

Supporting Information

Light-Enabled Metal-Free Pinacol Coupling by Hydrazine

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1. General experimental information

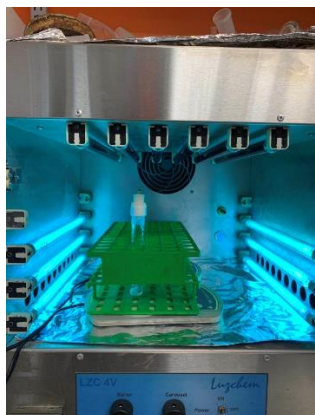
All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon, unless otherwise stated. Solvents and reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich chemical company and Fisher Scientific and were used without further purification unless otherwise specified. CH₃CN was dried over freshly activated 4 Å molecular sieves prior to use. 4 Å molecular sieves were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich chemical company and were freshly activated in the oven for 12 h at 380 °C prior to use. Product purifications were performed either with preparative chromatography on a Biotage Isolera One automated chromatography system on silica gel or with preparative analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using E. Merck silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ pre-coated plates (0.25 mm).

NMR Spectroscopy: Nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV500 equipped with a 60-position Sample Xpress sample changer (¹H, 500 MHz; ¹³C, 125 MHz, ¹⁹F 471 MHz). Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm) units downfield from TMS, with the solvent residue peak as the chemical shift standard (CDCl₃: δ 7.26 ppm in ¹H NMR, δ 77.16 ppm in ¹³C NMR; DMSO-d₆ δ 2.50 ppm in ¹H NMR, δ 39.52 ppm in ¹³C NMR; acetone-d₆ δ 2.09 ppm in ¹H NMR, δ 205.87 ppm in ¹³C NMR; CH₃CN δ 1.96 ppm in ¹H NMR, δ 118.26 ppm in ¹³C NMR). Data are reported as following: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, td = triplet of doublets, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, sept = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad singlet), coupling constants *J* (Hz), and integration.

Mass Spectrometry: EI-MS was obtained from the Agilent GC-MS system. High Resolution Mass (HRMS) spectra was performed by the McGill Chemistry Department Mass Spectrometry Facility and was recorded using electrospray ionization (ESI+) and/or atmospheric pressure chemical ionization APCI(+/-), performed either on "Exactive Plus Orbitrap" a ThermoScientific high resolution accurate mass (HR/AM) FT mass spectrometer, or a Bruker Daltonics Maxis Impact quadrupole-time of flight (QTOF) mass spectrometer. Protonated molecular ions (M+H)⁺, (M-H)⁻ or sodium adducts (M+Na)⁺, were used for empirical formula confirmation.

Caution: *hydrazine monohydrate is a toxic and volatile reagent, therefore appropriate personal protections should be performed running this transformation.*

2. General experimental procedure



General procedures: The 10 mL quartz tube, charged with a magnetic stir bar, was vacuumed and backfilled with argon for three times. Ketones (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.15 mmol, 0.75 equiv, 7.4 μL) and CH_3CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at room temperature (ca. 25 $^\circ\text{C}$) under UV irradiation (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel or preparative TLC (EtOAc/hexanes, *etc.*) to afford the corresponding products.

3. Procedure for gram scale reaction

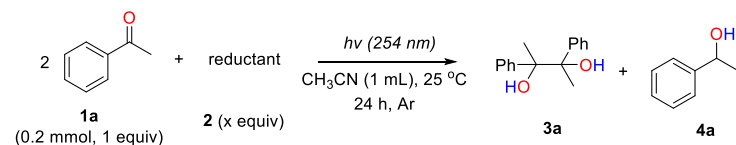
Caution: gas was released during the reaction, so the oil bubbler was needed to release the *in situ* generated gases.



The 50 mL quartz round bottom flask, charged with a magnetic stir bar, was vacuumed and backfilled with argon for three times. Benzophenone (6 mmol, 1 equiv, 1.0933 g), $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (4.5 mmol, 0.75 equiv, 222 μL) and CH_3CN (30 mL) were added into flask sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the flask was sealed and connected to oil bubbler to release the gas generated during the reaction and stirred at room temperature (ca. 25 $^\circ\text{C}$) under UV irradiation (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 72 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10:1) to afford the Benzopinacol product (0.9845g, 89% yield).

4. Reaction optimization

Table S1. Optimization of the reaction conditions^[a]



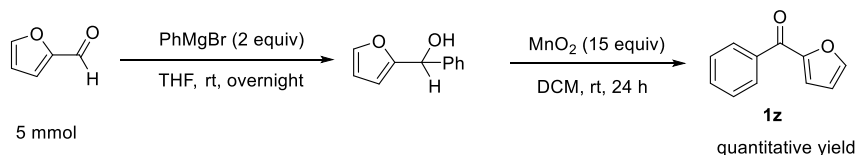
entry	N ₂ H ₄ derivatives (x equiv)	conv. (%)	yield (%)	
			3a	4a
1	N ₂ H ₄ (0.75 equiv)	98	80	4
2	N ₂ H ₄ (1 equiv)	99	81	4
3	BocNH-NHBoc (1 equiv.)	-	-	-
4	BocNH-NHTf (1 equiv.)	-	-	-
5	PhNH-NHPh (1 equiv.)	-	-	-
6 ^b	MeNH-NHMe (1 equiv.)	42	27	2
7	<i>i</i> PrOH (0.75 equiv)	42	32	1

[a] Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), reductants (x equiv), in CH₃CN (1 mL) were stirred under argon for 24 h under UV light (254 nm) irradiation at 25 °C; starting material conversion and NMR yields were given with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard, yields calculated based on acetophenone; [b] the MeNH-NHMe was generated in situ by deprotonation of 1 equiv MeNH-NHMe•2HCl with 2 equiv K₃PO₄.

5. General synthetic methods of heteroaromatic ketones

The general procedures are demonstrated by the synthesis of furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone, and other heteroaromatic ketones are synthesized in similar methods.

5.1 Synthesis of furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (**1z**):



The methods used were according to the previous report literature.^[1]

To a 50 mL round-bottom flask charged with a magnetic stirring bar, furfural (5mmol, 414.2 μ L) and 10 mL dry THF were charged. The phenyl magnesium bromide (10.5 mmol) (3.5 mL, 3 M solution in Et₂O) was added dropwise and the mixture was continued to stir at room temperature overnight. After completion of reaction (detected by TLC and GC-MS), the mixture was quenched by adding sat. NH₄Cl solution. The product was extracted with EtOAc (25 mL x 3) and the combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product (furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanol) obtained was used without further purification into the next MnO₂ oxidation step.

To a 50 mL round-bottom flask charged with a magnetic stirring bar, the crude product (furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanol) obtained in previous step, 10 mL DCM and MnO₂ (6.5 g, 75 mmol, 15 equiv) were charged. After completion of reaction (around 24 h, detected by TLC and GC-MS), the mixture was filtered by a pad of celite and concentrated in vacuum. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10:1), the furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (**1z**) was isolated as a yellow oil in quantitative yield.

6. Examine the origin of proton

The 10 mL quartz tube, charged with a magnetic stir bar, was vacuumed and backfilled with argon for three times. Benzophenone (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.15 mmol, 0.75 equiv, 7.4 μL) and CD_3CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at room temperature (ca. 25 $^\circ\text{C}$) under UV irradiation (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the resulting residue was diluted by EtOAc and then the solvents were removed under vacuum. Next, the sample was directly dissolved in the CDCl_3 and was transferred to NMR tube under the protection of argon to test the ^1H NMR and ^2D NMR. The spectrums were shown in Figure 1a in the manuscript.

7. Procedure for fluorescence quenching studies between benzophenone and hydrazine

The procedure followed previous report.^[2] The UV-Vis spectrum was performed on Agilent Cary 5000 series UV-Vis-NIR spectrometer under the conditions as below.

A stock solution of benzophenone (10 mM in HPLC grade CH₃CN) was prepared in a volumetric flask and diluted by HPLC grade CH₃CN to 0.10 mM for the UV-Vis experiment. A quartz cuvette (1 cm x 1 cm x 3 cm) was filled with the above-mentioned 0.10 mM benzophenone solution and its spectrum was recorded from 220 nm to 600 nm in the spectrometer and UV-Vis spectrum (Fig. S1).

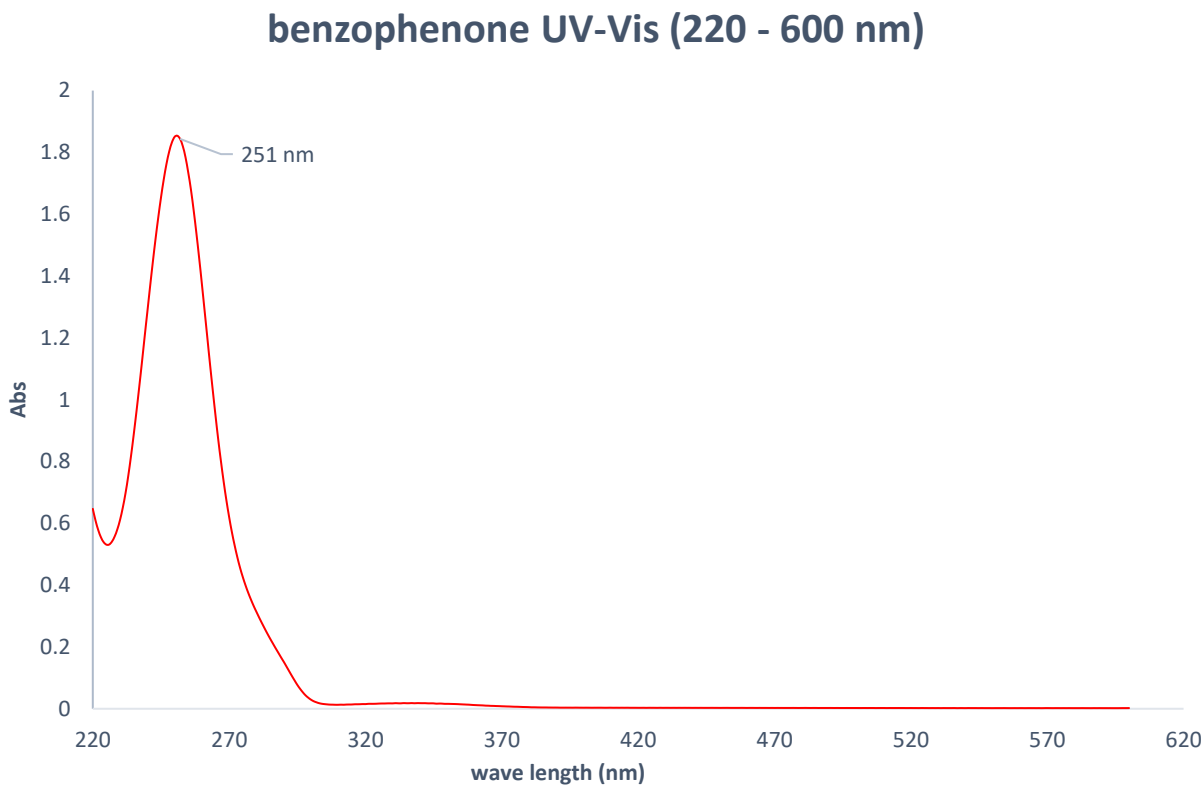


Fig. S1 Benzophenone UV-Vis spectrum (220 – 600 nm, 0.1 mM).

The quenching experiment for the fluorescence of benzophenone by hydrazine was performed on VARIAN CARY Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer.

A stock solution of benzophenone (100 μ M, in HPLC grade CH₃CN) was prepared in a volumetric flask and diluted by HPLC grade CH₃CN to 1 μ M for the quenching experiment. A quartz cuvette (1 cm x 1 cm x 3 cm) was filled with the abovementioned 1 μ M benzophenone solution and its fluorescence (maximum emission at 507 nm) was recorded with excitation at 254 nm in the spectrometer. Quenching experiments were performed under duplicate conditions with the injection of 5 μ L, 10 μ L, 15 μ L, 20 μ L, 25

μL and 30 μL hydrazine monohydrate, respectively by auto-pipette. The results were averaged by three parallel experiments and shown in Fig. S2 and Fig. S3.

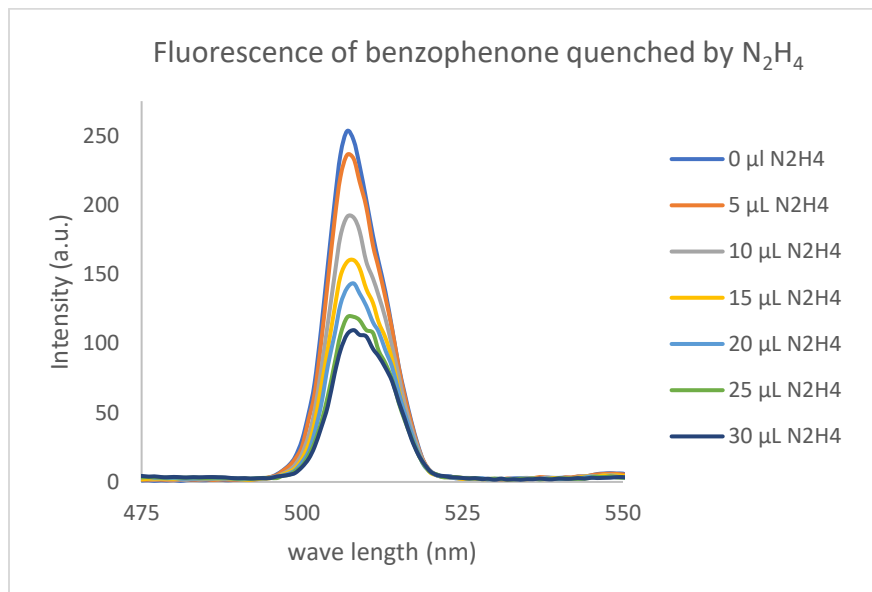


Fig. S2 Fluorescence of benzophenone quenched by N_2H_4 .

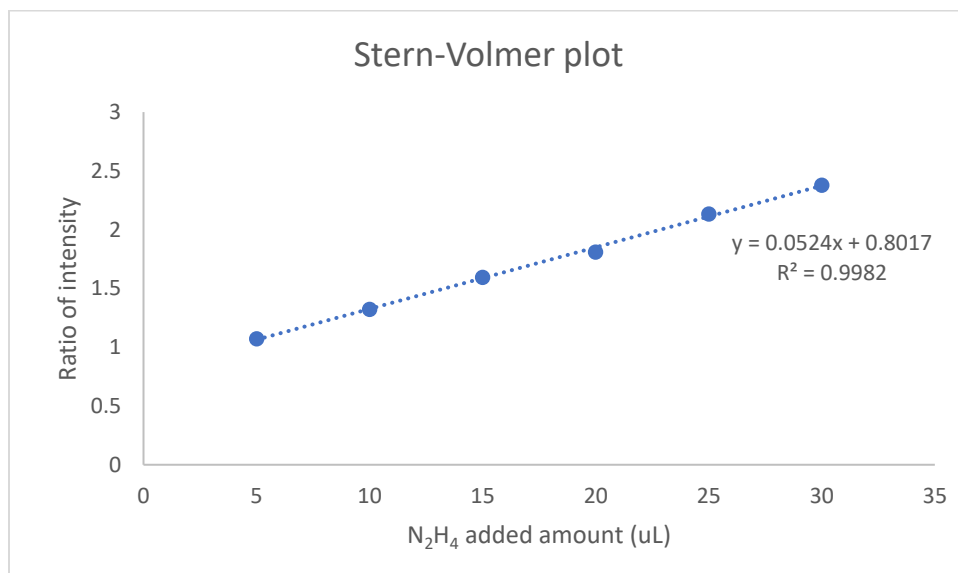


Fig. S3 Stern-Volmer plot of fluorescence of benzophenone quenched by N_2H_4 .

8. Examine stability of N_2H_4 under the standard photochemical conditions

The Wilmad[®] quartz NMR tube (diam. 5mm, L 7 in.) was vacuumed and refilled in argon with three cycles, then $N_2H_4 \cdot H_2O$ (0.15 mmol, 7.4 μ L), internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (11.2 mg), and CD_3CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was capped, sealed and was irradiated at room temperature (ca. 25 $^{\circ}C$) under UV light (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the sample was direct to test the 1H NMR. The spectrums indicated the N_2H_4 was stable under the standard conditions (Fig. S4)

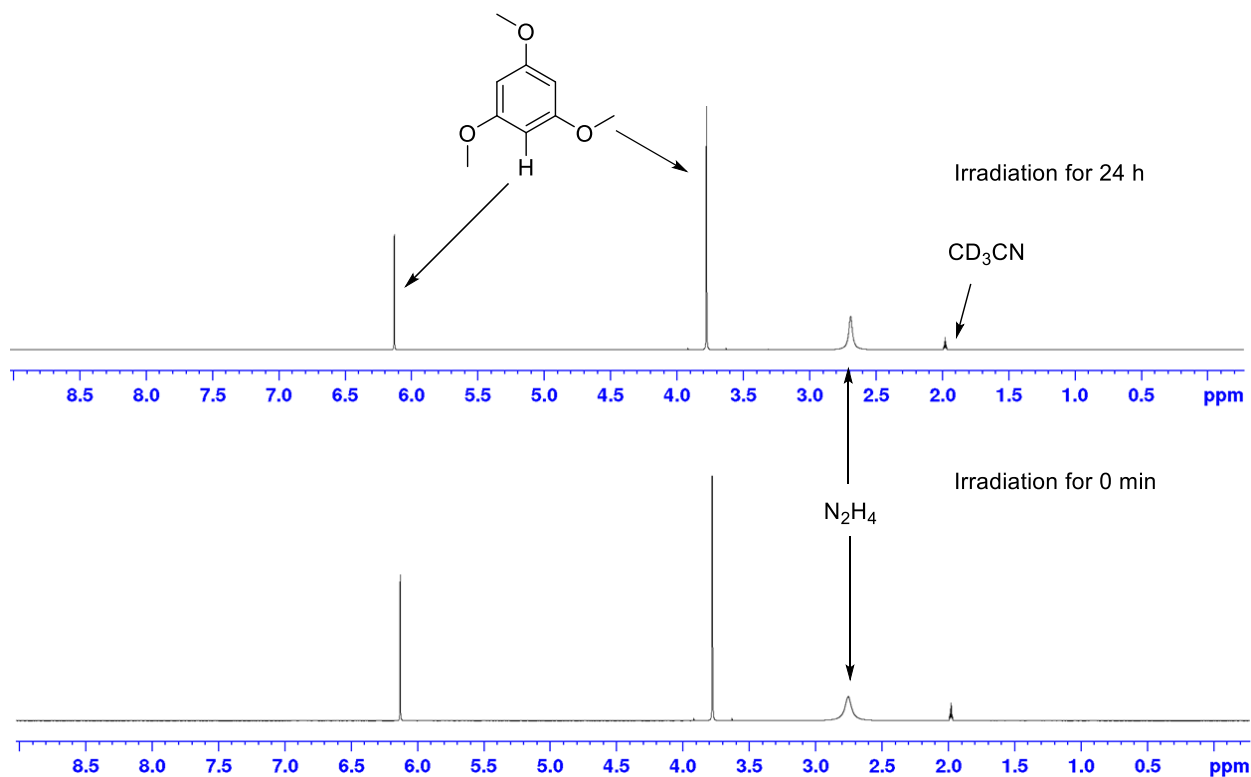


Fig. S4 in situ NMR studies of N_2H_4 stability.

Moreover, using PhCHO to examine the N_2H_4 amount in the NMR tube after irradiation showed the quantitatively recovery of N_2H_4 . The two evidence both strongly demonstrated the stability of N_2H_4 under the standard photochemical conditions.

9. Determine the number of hydrogens reacted in N₂H₄

The Wilmad[®] quartz NMR tube (diam. 5mm, L 7 in.) was vacuumed and refilled in argon with three cycles, then benzophenone (0.2 mmol, 36.4 mg, 1 equiv), N₂H₄•H₂O (x equiv, indicated in Scheme 2 in the manuscript), internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (11.2 mg), and CD₃CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was capped, sealed and was irradiated at room temperature (ca. 25 °C) under UV light (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the sample was direct to test the ¹H NMR, the NMR yields and conversions were calculated by the internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene.

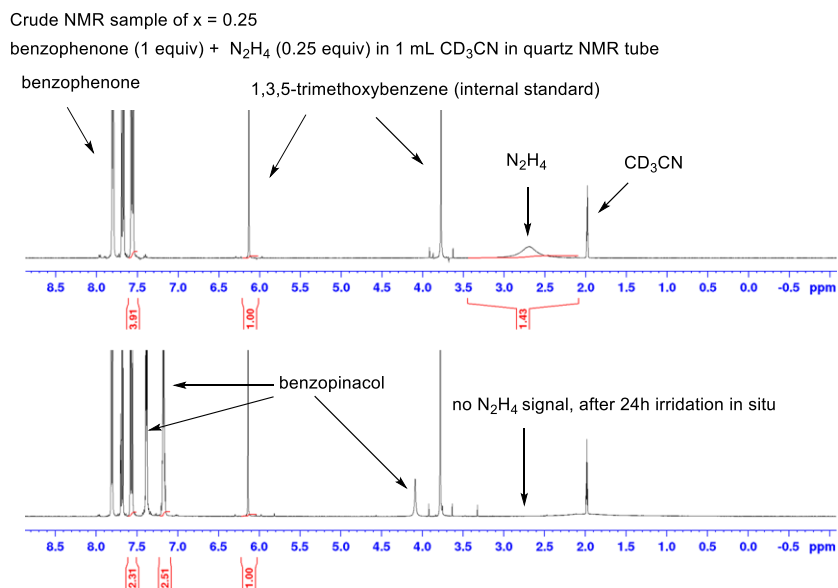


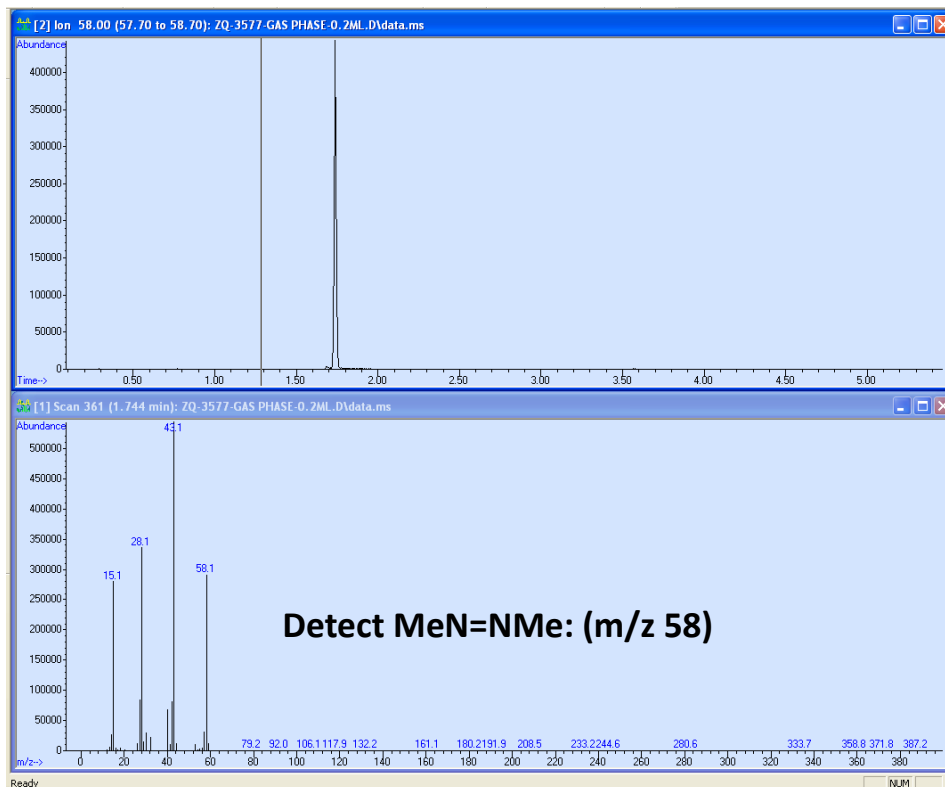
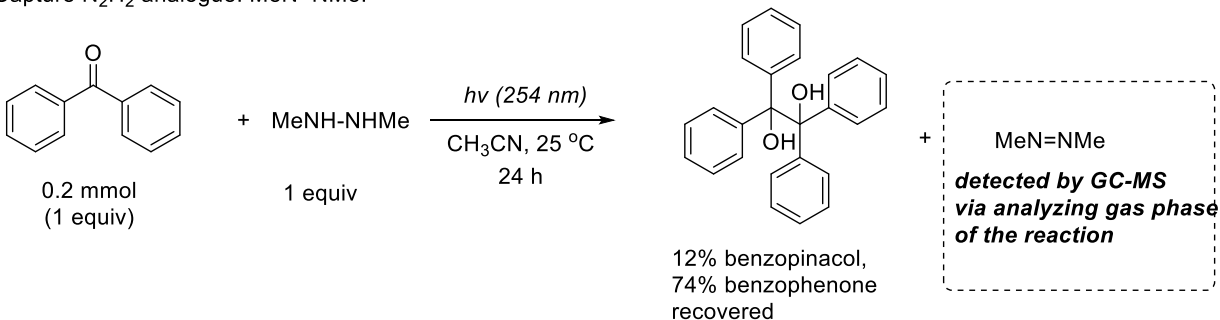
Fig. S5 Crude NMR sample of x = 0.25

the N₂H₄ was totally used up by analyzing the crude NMR (Fig. S5), which was further confirmed by no hydrazone or azine formed when benzaldehyde was added into the NMR tube after the reaction. Combined with the results shown in Scheme 2 in the manuscript, it clearly showed that only two hydrogens in N₂H₄ were involved in this transformation, for example, when 0.25 equiv N₂H₄ was used, only around half conversion was obtained (42%) with around 42% product yield, in the presence of total 1 equiv hydrogen atoms (4 x 0.25 equiv).

10. Detection of N₂H₂ analogue: MeN=NMe

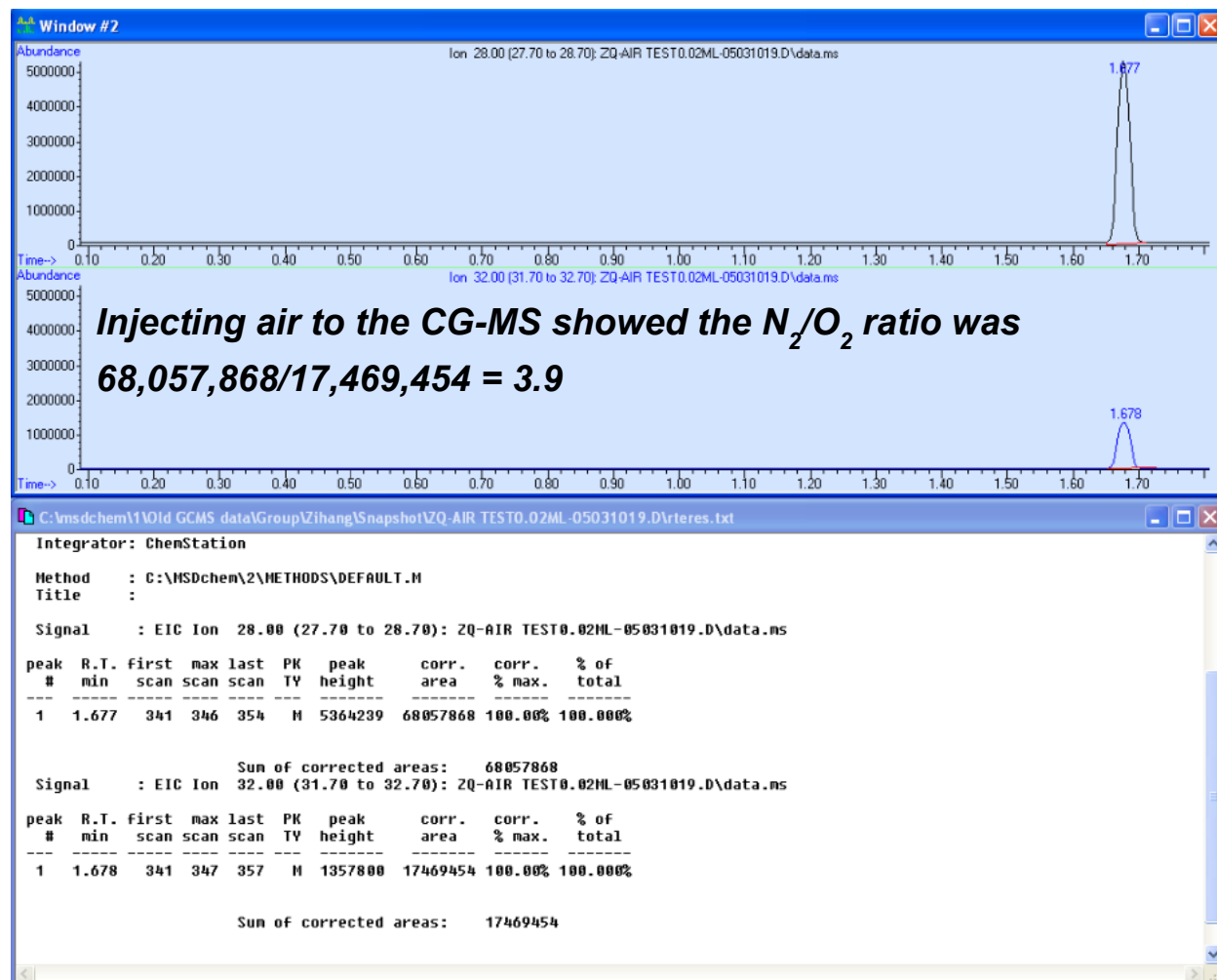
The 10 mL quartz tube, charged with a magnetic stir bar, was vacuumed and backfilled with argon for three times. Benzophenone (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv, 36.4 mg), MeNH-NHMe (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv, 26.6 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv, 85 mg) and CH₃CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at room temperature (ca. 25 °C) under UV irradiation (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the 0.2 mL of gas phase of the reaction was transferred out by gas-tight syringe and then injected into the GC-MS to analyze.

Capture N₂H₂ analogue: MeN=NMe:



11. Detection of N₂

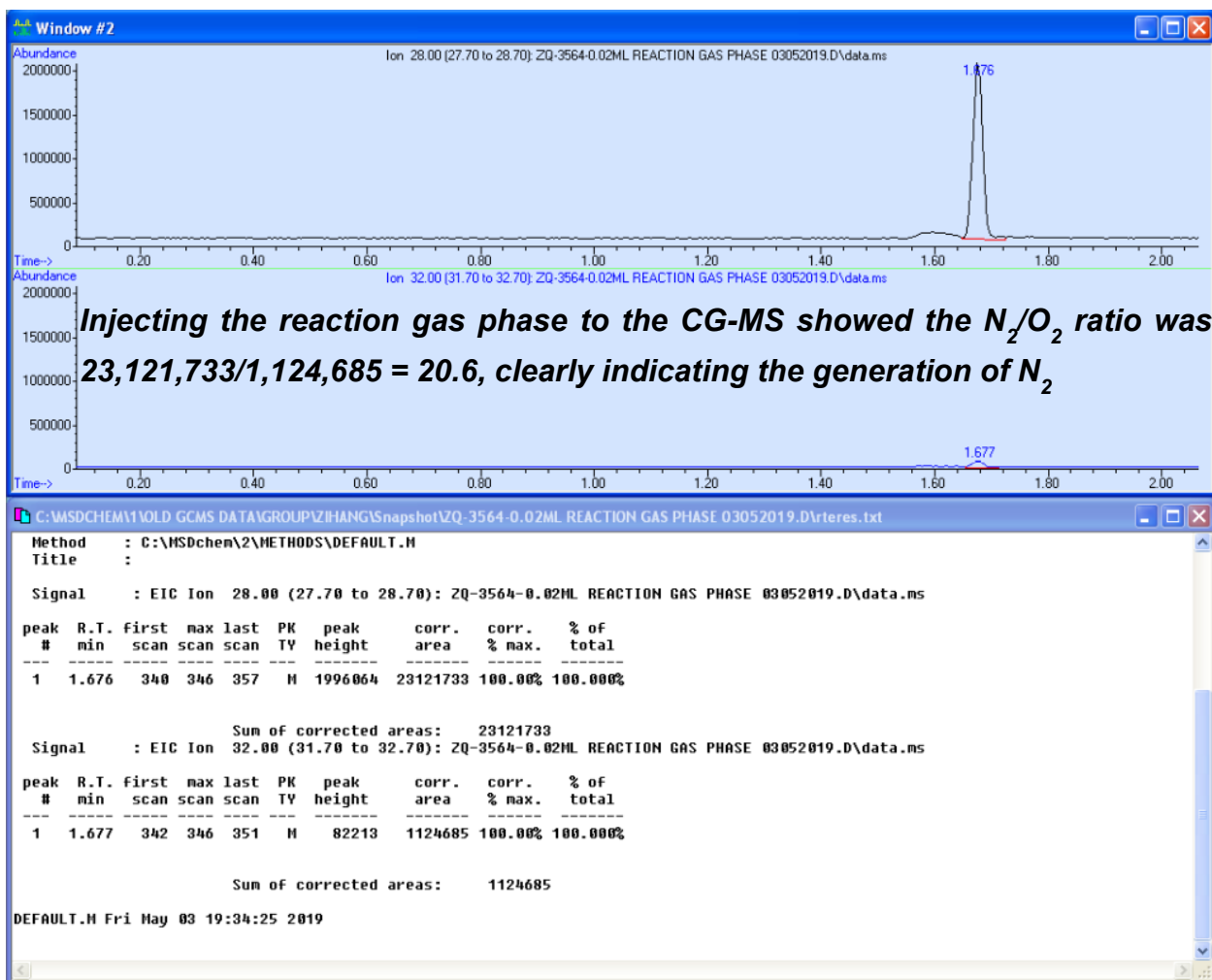
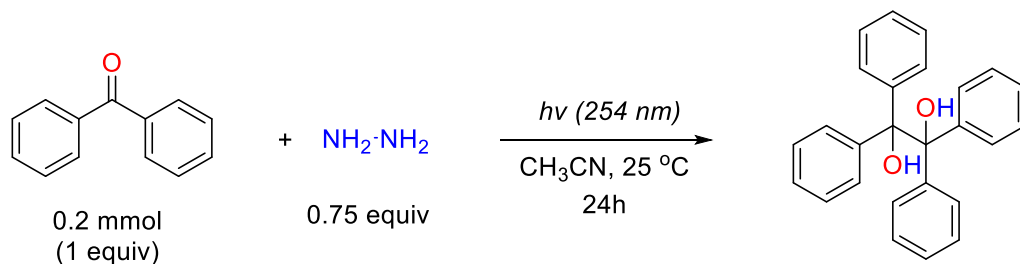
Firstly, due to the air containing N₂ and O₂ (theoretical ratio around 4:1), the air could be used to calibrate the GC-MS. Transferring 0.02 mL air by the gas-tight syringe and injecting into the GC-MS indicated that N₂/O₂ = 3.9 very near the theoretical ratio.



Next, due to the gas-tight syringe needle will always contain trace amount of air, if the gas sample obtained from the gas phase of the reaction and N₂/O₂ ratio is significantly larger than 3.9 by GC-MS analysis, then it will tell the N₂ is generated during the reaction. The standard reaction was run as follows:

The 10 mL quartz tube, charged with a magnetic stir bar, was vacuumed and backfilled with argon for three times. Benzophenone (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv, 36.4 mg), N₂H₄•H₂O (0.15 mmol, 0.75 equiv, 7.4 μL) and CH₃CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at room temperature (ca. 25 °C) under UV irradiation (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company for 24 h. After completion, the 0.02 mL of gas phase of the reaction

was transferred out by gas-tight syringe and then injected into the GC-MS to analyze. The results were shown below:



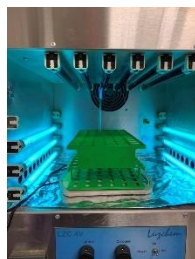
Finally, the NH_3 was not detected by analyzing the reaction gas phase in the GC-MS.

12. Identify rate determining step (RDS)

12.1 Identify whether HAT was not RDS

12.1.1 Kinetic profile of the standard reaction:

The kinetic profile of the standard reaction was monitored by the ^1H NMR via the reaction run in situ in quartz NMR tube. The procedure was as follows:



The Wilmad[®] quartz NMR tube (diam. 5mm, L 7 in.) was vacuumed and refilled in argon with three cycles, then benzophenone (0.2 mmol, 36.4 mg, 1 equiv), $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.75 equiv, 7.4 μL), internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (11.2 mg), and CD_3CN (1 mL) were added into the tube sequentially under the protection of Argon. Then the tube was capped, sealed and was irradiated at room temperature (ca. 25 $^\circ\text{C}$) under UV light (254 nm) by using a standard LZC-4V photoreactor from Luzchem company. Every 30 mins, the reaction was monitored by ^1H NMR, the NMR yields were calculated by the internal standard 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene. The results were summarized below (Fig. S6):

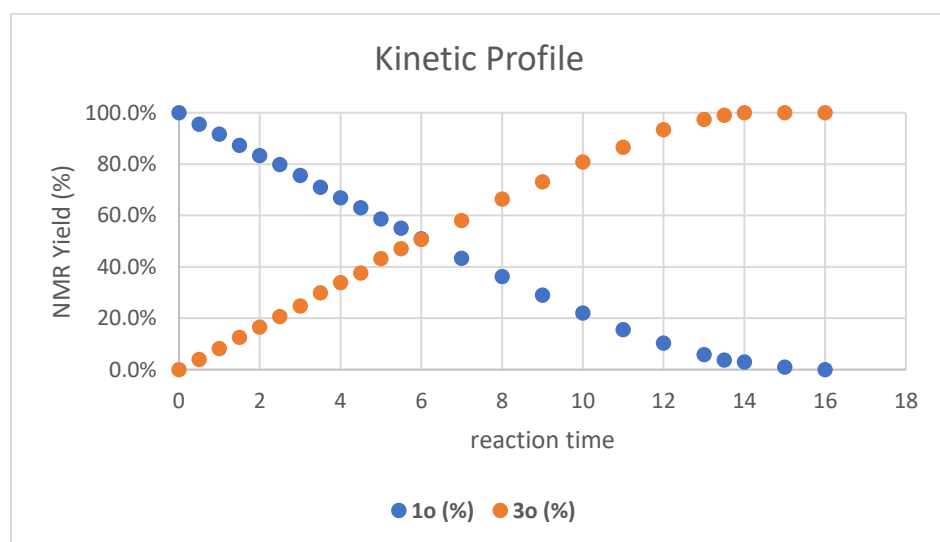
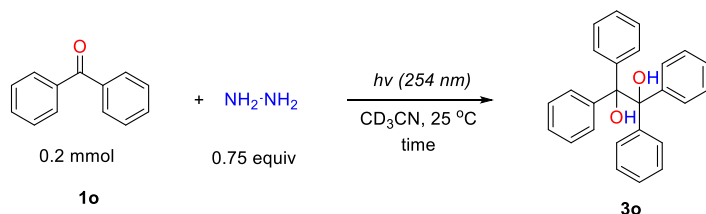
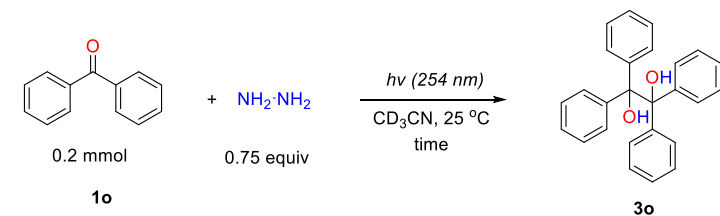


Fig. S6 Kinetic profile.

The results in Fig. S6 showed that the reaction under the standard conditions with benzophenone as the substrate would finish after 16 h. As shown in Fig. 6, the linear relationship of product against time was well fitted with the conversion of benzophenone lower than 30%. Therefore, the initial observed reaction rate (v_{obs}) was calculated within the benzophenone conversion < 30%. The calculation method and results are shown below in details:



time (h)	3o (%)	3o (M)
0	0.0%	0
0.5	4.3%	0.0043
1	8.8%	0.0088
1.5	13.5%	0.0135
2	17.7%	0.0177

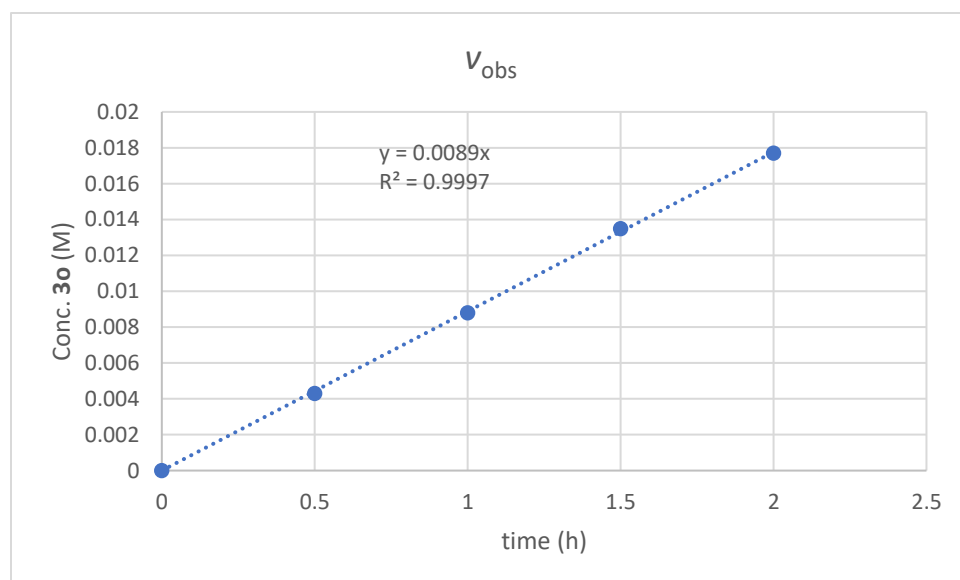
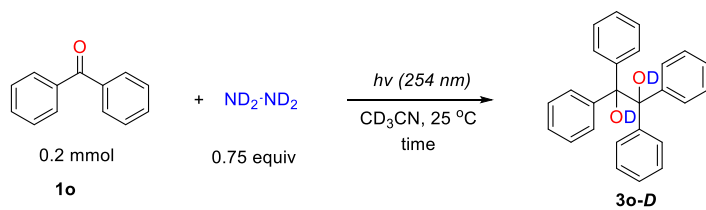


Fig. S7 Observed reaction rate.

From the results shown in Fig. S7, a very good linear fitting was obtained ($R^2 = 0.9997$), $v_{\text{obs}} = 0.0089 \text{ M/h}$

12.1.2 Use N_2D_4 to detect v_{obs} for KIE studies

The procedure was similar as above mentioned by only changing the $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ to $\text{N}_2\text{D}_4 \cdot \text{D}_2\text{O}$. The results were summarized below (Fig. S8):



time (h)	3o-D (%)	3o-D (M)
0	0.0%	0
0.25	2.1%	0.0021
0.5	4.3%	0.0043
0.75	6.5%	0.0065
1	8.7%	0.0087

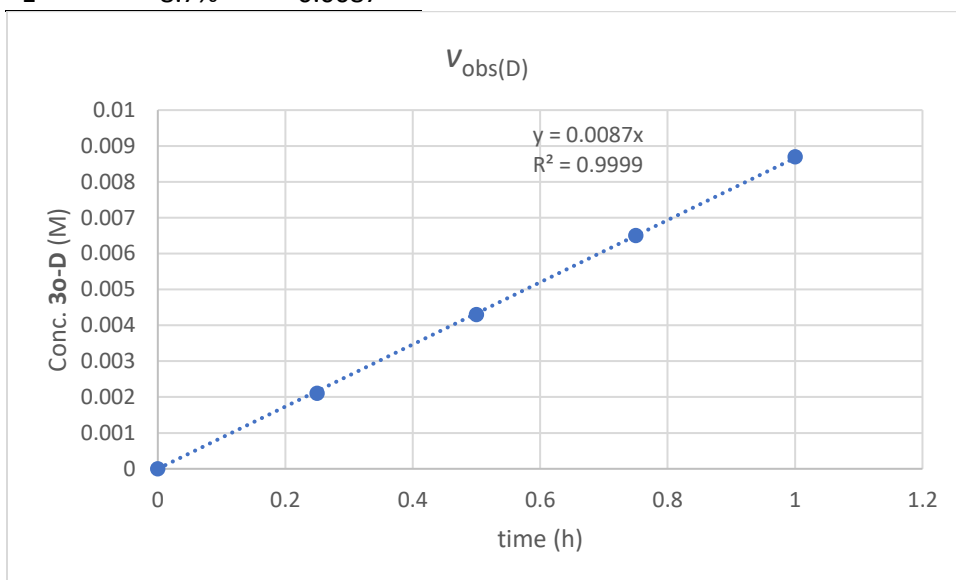
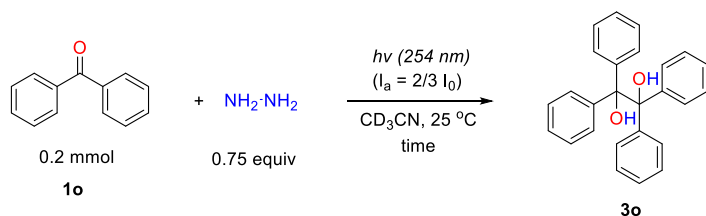


Fig. S8 Observed reaction rate for N_2D_4 .

From the results shown in Fig. S8, a very good linear fitting was obtained ($R^2 = 0.9999$), $V_{\text{obs(D)}} = 0.0087 \text{ M/h}$. Due to $\text{KIE} = k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = V_{\text{obs(H)}}/V_{\text{obs(D)}} = 0.0089/0.0087 \approx 1$, there was no KIE effect, indicating that the HAT process was not RDS but a fast step.

