

## Chiral *N*-heterocyclic carbene ligands for asymmetric oxindole synthesis

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### General.

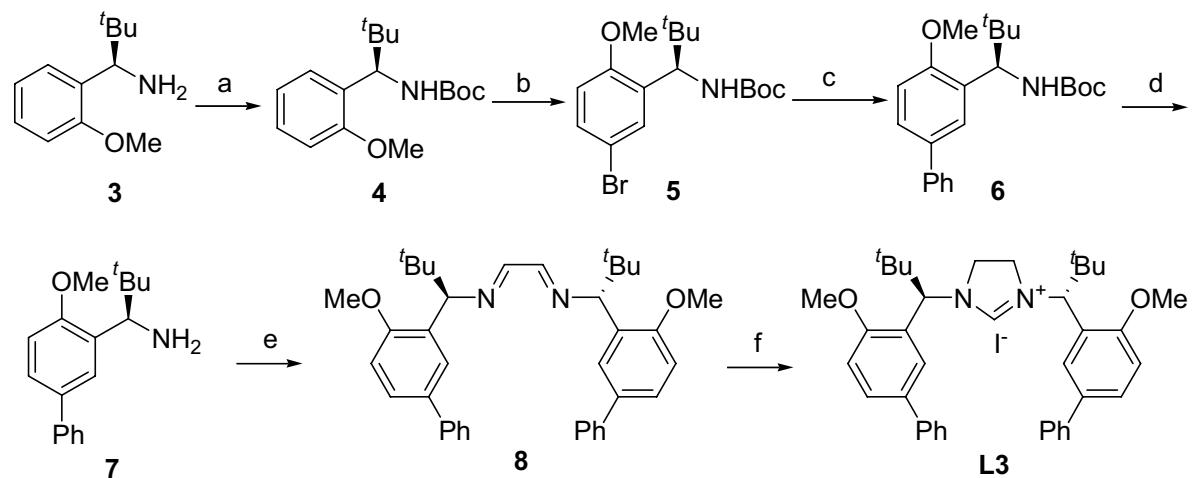
Solvents were purified by filtration on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> drying columns using a Solvtek system or by distillation over Na and benzophenone. Reactions and manipulations involving organometallic or moisture sensitive compounds were carried out under dry nitrogen and glassware heated under vacuum prior to use. Analytical HPLC was performed using an

Agilent 1100 series chromatograph with a JASCO PU-980 pump and Agilent 1100 Series detection system.

<sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX-500, AMX-400 or AMX-300 FT spectrometers using an internal deuterium lock. Chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (ppm) downfield of tetramethylsilane. Coupling constants *J* are quoted in Hz. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer Spectrum One spectrophotometer. Electron impact (EI) mass spectra were obtained using Varian CH-4 or SM-1 instruments operating at 40–70eV. Electrospray ionization (ESI) HRMS analyses were measured on a VG analytical 7070E instrument. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin Elmer 241 polarimeter using a quartz cell (*l* = 10 cm) with a Na high-pressure lamp ( $\lambda$  = 589 nm). Melting points were determined on a Büchi 510 instrument and are uncorrected.

Ligands **L1**, **L2** and chiral amine (*R*)-**3** were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>1</sup>

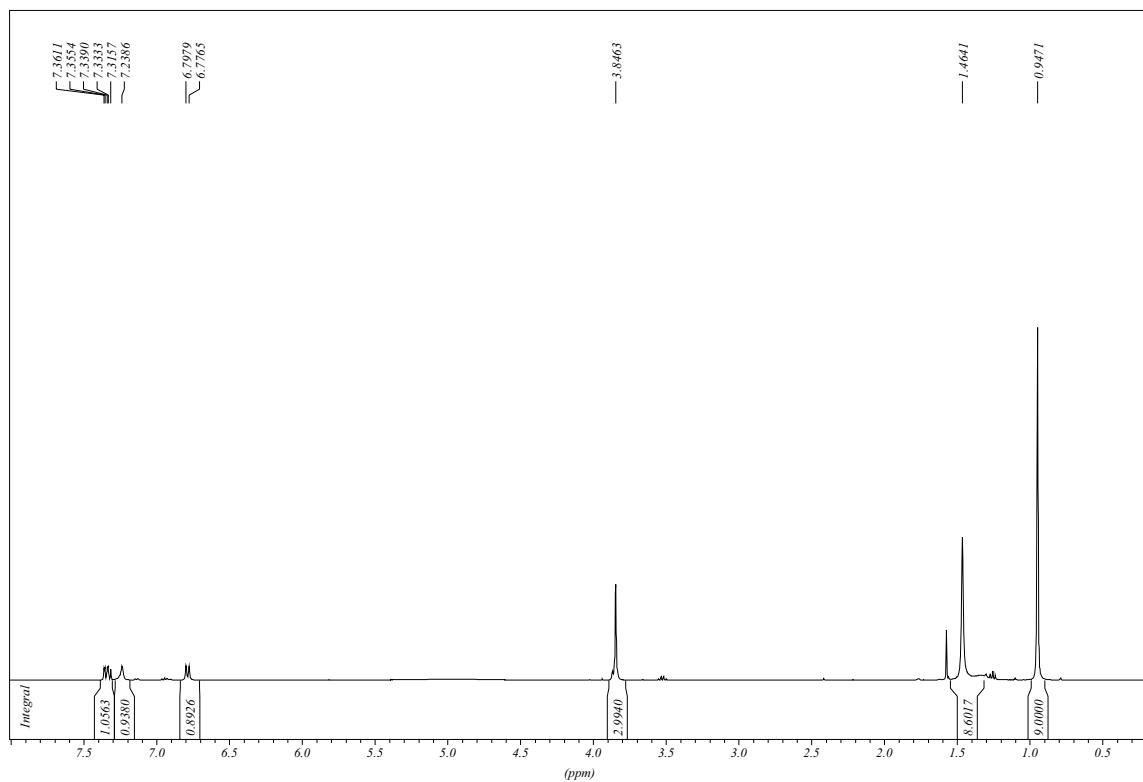
### 1. Synthesis of the chiral carbene ligand precursor:



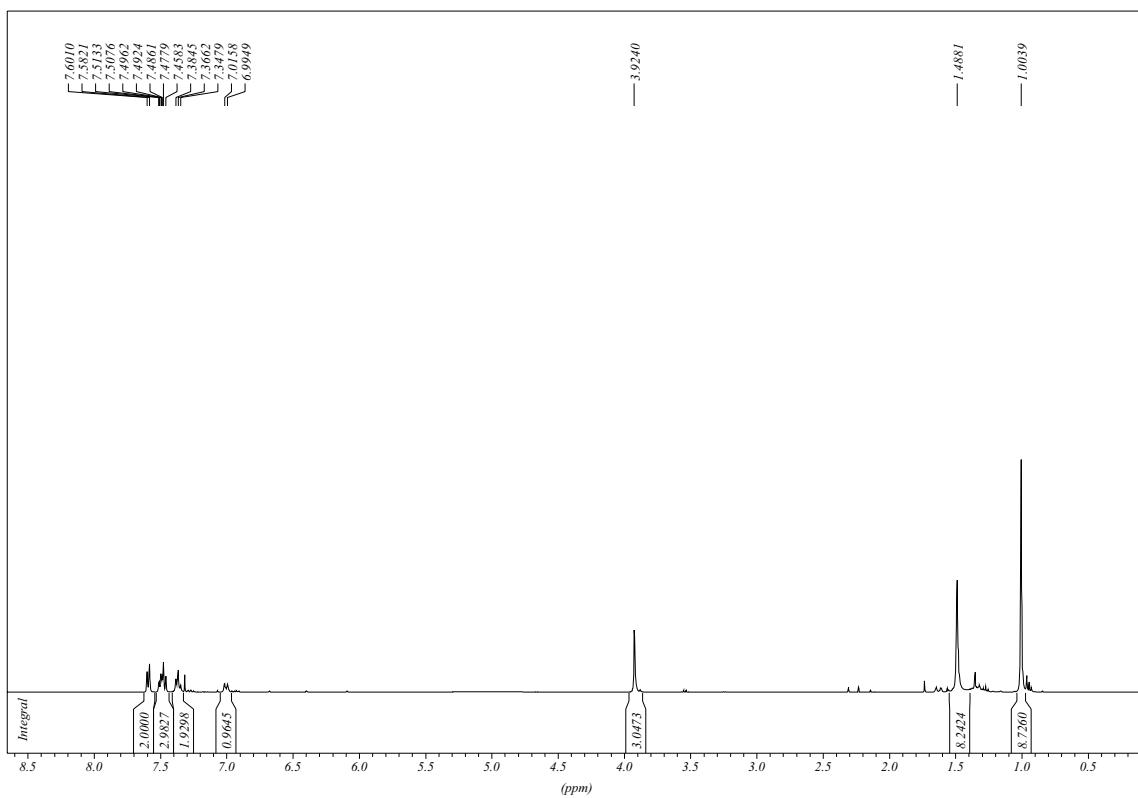
**(R)-tert-butyl-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethylpropylcarbamate (4).** To a solution of (*R*)-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethylpropan-1-amine (**3**) (1.32 g, 6.83 mmol) and

triethylamine (2.1 mL, 14.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (40 mL) was added di-*tert*butyl dicarbonate (3.2 g, 98%, 14.3 mmol) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane and the combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated in *vacuo* to give **4**. The crude product was used without any further purification.

**(R)-1-(5-bromo-2-methoxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethylpropan-1-amine (5).** To a solution of **4** (14.6 mmol) in acetone (30 mL) and 1 N HCl (0.74 mL) was added *N*-bromosuccinimide (1.28 g, 95%, 6.83 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Hexane (40 mL) was added, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and the precipitate formed was removed by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated in *vacuo* to give the crude product **5** as a glassy solid (2.31 g, 91% over two steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.94 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H).



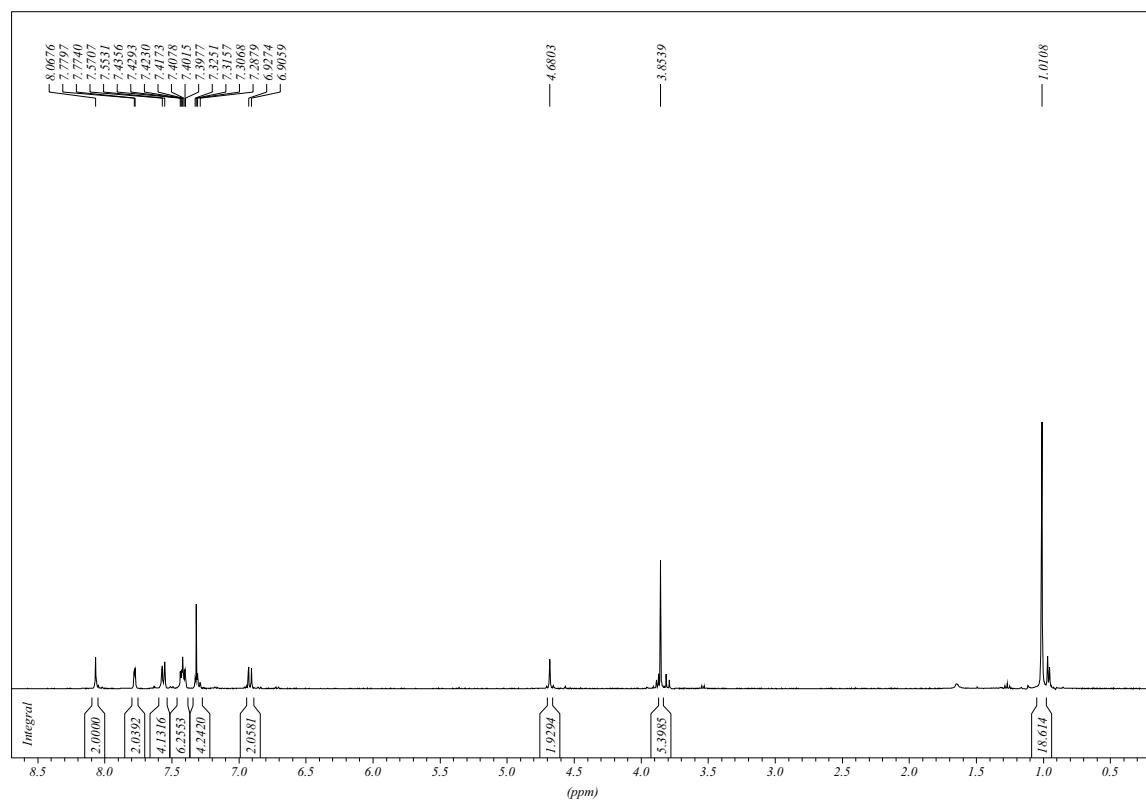
**Compound 6.** A dried Schlenk tube was charged with  $[P^tBu_3H][BF_4]$  (78 mg, 0.269 mmol),  $Pd(dbu)_2$  (78 mg, 0.136 mmol),  $^tBuONa$  (30 mg, 0.312 mmol) and 5 mL DME under  $N_2$ . The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. Then  $K_2CO_3$  (2.8g, 20.3 mmol),  $PhB(OH)_2$  (2.4 g, 19.7 mmol), and **6** (2.12 g, 5.7 mmol) (in 20 mL DME and 25 mL degassed water) were added. The stirred mixture was then heated to 80 °C for 36 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, quenched with sat. aq.  $NaHCO_3$  and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organics were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in *vacuo*. The resultant oil was purified by column chromatography to yield **6** (2.17g, 5.48 mmol, 96%) as a yellow glassy solid.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.0 (s, 9H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 7.0 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J$  = 7.3, 2H), 7.45-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

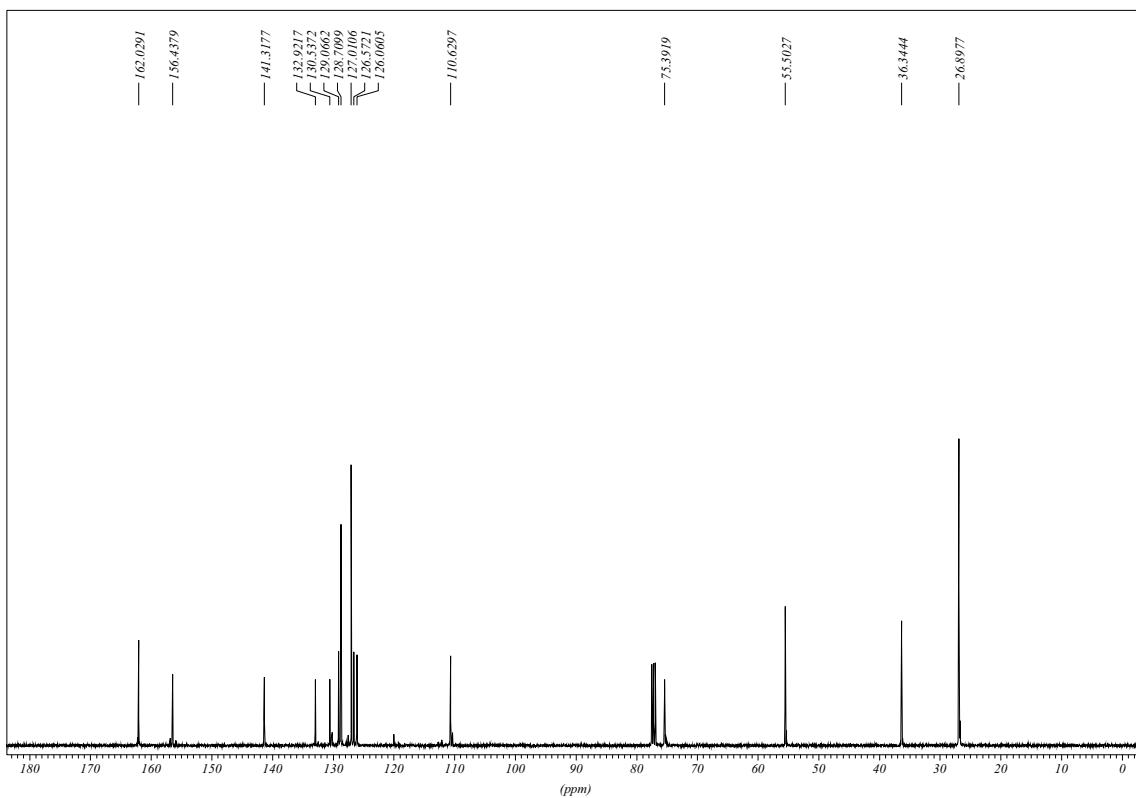


**Compound 7.** To a solution of **6** (2.1 g, 5.69 mmol) in water (1.4 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (25 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with saturated sodium bicarbonate, the aqueous

layer extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic layers were dried, filtered and concentrated in *vacuo* to give **7** (1.41 g, 92%), which was used without any further purification.

**Compound 8.** Aq. glyoxal (40%) (300  $\mu$ L, 2.6 mmol) was introduced into dichloromethane (15 mL) and vigorously stirred with freshly dehydrated sodium sulfate (6.0 g). After the addition of formic acid (98%) (13  $\mu$ L, 7 mol%) and **7** (1.4 g, 5.2 mmol), the mixture was allowed to stir for overnight at room temperature. The mixture was then filtered, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography to yield **8** (1.03g, 71%) as a pale-brown solid.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +291.6$  ( $c = 1.0$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.01 (s, 18H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 8.07 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  26.9, 36.3, 55.5, 75.3, 110.6, 126.0, 126.5, 127.0, 128.7, 129.0, 130.5, 132.9, 141.3, 156.4, 162.0.

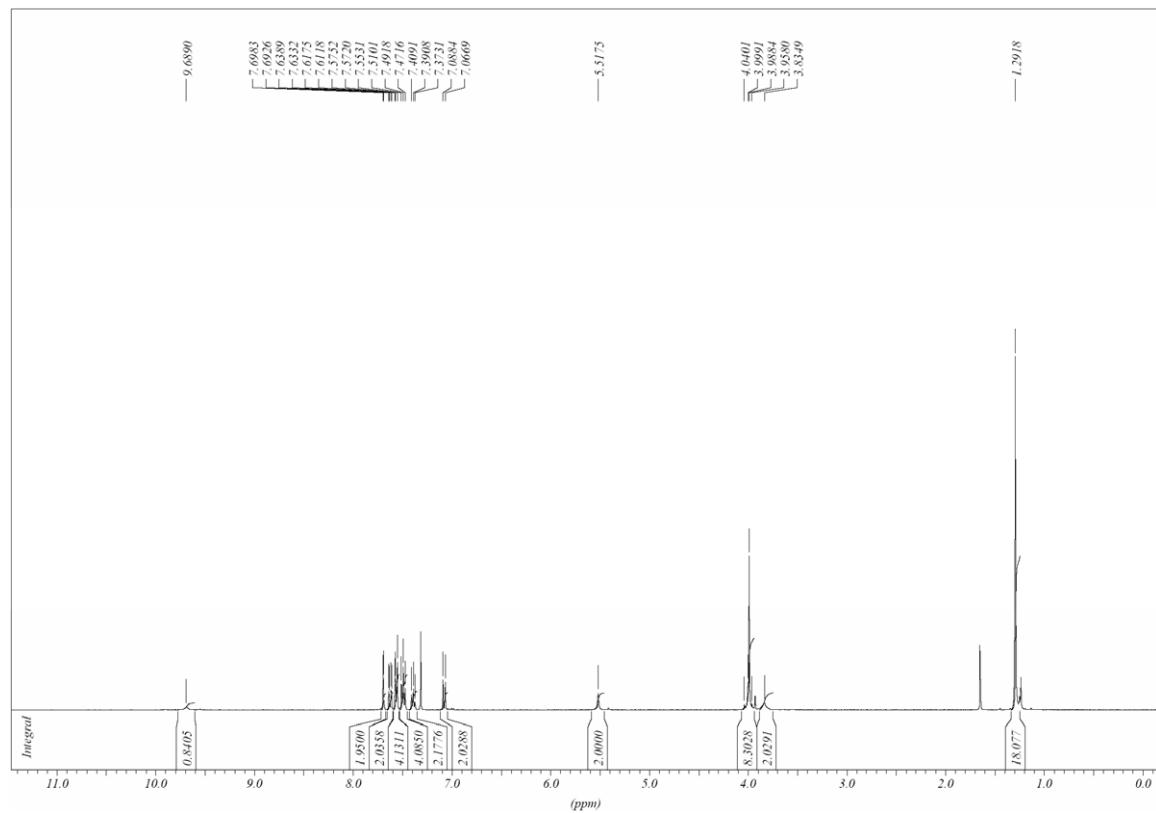


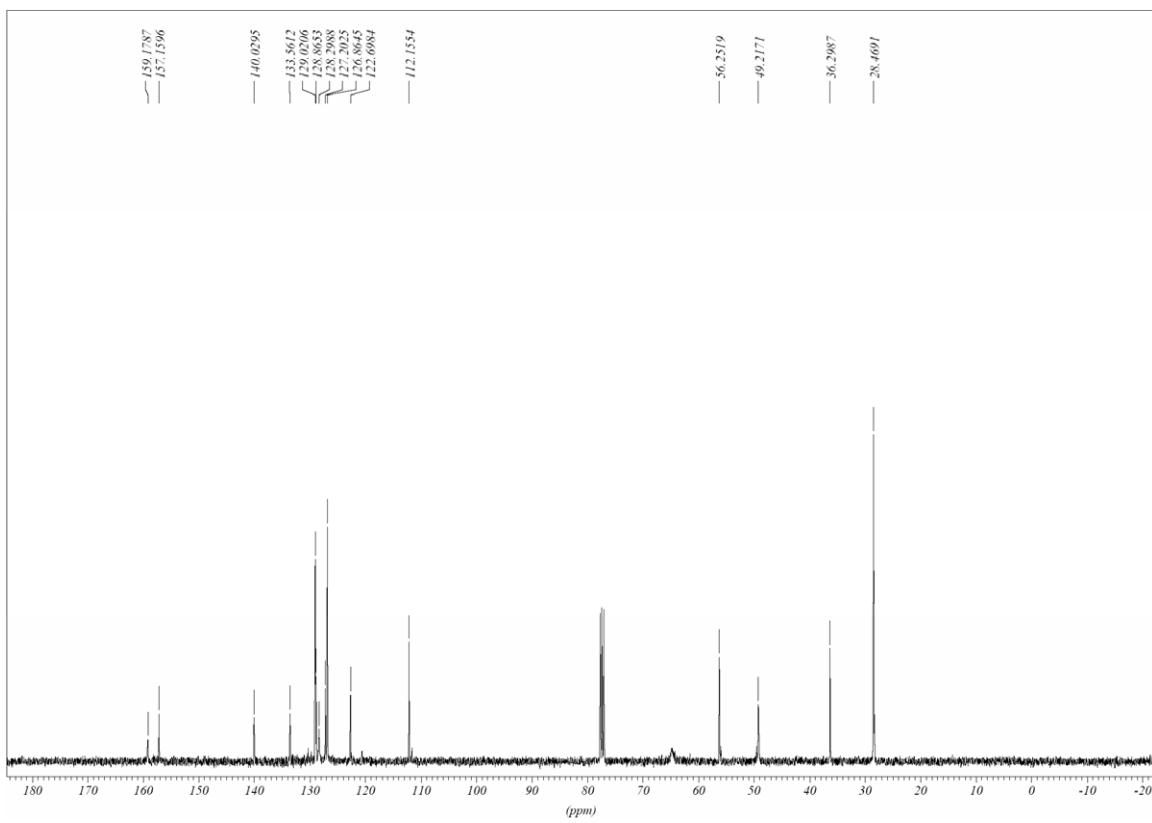


### Carbene ligand precursor L3.

To a solution of **8** (340 mg, 0.61 mmol) in methanol (18 mL) was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (461 mg, 12.1 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was then filtered through a short pad of silica gel, the pad washed with ether, and volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to give a pale-yellow oil (334 mg). This was taken up in HC(OEt)<sub>3</sub> (3mL), NH<sub>4</sub>BF<sub>4</sub> (65 mg, 0.61 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated to 125 °C for 12 hours. The excess of HC(OEt)<sub>3</sub> was removed under vacuum. The residual oil was dissolved in 6 mL acetone and NaI (887 mg, 6.1 mmol) was added. After stirring overnight, acetone was removed in vacuo and the resultant solid was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solution was filtered and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After removal of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the residue was dissolved in 6 mL of acetone, treated with NaI (436 mg, 3 mmol) and stirred overnight. Solvent removal followed by flash chromatography (Ether/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 1/1) afforded **L3** (378 mg, 88%) as pale-yellow solid. [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = +125.8 (*c* = 0.5 in acetone). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.29 (s, 18H), 3.83 (t,

$J = 16.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 6H), 3.99 (t,  $J = 16.4$  Hz, 2H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 4H), 7.56 (dd,  $J = 1.3, 7.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.62 (dd,  $J = 2.3, 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 2H), 9.69 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  28.4, 36.2, 49.2, 56.2, 112.1, 122.6, 126.8, 127.2, 128.2, 128.8, 129.0, 133.5, 140.0, 157.1, 159.1.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2961, 2186, 1620, 1542, 1509, 1486, 1462, 1400, 1369; HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI+) calculated for  $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  ([M-I] $^+$ ): 575.3632, found: 575.3652.

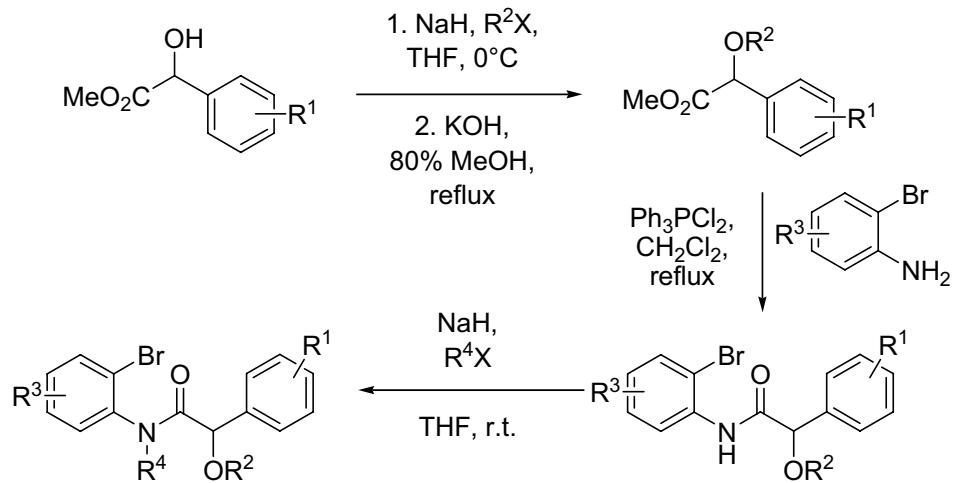




## 2 Synthesis of the substrates:

Substrates **1a**, **1f**, **1g**, **1j** and **1k** were synthesized according to general procedure **A**. **1b-e**, **1h** and **1i** were synthesized according to general procedure **B**. **1l-o** were prepared as detailed in general procedure **C**.

### General Procedure A:

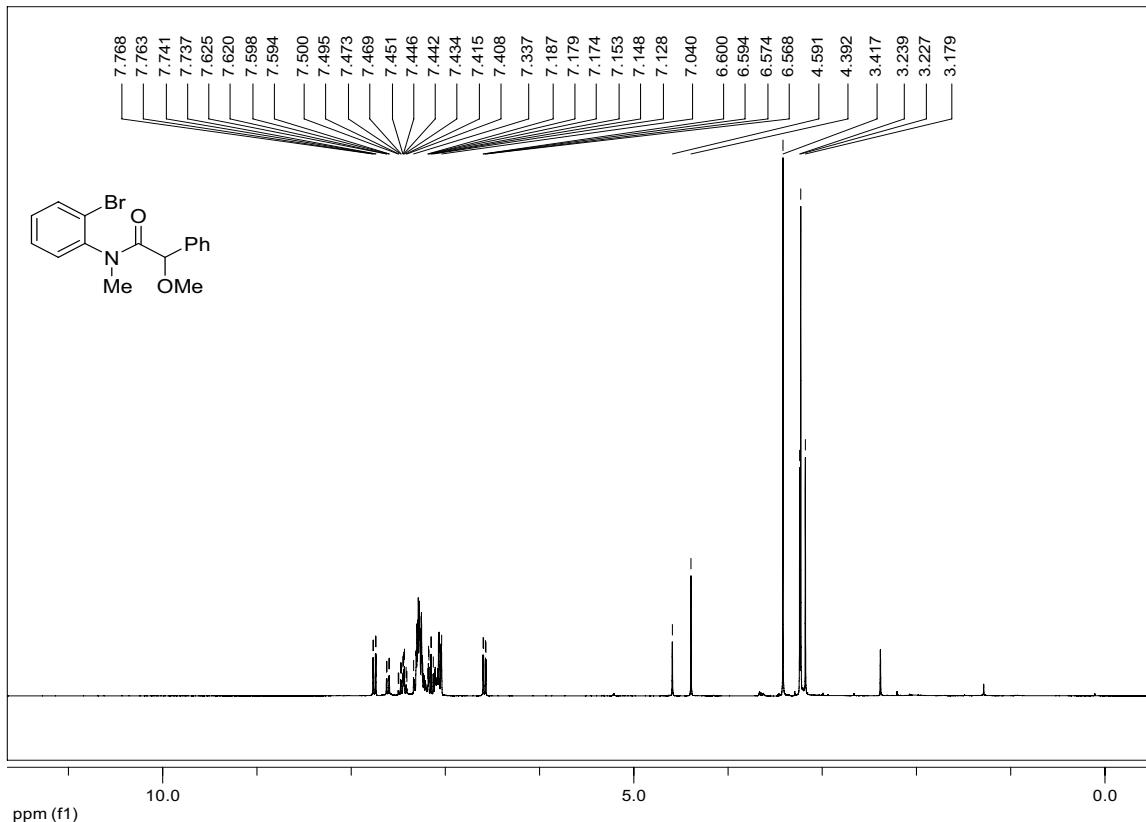


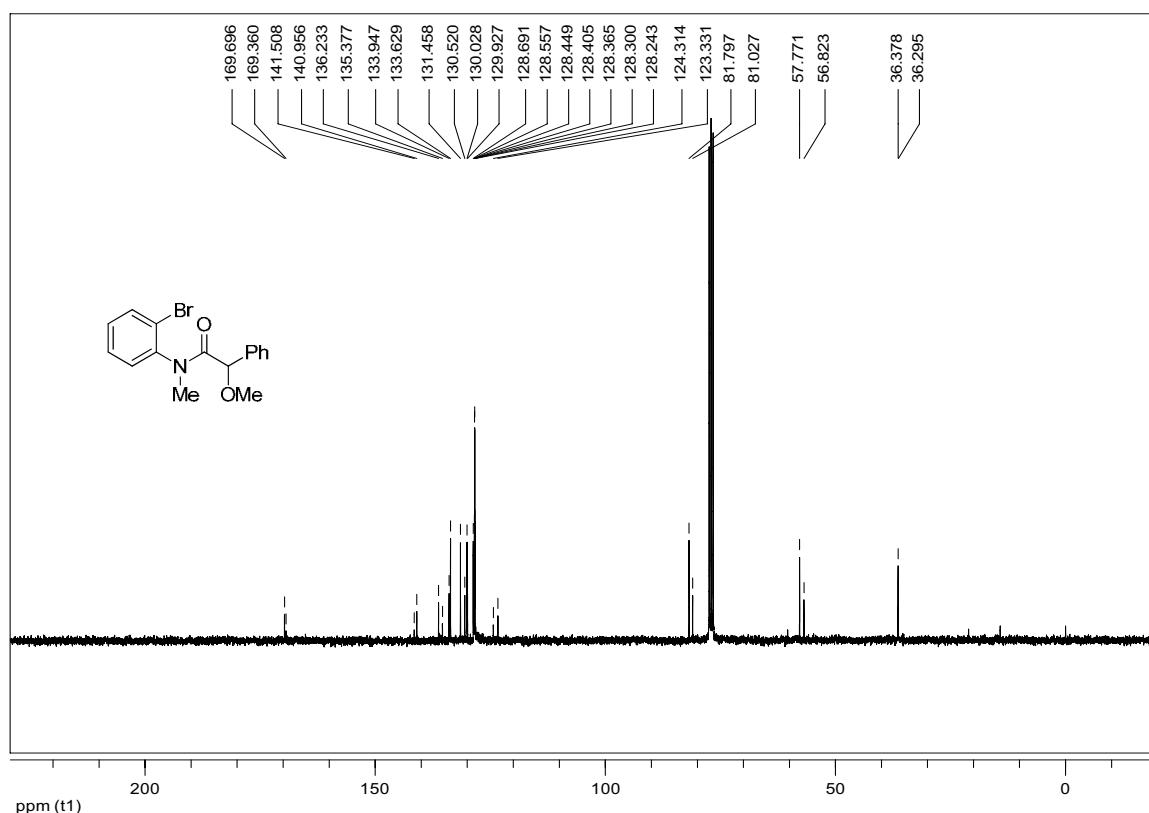
Individual details of the syntheses are not given. Commercial mandelic acids were protected as the methyl esters according to Carboni *et al.*<sup>2</sup> and subsequently *O*-alkylated and deprotected as described by Greenberg *et al* and Khumtaveeporn *et al.*<sup>3</sup> The anilide coupling was facilitated by the method of Azumaya *et al.*<sup>4</sup> and the anilides *N*-methylated according to Hartwig and Lee.<sup>5</sup>

### **N**-(2-Bromophenyl)-**N**-methyl-2-phenyl-2-methoxyacetamide (**1a**)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.19 (s, 0.9H), 3.23 (s, 2.1H), 3.25 (s, 0.9H), 3.42 (s, 2.1H), 4.40 (s, 0.7H), 4.60 (s, 0.3H), 6.59 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.05-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 1.5, 7.7 Hz, 0.7H), 7.19-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 7.8 Hz, 0.3H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 1.5, 7.7 Hz, 0.3H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 0.3H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 0.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 36.3, 36.4, 56.8, 57.8, 81.1, 81.8, 123.4, 124.3, 128.2, 128.30, 128.37, 128.41, 128.45, 128.56, 128.58, 128.7, 130.0, 130.1, 130.6, 131.5, 133.7, 134.0, 135.4, 136.3, 141.0, 141.5, 169.4, 169.7.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2926, 1676, 1477,

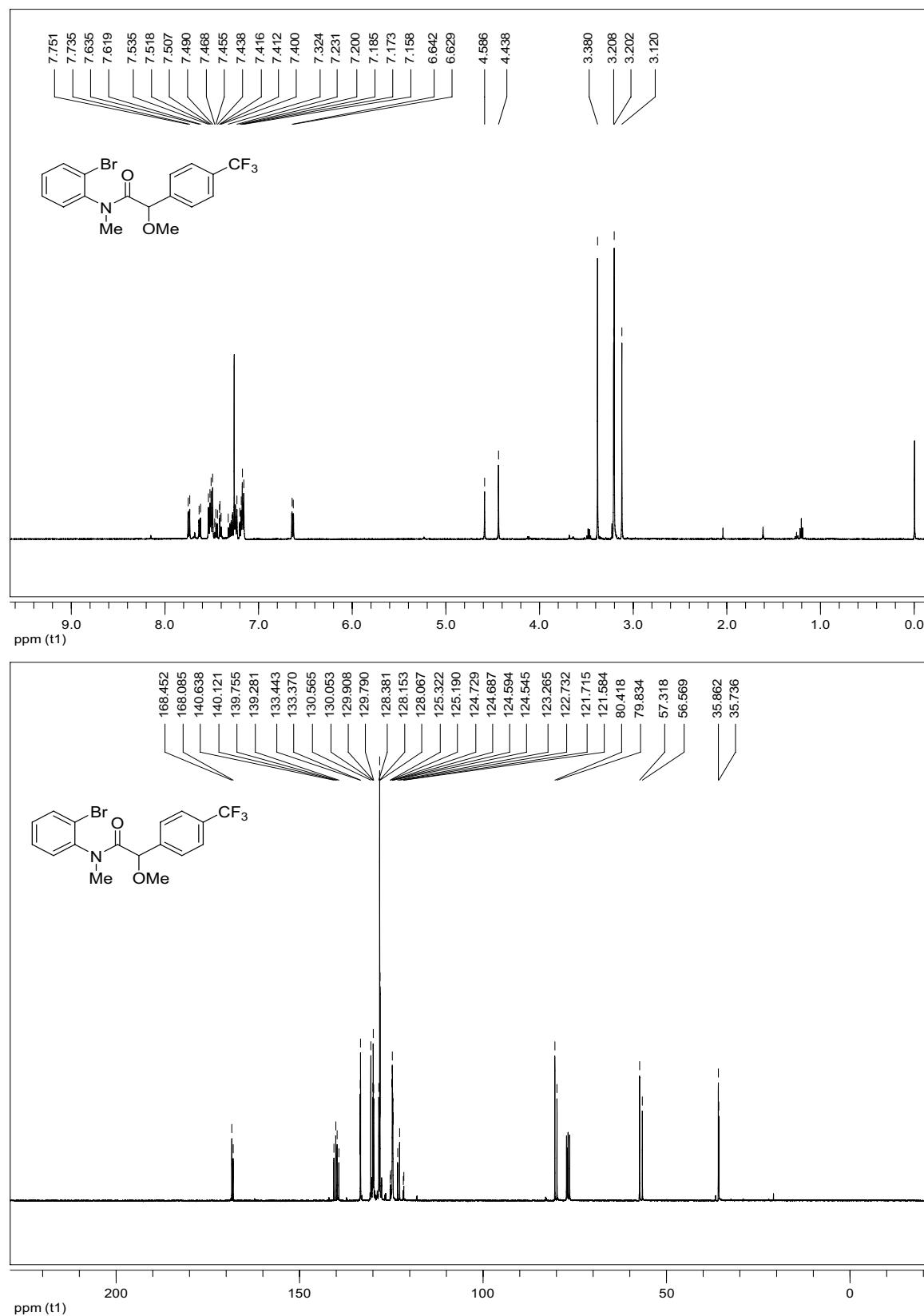
1454, 1379, 1103; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub><sup>81</sup>BrNO<sub>2</sub>Na ([M(<sup>81</sup>Br)+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 358.0237, Found: 358.0221.





