

# **Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-Catalyzed Regioselective Aromatic C-H Bond Fluorination**

*Shao-Jie Lou, Dan-Qian Xu,\* Ai-Bao Xia, Yi-Feng Wang, Yun-Kui Liu, Xiao-Hua Du  
and Zhen-Yuan Xu\**

Catalytic Hydrogenation Research Center, State Key Laboratory Breeding Base of Green

Chemistry-Synthesis Technology,

Zhejiang University of Technology, 18 Chaowang Road, Hangzhou 310014, P. R. China

Email: [greenchem@zjut.edu.cn](mailto:greenchem@zjut.edu.cn)

## **Supporting Information**

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
General	S2
Screening of the fluorination condition	S3–S6
Typical experimental procedure for synthesis of <b>2</b> and <b>4</b>	S7
Characterization of all products	S7–S19
Preliminary mechanistic studies	S19–S36
References	S36
<sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C and <sup>19</sup> F NMR spectra of all products	S37–S75

## General

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without purifications. All solvents for reactions were dried and distilled prior to use according to standard methods. Melting points are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AVANCE III 500 instrument in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  using TMS as internal standard, operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz, respectively.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR were recorded on a Varian Inova 400 instrument in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 376 MHz with  $\text{CF}_3\text{COOH}$  as external standard, Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are expressed in ppm and coupling constants  $J$  are given in Hz. GC-MS experiments were performed with an Agilent 6890N GC system equipped with a 5973N mass-selective detector, high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Waters GCT Premier TOF MS with EI or CI source. Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass experiments were performed on a Thermo LCQ fleet. Starting materials 2-arylquinoxalines (**1a-1t**),<sup>[1,2]</sup> 2-phenylbenzo[d]oxazole (**3b**)<sup>[3]</sup> and 2-phenylpyrazine (**3c**)<sup>[4]</sup> were synthesized according to the literature procedures.

## Screening of the fluorination condition

**Table 1.** Screening of fluorination agents <sup>a</sup>

Reaction scheme showing the fluorination of **1a** (2-phenylquinazoline) using  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%), TFA (2.0 equiv.), and DCE under  $[\text{F}^+]$  to yield **2a** (2-(2-fluorophenyl)quinazoline) and **3a** (2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)quinazoline).

Entry	$[\text{F}^+]$	Conv. of <b>1a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of <b>2a</b> / <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>A</b> (1.5 equiv.)	12	trace / 0
2	<b>B</b> (1.5 equiv.)	7	5 / 0
3	<b>C</b> (1.5 equiv.)	5	3 / 0
4	<b>D</b> (1.5 equiv.)	6	5 / trace
<b>5</b>	<b>E</b> (1.5 equiv.)	<b>95</b>	<b>68 / 25</b>
6	<b>E</b> (1.0 equiv.)	65	45 / 19
7	<b>E</b> (2.0 equiv.)	96	60 / 31

<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition : **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.2 mg), TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid (23 mg), DCE = 1, 2-chloroethane (1.0 mL), 110 °C, under air, 24 h. <sup>b</sup> GC-MS yield.

**Table 2.** Screening of solvents <sup>a</sup>

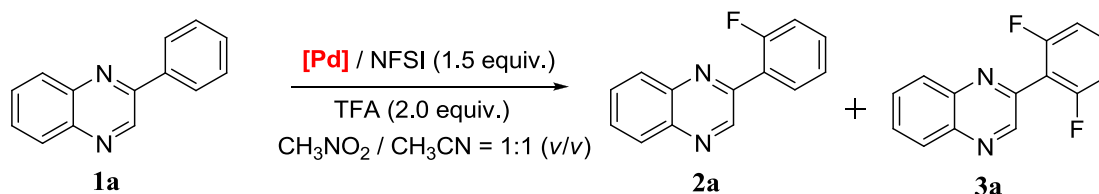
Reaction scheme showing the fluorination of **1a** (2-phenylquinazoline) using  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%), NFSI (1.5 equiv.), and TFA (2.0 equiv.) in various solvents to yield **2a** (2-(2-fluorophenyl)quinazoline) and **3a** (2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)quinazoline).

Entry	Solvents	T (°C)	Time (hr)	Conv. of <b>1a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of <b>2a</b> / <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	DCE	r.t.	24	0	0
2	DCE	80	24	15	13 / 1
3	DCE	95	24	48	42 / 4
4	DCE	110	24	95	68 / 25
5	DCE	125	24	96	67 / 28
6	DCE	110	12	94	68 / 24
7	$\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	110	12	62	53 / 1.5
8	Toulene	110	12	49	38 / 2

9	CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	110	12	trace	0 / 0
10	1,4-dioxane	110	12	37	12 / trace
11	DMF	110	12	8	trace / 0
12	DMA	110	12	16	15 / trace
13	NMP	110	12	trace	trace / trace
14	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	110	12	28	15 / trace
15	EtOAc	110	12	28	22 / trace
16	THF	110	12	14	12 / trace
17	CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	110	12	91	54 / 33
18	n-Hexane	110	12	34	9 / trace
19	DCE / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 1:1	110	12	65	60 / 2
20	DCE / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 1:2	110	12	65	60 / 2
21	DCE / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 2:1	110	12	65	59 / 2
22	DCE / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 10:1	110	12	68	62 / 3
23	DCE / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 1:10	110	12	64	58 / 2
<b>24</b>	<b>CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> / CH<sub>3</sub>CN = 1:1</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>78 / 3</b>
25	CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 10:1	110	12	91	76 / 13
26	CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> / CH <sub>3</sub> CN = 1:10	110	12	65	61 / 2

<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition : **1a** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mg), NFSI = N-Fluorobenzenesulfooinimide (47 mg), TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid (23 mg), solvents (1.0 mL), under air. <sup>b</sup> GC-MS yield.

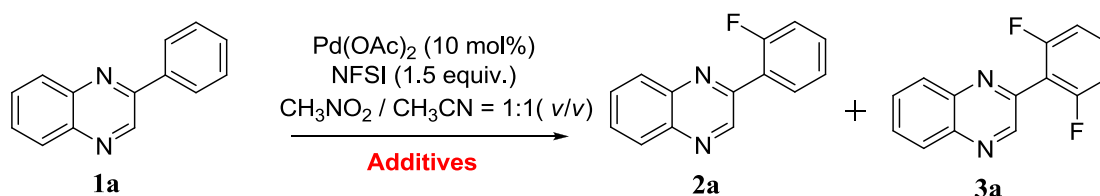
**Table 3.** Screening of catalysts <sup>a</sup>



Entry	[Pd]	Conv. of <b>1a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of <b>2a</b> / <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>78 / 3</b>
2	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (5 mol%)	66	63 / 2
3	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	65	62 / 1.5 <sup>c</sup>
4	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	83	78 / 4 <sup>d</sup>
5	Pd(OOCCF <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	79	73 / 2
6	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	trace	trace / 0
7	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	62	58 / 2
8	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> (10 mol%)	40	32 / trace
9	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> (10 mol%)	68	65 / 2
10	—	trace	0 / 0

<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition : **1a** (0.1 mmol), NFSI = N-Fluorobenzenesulfooinimide (47 mg), TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid (23 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> / CH<sub>3</sub>CN = 1:1 (v/v) (1.0 mL), 110 °C, under air, 12 h. <sup>b</sup> GC-MS yield. <sup>c</sup> Under Ar atmosphere. <sup>d</sup> Under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

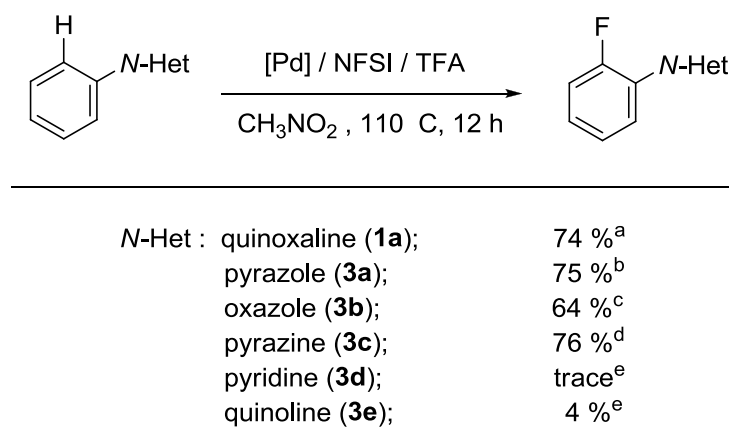
**Table 4.** Screening of additives <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Additives	Conv. of <b>1a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	Yield of <b>2a</b> / <b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	—	15	10 / 2
2	—	61	55 / 3 <sup>c</sup>
3	TFA (1.0 equiv)	75	69 / 3
<b>4</b>	<b>TFA (2.0 equiv)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>78 / 3</b>
5	TFA (3.0 equiv)	82	78 / 3
6	TFA (10.0 equiv)	83	74 / 3
7	HOAc (2.0 equiv)	22	19 / trace
8	$\text{CH}_3\text{CSOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	trace	0 / 0
9	$\text{ClCH}_2\text{COOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	18	16 / trace
10	$\text{BrCH}_2\text{COOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	2	2 / trace
11	$\text{Cl}_2\text{CHCOOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	50	48 / 2
12	$\text{Cl}_3\text{CHCOOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	0	0
13 <sup>d</sup>	$\text{Cl}_3\text{CHCOOH}$ (2.0 equiv)	87	46 / 36
14	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$	14	13 / trace
15	PivOH (2.0 equiv)	20	18 / trace
16	HOTf (2.0 equiv)	91	48 / trace <sup>d</sup>
17	MSA (2.0 equiv)	96	64 / 15 <sup>d</sup>
18	PTSA (2.0 equiv)	69	56 / 5 <sup>d</sup>
19	$\text{NH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{OH}$	9	5 / trace
20	TFAA (2.0equiv)	75	70 / 3
21	p-Nitrobenzoic acid (2.0 equiv)	41	38 / trace
22	Cinnamic acid	18	13 / 4
23	NMP (2.0 equiv)	8	7 / trace

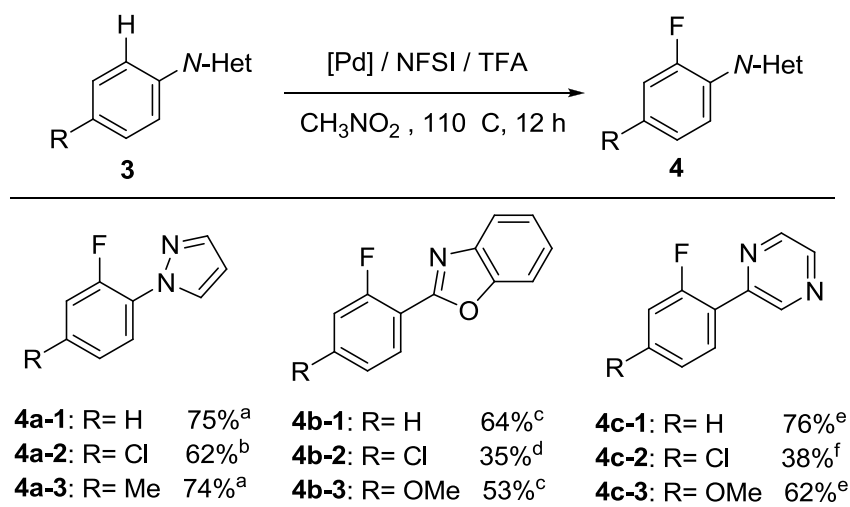
<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition : **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (2.2 mg), NFSI = N-Fluorobenzenesulfonylimide (47 mg),  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2 / \text{CH}_3\text{CN} = 1:1$  (v/v) (1.0 mL), 110 °C, under air, 12 h. TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid, HOAc = Acetic acid, HOTf = Trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, MSA = Methanesulfonic acid, PTSA = p-toluenesulfonic acid, NMP = N-Methyl pyrrolidone, TFAA = Trifluoroacetic anhydride, PivOH = Pivalic acid. <sup>b</sup> GC-MS yield. <sup>c</sup>  $\text{Pd}(\text{OOCF}_3)_2$  (10 mol %) was used in place of  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol %). <sup>d</sup> C-H bond oxidation to form corresponding esters were occurred as the main side reaction led to the poor selectivity. <sup>d</sup>  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  (1.0 mL) was used as the solvent.

**Table 5.** Fluorination of other N-heteroaromatics



Reaction conditions : <sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mg), NFSI = (47 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> / CH<sub>3</sub>CN = 1:1 (v/v) (1.0 mL), TFA (23 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yield. <sup>b</sup> **3a** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mg), NFSI (47 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL), TFA (23 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h., GC-MS yield, for product **4a** can not be separated from the starting material **3a**. <sup>c</sup> **3b** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OOCCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (3.3 mg), NFSI = (63 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL), TFA (23 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yield. <sup>d</sup> **3c** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mg), NFSI = (95 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL), TFA (35 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yield. <sup>e</sup> **3d** or **3e** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mg), NFSI = (47 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL), TFA (23 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, GC-MS yields.

**Table 6.** *Ortho*-monofluorination using other aryl-*N*-heterocyclic directing groups



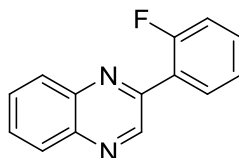
Reaction conditions : <sup>a</sup> **3a-1** or **3a-3** (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.4 mg), NFSI (94 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL), TFA (46 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, GC-MS yield, for product **4a-1** or **4a-3** can not be separated from the starting material **3a-1** or **3a-3**. <sup>b</sup> Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (13.5 mg) was used instead of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> based on condition a, isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> **3b** (0.2 mmol), Pd(OOCCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (6.6 mg), NFSI = (126 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL), TFA (46 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yield. <sup>d</sup> GC-MS yield, for product **4b-2** can not be separated from the starting material **3b-2**. <sup>e</sup> **3c-1** or **3c-3** (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.4 mg), NFSI = (190 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL), TFA (70 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yields. <sup>f</sup> **3c-2** (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (6.6 mg), NFSI = (280 mg), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (2.5 mL), TFA (105 mg), 110 °C, under air, 12 h, isolated yields.

## Typical experimental procedure for synthesis of **2** and **4**

**1** or **3** (0.2 mmol), NFSI (94.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), TFA (45.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) and a mixed solvent (CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> / CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 2.0 mL) were sequentially added to a 25-mL tube under air. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at 110 °C until the completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC). After the evaporation of the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100-200 mesh) directly using petroleum ether-EtOAc as eluent to give desired product **2** or **4**.

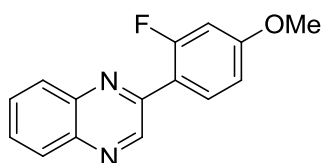
## Characterization of all Products

### 2-(2-fluorophenyl)quinoxaline (**2a**)



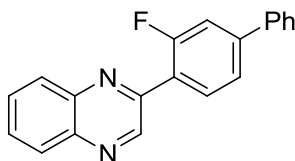
Isolated as yellow solid (33.2 mg, 74%);  $R_f$  = 0.60 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 60-61 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 9.34 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.11 (m, 3H), 7.83-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.8 (d,  $J$  = 250.0 Hz), 149.2 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz), 145.9 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz), 142.6, 141.4, 131.9 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 131.5 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz), 130.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.2, 125.0 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz), 124.9 (d,  $J$  = 12.5 Hz), 116.5 (d,  $J$  = 23.8 Hz) ppm; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -115.2 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 224 (100) [M<sup>+</sup>], 197 (39); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F, 224.0750; found 224.0752.

### 2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**2b**)



Isolated as pale yellow solid (39.6 mg, 78%);  $R_f$  = 0.41 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 98-99 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.31 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.15-8.11 (m, 3H), 7.81-7.74 (m, 2H), 6.92 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.7 (d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz), 161.8 (d,  $J$  = 248.6 Hz), 149.2 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz), 145.7 (d,  $J$  = 12.5 Hz), 142.6, 141.0, 132.1 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz), 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 117.3 (d,  $J$  = 13.0 Hz), 111.4 (d,  $J$  = 2.9 Hz), 102.0 (d,  $J$  = 26.4 Hz), 55.8 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.1- -112.0 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 254 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 239 (28), 227 (19); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{OF}$ , 254.0855; found 254.0845.

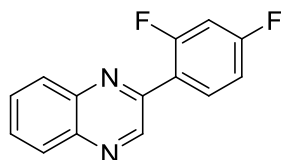
#### 2-(3-fluorobiphenyl-4-yl)quinoxaline (2c)



Isolated as white solid (45.6 mg, 76%);  $R_f$  = 0.52 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 162-163 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.40 (s, 1H), 8.26-8.17 (m, 3H), 7.85-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.62 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 161.2 (d,  $J$  = 249.2 Hz), 149.0, 145.9 (d,  $J$  = 11.8 Hz), 145.3 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 142.7, 141.5, 139.1, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz), 130.3, 129.9, 129.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 127.1, 123.6 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 123.5 (d,  $J$  = 12.3 Hz), 114.9 (d,  $J$  = 23.2 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -114.7- -114.6 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 300 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 273 (17); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{F}$ , 300.1063; found 300.1075.

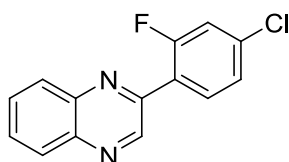
#### 2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)quinoxaline (2d) <sup>[5]</sup>





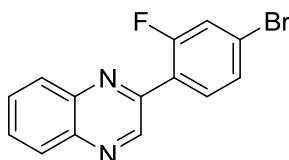
Isolated as white solid (32.4 mg, 67%);  $R_f$  = 0.53 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 143-144 °C (lit. 148 °C);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.31 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.19-8.15 (m, 3H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.00 (m, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 164.2 (dd,  $J_1$  = 251.9 Hz,  $J_2$  = 12.1 Hz), 161.1 (dd,  $J_1$  = 252.2 Hz,  $J_2$  = 12.1 Hz), 148.3 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz), 145.6 (d,  $J$  = 11.5 Hz), 142.5, 141.4, 132.7 (dd,  $J_1$  = 9.6 Hz,  $J_2$  = 4.5 Hz), 130.4, 130.0, 129.5, 129.2, 121.3 (dd,  $J_1$  = 12.7 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.6 Hz), 112.6 (dd,  $J_1$  = 20.9 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.4 Hz), 104.7 (t,  $J$  = 26.0 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -111.6 - -111.5 (m), -105.8 - -105.7 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 242 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 215 (42).

#### 2-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)quinoxaline (2e)



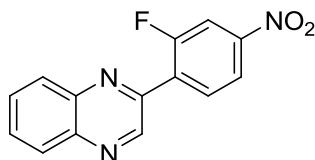
Isolated as pale yellow solid (35.1 mg, 68%);  $R_f$  = 0.63 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 127-128 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.32 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.14 (m, 3H), 7.83-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd,  $J_1$  = 10.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.6 (d,  $J$  = 253.0 Hz), 148.1 (d,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz), 145.5 (d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz), 142.5, 141.6, 137.1 (d,  $J$  = 10.4 Hz), 132.3 (d,  $J$  = 4.2 Hz), 130.4, 130.2, 129.6, 129.2, 125.6 (d,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz), 123.6 (d,  $J$  = 12.7 Hz), 117.2 (d,  $J$  = 26.0 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.4 - -112.3 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 258 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 223 (29); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{FCl}$ , 258.0360; found 258.0374.

#### 2-(4-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)quinoxaline (2f)



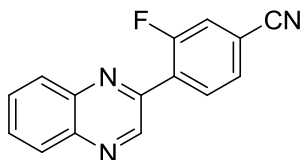
Isolated as white solid (39.2 mg, 65%);  $R_f$  = 0.58 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 142-143 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.32 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18-8.15 (m, 2H), 8.07 (t,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd,  $J_1$  = 10.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.5 (d,  $J$  = 253.8 Hz), 148.1, 145.6 (d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz), 142.5, 141.6, 132.5 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz), 130.4, 130.2, 129.6, 129.3, 128.5 (d,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz), 124.8 (d,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz), 124.0 (d,  $J$  = 12.6 Hz), 120.1 (d,  $J$  = 26.2 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.3- -112.2 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 302 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 275 (23), 223 (43); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{FBr}$ , 301.9855; found 301.9824.

### 2-(2-fluoro-4-nitrophenyl)quinoxaline (2g)



Isolated as white solid (31.2 mg, 58%);  $R_f$  = 0.46 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 202-203 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.40 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dd,  $J_1$  = 6.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd,  $J_1$  = 10.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd,  $J_1$  = 6.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.8 Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.2 (d,  $J$  = 253.9 Hz), 149.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz), 146.8, 145.1 (d,  $J$  = 12.6 Hz), 142.6, 141.8, 132.6 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz), 131.2, 130.9, 130.9, 129.9, 129.2, 119.9 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz), 112.5 (d,  $J$  = 27.8 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -110.5 - -110.4 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 269 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 223 (44); HRMS (CI): [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{F}$ , 270.0679; found 270.0688.

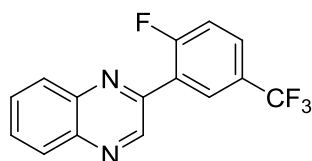
### 3-fluoro-4-(quinoxalin-2-yl)benzonitrile (2h)



Isolated as white solid (31.4 mg, 63%);  $R_f$  = 0.37 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 183-184 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.34 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (dd,  $J_1$  = 6.3 Hz,  $J_2$  =

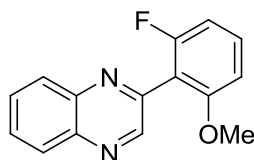
3.8 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (dd,  $J_1 = 6.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd,  $J_1 = 10.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.3$  Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 160.2$  (d,  $J = 253.0$  Hz), 147.0, 145.3 (d,  $J = 11.4$  Hz), 142.5, 142.0, 132.7 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz), 130.9, 130.8, 129.8, 129.7 (d,  $J = 12.5$  Hz), 129.4, 128.7 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz), 120.4 (d,  $J = 26.4$  Hz), 117.2 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz), 115.0 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -111.9 - -111.8 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 249 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 222 (27); HRMS (CI): [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{F}$ , 250.0781; found 250.0780.

## 2-(2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinoxaline (2i)



Isolated as pale yellow solid (33.9 mg, 58%);  $R_f = 0.58$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 64-65 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.36$  (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.51 (dd,  $J_1 = 7.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.22-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 162.5$  (d,  $J = 254.3$  Hz), 147.4 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz), 145.4, 145.3, 142.5, 141.8, 130.5 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 129.7, 129.3 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 129.3, 128.8 (dq,  $J_1 = 9.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.4$  Hz), 127.8 (qd,  $J_1 = 33.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.2$  Hz), 125.7 (d,  $J = 13.8$  Hz), 123.6 (q,  $J = 270.5$  Hz), 117.3 (d,  $J = 24.1$  Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -109.7 (s), -69.3 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 292 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 265 (32); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{F}_4$ , 292.0624; found 292.0629.

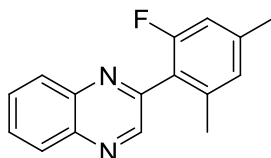
## 2-(2-fluoro-6-methoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (2j)



Isolated as pale yellow oil (44.2 mg, 87%);  $R_f = 0.27$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.95$  (s, 1H), 8.21-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.81 (td,  $J_1 = 7.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (td,  $J_1 = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 161.2$  (d,  $J = 247.5$  Hz), 158.6 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz), 148.0, 147.3,

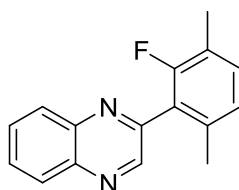
142.5, 141.2, 131.3 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz), 130.1 (2C), 129.6, 129.2, 115.4 (d,  $J = 16.9$  Hz), 108.8 (d,  $J = 22.2$  Hz), 106.9 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz), 56.2 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -114.6- -114.5 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 253 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ , 237 (34), 225 (28); HRMS (EI):  $[\text{M}^+]$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{OF}$ , 254.0855; found 254.0849.

### 2-(2-fluoro-4,6-dimethylphenyl)quinoxaline (2k)



Isolated as white solid (43.8 mg, 87%);  $R_f$  = 0.58 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 85-86 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.93 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.19-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.6 (d,  $J = 244.7$  Hz), 150.4, 147.0 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz), 142.3, 141.2 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz), 141.2, 139.3 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 130.1, 130.0, 129.5, 129.3, 127.4 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 122.2 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz), 113.8 (d,  $J = 22.0$  Hz), 21.3 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz), 19.8 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -116.9 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 251 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ ; HRMS (EI):  $[\text{M}^+]$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{F}$ , 252.1063; found 252.1047.

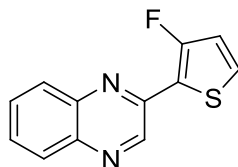
### 2-(2-fluoro-3,6-dimethylphenyl)quinoxaline (2l)



Isolated as pale yellow solid (43.3 mg, 86%);  $R_f$  = 0.63 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 53-54 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.94 (s, 1H), 8.20-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.83 (dd,  $J_1 = 6.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 157.9 (d,  $J = 243.9$  Hz), 149.6, 145.8, 141.3, 140.2, 135.7, 131.0 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 124.9 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz), 123.8 (d,  $J = 15.6$  Hz), 121.6 (d,  $J = 18.2$  Hz), 18.5 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz), 13.3 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -119.8 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 251 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ ; HRMS (CI):

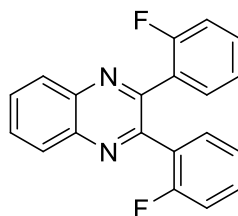
$[M+H]^+$  calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{14}N_2F$ , 253.1141; found 253.1151.

**2-(3-fluorothiophen-2-yl)quinoxaline (2m)**



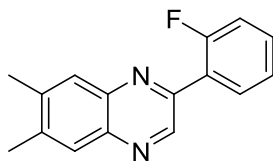
Isolated as yellow solid (25.8 mg, 56%);  $R_f$ =0.59 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 61-62 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.39 (s, 1H), 8.16 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.44 (dd,  $J_1$  = 5.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 155.8 (d,  $J$  = 265.8 Hz), 145.1, 141.3 (d,  $J$  = 11.6 Hz), 139.4, 132.7, 129.6, 128.7, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3 (d,  $J$  = 10.2 Hz), 119.8 (d,  $J$  = 13.4 Hz), 117.9 (d,  $J$  = 27.2 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  -121.0 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 230 (100)  $[M^+]$ , 203 (34); HRMS (CI):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd. for  $C_{12}H_8N_2FS$ , 231.0392; found 231.0401.

**2,3-bis(2-fluorophenyl)quinoxaline (2n)**



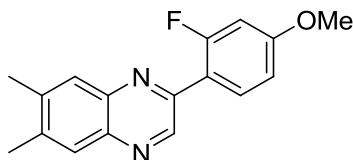
Isolated as white solid (35.0 mg, 55%);  $R_f$ =0.52 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 118-119 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.24 (dd,  $J_1$  = 6.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (dd,  $J_1$  = 6.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (td,  $J_1$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.23 (td,  $J_1$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 0.67 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (t,  $J$  = 9.3 Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 159.6 (d,  $J$  = 252.4 Hz), 150.5, 141.4, 131.6, 131.0 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz), 130.4, 129.4, 126.8 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz), 124.2, 115.5 (d,  $J$  = 20.8 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  -114.2 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 318 (100)  $[M^+]$ , 299 (15), 197 (62); HRMS (CI):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd. for  $C_{20}H_{13}N_2F_2$ , 319.1047; found 319.1047.

**2-(2-fluorophenyl)-6,7-dimethylquinoxaline (2o)**



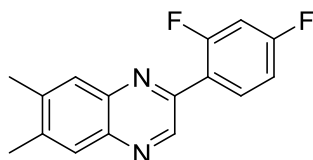
Isolated as white solid (38.8 mg, 77%);  $R_f$ =0.57 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 86-87 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.23 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (td,  $J_1$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.36 (td,  $J_1$  = 7.7 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.8 (d,  $J$  = 249.3 Hz), 148.3 (d,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz), 145.0 (d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz), 141.6, 140.8, 140.7, 140.4, 131.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 131.4 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz), 128.6, 128.2, 125.3 (d,  $J$  = 12.7 Hz), 124.9 (d,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz), 116.4 (d,  $J$  = 22.8 Hz), 20.4 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -115.3 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 252 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 237 (13), 225 (10); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{F}$ , 252.1063; found 252.1054.

**2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethylquinoxaline (2p)**



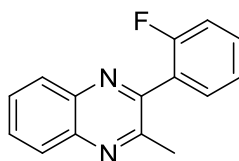
Isolated as white solid (42.8 mg, 76%);  $R_f$ =0.42 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 144-145 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.20 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 6.90 (dd,  $J_1$  = 9.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd,  $J_1$  = 13.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 6H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.4 (d,  $J$  = 11.2 Hz), 161.7 (d,  $J$  = 249.1 Hz), 148.2, 144.8 (d,  $J$  = 11.9 Hz), 141.5, 140.7, 140.1, 140.1 (d,  $J$  = 10.7 Hz), 132.0 (d,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz), 128.5, 128.1, 117.6 (d,  $J$  = 12.8 Hz), 111.3 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz), 102.0 (d,  $J$  = 26.4 Hz), 55.8, 20.4, 20.3 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.3- -112.2 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 282 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 267 (23); HRMS (EI): [ $\text{M}^+$ ] calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{OF}$ , 282.1168; found 282.1185.

**2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-6,7-dimethylquinoxaline (2q) <sup>[5]</sup>**



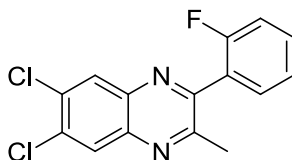
Isolated as white solid (35.5 mg, 66%);  $R_f$  = 0.53 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 146-147°C (lit. 140°C);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.18 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (td,  $J_1$  = 8.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 2H), 7.09 (td,  $J_1$  = 8.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 164.0 (dd,  $J_1$  = 251.3 Hz,  $J_2$  = 11.9 Hz), 161.0 (dd,  $J_1$  = 251.7 Hz,  $J_2$  = 12.3 Hz), 147.3, 144.4 (d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz), 141.5, 141.1, 140.9, 140.2, 132.6 (dd,  $J_1$  = 9.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 4.6 Hz), 128.5, 128.0, 121.6 (dd,  $J_1$  = 12.6 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.4 Hz), 112.5 (dd,  $J_1$  = 21.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.4 Hz), 104.6 (t,  $J$  = 25.9 Hz), 20.4 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -110.7 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz), -106.4 - -106.3 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 269 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ , 239 (14), 223 (43) .

#### 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-methylquinoxaline (2r)



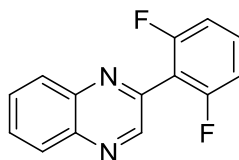
Isolated as pale yellow solid (36.2 mg, 76%);  $R_f$  = 0.48 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 6:1); mp 91-92 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.19-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.36 (d,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 158.9 (d,  $J$  = 246.4 Hz), 151.7, 150.2, 140.2, 138.6, 130.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 130.3 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 130.0, 128.9, 128.3, 126.3, 125.3 (d,  $J$  = 15.4 Hz), 123.9 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz), 115.0 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 21.2 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -113.7 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 237 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ ; HRMS (CI):  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{F}$ , 239.0985; found 239.0991.

#### 6,7-dichloro-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-methylquinoxaline (2s)



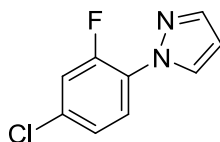
Isolated as yellow solid (43.9 mg, 72%);  $R_f$ =0.74 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 112-113 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.25 (s, 2H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dd,  $J_1$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t,  $J$  = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 159.8 (d,  $J$  = 246.6 Hz), 154.4, 152.2, 139.9, 139.0, 135.3, 134.4, 131.8 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 131.2 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 129.9, 128.5, 126.0 (d,  $J$  = 15.4 Hz), 124.9 (d,  $J$  = 3.3 Hz), 116.1 (d,  $J$  = 21.3 Hz), 22.5 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -113.6 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 305 (100)  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ ; HRMS (CI):  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{FCl}_2$ , 307.0205; found 307.1210.

### 2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)quinoxaline (2aa)



Isolated as yellow solid (40.6 mg, 84%);  $R_f$ =0.51 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 70-71 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.21 (td,  $J_1$  = 5.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.86-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.8 (dd,  $J_1$  = 250.9 Hz,  $J_2$  = 6.5 Hz), 146.1, 145.5, 142.5, 141.3, 131.5 (t,  $J$  = 10.2 Hz), 130.6, 130.5, 129.7, 129.2, 115.3 (d,  $J$  = 18.8 Hz), 112.2 (dd,  $J_1$  = 20.2 Hz,  $J_2$  = 5.2 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -113.4- -113.3 (m); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 242 (100)  $[\text{M}^+]$ , 215 (76); HRMS (CI):  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{F}_2$ , 243.0734; found 243.0750.

### 1-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazole (4a-2)

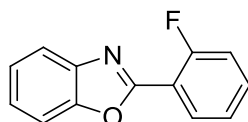


Isolated as pale yellow oil (24.3 mg, 62%);  $R_f$ =0.60 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 10:1);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.00 (t,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.50 (t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 153.1 (d,  $J$  = 251.3 Hz),



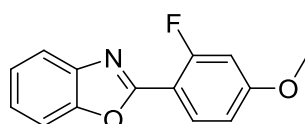
141.1, 132.4 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz), 130.6 (d,  $J = 11.3$  Hz), 127.3 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 125.3 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz), 125.1, 117.5 (d,  $J = 25.0$  Hz), 107.8 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.5 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 196 (100)  $[\text{M}^+]$ . HRMS (CI):  $[\text{M}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\text{FCl}$ , 196.0204; found 196.0201.

**2-(2-fluorophenyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4b-1)** <sup>[6]</sup>



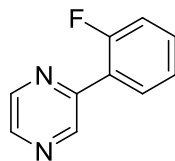
Isolated as white solid (27.3 mg, 64%);  $R_f$ =0.59 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 87-88 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.26 (td,  $J_1 = 7.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 (td,  $J_1 = 7.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd,  $J_1 = 11.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 8.5$  Hz,  $J_3 = 0.5$  Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.9 (d,  $J = 257.4$  Hz), 159.5 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 150.6, 141.7, 133.2 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz), 130.6, 125.6, 124.8, 124.6 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz), 120.4, 117.2 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz), 115.6 (d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz), 110.8 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -109.4 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 213 (100)  $[\text{M}^+]$ .

**2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4b-3)**



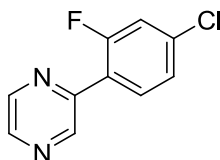
Isolated as white solid (25.7 mg, 53%);  $R_f$ =0.32 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 94-95 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.16 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.85 (dd,  $J_1 = 9.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 163.5 (d,  $J = 11.3$  Hz), 162.0 (d,  $J = 256.3$  Hz), 159.7 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz), 150.3, 141.9, 131.4 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz), 129.4, 125.0, 124.5, 120.0, 110.9 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 110.5, 102.6 (d,  $J = 23.8$  Hz), 55.8 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -107.3 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 243 (100)  $[\text{M}^+]$ . HRMS (CI):  $[\text{M}]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2\text{F}$ , 243.0696; found 243.0694.

**2-(2-fluorophenyl)pyrazine (4c-1)**



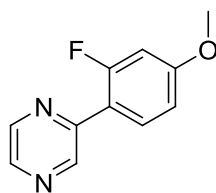
Isolated as pale yellow oil (26.4 mg, 76%);  $R_f$ =0.49 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.11 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.01 (td,  $J_1$  = 7.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.5 (d,  $J$  = 248.8 Hz), 149.5, 145.5 (d,  $J$  = 12.3 Hz), 144.5, 143.1, 131.6 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz), 131.0 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz), 124.9 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz), 124.4 (d,  $J$  = 12.2 Hz), 116.4 (d,  $J$  = 22.4 Hz), ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -115.1 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 174 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ]; HRMS (CI): [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{F}$ , 175.0672; found 175.0668.

**2-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)pyrazine (4c-2)**



Isolated as yellow solid (23.7 mg, 38%);  $R_f$ =0.43 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 52-53 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.08 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (t,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 160.2 (d,  $J$  = 253.8 Hz), 148.4, 145.3 (d,  $J$  = 13.8 Hz), 144.5, 143.4, 136.7 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz), 131.7 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz), 125.4 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz), 123.0 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz), 117.2 (d,  $J$  = 26.3 Hz) ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.9 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 208 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ]; HRMS (CI): [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\text{FCl}$ , 208.0204; found 208.0206.

**2-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)pyrazine (4c-3)**



Isolated as pale yellow solid (25.3 mg, 62%);  $R_f$  = 0.38 (petroleum ether-EtOAc= 6:1); mp 62-63 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 9.07 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.98 (t,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.8 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd,  $J_1$  = 13.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 162.3 (d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz), 161.4 (d,  $J$  = 250.0 Hz), 149.5, 145.1 (d,  $J$  = 12.5 Hz), 144.3, 142.3, 131.5 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz), 116.7 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz), 111.1 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz), 102.0 (d,  $J$  = 26.3 Hz), 55.8 ppm;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -112.8 (s); MS (EI, 70eV):  $m/z$  (%) = 204 (100) [ $\text{M}^+$ ]; HRMS (CI): [ $\text{M}$ ] $^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{OF}$ , 204.0699; found 204.0706.

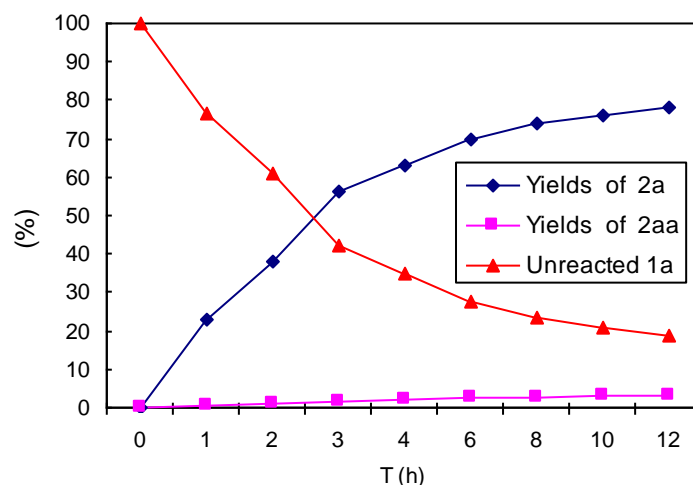
## Preliminary mechanistic studies

### Kinetic studies

**1a** (0.2 mmol), NFSI (94.5 mg, 0.3 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), TFA (45.6 mg, 0.4 mmol), dodecane (23  $\mu\text{L}$ , standard) and a mixed solvent [ $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  /  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  = 1:1 (v/v), 2.0 mL] were sequentially added to a 25-mL tube under air. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at 110 °C. An aliquot of the mixture was taken and analyzed by GC-MS at the time of 1h, 2h, 3h, 4h, 6h, 8h, 10h and 12h.

Time (h)	1	2	3	4	6	8	10	12
Conv. of <b>1a</b> (%)	24	40	58	66	73	77	80	82
Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)	23	38	56	63	70	74	76	78
Yield of <b>2aa</b> (%)	0.6	1.1	1.6	2	2.5	2.8	3	3

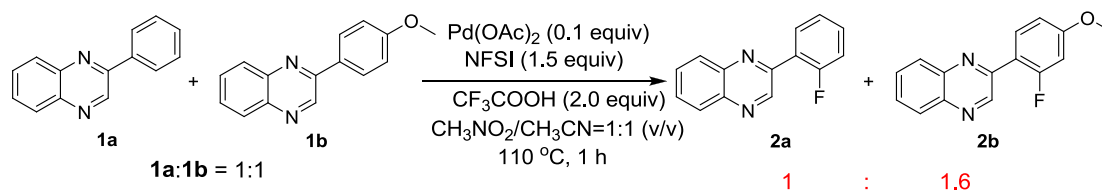
*Difluorination occurred as soon as the monofluorinated azaarene was formed. according to the preliminary kinetic studies.*



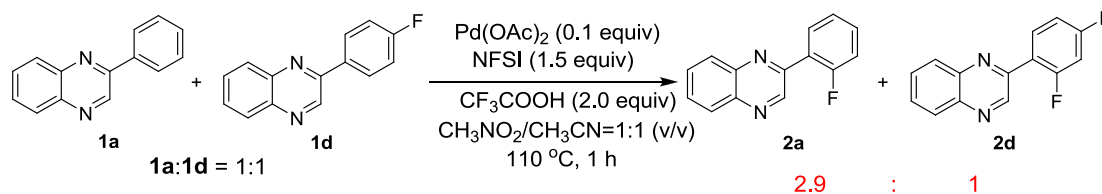
**Figure 1.** Plots of the unreacted **1a** and the yields of **2a**, **2aa** against reaction time (h) for the Pd(II)-catalyzed ortho-fluorination of **1a**

## Intermolecular competition experiments

### (a) Substrates **1a** and **1b**



### (b) Substrates **1a** and **1d**

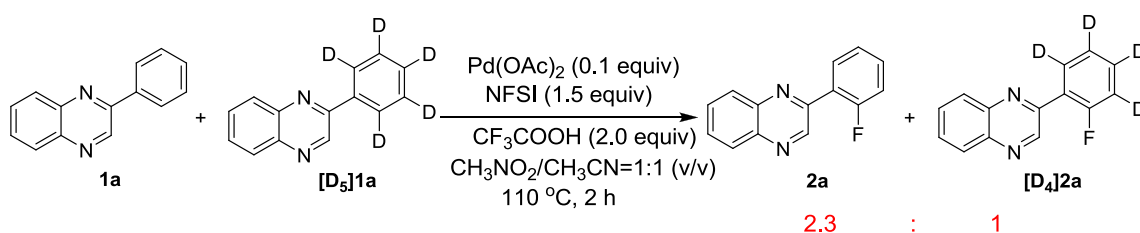


The series of competition experiments above disclosed that substrates bearing electron-rich aryl rings were faster fluorinated than the electron-deficient ones under the standard condition.

