

## Supplementary Information

### Oxovanadium(V)-Induced Diastereoselective Oxidative Homocoupling of Boron Enolates

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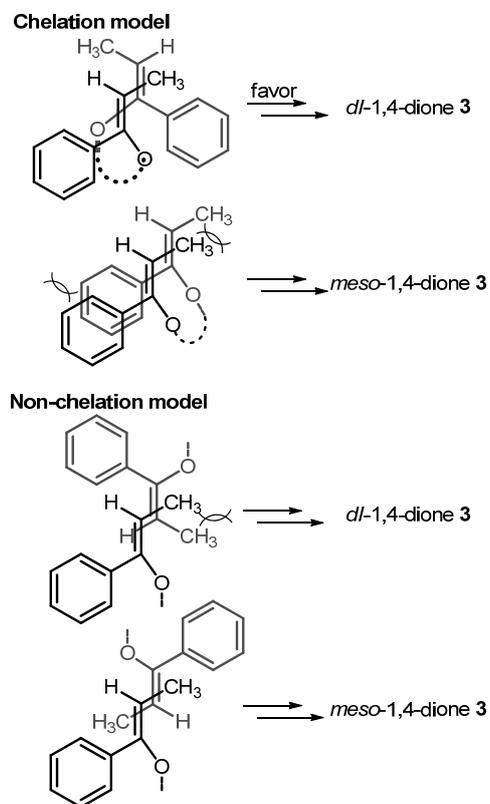
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**Scheme S1.** Representative Configurations of Two Enolates for the Coupling Reaction  
in Chelation and Non-chelation Models



**General.** NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-ECP 400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts in CDCl<sub>3</sub> were reported in ppm on the  $\delta$  scale relative to a residual solvent ( $\delta$  7.26 for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and 77.0 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR) as an internal standard. VOCl<sub>3</sub> (0.00 ppm) was used as an external standard for <sup>51</sup>V NMR. Infrared spectra were obtained with a JASCO FT/IR-6200 spectrometer. Mass spectra were measured on a JEOL JMS-DX-303 spectrometer using fast atom bombardment (FAB) mode. Measurement for X-ray crystallography was made on a Rigaku RAXIS-RAPID imaging plate diffractometer with graphite monochromated Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation.

VO(OPr-*i*)<sub>2</sub>Cl was prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>i</sup> VO(OPr-*i*)<sub>3</sub> and VO(OEt)Cl<sub>2</sub> were donated from Nichia corporation, and they were used after distillation. The dried CDCl<sub>3</sub> with MS4A was used for the reaction. The employed enones **1a**,<sup>ii</sup> **1b**,<sup>ii</sup> **1c**,<sup>iii</sup> **1d**,<sup>ii</sup> **1e**,<sup>ii</sup> **1f**,<sup>iv,v</sup> and **1g**<sup>vi,vii</sup> are known compounds. Chalcone (**1h**) was purchased from WAKO Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. 9-Borabicyclo[3,3,1]nonane (9-BBN) was purchased from Aldrich as a 0.5 M THF solution. The obtained 1,4-diones **3a**,<sup>viii</sup> **3b**,<sup>ix</sup> **3c**,<sup>x</sup> and **3h**<sup>viii</sup> are known compounds.

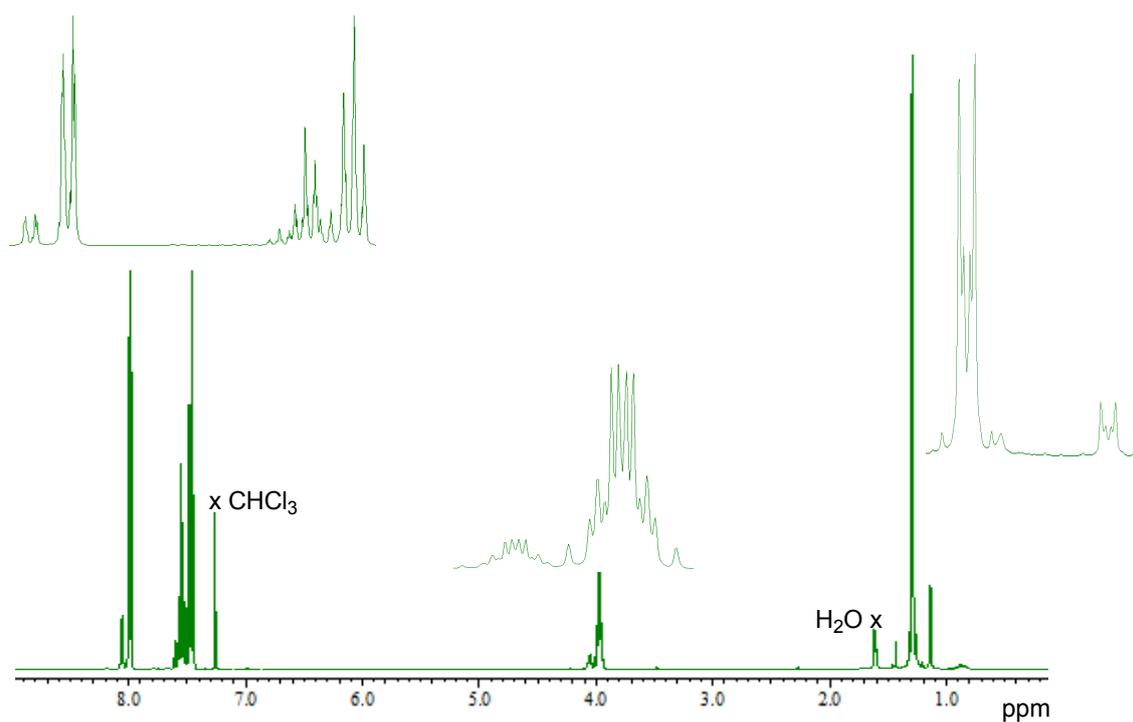
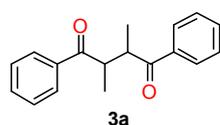
## References

