

Supporting Information

Assembly of Indole-2-Carboxylic Acid Esters through a Ligand-Free Copper-Catalysed Cascade Process

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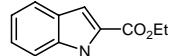
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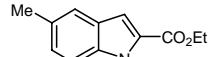
Typical procedure for the preparation of Indole-2-Carboxylic Acid Esters: The aryl halides, base, copper salts and solvent were added together into a reacting tube under nitrogen atmosphere. Then ethyl isocyanoacetate was slowly added and the mixtures were stirred at certain temperature. After the reactions were finished, ethyl acetate and water were added. The organic phase was separated, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated in vacuum. The residues were loaded on silica gel column and purified to get the final products.

Ethyl 1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (5)^[1]



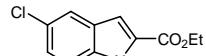
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.99 (br, 1H), 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.42 (m, 4H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ESI-MS m/z 189.9 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 5-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7a)^[2]



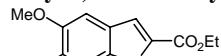
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.88 (br, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.0 Hz 1H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 204.1 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 5-chloro-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7b)^[3]



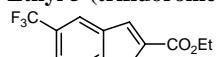
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.25 (br, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 222.0 (M-H)⁻.

Ethyl 5, 6-dimethoxy-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7c)^[4]



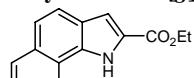
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.06 (br, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 250.0 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7d)^[5]



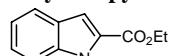
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.55 (br, 1H), 8.00(s, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 256.0 (M-H)⁻.

Ethyl 1*H*-benzo[*g*]indole-2-carboxylate (7e)^[6]



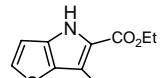
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.95 (br, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 4.47 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 240.0 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 1*H*-pyrrolo [2, 3-*b*] pyridine-2-carboxylate (7f)^[7]



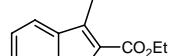
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 11.58 (br, 1H), 8.61 (m, 1H), 8.05 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.46 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 191.1 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 6-methyl-4*H*-thieno [3, 2-*b*] pyrrole-5-carboxylate (7g)^[8]



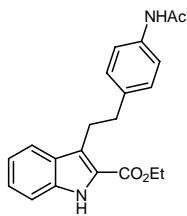
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.18 (br, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 162.4, 139.6, 129.1, 126.5, 123.1, 120.2, 111.3, 60.3, 14.5, 12.1, ESI-MS m/z 209.9 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7h)^[9]



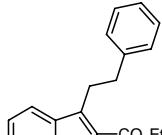
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.79 (br, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS m/z 204.1 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 3-(4-acetamidophenethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7i)



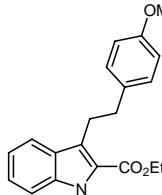
¹H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ 11.47 (br, 1H), 9.82 (br, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (m, 1H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ 168.4, 162.2, 137.2, 136.9, 136.7, 128.8, 127.4, 125.2, 123.5, 123.0, 120.7, 119.8, 119.4, 112.8, 60.6, 36.8, 27.2, 24.4, 14.8; EI-MS *m/z* 350 (M⁺), 202, 156, 128, 106; HR-MS (EI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₂N₂O₃ requires 350.1630, found 350.1626.

Ethyl 3-phenethyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7j)^[10]



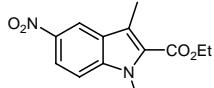
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.73 (br, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.12 (m, 8H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS *m/z* 294.2 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7k)



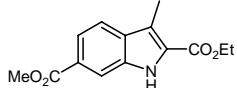
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.80 (br, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.4, 157.8, 135.9, 134.4, 129.3, 127.8, 125.5, 124.1, 123.3, 120.7, 120.0, 113.7, 111.7, 60.7, 55.3, 36.4, 27.4, 14.5; EI-MS *m/z* 323 (M⁺), 202, 156, 128, 121; HR-MS (EI) calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁NO₃ requires 323.1521, found 323.1517.

Ethyl 1-formyl-3-methyl-5-nitro-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7l)



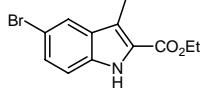
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.26 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ESI-MS *m/z* 277.1 (M+H)⁺.

