

Synthesis of 3-Hydroxyoxindoles by Pd-catalysed Intramolecular Nucleophilic Addition of Arylhalides to α - Ketoamides

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CONTENTS:

1. Synthesis of the substrates
2. Palladium-catalysed intramolecular addition of arylbromides to α -ketoamides

General:

Solvents were purified by filtration on Al₂O₃ drying columns using the 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. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were

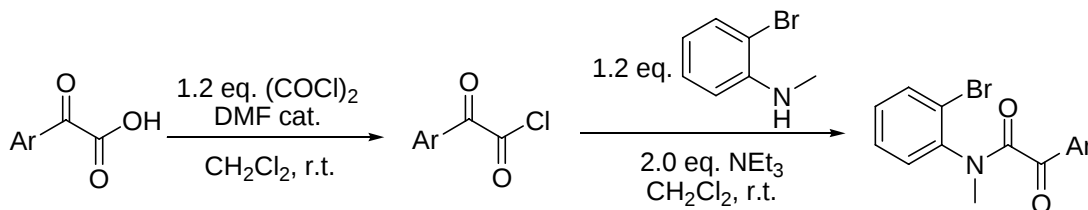
recorded on Bruker AMX-400 or AMX-300 FT spectrometers using an internal deuterium lock. Chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (ppm) downfield of tetramethylsilane. Coupling constants J are quoted in Hz. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer Spectrum One spectrophotometer. Electrospray ionization (ESI) HRMS analyses were measured on a VG analytical 7070E instrument. Melting points were determined on a Büchi 510 and are uncorrected.

1. Synthesis of the substrates:

Aryl α -ketoacids were obtained by saponification of the corresponding ketoesters. The latter were prepared from arylbromides and diethyl oxalate according to Saito *et al.*¹ *N*-methyl *ortho*-bromide aniline was prepared according to Barluenga *et al.*²

Substrates **1a-h**, **1m** and **1n** were prepared according to the general procedure A, and **1i-o** prepared according to the general procedure B.

General procedure A:

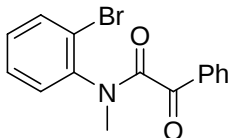


To a solution of the aryl α -ketoacid (1.0 eq., 0.5 M) in CH_2Cl_2 was added oxalyl chloride (1.2 eq.) at room temperature (r.t.) followed by addition of a drop of DMF as catalyst. The mixture was stirred at this temperature gas evolution seized. After removing all volatiles under vacuum, the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 M) and cooled to 0 °C followed by addition of *N*-methyl aniline (1.2 eq.) and NEt_3 (2.0 eq.). This mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred overnight. After dilution with ether, the organic phase was washed in succession with 1N HCl, water and brine. Drying over MgSO_4 , concentration and chromatographic purification yielded the products **1a-h,m,n**.

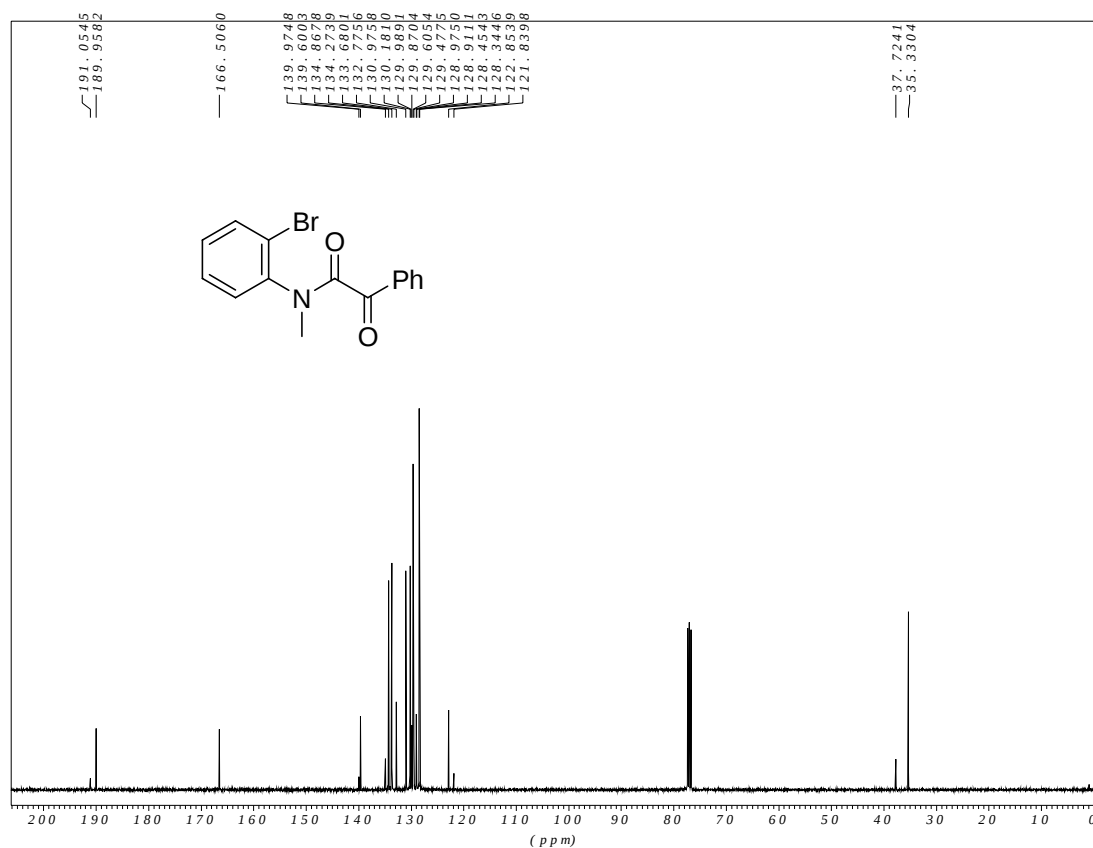
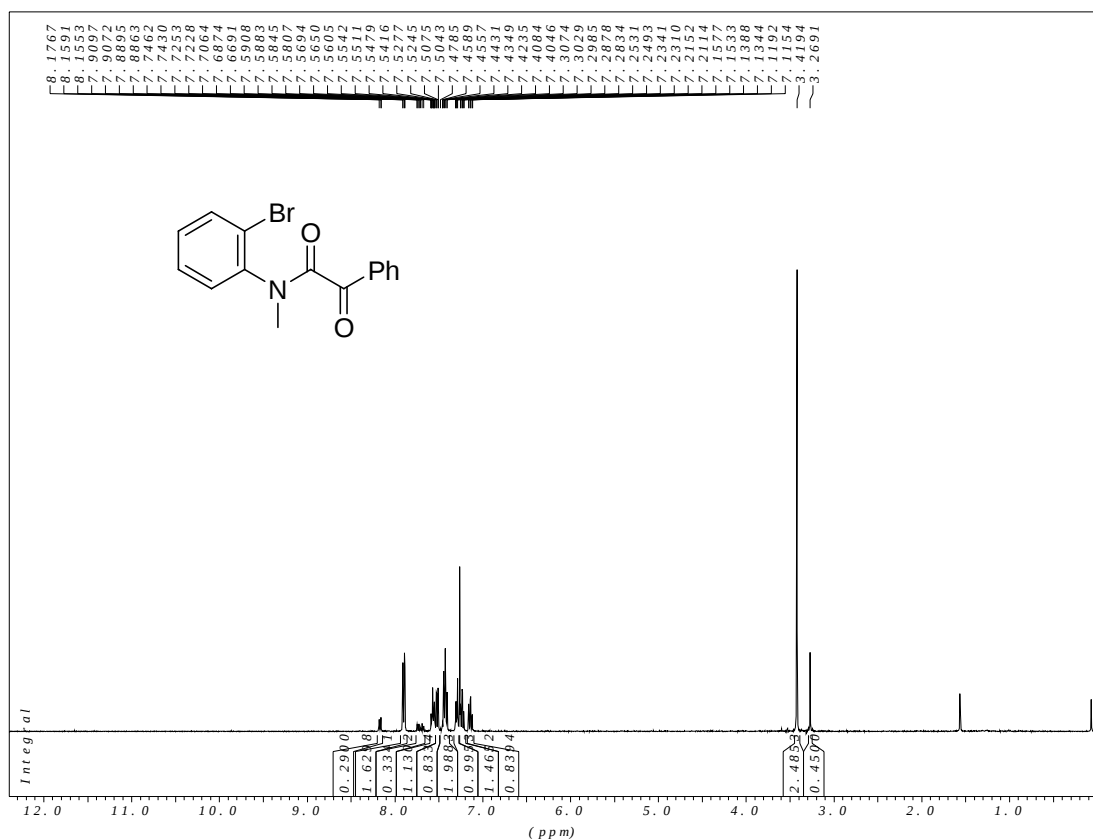
¹ T. Shimada, Y. Kobayashi and K. Saigo, *Tetrahedron Asymmetry*, 2006, **15**, 3807-3813.

² F. J. Fananas, A. Granados, R. Sanz, J. S. Ignacio and J. Barluenga, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2001, **7**, 2896-2907.

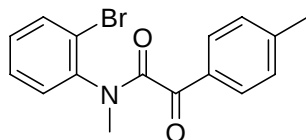
N-(2-bromophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1a**):



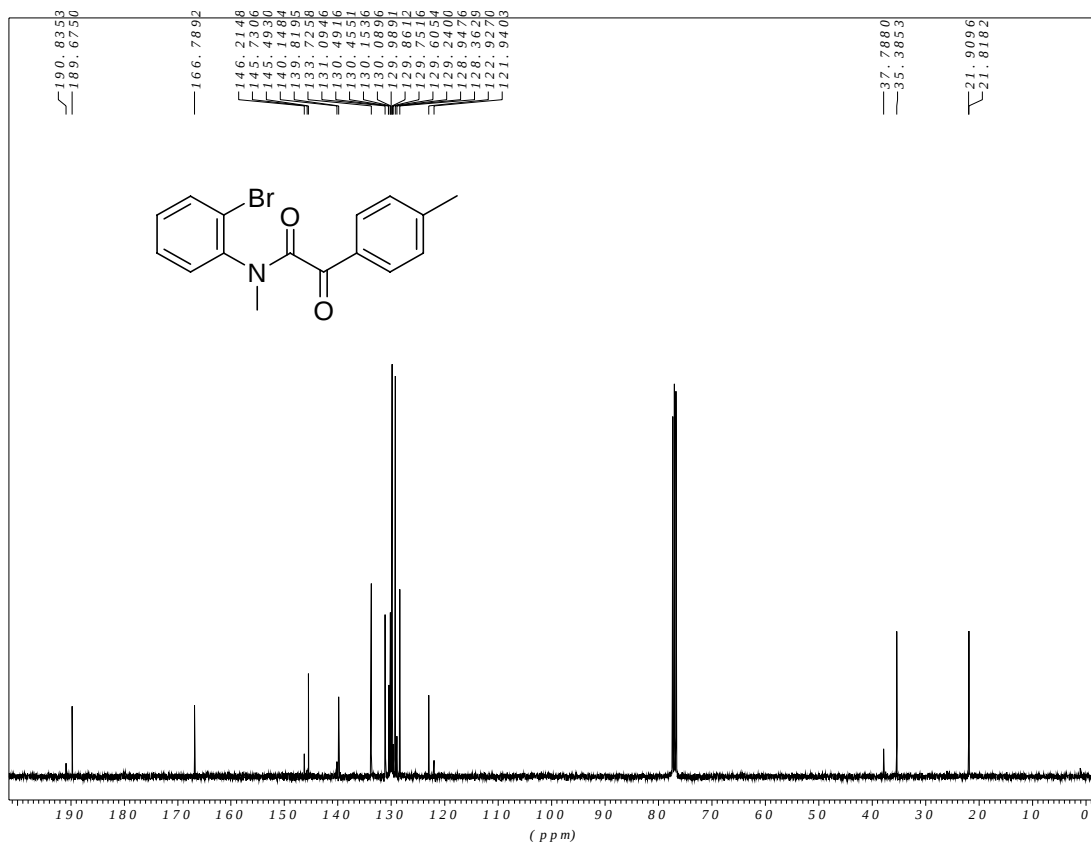
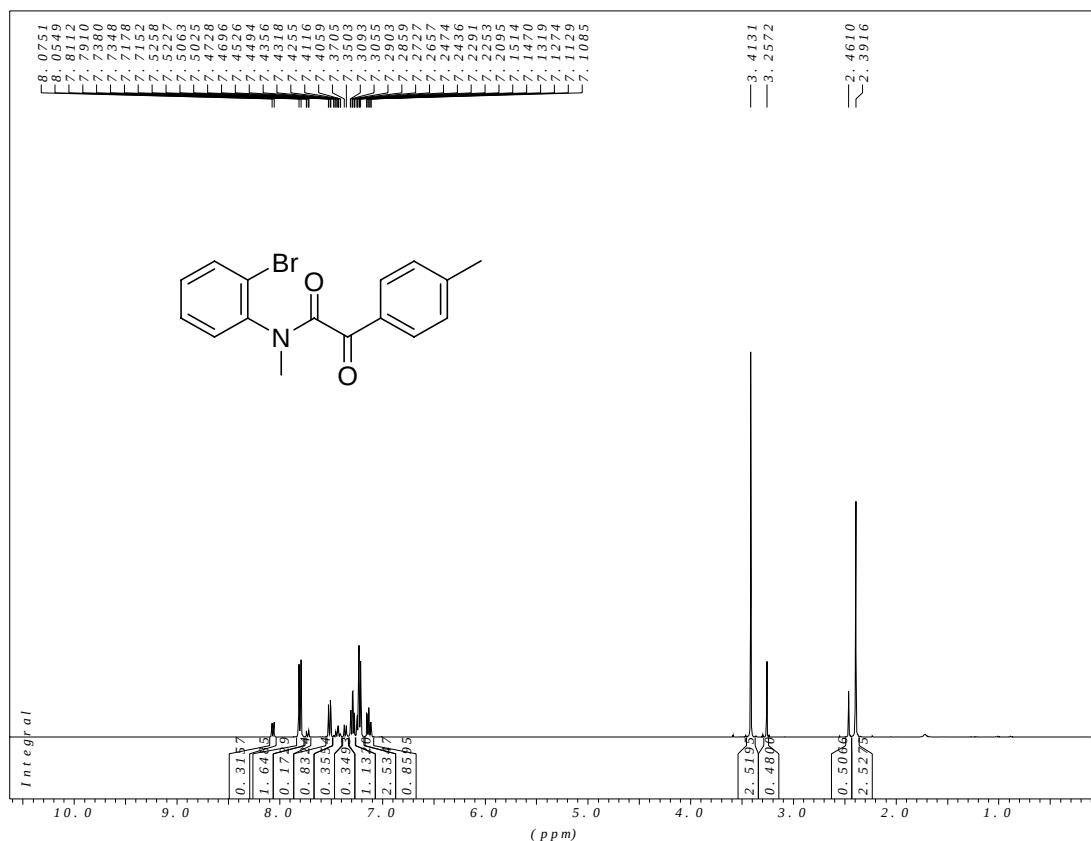
White solid. 83% yield, m.p. 72-73.5 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.26 (s, 0.5H), 3.41 (s, 2.5H), 7.13 (td, 0.84H, $J = 1.8, 7.6$ Hz), 7.23 (td, 1.5H, $J = 1.5, 7.6$ Hz), 7.28 (d, 0.7H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 7.30 (d, 0.3H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 7.40-7.47 (m, 2.0H), 7.52 (dd, 0.84H, $J = 1.3, 8.1$ Hz), 7.54-7.59 (m, 1.13H), 7.66-7.74 (m, 0.33H), 7.90 (dd, 1.65H, $J = 1.0, 8.0$ Hz), 8.17 (dd, 0.30H, $J = 1.0, 8.0$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.3, 37.7, 121.8, 122.8, 128.3, 128.4, 128.91, 128.97, 129.4, 129.6, 129.8, 129.9, 130.1, 130.9, 132.7, 133.6, 134.2, 134.8, 139.6, 139.9, 166.5, 189.9, 191.0. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1651, 1597, 1572, 1510, 1478, 1257, 1243 1171. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 318.0124, found: 318.0128.



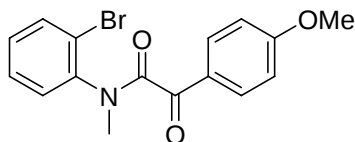
N-(2-bromophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-*p*-tolylacetamide (**1b**):



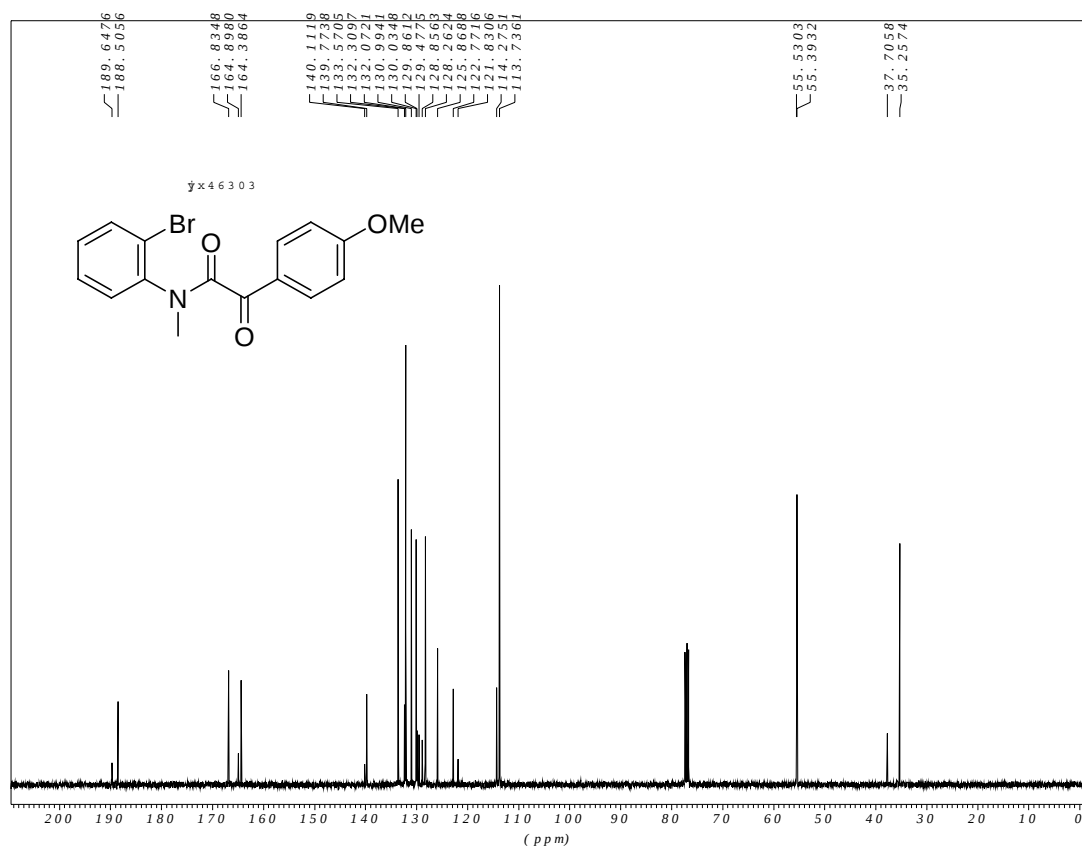
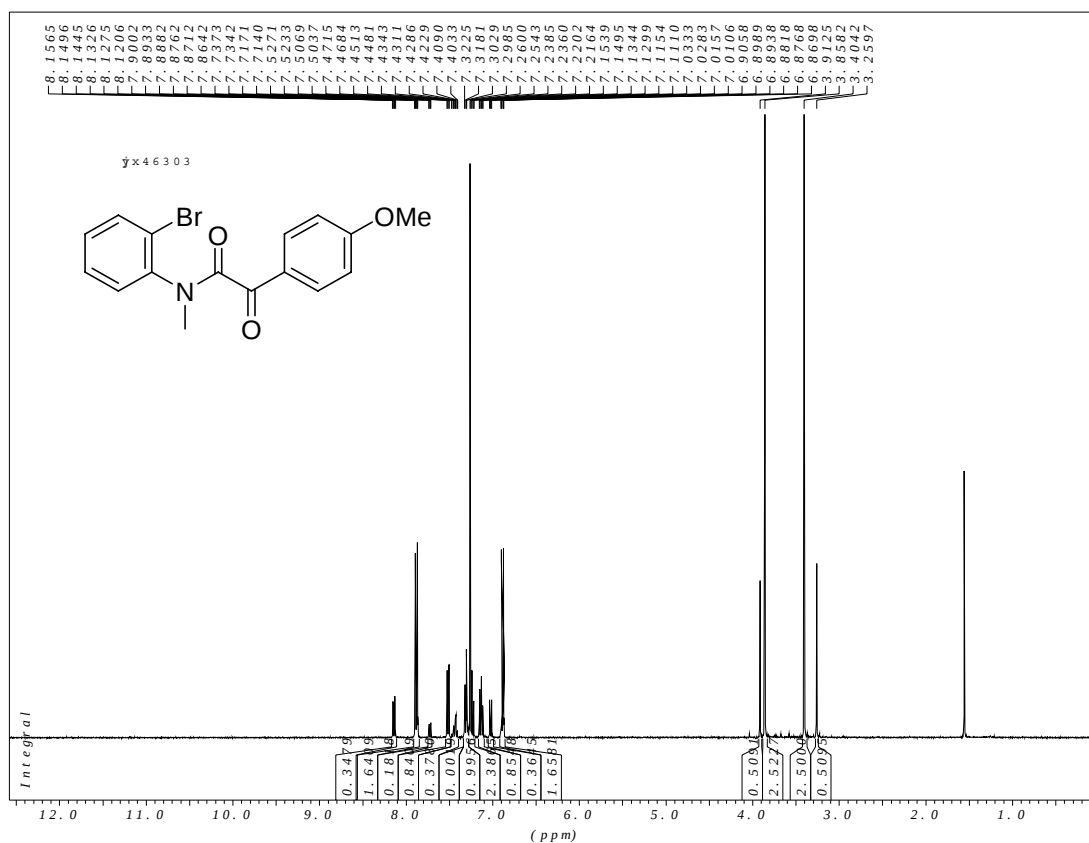
White solid. 73% yield, m.p. 132.5-133 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.39 (s, 2.5H), 2.46 (s, 0.5H), 3.25 (s, 0.5H), 3.41 (s, 2.5H), 7.13 (td, 0.9H, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2.5H), 7.29 (td, 1.1H, $J = 1.5, 7.6$ Hz), 7.36 (d, 0.35H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.40-7.47 (m, 0.35H), 7.52 (dd, 0.8H, $J = 1.2, 7.6$ Hz), 7.73 (dd, 0.2H, $J = 1.2, 7.6$ Hz), 7.80 (d, 1.7H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 8.06 (d, 0.3H, $J = 8.1$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.8, 21.9, 35.3, 37.7, 121.9, 122.9, 128.3, 128.9, 129.2, 129.6, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 130.1, 130.45, 130.49, 131.0, 133.7, 139.8, 140.1, 145.4, 145.7, 146.2, 166.7, 189.6, 190.8. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1738, 1654, 1604, 1478, 1381, 1236. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 332.0280, found: 332.0290.



