

Supporting Information for

Direct Pd-catalyzed benzylation of highly electron-deficient perfluoroarenes

Shilu Fan, Chun-Yang He, and Xingang Zhang*

*Key Laboratory of Organofluorine Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences,
345 Lingling Road, Shanghai 200032, China
xgzhang@mail.sioc.ac.cn*

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General information: ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM300 and AM400 spectrometer. ^{19}F NMR was recorded on a Bruker AM300 spectrometer (CFCl_3 as outside standard and low field is positive). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm, and coupling constants (J) are in Hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. NMR yield was determined by ^{19}F NMR using benzotrifluoride as an internal standard before working up the reaction.

Materials: All reagents were used as received from commercial sources, unless specified otherwise, or prepared as described in the literature. All reagents were weighed and handled in air, and refilled with an inert atmosphere of Ar at room temperature. DMF were distilled under reduced pressure from CaH_2 . Toluene, Xylene, 1,4-Dioxane was distilled from sodium and benzophenone immediately before use. (4-(Chloromethyl)phenyl)(pyrrolidin-1-yl)methanone **2i** was prepared according to the literature procedure.¹

Screens for Benzylation of Pentafluorobenzene 1 with Benzyl chloride 2a (Table 1). To a septum capped 25 mL of sealed tube were added Pd catalyst (10 mol%), and ligand (20 mol%), base (1.2 equiv) under Ar, followed by solvent (1.0 mL) with stirring. Pentafluorobenzene (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and benzyl chloride (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were then added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated. After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and fluorobenzene (19 μL , 0.2 mmol) was added. The yield was determined by ^{19}F NMR before working up. If necessary, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with water and brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified with silica gel chromatography to provide pure product.

General Procedure for Benzylation of Pentafluorobenzene 1 (Table 2).

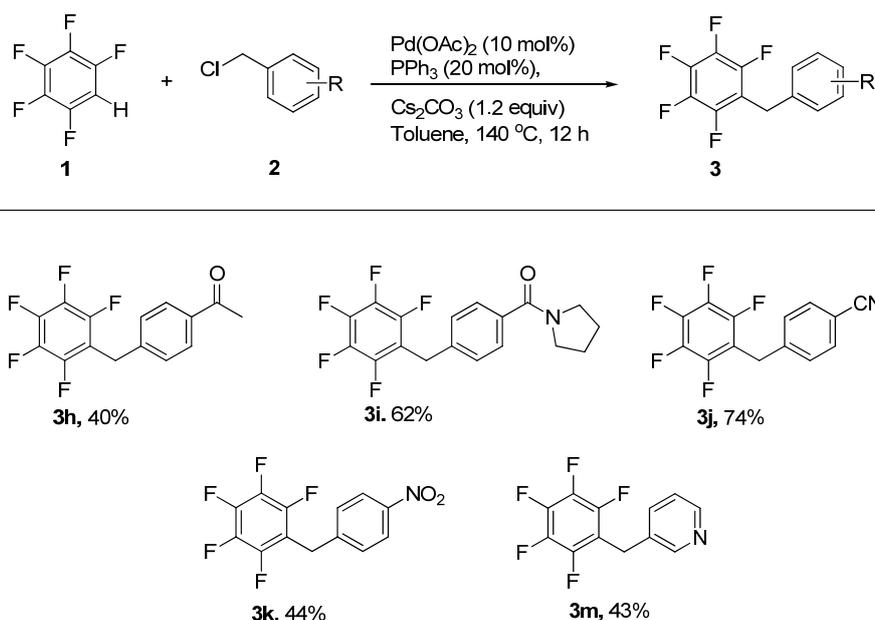
Method A: To a septum capped 25 mL of sealed tube were added $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10 mol%), and PPh_3 (20 mol%), Cs_2CO_3 (1.2 equiv) under Ar, followed by toluene (1.5

mL) with stirring. Pentafluorobenzene (1.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and benzyl chloride (0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were then added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated to 140 °C (oil bath). After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified with silica gel chromatography to provide pure product.

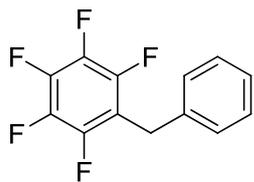
Method B: To a septum capped 25 mL of sealed tube were added Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol%), and PPh₃ (20 mol%), Cs₂CO₃ (2.4 equiv) under Ar, followed by toluene (2.5 mL) with stirring. Pentafluorobenzene (1.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv), benzyl chloride (0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and PivOH (1.2 equiv) were then added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated to 140 °C (oil bath). After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified with silica gel chromatography to provide pure product.

Note: For compounds **3h**, **3j** and **3m**, the reaction was quenched by water, extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated.

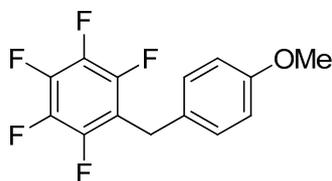
Table S1. Selected Results (3h-m) for Benzylation of Pentafluorobenzene 1 Using Method A^a



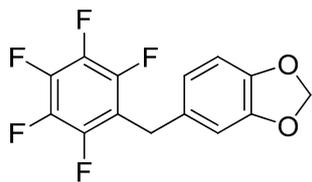
^aYield was determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard.



1-Benzyl-2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzene (3a). Method A. The product (142 mg, 92% yield) as a white solid was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). This compound is known.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32-7.23 (m, 5H), 4.01 (s, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -143.7 (dd, J = 20.9 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 2F), -157.5 (td, J = 20.9, J = 7.3, Hz, 1F), -162.8 (tm, J = 20.9 Hz, 2F).

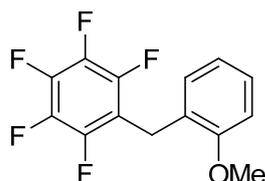


1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (3b). Method A. The product (162 mg, 94% yield) as a white solid was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). This compound is known.³ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5, 144.9 (dm, J = 245.2 Hz), 139.8 (dm, J = 250.5 Hz), 137.5 (dm, J = 250.4 Hz), 129.5, 129.4, 114.9 (m), 114.1, 55.1, 27.2. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -144.1 (dd, J = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -157.9 (t, J = 21.7 Hz, 1F), -162.9 (td, J = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2969, 1660, 1531, 1504, 1246 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): m/z (%) 289 (M⁺+H⁺), 288(M⁺, 100), 121, 77.



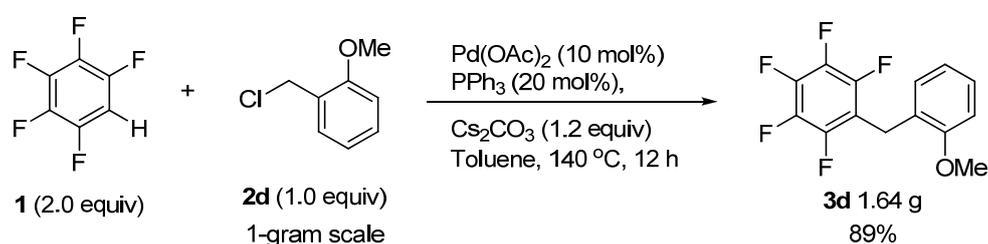
5-(Perfluorobenzyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3c). Method A. The product (145 mg, 80% yield) as a white solid (40 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 150:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.72 (s, 3H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 146.5, 144.8(dm, J =

247.7 Hz), 139.8(dm, $J = 251.8$ Hz), 137.5 (dm, $J = 252.6$ Hz), 131.1, 121.4, 114.5 (m), 108.7, 108.4, 101.1, 27.7. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -144.0 (dd, $J = 22.4$ Hz, 9.1 Hz, 2F), -157.5 (t, $J = 22.4$ Hz, 1F), -162.6 (td, $J = 22.4$ Hz, 9.1 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2989, 1655, 1521, 1503 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 302 (M^+ , 100), 244, 135. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_7\text{O}_2\text{F}_5$: 302.0366; Found: 302.0367.



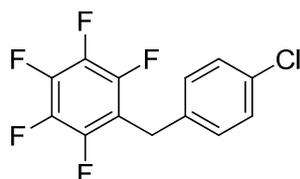
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(2-methoxybenzyl)benzene (3d). Method A. The product (147 mg, 89% yield) as a white solid (64 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26-6.84 (m, 4H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.2, 145.3 (dm, $J = 245.0$ Hz), 139.7 (dm, $J = 248.2$ Hz), 137.3 (dm, $J = 258.1$ Hz), 129.5, 128.2, 125.4, 120.4, 113.9 (m), 110.3, 55.2, 22.9. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -142.9 (dd, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -158.1 (t, $J = 19.8$ Hz, 1F), -163.6 (td, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 5.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2976, 1656, 1520, 1505 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 288 (M^+ , 100), 273, 237. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{OF}_5$: 288.0574; Found: 288.0570.

1-g-Scale Synthesis of 3d.

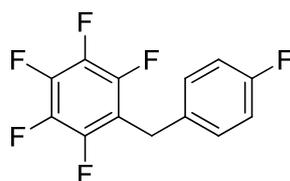


To a septum capped 100 mL of sealed tube were added $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (143 mg, 0.64 mmol, 10 mol%), and PPh_3 (335 mg, 1.28 mmol, 20 mol%), Cs_2CO_3 (2.5 g, 7.67 mmol, 1.2 equiv) under Ar, followed by toluene (15 mL) with stirring. Pentafluorobenzene (1.42 mL, 12.8 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and benzyl chloride (1g, 6.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were then

added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated to 140 °C (oil bath). After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The product (1.64 g, 89% yield) as a white solid (64 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)).

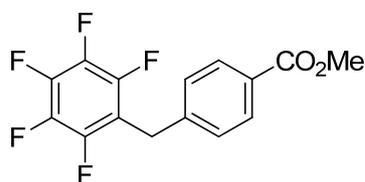


1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzene (3e). Method A. The product (154 mg, 88% yield) as a white solid (42 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9 (dm, *J* = 251.7 Hz), 140.0 (dm, *J* = 252.5 Hz), 137.5 (dm, *J* = 246.8 Hz), 135.0, 132.9, 130.1, 128.9, 113.9 (m), 27.5. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -143.7 (dd, *J* = 21.1 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 2F), -156.9 (t, *J* = 18.9 Hz, 1F), -162.4 (td, *J* = 21.1 Hz, 8.1 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2944, 1655, 1505 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 425 (M⁺ + H⁺), 424 (M⁺), 257 (100), 237. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₃H₆F₅Cl: 292.0078; Found: 292.0081.

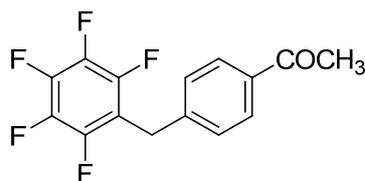


1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-fluorobenzyl)benzene (3f). Method A. The product (144 mg, 87% yield) as colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.8 (d, *J* = 244.0 Hz), 144.9 (dm, *J* = 242.3 Hz), 140.1 (dm, *J* = 250.7 Hz), 137.6 (dm, *J* = 250.7 Hz), 133.1, 129.9 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 115.6 (d, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 114.3, 27.3. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.1 (s, 1F), -144.0 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 2F), -157.2 (t, *J*

= 21.7 Hz, 1F), -162.6 (td, $J = 18.6$ Hz, 5.6 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 1658, 1521, 1161 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 277 ($M^+ + H^+$), 276 (M^+ , 100), 255, 181, 109. HRMS: Calculated for $C_{13}H_6F_6$: 276.0374; Found: 276.0378.

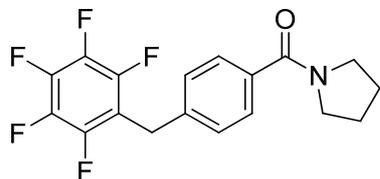


Methyl 4-(perfluorobenzyl)benzoate (3g). Method A. The product (161 mg, 85% yield) as a white solid (76 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 150:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.6, 146.4 (dm, $J = 242.8$ Hz), 142.4, 140.0 (dm, $J = 252.6$ Hz), 137.5 (dm, $J = 252.6$ Hz), 130.1, 128.9, 128.3, 113.5 (m), 52.1, 28.0. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -143.4 (dd, $J = 23.0$ Hz, 8.2 Hz, 2F), -156.6 (t, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 1F), -162.3 (td, $J = 23.0$ Hz, 8.2 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2958, 1728, 1577 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 317 ($M^+ + H^+$), 316 (M^+), 285 (100), 237. HRMS: Calculated for $C_{15}H_9O_2F_5$: 316.0523; Found: 316.0522.

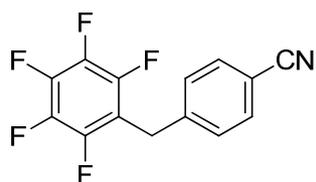


1-(4-(perfluorobenzyl)phenyl)ethanone (3h). Method B. The product (167 mg, 93% yield) as a white solid (81 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 80:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 144.9 (dm, $J = 243.4$ Hz), 142.6, 140.0 (dm, $J = 252.7$ Hz), 137.5 (dm, $J = 252.1$ Hz), 135.8, 128.8, 128.5, 113.3 (m), 28.0, 26.5. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -143.5 (dd, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -156.7 (t, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 1F), -162.4 (td, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2921, 1681, 1529 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%)

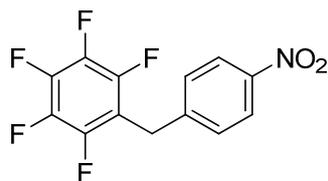
301 ($M^+ + H^+$), 300 (M^+), 285 (100). HRMS: Calculated for $C_{15}H_9OF_5$: 300.0574;
Found: 300.0573.



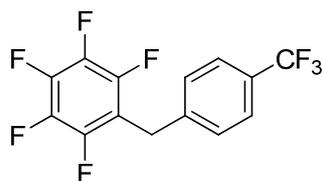
(4-(Perfluorobenzyl)phenyl)(pyrrolidin-1-yl)methanone (3i). Method A. The product (198 mg, 93% yield) as a white solid (103 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 4:1). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.47 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.52 (br, 4H), 1.91 (s, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 169.0, 144.7 (dm, $J = 252.8$ Hz), 139.8 (dm, $J = 258.0$ Hz), 138.9, 137.3 (dm, $J = 263.1$ Hz), 135.8, 128.0, 127.5, 113.8 (m), 49.4, 46.0, 27.8, 26.2, 24.3. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -143.5 (dd, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -156.9 (t, $J = 19.8$ Hz, 1F), -162.4 (td, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2951, 1655, 1501 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 356 ($M^+ + H^+$), 355 (M^+), 285 (100), 237. HRMS: Calculated for $C_{18}H_{14}NOF_5$: 355.0996; Found: 355.0991.



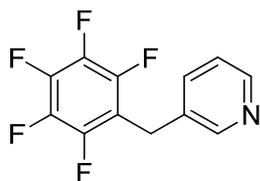
4-(Perfluorobenzyl)benzonitrile (3j). Method B. The product (139 mg, 82% yield) as a white solid (63 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 100:1). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.10 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 144.8 (dm, $J = 242.8$ Hz), 142.6, 140.2 (dm, $J = 253.3$ Hz), 137.5 (dm, $J = 253.1$ Hz), 132.6, 129.1, 118.5, 112.7 (m), 111.0, 28.1. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -143.4 (dd, $J = 24.0$ Hz, 9.9 Hz, 2F), -156.0 (m, 1F), -161.9 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2230, 1655, 1523 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 284 ($M^+ + H^+$), 283 (M^+ , 100), 181. HRMS: Calculated for $C_{14}H_6NF_5$: 283.0420; Found: 283.0423.



1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-nitrobenzyl)benzene (3k). Method B. The product (134 mg, 74% yield) as a white solid (108 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 100:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.0, 144.9 (dm, *J* = 250.3 Hz), 140.3 (dm, *J* = 254.1 Hz), 137.6 (dm, *J* = 253.3 Hz), 129.2, 124.4, 112.6 (m), 27.9. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -143.3 (dd, *J* = 20.6 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 2F), -155.6 (t, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1F), -161.7 (td, *J* = 20.6 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 3113, 1608, 1506 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 304 (M⁺ + H⁺), 303 (M⁺), 237 (100), 188. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₃H₆NO₂F₅: 303.0319; Found: 303.0320.



1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)benzene (3l). Method B. The product (177 mg, 91% yield) as colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether (100%)). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0 (dm, *J* = 246.4 Hz), 141.4, 140.2 (dm, *J* = 252.9 Hz), 137.6 (dm, *J* = 252.7 Hz), 129.4 (q, *J* = 32.6 Hz), 128.7, 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J* = 271.7 Hz), 113.4 (m), 27.9. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.1 (s, 3F), -143.6 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -156.5 (t, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 1F), -162.2 (td, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2936, 1574, 1521 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 327 (M⁺ + H⁺), 326 (M⁺), 257 (100), 255, 237. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₄H₆F₈: 326.0342; Found: 326.0344.

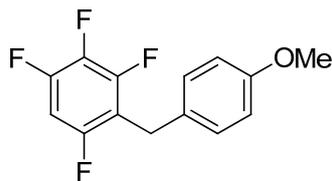


3-(Perfluorobenzyl)pyridine (3m). Method B. The product (117 mg, 75% yield) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl acetate = 8:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.56-8.49 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dd, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.6, 148.4, 144.8 (dm, $J = 246.3$ Hz), 140.1 (dm, $J = 253.0$ Hz), 137.7 (dm, $J = 252.7$ Hz), 135.8, 133.0, 123.6, 113.1 (m), 25.4. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -143.6 (dd, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -156.5 (t, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 1F), -162.2 (td, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2946, 1656, 1506 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 260 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 259 (M^+ , 100), 240. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_6\text{NF}_5$: 259.0420; Found: 259.0422.

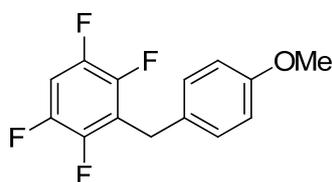
General Procedure for Benzylation of Fluoroarenes (Table 3).

To a septum capped 25 mL of sealed tube were added $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10 mol%), and PPh_3 (20 mol%), Cs_2CO_3 (2.4 equiv) under Ar, followed by toluene (2.5 mL) with stirring. Fluoroarene (2.0-3.0 equiv), benzyl chloride (0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and PivOH (1.2 equiv) were then added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated to 140 $^\circ\text{C}$ (oil bath). After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl and brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified with silica gel chromatography to provide pure product.

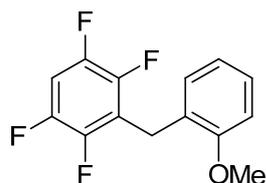
Note: For compound **5h**, the reaction was quenched by water, extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated.



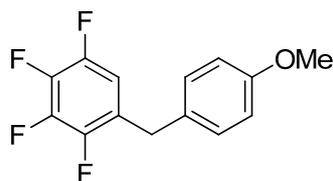
1,2,3,5-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5a). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (138 mg, 85% yield) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.16 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.81-6.72 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.3, 155.1 (dm, $J = 243.4$ Hz), 149.7 (dm, $J = 246.8$ Hz), 149.1 (dm, $J = 249.8$ Hz), 137.2 (dm, $J = 252.4$ Hz), 130.2, 129.3, 114.8 (m), 114.0, 100.6 (m), 55.2, 27.2. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -119.4 (t, $J = 9.9$ Hz, 1F), -135.7 (dm, $J = 19.8$ Hz, 1F), -136.6 (d, $J = 20.0$ Hz, 1F), -165.6 (m, 1F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2937, 1645, 1514, 1504 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 271($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 270 (M^+ , 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_4$: 270.0668; Found: 270.0669.



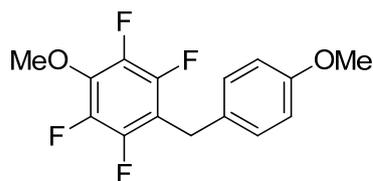
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5b). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (151 mg, 93% yield) as a white solid (65 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.95-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.4, 145.8 (dm, $J = 246.6$ Hz), 144.5(dm, $J = 243.1$ Hz), 129.7, 129.5, 120.8 (m), 114.0, 103.9 (m), 55.1, 27.8. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -139.9 (m, 2F), -144.6 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2968, 1609, 1513 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 271 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 270 (M^+ , 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_4$: 270.0668; Found: 270.0670.



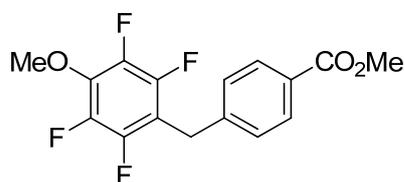
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-(2-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5c). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (135 mg, 83% yield) as a white solid (85 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.23 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.85 (m, 3 H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.1, 145.7 (dm, $J = 246.4$ Hz), 145.0 (dm, $J = 245.5$ Hz), 129.4, 128.1, 125.6, 120.3, 119.7 (m), 110.2, 103.8 (m), 55.2, 23.4. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -140.6 (m 2F), -145.3 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2961, 1600, 1502 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 271($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 270 (M^+ , 100), 255. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_4$: 270.0668; Found: 270.0667.



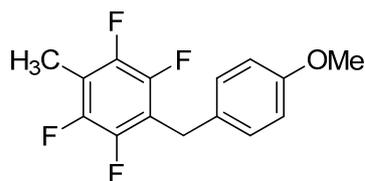
1,2,3,4-Tetrafluoro-5-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5d). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (111 mg, 69% yield) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.11 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.70-6.67 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.5, 146.8 (dm, $J = 254.8$ Hz), 145.4 (dm, $J = 242.9$ Hz), 140.6 (dm, $J = 252.4$ Hz), 138.8 (dm, $J = 251.2$ Hz), 129.8, 125.1 (m), 114.1, 111.3 (m), 55.1, 38.2. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -140.3 (m, 1F), -143.9 (m, 1F), -156.5 (t, $J = 20.3$ Hz, 1F), -159.3 (m, 1F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2937, 1650, 1513 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 271($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 270 (M^+ , 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{OF}_4$: 270.0668; Found: 270.0663.



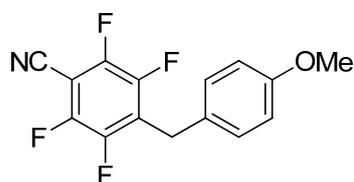
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-methoxy-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5e). 2.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (176 mg, 98% yield) as a white solid (47 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.4, 145.0 (dm, *J* = 238.3 Hz), 141.0 (dm, *J* = 245.4 Hz), 136.6 (m), 130.1, 129.4, 114.0, 113.3 (m), 62.1, 55.2, 27.2. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -145.8 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 10.6 Hz, 2F), -158.6 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 10.6 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2968, 1658, 1513 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 301 (M⁺ + H⁺), 300 (M⁺, 100), 269. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₅H₁₂O₂F₄: 300.0773; Found: 300.0771.



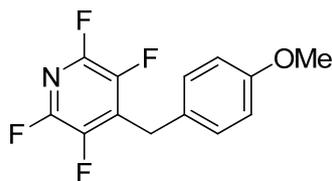
Methyl 4-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-methoxybenzyl)benzoate (5f). 2.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (184 mg, 94% yield) as a white solid (86 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 4.05 (s, 5H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 145.0 (dm, *J* = 244.6 Hz), 143.1, 140.8 (dm, *J* = 246.9 Hz), 137.0 (m), 129.9, 128.6, 128.3, 111.6 (m), 62.0, 52.0, 28.0. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -145.3 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F), -158.3 (dd, *J* = 21.7 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2957, 1728, 1505 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 329(M⁺ + H⁺), 328(M⁺), 297(100), 269. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₆H₁₂O₃F₄: 328.0723; Found: 328.0728.



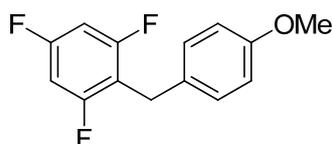
1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-6-methylbenzene (5g). 2.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (122 mg, 72% yield) as a white solid (70 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 200:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.96 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.3, 144.9 (dm, *J* = 242.4 Hz), 144.4(dm, *J* = 242.3 Hz), 130.2, 129.4, 117.0 (m), 114.0, 113.9 (m), 55.2, 27.6, 7.4. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -144.8 (dd, *J* = 22.2 Hz, 10.2 Hz, 2F), -146.2 (dd, *J* = 22.2 Hz, 12.1 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2957, 1513, 1486 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 285 (M⁺ + H⁺), 284 (M⁺, 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₅H₁₂OF₄: 284.0824; Found: 284.0814.



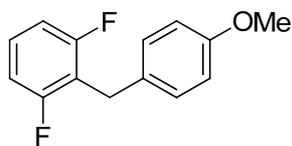
2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzonitrile (5h). 2.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (90 mg, 51% yield) as a white solid (111 °C) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 147.1 (dm, *J* = 251.6 Hz), 144.5 (dm, *J* = 234.9 Hz), 143.3 (m), 129.6, 127.9, 127.4 (m), 107.5, 55.2, 28.4. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -133.0 (m, 2F), -140.6 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{\max} 2943, 2246, 1656 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) 296(M⁺ + H⁺), 296 (M⁺, 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for C₁₅H₉NOF₄: 295.0620; Found: 295.0622.



