

**Electronic Supplementary Information**

**DABCO-catalyzed ring opening of activated cyclopropanes  
and recyclization leading to  $\gamma$ -lactams with an all-carbon quaternary center**

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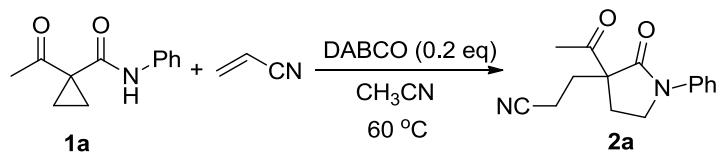
**Contents**

I.	General information.....	ESI2
II.	General procedure for $\gamma$ -lactams .....	ESI2
III.	Characterization of the products .....	ESI3--ESI8
IV.	$^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of compounds <b>2 -7</b> and <b>9</b> .....	ESI9

**I. General information:**

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further treatment, unless otherwise indicated. The products were purified by column chromatography over silica gel.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Varian 500 MHz and 125 MHz, respectively, with TMS as the internal standard. Melting points were obtained with a micro melting point XT4A Beijing Keyi electrooptic apparatus and are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on Bruker microtof. All reactions were monitored by TLC with Taizhou GF254 silica gel coated plates. Flash column chromatography was carried out using 200-300 mesh silica gel at increased pressure.

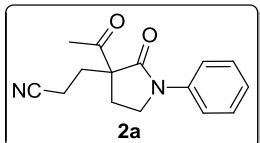
**II. General procedure for the construction of  $\gamma$ -lactams (**2a** as an example):**



To a solution of **1a** (203 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DABCO (44 mg, 0.2 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (2.0 mL) was added acrylonitrile (0.08 mL, 1.1 mmol) in a 25 mL flask. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 h, cooled down to room temperature, poured into brine and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was washed with water ( $3 \times 10$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether) to afford the desired product **2a** (238 mg, 93%).

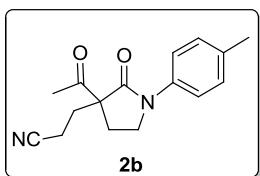
### III. Characterization of the products

#### 3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2a)



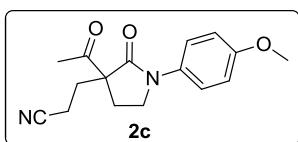
Colorless crystals. m.p. 86-88 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.00-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.35-2.46 (m, 4H), 2.77-2.82 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.89 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.23 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.42 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.0, 26.1, 26.1, 29.6, 29.8, 45.8, 62.7, 118.8, 120.0, 125.4, 129.0, 138.5, 170.4, 203.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [M+H]: 257.1290; found: 257.1290.

#### 3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2b)



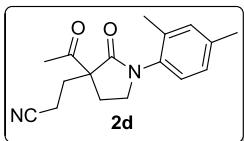
White solid. m.p. 91-93 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.98-2.04 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.30-2.46 (m, 10H), 2.74-2.79 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.87 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.0, 20.9, 26.1, 26.2, 29.8, 30.9, 46.0, 62.6, 118.9, 120.0, 129.5, 135.3, 136.0, 170.2, 203.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [M+H]: 271.1447; found: 271.1453.

#### 3-(3-acetyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2c)



Colorless crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.00-2.04 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.39 (m, 2H), 2.42-2.46 (m, 4H), 2.74-2.79 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.84 (m, 5H), 6.91-6.93 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.50 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.0, 26.1, 26.2, 29.8, 46.2, 55.4, 62.4, 114.1, 118.9, 121.8, 131.6, 157.1, 170.0, 203.8. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  [M+H]: 287.1396; found: 287.1391.

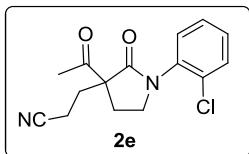
#### 3-(3-acetyl-1-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2d)



White solid. m.p. 74-76 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.05-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.45 (m, 5H), 2.46-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.79 (m, 1H), 3.60-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.73 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.05 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125

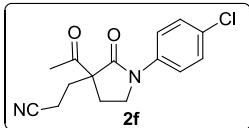
MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 12.9, 17.6, 20.9, 26.1, 27.1, 29.6, 47.7, 61.3, 118.9, 126.0, 127.6, 131.8, 133.7, 134.7, 138.2, 170.4, 204.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 285.1603; found: 285.1607.

**3-(3-acetyl-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2e)**



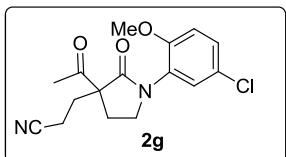
White solid. m.p. 77-79 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 2.09-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.42 (m, 5H), 2.45-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.78-2.83 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.80 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.49 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 12.9, 26.2, 27.3, 29.5, 47.0, 61.0, 119.0, 128.0, 129.1, 129.8, 130.5, 132.0, 135.1, 171.2, 203.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 291.0900; found: 291.0984.

**3-(3-acetyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2f)**



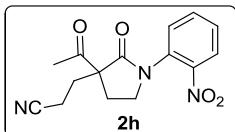
White solid. m.p. 119-121 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 2.00-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.45 (m, 4H), 2.79-2.83 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.85 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.37 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.58 (t, J = 9.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 13.0, 25.9, 26.1, 29.8, 45.8, 62.7, 118.7, 121.0, 129.0, 130.6, 137.1, 170.4, 203.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]: 291.0900; found: 291.0905.

**3-(3-acetyl-1-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2g)**



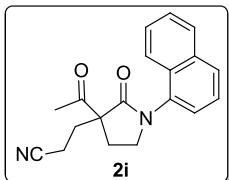
White solid. m.p. 55-57 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 2.05-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.26-2.38 (m, 5H), 2.43-2.56 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.75 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.74 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.90-6.92 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.22 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 12.8, 26.1, 27.4, 29.4, 46.9, 55.9, 60.8, 113.0, 119.1, 125.4, 127.0, 128.4, 129.1, 153.3, 171.6, 203.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]: 321.1006; found: 321.1010.

**3-(3-acetyl-1-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2h)**



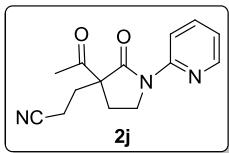
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.15-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.45 (m, 7H), 2.86-2.91 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.89-3.94 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 1H), 8.00-8.02 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 12.8, 26.1, 27.0, 29.2, 30.9, 47.2, 61.4, 118.8, 125.6, 127.0, 128.3, 131.1, 134.0, 145.3, 171.0, 203.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$  [M+H]: 302.1141; found: 302.1147.

**3-(3-acetyl-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2i)**



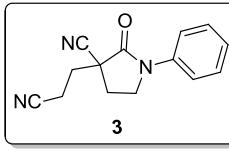
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.19-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.60 (m, 7H), 2.87-2.92 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.91 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.35 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.86-7.92 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.1, 26.3, 27.4, 29.8, 48.8, 61.7, 118.9, 121.8, 124.7, 125.6, 126.6, 127.1, 128.7, 129.0, 129.3, 134.3, 134.5, 171.5, 204.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  [M+H]: 307.1447; found: 307.1446.

**3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-(pyridin-2-yl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)propanenitrile (2j)**



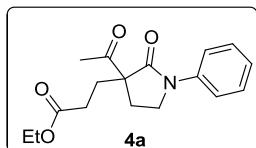
White solid. m.p. 83-85 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.97-2.02 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.39 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.69-2.74 (m, 1H), 3.99-4.05 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.19 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.75 (m, 1H), 8.35-8.39 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 12.9, 25.8, 26.1, 29.6, 44.3, 63.3, 114.6, 118.8, 120.2, 137.7, 147.6, 150.9, 171.3, 203.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$  [M+H]: 257.1164; found: 257.1171.

**3-(2-cyanoethyl)-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidine-3-carbonitrile (3)**



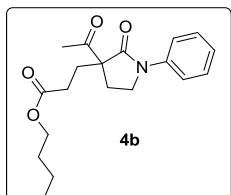
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 2.10-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.81-2.88 (m, 1H), 3.84-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.95-4.00 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.42 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.57 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.3, 29.8, 30.6, 44.8, 45.3, 117.5, 118.1, 120.2, 125.9, 129.0, 137.7, 166.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}$  [M+H]: 239.1059; found: 239.1055.

**ethyl 3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)propanoate (4a)**



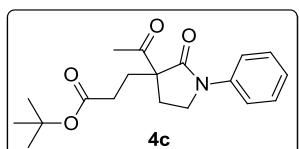
White solid. m.p. 56-58 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.24-1.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.86-1.92 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.33 (m, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.79-2.83 (m, 1H), 3.71-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.79-3.84 (m, 1H), 4.12-4.16 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.19 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.40 (t,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 14.1, 25.6, 26.1, 29.7, 45.9, 60.7, 63.4, 119.9, 125.1, 128.9, 138.9, 171.0, 172.4, 204.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$  [M+H]: 303.1471; found: 303.1477.

**butyl 3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)propanoate (4b)**



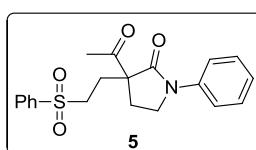
White solid. m.p. 36-38 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 0.92-0.94 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.92 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.36 (m, 6H), 2.43-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.76-2.81 (m, 1H), 3.70-3.83 (m, 2H), 4.06-4.09 (t,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 13.5, 18.8, 25.3, 25.8, 29.4, 30.3, 45.6, 63.1, 64.4, 119.6, 124.8, 128.6, 138.8, 170.8, 172.2, 204.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$  [M+H]: 332.1862; found: 332.1867.

**tert-butyl 3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)propanoate (4c)**



White solid. m.p. 74-76 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.86-1.92 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.62 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.39-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.77-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.70-3.83 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.39 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 25.4, 26.0, 27.9, 29.7, 30.7, 45.8, 63.3, 80.7, 119.8, 124.9, 128.8, 138.9, 171.0, 171.5, 204.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$  [M+H]: 332.1862; found: 332.1867.

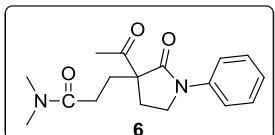
**3-acetyl-1-phenyl-3-(2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (5)**



White solid. m.p. 121-123 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 1.86-1.88 (m, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.26-2.30 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.63-2.66 (m, 1H), 3.10-3.13 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.80 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.17 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.36 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.57 (t,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 4H),

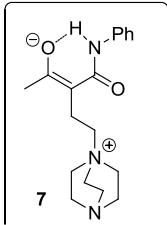
7.63-7.66 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.90 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 25.8, 26.1, 26.9, 45.6, 51.5, 61.9, 119.8, 125.2, 127.8, 128.8, 129.3, 133.8, 138.3, 138.4, 170.3, 203.7$ . HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$  [M+H]: 372.1270; found: 372.1267.

**3-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylpropanamide (6)**



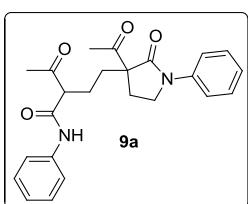
White solid. m.p. 61-63 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.93\text{-}1.98$  (m, 1H), 2.22-2.45 (m, 7H), 2.73-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.82 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.19 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.39 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.61 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 25.9, 26.2, 28.4, 29.5, 35.5, 37.2, 45.9, 63.4, 119.9, 125.0, 128.9, 139.0, 171.4, 171.5, 205.2$ . HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  [M+H]: 303.1709; found: 303.1712.