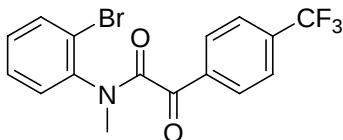
N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxoacetamide (**1c**):



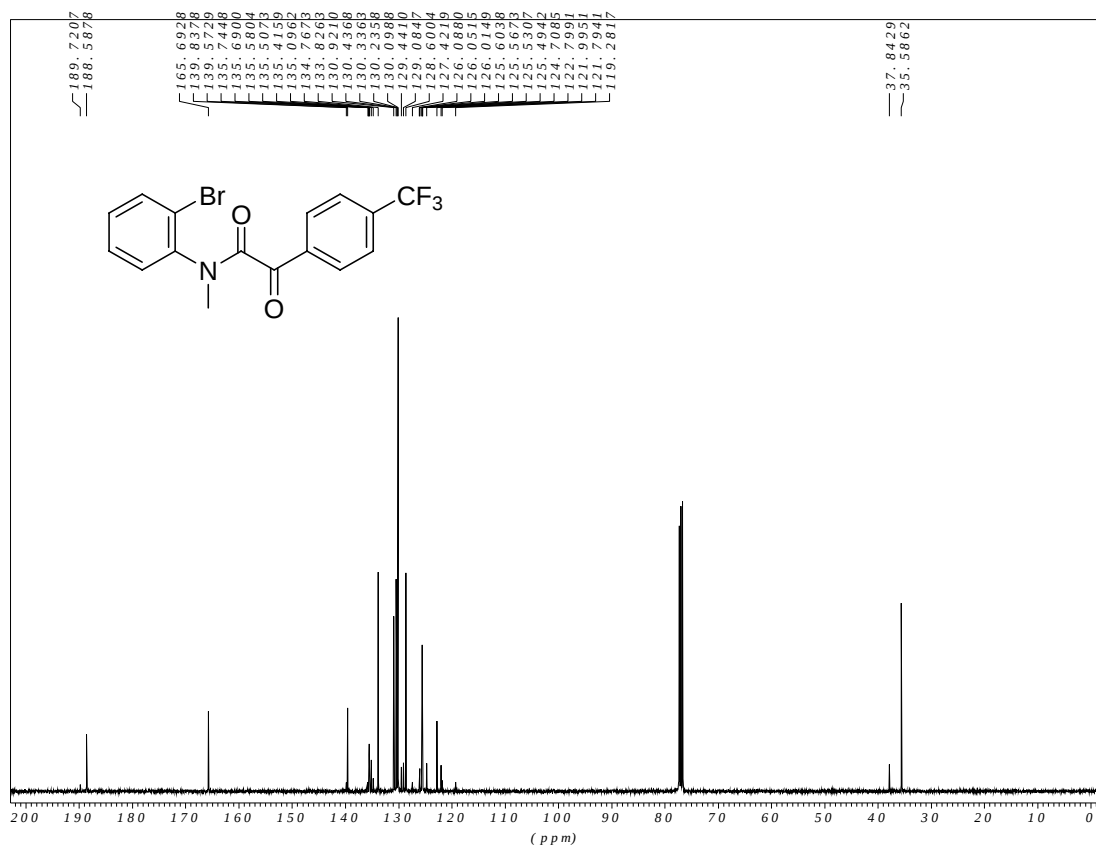
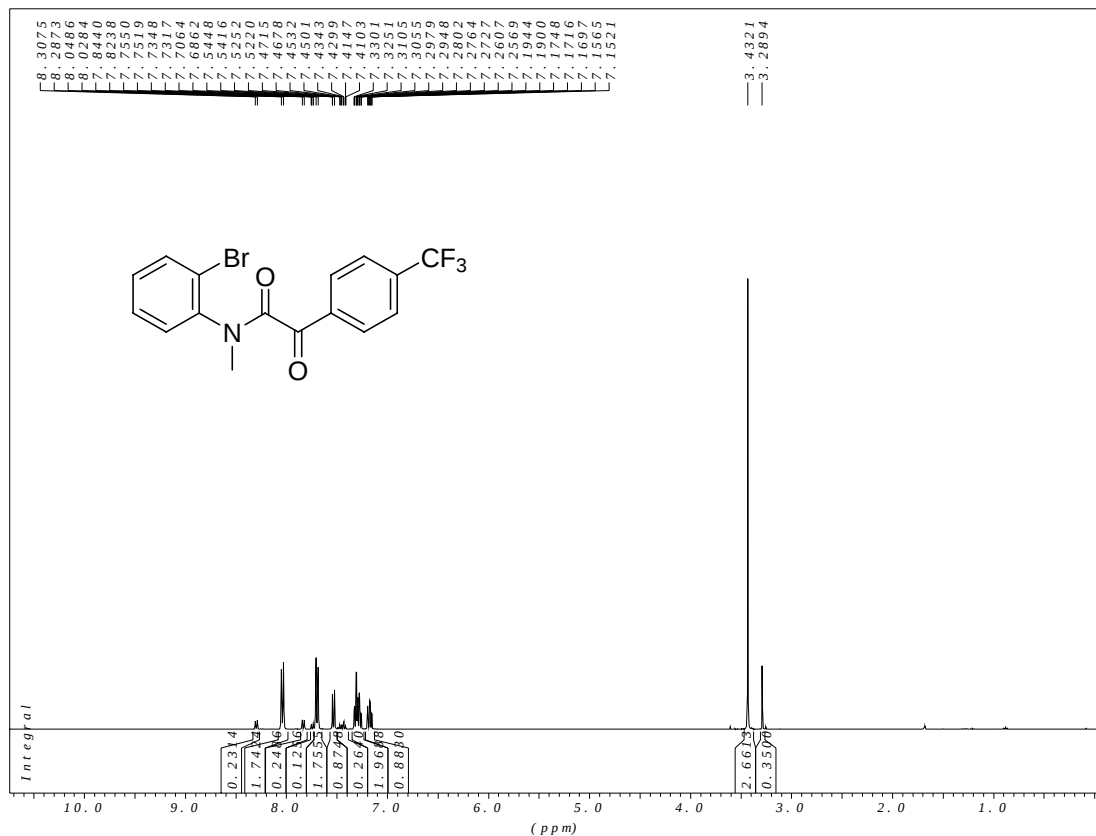
White solid. 71% yield, m.p. 80-81°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.25 (s, 0.5H), 3.40 (s, 2.5H), 3.85 (s, 2.5H), 3.91 (s, 0.5H), 6.89 (dt, 1.66H, $J = 2.8, 8.8$ Hz), 7.02 (dt, 0.36H, $J = 2.0, 9.1$ Hz), 7.13 (td, 0.85H, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz), 7.23 (td, 1.2H, $J = 1.0, 7.3$ Hz), 7.28-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.47 (m, 0.38H), 7.52 (dd, 0.84H, $J = 1.5, 8.1$ Hz), 7.73 (dd, 0.18H, $J = 1.5, 8.1$ Hz), 7.88 (dt, 1.64H, $J = 2.8, 8.8$ Hz), 8.14 (dt, 0.35H, $J = 2.8, 8.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.2, 37.7, 113.7, 114.2, 121.8, 122.7, 125.8, 128.2, 128.8, 129.4, 129.8, 130.0, 130.9, 132.0, 132.3, 133.5, 139.7, 140.1, 164.3, 164.8, 166.8, 188.5, 189.6. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1736, 1649, 1595, 1571, 1509, 1476, 1255, 1241, 1169. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 348.0229, found: 348.0222.



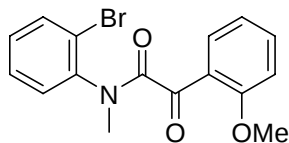
N-(2-bromophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetamide (**1d**):



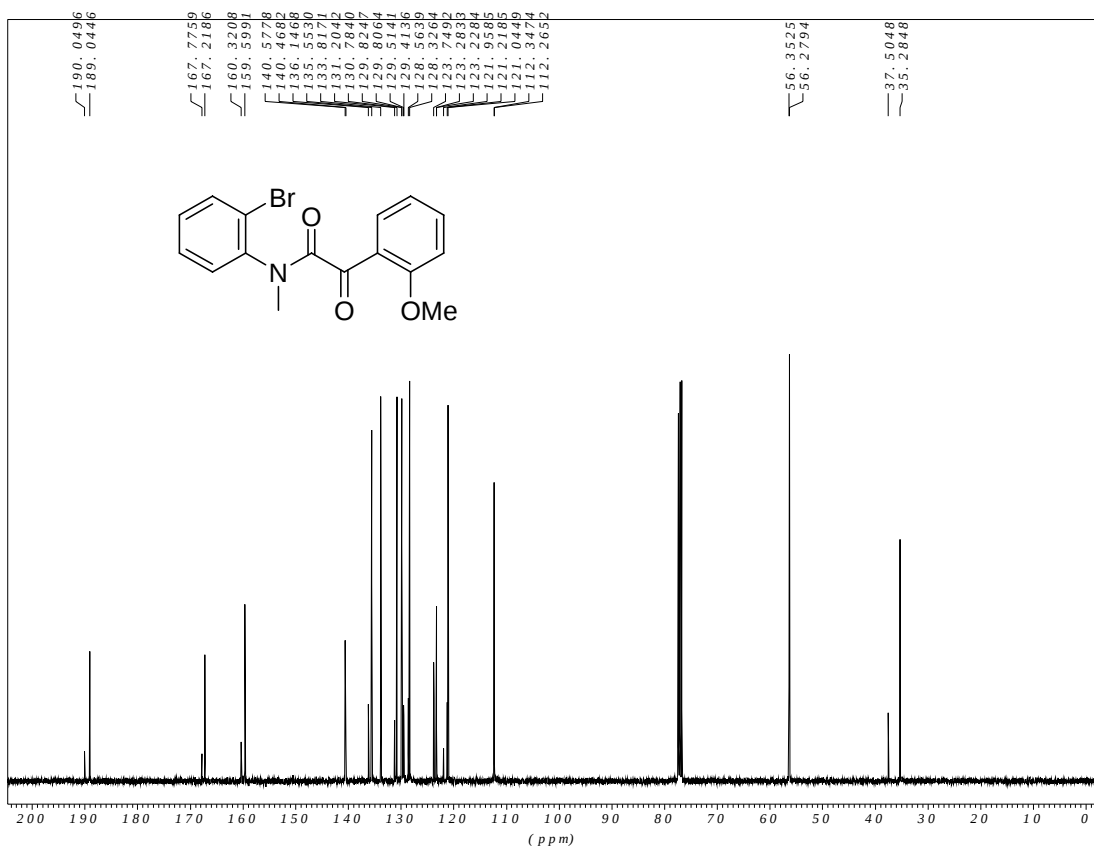
White solid. 73% yield, m.p. 102.5-104°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.28 (s, 0.35H), 3.43 (s, 2.65H), 7.17 (td, 0.88H, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2.0H), 7.41-7.47 (m, 0.26H), 7.53 (dd, 0.87H, $J = 1.3, 7.8$ Hz), 7.70 (d, 1.75H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.74 (dd, 0.13H, $J = 1.3, 7.8$ Hz), 7.83 (d, 0.25H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 8.04 (d, 1.75H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 8.30 (d, 0.25H, $J = 8.1$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.5, 37.8, 119.2, 121.7, 121.9, 122.7, 124.7, 125.4, 125.53, 125.56, 125.6, 126.01, 126.05, 126.08, 127.4, 128.6, 129.0, 129.4, 130.0, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 130.9, 133.8, 134.7, 135.0, 135.4, 135.50, 135.58, 135.6, 135.7, 139.5, 139.8, 165.6, 188.5, 189.7. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1738, 1688, 1653, 1582, 1477, 1322. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrF}_3\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 385.9998, found: 385.9992.



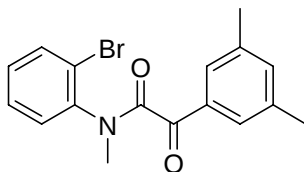
N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxoacetamide (**1e**):



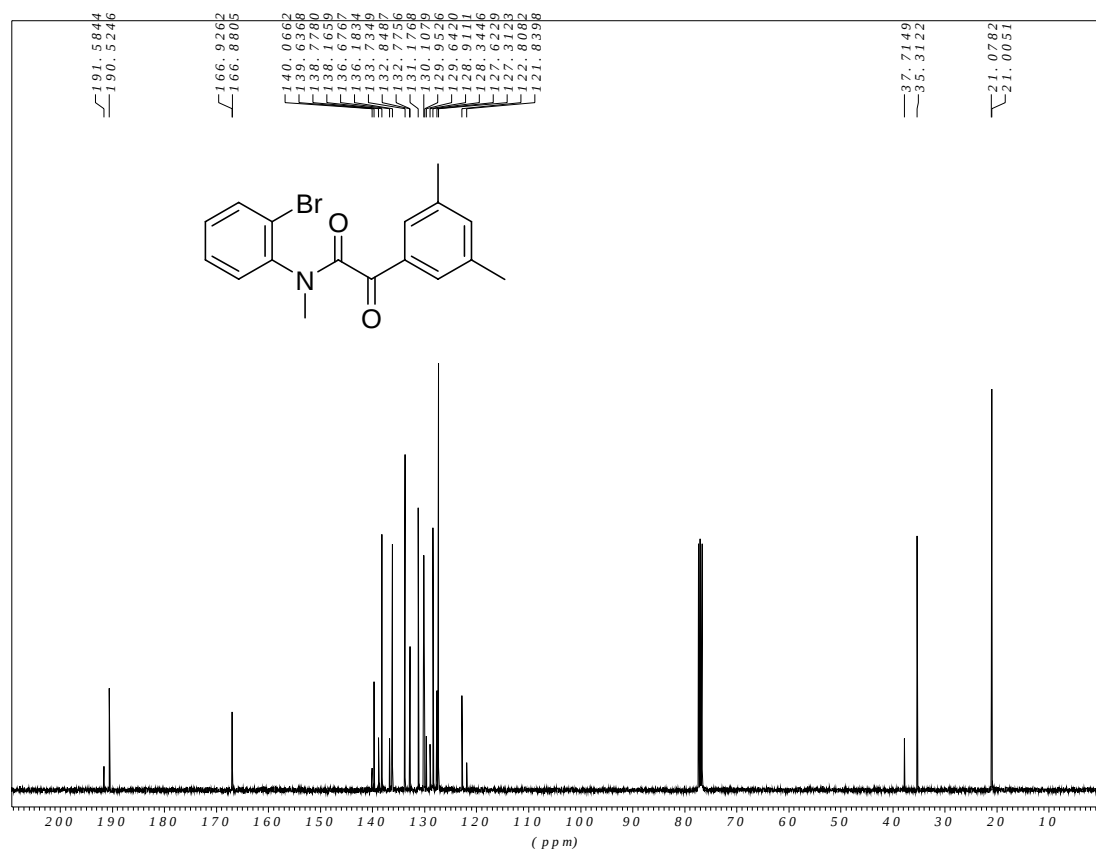
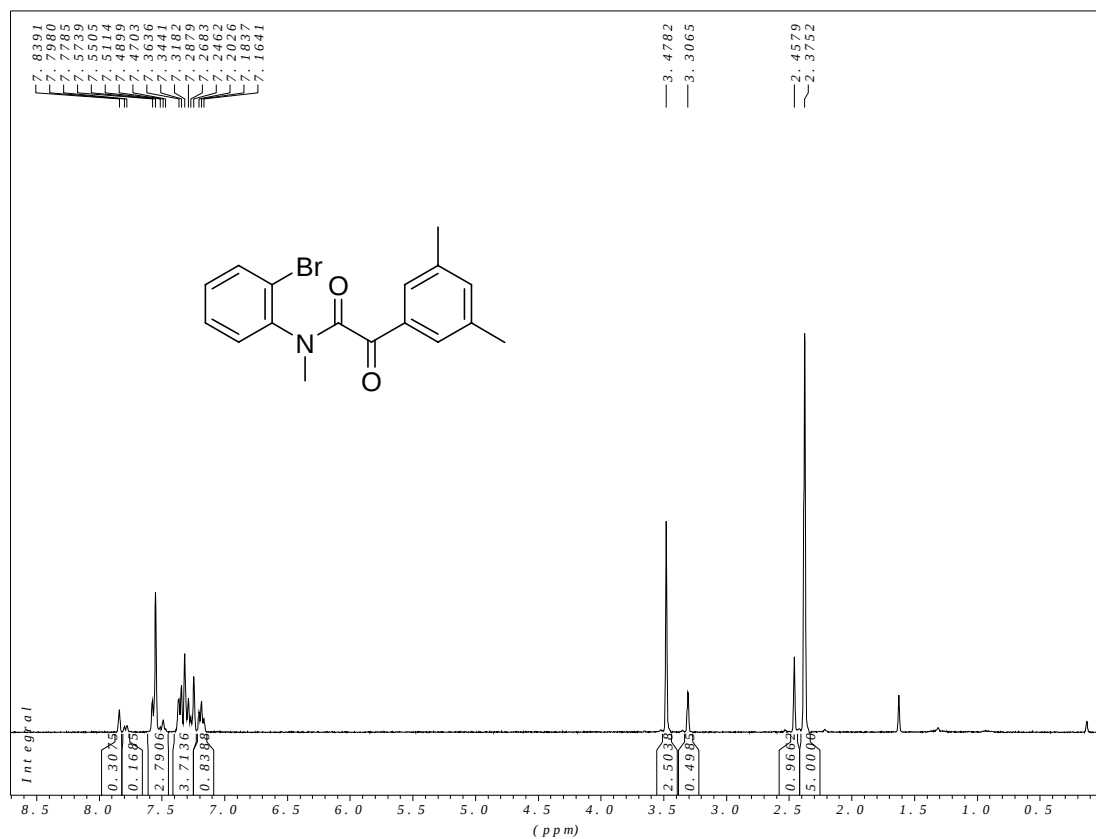
White solid. 74% yield, m.p. 96.5-98°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.29 (s, 0.5H), 3.38 (s, 2.5H), 3.96 (s, 2.5H), 3.98 (s, 0.5H), 6.96 (dd, 1.65H, $J = 8.3, 15.1$ Hz), 7.04 (d, 0.19H, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.09-7.19 (m, 1.86H), 7.33 (dd, 0.84H, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz), 7.37-7.45 (m, 0.38H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 0.84H), 7.58 (dd, 0.84H, $J = 1.5, 6.3$ Hz), 7.63 (dd, 0.84H, $J = 1.8, 7.6$ Hz), 7.71 (dd, 0.2H, $J = 1.0, 8.1$ Hz), 8.01 (dd, 0.18H, $J = 1.8, 7.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.2, 37.5, 56.2, 56.3, 112.2, 112.3, 121.0, 121.2, 121.9, 123.22, 123.28, 123.7, 128.3, 128.5, 129.4, 129.5, 129.80, 129.82, 130.7, 131.2, 133.8, 135.5, 136.1, 140.4, 140.5, 159.5, 160.3, 167.2, 167.7, 189.0, 190.0. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1738, 1652, 1596, 1581, 1480, 1284. HRMS: m/z (ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$): 348.0229, found: 348.0224.