2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)pyridine (5i). 2.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (151 mg, 93% yield) as a pale yellow oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.21 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.8, 144.1 (dm, $J = 244.2$ Hz), 140.4 (dm, $J = 256.3$ Hz), 134.2 (m), 129.6, 127.6, 114.3, 55.1, 28.5. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -91.7 (m, 2F), -145.3 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2938, 1647, 1513 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 272($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 271(M^+ , 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{NOF}_4$: 271.0620; Found: 271.0619.



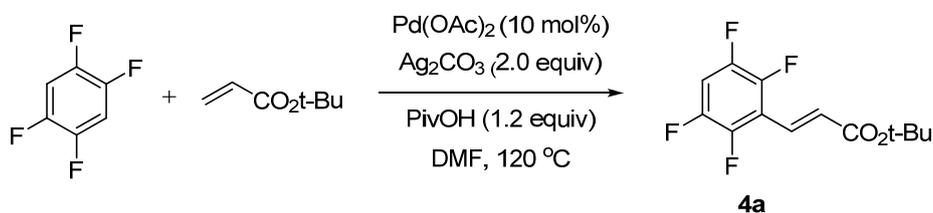
1,3,5-Trifluoro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5j). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used. The product (110 mg, 73% yield) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.16 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.64 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.2 (dm, $J = 249.6$ Hz), 158.1, 131.0, 129.3, 113.9, 100.0 (m), 55.2, 26.9. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -111.4 (m, 1F), -112.8 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2937, 1660, 1513 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 253 ($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 252 (M^+ , 100), 221. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{OF}_3$: 252.0762; Found: 252.0760.



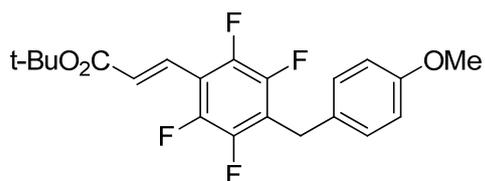
1,3-Difluoro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5k). 3.0 equiv of fluoroarene was used.

The product (67 mg, 48% yield) along with **5k'** (4%) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.19 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.14-7.09 (m, 1 H), 6.87-6.78 (m, 4 H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.3 (dd, $J = 245.4$ Hz, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 158.1, 131.3, 129.4, 127.7 (m), 117.2 (m), 113.8, 111.0(m), 55.1, 27.2. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -115.7 (m, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2935, 1623, 1563 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 235($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 234(M, 100), 121. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{OF}_2$: 234.0856; Found: 234.0855.

Synthesis of **4a**



To a septum capped 25 mL of sealed tube were added $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10 mol%) and Ag_2CO_3 (2.0 equiv) under N_2 , followed by DMF (2.4 mL) and PivOH (1.2 equiv) with stirring. 1,2,3,5-tetrafluorobenzene (4.0 equiv) and tert-butyl acrylate (0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added subsequently. The sealed tube was screw capped and heated to $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (oil bath). After stirring for 18-24 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl , saturated NaHCO_3 and brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated. The product (109 mg, 66% yield) was purified with silica gel chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 150:1). This compound is known.⁴



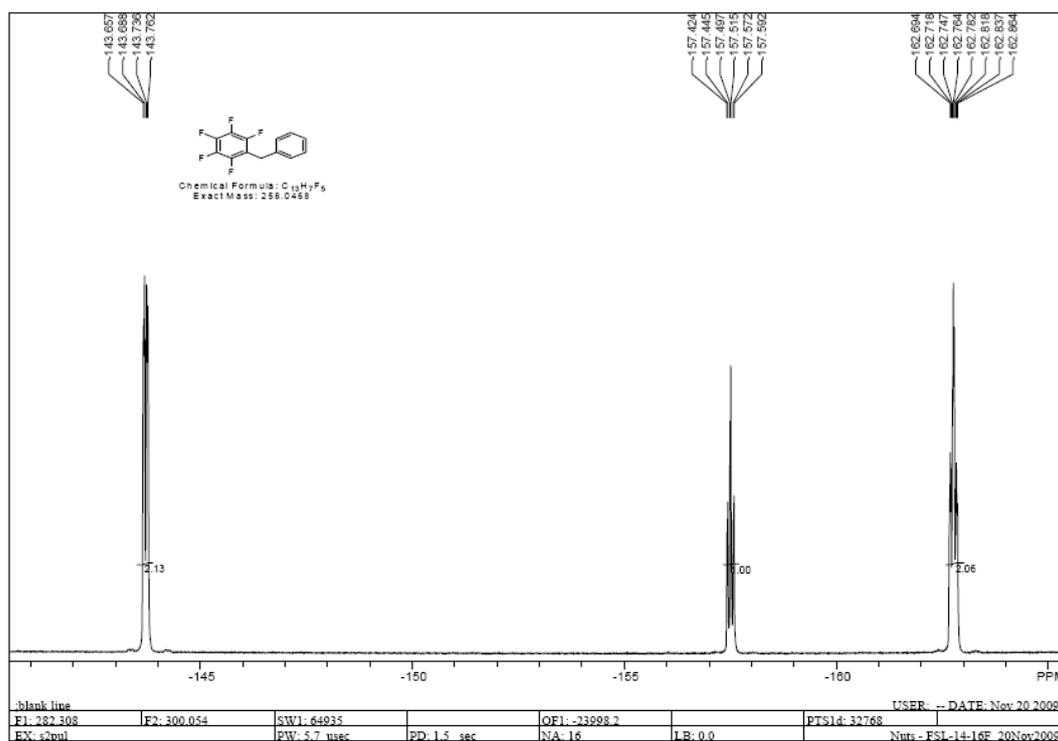
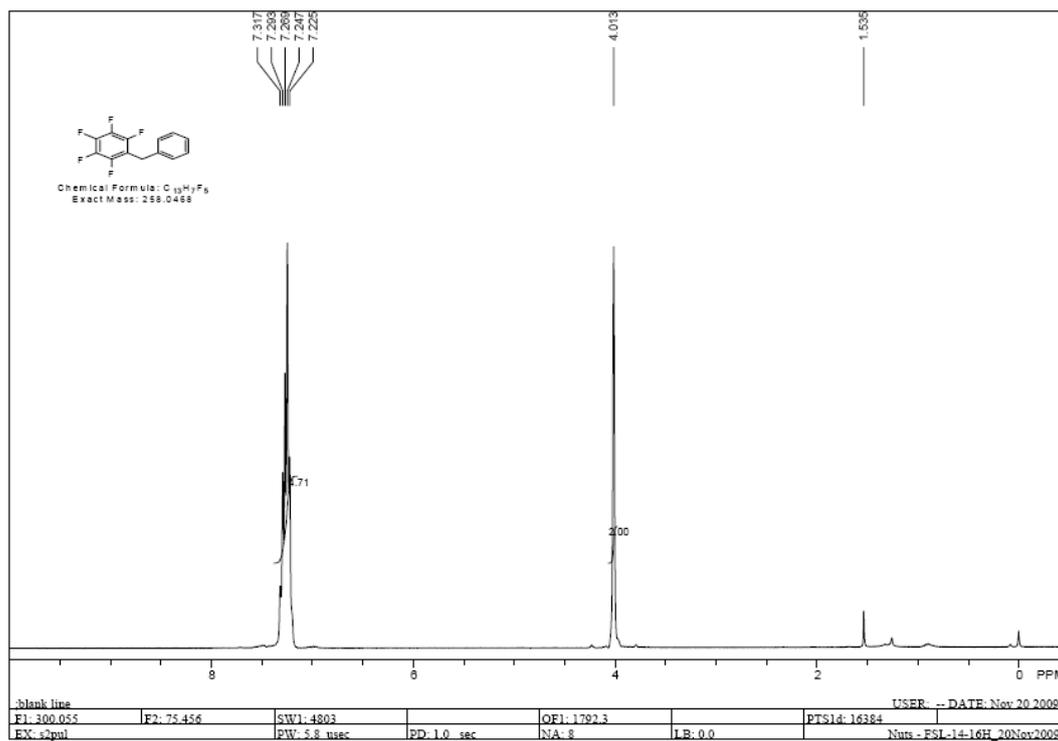
(E)-tert-butyl 3-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)phenyl)acrylate (5l). The product (174 mg, 73% yield) as a colorless oil was purified with silica gel

chromatography (Petroleum ether /Ethyl ether = 250:1). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.67 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1 H), 4.00 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.5, 158.4, 145.0 (dm, $J = 253.3$ Hz), 144.6 (dm, $J = 244.9$ Hz), 129.4, 129.2, 128.1, 127.5 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 121.1 (t, $J = 18.7$ Hz), 114.0, 112.4 (t, $J = 13.4$ Hz), 81.2, 55.1, 27.9. ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -141.3 (m, 2F), -144.7 (dd, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 13.8 Hz, 2F). IR (thin film): ν_{max} 2978, 1714, 1513 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z (%) 397($\text{M}^+ + \text{H}^+$), 396 (M^+), 340 (100), 323. HRMS: Calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{F}_4$: 396.1349; Found: 396.1359.

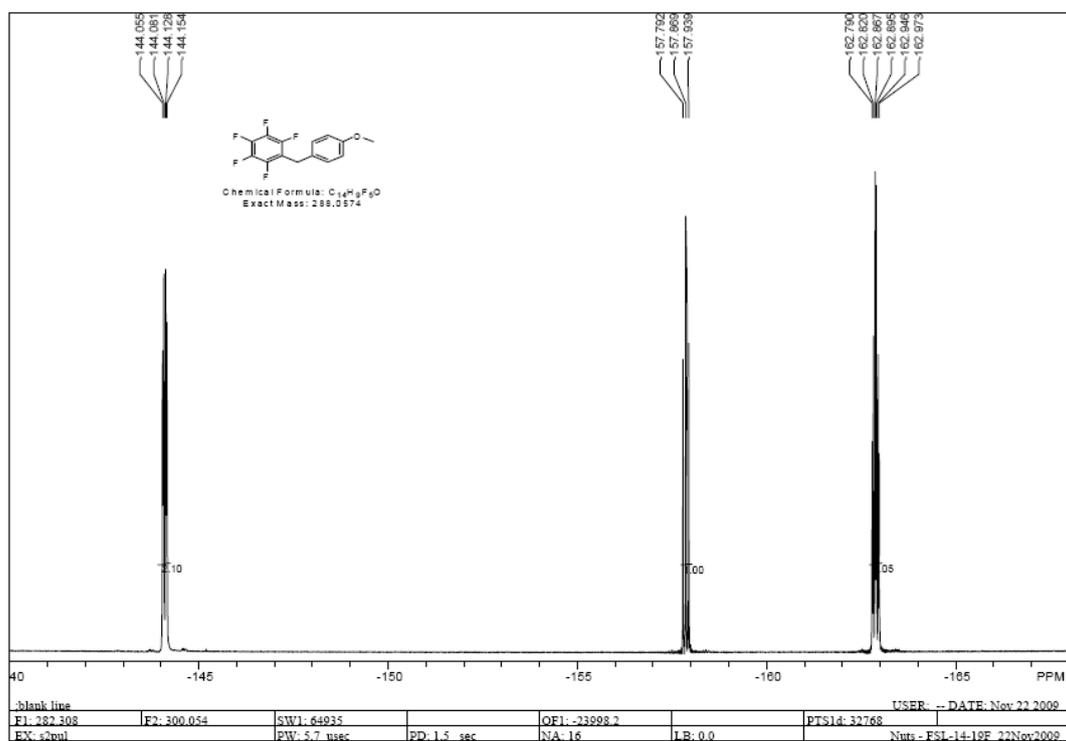
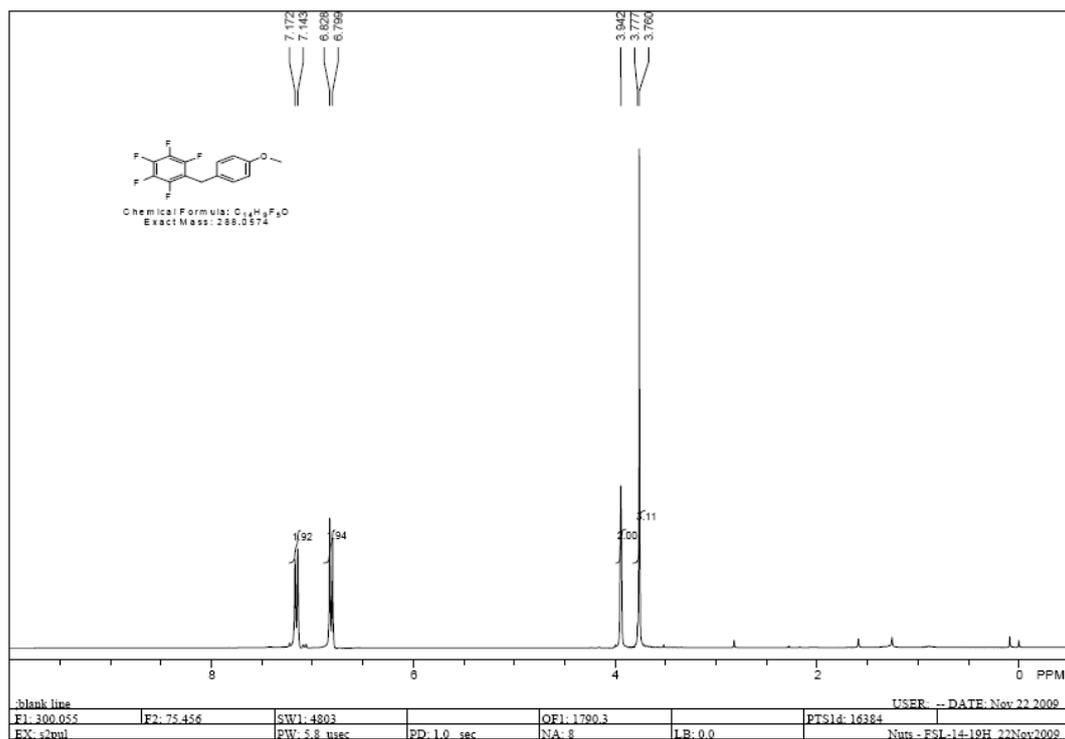
References:

- (1) Stoianova, D. S.; Yao, L.; Rolfe, A.; Samarakoon, T.; Hanson, P. R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 4553.
- (2) Inaba, S.; Rieke, R. D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 1373.
- (3) Park, S. Y.; Kang, M.; Yie, J. E.; Kim, J. M.; Lee, I.-M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2005**, *46*, 2849.
- (4) Zhang, X.; Fan, S.; He, C.-H.; Wan, X.; Min, Q.-Q.; Yang, J.; Jiang, Z.-X. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 4506.

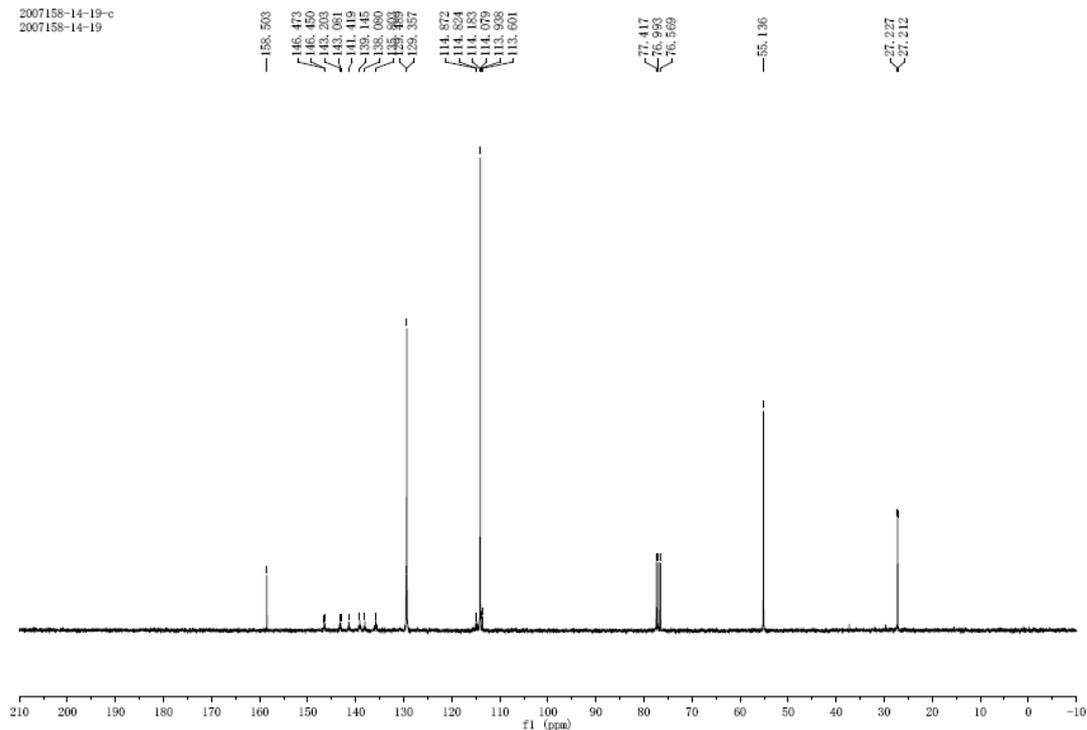
1-Benzyl-2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzene (3a)



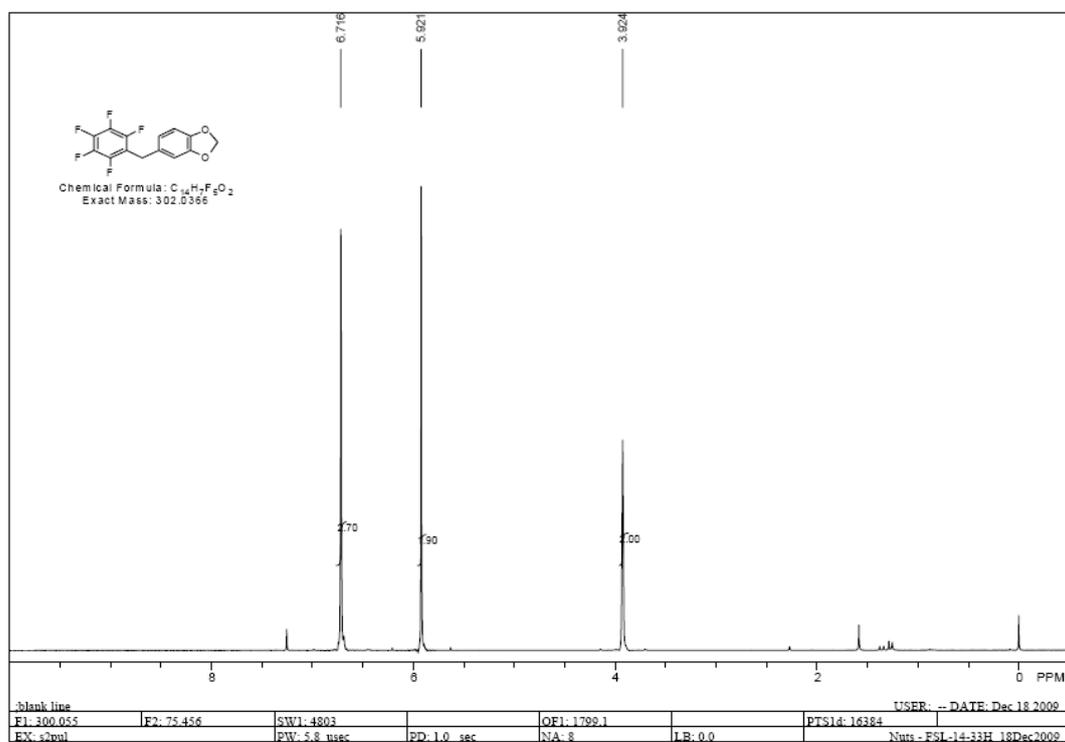
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (3b)

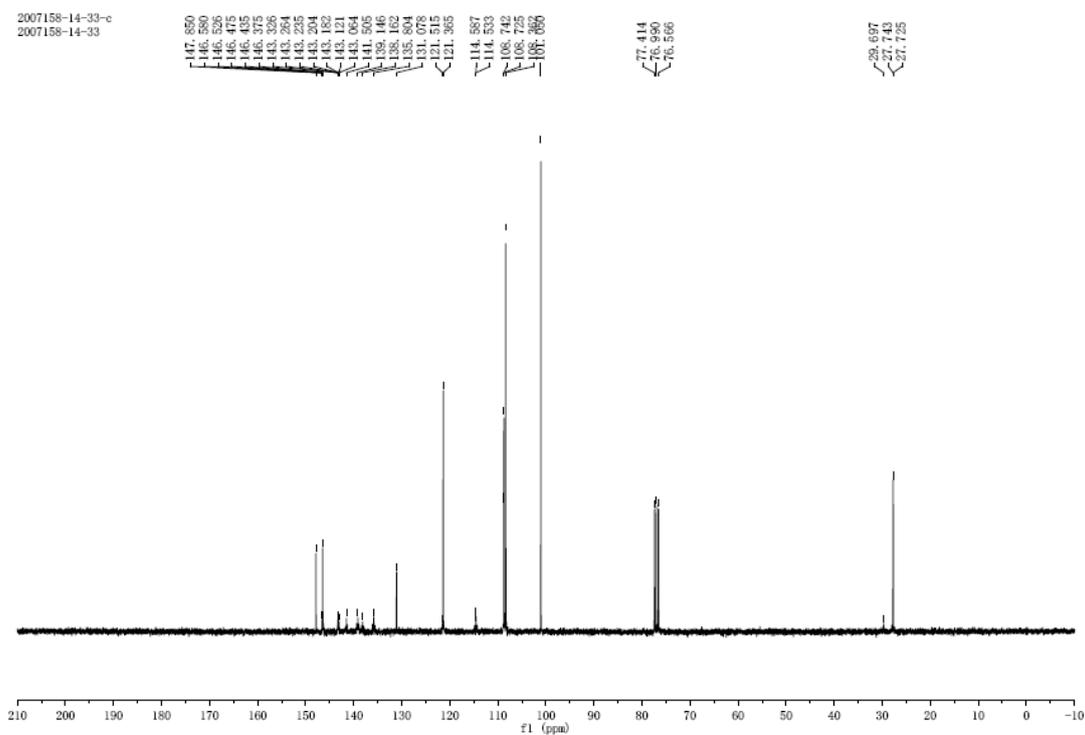
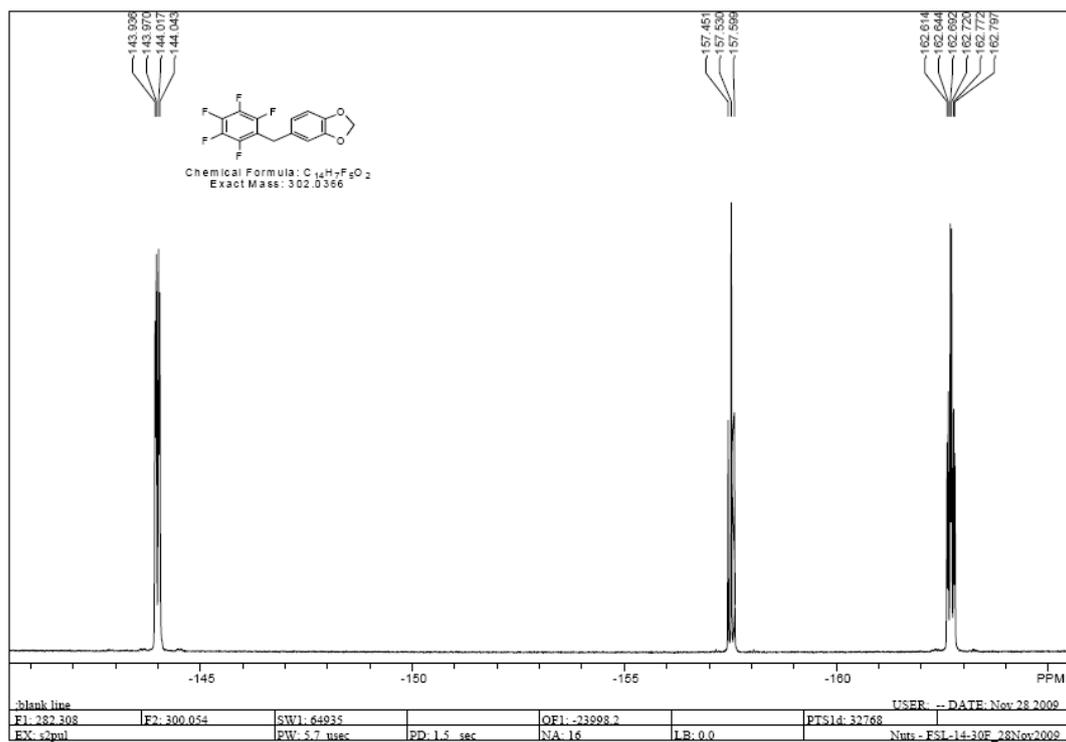