**1,3-zwitterion (7)**



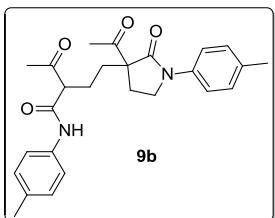
White solid. m.p. 173-175 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta = 1.75\text{-}1.76$  (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 2.32-2.35 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.72-2.75 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.79-2.80 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 6H), 3.01-3.02 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 6H), 6.83-6.86 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.14 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.26 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta = 20.4, 24.1, 44.2, 51.8, 63.7, 93.2, 119.9, 123.1, 129.5, 139.6, 170.0, 181.4$ . HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$  [M+H]: 316.2025; found: 316.2021.

**2-acetyl-4-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-phenylbutanamide (9a)**



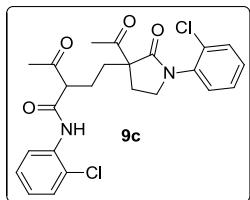
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.88\text{-}2.00$  (m, 4H), 2.14-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.33 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 3H), 2.79-2.82 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.85 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.58 (m, 4H), 8.30-8.35 (d,  $J = 25.0$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 24.5, 24.6, 25.4, 25.6, 26.0, 28.8, 29.2, 32.0, 32.3, 46.2, 46.3, 61.5, 61.6, 63.9, 63.9, 120.0, 120.0, 120.2, 120.0, 124.7, 125.3, 125.3, 128.9, 137.4, 137.4, 138.7, 166.3, 166.3, 171.3, 171.4, 204.6, 204.6, 205.5, 205.6$ . HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  [M+H]: 407.1971; found: 407.1976.

**2-acetyl-4-(3-acetyl-2-oxo-1-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)butanamide (9b)**



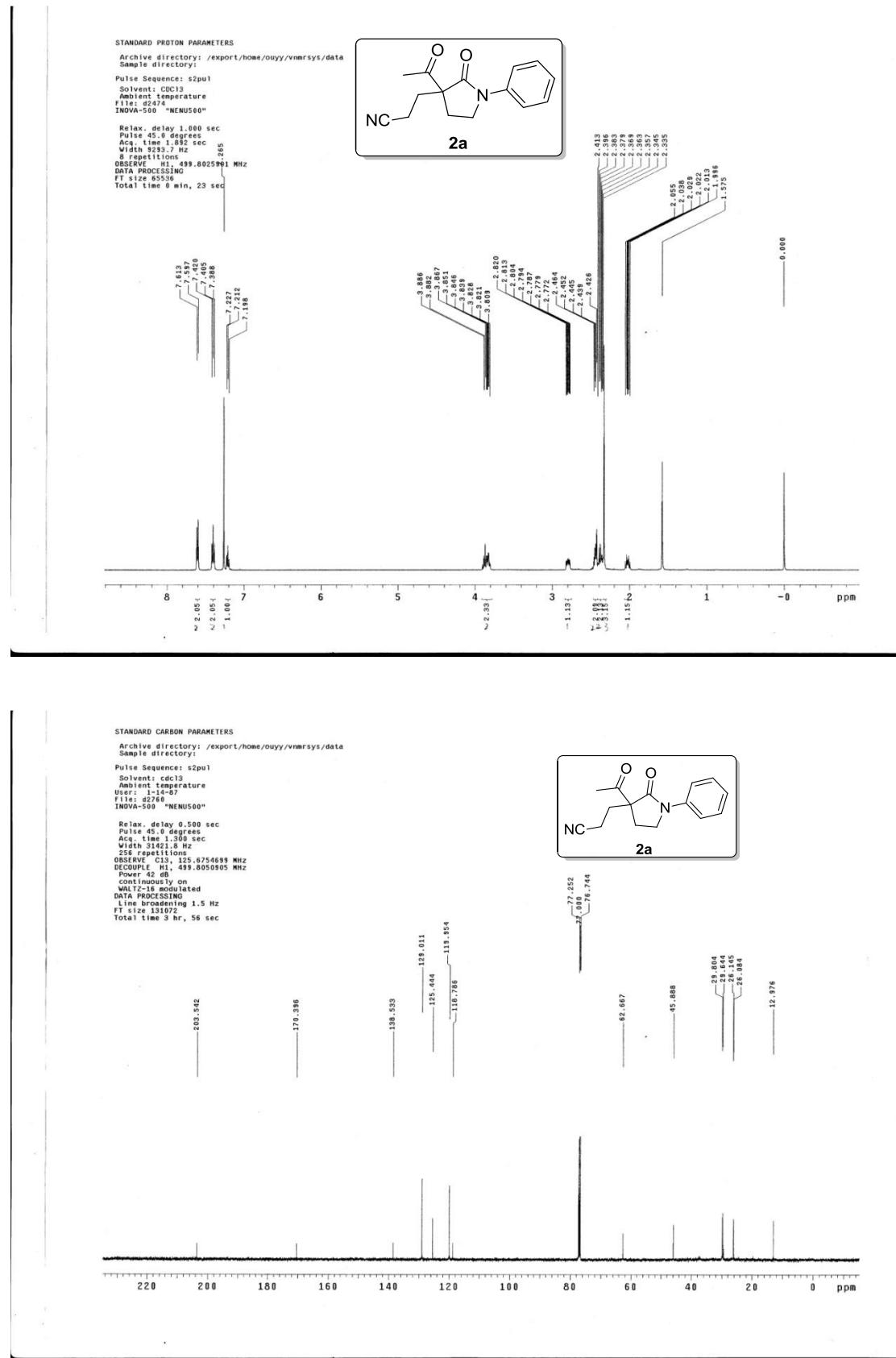
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.85\text{-}2.00$  (m, 4H), 2.13-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.38 (m, 12H), 2.76-2.83 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.83 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 4H), 8.21-8.26 (d,  $J = 27.5$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 20.8, 24.5, 24.7, 25.4, 25.7, 26.0, 26.0, 28.8, 29.2, 32.0, 32.3, 46.3, 46.4, 61.5, 61.6, 63.8, 63.8, 120.0, 120.0, 120.3, 120.3, 129.4, 129.4, 129.4, 134.3, 134.3, 134.8, 134.9, 135.1, 135.2, 136.2, 166.1, 166.2, 171.1, 171.2, 204.7, 204.8, 205.6, 205.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  [M+H]: 435.2284; found: 435.2288.$

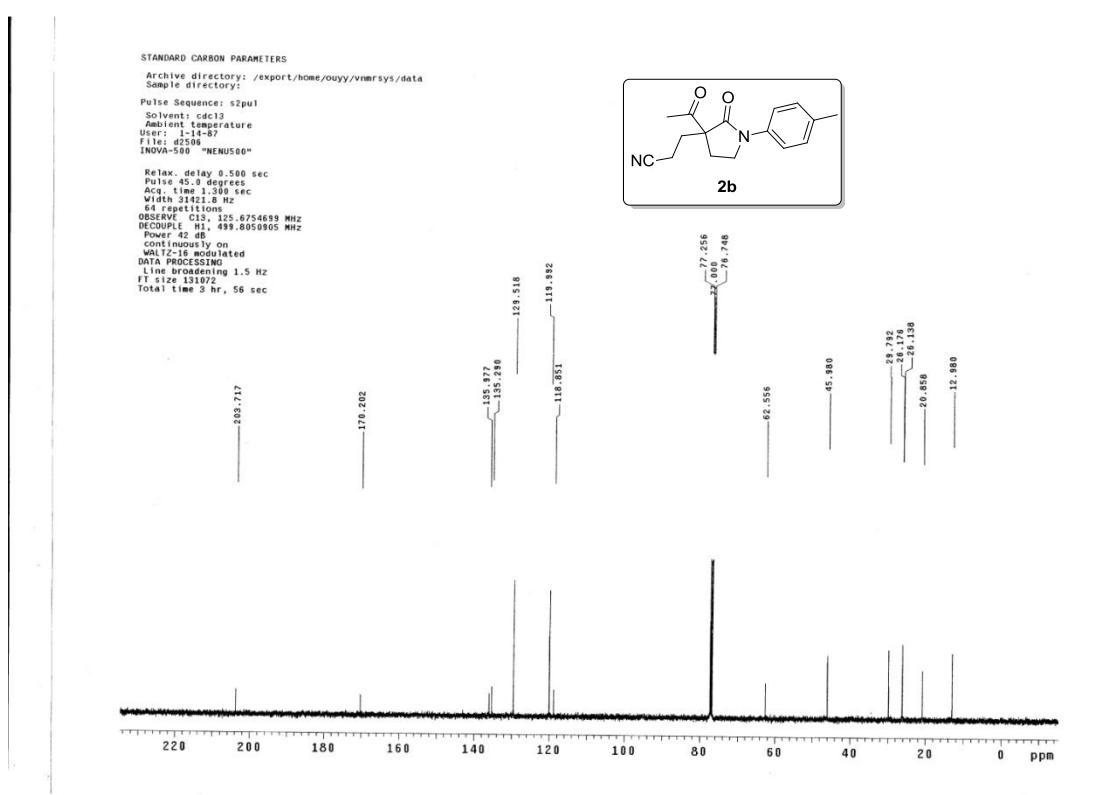
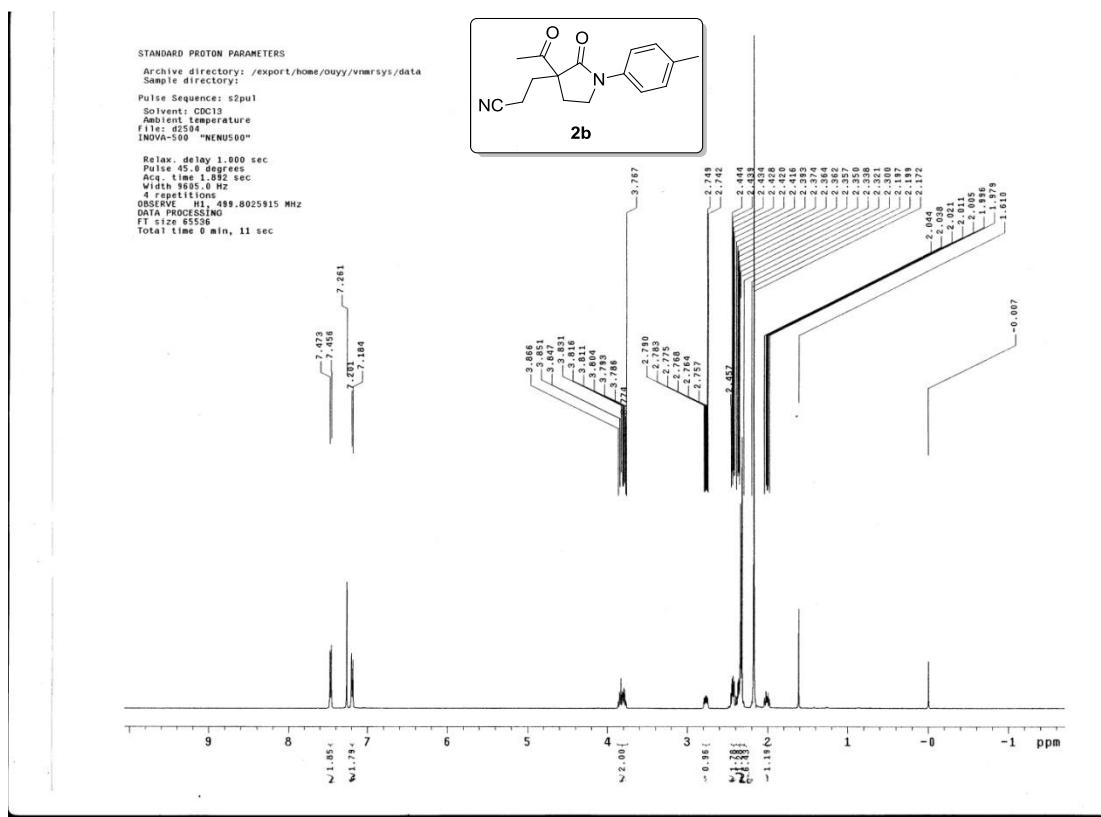
**2-acetyl-4-(3-acetyl-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(2-chlorophenyl)butanamide (9c)**

