

Facile construction of the functionalized 4*H*-chromene via tandem benzylation and cyclization

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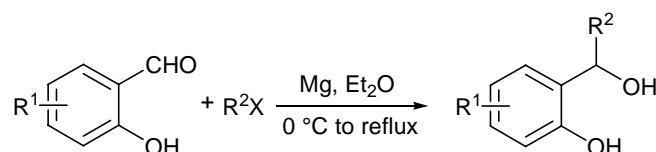
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General Remarks: ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on a Bruker AC-300 FT (^1H : 300 MHz, ^{13}C : 75 MHz) using TMS as internal reference. The chemical shifts (δ) and coupling constants (J) were expressed in ppm and Hz respectively. Infrared samples were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 2000 FTIR spectrometer. Dioxane was distilled from sodium/benzophenone. CH_3CN and CH_2Cl_2 were distilled from CaH_2 and stored over 4 Å molsieves in screw-cap flask. CH_3NO_2 was predried over 4 Å molsieves and stored in screw-cap flask. 4 Å molsieves was predried in oven at 250 °C for 48 h. All commercially available reagents were used as received.

1. Synthesis of substrates 1a-1h

1.1 Synthesis of substrates 1a-1h (Scheme SI-1).



$\text{R}^1=\text{H}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Ph}$, $\text{X}=\text{Br}$ **1a**

$\text{R}^1=\text{H}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Me}$, $\text{X}=\text{I}$ **1b**

$\text{R}^1=5\text{-Cl}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Ph}$, $\text{X}=\text{Br}$ **1c**

$\text{R}^1=5\text{-Br}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Me}$, $\text{X}=\text{I}$ **1d**

$\text{R}^1=\text{H}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Ph-}p\text{-Me}$, $\text{X}=\text{Br}$ **1e**

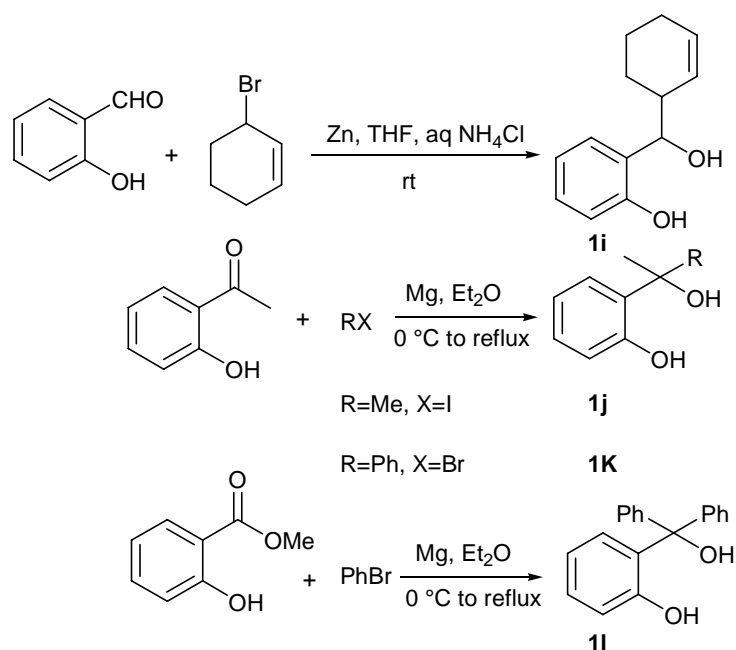
$\text{R}^1=5\text{-OMe}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Me}$, $\text{X}=\text{I}$ **1f**

$\text{R}^1=5\text{-OMe}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Ph}$, $\text{X}=\text{Br}$ **1g**

$\text{R}^1=3,5\text{-di-}tert\text{-butyl}$, $\text{R}^2=\text{Me}$, $\text{X}=\text{I}$ **1h**

Scheme SI-1. synthesis of **1a-1h**.

1.2 Synthesis of substrates 1i-1l (Scheme SI-2)



Scheme SI-2. synthesis of **1i-1l**

General procedure for the Grignard additions:

To a solution of magnesium (80.0 mmol) and a granule of I₂ in anhydrous Et₂O (30 ml) was added dropwise a solution of bromobenzene (80.0 mmol) in anhydrous Et₂O (20 ml), controlling the speed to maintain ether boiling. After adding, the system was refluxed for 30 min. Then cooled to 0 °C, a solution of salicylaldehyde (20.0 mmol) in THF (20 ml) was added dropwise to the mixture in 15 min, and then the system was refluxed for a subsequent 30 min. After refluxing, saturated NH₄Cl was added dropwise to the system at 0 °C, then the resulting solution was extracted with Et₂O (50 ml × 3). The combined organic extracts were dried with anhydrous sodium sulphate and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (6:1) to give **1a** 2-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)phenol as a white solid (3.64 g, 91%).

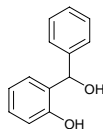
1i was synthesized according to the literature¹

1. Einhorn, C.; Luche, J.-L. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1987**, 322, 177-183.

2. Characterization data of all substances

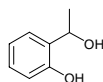
2.1. Characterization data for substrates 1a-1l

2-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)phenol (1a)



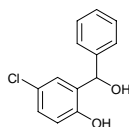
The title compound was a white solid, mp: 84-86 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = (s, 1 H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 5 H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 1 H), 6.85-6.76 (m, 3 H), 5.91 (s, 1 H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 154.9, 142.0, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.3, 126.8, 120.1, 116.9, 76.1; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν = 3339, 1588, 1491, 1456, 1388, 1238, 1008, 754, 698; HRMS calc. C₁₃H₁₂O₂ (M⁺): 200.0837. Found: 200.0833.

2-(1-hydroxyethyl)phenol (1b)



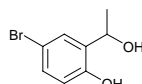
The title compound was a colorless oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.03 (s, 1 H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 1 H), 6.99-6.97 (m, 1 H), 6.87-6.81 (m, 2 H), 5.05 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.92 (s, 1 H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 155.5, 129.0, 128.6, 126.6, 120.0, 117.2, 71.6, 23.5; IR (liquid film, cm⁻¹): ν = 3344, 1586, 1489, 1455, 1232, 1066, 752; HRMS calc. C₈H₁₀O₂ (M⁺): 138.0681. Found: 138.0675.

4-chloro-2-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)phenol (1c)



The title compound was a colorless oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.00 (br, 1 H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 5 H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1 H), 6.81-6.75 (m, 2 H), 5.88 (s, 1 H), 3.25 (br, 1 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 153.2, 141.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 127.4, 127.0, 126.3, 124.3, 117.7, 74.7; IR (liquid film, cm⁻¹): ν = 3319, 1602, 1485, 1420, 1265, 1116, 738, 700; HRMS calc. C₁₃H₁₁ClO₂ (M⁺): 234.0448. Found: 234.0444.

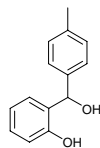
4-bromo-2-(1-hydroxyethyl)phenol (1d)



The title compound was a light yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.07 (br, 1 H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1 H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.91 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (br, 1 H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 154.6, 131.6, 130.5, 129.2, 119.0, 111.8, 71.0, 23.4; IR (liquid film, cm⁻¹): ν = 3338, 1579, 1483, 1420, 1241,

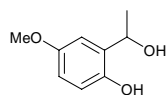
1071, 815, 624; HRMS calc. $C_8H_9BrO_2$ (M^+): 215.9786. Found: 215.9781.

2-(hydroxy(p-tolyl)methyl)phenol (1e)



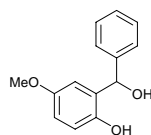
The title compound was a light yellow solid, mp: 94–96 °C. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.01 (s, 1 H), 7.24 (m, 5 H), 6.86–6.80 (m, 3 H), 5.90 (s, 1 H), 3.32 (br, 1 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 155.2, 139.3, 137.7, 129.3, 128.3, 127.4, 126.8, 125.5, 120.0, 117.0, 76.3, 21.1; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν = 3341, 1588, 1488, 1456, 1240, 1009, 755; HRMS calc. $C_{14}H_{14}O_2$ (M^+): 214.0994. Found: 214.0997.

2-(1-hydroxyethyl)-4-methoxyphenol (1f)



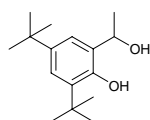
The title compound was a yellow oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.86 (s, 1 H), 6.74–6.64 (m, 2 H), 6.53 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.93 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.84 (br, 1 H), 3.70 (s, 3 H), 1.50 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 153.0, 148.7, 130.2, 117.2, 114.1, 112.4, 70.2, 55.9, 23.3; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 3367, 1618, 1503, 1433, 1204, 1038, 811; HRMS calc. $C_9H_{12}O_3$ (M^+): 168.0786. Found: 168.0789.

2-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)-4-methoxyphenol (1g)



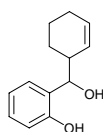
The title compound was a brown yellow solid, mp: 100–102 °C. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.49 (s, 1 H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 5 H), 6.80–6.73 (m, 2 H), 6.43 (s, 1 H), 5.90 (s, 1 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 3.27 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 153.0, 149.1, 141.9, 128.7, 128.1, 126.8, 117.7, 114.1, 76.2, 55.8; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): ν = 3368, 1600, 1498, 1451, 1239, 1034, 756, 699; HRMS calc. $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ (M^+): 230.0943. Found: 230.0938.

2,4-di-tert-butyl-6-(1-hydroxyethyl)phenol (1h)



The title compound was a light yellow oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.14 (s, 1 H), 6.85 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.05 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.33 (s, 1 H), 1.63 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 1.29 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 152.5, 141.4, 136.9, 127.6, 123.5, 121.2, 73.0, 35.1, 34.3, 31.7, 29.8, 23.1; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 3368, 2959, 1603, 1481, 1362, 1227, 1070, 734; HRMS calc. $C_{16}H_{26}O_2$ (M^+): 250.1933. Found: 250.1939.

2-(cyclohex-2-enyl(hydroxy)methyl)phenol (1i)



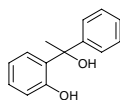
The title compound was a white solid, mp: 56-58 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.17 (s, 1 H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 1 H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.87-6.80 (m, 2 H), 5.93-5.89 (m, 1 H), 5.41-5.38 (m, 1 H), 4.79 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.63-2.60 (m, 1 H), 2.57 (s, 1 H), 2.10-1.92 (m, 2 H), 1.81-1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.67-1.45 (m, 2 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 156.0, 131.5, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 125.2, 119.5, 117.2, 79.4, 42.4, 25.2, 23.6, 21.1; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν = 3367, 1587, 1490, 1456, 1241, 1008, 908, 733; HRMS calc. C₁₃H₁₆O₂ (M⁺): 204.1150. Found: 204.1157.

2-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)phenol (1j)



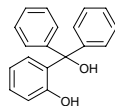
The title compound was a light yellow oil. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 9.12 (s, 1 H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 1 H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.90-6.78 (m, 2 H), 3.09 (s, 1 H), 1.65 (s, 6 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 155.2, 131.5, 128.9, 125.6, 120.0, 117.4, 75.8, 30.3; IR (liquid film, cm⁻¹): ν = 3309, 1583, 1491, 1237, 1040, 865, 753; HRMS calc. C₉H₁₂O₂ (M⁺): 152.0837. Found: 152.0843.

2-(1-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl)phenol (1k)



The title compound was a light yellow solid, mp: 108-110 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.44 (s, 1 H), 7.36-7.13 (m, 6 H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.18 (s, 1 H), 1.94 (s, 3 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 155.5, 129.6, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 127.5, 127.3, 125.6, 119.6, 117.6, 79.0, 30.7; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν = 3421, 1605, 1458, 1377, 1098, 753, 700; HRMS calc. C₁₄H₁₄O₂ (M⁺): 214.0994. Found: 214.0990.

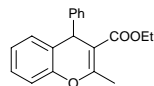
2-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)phenol (1l)



The title compound was a white solid, 122-124 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 8.10 (s, 1 H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 8 H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 6 H), 3.70 (s, 1 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 155.8, 145.1, 130.6, 130.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.2, 125.6, 119.4, 117.6, 115.5, 84.4; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν = 3187, 1585, 1445, 1232, 998, 753, 698, 637; HRMS calc. C₁₉H₁₆O₂ (M⁺): 276.1150. Found: 276.1144.

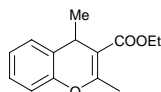
2.2. Characterization data for all 4H-Chromene products 3a-3s

Ethyl 2-methyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3a)



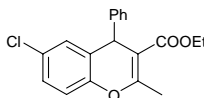
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.13-7.11 (m, 4 H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 2 H), 6.94-6.85 (m, 3 H), 4.93 (s, 1 H), 4.00-3.95 (m, 2 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 167.2, 160.1, 149.6, 146.8, 129.4, 128.5, 128.0, 127.6, 126.6, 125.0, 124.6, 116.3, 106.3, 60.2, 41.7, 19.6, 14.2; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2979, 1711, 1643, 1585, 1488, 1456, 1380, 1218, 1106, 1064, 985, 754, 698, 621; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 294.1256. Found: 294.1263.

Ethyl 2,4-dimethyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3b)



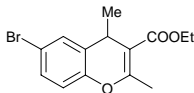
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.18-7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 1 H), 6.96-6.93 (m, 1 H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2 H), 3.88 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.40 (s, 3 H), 1.36-1.27 (m, 6 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 167.7, 160.6, 150.2, 128.2, 127.3, 124.4, 116.0, 107.5, 60.2, 30.5, 26.0, 19.7, 14.5; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2964, 1712, 1642, 1585, 1489, 1459, 1382, 1348, 1287, 1112, 1068, 986, 943, 754, 688, 625; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 232.1099. Found: 232.1089.

Ethyl 6-chloro-2-methyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3c)



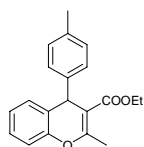
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.24-7.15 (m, 5 H), 7.06 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.01 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.96-6.93 (m, 1 H), 4.96 (s, 1 H), 4.10-4.05 (m, 2 H), 2.48 (s, 3 H), 1.15 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 166.9, 160.0, 148.1, 146.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 126.9, 126.6, 117.8, 106.0, 60.4, 41.6, 19.5, 14.2; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2980, 1713, 1644, 1581, 1482, 1412, 1380, 1323, 1277, 1115, 1066, 986, 750, 698, 636; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3$ (M^+): 328.0866. Found: 328.0879.

Ethyl 6-bromo-2,4-dimethyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3d)



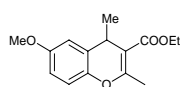
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.26-7.22 (m, 2 H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.26-4.22 (m, 2 H), 3.84 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 6 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 167.2, 160.3, 149.2, 130.8, 130.2, 129.4, 117.8, 116.5, 107.3, 60.3, 30.4, 25.9, 19.5, 14.4; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2977, 1713, 1641, 1578, 1479, 1409, 1380, 1338, 1277, 1122, 1072, 987, 778, 699, 636; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrO}_3$ (M^+): 310.0205. Found: 310.0201.

Ethyl 2-methyl-4-p-tolyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3e)



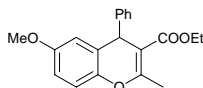
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.13\text{-}7.00$ (m, 8 H), 4.99 (s, 1 H), 4.10 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 2.49 (s, 3 H), 2.27 (s, 3 H), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.3, 160.0, 149.6, 144.0, 136.0, 129.2, 127.8, 127.5, 125.2, 124.6, 116.3, 106.5, 60.2, 41.3, 21.1, 19.6, 14.3$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2979, 1712, 1643, 1585, 1487, 1457, 1380, 1288, 1105, 1065, 985, 754, 692, 641$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 308.1412. Found: 308.1419.

Ethyl 6-methoxy-2,4-dimethyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3f)



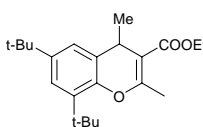
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 6.87$ (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 6.71-6.65 (m, 2 H), 4.26-4.28 (m, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 1.34-1.25 (m, 6 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.7, 160.8, 156.4, 144.3, 128.1, 116.7, 113.0, 112.5, 106.5, 60.1, 55.7, 30.8, 25.8, 19.6, 14.4$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2965, 1709, 1638, 1498, 1456, 1381, 1278, 1159, 1071, 1044, 989, 779, 664, 624$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$ (M^+): 262.1205. Found: 262.1211.

Ethyl 6-methoxy-2-methyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3g)



The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.22\text{-}7.20$ (m, 4 H), 7.18-7.05 (m, 1 H), 6.96-6.90 (m, 1 H), 6.70-6.60 (m, 1 H), 6.53 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1 H), 4.98 (s, 1 H), 4.08-4.05 (m, 2 H), 3.64 (s, 3 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H), 1.14 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.4, 160.5, 156.5, 146.8, 143.9, 128.6, 128.0, 126.6, 125.8, 117.2, 113.8, 113.5, 105.5, 60.2, 55.7, 42.2, 19.7, 14.3$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2980, 1710, 1638, 1496, 1454, 1380, 1328, 1279, 1152, 1068, 988, 734, 702, 645$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ (M^+): 324.1362. Found: 324.1353.

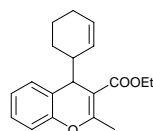
Ethyl 6,8-di-tert-butyl-2,4-dimethyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3h)



The title compound was a light yellow oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.19$ (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.02 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1 H), 4.26-4.22 (m, 2 H), 3.85 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1 H), 2.46 (s, 3 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 15 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.6, 160.7, 146.9, 146.4, 136.2, 127.2, 122.8, 121.8, 107.7, 60.0, 35.0, 34.7, 31.7, 31.4, 30.3, 25.8, 19.6, 14.5$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2963, 1713, 1644, 1597, 1478, 1380, 1345, 1216, 1174, 1075, 956, 909$.

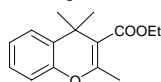
779, 734, 650.; HRMS calc. $C_{22}H_{32}O_3$ (M^+): 344.2351. Found: 344.2342.