- (i) D. C. Crans, H. Chen and R. A. Felty, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1992, **114**, 4543.
- (ii) X.-L. An, J.-R. Chen, C.-F. Li, F.-G. Zhang, Y.-Q. Zou, Y.-C. Guo and W.-J. Xiao, *Chem. Asian J.*, 2010, **5**, 2258.
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- (iv) M. Strohmeier, K. Leach and M. A. Zajac, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2011, **50**, 12335.
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- (vii) A. Bugarin, K. D. Jones and B. T. Connell, *Chem. Commun.*, 2010, **46**, 1715.
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- (x) S. G. A. Moinuddin, S. Hishiyama, M.-H. Cho, L. B. Davin and N. G. Lewis, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2003, **1**, 2307.



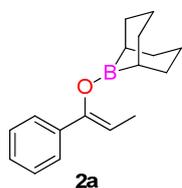
mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The product was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  twice. The combined organic layer was washed with water twice. The aqueous layer was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica-gel column chromatography to give **3a** by eluting with hexane/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 = 1:2$  to  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . After evaporation and drying *in vacuo*, 2,3-dimethyl-1,4-diphenylbutane-1,4-dione (**3a**) (a *dl/meso* diastereomeric mixture) was obtained as a white solid (93.2 mg, 0.350 mmol, 93% yield, *dl/meso* = 86:14).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum for **3a** synthesized using procedure 2 (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



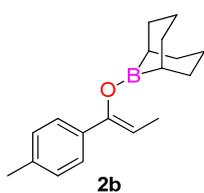
## Boron enolates

### (Z)-9-(1-phenylprop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2a)



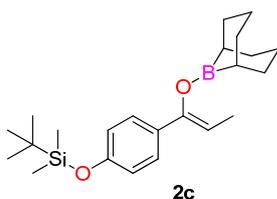
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.13-2.00 (m, 14H), 1.66 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 5.55 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 7.12-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 2H).

### (Z)-9-(1-*p*-tolylprop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2b)



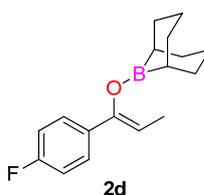
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.07-1.91 (m, 14H), 1.59 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 2.19 (s, 3H), 5.44 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 6.98 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz).

### (Z)-(4-(1-(9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonan-9-yloxy)prop-1-enyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dime thylsilane (2c)



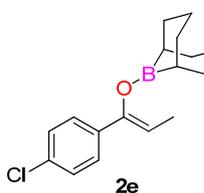
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.07 (s, 6H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 1.08-1.94 (m, 14H), 1.59 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 5.36 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 6.63-6.68 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.23 (m, 2H).

### (Z)-9-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)prop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2d)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.08-1.93 (m, 14H), 1.61 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 5.43 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 6.85-6.91 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 2H).

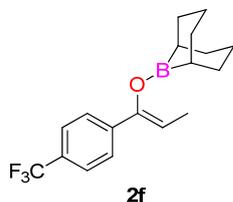
### (Z)-9-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2e)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.06-1.70 (m, 14H), 1.58 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 5.48 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 7.10-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 2H).

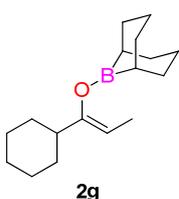
**(Z)-9-(1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)prop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane**

**(2f)**



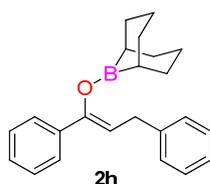
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.07-1.94 (m, 14H), 1.64 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.8$  Hz), 5.65 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 7.42-7.50 (m, 4H).

**(Z)-9-(1-(cyclohexyl)prop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2g)**



$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.99-1.92 (m, 25H), 1.35 (d, 3H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 4.56 (q, 1H,  $J = 6.9$  Hz).

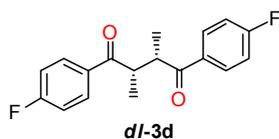
**(Z)-9-(1,3-diphenylprop-1-enyloxy)-9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane (2h)**



$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.09-1.90 (m, 16H), 3.39 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 5.58 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 7.01-7.19 (m, 8H), 7.36 (m, 2H).

**1,4-Diones**

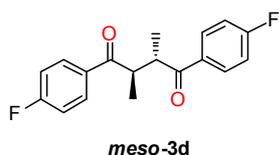
***dl*-1,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*dl*-3d)**



$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.29 (m, 6H), 3.90 (m, 2H), 7.13 (m, 2H), 8.01 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 15.66, 43.68, 115.71 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 22.0$  Hz), 131.11 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.6$  Hz), 132.39 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$  Hz), 164.46, 202.81 ppm; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2980,

2929, 1667, 1598, 1228, 1209, 1156, 971, 849  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$ : 302.1118, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 303.1199.