12.2 Identify photoexcitation step was RDS

The procedure was similar with the standard conditions shown in 12.1 except for only reducing the UV light intensity to 2/3 of its original intensity ($I_a = 2/3 I_0$). The results were summarized below (Fig. S9):



time (h)	3o (%)	3o (M)
0	0.0%	0
0.5	3.0%	0.003
1	5.8%	0.0058
1.5	8.8%	0.0088
2	11.9%	0.0119

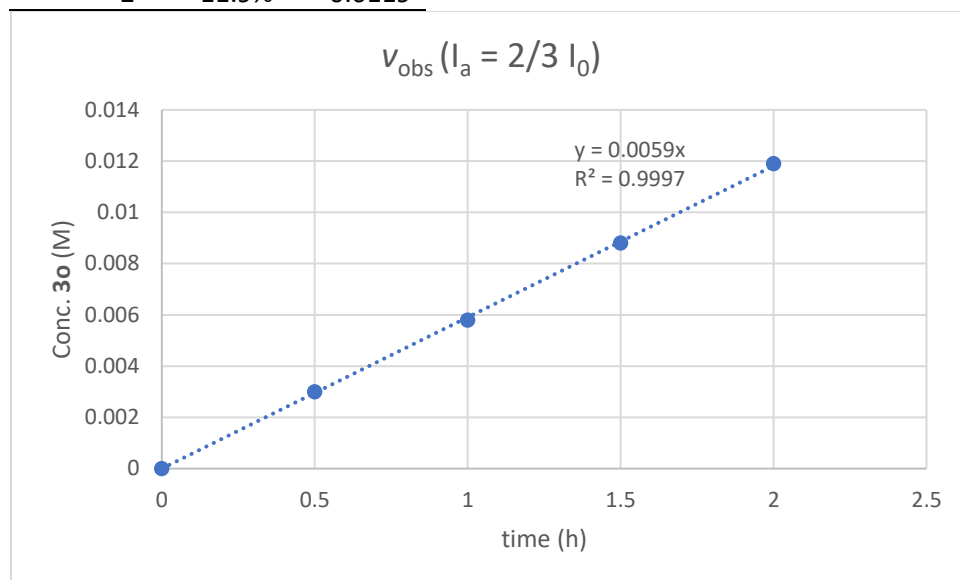


Fig. S9 Observed reaction rate for $I_a = 2/3 I_0$.

From the results shown in Fig. S9, a very good linear fitting was obtained ($R^2 = 0.9997$), $v_{\text{obs}}(I_a) = 0.0059 \text{ M/h}$. $v_{\text{obs}}(I_a) / v_{\text{obs}}(I_0) = 0.0059 / 0.0089 = 0.663 = 1.99/3 \approx 2/3$. It was found that the reaction rate was accordingly reduced when the light intensity was reduced, suggesting that the photoexcitation step was RDS.

13. Identify C-C bond formation mechanism

13.1 If it was radical homo-dimerization mechanism, then the simplified mechanism was shown below (Fig. S10):

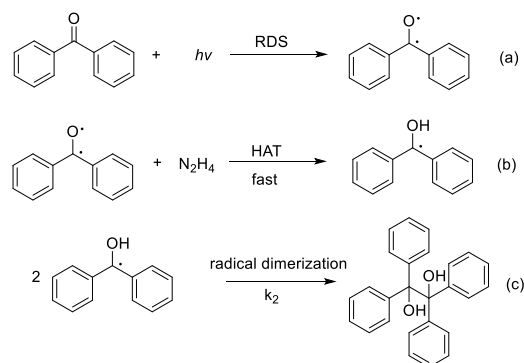
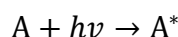


Fig. S10 Simplified mechanism of radical homo-dimerization.

The photoexcitation step could be described as the simplified equation proposed by Toby:^[3]



$$-\frac{d[A]}{dt} = \frac{d[A^*]}{dt} = I_0 - I_1$$

where A represented benzophenone, A^* represented the excited state of benzophenone, I_0 was the initial light intensity, I_1 was the light intensity after it passes through the sample.

According to the Beer-Lambert law:

$$\log \frac{I_0}{I_1} = \epsilon lc$$

$$\text{So, } I_1 = I_0 10^{-\epsilon lc}$$

Where, ϵ was the molar absorptivity, l was the length of the light path, c was the concentration of the solution of the sample used in the experiment.

Then,

$$-\frac{d[A]}{dt} = \frac{d[A^*]}{dt} = I_0 - I_1 = I_0(1 - 10^{-\epsilon lc}) = k_1 I_0 \propto I_0$$

As the ϵ , l were constant for the given reaction conditions, and when the conversion was low, the c was not changed greatly, so the $(1 - 10^{-\epsilon lc})$ could be treated as the constant (k_1) in the initial stage of reaction. Therefore, the $\frac{d[A^*]}{dt}$ would be directly proportional to the I_0 .

As the mechanistic studies were shown previously, the photoexcitation step was RDS (Fig. S10, a) and the HAT process was the fast step (Fig. S10, b). Therefore, the reaction rate of the generation of the product could be simplified to be described as (Fig. S10, c):

$$v_p = k_2 \left[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}(\text{OH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \right]^2 \propto I_0^2$$

Where v_p was the rate of the generation of the product, k_2 was the radical dimerization rate constant. Therefore, If the mechanism for the C-C bond formation was radical homo-dimerization then v_p would be directly proportional to the I_0^2 (the light intensity square), but this was not consistent of the kinetic observation of this transformation (v_p was directly proportional to the I_0). Therefore, the radical homo-dimerization pathway could not be the main pathway for the C-C bond formation step.

13.2 Instead, if it was radical addition to C=O mechanism, then the simplified mechanism was shown below (Fig. S11):

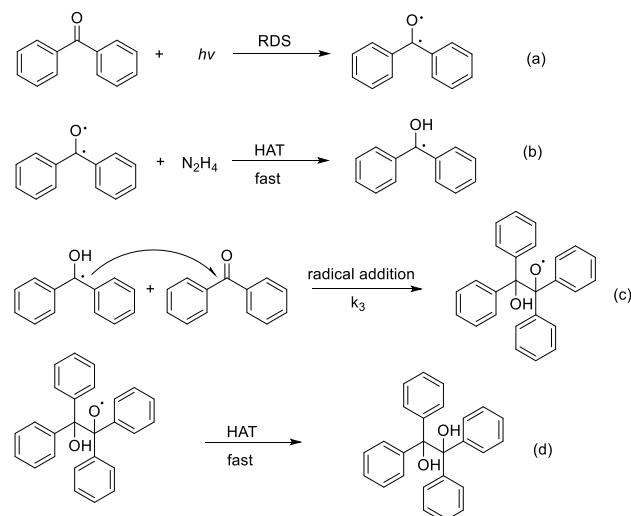


Fig. S11 Simplified mechanism of radical addition to C=O.

As the analysis shown in 13.1 with the photoexcitation step was RDS (Fig. S11, a), and HAT were fast steps (Fig. S11, b and d), the reaction rate of the generation of the product could be simplified to be described as (Fig S11, c and d):

$$v_p = k_3 \left[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}(\text{OH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \right] \left[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \right] \propto I_0$$

Where k_3 was the rate constant of radical addition to the C=O. Because the concentration of benzophenone was significantly larger than the ketyl radical concentration and the benzophenone concentration would be kept nearly constant under low conversion, it could be treated as a constant. Therefore, v_p would be directly proportional to the I_0 , in agreement with the kinetic observation of this transformation.

14. DFT study of the mechanism

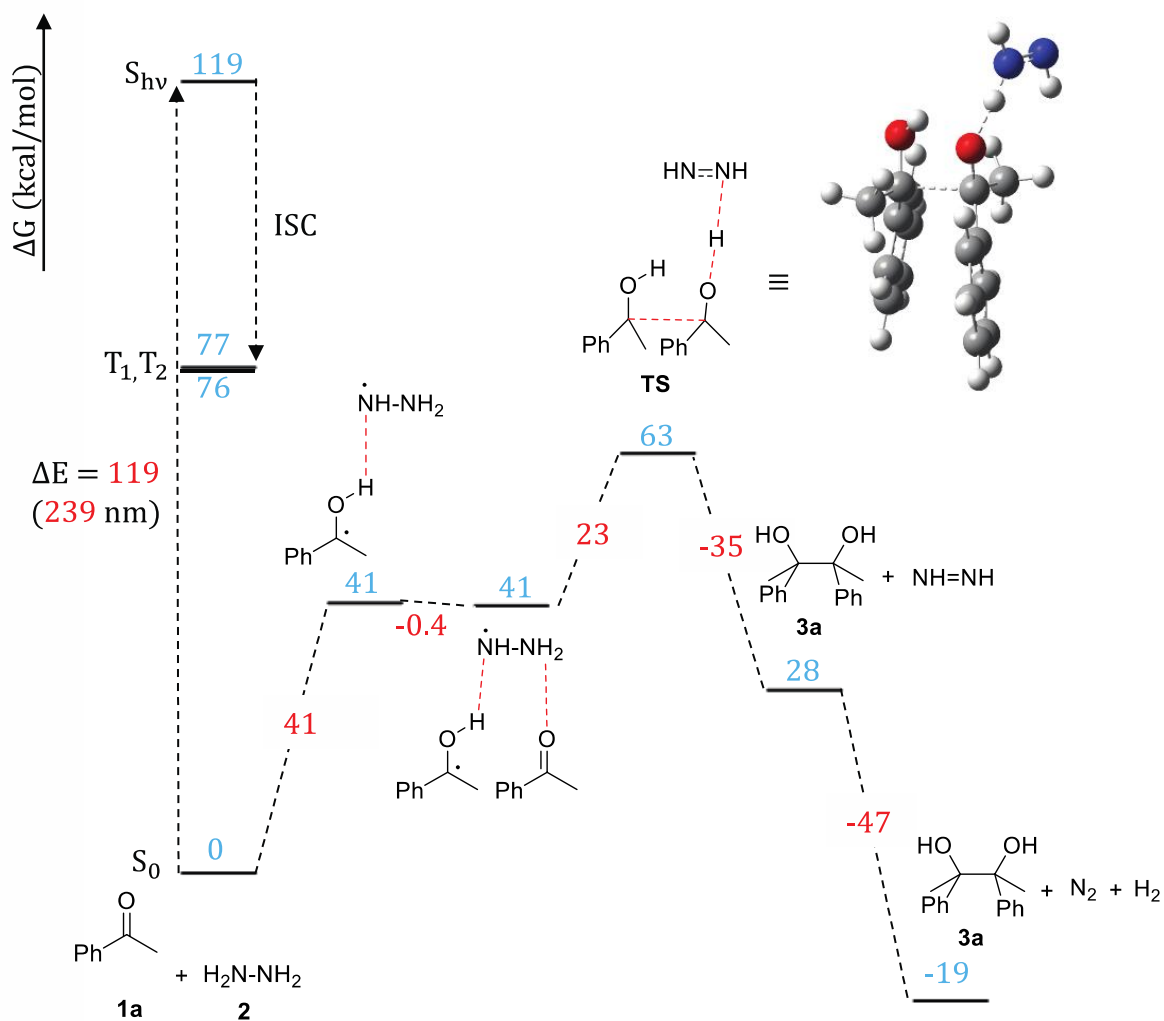


Fig. S12 The B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) free energy profile of the reaction. ^aThe vertical excitation energies (as opposed to free energies) are plotted relative to the electronic ground state.

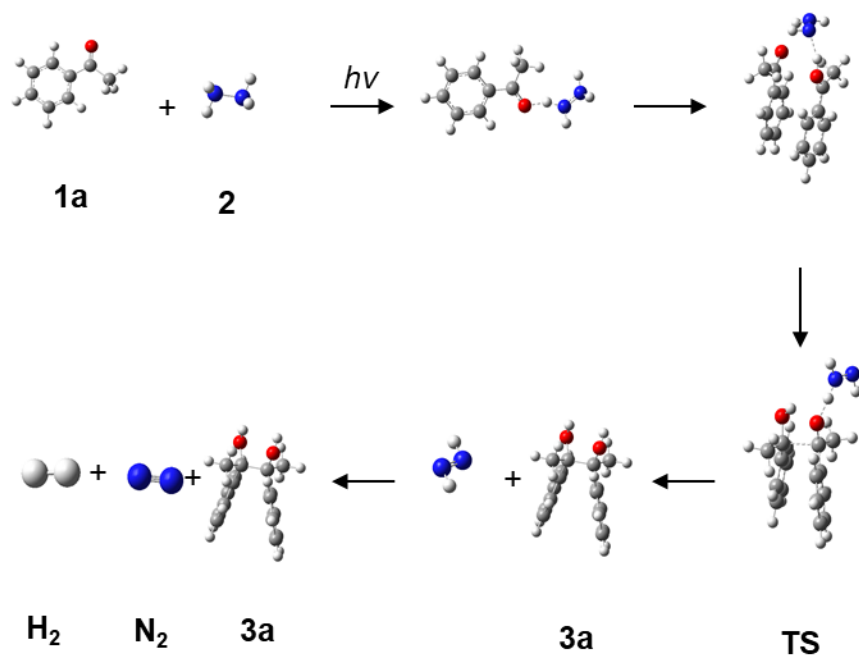


Fig. S13 Structures of intermediates and transition states along the reaction pathway.

15. Attempts of cross-pinacol coupling

Initially, we examined the feasibility of cross-pinacol coupling by mixing acetophenone, 4-CF₃ and 4-OMe acetophenones and benzophenone (the yields shown below are NMR yields):

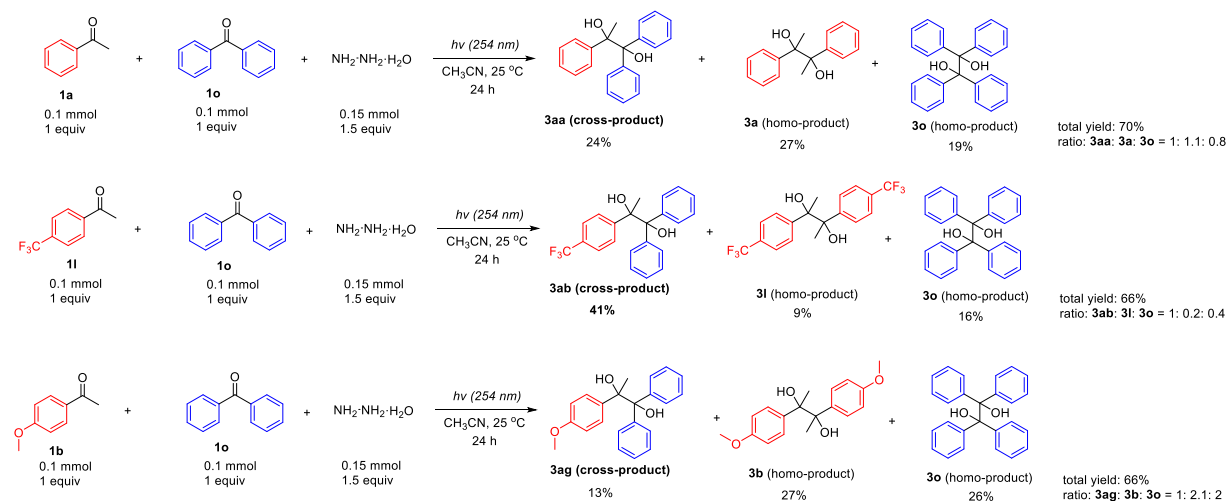
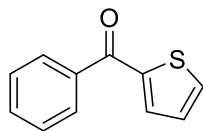


Fig. S14 Initial examination of the cross-pinacol coupling feasibility.

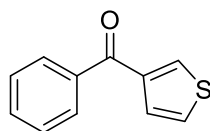
We found that acetophenone attached with electron-withdrawing group such as 4-CF₃ acetophenone could afford better cross-pinacol product selectivity and yield (**3ab**, 41% NMR yield) while mixing with benzophenone, compared with acetophenone and 4-OMe acetophenone. Next, with this reaction information in hand, we examined the preliminary scope and selectivity of the cross-pinacol reaction, and the results are summarized in Table 3 in the manuscript.

16. Spectroscopic data of synthesized heteroaromatic ketones



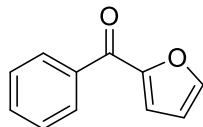
Phenyl(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (1x) (CAS: 135-00-2):^[4]

¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (tt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 3.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 188.4, 143.8, 138.3, 135.0, 134.4, 132.4, 129.3



Phenyl(thiophen-3-yl)methanone (1y) (CAS: 6453-99-2):^[5]

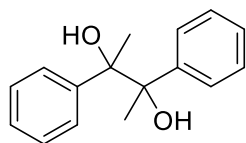
¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.94 (dd, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 190.0, 141.3, 138.6, 133.9, 132.3, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 126.2



Furan-2-yl(phenyl)methanone (1z) (CAS: 2689-59-0):^[5]

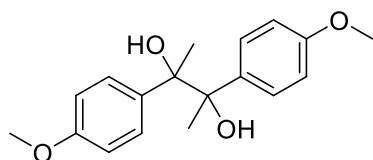
¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (tt, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 182.6, 152.3, 147.1, 137.3, 132.6, 129.3, 128.4, 120.6, 112.2

17. Spectroscopic data of products



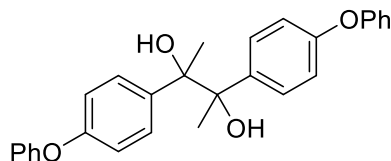
2,3-Diphenylbutane-2,3-diol (3a) (CAS: 1636-34-6):^[6]

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 5:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (19.5 mg, 80% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 10H), 2.61 (br, 1H), 2.31 (br, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H, *meso*), 1.54 (s, 3.3H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 143.9, 143.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 79.0, 78.7, 25.3, 25.1; HRMS: (APCI, m/z) calcd for C₁₆H₁₈O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 265.1199, found: 265.1201



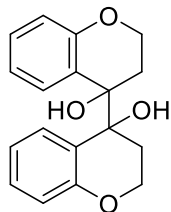
2,3-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3b) (CAS: 21985-99-9):^[7]

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (24.5 mg, 81% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.3: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 6.79 – 6.76 (m, 4H), 3.81 – 3.79 (s, 6H), 2.53 (br, 1.1H), 2.25 (br, 0.9H), 1.55 (s, 2.7H, *meso*), 1.47 (s, 3.6H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 158.7, 158.6, 136.2, 135.8, 128.7, 128.2, 112.7, 112.5, 78.8, 78.6, 55.3, 25.3, 25.1; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₁₈H₂₂O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 325.1410, found: 325.1409



2,3-Bis(4-phenoxyphenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3c):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (30.2 mg, 71% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.3: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.97 (m, 4H), 7.90 – 6.87 (m, 4H), 2.51 (br, 1H), 2.32 (br, 1H), 1.62 (s, 2.6H, *meso*), 1.53 (s, 3.6H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 157.4, 157.2, 156.4, 156.2, 138.9, 138.4, 129.88, 129.86, 128.9, 128.5, 123.4, 123.3, 119.0, 118.8, 117.8, 117.5, 78.9, 78.6, 25.3, 25.2; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₈H₂₆O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 449.1723, found: 449.1711

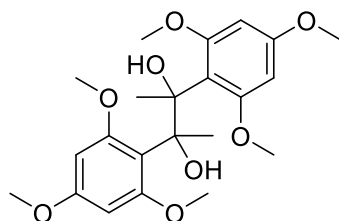


[4,4'-Bichromane]-4,4'-diol (3d)(CAS: 59214-62-9)^[8]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20:1 to 1:1). *dl* : *meso* = 1:1, the *dl/meso* products total yield (24.4 mg, 82%).

The *dl* product was isolated as a white solid (12.3 mg, 41% yield). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.11 – 4.01 (m, 2H), 4.02 – 3.97 (m, 2H), 3.22 (br, 2H), 1.75 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.62 – 1.58 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 155.7, 129.6, 129.3, 126.8, 121.2, 117.9, 73.4, 63.2, 35.2; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 321.1097, found: 321.1101

The *meso* product was isolated as a white solid (12.1 mg, 41% yield). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.03 – 4.00 (m, 4H), 2.62 (br, 2H), 2.36 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.17 – 2.12 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 156.2, 129.8, 128.4, 125.7, 120.9, 117.6, 74.2, 63.7, 34.3; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 321.1097, found: 321.1087



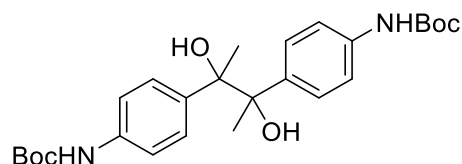
2,3-Bis(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3e):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: pure EtOAc), *d.r.* = 1:1.4, the products total yield (34.2 mg, 81%).

Isomer 1 was isolated as a white solid (13.8 mg, 33% yield). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 6.17 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 5.86 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 12H), 3.48 (s, 6H), 1.73 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 160.3, 160.1, 159.4, 116.0, 92.8, 92.2, 84.2, 56.14, 56.12, 55.4, 25.8; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₂H₃₀O₈Na [M+Na]⁺ 445.1833, found: 445.1828

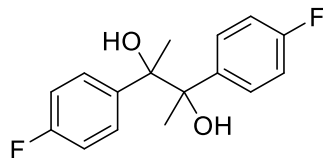
Isomer 2 was isolated as a colorless oil (20.4 mg, 48% yield). ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 6.01 (s, 4H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 3.53 (s, 6H), 3.44

(s, 6H), 1.74 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 160.4, 160.0, 159.4, 115.8, 92.1, 91.9, 83.6, 56.3, 55.3, 25.7; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 445.1833, found: 445.1841



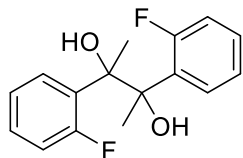
Di-tert-butyl ((2,3-dihydroxybutane-2,3-diyl)bis(4,1-phenylene))dicarbamate (3f):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (30.4 mg, 64% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1: 1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, acetone- d_6 , ppm): δ 8.28 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 1H), 1.46 – 1.45 (m, 24H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 153.90, 153.86, 140.90, 139.95, 139.0, 138.8, 129.0, 128.8, 117.4, 117.3, 79.9, 79.8, 79.0, 78.6, 28.7, 25.8, 25.3; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 495.2466, found: 495.2456



2,3-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3g) (CAS: 87054-23-7)^[9]:

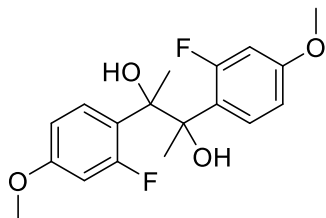
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (17.4 mg, 63% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1: 1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.94 – 6.89 (m, 4H), 2.52 (br, 1H), 2.28 (br, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3.3H), 1.49 (s, 3.7H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 163.1, 163.0, 161.2, 161.1, 139.59, 139.57, 139.22, 139.19, 129.24, 129.17, 128.84, 128.78, 114.2, 114.1, 114.0, 113.9, 78.7, 78.5, 25.2, 25.0; ^{19}F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -115.6, -116.2; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_6\text{F}_2$ $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ 277.1046, found: 277.1054



2,3-Bis(2-fluorophenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3h) (CAS: 1798248-13-1)^[10]:

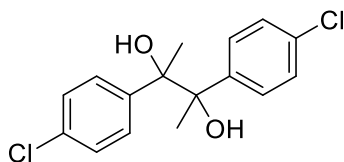
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (18.0 mg, 65% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1: 1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.50 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.01 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.91

– 6.87 (m, 1H), 3.19 – 3.09 (br, 2H), 1.80 (s, 3H, *meso*), 1.68 (s, 3H, *dl*); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 161.7, 161.6, 159.8, 159.7, 130.34, 130.3, 130.09, 130.06, 129.54, 129.47, 129.4, 129.3, 123.7, 123.7, 123.4, 123.3, 116.4, 116.22, 166.18, 116.0, 79.9, 79.8, 79.74, 79.71, 24.6, 24.5, 24.2, 24.1; ^{19}F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -109.0, -109.7; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_6\text{F}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 301.1011, found: 301.1020



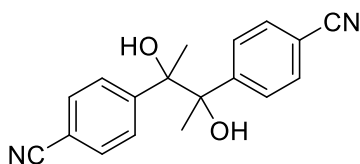
2,3-Bis(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3i):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (29.6 mg, 88% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1: 1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.33 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dd, J = 8.5 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.53 – 6.50 (m, 2H), 6.43 (dd, J = 14.6 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.06 – 2.98 (br, 2H), 1.71 (s, 2.7 H, *meso*), 1.60 (s, 2.9 H, *dl*); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 162.1, 162.0, 160.4, 160.3, 160.2, 160.1, 130.8, 130.8, 130.6, 122.3, 122.2, 109.4, 109.1, 102.1, 101.9, 101.6, 79.6, 79.5, 55.6, 24.6, 24.2; ^{19}F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -106.9, -107.6; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{F}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 361.1222, found: 361.1229



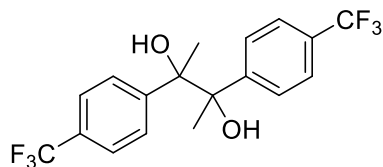
2,3-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3j) (CAS: 21985-98-8)^[11]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (20.7 mg, 67% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1: 1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.16 – 6.98 (m, 8H), 2.43 (br, 1H), 2.14 (br, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H, *meso*), 1.38 (s, 3.4 H, *dl*); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 142.3, 141.9, 133.3, 133.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.54, 127.46, 78.7, 78.4, 25.2, 24.9; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{Cl}_2$ $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ 309.0455, found: 309.0450



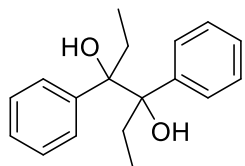
4,4'-(2,3-Dihydroxybutane-2,3-diyl)dibenzonitrile (3k) (CAS: 82491-64-3)^[12]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: Acetone= 3:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (20.6 mg, 70% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1 : 1.7; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, acetone-d₆, ppm): *dl*: δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.61 (br, 2H), 1.50 (s, 6H); *meso*: 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.79 (br, 2H), 1.77 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, acetone-d₆, ppm): δ 152.1, 151.9, 131.2, 130.8, 129.2, 128.8, 119.33, 119.31, 110.7, 110.4, 78.3, 78.0, 24.9, 24.5; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₈H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 315.1104, found: 315.1097



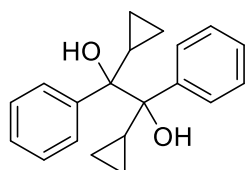
2,3-Bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butane-2,3-diol (3l)^[13]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc= 3:1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (26.0 mg, 69% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1 : 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.52 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (br, 1H), 2.22 (br, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H, *meso*), 1.54 (s, 3.3H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 147.9, 147.3, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 127.9, 127.6, 124.4, 124.3, 78.7, 78.4, 25.4, 25.0; ¹⁹F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ -62.5; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₈H₁₆F₆O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 401.0947, found: 401.0951



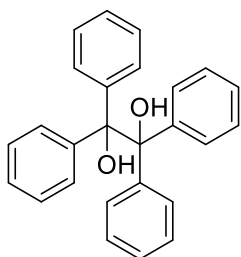
3,4-Diphenylhexane-3,4-diol (3m) (CAS: 10442-33-8)^[14]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc= 5:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (15.1 mg, 63% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1 : 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 10H), 2.59 (br, 1H), 2.22 (br, 1H), 2.42 – 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.14 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.76 – 1.70 (m, 1H, *dl*), 1.64 – 1.57 (m, 1H, *meso*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 141.4, 140.4, 128.4, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 126.8, 82.04, 81.96, 28.3, 27.8, 7.9, 7.7; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₈H₁₆O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 293.1512, found: 293.1519



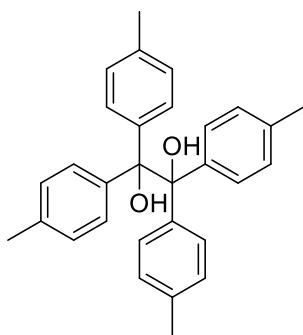
1,2-Dicyclopropyl-1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diol (3n) (CAS: 60079-97-2)^[15]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc= 10:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (21.3 mg, 72% yield). *dl* : *meso* = 1.1: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.35 – 7.18 (m, 10H), 2.47 (br, 1H), 2.28 (br, 1H), 1.96 – 1.90 (m, 0.9H, *meso*), 1.50 – 1.45 (m, 1H, *dl*), 0.71 – 0.60 (m, 3H), 0.58 – 0.52 (m, 1H), 0.41 – 0.35 (m, 1H), 0.30 – 0.25 (m, 1H), 0.17 – 0.07 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 143.8, 143.4, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 127.13, 127.05, 127.0, 79.6, 16.8, 16.7, 3.3, 0.2, 0.0; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₀H₂₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 317.1512, found: 317.1518



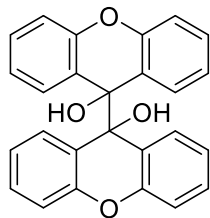
1,1,2,2-Tetraphenylethane-1,2-diol (3o) (CAS: 464-72-2)^[16]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc= 10:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (30.8 mg, 84% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.31 – 7.29 (m, 8H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 12H), 3.03 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 144.3, 128.7, 127.4, 127.1, 83.2; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₆H₂₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 389.1512, found: 317.1512



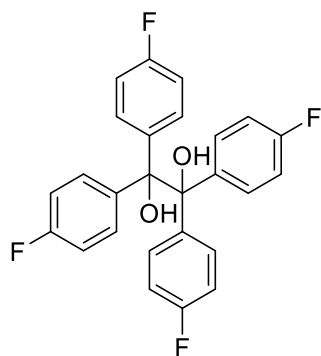
1,1,2,2-Tetra-*p*-tolylethane-1,2-diol (3p) (CAS: 913-86-0)^[17]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: DCM), the product was isolated as a white solid (25.6 mg, 61% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 8H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 8H), 2.96 (br, 2H), 2.29 (s, 12H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 141.6, 136.4, 128.6, 128.1, 82.9, 21.1; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₃₀H₃₀O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 445.2138, found: 445.2153



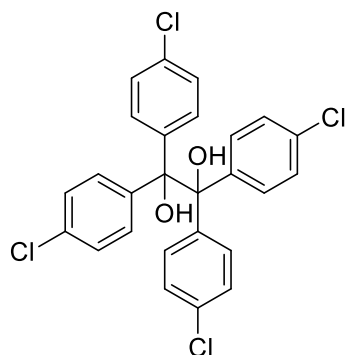
9H,9'H-[9,9'-bixanthene]-9,9'-diol (3q) (CAS: 6272-59-9)^[18]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20:1 to 10:1), the product was isolated as a white solid (22.9 mg, 58% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, acetone-d₆, ppm): δ 7.28 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.65 Hz, 4H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 4H), 5.4 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, acetone-d₆, ppm): δ 152.6, 129.20, 129.17, 124.7, 122., 115.2, 75.7; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₆H₁₈O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 417.1097, found: 417.1088



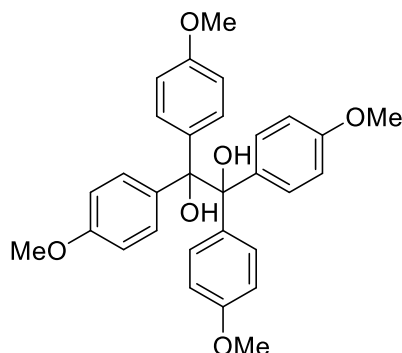
1,1,2,2-Tetrakis(4-fluorophenyl)ethane-1,2-diol (3r) (CAS: 424-82-8)^[19]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 5: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (33.5 mg, 76% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 8H), 6.92 – 6.88 (m, 8H), 2.89 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 161.9 (*J*_{C-F} = 247.3 Hz), 139.8 (*J*_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 130.4 (*J*_{C-F} = 8.0 Hz), 114.4 (*J*_{C-F} = 21.2 Hz), 82.7; ¹⁹F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ -115.0; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₆H₁₈F₄O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 461.1135, found: 461.1132



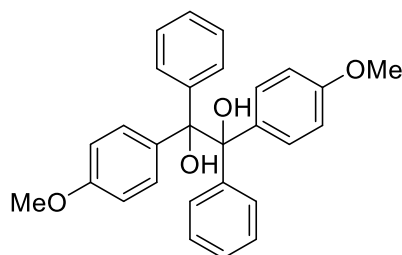
1,1,2,2-Tetrakis(4-chlorophenyl)ethane-1,2-diol (3s) (CAS: 5418-23-5)^[20]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (37.8 mg, 75% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 8H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 8H), 2.86 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 142.1, 133.6, 130.0, 127.9, 82.6; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₆H₁₈Cl₄O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 524.9953, found: 524.9928



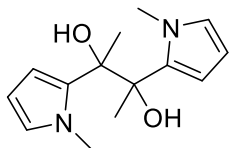
1,1,2,2-Tetrakis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethane-1,2-diol (3t) (CAS: 19920-00-4)^[21]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10:1 to 5:1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (41.0 mg, 84% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 8H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 8H), 3.76 (s, 12H), 2.91 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 158.3, 136.8, 130.0, 112.6, 82.8, 55.2; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₃₀H₃₀O₆Na [M+Na]⁺ 509.1935, found: 509.1946



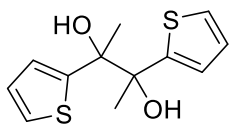
1,2-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diol (3u) (CAS: 2443-45-0)^[22]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10:1 to 5:1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (37.4 mg, 84% yield), d.r. = 1: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 10H), 6.71 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 4H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.98 (br, 2H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 158.5, 158.4, 144.6, 136.5, 130.04, 129.97, 128.73, 128.66, 127.38, 127.37, 127.0, 126.9, 83.0, 55.3, 55.2; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₈H₂₆O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 449.1723, found: 449.1736



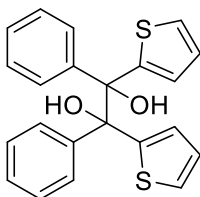
2,3-Bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)butane-2,3-diol (3v):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 5: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (7.4 mg, 30% yield), *dl* : *meso* = 1: 1.2; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 6.48 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.05 – 6.00 (m, 4H), 3.22 (s, 3.6H), 3.12 (s, 3.1H), 2.58 (br, 1H), 2.27 (br, 1.2H), 1.66 (s, 3.7H, *meso*), 1.64 (s, 3.3H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 133.7, 133.5, 125.1, 124.8, 109.7, 109.4, 106.4, 106.3, 78.6, 78.4, 36.6, 36.3, 26.4, 26.1; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₄H₂₀O₂N₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 271.1417, found: 271.1417



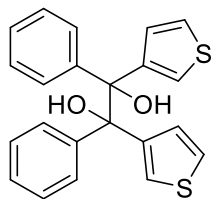
2,3-Di(thiophen-2-yl)butane-2,3-diol (3w) (CAS: 13196-16-2)^[23]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless solid (5.7 mg, 20% yield), *dl* : *meso* = 1.6: 1; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.85 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 2.81 (br, 1.2H), 2.67 (br, 0.8H), 1.69 (s, 2.3H, *meso*), 1.64 (s, 3.7H, *dl*); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 148.7, 148.3, 126.5, 126.4, 125.5, 125.0, 124.8, 124.8, 78.8, 78.6, 26.4, 26.2; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₁₂H₁₄O₂S₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 277.0327, found: 277.0329



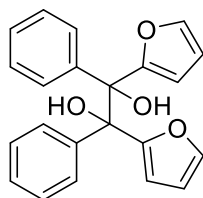
1,2-Diphenyl-1,2-di(thiophen-2-yl)ethane-1,2-diol (3x) (CAS: 54364-08-8)^[24]:

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (8.7 mg, 23% yield), *d.r.* = 1: 1.3; ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.04 – 6.92 (m, 4H), 6.85 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 3.43 (br, 0.9H), 3.30 (br, 1.1H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 148.5, 142.0, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 126.7, 126.5, 126.1, 125.8, 83.5, 83.2; HRMS: (ESI, *m/z*) calcd for C₂₂H₁₈O₂S₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 401.0651, found: 401.0639



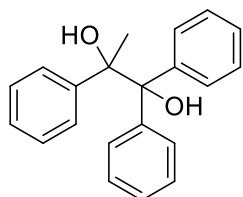
1,2-Diphenyl-1,2-di(thiophen-3-yl)ethane-1,2-diol (3y):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (15.5 mg, 41% yield), d.r. = 1: 1.1; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.34 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 11H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 3H), 3.04 (br, 0.9H), 3.30 (br, 1H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 145.5, 142.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.46, 127.43, 127.4, 124.7, 124.6, 124.1, 123.7, 82.8, 82.6; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 401.0651, found: 401.0643



1,2-Di(furan-2-yl)-1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diol (3z) (CAS: 52056-41-4)^[25]:

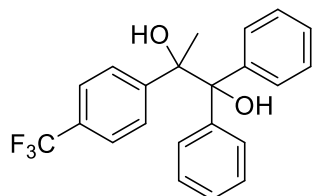
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a white solid (19.6 mg, 57% yield), d.r. = 1: 1.3; ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.37 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.13 (m, 10H), 6.37 – 6.30 (m, 3H), 6.14 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (br, 0.9H), 3.71 (br, 1.2H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 157.0, 155.8, 141.9, 141.7, 140.1, 139.8, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 127.0, 110.63, 110.59, 110.1, 108.8, 80.60, 80.58; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 369.1097, found: 369.1089



1,1,2-Triphenylpropane-1,2-diol (3aa) (CAS: 3784-22-3)^[26]:

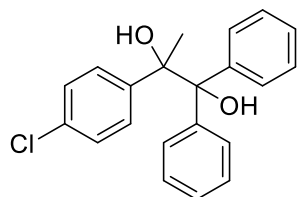
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (5.1 mg, 17% yield); ^1H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.67 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 11H), 2.83 (br, 1H), 2.43 (br, 1H), 1.72 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 144.6, 144.0, 143.8, 128.31, 128.26, 127.7,

127.52, 127.47, 127.18, 127.17, 127.13, 82.1, 80.5, 27.0; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 327.1356, found: 327.1365



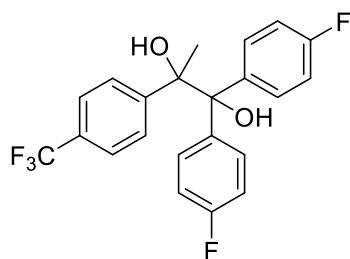
1,1-Diphenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propane-1,2-diol (3ab):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (14.2 mg, 38% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 2.80 (br, 1H), 2.53 (br, 1H), 1.72 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 149.1, 143.8, 143.5, 129.0 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 128.30, 128.27, 127.9, 127.84, 127.75, 127.5, 127.4, 124.3 (q, *J* = 271.4 Hz), 124.2 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 82.5, 80.2, 27.2; ¹⁹F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ -62.4; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉O₂F₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 395.1229, found: 395.1234



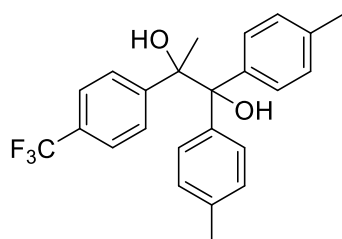
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1,1-diphenylpropane-1,2-diol (3ac):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (11.7 mg, 35% yield); ¹H NMR: (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.13 (m, 10H), 2.76 (br, 1H), 2.44 (br, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 143.9, 143.6, 143.4, 133.0, 129.0, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.44, 127.39, 127.3, 82.3, 80.1, 27.1; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for C₂₁H₁₉O₂ClNa [M+Na]⁺ 361.0966, found: 361.0971



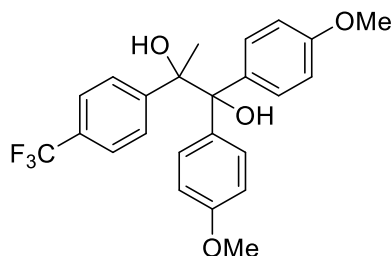
1,1-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propane-1,2-diol (3ad):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (14.1 mg, 36% yield); $^1\text{H NMR}$: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.62 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 6H), 6.99 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.72 (br, 1H), 2.38 (br, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 162.1 (d, $J = 247.3$ Hz), 162.0 (d, $J = 247.3$ Hz), 148.7, 139.5 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 139.3 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 130.1, 130.0, 129.4 (q, $J = 32.6$ Hz), 127.9, 124.4 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 124.2 (q, $J = 271.9$ Hz), 114.7 (d, $J = 17.3$ Hz), 114.5 (d, $J = 17.3$ Hz), 81.7, 80.3, 27.1; $^{19}\text{F NMR}$: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -62.5, -115.1, -115.2; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2\text{F}_5\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 431.1041, found: 431.1056



1,1-Di-*p*-tolyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propane-1,2-diol (3ae):

Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 20: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (15.0 mg, 39% yield); $^1\text{H NMR}$: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 6H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.72 (br, 1H), 2.52 (br, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 149.3, 141.0, 140.7, 137.1, 137.0, 128.9 (q, $J = 32.4$ Hz), 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.6, 124.4 (q, $J = 271.9$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 82.4, 80.1, 27.3, 21.09, 21.05; $^{19}\text{F NMR}$: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -62.4; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{F}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 423.1542, found: 423.1556



1-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propane-1,2-diol (3af):

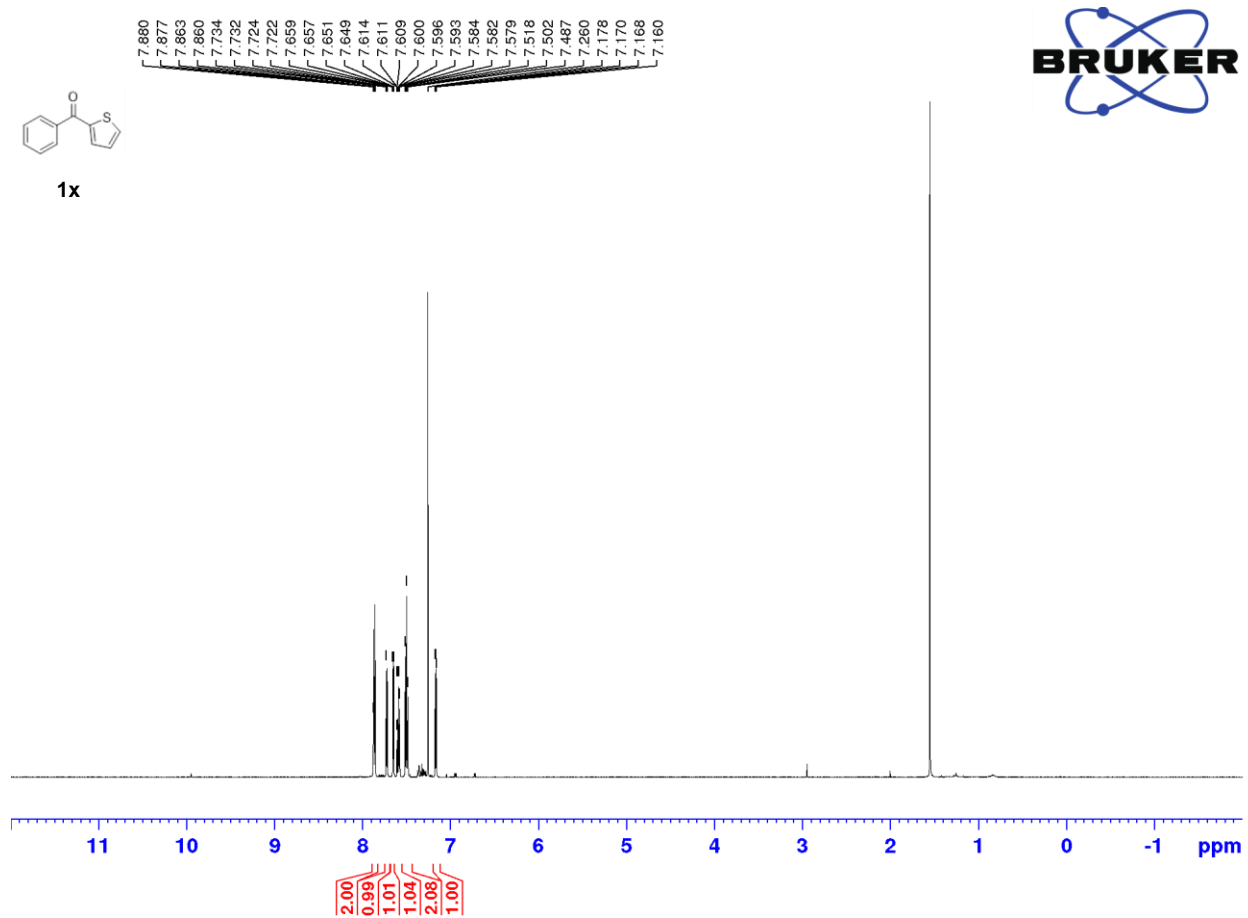
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture was diluted by the EtOAc. After preparative TLC isolation (eluent: hexanes: EtOAc = 10: 1), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (8.9 mg, 20% yield); $^1\text{H NMR}$: (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 7.48 – 7.38 (m, 8H), 6.81 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.68 (br, 1H), 2.53 (br, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$: (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ 158.8, 158.7, 149.3,

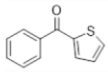
136.1, 135.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0 (q, J = 32.1 Hz), 127.9, 124.4 (q, J = 271.9 Hz), 124.1 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 113.1, 113.0, 82.2, 80.3, 55.4, 55.3, 27.1; ^{19}F NMR: (471 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm): δ -62.4; HRMS: (ESI, m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_4\text{F}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 455.1441, found: 455.1460

