

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications
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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for:

**Hantzsch reaction on free nano- Fe_2O_3 catalyst: Excellent reactivity
combined with facile catalyst recovery and recyclability**

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Instrumentation, Analysis and Starting Materials:

Experimental:

General: All chemicals were purchased from Merck, Fluka or Acros companies and used without any further purification. Nano- γ -Fe₂O₃ was prepared with the reported method.¹⁻² NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance 300 spectrometer (¹HNMR 300 MHz and ¹³CNMR 75 MHz) in pure deuteriated chloroform, acetone and dimethyl sulfoxide with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. X-ray data was measured on a STOE IPDS-II two circle diffractometer at 120 K, using graphite monochromated Mo Ka X-ray radiation ($k = 0.7107 \text{ \AA}$). Suitable crystal was obtained from ethanol solution by the slow evaporation of the solvent over several days. Scanning electron microscope (SEM, Philips, XL30, Netherlands) was used for preparation of SEM images. Transmission electron microscope, TEM (Philips CM10) was also used to obtain TEM images. The crystal structure of synthesized materials was determined by an X-ray diffractometer (XRD) (38066 RIVA, d/G. Via M. Misone, 11/D (TN), Italy) at ambient temperature. XPS spectra were acquired using a Kratos Axis ULTRA “DLD” X-ray photoelectron spectrometer equipped with a monochromatic Al-KR X-ray source. The pass energies were 160eV for the survey scans and 20 eV for the high

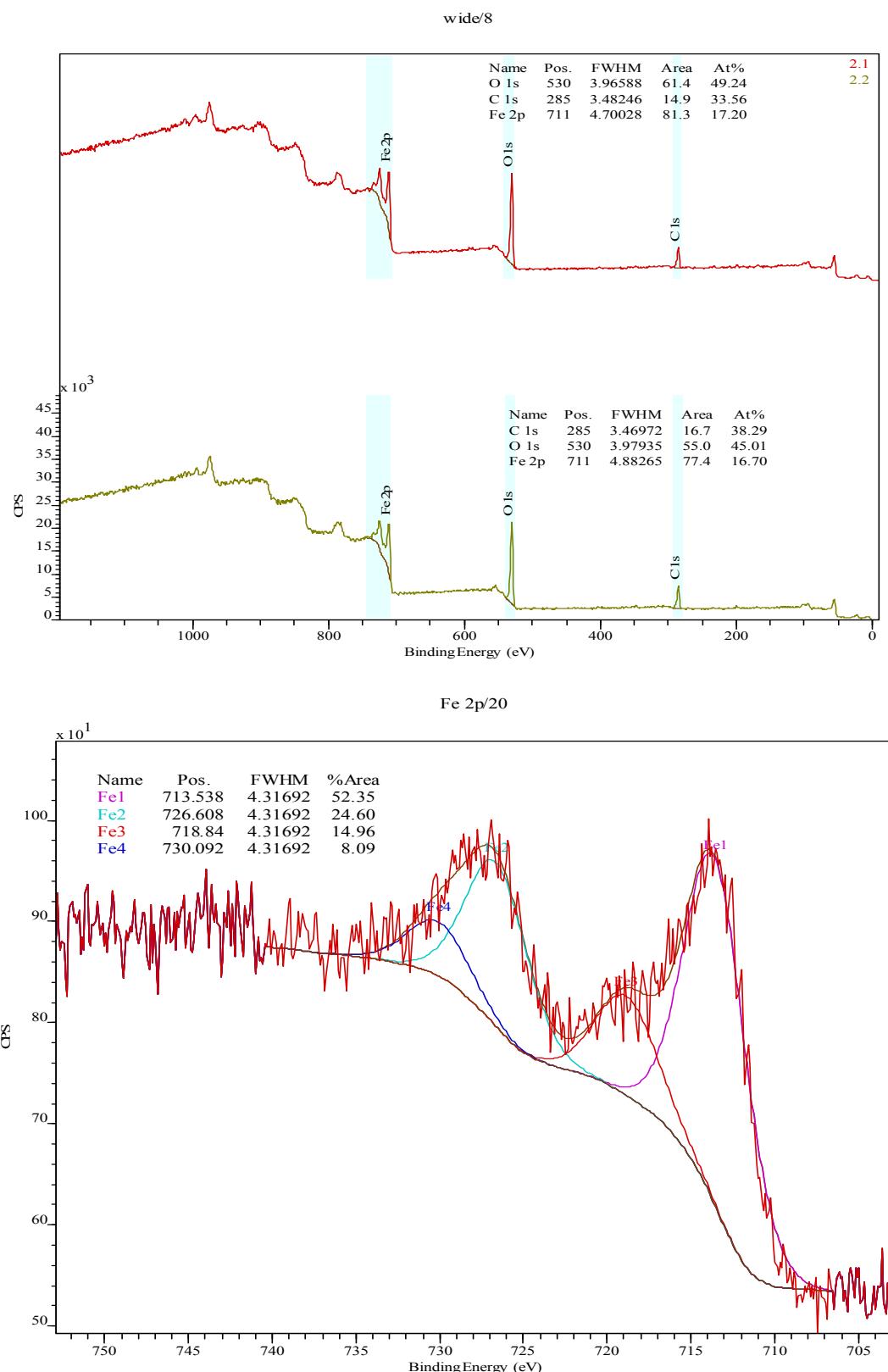
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resolution scans. The instrument was operated in electrostatic mode as the samples were magnetic. The magnetic measurement was carried out in a vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) (4 inch, Daghigh Meghnatis Kashan Co., Kashan, Iran) at room temperature.

General procedure for the synthesis of nano- γ -Fe₂O₃:

Magnetite (Fe₃O₄) nanoparticles were prepared by partial reduction coprecipitation method based on the procedure of S.C. Qu, H.B. Yang, S.H. Kan, et al.² 3 mL FeCl₃ (2 mol L⁻¹ dissolved in 2 mol L⁻¹ HCl) was added to 10.33 mL double distilled water, and 2 mL Na₂SO₃ (1 mol L⁻¹) was added to the former solution dropwise in 1min under magnetic stirring. When the color of the solution turned back from red to light yellow, the solution was added to 80 mL NH₃·H₂O solution (0.85 mol L⁻¹) under vigorous stirring. After 30 min, the magnetite precipitates were washed to pH<7.5 by deoxygenated water. The black precipitate obtained above was diluted to a volume of 168 mL with a mass concentration of 6 mg mL⁻¹. The pH of the suspension was adjusted to 3.0 with HCl (0.1 mol L⁻¹) and the pH was kept stable for 5min. The temperature of the suspension was raised to 90 °C in 5min, and was stirred under aeration (with air) for 60 min at about 100 °C. The reddish-brown solution was washed with water by magnetic decantation four times.¹

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Figure S1. XPS spectrum of nano Fe_3O_4 .

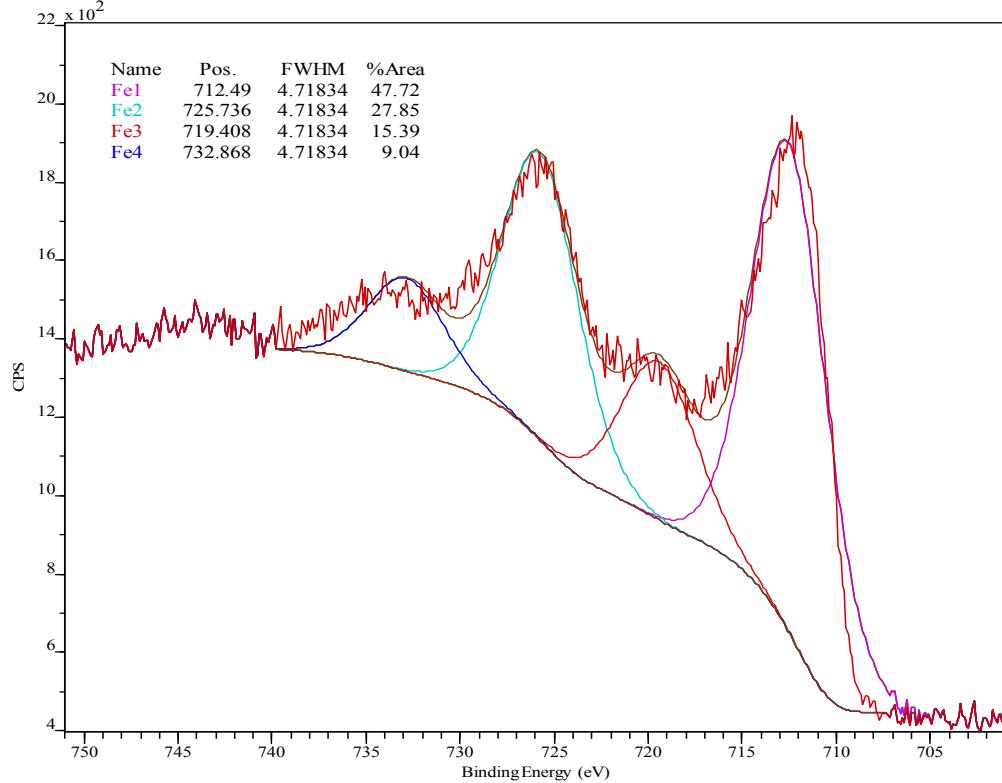
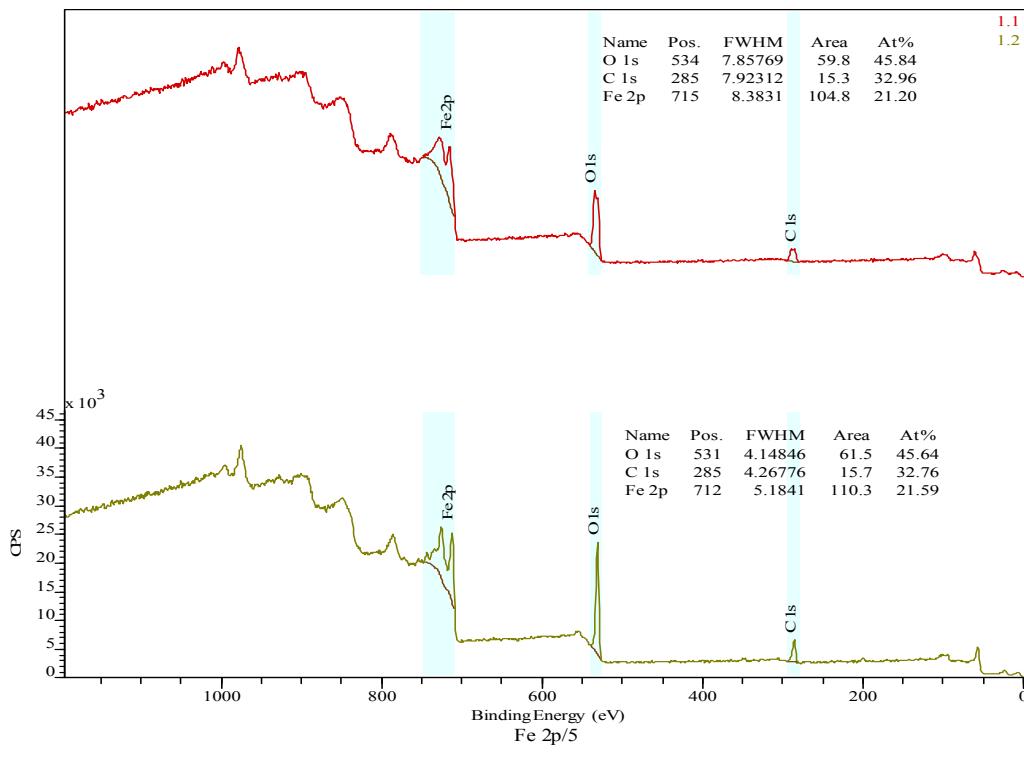


Figure S2. XPS spectrum of nano- γ - Fe_2O_3 .

