

Multi-site Cyclization via Initial C-H Activation Using Rhodium(III) Catalyst: Rapid Assembly of Frameworks Containing Indoles and Indolins

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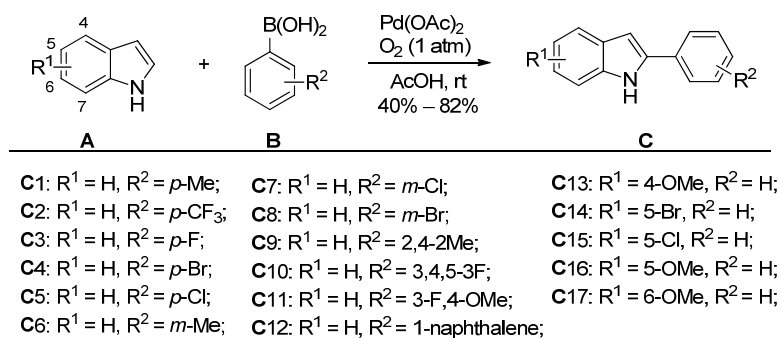
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1. General Methods

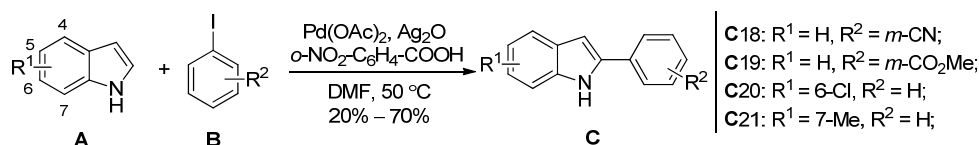
NMR data were obtained for ^1H at 300 MHz or 400 MHz and for ^{13}C at 75 MHz or 100 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in CDCl_3 or DMSO-d_6 solution. ESI HRMS was recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G₂ and Water XEVO G₂ Q-ToF. UV detection was monitored at 220 nm. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether. All 2-aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones **1** were synthesized as the experimental operation described by Ke-Qing Ling¹ from the corresponding 2-aryl-indoles **C**. 2-Phenyl-indole was purchased from aladdinTM, while other substituted 2-aryl-indoles were prepared from three different methods (A, B, C) according to the literature procedures.² Alkynes **2b-2d**,³ **2i**,⁴ **2j-2k**⁵ and **2l**⁶ were obtained on the basis of previous reports.

2. Synthesis and Characterization of 2-Aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones

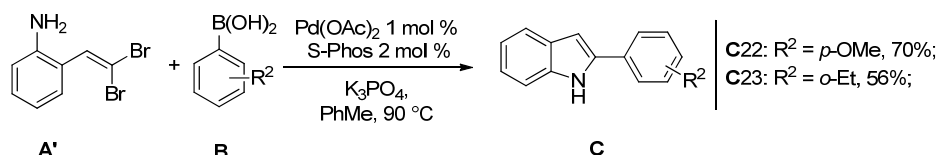
2.1. General procedure for the preparation of 2-aryl-indoles **C** (the corresponding precursors for the synthesis of 2-aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones).



General Procedure of Method A: Indole (**A1**, $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$) (351 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyl boronic acid (**B5**, $\text{R}^2 = p\text{-Cl}$) (608 mg, 3.9 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (67.4 mg, 0.3 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added to a Schlenk flask. AcOH (30 mL) was added by syringe and resulting solution was degassed twice and refilled with O_2 (1 atm). The reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature. AcOH was recovered by distillation under reduced pressure, and the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (150 mL), washed with aqueous NaHCO_3 (2×60 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 . After removal of the solvent, the product **C5** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to afford 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-indole as a white solid (498 mg, 73%).

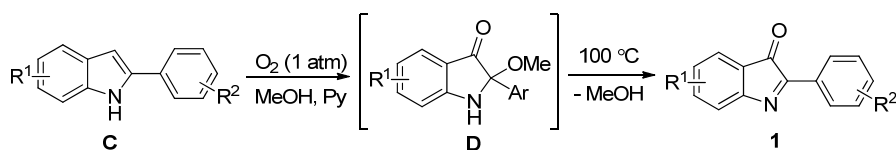


General Procedure of Method B: Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 5 mol %), Ag₂O (174 mg, 0.75 mmol), 2-nitrobenzoic acid (251 mg, 1.5 mmol), 7-methyl-indole (**A7**, R¹ = 7-methyl, 131 mg, 1.0 mmol) and iodobenzene (**B16**, R² = H, 406 mg, 2.0 mmol) in dry DMF (0.5 M) were stirred at room temperature for 15 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of silica gel and then evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1:30) to afford 7-methyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole **C21** as a white solid (245 mg, 70%).



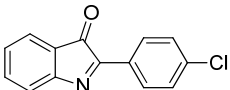
General Procedure of Method C: A 10-mL round-bottomed flask was charged with **A'** (554 mg, 1 mmol), 2-ethylbenzeneboronic acid **B18** (450 mg, 1.5 mmol), and powdered K₃PO₄·3H₂O (2.66 g, 5 mmol). The reaction mixture was purged with argon for at least 10 mins. A separate 10-mL round-bottomed flask was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (9.2 mg, 2 mol %) and S-phos (32.8 mg, 4 mol %), then the flask was purged with argon for 10 mins. Toluene (5 mL) was added to the catalyst flask, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 mins. The homogeneous catalyst solution was cannulated to the reactant flask, and the heterogeneous mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 mins and heated to 90 °C for another 6 hours. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with Et₂O (15 mL). After aqueous workup, the product was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1:30) to afford 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole **C23** as a white crystalline solid (135 mg, 56%).

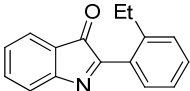
2.2. General Procedure for Preparation of 2-Aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones.

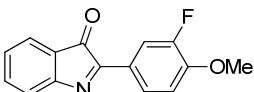


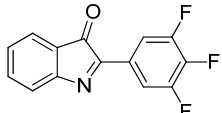
Typical Procedure: Irradiation of a methanol solution (250 mL) of 2-aryl-indoles (**C**, 5 mmol) in the presence of methylene blue (MB, 0.5 mmol) and pyridine (4 mL) was carried out with a tungsten halogen lamp in a typical immersion apparatus through a cutoff filter solution (1% aqueous of K₂Cr₂O₇) at ambient temperature under oxygen bubbling. After complete disappearance of the 2-aryl-indoles **C**, the reaction mixture was concentrated. Then the residuum was diluted with ether and washed with water. The ether layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, evaporated to dryness and heated at 100 °C under reduced pressure for 30 mins to afford a red solid which was chromatographed over silica gel column elution with ethyl acetate:petroleum to

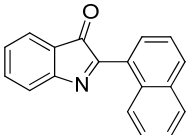
give the 2-aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones **1**. The Spectral data of representative 2-aryl-3*H*-indol-3-ones **1** are given.

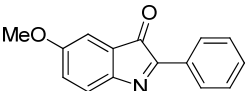
 **2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Red solid; m.p. 162-164 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H) ppm.

 **2-(2-ethylphenyl)-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Red oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.26 (m, 5H), 2.99 (q, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 3H) ppm.

 **2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Deep red solid; m.p. 171-173 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H) ppm.

 **2-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Red solid; m.p. 146-147 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (m, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H) ppm.

 **2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Deep red solid; m.p. 78-79 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.50 (m, 7H) ppm.

 **5-methoxy-2-phenyl-3*H*-indol-3-one.** Red solid; m.p. 128-129 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm.

(1) Ling, K.-Q. *Synth. Comm.* **1995**, 25, 3831.

(2) (a) Yang, S.-D.; Sun, C.-L.; Fang, Z.; Li, B.-J.; Li, Y.-Z.; Shi, Z.-J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 1473. (b) Larrosa, L.; Lebrasseur, N. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 2926. (c) Fang, Y.-Q.; Lautens, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 73, 538.

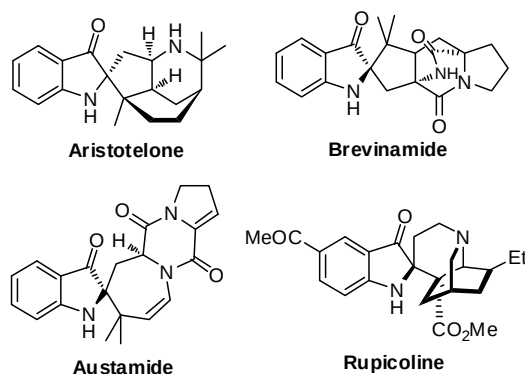
(3) Novák, Z.; Nemes, P.; Kotschy, A. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 4917.

(4) Gao, Y.; Wang, G.; Chen, L.; Xu, P.; Zhao, Y.; Zhou, Y.; Han, L.-B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 7956.

(5) Curry, J. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1956**, 78, 1686.

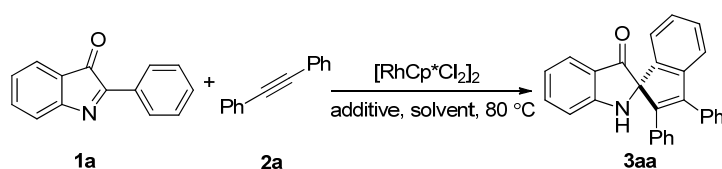
(6) Zou, H.; Zhou, L.; Li, Y.; Cui, Y.; Zhong, H.; Pan, Z.; Yang, Z, Quan, J. *J. Med. Chem.* **2010**, 53, 994.

3. Figure S1: Natural Products with Spiro indolin-3-ones Structural Unit.



4. The Study of [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ in the Tandem C–H Activation-Grignard-Like Addition Reactions

4.1. Table S1: Optimization of the reaction conditions for synthesis of **3aa** under the catalyst of [RhCp*Cl₂]₂.



Screening of additives^a

Entry	Additive	Solvent	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF₆	DCE	8 h	48
2	AgBF ₄	DCE	8 h	23
3	Ag ₂ CO ₃	DCE	8 h	7
4	AgCO ₂ CF ₃	DCE	8 h	12
5	AgNO ₃	DCE	8 h	29
6	Ag ₂ O	DCE	8 h	trace
7	Cu(OAc) ₂	DCE	4 h	43(33) ^b
8	Cu(acac) ₂	DCE	7 h	trace
9	Cu(OTf) ₂	DCE	7 h	–
10	CuI	DCE	7 h	–
11	CuCl	DCE	7 h	trace
12	Cu(OAc) ₂ + AgSbF ₆	DCE	4 h	36 ^b

^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, additive (AgX 20 mol % or CuX 100 mol %),

2.0 mL of solvent, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products. ^b 20 mol % of Cu(OAc)₂ was added.