2-ethyl 6-methyl 3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,6-dicarboxylate (7m)^[11]



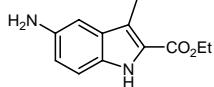
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 9.15 (br, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 167.7, 162.4, 135.0, 131.7, 126.9, 126.2, 120.4, 119.7, 114.2, 61.1, 52.1, 14.4, 9.92; ESI-MS *m/z* 262.5 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 6-bromo-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7n)^[12]



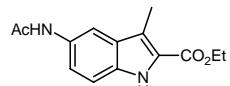
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.71 (br, 1H), 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ESI-MS *m/z* 282.0 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 5-amino-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7o)^[13]



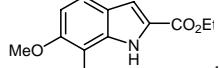
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.51 (br, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (br, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ESI-MS *m/z* 219.0 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 5-acetamido-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (7p)



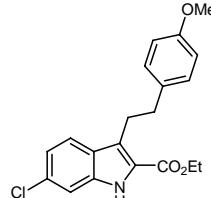
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.63 (br, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.22 (m, 3H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ 168.2, 162.3, 133.5, 132.3, 127.8, 124.1, 119.6, 118.4, 112.7, 110.2, 60.5, 24.3, 14.8, 10.2; EI-MS *m/z* 260 (M⁺), 214, 172, 144, 116; HR-MS (EI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₃ requires 260.1161, found 260.1158.

Ethyl 6,7-dimethoxy-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9a)



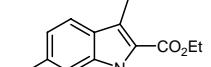
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.93 (br, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) 161.8, 149.0, 132.0, 127.5, 124.0, 117.6, 109.9, 109.2, 61.0, 60.9, 57.2, 14.4; ESI-MS *m/z* 250.1 (M+H)⁺; HR-MS (EI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₅NO₄ requires 249.2625, found 249.2629.

Ethyl 6-chloro-3-(4-methoxyphenethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9b)



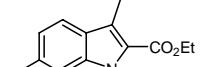
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.81 (br, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.81 (m, 2H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.1, 157.9, 136.0, 134.0, 131.4, 129.3, 126.5, 124.1, 123.9, 121.7, 121.0, 113.7, 111.5, 60.9, 55.3, 36.3, 27.2, 14.4; EI-MS *m/z* 357 (M⁺), 236, 190, 162, 121; HR-MS (EI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₀ClNO₃ requires 357.1132, found 357.1123.

Ethyl 6-chloro-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9c)^[14]



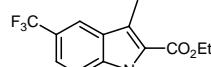
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.69 (br, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ESI-MS *m/z* 238.1 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 6-fluoro-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9d)^[15]



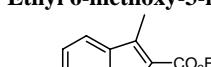
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.65 (br, 1H), 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.90 (m, 1H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ESI-MS *m/z* 222.0 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 3-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9e)^[16]



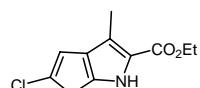
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.43 (br, 1H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 10H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 4H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.6, 144.0, 139.1, 130.2, 129.3, 128.4, 127.2, 126.8, 123.7, 119.2, 116.7, 112.1, 103.3, 60.4, 55.5, 14.4, 9.93; EI-MS *m/z* 398 (M⁺), 352, 307, 261, 233, 128, 91; HR-MS (EI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₆N₂O₂ requires 398.1994, found 398.1990.

Ethyl 6-methoxy-3-methyl-1*H*-indole-2-carboxylate (9g)^[17]



¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.69 (br, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81-6.77 (m, 2H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.6, 159.1, 136.9, 123.1, 122.4.1, 121.6, 120.7, 111.2, 93.5, 60.4, 55.4, 14.5, 10.0; ESI-MS *m/z* 234.1 (M+H)⁺.

Ethyl 2-chloro-4-methyl-6*H*-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrole-5-carboxylate (9h)