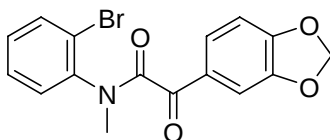
N-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxoacetamide (**1f**):



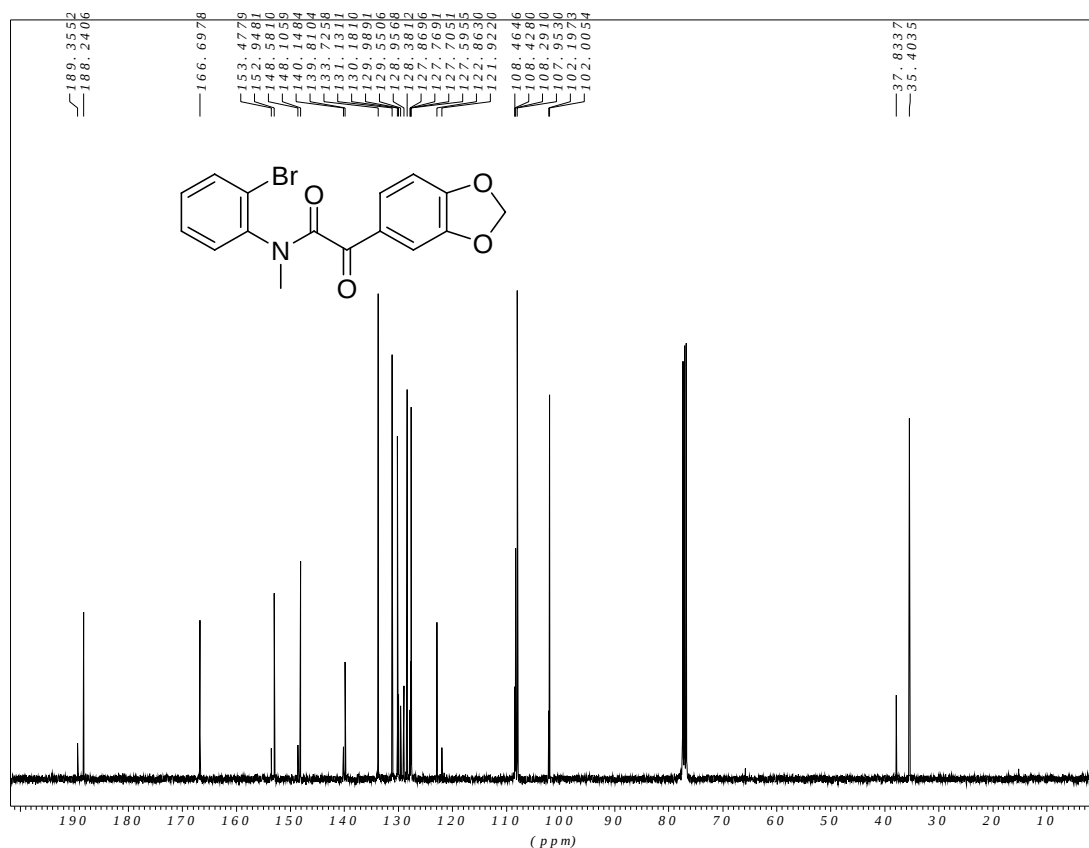
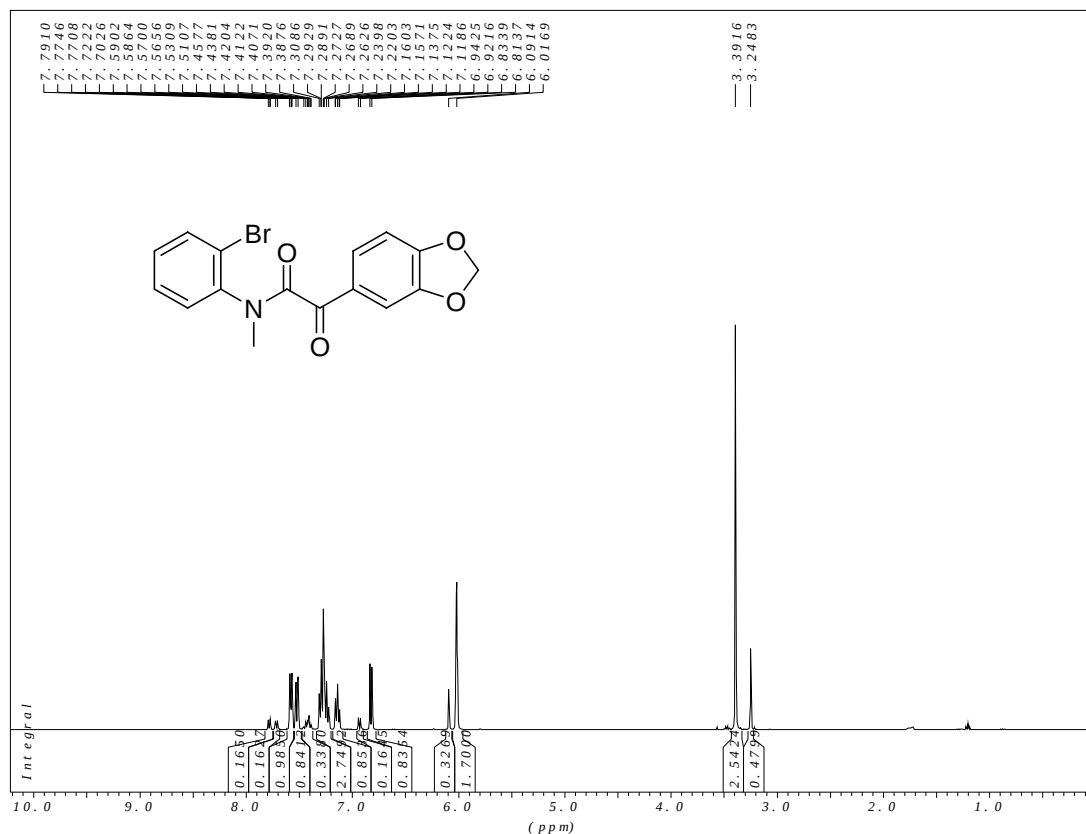
White solid. 68% yield, m.p. 105-106°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.37 (s, 5H), 2.45 (s, 1H), 3.30 (s, 0.5H), 3.47 (s, 2.5H), 7.18 (t, 0.84H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.24-7.36 (m, 3.7H), 7.47-7.57 (m, 2.8H), 7.79 (d, 0.17H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.84 (s, 0.3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.00, 21.05, 35.3, 37.7, 121.8, 122.8, 127.3, 127.6, 128.3, 128.9, 129.6, 129.9, 130.1, 131.1, 132.7, 132.8, 133.7, 136.1, 136.6, 138.1, 138.7, 139.6, 140.0, 166.8, 166.9, 190.5, 191.5. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1738, 1677, 1651, 1598, 1583, 1476, 1380, 1292. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 346.0437, found: 346.0434.



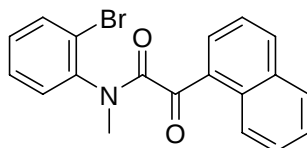
2-(Benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-*N*-(2-bromophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxoacetamide (**1g**):



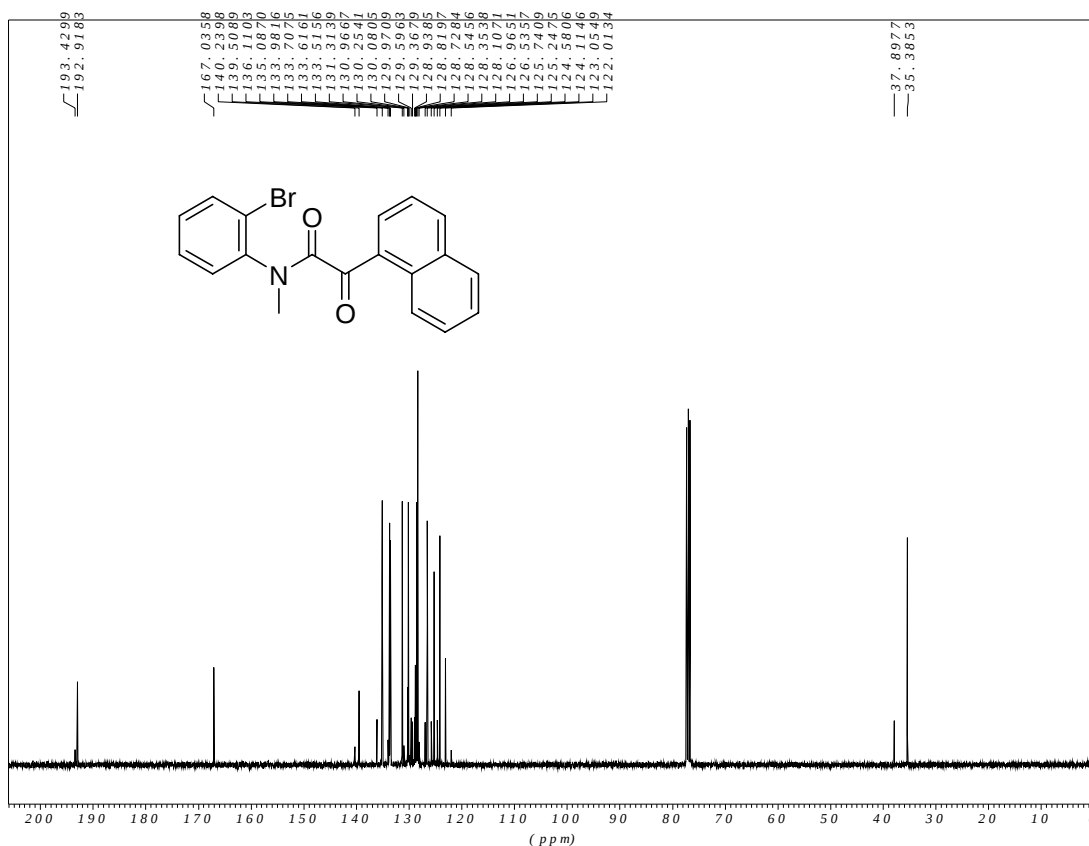
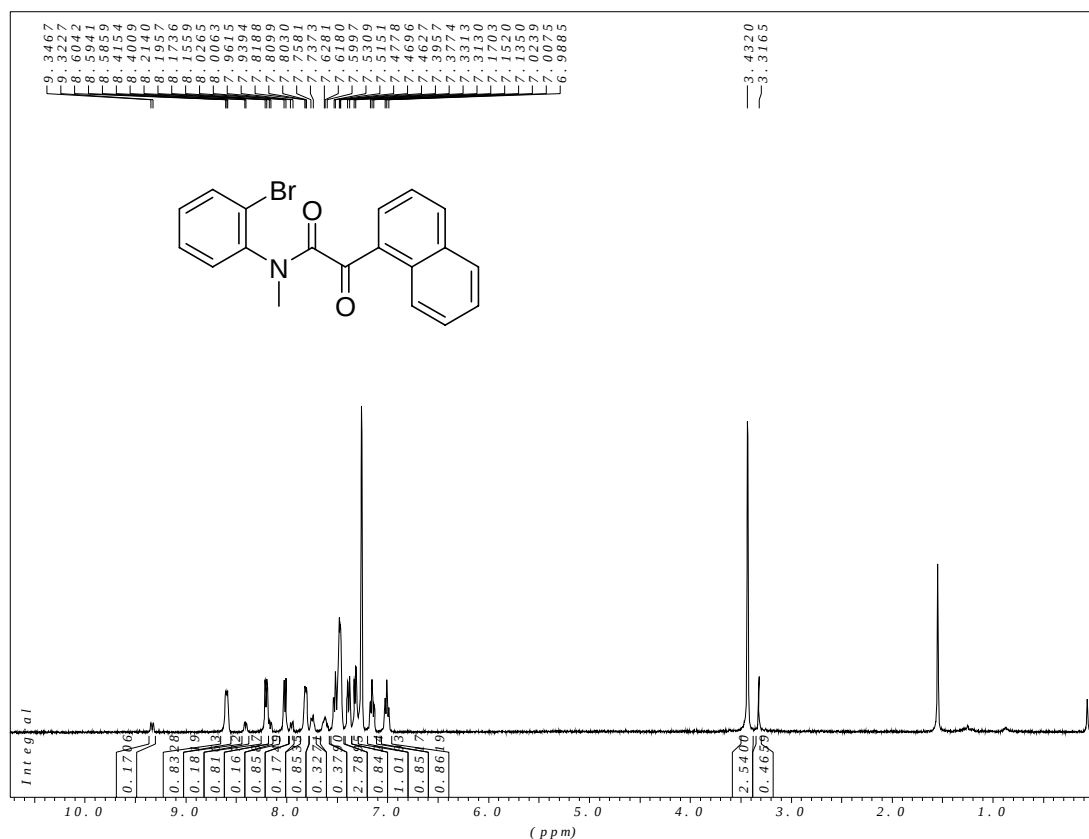
White solid. 79% yield, m.p. 89-90°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.24 (s, 0.5H), 3.39 (s, 2.5H), 6.01 (s, 1.7H), 6.09 (s, 0.3H), 6.83 (d, 0.84H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 6.93 (d, 0.16H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.13 (t, 0.85H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.22-7.31 (m, 2.8H), 7.38-7.46 (m, 0.34H), 7.52 (d, 0.84H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.58 (dd, 0.84H, *J* = 1.5, 8.1 Hz), 7.71 (d, 0.16H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.78 (dd, 0.17H, *J* = 1.5, 8.1 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 35.4, 37.8, 102.0, 102.1, 107.9, 108.2, 108.42, 108.46, 121.9, 122.8, 127.5, 127.70, 127.76, 127.8, 128.3, 128.9, 129.5, 129.9, 130.1, 131.1, 133.7, 139.8, 140.1, 148.1, 148.5, 152.9, 153.4, 166.6, 188.2, 189.3. ν_{max}/cm⁻¹: 1737, 1648, 1601, 1478, 1442, 1248. HRMS: *m/z* (ESI⁺) calculated for C₁₆H₁₃BrNO₄ ([M+H]⁺): 362.0022, found: 362.0012.



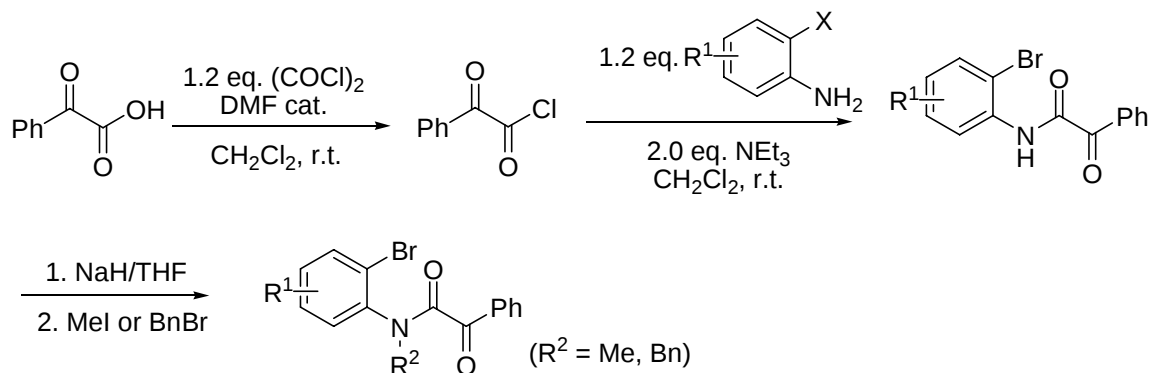
N-(2-bromophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (**1h**):



White solid. 60% yield, m.p. 103.5-105°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.31 (s, 0.47H), 3.43 (s, 2.54H), 7.00 (t, 0.86H, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 7.15 (t, 0.85H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.32 (d, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.39 (d, 0.84H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2.8H), 7.59-7.63 (m, 0.38H), 7.75 (d, 0.33H, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 7.81 (t, 0.85H, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 7.95 (d, 0.17H, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 8.02 (d, 0.86H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 8.16 (d, 0.17H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 8.20 (d, 0.82H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 8.41 (d, 0.18H, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 8.59 (t, 0.83H, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 9.33 (d, 0.17H, $J = 9.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.3, 37.8, 122.0, 123.0, 124.1, 124.5, 125.2, 125.7, 126.5, 126.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.3, 129.5, 129.9, 130.0, 130.2, 130.9, 131.3, 133.5, 133.6, 133.7, 133.9, 135.0, 136.1, 139.5, 140.2, 167.0, 192.9, 193.4. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1738, 1649, 1572, 1508, 1475, 1380, 1231. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 368.0280, found: 368.0280.



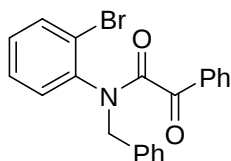
General Procedure B:



The first two steps are the same as general procedure A.