Ethyl 4-(cyclohex-2-enyl)-2-methyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3i)



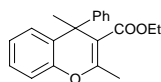
The title compound was a yellow oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.20-7.03 (m, 3 H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 1 H), 5.68-5.60 (m, 1 H), 5.52-5.48 (m, 1 H), 4.22 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 3.93 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.44-2.33 (m, 4 H), 1.86-1.59 (m, 4 H), 1.43-1.26 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 168.0, 161.3, 151.9, 129.0, 128.6, 127.3, 124.4, 123.9, 115.8, 105.6, 60.2, 44.3, 40.3, 25.8, 25.3, 22.1, 19.5, 14.4; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2930, 1710, 1640, 1584, 1487, 1458, 1381, 1289, 1216, 1106, 1061, 983, 756, 689, 630; HRMS calc. $C_{19}H_{22}O_3$ (M^+): 298.1569. Found: 298.1567.

Ethyl 2,4,4-trimethyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3j)



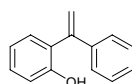
The title compound was a light yellow oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.36-7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.18-7.02 (m, 2 H), 6.90-6.87 (m, 1 H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.12 (s, 3 H), 1.55 (s, 6 H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 168.7, 152.9, 149.2, 130.6, 127.2, 126.1, 124.0, 116.0, 112.1, 60.4, 33.7, 30.8, 19.3, 14.3; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2977, 1712, 1654, 1583, 1490, 1450, 1384, 1313, 1236, 1120, 1094, 1052, 979, 906, 831, 755, 646; HRMS calc. $C_{15}H_{18}O_3$ (M^+): 246.1256. Found: 246.1264.

Ethyl 2,4-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3k)



The title compound was a colorless oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.37 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2 H), 7.16-7.14 (m, 1 H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1 H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 1 H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 1 H), 6.68-6.65 (m, 1 H), 3.88-3.80 (m, 2 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 1.94 (s, 3 H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 167.8, 156.4, 149.1, 148.6, 130.9, 129.1, 128.0, 127.2, 125.9, 124.2, 115.8, 111.9, 60.0, 42.0, 30.0, 19.7, 13.8; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 2980, 1704, 1639, 1488, 1453, 1288, 1220, 1116, 1068, 968, 909, 734, 700, 648; HRMS calc. $C_{20}H_{20}O_3$ (M^+): 308.1412. Found: 308.1418.

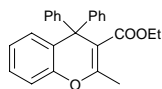
2-(1-phenylvinyl)phenol



The title compound was a light yellow oil. 1H -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz, ppm): δ = 7.38-7.30 (m, 4 H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2 H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1 H), 6.95-6.89 (m, 2 H), 5.85 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.40 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.19 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C -NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz, ppm): δ = 153.3, 145.5, 139.6, 130.6, 129.6, 128.8, 127.8, 127.2, 120.6, 116.8, 116.0; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): ν = 3518, 3058, 1708, 1580,

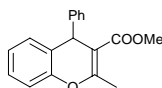
1485, 1447, 1196, 1028, 909, 855, 756, 702.

Ethyl 2-methyl-4,4-diphenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3l)



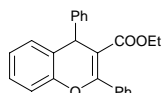
The title compound was a light yellow oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.28\text{--}7.13$ (m, 11 H), $7.00\text{--}6.95$ (m, 2 H), $6.88\text{--}6.85$ (m, 1 H), 3.82 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 2.62 (s, 3 H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.7, 157.8, 150.8, 145.9, 130.7, 130.0, 129.8, 127.8, 127.6, 126.4, 123.9, 116.0, 113.0, 60.4, 52.7, 19.6, 13.8$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2980, 1709, 1640, 1482, 1447, 1382, 1298, 1219, 1104, 1065, 989, 909, 731, 699, 624$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 370.1569. Found: 370.1561.

Methyl 2-methyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3m)



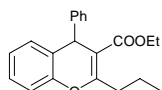
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.16\text{--}7.10$ (m, 4 H), $7.04\text{--}6.99$ (m, 2 H), $6.93\text{--}6.85$ (m, 3 H), 4.91 (s, 1 H), 3.51 (s, 3 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.7, 160.4, 149.5, 146.7, 129.3, 128.6, 127.8, 127.6, 126.6, 125.0, 124.7, 116.3, 106.2, 51.3, 41.6, 19.7$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2949, 1714, 1643, 1586, 1487, 1456, 1380, 1290, 1219, 1131, 1106, 1066, 991, 946, 754, 698, 620$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 280.1099. Found: 280.1107.

Ethyl 2,4-diphenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3n)



The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.49\text{--}7.42$ (m, 2 H), $7.40\text{--}7.34$ (m, 5 H), $7.28\text{--}7.23$ (m, 2 H), $7.17\text{--}7.06$ (m, 4 H), $7.01\text{--}6.99$ (m, 1 H), 5.15 (s, 1 H), 3.86 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.2, 158.6, 150.2, 146.2, 135.6, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 126.9, 124.9, 124.8, 116.7, 107.9, 60.3, 42.6, 13.7$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 3028, 2981, 2935, 1695, 1645, 1599, 1584, 1487, 1455, 1390, 1369, 1342, 1297, 1233, 1190, 1112, 1068, 1031, 974, 910, 834, 791, 755, 697, 648, 604$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 356.1412. Found: 356.1419.

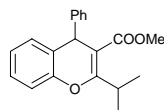
Ethyl 4-phenyl-2-propyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3o)



The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.28\text{--}7.21$ (m, 4 H), $7.20\text{--}6.94$ (m, 5 H), 5.03 (s, 1 H), $4.10\text{--}4.03$ (m, 2 H), $2.90\text{--}2.84$ (m, 2 H), 1.76 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 1.15 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.2, 163.7, 149.7, 146.9, 129.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.7, 126.6, 125.1, 124.6, 116.4, 106.4, 60.3, 41.9, 34.5$,

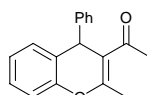
21.2, 14.3, 14.1; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2963, 1711, 1638, 1538, 1488, 1456, 1367, 1284, 1216, 1106, 1045, 903, 754, 698, 632$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 322.1569. Found: 322.1560.

Methyl 2-isopropyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromene-3-carboxylate (3p)



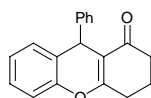
The title compound was a light yellow oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.23\text{-}7.20$ (m, 4 H), 7.15-6.94 (m, 5 H), 5.01 (s, 1 H), 3.98 (sep, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (s, 3 H), 1.32 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H), 1.21 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 167.6, 167.2, 149.8, 146.7, 129.1, 128.6, 127.7, 126.6, 125.2, 124.5, 116.2, 104.8, 51.4, 42.0, 29.9, 20.1, 19.6$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2967, 1713, 1635, 1585, 1488, 1457, 1342, 1286, 1218, 1063, 945, 827, 754, 699, 624$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$ (M^+): 308.1412. Found: 308.1419.

1-(2-methyl-4-phenyl-4H-chromen-3-yl)ethanone (3q)



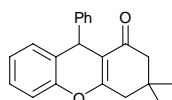
The title compound was a colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.16\text{-}7.13$ (m, 4 H), 7.06-6.99 (m, 3 H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2 H), 4.92 (s, 1 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H), 2.06 (s, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 198.9, 159.1, 149.2, 146.0, 129.1, 129.0, 127.8, 127.7, 127.0, 125.0, 124.6, 116.4, 114.4, 42.4, 30.2, 20.2$; IR (liquid film, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2925, 1683, 1619, 1577, 1488, 1457, 1379, 1357, 1219, 1131, 1030, 938, 882, 820, 755, 699, 655, 617$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$ (M^+): 264.1150. Found: 264.1143.

9-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-xanthen-1(9H)-one (3r)



The title compound was a white solid, mp: 137-139 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.21\text{-}6.96$ (m, 9 H), 5.05 (s, 1 H), 2.67-2.58 (m, 2 H), 2.37-2.30 (m, 2 H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 196.9, 166.3, 149.7, 146.4, 130.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.8, 126.5, 125.6, 125.2, 116.6, 114.9, 38.0, 37.1, 28.0, 20.5$; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2955, 1644, 1581, 1487, 1454, 1373, 1236, 1177, 1129, 995, 916, 756, 698, 647, 622$; HRMS calc. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$ (M^+): 276.1150. Found: 276.1152.

3,3-dimethyl-9-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-xanthen-1(9H)-one (3s)



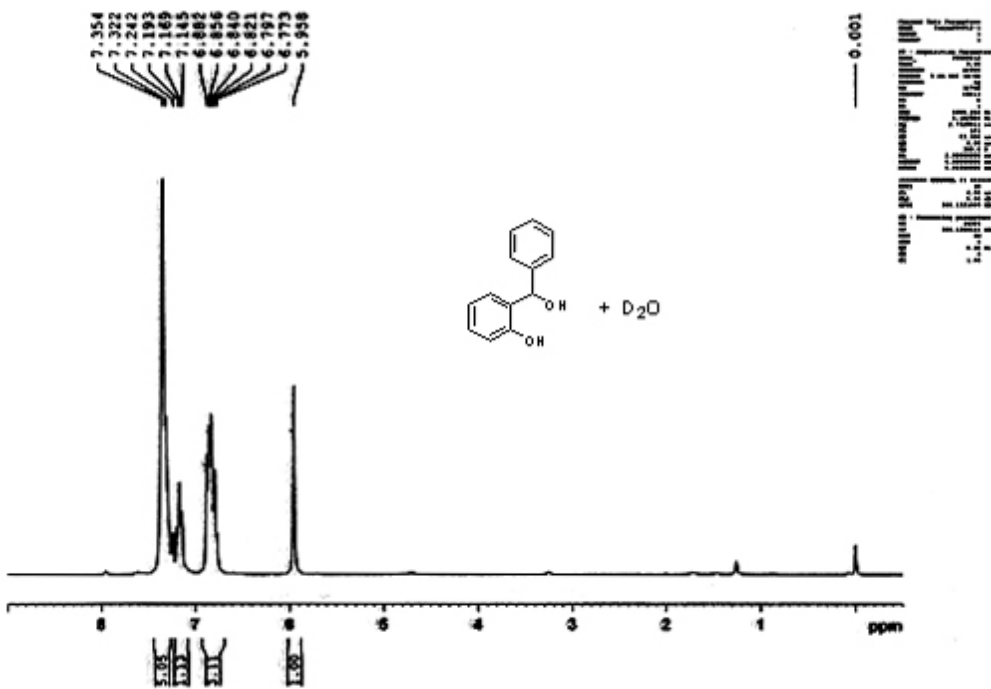
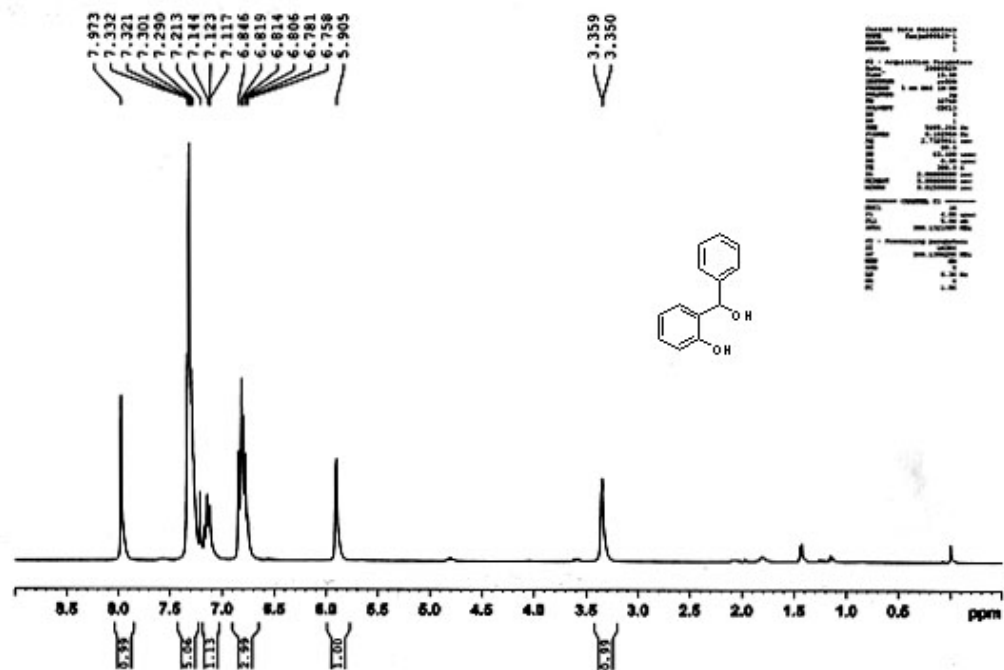
The title compound was a white solid, mp: 150-152 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 7.29\text{-}7.01$ (m, 9 H), 5.07 (s, 1 H), 2.58 (s, 2 H), 2.28-2.26 (m, 2 H), 1.14 (s, 3 H), 1.06 (s, 3 H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 196.7, 164.6, 149.6, 146.3, 130.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 126.5, 125.6, 125.2, 116.7, 113.6, 51.0, 41.7, 38.1, 32.2, 29.4, 27.6$; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu = 2962,$

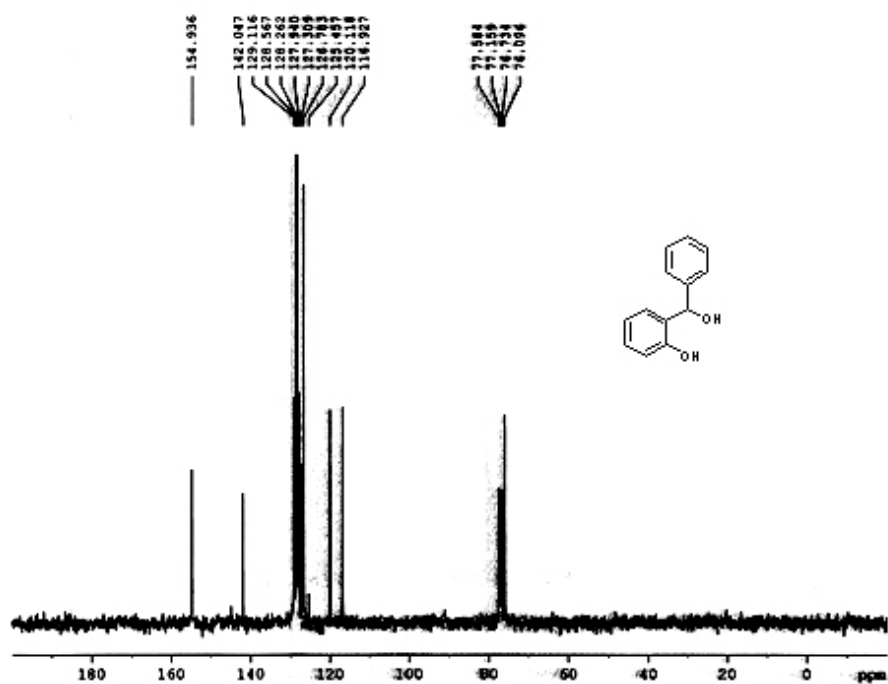
1644, 1581, 1487, 1454, 1376, 1234, 1123, 1027, 910, 733, 700, 659, 623; HRMS calc. $C_{21}H_{20}O_2$ (M^+): 304.1463. Found: 304.1459.