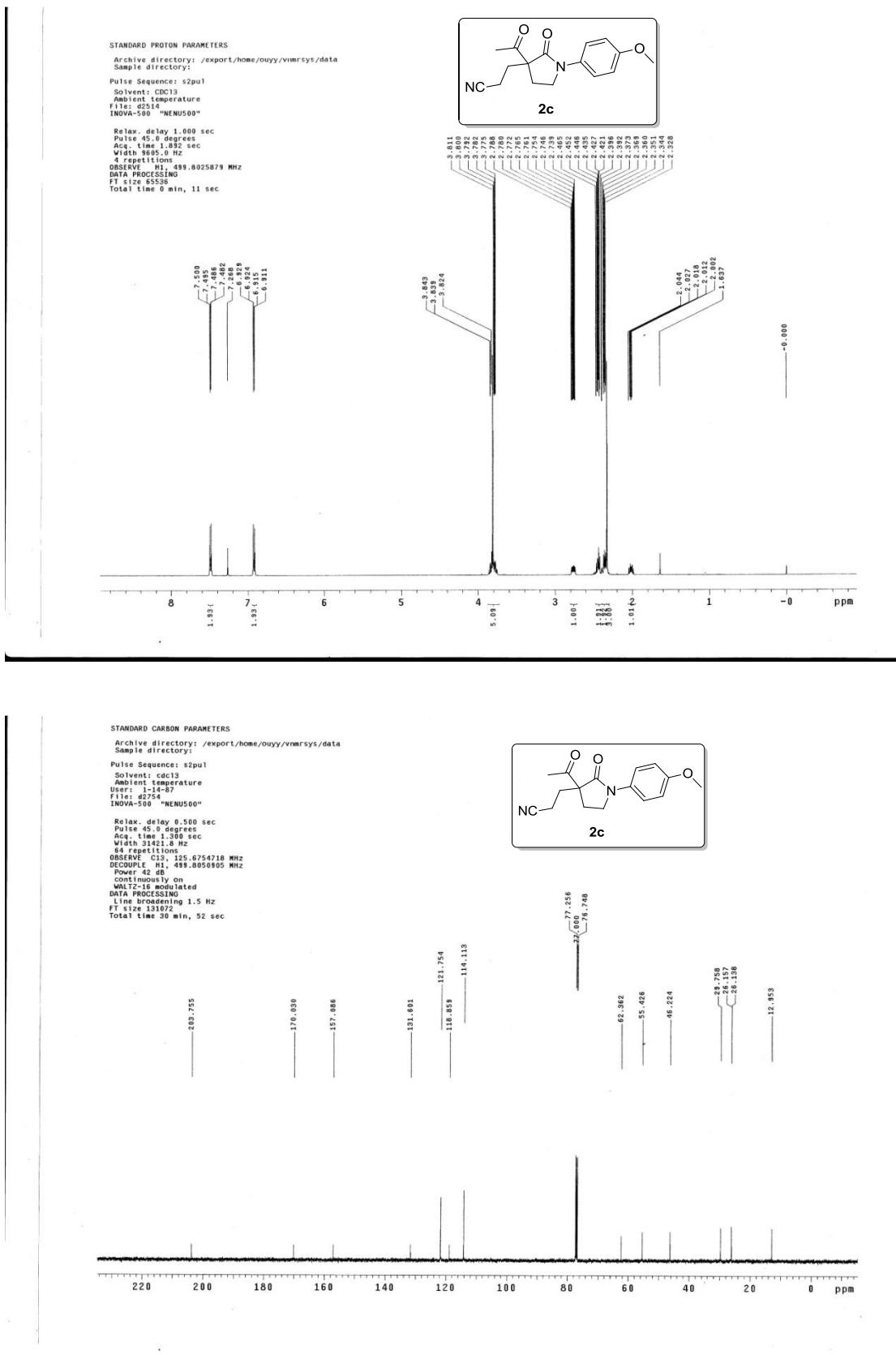


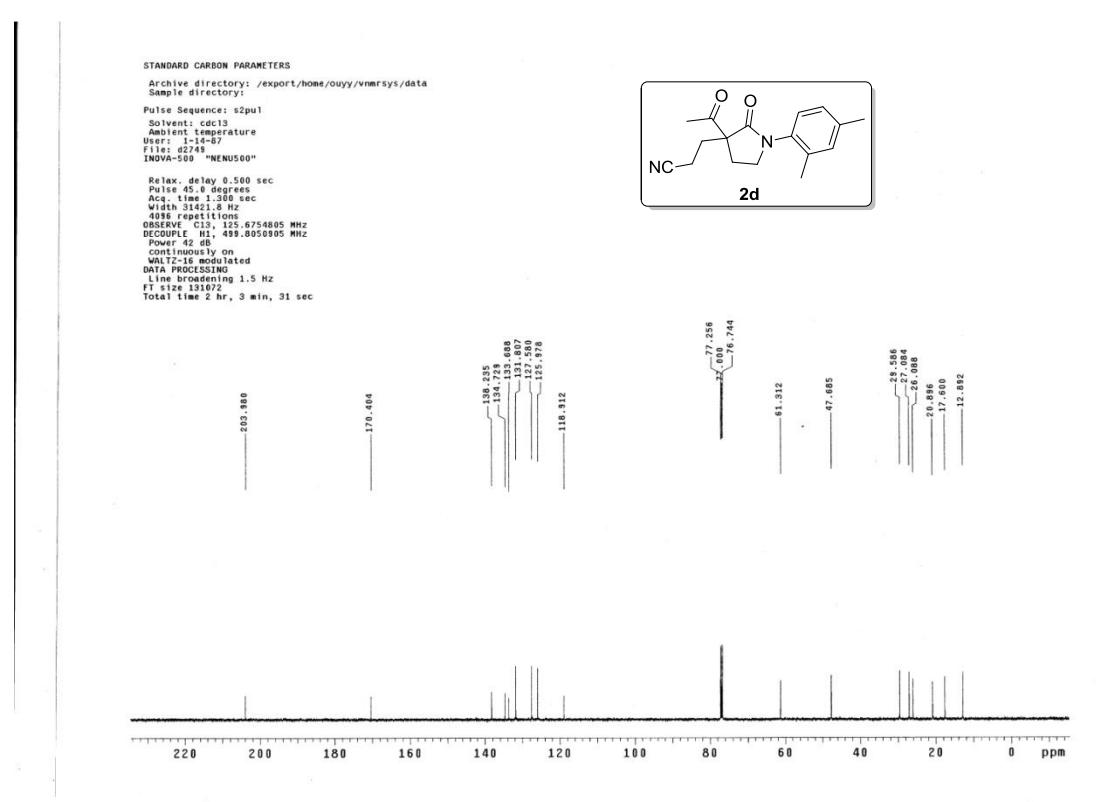
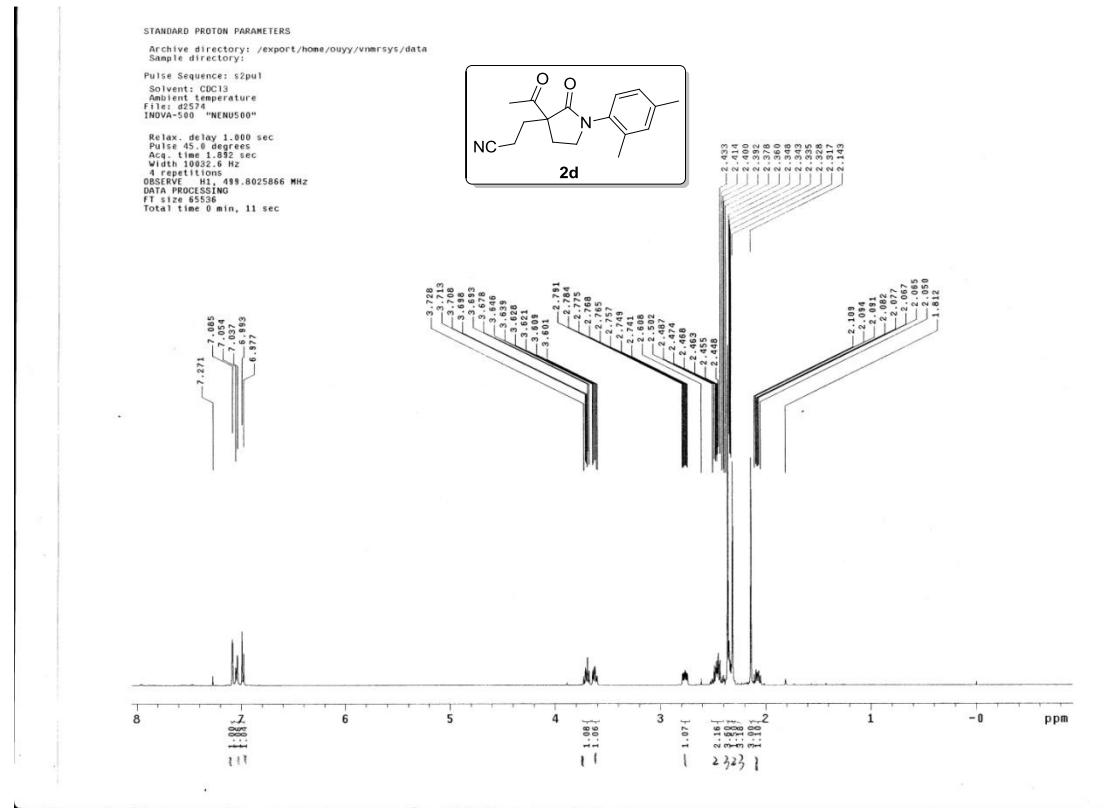
Colorless oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 1.94\text{-}2.18$  (m, 5H), 2.33-2.40 (m, 6H), 2.85-2.88 (m, 1H), 3.56-3.74 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.10 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.47 (m, 6H), 8.23-8.25 (m, 1H), 8.54-8.63 (d,  $J = 41.5$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 25.2, 25.4, 26.0, 26.0, 26.5, 26.8, 29.3, 29.4, 29.8, 31.8, 31.9, 47.2, 47.3, 61.2, 61.6, 62.3, 62.4, 122.3, 122.3, 123.8, 123.9, 125.4, 127.5, 127.5, 127.9, 129.1, 129.1, 129.5, 129.5, 130.4, 132.0, 132.0, 134.0, 135.5, 135.6, 166.2, 166.2, 171.8, 171.8, 204.5, 204.6, 205.7, 206.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calc for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  [M+H]: 475.1191; found: 475.1187.$

