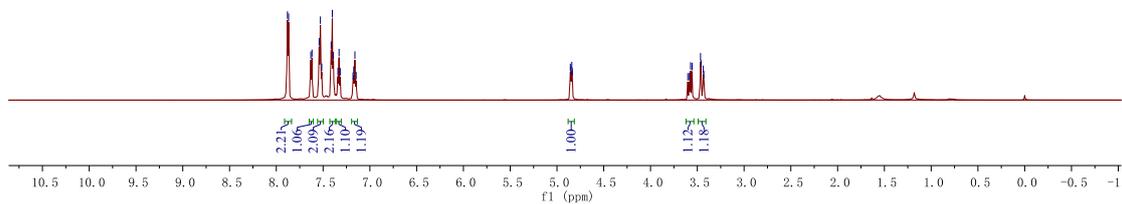
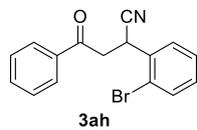
LZF-13C
LZF-449

135.671
133.889
132.746
130.306
129.880
129.493
128.838
128.121
127.773
119.650
77.243
77.031
76.819
42.418
30.067



LZF-1H
LZF-451

7.881
7.869
7.631
7.619
7.542
7.529
7.515
7.414
7.402
7.389
7.342
7.329
7.317
7.180
7.172
7.160
7.147
4.857
4.851
4.841
4.836
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3.585
3.572
3.555
3.465
3.460
3.436
3.430



LZF-13C
LZF-451

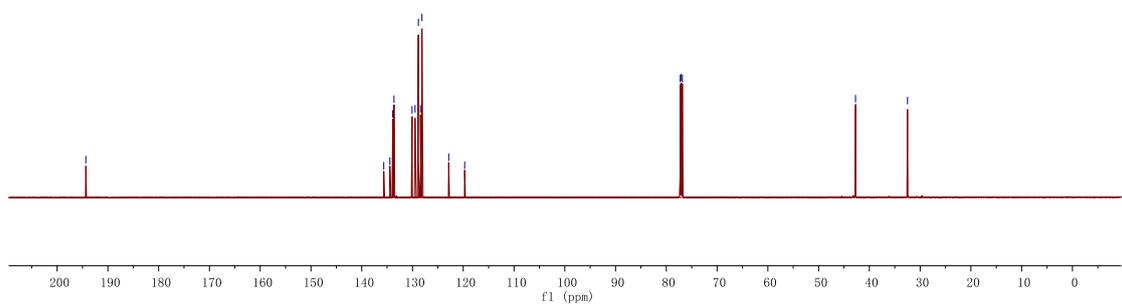
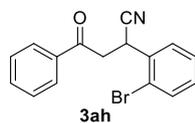
194.349

135.657
134.458
133.893
133.638
130.084
129.501
128.842
128.423
128.134
122.867
119.721

77.257
77.045
76.833

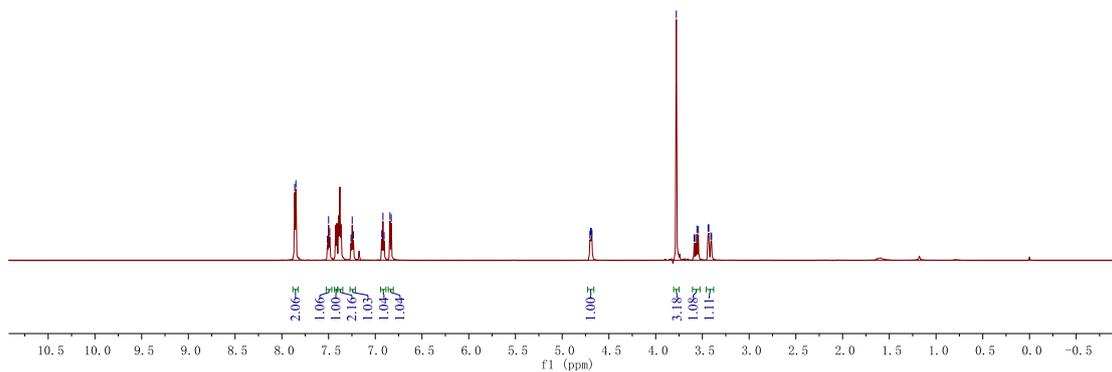
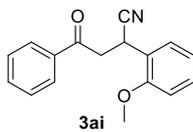
42.727

32.487



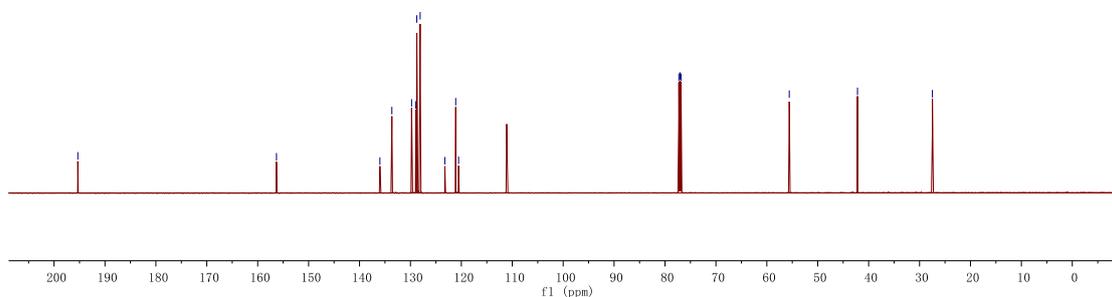
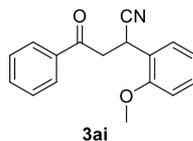
LZF-1H
LZF-453

