### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

# Palladium(II)-Catalysed Electrophilic Cyclisation of Electron-Deficient Aromatic Enynes

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#### 1. General information

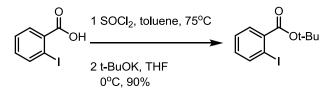
Reactions were performed under nitrogen unless otherwise stated. All reagents were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Solvents (AR grade) were used as received. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} spectra were recorded using Bruker Avance 400, Bruker DRX 500, Avance 600 or Varian VNMRS 700 spectrometers in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with residual solvent protons (7.26 ppm) or the carbon resonance (77.16 ppm) used to reference the spectra. Chromatography was carried out using silica gel (Silicagel LC60A 40-63  $\mu$ m) obtained from Fluorochem. The removal of solvent was performed on a rotary evaporator under vacuum. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1615 FTRIR spectrophotometer. Melting points were determined using an Electrothermal melting point apparatus. Low resolution mass spectrometry was carried out on a Waters TQD equipped with Acquity UPLC and an electrospray ion source and high resolution mass spectrometry was performed on a Vaters LCT Premier XE equipped with Acquity UPLC and a lock-mass electrospray ion source.

#### 2. Experimental procedures and characterisation data

# 2.1 Synthesis of substituted styrene alkynone precursors and characterisation data

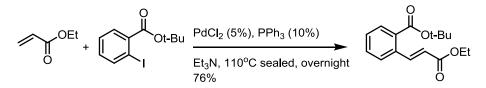
2-Vinylbenzoic acid, (E, Z)-2-styrylbenzoic acid and (E, Z)-2-(4-methylstyryl)benzoic acid were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### tert-Butyl 2-iodobenzoate



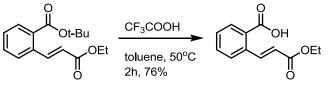
To a solution of 2-iodobenzoic acid (4.96 g, 20 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) was added 2 drops of *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide and thionyl chloride (1.69 mL, 24 mmol) and the reaction was stirred at 75 °C overnight. After concentration *in vacuo*, the 2-iodobenzoyl chloride was added dropwise to a solution of potassium *t*-butoxide in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen protection for 0.5 h. Filtration through a Celite pad and concentration *in vacuo* gave the product as a colorless oil (5.46 g, 90%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.62 (s, 9H), 7.08-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.93-7.95 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  28.1, 82.6, 93.4, 127.8, 130.4, 131.9, 137.4, 140.9, 166.1; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2079, 1713, 1296, 1128 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 305.0033 found 305.0035.

#### (E)-tert-Butyl 2-(3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-enyl)benzoate



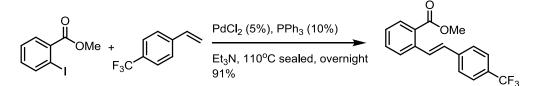
To a solution of PdCl<sub>2</sub> (0.159 g, 0.9 mmol) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.472 g, 1.8 mmol) in dry Et<sub>3</sub>N (40 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> protection was added *tert*-butyl 2-iodobenzoate (5.46 g, 18 mmol) and ethyl acrylate (2.1 mL, 19.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C in a sealed tube overnight. After cooling and concentrating *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluting with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:7, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.53) to give the corresponding Heck coupling product as a yellow oil(3.78 g, 76%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.33 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.61 (s, 9H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.89 (m, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.4, 28.3, 60.6, 82.3, 120.5, 127.8, 129.4, 130.7, 131.8, 132.3, 135.8, 144.4, 166.4, 166.7; FT-IR (neat) *v* 1706, 1636, 1367, 1298, 1268, 1162, 765 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 299.1259 found 299.1266.

#### (E)-2-(3-Ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-enyl)benzoic acid



Trifluoroacetic (8 injected acid mL) into *tert*-butyl was 2-(3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-enyl)benzoate in toluene (50 mL) and the reaction was stirred at 50 °C for 2 h. After concentration in vacuo and purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (2.5 cm  $\times$  20 cm, eluting with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:3,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.19), the product was isolated as a colorless oil (3.78) g, 76%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.35 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 4.29 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.63 (m, 2H), 8.10-8.12 (m, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 10.8 (br.s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.4, 60.8, 121.5, 128.3, 128.7, 129.5, 131.8, 133.3, 137.3, 143.9, 166.8, 172.0; FT-IR (neat) v 2982, 2656, 2360, 1706, 1636, 1304, 1170, 761 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{13}O_4$  [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 221.0814 found 221.0803.

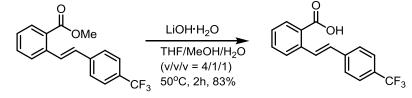
#### (E)-Methyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)benzoate



To a solution of PdCl<sub>2</sub> (0.035 g, 0.2 mmol) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.1048 g, 0.4 mmol) in dry

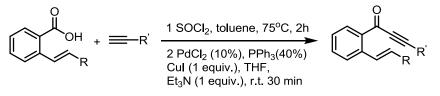
Et<sub>3</sub>N (4 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> protection was added methyl 2-iodobenzoate (0.61 mL, 4 mmol) and 1-(trifluoromethyl)-4-vinyl benzene (0.71 mL, 4.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C in a sealed tube overnight. The reaction was cooled, concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluting with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:20, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:15)) = 0.50) to give the corresponding Heck coupling product as a white solid (1.12 g, 91%): m.p. 73-74 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.94 (s, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J<sub>I</sub>* = 4 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 9 Hz, 4H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  52.2, 124.4 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 270 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.6 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 4 Hz, arene C), 127.0, 127.2, 127.8, 128.8, 129.5 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 32 Hz, arene C), 129.8, 130.3, 130.9, 132.4, 138.8, 141.0, 167.7; FT-IR (neat) v 2956, 1713, 1614, 1323, 1105, 951, 821 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 307.0940 found 307.0941.

#### (E)-2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)styryl)benzoic acid



(*E*)-Methyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)benzoate (0.98 g, 3.2 mmol) was dissolved in 6 mL of THF:MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (4:1:l, v:v:v) and LiOH (405 mg, 9.6 mmol) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then heated to 50 °C for 2 h. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, it was acidified to pH 6 using 1M HCl. The product was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 20 mL) and then washed with water and brine. The extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to give the stilbene carboxylic acid as a white solid (0.78 g, 83%): m.p. 132-134 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.04 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.66 (m, 5H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 11.72 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  124.3 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 270 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.8 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 4 Hz, arene C), 126.7, 127.2, 127.7, 128.0, 129.8 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 32 Hz, arene C), 130.3, 130.4, 131.9, 133.5, 139.8, 140.9, 172.2; FT-IR (neat) *v* 1682, 1415, 1327, 1108, 1069, 821, 746, 649 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ASAP<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 293.0789 found 293.0788.

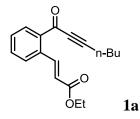
# **2.2** General procedure for synthesis of substituted styrene alkynone substrates and product characterisation data



To a solution of substituted 2-vinylbenzoic acid (1 mmol) in dry toluene (10 mL) was added 2 drops of *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide and thionyl chloride (0.09 mL, 1.2 mmol)

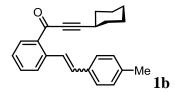
and the reaction mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 2 h. Evaporation *in vacuo* gave the acid chloride. To a solution of the acid chloride in THF (10 mL), PdCl<sub>2</sub> (17.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (104.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) and CuI (190 mg, 1 mmol) under N<sub>2</sub> protection was added stoichiometric amounts of the different alkynes. Finally, Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.14 mL, 1 mmol) was added dropwise under N<sub>2</sub> protection. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the corresponding substituted styrene alkynones.

#### (E)-Ethyl 3-(2-hept-2-ynoylphenyl)acrylate



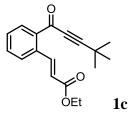
Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:8,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.40) gave a brown yellow oil (45%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.96 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.47-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.66 (m, 2H), 2.49 (t, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.29 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.57 (m, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.6, 14.5, 19.1, 22.2, 29.9, 60.7, 81.1, 97.5, 121.6, 128.4, 129.4, 132.6, 133.1, 136.3, 136.4, 143.9, 166.6, 179.2; FT-IR (neat) v 2203, 1711, 1636, 1242, 1176, 912, 762, 714 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 285.1485 found 285.1489.

### (E,Z)-3-Cyclohexyl-1-(2-(4-methylstyryl)phenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



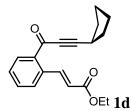
Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:50,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:10)) = 0.63) gave a brown oil (21%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.35-1.37 (m, 3H), 1.55-1.62 (m, 3H), 1.72-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.92 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 2H), 2.64-2.69 (m, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 12 Hz, 0.3H), 6.94-6.97 (m, 1.3H), 7.00-7.03 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1.3H), 7.24 (d, J = 7 Hz, 0.3H), 7.32 (dt,  $J_1 = 2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7$  Hz, 0.3H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.46 (m, 1.3H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 0.7H), 7.72 (d, J = 8 Hz, 0.7H), 7.96 (dd, J = 16 Hz, 0.7H), 8.15-8.17 (m, 0.7H), 8.21-8.22 (m, 0.3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.3, 21.4, 24.9, 24.9, 25.8, 25.8, 29.5, 29.6, 31.8, 31.8, 81.1, 81.6, 99.9, 100.1, 126.6, 127.0, 127.1, 127.2, 128.9, 129.3, 129.5, 129.8, 130.3, 131.5, 131.9, 132.6, 132.6, 132.7, 132.8, 134.0, 134.8, 135.4, 136.0, 136.8, 138.0, 139.3, 139.6, 179.4, 180.3; FT-IR (neat)  $\nu$  2924, 2854, 2200, 1630, 1446, 1239, 918, 806 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 329.1905 found 329.1900.

(E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(4,4-dimethylpent-2-ynoyl)phenyl)acrylate



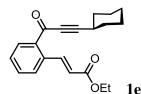
Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.50) gave a yellow oil (37%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.36 (s, 9H), 4.28 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.58 (m, 2H), 8.13-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.5, 28.2, 30.2, 60.7, 79.7, 104.6, 121.6, 128.4, 129.4, 132.4, 133.0, 136.2, 136.7, 143.8, 166.6, 179.4; FT-IR (neat) v 2972, 2208, 1713, 1640, 1263, 1176, 759 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 285.1485 [M+H<sup>+</sup>] found 285.1489.

#### (E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(3-cyclopentylpropioloyl)phenyl)acrylate



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.38) gave a brown oil (39%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  1.32 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.79 (m, 4H), 2.0-2.1 (m, 2H), 2.92 (t, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.60 (m, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  14.5, 25.6, 30.7, 33.7, 60.9, 80.7, 101.7, 121.6, 128.6, 129.7, 132.9, 133.3, 136.3, 136.8, 144.0, 166.7, 179.5; FT-IR (neat) v 2956, 2203, 1711, 1635, 1243, 1176, 946, 764 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 297.1491 found 297.1483.

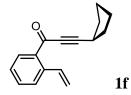
#### (E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(3-cyclohexylpropioloyl)phenyl)acrylate



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 20 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.50) gave a brown oil (54%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.32-1.38 (m, 6H), 1.56-1.65 (m, 3H), 1.74-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.92 (m, 2H), 2.67-2.71 (m, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.29 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.57 (m, 2H), 8.17-8.19 (m, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,

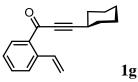
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.4, 24.8, 25.8, 29.5, 31.7, 60.7, 81.0, 101.0, 121.5, 128.4, 129.4, 132.6, 133.0, 136.2, 136.6, 143.9, 166.6, 179.3; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2930, 2855, 2198, 1710, 1635, 1240, 1175, 915, 763 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 311.1647 found 311.1642.

#### 3-Cyclopentyl-1-(2-vinylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



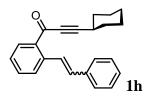
Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:50,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:20)) = 0.33) gave a brown oil (41%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.59-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.82 (m, 4H), 2.00-2.07 (m, 2H), 2.86-2.93 (m, 1H), 5.37 (dd,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11$  Hz, 1H), 5.66 (dd,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 17$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 1H), 8.13 (dd,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8$  Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  25.4, 30.5, 33.4, 81.0, 100.6, 116.9, 127.5, 127.7, 132.5, 132.9, 135.3, 136.1, 139.5, 180.1; FT-IR (neat)  $\nu$  2958, 2869, 2204, 1640, 1242, 768 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 225.1274 found 225.1274.

#### 3-Cyclohexyl-1-(2-vinylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:40,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:20)) = 0.50) gave a colorless oil (17%) (decomposed partly in CDCl<sub>3</sub> overnight): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34-1.43 (m, 3H), 1.59-1.61 (m, 3H), 1.75-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.92 (m, 2H), 2.67 (m, 1H), 5.37 (dd,  $J_I$  = 1 Hz,  $J_2$  = 11 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dd,  $J_I$  = 1 Hz,  $J_2$  = 17 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.58 (m, 1H), 8.15 (dd,  $J_I$  = 1 Hz,  $J_2$  = 8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.9, 25.8, 29.6, 31.8, 81.3, 100.0, 116.9, 127.5, 127.7, 132.6, 132.9, 135.3, 136.1, 139.6, 180.1; FT-IR (neat) v 2926, 2853, 2200, 1640, 1563, 1240, 915, 768 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 239.1430 found 239.1431.

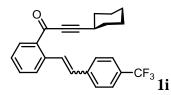
### (E,Z)-3-Cyclohexyl-1-(2-styrylphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:20,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:10)) = 0.50) gave a yellow oil (48%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.24-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.43-1.53 (m, 3H), 1.63-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.77-1.81 (m, 2H),

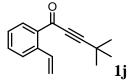
2.53-2.61 (m, 1H), 6.29 (d, J = 12 Hz, 0.3H), 6.92-7.00 (m, 1.7H), 7.05-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 8.07-8.10 (m, 0.7H), 8.13-8.16(m, 0.3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.8, 24.9, 25.8, 25.8, 29.5, 29.6, 31.7, 31.8, 81.5, 84.2, 100.0, 100.2, 127.0, 127.1, 127.2, 127.3, 127.7, 128.0, 128.1, 128.8, 129.4, 130.3, 130.7, 131.5, 131.9, 132.6, 132.7, 132.7, 132.9, 135.5, 136.0, 136.9, 137.5, 139.1, 139.3, 179.3, 180.2; FT-IR (neat) v 2928, 2853, 2360, 2200, 1737, 1640, 1447, 1240, 916, 759, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 315.1749 found 315.1739.

#### 3-Cyclohexyl-1-(2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)phenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one



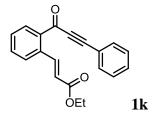
After the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a Celite pad which was washed with diethyl ether and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a colorless oil (6%). This material was used in the next step without further purification.  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:15)) = 0.50.

#### 4, 4-Dimethyl-1-(2-vinylphenyl)pent-2-yn-1-one



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:15,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:15)) = 0.41) gave a colorless oil (92%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.36 (s, 9H), 5.37 (d,  $J_1$  = 1 Hz,  $J_2$  = 11 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (dd,  $J_1$  = 1 Hz,  $J_2$  = 17 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 1H), 8.10-8.12 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  28.2, 30.3, 80.0, 103.5, 116.9, 127.5, 127.7, 132.4, 132.8, 135.4, 136.1, 139.5, 180.0; FT-IR (neat)  $\nu$  2970, 2209, 1644, 1263, 1225, 1045, 884, 768, 668 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 213.1274 found 213.1275.

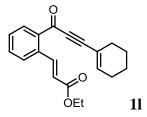
### (E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(3-phenylpropioloyl)phenyl)acrylate



Silica gel (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:3)) = 0.54) to give brown oil (15%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.32 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 4.26 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.34 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.44 (m,

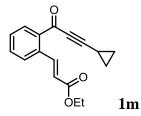
2H), 7.50 (tt,  $J_1 = 2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.68 (m, 2H), 8.30 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.4, 60.8, 88.3, 93.7, 120.1, 121.8, 128.6, 128.8, 129.5, 131.1, 132.6, 133.2, 133.4, 136.3, 136.5, 143.7, 166.6, 178.9; FT-IR (neat) v 2194, 1710, 1633, 1594, 1267, 1176, 994, 758 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 305.1172 found 305.1175.

(E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(3-cyclohexenylpropioloyl)phenyl)acrylate



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.36) gave a yellow oil (39%) (decomposed in CDCl<sub>3</sub> overnight): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.61-1.72 (m, 4H), 2.18-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.27 (m, 2H), 4.27 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.54-6.57 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.15-8.17 (m, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.5, 21.2, 22.1, 26.4, 28.4, 60.7, 86.8, 96.3, 119.2, 121.5, 128.4, 129.4, 132.4, 133.0, 136.2, 136.7, 143.1, 143.9, 166.6, 179.2; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 331.1305 found 331.1307.

#### (E)-Ethyl 3-(2-(3-cyclopropylpropioloyl)phenyl)acrylate



Silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.25) gave a brown oil (44%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00-1.06 (m, 4H), 1.35 (t, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.56 (m, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 6.29 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.58 (m, 2H), 8.11-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  10.0, 14.3, 22.9, 31.8, 60.7, 76.9, 101.7, 121.4, 128.4, 129.5, 132.6, 133.1, 136.0, 143.8, 166.6, 178.8; FT-IR (neat): v 2359, 2206, 1710, 1632, 1566, 1477, 1314, 1251, 1177, 914, 762 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 269.1172 found 269.1174.

**2.3** General procedure for substituted styrene alkynone cyclisation and product characterisation data

### Procedure A

To AcOH (3 mL) containing  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (10 mol %) and LiCl (4 equiv.), enyne (0.15 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 60 °C in air until the substituted styrene alkynone disappeared, as monitored by GC-MS. On cooling, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography to give the product.

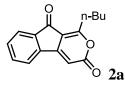
#### **Procedure B**

To AcOH (3 mL) containing  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (10 mol %) and LiCl (4 equiv.), enyne (0.15 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 60 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred until the substituted styrene alkynone disappeared, as monitored by GC-MS. On cooling, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography to give the product.

### **Procedure C**

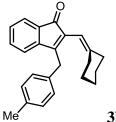
To CH<sub>3</sub>CN (3 mL) containing PdCl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol %), substrate (0.15 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 80 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred until the substituted styrene alkynone disappeared, as monitored by GC-MS. After cooling, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography to give the product.