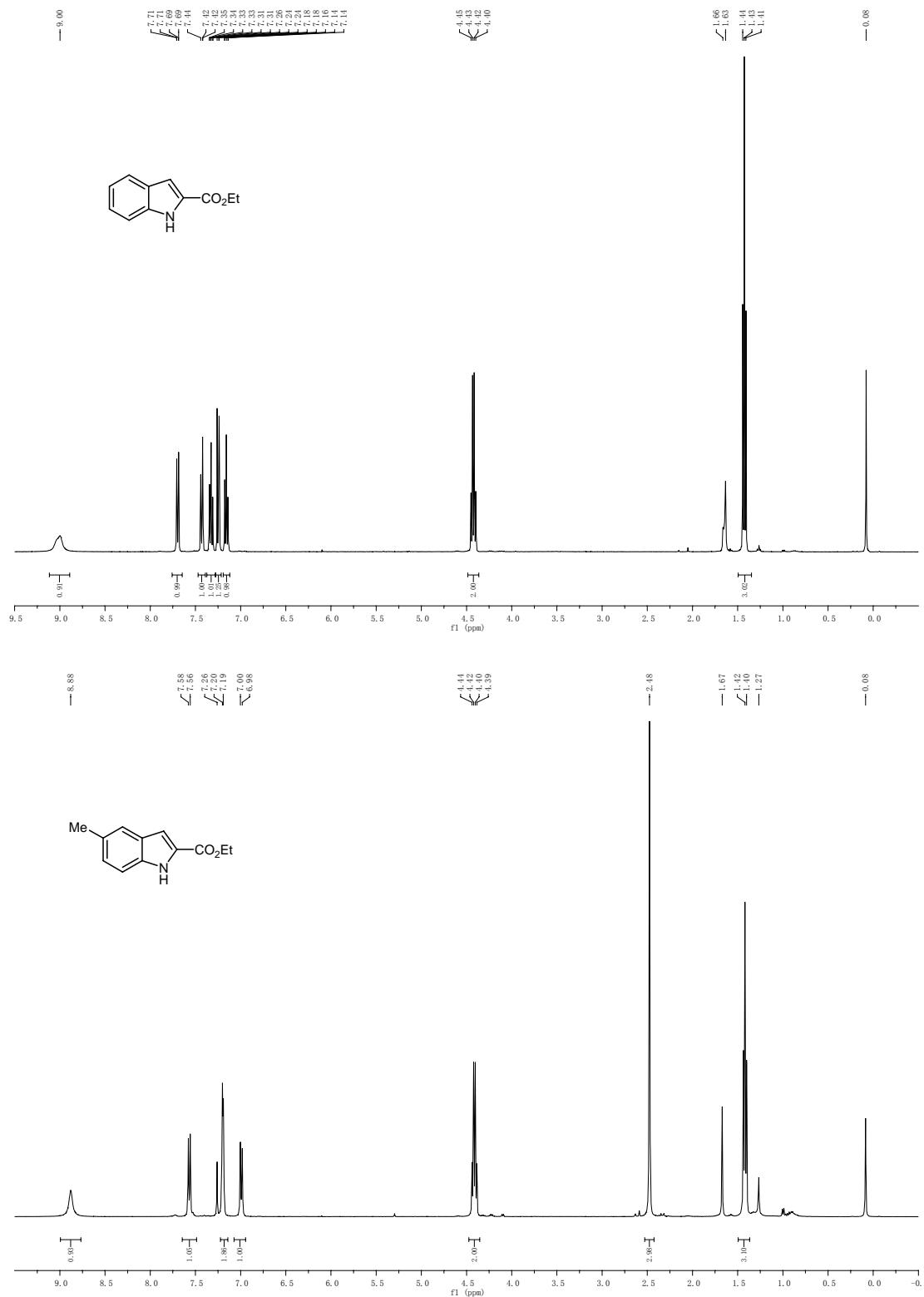


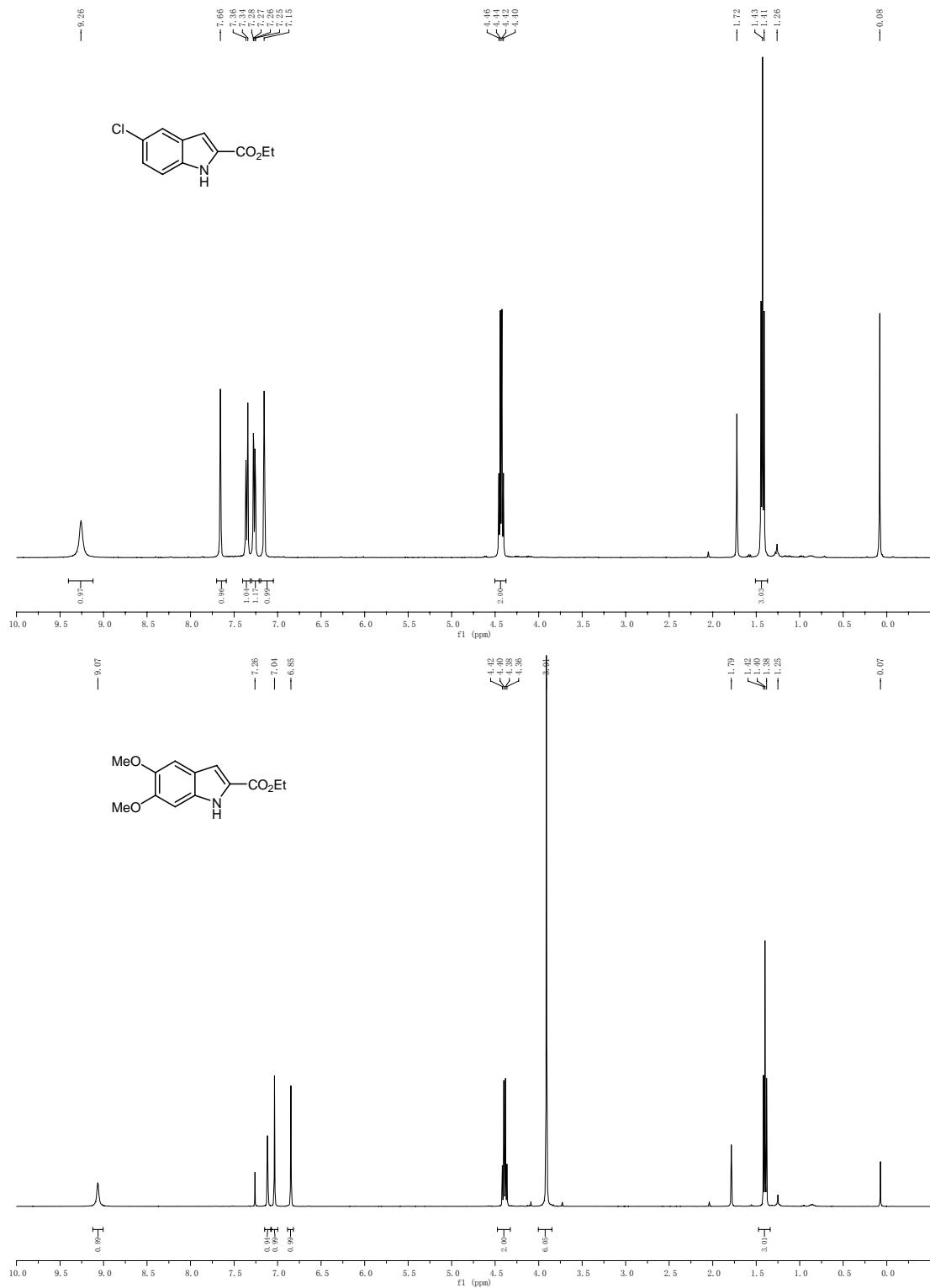
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 9.45 (br, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 162.0, 133.3, 130.3, 123.9, 123.7, 120.1, 116.5, 60.5, 14.5, 11.6; ESI-MS m/z 244.5 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$; HR-MS (EI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}_2\text{S}$ requires 243.0121, found 243.0119.

