

Electronic Supplementary Information

Synthetically useful noncatalytic strategy: A stereocontrolled rapid cyclization of a three component assembly to hexahydropyrrolizines

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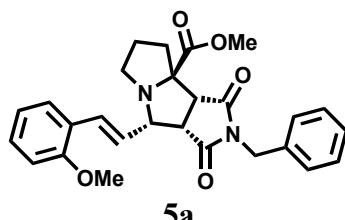
1. Materials and methods

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification, unless otherwise specified. Commercially supplied ethyl acetate and petroleum ether were distilled before use. CH₂Cl₂ was dried by distillation over P₂O₅. THF was dried over sodium and distilled out prior to use. Petroleum ether used in our experiments was in the boiling range of 60°-80° C. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (60-120 mesh, 0.120 mm-0.250 mm). Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Melting points are reported uncorrected. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra (Bruker Advance 300) were recorded at ambient temperature using 300 MHz spectrometers (300 MHz for ¹H and 75 MHz for ¹³C). Chemical shift is reported in ppm from internal reference tetramethylsilane and coupling constant in Hz. Proton multiplicities are represented as s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (double doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), and m (multiplet). Infrared spectra were recorded on FT-IR spectrometer (Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100) as KBr pellets (solid sample) and in thin film on NaCl window (liquid sample). Optical rotation of the chiral compounds was measured in a polarimeter (Perkin Elmer 343) using standard 10 cm quartz cell in sodium-D lamp at ambient temperature. EI-MS analysis was performed in GC-MS machine (Perkin Elmer Clarus 600) using column Elite 5 MS (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 um) with maximum temperature 300° C. HR-MS data were acquired by electron spray ionization technique on a Q-tof-micro quadruple mass spectrophotometer (Bruker). Single crystal X-ray diffraction studies of the crystalline heterocyclic compound were performed in X-ray diffractometer (Bruker Smart Apex-II).

2. General procedure for synthesis of pyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine (**5a-o**) and characterization data

A solution of proline ester (**1**, 1 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) was taken in a round-bottom flask (25 mL) and stirred at room temperature. Maleimide (**2**, 1.0 mmol) and α,β-unsaturated aldehyde (**3**, 1.0 mmol) were added. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC, and the reaction was complete after 15-40 min depending on the use of the substrates. The post-reaction mixture was filtered, washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and brine solution (1 x 10 mL), dried on activated sodium sulphate, and concentrated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, the reaction with L-proline methyl ester (**1a**, 129 mg, 1 mmol), *N*-benzylmaleimide (**2a**, 187 mg, 1.0 mmol) and *o*-methoxycinnamaldehyde (**3a**, 162 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded **5a** after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:13, v/v) as an eluent in a yield of 90 % (414 mg, 0.90 mmol). All of the new hexahydropyrrolizines (**5a-o**) were characterised using NMR, FT-IR and HR-MS spectroscopy and single crystal XRD analyses.

2.1. 2-Benzyl-4-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8-*a*-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**5a**)



Yield: 90 % (414 mg, 0.90 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 118-120 °C.

$[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -1.32° (c 1.15, CHCl₃).

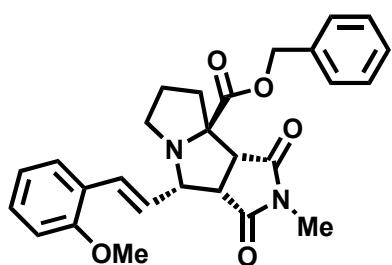
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.72-1.79 (1H, m), 2.02-2.07 (2H, m), 2.22-2.31 (2H, m), 2.81-2.83 (1H, m), 3.41 (1H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 3.75 (3H, s), 3.79 (3H, s), 3.83-3.86 (1H, m), 4.16 (1H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.65 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz), 4.85 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz), 6.19 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.9, 9.6 Hz), 6.82 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 6.88-6.93 (1H, m), 7.01 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 7.19-7.28 (4H, m), 7.38-7.41 (3H, m).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.5, 30.0, 42.6, 48.3, 51.2, 52.2, 53.0, 55.4, 65.3, 110.8, 120.6, 123.4, 125.7, 127.4, 128.1, 128.6, 129.0, 129.2, 130.6, 134.8, 156.9, 174.0, 175.9, 176.5.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 753, 973, 1027, 1246, 1489, 1698, 1729, 2838, 2951.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₇H₂₈N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 460.1998, found 460.1995.

2.2. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-methyl-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8-*a*-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (**5b**)



5b

Yield: 92 % (423 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 124-132 °C.

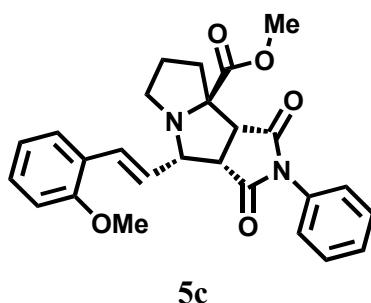
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.79-1.91 (1H, m), 2.04-2.06 (1H, m), 2.38-2.48 (3H, m), 2.59-2.62 (1H, m), 2.98 (3H, s), 3.08-3.09 (1H, m), 3.46 (2H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s), 5.26 (2H, dd, *J* = 19.8, 12.3 Hz), 6.32 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.6, 9.3 Hz), 6.87-6.97 (3H, m), 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz), 7.23-7.29 (2H, m), 7.35-7.42 (3H, m), 7.51 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 25.0, 25.1, 29.9, 47.7, 50.8, 52.4, 55.4, 64.6, 67.3, 78.7, 110.8, 120.6, 125.7, 127.3, 128.1, 128.4, 128.6, 129.0, 135.6, 156.9, 176.4, 176.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 488, 744, 980, 1140, 1247, 1374, 1436, 1696, 2830, 2948.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₇H₂₈N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 460.1998, found 460.1992.

2.3. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxo-2-phenyloctahdropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid methyl ester(5c)



5c

Yield: 90 % (401 mg, 0.90 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 100-104 °C.

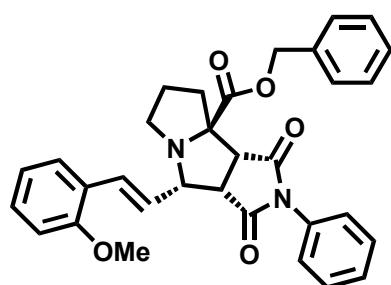
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.79-1.91 (1H, m), 2.36-2.40 (1H, m), 2.50-2.55 (1H, m), 2.68-2.70 (1H, m), 3.13-3.14 (1H, m), 3.56 (1H, t, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 3.75 (3H, s), 3.76 (3H, s), 3.99-4.08 (2H, m), 4.26 (1H, t, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 6.35 (1H, q, $J = 15.6, 9.3$ Hz), 6.76-6.85 (2H, m), 7.04 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.12-7.18 (3H, m), 7.32-7.43 (4H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 24.9, 30.3, 48.6, 51.2, 52.2, 53.1, 55.4, 65.6, 79.4, 110.8, 120.6, 123.8, 125.6, 126.1, 127.4, 128.6, 129.1, 129.2, 130.9, 131.9, 156.9, 173.9, 175.3, 175.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 752, 1051, 1176, 1245, 1375, 1489, 1597, 1710, 2952.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 446.1842, found 446.1838.

2.4. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxo-2-phenyloctahdropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (5d)



5d

Yield: 92 % (480 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 108-110 °C.

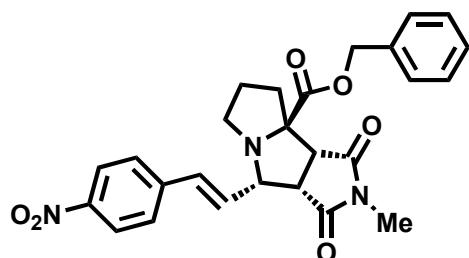
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.79-1.87 (1H, m), 1.94-2.04 (1H, m), 2.32-2.42 (1H, m), 2.46-2.56 (1H, m), 2.70 (1H, q, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 3.08-3.15 (1H, m), 3.53 (1H, t, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 3.76 (3H, s), 3.96 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 4.24 (1H, t, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 5.20 (2H, q, $J = 12.3$ Hz), 6.34 (1H, dd, $J = 15.6, 9.3$ Hz), 6.77-6.85 (2H, m), 7.02 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.13-7.18 (4H, m), 7.27-7.34 (4H, m), 7.38-7.43 (4H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.1, 30.1, 48.4, 51.0, 52.3, 55.4, 65.4, 67.4, 79.3, 110.8, 120.6, 123.5, 125.6, 126.1, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 128.7, 129.1, 129.2, 130.8, 131.9, 135.6, 156.9, 173.0, 175.4, 175.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 691, 1178, 1244, 1497, 1576, 1712, 2934.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 522.2155, found 522.2151.

2.5. 2-Methyl-4-[2-(4-nitrophenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8*a*-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (**5e**)



5e

Yield: 86 % (410 mg, 0.86 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown solid.

Melting point: 148-150 °C.

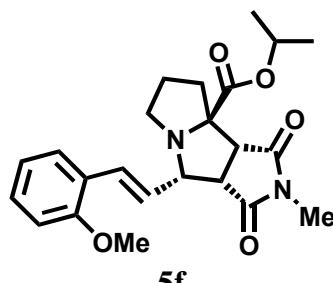
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.71-1.77 (2H, m), 2.26-2.35 (1H, m), 2.46-2.49 (1H, m), 2.88 (3H, s), 2.95-2.96 (1H, m), 3.38 (1H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 3.75 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 4.01-4.14 (2H, m), 5.09-5.24 (2H, m), 6.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.6, 9.0 Hz), 6.66-6.71 (1H, m), 7.18-7.34 (5H, m), 7.46 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.09 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 25.0, 25.1, 29.7, 47.7, 50.7, 52.4, 63.6, 67.4, 78.7, 124.0, 127.3, 128.2, 128.5, 128.6, 128.9, 133.2, 135.4, 142.9, 147.2, 172.8, 176.4, 176.5.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 696, 979, 1281, 1517, 1596, 1698, 2947.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₆H₂₅N₃O₆ (M⁺): Calculated 475.1743, found 475.1739.

2.6. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-methyl-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8*a*-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (**5f**)



5f

Yield: 88 % (362 mg, 0.88 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 124-128 °C.

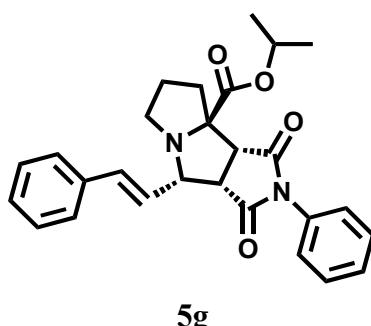
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.27 (6H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 1.76-1.79 (1H, m), 1.91-1.97 (1H, m), 2.28-2.43 (2H, m), 2.55-2.57 (1H, m), 2.94 (3H, s), 3.45-3.47 (1H, m), 3.74-3.77 (1H, m), 3.80 (3H, s), 4.20-4.36 (2H, m), 5.04 (1H, t, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 6.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.9, 9.6 Hz), 6.81-6.91 (2H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 7.20 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.45 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.7, 25.0, 30.0, 47.5, 50.7, 52.6, 55.4, 64.5, 69.4, 78.6, 110.8, 120.6, 124.2, 125.8, 129.0, 130.1, 156.8, 172.6, 176.5, 177.0.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 761, 971, 1100, 1167, 1293, 1372, 1495, 1596, 1710, 1740, 2789, 2979.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₃H₂₈N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 412.1998, found 412.1995.

2.7. 1,3-Dioxo-2-phenyl-4-styryloctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (5g**)**



5g

Yield: 86 % (382 mg, 0.86 mmol).

Characteristic: Grey solid.

Melting point: 148-150 °C.

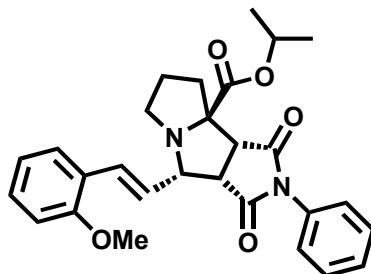
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.26 (6H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 1.79-1.88 (1H, m), 1.94-2.04 (1H, m), 2.28-2.38 (1H, m), 2.47-2.57 (1H, m), 2.64-2.72 (1H, q, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.07-3.14 (1H, m), 3.57 (1H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 3.92 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 4.26 (1H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 5.02-5.06 (1H, m), 6.36 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.6, 9.3 Hz), 6.69-6.78 (1H, m), 7.15-7.23 (5H, m), 7.26-7.44 (5H, m).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.7, 24.9, 29.9, 48.3, 51.0, 52.3, 64.8, 69.5, 79.3, 123.5, 126.0, 126.1, 126.8, 127.9, 128.5, 128.7, 129.1, 129.2, 131.8, 135.7, 136.6, 172.6, 175.4, 175.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1244, 1514, 1663, 1720, 2869, 2988, 3294, 3754.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₇H₂₈N₂O₄ (M⁺): Calculated 444.2049, found 444.2044.

2.8. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxo-2-phenyloctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester(5h**)**



5h

Yield: 88 % (420 mg, 0.88 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 126-130 °C.

[α]_D²⁵ +1.87° (c 0.9, CHCl₃).

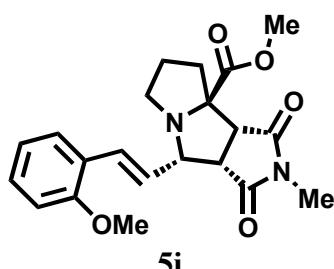
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.33 (6H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 1.88-1.95 (1H, m), 2.07-2.10 (1H, m), 2.35-2.44 (1H, m), 2.52-2.62 (1H, m), 2.76 (1H, q, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 3.13-3.20 (1H, m), 3.64 (1H, t, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 3.82 (3H, s), 4.00 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 4.34 (1H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 5.06-5.14 (1H, m), 6.40 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.6, 9.3 Hz), 6.84-6.92 (2H, m), 7.10 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 7.19-7.42 (3H, m), 7.45-7.51 (4H, m).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.7, 25.0, 30.0, 48.2, 51.0, 52.5, 55.4, 65.3, 69.5, 79.3, 110.8, 120.6, 124.0, 125.7, 126.1, 127.5, 128.6, 129.0, 129.2, 130.4, 131.9, 156.8, 172.7, 175.4, 176.0.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 761, 971, 1293, 1372, 1495, 1596, 1712, 1740, 2788, 2979.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₈H₃₀N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 474.2155, found 474.2158.

2.9. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-methyl-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (5i)



Yield: 92 % (353 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 78-82 °C.

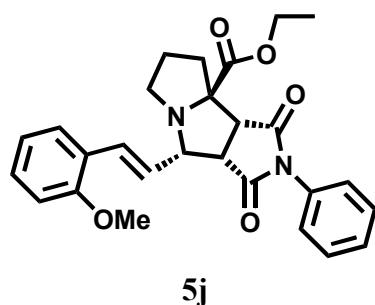
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.69-1.72 (1H, m), 1.89-1.93 (1H, m), 2.22-2.31 (1H, m), 2.36-2.49 (2H, m), 2.88 (3H, s), 2.96-3.03 (1H, m), 3.37 (1H, t, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 3.72 (3H, s), 3.75 (3H, s), 3.80 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 4.13 (1H, t, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 6.24 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 9.6$ Hz), 6.76-6.86 (2H, m), 6.99 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.12-7.18 (1H, m), 7.41 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.0, 29.6, 48.1, 51.0, 52.3, 53.0, 55.4, 64.9, 78.7, 110.8, 120.6, 123.6, 125.7, 127.3, 129.0, 130.6, 156.8, 174.0, 176.5, 177.0.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 912, 1059, 1248, 1434, 1698, 1726, 2836, 2951.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 384.1685, found 384.1681.

2.10. 4-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxo-2-phenyloctahydropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (5j)



5j

Yield: 92 % (423 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

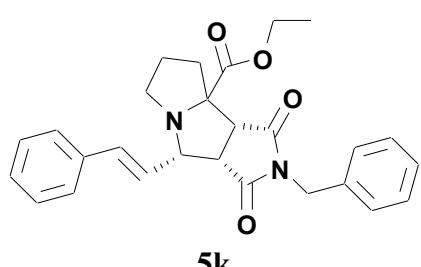
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.81-1.88 (1H, m), 2.01-2.05 (2H, m), 2.32-2.41 (1H, m), 2.48-2.58 (1H, m), 2.70 (1H, q, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 3.10-3.17 (1H, m), 3.58 (1H, t, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 3.75 (3H, s), 4.00 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 4.14-4.31 (2H, m), 6.34 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 9.6$ Hz), 6.77-6.85 (2H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.13-7.18 (3H, m), 7.33-7.44 (4H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.2, 25.0, 30.2, 48.5, 51.1, 52.3, 55.4, 62.0, 65.5, 79.9, 110.7, 120.6, 123.5, 125.5, 126.1, 127.5, 128.6, 129.2, 130.8, 131.8, 156.8, 173.3, 175.4, 176.0.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 751, 973, 1020, 1160, 1248, 1371, 1494, 1596, 1712, 1739, 2796, 2852, 2923.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 460.1998, found 460.1996.

2.11. 2-Benzyl-1,3-dioxo-4-styryloctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8*a*-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (5k**)**



Yield: 86 % (381 mg, 0.86 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 108-114 °C.

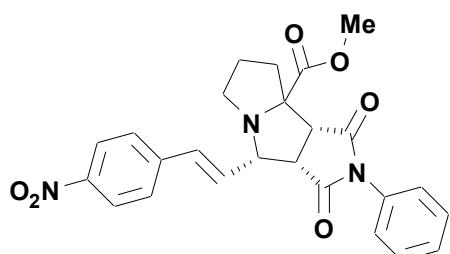
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.23 (3H, t, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.65-1.75 (1H, m), 1.97-2.07 (2H, m), 2.14-2.30 (2H, m), 2.75-2.81 (1H, m), 3.36 (1H, t, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 3.77 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 4.08-4.22 (3H, m), 4.57 (2H, dd, $J = 18.3, 13.5$ Hz), 6.17 (1H, dd, $J = 15.6, 9.3$ Hz), 6.64 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.16-7.37 (10H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 24.6, 29.9, 42.6, 48.2, 51.2, 52.2, 61.9, 64.8, 78.9, 123.4, 126.8, 127.9, 128.1, 128.5, 128.6, 129.2, 134.9, 135.6, 136.6, 173.4, 176.0, 176.4.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 754, 966, 1165, 1391, 1698, 1716, 2850, 2942.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 444.2049, found 444.2051.

2.12. 4-[2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxo-2-phenyloctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8*a*-carboxylic acid methyl ester (5l**)**



5l

Yield: 84 % (387 mg, 0.84 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 122-124 °C.

$[\alpha]_D^{25} -95.52^\circ$ (c 0.9, CHCl_3).

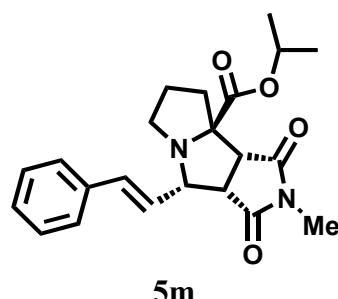
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.83-1.92 (2H, m), 2.24-2.33 (2H, m), 2.77-2.86 (2H, m), 3.57 (3H, s), 3.92-4.02 (1H, m), 4.16-4.17 (2H, m), 6.39 (1H, d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 6.82 (1H, dd, $J = 6.0, 2.4$ Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.42 (2H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.56-7.67 (3H, m), 8.13 (2H, dd, $J = 11.7, 8.7$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 24.6, 29.9, 42.6, 48.2, 51.2, 52.2, 61.9, 64.8, 78.9, 123.4, 126.8, 127.9, 128.1, 128.5, 128.6, 129.2, 134.9, 135.6, 136.6, 173.4, 176.0, 176.4.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 692, 1177, 1343, 1519, 1596, 1620, 1713, 2953.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 461.1587, found 461.1584.

2.13. 2-Methyl-1,3-dioxo-4-styryl-octahydropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (5m)



5m

Yield: 88 % (336 mg, 0.88 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 98-102 °C.

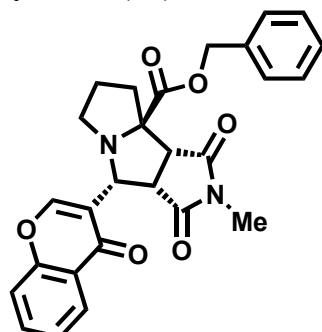
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.30 (6H, d, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 1.78-1.81 (1H, m), 2.33-2.37 (1H, m), 2.41-2.46 (1H, m), 2.58 (1H, q, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 2.96 (3H, s), 3.06-3.12 (1H, m), 3.49 (1H, t, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 3.78 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 4.10 (1H, q, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.28 (1H, t, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 5.05-5.10 (1H, m), 6.29 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 9.3$ Hz), 6.74 (1H, t, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.24-7.30 (3H, m), 7.41 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 21.6, 24.8, 29.8, 47.7, 50.7, 52.1, 64.2, 69.7, 78.7, 123.0, 126.8, 128.0, 128.5, 134.1, 136.0, 136.4, 172.2, 176.3, 176.6.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 978, 1103, 1280, 1381, 1433, 1700, 1771, 2926.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 382.1893, found 382.1891.

2.14. 2-Methyl-1,3-dioxo-4-[2-(4-oxo-4*H*-chromen-2-yl)-vinyl]-octahydropyrrolo[3,4-a]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (5n)



5n

Yield: 92 % (434 mg, 0.92 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 182-188 °C.

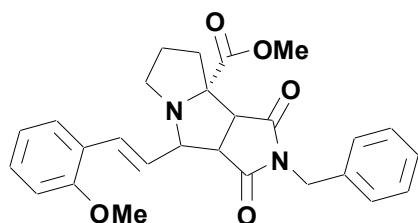
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.11-2.21 (3H, m), 2.27-2.29 (2H, m), 2.77-2.82 (1H, m), 2.86 (3H, s), 3.57 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 3.98 (1H, t, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 4.68 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 5.15-5.27 (2H, m), 7.33-7.43 (5H, m), 7.60-7.68 (3H, m), 8.23-8.26 (2H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 24.8, 26.4, 27.7, 34.0, 47.2, 53.6, 67.2, 78.2, 118.0, 123.6, 125.2, 126.0, 126.1, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 133.6, 135.3, 152.7, 156.2, 172.4, 175.5, 176.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 698, 756, 944, 1159, 1210, 1460, 1641, 1697, 2359, 2964.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 472.1634, found 472.1630.

2.15. 2-Benzyl-4-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1,3-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[3,4-*a*]pyrrolizine-8a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**5o**)



5o

Yield: 90 % (414 mg, 0.90 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 04-108 °C.

$[\alpha]_D^{25} +4.84^\circ$ (c 2.5, CHCl₃).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.71-1.81 (1H, m), 2.18-2.37 (2H, m), 2.23-2.32 (2H, m), 2.82-2.88 (1H, m), 3.42 (1H, t, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.76 (3H, s), 3.80 (3H, s), 3.86 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 4.09-4.21 (1H, m), 4.62 (2H, dd, J = 20.1, 13.8 Hz), 6.21 (1H, dd, J = 15.9, 9.6 Hz), 6.84 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 6.92 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.02 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz), 7.20-7.23 (1H, m), 7.25-7.31 (4H, m), 7.39-7.44 (2H, m).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.5, 30.0, 42.5, 48.3, 51.2, 52.1, 53.0, 55.4, 65.4, 79.0, 110.8, 120.6, 123.4, 125.7, 127.4, 128.1, 128.6, 129.0, 129.1, 130.7, 134.9, 156.9, 173.9, 175.8, 176.4.

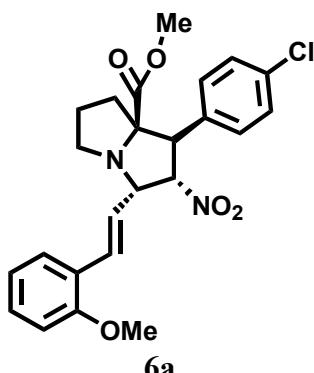
FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 754, 1027, 116, 1246, 1343, 1434, 158, 1700, 1726, 1768, 2838, 2951.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₇H₂₈N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 460.1998, found 460.1995.

3. General procedure for synthesis of tetrahydropyrrolizines (**6a-h**) and characterization data

A solution of proline ester (**1**, 1 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) was taken in a round-bottom flask (25 mL) and stirred at room temperature. α,β -Unsaturated aldehyde (**2**, 1.0 mmol) and olefin (**4**, 1.0 mmol) were added and stirred at ambient temperature. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and the reaction was complete after 10-45 min depending on the use of the substrates. The post-reaction mixture was filtered, washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and brine solution (1 x 10 mL), dried on activated sodium sulphate, and concentrated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, the reaction with proline methyl ester (**1a**, 129 mg, 1 mmol), *o*-methoxycinnamaldehyde (**1a**, 162 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4-chloro- β -nitrostyrene (**3a**, 183 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded **6a** after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:24, v/v) as an eluent in a yield of 82% (374 mg, 0.82 mmol). All of the new tetrahydropyrrolizines (**6a-h**) were characterised using NMR, FT-IR and ESI-MS spectroscopy and single crystal XRD analysis.

3.1. 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-nitrotetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**6a**)



Yield: 82 % (374 mg, 0.82 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

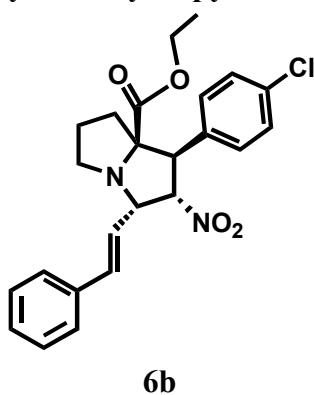
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.92-2.04 (4H, m), 2.68-2.71 (1H, m), 2.92-2.93 (1H, m), 3.25-3.28 (1H, m), 3.41 (3H, s), 3.83 (3H, s), 4.13 (1H, m), 4.78 (1H, dd, $J = 10.2, 7.8$ Hz), 6.03-6.16 (1H, m), 6.84-6.93 (2H, m), 7.02 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.22-7.37 (3H, m), 7.38 (1H, d, $J = 9.3$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 27.2, 35.4, 48.6, 52.1, 66.4, 66.6, 80.2, 91.7, 91.8, 110.9, 120.6, 122.6, 124.7, 128.0, 129.1, 132.7, 133.4, 134.0, 157.0, 173.3.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 774, 1030, 1180, 1488, 1634, 1505, 1657, 1722, 2920.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 456.1452, found 456.1449 (one of the peaks).

3.2. 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-nitro-3-styryl-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**6b**)



Yield: 78 % (343 mg, 0.78 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 100-108 °C.

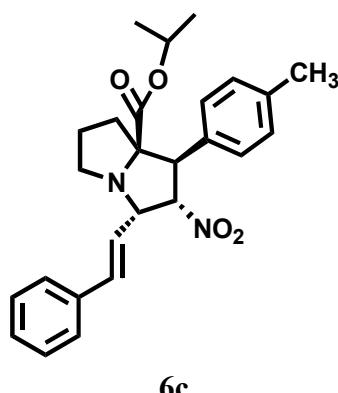
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.98 (3H, t, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.95-2.04 (3H, m), 2.70-2.75 (1H, m), 2.91-2.96 (1H, s), 3.22-3.25 (1H, m), 3.74-3.80 (1H, m), 3.86-3.92 (1H, m), 4.13-4.15 (2H, m), 4.78 (1H, dd, $J = 10.2, 7.8$ Hz), 6.04-6.10 (1H, m), 6.72 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.16 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.26-7.39 (7H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 13.7, 27.3, 35.4, 48.4, 54.7, 61.3, 65.9, 80.0, 92.0, 122.5, 126.9, 128.5, 128.6, 128.9, 132.8, 134.0, 135.7, 138.2, 172.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 747, 1093, 1369, 1494, 1549, 1637, 1721, 3434.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4$ (M^+): Calculated 440.1503, found 440.1500 (one of the peaks).

