

## Supporting Information for

### Visible Light-Induced Intramolecular Cyclization Reactions of Diamines: A New Strategy to Construct Tetrahydroimidazoles

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### Contents

1. General Information.....	S-2
2. The Optimization of Reaction Conditions.....	S-3
3. Preparation and Spectral Data of Substrates.....	S-5
3.1 Preparation of Substrates	
3.2 Spectral Data of Substrates	
4. General Procedure and Spectral Data of Products.....	S-12
4.1 General Procedure	
4.2 Spectral Data of Products	
5. X-Ray Structure of Product <b>2a</b> .....	S-18
6. Mechanism study of the epimerization of the product.....	S-19
7. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectrums.....	S-22

## 1. General Information

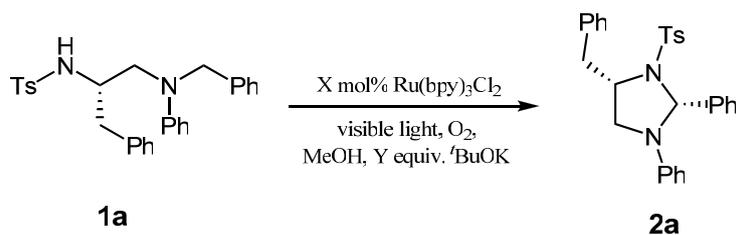
Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All the solvent were treated according to general methods. Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400 / 600 (400 / 600 MHz) spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm from the solvent resonance as the internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ : 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.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 400/600 (100/150MHz) with complete proton decoupling spectrophotometers ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ : 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were measured on a Finnigan Trace MS spectrometer. Elementary analysis was taken on a Vario EL III elementary analysis instrument. Optical rotations were measured with JASCO P-1020 polarimeter.



11	NaOH	9	84	2.5:1
12	KOH	20	91	1.5:1
<b>13</b>	<b><sup>t</sup>BuOK</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>4:1</b>
14	tBuONa	23	87	2:1

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out with **1a** (0.2 mmol), Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.0 mol%), indicated base (5.0 equiv.) in MeOH (4 mL) and stirred at a distance of ~10 cm from a 36w fluorescent light at RT. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield after flash chromatography. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>HNMR analysis of crude products. <sup>d</sup> nd= not determined.

**SI-Table 3.** Effects of base equivalence and catalyst loading on the model reaction.<sup>a</sup>



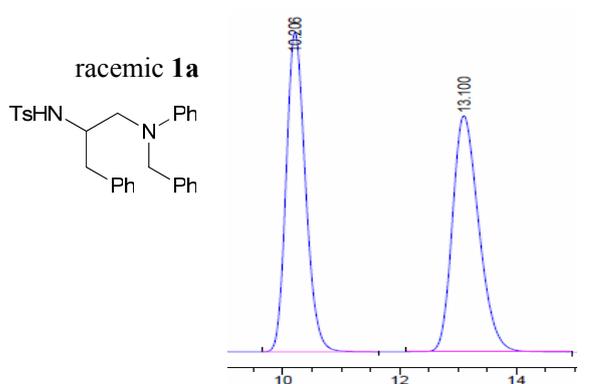
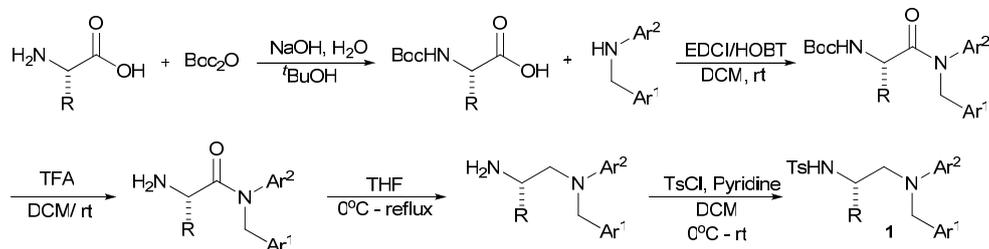
entry	Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (X mol%)	<sup>t</sup> BuOK (Y equiv.)	time (h)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	d.r. <sup>c</sup>
1	5.0 mol%	5.0 eq.	9	93	4:1
2	5.0 mol%	2.5 eq.	9	94	4:1
3	5.0 mol%	2.0 eq.	9	94	2:1
4	5.0 mol%	1.5 eq.	9	93	2:1
5	5.0 mol%	1.0 eq.	9	93	2:1
6	2.5 mol%	5.0 eq.	9	92	2:1
7	1.0 mol%	5.0 eq.	9	93	4:1
8	0.5 mol%	5.0 eq.	21	93	4:1
<b>9<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>1.0 mol%</b>	<b>5.0 eq.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>10:1</b>

<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out with **1a** (0.2 mmol), Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (X mol%), indicated base (Y equiv.) in MeOH (4 mL) and stirred at a distance of ~10 cm from a 36w fluorescent light at RT. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield after flash chromatography. <sup>c</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>HNMR analysis of crude products. <sup>d</sup> After reaction completed (TLC moninated), DCM (1.0 mL) was added and continued stirring until 48h.

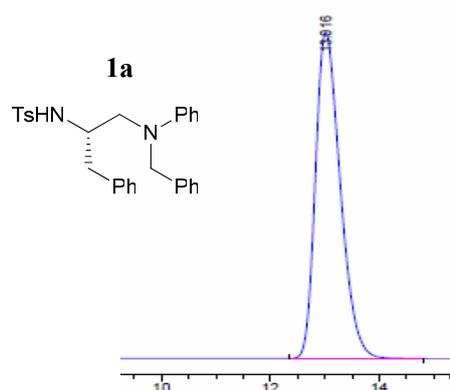
### 3. Preparation and Spectral Data of Substrates

#### 3.1 Preparation of Substrates

Enantiomerically pure substrates **1** were prepared by following the procedures in references 1, 2 and 3 without racemization.



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	10.206	BB	0.3550	1.67519e4	730.15363	49.6953
2	13.100	BB	0.4859	1.69573e4	539.80414	50.3047



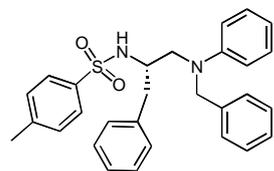
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	13.016	BB	0.4912	2.80730e4	887.74390	100.0000

#### References:

1. K. Hofmann, F. M. Finn, Y. Kiso, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1978, **100**, 3585.
2. D. Bhuniya, A. DattaGupta, V. K. Singh, *J. Org. Chem.* 1996, **61**, 6108.
3. K. F. W. Hekking, D. C. J. Waalboer, M. A. H. Moelands, F. L. V. Delft, F. P. J. T. Rutjes, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2008, **350**, 95.

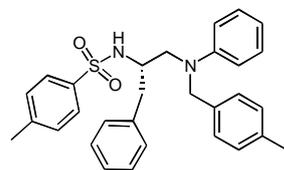
### 3.2 Spectral Data of Substrates

#### (*S*)-*N*-(1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1a)



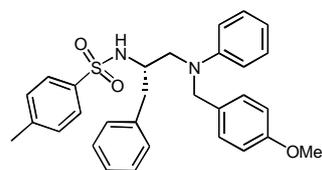
$[\alpha]_D^{22} = -47.93$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.40 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.16 – 7.05 (m, 7H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.66 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d,  $J = 17.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.57 (m, 2H), 3.39 (dd,  $J = 14.5$ , 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd,  $J = 13.7$ , 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.85, 142.89, 138.12, 136.68, 136.39, 129.38, 129.09, 128.54, 128.49, 126.87, 126.75, 126.68, 126.53, 117.16, 113.17, 55.87, 55.29, 53.33, 39.62, 21.43. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  471.2106, measured 471.2063.

#### (*S*)-4-methyl-*N*-(1-((4-methylbenzyl)(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide (1b)



$[\alpha]_D^{22} = -48.11$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.40 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 – 7.02 (m, 9H), 6.95 (dd,  $J = 16.1$ , 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.71 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.59 – 4.33 (m, 2H), 4.24 (d,  $J = 16.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.72 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 3.43 – 3.28 (m, 1H), 2.92 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.91, 142.86, 136.71, 136.44, 136.34, 134.94, 129.36, 129.21, 129.11, 129.06, 128.46, 126.74, 126.67, 126.50, 117.09, 113.21, 55.67, 55.11, 53.27, 39.61, 21.43, 21.00. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  485.2263, measured 485.2232.

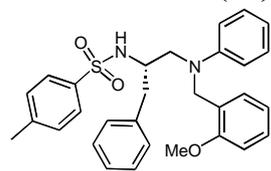
#### (*S*)-*N*-(1-((4-methoxybenzyl)(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1c)



$[\alpha]_D^{23} = -42.00$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.40 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 7.00 (dd,  $J = 15.3$ , 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.93 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz,

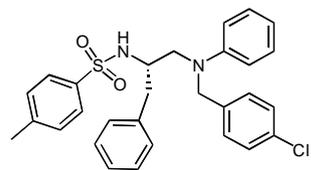
2H), 6.78 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.39 (d,  $J = 16.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.64 (dd,  $J = 12.8, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd,  $J = 14.8, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 158.55, 148.02, 142.91, 136.72, 136.40, 129.93, 129.39, 129.12, 128.49, 128.01, 126.81, 126.53, 117.31, 113.95, 113.56, 55.48, 55.17, 54.85, 53.22, 39.59, 21.42. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  501.2212, measured 501.2199.

**(S)-N-(1-((2-methoxybenzyl)(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1d)**



$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -33.72$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.09 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 4H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.67 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 4.61 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.65 (dd,  $J = 13.0, 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 13.8, 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd,  $J = 13.8, 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 157.03, 147.83, 142.78, 136.69, 136.17, 129.32, 129.22, 128.98, 128.45, 127.98, 127.82, 126.73, 126.50, 125.35, 120.37, 116.79, 112.81, 110.01, 55.14, 54.76, 52.98, 51.16, 39.69, 21.44. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  501.2212, measured 501.2215.

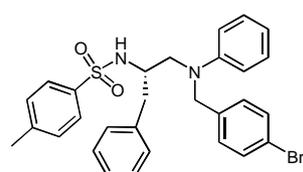
**(S)-N-(1-((4-chlorobenzyl)(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1e)**



$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -41.90$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.39 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.06 (m, 6H), 7.05 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.91 (t,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.71 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.55 (dd,  $J = 17.3, 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd,  $J = 17.0, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.29 (dd,  $J = 17.0, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 – 3.54 (m, 2H), 3.42 – 3.34 (m, 1H), 2.97 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.72 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.90, 147.61, 142.98, 136.67, 136.47,

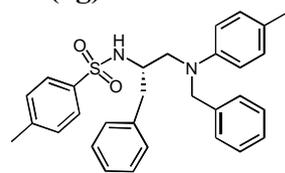
132.52, 129.40, 129.06, 128.63, 128.53, 128.10, 126.74, 126.58, 117.49, 113.32, 55.39, 55.28, 53.44, 39.63, 21.42. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  505.1717, measured 505.1708.

**(S)-N-(1-((4-bromobenzyl)(phenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1f)**



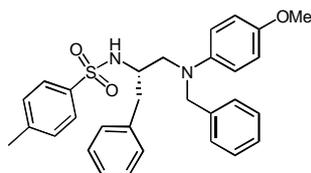
$[\alpha]_D^{23} = -48.25$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.40 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.06 (m, 7H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.71 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 4.54 – 4.39 (m, 2H), 4.29 (d,  $J = 16.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.70 – 3.53 (m, 2H), 3.38 (dd,  $J = 14.5$ , 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd,  $J = 13.7$ , 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.78, 142.93, 138.06, 136.56, 136.20, 129.40, 129.08, 128.52, 126.87, 126.73, 126.64, 117.12, 113.07, 55.83, 55.30, 53.24, 39.58, 21.47. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[(M-\text{Br})+H]^+$  471.2106, measured 471.2079.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(p-tolyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1g)**



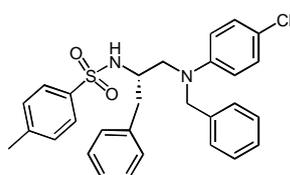
$[\alpha]_D^{23} = -45.25$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.41 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.06 (dd,  $J = 15.6$ , 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.92 (dd,  $J = 10.7$ , 5.1 Hz, 4H), 6.50 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 4.46 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d,  $J = 16.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d,  $J = 16.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.65 – 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.50 (dd,  $J = 14.6$ , 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd,  $J = 14.6$ , 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd,  $J = 13.8$ , 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 145.74, 142.86, 138.27, 136.70, 136.27, 129.61, 129.35, 129.10, 128.50, 128.45, 126.80, 126.77, 126.56, 126.48, 113.70, 56.33, 55.32, 53.24, 39.49, 21.45, 20.21. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  485.2263, measured 485.2248.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1h)**



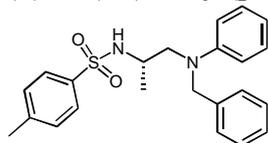
$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -38.29$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.43 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.23 (dd,  $J = 12.1, 4.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 5.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.09 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 6.95 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.50 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.15 (d,  $J = 16.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.44 (m, 1H), 3.33 (dd,  $J = 14.1, 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 14.1, 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd,  $J = 13.8, 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd,  $J = 13.8, 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 152.68, 142.93, 142.46, 138.16, 136.81, 136.34, 129.38, 129.17, 128.45, 127.36, 126.99, 126.85, 126.48, 116.98, 114.45, 58.01, 55.51, 55.34, 52.99, 39.35, 21.43. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  501.2212, measured 501.2211.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(4-chlorophenyl)amino)propan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1i)**



$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -46.91$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40 (ppm) (t,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.12 (m, 6H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 6H), 6.96 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.44 – 6.36 (m, 2H), 4.81 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.38 (dd,  $J = 61.0, 17.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.68 – 3.57 (m, 1H), 3.53 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd,  $J = 13.8, 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 146.15, 143.13, 137.56, 136.49, 136.18, 129.42, 129.05, 128.82, 128.64, 128.59, 127.05, 126.70, 126.53, 121.83, 114.16, 56.11, 55.36, 53.04, 39.67, 21.47. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  505.1717, measured 505.1715.

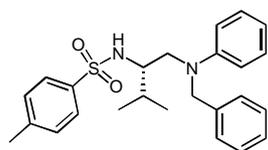
**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)propan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1j)**



$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -33.74$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.09 (m, 7H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d,  $J = 17.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.50 – 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.21 (dd,  $J = 14.8, 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.13 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.78, 143.27, 137.79,

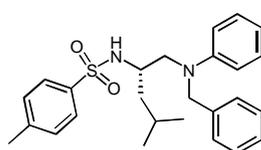
137.01, 129.54, 129.14, 128.56, 126.97, 126.89, 126.61, 117.26, 113.15, 56.77, 55.43, 47.73, 21.50, 19.66. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  395.1793, measured 395.1786.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-methylbutan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1k)**



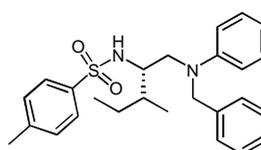
$[\alpha]_D^{25} = -16.03$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.09 (m, 7H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 4.94 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.43 – 3.25 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.03 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.79, 143.07, 137.91, 137.46, 129.38, 129.10, 128.51, 126.96, 126.79, 126.53, 116.82, 112.64, 56.37, 54.73, 52.36, 29.12, 21.49, 18.96, 16.41. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  423.2106, measured 423.2099.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-4-methylpentan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1l)**



$[\alpha]_D^{23} = -29.82$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 4H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.95 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d,  $J = 17.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.64 – 3.42 (m, 2H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 14.7, 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.61 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.37 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 0.81 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 0.56 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.97, 143.17, 137.94, 137.42, 129.43, 129.05, 128.48, 126.93, 126.73, 126.52, 116.81, 112.67, 77.32, 77.00, 76.68, 56.36, 55.16, 50.53, 42.95, 24.25, 23.35, 21.46, 21.41. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  437.2263, measured 437.2235.

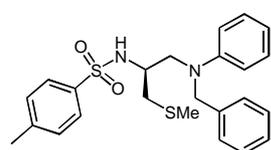
**N-((2S,3S)-1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-methylpentan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1m)**



$[\alpha]_D^{25} = -4.19$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )

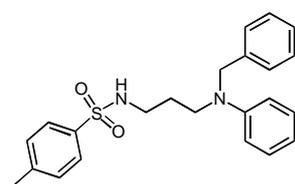
$\delta$  (ppm) 7.61 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.13 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 4H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.75 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d,  $J = 17.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.13 (d,  $J = 17.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.57–3.46 (m, 1H), 3.43–3.28 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.68 (m, 1H), 1.49–1.41 (m, 1H), 1.11–1.03 (m, 1H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.89, 143.08, 137.83, 137.21, 129.38, 129.12, 128.56, 126.97, 126.88, 126.62, 117.04, 112.88, 55.92, 54.85, 51.19, 36.62, 24.23, 21.51, 14.83, 12.11. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  437.2263, measured 437.2266.

**(S)-N-(1-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)-3-(methylthio)propan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1n)**



$[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -35.48$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.11 (m, 6H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.72 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.88 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.72–3.62 (m, 1H), 3.56 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd,  $J = 14.9, 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 147.59, 143.50, 137.90, 136.53, 129.56, 129.19, 128.58, 127.10, 126.96, 126.62, 117.30, 113.02, 55.61, 54.03, 50.37, 37.59, 21.53, 16.34. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  441.1670, measured 441.1639.

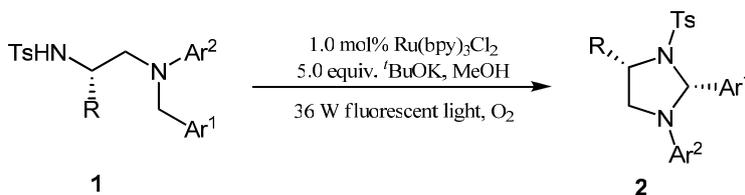
**N-(3-(benzyl(phenyl)amino)propyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1o)**



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.28–7.10 (m, 9H), 6.71–6.60 (m, 3H), 4.92 (t,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.46–3.30 (m, 2H), 2.94 (q,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.80–1.71 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 148.10, 143.40, 138.53, 136.41, 129.67, 129.19, 128.47, 126.98, 126.75, 126.55, 116.63, 112.62, 54.80, 48.19, 41.11, 26.90, 21.48. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  395.1793, measured 395.1756.

## 4. General Procedure and Spectral Data of Products

### 4.1 General procedure



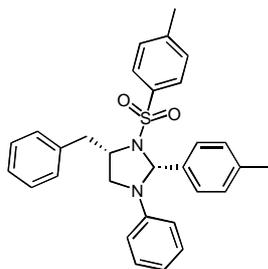
To a 10 mL flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added substrates **1** (0.2 mmol), 1.0 mol % Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.28 mg, 0.002 mmol), <sup>t</sup>BuOK (112 mg, 1.00 mmol) and MeOH (4.0 mL). After this solution was stirred under the condition of O<sub>2</sub> balloon at a distance of ~10 cm from a 36w fluorescent lamp at room temperature. Upon the completion of reaction monitored by TLC, 1.0 mL DCM was added to dissolve the generated solid and continued stirring to the mentioned time. Then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (silica: 200~300; eluant: petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate (10:1~5:1)) to provide pure product **2**.

### 4.2 Spectral Data of Products

#### (2*R*,4*S*)-4-benzyl-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (**2a**)

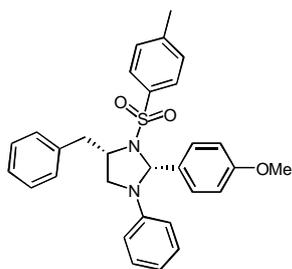
**Yield:** 92%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** 10:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -42.23$  ( $c = 1.0$ , CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.58 (dd,  $J = 22.5, 7.8$  Hz, 4H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 6.93 (m, 9H), 6.74 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.37 – 6.23 (m, 3H), 4.29 (dd,  $J = 16.1, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.27 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.99 – 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.53 (dd,  $J = 13.7, 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 145.90, 143.97, 139.84, 137.37, 134.45, 129.61, 129.20, 128.94, 128.51, 128.45, 128.18, 127.35, 127.12, 126.57, 117.91, 112.59, 77.32, 60.81, 50.75, 41.55, 21.38. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[M+H]^+$  469.1950, measured 469.1959.

#### (2*R*,4*S*)-4-benzyl-1-phenyl-2-*p*-tolyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (**2b**)



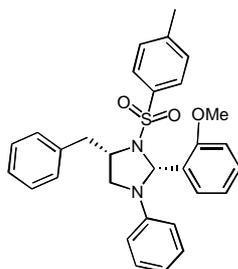
**Yield:** 93%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -39.11$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 4H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.65 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.30 (d,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d,  $J = 12.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.58 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.35 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.94 (t,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 144.54, 142.70, 138.22, 137.97, 134.79, 129.20, 128.94, 128.76, 128.69, 128.42, 126.92, 126.76, 117.43, 112.53, 77.00, 60.58, 51.14, 39.33, 21.39, 21.10. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  483.2106, measured 483.2109.

**(2R,4S)-4-benzyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2c)**



**Yield:** 90%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -32.00$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.60 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.07 (m, 5H), 7.03 – 6.88 (m, 6H), 6.73 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.34 – 4.21 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 9.3, 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 159.43, 145.87, 143.92, 137.46, 134.54, 131.81, 129.60, 129.23, 128.92, 128.46, 128.38, 127.32, 126.57, 117.86, 113.80, 112.64, 77.14, 60.72, 55.23, 50.69, 41.61, 21.38. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  499.2055, measured 499.2036.

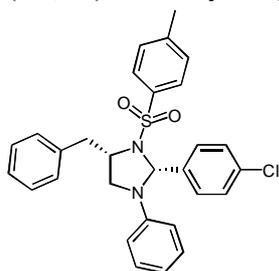
**(2R,4S)-4-benzyl-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2d)**



**Yield:** 92%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -68.64$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.91 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.48 – 6.43 (m, 3H), 4.27 – 4.16 (m, 1H), 3.92

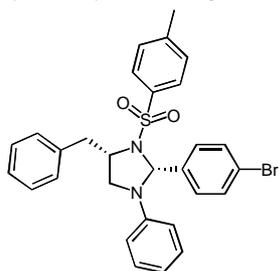
(d,  $J = 0.9$  Hz, 3H), 3.45 (dd,  $J = 9.7, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.19 – 3.11 (m, 1H), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 10.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 157.58, 145.24, 143.54, 137.80, 134.43, 129.75, 129.44, 129.34, 128.84, 128.71, 128.61, 127.83, 127.61, 126.63, 120.55, 118.23, 113.87, 111.08, 73.73, 60.48, 55.48, 51.38, 41.84, 21.45. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  499.2055, measured 499.2016.

**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2e)**



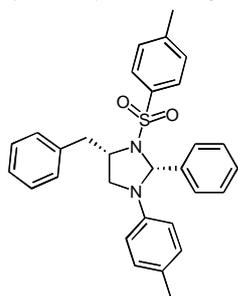
**Yield:** 92%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -51.77$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.16 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 6.90 (m, 4H), 6.68 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 4.39 – 4.23 (m, 1H), 3.67 (t,  $J = 12.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd,  $J = 16.6, 10.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.29 (m, 1H), 2.94 (t,  $J = 11.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 144.13, 143.12, 137.96, 137.66, 136.21, 134.29, 129.82, 129.06, 128.68, 128.42, 128.33, 128.20, 126.67, 117.75, 112.51, 76.23, 60.78, 51.06, 39.30, 21.39. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  503.1560, measured 503.1563.

**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-benzyl-2-(4-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2f)**



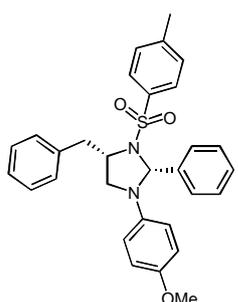
**Yield:** 92%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** 8:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -45.07$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.07 (m, 11H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 4.32 – 4.26 (m, 1H), 3.68 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.99 – 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 144.39, 142.83, 137.85, 137.68, 129.13, 129.07, 128.96, 128.67, 128.44, 128.36, 128.13, 126.75, 117.45, 112.41, 77.21, 60.46, 51.16, 39.18, 21.39. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[(\text{M}-\text{Br})+\text{H}]^+$  469.1950, measured 469.1915.

**(2R,4S)-4-benzyl-2-phenyl-1-p-tolyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2g)**



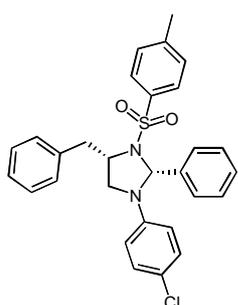
**Yield:** 94%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -41.55$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.66 – 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 6.88 (m, 6H), 6.23 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 4.33 – 4.18 (m, 1H), 3.27 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.86 (t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 143.88, 140.09, 137.48, 134.56, 129.60, 129.46, 129.22, 128.47, 128.14, 127.39, 127.21, 126.56, 112.89, 77.80, 60.83, 50.99, 41.56, 21.41, 20.28. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  483.2106, measured 483.2094.

**(2R,4S)-4-benzyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2h)**



**Yield:** 91%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -38.12$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.68 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.18 (m, 6H), 7.08 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.27 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 4.28 – 4.18 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd,  $J = 9.4, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd,  $J = 9.3, 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd,  $J = 13.5, 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 152.40, 143.88, 140.65, 140.16, 137.52, 134.58, 129.58, 129.21, 128.47, 128.17, 127.40, 127.28, 126.56, 114.41, 114.22, 78.64, 60.90, 55.57, 51.48, 41.50, 21.42. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  499.2055, measured 499.1972.

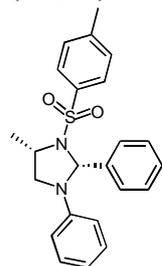
**(2R,4S)-4-benzyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2i)**



**Yield:** 94%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -34.22$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.31 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 4.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 8H), 7.11 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.05 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H),

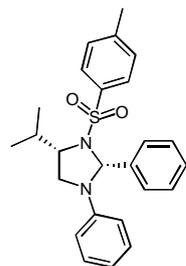
6.30 – 6.25 (m, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 4.32 – 4.26(m, 1H), 3.66 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd,  $J = 13.1, 10.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 142.94, 142.90, 137.84, 137.64, 137.17, 129.12, 129.09, 128.80, 128.71, 128.54, 128.41, 128.22, 126.84, 126.74, 122.35, 113.50, 77.12, 60.45, 51.28, 39.19, 21.39. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  503.1560, measured 503.1506.

**(2R,4S)-4-methyl-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2j)**

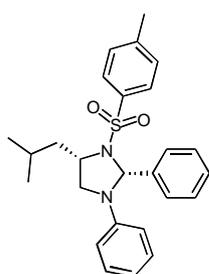


**Yield:** 92%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -136.43$  ( $c = 1.0, \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.37 (dd,  $J = 7.4, 1.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.13 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.13 – 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.71 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.57 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 144.98, 142.92, 138.50, 137.69, 129.15, 129.04, 128.37, 128.24, 128.04, 126.94, 117.51, 112.17, 77.91, 54.32, 21.36, 17.38. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  393.1637, measured 393.1600.

**(2R,4S)-4-isopropyl-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2k)**



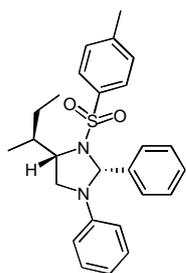
**Yield:** 89%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** 3:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -87.87$  ( $c = 1.0, \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 6H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.65 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 4.02 – 3.94 (m, 1H), 3.67 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.85 – 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 143.70, 142.51, 137.97, 137.30, 128.96, 128.92, 128.60, 128.24, 128.06, 126.70, 117.28, 112.30, 77.95, 64.30, 47.60, 30.61, 21.36, 20.34, 16.09. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  421.1950, measured 421.1936.



**(2R,4S)-4-isobutyl-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2l)**

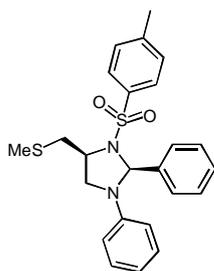
**Yield:** 94%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** >19:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -87.09$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.55 (dd,  $J = 15.9, 7.5$  Hz, 4H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.31 – 6.20 (m, 3H), 4.24 – 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.03 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.79 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.67 – 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.32 – 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.04 – 0.95 (m, 1H), 0.89 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H), 0.53 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 146.12, 143.97, 139.85, 134.58, 129.57, 128.90, 128.26, 127.91, 127.31, 126.81, 117.58, 112.02, 77.02, 57.78, 52.14, 44.27, 24.37, 22.65, 21.46, 21.40. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  435.2106, measured 435.2091.

**(2R,4S)-4-sec-butyl-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2m)**



**Yield:** 90%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** 2:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -69.42$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.17 (t,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 3H), 7.12 – 7.03 (m, 6H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.65 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.42 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 4.14 – 4.04 (m, 1H), 3.68 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.60 – 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.58 – 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.29 – 1.15 (m, 1H), 1.02 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 143.68, 142.49, 138.10, 137.19, 128.97, 128.91, 128.66, 128.23, 128.07, 126.74, 117.29, 112.33, 78.03, 62.86, 47.75, 37.41, 27.46, 21.36, 13.19, 12.02. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  435.2106, measured 435.2081.

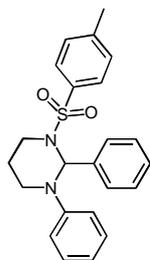
**(2R,4R)-4-(methylthiomethyl)-1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylimidazolidine (2n)**



**Yield:** 45%, white solid, **diastereomer ratio:** 3:1.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -11.21$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.19 – 7.05 (m, 9H), 6.93 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.23 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.23 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dd,  $J = 9.3, 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd,  $J = 9.4, 1.7$  Hz, 1H),

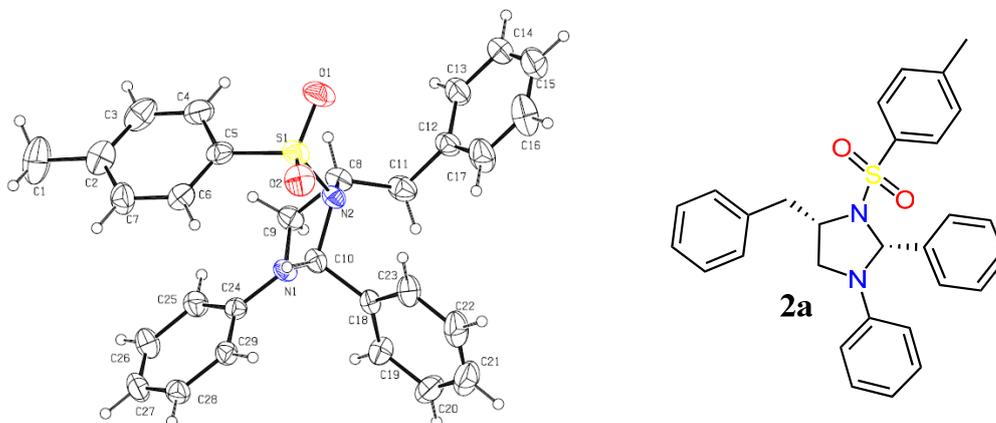
3.40 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.91 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.23 (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 149.50, 142.76, 137.74, 137.21, 129.37, 129.27, 128.95, 127.97, 127.28, 127.01, 118.82, 114.62, 72.86, 40.68, 40.55, 21.41, 21.29. HRMS:  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  439.1514, measured 439.1504.

### 1,2-diphenyl-3-tosylhexahydropyrimidine (2o)



**Yield:** 61%, white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.56 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.83 (m, 4H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.85 – 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.38 – 3.18 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.57 – 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.19 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm) 149.50, 142.76, 137.74, 137.21, 129.37, 129.27, 128.95, 127.97, 127.28, 127.01, 118.82, 114.62, 72.86, 40.68, 40.55, 21.41, 21.29. **HRMS:**  $m/z$  (ESI) calculated  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  393.1637, measured 393.1634.

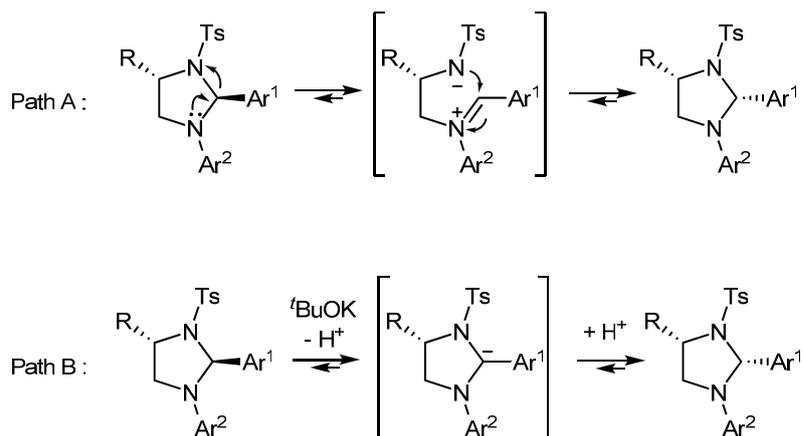
### 5. X-Ray Structure of Product 2a



**Crystal data for 2a:**  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ,  $M = 468.59$ , orthorhombic,  $P2(1)2(1)2(1)$ ,  $a = 7.9943(10)$  Å,  $b = 16.668(2)$  Å,  $c = 18.837(2)$  Å,  $\alpha = 90^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 90^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $V = 2510.0(5)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 298(2)$ ,  $F000 = 992$ , final R indices  $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ :  $R_1 = 0.0606$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0863$ , R indices (all data):  $R_1 = 0.0964$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0954$ .