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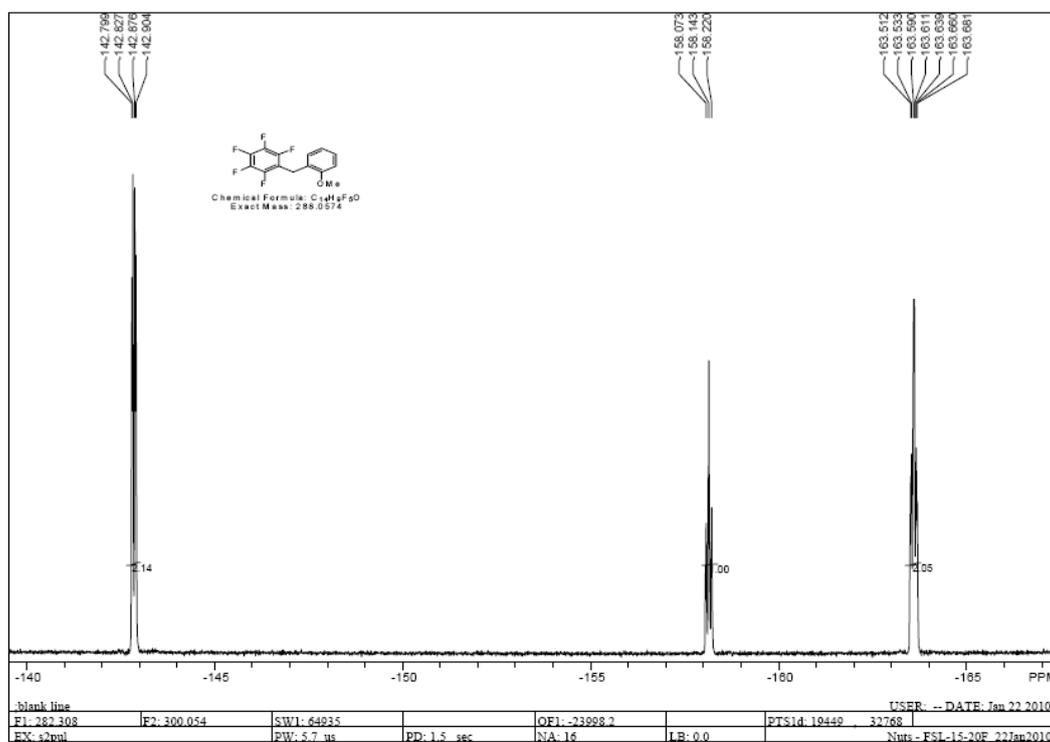


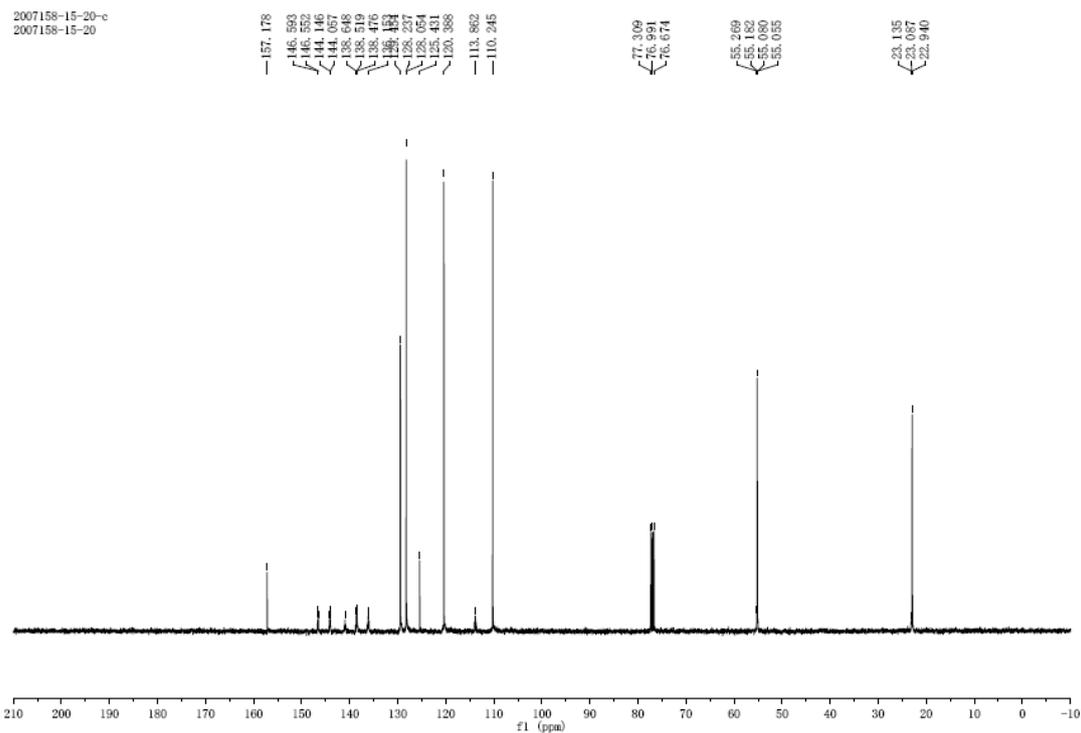
5-(Perfluorobenzyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3c)



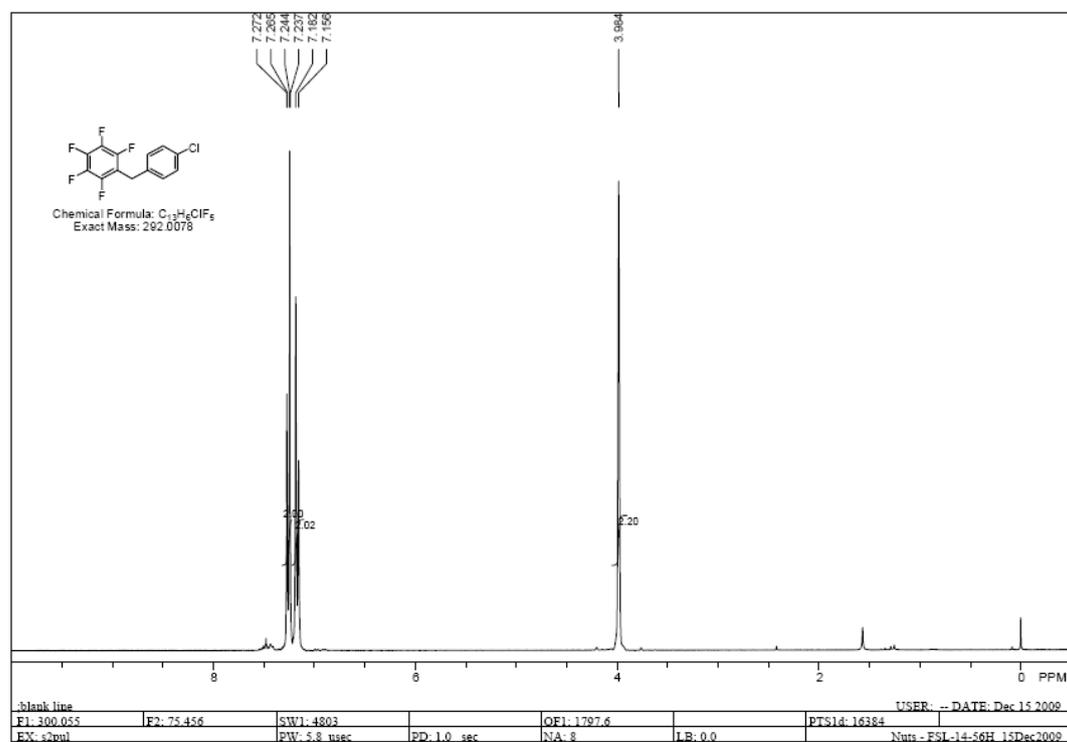


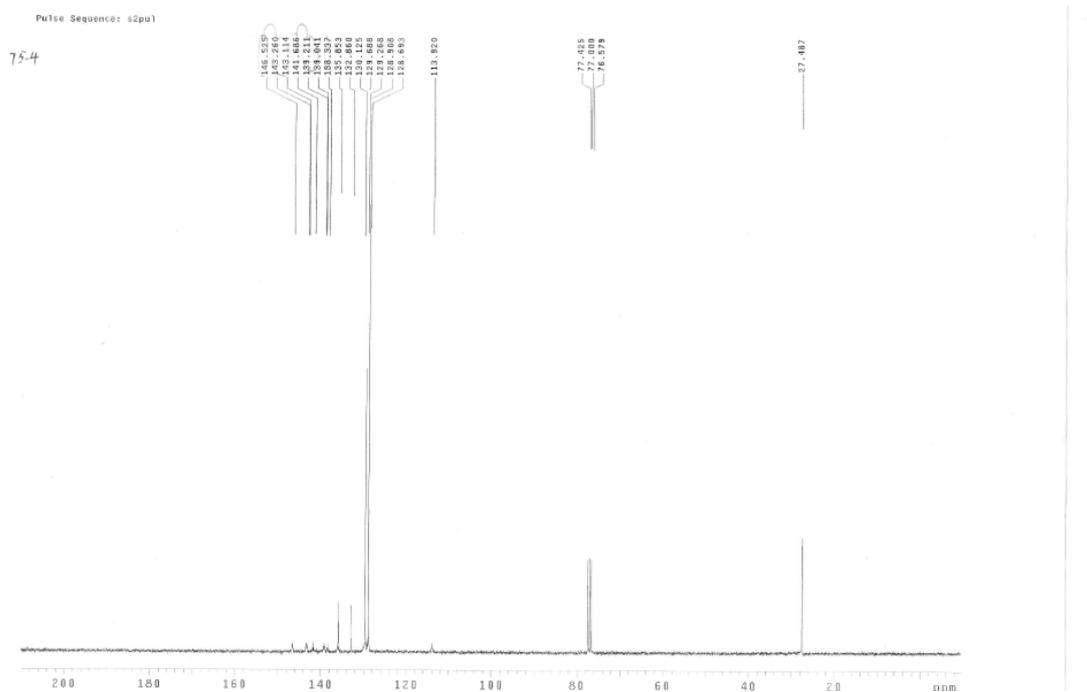
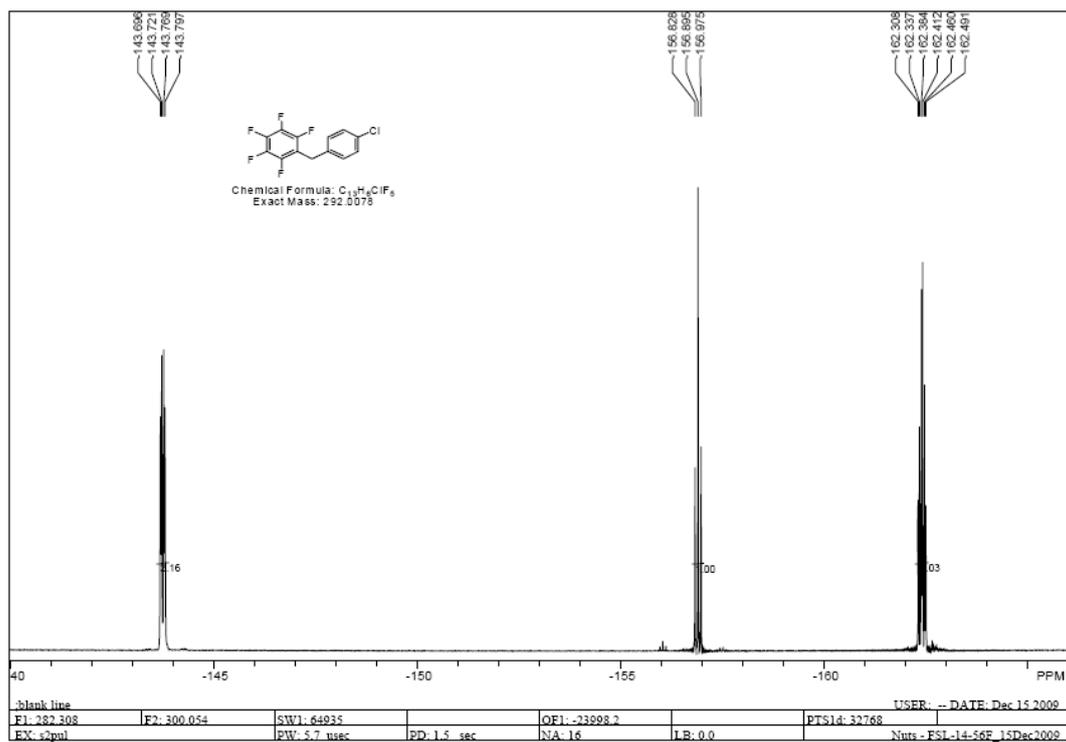
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(2-methoxybenzyl)benzene (3d)



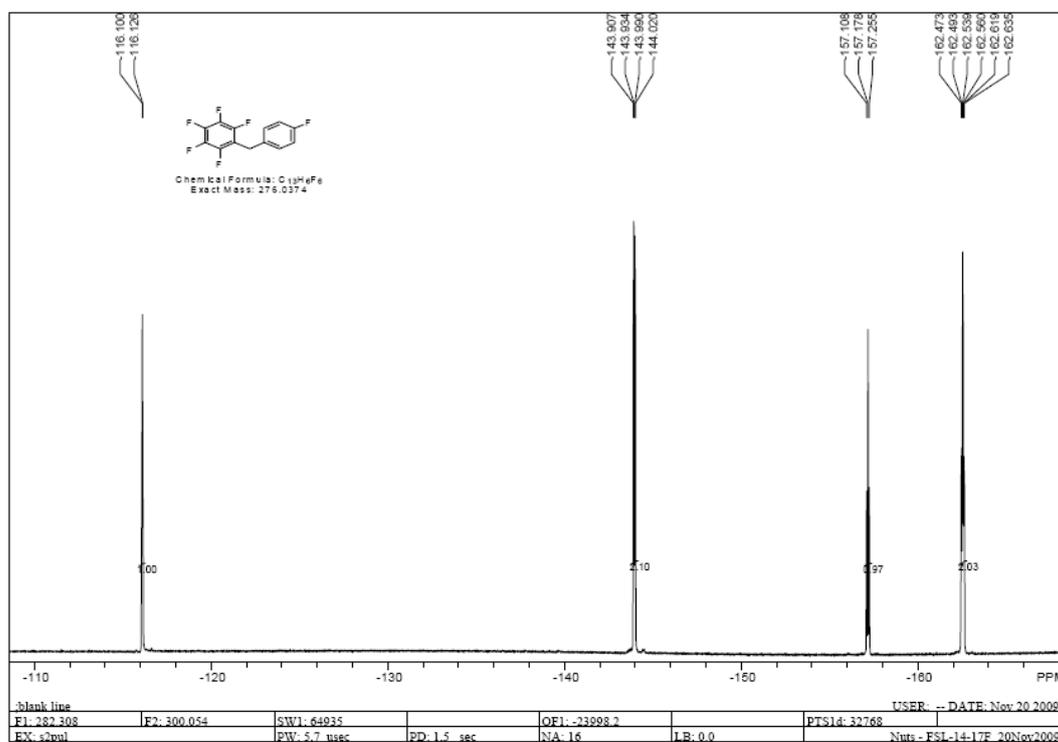
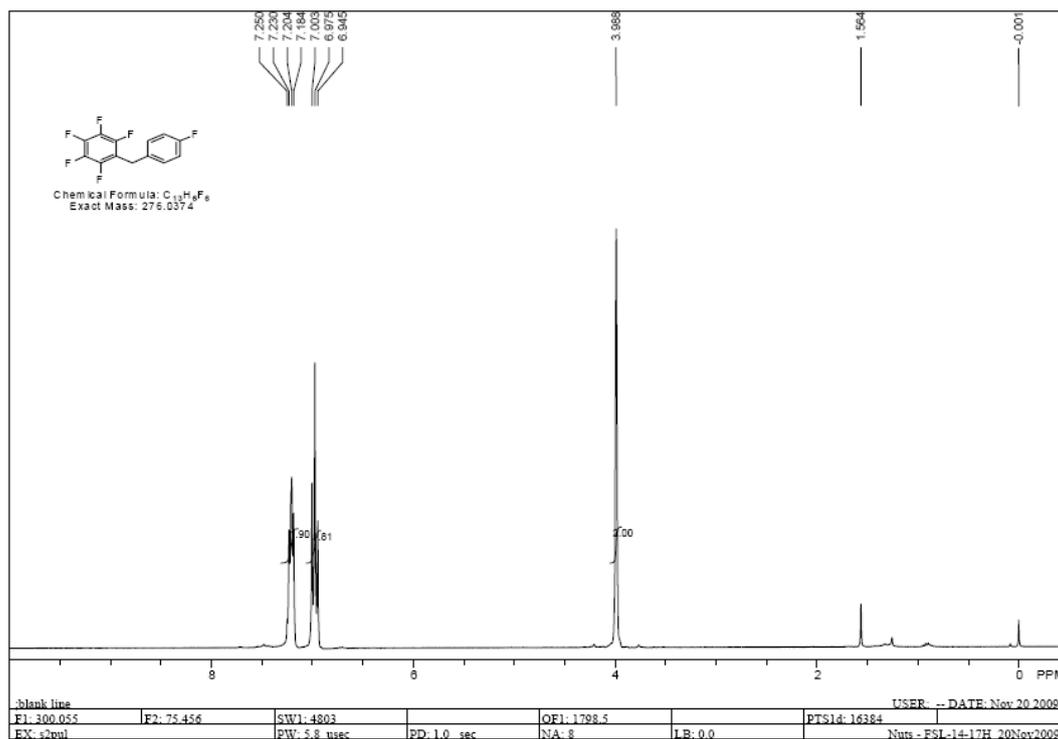


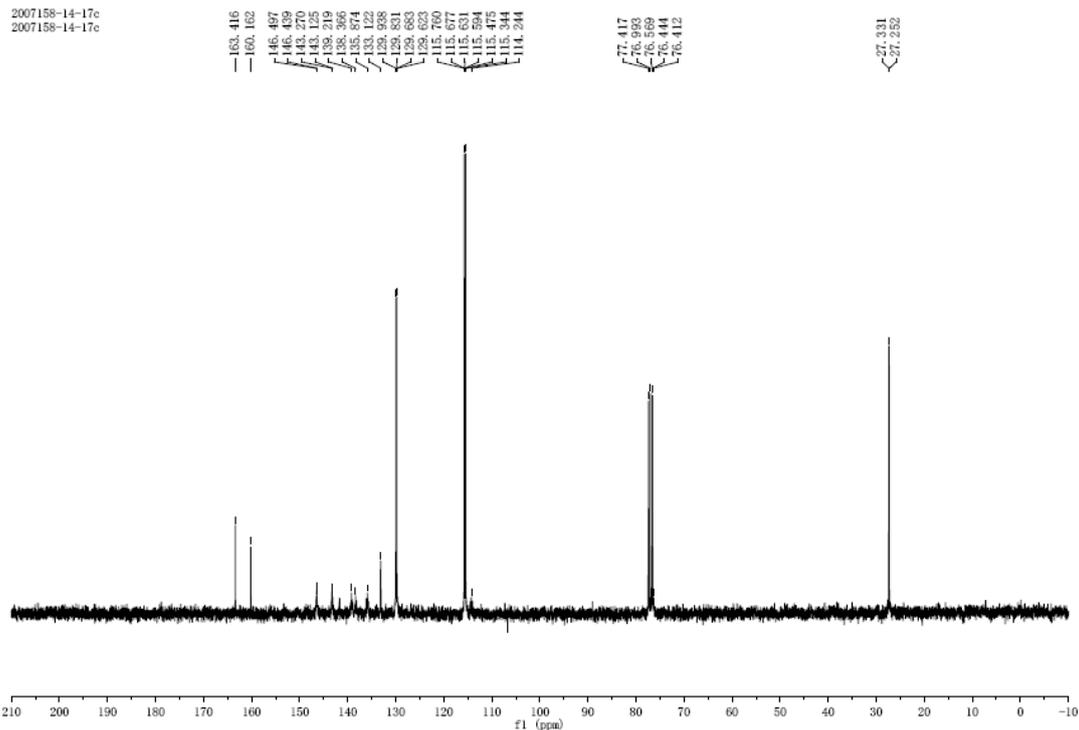
1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzene (3e)



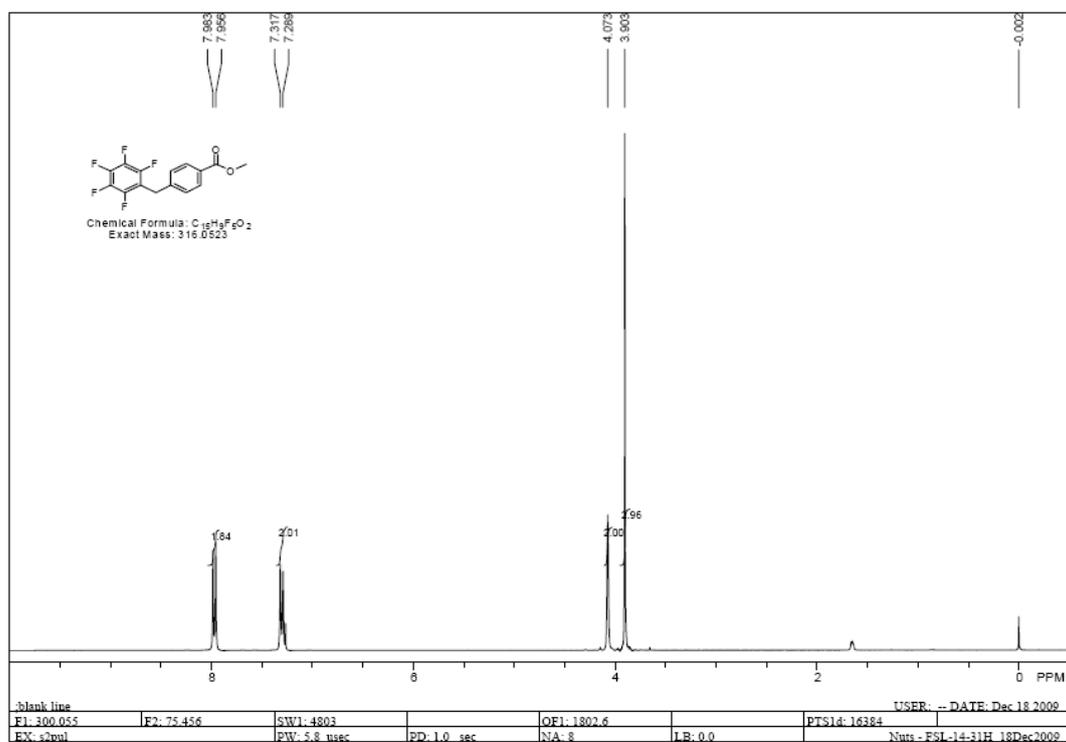


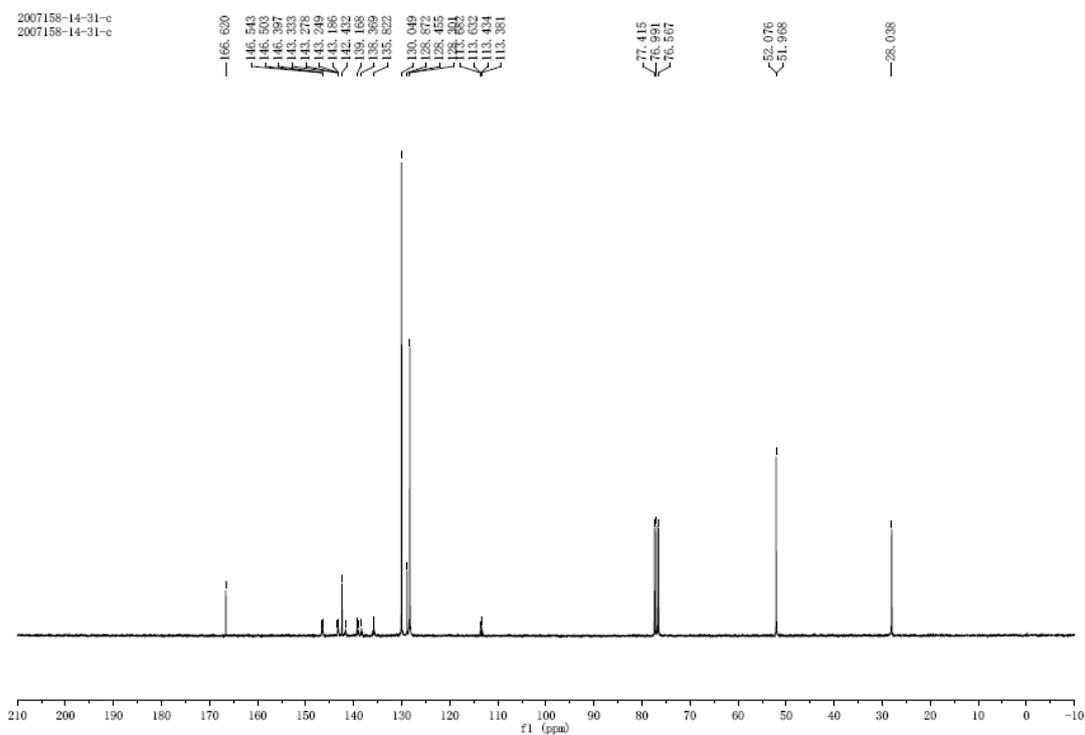
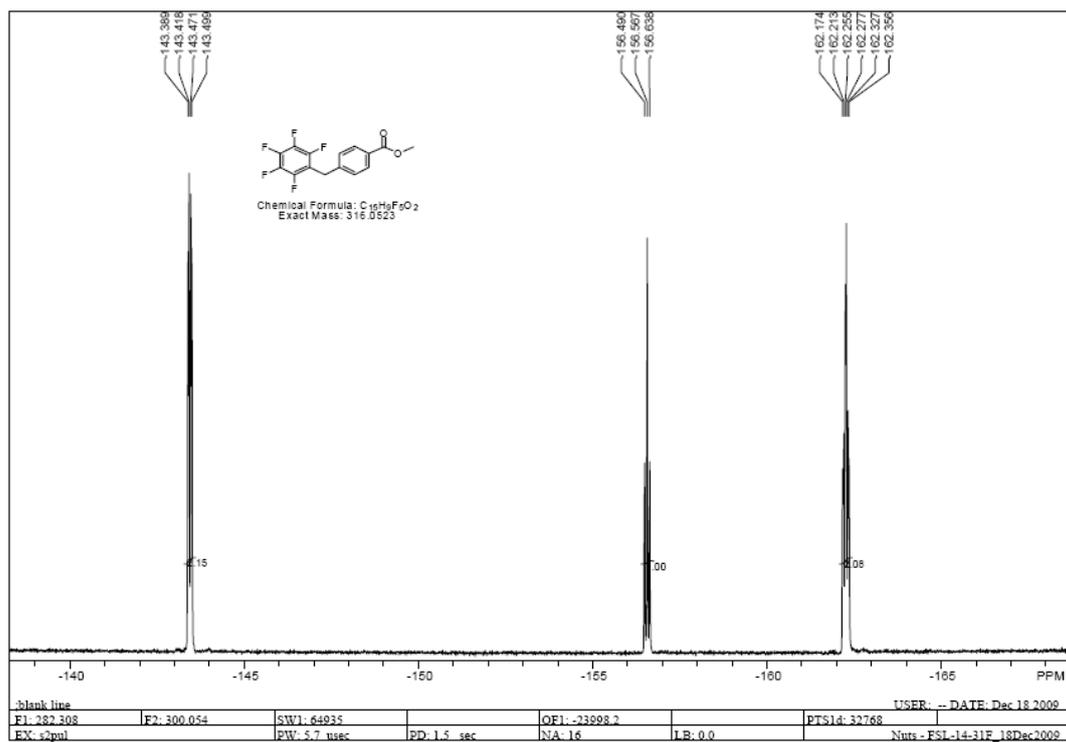
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-fluorobenzyl)benzene (3f)