3 NMR Spectra of all compounds

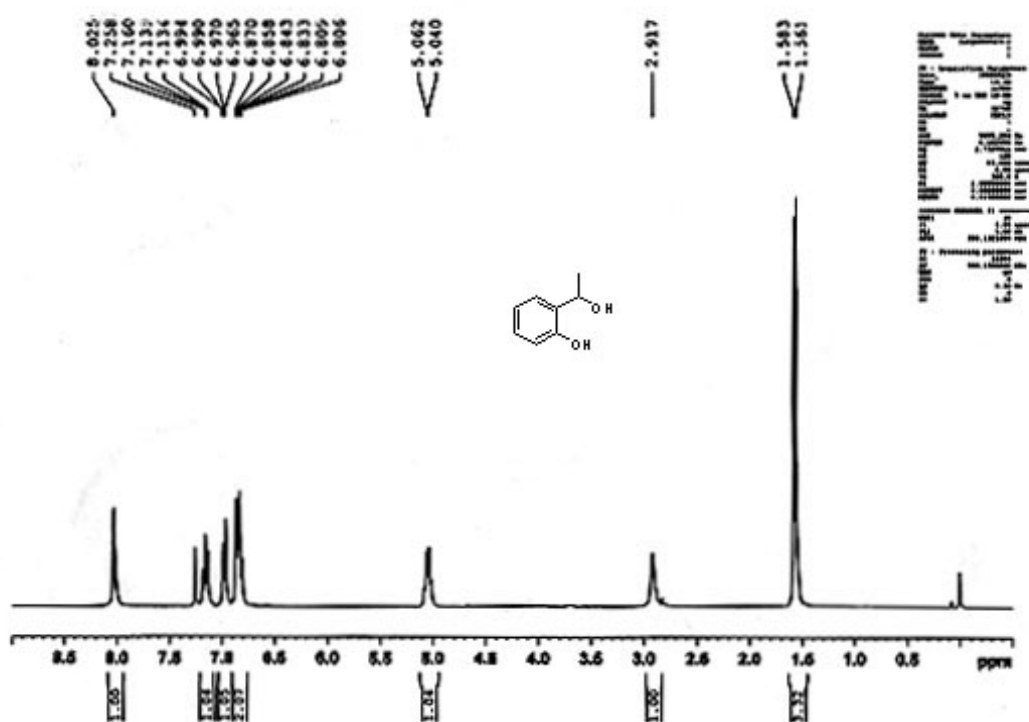
3.1 1H NMR of the substrates 1a-1l

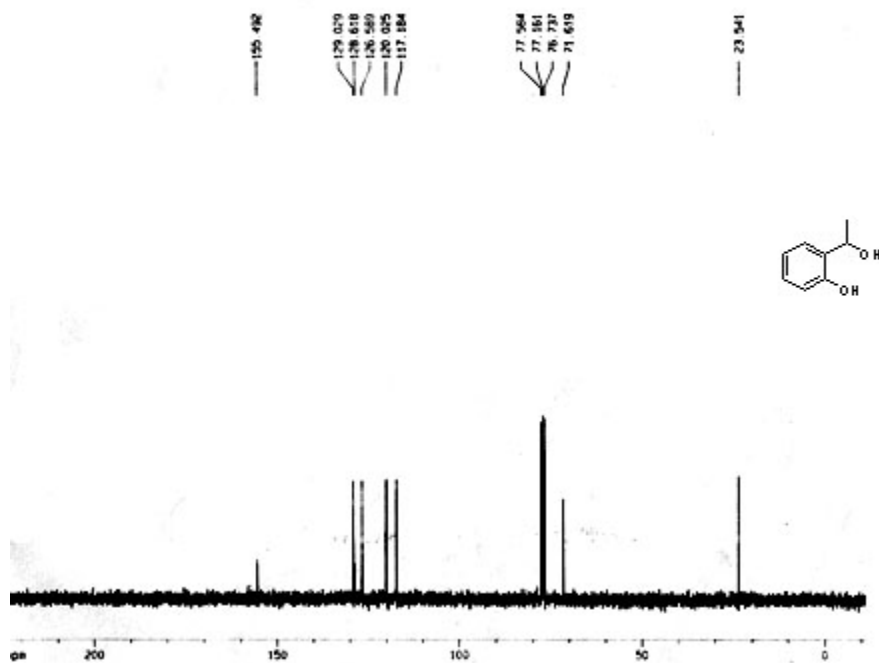
1a



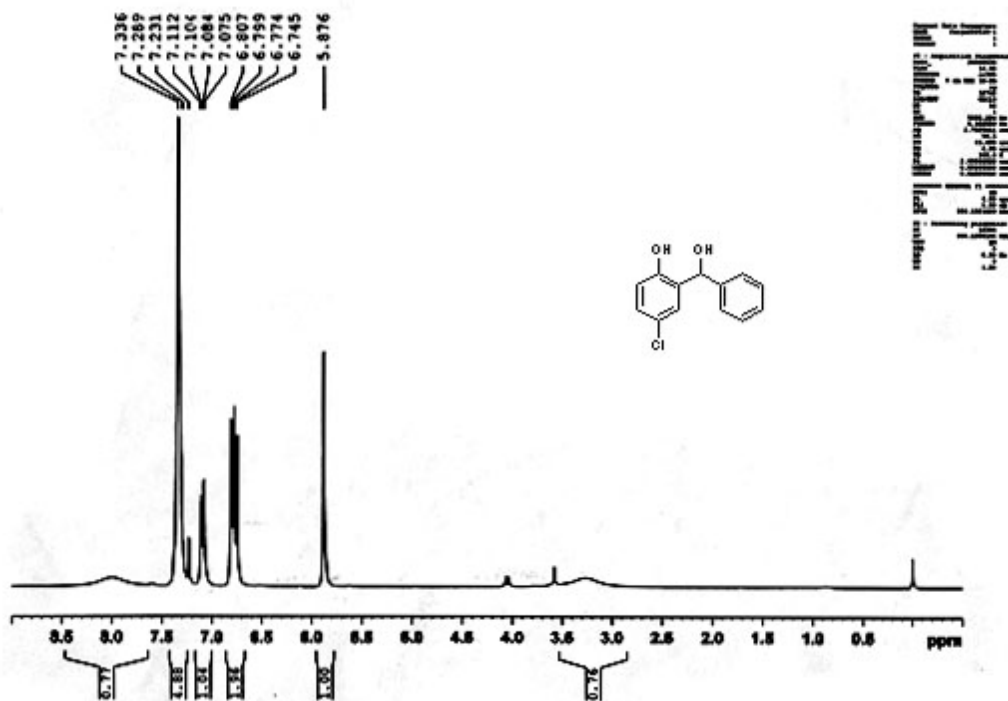


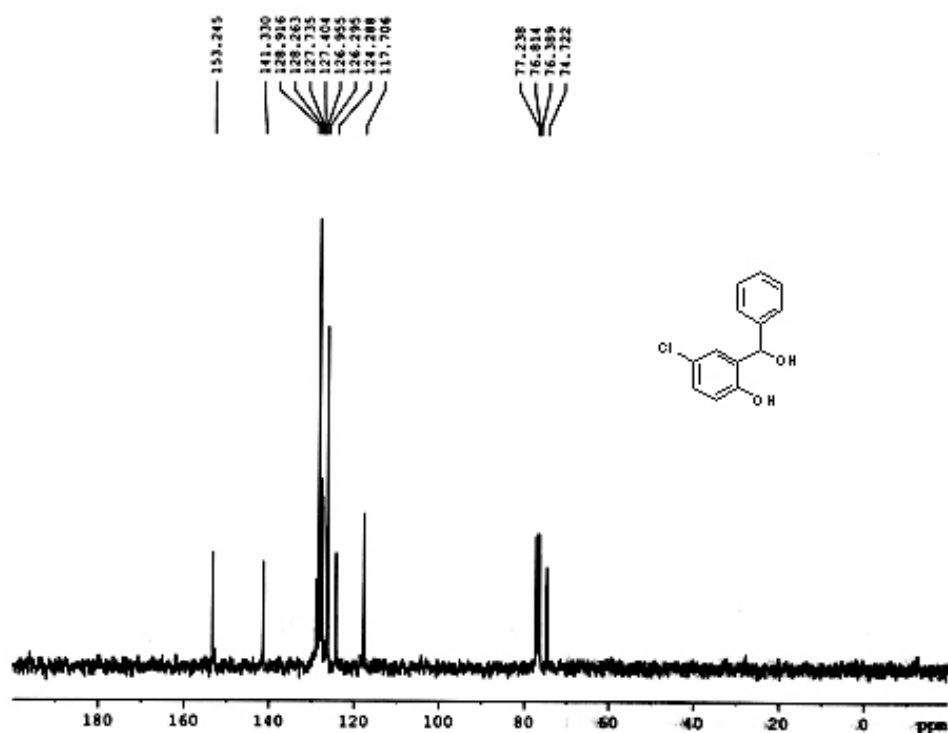
1b



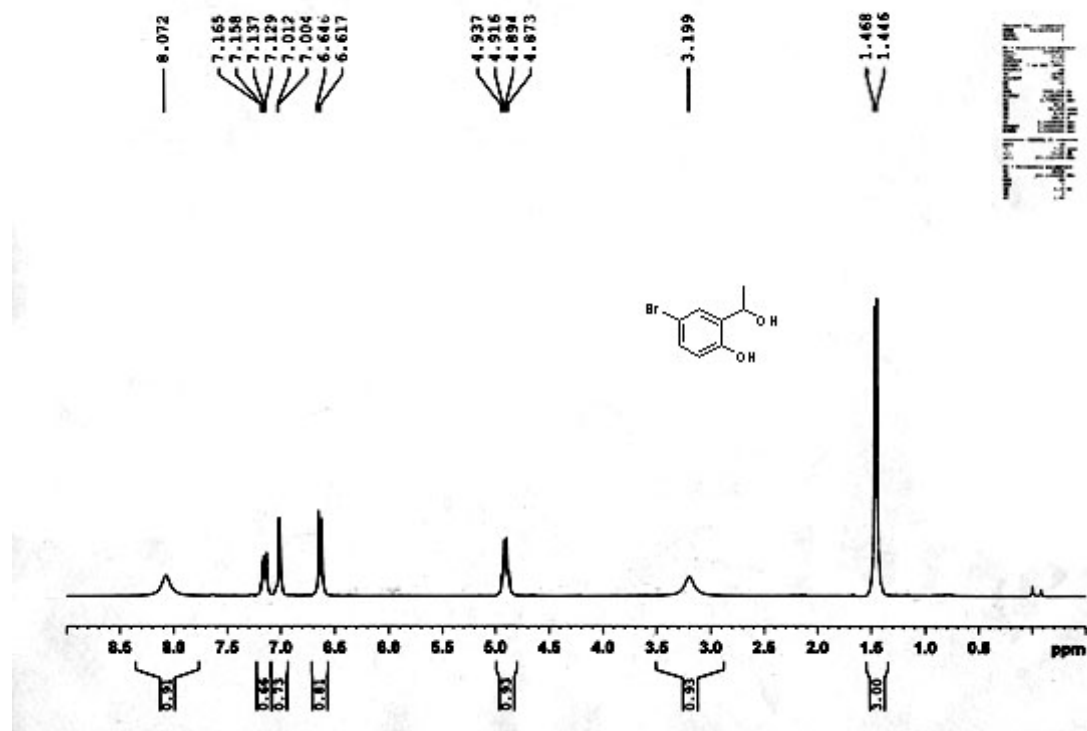


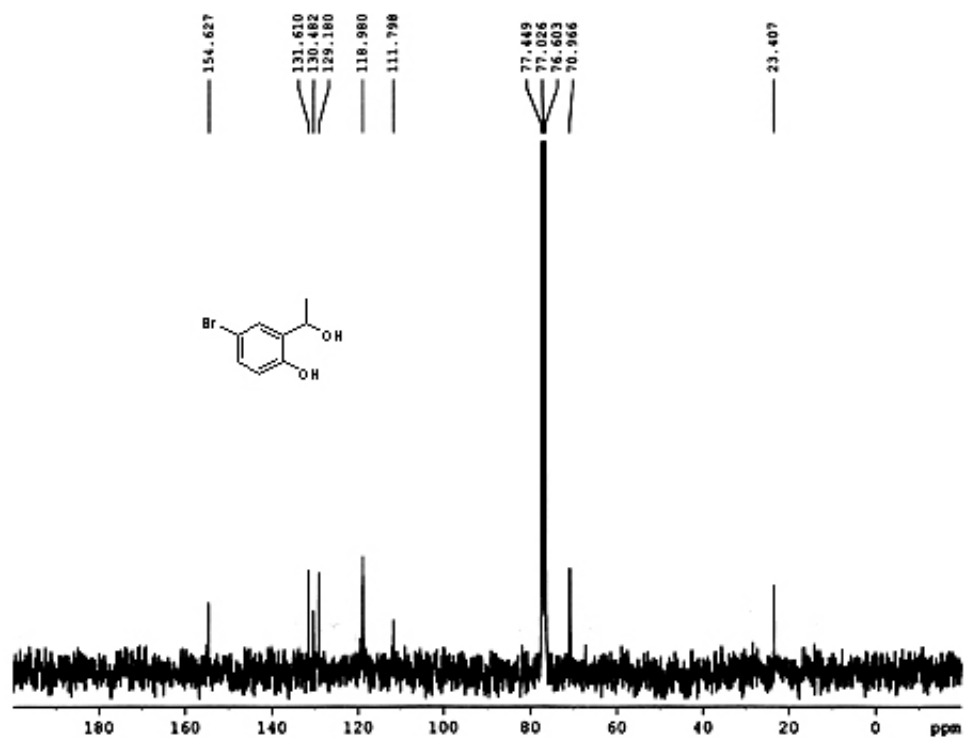
1c



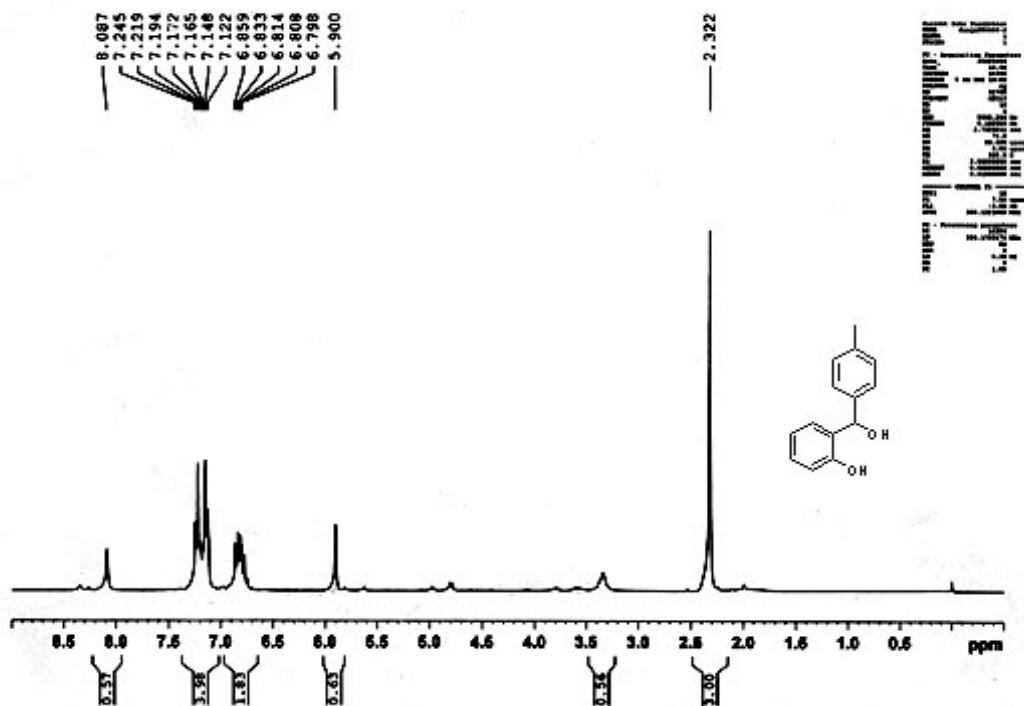


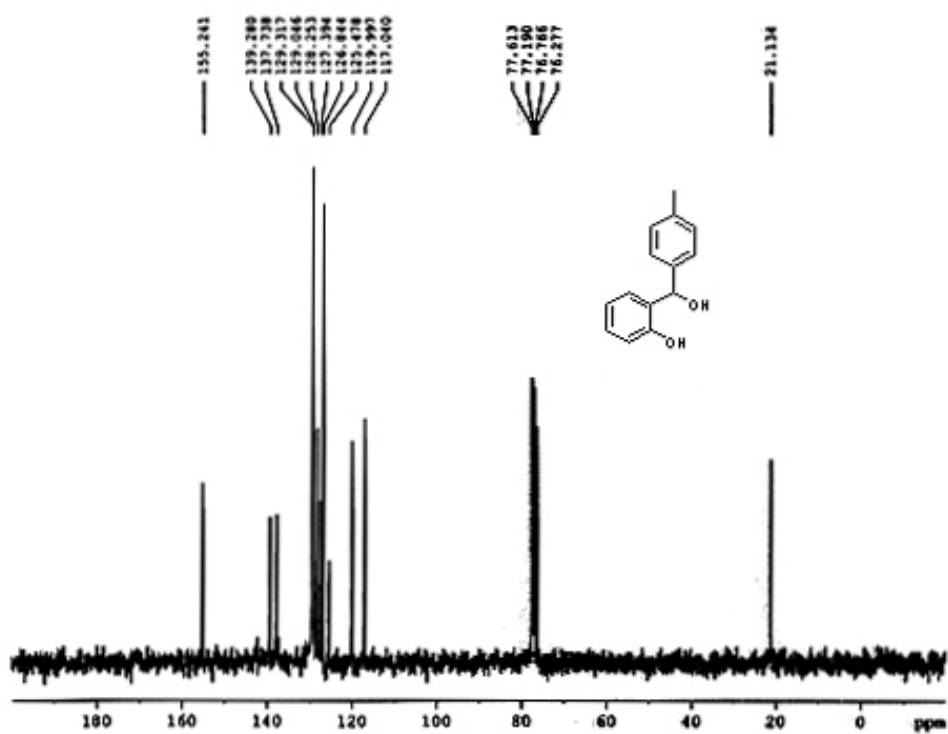
1d