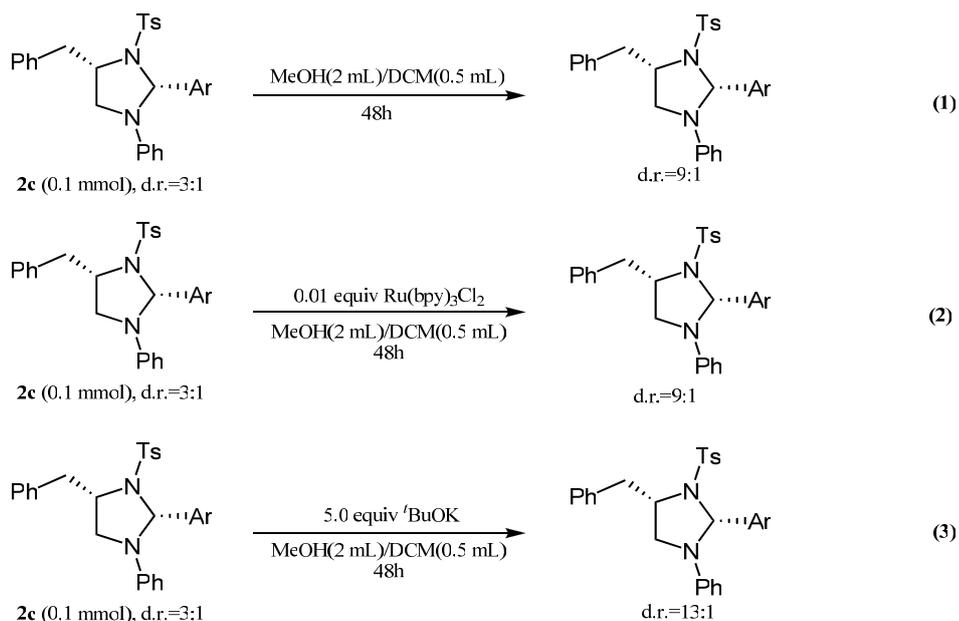
## 6. Mechanism study of the epimerization of the product

For this photoredox catalytic reaction, the thermodynamically more stable product could be preferentially formed when the reaction time was prolonged. Therefore, we proposed two possible pathways as outlined in scheme 1. In path A, the *anti*-isomer could be transformed into the thermodynamically more stable *syn*-diastereoisomer through the reversibly formed the iminium ion intermediate. On the other hand, the excess of strong base <sup>t</sup>BuOK may promote the epimerization of the minor diastereoisomer through deprotonation and protonation process (Path B)..

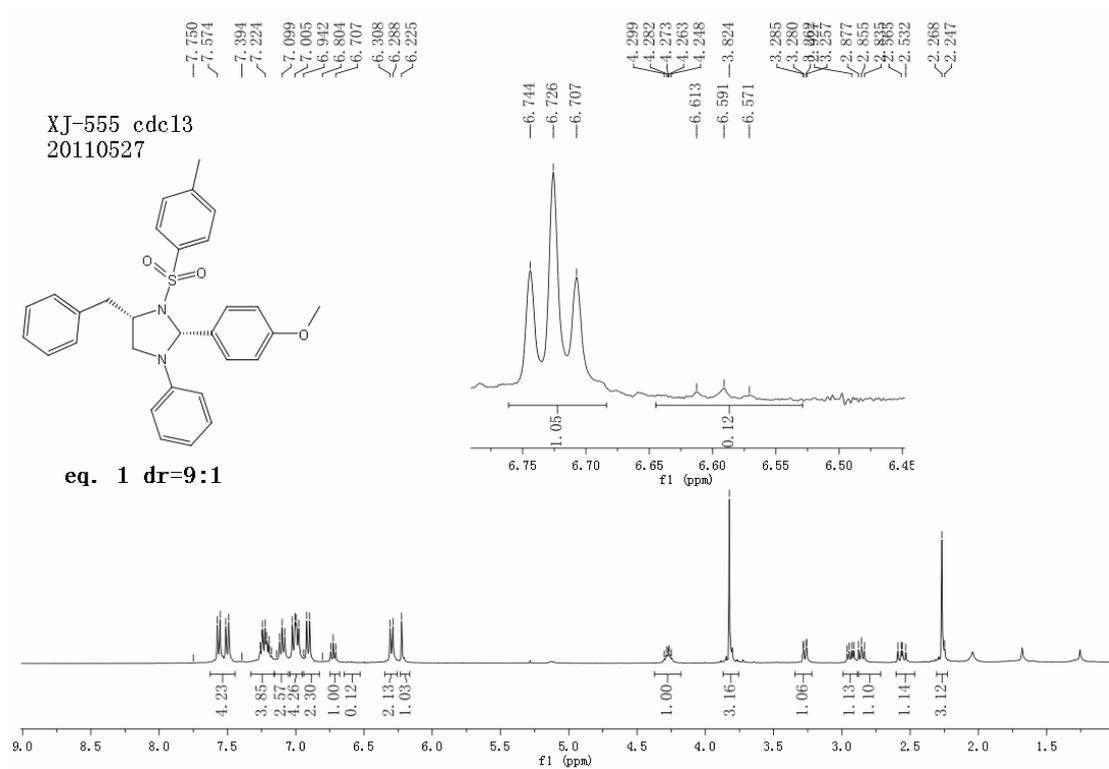
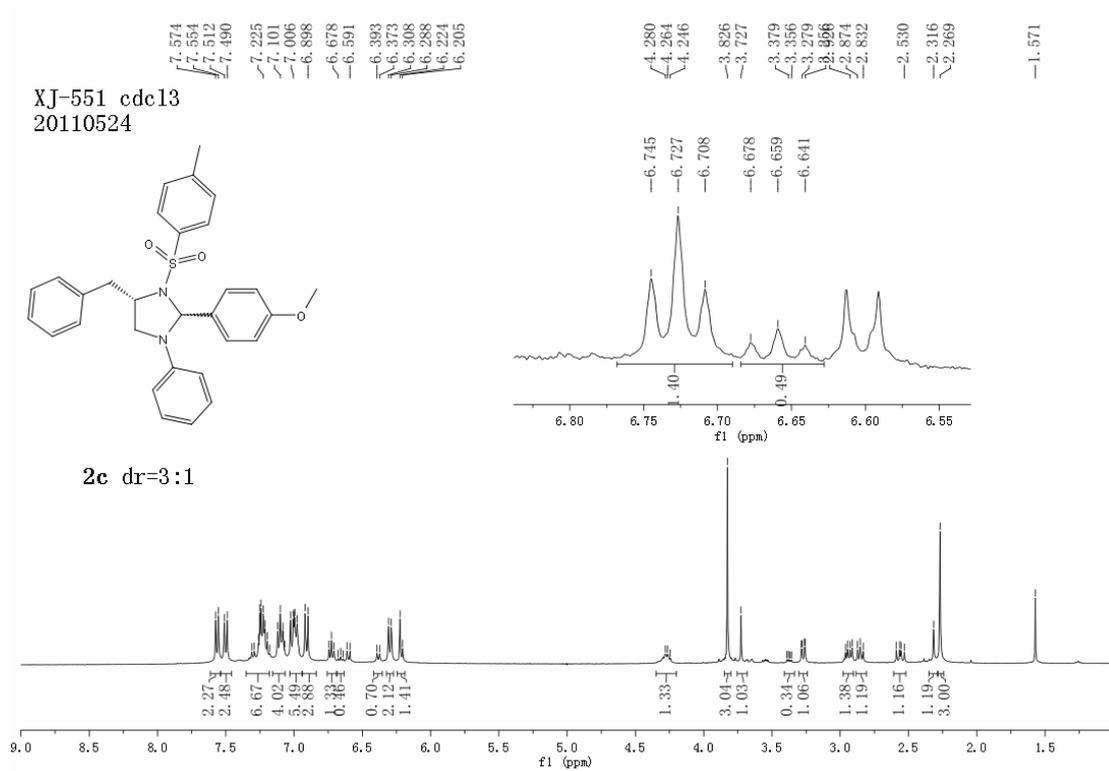


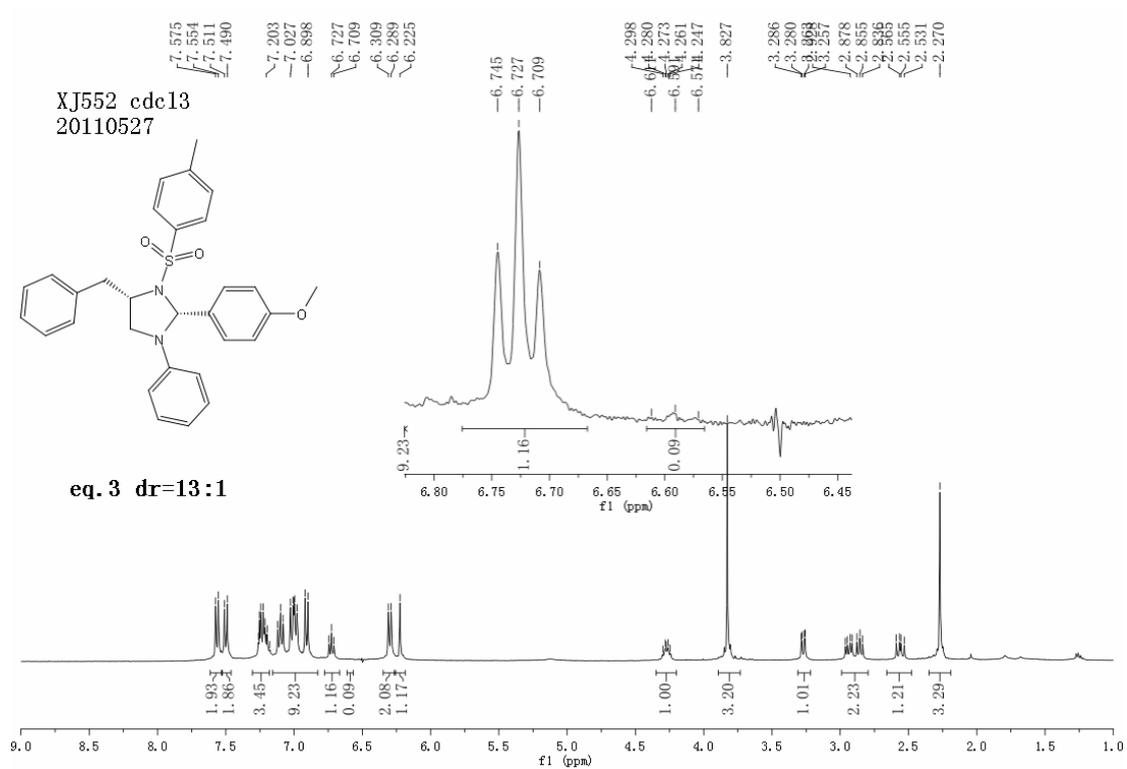
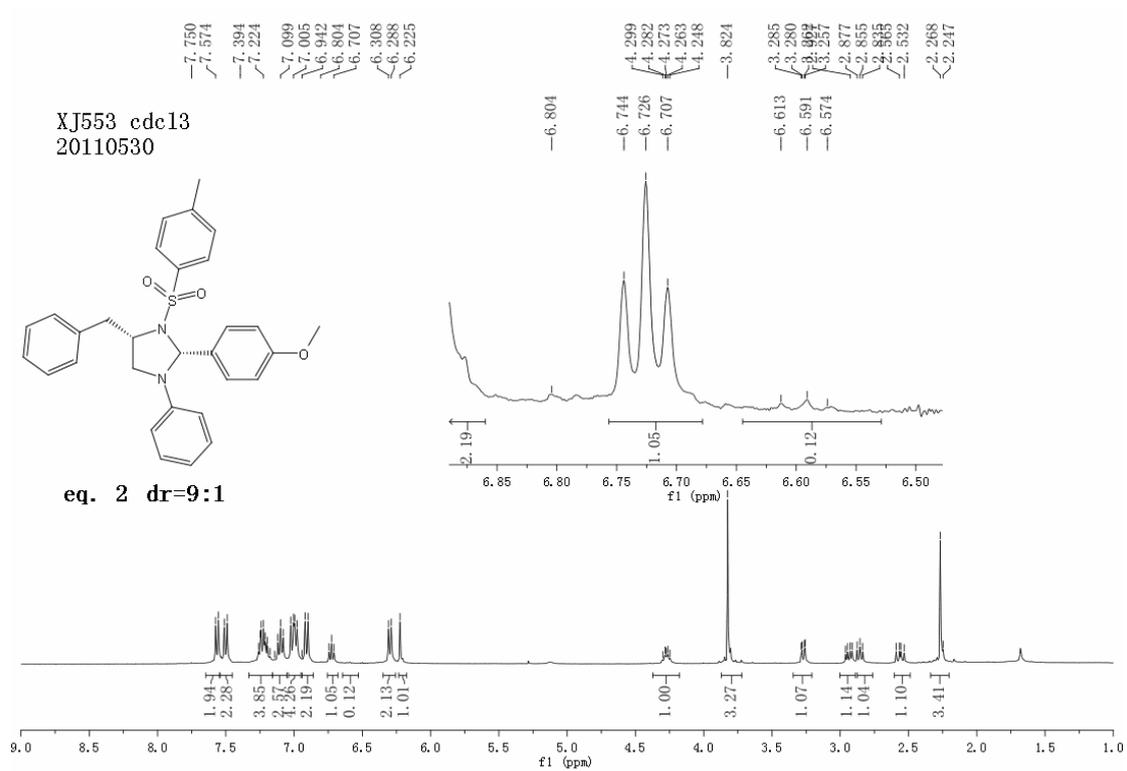
**Scheme 1.** Two plausible pathway of the epimerization of the product

To gain some insights into this process, we carried out some control experiments. As shown in Scheme 2, stirring of **2c** in a mixture solvent of MeOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for 48 h increased the dr from 3:1 to 9:1 (eq 1). Treatment of **2c** with 1 mol% of photoredox catalyst also gave the same dr value (eq 2). Instead, the use of 5 equivalents of <sup>t</sup>BuOK resulted in 13:1 dr, which indicated that the path B was probably more favorable than path A (eq 3).

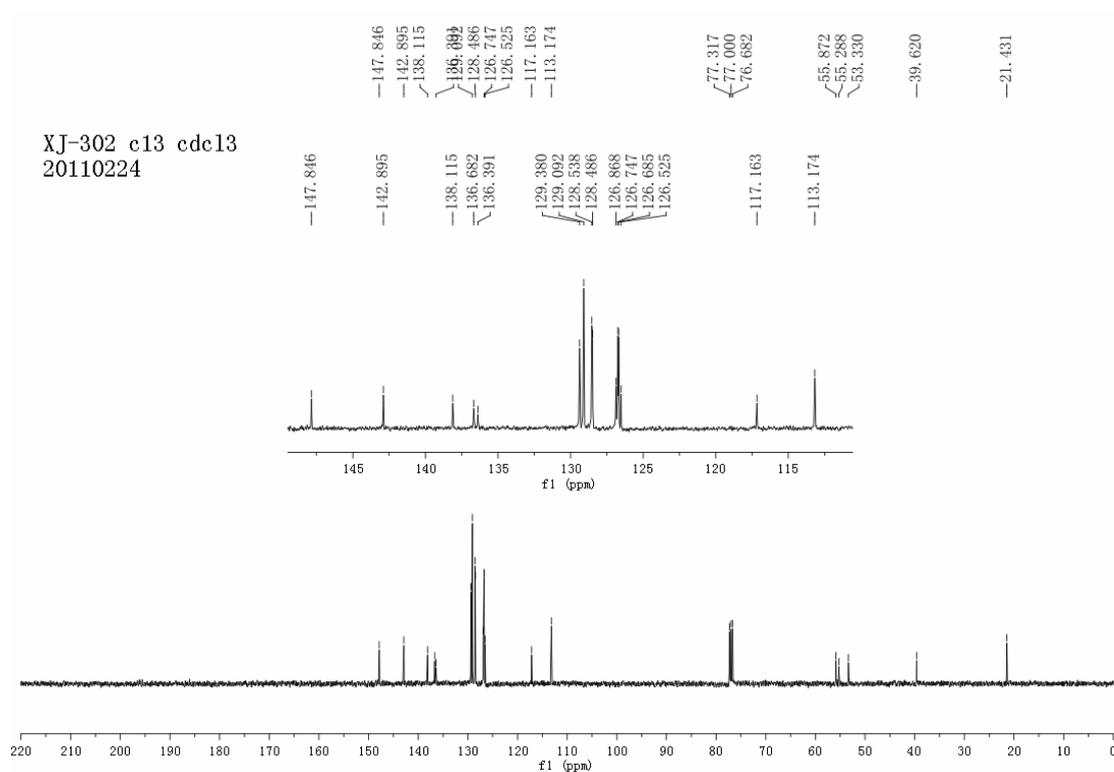
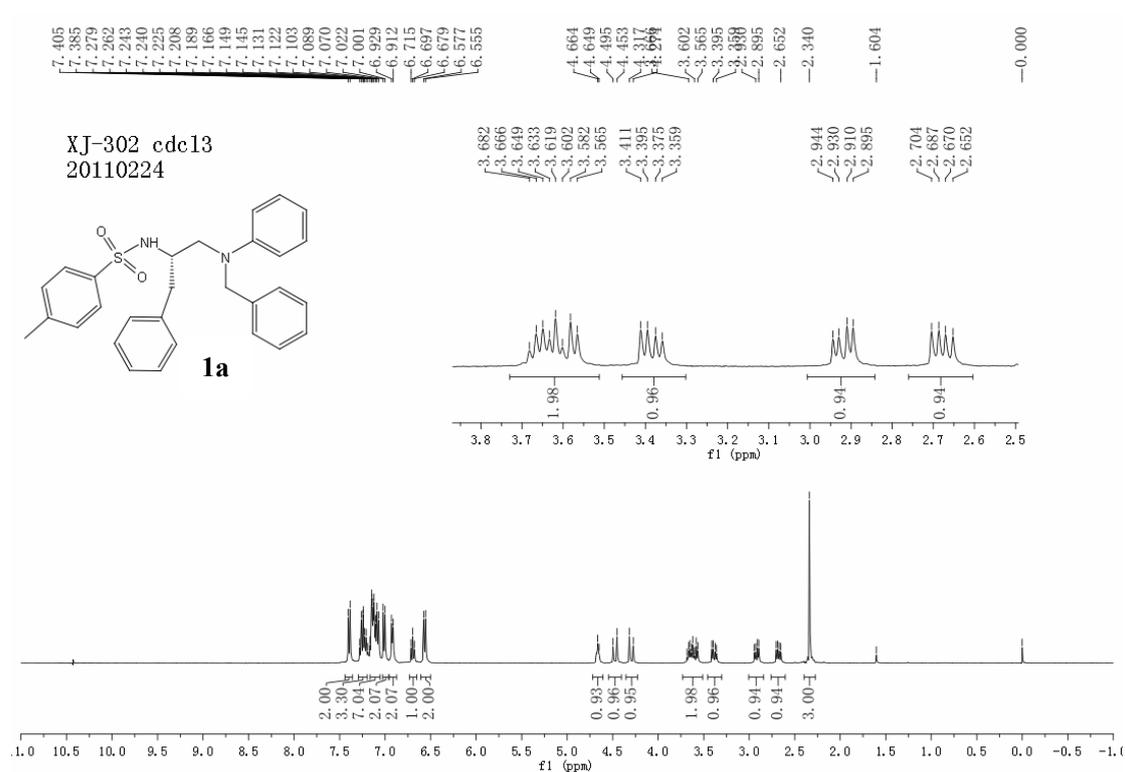


**Scheme 2.** Control experiments





## 7. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR and HRMS Spectrums



**Analysis Info**

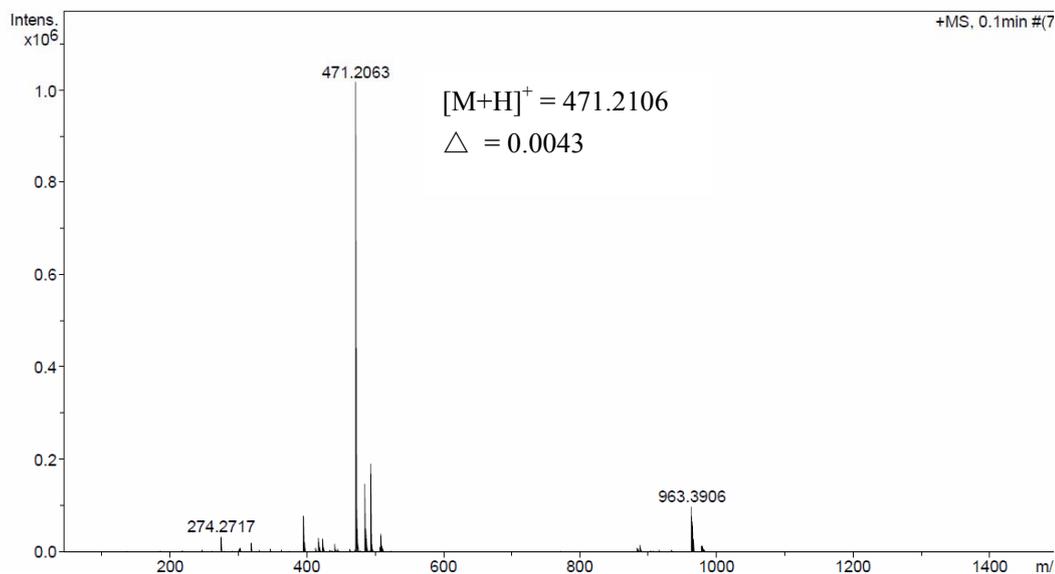
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 Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
 Sample Name xj-302  
 Comment

Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:17:04 AM

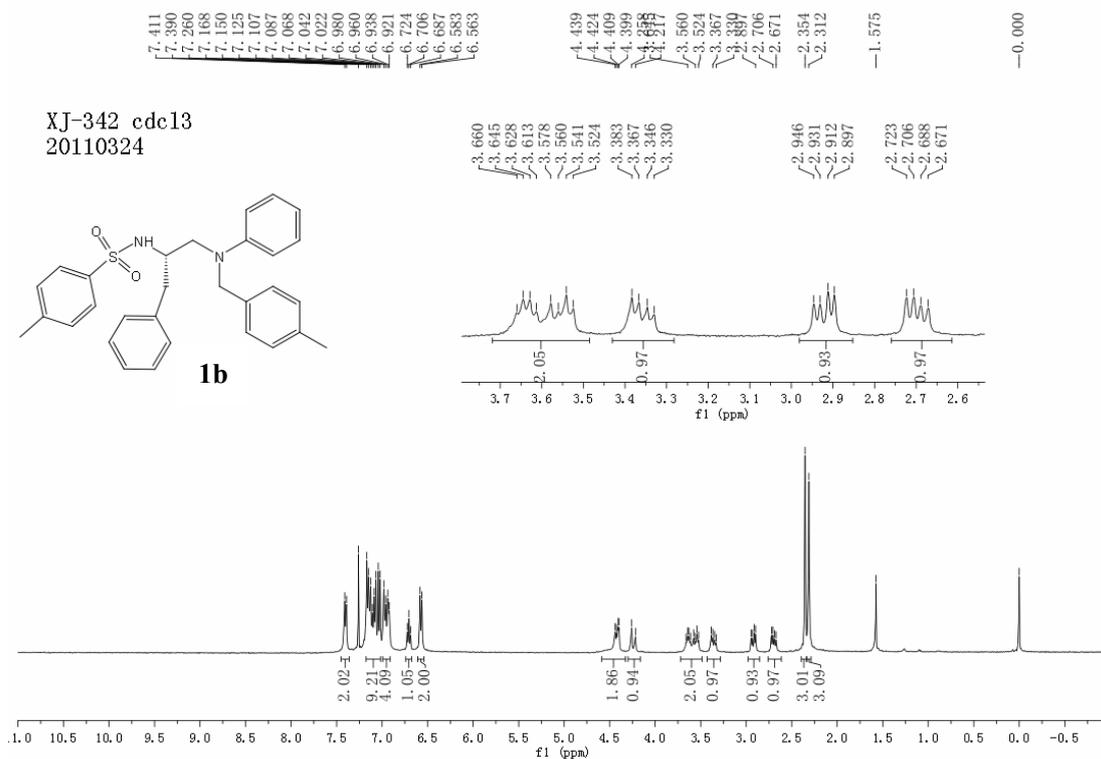
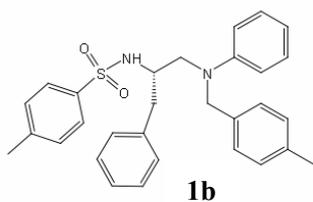
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

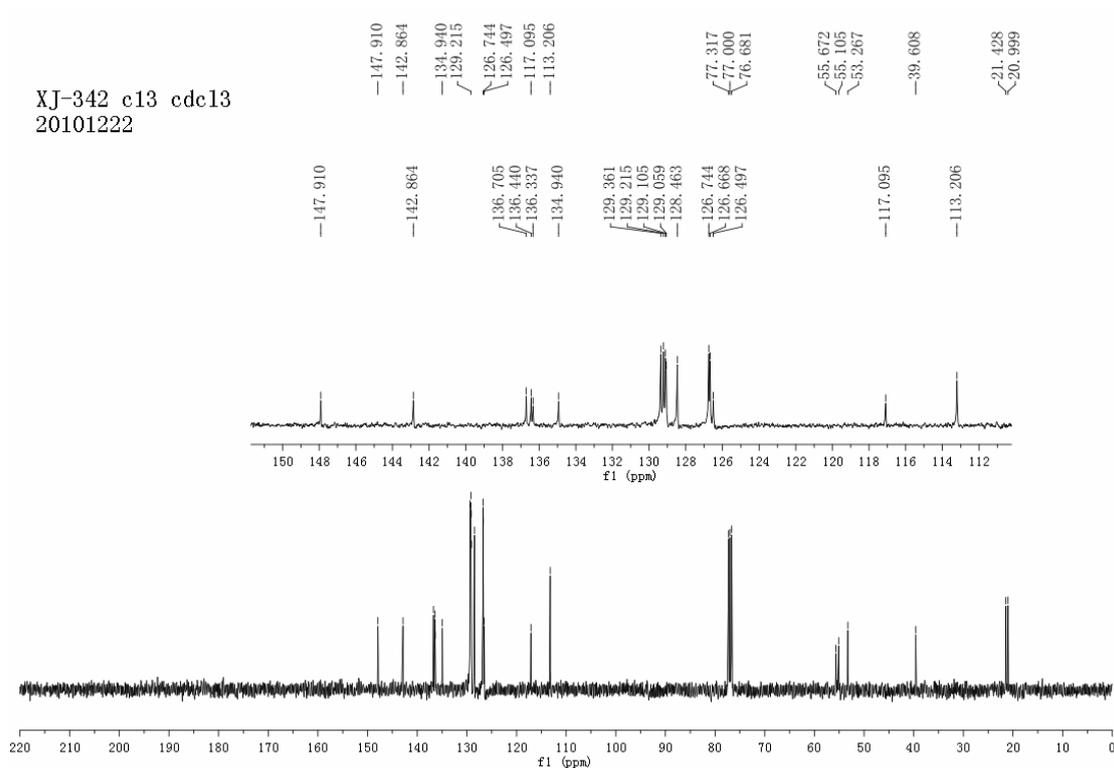
**Acquisition Parameter**

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Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste



XJ-342 cdc13  
 20110324





**Analysis Info**

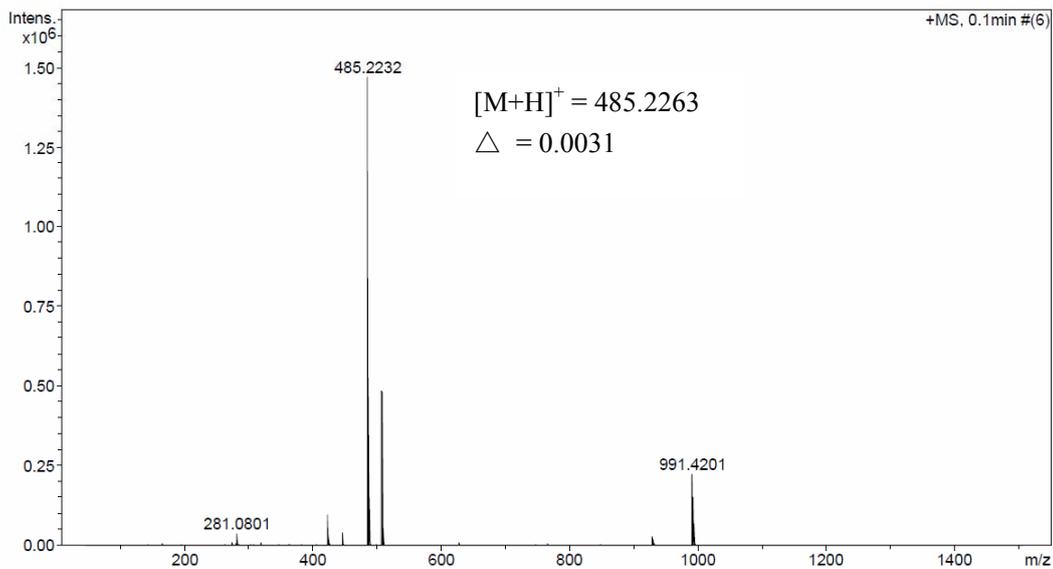
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 Sample Name xj-342  
 Comment

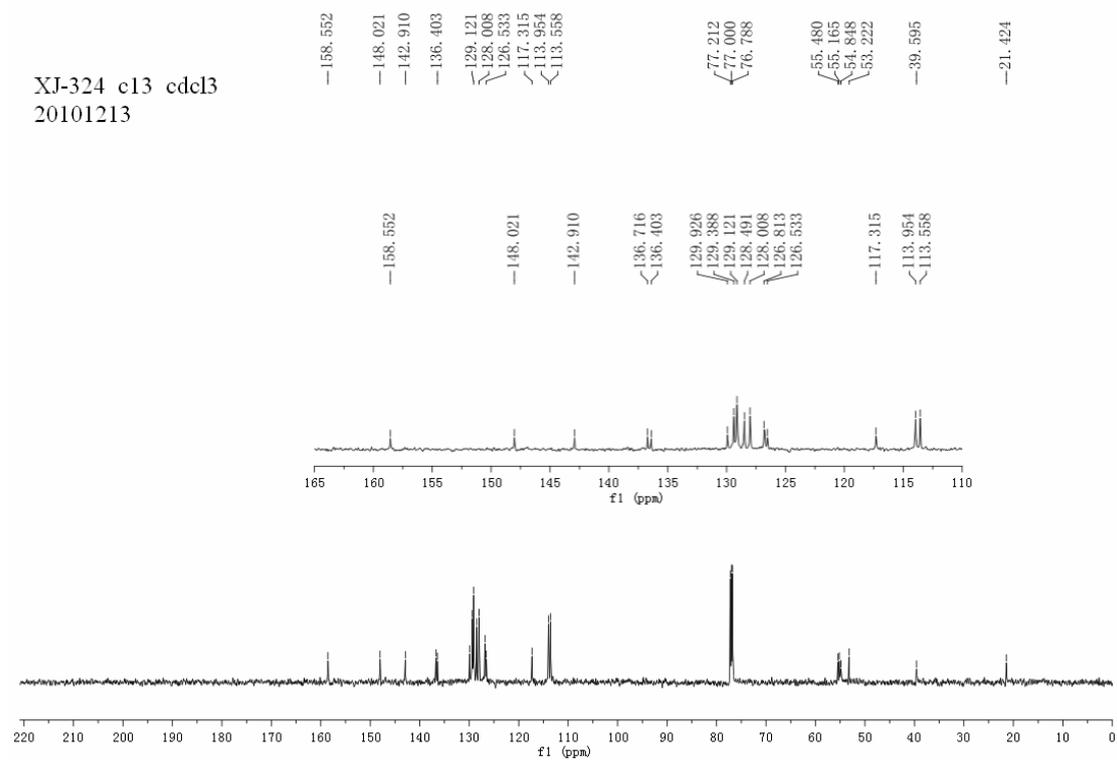
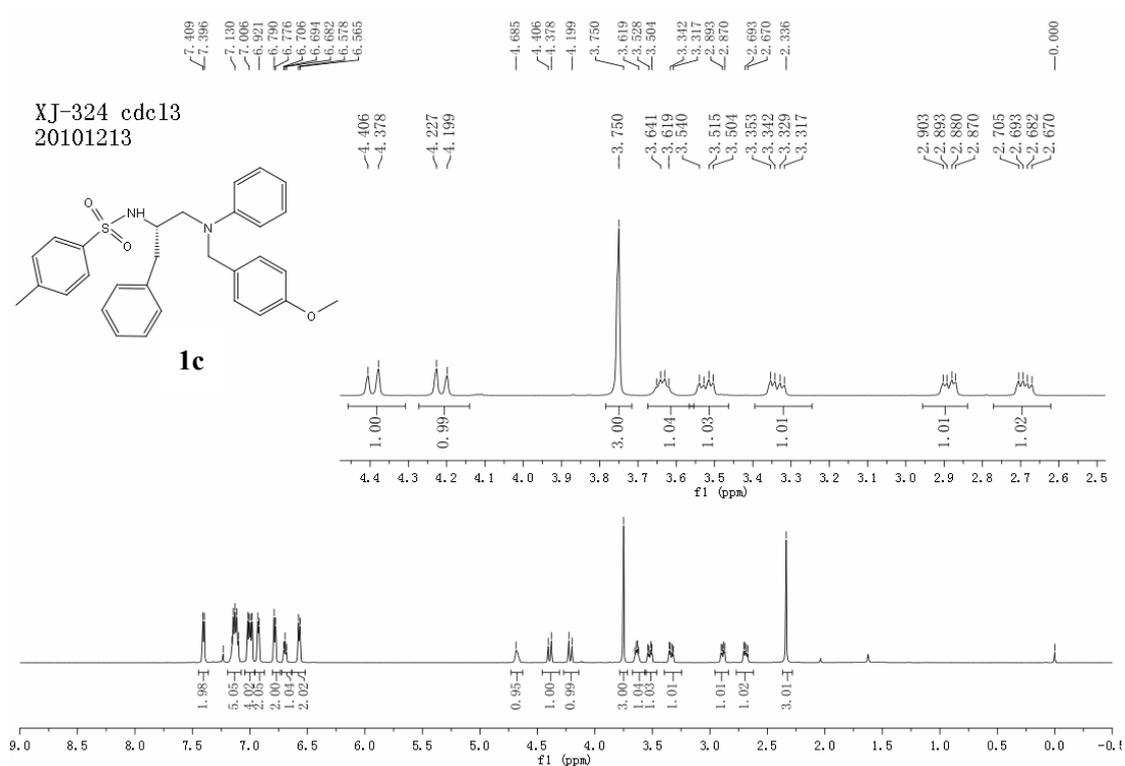
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 9:49:52 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# microTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