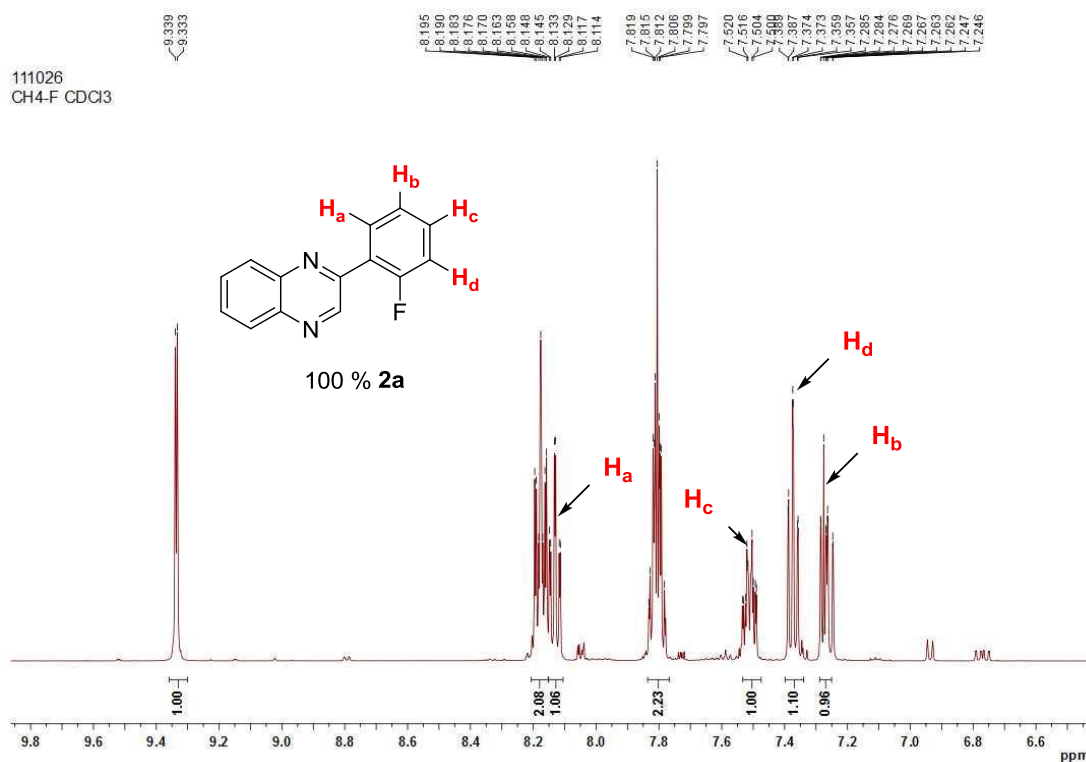
## KIE Studies

See our previous publication<sup>[7]</sup> for the synthesis of **[D<sub>5</sub>]**1a**** and **[D<sub>4</sub>]**1a****.

### Determination of intermolecular kinetic isotope effect



To a 25-mL tube was sequentially added 2-phenyl-*d*<sub>5</sub>-quinoxaline (**[D<sub>5</sub>]1a**) (31.7 mg, 0.15 mmol), 2-phenyl quinoxaline (**1a**) (30.1 mg, 0.15 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (6.7 mg, 0.03 mmol), NFSI (141.8 mg, 0.45 mmol), TFA (68.4 mg, 0.6 mmol) and a mixed solvent [ $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  /  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  = 1:1 (v/v)] (3.0 mL) under air. The tube was sealed and heated to  $110^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) and filtered through Celite. After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100-200 mesh) using petroleum ether-EtOAc (10:1, v/v) as eluent. A mixture of **2a** and **[D<sub>4</sub>]2a** was determined on the basis of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis. Based on the integrations related to different hydrogen resonances, the kinetic isotope effect is calculated to be  $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} \approx 2.3$  (Figure 2).



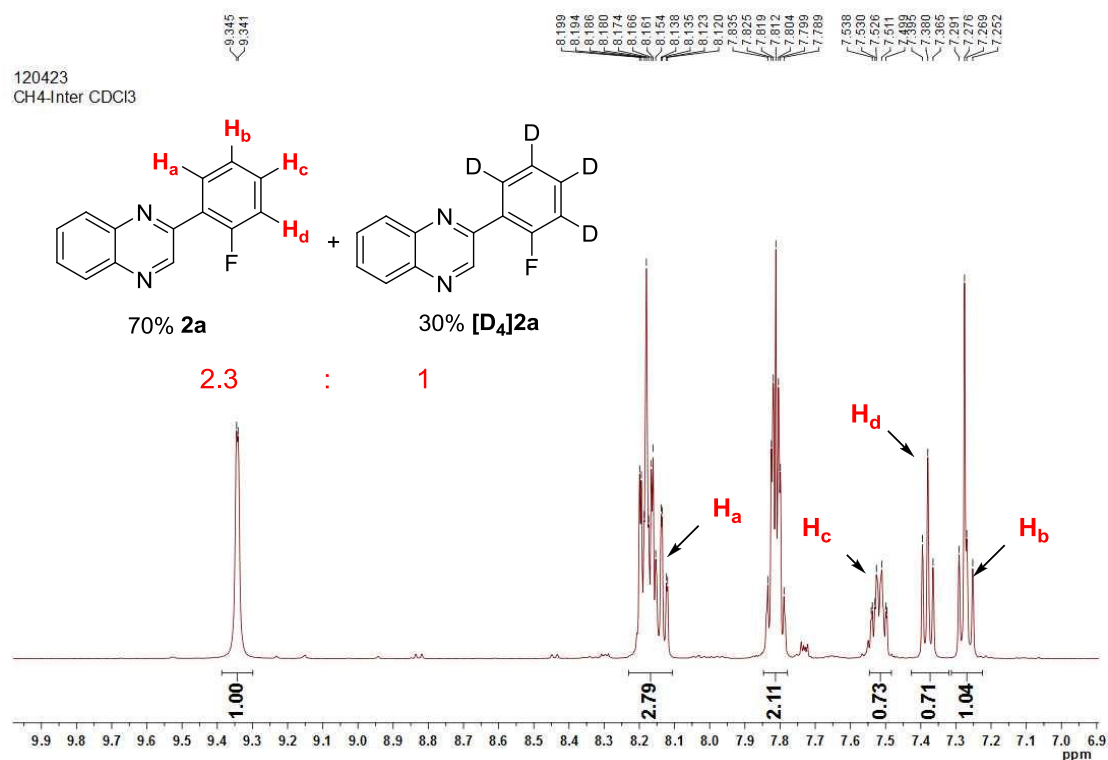
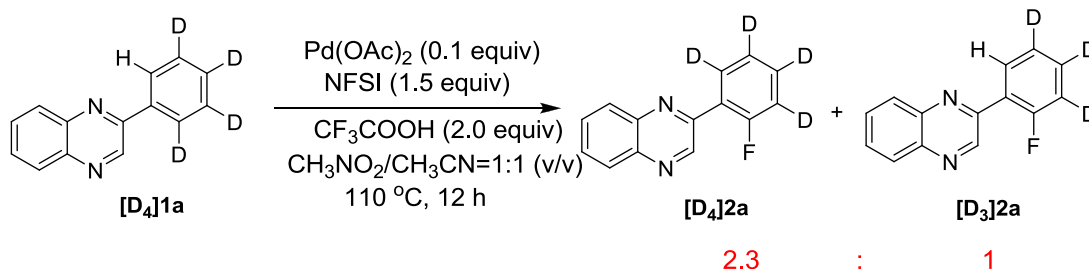


Figure 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2a** and **[D<sub>4</sub>]2a**

### Determination of Intramolecular Kinetic Isotope Effect



To a 25-mL tube was sequentially added 2-phenyl-2,3,4,5-*d*<sub>4</sub>-quinoxaline (**[D<sub>4</sub>]1a**) (42.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), NFSI (94.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), TFA (45.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) and a mixed solvent [CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> / CH<sub>3</sub>CN = 1:1 (v/v)] (2.0 mL) under air. The tube was sealed and heated to 110 °C for 12 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and filtered through Celite. After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (100-200 mesh) using petroleum ether-EtOAc (10:1, v/v) as eluent.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the isolated mixture of **[D<sub>4</sub>]2a** and **[D<sub>3</sub>]2a** showed about 30.0 % hydrogen content (8.14 ppm). Based on this intergration, the kinetic isotope effect is caculated to be  $k_{\text{H}} / k_{\text{D}} \approx 2.3$  (Figure 3).

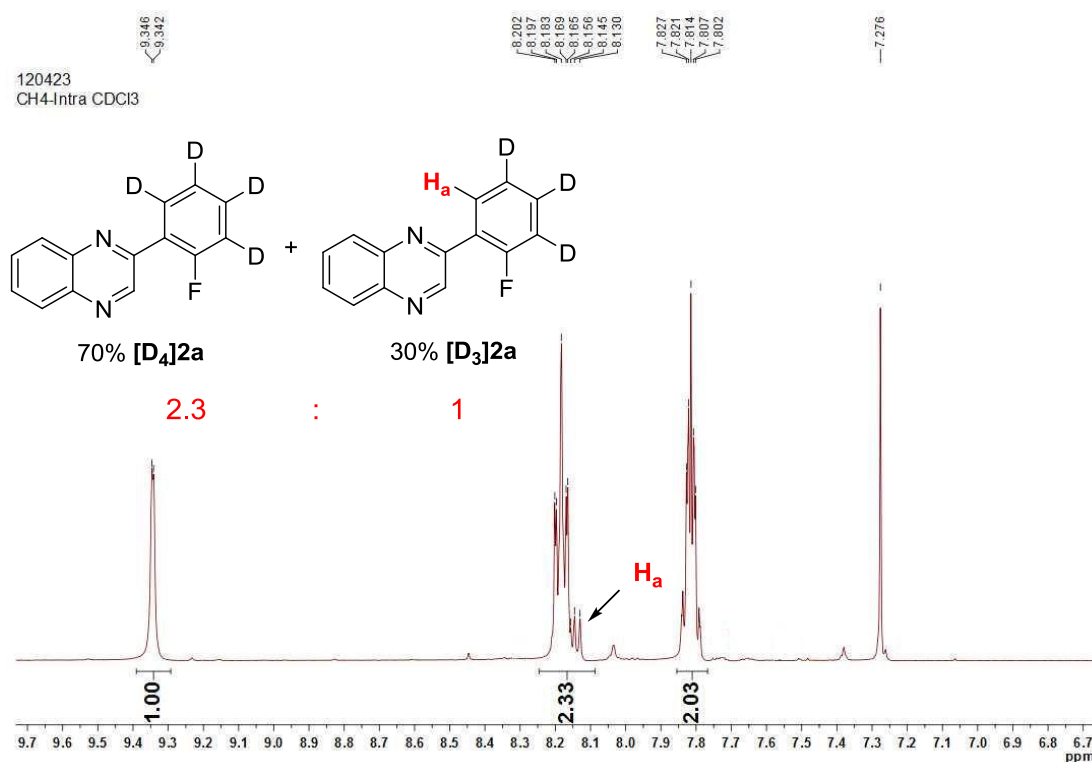


Figure 3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $[\text{D}_4]\mathbf{2a}$  and  $[\text{D}_3]\mathbf{2a}$

The series of experiments above disclosed that the kinetic isotope effect was observed both in the intramolecular ( $k_{\text{H}} / k_{\text{D}} \approx 2.3$ ) and intermolecular ( $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} \approx 2.3$ ) competition experiments, suggesting that the aromatic C-H activation is involved in the rate-limiting step.

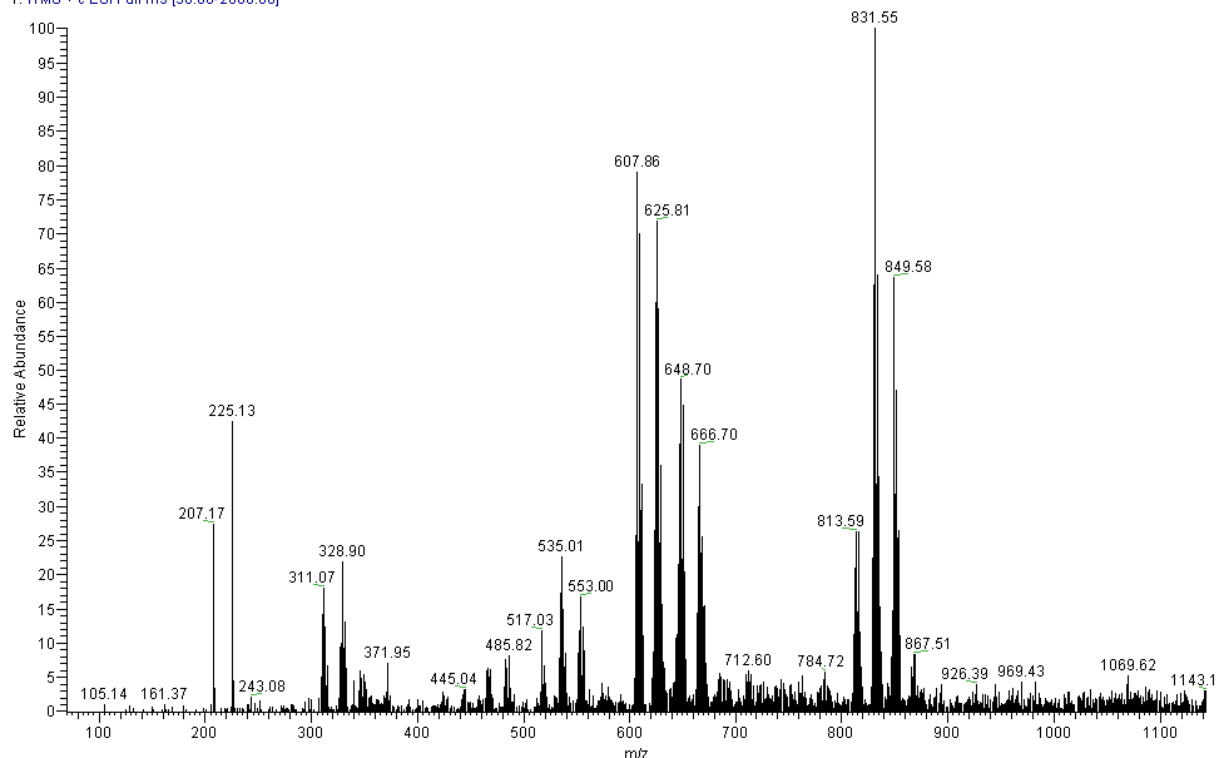
### ESI-MS studies

To a 25-mL tube was sequentially added 2-phenyl quinoxaline (**1a**) (10.6 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (5.6 mg, 0.025 mmol), NFSI (19.0 mg, 0.06 mmol), TFA (11.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) and a mixed solvent [ $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  /  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  = 1:1 (v/v)] (1.0 mL). The suspension was allowed to stir at 110 °C for 1 hour under air, then diluted by methanol and subjected directly to ESI-MS analysis. The spectrum was shown in Figure 4. Cyclopalladation (II) intermediates were detected at  $m/z = 466$  ( $[\text{I} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 311$  (**I-1**),  $m/z = 329$  (**I-2**),  $m/z = 517$  ( $[\text{II} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 535$  ( $[\text{II-1} + \text{H}]^+$ ), and at  $m/z = 553$  ( $[\text{II-2} + \text{H}]^+$ , the coordination complex between the monofluorinated product **2a** and  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$ ). The reductive eliminated  $\text{Pd}(\text{II})$  intermediates differed only in the type of ligands coordinated to the central Pd atom were also observed at  $m/z = 608$  ( $[\text{IV} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 626$  ( $[\text{IV-1} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 649$  ( $[\text{IV-2} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 667$  ( $[\text{IV-3} +$

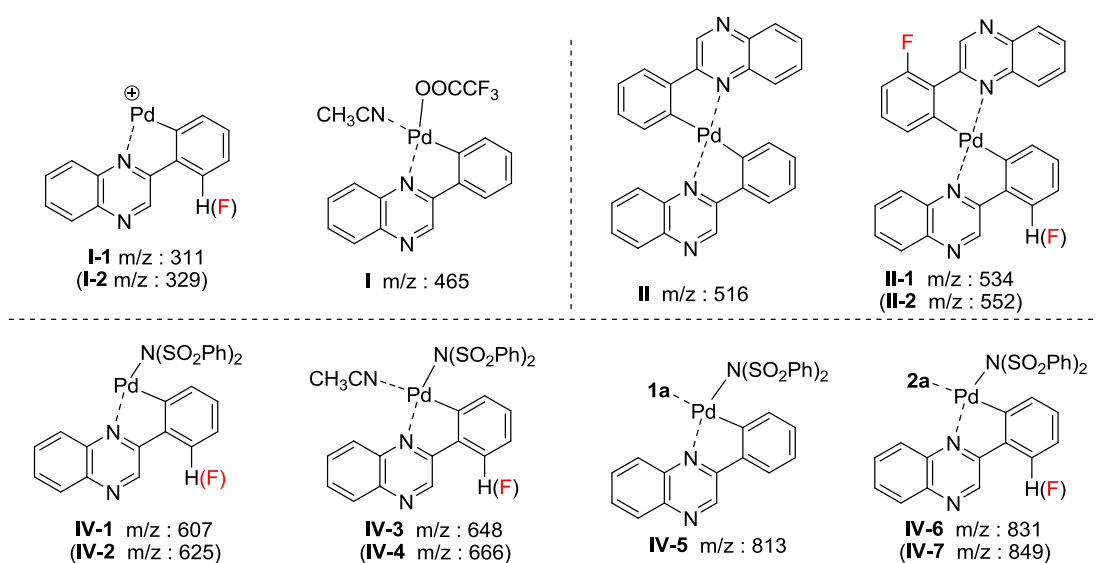
$\text{H}]^+$ ,  $m/z = 814$  ( $[\text{IV-4} + \text{H}]^+$ ),  $m/z = 832$  ( $[\text{IV-5} + \text{H}]^+$ ), and at  $m/z = 850$  ( $[\text{IV-6} + \text{H}]^+$ ). (Scheme 1)

A tandem mass spectrometric (MS/MS) experiments were took place to assign the structures of corresponding Pd(II) intermediates. (Figure 5)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 2.97E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



**Figure 4.** ESI-MS spectrum of reductive eliminated Pd(II) complex

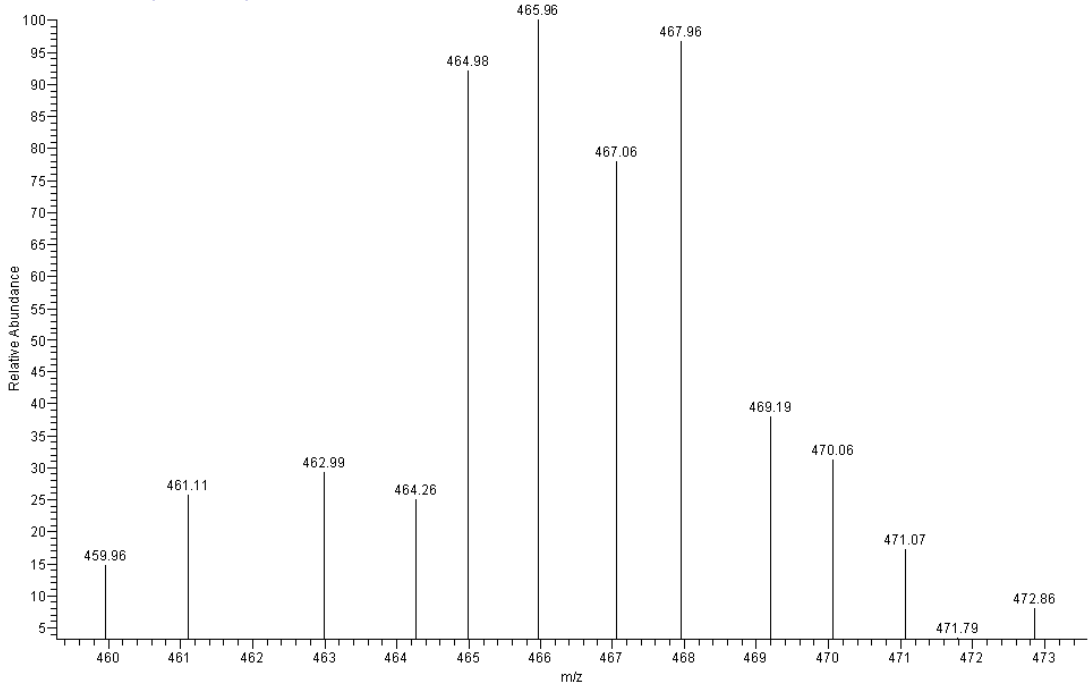


**Scheme 1.** The analysis of Pd(II) intermediates

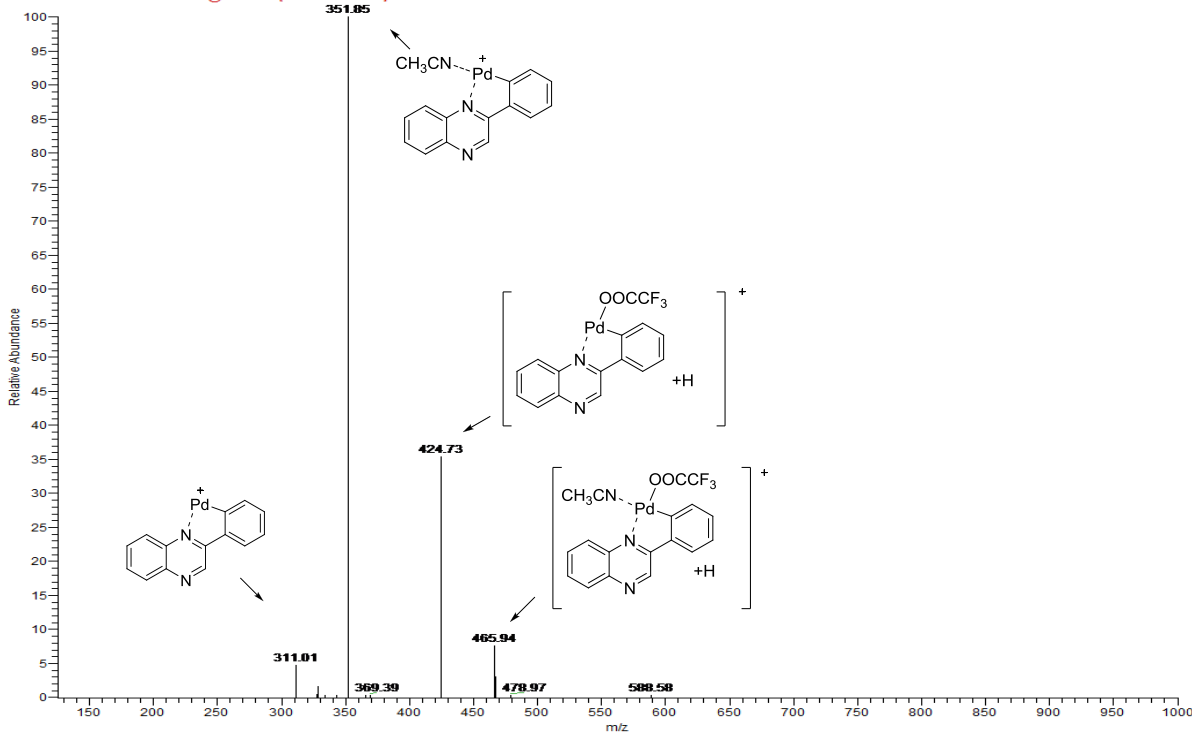


a)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 1.91E2  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



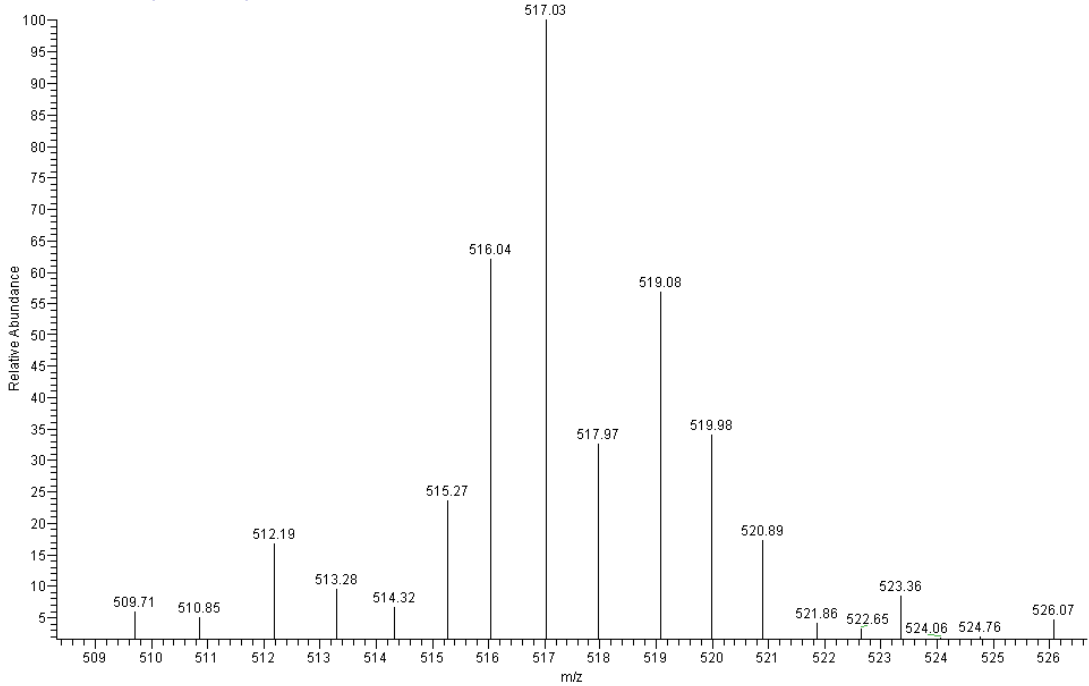
20121105001 #259 RT: 1.70 AV: 1 NL: 7.90E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 466.00@cid20.00 [125.00-1000.00]



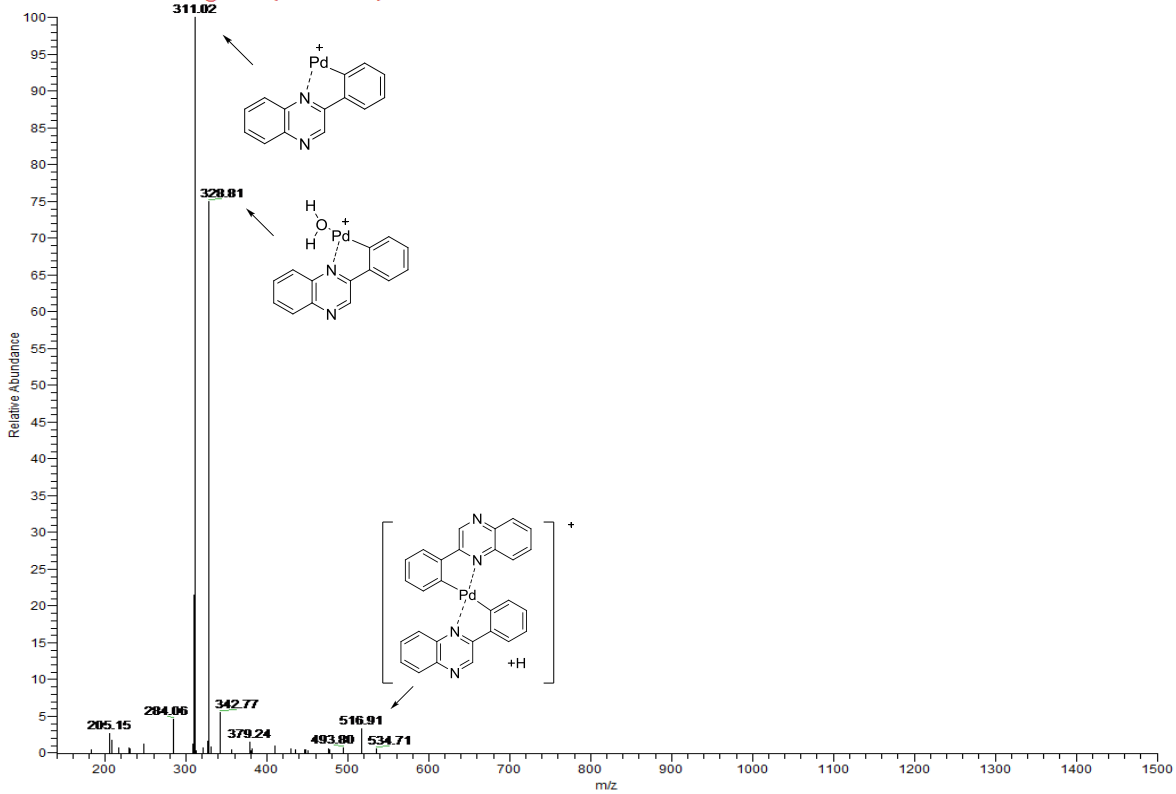
m/z: 466

b)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 3.54E2  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



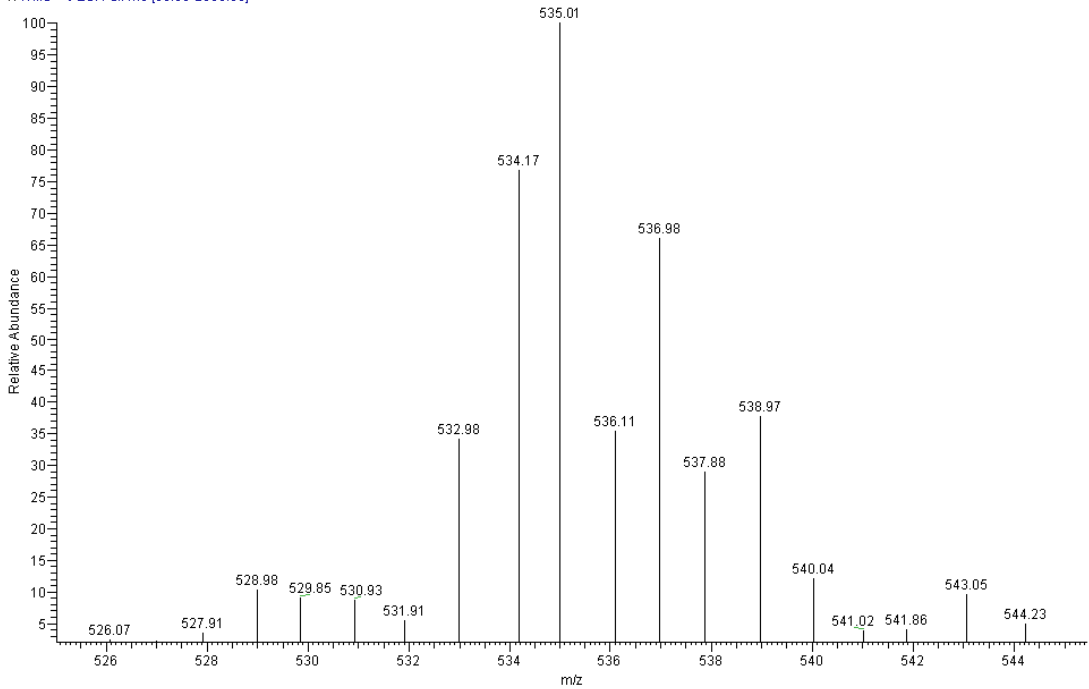
20121107002\_121107191527 #112 RT: 0.95 AV: 1 NL: 6.37E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 517.00@cid25.00 [140.00-1500.00]



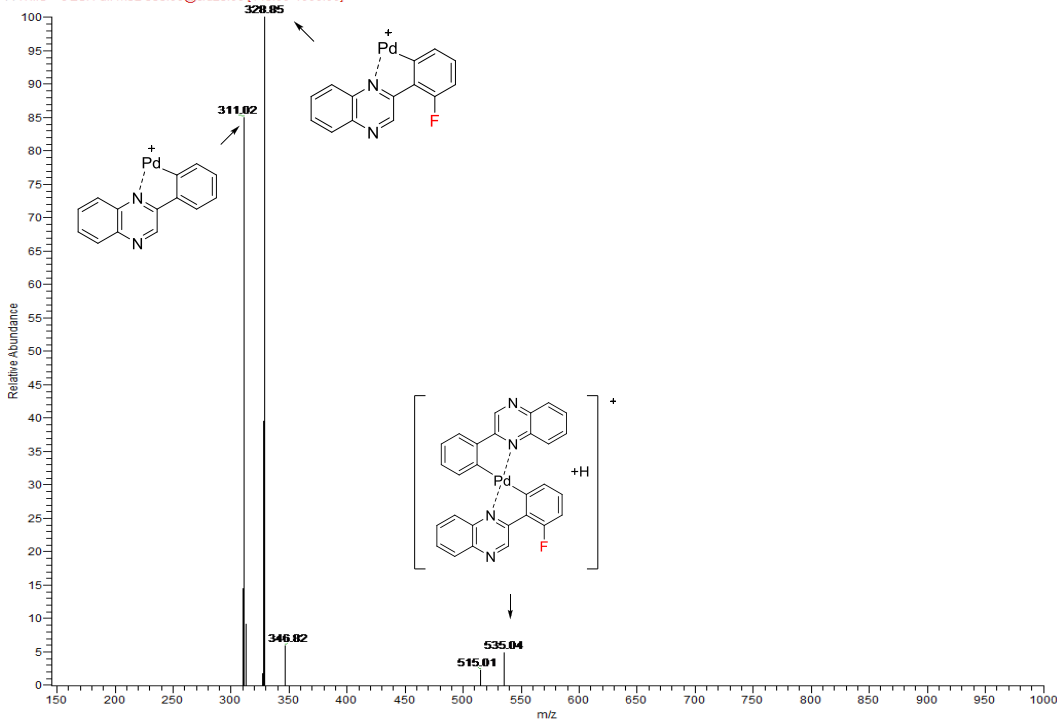
m/z: 517

c)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 6.72E2  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



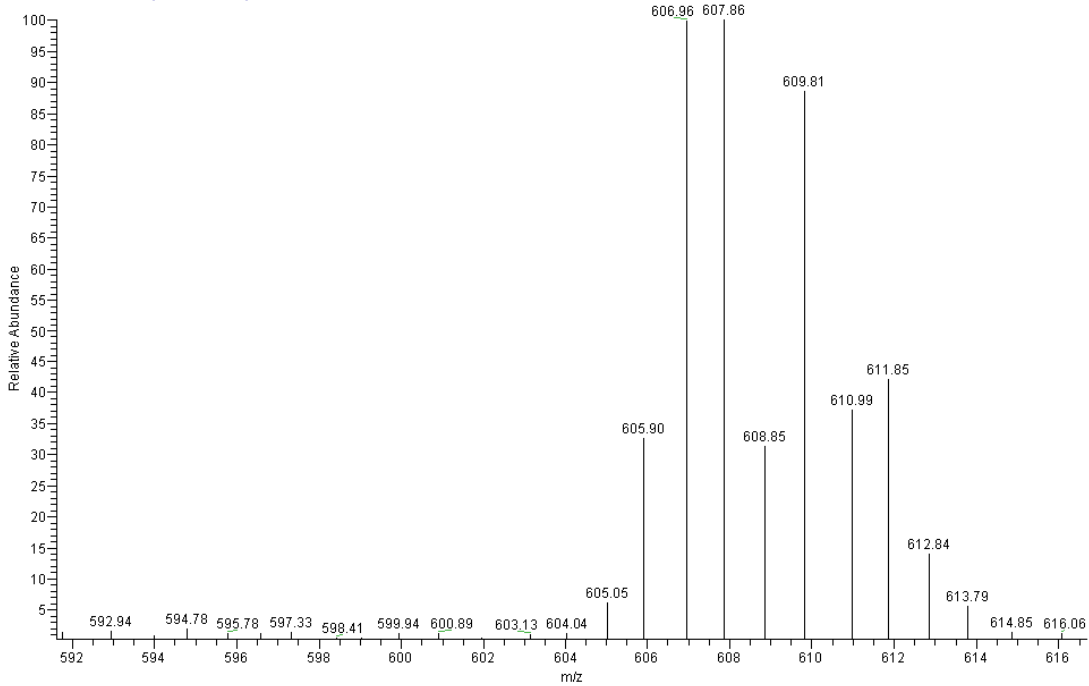
20121109004 #88 RT: 0.86 AV: 1 NL: 1.04E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 535.00@cid25.00 [145.00-1000.00]



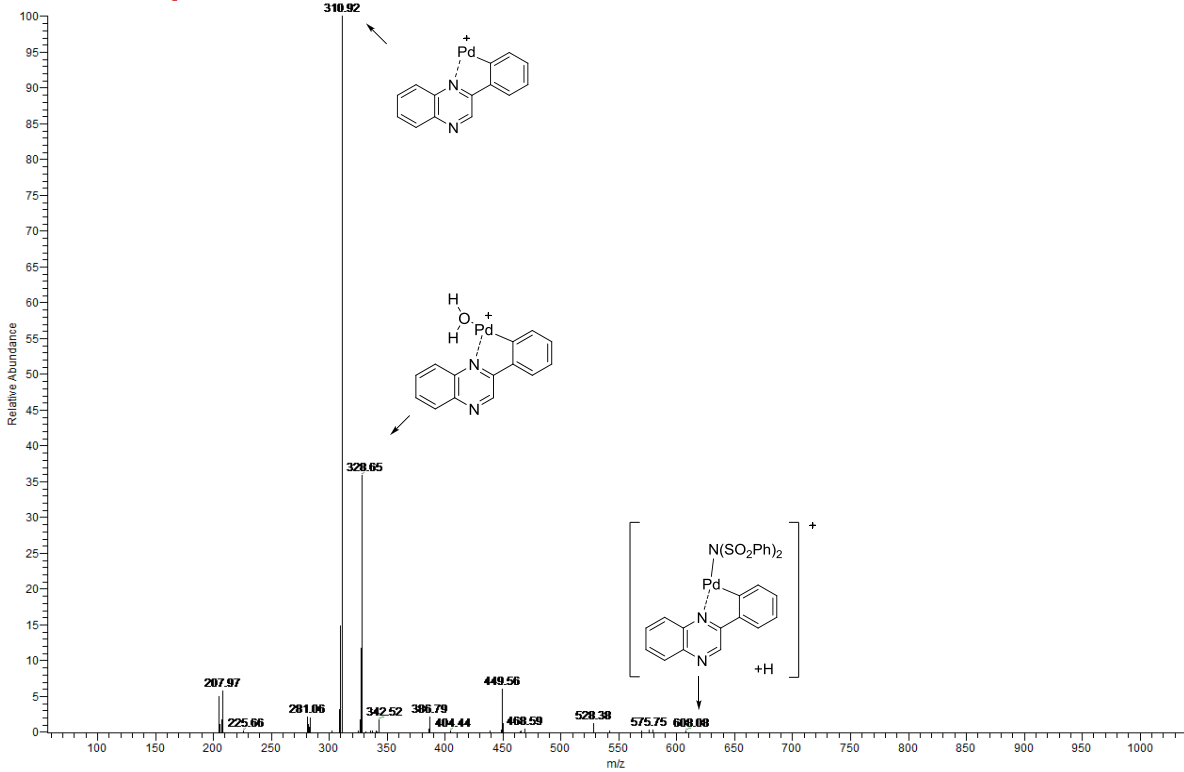
*m/z*: 535

d)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 2.35E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



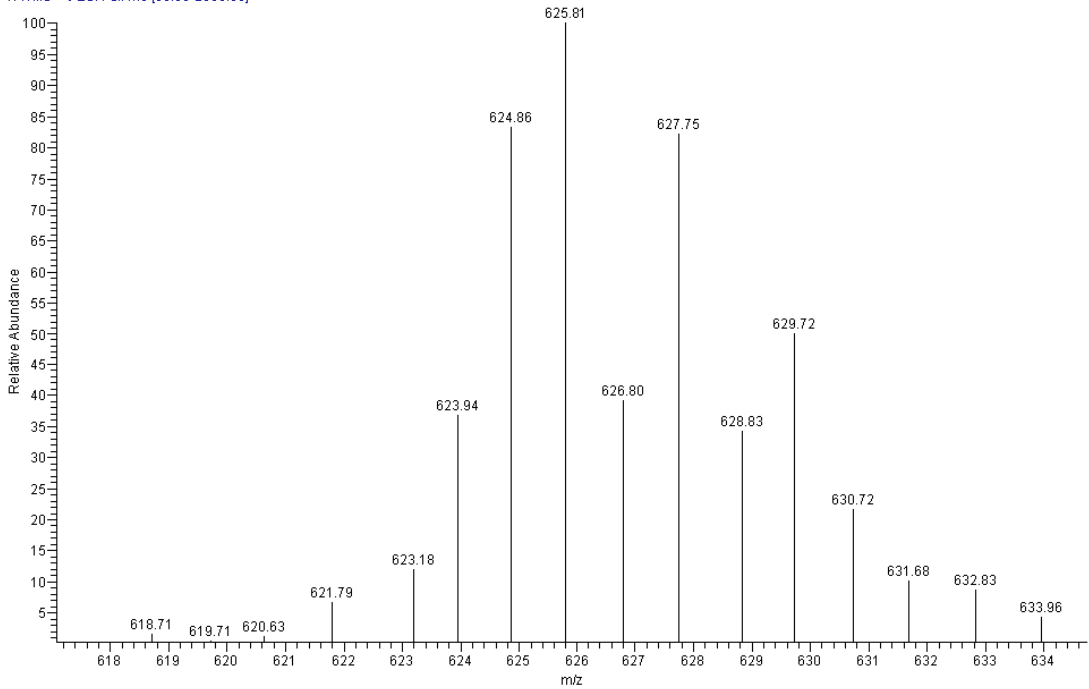
20121211001\_121211192919 #498 RT: 4.48 AV: 1 NL: 1.89E3  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 608.00@cid30.00 [165.00-1000.00]



$m/z$ : 608

e)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 2.14E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