18. References

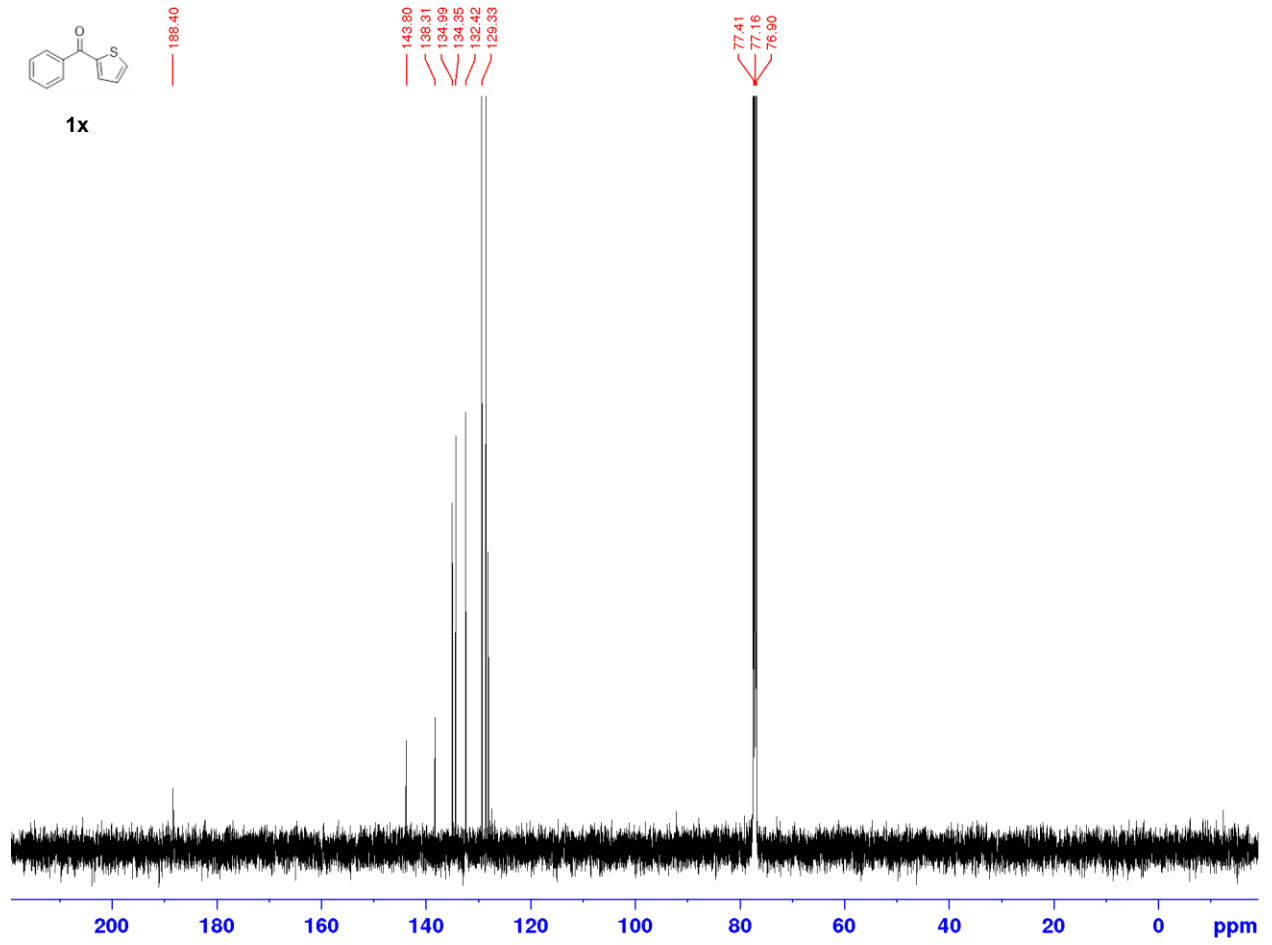
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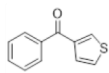
19. NMR spectra of synthesized heteroaromatic ketones



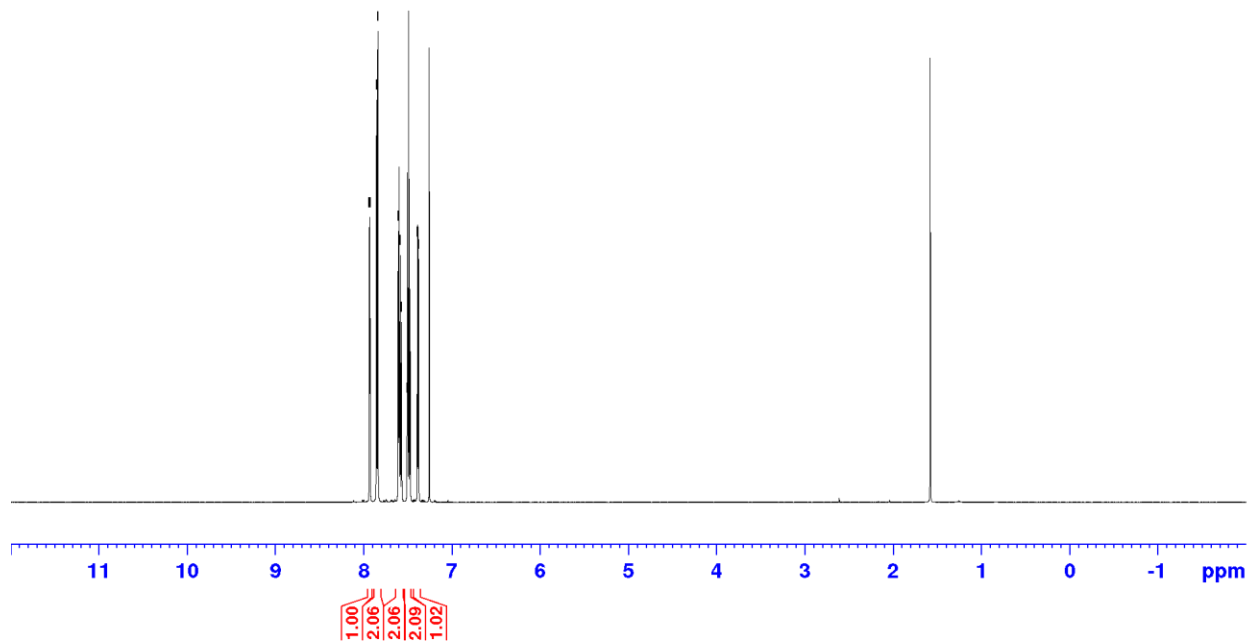


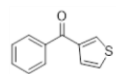
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1y

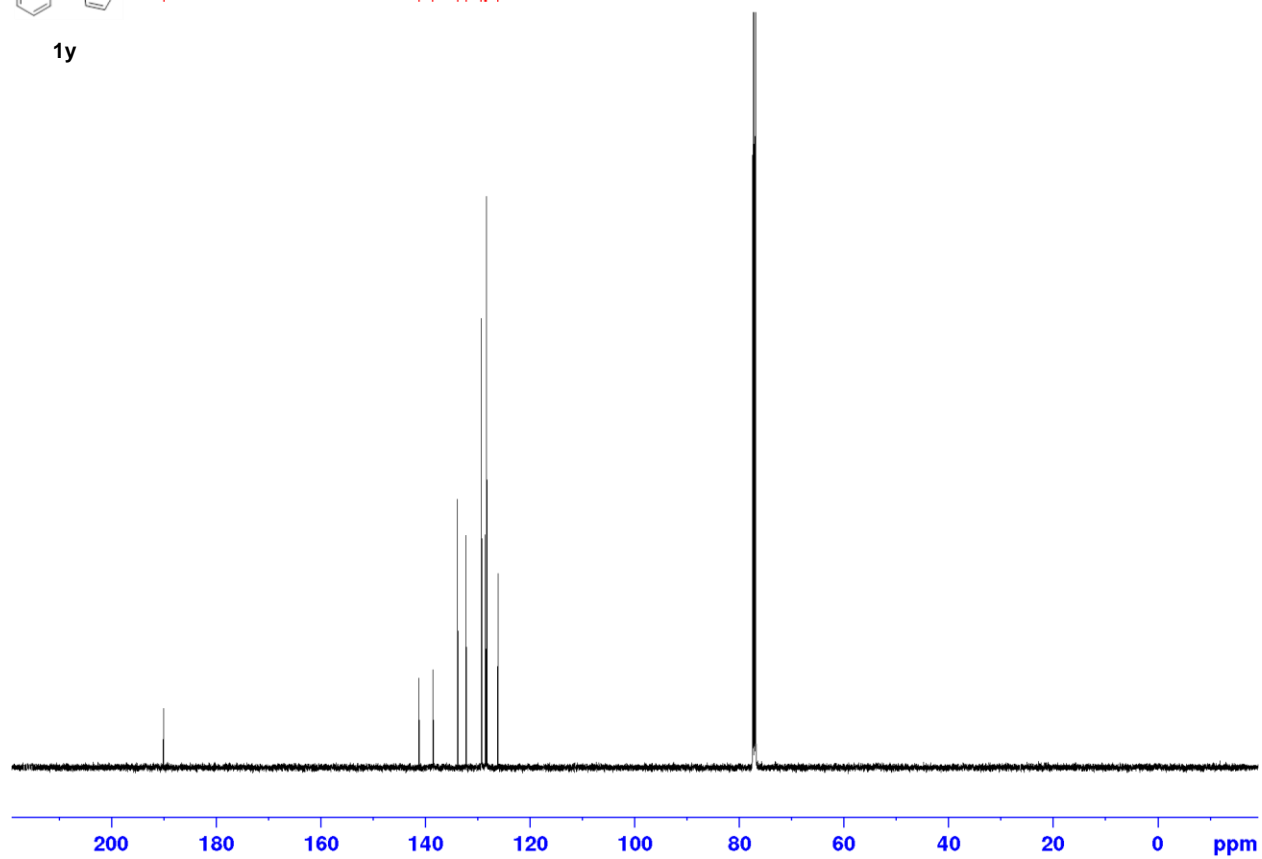


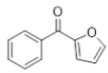


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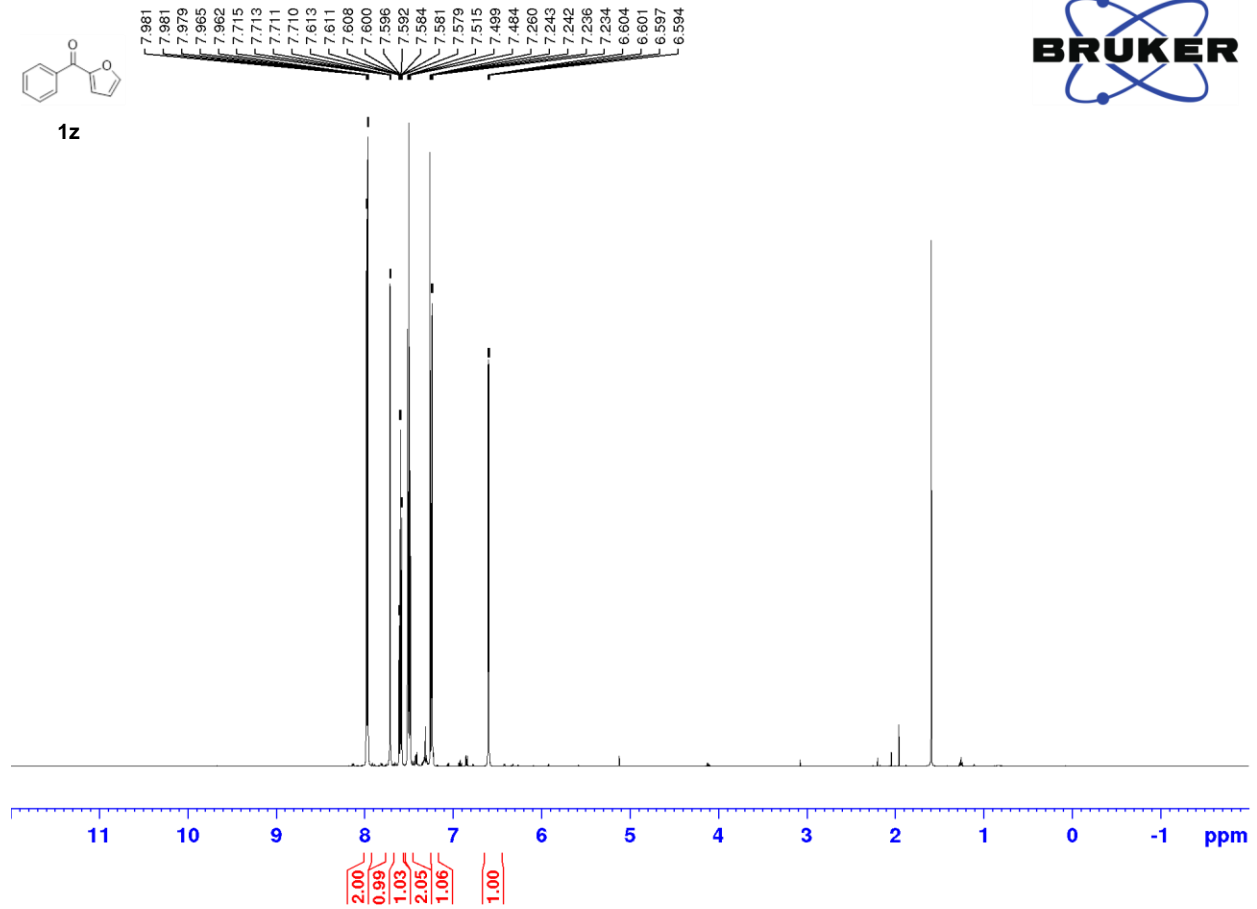
190.03

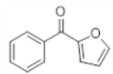
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128.68
128.99
126.21



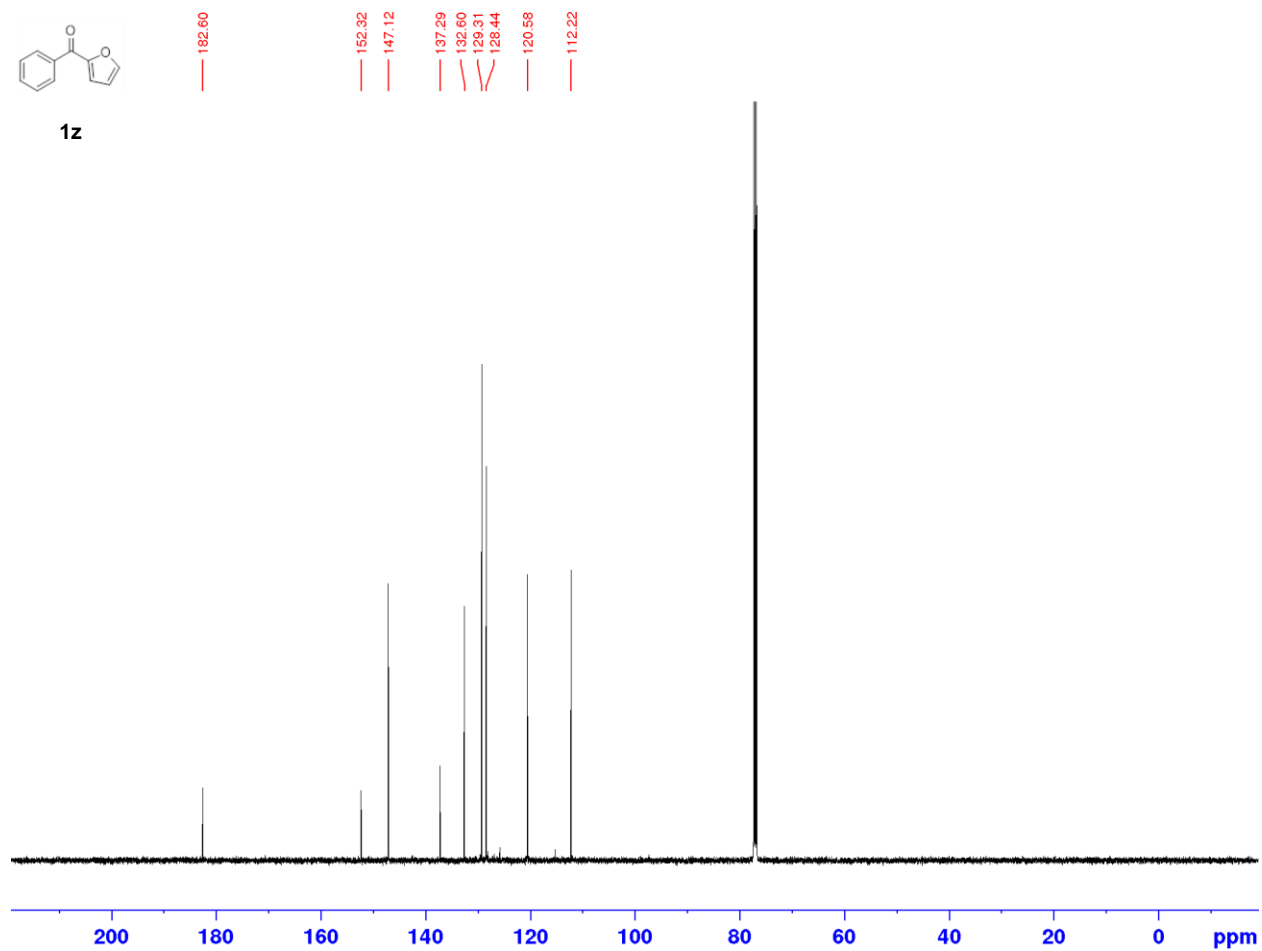


1z

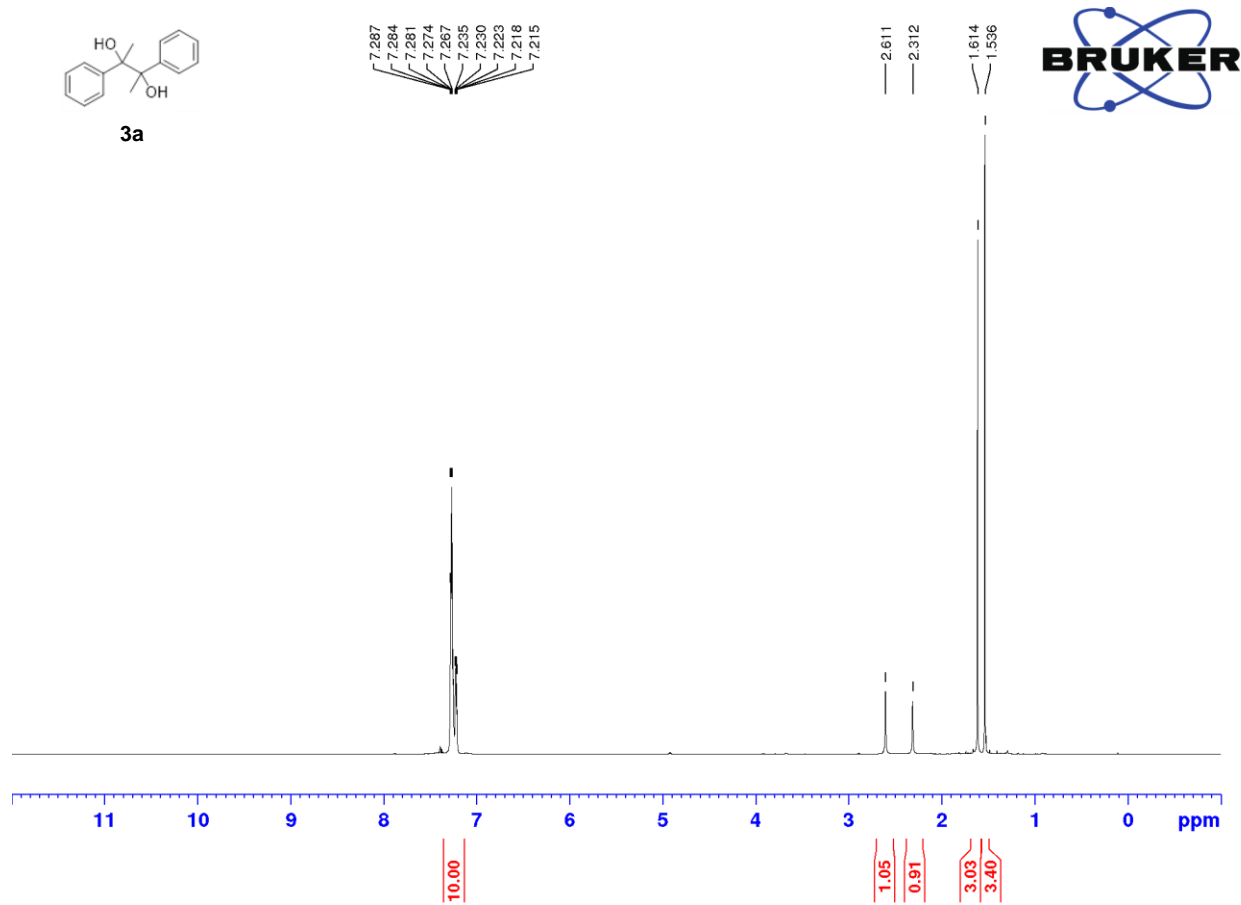


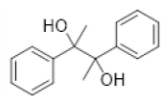


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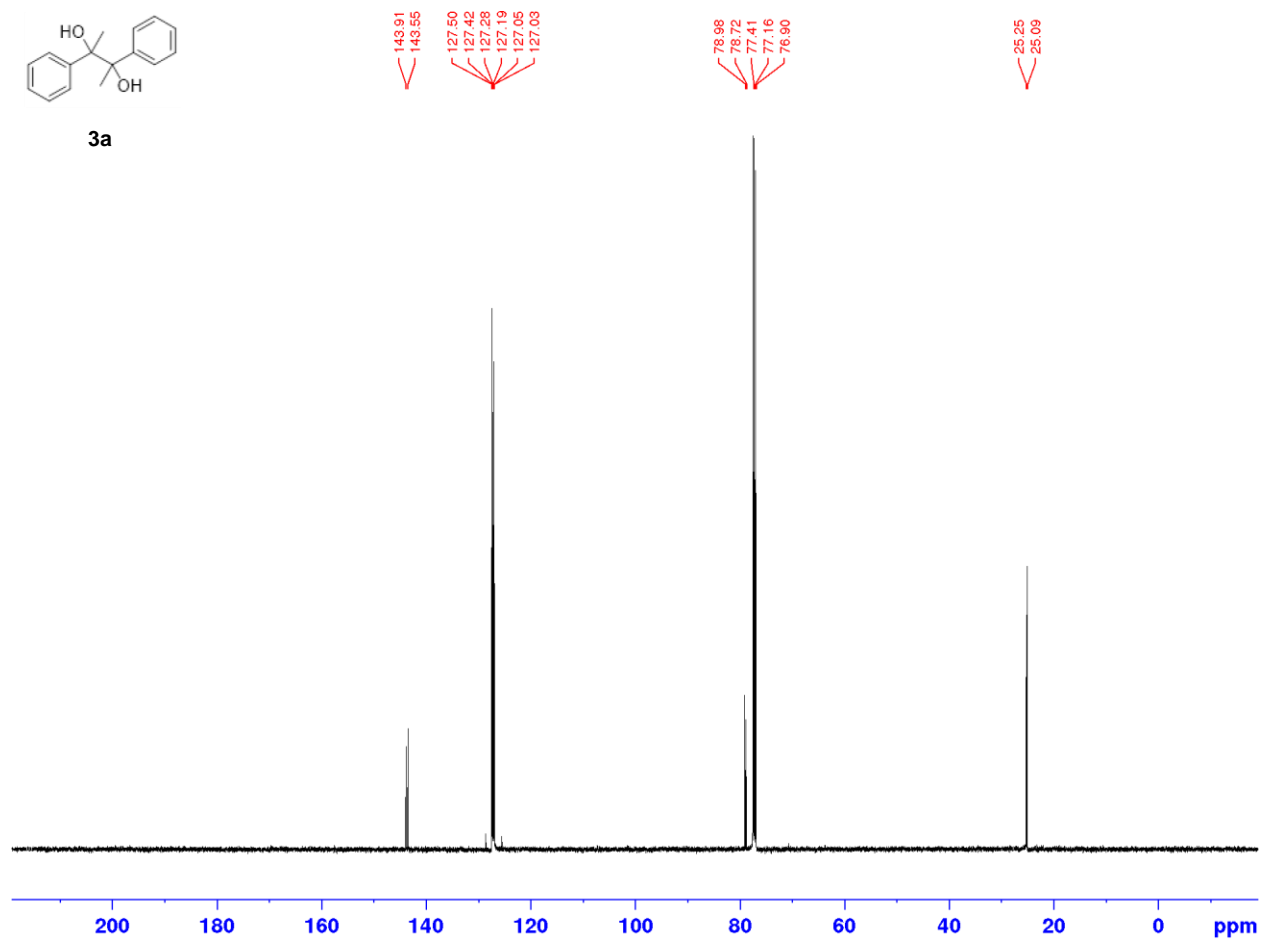


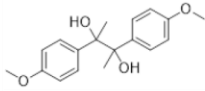
20. NMR spectra of products





3a





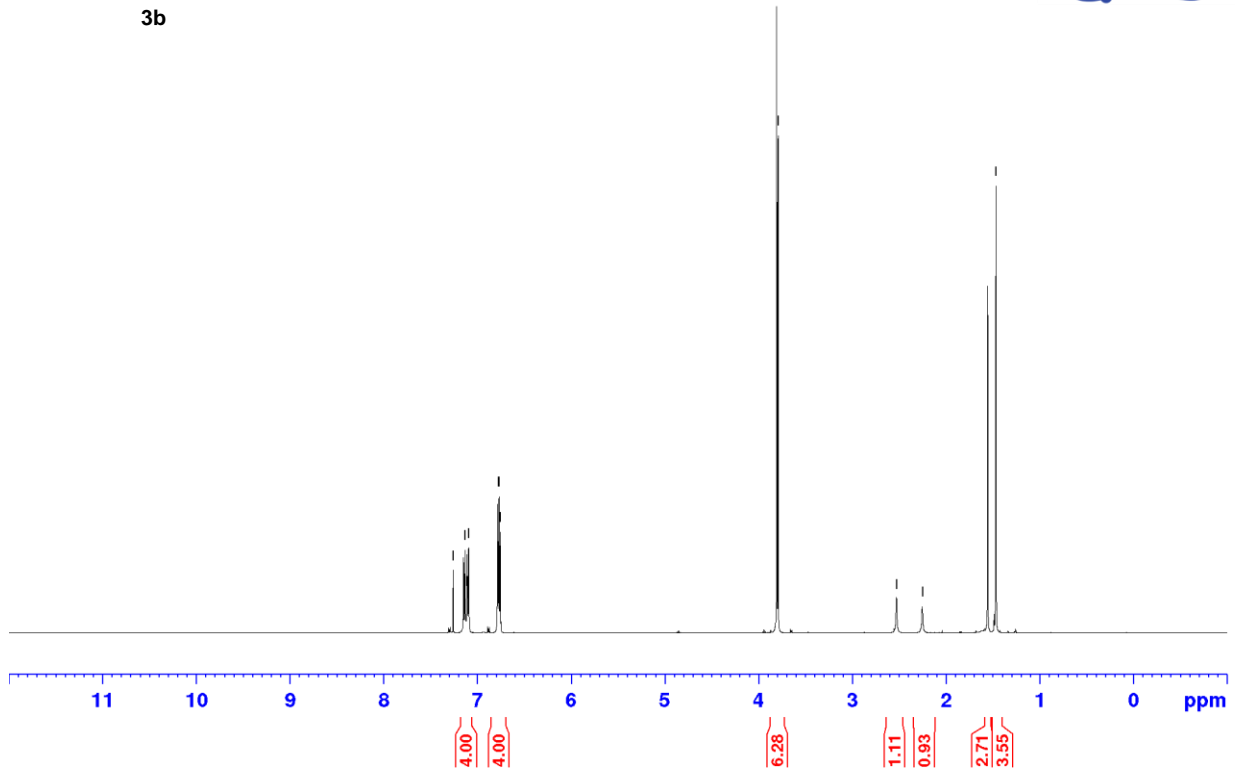
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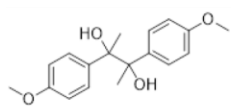
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6.770
6.757

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3.792

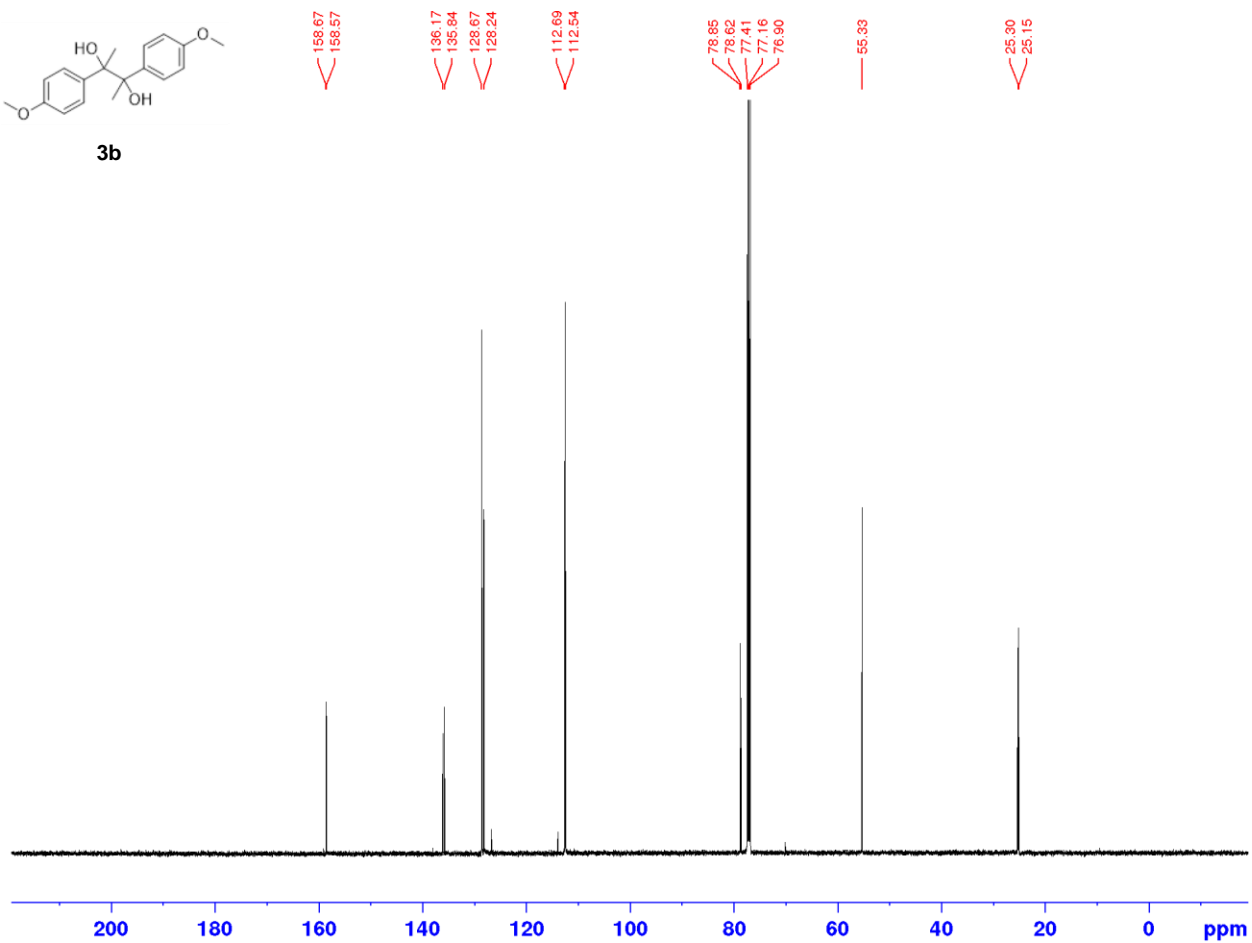
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2.254

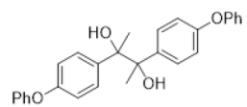
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1.468





3b



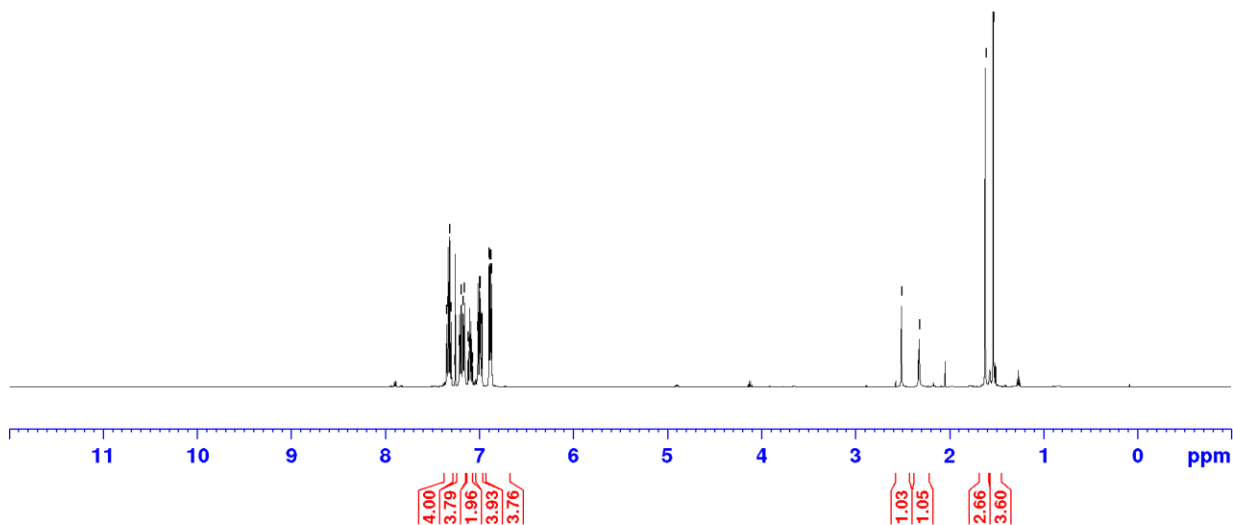


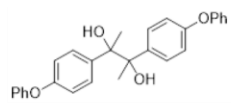
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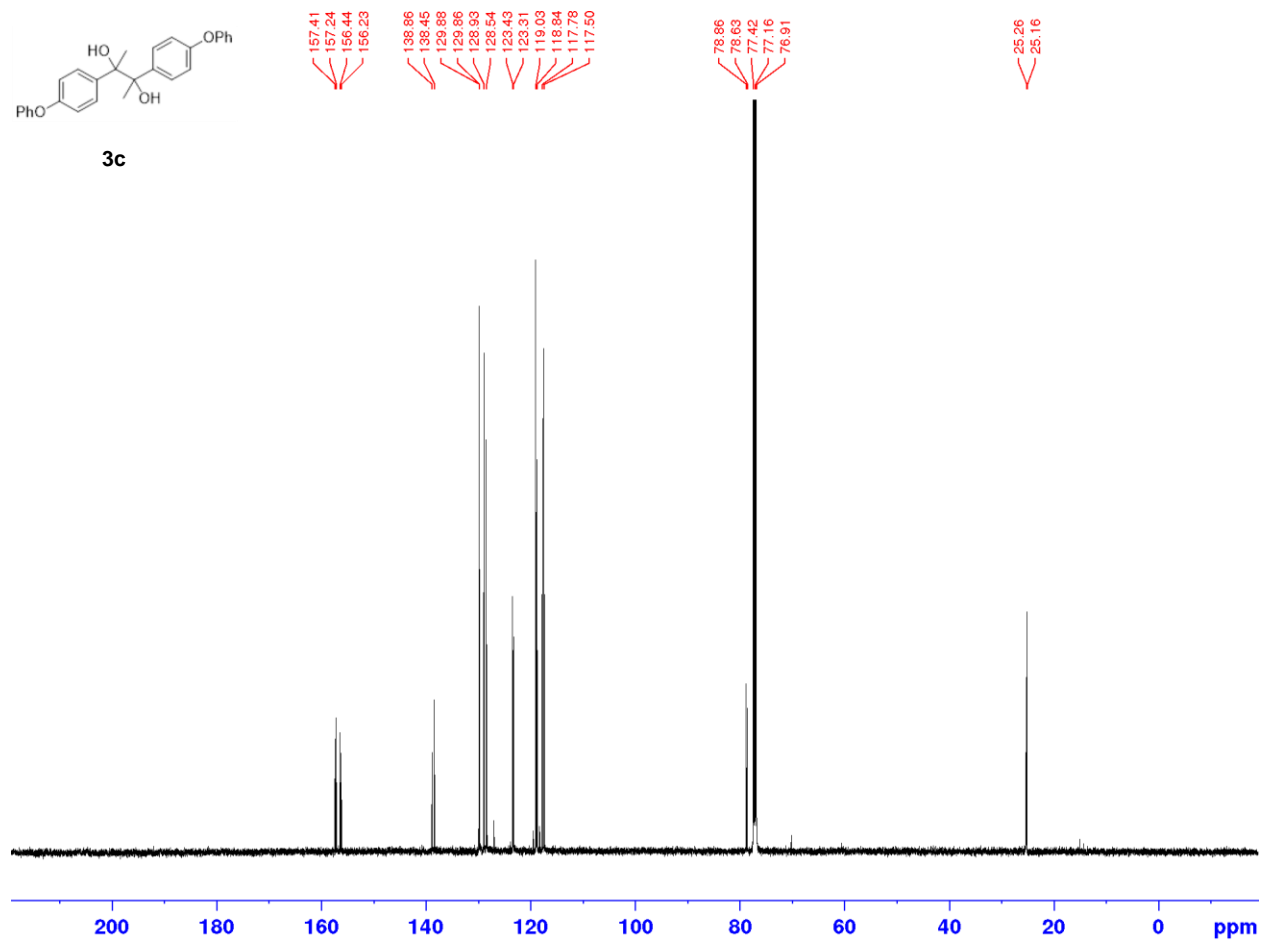
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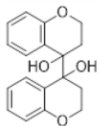


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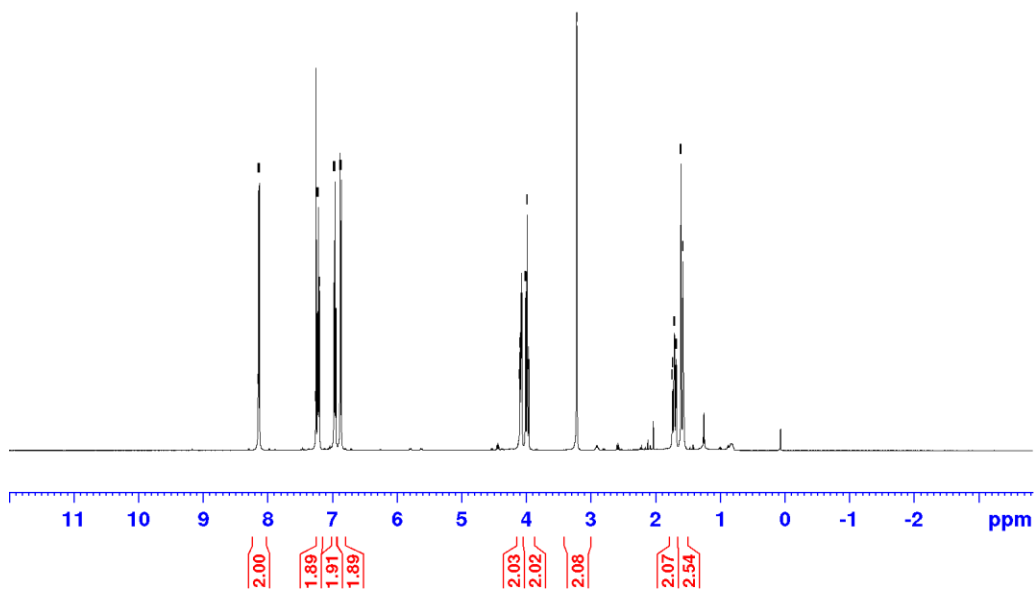


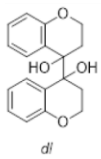
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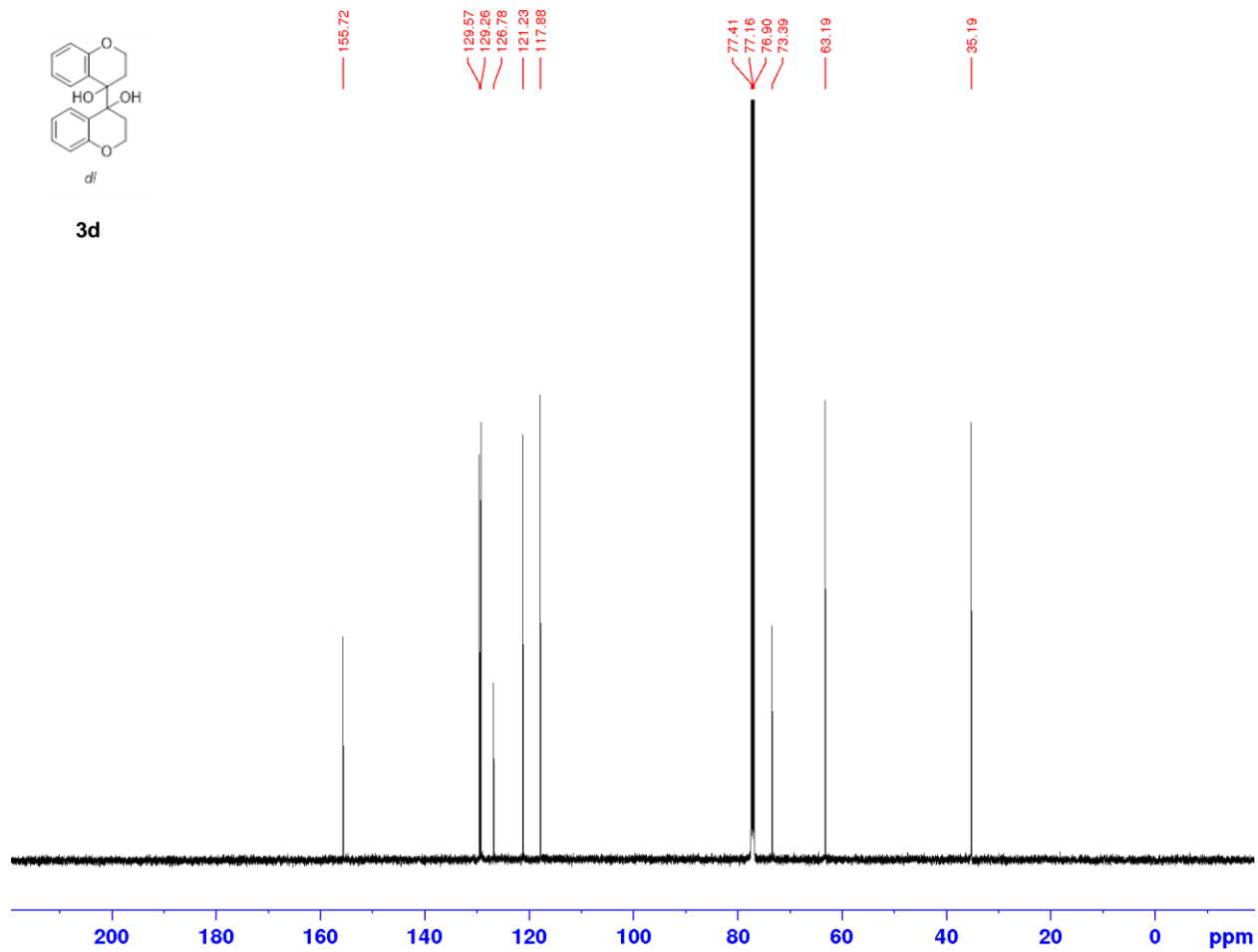
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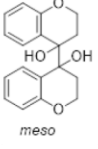
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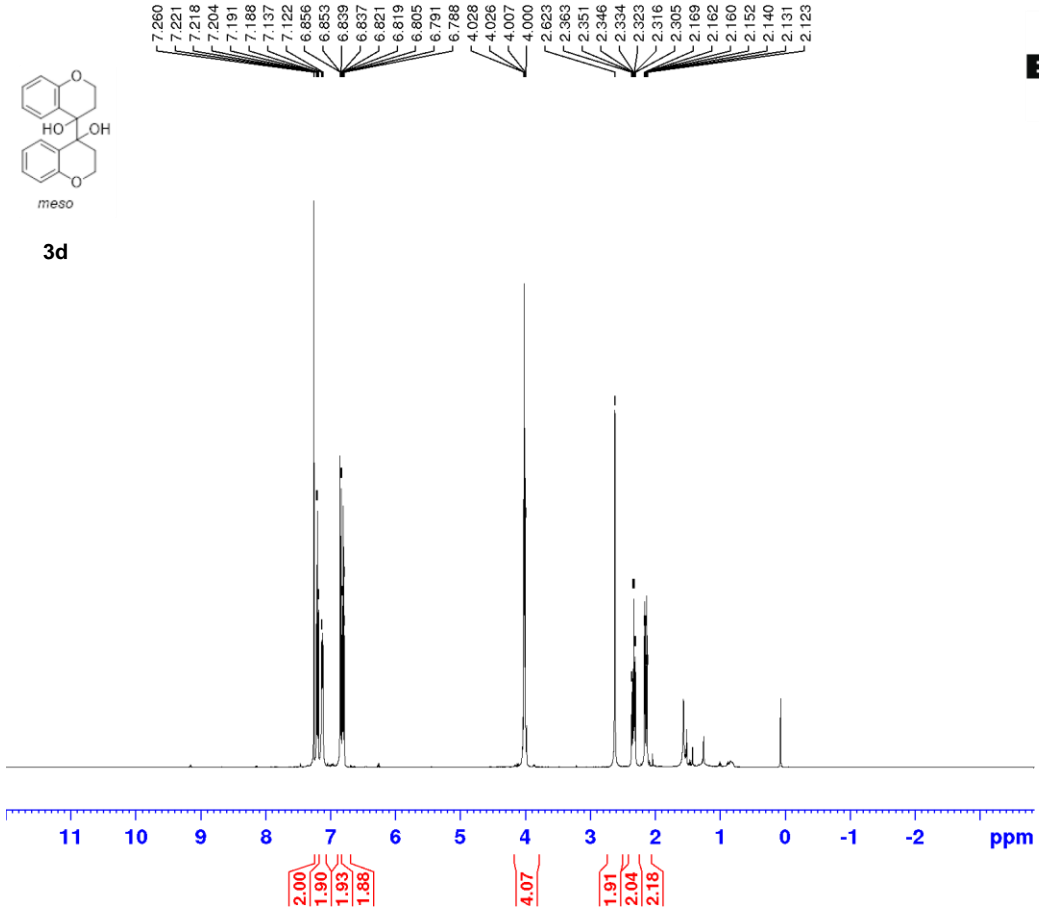