3.3. 2-Nitro-3-styryl-1-(4-methylphenyl)-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (6c)



6c

Yield: 80 % (348 mg, 0.80 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

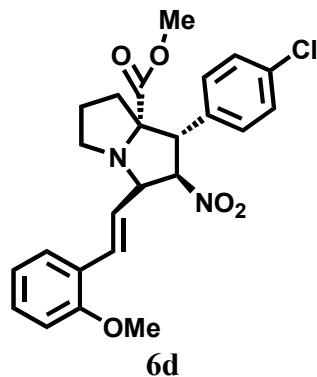
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.76 (3H, d, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 1.04 (3H, d, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 1.25-1.37 (2H, m), 1.92-2.06 (2H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.69-2.74 (1H, m), 2.91-2.96 (1H, m), 3.22-3.25 (1H, m), 4.13 (1H, d, $J = 11.1$ Hz), 4.60-4.64 (1H, m), 4.76-4.82 (1H, m), 6.07-6.13 (1H, m), 6.70 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.10 (5H, s), 7.25-7.39 (4H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.0, 21.4, 27.2, 35.4, 48.3, 55.0, 65.8, 68.8, 80.1, 92.4, 132.0, 126.5, 126.9, 127.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.3, 131.2, 135.8, 137.6, 137.9, 172.7.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 747, 1105, 1180, 1374, 1550, 1647, 1724, 2925, 2979, 3027.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 434.2206, found 434.2202.

3.4. 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-nitro-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (6d)



6d

Yield: 75 % (342 mg, 0.75 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 56-60 °C.

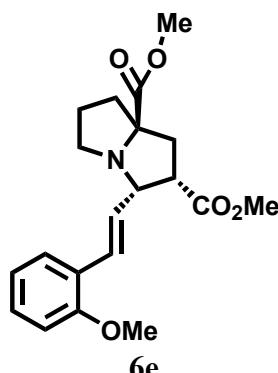
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.90-2.04 (4H, m), 2.68-2.71 (1H, m), 2.91-2.93 (1H, m), 3.25-3.28 (1H, m), 3.42 (3H, s), 3.84 (3H, s), 4.08-4.15 (1H, m), 4.77 (1H, dd, $J = 10.2, 7.8$ Hz), 6.03-6.16 (1H, m), 6.85-6.93 (1H, m), 7.01 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.22-7.37 (4H, m), 7.38 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 27.2, 35.4, 48.5, 52.1, 54.7, 55.5, 66.5, 80.2, 91.8, 111.0, 120.6, 122.8, 124.7, 127.5, 128.6, 129.0, 132.7, 133.3, 134.0, 157.0, 173.3.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 752, 102, 1175, 1246, 1491, 1549, 158, 1642, 1734, 2949.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_5(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 456.1452, found 456.1449 (one of the peaks).

3.5. 3-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-tetrahydropyrrrolizine-2,7a-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (6e)



Yield: 84 % (301 mg, 0.84 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

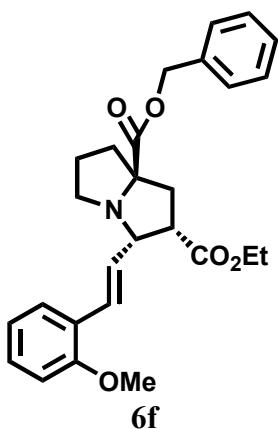
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.79-1.89 (3H, m), 2.14-2.29 (3H, m), 2.60 (1H, q, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 2.84-2.88 (1H, m), 3.09-3.15 (1H, m), 3.54 (3H, s), 3.72 (3H, s), 3.80 (3H, s), 4.17 (1H, dd, $J = 10.5, 7.5$ Hz), 5.94 (1H, dd, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 10.5 Hz), 6.79-6.90 (3H, m), 7.17-7.22 (1H, m), 7.33 (1H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 27.7, 36.3, 37.1, 48.7, 49.9, 51.7, 52.4, 55.4, 67.7, 110.8, 120.5, 125.6, 126.2, 127.1, 128.9, 130.2, 156.7, 172.1, 176.9.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 753, 1028, 1196, 1245, 1489, 1597, 1735, 2951.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 359.1733, found 359.1737.

3.6. 3-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-tetrahydropyrrrolizine-2,7a-dicarboxylic acid 7a-benzyl ester 2-ethyl ester (6f)



Yield: 82 % (368 mg, 0.82 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

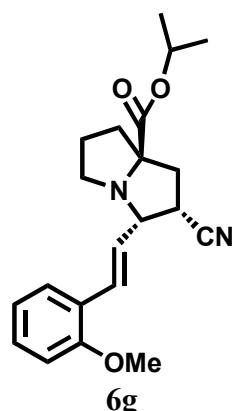
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.11 (3H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.75-1.87 (2H, m), 2.16-2.30 (3H, m), 2.62 (1H, q, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 2.88-2.92 (1H, m), 3.12-3.14 (1H, m), 3.49-3.57 (1H, m), 3.82 (3H, s), 3.97-4.04 (2H, m), 4.20 (1H, dd, $J = 10.5, 7.5$ Hz), 5.18-5.19 (2H, m), 5.96 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 10.5$ Hz), 6.82-6.92 (2H, m), 7.19-7.26 (3H, m), 7.31-7.38 (5H, m).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 27.9, 36.2, 37.1, 48.7, 49.9, 55.3, 60.5, 66.6, 67.8, 110.8, 120.5, 125.6, 126.3, 127.1, 127.9, 128.1, 128.5, 128.8, 130.2, 136.2, 156.7, 171.7, 176.2.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 752, 1029, 1179, 1245, 1375, 1489, 1597, 1731, 2957.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_5(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 449.2202, found 449.2200.

3.7. 2-Cyano-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (**6g**)



Yield: 80 % (283 mg, 0.80 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow oil.

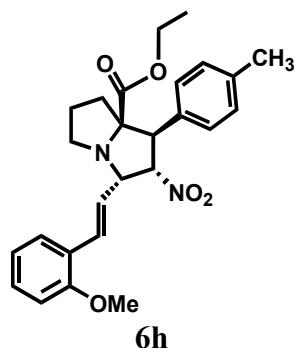
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.27-1.31 (6H, m), 1.59-1.65 (1H, m), 1.76-1.83 (1H, m), 2.06 (2H, bs), 2.39 (2H, dd, *J* = 13.2, 8.4 Hz), 2.60-2.68 (1H, s), 2.87-2.94 (1H, m), 3.04-3.07 (1H, m), 3.84 (3H, s), 4.15 (1H, t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 5.03-5.07 (1H, m), 6.30 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.2, 7.2 Hz), 6.88-6.95 (1H, m), 7.06 (1H, d, *J* = 16.2 Hz), 7.22-7.26 (2H, m), 7.40-7.43 (1H, m).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.7, 25.6, 29.6, 31.5, 37.4, 40.9, 49.7, 55.5, 68.9, 69.2, 75.1, 111.0, 119.9, 120.6, 124.0, 125.2, 127.2, 129.2, 130.3, 157.0, 174.1.

FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1078, 1199, 1352, 1533, 1612, 1701, 2923.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₁H₂₆N₂O₃ (M⁺): Calculated 354.1943, found 354.1946.

3.3. 3-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-2-nitro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**6h**)



Yield: 88 % (396 mg, 0.88 mmol).

Characteristic: Yellow solid.

Melting point: 112-115 °C.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.97 (3H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 1.92-2.05 (4H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.70-2.76 (1H, m), 2.89-2.96 (1H, m), 3.24-3.32 (1H, m), 3.73-3.79 (1H, m), 3.83 (3H, s), 3.85-3.91 (1H, m), 4.15 (1H, d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 4.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2, 8.1 Hz), 6.07-6.20 (1H, m), 6.84-6.94 (2H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, *J* = 15.6 Hz), 7.11 (4H, s), 7.22-7.24 (1H, m), 7.40 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 13.7, 21.0, 27.2, 35.5, 48.6, 55.0, 55.5, 61.1, 66.5, 80.1, 92.1, 111.0, 120.6, 123.3, 124.9, 127.1, 127.5, 129.4, 129.5, 131.2, 132.9, 137.6, 157.0, 173.2.

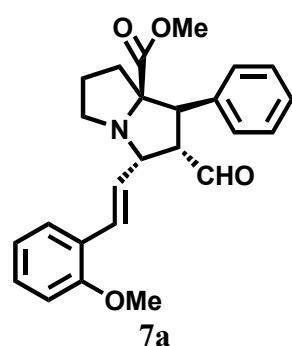
FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 774, 1027, 1109, 1187, 1244, 1378, 1488, 1544, 1638, 1724, 107, 2865, 2960.

HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₆H₃₀N₂O₅ (M⁺): Calculated 450.2155, found 450.2152.

4. General procedure for pseudo 3-component reaction to tetrahydropyrrolizines (7a-l) and characterization data

The solution of proline ester (**1**, 1 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) was taken in a round-bottom flasks (25 mL) and stirred at room temperature. (a) Two different α,β -unsaturated aldehydes (**3X** and **3Y**, 1.0 mmol each) or (b) a single α,β -unsaturated aldehyde (**3**, 2.0 mmol) were added in the reaction mixtures. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and the reaction was complete after 10-17 min depending on the use of the substrates. The post-reaction mixture was filtered, washed with of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 10 mL) and 1 x 10 mL brine solution, dried on activated sodium sulphate, and concentrated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at room temperature. Thus, the reaction with proline methyl ester (**1a**, 129 mg, 1 mmol), *o*-methoxycinnamaldehyde (**3a**, 162 mg, 1.0 mmol) and cinnamaldehyde (**3b**, 132 mg, 1.0 mmol) afforded a mixture of **7a**, **7b**, **7c** and **7d** after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as an eluent in a combined yield of 83 % (0.83 mmol) whereas the reaction with proline methyl ester (**1a**, 129 mg, 1 mmol) and *o*-methoxycinnamaldehyde (**3a**, 325 mg, 2.0 mmol) afforded **7f** (**7b**) after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (60-120 mesh) with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:9, v/v) as an eluent in a yield of 86% (374 mg, 0.86 mmol). The tetrahydropyrrolizines (**7a-l**) were characterized by NMR, FT-IR and ESI-MS spectroscopy.

4.1. 2-Formyl-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1-phenyl-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**7a**)



Yield: 32 % (130 mg, 0.32 mmol; cross coupling product).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

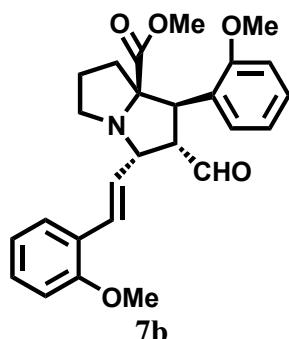
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.67-1.78 (2H, m), 2.04-2.11 (2H, m), 2.63-2.71 (1H, m), 3.03-3.05 (1H, m), 3.42-3.51 (1H, m), 3.71 (3H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 4.55-4.68 (2H, m), 6.38 (1H, dd, J = 15.9, 7.5 Hz), 6.73-6.82 (2H, m), 6.92 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.11-7.40 (7H, m), 9.61 (1H, d, J = 4.8 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.7, 31.2, 48.3, 50.9, 52.4, 54.8, 55.9, 65.0, 110.0, 120.5, 124.1, 125.9, 126.6, 127.1, 128.1, 128.4, 135.2, 136.2, 156.9, 175.1, 201.2.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 694, 1078, 1170, 1320, 1440, 1530, 1600, 1670, 2978, 3065.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_4(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 405.1940, found 405.1938.

4.2. 2-Formyl-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-hexahydro-pentalene-3a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7b)



Yield: 40 % (173 mg, 0.40 mmol; cross coupling product).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

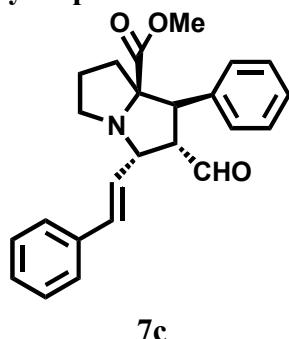
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.59-1.65 (2H, m), 1.97-2.01 (2H, m), 2.50-2.59 (1H, m), 2.94-3.02 (1H, m), 3.41-3.49 (1H, m), 3.63 (3H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.82 (3H, s), 4.50-4.60 (2H, m), 6.32 (1H, dd, J = 16.2, 7.5 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 6.78-6.87 (3H, m), 6.96-7.03 (1H, m), 7.11-7.34 (3H, m), 7.36 (1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 9.54 (1H, d, J = 4.5 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 25.7, 31.2, 48.2, 50.8, 52.4, 54.8, 55.5, 55.8, 65.5, 110.0, 111.0, 120.4, 120.6, 125.4, 126.0, 127.1, 127.2, 128.3, 129.1, 130.2, 137.4, 156.9, 157.0, 201.2.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 697, 1075, 1166, 1312, 1348, 1437, 1524, 1596, 1666, 2976, 3065.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_5(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 435.2046, found 435.2050.

4.3. 2-Formyl-3-phenyl-1-styryl-hexahydro-pentalene-3a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7c)



7c

Yield: 8 % (30 mg, 0.08 mmol; cross coupling product).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

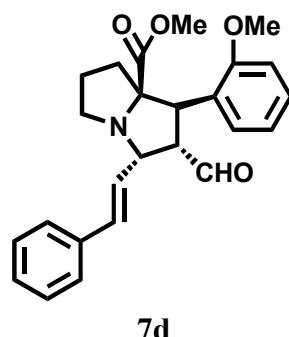
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.72-1.79 (2H, m), 1.93-2.06 (2H, m), 2.78-2.81 (1H, m), 3.08-3.10 (1H, m), 3.48-3.53 (1H, m), 3.88 (3H, s), 4.44-4.51 (2H, m), 6.39 (1H, dd, J = 16.2, 7.5 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz), 7.18-7.40 (10H, m), 9.62 (1H, d, J = 4.2 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.6, 32.7, 50.9, 53.0, 56.7, 65.5, 78.6, 126.6, 127.3, 127.5, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 129.0, 135.2, 136.1, 136.5, 176.0, 200.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 734, 1105, 1233, 1385, 147, 1634, 1727, 284, 2919.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 375.1834, found 375.1836.

4.4. 2-Formyl-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-styryl-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7d)



7d

Yield: 3 % (13 mg, 0.03 mmol; cross coupling product).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

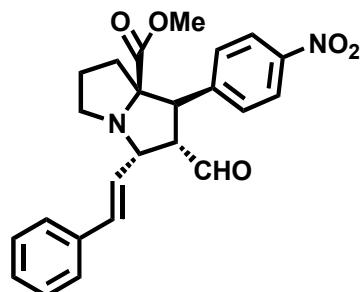
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.72-1.83 (2H, m), 1.86-1.98 (2H, m), 2.74-2.82 (1H, m), 3.06-3.08 (1H, m), 3.43-3.52 (1H, m), 3.85 (3H, s), 3.88 (3H, s), 4.48 (2H, d, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 6.41 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9$, 7.5 Hz), 6.86-6.92 (1H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.18-7.43 (8H, m), 9.64 (1H, d, $J = 4.5$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.6, 29.6, 31.9, 32.7, 50.8, 52.9, 56.7, 65.5, 78.6, 124.2, 126.6, 127.3, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 128.8, 129.2, 135.1, 136.2, 136.6, 156.4, 176.1, 200.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 697, 1075, 1166, 1312, 1348, 1437, 1524, 1596, 1666, 2976, 3065.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_4(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 405.1940, found 405.1938.

4.5. 2-Formyl-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7e)



7e

Yield: 21 % (90 mg, 0.21 mmol; cross coupling product).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

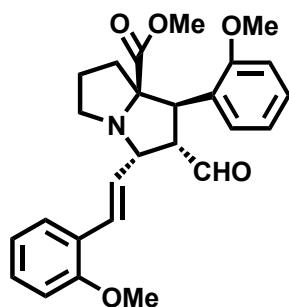
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.74-1.82 (2H, m), 2.72-2.80 (2H, m), 3.07-3.09 (1H, m), 3.14-3.34 (1H, m), 3.44-3.53 (1H, m), 3.88 (3H, s), 4.08-4.13 (1H, m), 4.45-4.52 (1H, m), 6.55-6.60 (1H, m), 6.79 (1H, d, $J = 15.9$ Hz), 7.17-7.41 (5H, m), 7.52 (2H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 8.20 (2H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 9.63 (1H, d, $J = 4.5$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.6, 29.6, 32.7, 52.9, 53.1, 56.7, 65.1, 78.6, 124.0, 124.0, 127.1, 127.4, 127.9, 128.7, 129.3, 132.9, 136.4, 142.5, 176.0, 200.8.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 697, 1075, 1166, 1312, 1348, 1437, 1524, 1596, 1666, 2976, 3065.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5(\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 420.1685, found 420.1682.

4.2. 2-Formyl-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-hexahdropentalene-3a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7f)



7f (7b)

Yield: 86 % (374 mg, 0.86 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

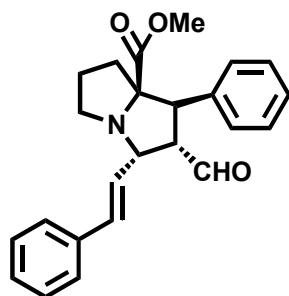
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.59-1.65 (2H, m), 1.97-2.01 (2H, m), 2.50-2.59 (1H, m), 2.94-3.02 (1H, m), 3.41-3.49 (1H, m), 3.63 (3H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.82 (3H, s), 4.50-4.60 (2H, m), 6.32 (1H, dd, J = 16.2, 7.5 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 6.78-6.87 (3H, m), 6.96-7.03 (1H, m), 7.11-7.34 (3H, m), 7.36 (1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 9.54 (1H, d, J = 4.5 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.1, 25.7, 31.2, 48.2, 50.8, 52.4, 54.8, 55.5, 55.8, 65.5, 110.0, 111.0, 120.4, 120.6, 125.4, 126.0, 127.1, 127.2, 128.3, 129.1, 130.2, 137.4, 156.9, 157.0, 201.2.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 697, 1075, 1166, 1312, 1348, 1437, 1524, 1596, 1666, 2976, 3065.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 435.2046, found 435.2050.

4.3. 2-Formyl-3-phenyl-1-styryl-hexahdropentalene-3a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7g)



7g (7c)

Yield: 76 % (285 mg, 0.76 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

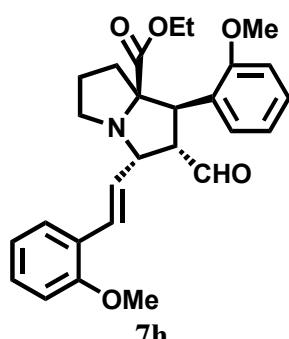
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.72-1.79 (2H, m), 1.93-2.06 (2H, m), 2.78-2.81 (1H, m), 3.08-3.10 (1H, m), 3.48-3.53 (1H, m), 3.88 (3H, s), 4.44-4.51 (2H, m), 6.39 (1H, dd, J = 16.2, 7.5 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, J = 15.9 Hz), 7.18-7.40 (10H, m), 9.62 (1H, d, J = 4.2 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.6, 32.7, 50.9, 53.0, 56.7, 65.5, 78.6, 126.6, 127.3, 127.5, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 129.0, 135.2, 136.1, 136.5, 176.0, 200.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 734, 1105, 1233, 1385, 147, 1634, 1727, 284, 2919.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3$ (M^+): Calculated 375.1834, found 375.1836.

4.6. 2-Formyl-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-hexahdropentalene-3a-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (7h)



Yield: 80 % (360 mg, 0.80 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

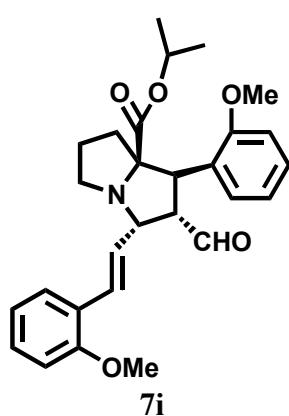
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.40 (3H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.66-1.71 (2H, m), 2.04-2.11 (2H, m), 2.63-2.70 (1H, m), 3.00 (1H, t, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 3.44-3.51 (1H, m), 3.70 (3H, s), 3.84 (3H, s), 4.23-4.40 (2H, m), 4.58 (1H, dd, $J = 10.2, 7.5$ Hz), 4.67 (1H, d, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 6.40 (1H, dd, $J = 16.2, 7.5$ Hz), 6.81 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 6.85-6.94 (3H, m), 7.04 (1H, d, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 7.18-7.26 (3H, m), 7.43 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 9.61 (1H, d, $J = 4.5$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 14.3, 25.8, 31.1, 48.3, 50.8, 54.7, 55.5, 56.1, 61.1, 65.5, 109.9, 110.9, 120.4, 120.5, 125.1, 125.5, 126.5, 127.1, 127.2, 128.2, 129.0, 129.8, 156.9, 157.0, 174.9, 201.6.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 752, 1029, 1248, 1463, 1491, 1724, 2850, 2926.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 449.2202, found 449.2200.

4.7. 2-Formyl-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-hexahdropentalene-3a-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester (7i)



Yield: 82 % (380 mg, 0.82 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

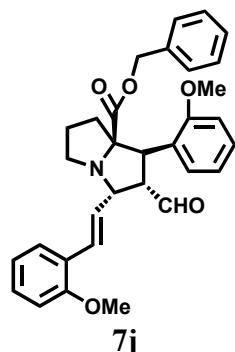
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.38 (6H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.63-1.75 (3H, m), 2.04-2.10 (1H, m), 2.62-2.63 (1H, m), 2.96-2.98 (1H, m), 3.46-3.47 (1H, m), 3.72 (3H, s), 3.85 (3H, s), 4.51-4.57 (1H, m), 4.67 (1H, d, $J = 11.7$ Hz), 5.10-5.15 (1H, m), 6.40 (1H, dd, $J = 16.2, 7.2$ Hz), 6.80-7.03 (4H, m), 7.18-7.42 (4H, m), 7.44 (1H, d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 9.60 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 22.0, 25.9, 31.0, 48.1, 50.7, 54.6, 55.5, 56.3, 65.3, 68.3, 110.0, 110.0, 120.5, 125.6, 126.8, 127.1, 127.2, 128.1, 128.9, 129.4, 156.9, 157.1, 174.0, 201.7.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 825, 1029, 1249, 1290, 1339, 1511, 1633, 1654, 1676, 1724, 2930.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_5$ (M^+): Calculated 463.2359, found 463.2362.

4.8. 2-Formyl-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-hexahydropentalene-3a-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (7j)



Yield: 84 % (429 mg, 0.84 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

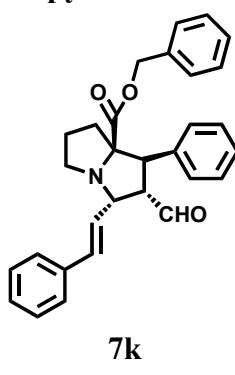
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.65-1.79 (2H, m), 2.04-2.14 (2H, m), 2.64-2.71 (1H, m), 3.04-3.06 (1H, m), 3.42 (3H, s), 3.45-3.56 (1H, m), 3.87 (3H, s), 4.57 (1H, dd, $J = 10.2, 7.5$ Hz), 4.67 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 5.35 (2H, dd, $J = 42.0, 12.6$ Hz), 6.43 (1H, dd, $J = 16.2, 7.5$ Hz), 6.78 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 6.88-6.97 (3H, m), 7.08 (1H, d, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 7.21-7.30 (4H, m), 7.35-7.53 (5H, m), 9.62 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.5, 25.8, 31.2, 48.2, 50.8, 54.4, 55.5, 55.9, 65.3, 66.9, 109.9, 111.0, 120.4, 120.6, 124.0, 125.4, 126.2, 126.9, 127.1, 127.2, 127.6, 127.9, 128.0, 128.3, 128.5, 129.1, 130.1, 136.5, 157.0, 174.3, 174.4, 201.2.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}): 1027, 1247, 1462, 1491, 1599, 1731, 2927.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_5 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 511.2359, found 511.2355.

4.9. 2-Formyl-1-phenyl-3-styryl-tetrahydropyrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid benzyl ester (7k)



Yield: 80 % (361 mg, 0.80 mmol).

Characteristic: Colourless solid.

Melting point: 186-192 °C.

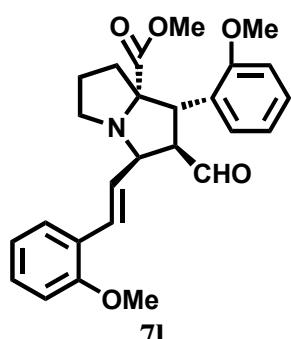
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.72-1.87 (2H, m), 1.93-2.17 (2H, m), 2.75-2.83 (1H, m), 3.09 (1H, t, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 3.41-3.55 (1H, m), 4.47-4.51 (2H, m), 5.33 (2H, q, $J = 12.3$ Hz), 6.40 (1H, dd, $J = 15.9, 7.2$ Hz), 6.72 (1H, d, $J = 16.2$ Hz), 7.05-7.07 (2H, m), 7.21-7.38 (5H, m), 7.41-7.47 (8H, m), 9.58 (1H, d, $J = 4.5$ Hz).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 25.7, 32.5, 50.9, 53.0, 56.8, 65.6, 67.2, 78.7, 124.4, 126.6, 127.2, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.5, 128.6, 134.9, 135.9, 136.2, 136.6, 175.4, 201.1.

FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 697, 751, 1117, 1157, 1451, 1497, 1723, 2925.

HR-MS (m/z) for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_3 (\text{M}^+)$: Calculated 451.2147, found 451.2144.

4.10. 2-Formyl-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-tetrahydropyrrrolizine-7a-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**7l**)



Yield: 85% (318 mg, 0.85 mmol).

Characteristic: Brown liquid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.65-1.69 (2H, m), 2.04-2.09 (2H, m), 2.63-2.71 (1H, m), 2.98-3.02 (1H, m), 3.41-3.50 (1H, m), 3.70 (3H, s), 3.84 (3H, s), 3.88 (3H, s), 4.54-4.67 (2H, m), 6.40 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.5 Hz), 6.80 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 6.84-6.94 (3H, m), 7.05 (1H, d, *J* = 15.9 Hz), 7.18-7.26 (3H, m), 7.42 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 9.62 (1H, d, *J* = 4.8 Hz).

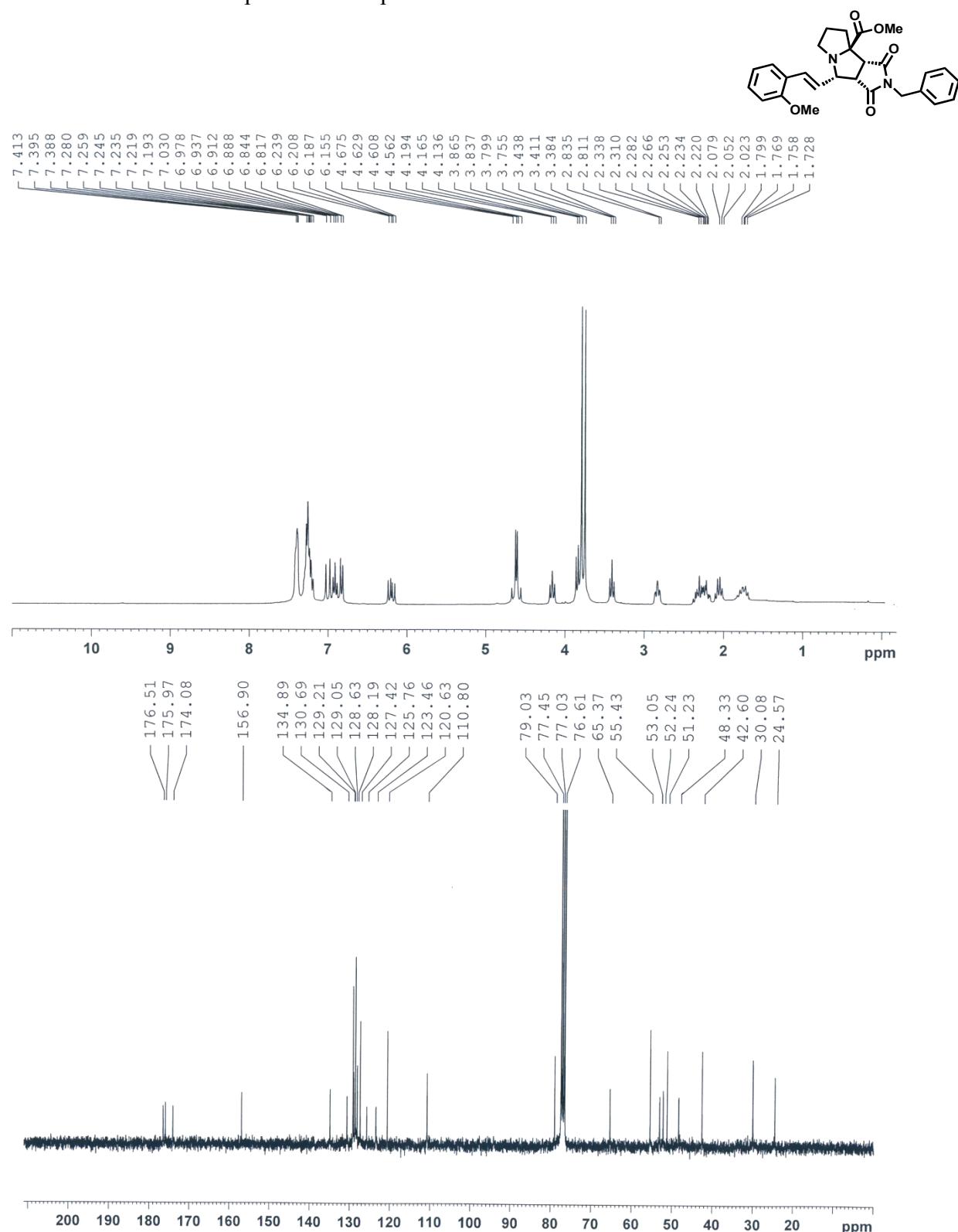
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.1, 21.0, 25.7, 31.2, 48.3, 50.8, 52.3, 54.8, 55.2, 55.5, 56.0, 60.3, 65.6, 109.9, 110.9, 120.5, 124.9, 125.4, 126.2, 128.8, 127.1, 127.2, 128.2, 129.0, 156.9, 171.1, 175.4, 201.5.