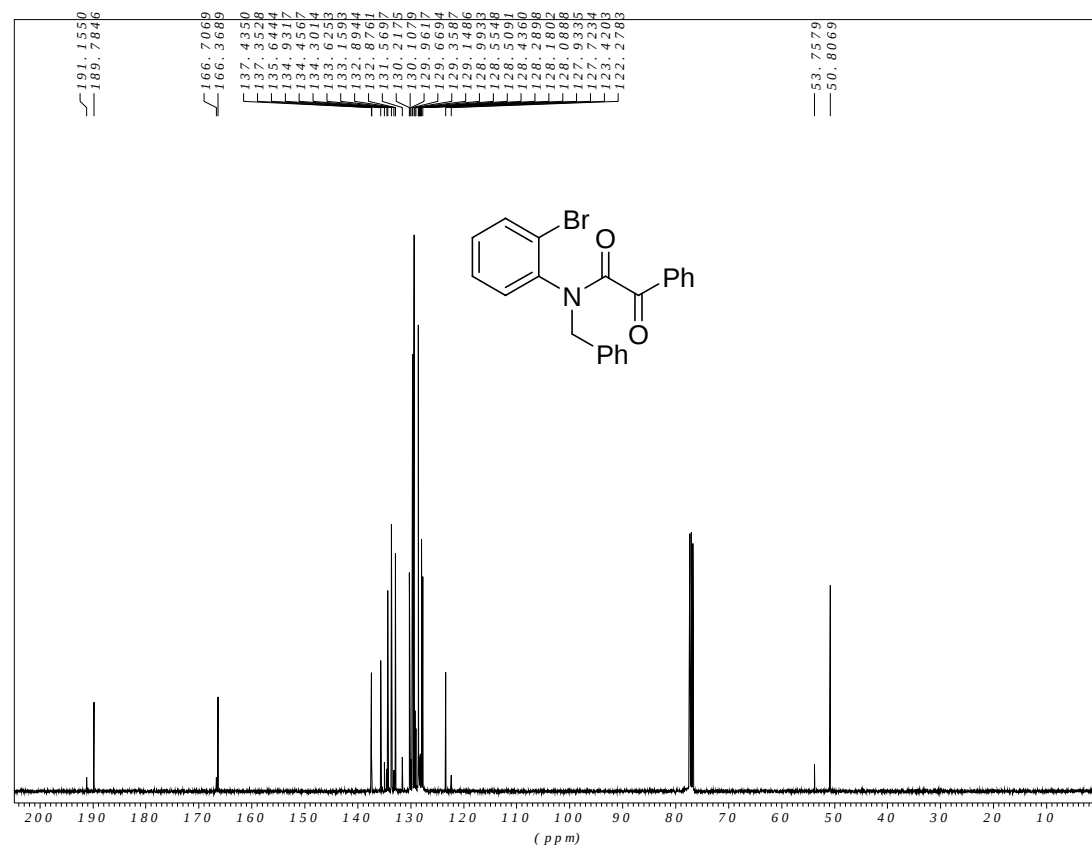
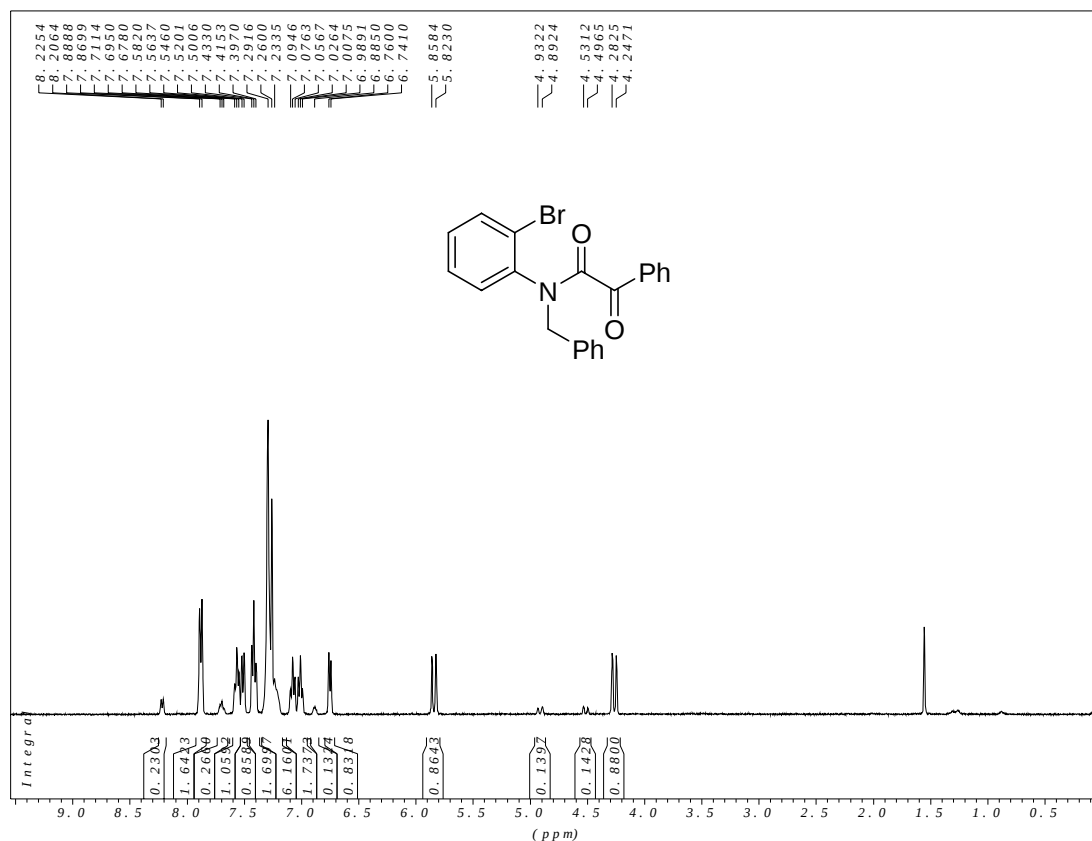
Methylation and benzylation of N-H amides: To a suspension of 1.1 eq. NaH in THF was added the N-H amide (1.0 eq., 0.5 M) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred for 1 h at r.t., cooled to 0 °C and treated with MeI or BnBr (1.1 eq., respectively). After warm up to r.t. and stirring for 20 h, the reaction was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl and diluted with ether. The organic phase was washed in succession with water and brine. Drying over MgSO₄, concentration and chromatographic purification yielded the products **1i-o**.

N-benzyl-*N*-(2-bromophenyl)-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1i**):

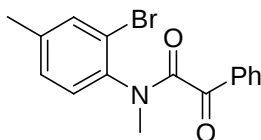


White solid. 70% yield, m.p. 121-121.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.27 (d, 0.88H, *J* = 14.2 Hz), 4.52 (d, 0.12H, *J* = 14.2 Hz), 4.91 (d, 0.12H, *J* = 14.4 Hz), 5.84 (d, 0.88H, *J* = 14.4 Hz), 6.75 (d, 0.83H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.88 (s, 0.12H), 7.01 (t, 0.87H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.08 (t, 0.87H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.19-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.42 (t, 1.7H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.51 (d, 0.86H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.56 (t, 1.1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.69 (t, 0.3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.88 (d, 1.7H, *J* = 1.0, 7.6 Hz), 8.22 (d, 0.3H, *J* = 7.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 50.8, 53.7,

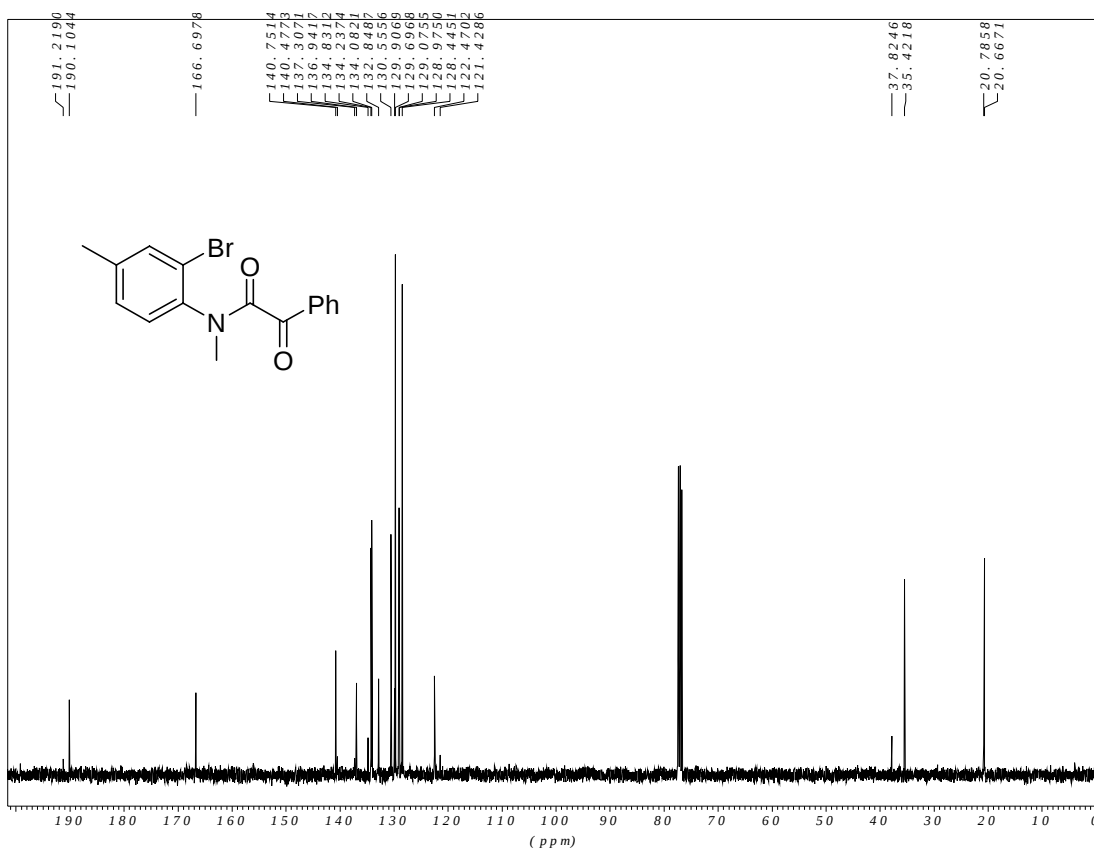
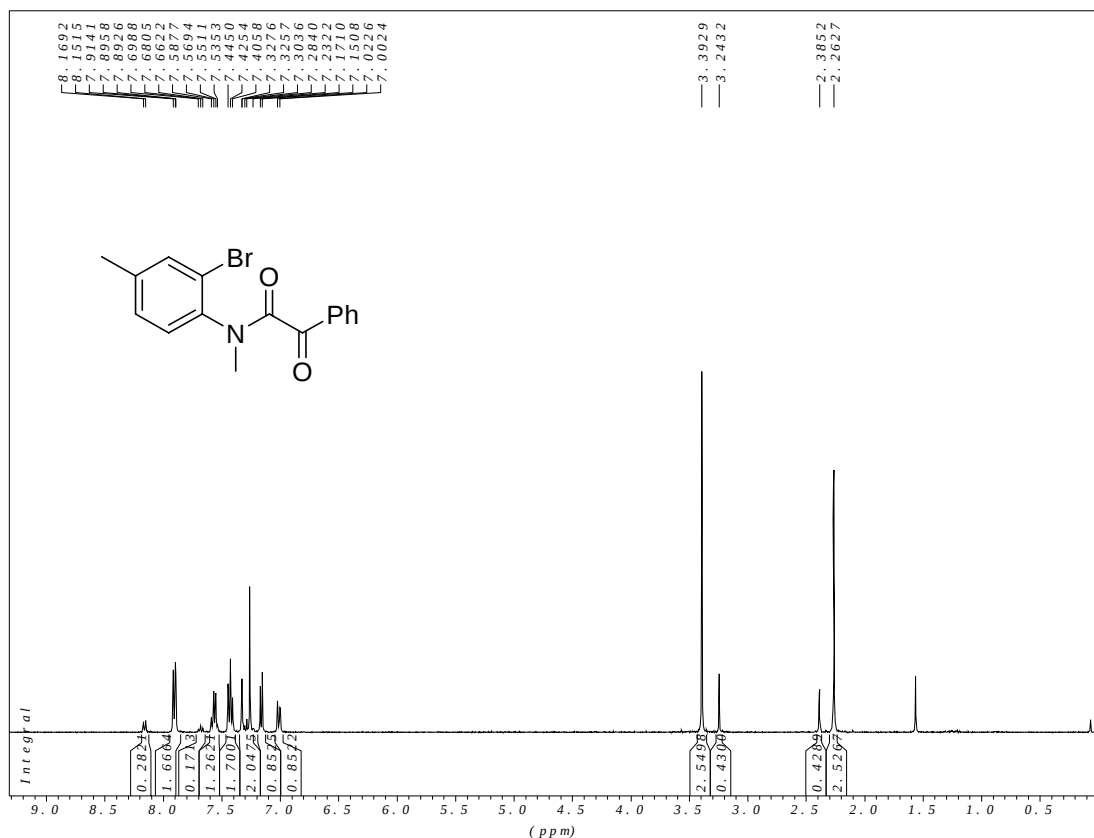
122.2, 123.4, 127.7, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 128.50, 128.55, 128.9, 129.1, 129.3, 129.6, 129.9, 130.1, 130.2, 131.5, 132.87, 132.89, 133.1, 133.6, 134.3, 134.4, 134.9, 135.6, 137.3, 137.4, 166.3, 166.7, 189.7, 191.1. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1678, 1651, 1595, 1581, 1474, 1229. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 394.0437, found: 394.0453.



N-(2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1j**):

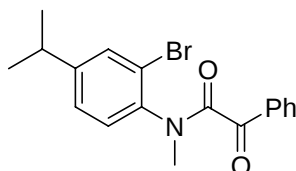


White solid. 59% yield, m.p. 95-95.5 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.26 (s, 2.53H), 2.36 (s, 0.43H), 3.24 (s, 0.43H), 3.39 (s, 2.55H), 7.01 (d, 0.85H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.16 (d, 0.85H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.23-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, 1.7H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.56 (dd, 1.26H, $J = 7.3, 14.6$ Hz), 7.68 (t, 0.17H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.91 (d, 1.67H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 8.16 (d, 0.28H, $J = 7.1$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.6, 20.7, 35.4, 37.8, 121.4, 122.4, 128.4, 128.9, 129.0, 129.6, 129.9, 130.5, 132.8, 134.0, 134.2, 134.8, 136.9, 137.3, 140.4, 140.7, 166.6, 190.1, 191.2. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1678, 1650, 1595, 1582, 1493, 1449, 1385, 1232. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 332.0280, found: 332.0290.

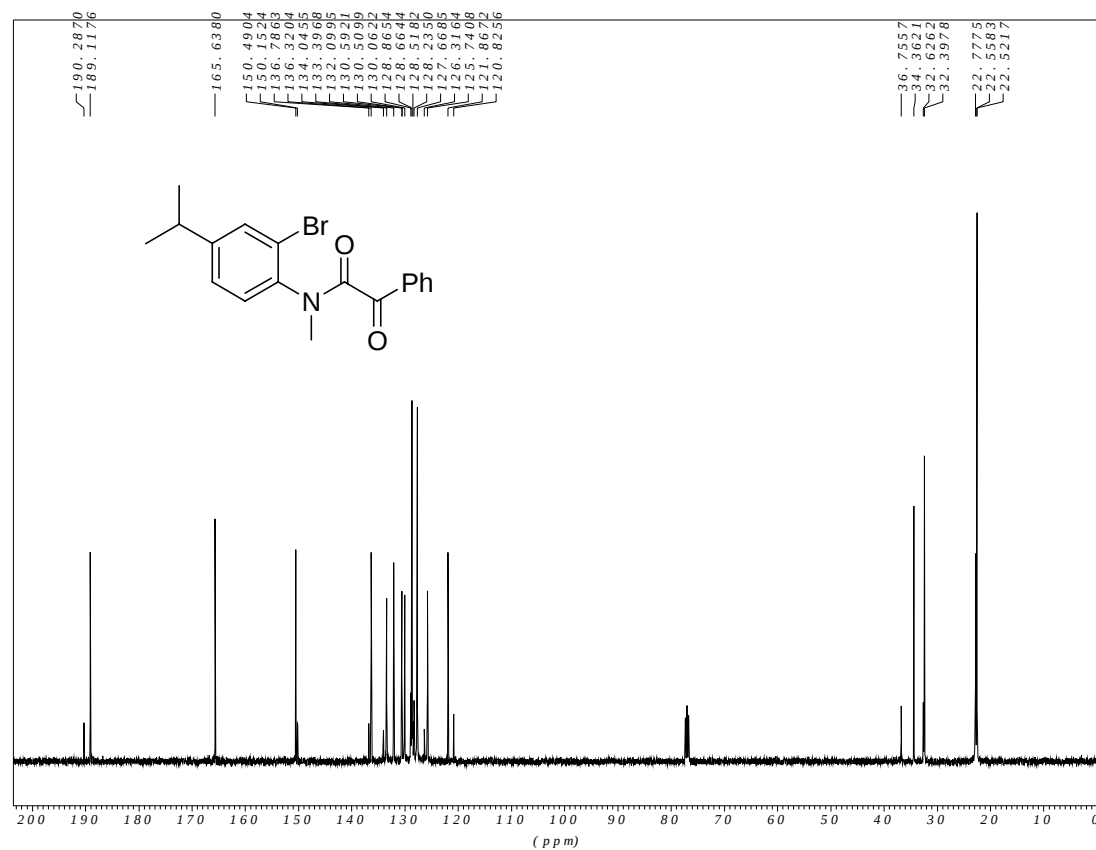
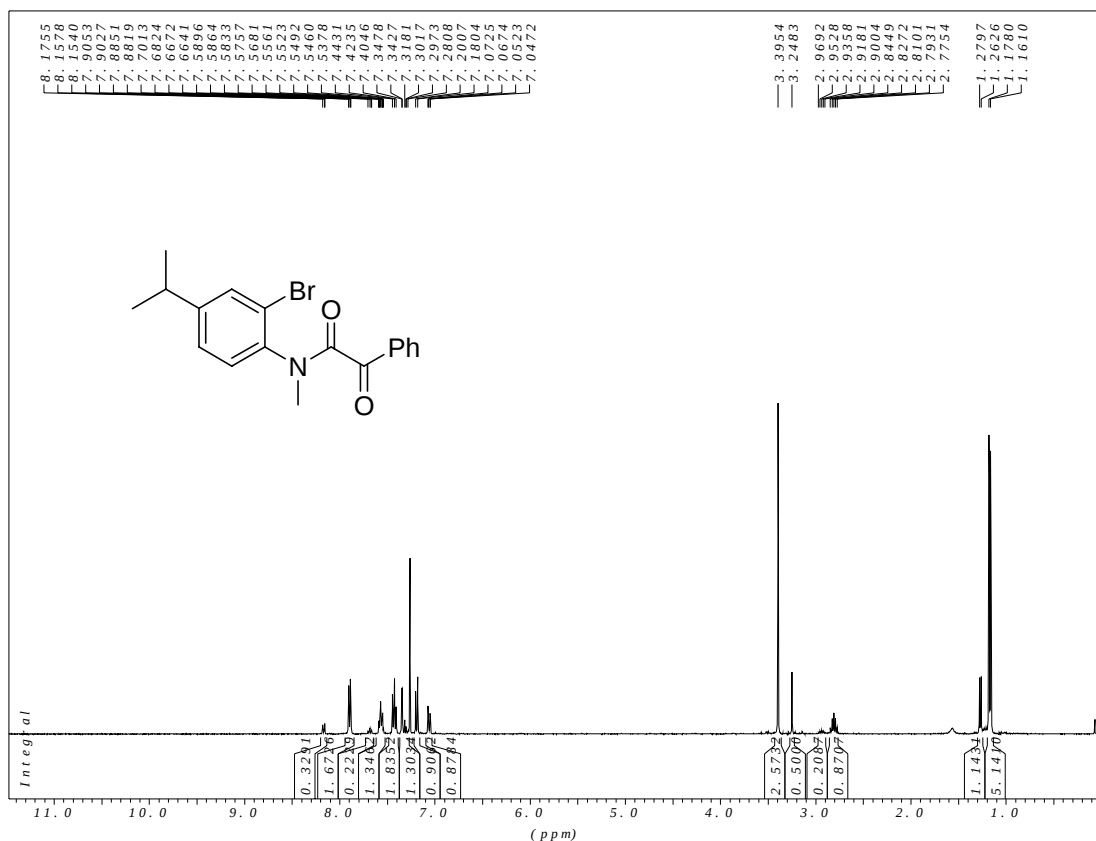


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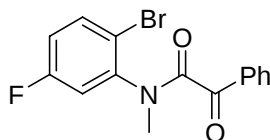
N-(2-bromo-4-isopropylphenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1k**):