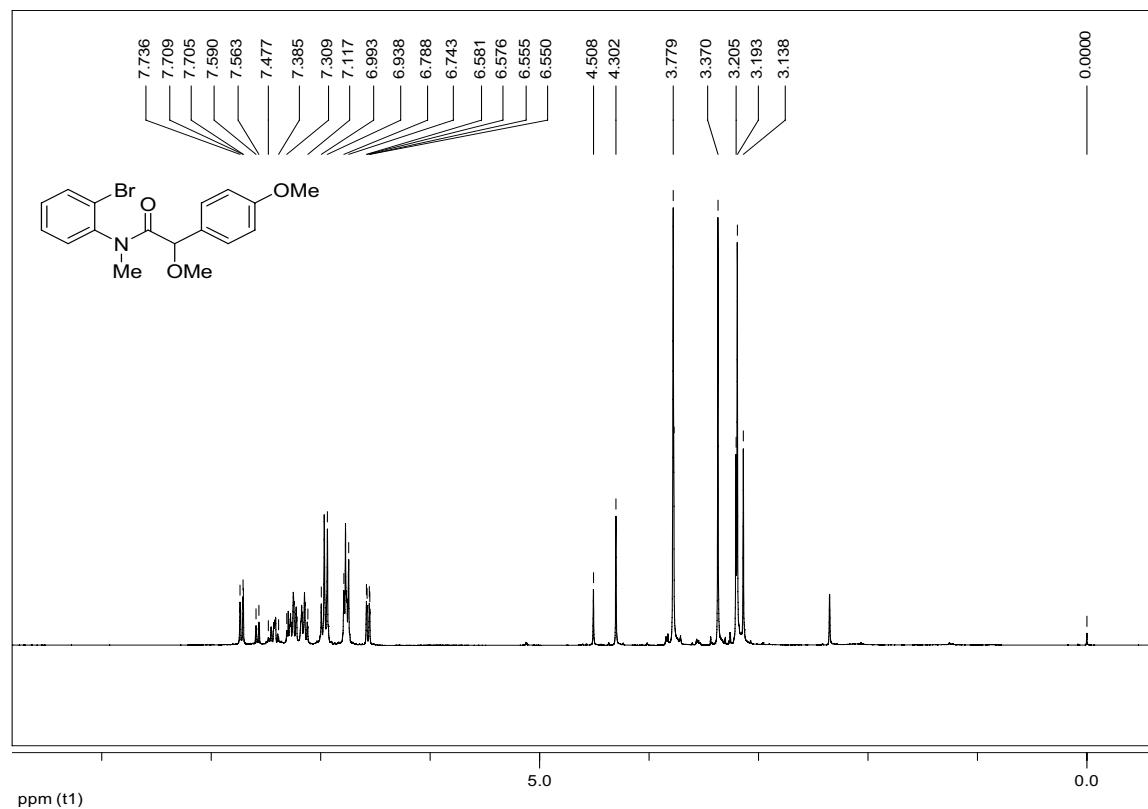
**N-(2-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-2-methoxy-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetamide (1f)**

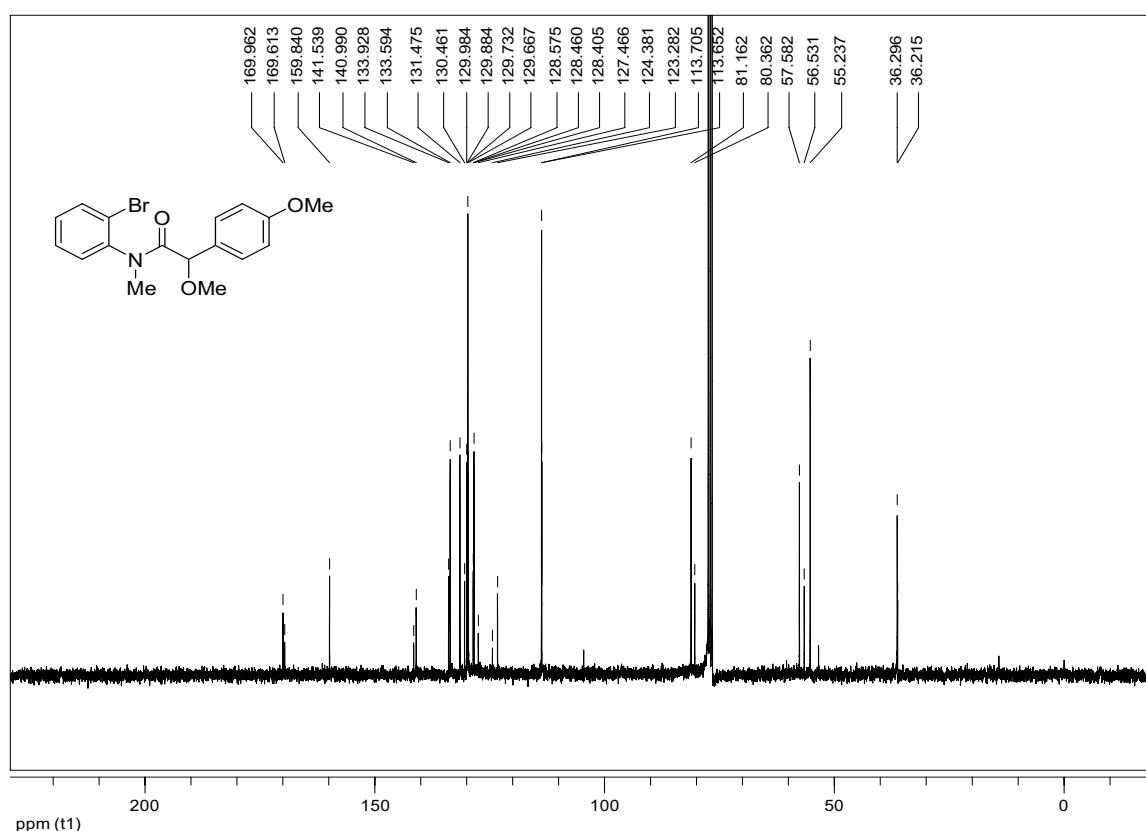
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.13 (s, 0.9H), 3.21 (s, 2.1H), 3.21 (s, 0.9H), 3.39 (s, 2.1H), 4.44 (s, 0.7H), 4.59 (s, 0.3H), 6.64 (dd,  $J$  = 1.7, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.15-7.34 (m, 3.3H), 7.40-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (dd,  $J$  = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 0.3H), 7.75 (dd,  $J$  = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 0.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  36.6, 36.7, 57.5, 58.2, 80.7, 81.3, 123.6, 124.2, 124.3, 124.4, 125.5, 128.96, 129.05, 129.3, 130.7, 130.8, 130.9, 131.5, 134.27, 134.34, 140.9, 169.0, 169.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3063, 2989, 2933, 2826, 1682, 1619, 1584, 1477, 1326, 1165, 1124; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>-</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>): 400.0165, Found: 400.0179.



**N-(2-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-2-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (1g)**

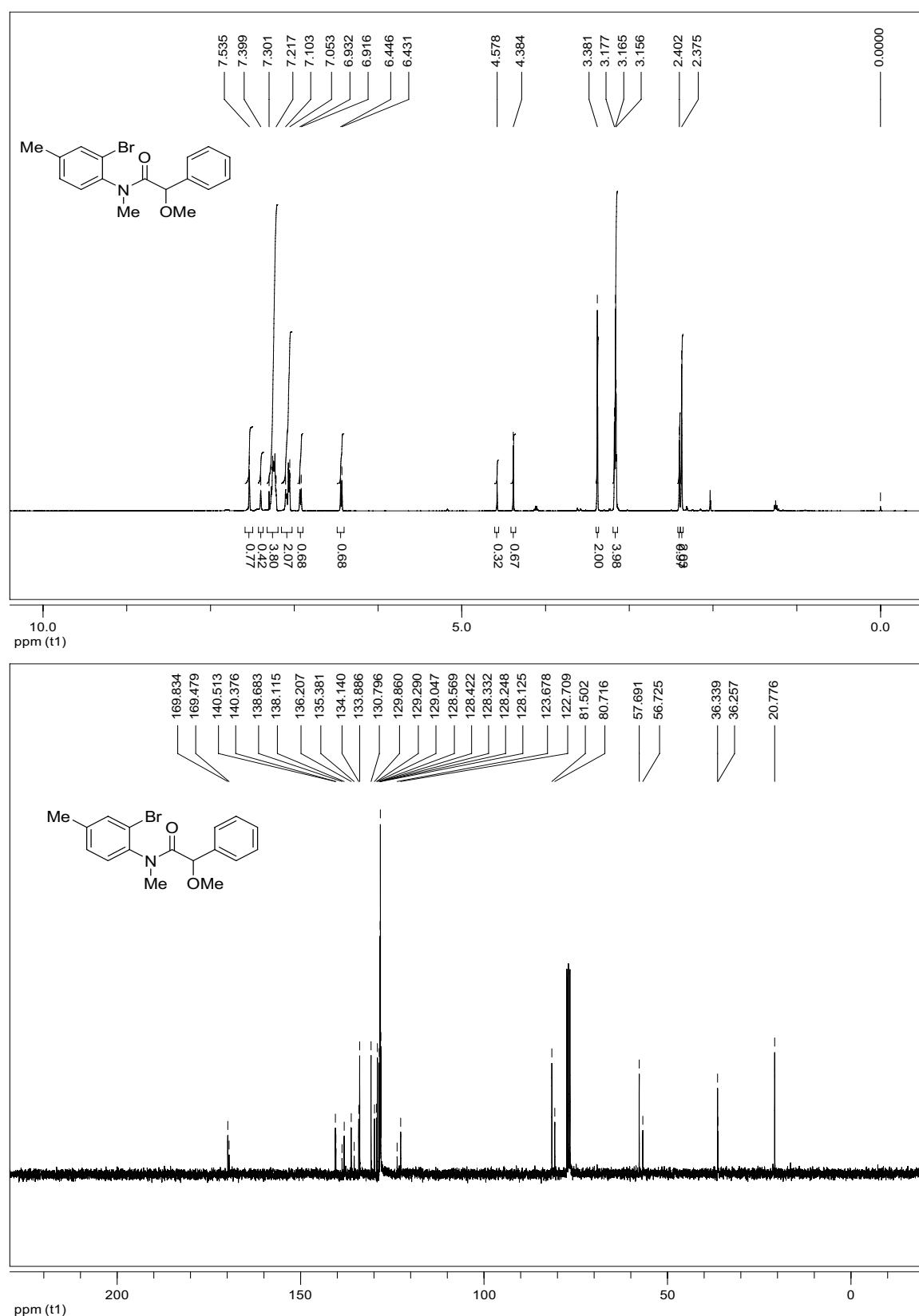
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.14 (s, 0.9H), 3.20 (s, 2.1H), 3.21 (s, 0.9H), 3.37 (s, 2.1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.30 (s, 0.7H), 4.50 (s, 0.3H), 6.56 (dd,  $J = 1.3, 7.7$  Hz, 0.7H), 6.74-6.79 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.99 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.31 (m, 1.6H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 0.7H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 0.3H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 0.7H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  36.2, 36.3, 55.3, 56.6, 57.6, 80.4, 81.2, 113.7, 113.8, 123.3, 124.4, 127.5, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 129.7, 129.9, 130.0, 130.5, 131.5, 133.6, 134.0, 141.0, 141.6, 159.9, 169.7, 170.0.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3061, 2934, 2835, 1675, 1512, 1476; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI $^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{Br NO}_3\text{Na } ([\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+)$ : 386.0362, found: 386.0365.





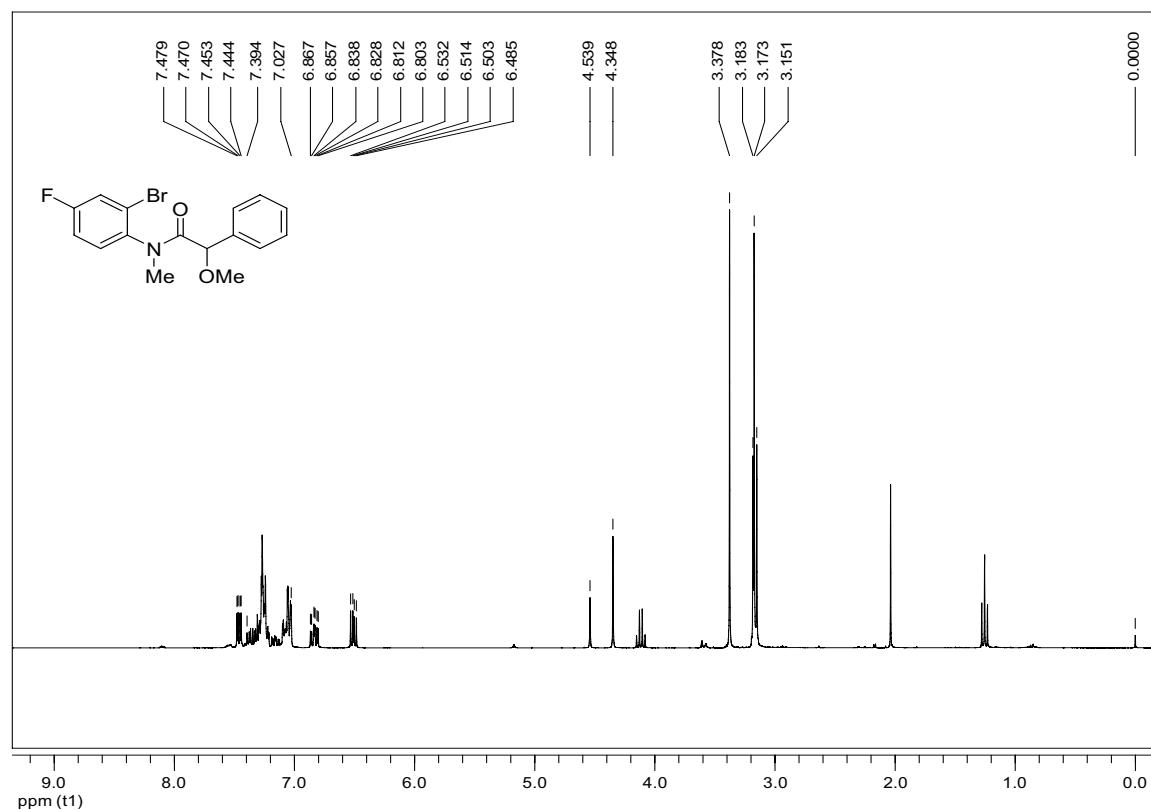
**N-(2-Bromo-4-methylphenyl)-N-methyl-2-methoxy-2-phenylacetamide (1j)**

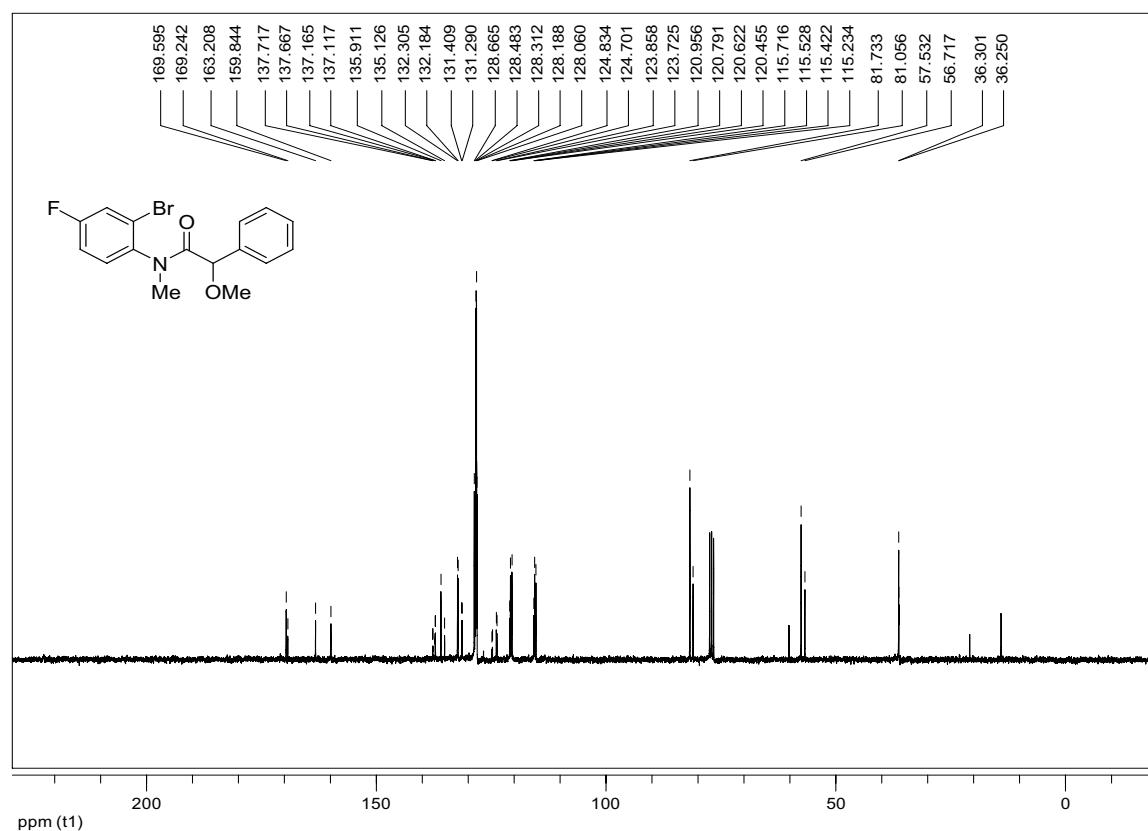
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.38 (s, 1.8H), 2.41 (s, 1.2H), 3.16 (s, 1.2H), 3.17 (s, 1.8H), 3.18 (s, 1.2H), 3.39 (s, 1.8H), 4.42 (s, 0.6H), 4.57 (s, 0.4H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 6.92 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 7.04-7.10 (m, 1.8H), 7.21-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.40 (s, 0.4H), 7.54 (s, 0.6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 21.3, 36.8, 36.9, 57.2, 58.2, 81.2, 82.0, 123.2, 124.2, 128.6, 128.8, 128.9, 128.9, 129.1, 129.6, 129.8, 130.4, 131.3, 134.4, 134.7, 135.9, 136.7, 138.6, 139.2, 140.9, 141.0, 170.0, 170.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3060, 3030, 2978, 2924, 2822, 1675, 1494; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 370.0413, found: 370.0402.



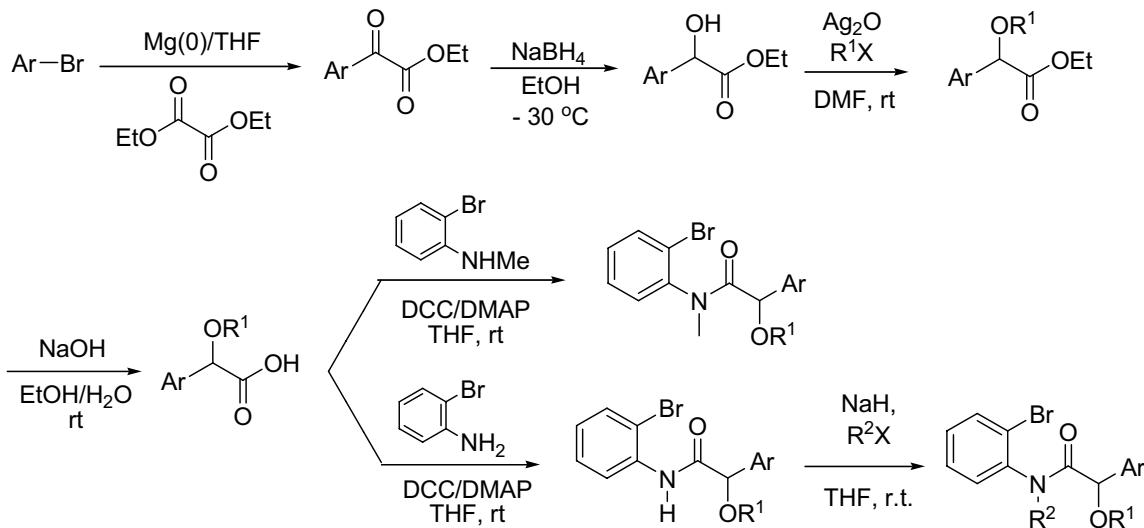
**N-(2-Bromo-4-fluorophenyl)-N-methyl-2-methoxy-2-phenylacetamide (1k)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.15 (s, 1.2H), 3.18 (s, 1.8H), 3.19 (s, 1.2H), 3.39 (s, 1.8H), 4.34 (s, 0.6H), 4.53 (s, 0.4 H), 6.50 (dd,  $J = 5.5, 8.8$  Hz, 0.6H), 6.83 (ddd,  $J = 2.8, 7.7, 8.8$  Hz, 0.6H), 7.02-7.39 (m, 6.2H), 7.46 (dd,  $J = 2.8, 7.7$  Hz, 0.6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  36.9, 36.9, 57.3, 58.2, 81.6, 82.3, 116.0, 116.2, 121.2, 121.4, 124.4, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.3, 131.9, 132.8, 135.6, 136.4, 137.7, 162.1, 169.9, 170.2.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3064, 2934, 2825, 1735, 1681, 1594, 1489; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI $^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrFNO}_2\text{Na}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ): 374.0173, found: 374.0160.





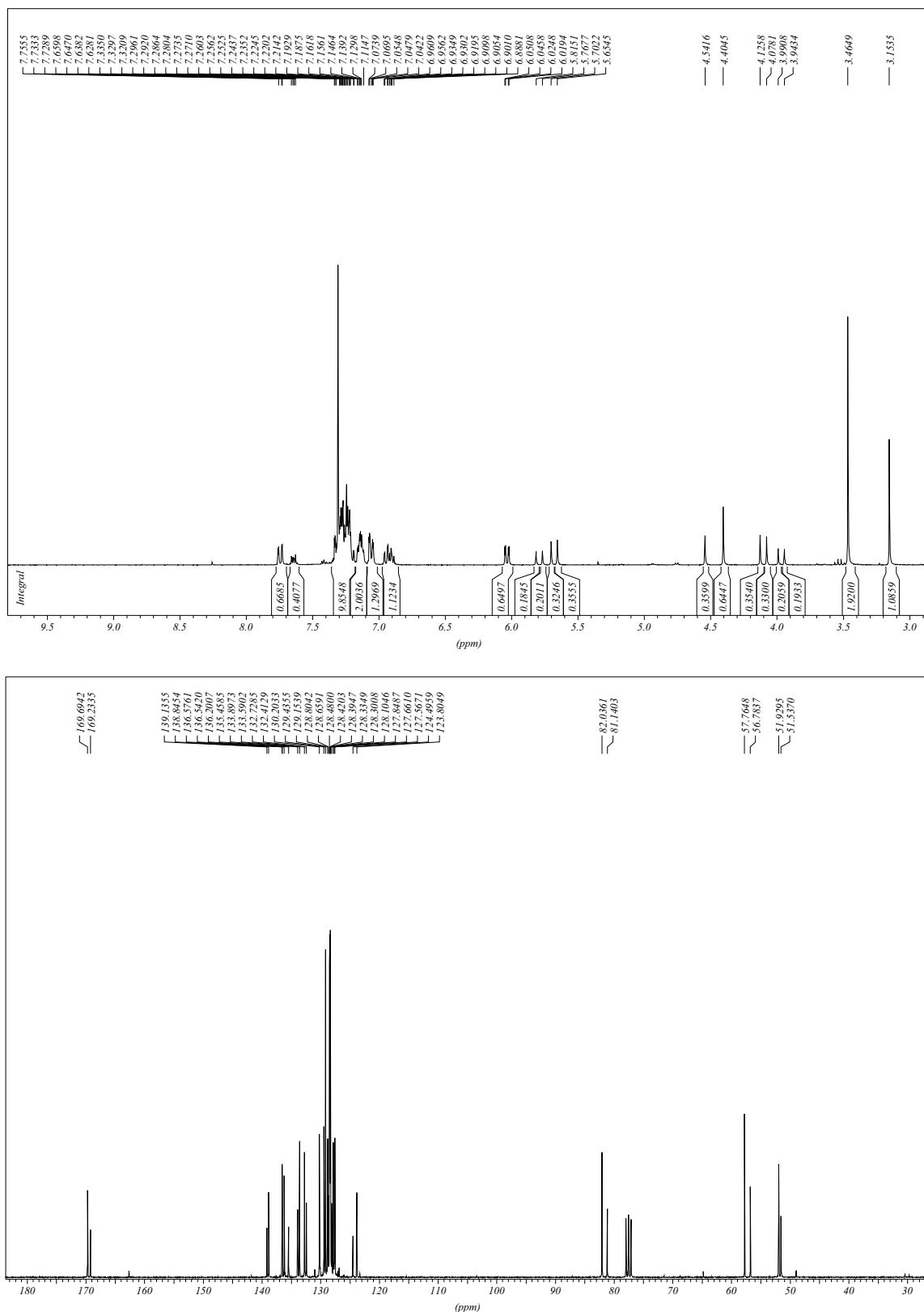
**General Procedure B:**



Individual details of the syntheses are not given. Aryl  $\alpha$ -ketoester were prepared from commercial arylbromides and reduced to mandelic acids according to Saito *et al.*<sup>6</sup> Condensation reaction to amides were carried out according to Suna.<sup>7</sup> *N*-alkylated amides were prepared according to Hartwig and Lee.<sup>5</sup>

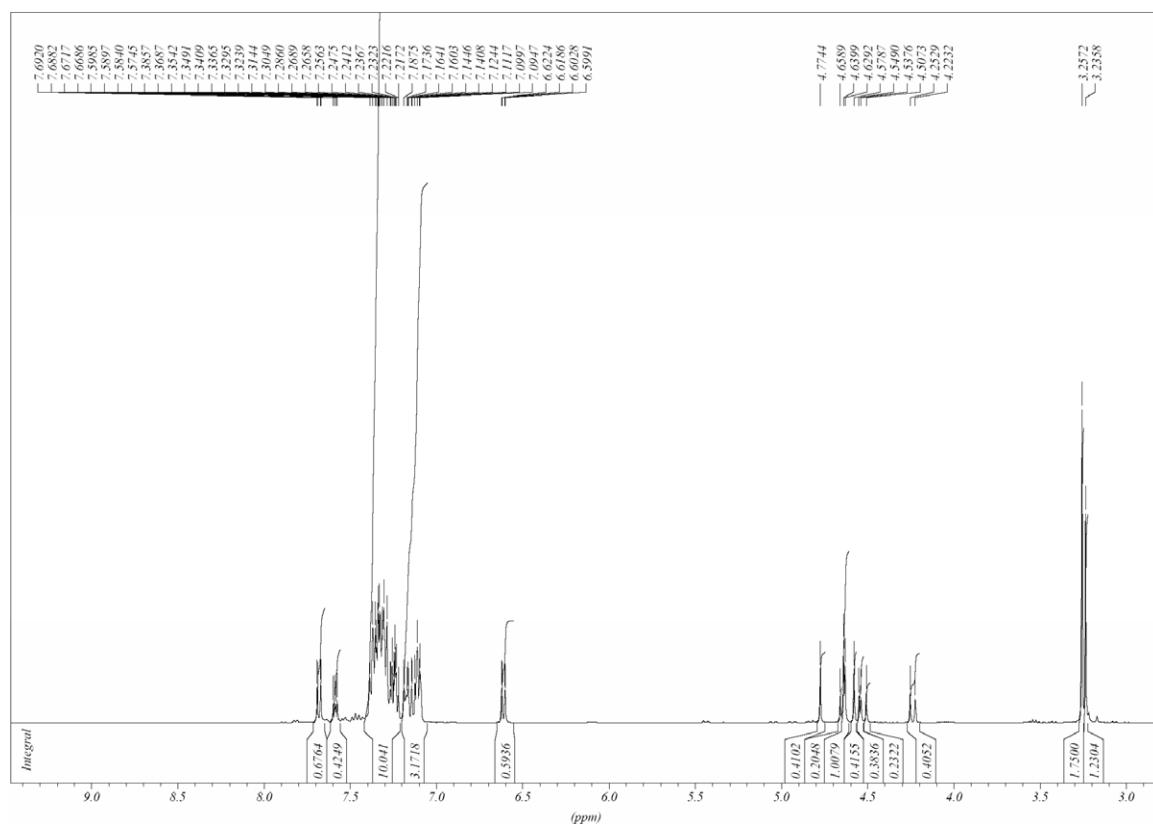
**N-benzyl-N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-methoxy-2-phenylacetamide (1b)**

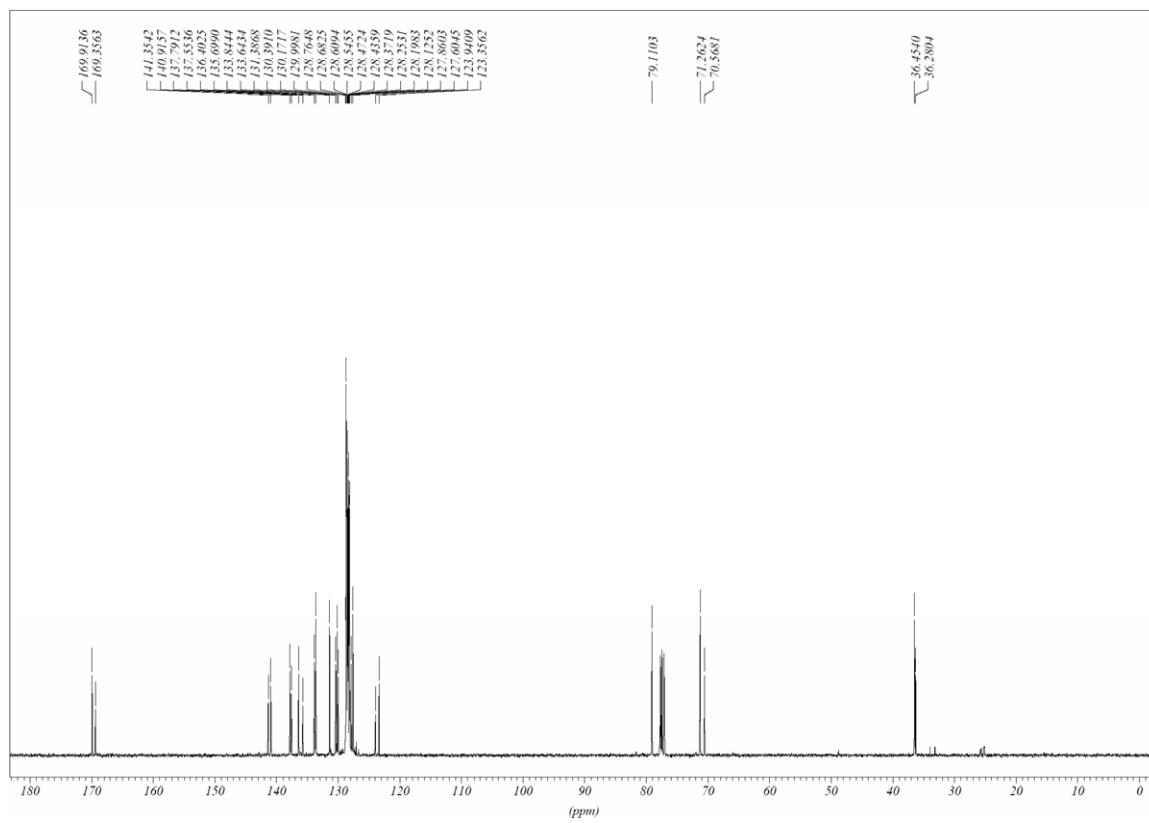
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.15 (s, 1.1H), 3.46 (s, 1.9H), 3.94 (s, 0.2H), 3.99 (s, 0.2H), 4.07 (s, 0.3H), 4.12 (s, 0.3H), 4.40 (s, 0.6H), 4.54 (s, 0.4H), 5.65 (s, 0.3H), 5.70 (s, 0.3H), 5.76 (s, 0.2H), 5.81 (s, 0.2H), 6.03 (dd,  $J = 1.5, 7.8$  Hz, 0.7H), 6.88-6.96 (m, 1.1H), 7.04-7.07 (m, 1.3H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.33 (m, 9.9H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 0.4H), 7.74 (dd,  $J = 1.3, 8.0$  Hz, 0.6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  51.5, 51.9, 56.7, 57.7, 81.1, 82.0, 123.8, 124.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.8, 128.1, 128.30, 128.33, 128.39, 128.42, 128.48, 128.6, 128.8, 129.1, 129.4, 130.2, 132.4, 132.7, 133.5, 133.8, 135.4, 136.2, 136.54, 136.57, 138.8, 139.1, 169.2, 169.6.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3031, 2928, 2825, 1676, 1584, 1495, 1474, 1455; HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI $+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrNO}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 410.0750, found: 410.0750.



**2-(BenzylOxy)-N-(2-bromophenyl)-N-methyl-2-phenylacetamide (1c)**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.23 (s, 1.2H), 3.25 (s, 1.8H), 4.22 (s, 0.2H), 4.25 (s, 0.2H), 4.50 (s, 0.2H), 4.53 (s, 0.2H), 4.54 (s, 0.2H), 4.57 (s, 0.4H), 4.62 (s, 0.4H), 4.64 (s, 0.6H), 4.65 (s, 0.2H), 4.77 (s, 0.4H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 0.6H), 7.09-7.18 (m, 3.2H), 7.21-7.39 (m, 10H), 7.58-7.33 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 5.8 Hz, 0.4H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 8.1 Hz, 0.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 36.2, 36.4, 70.5, 71.2, 79.1, 123.3, 123.9, 127.6, 127.8, 128.12, 128.19, 128.2, 128.3, 128.43, 128.47, 128.5, 128.60, 128.68, 128.7, 129.9, 130.1, 130.3, 131.3, 133.6, 133.8, 135.6, 136.4, 137.5, 137.7, 140.9, 141.3, 169.3, 169.9. v<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3030, 2930, 1675, 1584, 1476, 1454; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI+) calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 410.0750, found: 410.0736.