## 1-Butylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione



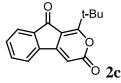
Procedure A, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.20) gave a yellow, crystalline product (31%): m.p. 100-101 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.96 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.41-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.81 (m, 2H), 3.09 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 7.65 (dt, *J<sub>1</sub>* = 1 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dt, *J<sub>1</sub>* = 1 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dt, *J<sub>1</sub>* = 1 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dt, *J<sub>1</sub>* = 1 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.8, 22.5, 29.2, 30.4, 102.6, 112.5, 123.5, 124.6, 133.1, 134.9, 139.0, 139.0, 153.5, 161.5, 170.5, 187.7; FT-IR (neat) v 2971, 2928, 1732, 1699, 1633, 1578, 1462, 1363, 1140, 906, 874 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 255.1021 found 255.1017.

2-(Cyclohexylidenemethyl)-3-(4-methylbenzyl)-1H-inden-1-one



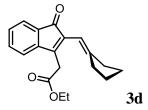
Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:80, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:10)) = 0.53) gave a brown-red oil (53%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.56-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.15 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.20 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.39 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  21.2, 26.6, 28.0, 28.7, 31.9, 32.9, 37.4, 110.5, 120.4, 122.1, 128.2, 128.6, 129.5, 131.3, 133.4, 133.4, 134.0, 136.4, 145.6, 149.7, 156.0, 197.5; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2925, 2852, 1709, 1602, 1446, 1161, 810, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 329.1905 found 329.1886.

### 1-tert-Butylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione



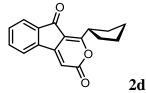
Procedure A, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:10, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.41) gave a white crystalline solid (24 h, 25%, 2 weeks, 67%): m.p. 224-225 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.52 (s, 9H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  27.3, 38.8, 102.1, 111.9, 122.9, 124.6, 133.0, 134.8, 138.6, 139.0, 155.5, 161.0, 178.4, 186.9; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2971, 2928, 1732, 1699, 1633, 1578, 1462, 1276, 1254, 1182, 1049, 906, 874 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 255.1021 found 255.1017.

### Ethyl 2-(2-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)-1-oxo-1H-inden-3-yl)acetate



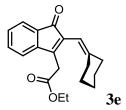
Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:15, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5) = 0.41) gave a red oil (69%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.25 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.64-1.71 (m, 4H), 2.30-2.31 (m, 2H), 2.46-2.47 (m, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 4.18 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 5.95 (t, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.41 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.3, 25.8, 26.9, 32.1, 33.3, 35.0, 61.50, 109.3, 119.7, 122.4, 128.4, 130.7, 133.7, 135.0, 145.5, 148.1, 154.3, 169.3, 196.7; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2957, 1732, 1710, 1603, 1456, 1162, 1034, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 297.1485 found 297.1487.

1-Cyclopentylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione



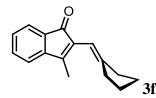
Procedure A, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.25) gave a white, crystalline solid (34%): m.p. 186-187 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.74-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.95 (m, 4H), 2.03-2.05 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.19 (m, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dt,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dt,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (176 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.7, 31.4, 39.8, 102.5, 111.8, 123.5, 124.6, 133.1, 134.9, 139.0, 139.2, 153.7, 161.7, 173.5, 188.0; FT-IR (neat) v 2954, 2866, 1730, 1700, 1650, 1616 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ASAP<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 267.1021 found 267.1011.

#### Ethyl 2-(2-(cyclohexylidenemethyl)-1-oxo-1H-inden-3-yl)acetate



Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:15, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:5)) = 0.46) gave a red, crystalline solid (76%): m.p. 82-84 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.25 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.54-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.08-2.11 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.30 (m, 2H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 7.05-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.42 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.3, 26.5, 28.0, 28.6, 31.6, 33.4, 37.4, 61.5, 110.2, 119.8, 122.4, 128.5, 130.7, 133.7, 134.6, 145.4, 149.1, 150.3, 169.3, 197.2; FT-IR (neat): *v* 2931, 2852, 1723, 1705, 1605, 1458, 1249, 1026, 774, 736 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ASAP) m/z Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M] 310.1569 found 310.1546.

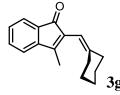
#### 2-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)-3-methyl-1H-inden-1-one



Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:15, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:20)) = 0.34) gave a red oil (94%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.68-1.71 (m, 4H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.27-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.48-2.49 (m, 2H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.0,

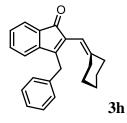
25.9, 26.9, 32.3, 34.8, 109.9, 118.9, 121.8, 128.4, 131.0, 133.1, 133.5, 146.7, 152.4, 153.1, 197.4; FT-IR (neat) v 2924, 1706, 1456, 1383, 962, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 225.1274 found 225.1274.

#### 2-(Cyclohexylidenemethyl)-3-methyl-1H-inden-1-one



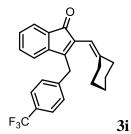
Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:20,  $R_f$  (EtOAc/hexane (1:15)) = 0.53) gave a red oil (88%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.56-1.64 (m, 6H), 2.09-2.10 (m, 5H), 2.29 (t, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dt,  $J_I = 1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7$  Hz, 1H), 7.39 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.0, 26.6, 27.8, 28.6, 31.7, 37.4, 110.9, 119.0, 121.9, 128.4, 131.0, 132.6, 133.5, 146.6, 148.6, 154.0, 197.8; FT-IR (neat) v 2926, 2852, 1706, 1610, 1456, 1382, 1082, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 239.1430 found 239.1431.

#### 3-Benzyl-2-(cyclohexylidenemethyl)-1H-inden-1-one



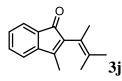
Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:80, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:10)) = 0.57) gave a red oil (78%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.55-1.56 (m, 3H), 1.60-1.63 (m, 3H), 2.14 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.38-7.40 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.5, 28.0, 28.7, 31.9, 33.3, 37.4, 110.4, 120.4, 122.2, 126.8, 128.2, 128.7, 128.9, 131.3, 133.4, 133.5, 137.2, 145.5, 149.8, 155.7, 197.5; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2927, 2852, 1719, 1602, 1453, 760, 724, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 315.1749 found 315.1724.

### 2-(Cyclohexylidenemethyl)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1H-inden-1-one



Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:30, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:15)) = 0.47) gave a red solid (98%): m.p. 123-125 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.53-1.57 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.13 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 3.9 (s, 2H), 5.7 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dt, *J<sub>I</sub>* = 1 Hz, *J<sub>2</sub>* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.5, 28.0, 28.7, 32.0, 33.0, 37.4, 110.2, 120.1, 122.5, 124.3 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 270 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.8 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 4 Hz, arene C), 128.5, 129.0, 129.3 (q, *J<sub>CF</sub>* = 32 Hz, arene C), 131.1, 133.6, 134.1, 141.4, 145.1, 150.4, 154.3, 197.1; FT-IR (neat)  $\nu$  2926, 2854, 1709, 1602, 1448, 1323, 1124, 1067, 1020, 848, 752 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>1</sub>F<sub>3</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 383.1617 found 383.1617.

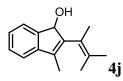
3-Methyl-2-(3-methylbut-2-en-2-yl)-1H-inden-1-one



Procedure C, silica gel purification (2.5 cm × 25 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:20, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:10)) = 0.50) gave a brown oil (98%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.58 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  12.5, 18.6, 20.3, 22.6, 119.0, 120.1, 121.8, 128.4, 131.0, 132.3, 133.4, 138.3, 146.2, 154.1, 197.7; FT-IR (neat) *v* 2914, 1702, 1608, 1455, 1380, 1324, 1081, 755, 719 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>1</sub> [M+H<sup>+</sup>] 213.1279 found 213.1262.

# **2.4 Procedure for Luche reduction of cyclisation product and characterisation data**

# 3-Methyl-2-(3-methylbut-2-en-2-yl)-1H-inden-1-ol

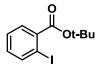


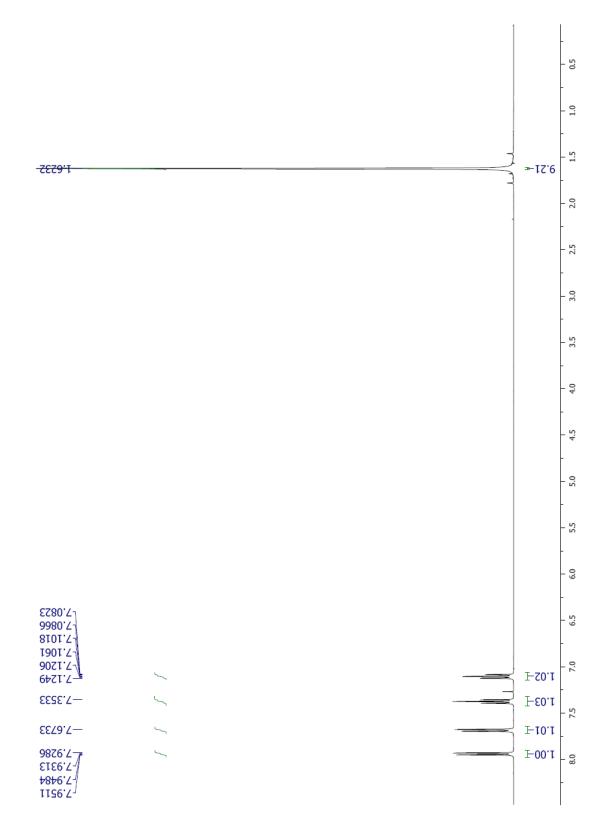
To MeOH (10 mL) containing cerium(III) chloride heptahydrate (1.1 equiv.) and substrate (0.45 mmol) was added sodium borohydride (1.1 equiv.) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at room temperature under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 0.5 h. Then, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (2.5 cm × 8 cm, eluted with ethyl acetate/n-hexane = 1:5, R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc/hexane (1:2)) = 0.62) to give a brown oil (90%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.65 (d, *J* = 1 Hz, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.5, 18.8, 20.5, 22.4, 77.2, 118.9, 123.1, 123.2, 125.6, 128.5, 131.1, 133.9, 144.7, 144.7, 147.5; FT-IR (neat) *v* 1725, 1606, 1436, 1372, 1177, 1088, 1005, 752, 731, 688, 630 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

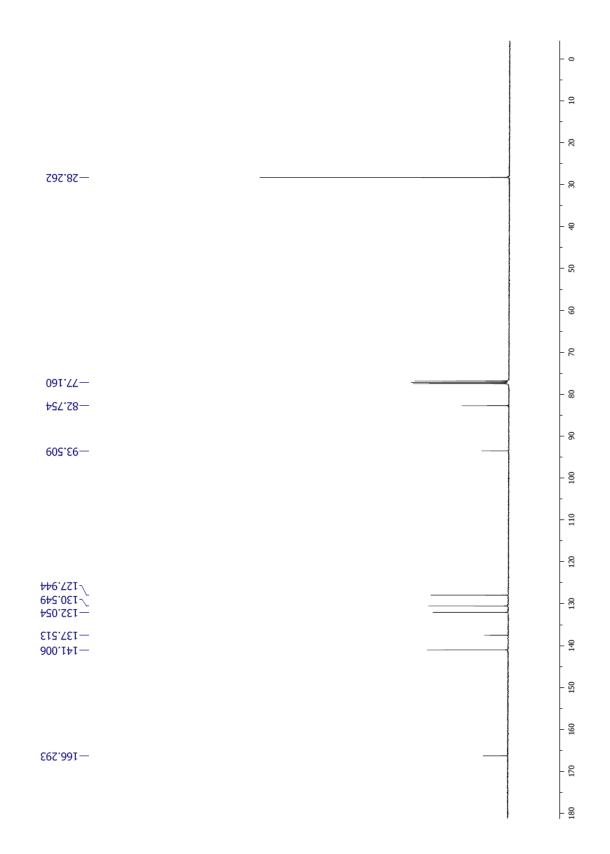
#### **2.5 References**

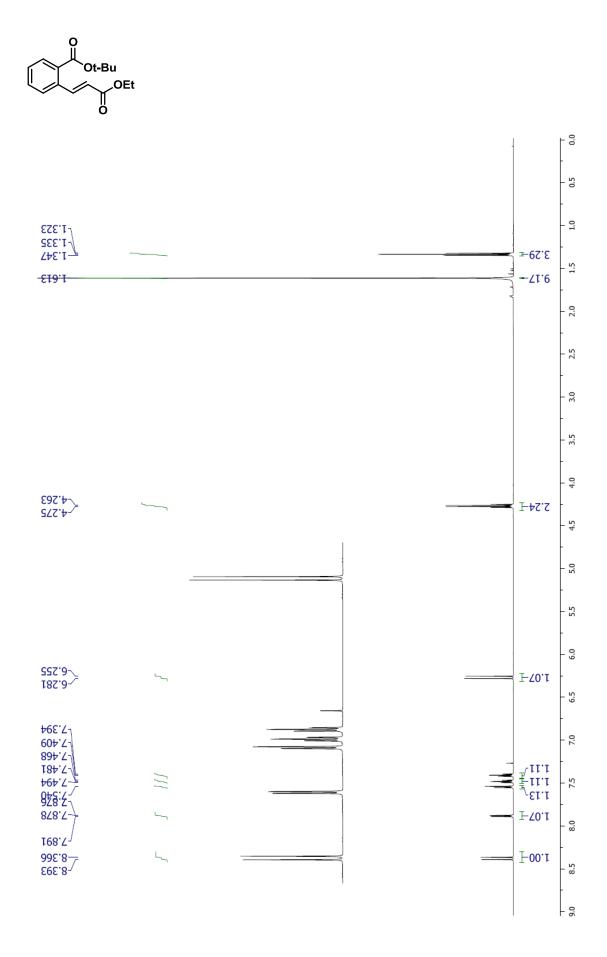
- 1. Shahzad, S. A.; Vivant, C.; Wirth, T. Biochemistry, 2009, 48, 6288.
- 2 Wang, M.; Zhou, H.; Wirz, M.; Tang, Y.; Boddy, C. N. Org. Lett., 2010, 12, 1364.

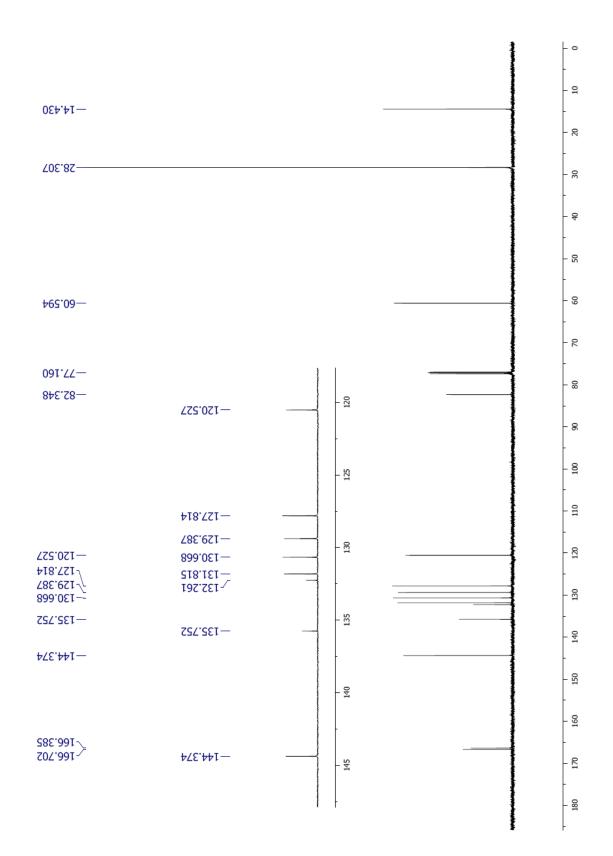
3. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra for new compounds