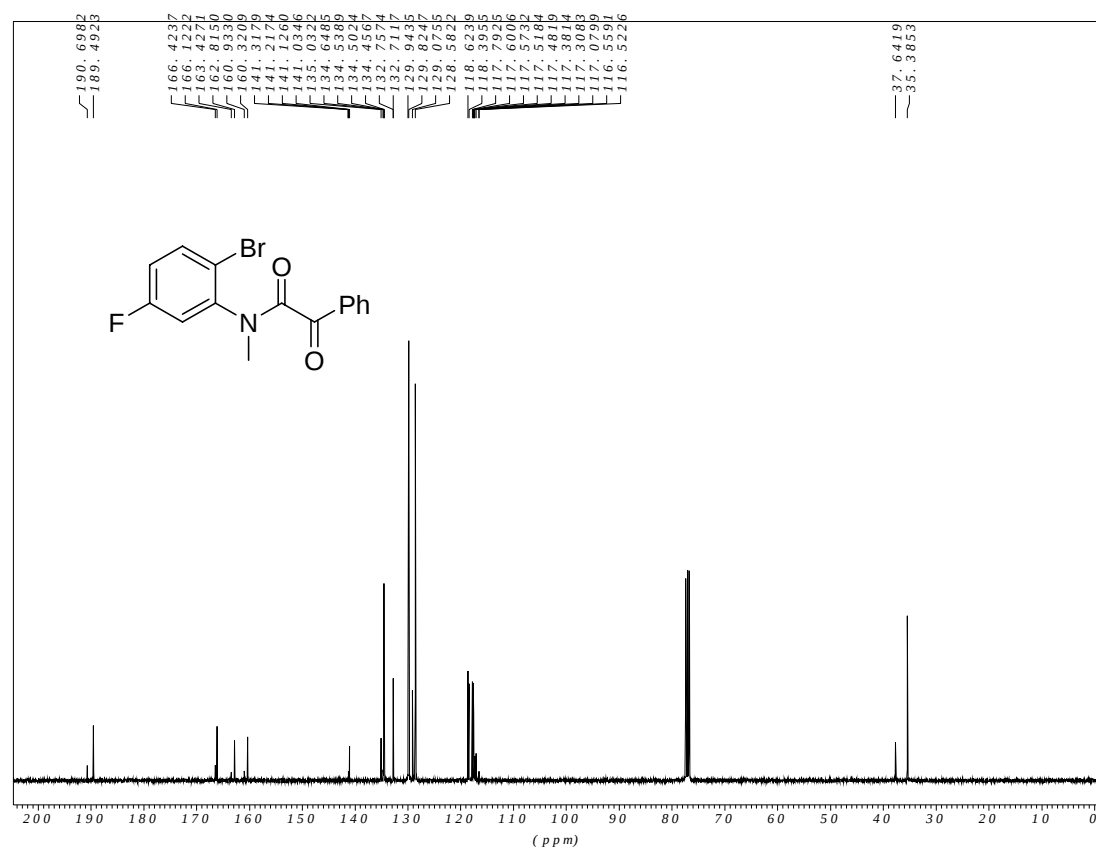
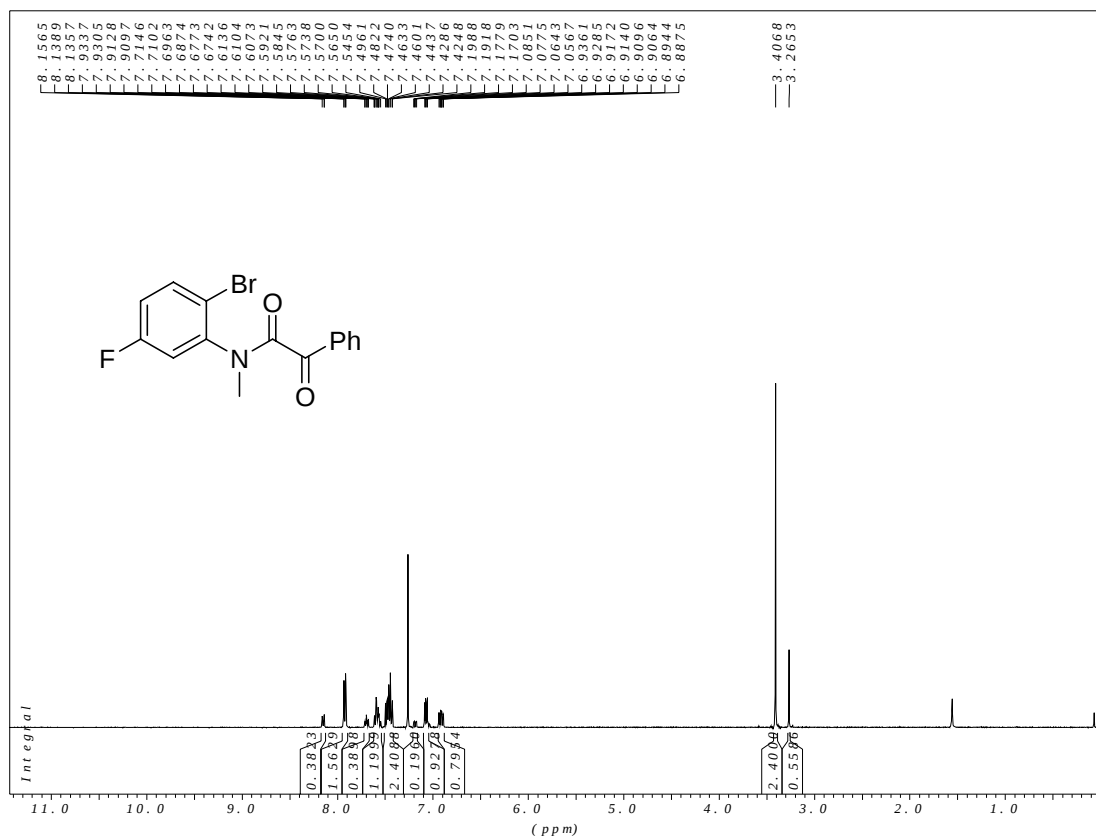
Yellow oil. 66% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.17 (d, 5H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.27 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 2.77-2.84 (m, 0.8H), 2.90-2.97 (m, 0.2H), 3.24 (s, 0.5H), 3.39 (s, 2.5H), 7.06 (dd, 0.88H, $J = 2.0, 8.1$ Hz), 7.19 (d, 0.9H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.28-7.35 (m, 1.3H), 7.42 (t, 1.84H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.53-7.59 (m, 1.35H), 7.68 (t, 0.22H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.89 (dd, 1.67H, $J = 1.0, 8.1$ Hz), 8.16 (dd, 0.33H, $J = 1.0, 8.1$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 22.52, 22.55, 22.7, 32.3, 32.6, 34.3, 36.7, 120.8, 121.8, 125.7, 126.3, 127.6, 128.2, 128.5, 128.6, 128.8, 130.0, 130.50, 130.59, 132.0, 133.3, 134.0, 136.3, 136.7, 150.1, 150.4, 165.6, 189.1, 190.2. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1712, 1679, 1652, 1596, 1491, 1449, 1386, 1232. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 360.0593, found: 360.0612.



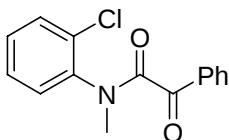
N-(2-bromo-5-fluorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**11**):



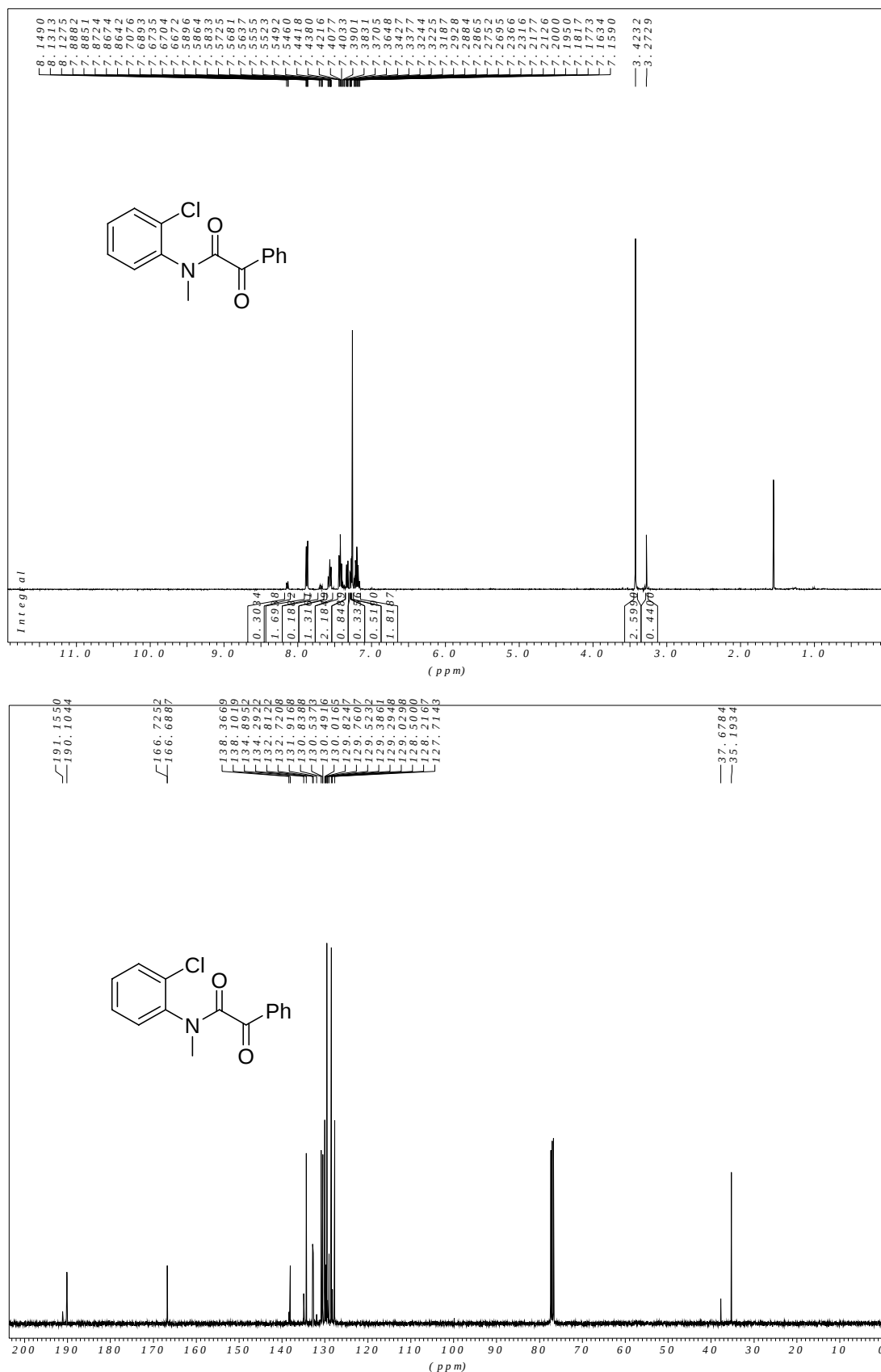
White solid. 74% yield, m.p. 94-95°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.26 (s, 0.6H), 3.40 (s, 2.4H), 6.88-6.94 (m, 0.8H), 7.07 (dd, 0.9H, $J = 3.0, 8.3$ Hz), 7.18 (dd, 0.2H, $J = 2.8, 8.4$ Hz), 7.42-7.50 (m, 2.4H), 7.54-7.61 (m, 1.2H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 0.4H), 7.92 (dd, 1.6H, $J = 1.3, 8.4$ Hz), 8.14 (dd, 0.4H, $J = 1.3, 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.3, 37.6, 116.52, 116.55, 117.0, 117.30, 117.38, 117.4, 117.51, 117.57, 117.6, 117.7, 118.3, 118.6, 128.5, 129.0, 129.8, 129.9, 132.71, 132.75, 134.4, 134.50, 134.53, 134.6, 135.0, 141.0, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 160.3, 160.9, 163.4, 166.1, 166.4, 189.4, 190.6. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1678, 1653, 1594, 1579, 1471, 1450, 1420, 1380, 1232. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrFNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 336.0029, found: 336.0015.



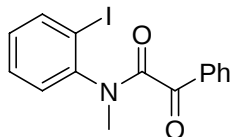
N-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1m**):



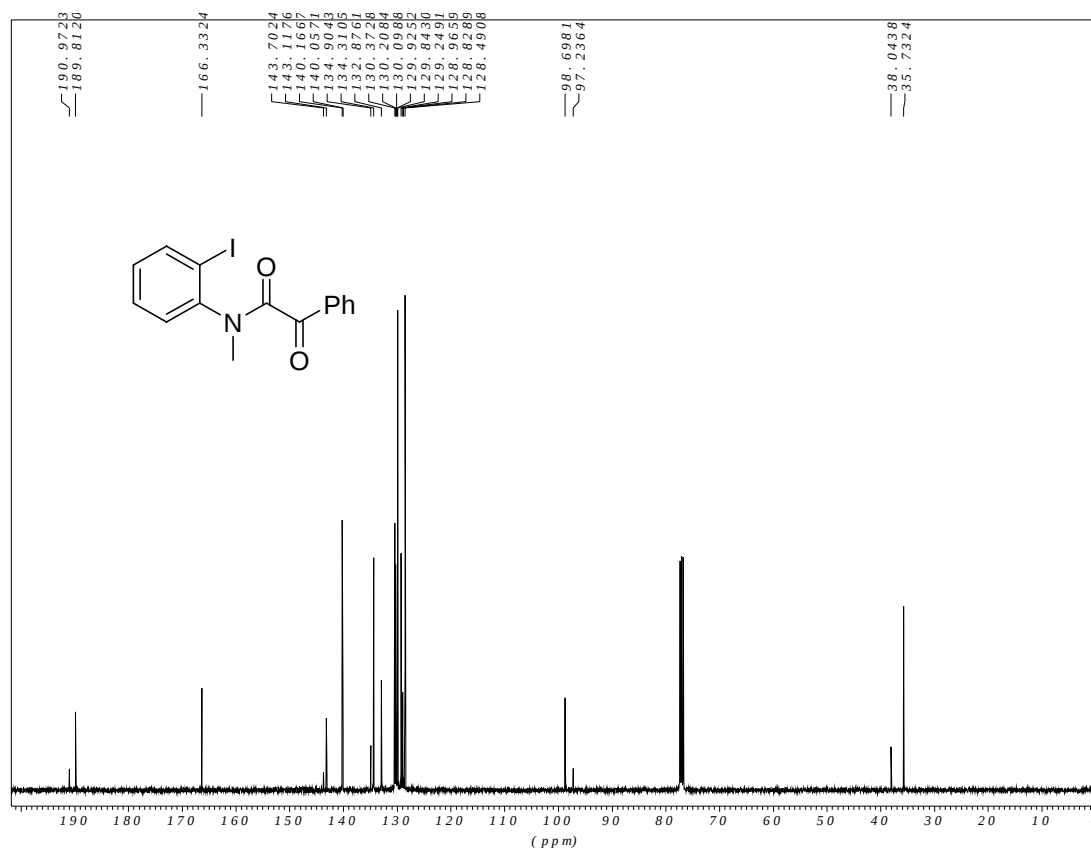
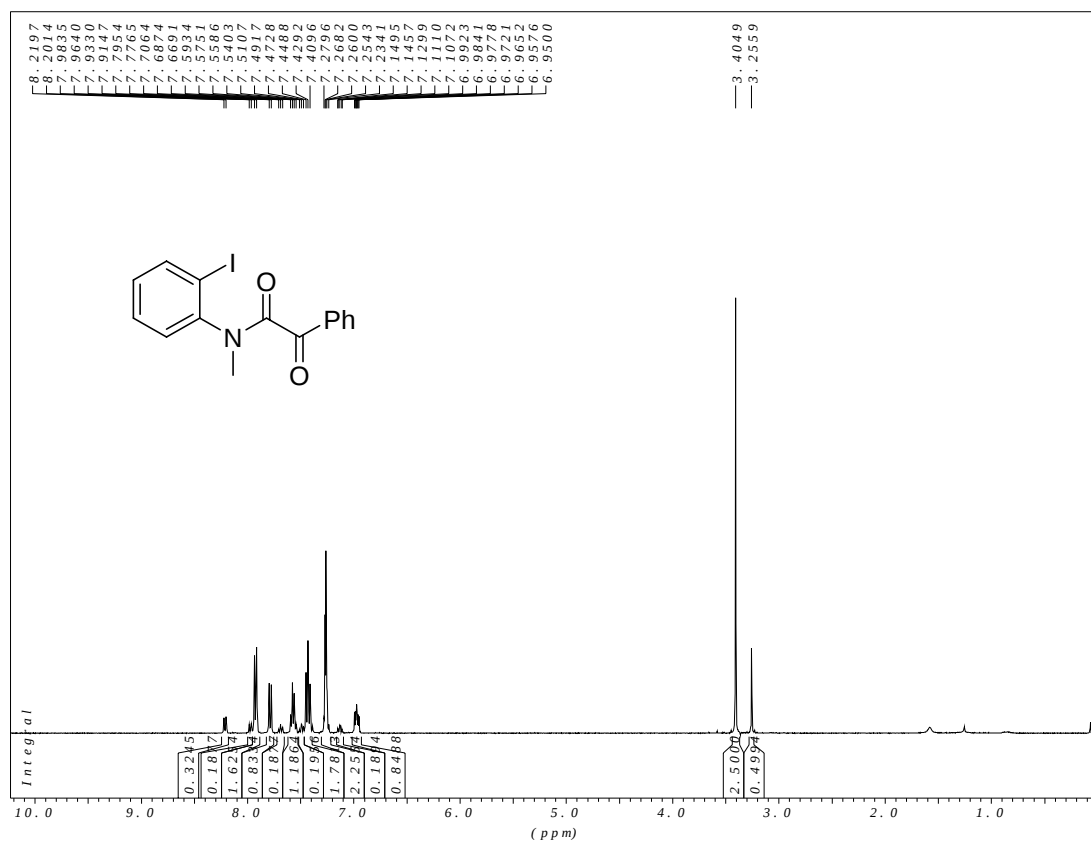
White solid. 68% yield, m.p. 89-81°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.27 (s, 0.4H), 3.42 (s, 2.6H), 7.15-7.24 (m, 1.82H), 7.27 (d, 0.6H, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 7.29 (d, 0.4H, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 7.33 (dd, 0.85H, $J = 2.0, 8.1$ Hz), 7.36-7.44 (m, 2.2H), 7.54-7.59 (m, 1.3H), 7.66-7.71 (m, 0.2H), 7.88 (dd, 1.7H, $J = 1.2, 8.3$ Hz), 8.14 (dd, 0.3H, $J = 1.2, 8.3$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.1, 37.6, 127.7, 128.2, 128.5, 129.0, 129.2, 129.3, 129.5, 129.7, 129.8, 130.0, 130.4, 130.5, 130.8, 131.9, 132.7, 132.8, 134.2, 134.8, 138.1, 138.3, 166.6, 166.7, 190.1, 191.1. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1678, 1651, 1596, 1586, 1482, 1449, 1387, 1234. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 274.0629, found: 274.0636.



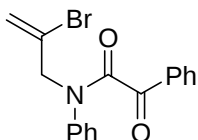
N-(2-iodophenyl)-*N*-methyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (**1n**):



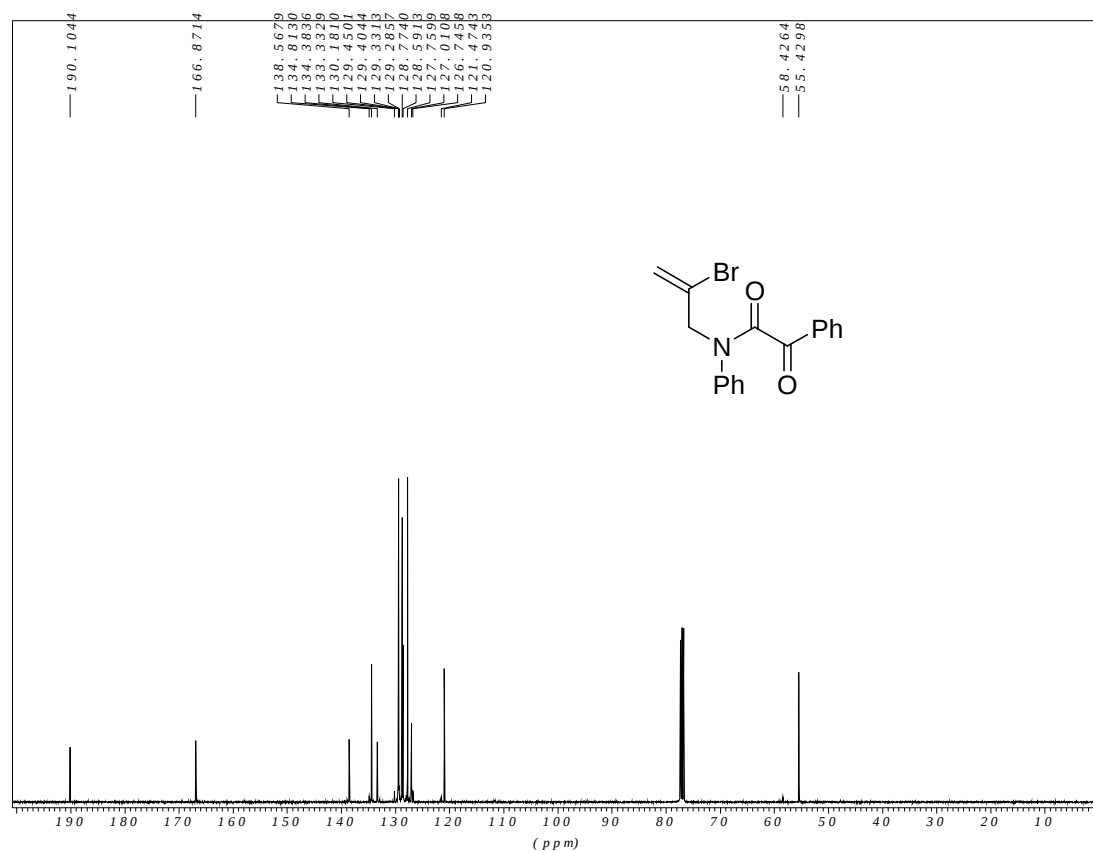
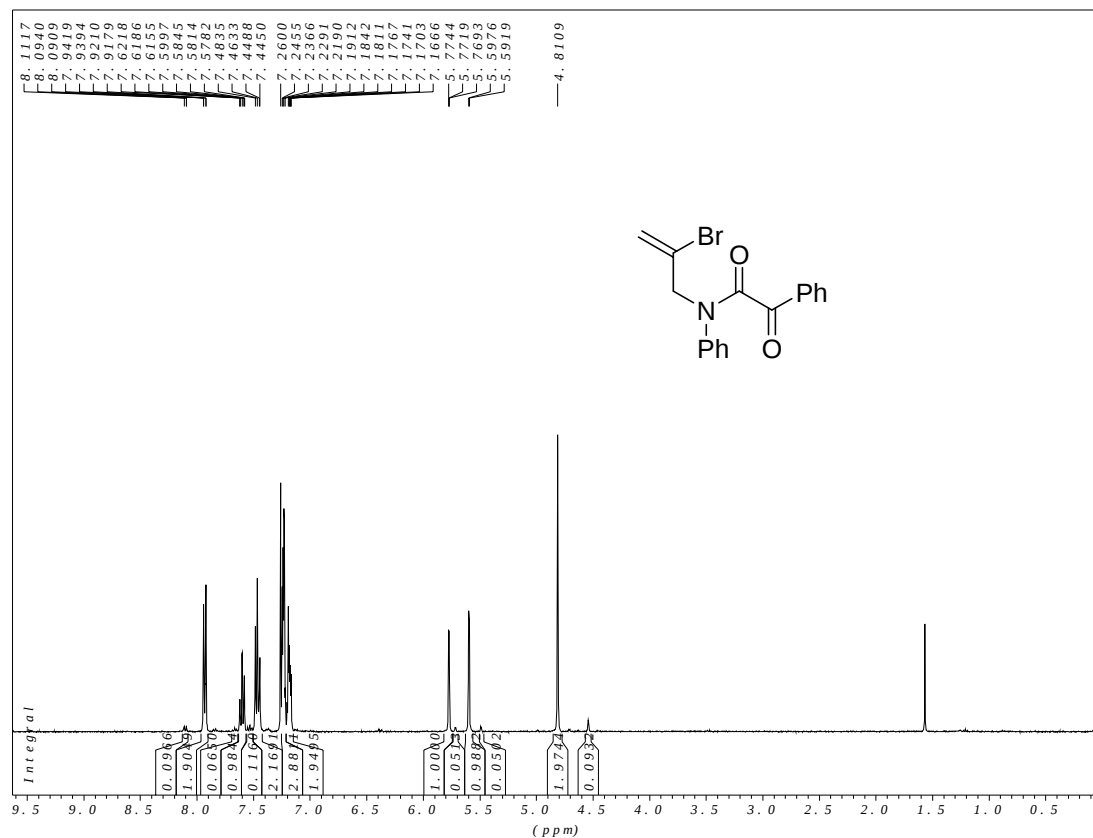
Yellow solid. 39% yield, m.p. 63.5-65.5°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.25 (s, 0.5H), 3.40 (s, 2.5H), 6.95-6.99 (m, 0.85H), 7.12 (t, 0.2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.23-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.42 (t, 1.8H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.49 (t, 0.2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.57 (dd, 1.2H, $J = 7.3, 13.9$ Hz), 7.68 (t, 0.2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.78 (d, 0.8H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.92 (d, 1.6H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.97 (d, 0.2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 8.21 (d, 0.3H, $J = 7.3$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 35.7, 38.0, 97.2, 98.6, 128.4, 128.8, 128.9, 129.2, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 130.2, 130.3, 132.8, 134.3, 134.9, 140.0, 140.1, 143.1, 143.7, 166.3, 189.8, 190.9. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1677, 1646, 1595, 1577, 1470, 1449, 1385, 1231. HRMS: m/z (ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{INO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$): 365.9985, found: 365.9974.