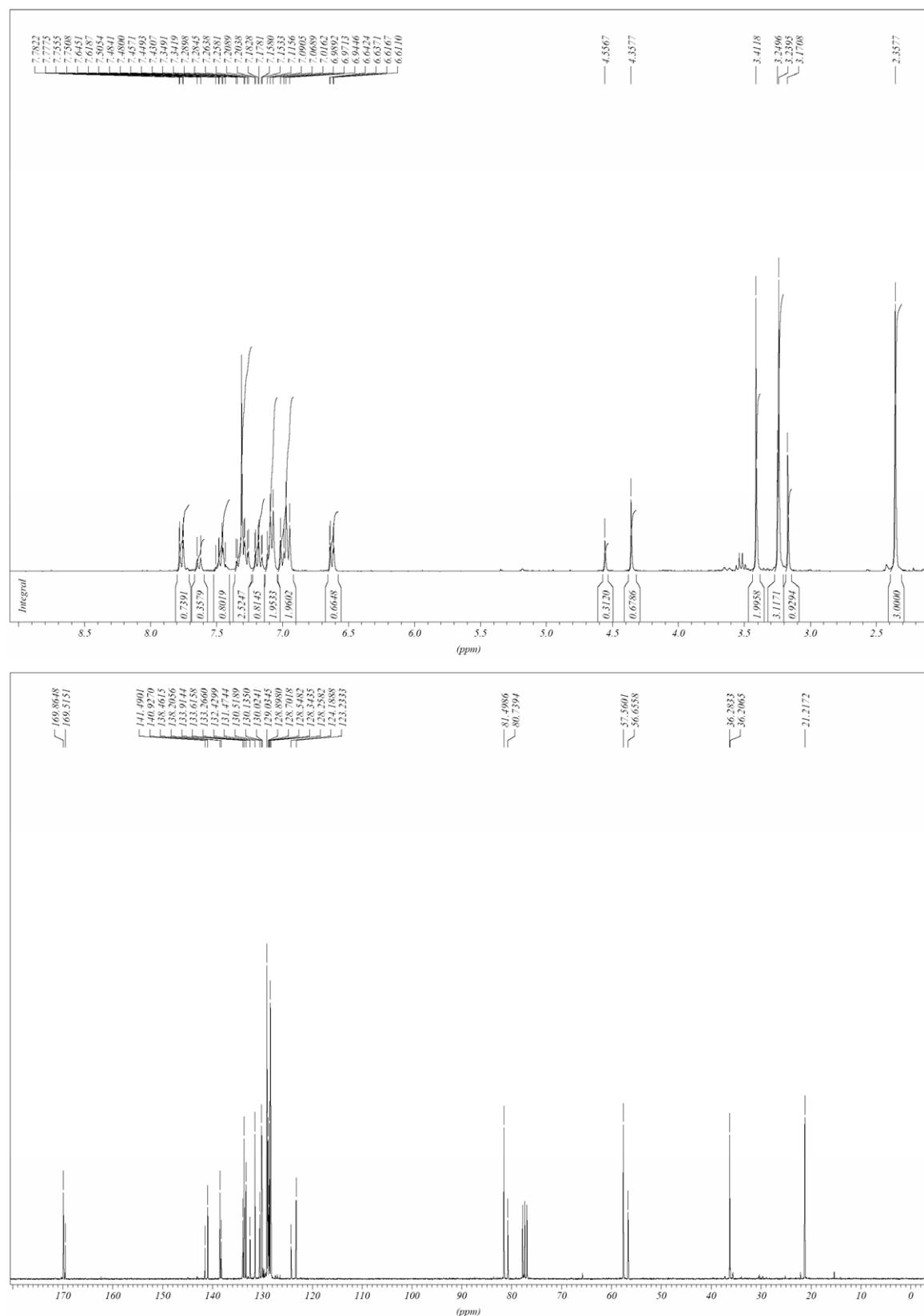




**N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-methyl-2-p-tolylacetamide (1d)**

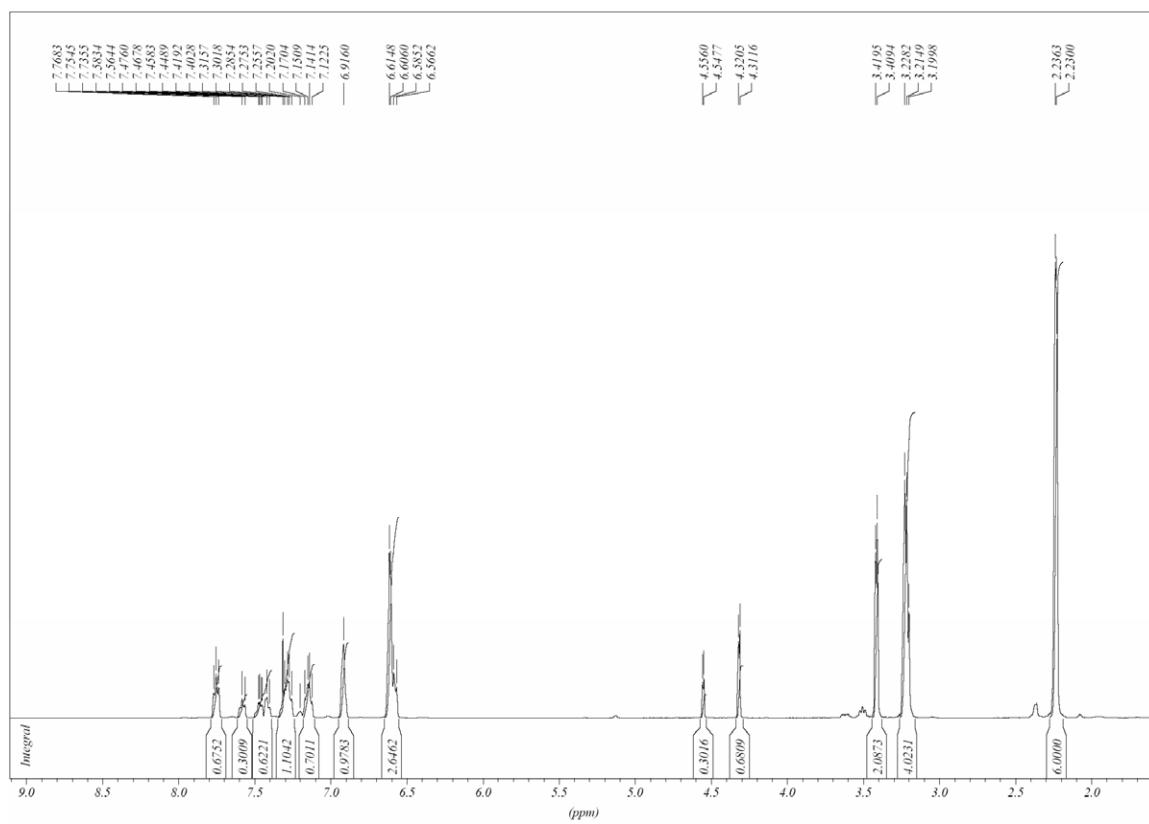
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.35 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 0.9H), 3.24 (s, 2.1H), 3.25 (s, 1H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 4.35 (s, 0.7H), 4.55 (s, 0.3H), 6.63 (dd,  $J$  = 1.7, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 6.94-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dt,  $J$  = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 0.8H), 7.25-7.35 (m, 0.8H), 7.43-7.51 (m, 0.8H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 0.4H), 7.77 (dd,  $J$  = 1.4, 8.0 Hz, 0.7H).

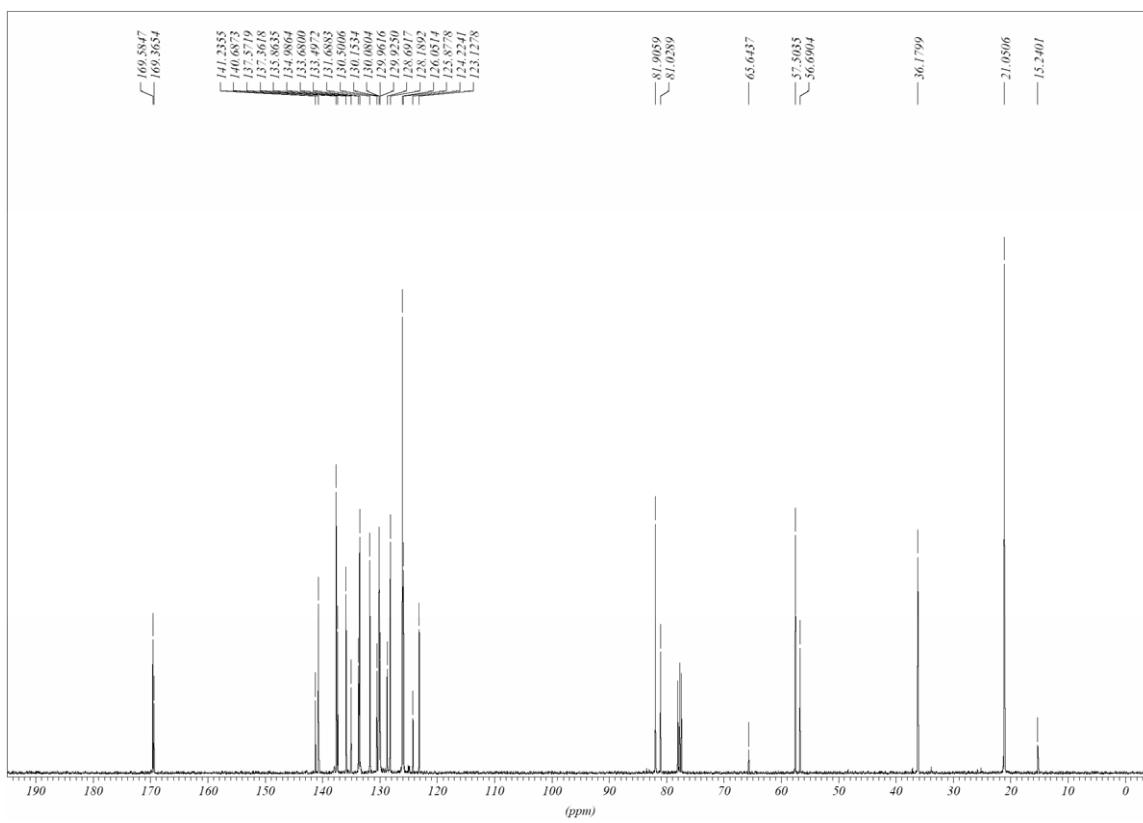
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.2, 36.20, 36.28, 56.6, 57.5, 80.7, 81.4, 123.2, 124.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 130.0, 130.1, 130.5, 131.4, 132.4, 133.2, 133.6, 133.9, 138.2, 138.4, 140.9, 141.4, 169.5, 169.8.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2923, 1676, 1584, 1514, 1476; HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI+) calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrNO}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 348.0593, found: 348.0587.



#### N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-methyl-2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)acetamide (1e)

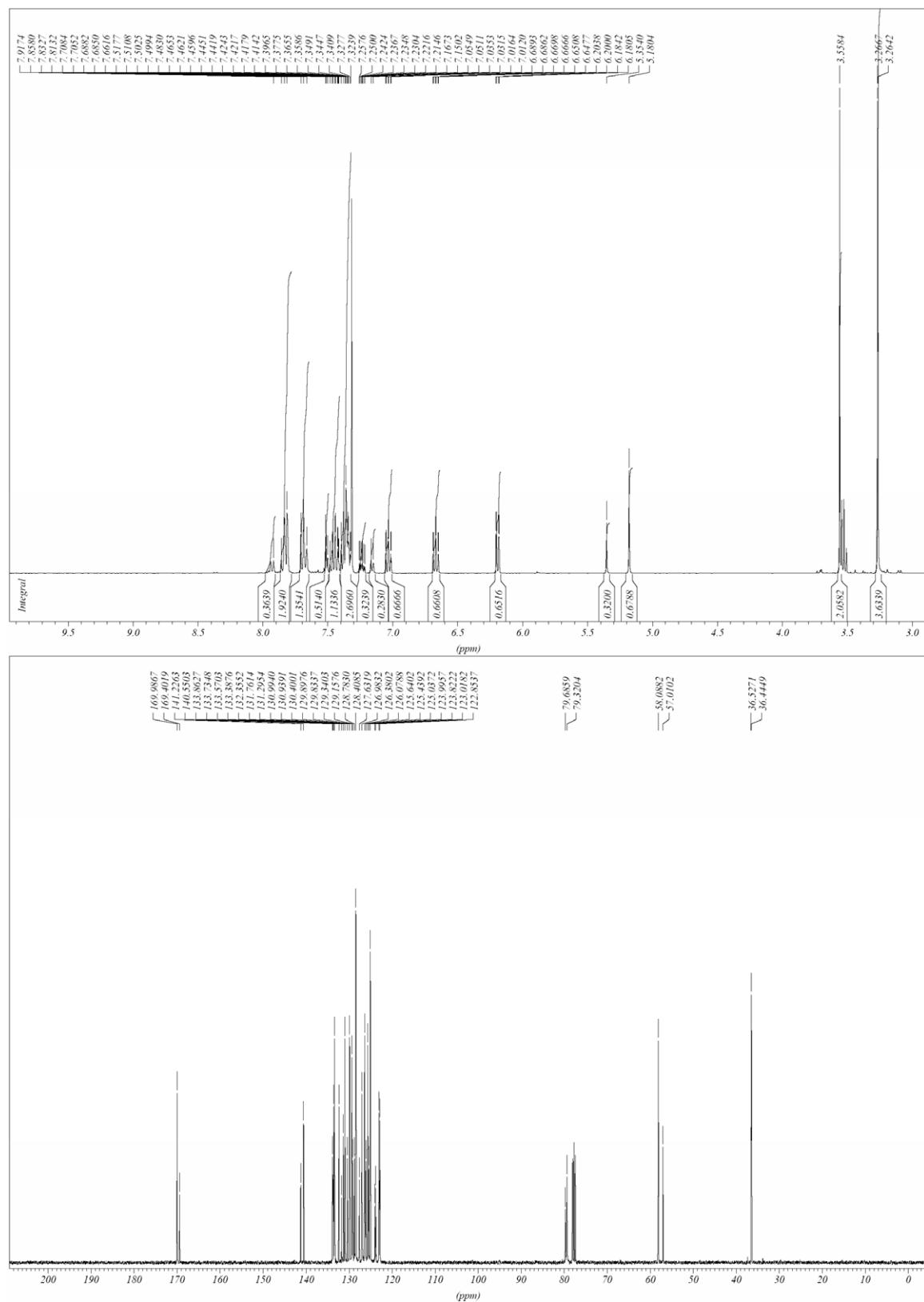
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 0.5H), 3.21 (s, 1.4H), 3.23 (s, 2.1H), 3.41 (s, 1H), 3.42 (s, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 0.7H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 0.3H), 6.56-7.11 (m, 2.7H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 7.12-7.20 (m, 0.7H), 7.25-7.33 (m, 1.1H), 7.40-7.49 (m, 0.6H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.3H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.2, 21.0, 36.1, 56.6, 57.5, 65.6, 81.0, 81.9, 123.1, 124.2, 125.8, 126.0, 128.1, 128.6, 129.92, 129.96, 130.0, 130.1, 130.5, 131.6, 133.4, 133.6, 134.9, 135.8, 137.3, 137.5, 140.6, 141.2, 169.3, 169.5.  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2916, 2821, 1800, 1672, 1609, 1583, 1475, 1436; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI+) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 362.0750, found: 362.0741.





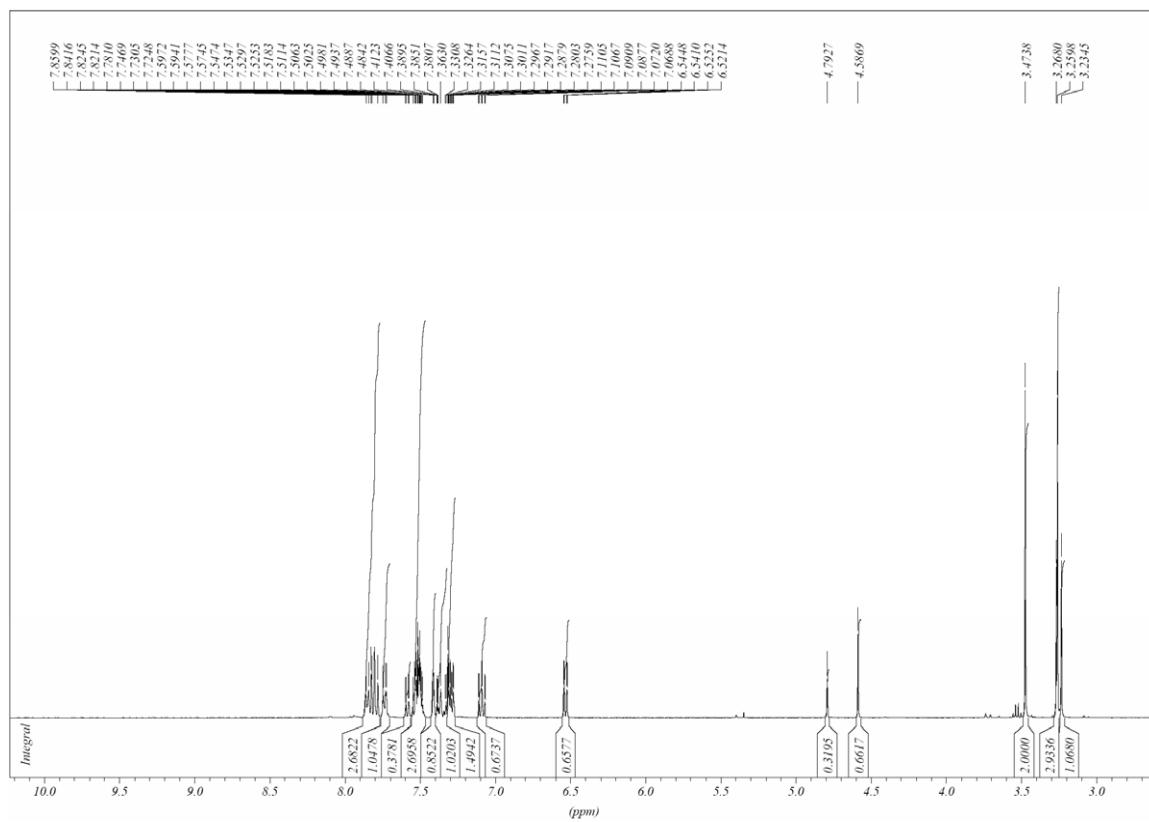
### N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)acetamide (1h)

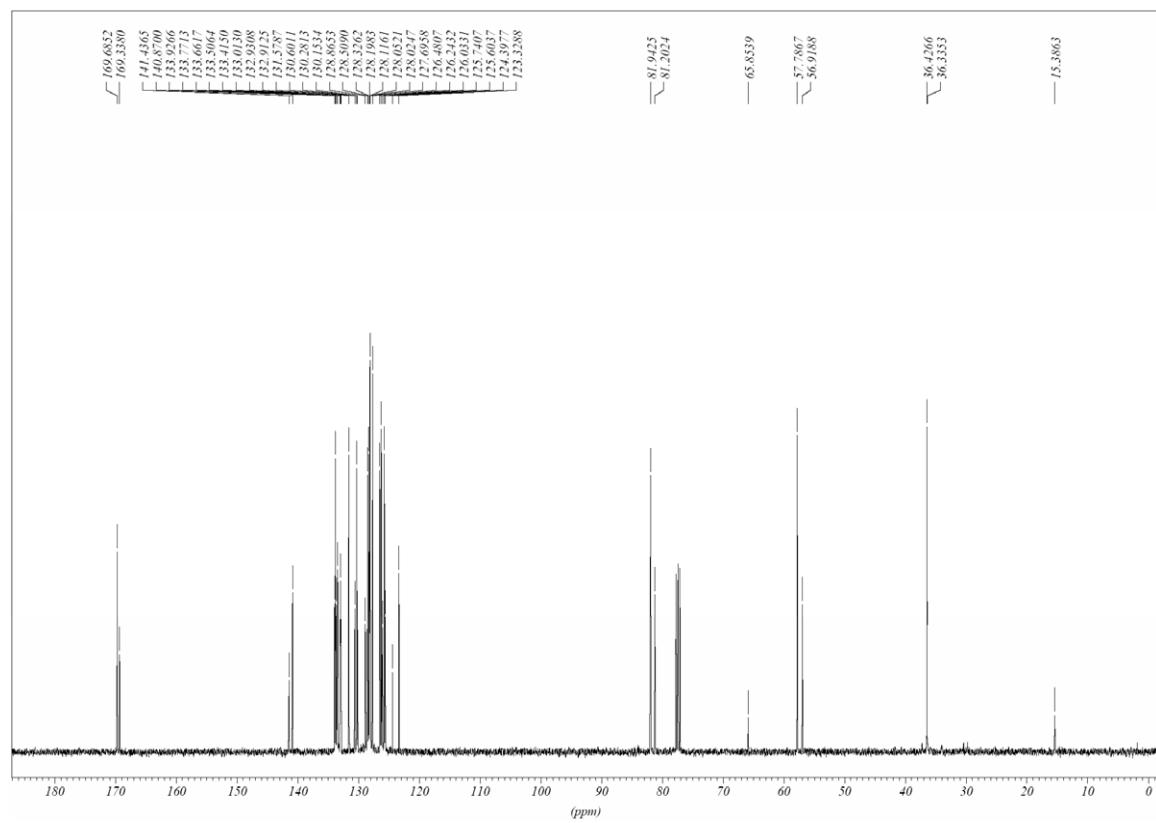
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.26 (s, 1.7H), 3.27 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 0.3H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 5.18 (s, 0.7H), 5.35 (s, 0.3H), 6.19 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 6.3 Hz, 0.7H), 6.66 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.03 (dt, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 0.3H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 0.3H), 7.32-7.40 (m, 2.8H), 7.41-7.53 (m, 1.7H), 7.68 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 8.1 Hz, 1.4H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 0.3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 36.4, 36.5, 57.0, 58.0, 79.3, 79.6, 122.8, 123.0, 123.8, 123.9, 125.0, 125.4, 125.6, 126.0, 126.3, 126.9, 127.6, 128.4, 128.7, 129.1, 129.3, 129.83, 129.89, 130.4, 130.93, 130.99, 131.2, 131.7, 132.3, 133.3, 133.5, 133.7, 133.8, 140.5, 141.2, 169.4, 169.9.  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2923, 2822, 1710, 1672, 1597, 1583, 1510, 1475, 1435; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 384.0593, found: 384.0584.



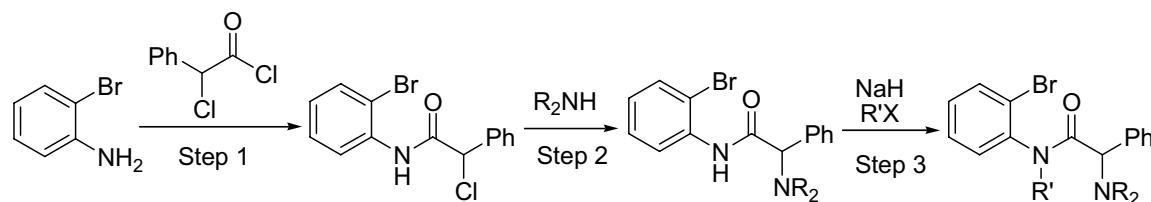
**N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)acetamide (1i)**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.23 (s, 1.1H), 3.26 (s, 1.9H), 3.27 (s, 1H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 4.58 (s, 0.7H), 4.79 (s, 0.3H), 6.53 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.09 (dt, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1.1H), 7.32-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.41 (s, 0.8H), 7.47-7.53 (m, 2.7H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 7.8 Hz, 0.4H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78-7.86 (m, 2.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 15.3, 36.3, 36.4, 56.9, 57.7, 65.8, 81.2, 81.9, 123.3, 124.3, 125.6, 125.7, 126.0, 126.2, 126.4, 127.6, 128.02, 128.05, 128.11, 128.19, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 130.1, 130.2, 130.6, 131.5, 132.91, 132.93, 133.0, 133.4, 133.5, 133.6, 133.7, 133.9, 140.8, 141.4, 169.3, 169.6. v<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3057, 2927, 2822, 1672, 1583, 1508, 1475, 1436; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI+) calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 384.0593, found: 384.0599.





**General Procedure C:**



**Step 1:** To a solution of 2-bromoaniline (1 eq) in DCM (*ca* 0.025 M) was added pyridine (1.3 eq) and chlorophenylacetyl chloride (1.3 eq). The mixture was stirred for 3 hours then diluted with DCM (equivalent volume to that of DCM used in the reaction), washed with water (equivalent volume to DCM), 1 M NaOH (equivalent volume to DCM) and brine, dried ( $MgSO_4$ ) and concentrated under reduced pressure, to yield an orange oily solid; the product was recrystallised from methanol / water to give *N*-(2-bromophenyl)-2-chloro-2-phenylacetamide as a pale yellow crystalline solid (93 %).

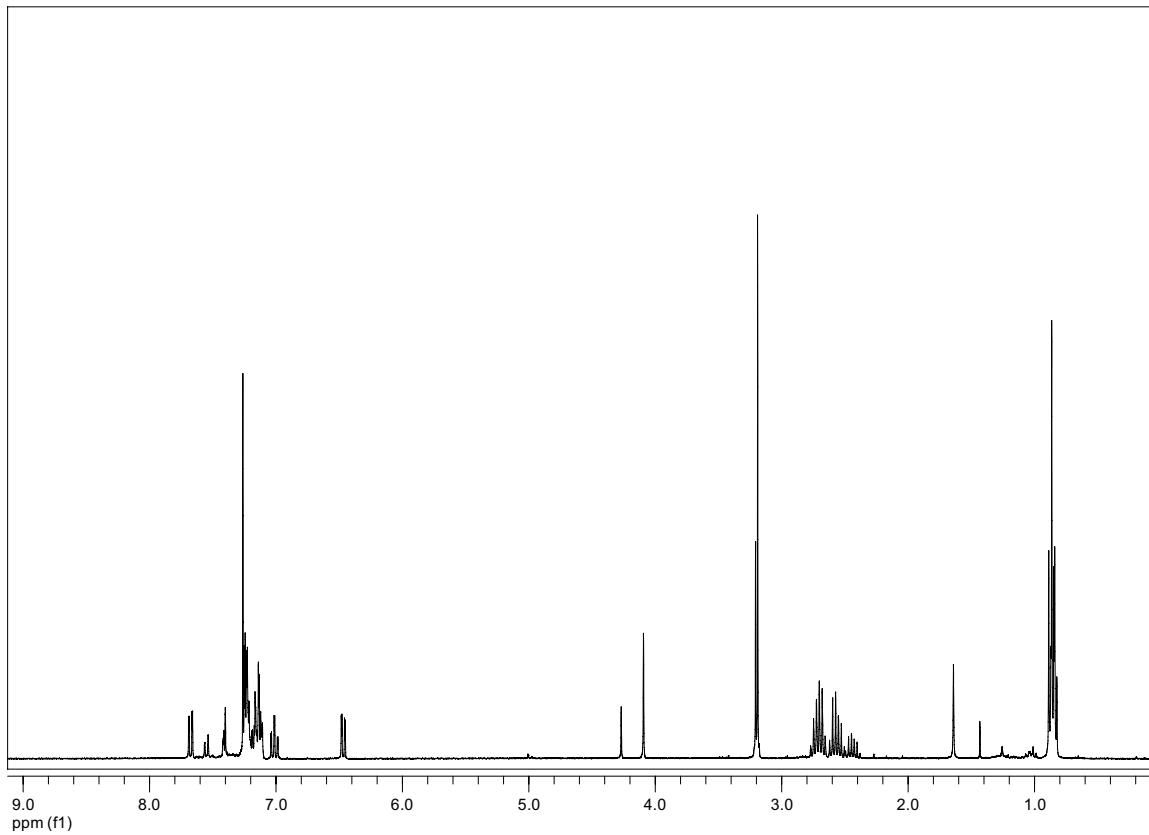
**Step 2:** To a solution of the amine (1.2 eq) and diisopropylethylamine (1.2 eq) in acetonitrile (*ca* 0.025 M) was added the *N*-(2-bromophenyl)-2-chloro-2-phenylacetamide (1 eq); the solution was then heated under reflux for ~10 hours, and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (equivalent volume to that of acetonitrile used in the reaction) and washed with water (equivalent to volume of diethyl ether). The aqueous layer was washed with diethyl ether, and the combined organics were washed with brine, then dried ( $MgSO_4$ ) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product, which was purified by flash column chromatography.

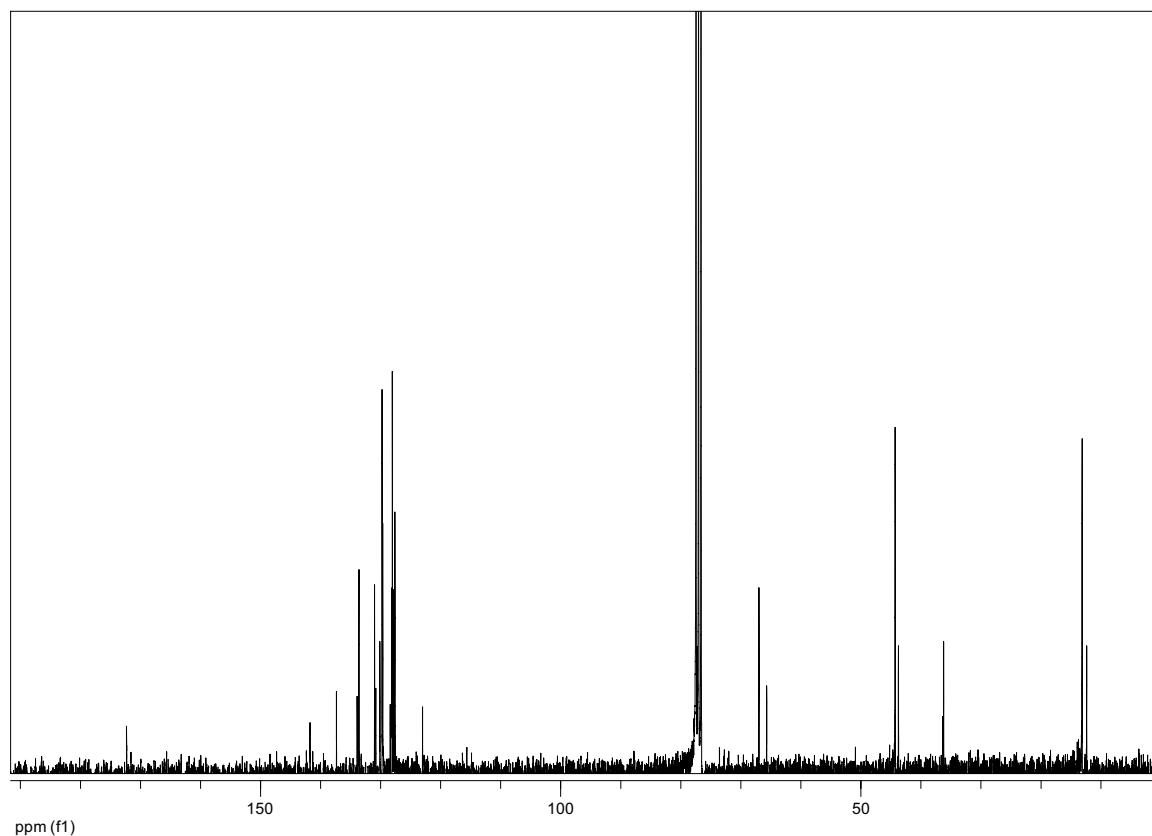
**Step 3:** To a suspension of NaH (1.2 eq) in acetonitrile (*ca* 0.025 M) at 0 °C was added the amide (from step 2) (1 eq, as a solution in acetonitrile), and MeI or benzyl bromide (1.2 eq). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 4 hours. The reaction was quenched with 1 M NaOH (aq) (equivalent to the volume of acetonitrile used in the reaction) and diluted with ethyl acetate (equivalent to the volume of acetonitrile used in the reaction). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer washed with ethyl acetate. The combined organics were then washed with brine, dried

(MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under reduced pressure; the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography.

**N-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-(diethylamino)-N-methyl-2-phenylacetamide (1l)**

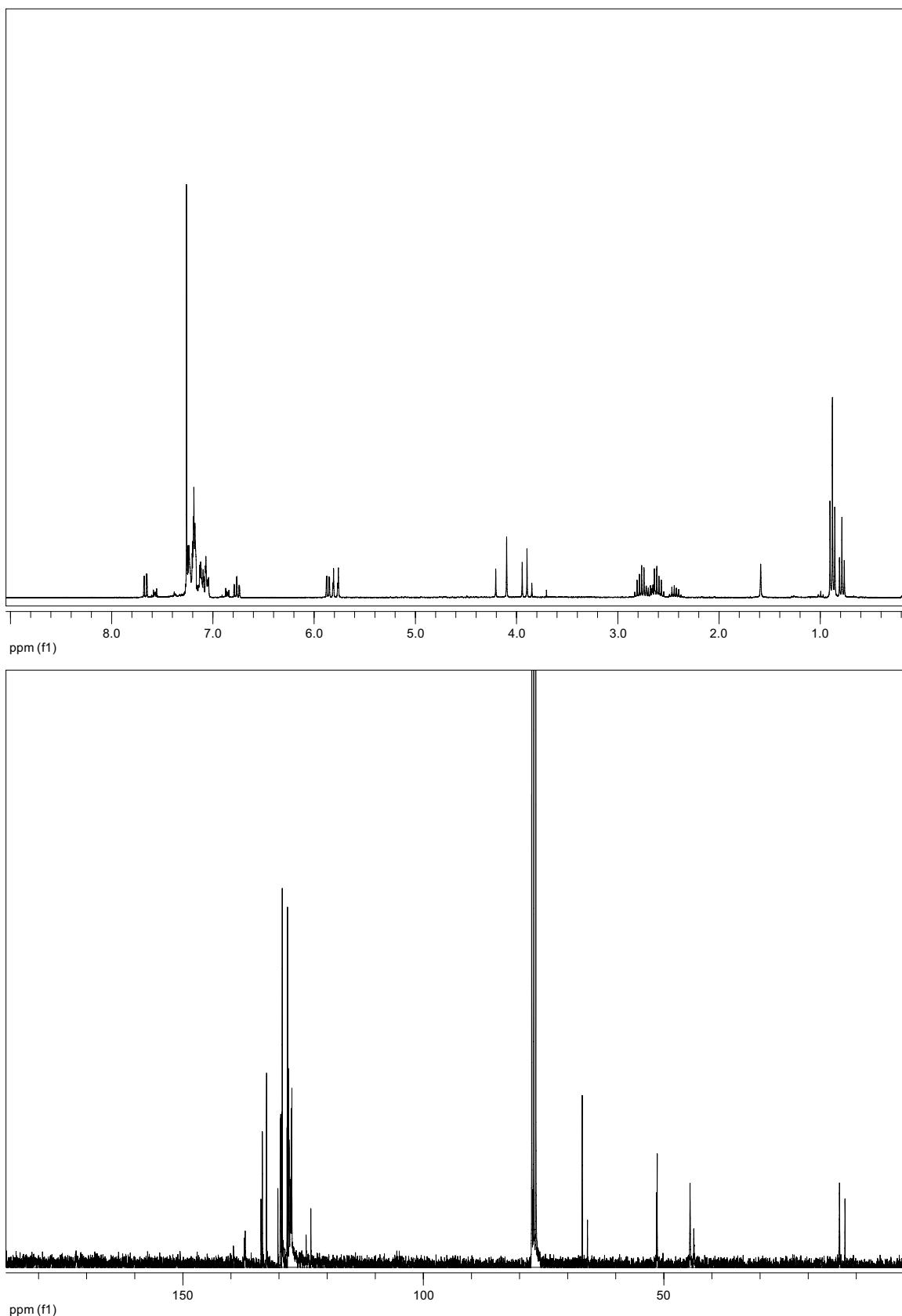
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.82-0.89 (m, 6H), 2.77-2.38 (4H, m), 3.19 (s, 2.1H), 3.21 (s, 0.9H), 4.09 (s, 0.7H), 4.27 (s, 0.3H), 6.47 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.01 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.11-7.25 (m, 5.9H), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 0.7H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 0.3H), 7.67 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 0.7H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  13.1, 36.2, 44.3, 67.0, 123.0, 127.9, 128.1, 128.1, 129.7, 129.8, 131.0, 133.6, 137.3, 141.8, 172.3.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3033, 2953, 2861, 1670; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 375.1067; found: 375.1058.