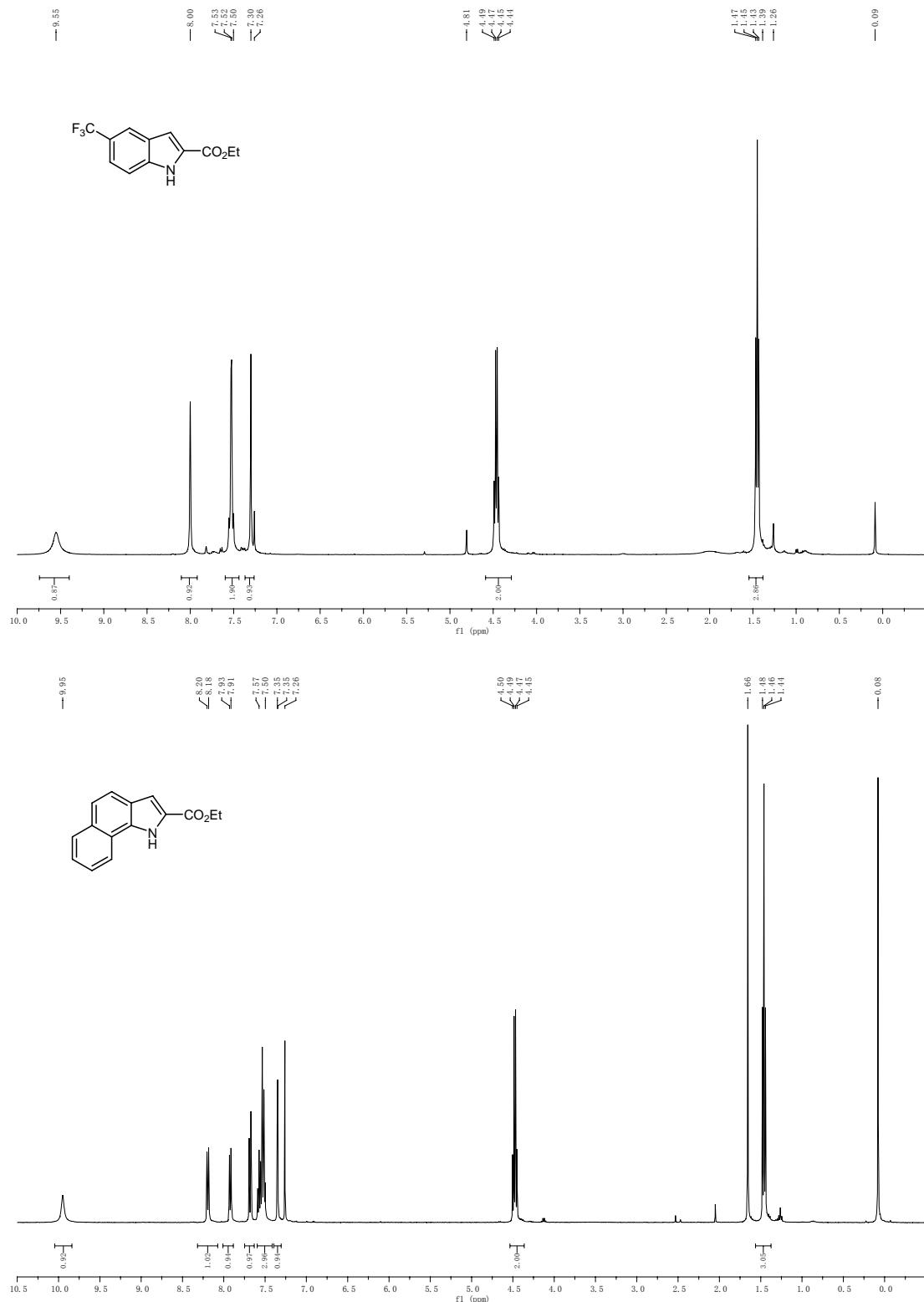
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