

An Efficient and General Synthesis of Oxazino[4,3-*a*]indoles by A Cascade Addition–Cyclization Reaction of (1*H*-Indol-2-yl)methanols and Vinyl Sulfonium Salts

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1. General methods

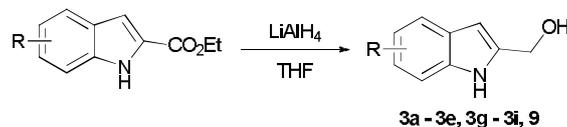
All reactions were monitored by TLC analysis with silica gel-coated plates. Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400 / 600 (400 / 600 MHz) spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm from the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = single, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400/600 (100/150MHz) with complete proton decoupling spectrophotometers (CDCl_3 : 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were measured on a Finnigan Trace MS spectrometer or API 2000 LC/MS/MS (ESI-MS). Melting point was measured with BÜCHI Melting Point B-545.

2. Materials

Commercial reagents were purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego. All the solvents were treated according to general methods. Flash chromatography was conducted using 60 silica (mesh 230-400).

3. Experimental Procedures and Characterizations

3.1 General procedure for the synthesis of the (1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol Compounds



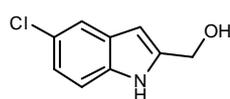
In a two-necked flask were charged with freshly distilled THF (20 mL) and LiAlH₄ (15.6 mmol, 0.59 g). It was cooled to 0 °C and the crude carboxylate (10.0 mmol) were carefully added in portionwise, and then warmed to room temperature. About 2 h later (monitored by TLC), the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and 20 mL of THF as well as 1.1 mL 20% of aq. KOH were added, respectively. After stirring for 10 min the mixture was filtered through a Buchner funnel and the salts was extracted again with 20 mL of reflux THF. The combined organic filtrates were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. And the crude indolyl alcohol was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5/1) to afford (1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol compounds **3a-3e, 3g-3i, 9** as a solid.

(1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol (3a). White solid, 92% yield. mp 71-72 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 - 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 137.37, 136.29, 127.82, 122.11, 120.54, 119.86, 111.07, 100.54, 58.17.

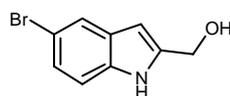
(5-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol (3b). White solid, 90% yield. mp 83-84 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 137.46, 134.58, 128.98, 128.02, 123.68, 120.13, 110.73, 100.07, 58.07, 21.37.

(5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol (3c). White solid, 93% yield. mp 81-82 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 4.63 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 154.04, 138.25, 131.47, 128.35, 112.25, 111.72, 102.29, 100.35, 58.42, 55.80.

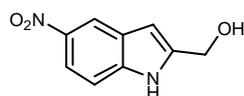
(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol (3d). White solid, 90% yield. mp 91-92 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.46 (s, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 2.72 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.03, 156.70, 139.11, 132.79, 128.27, 128.17, 111.60, 111.50, 110.61, 110.35, 105.41, 105.18, 100.65, 100.60, 58.37.



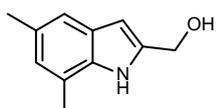
(5-chloro-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3e). White solid, 89% yield. mp 112-113 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 11.27 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.06 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 5.36 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.65 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 142.12, 134.63, 129.09, 123.19, 120.41, 118.77, 112.50, 98.18, 56.80.



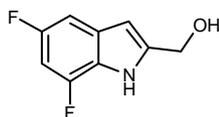
(5-bromo-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3f). In a three-necked flask were charged with freshly distilled toluene (130 mL) and ethyl 5-bromo-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (10.0 mmol, 2.68 g). It was cooled to -78 °C and DIBAL-H (20.0 mmol, 1M, 20 mL) were carefully added into by dropwise under the protection of N₂. About 2 h later (monitored by TLC), the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution at -78 °C. The mixture was filtered through a Buchner funnel and the salts was washed with EtOAc. The combined organic filtrates were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. And the crude indolyl alcohol was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5/1) to afford **3f** as a white solid in 84% yield. mp 113-114 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 35.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 2.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 141.96, 134.87, 129.84, 122.95, 121.81, 113.01, 111.20, 98.09, 56.79.



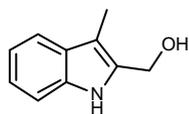
(5-nitro-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3g). Yellow solid, 84% yield. mp 114-115 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 11.84 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.68 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 144.36, 140.52, 139.54, 127.29, 116.77, 116.18, 111.34, 100.81, 56.71.



(5,7-dimethyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3h). White solid, 82% yield. mp 91-92 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 8H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 137.14, 134.32, 129.23, 127.75, 124.42, 119.82, 117.79, 100.66, 58.63, 21.32, 16.52.

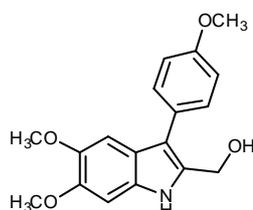


(5,7-difluoro-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3i). White solid, 84% yield. mp 78-79 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 11.59 (s, 1H), 7.12 (dd, $J_1 = 9.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.77 (m, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.62 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 156.93, 156.83, 154.62, 154.53, 149.28, 146.84, 146.69, 143.66, 130.77, 130.65, 130.58, 120.66, 120.53, 100.75, 100.52, 100.17, 95.91, 95.70, 95.61, 95.40, 56.67.



(3-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (3j).¹ White solid, 73% yield. mp 111-112 °C.

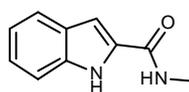
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 10.74 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.18-5.00 (m, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 135.40, 135.24, 128.50, 120.73, 118.04, 110.91, 105.70, 54.70, 8.32.



(5,6-dimethoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (9). White

solid, 75% yield. mp 84-85 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.85 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.88 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 6H), 1.75 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 158.30, 147.66, 145.57, 131.86, 130.36, 130.03, 127.09, 120.34, 115.28, 114.26, 101.64, 94.63, 57.14, 56.52,

56.30, 55.34.



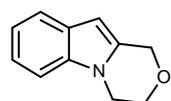
N-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxamide (3l). To a solution of ethanolic MeNH₂ (6.75

M, 4.0 mL) was added methyl 1H-indole-2-carboxylate (5.7 mmol, 0.99 g) and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature until the carboxylate was

consumed as determined by TLC. The mixture was filtered through a Buchner funnel and the filter was washed with Et₂O to give the pure product as a white solid in 72% yield. mp 222-223 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 9.51 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 3.07 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 161.62, 136.36, 131.88, 127.16, 123.16, 121.45, 119.68, 112.31, 102.04, 25.82.

3.2 General procedure for the synthesis of the oxazino[4,3-*a*]indoles compounds

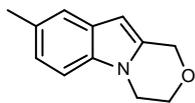
A stirred solution of (1H-indol-2-yl)methanol compounds **3a-3k** (0.5 mmol) or N-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxamide **3l** (0.5 mmol, 0.0871 g) or 1H-indole-2-carboxamide **3m** (0.5 mmol, 0.0801 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was treated with KOH (1.25 mmol, 0.0702 g) at 0 °C under N₂. After 10 min a solution of diphenylvinylsulfonium salt **4**² (0.6 mmol, 0.2174 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C, then the reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and the reaction was stirred at this temperature until determined to be complete by TLC analysis. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum. The product was then purified using flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EA = 30/1 as eluant) to afford the desired product **5**.



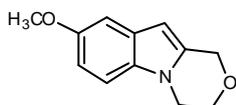
3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-*a*]indole (5a). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3a** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (93% yield). mp 129-130 °C. ¹H NMR

(600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.09 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.00 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 136.08, 132.91, 127.87, 120.84, 119.98, 108.42, 95.73,

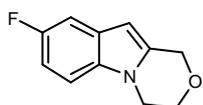
95.71, 64.90, 64.52, 41.61; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated $[M+H]^+$ 174.0913, measured 174.0917.



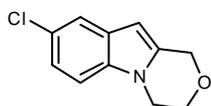
8-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5b). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3b** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (73% yield). mp 125-126 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.12-3.94 (m, 2H), 3.94-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 134.55, 132.96, 129.20, 128.16, 122.41, 119.94, 108.11, 95.26, 64.91, 64.54, 41.66, 21.42; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated $[M+H]^+$ 188.1070, measured 188.1071.



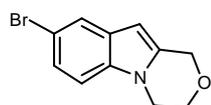
8-(methoxy)-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5c). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3c** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (75% yield). mp 153-154 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.11 (dd, $J_1 = 6.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.99 (dd, $J_1 = 6.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 154.44, 133.57, 131.44, 128.32, 110.85, 109.10, 102.26, 95.51, 64.86, 64.52, 55.80, 41.68; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated $[M+Na]^+$ 226.0839, measured 226.0848.



8-fluoro-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5d). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3d** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (81% yield). mp 108-109 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.19 (dd, $J_1 = 9.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.80 (m, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.10 (dd, $J_1 = 6.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.98 (dd, $J_1 = 6.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 141.93, 138.80, 136.23, 127.08, 117.22, 116.59, 108.24, 98.12, 64.61, 64.18, 41.93; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated M^+ 191.0746, measured 191.0744.

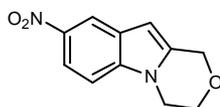


8-chloro-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5e). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3e** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (74% yield). mp 132-133 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.50 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.11 (dd, $J_1 = 6.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.98 (dd, $J_1 = 6.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 134.49, 134.30, 128.88, 125.58, 121.08, 119.59, 109.38, 95.47, 64.72, 64.35, 41.64; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated M^+ 207.0451, measured 207.0450.

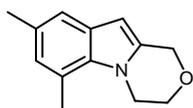


8-bromo-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5f). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3f** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (76% yield). mp 158-159 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.65 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, J_2

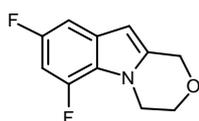
= 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.11 (dd, $J_1 = 6.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.98 (dd, $J_1 = 6.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 134.76, 134.14, 129.54, 123.64, 122.65, 113.18, 109.84, 95.39, 64.70, 64.35, 41.62; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated M^+ 250.9946, measured 250.9947.



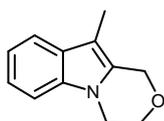
8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5g). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3g** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (74% yield). mp 163-164 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.46 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, $J_1 = 9.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 4.24-4.17 (m, 2H), 4.13 (dd, $J_1 = 5.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.3$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 141.93, 138.80, 136.23, 127.08, 117.22, 116.59, 108.24, 98.12, 64.61, 64.18, 41.93; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 241.0584, measured 241.0582.



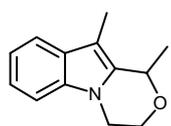
6,8-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5h). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3h** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (60% yield). mp 106-107 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.09 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 4.44-4.32 (m, 2H), 4.11-4.01 (m, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 133.84, 133.24, 129.21, 128.86, 125.58, 120.50, 117.88, 96.40, 65.17, 64.91, 45.24, 21.06, 19.55; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 202.1226, measured 202.1236.



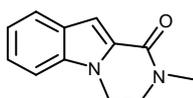
6,8-difluoro-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5i). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3i** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (61% yield). mp 89-90 °C. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 6.95 (dd, $J_1 = 9.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.60-6.64 (m, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 4.29 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.09 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 157.67, 156.10, 150.03, 148.50, 148.40, 135.55, 130.59, 120.94, 100.87, 100.72, 97.09, 96.72, 96.67, 96.52, 64.63, 64.53, 44.35, 44.33; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated M^+ 209.0652, measured 209.0650.



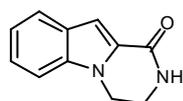
10-methyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5j). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3j** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (74% yield). mp 57-58 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.52 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.19-4.06 (m, 2H), 4.06 - 3.95 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 136.11, 128.67, 128.44, 120.93, 119.37, 118.24, 108.32, 104.15, 64.65, 63.92, 41.74, 7.90; HRMS: m/z (ESI) calculated M^+ 187.0997, measured 187.1000.



1,10-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (5k). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3k** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (62% yield). mp 63-64 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.37-4.22 (m, 1H), 4.11-4.03 (m, 1H), 4.03-3.91 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.65 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 135.22, 132.67, 128.47, 120.94, 119.27, 118.16, 108.29, 103.85, 69.96, 61.91, 41.67, 20.44, 9.06; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+H]⁺ 202.1226, measured 202.1221.



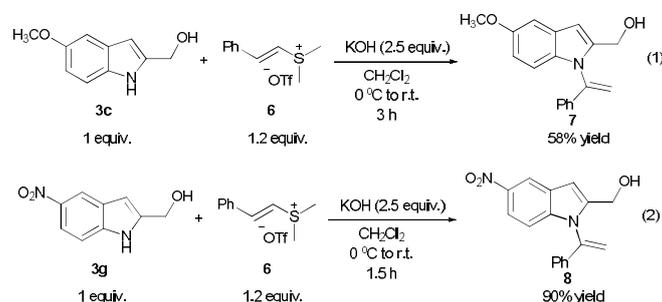
2-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrazino[1,2-a]indol-1(2H)-one (5l). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3l** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (80% yield). mp 245-246 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.33-4.25 (m, 2H), 3.84-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 160.25, 136.31, 129.24, 127.36, 124.31, 122.60, 120.57, 109.47, 105.84, 47.98, 39.91, 34.21; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+H]⁺ 201.1022, measured 201.1025.



3,4-dihydropyrazino[1,2-a]indol-1(2H)-one (5m). Prepared according to the general procedure from indole-2-carboxamide **3m**³ (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a white solid (90% yield). mp 197-198 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ (ppm) 160.38, 136.28, 129.70, 126.50, 123.96, 121.99, 120.32, 110.64, 104.19, 40.05, 39.75; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+Na]⁺ 209.0685, measured 209.0688.

3.3 Proposed reaction pathway for the cyclization process

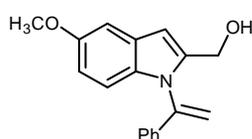
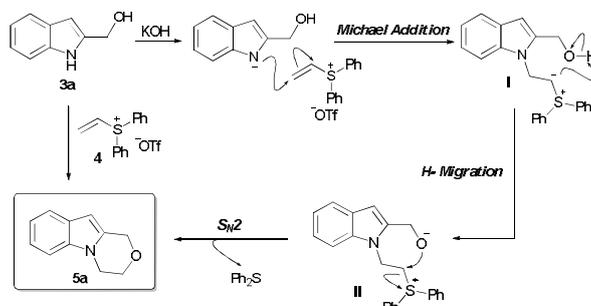
3.3.1 Initial experiment about mechanism investigation



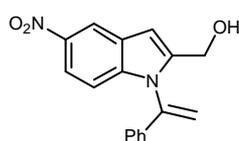
A stirred solution of (1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanol compounds **3c** and **3g** (0.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was treated with KOH (1.25 mmol, 0.0702 g) at 0 °C under N₂. After 10 min a solution of dimethyl[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]sulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate **6**⁴ (0.6 mmol, 0.1572 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C, then the reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and the reaction was stirred at this temperature until determined to be complete

by TLC analysis. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum. The product was then purified using flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EA = 10/1 as eluant) to afford the desired product **7** and **8**.

3.3.2 Proposed reaction pathway for the cyclization process

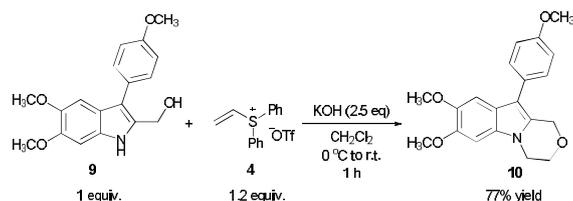


(5-methoxy-1-(1-phenylvinyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (7). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3c** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) to provide the title compound as a brown oil (58% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 154.42, 142.64, 140.14, 136.80, 133.46, 129.10, 128.72, 127.87, 125.69, 113.44, 112.42, 111.74, 102.34, 57.40, 55.72; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+Na]⁺ 302.1152, measured 302.1158.



(5-nitro-1-(1-phenylvinyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol (8). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3g** (0.5 mmol), **4** (0.6 mmol), KOH (1.25 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) at 0 °C for 1.5 h to provide the title compound as a brown oil (90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dt, *J*₁ = 14.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.11 (dd, *J*₁ = 14.9 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 2H), 2.91 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 143.16, 141.83, 140.89, 135.53, 129.57, 128.94, 126.72, 125.39, 117.73, 114.72, 110.74, 104.14, 57.11; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+Na]⁺ 317.0897, measured 317.0902.

4. Synthesis of 7,8-bis(methoxy)-10-[4-(methoxy)phenyl]-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole **10**



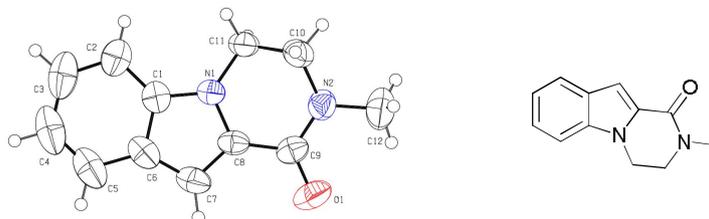
7,8-bis(methoxy)-10-[4-(methoxy)phenyl]-3,4-dihydro-1H-[1,4]oxazino[4,3-a]indole (**10**).

A stirred solution of (5,6-dimethoxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanol **9** (0.5 mmol, 0.1567 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was treated with KOH (1.25 mmol, 0.0702 g) at 0 °C under N₂. After 10 min a solution of diphenylvinylsulfonium salt **4** (0.6 mmol, 0.2174 g) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C, then the reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and the reaction was stirred at this temperature until determined to be complete by TLC analysis. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum. The product was then purified using flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EA = 30/1 as eluant) to afford the desired product **10** as a white solid in 77% yield. mp 147-148 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 157.76, 146.72, 145.57, 130.62, 129.46, 127.55, 127.11, 119.34, 114.22, 111.06, 101.13, 92.34, 64.62, 64.50, 56.44, 56.28, 55.29, 41.99; HRMS: *m/z* (ESI) calculated [M+Na]⁺ 362.1363, measured 362.1364.

References

- 1 D. St C. Black, N. Kumar and L. C. H. Wong, *Synthesis*, 1986, 474.
- 2 M. Yar, E. M. McGarrigle and V. K. Aggarwal, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2008, **47**, 3784.
- 3 P. Csomós, L. Fodor, I. Mándity and G. Bernáth, *Tetrahedron* 2007, **63**, 4983.
- 4 V. G. Nenajdenko, P. V. Verteletzki, I. D. Gridnev, N. E. Shevchenko, E. S. Balenkova, *Tetrahedron*, 1997, **53**, 8173.