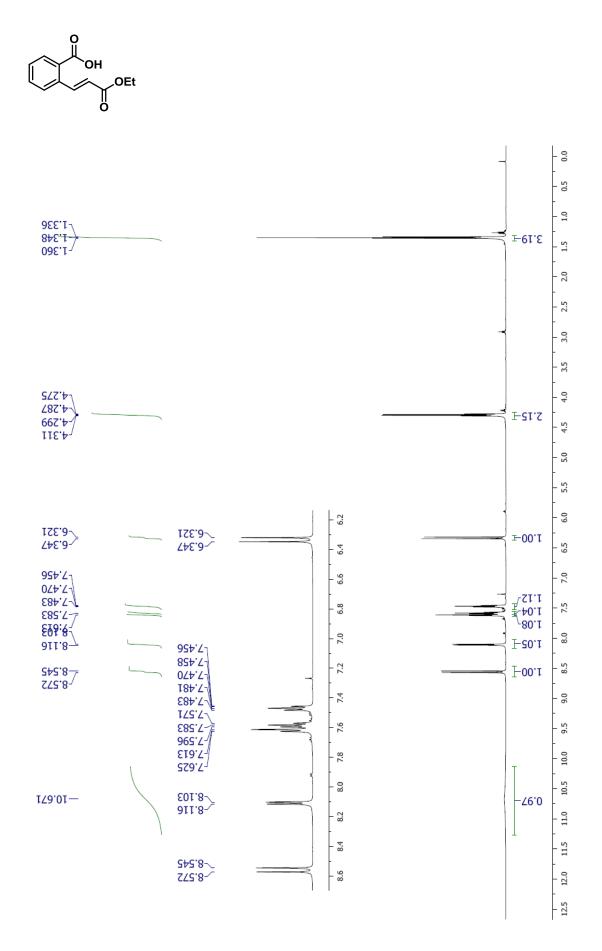


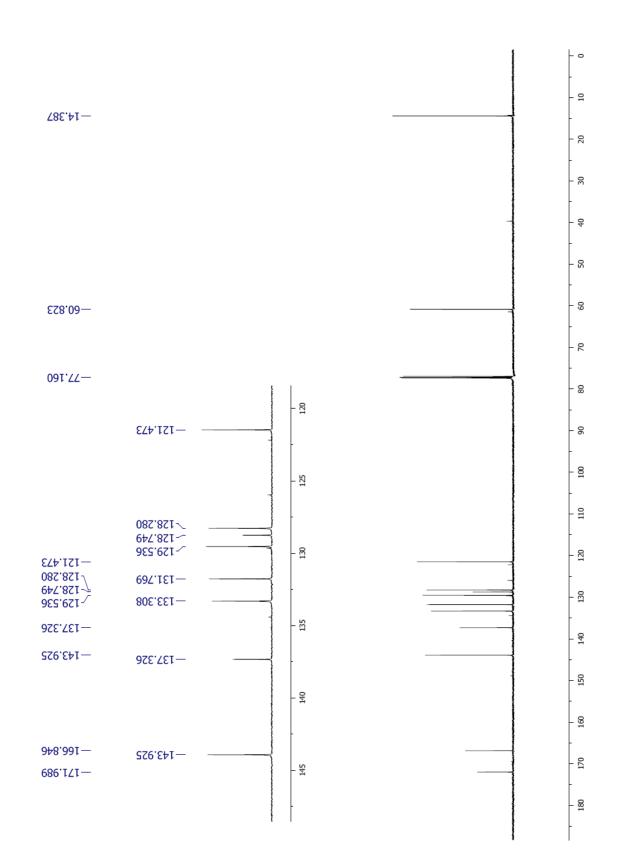




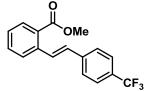


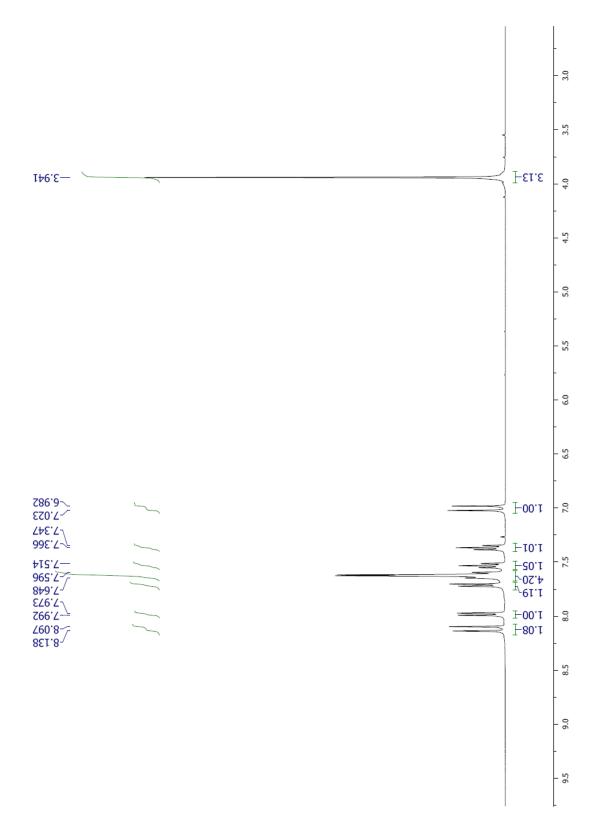


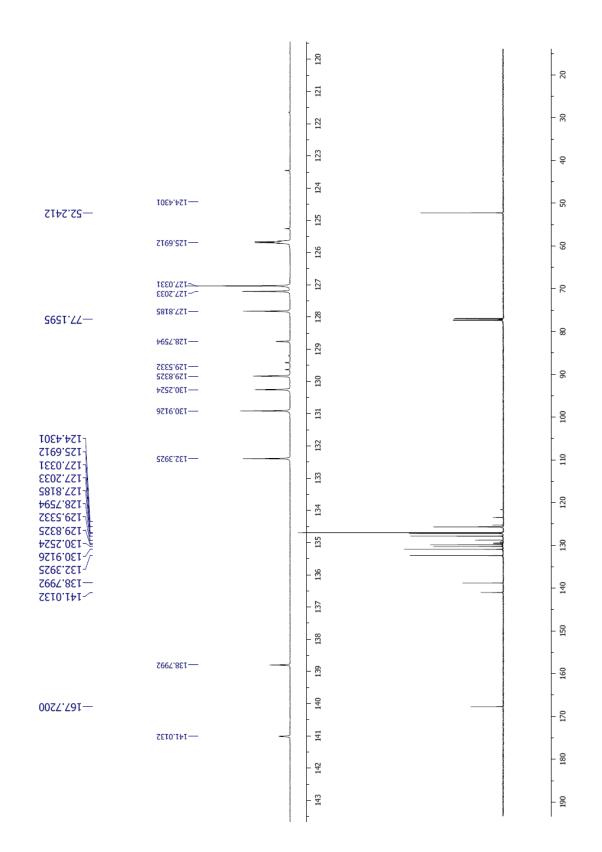




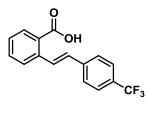
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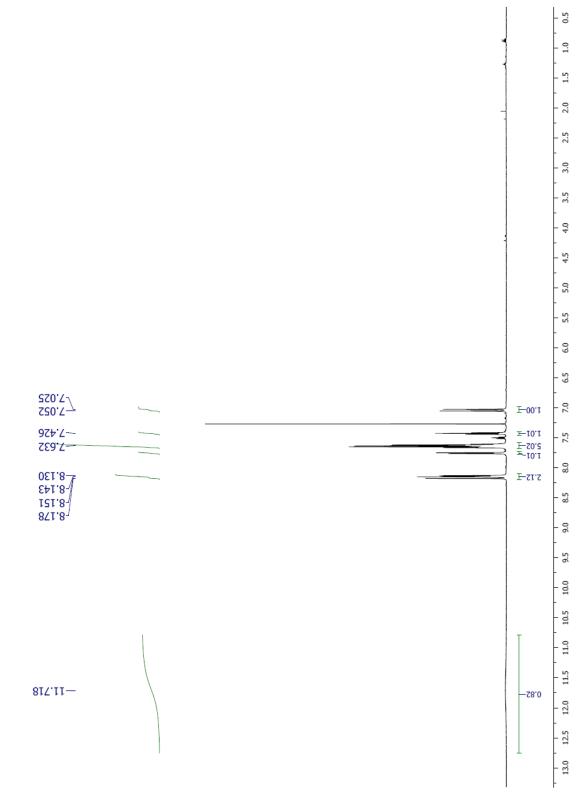




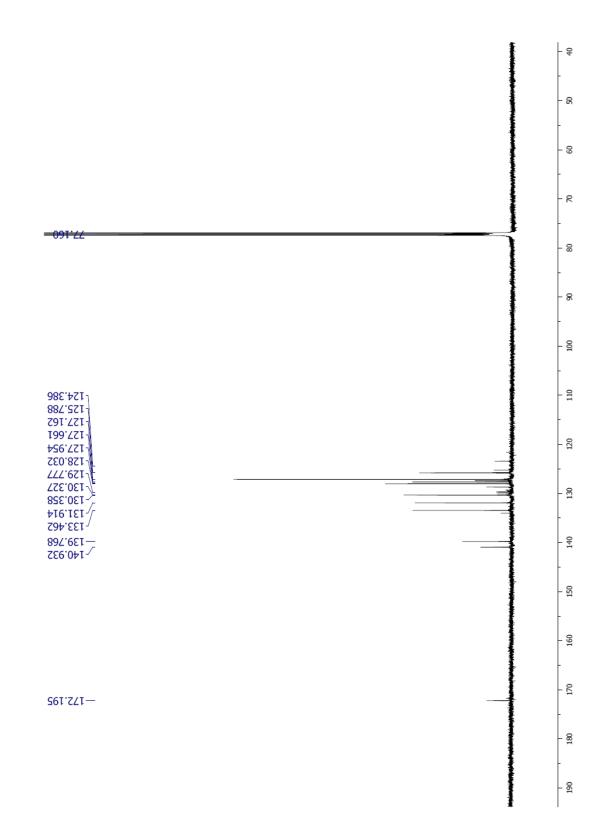


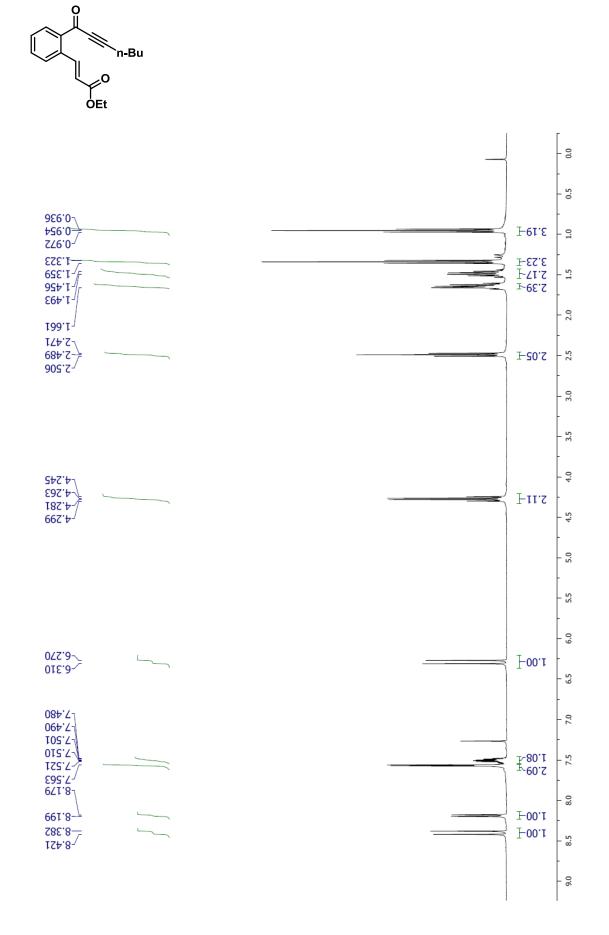
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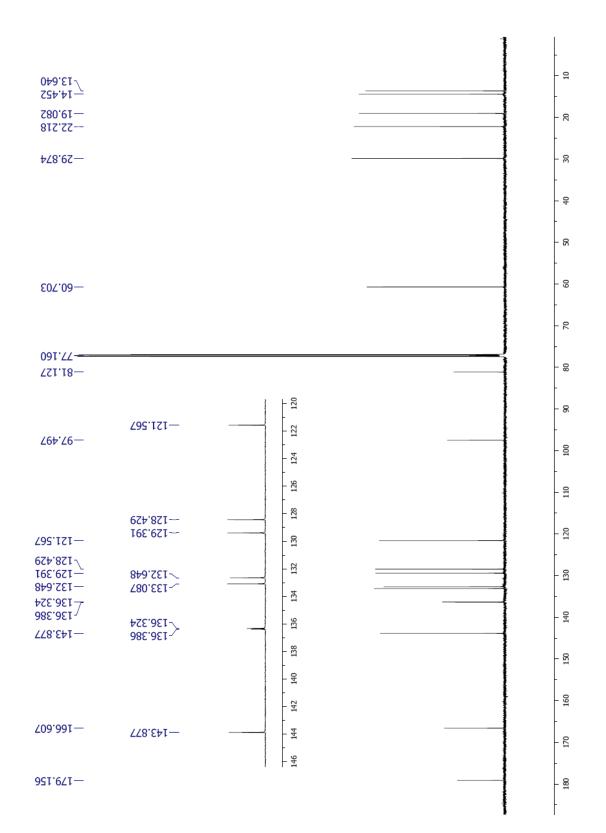


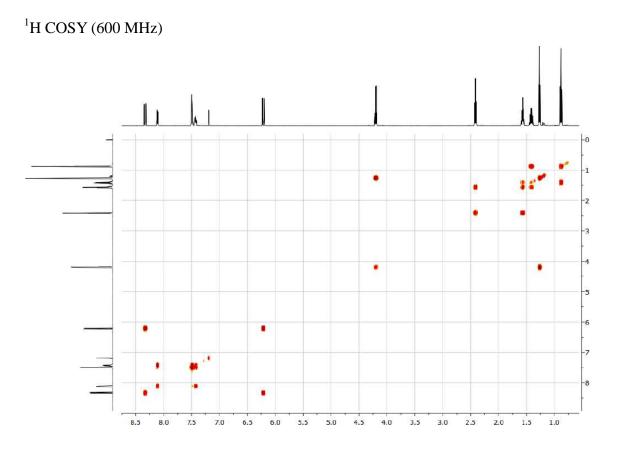


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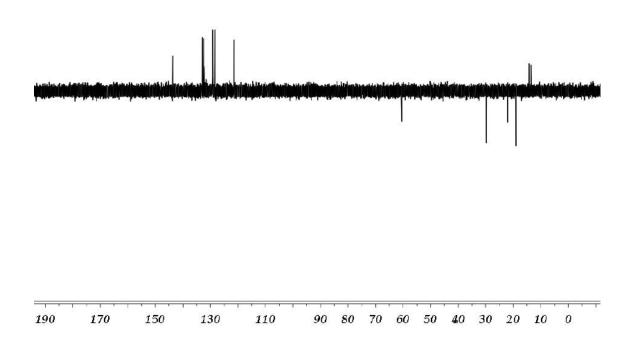




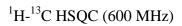


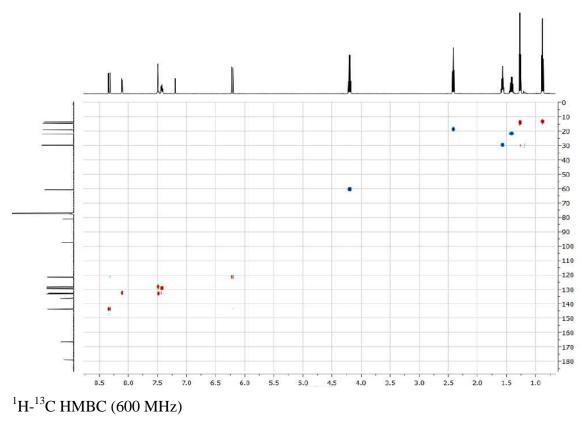


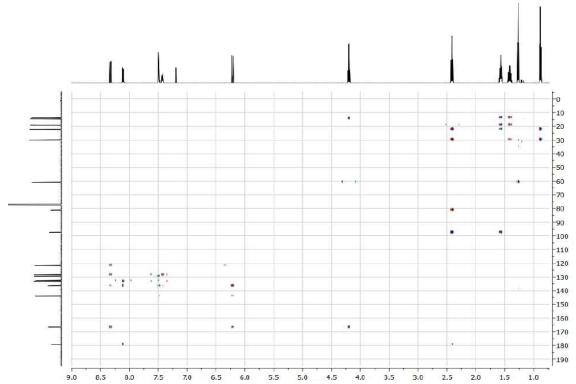
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>C DEPT 135 (101 Mhz)