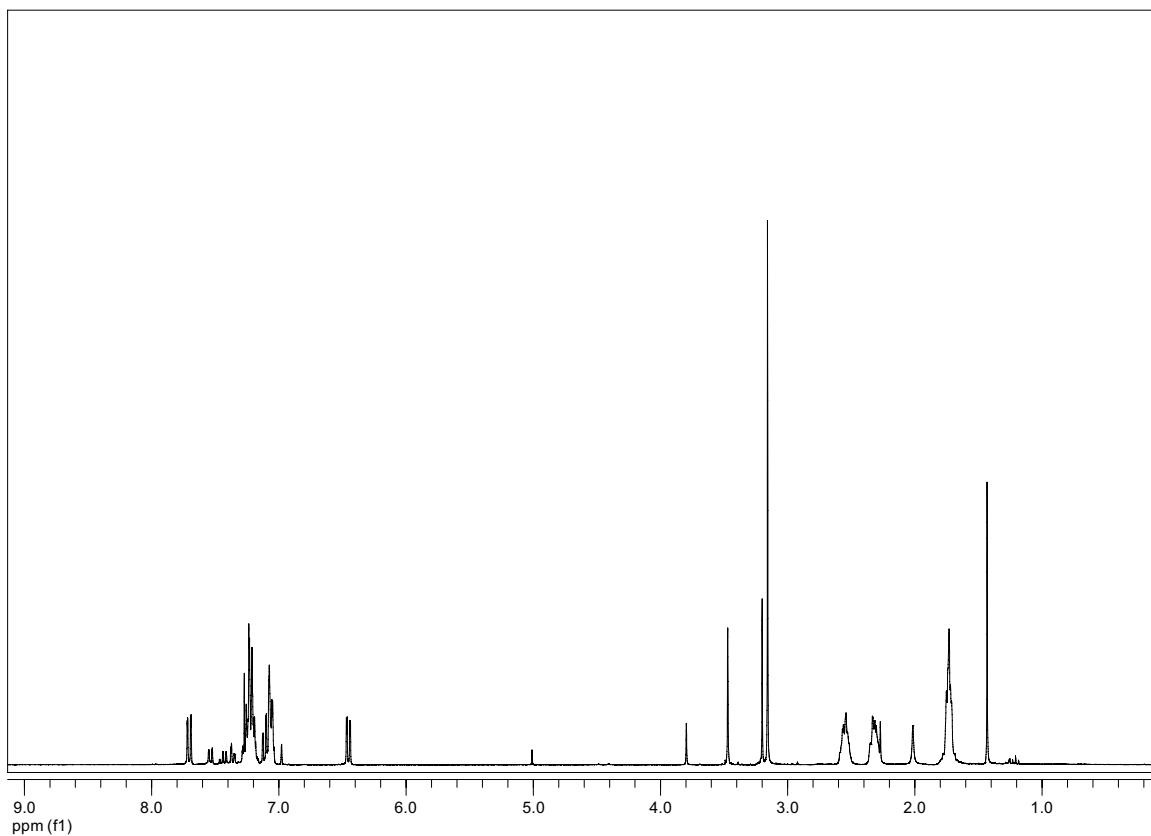
**N-Benzyl-N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(diethylamino)-2-phenylacetamide (1m)**

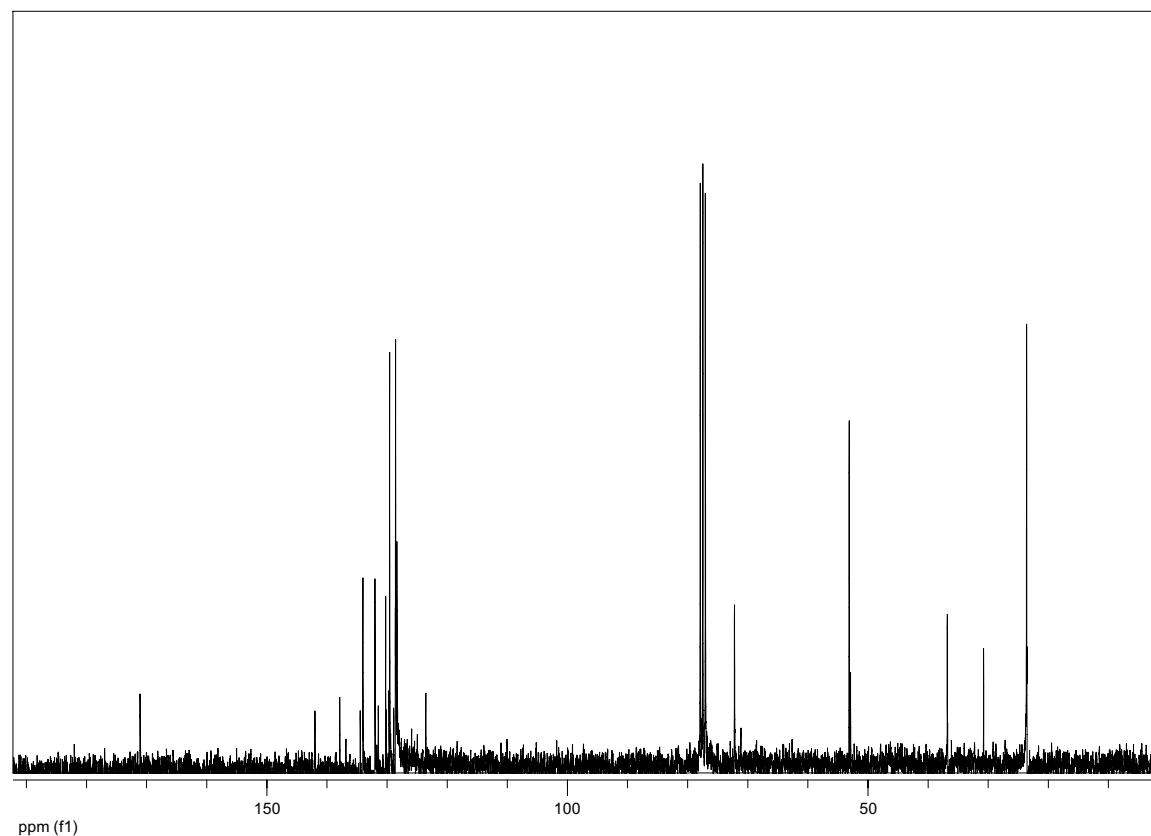
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  0.79 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2.4H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3.6H), 2.40-2.83 (m, 4H), 3.94 (d,  $J = 14.1$  Hz, 0.6H), 4.10 (s, 0.6H), 4.21 (s, 0.4H), 5.76-5.87 (m, 1H), 6.76 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 0.6H), 6.84-6.87 (m, 0.4H), 7.04-7.25 (m, 12H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 0.4H), 7.68 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 0.6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  13.5, 44.5, 51.5, 67.0, 123.4, 124.4, 139.5, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.7, 127.9, 128.0, 128.2, 128.3, 129.3, 129.4, 129.7, 130.2, 132.6, 133.5, 133.7, 137.2.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3077, 2965, 1872, 1659; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI+) calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{BrN}_2\text{O} ([\text{M}+\text{H}]^+)$ : 451.1380, found: 451.1390.



**N-(2-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-2-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)acetamide (1n)**

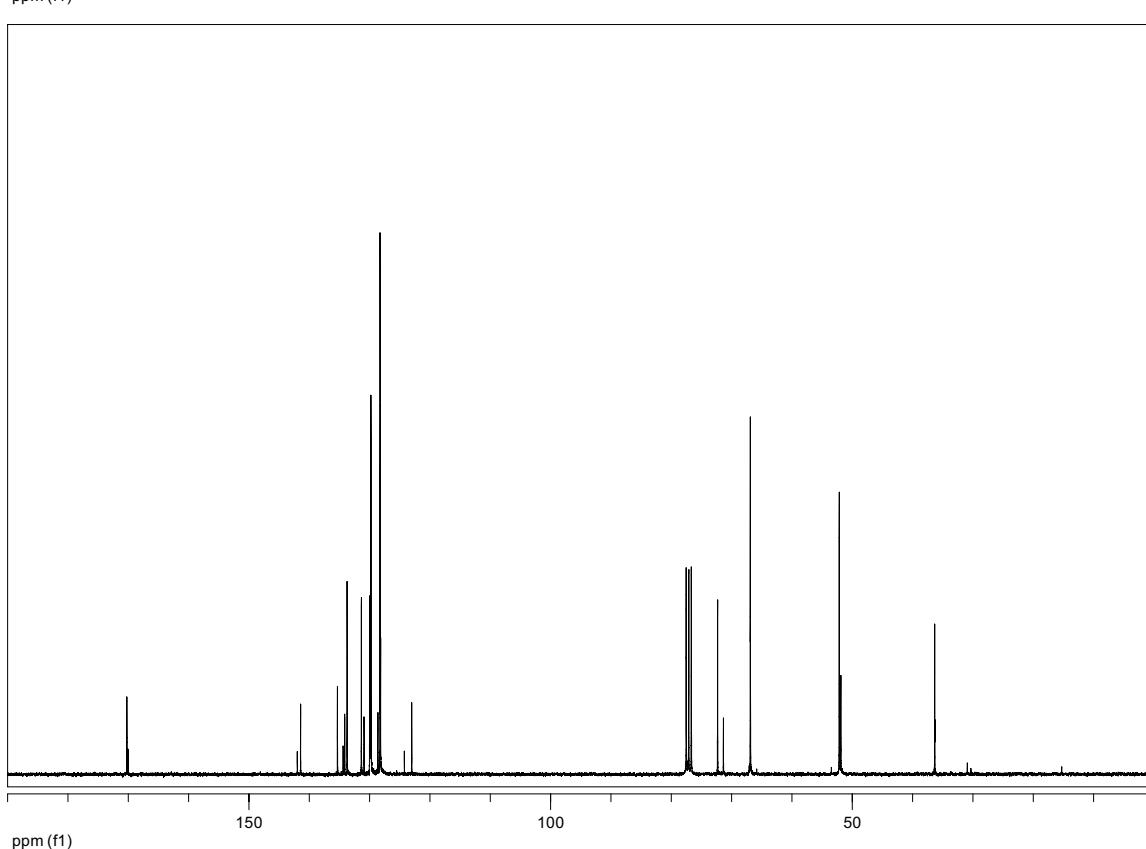
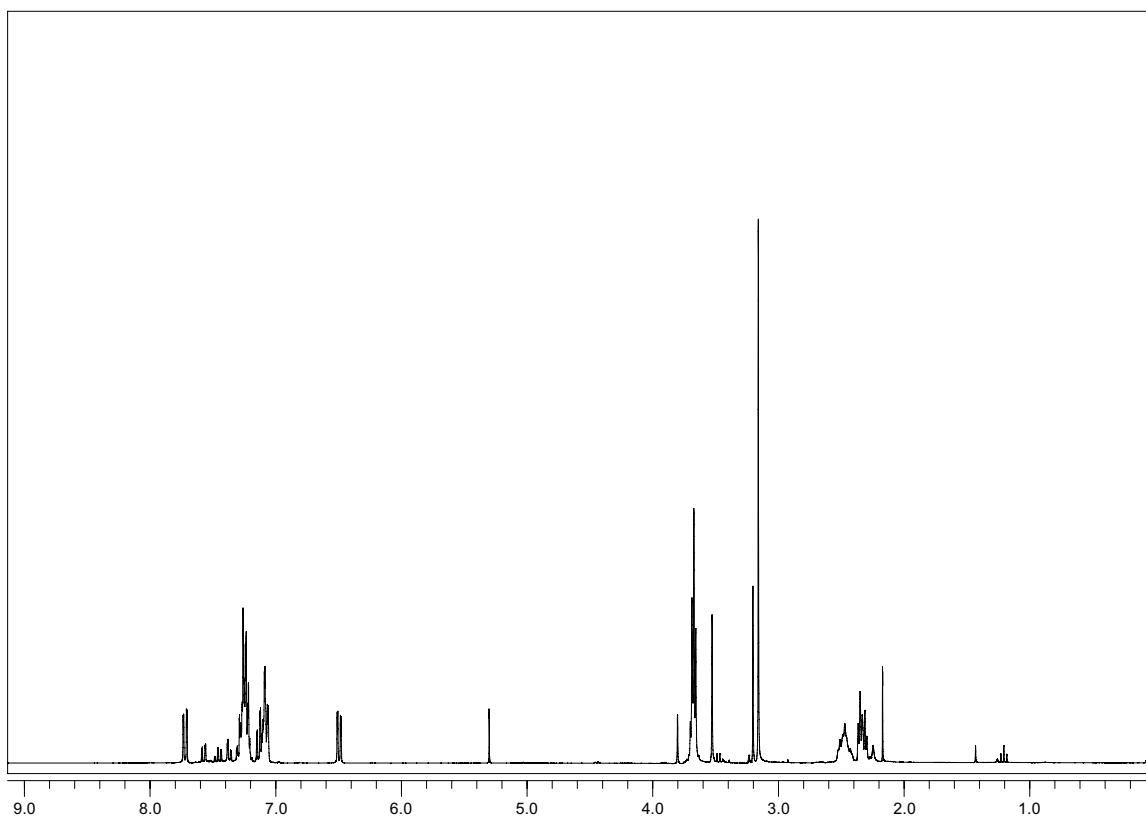
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  1.71-1.75 (m, 4H), 2.27-2.35 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.59 (m, 2H), 3.16 (s, 2.1H), 3.20 (s, 0.9H), 3.47 (s, 0.7H), 3.80 (s, 0.3H), 6.45 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 0.7H), 6.98-7.29 (m, 6.7H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 0.3H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 0.3H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 0.3H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 0.7H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  23.6, 36.8, 53.1, 72.2, 123.5, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 129.6, 130.1, 131.9, 133.9, 137.9, 142.1, 171.1.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3021, 2956, 2875, 1661; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI $^+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 373.0910, found: 373.0898.





**N-(2-Bromophenyl)-N-methyl-2-morpholin-4-yl-2-phenylacetamide (1o)**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.30-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.42-2.52 (m, 2H), 3.16 (s, 2.25H), 3.20 (s, 0.75H), 3.53 (s, 0.75H), 3.66-3.70 (m, 4H), 3.80 (s, 0.25H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 0.75H), 7.06-7.31 (m, 6.75H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 0.25H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 0.25H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.25H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.75H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 36.2, 36.3, 51.6, 51.9, 66.9, 67.1, 71.3, 72.3, 123.0, 124.2, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 130.9, 131.4, 133.7, 134.1, 134.4, 135.3, 141.4, 142.0, 170.0, 170.2. ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3048, 2960, 2857, 1664; HRMS: *m/z* (EI+)  
calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 389.0859, found 389.0845.





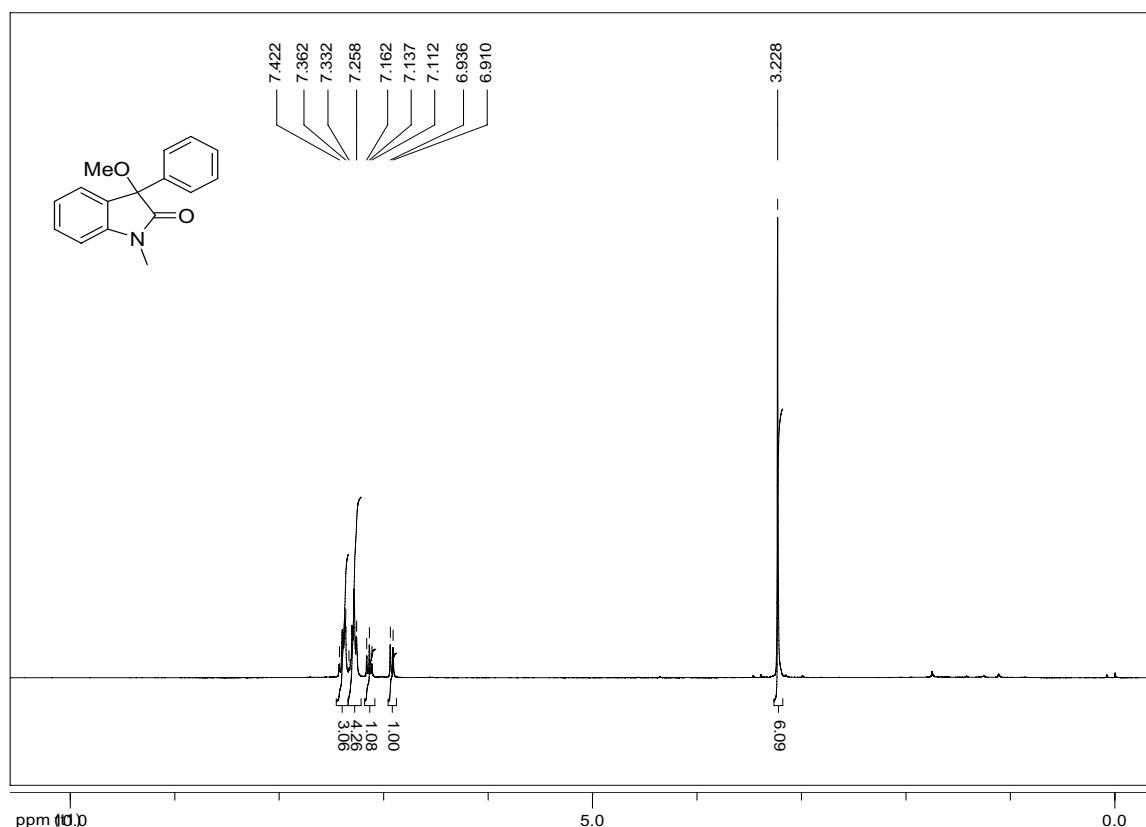
### 3. Catalytic asymmetric intramolecular $\alpha$ -arylation reactions

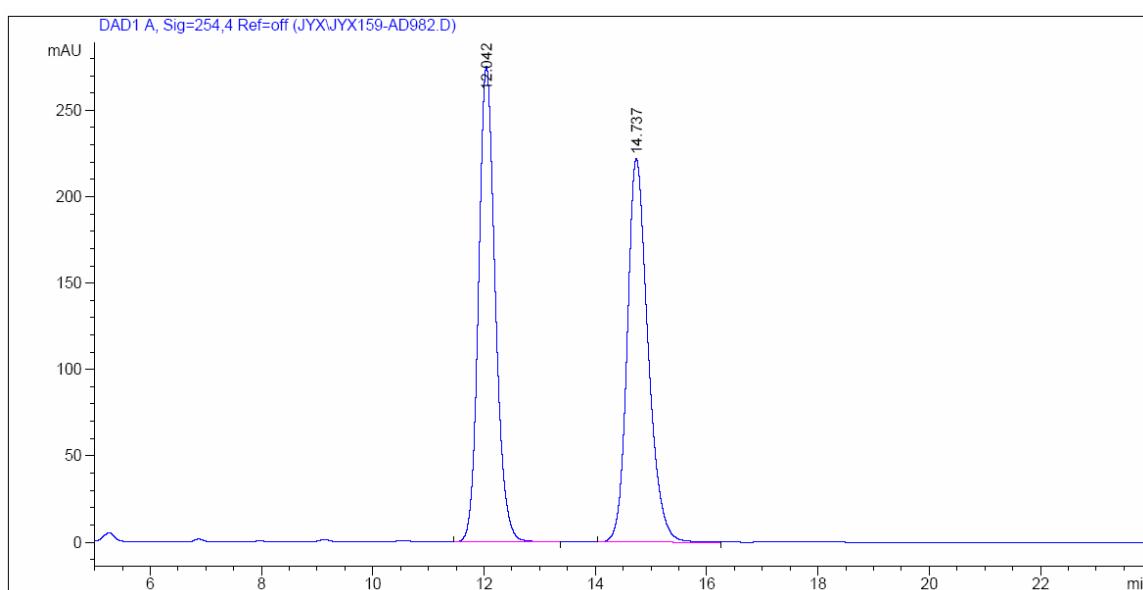
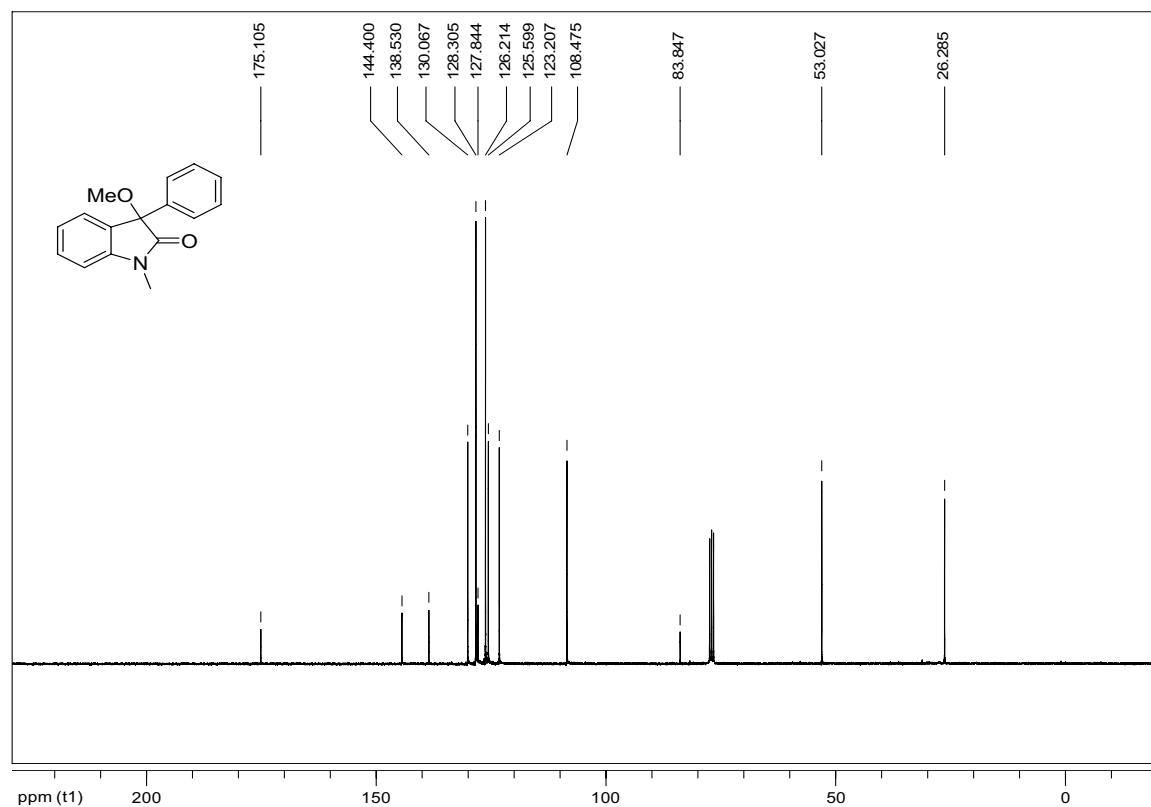
#### General procedure:

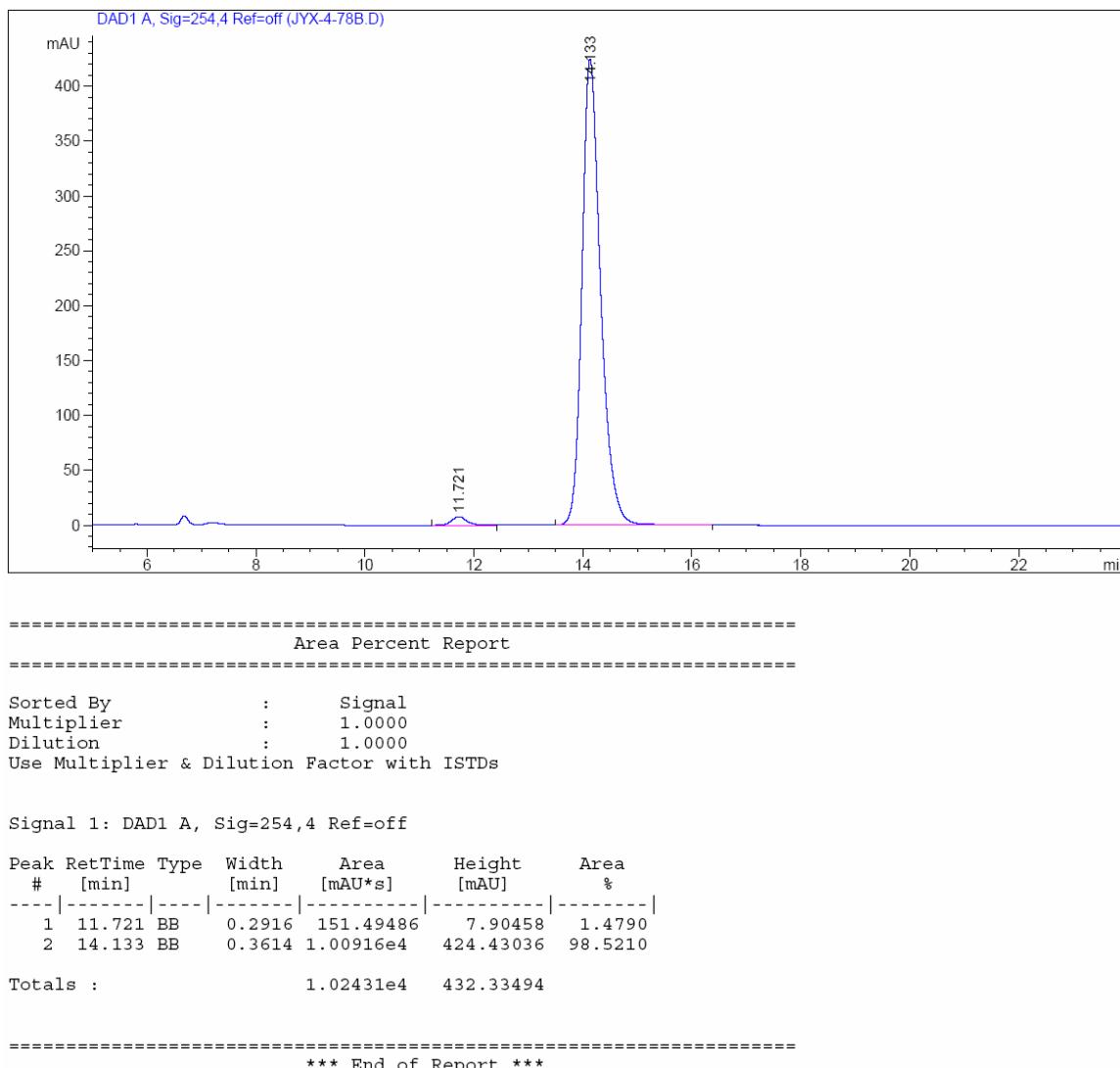
A dry Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.01 mmol), **L3** (7.8 mg, 0.011 mmol) and 'BuONa (29 mg, 0.3 mmol) under N<sub>2</sub>. Toluene (2mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 0.5 h before addition of a solution of the amide (0.2 mmol in 2.0 mL toluene. The reaction mixture was stirred at the indicated temperature / time. Flash chromatography afforded the product oxindoles, the ee values were determined by chiral HPLC.

#### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (**2a**)<sup>8</sup>

91% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +79.3$  ( $c = 0.5$  in acetone). 97% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 11.72$  min (minor) and 14.13 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.23 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 6.93 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.43 (m, 3H).

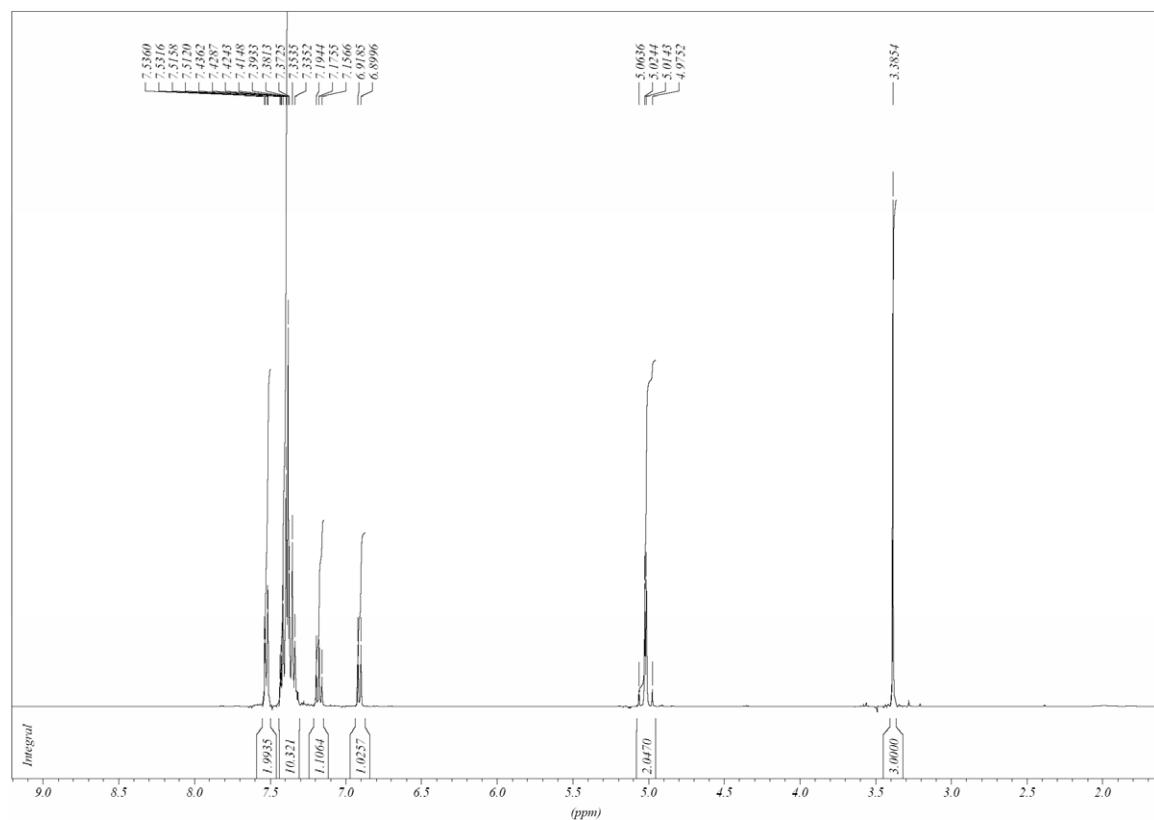


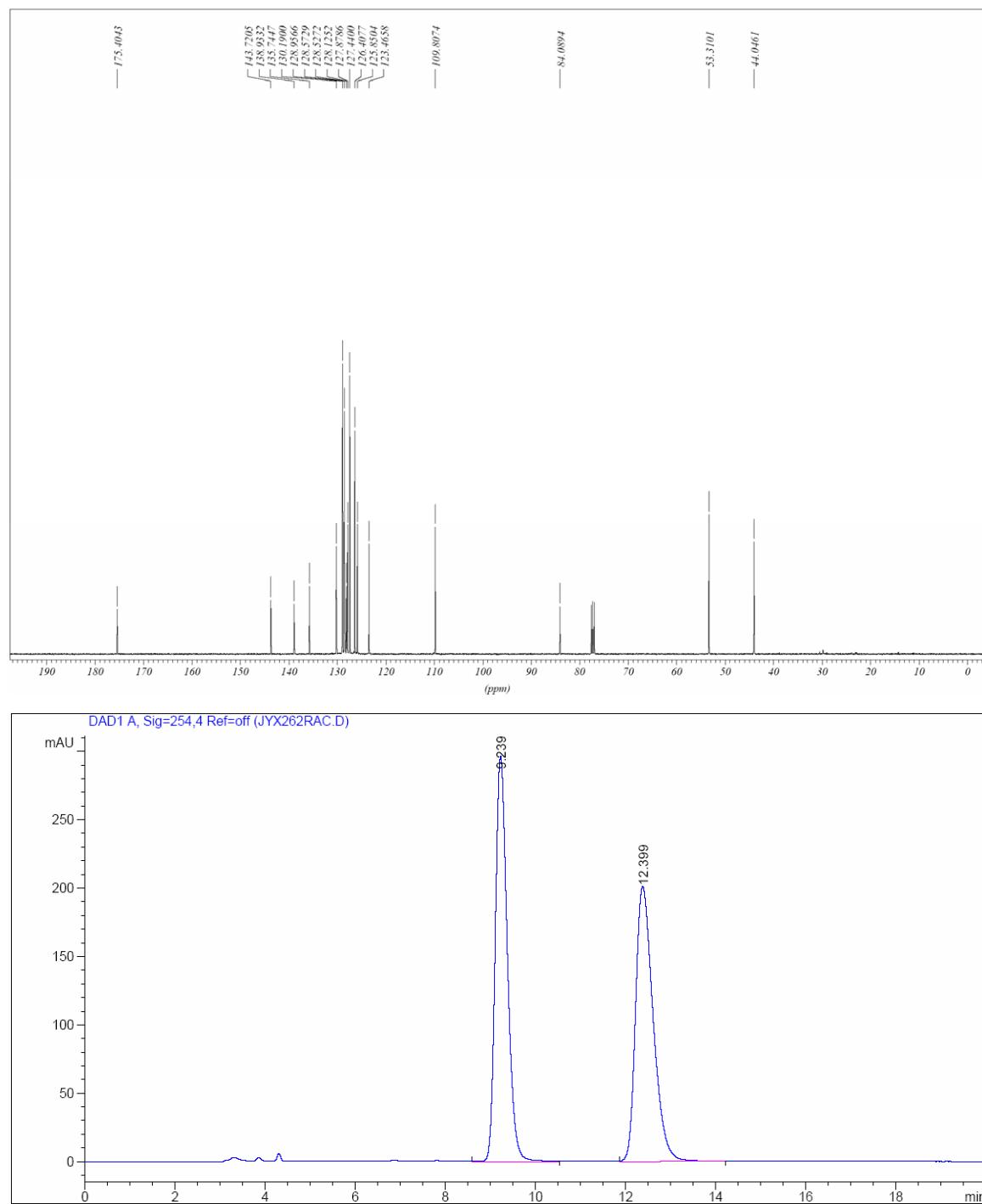


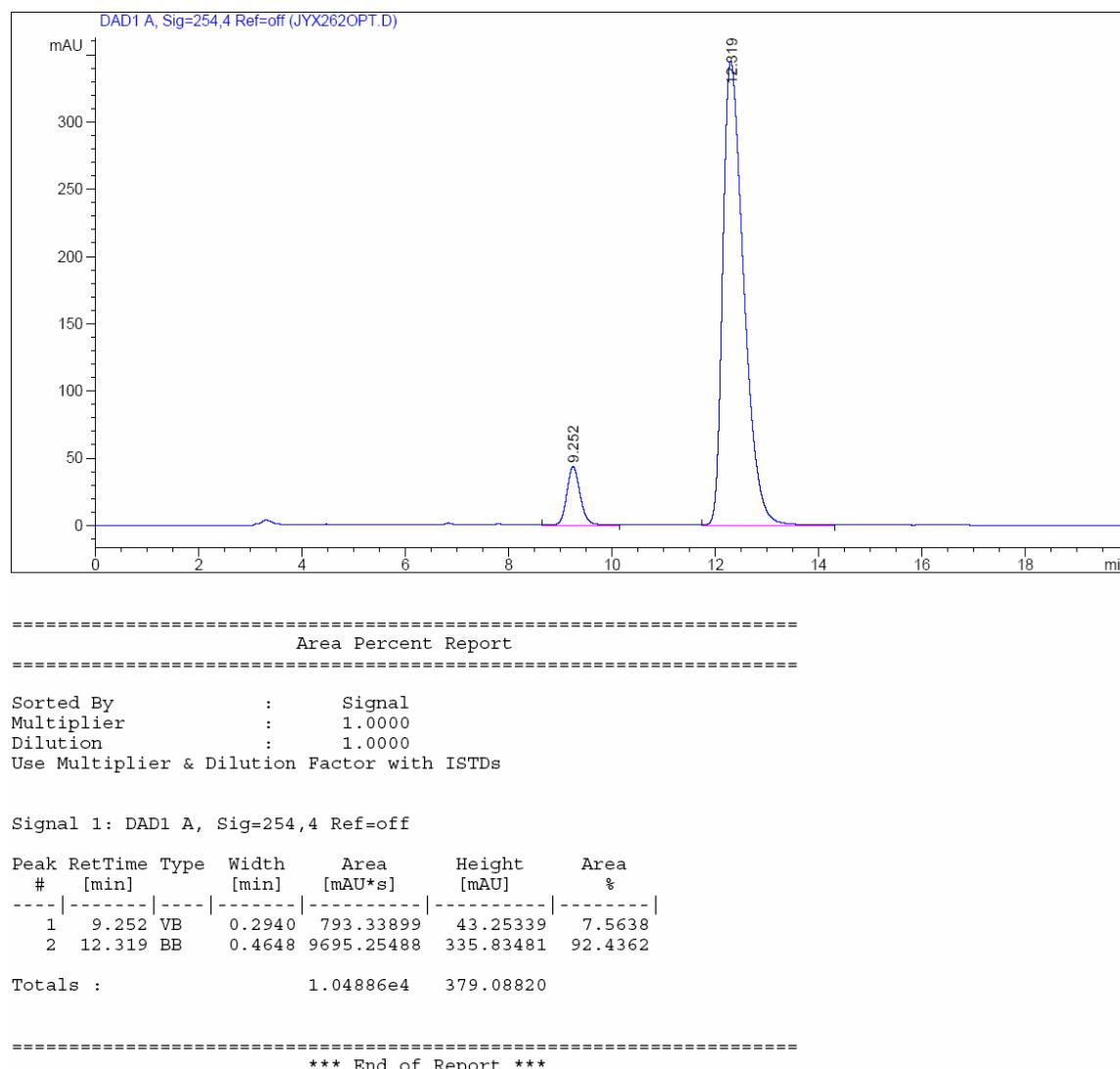


### 1-Benzyl-3-methoxy-3-phenyloxindole (2b)

93% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +49.1$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 85% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R$  = 9.25 min (minor) and 12.31 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.38 (s, 3H), 5.01 (dd,  $J = 15.7, 19.7$  Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.44 (m, 10H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  44.0, 53.3, 84.0, 109.8, 123.4, 125.8, 126.4, 127.4, 127.8, 128.1, 128.52, 128.57, 128.9, 130.1, 135.7, 138.9, 143.7, 175.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3061, 3031, 2929, 2826, 2248, 1717, 1610, 1485, 1465, 1454; HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI+) calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{Na} ([\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+)$ : 352.1308, found 352.1321.

