#### **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# A fast and selective decarboxylative difunctionalization and cyclization for easy access to *gem*-dihalo alcohol, ether, ester and bromo-1,4-dioxane

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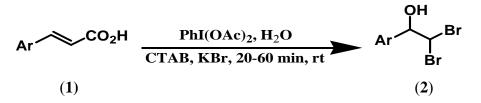
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#### 1. Materials and Methods

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification, unless otherwise specified. Commercially supplied ethyl acetate and petroleum ether were distilled before use. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was dried by distillation over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Petroleum ether used in our experiments was in the boiling range of 60°-80° C. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-120 mesh, 0.120 mm-0.250 mm). Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Melting points are reported uncorrected. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (Bruker Advance 300) were recorded at ambient temperature using 300 MHz spectrometers (300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 75 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). Chemical shift is reported in ppm from internal reference tetramethylsilane and coupling constant in Hz. Proton multiplicities are represented as s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (double doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), and m (multiplet). Infrared spectra were recorded on FT-IR spectrometer (Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100) in thin film on NaCl window (liquid sample). EI-MS analysis was performed in GC-MS machine (Perkin Elmer Clarus 600) using column Elite 5 MS (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 um) with maximum temperature 300 °C. HR-MS data were acquired by electron spray ionization technique on a Q-tof-micro quadriple mass spectrophotometer (Bruker).

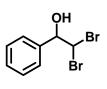
#### 2. General procedure for regioselective synthesis of $\alpha, \alpha$ -dibromohydrin



To a stirred solution of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid (1 mmol) in water (5 ml) CTAB (36 mg, 10 mol%) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature (rt) for 5 min and iodosobenzene diacetate (2 mmol, 644 mg) was charged. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at rt until the starting material was completely consumed. Progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL) and the combined organic layer was washed successively with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL). It was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, the reaction with *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded 2,2-dibromo-1-phenyl-ethanol (**2a**) after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:19, v/v) as an eluent in an yield of 88% (246 mg, 0.88 mmol). The  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -dibromohydrins (**2a-r**) were characterized by means of NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 3. Characterization data of $\alpha,\alpha$ -dibromohydrin (2a-r)

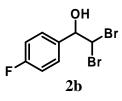
3.1. Compound 2a



2a

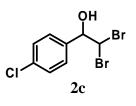
Yield: 88% (246 mg, 0.88 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.88 (1H, brs), 4.99 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.73 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.30-7.36 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.0, 78.9, 126.9, 128.4, 128.9, 137.9. EI-MS (m/z): 281 (M+2), 279 (M<sup>+</sup>), 119, 108, 107, 91, 79, 77, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1066, 1452, 1611, 2855, 2923, 3433. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 277.8942, found 277.8939 (one of the peaks).

## 3.2. Compound 2b

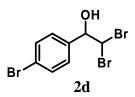


Yield: 83% (247 mg, 0.83 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.63 (1H, brs), 5.03 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.74 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.07 (2H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.41 (2H, dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  51.7, 79.2, 115.2, 115.5, 129.7, 129.8, 132.1, 161.4. EI-MS (m/z): 298 (M+2), 296 (M<sup>+</sup>), 203, 202, 201, 151, 149, 93, 76, 75, 74. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1096, 1536, 1608, 2993, 3223. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>FO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 295.8848, found 295.8845 (one of the peaks).

## 3.3. Compound 2c

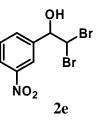


Yield: 80% (251 mg, 0.80 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.55 (1H, s), 5.35 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 5.96 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.2, 78.5, 128.7, 130.0, 135.4, 135.7. EI-MS (m/z): 314 (M+2), 312 (M<sup>+</sup>), 218, 216, 139, 137, 102, 101, 75, 74. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1094, 1409, 1491, 1594, 2925. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrClO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 311.8552, found 311.8559 (one of the peaks). 3.4. Compound 2d



Yield: 82% (294 mg, 0.82 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.99 (1H, brs), 5.01 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.74 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.31 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  51.4, 78.3, 123.0, 128.6, 131.6, 136.8. EI-MS (m/z): 358 (M+2), 356 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 208, 207, 160, 133, 77, 73, 55. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1010, 1072, 1487, 2929, 3448. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 355.8047, found 355.8040 (one of the peaks).

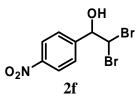
#### 3.5. Compound 2e



Yield: 72% (234 mg, 0.72 mmol).

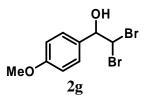
Characteristic:Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.61 (1H, brs), 5.39 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 5.78 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 7.51-7.62 (1H, m), 7.99 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 8.13 (1H, t, J = 6.9 Hz), 8.55 (1H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  57.6, 79.3, 122.9, 123.7, 129.7, 134.6, 136.5, 137.5. EI-MS (m/z): 325 (M+2), 323 (M<sup>+</sup>), 229, 227, 183, 181, 102, 101, 77, 76, 75, 74, 63, 62, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1098, 1348, 1598, 2929, 3398. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 322.8793, found 322.8798 (one of the peaks).

#### 3.6. Compound 2f



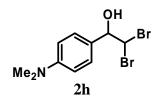
Yield: 75% (243 mg, 0.75 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.61 (1H, brs), 5.40 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.92 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.83 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.24 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  51.2, 82.7, 126.3, 126.5, 128.5, 133.3, 137.3. EI-MS (m/z): 324 (M+2), 322 (M<sup>+</sup>), 229, 181, 103, 102, 101, 90, 76, 75, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1122, 1288, 1346, 1520, 1723, 2960. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 322.8793, found 322.8787 (one of the peaks).

## 3.7. Compound 2g



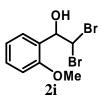
Yield: 92% (285 mg, 0.92 mmol). Characteristic:Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.52 (1H, brs), 3.81 (3H, s), 4.99 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.75 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 6.90 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.34 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.4, 55.3, 78.6, 113.8, 128.2, 130.0, 160.0. EI-MS (m/z): 310 (M+2), 308 (M<sup>+</sup>), 215, 214, 139, 137, 122, 121, 109, 94, 89, 77, 63. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1252, 1513, 1610, 3003, 3435. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 307.9048, found 307.9045 (one of the peaks).

## 3.8. Compound 2h



Yield: 85% (274 mg, 0.85 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.73 (1H, brs), 2.82 (6H, s), 4.08 (1H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 5.75 (1H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.07 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.31 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.1 Hz), 7.51-7.54 (1H, m), 7.69-7.75 (1H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  44.0, 47.4, 48.2, 111.9, 120.0, 127.6, 129.0, 131.7, 133.4. EI-MS (m/z): 323 (M+2), 321 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 208, 207, 191, 160, 135, 133, 96, 73, 45, 44, 43. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1218, 1731, 2941, 3401. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 320.9364, found 320.9369 (one of the peaks).

## 3.9. Compound 2i

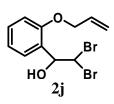


Yield: 92% (285 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.2 (1H, brs), 3.87 (3H, s), 5.28 (1H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 6.11 (1H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 6.89 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.01(1H, t, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 7.33 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.48 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  51.5, 55.4, 75.4, 110.4, 120.8, 126.4, 128.5, 129.7, 156.0. EI-MS (m/z): 310 (M+2), 308 (M<sup>+</sup>), 149, 138, 137, 121, 118, 107, 105, 91, 89, 79, 77, 63, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 746, 1052, 1232, 1471, 2931, 3433. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 307.9048, found 307.9042 (one of the peaks).

## 3.10. Compound 2j



Yield: 91% (306 mg, 0.91 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.17 (1H, s), 4.58 (2H, t, J = 4.2 Hz), 5.01 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 5.32 (1H, d, J = 10.5 Hz), 5.43 (1H, d, J = 17.5 Hz), 5.84 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 6.01-6.12 (1H, m), 6.87 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.02 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.32 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz).

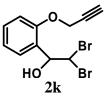
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 52.3, 69.2, 79.1, 111.5, 117.3, 120.8, 125.3, 128.1, 129.6, 132.7, 155.9.

EI-MS (m/z): 336 (M+2), 334 (M<sup>+</sup>), 242, 240, 238, 205, 188, 160, 120, 105, 77, 58, 55.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 651, 1090, 1413, 1767, 2929, 3432.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 333.9204, found 333.9215 (one of the peaks).

## 3.11. Compound 2k



Yield: 91% (304 mg, 0.91 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.67 (1H, brs), 2.54 (1H, t, J = 2.4 Hz), 4.76 (2H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 5.31 (1H, d, J = 5.4 Hz), 6.12 (1H, d, J = 5.4 Hz), 7.04-7.10 (2H, m), 7.31-7.37 (1H, m), 7.55 (1H, dd, J = 12.3, 7.5 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.2, 58.5, 76.0, 79.2, 82.0, 111.9, 121.5, 125.8, 128.3, 129.5, 154.9. EI-MS (m/z): 334 (M+2), 332 (M<sup>+</sup>), 207, 162, 161, 121, 118, 105, 89, 79, 78, 63, 51, 44. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1057, 1216, 1727, 2912, 3298, 3412. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 331.9048, found 331.9041 (one of the peaks).

## 3.12. Compound 21

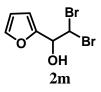


Yield: 79% (226 mg, 0.79 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

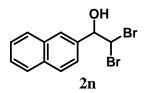
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.00 (1H, brs), 5.22 (1H, d, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 5.75 (1H, d, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 6.96 (2H, dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.6 Hz), 7.08 (1H, d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 7.27 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  51.1, 75.5, 126.0, 126.5, 126.7, 126.9, 129.5, 140.8. EI-MS (m/z): 285 (M+2), 283 (M<sup>+</sup>), 190, 114, 113, 108, 107, 97, 85, 58, 45, 44. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1038, 1147, 1436, 2858, 2921, 3433. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 283.8506, found 283.8516 (one of the peaks).

#### 3.13. Compound 2m



Yield: 73% (197 mg, 0.73 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.11 (1H, brs), 5.38 (1H, d, J = 5.4 Hz), 5.97 (1H, d, J = 5.4 Hz), 6.63 (1H, dd, J = 3.6, 1.5 Hz), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 3.6 Hz), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 0.6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.3, 76.0, 106.1, 112.0, 138.6, 154.3. EI-MS (m/z): 280 (M+2), 278 (M<sup>+</sup>), 174, 98, 97, 96, 88, 87, 74, 73, 51, 45. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1049, 1263, 1589, 2936, 3348. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 267.8735, found 267.8744 (one of the peaks).

#### 3.14. Compound 2n



Yield: 80% (264 mg, 0.80 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.52 (1H, s), 4.62 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.72 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.42-7.47 (3H, m), 7.79-7.82 (4H, m).

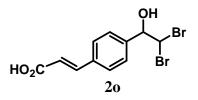
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 52.6, 80.0, 124.8, 126.4, 126.5, 127.8, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 132.9, 133.6, 134.0.

EI-MS (m/z): 330 (M+2), 328 (M<sup>+</sup>), 230, 229, 197, 169, 102, 101, 90, 89, 76, 75, 74, 63, 51.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1097, 1461, 1509, 2827, 2930, 3480.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 327.9098, found 327.9092 (one of the peaks)

#### 3.15. Compound 2o



Yield: 76% (266 mg, 0.76 mmol).

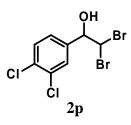
Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.68 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 5.99 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 6.99 (1H, t, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.24 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 3.3 Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J = 2.1Hz), 7.63-7.69 (1H, m), 7.97 (1H, d, J = 2.1), 10.95 (1H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 45.3, 75.7, 119.9, 127.7, 128.8, 129.8, 130.5, 133.0, 136.0, 152.6, 169.1.

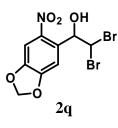
EI-MS (m/z): 350 (M+2), 348 (M<sup>+</sup>), 267, 212, 210, 209, 135, 133, 96, 77, 74, 73, 53, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 746, 1078, 1484, 2958, 3362. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 347.8997, found 347.8991 (one of the peaks).

## 3.16. Compound 2p



Yield: 69% (240 mg, 0.69 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.62 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 4.29 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.14 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz), 7.38 (1H, d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 7.45 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.8, 61.0, 118.2, 125.0, 127.7, 130.7, 133.2, 135.3. EI-MS (m/z): 347 (M+2), 345 (M<sup>+</sup>), 232, 199, 189, 161, 147, 75, 74, 73, 44, 43. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1137, 1485, 1745, 2928, 3265. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 345.8162, found 345.8156 (one of the peaks).

## 3.17. Compound 2q



Yield: 62% (228 mg, 0.62 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.65 (1H, brs), 4.60 (1H, d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 4.89 (1H, d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 6.16 (2H, s), 7.02 (1H, s), 7.68 (1H, s).

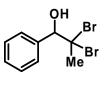
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.6, 74.4, 103.3, 105.5, 106.1, 129.4, 148.1, 153.0, 167.9.

EI-MS (m/z): 368 (M+2), 366 (M<sup>+</sup>), 269, 154, 108, 102, 95, 94, 44.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1228, 1496, 1746, 3006, 3387.

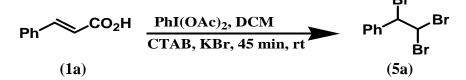
HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 366.8691, found 366.8688 (one of the peaks).

## 3.18. Compound 2r



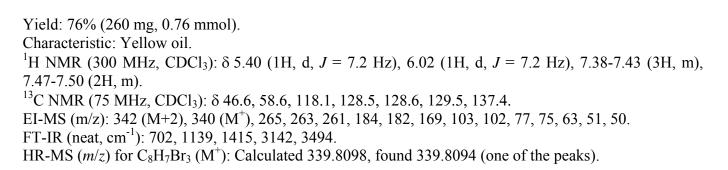
Yield: 61% (179 mg, 0.61 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.04 (3H, s), 4.56 (1H, s), 7.24-7.32 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 26.2, 68.1, 91.3, 125.8, 128.3, 129.0, 130.9, 140.6. EI-MS (m/z): 294 (M+2), 292 (M<sup>+</sup>), 227, 203, 202, 184, 98, 97, 84, 83, 51, 44, 43. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1263, 1526, 1603, 2788, 2930, 3304. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 291.9098, found 291.9094 (one of the peaks).