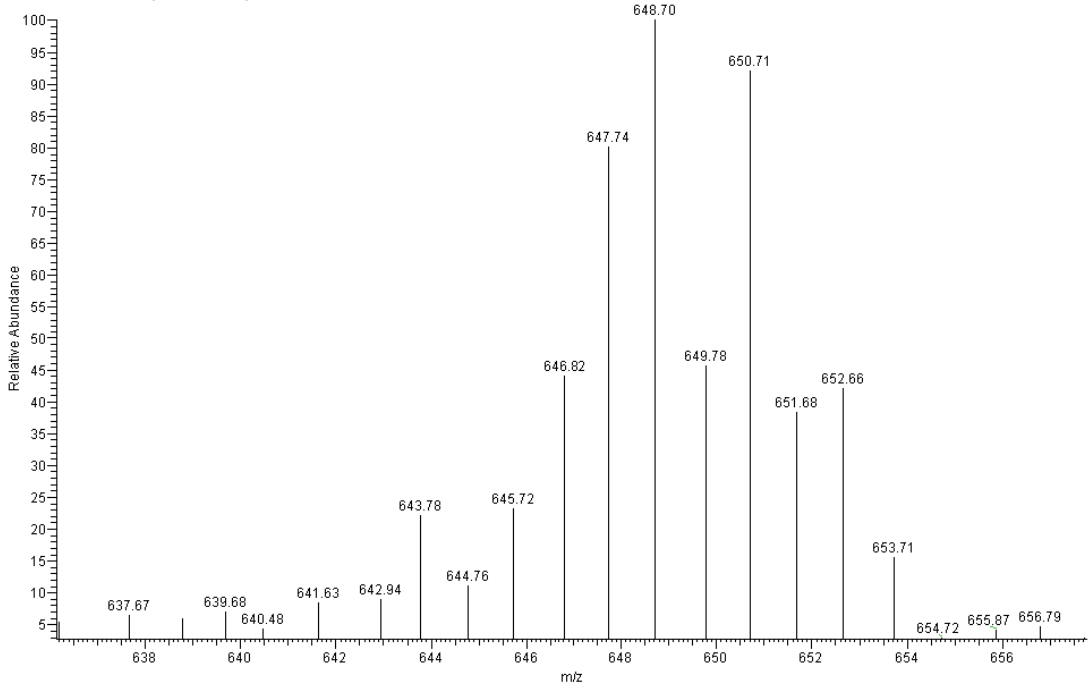
20121211001\_121211192919 #389 RT: 3.85 AV: 1 NL: 1.70E3  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 626.00@cid30.00 [170.00-1000.00]



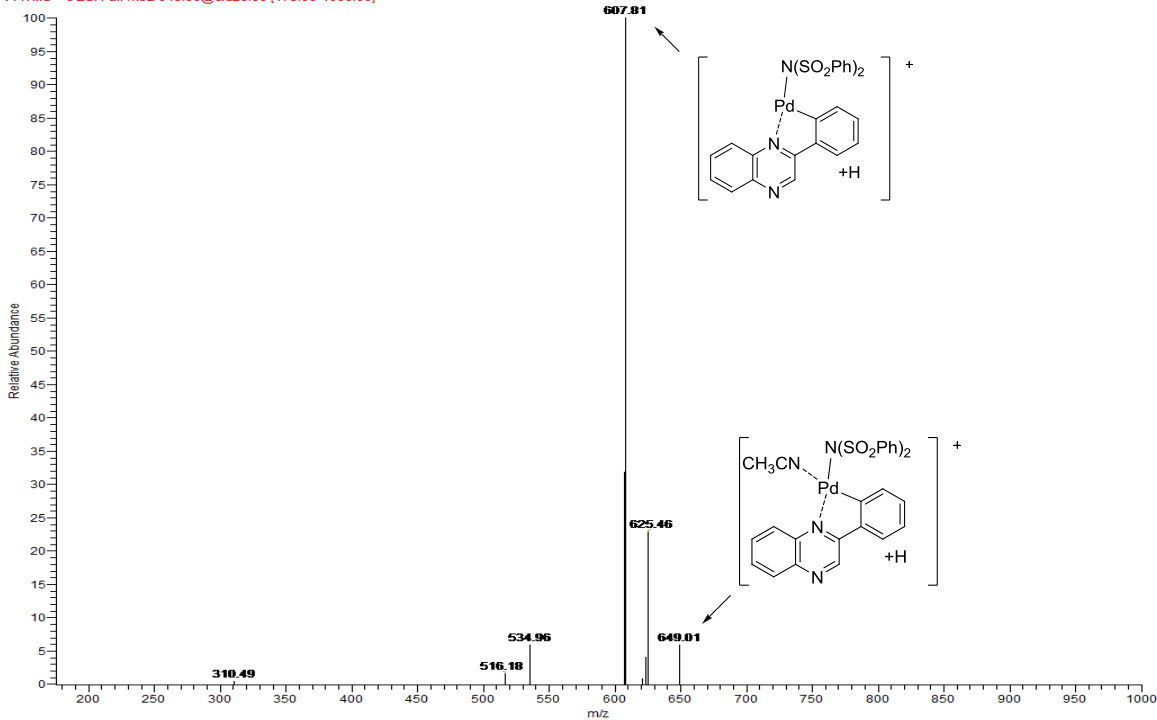
$m/z$ : 626

f)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 1.45E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



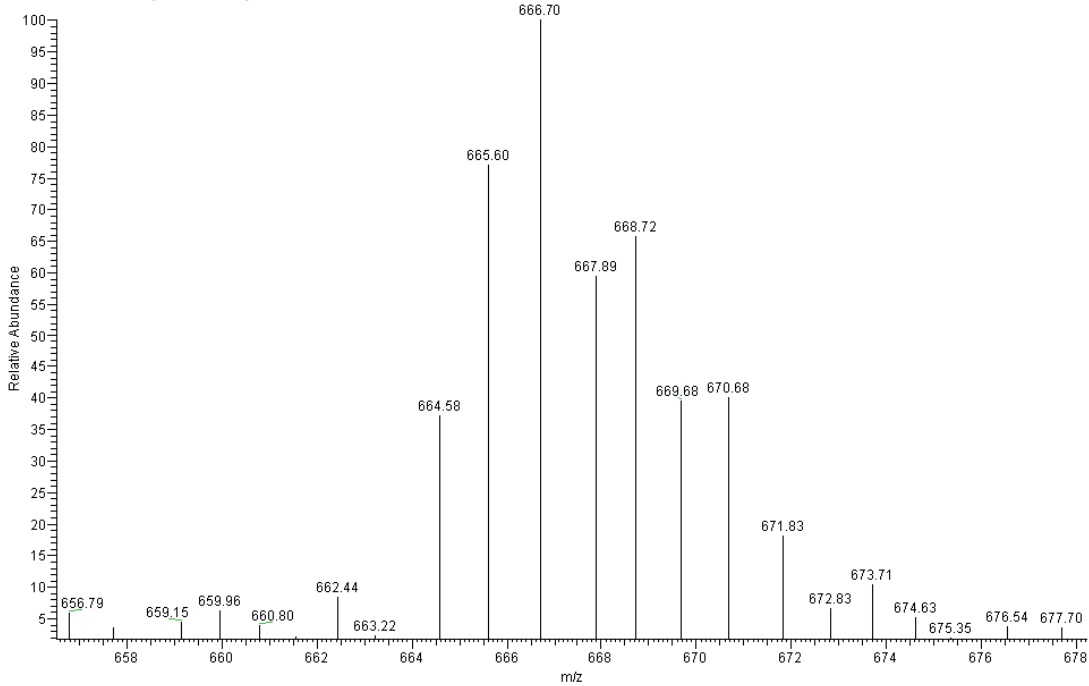
20121105001 #68 RT: 0.60 AV: 1 NL: 3.74E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 649.00@cid20.00 [175.00-1000.00]



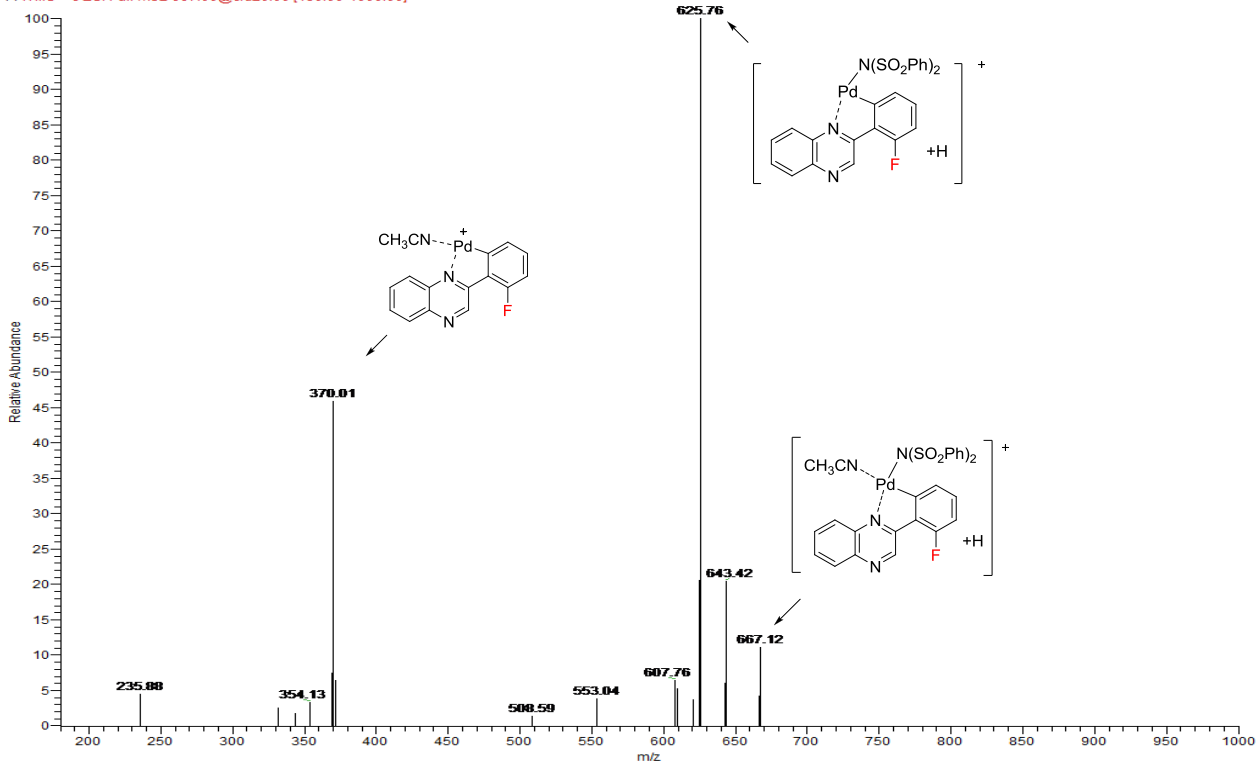
m/z: 649

g)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 1.16E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



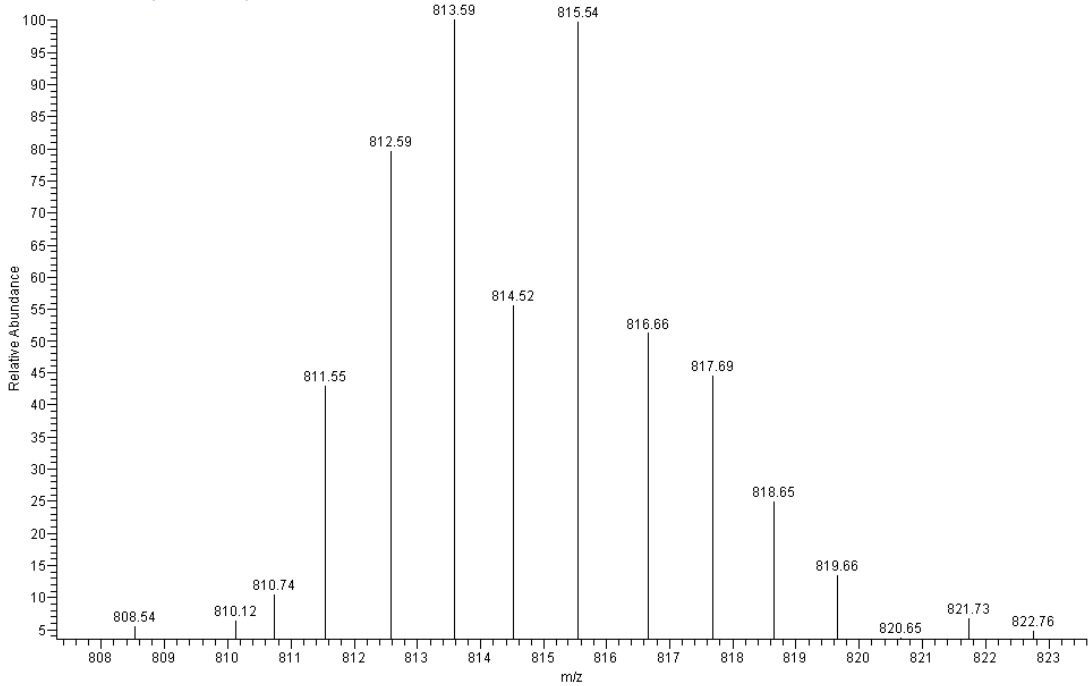
20121105001 #119 RT: 0.89 AV: 1 NL: 1.33E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 667.00@cid20.00 [180.00-1000.00]



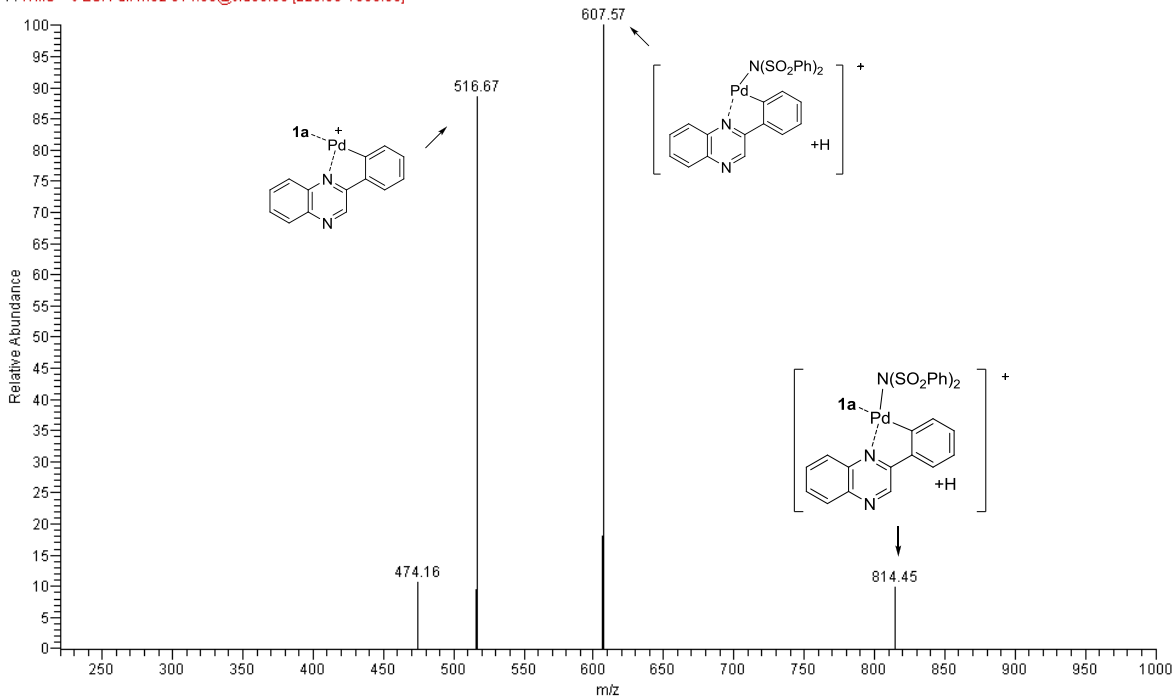
m/z: 667

h)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 7.81E2  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



20121211002 #73 RT: 0.70 AV: 1 NL: 4.19E1  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 814.00@cid30.00 [220.00-1000.00]

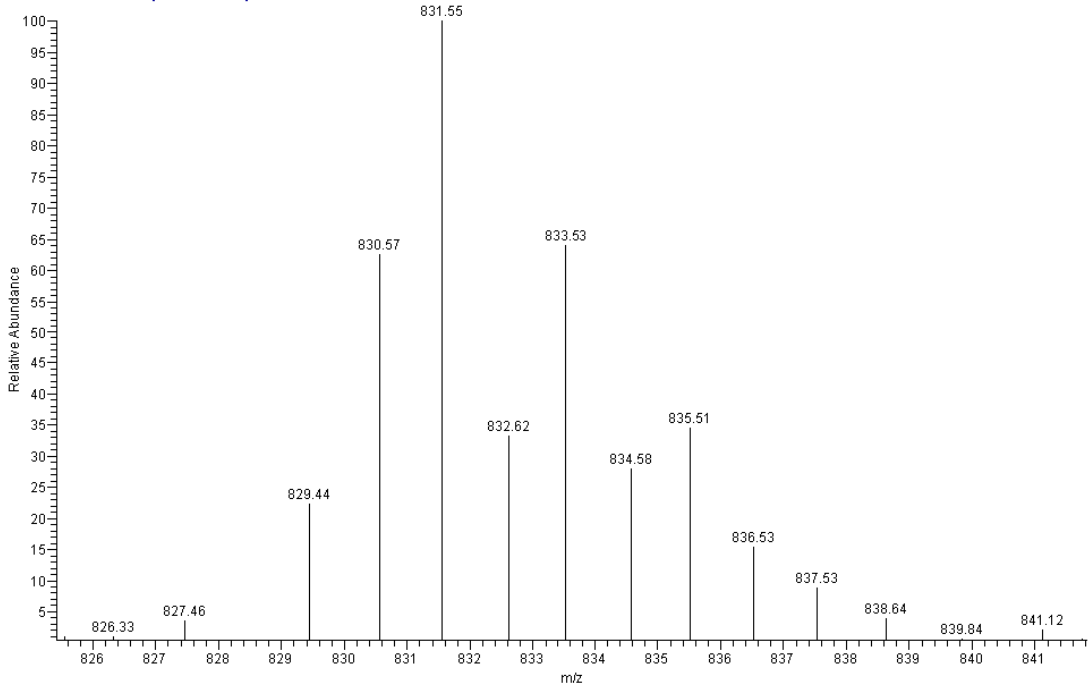


$m/z$ : 814

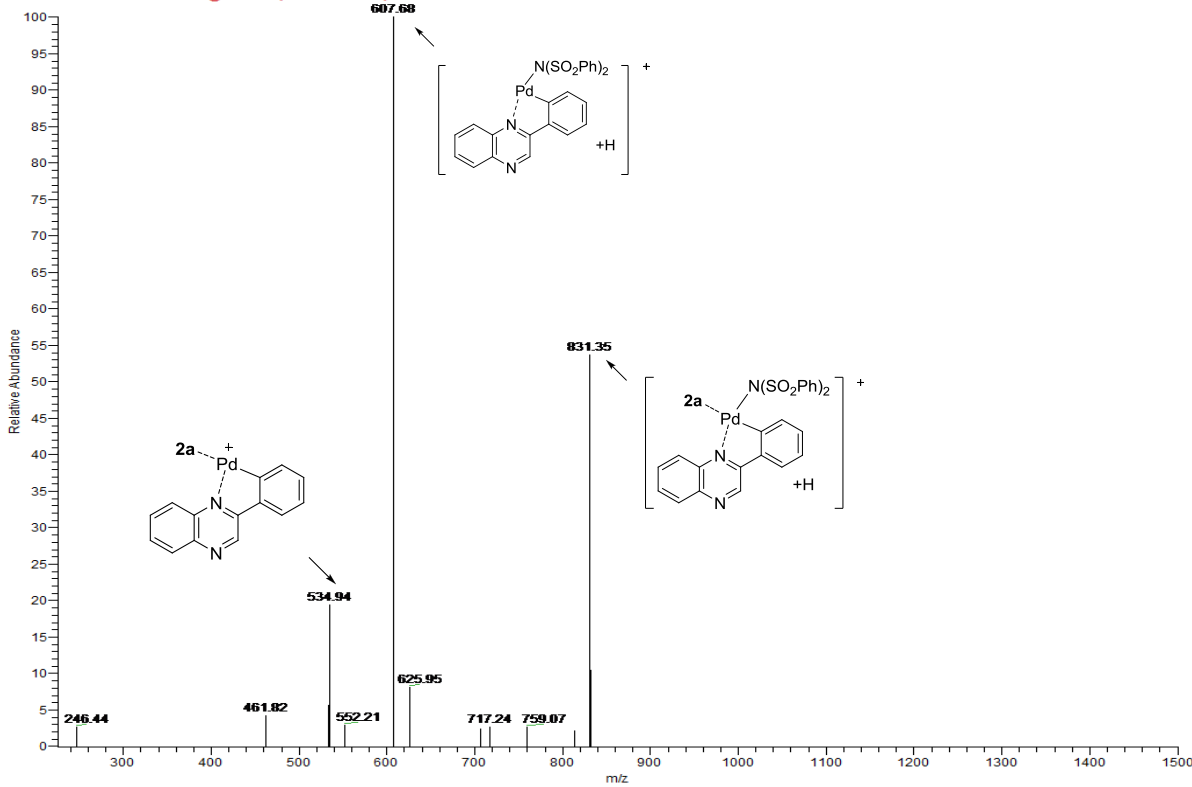


i)

20121211001\_121211102919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 2.97E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



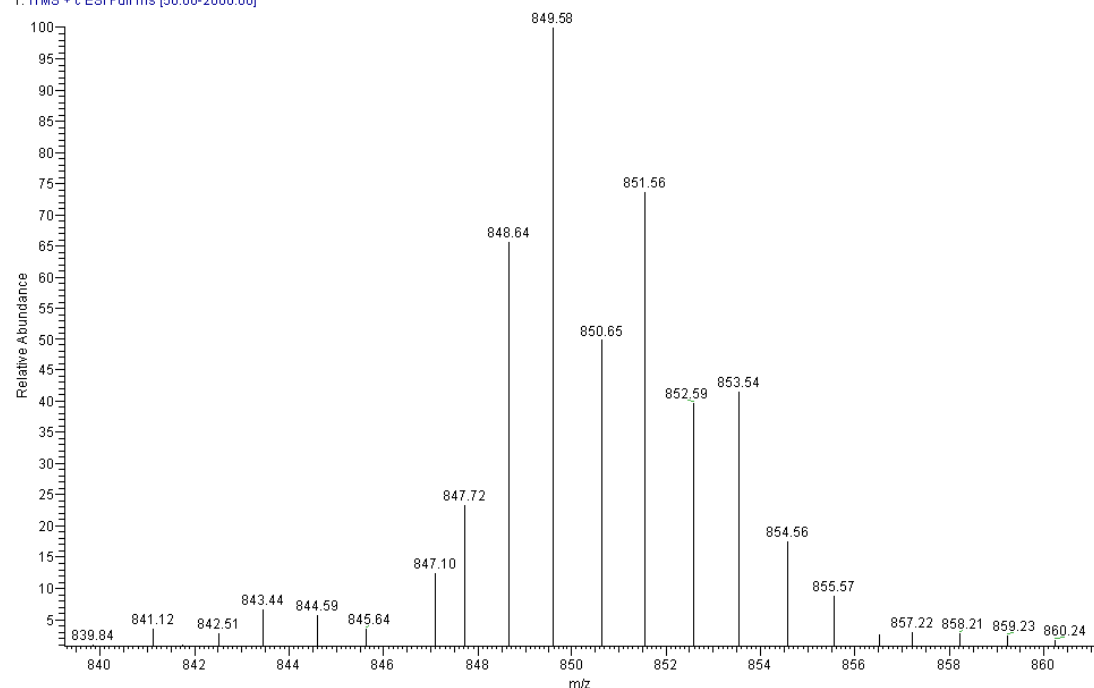
20121107002\_121107191527 #209 RT: 1.57 AV: 1 NL: 9.94E1  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 832.00@cid25.00 [225.00-1500.00]



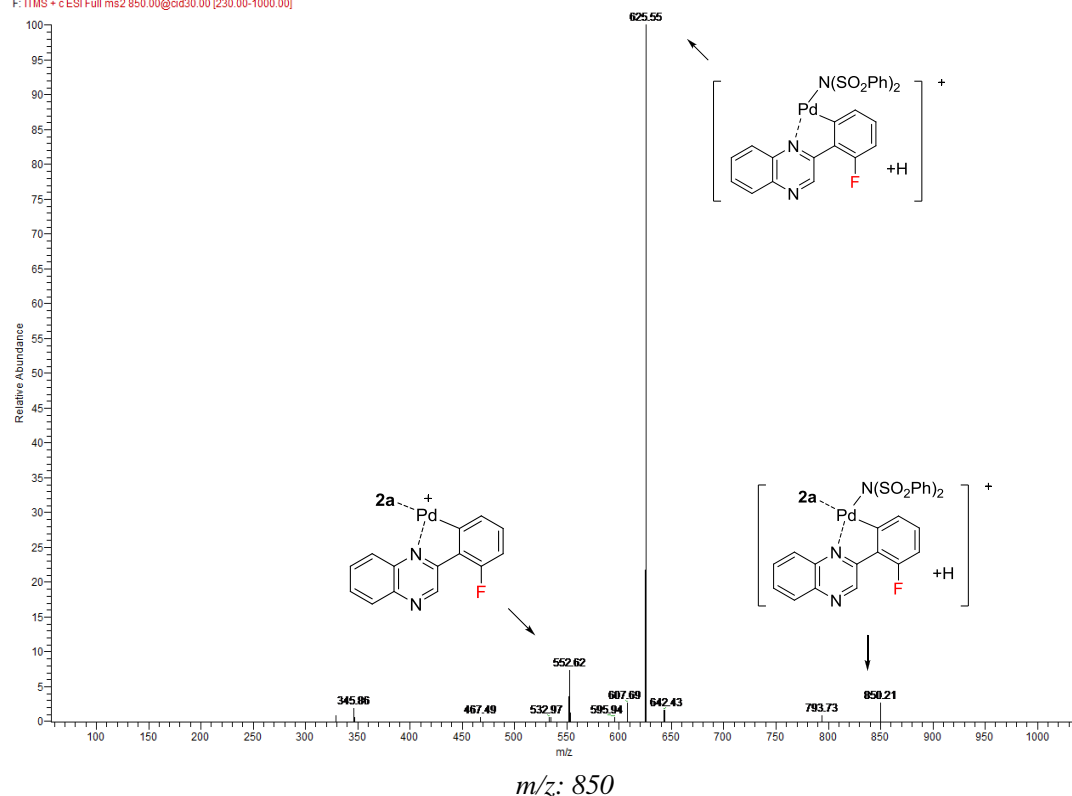
m/z: 832

j)

20121211001\_121211192919 #20 RT: 0.32 AV: 1 NL: 1.89E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]



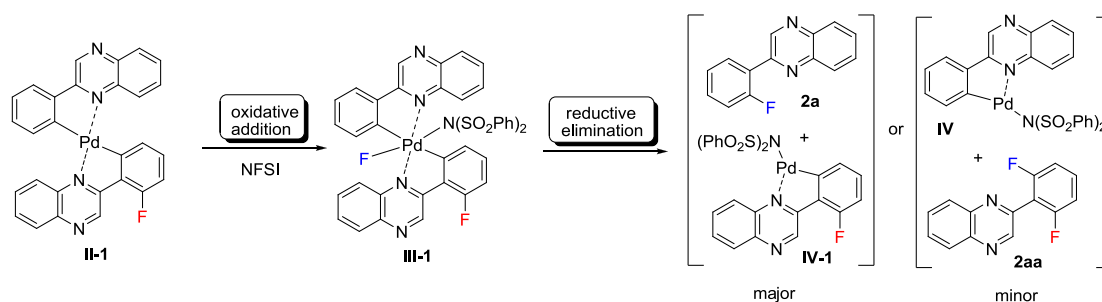
20121211001\_121211192919 #329 RT: 3.51 AV: 1 NL: 5.36E2  
F: ITMS + c ESI Full ms2 850.00@cid30.00 [230.00-1000.00]



**Figure 5.** ESI-MS/MS spectra for Pd(II) complexes: a) Pd(II) intermediate **I** ( $m/z$  466); b) Pd(II) intermediate **II** ( $m/z$  517); c) Pd(II) intermediate **II-1** ( $m/z$  535); d) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-1** ( $m/z$  608); e) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-2** ( $m/z$  626); f) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-3** ( $m/z$  649); g) reductive eliminated Pd(II)

intermediate **IV-4** ( $m/z$  667); h) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-5** ( $m/z$  814); i) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-6** ( $m/z$  832); j) reductive eliminated Pd(II) intermediate **IV-7** ( $m/z$  850).

Notably, the formation of the intermediates **II** and **II-1** revealed that the competing coordination with **I** was occurred between **1a** and monofluorinated product **2a** which resulted in the minor difluorinated product **2aa** (the fluorination of **1a** is faster than **2a**). In addition, the observation disclosed the reason why the difluorination occurred as soon as the monofluorinated azaarene was formed (Scheme 2).



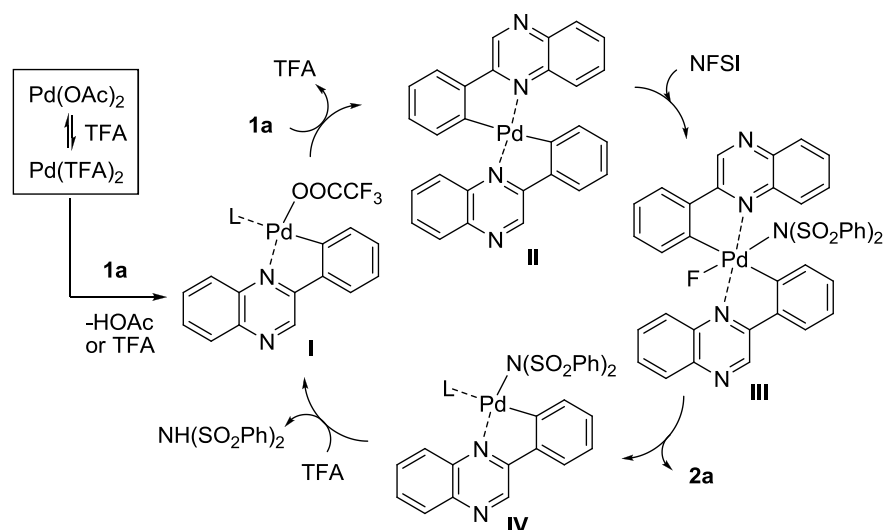
**Scheme 2.** Reductive elimination of Pd (IV) intermediate **III-1**

## Proposed mechanism

Based on the above mechanistic experiments and previous literatures, a proposed mechanism involving Pd(II/IV) catalytic cycles is depicted in Figure 6. The coordination between **1a** and Pd(II) to form palladacyclic intermediate **I** (**determined by ESI-MS**), which could further coordinated with another **1a** to give **II** (**determined by ESI-MS**). Then the intermediate **II** was fast oxidated by NFSI to generate Pd(IV) intermediate **III** which fast underwent reductive elimination to produce **2a** and the Pd(II) intermediates **IV** (**determined by ESI-MS**).

A competing coordination with intermediate **I** between **1a** and monofluorinated product **2a** was observed by the ESI-MS studies, which led to the generation of the difluorinated product **2aa**. However the coordination between intermediate **I** and **2a** was minor in the present of CH<sub>3</sub>CN, which serves as a spectator ligand that can displace the relatively weakly coordinated product **2a** from the Pd(II) center<sup>[8]</sup>. Even if **2a** coordinated with **I**, the relatively slow C-F bond elimination of **2a** (determined

by the aforementioned “**Intermolecular competition experiments**”) made the second fluorination sluggish. Thus, a selective aromatic monofluorination was developed.

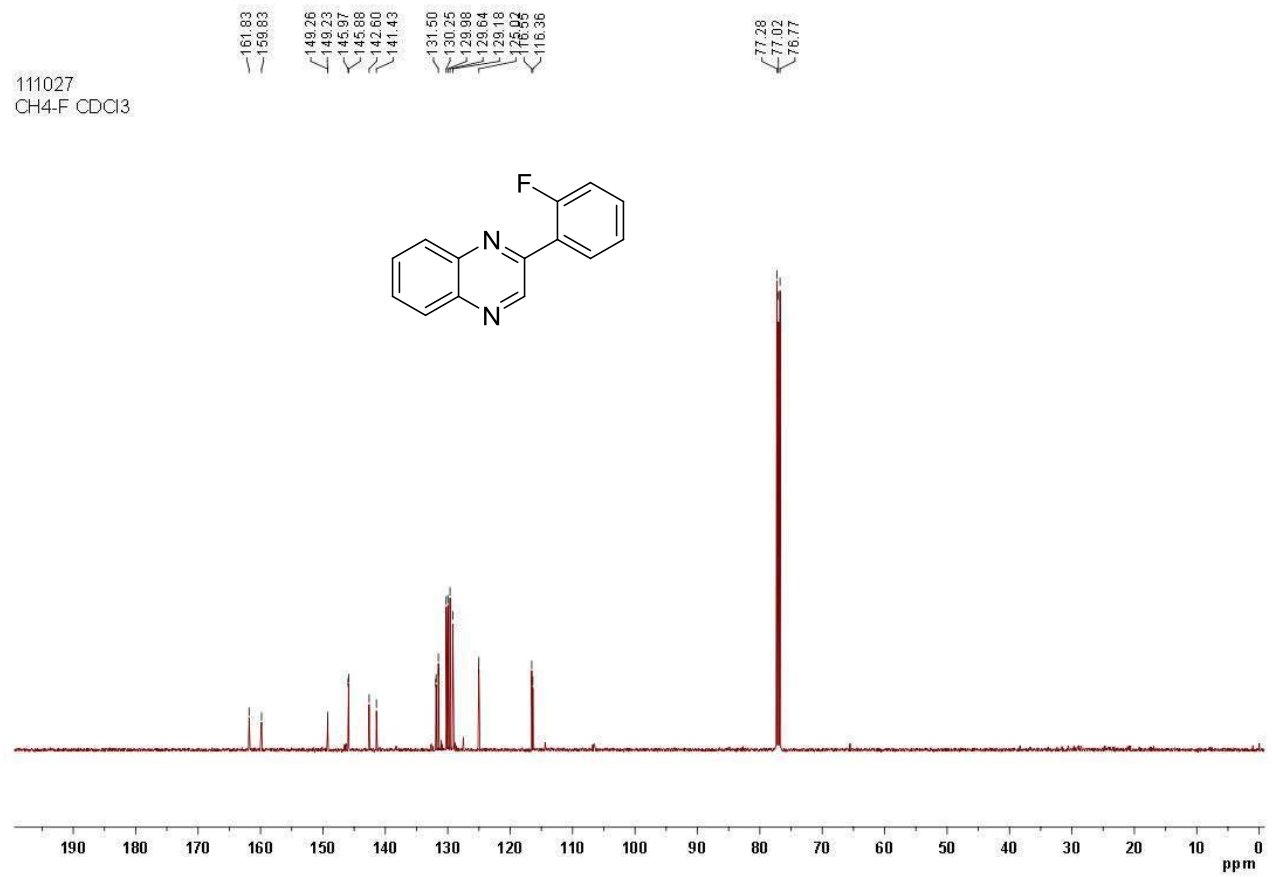
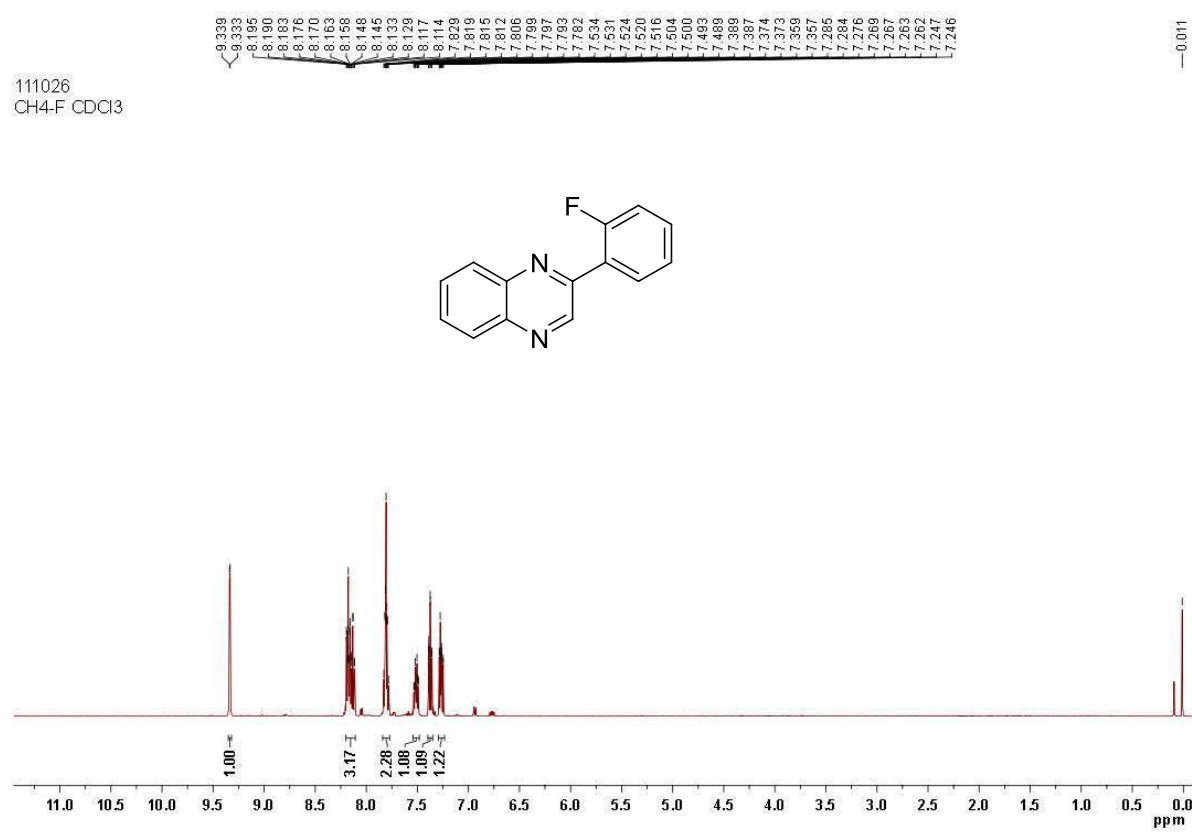


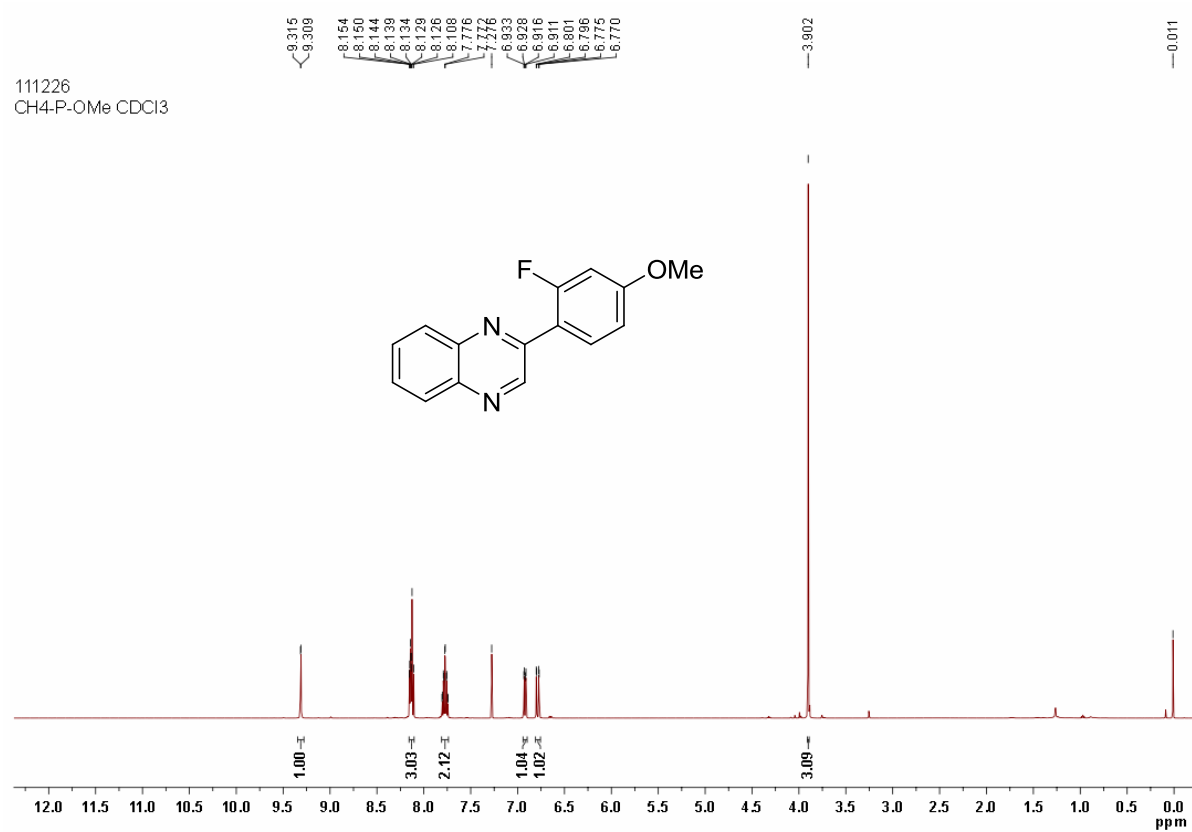
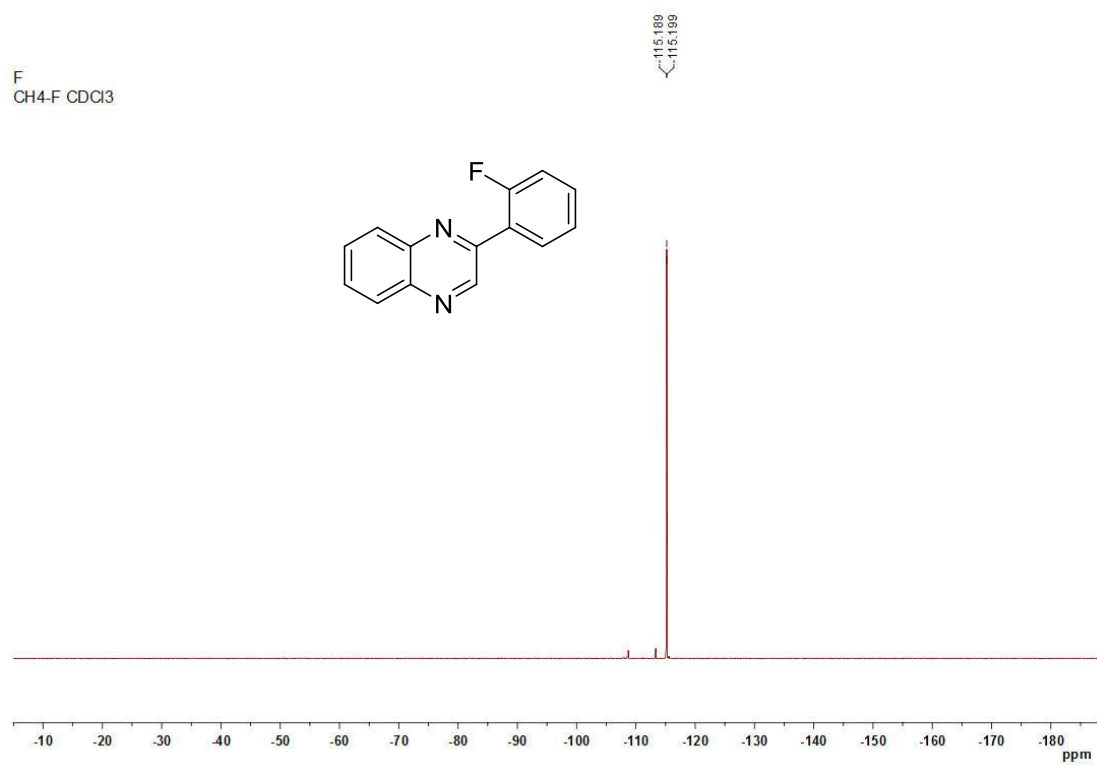
**Figure 6.** Proposed mechanism

