

# Electronic Supporting Information

## Rhodium(III) catalysed aerobic synthesis of highly functionalized indoles from *N*-arylurea under mild conditions through C-H activation

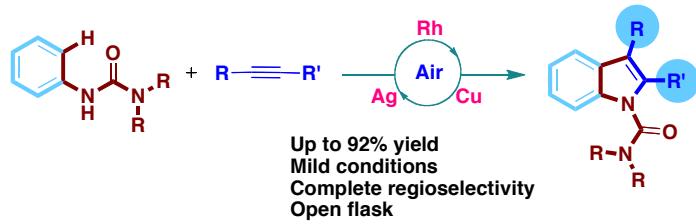
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### Abstract



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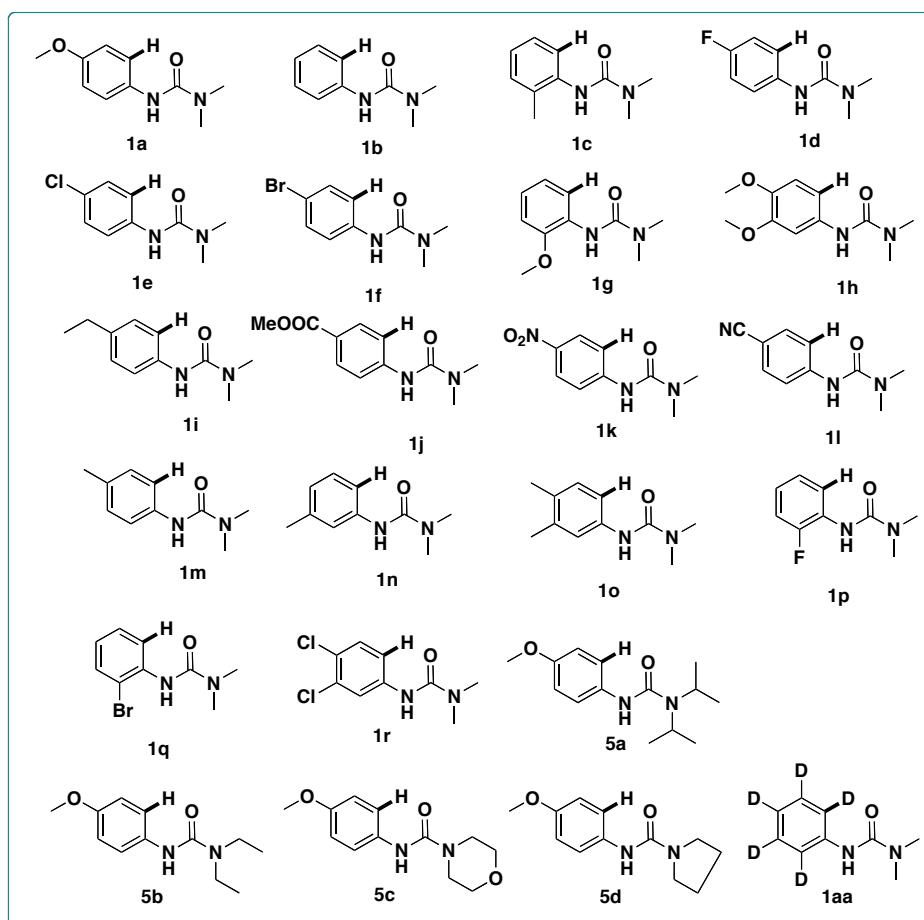
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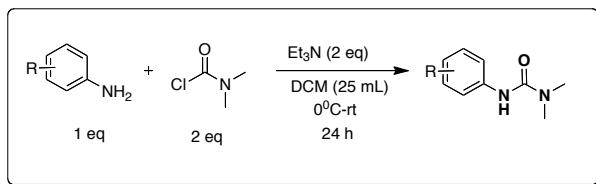
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**I. General Methods.** Catalytic reactions were carried out under ambient air. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All glassware was dried overnight at 120 °C or flame-dried prior to use. Chromatography was performed on Sigma-Aldrich 160-220 mesh silica gel. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with precoated glass-backed plates and visualized by exposure to UV light (254 nm). Flash chromatography was performed with silica gel (100-120 µm); the eluent used is *n*-heptane and ethyl acetate. Solvents were used without further purification.  $\text{H}^1$  NMR spectra were recorded on a 500 MHz Varian FT-NMR spectrometer.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz Varian FT-NMR. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to solvent signal. Multiplicity is indicated as follows: s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); m (multiplet); dd (doublet of doublets). Mass spectra (HRMS) were performed by the Lund University Kemi Centrum Mass Spectrometry Facility. Melting points were determined on a micro melting point apparatus (Stuart Scientific).

## II. Experimental Section.

### General Procedure for Synthesis of *N*-arylpiperazine

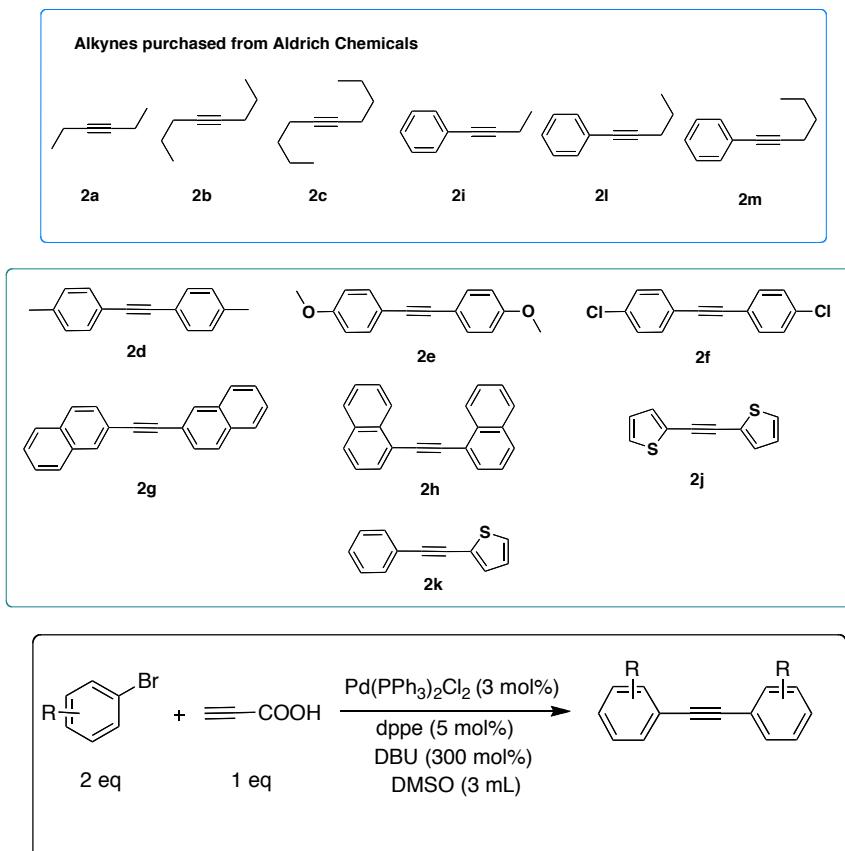




Aniline derivatives (1.00 g, 10 mmol) and triethylamine (2.9 mL, 20 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) in a 50 mL three neck round bottom flask followed by drop wise addition of chloroformic acid dimethyl amide (1.8 mL, 20 mmol) using a syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight. After completion, the reaction was diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (30 mL), washed by sat.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (30 mL), 2N HCl (30 mL), brine (20 mL) and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The organic solvent was removed by evaporation. Purification by recrystallization in diethylether afforded 0.92 g of *N*-aryl urea as an off white solid. The spectroscopic values are identical that of with literature.<sup>1</sup>

SI 1. Houlden, C. E.; Bailey, C. D.; Ford, J. G.; Gagne, M. R.; Llyod-Jones, G. C.; Booker-Milburn, K. I. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2008**, *130*, 10066.

### General Procedure for Synthesis of Symmetrical Alkynes



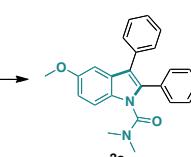
Propiolic acid (1.0 mmol), aryl bromides (2.0 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.03 mmol), dppe (0.05 mmol) were combined with DBU (3 mmol) in a screw cap vial. DMSO was added and the vial was sealed and heated in a preheated oil bath at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for 3-4 h. The reaction mixture was poured into 25 mL of saturated aqueous ammonium chloride and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined ether layer was washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel. The product was eluted with 5% ethyl acetate in heptane. The spectroscopic values are identical that of with literature.<sup>2</sup>

SI 2. Park, K.; Bae, G.; Moon, J.; Choe, J.; Song, K. H.; Lee, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 6244.

## Optimization Studies

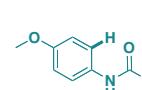
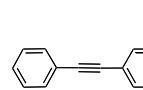
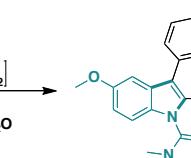
**SI Table 1.**

### Screening of Temperature

		
1a	2a	3a
		$[(\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2]$ $\text{AgSbF}_6$ $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Air 1,2-DCE 12 h
Entry	Temperature	Yield (%)
1	r.t	--
2	50	12
3	80	60
4	100	92
5	120	92

**SI Table 2**

### Screening of Solvents

		
1a	2a	$[(\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2]$ $\text{AgSbF}_6$ $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Air Solvent 12 h
Entry	Solvent	Yield (%)
1	2-Methyl-2-Butanol	48
2	2-Methyl-1-Butanol	30
3	t-BuOH	20
4	THF	35
5	DMF	12
6	DMSO	NR
7	DCM	10
8	AcOH	NR
9	Toluene	22
10	$\text{ClCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$	92
11	1,4-Dioxane	5
12	Toluene	trace
13	Methanol	13
14	Ethanol	10
15	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	NR
16	$\text{CF}_3\text{COOH}$	NR

**SI Table 3**  
**Screening of Catalysts**

Entry	Catalyst	Yield (%)
1	$[(\text{RuCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2]$	55
2	$\text{RuCl}_3\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	--
3	$[(\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2]$	92
4	$[(\text{IrCp}^*\text{Cl}_2)_2]$	--
5	$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$	--
6	Ag	--
7	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$	--

**SI Table 4**  
**Screening of Oxidants**

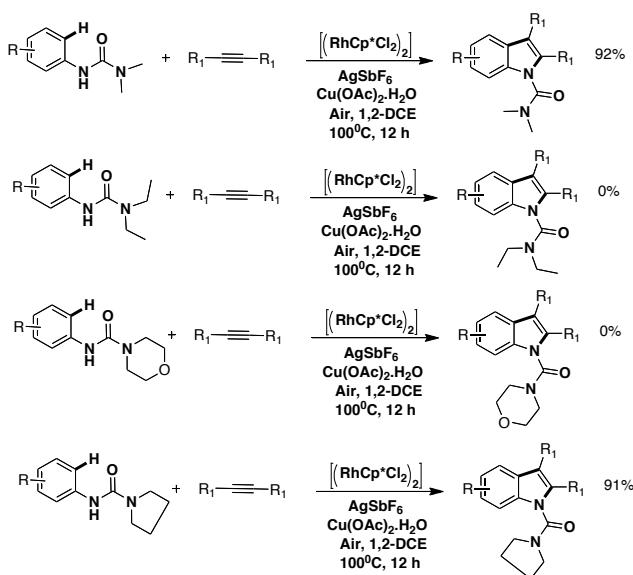
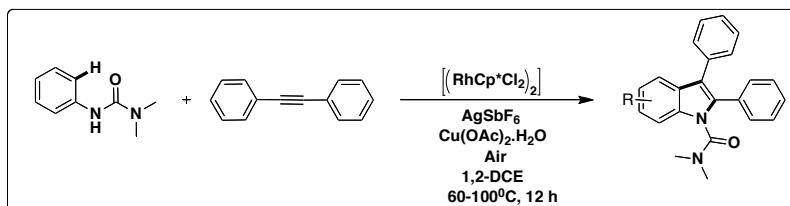
Entry	Oxidants	Yield (%)
1	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$	90
2	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	92
3	$\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3$	40
4	$\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$	15
5	$\text{MnO}_2$	10
6	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$	5
7	m-CPBA	--
8 <sup>a</sup>	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	90
9 <sup>b</sup>	$\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	92

<sup>a</sup>under nitrogen, <sup>b</sup>under oxygen.

**SI Table 5****Screening of Equivalent of Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O**

**1a** + **2a** → **3a**

Entry	Copper Equivalent	Yield (%)
1	0.1 equiv.	trace
2	0.2 equiv.	trace
3	0.5 equiv.	25
4	1.0 equiv.	92
5	2.2 equiv.	90

**SI Table 6****Screening of different N-carbamyl units of arylurea****General Procedure for C–H Activation Experiments:**

[RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>] (1 mol%), AgSbF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol%), and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 equiv.), N-aryluarea 1 (1.5 mmol), alkyne 2 (1.0 mmol) were added to a 5 mL Schlenk tube, which was equipped

with a magnetic stirrer and septum. (*Note:* Care must be taken to avoid reaction of AgSbF<sub>6</sub> with air.) To the tube were added by syringe 1,2-dichloroethane (2 mL) as the solvent, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 10 min. During this time, the tube was covered with a septum. Then, the septum was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir under open air for an additional 10 min. The tube was now sealed with a screw cap, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C for 12h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (DCM) and then filtered through a pad of Celite and silica gel. The filtrate was concentrated, and the resulting crude mixture was purified through a silica gel column chromatography to give 3a using heptane and ethylacetate (4:1) as eluent.

### III. Spectral Data

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (3a):** 92 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-98°C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 10H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.95 (brs, 3H), 2.51 (brs, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.6, 154.0, 135.5, 134.1, 131.3, 130.8, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 126.5, 117.6, 113.6, 112.3, 101.6, 55.9, 31.9, 37.9, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 393.1579; Found 393.1579.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-Indole-1-Carboxamide (3b):** 80 mg, Colorless Solid, mp-112°C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.70 (d, J=5Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J=5Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 10H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 3.01 (brs, 3H), 2.55 (brs, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.0, 135.7, 134.8, 134.0, 131.2, 130.1, 129.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 126.5, 123.7, 121.7, 119.8, 117.8, 111.5, 38.3, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 363.1473; Found 363.1473.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-2-Methylindole-1-Carboxamide (3c):** 68 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-127°C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.59 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 2H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.9, 134.7, 134.4, 131.2, 130.3, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 126.3, 125.7, 121.6, 121.5, 117.8, 37.9, 36.4, 18.2.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 377.1630; Found 377.1630.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Fluoroindole-1-Carboxamide (3d):** 58 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-114<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 8H), 7.16-7.03 (m, 4H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 160.1, 158.2, 153.8, 136.5, 133.7, 132.2, 131.1, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.8, 117.8, 112.5-111.9 (q), 105.2, 105.0, 38.1, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 381.1379; Found 381.1377.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Chloroindole-1-Carboxamide (3e):** 80 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-121<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J=5Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 10H), 7.14-7.06 (m, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 153.6, 136.1, 134.1, 133.4, 130.8, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5, 127.5, 126.9, 124.0, 119.4, 117.3, 112.6, 38.0, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 397.1084; Found 397.1080.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Bromoindole-1-Carboxamide (3f):** 65 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-143<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 10H), 2.88 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 153.5, 136.0, 134.4, 133.4, 130.8, 130.1, 130.0, 129.6, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 126.6, 122.4, 117.2, 115.0, 113.0, 38.0, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 441.0578; Found 441.0580.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-2-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (3g):** 81 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-103<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.38 (brs, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.76 (d, J=10Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.4, 146.7, 135.1, 134.4, 131.1, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.2, 125.4, 121.8, 117.5, 112.6, 104.4, 56.4, 38.0, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 393.1579; Found 393.1579.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-3,4-Dimethoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (3h):** 76 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-113<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.26-7.18 (m, 10 H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.83 (brs, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.3, 148.1, 146.3, 134.3, 133.2, 131.4, 130.1, 130.0, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.6, 126.4, 120.9, 117.5, 101.1, 94.8, 60.4, 56.3, 37.9, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 423.1685; Found 423.1684.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Eethylindole-1-Carboxamide (3i):** 92 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-109<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.53 (s, 1H) 7.51 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 8H), 7.24-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, J=5Hz, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.2, 137.9, 135.0, 134.3, 134.2, 131.4, 130.2, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 126.5, 124.3, 117.7, 118.3, 117.7, 111.3, 38.0, 36.5, 29.1, 16.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 368.1889; Found 368.1888.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-methylbenzoate-1-Carboxamide (3j) :** 84 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-56<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.32 s, (1H), 7.95 (d, J=5Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 5H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 167.7, 153.3, 138.0, 136.1, 133.2, 130.6, 130.1, 129.5, 128.6, 128.4, 127.8, 126.8, 125.0, 123.7, 122.6, 118.4, 111.1, 52.0, 37.9, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 399.1709; Found 399.1704.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Methylindole-1-Carboxamide (3m):** 65 mg, colorless Solid, mp-120<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J=5Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 10H), 7.15 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.2, 135.1, 134.3, 134.1, 131.5, 131.2, 130.3, 129.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 126.5, 125.3, 119.5, 117.6, 111.2, 37.9, 36.5, 21.6.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 377.1630; Found 377.1627.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-3-Methylindole-1-Carboxamide (3n):** 72 mg, Brown Solid, mp-78<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.56 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 10H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 6H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.3, 136.1, 134.3, 134.0, 131.5, 130.2, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.5, 126.2, 123.5, 119.6, 117.7, 111.5, 38.0, 36.4, 21.9.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 377.1630; Found 377.1628.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-3,4-Dimethylindole-1-Carboxamide (3o) :** 65 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-133<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.23 (s, 6H), 7.18 (s, 5H), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.3, 134.7, 134.4, 134.0, 133.1, 131.6, 130.5, 130.2, 129.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 126.6, 126.4, 119.9, 117.4, 111.1, 38.0, 36.5, 20.6, 20.2.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 391.1786; Found 391.1766.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Diethyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4a):** 93 mg, Colorless Liquid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.00-6.96 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.75-6.73 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 6H), 2.76 (brs, 2H), 2.62-2.58 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.14 (m, 3H), 1.11-1.08 (m, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 154.9, 154.7, 138.4, 129.9, 129.3, 122.2, 116.8, 114.0, 111.5, 111.1, 101.3, 55.9, 37.7, 36.4, 18.2, 17.3, 15.4, 14.9.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 297.1579; Found 297.1579.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Dipropyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4b):** 86 mg, Colorless Liquid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 6.98 (d, J=5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.76-6.72 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 4H), 2.73 (brs, 2H), 2.56-2.53 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.54 (m, 3H), 1.48-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.91-0.84 (m, 6H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.0, 154.7, 137.4, 130.0, 129.7, 116.0, 111.5, 111.1, 101.6, 56.0, 37.9, 34.0, 26.9, 26.3, 23.7, 23.4, 14.4, 14.1 26.9, 26.3, 23.7, 23.4, 14.4, 14.1.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 325.1892; Found 325.1892.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-Dibutyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4c):** 89 mg, Colorless Liquid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.07 (d, *J*=10 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.82-6.80 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 6H), 2.83 (brs, 2H), 2.64 (t, *J*=5Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.32 (m, 4H), 0.96-0.90 (m, 6H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.0, 154.7, 135.7, 130.0, 129.7, 116.0, 111.5, 110.9, 101.6, 55.9, 37.7, 32.8, 32.3, 24.0, 22.9, 22.5, 14.1, 14.0.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 353.2205; Found 353.2205.

**N,N-Dimethyl-2,3-(*p*-Methylphenyl)-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4d):** 88 mg, Colorless Solid, mp-94<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.33 (d, *J*=5Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.07 (m, 5H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 3H), 6.87 (dd, *J*=5Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.90 (brs, 3H), 2.46 (brs, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.5, 154.3, 137.8, 136.0, 130.8, 130.0, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 117.3, 114.2, 113.4, 112.3, 55.9, 38.1, 36.6, 21.5, 21.4.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 421.1892; Found 421.1891.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4e):** 89 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-112<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.41 (d, *J*=10 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.95-6.90 (m, 3H), 6.84-6.83 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 9H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 159.3, 158.2, 155.5, 154.4, 135.3, 131.2, 130.8, 130.7, 129.2, 126.7, 123.9, 114.1, 113.8, 113.2, 112.3, 101.6, 56.0, 55.3, 37.9, 36.6.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 453.1790; Found 453.1789.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2,3-(*p*-Chlorophenyl)-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4f):** 80 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-129<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.39 (d, *J*=10 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.00 (brs, 3H), 2.60 (brs, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.9, 153.8, 134.5, 134.3, 132.7, 132.4, 131.3, 130.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 117.0, 114.1, 112.5, 101.4, 56.0, 37.9, 36.6.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 461.0800; Found 461.0800.

**N,N-Dimethyl-2,3-(2-Naphthalene)-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4g):** 75 mg, Yellow Solid, mp-146<sup>0</sup>C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.83-7.79 (m, 3H), 7.74 (d, J=10Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.94 (brs, 3H), 2.52 (brs, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.8, 154.2, 133.7, 133.2, 132.8, 132.3, 131.9, 131.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 126.6, 126.4, 126.1, 125.8, 117.9, 113.8, 112.5, 101.7, 56.0, 37.9, 36.5.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 493.5508; Found 493.5508.

**N,N-Dimethyl-2,3-(1-Naphthalene)-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4h):** 63 mg, Yellow liquid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.92-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.67 (d, J=10 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J=10Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.04-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.73-6.70 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.5, 154.0, 130.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 127.6, 127.5, 126.5, 125.8, 125.7, 125.7, 125.6, 113.8, 113.8, 102.4, 55.9, 37.7.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 493.5508; Found 493.5508.

**N,N-Dimethyl-2-Phenyl-3-Ethyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4i):** White Liquid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.43-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.93-6.91 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.78 (s, 6H), 1.30-1.27 (m, 5H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.0, 154.4, 135.4, 132.0, 131.0, 129.3, 128.9, 128.4, 127.9, 118.5, 112.8, 112.5, 101.6, 55.9, 37.2, 17.7, 15.4.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 345.1579; Found 345.1780.

**N,N-Dimethyl-2,3-Dithiophene-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4j):** 66 mg, Yellow Solid, **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.98 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.07 (brs, 3H), 2.73 (brs, 3H).

**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 155.7, 153.4, 134.7, 131.4, 130.4, 129.7, 128.8, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 125.5, 114.3, 111.9, 101.6, 55.9, 38.3, 36.8.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 405.0707; Found 405.0707.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2-Phenyl-3-Thiophene-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4k):** 67 mg, Yellow Liquid,  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (500MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.03 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d,  $J=5\text{Hz}$ , 1H), 6.99-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H).

**$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 154.9, 134.7, 134.4, 134.1, 131.2, 130.3, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 126.3, 125.7, 121.6, 121.5, 117.8, 117.4, 37.9, 36.4, 18.1.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S} [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  399.1143; Found 399.1145.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2-Phenyl-3-propyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4l):** 86 mg, Yellow Liquid,  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (500MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.34-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d,  $J=5\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.81 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.64-2.62 (m, 6H), 1.95-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.59 (m, 2H), 0.85-0.82 (t,  $J=7.5\text{ Hz}$ , 3H).

**$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 154.9, 154.5, 135.8, 132.0, 130.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.3, 127.8, 117.0, 112.7, 112.4, 101.7, 55.9, 37.1, 26.4, 23.8, 14.3.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  337.1916; Found 337.1915.

**N, N-Dimethyl-2-Phenyl-3-butyl-4-Methoxyindole-1-Carboxamide (4m):** 89 mg, Yellow Liquid,  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (500MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.32-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d,  $J=10\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.82-6.80 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.62 (m, 6H), 1.56-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.26-1.21 (m, 2H), 0.78-0.75 (t,  $J=7.5\text{ Hz}$ , 3H).

**$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 154.8, 154.4, 135.6, 131.9, 130.8, 129.4, 128.9, 128.2, 127.7, 117.0, 112.5, 112.3, 101.6, 55.7, 37.2, 32.7, 23.9, 22.6, 13.8.

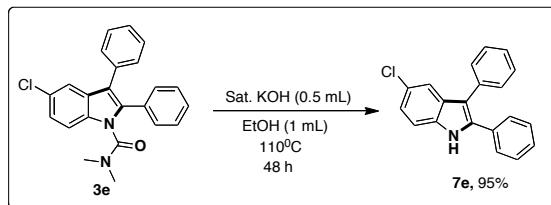
**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  351.2073; Found 351.2071.

**(2,3-Diphenyl-4-Methoxyndole-1-yl)(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)Methanone (6a):** 90 mg, Yellow Liquid,  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (500MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.47 (d,  $J=5\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 10H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.98 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 1H), 3.41 (s, 1H), 2.99 (s, 1H), 2.82 (s, 1H), 1.85-1.52 (m, 4H).

**$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR** (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 155.5, 152.3, 135.0, 134.4, 131.5, 130.5, 130.2, 129.5, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 126.5, 117.5, 113.6, 112.3, 101.5, 55.9, 31.9, 29.1 22.7, 14.2.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  419.1735; Found 419.1735.