#### 4. Synthesis of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethybromide

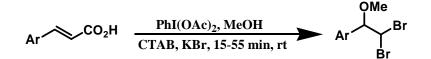


To a stirred solution of *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) in water (5 mL) CTAB (10 mmol%, 36 mg) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min and iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol) was added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at rt and the starting material was completely consumed after 45 min. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The post reaction mixture was washed successively with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, compound (1,2,2-tribromoethyl)-benzene (**5a**) was obtained after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:49, v/v) as an eluent in an yield of 76% (260 mg, 0.76 mmol). The  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)arylmethyl bromide was characterized by NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 5. Characterization data of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylbromide: 5.1. Compound 5a



#### 6. General procedure for synthesis of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)arylmethylmethylether



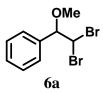
#### (1)

#### (6)

To a stirred solution of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid (1 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) CTAB (36 mg, 10 mmol%) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min followed by addition of iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol). Stirring was continued until the starting material was completely consumed. The reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). Solvent was removed in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). It was washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. Thus, the reaction with p-methoxy *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1g**, 178 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded 1-(2,2-dibromo-1-methoxy-ethyl)-4-methoxy-benzene (**6g**) after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:49, v/v) as an eluent in an yield of 92% (298 mg, 0.92 mmol). The  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dibromoethyl)arylmethylmethylether (**6a-q**) and  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dibromoethyl)arylmethylmethylether (**6a-q**) and  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dibromoethyl)arylmethylmethylether (**6r**) were characterized by means of NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 7. Characterization data of $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dibromoalkyl)arylmethylmethylether (6a-r)

7.1. Compound 6a



Yield: 90% (264 mg, 0.90 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.40 (3H, s), 4.52 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.69 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.39 (5H, s).

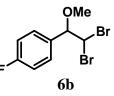
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.5, 58.0, 87.6, 127.9, 128.3, 129.0, 136.5.

EI-MS (m/z): 294 (M+2), 292(M<sup>+</sup>), 293, 261, 220, 137, 119, 106, 105, 91, 79, 77, 65, 55.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 709, 1099, 1643, 2916, 3416.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 291.9098, found 291.9096 (one of the peaks).

## 7.2. Compound 6b



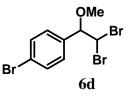
Yield: 89% (278 mg, 0.89 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.38 (3H, s), 4.50 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.66 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.08 (2H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.36-7.41 (2H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.1, 58.0, 86.8, 115.2, 115.5, 129.7, 129.8, 132.1, 161.4. EI-MS (m/z): 312 (M+2), 310 (M<sup>+</sup>), 139, 123, 109, 101, 95, 82, 80, 79, 57. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):1095, 1223, 1509, 1605, 2930. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>FO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 309.9004, found 309.9008 (one of the peaks).

## 7.3. Compound 6c



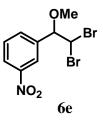
Yield: 83% (272 mg, 0.83 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.38 (3H, s), 5.35 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 5.96 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  46.2, 57.2, 86.7, 128.7, 130.0, 135.4, 135.7. EI-MS (m/z): 328 (M+2), 326 (M<sup>+</sup>), 232, 230, 153, 149, 116, 115, 90, 89, 88. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1090, 1141, 1495, 1560, 3334. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>ClO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 325.8709, found 325.8712 (one of the peaks).

## 7.4. Compound 6d



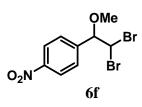
Yield: 84% (313 mg, 0.84 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.39 (3H, s), 4.48 (1H, d, *J*= 5.1 Hz), 5.65 (1H, d, *J*= 5.1 Hz), 7.28 (2H, d, *J*= 8.4 Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, *J*= 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  46.9, 58.1, 86.9, 123.1, 129.7, 131.5, 135.4. EI-MS (m/z): 372 (M+2), 370 (M<sup>+</sup>), 201, 199, 183, 118, 102, 93, 91,89,76,75,63,51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1101, 1484,1590, 2927, 3443. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 369.8203, found 369.8209 (one of the peaks).

## 7.5. Compound 6e



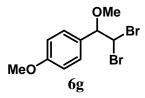
Yield: 73% (247 mg, 0.73 mmol). Characteristic:Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.99 (3H, s), 5.39 (1H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 5.78 (1H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 7.51-7.62 (1H, m), 7.99 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 8.13 (1H, t, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 8.55 (1H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.2, 58.3, 87.1, 122.9, 123.7, 129.7, 134.6, 136.5, 137.5. EI-MS (m/z): 339 (M+2), 337 (M<sup>+</sup>), 237, 235, 169, 168, 116, 115, 76, 75, 74, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1095, 1153, 1407, 1595, 3026. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 336.8949, found 336.8945 (one of the peaks).

## 7.6. Compound 6f



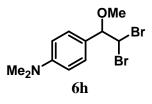
Yield: 72% (244 mg, 0.72 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.41 (3H, s), 4.87 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 6.10 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 7.83 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.24 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.8, 58.3, 88.2, 126.3, 126.5, 128.0, 128.5, 133.3, 137.3. EI-MS (m/z): 339 (M+2), 337 (M<sup>+</sup>), 255, 253, 178, 177, 101, 99, 76, 75, 74, 53, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1123, 1287, 1428, 1637, 3323. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 336.8949, found 336.8952 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.7. Compound 6g



Yield: 92% (298 mg, 0.92 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.37 (3H, s), 3.82 (3H, s), 4.47 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.65 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 6.91 (2H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.31 (2H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  48.1, 55.2, 57.8, 87.2, 113.7, 128.4, 129.2, 160.1. EI-MS (m/z): 324 (M+2), 322 (M<sup>+</sup>), 292, 152, 151, 136, 135, 90, 89,77, 63. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1093, 1247, 1510, 1608, 2831, 2931, 2997. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 321.9204, found 321.9208 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.8. Compound 6h

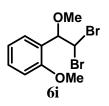


Yield: 85% (286 mg, 0.85 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.82 (6H, s), 3.39 (3H, s), 4.43 (1H, d, J = 5.1 Hz), 5.63 (1H, d, J = 5.1 Hz), 6.60 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.59 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  44.0, 47.4, 48.7, 58.1, 111.9, 120.0, 127.6, 129.0, 131.7, 133.4. EI-MS (m/z): 337 (M+2), 335 (M<sup>+</sup>), 208, 207, 133, 115, 77, 73, 72, 45, 44, 43. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 695, 1094, 1423, 2947, 3429, 3820. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 334.9520, found 334.9527 (one of the peaks).

## 7.9. Compound 6i



Yield: 90% (291 mg, 0.90 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.48 (3H, s), 3.85 (3H, s), 4.95 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 5.89 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 6.89 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.01(1H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.34 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.45 (1H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.4, 55.4, 58.6, 82.3, 110.3, 120.6, 125.0, 128.1, 129.7, 156.9. EI-MS (m/z): 324 (M+2), 322 (M<sup>+</sup>), 152, 151, 133, 131, 121, 105, 91, 89, 77, 63, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1122, 1251, 1466, 2938, 3414. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 321.9204, found 321.9201 (one of the peaks).

## 7.10. Compound 6j



Yield: 92% (322 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.50 (3H, s), 4.58 (2H, t, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 5.01 (1H, d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 5.32 (1H, d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 5.43 (1H, d, *J* = 17.5 Hz), 5.93 (1H, d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 5.99-6.12 (1H, m), 6.87 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.02 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.32 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.46 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz).

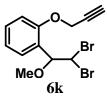
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.3, 58.6, 68.6, 82.3, 111.5, 117.3, 120.8, 125.3, 128.1, 129.6, 132.7, 155.9.

EI-MS (m/z): 350 (M+2), 348 (M<sup>+</sup>), 207, 177, 160, 115, 91, 82, 80, 77, 55, 51.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1454, 1487, 1600, 2829, 2930, 3078.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 347.9361, found 347.9369 (one of the peaks).

## 7.11. Compound 6k

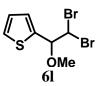


Yield: 91% (317 mg, 0.91 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

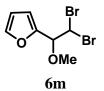
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.53 (1H, t, J = 2.4 Hz), 3.48 (3H, s), 4.75 (2H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 4.97 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz), 5.89 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz), 7.00-7.09 (2H, m), 7.32-7.38 (1H, m), 7.48 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.2, 56.0, 58.5, 76.0, 78.1, 82.0, 111.9, 121.5, 125.8, 128.3, 129.5, 154.9. EI-MS (m/z): 348 (M+2), 346 (M<sup>+</sup>), 176, 175, 145, 121, 91, 89, 77, 69, 63, 51,45. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1119, 1226, 1477, 2918, 3276. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 345.9204, found 345.9209 (one of the peaks).

## 7.12. Compound 6l



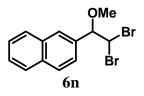
Yield: 79% (237 mg, 0.79 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.40 (3H, s), 5.10 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 6.01 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 6.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.6 Hz), 7.08 (1H, d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 7.27 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  48.2, 57.4, 86.9, 126.0, 126.5, 126.7, 126.9, 129.5, 140.8. EI-MS (m/z): 300 (M+2), 298 (M<sup>+</sup>), 204, 128, 127, 121, 120, 107, 106, 58, 51, 45. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1069, 1248, 1376, 2856, 2949, 3366. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 297.8663, found 297.8668 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.13. Compound 6m



Yield: 76% (216 mg, 0.76 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.39 (3H, s), 5.43 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.97 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 6.63 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.5 Hz), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 7.75 (1H, d, *J* = 0.6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  48.2, 56.9, 87.7, 106.1, 113.7, 139.6, 155.7. EI-MS (m/z): 284 (M+2), 282 (M<sup>+</sup>), 219, 218, 188, 187, 121, 97, 96, 84, 53. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1069, 1336, 1539, 2889, 3240. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 281.8891, found 281.8890 (one of the peaks).

## 7.14. Compound 6n



Yield: 76% (261 mg, 0.76 mmol).

Characteristic: White semi-solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.37 (3H, s), 4.62 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.72 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.42-7.47 (3H, m), 7.79-7.82 (4H, m).

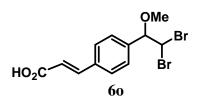
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.4, 58.1, 87.8, 124.8, 126.4, 126.5, 127.8, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 132.9, 133.6, 134.0.

EI-MS (m/z): 344 (M+2), 342 (M<sup>+</sup>), 184, 172, 171, 152, 141, 128, 127, 77, 76.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1097, 1461, 1508, 2827, 2929, 3056.

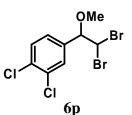
HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 341.9255, found 341.9258 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.15. Compound 6o



Yield: 75% (273 mg, 0.75 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.38 (3H, s), 4.49 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 5.66 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 6.81 (1H, d, *J* = 14.1 Hz), 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.33 (4H, q, *J* = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.1, 58.0, 87.2, 116.3, 126.0, 128.4, 136.5, 144.7, 170.5. EI-MS (m/z): 364 (M+2), 362 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 227, 225, 209, 207, 115, 102, 96, 77, 76, 73, 63, 51. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1069, 1594, 2927, 3420. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 361.9153, found 361.9154 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.16. Compound 6p

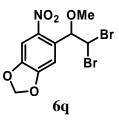


Yield: 70% (254 mg, 0.70 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.46 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz), 3.84 (3H, s), 4.07 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz), 7.14 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz), 7.38 (1H, d, J = 2.1 Hz), 7.45 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  52.7, 56.5, 56.6, 118.1, 125.0, 127.7, 130.7, 133.2, 135.2. EI-MS (m/z): 361 (M+2), 359 (M<sup>+</sup>), 246, 201, 199, 191, 189, 161, 159, 125, 123, 75, 74, 73, 44, 32, 28. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1215, 1334, 1449, 1754, 2924, 3036, 3478. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 359.8319, found 359.8311(one of the peaks).

#### 7.17. Compound 6q



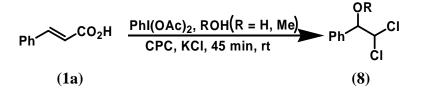
Yield: 66% (253 mg, 0.66 mmol). Characteristic: Brown oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.36 (1H, d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s), 4.65 (1H, d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 6.16 (2H, s), 7.00 (1H, s), 7.68 (1H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 52.8, 55.5, 56.6, 103.3, 105.5, 106.1, 129.4, 148.1, 153.0, 167.9. EI-MS (m/z): 382 (M+2), 380 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 207, 135, 119, 105, 96, 94, 79, 52, 44, 32, 28. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1330, 1524, 1614, 1749, 2918, 3122. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 380.8852, found 380.8847 (one of the peaks).

#### 7.18. Compound 6r



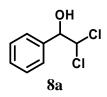
Yield: 60% (184 mg, 0.60 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.03 (3H, s), 3.27 (3H, s), 5.10 (1H, s), 7.24-7.32 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  26.1, 53.3, 67.5, 94.3, 125.8, 128.3, 129.0, 130.9, 140.6. EI-MS (m/z): 308 (M+2), 306 (M<sup>+</sup>), 207, 148, 105, 103, 90, 89, 77, 44, 43, 40, 32, 29, 28, 27. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1282, 1454, 1726, 2852, 2924, 3399. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 305.9255, found 305.9260 (one of the peaks).

#### 8. Synthesis of α,α-(dichloromethyl)phenylmethylalcohol and methylether



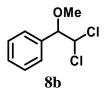
To a stirred solution of *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) in water or methanol (5 mL) cetyl pyridinium chloride (CPC) (10 mmol%, 26 mg) and KCl (150 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min and iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol) was added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at rt and the starting material was completely consumed after 45 min. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). Solvent was removed in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature in case of methanol. The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). It was washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. Thus, compound  $\alpha$ . $\alpha$ -(dichloromethyl)phenylmethylmethylether (8b) was obtained after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether eluent in an vield of 74% (152 mg, 0.74 (1:9. v/v) as an mmol). The  $\alpha.\alpha$ -(dichloromethyl)phenylmethylalcohol (8a) and methylether (8b) was characterized by NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

9. Characterization data of  $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -(dichloromethyl)phenylmethylalcohol and methylether (8a-b) 9.1. Compound 8a



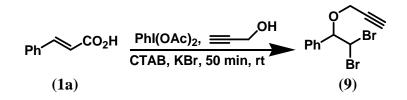
Yield: 60% (115 mg, 0.60 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.40 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 5.04 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.35-7.43 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  55.0, 73.3, 126.9, 128.5, 128.8, 138.7. EI-MS (m/z): 190 (M<sup>+</sup>), 185, 125, 92, 75, 51, 48, 32, 27. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1025,1500, 1728, 2928, 3500. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 189.9952, found 189.9957 (one of the peaks).

## 9.2. Compound 8b



Yield: 74% (152 mg, 0.74 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.78 (3H, s), 4.40 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 5.04 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.37-7.41 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  53.1, 59.0, 75.3, 126.9, 128.5, 128.8, 138.7. EI-MS (m/z): 206 (M+2), 204 (M<sup>+</sup>), 196, 161, 108, 107, 105, 79, 77, 51, 32, 28. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1019, 1438, 1746, 2926, 3463. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 204.0109, found 204.0112 (one of the peaks).