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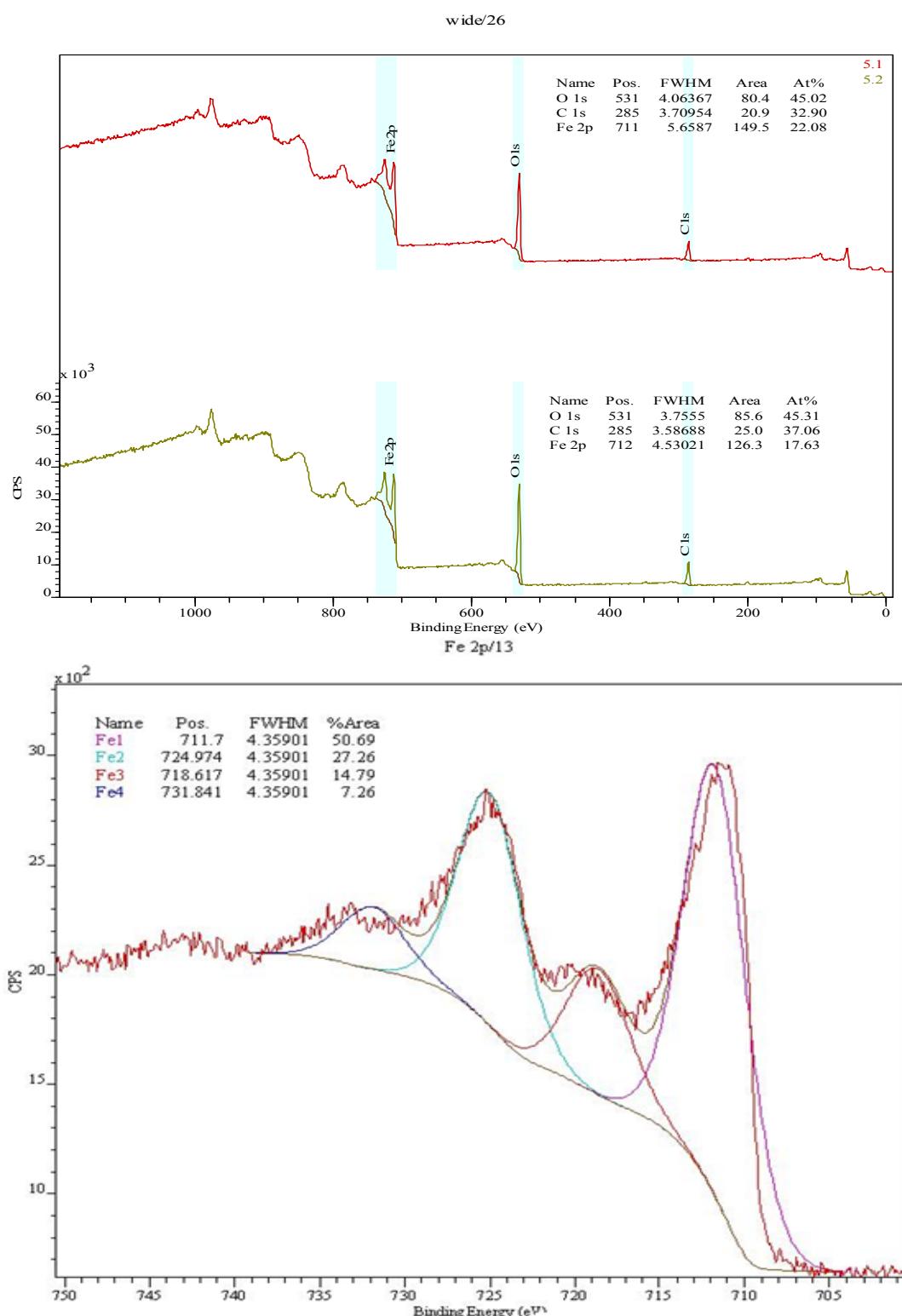


Figure S3. XPS spectrum of nano- γ -Fe₂O₃ after reuse five times.

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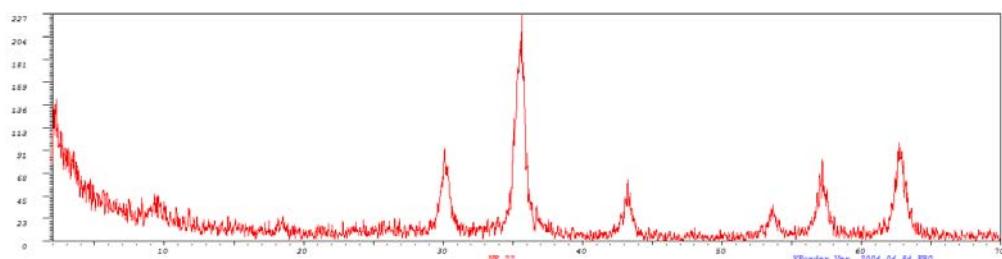


Figure S4. XRD patterns of the nano- γ -Fe₂O₃.⁴⁻⁵

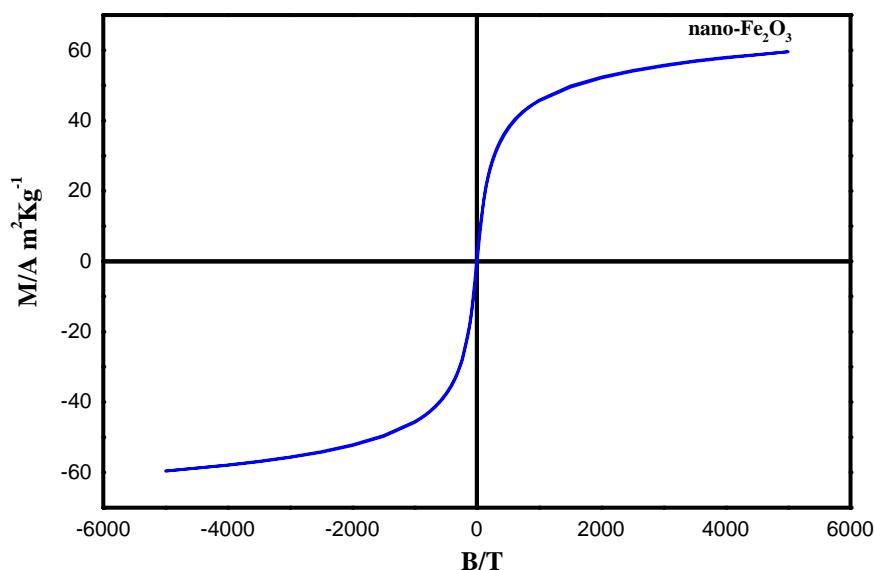


Figure S5: Magnetization curve for the Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles at room temperature.

The room-temperature magnetization curve of the magnetic nanoparticles proves that the magnetic nanoparticles are superparamagnetic. The saturation magnetization of ~ 60 emu/g was determined for the fine Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles.

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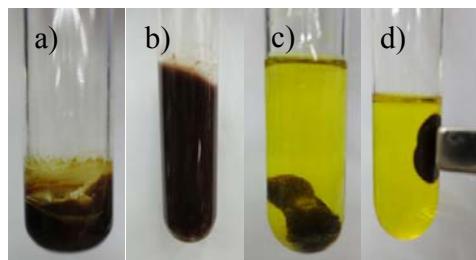


Figure S6: Photographs of suspension of nano- γ -Fe₂O₃ before (a, b) and after (c, d) magnetic capture.

The particles suspended smoothly by eccentricity force after the magnet bar start to stir, so that, the suspended Fe₂O₃ particles turned the reaction color into smooth brown during the reaction. Because of the reaction carried out in solvent free condition and the product is in viscose form, in order to make separation easier, at the end of the reaction, the mixture was triturated with ethyl acetate and after 10 s suspended particles moved on to the stirrer bar. Using an external magnet can make the separation of Nps easier during the cycling.

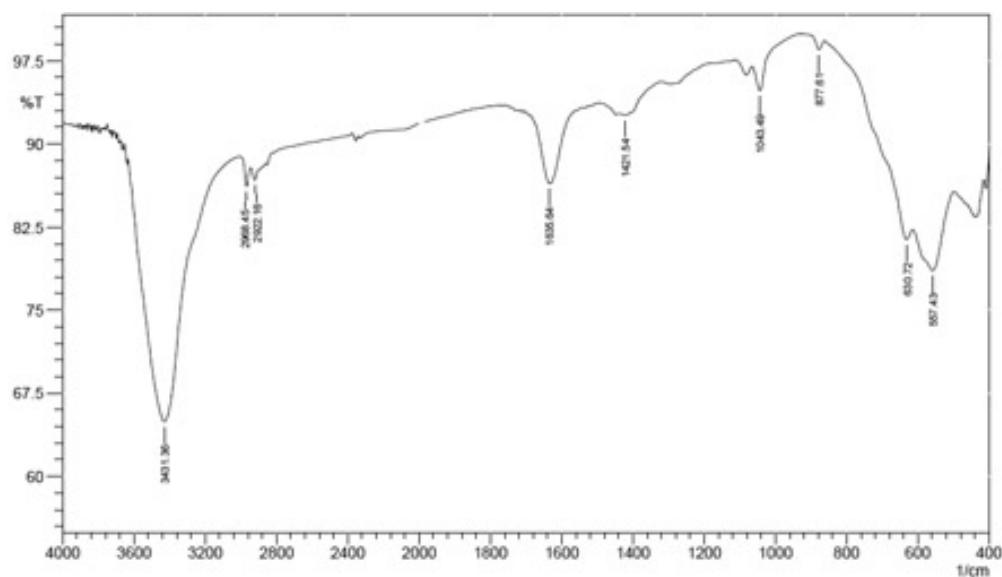


Figure S7: FTIR spectra of γ -Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles.⁶

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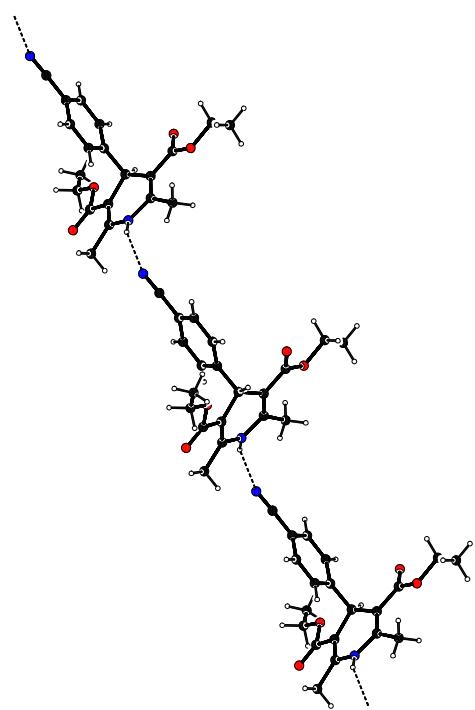
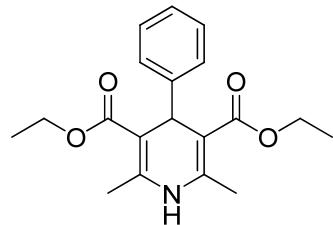


Figure S8. X-ray structure of 4g.