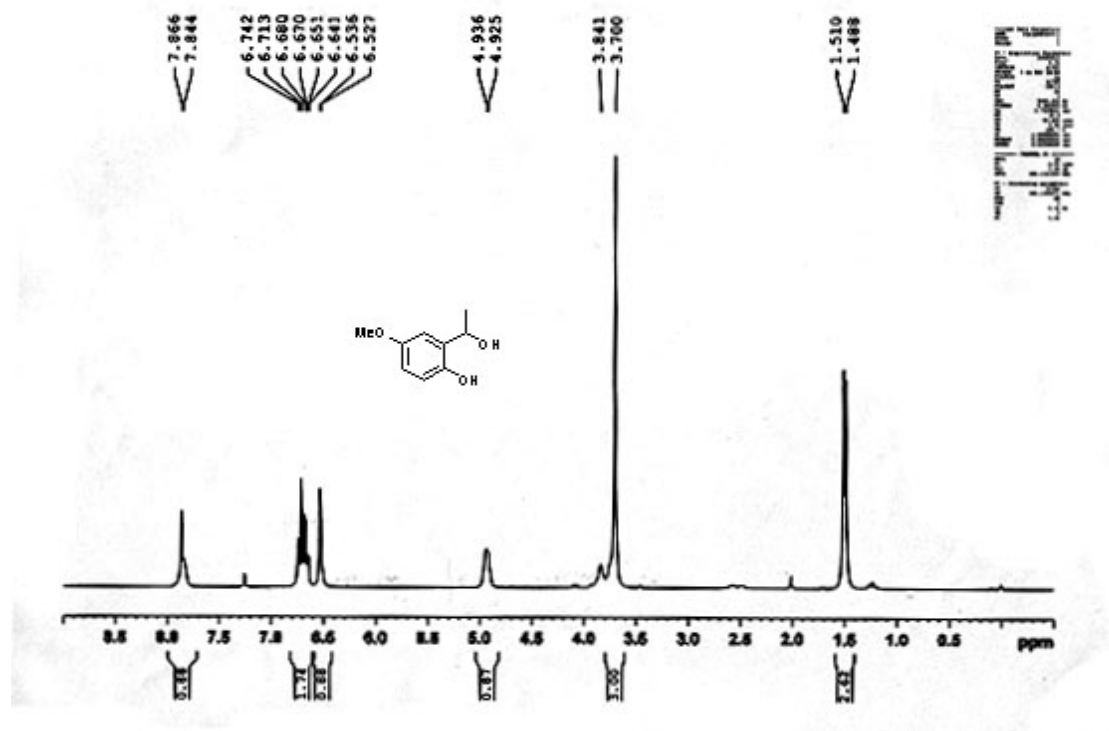


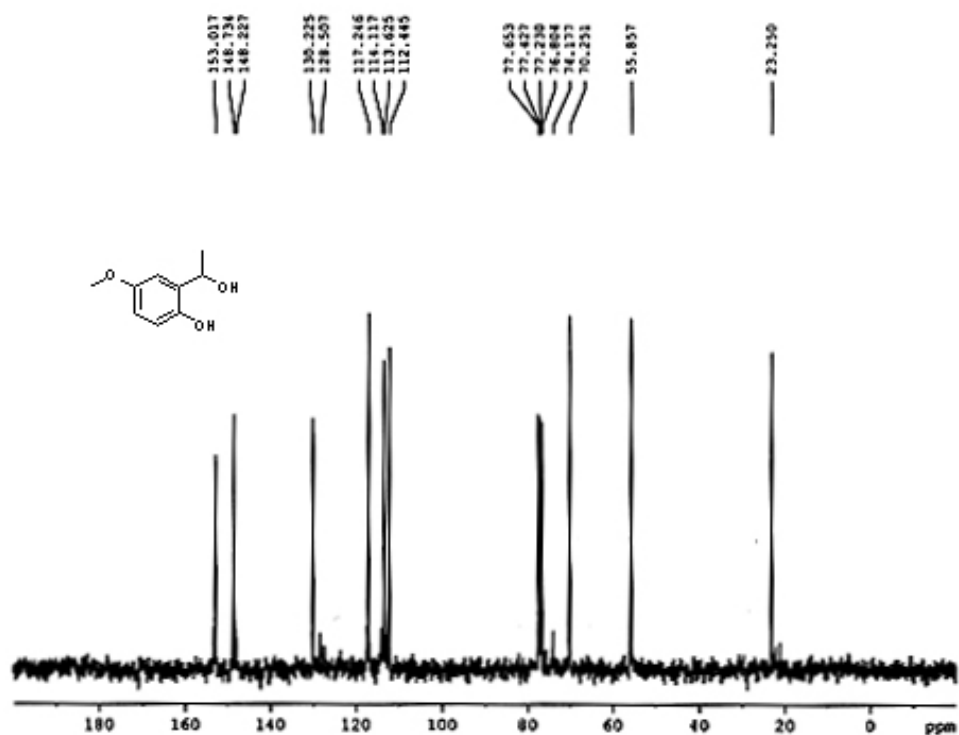
1e



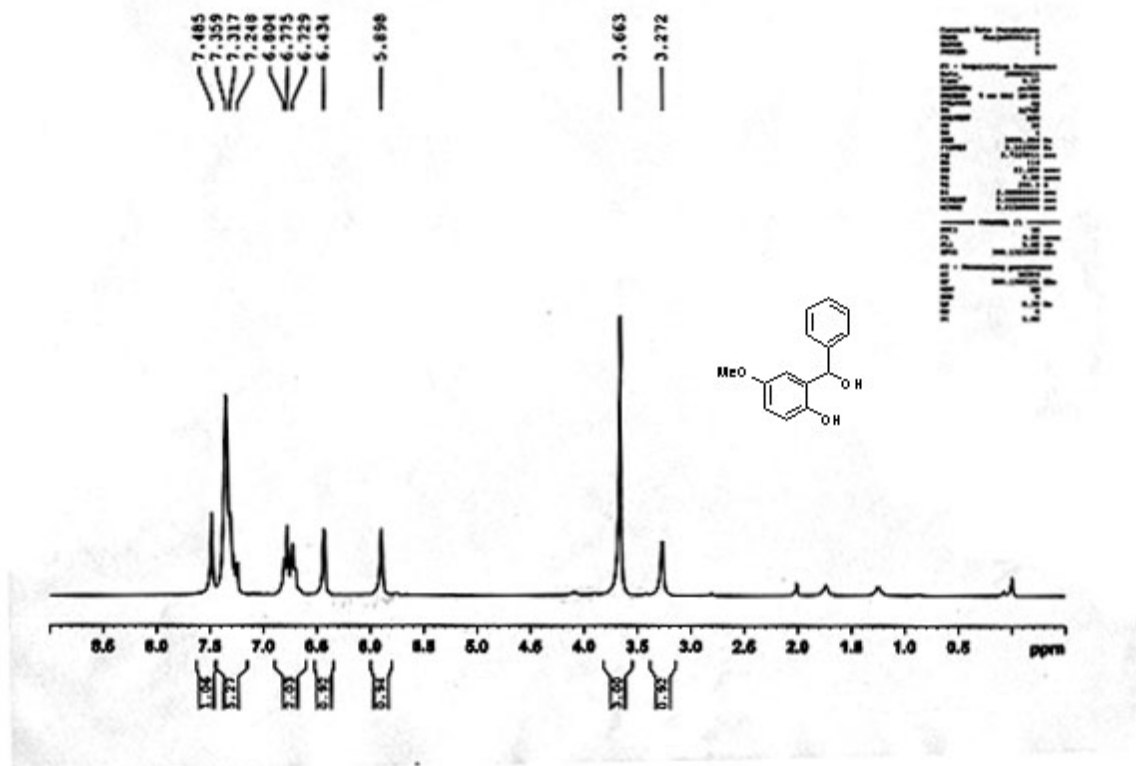


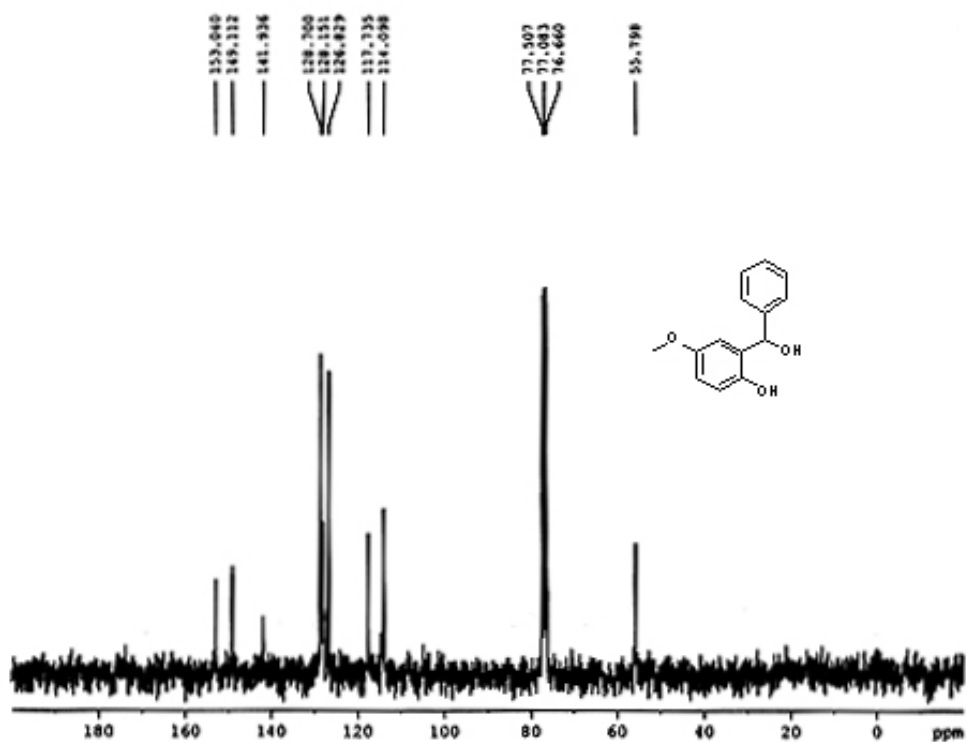
1f



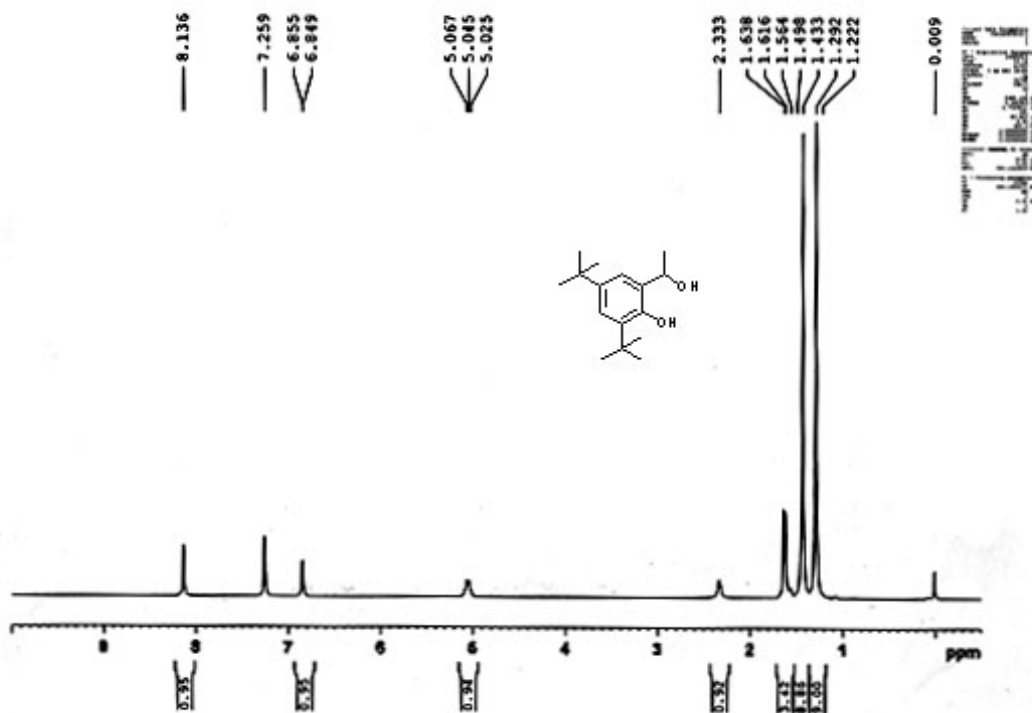


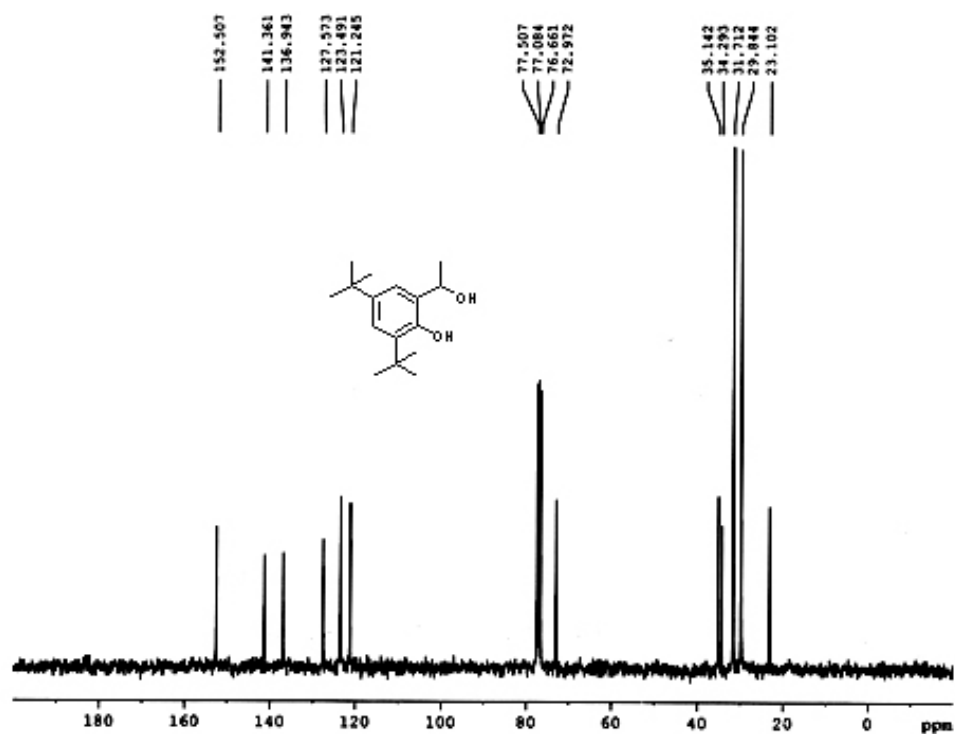
1g



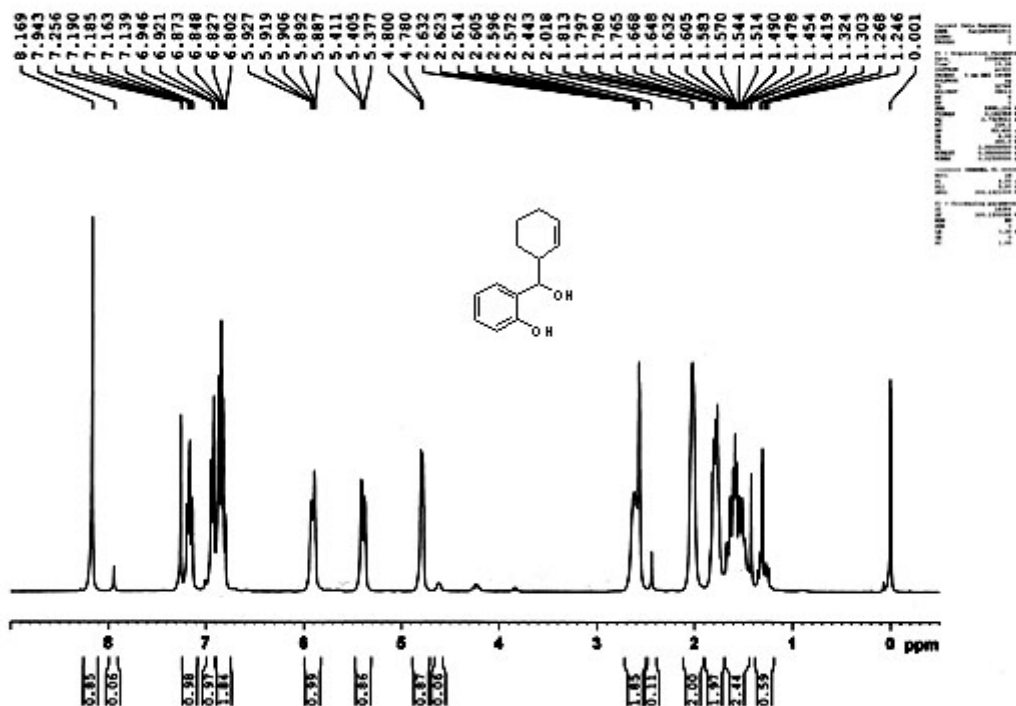


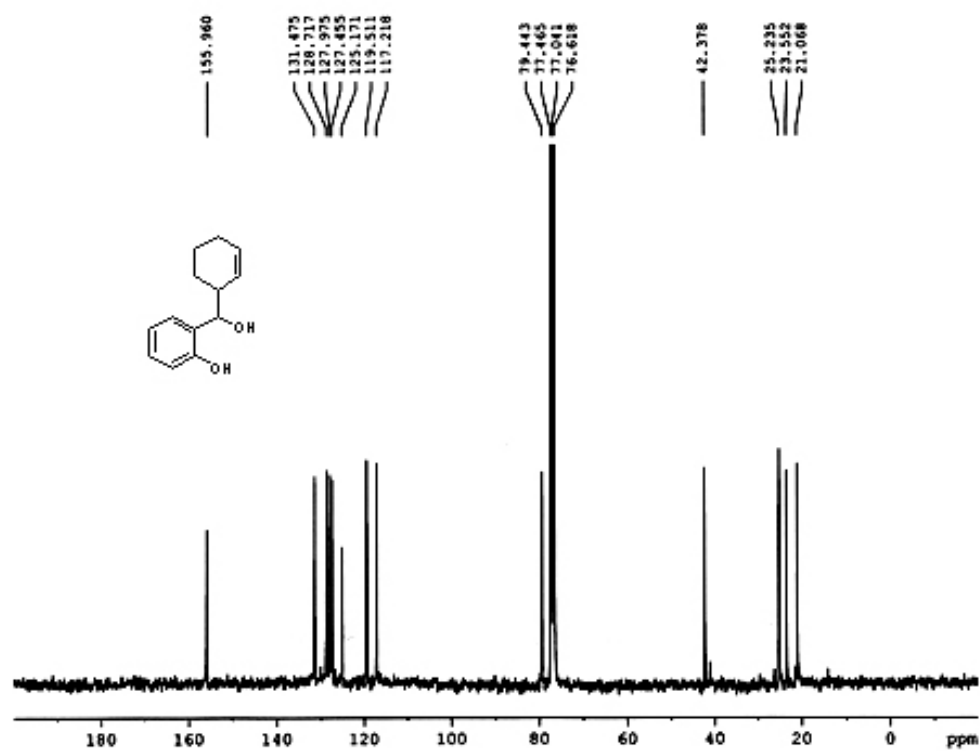
1h



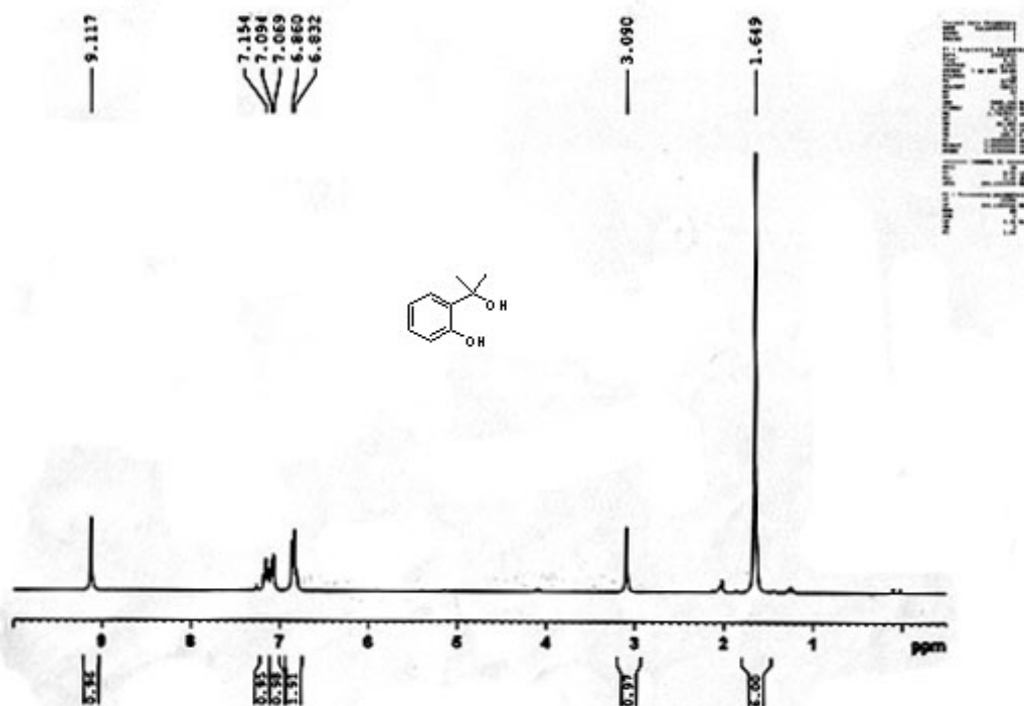


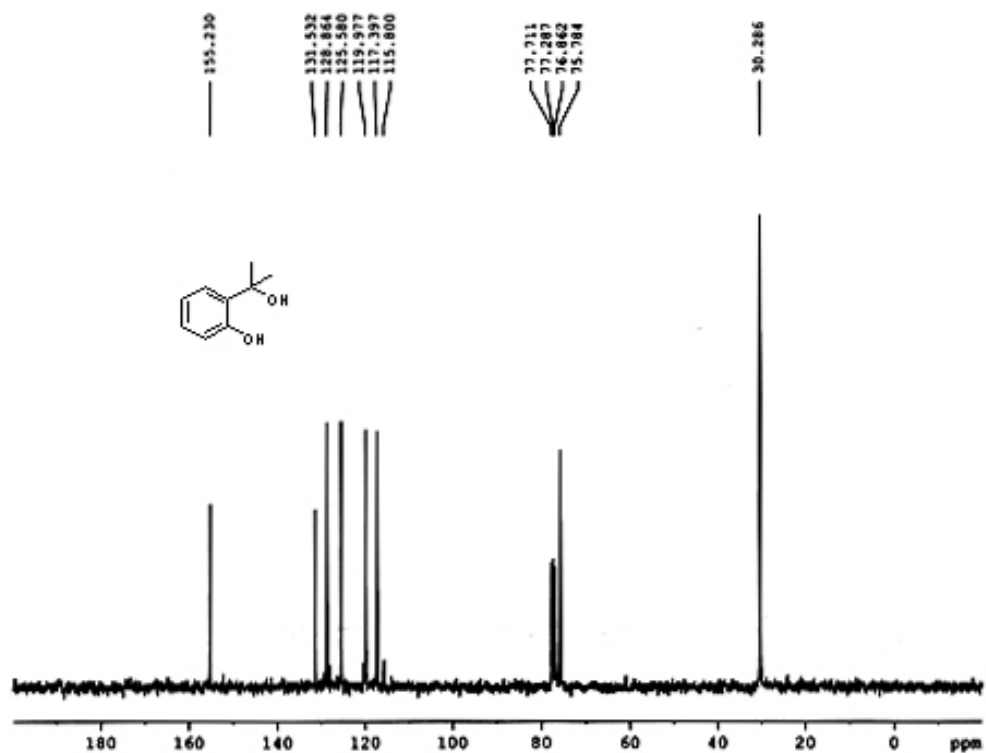