Screening of solvents^a

Entry	Additive	Solvent	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF ₆	DCM	8 h	29
2	AgSbF ₆	CHCl ₃	8 h	mess
3	AgSbF ₆	THF	8 h	19
4	AgSbF ₆	EtOH	8 h	–
5	AgSbF ₆	Toluene	8 h	19
6	AgSbF ₆	DMF	4 h	–
7	AgSbF ₆	DMSO	7 h	trace
8	AgSbF ₆	dioxane	7 h	–
9	AgSbF₆	MeCN	7 h	43
10	AgSbF ₆	AcOH	4 h	18

^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 2.0 mL of solvent, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

Screening of acids^a

Entry	Additive	Acid	Solvent	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF₆	AcOH	DCE	4 h	60
2	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	DCE	4 h	44
3	AgSbF ₆	CF ₃ CO ₂ H	DCE	6 h	17
4	AgSbF ₆	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	DCE	6 h	44
5	AgSbF ₆	<i>t</i> -AmOH	DCE	6 h	5
6	AgSbF ₆	LiOAc	DCE	4 h	12

^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 0.1 mmol of acid, 2.0 mL of solvent, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

Screening of co-solvents^a

Entry	Additive	Acid	Co-solvent	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF ₆	AcOH	MeCN	18 h	68
2	AgSbF₆	AcOH	DCE/MeCN = 1/1	6 h	68
3	AgSbF ₆	AcOH	DCE/MeCN = 2/1	6 h	49

4	AgSbF ₆	AcOH	DCE/MeCN = 1/2	6 h	55
5	AgSbF ₆	–	DCE/MeCN/AcOH = 1/1/1	6 h	57

^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 0.1 mmol of acetic acid or acetic acid was used as co-solvent, 2.0 mL of co-solvent mixture, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

Screening of base^a

Entry	Additive	Co-solvent (1/1)	Base	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	Cs ₂ CO ₃	28 h	mess
2	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	CsOAc	28 h	26
3	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	KOH	28 h	mess
4	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	NaHCO ₃	28 h	16
5	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	DABCO	28 h	–
6	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	TEA	28 h	mess

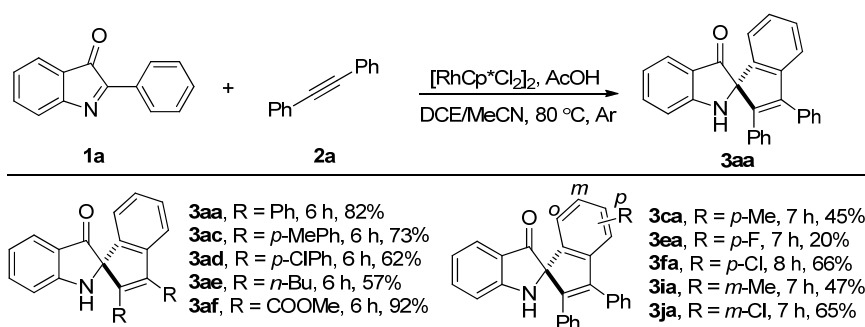
^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 0.1 mmol of base, 2.0 mL of co-solvent mixture, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

Screening of the ratio of **1a/2a**^a

Entry	Additive	Co-solvent (1/1)	Acid	1a/2a	Time	Yield (%)
1	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	1/2	6 h	68
2	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	1/1.5	7 h	64
3	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	1/1.2	7 h	56
4	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	1.2/1	7 h	78
5	AgSbF₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	1.5/1	6 h	82
6	AgSbF ₆	DCE/MeCN	AcOH	2/1	6 h	82

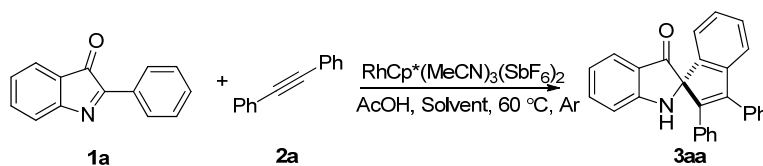
^a General procedure: 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 1.0 equiv of acid, 2.0 mL of co-solvent mixture, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

4.2. Table S2: [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ catalyzed [3+2] annulation with 2-aryl-3H-indol-3-ones **1** and alkynes **2**.^a



^a General procedure: 0.15 mmol of **1a**, 0.1 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % [RhCp*Cl₂]₂, 20 mol % of AgSbF₆, 0.1 mmol of acetic acid, 2.0 mL of co-solvent mixture (MeCN/DCE = 1/1), Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

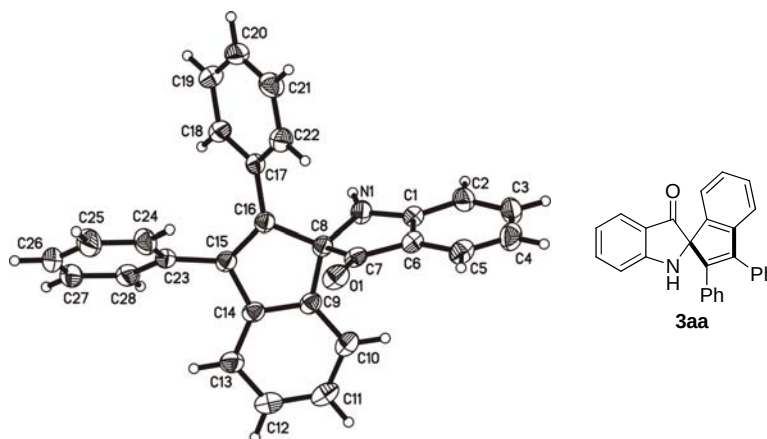
5. Table S3: Examination of Reaction Solvents under the Catalyst of RhCp*(MeCN)₃(SbF₆)₂.^a



Solvent	DCM	CHCl ₃	THF	Dioxane	MeCN	Toluene	DMF	<i>t</i> -AmOH	Acetone	Ethyl acetate
Time (min)	10	5	5	5	120	20	120	120	5	10
Yield (%)	75	81	85	83	82	70	48	82	73	79

^a General procedure: 0.1 mmol of **1a**, 0.2 mmol of **2a**, 5 mol % of RhCp*(MeCN)₃(SbF₆)₂, 0.1 mmol of AcOH, 2.0 mL of solvent, 60 °C, Ar atmosphere. Yields are reported for the isolated products.

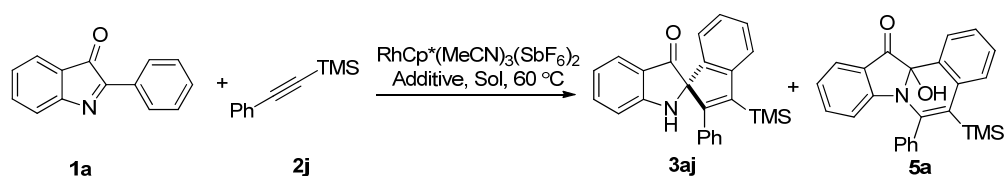
6. The Crystal Data of C2-Cyclization Product **3aa**.



Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0027 Å		Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:	a=9.9451(6)	b=10.9422(5)	c=18.8339(11)
	alpha=90	beta=90.772(6)	gamma=90
Temperature:	293 K		
	Calculated	Reported	

Volume	2049.3(2)	2049.3(2)
Space group	P 21/n	P 21/n
Hall group	-P 2yn	-P 2yn
Moiety formula	C ₂₈ H ₁₉ N O	C ₂₈ H ₁₉ N O
Sum formula	C ₂₈ H ₁₉ N O	C ₂₈ H ₁₉ N O
Mr	385.44	385.44
D _x , g cm ⁻³	1.249	1.249
Z	4	4
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.075	0.075
F000	808.0	808.0
F000'	808.32	
h,k,lmax	11,13,22	11,13,22
Nref	3745	3738
Tmin,Tmax	0.974,0.985	0.974,0.985
Tmin'	0.974	
Correction method = MULTI-SCAN		
Data completeness = 0.998		Theta(max)= 25.340
R(reflections)= 0.0453(2649)		wR2(reflections)= 0.1227(3738)
S = 1.022	Npar= 271	

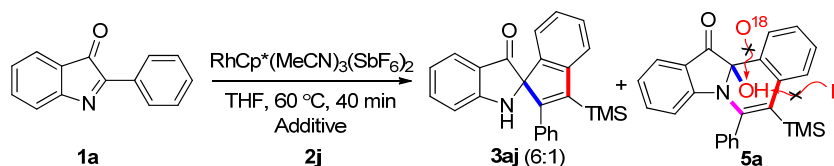
7. Table S4: Condition Sreening of the Reaction of 1a with 2j.^a



Entry	Additive	Solvent	Time	Yield (3aj) ^b	Yield (5a) ^b
1	AcOH	THF	40 min	34%	32%
2 ^c	AcOH	THF	40 min	33%	32%
3 ^d	AcOH	THF	40 min	30%	30%
4	PivOH	THF	90 min	29%	30%
5	AcONa	THF	40 min	—	—
6	AcOH	DCE	4 h	20%	20%
7	AcOH	MeCN	4 h	20%	20%
8 ^e	AcOH/H ₂ O ¹⁸ (0.5 equiv)	THF	40 min	34%	32%

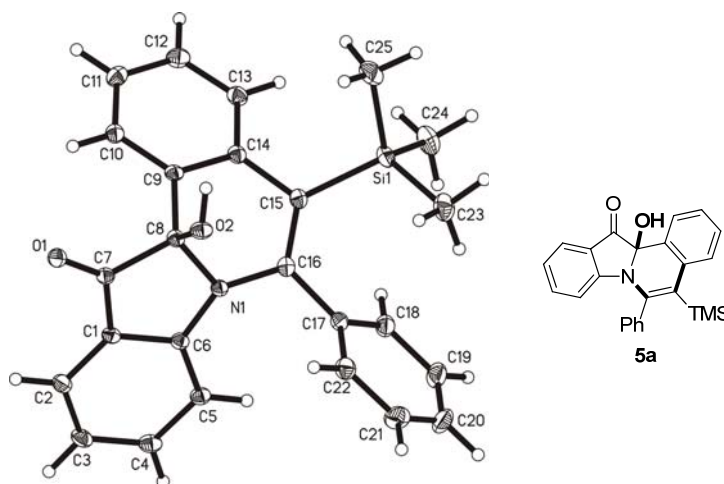
9 ^e	AcOD	THF	40 min	32%	32%
10 ^e	CD ₃ CO ₂ D	THF	40 min	34%	31%

^a Under the optimal conditions in Table 1 with 1.0 equiv of additive. ^b Yields are reported for the isolated products. ^c Ar atmosphere. ^d 5.0 Equiv of AcOH. ^e No deuterated products were detected.



To get more information about mechanism of the unprecedented [4+2] annulation, isotope-labeling experiments were designed (Table S4, entries 10–12). Both D₂O and H₂O¹⁸ were failed to affect the isotope of hydroxy group, which might imply the tertiary alcohol of **5a** did not come from water existed in the solvent. Similarly no deuterium was obtained when the reaction was conducted in AcOD or CD₃CO₂D, which indicates that the proton of the hydroxy might be derived from the first C–H bond metalation step. The real reaction mechanism and the role of the silicon in such annulation still need further study.

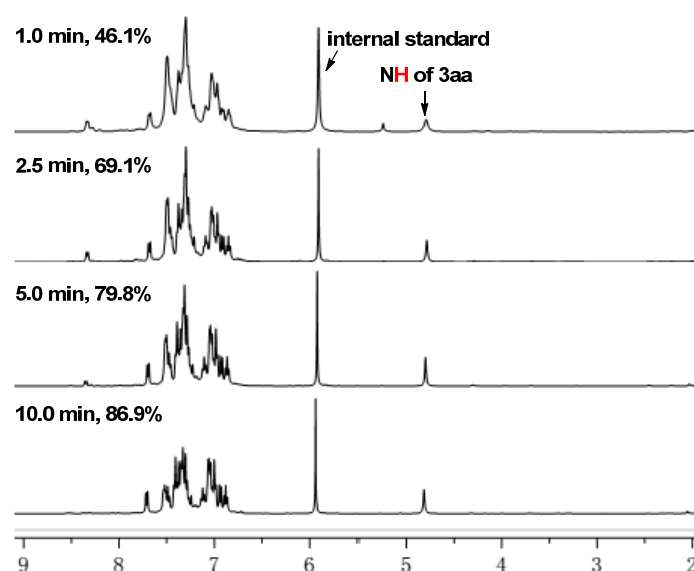
8. The Crystal Data of N1-Cyclization Product 5a.