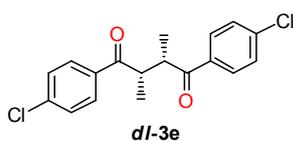
***meso*-1,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*meso*-3d)**



$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.12 (m, 6H), 3.98 (m, 2H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 8.08 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  17.42, 43.24, 115.91 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.1$  Hz), 131.14 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.6$  Hz), 133.14 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.9$  Hz), 164.71, 202.01; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2977,

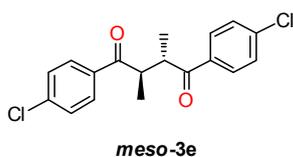
2937, 1668, 1595, 1225, 1191, 1159, 978, 844  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$ : 302.1118, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 303.1203.

***dl*-1,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*dl*-3e)**



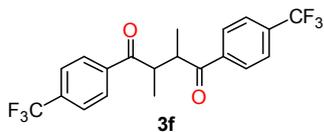
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.28 (m, 6H), 3.89 (m, 2H), 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.92 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  15.58, 43.72, 128.94, 129.90, 134.32, 139.47, 203.12; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2960, 2928, 1672, 1587, 1092, 970, 842  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2$ : 334.0527, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 335.0604.

***meso*-1,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*meso*-3e)**



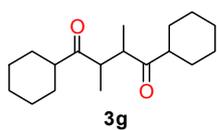
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.11 (m, 6H), 3.96 (m, 2H), 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.99 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  17.35, 43.28, 129.14, 129.87, 135.01, 139.96, 202.30; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2955, 2928, 1670, 1588, 1091, 977, 841  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2$ : 334.0527, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 335.0605.

**2,3-dimethyl-1,4-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butane-1,4-dione (3f)**



Major isomer:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.31 (m, 6H), 3.95 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 8.08 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  15.43, 44.16, 123.60 (q,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.7$  Hz), 125.75, 128.77, 134.39 (q,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.6$  Hz), 138.75, 203.42; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2971, 2935, 1679, 1319, 1136, 1114, 973, 858  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_6\text{O}_2$ : 402.1054, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 403.1127. Minor isomer:  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.17 (m, 6H), 4.04 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 8.14 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  17.18, 43.61, 123.53 (q,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.2$  Hz), 125.91, 128.78, 134.73 (q,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.6$  Hz), 139.27, 202.41; IR(ATR)  $\nu$  2984, 2951, 1680, 1309, 1136, 1108, 974, 849  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_6\text{O}_2$ : 402.1054, found  $[(M+H)^+]$ : 403.1128.

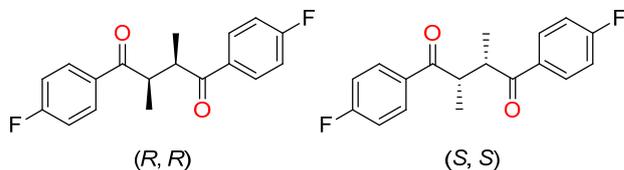
**1,4-dicyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (3g)**



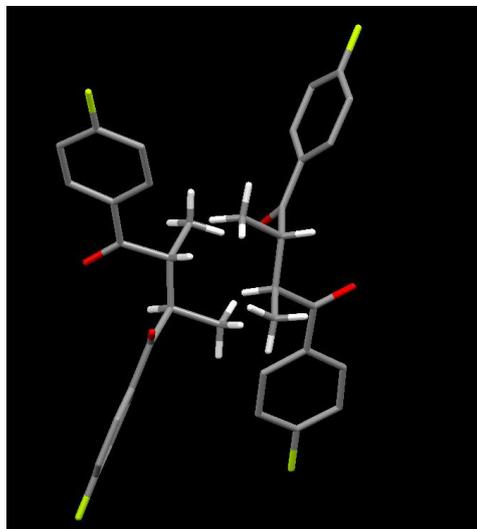
Diastereomeric mixtures. Selectivity was calculated from the integral ratio for the methyl protons.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.92-0.94 (m,  $-\text{CH}_3$  for minor isomer), 1.04-1.06 (m,  $-\text{CH}_3$  for minor isomer), 1.0-1.43 (m), 1.60-1.96 (m), 2.38-2.56 (m), 2.92-3.06 (m).