1i



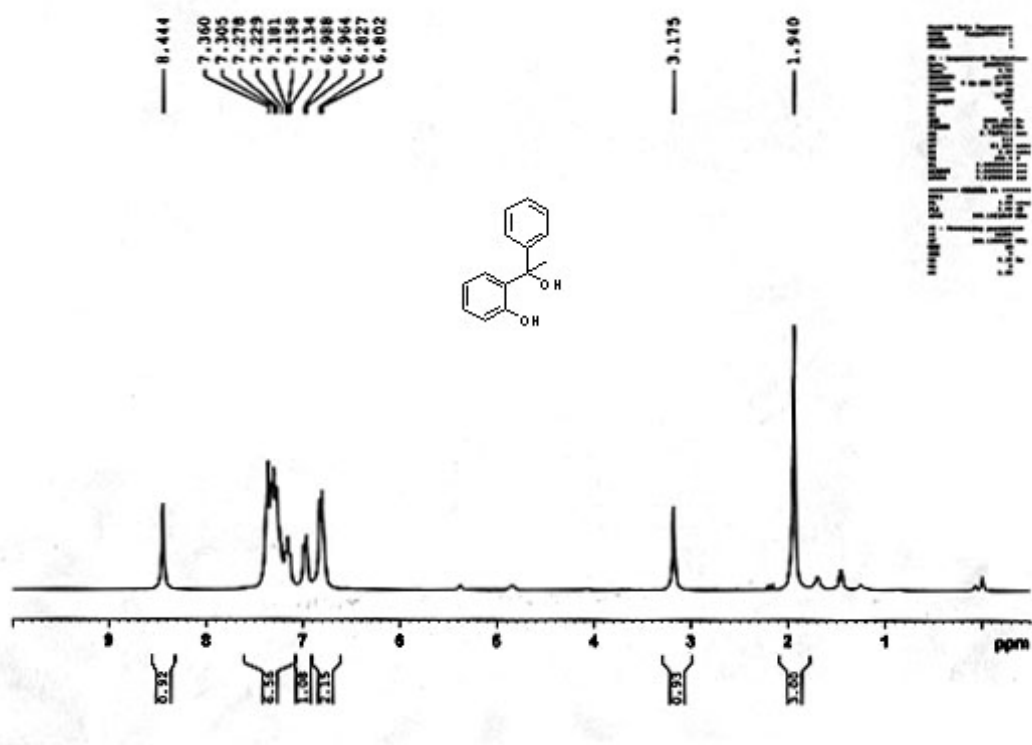


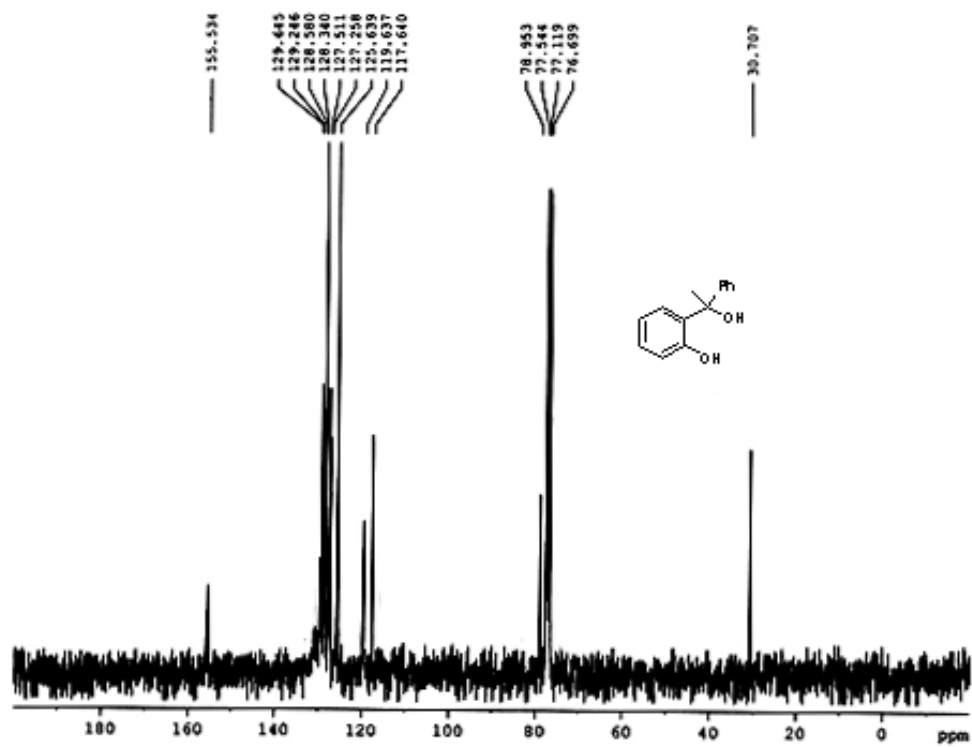
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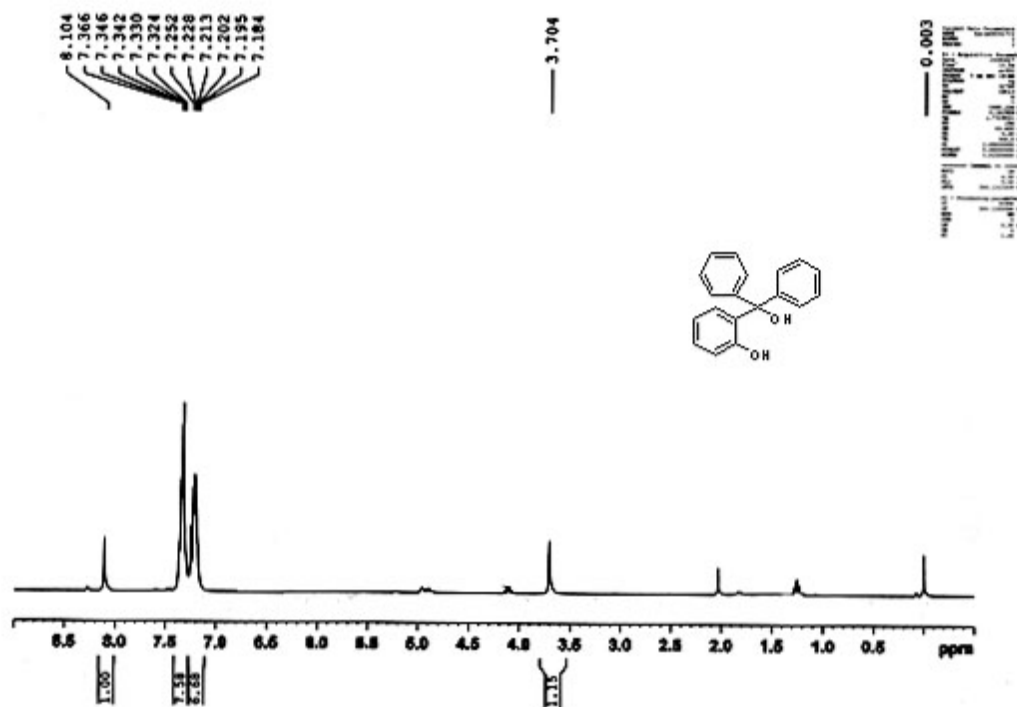


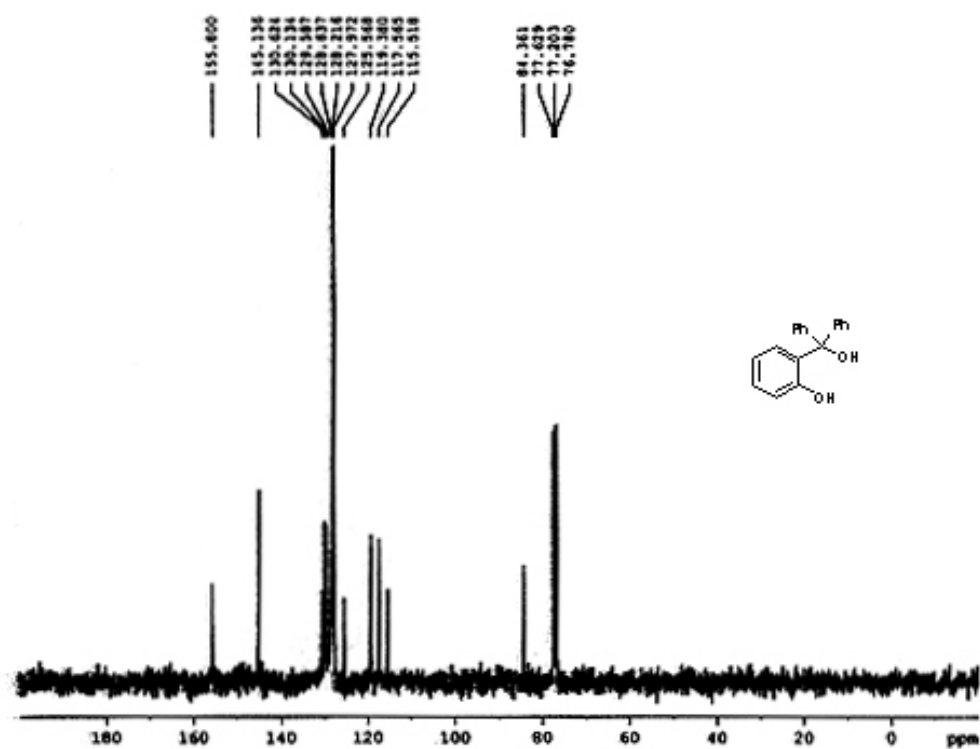
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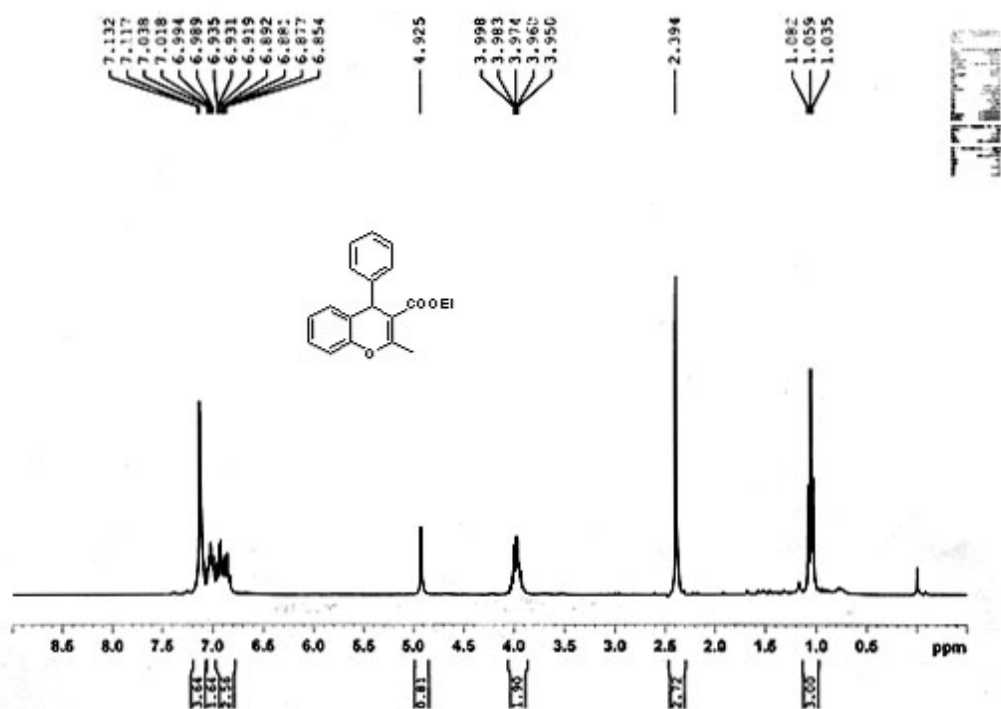
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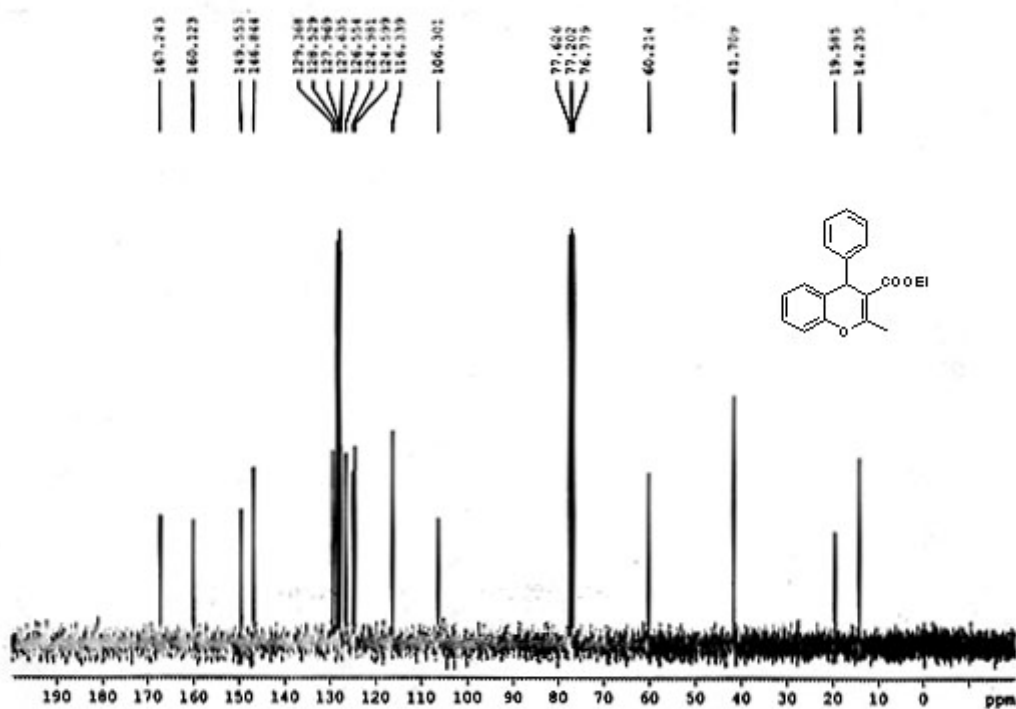