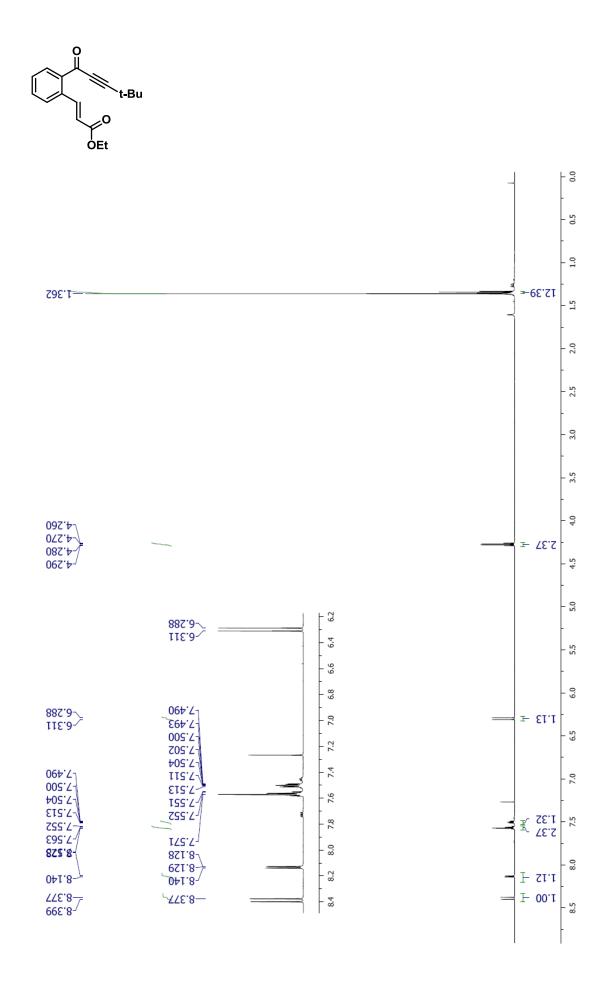


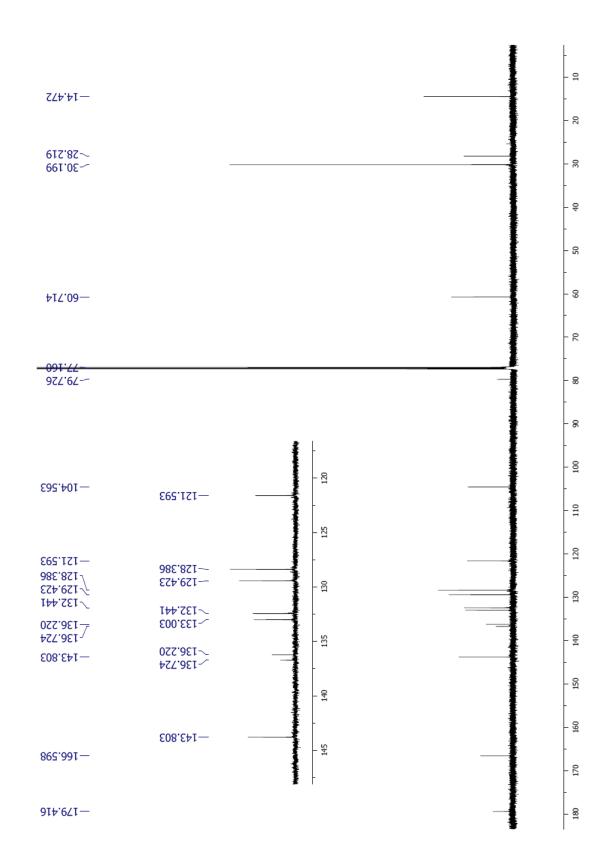


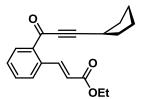


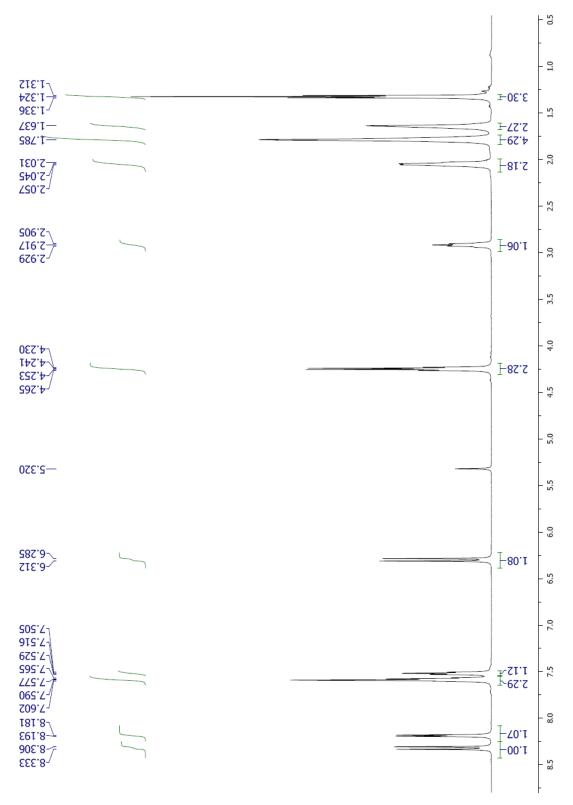


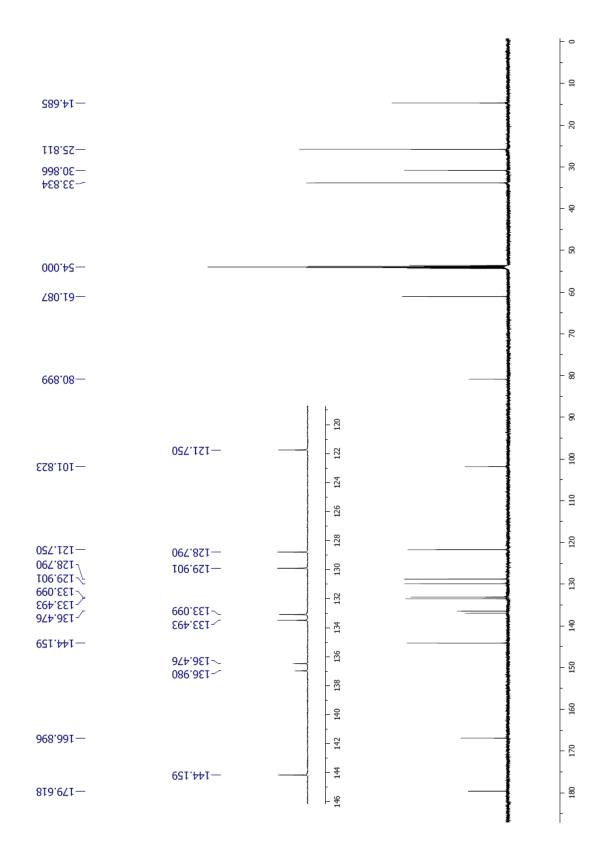


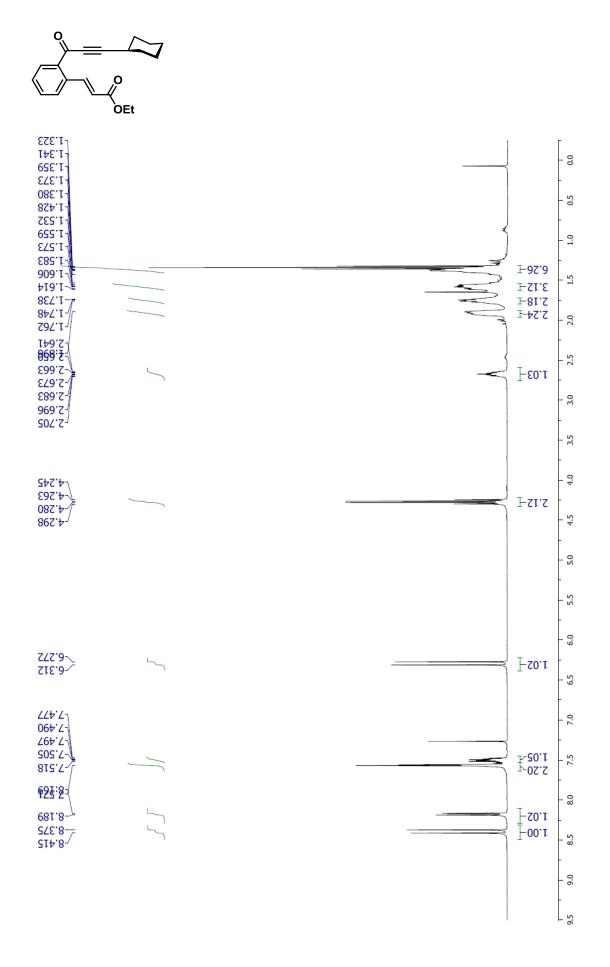


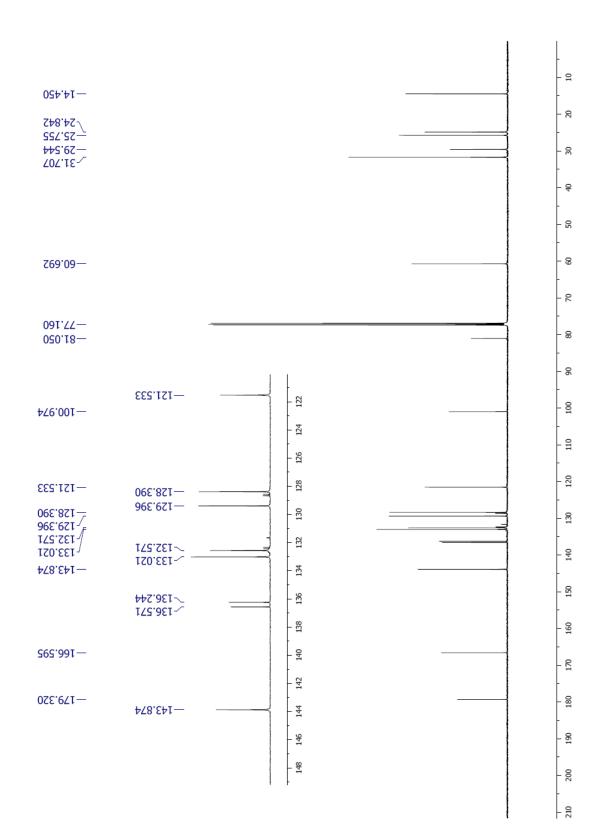




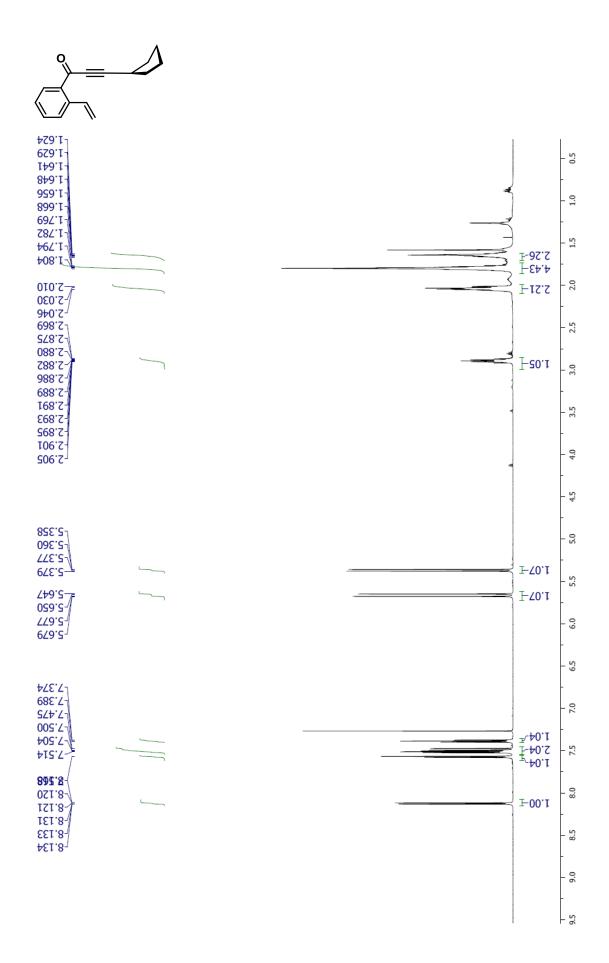




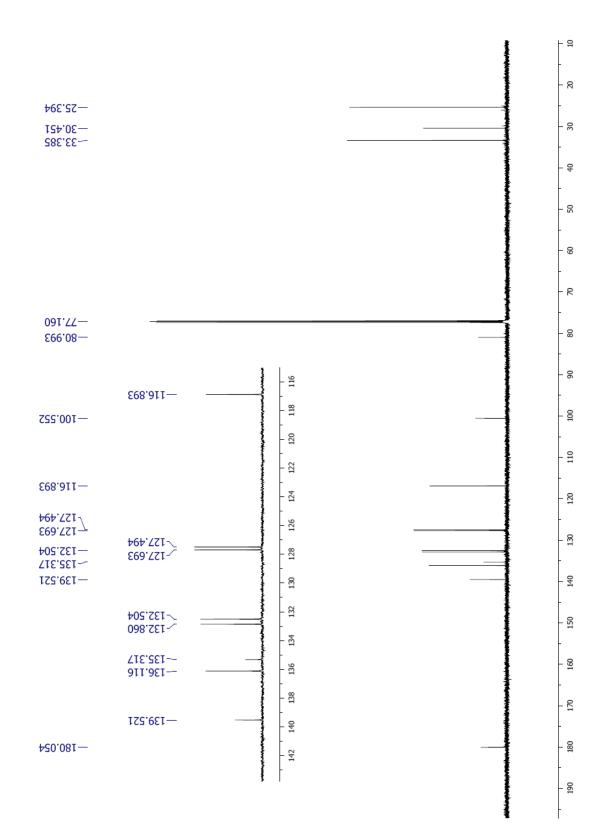


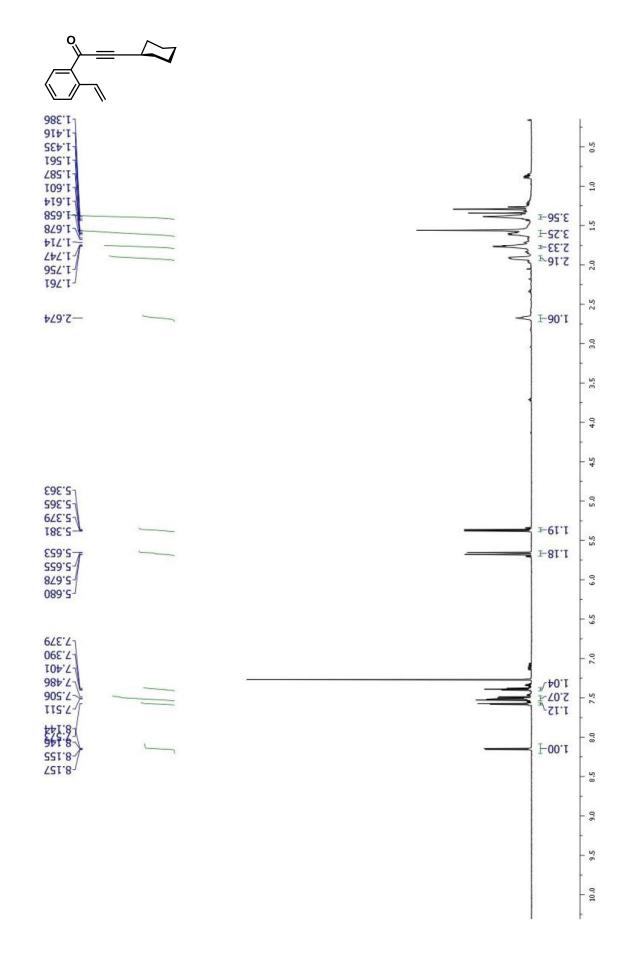


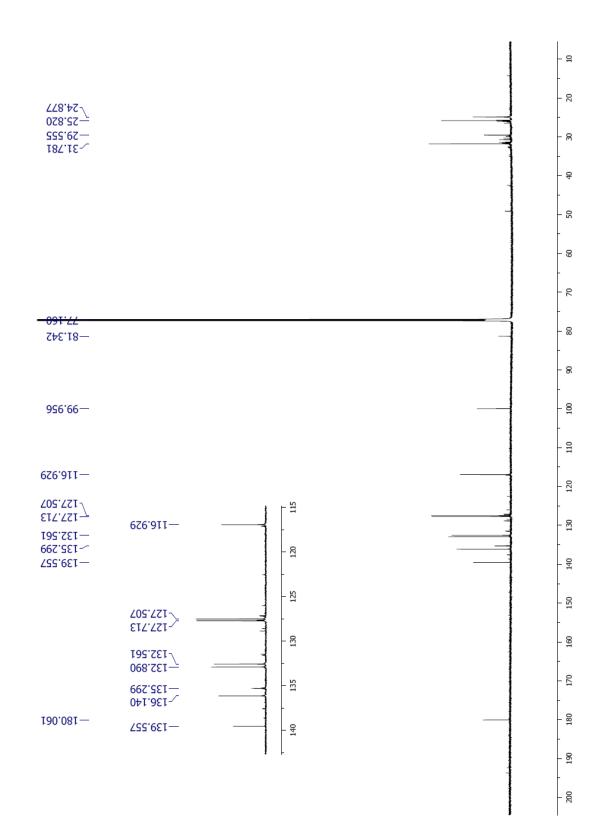
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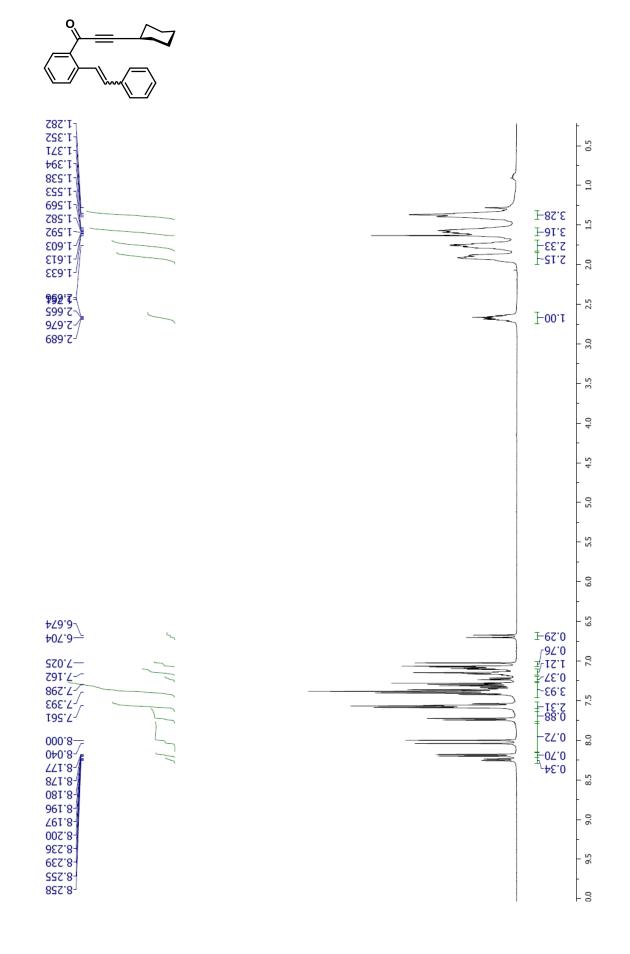


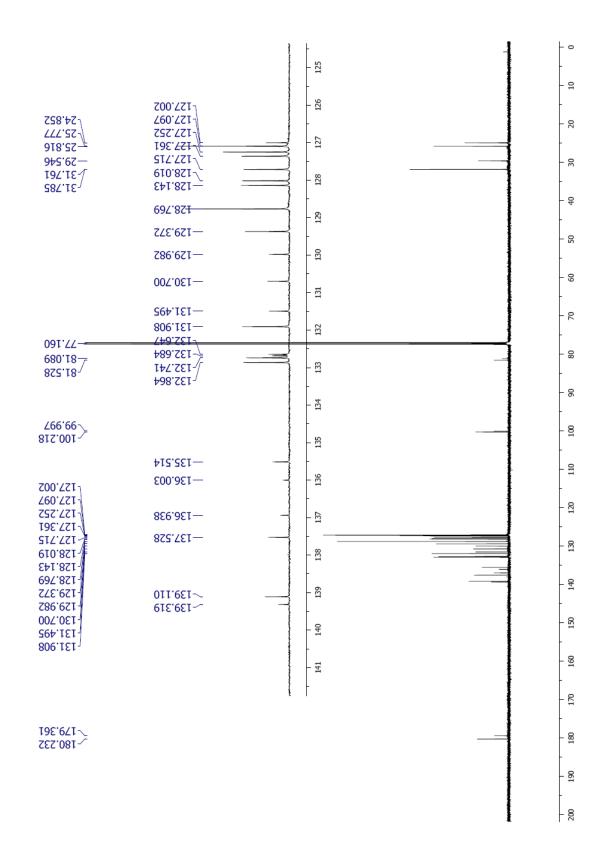
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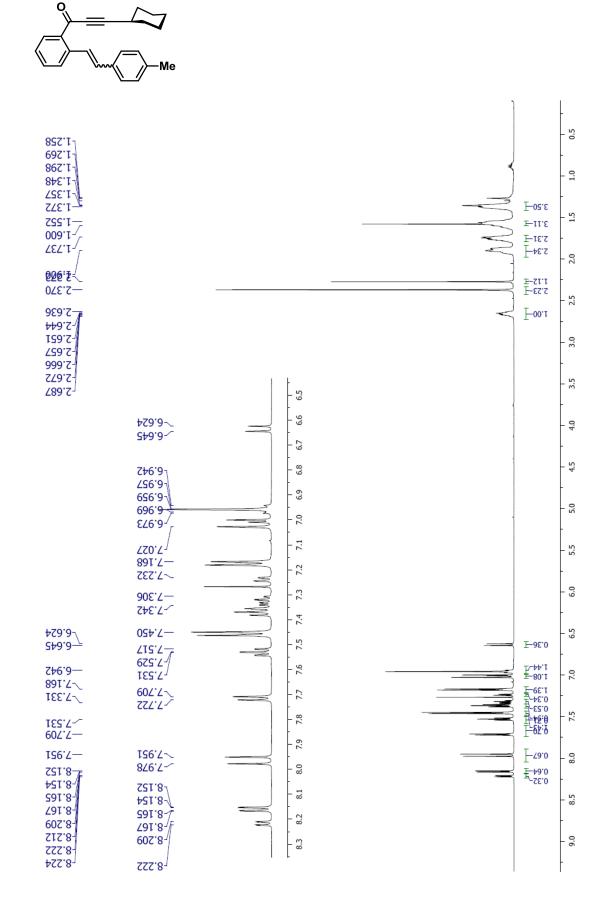