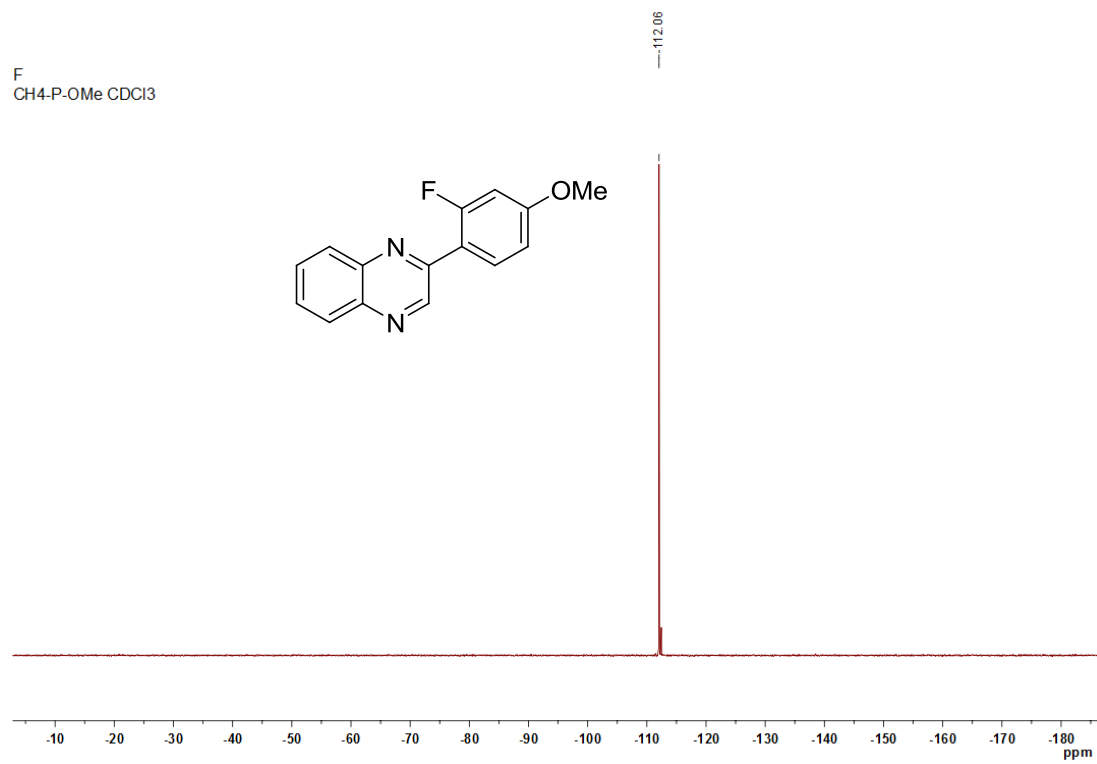
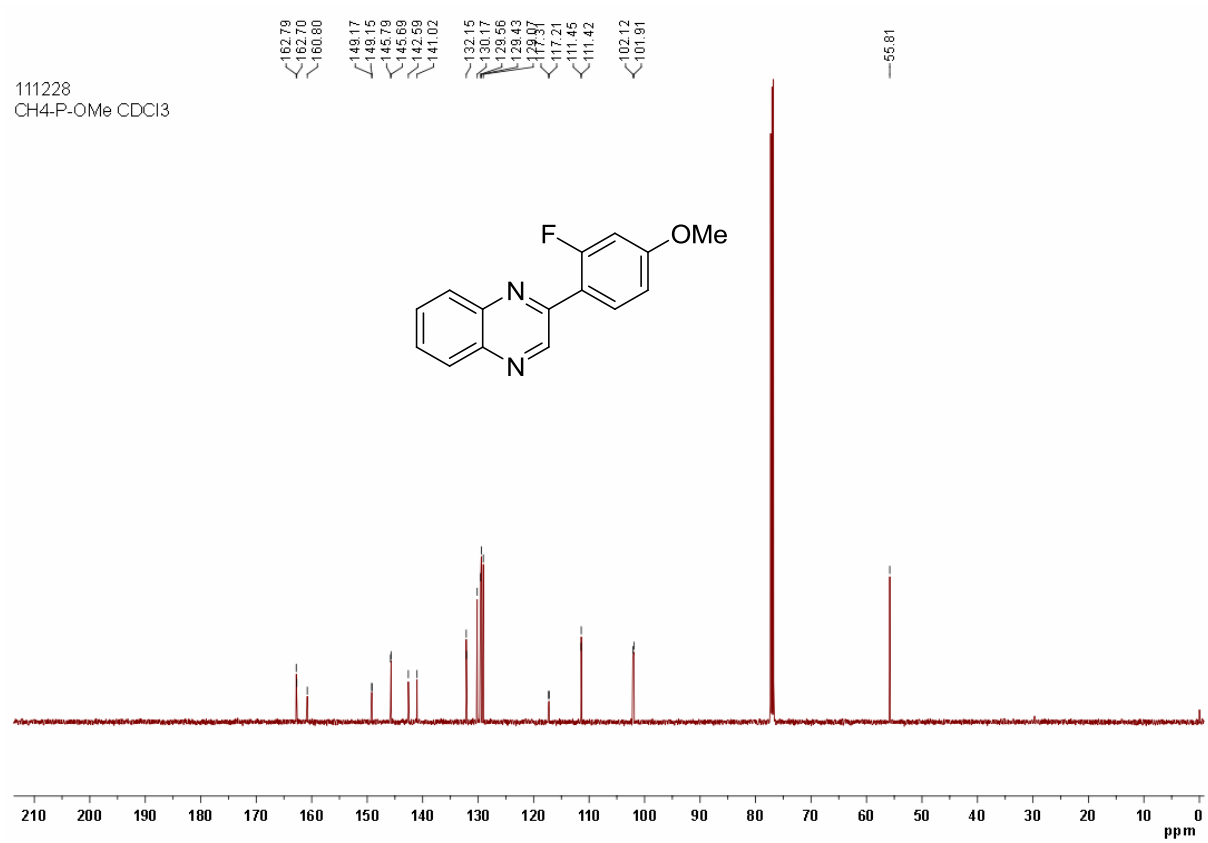
## References

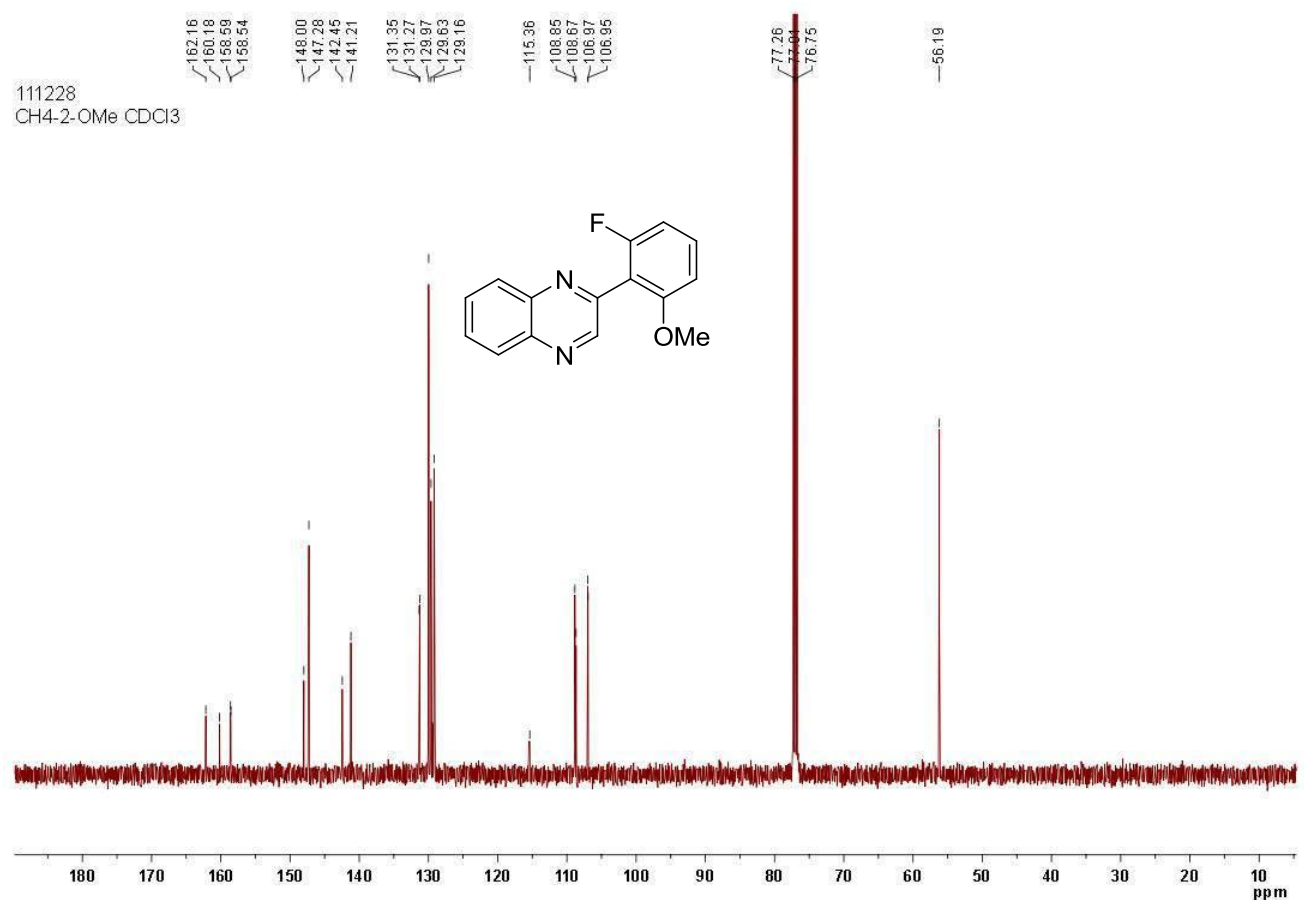
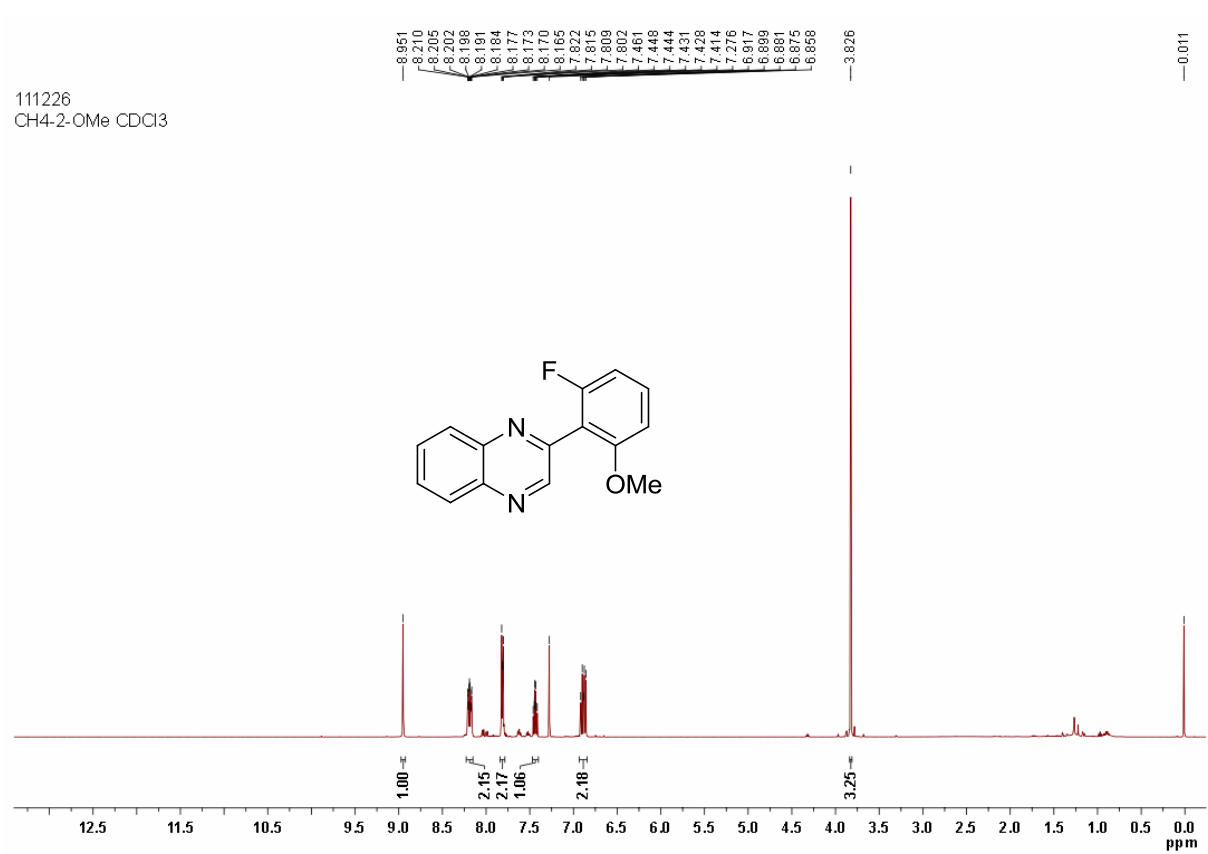
1. B. Das, K. Venkateswarlu, K. Suneel, A. Majh, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2007**, 48, 5371.
2. J. S. Yadav, B. V. S. Reddy, K. Premalatha, K. S. Shankar, *Synthesis* **2008**, 3787.
3. D. Kumar, S. Rudrawar, A. K. Chakraborti, *Aust. J. Chem.* **2008**, 881.
4. C. Liu, Q. Ni, F.-Y. Bao, J.-S. Qiu, *Green Chem.* **2011**, 1260.
5. S. A. Kotharkar, D. B. Shinde, *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 1466.
6. J. Bonnamour, C. Bolm, *Org. Lett.* **2008**, 2665.
7. Y.-K. Liu, S.-J. Lou, D.-Q. Xu and Z.-Y. Xu, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, 13590.
8. K. S. L. Chan, M. Wasa, X. Wang, J.-Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 9081.

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of all products

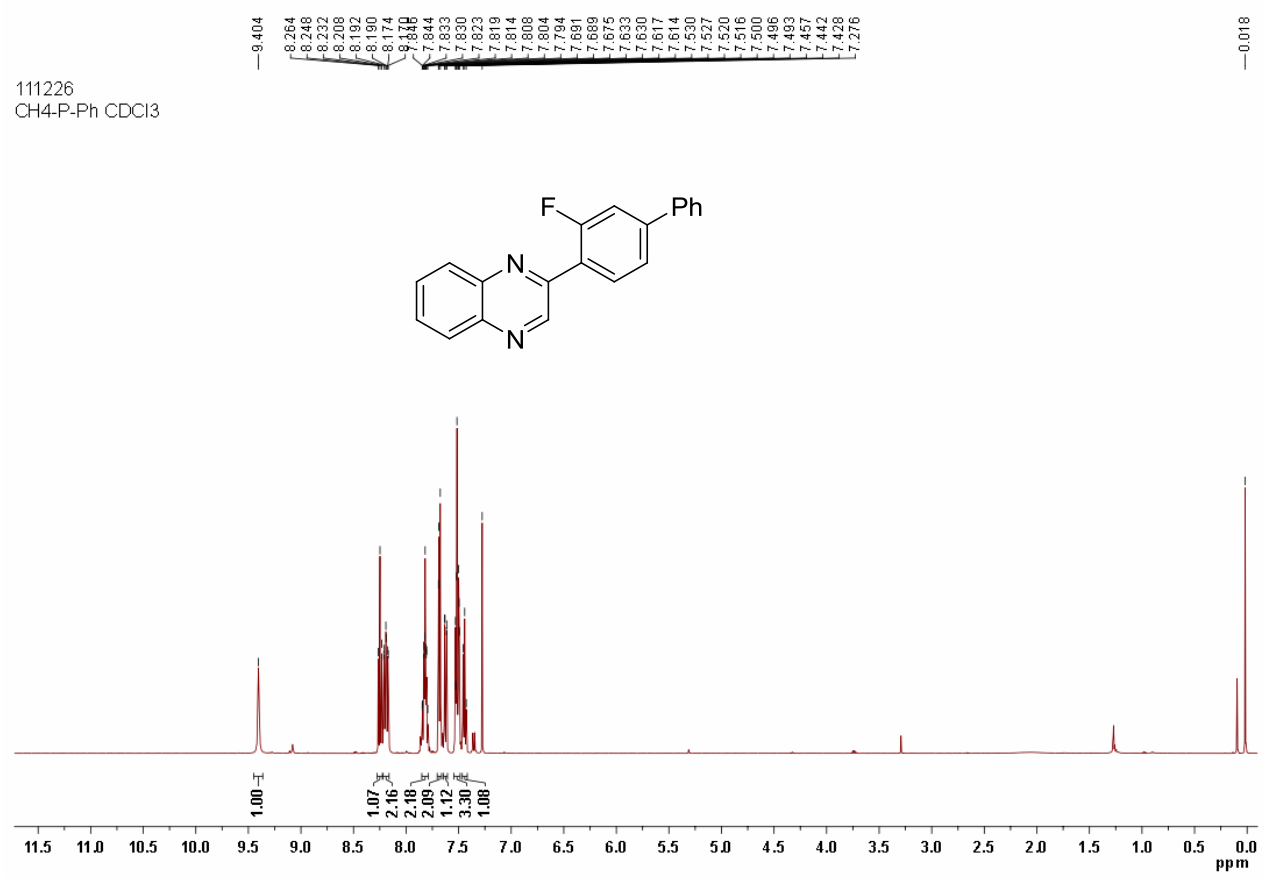
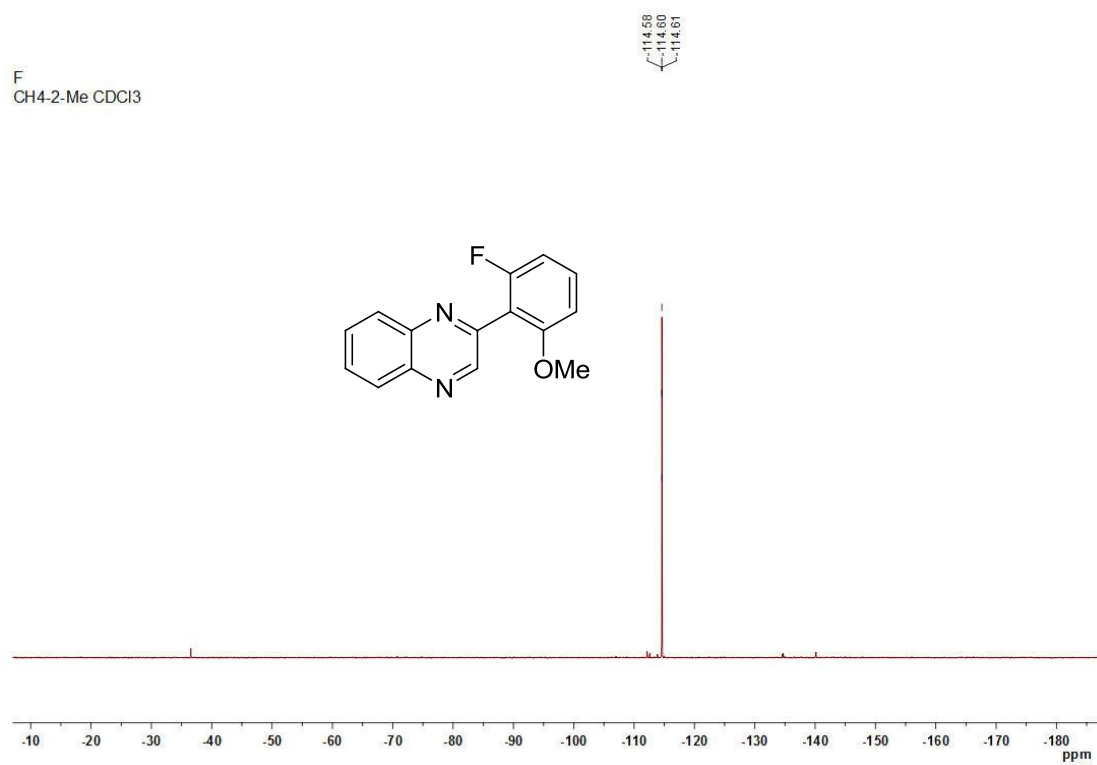


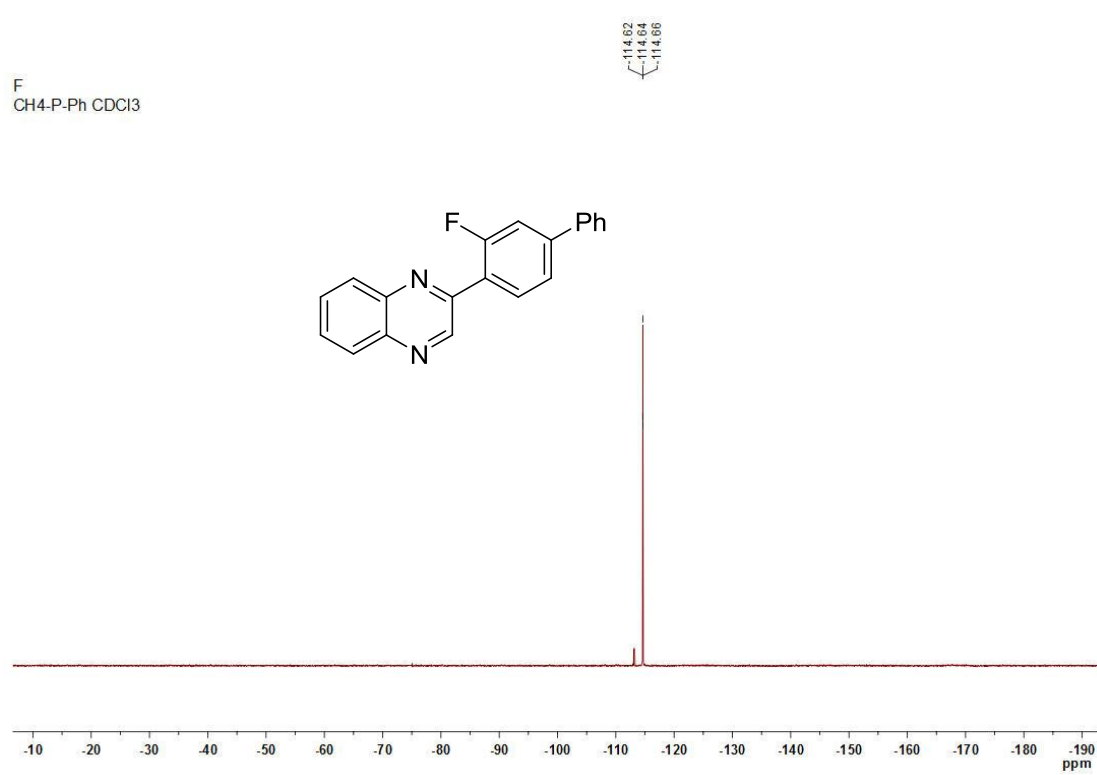
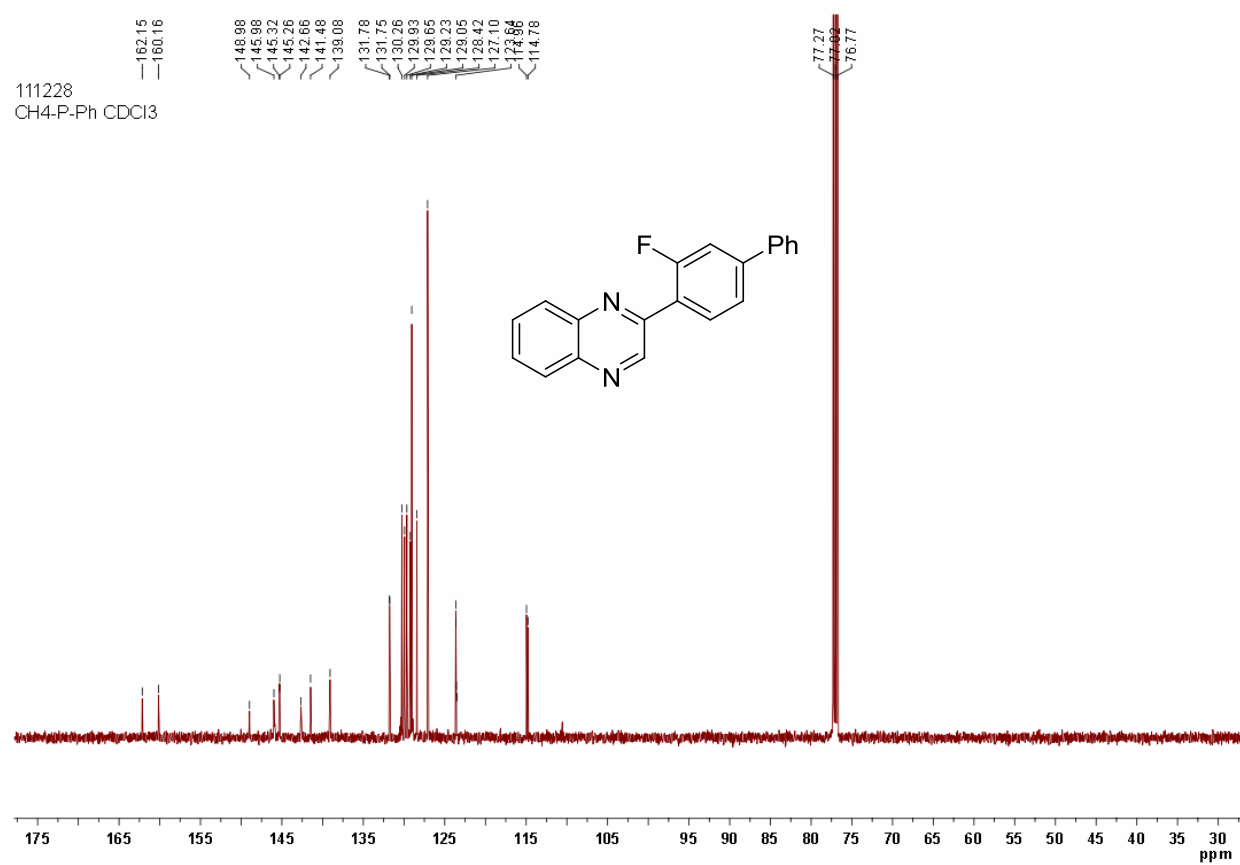


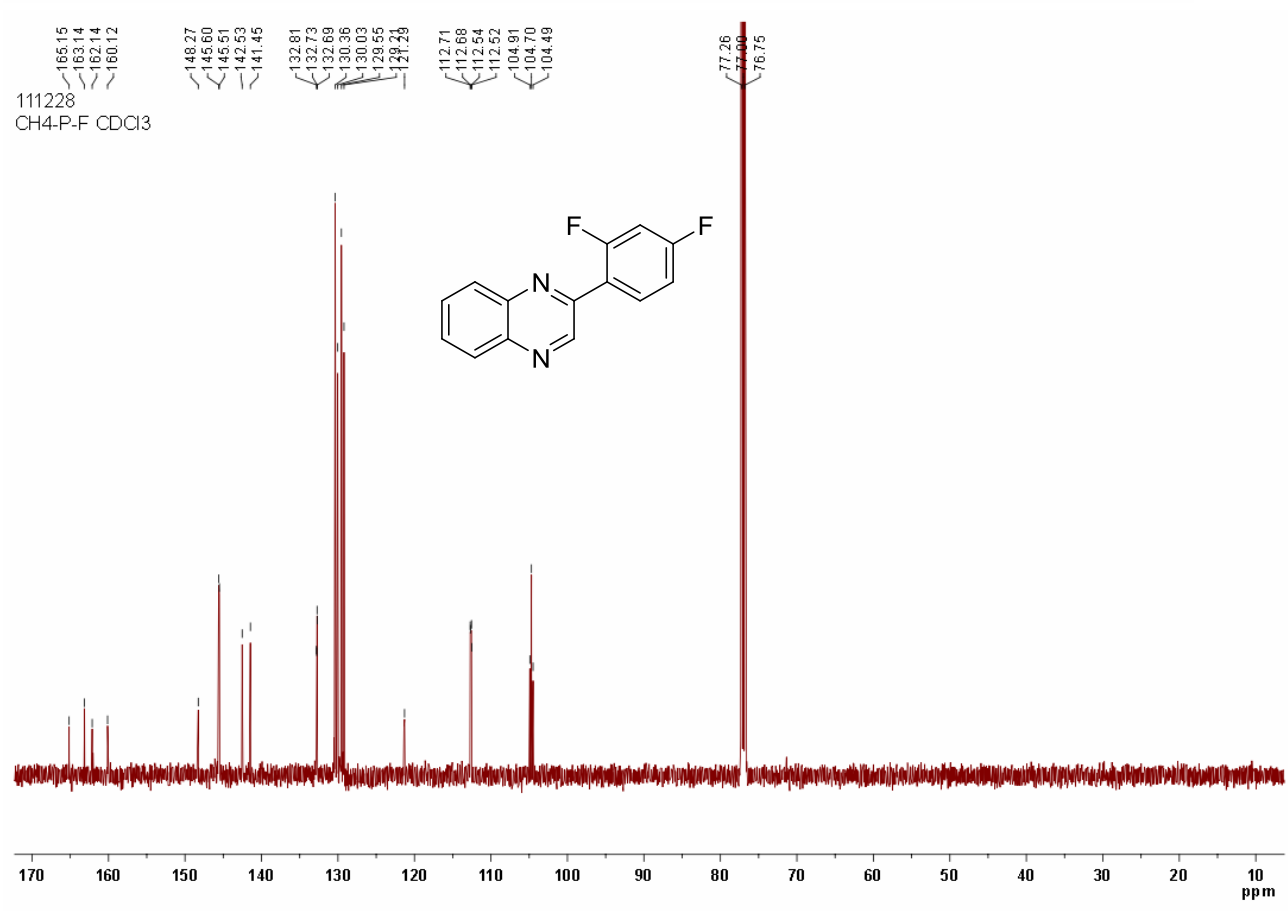
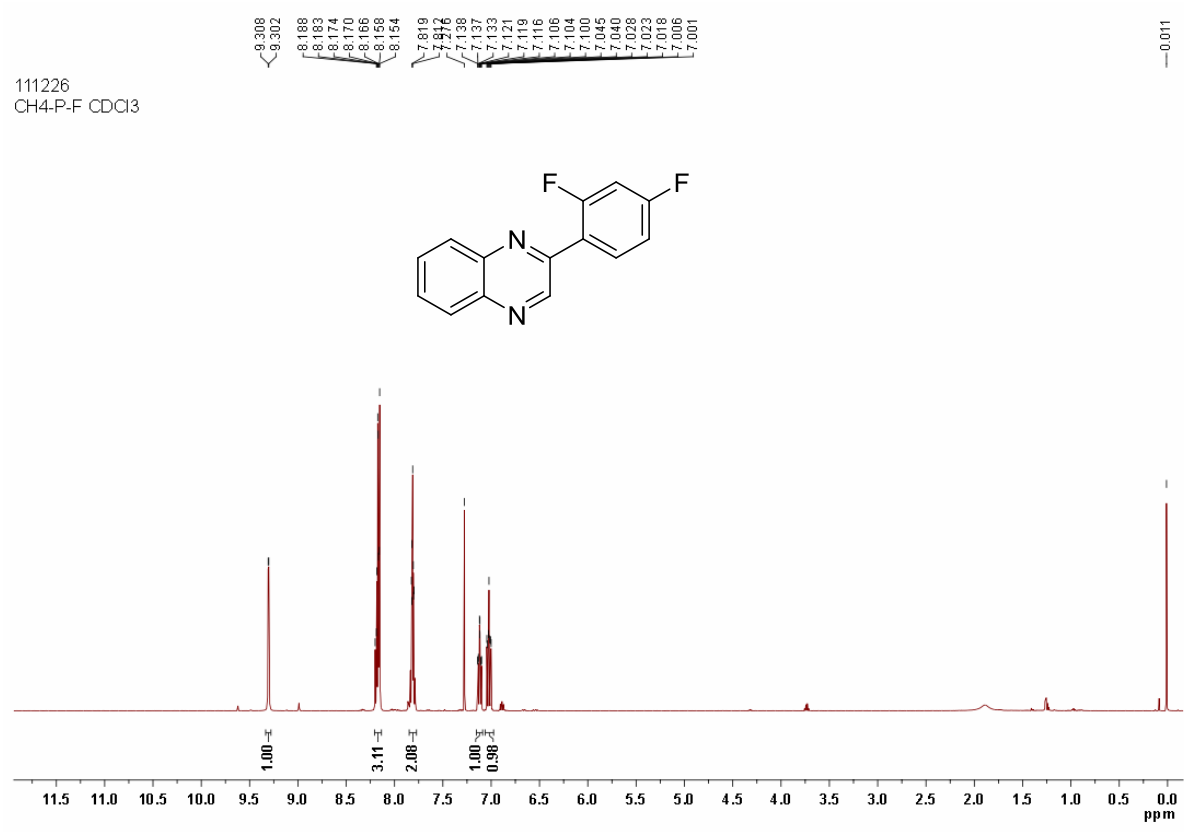


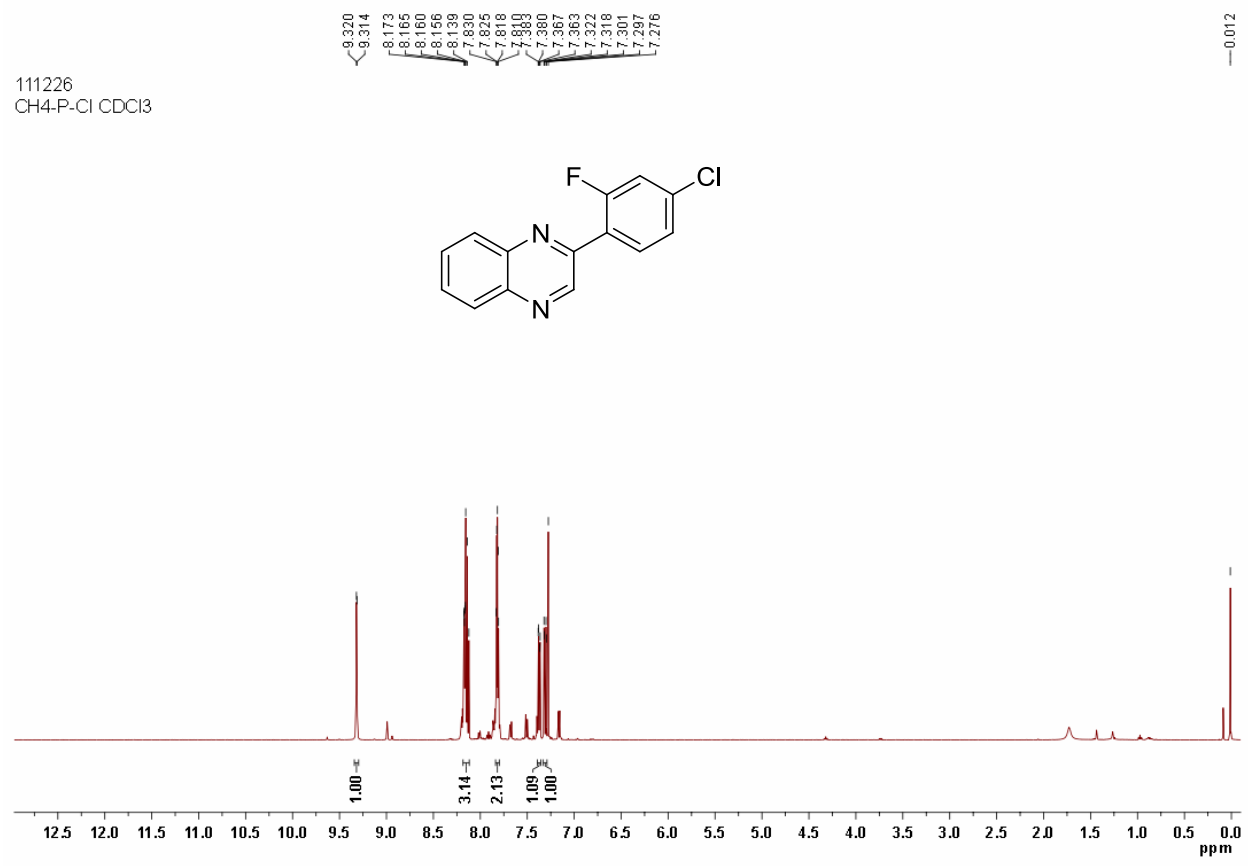
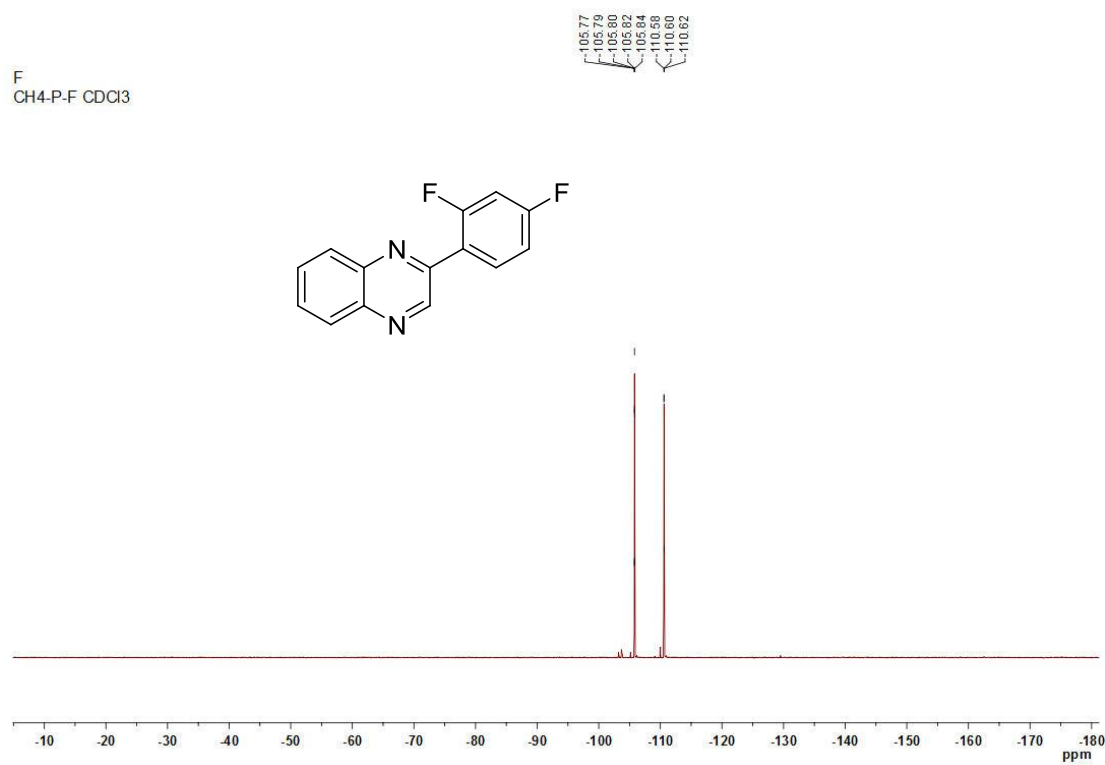