7.962
7.850
7.512
7.500
7.488
7.260
7.247
7.234
6.930
6.918
6.906
6.843
6.829
4.704
4.696
4.689
4.681
3.779
3.588
3.573
3.558
3.543
3.439
3.431
3.409
3.402



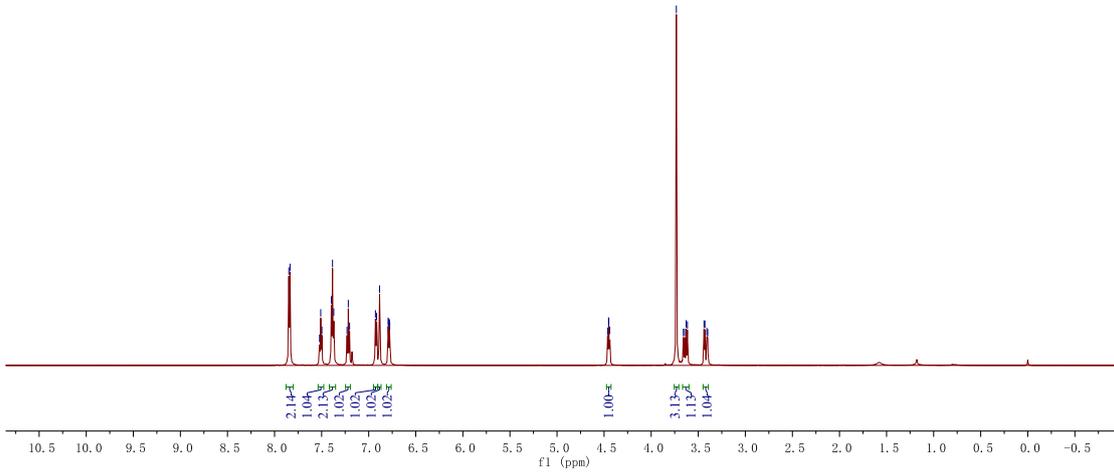
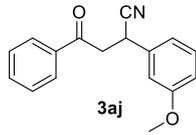
LZF-13C
LZF-453

195.328
156.312
135.998
133.646
129.776
128.945
128.750
128.091
123.242
121.106
120.544
77.278
77.066
76.854
55.592
42.192
27.476



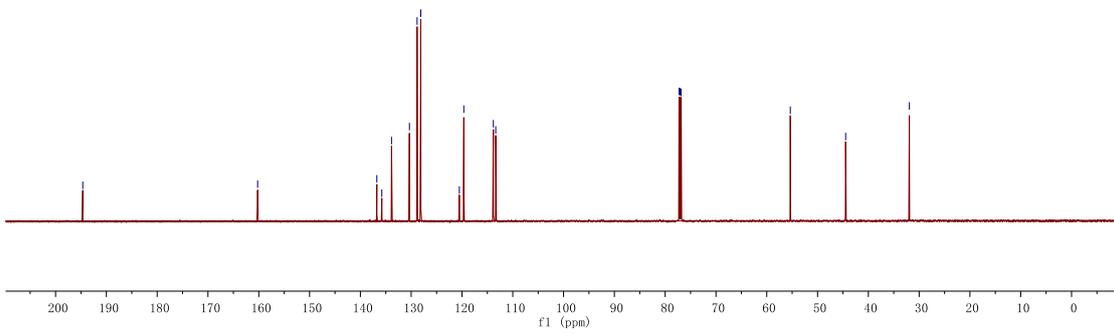
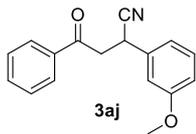
LZF-1H
LZF-463

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7.836
7.522
7.510
7.497
7.397
7.384
7.371
7.230
7.217
7.203
6.929
6.916
6.885
6.793
6.790
6.779
6.777
4.463
4.453
4.450
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3.628
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3.439
3.429
3.409
3.399



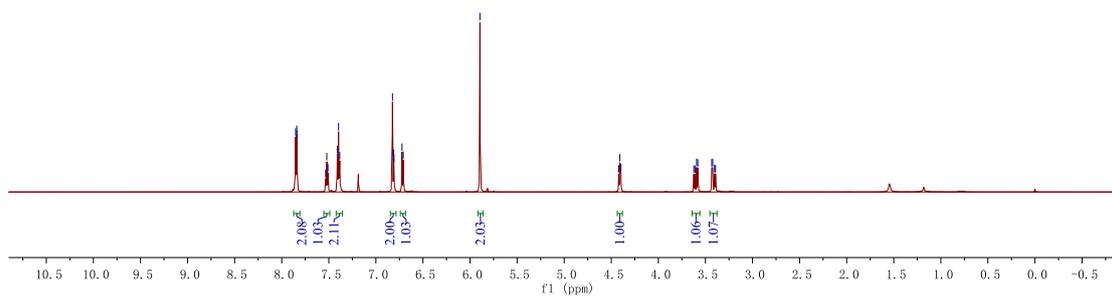
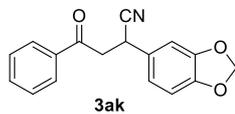
LZF-13C
LZF-463

194.646
160.227
136.762
135.782
133.868
130.348
128.833
128.106
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119.638
113.821
113.351
77.271
77.059
76.848
55.365
44.473
31.926