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Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
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Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

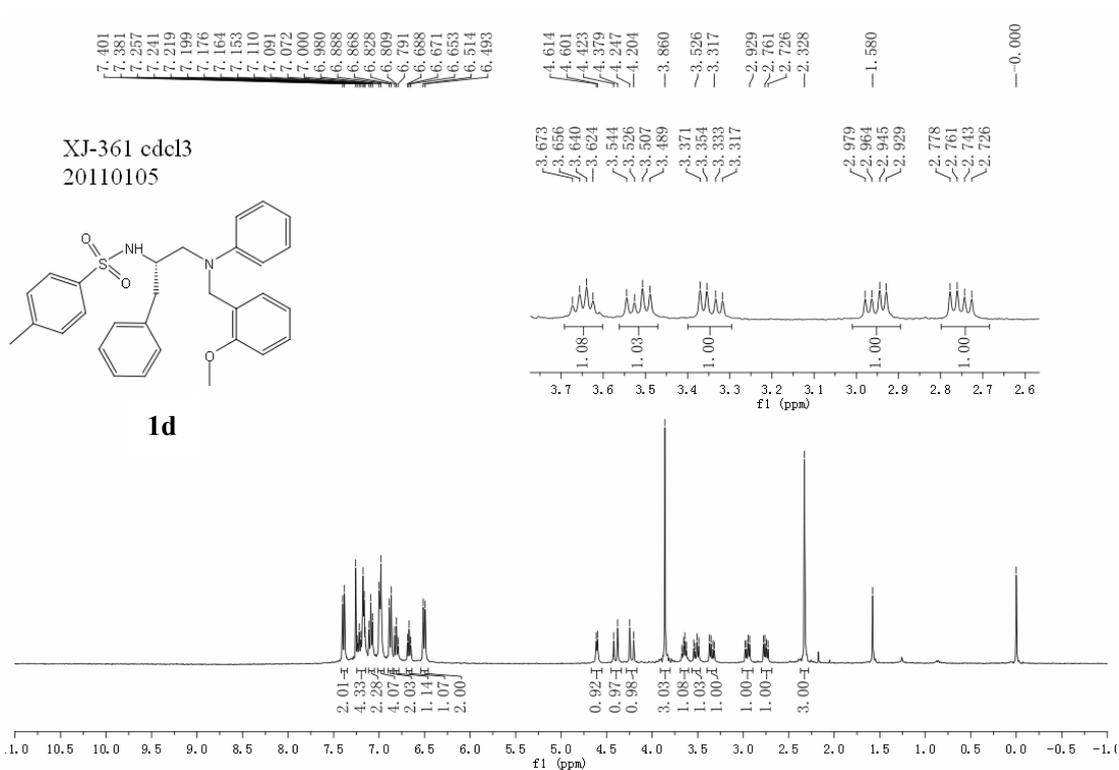
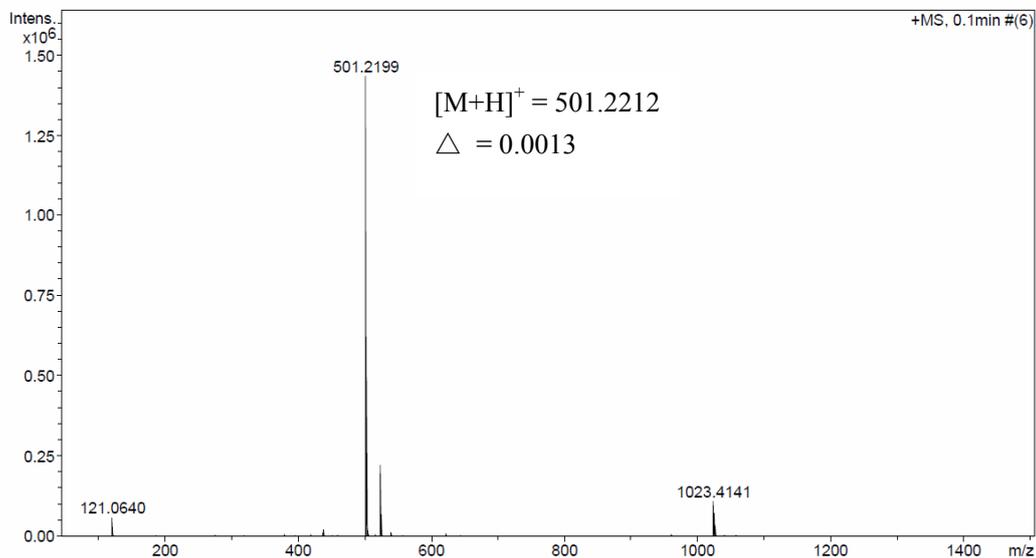
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 Sample Name xj-324  
 Comment

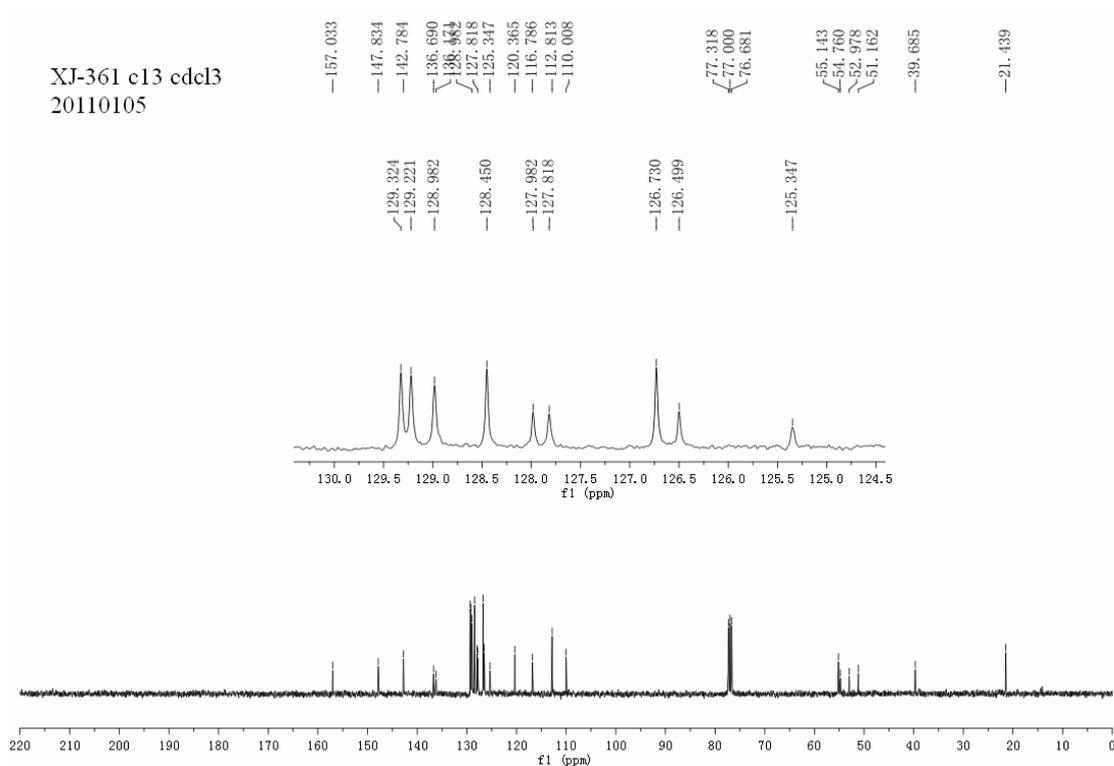
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:50:49 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
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Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

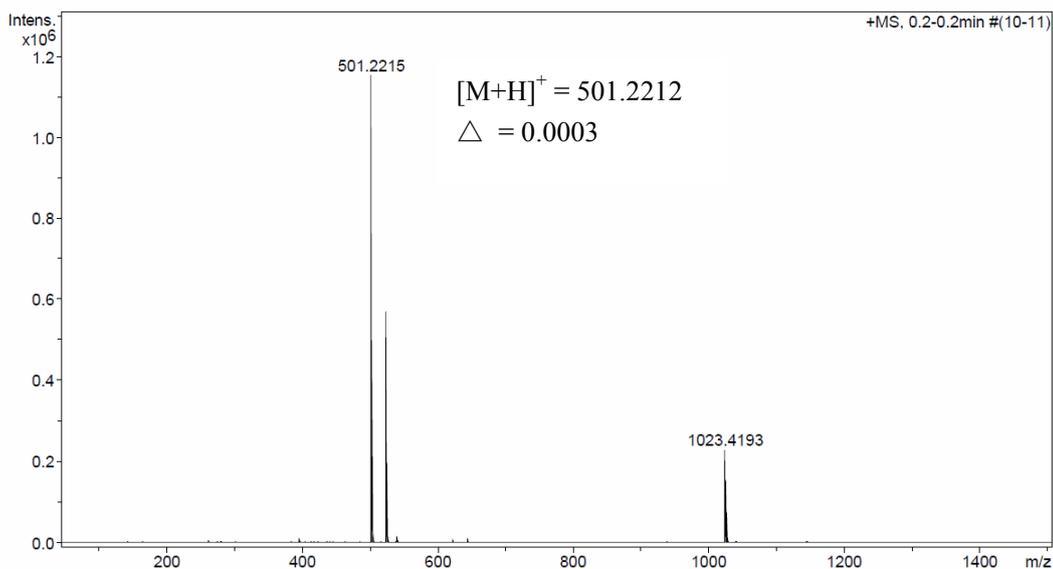
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 Sample Name xj-361  
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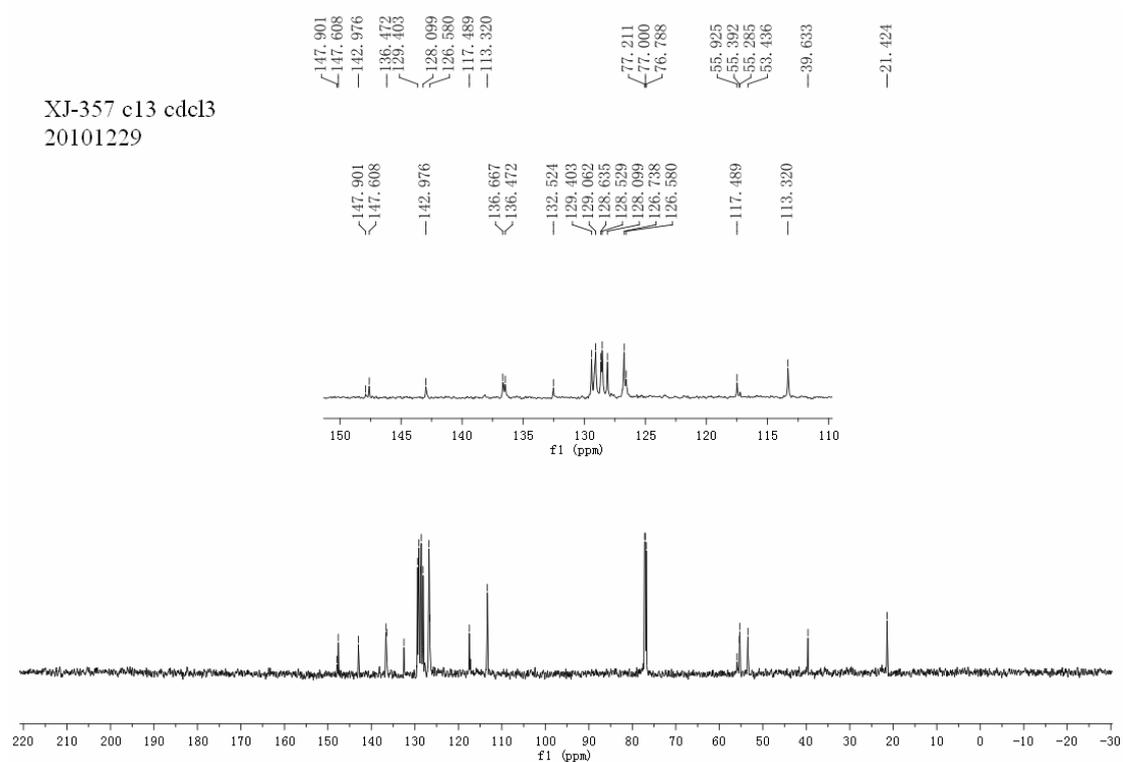
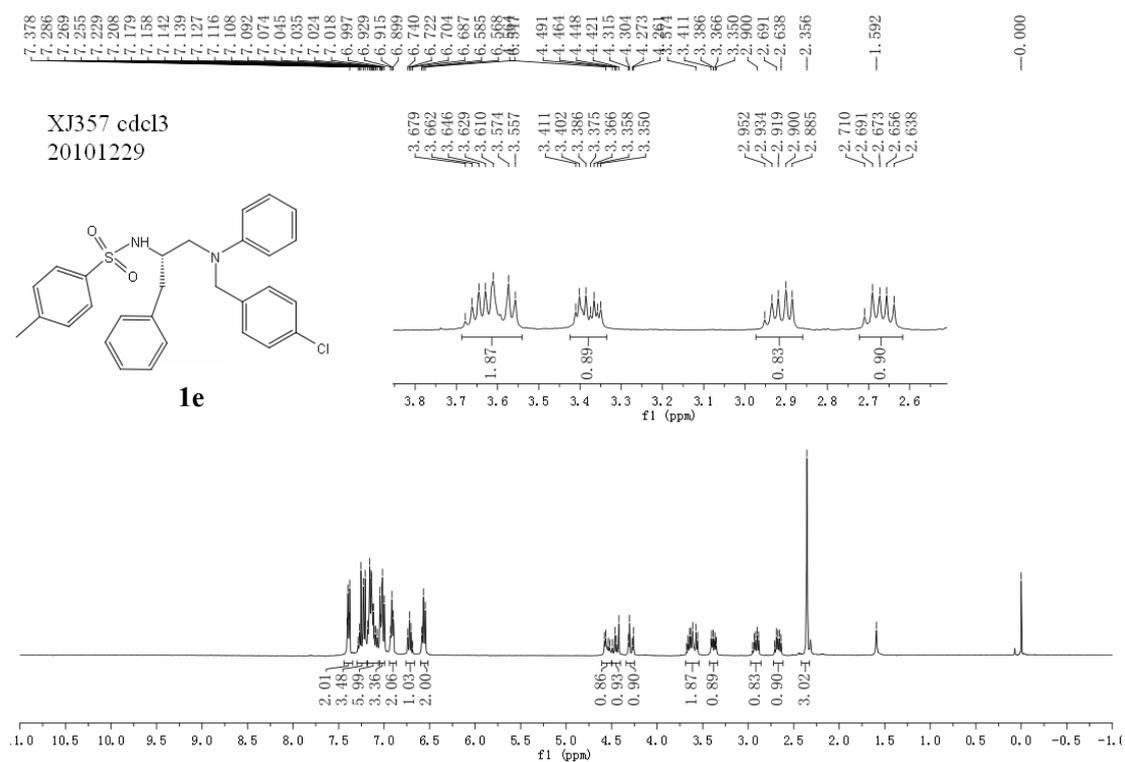
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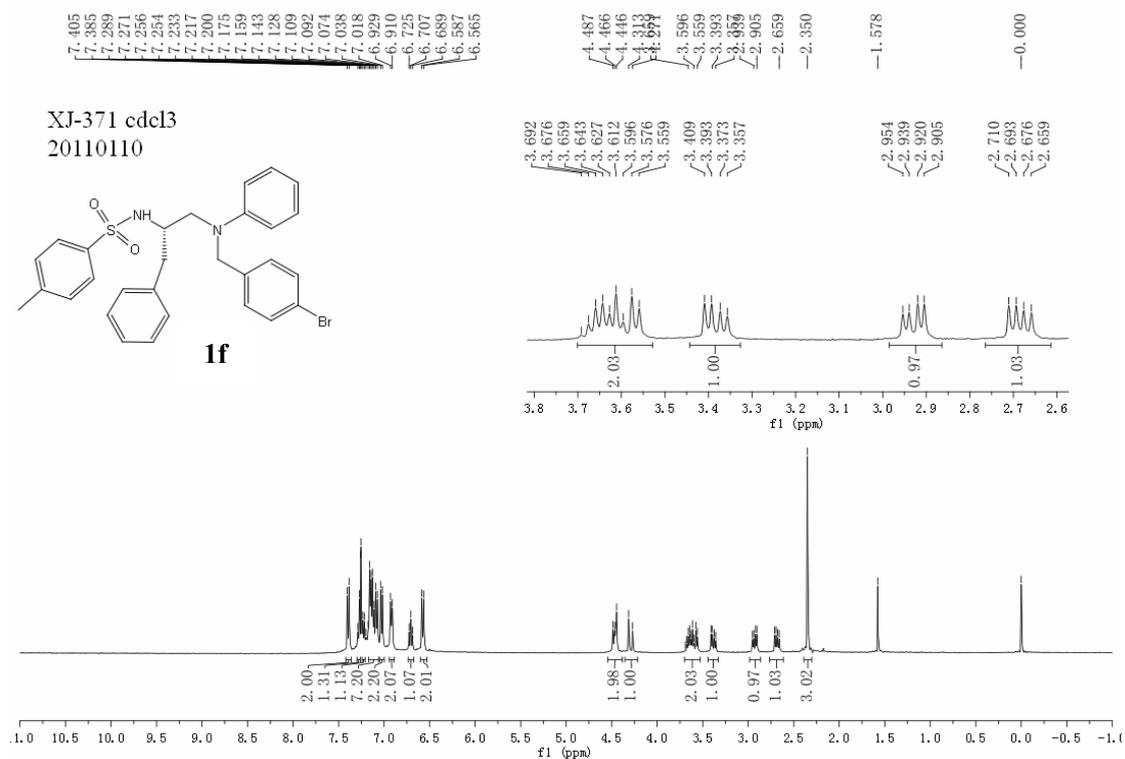
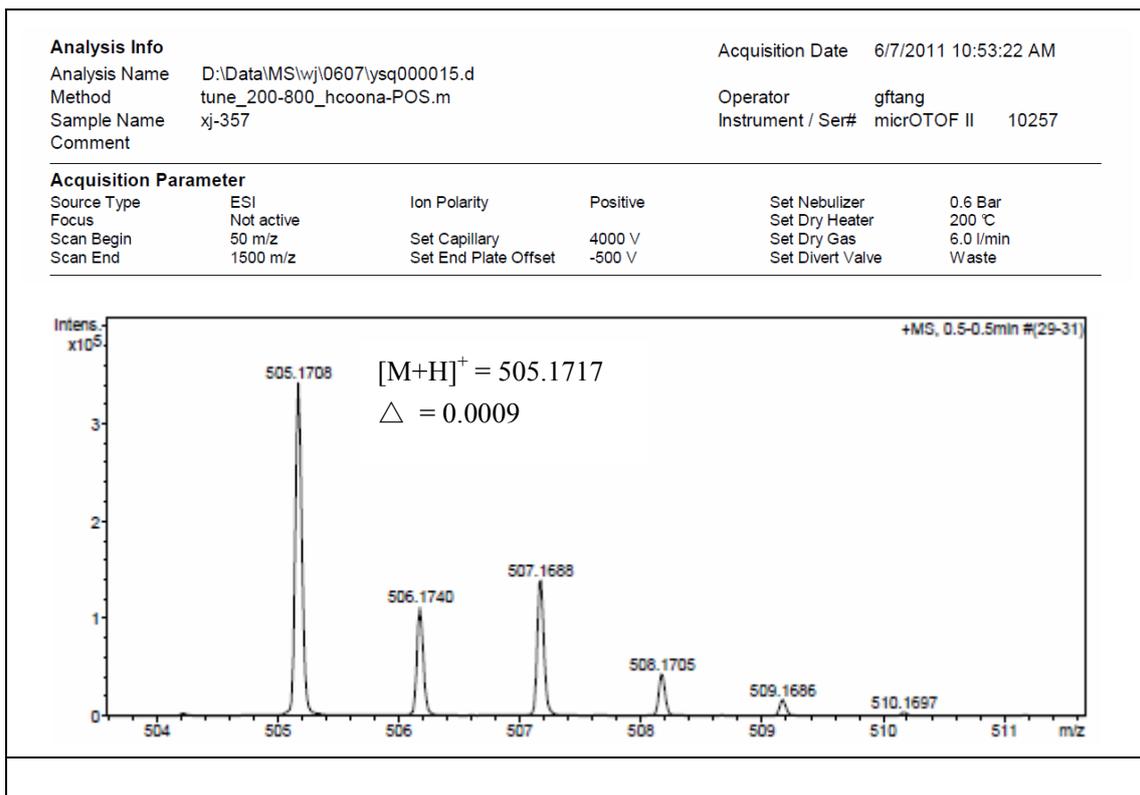
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

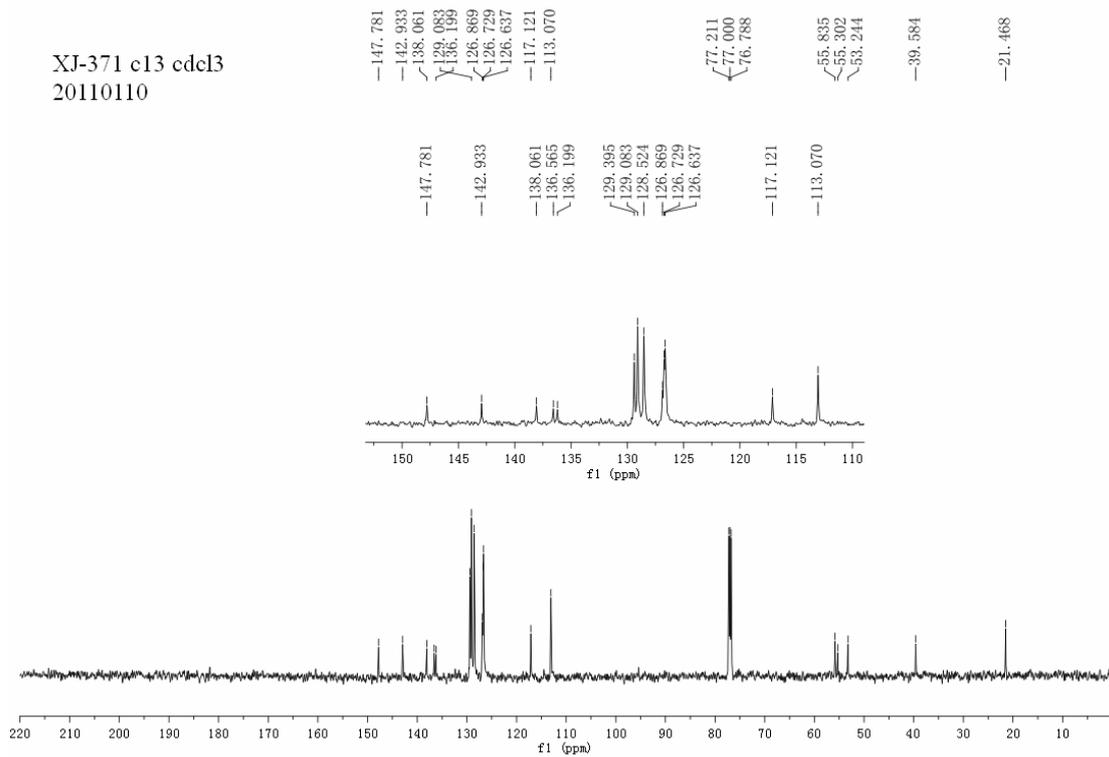
**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste

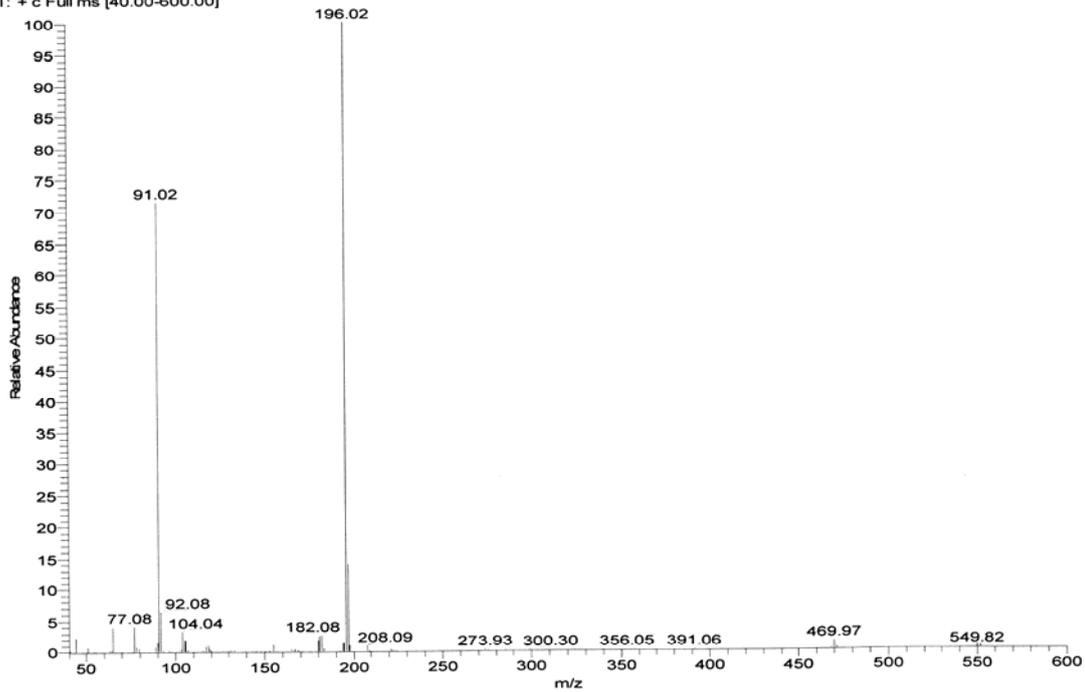








XJ-371 #554 RT: 3.10 AV: 1 NL: 1.55E6  
T: + c Full ms [40.00-600.00]



**Analysis Info**

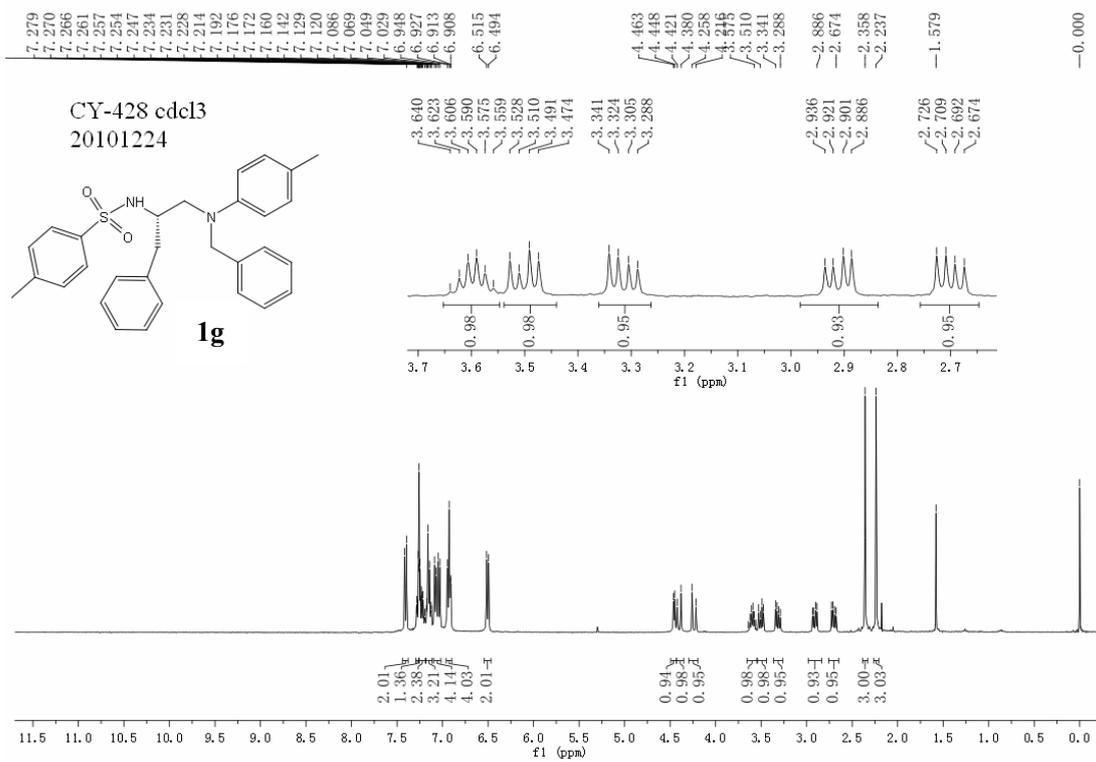
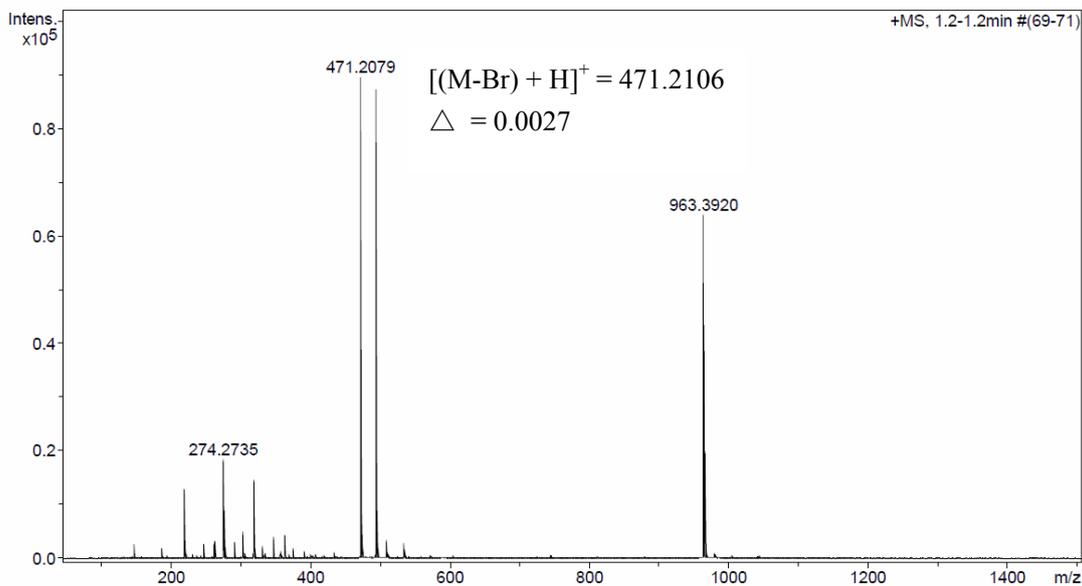
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 Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
 Sample Name xj-371  
 Comment

Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 11:03:03 AM

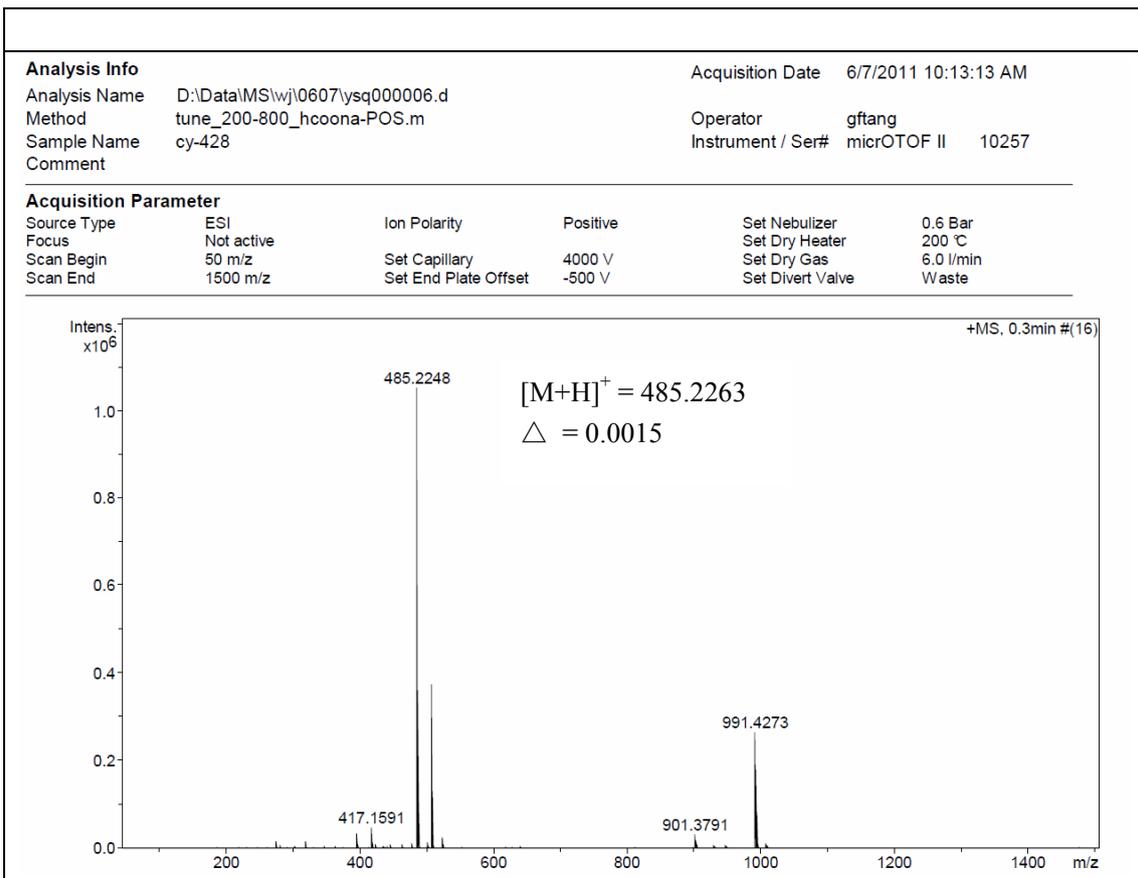
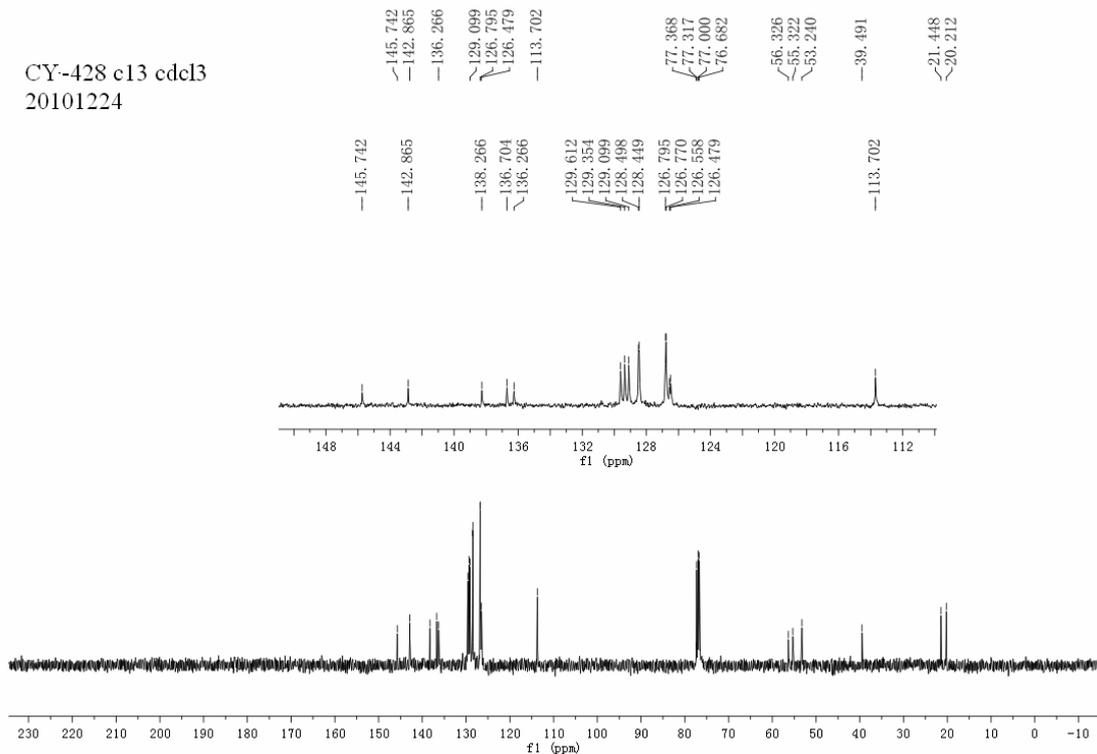
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

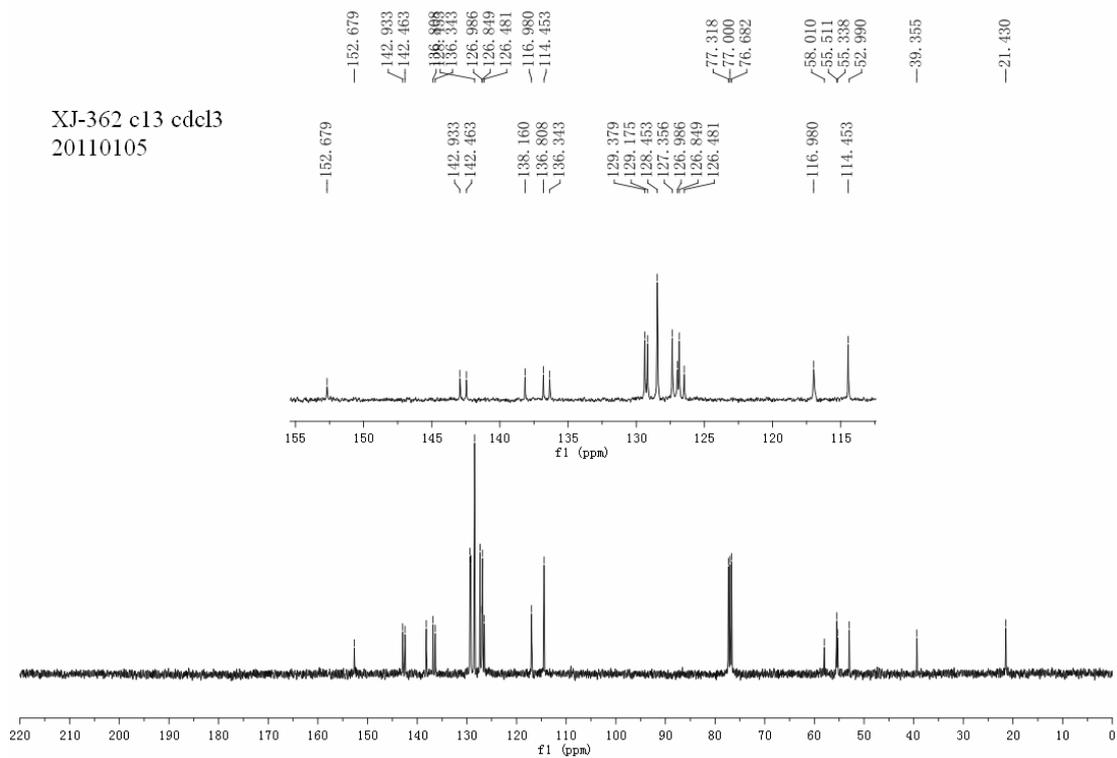
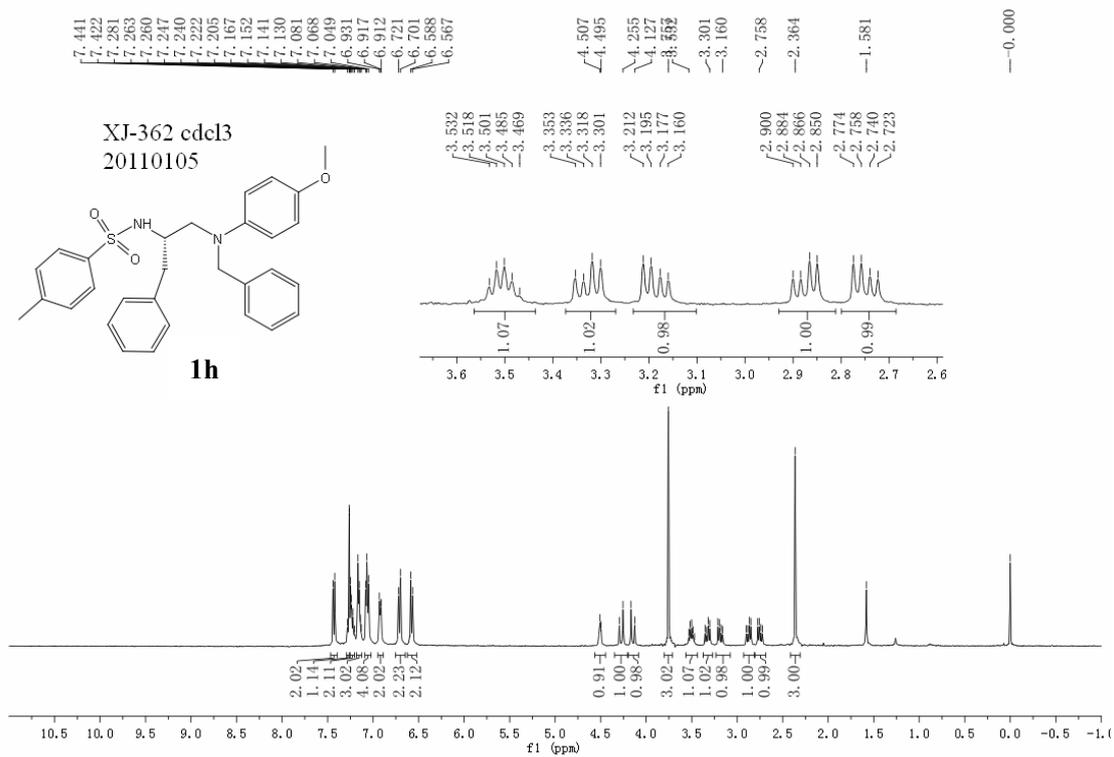
**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste



CY-428 c13 cdcl3  
 20101224





**Analysis Info**

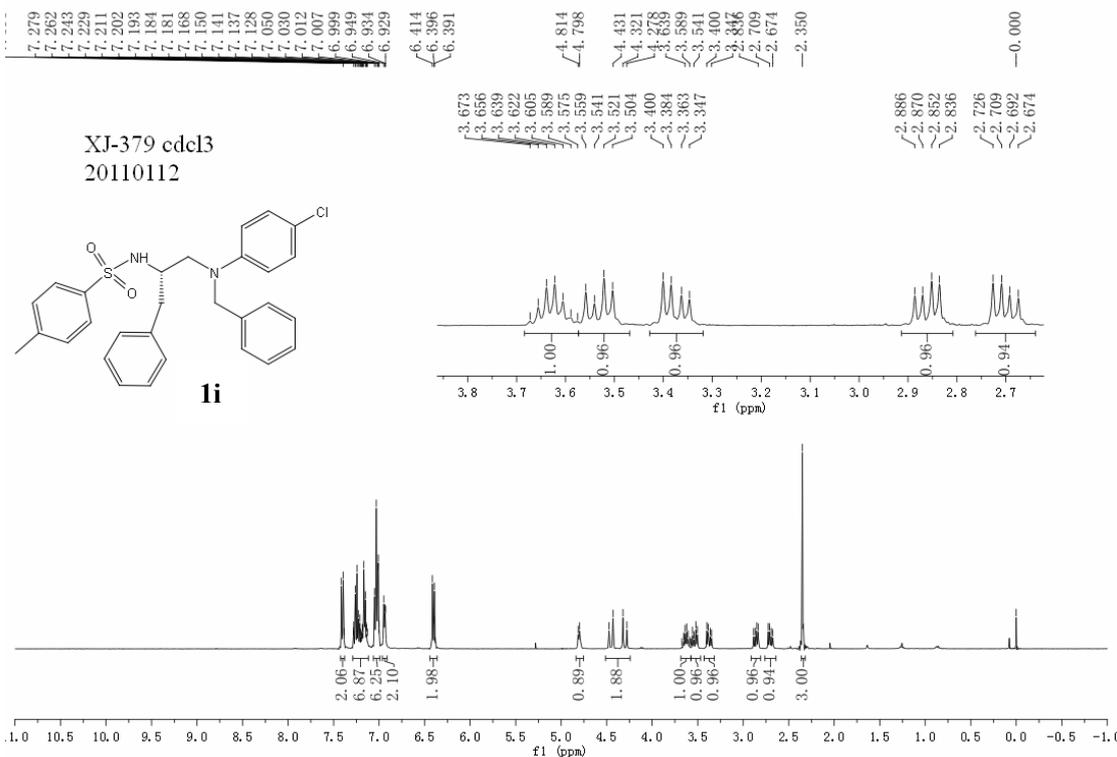
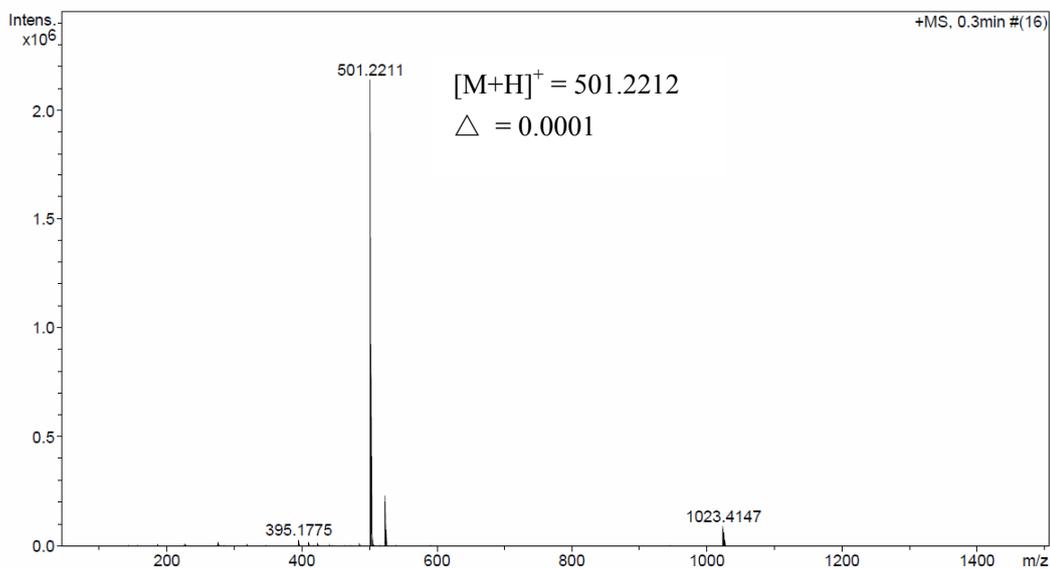
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 Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
 Sample Name xj-362  
 Comment

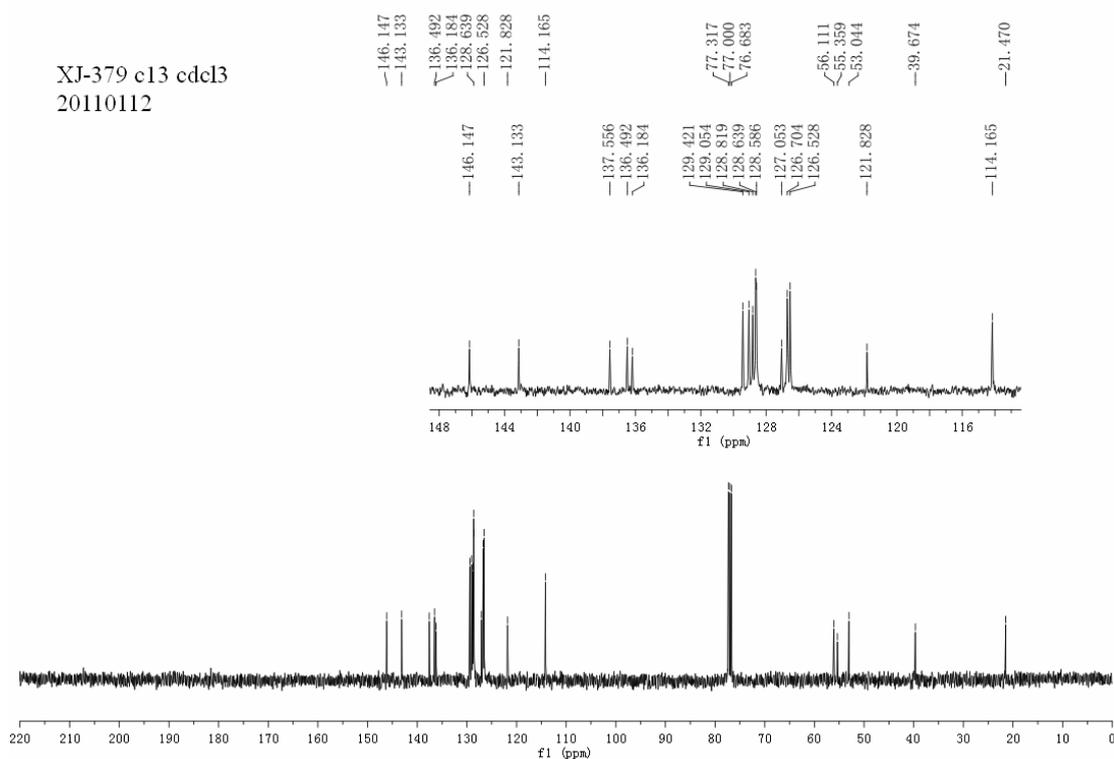
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:30:06 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

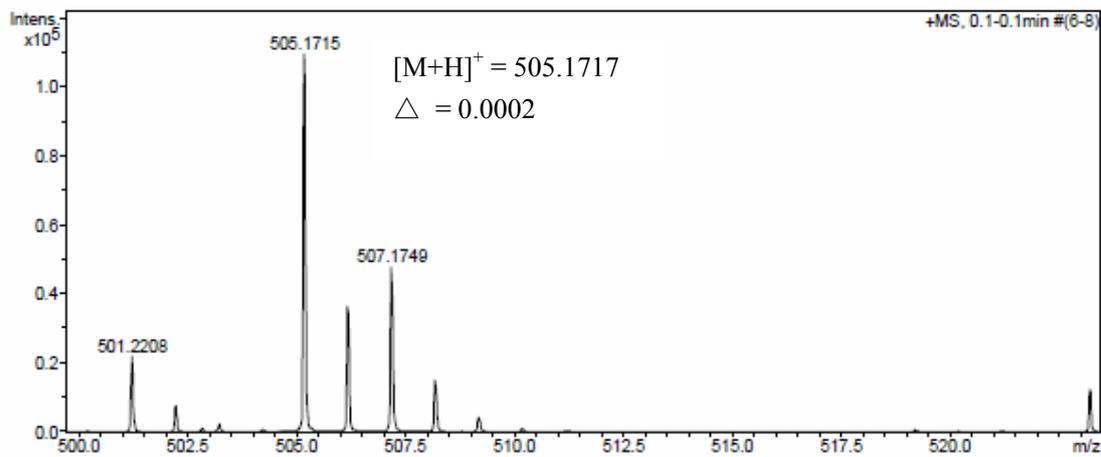
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 Sample Name xj-379  
 Comment

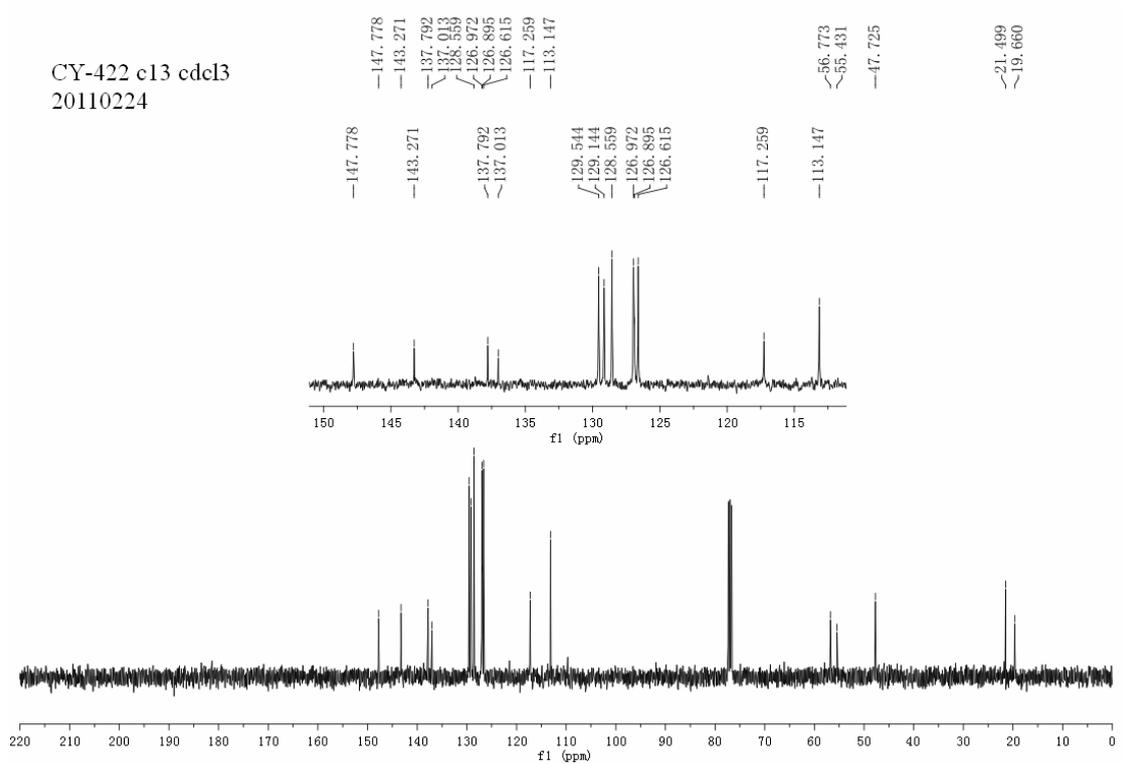
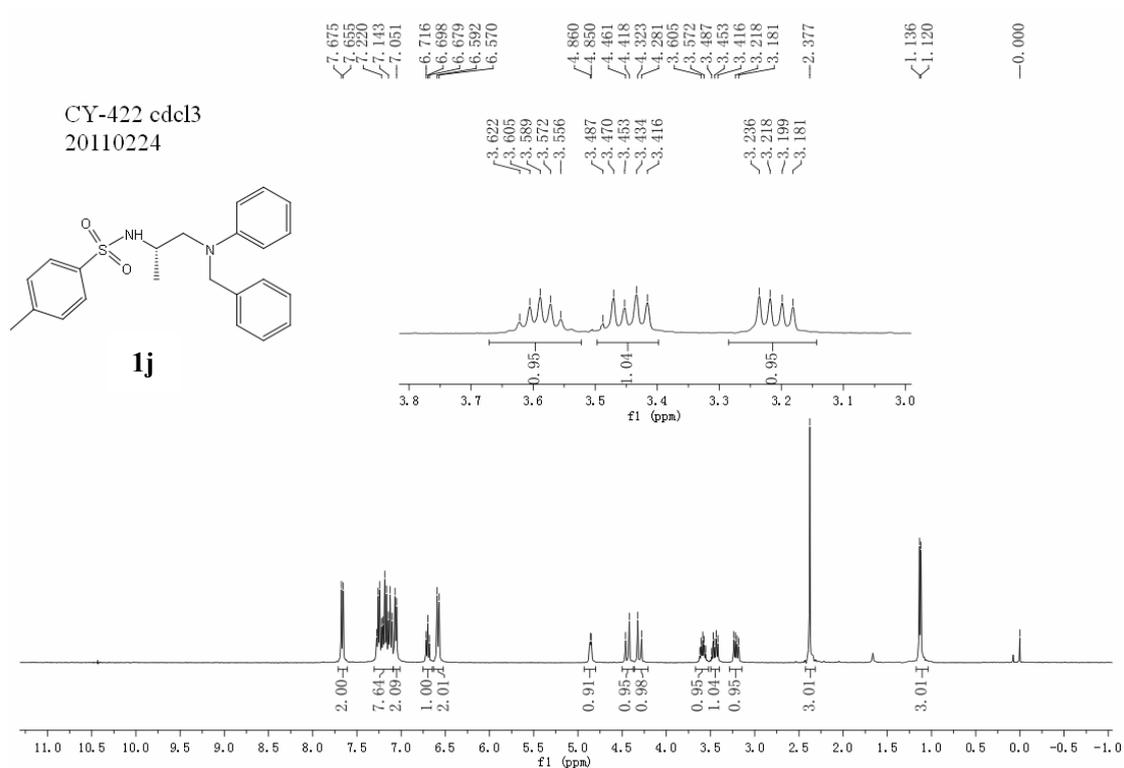
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:38:31 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# microTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

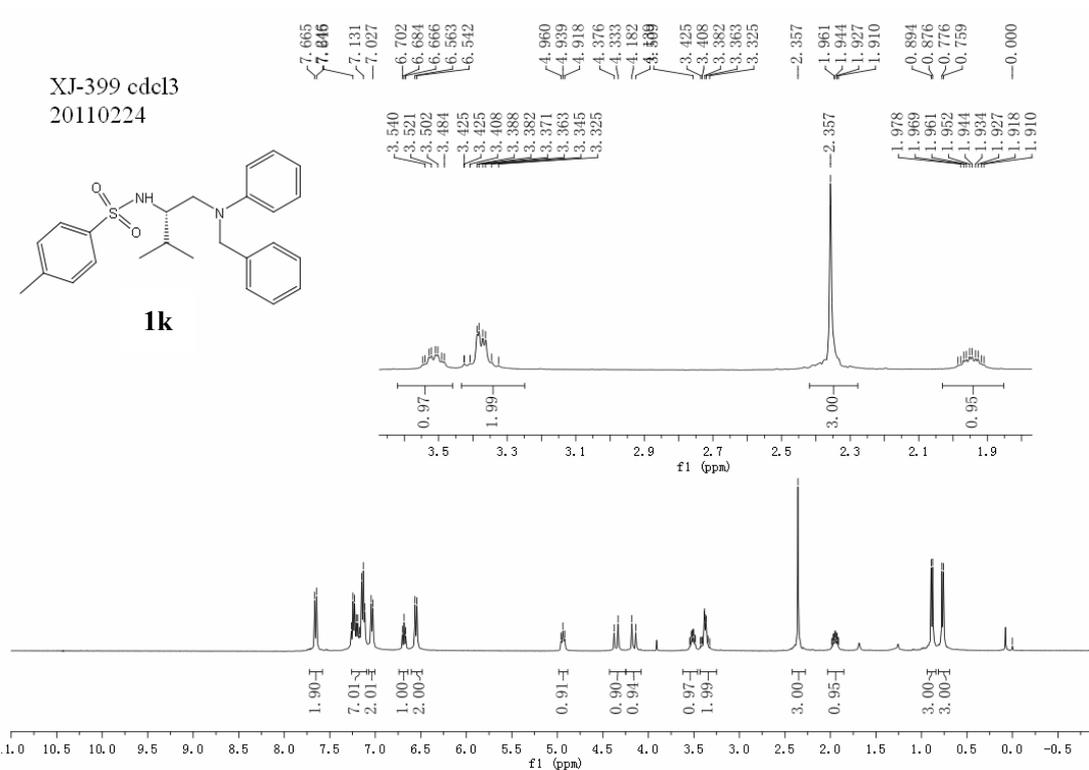
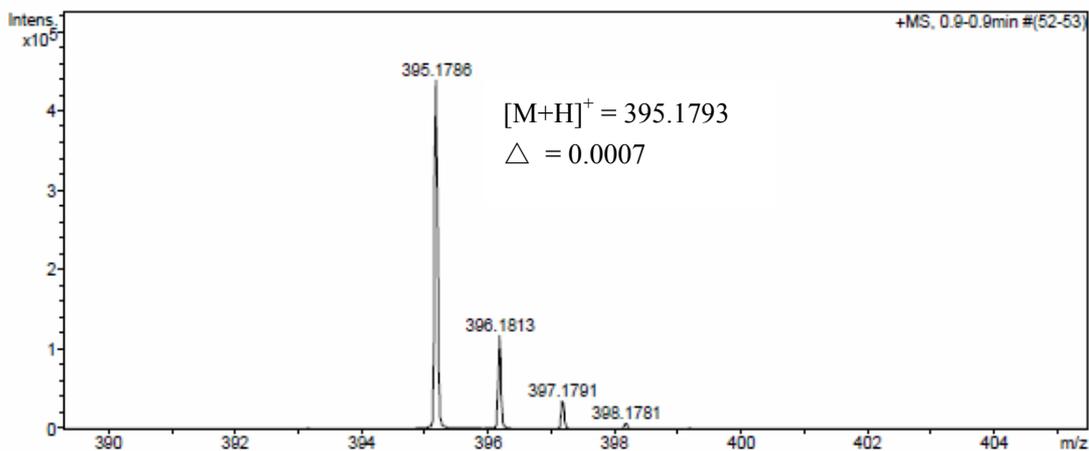
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 Sample Name cy-422  
 Comment

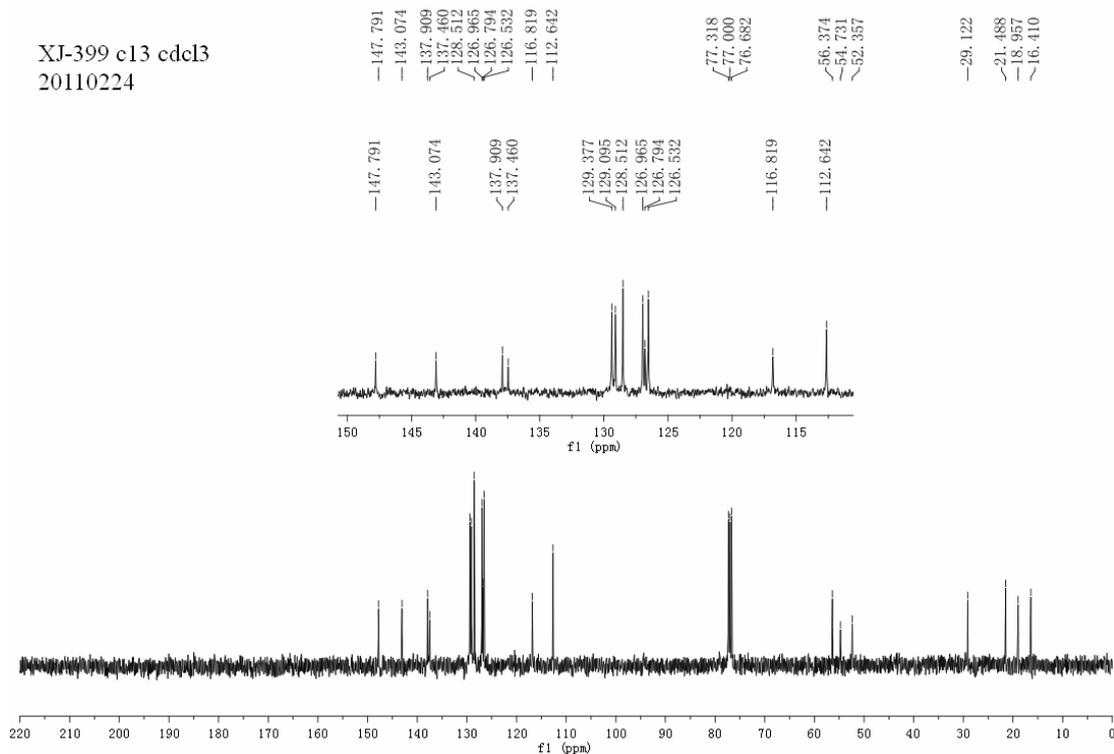
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:10:39 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