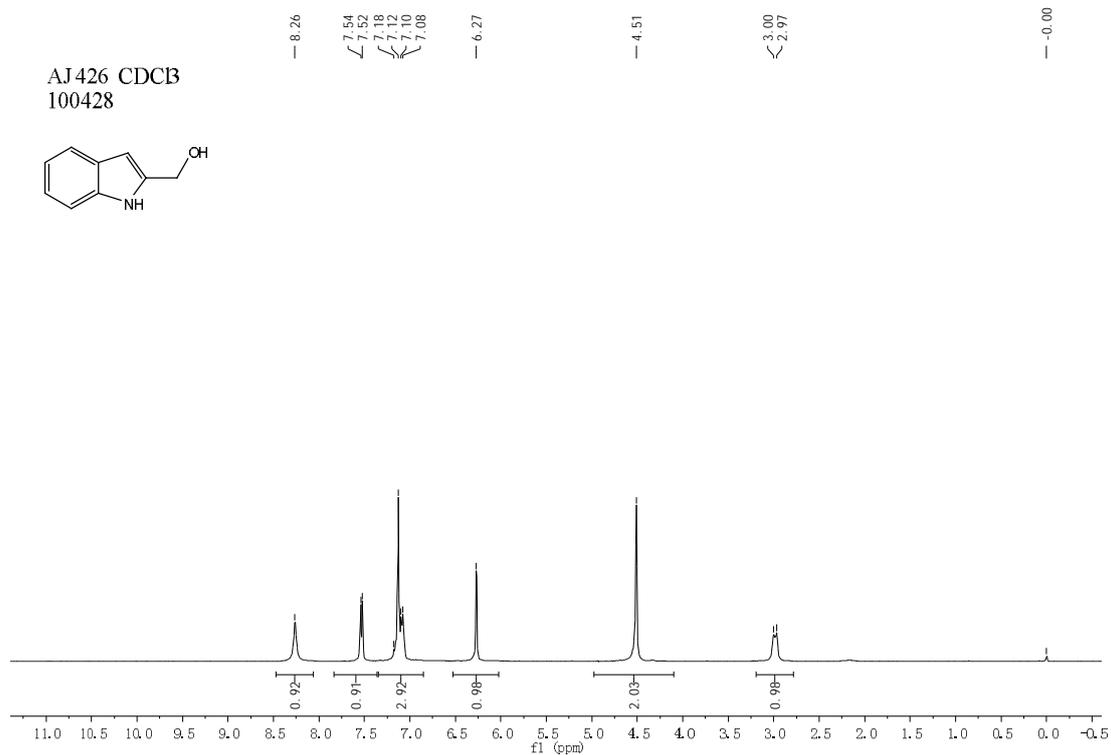
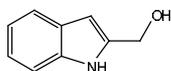
5. X-Ray structure of 2-methyl-3,4-dihydropyrazino[1,2-a]indol-1(2H)-one **5l**



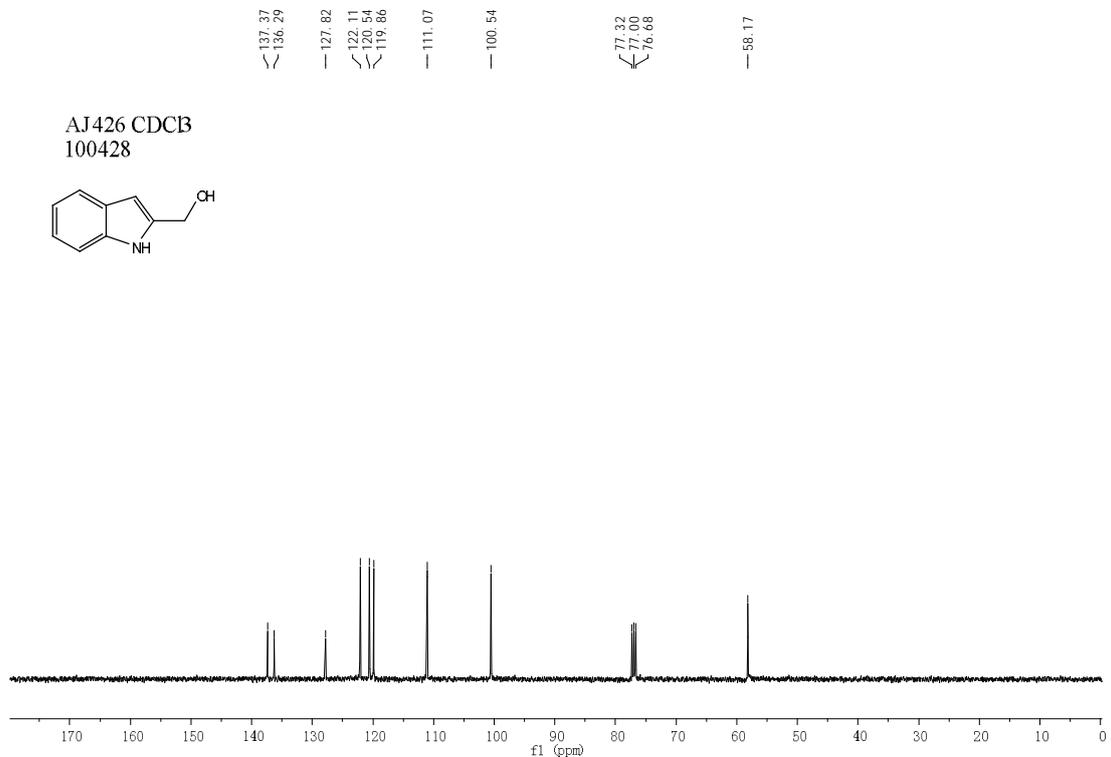
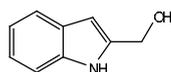
Crystal data for **5l**: C₁₂H₁₂N₂O, *M* = 200.24, monoclinic, *P*2(1)/*c*, *a* = 10.5035(12) Å, *b* = 8.0361(9) Å, *c* = 12.2743(14) Å, α = 90°, β = 98.375(2)°, γ = 90°, *V* = 1025.0(2) Å³, *Z* = 4, *T* = 298(2), *F*000 = 424, final *R* indices [*I* > 2σ(*I*): *R*₁ = 0.0489, w*R*₂ = 0.1371, *R* indices (all data): *R*₁ = 0.0679, w*R*₂ = 0.1458.

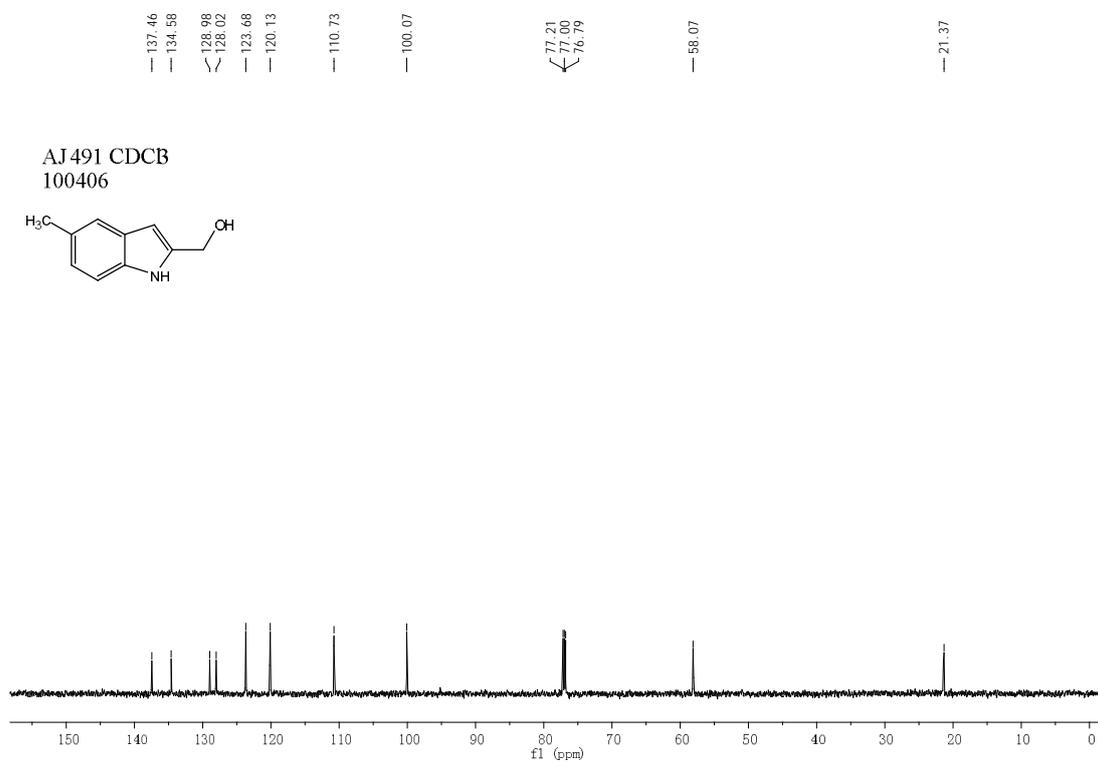
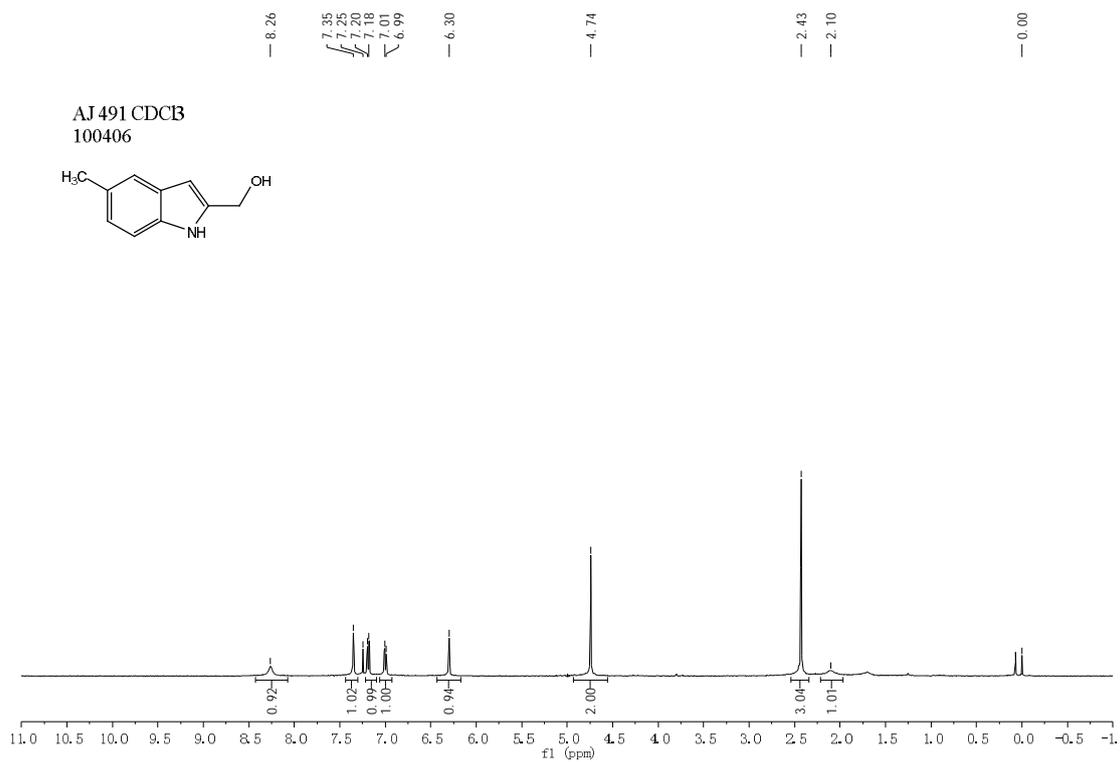
6. Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

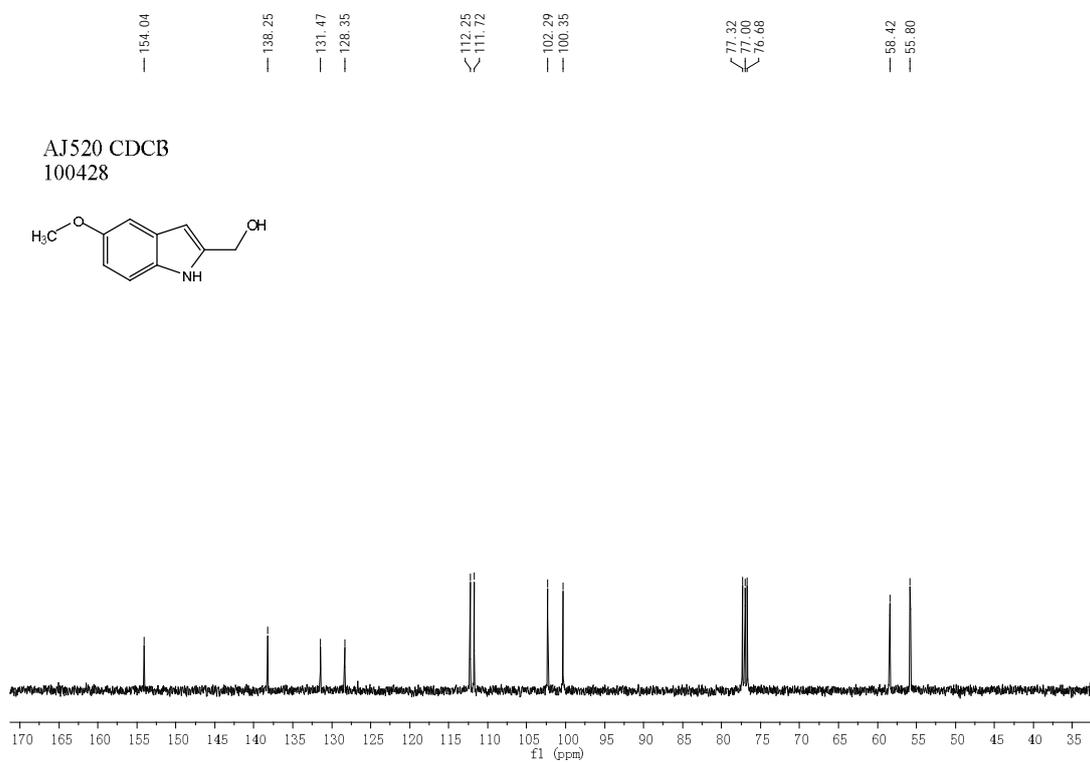
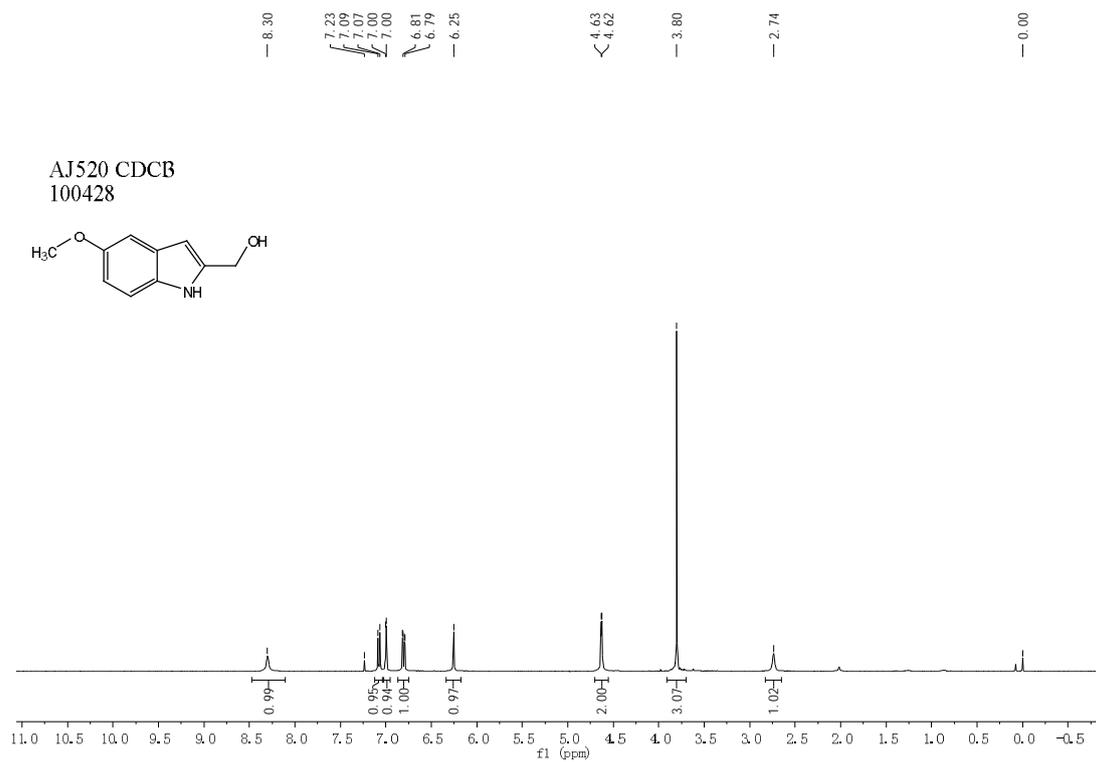
AJ426 CDCl₃
100428