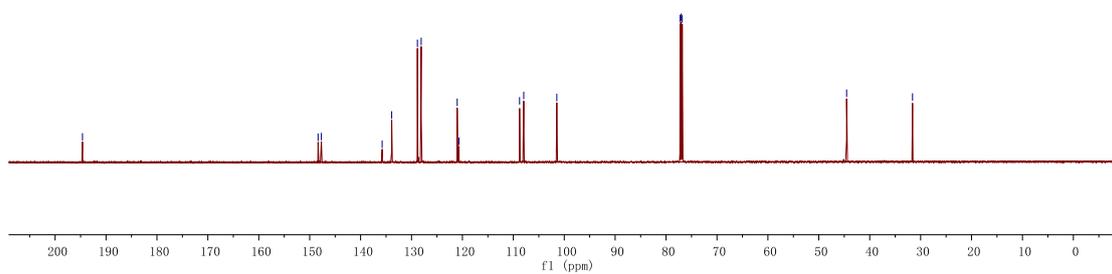
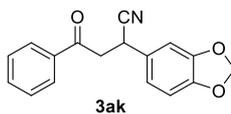
LZF-1H
LZF-482

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7.839
7.834
7.534
7.500
7.410
7.397
7.384
6.834
6.810
6.808
6.723
6.710
5.895
4.421
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4.398
3.623
3.611
3.594
3.581
3.433
3.423
3.403
3.393



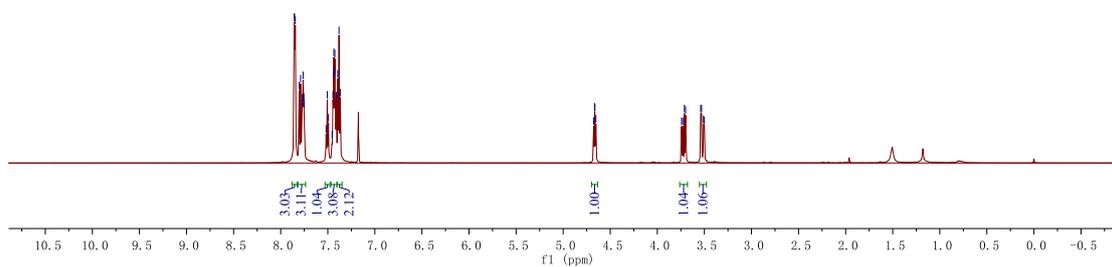
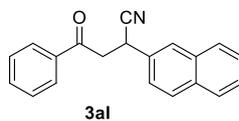
LZF-13C
LZF-482

148.353
147.701
135.764
133.892
128.843
128.096
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108.773
107.958
101.465
77.244
77.033
76.821
44.540
31.590



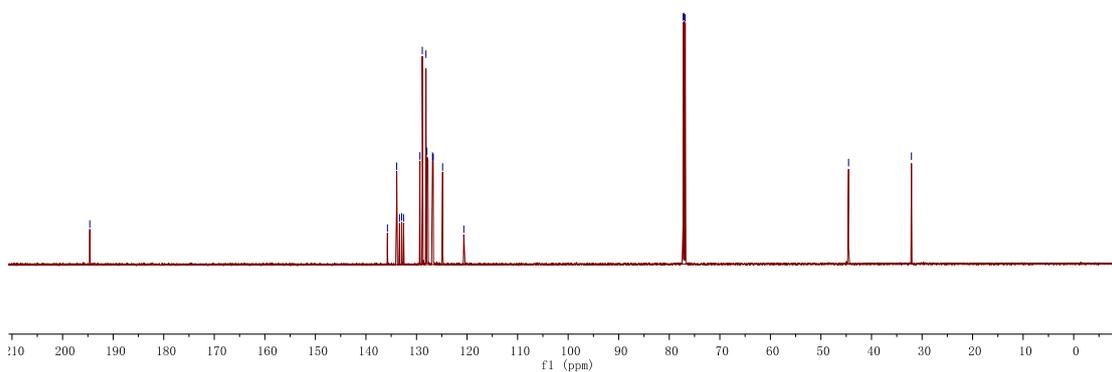
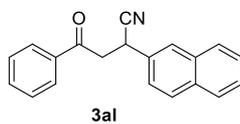
LZF-1H
LZF-466

7.856
7.853
7.845
7.803
7.789
7.774
7.770
7.762
7.755
7.751
7.518
7.493
7.508
7.483
7.445
7.445
7.435
7.435
7.435
7.410
7.400
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7.384
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3.510
3.500



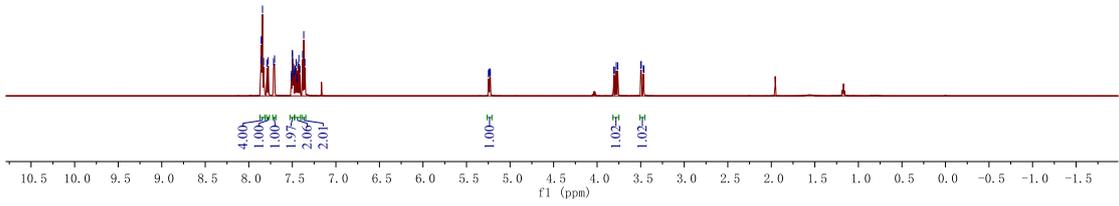
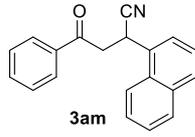
LZF-13C
LZF-466