FT-IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 753, 1027, 1121, 1247, 1437, 1462, 1638, 1725, 2925.

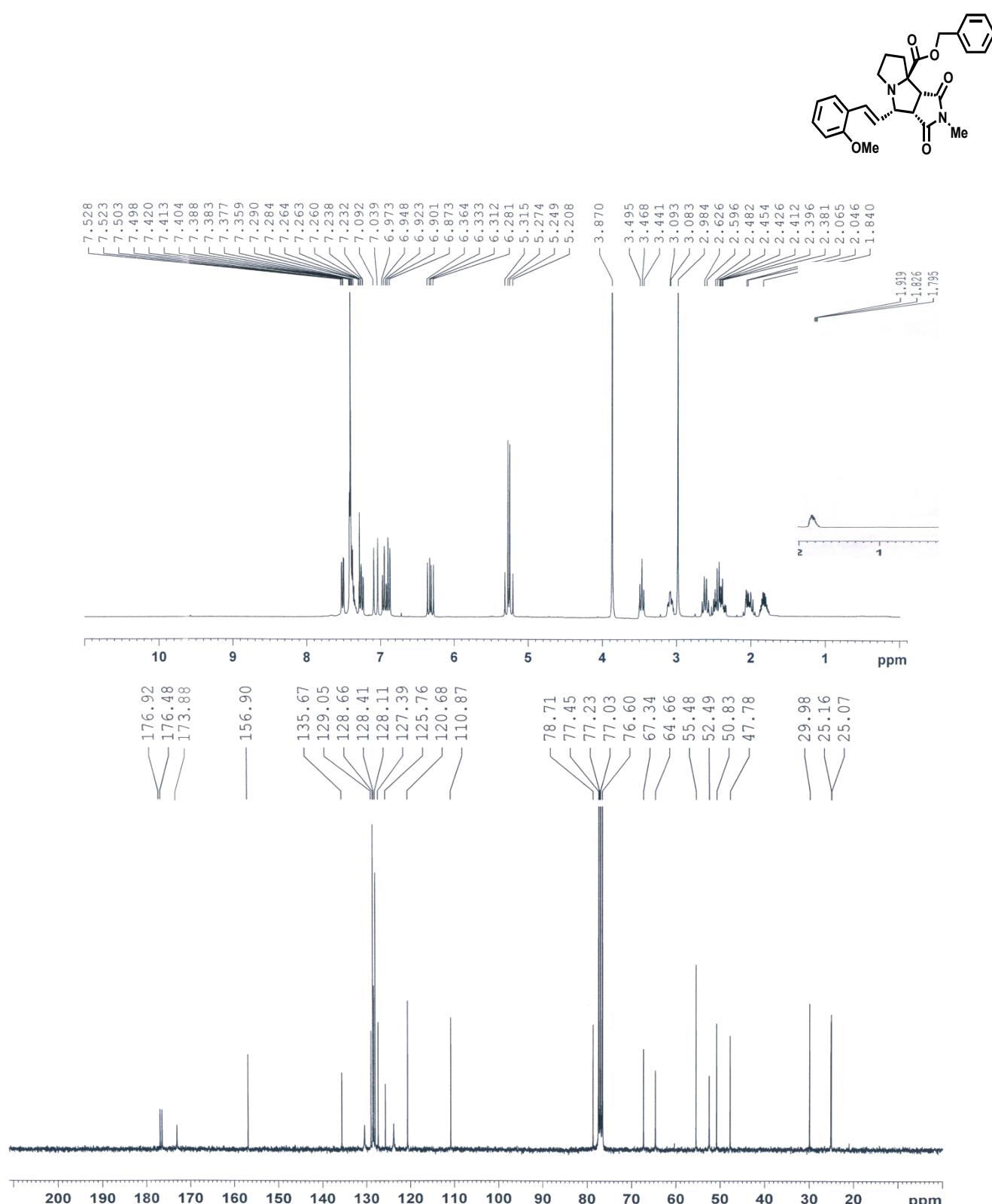
HR-MS (*m/z*) for C₂₆H₂₉NO₅ (M⁺): Calculated 435.2046, found 435.2049.

5. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the all new compounds (5a-o, 6a-h and 7a-l)

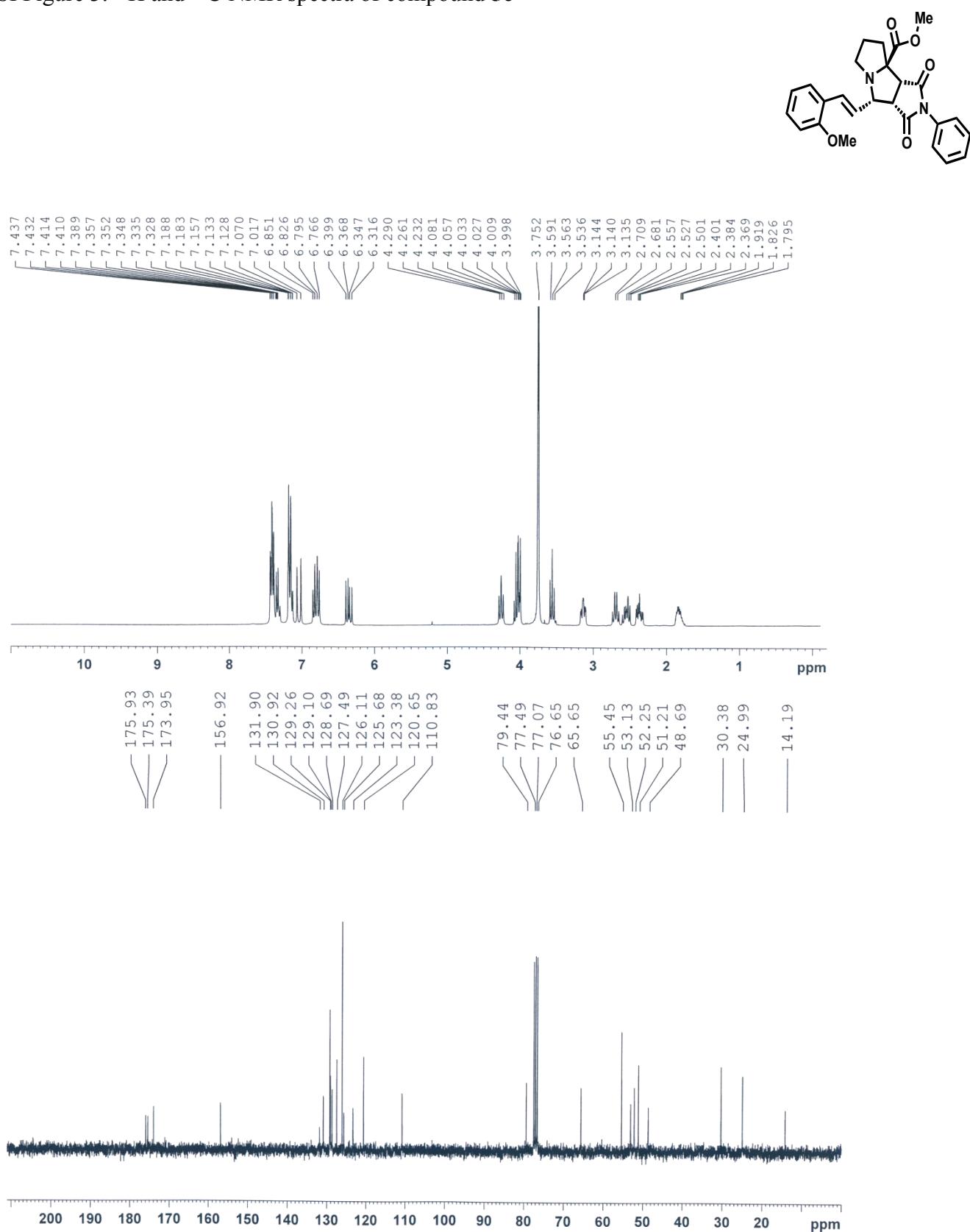
SI Figure 1: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 5a



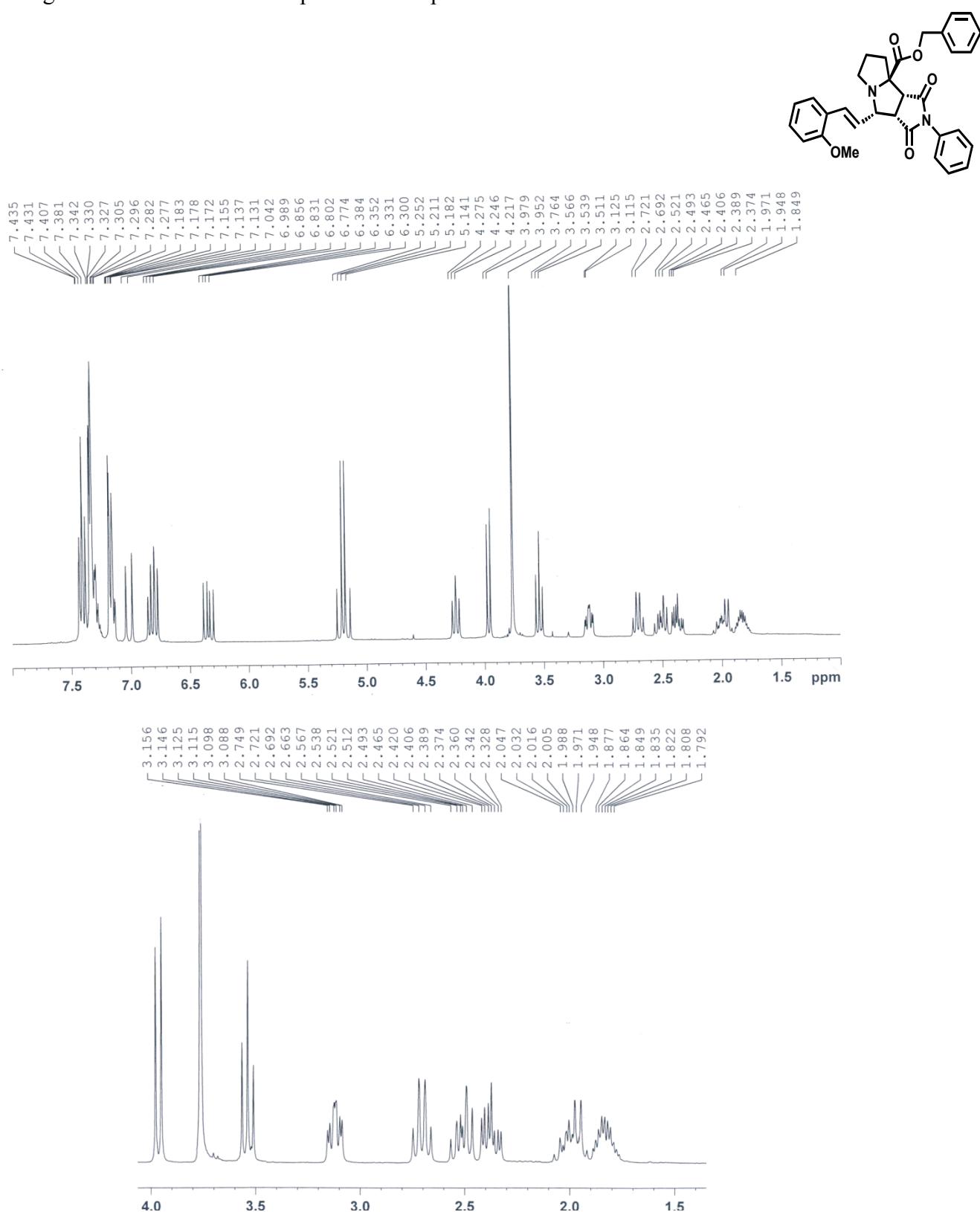
SI Figure 2: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5b**