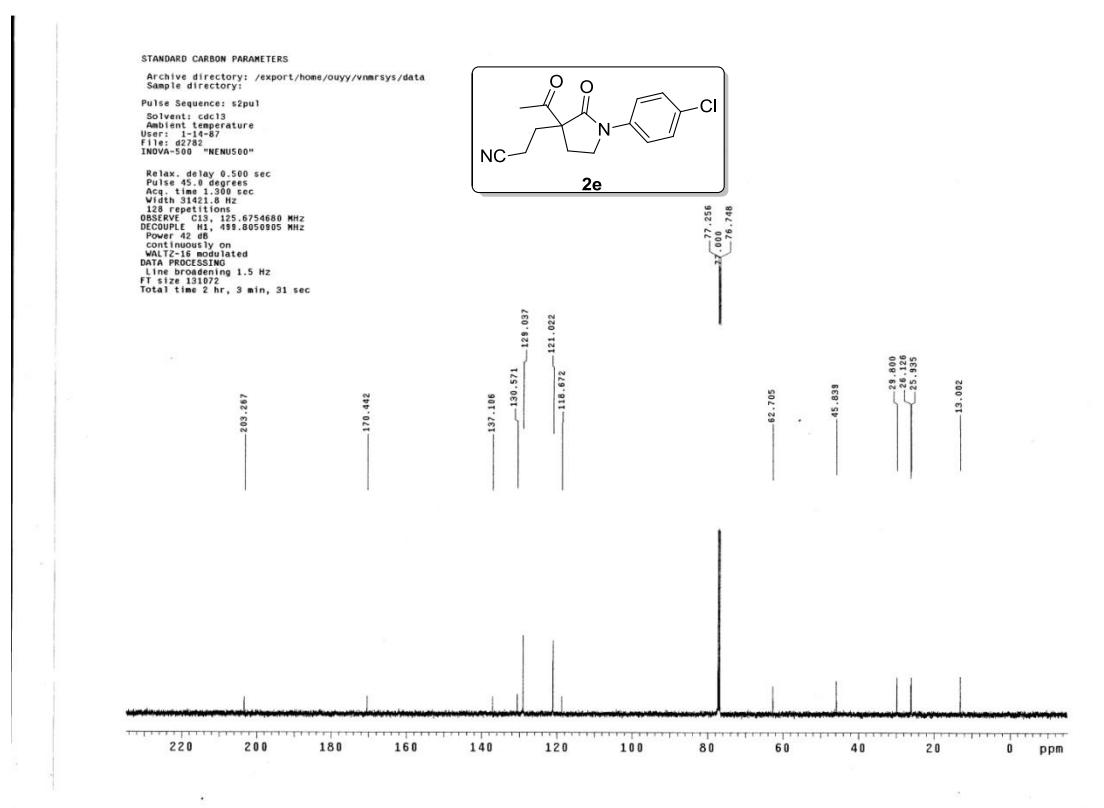
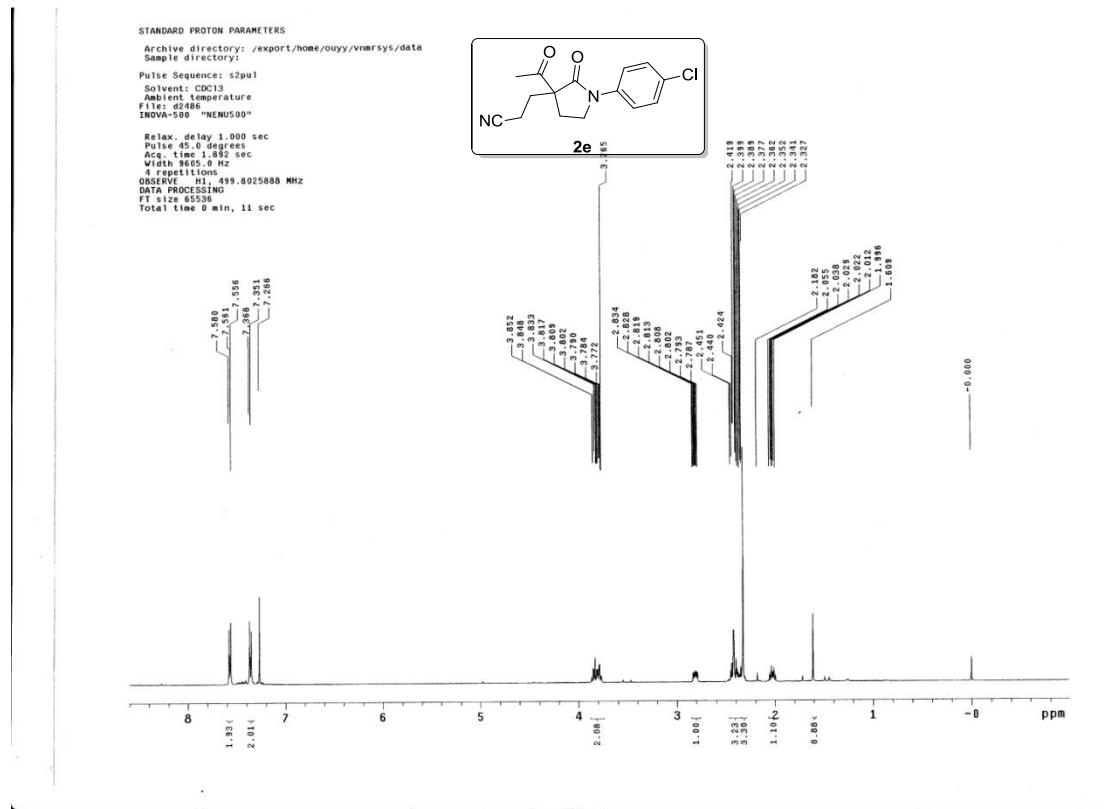
#### IV. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of compounds 2-7.