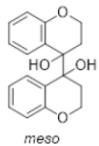
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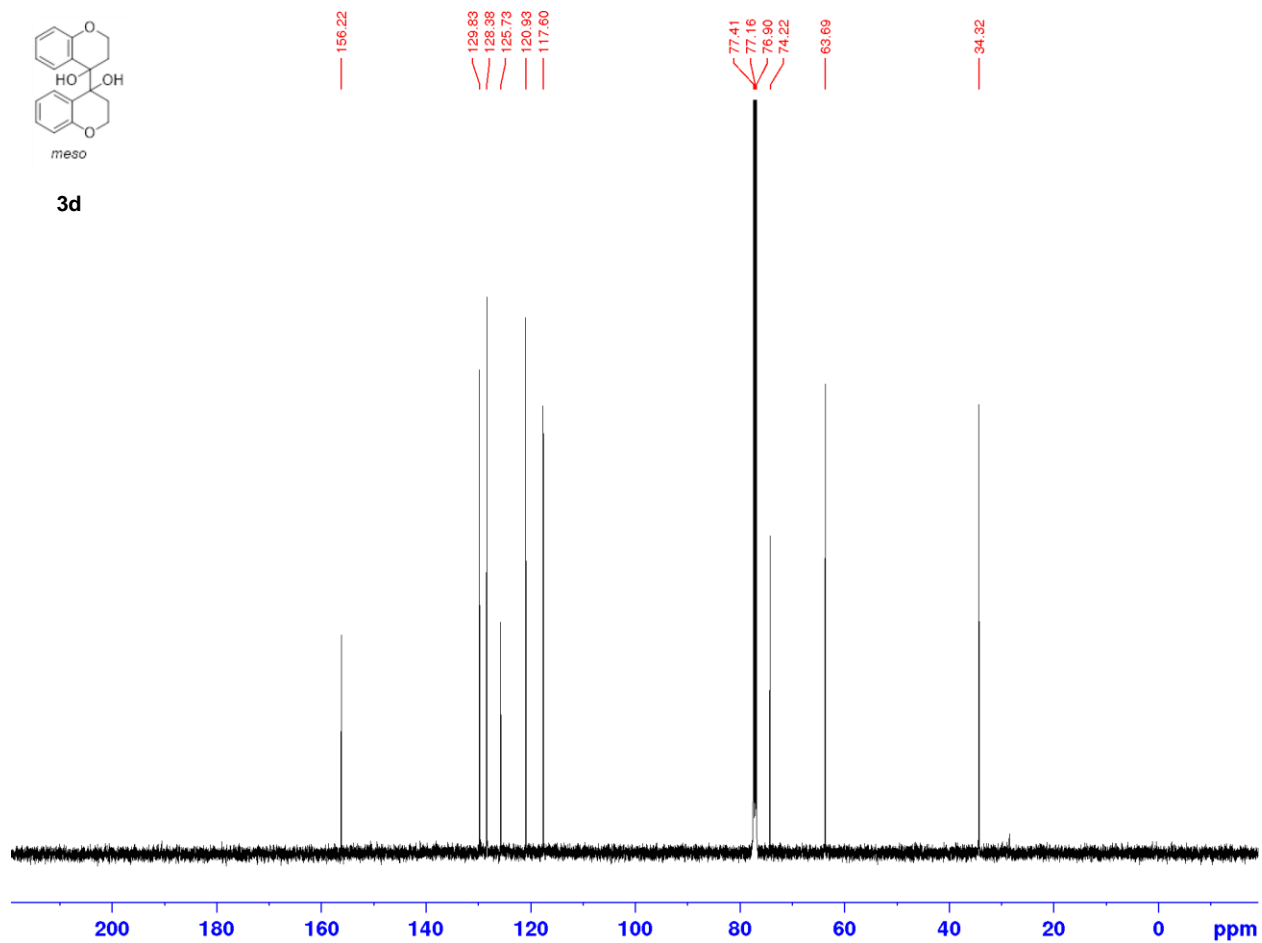


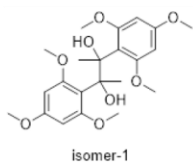
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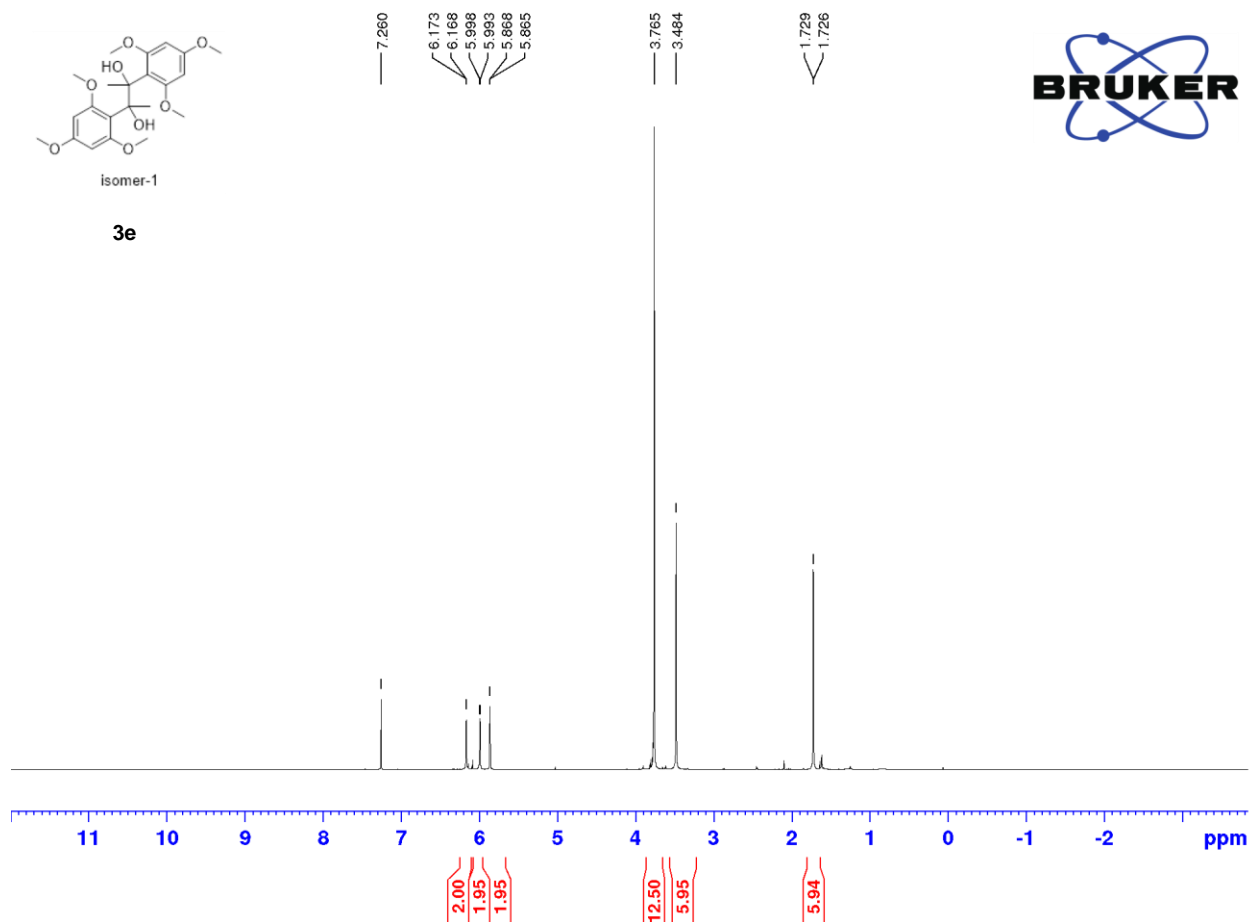
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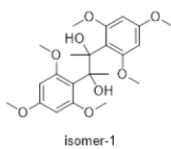




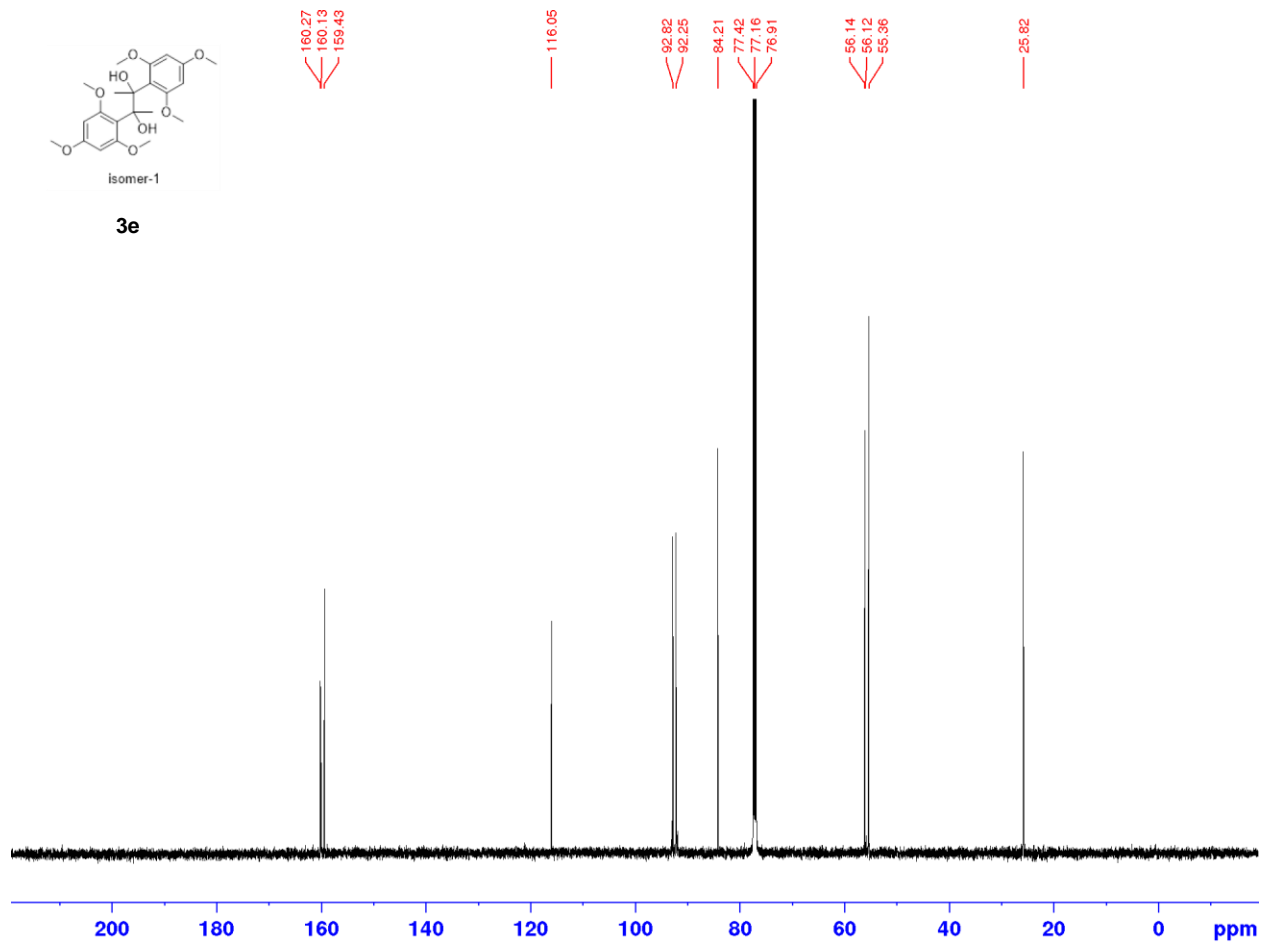
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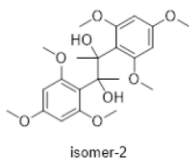
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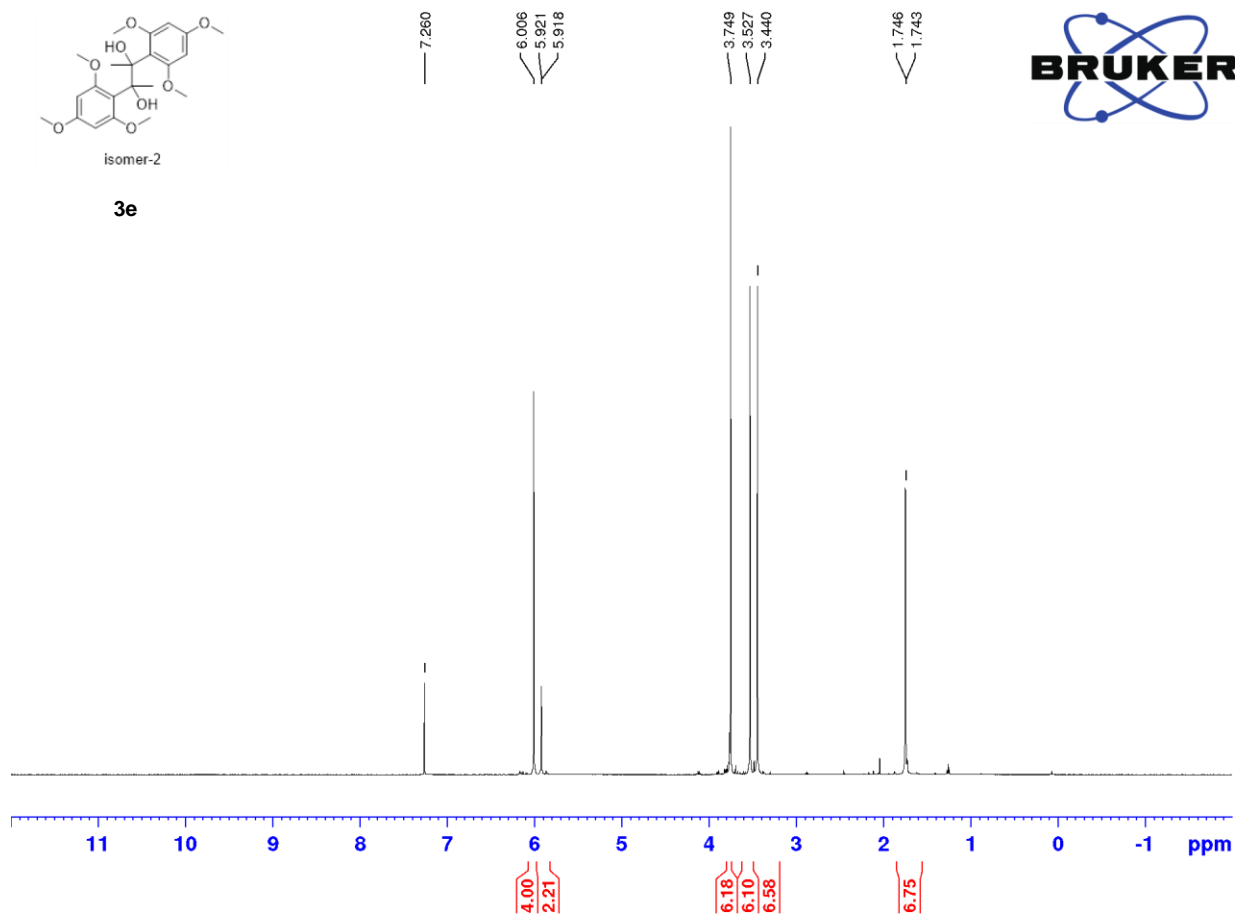


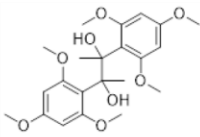
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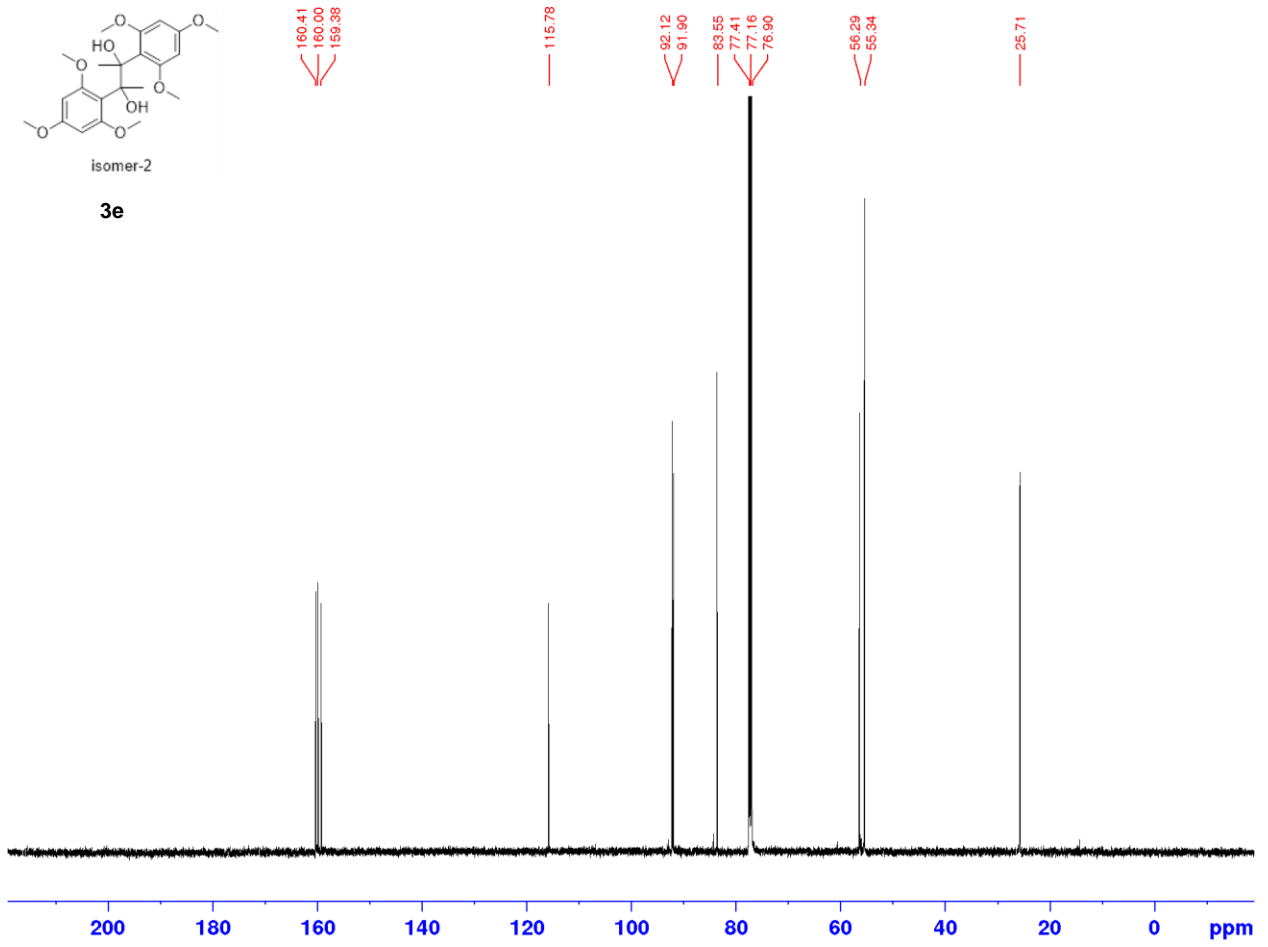
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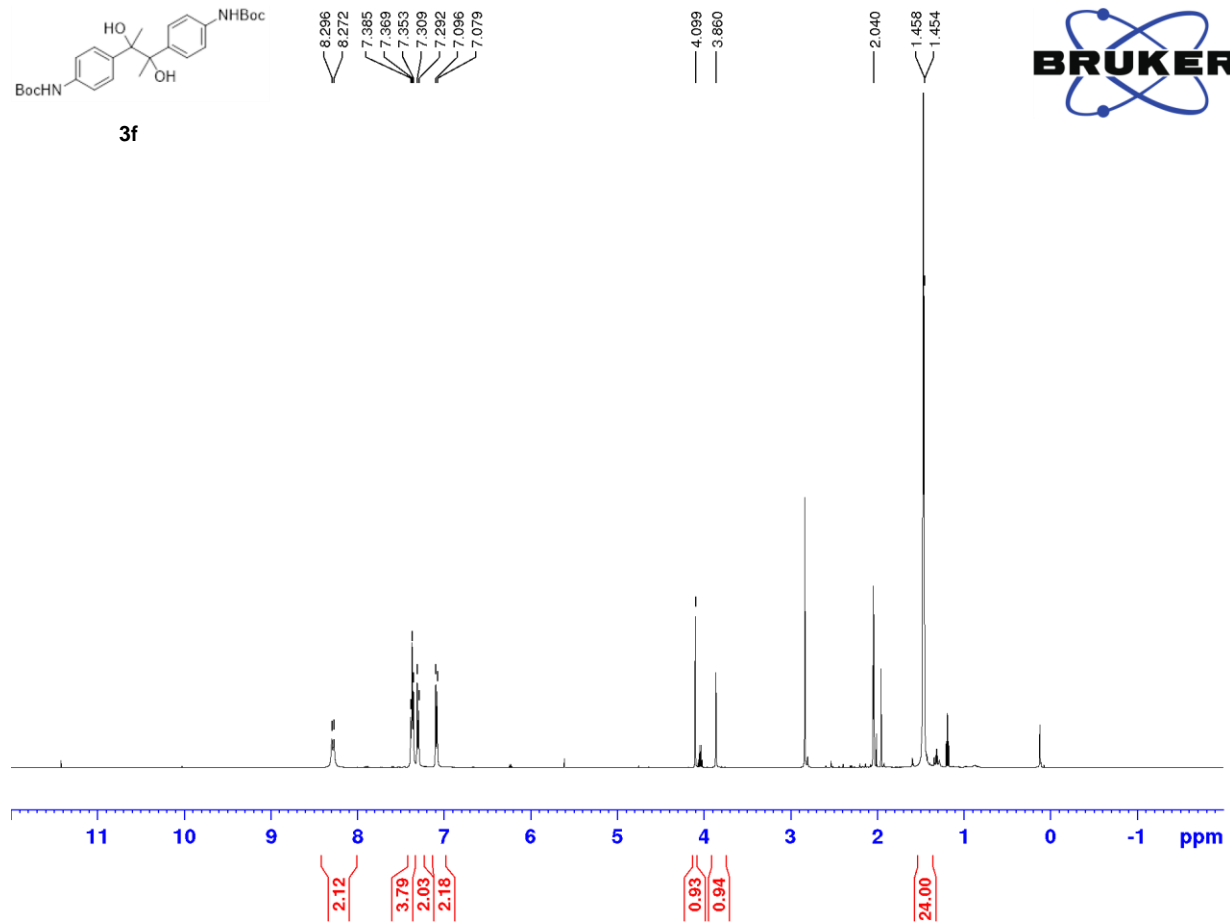
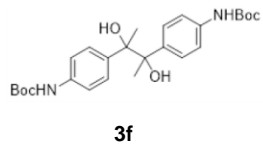


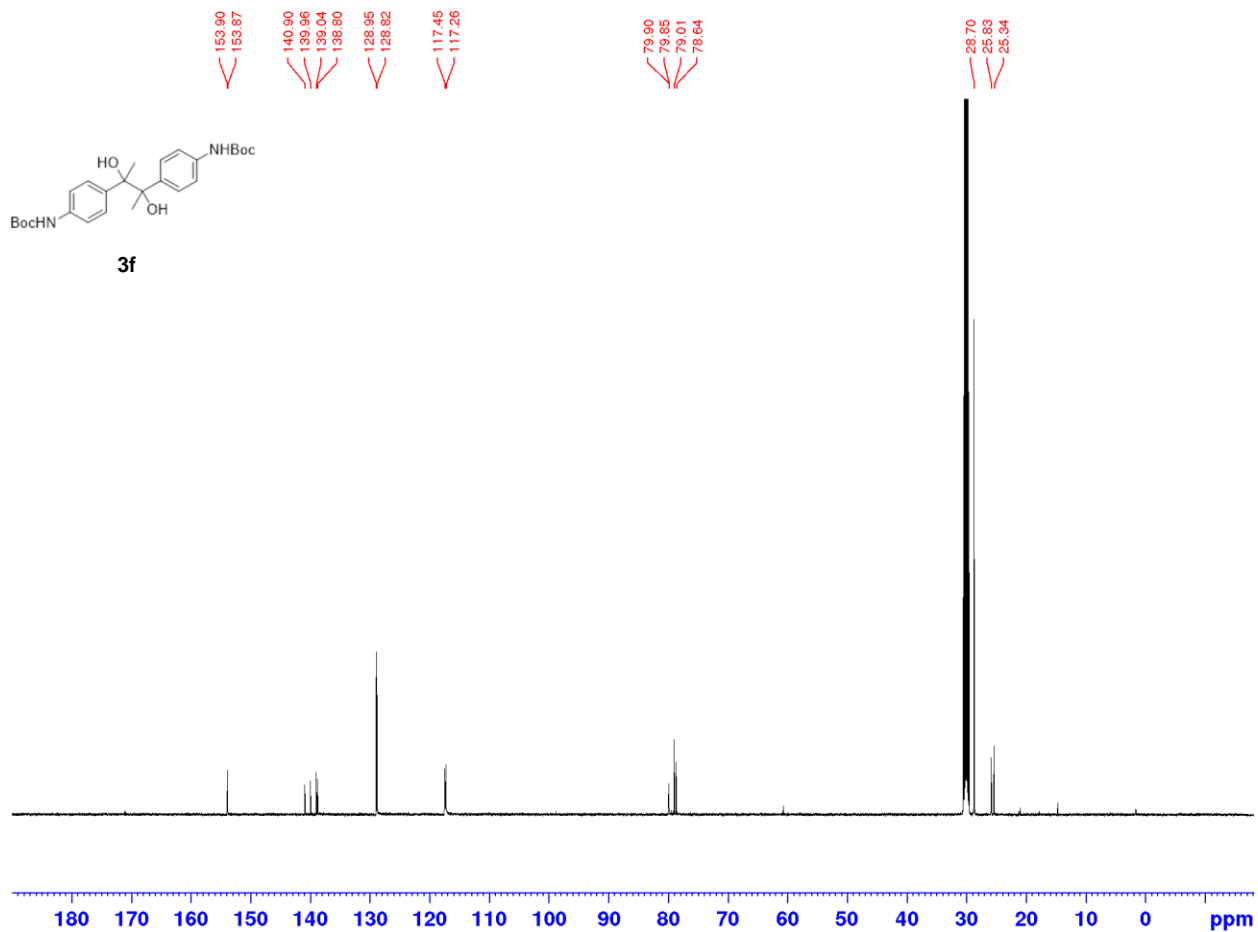


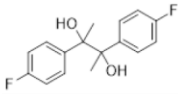
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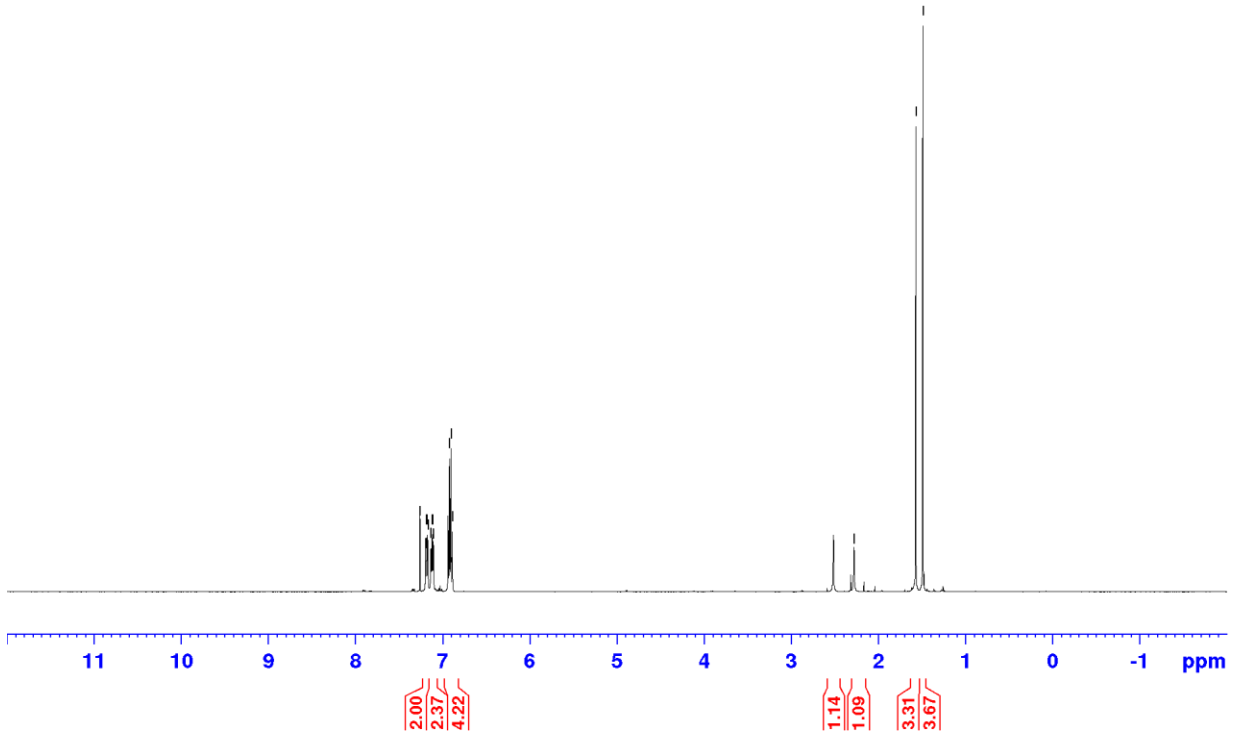


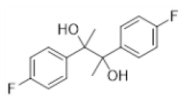




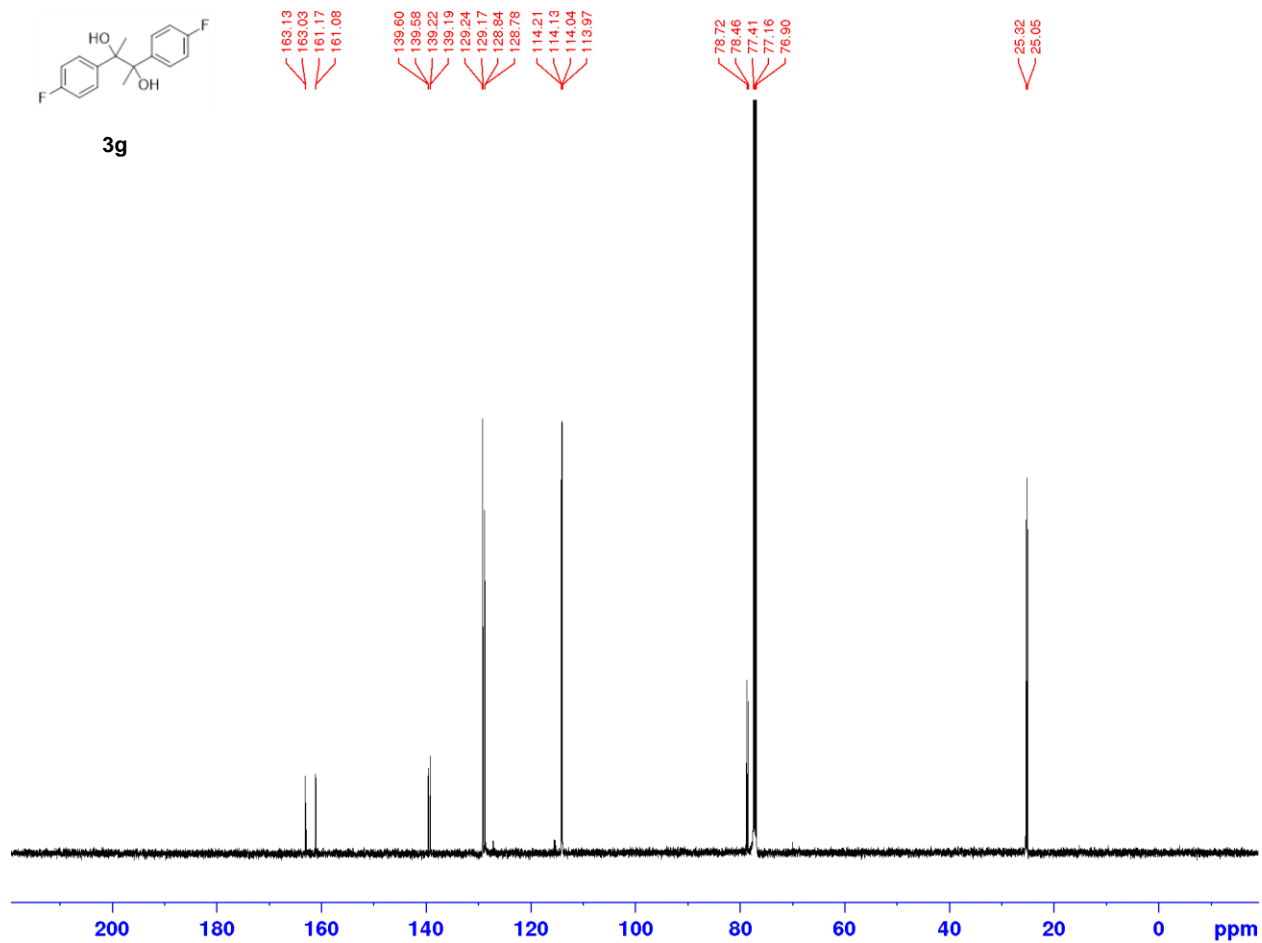


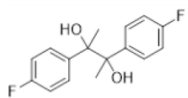
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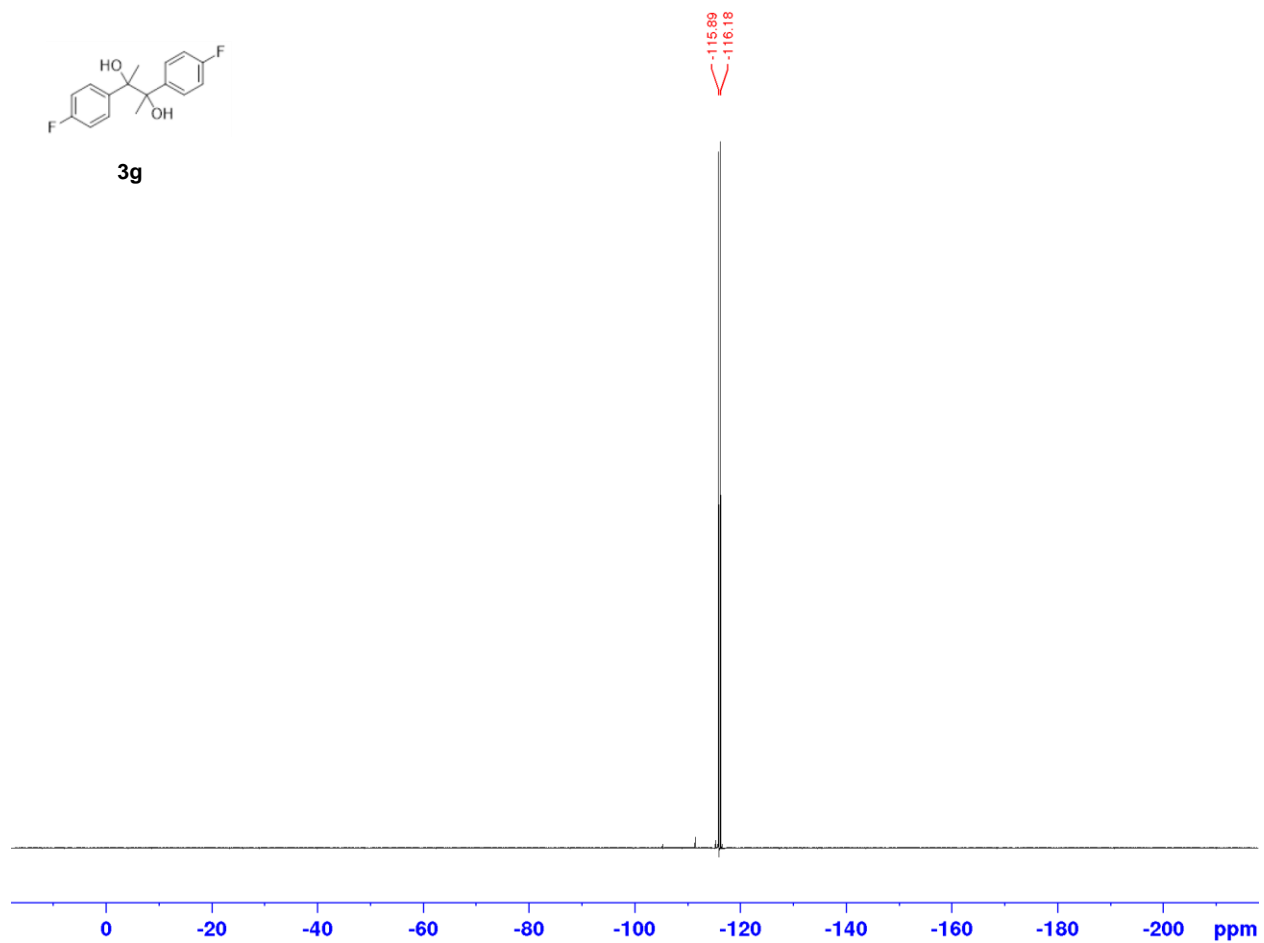


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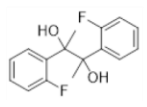




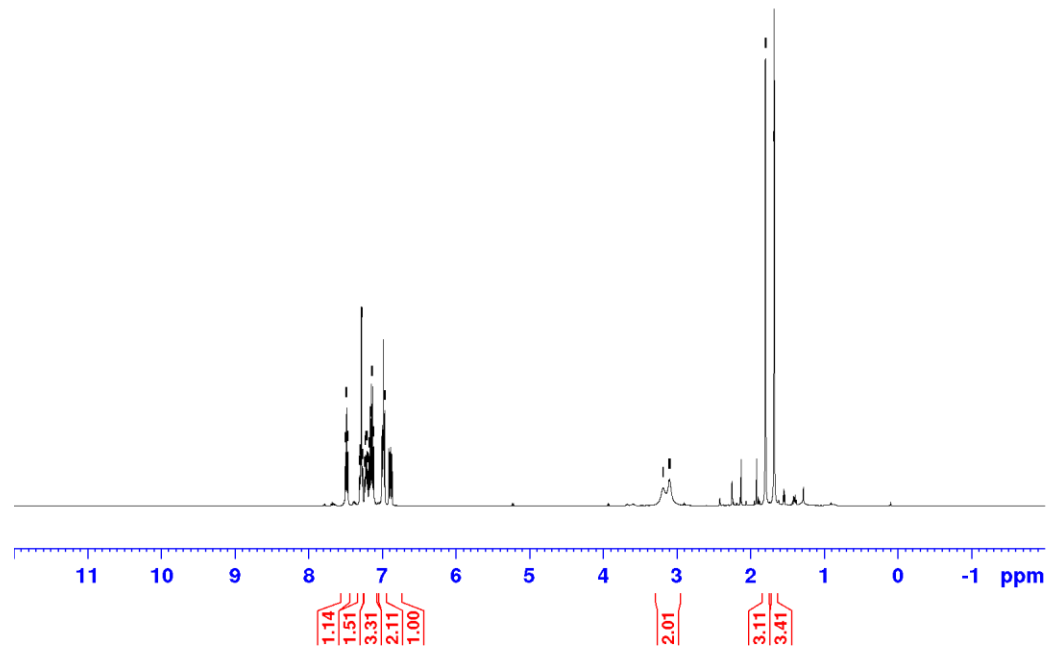
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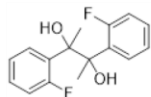


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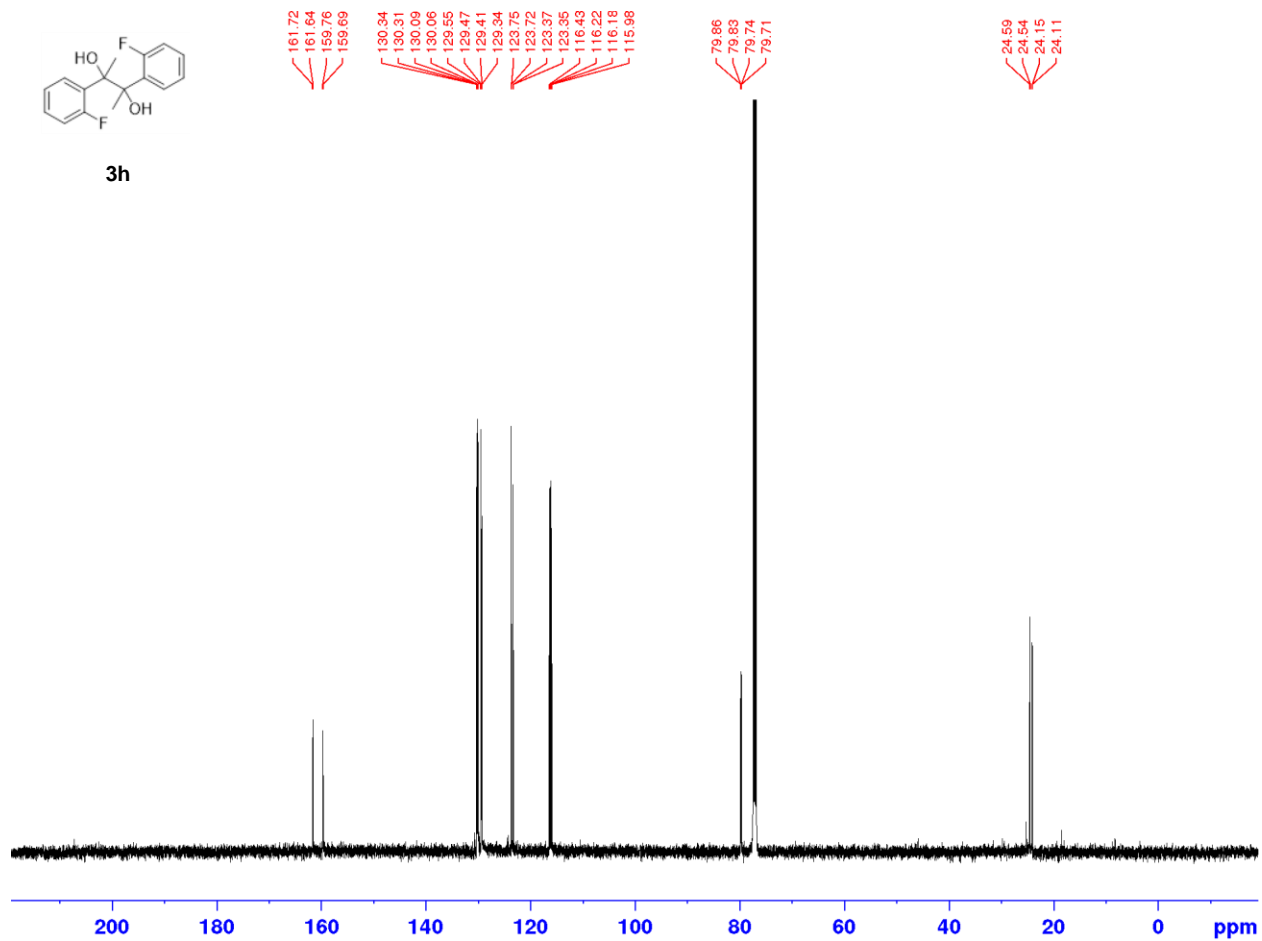


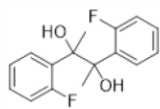
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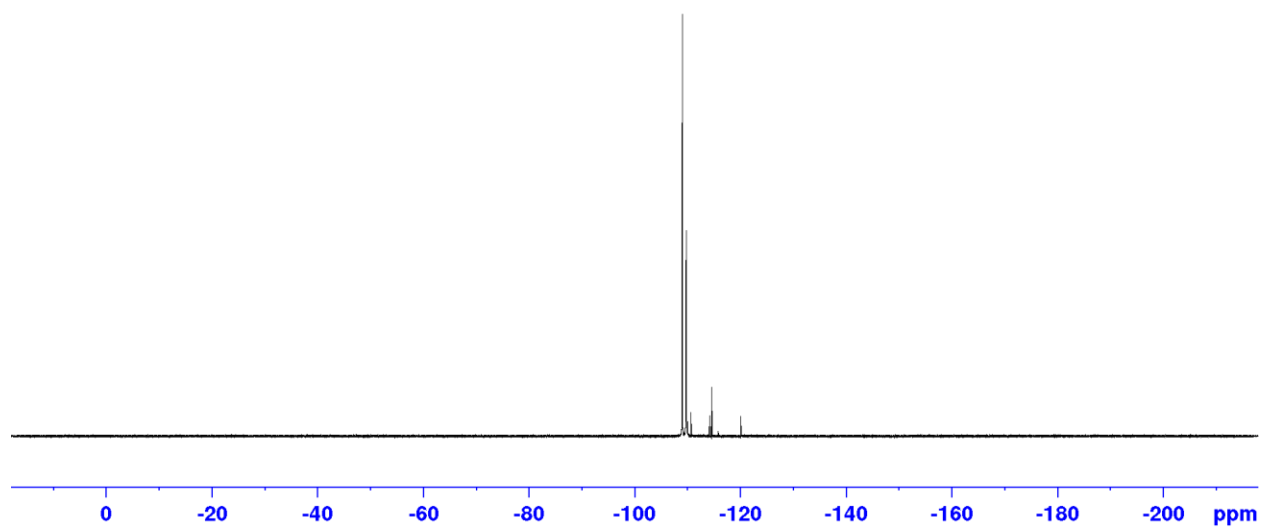
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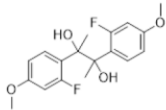