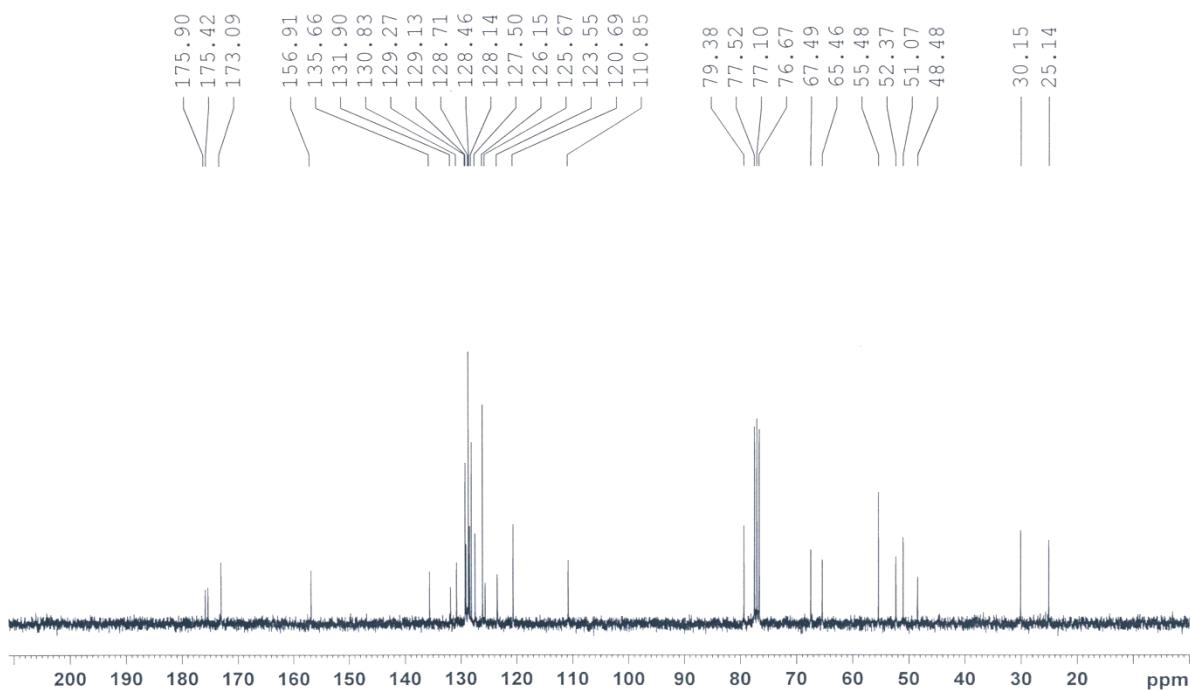


SI Figure 3: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5c**



SI Figure 4: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5d**

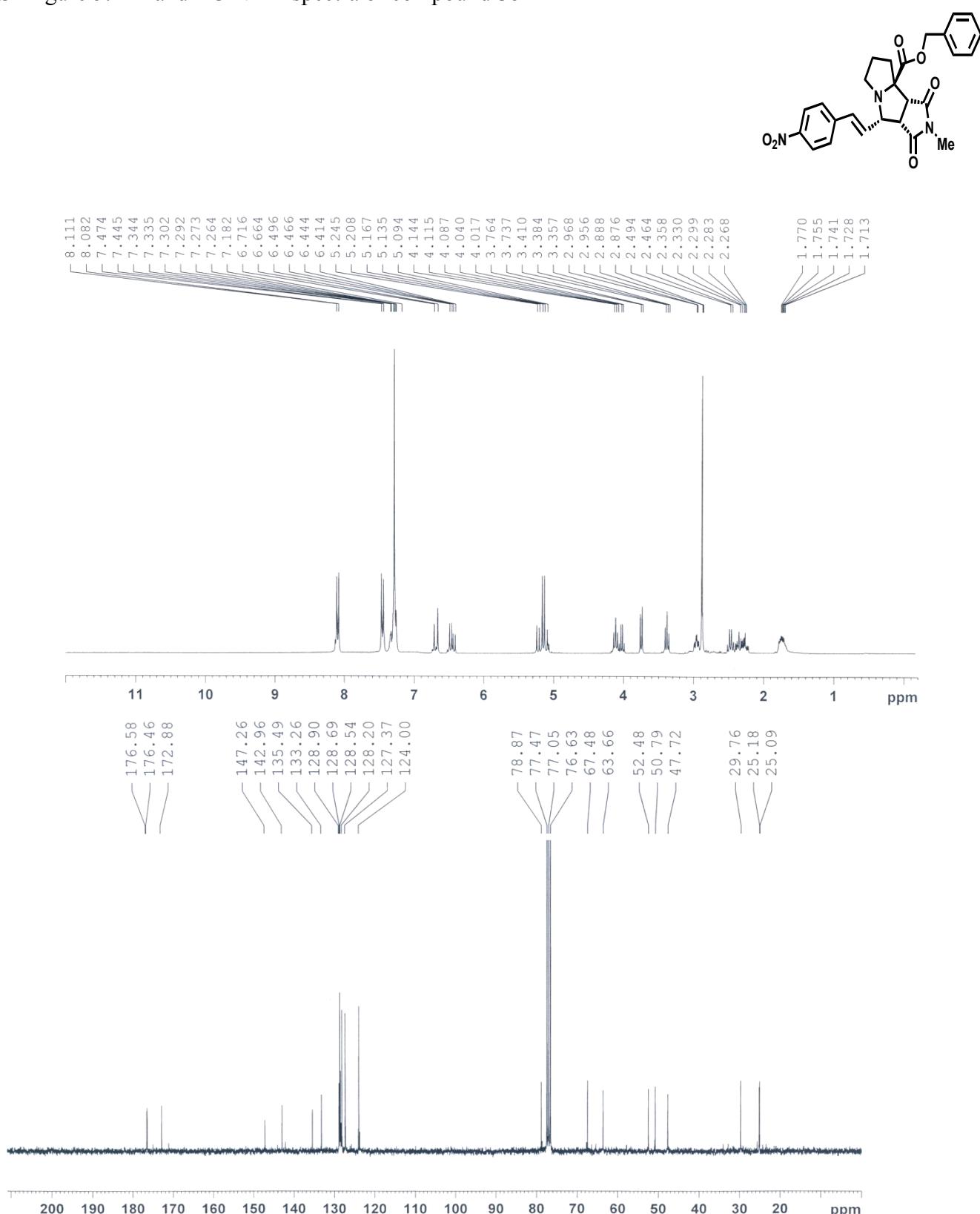




S25

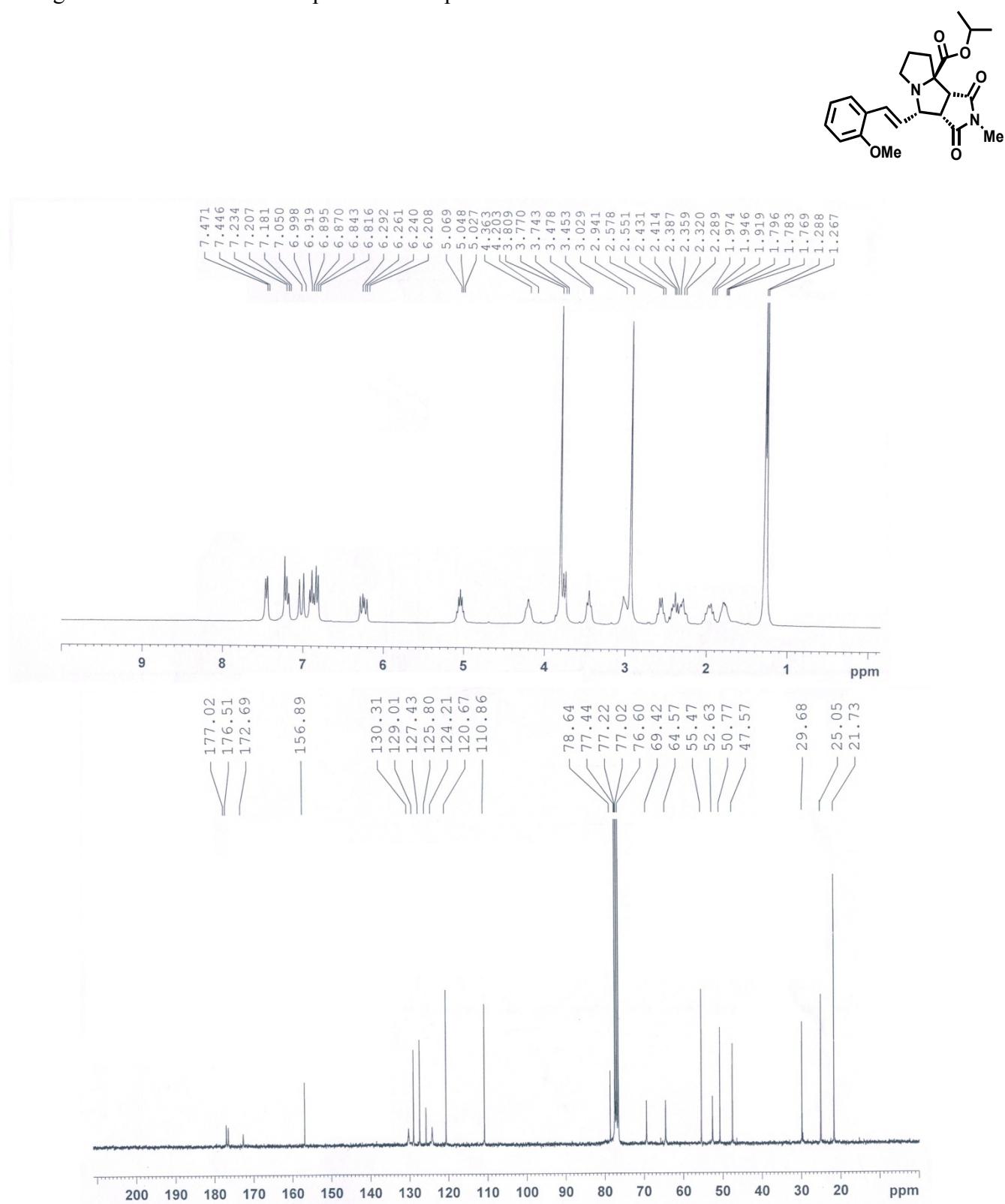
26

SI Figure 5: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5e**

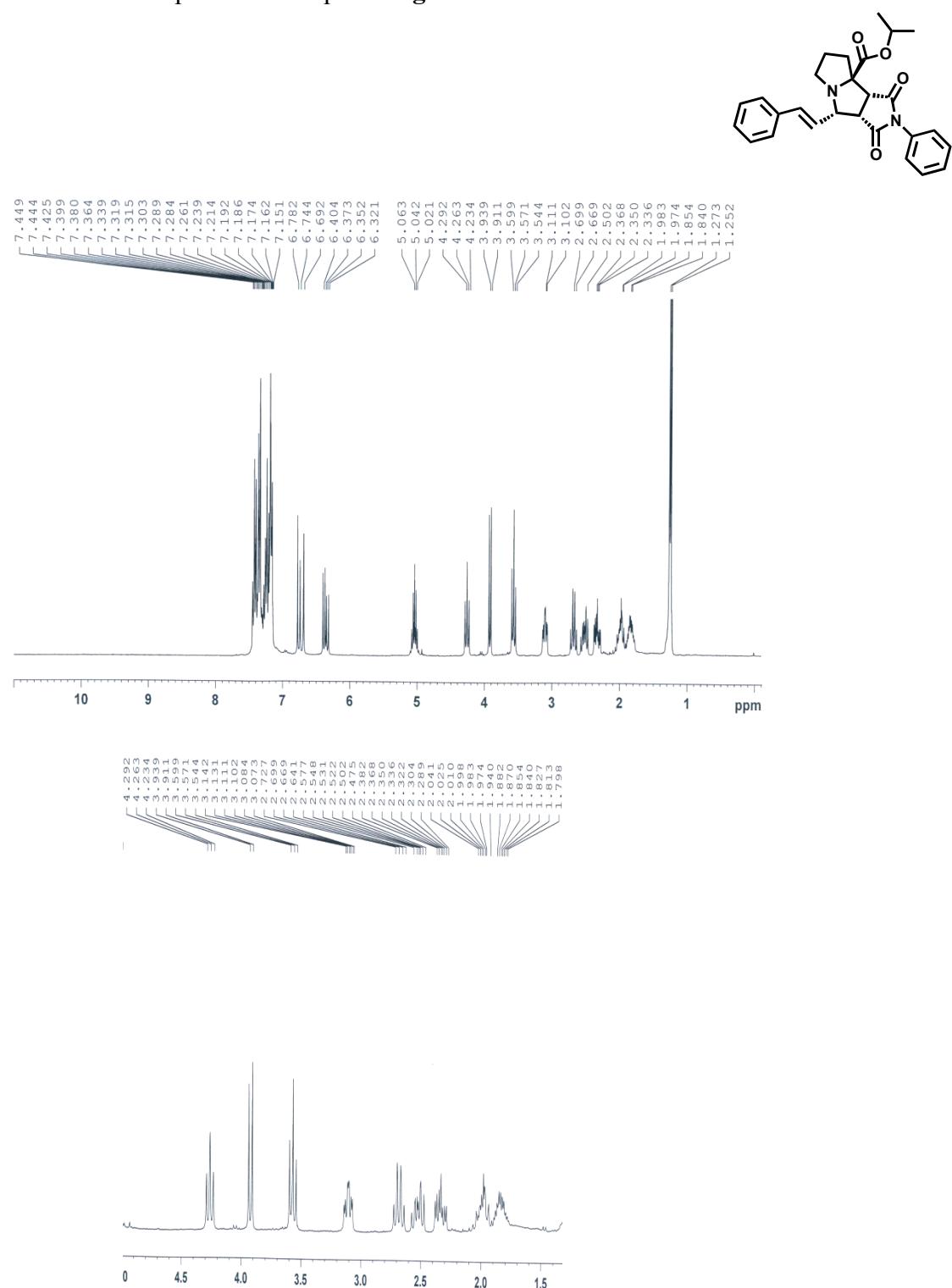


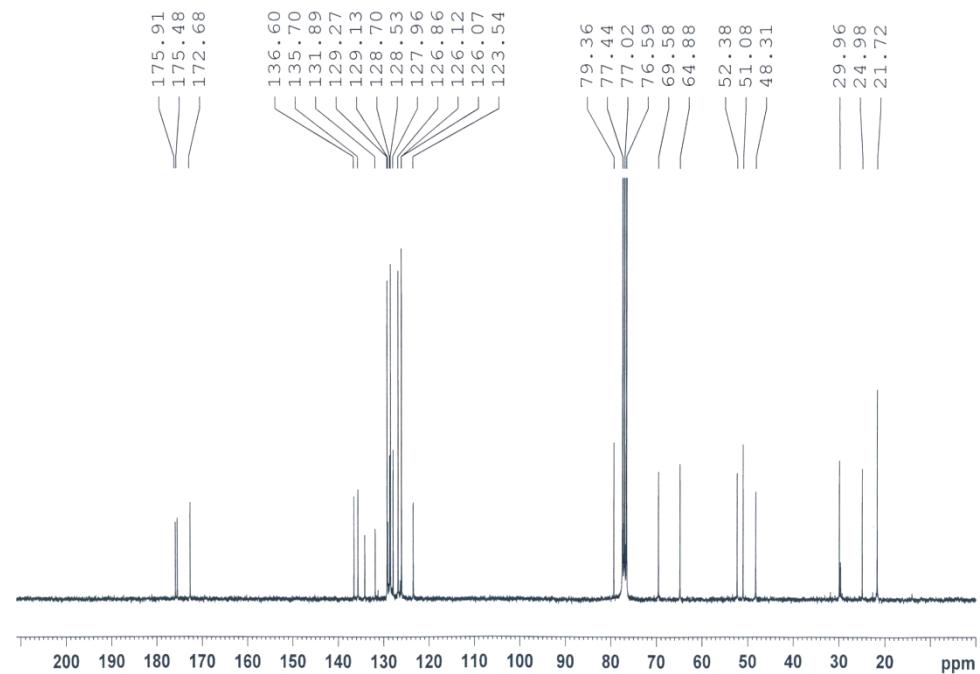
S27

SI Figure 6: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5f**



SI Figure 7: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5g**

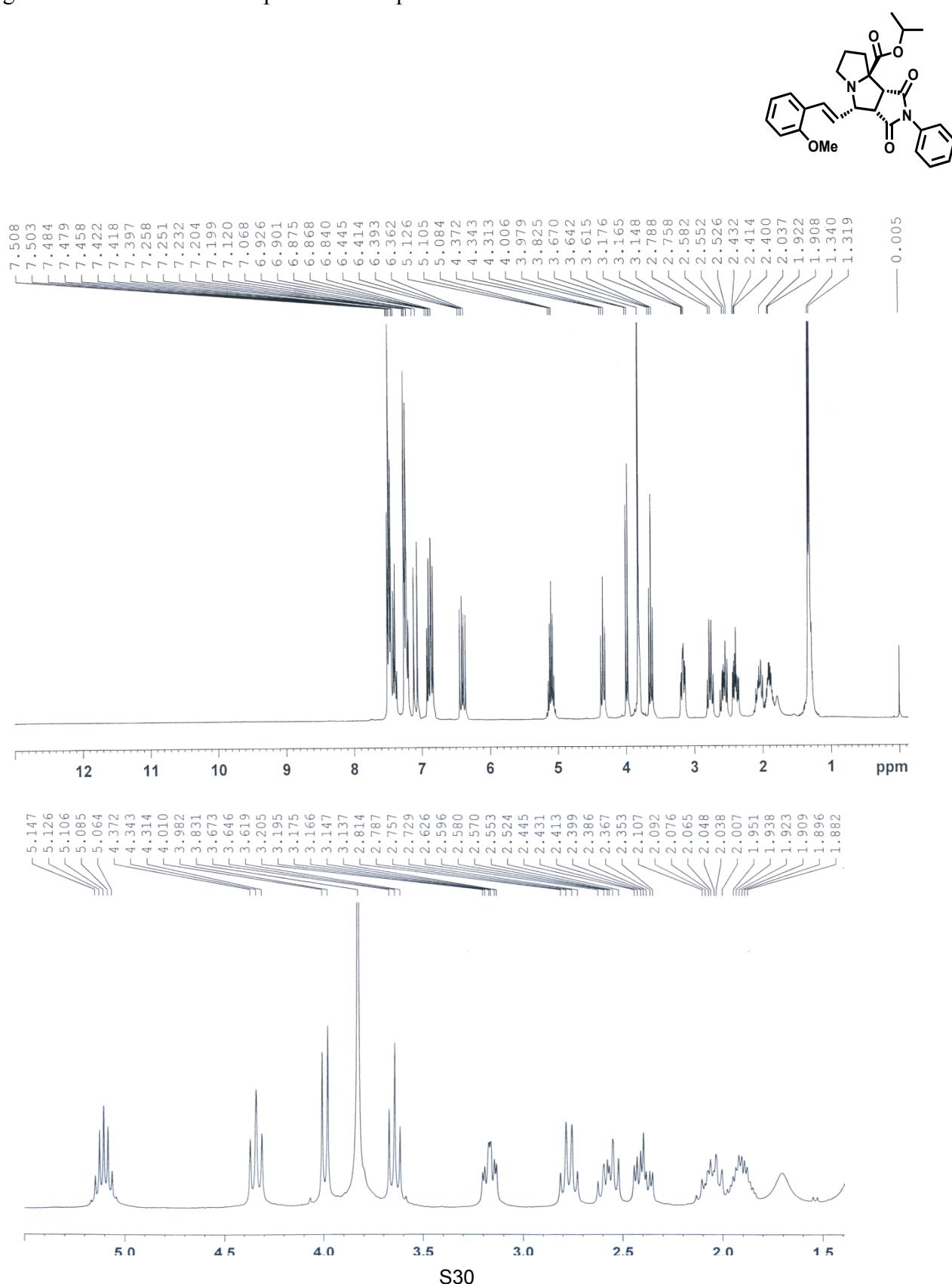


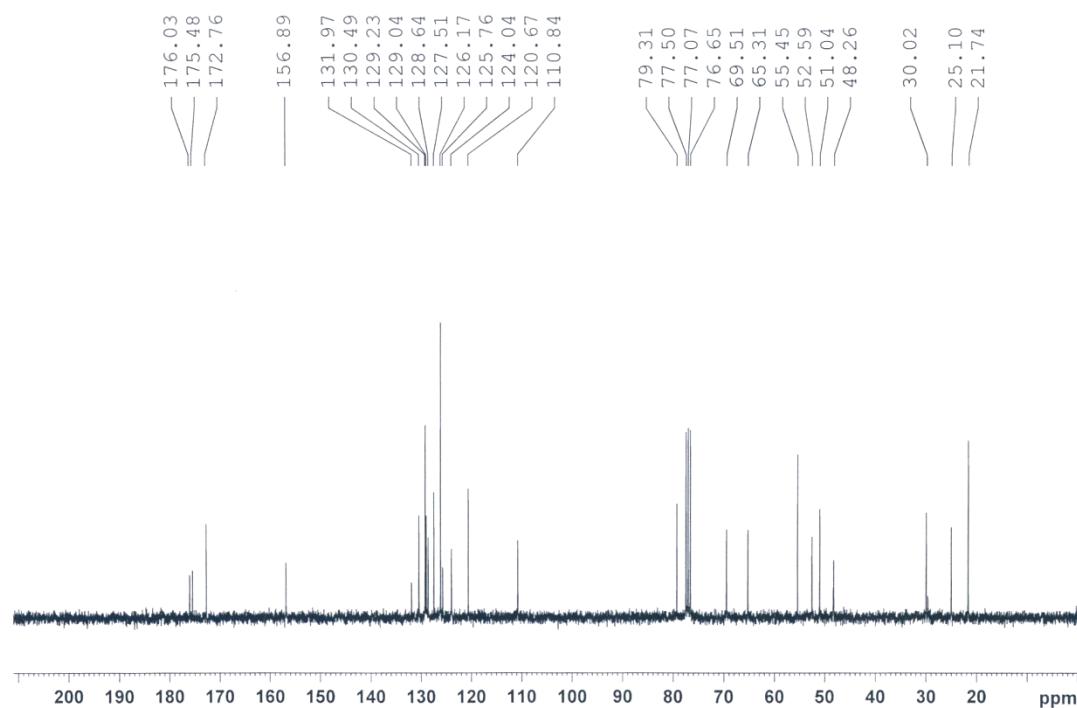


S29

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SI Figure 8: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5h**

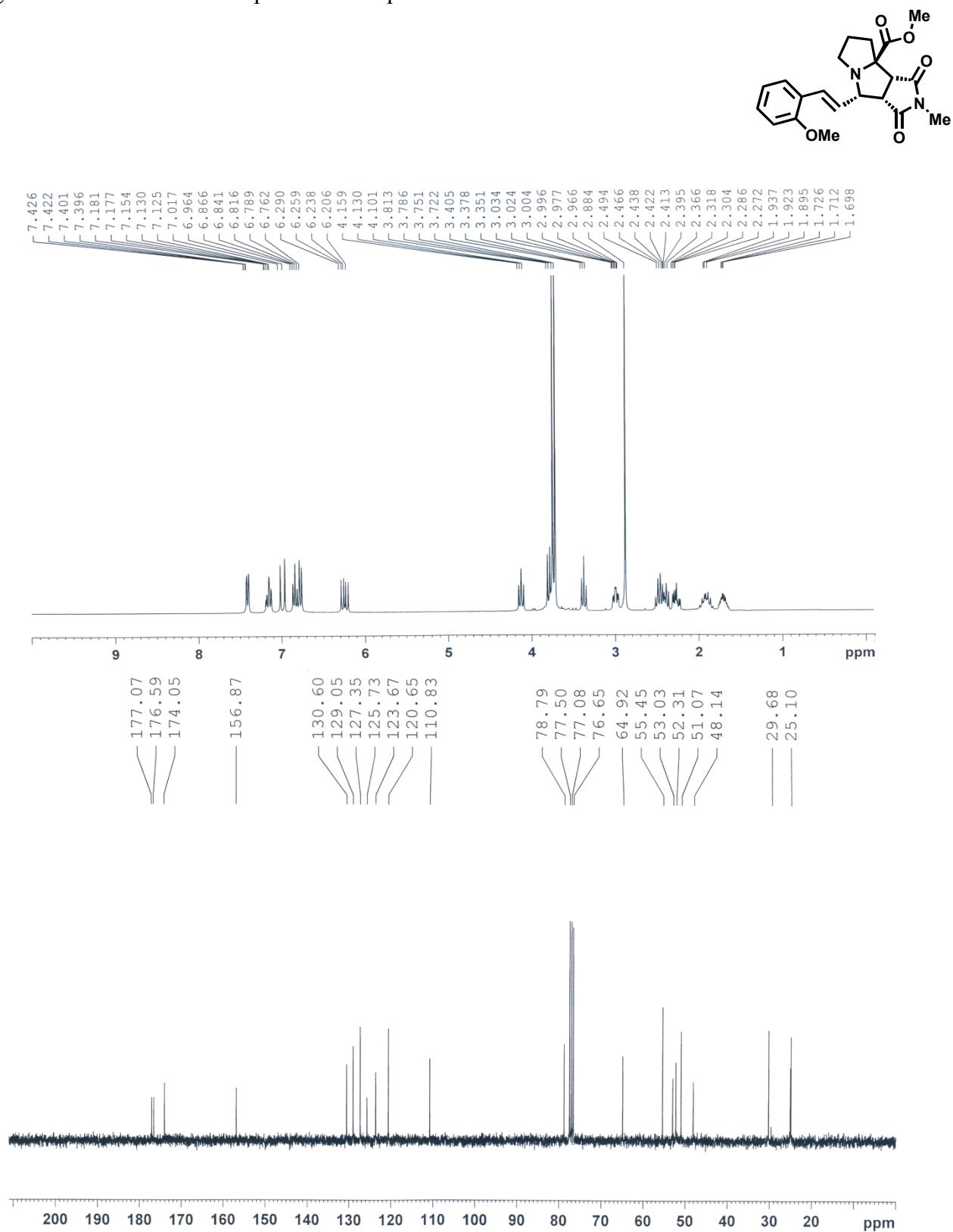




S31

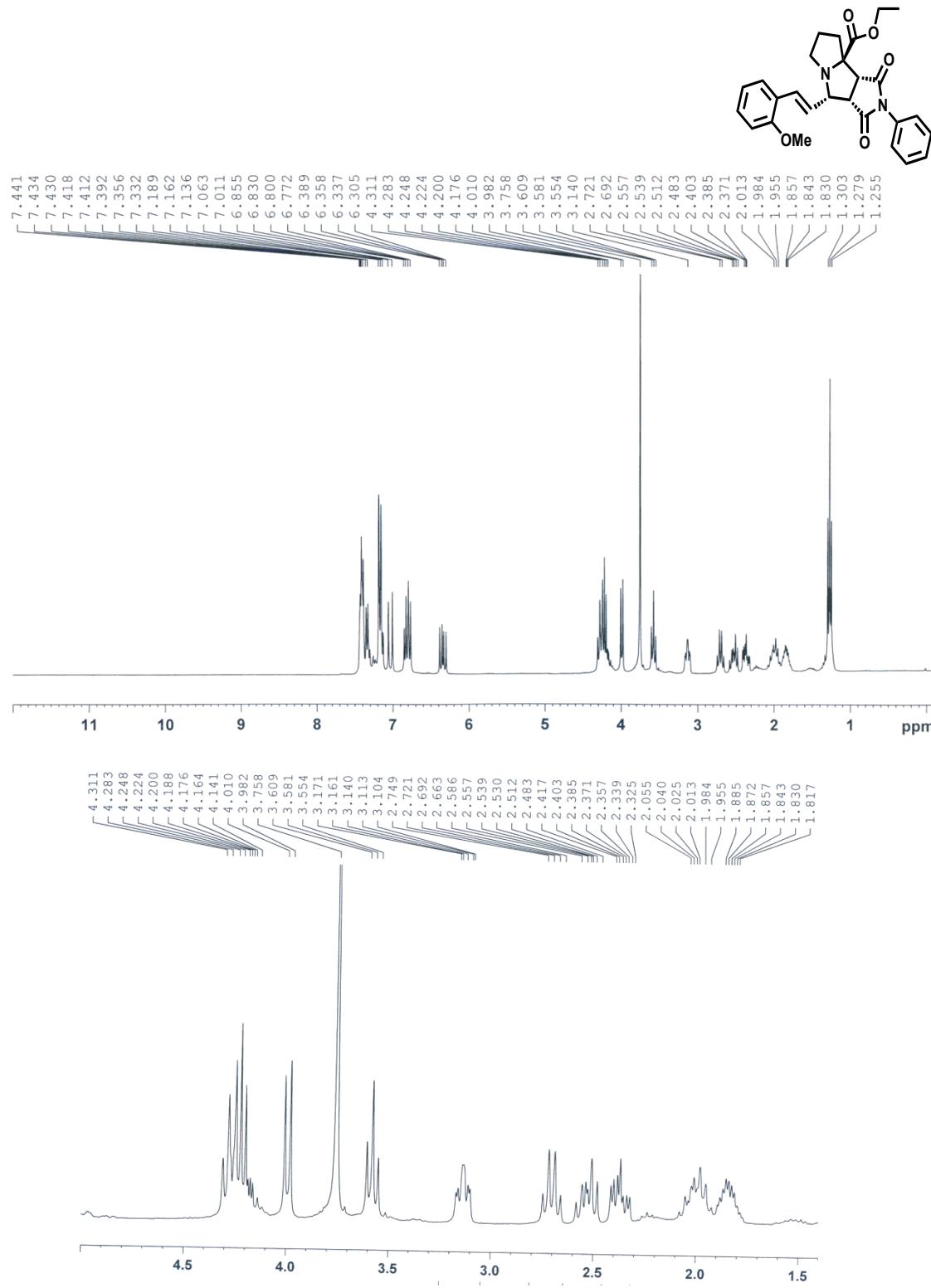
32

SI Figure 9: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5i**

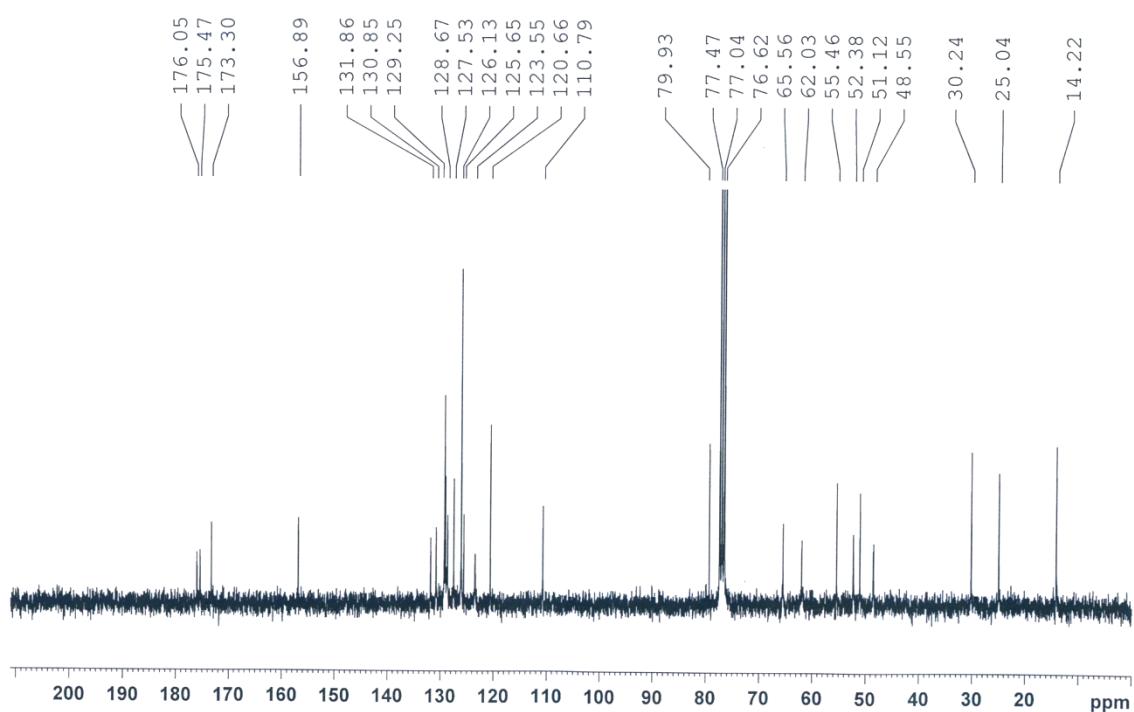


S32

SI Figure 10: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5j**



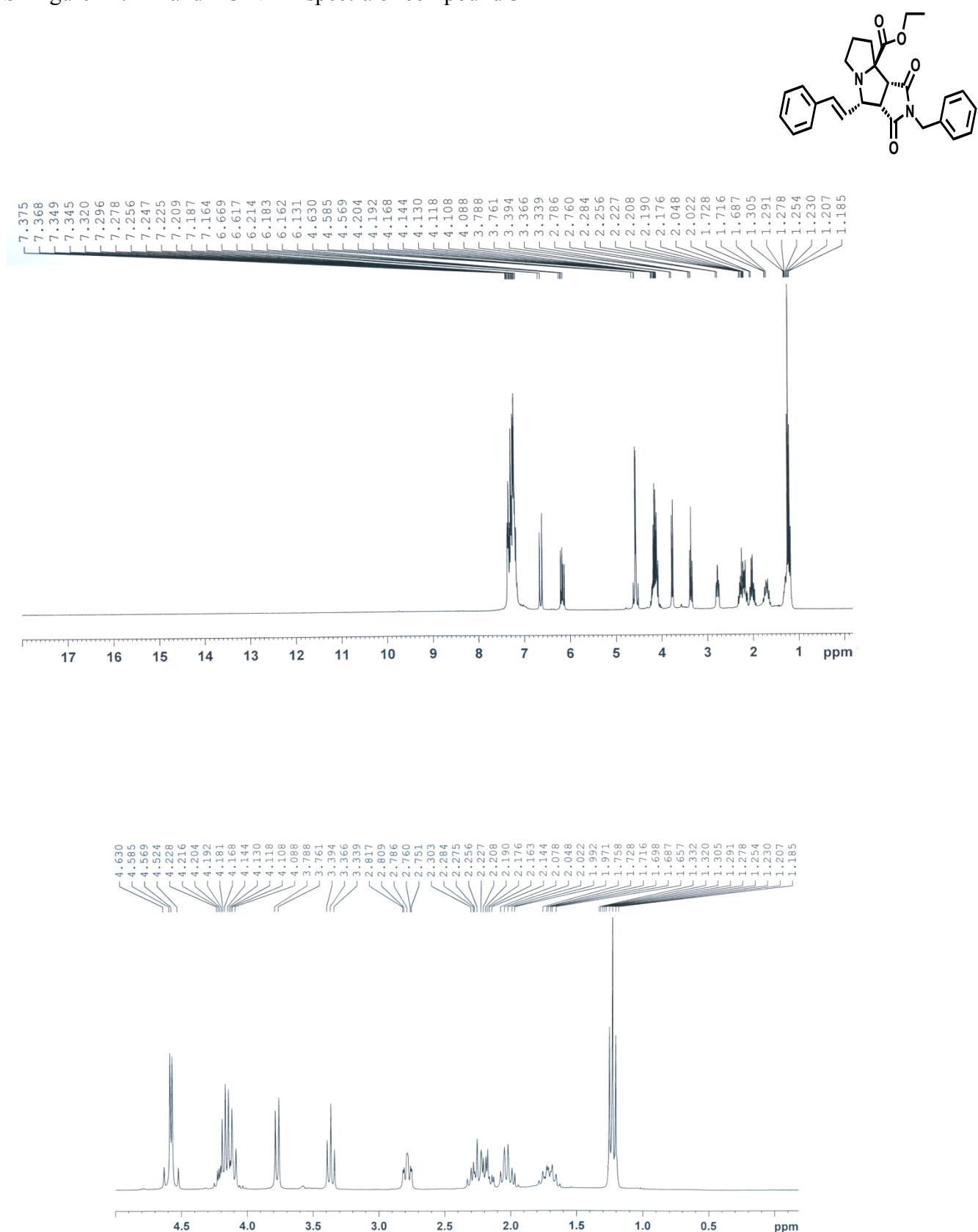
S33

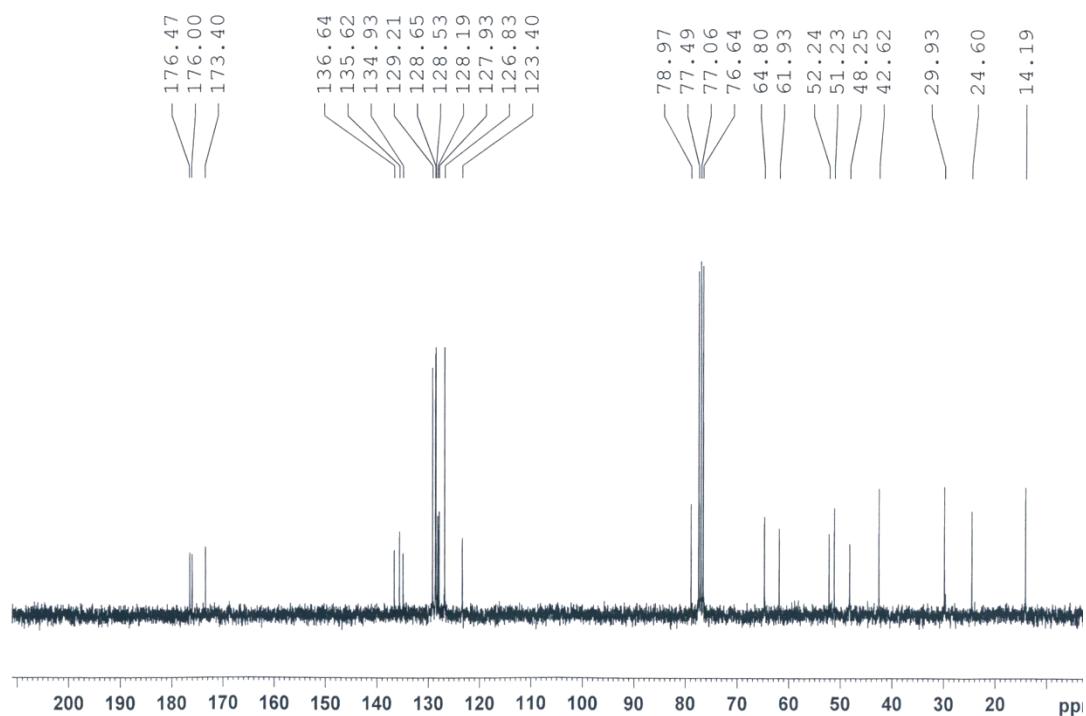


S34

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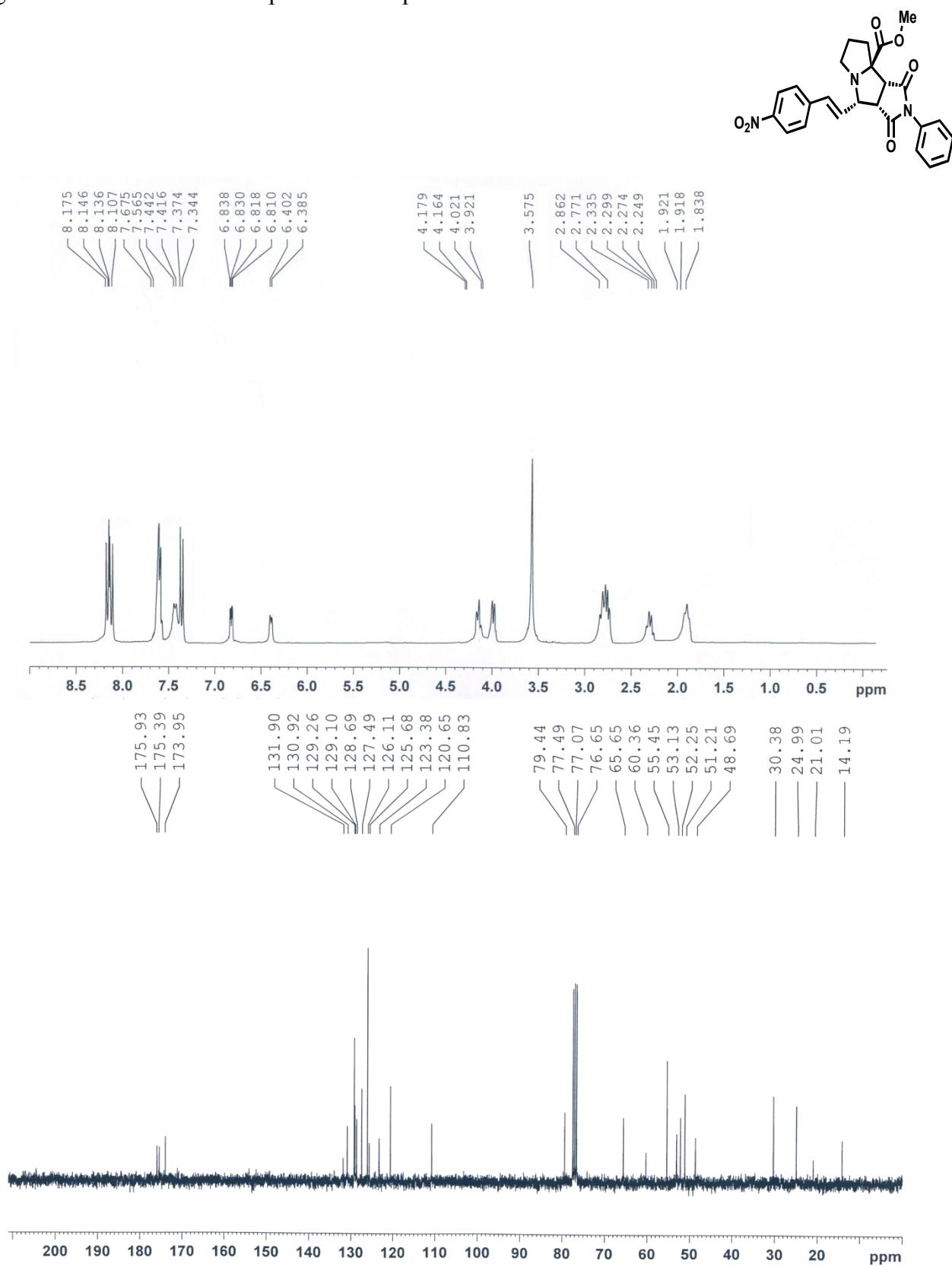
SI Figure 11: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5k**