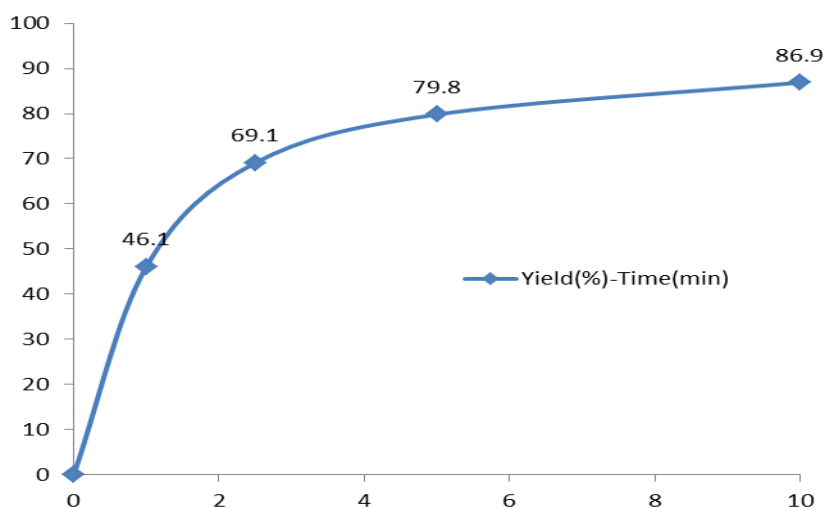
Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0042 Å		Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:	a=9.6847(7)	b=10.6101(8)	c=12.7428(10)
	alpha=82.268(6)	beta=87.114(6)	gamma=75.081(7)
Temperature:	170 K		
	Calculated	Reported	

Volume	1253.58(17)	1253.59(17)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	C25 H23 N O2 Si, C H Cl3	C25 H23 N O2 Si, C H Cl3
Sum formula	C26 H24 Cl3 N O2 Si	C26 H24 Cl3 N O2 Si
Mr	516.90	516.90
Dx,g cm ⁻³	1.369	1.369
Z	2	2
Mu (mm-1)	0.438	0.438
F000	536.0	536.0
F000'	537.22	
h,k,lmax	11,12,15	11,12,15
Nref	4600	4585
Tmin,Tmax	0.886,0.916	0.838,0.918
Tmin'	0.832	
Correction method = MULTI-SCAN		
Data completeness = 0.997	Theta(max)= 25.350	
R(reflections)= 0.0556(3483)	wR2(reflections)= 0.1426(4585)	
S = 1.022	Npar= Npar = 306	

9. Figure S2. NMR Experiments and Yield-Time Scheme for C2-Cyclization



a. NMR experiments

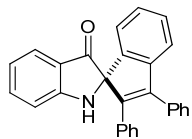


b. Yield-Time scheme

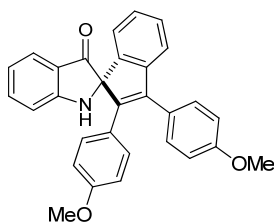
NMR experiments were carried out to study the reaction rate of the [3+2] annulation. Under the optimal conditions, the reaction process was monitored by employing **1a** (0.05 mmol) and **2a** (0.05 mmol) (Figure S2a). Besides, Yield-Time scheme was also depicted to exhibit the high efficiency of this transformation directly (Figure S2b).

10. General Procedure for Synthesis of Spiro Indolin-3-one Derivatives and Characterization Data

2-Phenyl-3*H*-indol-3-one **1a** (20.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), diphenylacetylene **2a** (21.4 mg, 0.12 mmol), RhCp*(MeCN)₃(SbF₆)₂ (1.7 mg, 2 mol %), and AcOH (6 μ L, 0.1 mmol) were stirred in THF (2.0 mL) in air at 60 °C for 10 min. After completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to give the product **3aa** as a bright yellow solid (32.6 mg, 85%).

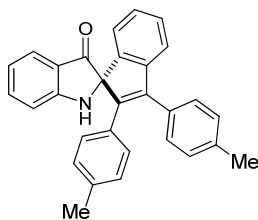


2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3aa). 10 min, 85% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 222-223 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.26 (m, 7H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08-6.99 (m, 6H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.1, 161.4, 145.2, 144.0, 143.2, 141.6, 137.5, 134.4, 133.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3, 126.5, 125.7, 122.2, 121.5, 120.5, 119.1, 113.0, 81.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₈H₂₀NO+H 386.1545, found 386.1544.



2,3-dimethoxyspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ab). 16 h, 60% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 106-107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.2

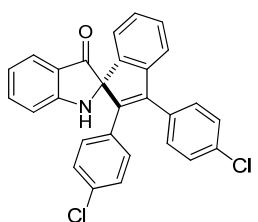
Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.86 (m, 6H), 6.59 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.5, 161.4, 159.0, 158.6, 145.5, 143.0, 142.3, 140.5, 137.4, 130.7, 130.0, 128.7, 126.8, 126.2, 126.1, 125.6, 122.1, 121.2, 120.4, 119.0, 114.0, 113.5, 113.0, 81.3, 55.2, 55.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_3 + \text{H}$ 446.1756, found 446.1763.



2,3-di-p-tolylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ac). 5 min, 66% yield; Yellow solid;

m.p. 103-104 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.83 (m, 6H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C

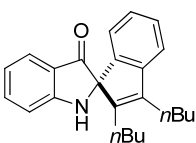
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.3, 161.4, 145.4, 143.3, 143.1, 141.2, 137.5, 137.4, 137.0, 131.5, 130.7, 129.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.2, 125.7, 122.2, 121.4, 120.4, 118.9, 113.0, 81.3, 21.4, 21.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO} + \text{H}$ 414.1858, found 414.1855.



2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)spiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ad). 10 min, 90% yield;

Bright yellow solid; m.p. 235-236 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.67 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.96-6.87 (m, 4H), 4.82 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.6,

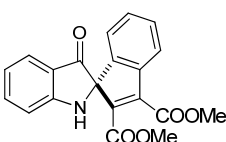
161.4, 144.5, 143.3, 142.9, 140.9, 137.7, 134.0, 133.4, 132.4, 131.9, 130.7, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.5, 126.8, 125.8, 122.0, 121.4, 120.7, 119.4, 113.0, 81.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO} + \text{H}$ 454.0765, found $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO} + \text{H}$ 454.0761, $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{18}^{37}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO} + \text{H}$ 456.0740.



2,3-dibutylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ae). 20 min, 75% yield; Yellow solid; m.p.

89-91 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.64 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.04-6.93 (m, 3H), 6.85 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 2.55 (t, $J = 7.6$

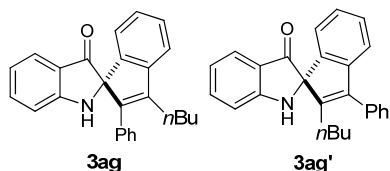
Hz, 2H), 2.22-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.66-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.27 (m, 4H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.3, 161.5, 146.0, 142.9, 142.4, 141.9, 137.2, 128.4, 125.4, 125.2, 122.1, 120.4, 119.4, 118.7, 112.6, 81.2, 31.3, 30.8, 25.6, 25.5, 23.0, 22.9, 14.0, 13.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO} + \text{H}$ 346.2171, found 346.2174.



dimethyl 3'-oxospiro[indene-1,2'-indoline]-2,3-dicarboxylate (3af). 10 min, 98%

yield; Bright yellow solid; m.p. 158-159 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,

$J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 194.9, 164.3, 162.5, 161.3, 144.6, 143.1, 139.3, 137.5, 129.5, 129.3, 125.9, 123.6, 122.0, 121.5, 113.0, 113.0, 78.9, 52.6, 52.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_5 + \text{H}$ 350.1028, found 350.1030.

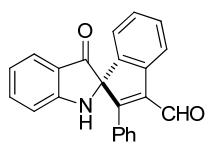


3-butyl-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ag);

2-butyl-3-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ag'); (3ag:3ag' =

3:1), 10 min, 73% yield; Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 7.70 (s, 1H, 3ag and 1H, 3ag'), 7.57-7.50 (m, 1H, 3ag and 1H, 3ag'),

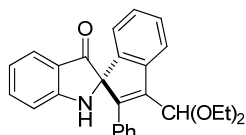
7.47-7.40 (m, 3H, 3ag and 3H, 3ag'), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, 3ag), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H, 3ag and 1H, 3ag'), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3H, 3ag'), 7.16-7.13 (m, 3H, 3ag), 7.11-7.05 (m, 3H, 3ag'), 6.97-6.90 (m, 2H, 3ag and 1H, 3ag'), 6.78 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, 3ag'), 6.68 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, 3ag), 2.60-2.56 (m, 2H, 3ag), 2.21-2.17 (m, 1H, 3ag'), 2.11-2.08 (m, 1H, 3ag'), 1.65-1.53 (m, 2H, 3ag), 1.39-1.32 (m, 2H, 3ag), 1.30-1.18 (m, 2H, 3ag'), 1.15-1.03 (m, 2H, 3ag'), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H, 3ag), 0.60 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, 3ag') ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for, found $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO} + \text{Na}$ 388.1677, found 388.1674.



(R)-3'-oxo-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indoline]-3-carbaldehyde (3ah). 1 h, 50% yield;

Bright yellow solid; m.p. 217-218 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 9.93 (s, 1H), 8.11-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.23 (m, 7H), 7.04 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.79 (t,

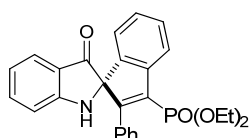
$J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ 196.3, 189.5, 163.0, 162.6, 142.1, 140.1, 138.7, 138.4, 131.0, 130.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 125.5, 123.3, 121.3, 120.0, 118.3, 112.9, 82.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2 + \text{H}$ 338.1181, found 338.1180.



(R)-3-(diethoxymethyl)-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ah'). Yellow oil;

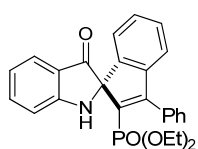
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.18 (m, 6H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H),

6.89-6.82 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 3.98-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 1H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.18 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.7, 161.1, 145.1, 142.7, 142.5, 141.0, 137.5, 133.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 126.2, 125.5, 123.8, 121.8, 120.1, 118.9, 112.9, 99.1, 81.9, 63.2, 62.1, 15.3, 15.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3 + \text{Na}$ 434.1732, found 434.1732.