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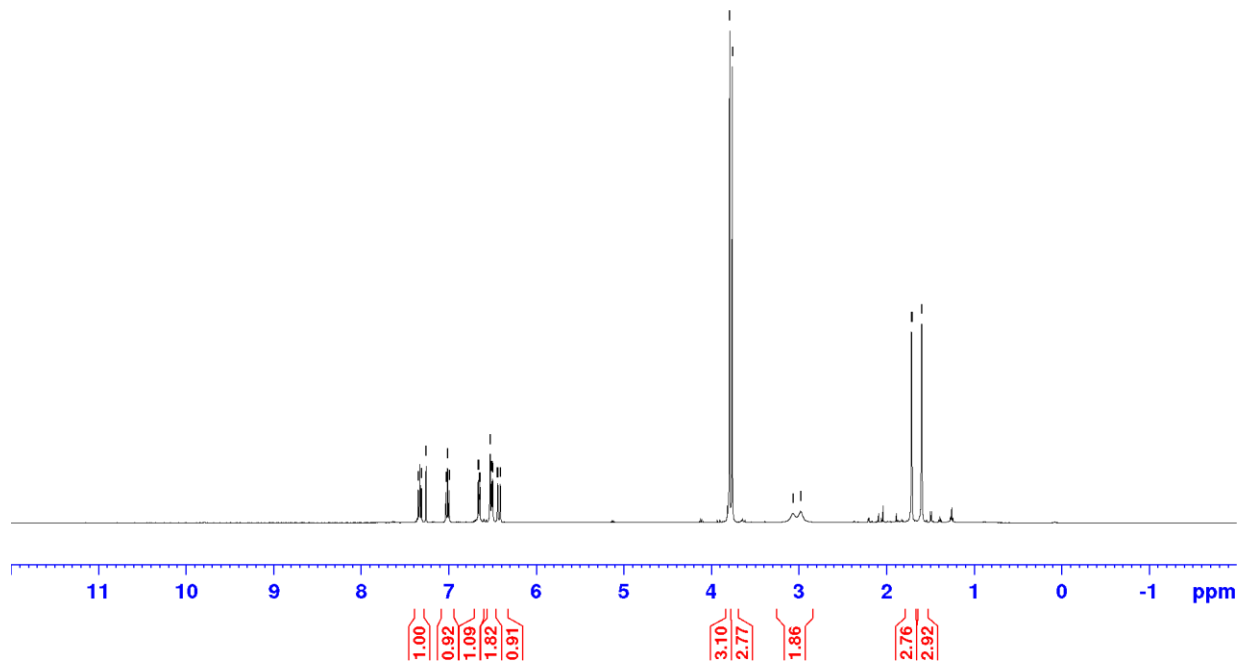
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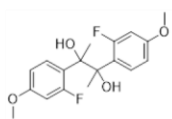




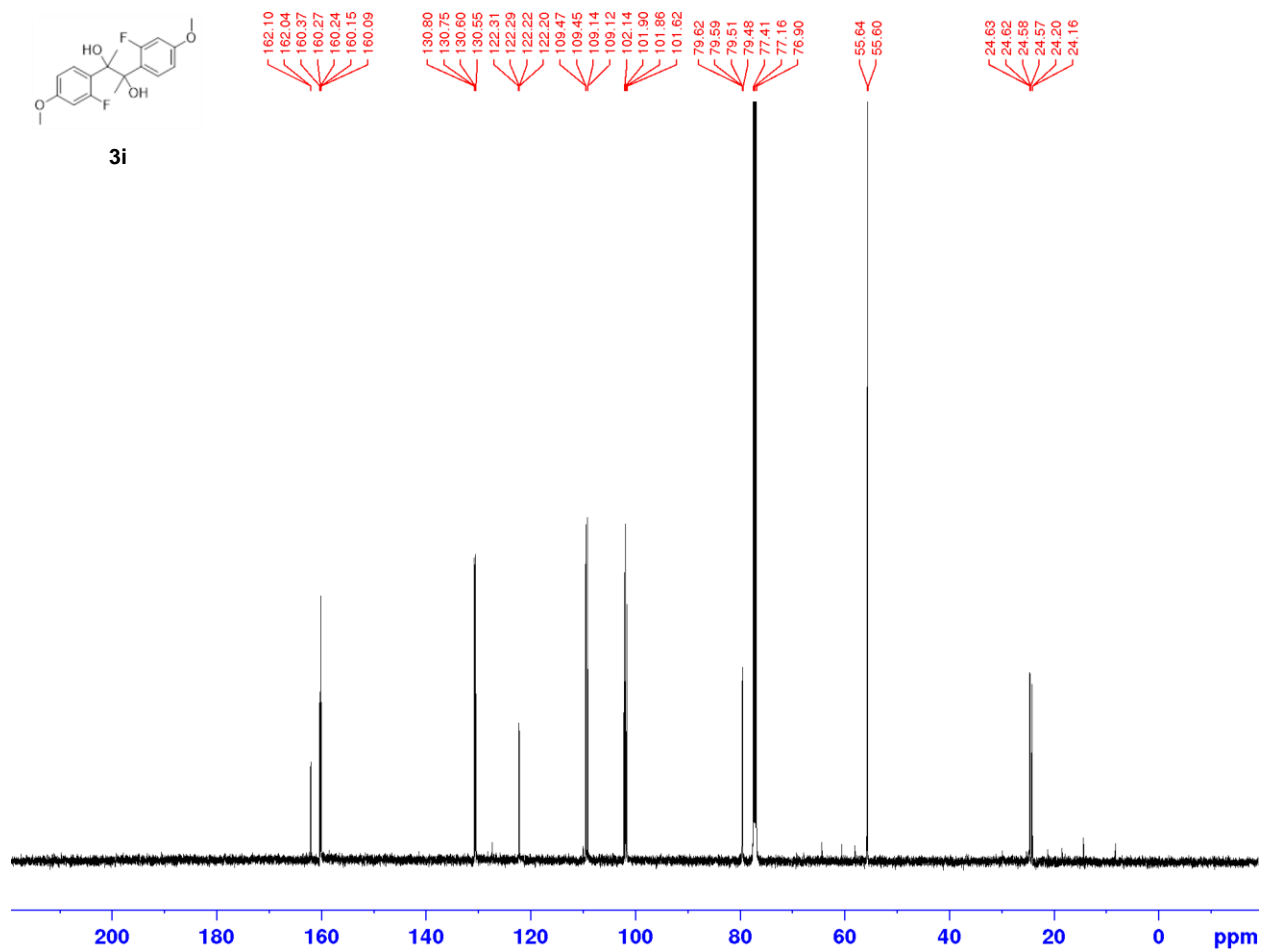
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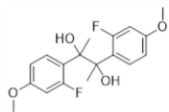
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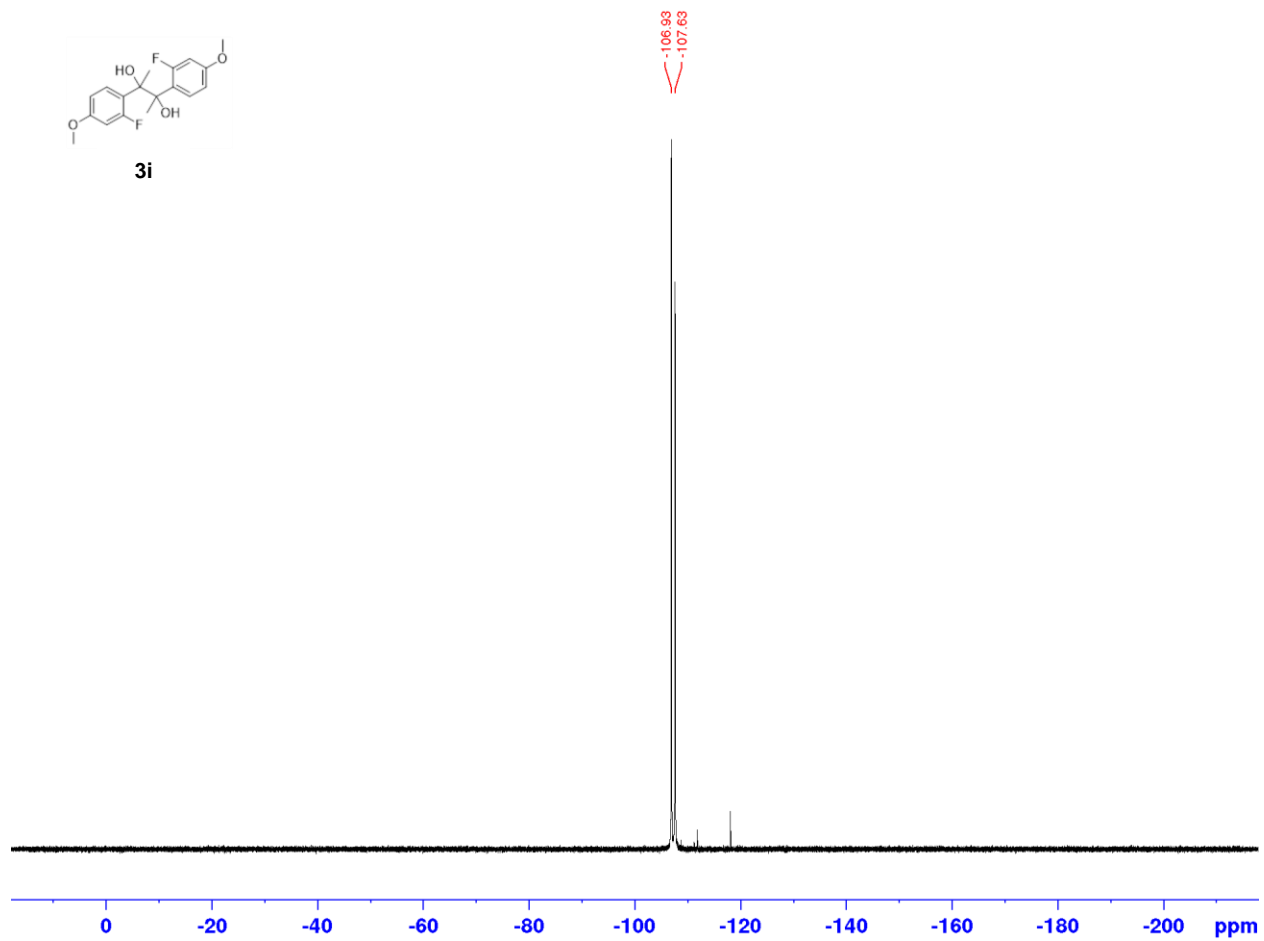


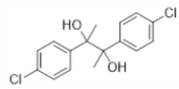
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3i





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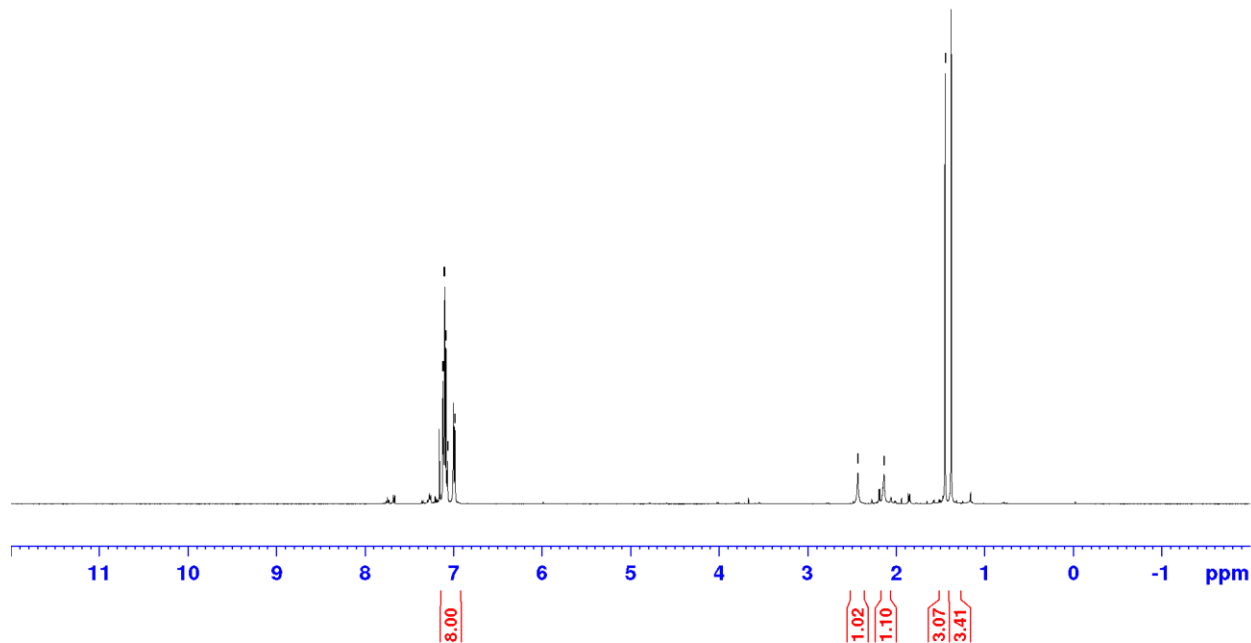
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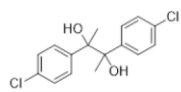
2.432

2.136

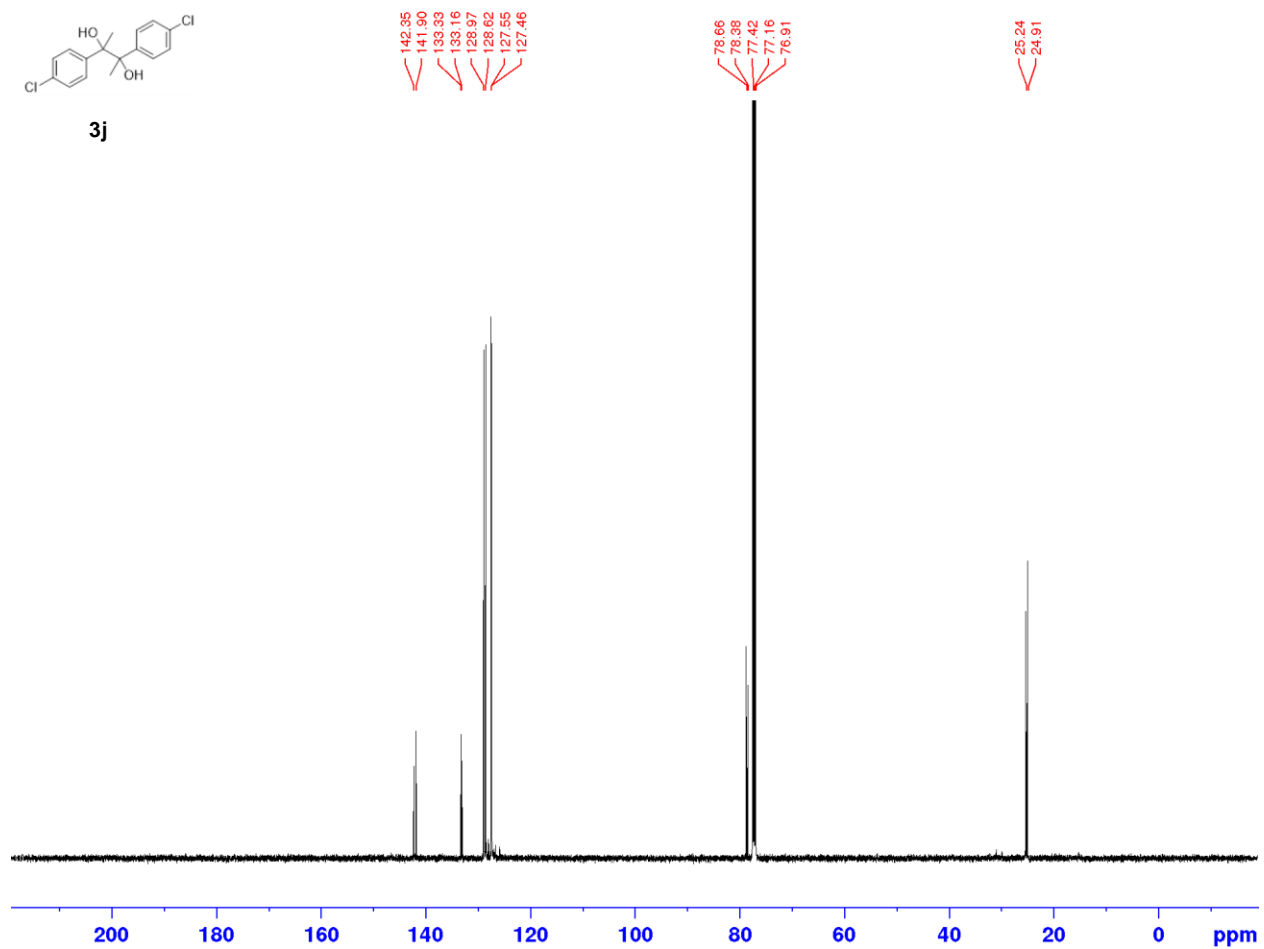
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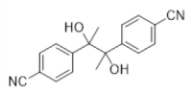
1.376





3j



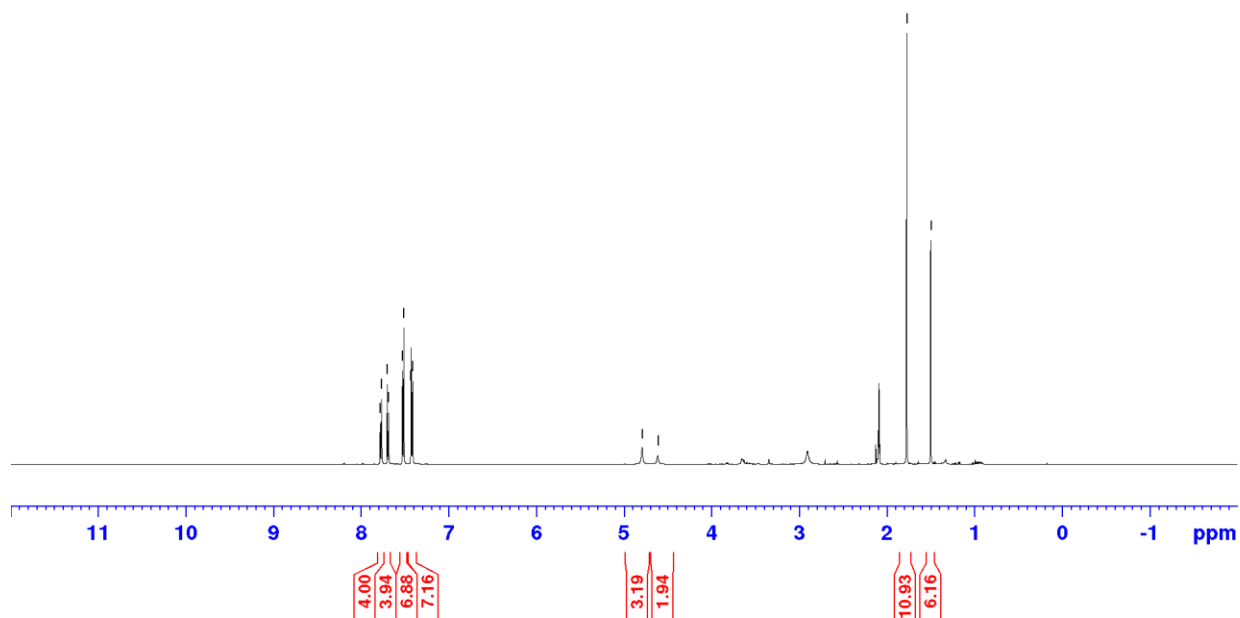


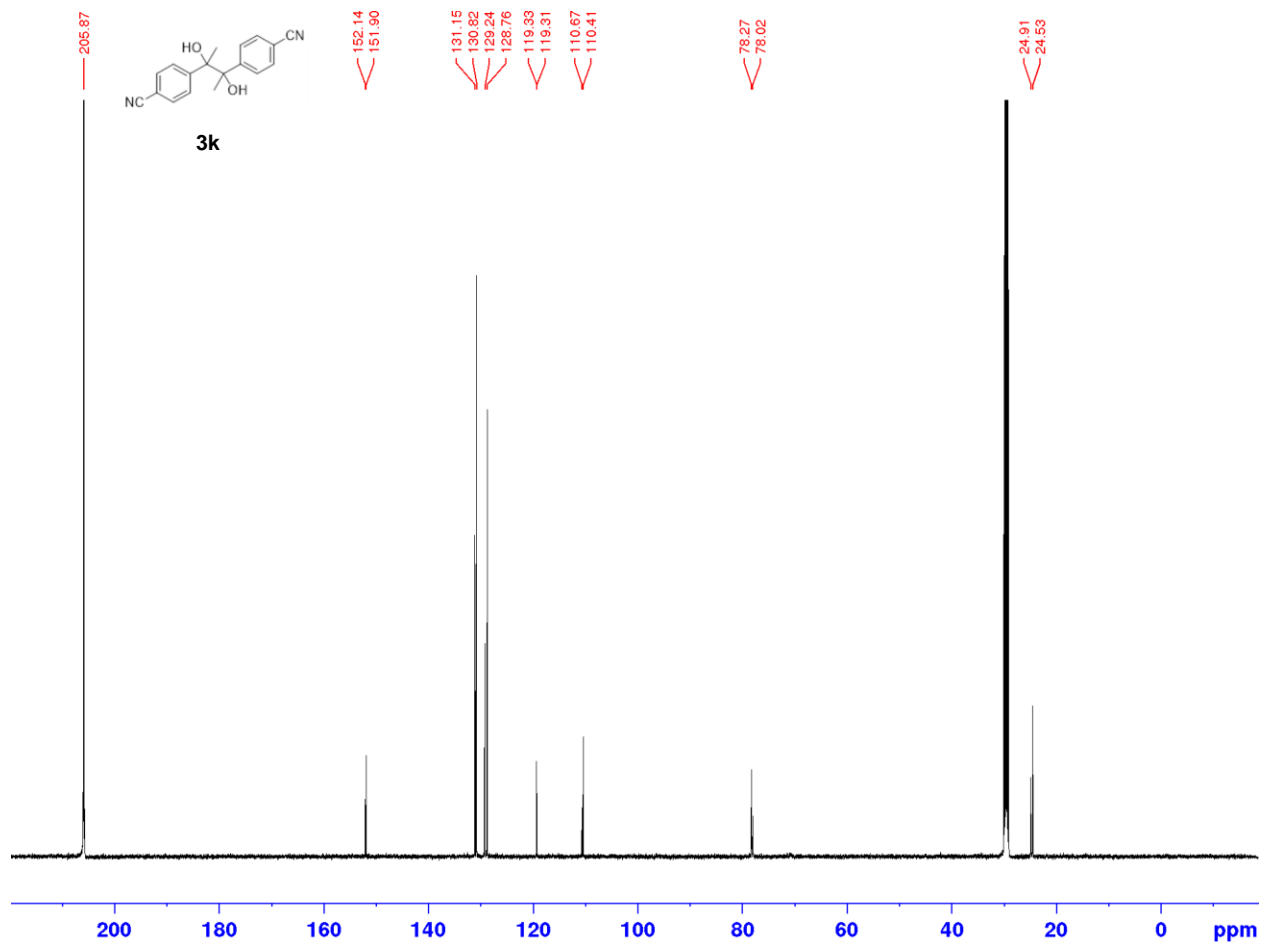
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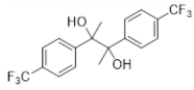
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7.534
7.516
7.434
7.417

4.793
4.614

2.090
1.773
1.500



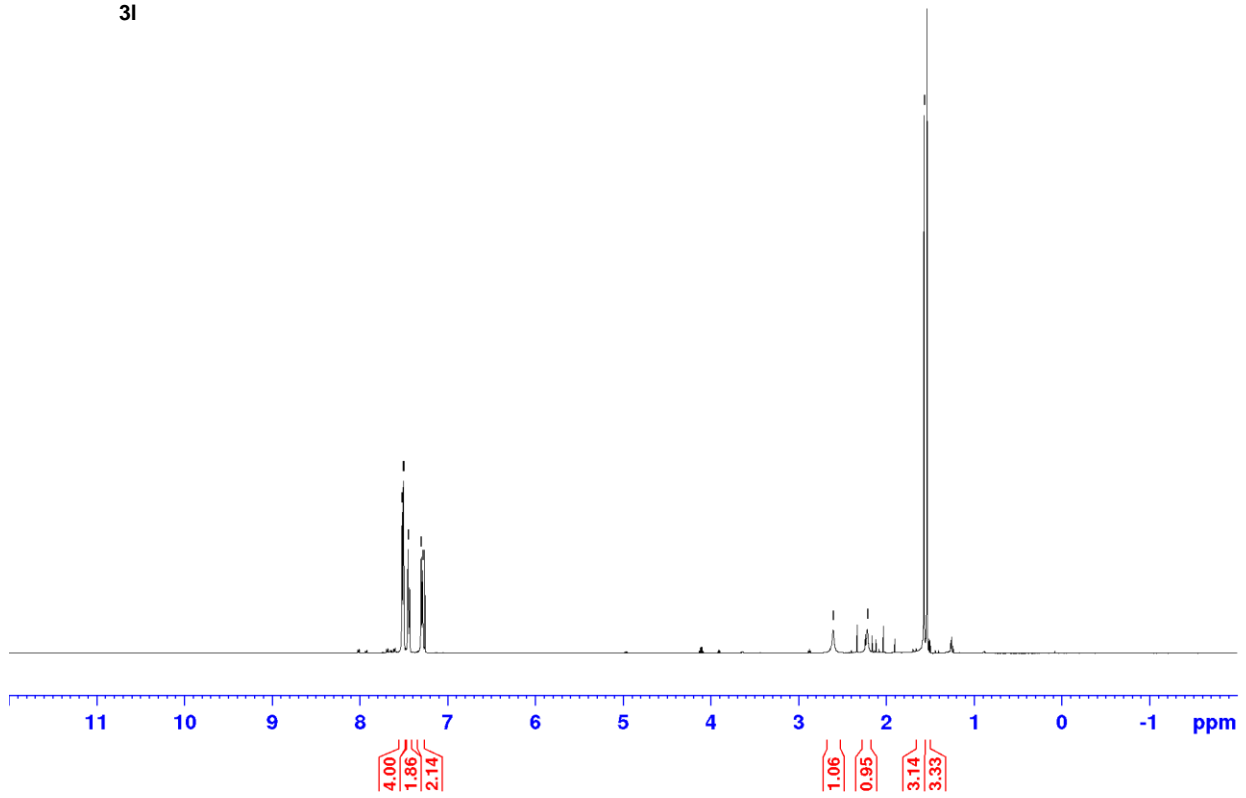


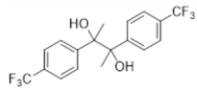


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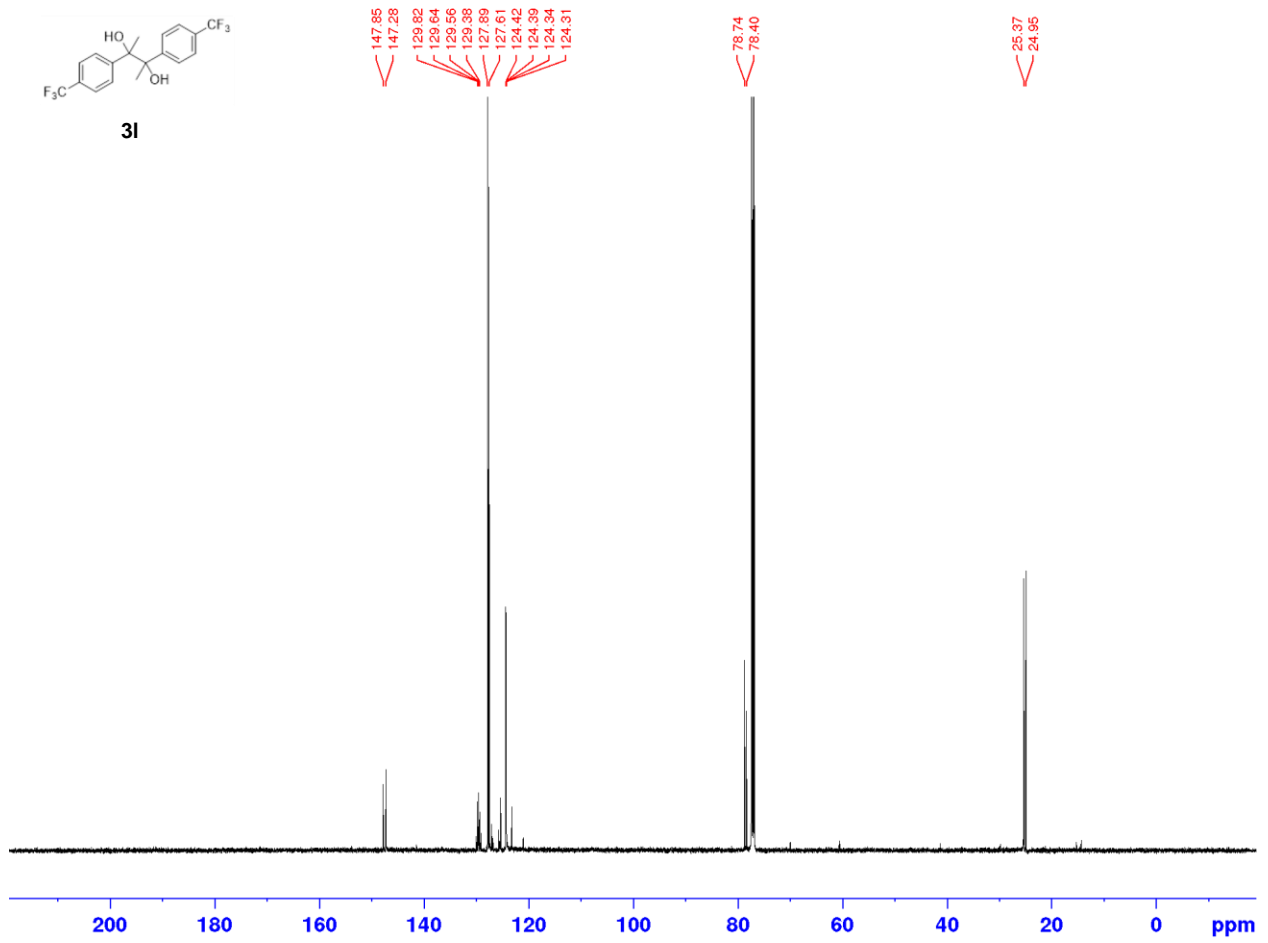
7.518
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7.501
7.452
7.435
7.301
7.285
7.260

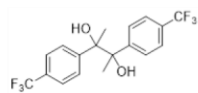
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2.217
1.570
1.535



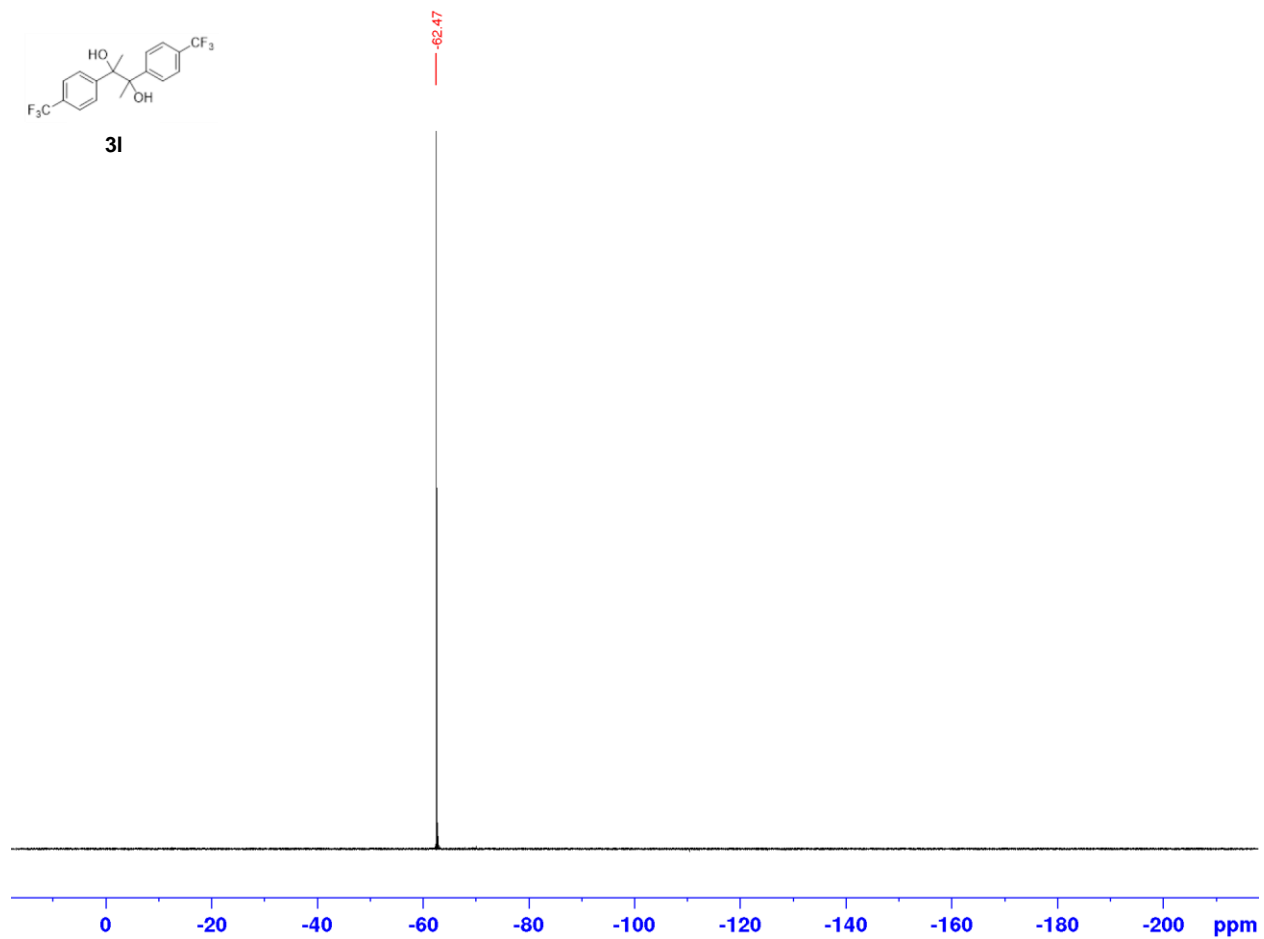


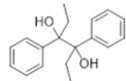
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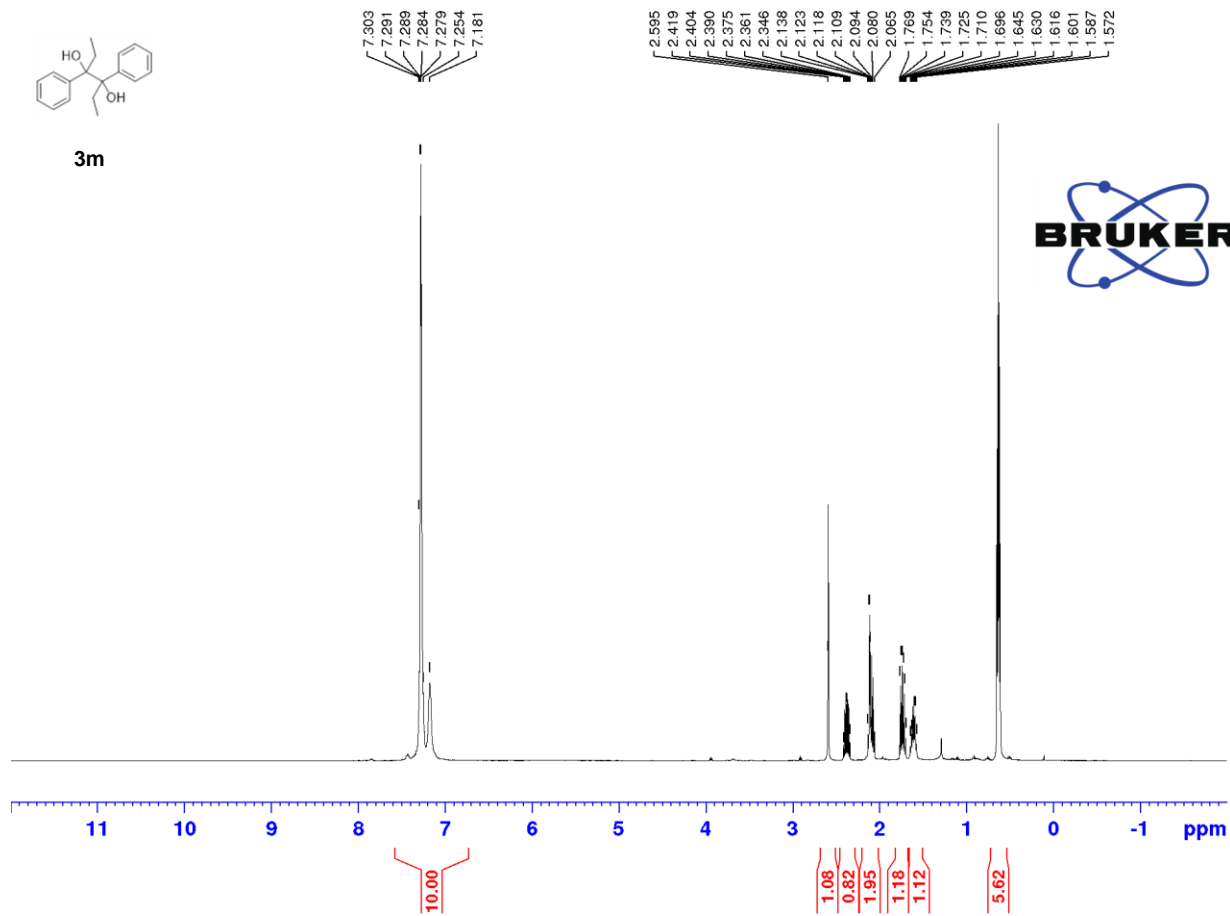


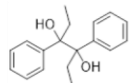
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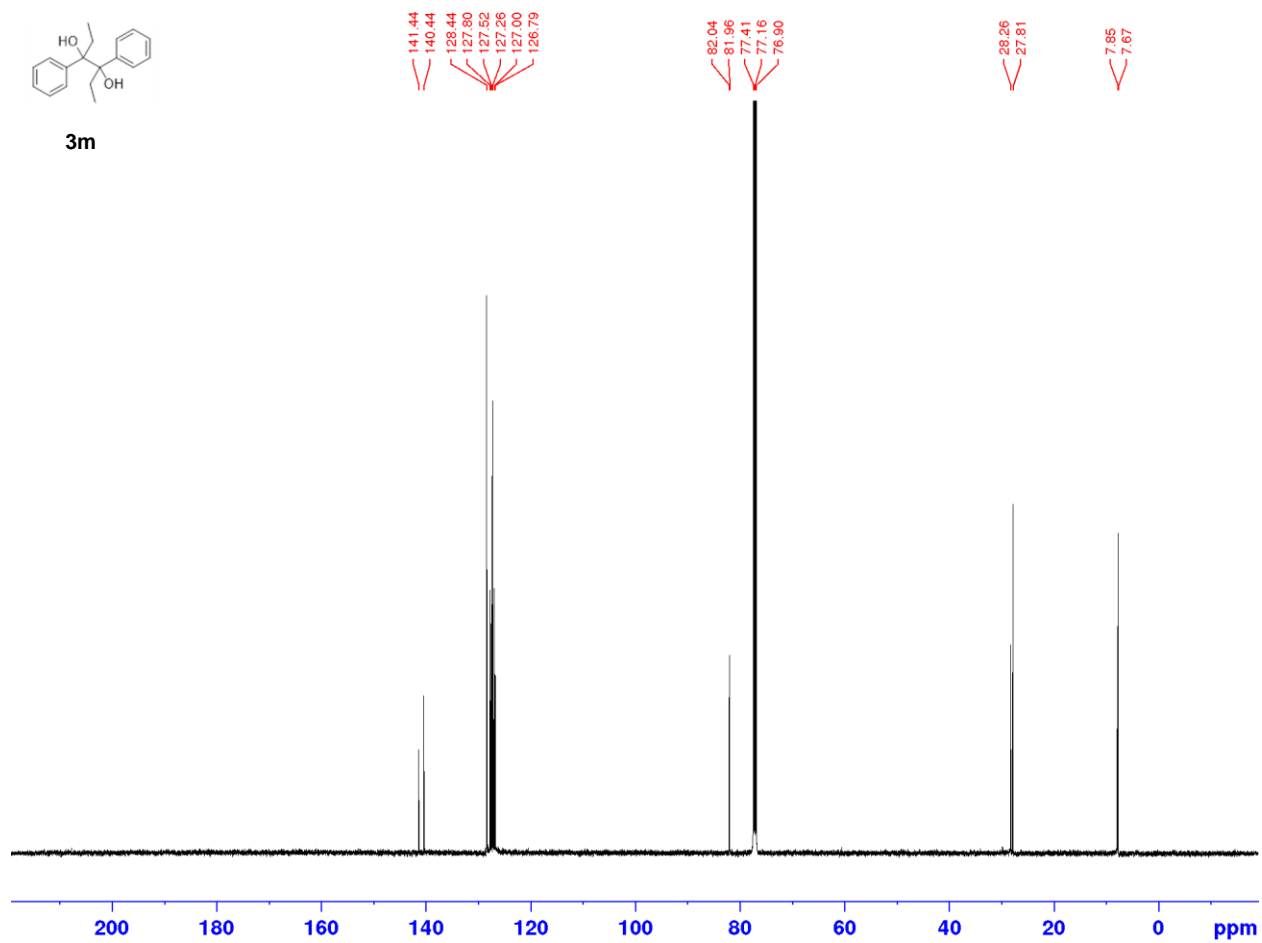


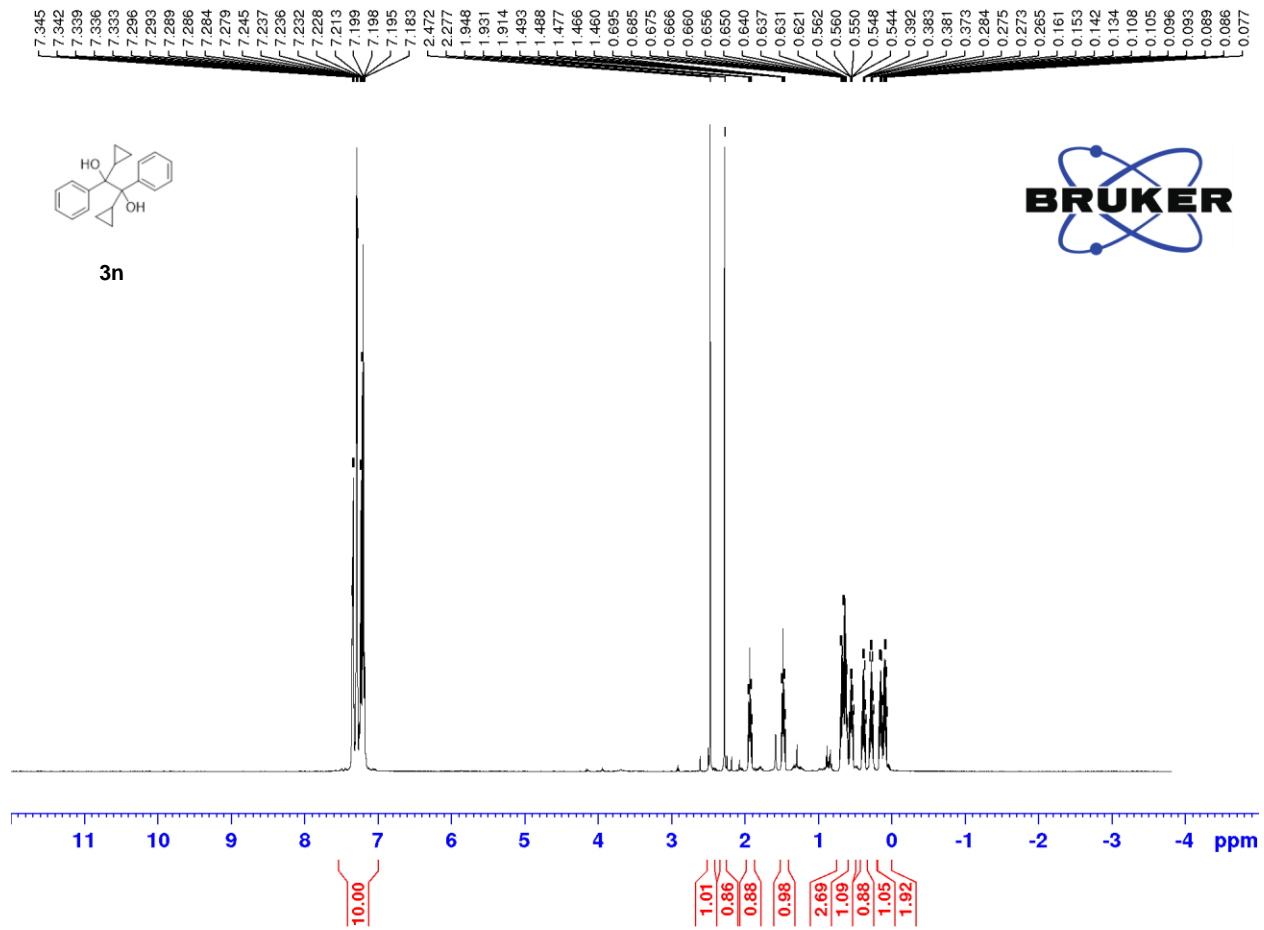
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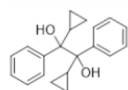