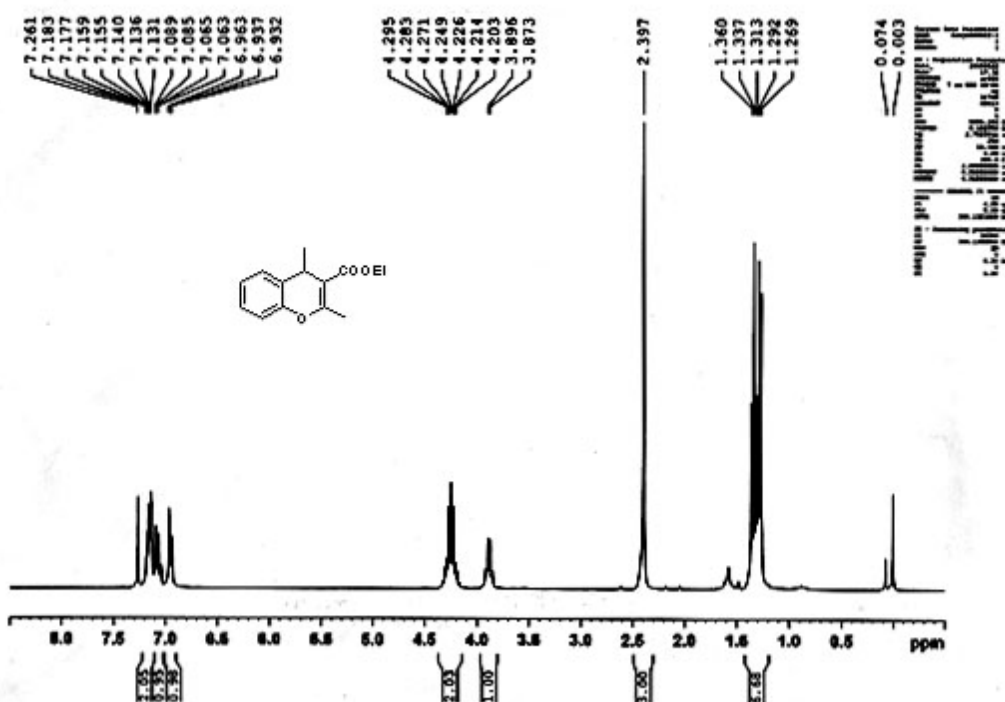
3.2 NMR of the 4H-Chromene products 3a-3s

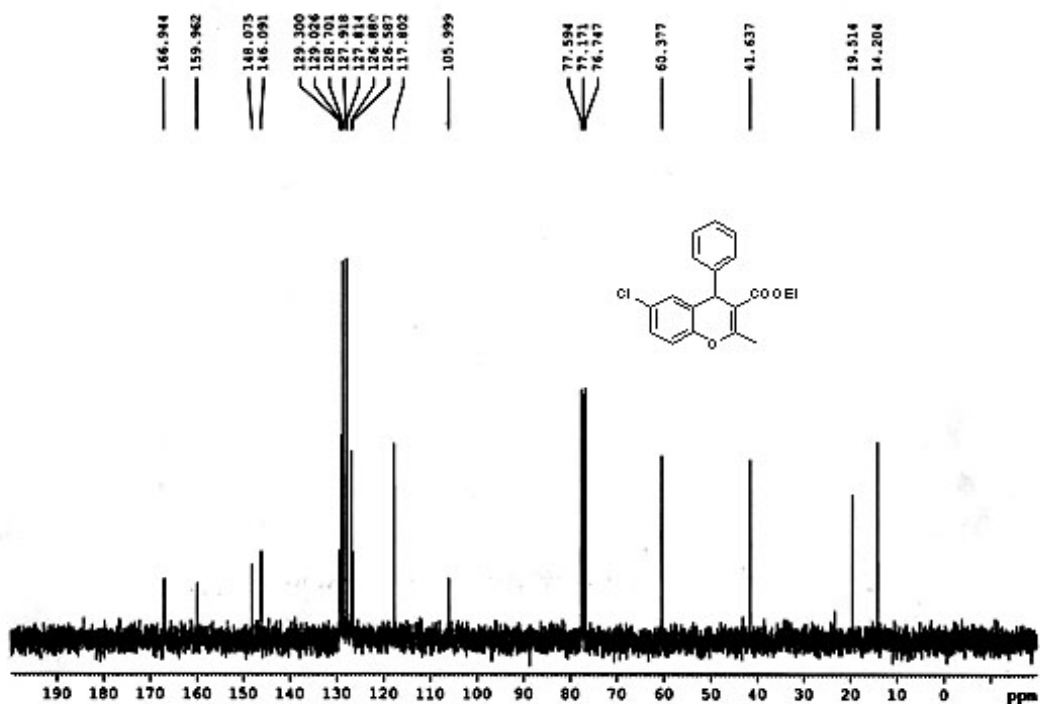
3a



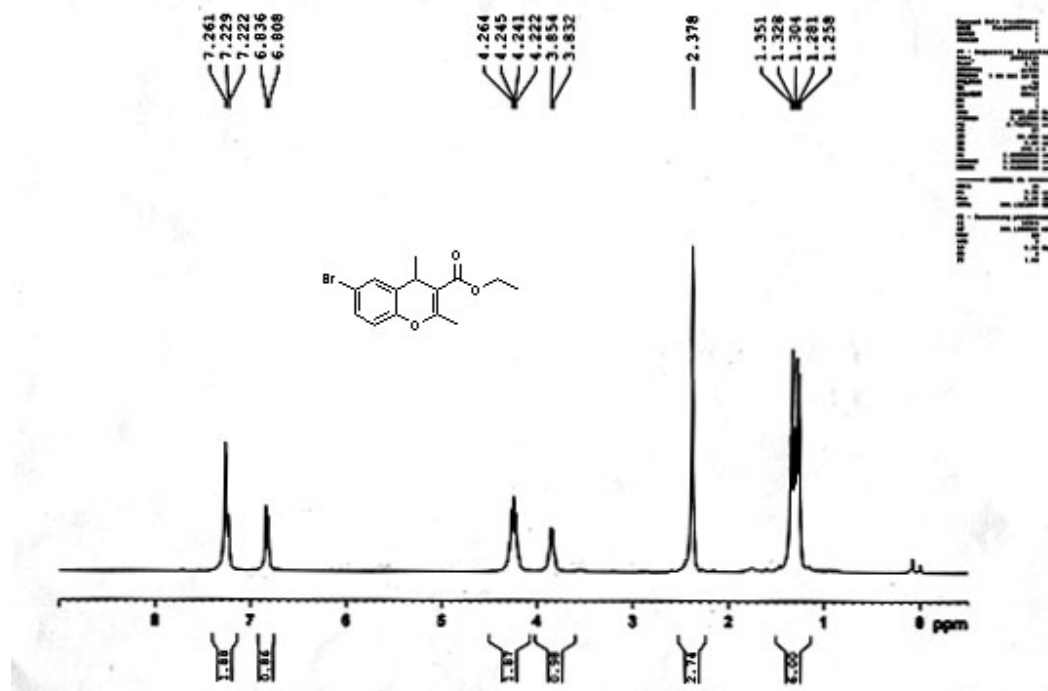


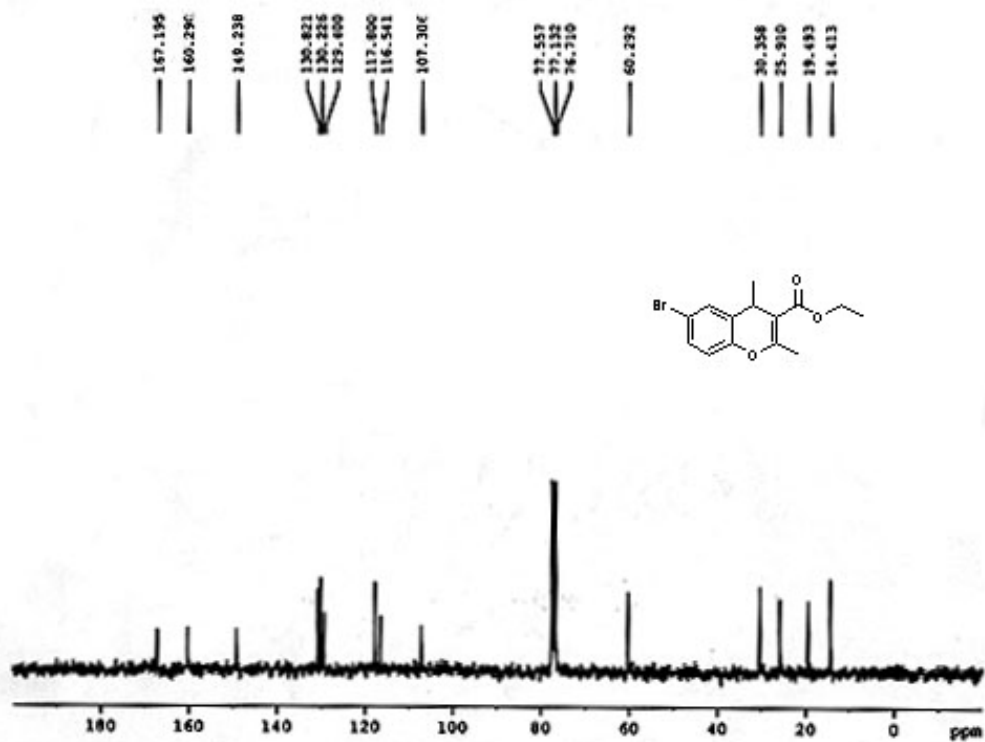
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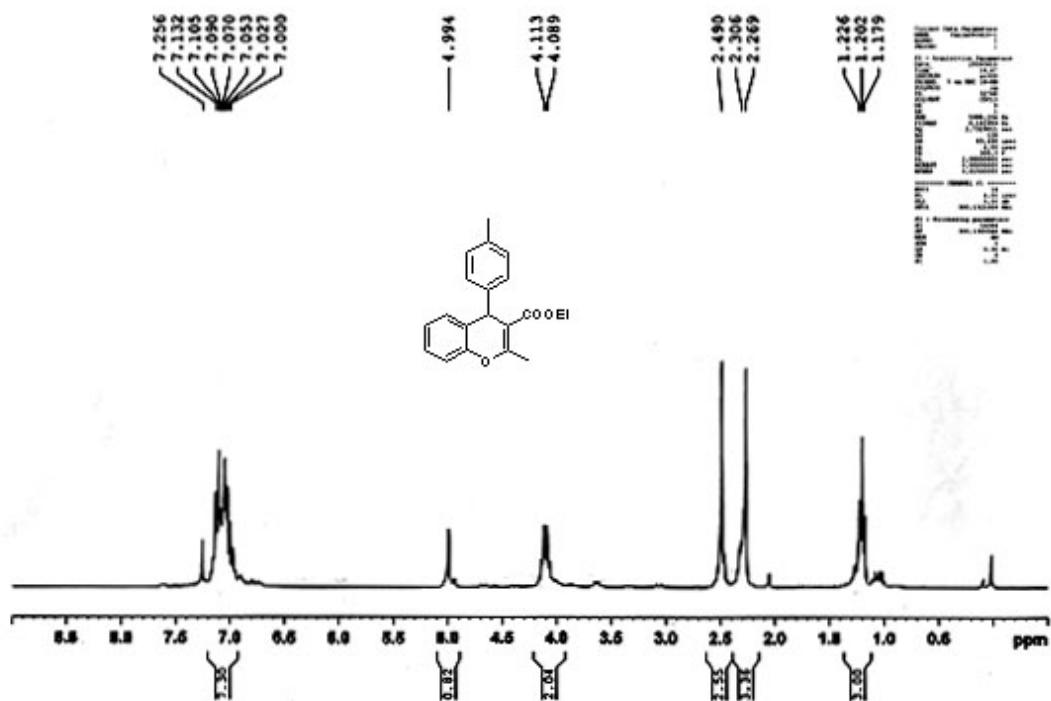


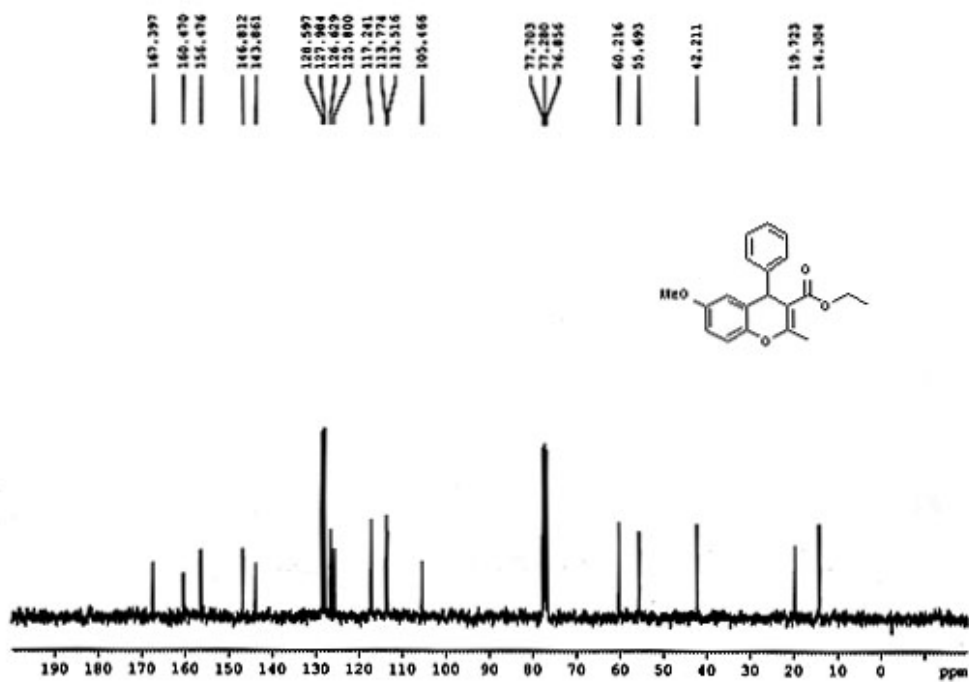
3d



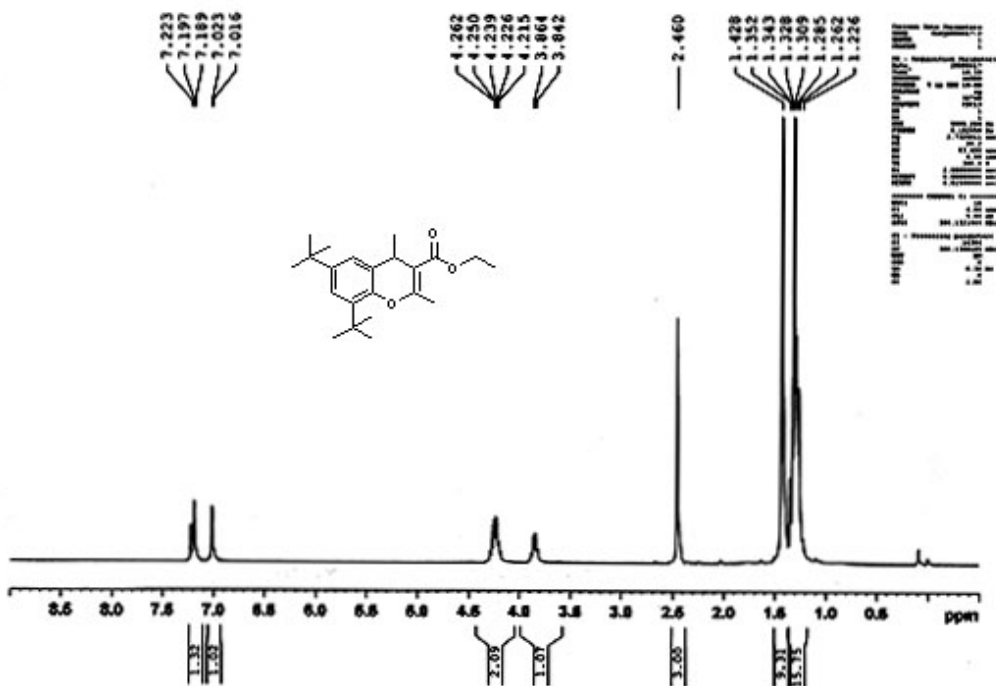


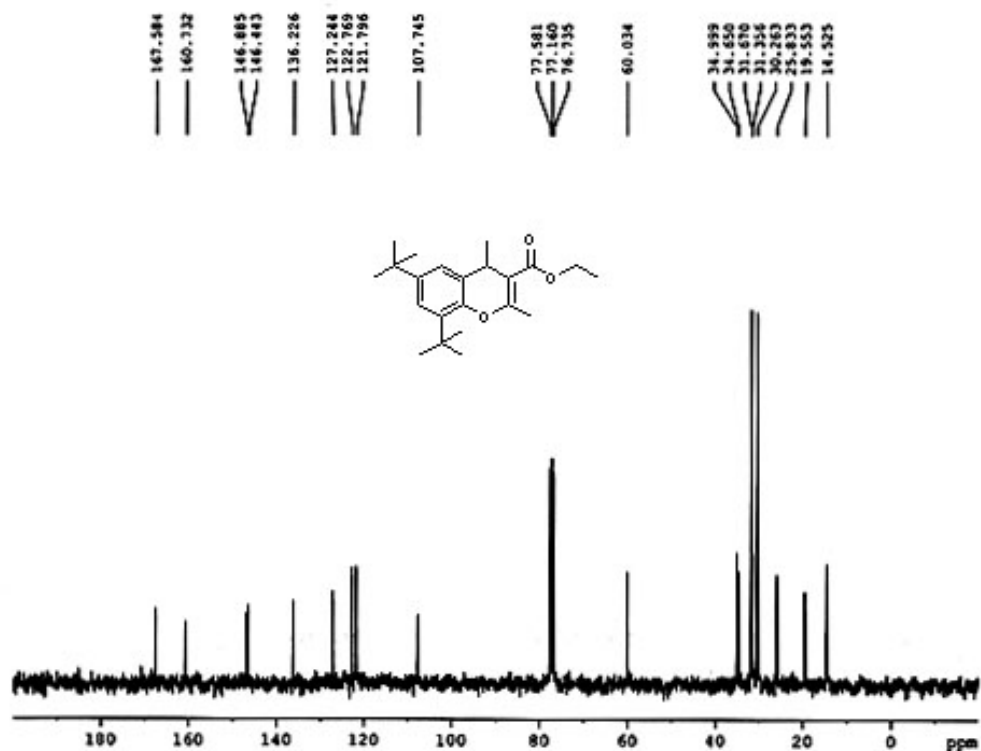
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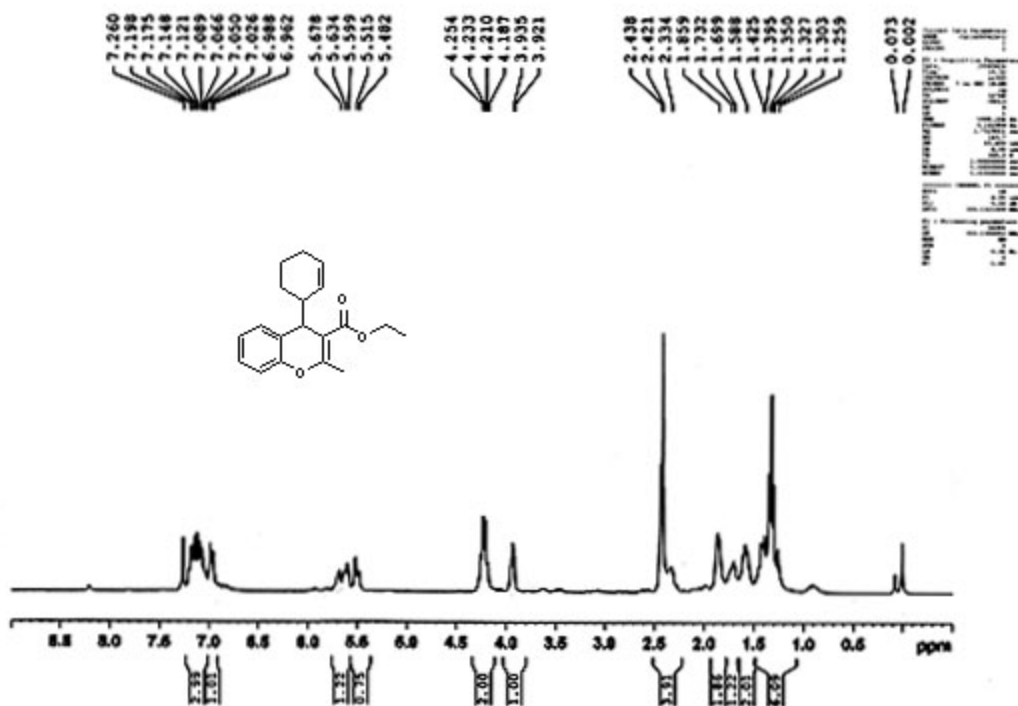