## X-ray structures

### *dl*-3d

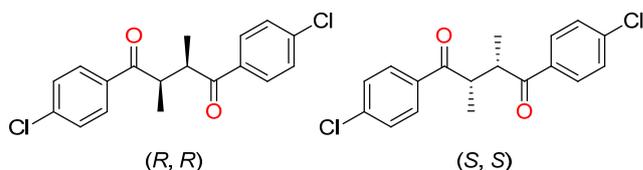


$a = 11.1477(5) \text{ \AA}$                        $\beta = 98.775(2)^\circ$   
 $b = 13.3381(6) \text{ \AA}$                        $V = 1552.5(2) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $c = 10.5647(5) \text{ \AA}$                        $Z = 4$   
 $R1 = 0.1517$                                $wR2 = 0.4909$   
 $P2_1/c$  (#14)                              monoclinic

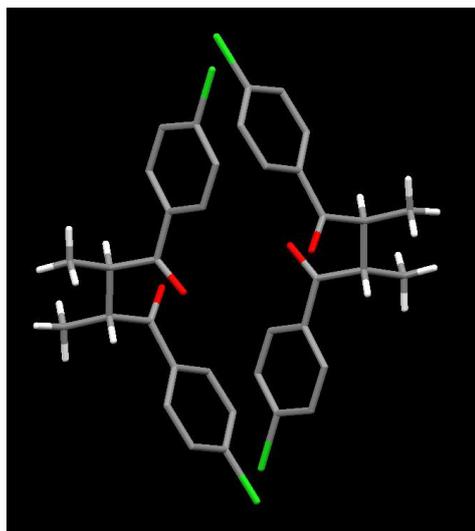


The data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre:  
CCDC-969201.

### *dl*-3e

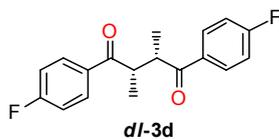


$a = 15.7021(2) \text{ \AA}$                        $\beta = 93.597(1)^\circ$   
 $b = 9.6923(1) \text{ \AA}$                        $V = 1669.34(4) \text{ \AA}^3$   
 $c = 10.9905(2) \text{ \AA}$                        $Z = 4$   
 $R1 = 0.0561$                                $wR2 = 0.1675$   
 $P2_1/c$  (#14)                              monoclinic

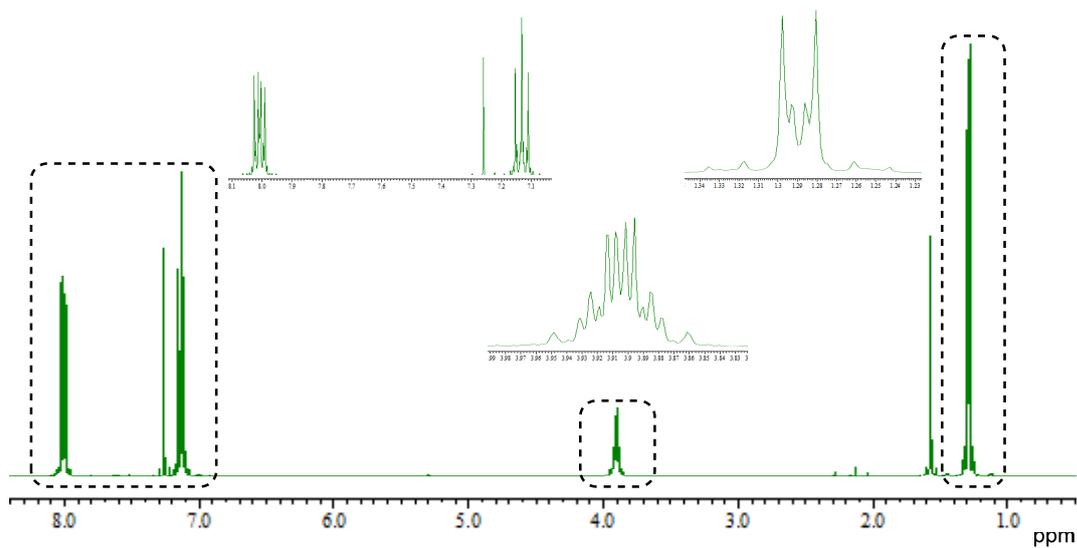


The data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre:  
CCDC-969200.

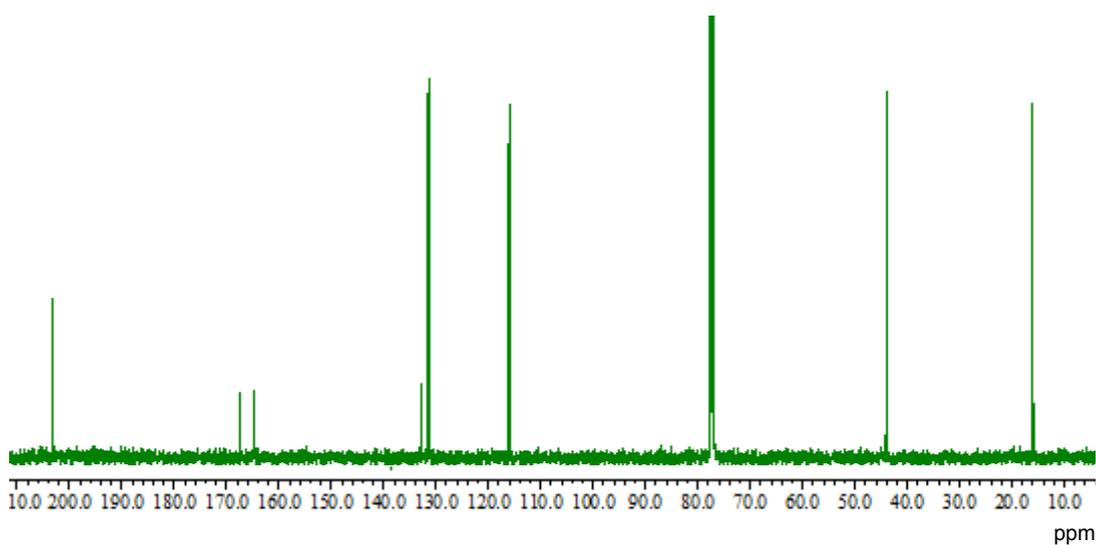
***dl*-1,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*dl*-3d)**