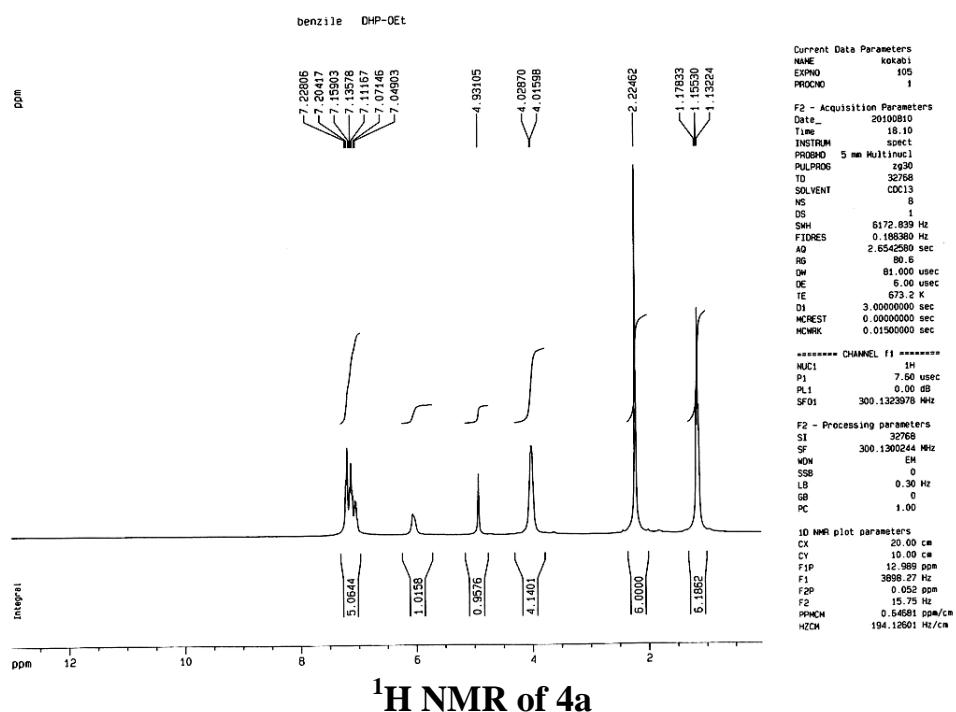
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Spectral data:

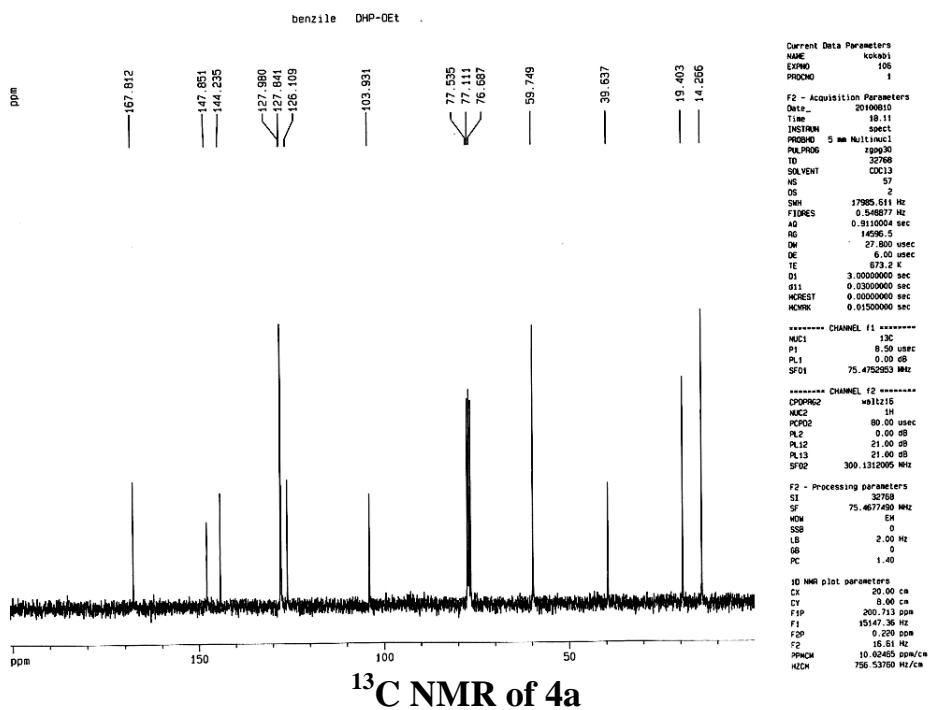
Diethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁷



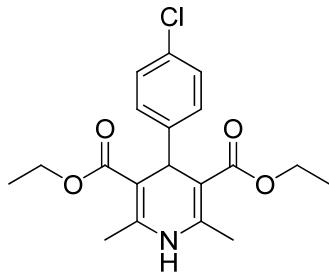
Mp: 157-159 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.15 (t, 6 H), 2.22 (s, 6 H), 4.0 (q, 4 H), 4.93 (s, 1 H), 6.2 (b, 1 H), 7.04-7.22 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 14.26, 19.40, 39.63, 59.74, 103.93, 126.1, 127.84, 127.98, 144.23, 147.85, 167.81; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 69.28, H: 7.04, N: 4.25, O: 19.43, Found. C: 69.12, H: 7.00, N: 4.21, O: 19.39.



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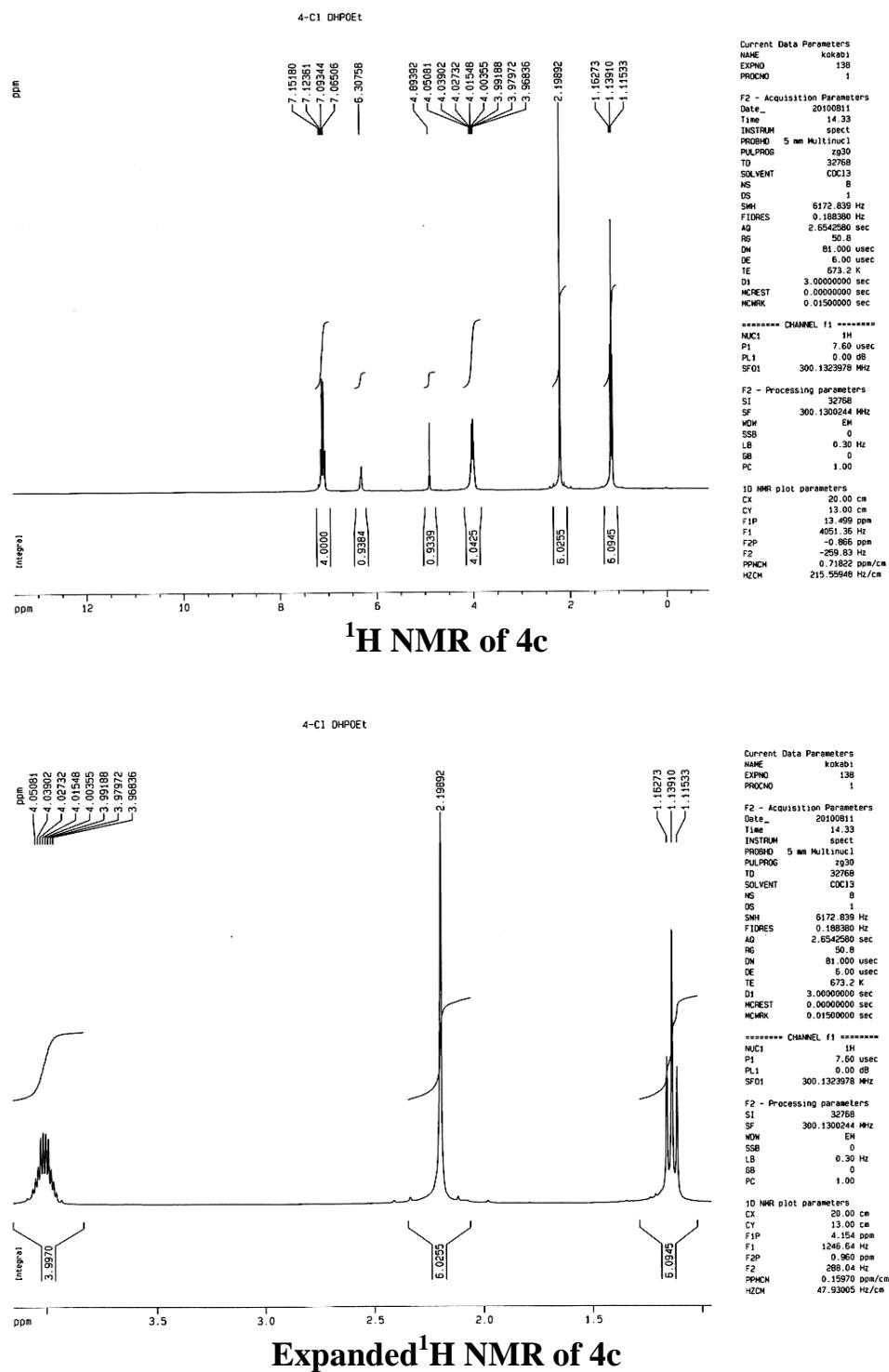


Diethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁷

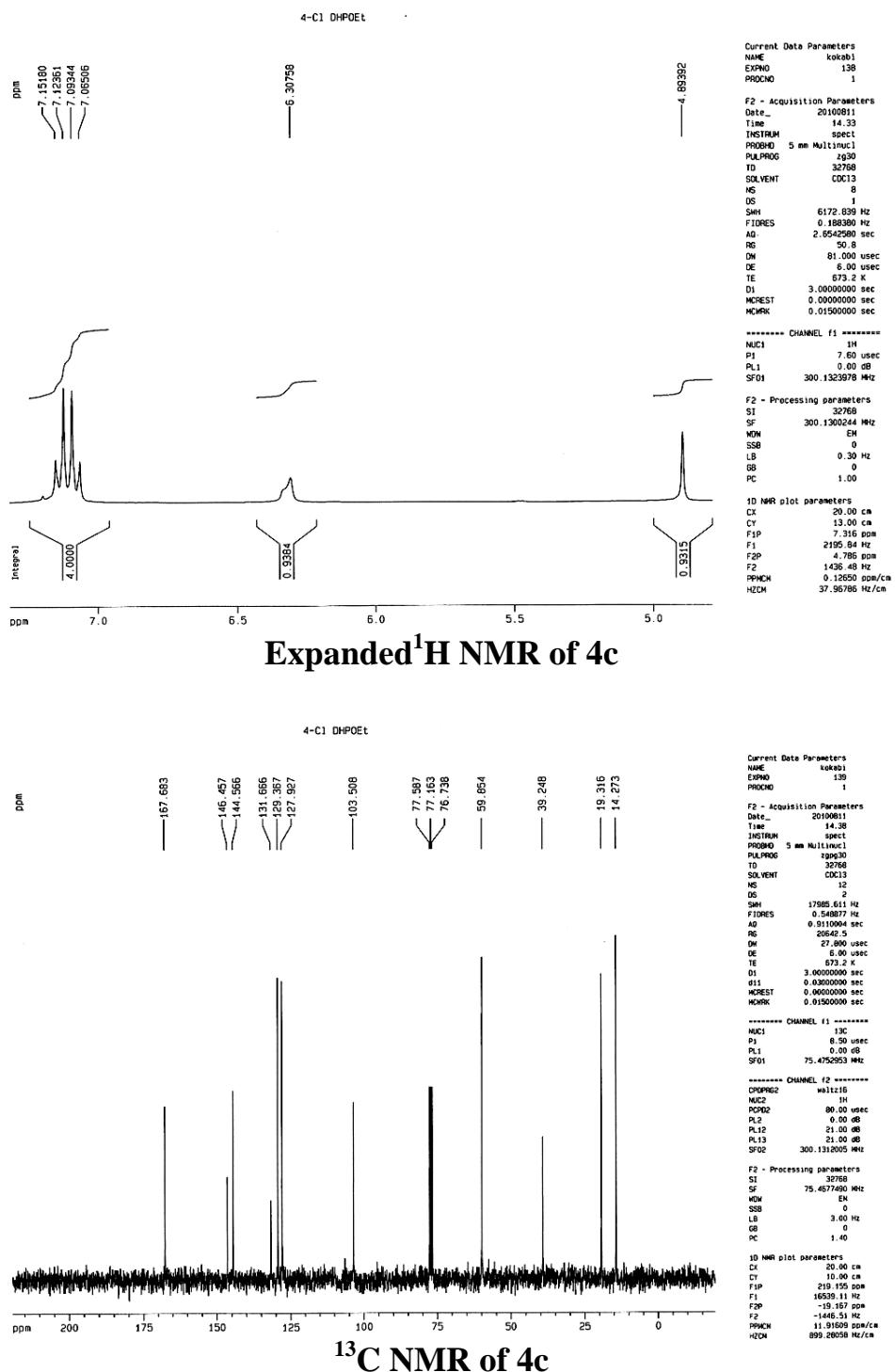


Mp: 144-146 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.16-1.11 (t, 6 H), 2.19 (s, 6 H), 4.03-5.96 (q, 4 H), 4.89 (s, 1 H), 6.30 (s, 1 H), 7.15-7.06 (q, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 14.27, 19.31, 39.24, 59.85, 103.50, 127.92, 129.36, 131.66, 144.56, 146.45, 167.68; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 62.72, H: 6.09, N: 3.85, O: 17.59, Found. C: 62.46, H: 6.02, N: 3.80, O: 17.48.