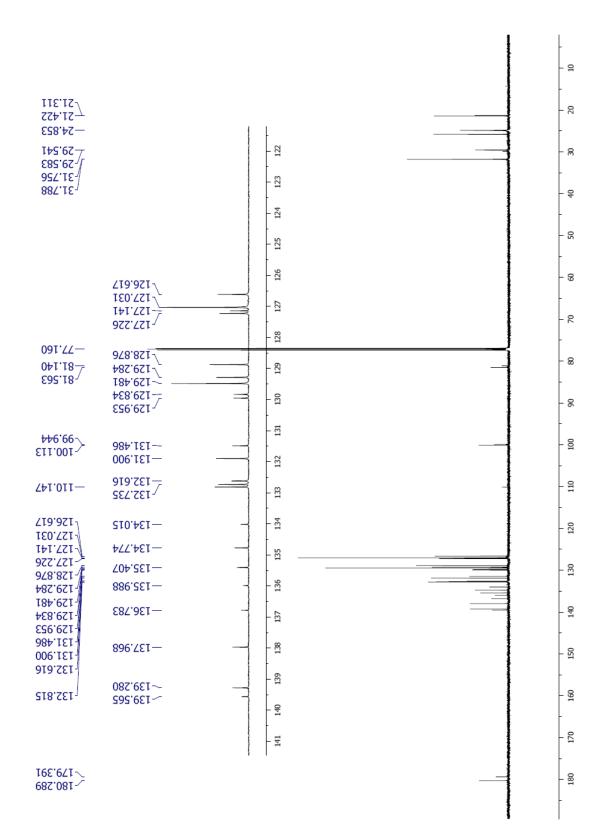


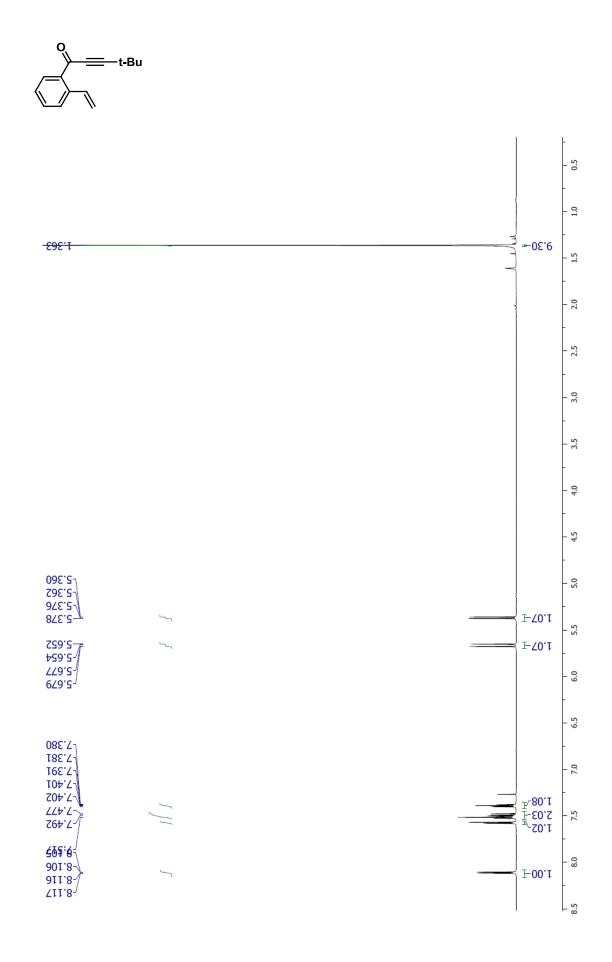


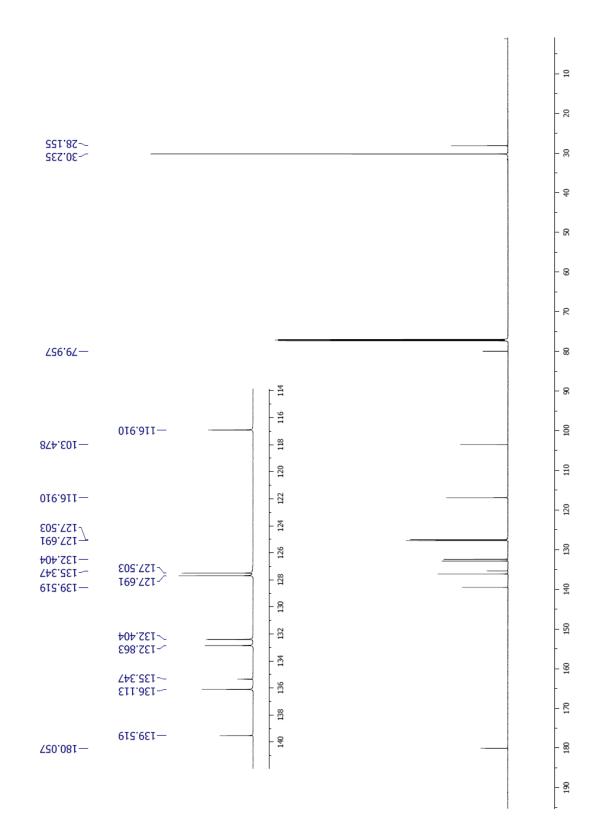


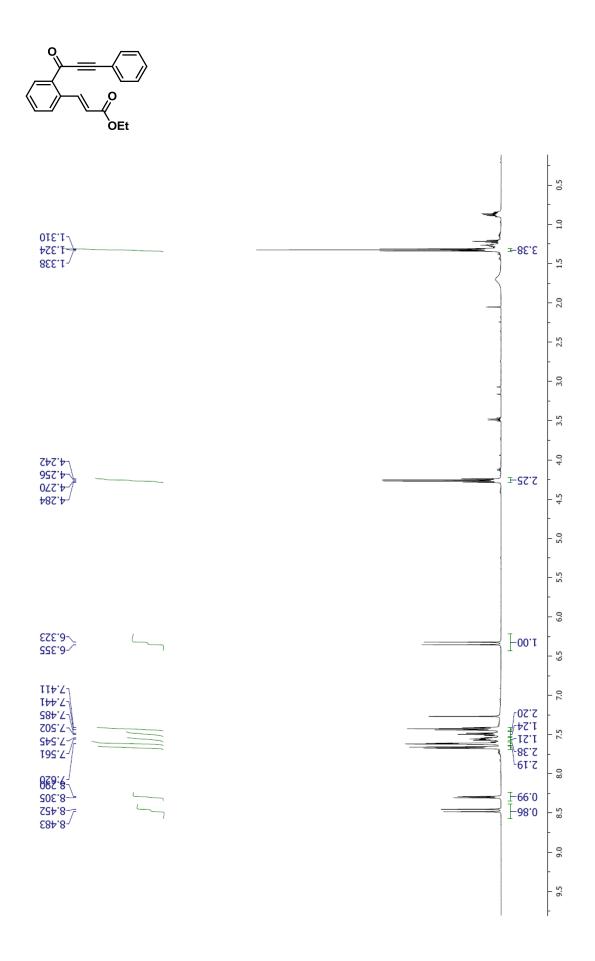


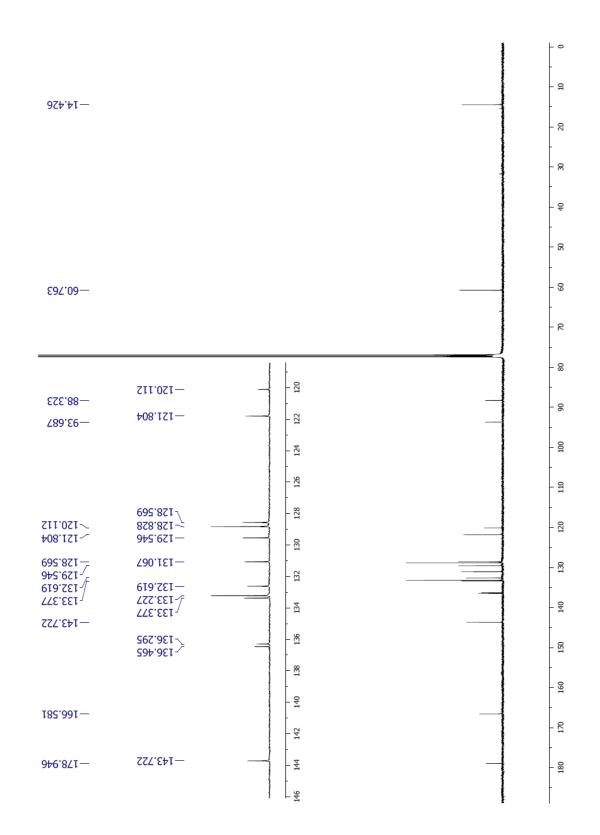


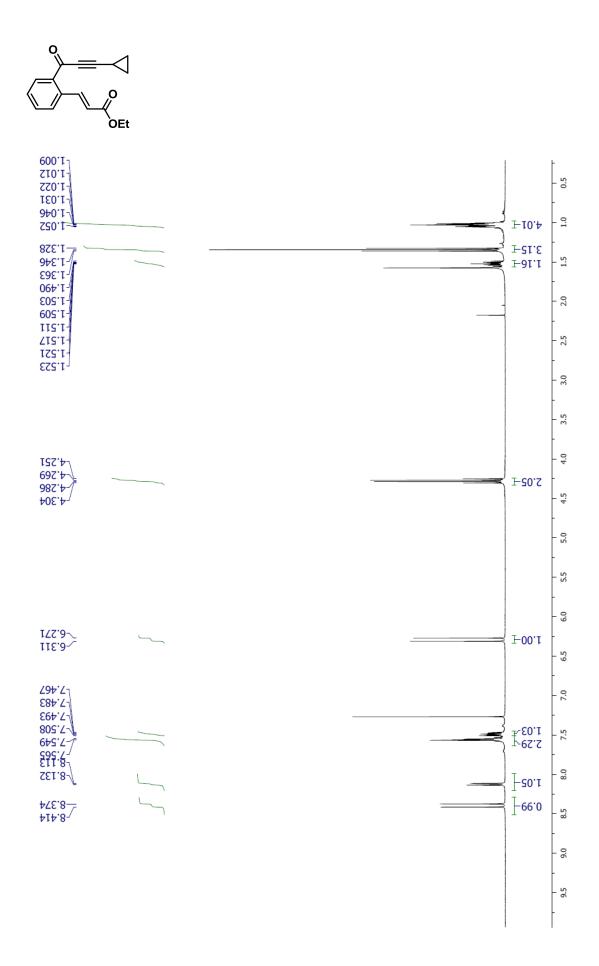


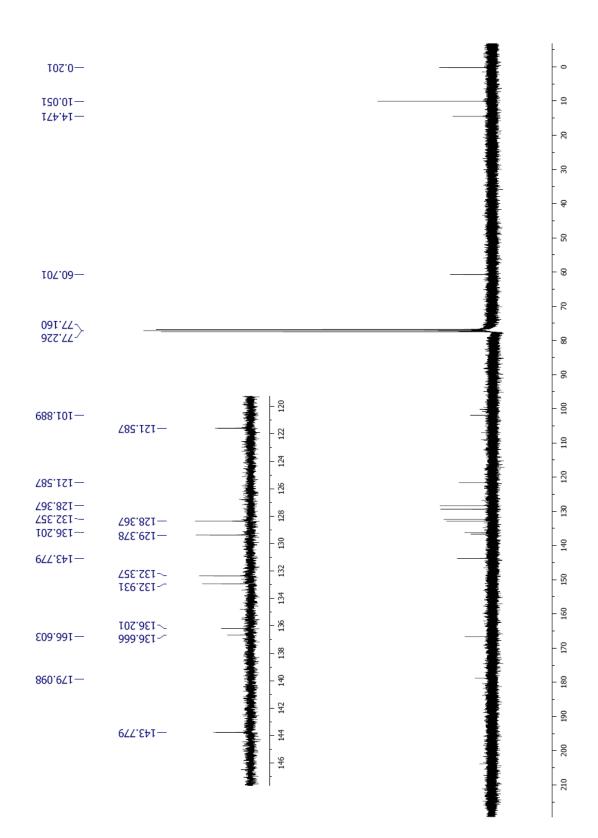


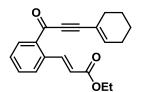


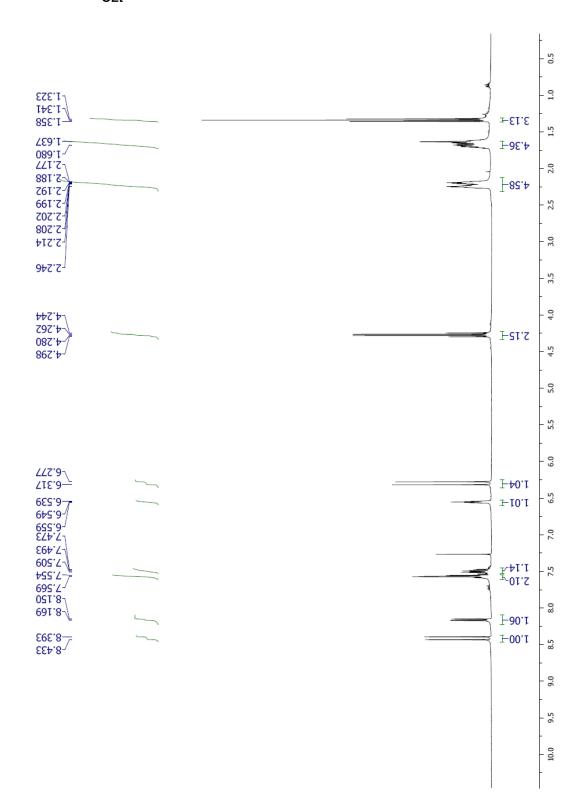


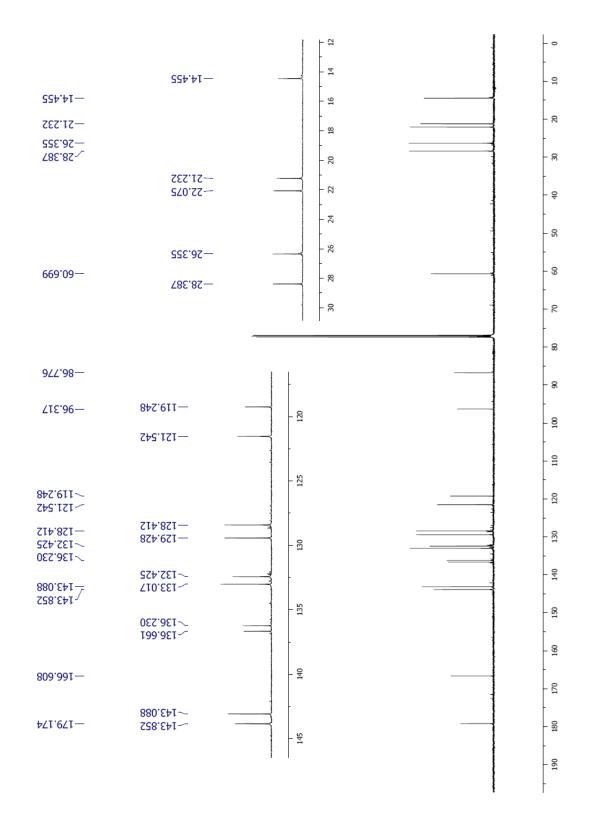


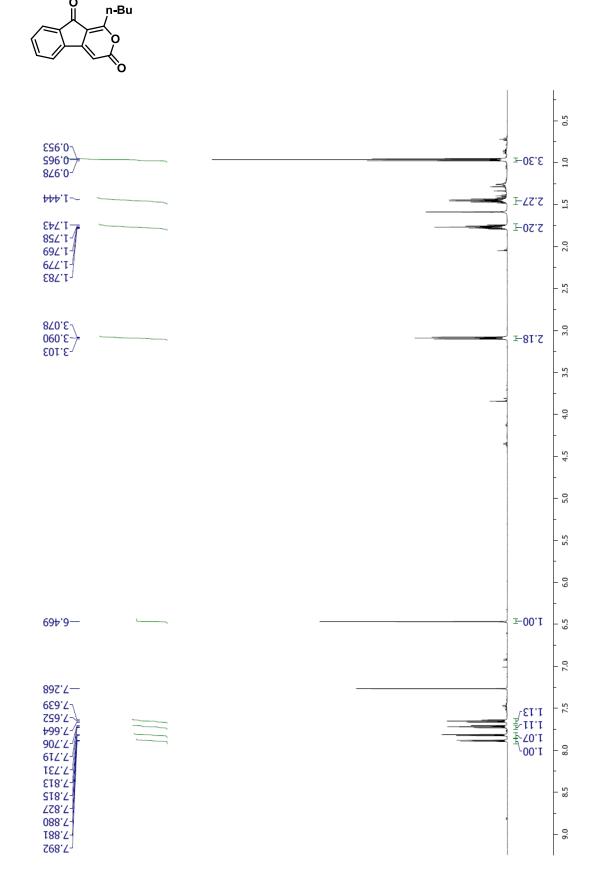


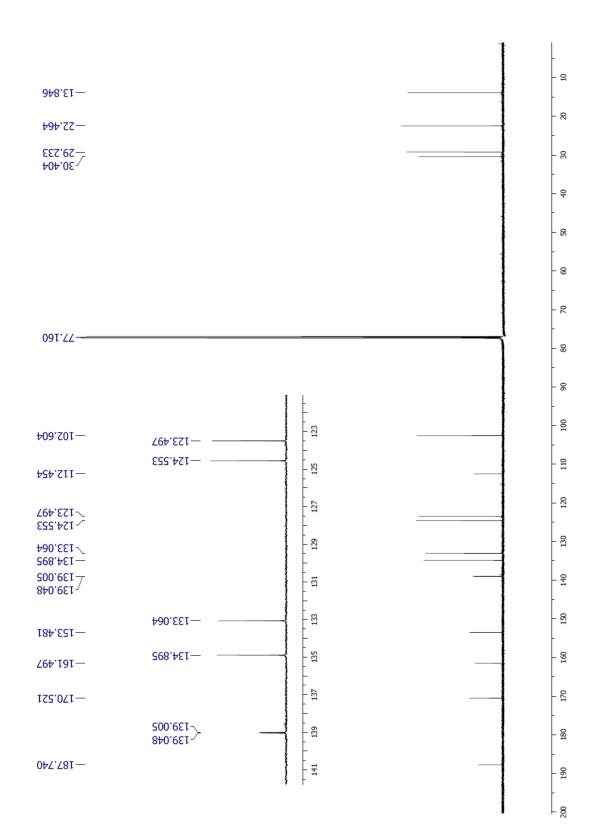


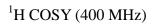


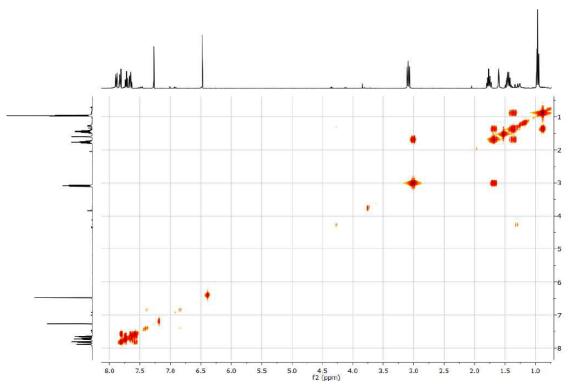




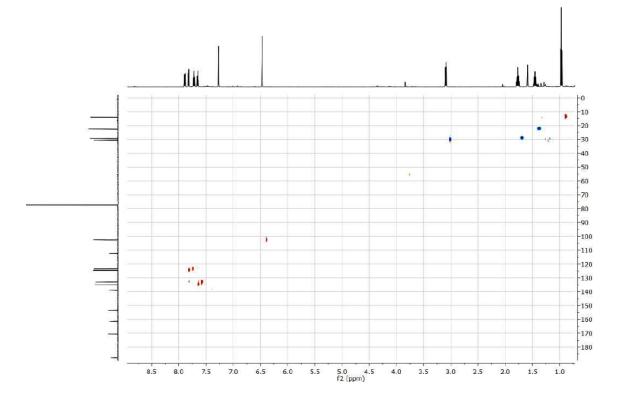




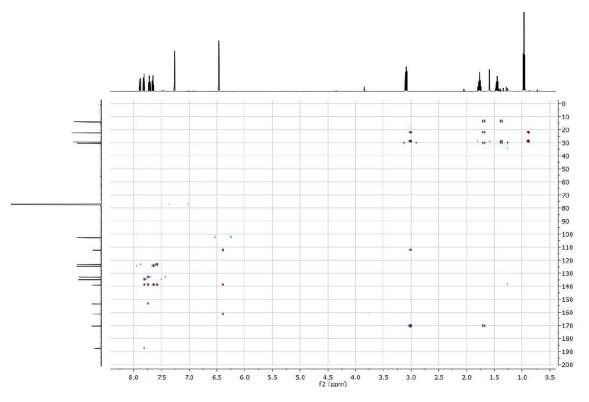


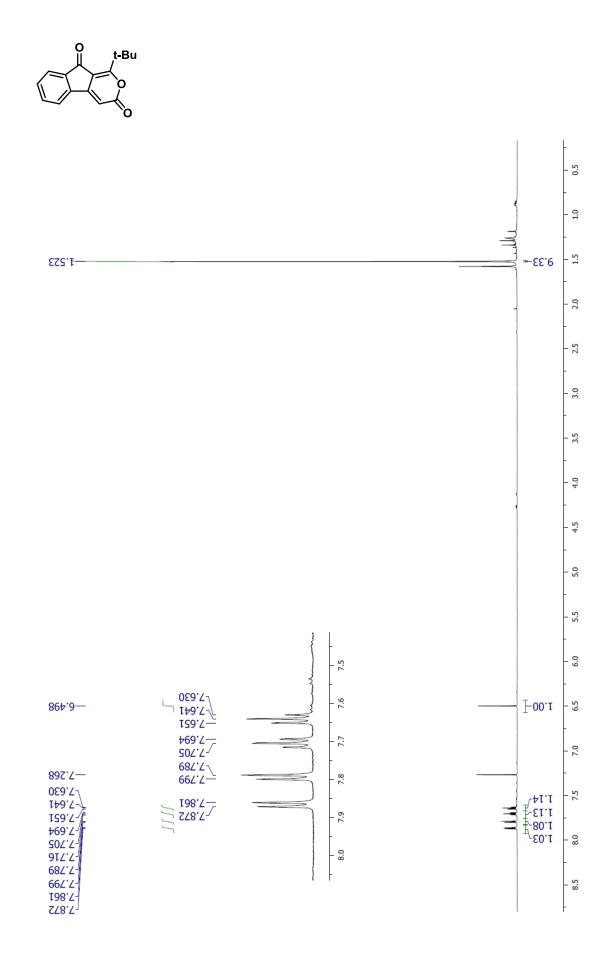


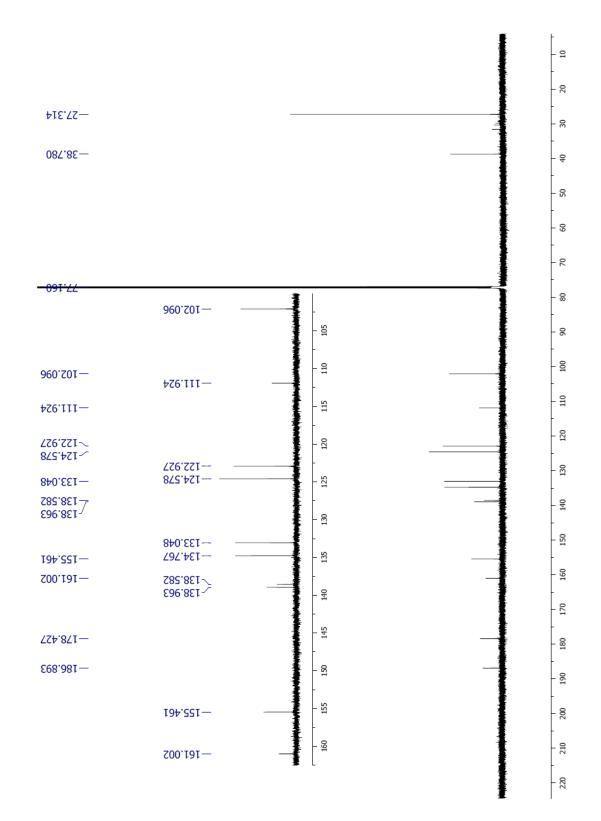