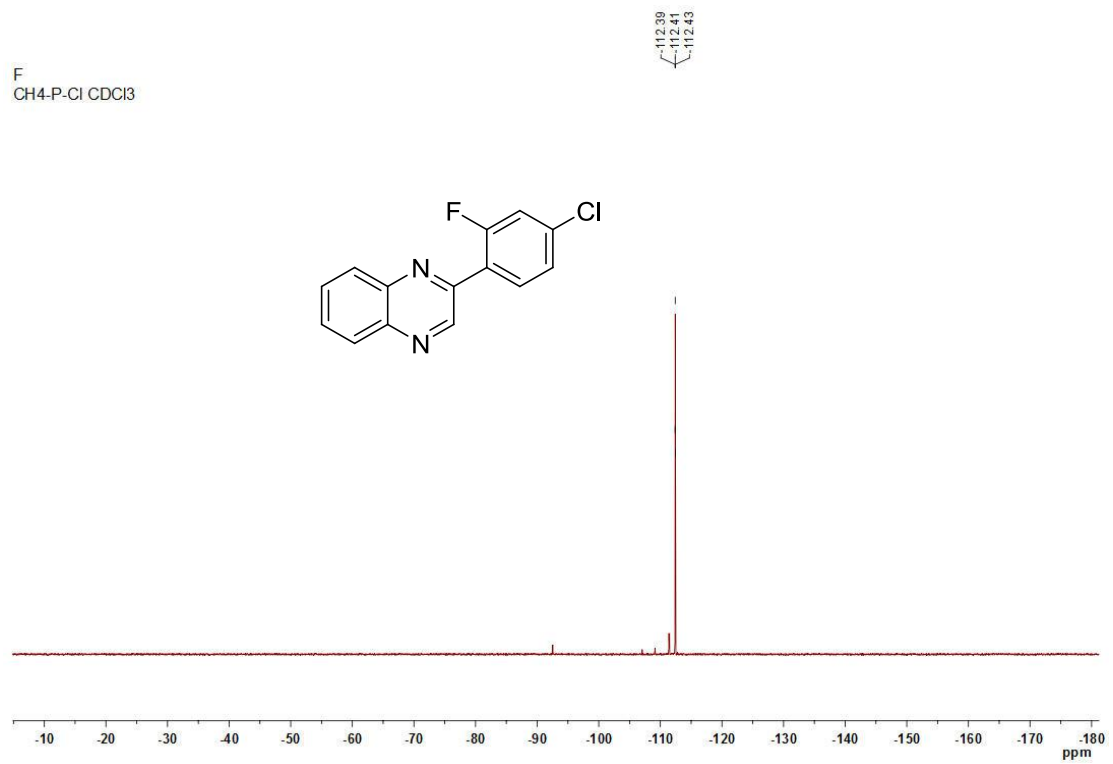
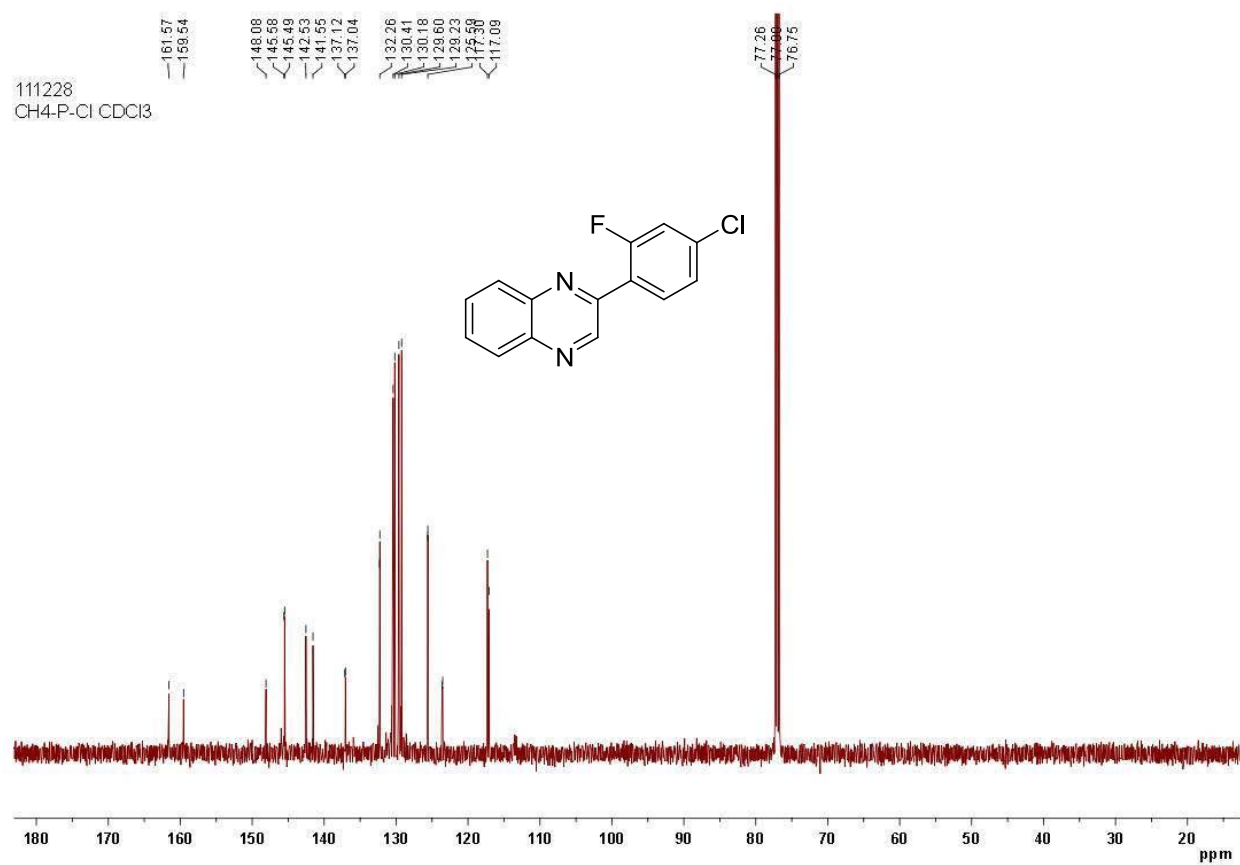




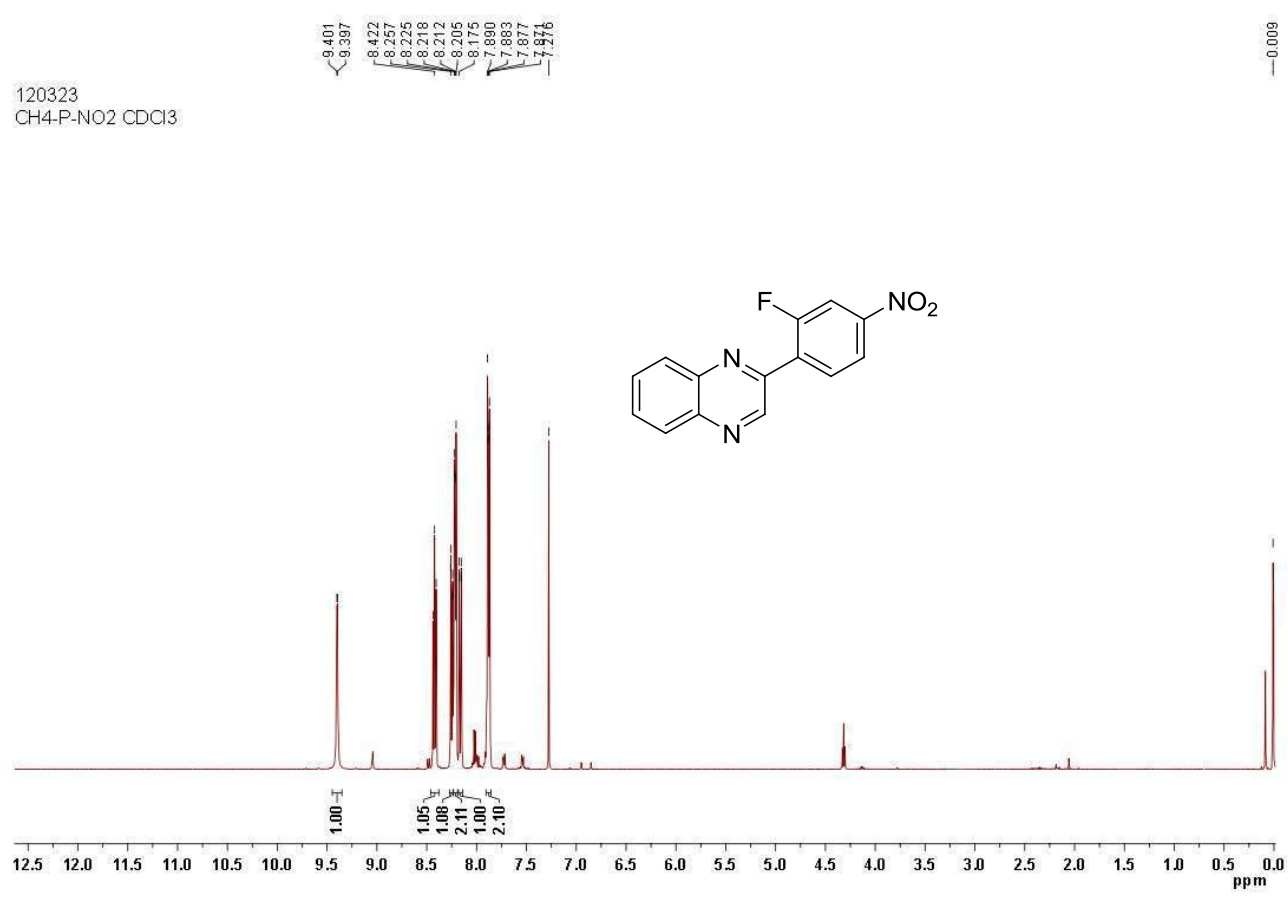
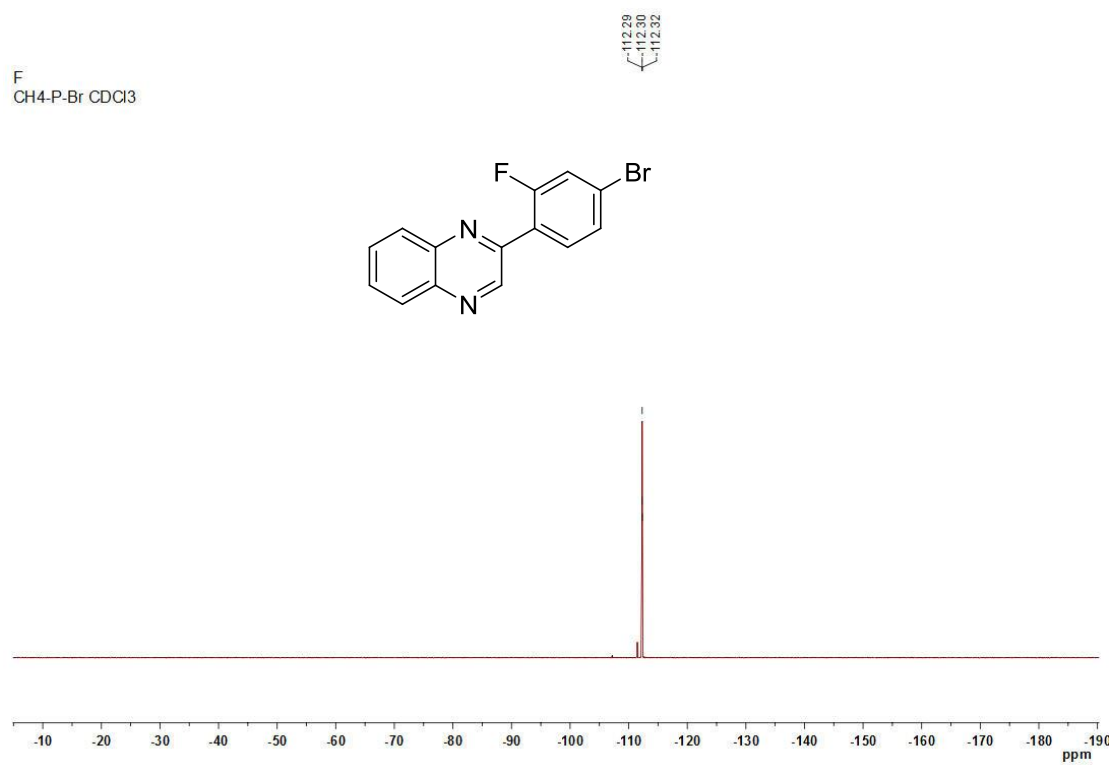


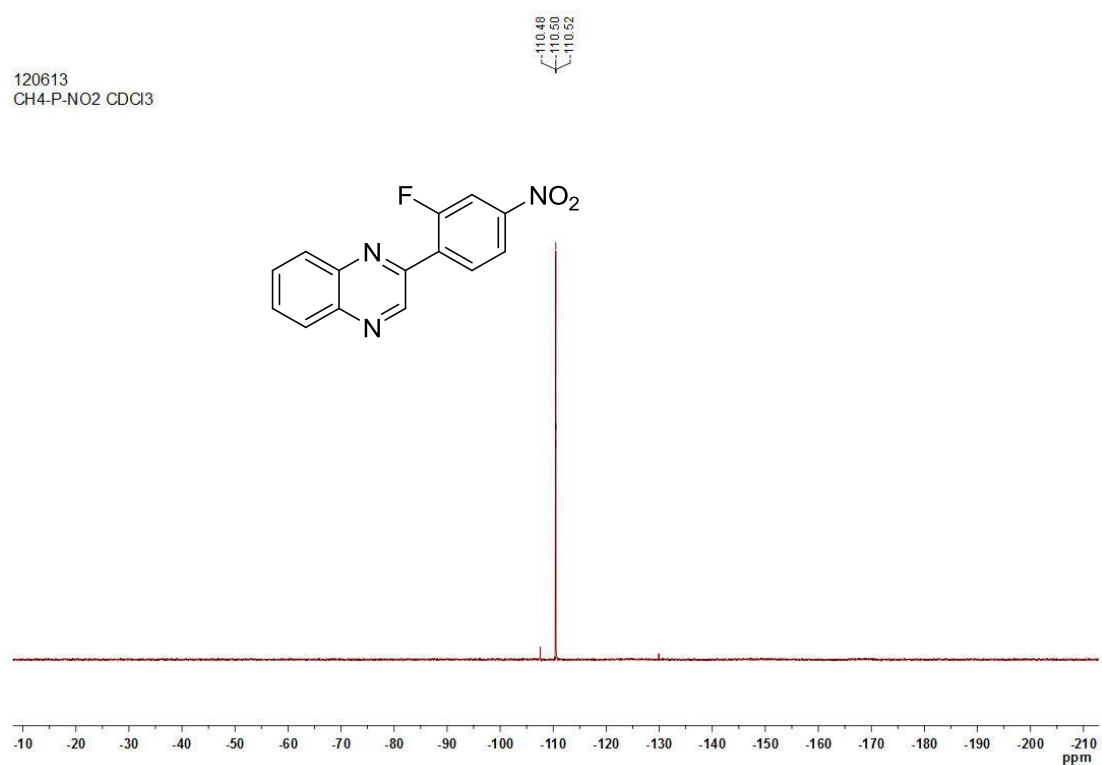
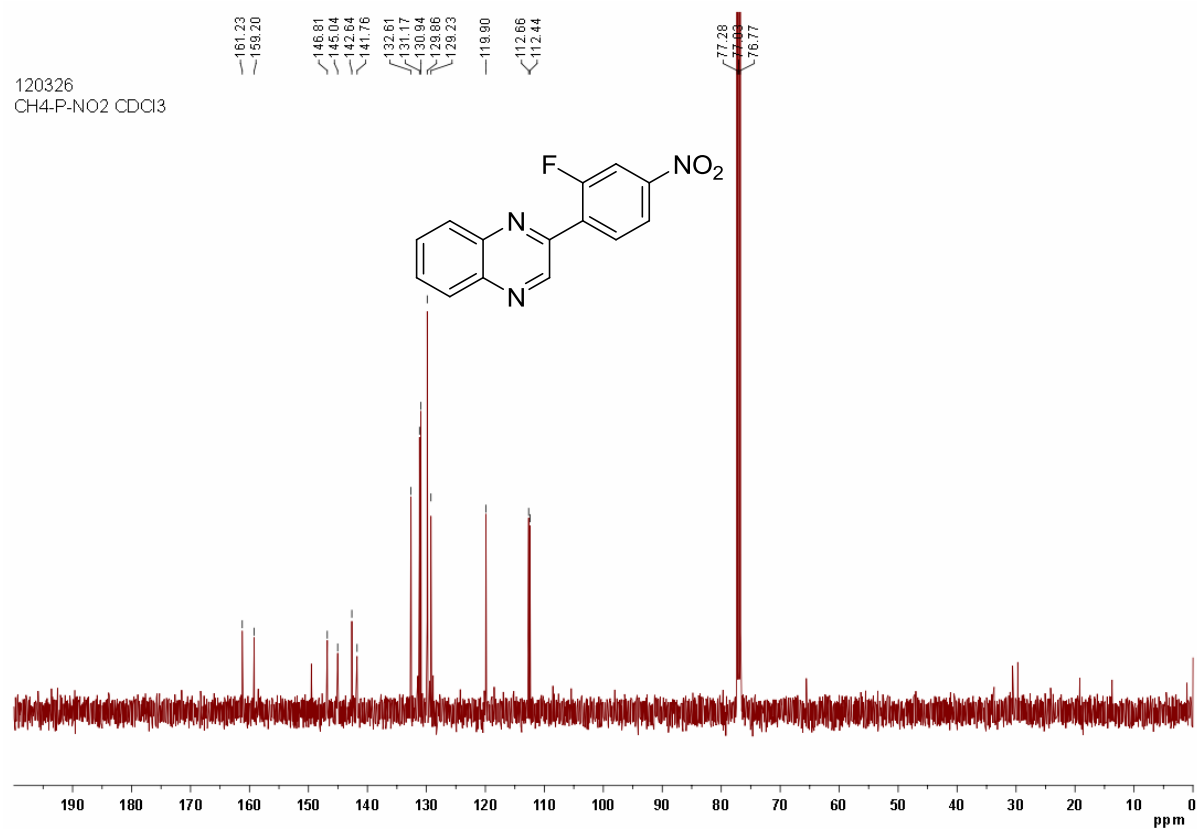




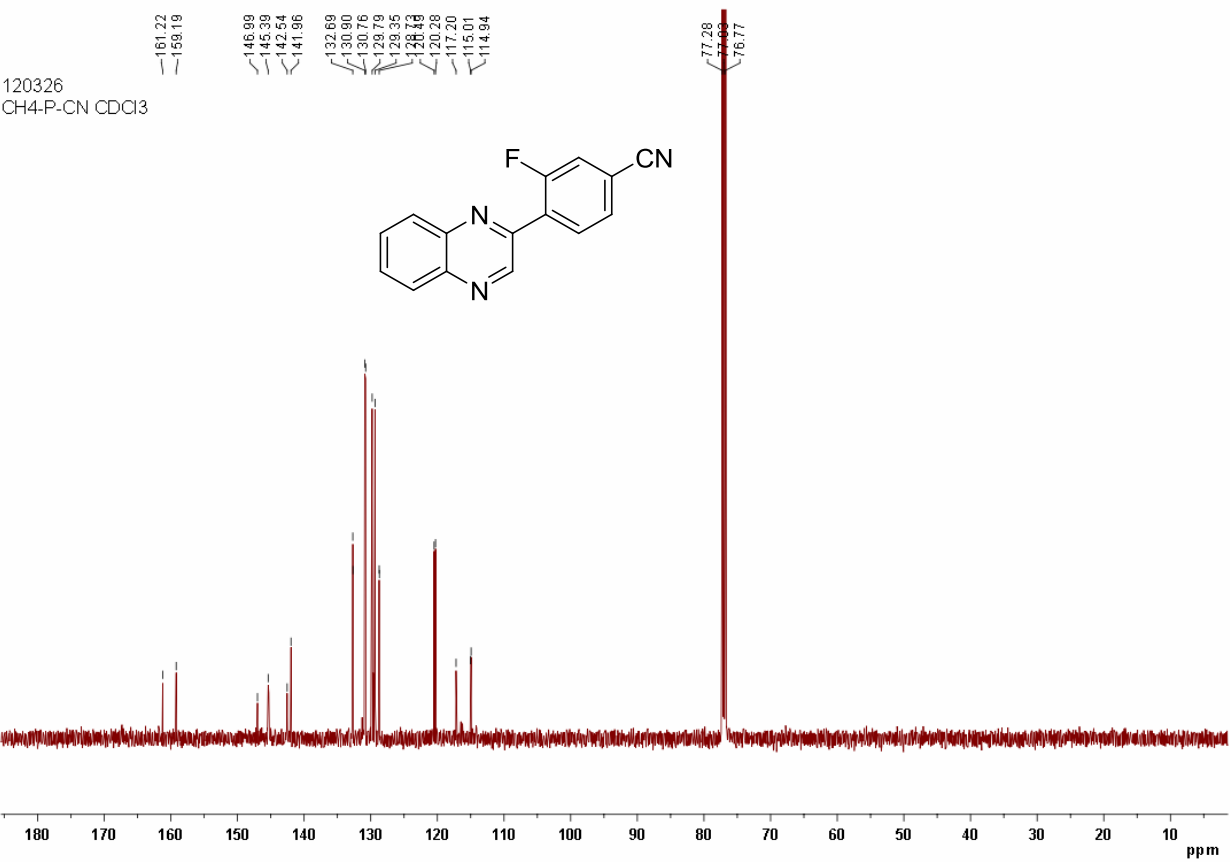
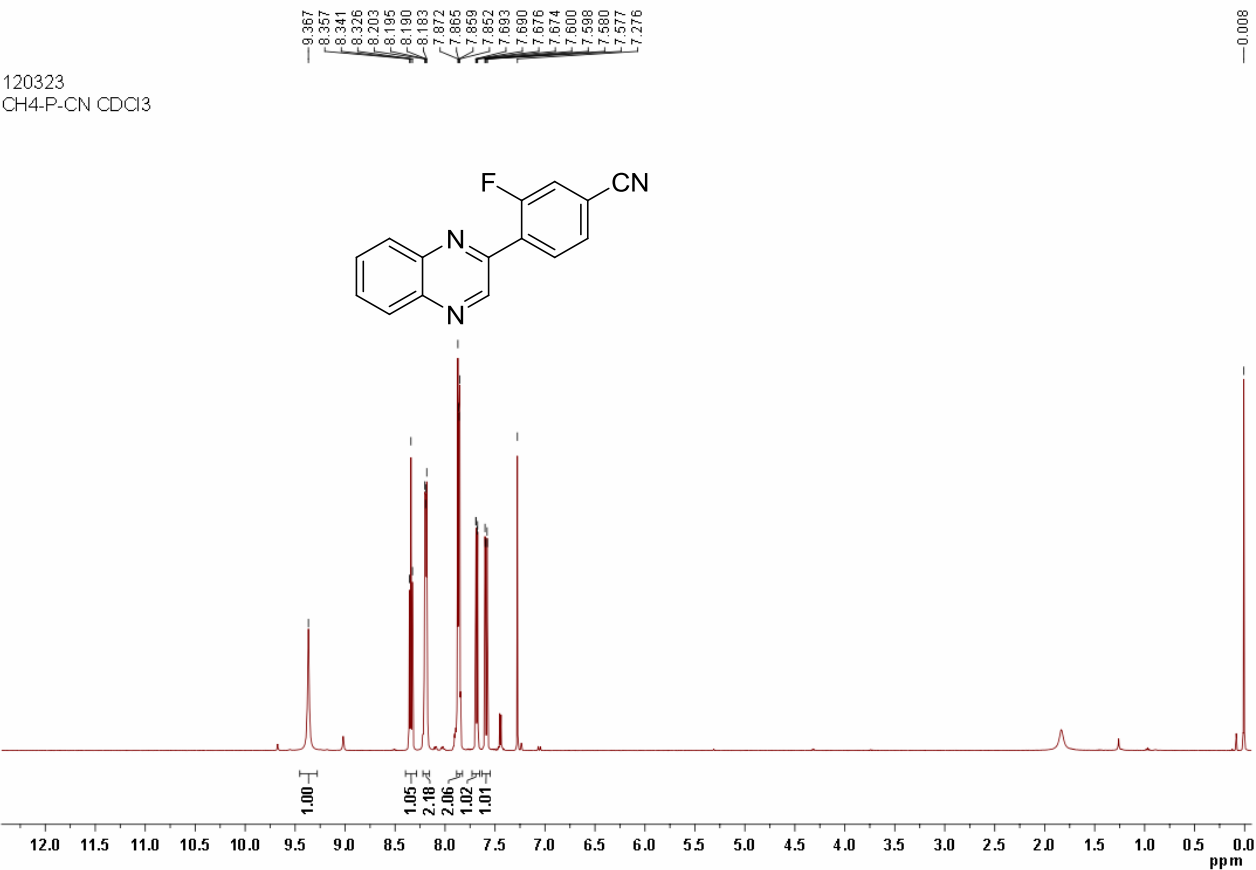


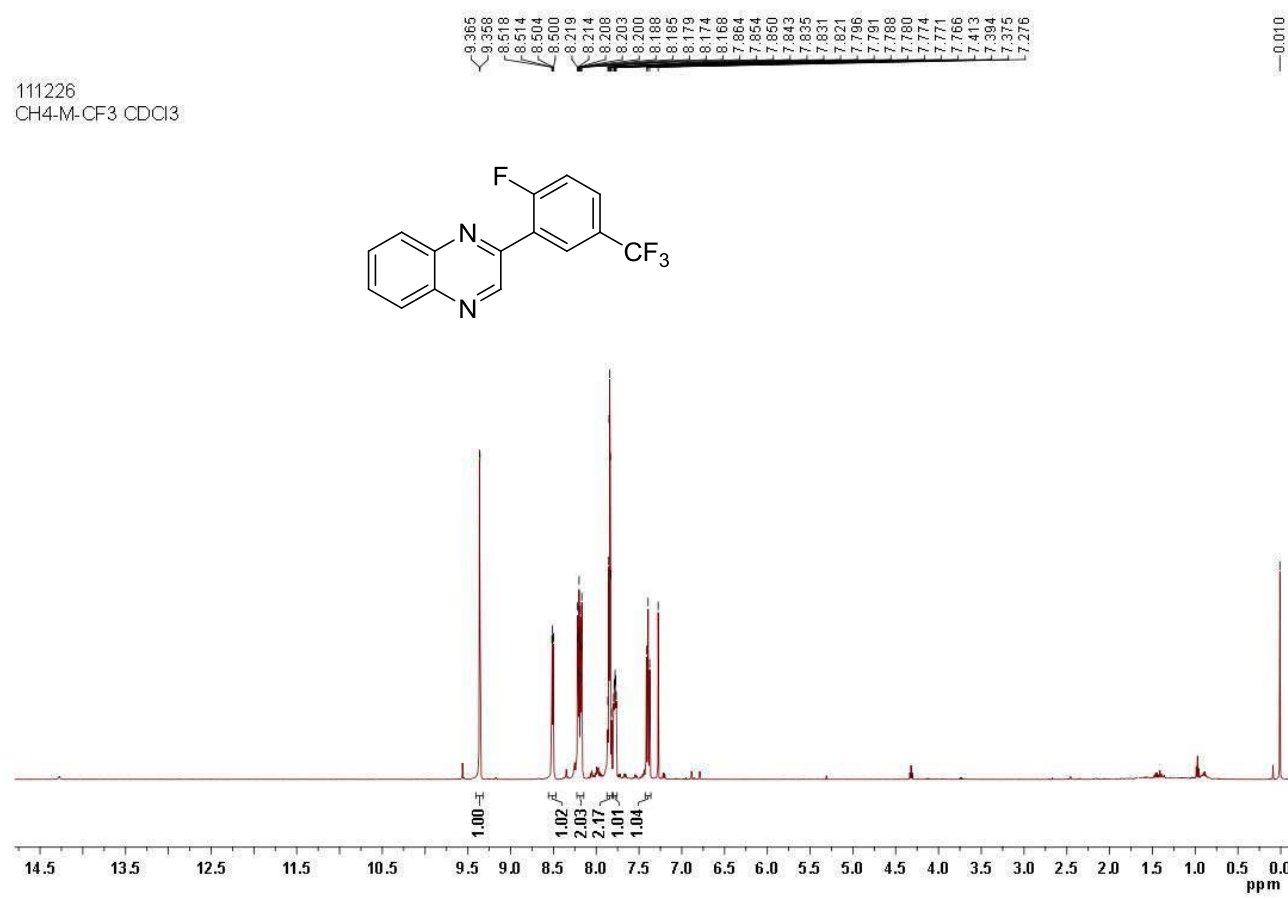
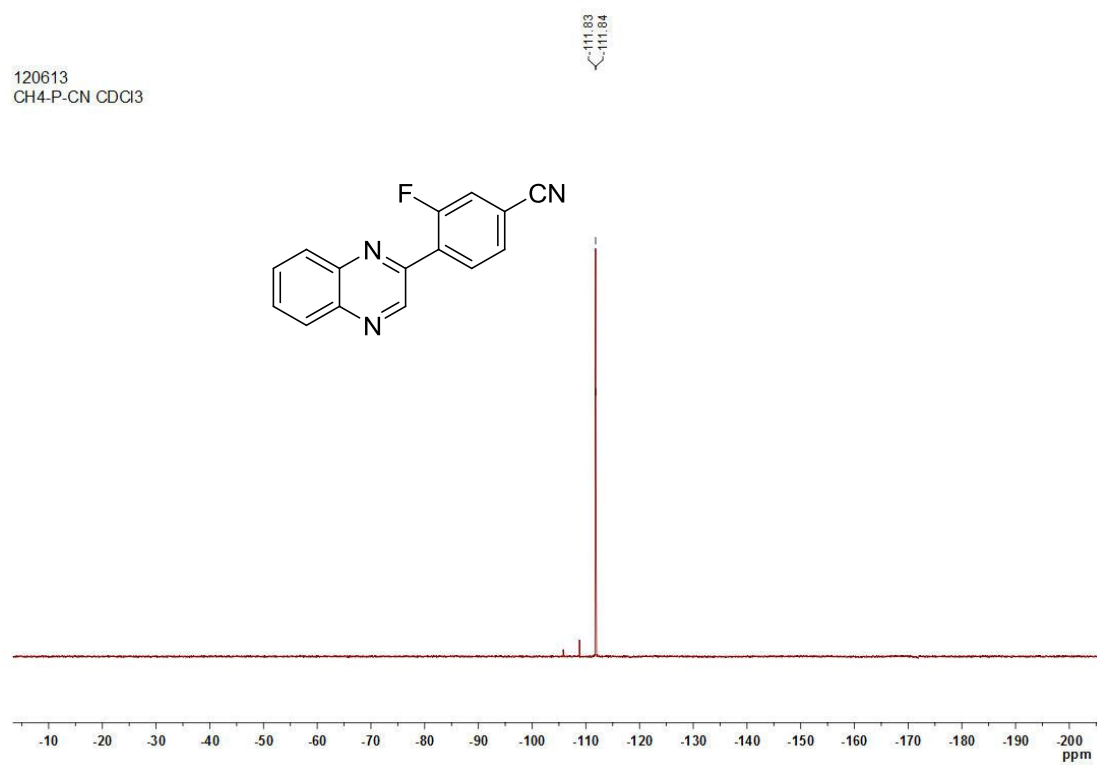


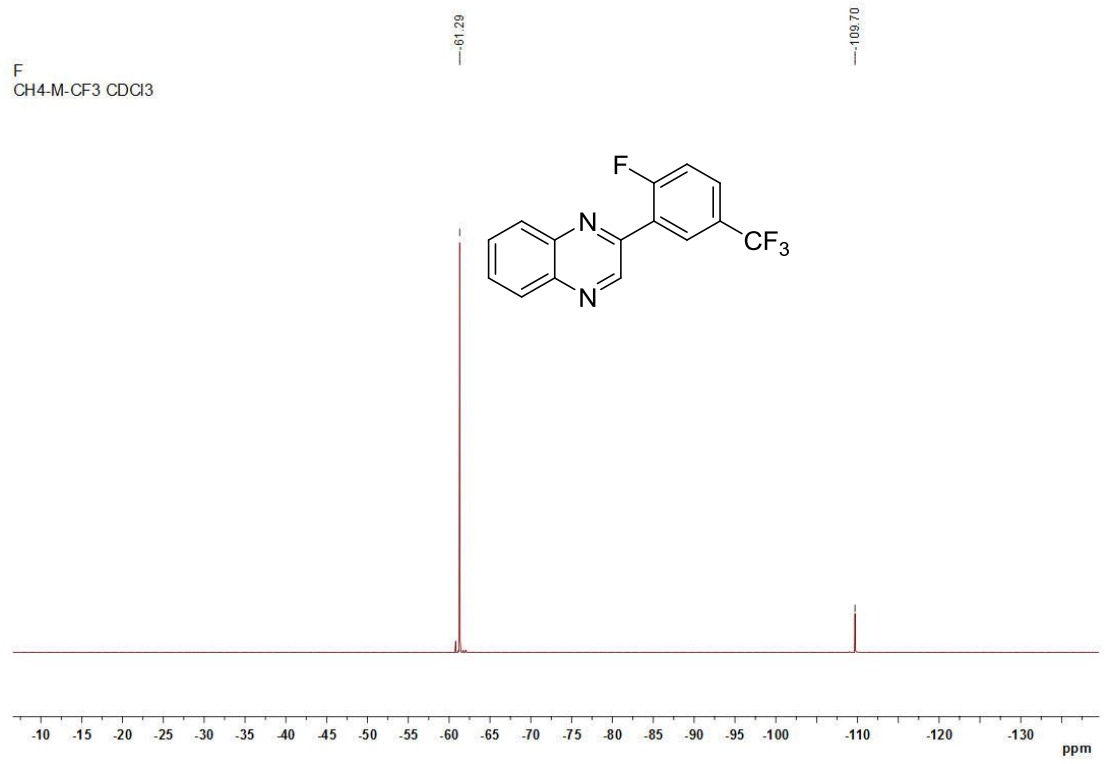
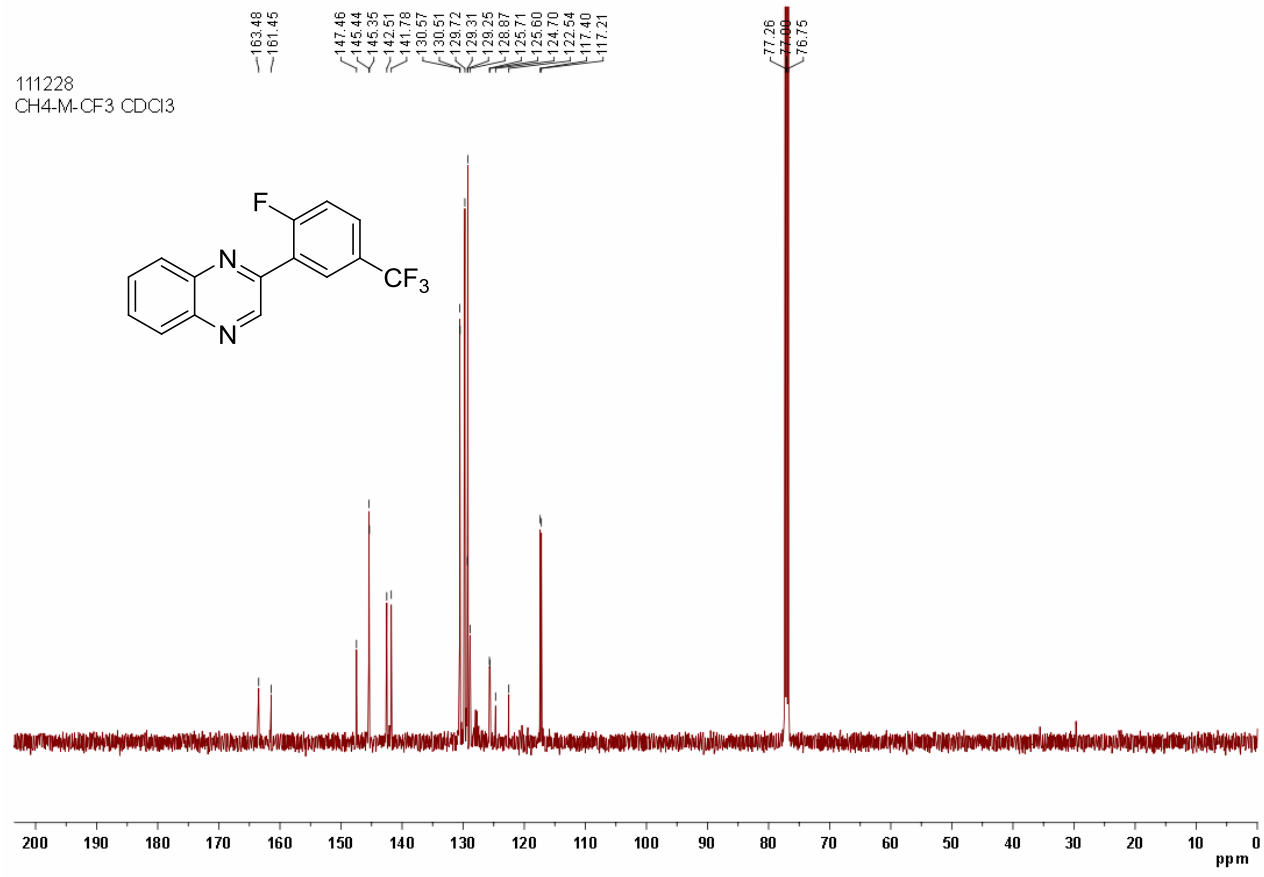


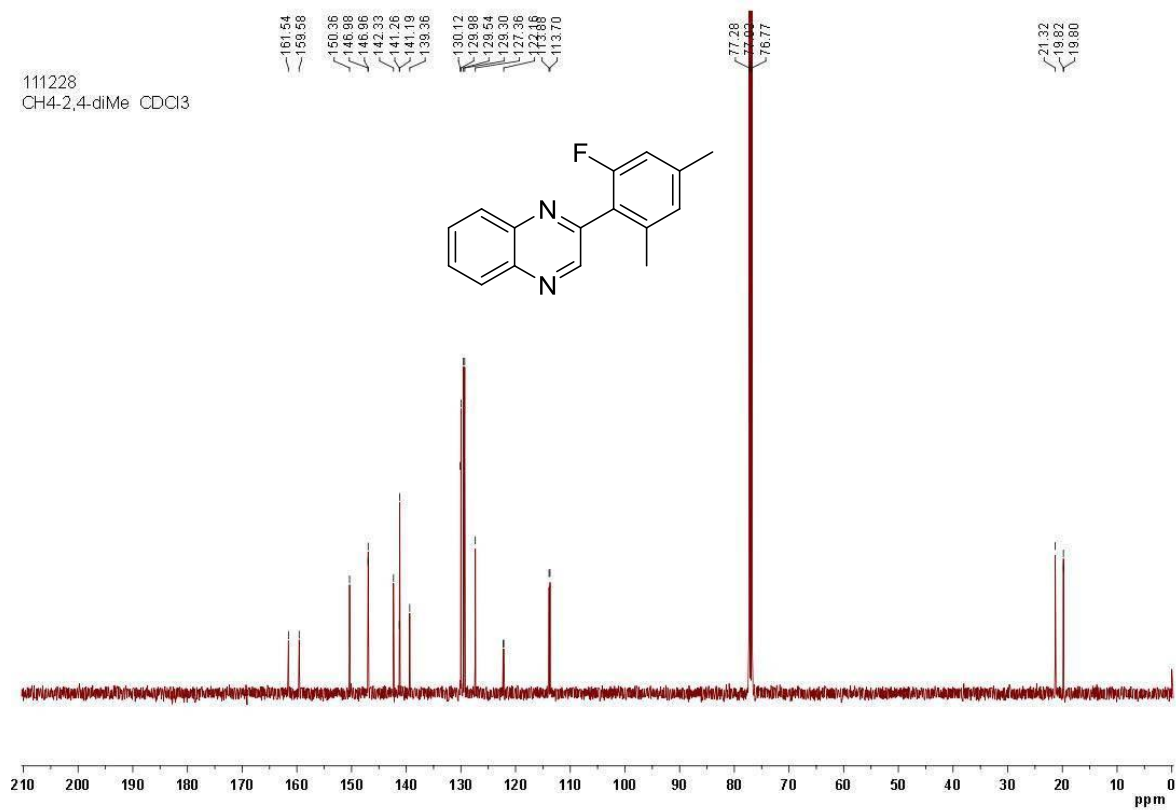
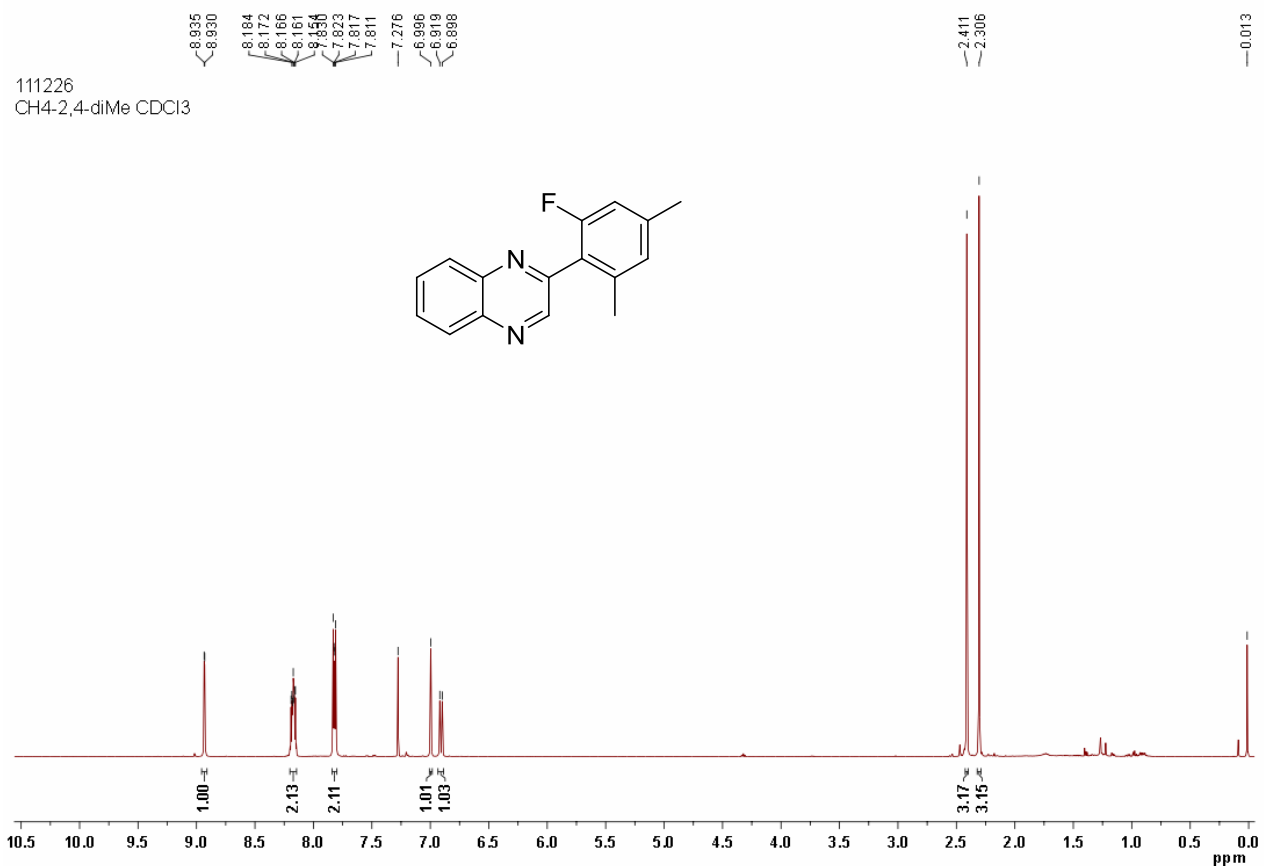