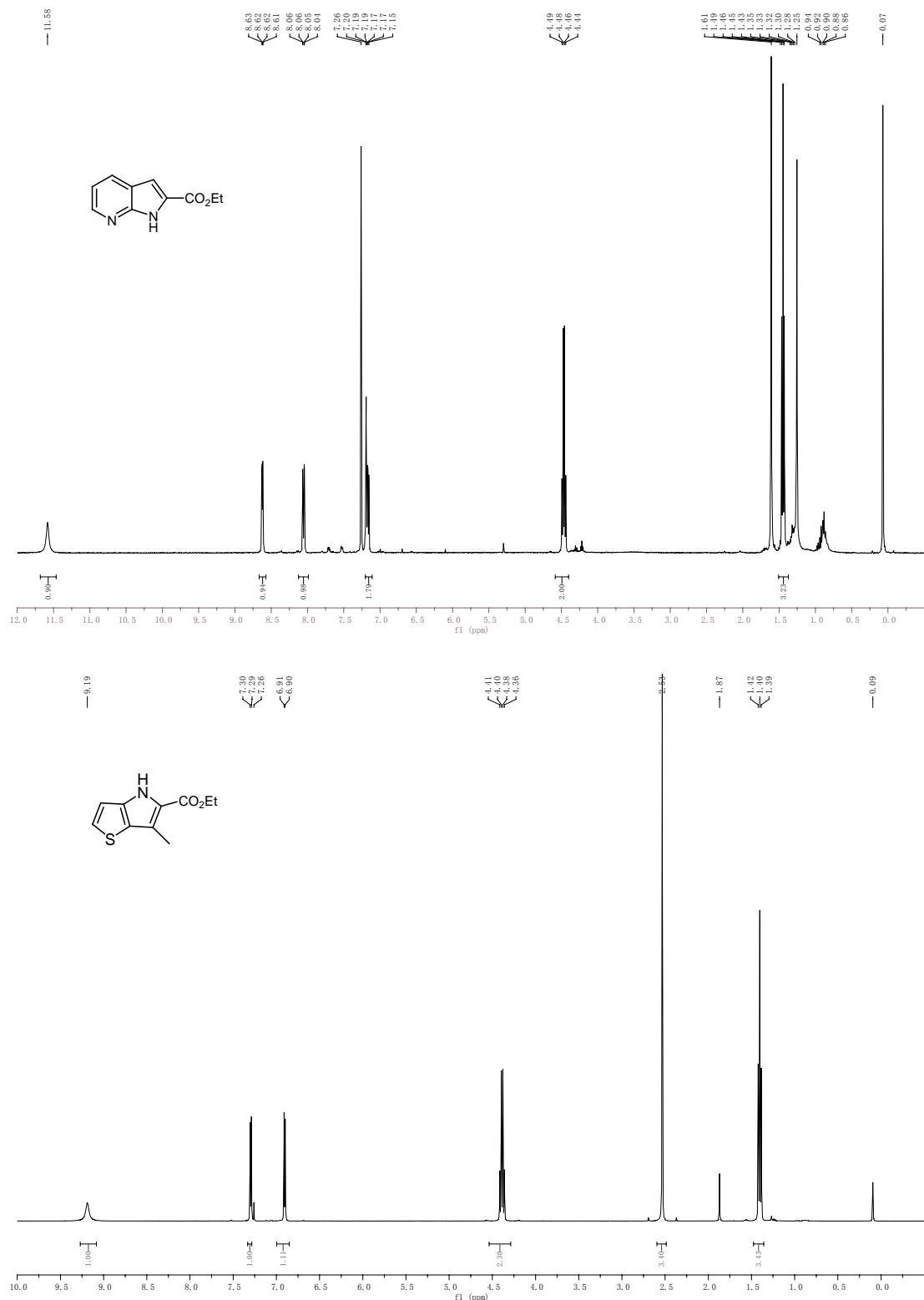
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