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC (600 MHz)



## <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HMBC (600 MHz)







## <sup>1</sup>H COSY (700 MHz)

8.0

7.5

7.0

6.5

6.0

5.5

5.0 4.5 f2 (ppm) 4.0

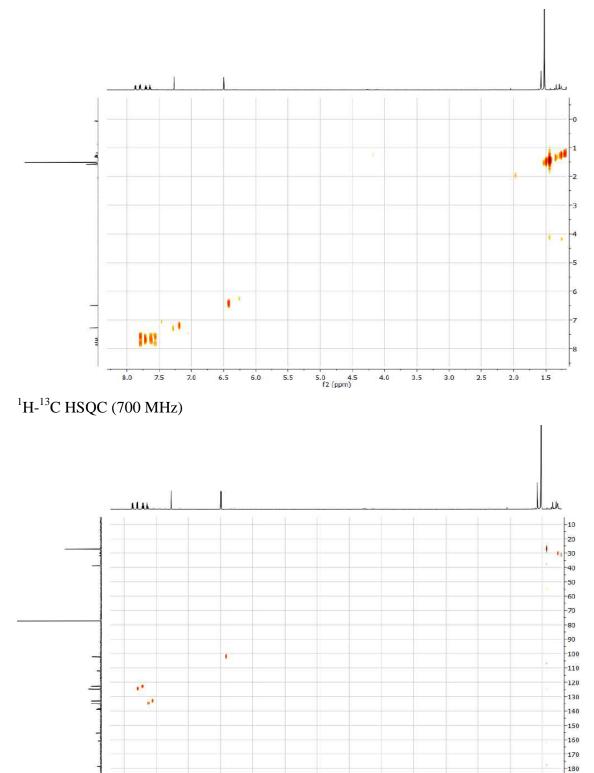
3.5

3.0

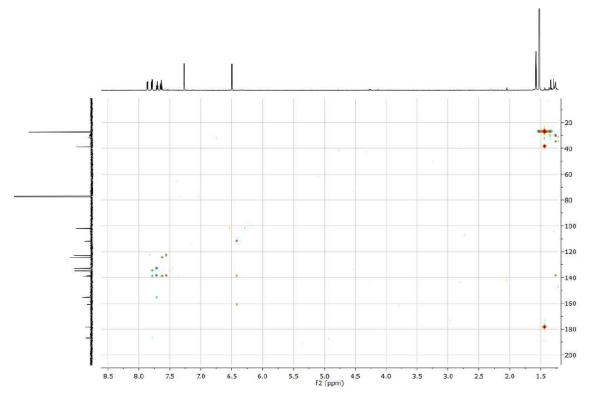
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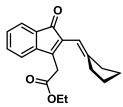
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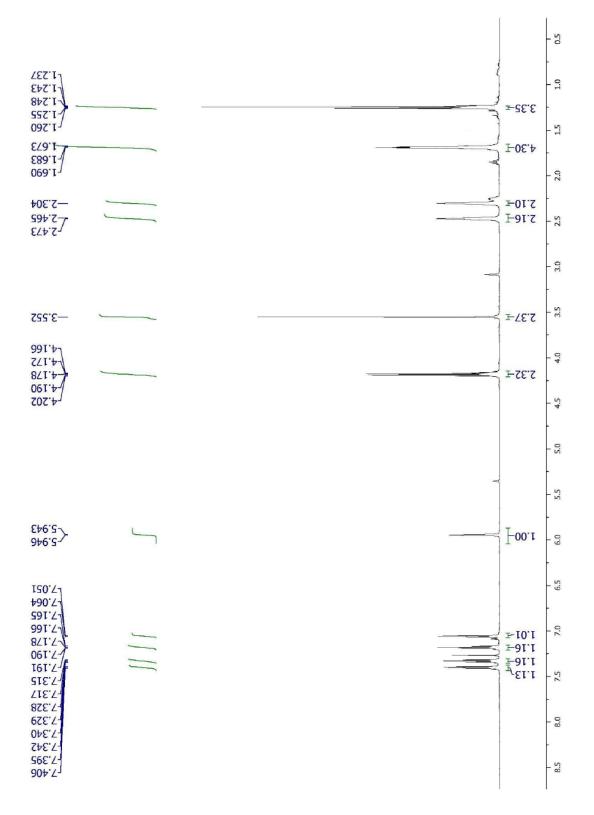
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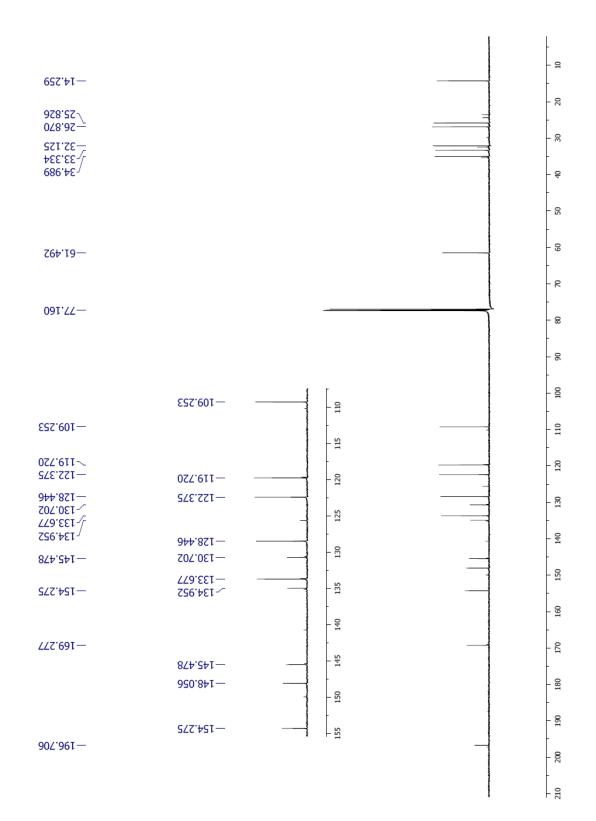


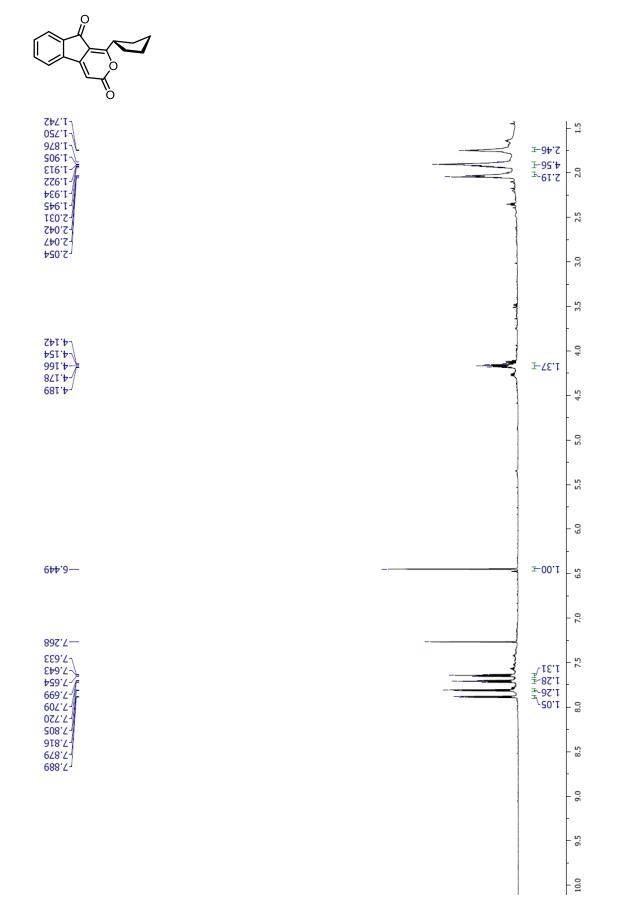
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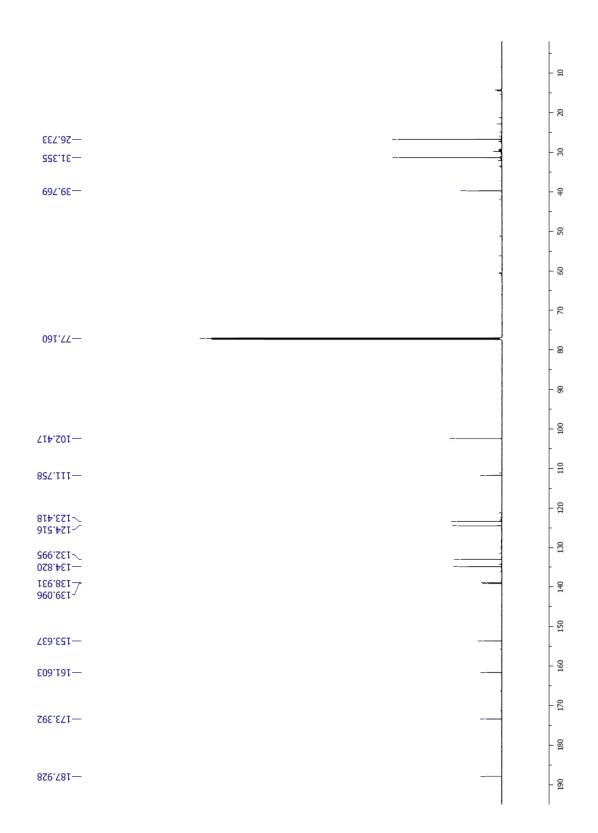