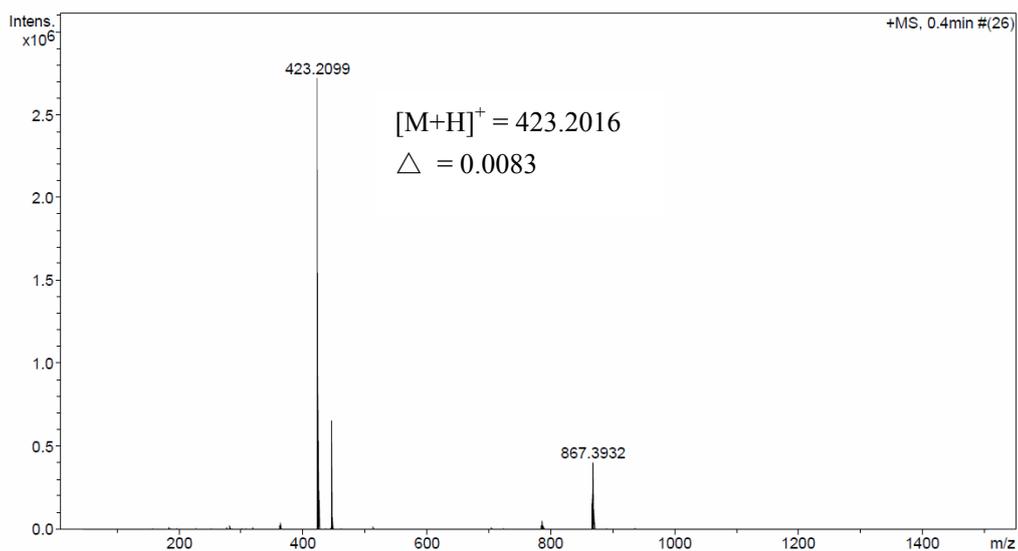
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Sample Name xj-399  
Comment

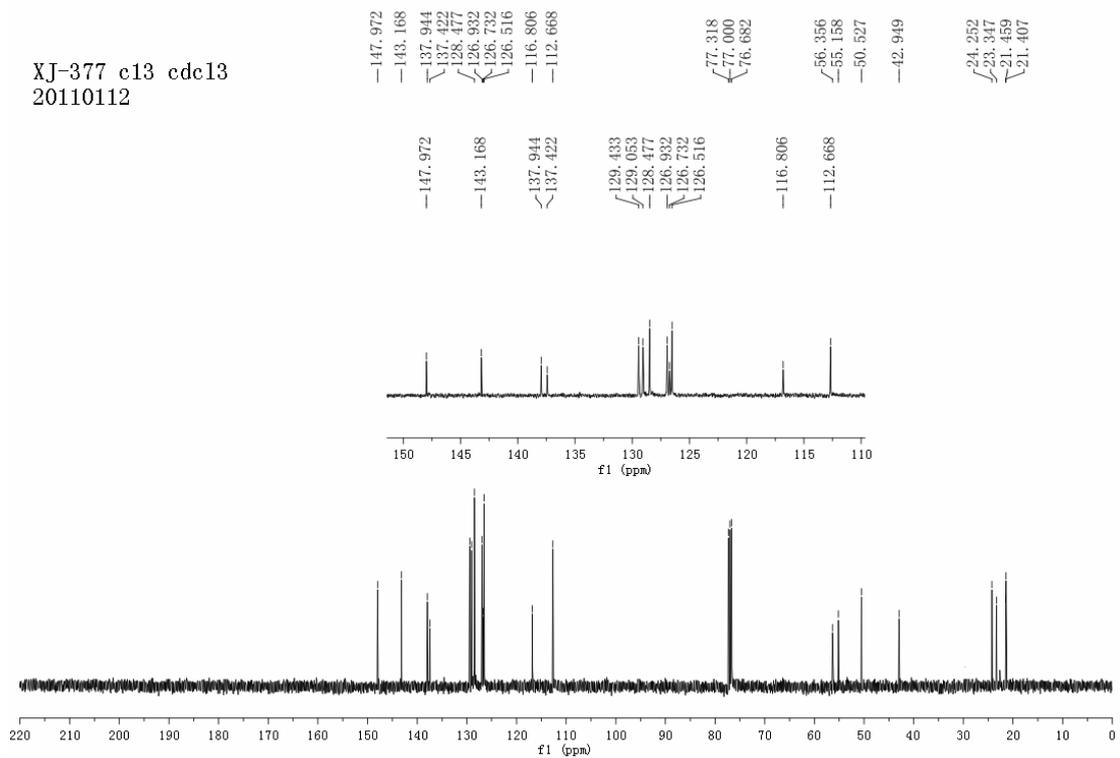
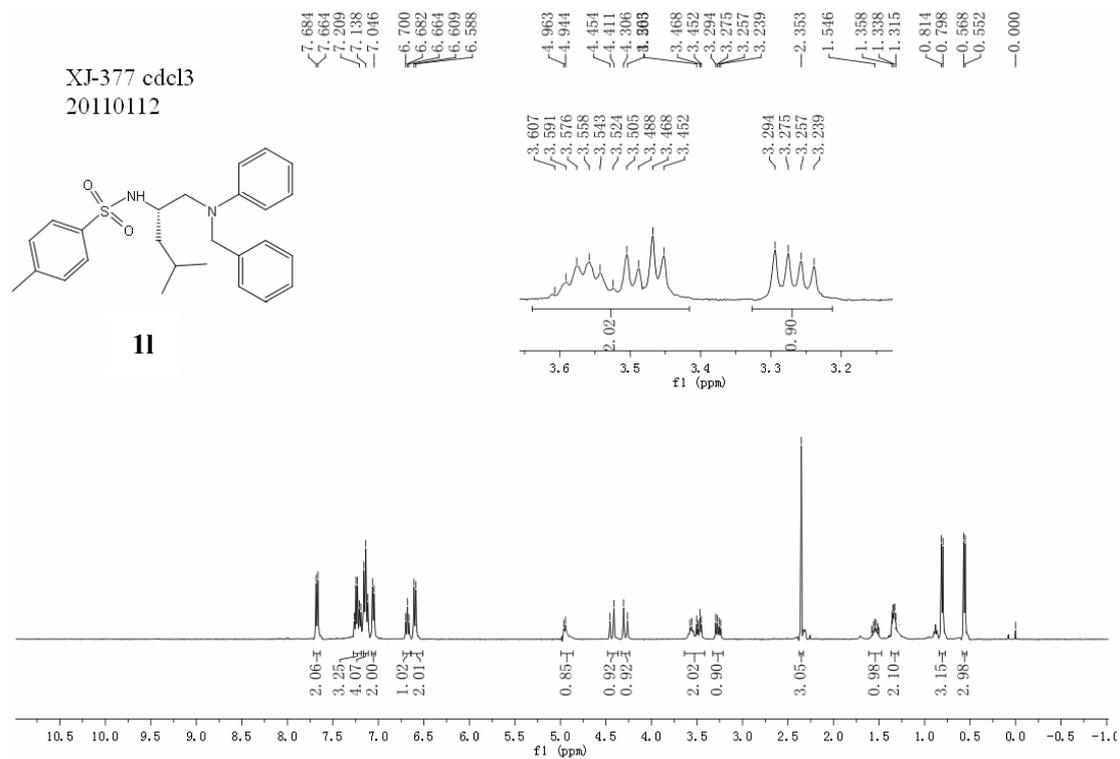
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 9:45:40 AM

Operator gftang  
Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

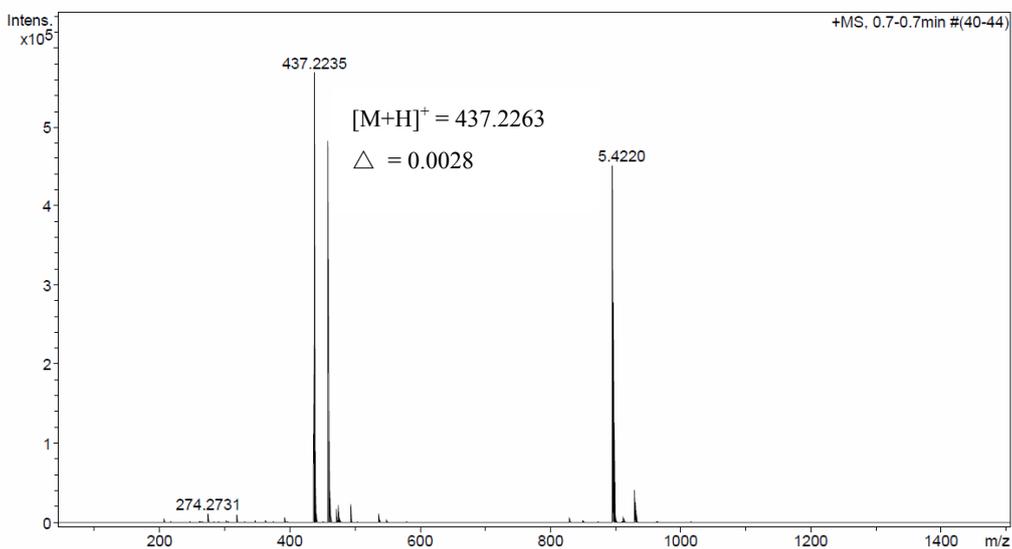
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 Sample Name xj-377  
 Comment

Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 11:07:39 AM

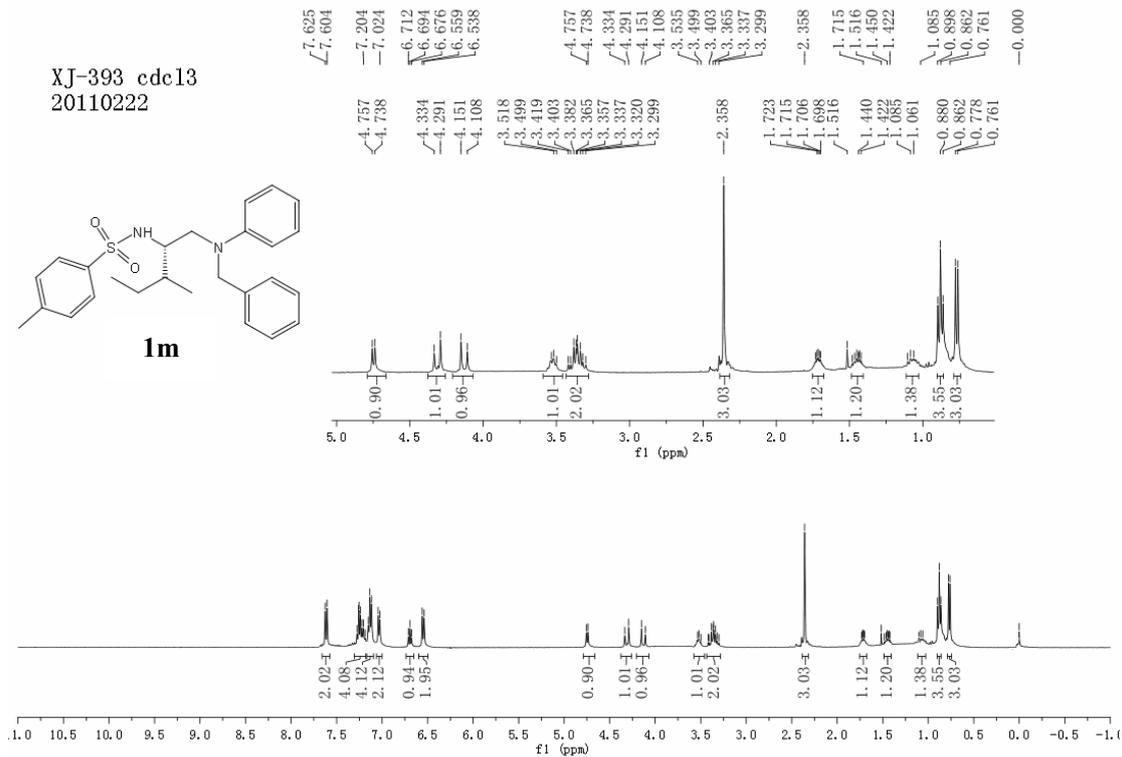
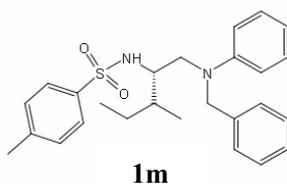
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

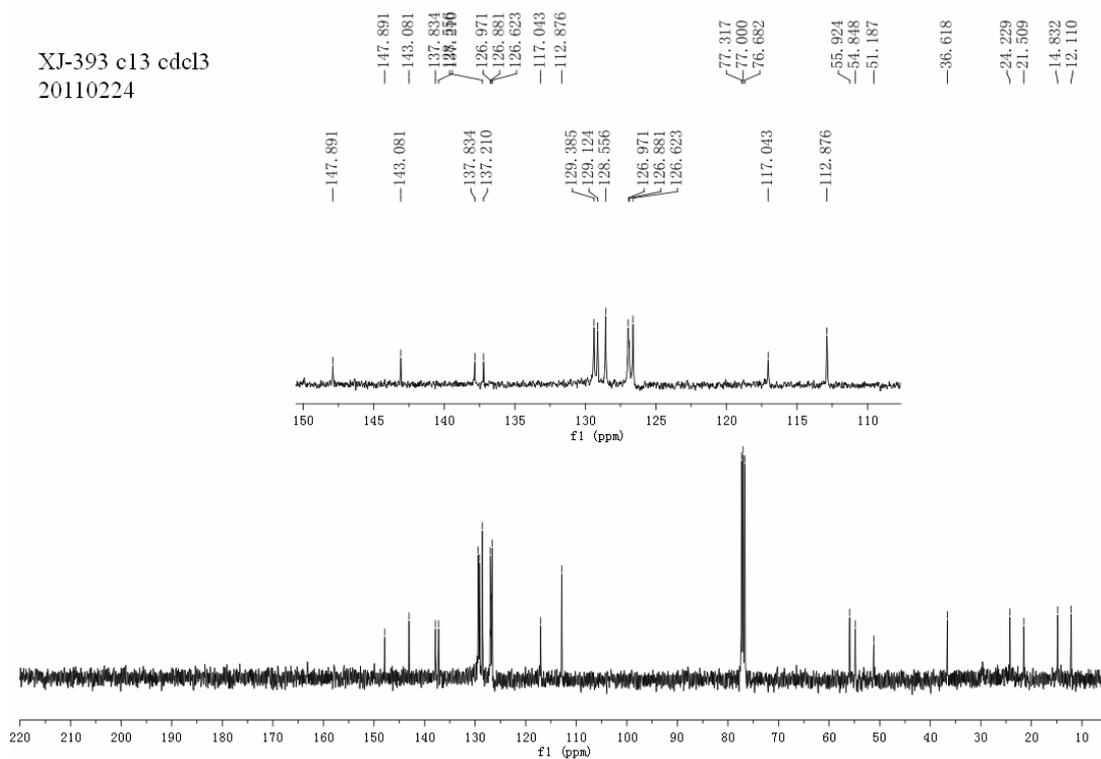
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Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste



XJ-393 cdc13  
 20110222



XJ-393 c13 cdcl3  
 20110224



**Analysis Info**

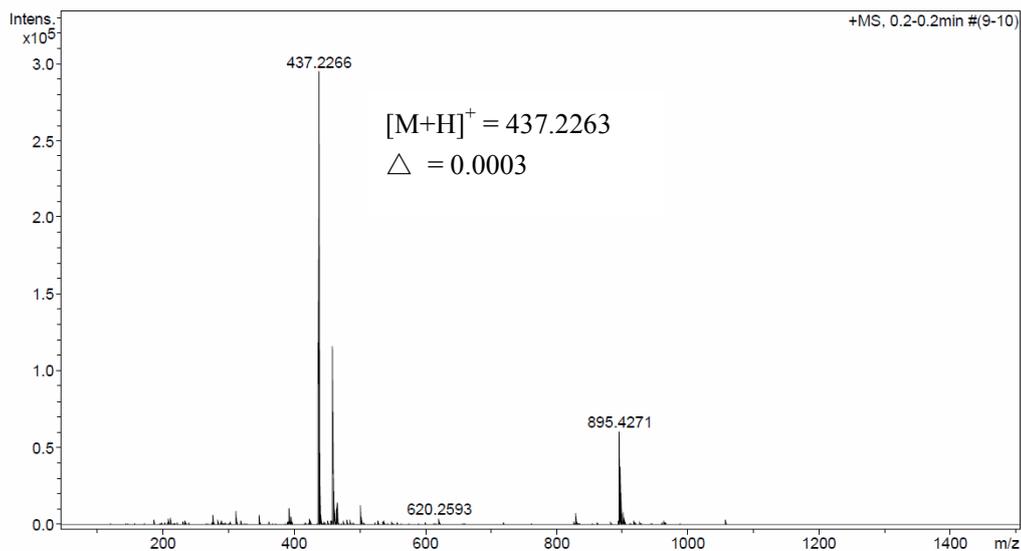
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 Sample Name xj-393  
 Comment

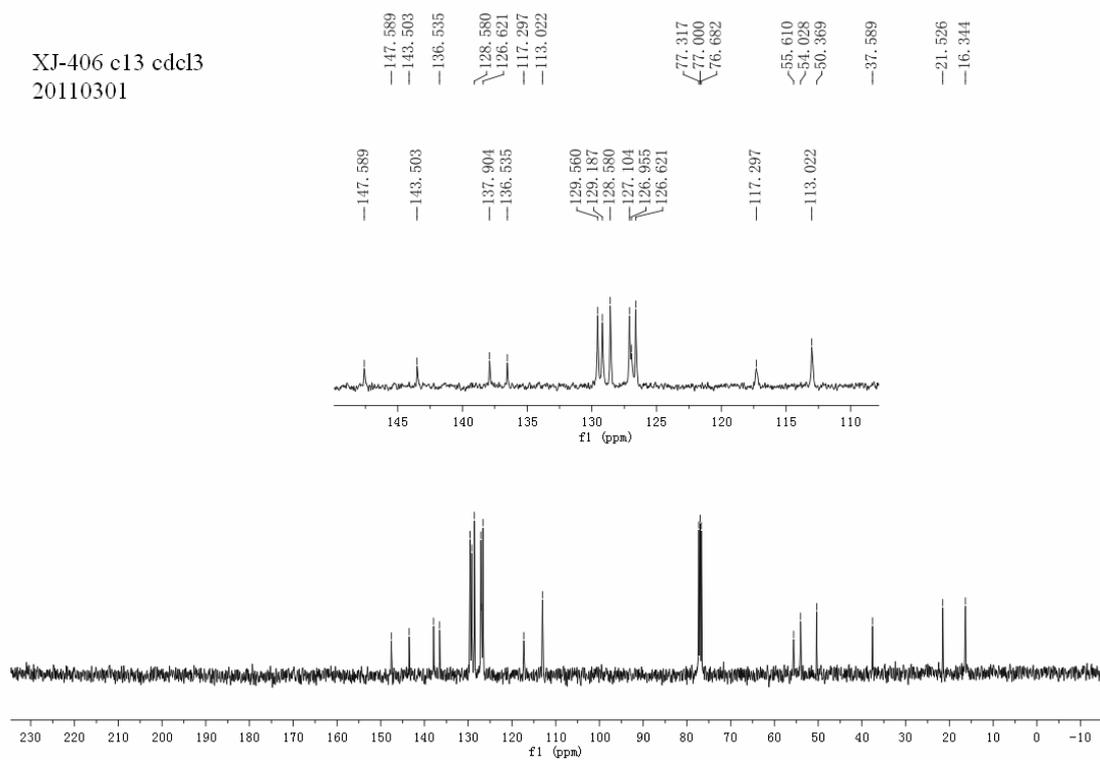
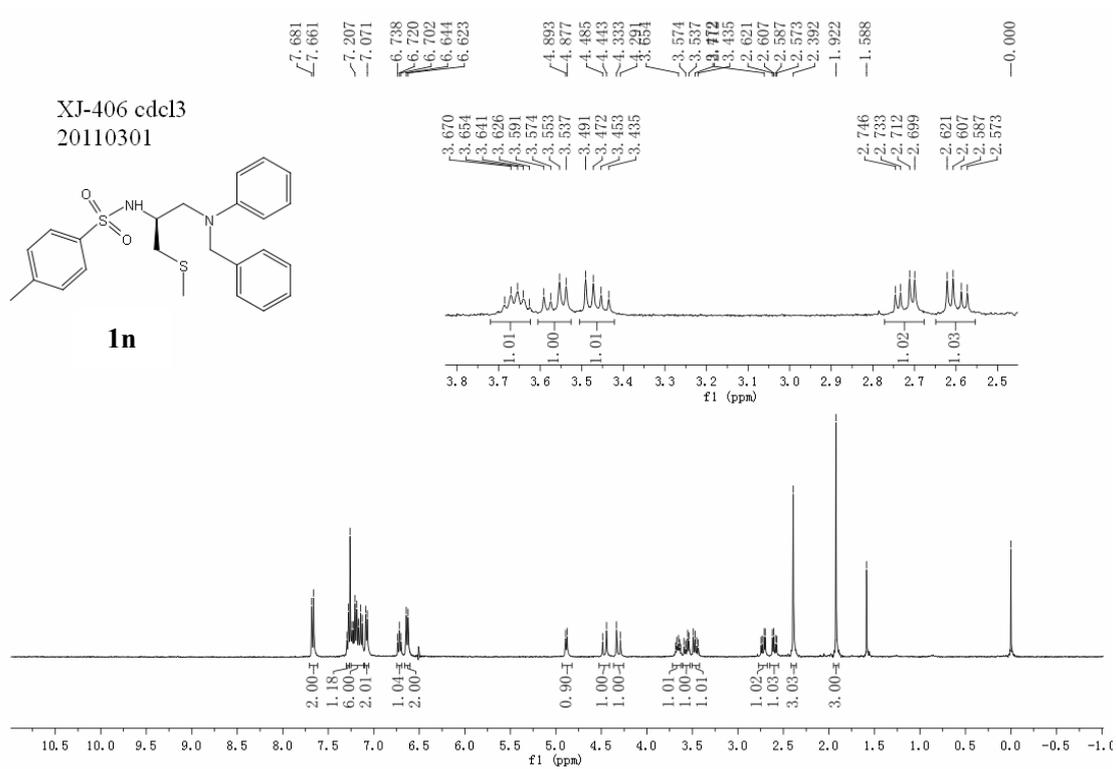
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:46:08 AM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

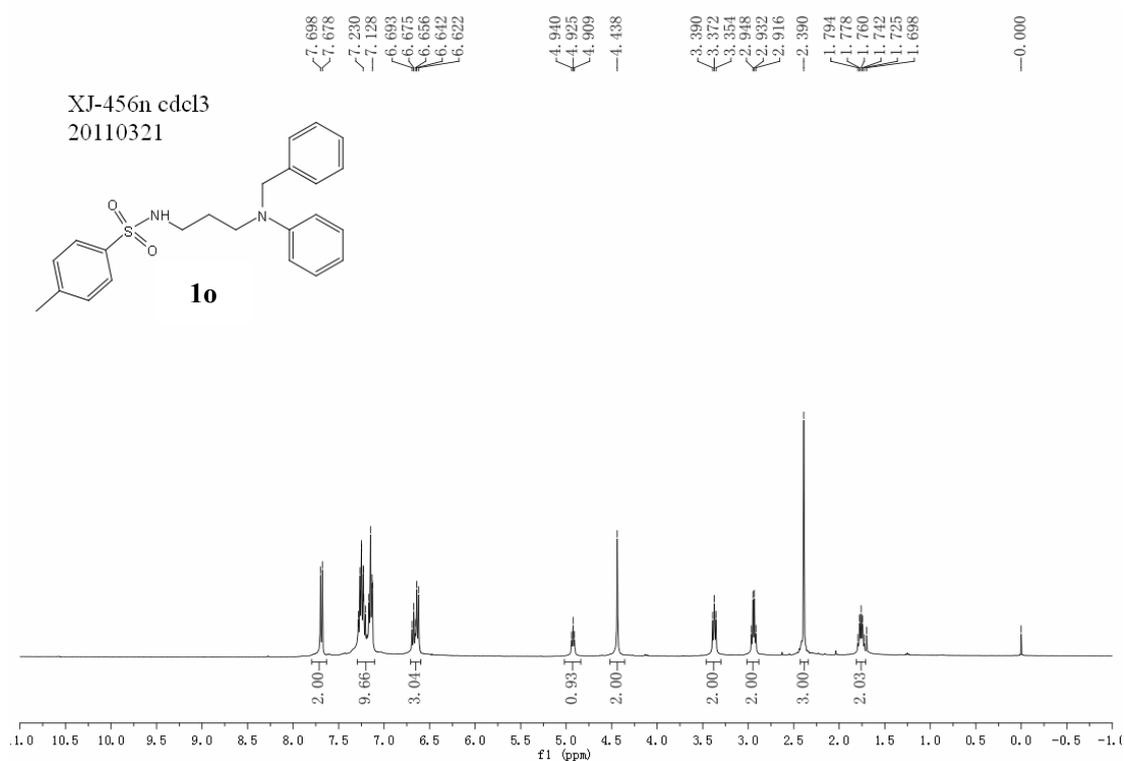
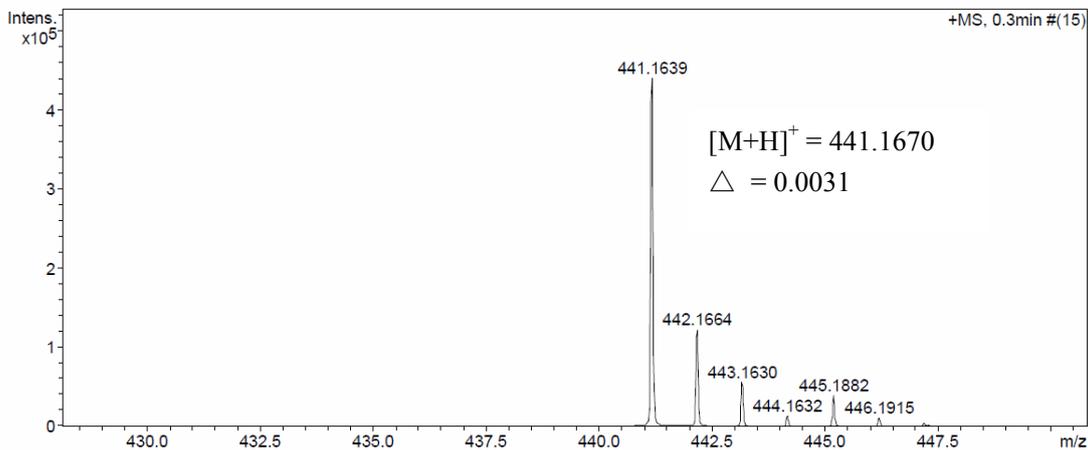
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Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
Sample Name xj-406  
Comment

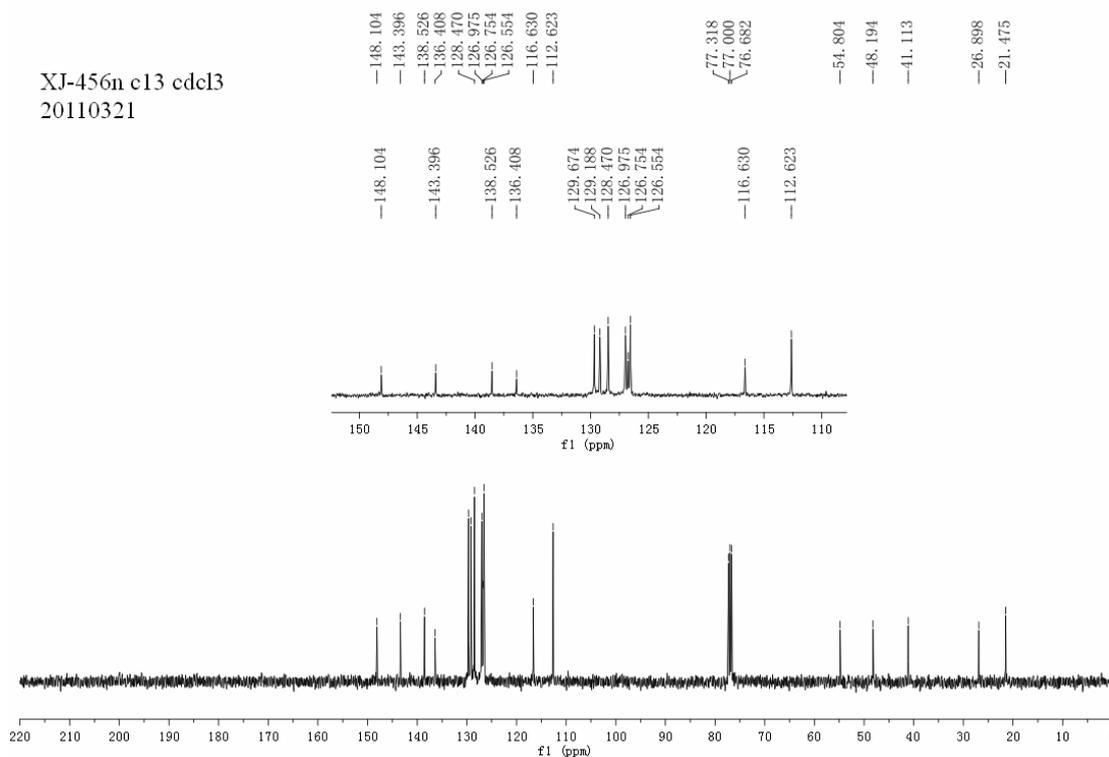
Acquisition Date 6/7/2011 10:00:00 AM

Operator gftang  
Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste





**Analysis Info**

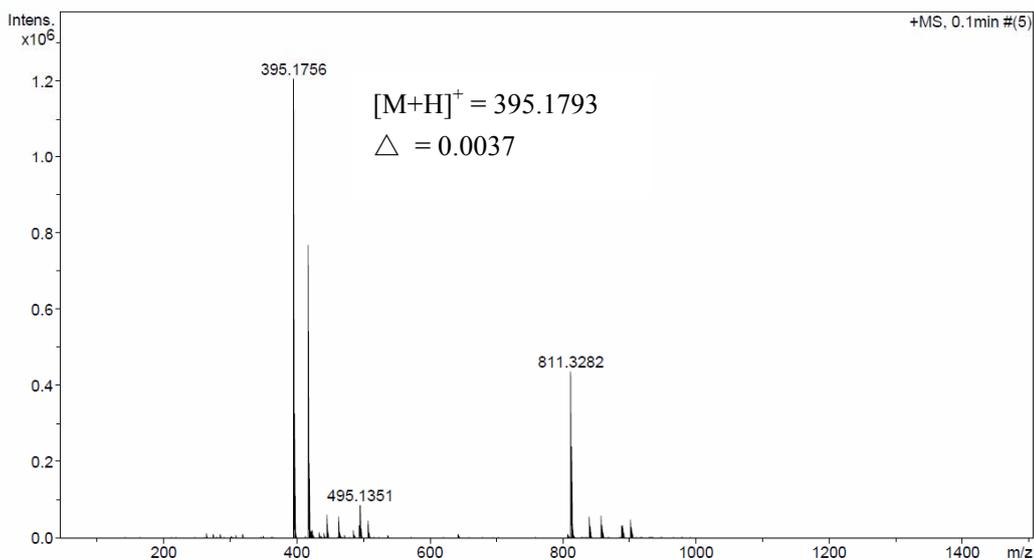
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 Sample Name xj-456  
 Comment