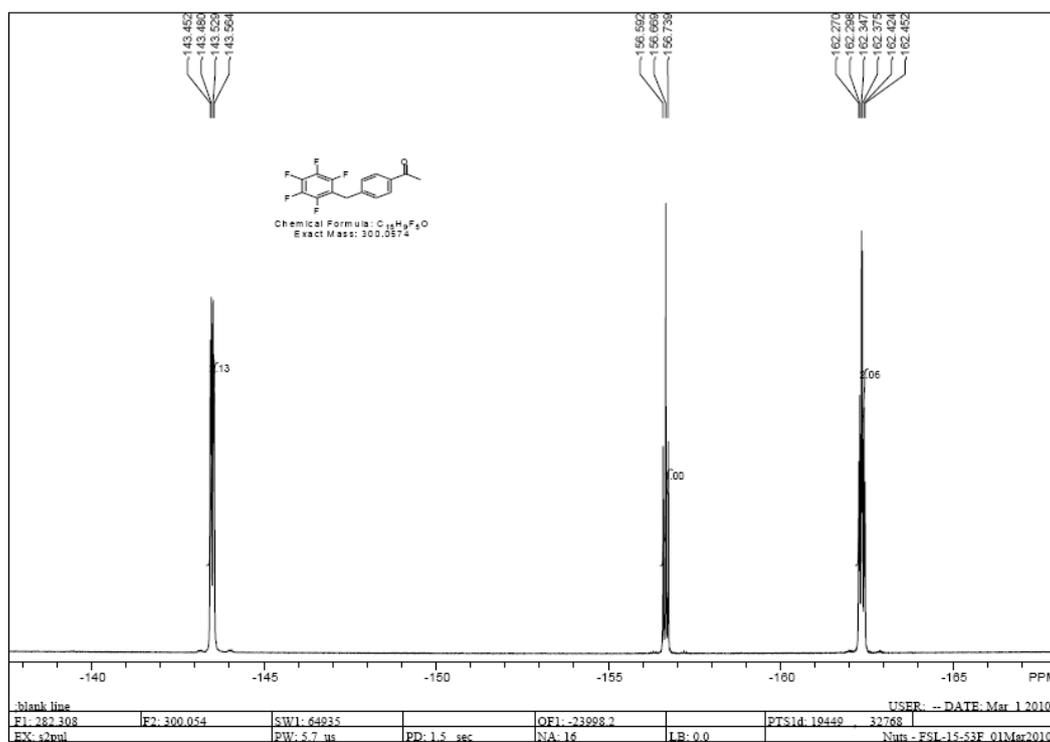
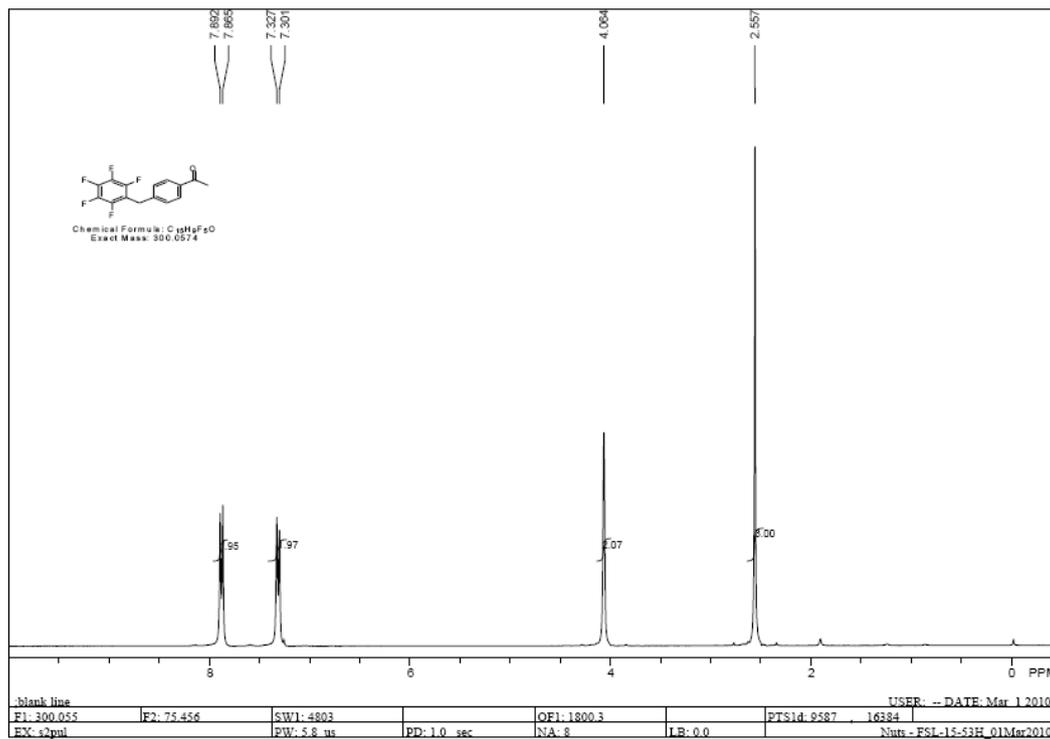


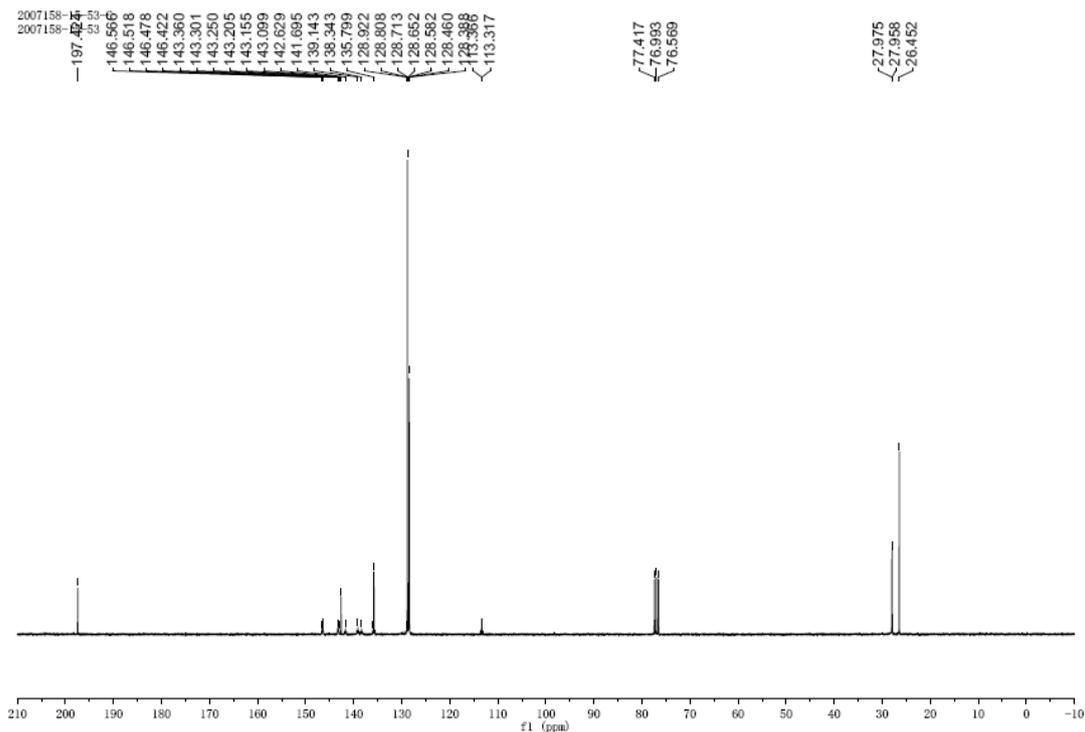
Methyl 4-(perfluorobenzyl)benzoate (3g)



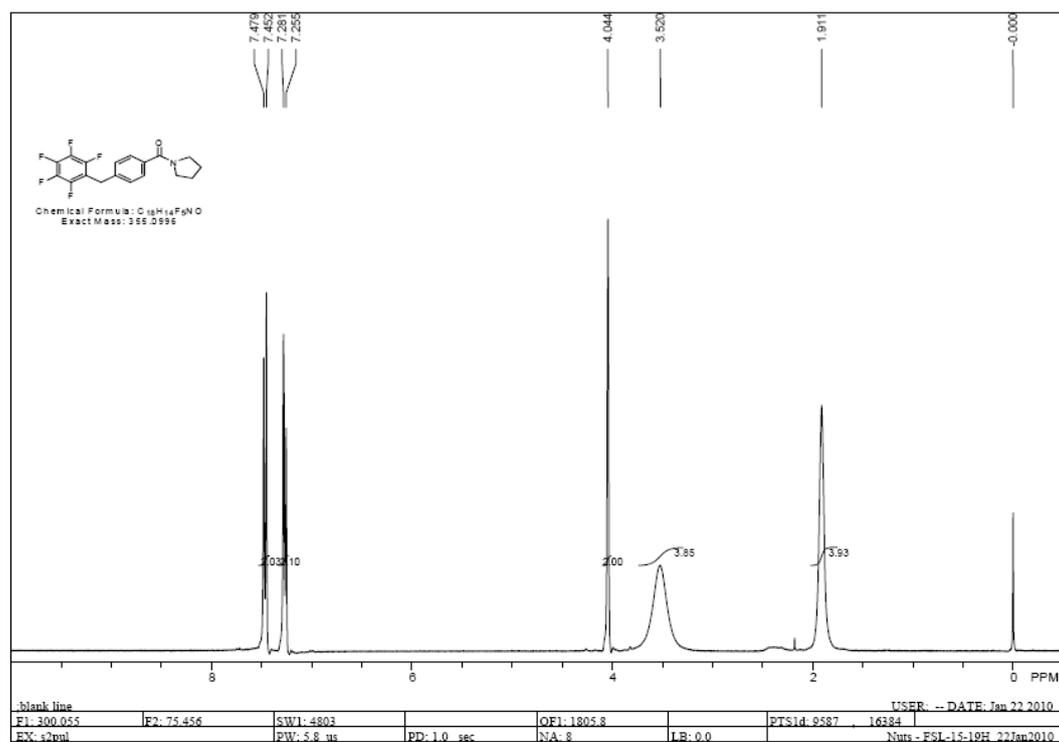


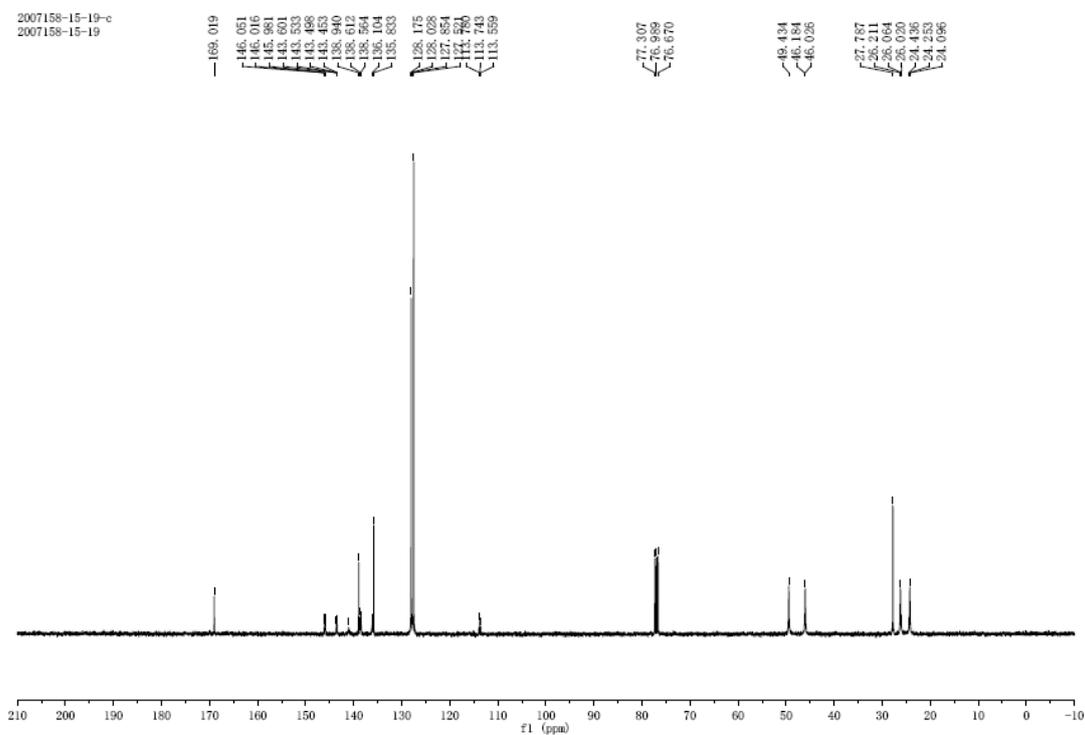
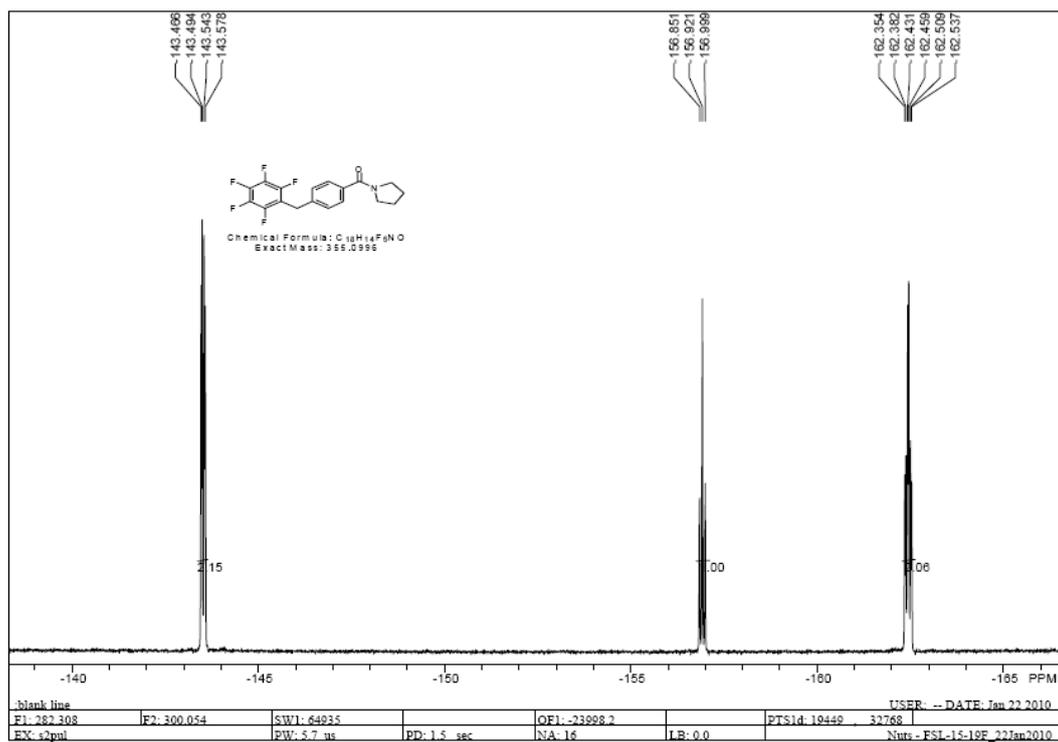
1-(4-(perfluorobenzyl)phenyl)ethanone (3h)



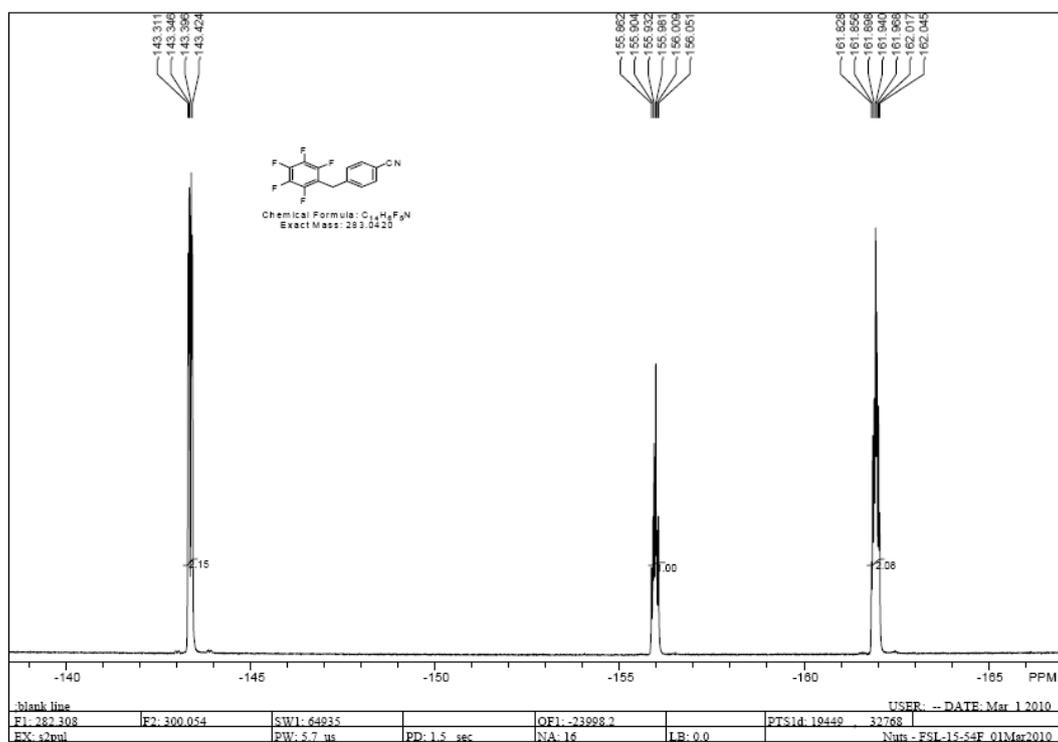
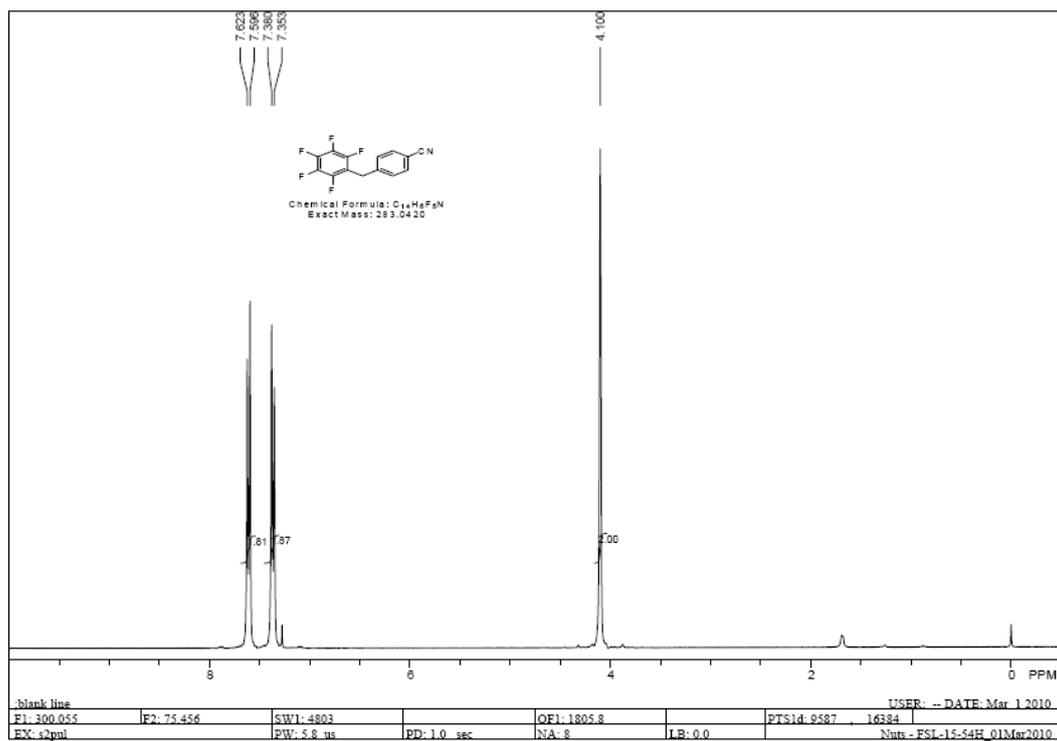


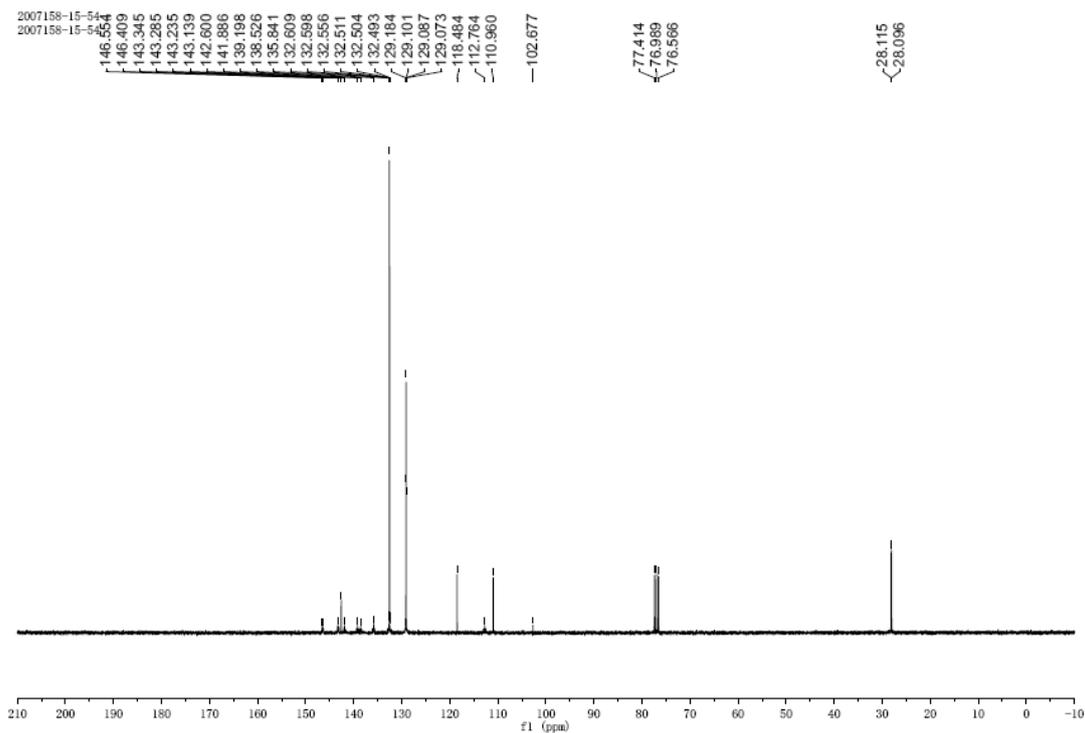
(4-(Perfluorobenzyl)phenyl)(pyrrolidin-1-yl)methanone (3i)