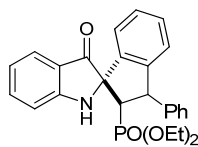
diethyl(3'-oxo-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3-yl)phosphonate (3ai). 20 min,

56% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 196-198 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.66 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (brs, 2H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.82 (m, 1H), 5.95 (brs, 1H), 3.87-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.74-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.59-3.47 (m, 2H), 0.77 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.71 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.1, 161.8, 159.0 (d, J_{CP} = 14.0 Hz), 144.8 (d, J_{CP} = 9.9 Hz), 143.1 (d, J_{CP} = 20.1 Hz), 137.1, 132.6 (d, J_{CP} = 3.8 Hz), 130.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.7 (d, J_{CP} = 1.9 Hz), 128.6, 128.2, 125.4, 123.0, 122.1, 121.1, 118.2, 112.9, 81.1 (d, J_{CP} = 12.2 Hz), 62.0 (d, J_{CP} = 6.0 Hz), 61.2 (d, J_{CP} = 6.1 Hz), 15.3 (d, J_{CP} = 6.1 Hz), 15.2 (d, J_{CP} = 7.9 Hz) ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4\text{P}+\text{H}$ 446.1521, found 446.1522.



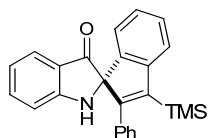
diethyl(3'-oxo-3-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-2-yl)phosphonate (3ai'). 20 min, 33%

yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 195-197 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (brs, 1H), 4.13-4.08 (m, 1H), 4.06-4.00 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.78-3.74 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.3, 161.9, 158.9 (d, J_{CP} = 10.7 Hz), 143.0 (d, J_{CP} = 15.6 Hz), 141.9 (d, J_{CP} = 12.2 Hz), 137.7, 133.0, 130.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 126.7, 125.5, 123.6, 121.4, 120.8, 118.9, 112.9, 83.5 (d, J_{CP} = 18.7 Hz), 62.1 (d, J_{CP} = 6.1 Hz), 62.1 (d, J_{CP} = 6.0 Hz), 16.1 (d, J_{CP} = 6.8 Hz), 15.8 (d, J_{CP} = 6.8 Hz) ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4\text{P}+\text{H}$ 446.1521, found 446.1523.



diethyl((1S,2R,3R)-3'-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydrospiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-2-yl)phosphonate (reduced-3ai'). Yellow solid; m.p. 106-107°C;

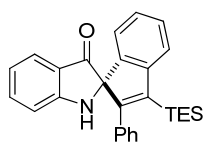
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.67 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.08 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.87 (m, 1H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 4.55 (dd, J = 25.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (brs, 1H), 3.97-3.84 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.49 (m, 1H), 1.18 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm.



2-phenyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)spiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3aj). 40 min, 34% yield;

Yellow solid; m.p. 164-165 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.31 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 0.11 (s, 9H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.9, 161.5, 156.9, 148.8, 144.2, 143.3, 137.2, 136.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.8, 127.6, 125.6, 125.2, 123.1, 122.2, 121.1, 118.7, 112.6, 84.1, 0.1 ppm. ESI HRMS:

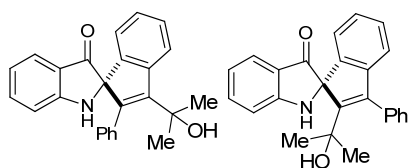
calcd. for $C_{25}H_{23}NOSi+H$ 382.1627, found 382.1626.



(R)-3-(3-ethylpentan-3-yl)-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ak). 5 h, 41%;

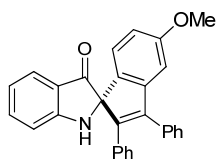
Yellow oil; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.56-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.30 (dt, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.08 (m, 6H), 7.03 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.4$

Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 0.91 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 9H), 0.63-0.55 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$): δ 197.8, 161.5, 158.5, 149.2, 143.2, 141.7, 137.1, 136.3, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.5, 125.5, 125.2, 123.1, 122.2, 120.9, 118.7, 112.6, 84.5, 7.5, 3.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{28}H_{30}NOSi+H$ 424.2097, found 424.2104.



(R)-3-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-2-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3al) ;

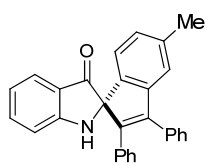
(R)-2-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-3-phenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3al'); (3al:3al' = 3:1), 10 min, 82% yield; Yellow oil; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H, **3al'**), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, **3al**), 7.57-7.30 (m, 5H, **3al** and 5H, **3al'**), 7.19-7.09 (m, 3H, **3al** and 3H, **3al'**), 7.04-6.96 (m, 2H, **3al** and 2H, **3al'**), 6.89 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H, **3al**), 6.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H, **3al'**), 6.75-6.72 (m, 1H, **3al** and 1H, **3al'**), 4.81 (s, 1H, **3al**), 4.71 (s, 1H, **3al'**), 2.87 (s, 1H, **3al'**), 2.07 (s, 1H, **3al**), 1.52 (s, 3H, **3al'**), 1.46 (s, 3H, **3al'**), 1.39 (s, 3H, **3al**), 1.24 (s, 3H, **3al**) ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{25}H_{21}NO_2+Na$ 390.1470, found 390.1460.



5-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ba). 10 min, 72% yield;

Bright yellow solid; m.p. 166-167 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.98-6.89 (m, 4H),

6.87-6.86 (m, 2H), 6.65 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.5, 161.4, 160.6, 146.8, 143.7, 142.8, 137.4, 134.9, 134.3, 133.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3, 125.6, 122.0, 121.3, 118.9, 112.9, 111.5, 107.9, 80.8, 55.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{29}H_{21}NO_2+H$ 416.1651, found 416.1653.

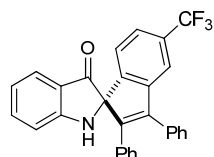


5-methyl-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ca). 10 min, 91% yield;

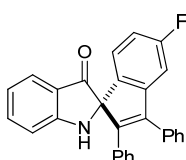
Bright yellow solid; m.p. 206-207 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.02 (m, 3H), 7.00-6.98

(m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 3H), 6.89 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz,

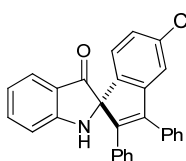
CDCl₃): δ 198.4, 161.4, 145.3, 144.0, 141.8, 140.2, 138.7, 137.4, 134.5, 133.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 127.1, 125.7, 122.3, 122.1, 120.3, 119.0, 112.9, 81.1, 21.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₁NO₅+H 400.1701, found 400.1703.



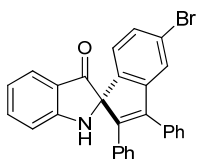
2,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)spiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3da). 15 min, 77% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 223-224 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.41 (brs, 6H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 3H), 7.00-6.90 (m, 4H), 4.87 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.0, 161.3, 146.8, 145.9, 143.4, 143.1, 137.9, 133.5, 132.9, 131.0, 129.3, 128.9, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 125.8, 123.5 (q, J_{CF} = 4.0 Hz), 121.9, 120.8, 119.4, 118.1 (q, J_{CF} = 3.6 Hz), 113.0, 81.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₁₉F₃NO+H 454.1419, found 454.1420.



5-fluoro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ea). 10 min, 78% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 215-216 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.10-6.87 (m, 9H), 6.80 (td, J = 9.2 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.8, 164.8, 162.4, 161.3, 147.5 (d, J_{CF} = 9.1 Hz), 143.3 (d, J_{CF} = 42.4 Hz), 138.4, 137.7, 133.8, 133.2, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6, 125.8, 121.9, 121.7 (d, J_{CF} = 9.1 Hz), 119.2, 113.0, 112.9 (d, J_{CF} = 20.9 Hz), 109.1 (d, J_{CF} = 24.6 Hz), 80.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₈H₁₈FNO+H 404.1451, found 404.1450.

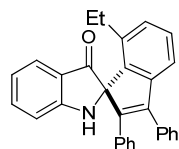


5-chloro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3fa). 10 min, 71% yield; Bright yellow solid; m.p. 230-231 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.98-6.87 (m, 5H), 4.81 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.5, 161.3, 147.0, 143.2, 143.1, 141.3, 137.7, 134.8, 133.7, 133.1, 129.3, 128.8, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6, 126.2, 125.8, 121.9, 121.8, 121.6, 119.2, 113.0, 80.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₈H₁₈ClNO+H 420.1155, found C₂₈H₁₉³⁵Cl₂N+H 420.1154, C₂₈H₁₉³⁷Cl₂N+H 422.1104.

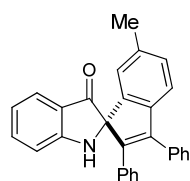


5-bromo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ga). 10 min, 78% yield; Pale yellow solid; m.p. 231-232 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 6H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.03 (m, 3H), 6.98-6.88 (m, 5H), 4.81 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.3, 161.3, 147.3, 143.1, 143.0,

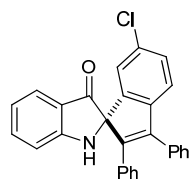
141.9, 137.7, 133.7, 133.1, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.8, 128.1, 127.7, 125.8, 124.6, 122.8, 122.0, 121.9, 119.3, 113.0, 80.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{28}H_{18}BrNO+H$ 464.0650, found $C_{28}H_{19}^{79}BrNO+H$ 464.0653, $C_{28}H_{19}^{81}BrNO+H$ 466.0621.



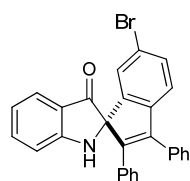
7-ethyl-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ha). 10 min, 90% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 98-100 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.69 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 4H), 6.84-6.80 (m, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 2H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 199.0, 160.6, 145.7, 144.2, 142.5, 140.3, 140.0, 137.5, 134.2, 133.4, 129.5, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.3, 127.2, 124.8, 123.7, 119.0, 118.6, 112.6, 81.6, 24.5, 15.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{30}H_{23}NO+H$ 414.1858, found 414.1857.



6-methyl-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ia). 10 min, 72% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 99-101 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.74 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 3H), 6.92-6.88 (m, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.4, 161.4, 144.0, 143.4, 142.6, 140.6, 137.5, 136.6, 134.5, 133.7, 129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 125.7, 122.2, 121.4, 121.3, 119.0, 113.0, 81.2, 21.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{29}H_{21}NO+H$ 400.1701, found 400.1703.

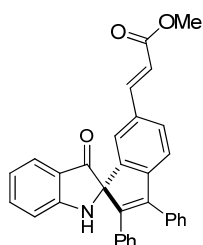


6-chloro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ja). 20 min, 83% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 125-127 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.98-6.89 (m, 4H), 4.83 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.3, 161.3, 144.8, 143.6, 143.2, 141.9, 137.8, 133.9, 133.2, 132.2, 129.3, 128.7, 128.7, 128.1, 128.1, 127.5, 125.8, 122.3, 121.8, 121.2, 119.3, 113.0, 81.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{28}H_{18}ClNO+H$ 420.1155, found $C_{28}H_{19}^{35}ClNO+H$ 420.1156, $C_{28}H_{19}^{37}ClNO+H$ 422.1105.



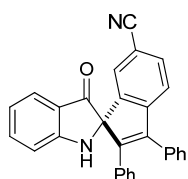
6-bromo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ka). 20 min, 70% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 186-187 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 3H), 6.99-6.90 (m, 4H), 4.84 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.2, 161.2, 145.0, 144.1, 143.2, 141.9,

137.8, 133.8, 133.1, 131.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1, 128.1, 127.5, 125.8, 123.9, 122.7, 121.8, 120.1, 119.3, 113.0, 80.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{28}H_{18}BrNO+H$ 464.0650, found $C_{28}H_{19}^{79}BrNO+H$ 464.0646, $C_{28}H_{19}^{81}BrNO+H$ 466.0639.