## 10. Synthesis of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylpropergylether



To a stirred solution of *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) in propergyl alcohol (5 mL) CTAB (36 mg, 10 mmol%) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min followed by addition of iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol). Stirring was continued until the starting material was completely consumed. The reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2

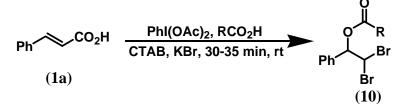
x15 mL) and washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and of brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. Thus, compound  $\alpha,\alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylpropergylether (9) was obtained after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:13, v/v) as an eluent in an yield of 62% (197 mg, 0.62 mmol). The  $\alpha,\alpha$ -(dichloromethyl)phenylmethylether was characterized by NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 11. Characterization data of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylpropergylether 11.1. Compound 9



Yield: 62% (197 mg, 0.62 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.90 (1H, t, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 3.72- 3.77 (2H, m), 4.36 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 4.82 (1H, d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 7.30-7.43 (5H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.6, 56.0, 76.3, 78.4, 82.0, 127.7, 128.6, 130.0, 136.3. EI-MS (m/z): 318 (M+2), 316 (M<sup>+</sup>), 310, 207, 195, 179, 178, 147, 103, 96, 59, 58, 45, 44, 32, 28. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1371, 1462, 1617, 1743, 2850, 2919, 3302. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 315.9104, found 315.9098 (one of the peaks).

## 12. General procedure for synthesis of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylester



To a stirred solution of *trans*-cinnamic acid (1a, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) in carboxylic acid (acetic acid and L-lactic acid) (5 mL) CTAB (36 mg, 10 mmol%) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min followed by addition of iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol). Stirring was continued until the starting material was completely consumed. The reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). It was washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution till effervescence ceased and brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure. Thus, the reaction with *trans*-cinnamic acid (1a, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) in acetic acid afforded  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylacetate (10a). After purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:9, v/v) as an eluent in an yield of 78% (251 mg, 0.78  $\alpha$ . $\alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylacetate The (10a)and mmol).  $\alpha \cdot \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethyllactate (10b) were characterized by means of NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 13. Characterization data of $\alpha, \alpha$ -(dibromomethyl)phenylmethylester (10a-b)

13.1. Compound 10a



Yield: 78% (251 mg, 0.78 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.19 (3H, s), 5.82 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 6.17 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 7.38-7.44 (5H, s).

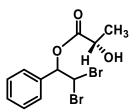
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 20.8, 45.5, 78.3, 127.7, 128.4, 129.3, 133.5, 169.2.

EI-MS (m/z): 321 (M+2), 319 (M<sup>+</sup>), 198, 182, 161, 149, 107, 103, 79, 77, 51, 43.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1024, 1219,1372, 1748, 2928, 3034, 3482.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 319.9048, found 319.9045 (one of the peaks).

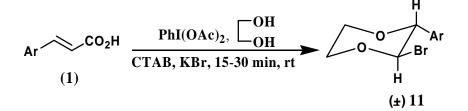
## 13.2. Compound 10b



10b (mixture of two diastereomers, dr= 1:1)

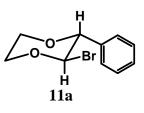
Yield: 81% (285 mg, 0.81 mmol). Characteristic: Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.48 (3H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz ), 1.59 (3H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz ), 4.40 (1H, q, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.49 (1H, q, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 5.80-5.84 (1H, m), 6.20-6.24 (1H, m), 7.41 (5H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  20.1, 20.5, 44.7, 44.8, 66.7, 66.9, 79.3, 79.4, 127.4, 127.5, 128.6, 129.6, 134.9, 173.8, 174.0. EI-MS (m/z): 351 (M+2), 349 (M<sup>+</sup>), 263, 184, 151, 107, 103, 102, 77, 76, 51, 45, 44, 32, 28. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1125, 1496, 1748, 2851, 2925, 3433. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 349.9153, found 349.9144 (one of the peaks).

## 14. General procedure for stereoselective synthesis of bromo-1,4-dioxane



To a stirred solution of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid (1 mmol) in ethylene glycol (5 mL) CTAB (36 mg, 10 mmol%) and KBr (240 mg, 2 mmol) were added. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min and iodosobenzene diacetate (644 mg, 2 mmol) was added. The content of the reaction mixture was stirred until the starting material was completely consumed. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). The post reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 x15 mL) and washed successively with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and of brine (1 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, the reaction with *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**, 148 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded 2-bromo-3-phenyl-1,4-dioxane (**11a**) after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1: 9, v/v) as an eluent in an isolated yield of 90% (218 mg, 0.90 mmol). The bromo-1,4-dioxane (**11a-f**) were characterized by means of NMR (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), FT-IR and Mass (EI-MS and HR-MS) spectral analysis.

## 15. Characterization data of bromo-1,4-dioxane (11a-f) 15.1. Compound 11a



Yield: 90% (218 mg, 0.90 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.59-3.70 (2H, m), 3.81 (2H, t, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 4.72 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.74 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.42 (5H, s).

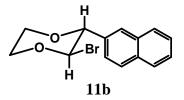
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.9, 61.7, 71.6, 86.3, 127.8, 128.5, 129.2, 136.6.

EI-MS (m/z): 244 (M+2), 242 (M<sup>+</sup>), 184, 182, 152, 151, 107, 103, 102, 91, 79, 77, 73, 51.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 583, 695, 1087, 2908, 3396.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 241.9942, found 241.9939 (one of the peaks).

## 15.2. Compound 11b



Yield: 88% (257 mg, 0.88 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.59-3.71 (2H, m), 3.81 (2H, t, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 4.85 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 5.81 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 7.48-7.55 (3H, m), 7.85-7.89 (4H, m).

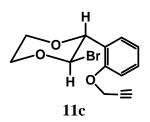
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.7, 61.7, 71.6, 86.5, 124.5, 126.5, 126.7, 127.8, 128.1, 128.5, 132.9, 133.6, 134.0.

EI-MS (m/z): 294 (M+2), 292 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 207, 195, 160, 133, 96, 77, 73, 44, 43.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 871, 1092, 1391, 2922, 3394, 3790.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 292.0099, found 292.0107 (one of the peaks).

## 15.3. Compound 11c



Yield: 90% (267 mg, 0.90 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

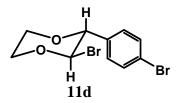
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.54 (1H, t, J = 2.4 Hz), 3.59-3.65 (1H, m), 3.71-3.78 (1H, m), 3.80-3.84 (2H, m), 4.76 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 5.12 (1H, d, J = 3.3 Hz), 5.93 (1H, d, J = 3.3 Hz), 7.00-7.08 (2H, m), 7.32-7.37 (1H, m), 7.48 (1H, d, J = 6.3 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.5, 56.0, 61.7, 71.8, 78.0, 80.6, 112.0, 121.7, 125.9, 128.4, 129.8, 154.7. EI-MS (m/z): 298 (M+2), 296 (M<sup>+</sup>), 207, 205, 161, 128, 121, 118, 105, 89, 77, 63, 51, 45, 44, 43.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 656, 1072, 1234, 1466, 2916, 3293, 3694.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 296.0048, found 296.0049 (one of the peaks).

#### 15.4. Compound 11d



Yield: 85% (274 mg, 0.85 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.55-3.66 (2H, m), 3.78 (2H, t, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 4.65 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.67 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.53 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz).

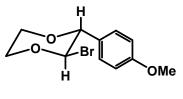
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 47.0, 61.6, 71.6, 85.6, 129.5, 131.7, 135.6.

EI-MS (m/z): 322 (M+2), 320 (M<sup>+</sup>), 281, 231, 207, 195, 185, 167, 160, 102, 77, 75, 51, 45, 44, 43.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 727, 1079, 1412, 2926, 3429.

HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 319.9048, found 319.9043 (one of the peaks).

#### **15.5. Compound 11e**



11e

Yield: 92% (251 mg, 0.92 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

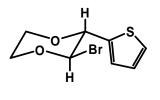
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.55-3.61 (2H, m), 3.76 (2H, t, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 3.81 (3H, s), 4.63 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 5.67 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 6.91 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.31 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 48.4, 55.3, 61.6, 71.3, 85.8, 113.9, 128.5, 129.0, 160.1.

EI-MS (m/z): 274 (M+2), 272 (M<sup>+</sup>), 212, 195, 182, 181, 137, 121, 90, 89, 77, 63, 45, 44.

FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1082, 1250, 2927, 3401, 3838. HR-MS (m/z) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 272.0048, found 272.0041 (one of the peaks).

## 15.6. Compound 11f



11f

Yield: 88% (219 mg, 0.88 mmole).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

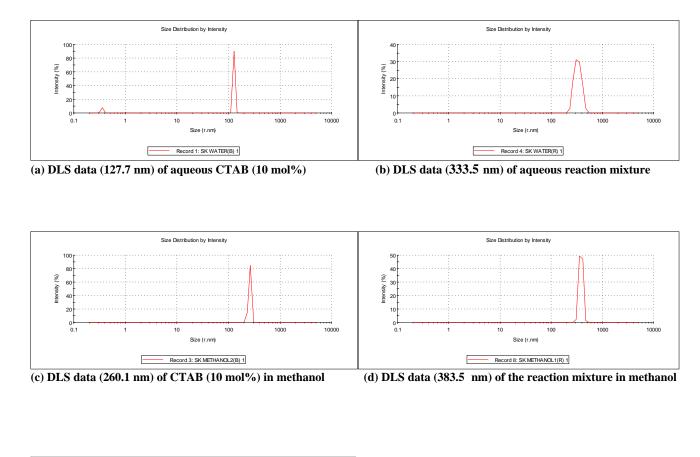
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.63-3.69 (2H, m), 3.77 (2H, t, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 4.94 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.74 (1H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 7.02 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.6 Hz), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 7.36 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 0.9 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  47.4, 61.6, 71.7, 82.4, 126.7, 128.1, 129.4, 139.4. EI-MS (m/z): 250 (M+2), 248 (M<sup>+</sup>), 190, 188, 157, 113, 109, 108, 97, 85, 82, 69, 65, 63, 58, 51, 45. FT-IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 701, 1083, 1581, 2920, 3382, 3845. HR-MS (*m*/*z*) for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 247.9507, found 247.9509 (one of the peaks).

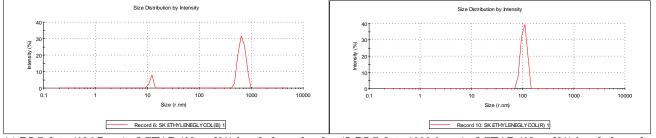
## 16. DLS study of the reaction mixture in protic solvent

Above the CMC concencentration, suitable surfactants can generate an organized media in water or other protic organic solvents like methanol, ethanol etc. Inside of the surfactant-assembled spherical micelle is sufficiently lipophilic in nature and makes both organic substrates and reagents soluble. It was confirmed by DLS (Dynamic Light Scattering) experiment of the solutions containg surfactant and solvent as well as the reaction mixture. Large enhancement of the size of CTAB-assembled nanoreactor in water (127.7 nm), methanol 260.1) and ethylene glycol (106.7) were observed after the addition of organic Lewis acid-like oxidant PhI(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, the precursor *trans*-cinnamic acid (**1a**) and KBr. The radii of the nanoreactors in the reaction mixtures became 333.5 nm (water), 383.5 nm (methanol) and 666.6 nm (ethylene glycol) (Figure 1). Interestingly, size of the nanoreactors were also increased from water to ethylene glycols.

Composition	Water medium R (width) nm	Methanol medium R (width) nm	Ethylene glycol medium R (width) nm
Solvent + CTAB	127.7 (9.43)	260.1 (13.01)	106.7 (13.63)
Solvent + CTAB + <i>trans</i> -cinnamic acid + PhI(OAc) <sub>2</sub> + KBr	333.5 (55.30)	383.5 (31.76)	666.6 (98.79)