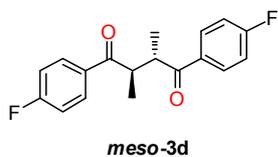
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



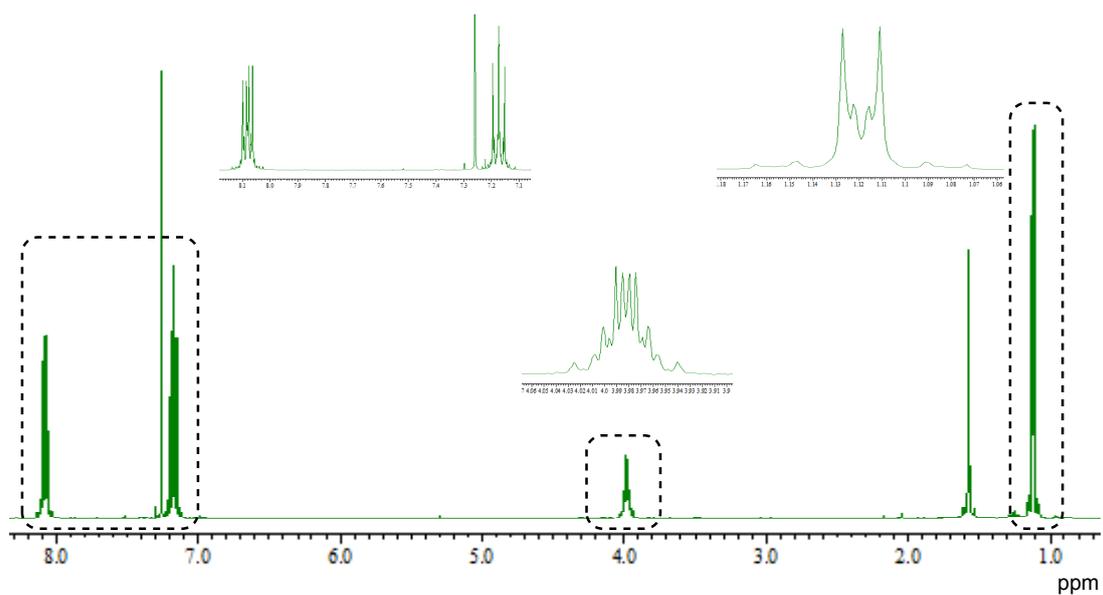
<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



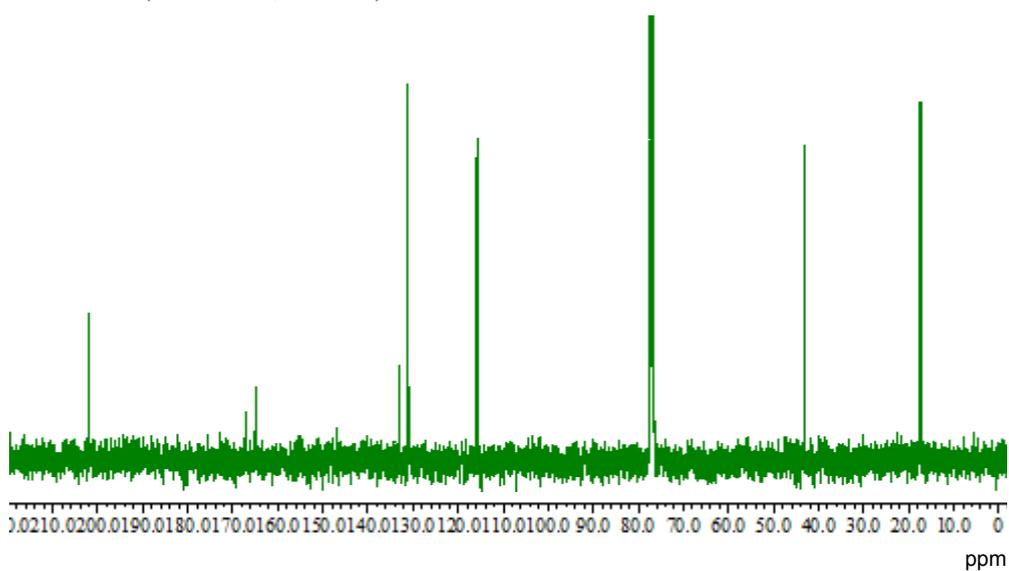
***meso*-1,4-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*meso*-3d)**



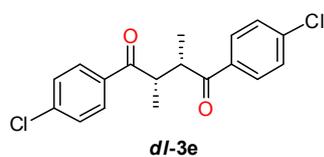
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