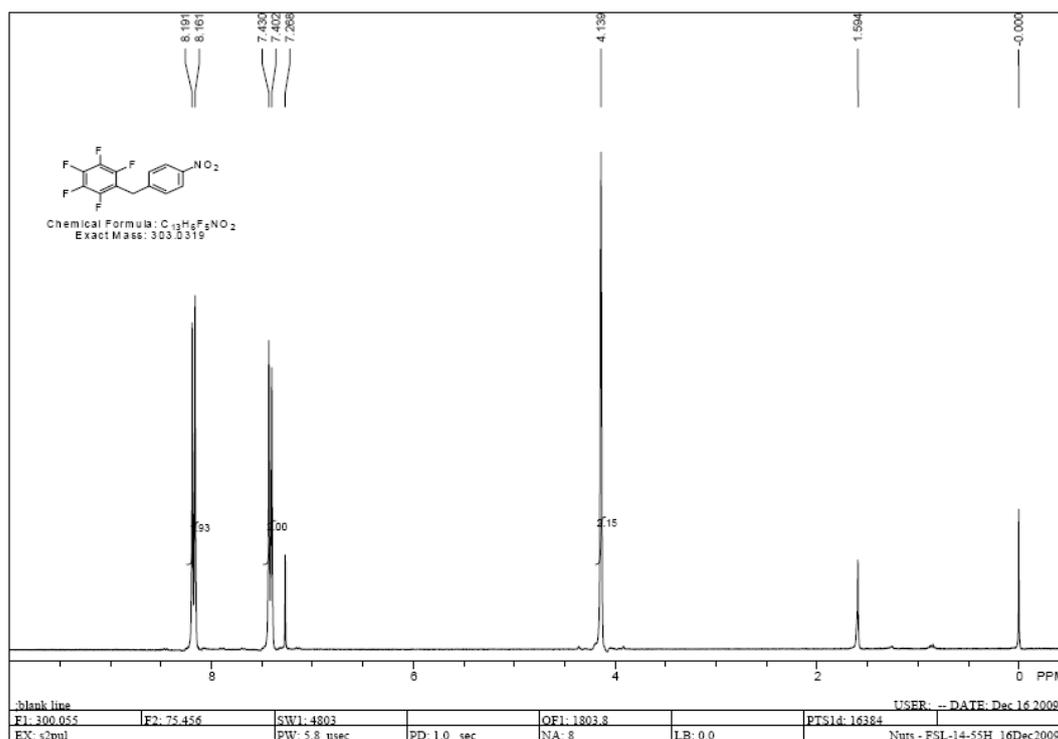


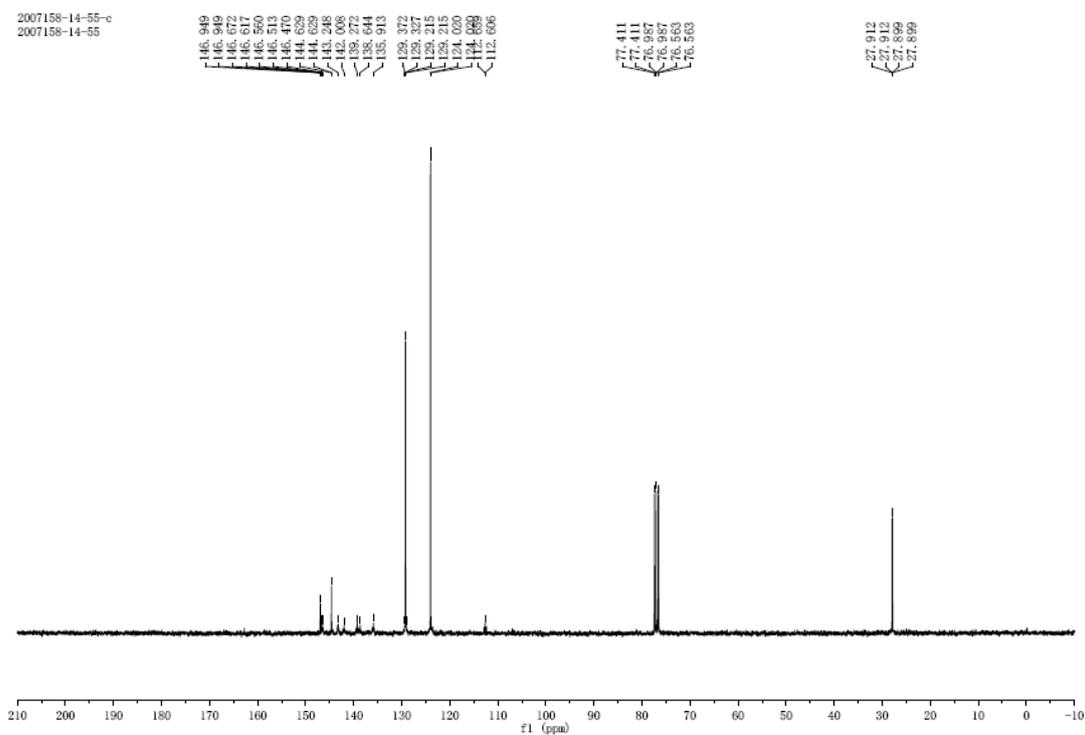
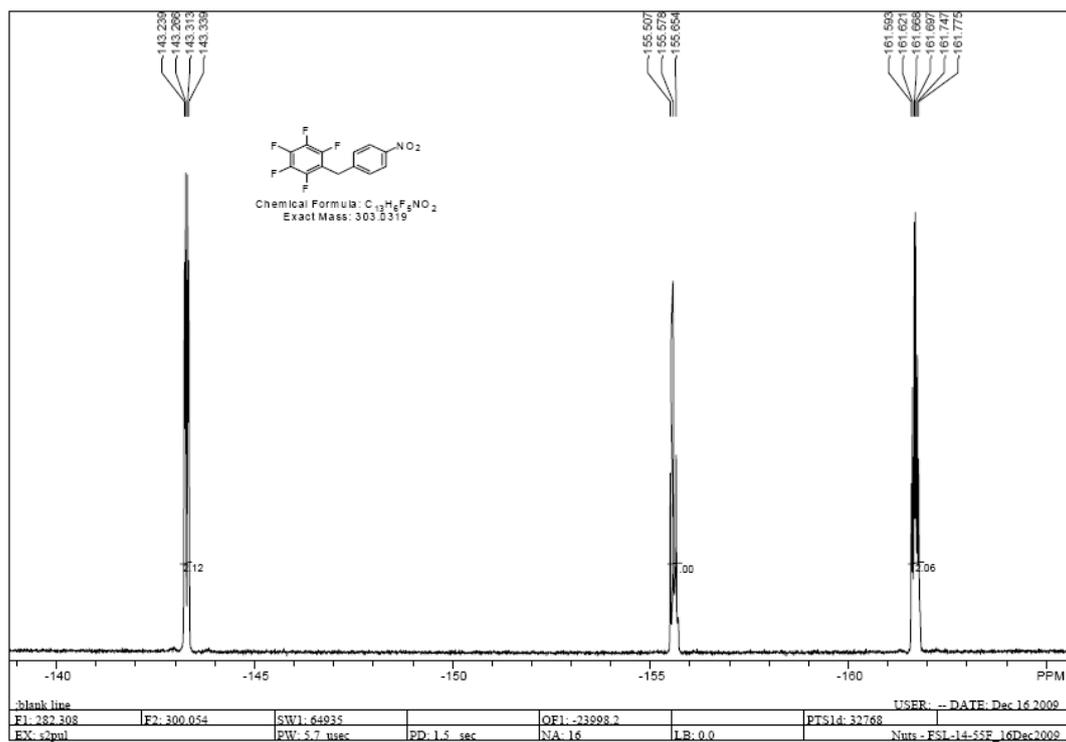
4-(Perfluorobenzyl)benzonitrile (3j)



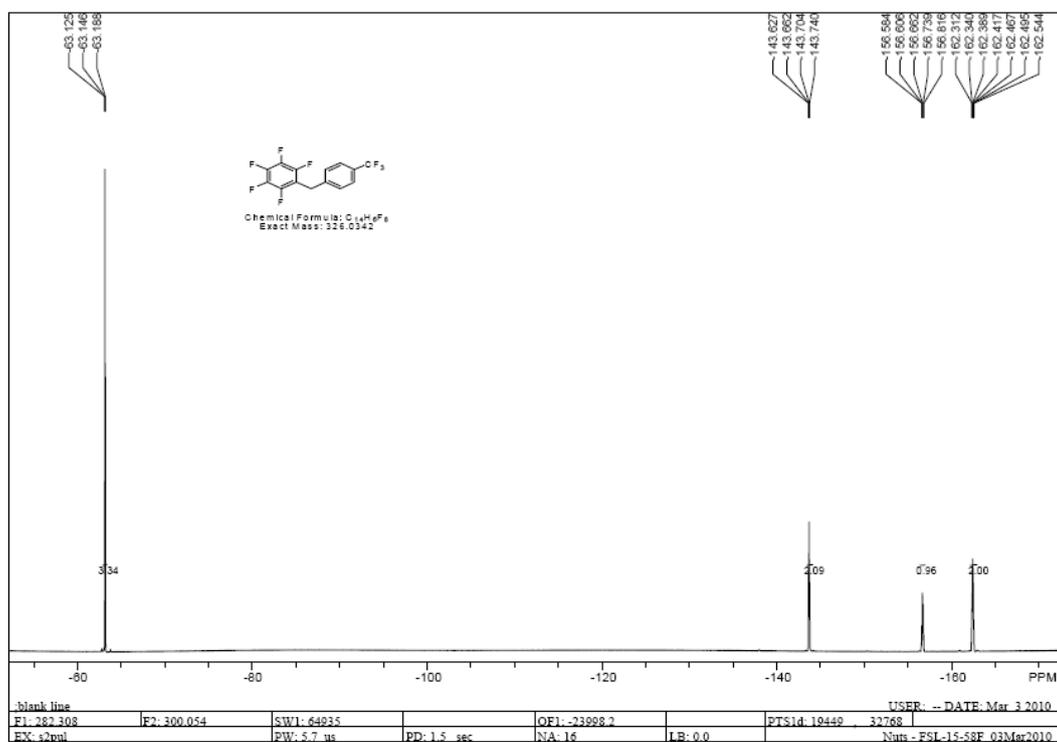
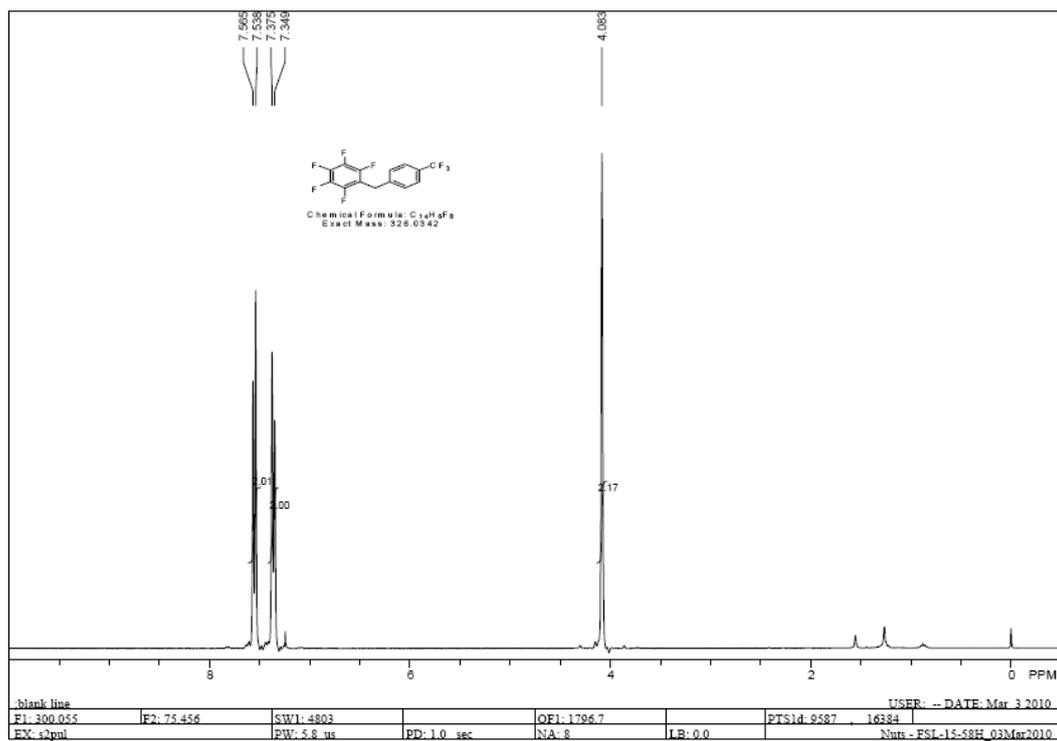


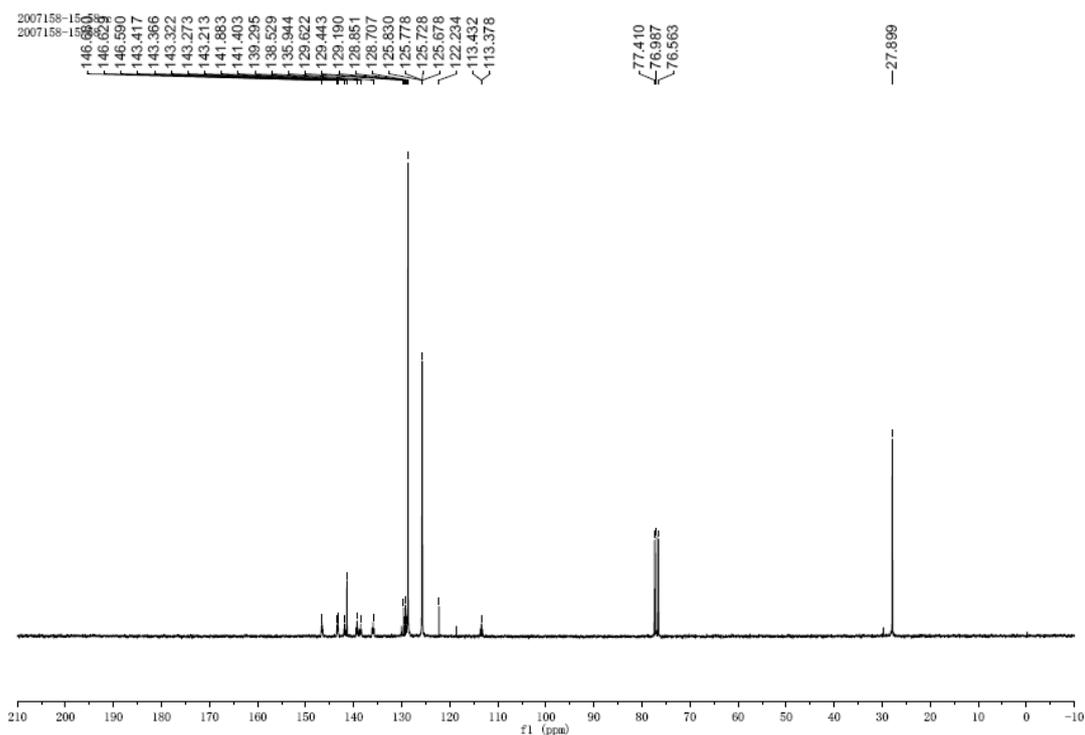
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-nitrobenzyl)benzene (3k)



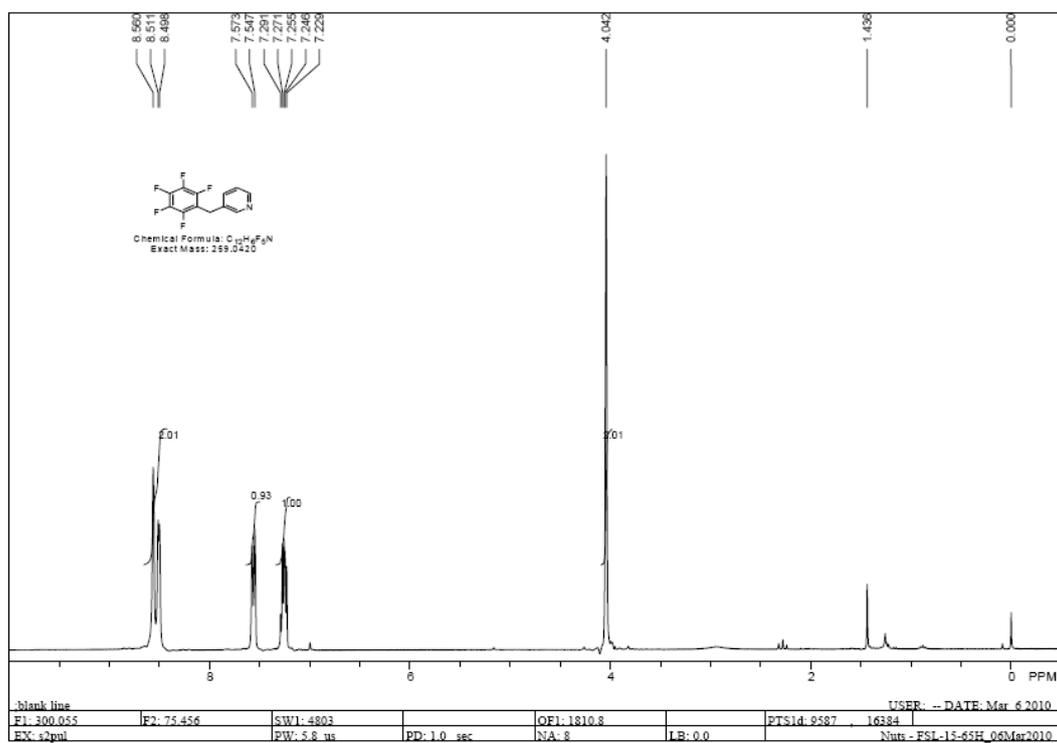


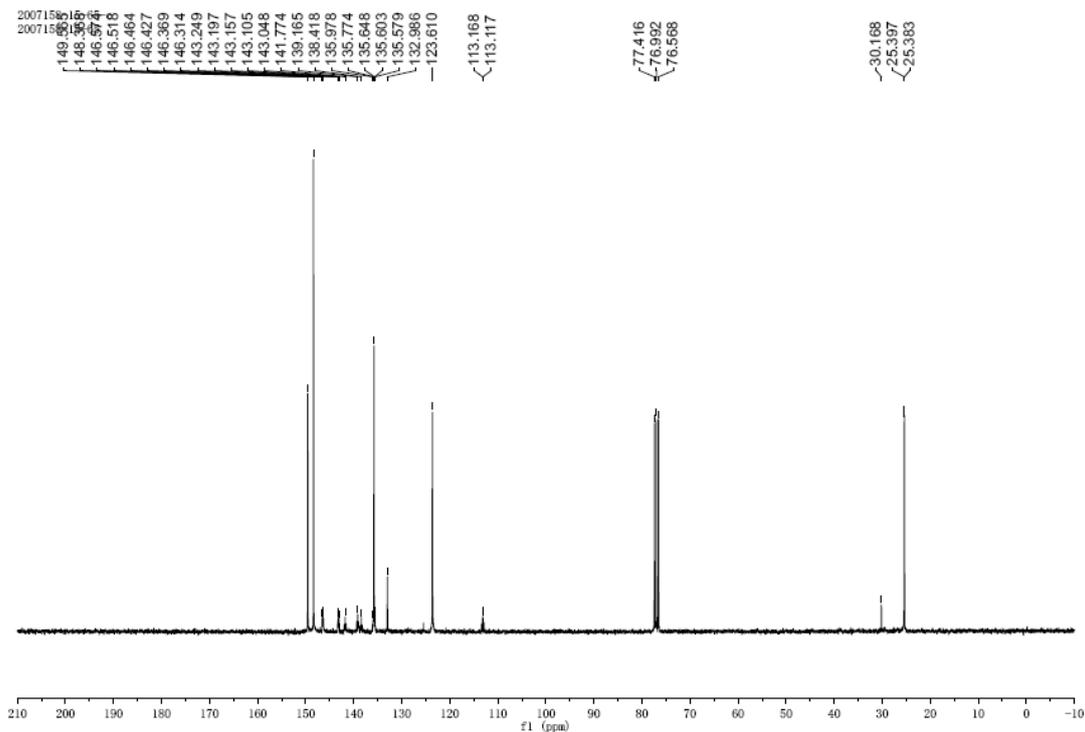
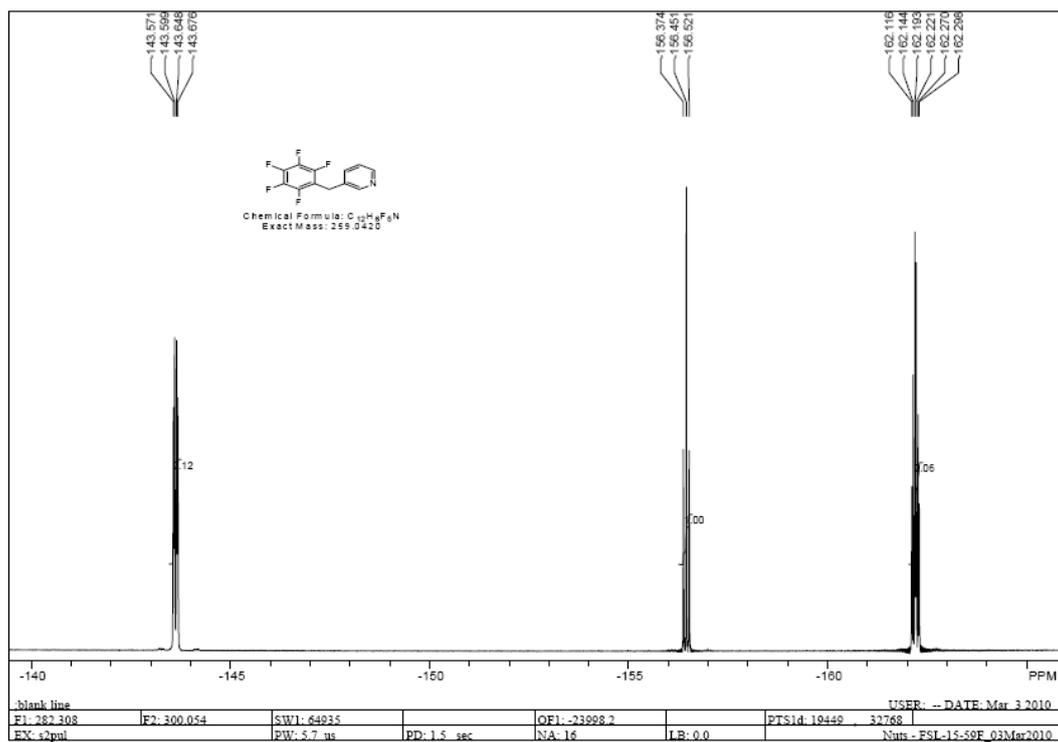
1,2,3,4,5-Pentafluoro-6-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)benzene (3l)