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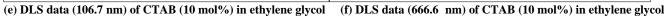
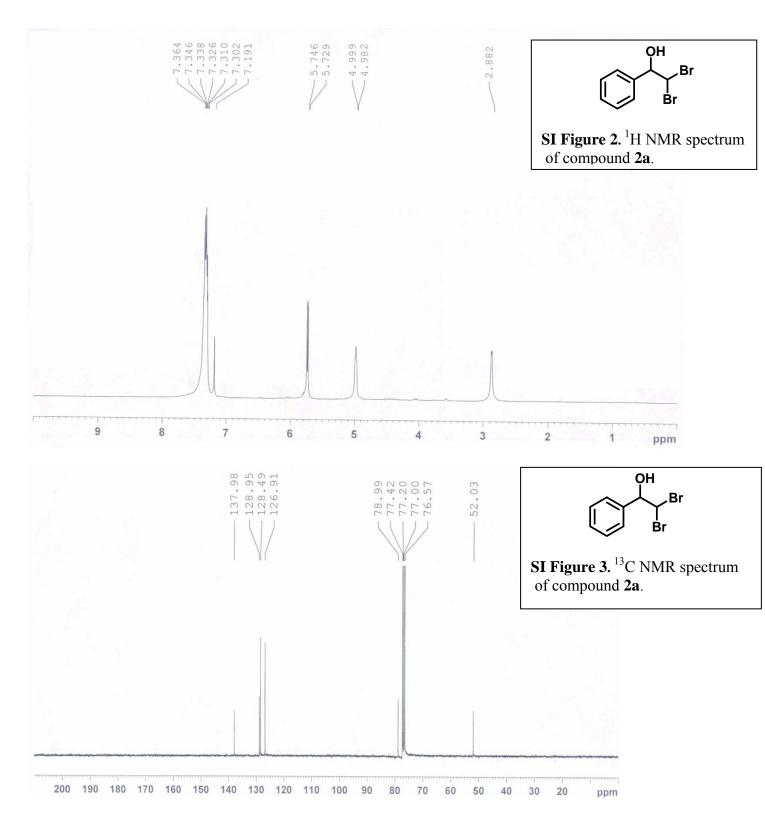
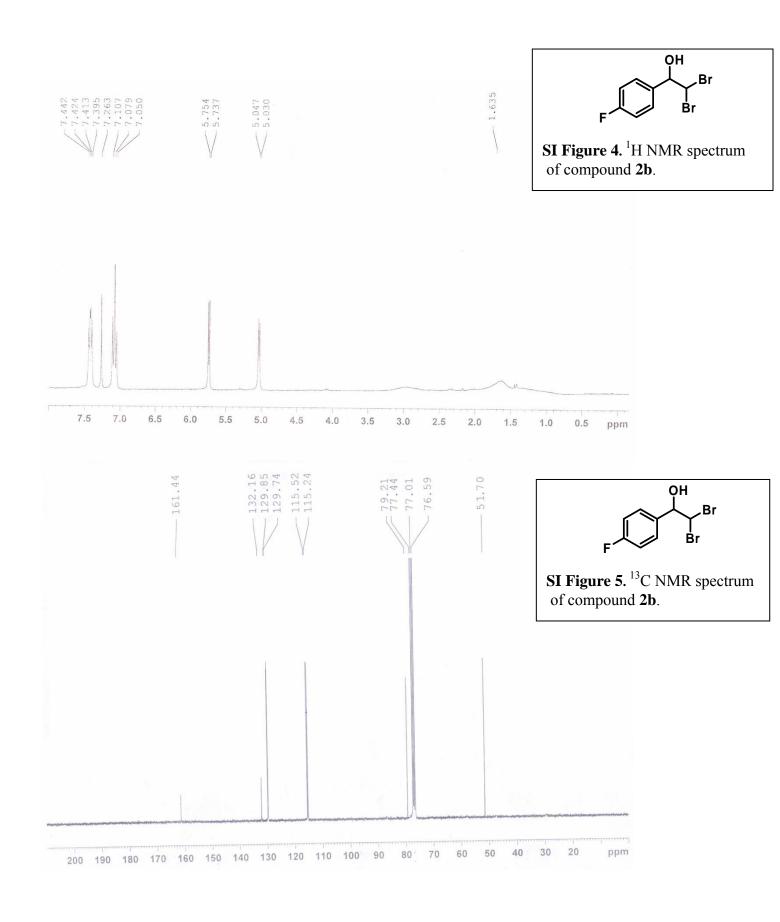
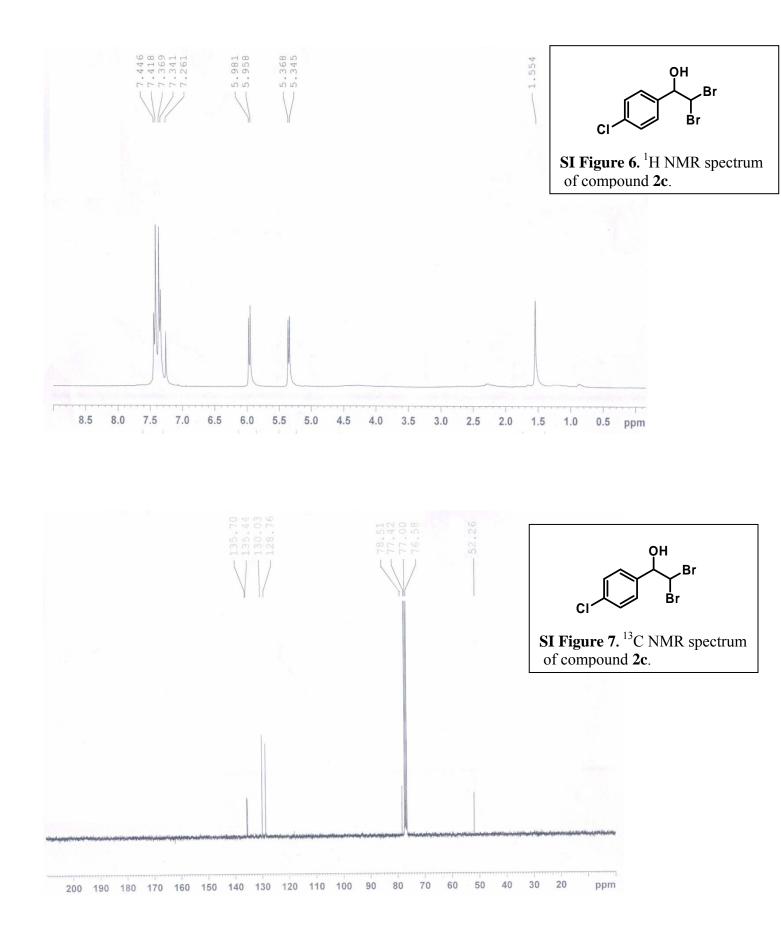