194.626
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133.914
133.345
132.930
132.555
129.321
128.854
128.127
127.939
126.838
126.757
126.688
124.832
120.642
77.263
77.052
76.840
44.535
32.093



7.864
7.862
7.855
7.843
7.830
7.791
7.777
7.716
7.704
7.512
7.510
7.507
7.500
7.499
7.496
7.488
7.485
7.482
7.469
7.467
7.456
7.456
7.444
7.438
7.425
7.412
7.382
7.369
5.242
5.242
5.235
5.226

3.810
3.794
3.780
3.764
3.500
3.493
3.470
3.463



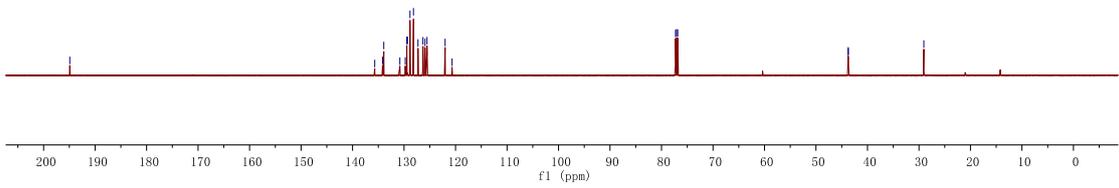
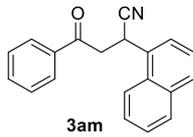
LZF-13C
LZF-465
— 194.914

135.691
134.174
133.935
130.809
129.763
129.467
129.338
128.846
128.174
127.287
126.328
125.927
125.544
122.022
120.679

77.278
77.067
76.855

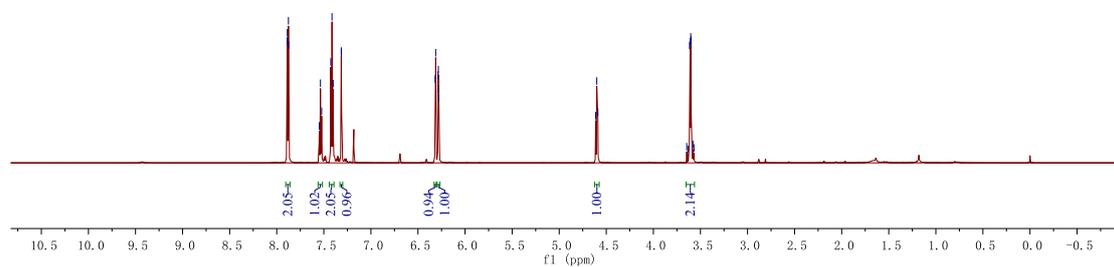
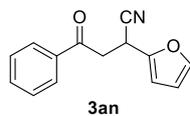
43.743
43.729

— 29.058



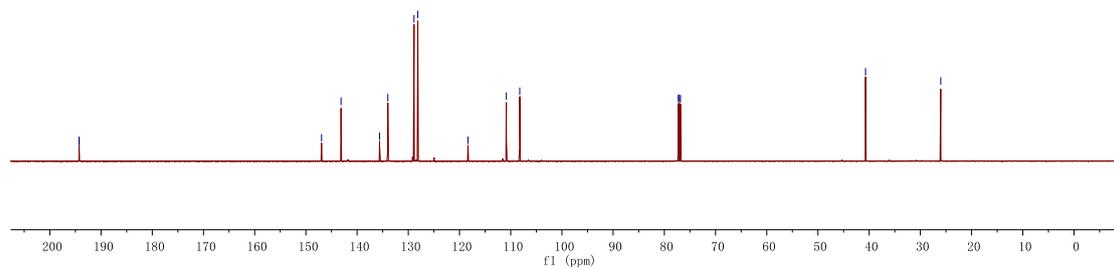
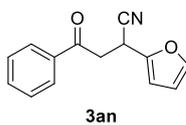
LZF-1H
LZF-470

7.889
7.888
7.876
7.874
7.548
7.536
7.523
7.426
7.413
7.400
7.315
7.313
6.317
6.312
6.287
6.284
6.282
6.278
4.613
4.601
4.590
3.646
3.633
3.616
3.610
3.604
3.599
3.580
3.569



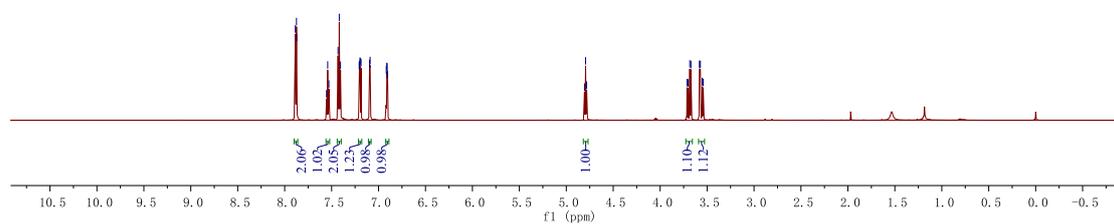
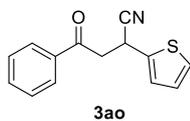
LZF-13C
LZF-470
194.283
194.272

146.942
143.138
135.611
133.095
128.883
128.144
118.357
110.855
108.240
77.377
77.066
76.834
40.711
26.023