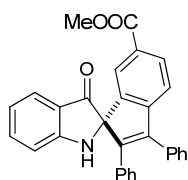
(R,E)-methyl 3-(3'-oxo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-6-yl)acrylate (alkenylation of 3ka). To a stirred solution of **3ka** (7.0 mg, 0.015 mmol, 1.0 equiv), palladium acetate (0.5 mg, 0.0023 mmol) and triphenyl phosphine (2.0 mg, 0.0075 mmol) in DMF (1.0 mL) was added methacrylate (3.0 μ L, 0.033 mmol) and N,N-Diisopropylethylamine (8.0 μ L, 0.045 mmol) under argon atmosphere at 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred

for 20 h and then washed with water and extracted with DCM. After removal of the solvent by concentration, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:10) to afford **alkenylation of 3ka** as a yellow solid (3.2 mg, 45%); 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H) ppm.



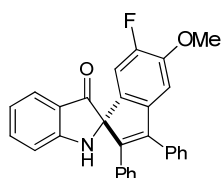
3'-oxo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indoline]-6-carbonitrile (3la). 6 h, 71% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 122-124 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 7H), 7.15-7.06 (m, 3H), 7.00-6.93 (m, 4H), 4.87 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 196.3, 161.2, 149.6, 145.6, 143.9, 143.0, 138.1, 133.3,

133.2, 132.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 126.0, 123.8, 121.8, 121.7, 119.7, 119.0, 113.1, 109.2, 81.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{29}H_{18}N_2O+H$ 411.1497, found 411.1489.



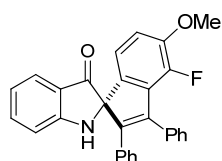
(R)-methyl 3'-oxo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indoline]-6-carboxylate (3ma). 10 min, 67% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 140-141 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.11-7.04 (m, 3H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 3H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100

MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.2, 166.9, 161.4, 149.8, 145.1, 143.4, 143.2, 137.8, 133.8, 133.1, 130.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 125.8, 122.0, 121.6, 121.1, 119.3, 113.1, 81.1, 52.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $C_{30}H_{21}NO_3+H$ 466.1419, found 466.1416.



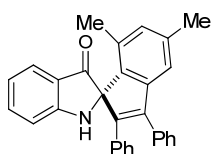
4-fluoro-5-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3na). 50 min,

23% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 160-161 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 5H), 7.09-7.03 (m, 3H), 6.96-6.89 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.8, 161.3, 152.7, 150.3, 148.2, 143.2, 142.1, 141.2, 137.7, 134.9, 134.2, 133.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 125.7, 121.8, 119.2, 112.9, 109.3 (d, *J*_{CF} = 20.8 Hz), 106.9, 80.8, 56.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₀FNO₂+Na 456.1376, found 456.1377



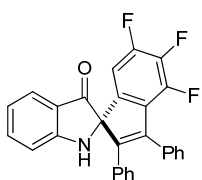
6-fluoro-5-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3na'). 50 min,

46% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 220-222 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90-6.85 (m, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 197.7, 162.7, 148.5 (d, *J*_{CF} = 10.1 Hz), 147.2, 144.7, 144.3, 140.6, 138.3, 135.9, 134.8, 133.4, 131.3 (d, *J*_{CF} = 8.3 Hz), 129.4, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 125.2, 120.2, 117.8, 116.8, 112.7, 111.7, 81.0, 56.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₀FNO₂+Na 456.1376, found 456.1377.



5,7-dimethyl-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3oa). 20 min, 72% yield;

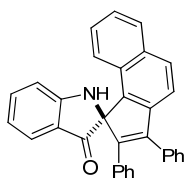
Yellow solid; m.p. 283-285 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.07 (m, 3H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 198.5, 162.1, 145.8, 143.1, 143.1, 138.2, 138.2, 138.0, 134.2, 133.9, 133.0, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 124.1, 122.2, 119.1, 117.2, 112.6, 81.4, 21.2, 17.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₀H₂₃NO+Na 436.1677, found 436.1673.



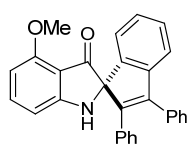
4,5,6-trifluoro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3pa). 5 h, 80% yield;

Yellow solid; m.p. 164-165 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.10-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.93-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.74-6.70 (m, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.4, 161.2, 151.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 10.2 Hz), 148.7 (d, *J*_{CF} = 11.9 Hz), 146.8 (dd, *J*_{CF} = 15.0 Hz, 2.2 Hz), 144.2 (dd, *J*_{CF} = 9.1 Hz, 3.5 Hz), 143.4 (d, *J*_{CF} = 3.9 Hz), 141.9 (t, *J*_{CF} = 15.8 Hz), 140.6 (d, *J*_{CF} = 2.4 Hz), 139.4 (t, *J*_{CF} = 15.4 Hz), 138.5 (dd, *J*_{CF} = 7.5 Hz, 4.0 Hz), 138.1, 133.8, 132.5, 129.5, 129.5, 128.8, 128.1, 128.1, 127.8, 125.9, 121.3, 119.6, 112.9, 105.6 (dd, *J*_{CF} = 19.7 Hz, 3.6 Hz), 81.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for

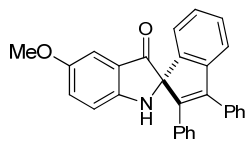
C₂₈H₁₇F₃NO+H 440.1262, found 440.1265.



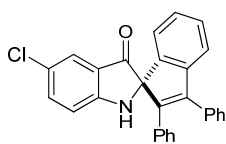
2,3-diphenylspiro[cyclopenta[a]naphthalene-1,2'-indoline] (3qa). 1 d, 20% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 151-152 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.25 (m, 9H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.94-6.88 (m, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.2, 160.9, 144.2, 143.6, 143.2, 137.8, 137.5, 134.1, 133.3, 133.0, 129.6, 129.6, 129.2, 128.5, 128.0, 127.8, 127.4, 127.2, 125.5, 125.0, 123.3, 122.8, 119.8, 119.0, 113.0, 82.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₃₂H₂₁NO+H 436.1701, found 436.1702.



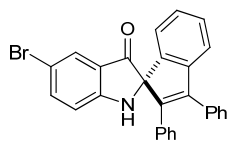
4'-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ra). 10 min, 80% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 209-212 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.25 (m, 8H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 7H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.9, 162.9, 159.5, 145.1, 144.0, 143.4, 141.8, 139.1, 134.4, 133.7, 129.5, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 126.3, 121.4, 120.7, 111.0, 104.8, 100.2, 81.6, 55.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₁NO₂+H 416.1651, found 416.1649.



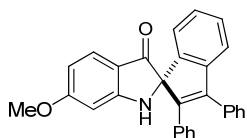
5'-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3sa). 10 min, 76% yield; Bright yellow solid; m.p. 221-222 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.00 (m, 9H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.2, 157.2, 153.5, 145.2, 143.8, 143.4, 141.7, 134.4, 133.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3, 126.5, 122.6, 121.5, 120.4, 114.6, 105.6, 82.3, 55.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₁NO₂+H 416.1651, found 416.1649.



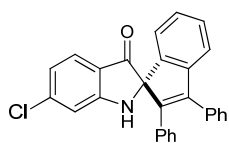
5'-chloro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ta). 10 min, 70% yield; Brown solid; m.p. 73-75 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.29 (m, 8H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.0, 159.6, 145.1, 144.2, 142.6, 141.1, 137.4, 134.1, 133.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.6, 124.9, 124.4, 123.0, 121.7, 120.5, 114.0, 81.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₈H₁₈ClNO+H 420.1155, found C₂₈H₁₉³⁵ClNO+H 420.1153, C₂₈H₁₉³⁷ClNO+H 422.1103.



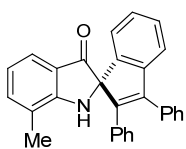
5'-bromo-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3ua). 10 min, 65% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 85-87 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.81 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.28 (m, 7H), 7.15-7.03 (m, 5H), 6.97-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.8, 159.9, 145.1, 144.3, 142.6, 141.1, 140.0, 134.1, 133.4, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 126.6, 123.5, 121.7, 120.6, 114.4, 111.3, 81.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNO}+\text{H}$ 464.0650, found $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}^{79}\text{BrNO}+\text{H}$ 464.0651, $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}^{81}\text{BrNO}+\text{H}$ 466.0642.



6'-methoxy-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3va). 10 min, 79% yield; Bright yellow solid; m.p. 216-218 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.15-7.00 (m, 6H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.6, 167.8, 163.7, 145.0, 143.8, 143.5, 141.8, 134.4, 133.7, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 127.1, 126.4, 121.4, 120.6, 115.6, 108.7, 95.2, 81.8, 55.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2+\text{H}$ 416.1651, found 416.1649.



6'-chloro-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3wa). 10 min, 79% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 175-176 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.27 (m, 7H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.7, 161.6, 145.0, 144.2, 144.0, 142.7, 141.1, 134.1, 133.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 121.6, 120.6, 120.4, 119.8, 112.7, 81.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}+\text{H}$ 420.1155, found $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}^{35}\text{ClNO}+\text{H}$ 420.1153, $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}^{37}\text{ClNO}+\text{H}$ 422.1103.

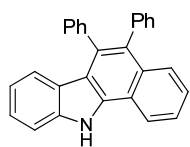


7'-methyl-2,3-diphenylspiro[indene-1,2'-indolin]-3'-one (3xa). 19 h, 89% yield; Bright yellow solid; m.p. 199-200 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.25 (m, 8H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.00 (m, 6H), 6.83 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.4, 160.7, 145.2, 144.0, 143.4, 141.7, 137.4, 134.4, 133.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 126.5, 123.1, 122.0, 121.7, 121.5, 120.5, 119.1, 81.6, 15.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}+\text{H}$ 400.1701, found 400.1690.

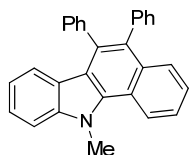
11. General Procedure of Masked [4+2] Annulation for the Synthesis of Benzo[a]carbazole Derivatives and Characterization Data

3a (38.5 mg, 0.1 mmol) in dioxane (6.0 mL) was added LiBr (34.8 mg, 0.4 mmol), then NaBH_4 (80 mg, 2.1

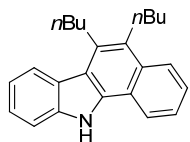
mmol) was added partially to the reaction mixture at room temperature. 0.35 mL of HCl (conc.) was added into the reaction mixture after the consuming of **3a**, and then the reaction was stirred at 50 °C for another 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to give the product **4a** as a white solid (29.2 mg, 79%).



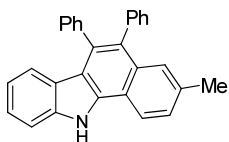
5,6-diphenyl-11H-benzo[a]carbazole (4a). 14 h, 79% yield; Off white solid; m.p. 202-203 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.19 (m, 11H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.0, 139.2, 138.7, 134.8, 134.3, 131.9, 131.7, 130.9, 130.2, 128.2, 127.9, 127.5, 126.8, 126.3, 125.5, 125.2, 124.6, 124.3, 121.9, 120.3, 120.2, 119.7, 117.3, 110.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₀FNO₂+H 372.1752, found 372.1737.