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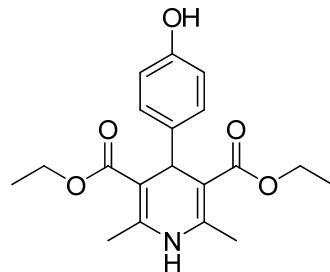


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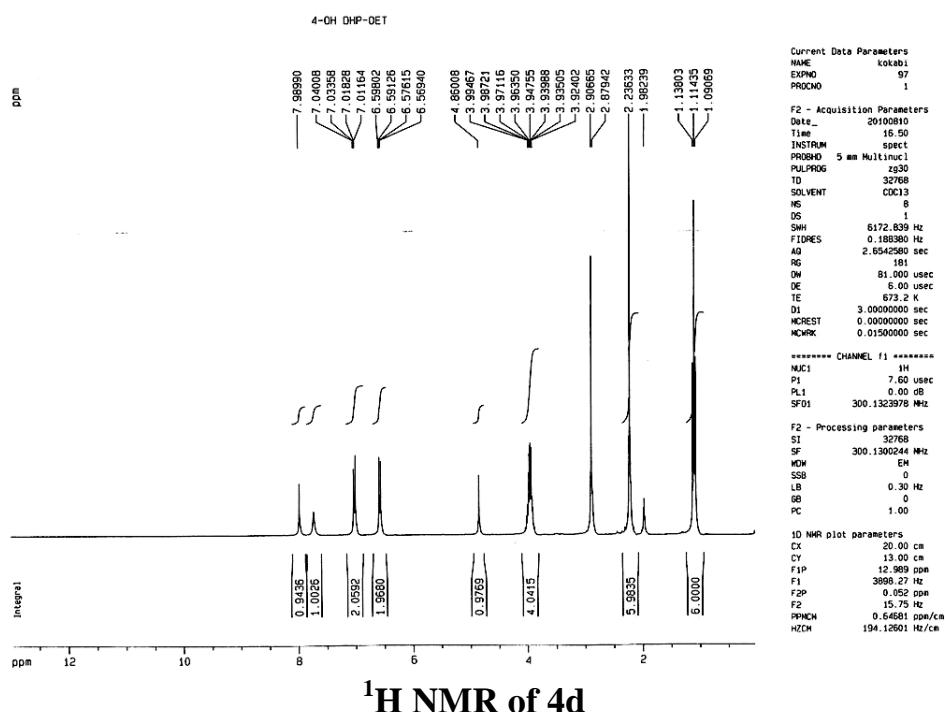


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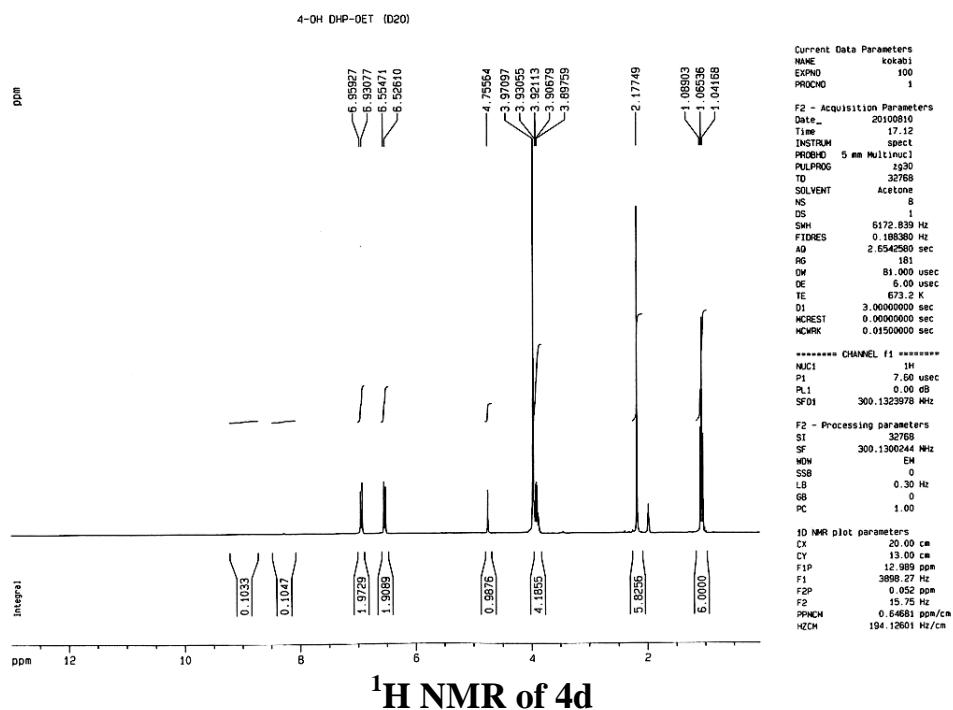
Diethyl 4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁸



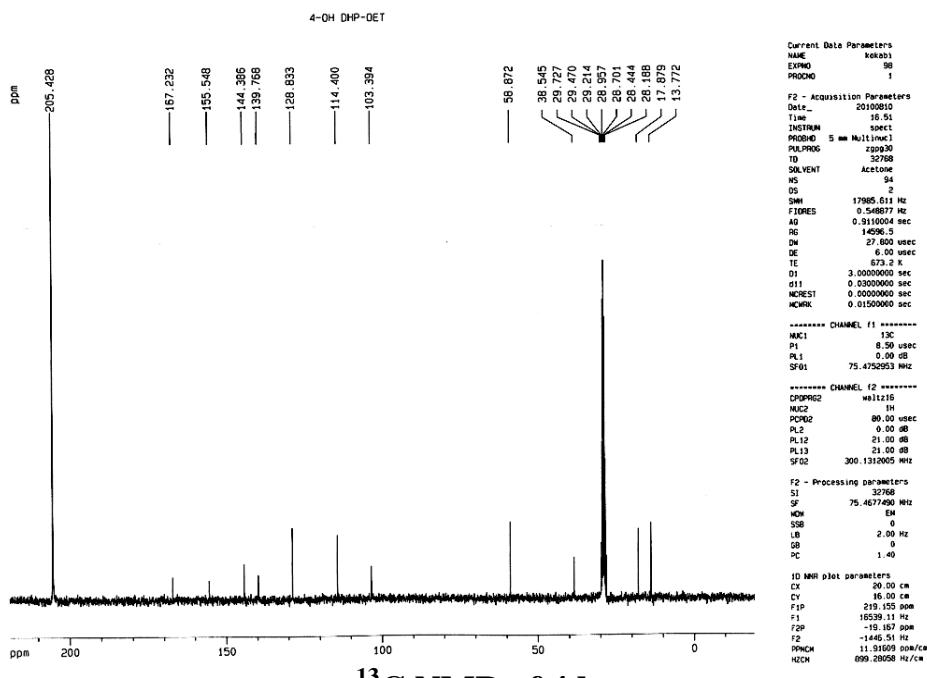
Mp: 230-231 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.13-1.9(t, 6 H), 2.23 (s, 6 H), 3.99-3.93 (q, 4 H), 4.86 (s, 1 H), 7.04-6.56 (m, 4 H), 7.90(s, 1H), 7.98(s,1H); ^{13}C NMR (Acetone D, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 13.77, 17.87, 38.54, 58.87, 103.39, 114.40, 128.83, 139.76, 144.38, 155.54, 167.23; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 66.07, H: 6.71, N: 4.06, O: 23.16, Found. C: 65.77, H: 6.63, N: 3.95, O: 23.10.



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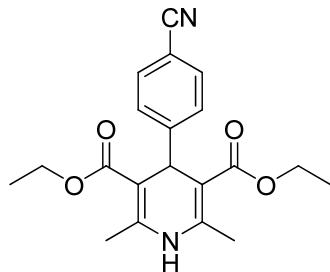
¹H NMR of 4d



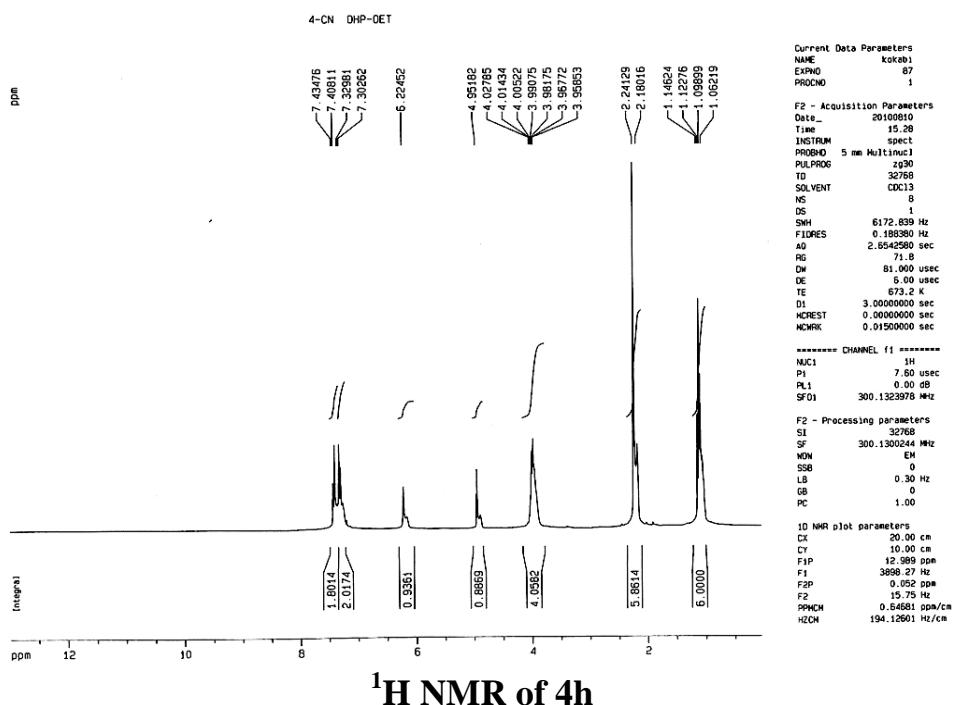
¹³C NMR of 4d

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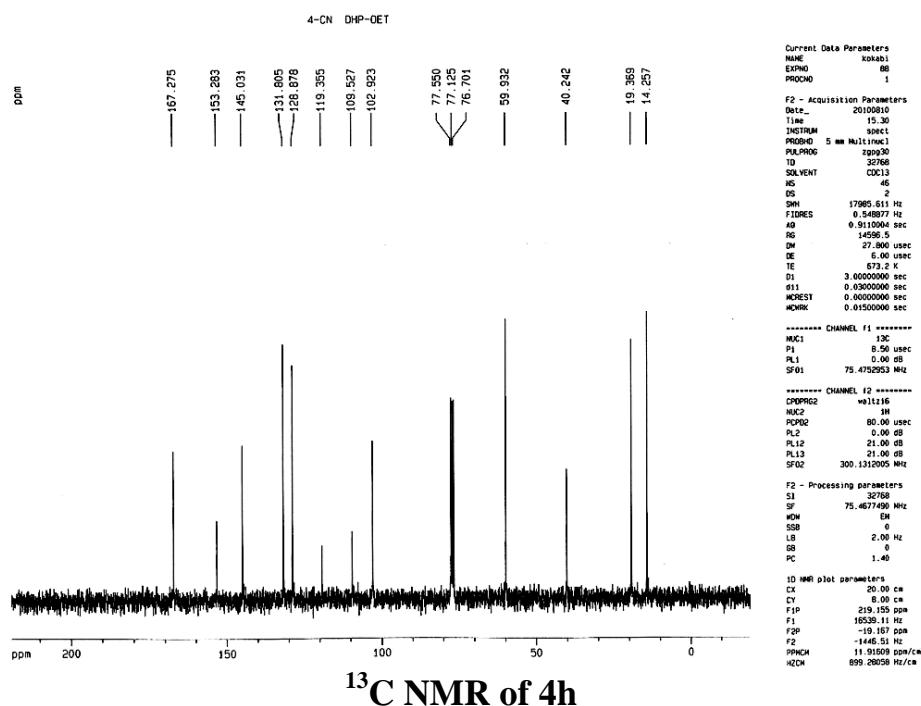
Diethyl 4-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate



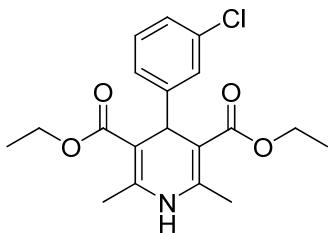
Mp: 165-167 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.10 (t, 6 H), 2.20 (s, 6 H), 4.0 (q, 4 H), 4.95 (s, 1 H), 6.22 (b, 1 H), 7.30-7.43 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 14.25, 19.36, 40.4, 59.93, 102.93, 109.52, 119.35, 128.87, 131.87, 145.03, 163.28, 167.27; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 67.78, H: 6.26, N: 7.90, O: 18.06, Found. C: 67.71, H: 6.22, N: 7.89, O: 18.01.