LZF-1H
LZF-471-2

7.886
7.874
7.872
7.554
7.542
7.529
7.432
7.418
7.406
7.206
7.204
7.197
7.195
7.187
7.096
7.090
6.918
6.912
6.909
6.903
4.806
4.795
4.783
3.714
3.702
3.684
3.672
3.582
3.571
3.552
3.542



LZF-13C
LZF-471-2

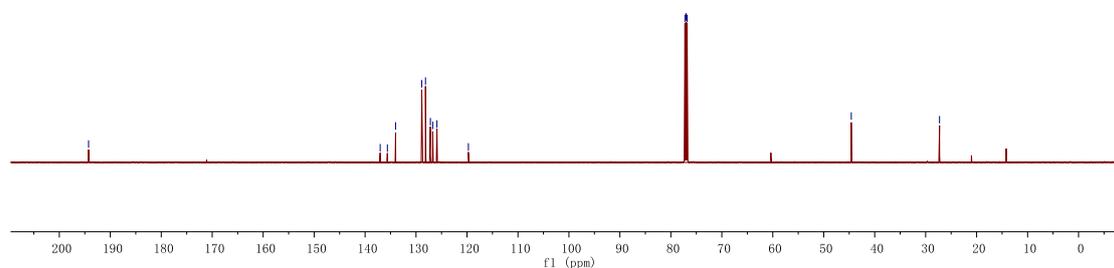
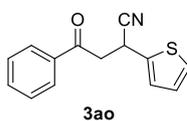
— 194.258

137.038
135.626
134.013
128.888
128.147
127.184
126.727
125.901
119.727

77.234
77.022
76.811

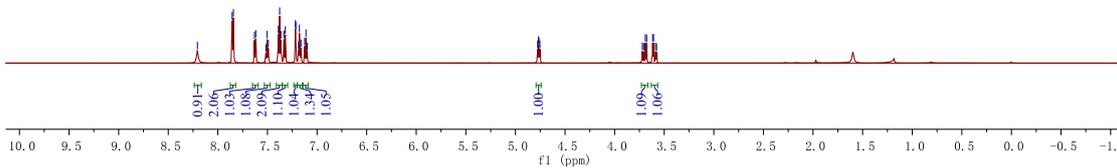
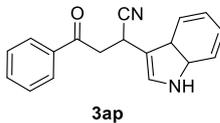
— 44.593

— 27.275



LZF-111
LZF-481

8.206
7.856
7.843
7.631
7.618
7.503
7.491
7.390
7.377
7.364
7.334
7.320
7.218
7.214
7.187
7.178
7.162
7.124
4.772
4.767
4.764
4.754
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3.707
3.691
3.677
3.617
3.608
3.587
3.578

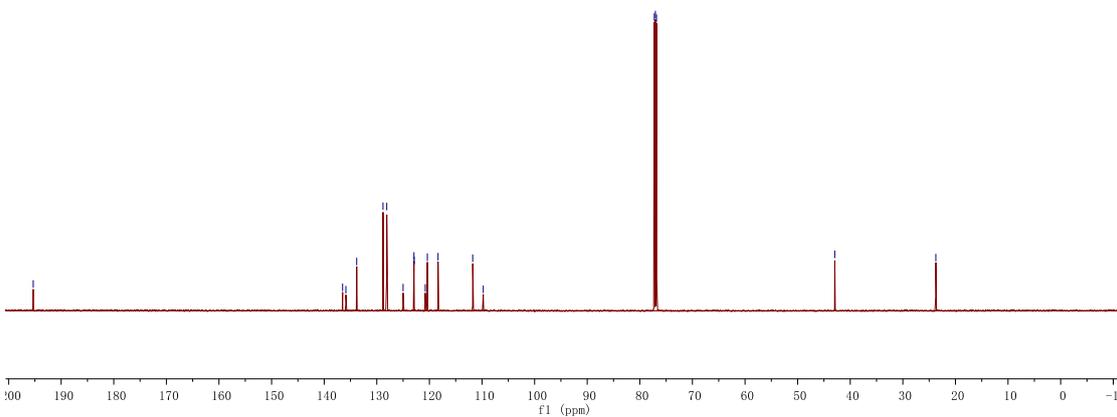
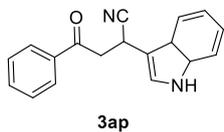


LZF-3C
LZF-81

136.496
135.878
133.820
128.815
128.105
124.999
122.933
122.894
120.790
120.392
118.357
111.768
109.759
77.248
77.037
76.825

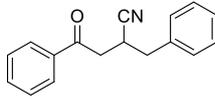
42.941

23.728

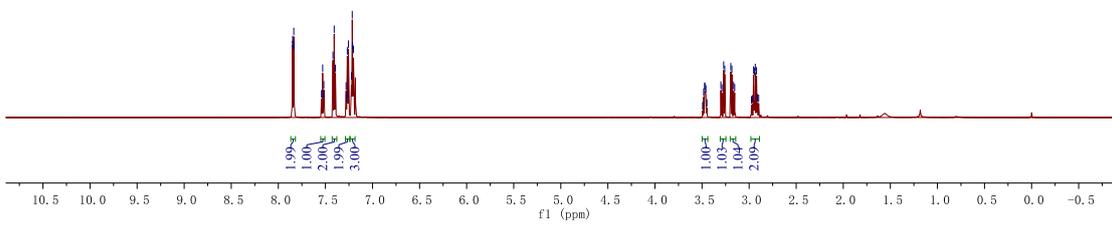


LZF-1H
LZF-467

7.850
7.848
7.836
7.834
7.542
7.529
7.519
7.517
7.420
7.407
7.394
7.280
7.278
7.267
7.261
7.256
7.223
7.215
7.212
7.203
3.404
3.483
3.482
3.470
3.459
3.448
3.300
3.289
3.270
3.259
3.193
3.183
3.165
3.153
2.975
2.965
2.953
2.942
2.934
2.921
2.912
2.898