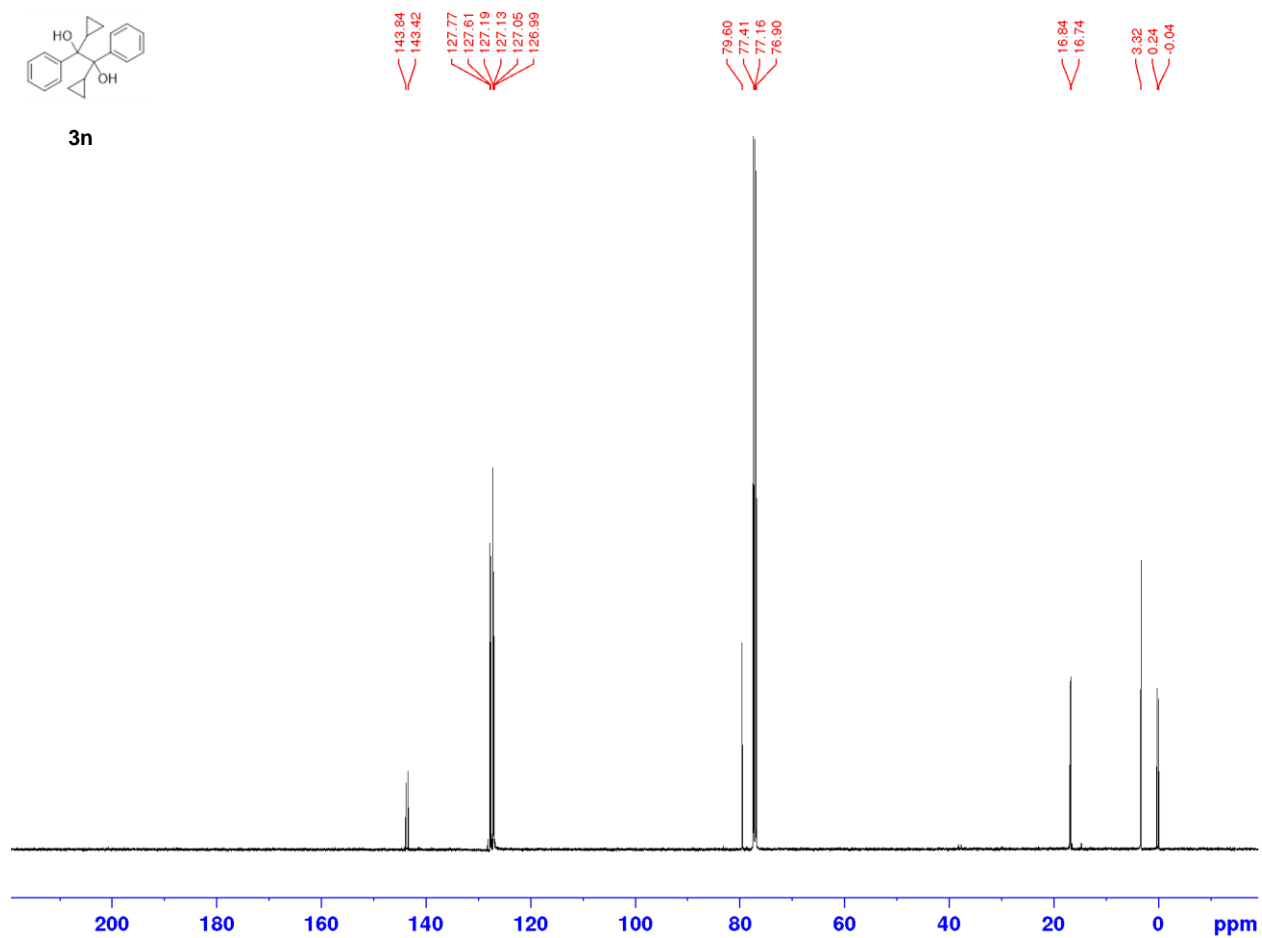
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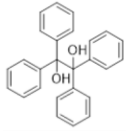






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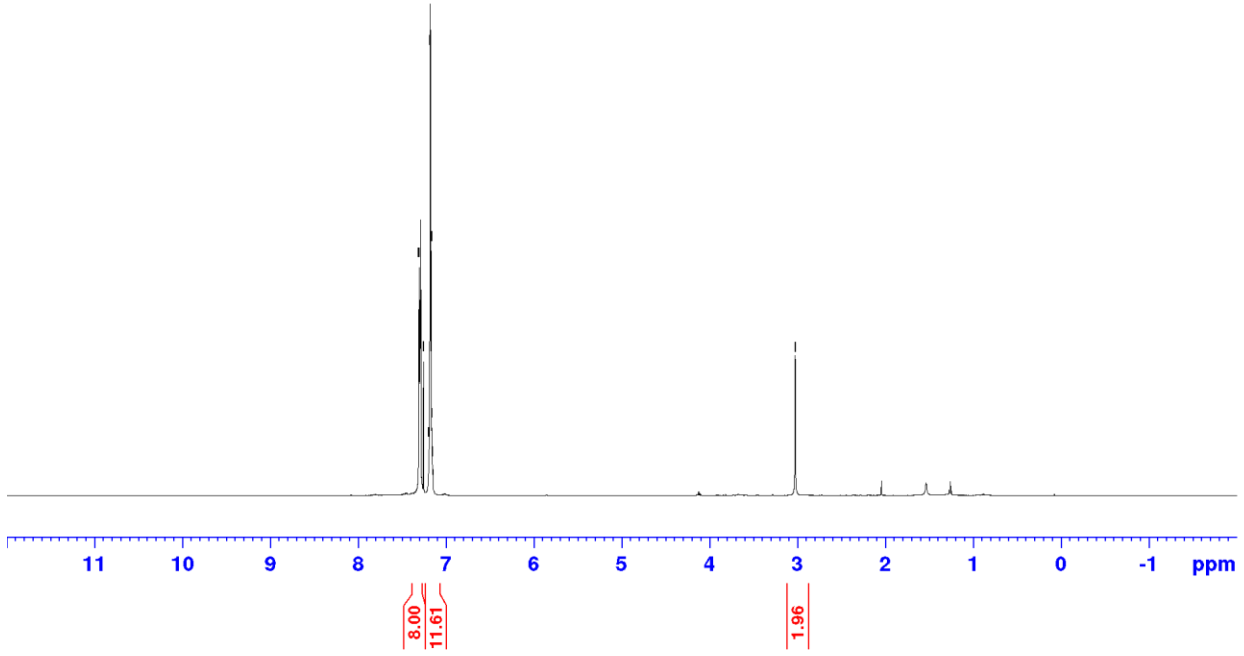


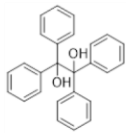


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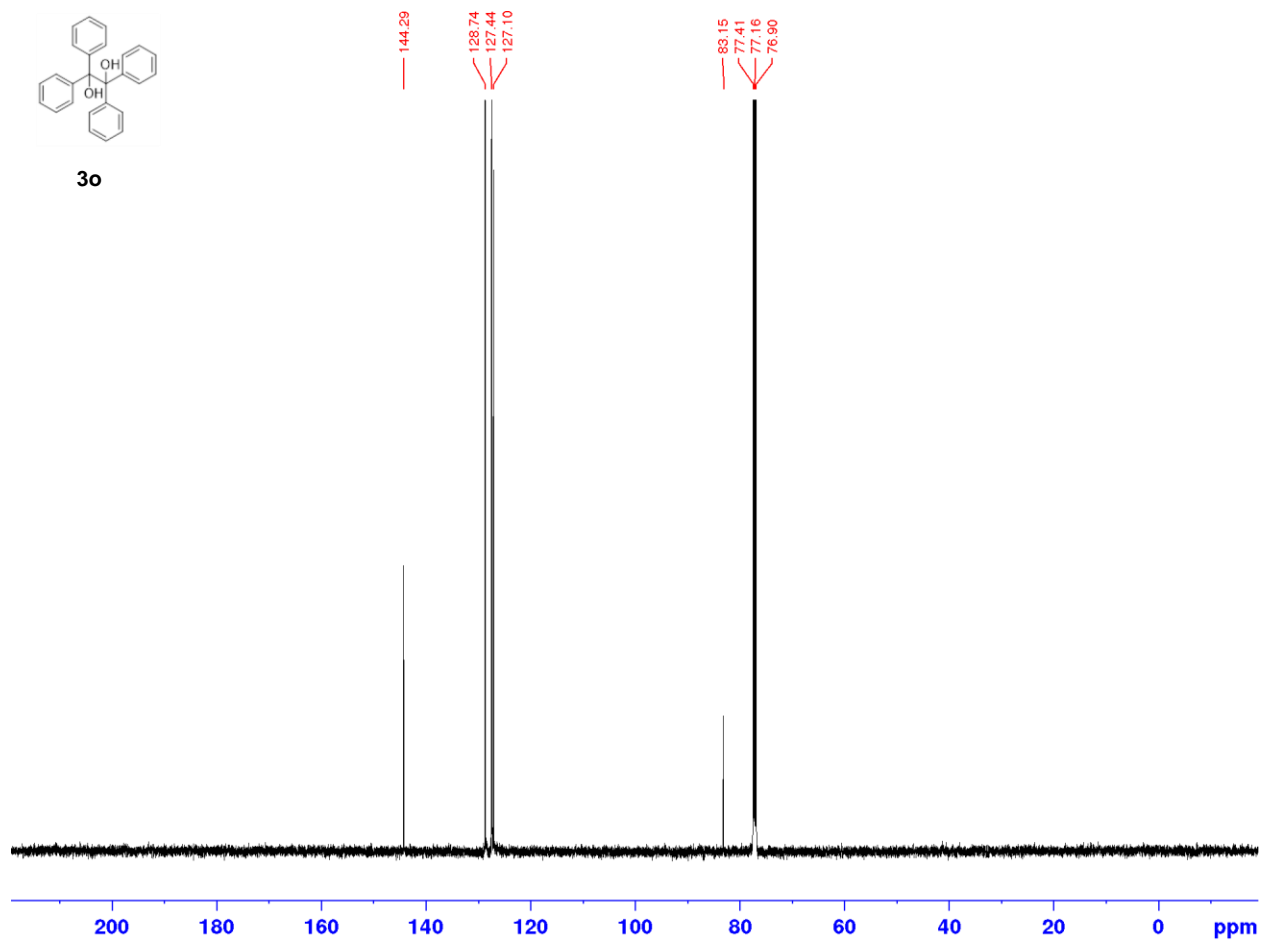
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7.311
7.307
7.300
7.297
7.291
7.260
7.202
7.185
7.182
7.175
7.171
7.165
7.162
7.156
7.153

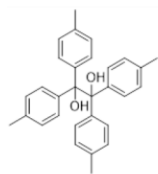
3.029





3o



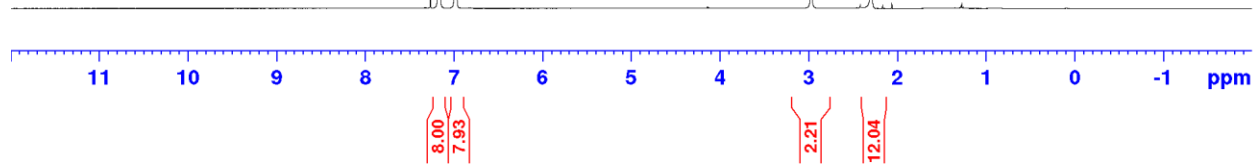


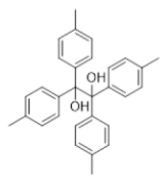
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7.260
7.172
7.155
6.984
6.968

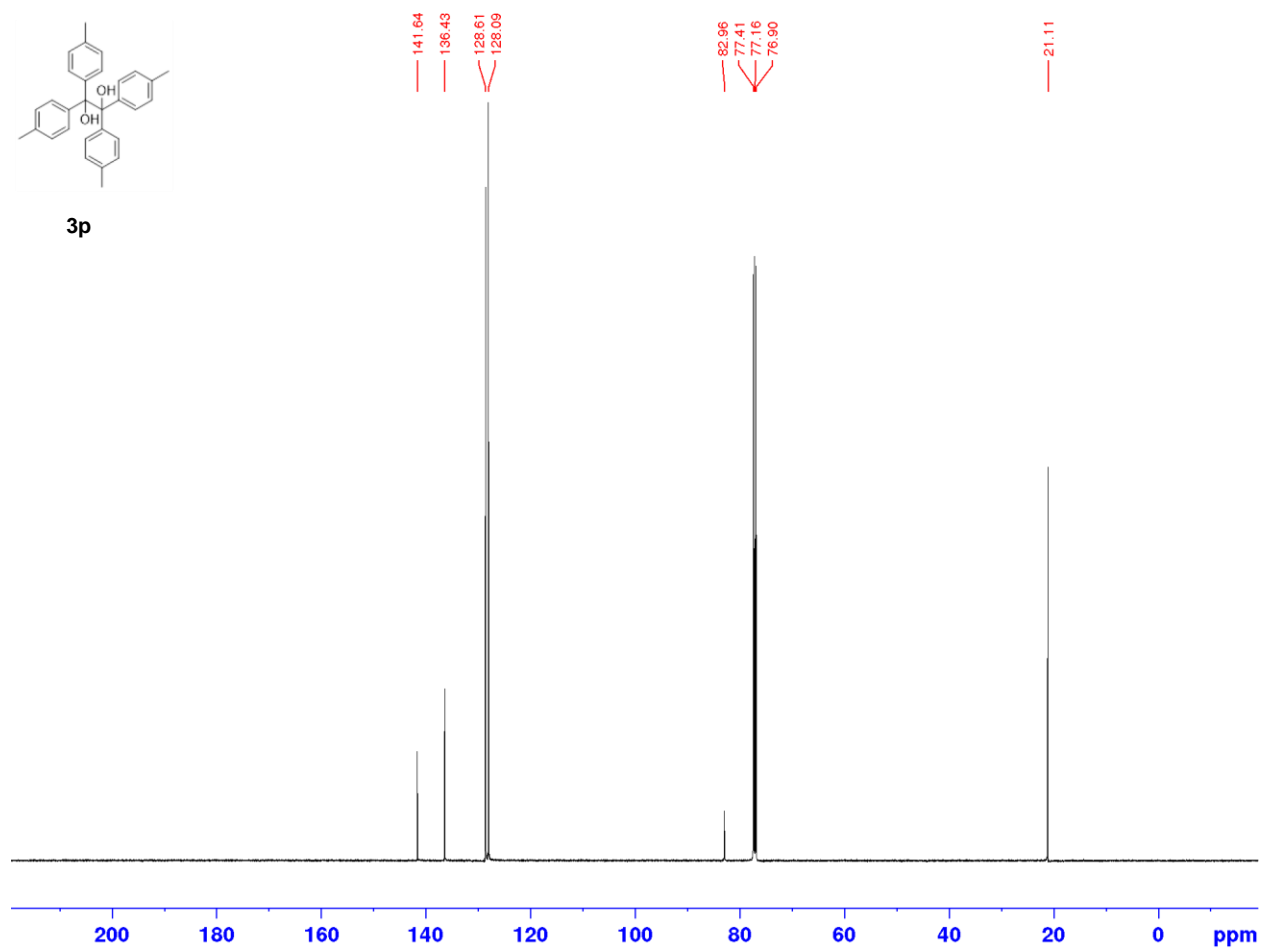
2.964

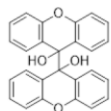
2.286





3p

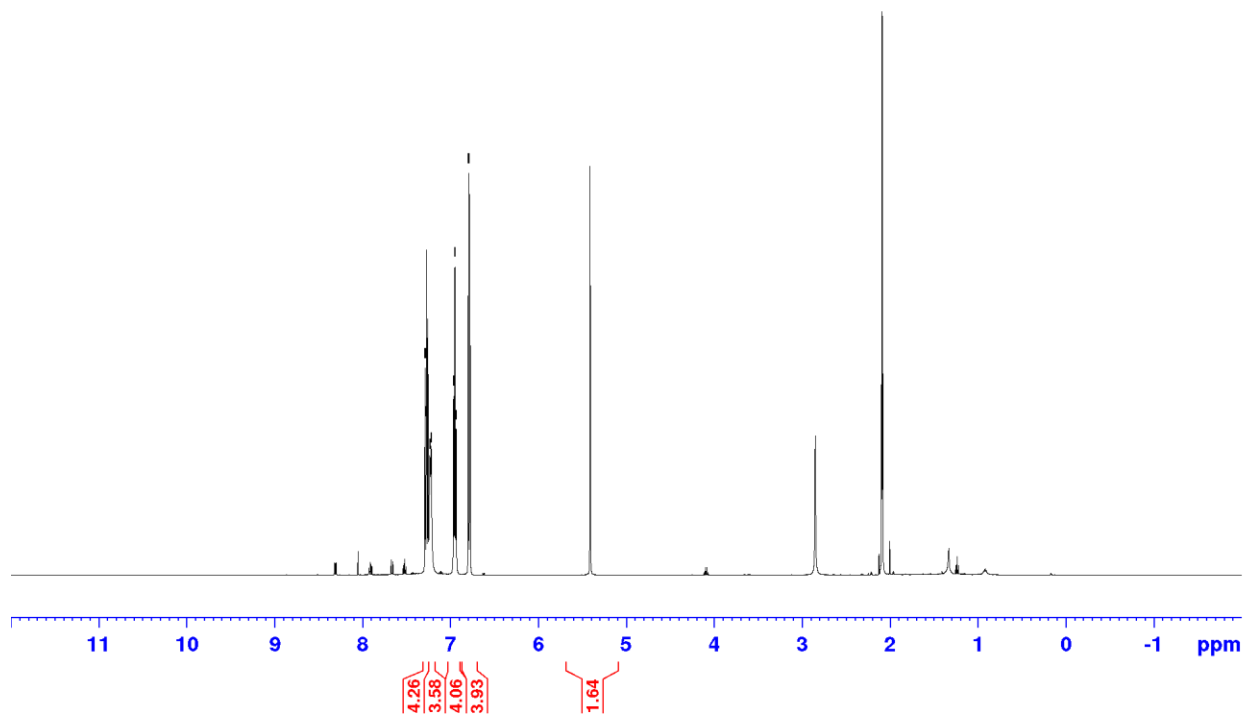


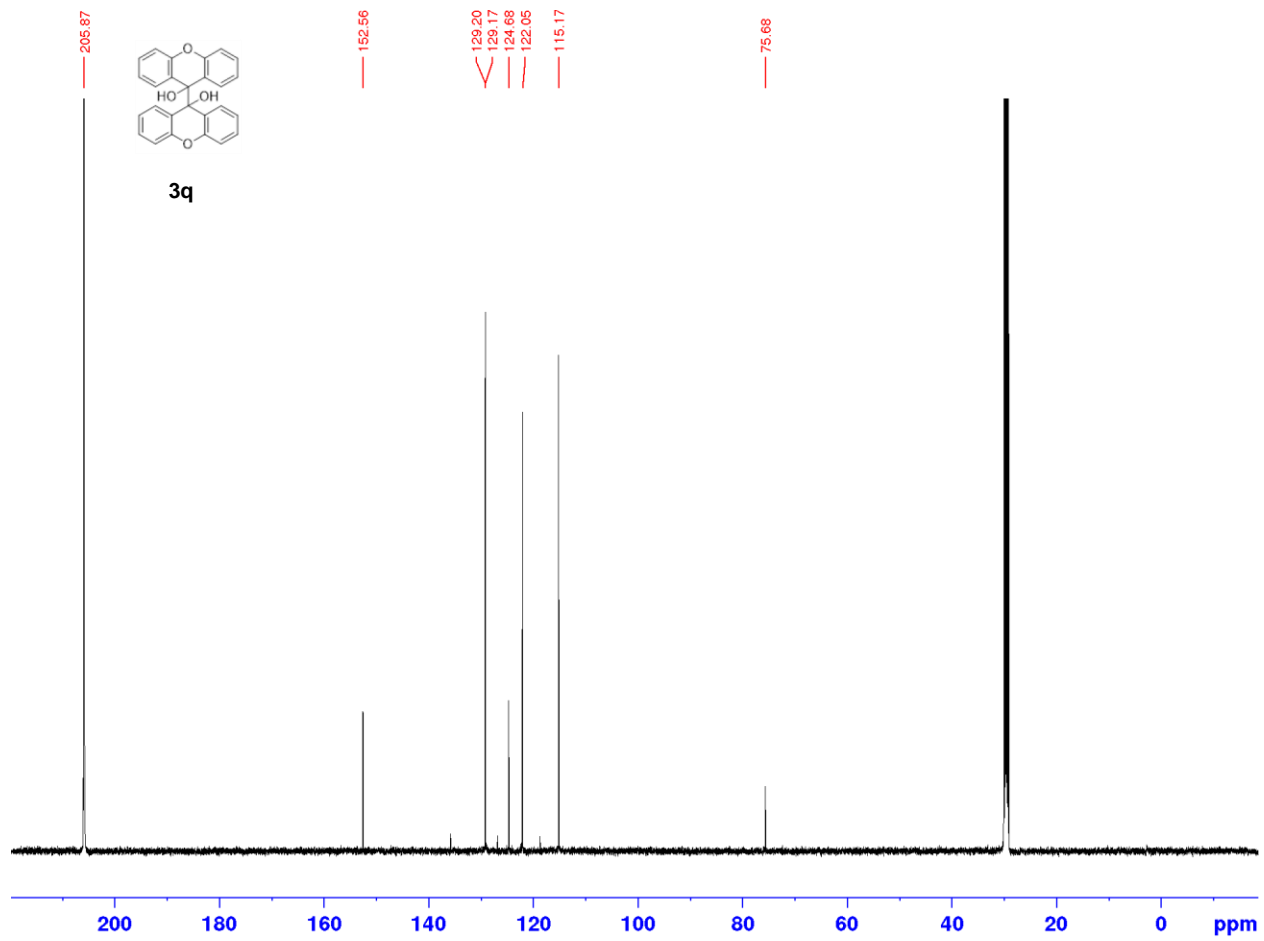


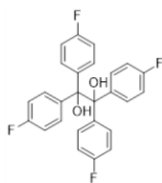
3q

7.291
7.287
7.276
7.274
7.273
7.271
7.260
7.257
7.236
7.221
6.966
6.965
6.951
6.937
6.935
6.797
6.795
6.780
6.778
5.412

2.090



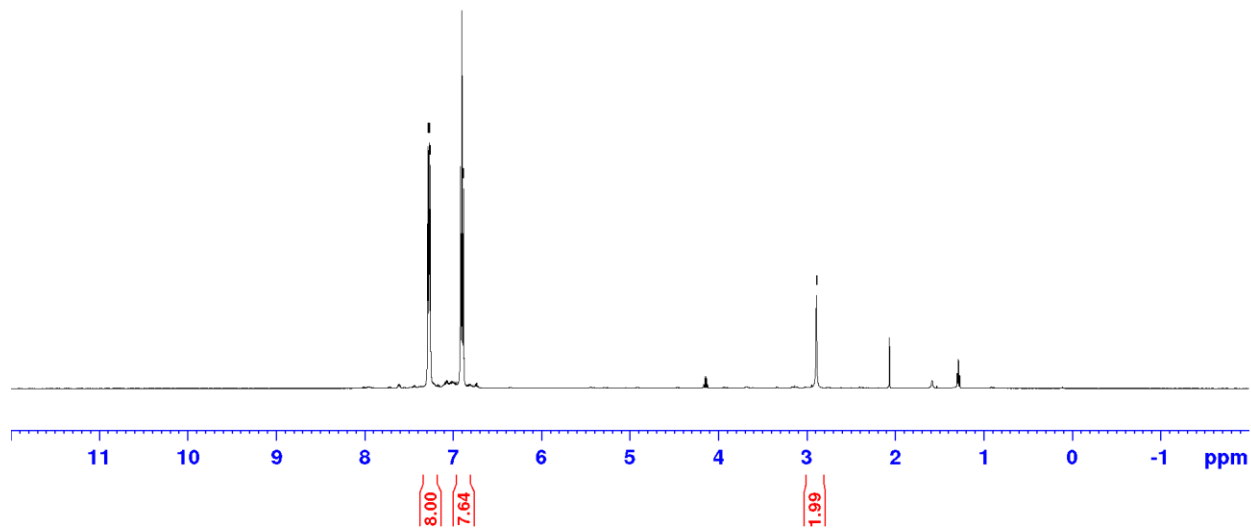


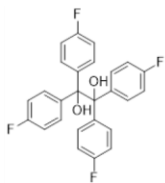


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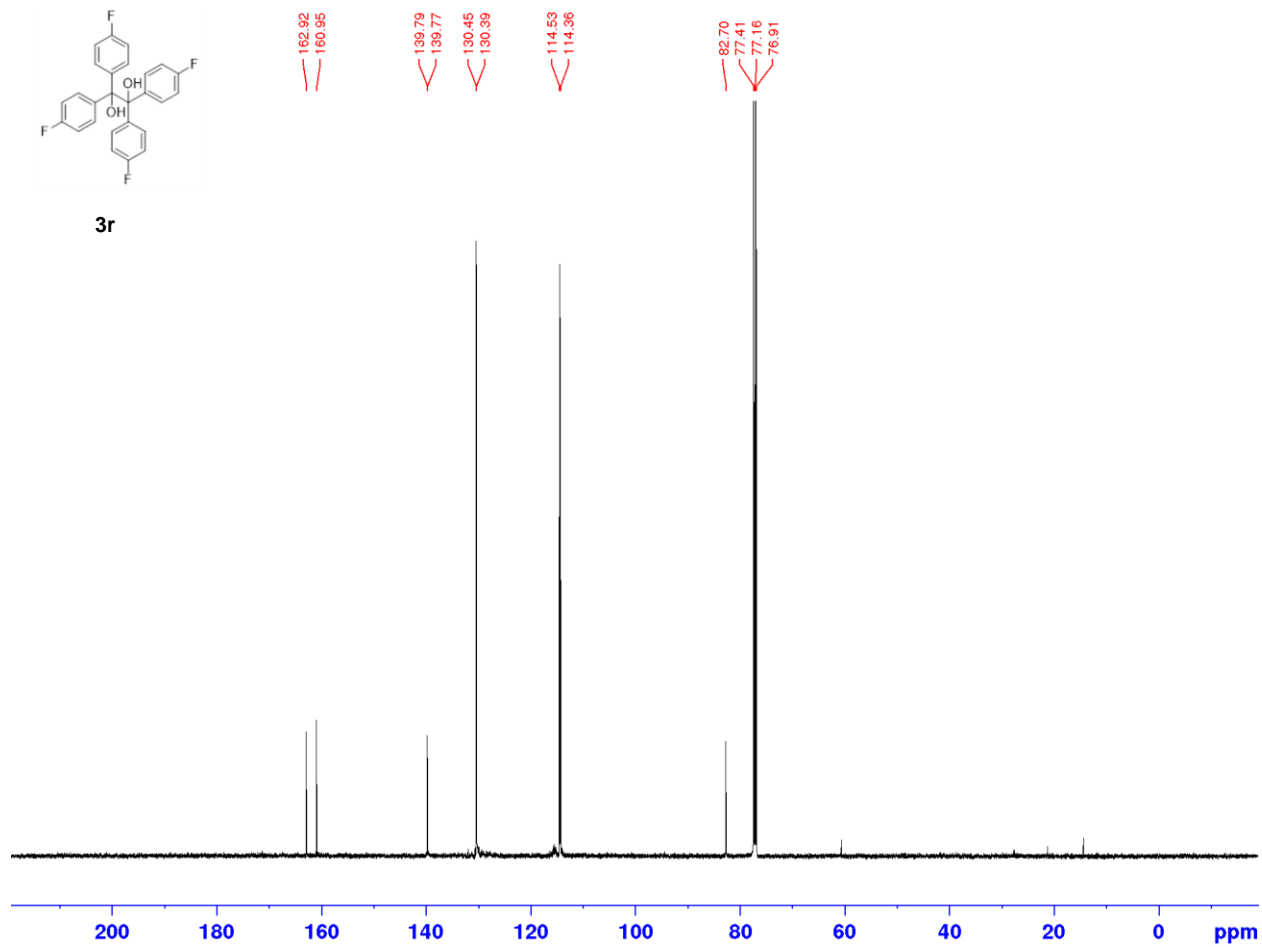
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7.275
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7.257
6.917
6.899
6.882

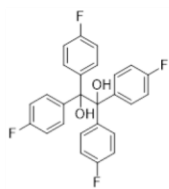
— 2.890



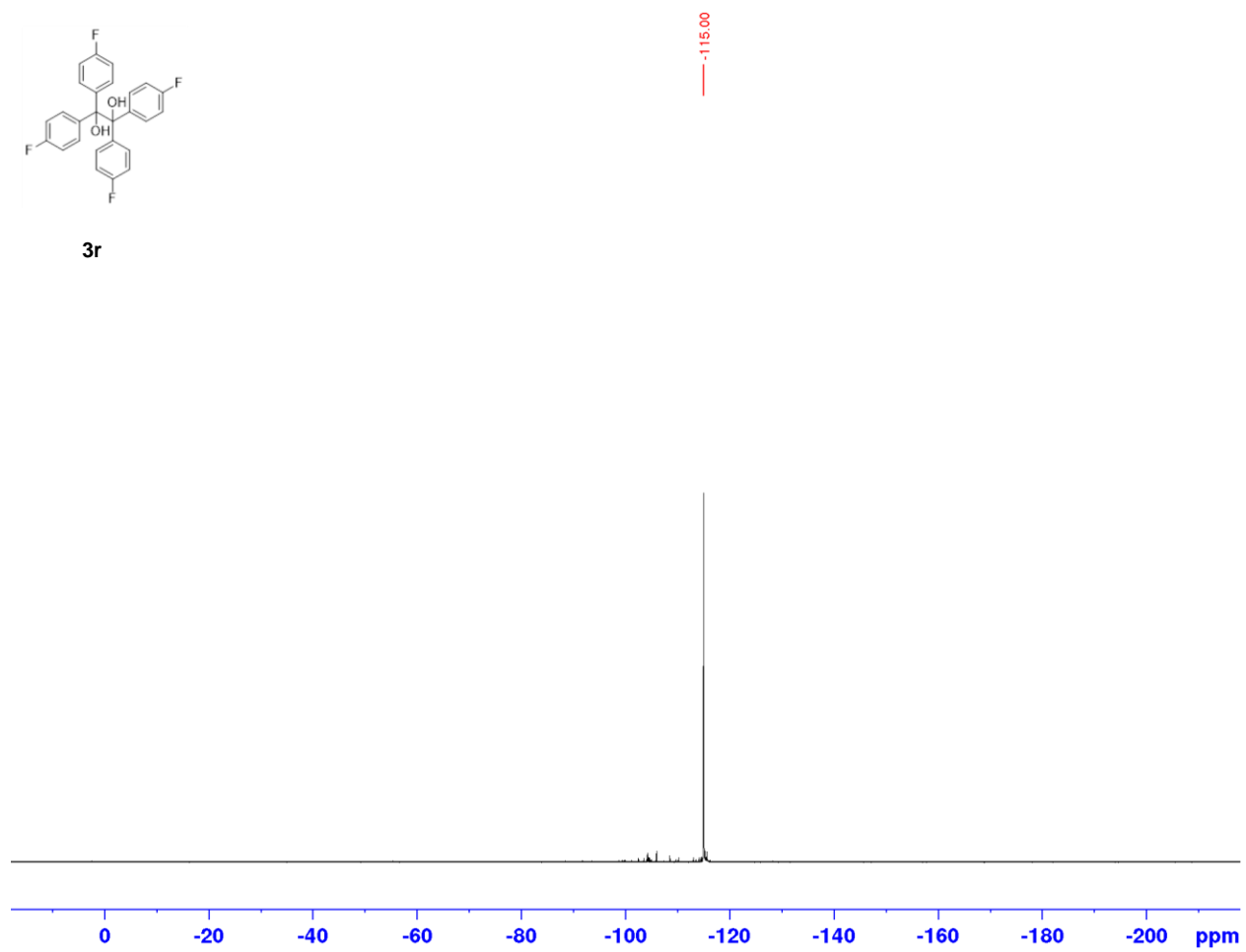


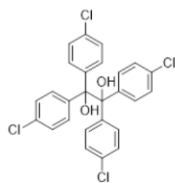
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3r

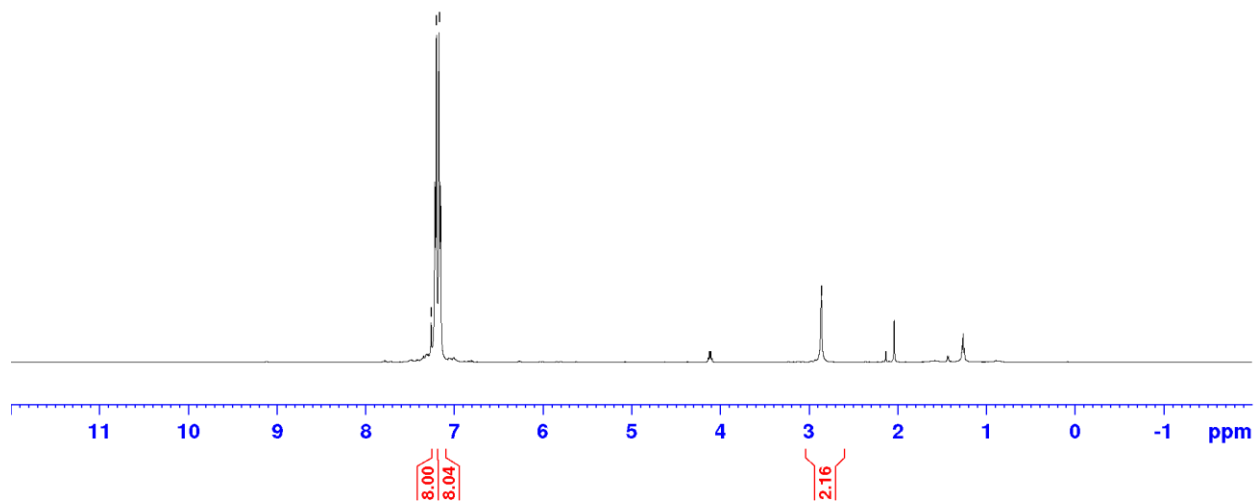


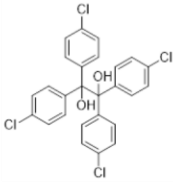


3s

7.260
7.219
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7.171
7.154

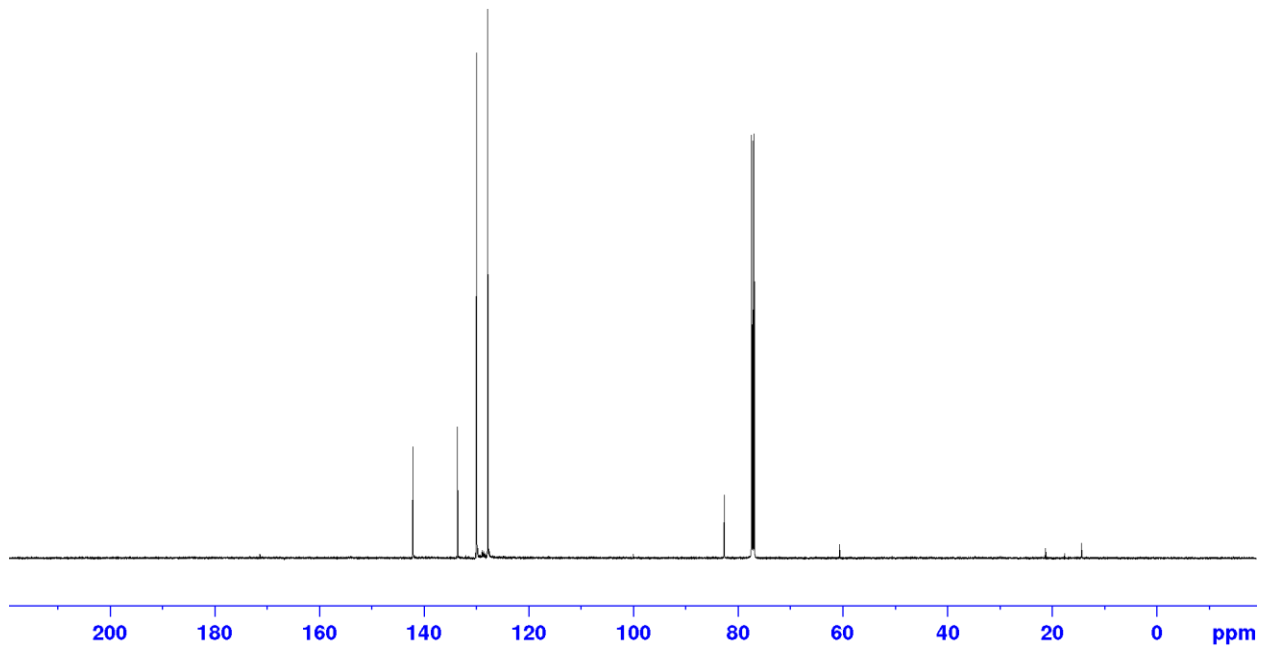
2.859

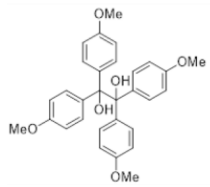




3s

142.13
133.63
129.96
127.87
82.63
77.41
77.16
76.91



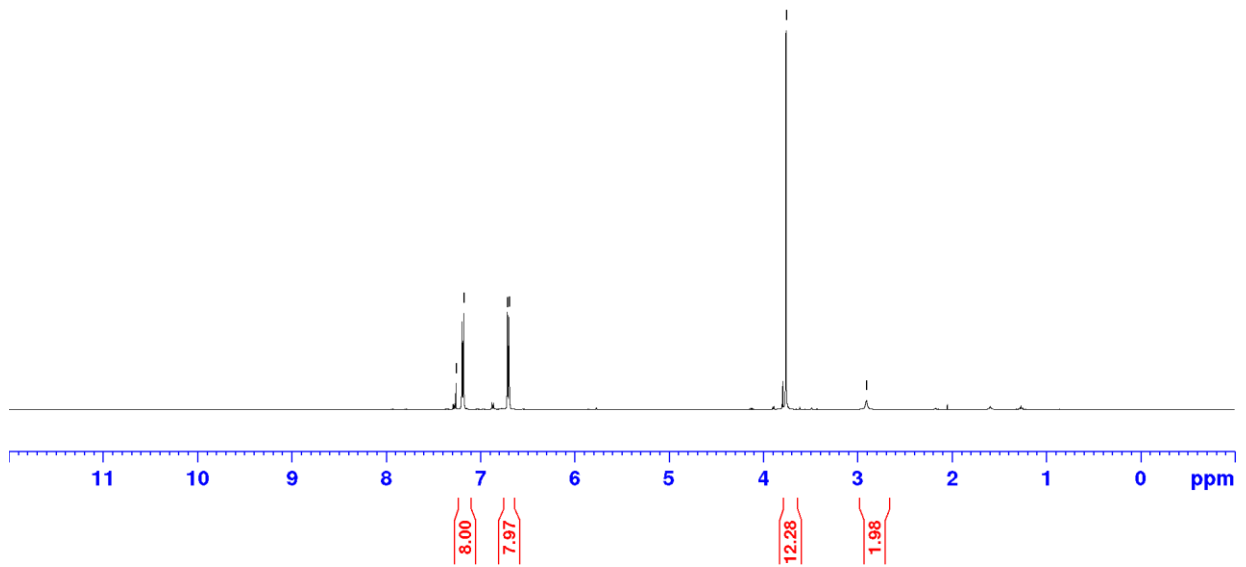


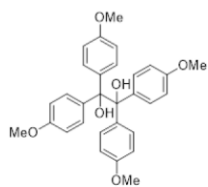
3t

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6.694

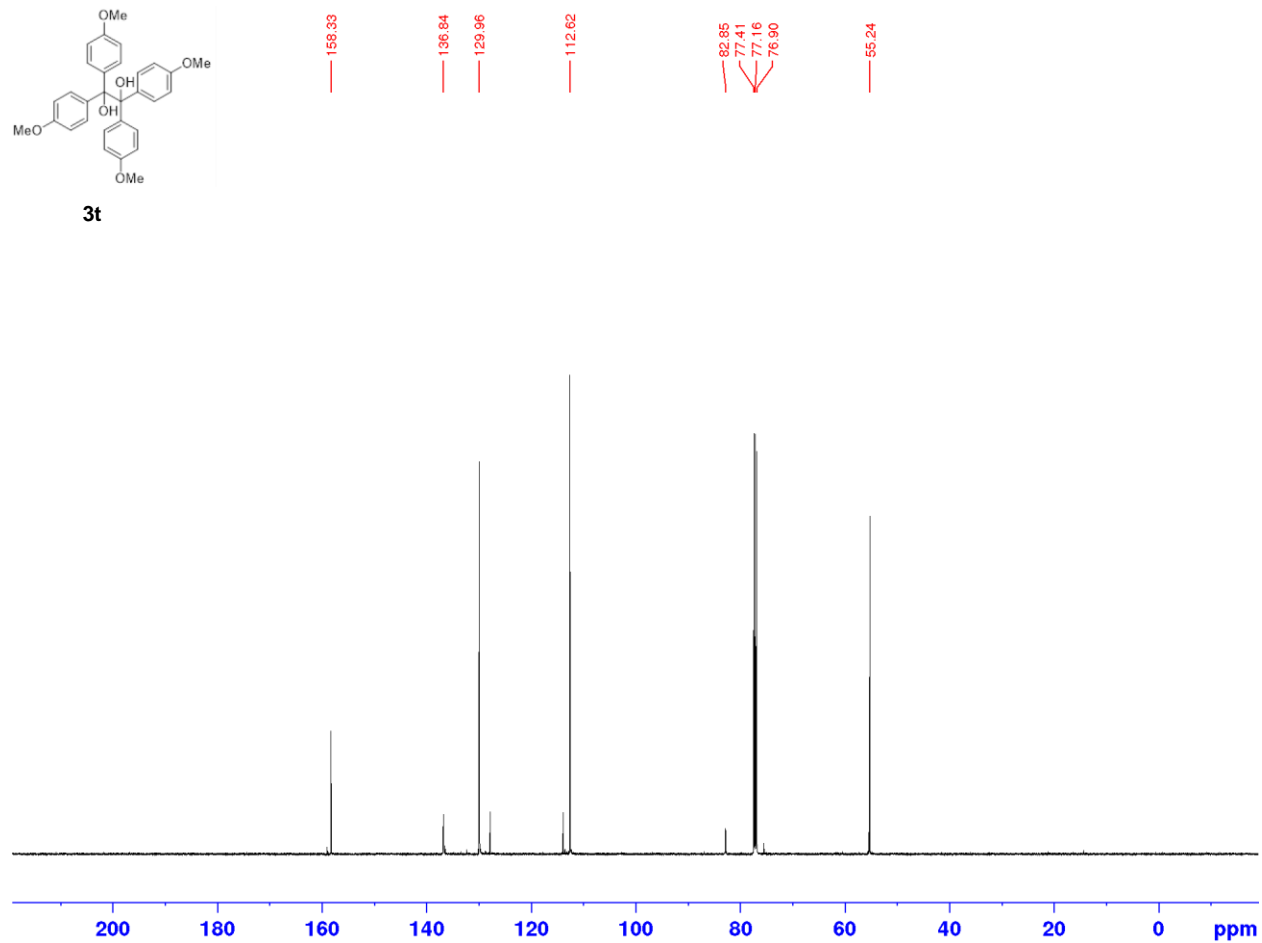
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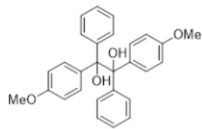
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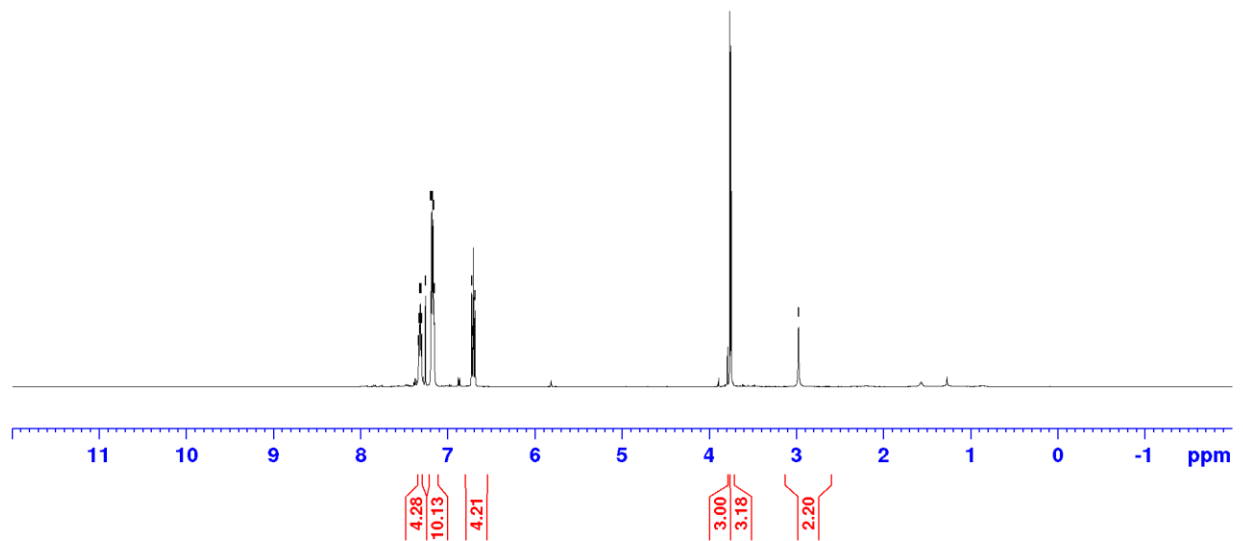