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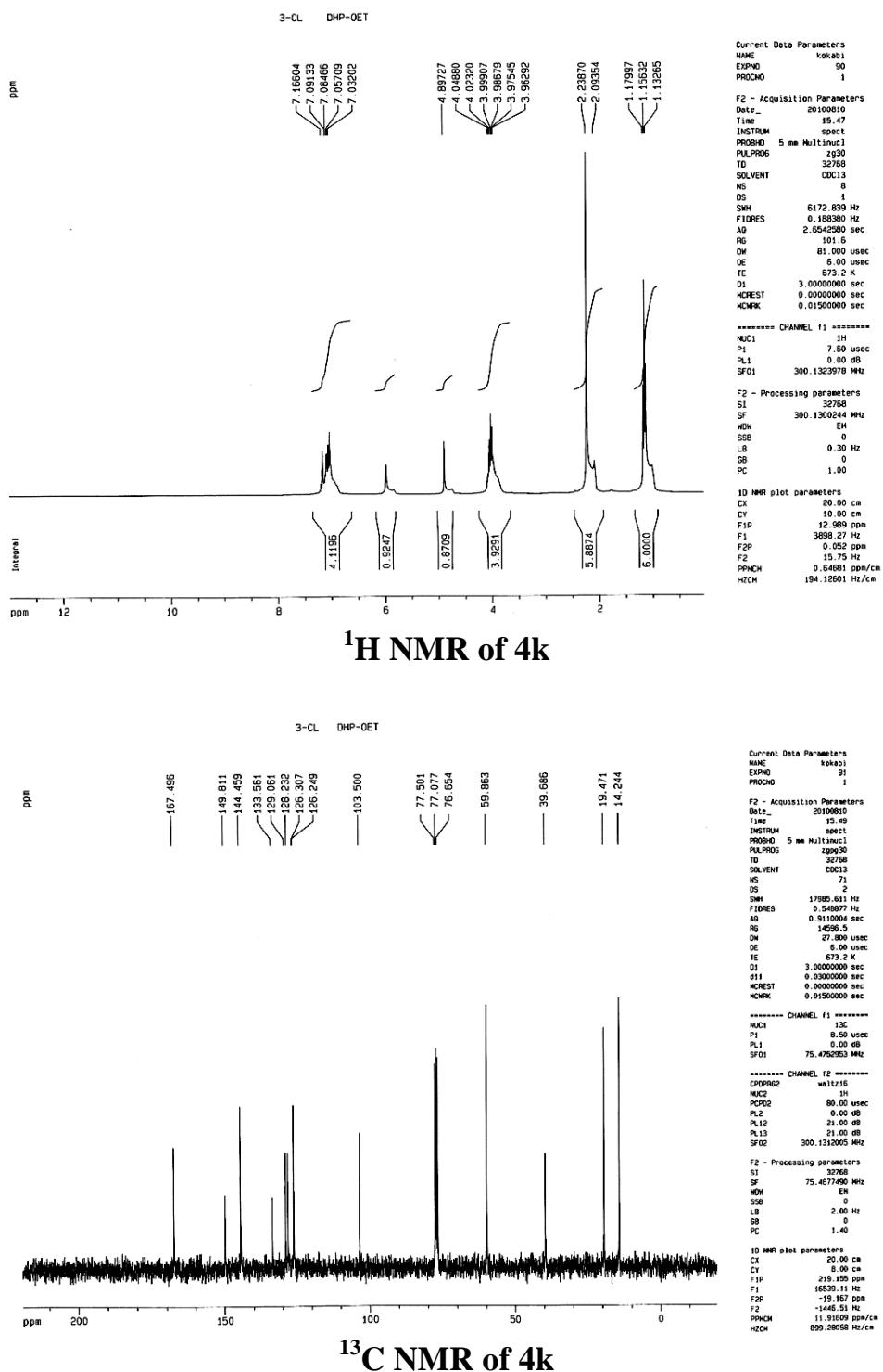


Diethyl 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁷



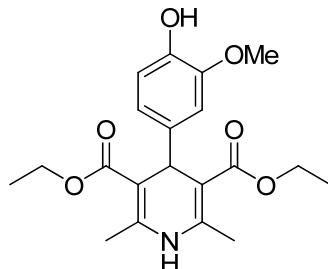
Mp: 141-142 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.15 (t, 6 H), 2.23-2.09 (s, 6 H), 4.04-3.96 (q, 4 H), 4.89 (s, 1 H), 6.2 (s, 1 H), 7.16-7.03 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 14.21, 19.47, 39.68, 59.86, 103.50, 126.24, 126.30, 128.23, 129.06, 133.56, 144.45, 149.81, 167.49; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 62.72, H: 6.09, N: 3.85, O: 17.59, Found. C: 62.68, H: 6.01, N: 3.78, O: 17.52.

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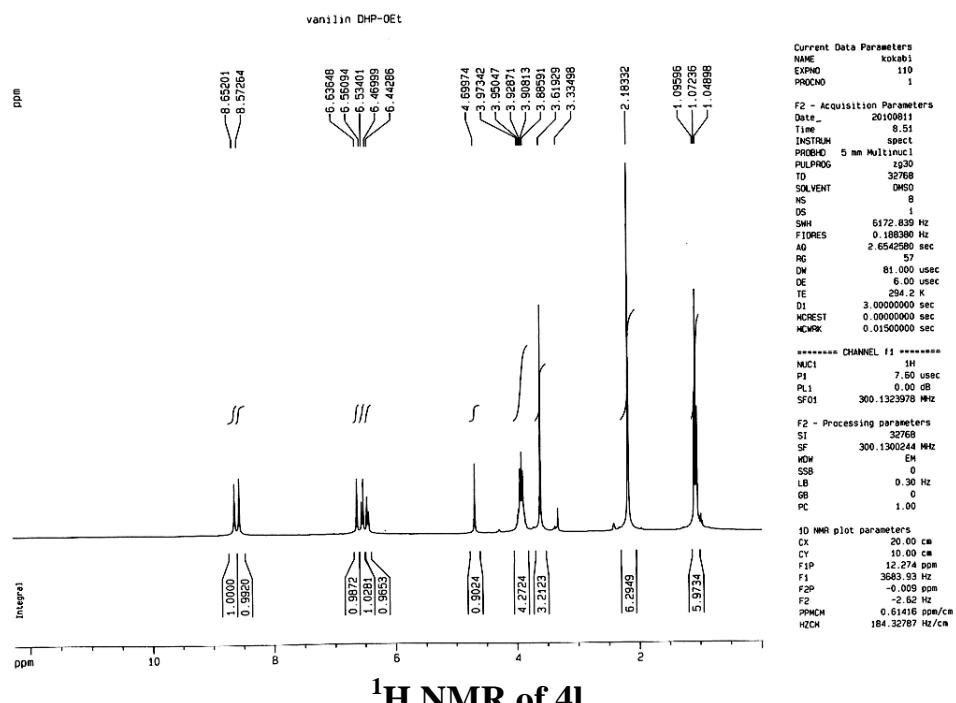


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Diethyl 4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate

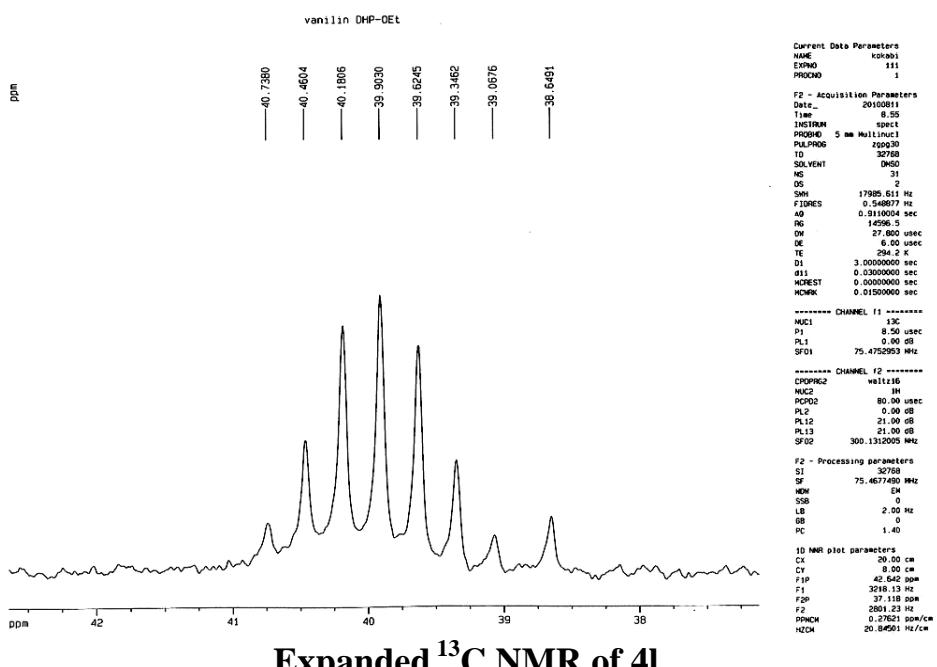
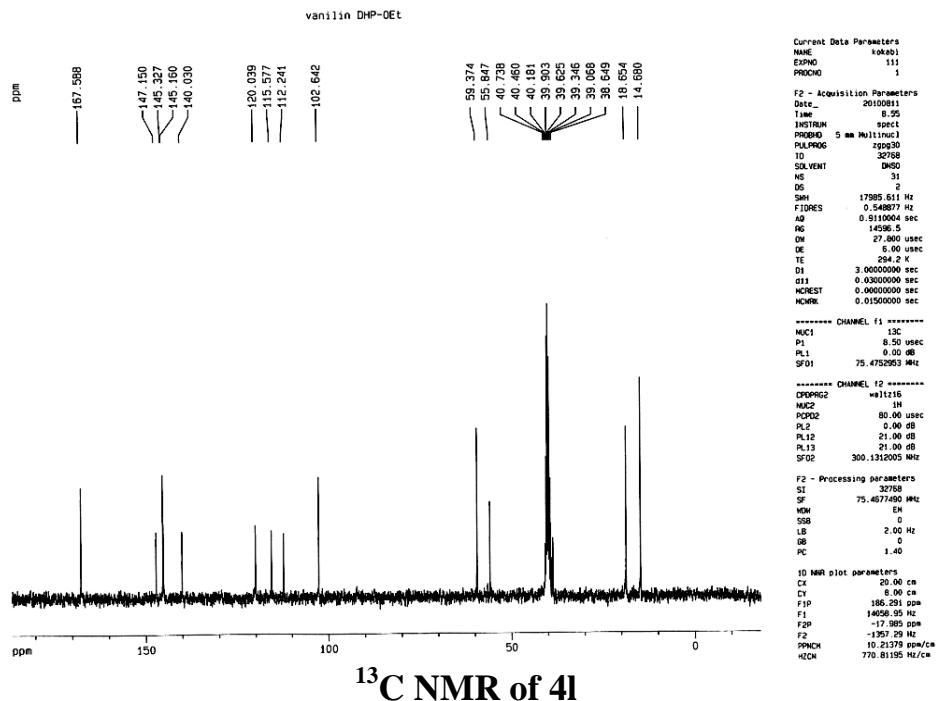


Mp: 159-161°C; ^1H NMR (DMSO, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.07 (t, 6 H), 2.18 (s, 6 H), 3.61 (s, 3 H), 3.88-3.95 (q, 1 H), 4.69 (s, 1 H), 6.44-6.56 (dd, 2 H), 6.63 (s, 1 H), 8.57 (s, 1 H), 8.65 (s, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 14.68, 18.65, 38.64, 55.84, 59.13, 102.64, 112.24, 115.24, 120.09, 140.03, 145.16, 145.32, 147.15, 167.58; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 63.99, H: 6.71, N: 3.73, O: 25.57, Found. C: 63.90, H: 6.70, N: 3.71, O: 25.50.