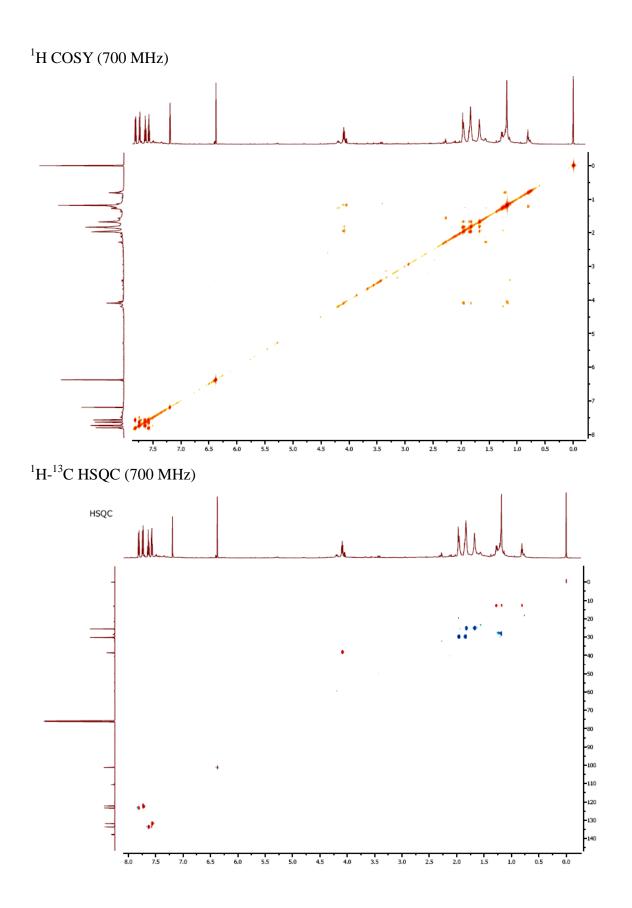


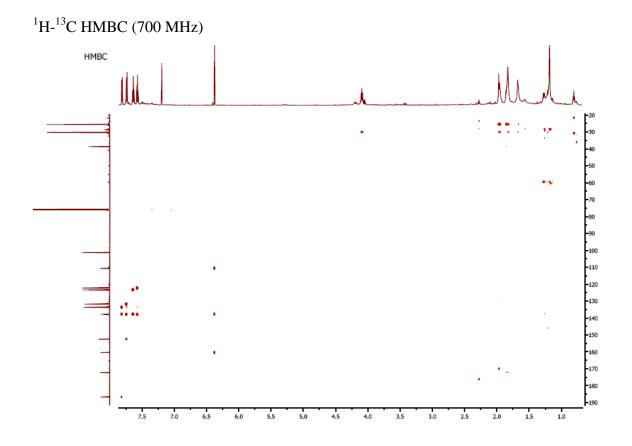


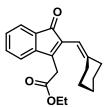


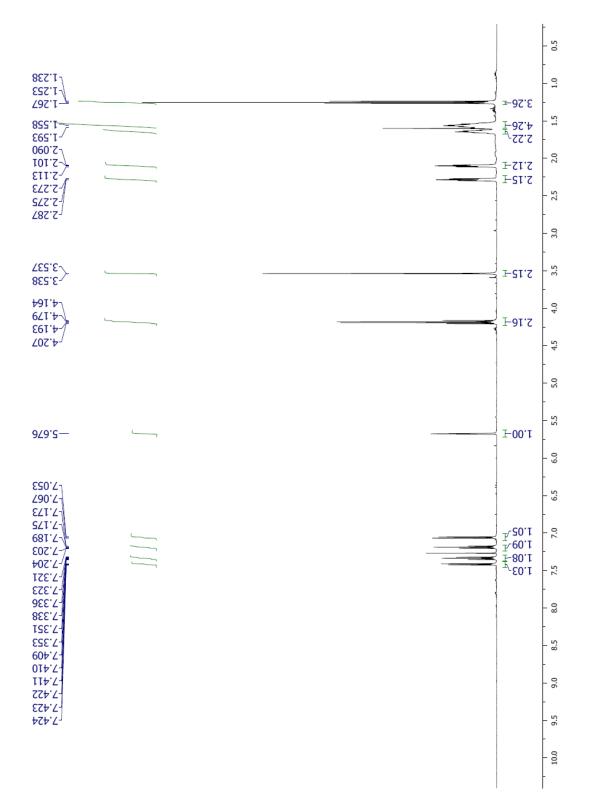


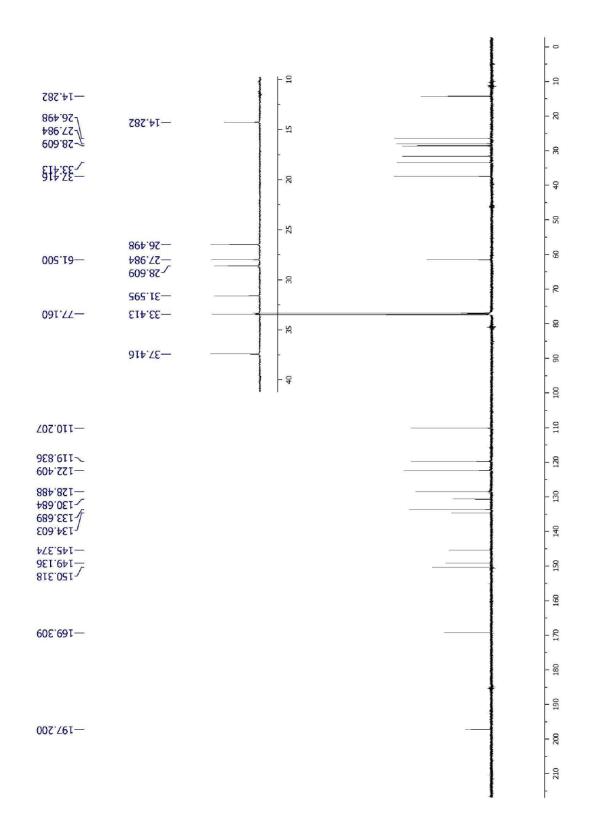


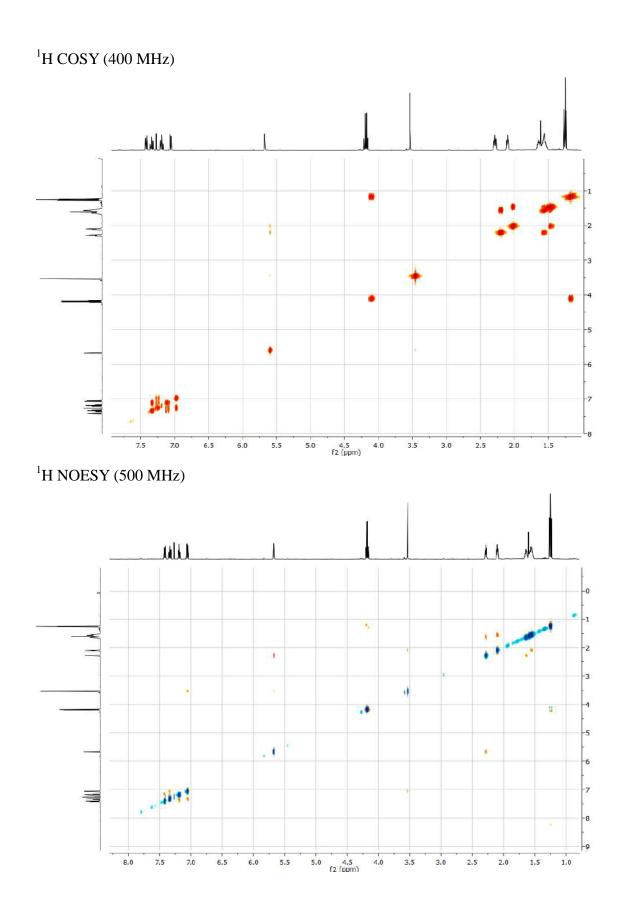




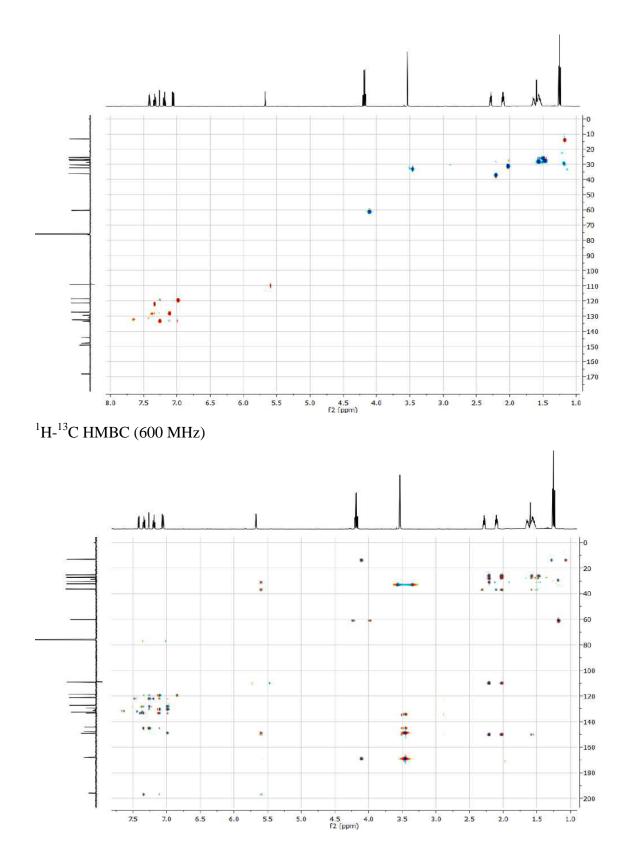


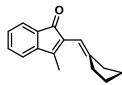


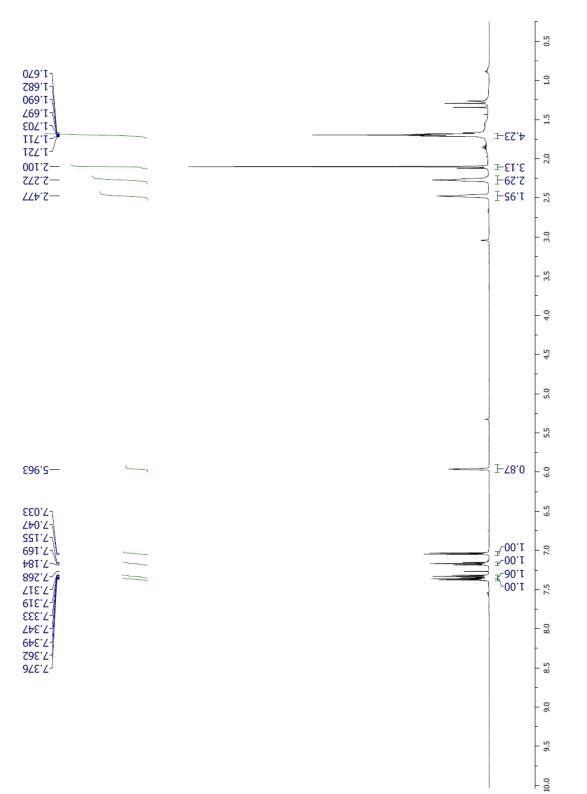




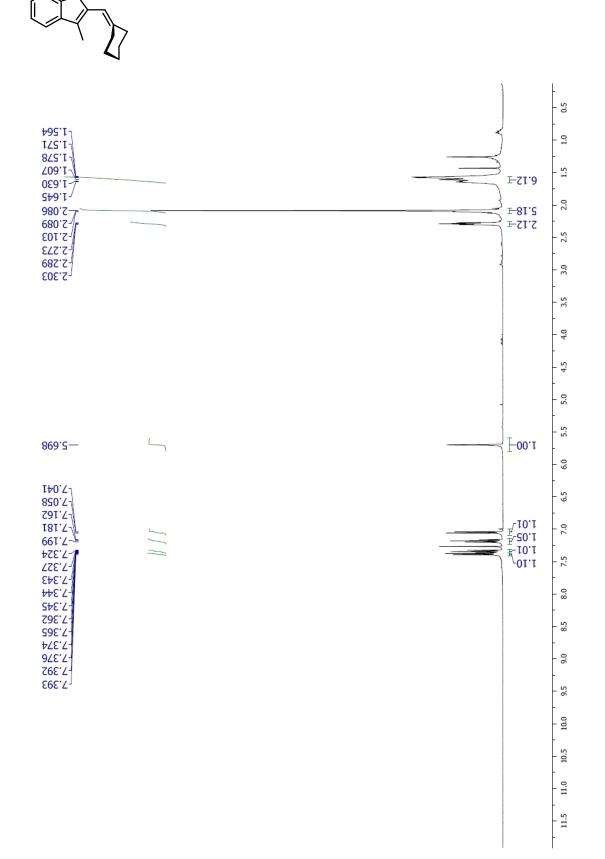
## <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC (600 MHz)

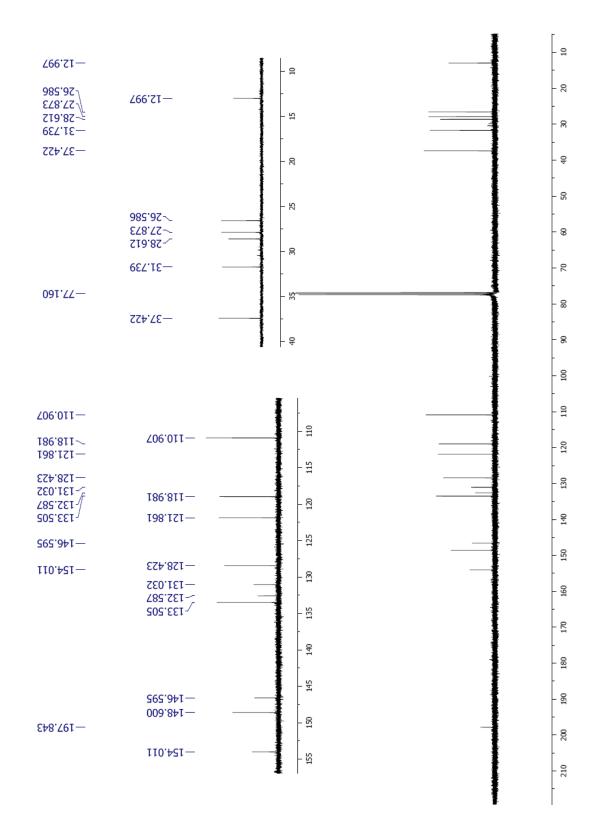


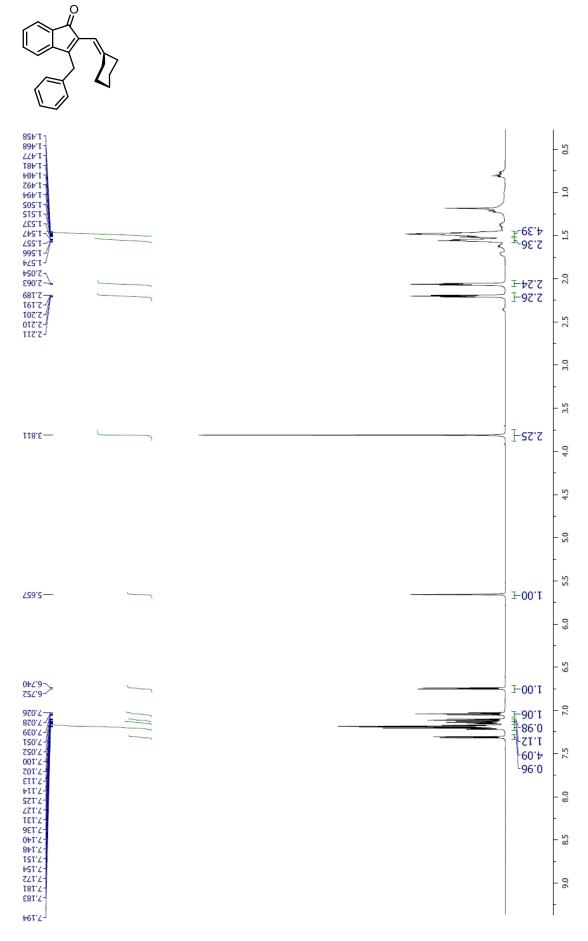


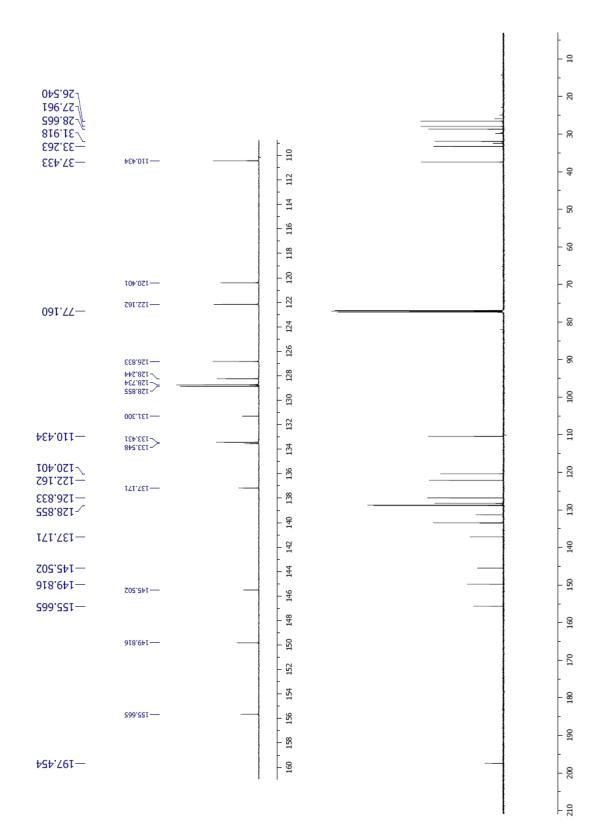


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<b>≁28.25</b> √		- 8
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+18.117~ -118.904		120
∠98'871— 510'181 810'181		- 130
133.053 133.494		140
259.8 <del>4</del> 1—		- 150
723.420 ∑152.420		-
		- 160
		170
		- 180
		- 19
995.701—		50 -
		210
		- 52
		- 230
		2