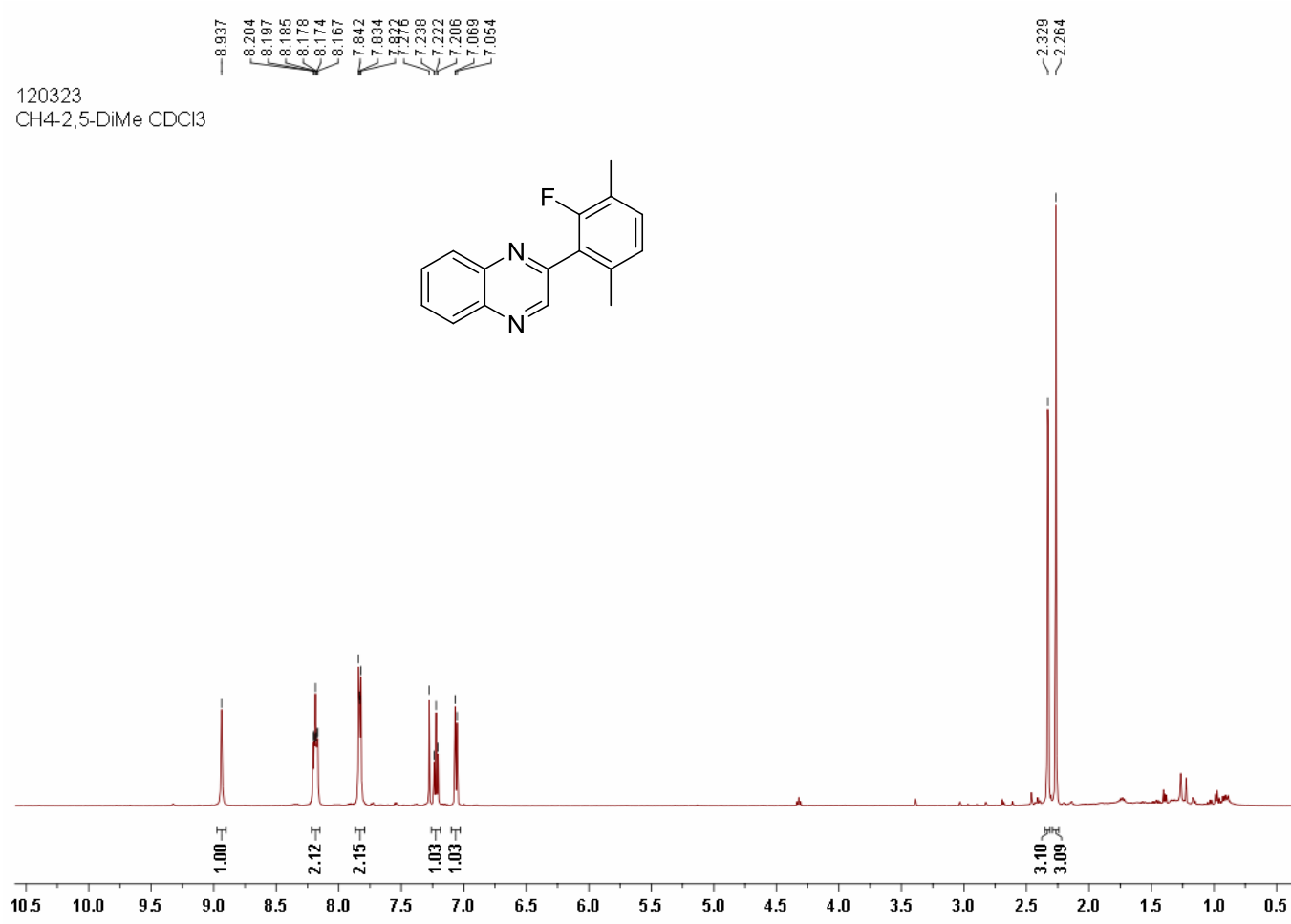
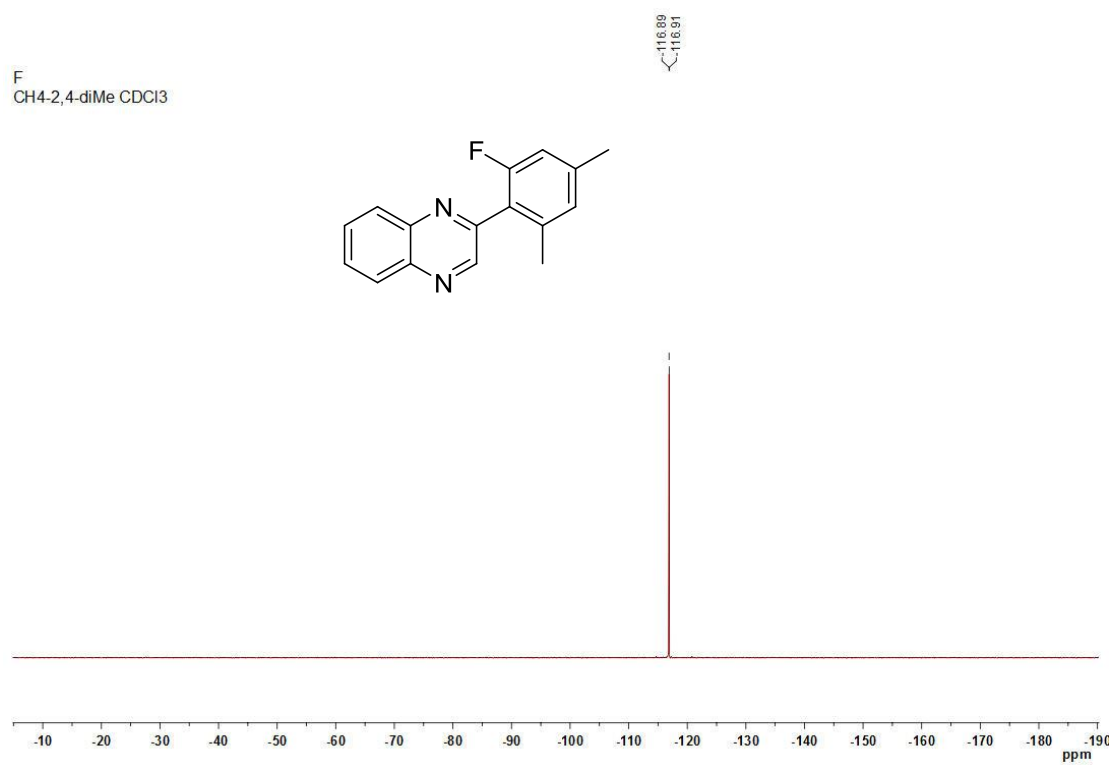


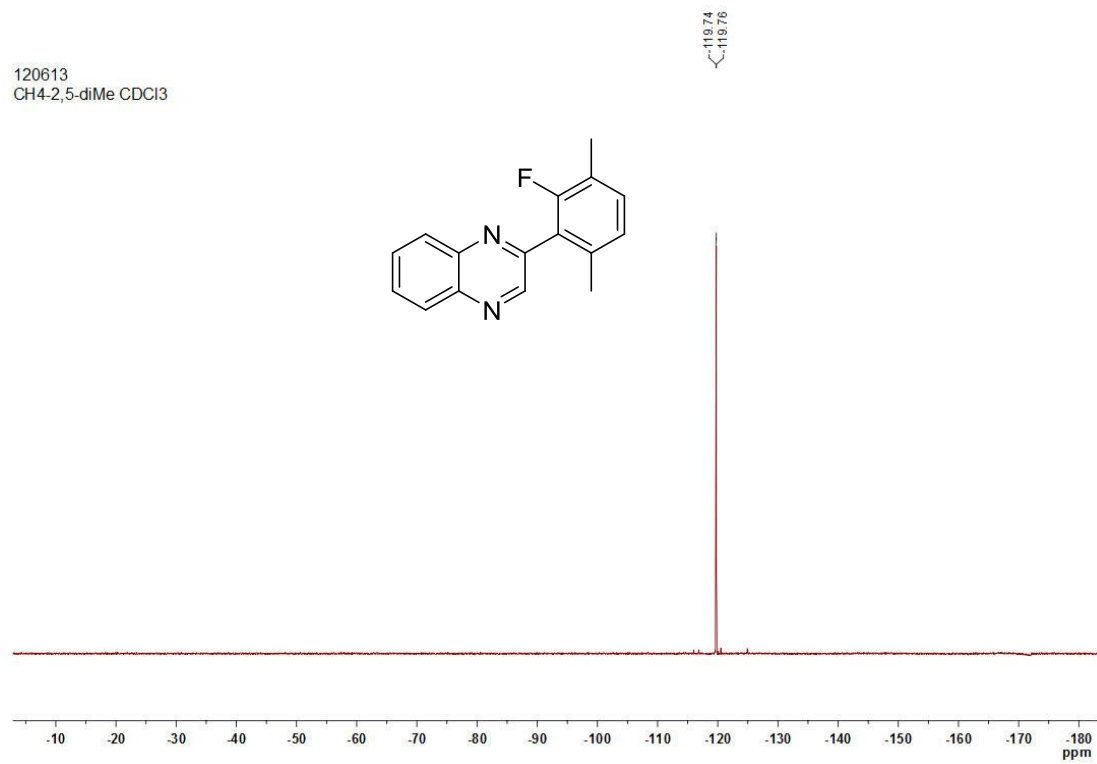
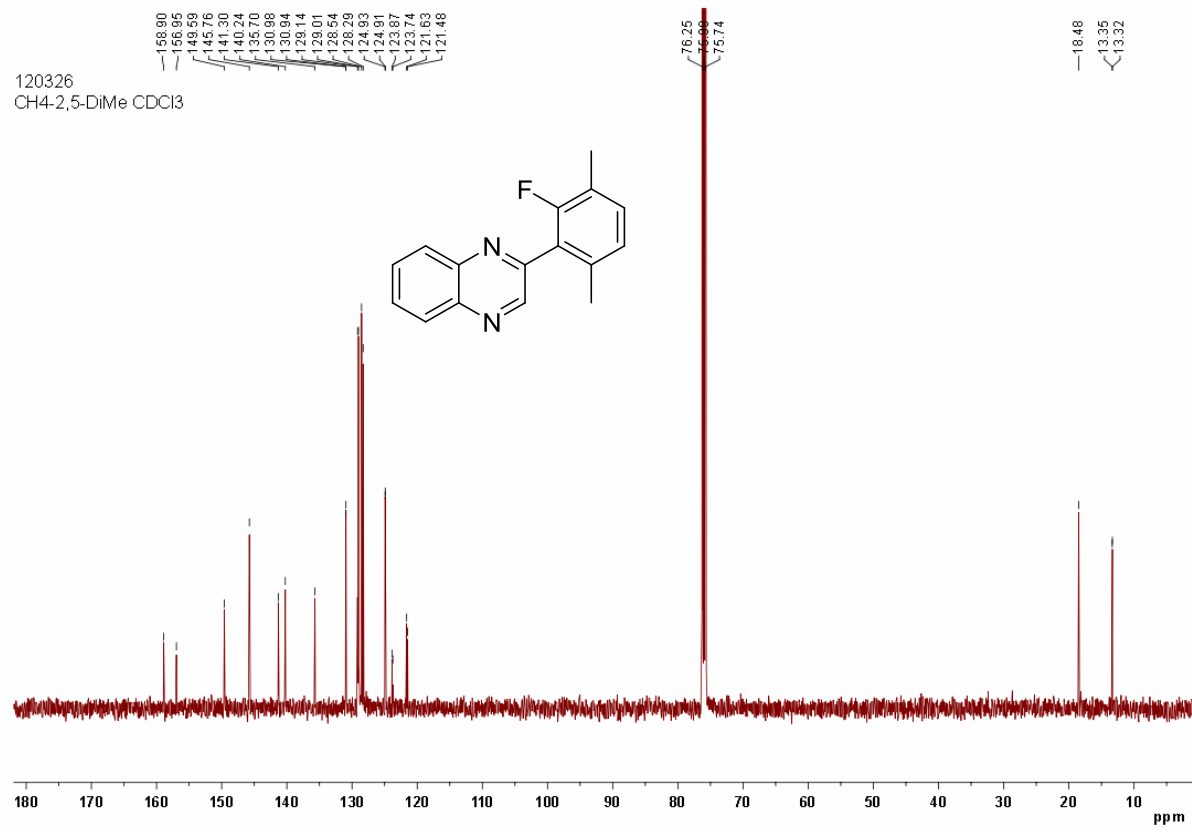


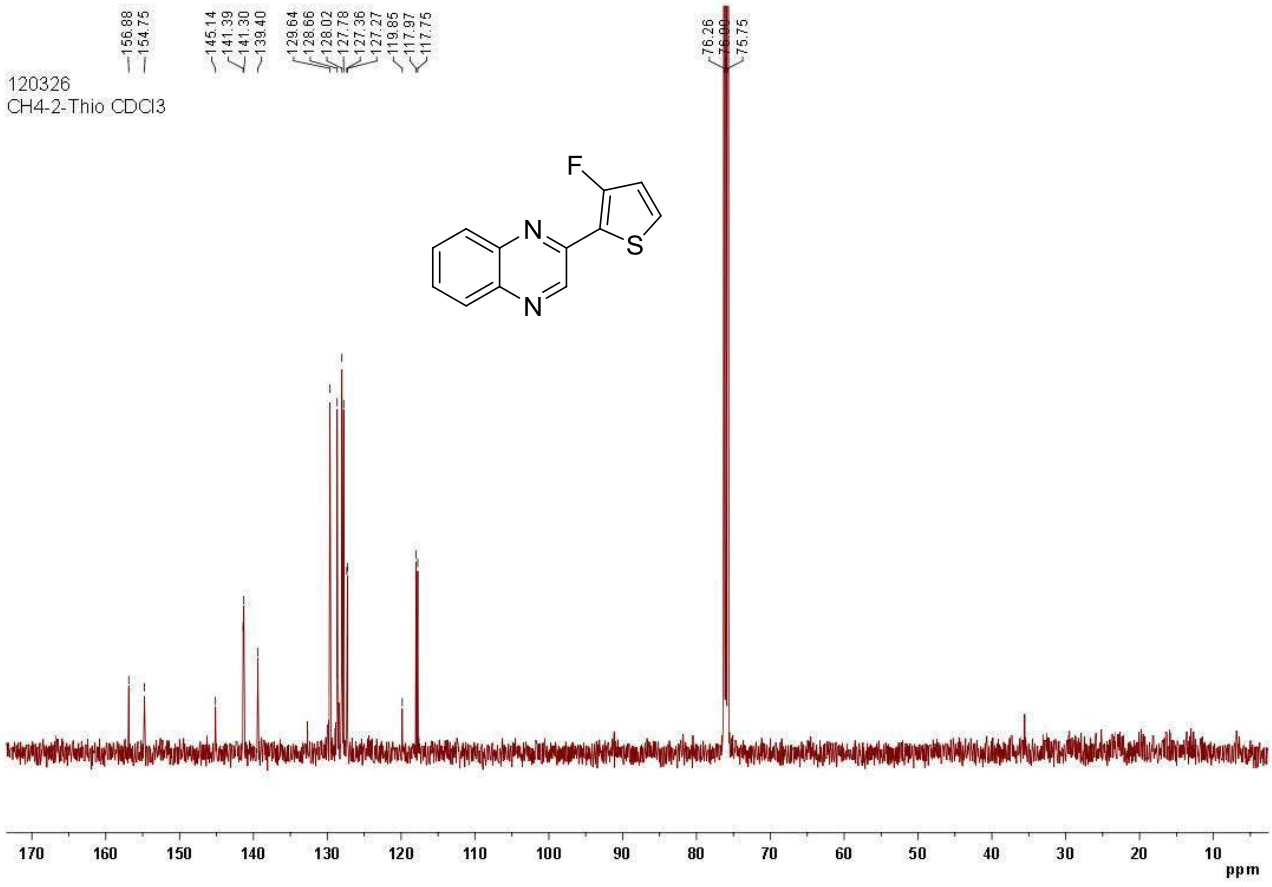
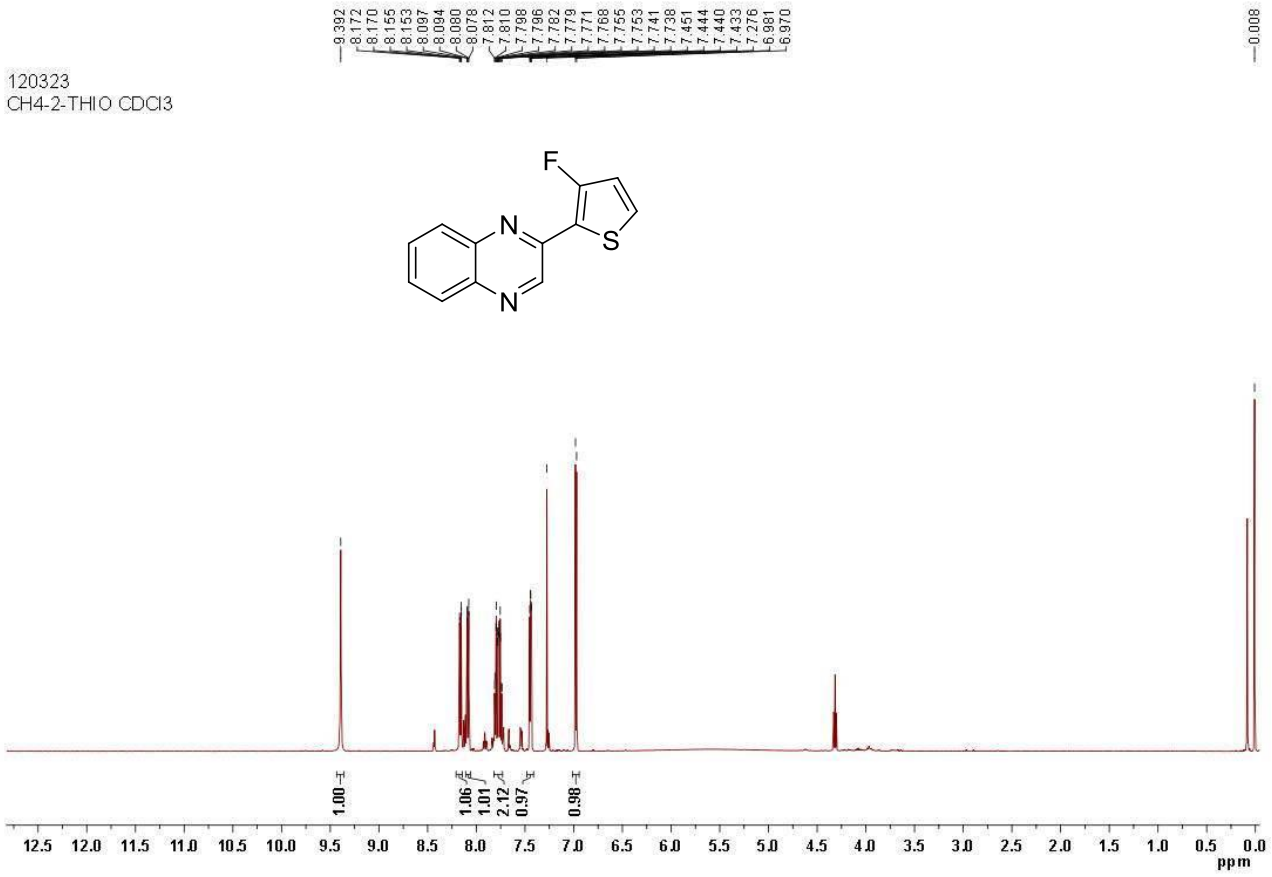


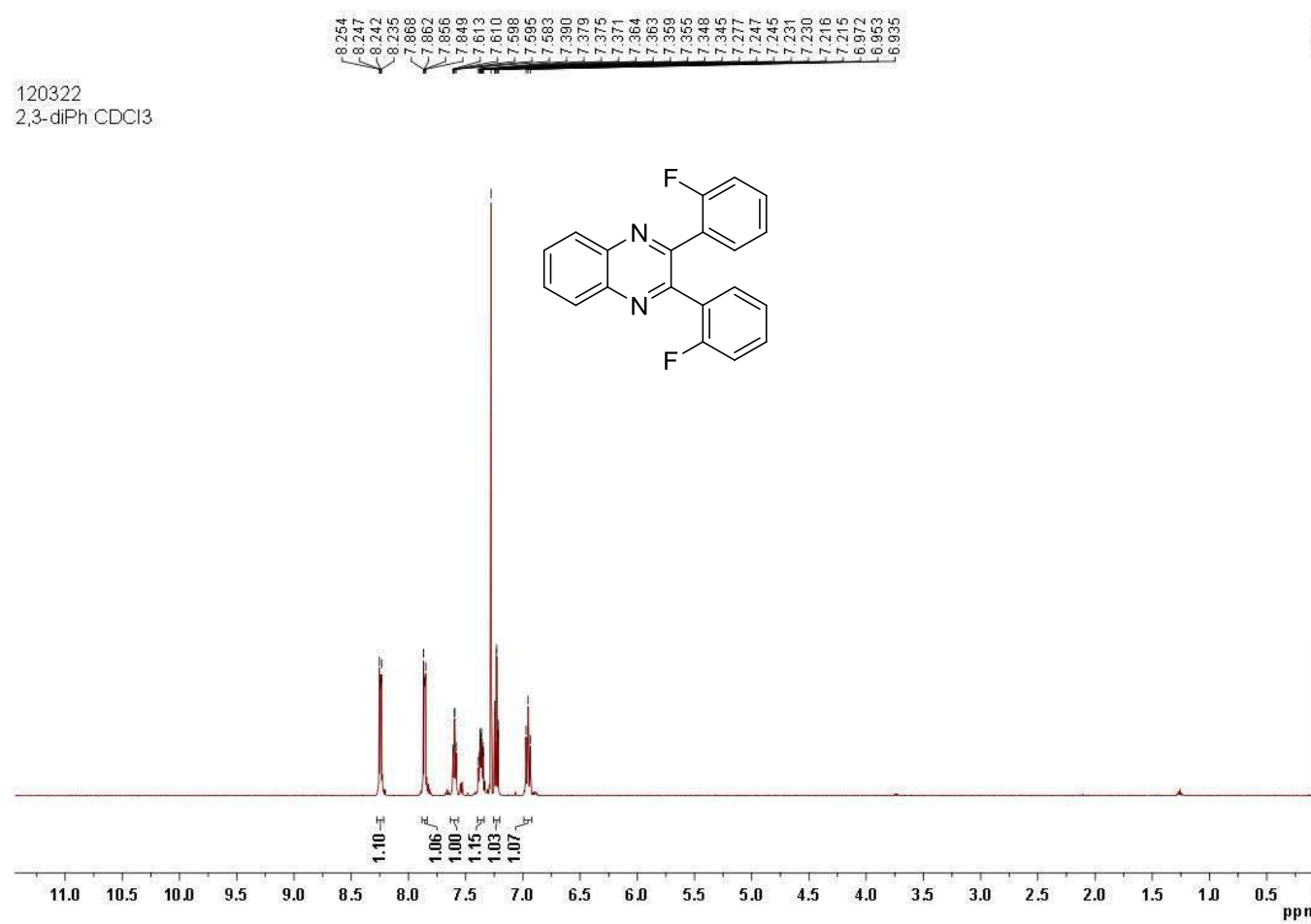
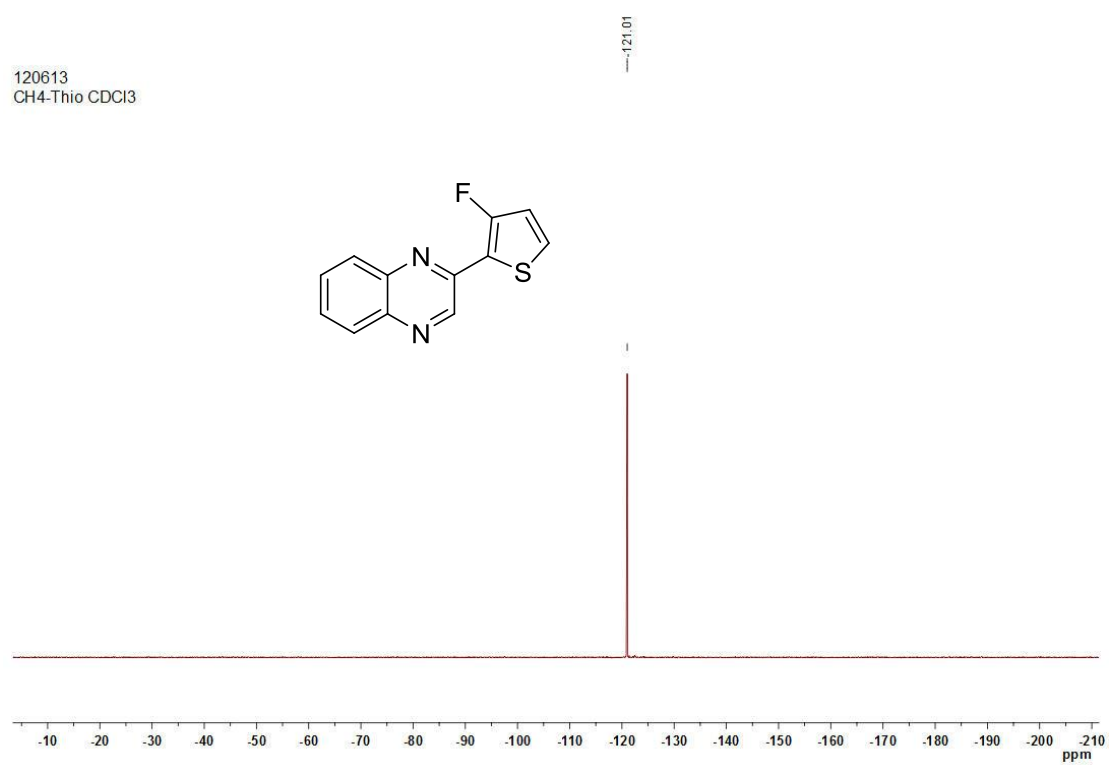




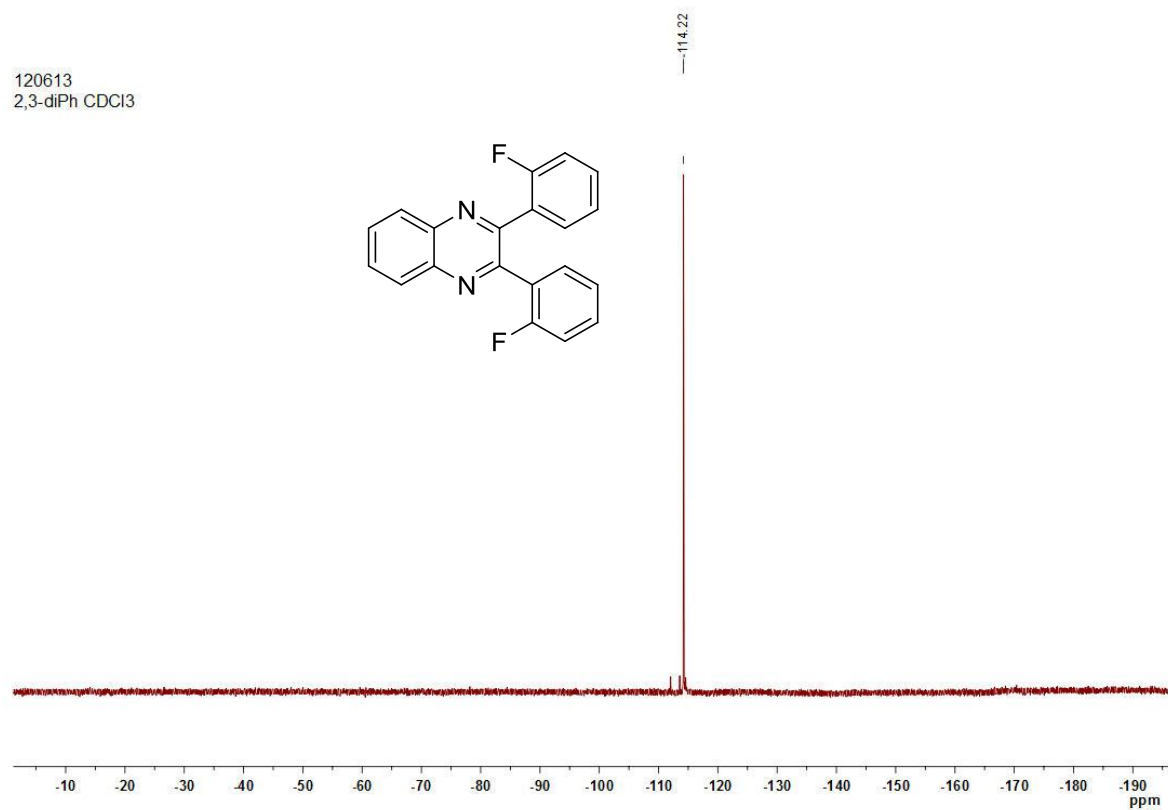
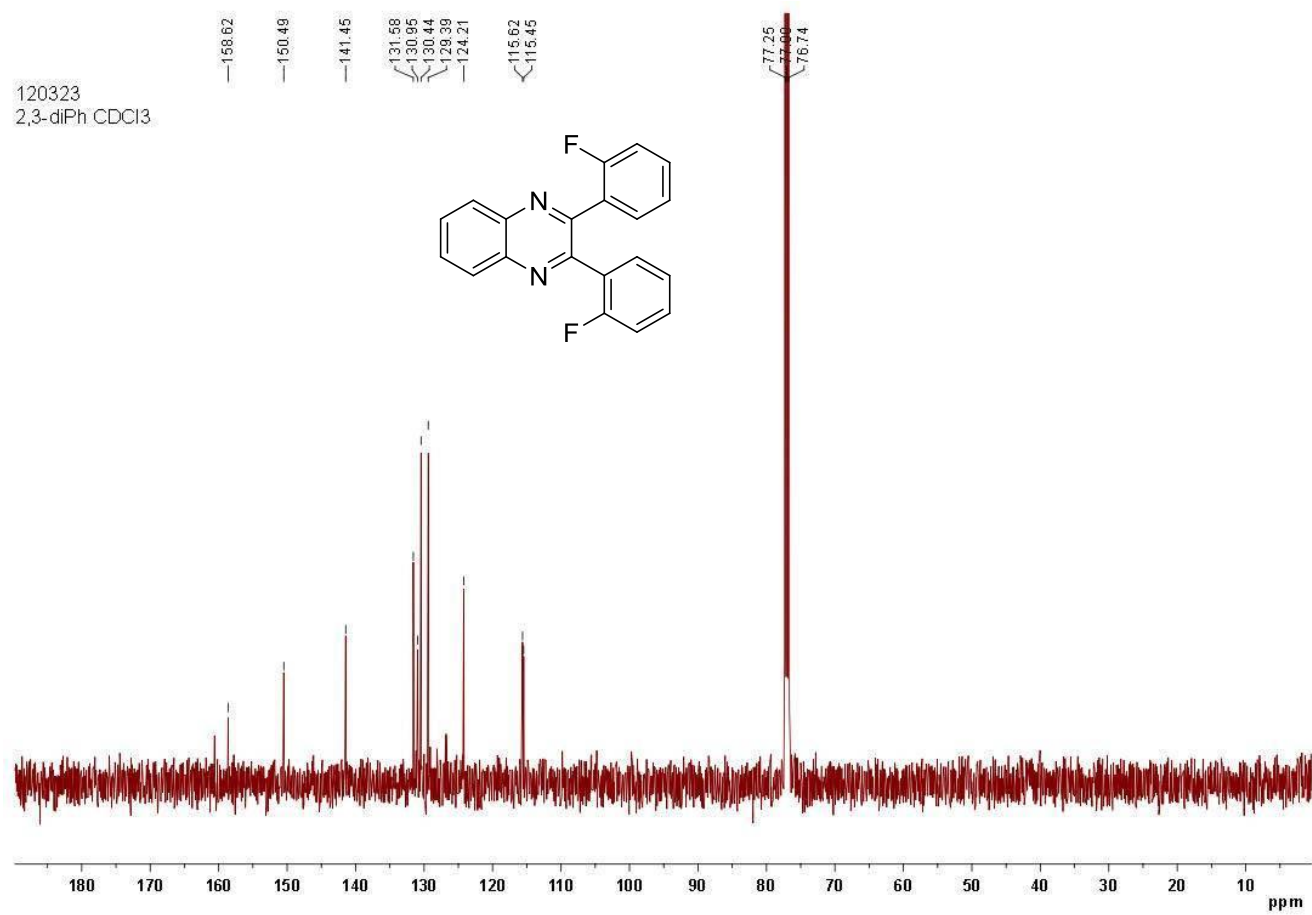


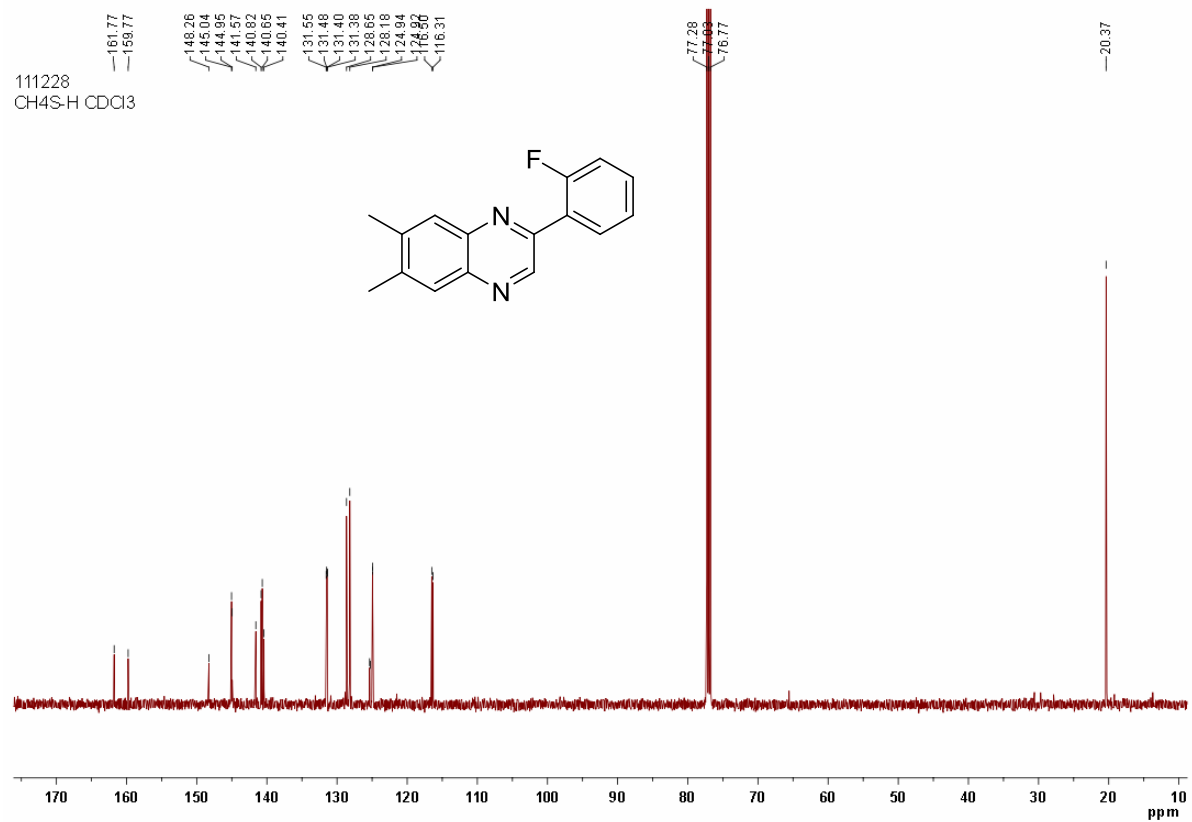
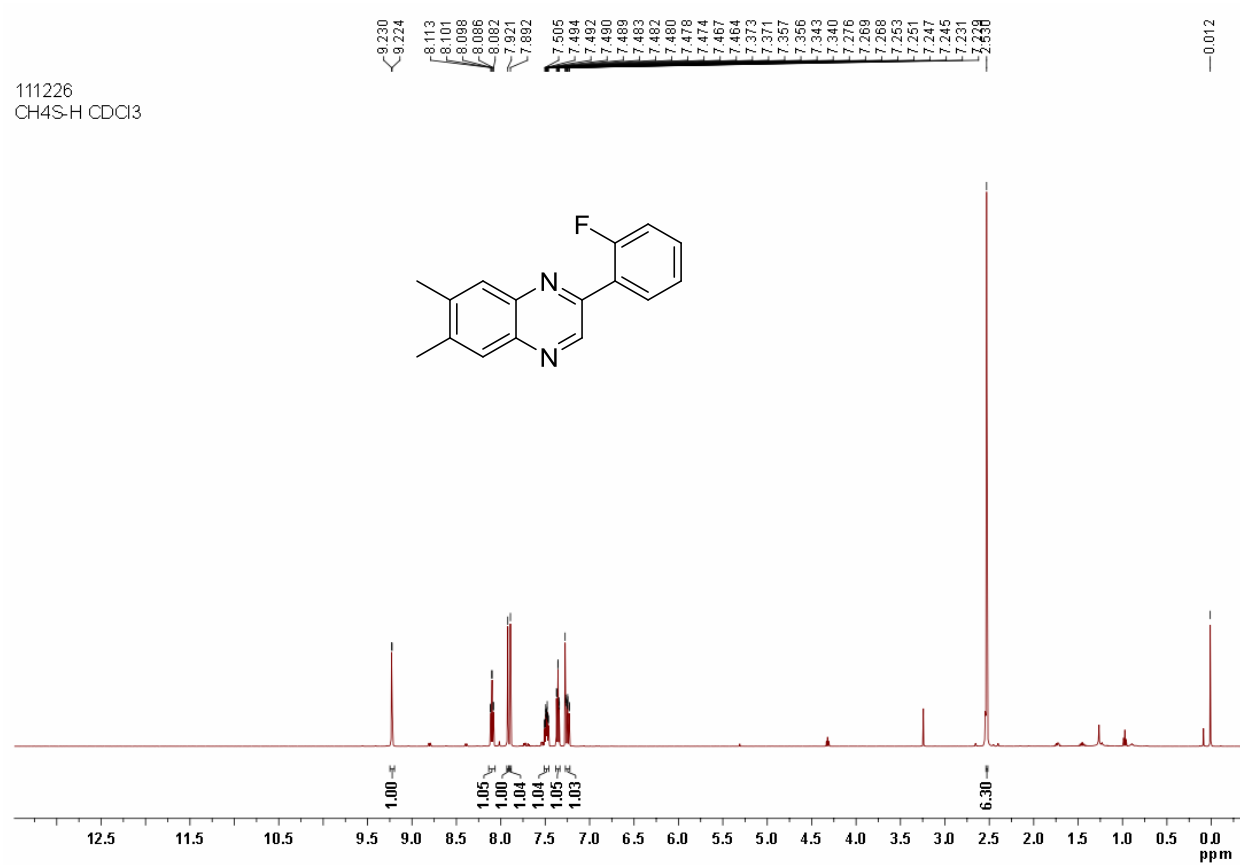