#### IV. Deprotection of directing group

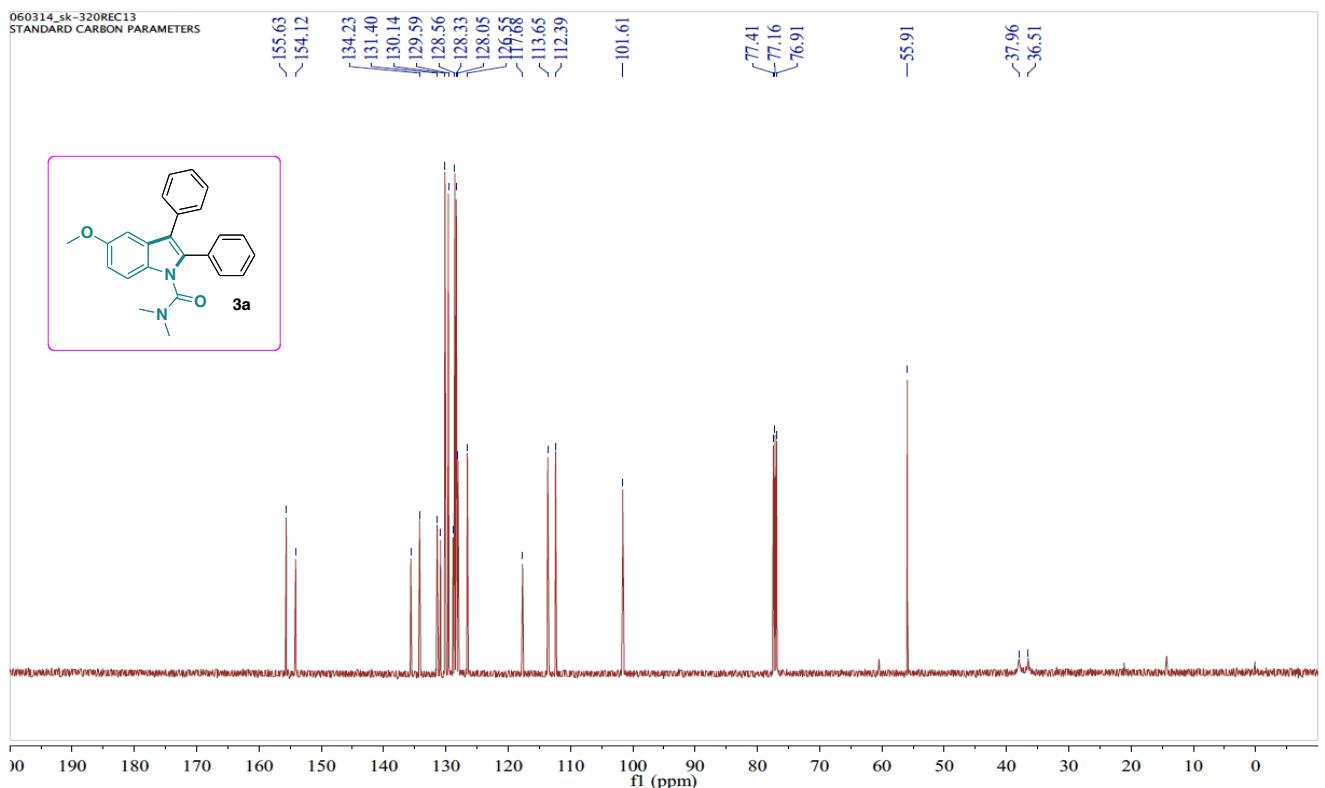
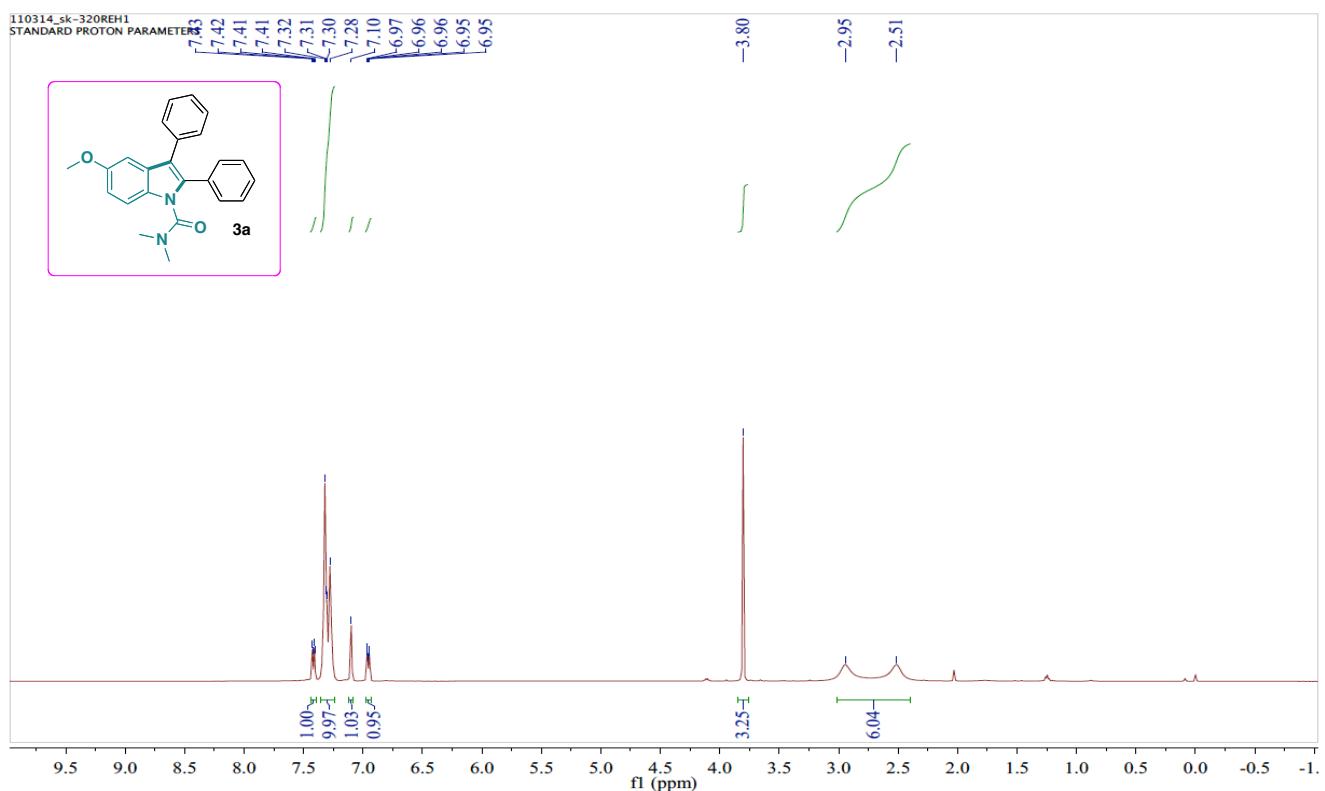


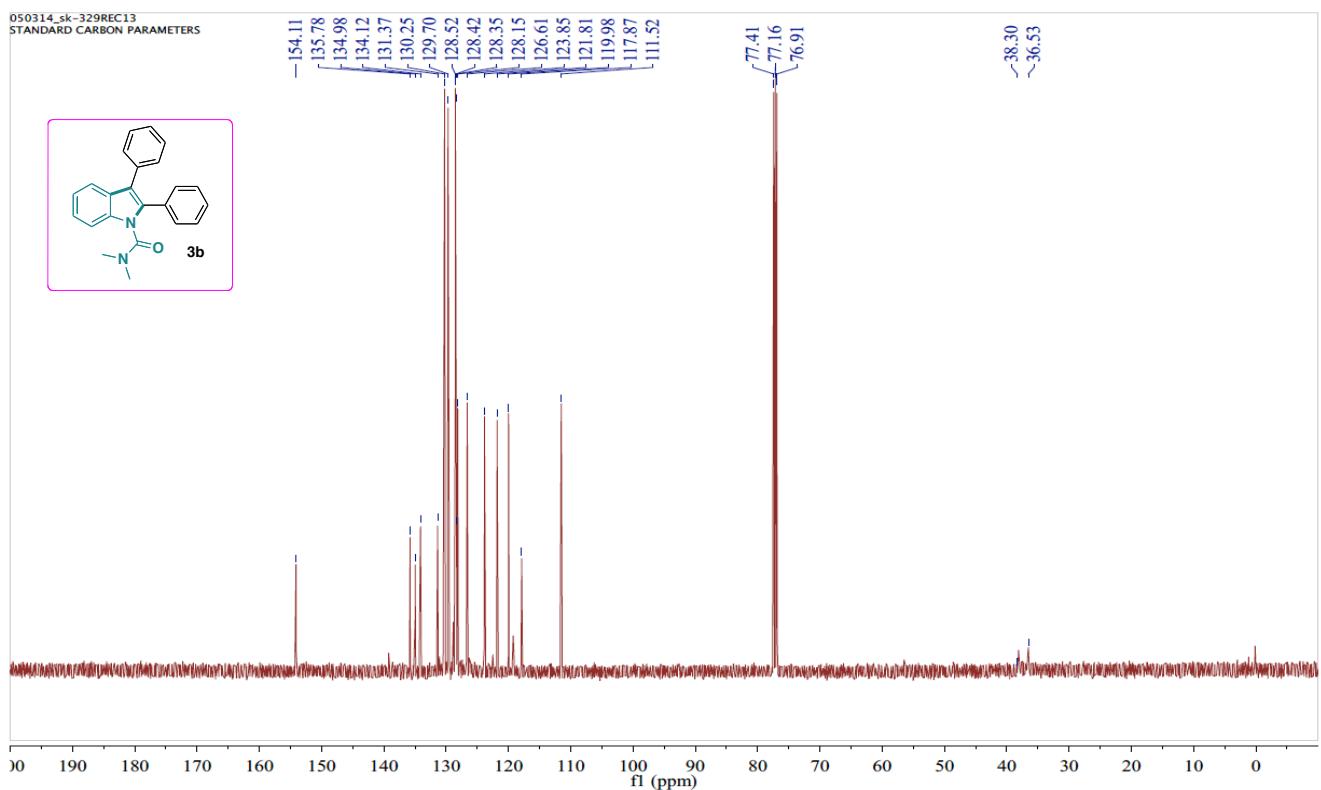
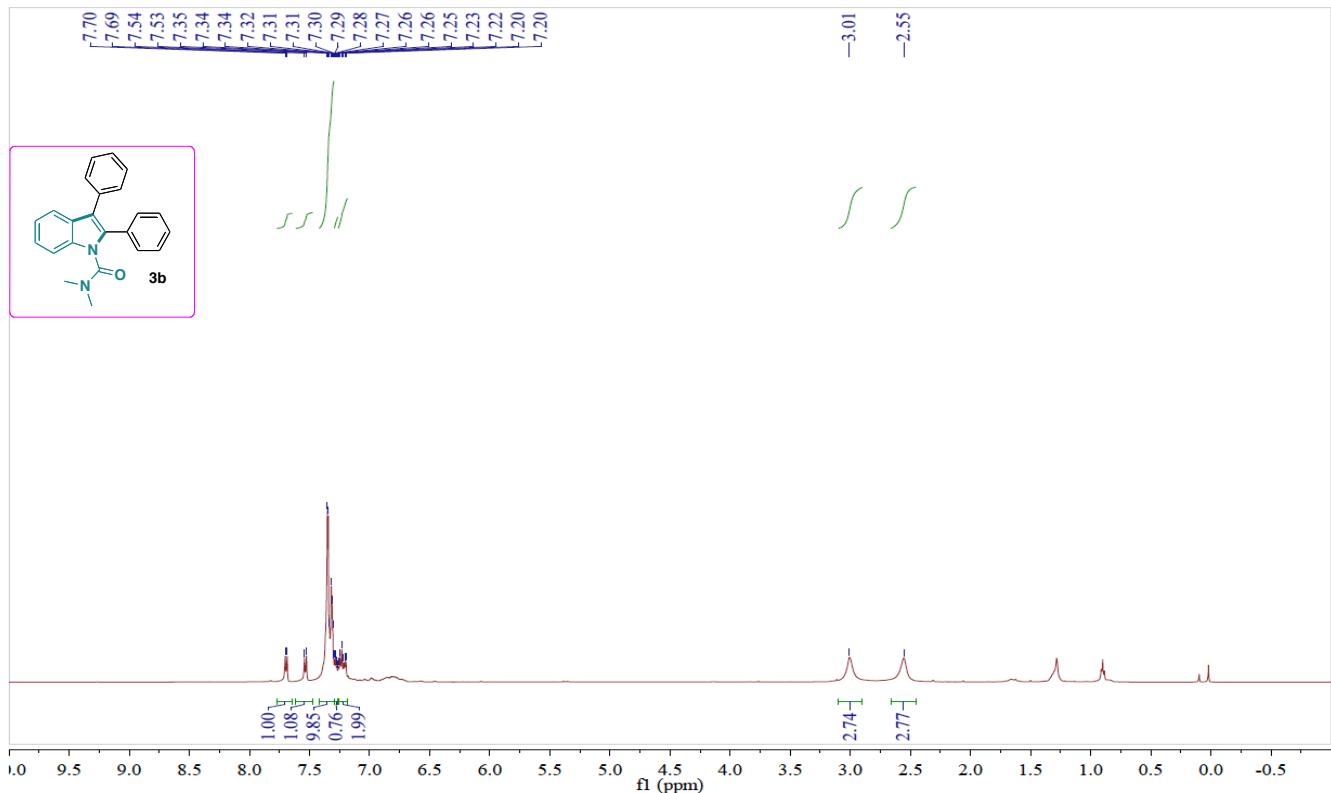
A solution of *N,N*-Dimethyl-2,3-Diphenyl-4-Chloroindole-1-Carboxamide (**3e**) (35.3 mg) in 3:1 EtOH/sat. aq. KOH (1.5 mL) was prepared in a 10 mL vial, closed tightly with a screw-cap, and stirred at 110°C for 48 h. The mixture was diluted with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the aqueous layer was again extracted a second time with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuum and gave the product in 95% yield without column chromatography.

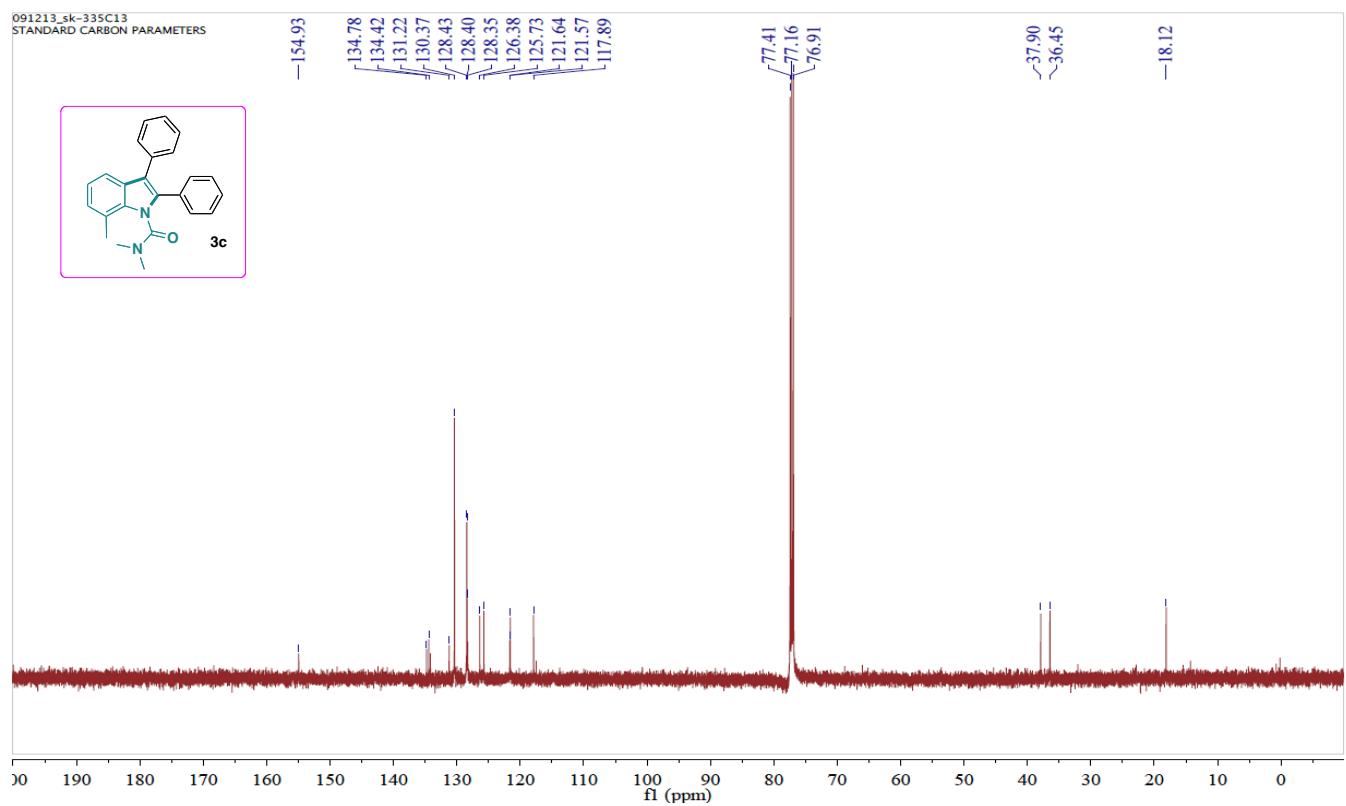
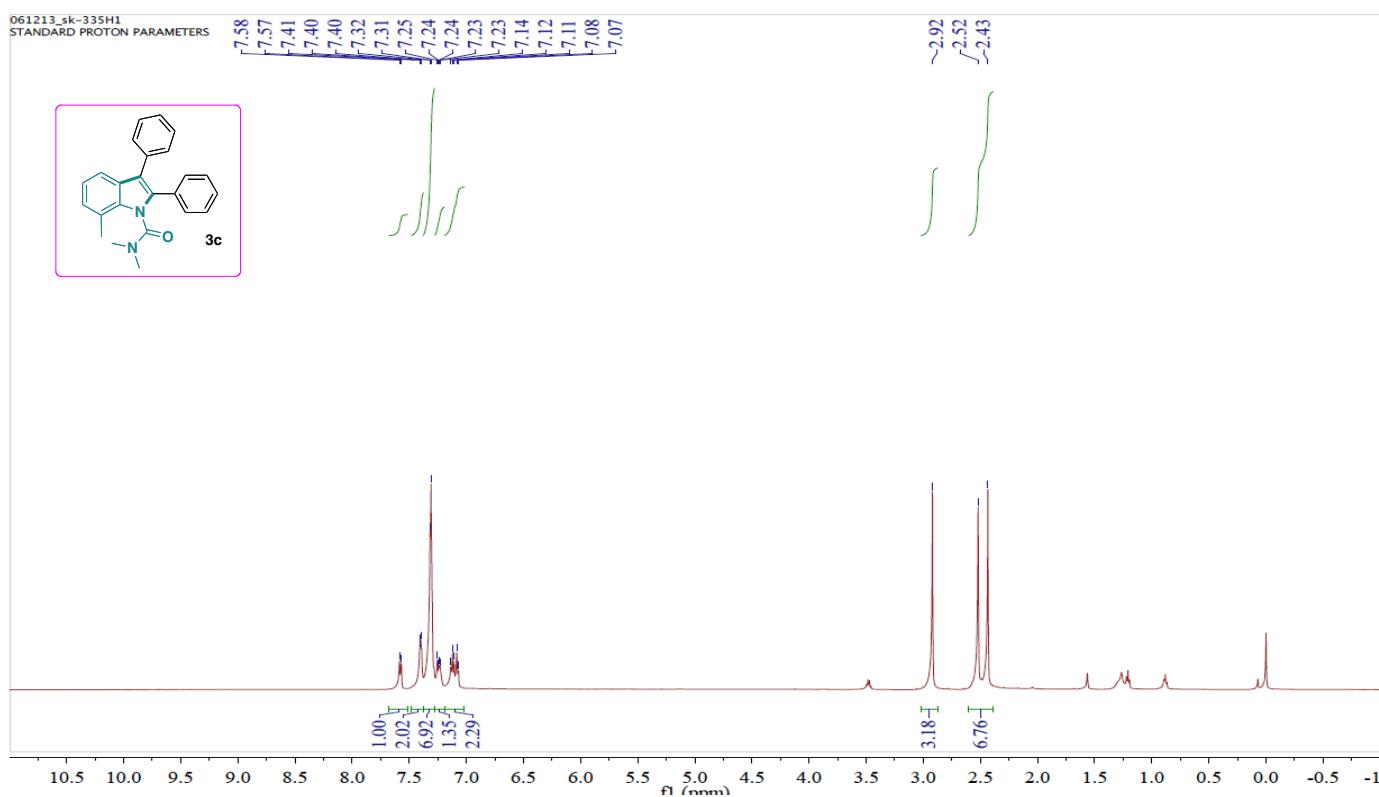
**2,3-diphenyl-4-chloroindole (7e):** 32 mg, Yellow Liquid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J*=5Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (5H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 5H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 135.5, 134.4, 134.3, 132.2, 130.1, 129.9, 129.2, 128.8, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 126.6, 126.2, 123.0, 119.2, 116.3, 114.8, 112.0.

**HRMS (ESI+)** Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 304.0893; Found 304.0890.

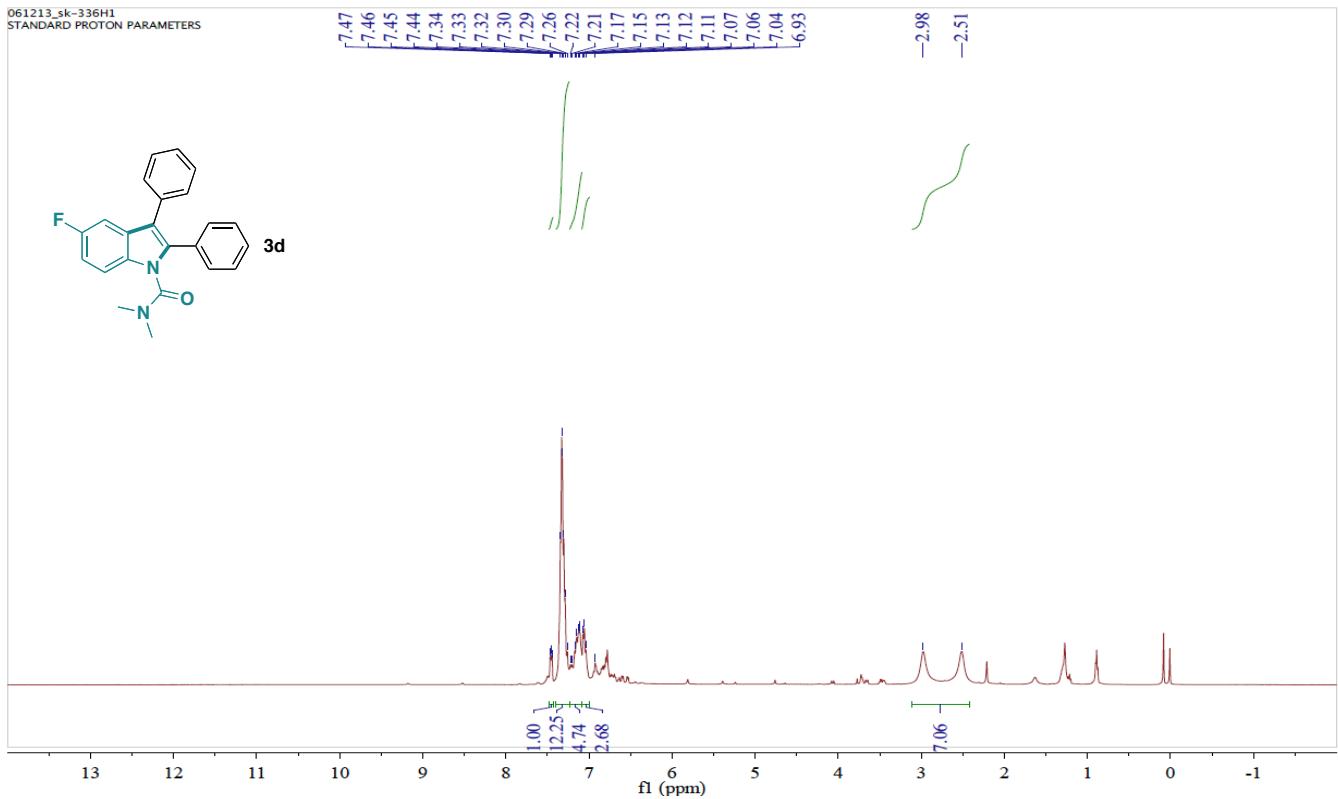
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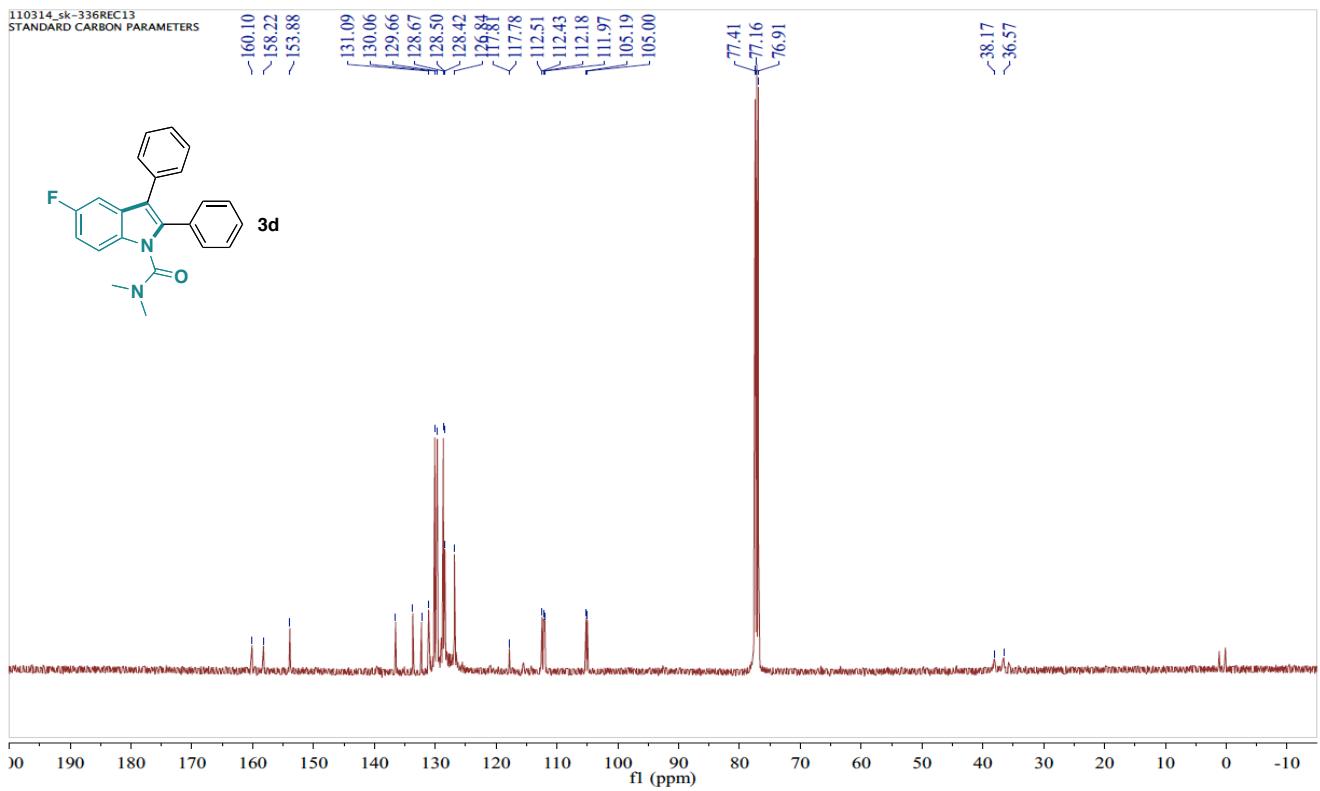