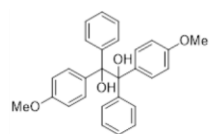
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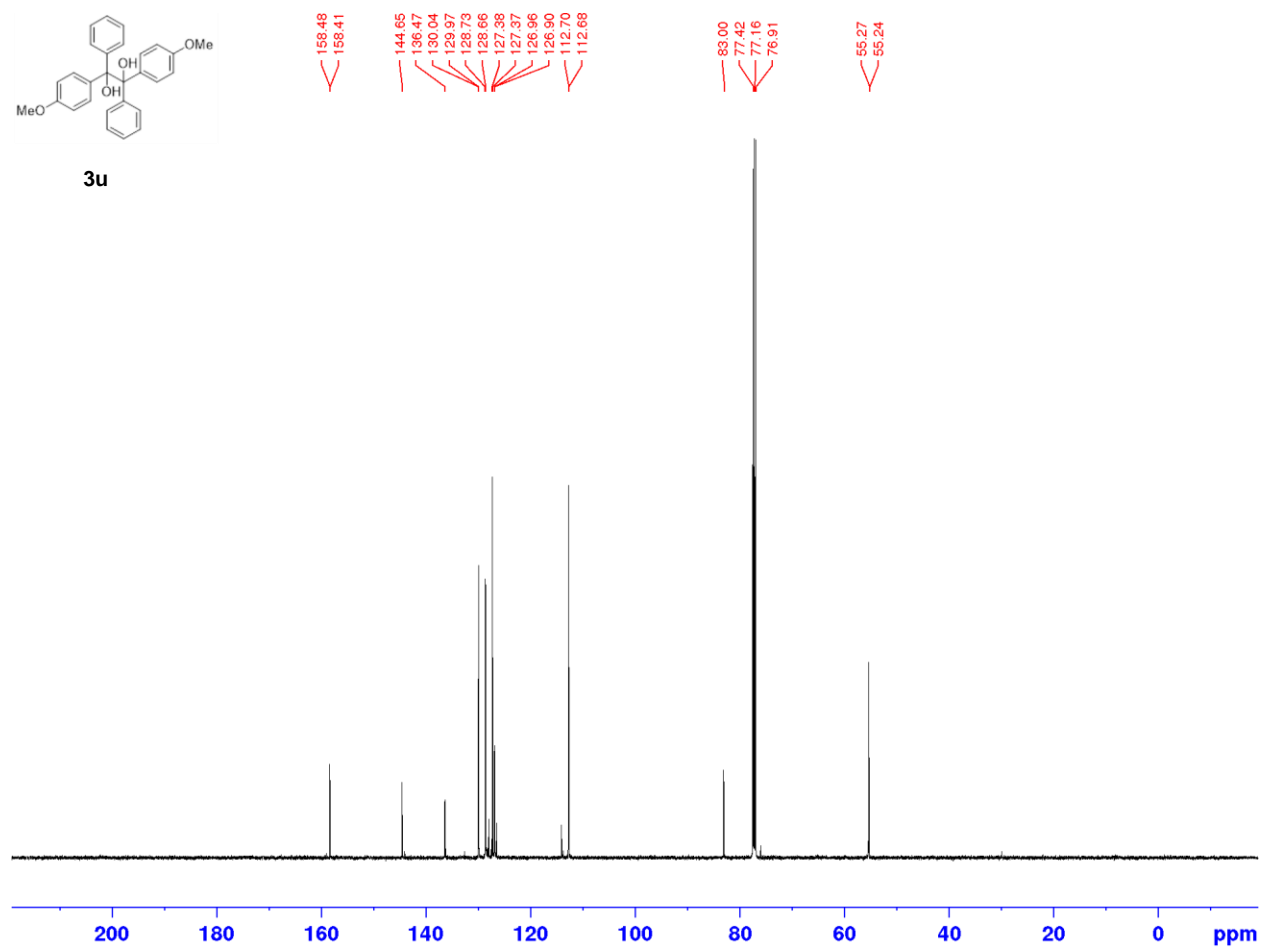


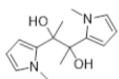
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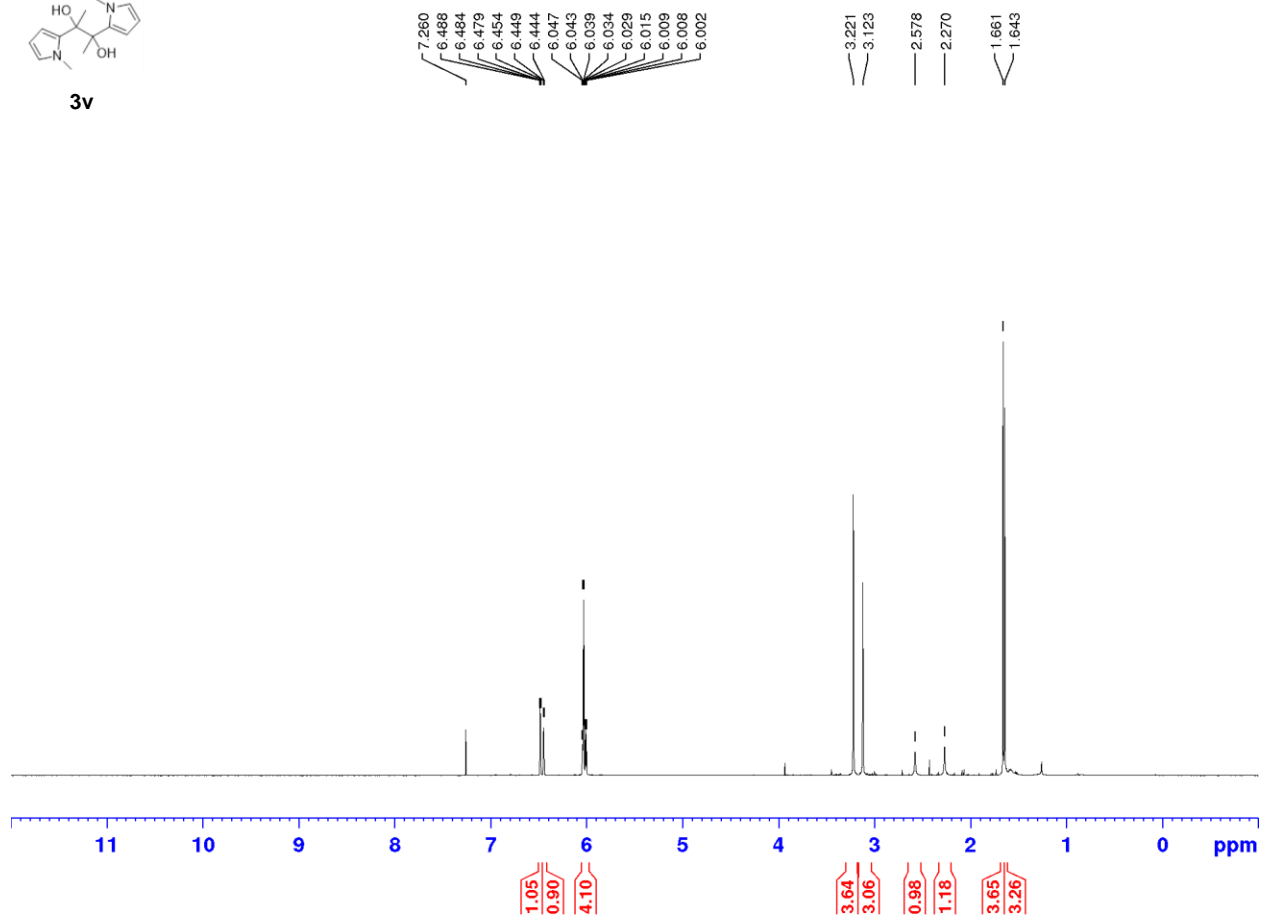


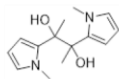
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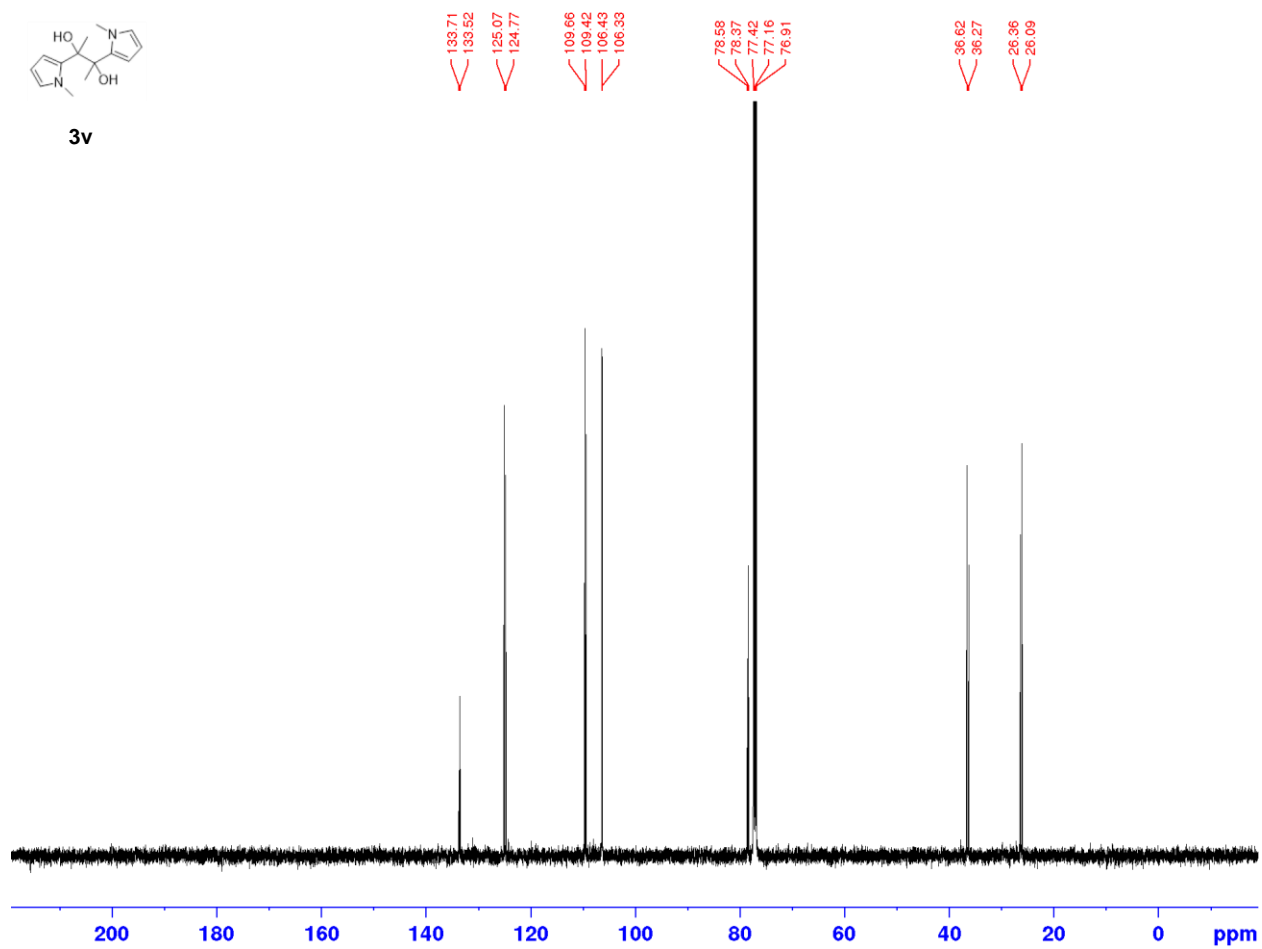


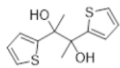
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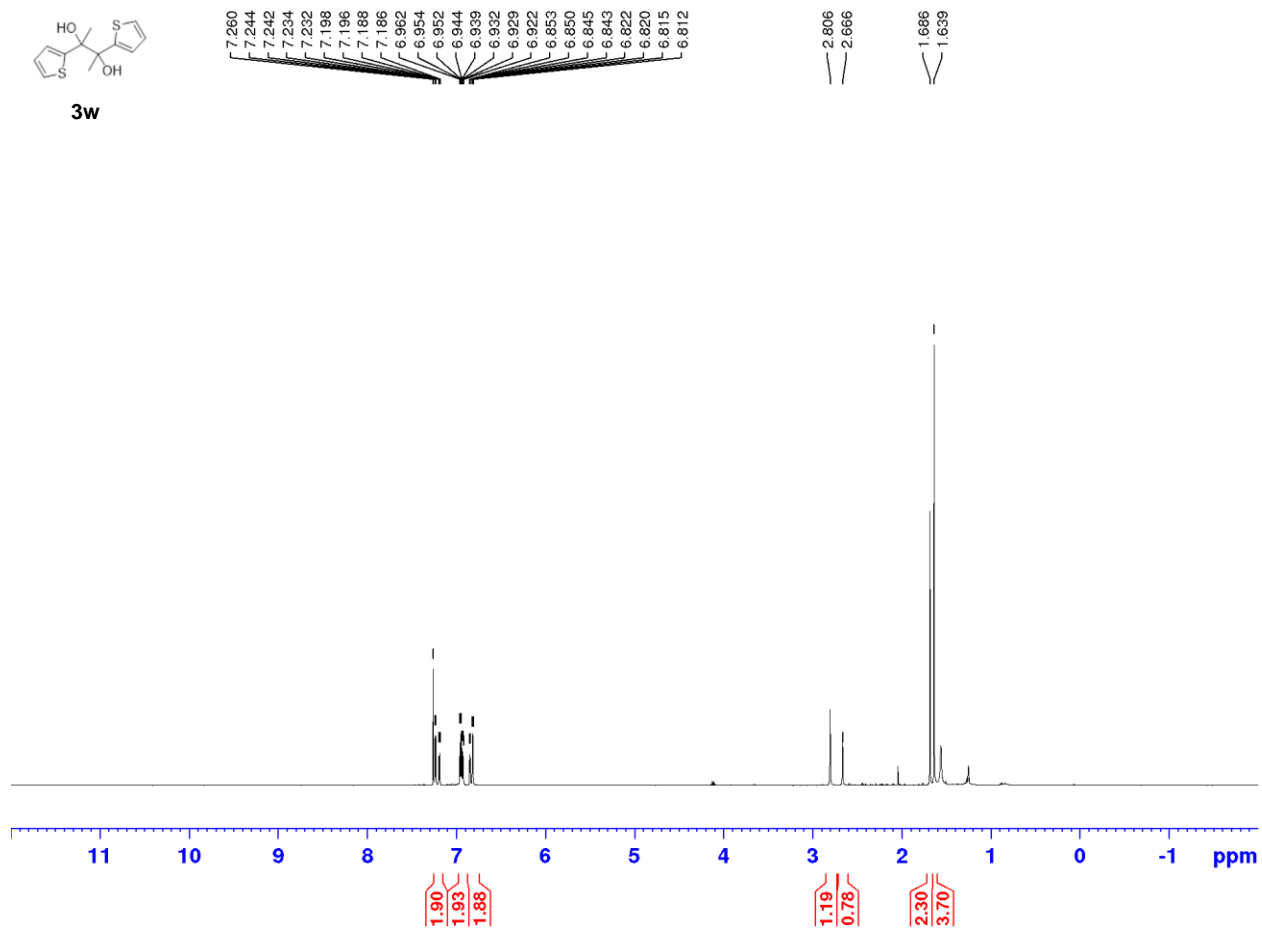


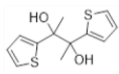
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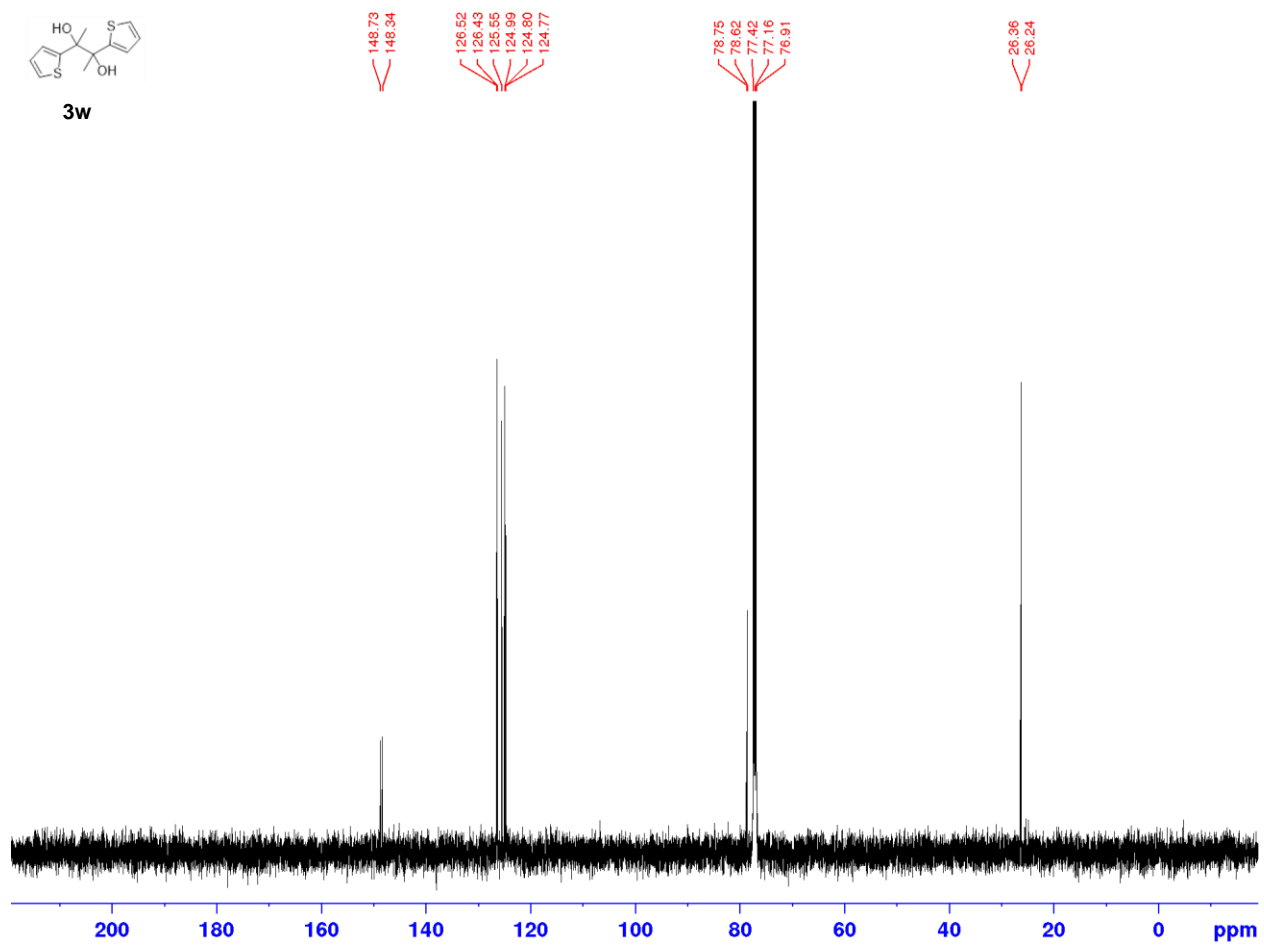


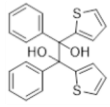
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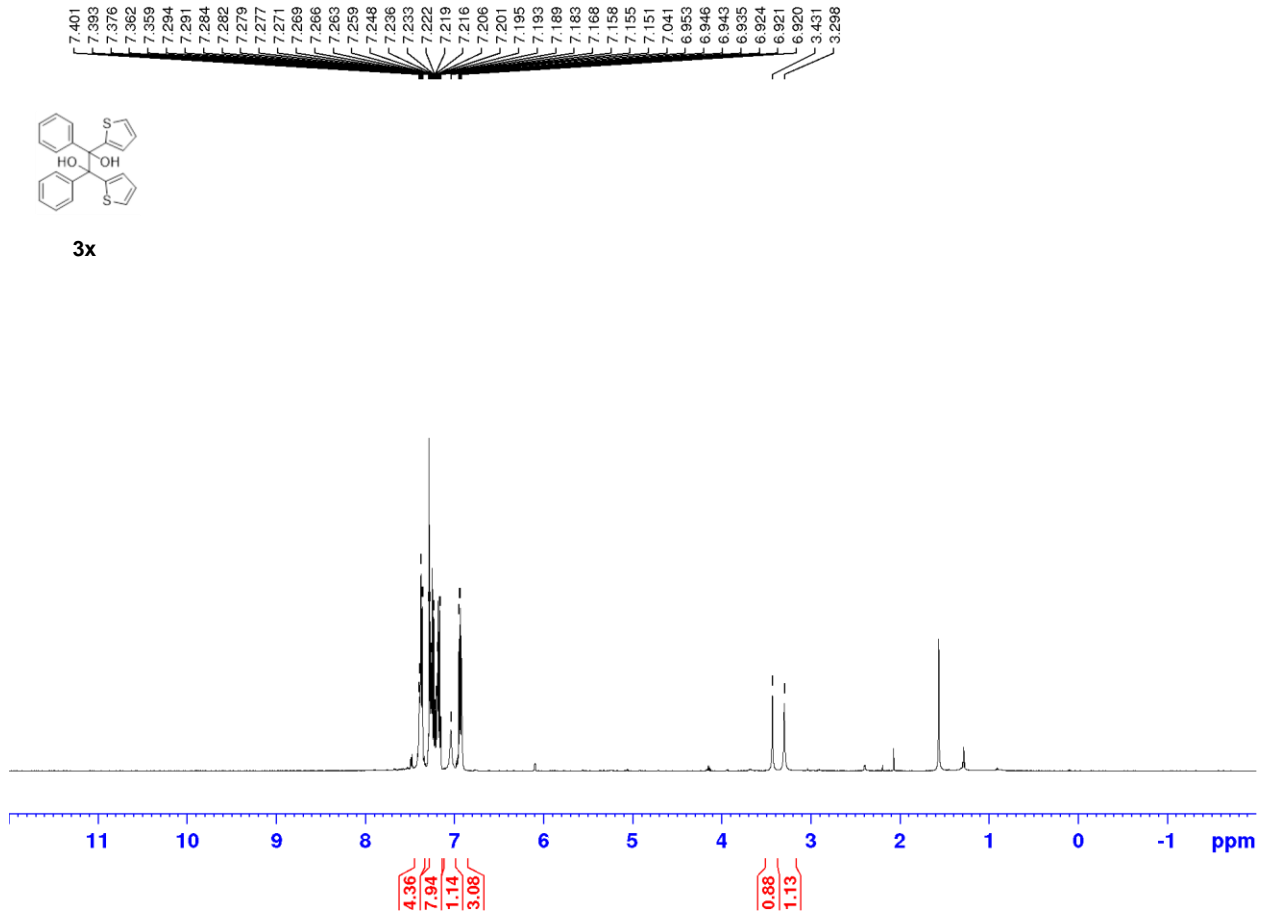


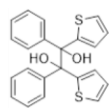
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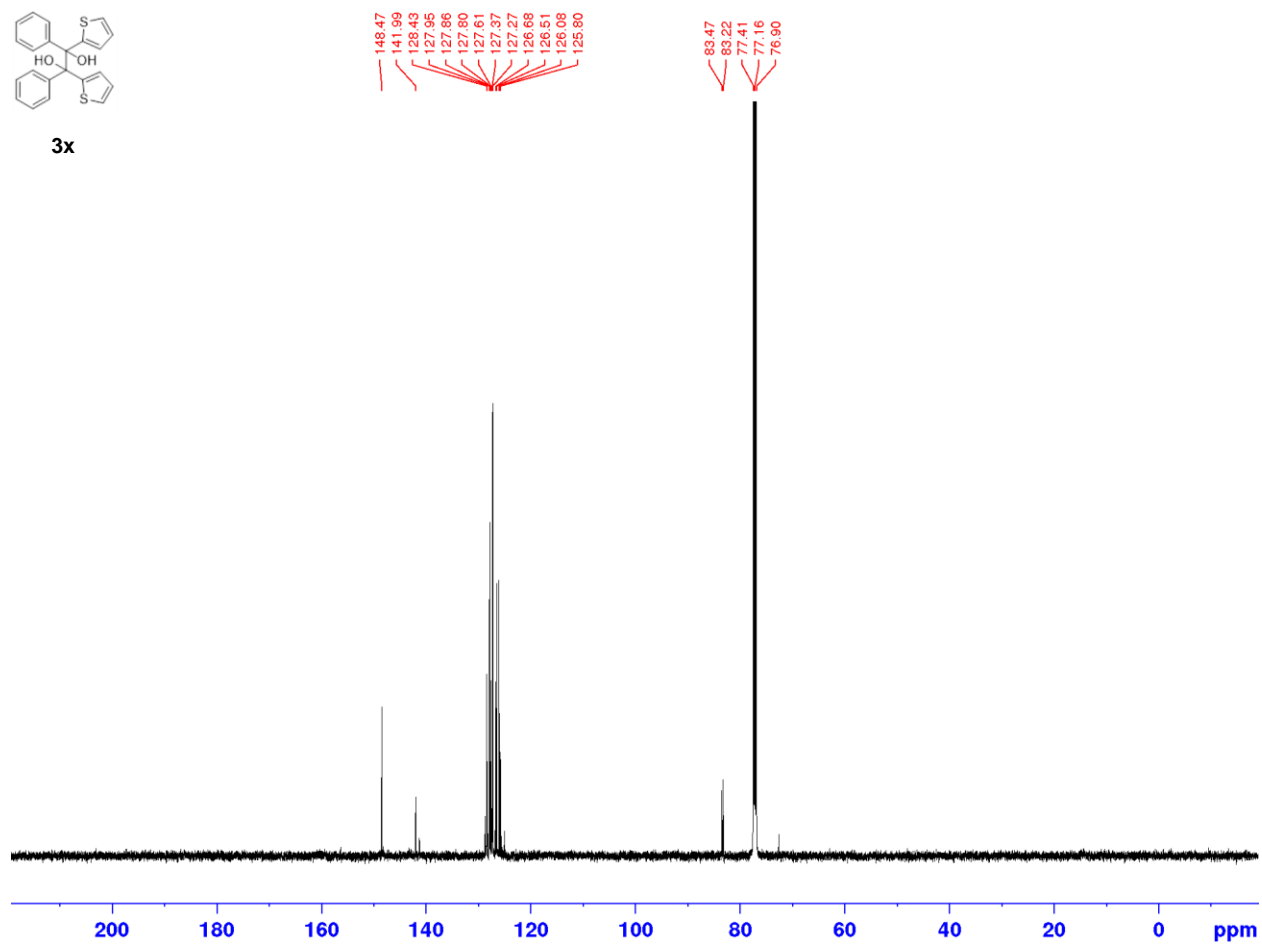


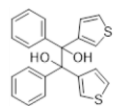
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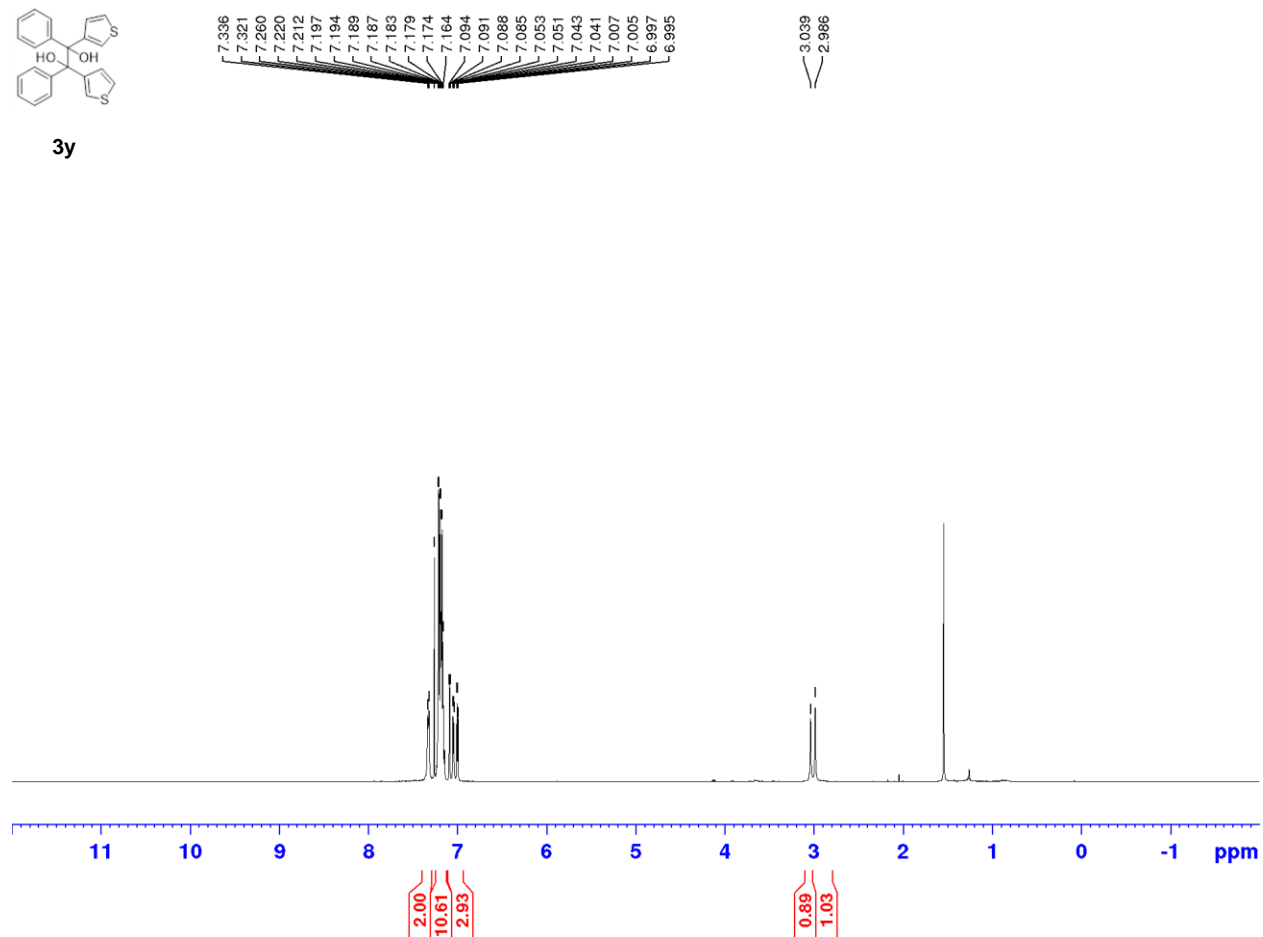


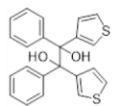
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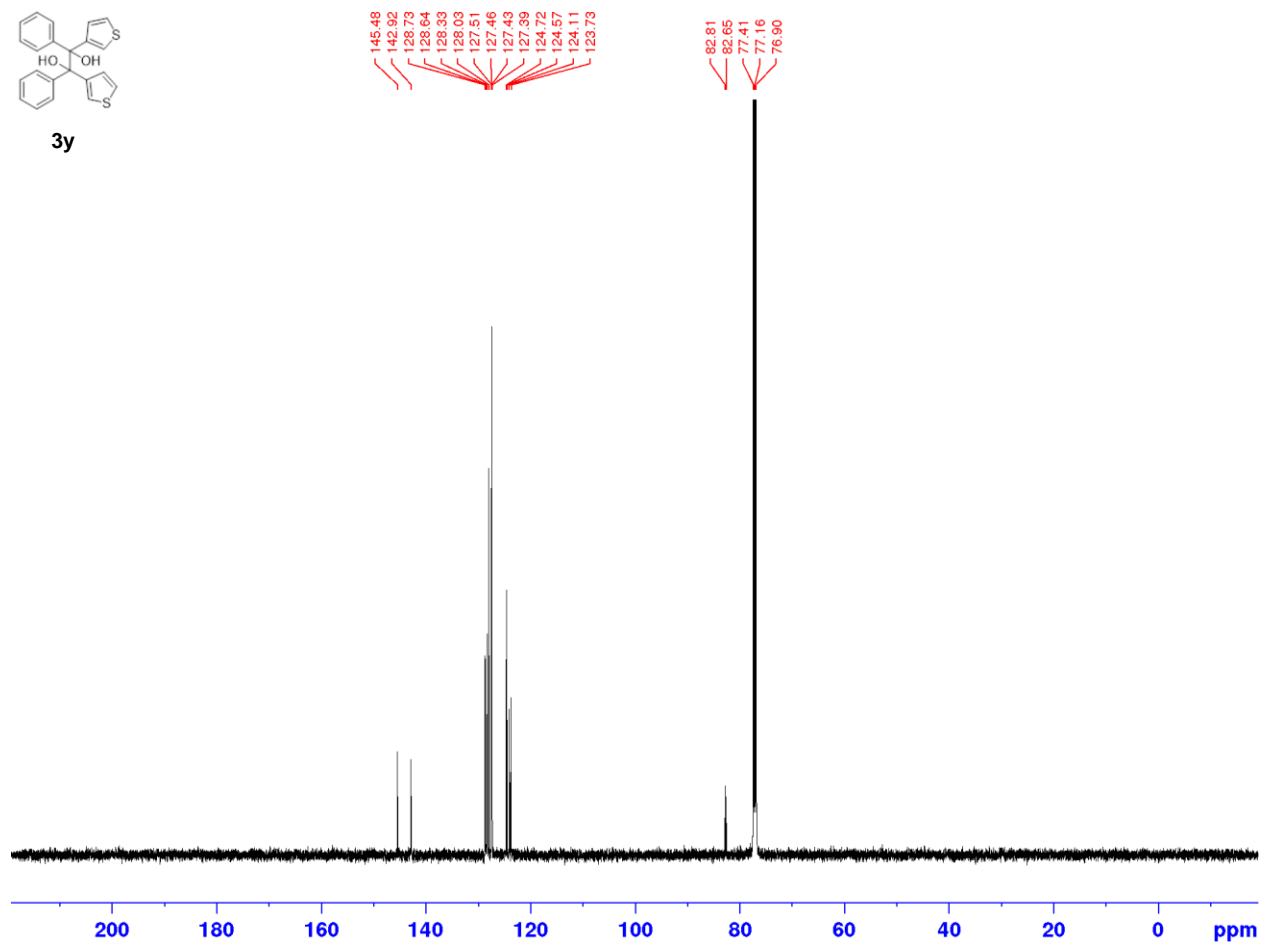


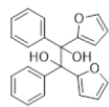
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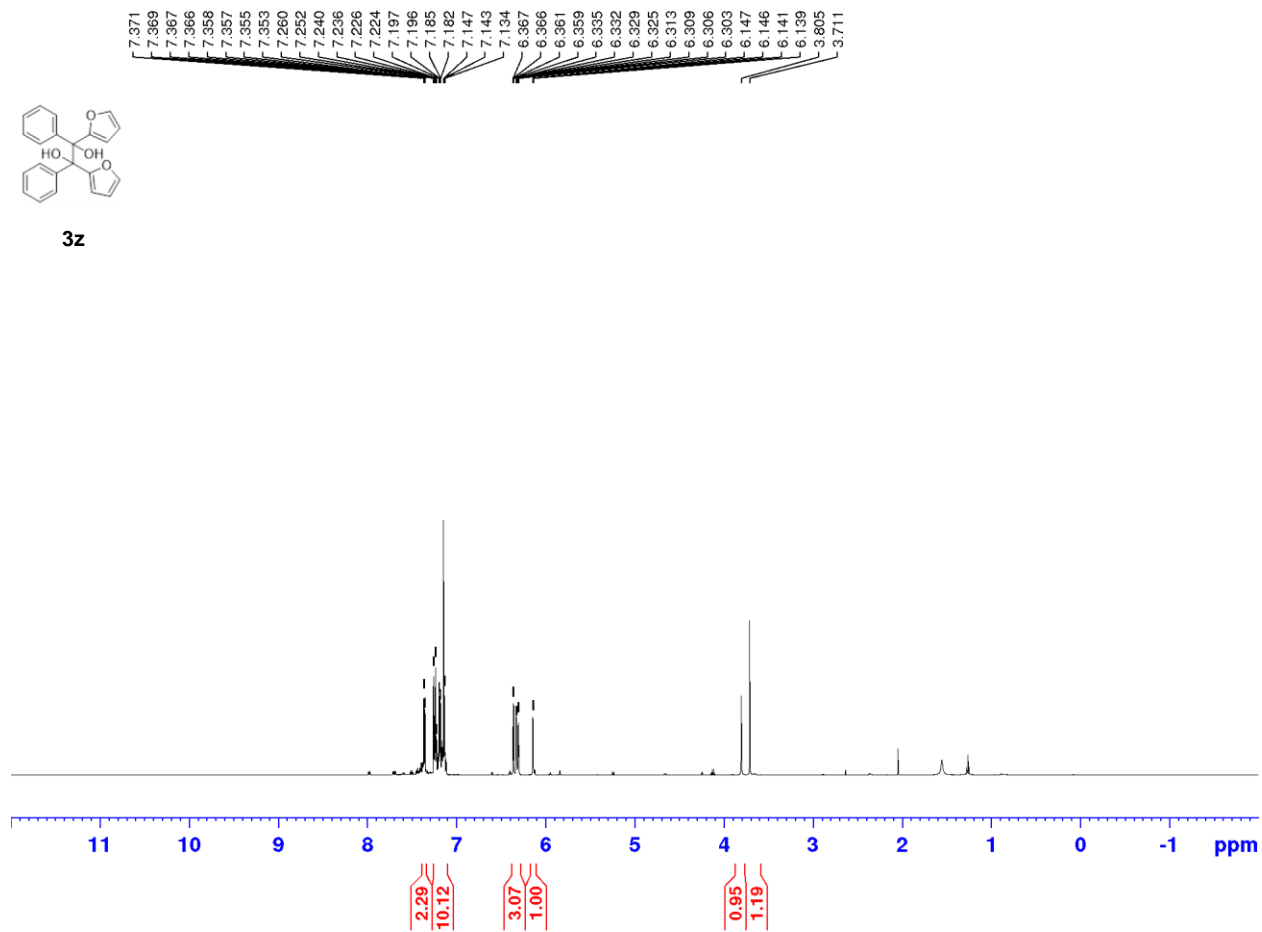


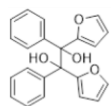
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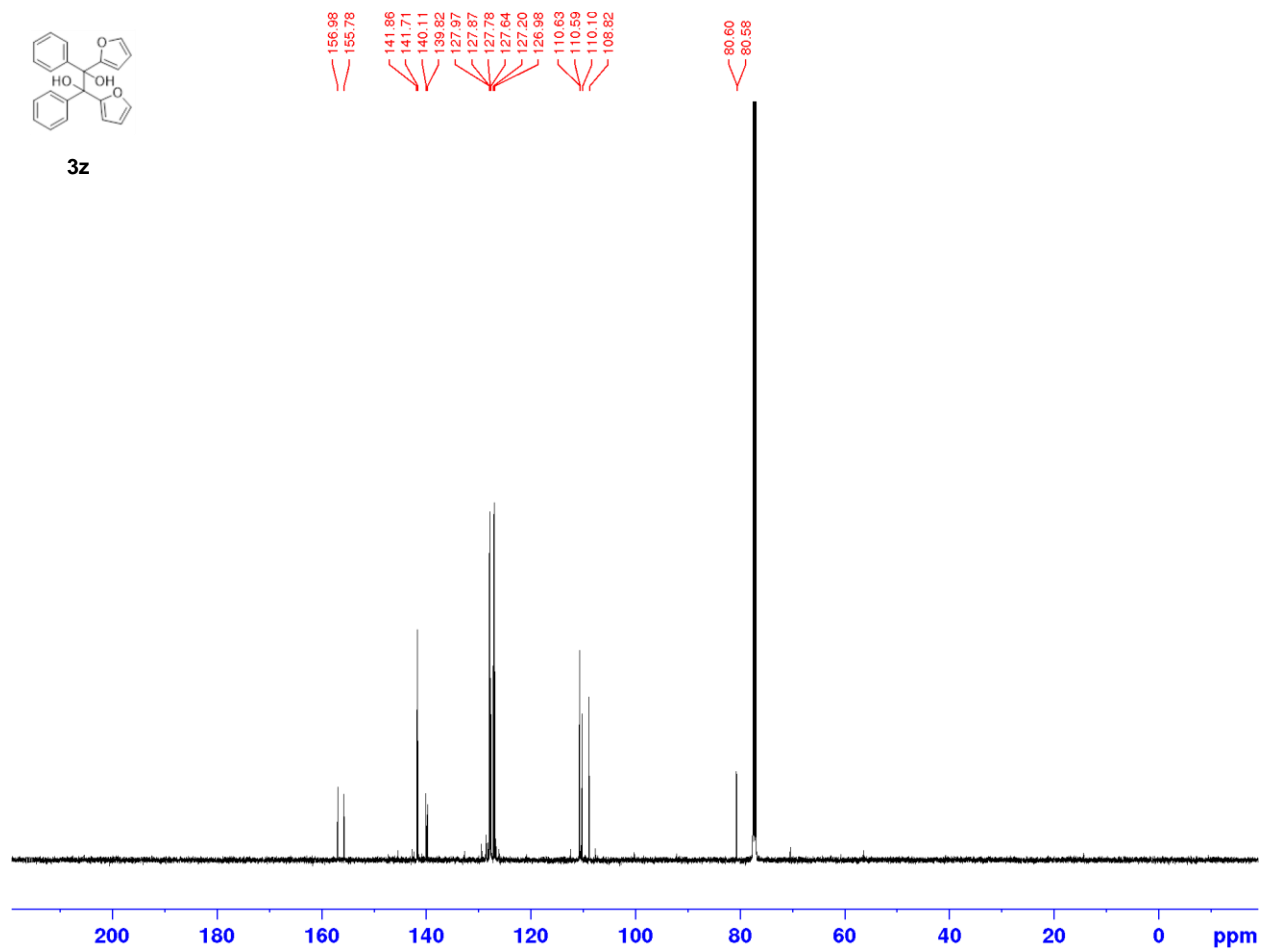


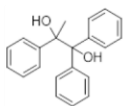
3z





3z





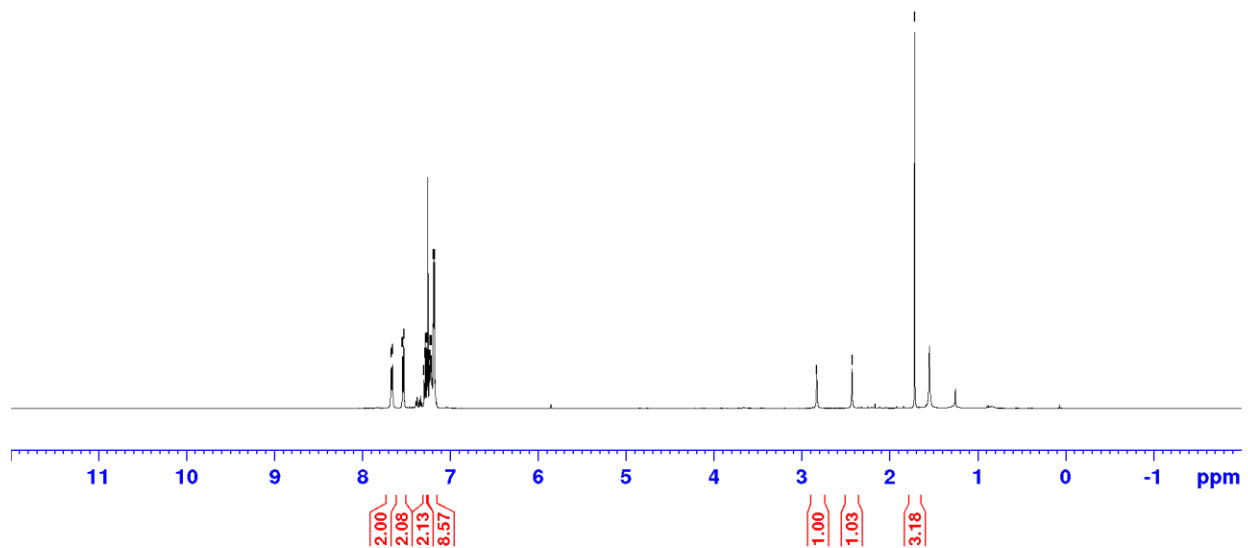
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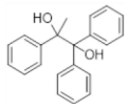
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7.189
7.184
7.181