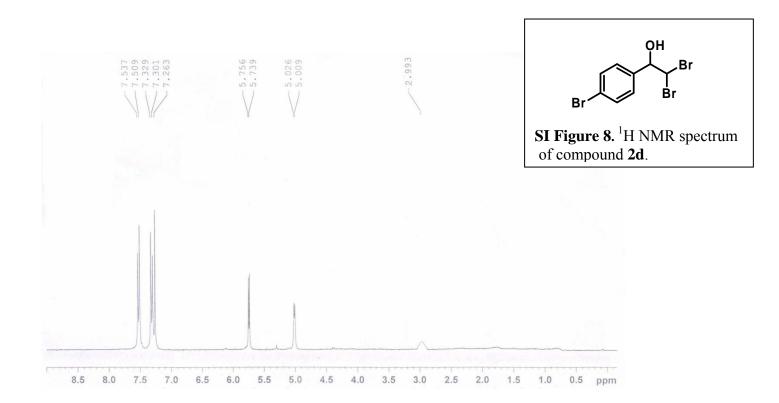
Figure 1: DLS data

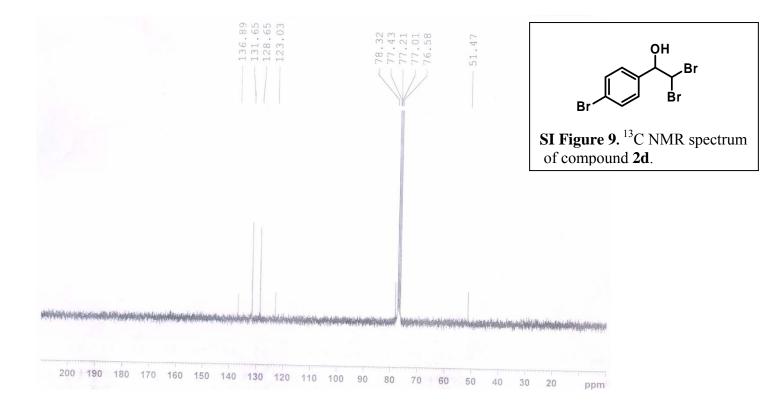


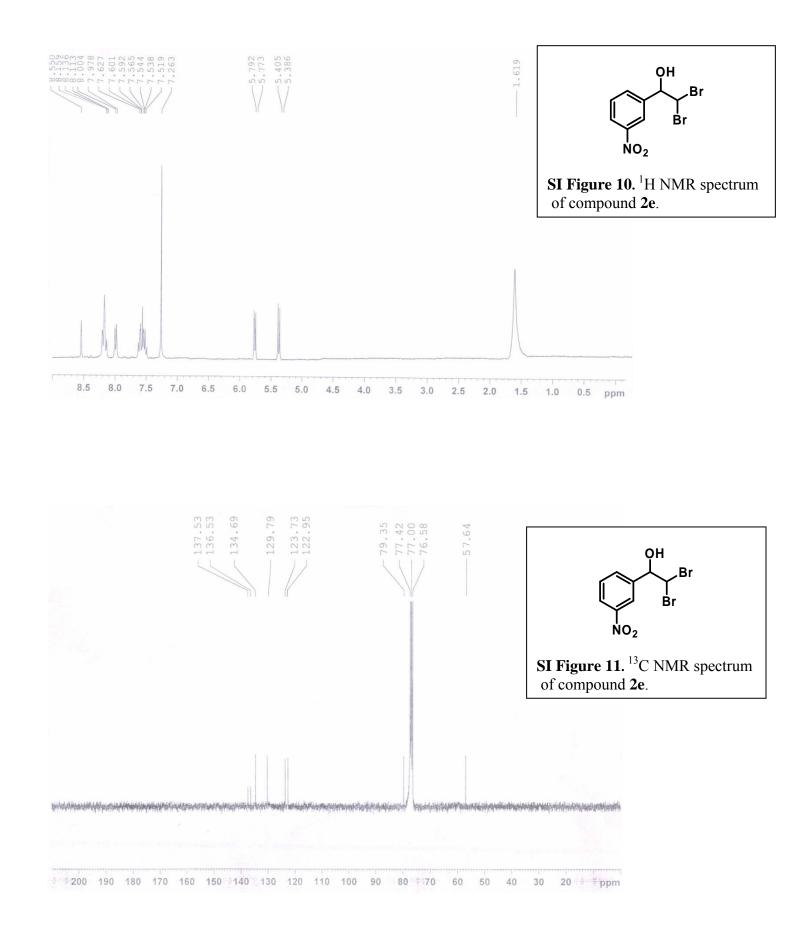


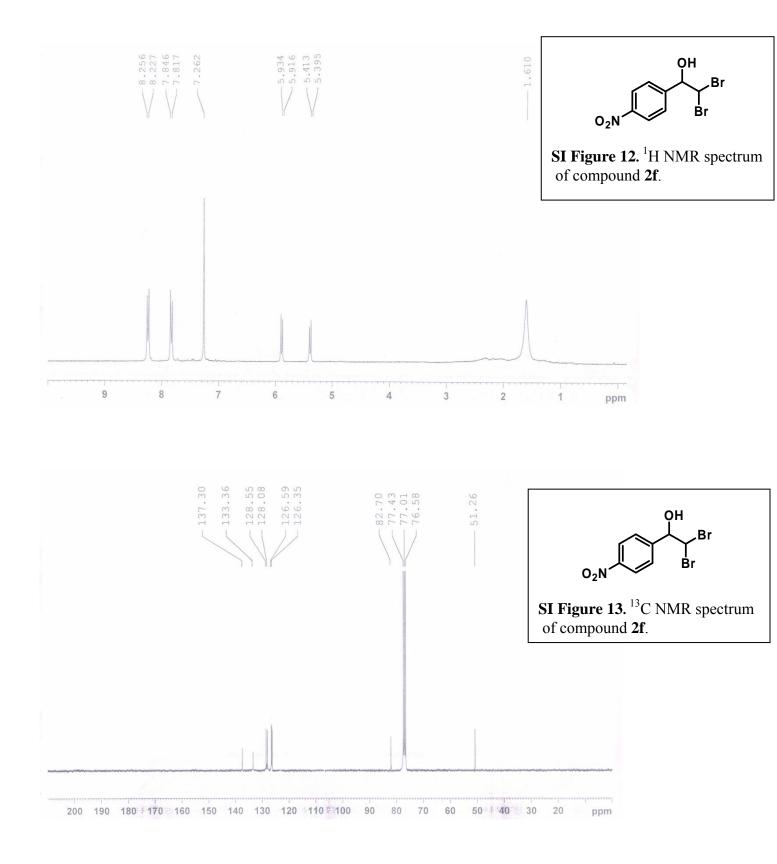




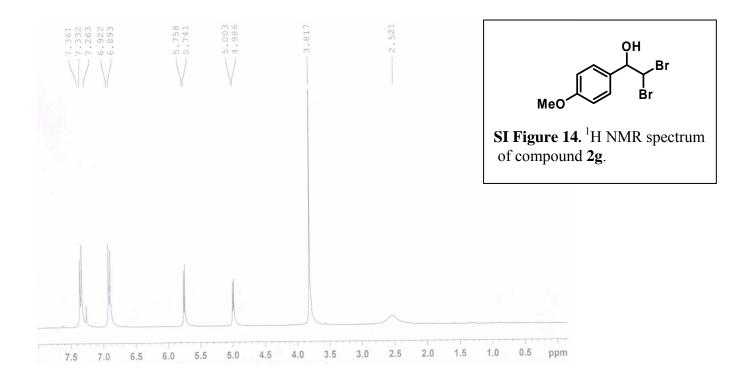


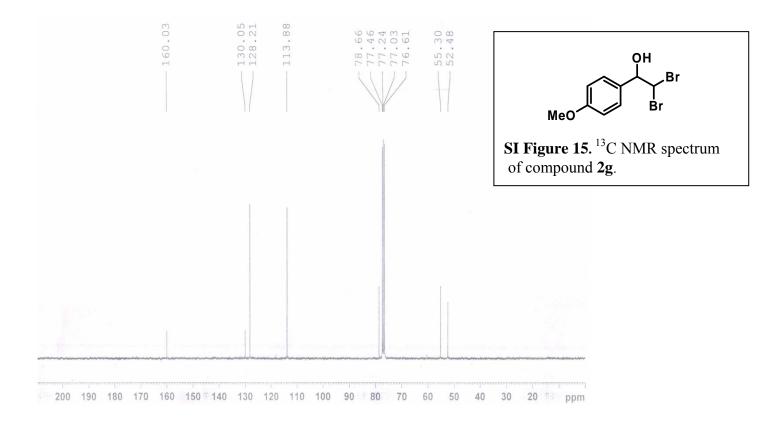


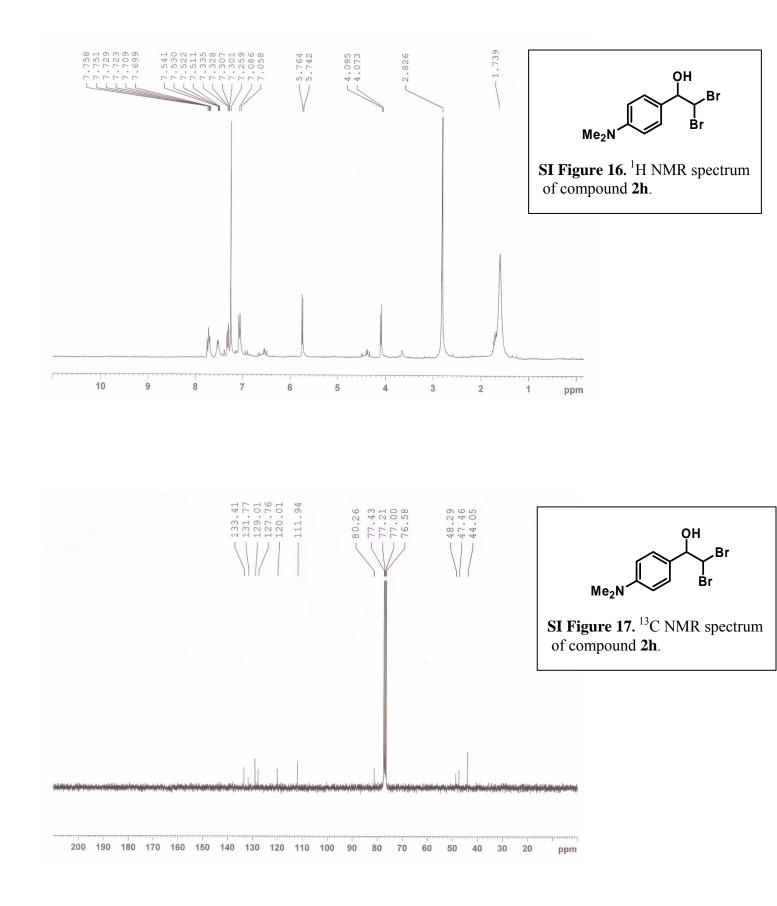


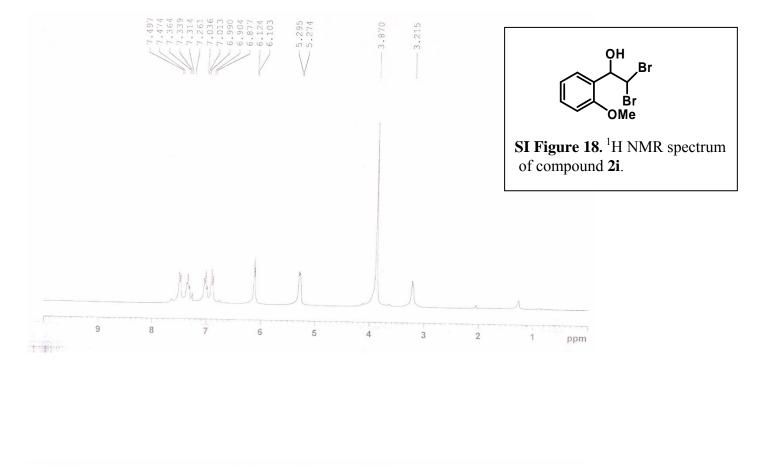


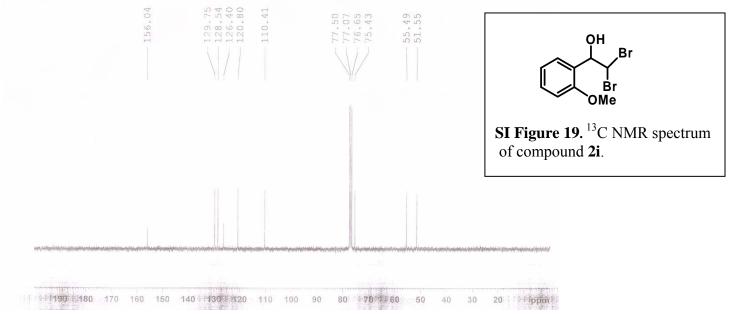
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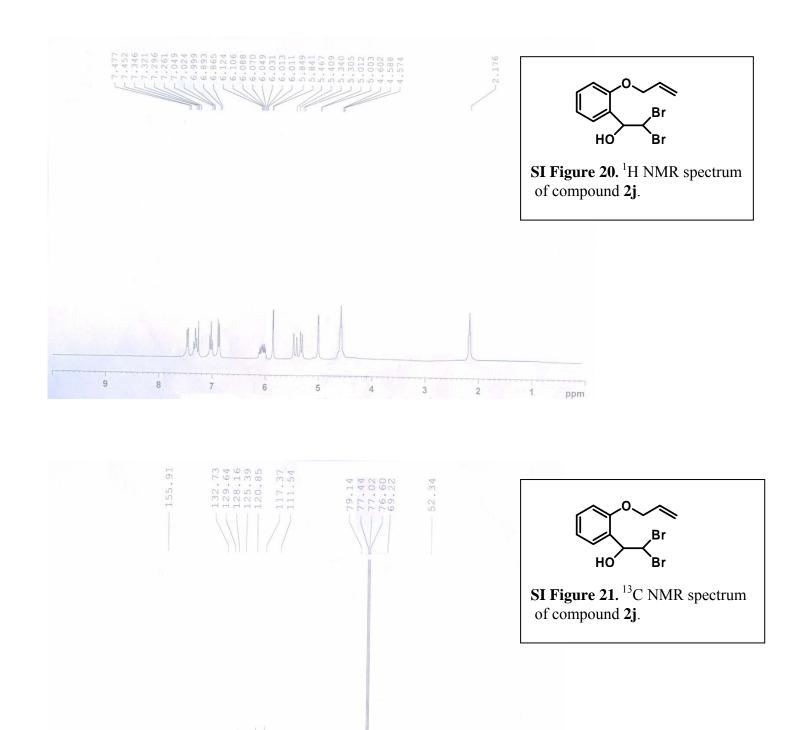








190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90



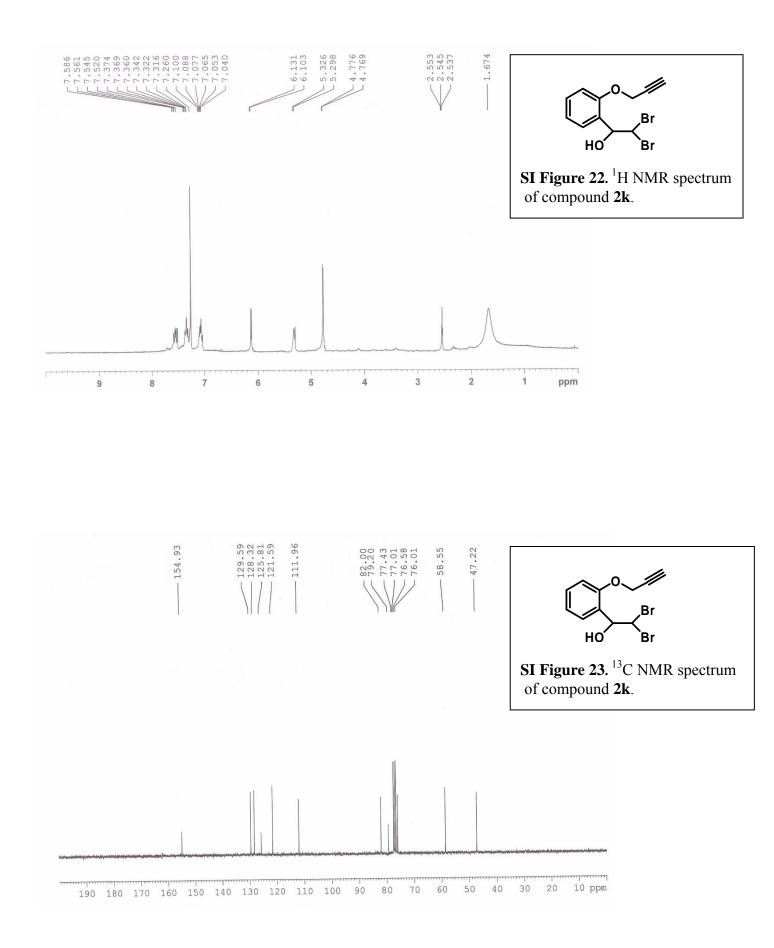
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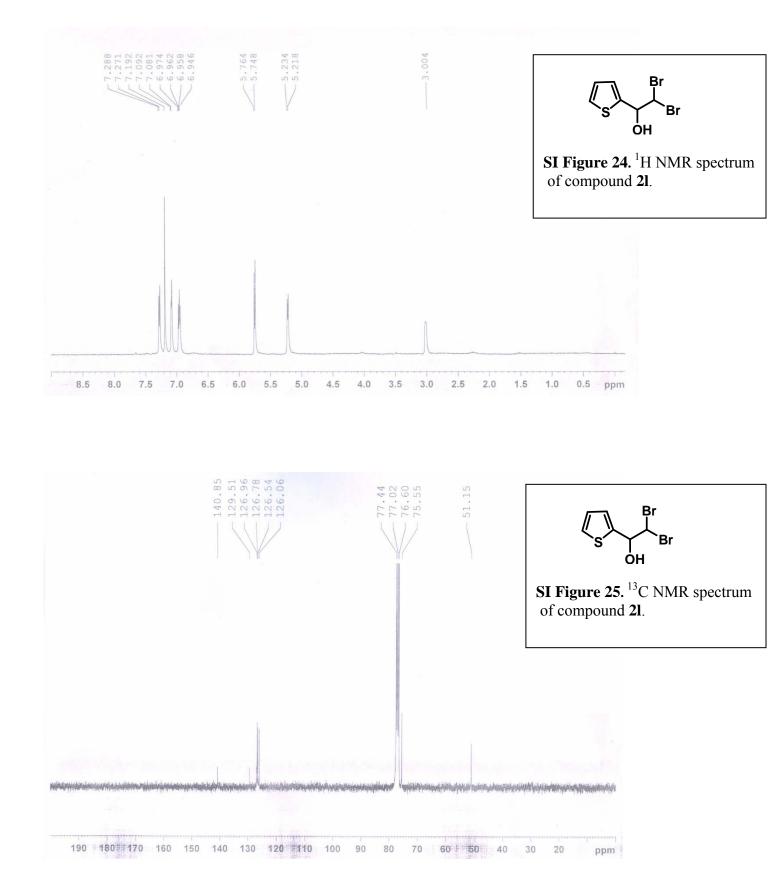
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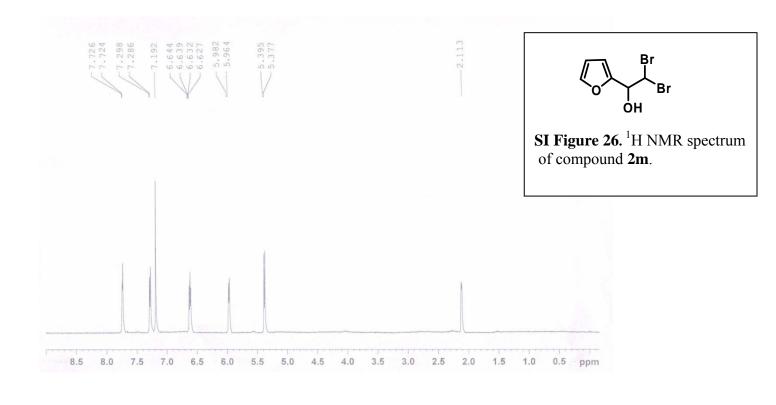
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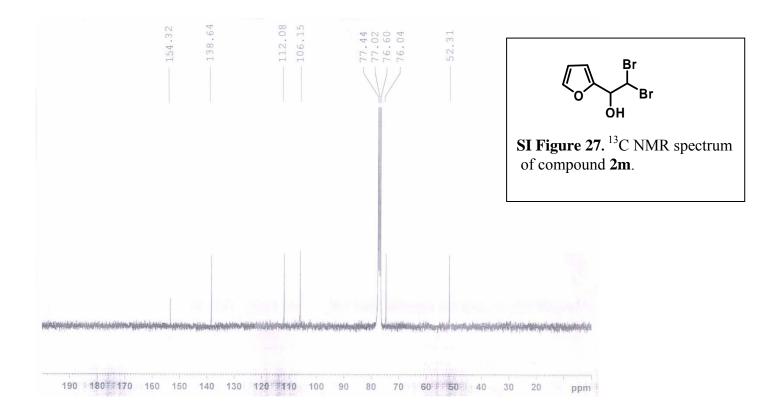
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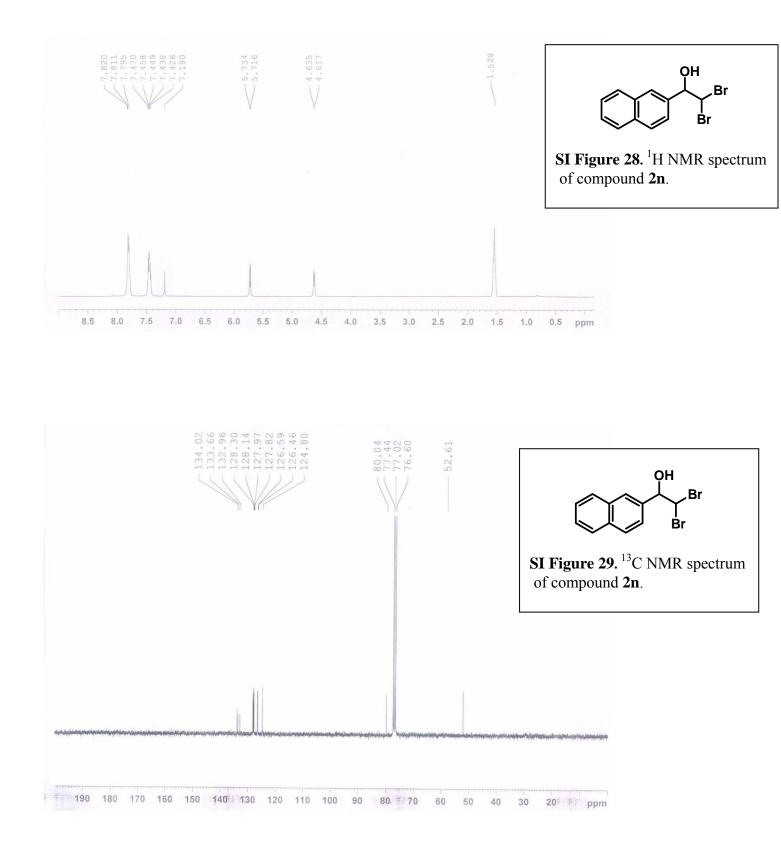
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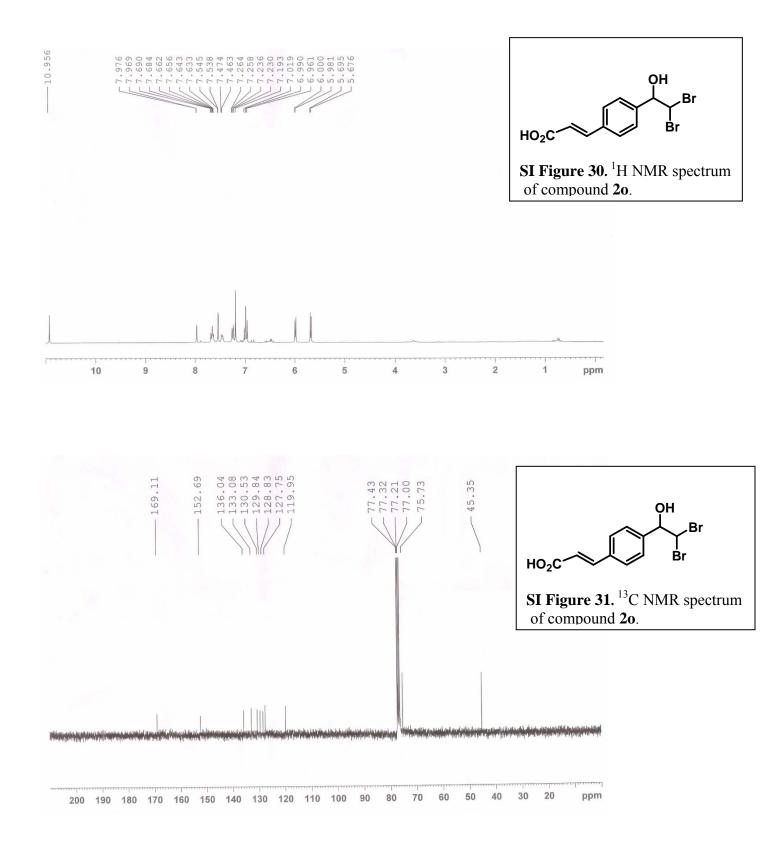