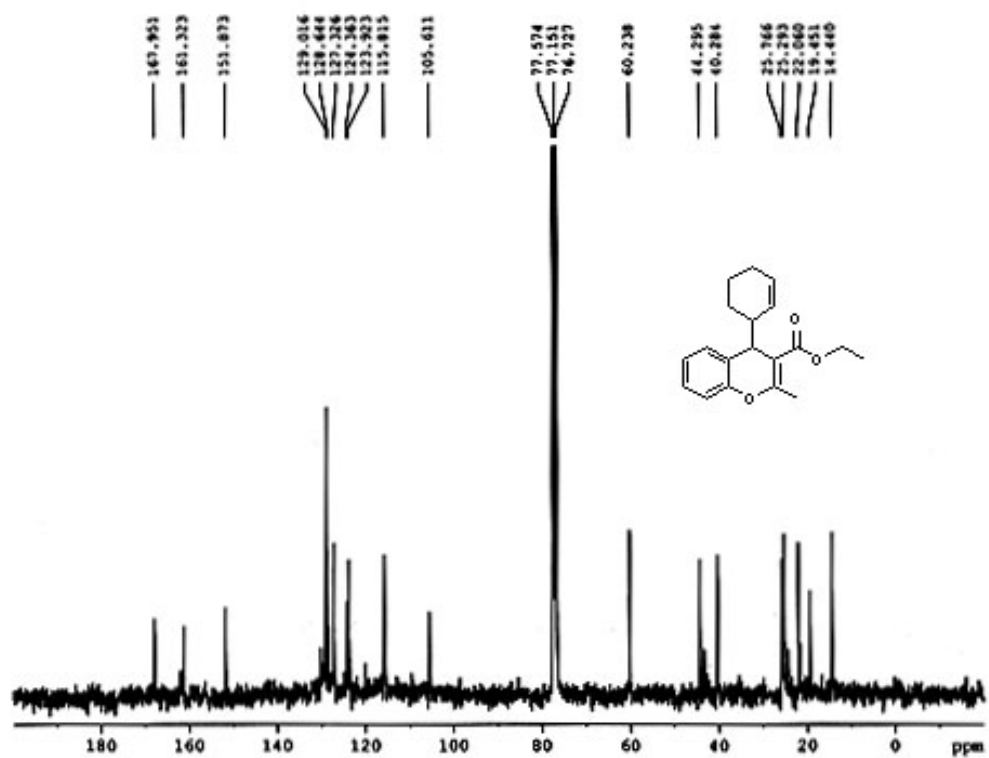
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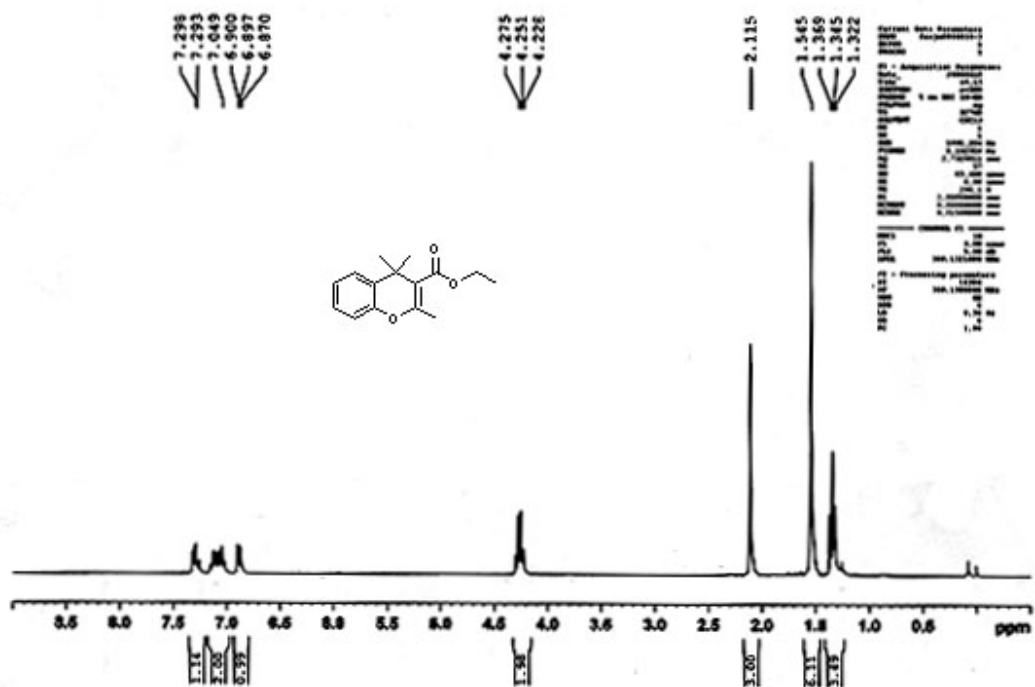


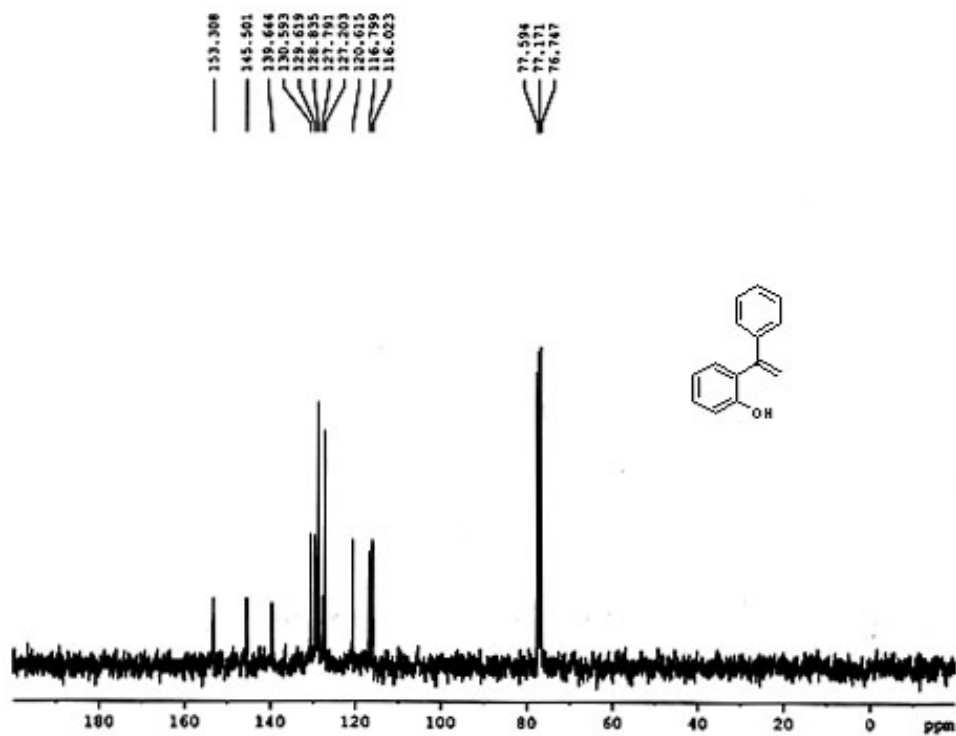
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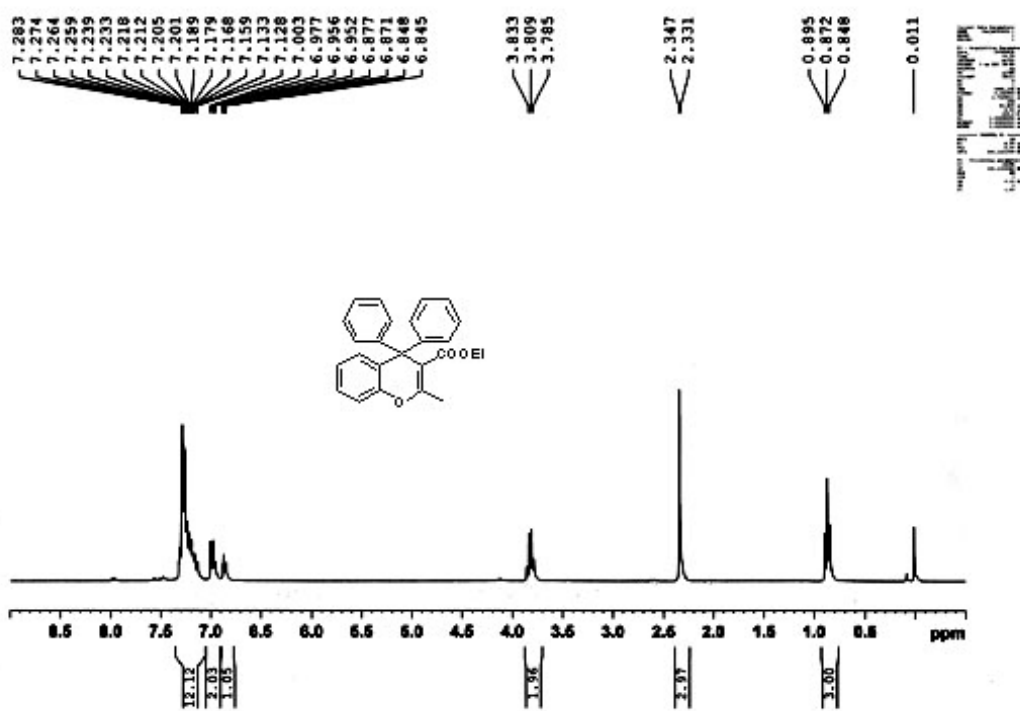


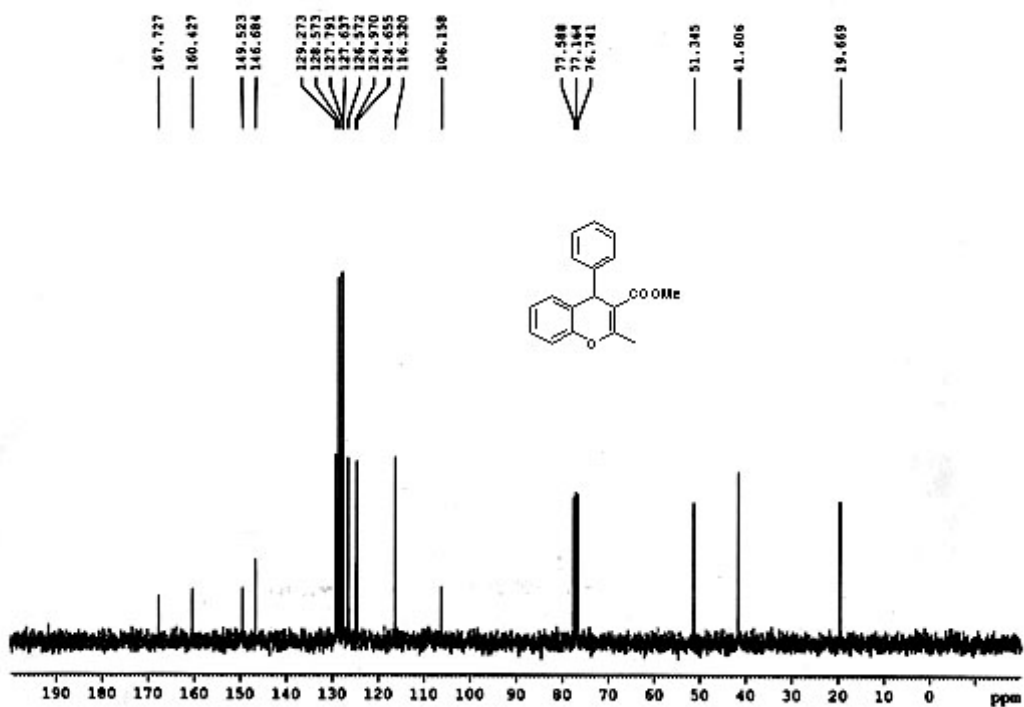
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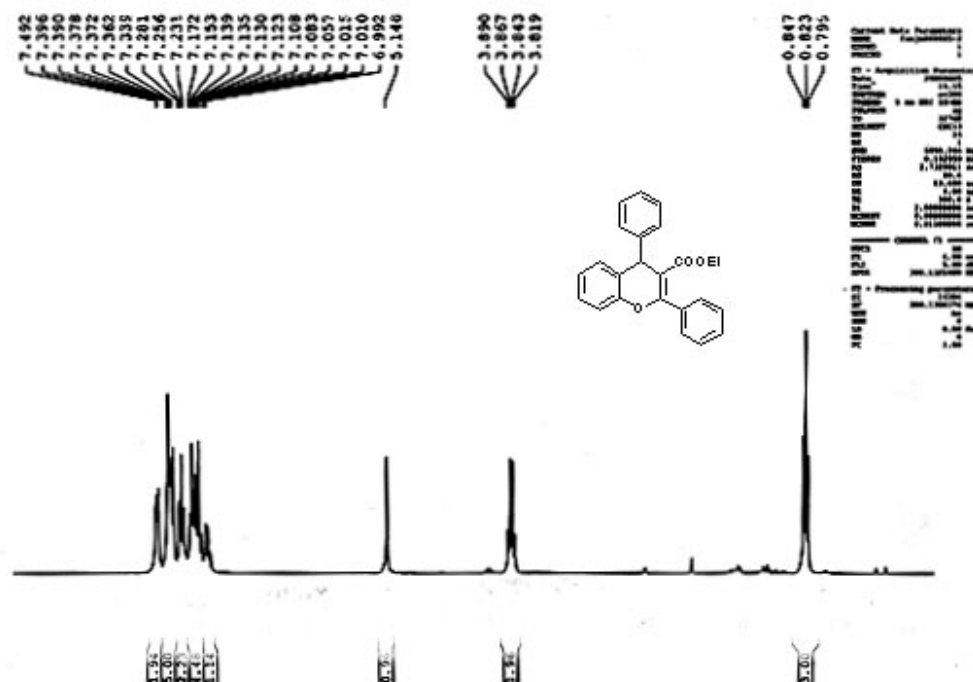