— 2.834

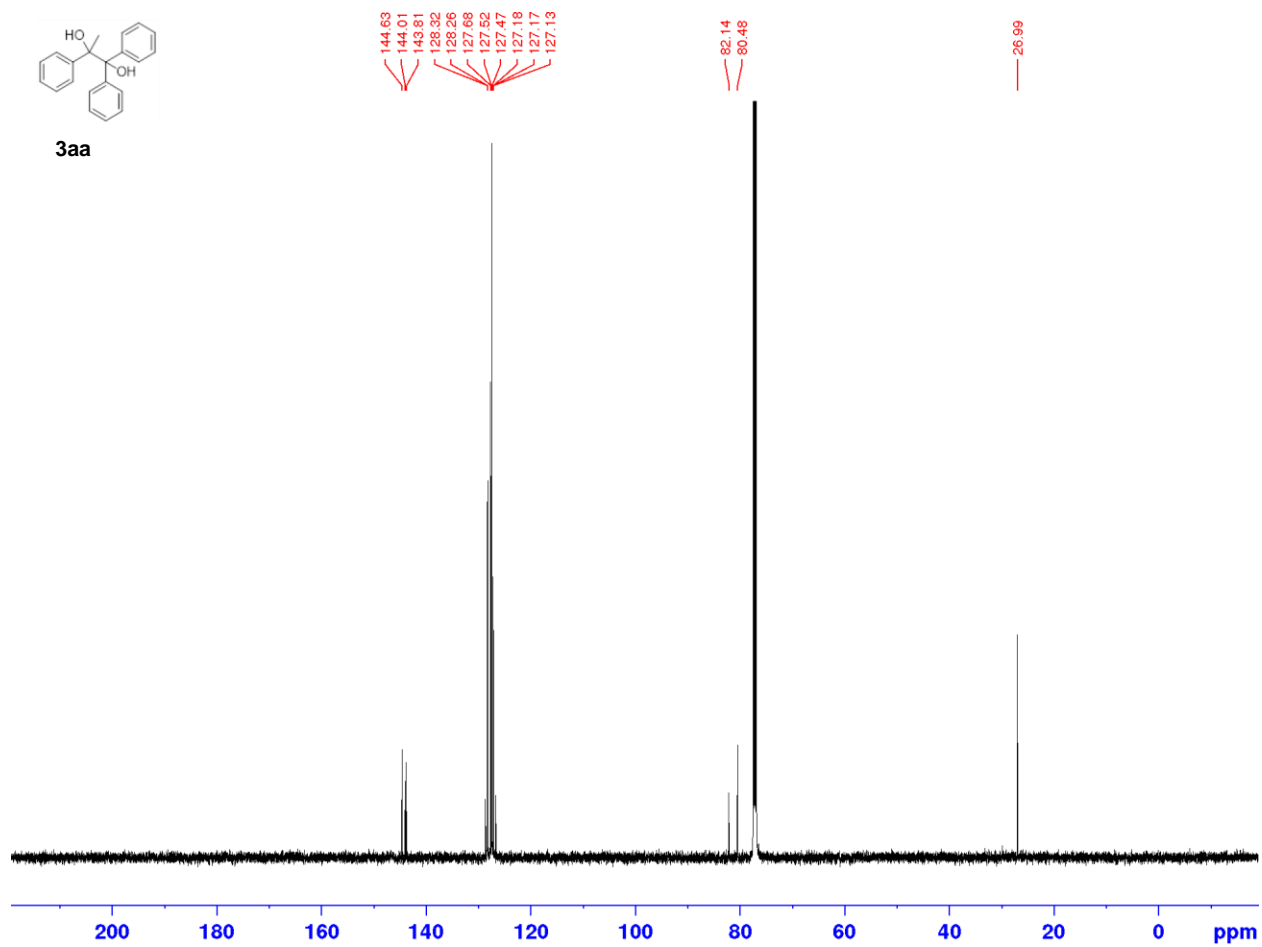
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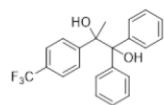
— 1.721



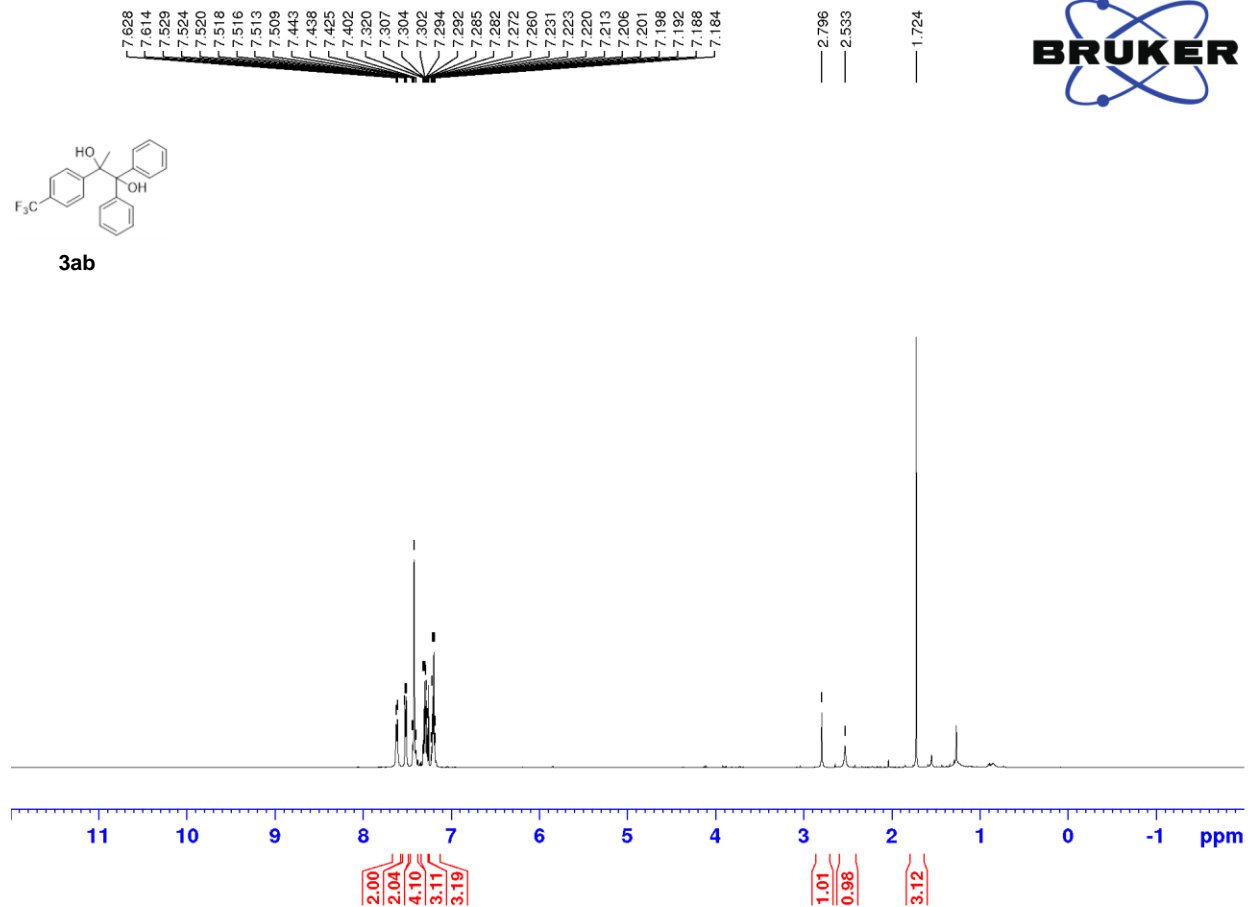


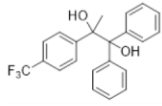
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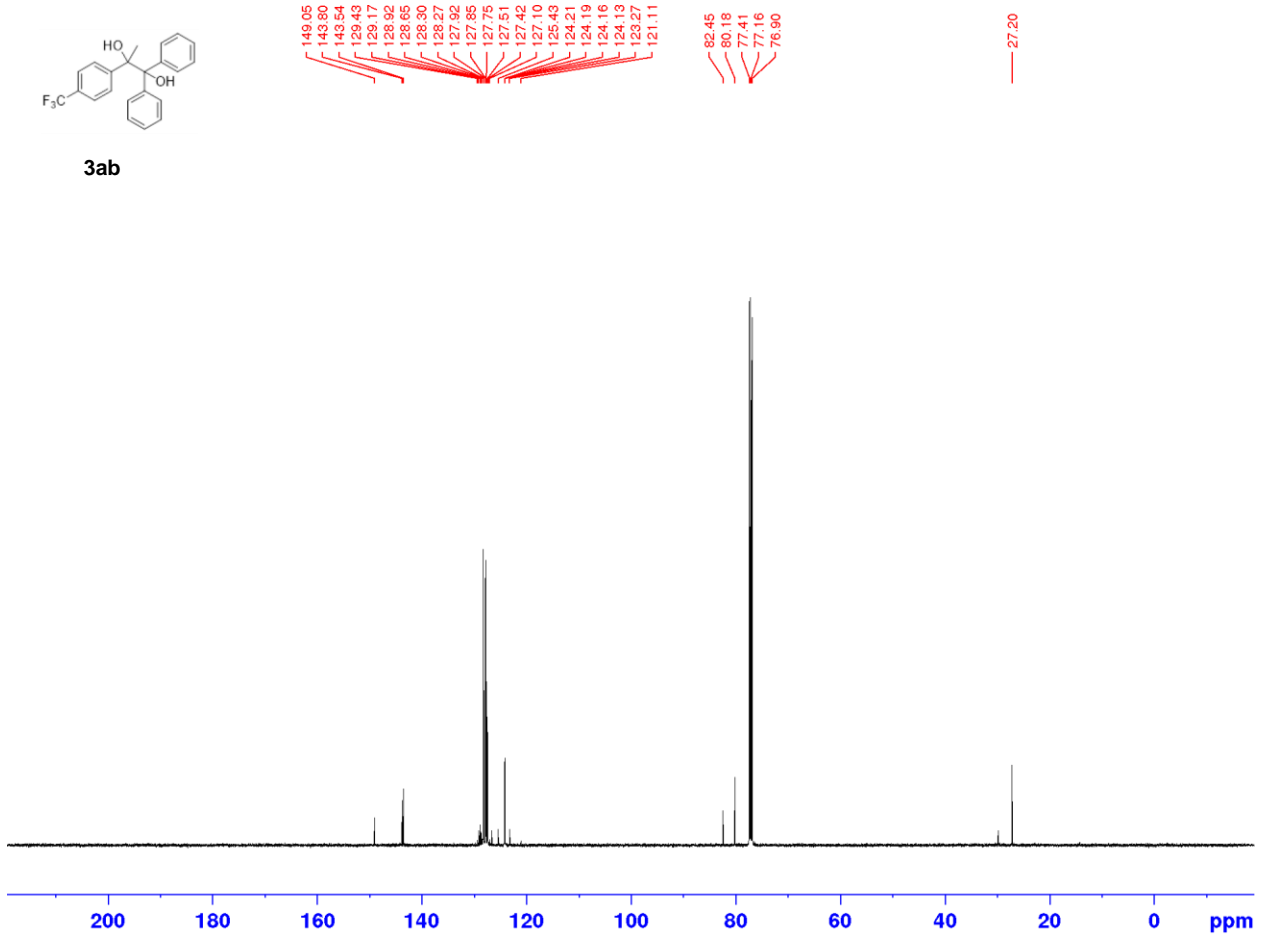


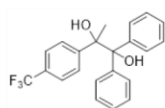
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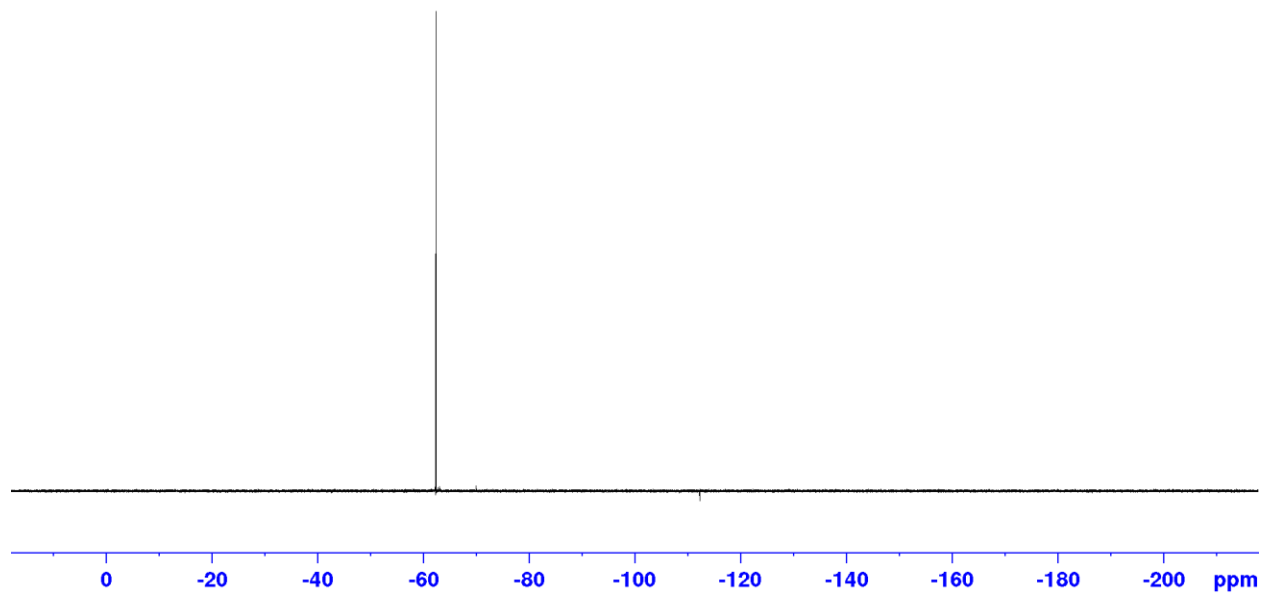
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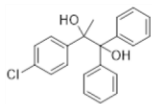




3ab

-62.41



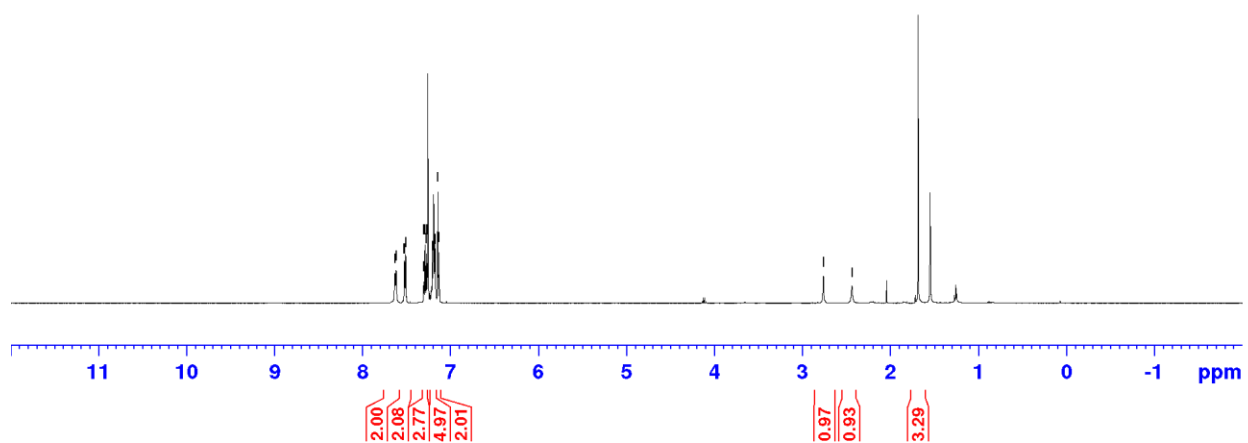


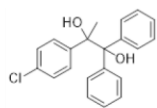
3ac

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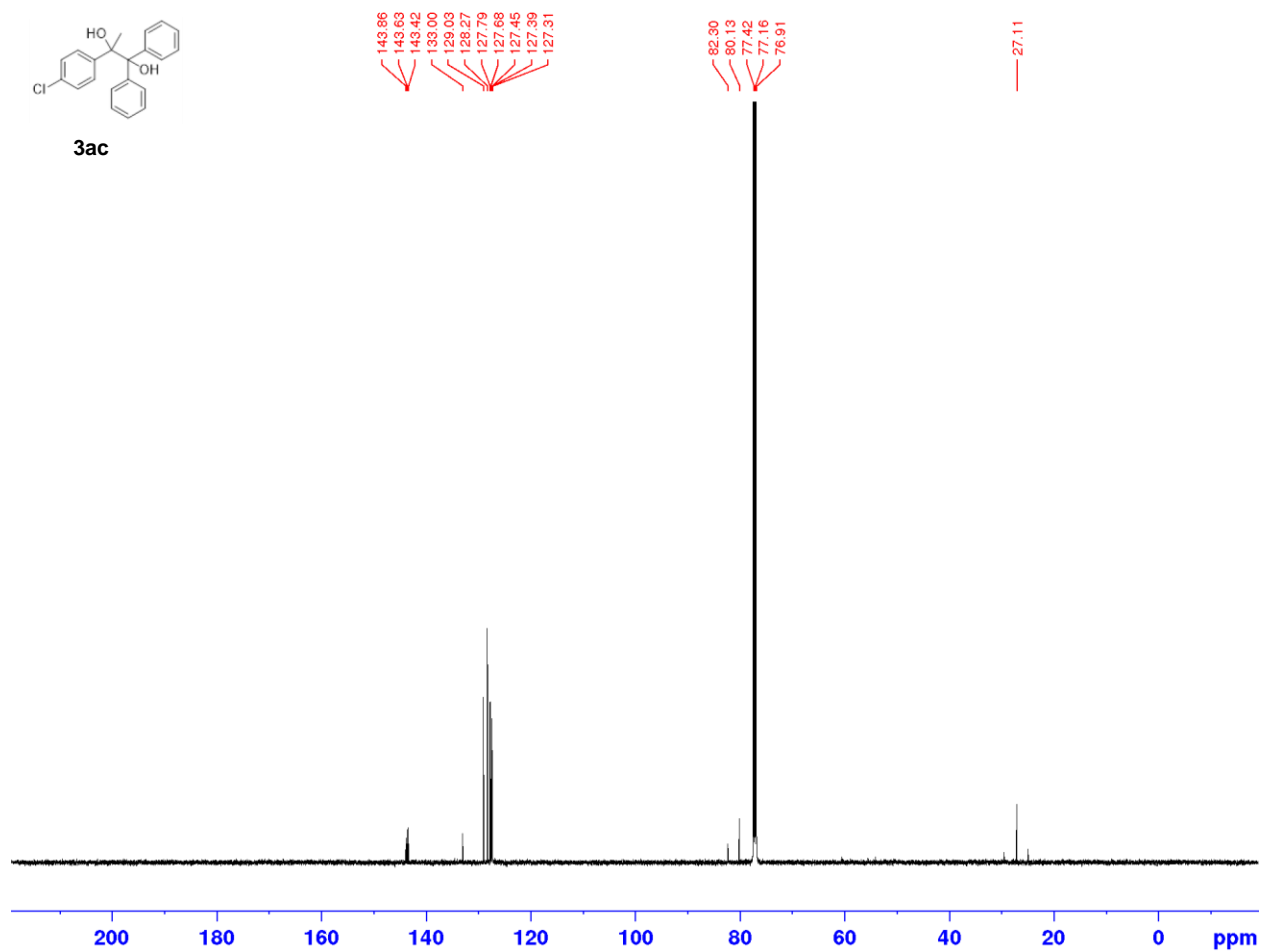
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— 2.440

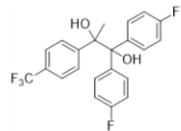
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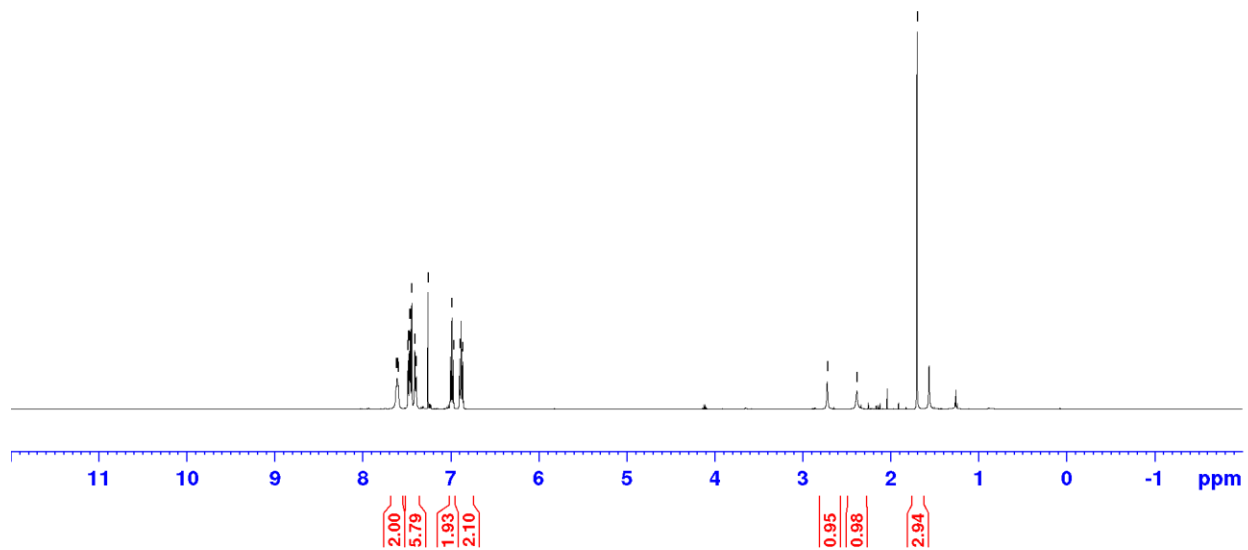
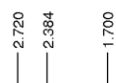
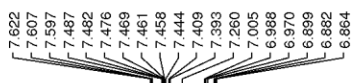


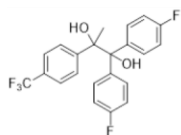
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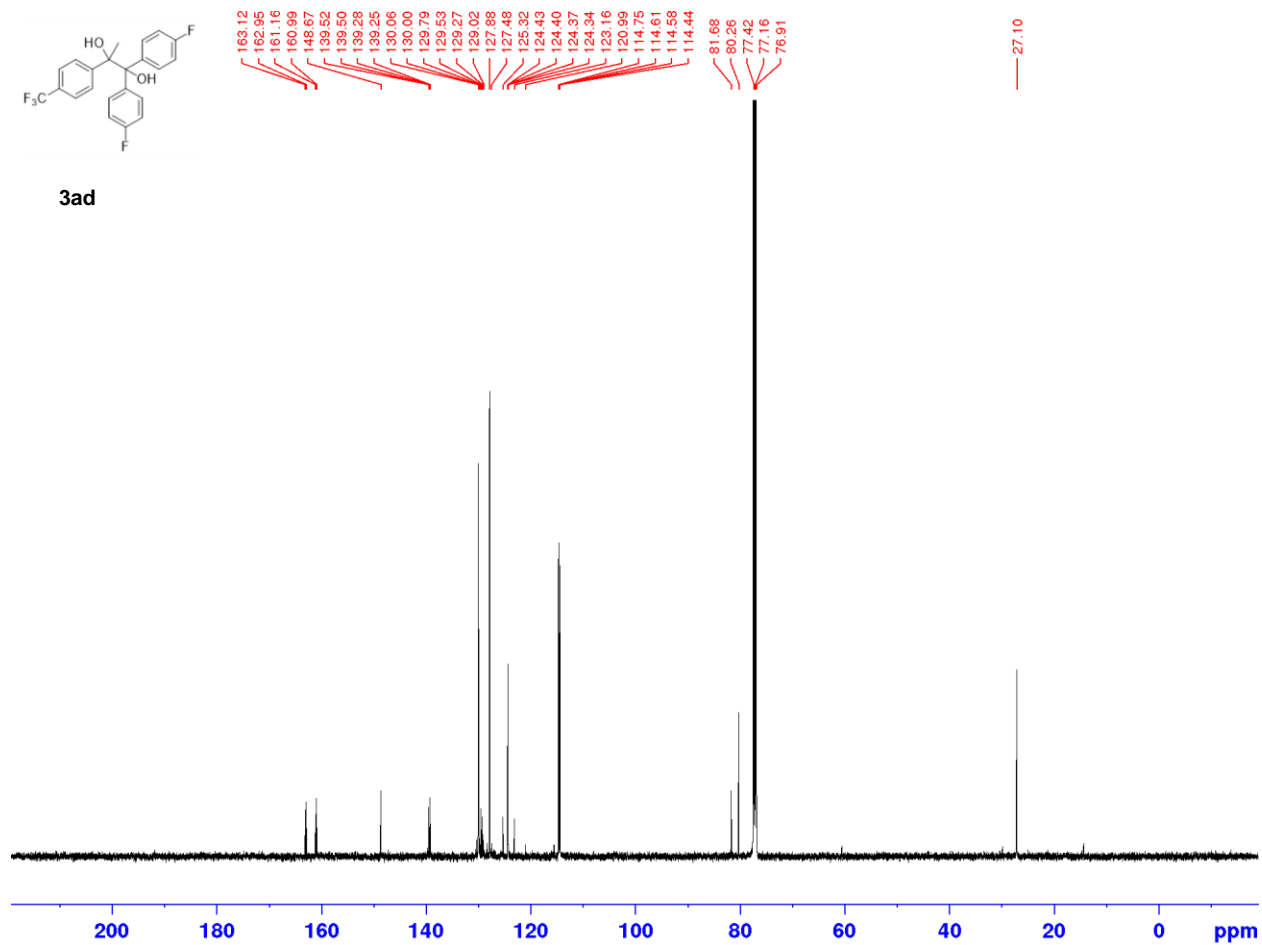


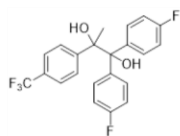
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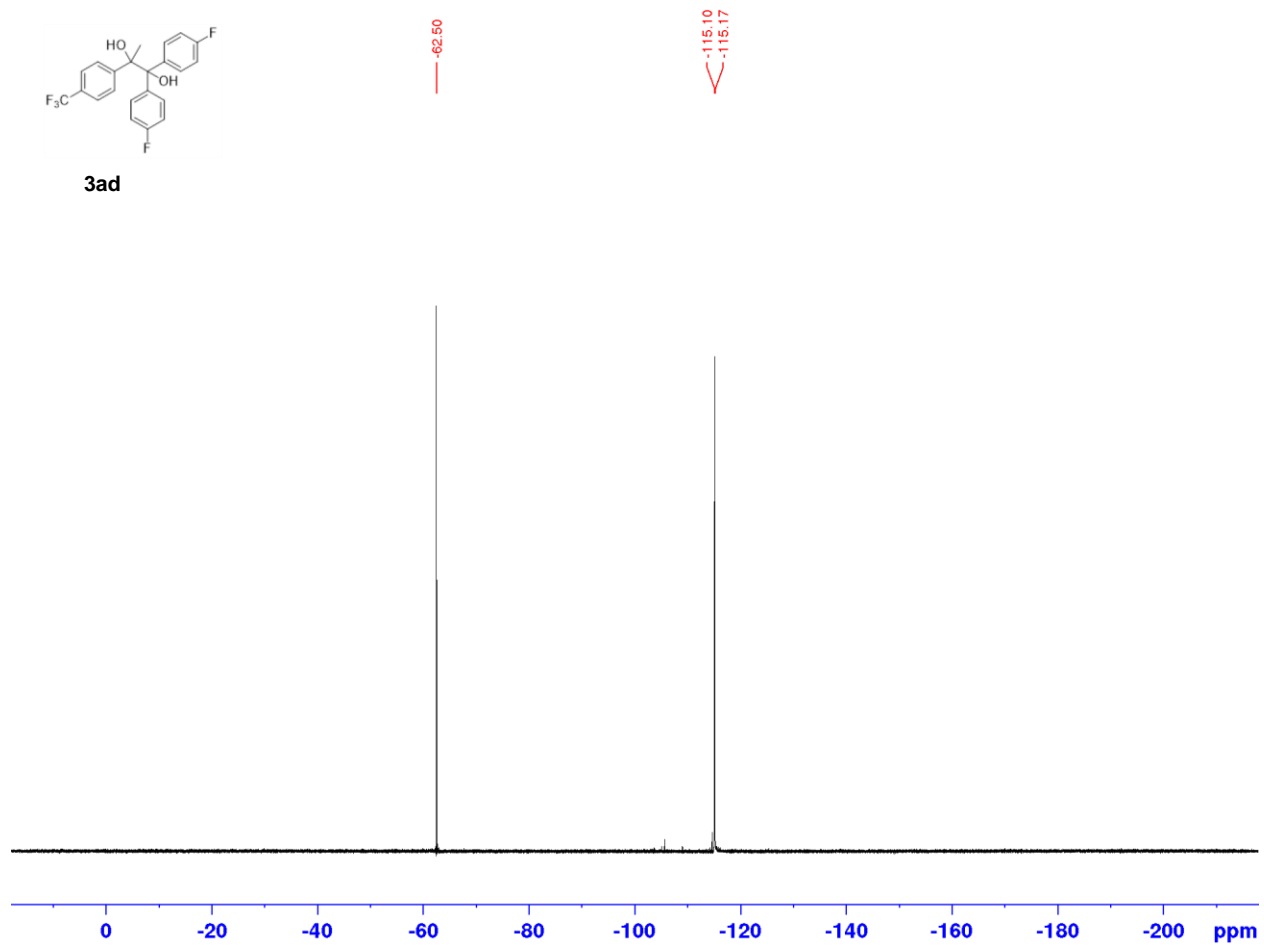


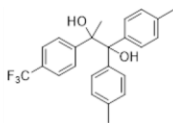
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3ad

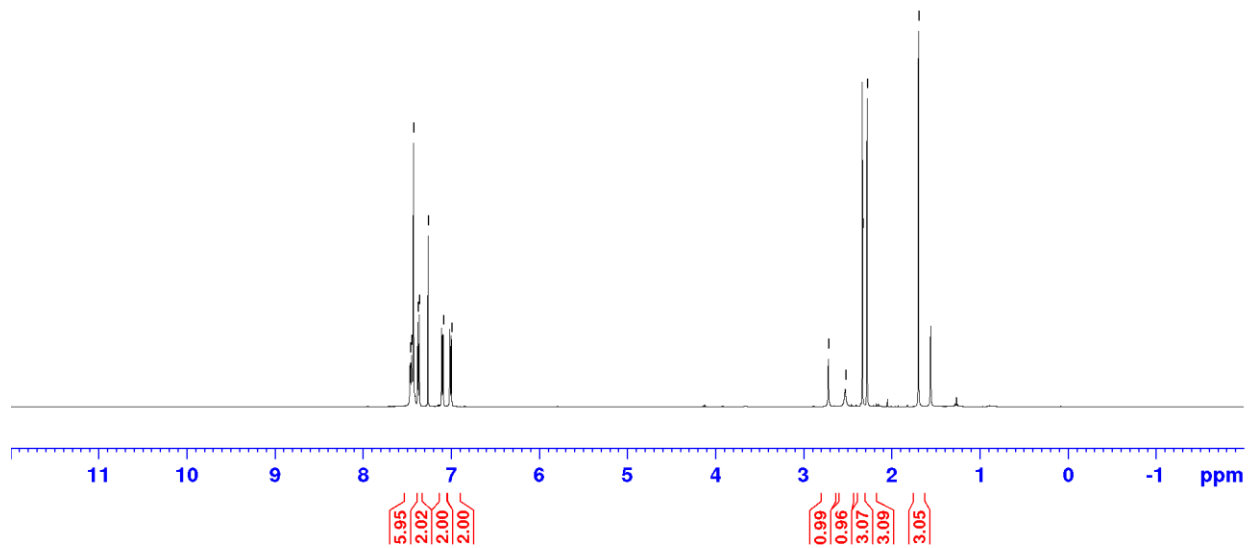


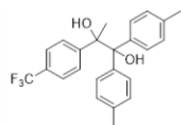


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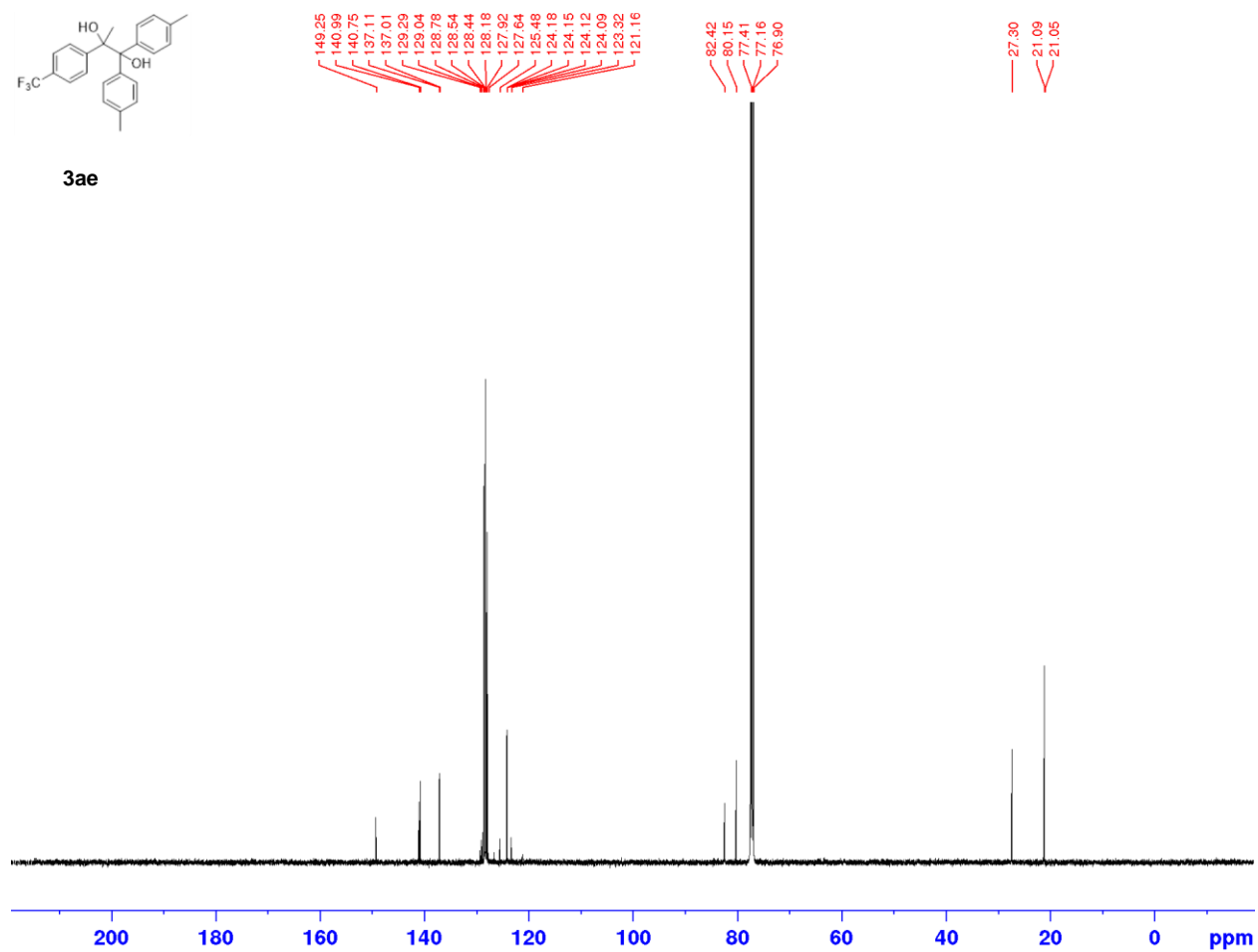
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7.445
7.425
7.375
7.358
7.260
7.105
7.088
7.012
6.995

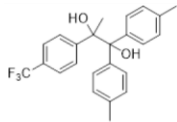
2.715
2.524
2.330
2.276
1.693



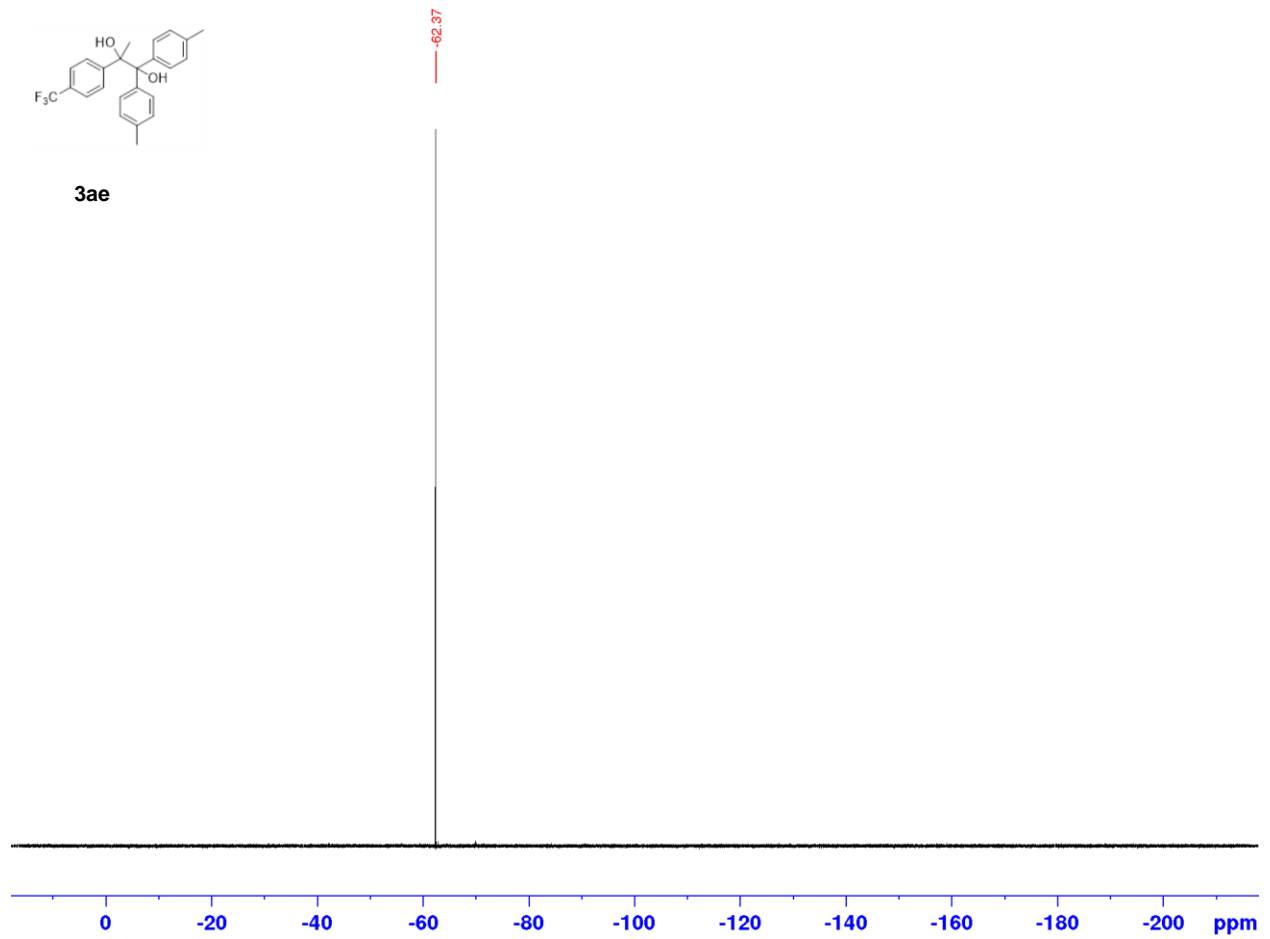


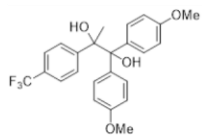
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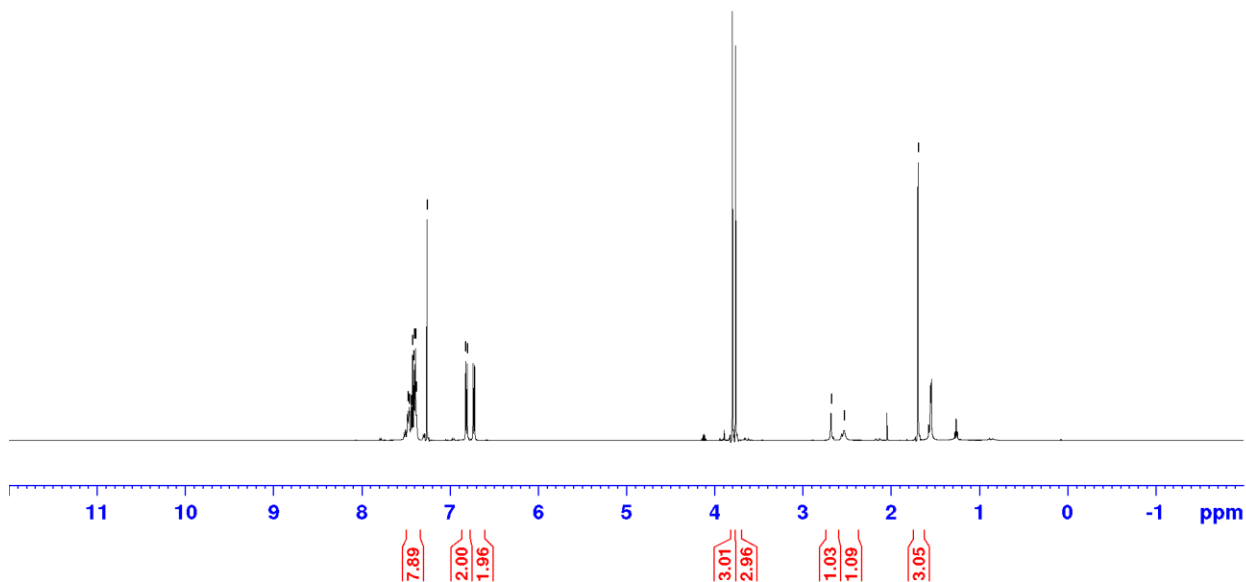
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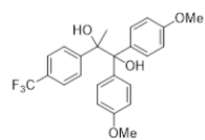
7.479
7.461
7.440
7.423
7.414
7.407
7.403
7.393
7.389
7.383
7.379
7.260
6.821
6.803
6.739
6.721

3.798
3.761

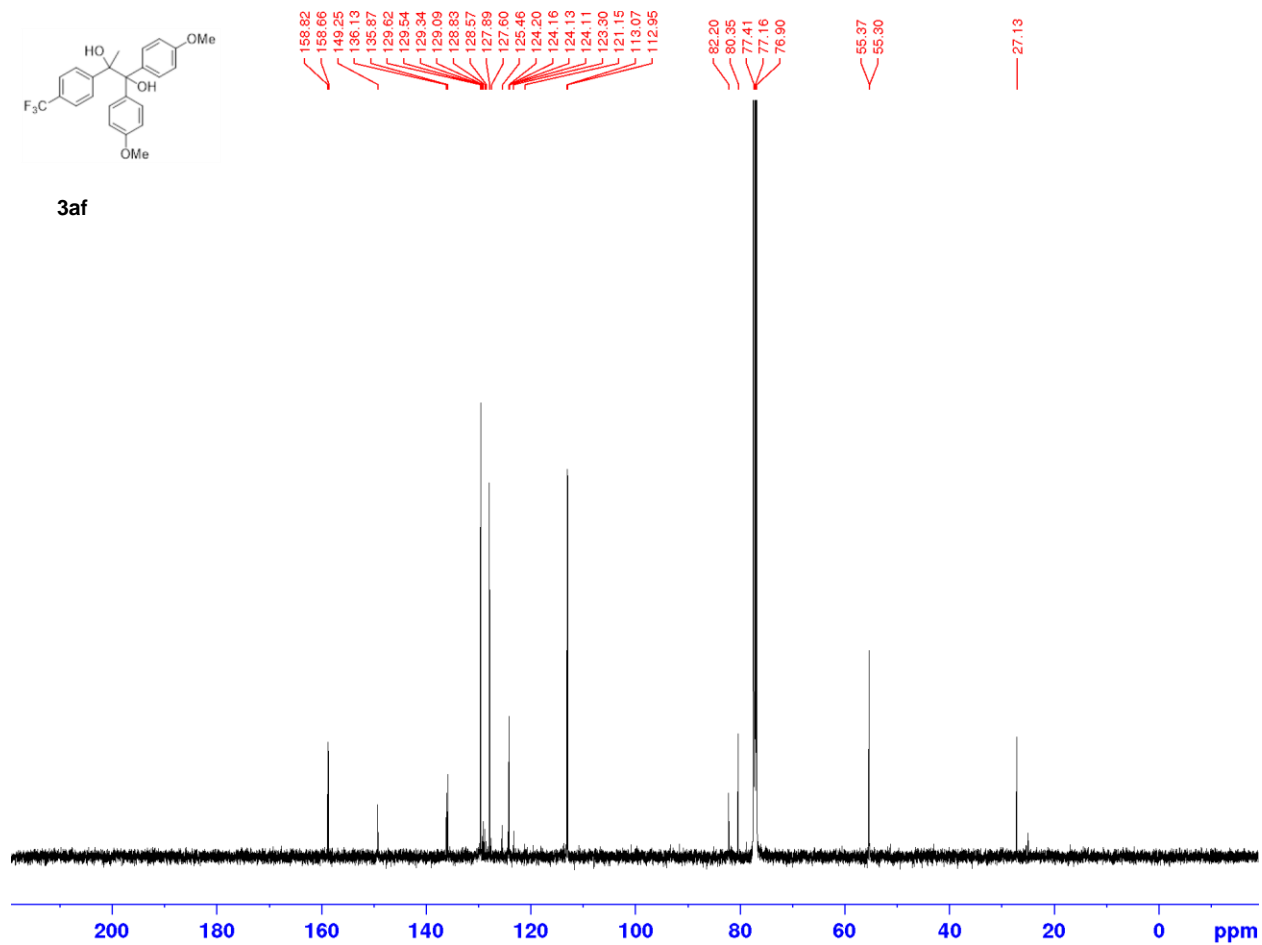
2.680
2.530

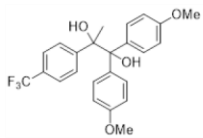
1.693





3af





3af