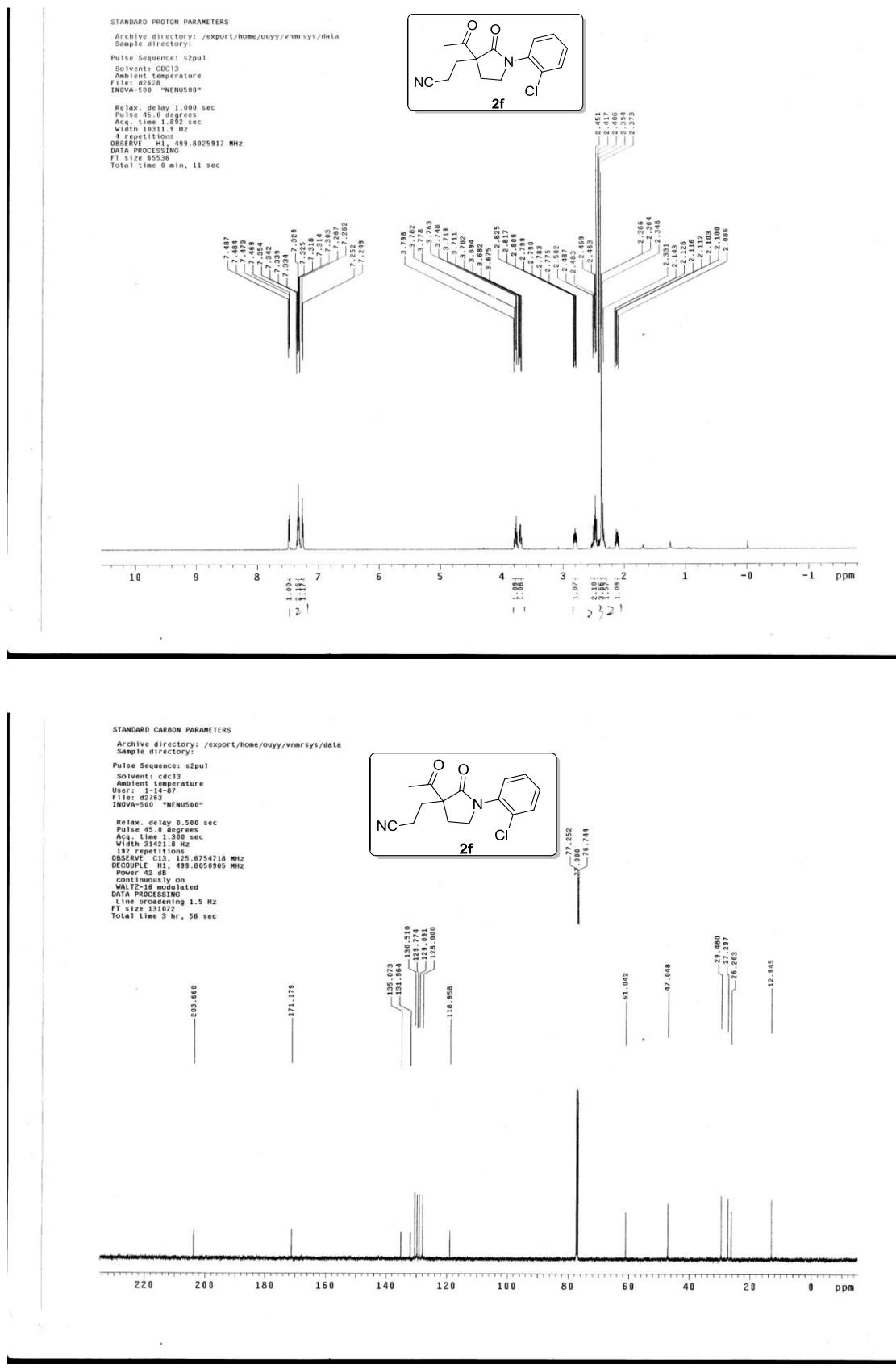


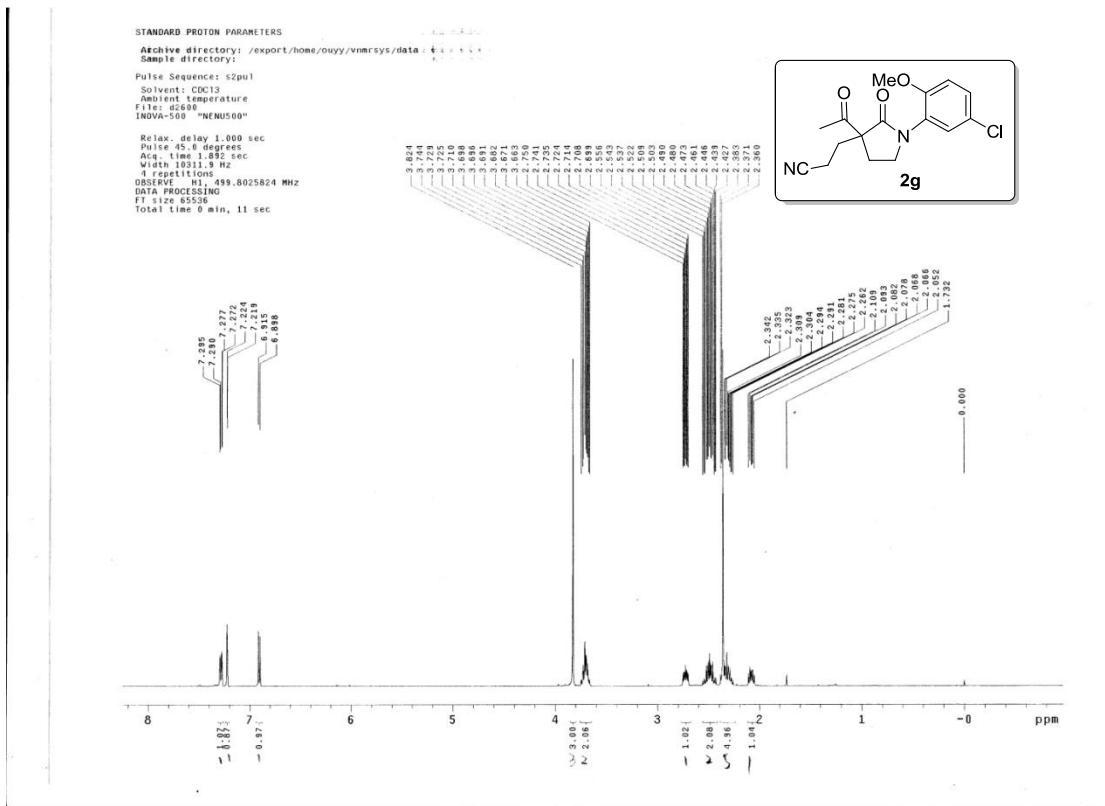


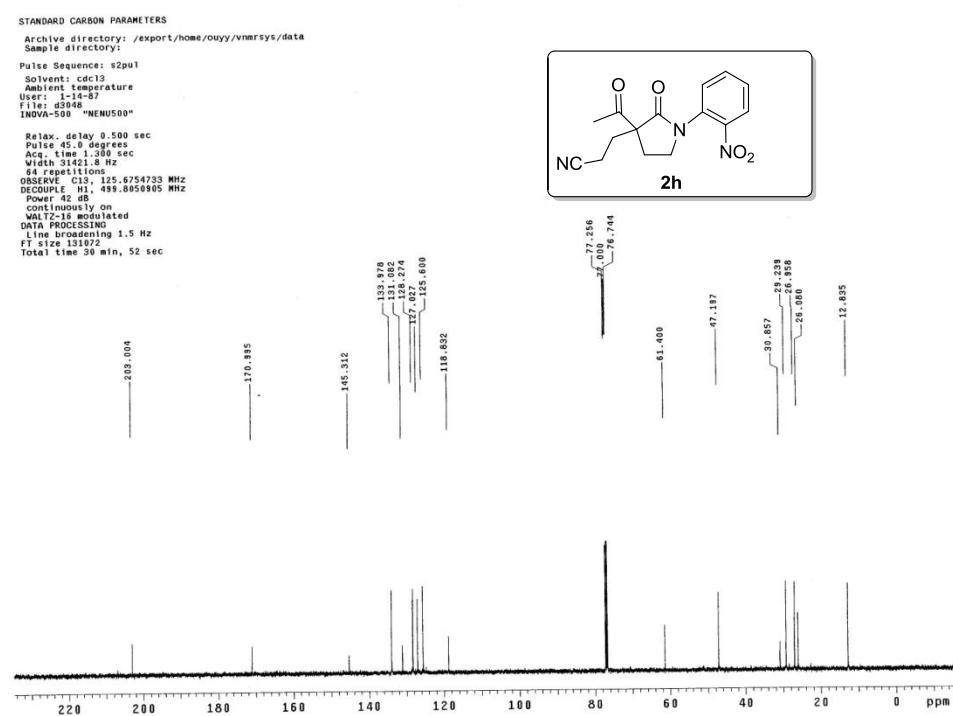
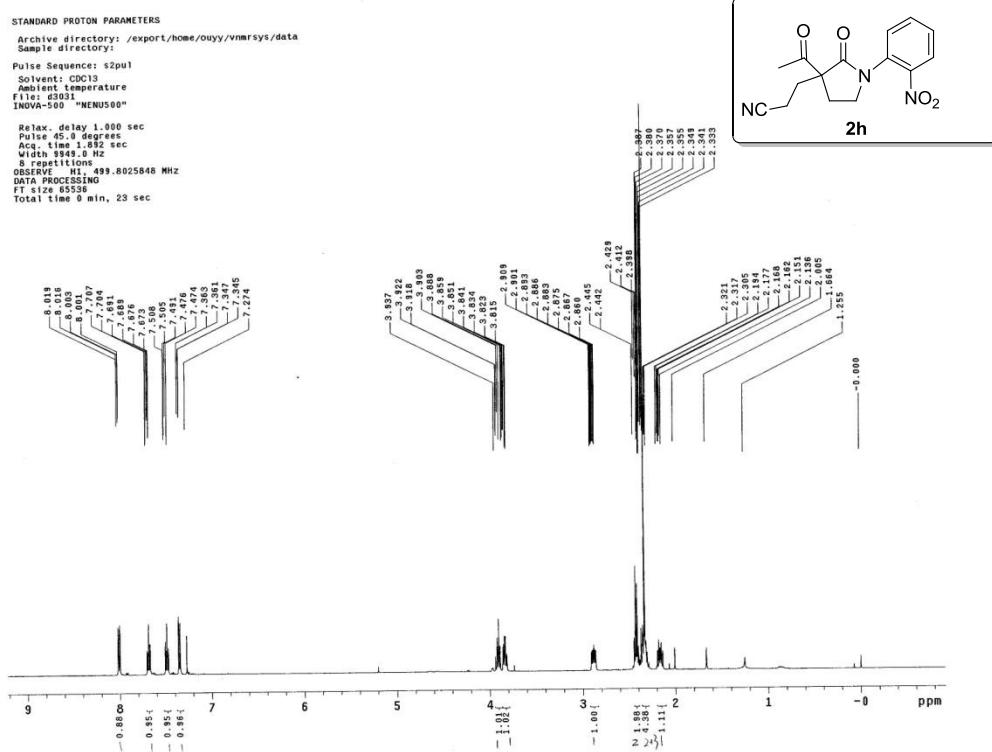