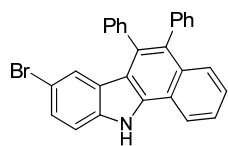
11-methyl-5,6-diphenyl-11H-benzo[a]carbazole (Methylation of 4a). Off white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.17 (m, 10H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (s, 3H) ppm.



5,6-dibutyl-11H-benzo[a]carbazole (4b). 10 h, 56% yield; Off white solid; m.p. 134-135 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.91-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.79-1.60 (m, 6H), 1.13-1.07 (m, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ppm. 138.6, 134.0, 125.3, 125.3, 124.1, 124.1, 122.1, 120.8, 120.1, 119.8, 111.0, 33.8, 32.3, 30.5, 27.7, 23.4, 23.4, 14.1, 14.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₄H₂₇N+H 330.2222, found 330.2211.

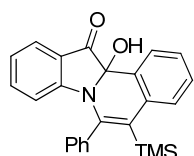


3-methyl-5,6-diphenyl-11H-benzo[a]carbazole (4c). 16 h, 67% yield; Off white solid; m.p. 242-243 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 12.31 (s, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.17 (m, 12H), 6.83 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 140.3, 139.4, 139.2, 135.0, 134.9, 134.7, 131.8, 131.5, 130.0, 129.1, 128.1, 127.8, 127.3, 127.0, 126.6, 126.4, 126.4, 124.2, 123.5, 122.2, 120.9, 118.9, 115.7, 111.4, 22.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₉H₂₃N+H 386.1909, found 386.1927.

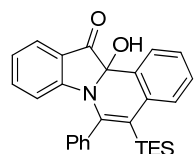


8-bromo-5,6-diphenyl-11H-benzo[a]carbazole (4d). 16 h, 73% yield; Off white solid; m.p. 231-232 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 12.63 (s, 1H), 8.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.18 (m, 13H), 6.52 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.7, 139.0, 138.0, 135.6, 134.3, 131.6, 130.0, 129.9, 128.3, 127.8, 127.3, 127.3, 126.8, 126.7, 126.3, 125.7, 125.2, 123.4, 123.3, 122.2, 120.7, 115.5, 113.5, 111.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}+\text{H}$ 450.0857, found 450.0857.

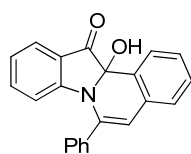
12. Derivatization of Special Indoxyl Core 5a and Characterization Data



12a-hydroxy-6-phenyl-5-(trimethylsilyl)indolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (5a). 40 min, 32% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 173-175 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (s, 1H), 0.03 (s, 9H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.3, 154.4, 143.5, 138.0, 137.8, 137.7, 130.7, 130.4, 130.0, 129.1, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 125.7, 125.0, 124.3, 120.9, 119.7, 117.8, 113.2, 83.7, 1.96 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2\text{Si}+\text{Na}$ 420.1396, found 420.1396.



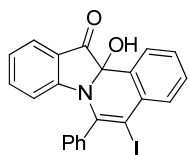
12a-hydroxy-6-phenyl-5-(triethylsilyl)indolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (5b). 5 h, 16% yield; Yellow solid; m.p. 174-176 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.78 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 1H), 0.83 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 9H), 0.58-0.44 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.2, 154.3, 144.5, 138.4, 137.7, 137.6, 130.8, 130.4, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 128.4, 127.2, 125.8, 124.9, 124.2, 120.9, 119.8, 115.6, 113.2, 84.0, 7.9, 5.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_2\text{Si}+\text{Na}$ 462.1865, found 462.1872.



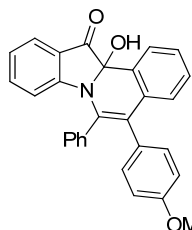
12a-hydroxy-6-phenylindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (6). To a stirred solution of **5a** (12.9 mg, 0.03 mol, 1.0 equiv) was added TBAF (1.5 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) at room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated in

vacuum to remove the solvent and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to afford **6** as a yellow solid (9.4 mg, 90%); m.p. 164-165 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.91 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.10 (d, J =

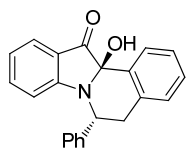
8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.3, 155.5, 137.7, 137.5, 135.6, 132.5, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 127.3, 127.1, 126.4, 125.1, 124.9, 120.9, 113.5, 112.4, 85.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2+\text{Na}$ 348.1000, found 348.0995.



12a-hydroxy-5-iodo-6-phenylindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (7). To a stirred solution of **5a** (13.1 mg, 0.03 mol, 1.0 equiv) in MeCN (1.0 mL) was added N-Iodosuccinimide (20.1 mg, 0.09 mmol) in darkness. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Then the reaction was quenched with $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (aq. 2.0 mL) and the organic phase was dried over magnesium sulfate. Flash chromatography (ethyl acetate : petroleum ether = 1:20) to afford **7** as a yellow oil (10.9 mg, 62%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.5, 154.4, 138.7, 138.0, 137.3, 134.9, 132.2, 130.9, 129.9, 129.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 125.1, 124.3, 121.4, 119.2, 113.1, 83.6, 82.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{14}\text{INO}_2\text{Si}+\text{H}$ 473.9967, found 473.9968.

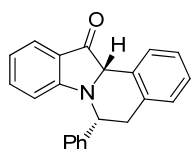


12a-hydroxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-phenylindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (8). To a 5.0 mL vial was added **7** (7.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid (9.2 mg, 0.06 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (65.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_4\text{PdCl}_2$ (0.7 mg, 0.001 mmol) under argon atmosphere. Then 1,4-dioxane (0.4 mL) and water (0.1 mL) were added and the mixture stirred for 1.5 h at 50 °C. Flash chromatography (ethyl acetate : petroleum ether = 1:20) to afford **8** as a yellow solid (5.0 mg, 70%); m.p. 170-171 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01-7.98 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.11 (m, 6H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.7, 158.5, 155.6, 137.8, 135.5, 134.0, 133.7, 132.7, 130.2, 129.2, 128.3, 128.2, 127.1, 126.0, 126.0, 124.9, 124.8, 123.6, 120.6, 119.2, 113.7, 113.1, 84.0, 55.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3+\text{Na}$ 454.1419, found 454.1413.



(6S)-12a-hydroxy-6-phenyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (9). To a stirred solution of **5a** (14.9 mg, 0.04 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DCM (1.0 mL) was added 10 wt. Pd/C (30%, 4.5 mg) under hydrogenation atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h and then filtered. After removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to afford **9** as a

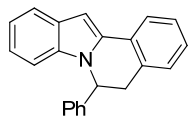
yellow solid (6.4 mg, 52%); m.p. 139-141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.25 (m, 5H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (dd, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.15 (s, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 5.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.5, 160.4, 142.9, 138.3, 137.0, 134.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 126.4, 125.1, 124.6, 119.5, 119.2, 110.8, 87.0, 60.7, 37.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇NO₂+Na 350.1157, found 350.1145.



(6S,12aR)-6-phenyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-12(12aH)-one (10). Under the

same conditions, product **10** (39%) was also produced along with **9**. Yellow solid; m.p. 191-192 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.41-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H),

7.20-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.04-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 5.6 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.6, 160.8, 143.7, 142.4, 137.3, 136.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.1, 126.8, 125.7, 124.9, 121.9, 120.0, 119.2, 111.5, 80.2, 56.6, 34.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇NO+Na 334.1208, found 334.1212.

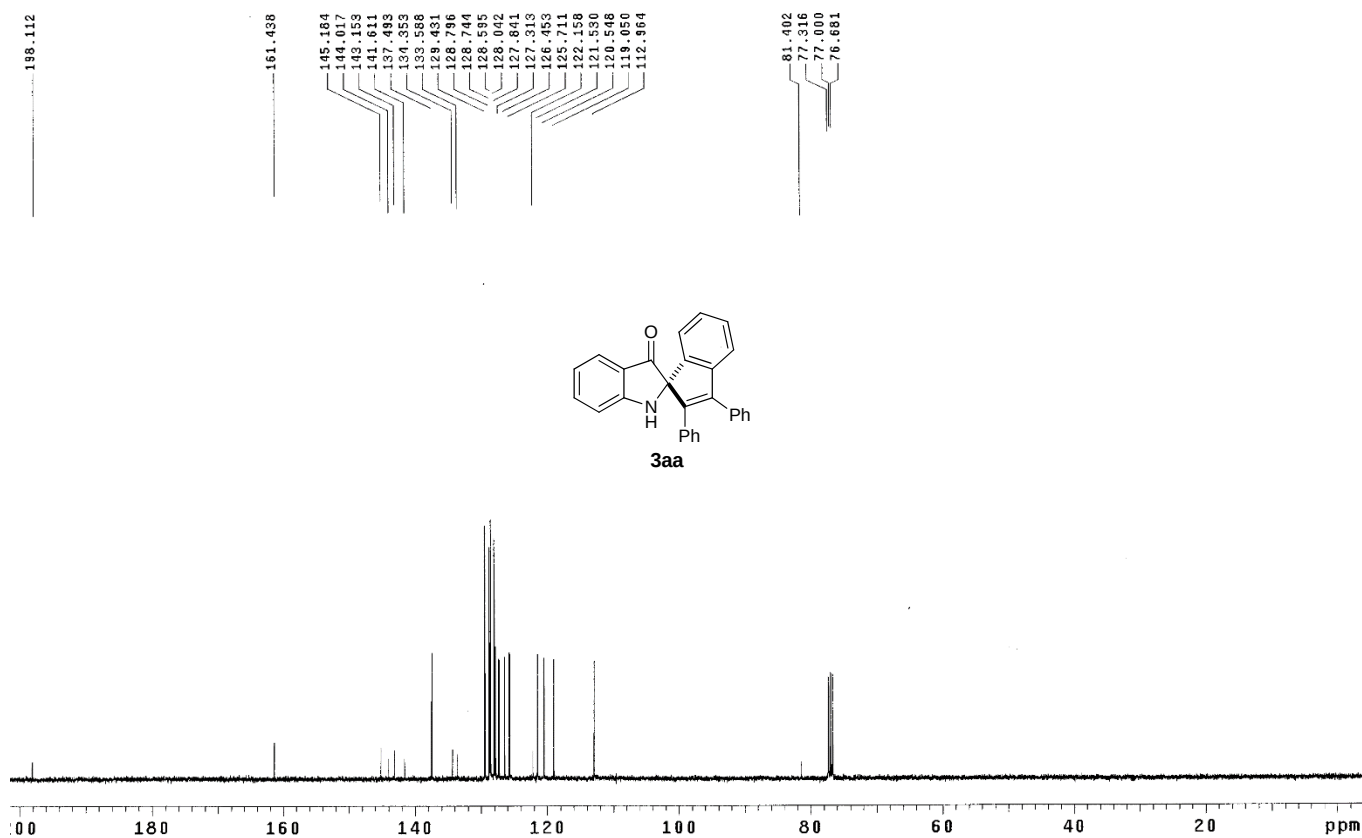
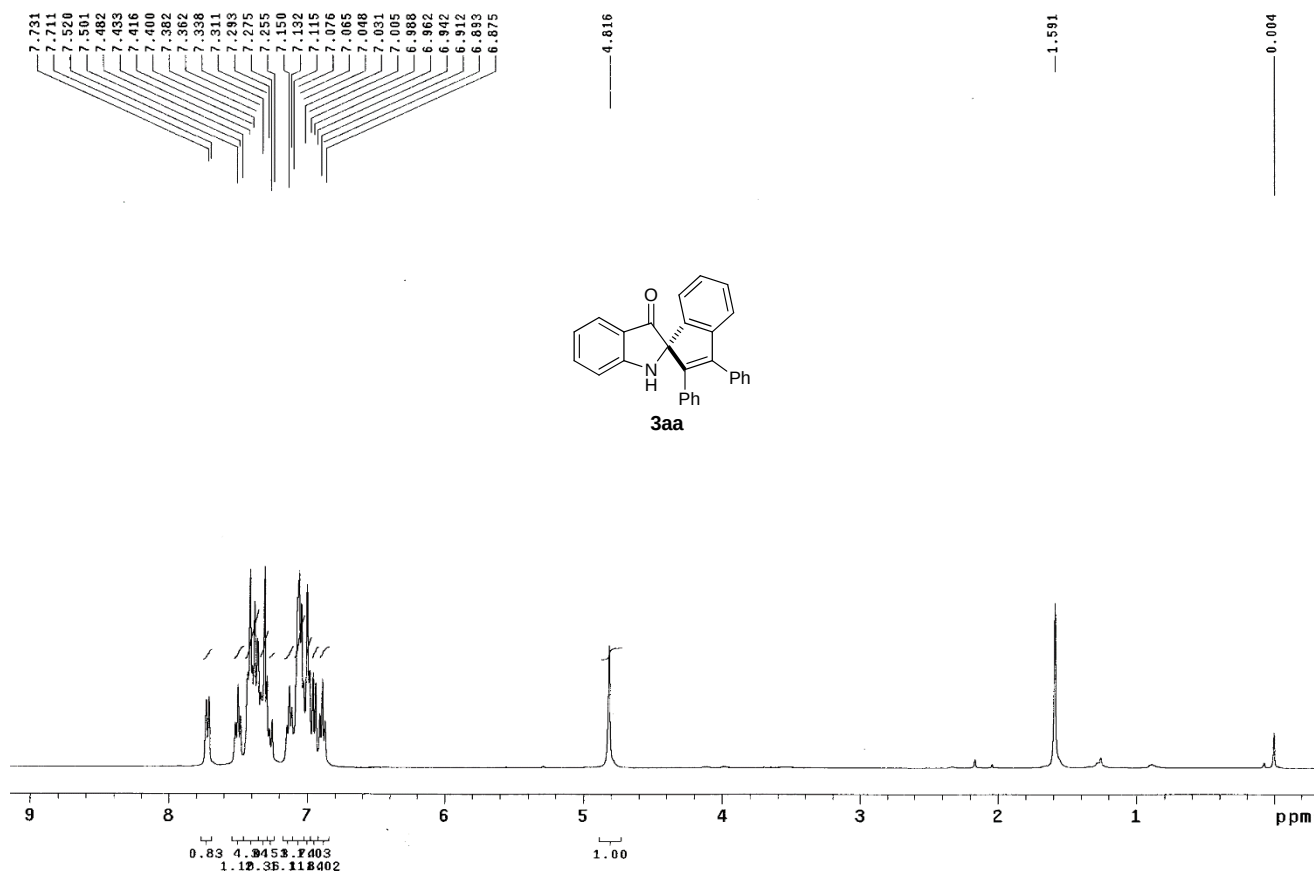