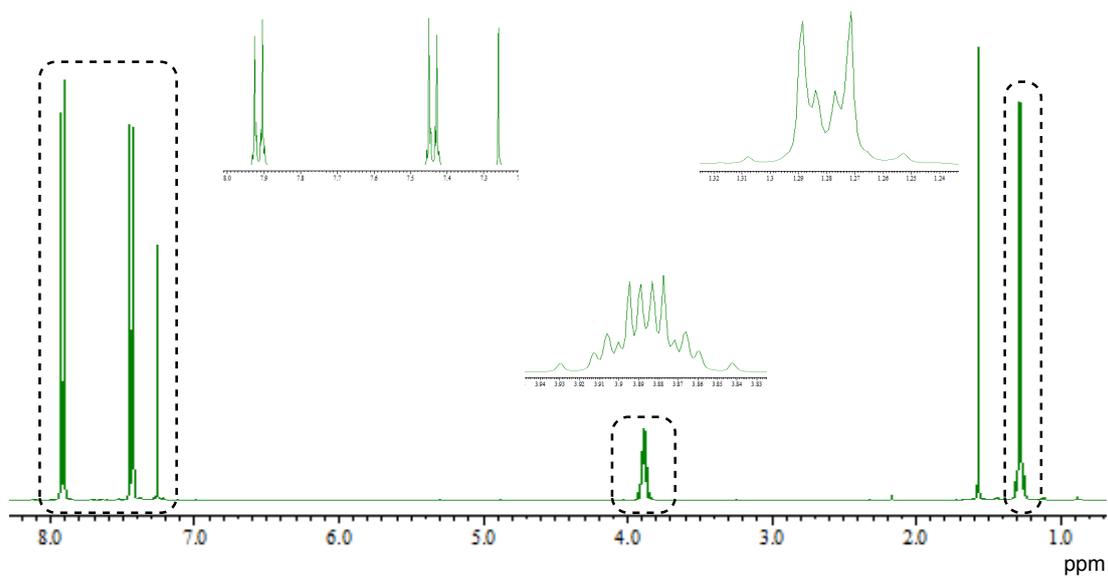
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



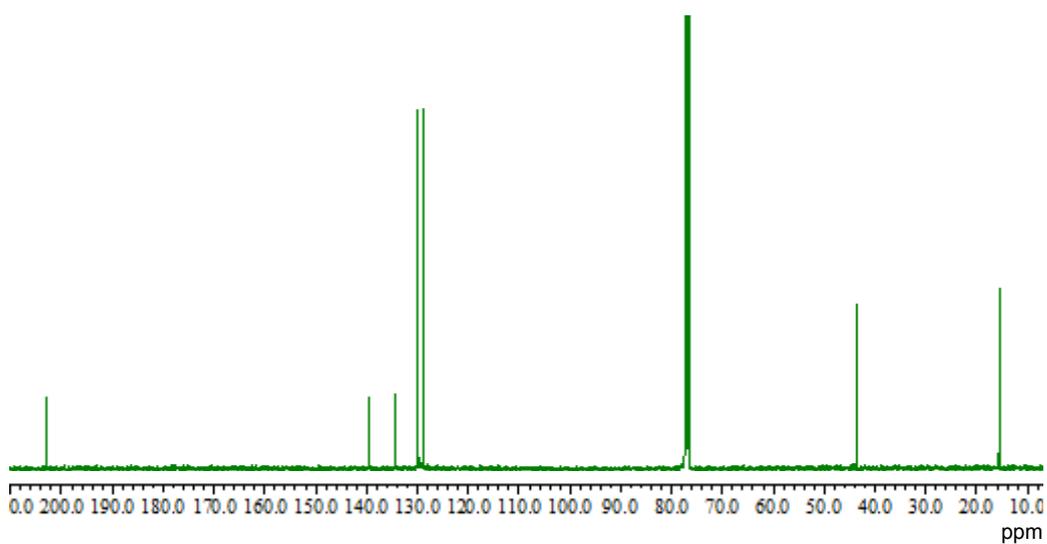
***dl*-1,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*dl*-3e)**



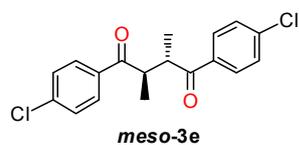
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



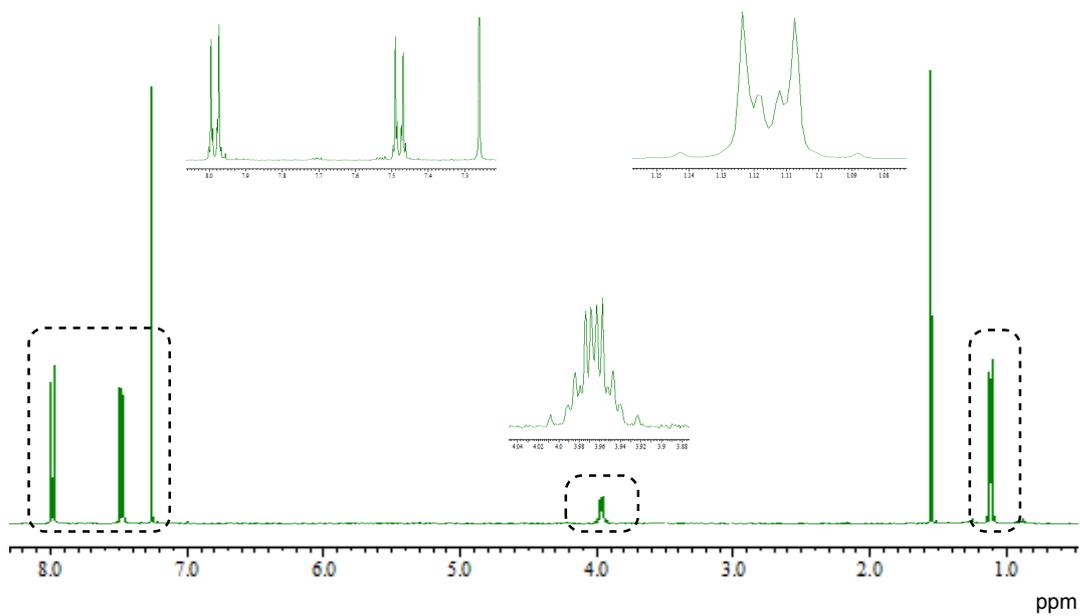
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