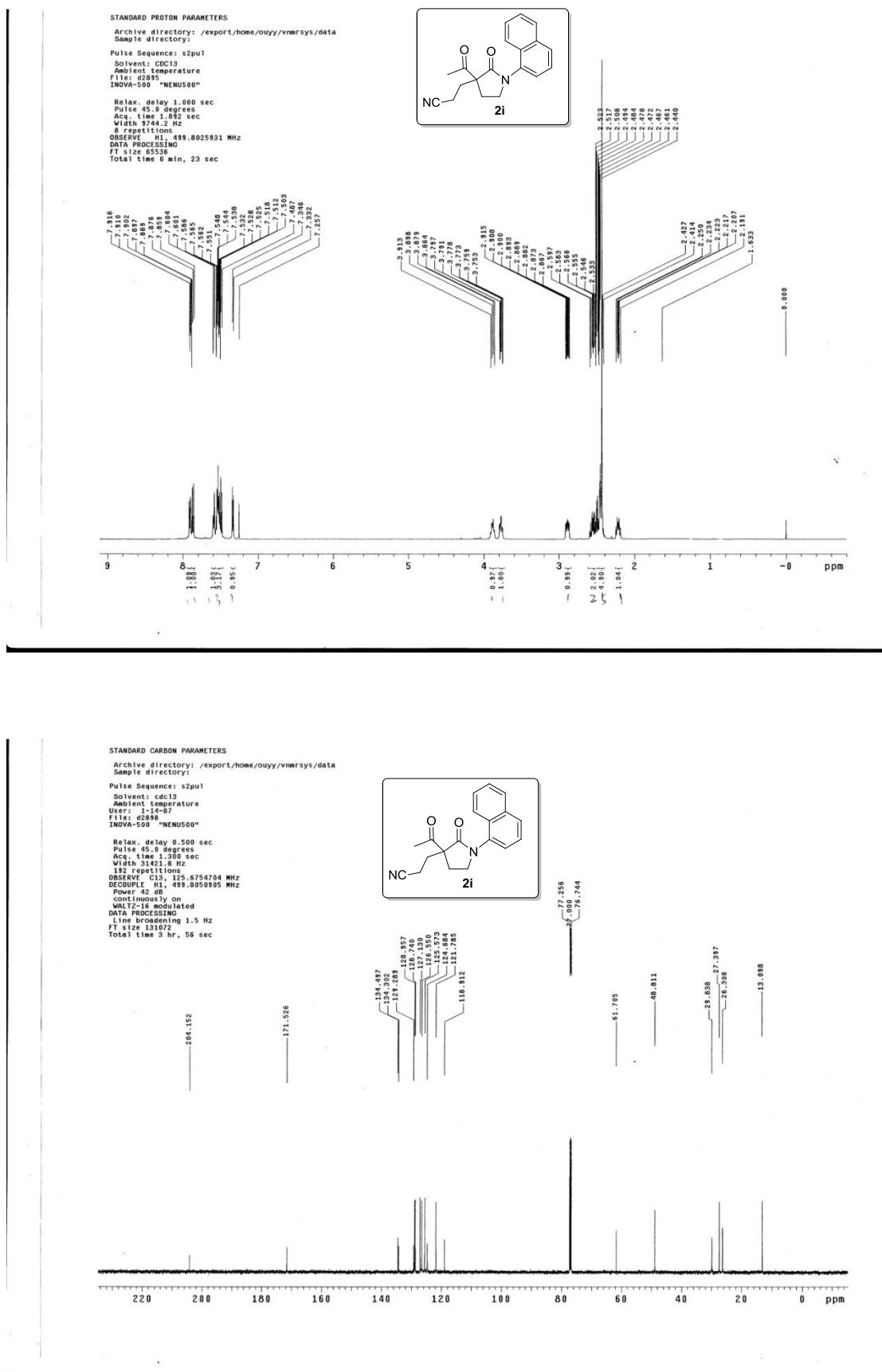


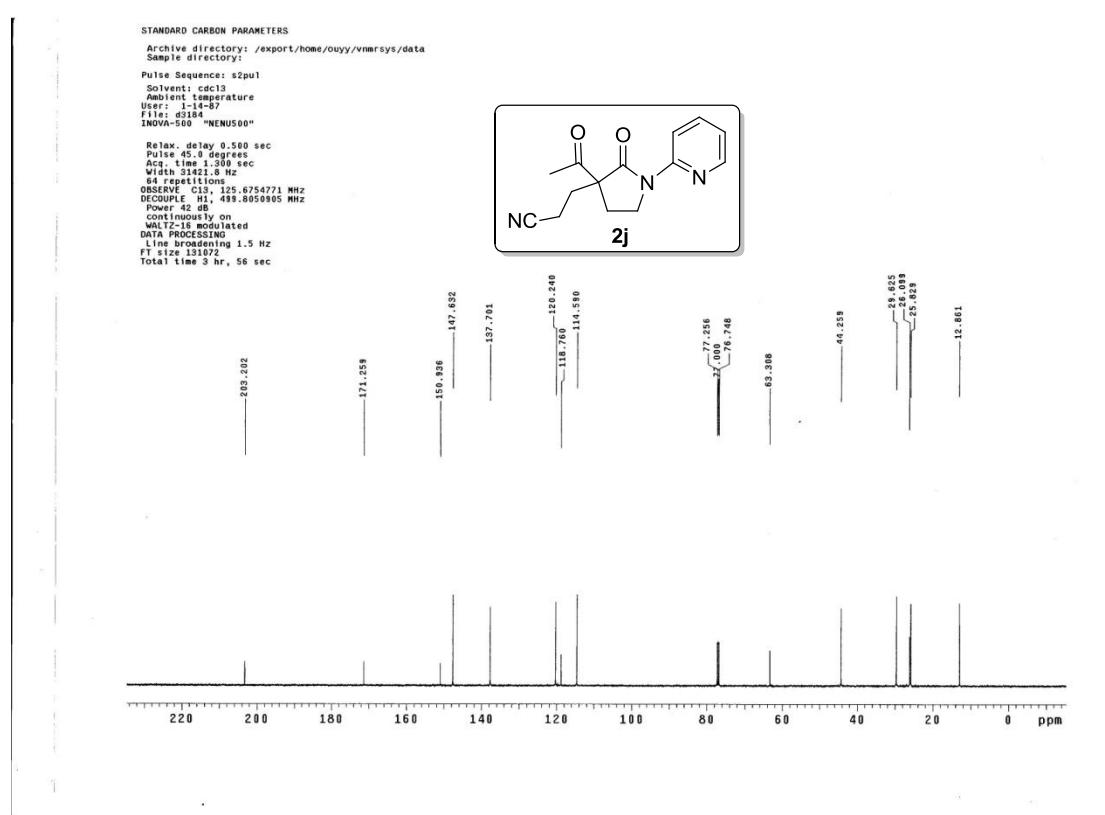
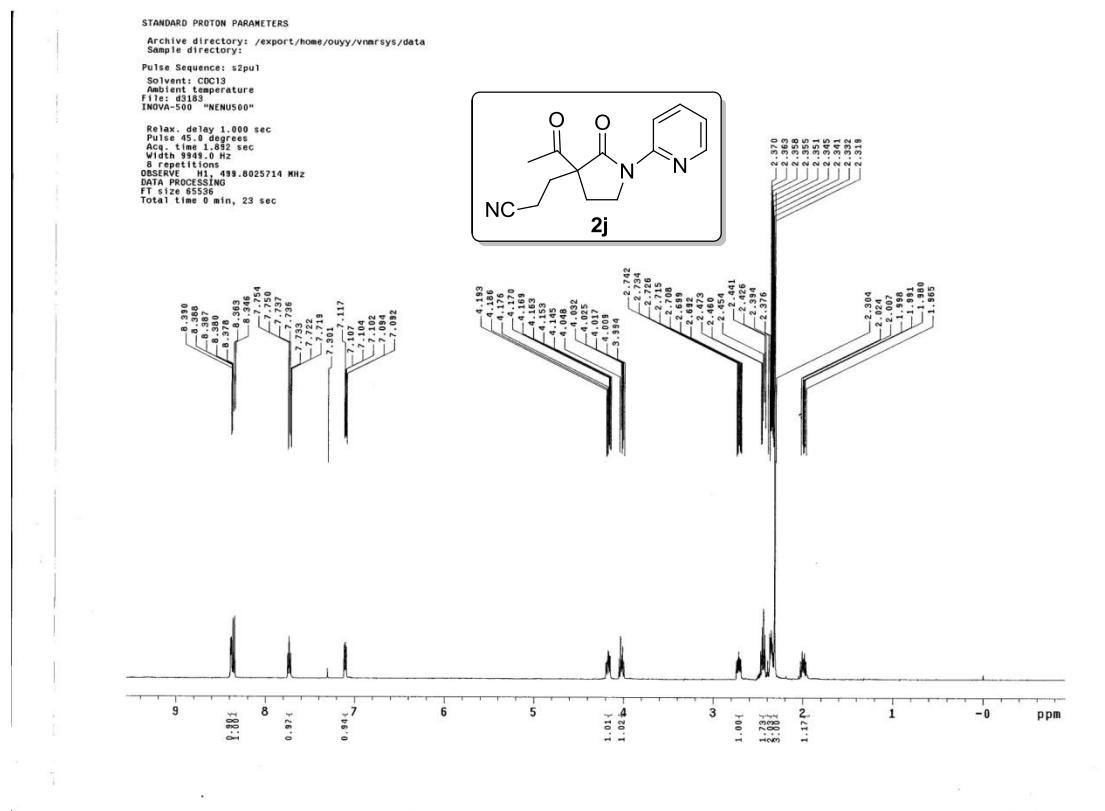
Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for ChemComm  
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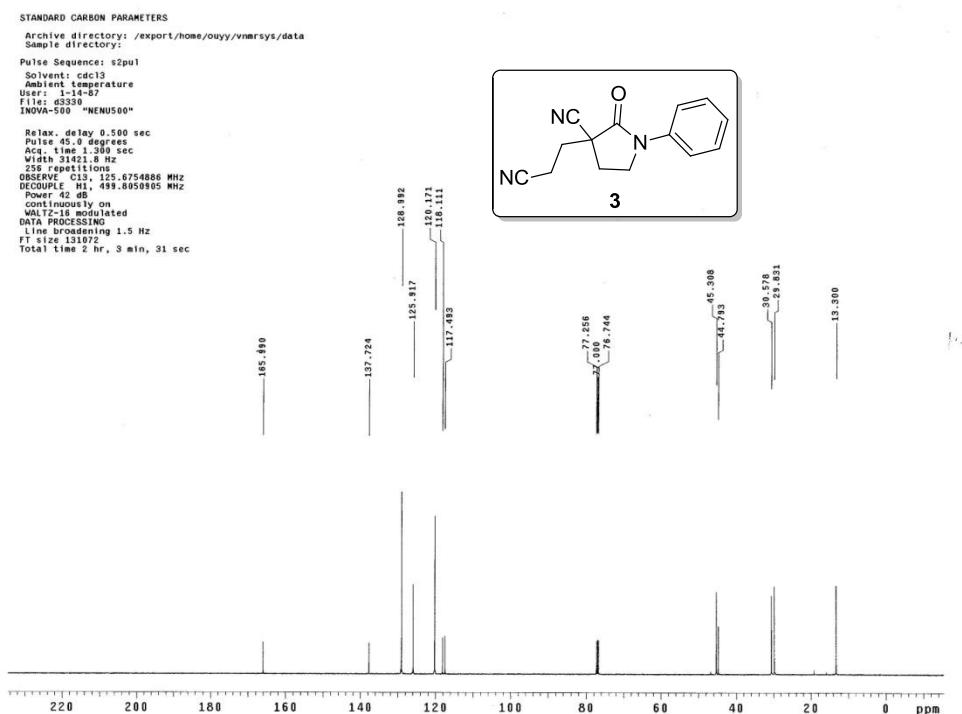
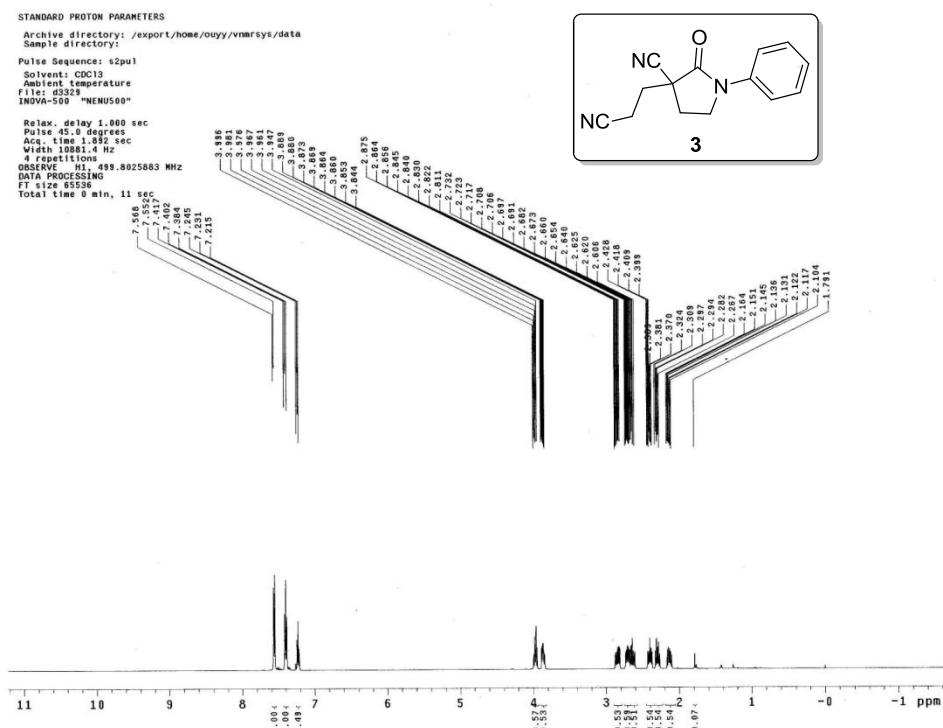


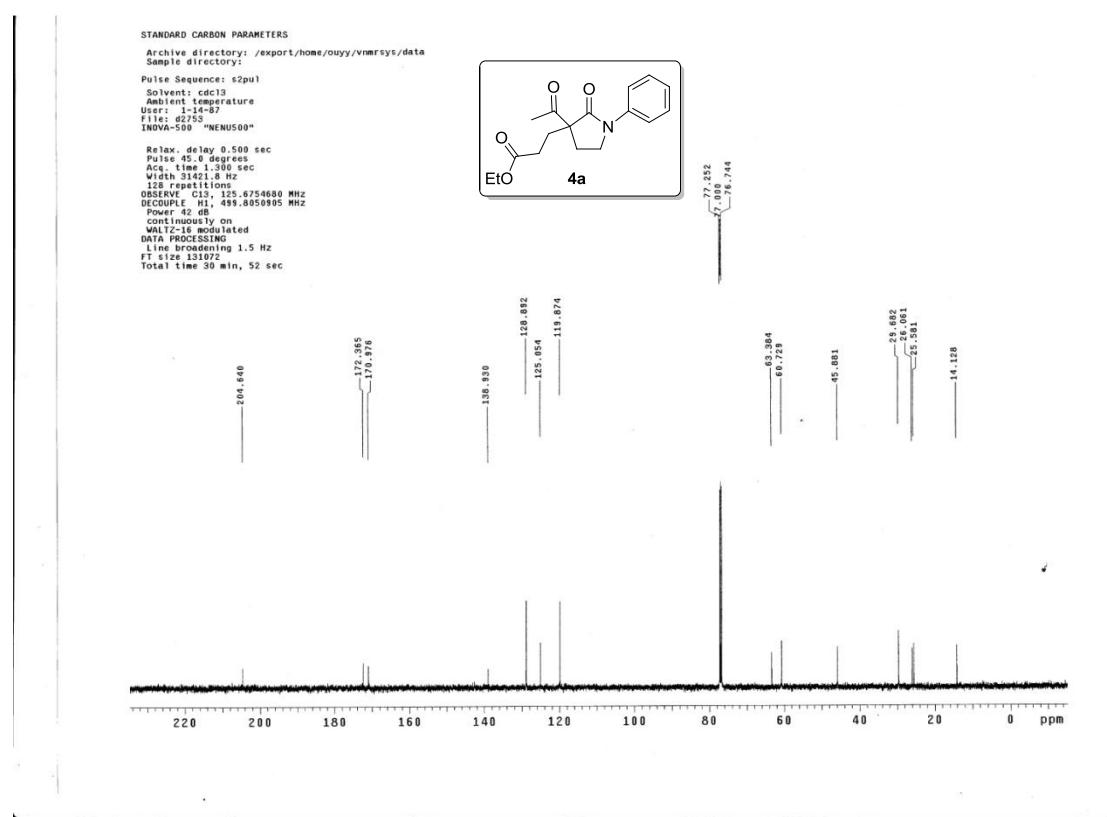
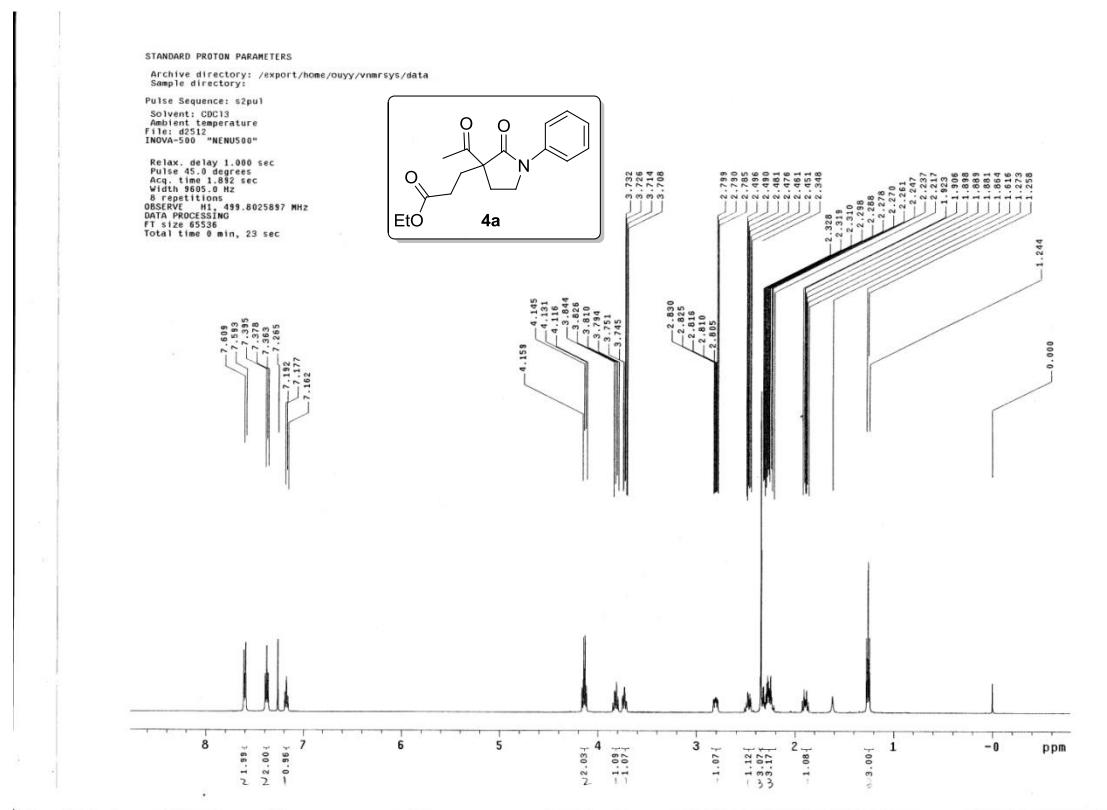