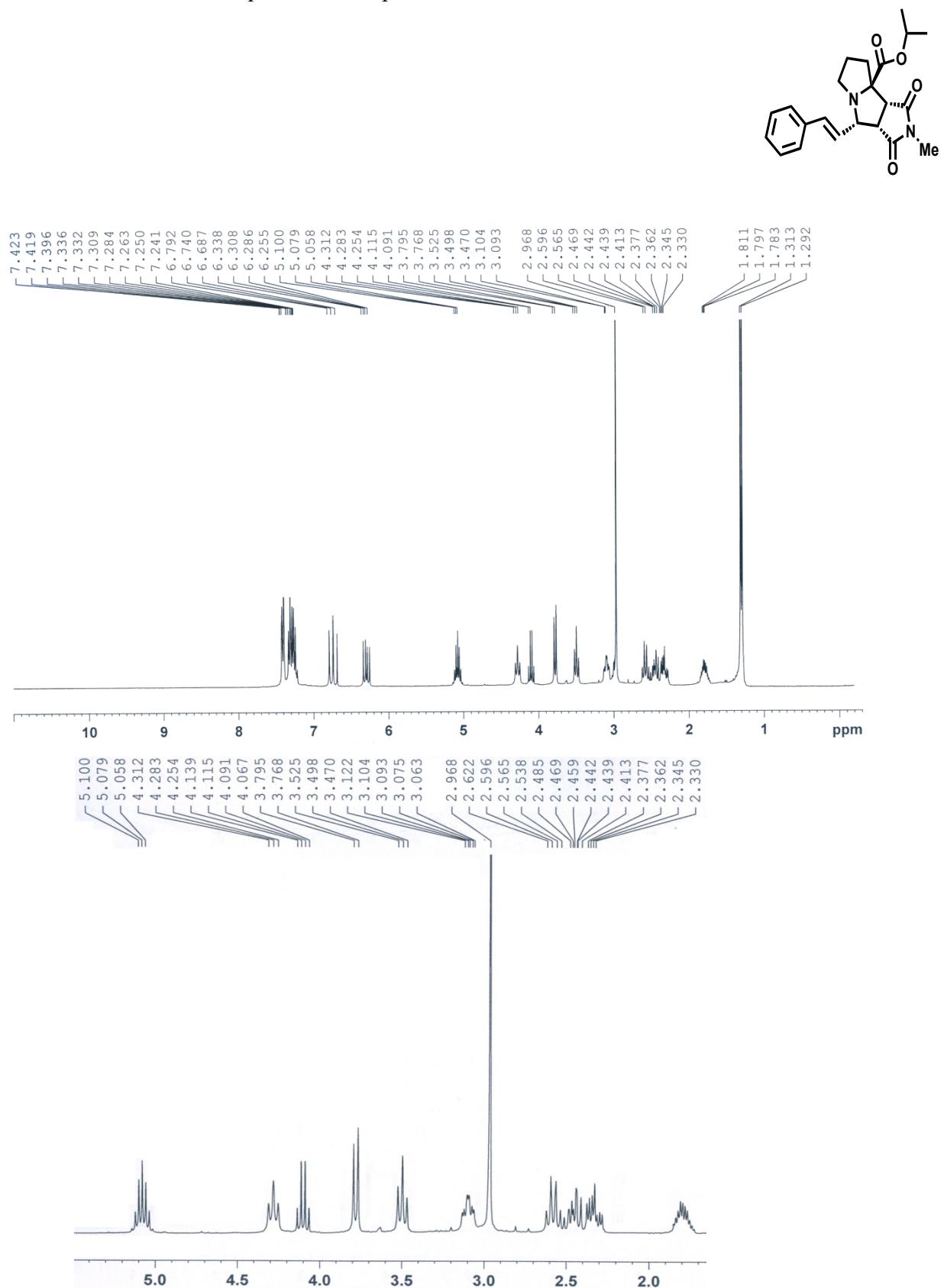


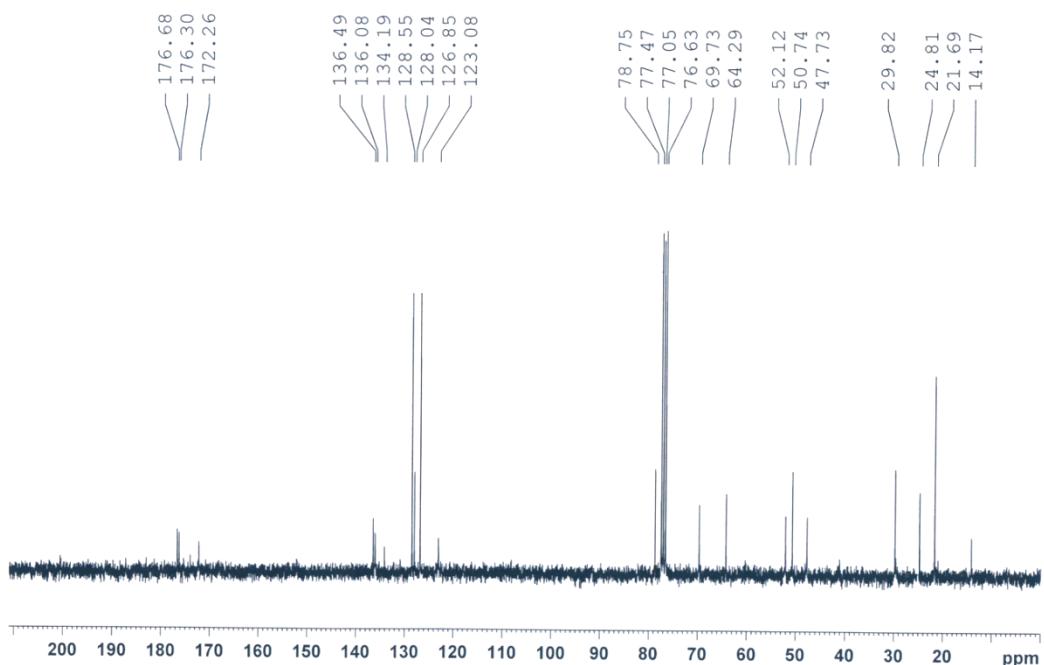
S36

SI Figure 12: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 5l

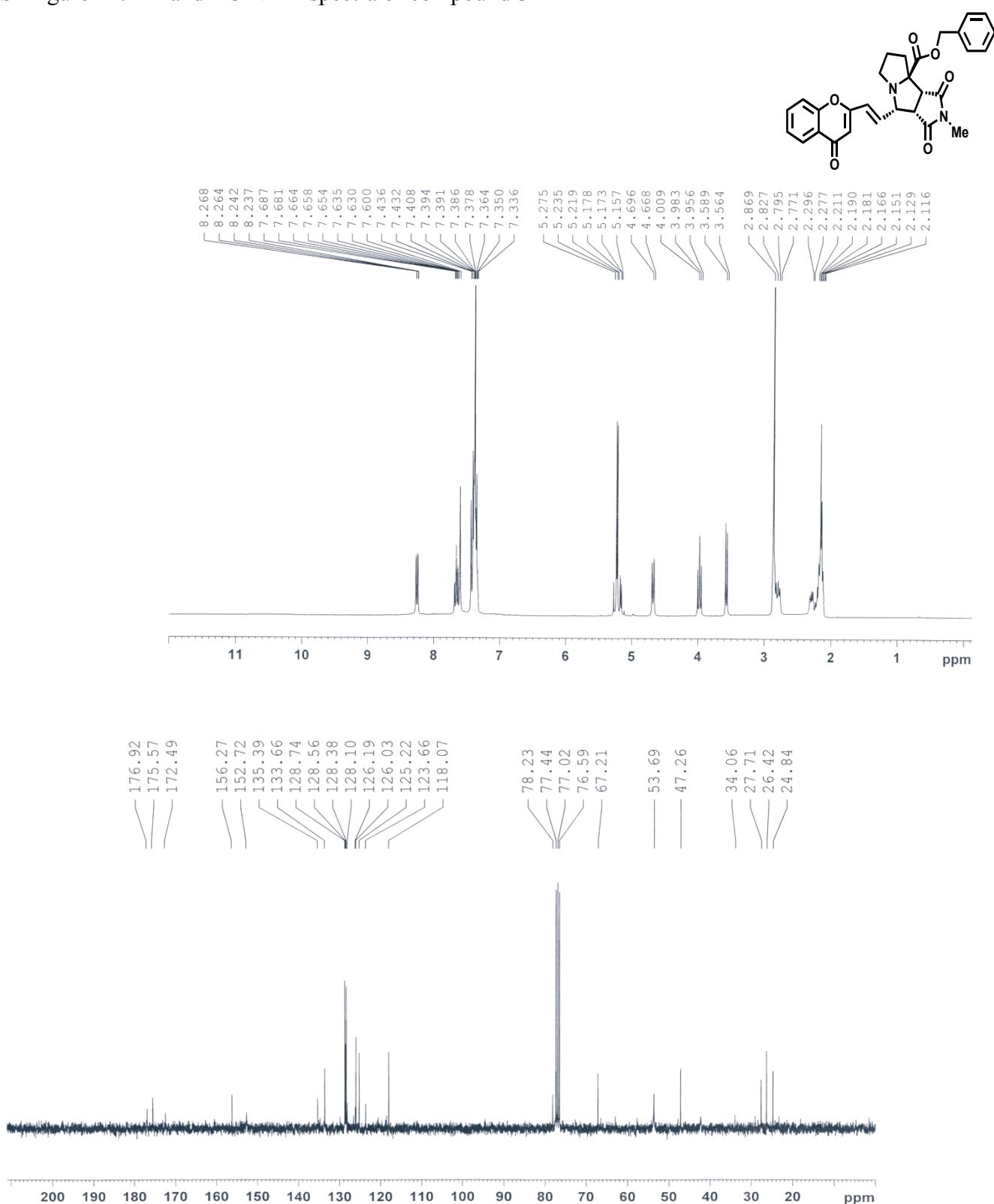


SI Figure 13: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5m**

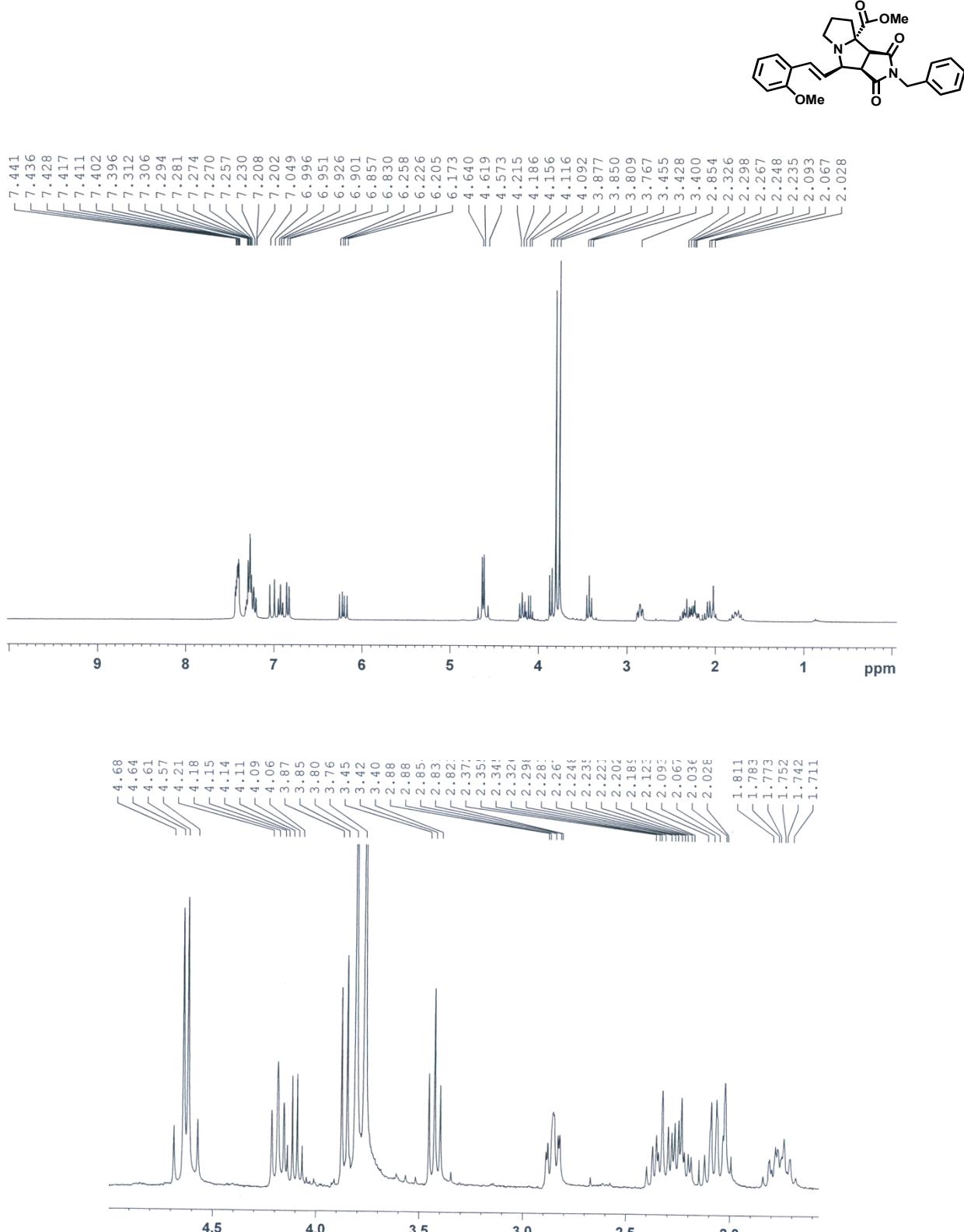


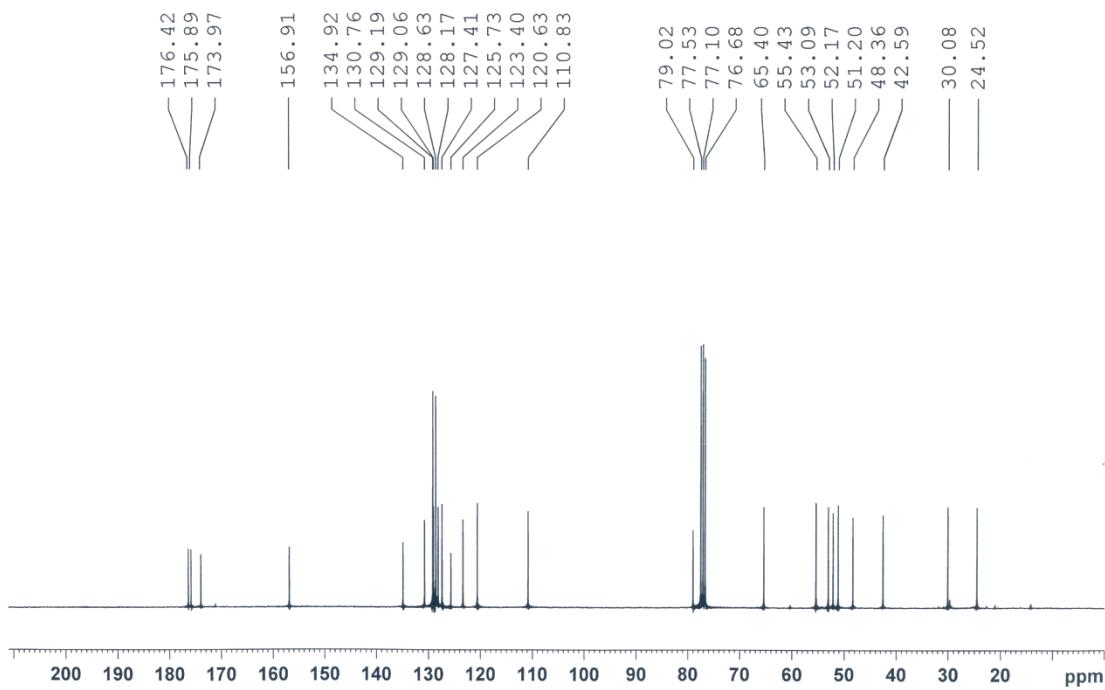


SI Figure 14: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5n**

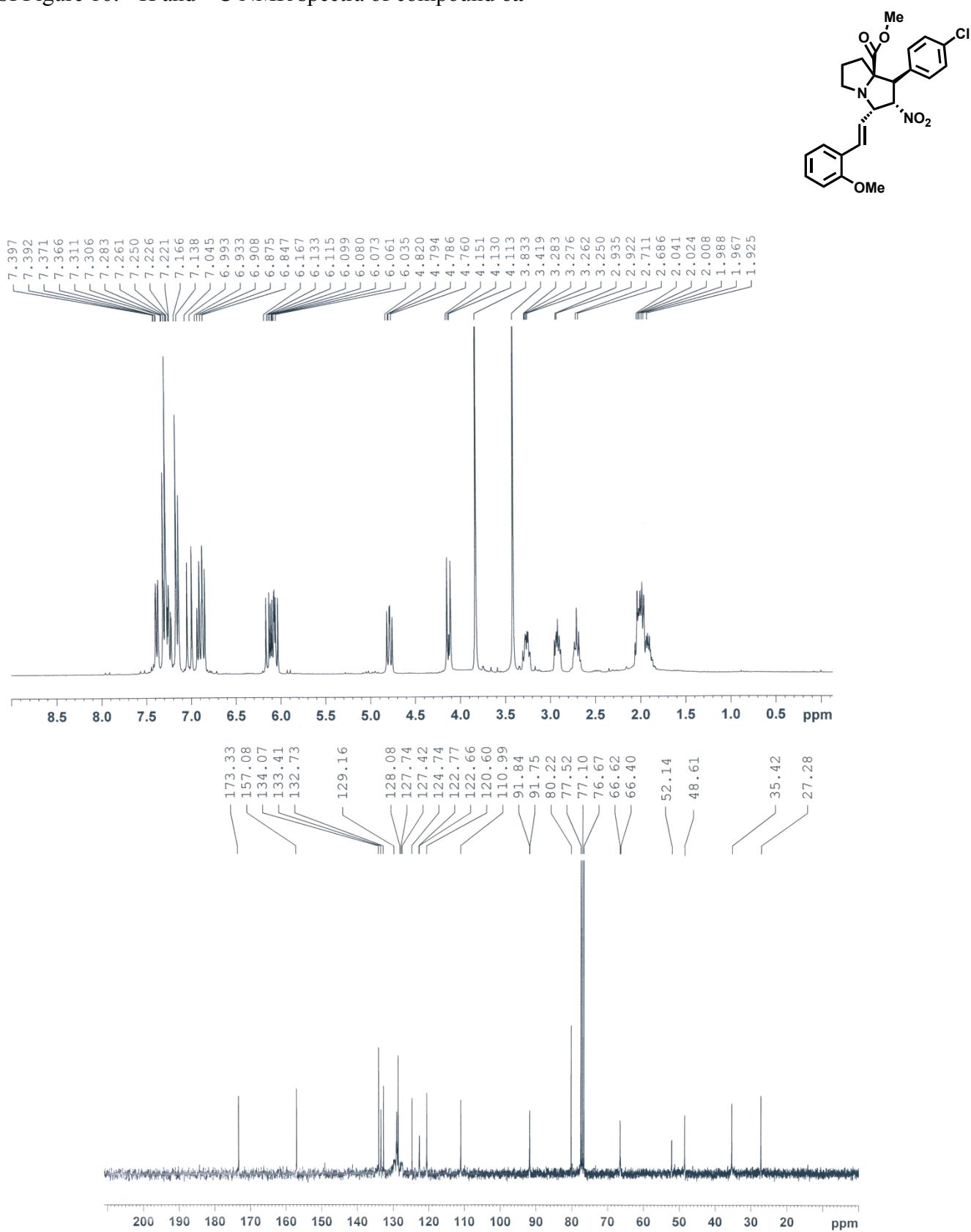


SI Figure 15: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **5o**

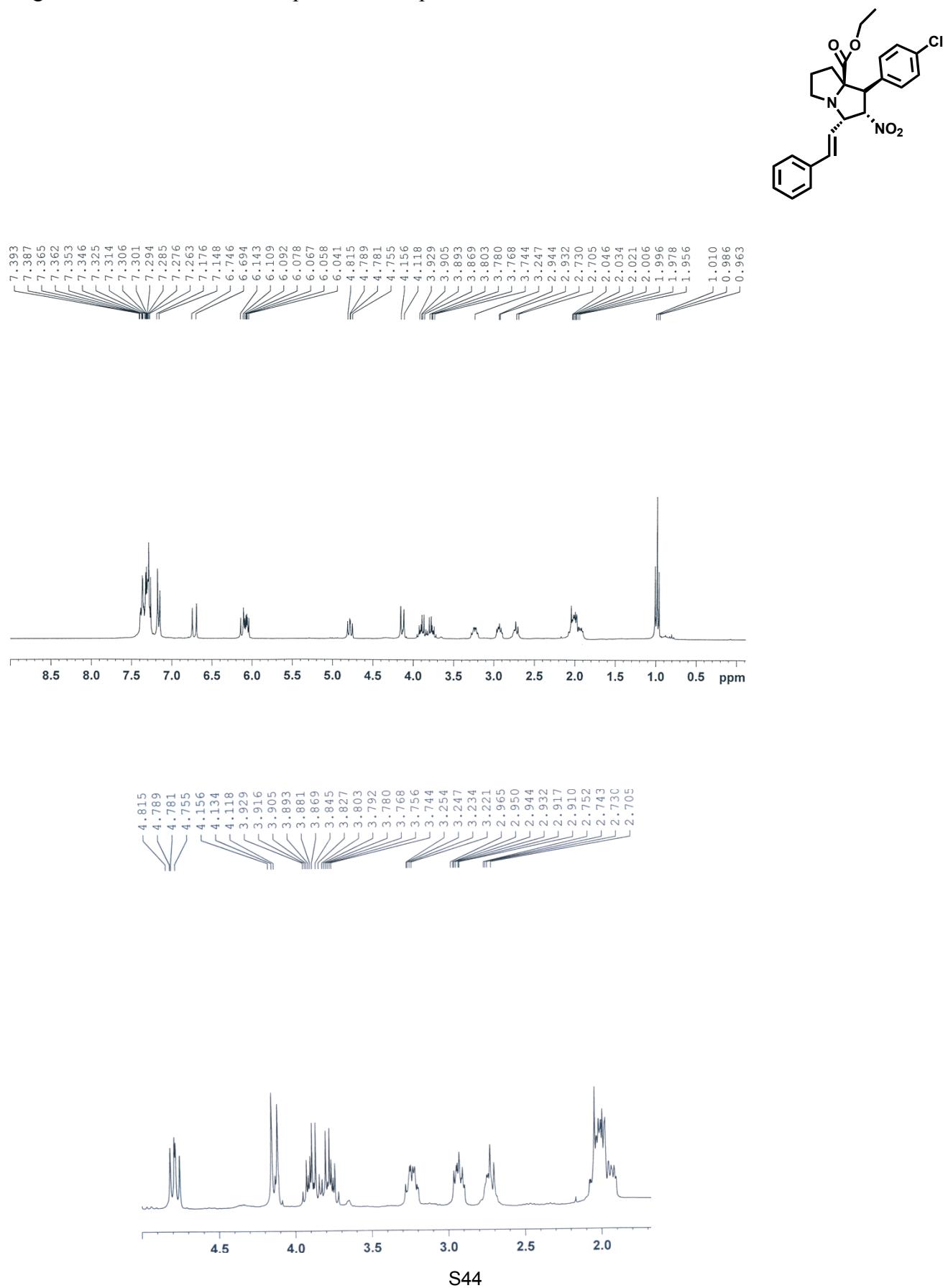


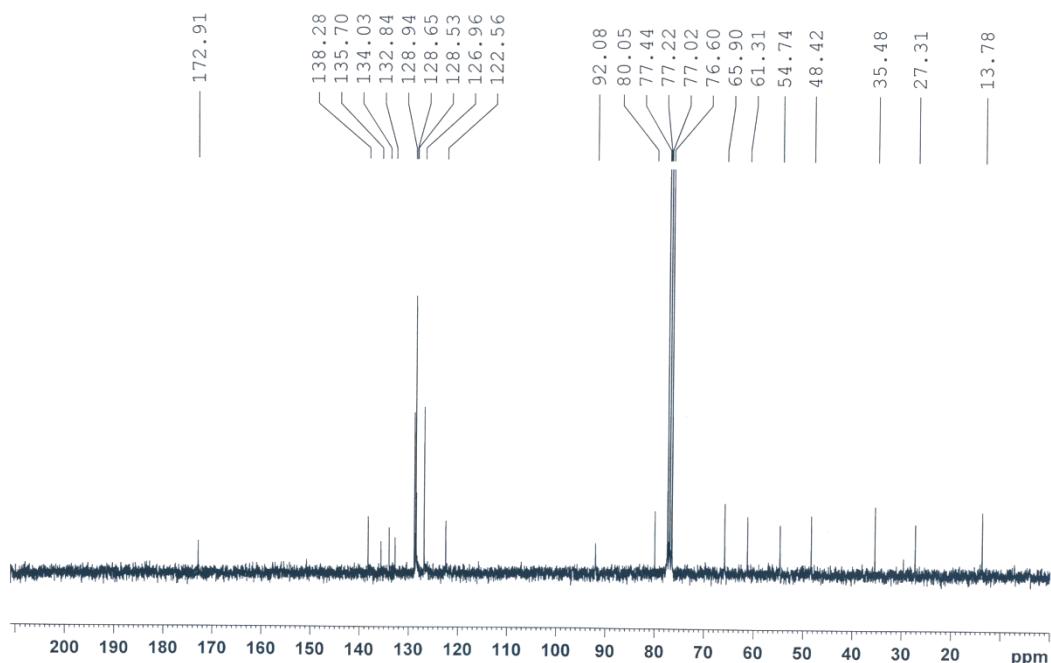


SI Figure 16: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6a**

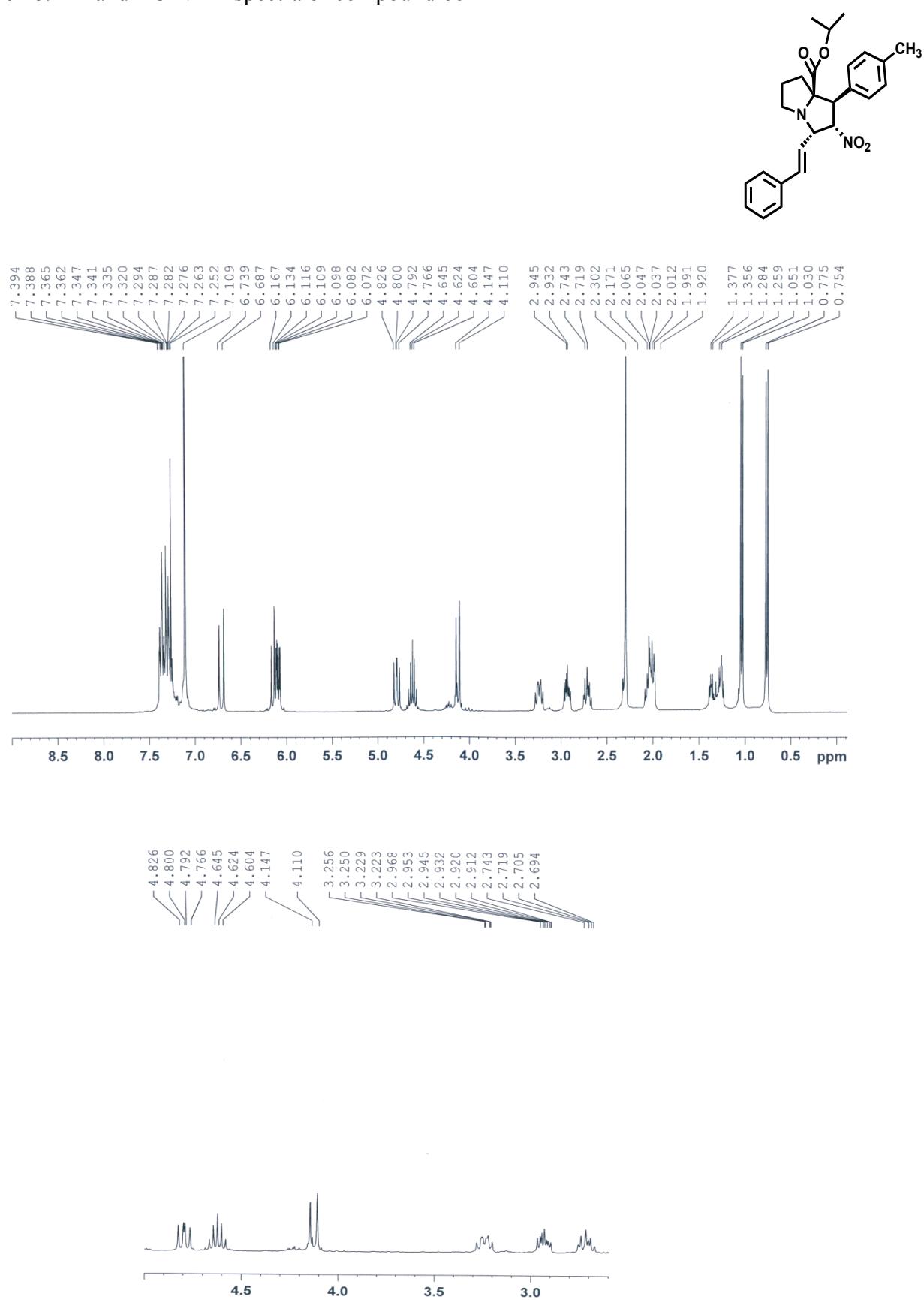


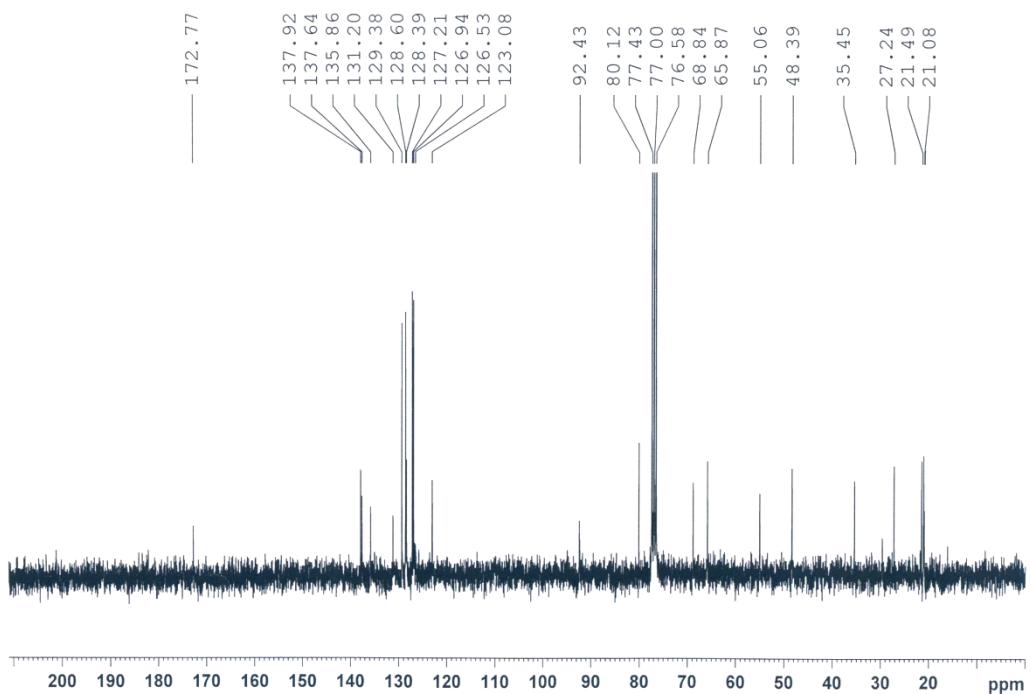
SI Figure 17: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6b**