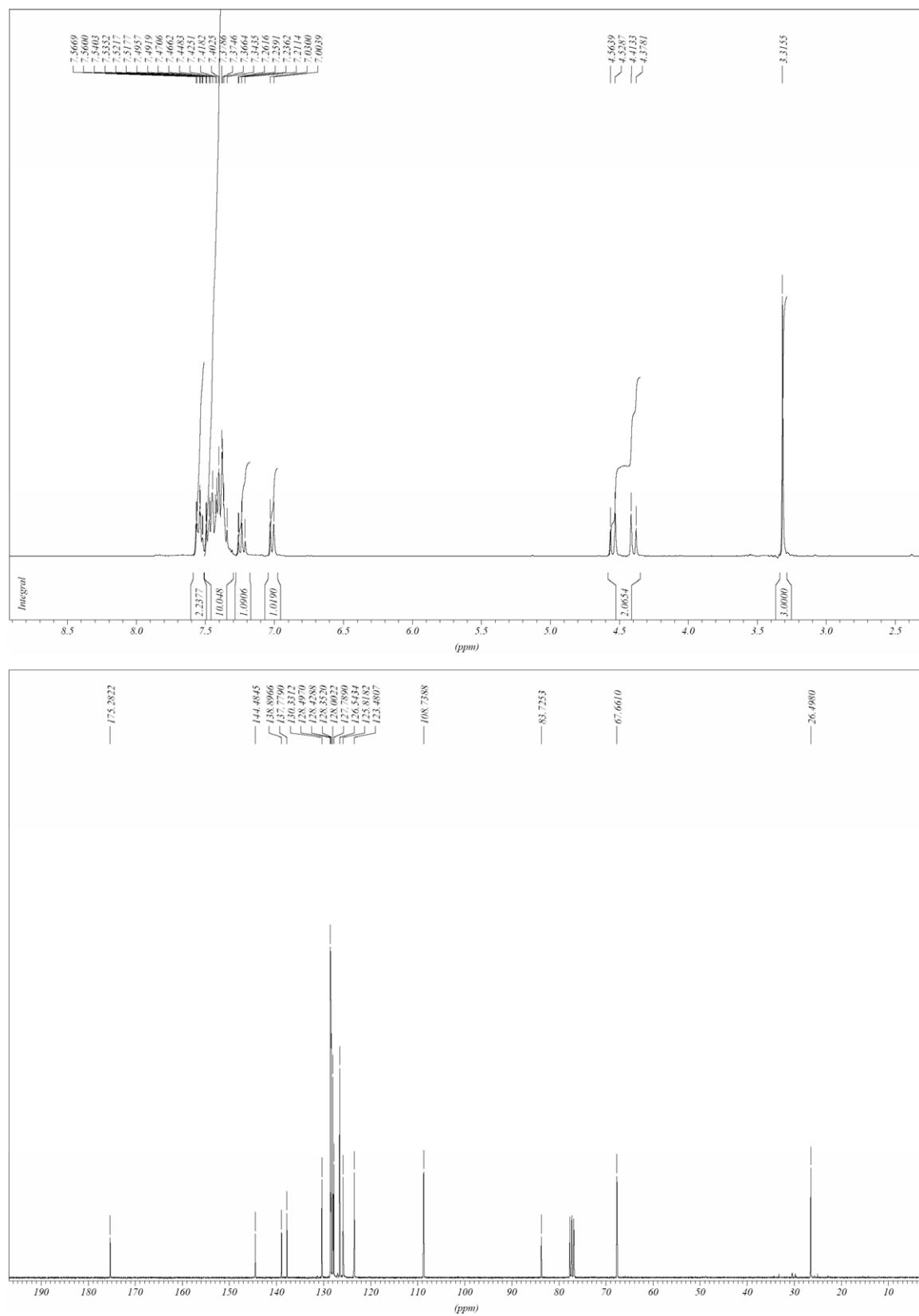


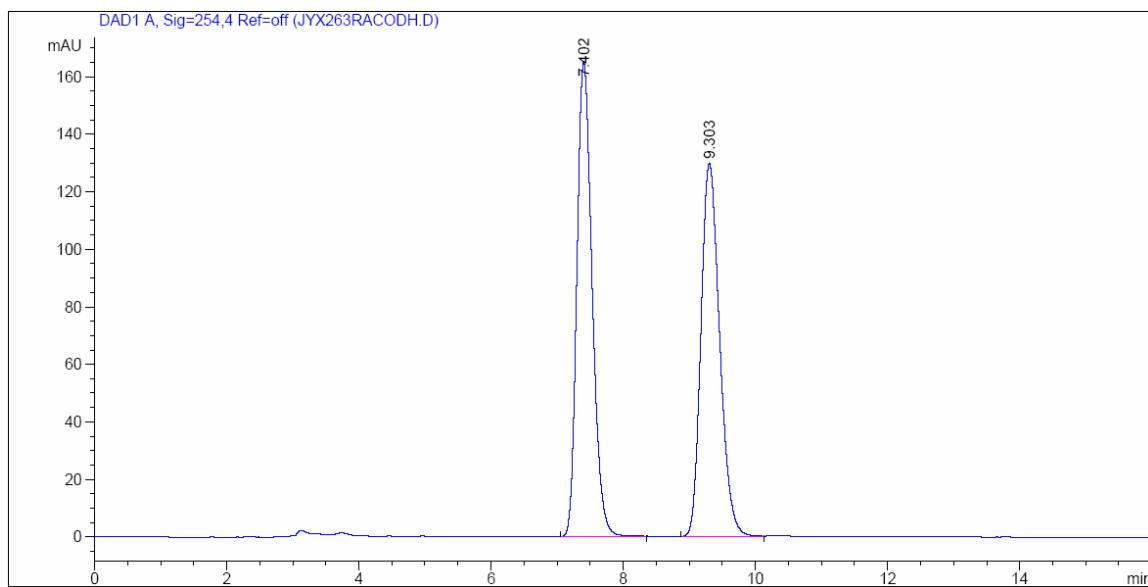


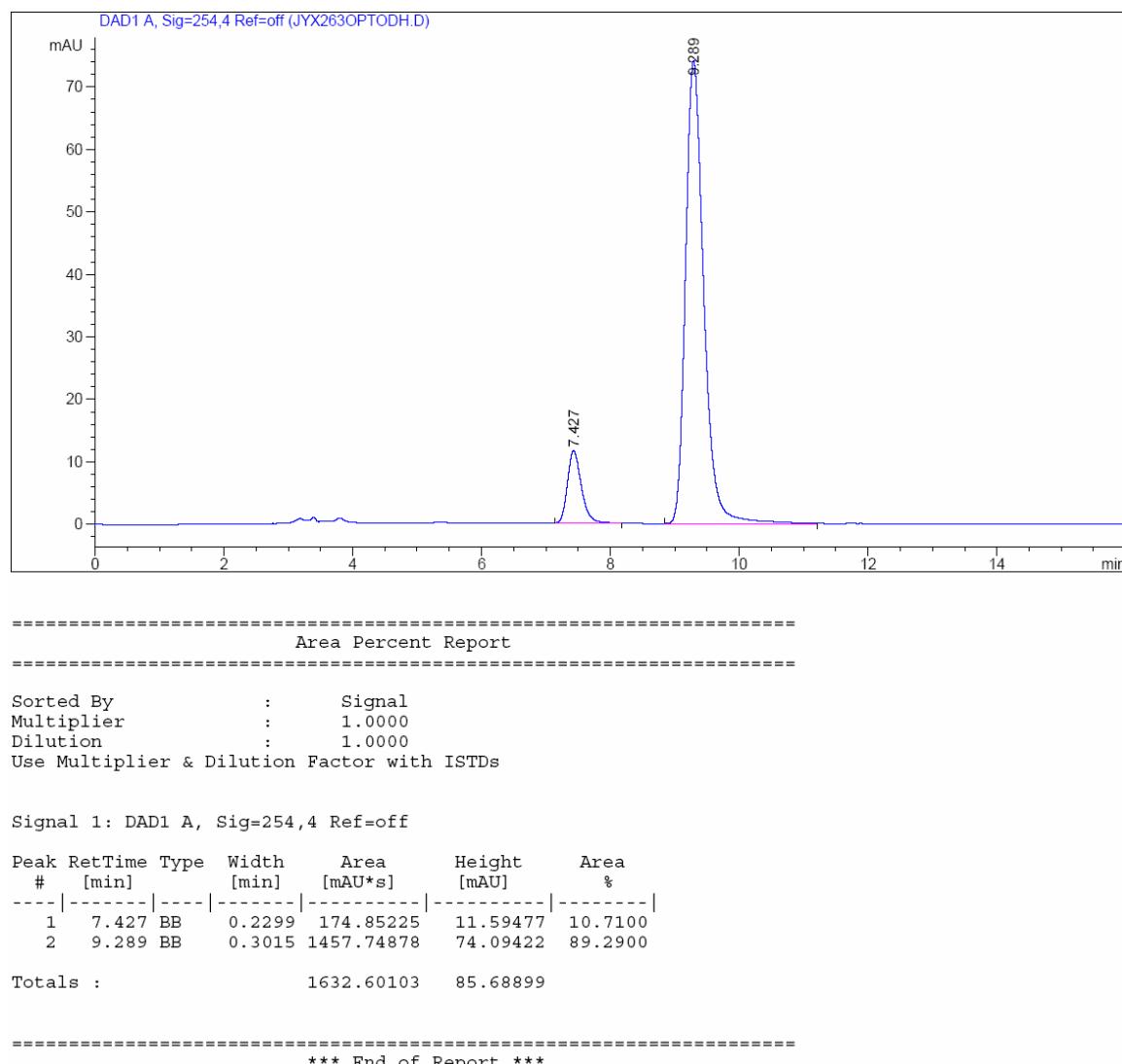


### 3-(Benzylxy)-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (2c)

94% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +184.2$  ( $c = 1.0$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). 79% ee [Chiralcel OD-H column,  $n$ -hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 7.42$  min (minor) and 9.28 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.31 (s, 3H), 4.47 (dd,  $J = 10.6, 45.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.49 (m, 10H), 7.51-7.57 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  26.4, 67.6, 83.7, 108.7, 123.4, 125.8, 126.5, 127.7, 128.0, 128.3, 128.42, 128.49, 130.3, 137.7, 138.8, 144.4, 175.2.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3059, 3031, 2924, 1720, 1610, 1491, 1468, 1448, 1419; HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI $+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{Na}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ): 352.1308, found 352.1324.

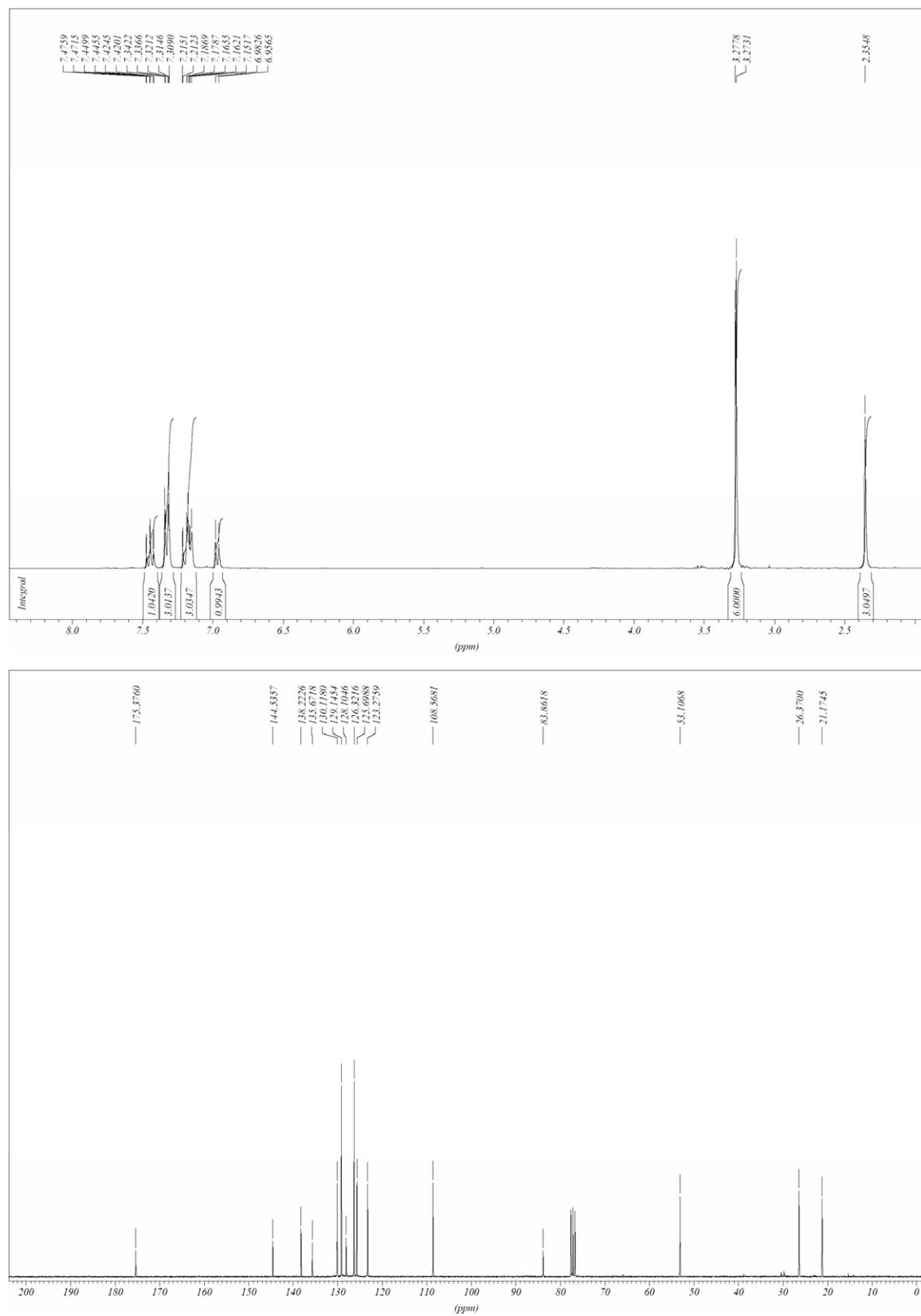


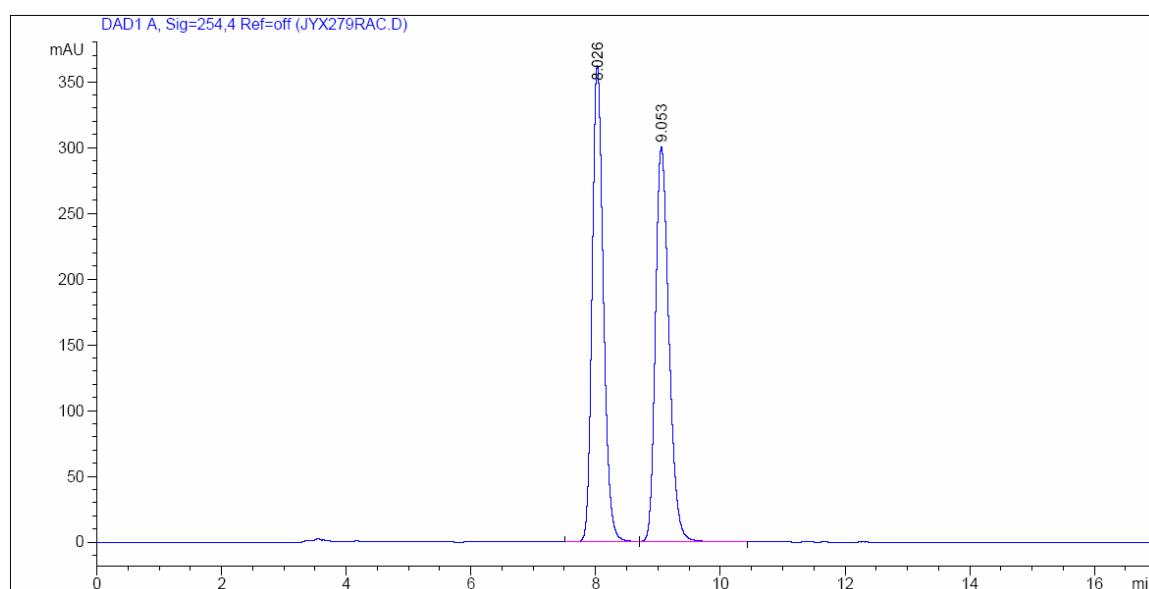


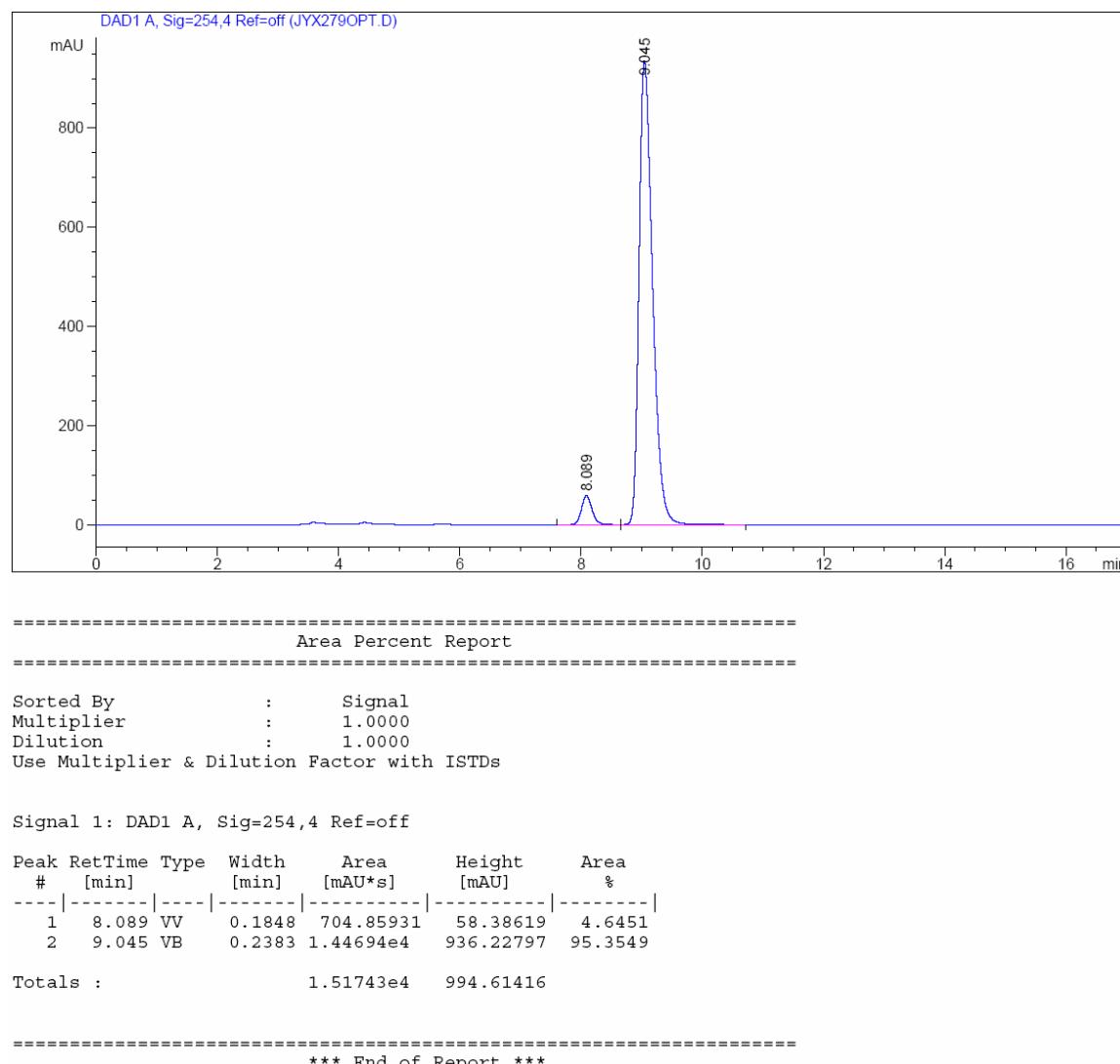


### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-(4-tolyl)oxindole (2d)

99% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +81.7$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 91% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R$  = 8.08 min (minor) and 9.04 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.35 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 6.97 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.32 (td,  $J$  = 1.7, 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.45 (dt,  $J$  = 1.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  21.1, 26.3, 53.1, 83.8, 108.5, 123.2, 125.6, 126.3, 128.1, 129.1, 130.1, 135.6, 138.2, 144.5, 175.3.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2929, 2826, 1720, 1609, 1509, 1492, 1468, 1420; HRMS: *m/z* (EI) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N ([M]<sup>+</sup>): 267.1259, found 267.1262.

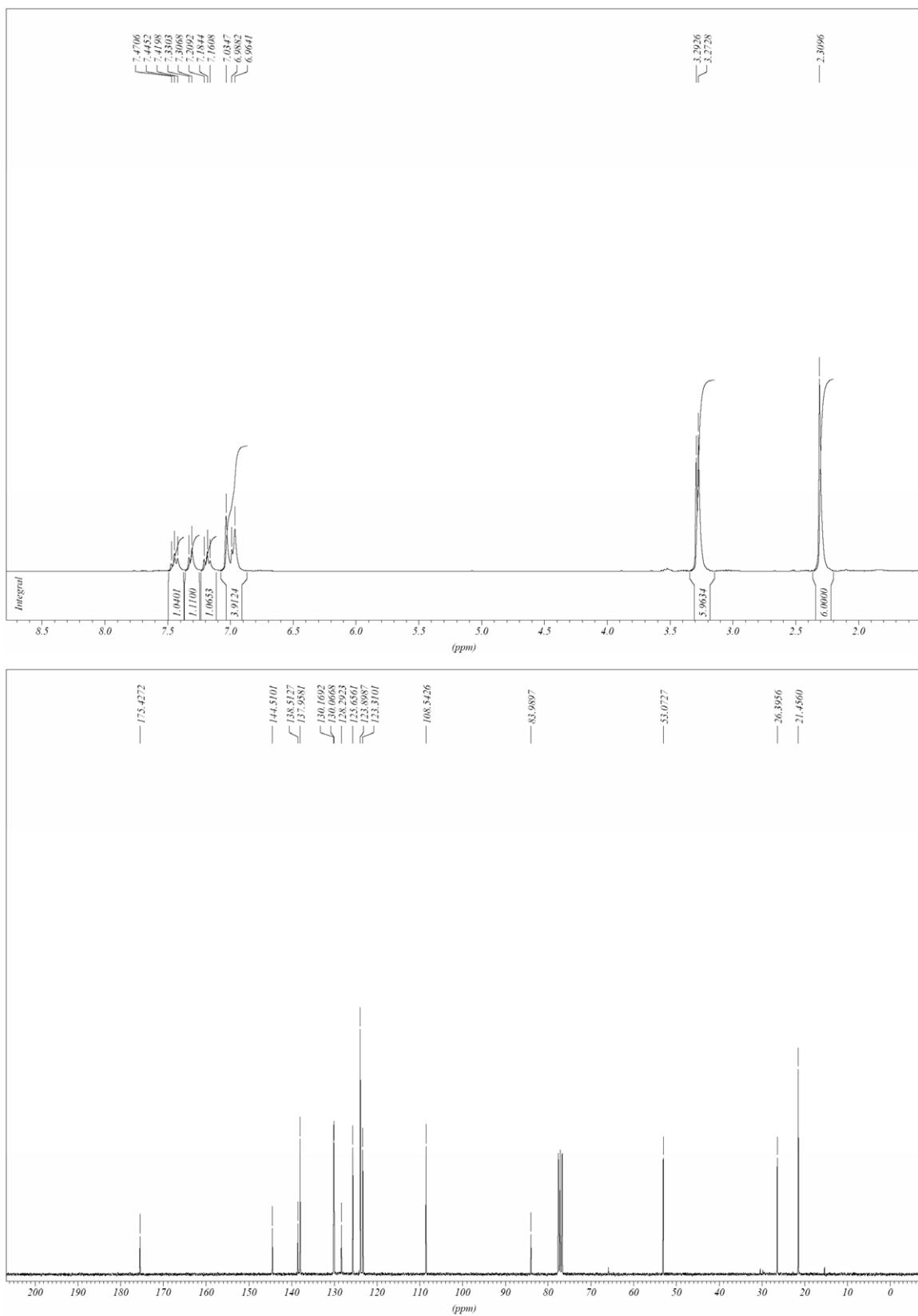


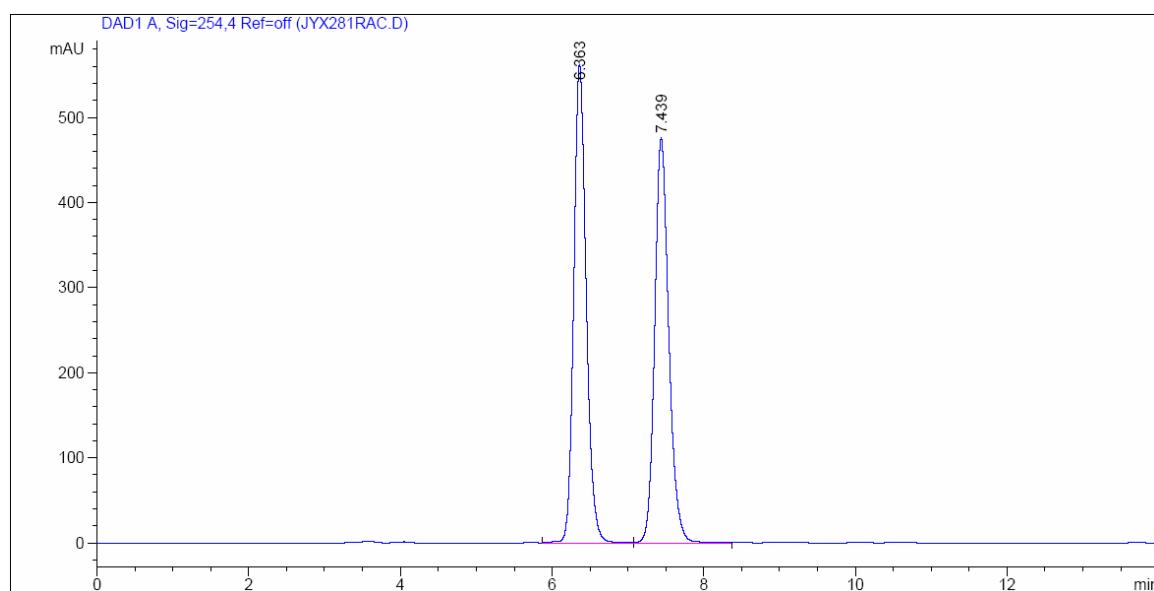


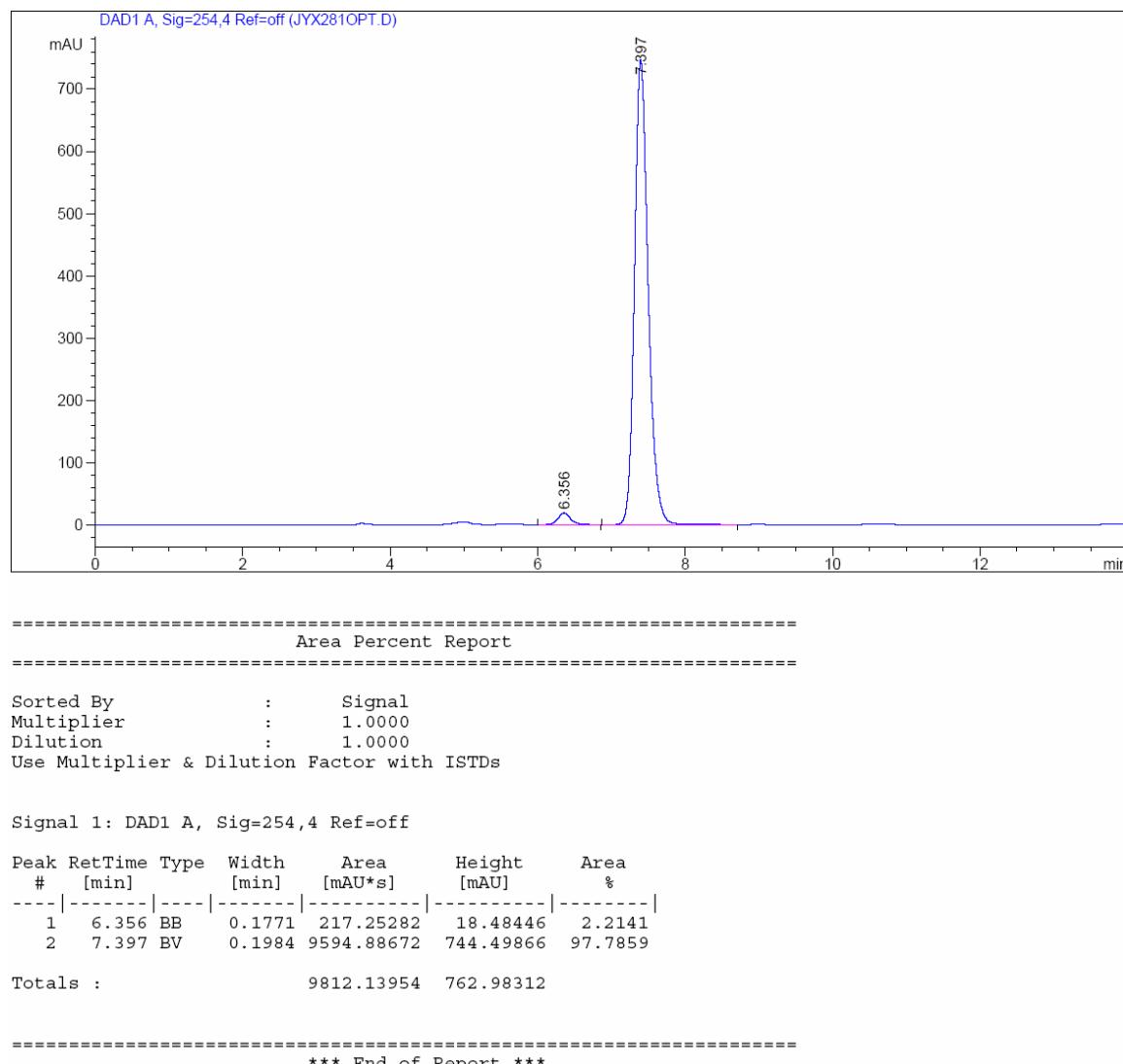


### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)oxindole (2e)

89% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +60.5$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 96% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R$  = 6.35 min (minor) and 7.39 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.31 (s, 6H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 6.96-7.03 (m, 4H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  21.4, 26.3, 53.0, 83.9, 108.5, 123.3, 123.8, 125.6, 128.2, 130.0, 130.1, 137.9, 138.5, 144.5, 175.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2927, 2826, 1721, 1608, 1491, 1468, 1420; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI) calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> ([M]<sup>+</sup>): 281.1416, found 281.1412.