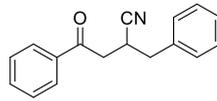


3aq

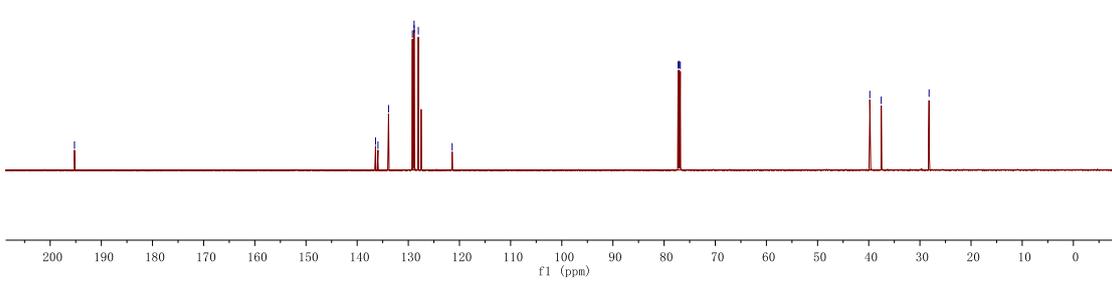


LZF-13C
LZF-467

198.253
136.409
135.931
133.860
129.201
128.868
128.850
128.038
121.423
77.254
77.043
76.831
39.793
37.554
28.210



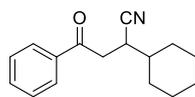
3aq



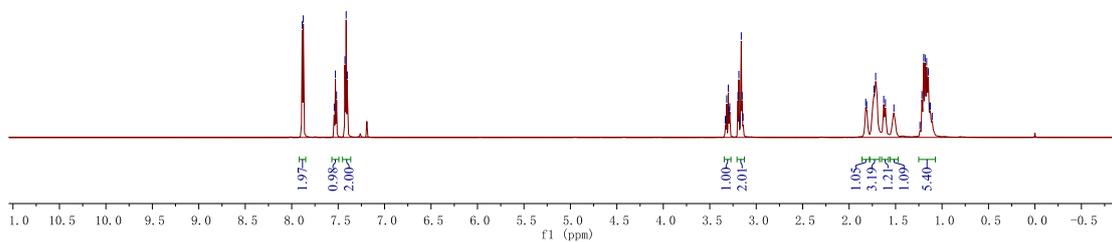
LZF-1H
LZF-487

7.887
7.875
7.542
7.530
7.517
7.427
7.414
7.401

3.333
3.328
3.318
3.301
3.291
3.285
3.197
3.187
3.175
3.161
3.151
3.142
1.822
1.811
1.732
1.715
1.628
1.609
1.518
1.238
1.217
1.198
1.182
1.166
1.148
1.133
1.127
1.106



3ar

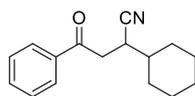


LZF-13C
LZF-487

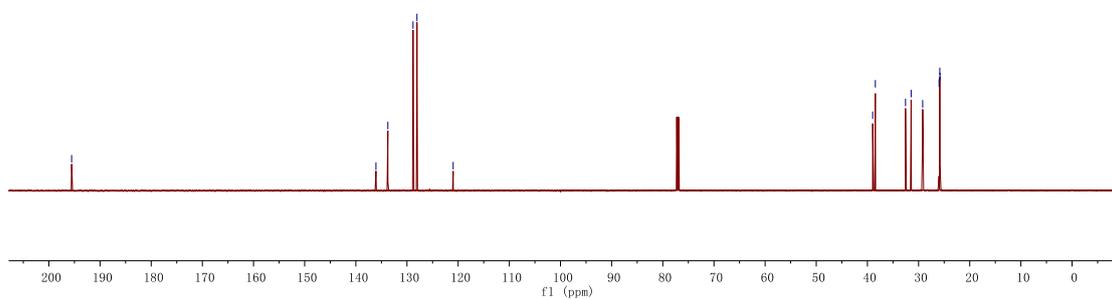
195.534

136.066
133.739
128.818
128.048
120.969

38.970
38.452
32.551
31.459
29.700
25.994
25.858
25.813



3ar

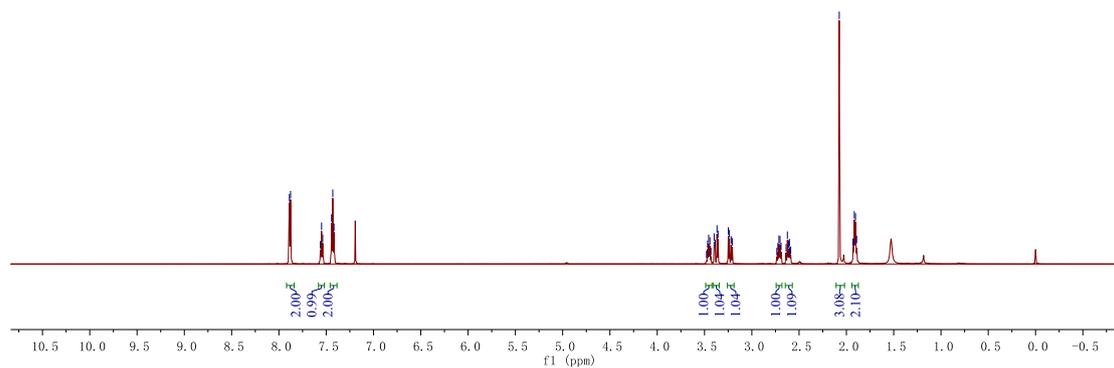
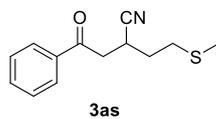