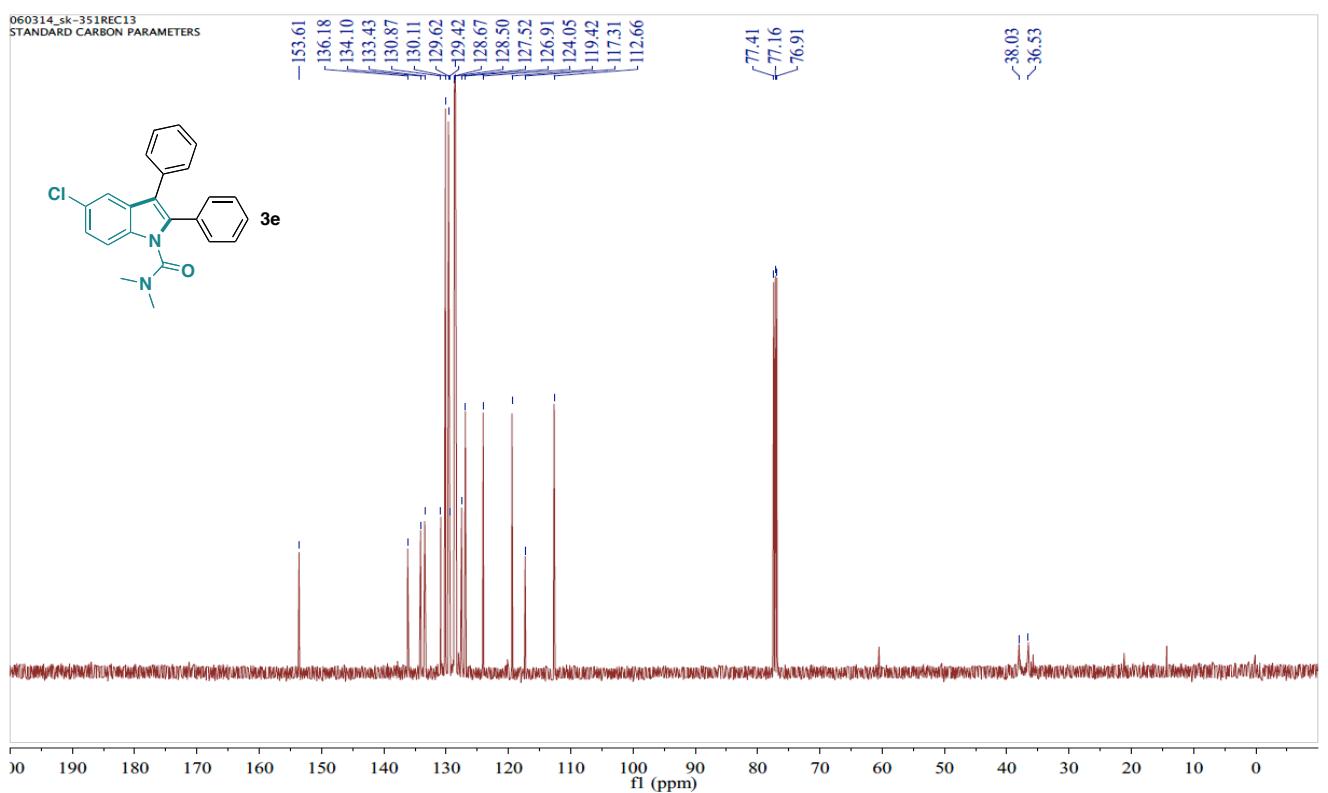
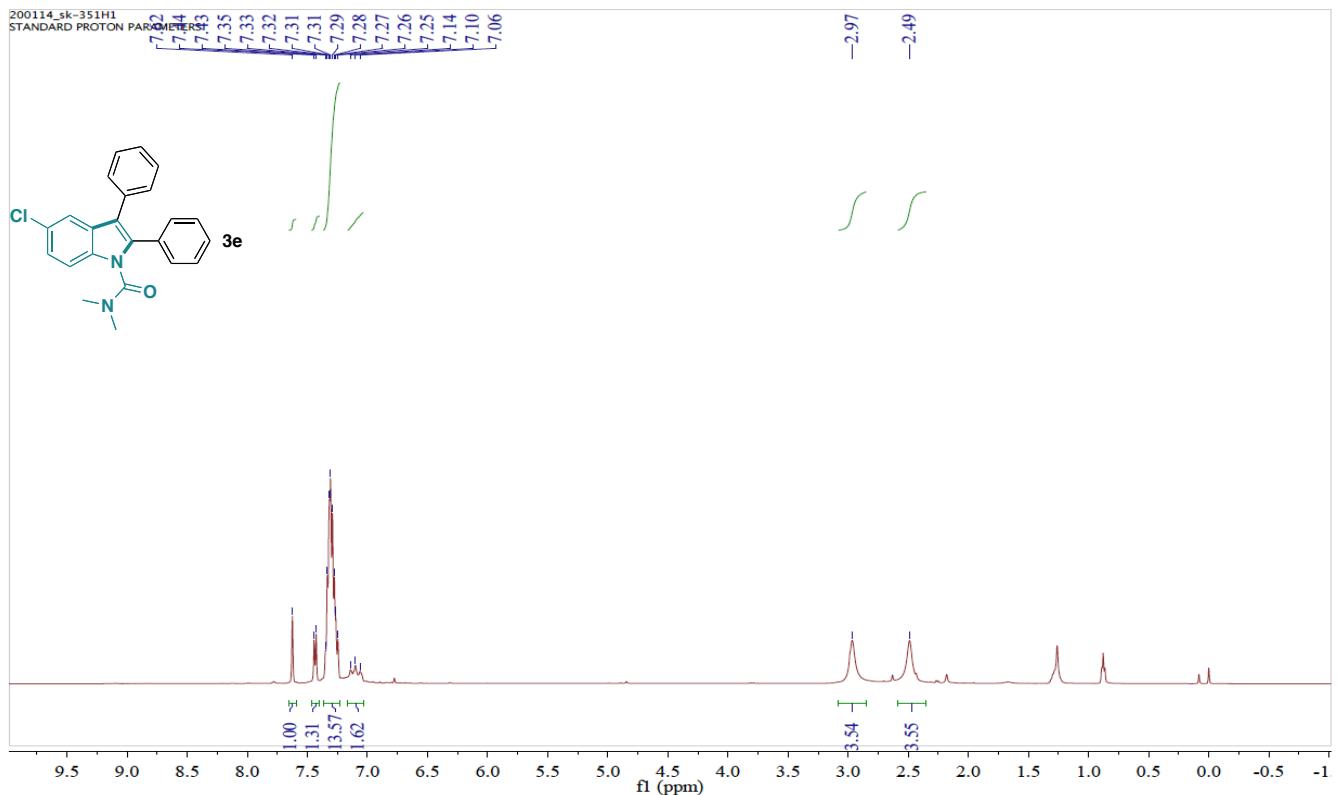


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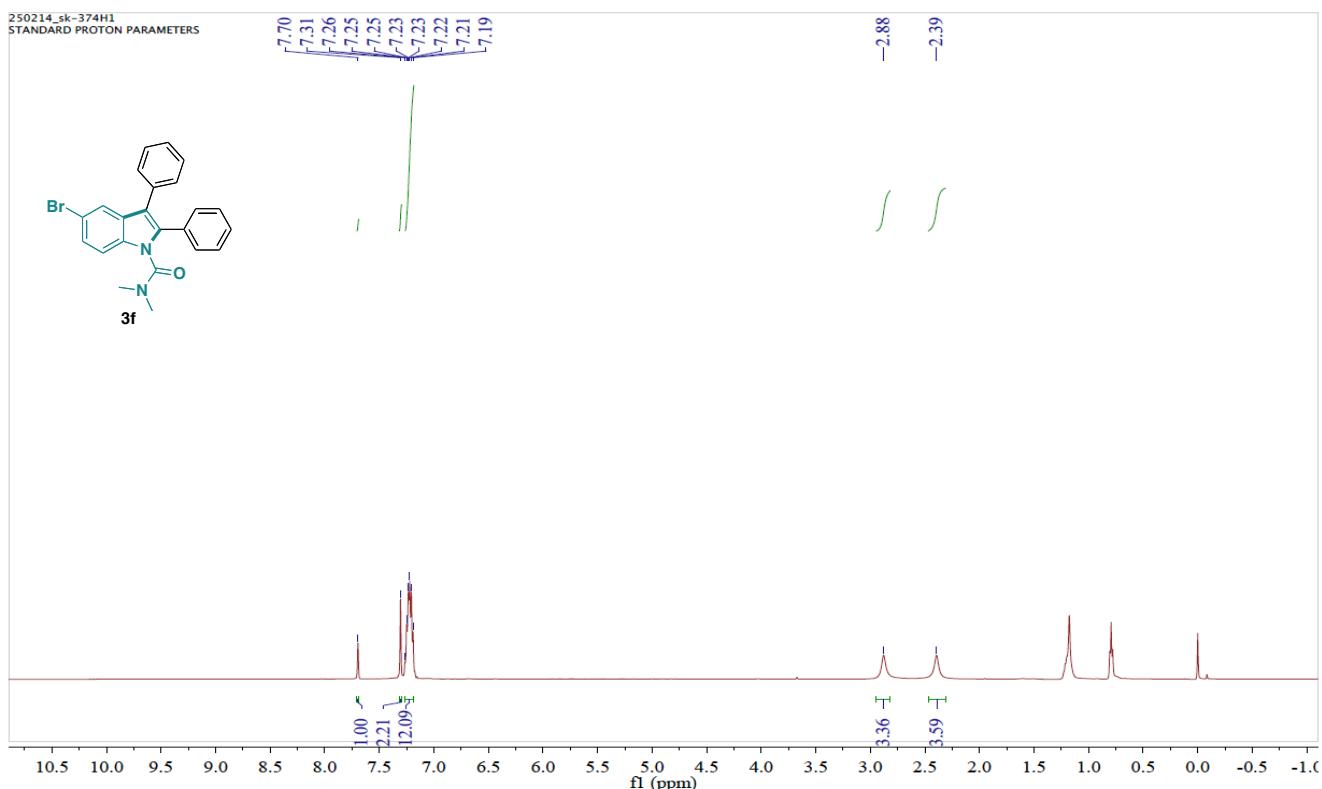


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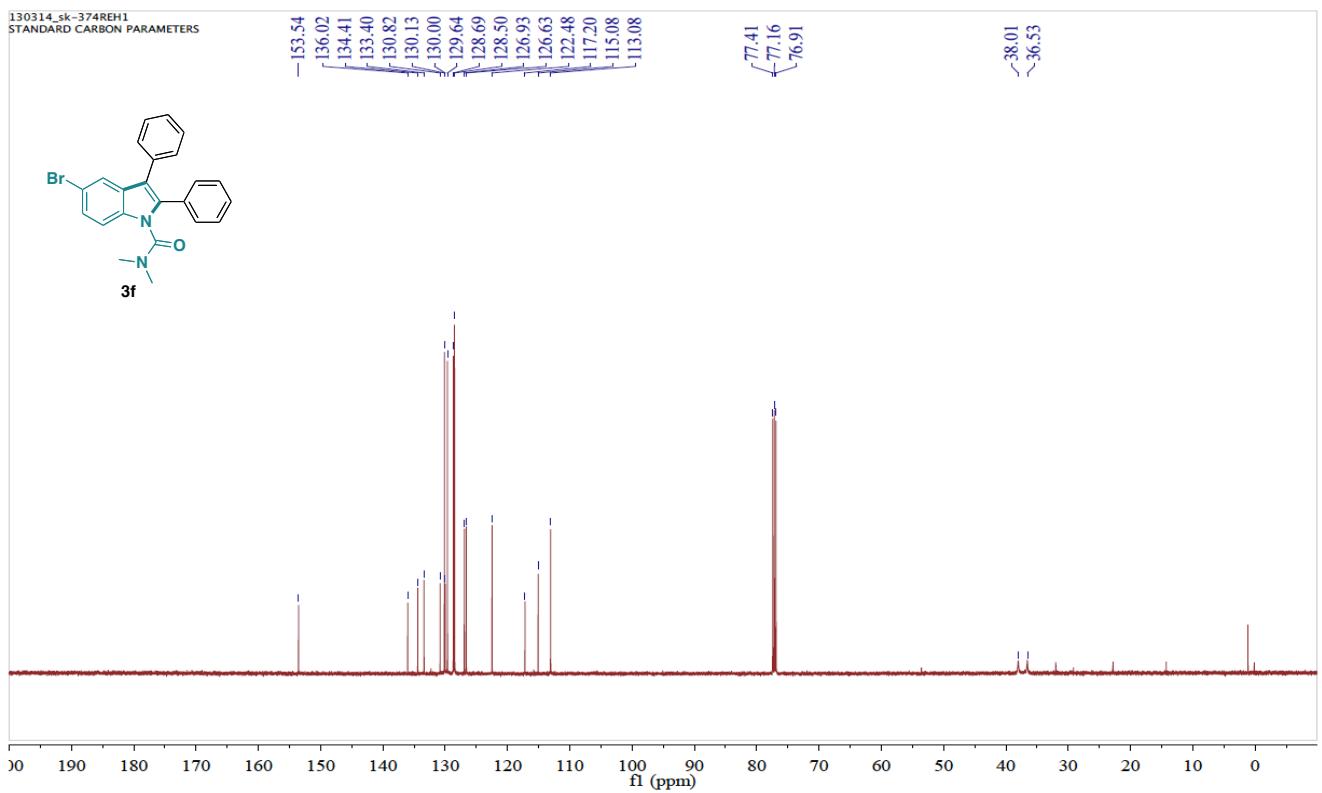




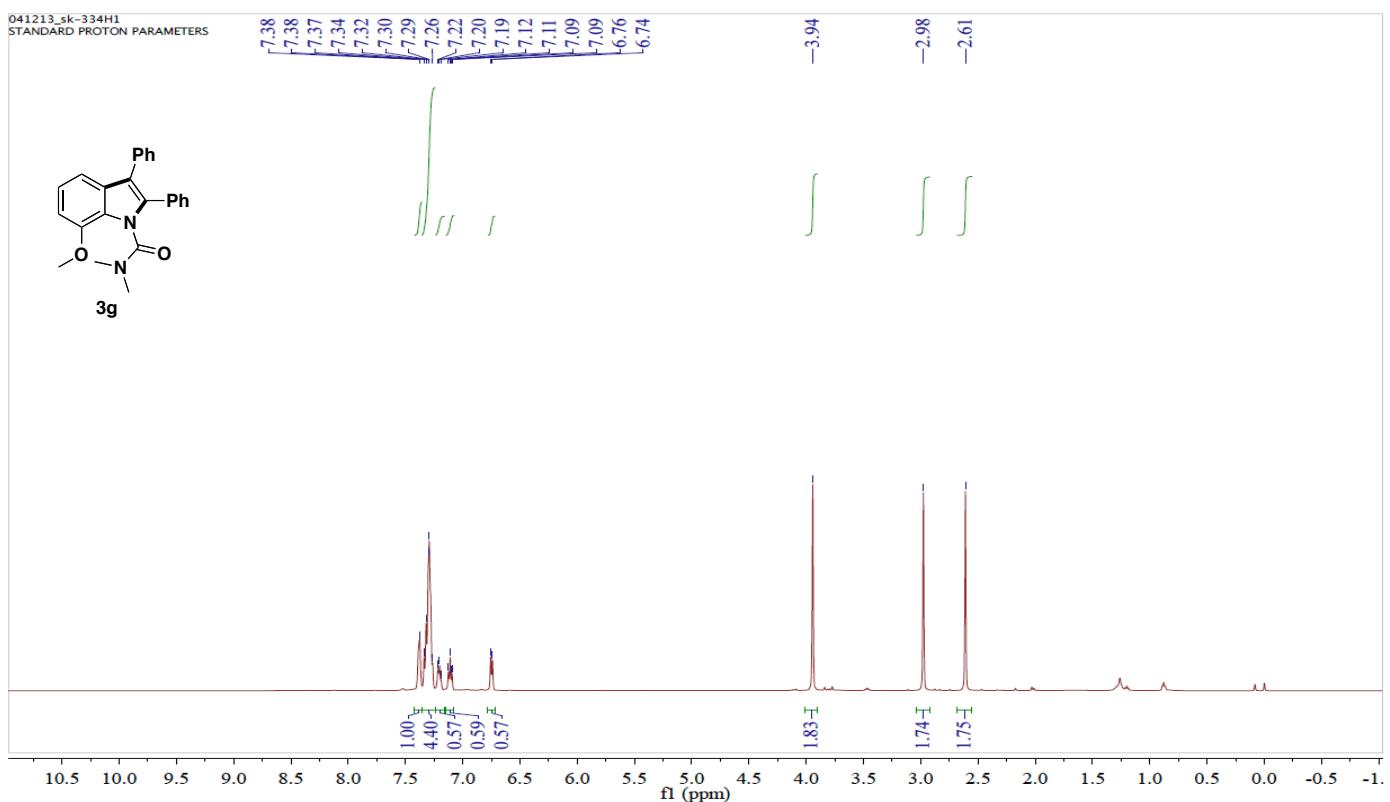
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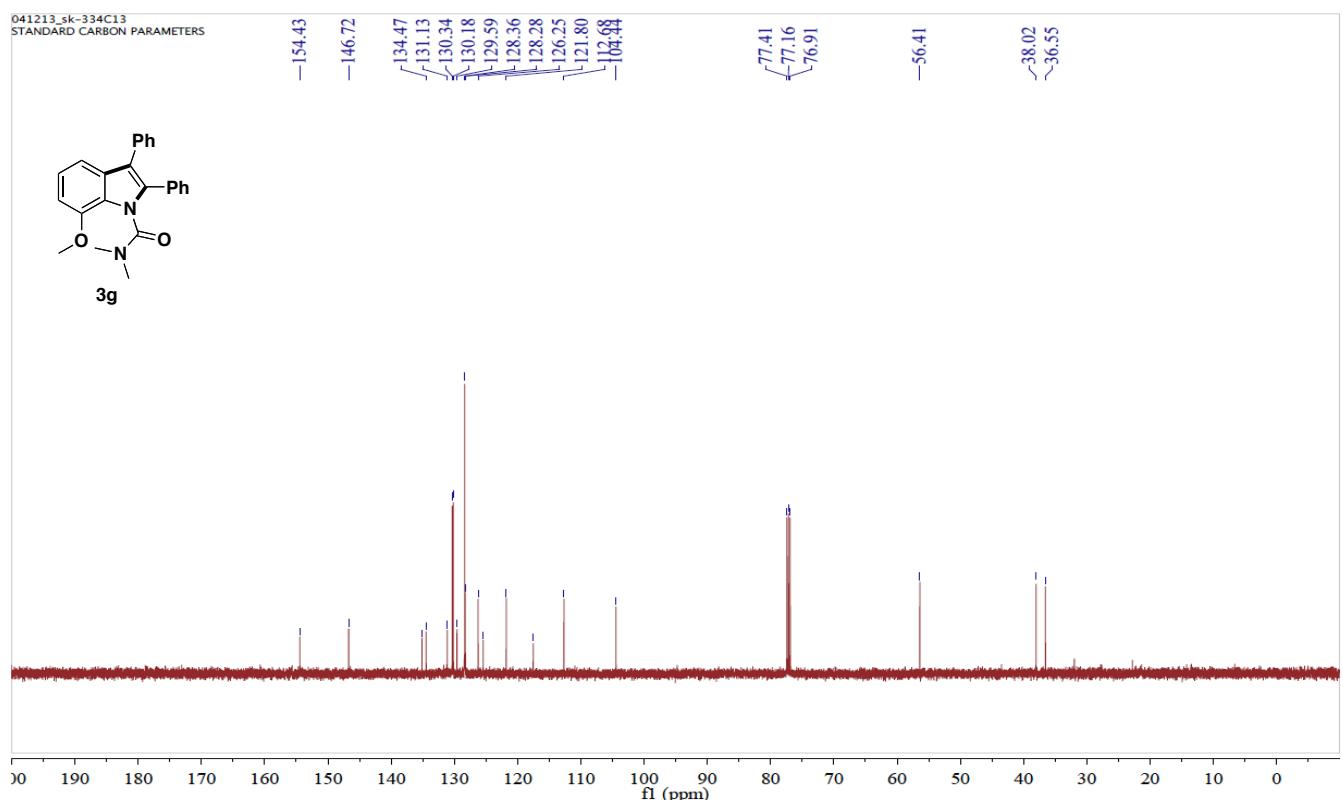
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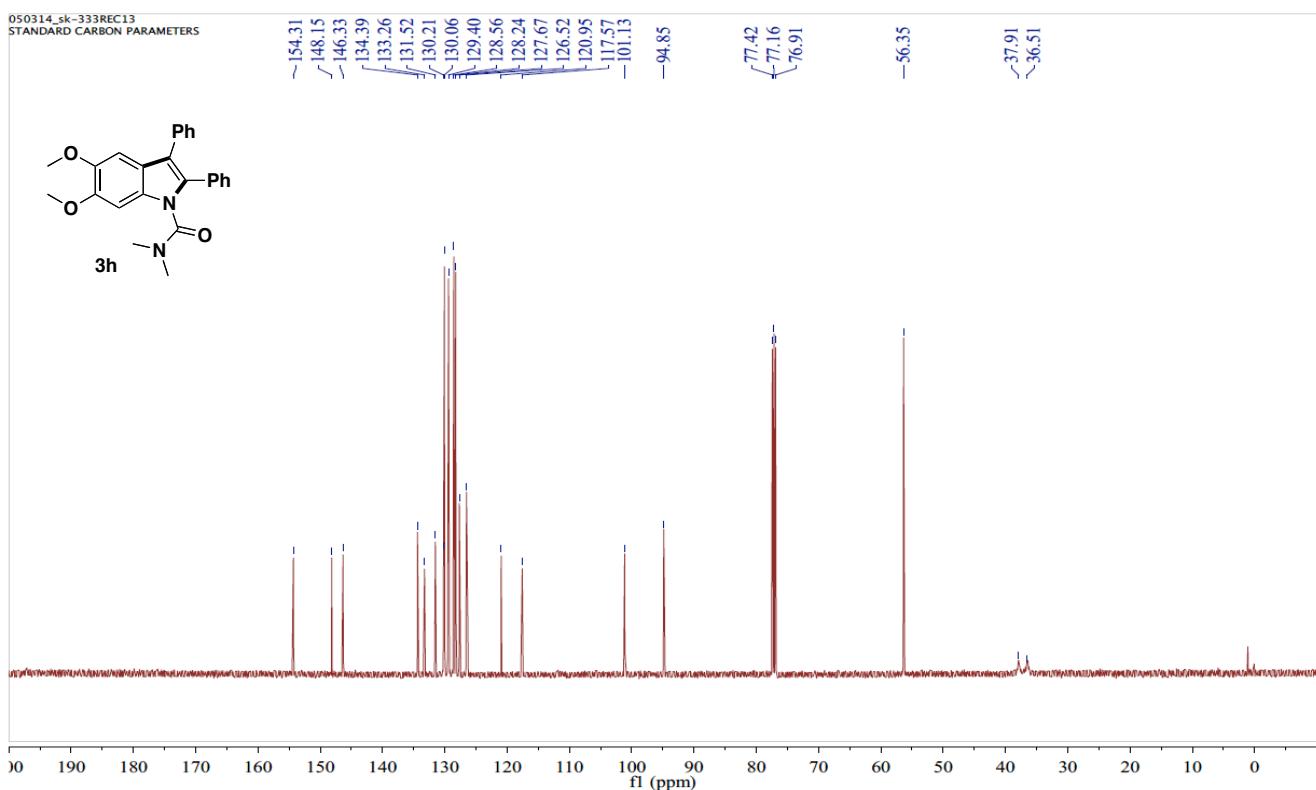
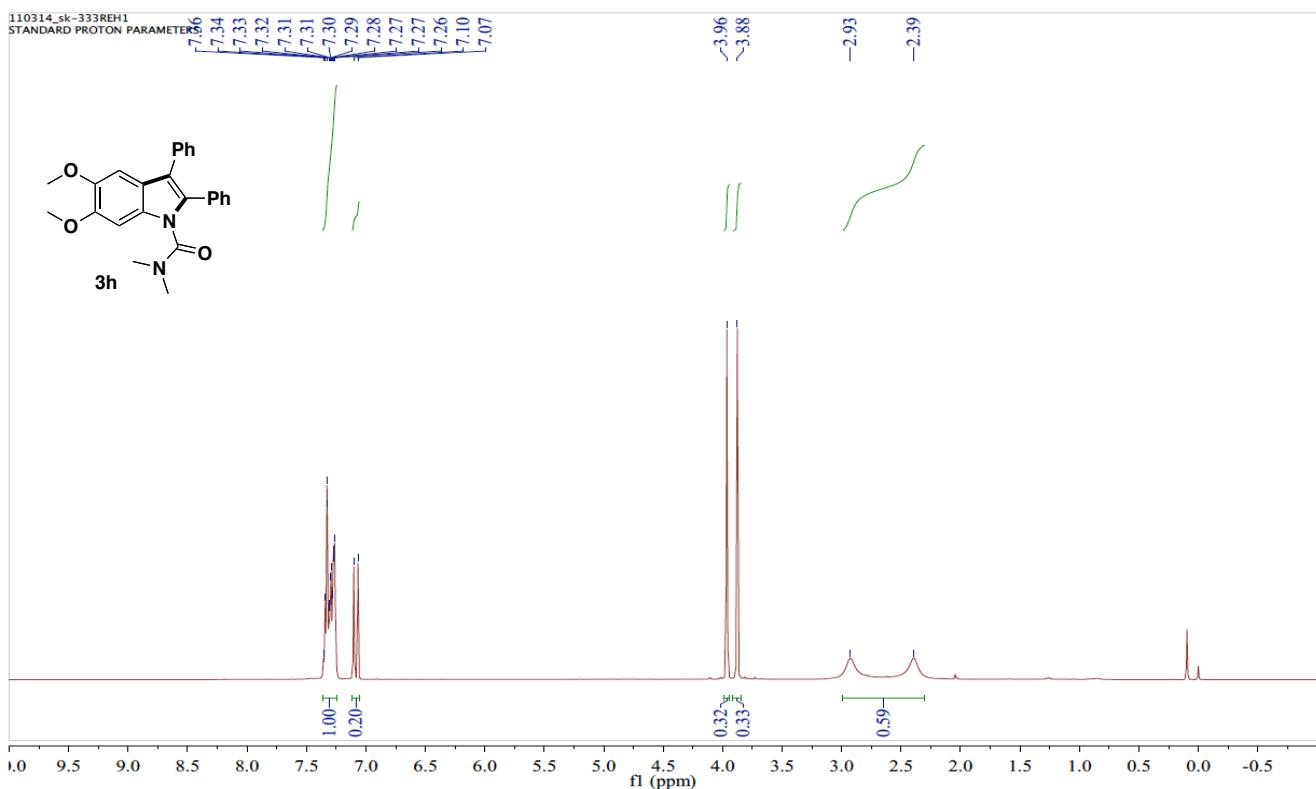