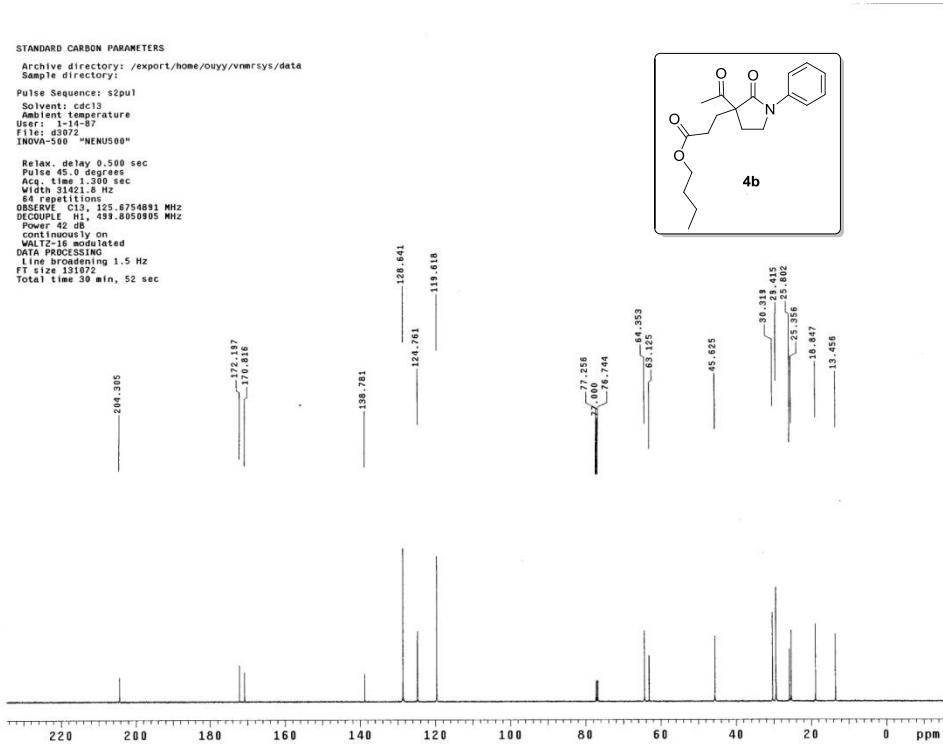
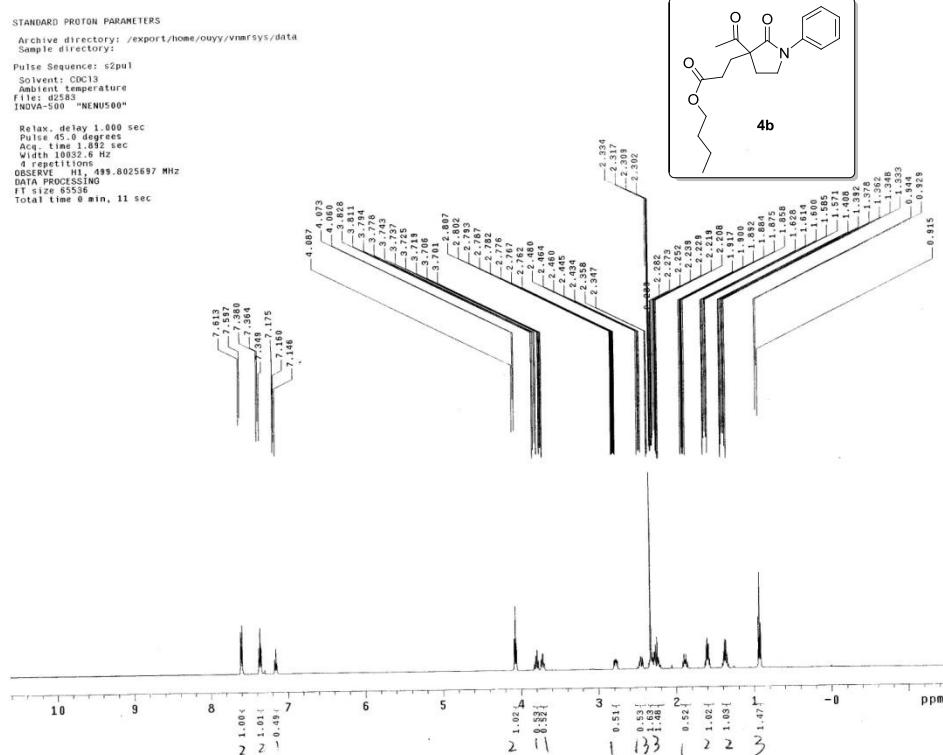


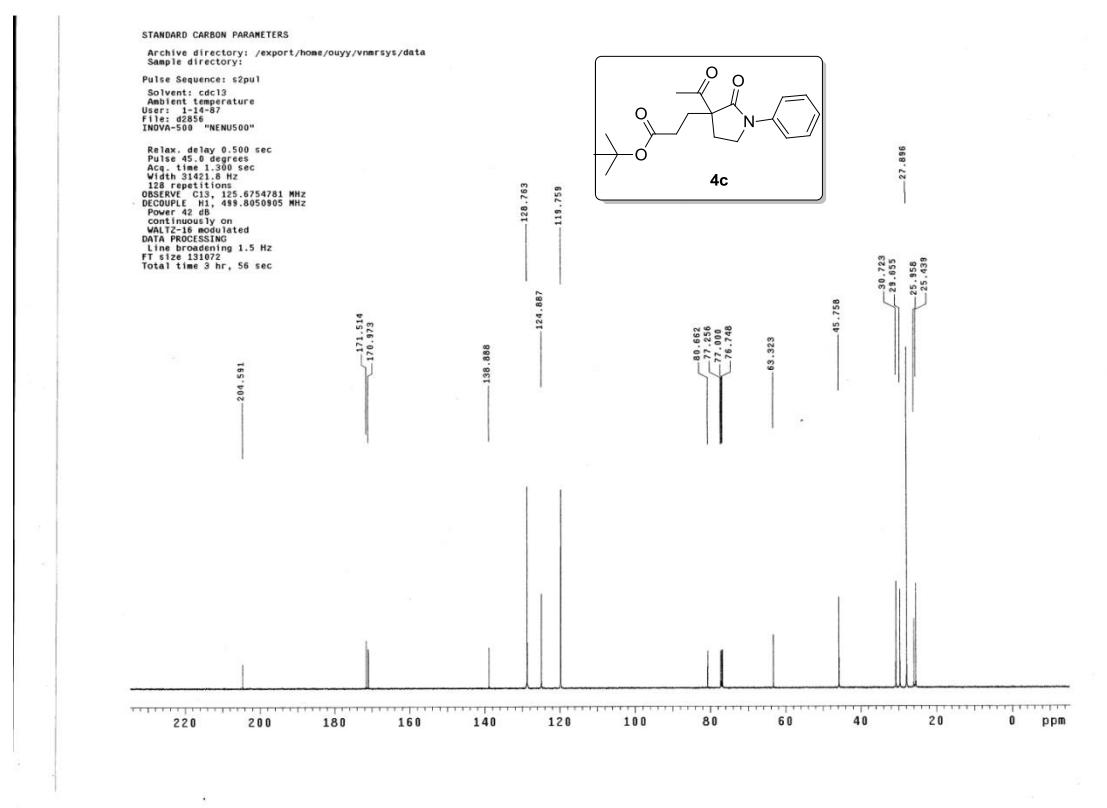
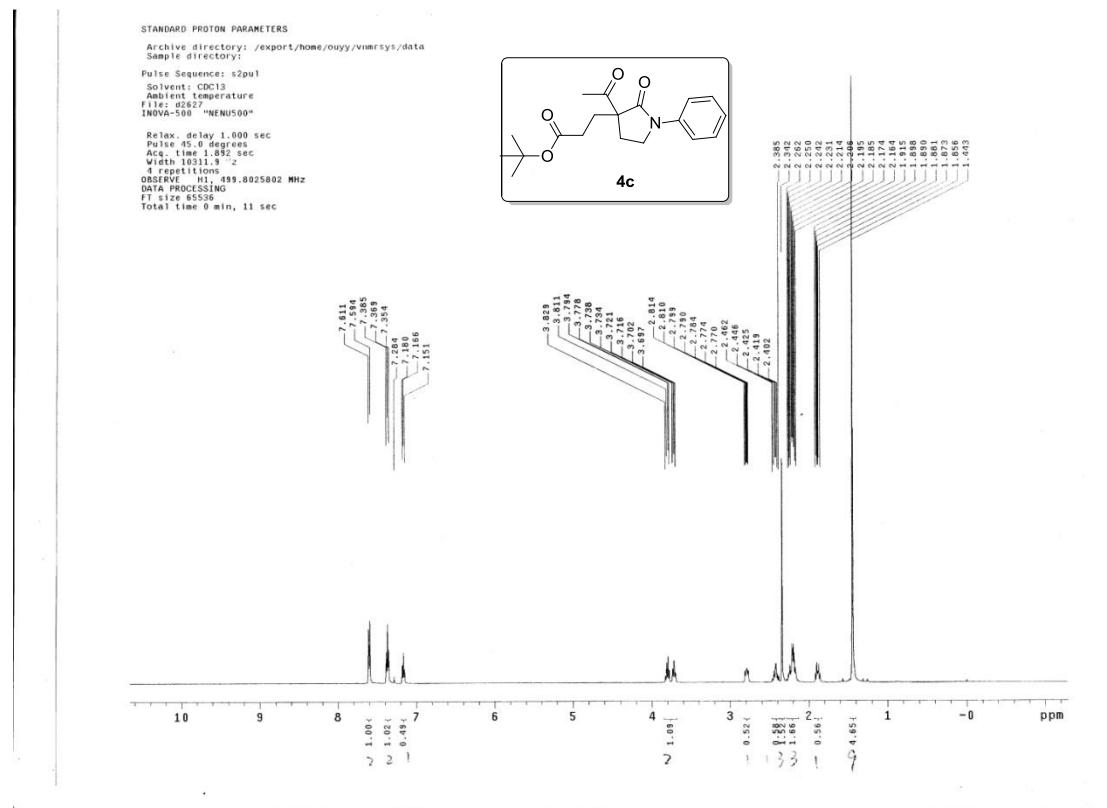