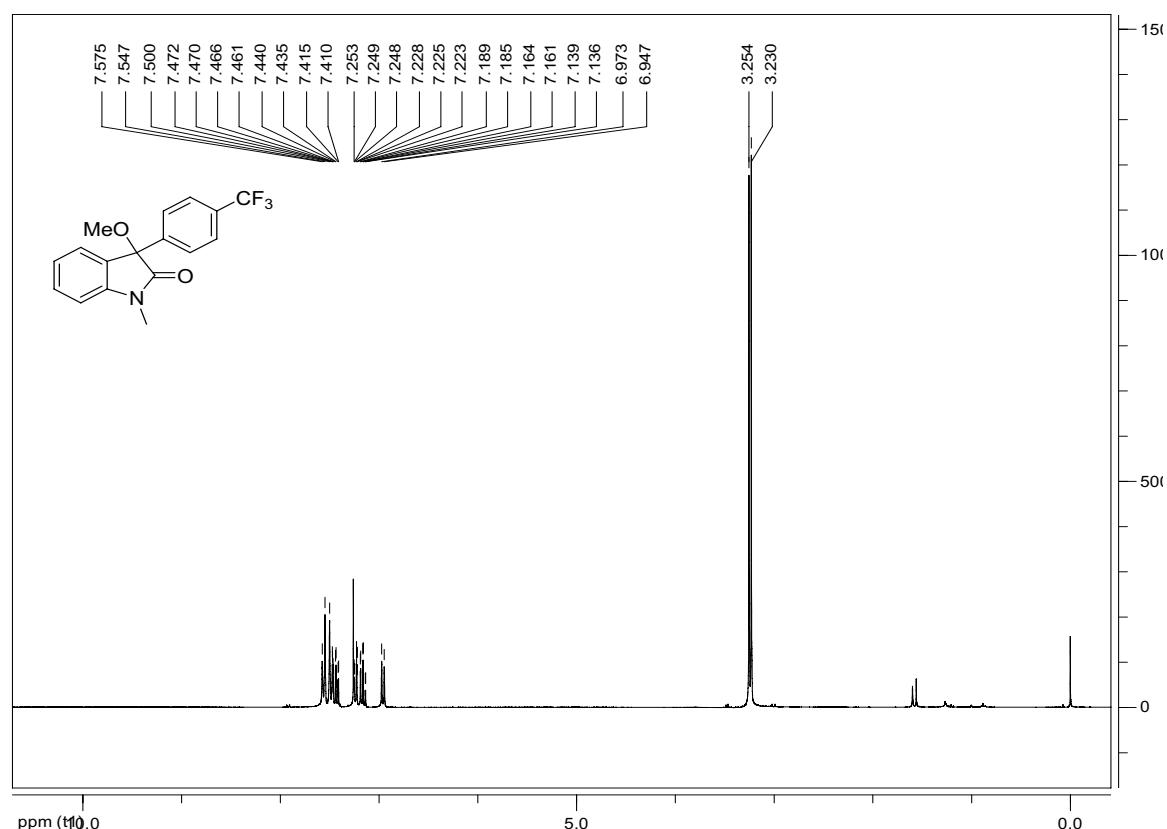


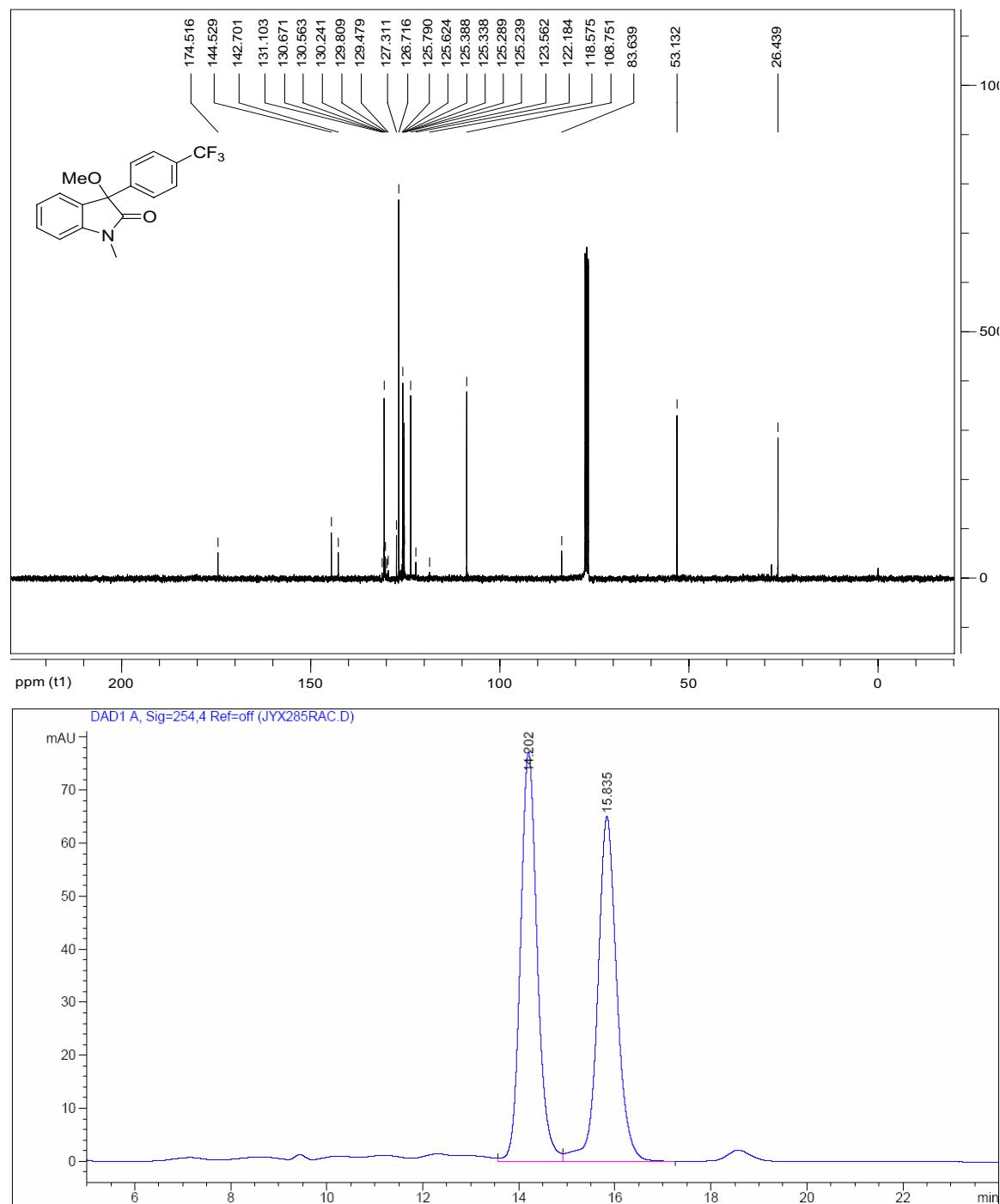


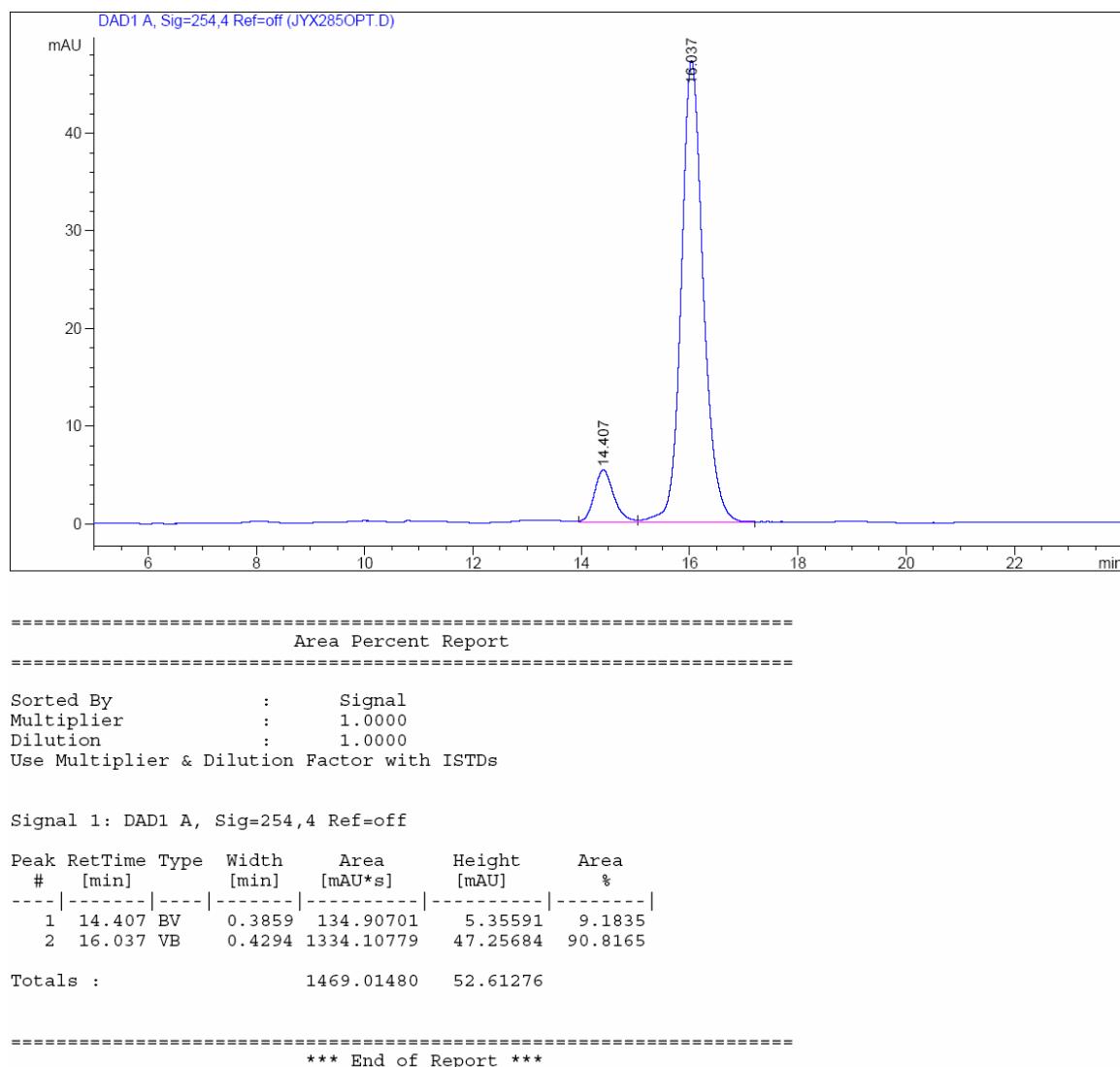


### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)oxindole (2f)

45% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +40.1$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 82% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R$  = 14.41 min (minor) and 16.03 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.23 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (td,  $J = 0.9, 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (ddd,  $J = 0.5, 1.5, 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td,  $J = 7.7, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  26.4, 53.1, 83.6, 108.8, 123.6, 124.0, 125.3, 125.6, 126.7, 127.3, 130.5, 130.6, 142.7, 144.5, 174.5.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2950, 2928, 1731, 1612, 1470, 1326, 1166, 1127, 1103; HRMS: *m/z* (EI+) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 344.0869, found: 344.0858.

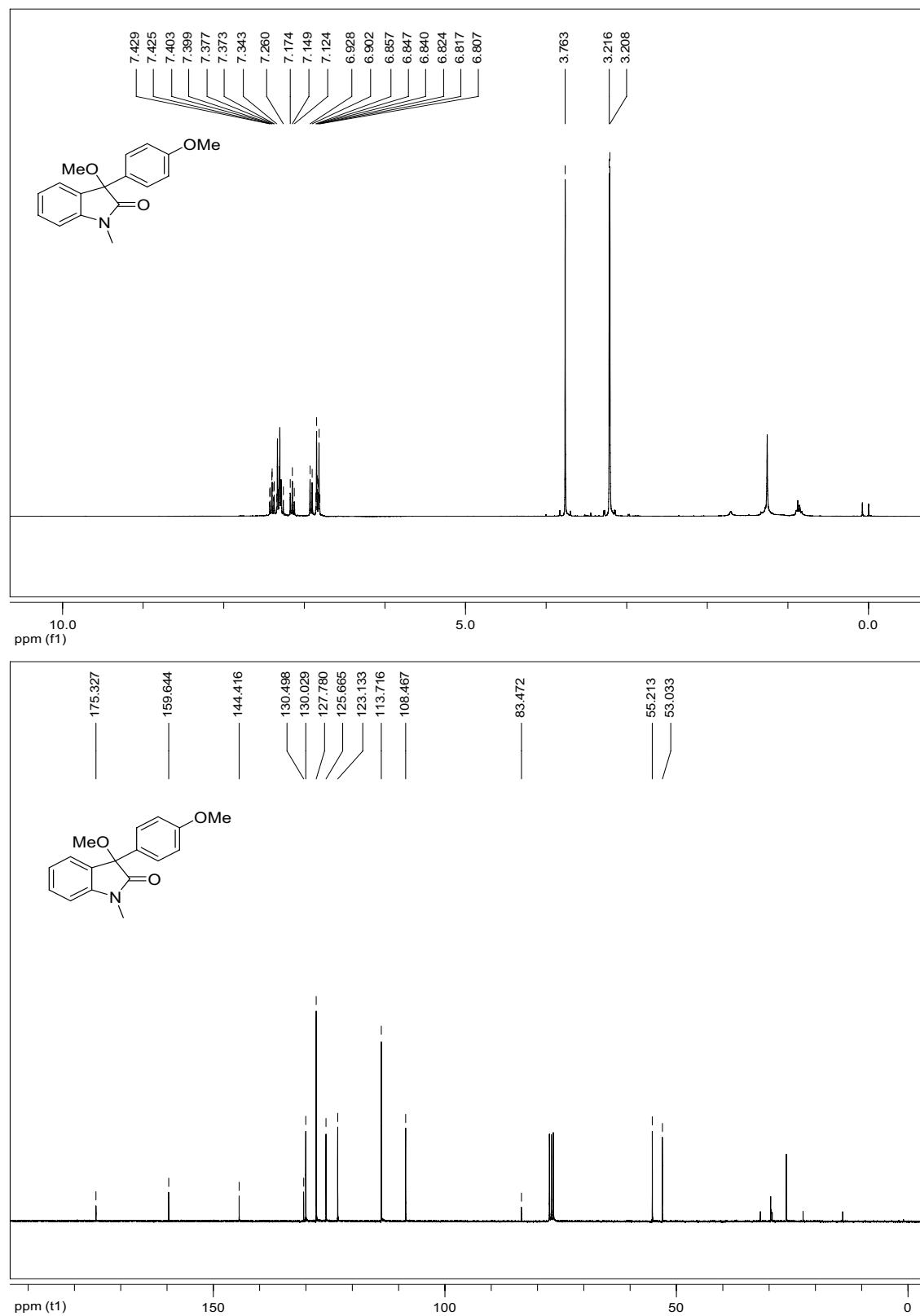


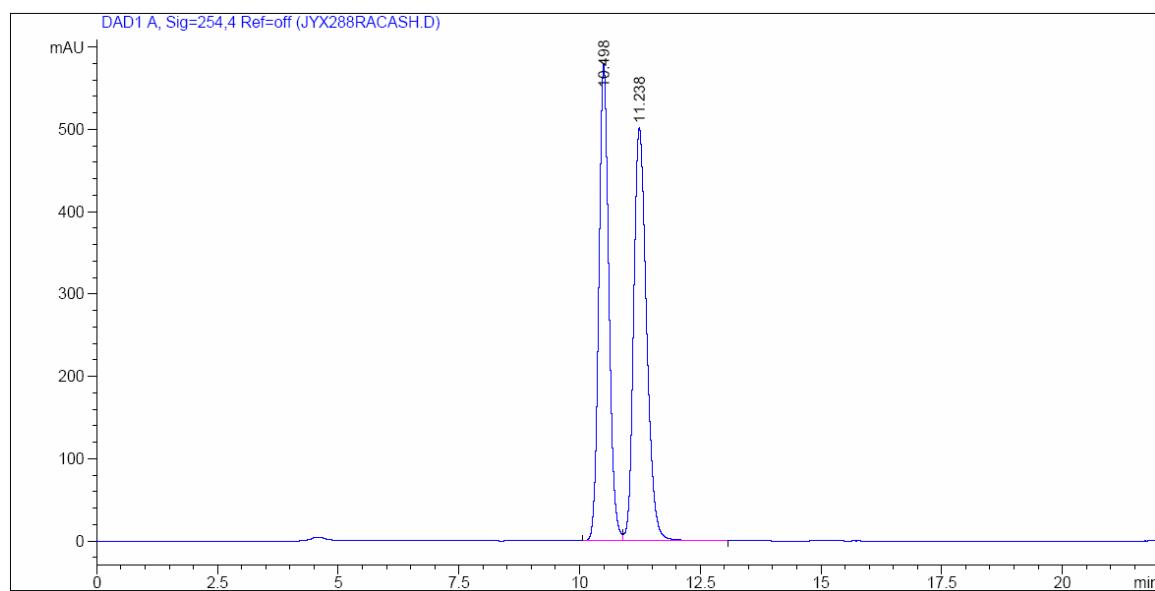


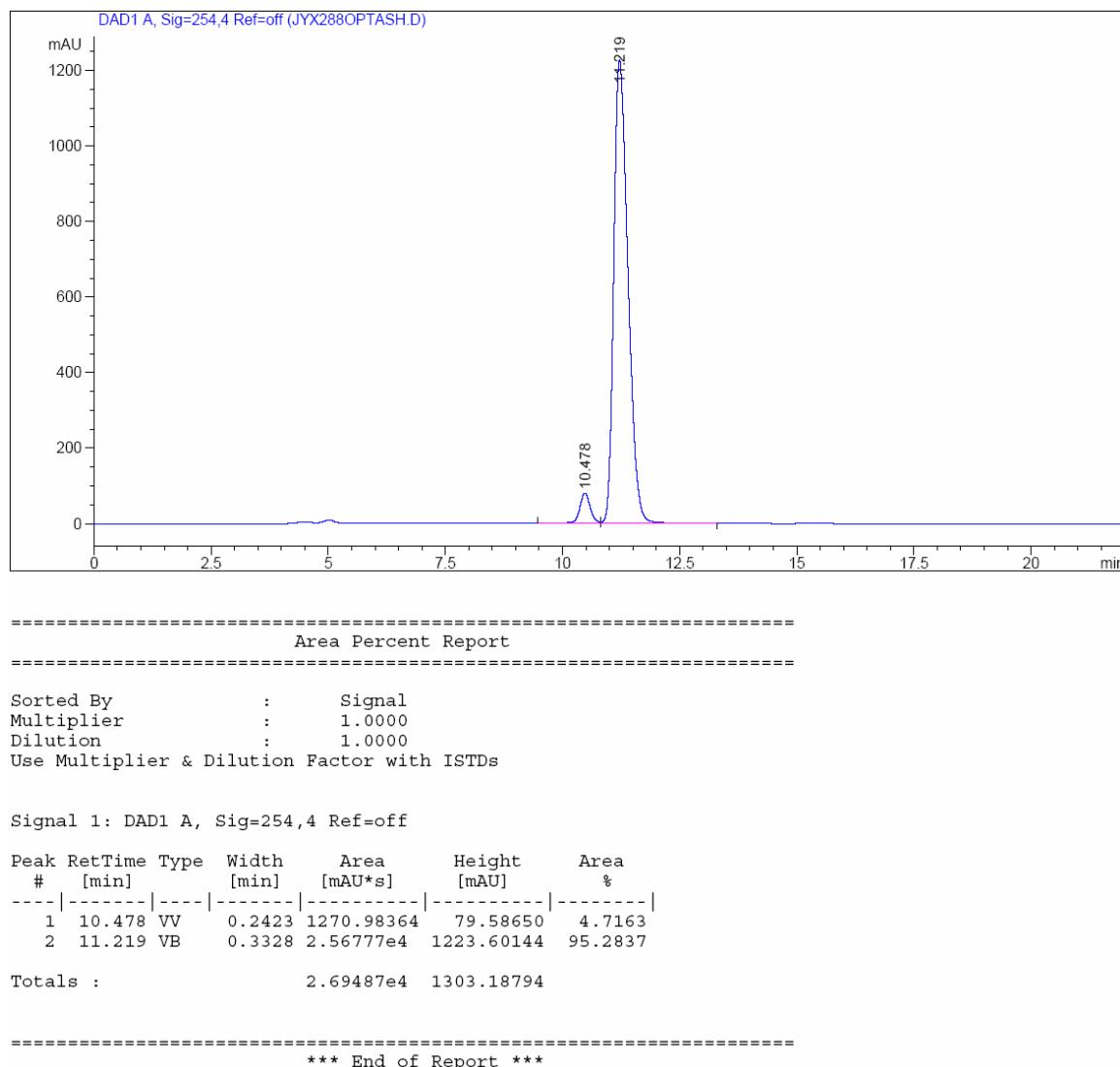


### 3-Methoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyloxindole (2g)

90% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +105.3$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 91% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 10.47$  min (minor) and 11.21 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.21 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 6.83 (dt,  $J = 2.5, 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (td,  $J = 0.7, 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.40 (td,  $J = 1.3, 7.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  25.3, 52.1, 54.2, 82.5, 107.5, 112.8, 122.2, 124.7, 126.8, 129.1, 129.5, 143.5, 158.7, 174.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2928, 2829, 1724, 1610, 1510, 1467; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI $+$ ) calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ): 306.1101, found: 306.1091.

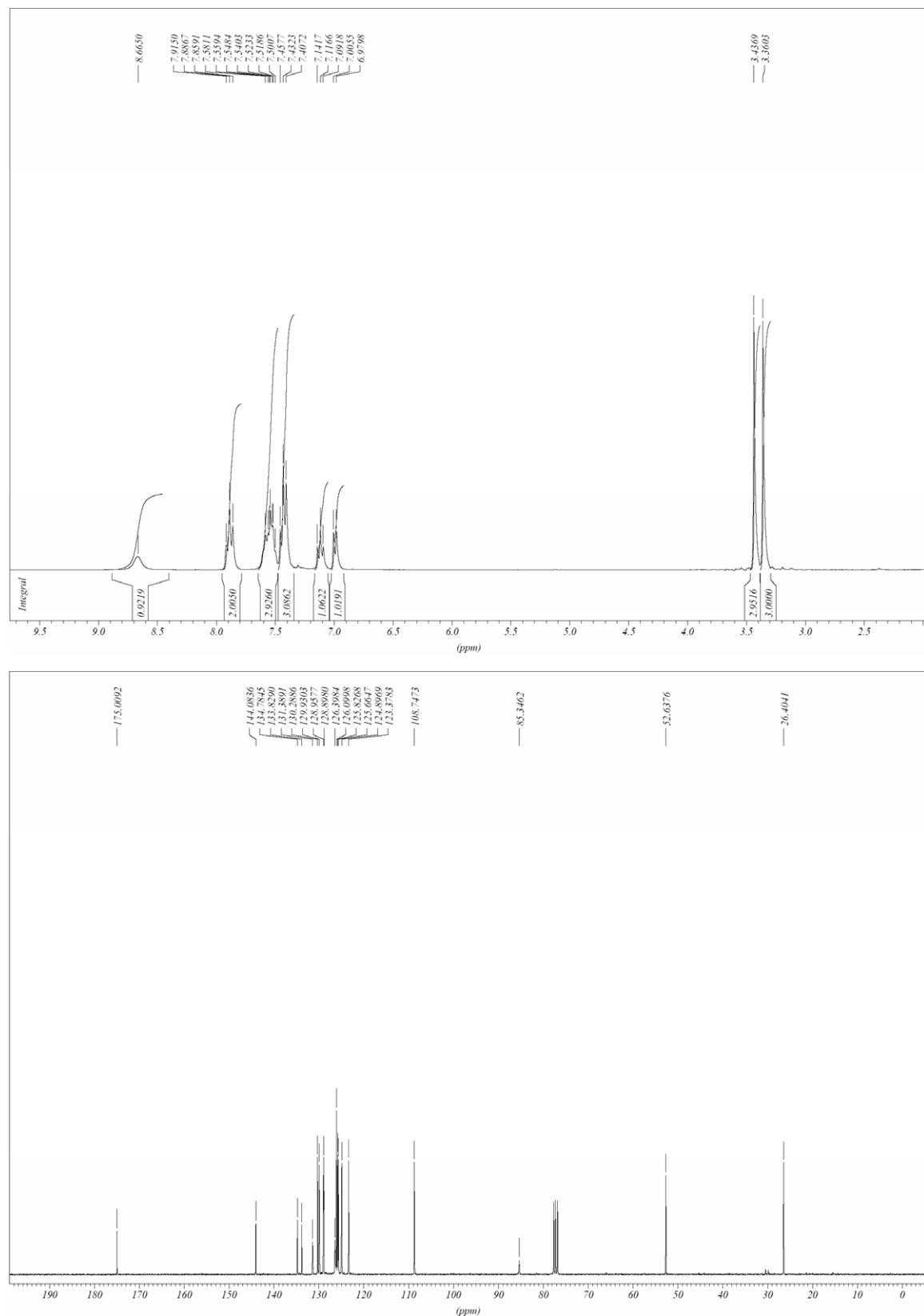


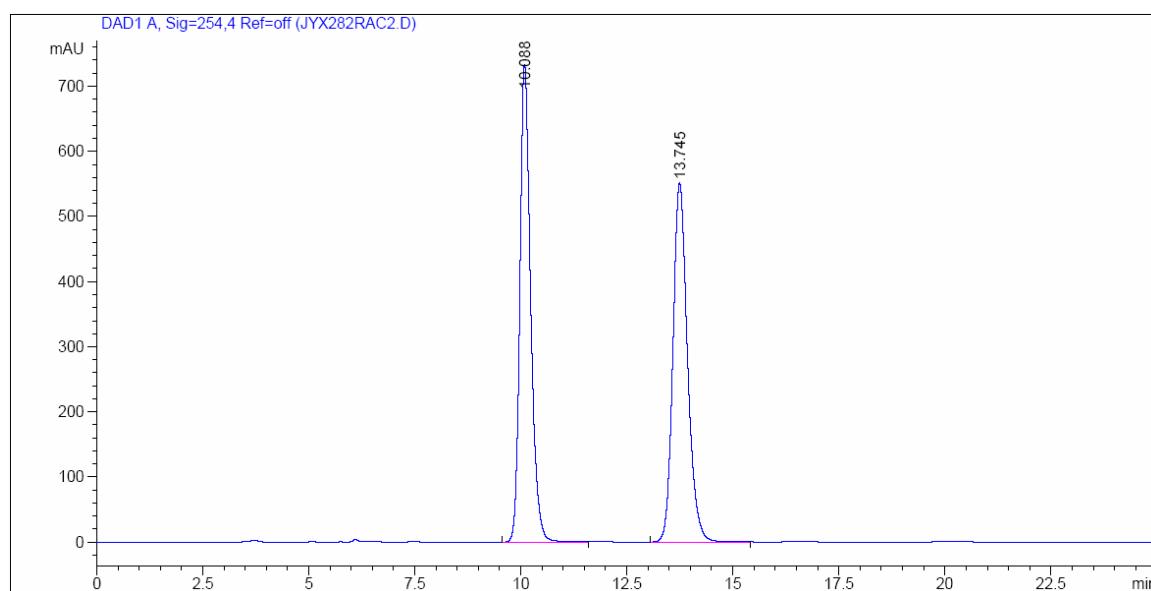


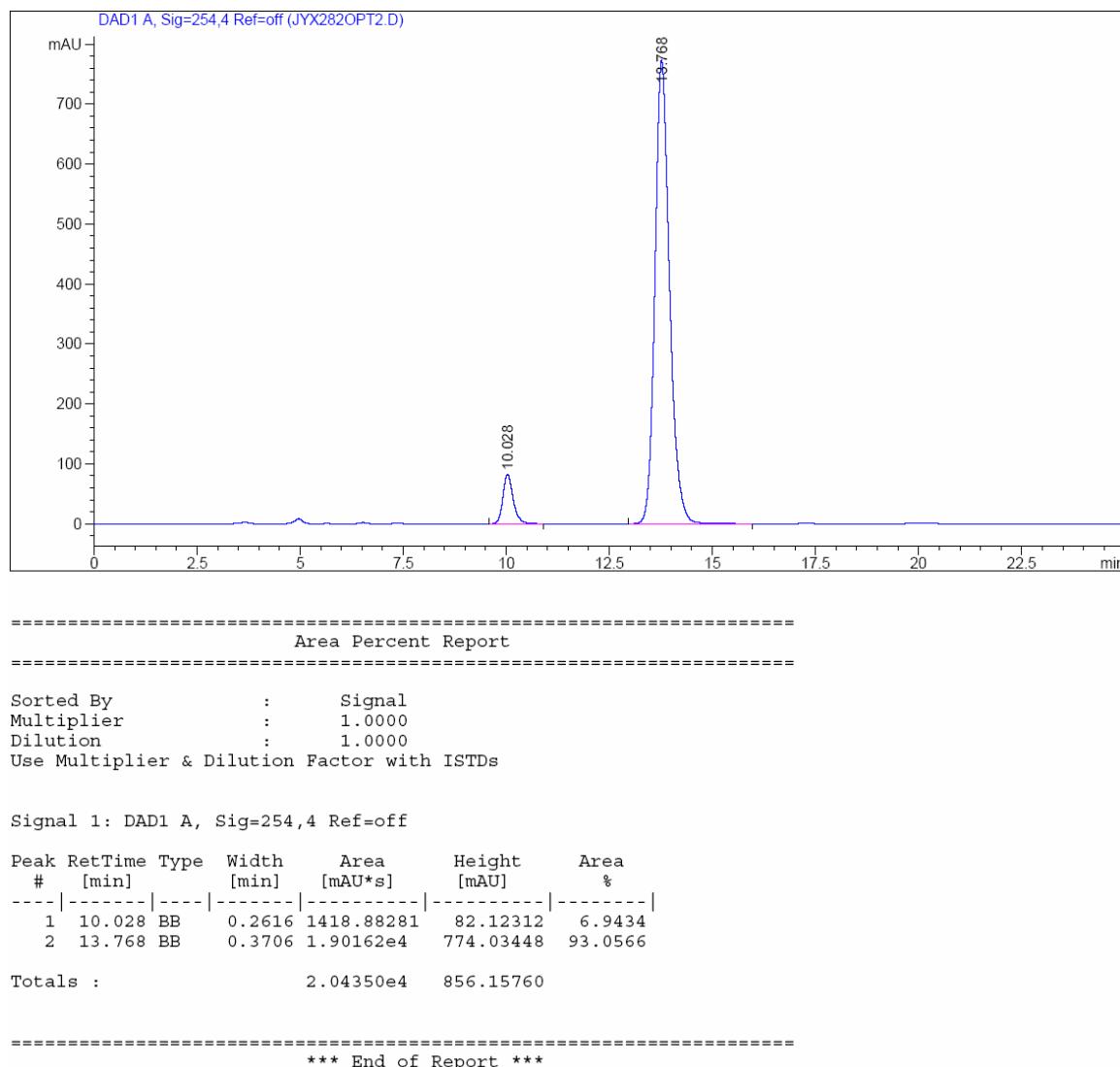


### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)oxindole (2h)

99% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -33$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 86% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 10.02$  min (minor) and 13.76 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.36 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 7.50-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.88 (t,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 8.66 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  26.4, 52.6, 85.3, 108.7, 123.3, 124.8, 125.6, 125.8, 126.0, 126.3, 128.8, 128.9, 129.9, 130.2, 131.3, 133.8, 134.7, 144.0, 175.0.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3053, 2932, 2827, 1713, 1609, 1509, 1491, 1469, 1420; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$  ( $[\text{M}]^+$ ): 303.1259, found 303.1261.