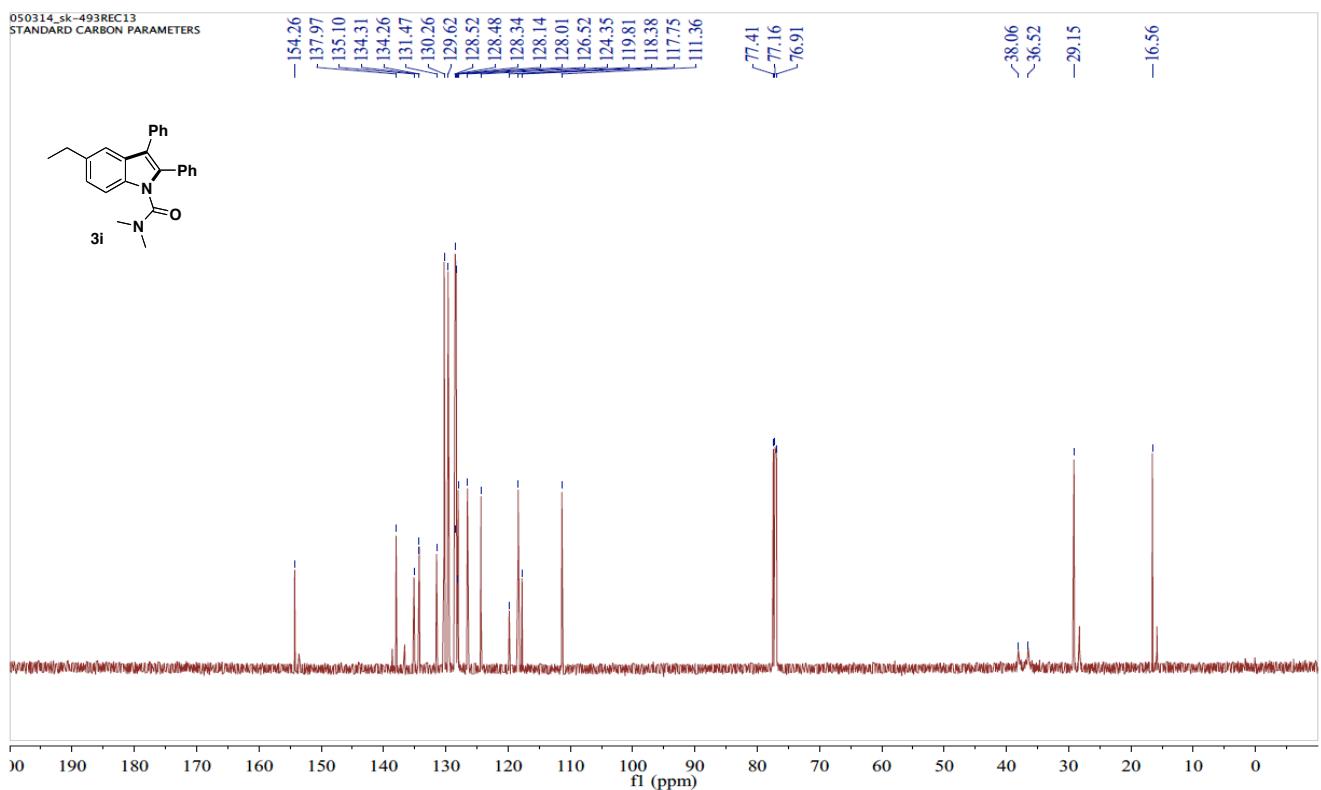
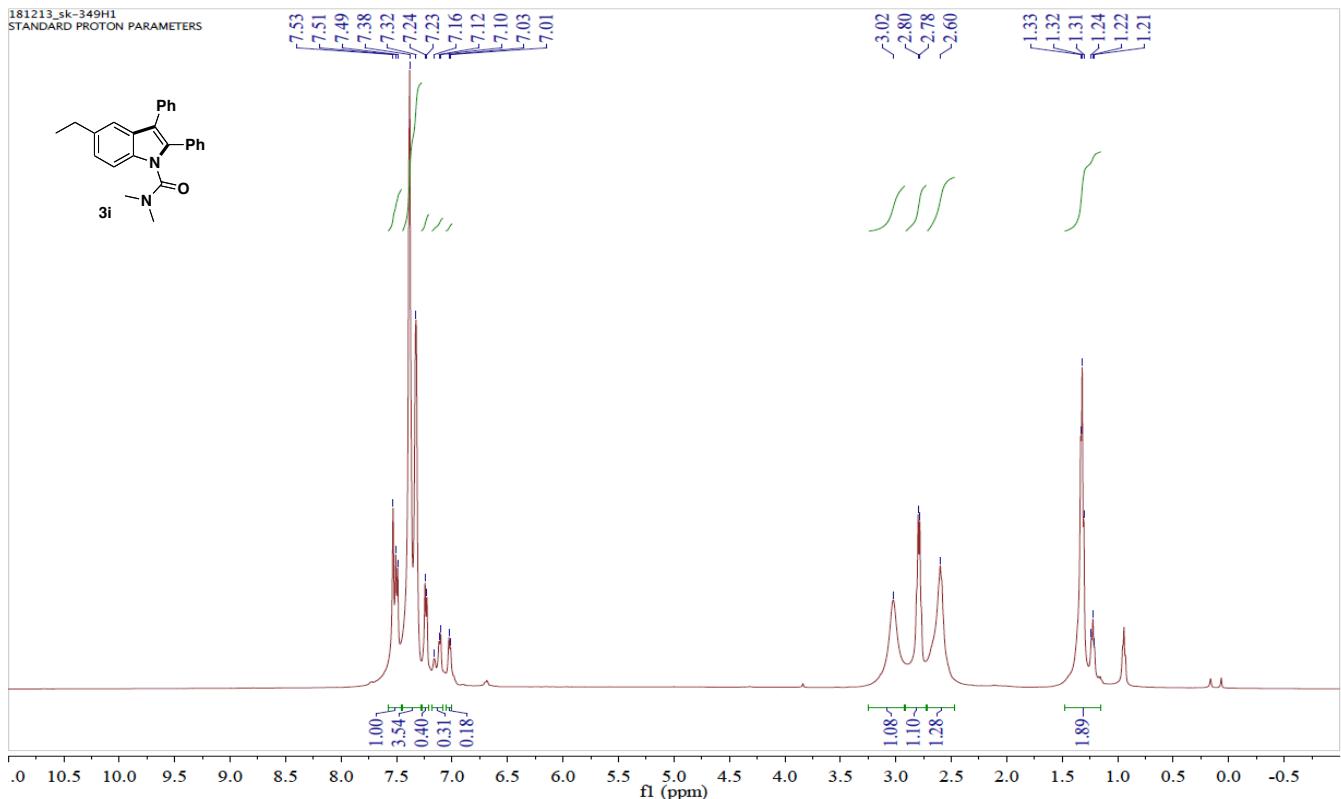
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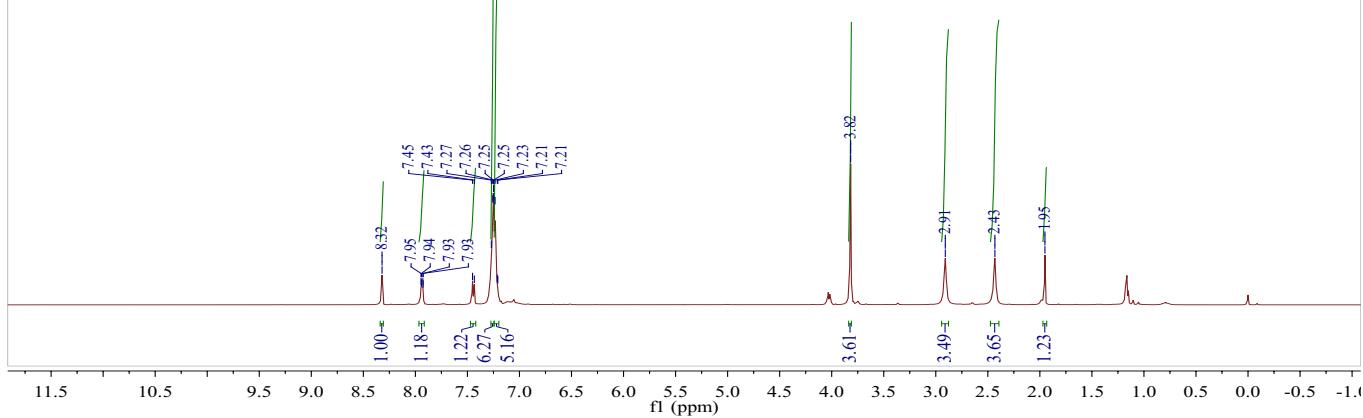
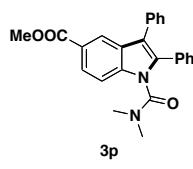
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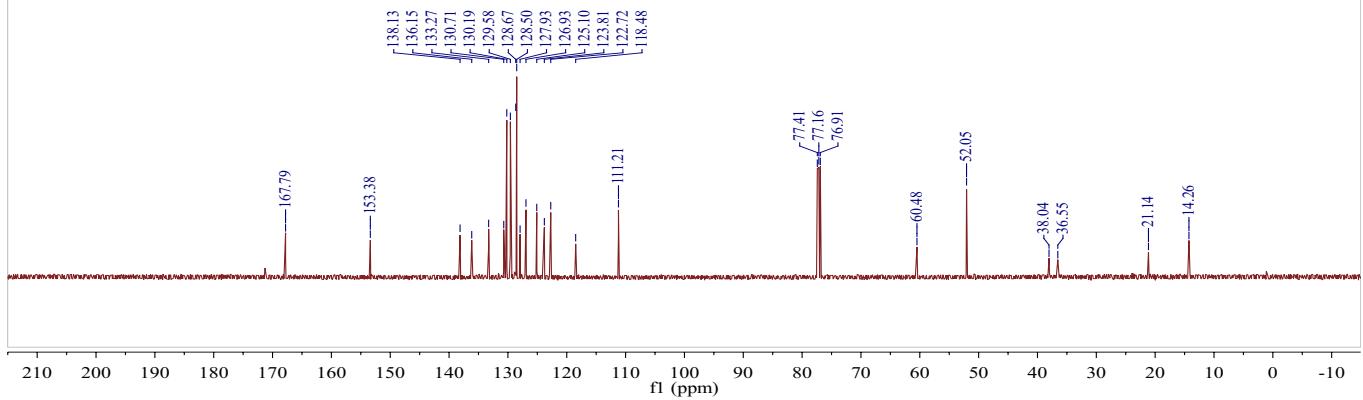
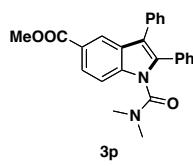