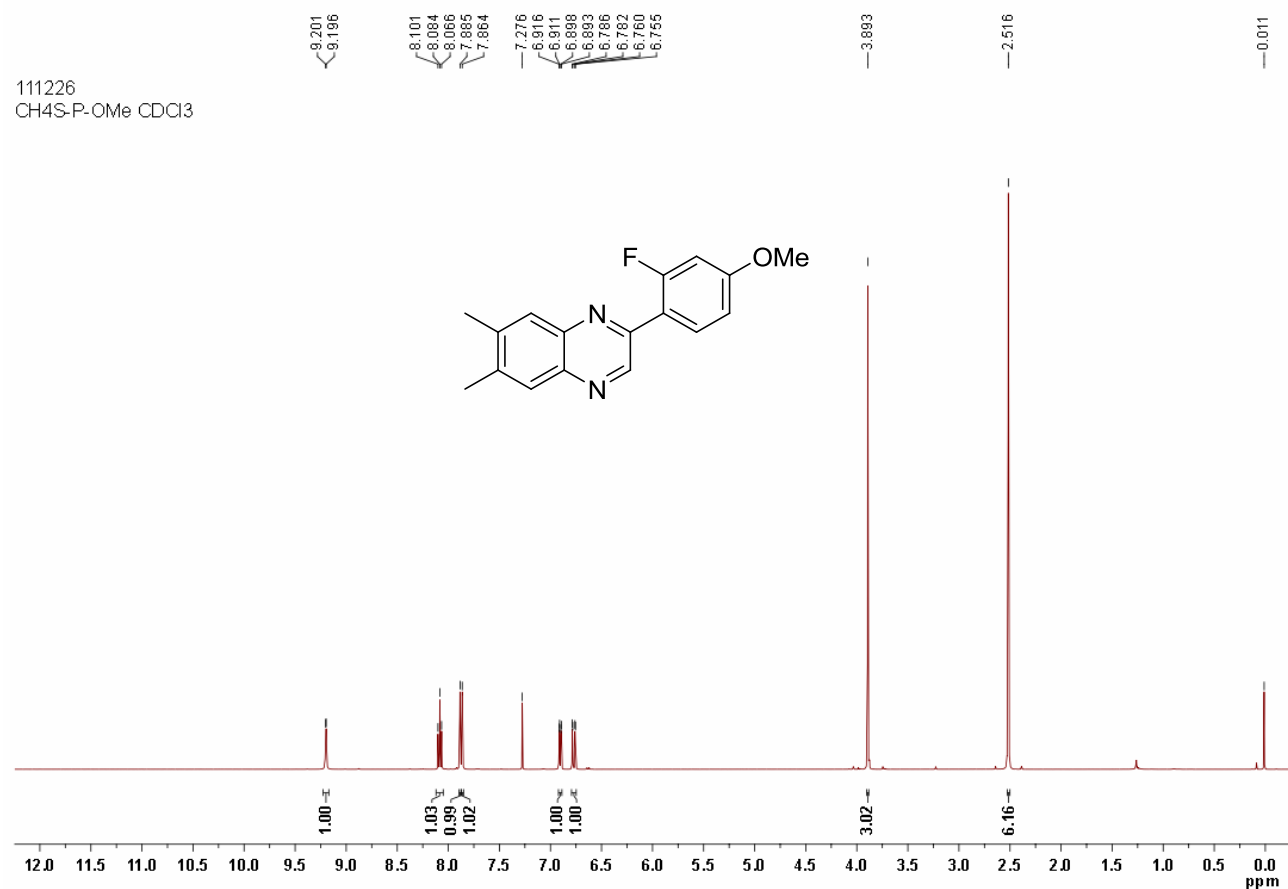
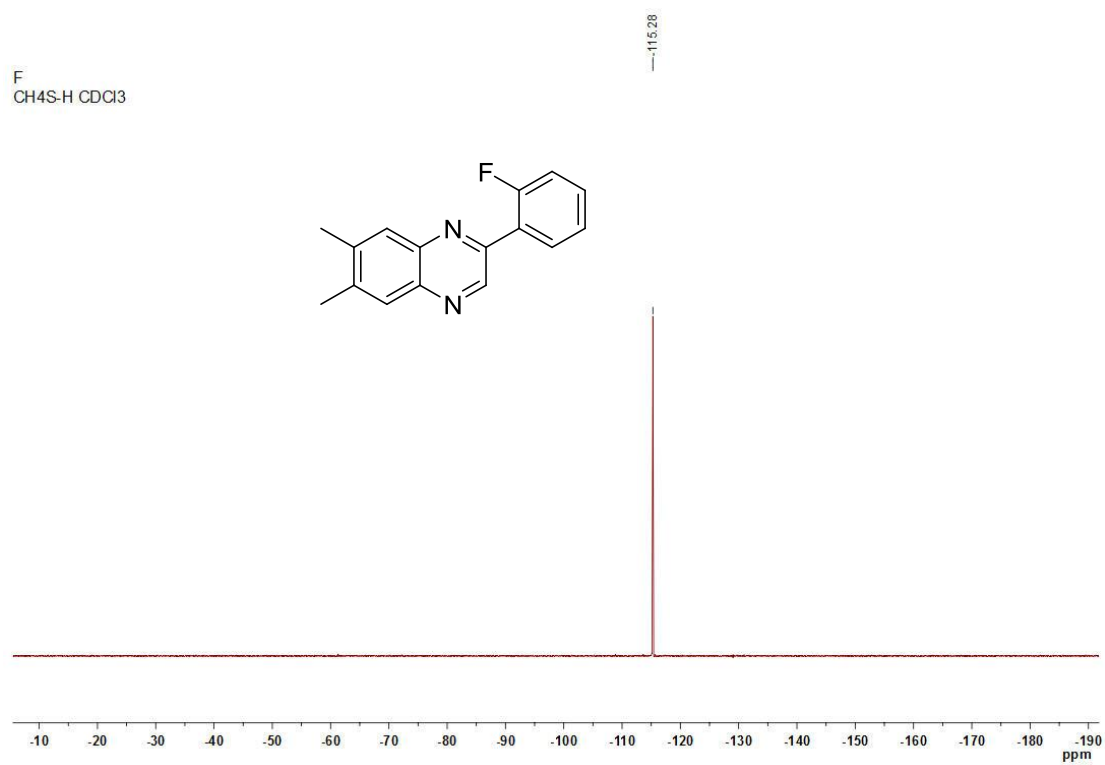


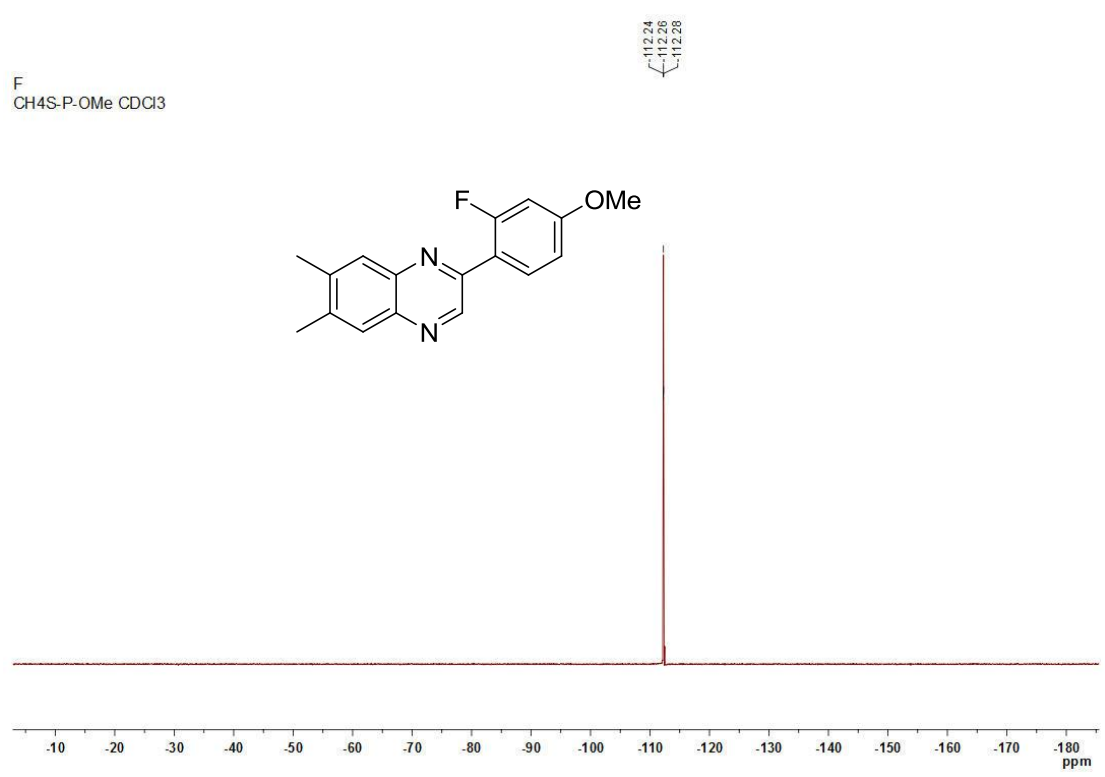
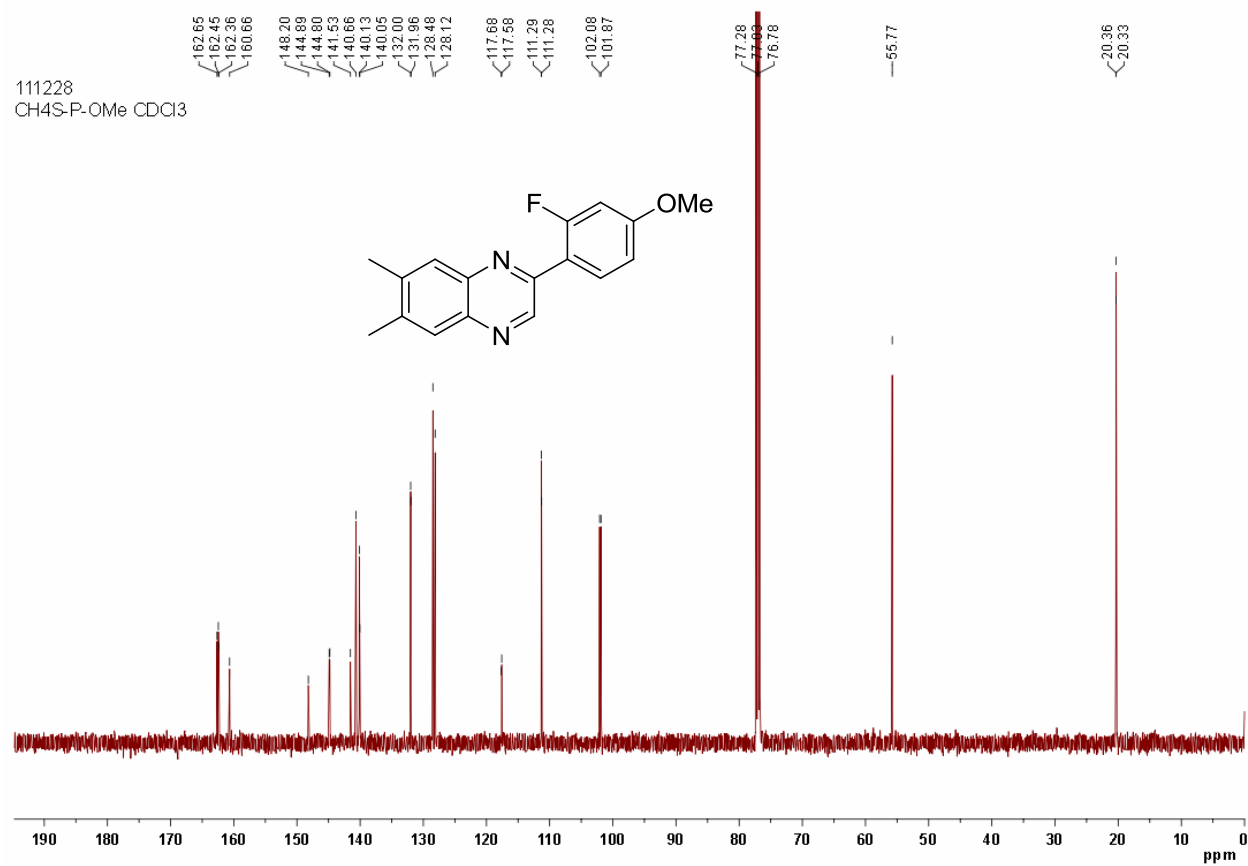


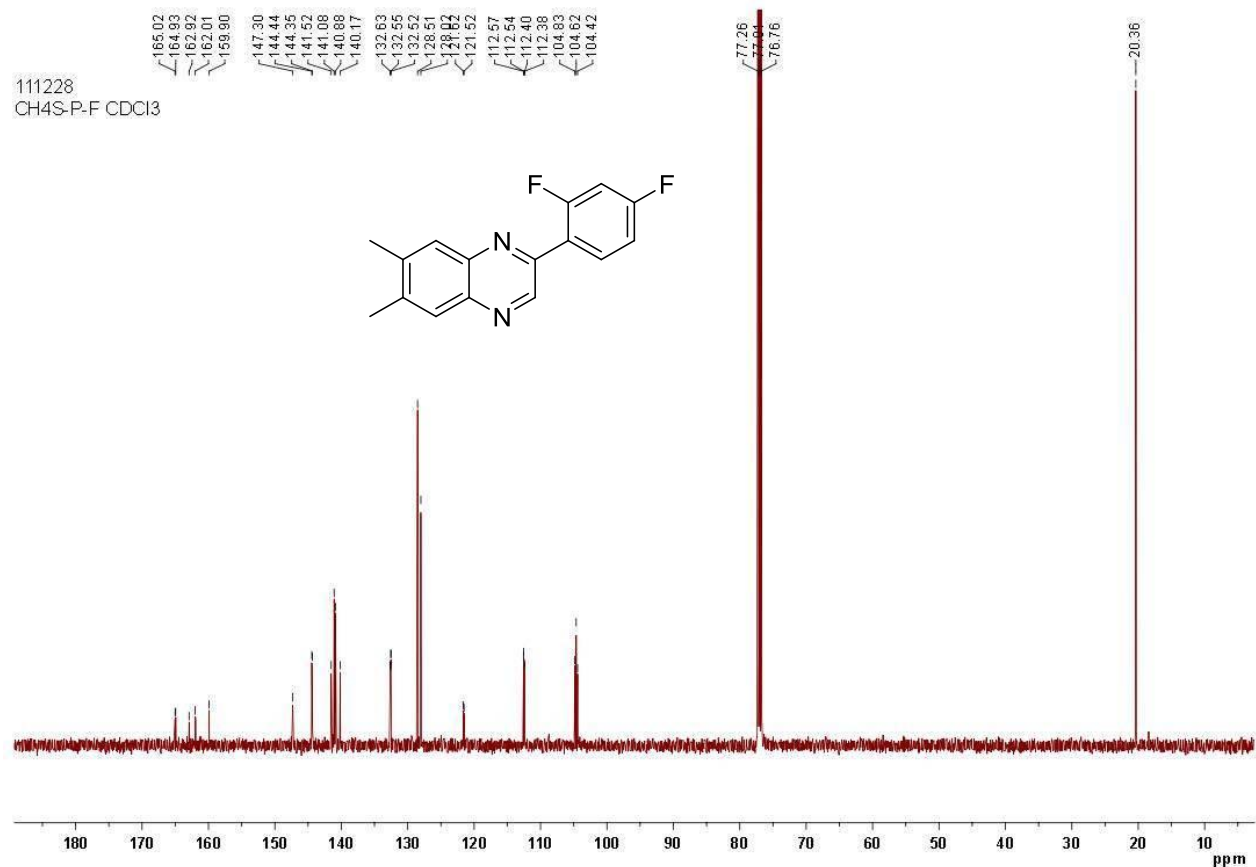
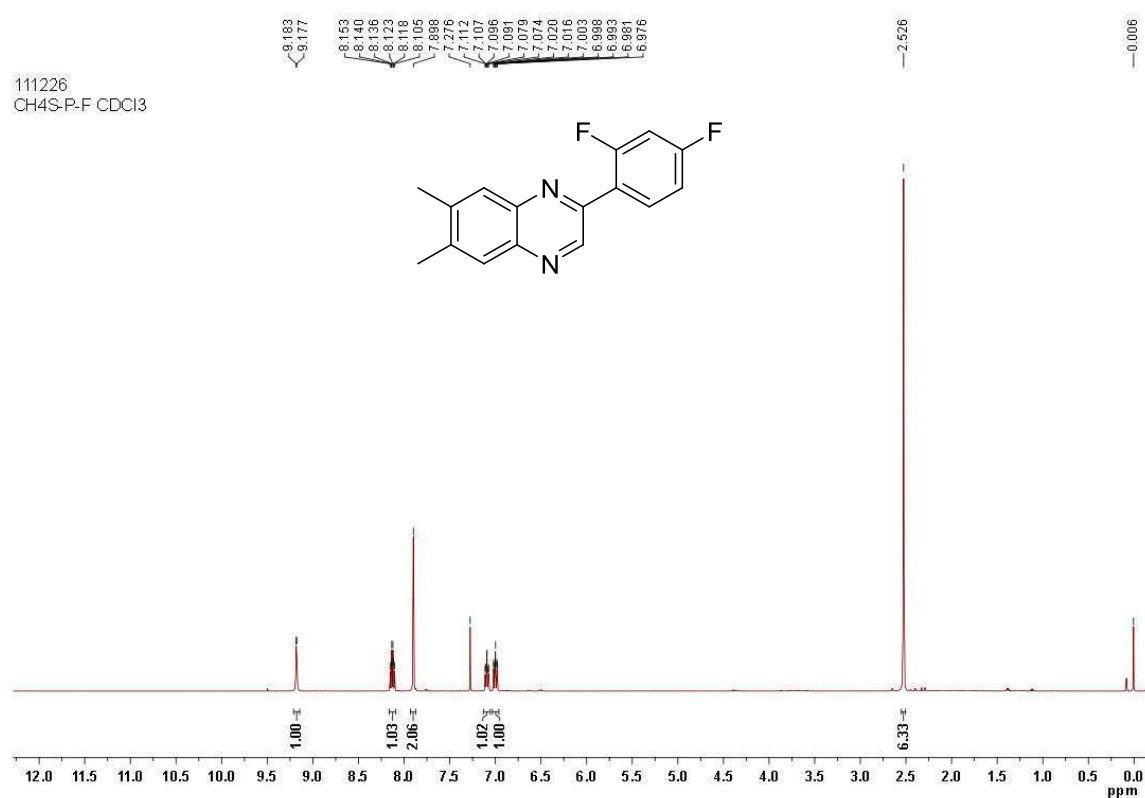








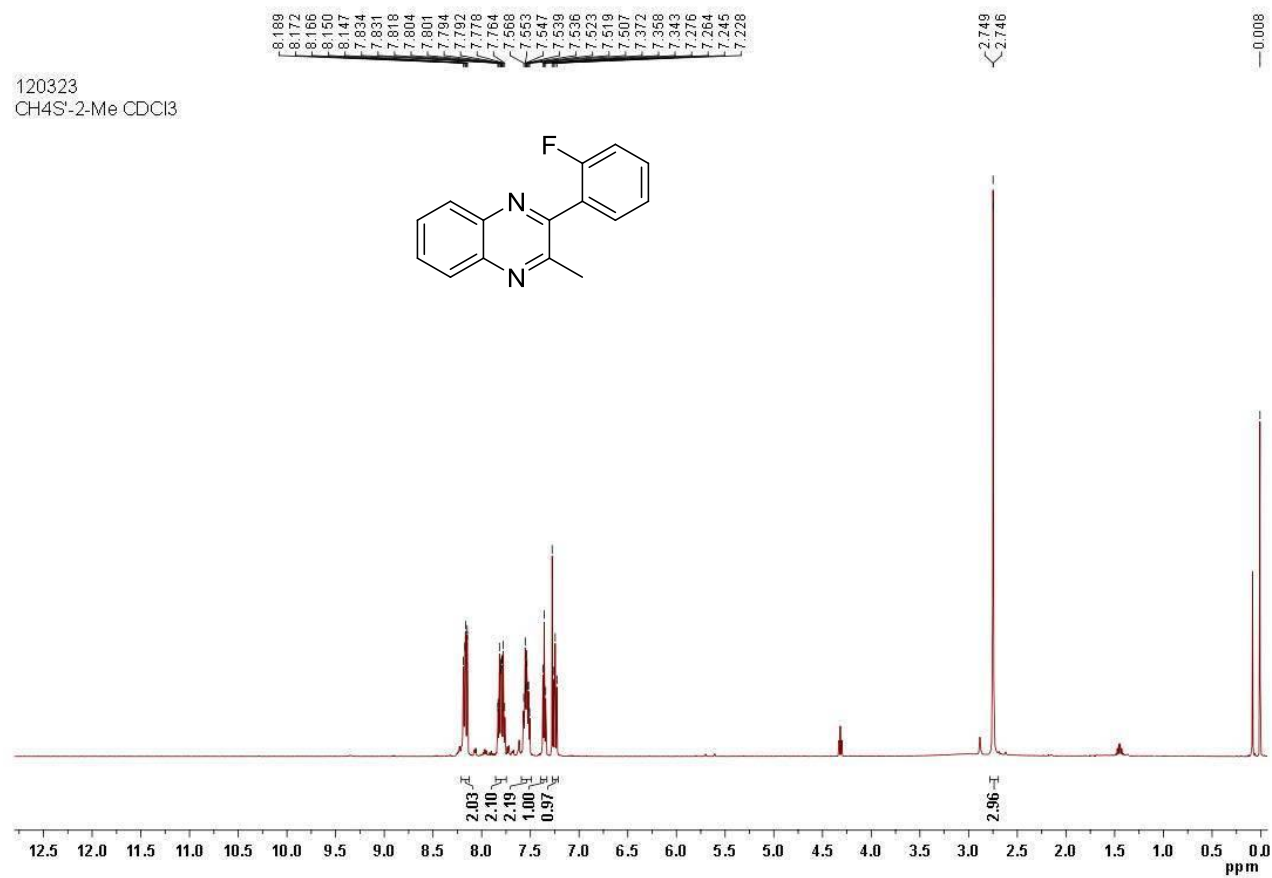


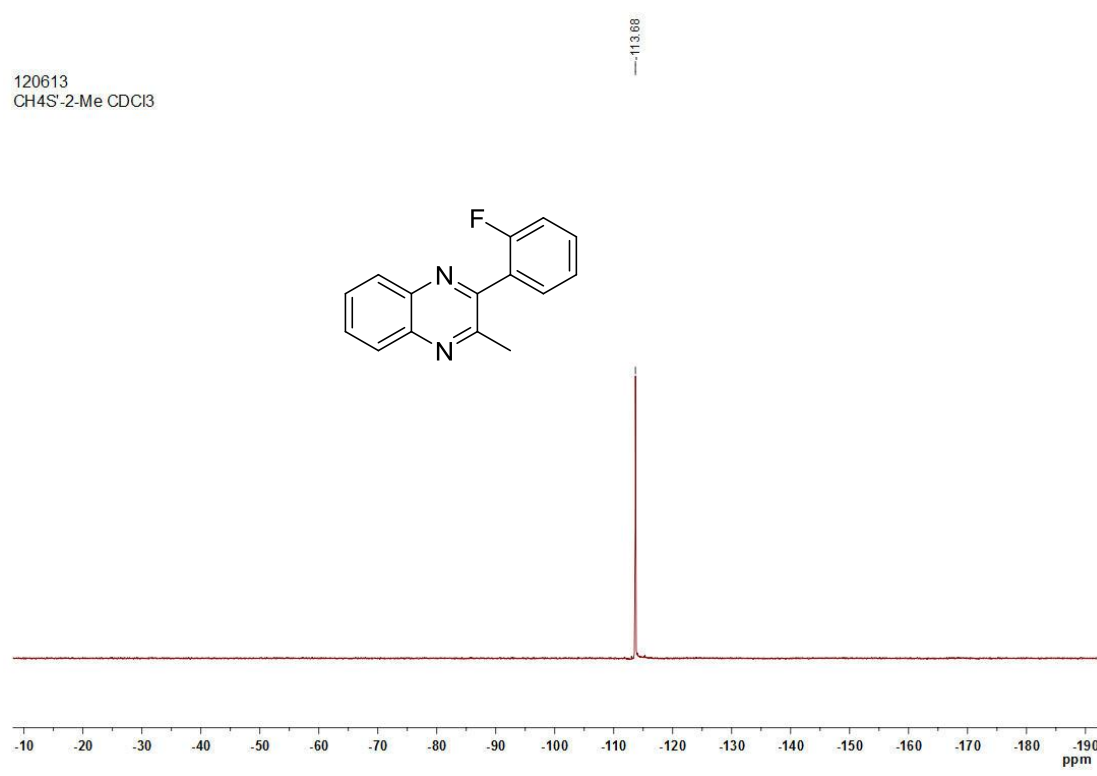
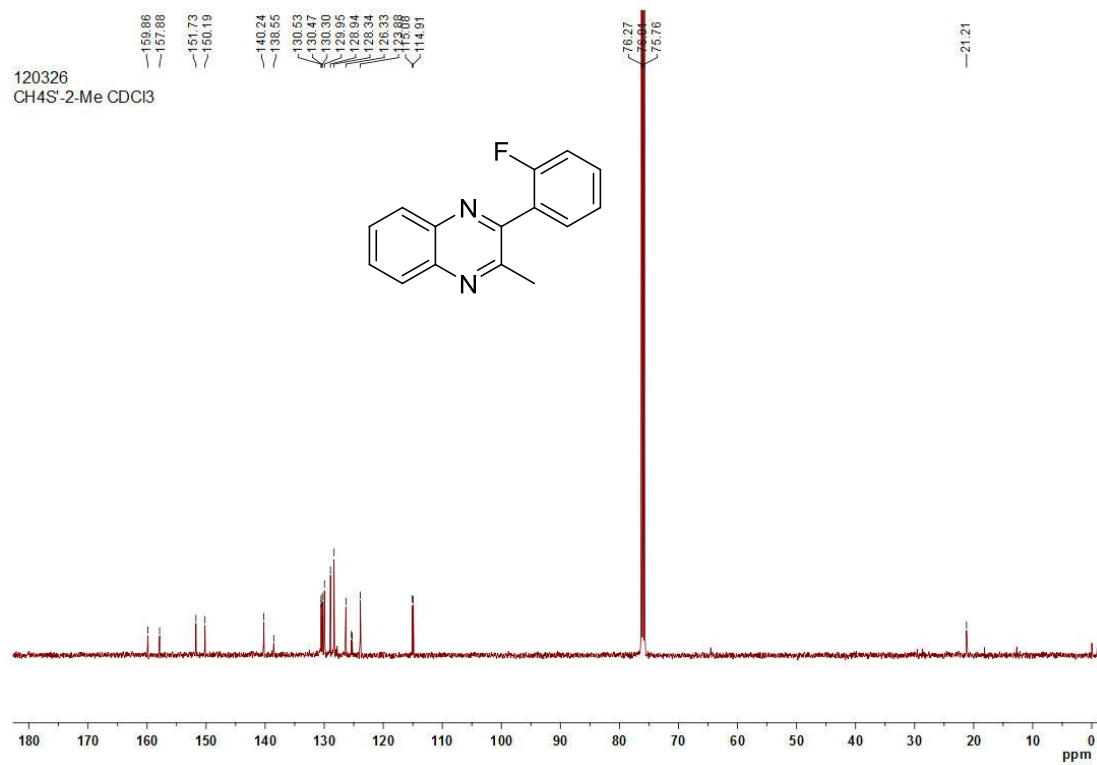


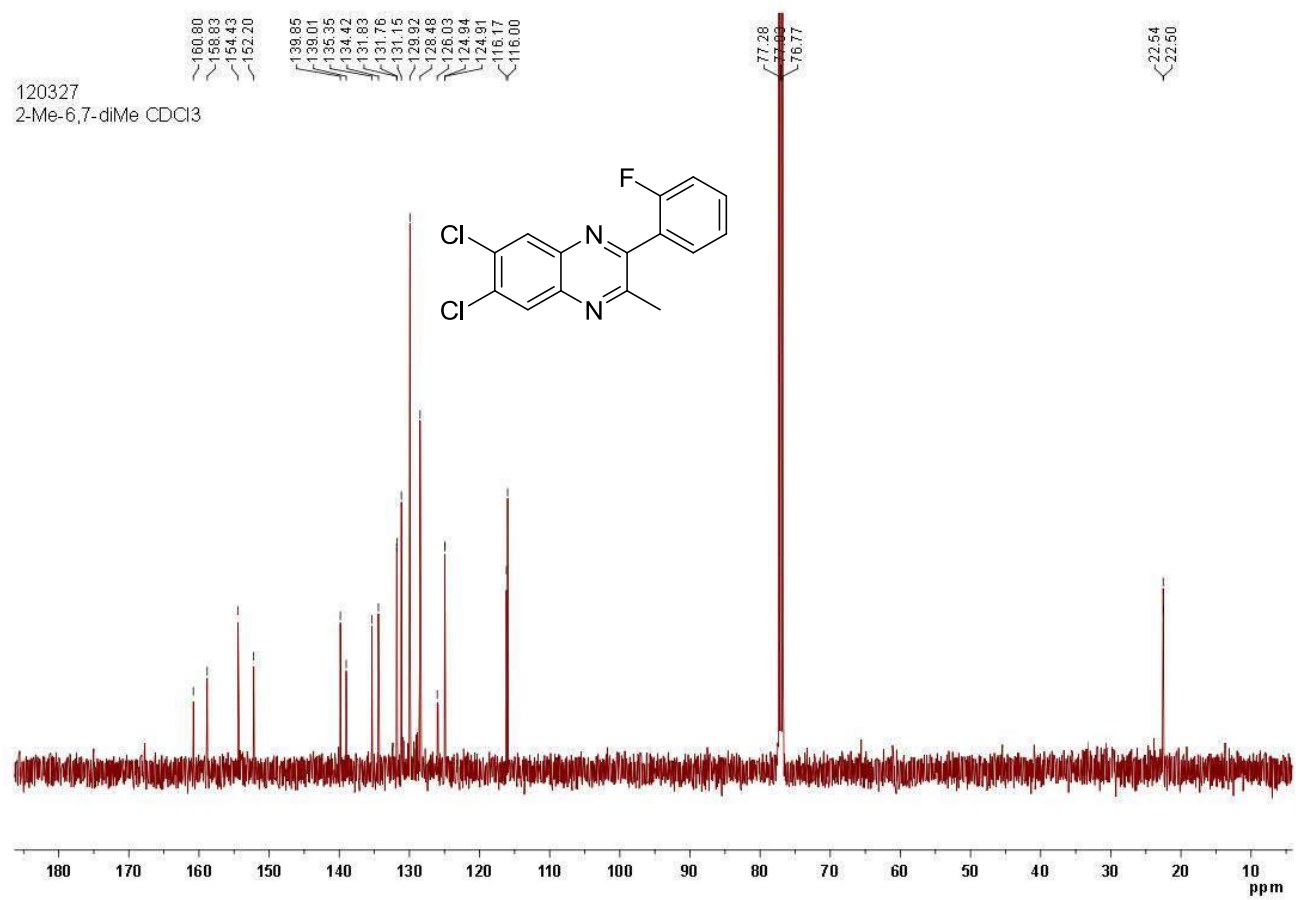
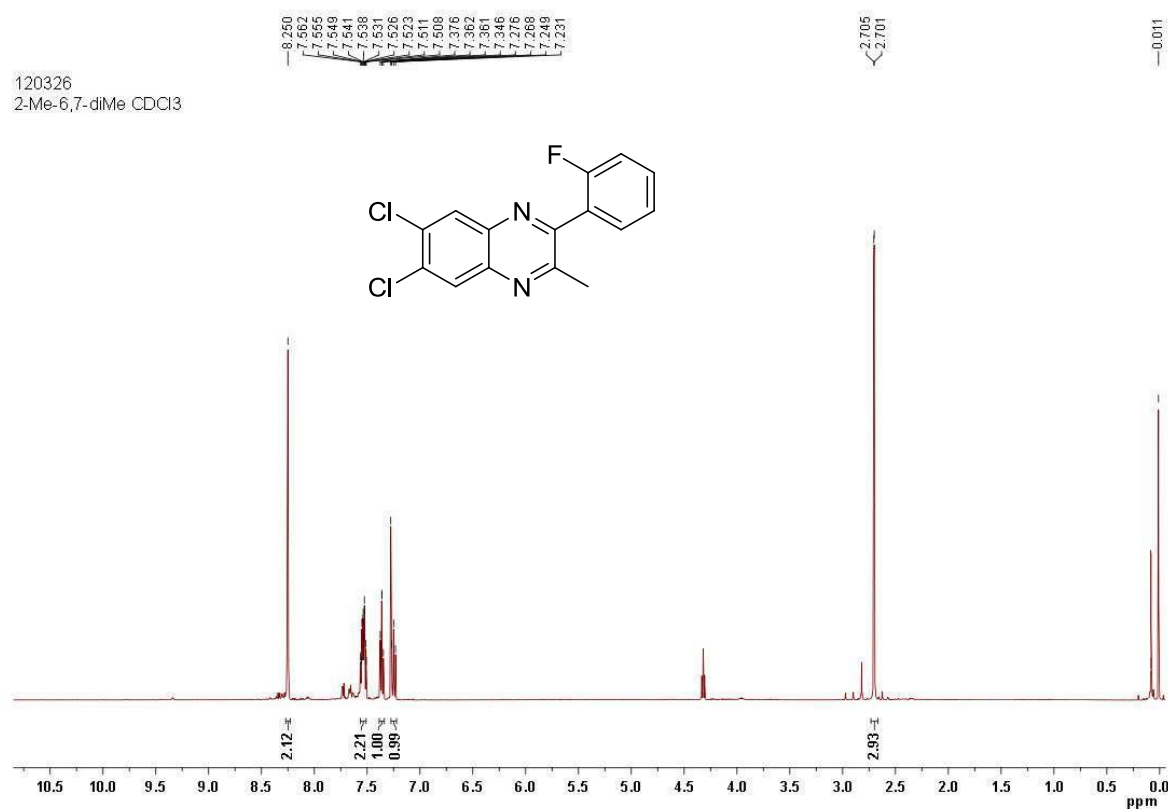
F  
CH4S-P-F CDCl3



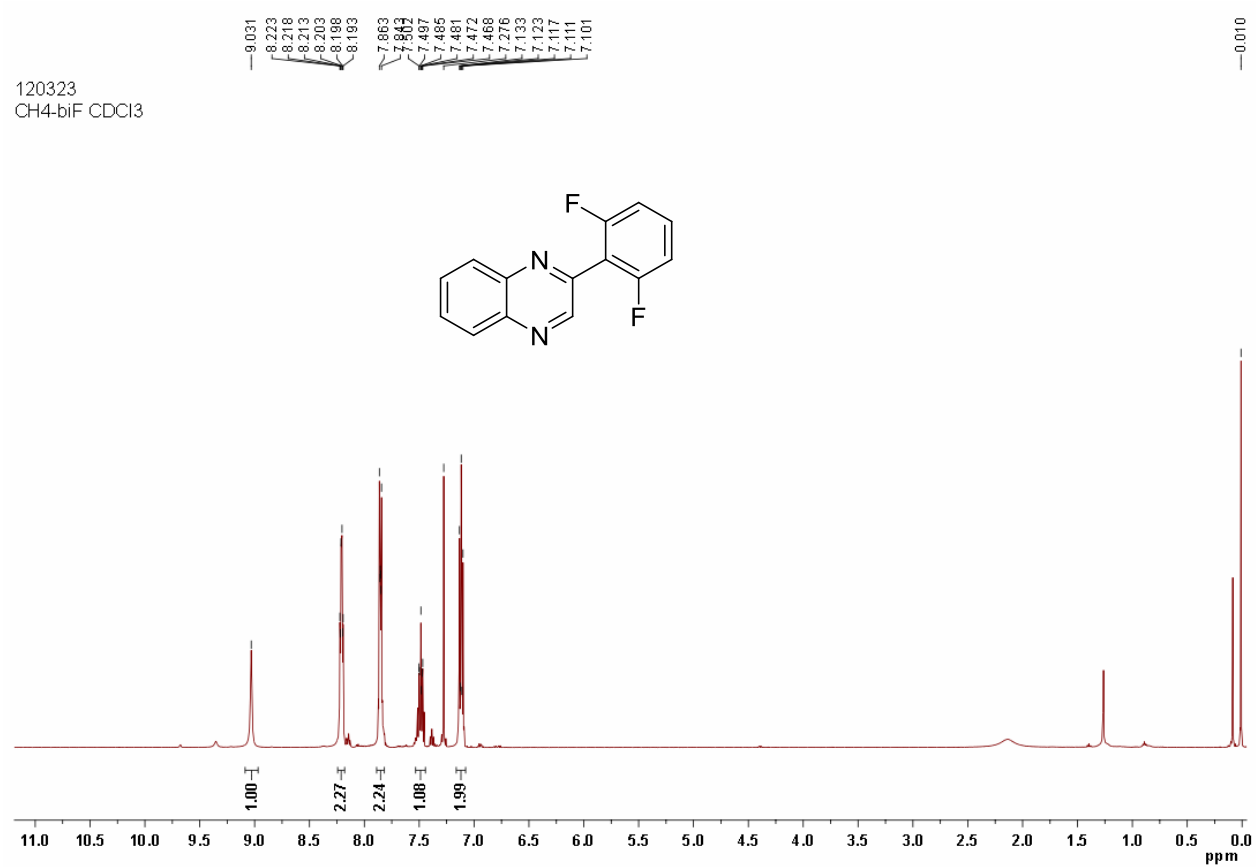
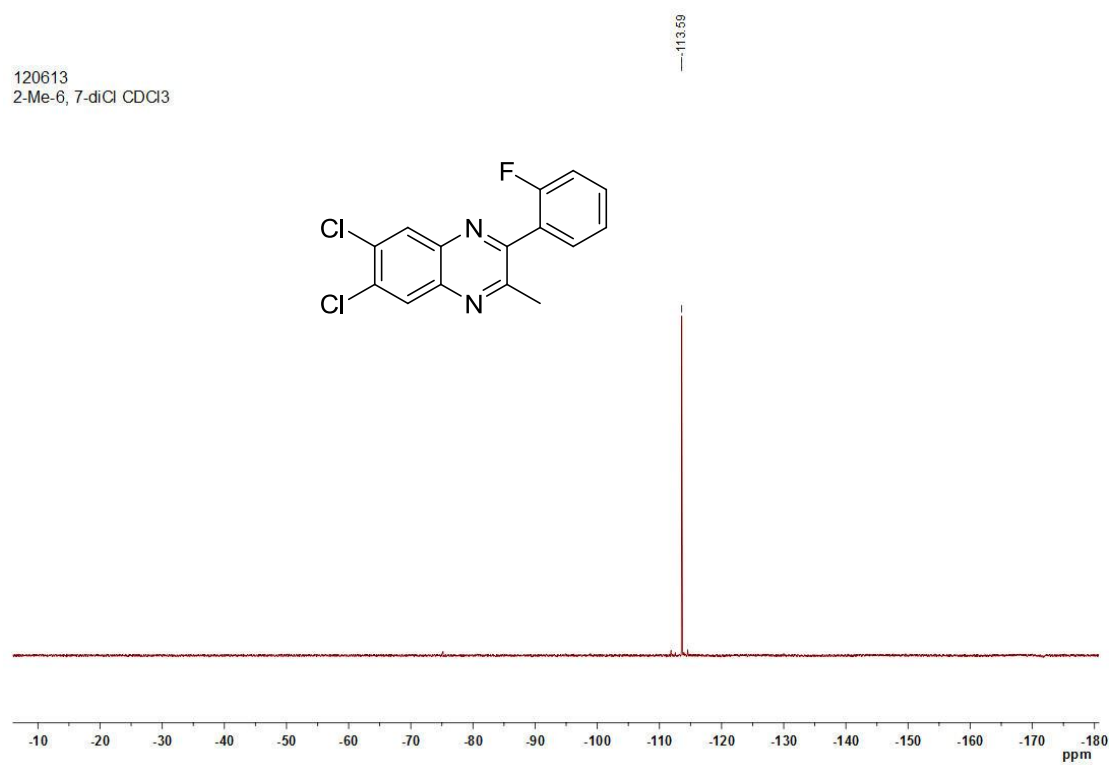
120323  
CH4S'-2-Me CDCl3

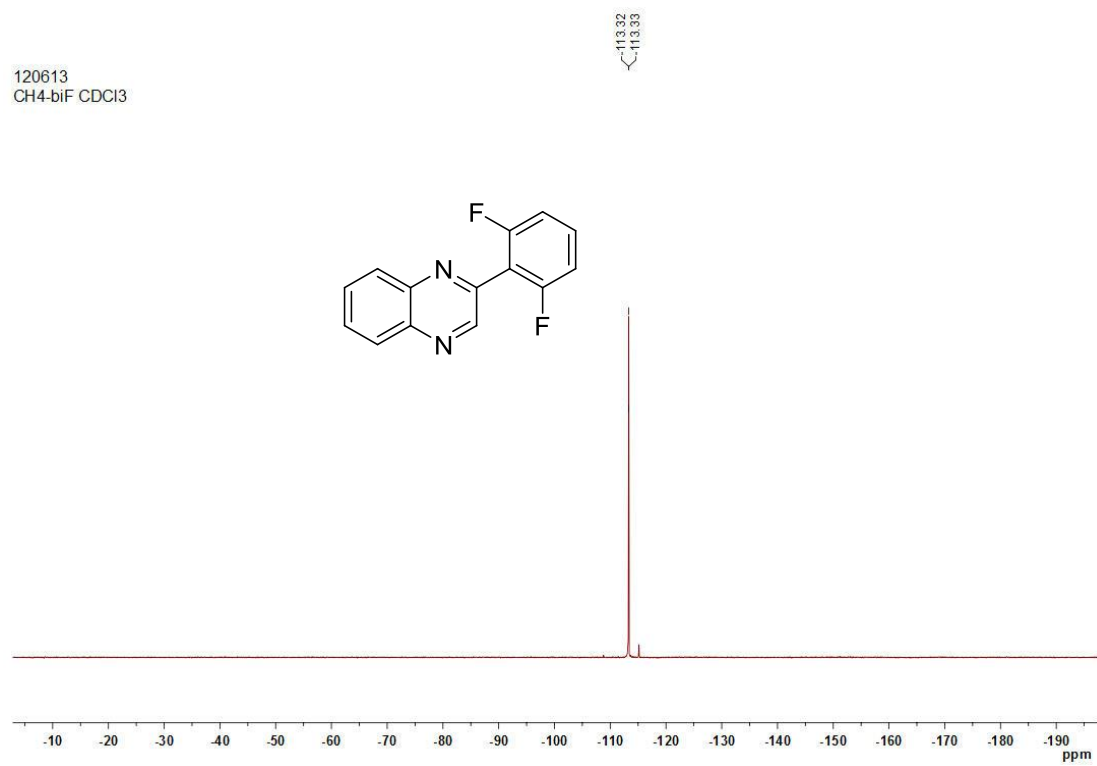
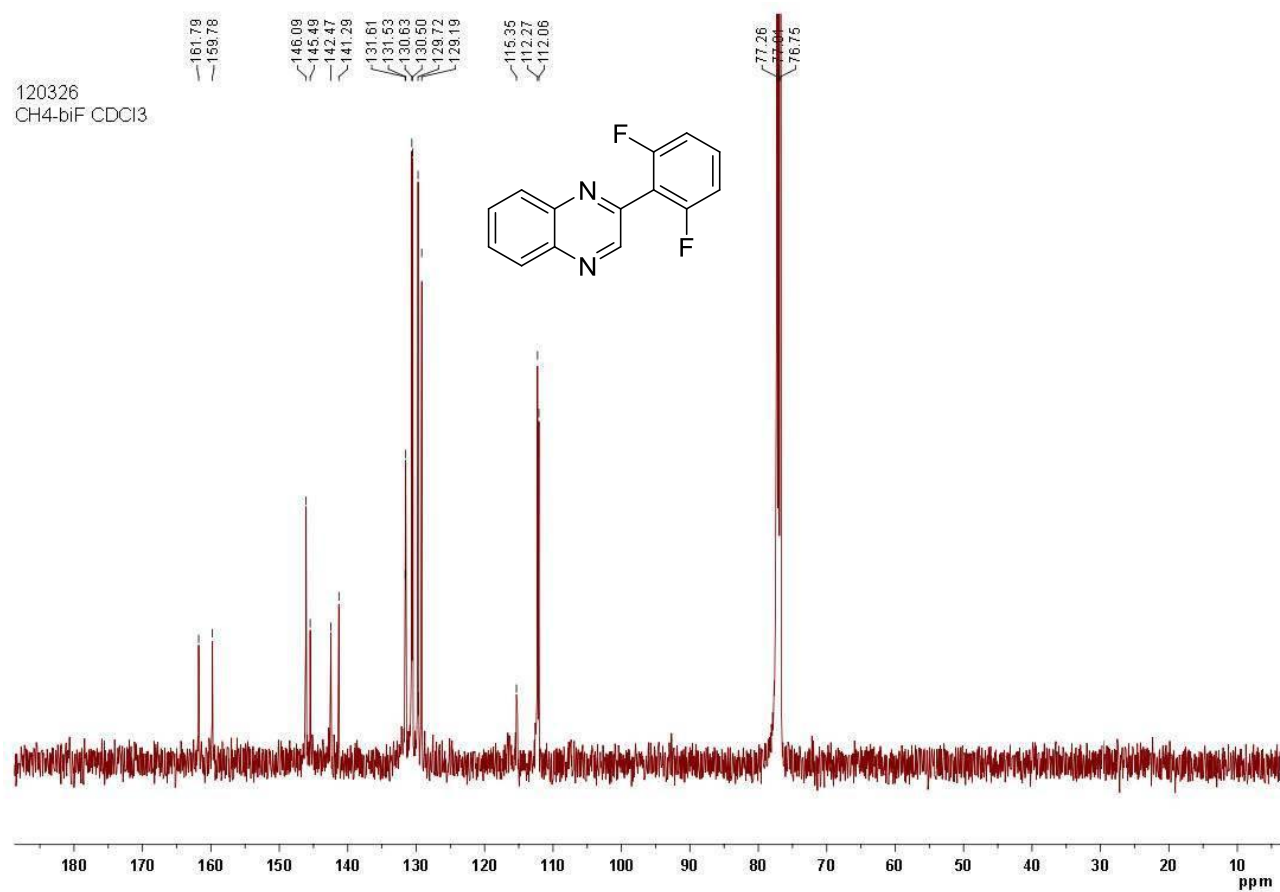