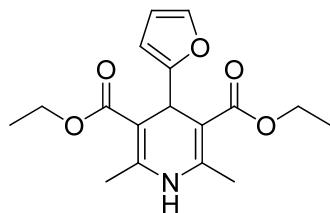
^1H NMR of 4l

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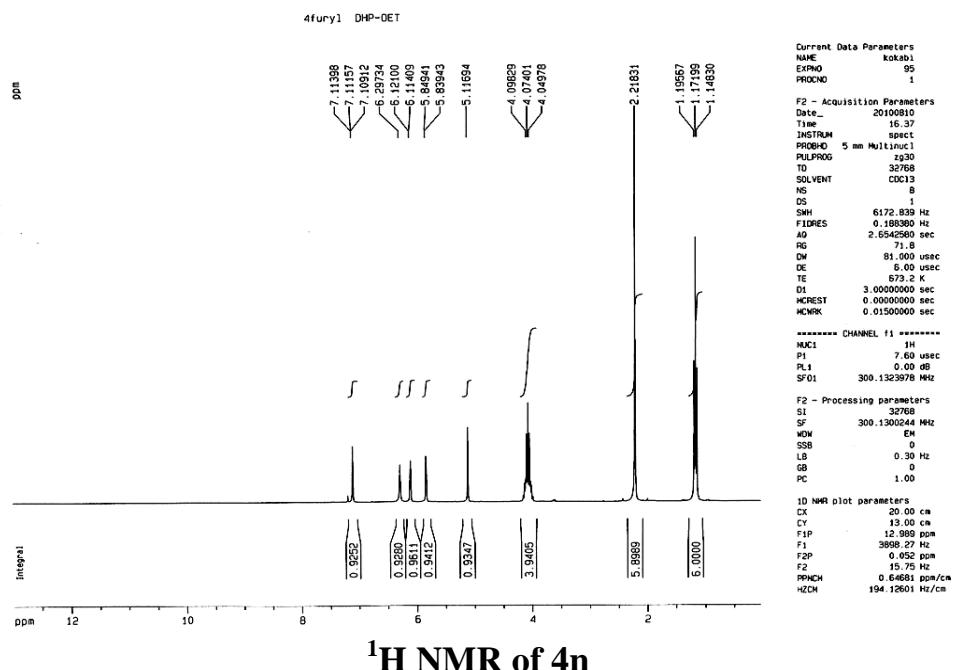


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Diethyl 4-(furan-2-yl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁷

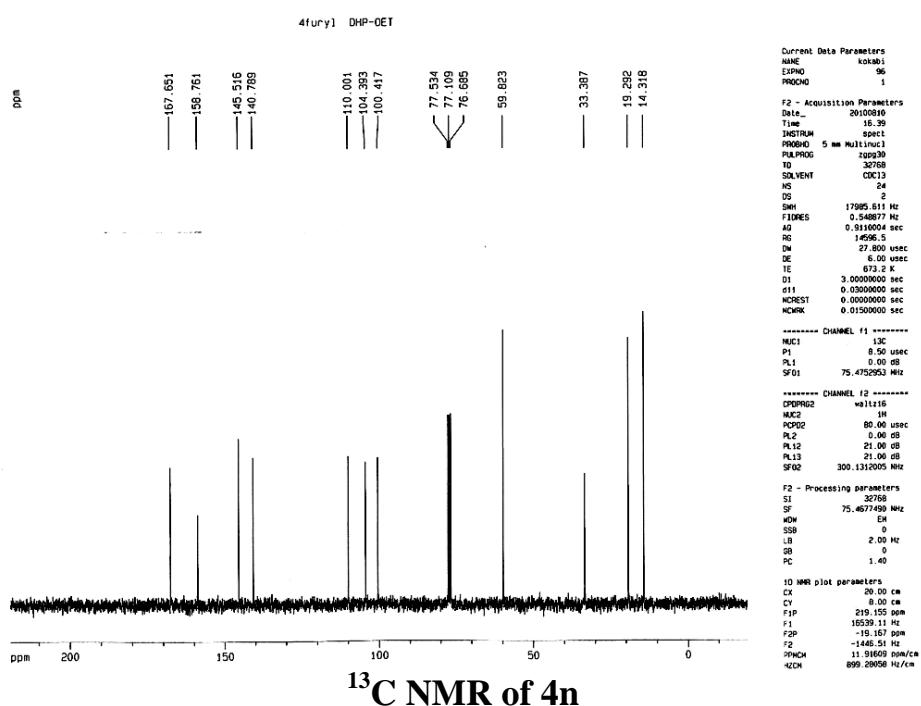


Mp: 161-162 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 1.17 (t, 6 H), 2.21 (s, 6 H), 4.07 (q, 4 H), 5.11 (s, 1 H), 5.83-6.12 (m, 2H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.11 (t, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 143.31, 19.29, 33.38, 59.82, 100.41, 104.39, 110.00, 140.78, 145.51, 158.76, 167.65; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 63.94, H: 6.63, N: 4.39, O: 25.05, Found. C: 63.91, H: 6.59, N: 4.32, O: 25.01.

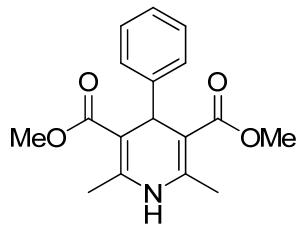


¹H NMR of 4n

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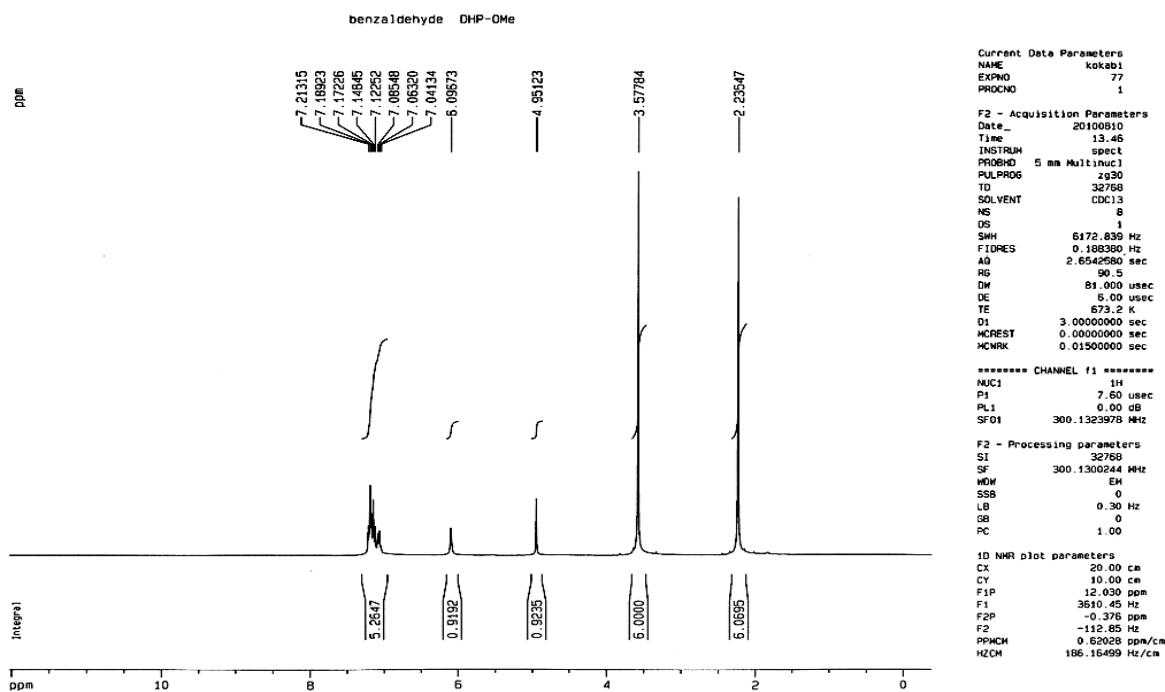


Dimethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁹

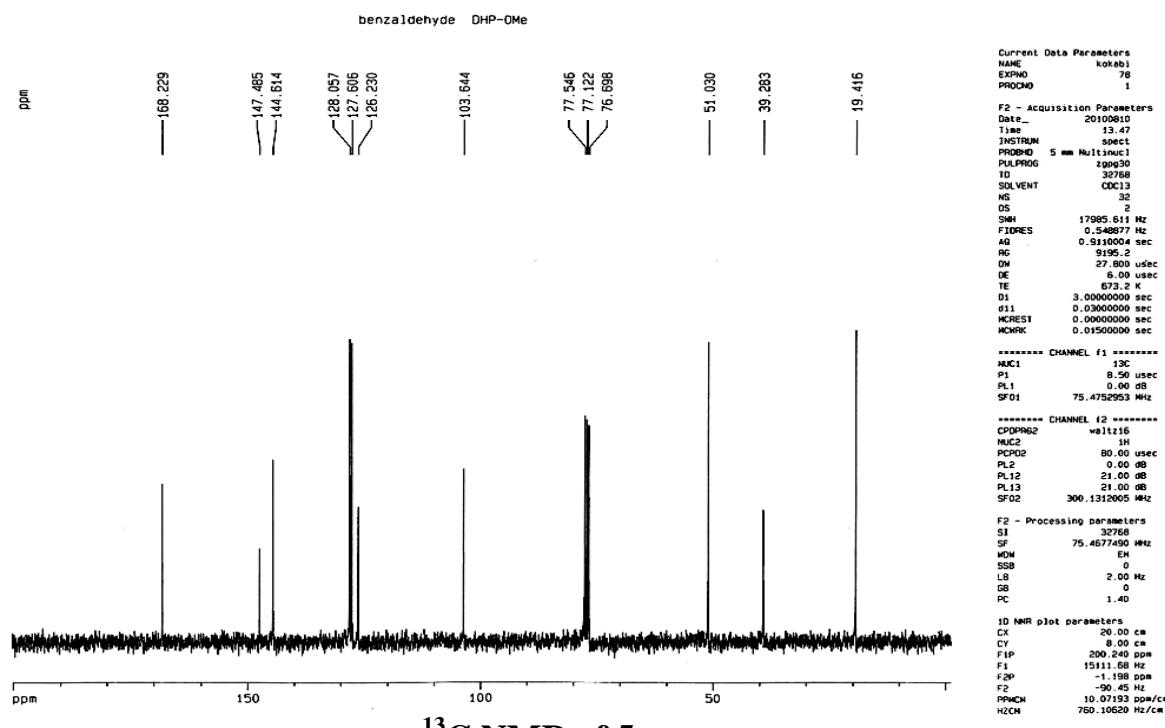


Mp: 196–197 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.23 (s, 6 H), 3.75 (s, 6 H), 4.95 (s, 1 H), 6.09 (b, 1 H), 7.14–7.21 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.41, 38.28, 51.03, 103.64, 126.23, 127.60, 128.05, 144.61, 147.48, 168.22; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 67.76, H: 6.36, N: 4.65, O: 21.24, Found. C: 67.43, H: 6.31, N: 4.56, O: 21.20.