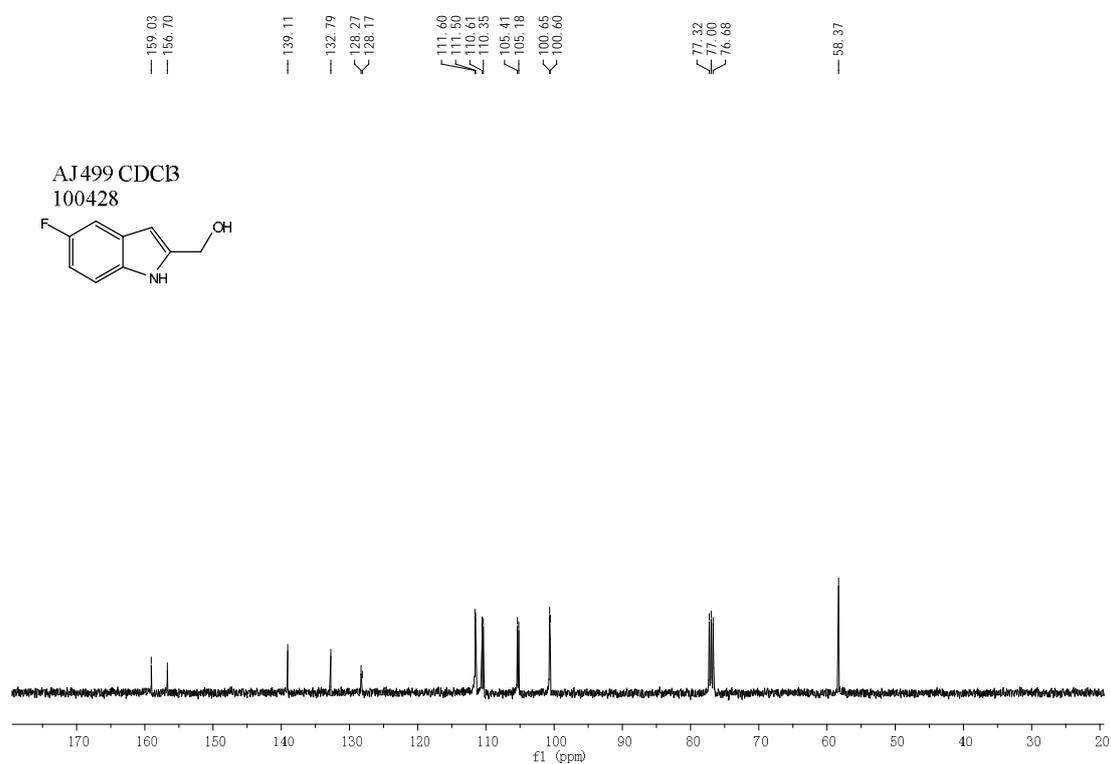
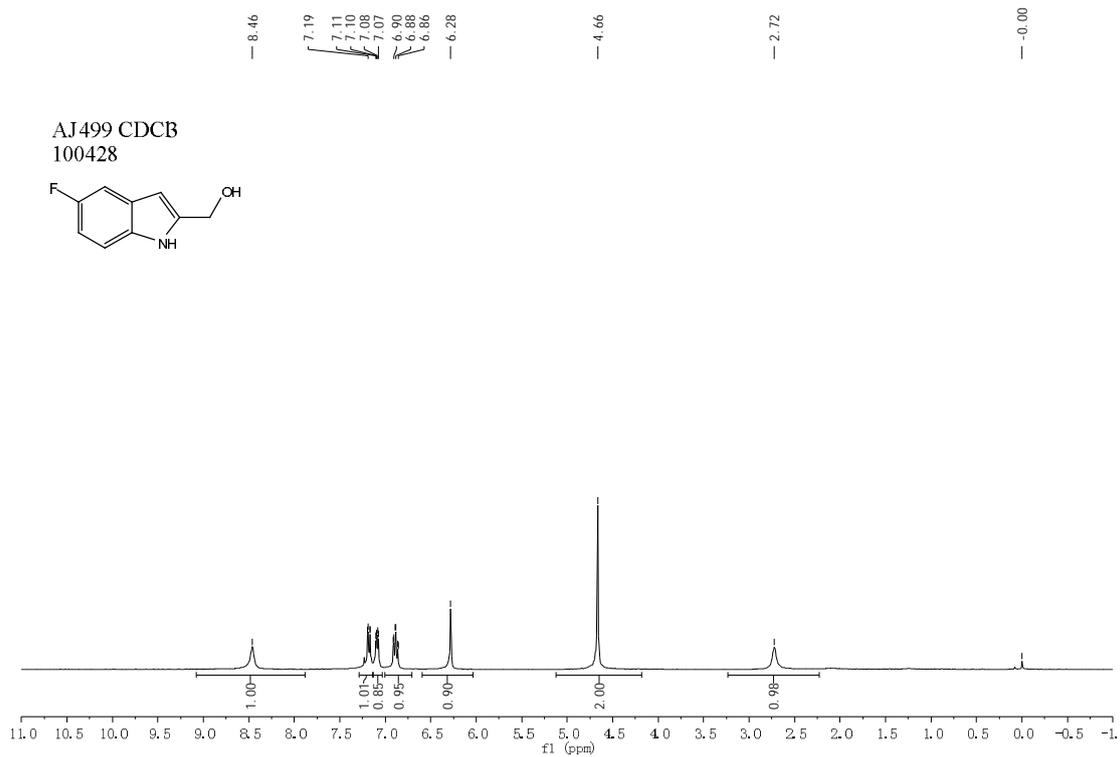


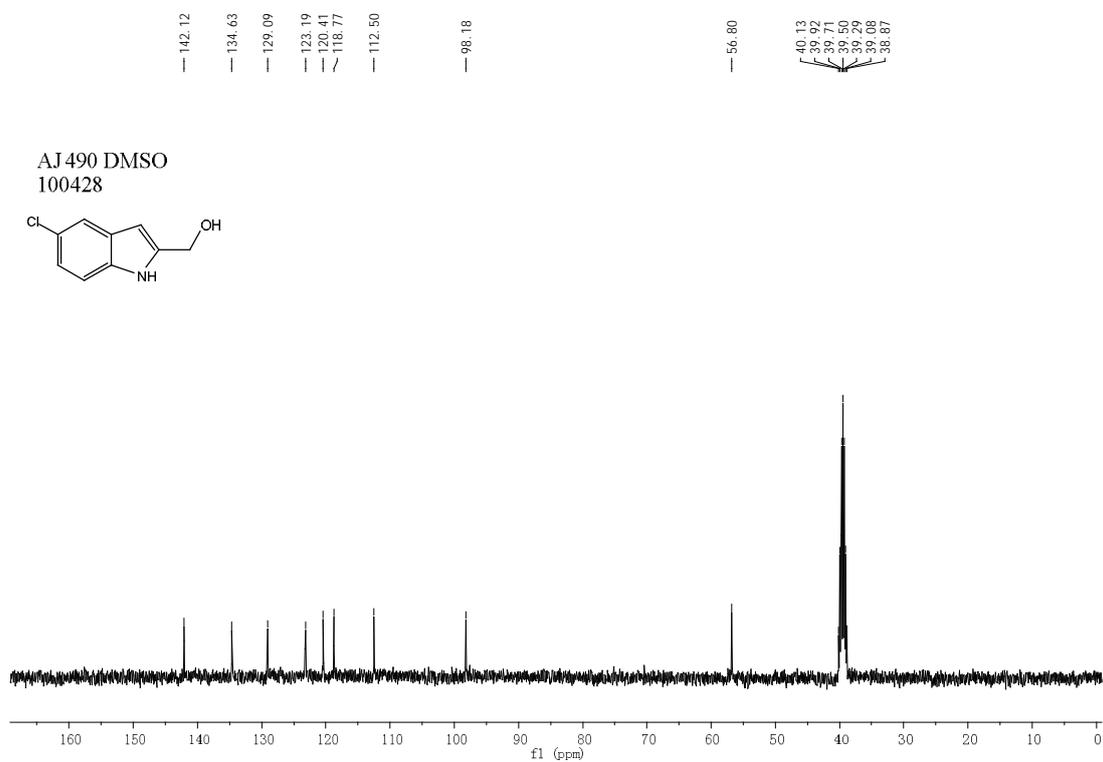
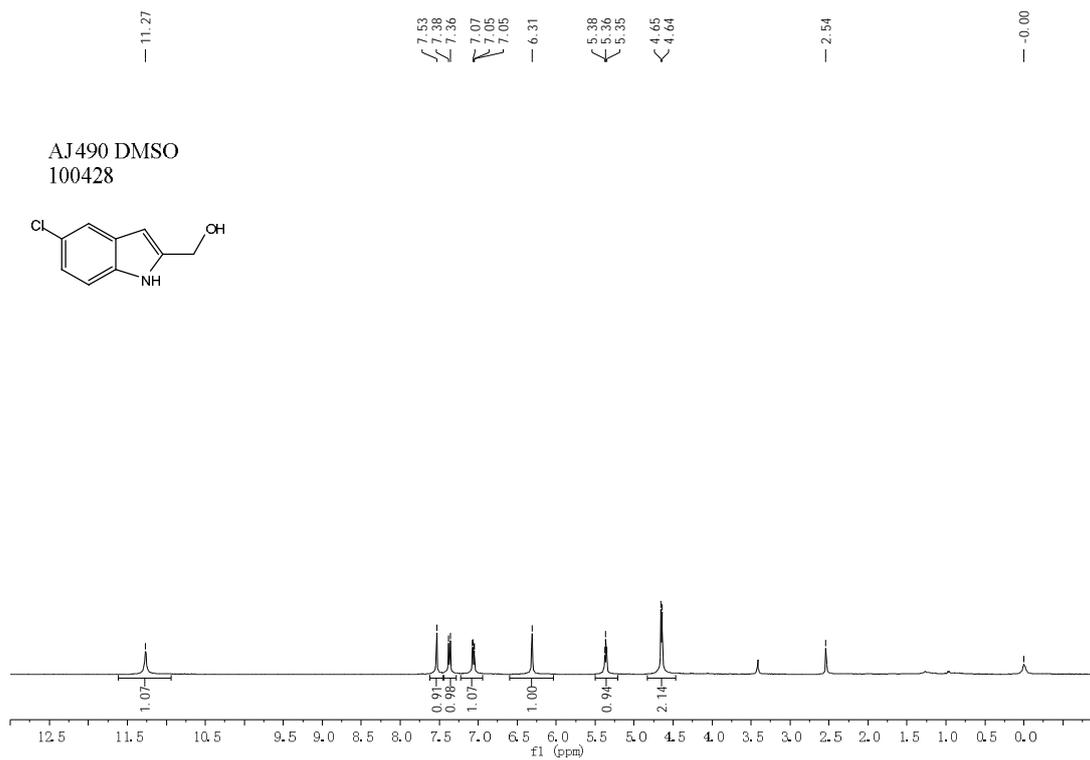
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100428

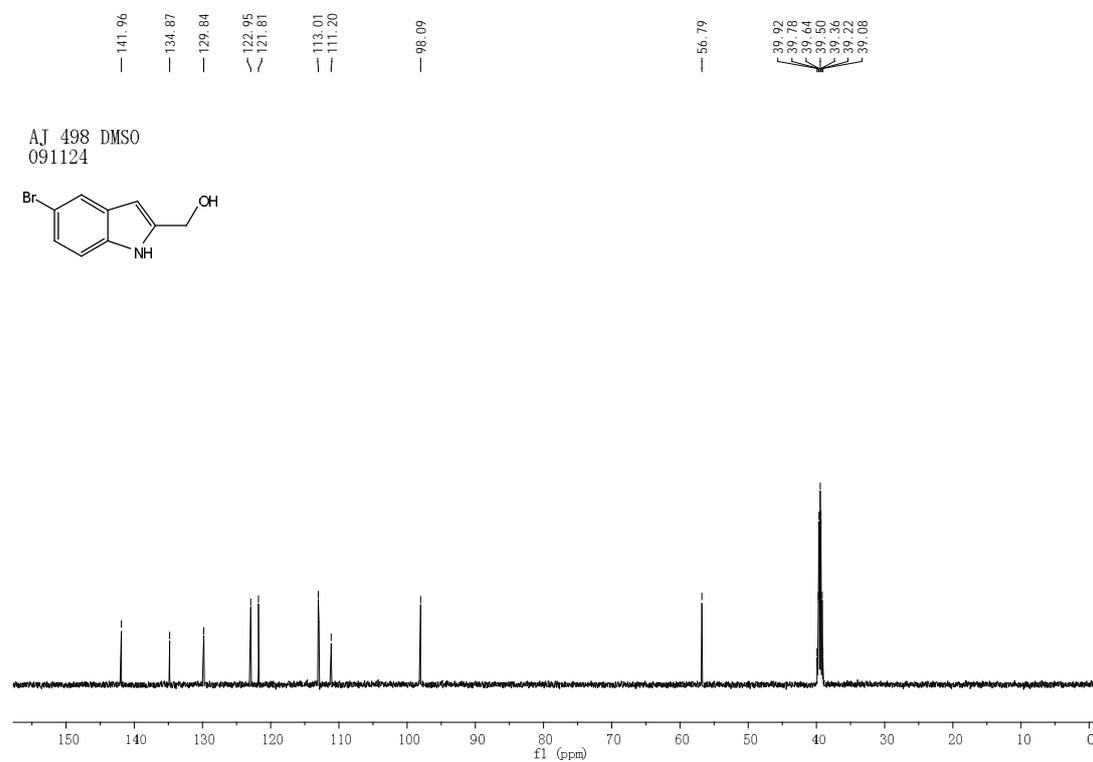
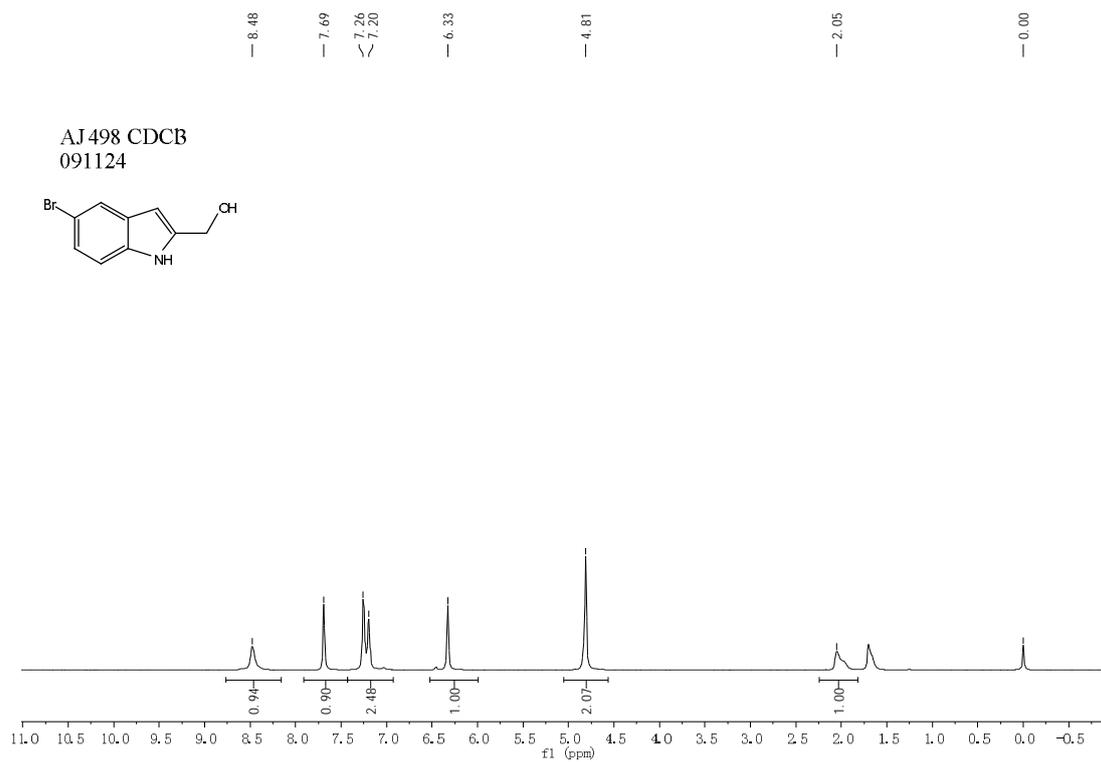


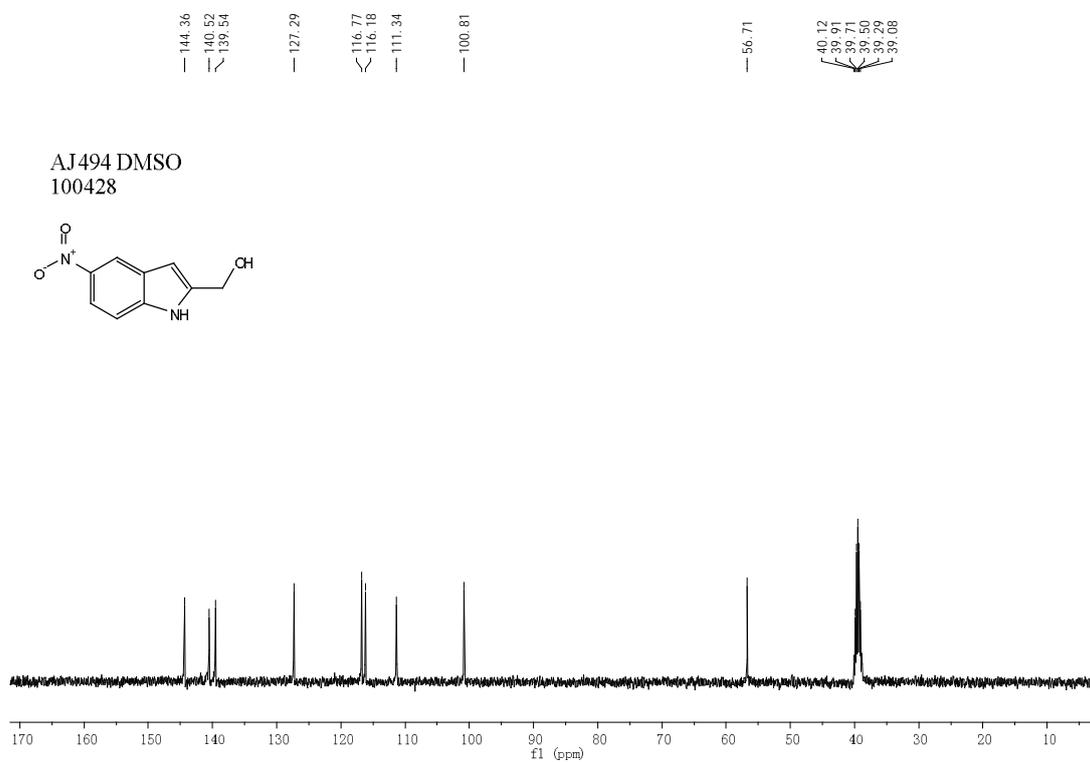
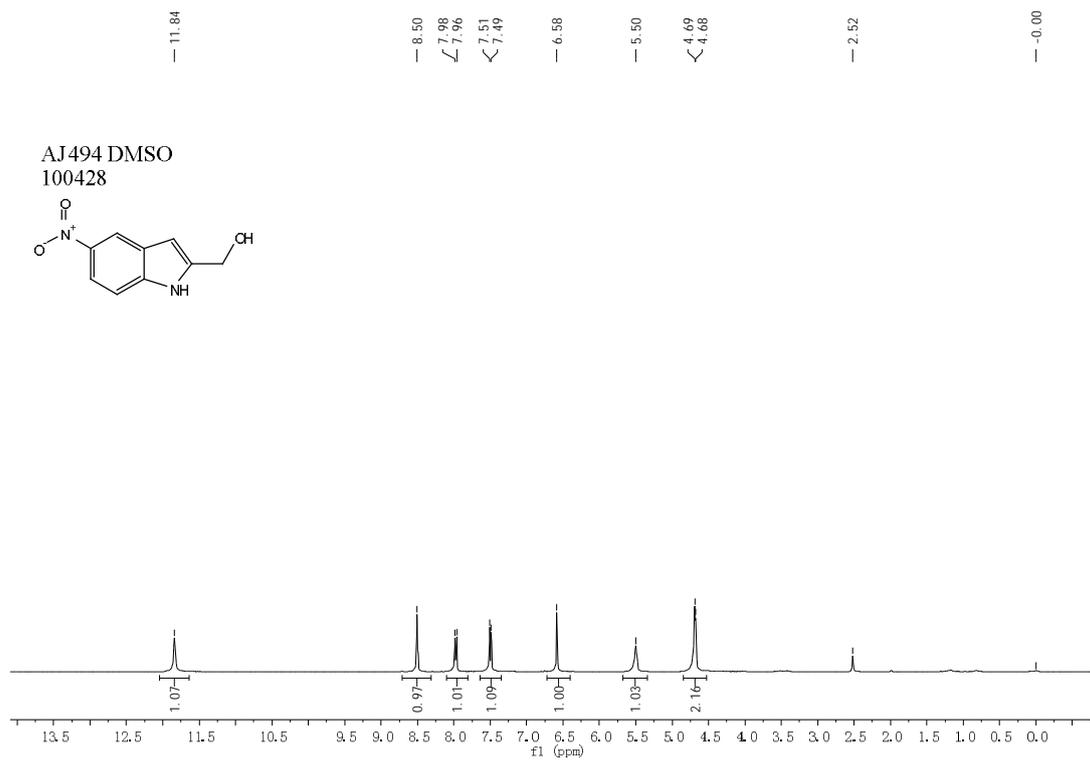