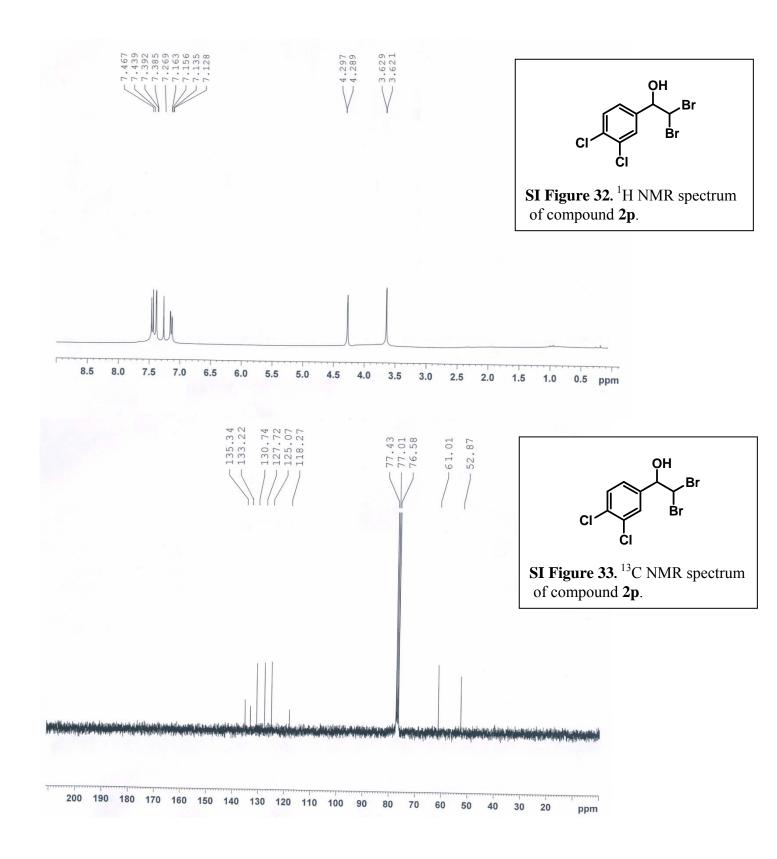


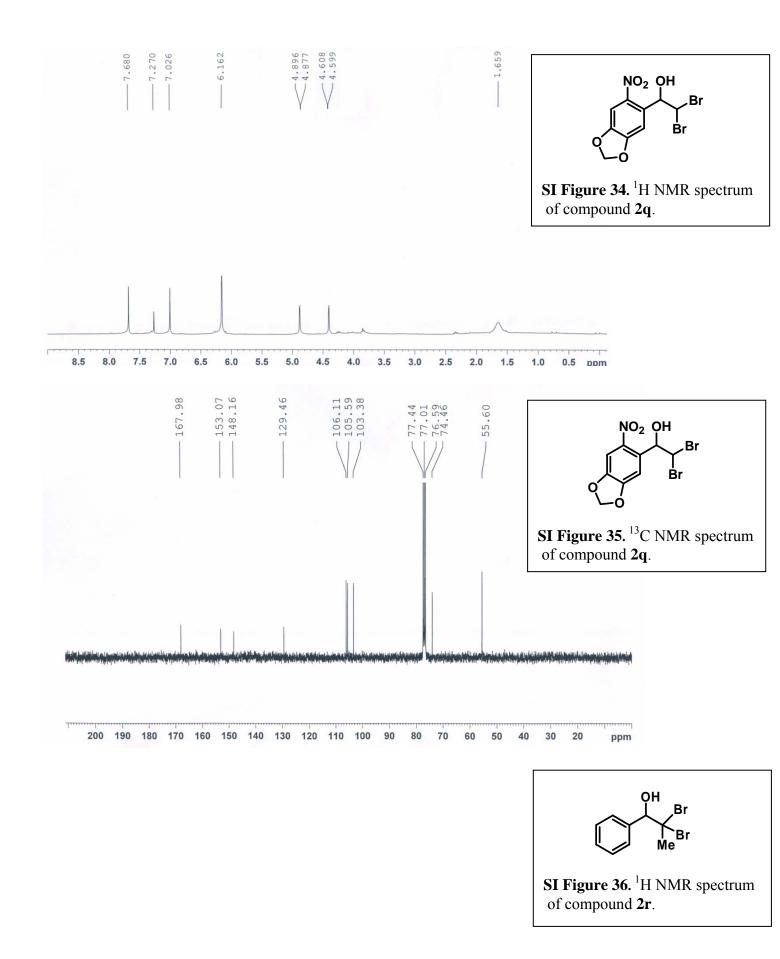




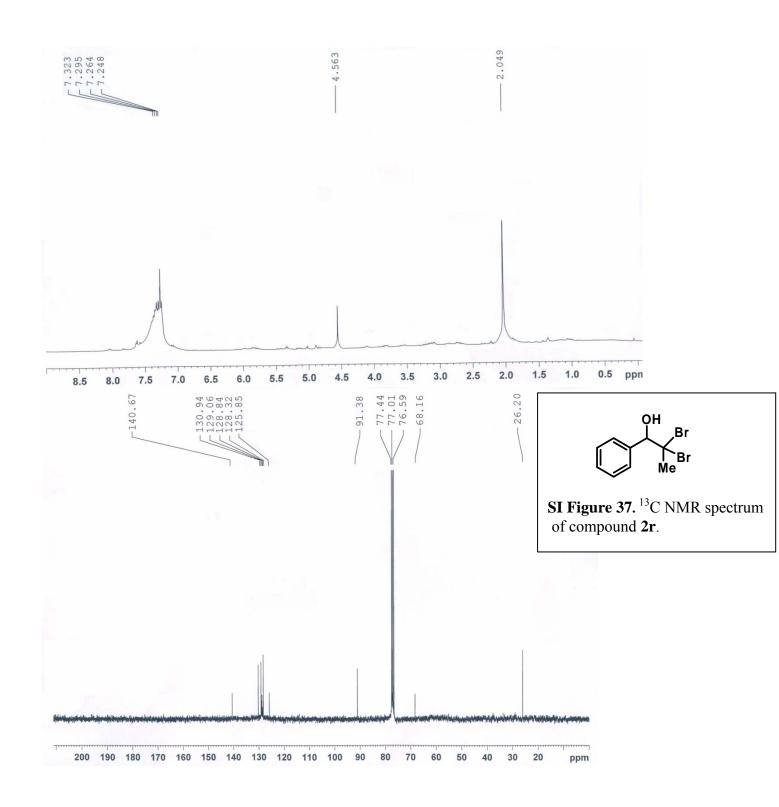




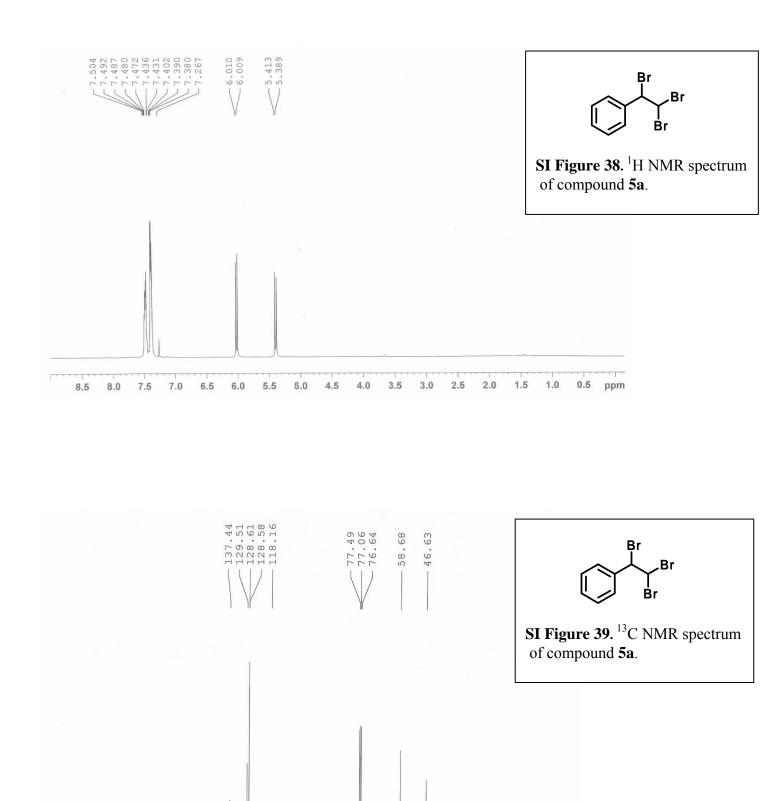


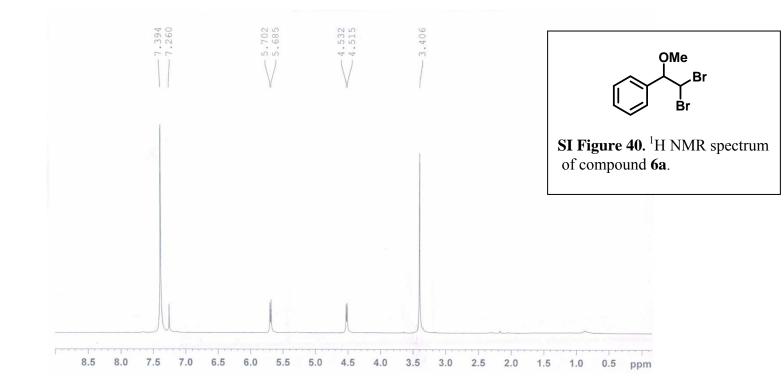


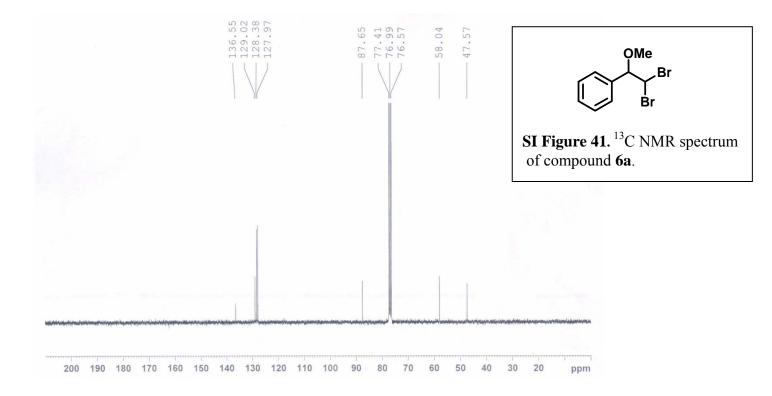
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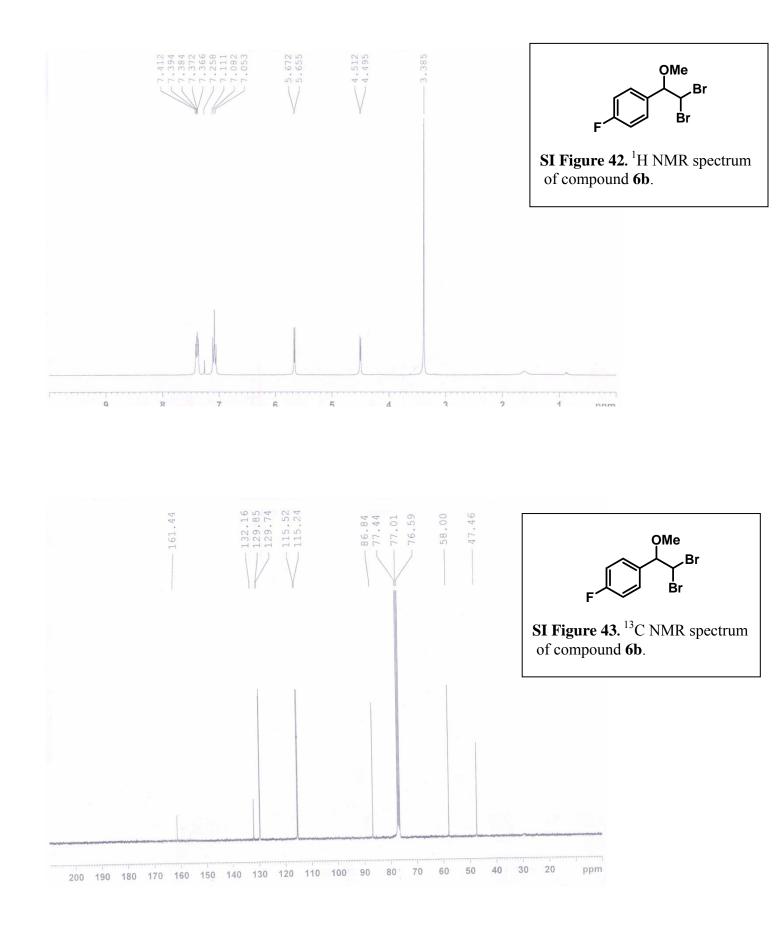


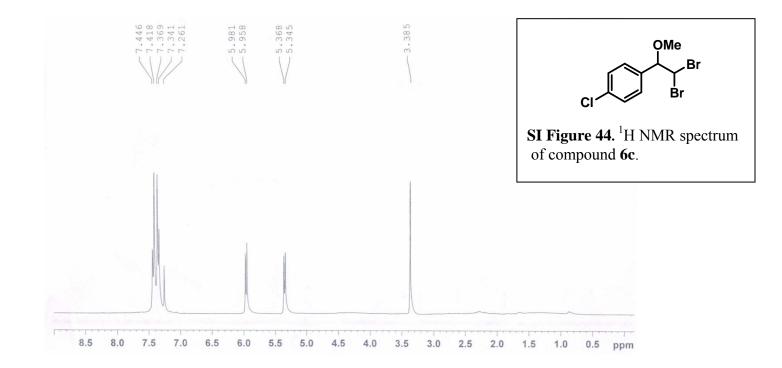
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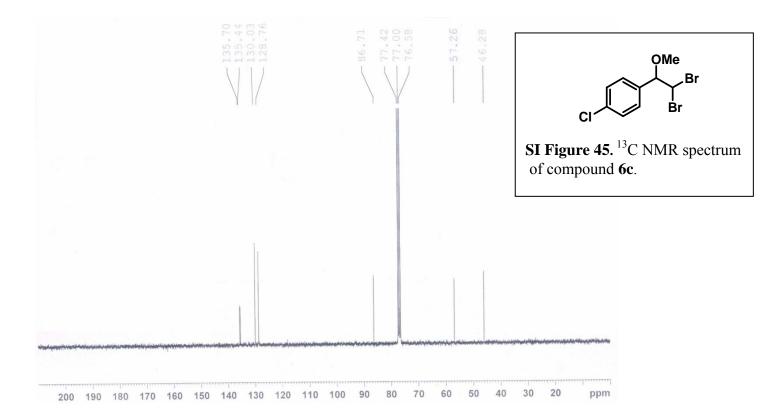