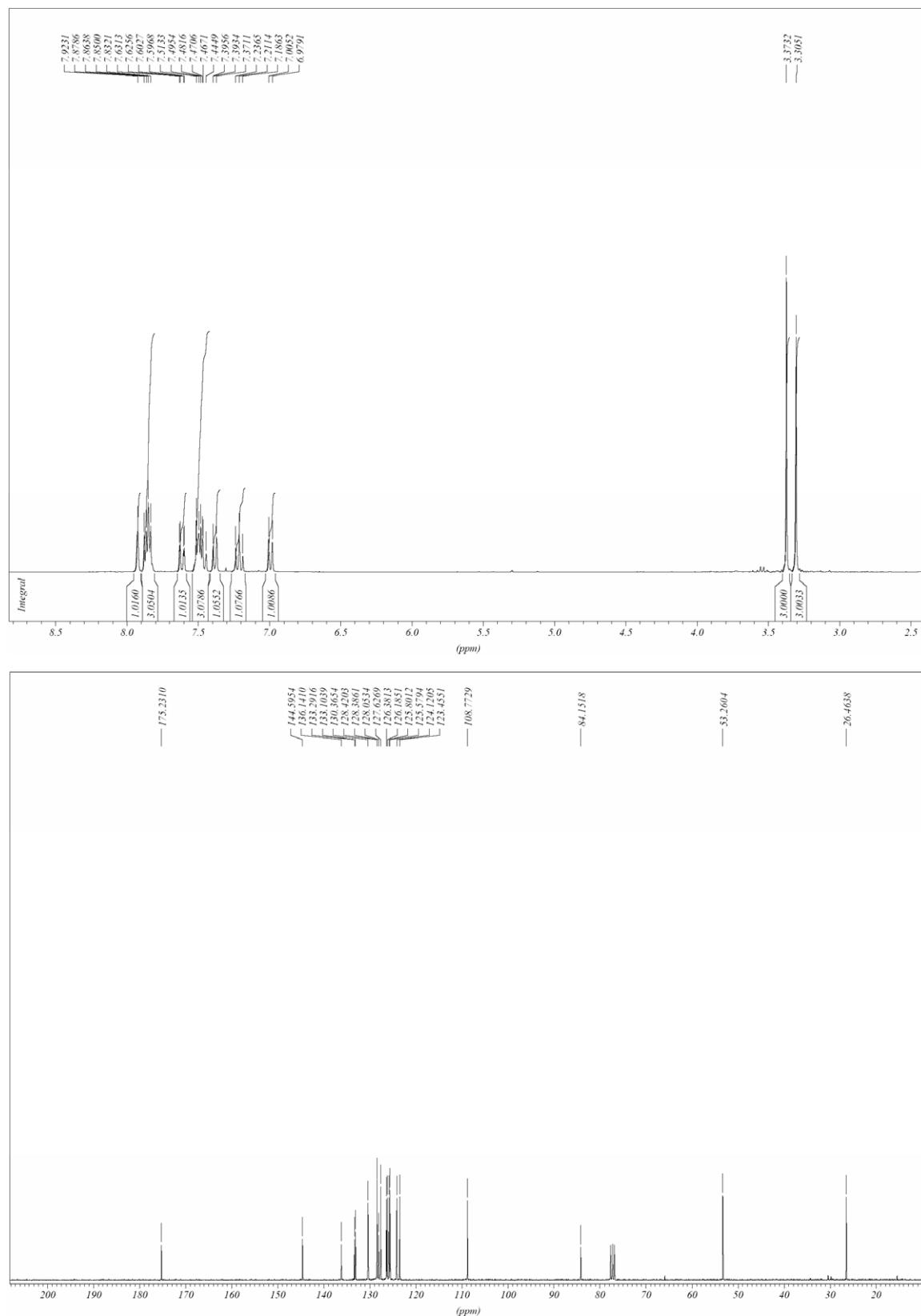


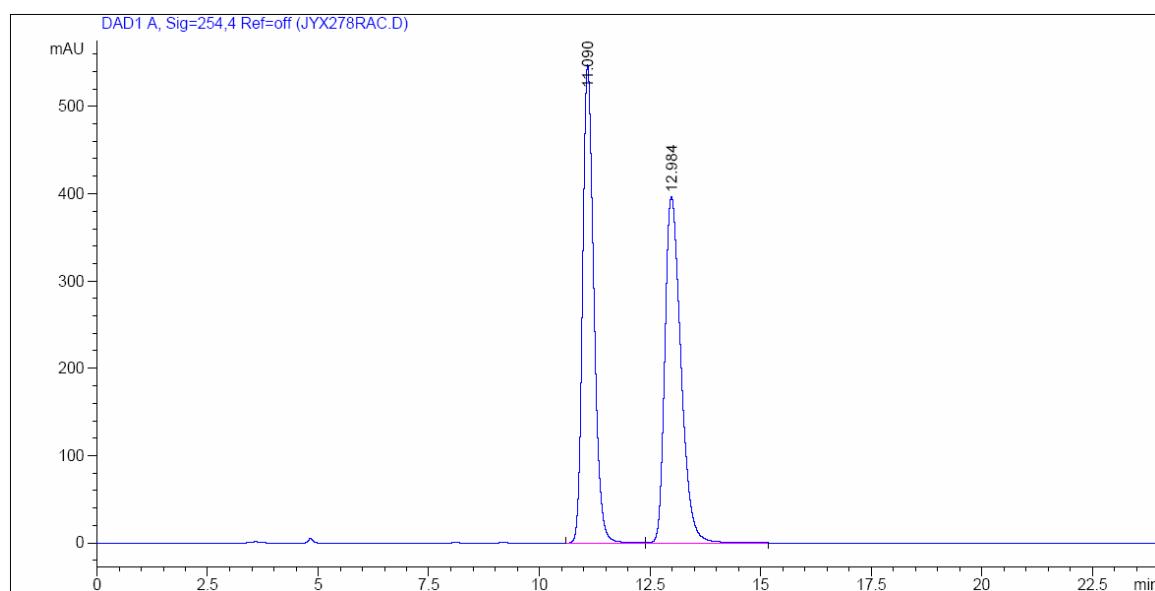


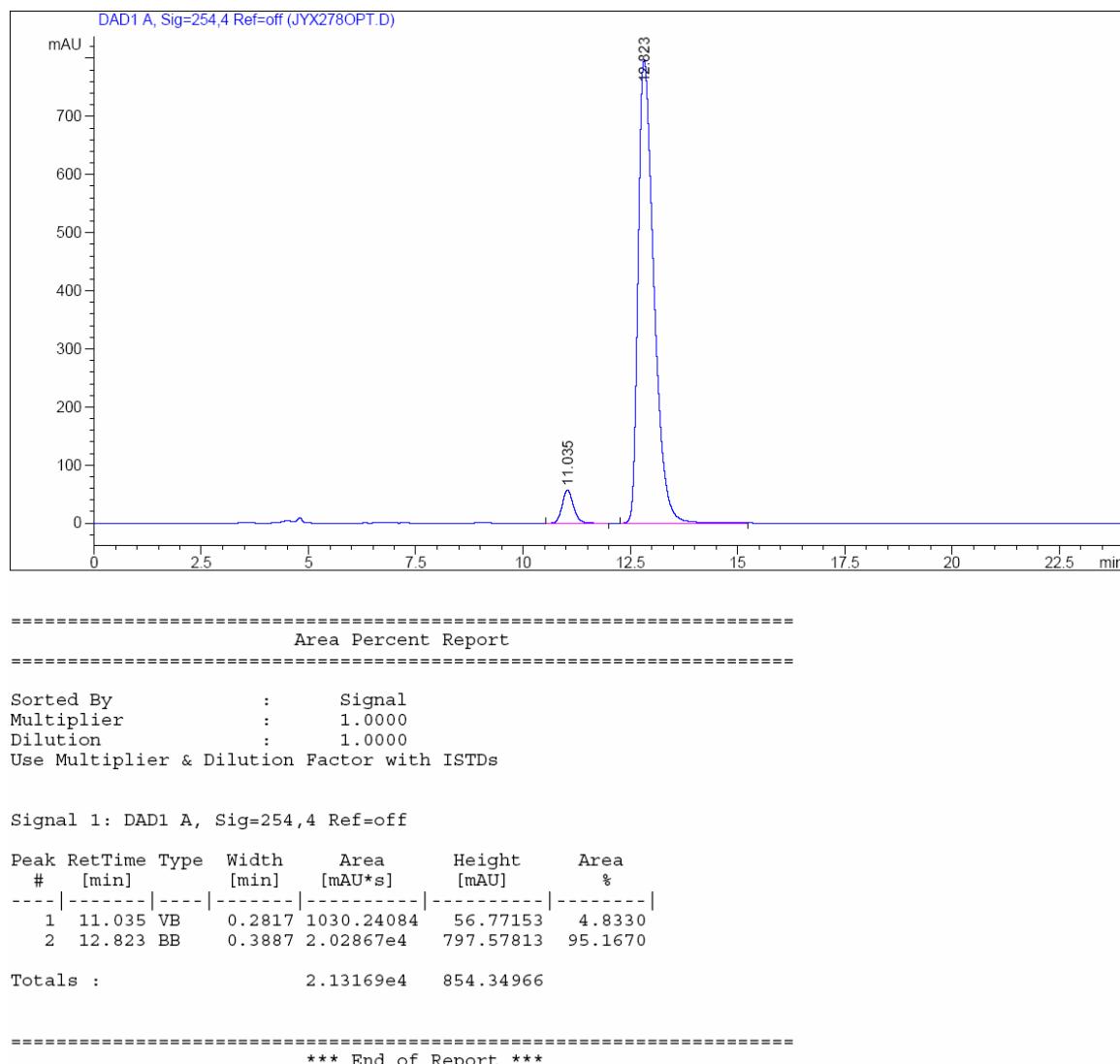


### 3-Methoxy-1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)oxindole (2i)

92% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +62.4$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 90% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 11.03$  min (minor) and 12.82 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.30 (s, 3H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.61 (dd,  $J = 1.7, 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.88 (m, 3H), 7.92 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  26.4, 53.2, 84.1, 108.7, 123.4, 124.1, 125.5, 125.8, 126.1, 126.3, 127.6, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 130.3, 133.1, 133.2, 136.1, 144.5, 175.2.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3056, 2931, 2826, 1718, 1609, 1491, 1468, 1419; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI) calculated for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$  ( $[\text{M}]^+$ ): 303.1259, found 303.1260.

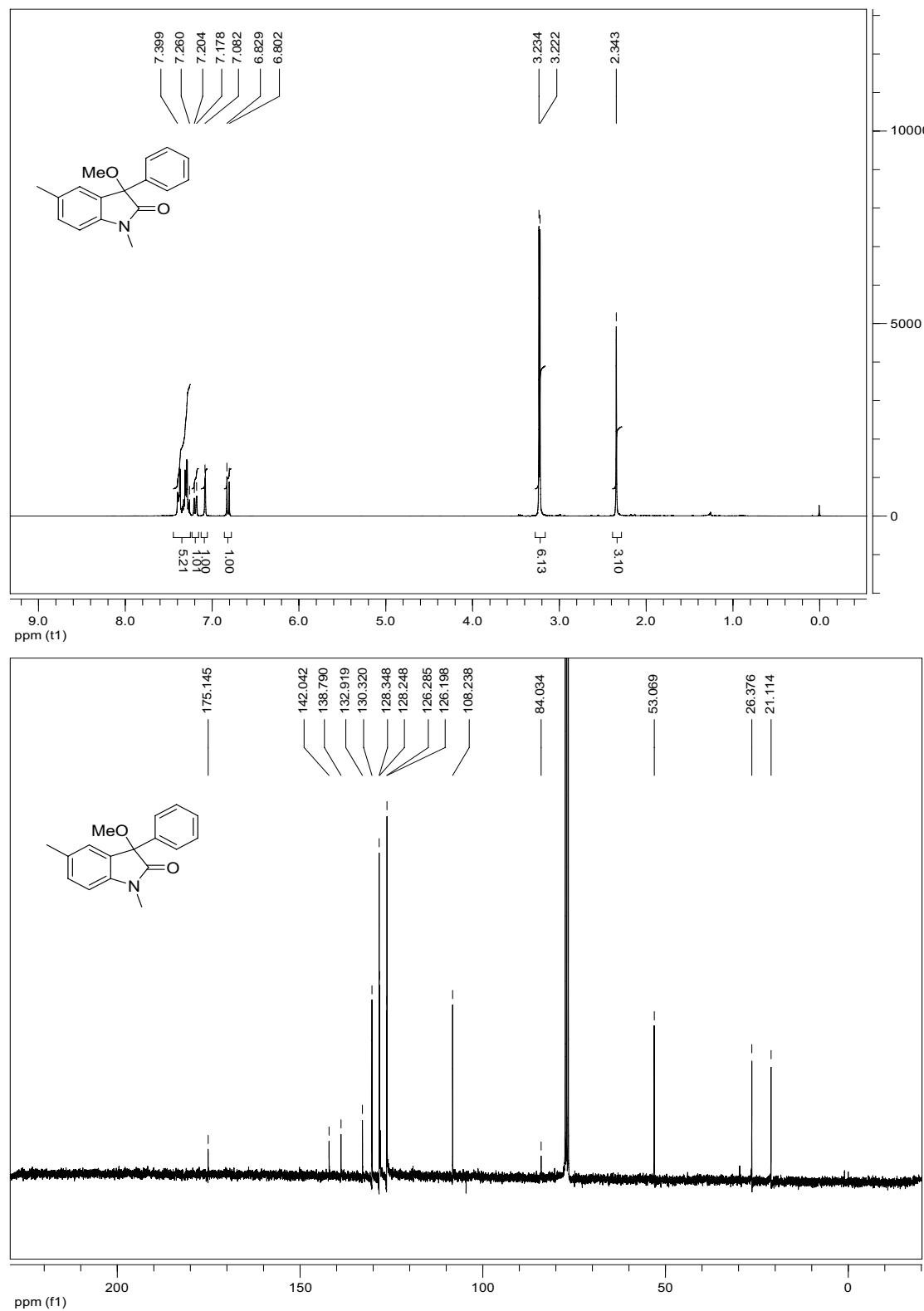


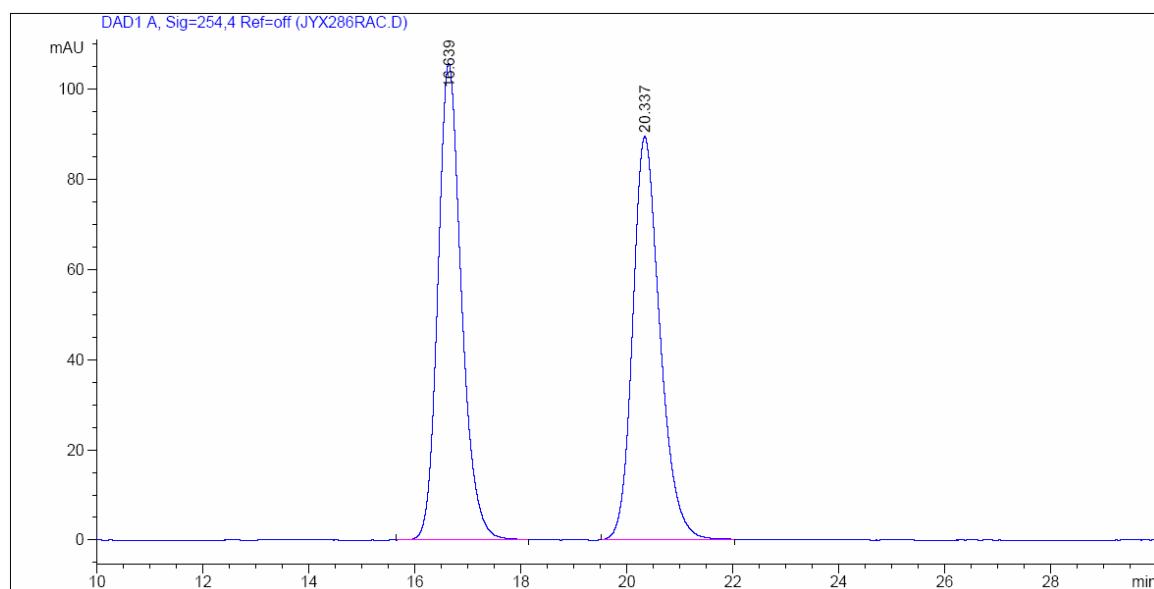


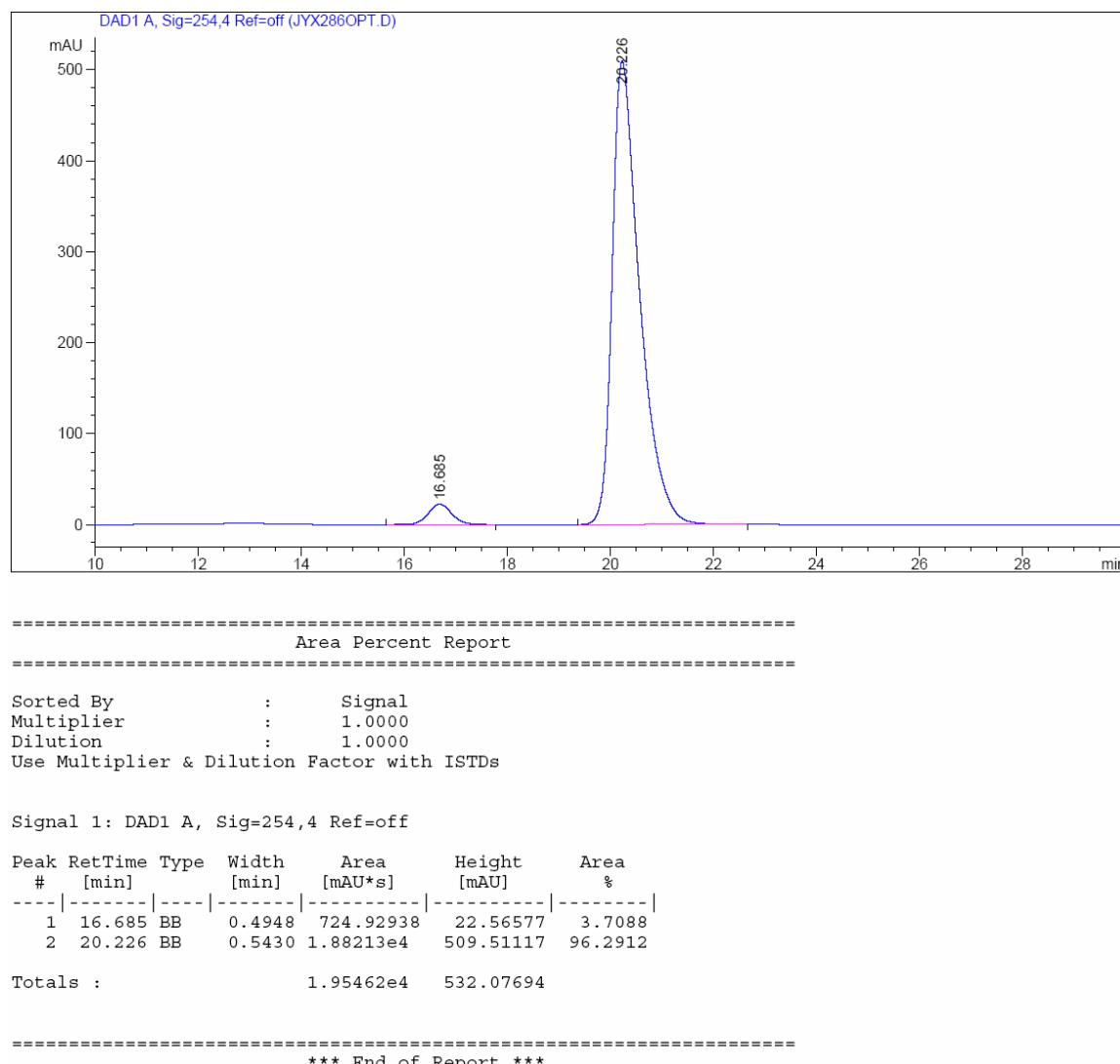


### 3-Methoxy-1,5-dimethyl-3-phenyloxindole (2j)

95% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +110.8$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 93% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 16.68$  min (minor) and 20.22 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.34 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 7.19 (dd,  $J = 0.8, 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.39 (m, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.6, 26.8, 54.5, 84.5, 108.7, 126.7, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 130.8, 133.4, 139.2, 142.5, 175.6.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3060, 3021, 2929, 2824, 1725, 1619, 1602, 1498; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI+) calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{Na} ([\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+)$ : 290.1151, found: 290.1146.

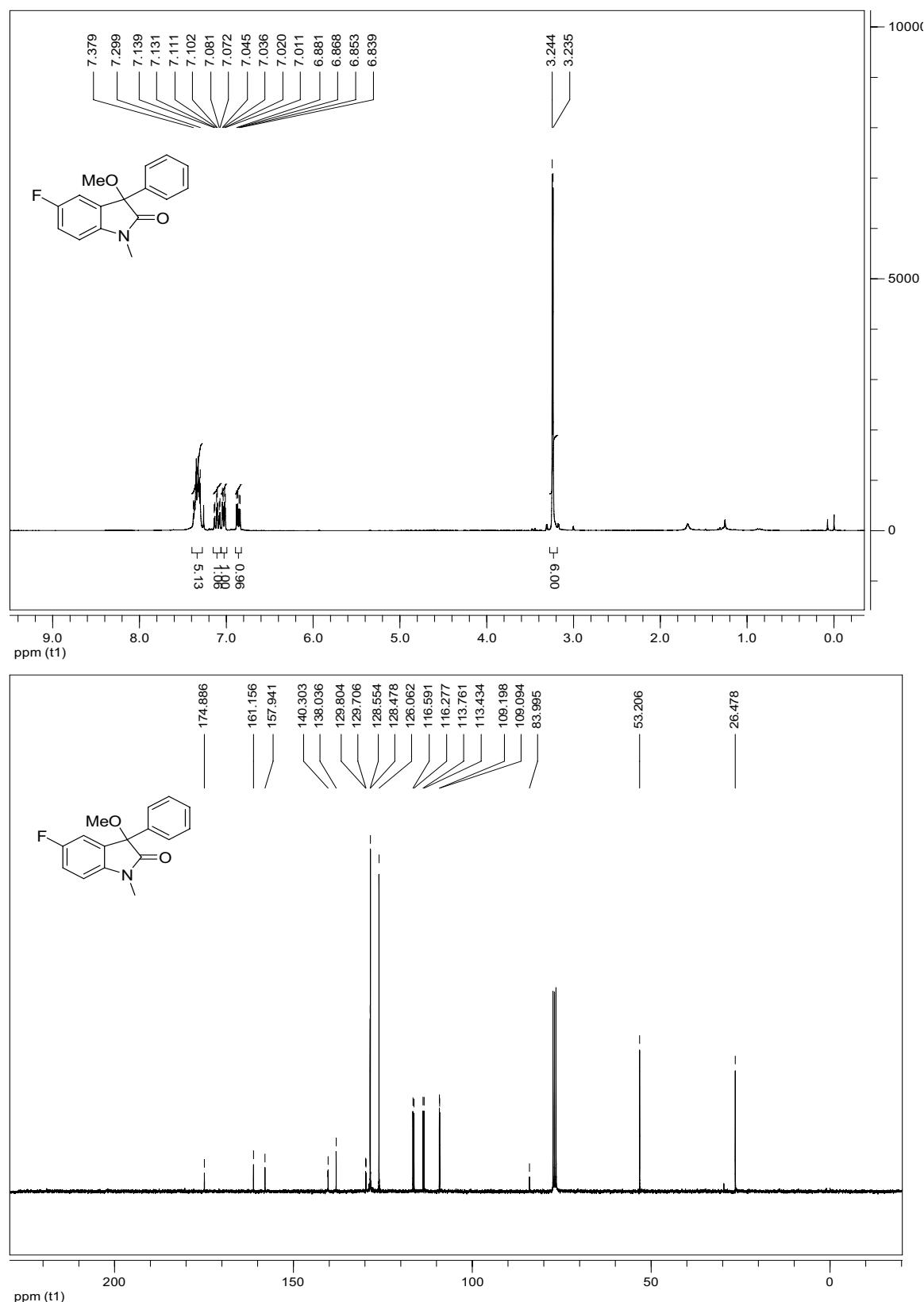


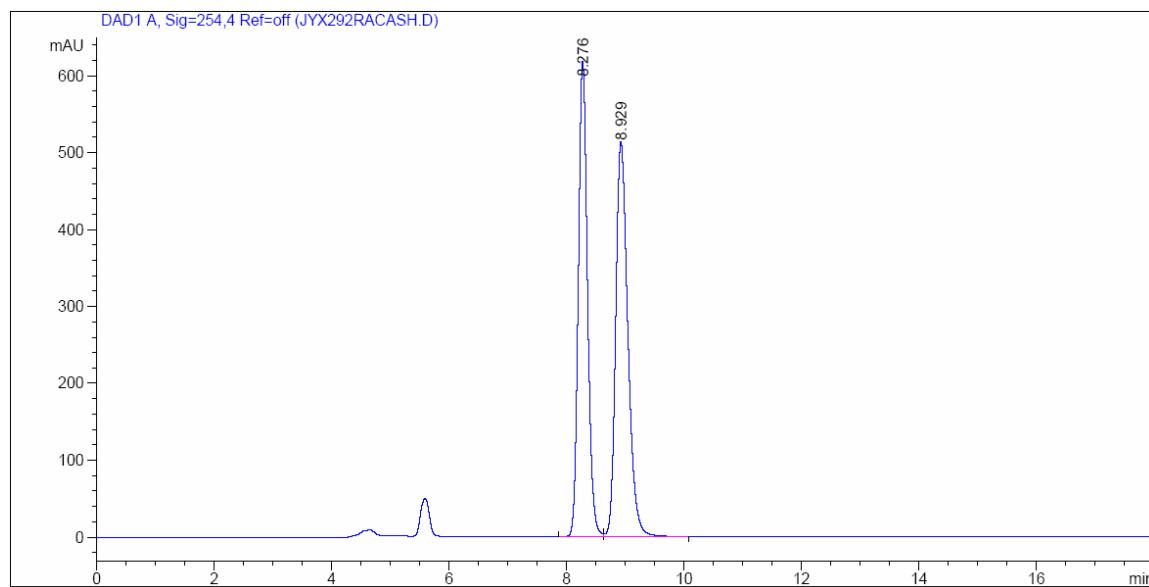


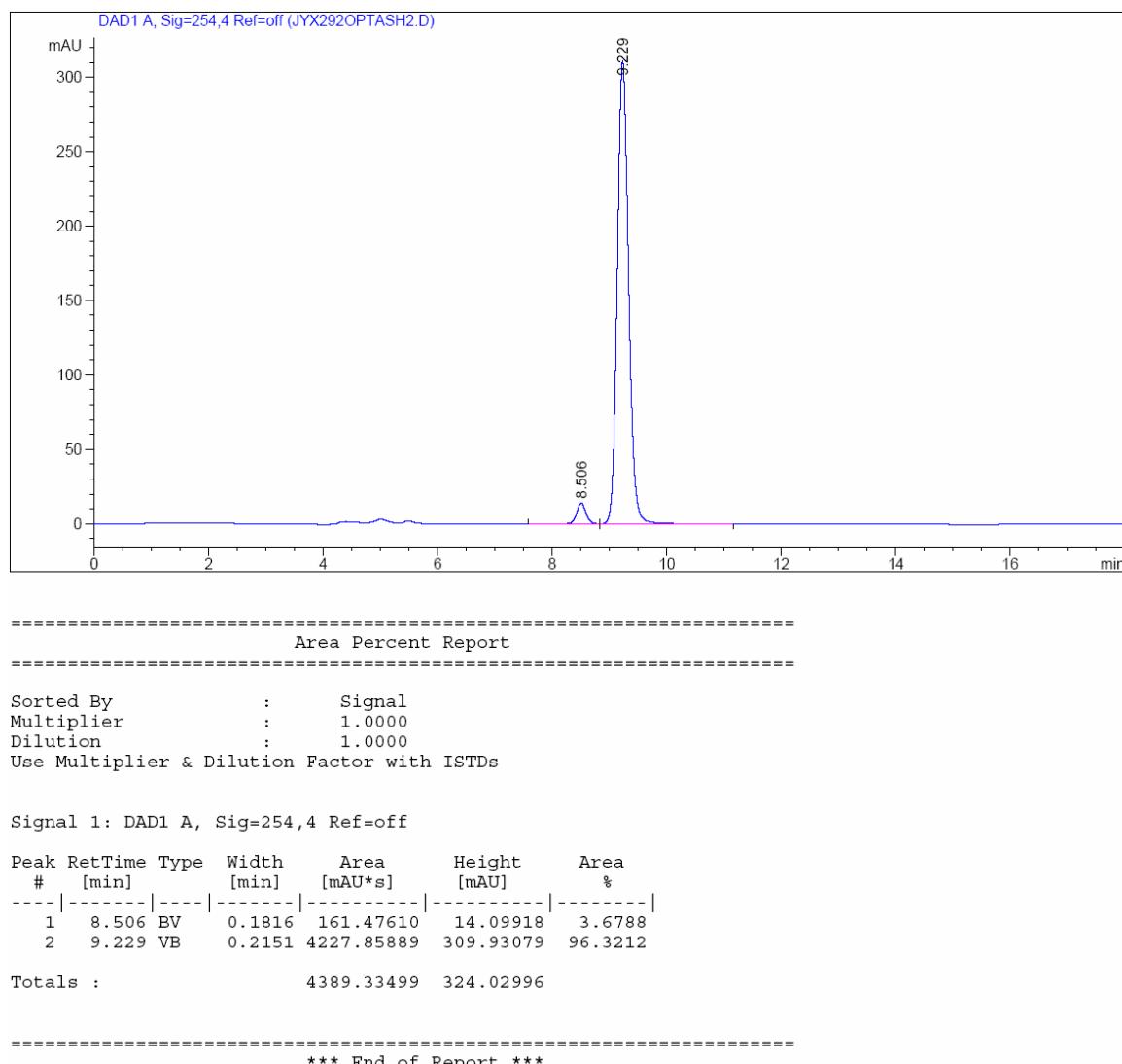


### 5-Fluoro-3-methoxy-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (2k)

76% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +46.7$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 93% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 8.50$  min (minor) and 9.23 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.24 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.86 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 8.5$  Hz, 1H,), 7.03 (dd,  $J = 2.6, 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (td,  $J = 2.6, 8.8$  Hz, 1H,), 7.30-7.38 (m, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  26.9, 53.7, 84.5, 109.6, 114.1, 116.9, 126.5, 128.9, 129.0, 130.2, 138.5, 140.8, 160.0, 175.4.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3060, 2932, 2828, 1727, 1619, 1494; HRMS  $m/z$  (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 294.0901, found: 294.0894.

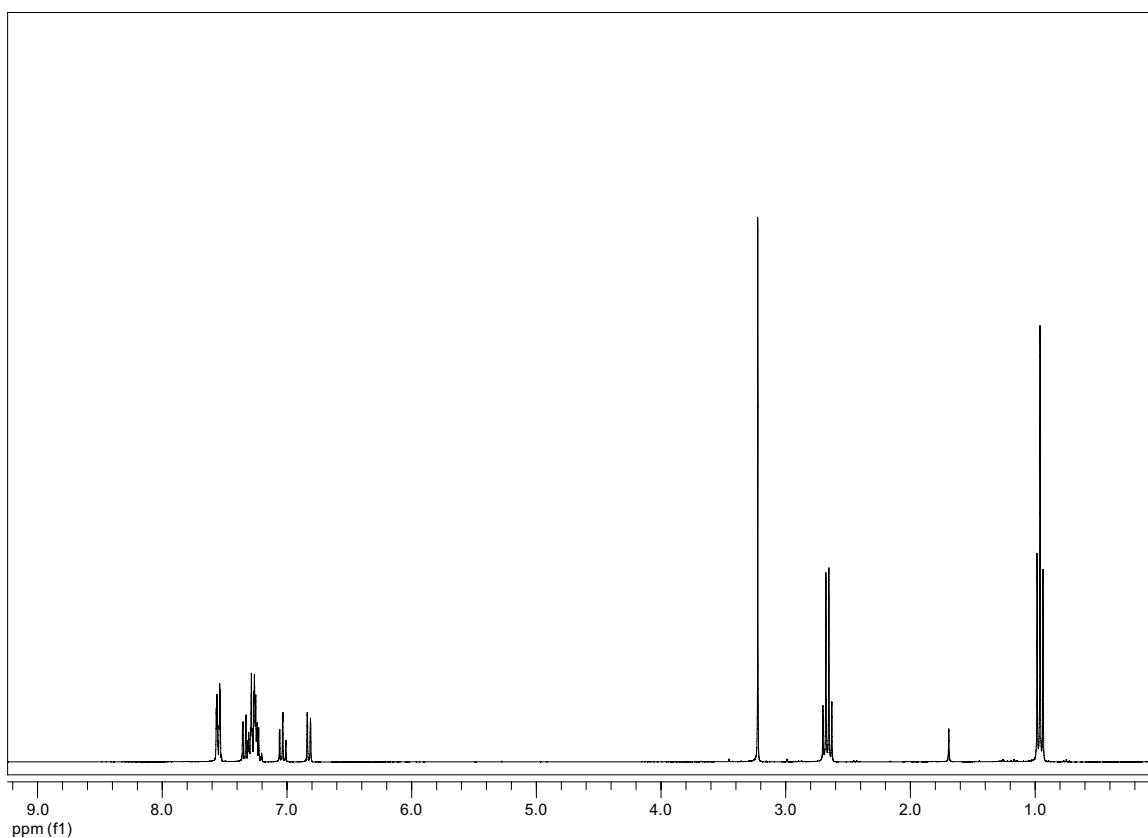


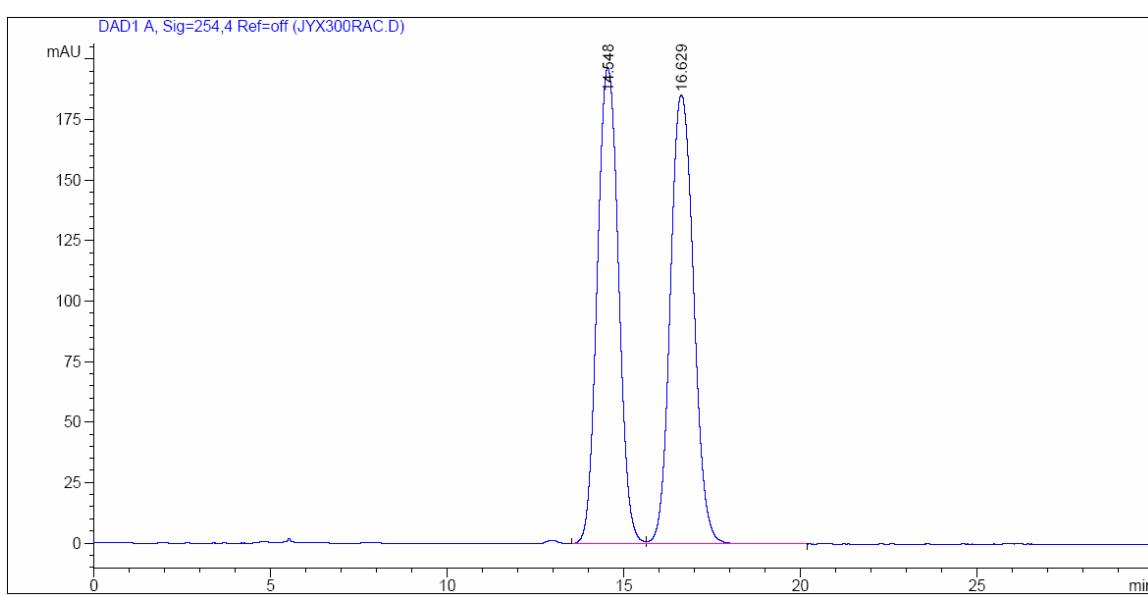
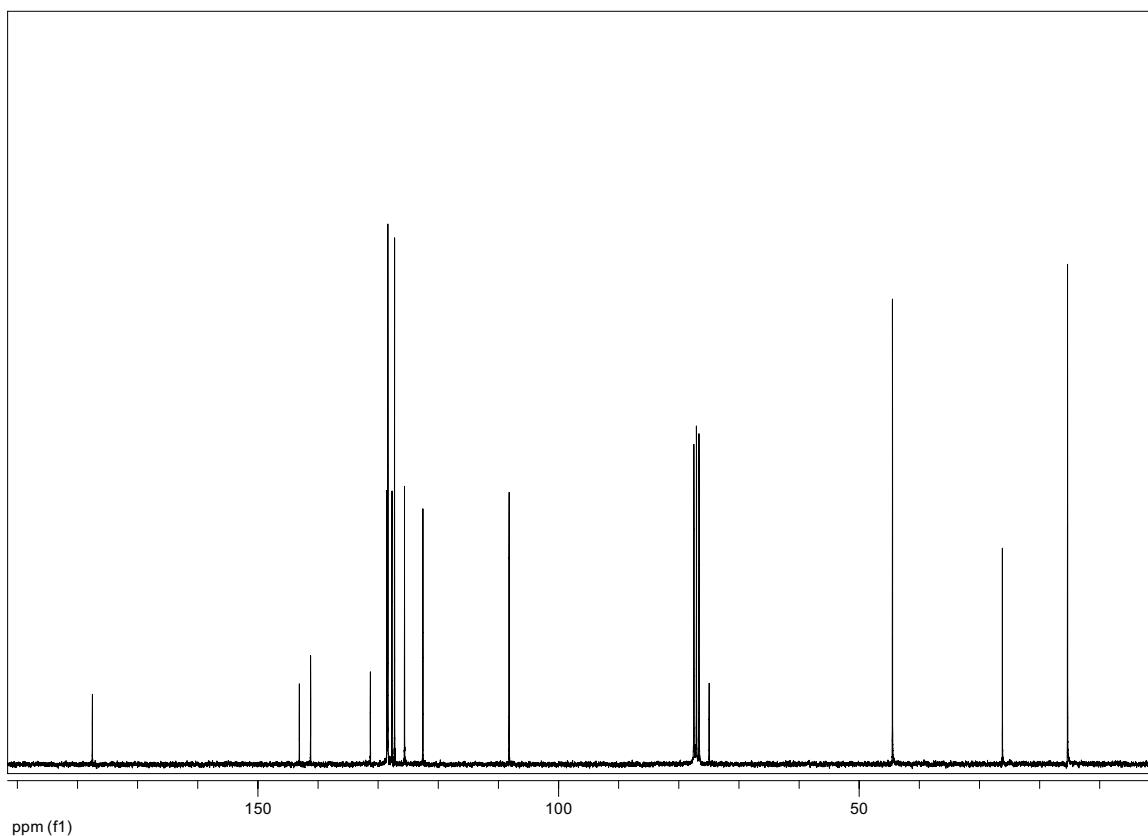


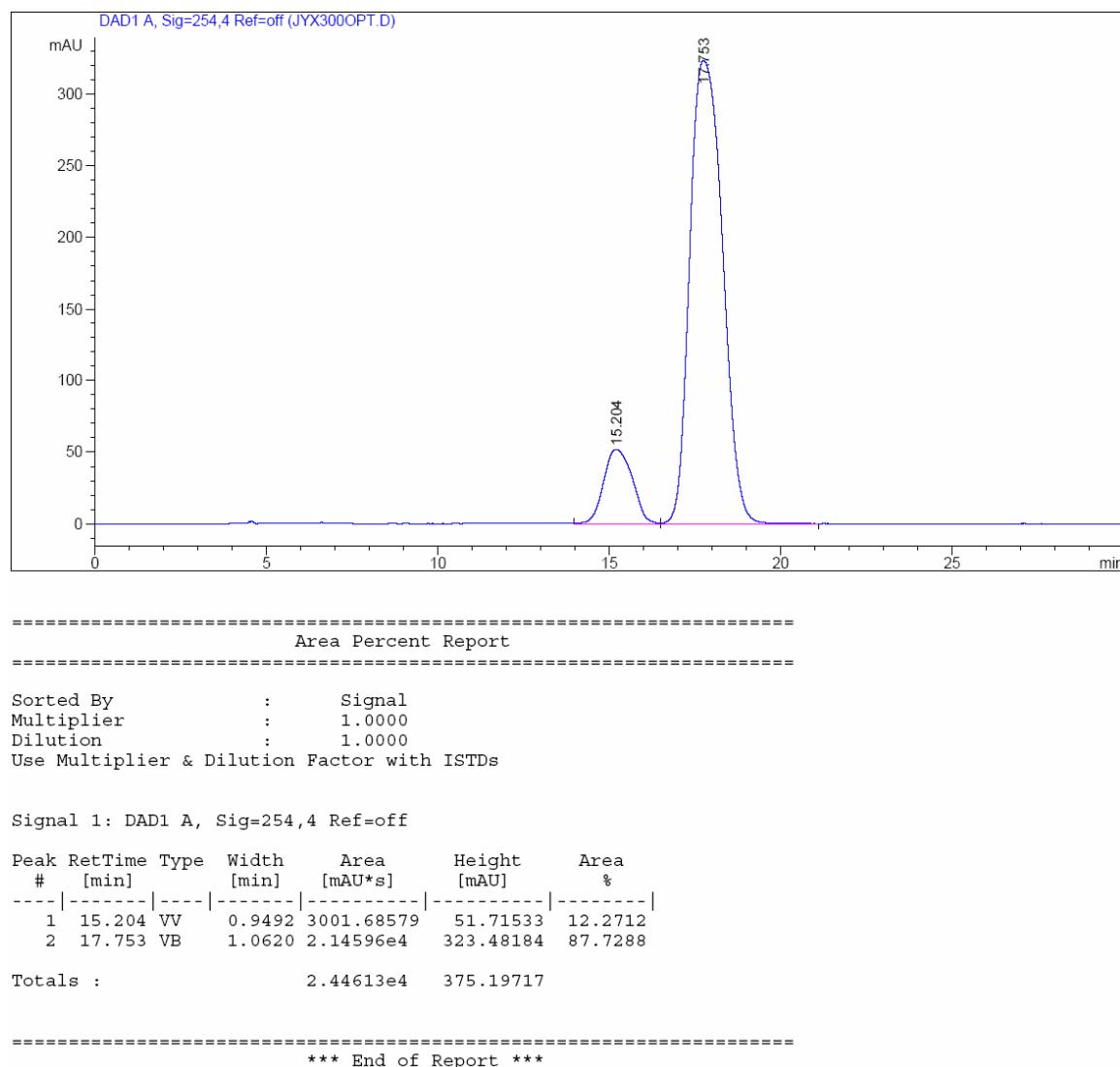


### 3-(Diethylamino)-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (2l)

93% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -128.9$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 75% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99.5:0.5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 15.20$  min (minor) and 17.75 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.96 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H), 2.67 (q,  $J = 7.1, 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  15.3, 26.2, 44.4, 74.9, 108.2, 122.5, 125.6, 127.2, 127.7, 128.4, 128.5, 131.3, 141.2, 143.1, 177.5.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3057, 2970, 2869, 1713, 1610; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 295.1805, found: 295.1791.