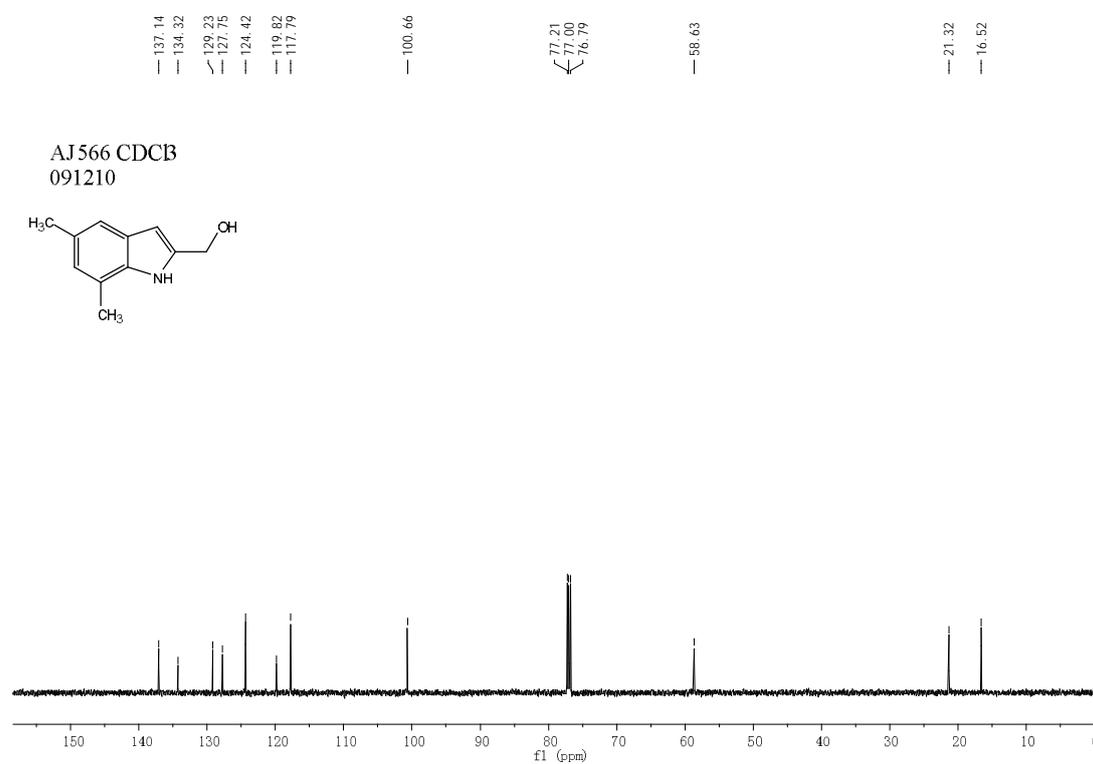
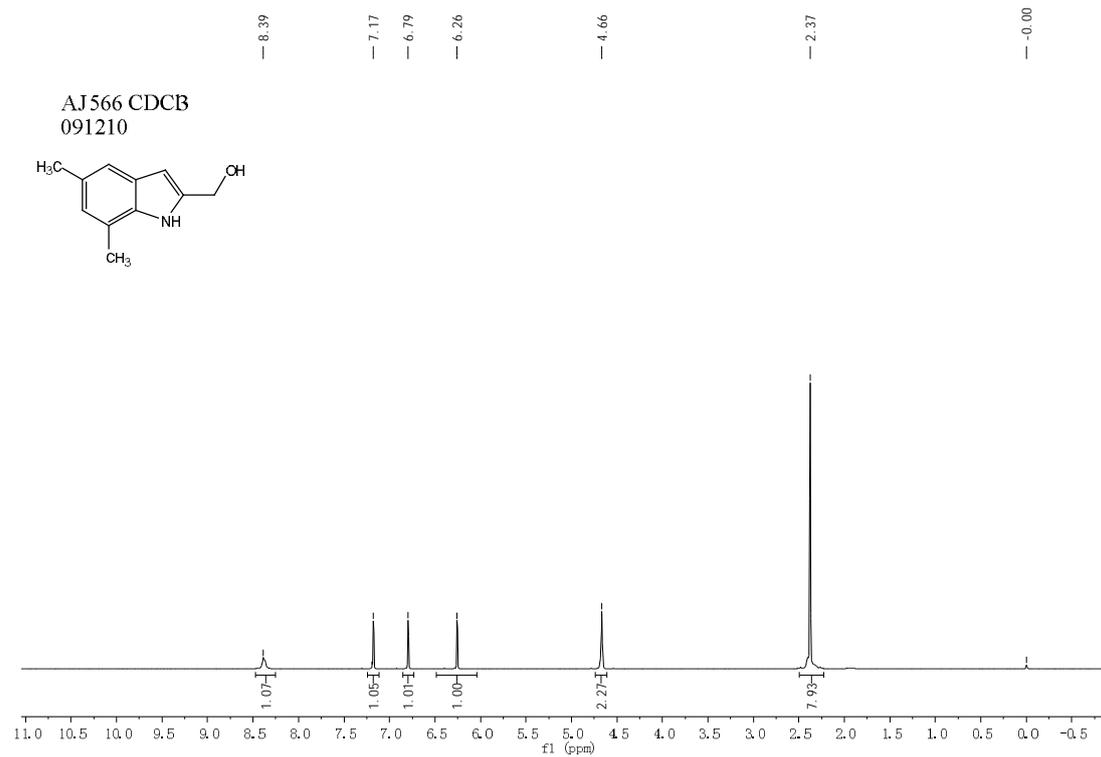


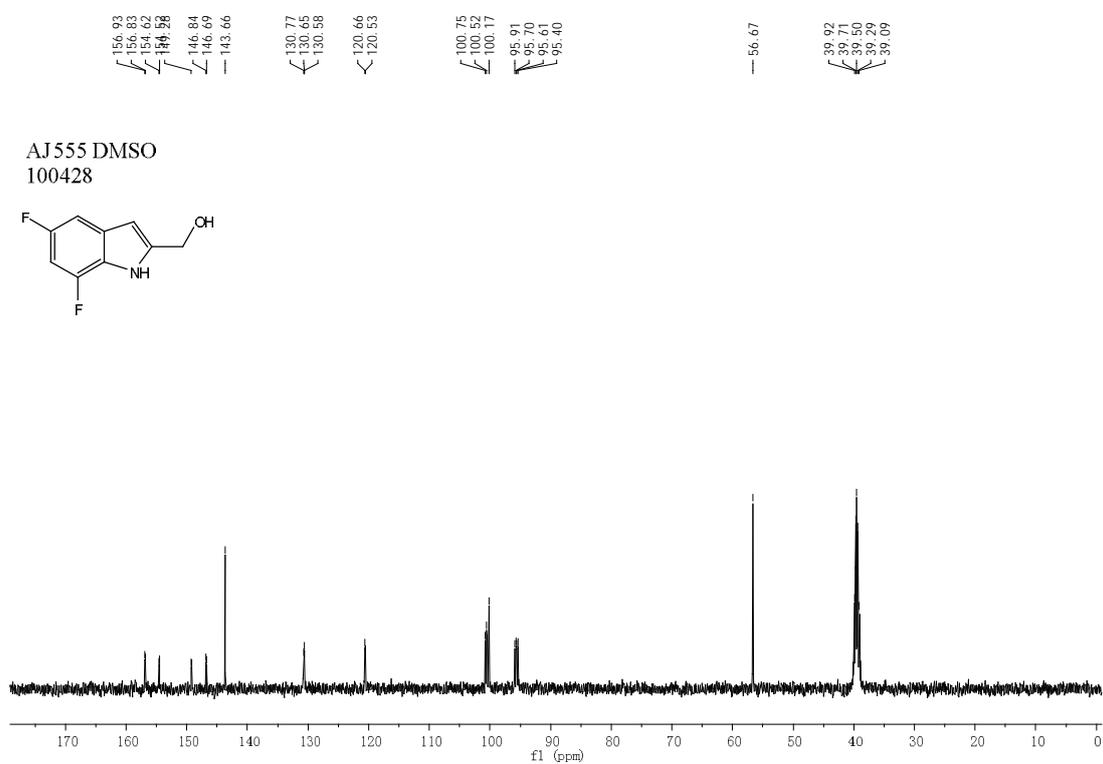
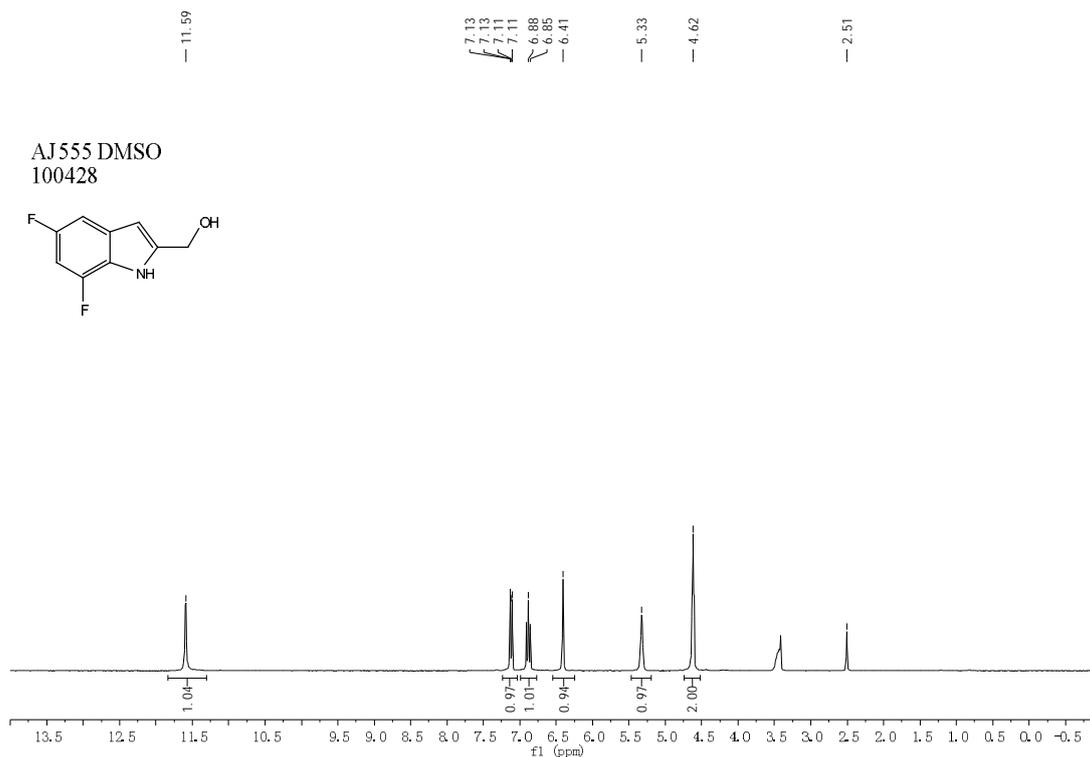


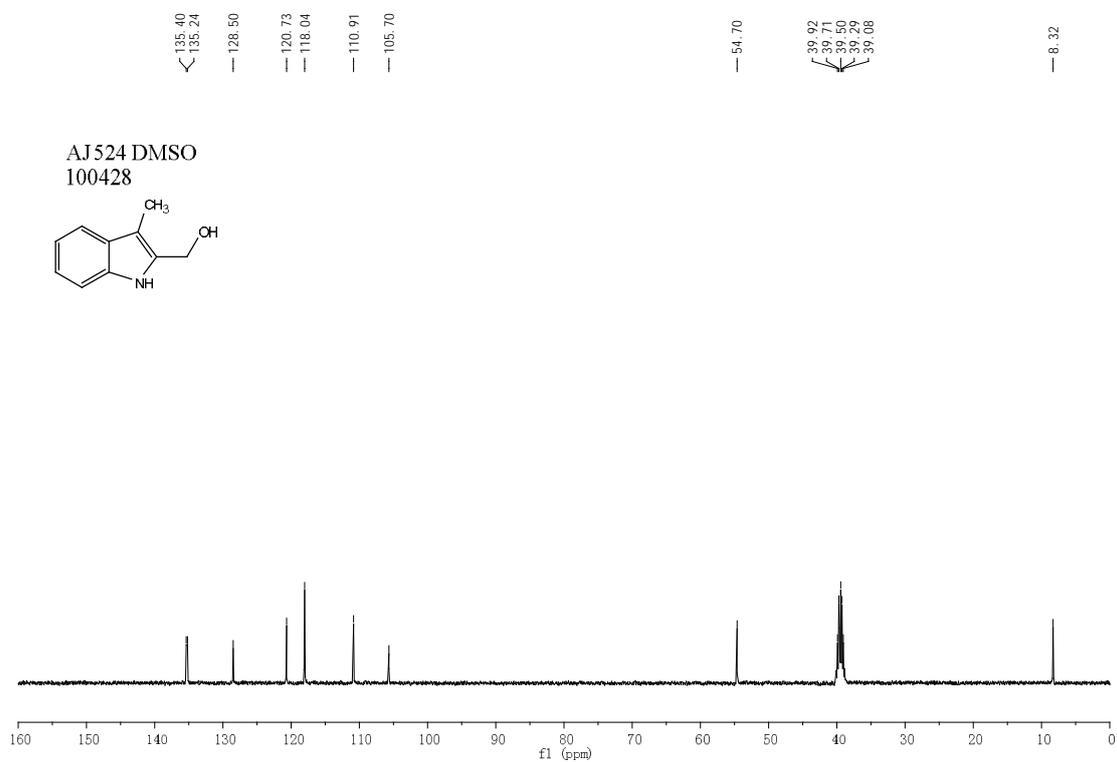
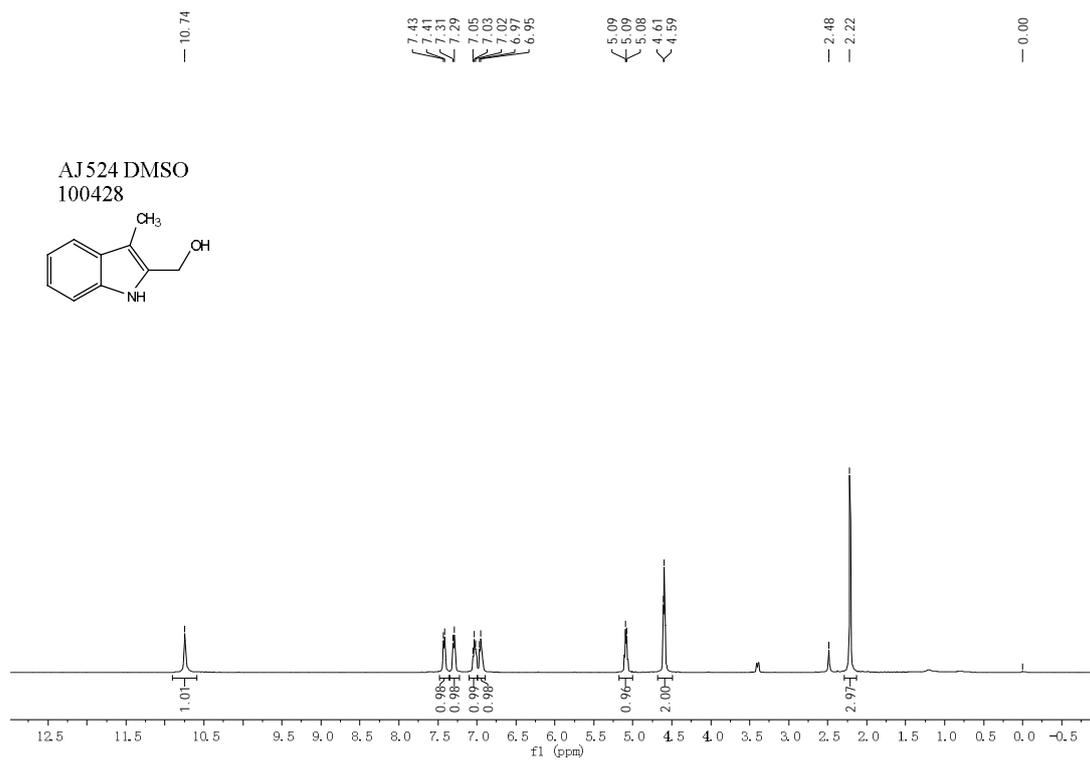