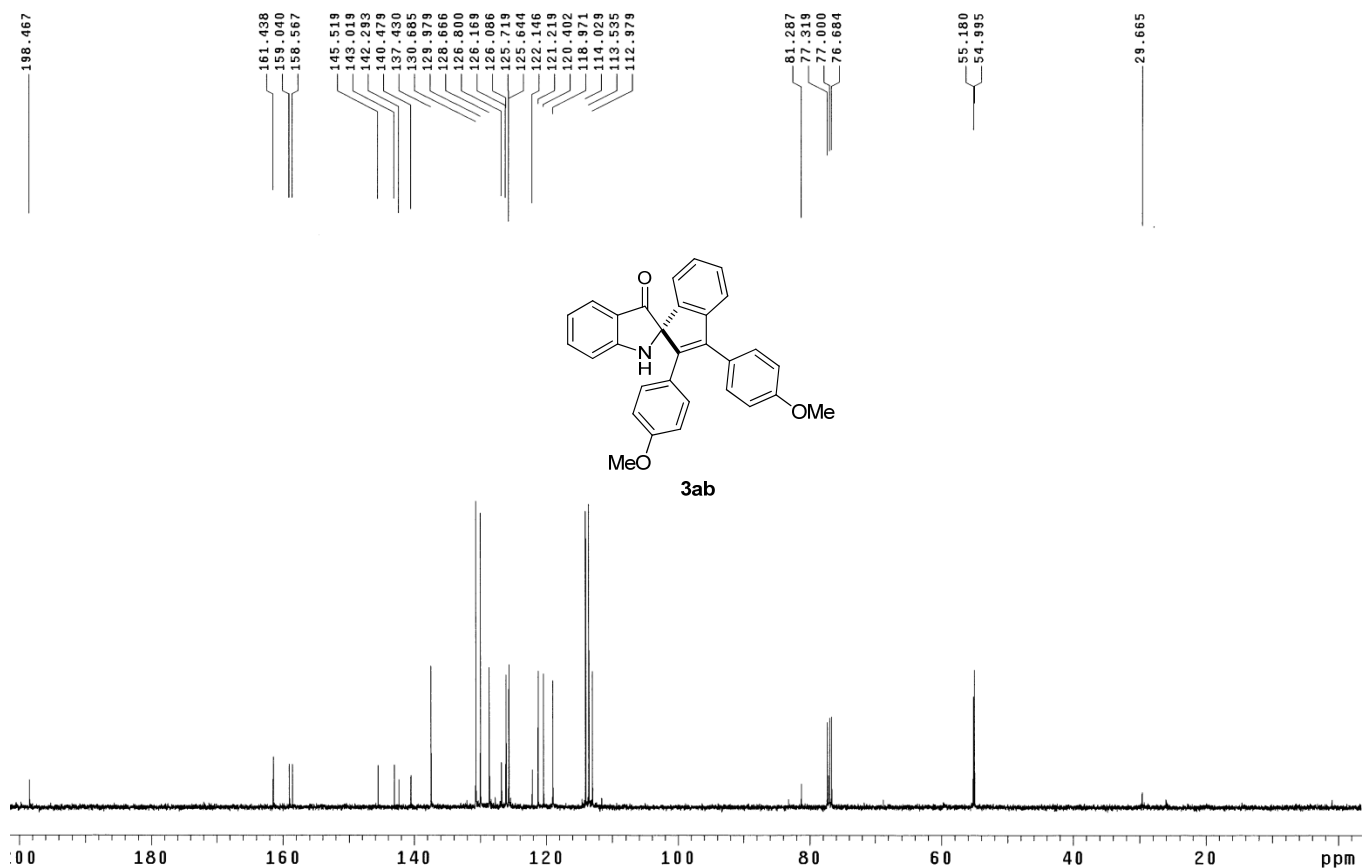
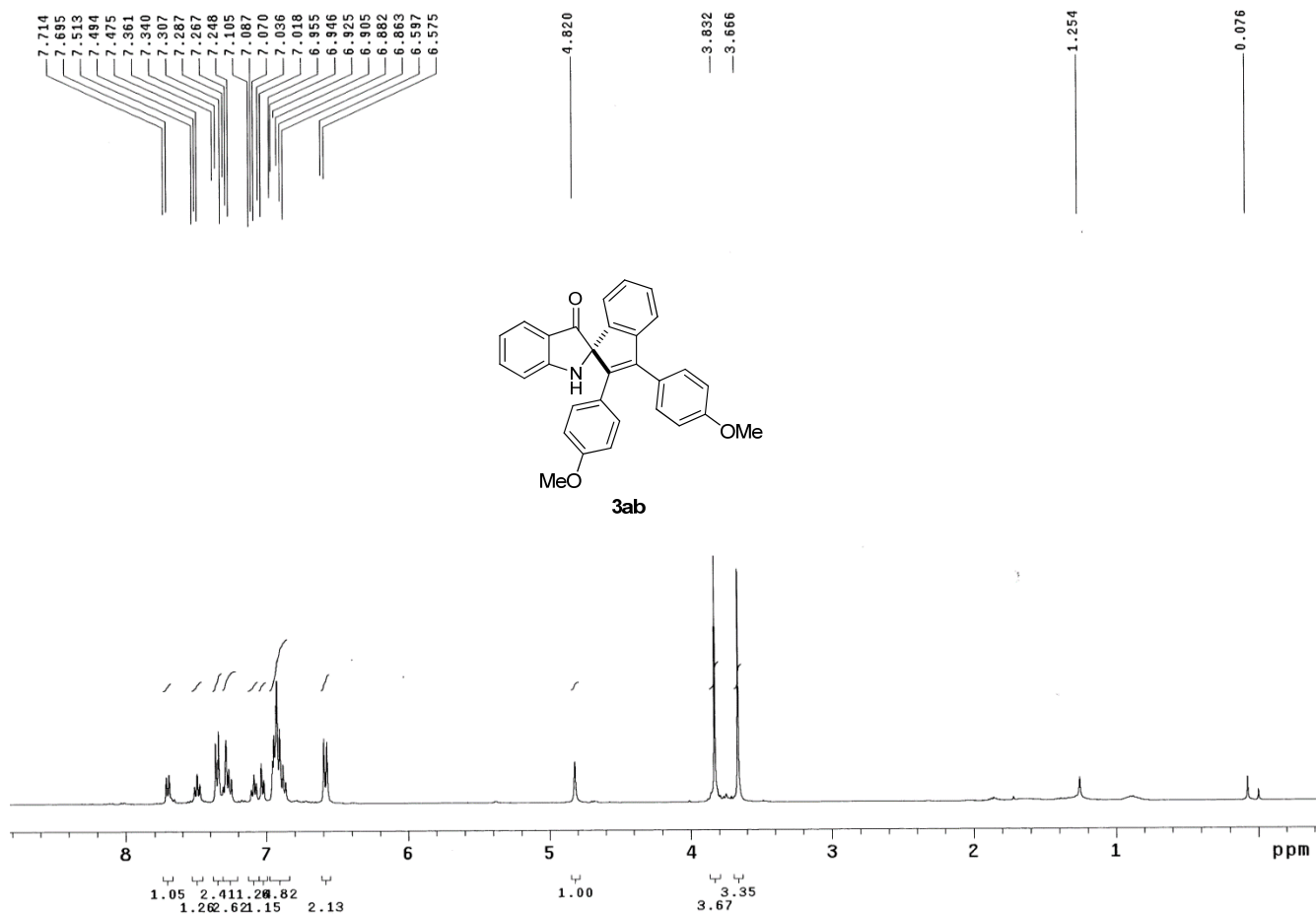
(S)-6-phenyl-5,6-dihydroindolo[2,1-a]isoquinoline (11). 0.025 mmol of **10** in dioxane (1.0