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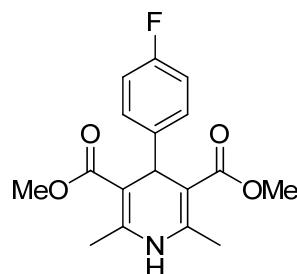
¹H NMR of 5a



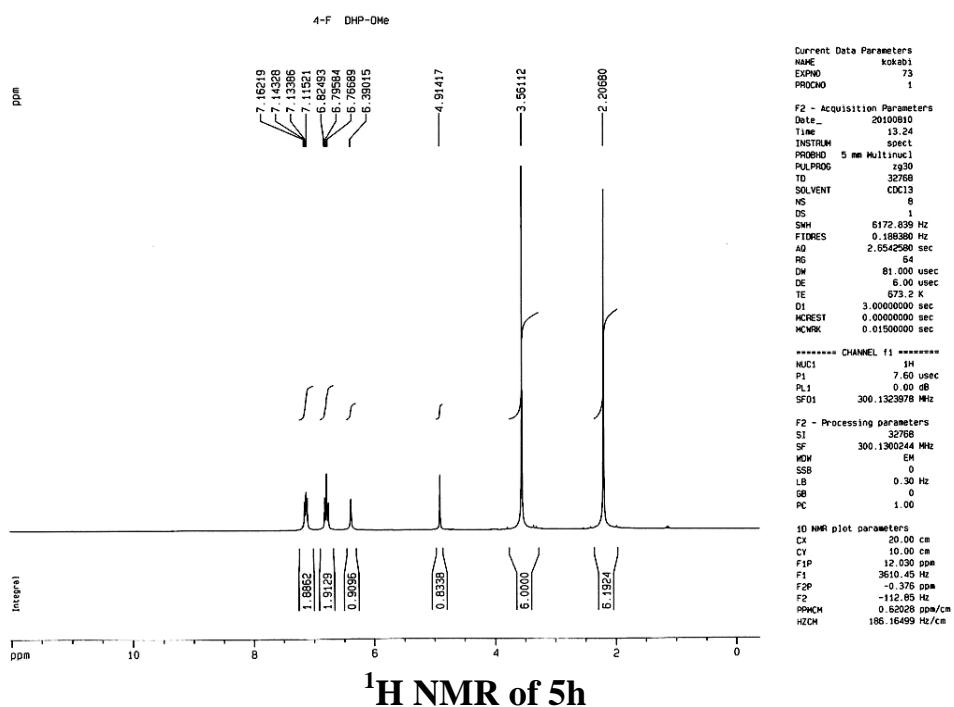
¹³C NMR of 5a

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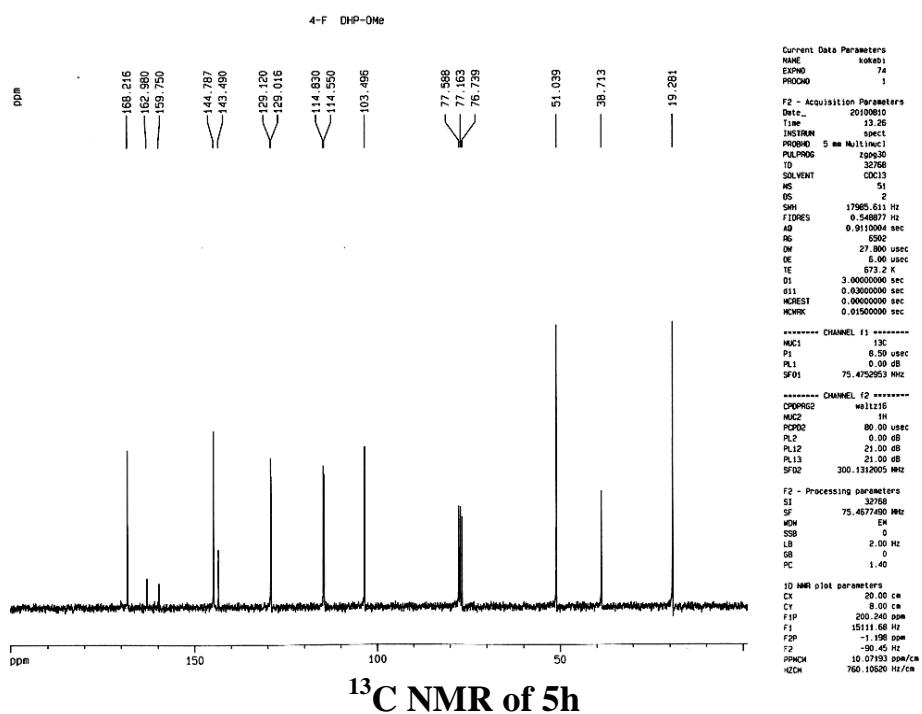
Dimethyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate¹⁰



Mp: 171-172 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.20 (s, 6 H), 3.56 (s, 6 H), 4.91 (s, 1 H), 6.39 (s, 1 H), 7.16-6.76 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.28, 38.71, 51.03, 103.49, 114.55, 114.83, 129.01, 129.12, 143.49, 144.78, 159/75, 162.98, 168.21; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 63.94, H: 5.68, N: 4.39, O: 20.04, Found. C: 63.73, H: 5.65, N: 4.33, O: 20.02.

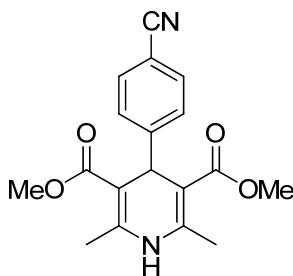


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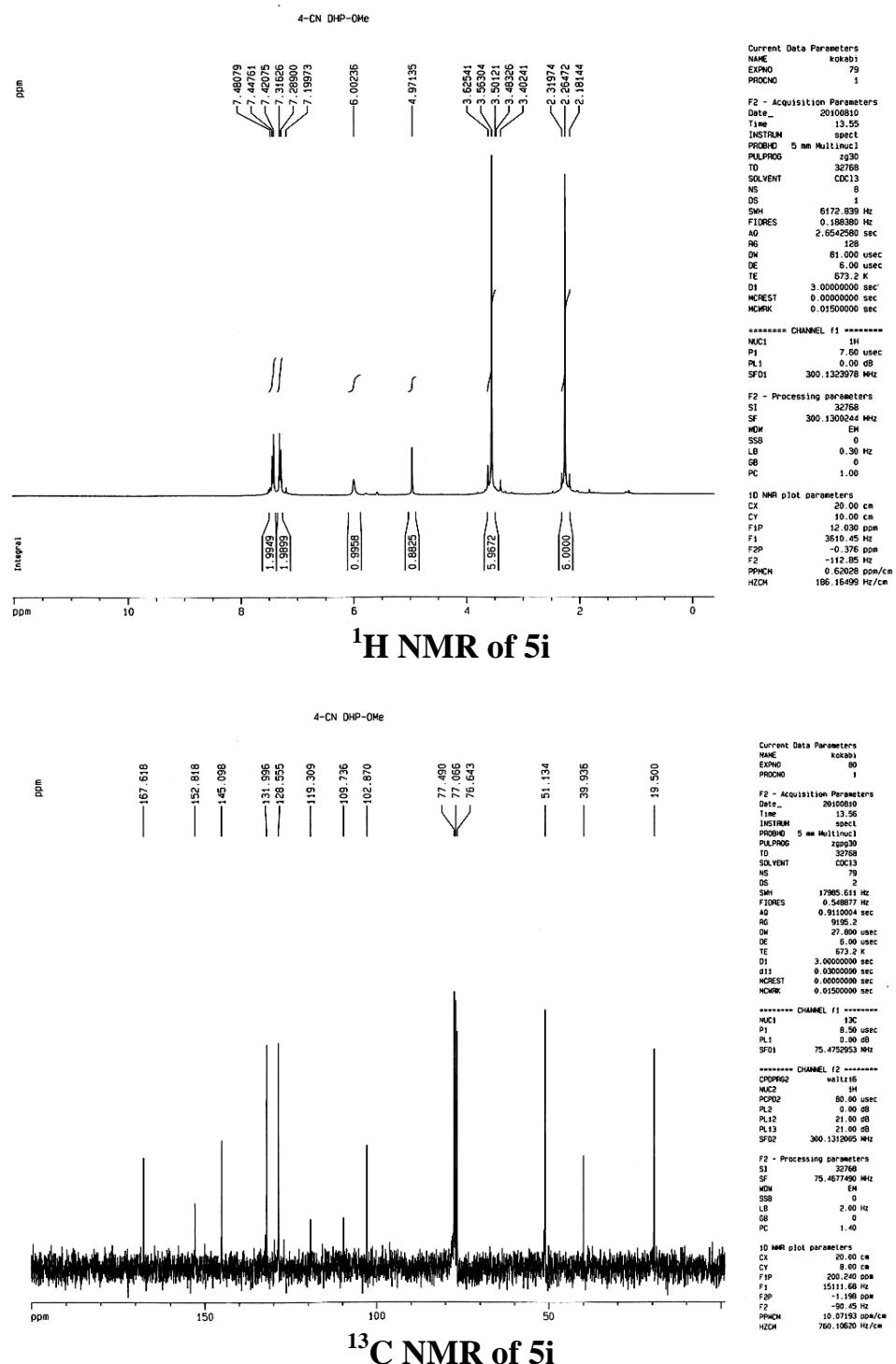


Dimethyl 4-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate

Mp: 225-227 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.26 (s, 6 H), 3.50 (s, 6 H), 4.97 (s, 1 H), 6.00 (s, 1 H), 7.48-7.19 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.50, 39.93, 51.13, 102.87, 109.73, 119.30, 128.55, 131.99, 145.09, 152.81, 167.61; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 66.25, H: 5.56, N: 8.58, O: 19.61, Found. C: 66.18, H: 5.55, N: 8.54, O: 19.58.



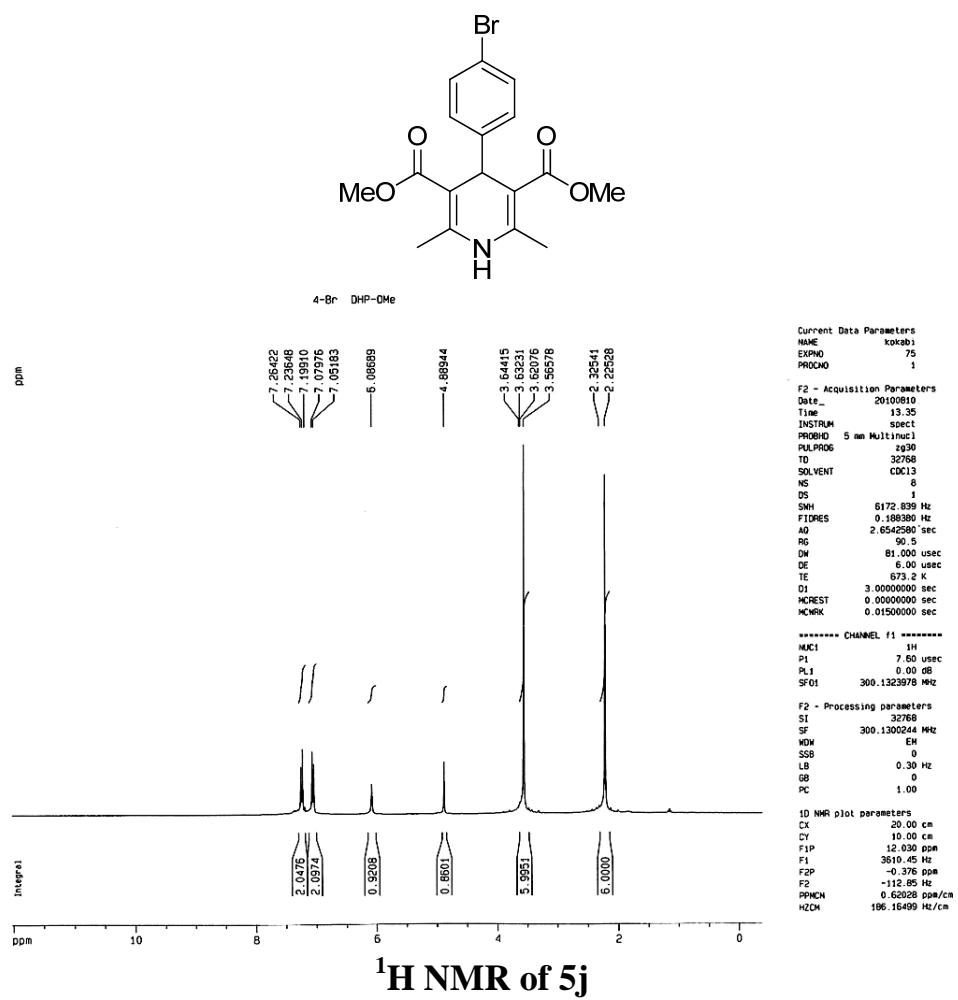
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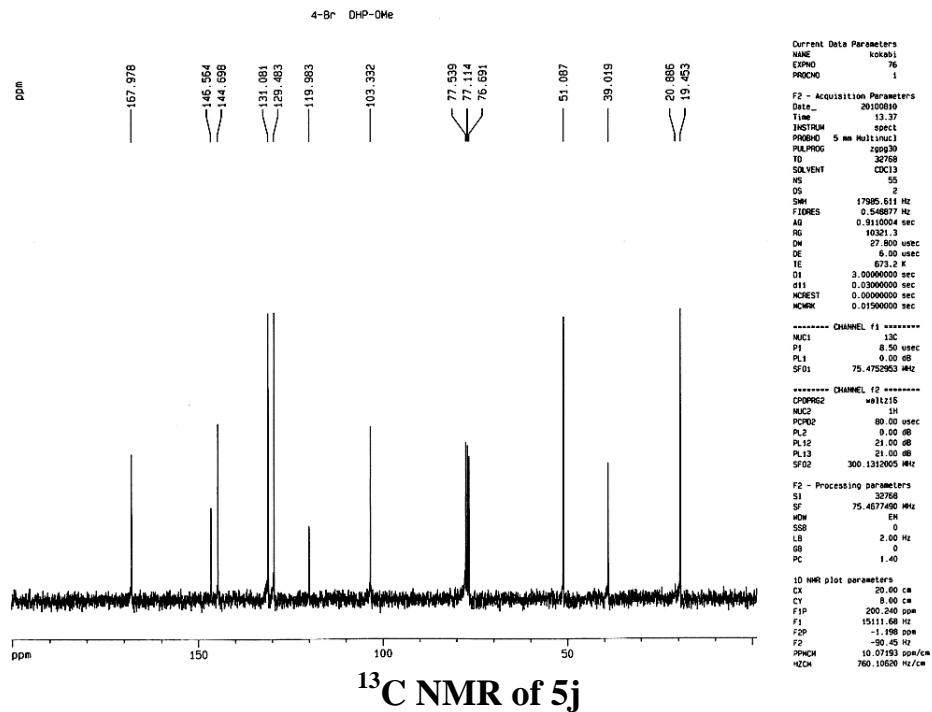
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Dimethyl 4-(4-bromophenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate¹¹