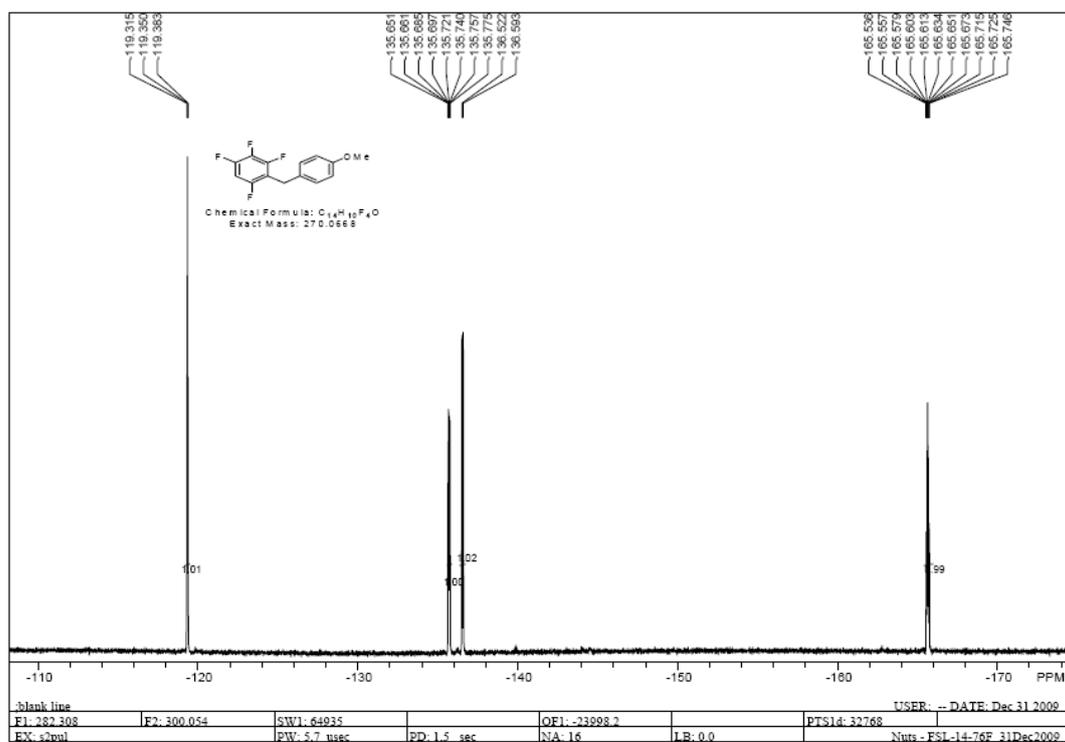
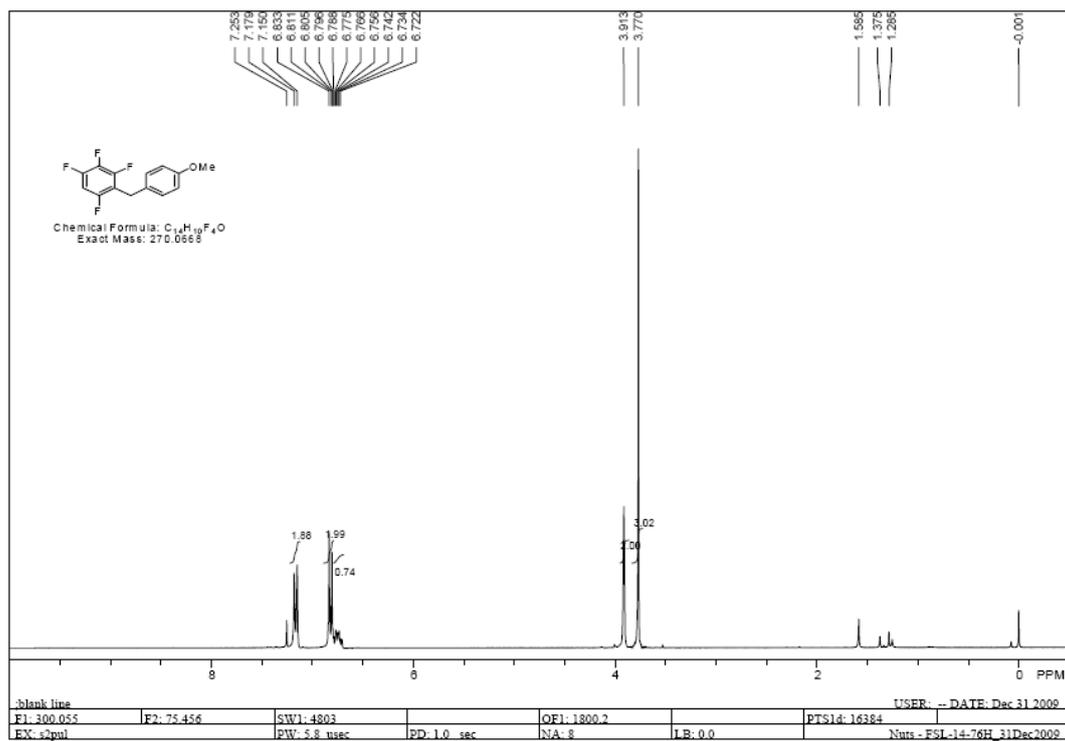


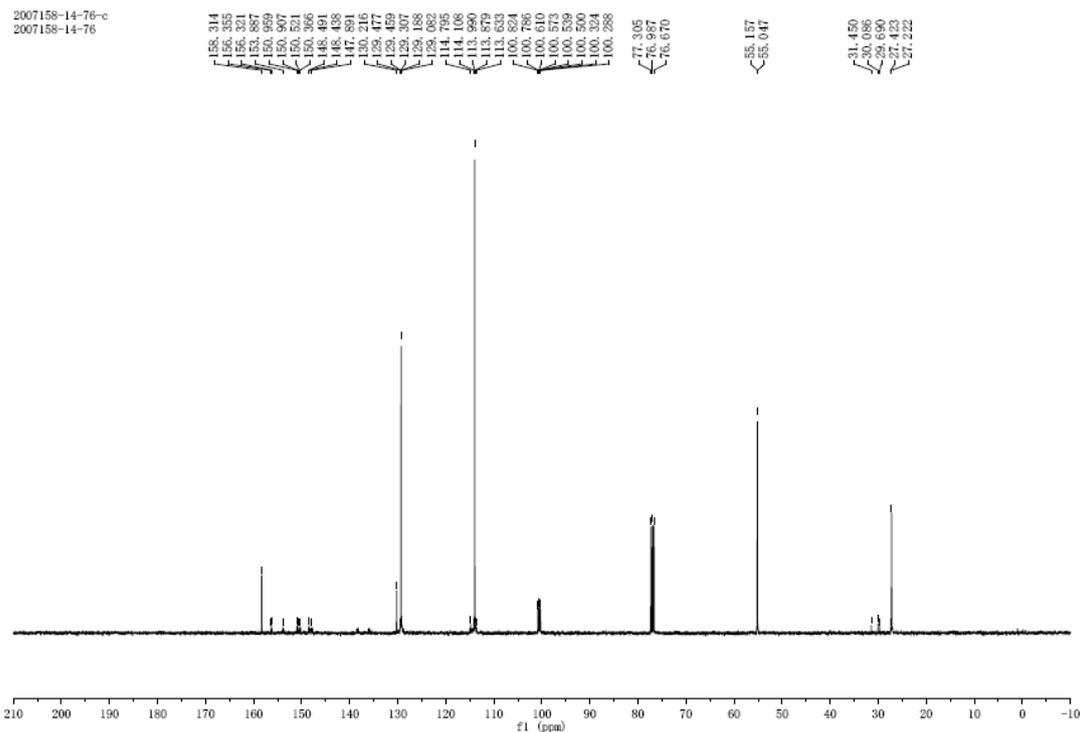
3-(Perfluorobenzyl)pyridine (3m)



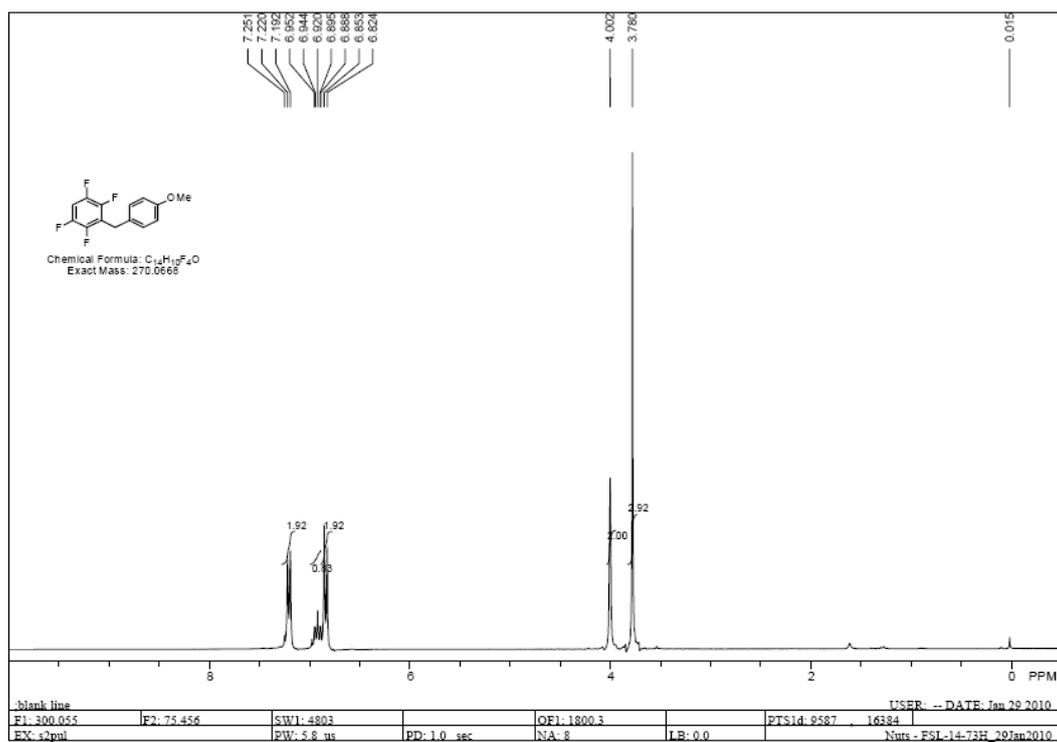


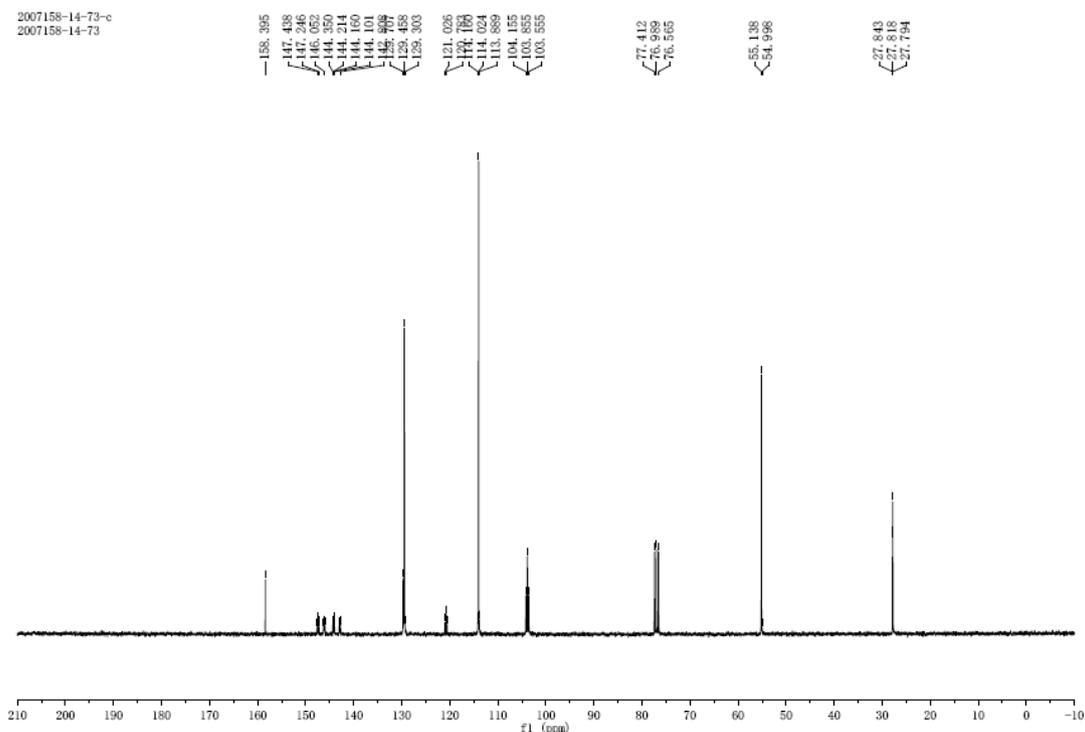
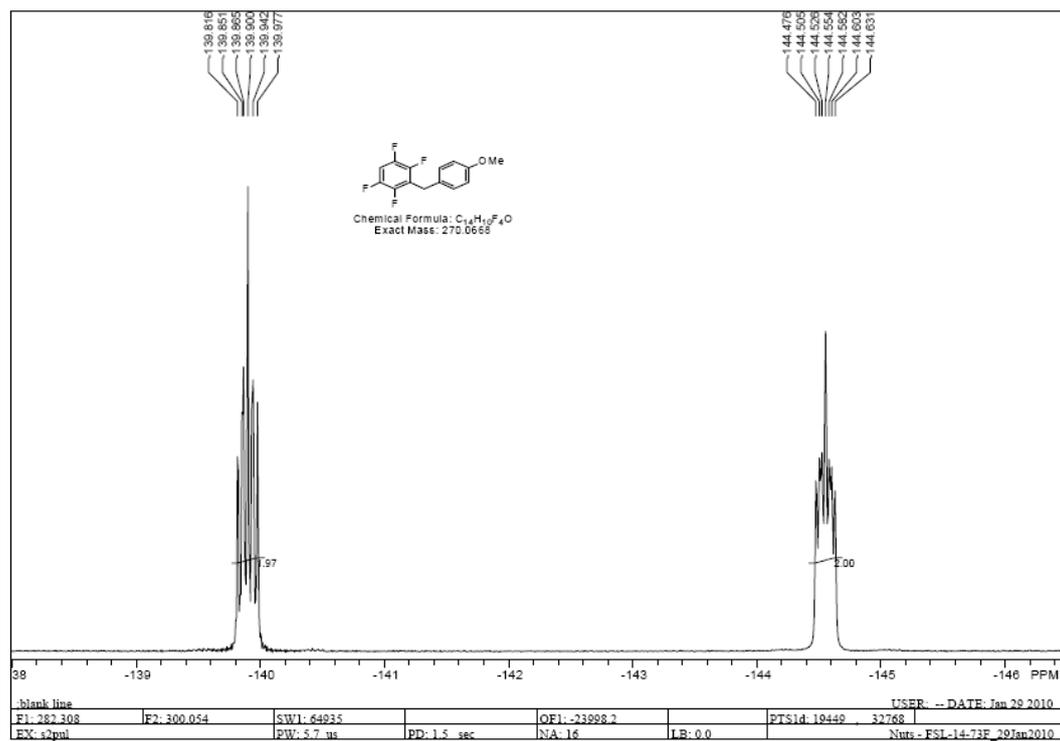
1,2,3,5-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5a).



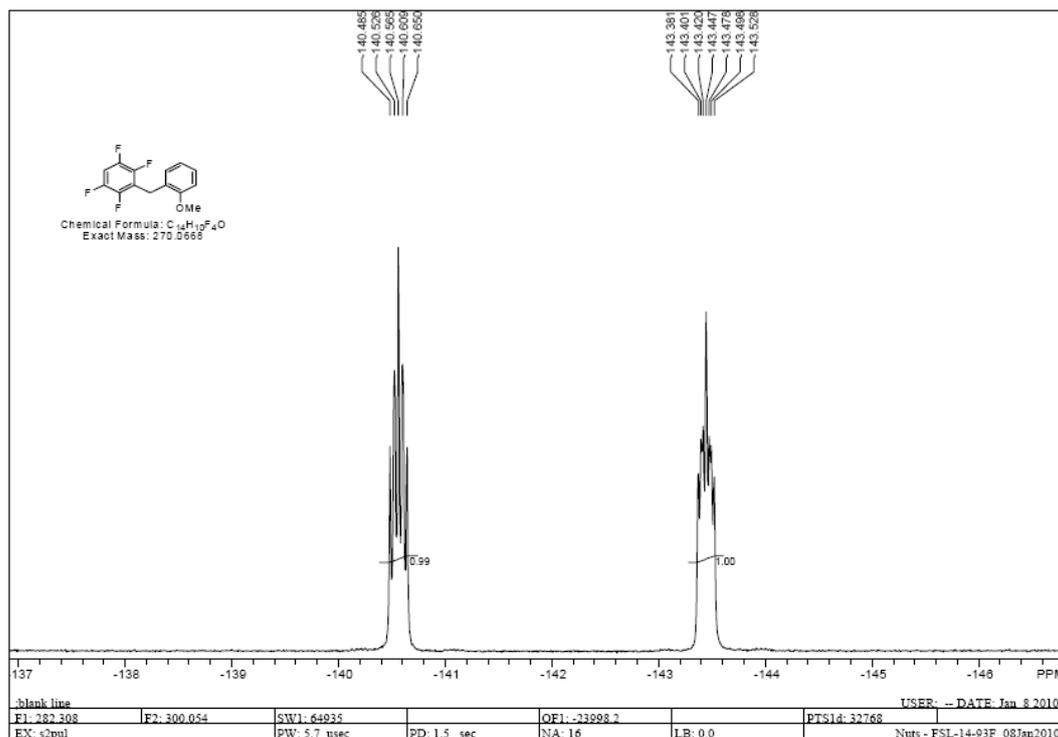


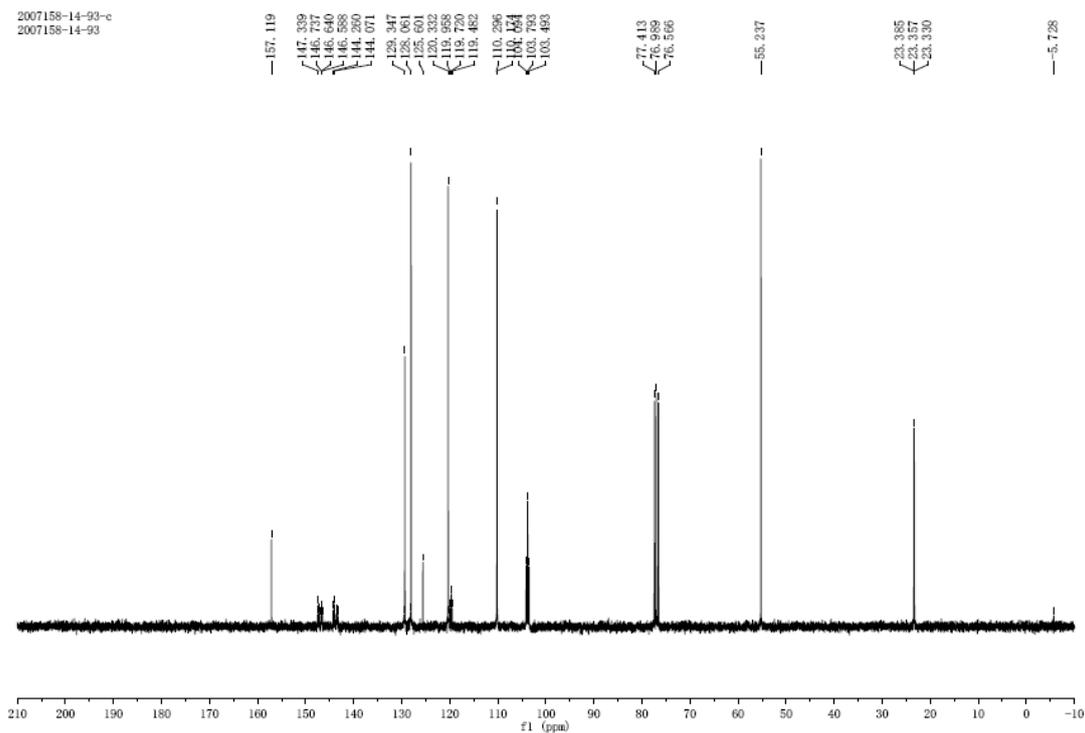
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5b)



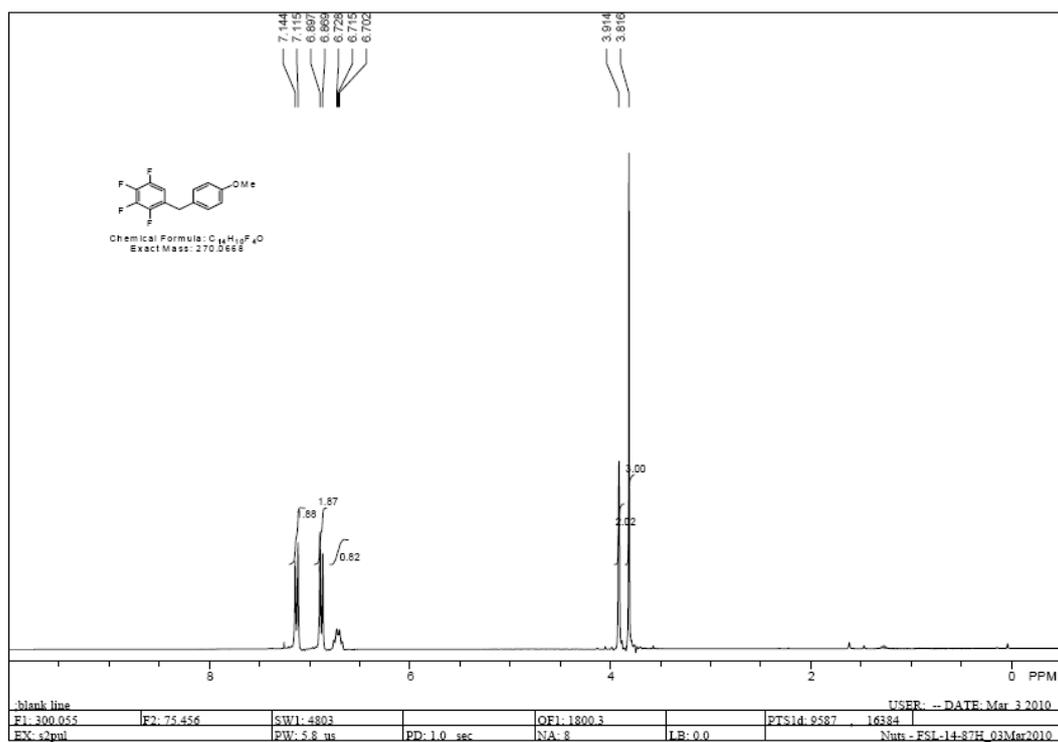


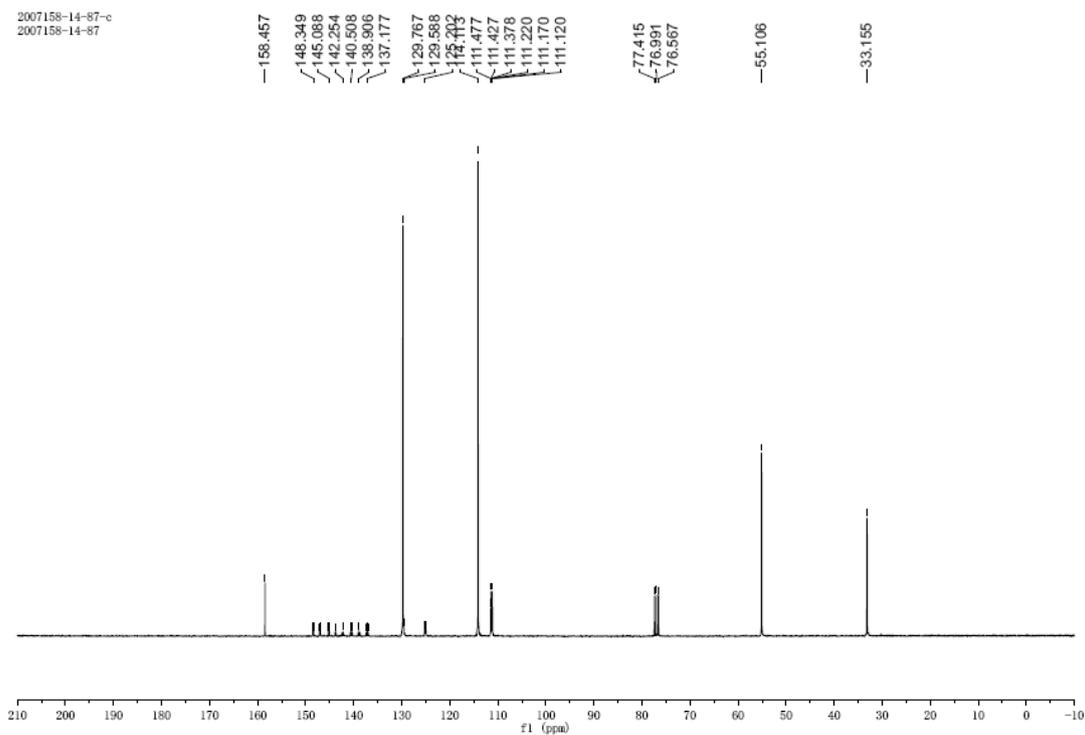
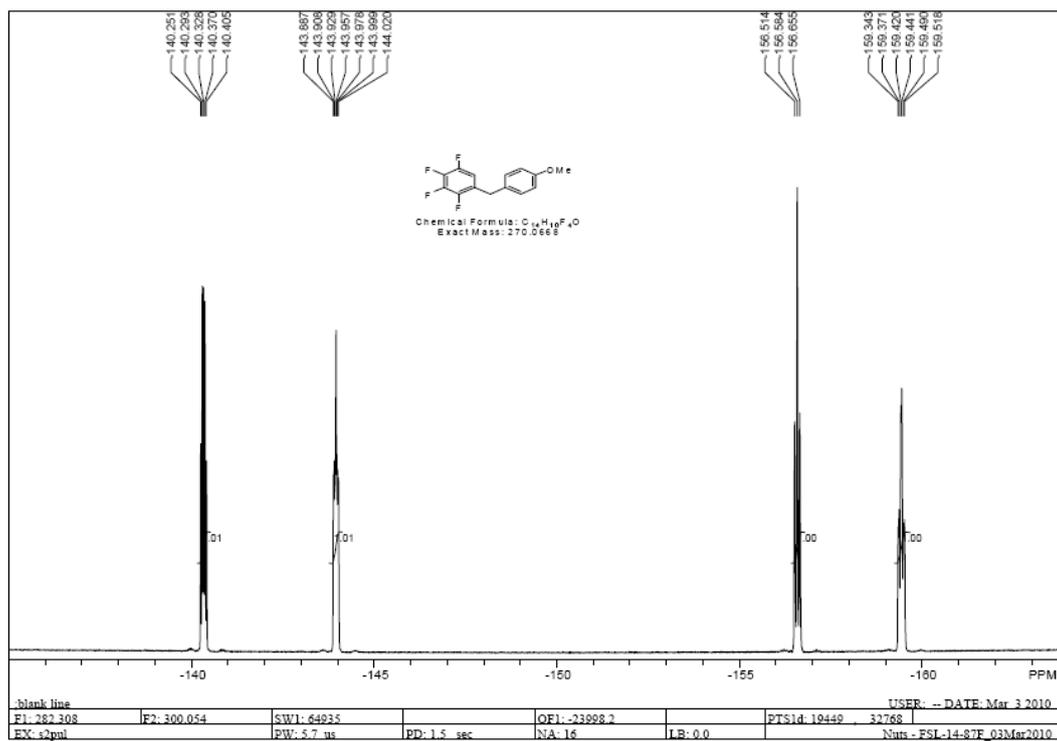
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-(2-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5c)