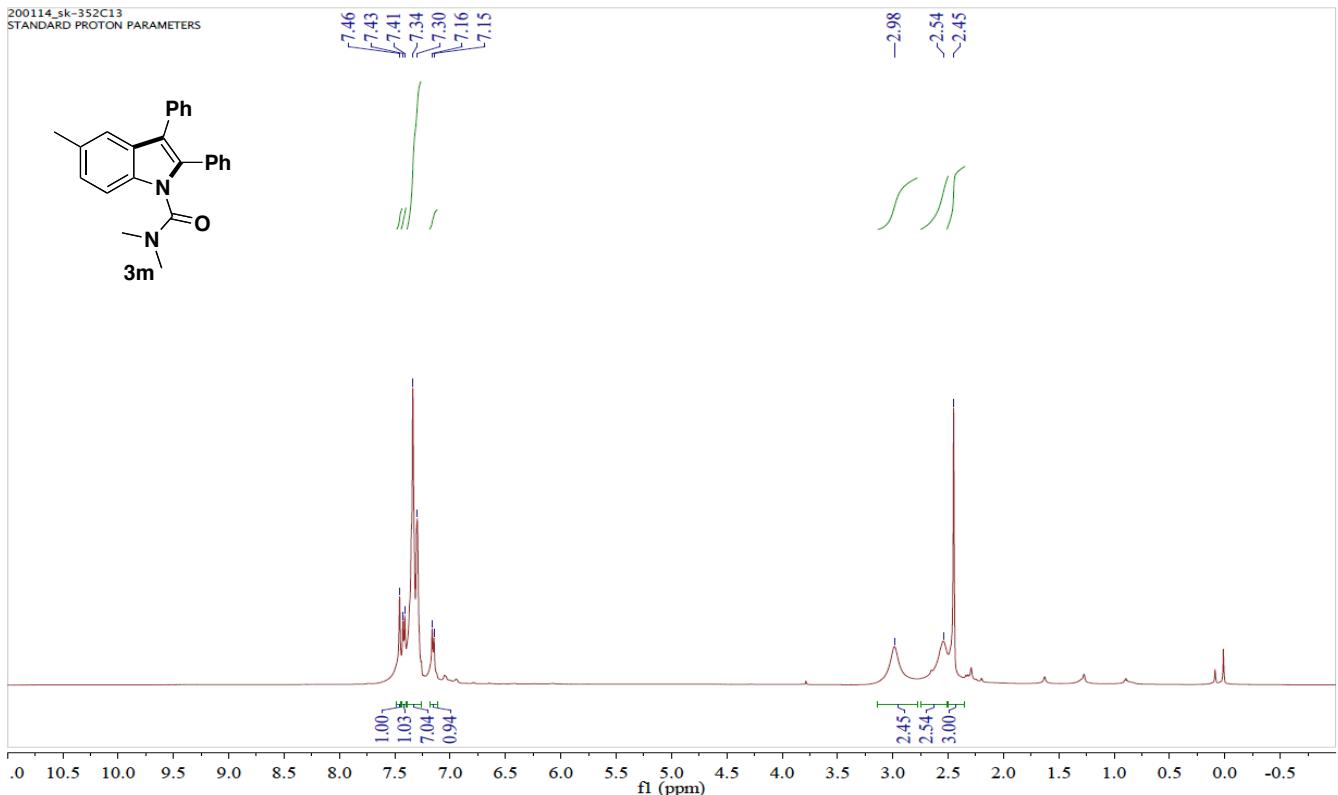
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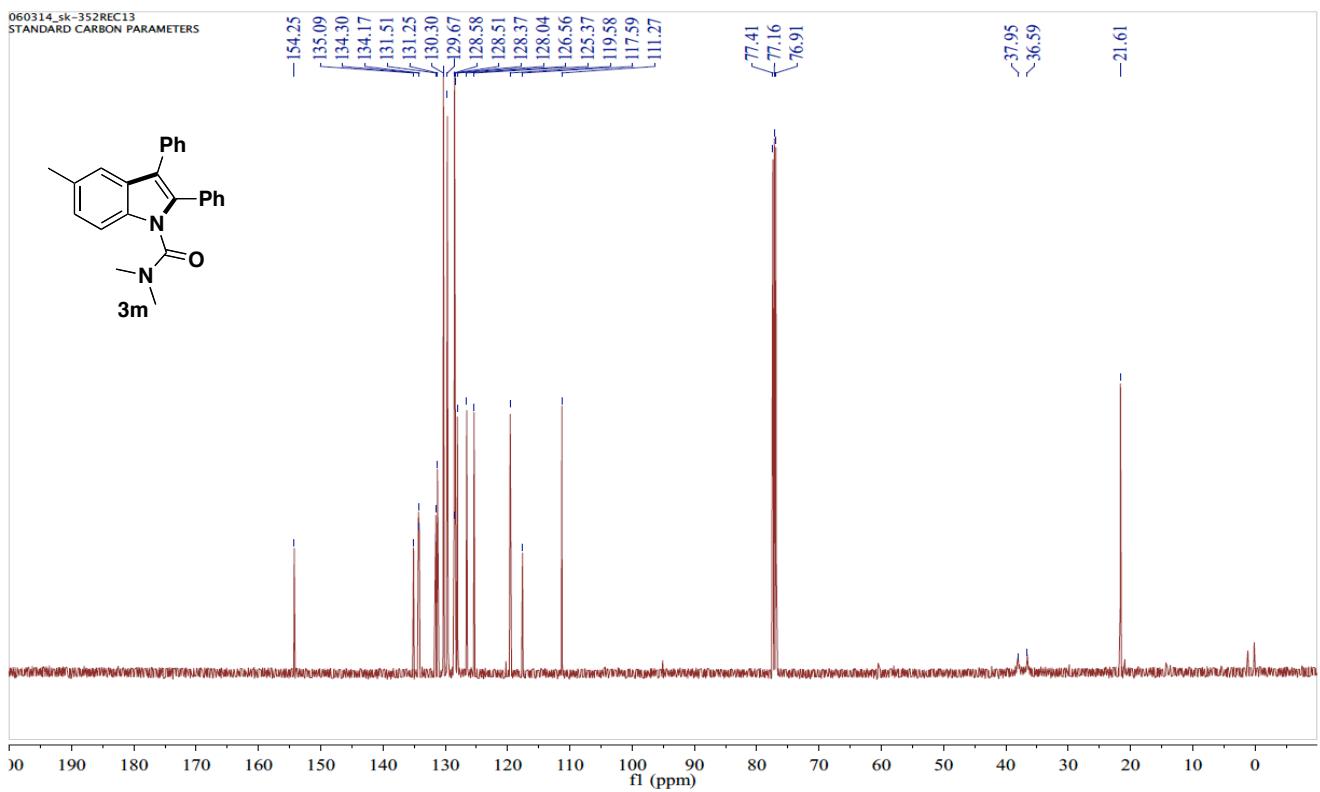
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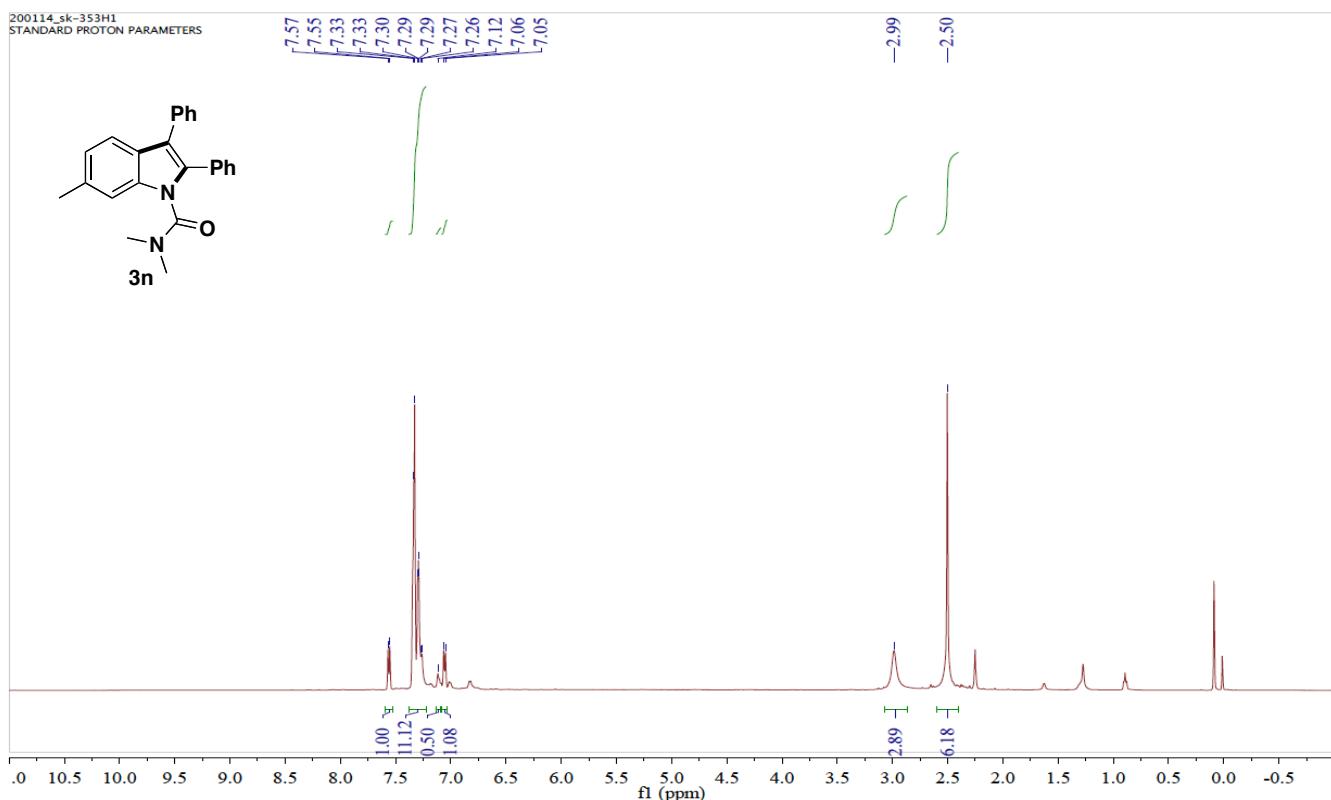
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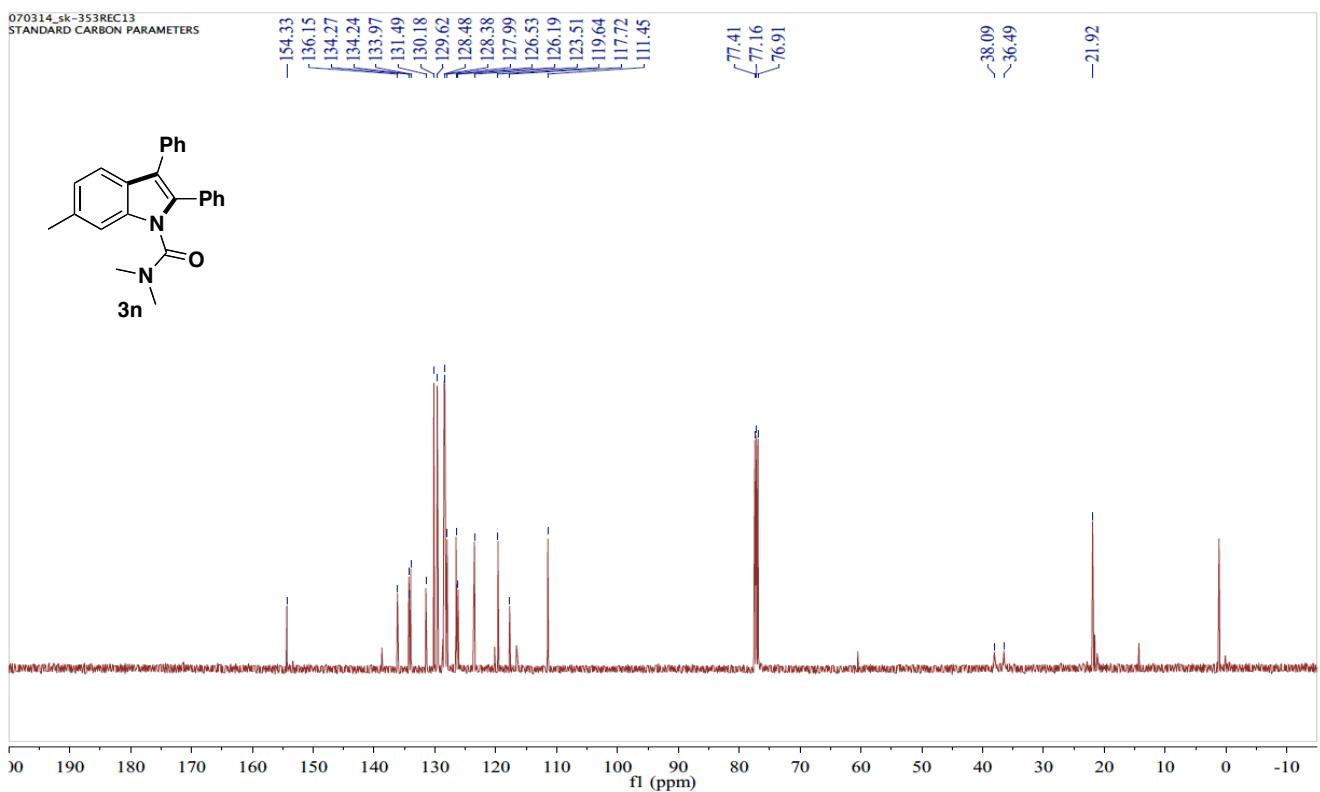
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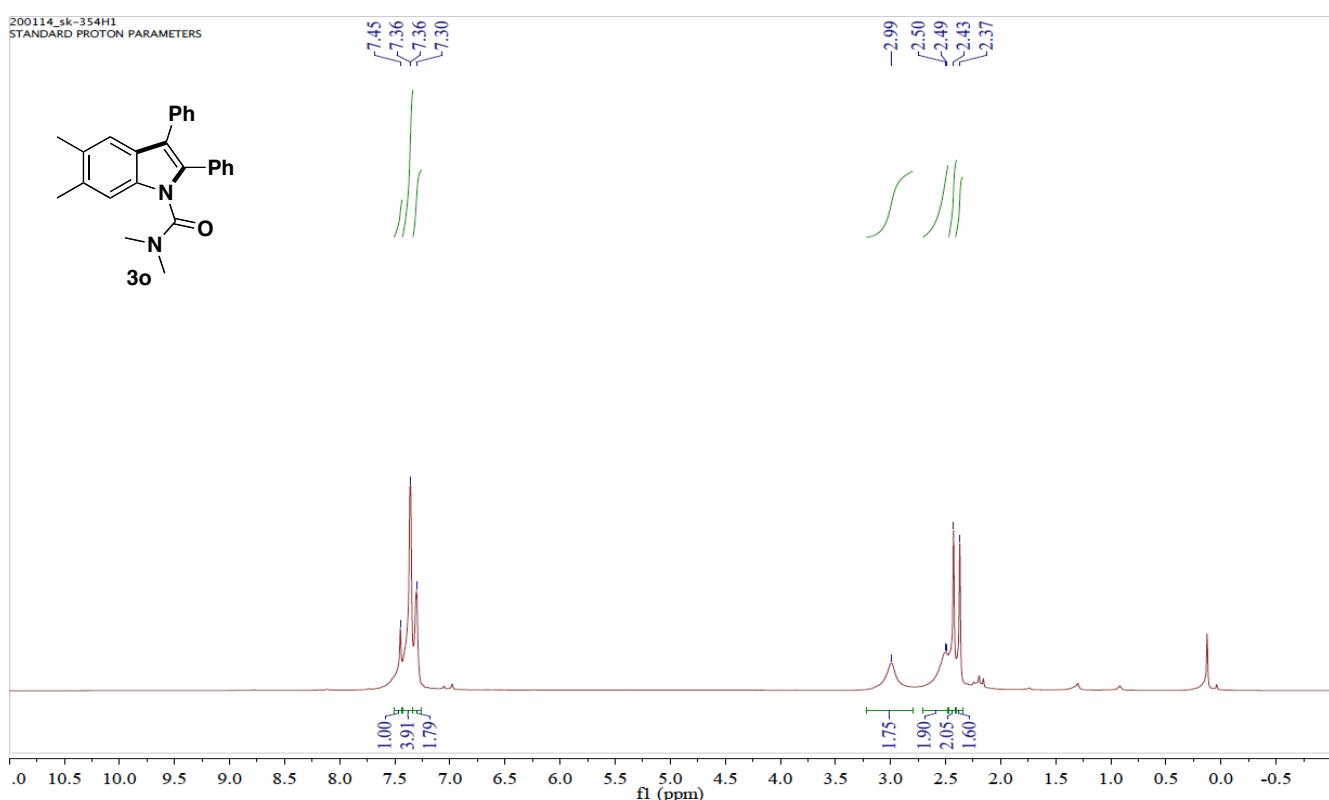
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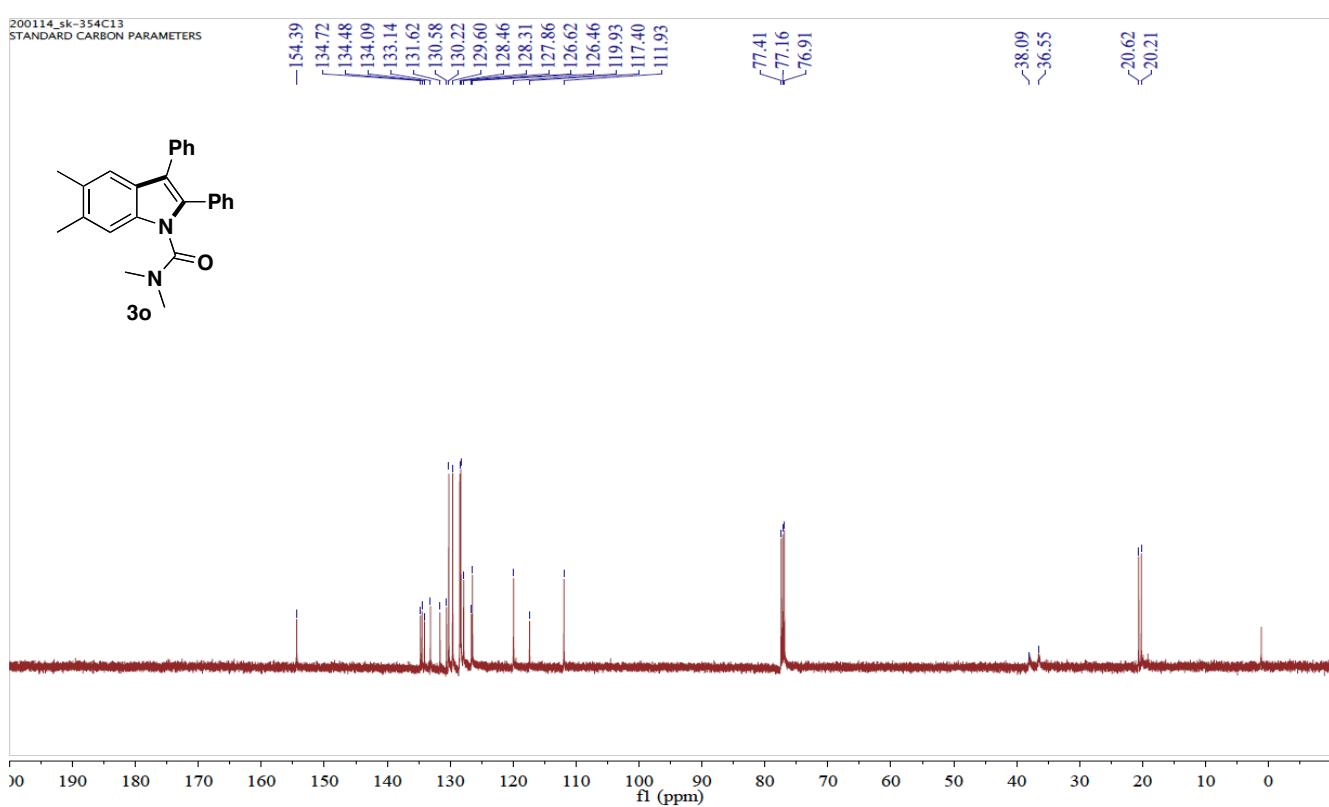
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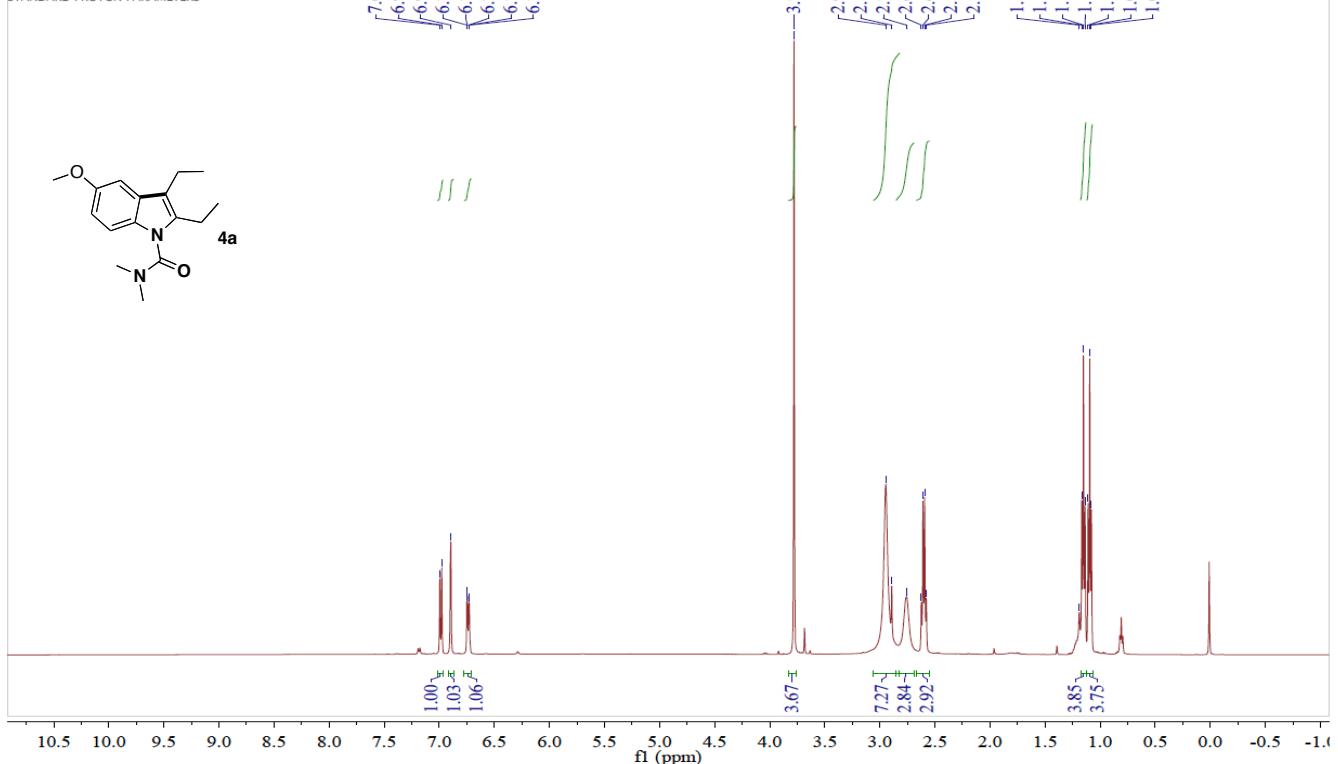
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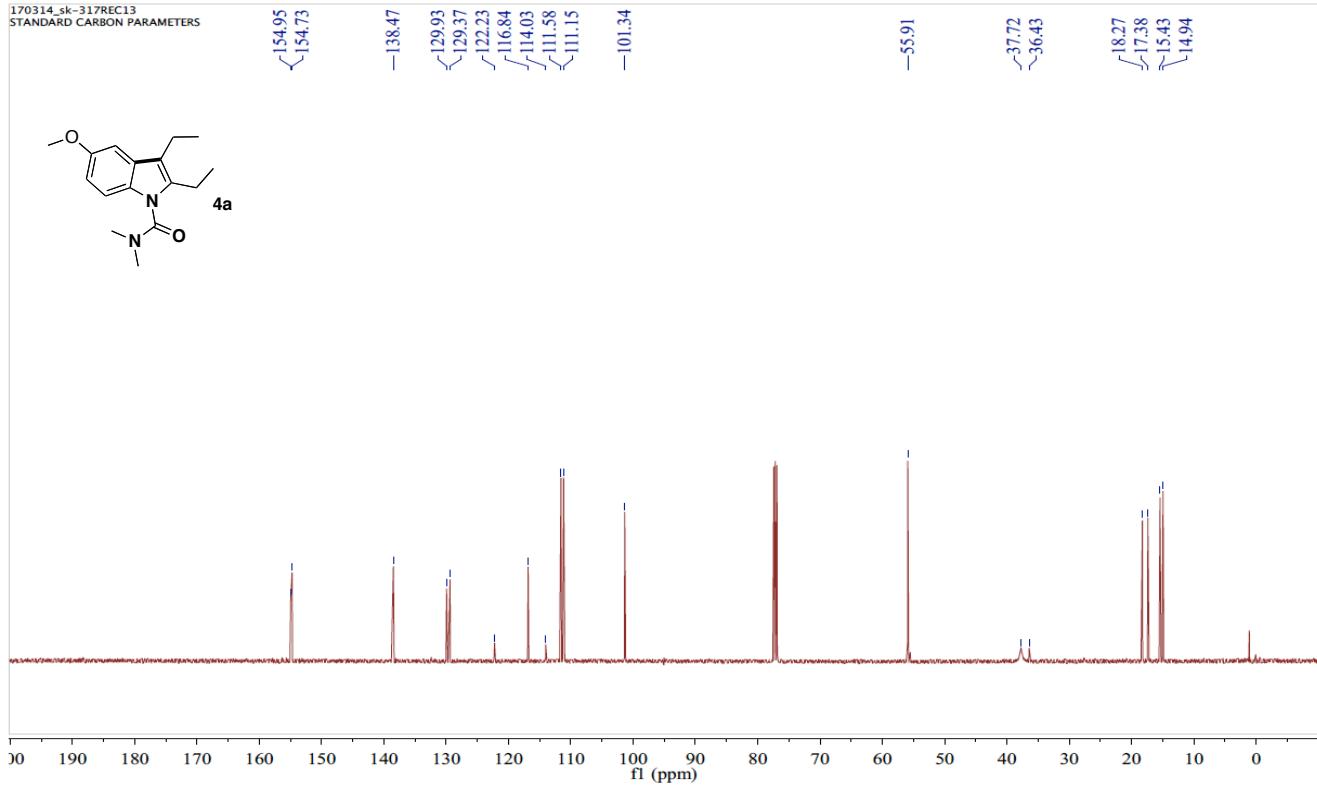
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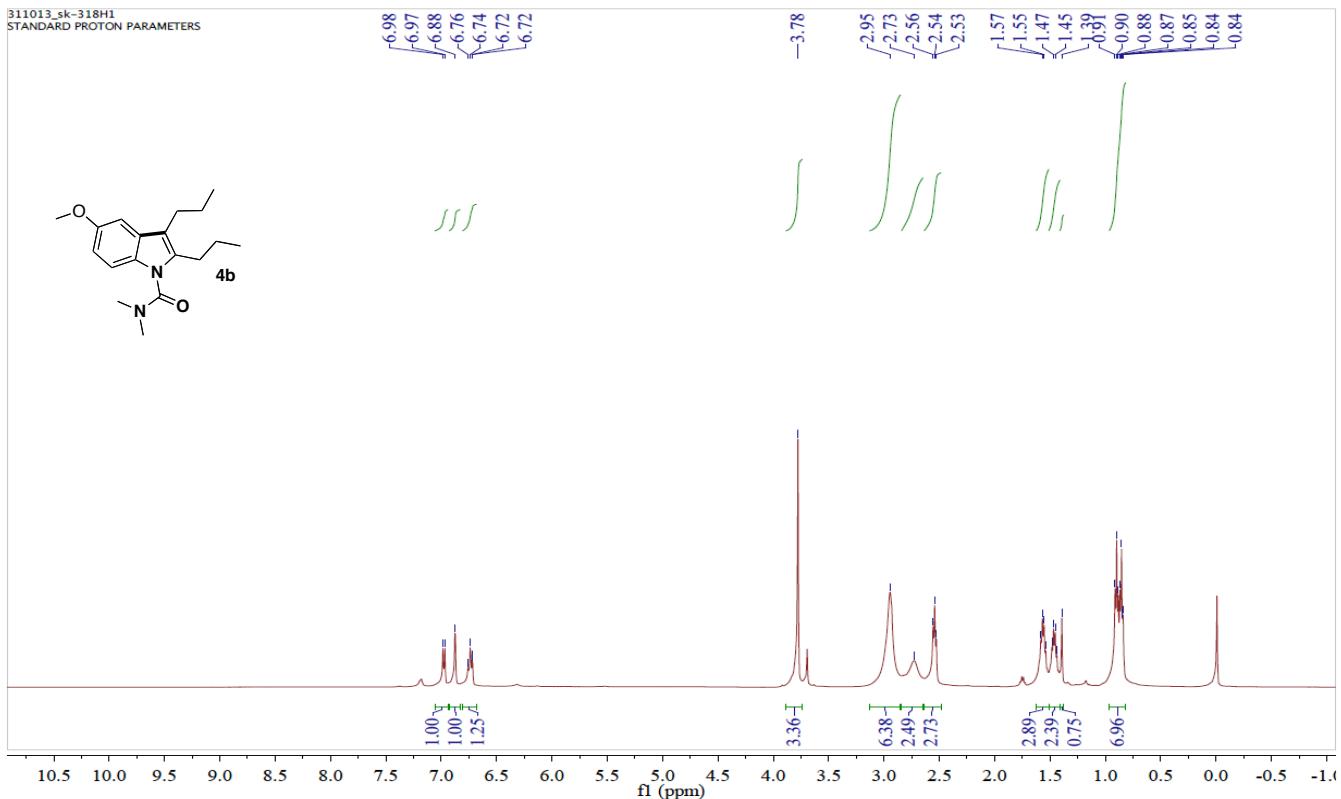
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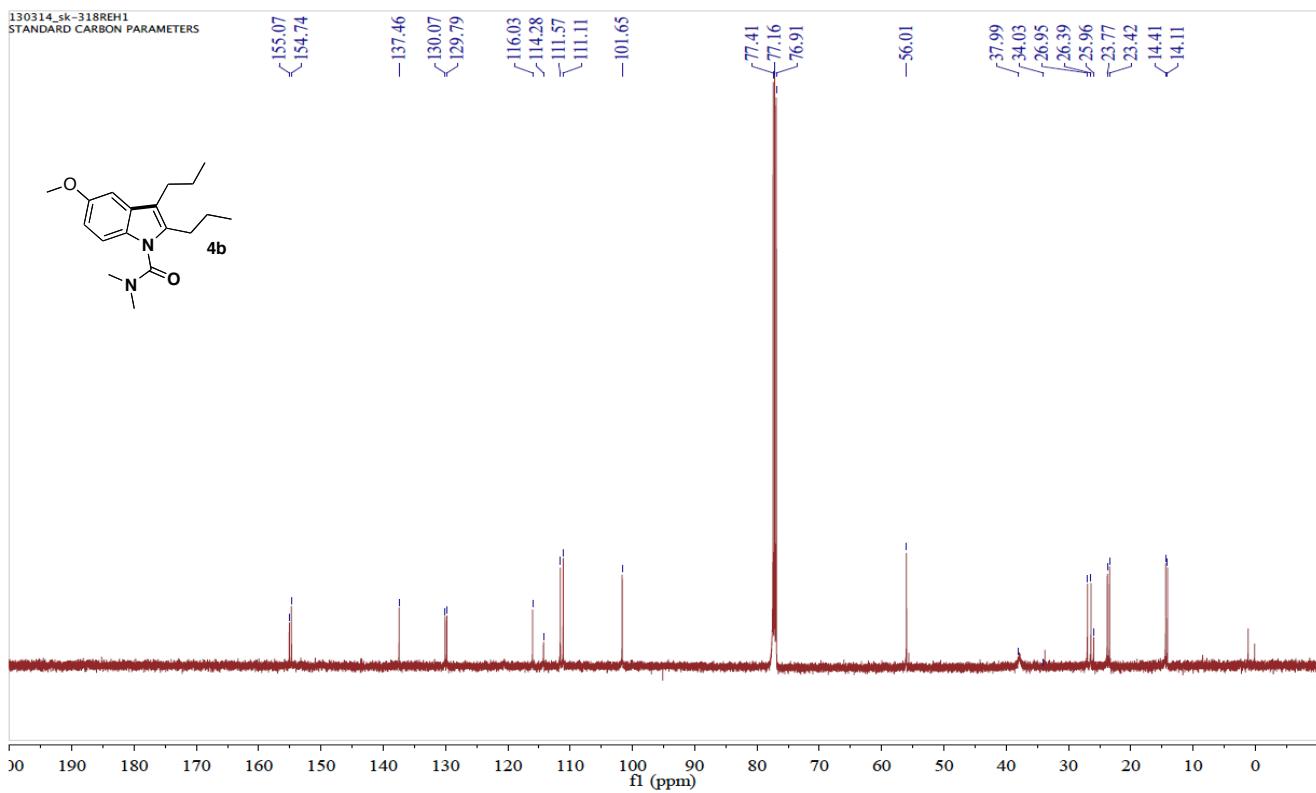
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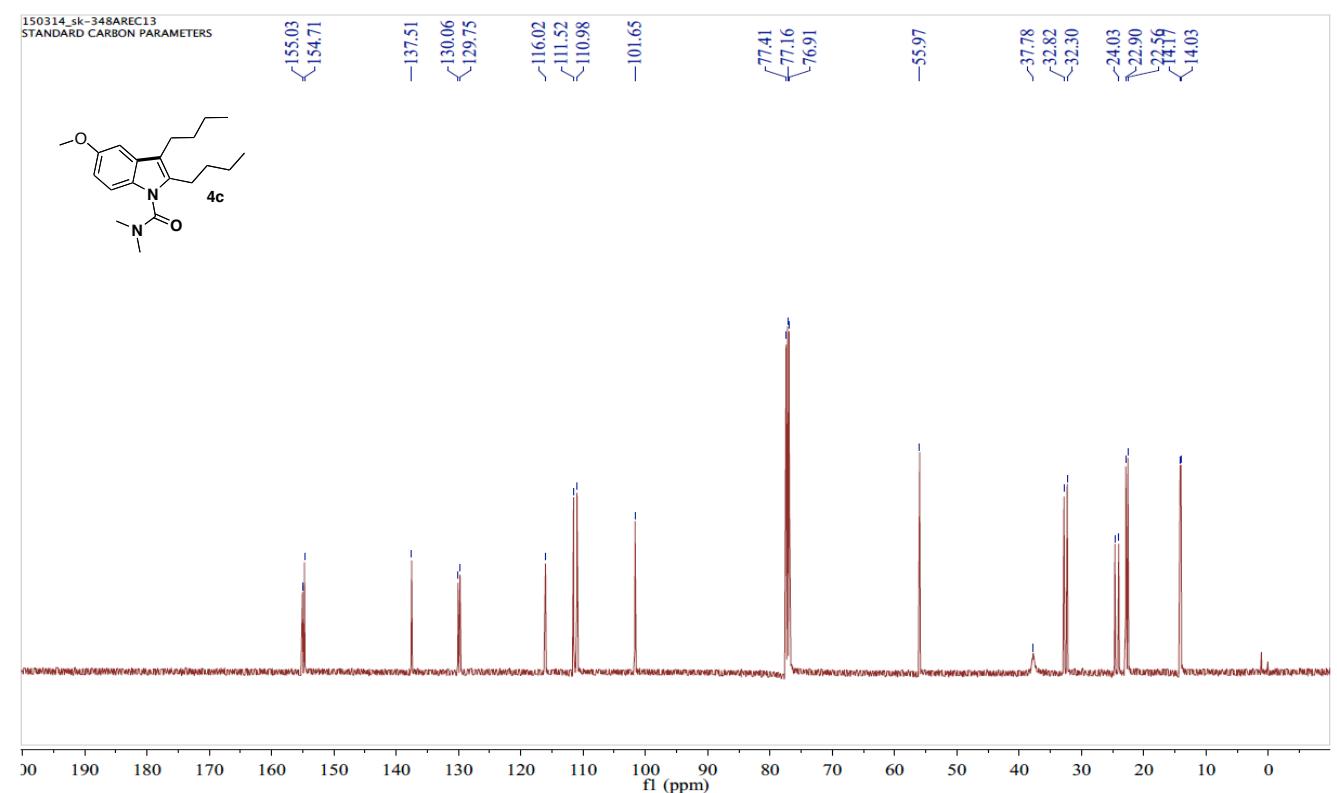
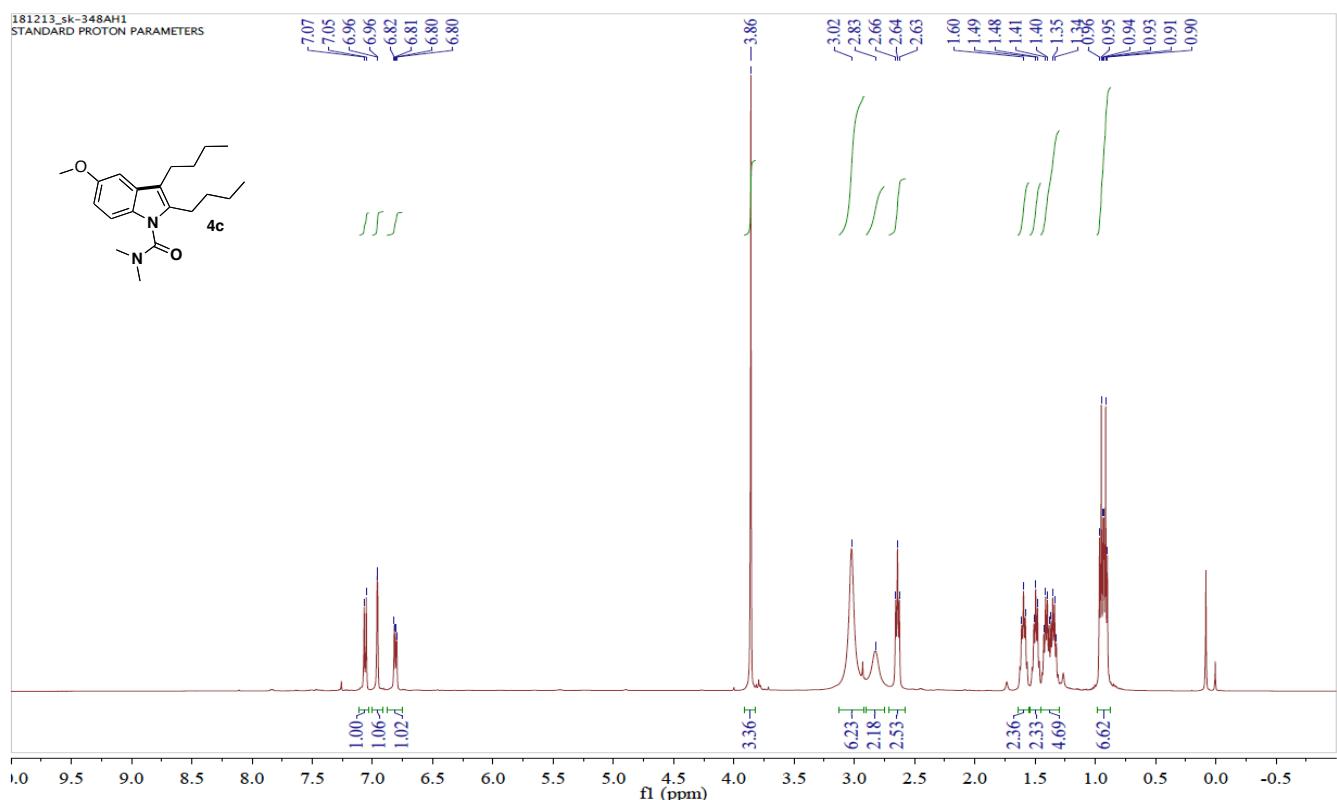