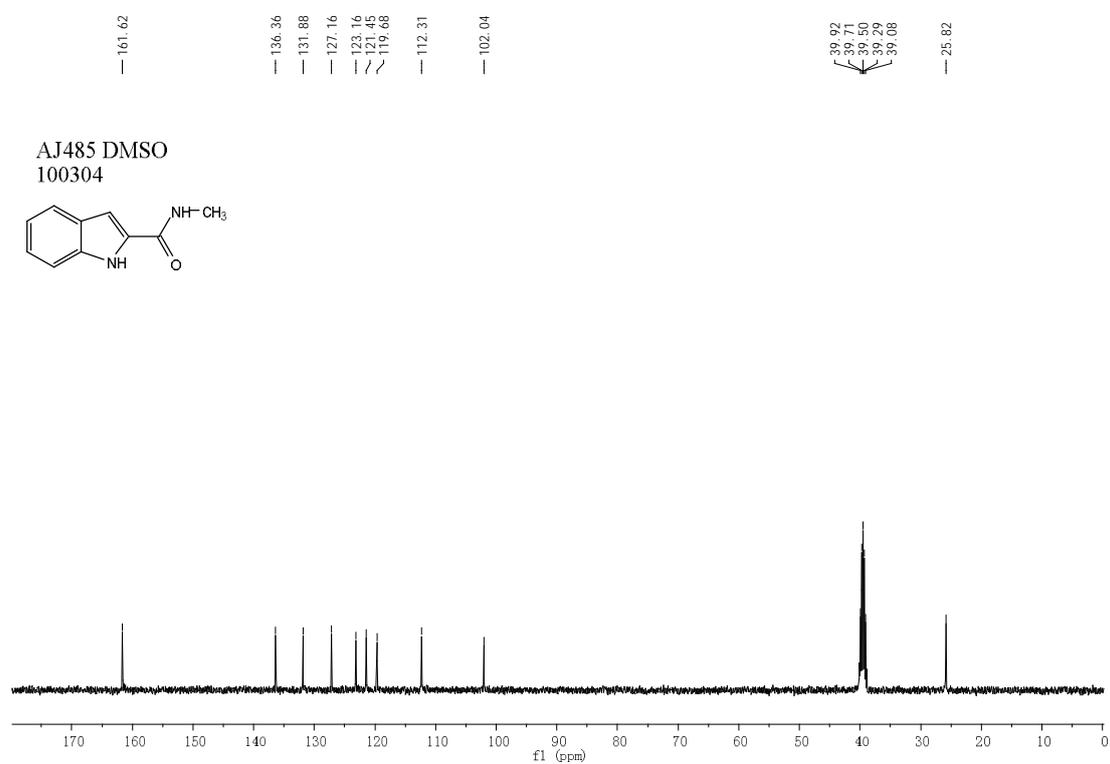
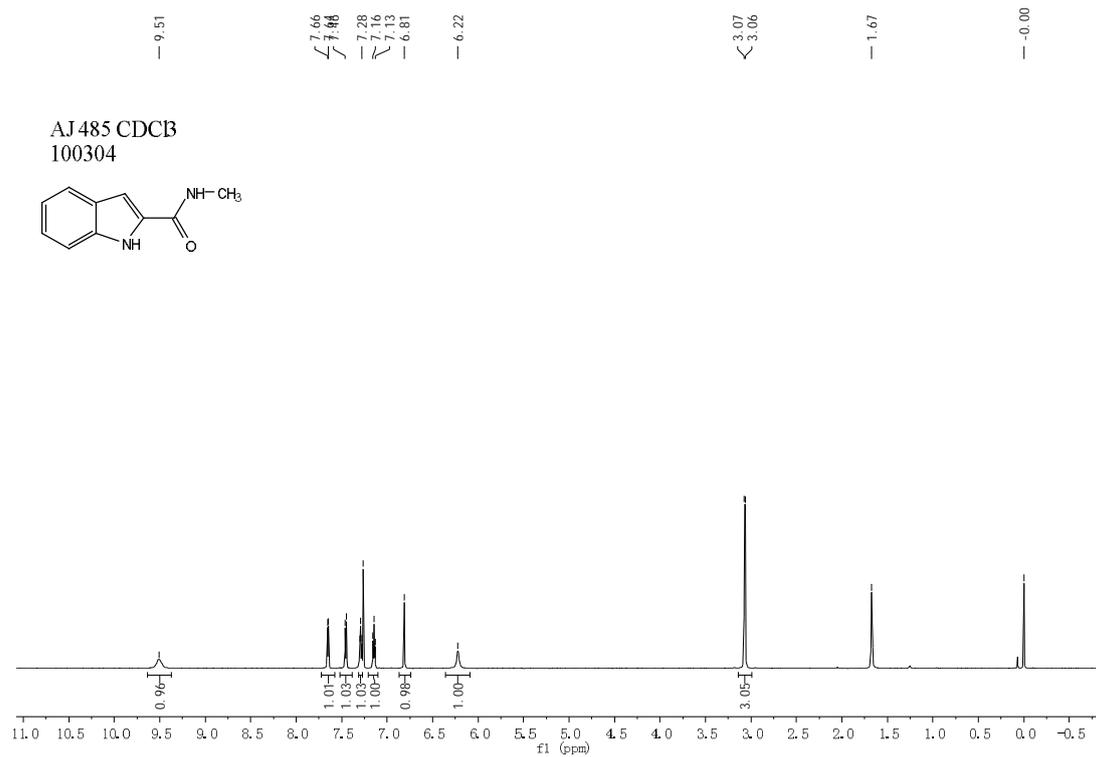


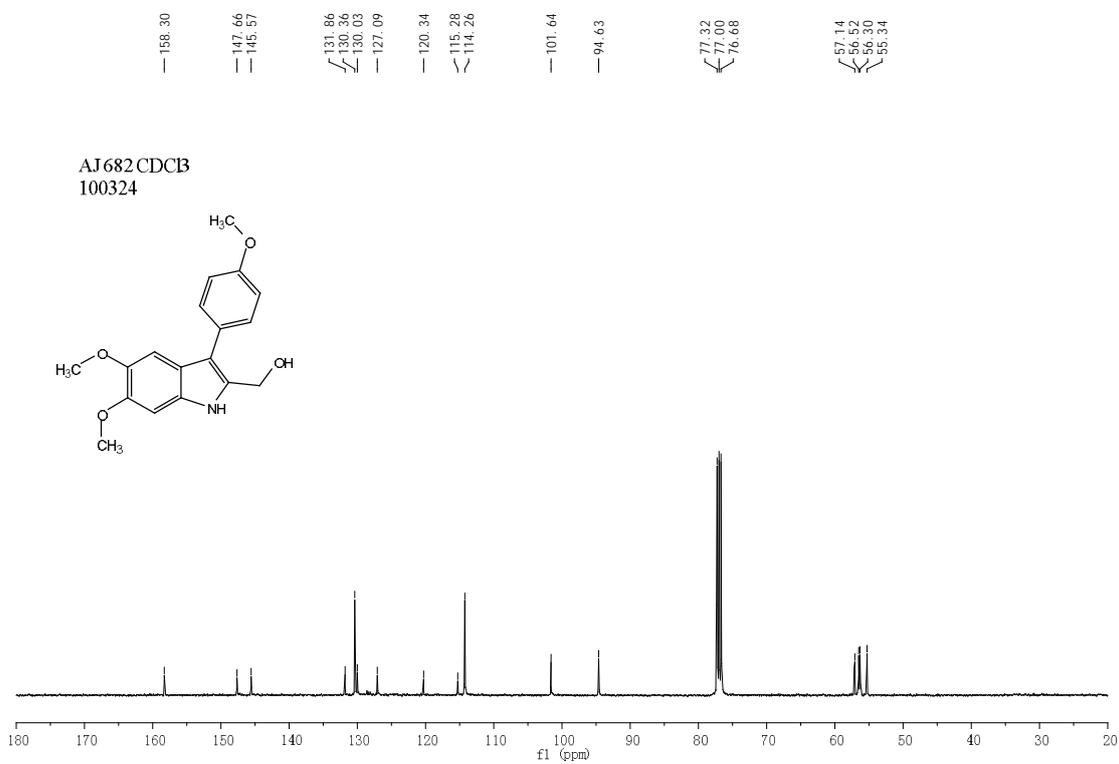
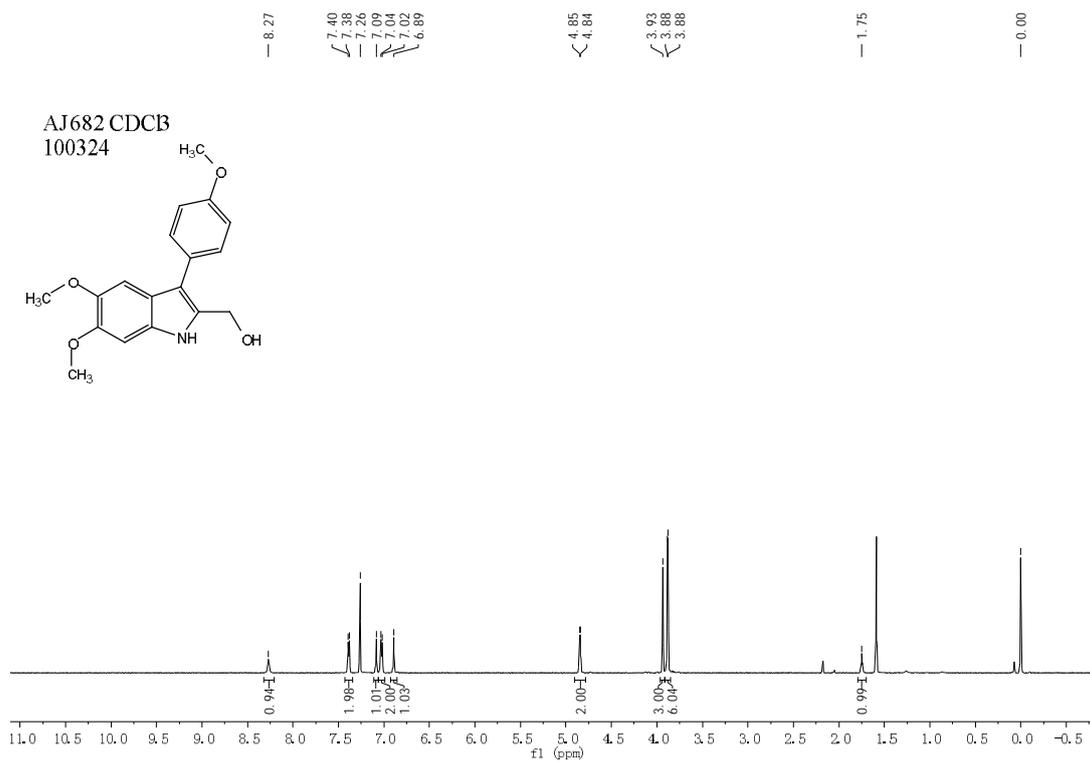


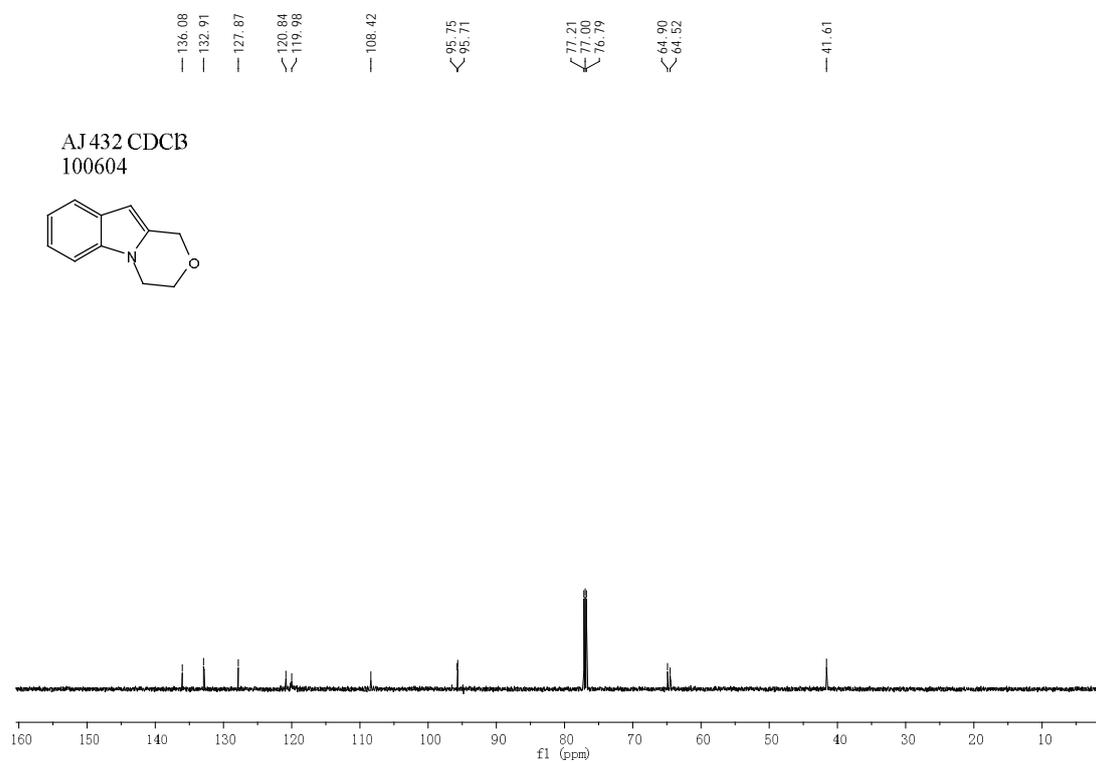
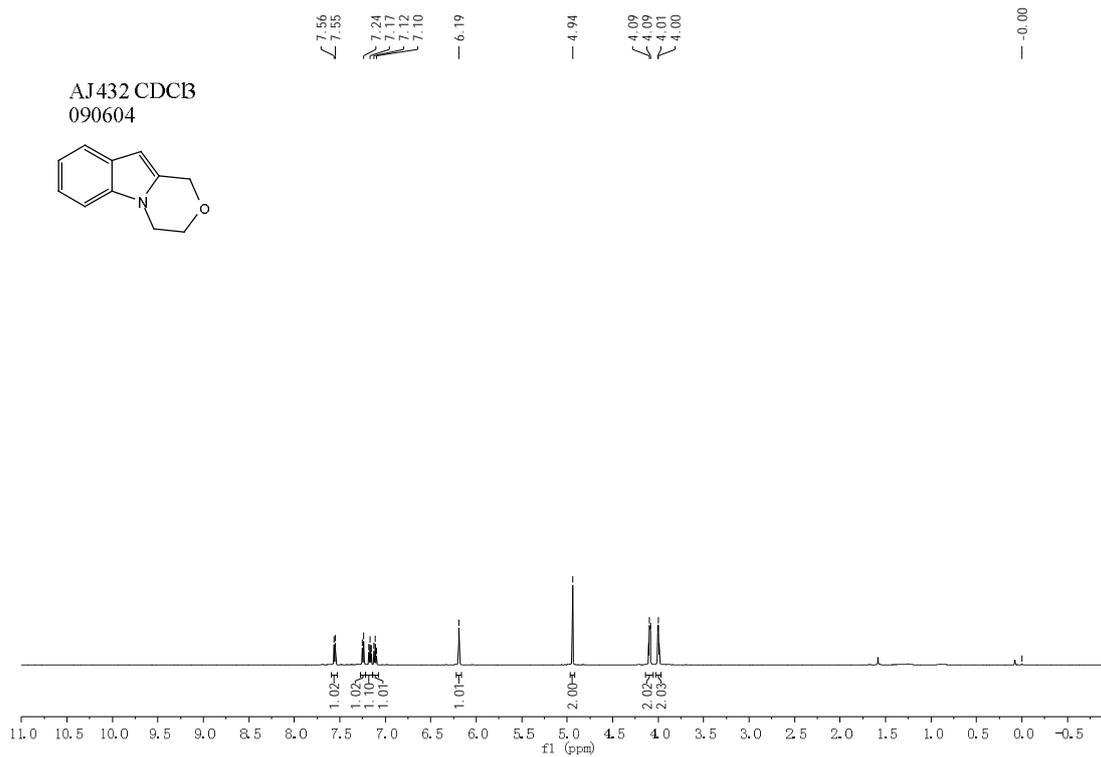