LZF-1H
LZF-512

7.889
7.877
7.562
7.549
7.537
7.444
7.430
7.418

3.479
3.468
3.456
3.443
3.432
3.398
3.387
3.368
3.357
3.248
3.237
3.219
3.207

2.713
2.702
2.674
2.674
1.930
1.927
1.916
1.904
1.892



LZF-13C
LZF-512

194.935

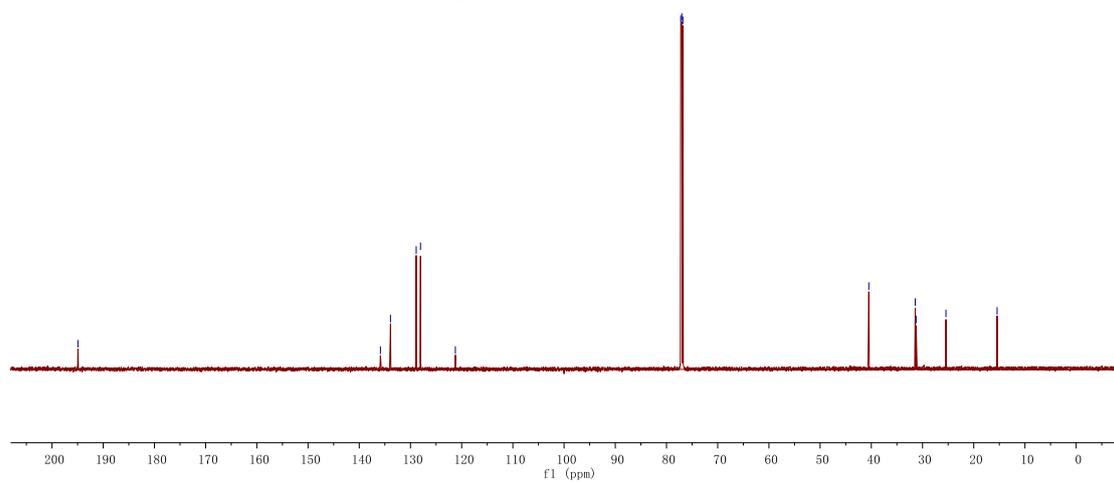
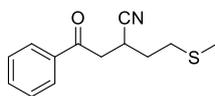
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128.876
128.045
121.227