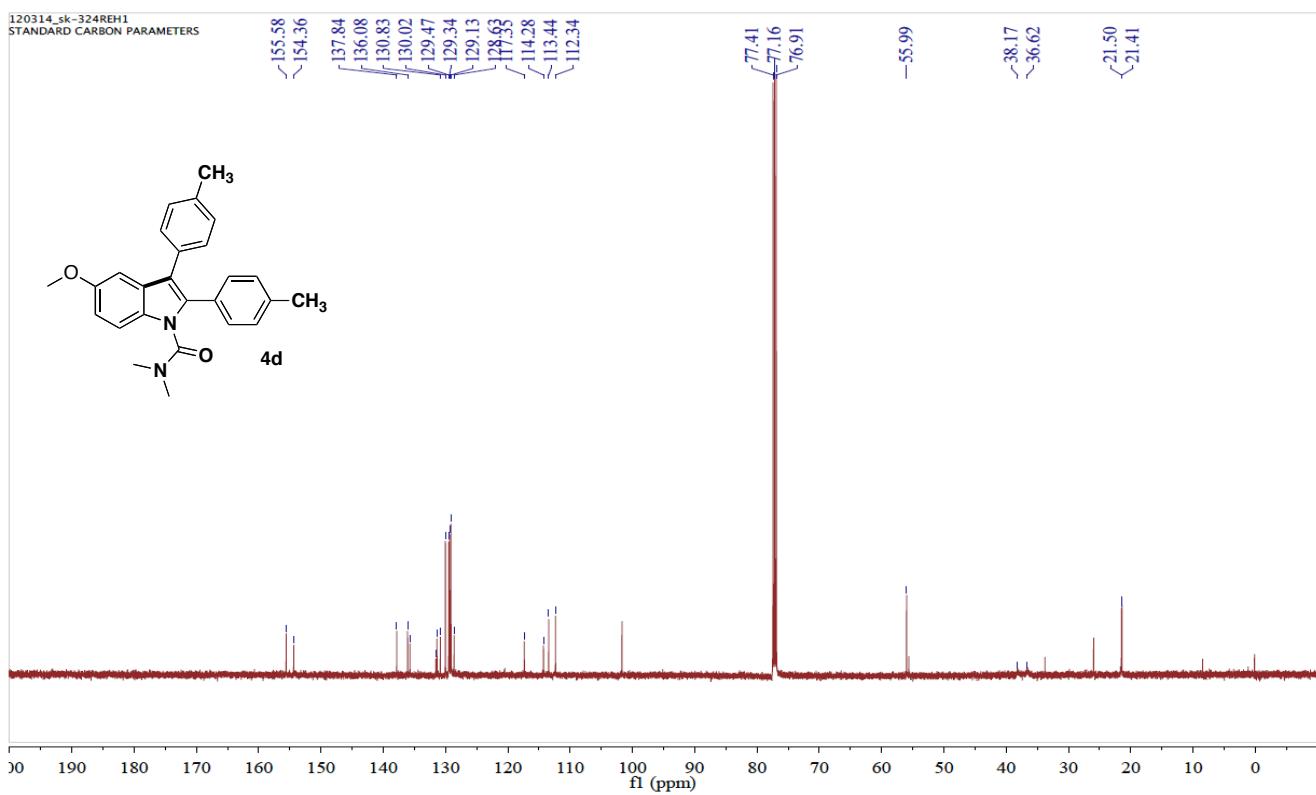
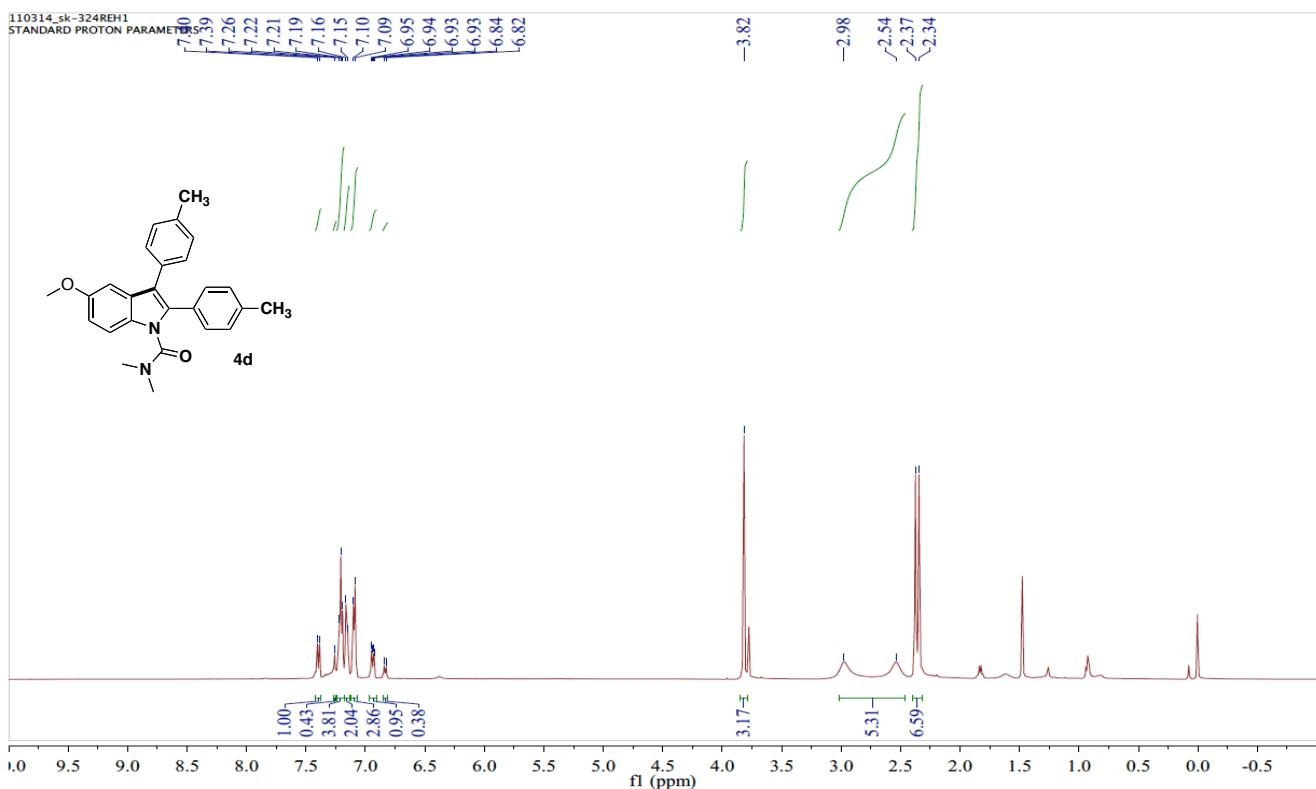
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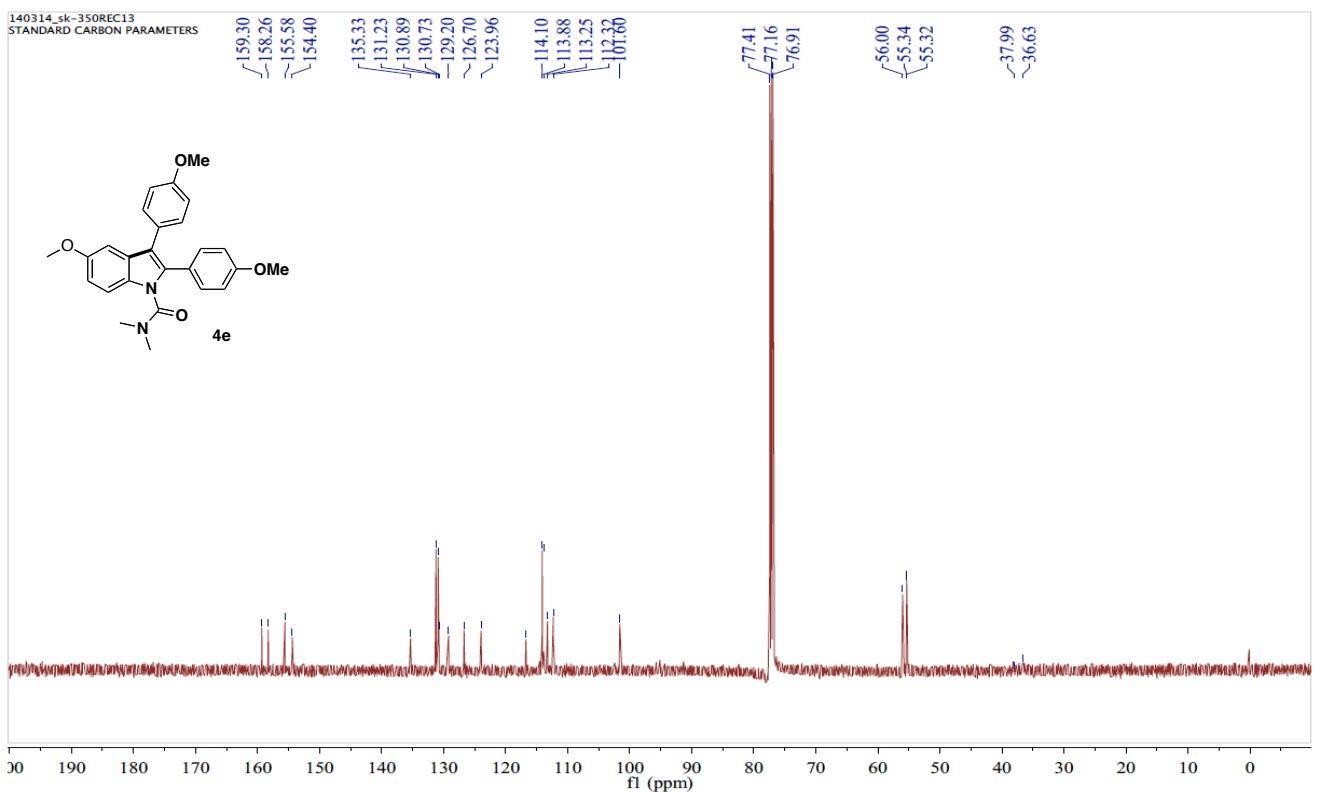
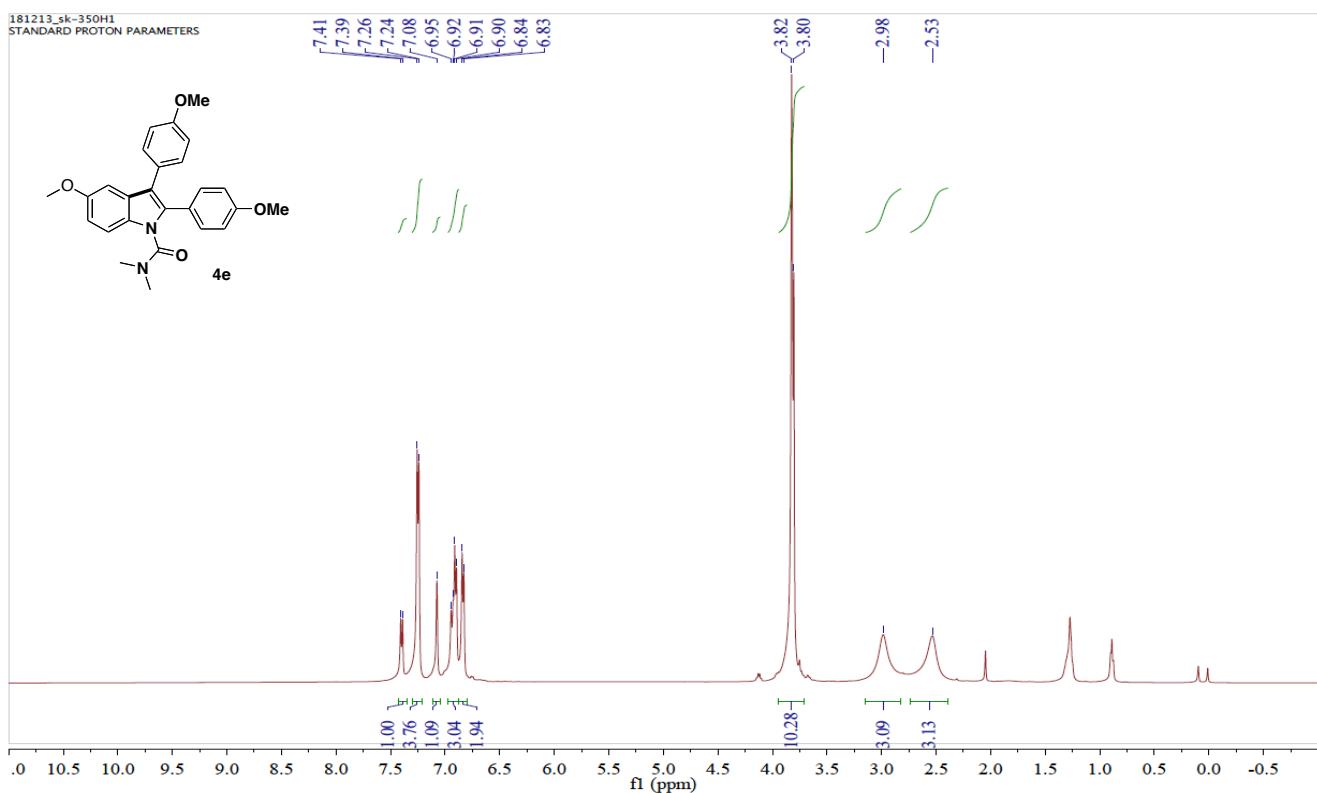


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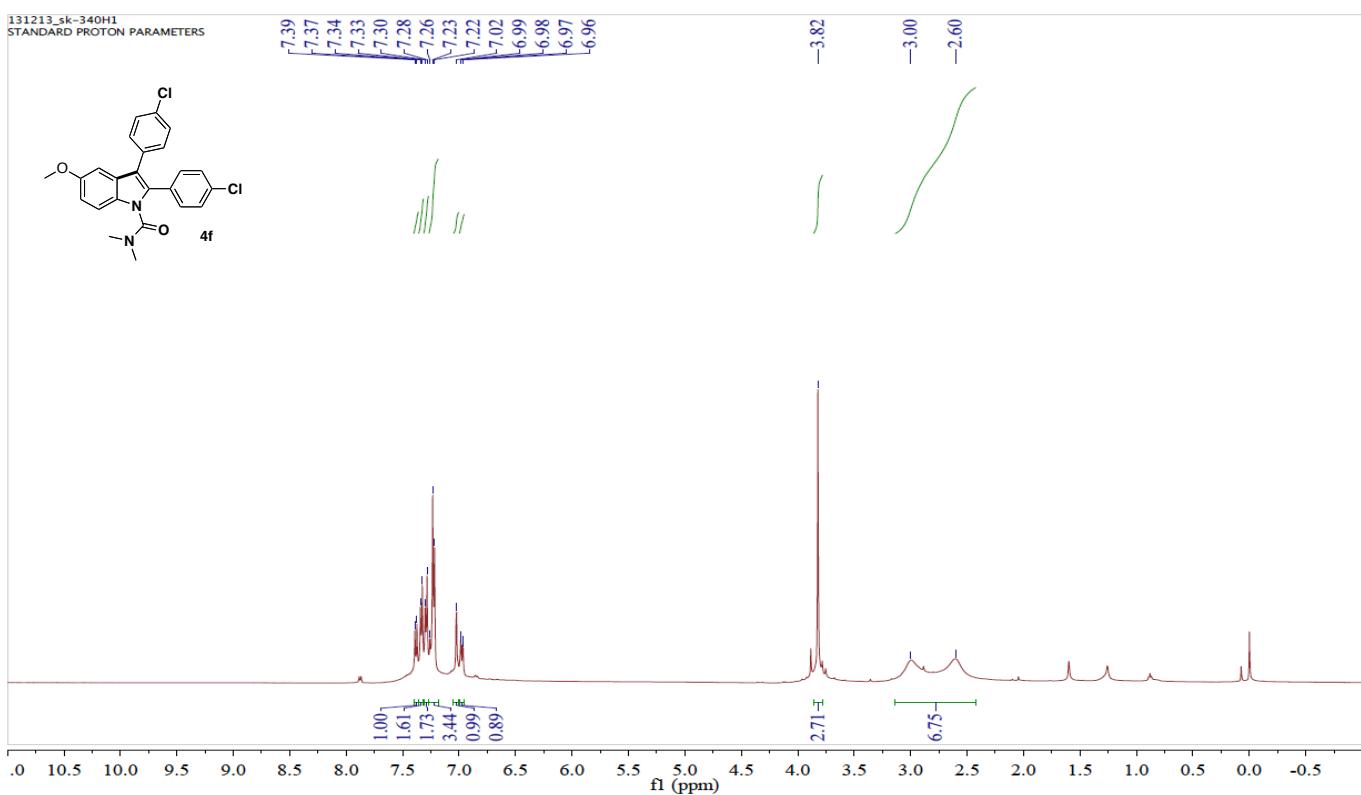




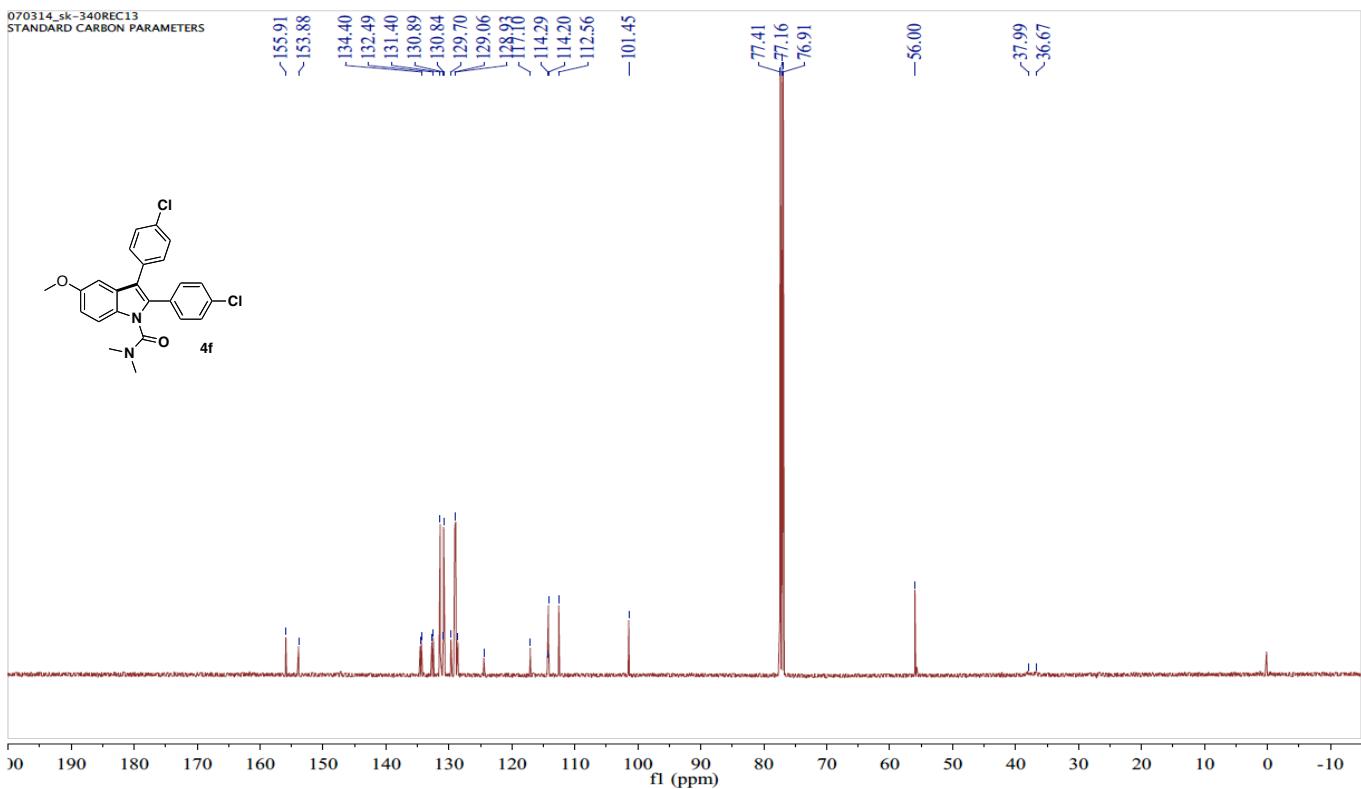


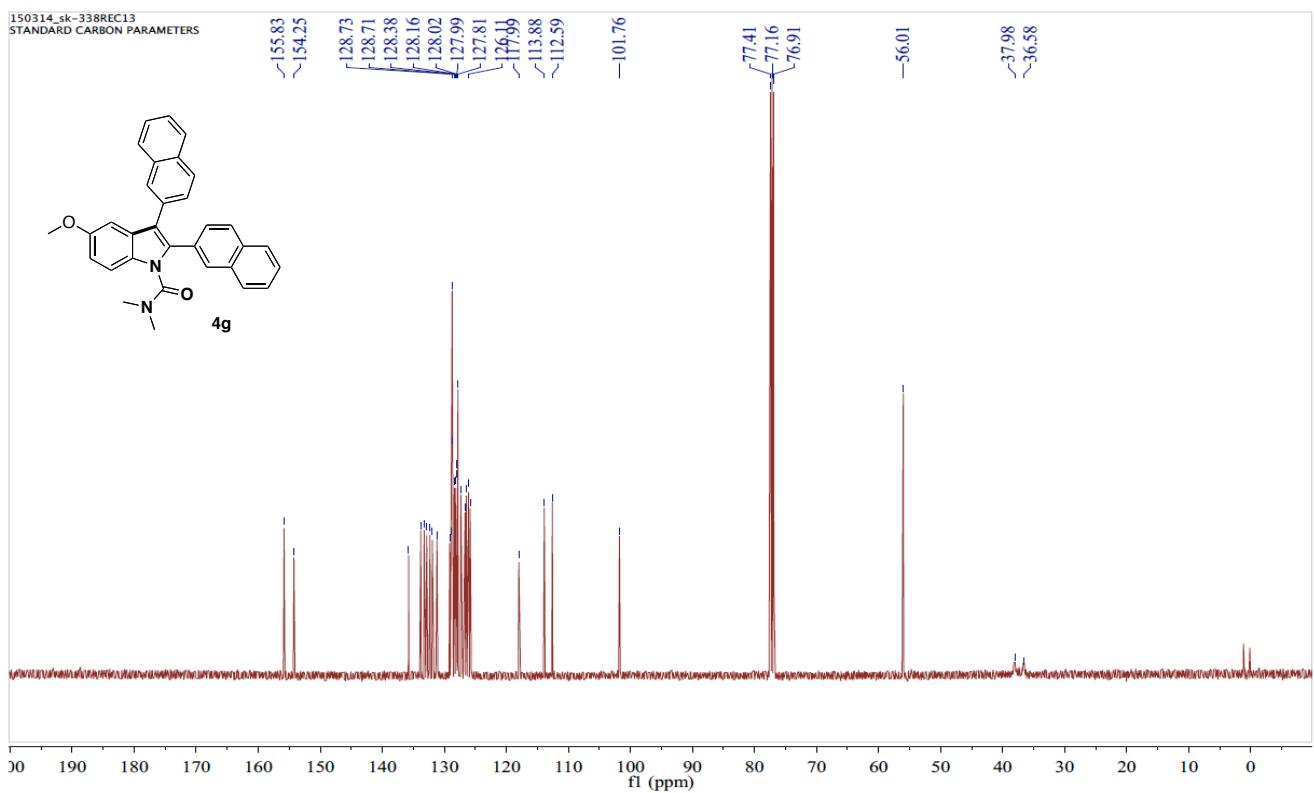
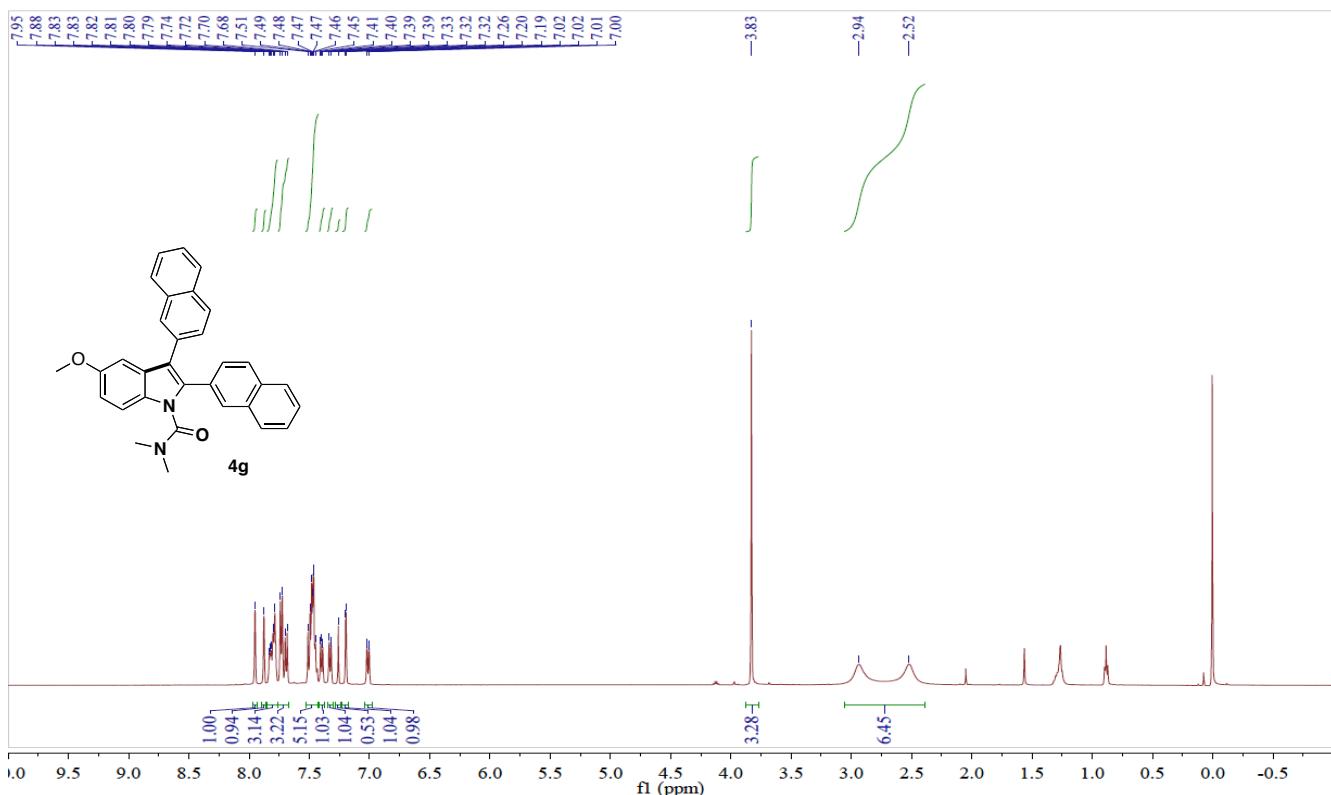