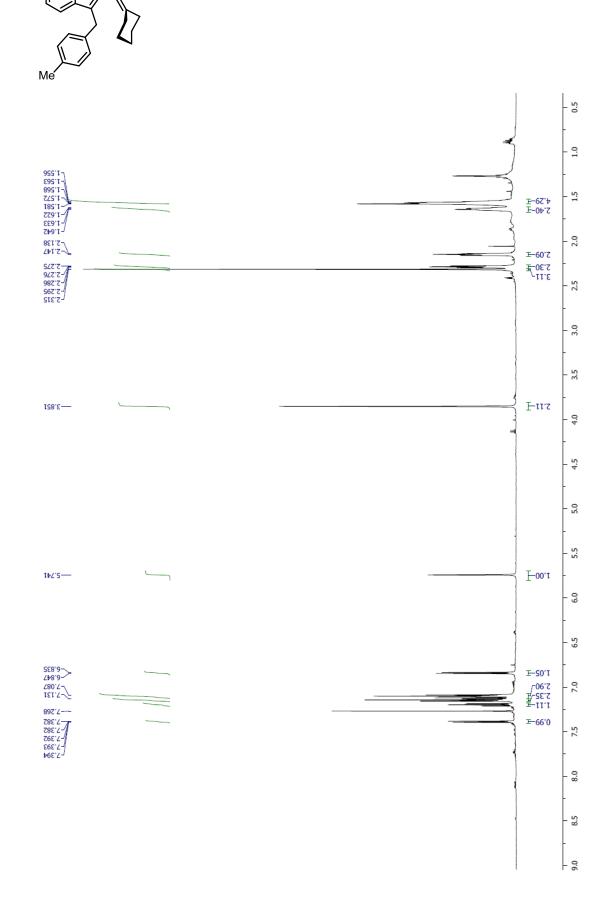


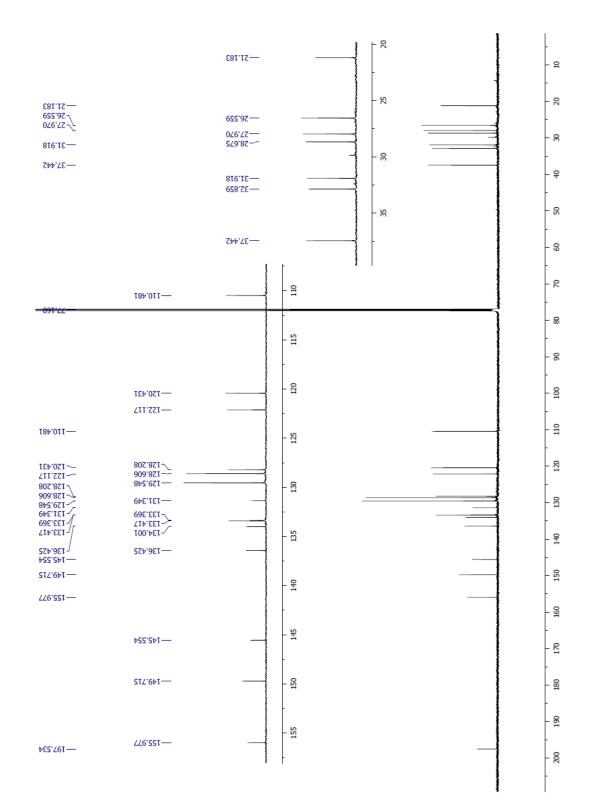


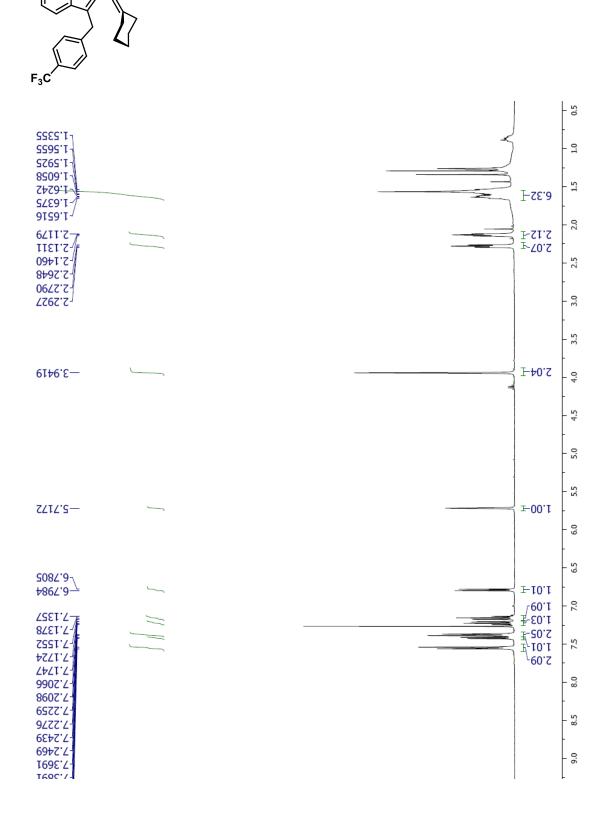


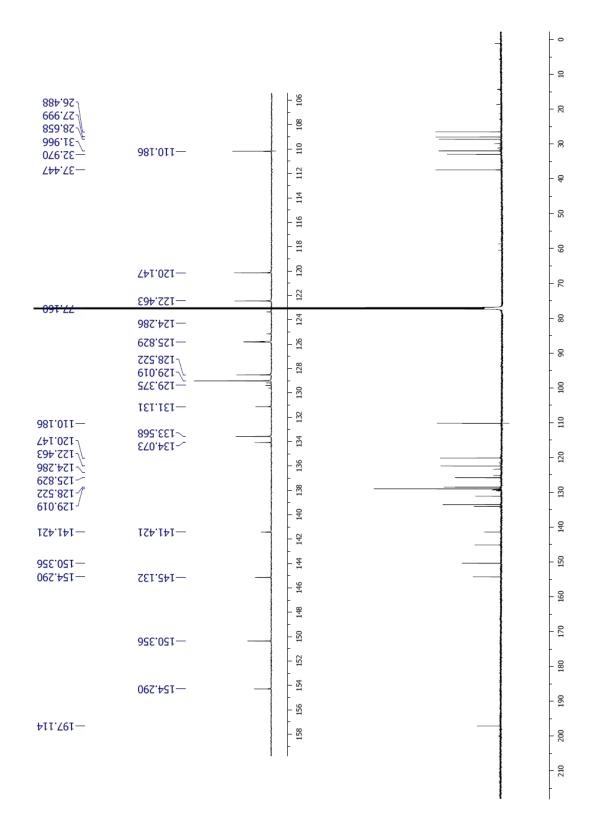


C





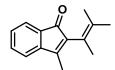


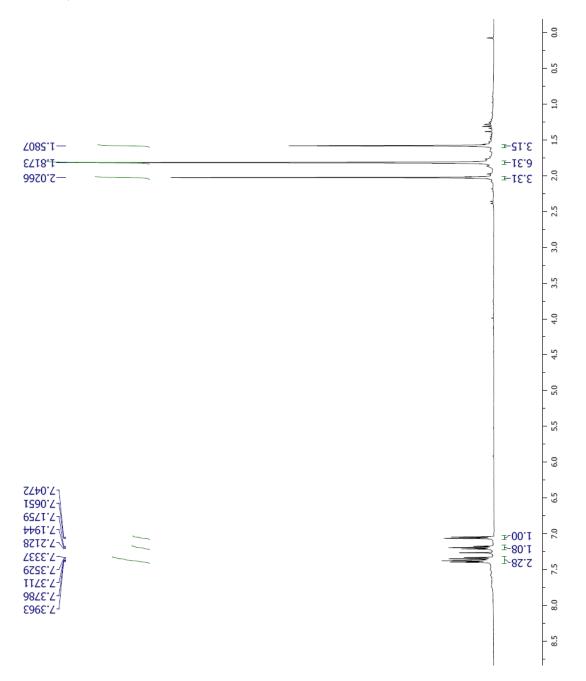


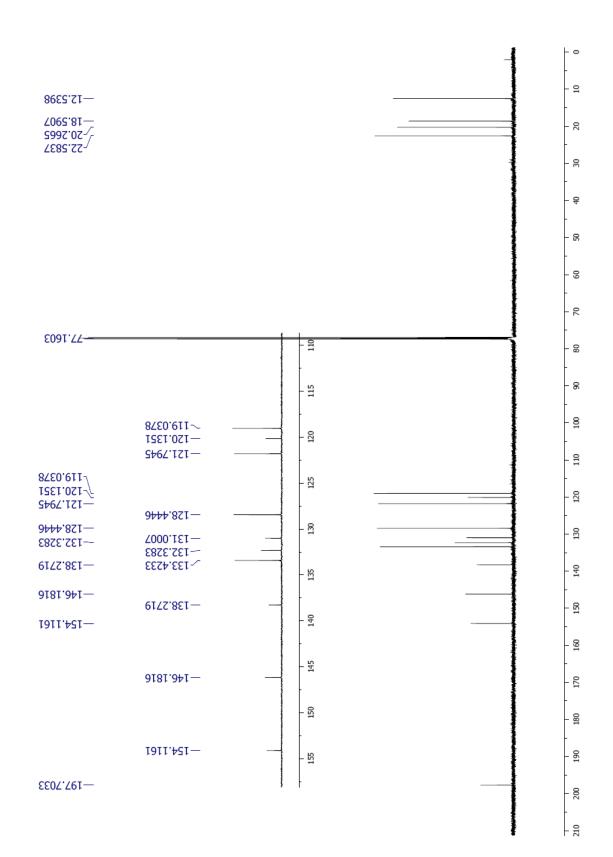
<sup>19</sup>FNMR (376 MHz)

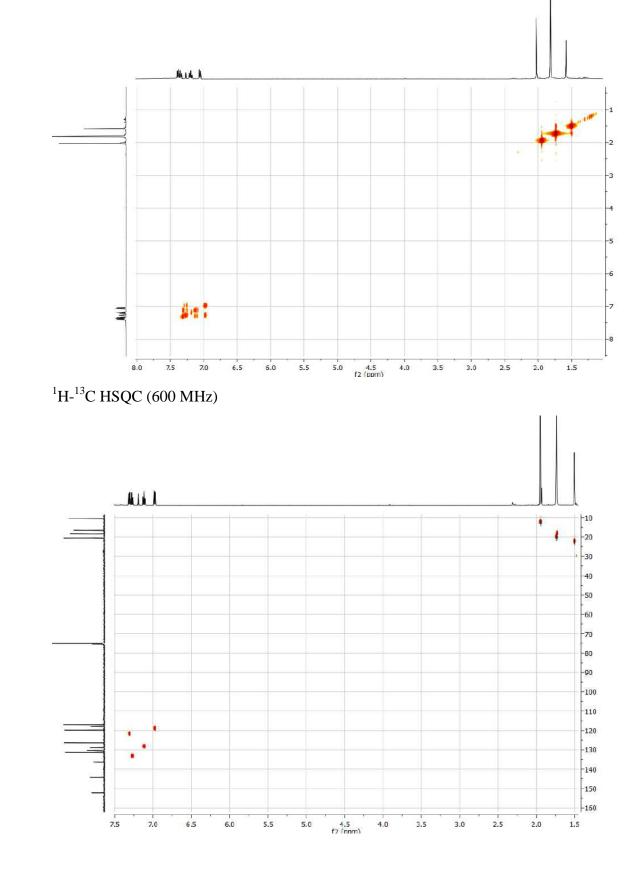
7424.63--

-170 -160 -150 -140 -130 -120 -110 -100 6-8 -20 99 -50 -40 Ř -2 9 - 0 9 - 2



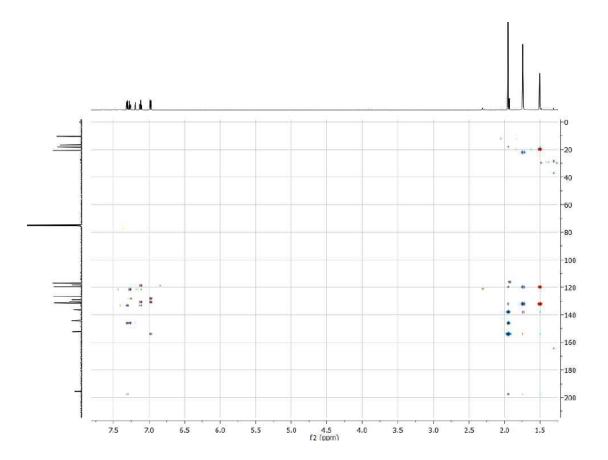


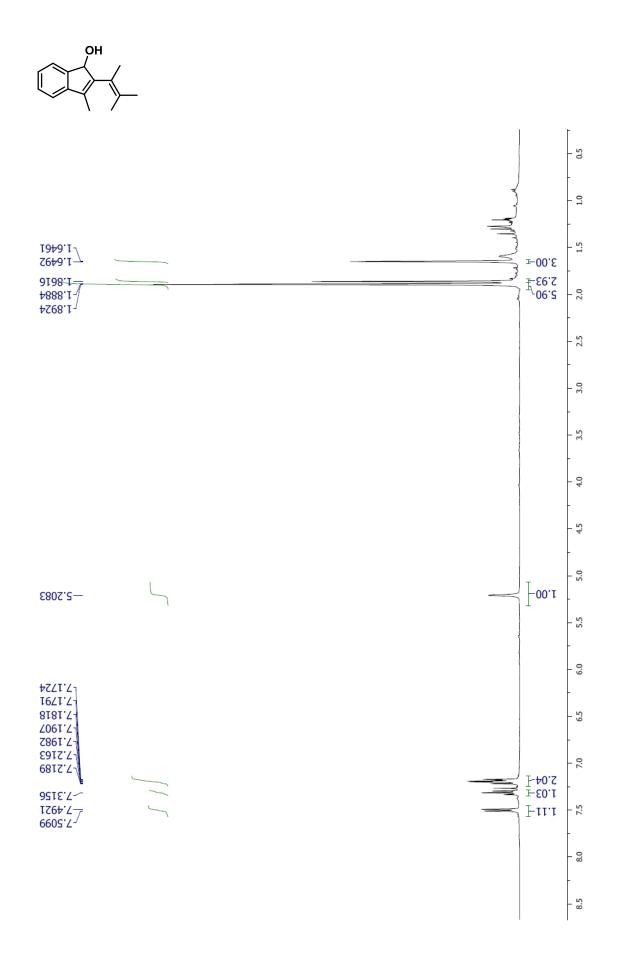


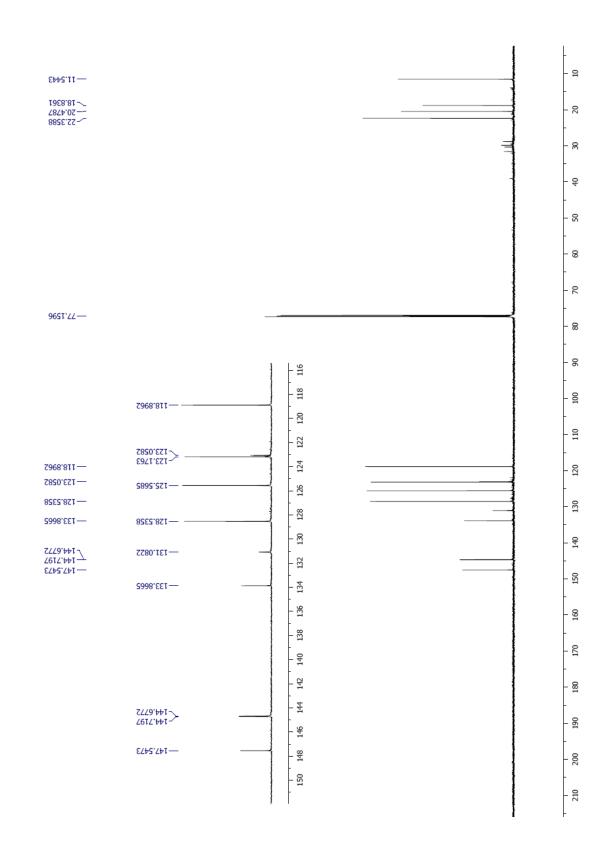


<sup>1</sup>H COSY (400 MHz)

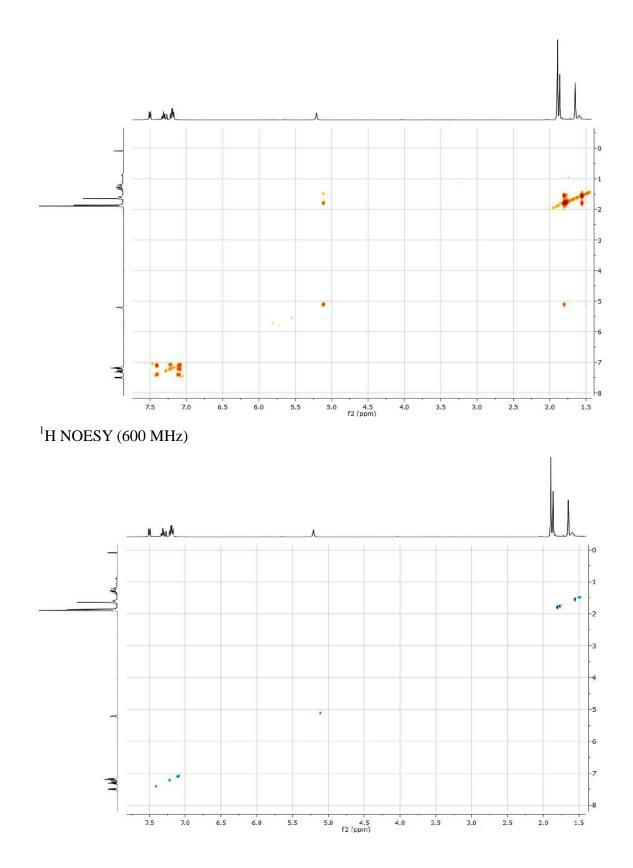
## <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HMBC (600 MHz)







## <sup>1</sup>H COSY (600 MHz)



<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC (600 MHz)

12 Y

. . .

7.0

6.5

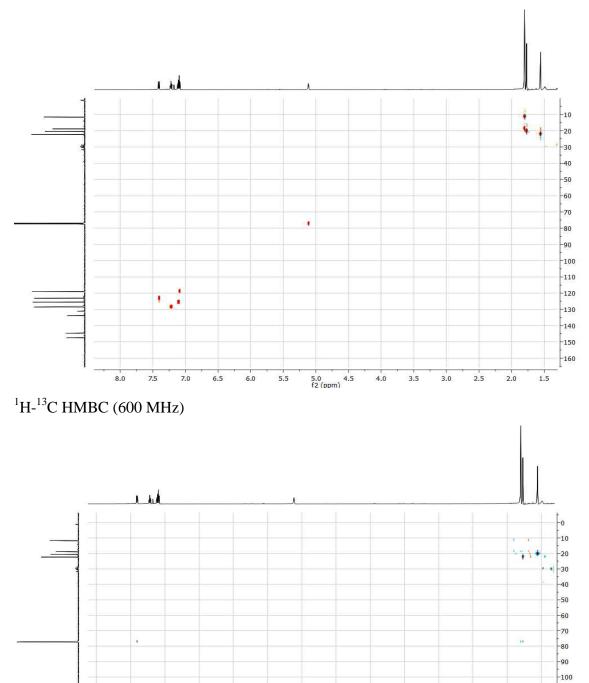
6.0

5.5

7.5

=

8.0



5.0 4.5 f2 (ppm)

4.0

3.5

3.0

2.5

-110 -120

. -130

-140

-150 -160

-

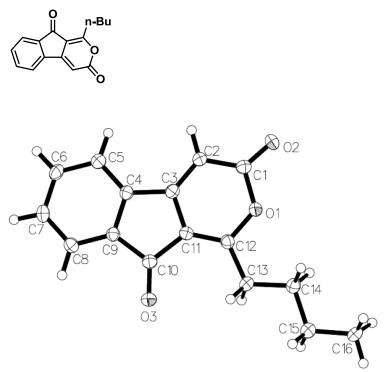
#

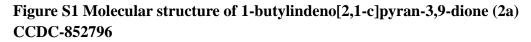
1

1.5

2.0







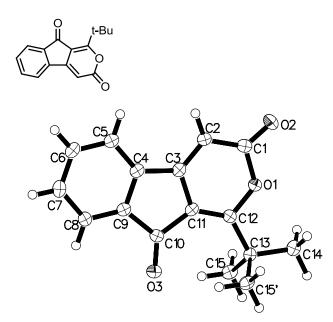


Figure S2 Molecular structure of 1-tert-butylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione (2c) CCDC-857641

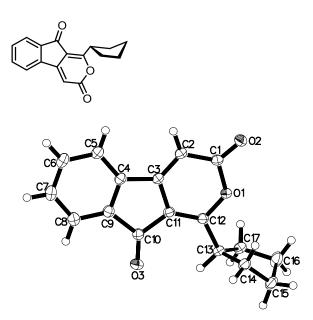


Figure S3 Molecular structure of 1-cyclopentylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione (2d) CCDC-857642

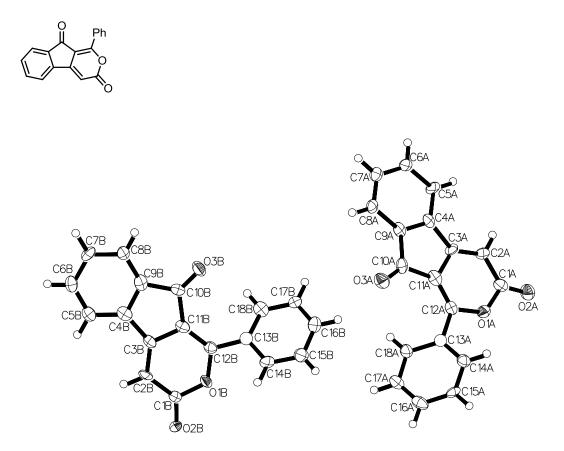


Figure S4 Molecular structure of 1-phenylindeno[2,1-c]pyran-3,9-dione (2k) CCDC-895772

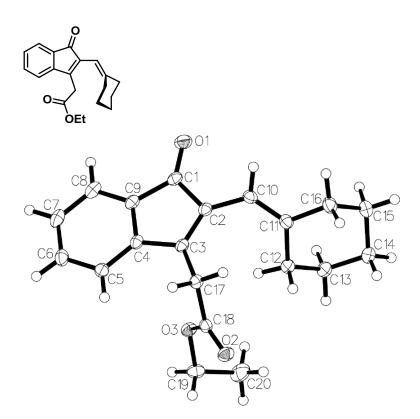


Figure S5 Molecular structure of ethyl 2-(2-(cyclohexylidenemethyl)-1-oxo-1H-inden -3-yl)acetate (3e) CCDC-852797