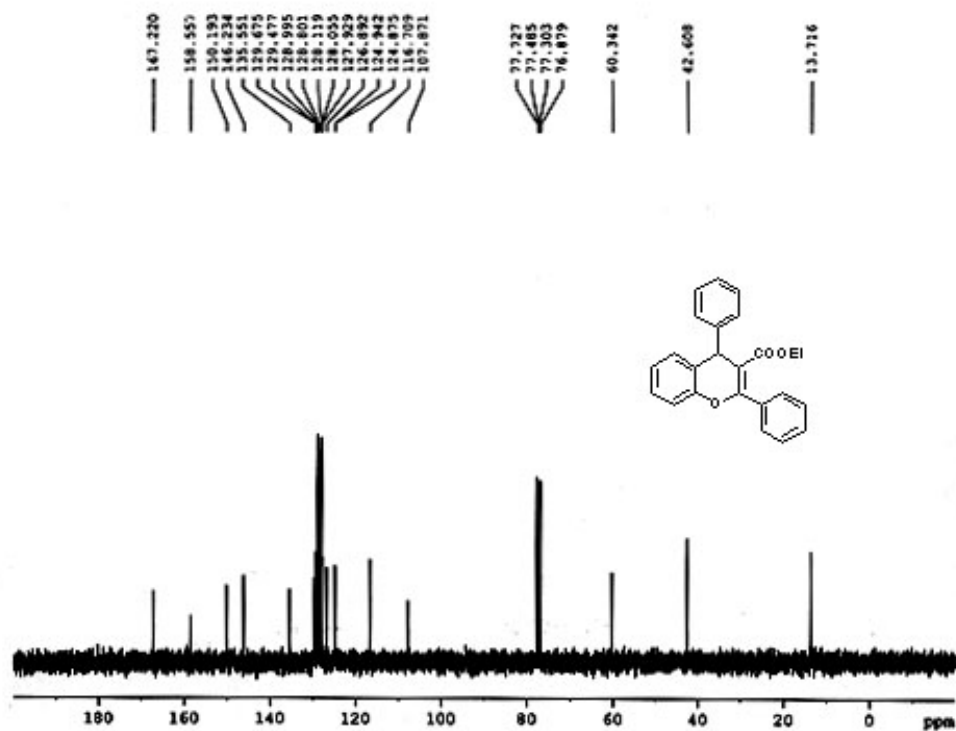
3l



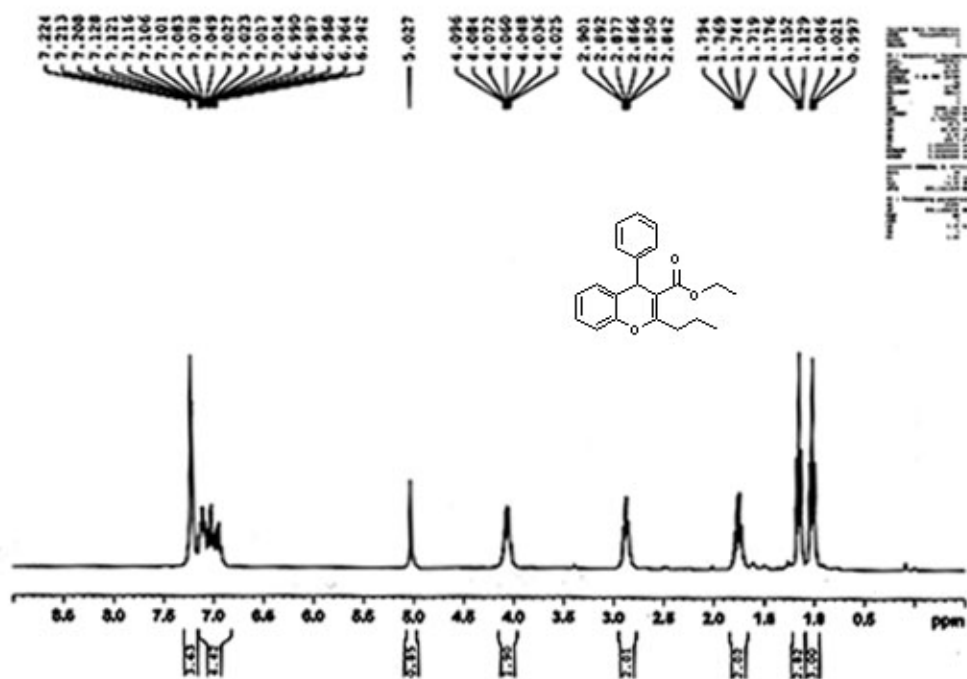


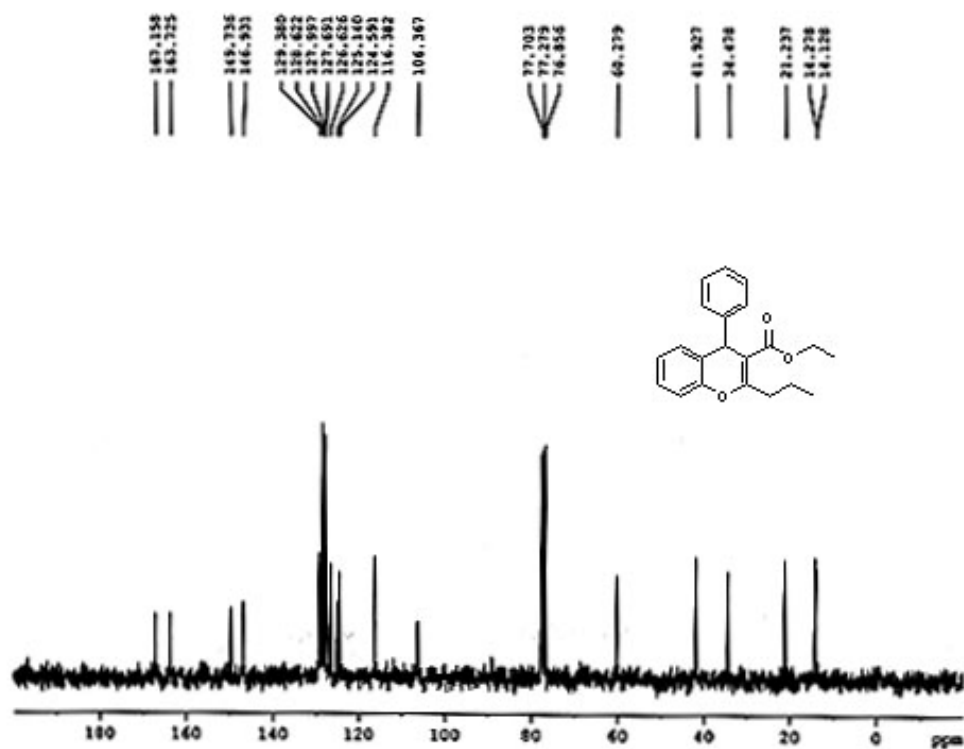
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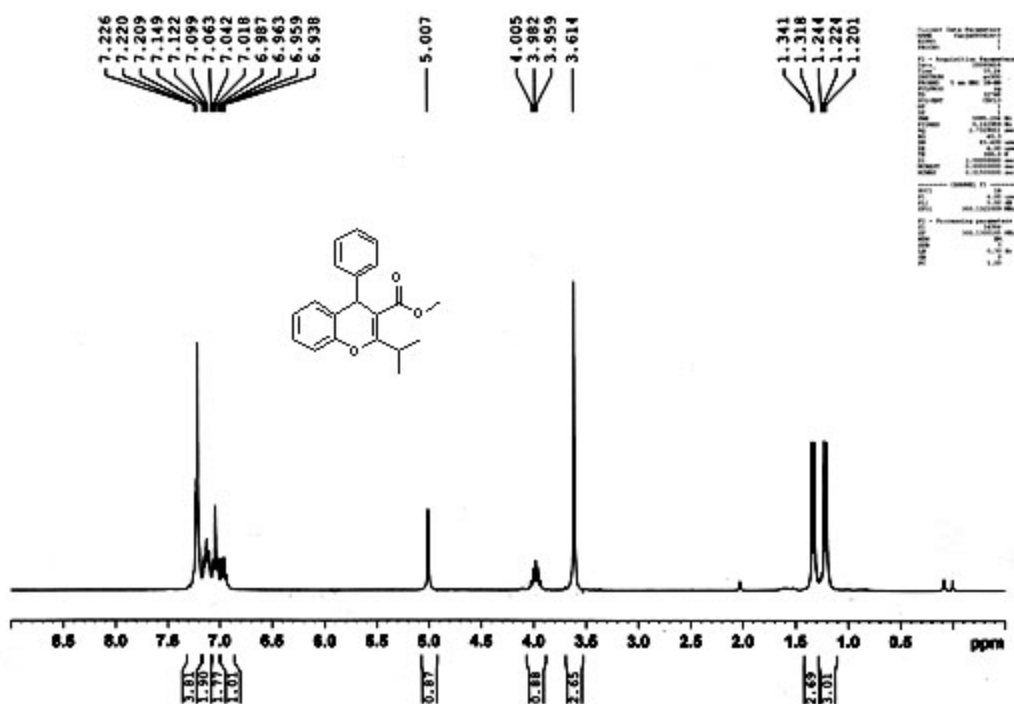


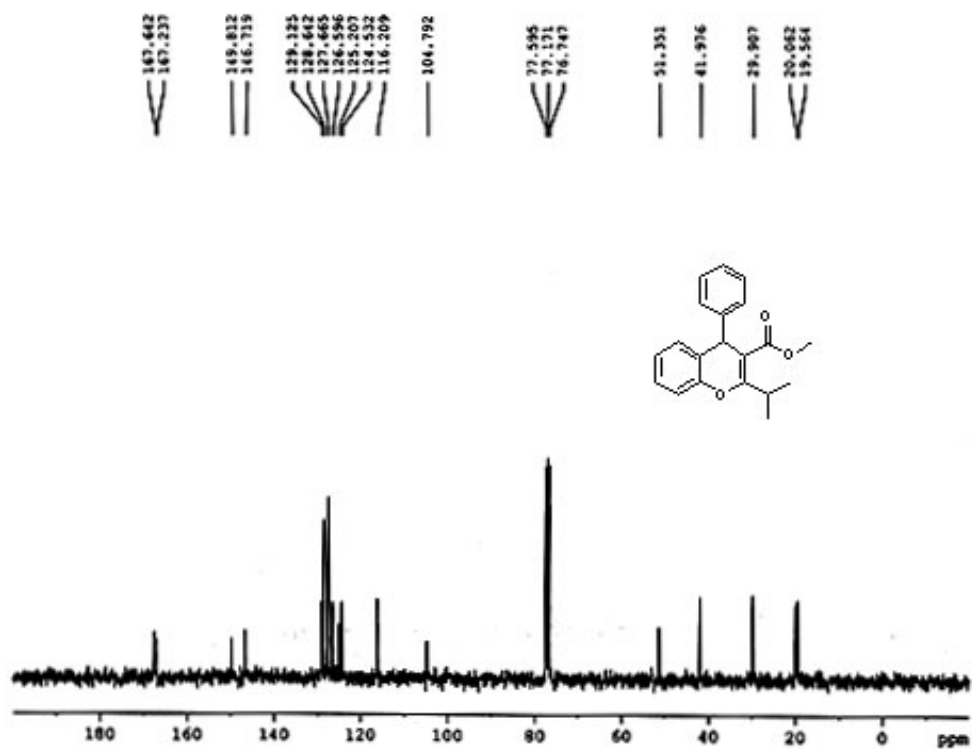
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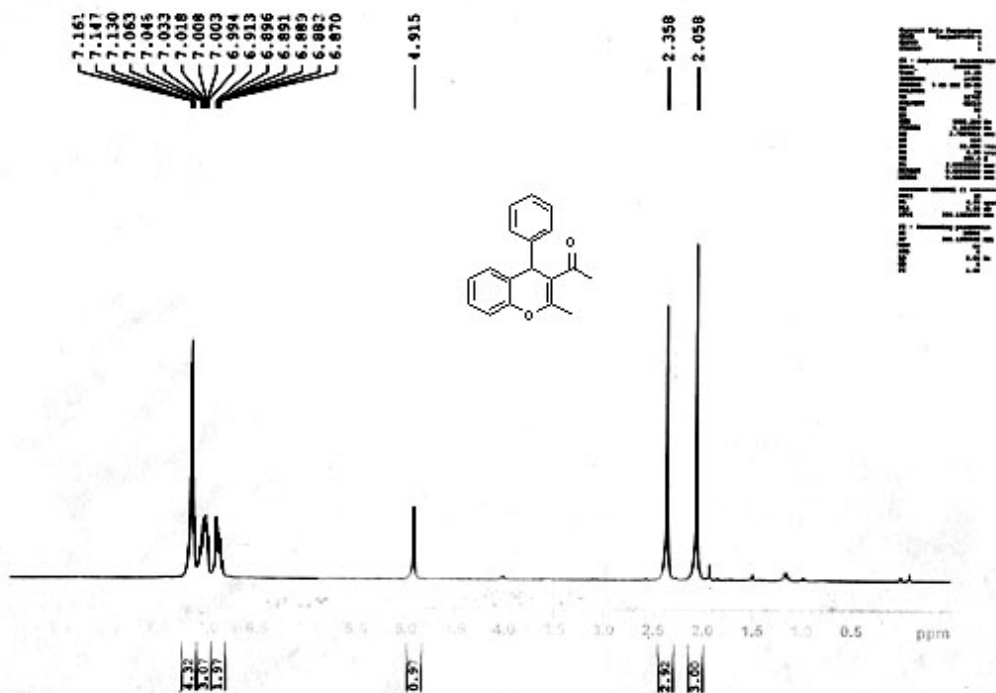


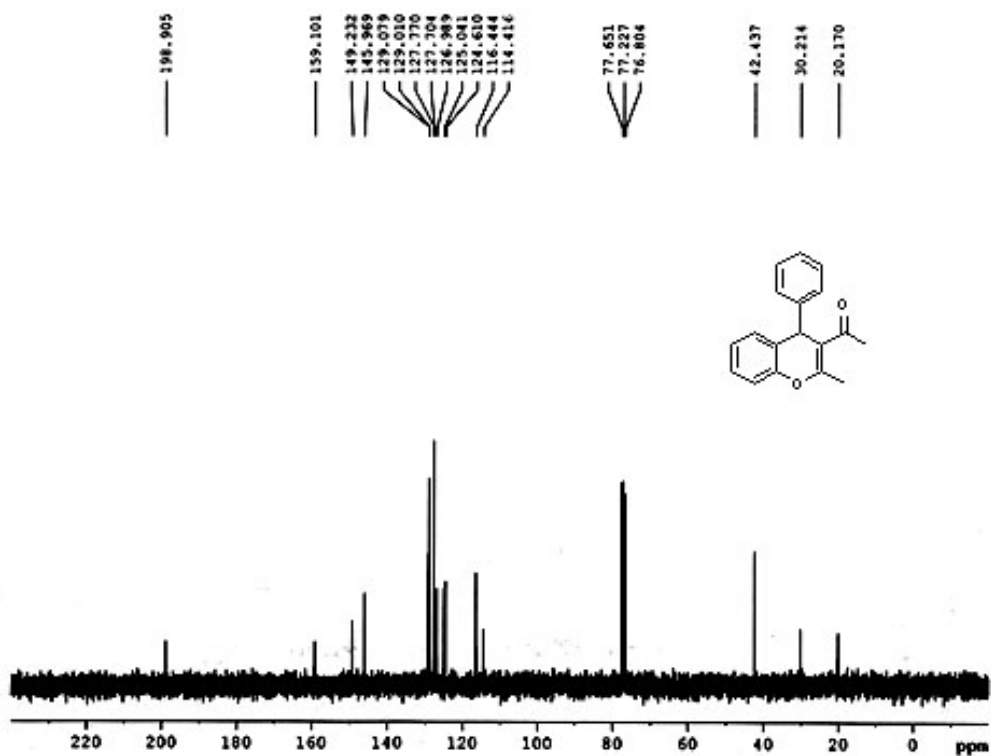
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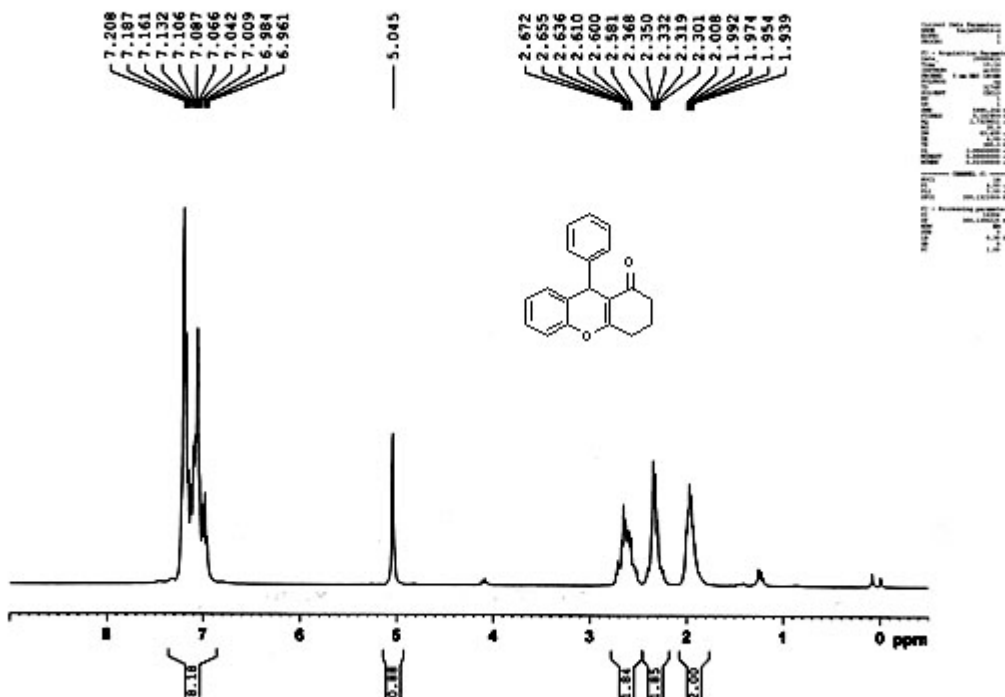


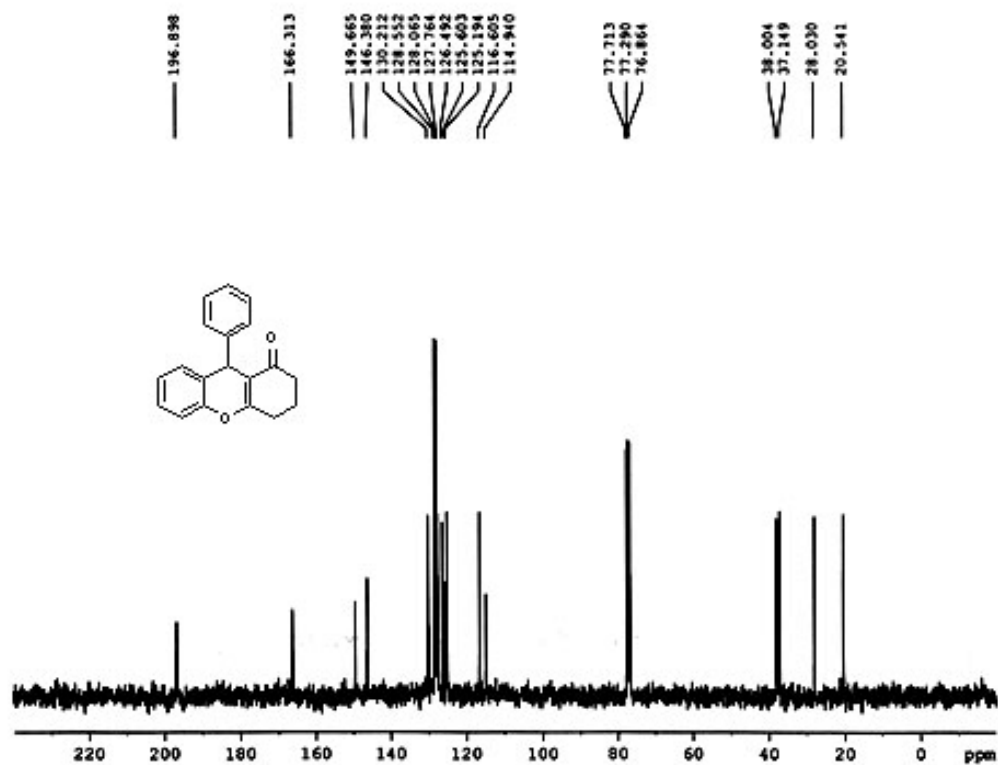
3q





3r





3s