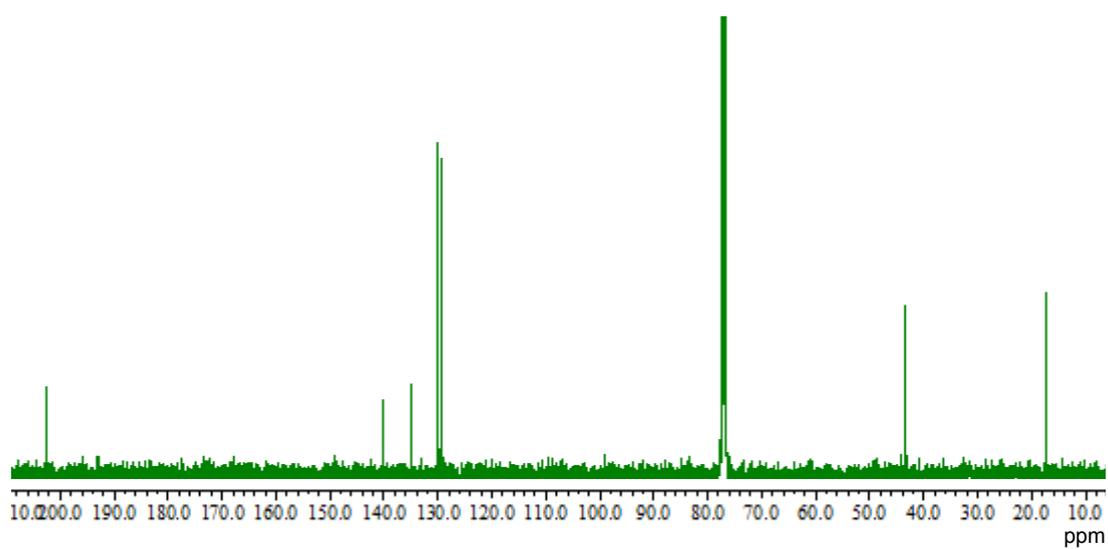
***meso*-1,4-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane-1,4-dione (*meso*-3e)**



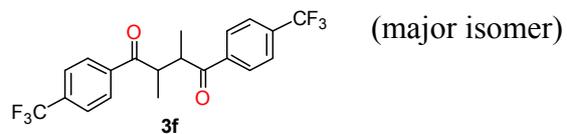
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



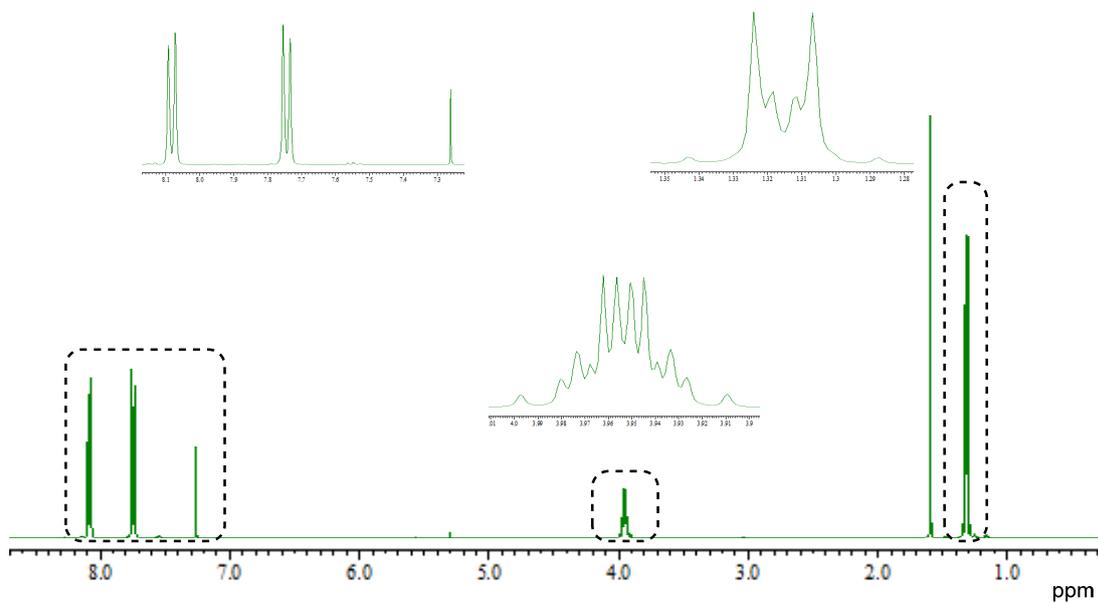
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