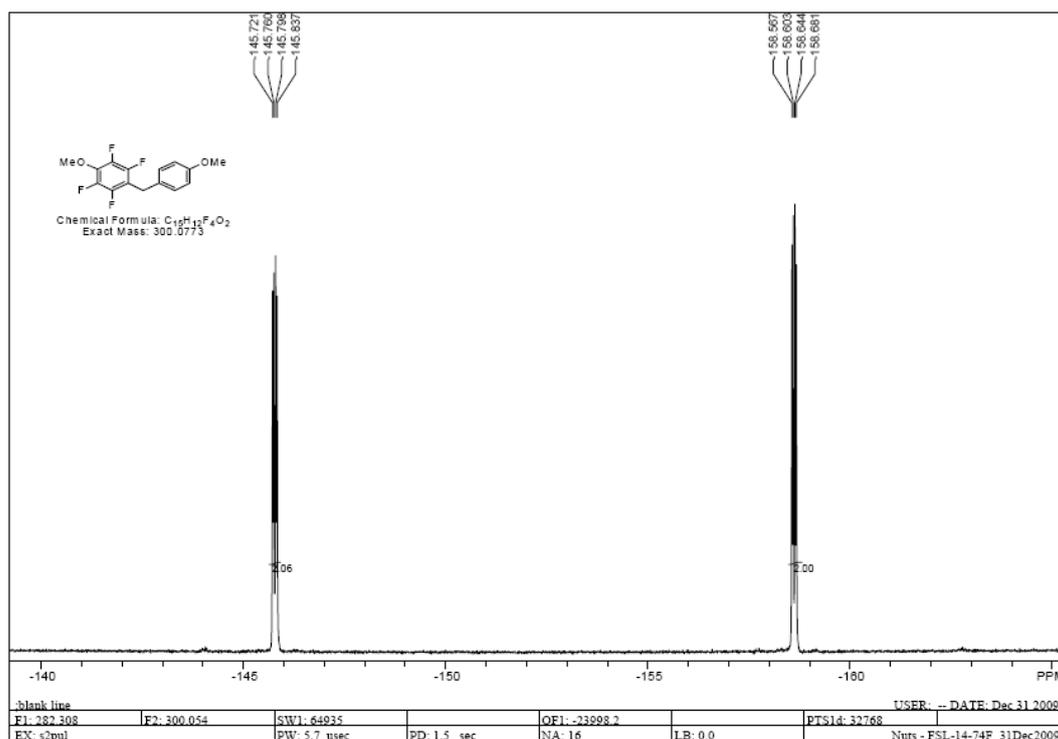
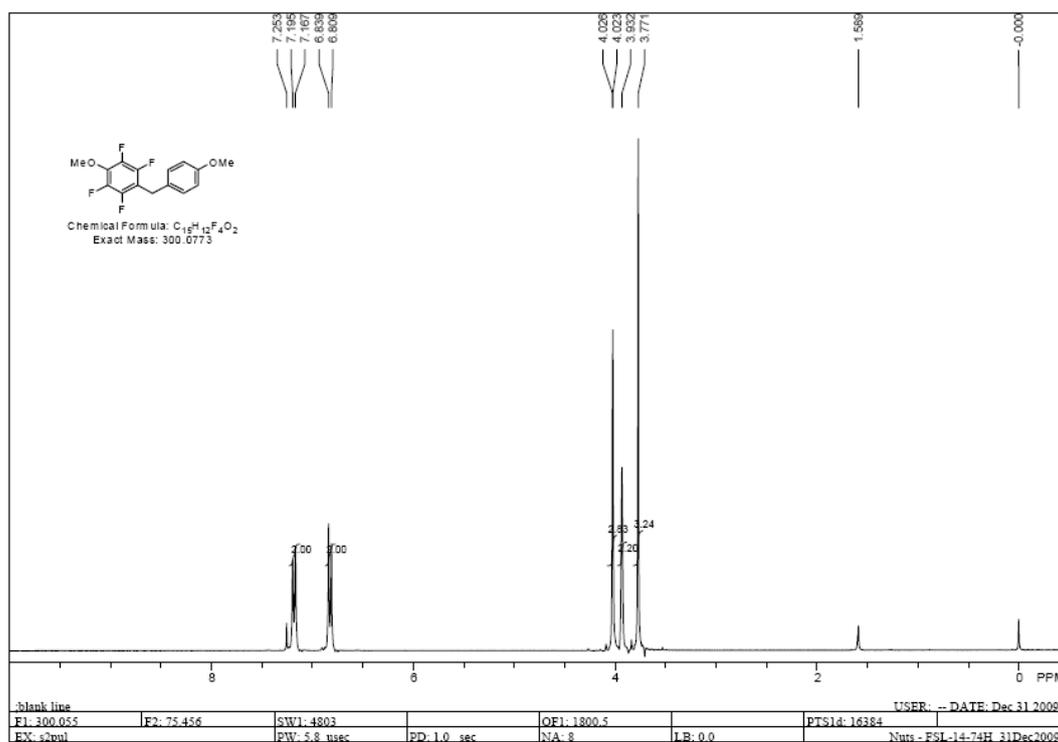


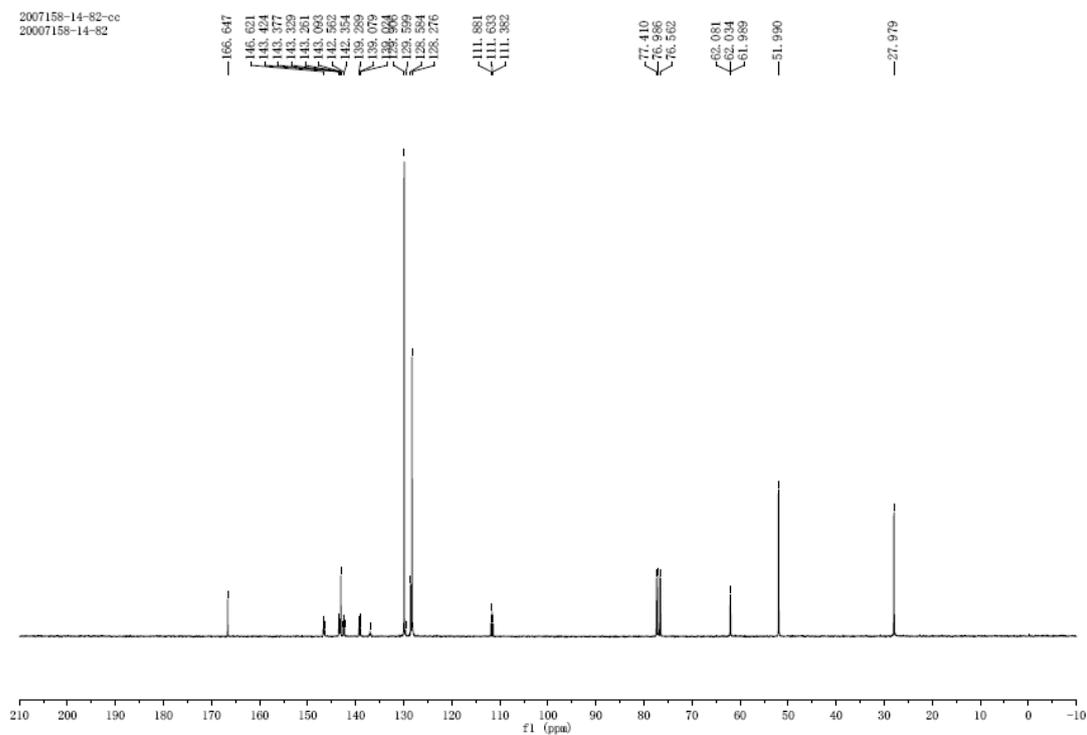
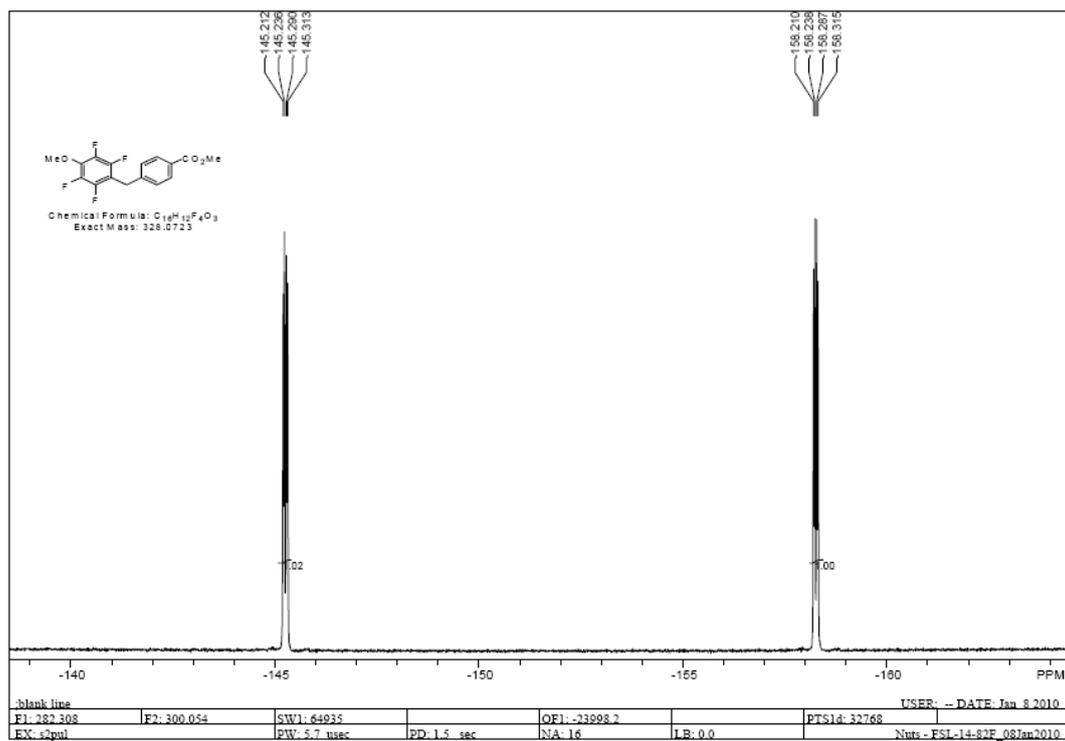
1,2,3,4-Tetrafluoro-5-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5d)



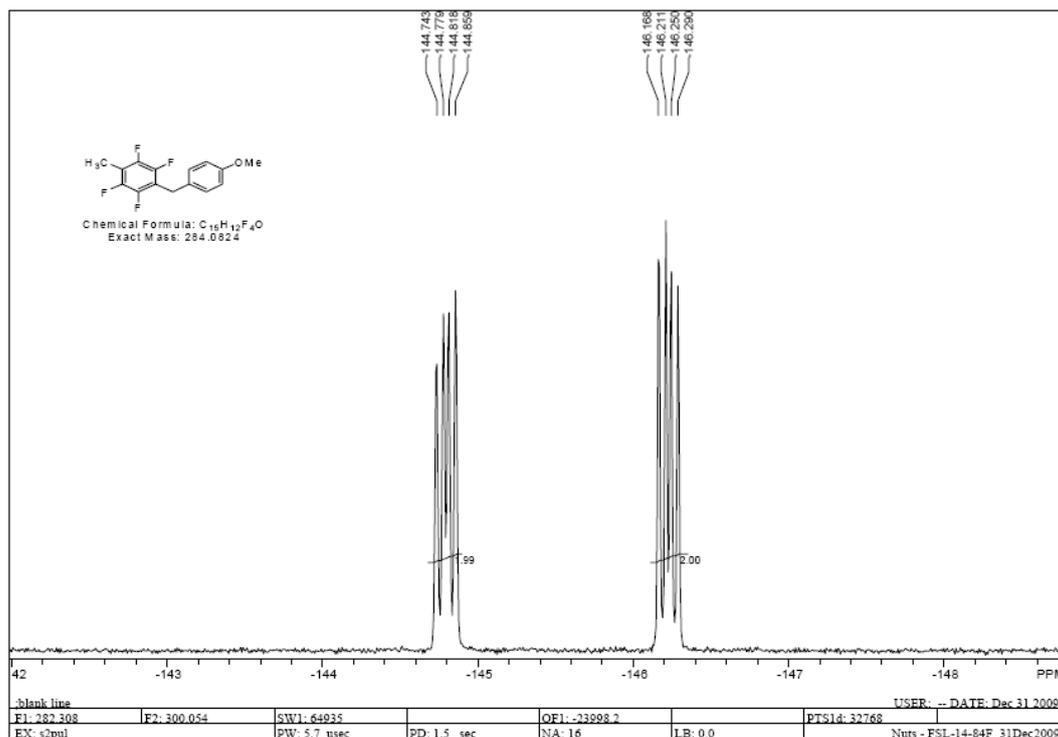
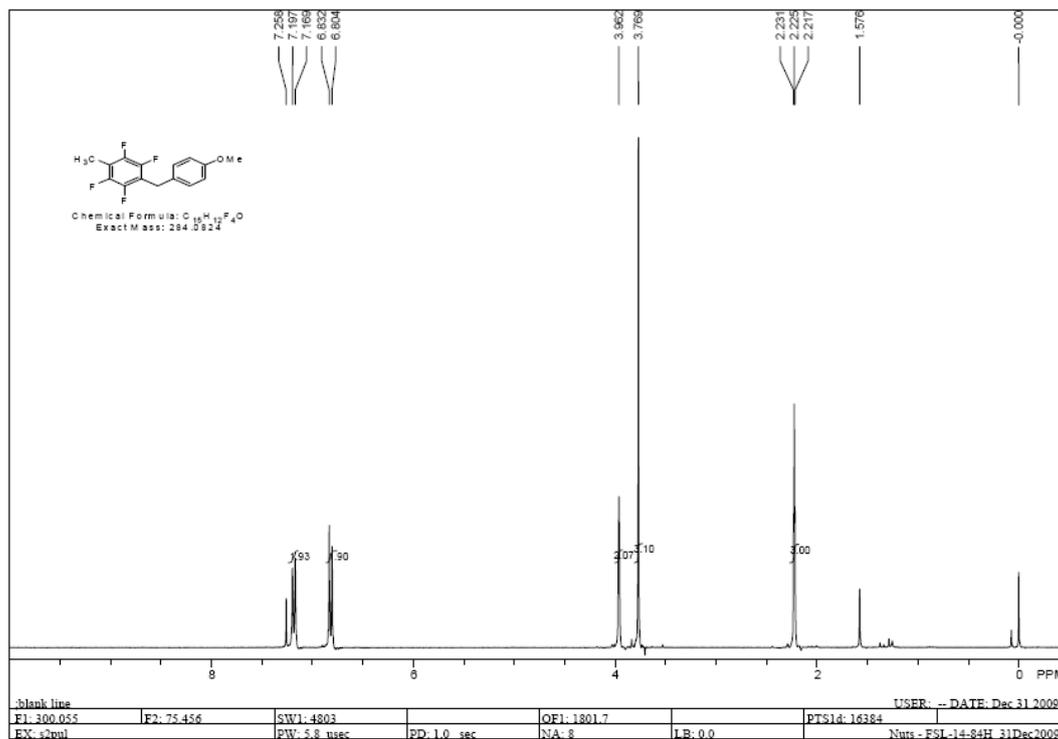


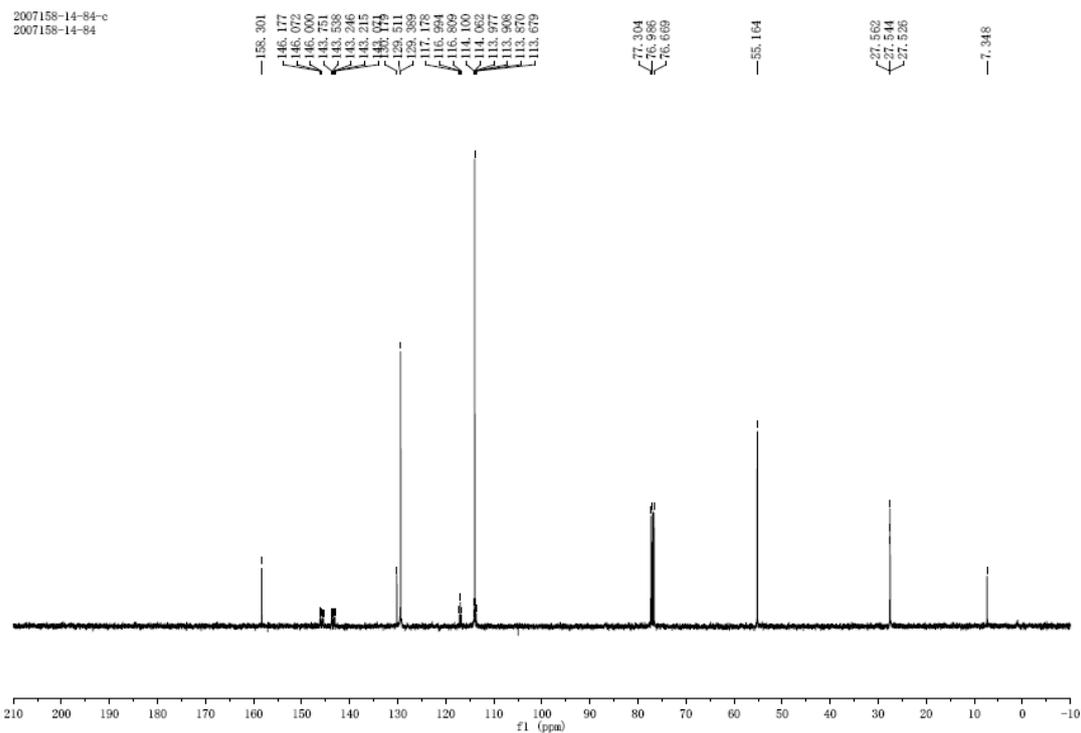
1,2,4,5-Tetrafluoro-3-methoxy-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5e)



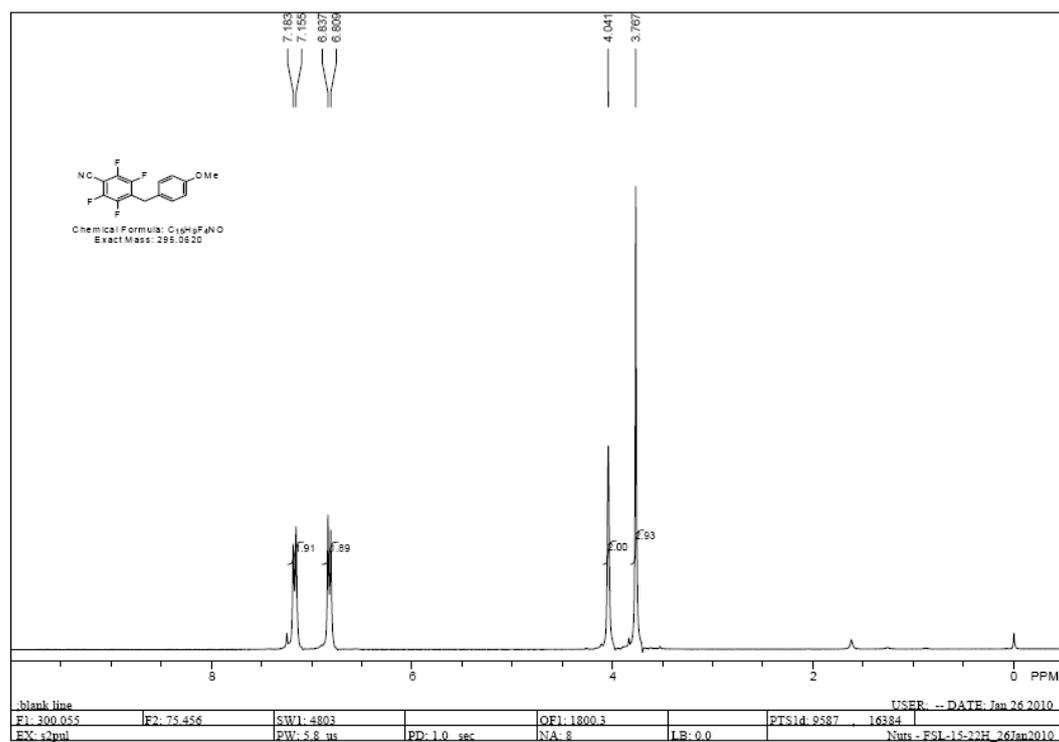


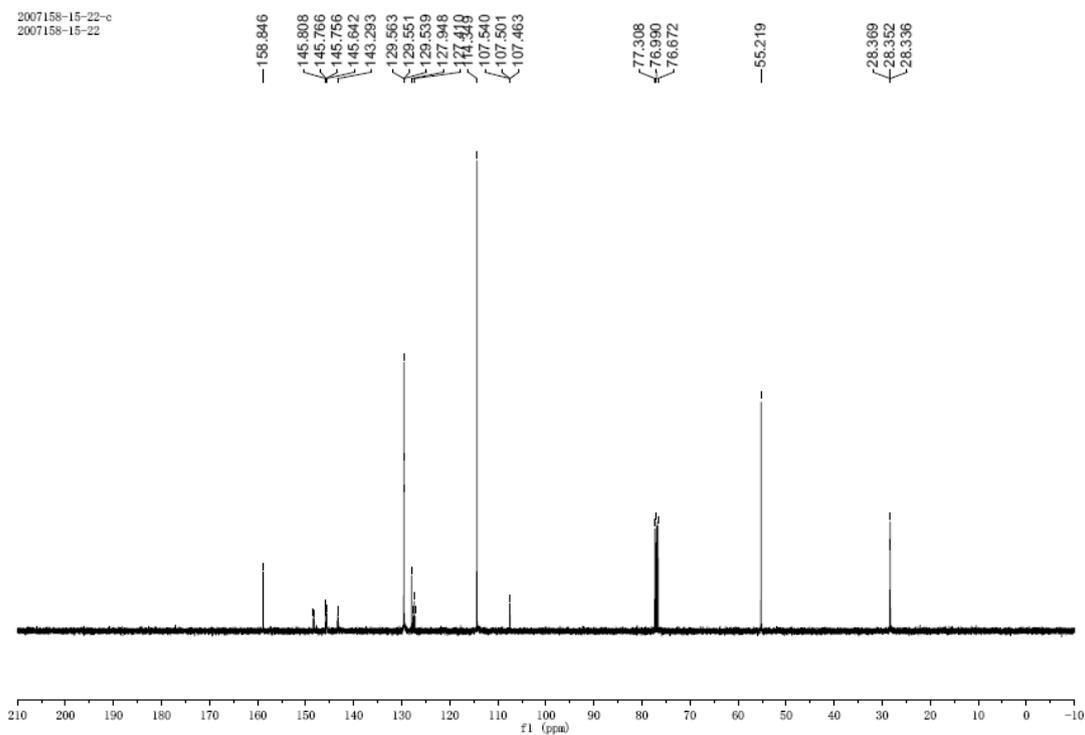
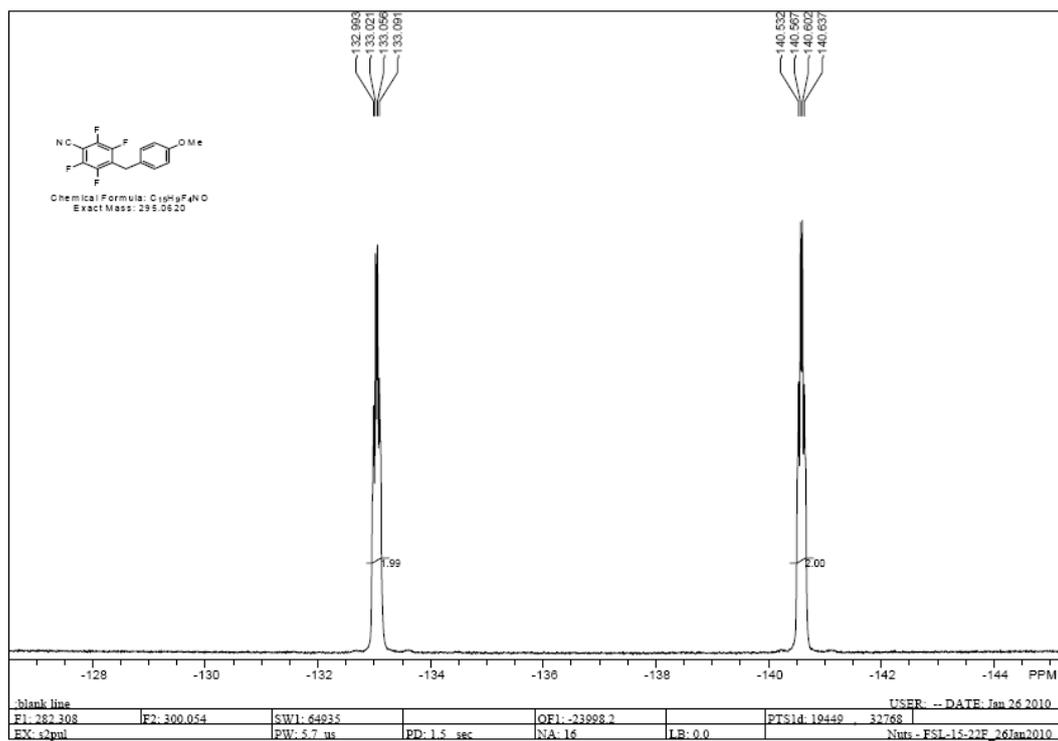
1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-6-methylbenzene (5g)