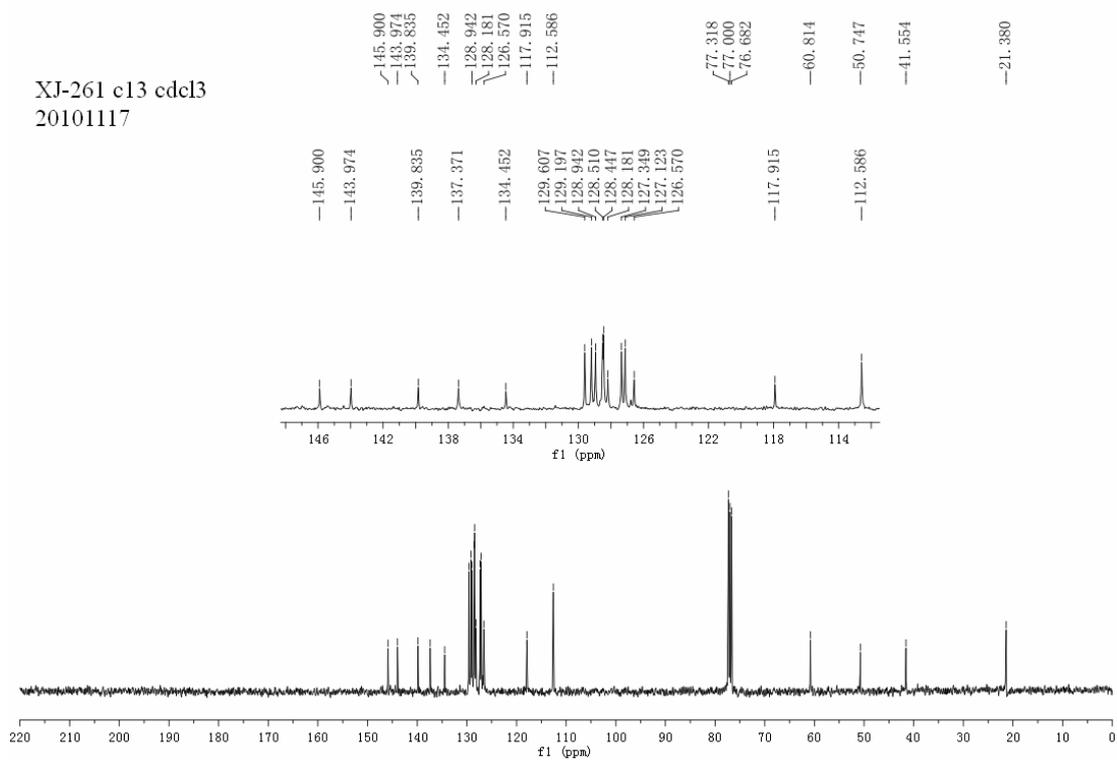
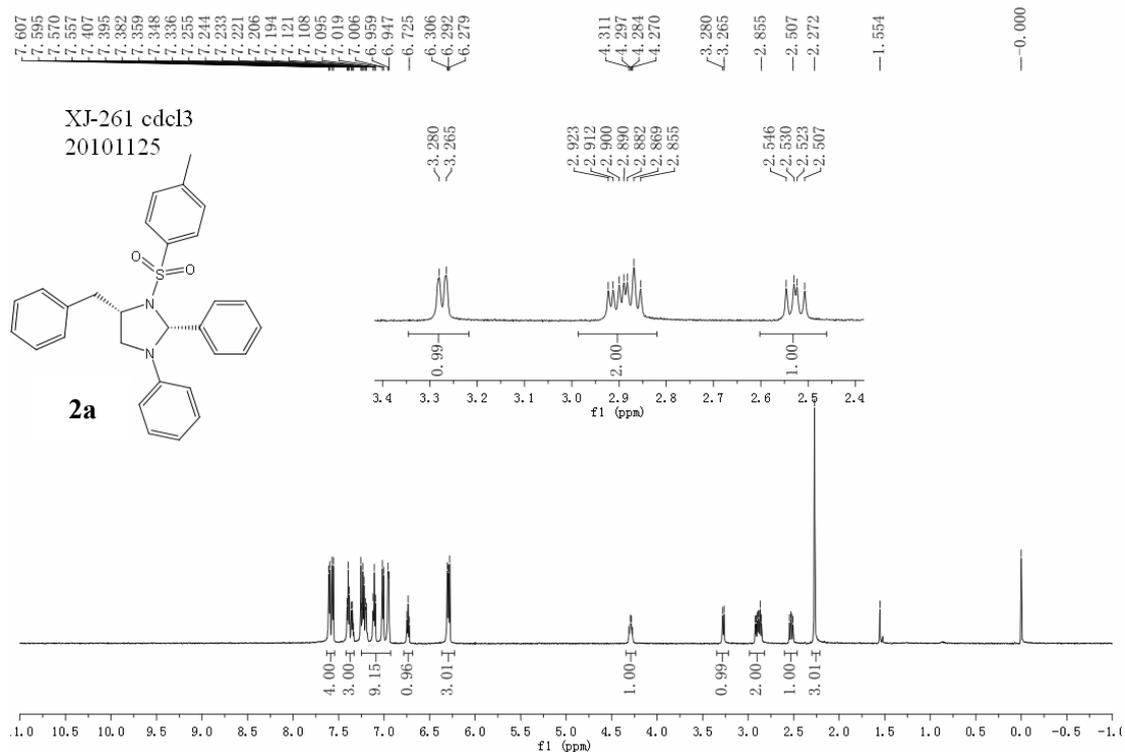
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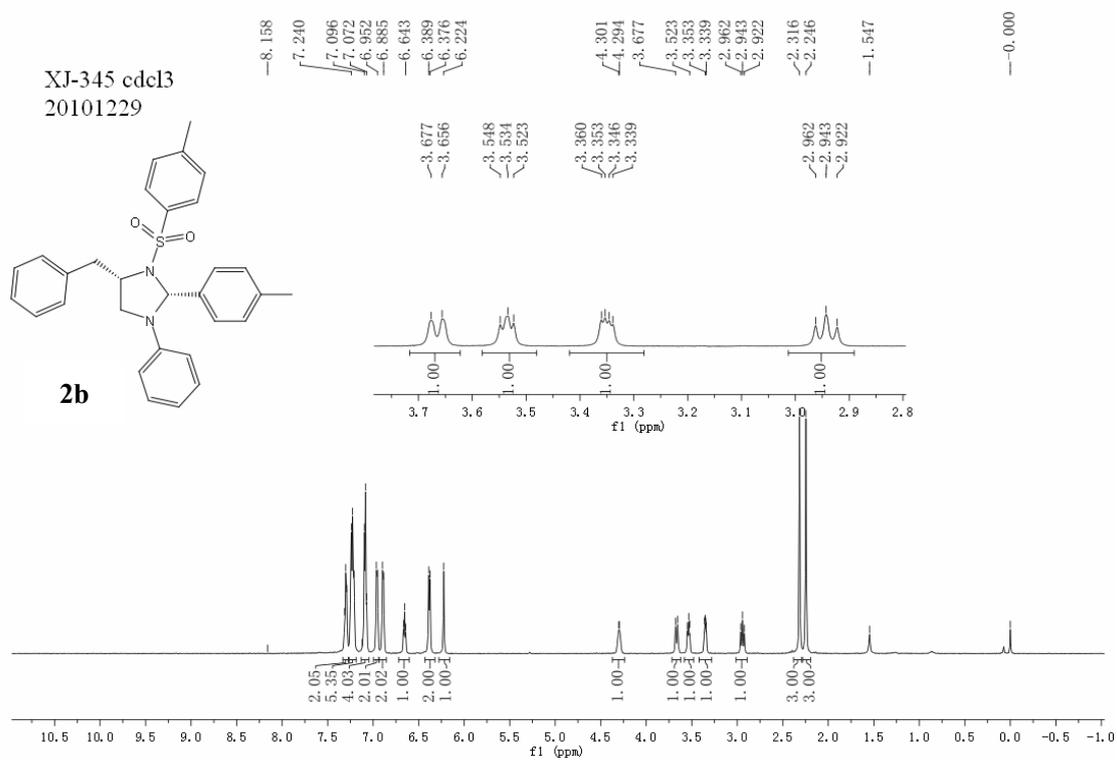
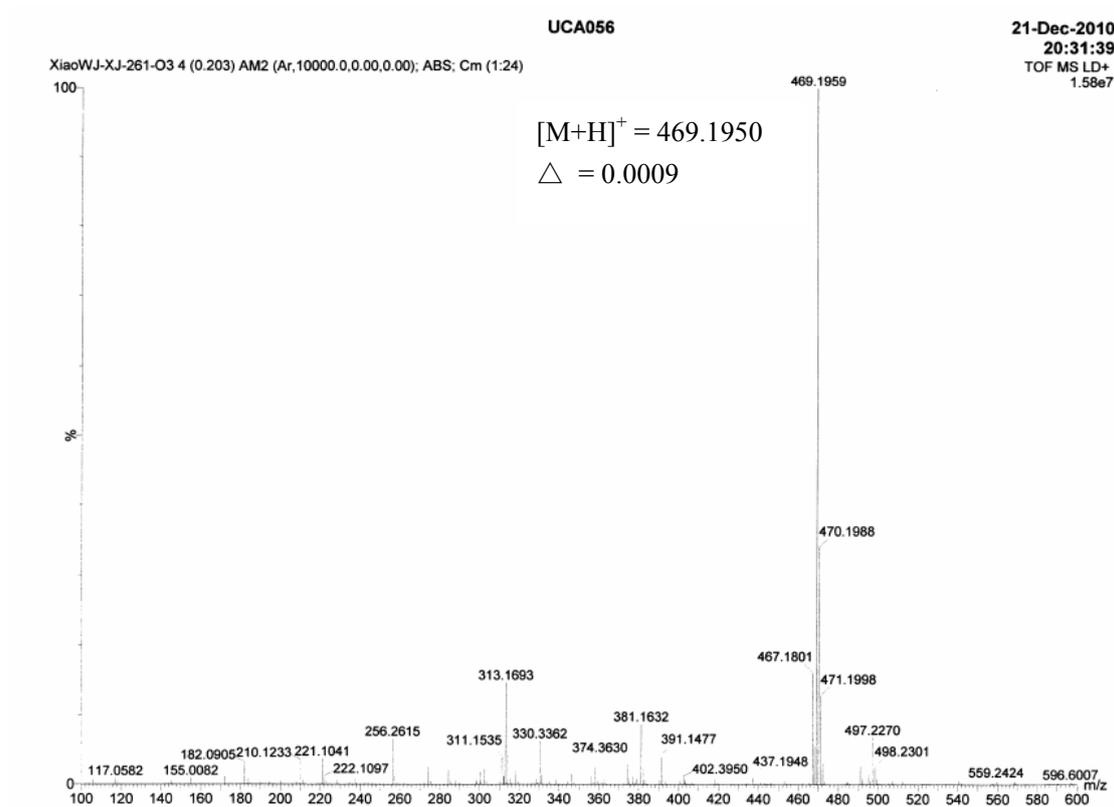
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

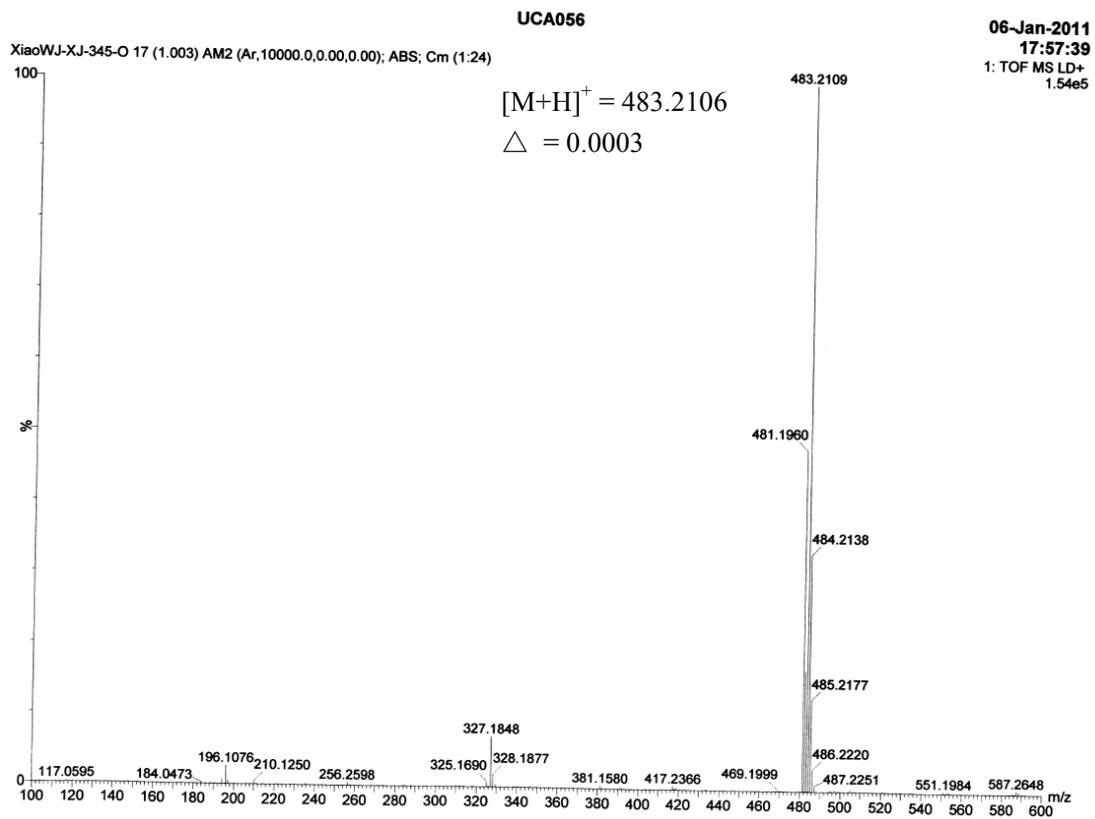
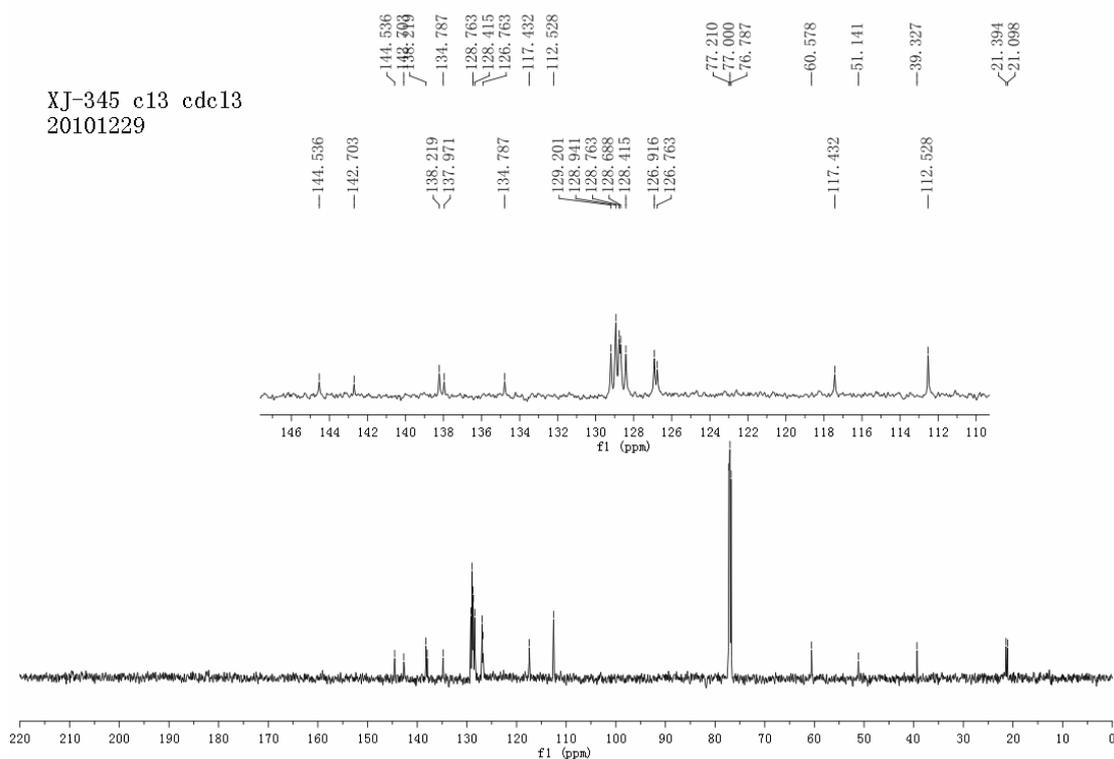
**Acquisition Parameter**

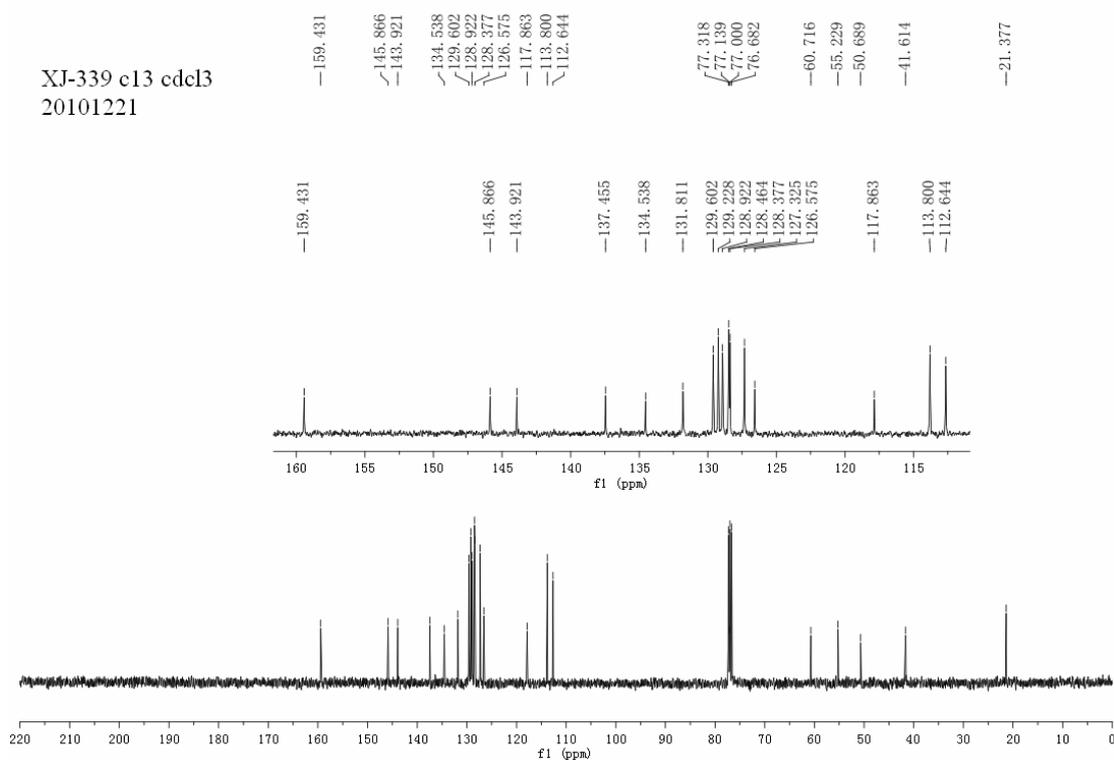
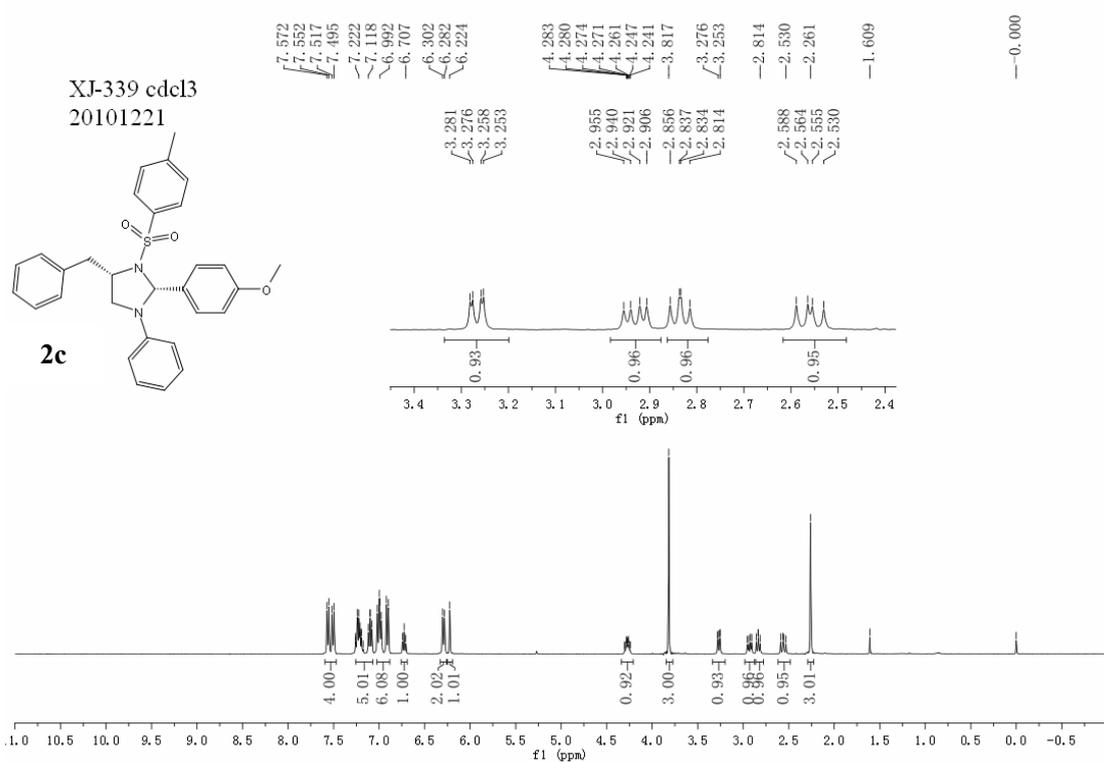
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Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	200 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	6.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste

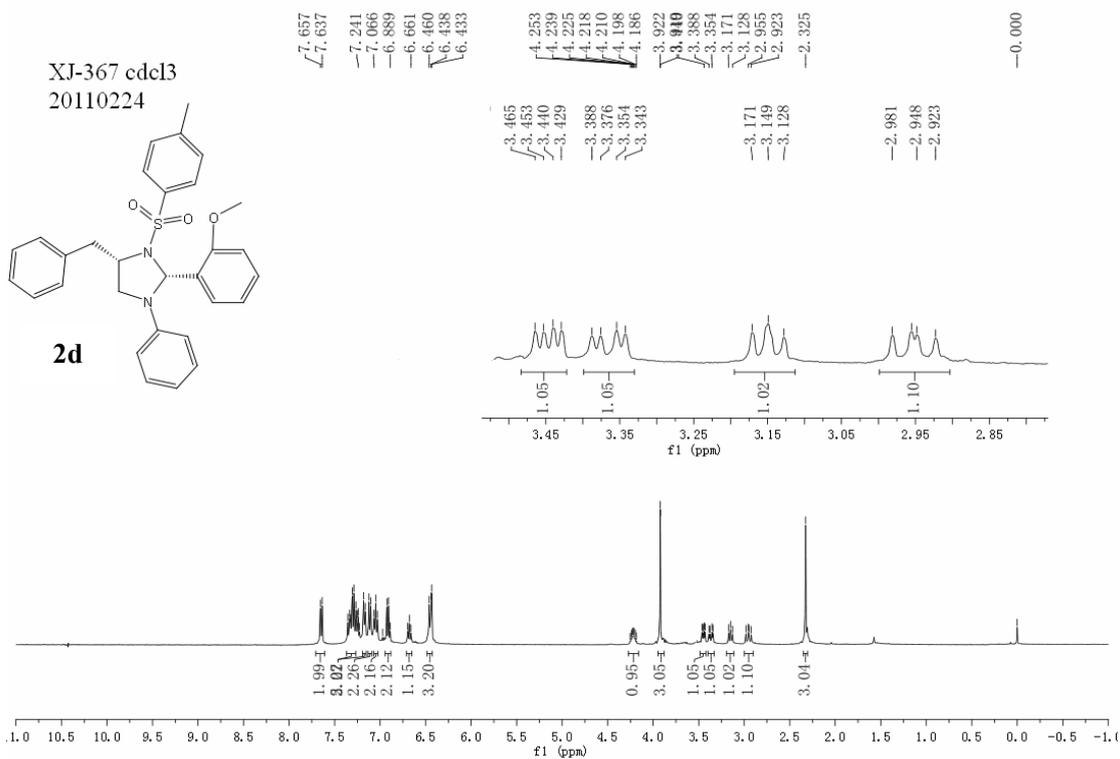
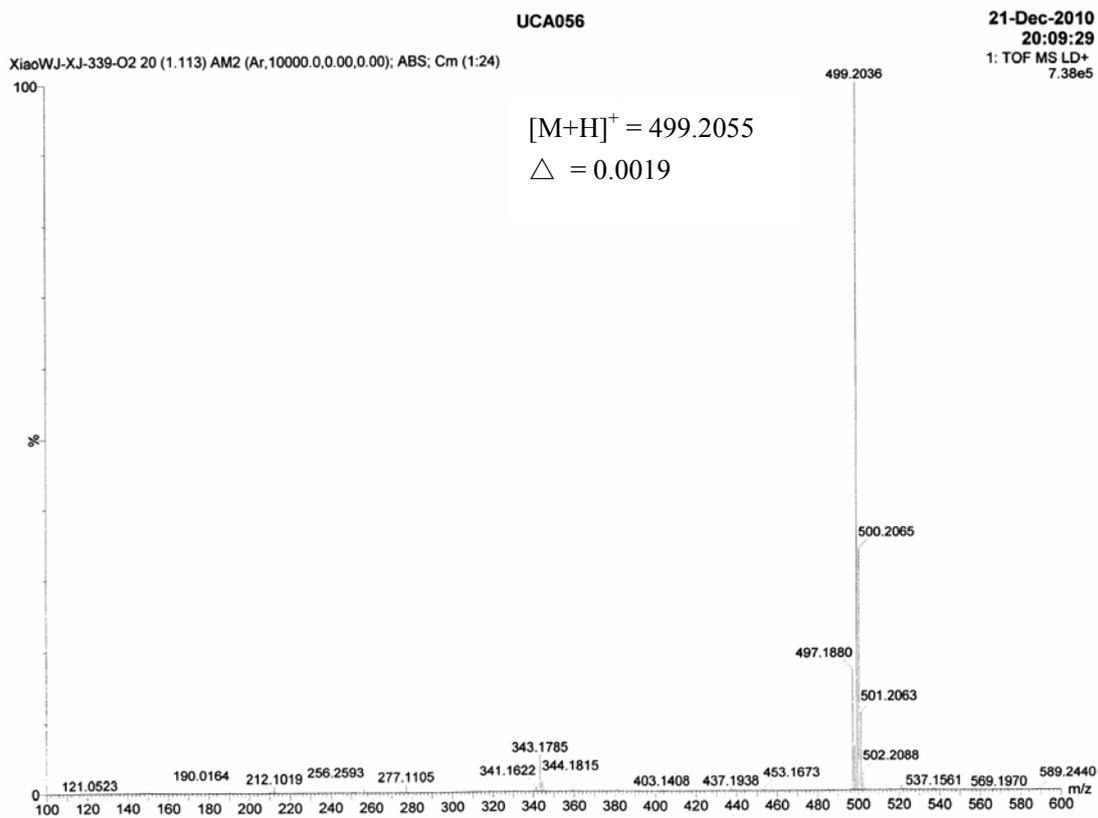


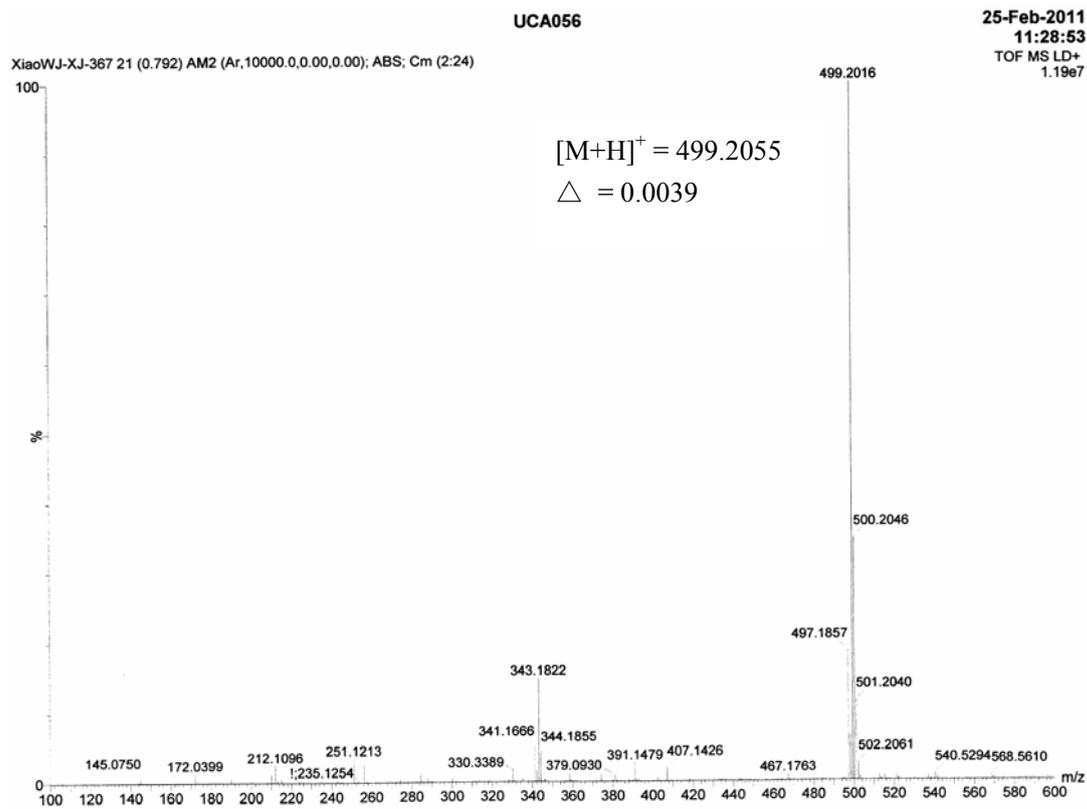
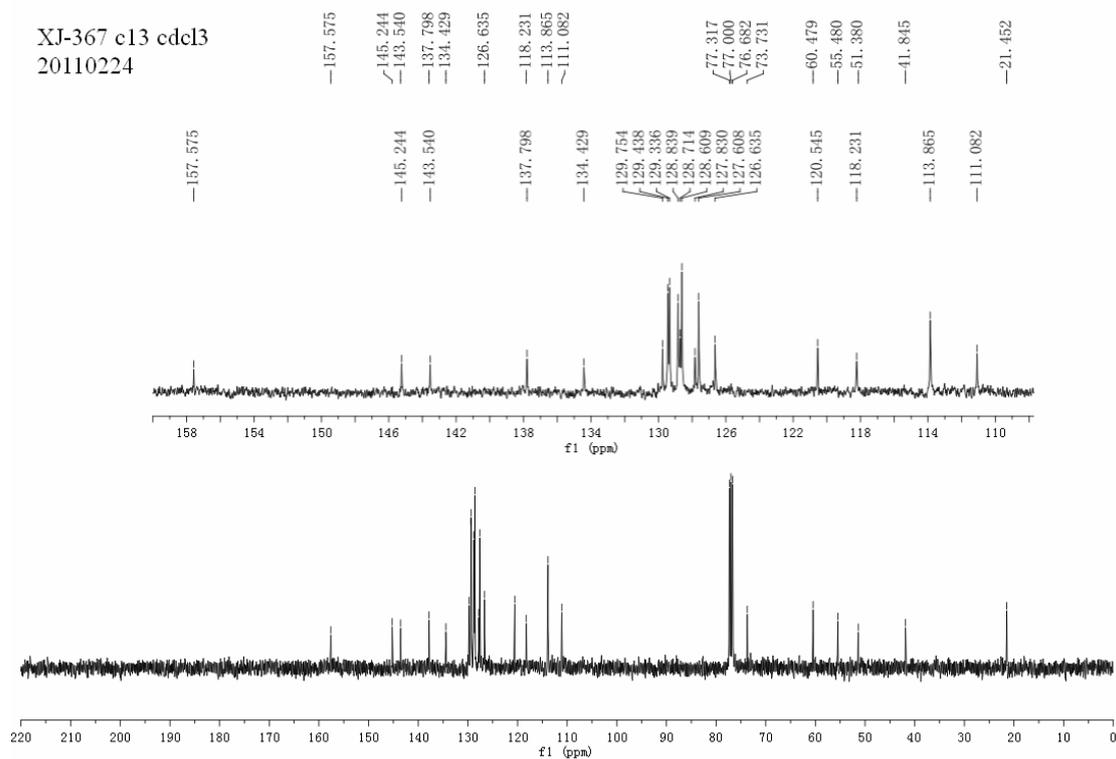