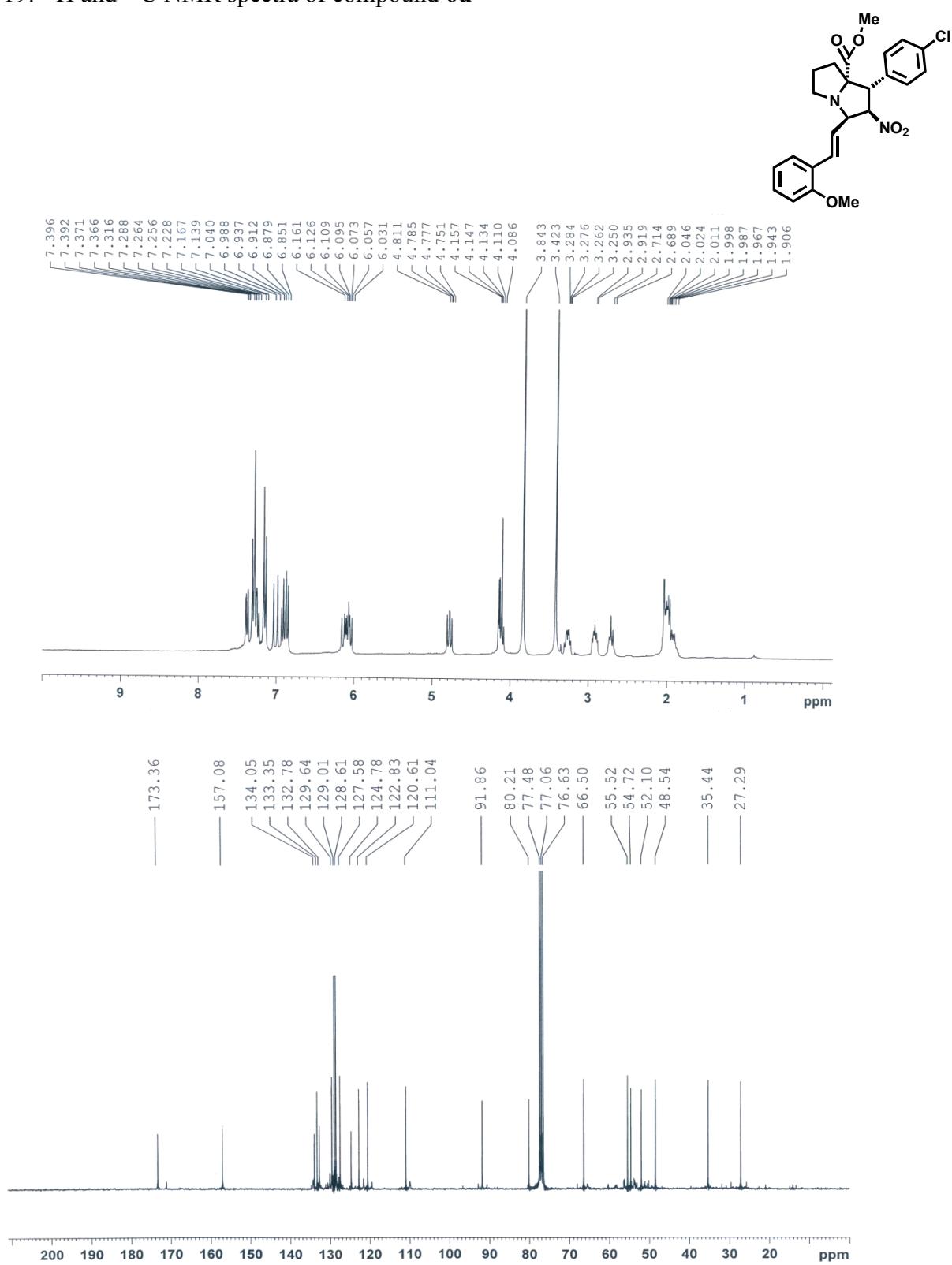


SI Figure 18: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6c**

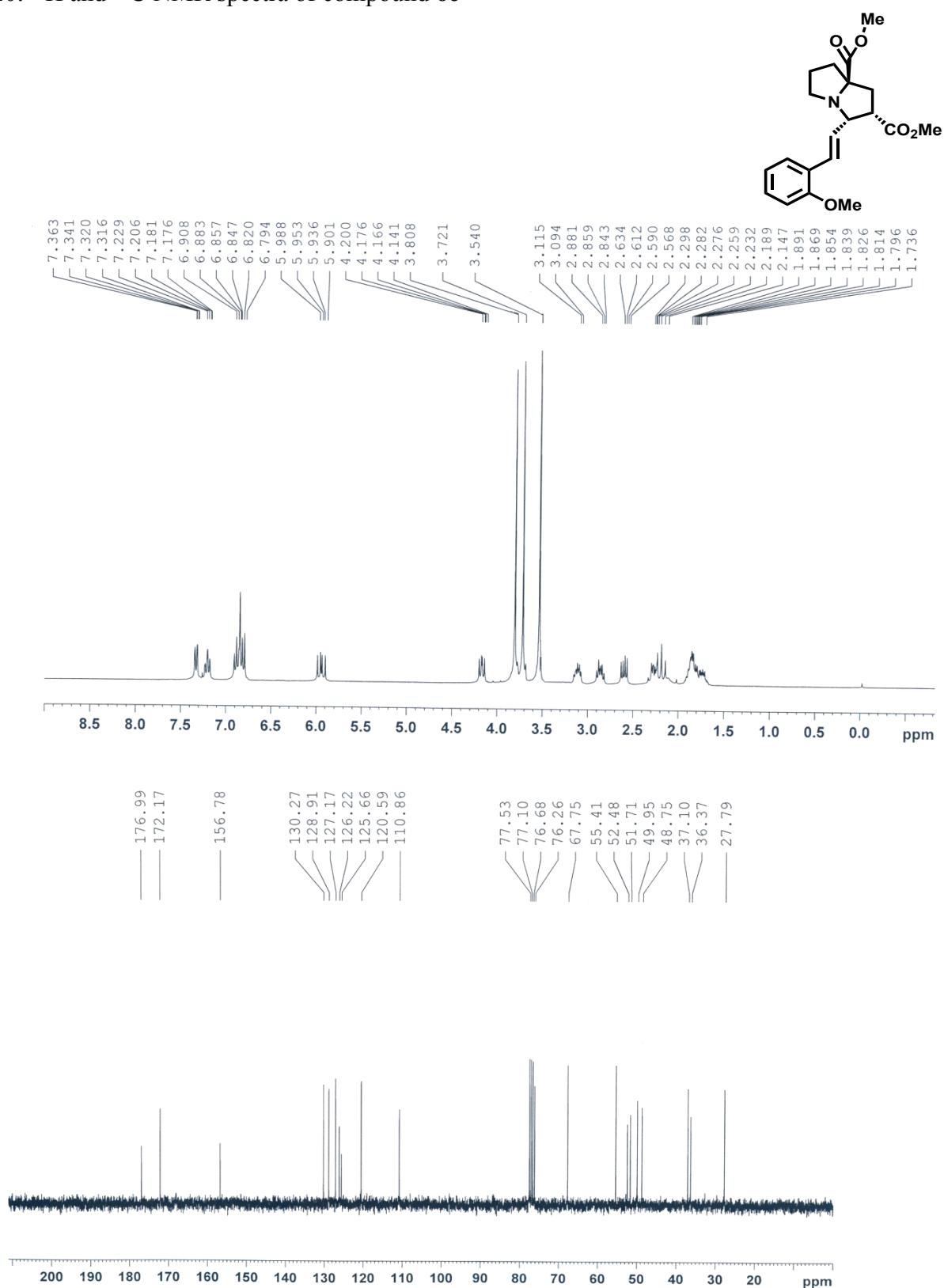




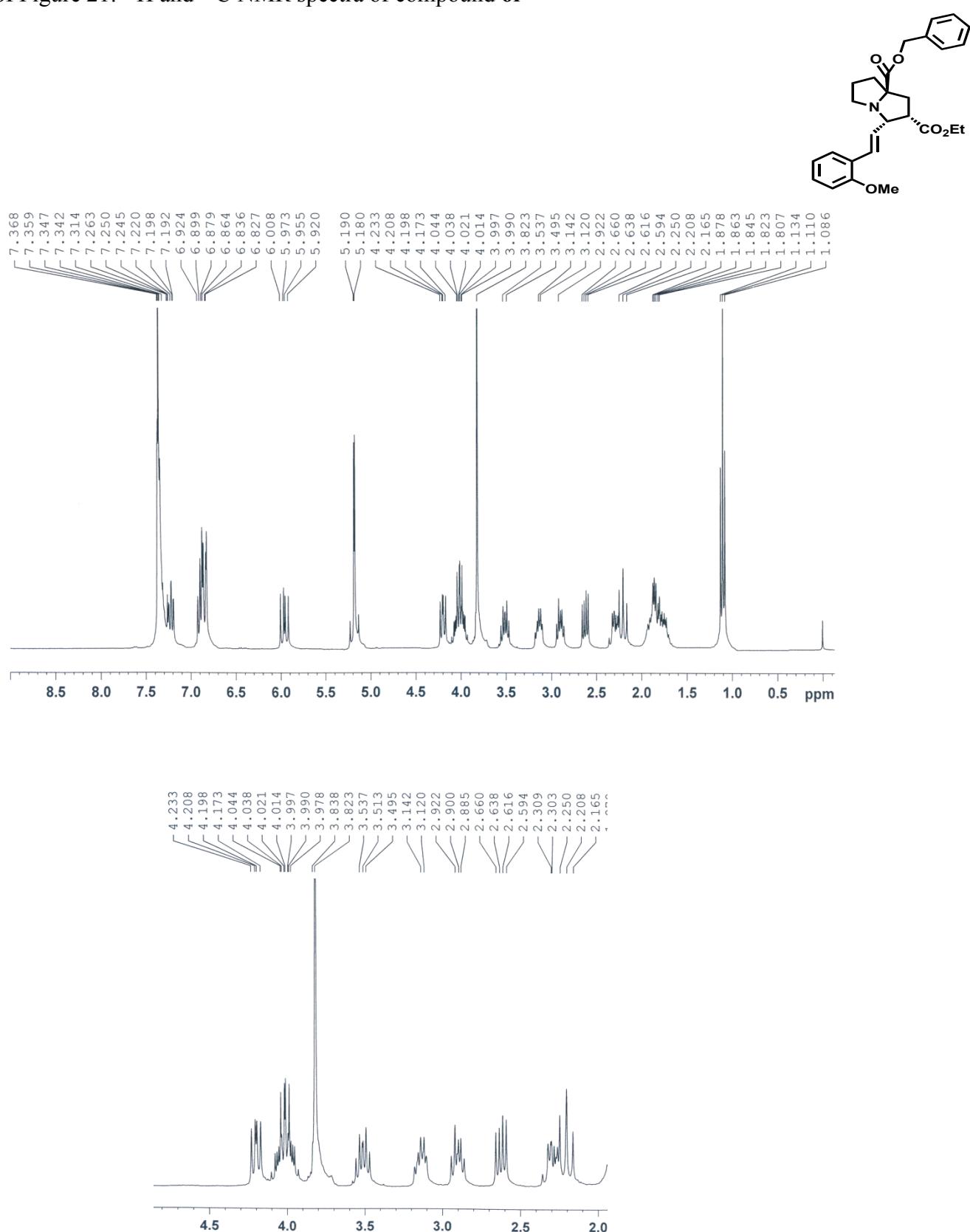
SI Figure 19: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6d**

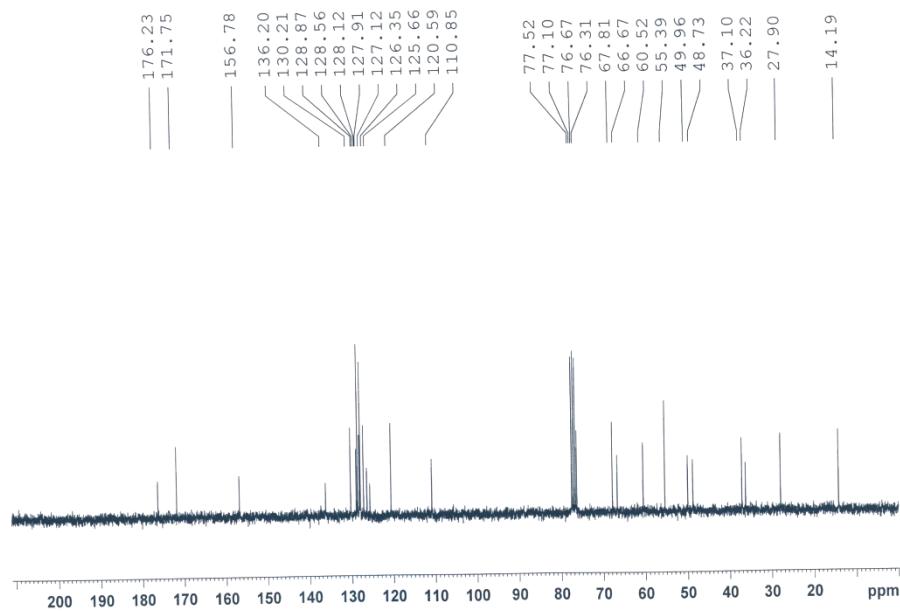


SI Figure 20: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6e**

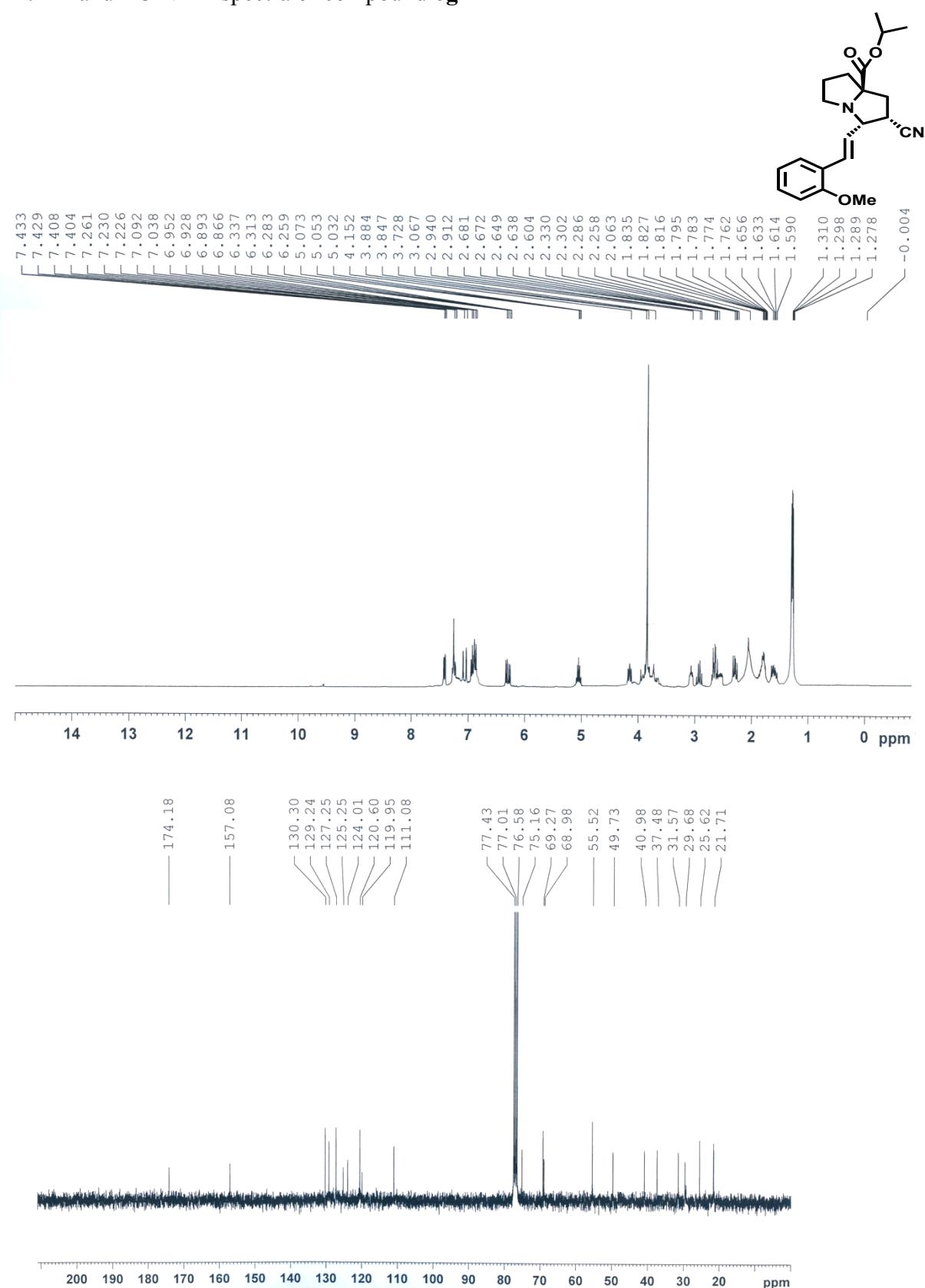


SI Figure 21: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6f**

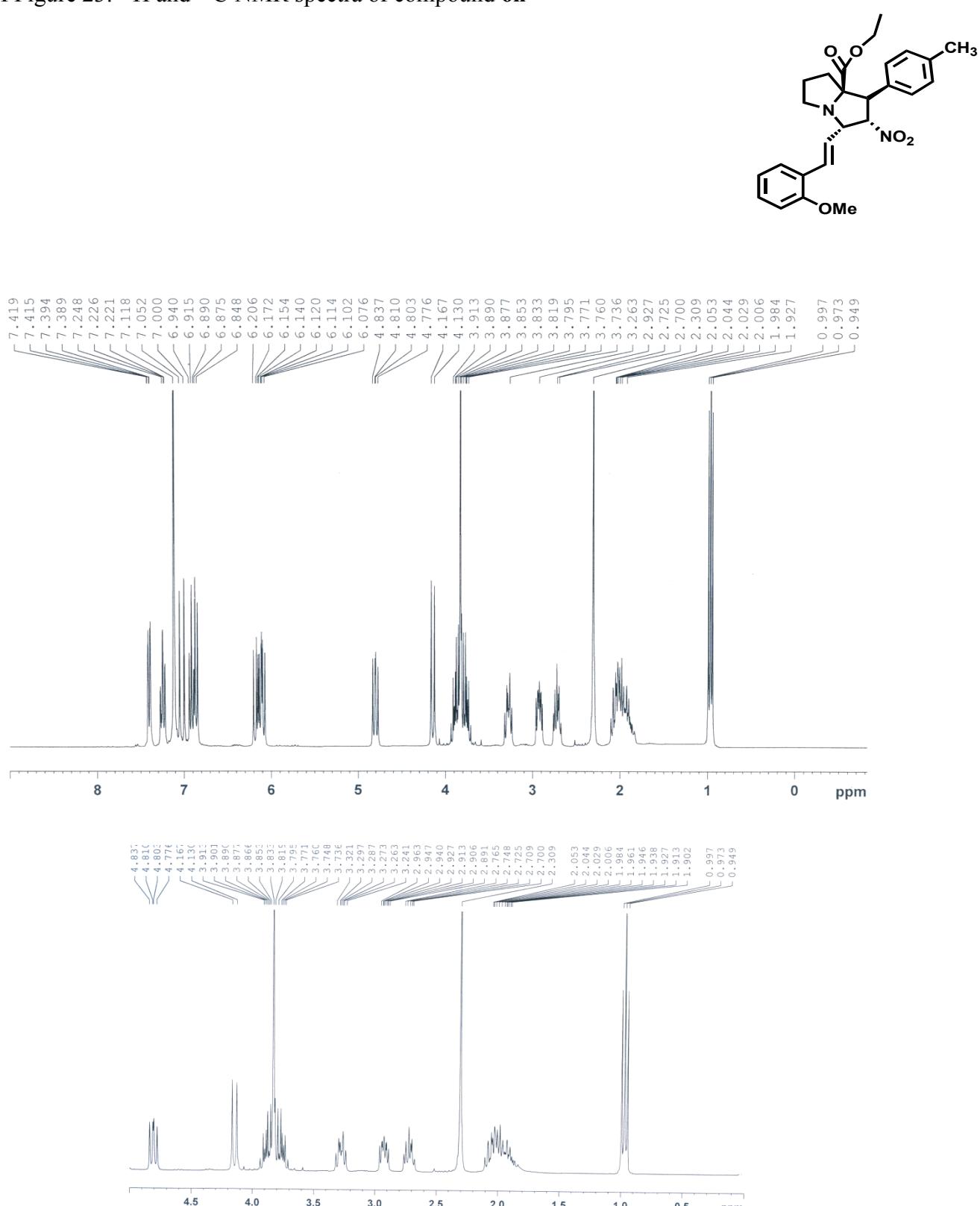




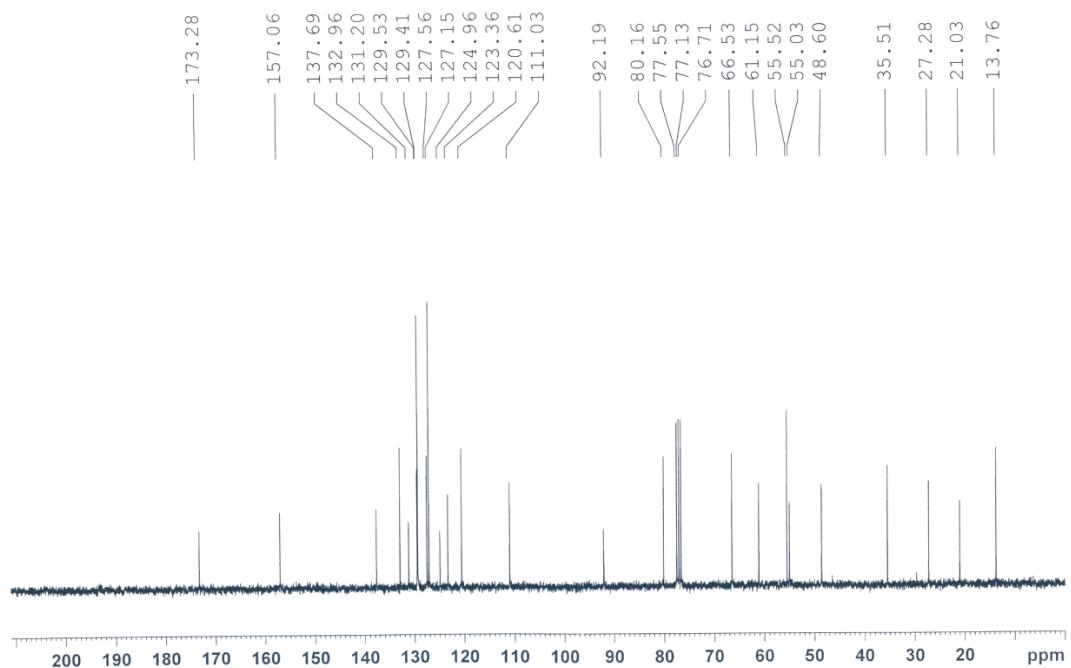
SI Figure 22: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6g**



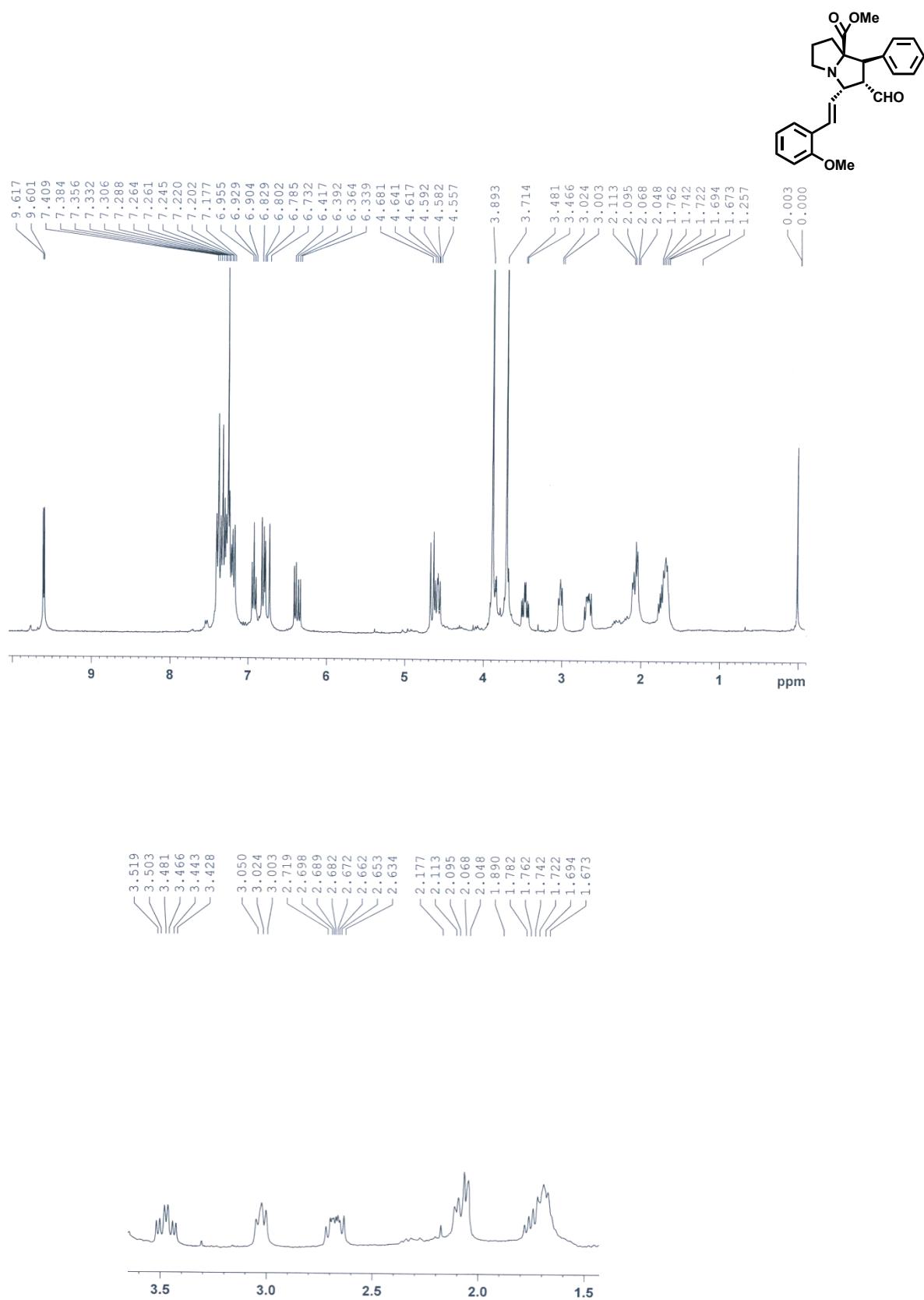
SI Figure 23: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **6h**