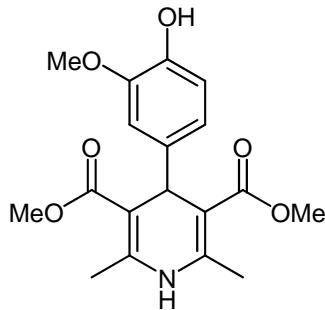
Mp: 200-201 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.32 (s, 6 H), 3.63 (s, 6 H), 4.88 (s, 1 H), 6.08 (s, 1 H), 7.05-7.26 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.45, 20.88, 39.01, 51.08, 103.33, 119.98, 129.48, 131.08, 144.69, 146.56, 167.97; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 53.70, H: 4.77, N: 3.68, O: 16.83, Found. C: 53.40, H: 4.71, N: 3.62, O: 16.82.



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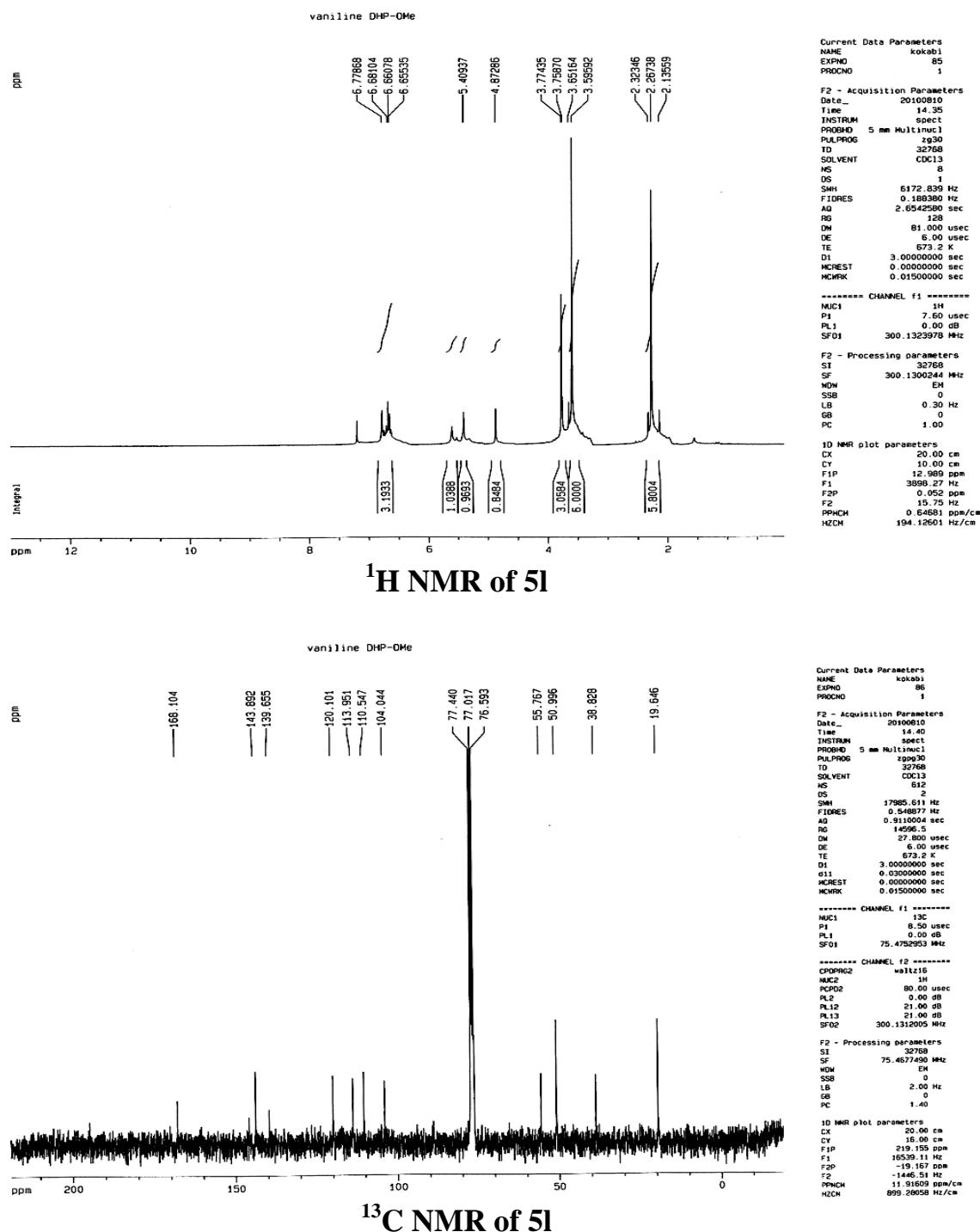


Dimethyl 4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate

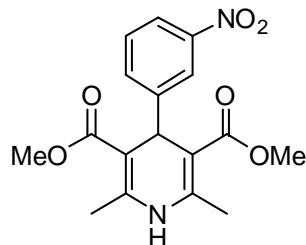


Mp: 227-228 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.26 (s, 6 H), 3.65 (s, 6 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 4.87 (s, 1 H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.40(s, 1H), 6.77-6.65 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.64, 38.82, 50.99, 55.76, 104.04, 110.54, 113.95, 120.10, 139.65, 143.89, 168.10; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 62.24, H: 6.09, N: 4.03, O: 27.64, Found. C: 62.01, H: 6.04, N: 4.01, O: 27.59.

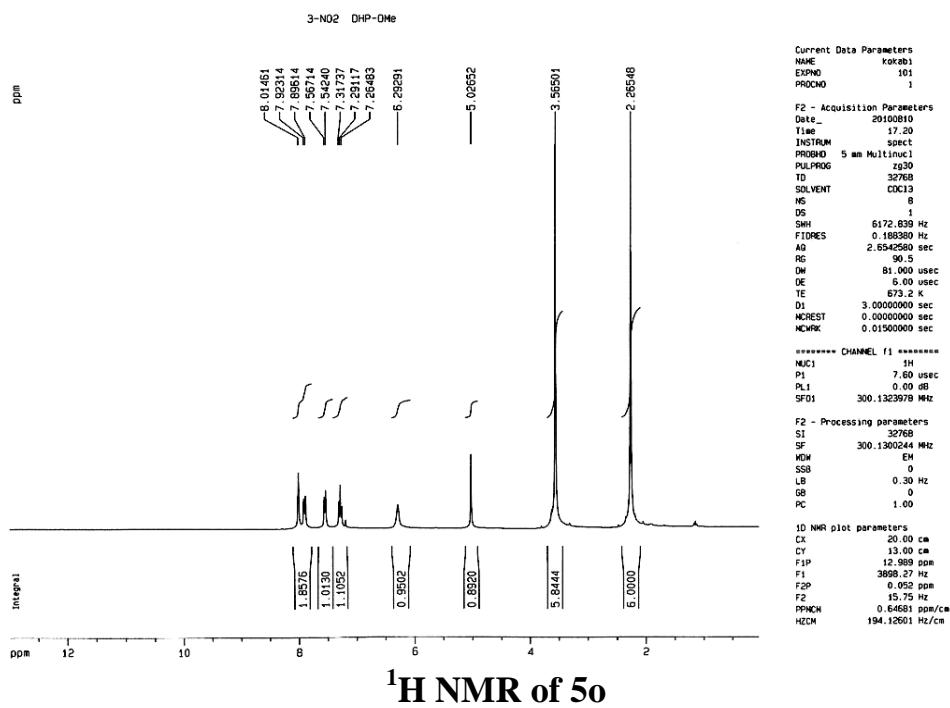
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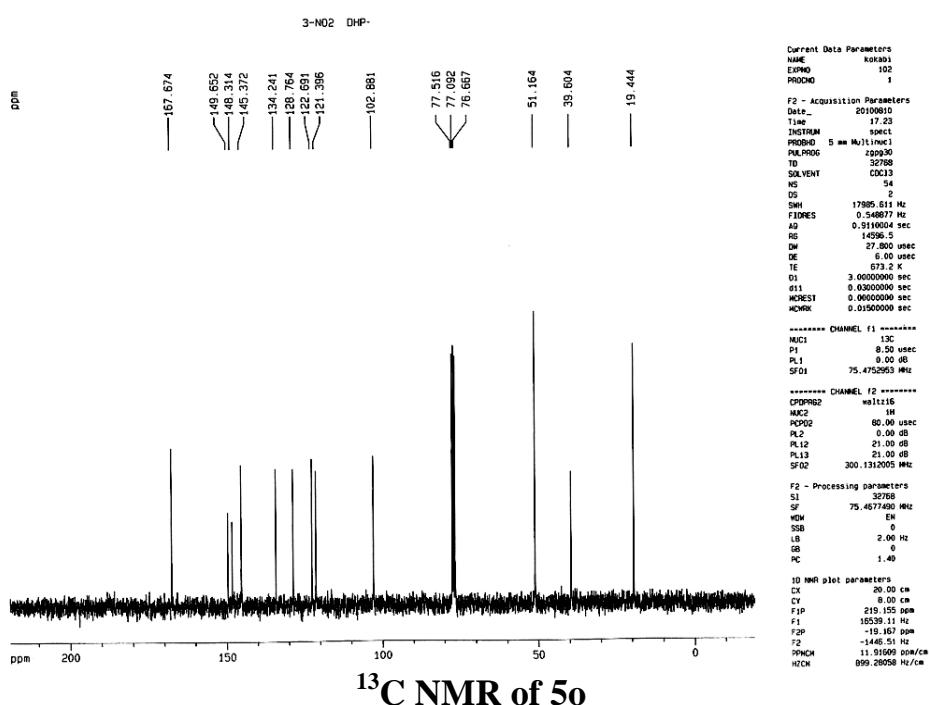
Dimethyl 2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,4-dihdropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate⁹



Mp: 187-190 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): δ (ppm): 2.26 (s, 6 H), 3.56 (s, 6 H), 5.02 (s, 1 H), 6.29 (s, 1 H), 8.01-7.26 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz): δ (ppm): 19.44, 39.60, 51.16, 102.88, 121.39, 122.69, 128.76, 134.24, 145.37, 148.31, 149.65, 167.67; Elemental Analysis: Calcd. C: 58.96, H: 5.24, N: 8.09, O: 27.72, Found. C: 58.66, H: 5.21, N: 8.01, O: 27.70.



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