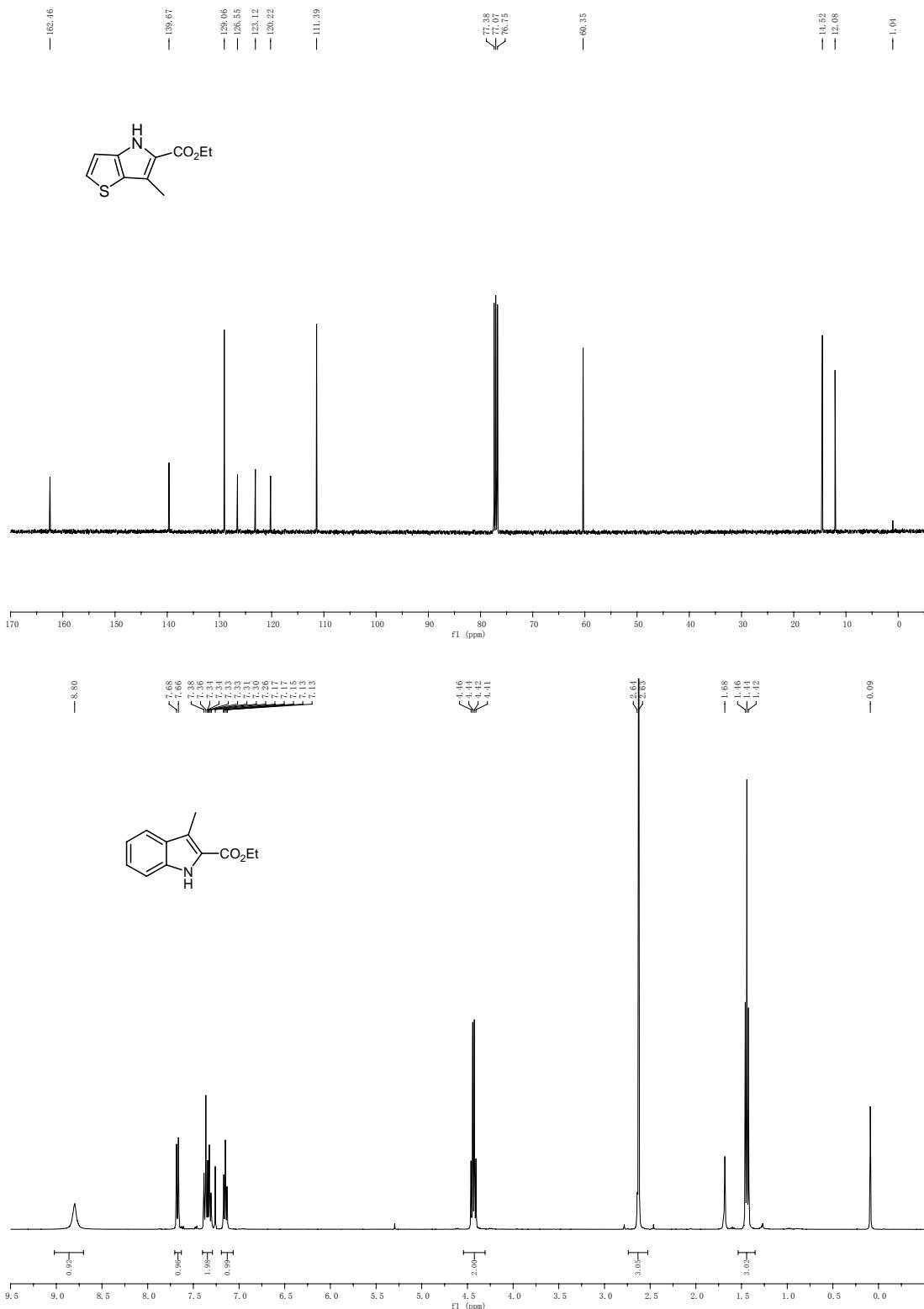
NMR Spectrum:

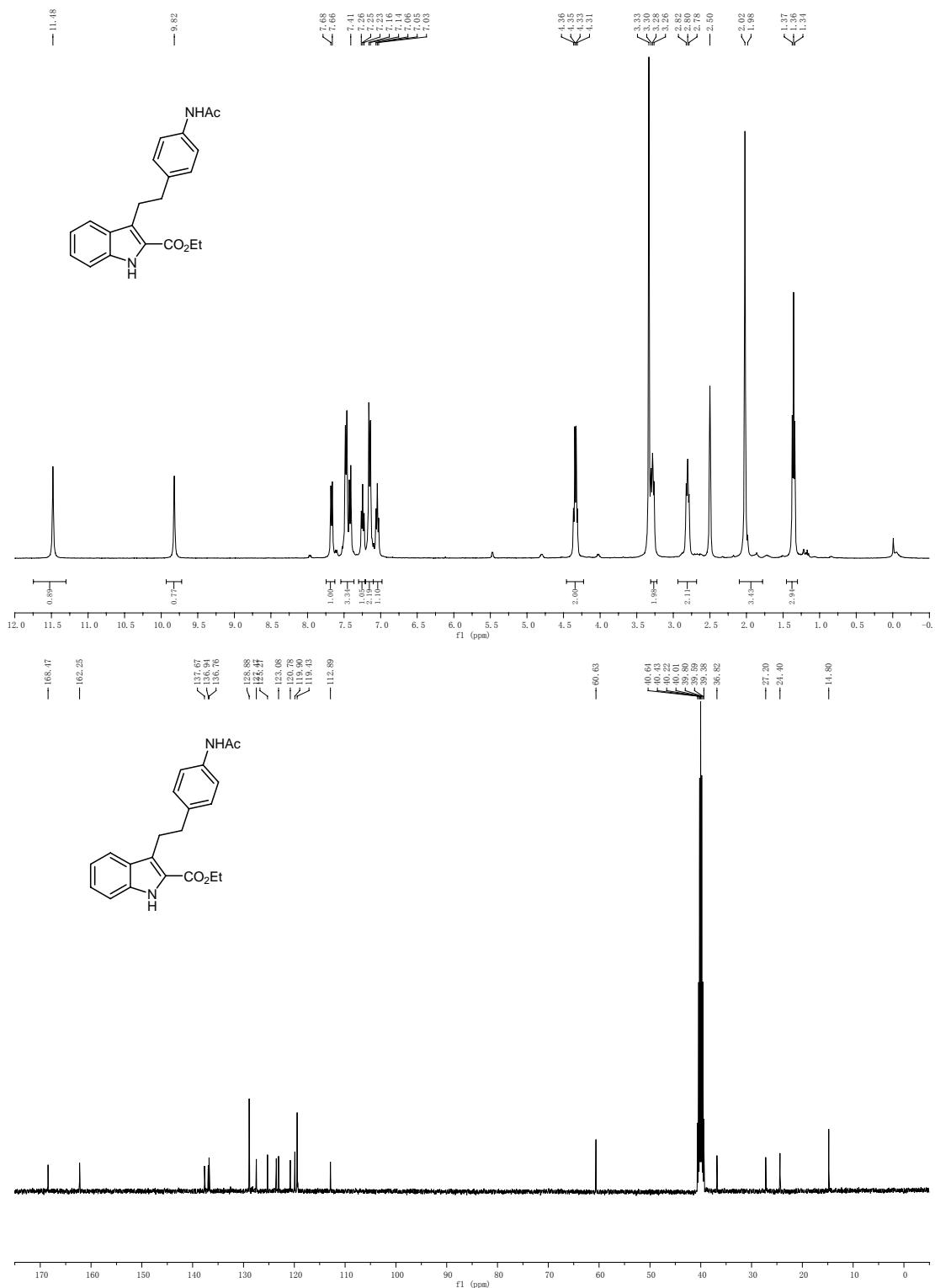




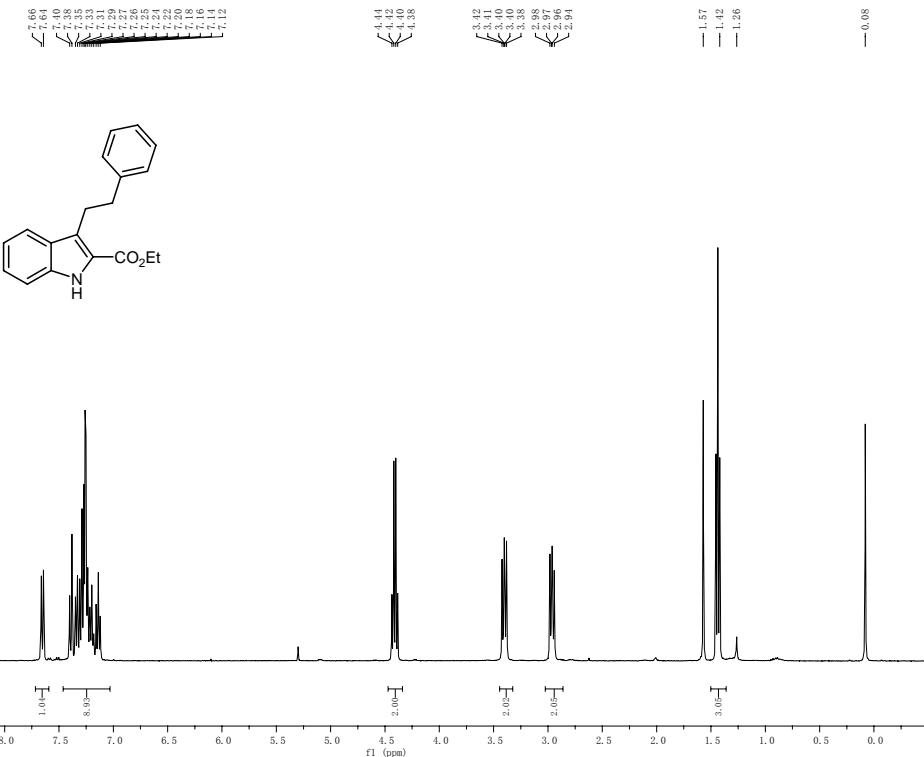








— 8.73



— 8.81