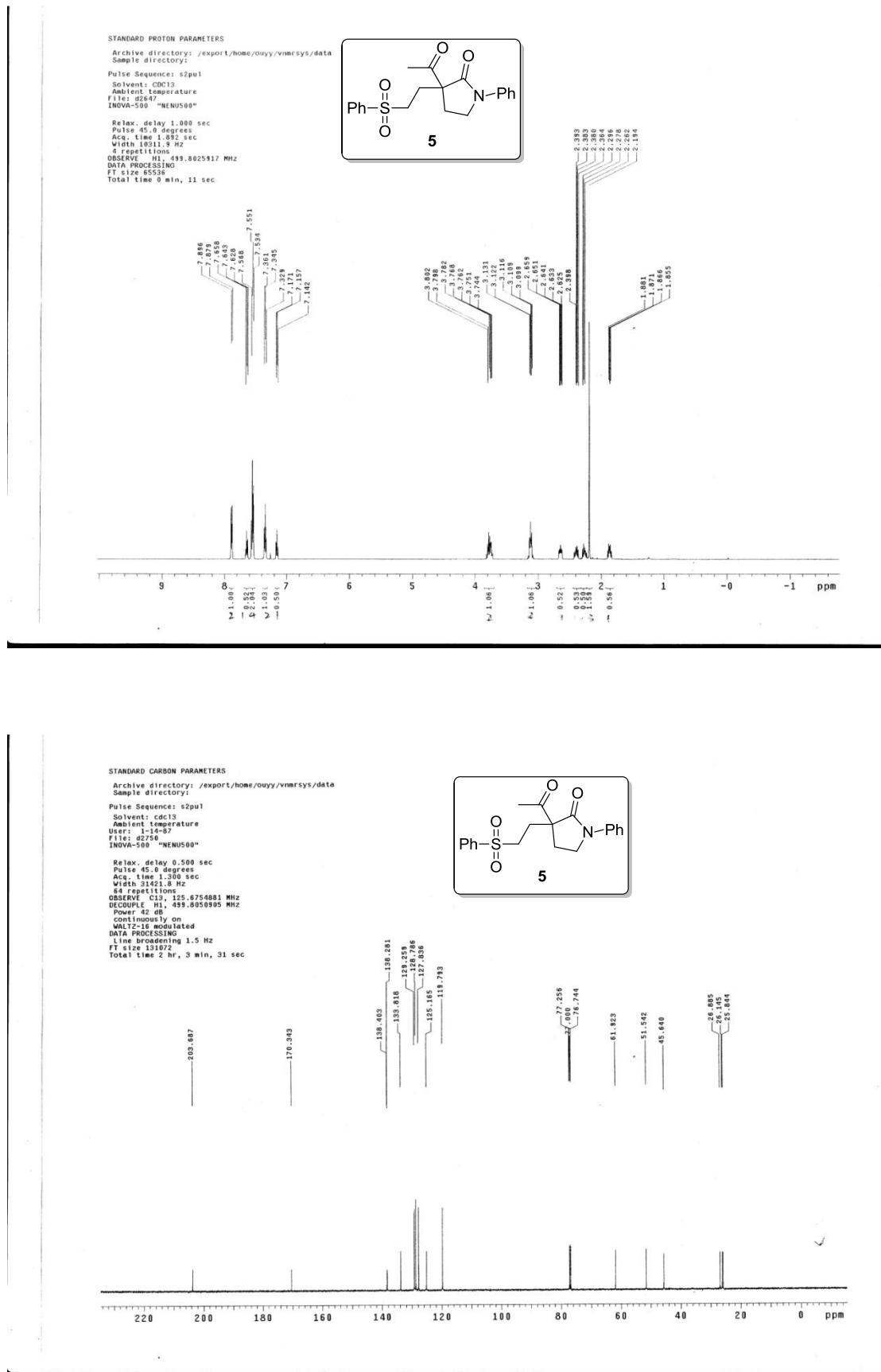


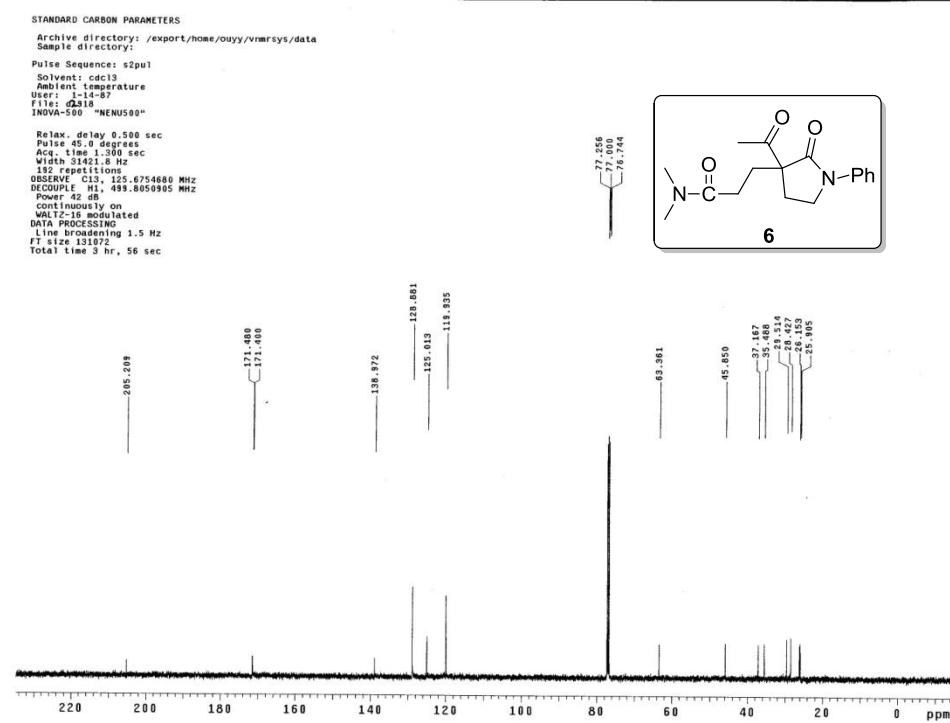
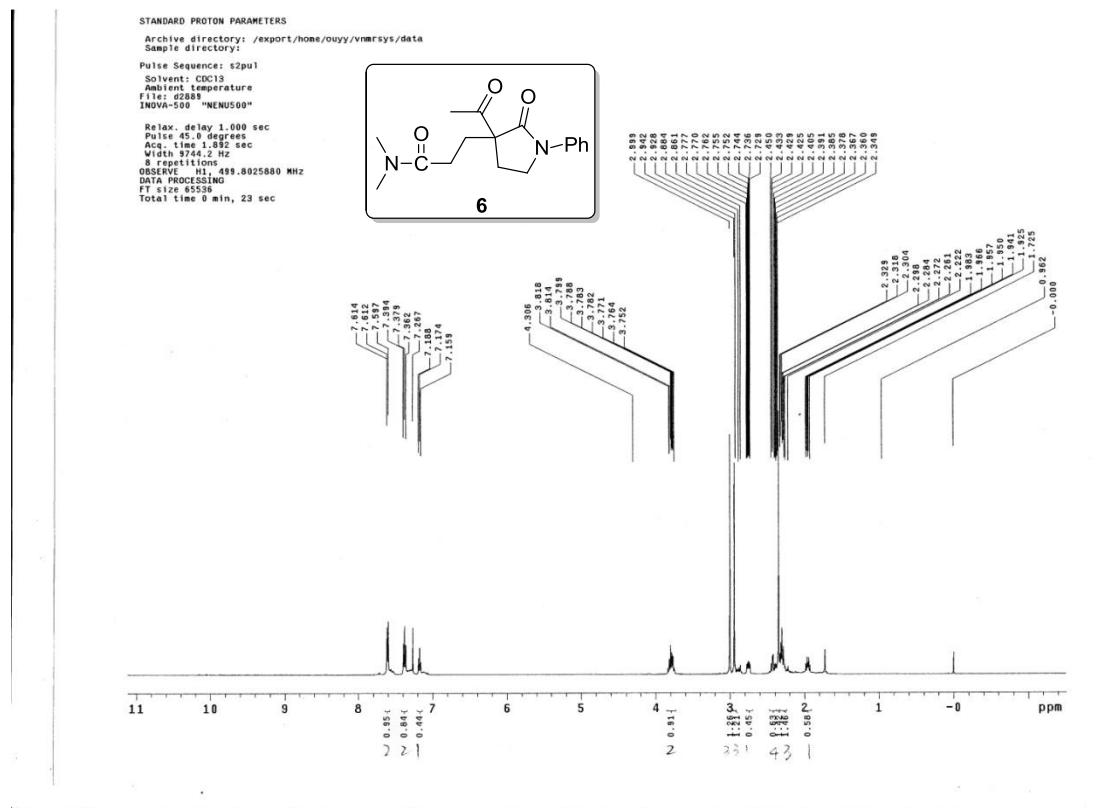






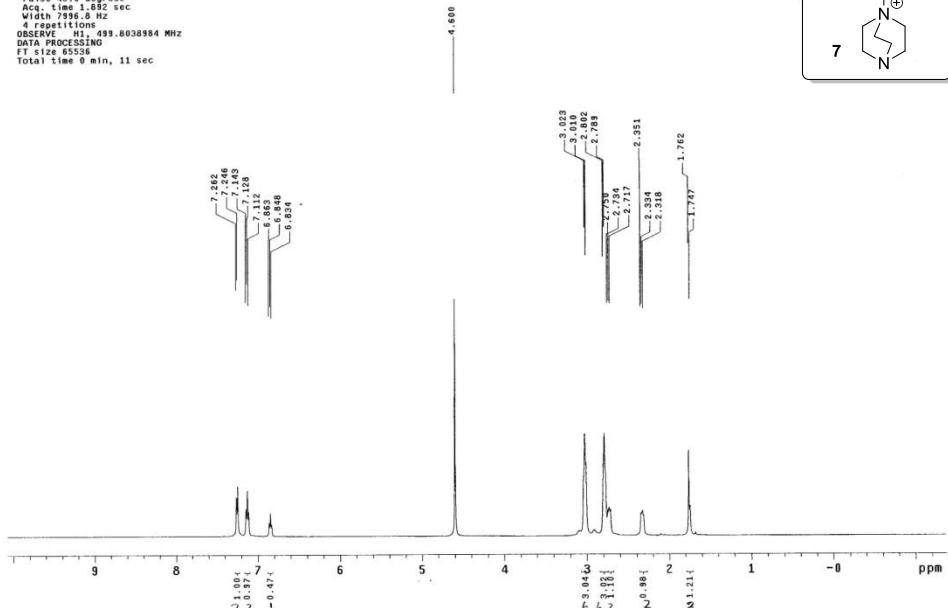
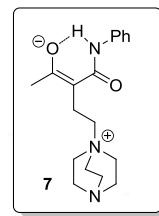






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STANDARD PROTON PARAMETERS
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Sample directory:
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Solvent: D2O
Ambient temperature
File: d200_00000000000000000000000000000000
INOVA-500 "NENUS00"
Relax. delay 1.000 sec
Pulse 45.0 degrees
Acq. time 0.000 sec
Width 7996.8 Hz
4 repetitions
DEGREE 128, 299.8038984 MHz
DATA PROCESSING
FT size 65536
Total time 0 min, 11 sec
    
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C13 1HPP 1402 2014.04.14
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Sample directory:
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Solvent: D2O
Ambient temperature
User: l-14-87
File: d200_00000000000000000000000000000000
INOVA-500 "NENUS00"
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Pulse 45.0 degrees
Acq. time 1.360 sec
Width 7996.8 Hz
320 repetitions
DEGREE 128, 125.6757545 MHz
DECODED 125.6865759 MHz
Power 42 dB
Contrast 100% on
WALTZ-16 modulated
DATA PROCESSING
Line broadening 2.0 Hz
FT size 131072
Total time 15 hr, 4 min, 41 sec
    
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