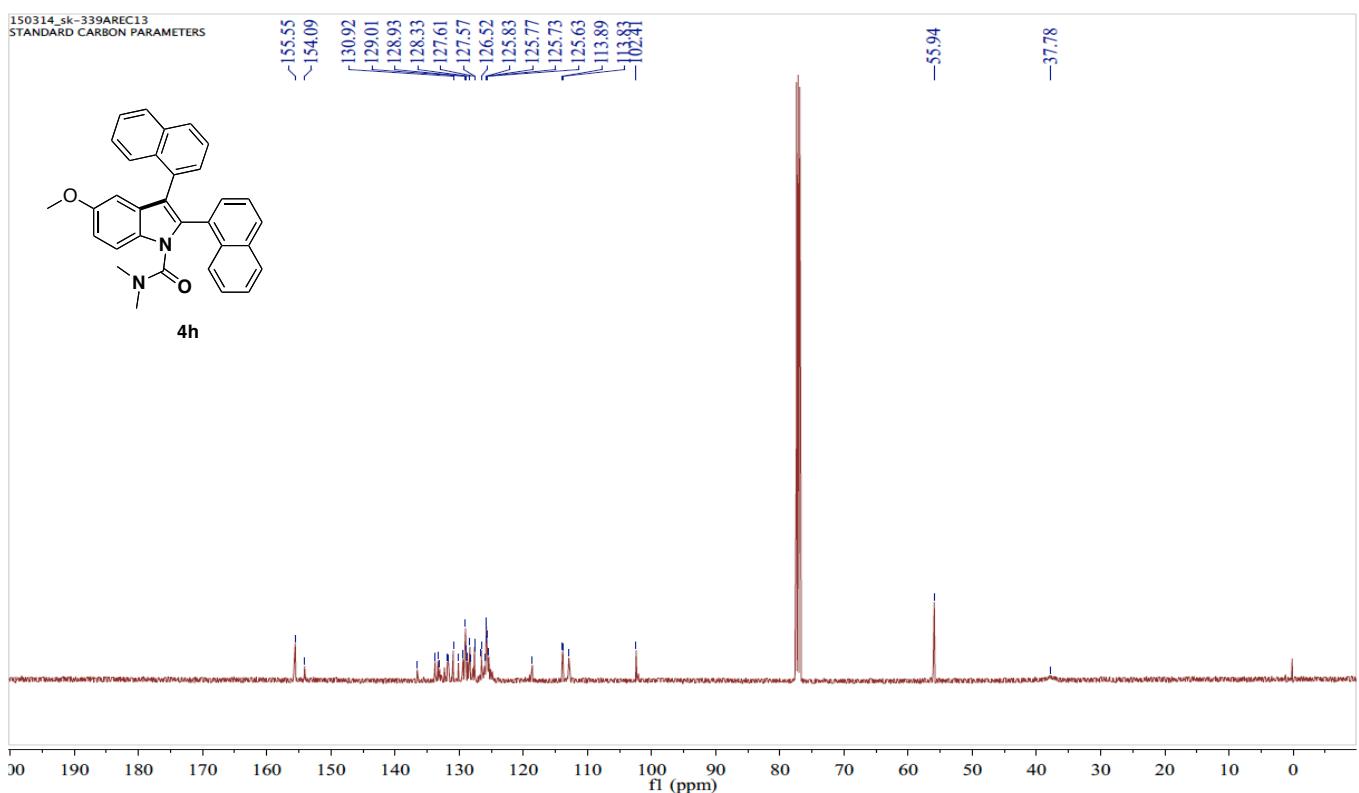
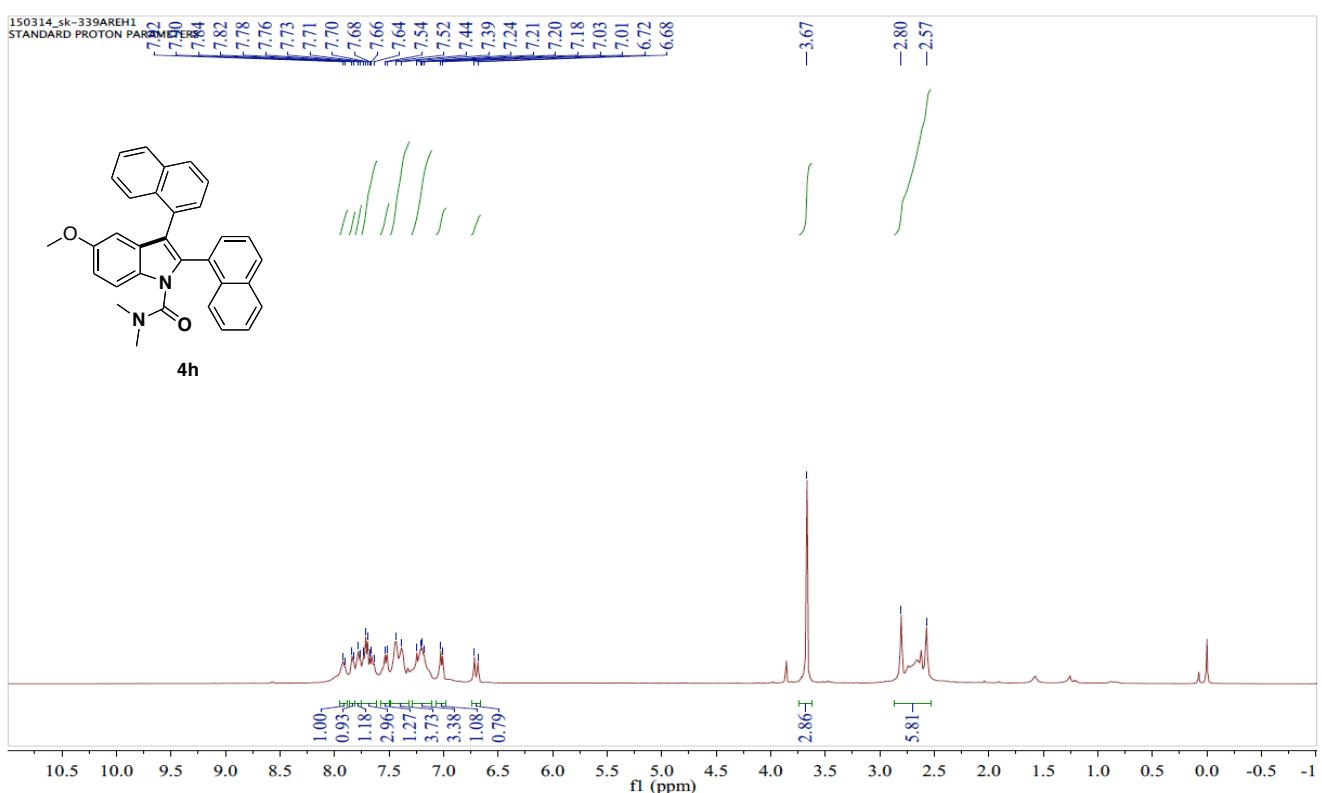
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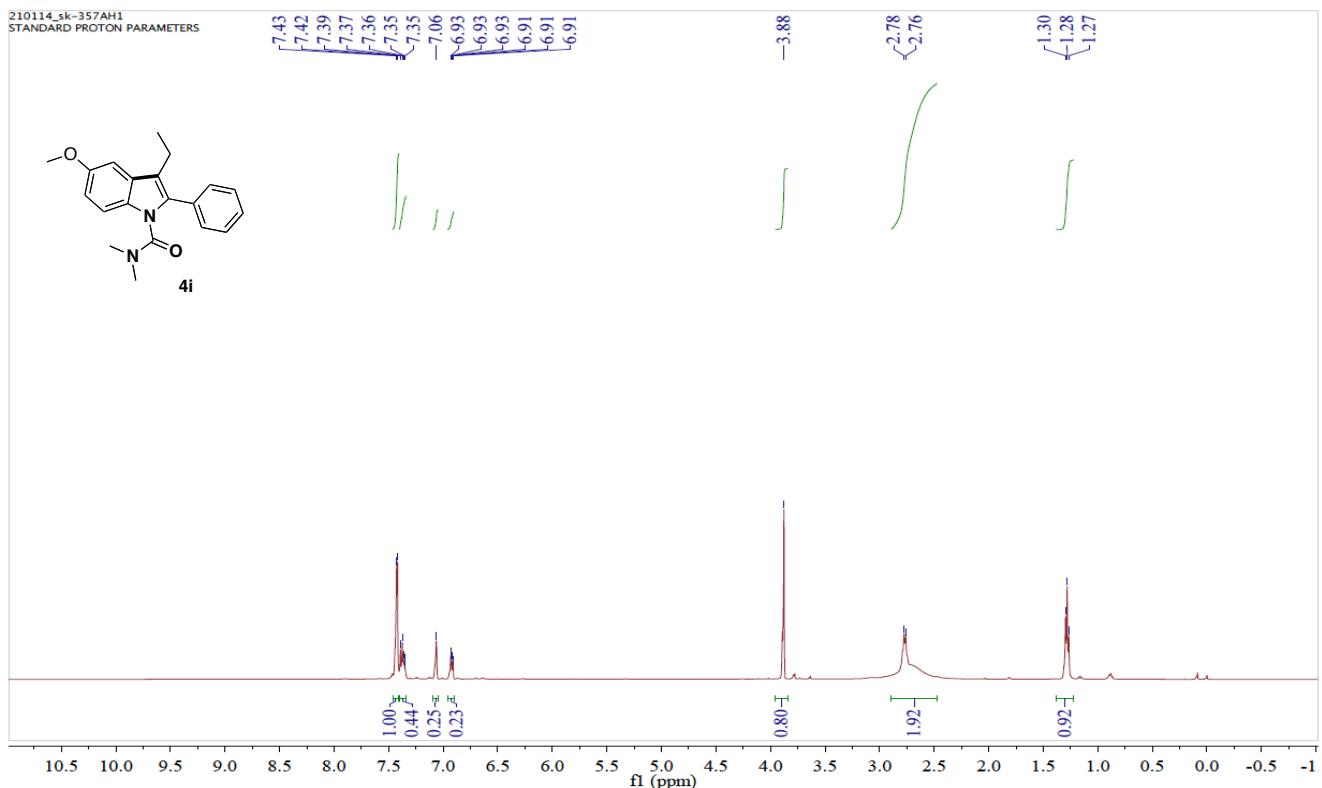
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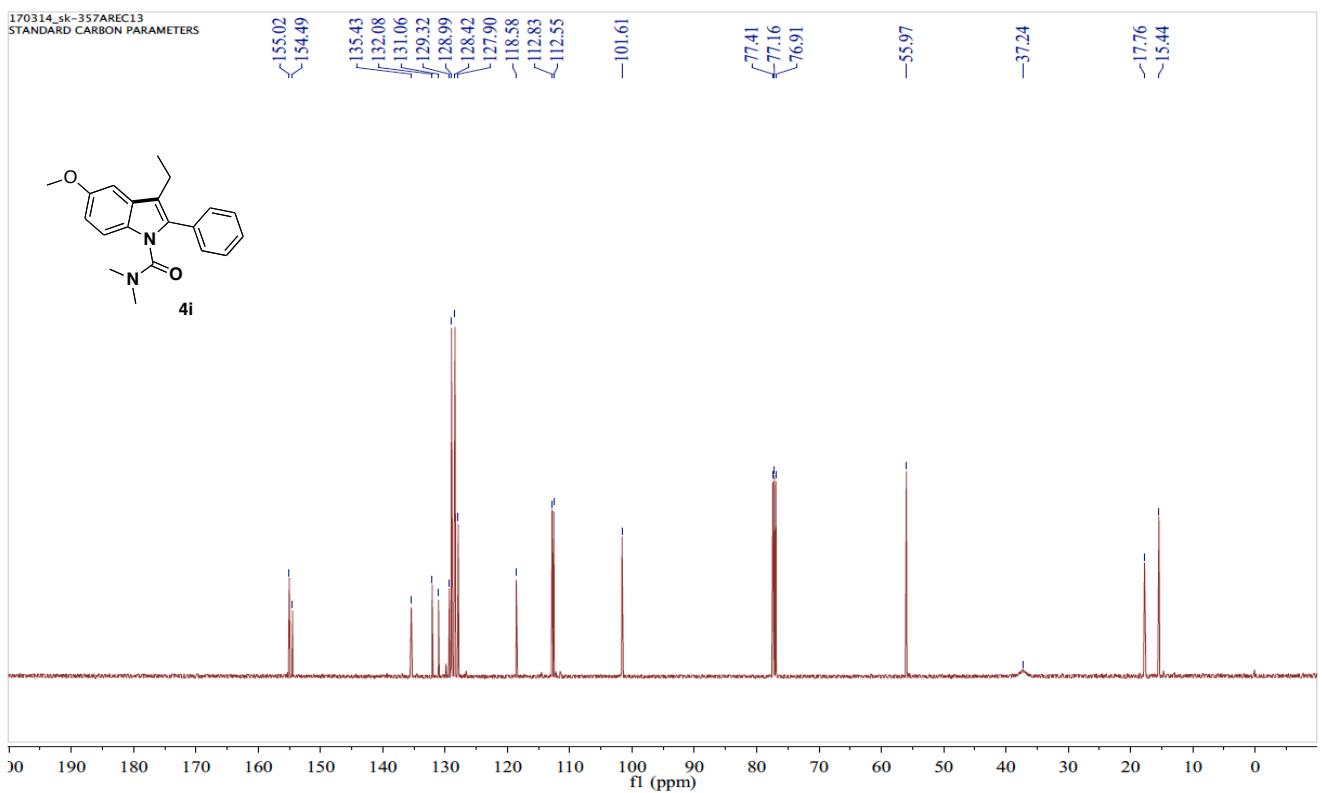


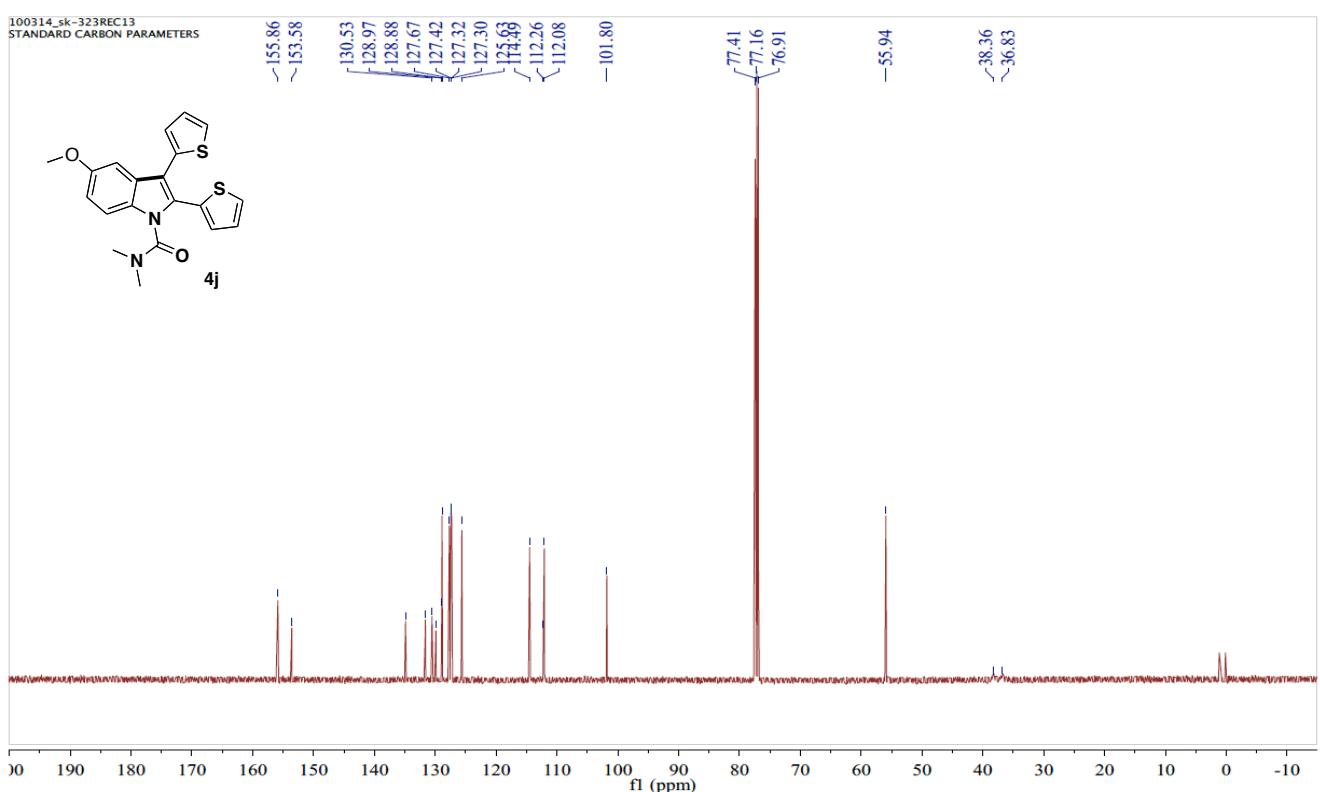
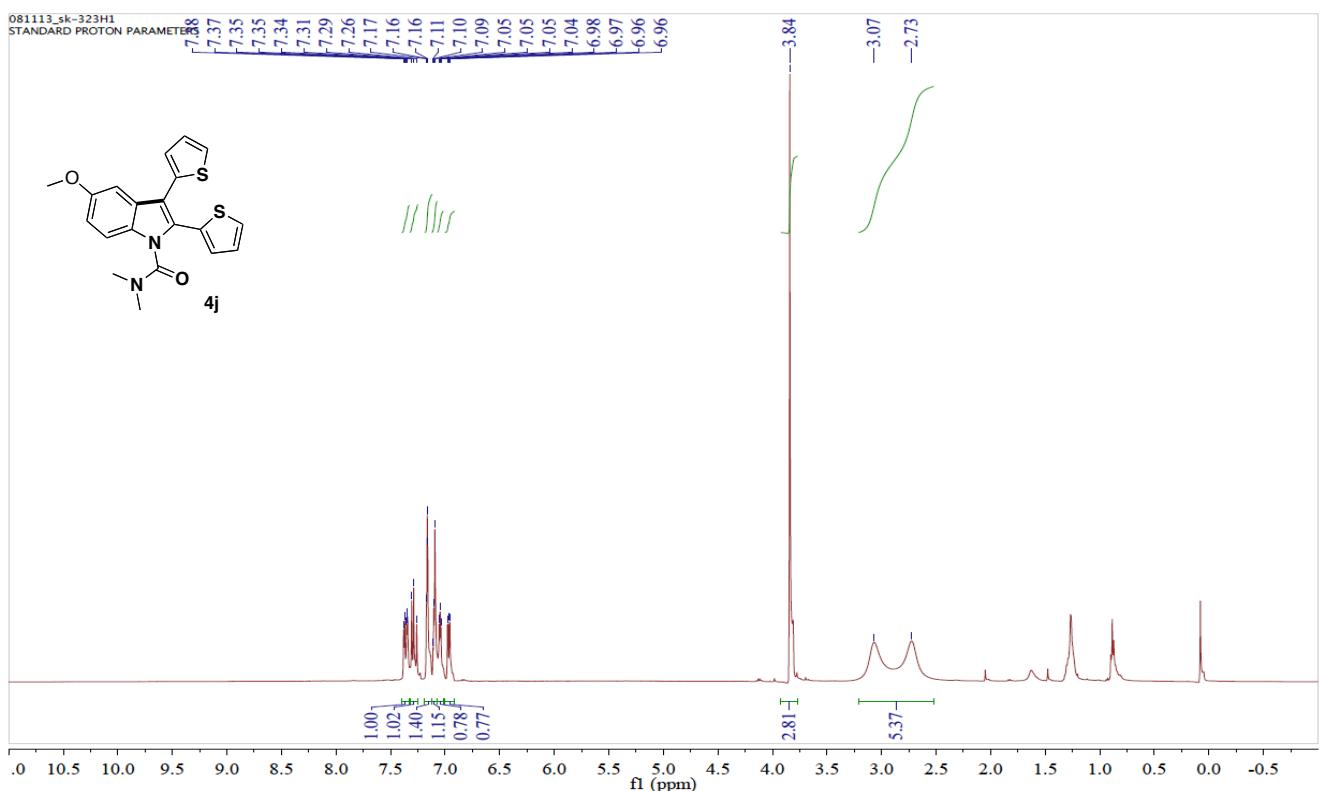