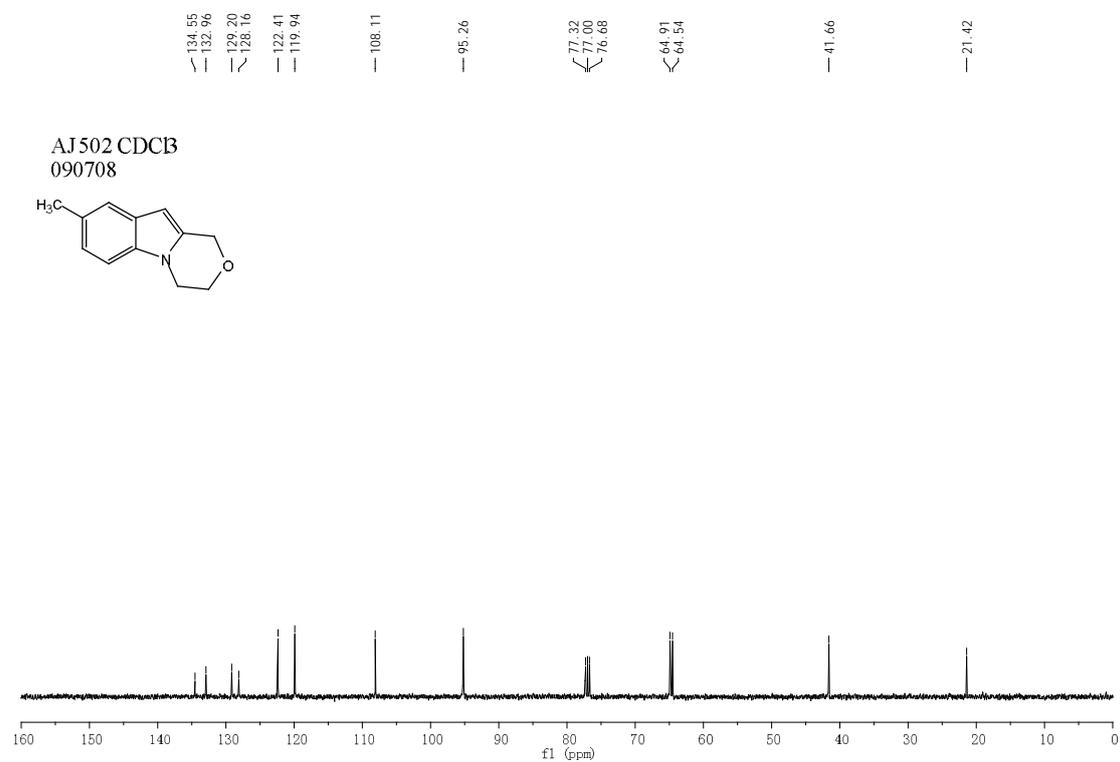
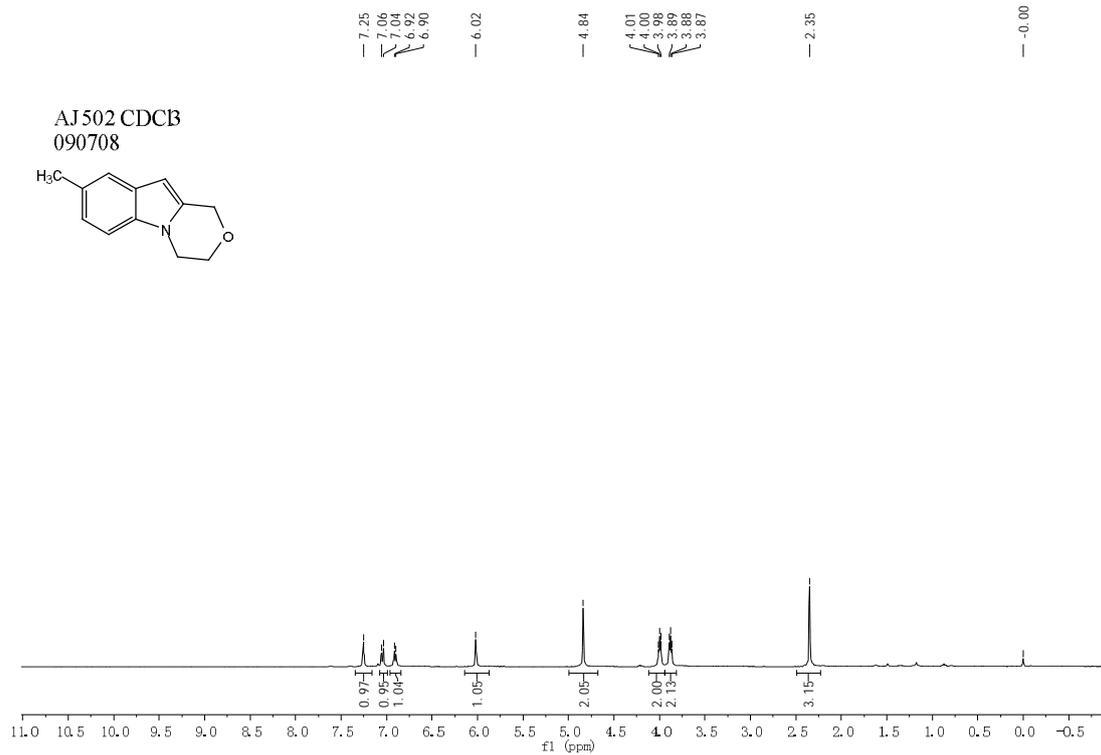


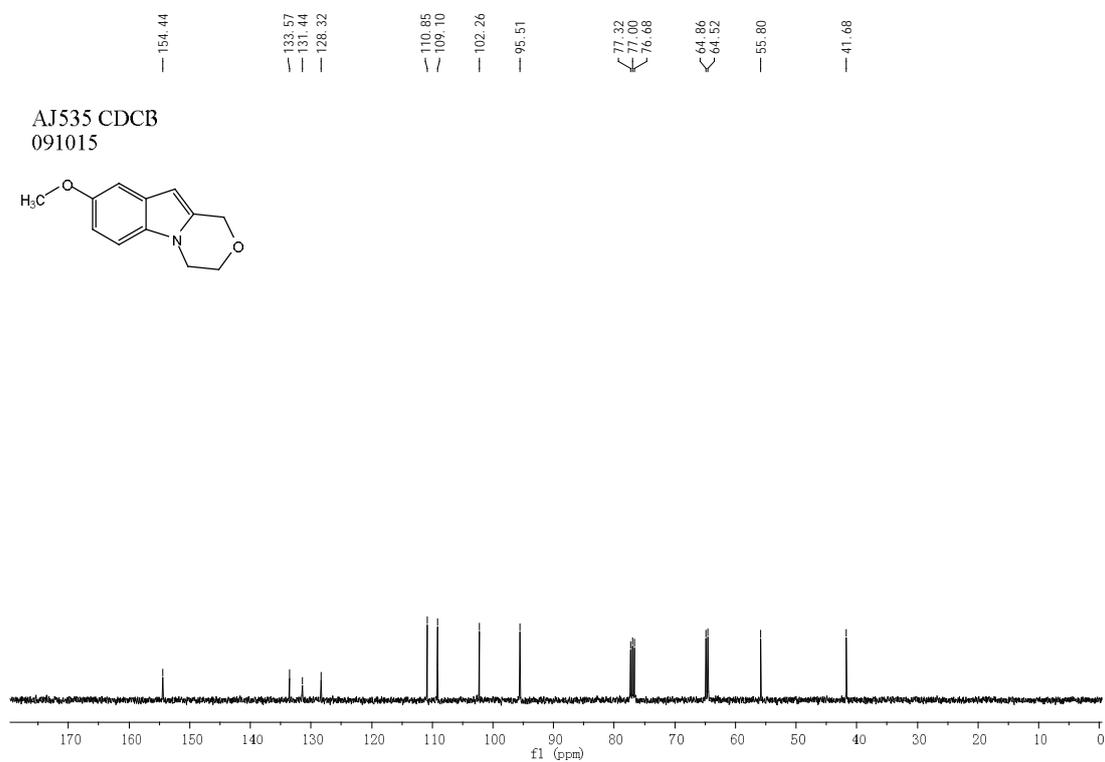
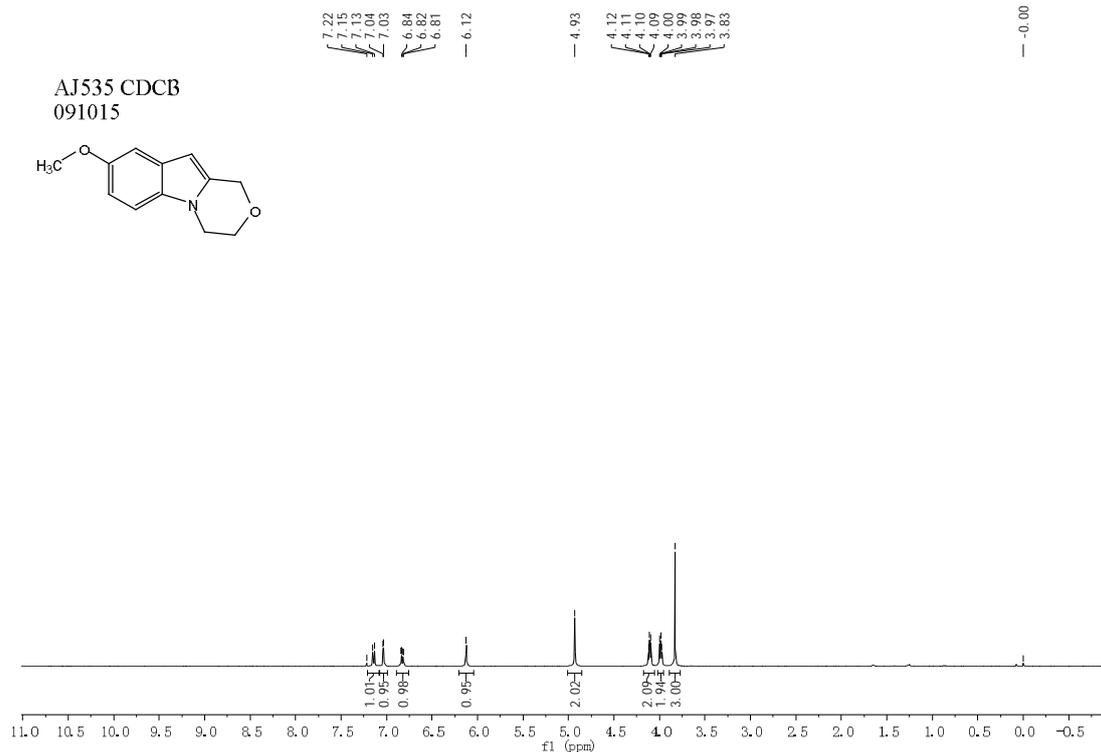


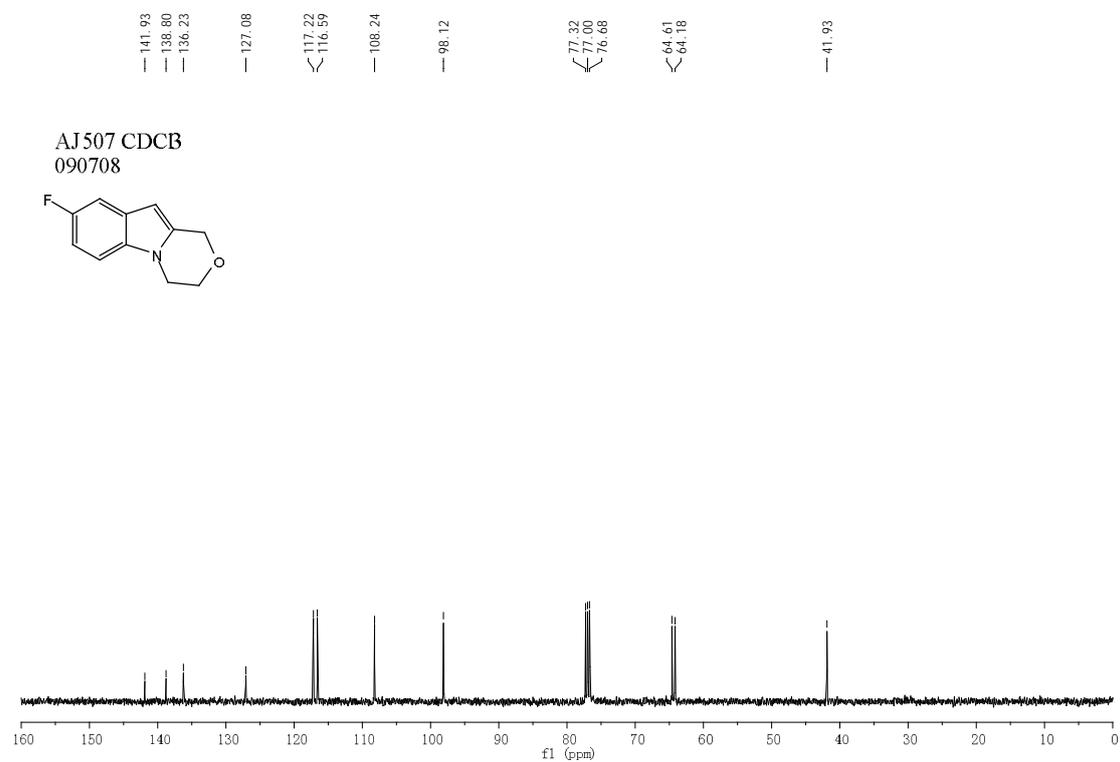
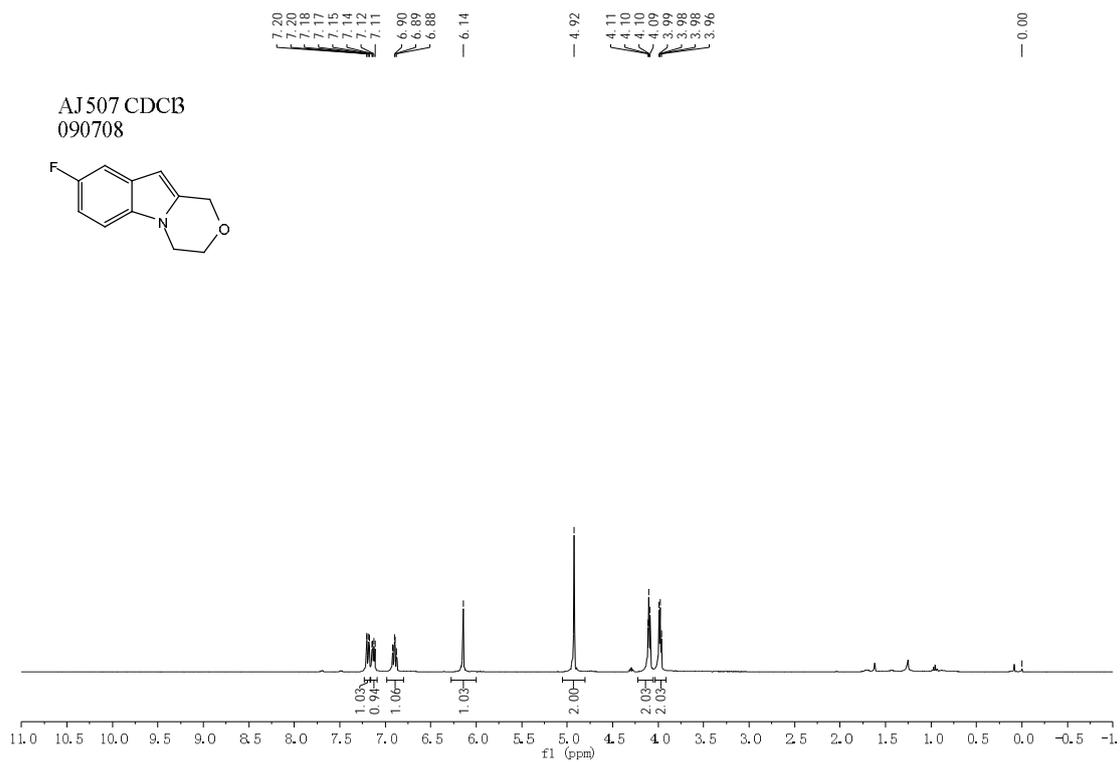


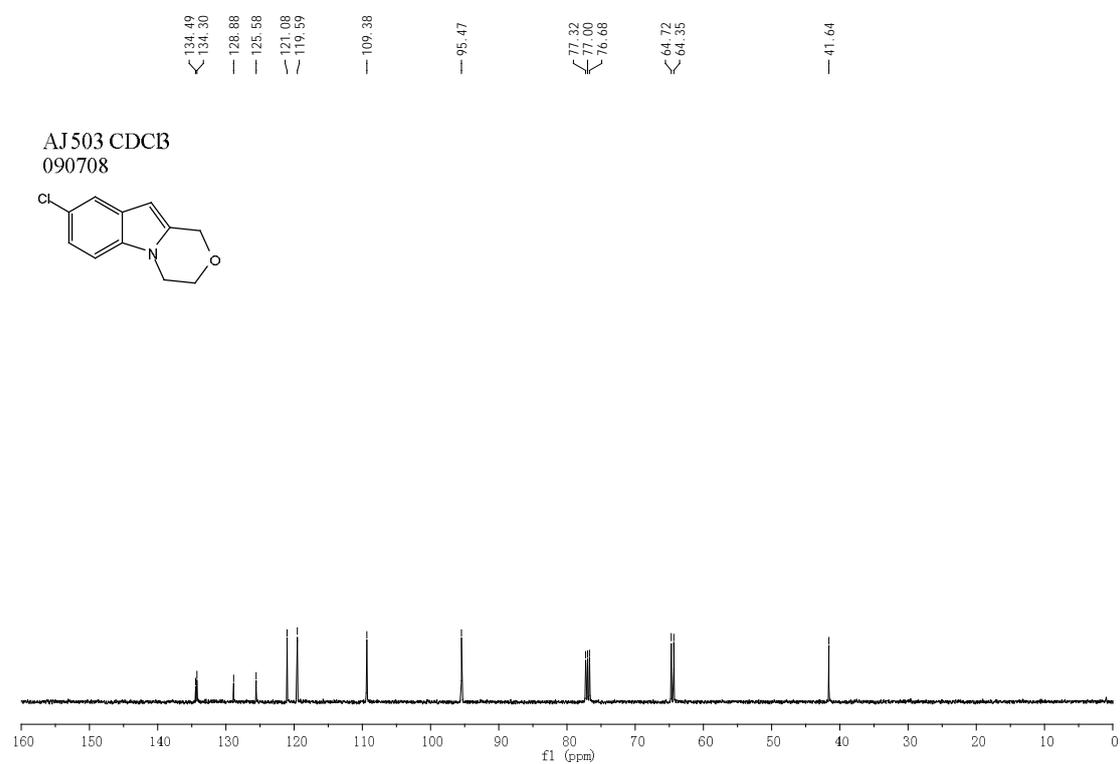
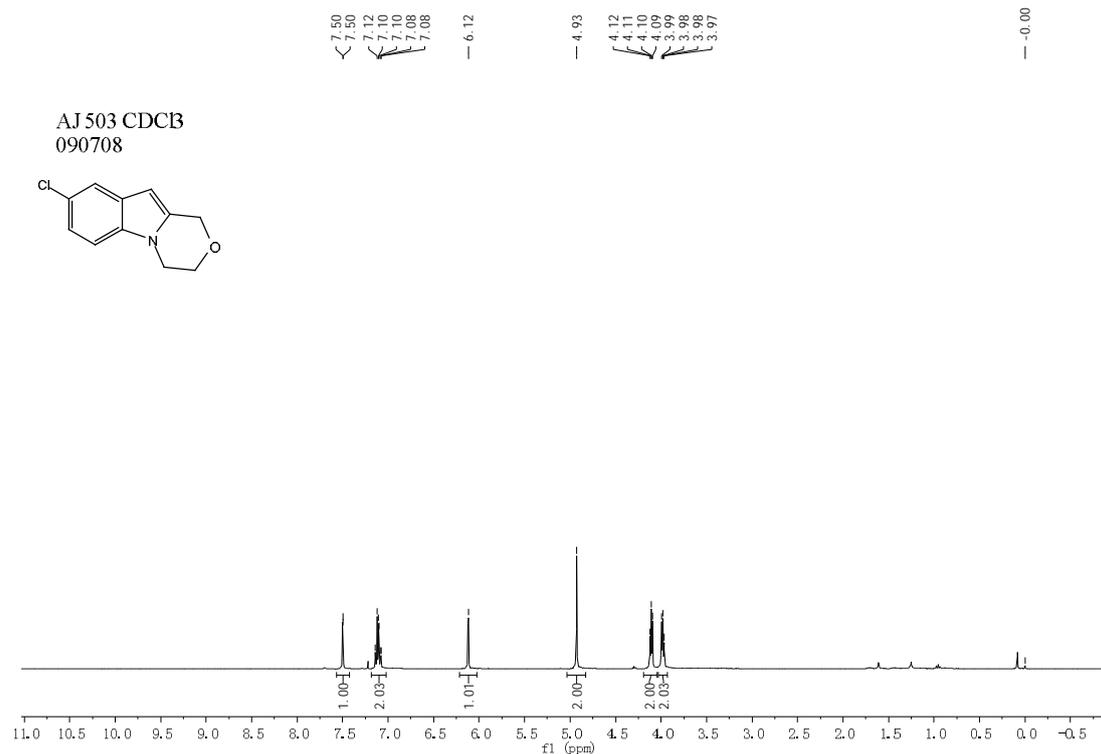