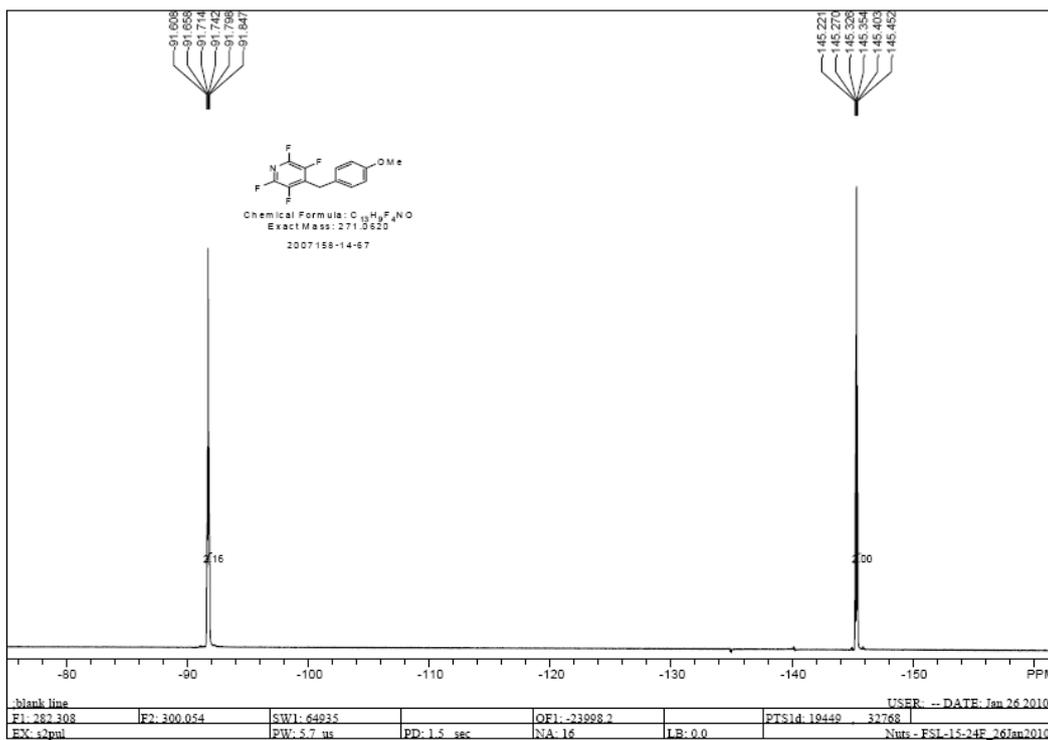
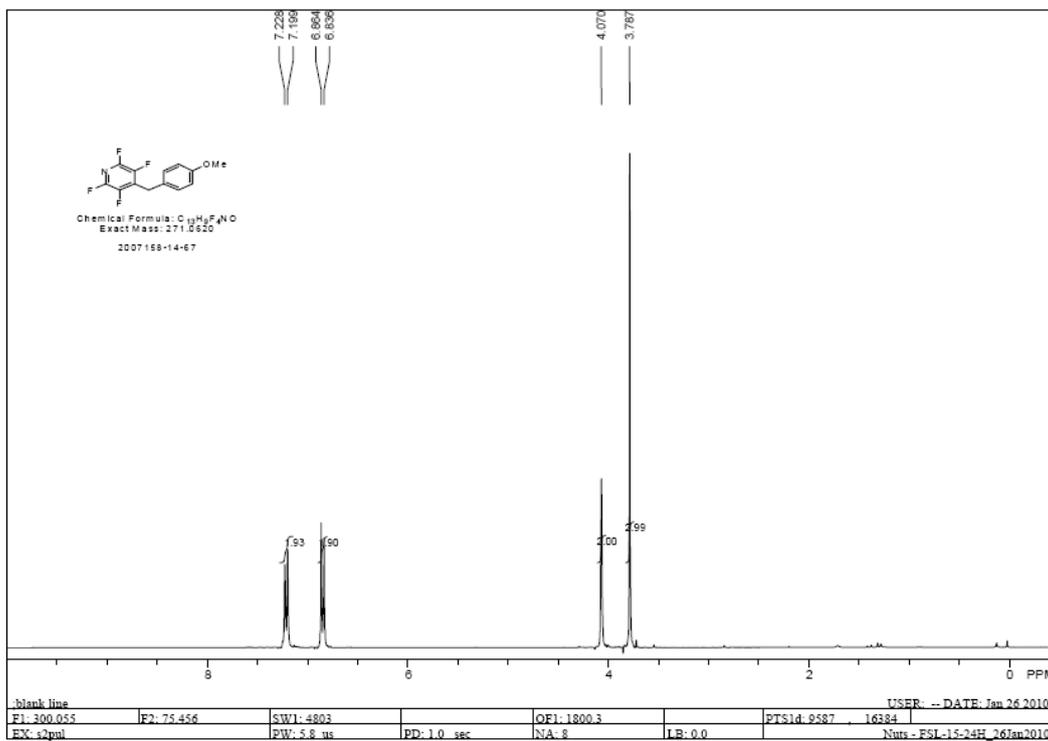


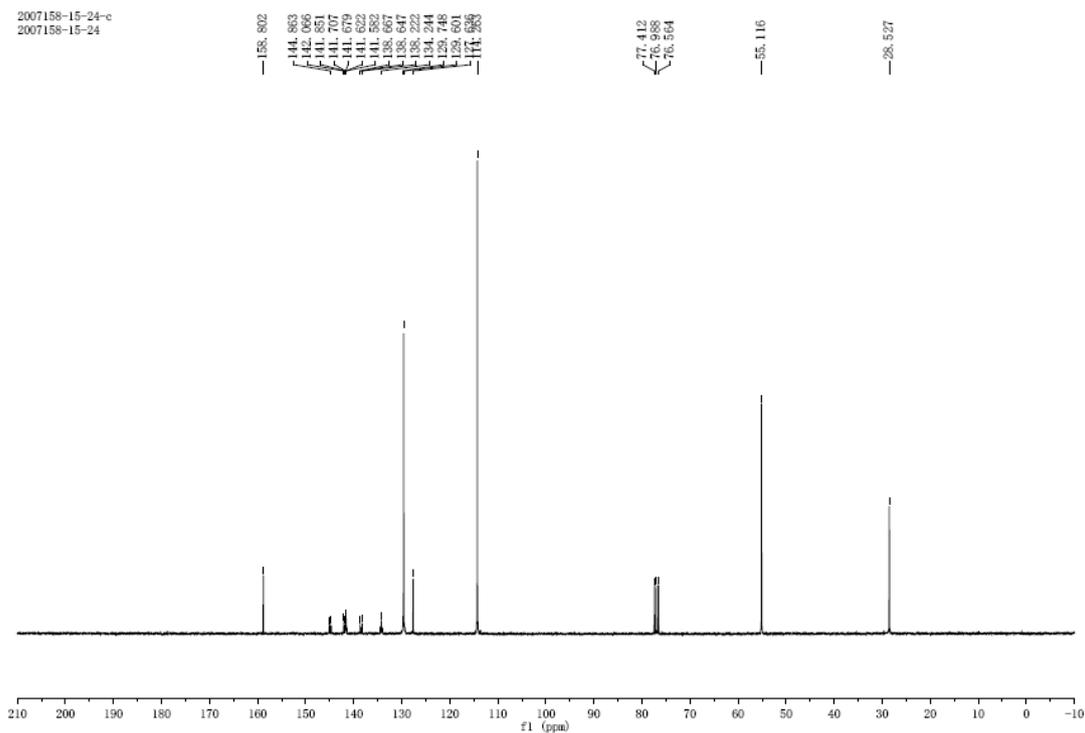
2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzonitrile (5h)



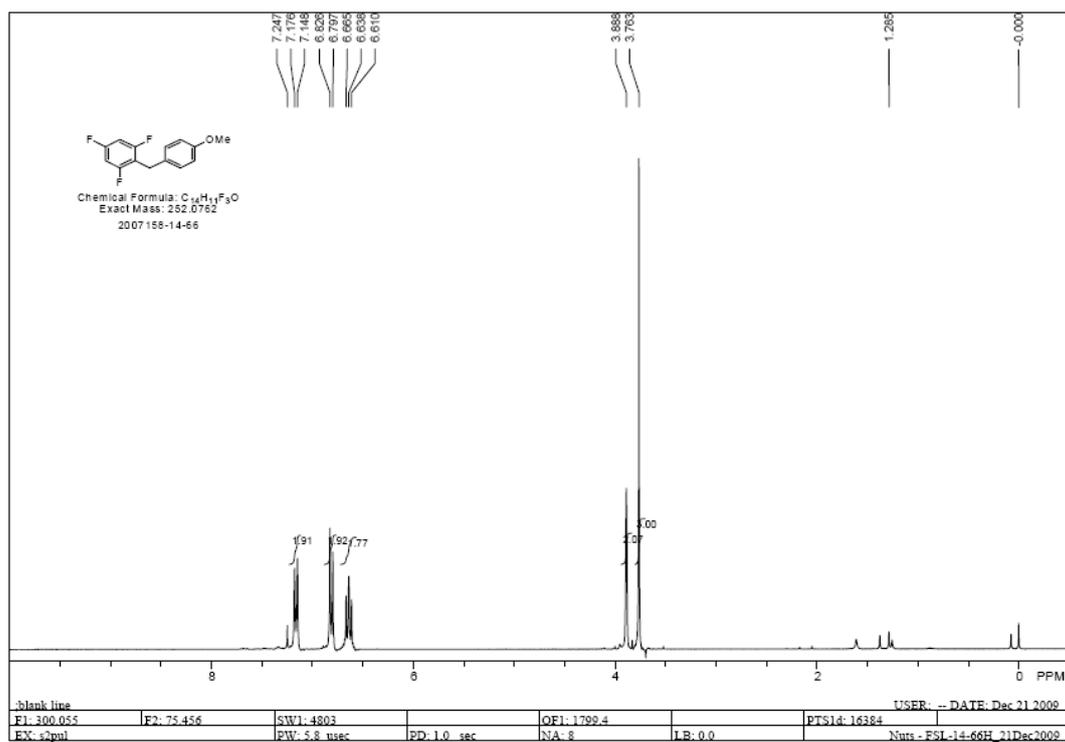


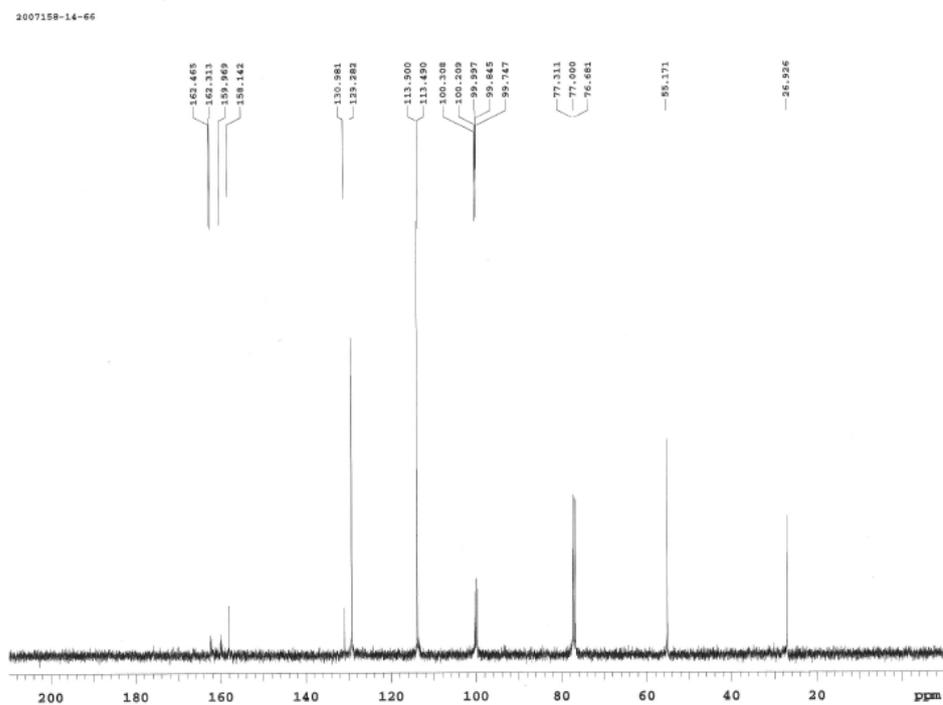
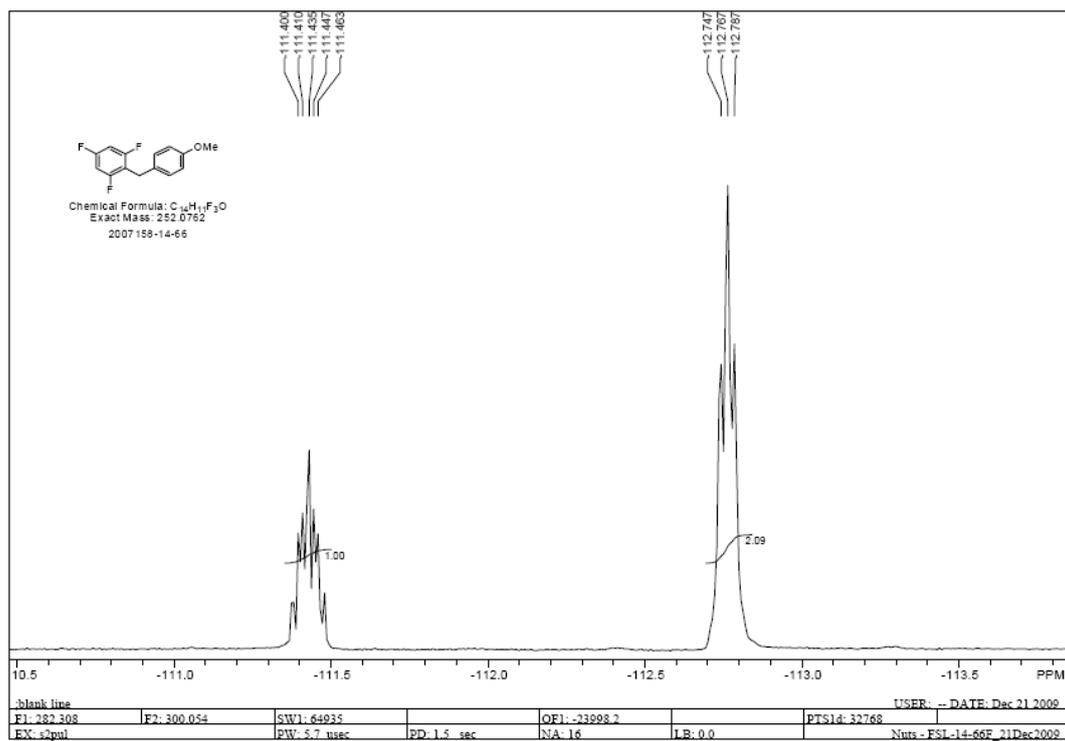
2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)pyridine (5i)



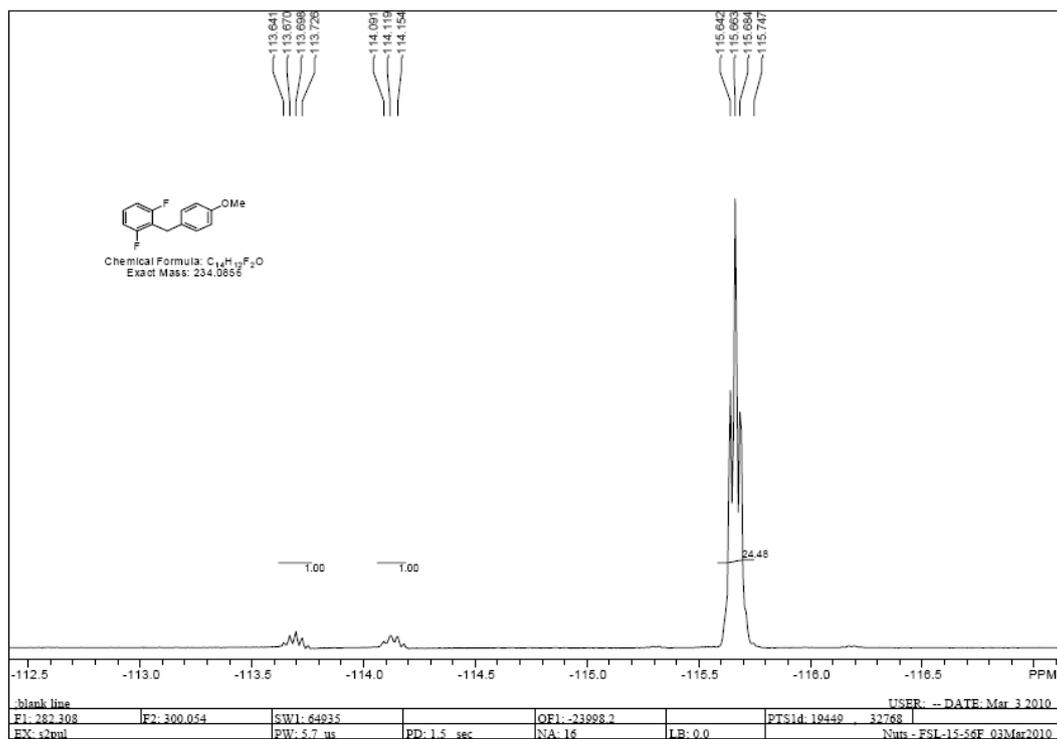
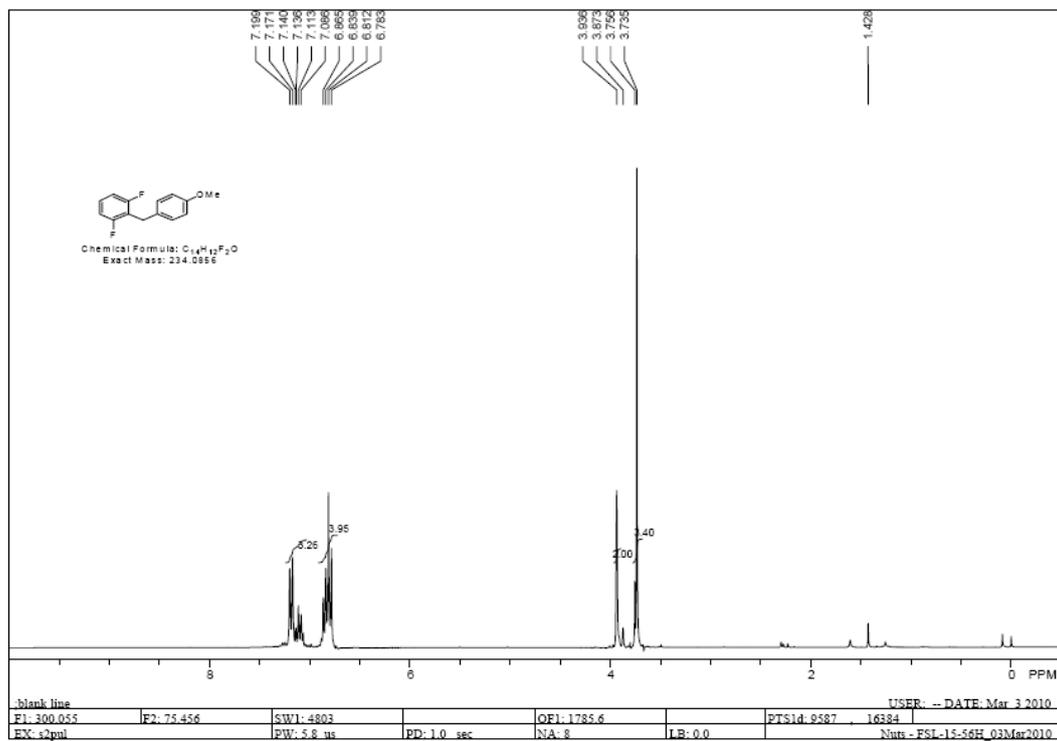


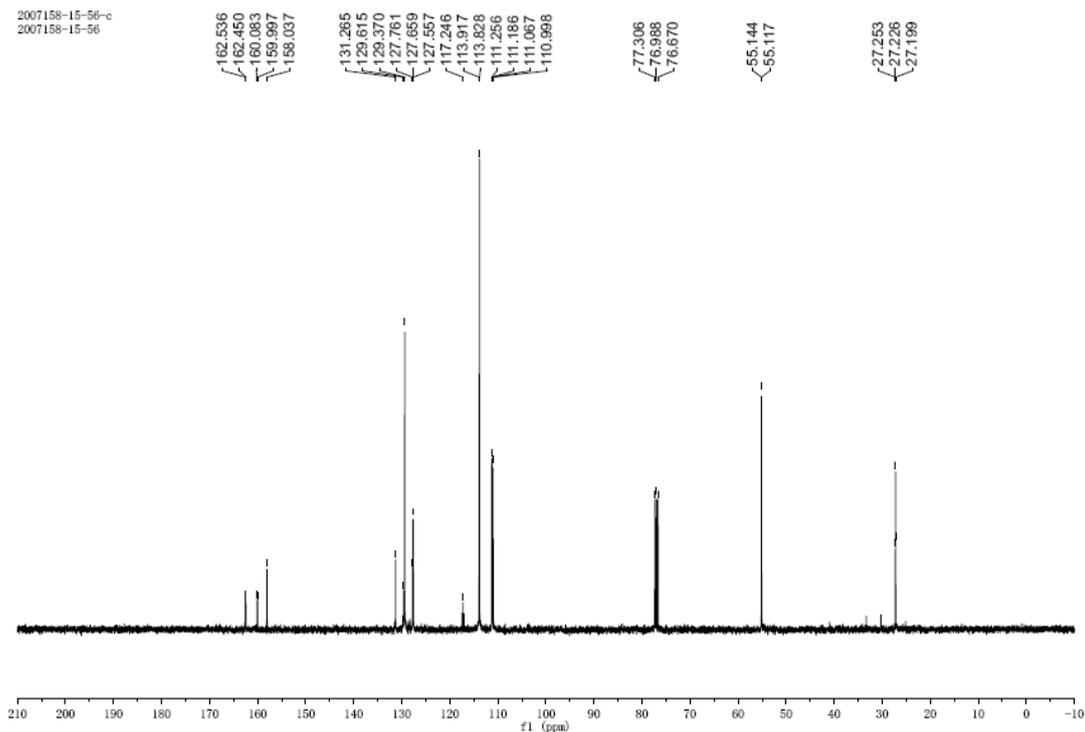
1,3,5-Prifluoro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5j)





1,3-Difluoro-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzene (5k)





(E)-tert-butyl 3-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)phenyl)acrylate (5I)