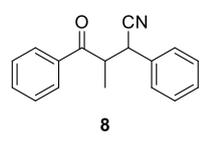
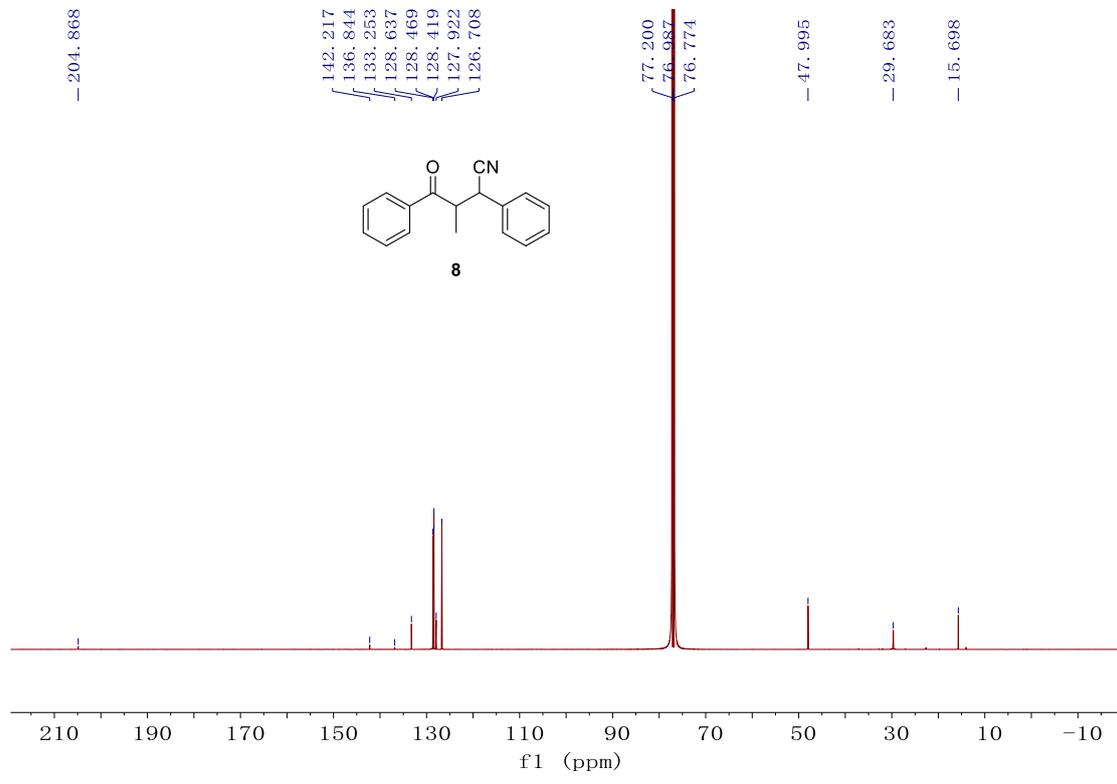
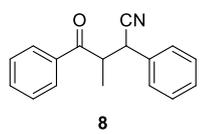
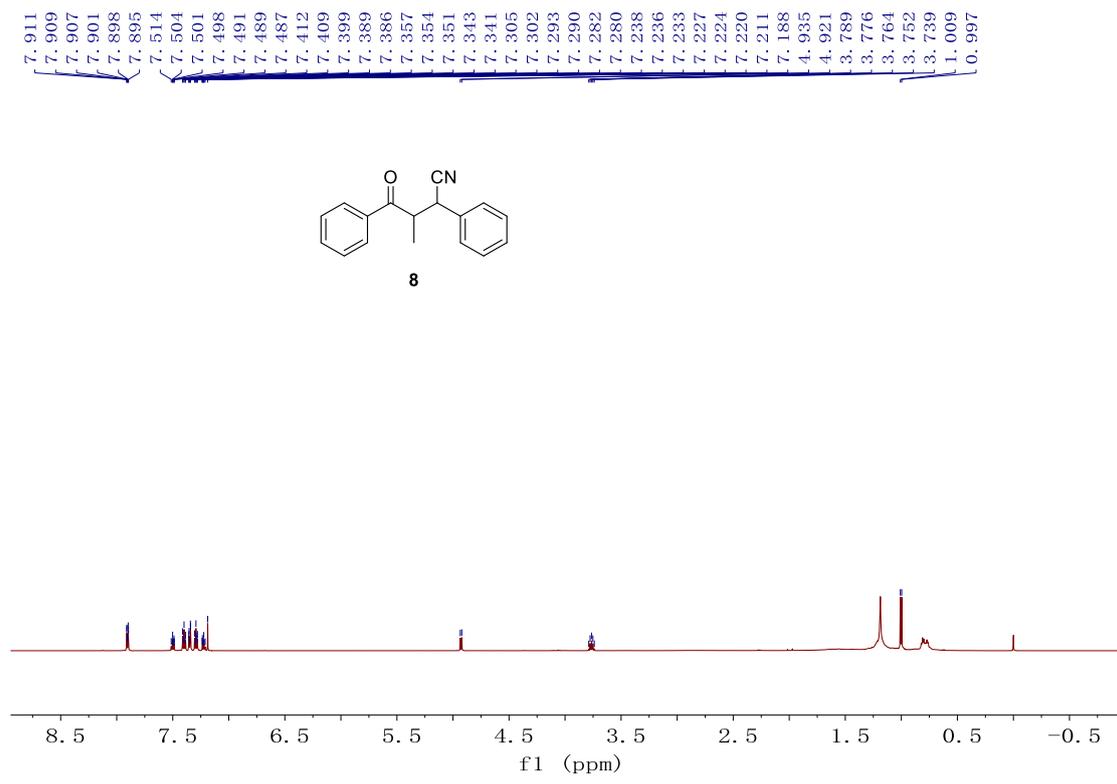
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77.011
76.799

40.496

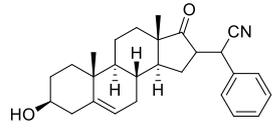
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31.252
25.430

15.437

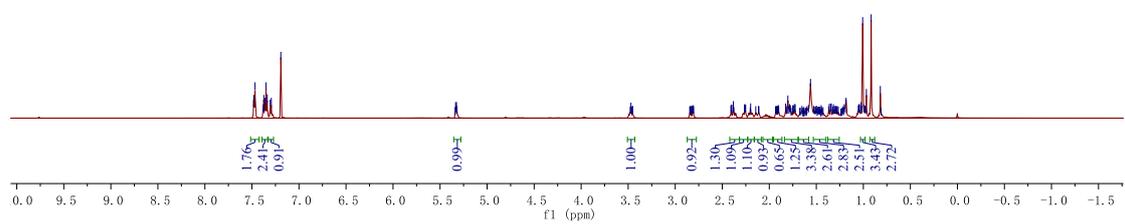




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7.350
7.337
7.306
7.294
7.193
5.335
5.330
5.326
5.471
5.452
2.834
2.819
2.816
2.808
2.408
2.403
2.387
2.382
2.264
2.260
2.255
2.252
2.198
2.115
1.926
1.912
1.907
1.904
1.826
1.809
1.802
1.784
1.776
1.751
1.742
1.733
1.724
1.724
1.652
1.583
1.562
1.527
1.498
1.448
1.362
1.348
1.340
1.317
1.287
1.203
1.191
1.184
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1.023
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1.007
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-0.984
-0.917
-0.819



10

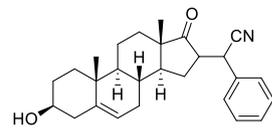


L20-13C
L20-1303

141.188
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135.654
133.081
130.316
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120.834

77.219
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76.796
71.619

50.384
49.917
47.336
42.248
37.159
36.747
31.622
31.601
31.232
30.954
29.369
20.439
19.470
14.234



10