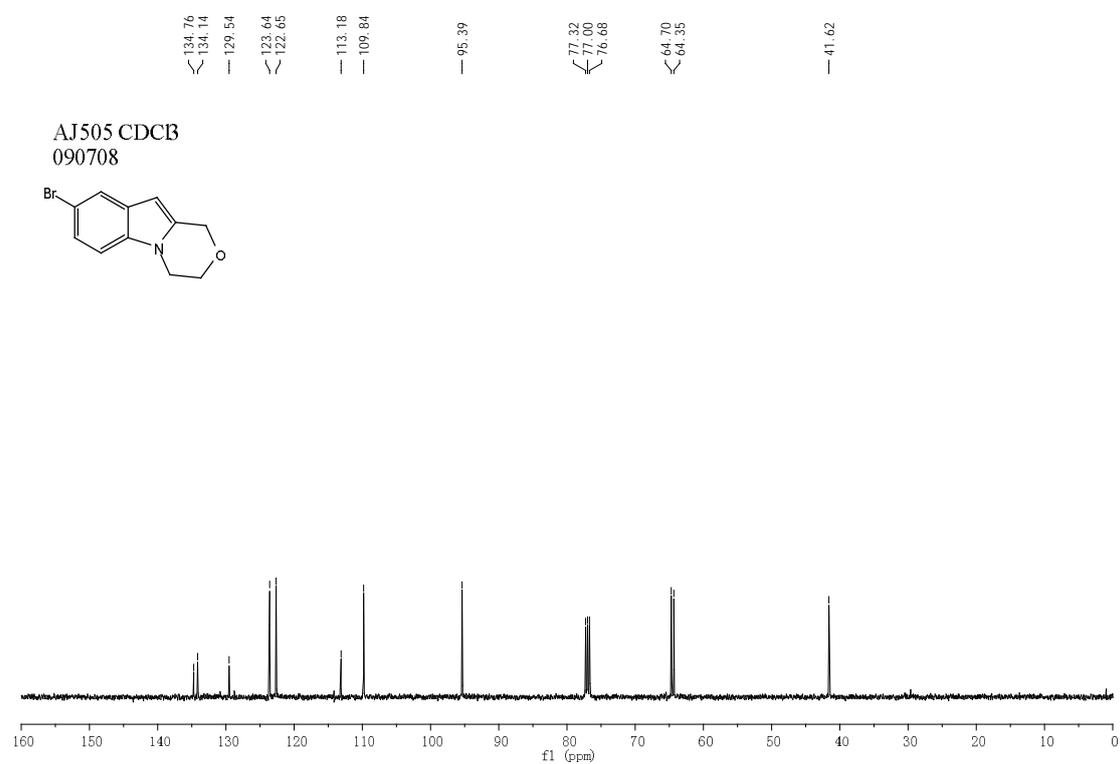
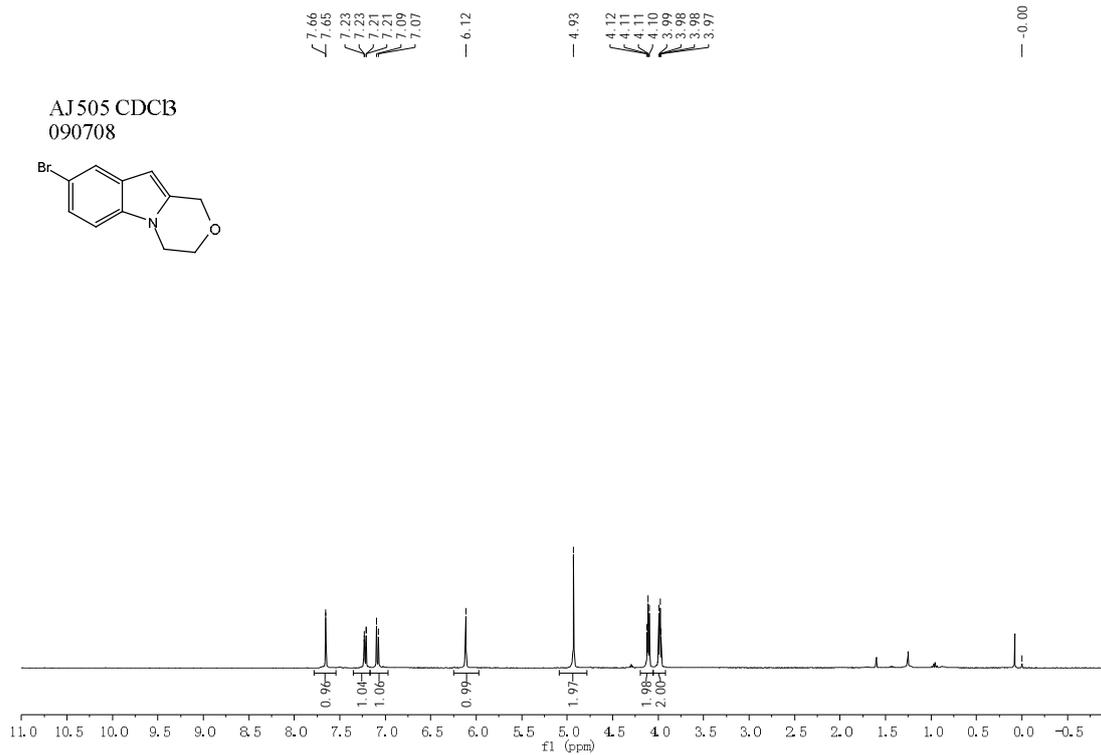


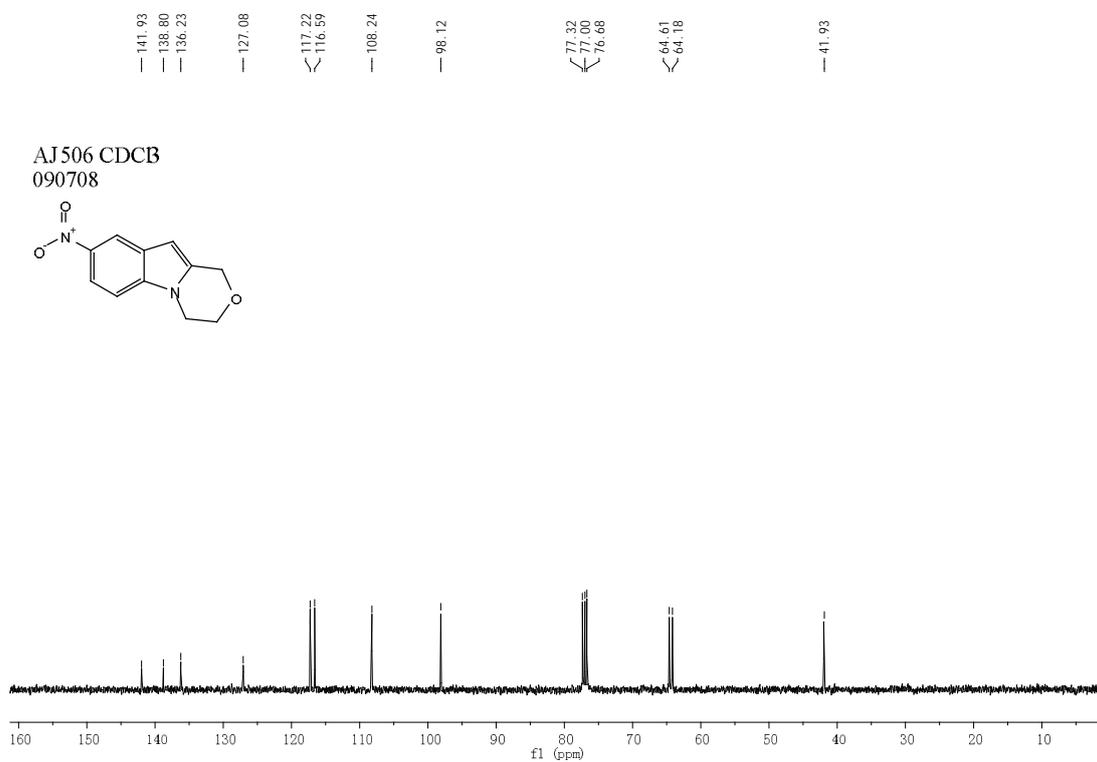
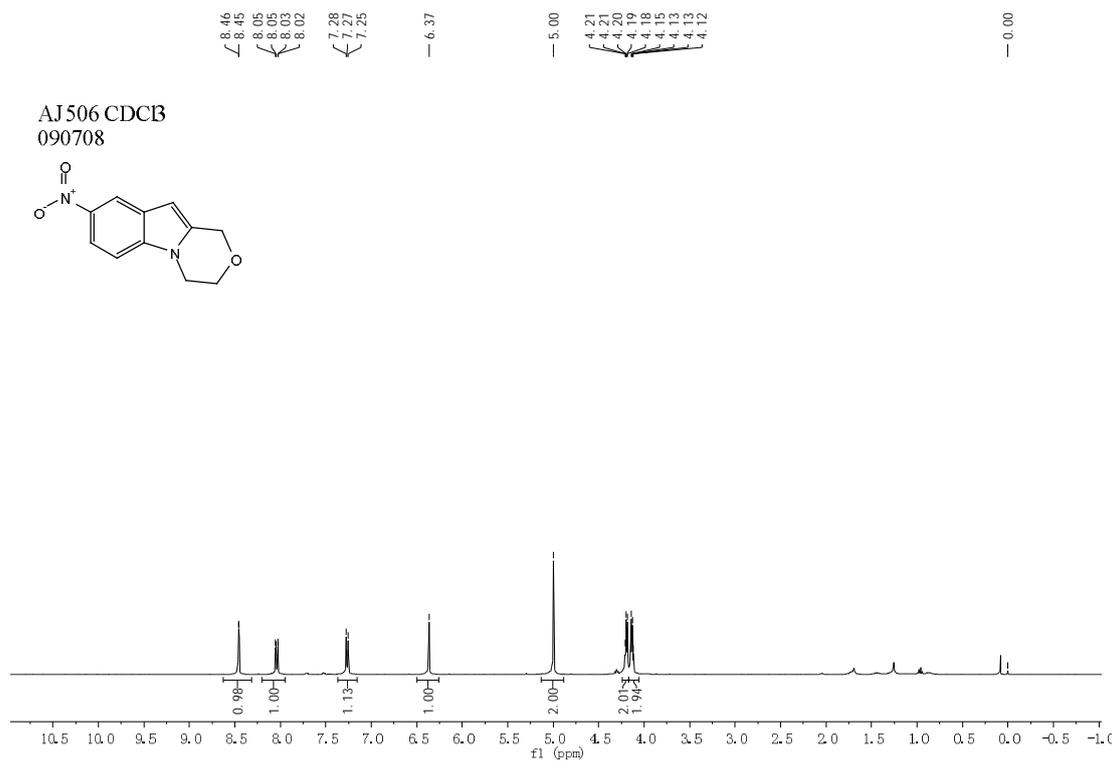


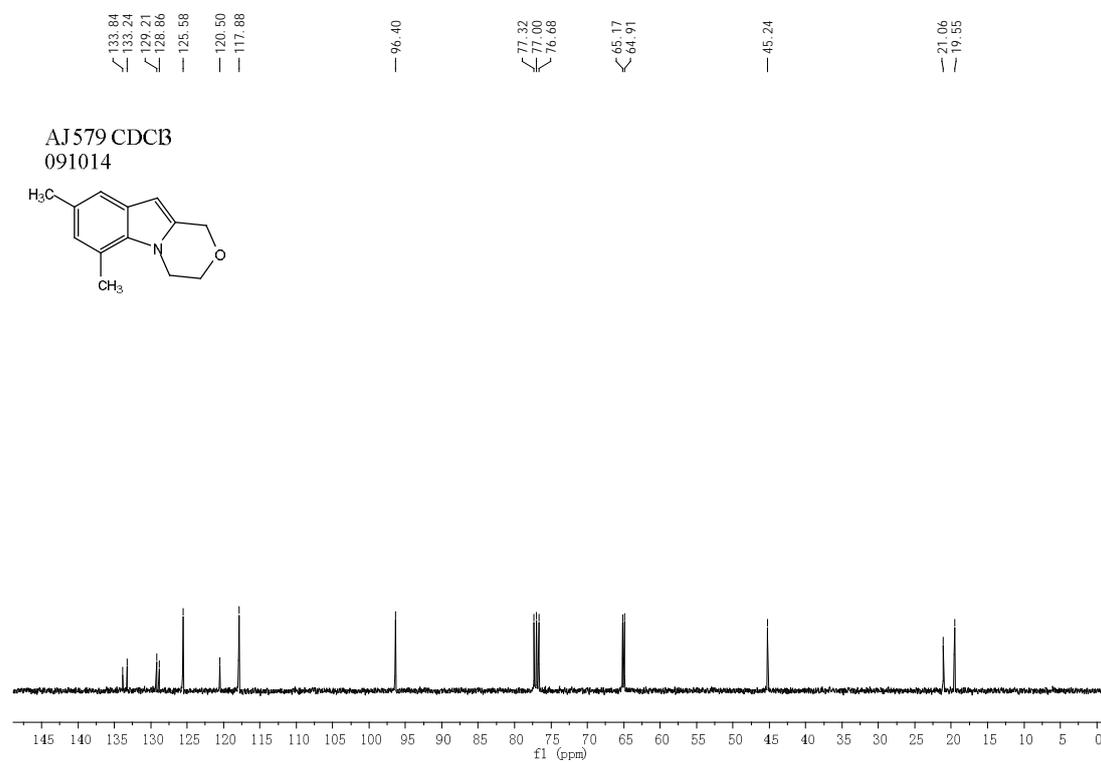
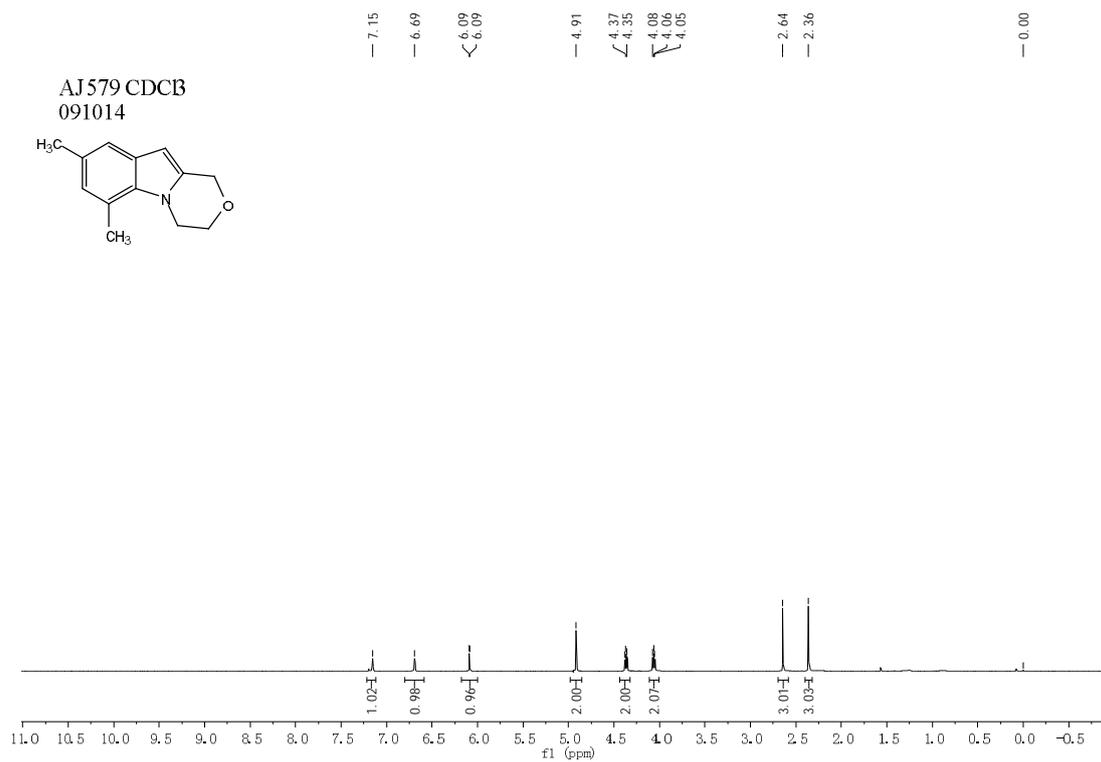