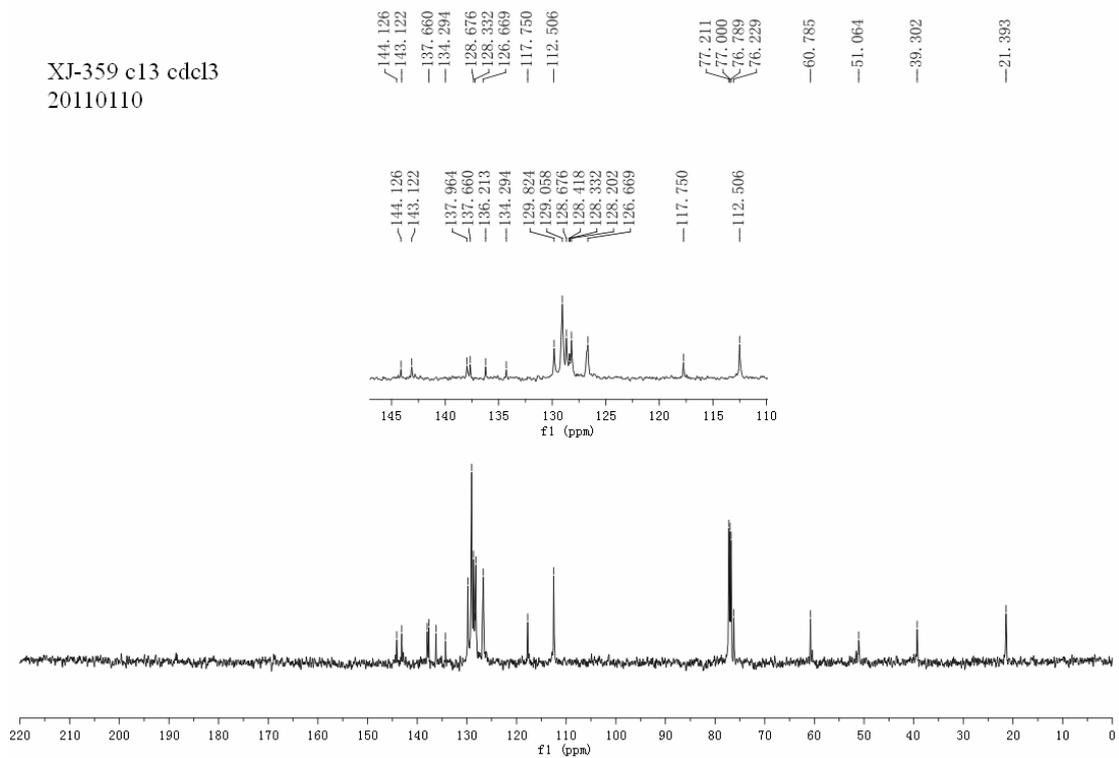
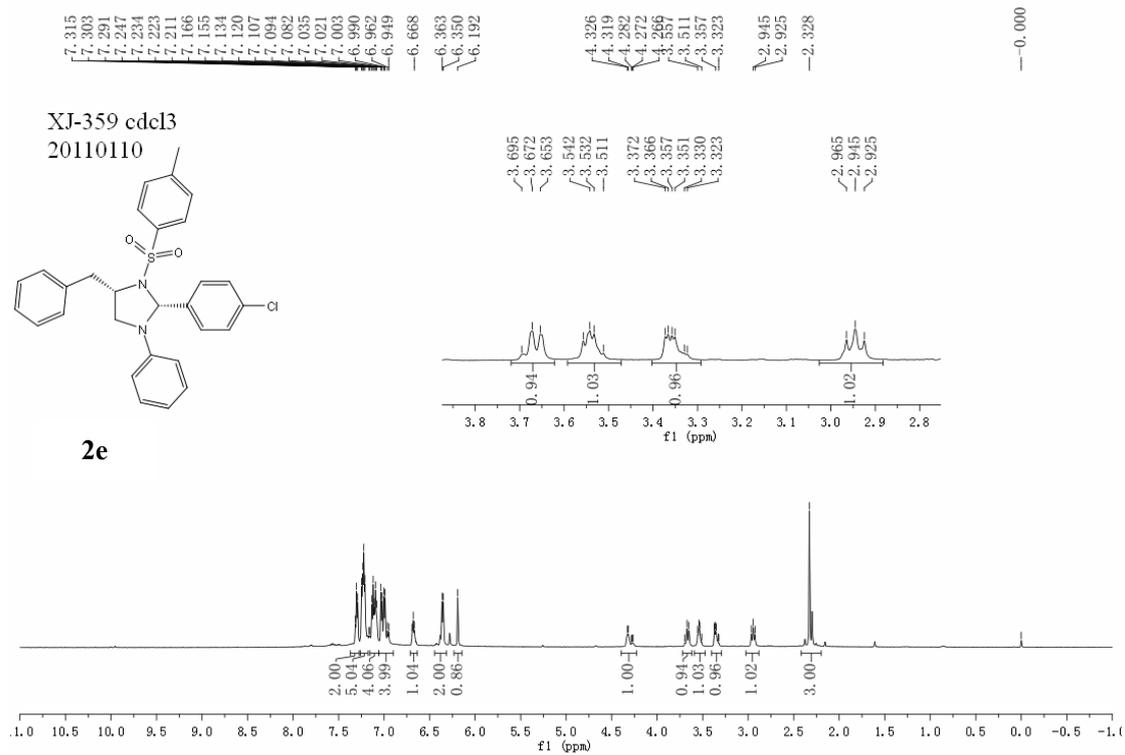






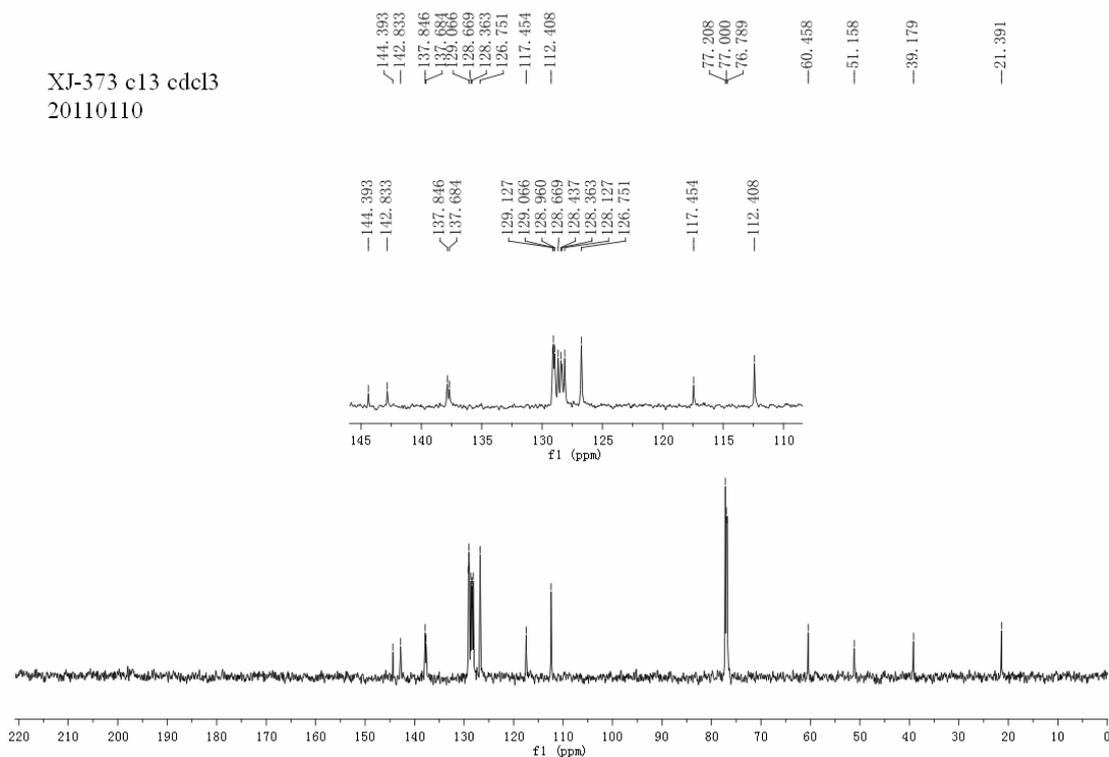




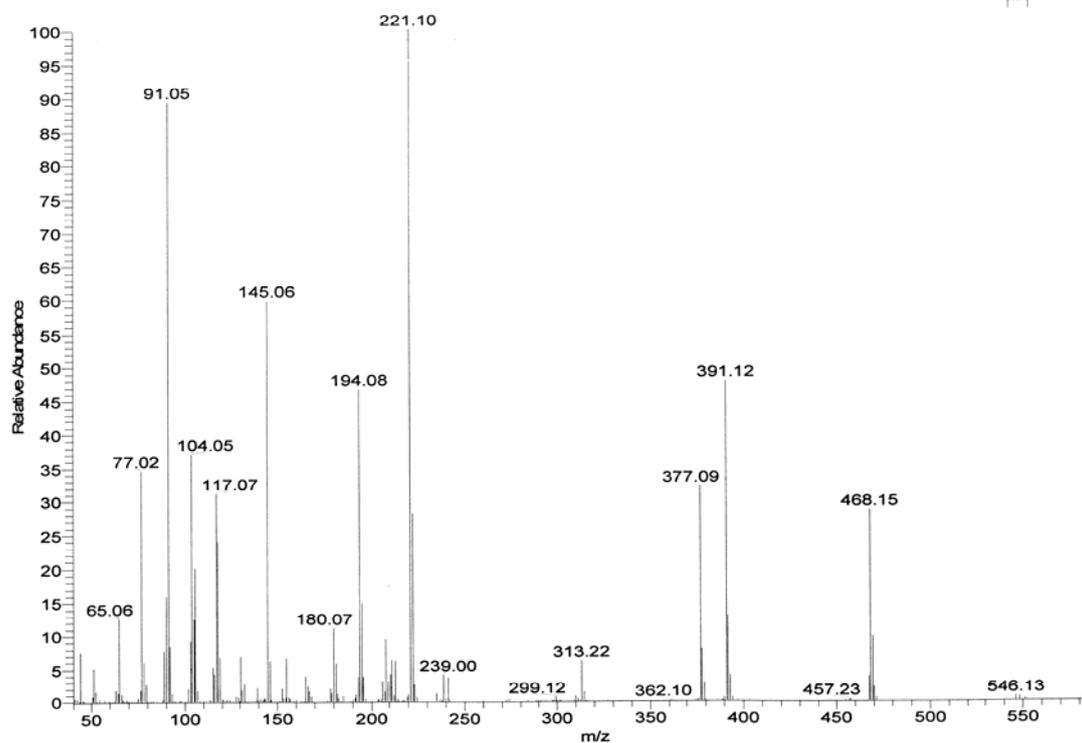


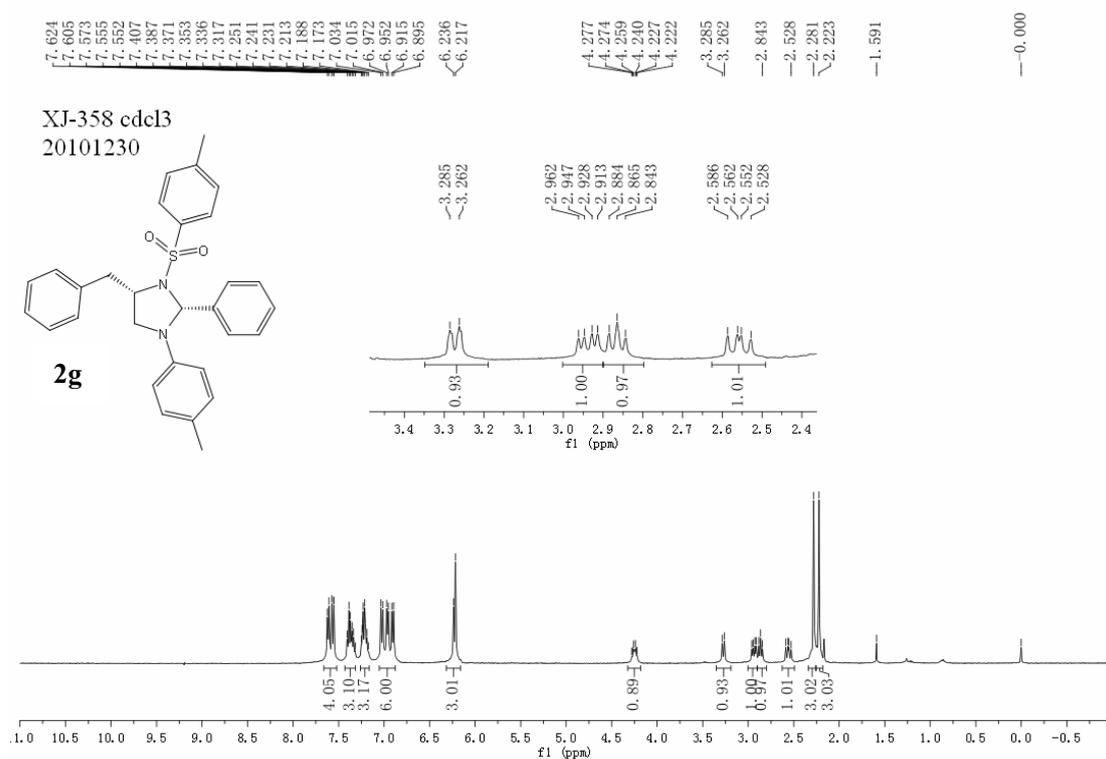
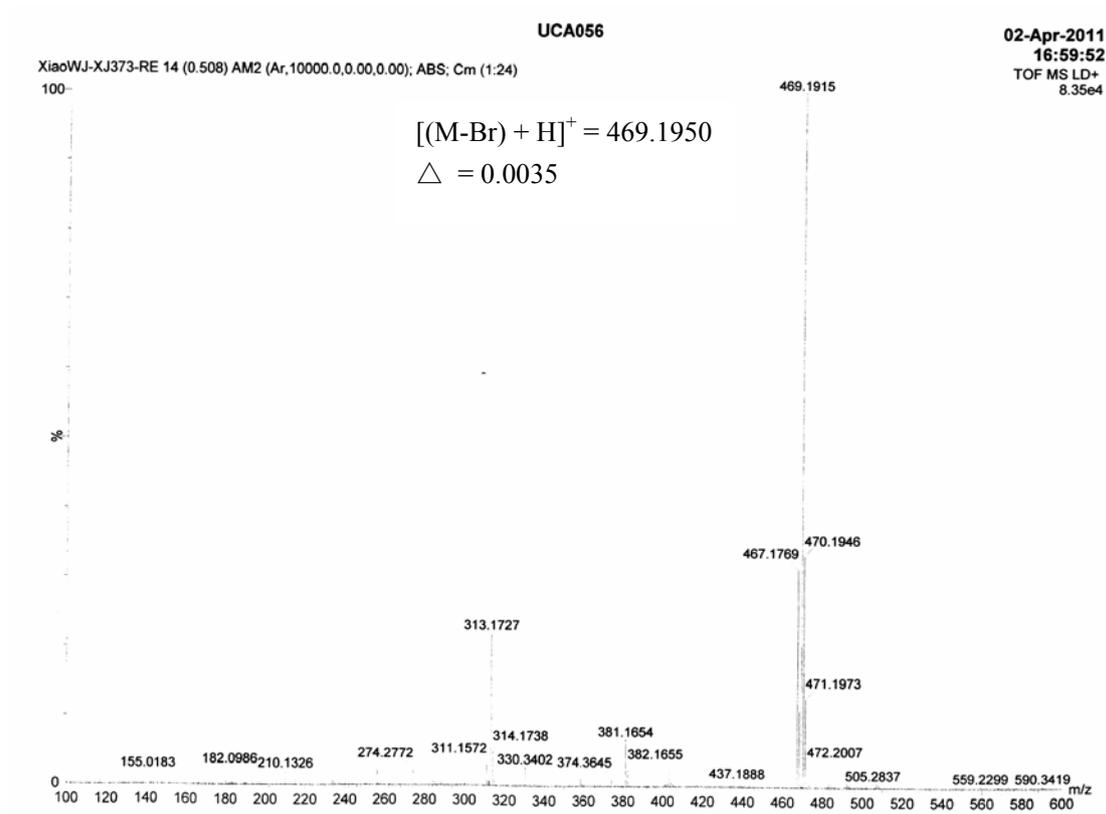


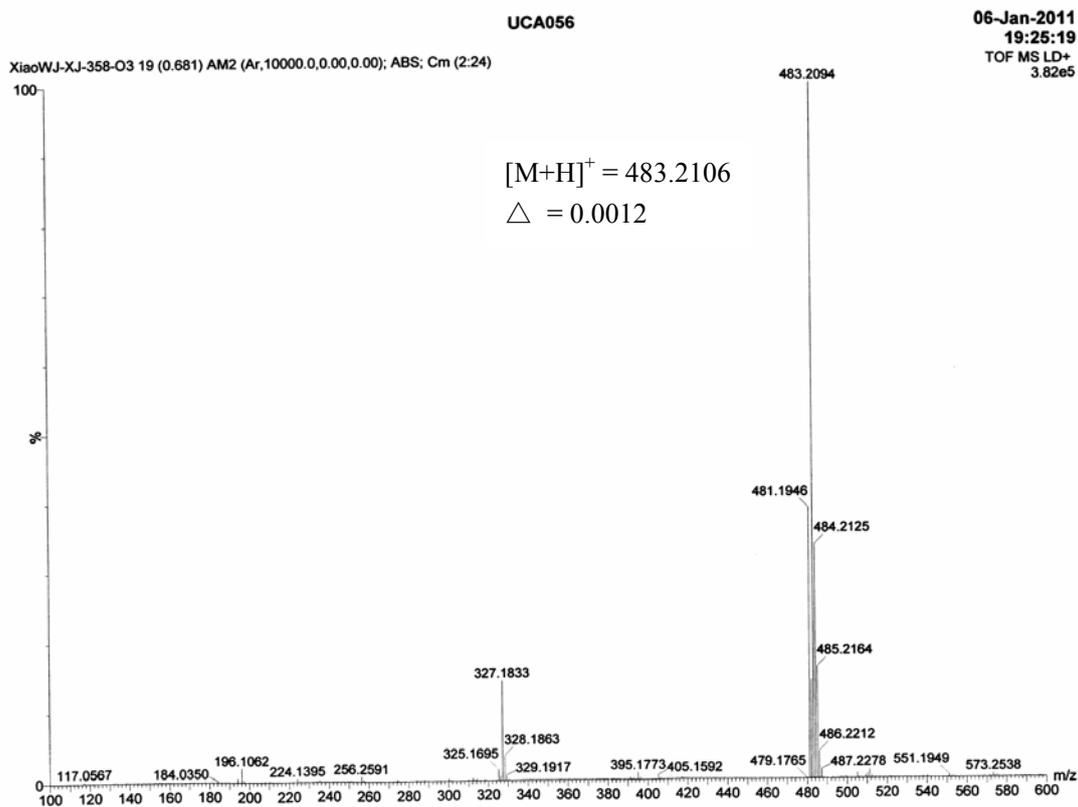
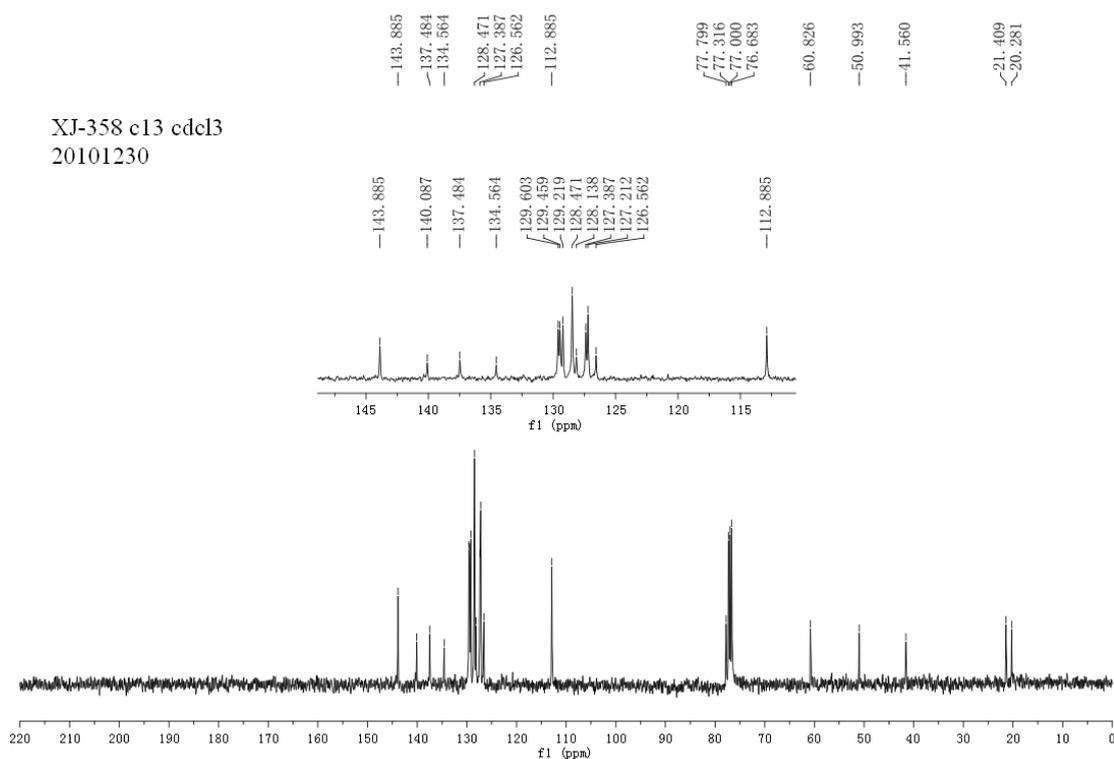
XJ-373 c13 cdCl3  
20110110

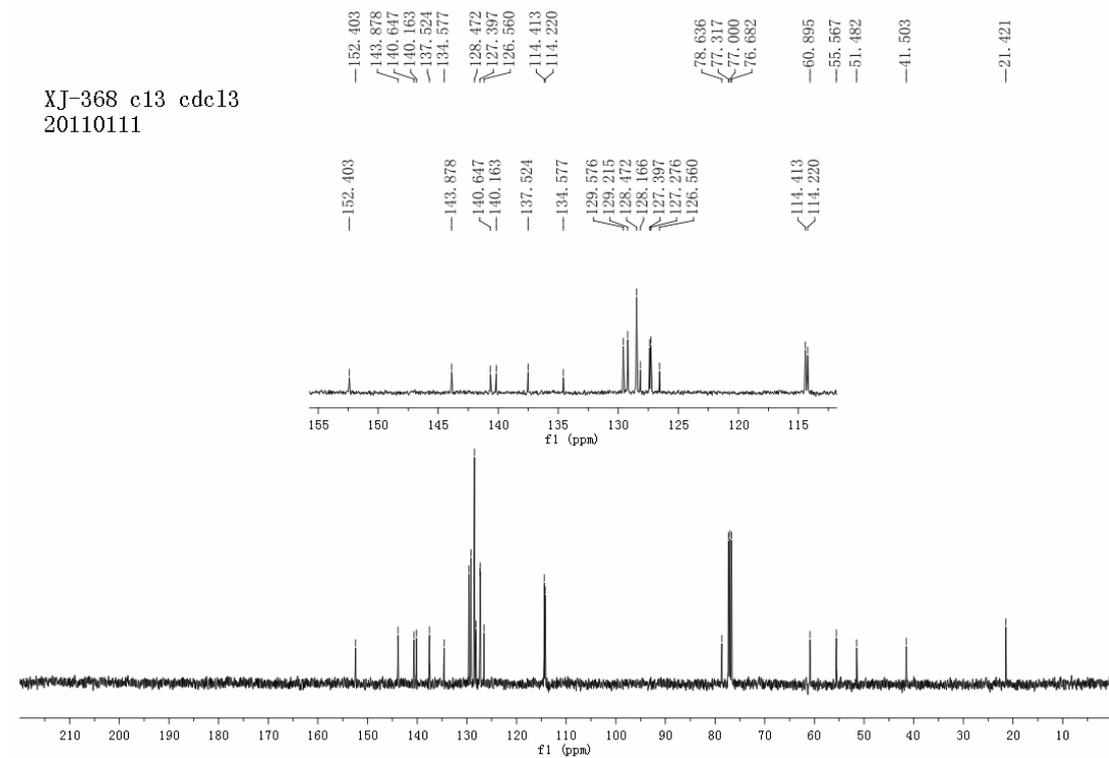
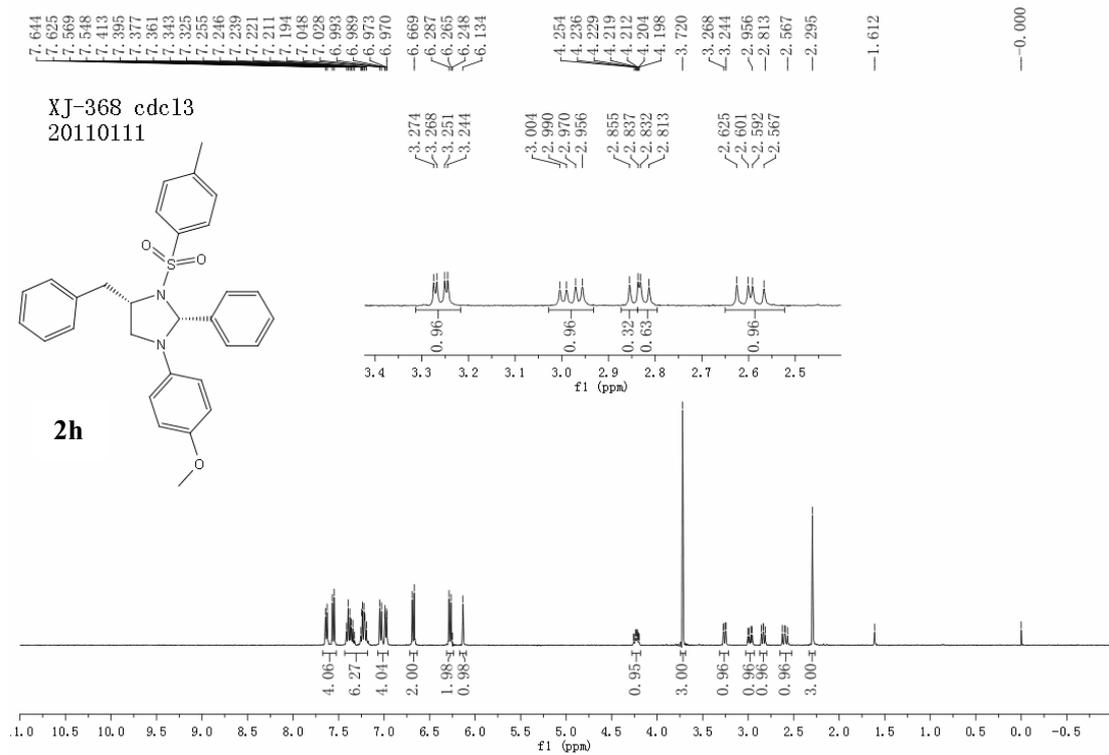


XJ-373 #538 RT: 3.01 AV: 1 NL: 7.61E5  
T: + c Full ms [40.00-600.00]



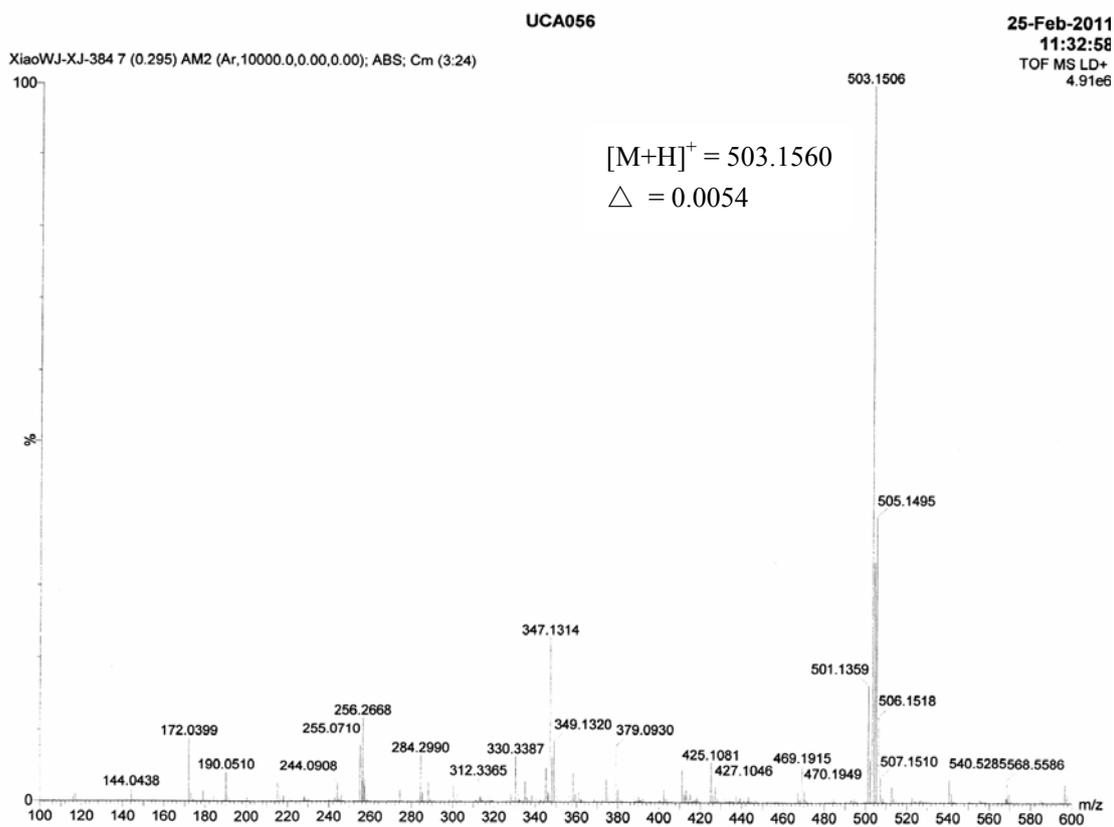
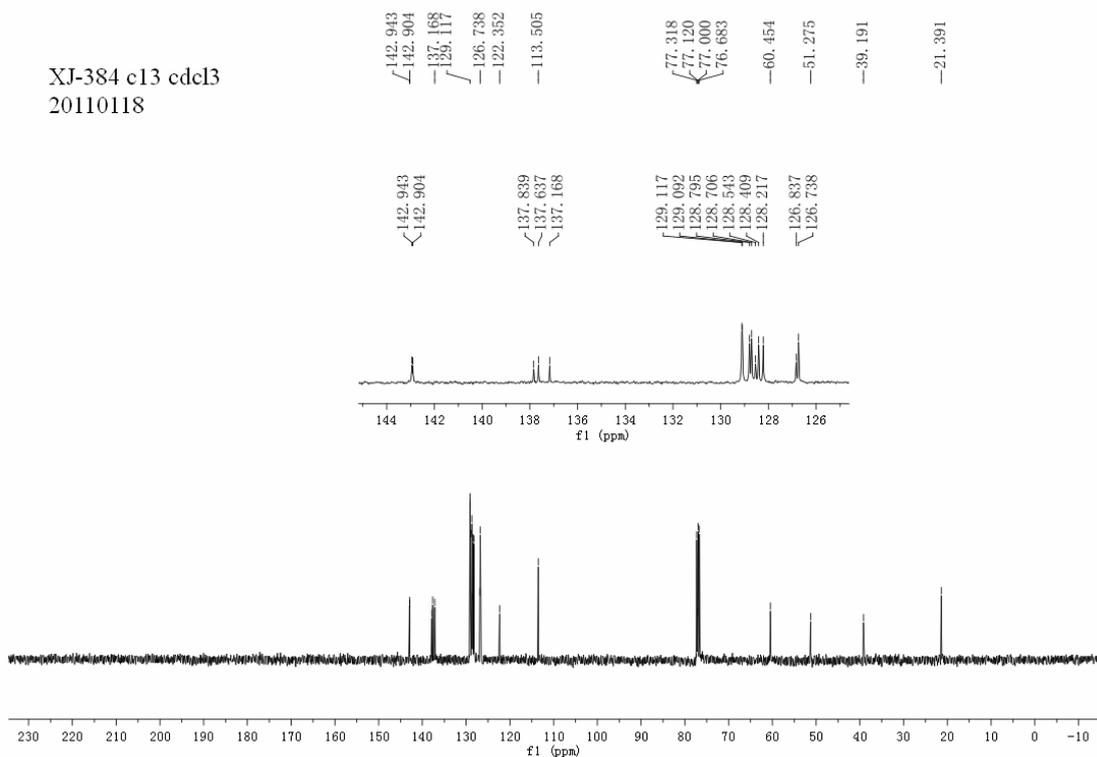