N-(2-bromoallyl)-2-oxo-*N*,2-diphenylacetamide (**10**):



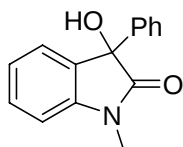
White solid. 65% yield, m.p. 84.5-85.5°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.81 (s, 2H), 5.59 (d, 1H, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 5.77 (t, 1H, $J = 1.0$ Hz), 7.16-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.46 (t, 2H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.57-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.93 (dd, 2H, $J = 1.0, 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 55.4, 58.4, 120.9, 121.4, 126.7, 127.0, 127.7, 128.5, 128.7, 129.2, 129.3, 129.40, 129.45, 130.1, 133.3, 134.3, 134.8, 138.5, 166.8, 190.1. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 1679, 1650, 1594, 1493, 1450, 1394, 1236, 1213. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 344.0280, found: 344.0286.



2. Palladium-catalysed intramolecular addition of arylbromides to α -ketoamides:

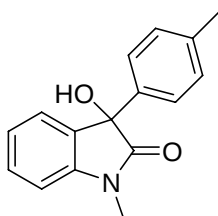
A dry Schlenk tube was charged with $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$ (11.6 mg, 0.02 mmol), $\text{PtBu}_3\cdot\text{HBF}_4$ (11.5 mg, 0.04 mmol) and $\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (185 mg, 0.8 mmol) under N_2 . Toluene (4 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.0 h before addition of a solution of the ketoamide (0.4 mmol) in 4 mL toluene and $n\text{BuOH}$ (59 mg, 0.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for the indicated time. Flash chromatography afforded the product oxindoles.

3-Hydroxy-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (**2a**):³



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.14 (s, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 6.91 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.09 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.28-7.40 (m, 7H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.3, 77.9, 108.5, 123.4, 124.8, 125.3, 128.0, 128.3, 129.6, 131.7, 140.0, 143.2, 177.6.

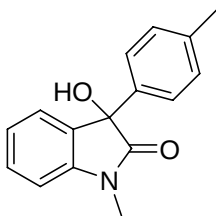
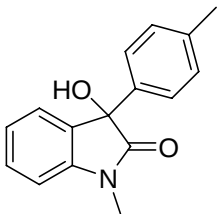
3-Hydroxy-1-methyl-3-p-tolyloxindole (**2b**):



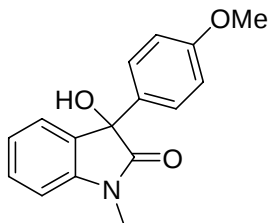
White solid. m.p. 191.4-192.9 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.08 (t, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.14 (d, 2H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.26-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.34 (t, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3):

³ S. Kafka, J. Kosmrlj and A. Klasek, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2001, **66**, 6394-6399.

δ 21.0, 26.4, 77.8, 108.5, 123.4, 124.8, 125.2, 129.1, 129.6, 131.6, 137.1, 137.9, 143.3, 177.6. $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3378, 1702, 1611, 1492, 1469, 1370, 1348, 1095. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 254.1175, found: 254.1184.

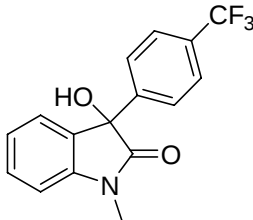


3-Hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyloxindole (**2c**):⁴



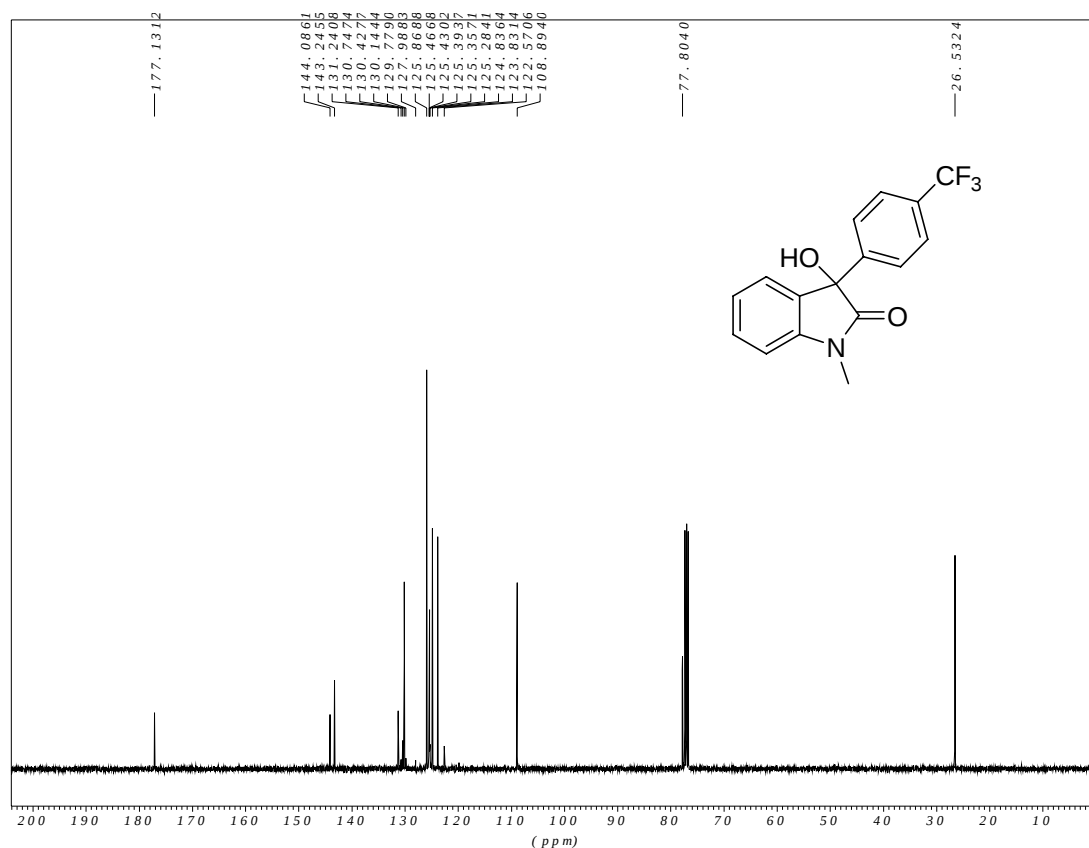
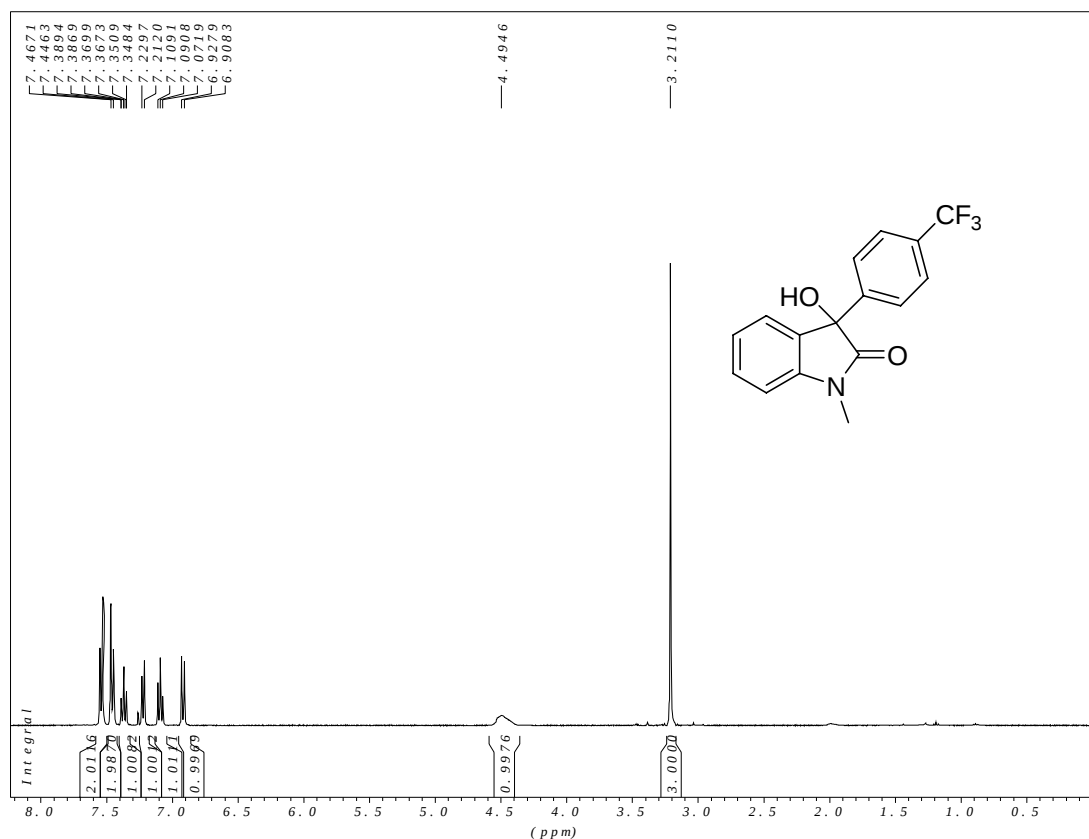
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.06 (d, 1H, *J* = 0.8 Hz), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 6.86 (dt, 2H, *J* = 3.0, 8.8 Hz), 6.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.10 (td, 1H, *J* = 0.8, 7.6 Hz), 7.30-7.37 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.3, 55.1, 77.5, 108.5, 113.7, 123.3, 124.8, 126.8, 129.5, 131.7, 132.1, 143.3, 159.3, 177.7.

3-Hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)oxindole (**2d**):

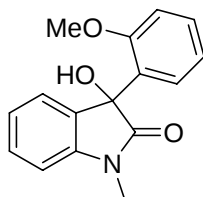


White solid. m.p. 148-149.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.21 (s, 3H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.09 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.36 (td, 1H, *J* = 1.0, 7.8 Hz), 7.46 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.53 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.5, 77.8, 108.8, 122.5, 123.8, 124.8, 125.2, 125.35, 125.39, 125.43, 125.46, 125.8, 127.9, 129.7, 130.1, 130.4, 130.7, 131.2, 143.2, 144.0, 177.1. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3378, 1707, 1614, 1493, 1471, 1325, 1123, 1068. HRMS: *m/z* (ESI+) calculated for C₁₆H₁₃NO₂F₃ ([M+H]⁺): 308.0892, found: 308.0910.

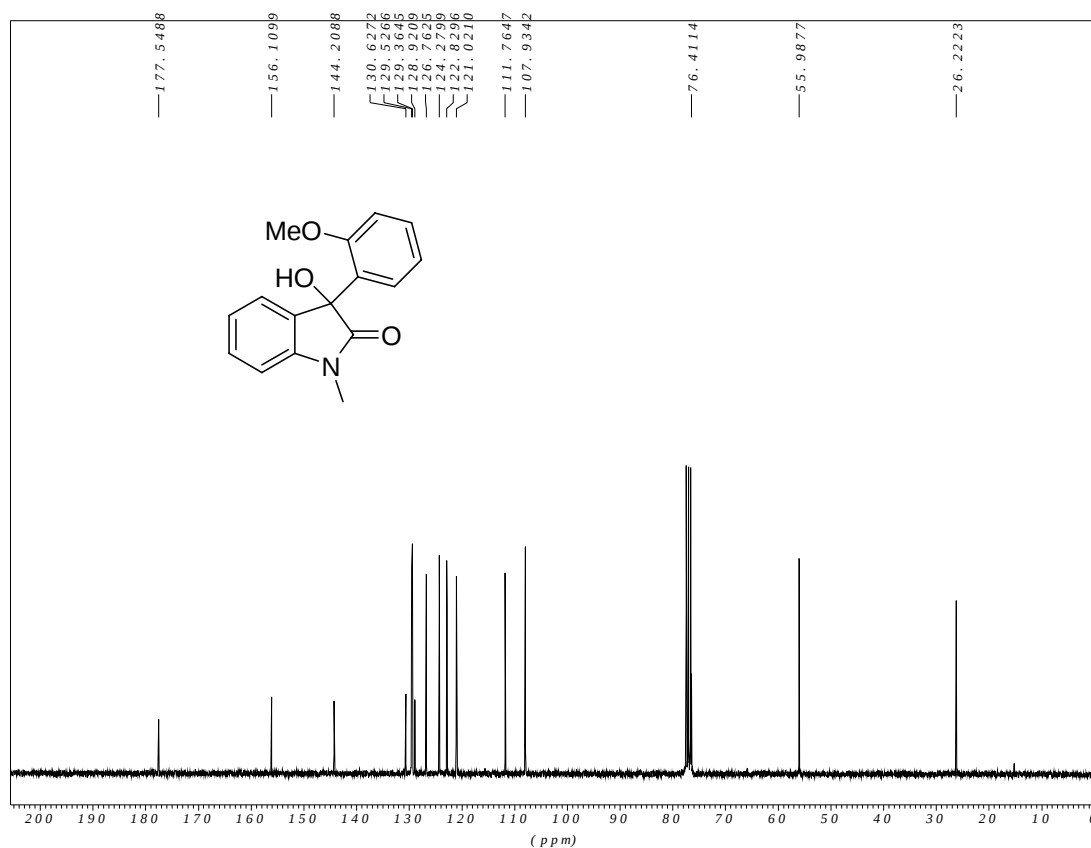
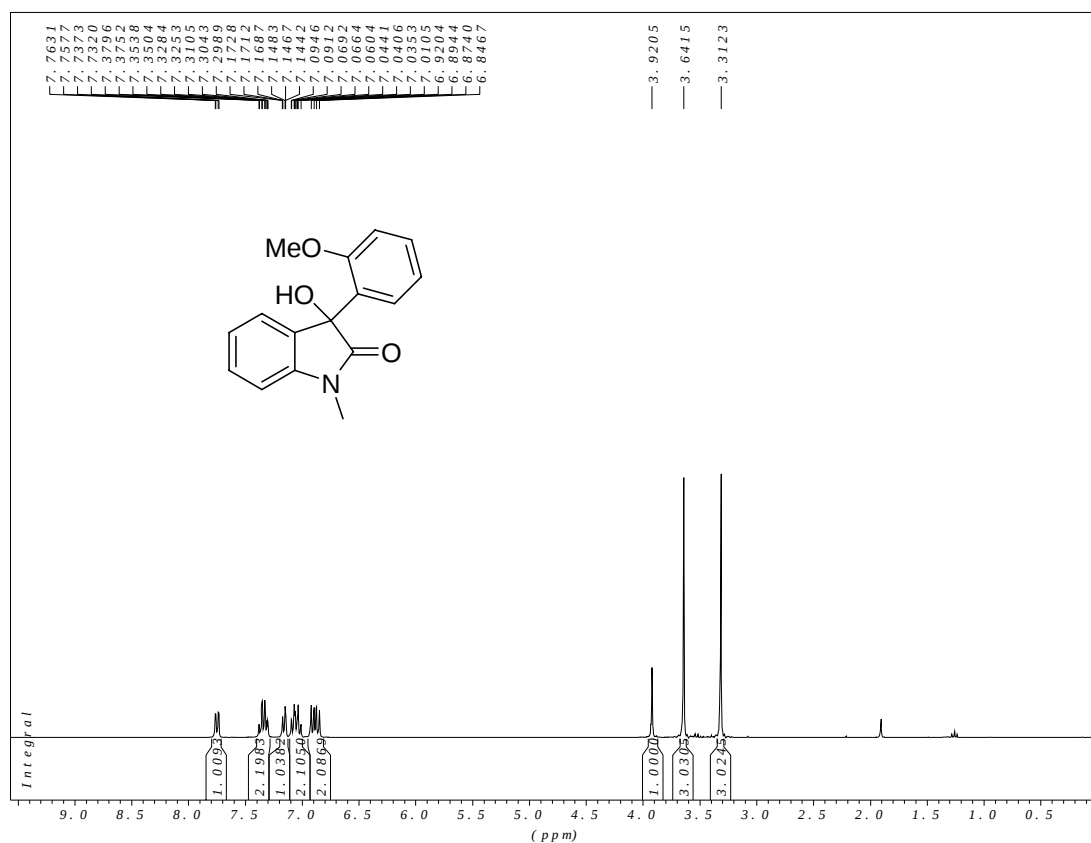
⁴ M. J. Durbin and M. C. Willis, *Org. Lett.*, 2008, **10**, 1413-1415.