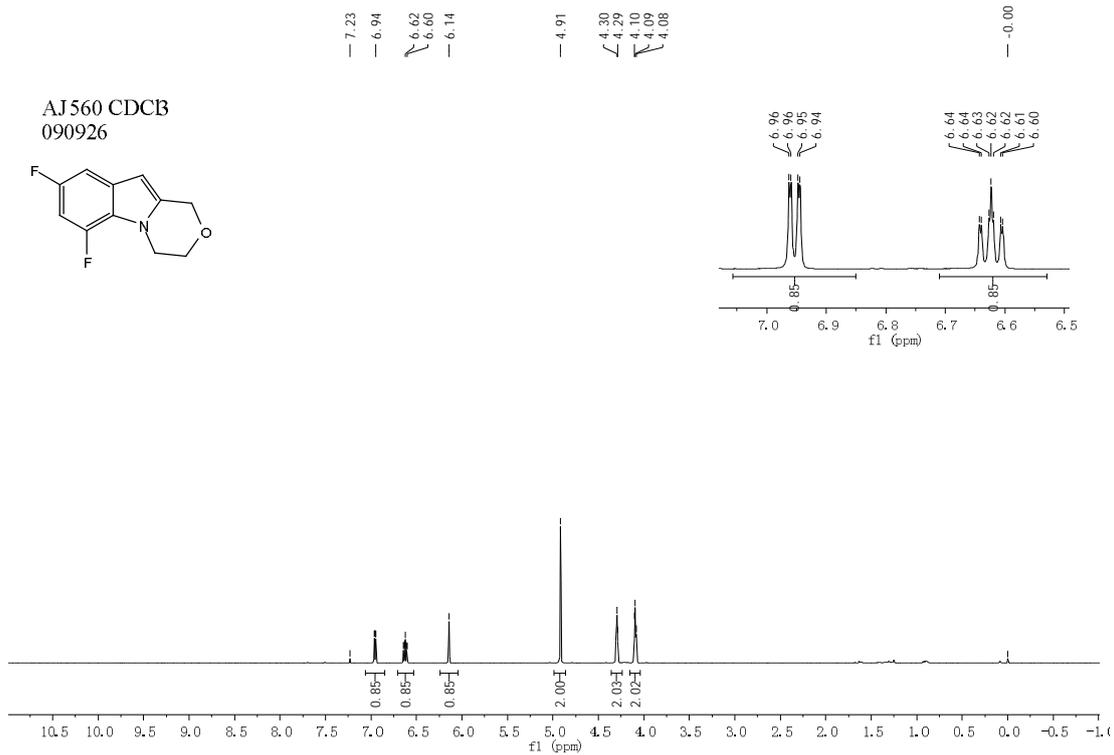
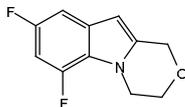




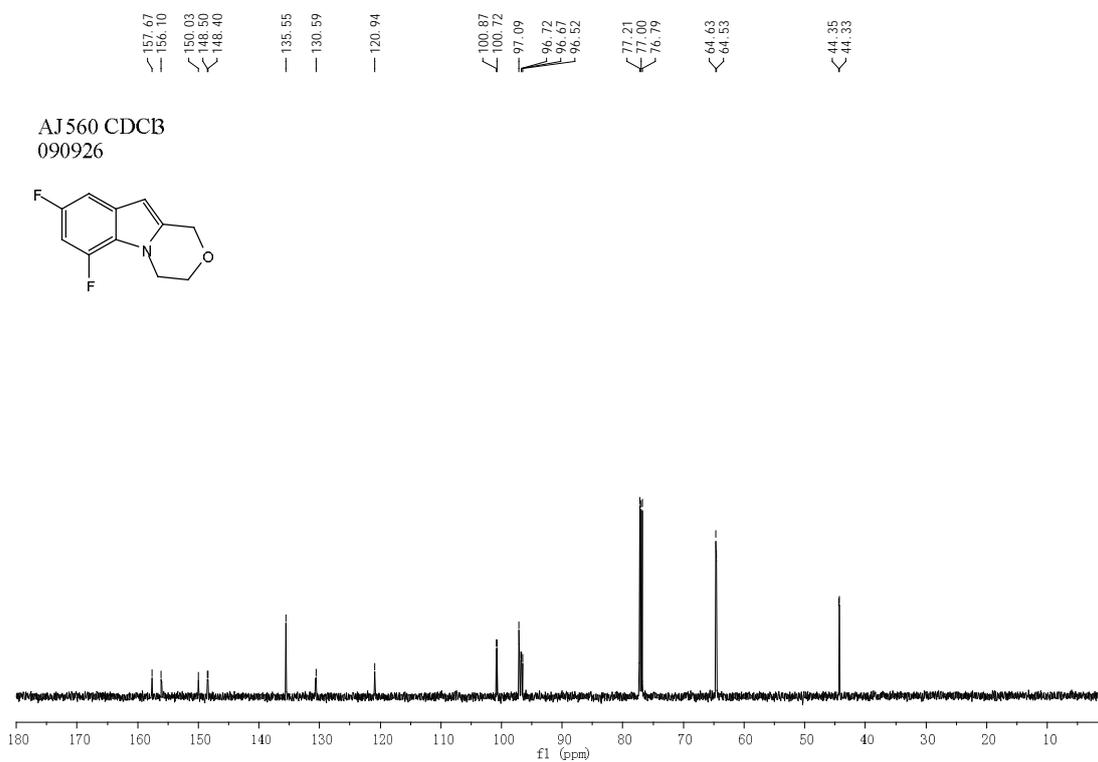
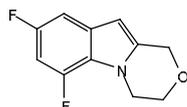


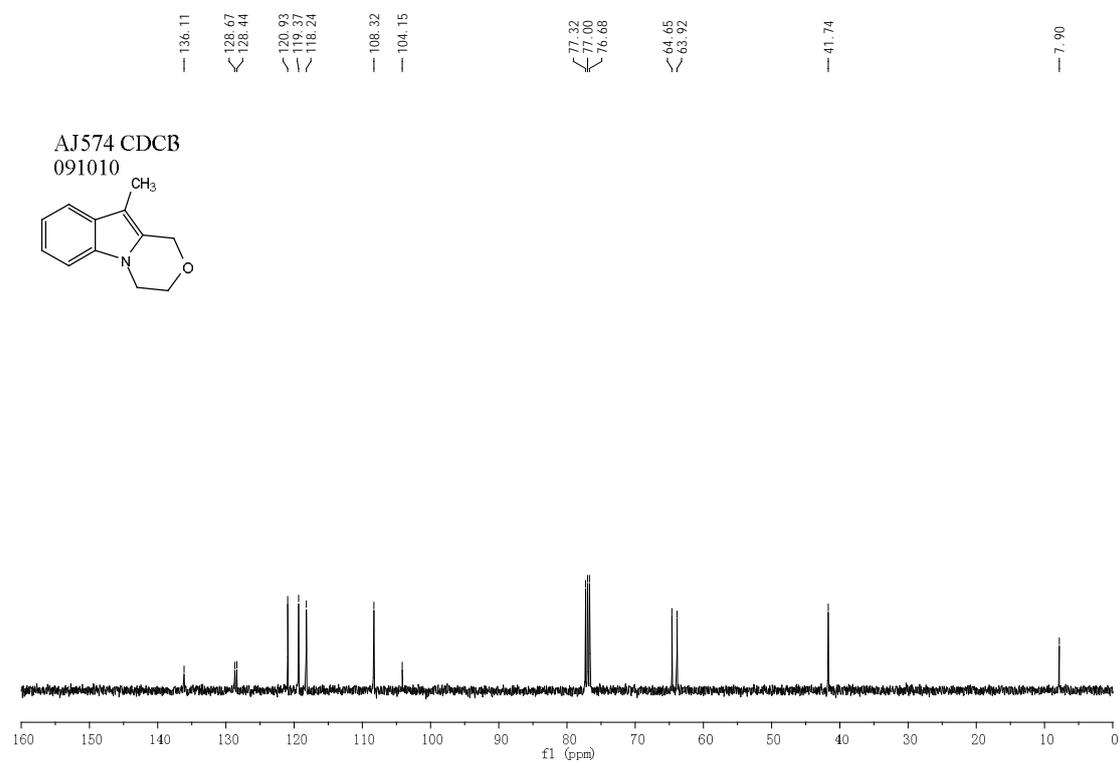
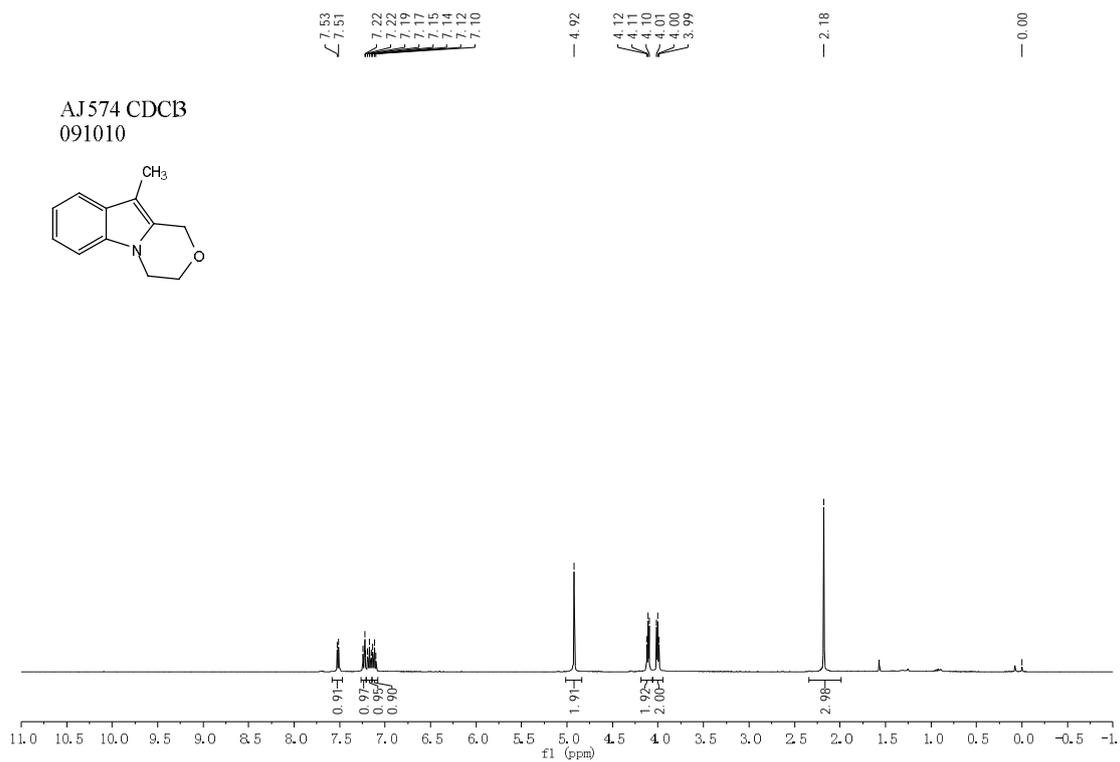


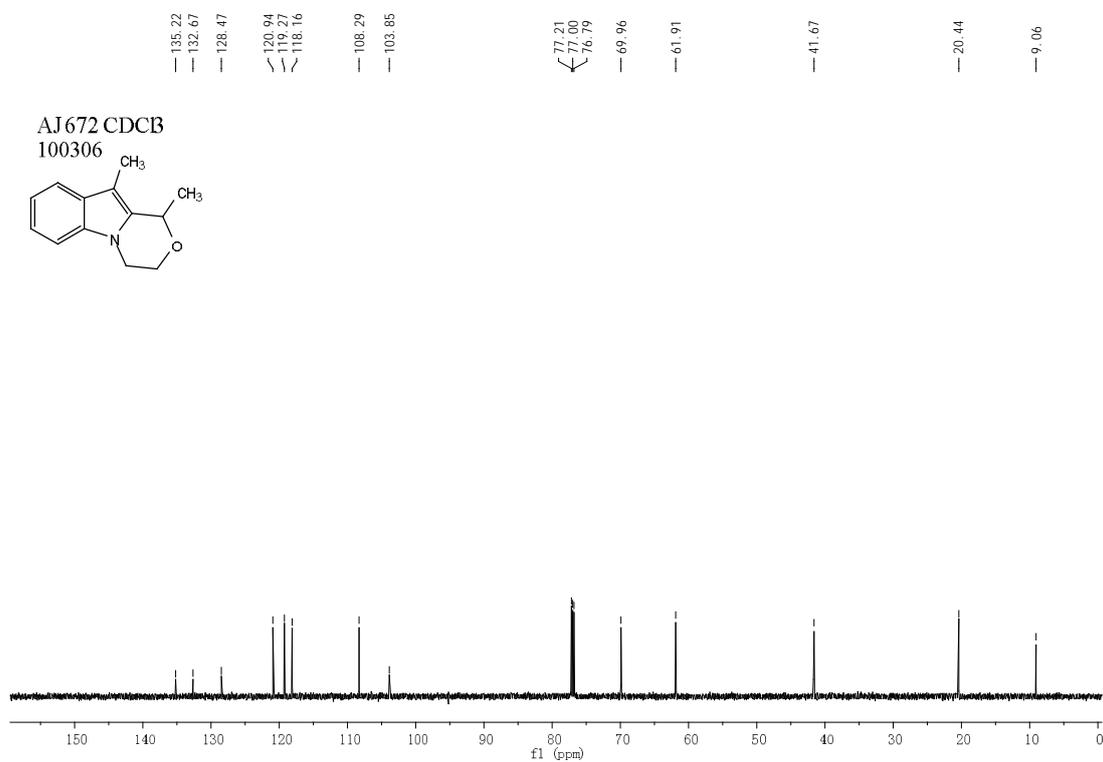
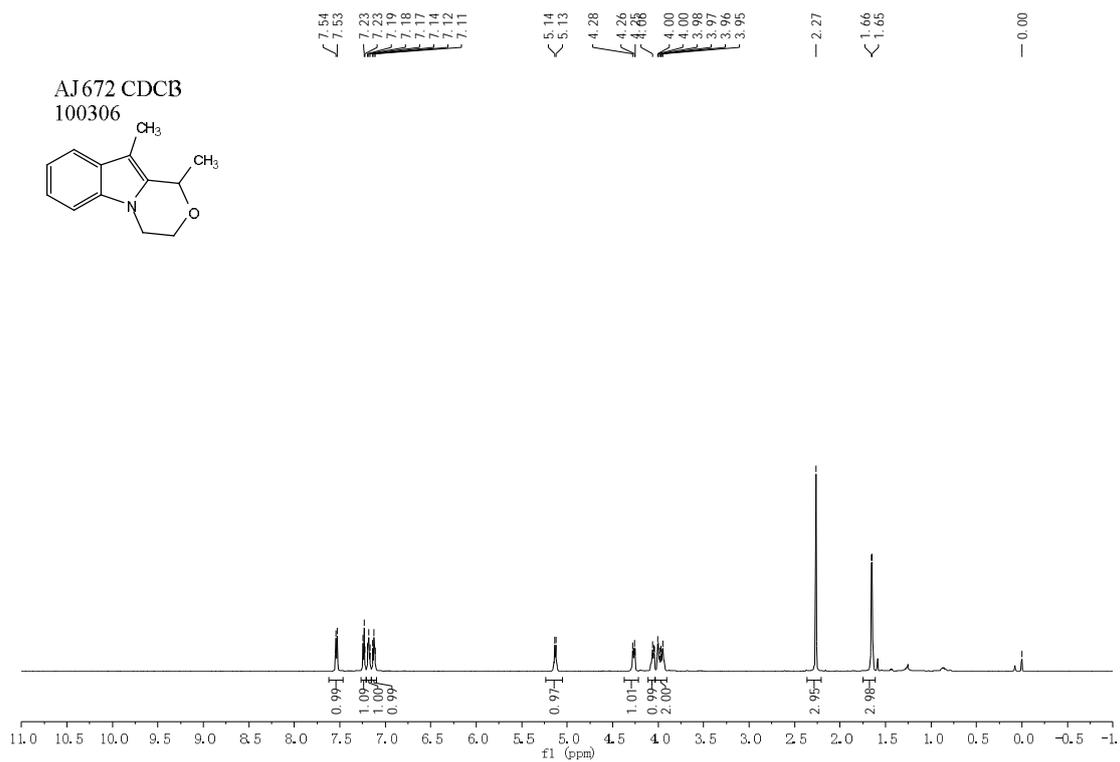
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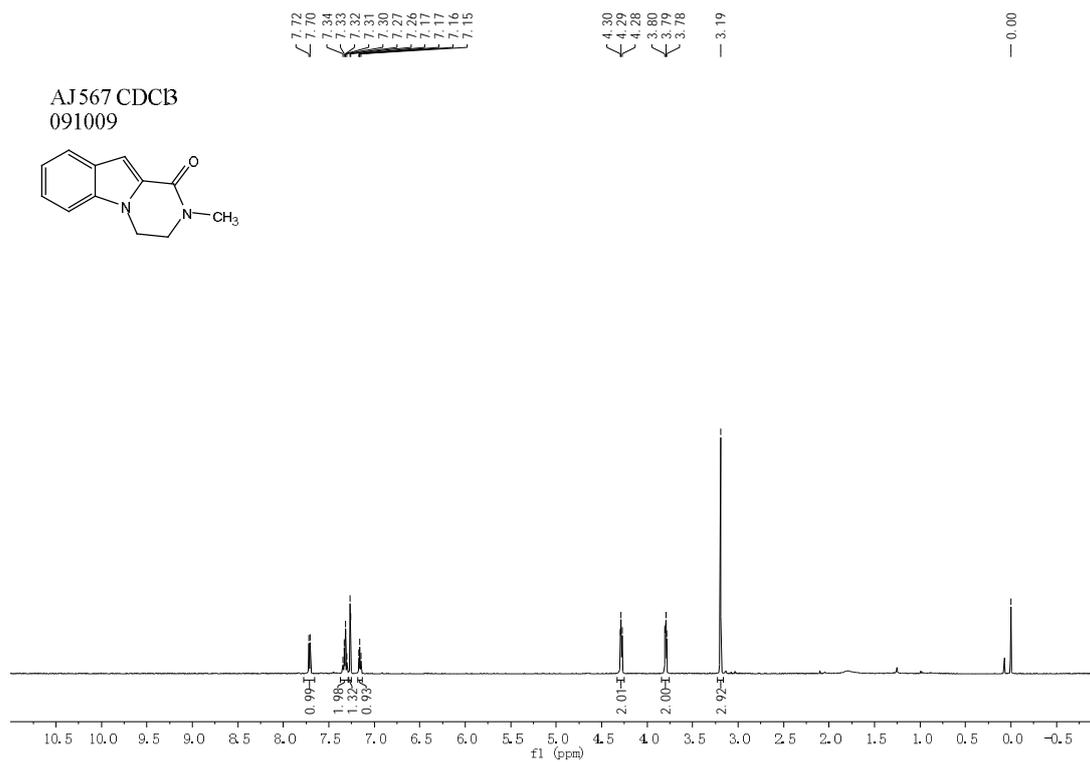
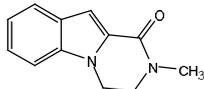
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