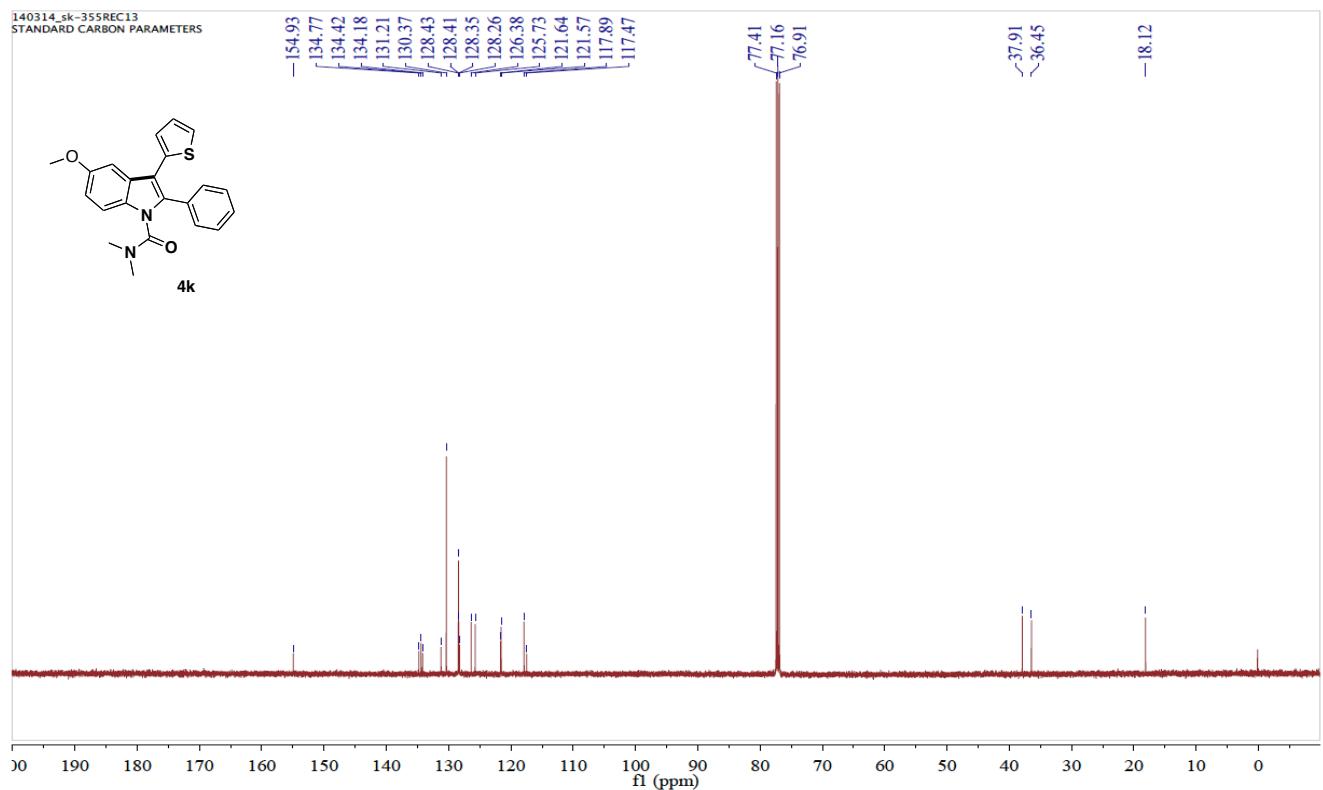
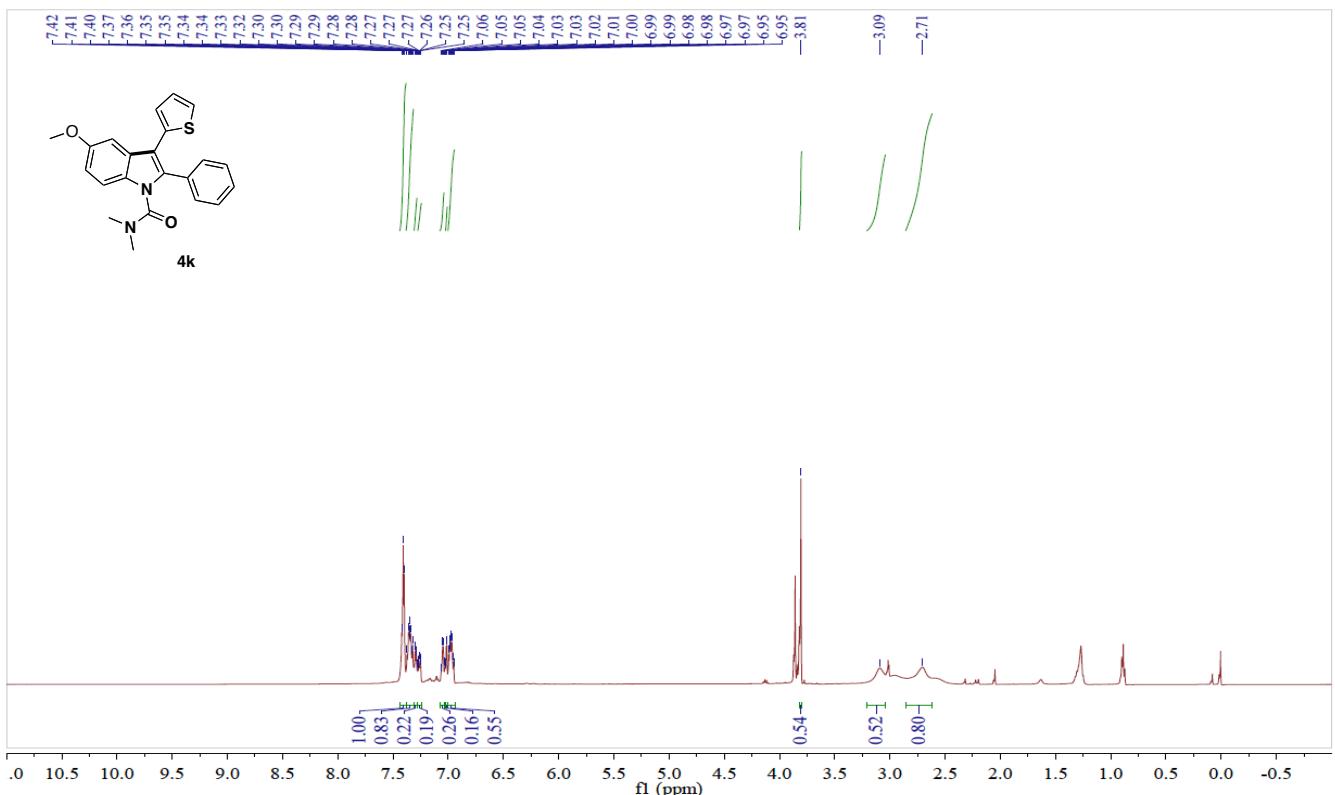
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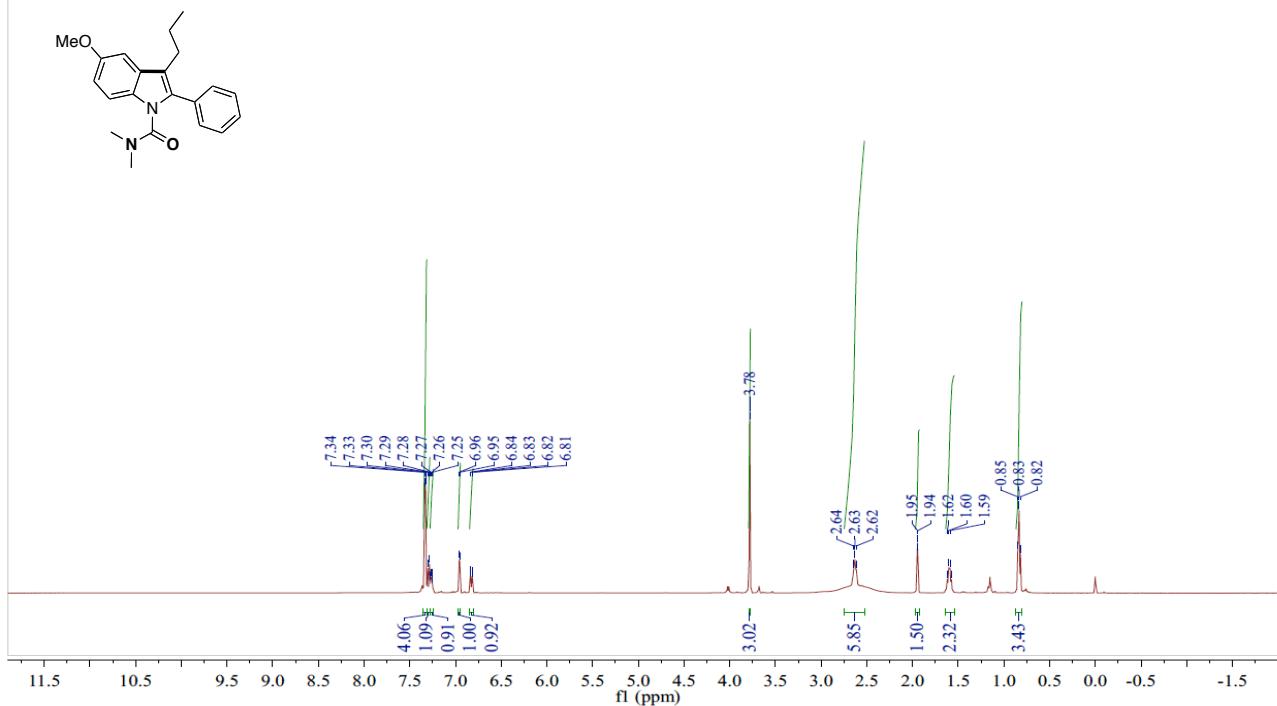
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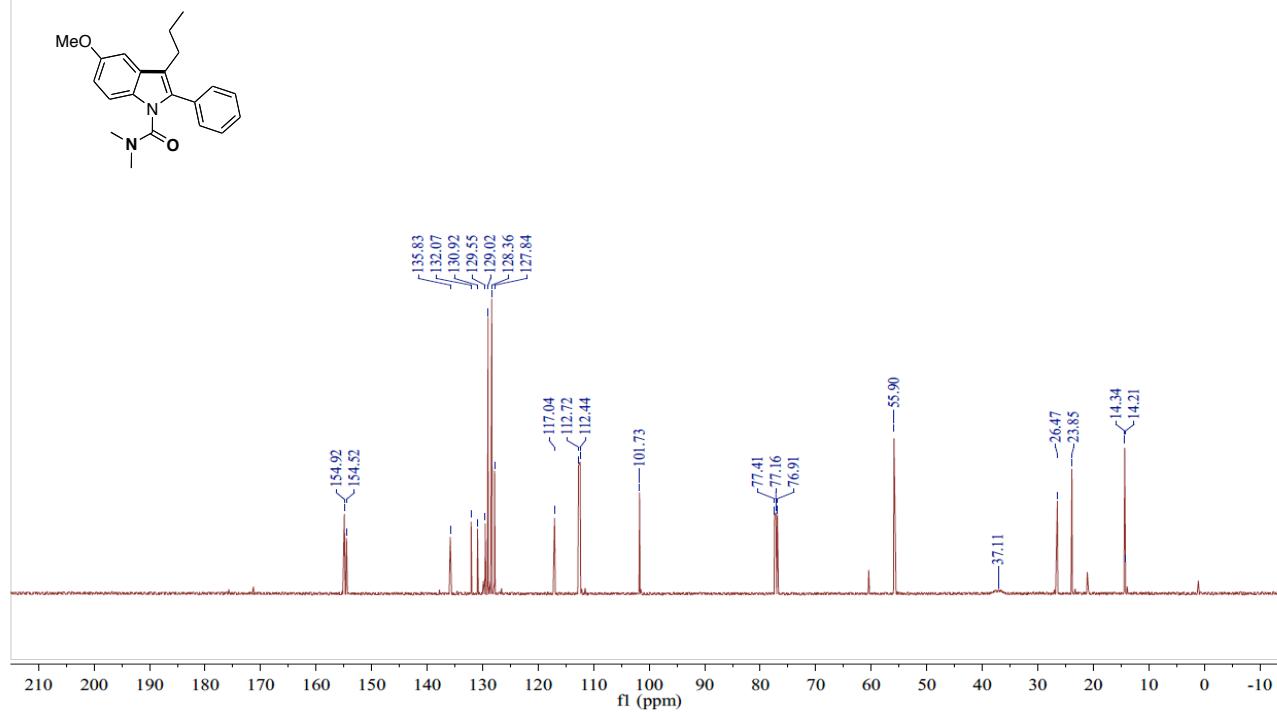




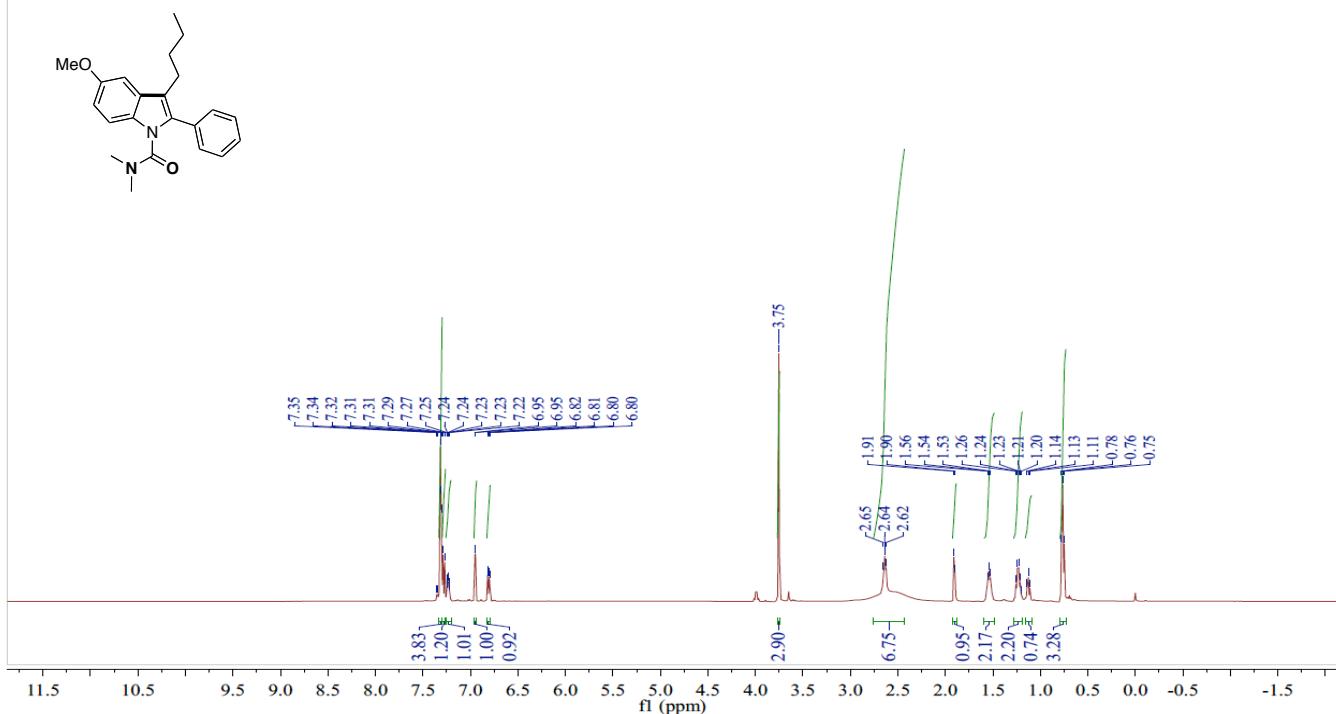
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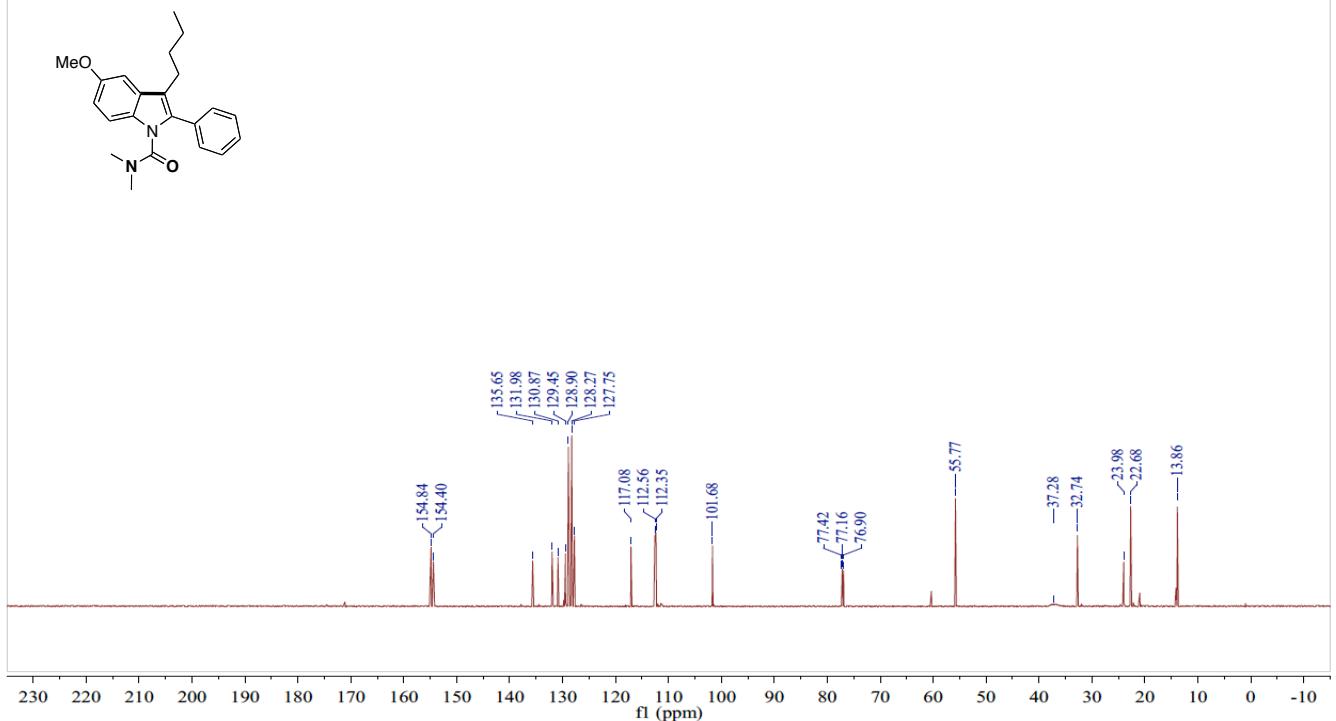
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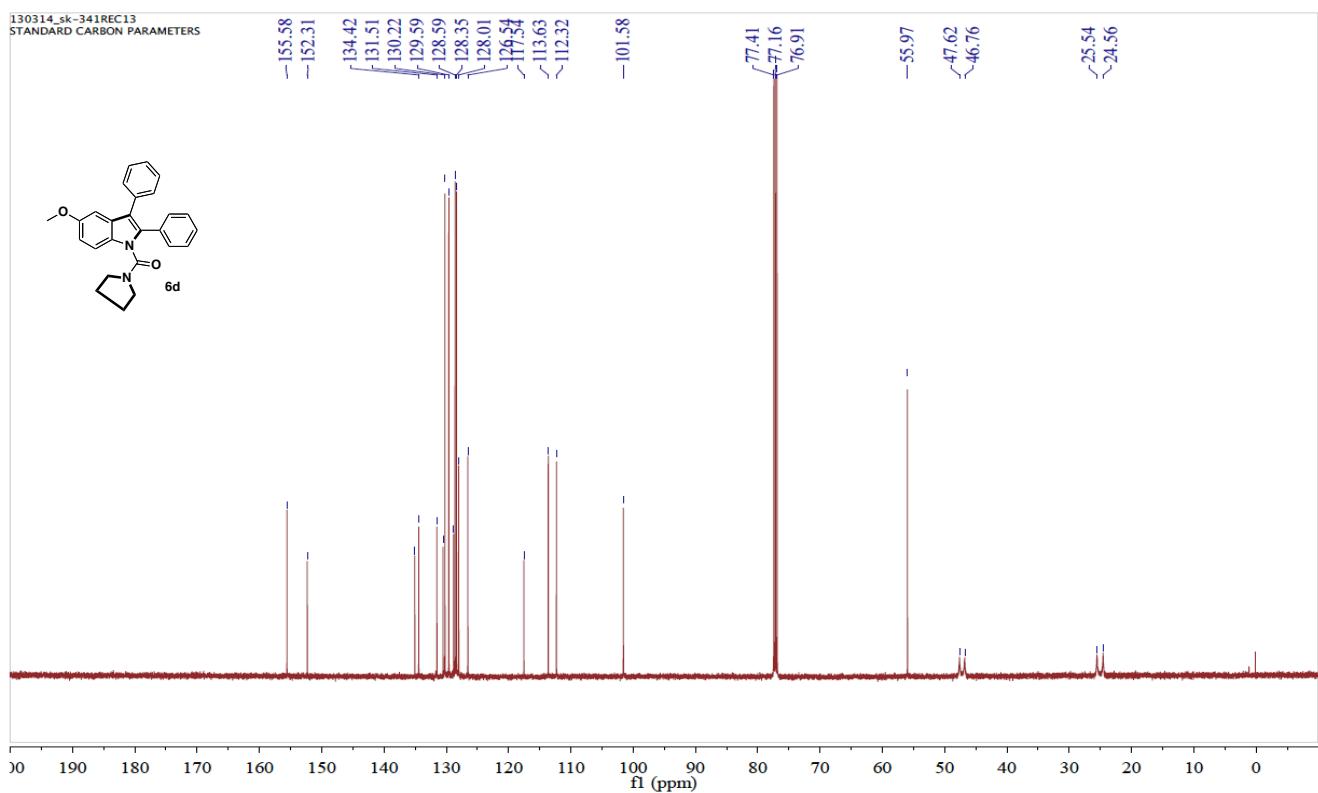
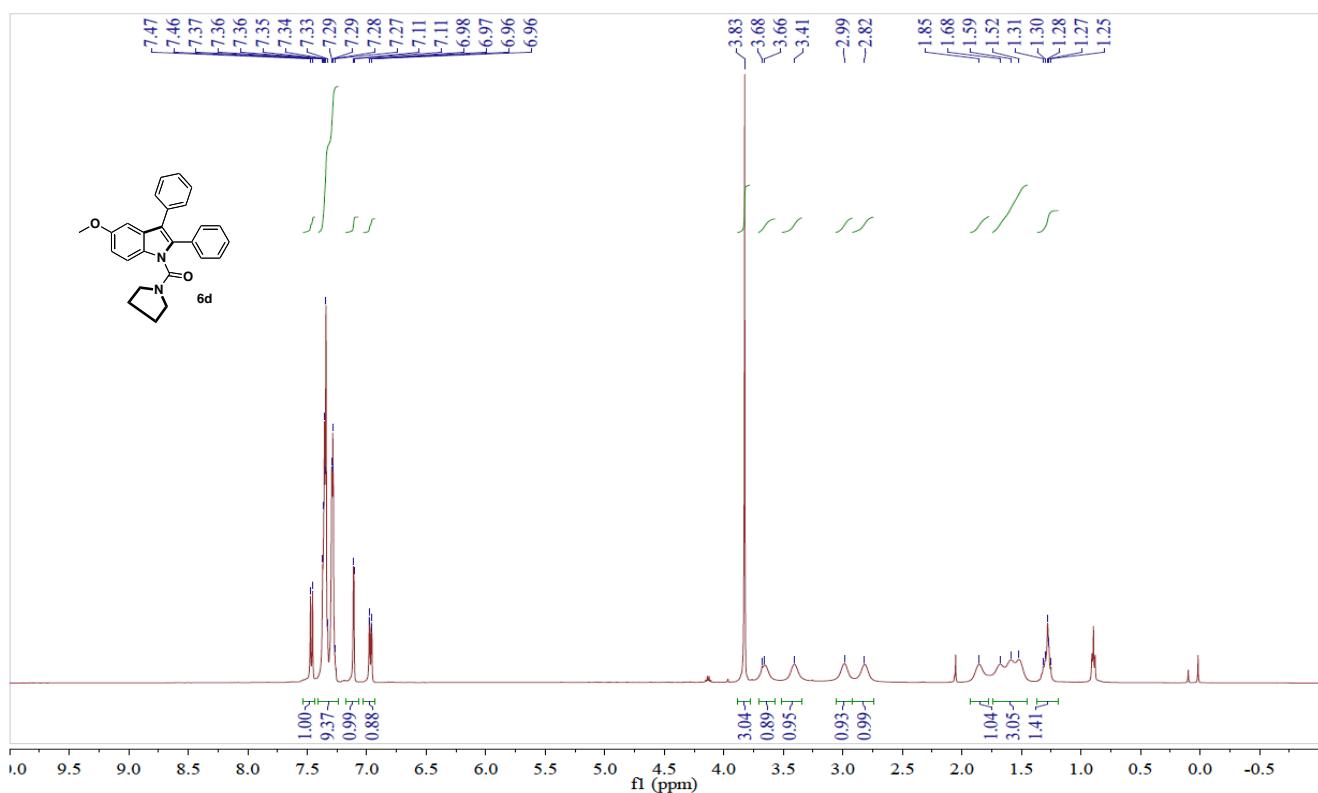


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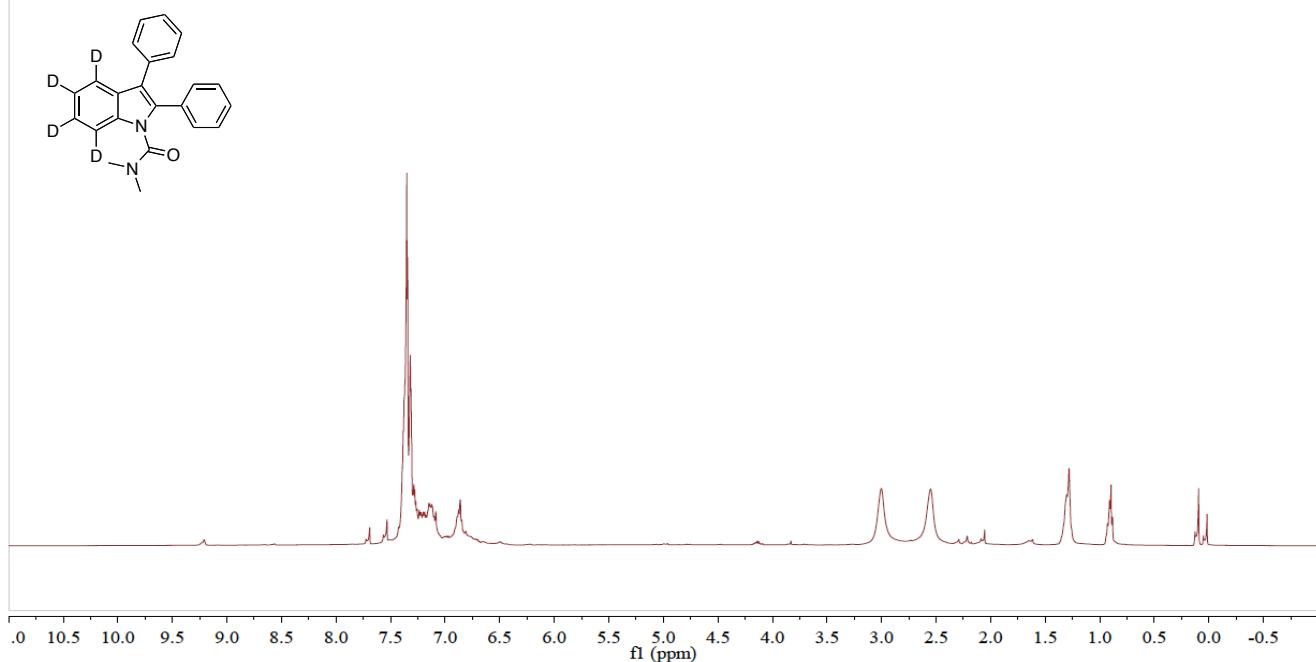


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STANDARD CARBON PARAMETERS





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