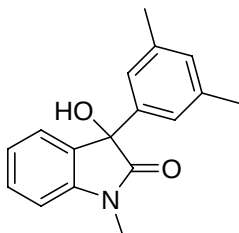
3-Hydroxy-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyloxindole (**2e**):



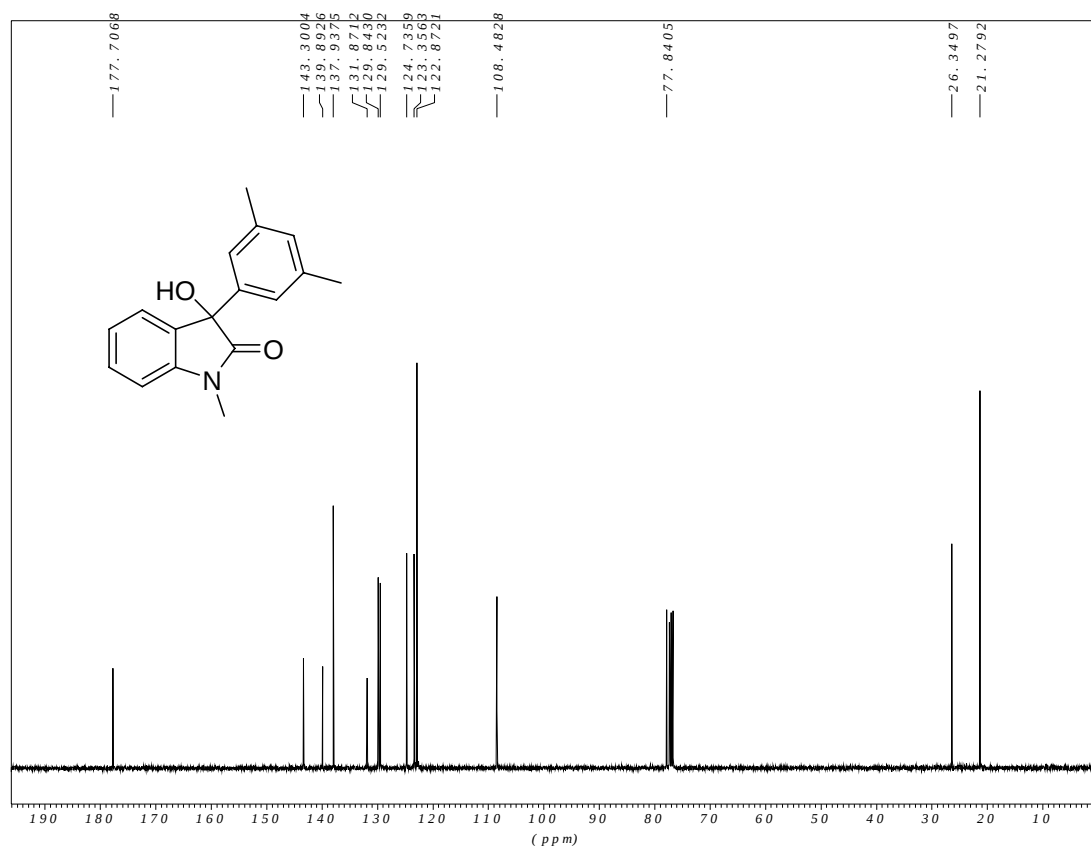
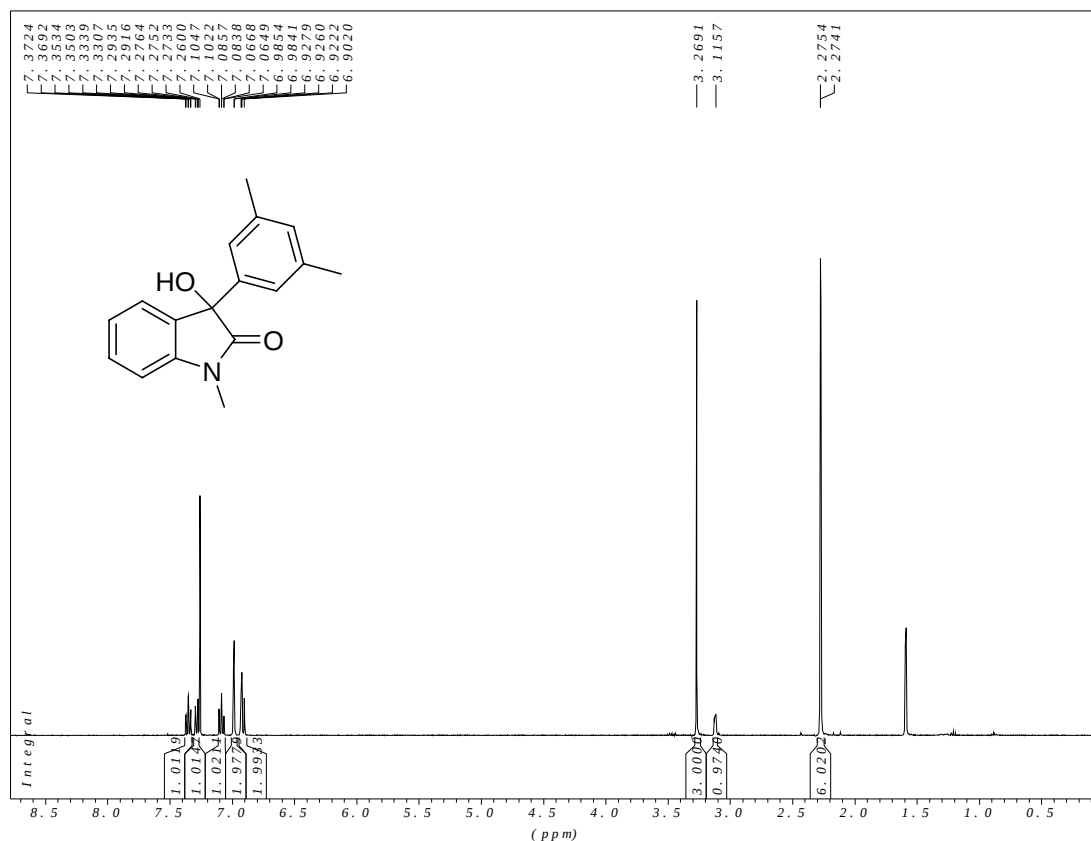
White solid. m.p. 210.5-211.5°C. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 1H), 6.88 (dd, 2H, $J = 7.8, 13.9$ Hz), 7.01-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.16 (dt, 1H, $J = 0.5, 7.4$ Hz), 7.29-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.75 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.6, 7.7$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.2, 55.9, 76.4, 107.9, 111.7, 121.0, 122.8, 124.2, 126.7, 128.9, 129.3, 129.5, 130.6, 144.2, 156.1, 177.5. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3342, 1701, 1614, 1490, 1469, 1374, 1357, 1251, 1091. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 254.1124, found: 254.1128.



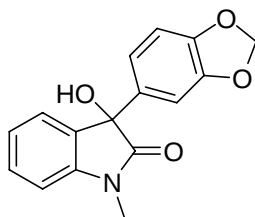
3-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-3-hydroxy-1-methyloxindole (**2f**):



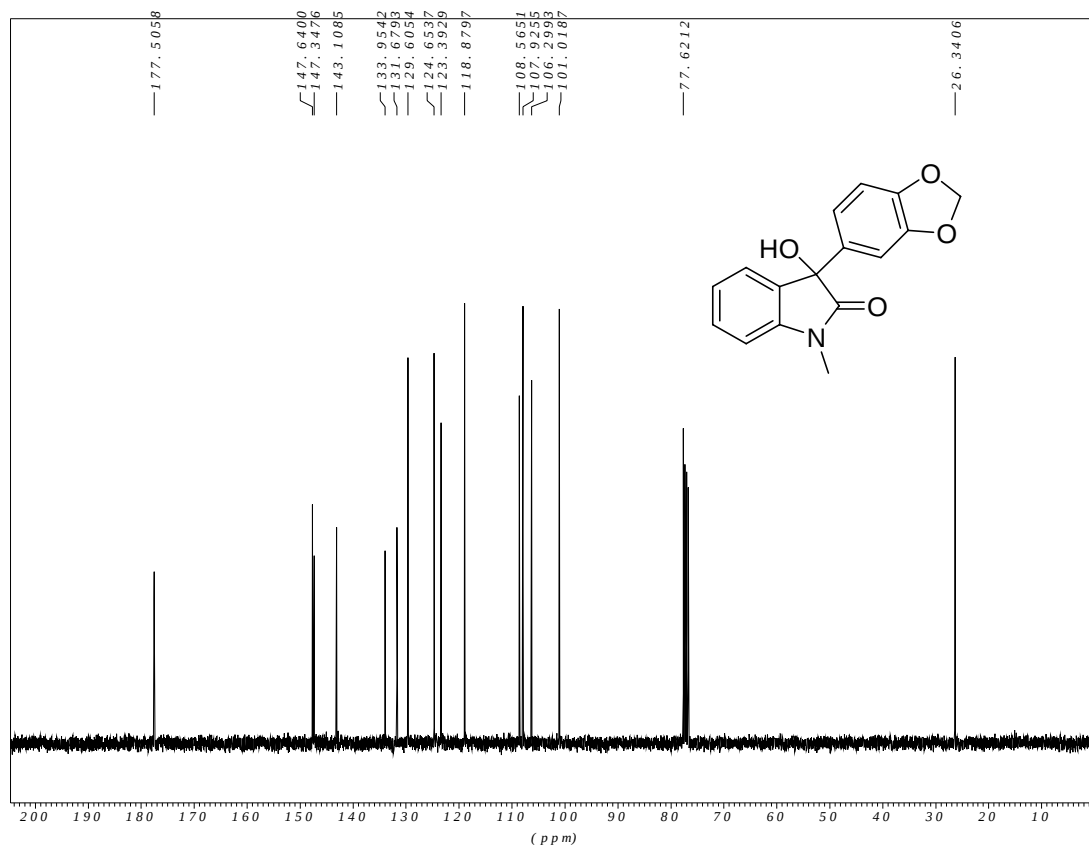
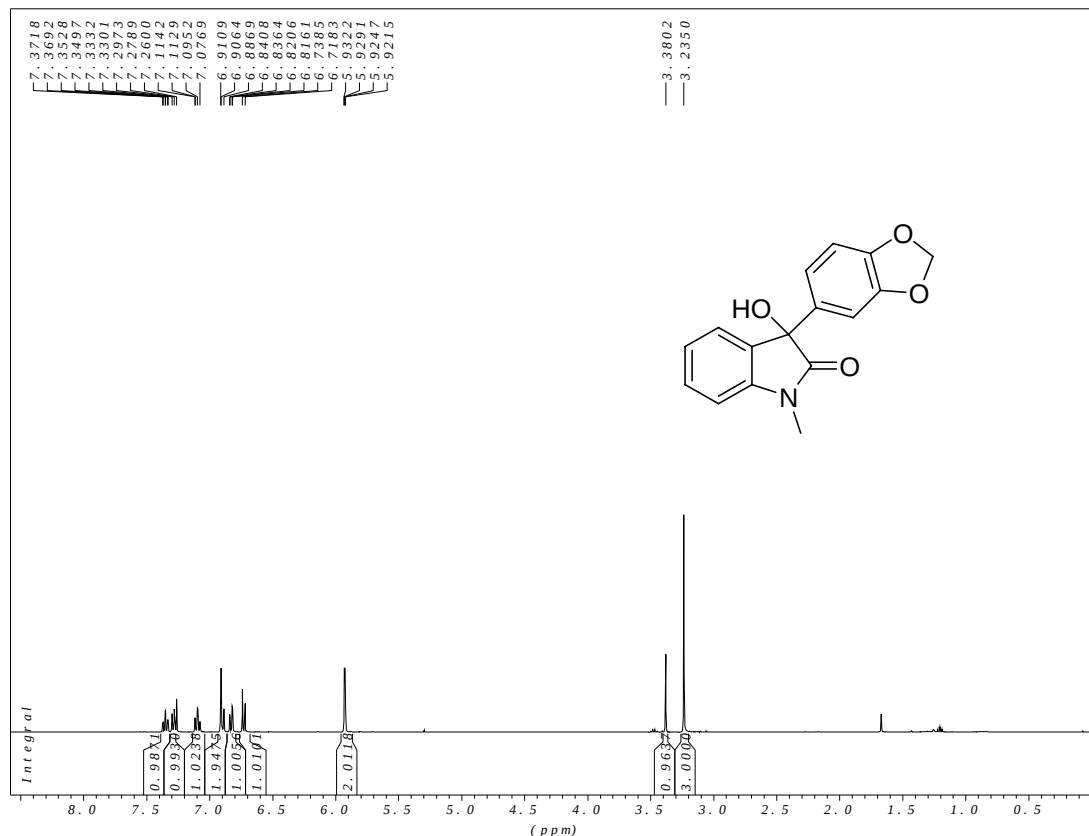
White solid. m.p. 135-136.5°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.27 (d, 6H, $J = 0.5$ Hz), 3.11 (s, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.92 (t, 1H, $J = 0.8$ Hz), 6.98 (s, 2H), 7.08 (td, 1H, $J = 1.0, 7.6$ Hz), 7.28 (dd, 1H, $J = 0.8, 7.3$ Hz), 7.35 (td, 1H, $J = 1.3, 7.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.2, 26.3, 77.8, 108.4, 122.8, 123.3, 124.7, 129.5, 129.8, 131.8, 137.9, 139.8, 143.3, 177.7. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3388, 2918, 1706, 1613, 1493, 1470, 1372, 1350, 1101. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 268.1332, found: 268.1352.



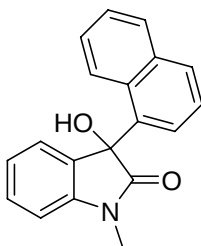
3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-hydroxy-1-methyloxindole (**2g**):



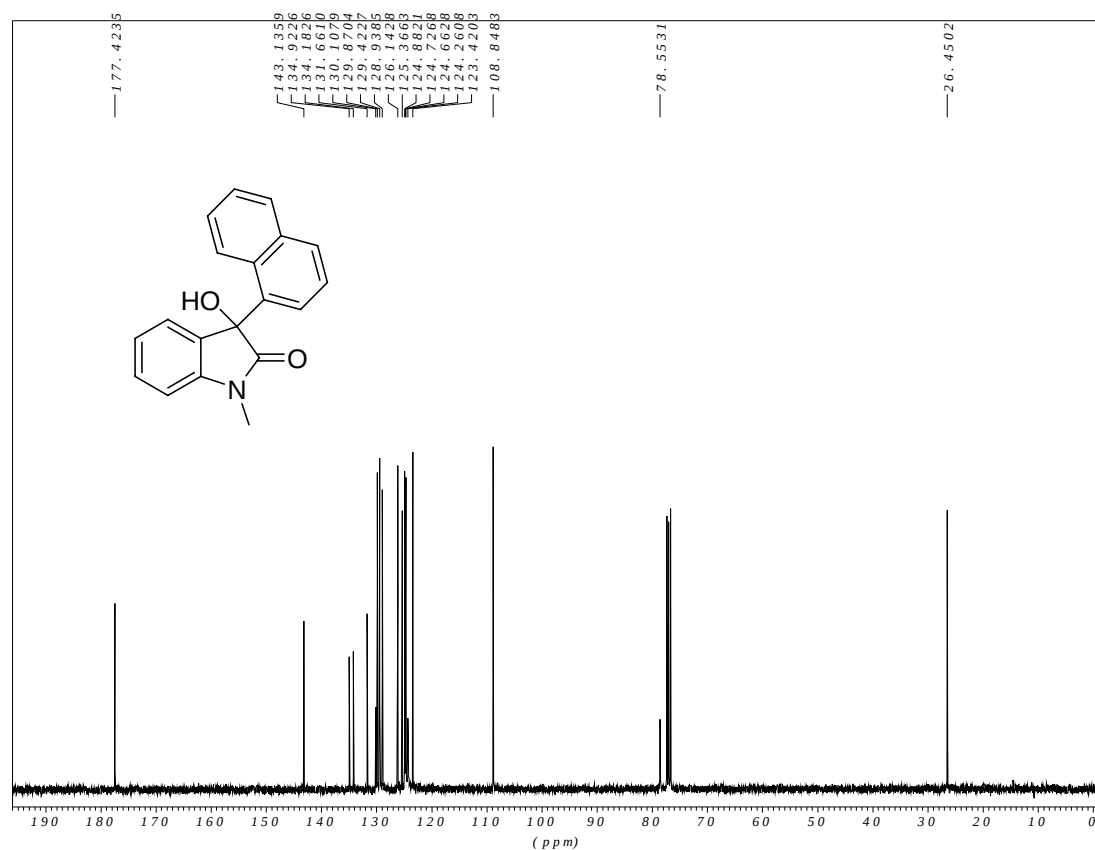
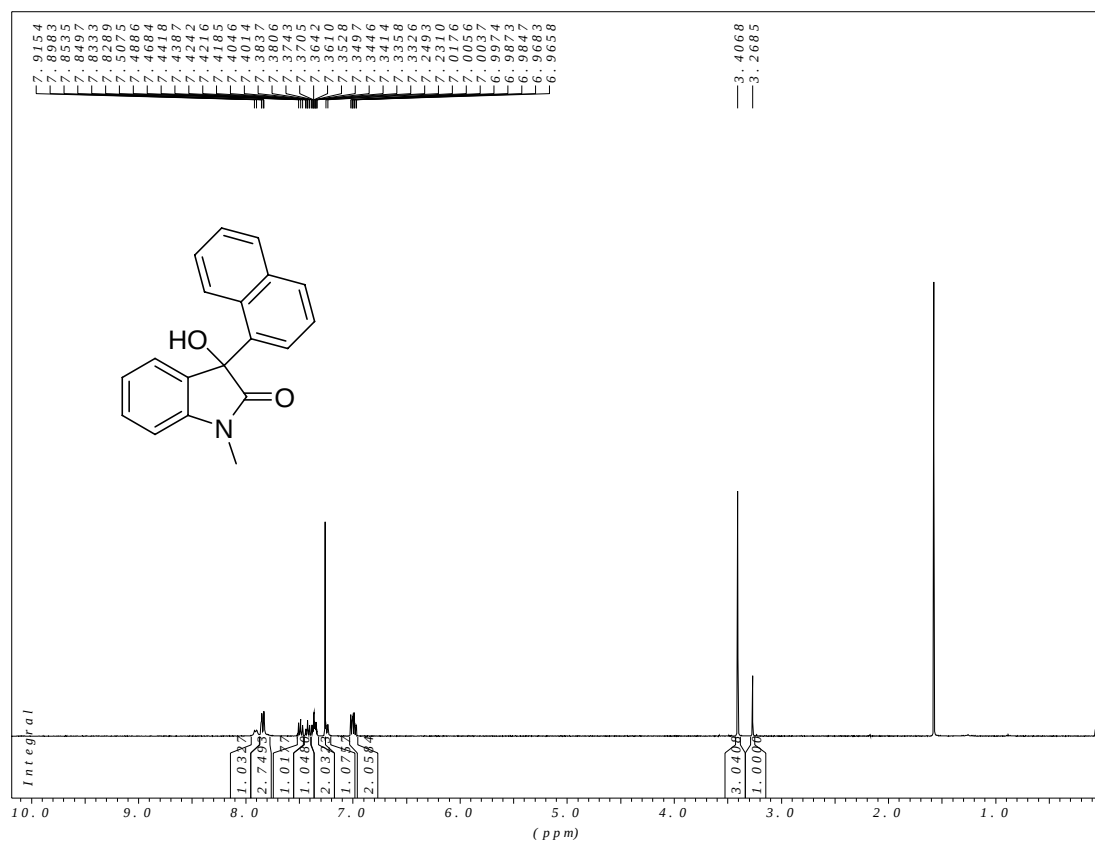
White solid. m.p. 149 -143.5°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 1H), 5.92 (dd, 2H, $J = 1.2, 3.0$ Hz), 6.73 (d, 1H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 6.83 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.8, 6.8$ Hz), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, 1H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 7.09 (t, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.35 (td, 1H, $J = 1.0, 7.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.3, 77.6, 101.0, 106.2, 107.9, 108.5, 118.8, 123.3, 124.6, 129.6, 131.6, 133.9, 143.1, 147.3, 147.6, 177.5. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3381, 2892, 1702, 1611, 1502, 1487, 1470, 1373, 1347, 1243, 1093, 1035. HRMS: m/z (ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$): 284.0917, found: 284.0930.



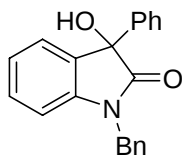
3-Hydroxy-1-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)oxindole (**2h**):



White solid. m.p. 157.5-158.5 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.26 (s, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 6.96-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, 1H, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 7.33-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.84 (dd, 3H, $J = 1.5, 8.0$ Hz), 7.91 (d, 1H, $J = 6.8$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.4, 78.5, 108.8, 123.4, 124.2, 124.6, 124.7, 124.8, 125.3, 126.1, 128.9, 129.4, 130.1, 131.6, 134.1, 134.9, 143.1, 177.4. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3354, 3052, 1700, 1611, 1491, 1469, 1369, 1341, 1085. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 290.1175, found: 290.1178.