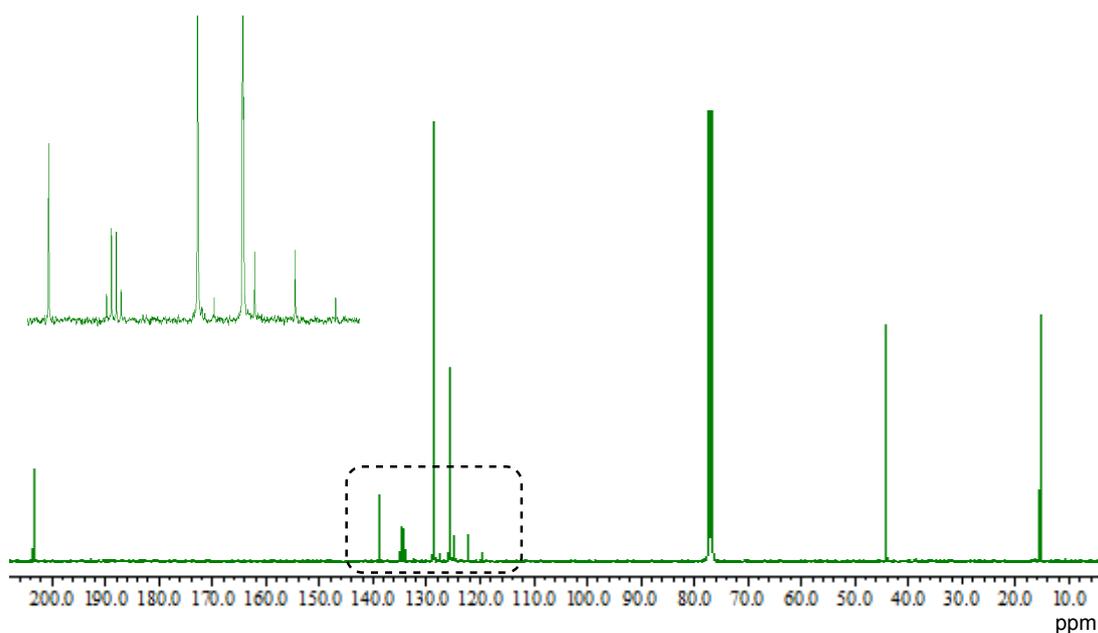
**2,3-dimethyl-1,4-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butane-1,4-dione (3f)**



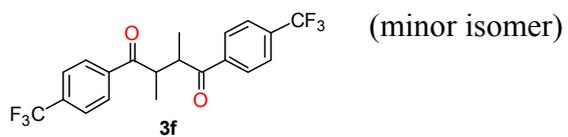
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



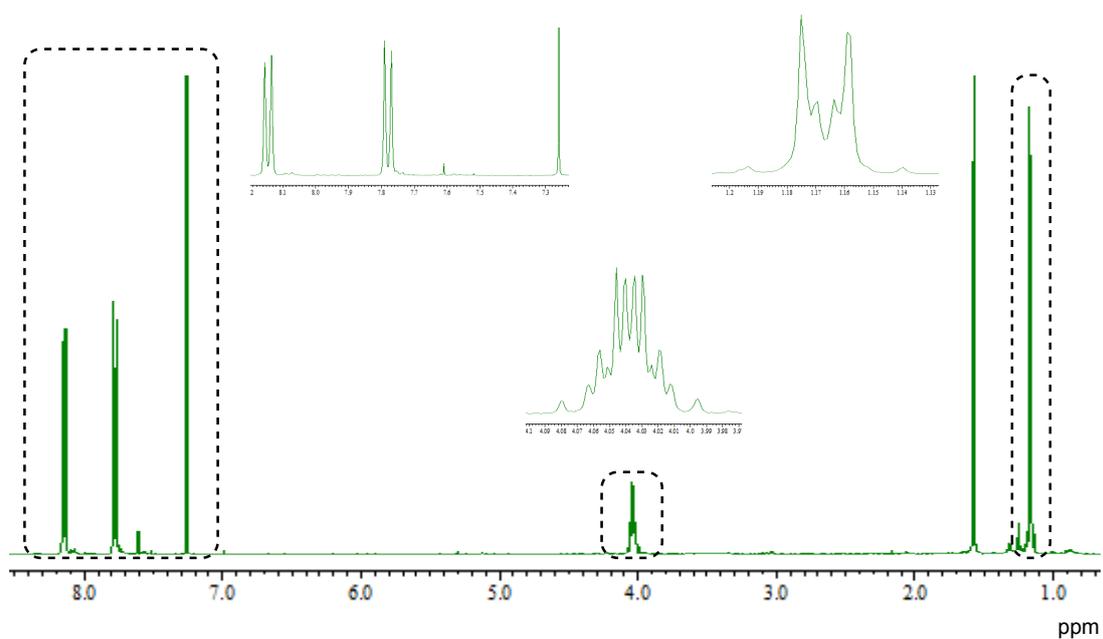
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**2,3-dimethyl-1,4-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butane-1,4-dione (3f)**  
(minor isomer)



$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