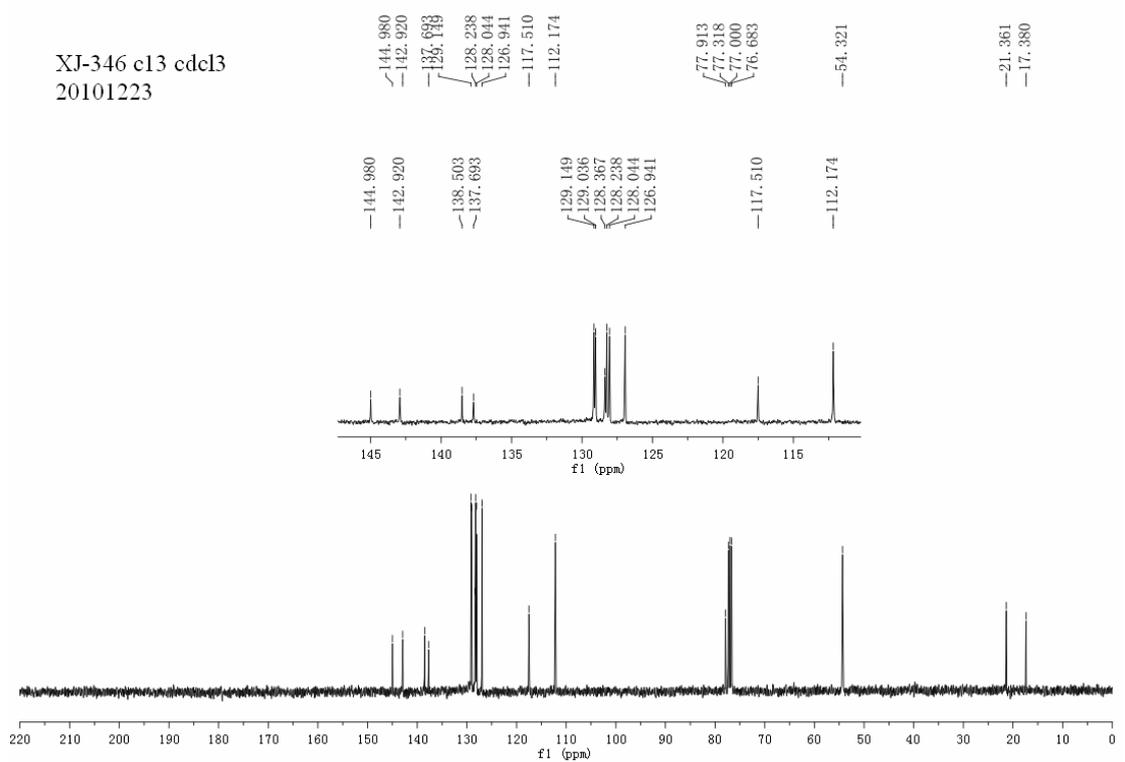
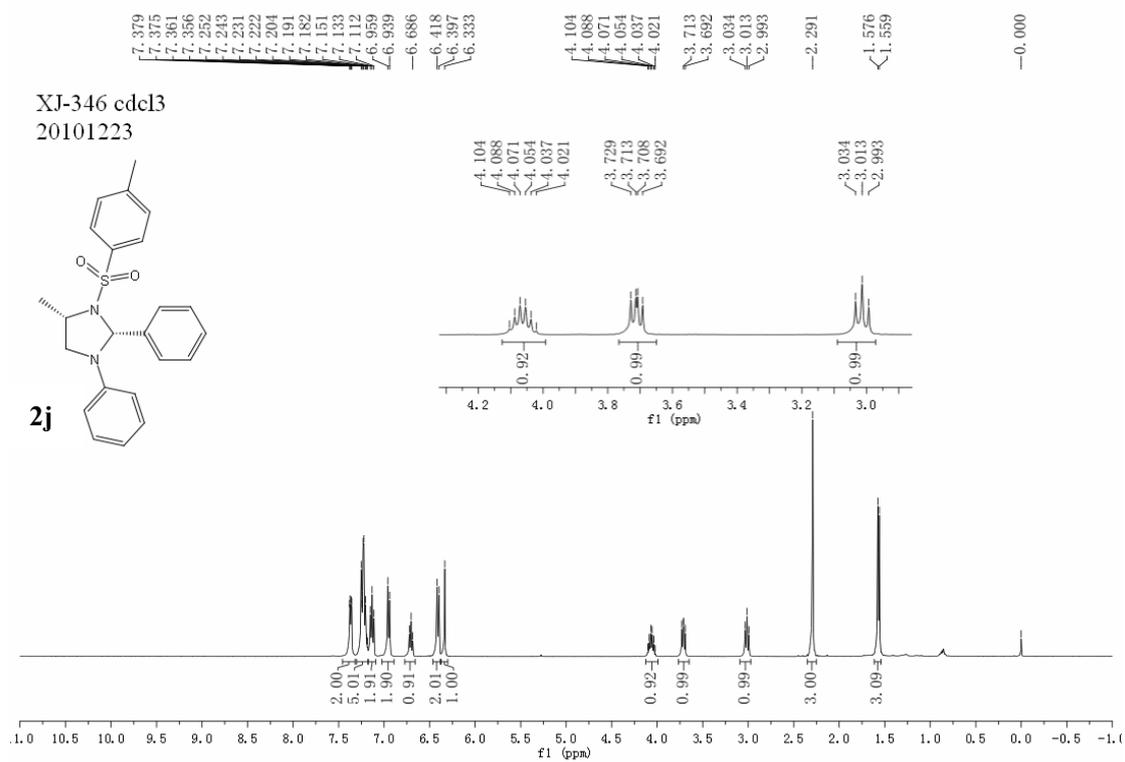


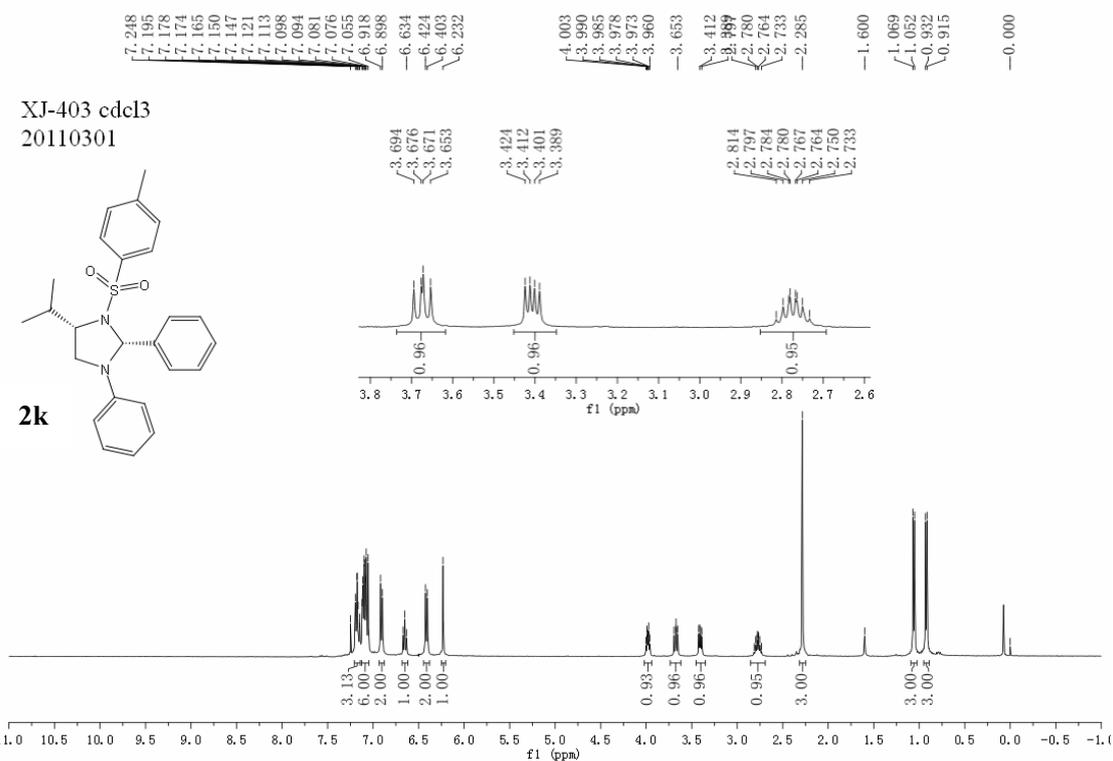
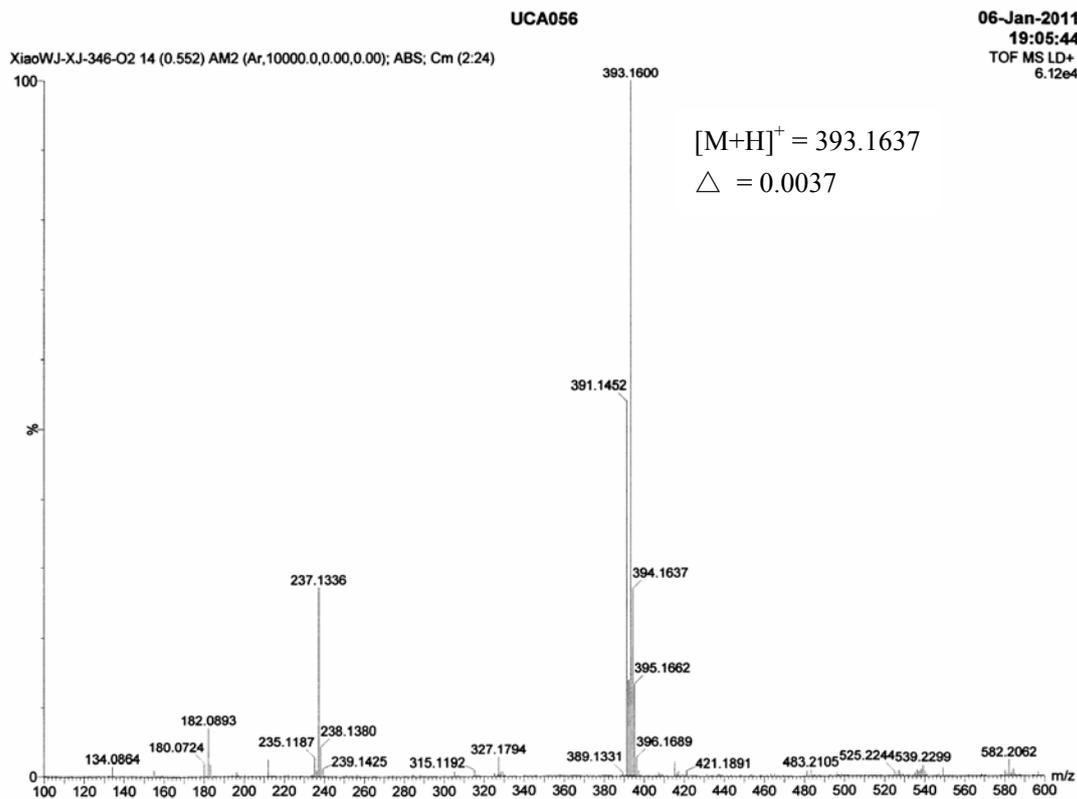




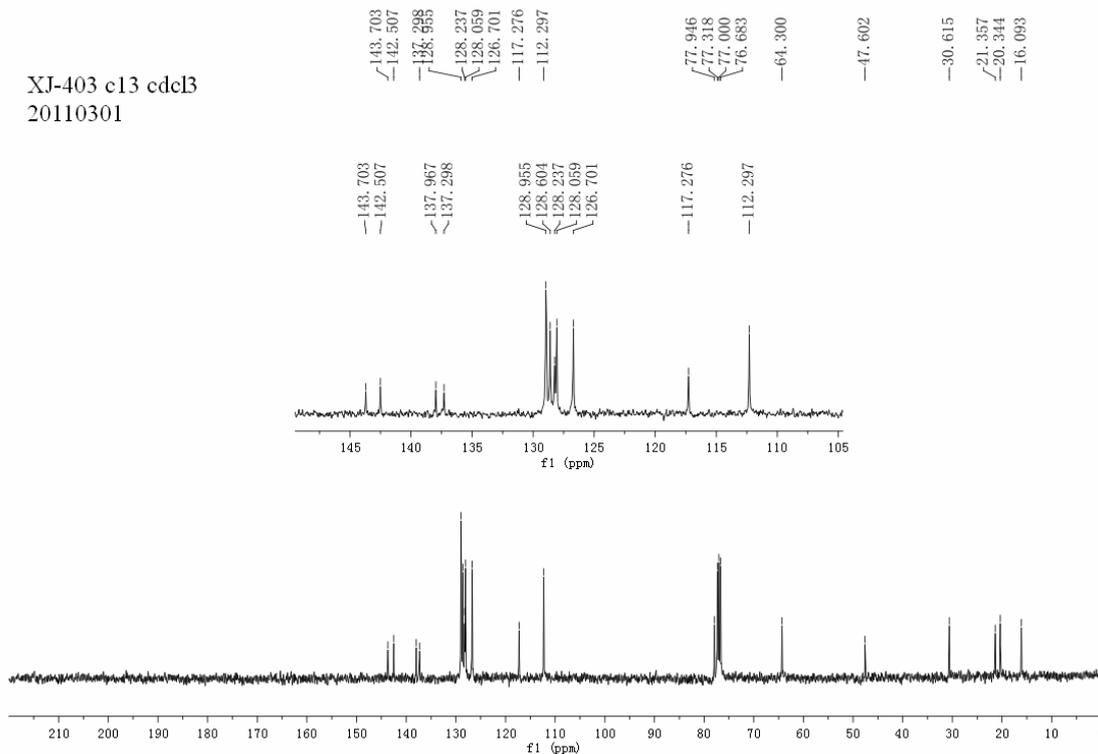
XJ-384 c13 cdcl3  
20110118







XJ-403 c13 cdcl3  
 20110301



**Analysis Info**

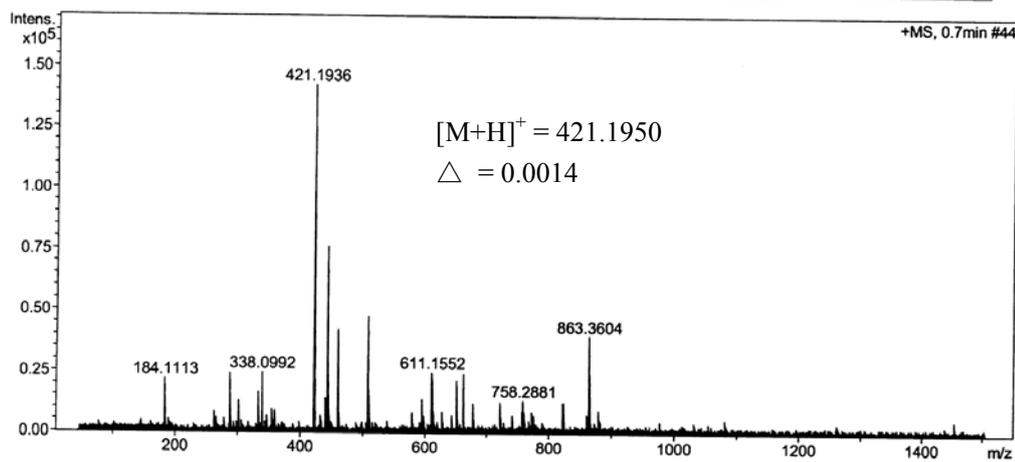
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 Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
 Sample Name 403  
 Comment

Acquisition Date 3/24/2011 3:33:40 PM

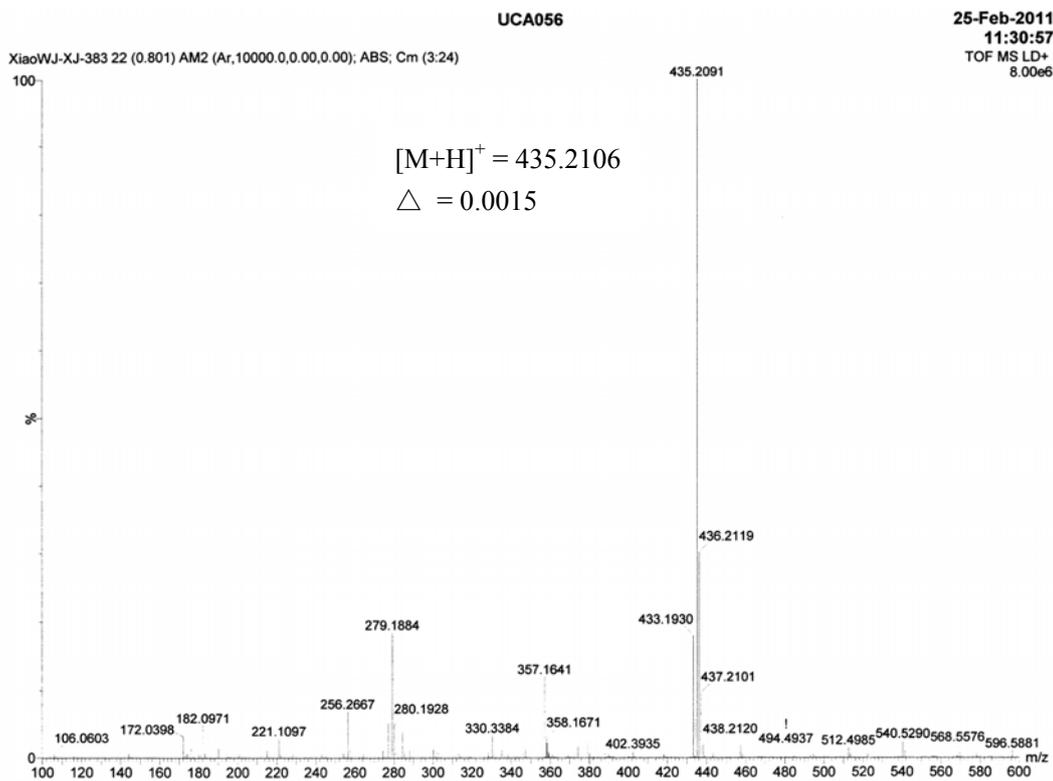
Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

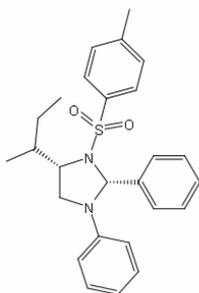
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Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	180 °C
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Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste



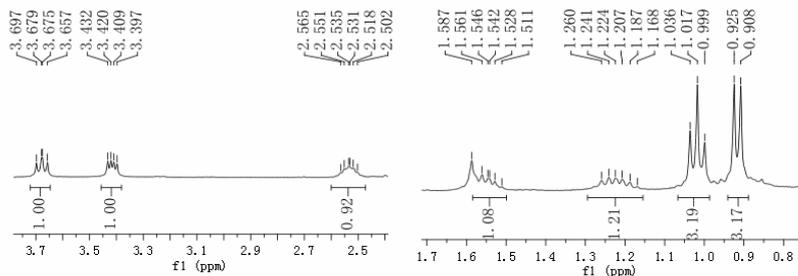




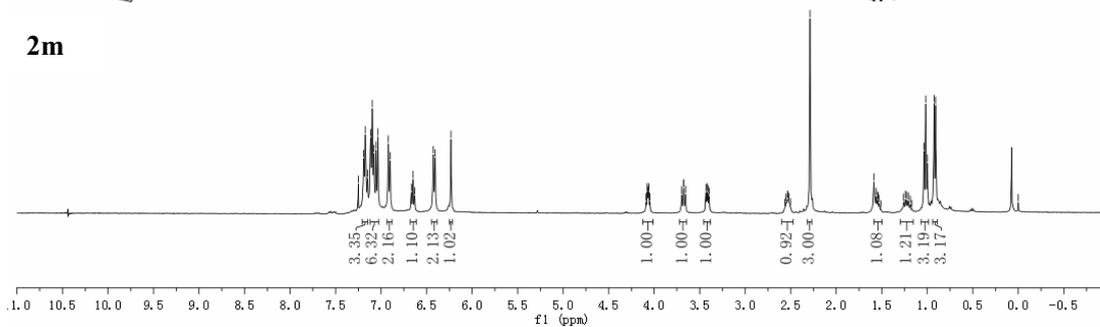
XJ-400 cdcl3  
20110224

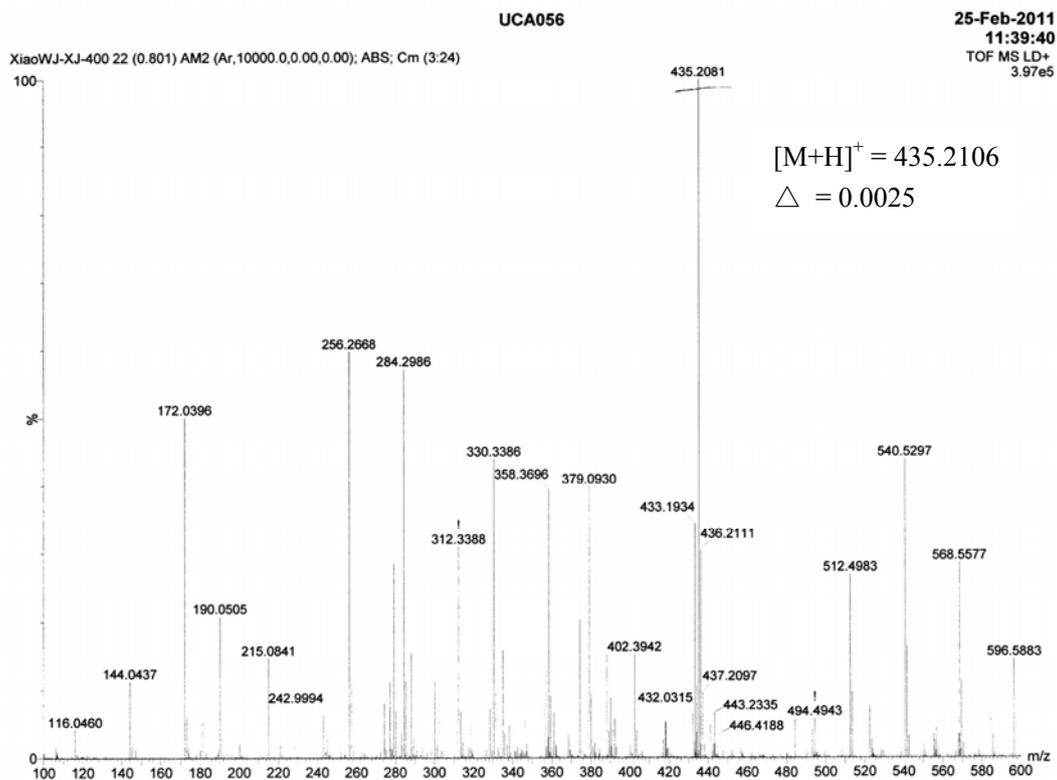
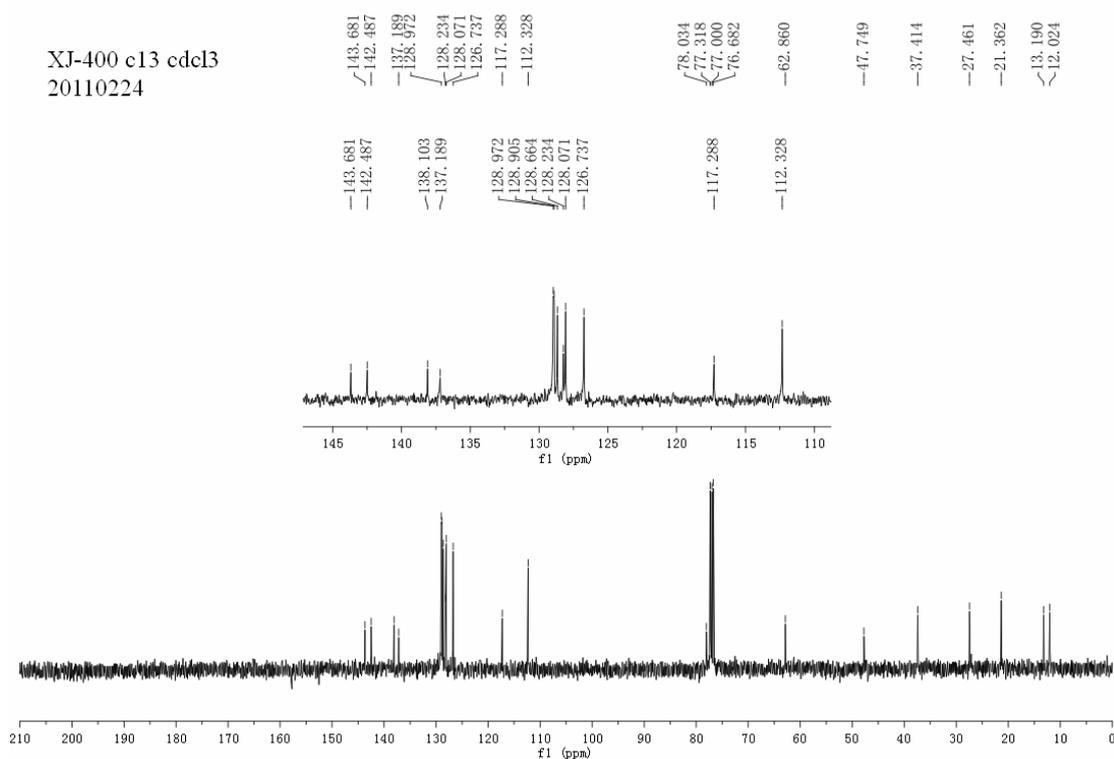


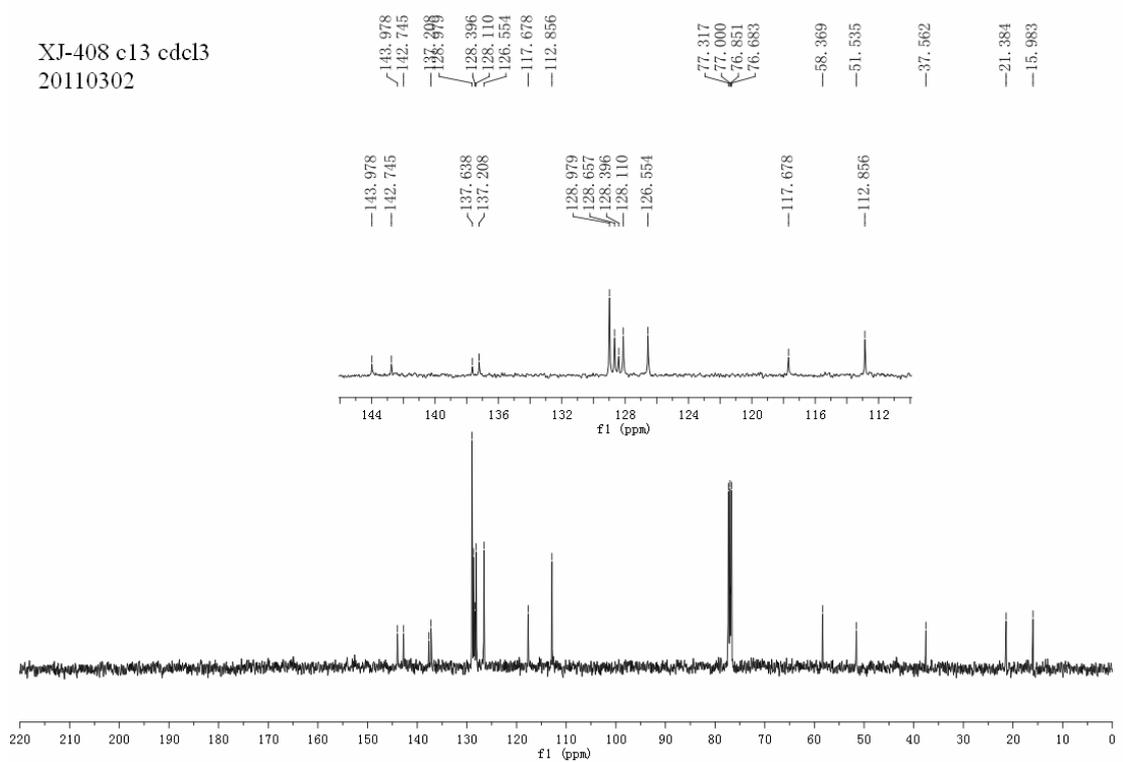
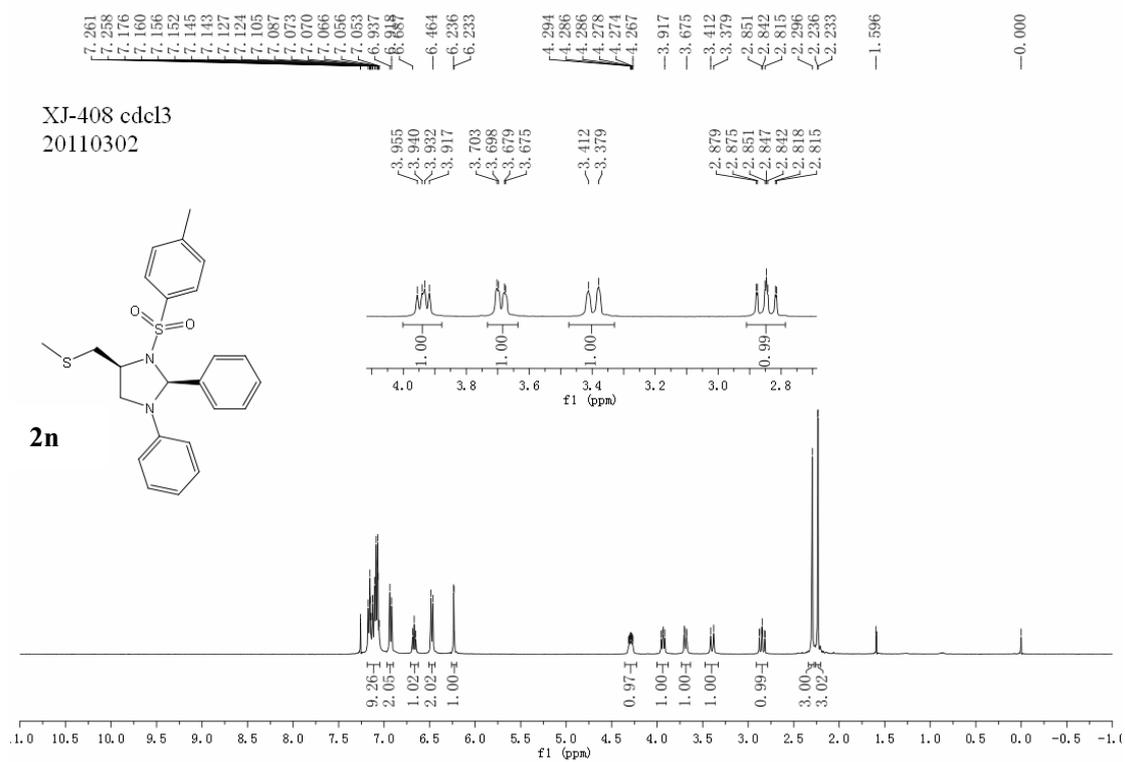
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4.047  
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3.397  
2.531  
2.531  
2.502  
2.289  
1.561  
1.542  
1.511  
1.224  
1.187  
1.036  
1.017  
0.999  
0.908  
-0.000



**2m**







**Analysis Info**

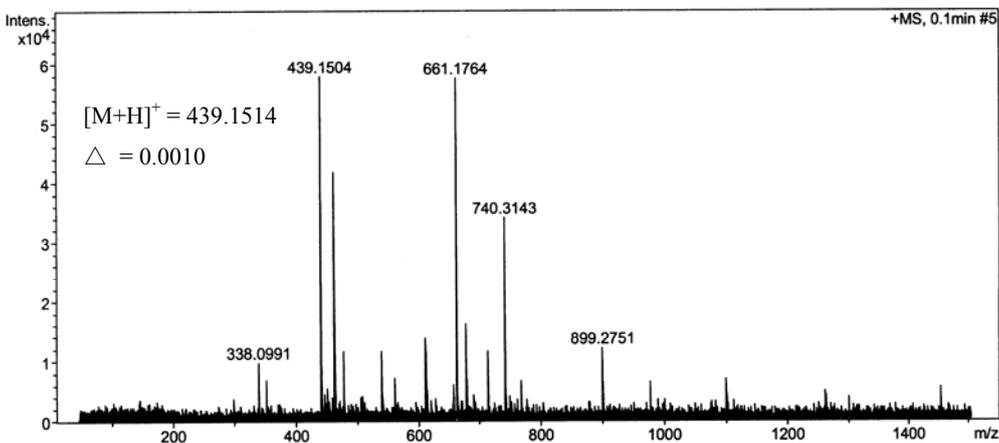
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 Method tune\_200-800\_hcoona-POS.m  
 Sample Name xj408505  
 Comment

Acquisition Date 3/24/2011 3:32:23 PM

Operator gftang  
 Instrument / Ser# micrOTOF II 10257

**Acquisition Parameter**

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	1.6 Bar
Focus	Not active			Set Dry Heater	180 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set Capillary	4000 V	Set Dry Gas	8.0 l/min
Scan End	1500 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Divert Valve	Waste



7.568  
7.548  
7.446  
7.428  
7.409  
7.399  
7.379  
7.372  
7.352  
7.334  
7.261  
7.239  
7.234  
7.220  
7.218  
7.199  
6.981  
6.961  
6.921  
6.876  
6.858  
6.840  
6.724  
6.704  
3.815  
3.805  
3.793  
3.780  
3.769  
3.759  
3.742  
3.293  
3.257  
3.230  
3.195  
-2.336  
1.551  
1.506  
1.466  
1.259  
1.229  
1.220  
1.211  
0.000

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