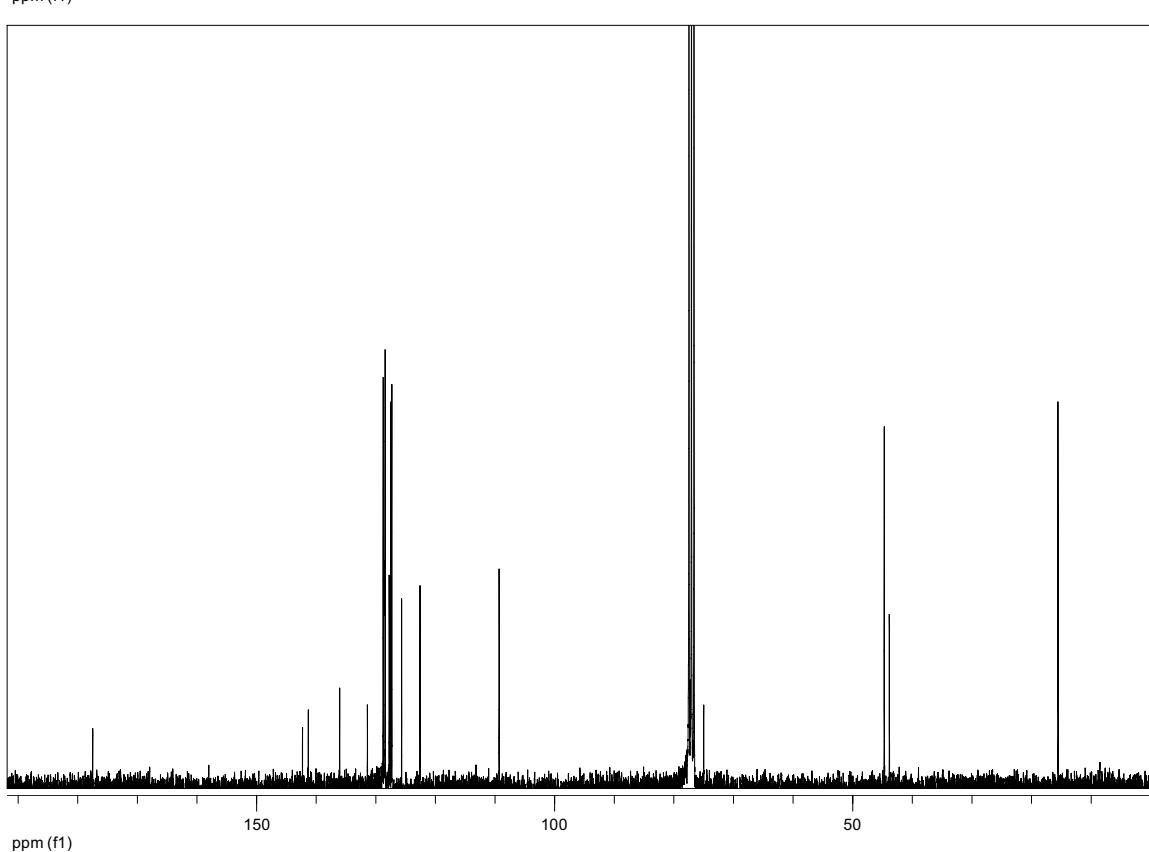
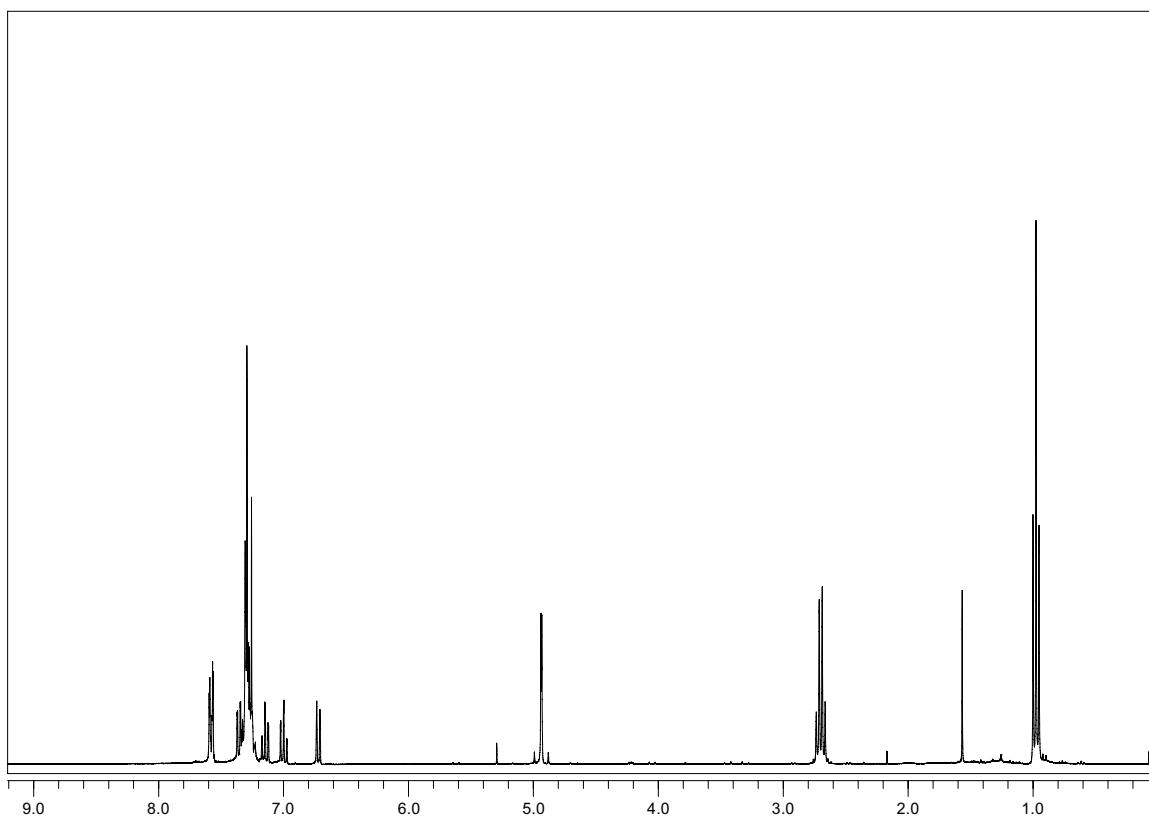


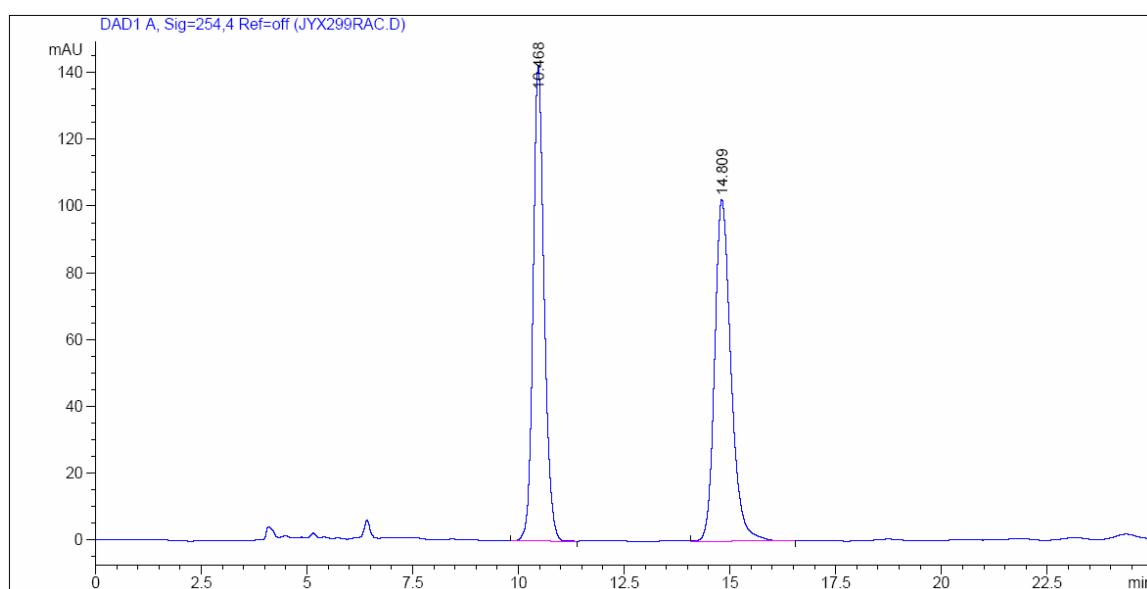


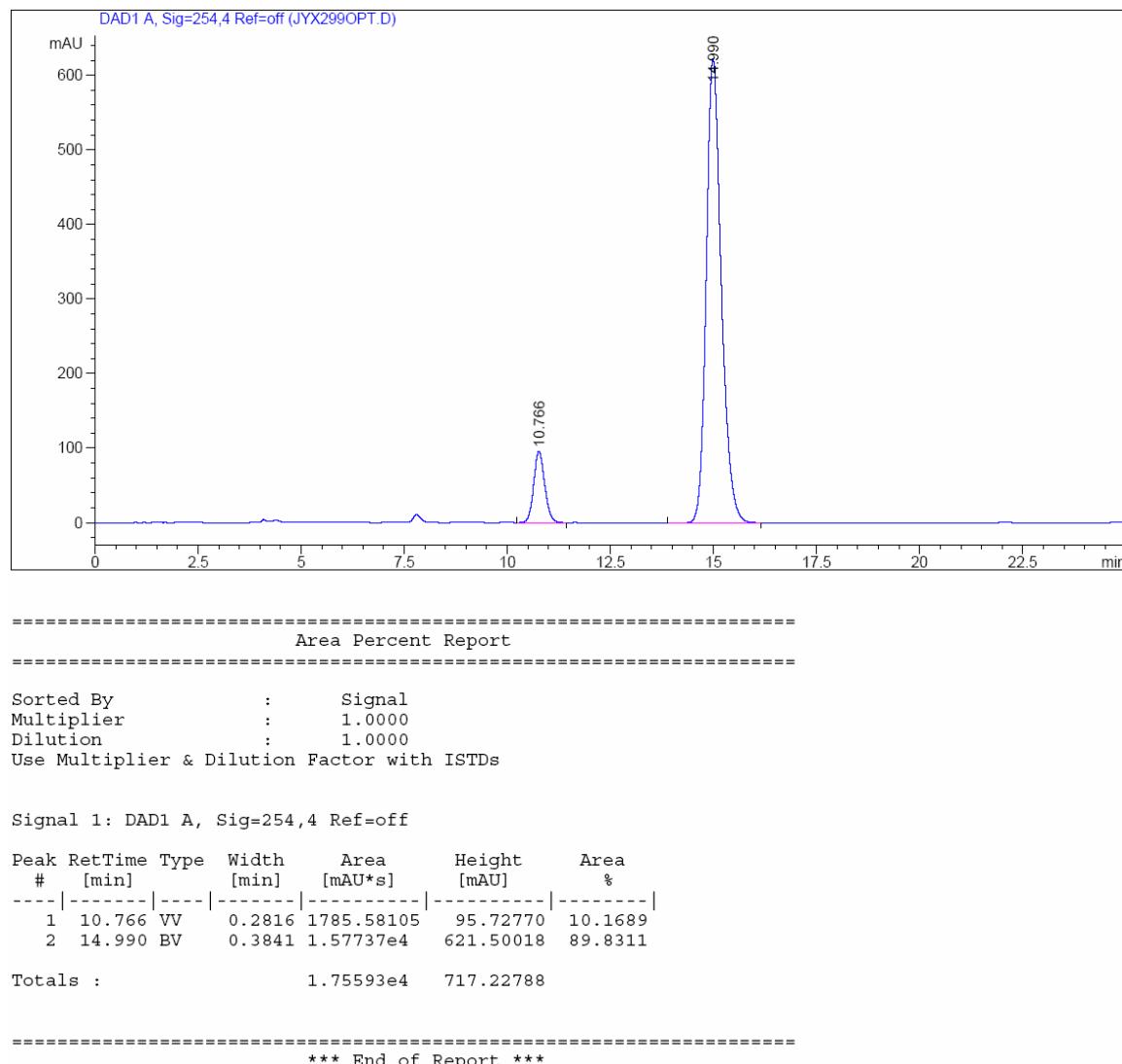


### 1-Benzyl-3-(diethylamino)-3-phenyloxindole (2m)

94% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -98.9$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 80% ee [Chiralcel AD column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 10.76$  min (minor) and 14.99 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.98 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H), 2.70 (q,  $J = 7.1, 7.1$  Hz, 4H,), 4.94 (s, 2H), 6.73 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.37 (m, 10H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  15.5, 43.8, 44.7, 75.0, 76.6, 109.3, 122.6, 125.6, 127.3, 127.4, 127.6, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 131.4, 136.0, 141.3, 142.3, 177.5.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 2991, 2830, 1669; HRMS:  $m/z$  (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 371.2118, found: 371.2120.

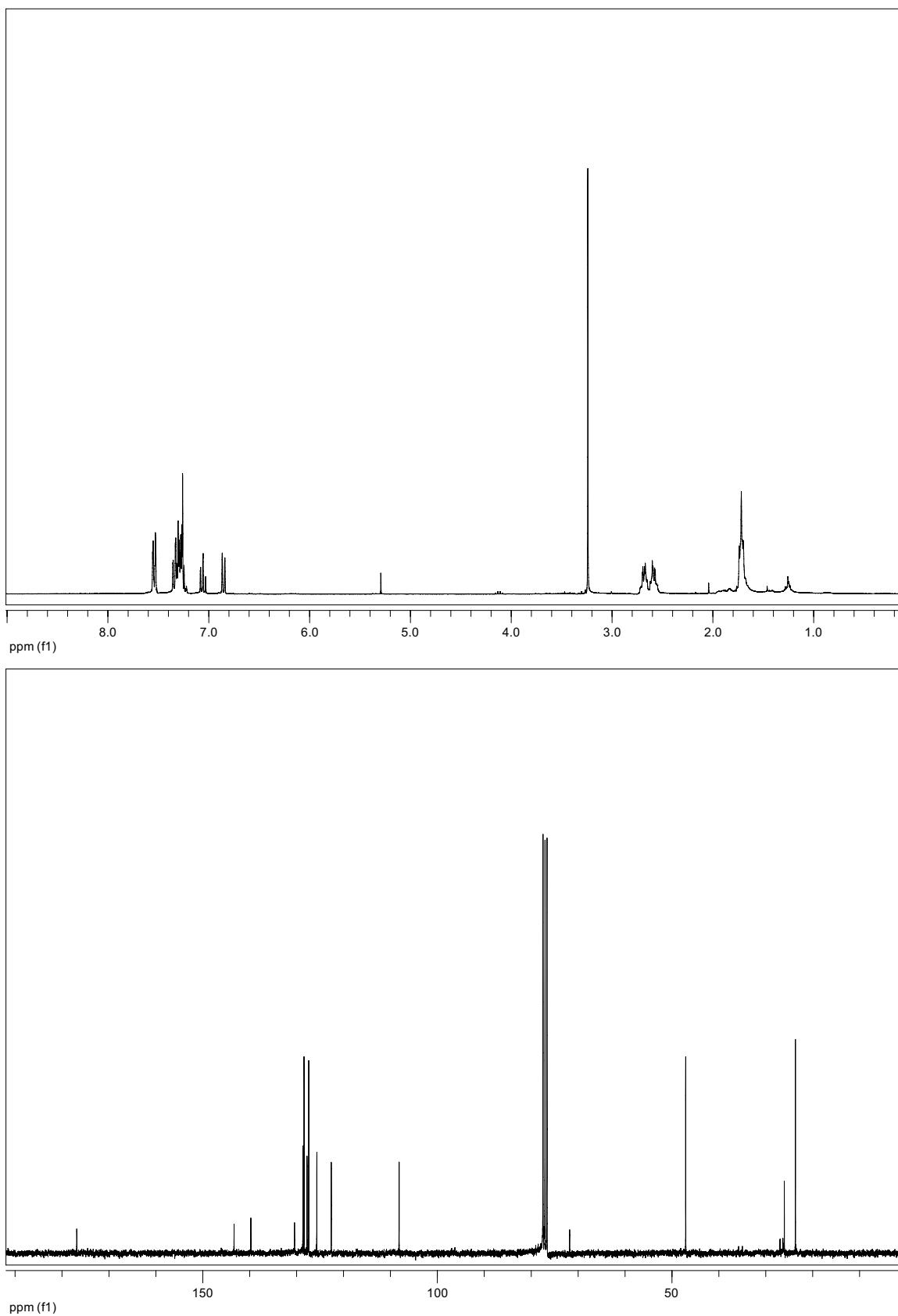


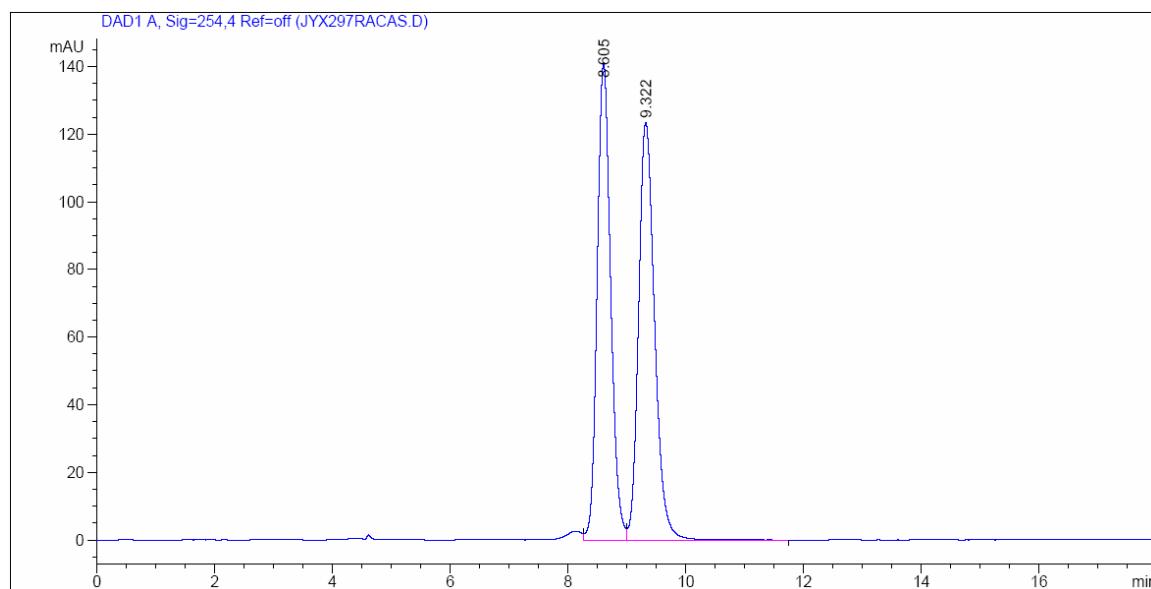


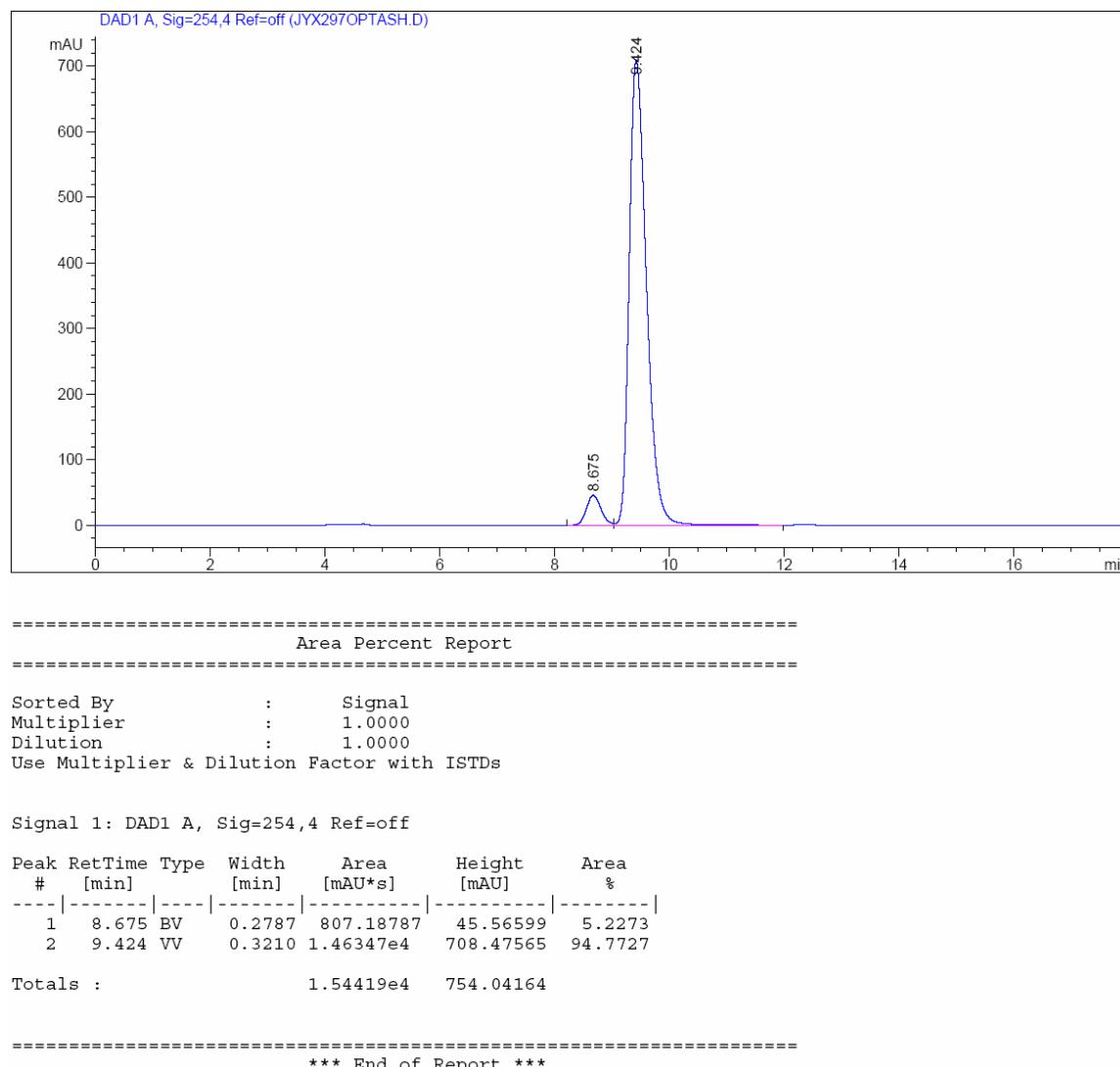


### 1-Methyl-3-phenyl-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)oxindole (2n)

96% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -115.3$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 90% ee [Chiralcel AS-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R$  = 8.67 min (minor) and 9.42 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.70-1.74 (m, 4H), 2.72 (m, 4H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 6.85 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  23.7, 26.3, 47.0, 71.8, 108.1, 122.6, 125.7, 127.4, 127.7, 128.4, 130.4, 139.7, 143.3, 176.8.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3058, 2962, 2874, 1704; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 293.1654, found: 293.1616.

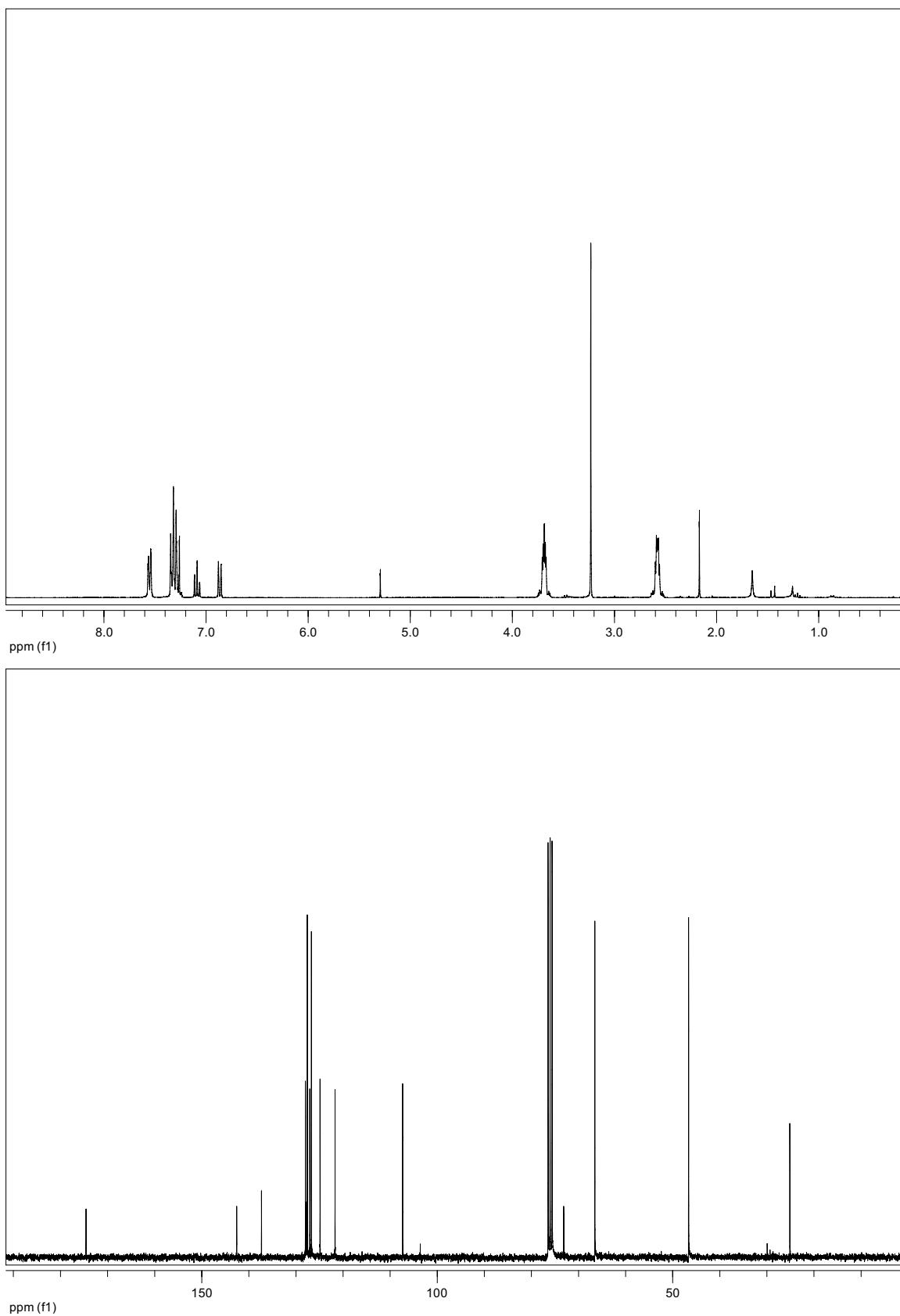


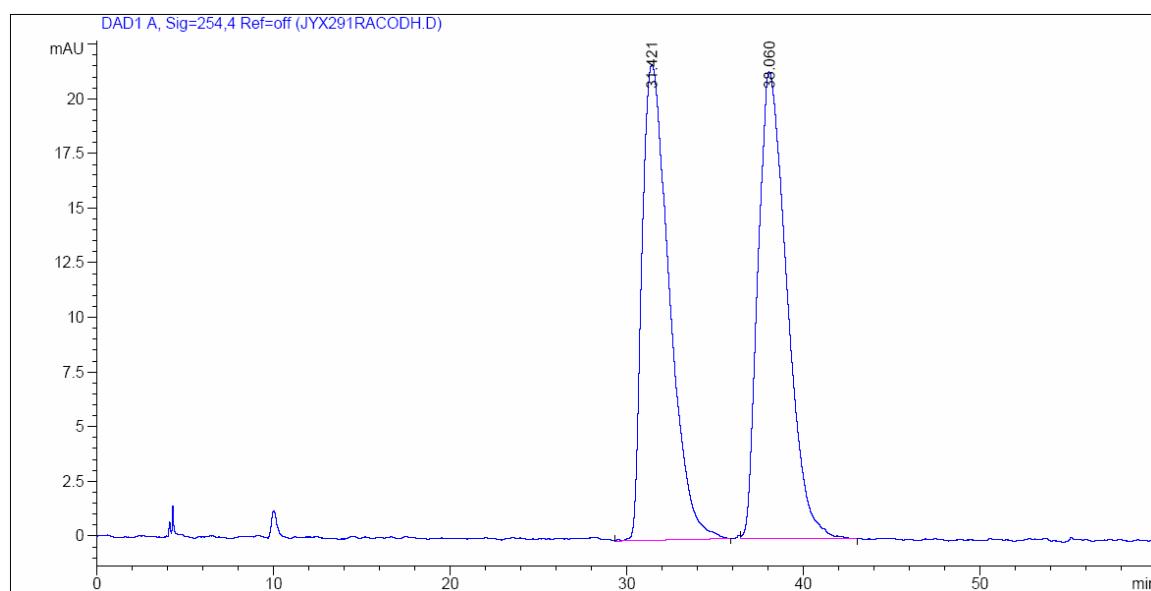


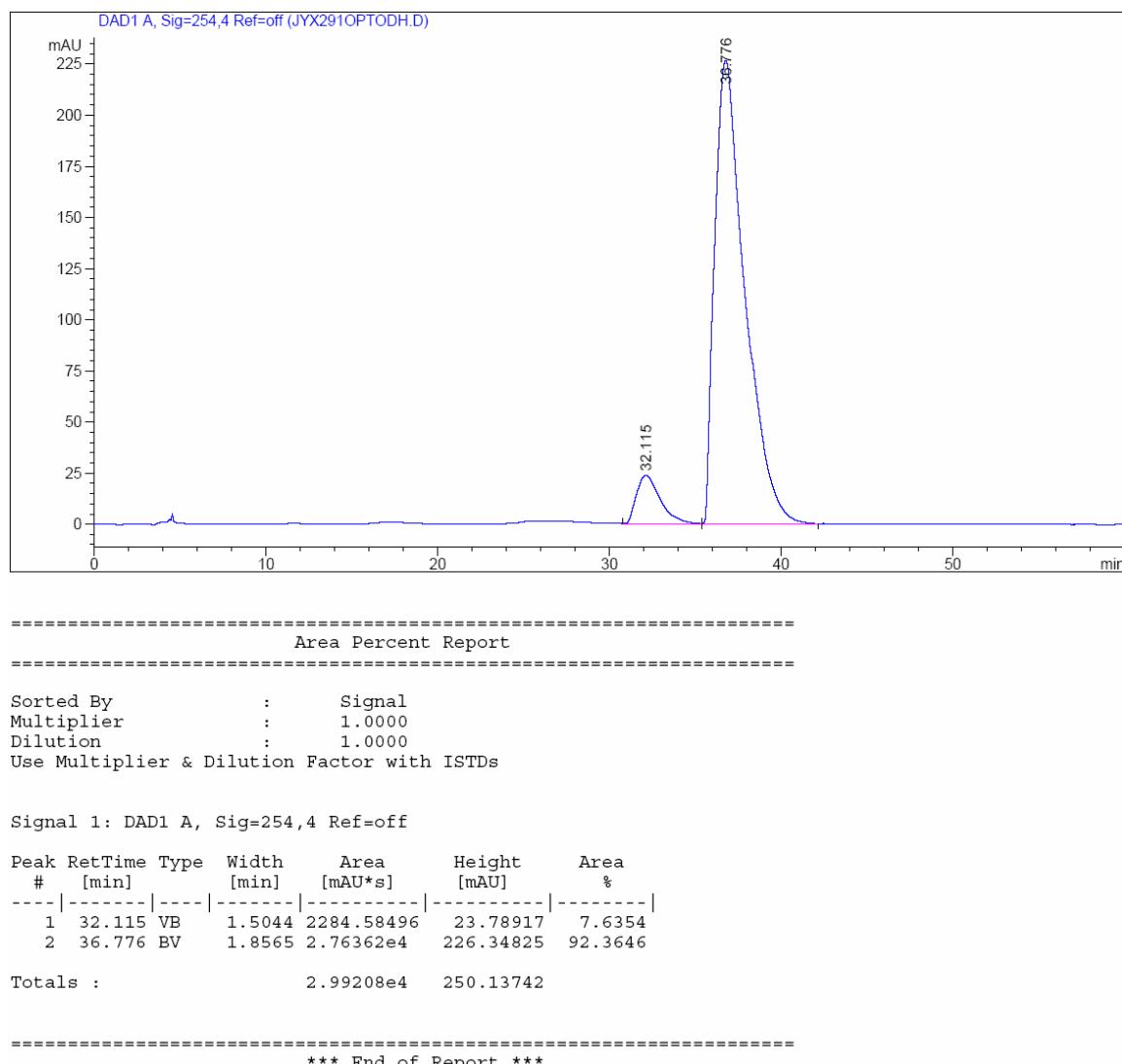


### 1-Methyl-3-morpholin-4-yl-3-phenyloxindole (2o)

88% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -88.1$  ( $c = 1.0$  in acetone). 85% ee [Chiralcel OD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm;  $t_R = 32.11$  min (minor) and 36.77 min];  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.56-2.60 (m, 4H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.71 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.1, 46.6, 66.5, 73.1, 107.3, 121.7, 124.9, 126.7, 127.0, 127.6, 127.7, 128.0, 137.3, 142.6, 174.6.  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3061, 2963, 2854, 1715, 1606; HRMS: *m/z* (EI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 309.1598, found: 309.1588.







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