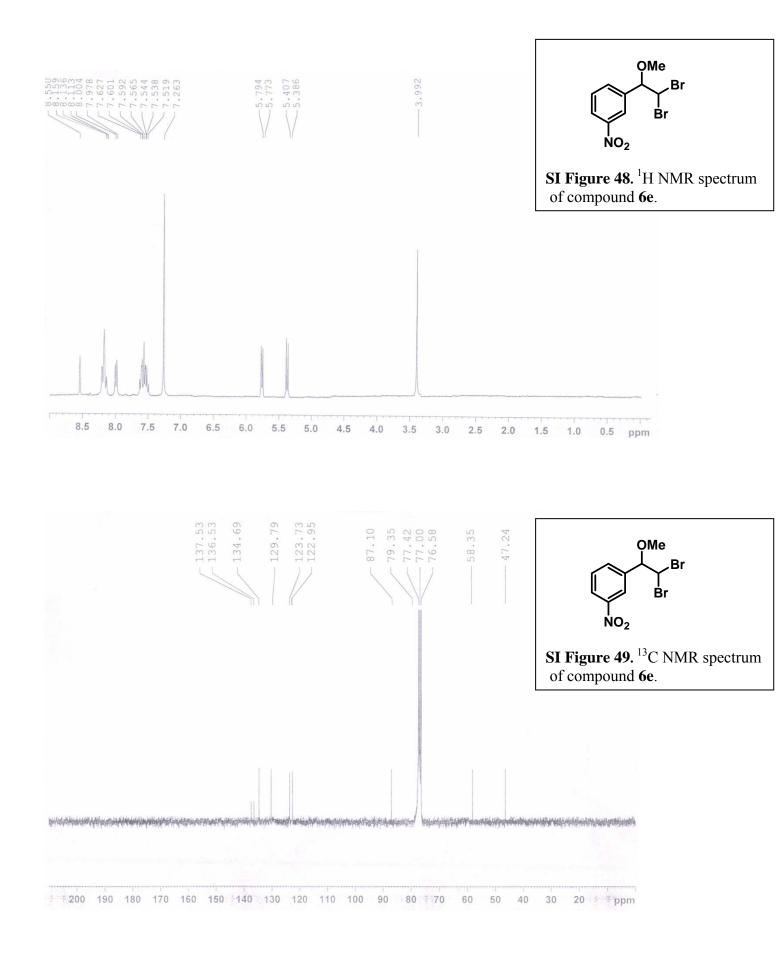


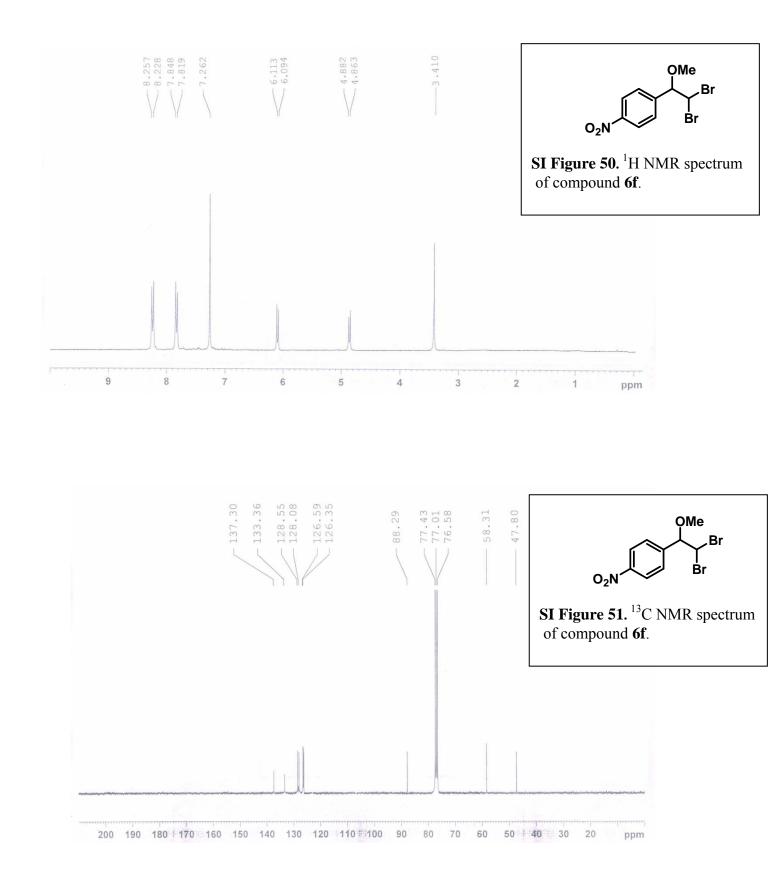


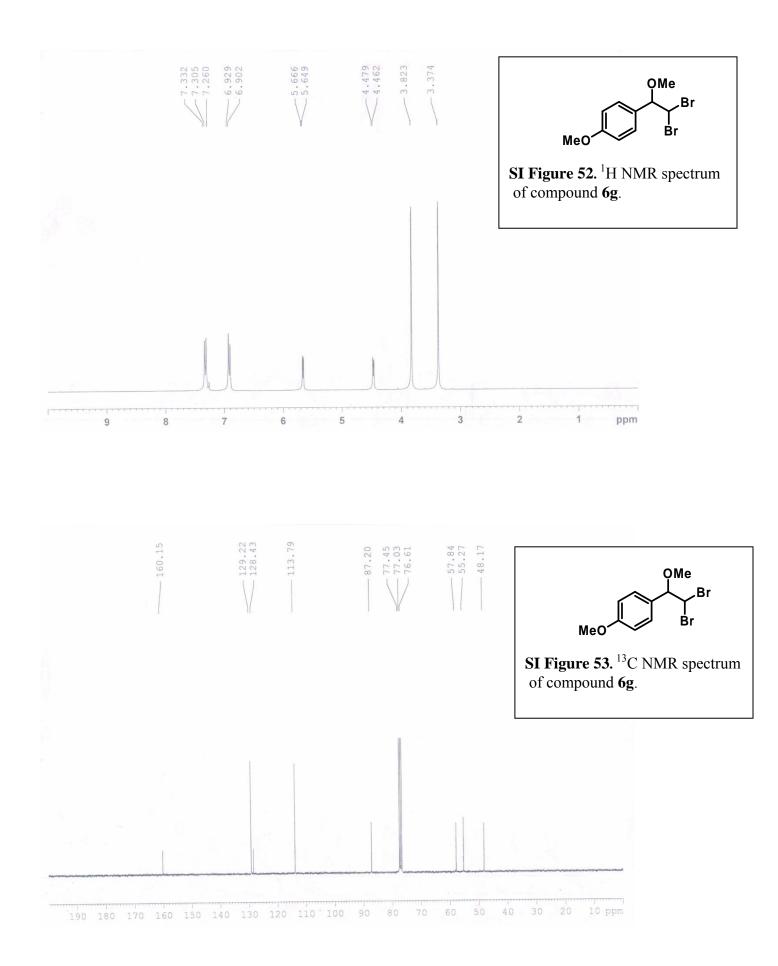


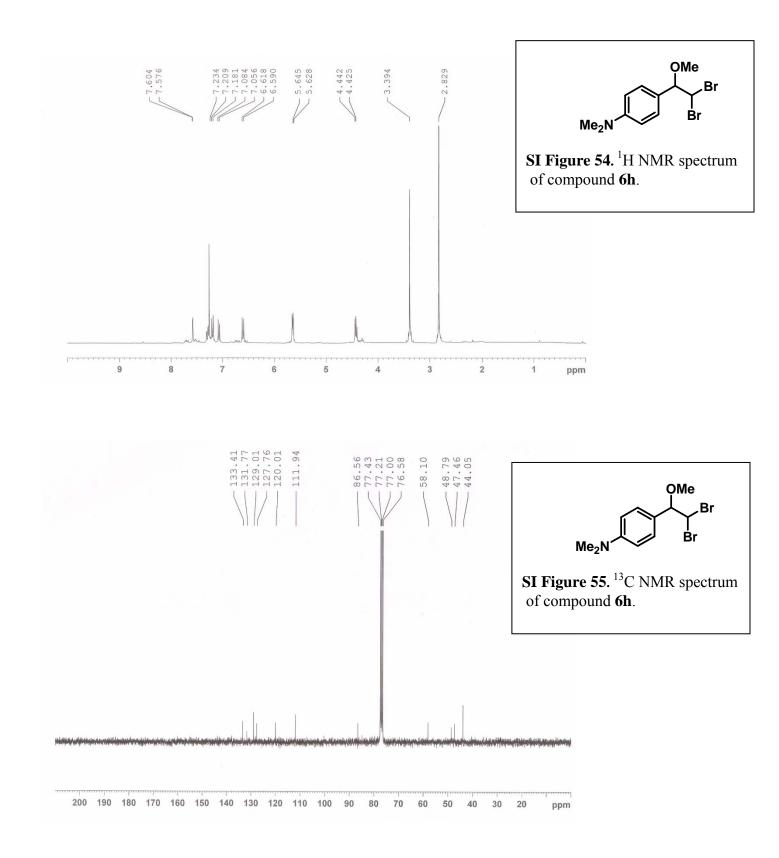


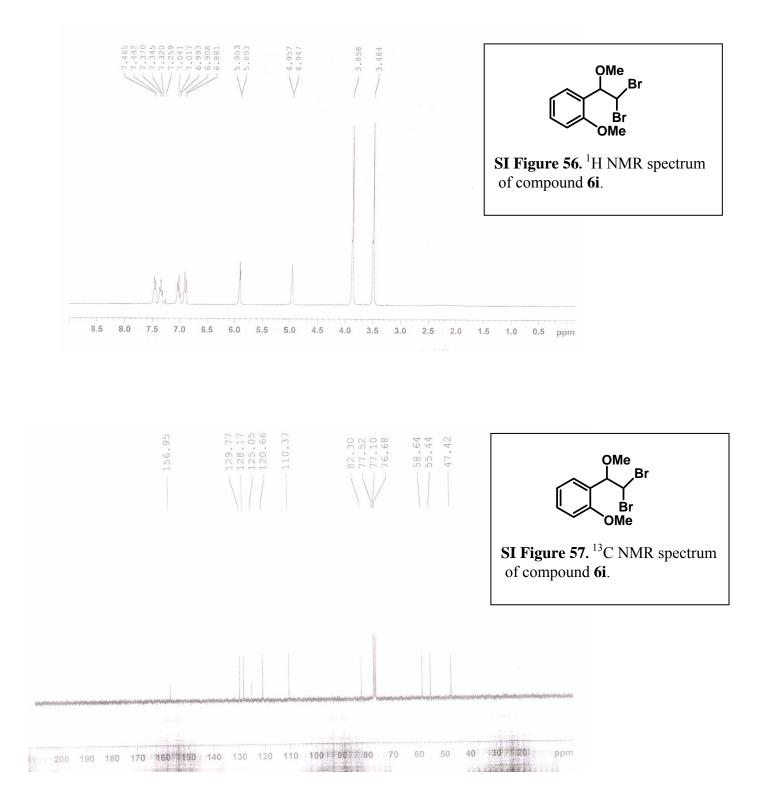


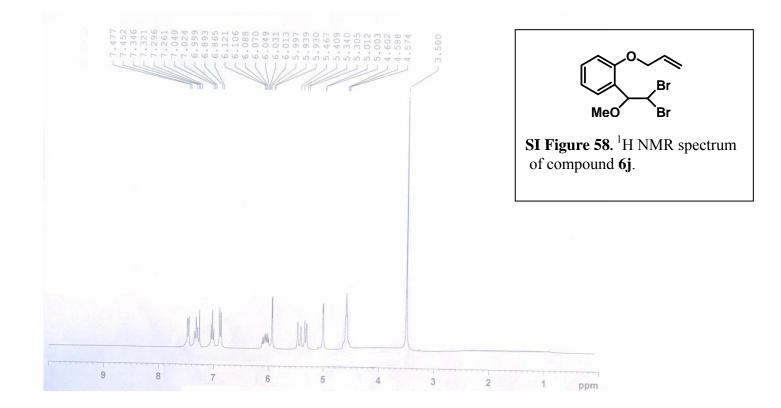


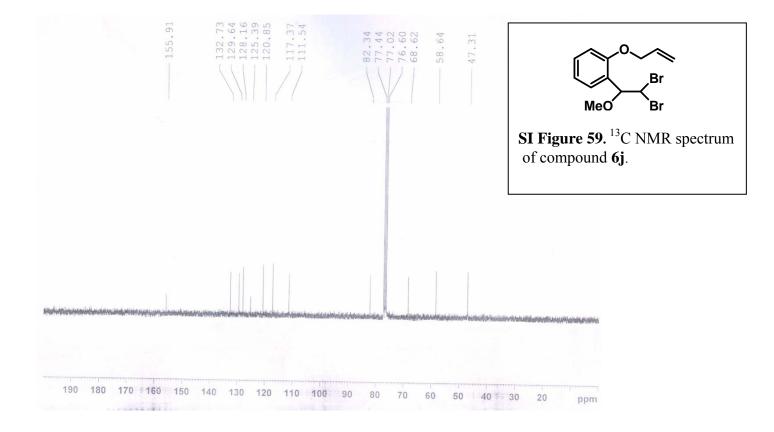


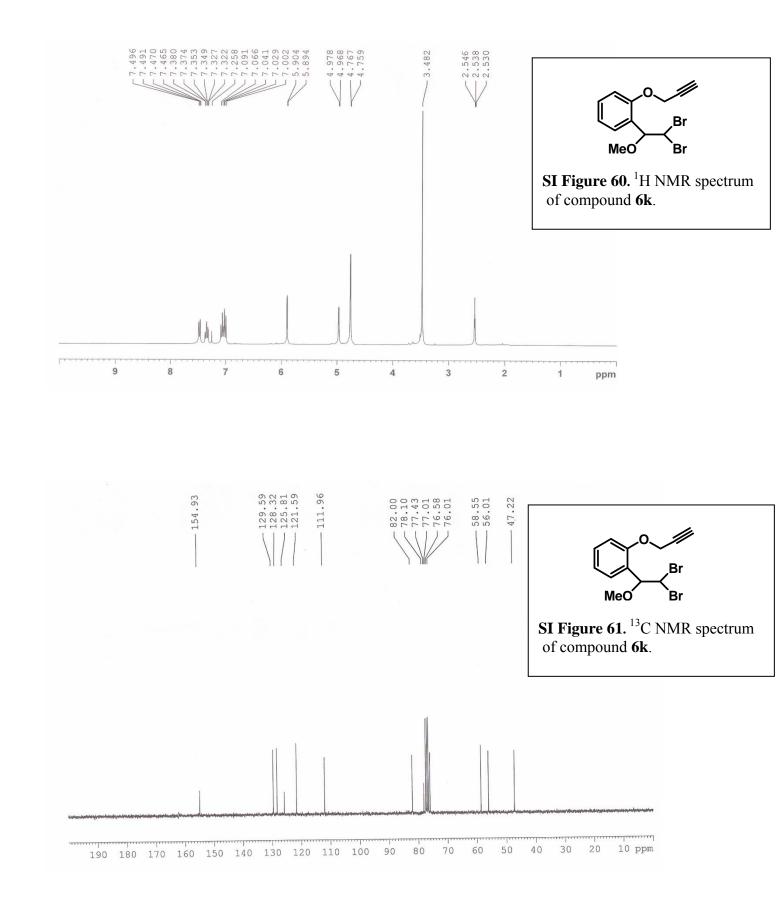