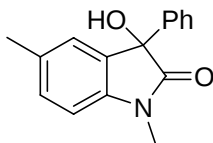


1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-3-phenyloxindole (**2i**):

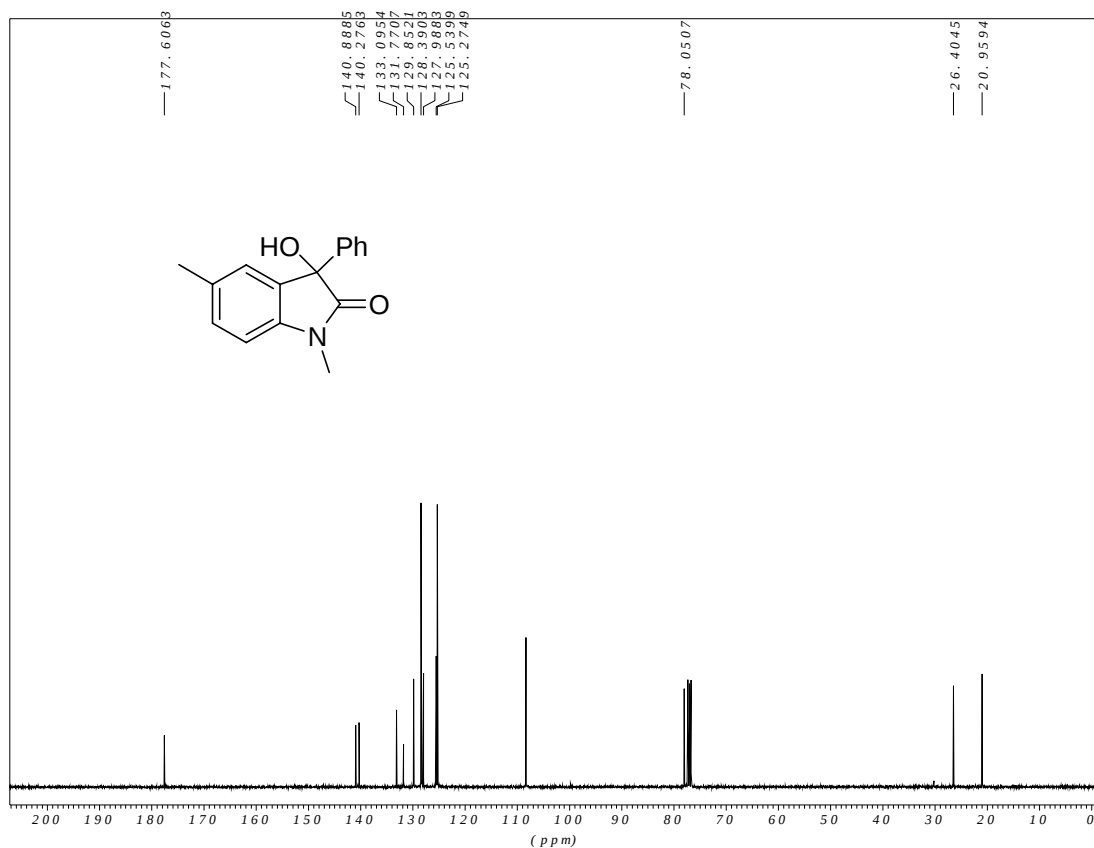
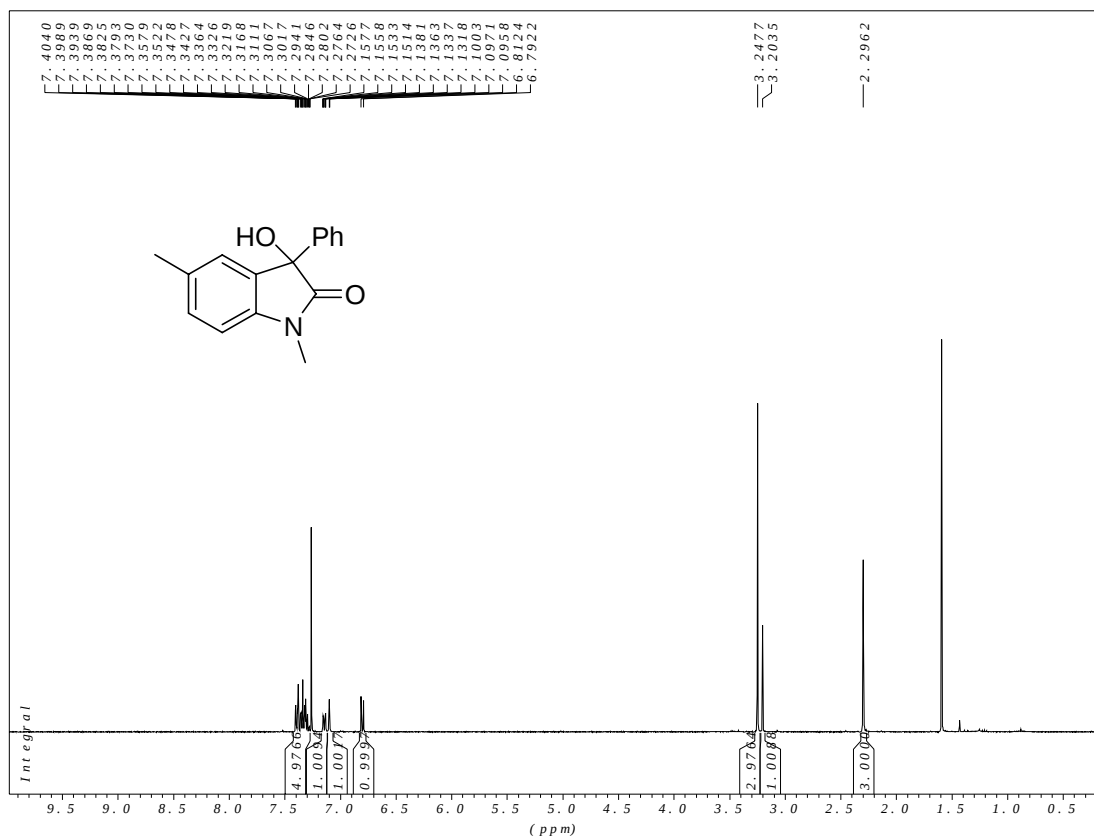


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.16 (s, 1H), 4.85 (d, 1H, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 5.06 (d, 1H, $J = 15.8$ Hz), 6.79 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.04 (td, 1H, $J = 0.8, 7.6$ Hz), 7.23-7.38 (m, 10H), 7.40-7.43 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 43.8, 77.9, 109.6, 123.4, 124.9, 125.3, 127.1, 127.6, 128.1, 128.4, 128.7, 129.5, 131.8, 135.3, 140.1, 142.4, 177.7.

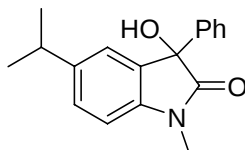
3-Hydroxy-1,5-dimethyl-3-phenyloxindole (**2j**):



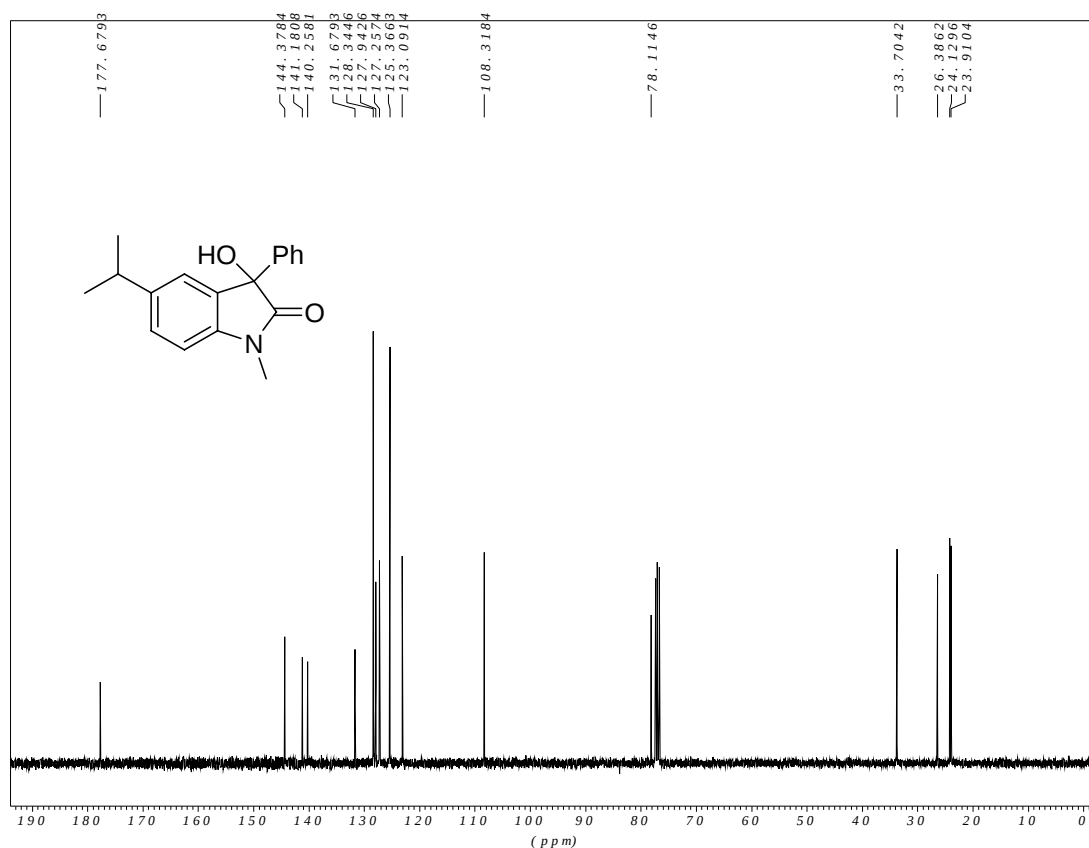
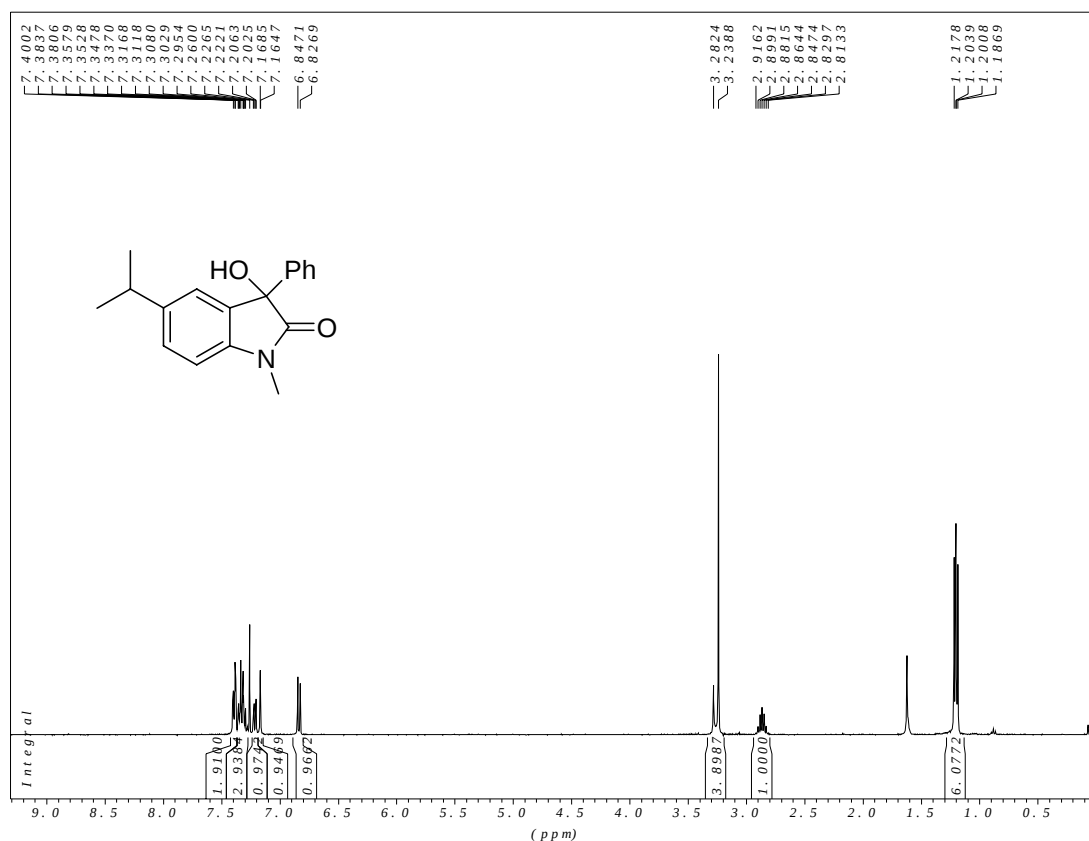
White solid. m.p. 124.4-125.9 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.29 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 6.80 (d, 1H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.10 (dd, 1H, $J = 0.5, 1.3$ Hz), 7.14 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.27-7.40 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.9, 26.4, 78.0, 125.2, 125.5, 127.9, 128.3, 129.8, 131.7, 133.0, 140.2, 140.8, 177.6. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3351, 1687, 1621, 1602, 1495, 1091. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 254.1175, found: 254.1186.



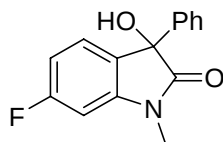
3-Hydroxy-5-isopropyl-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (**2k**):



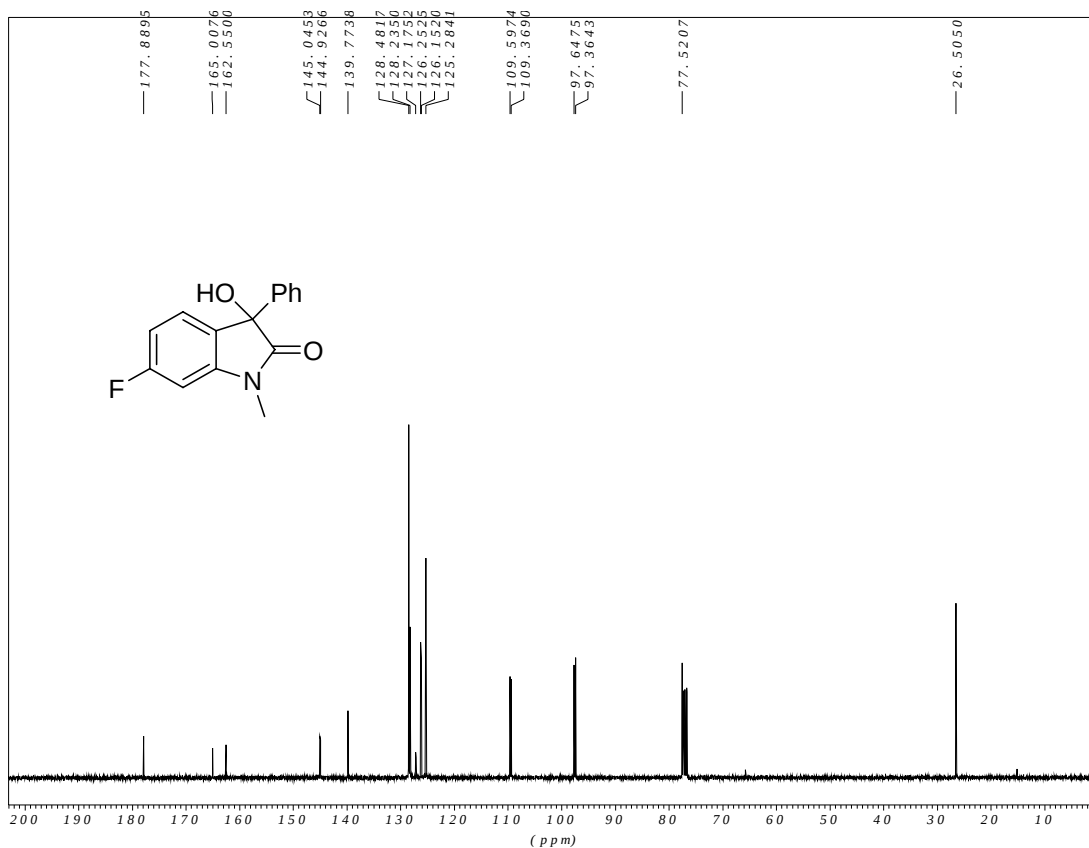
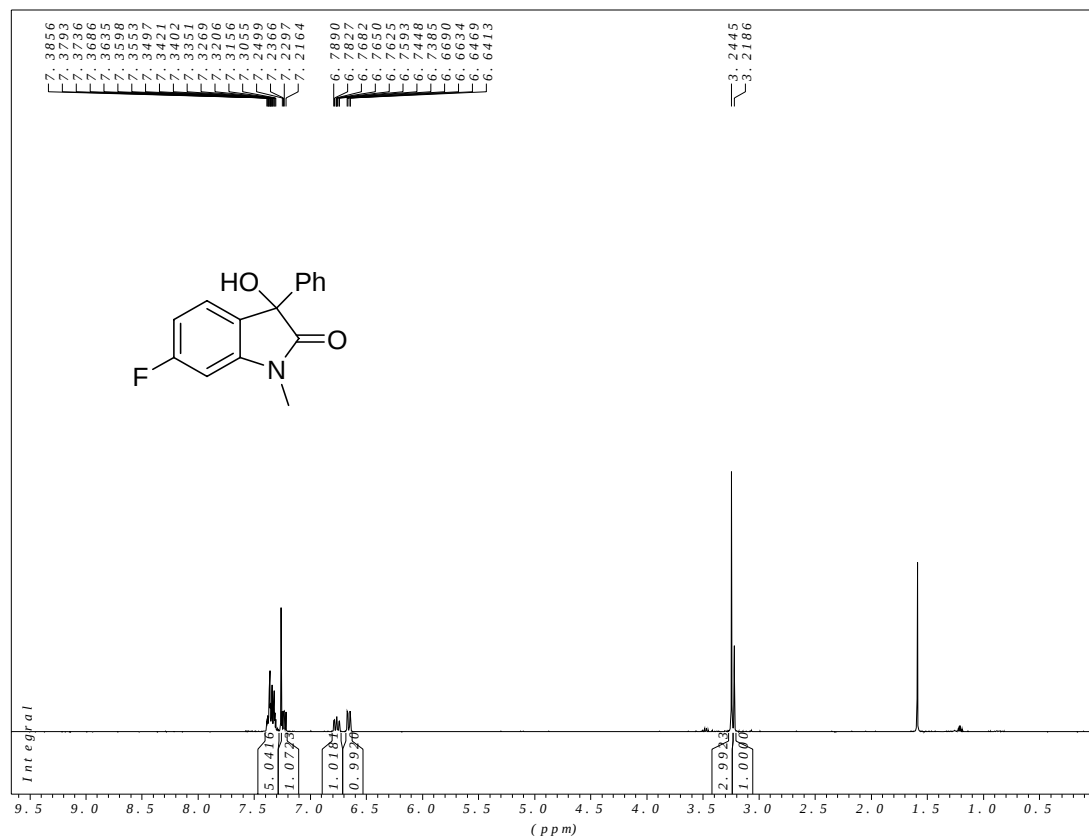
White solid. m.p. 153-155°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.19 (d, 3H, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 1.21 (d, 3H, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 2.81-2.92 (m, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, 1H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.21 (dd, 1H, $J = 1.8, 8.1$ Hz), 7.29-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.39 (dd, 2H, $J = 1.8, 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 23.9, 24.1, 26.3, 33.7, 78.1, 108.3, 123.0, 125.3, 127.2, 127.9, 128.3, 131.6, 140.2, 141.1, 144.3, 177.6. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3385, 2959, 1702, 1620, 1605, 1495, 1367, 1101. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 282.1488, found: 282.1493.



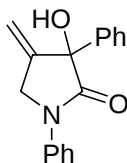
6-Fluoro-3-hydroxy-1-methyl-3-phenyloxindole (**21**):



White solid. m.p. 156-157°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.21 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 6.65 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.2, 6.8$ Hz), 6.73-6.79 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd, 1H, $J = 5.3, 8.1$ Hz), 7.30-7.39 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.5, 77.5, 97.3, 97.6, 109.3, 109.5, 125.2, 126.1, 126.2, 127.1, 128.2, 128.4, 139.7, 144.9, 145.0, 162.5, 165.0, 177.8. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3353, 3073, 1707, 1613, 1504, 1453, 1361, 1081, 1072. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{NFNa}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$): 280.0744, found: 280.0739.



3-Hydroxy-4-methylene-1,3-diphenylpyrrolidinone (**2m**):



White solid. m.p. 133-134°C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.29 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 7.21 (t, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.30-7.43 (m, 5H), 7.53 (d, 2H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 7.73 (d, 2H, $J = 8.6$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 50.7, 79.0, 111.5, 119.7, 125.3, 125.4, 128.4, 128.7, 129.0, 138.4, 140.4, 142.9, 173.1. $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$: 3385, 2924, 1695, 1671, 1597, 1493, 1392, 1275. HRMS: m/z (ESI+) calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 266.1175, found: 266.1179.