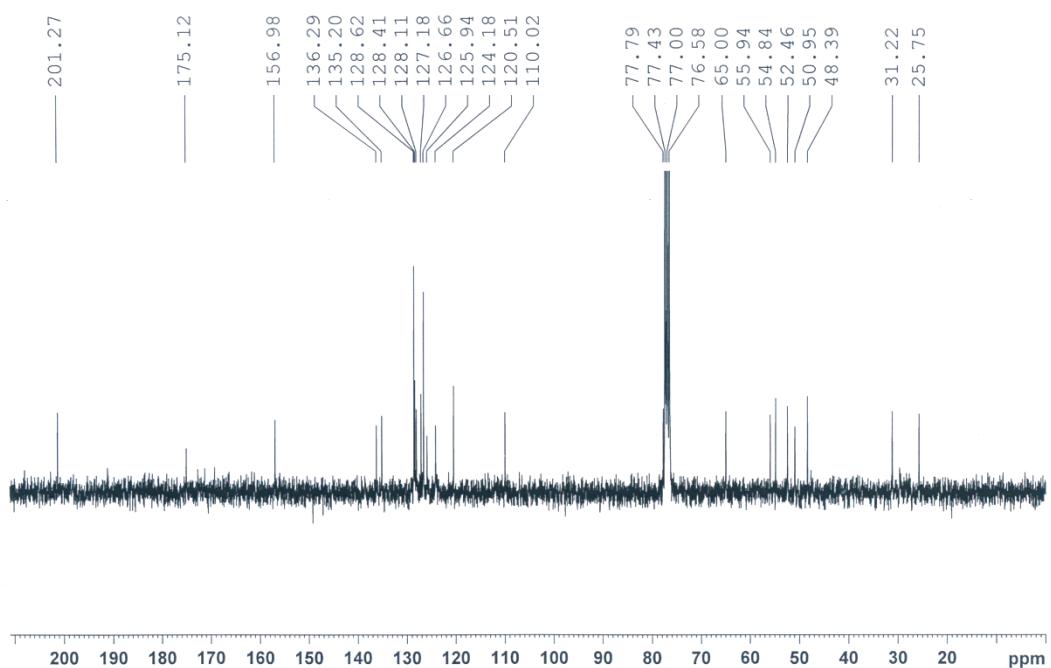


S53



SI Figure 24: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 7a

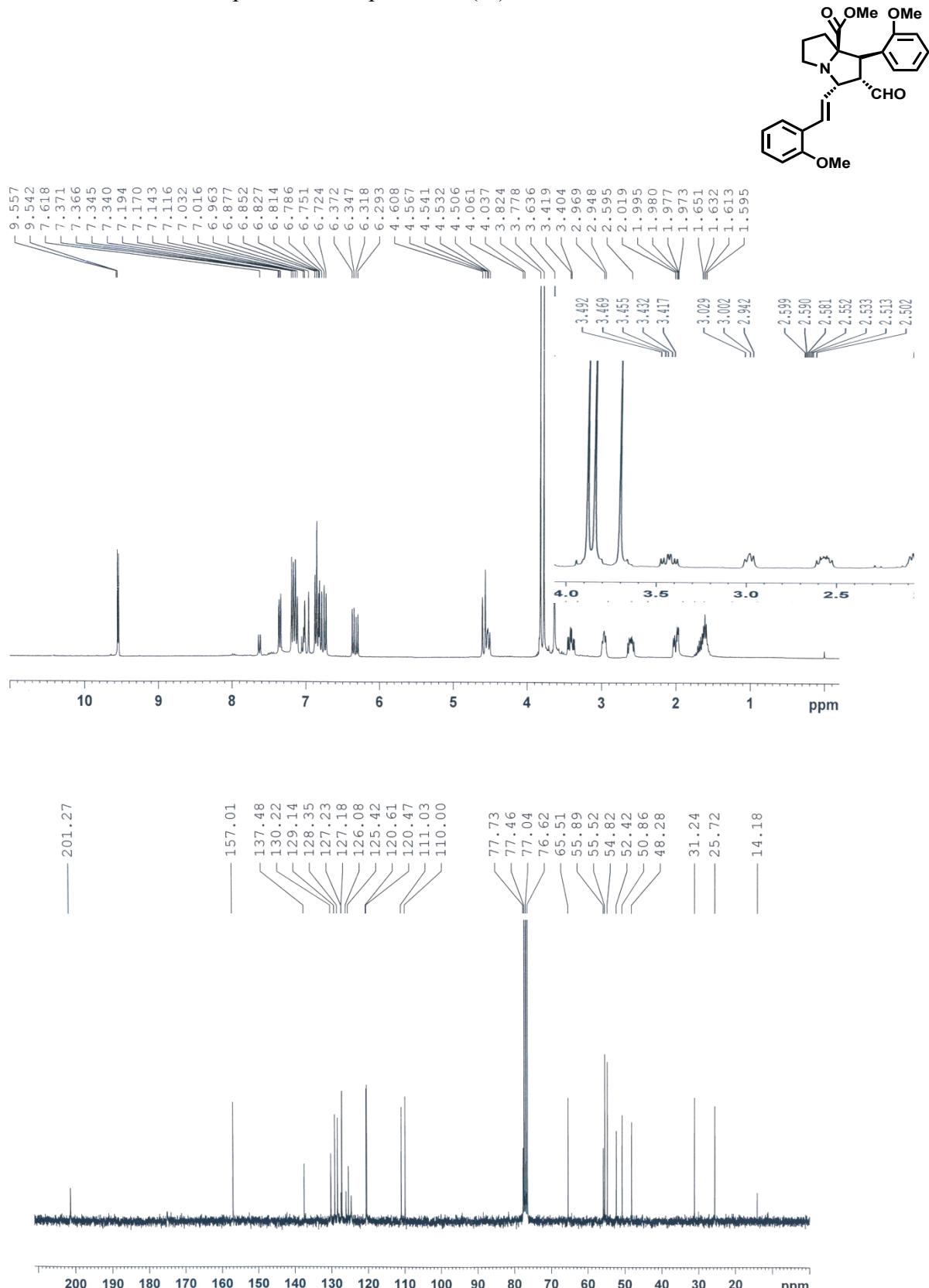




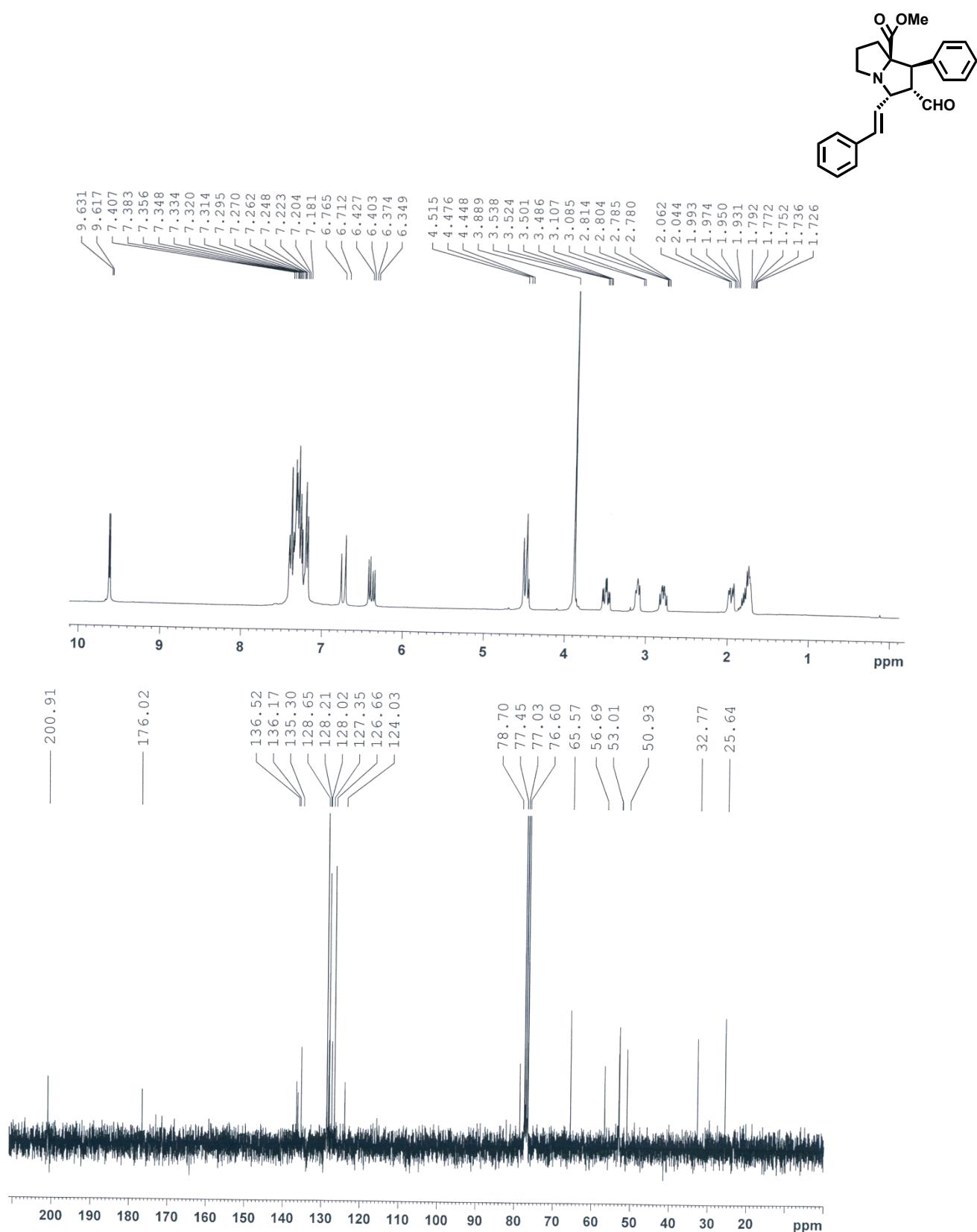
S56

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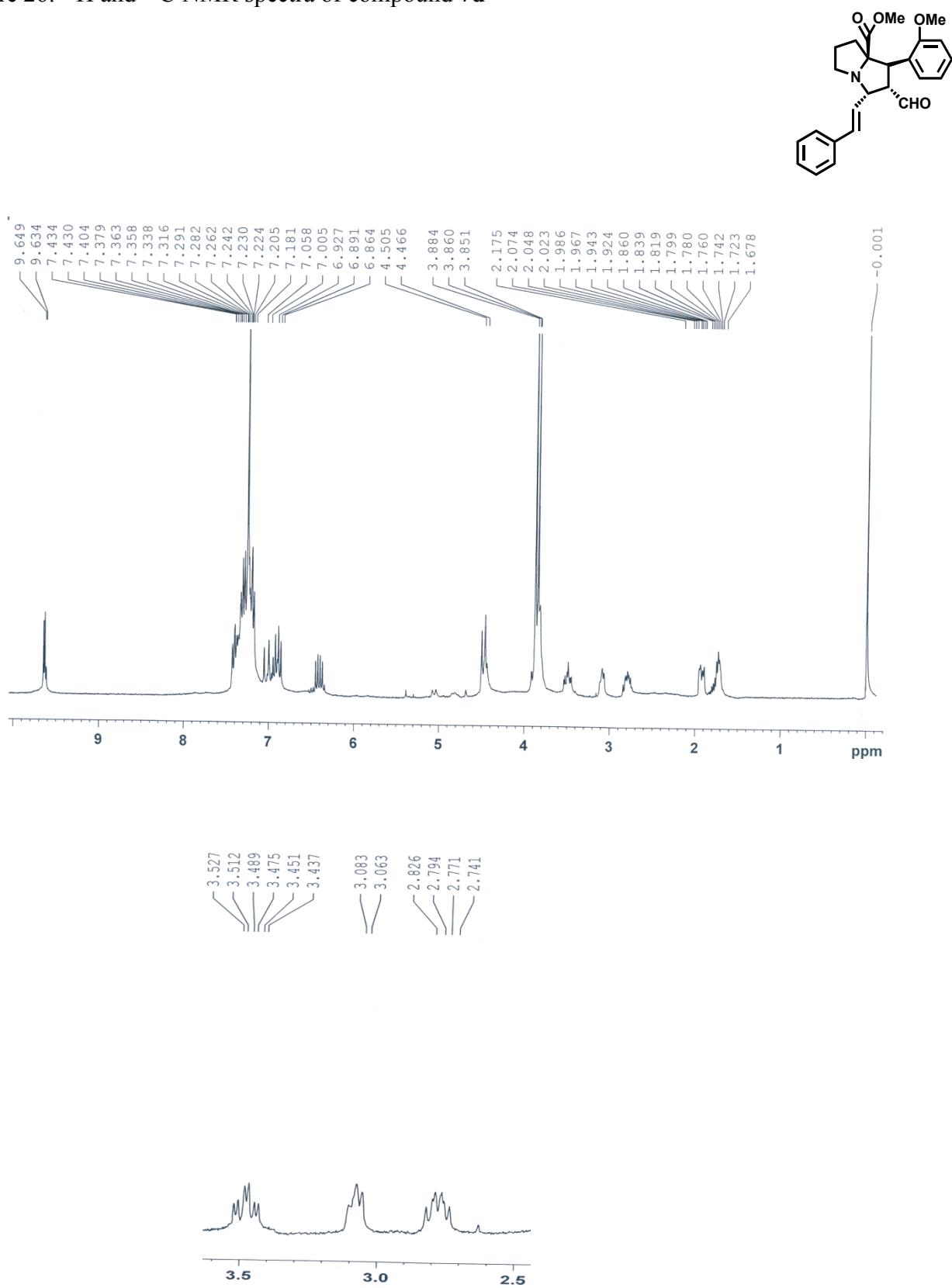
SI Figure 25: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7b** (**7f**)

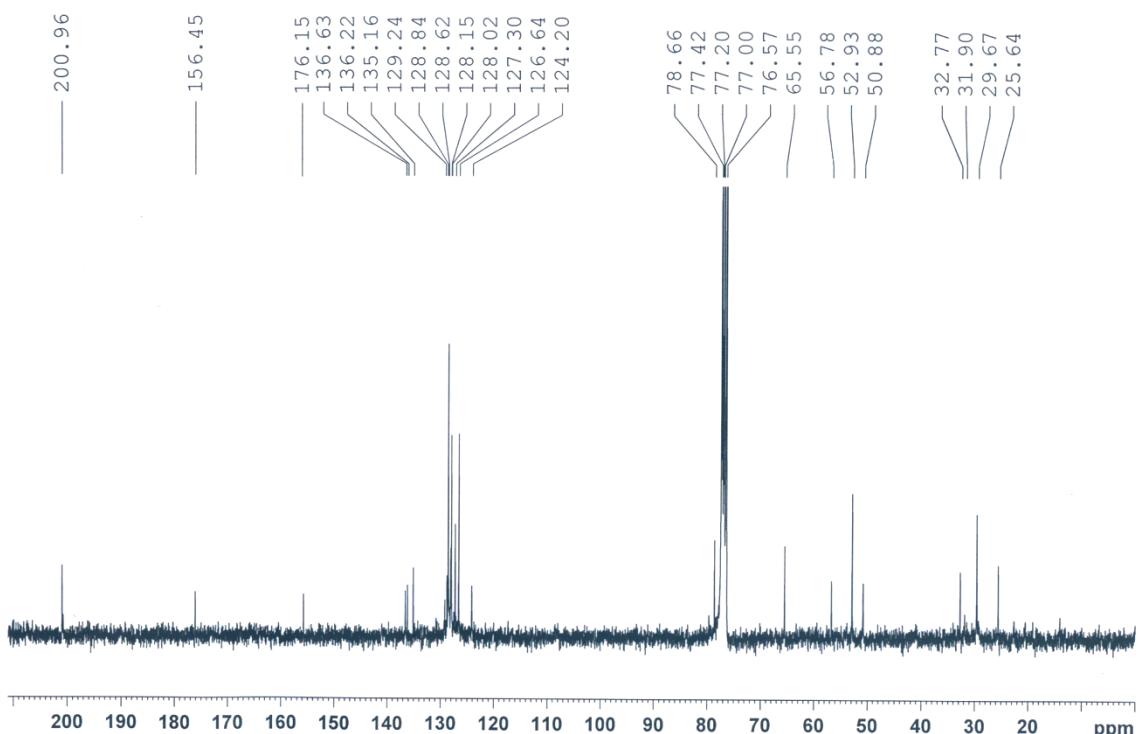


SI Figure 26: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 7c(7g)



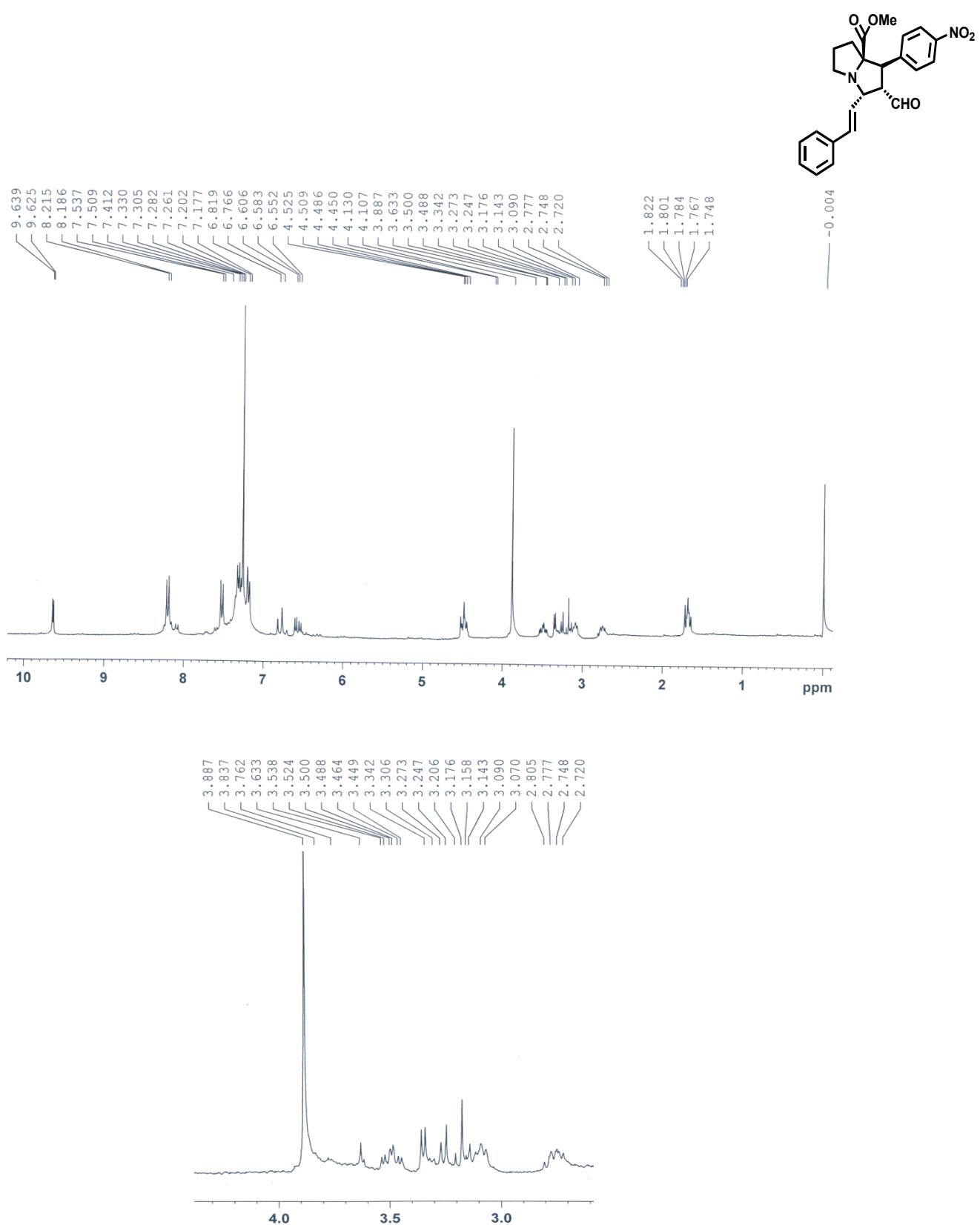
SI Figure 26: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7d**





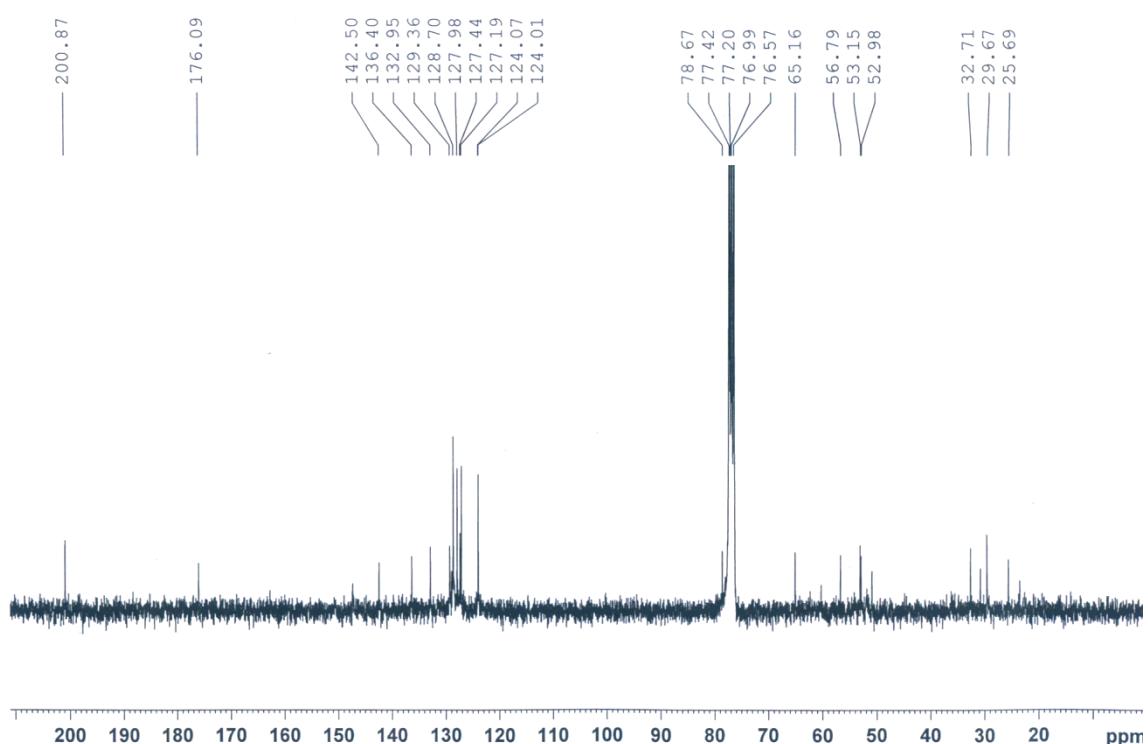
S60

SI Figure 27: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 7e

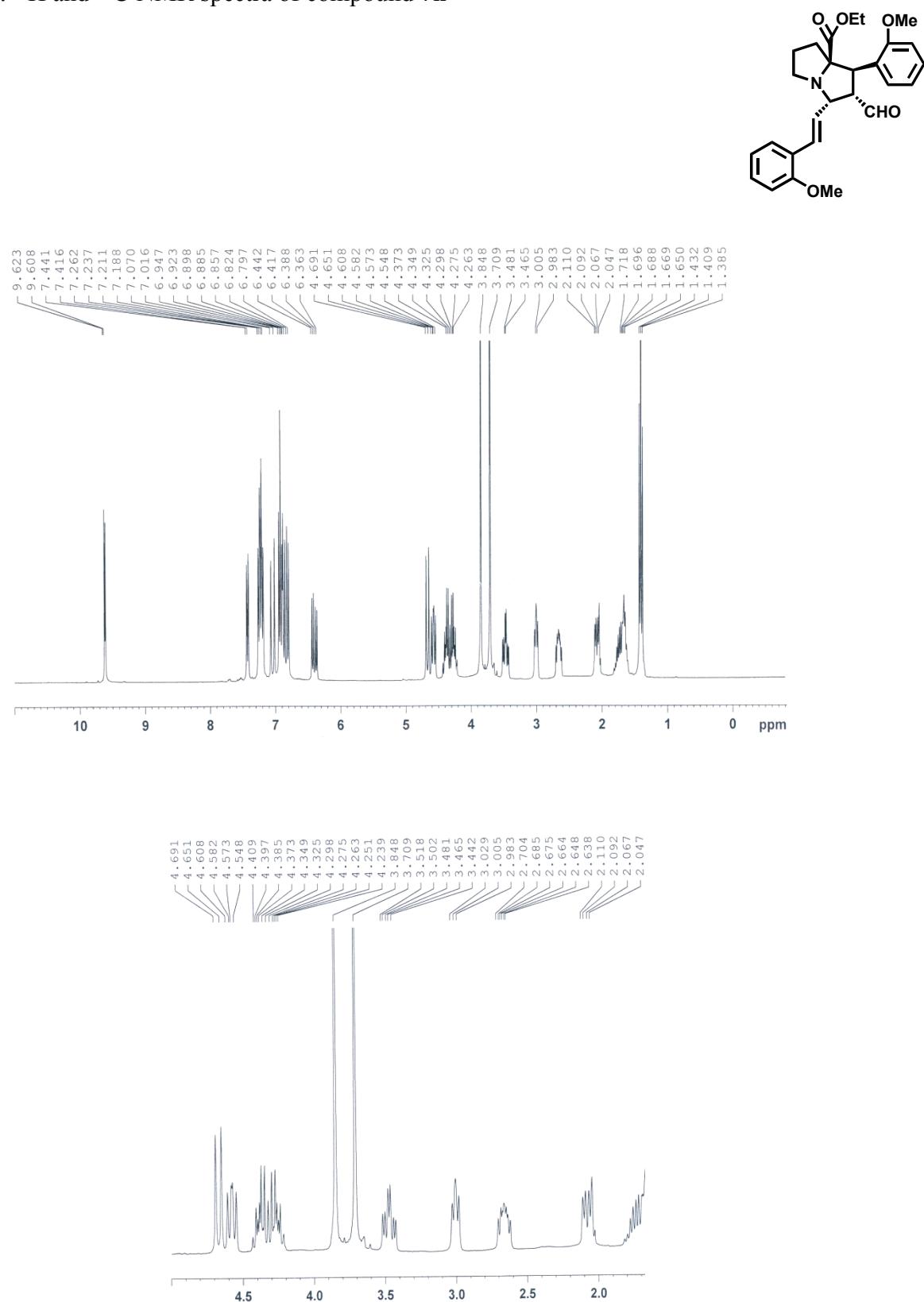


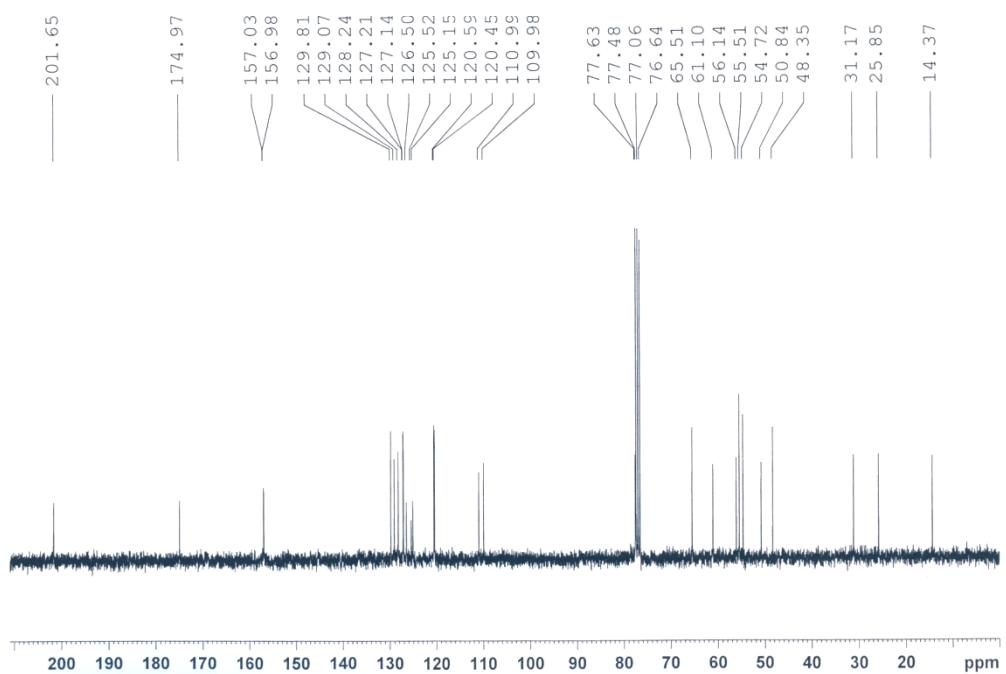
S61

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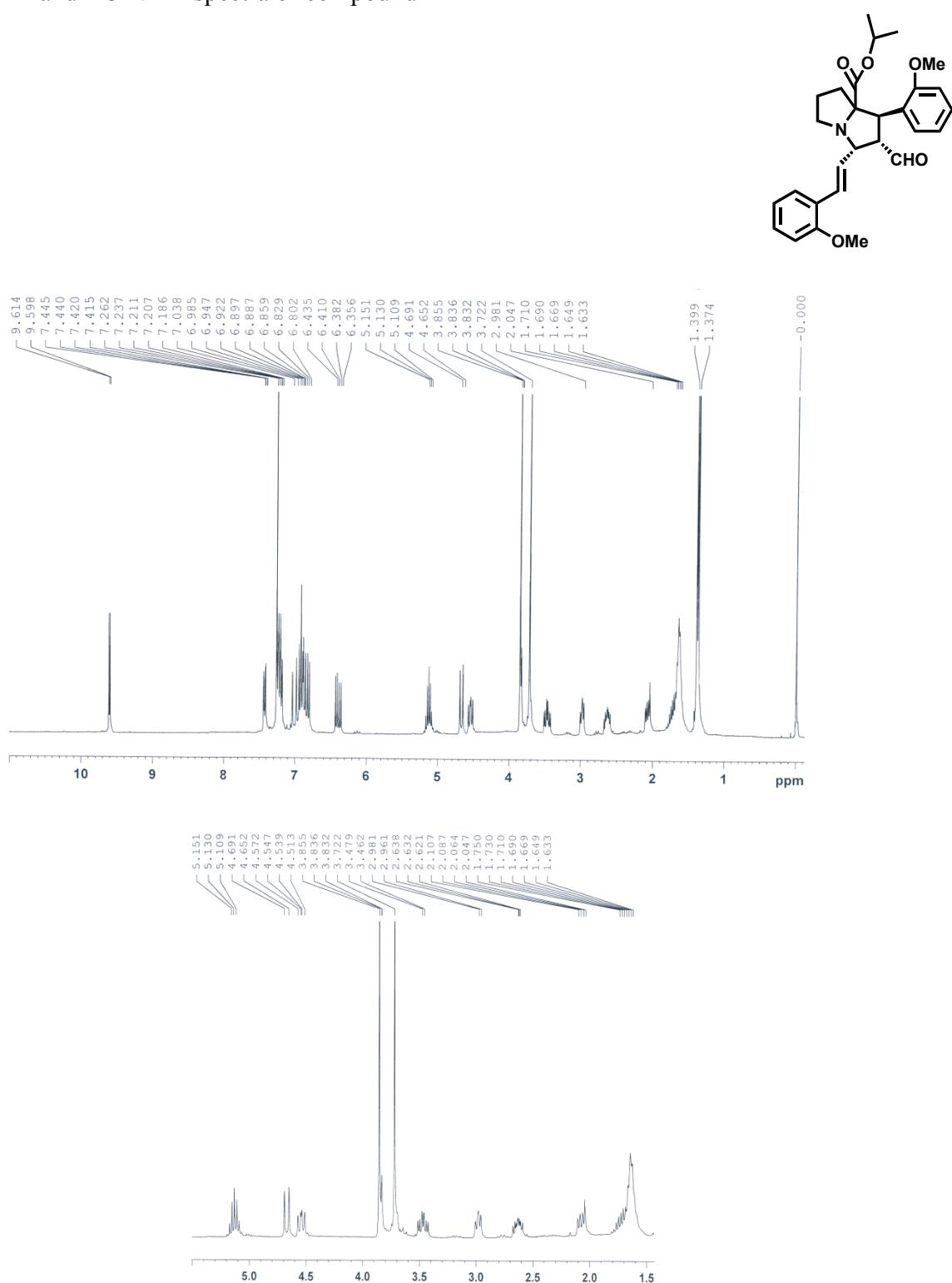