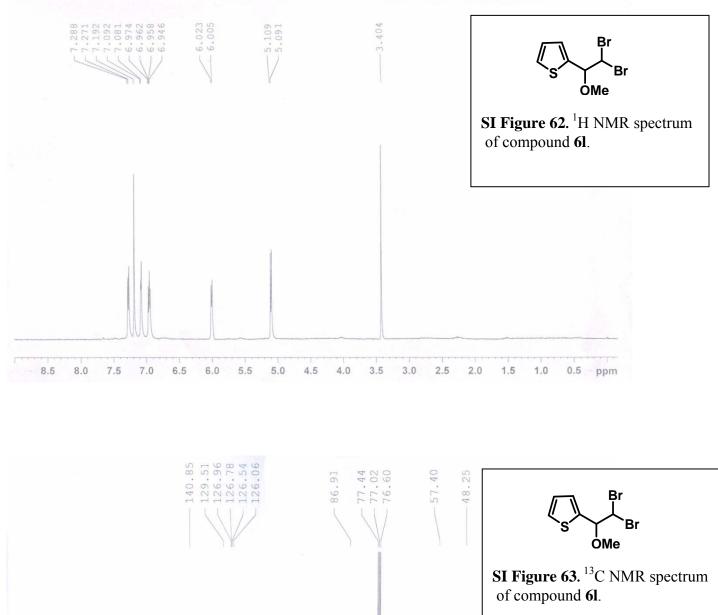


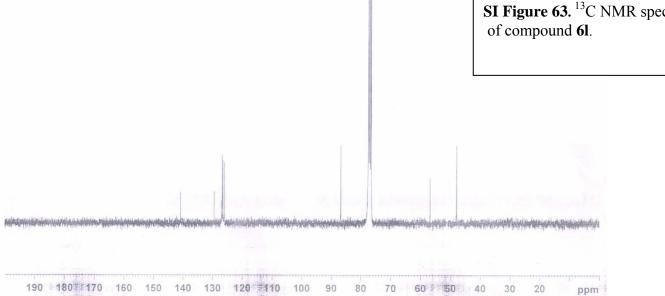


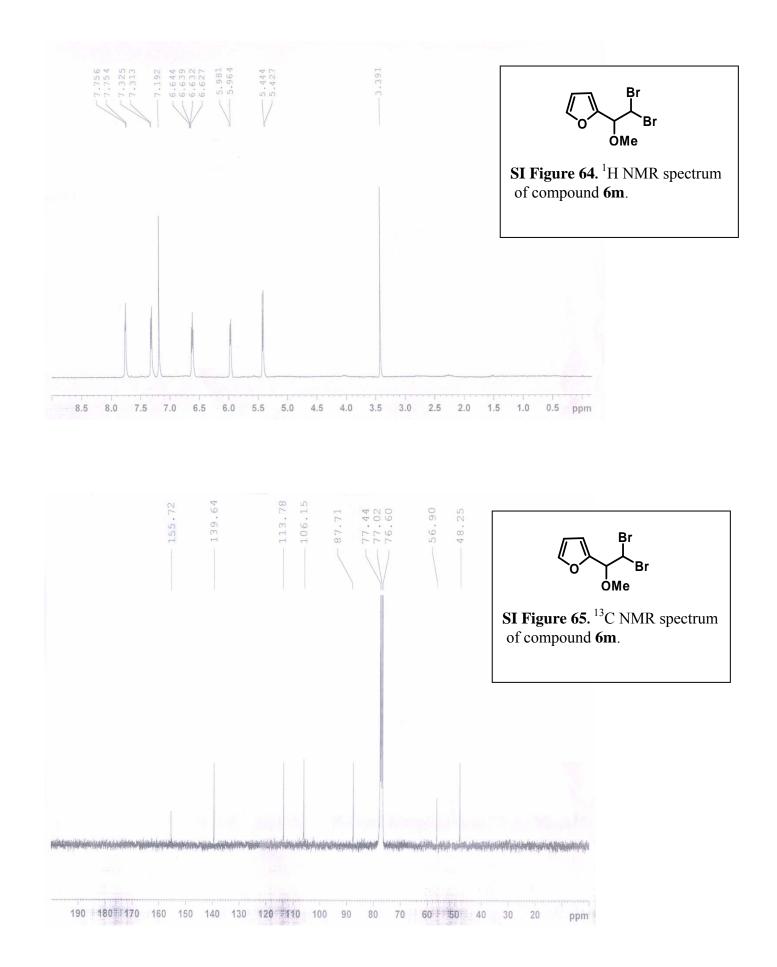


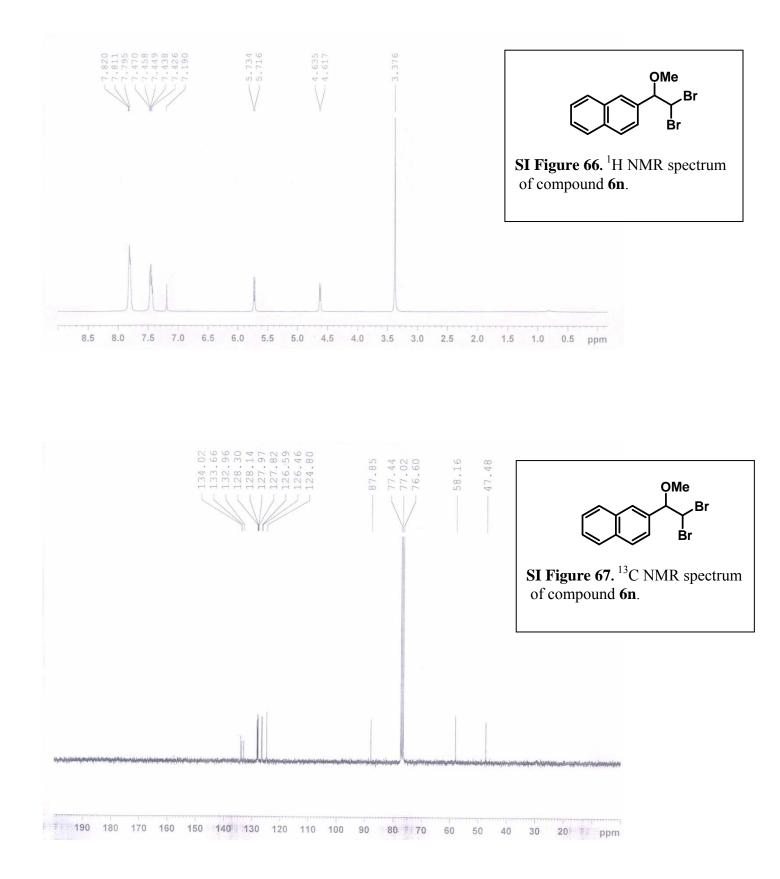


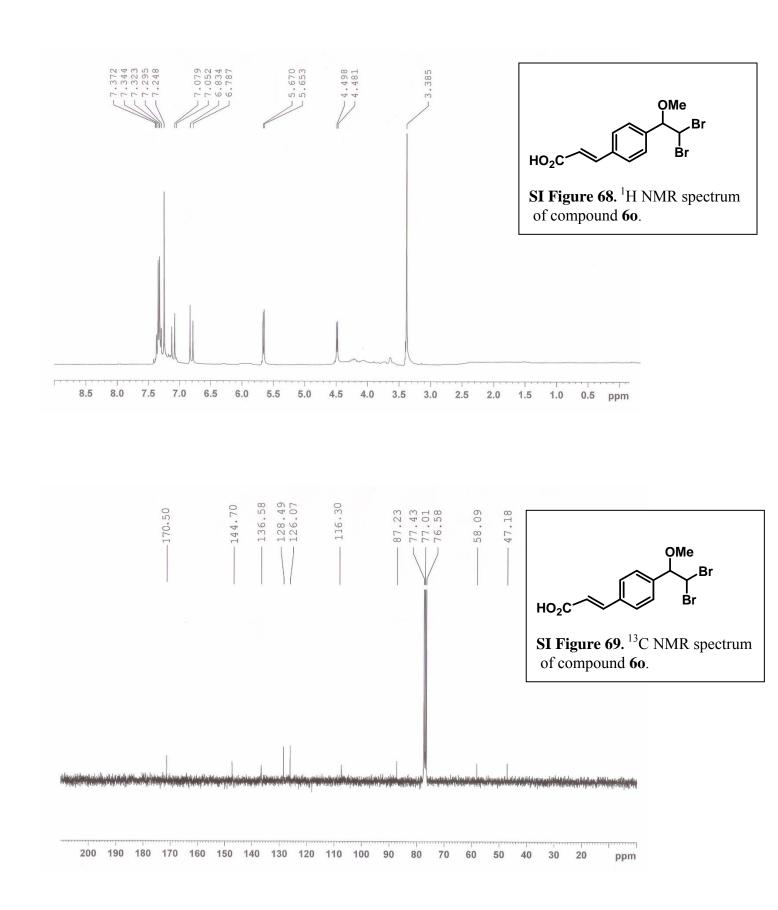


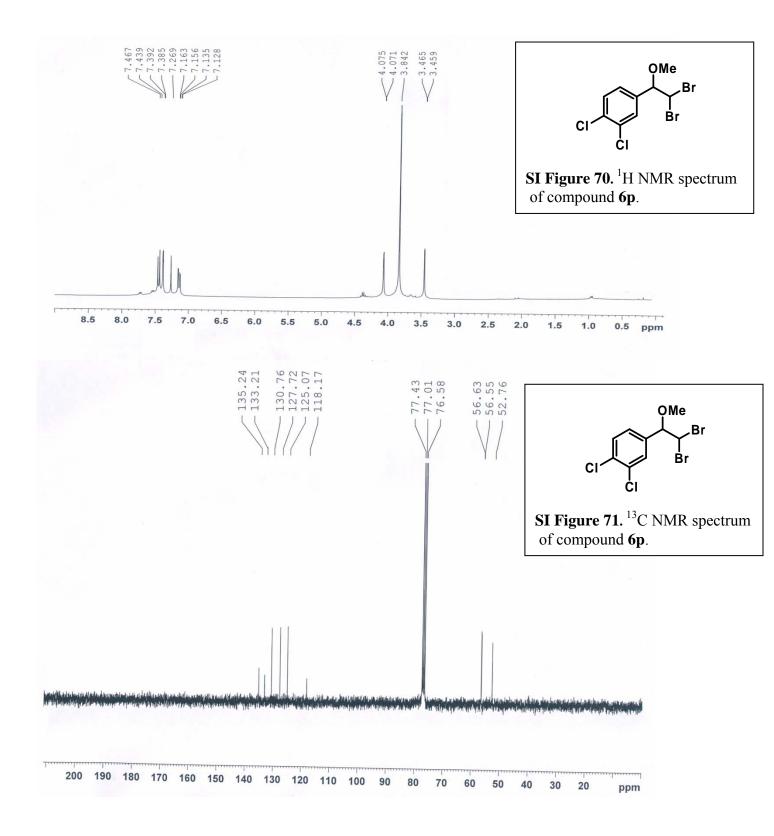


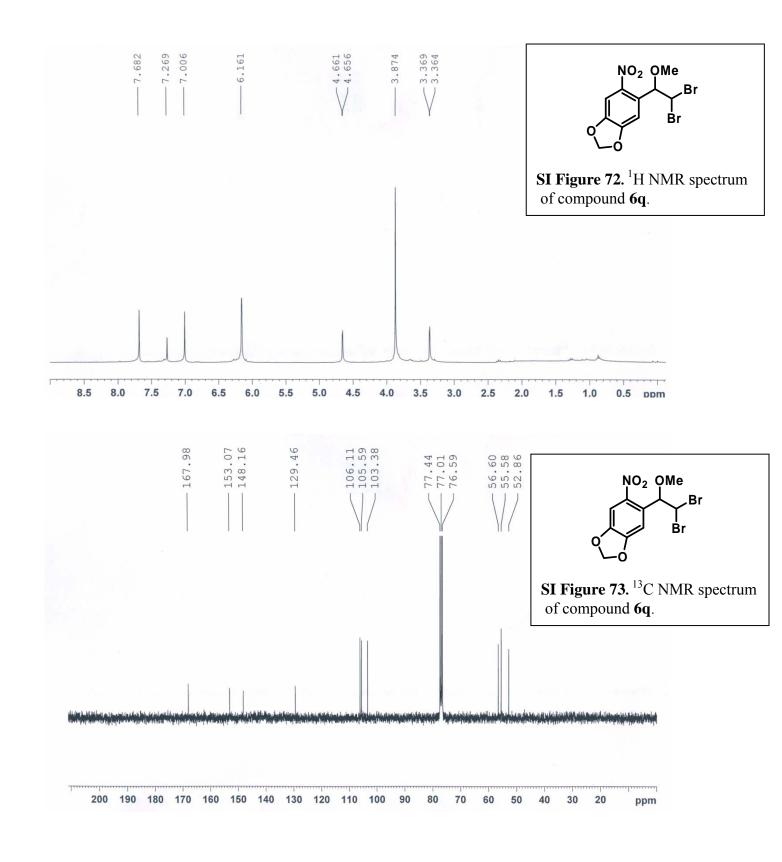












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