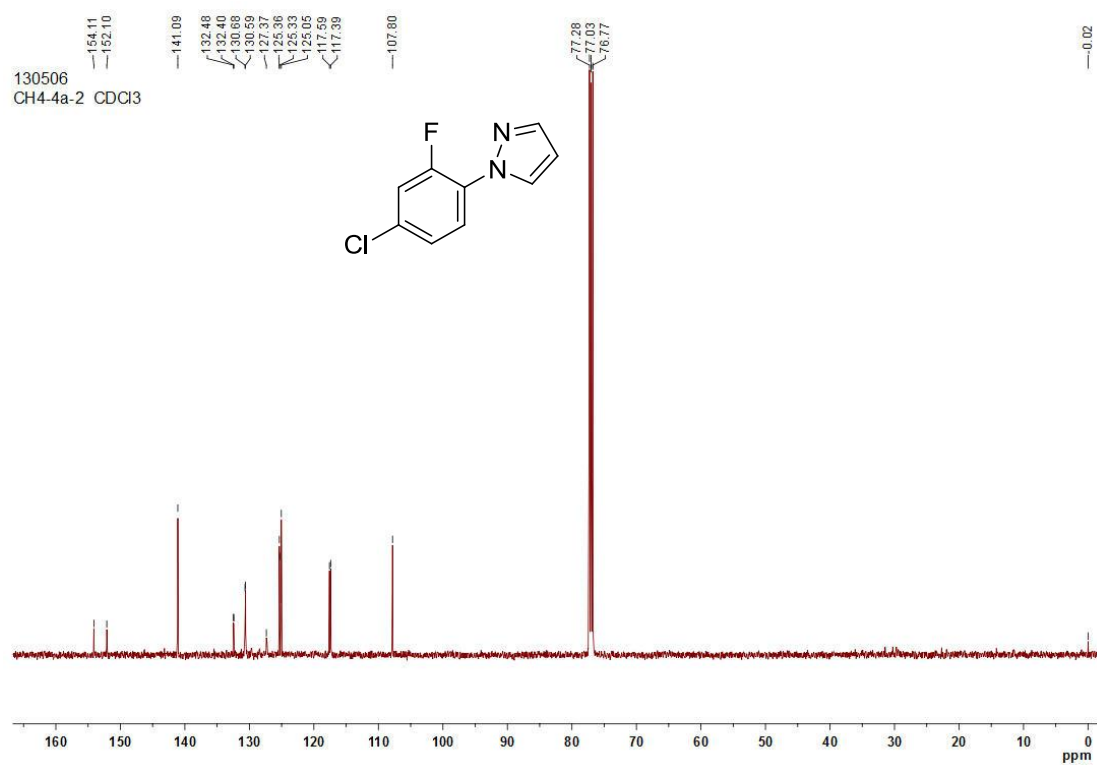
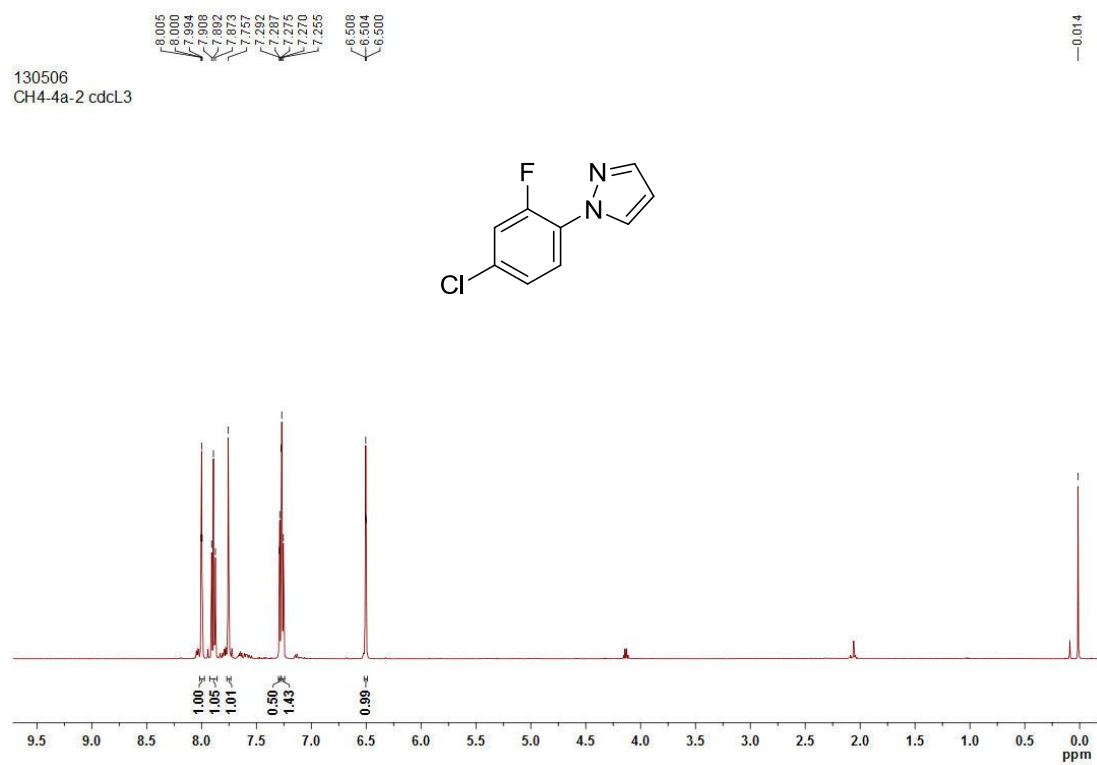




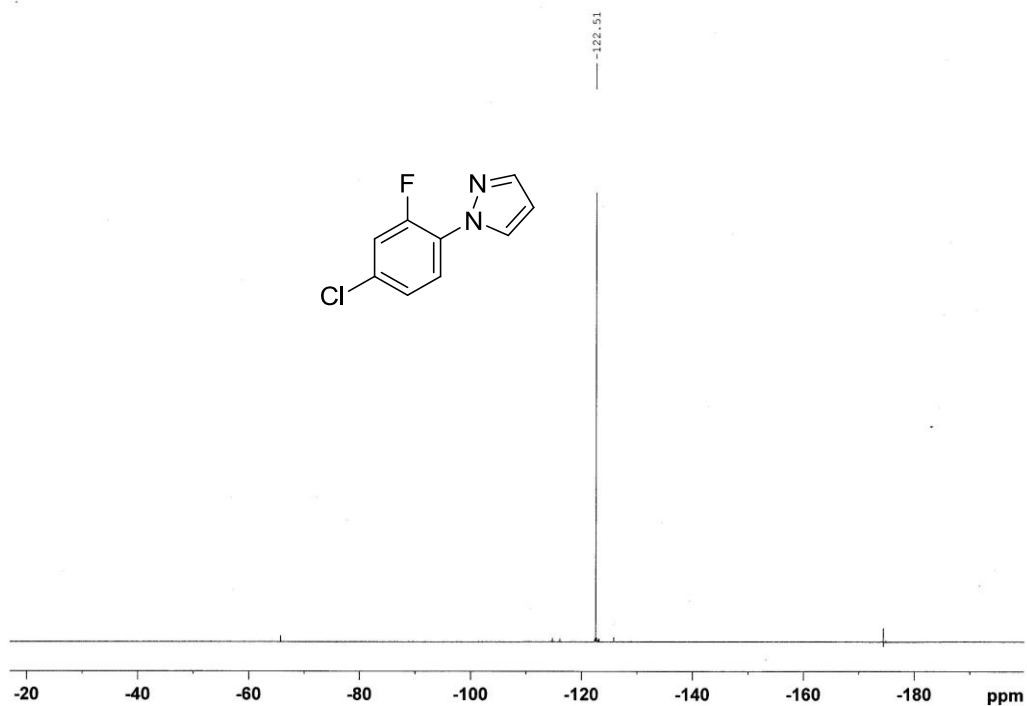




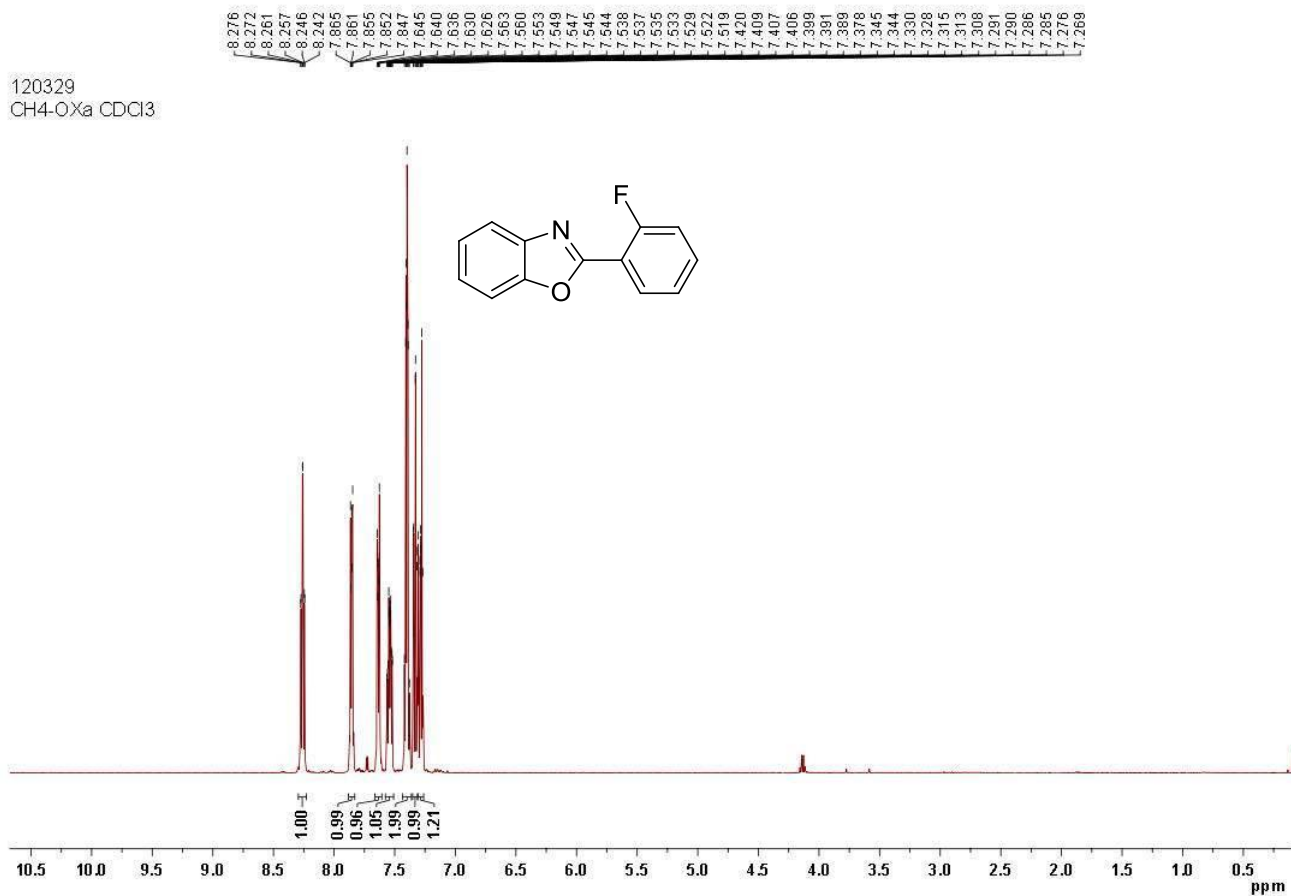


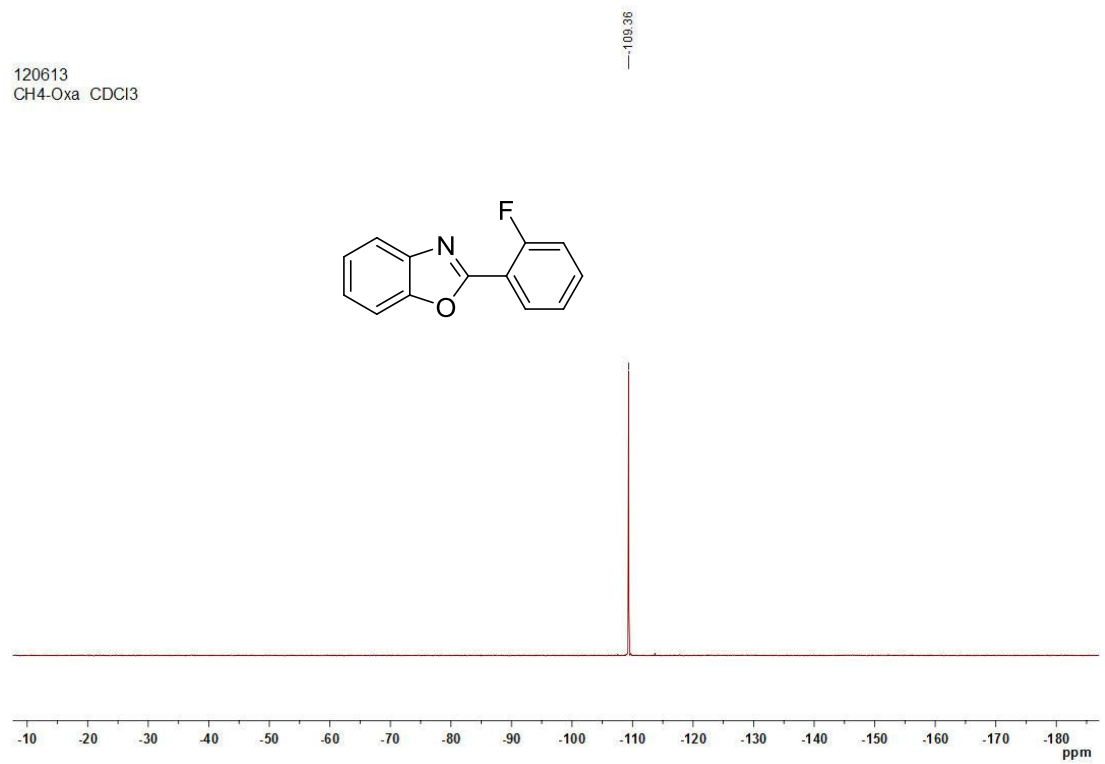
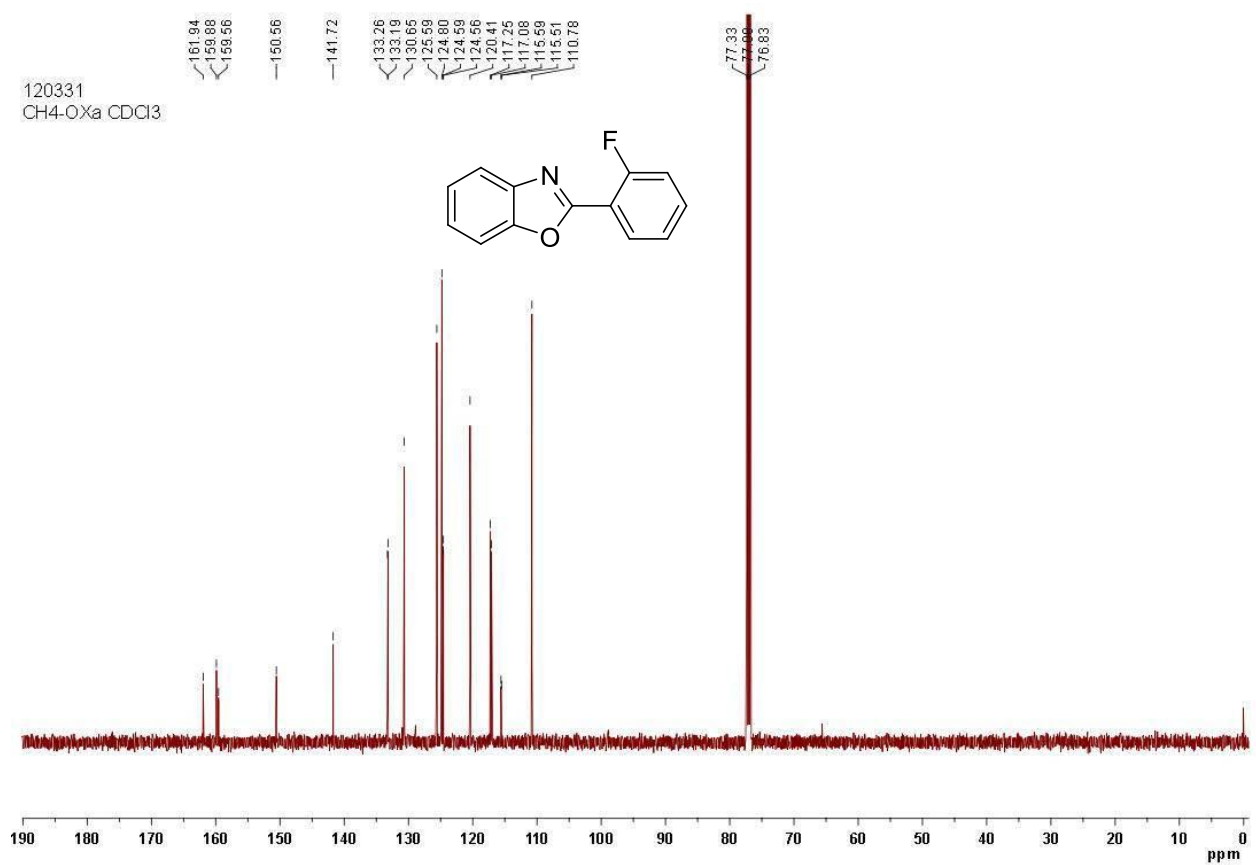


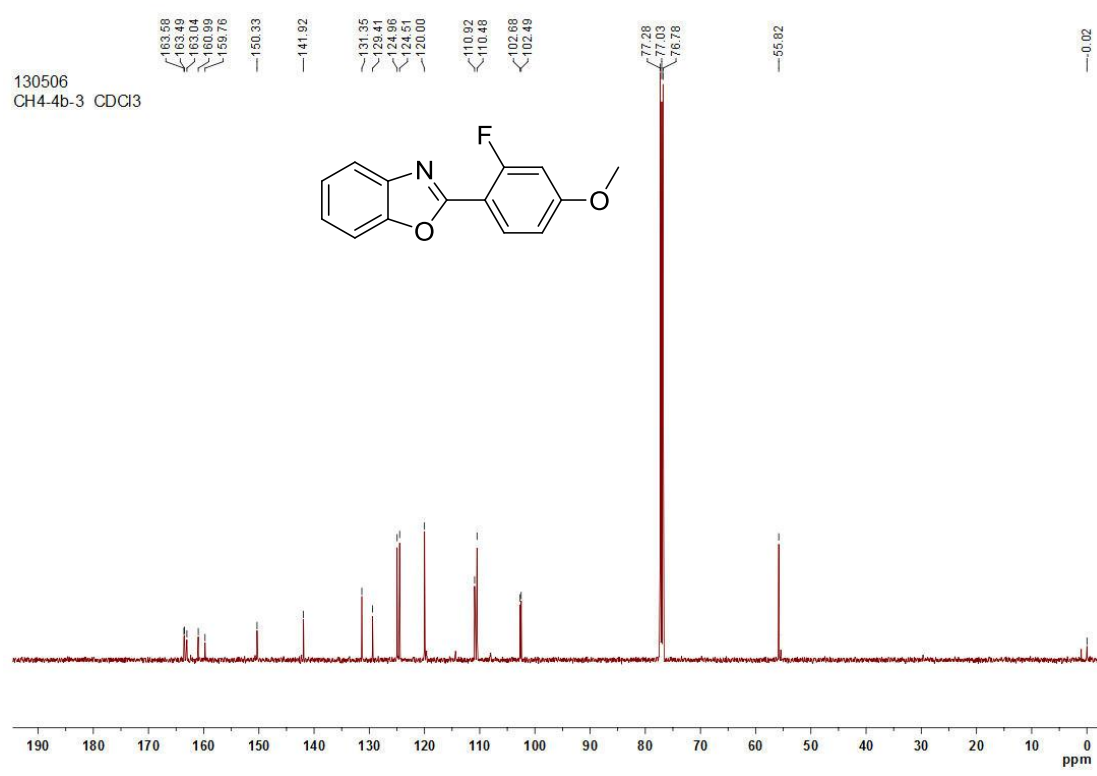
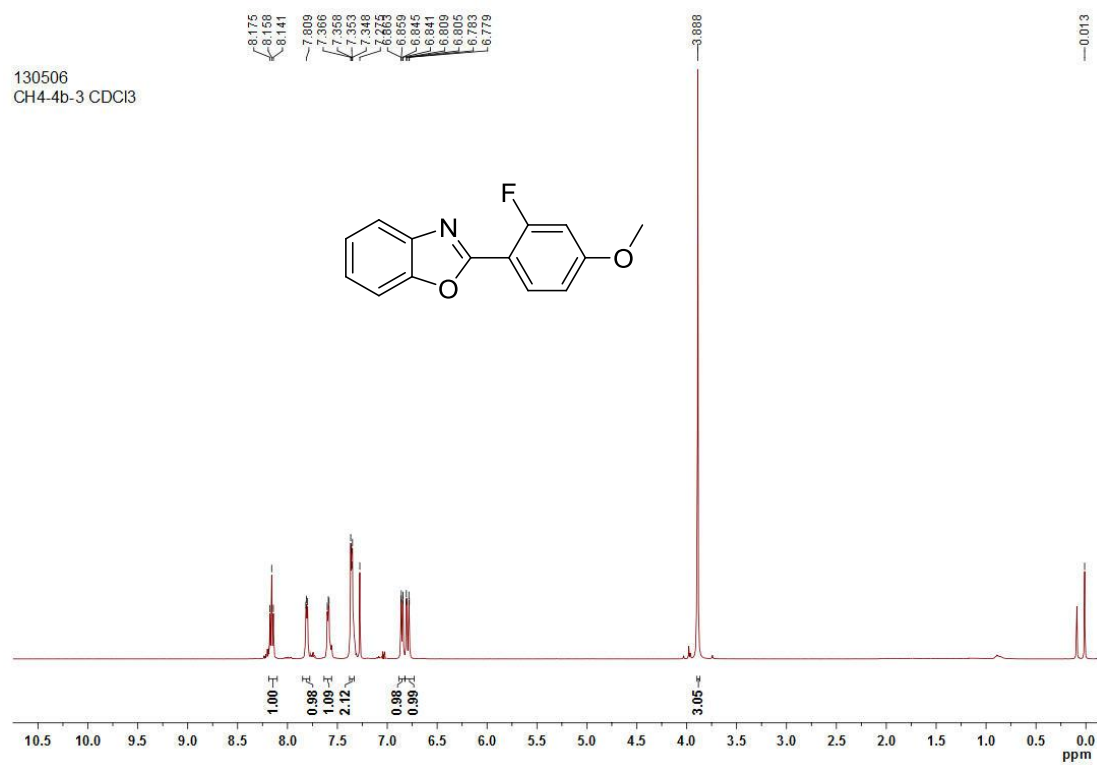
LIN-II-078-0A2 CDCl3

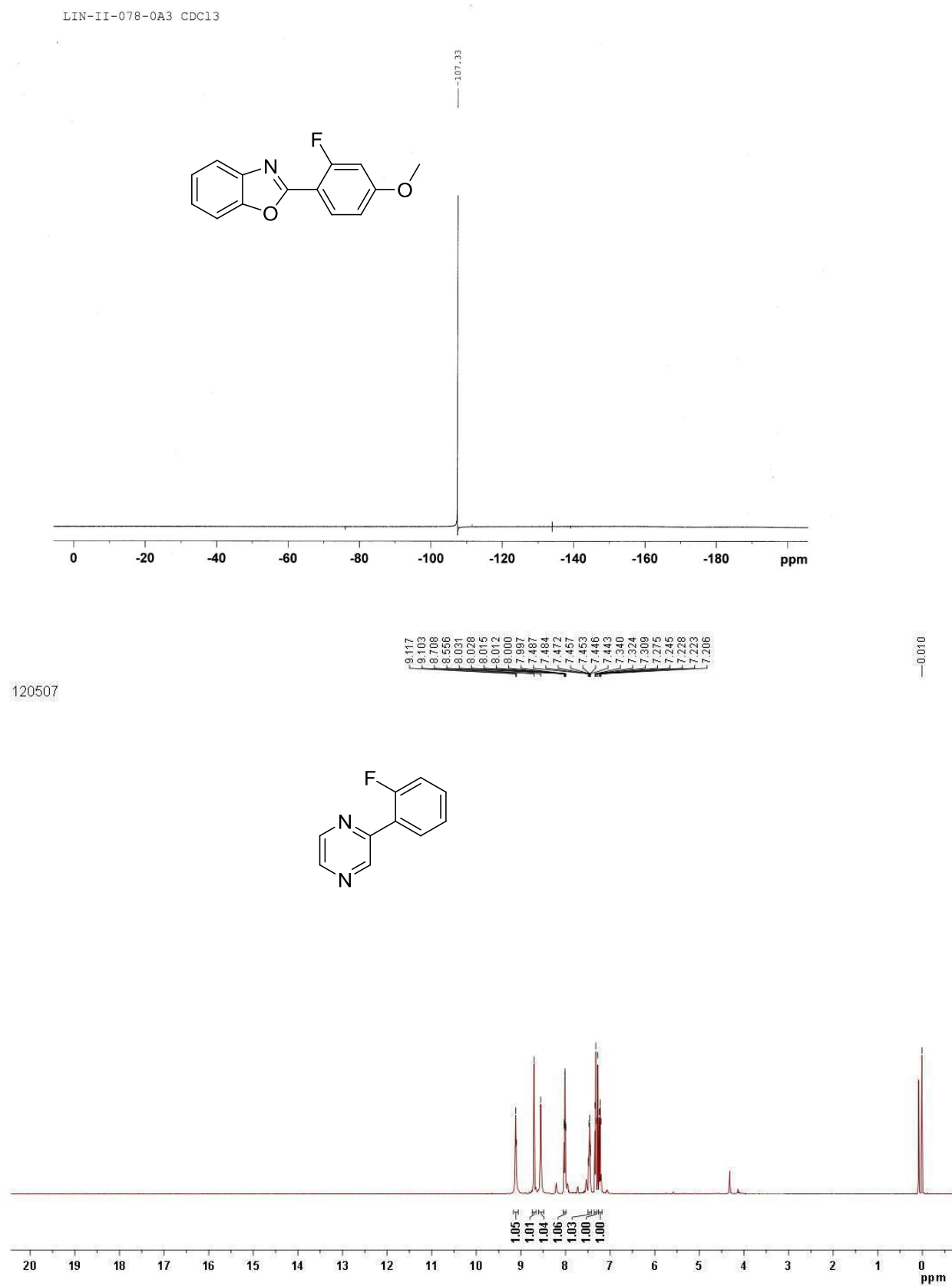


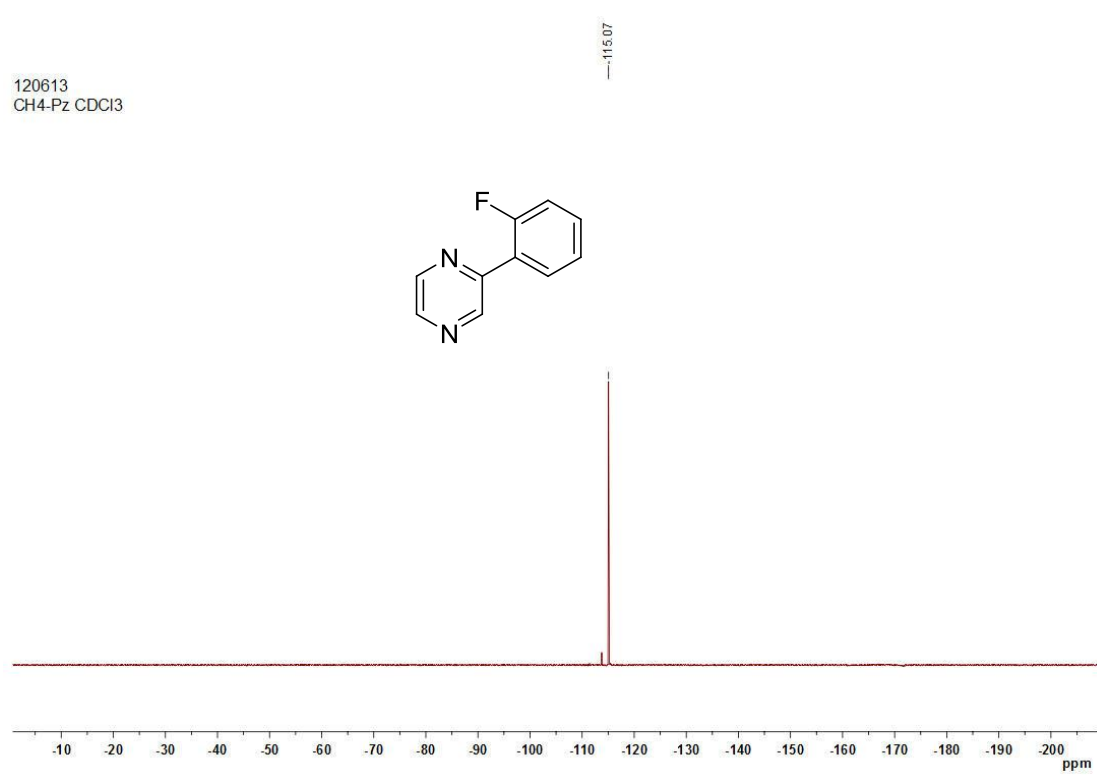
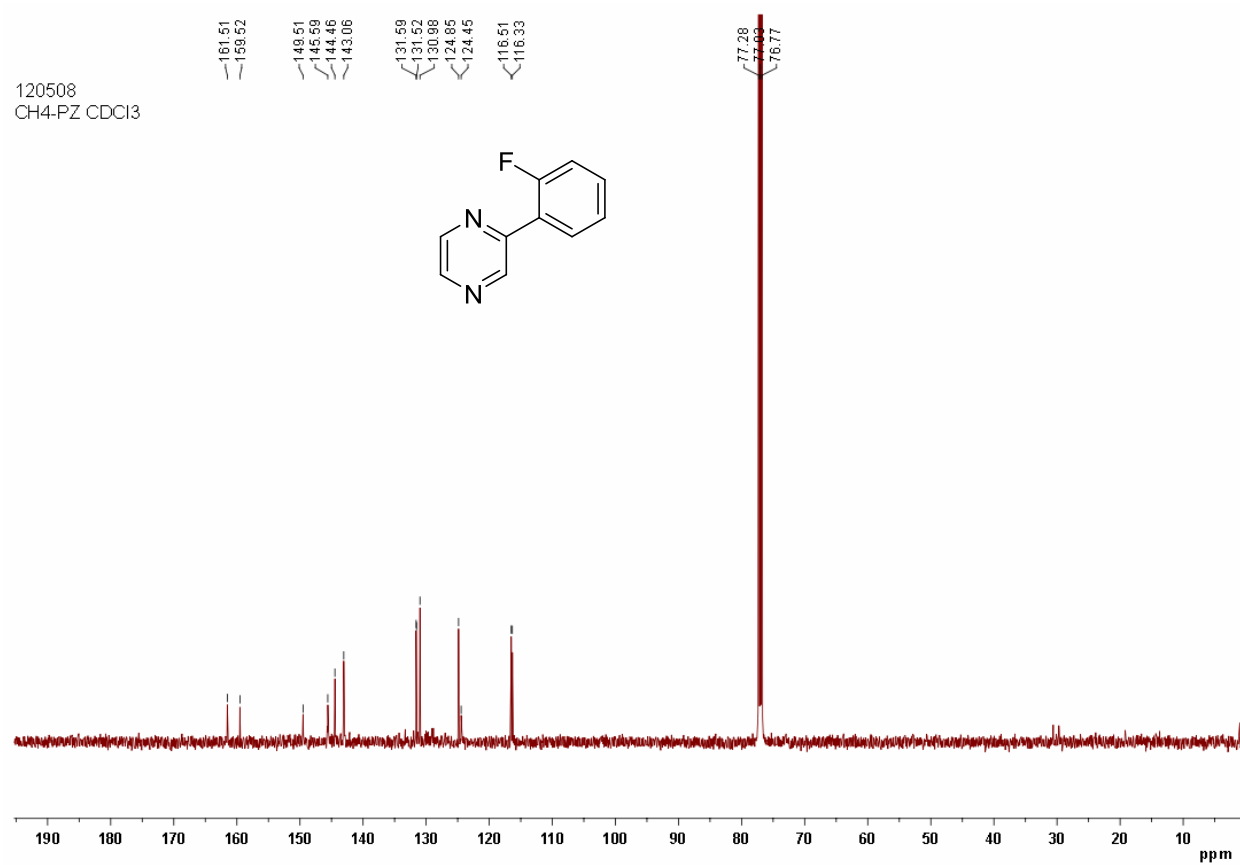
120329  
CH4-OXa CDCl3



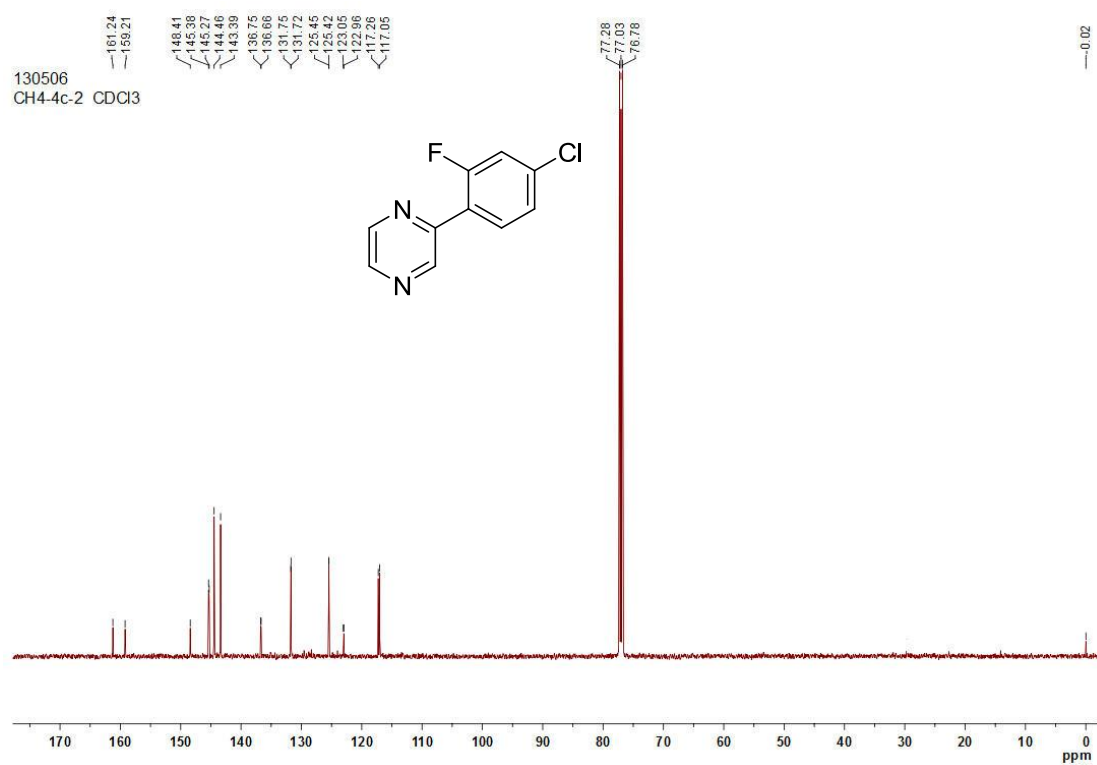
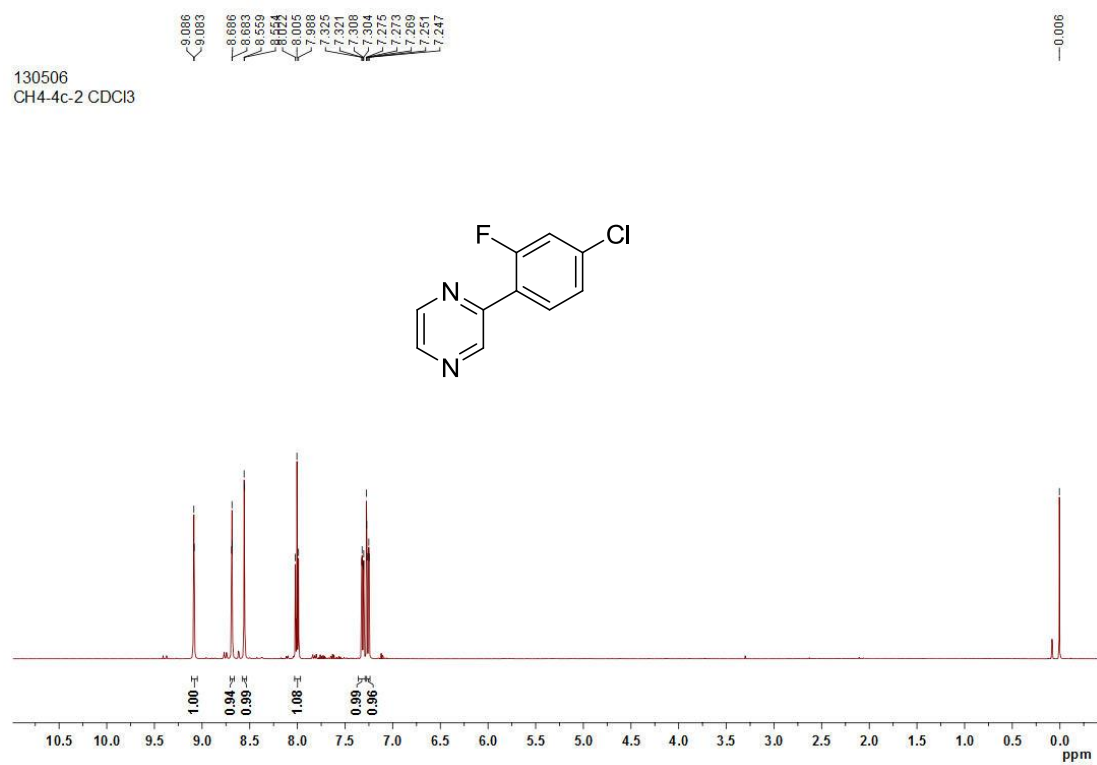




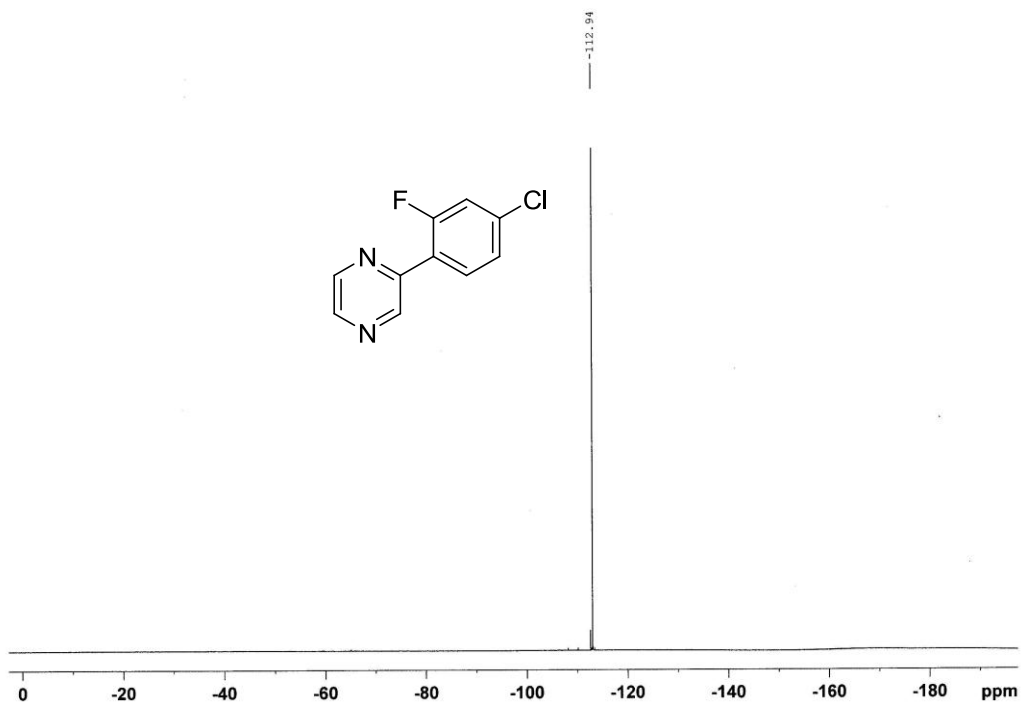








LIN-II-079-0C3 CDCl3



130506  
CH4-4c-3 CDCl3