SI Figure 28: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7h**

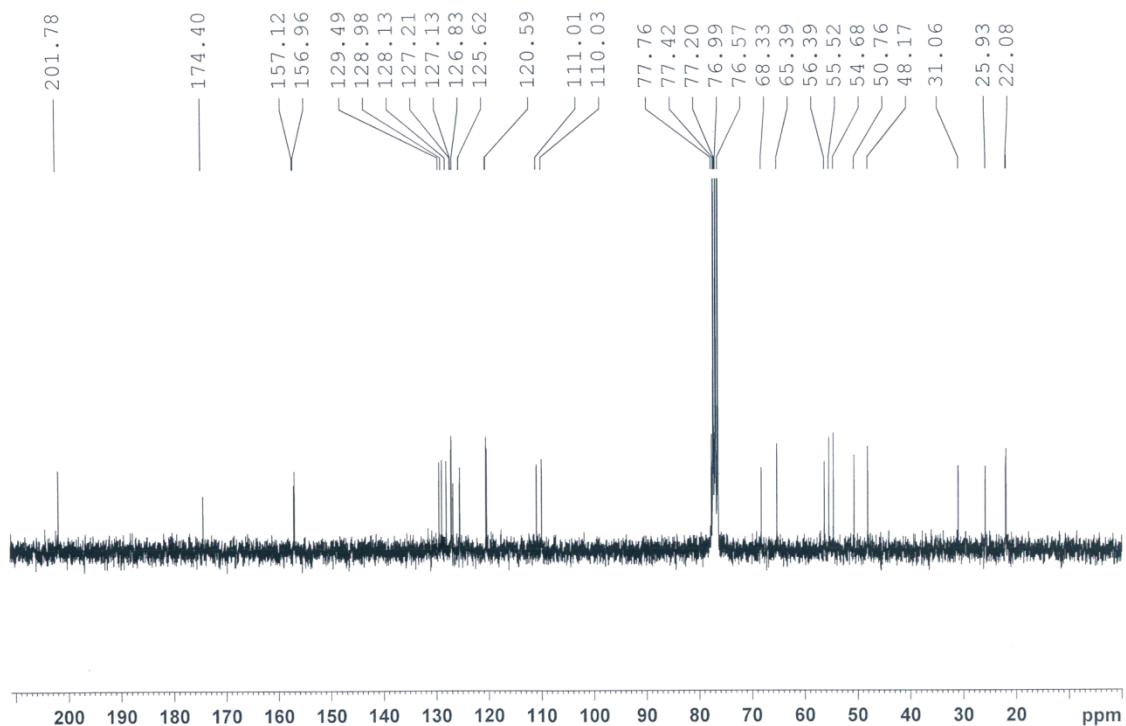




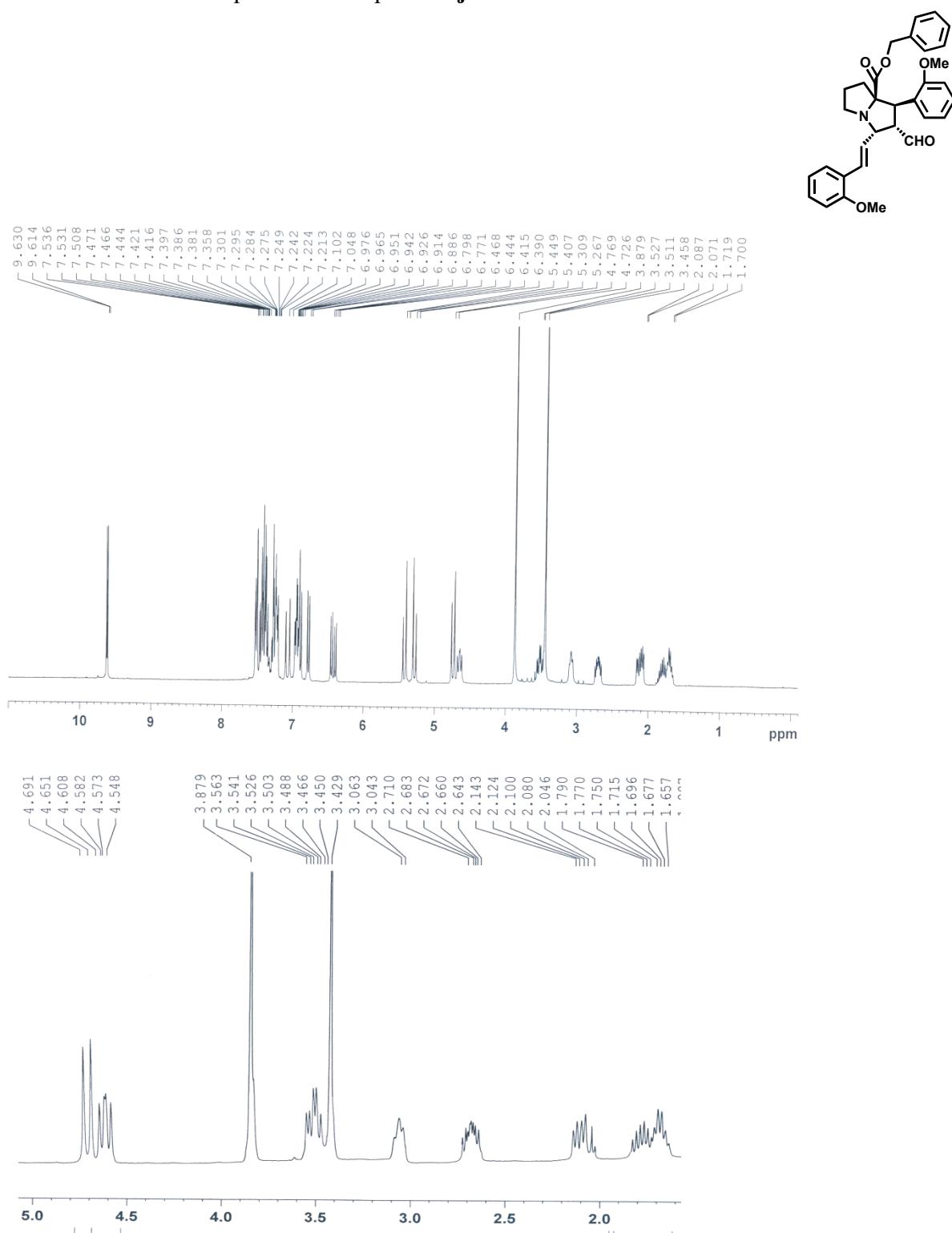
SI Figure 29: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 7i

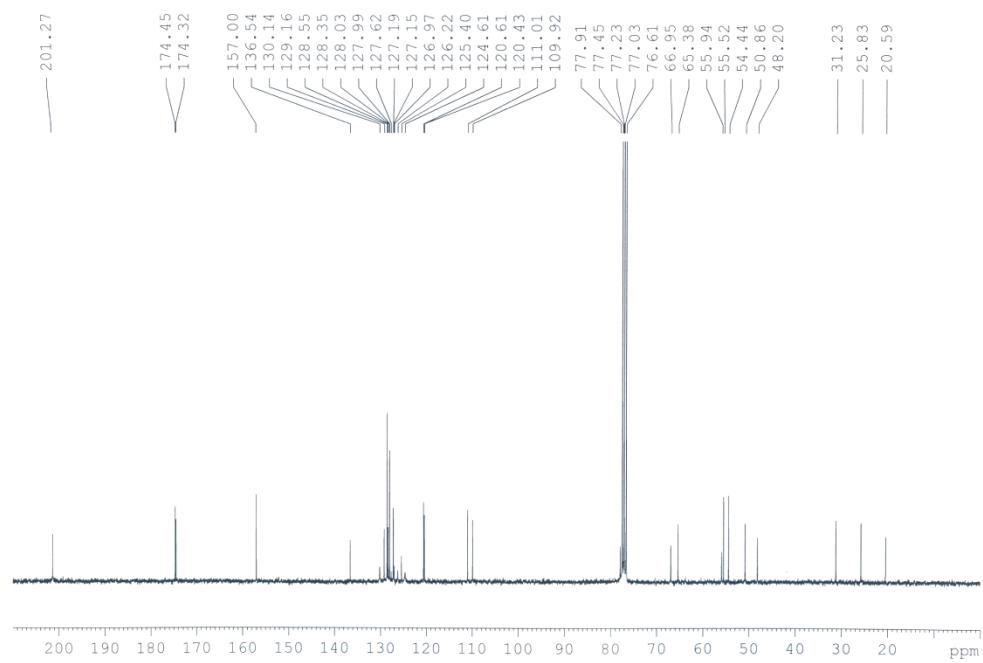


S65

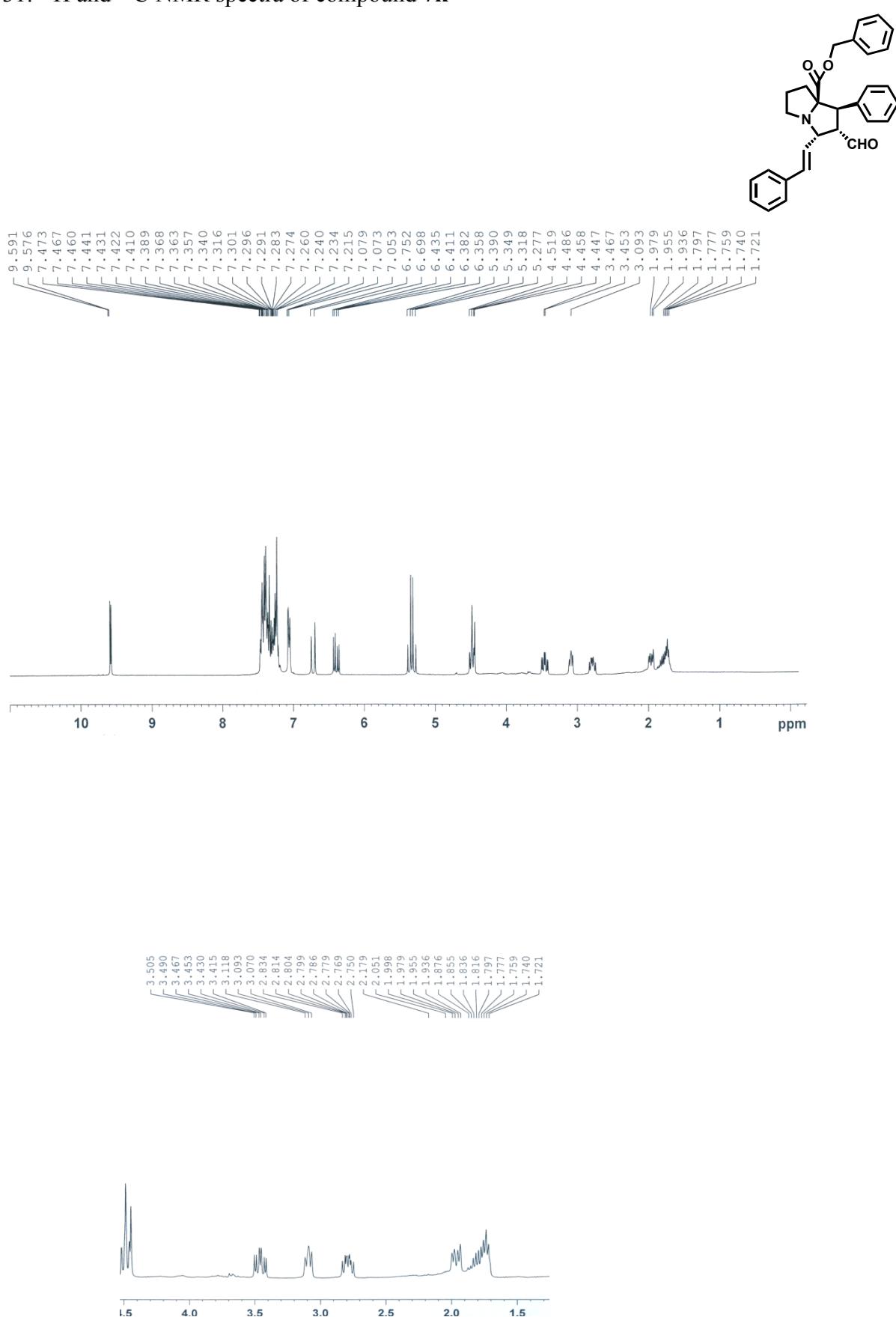


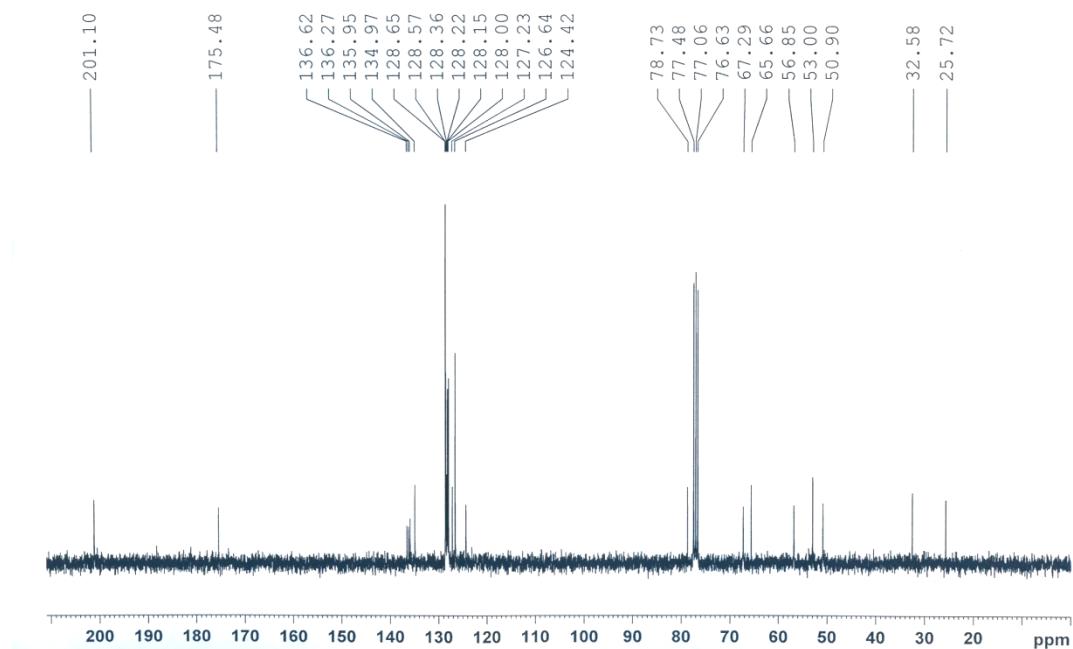
SI Figure 30: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound 7j



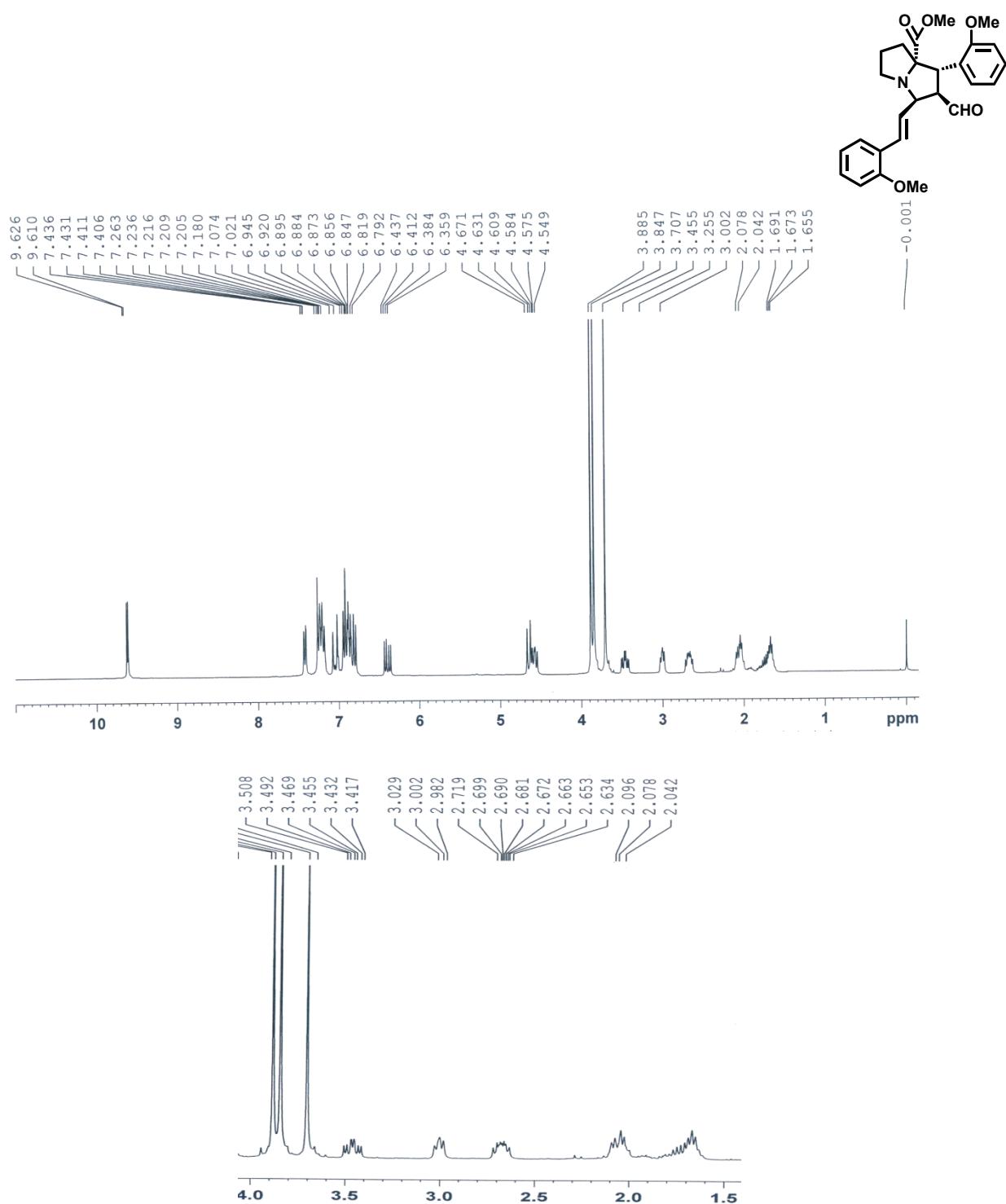


SI Figure 31: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7k**

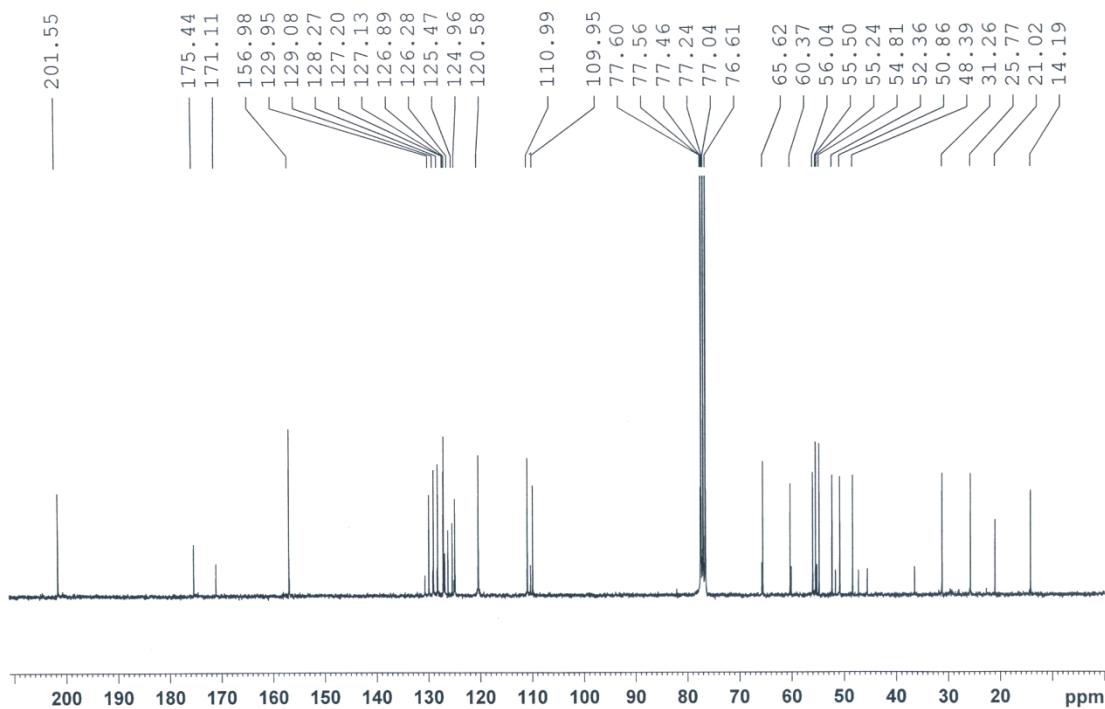




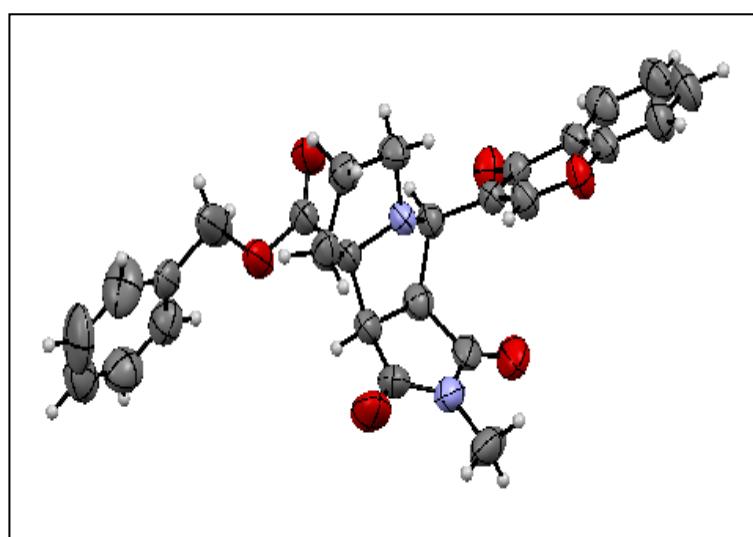
SI Figure 32: ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compound **7I**



S71

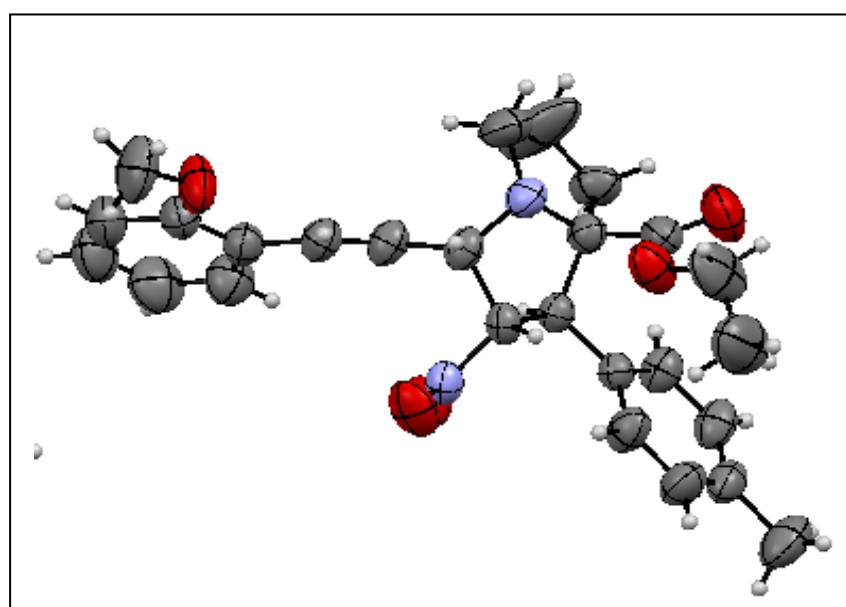


7.1. Summary of data CCDC 921618 (compound 5n)



- ❖ Chemical formula and formula weight (M): C₂₇ H₂₄ N₂ O₆ and 472.48
- ❖ Crystal system: Monoclinic
- ❖ Unit-cell dimensions (angstrom or pm, degrees) and volume, with esds: a 13.131(7), b 16.402(9), c 11.331(6), 90.00, 109.361(7), 90.00, 2302(2)
- ❖ Temperature: 296 (2)
- ❖ Space group symbol: P12(1)/c1
- ❖ No. of formula units in unit cell (Z): 4
- ❖ Number of reflections measured and/or number of independent reflections, Rint: 3453
- ❖ Final R values (and whether quoted for all or observed data): 0.0716

7.2. Summary of data CCDC 921617 (compound 6h)



- ❖ Chemical formula and formula weight (M): C₂₆ H₃₀ N₂ O₅ and 450.52
- ❖ Crystal system: Triclinic
- ❖ Unit-cell dimensions (angstrom or pm, degrees) and volume, with esds: a 8.527(8), b 11.707(12), c 24.388(2), 87.45, 88.88(4), 81.91, 2408(4)
- ❖ Temperature: 296 (2)
- ❖ Space group symbol: P-1
- ❖ No. of formula units in unit cell (Z): 4
- ❖ Number of reflections measured and/or number of independent reflections, Rint: 7458
- ❖ Final R values (and whether quoted for all or observed data): 0.0937