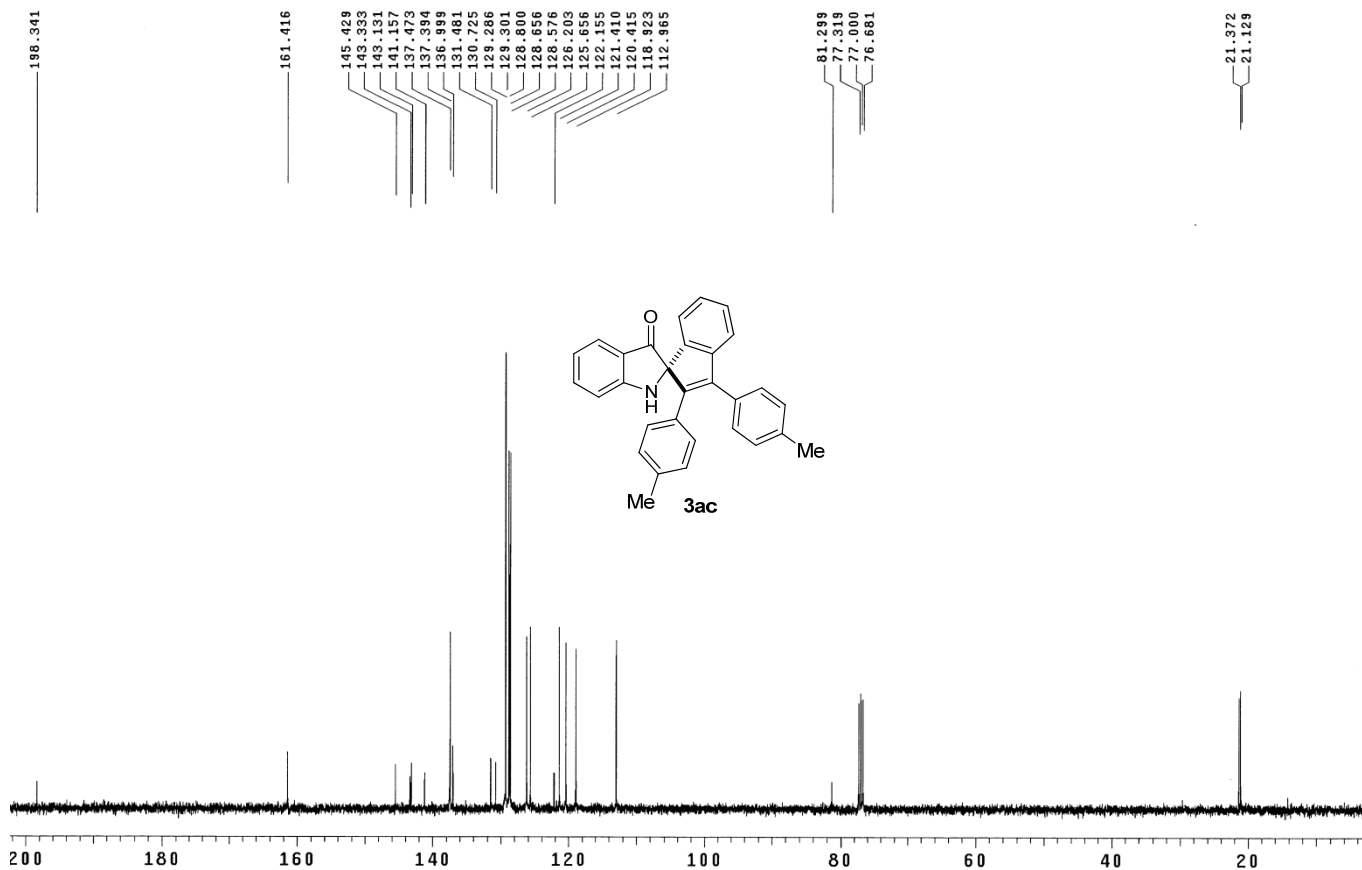
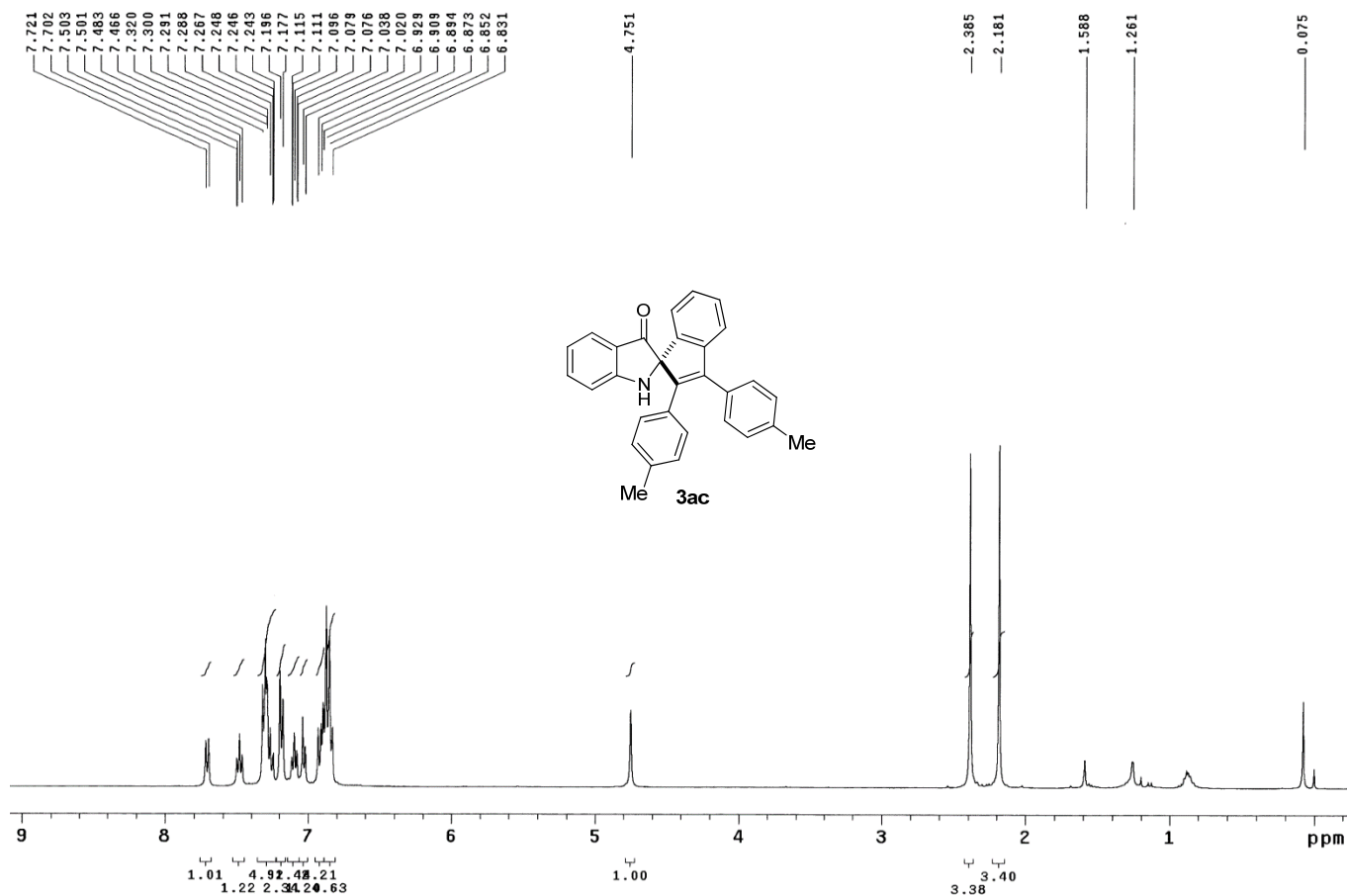
mL) was added of 0.1 mmol of LiBr, and then 0.6 mmol of NaBH₄ was added partially to the reaction mixture at room temperature. The reaction was stirred for 12 hours and poured

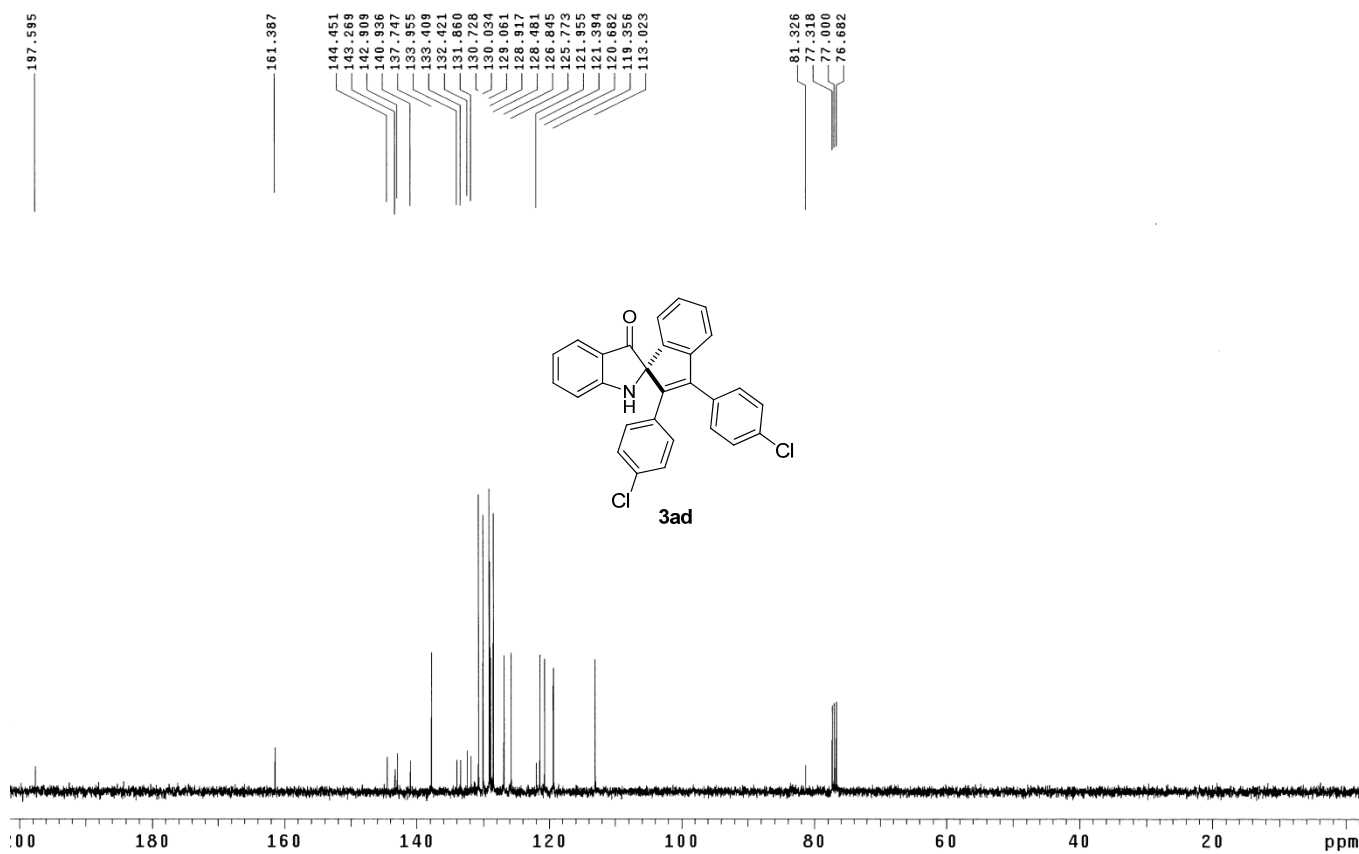
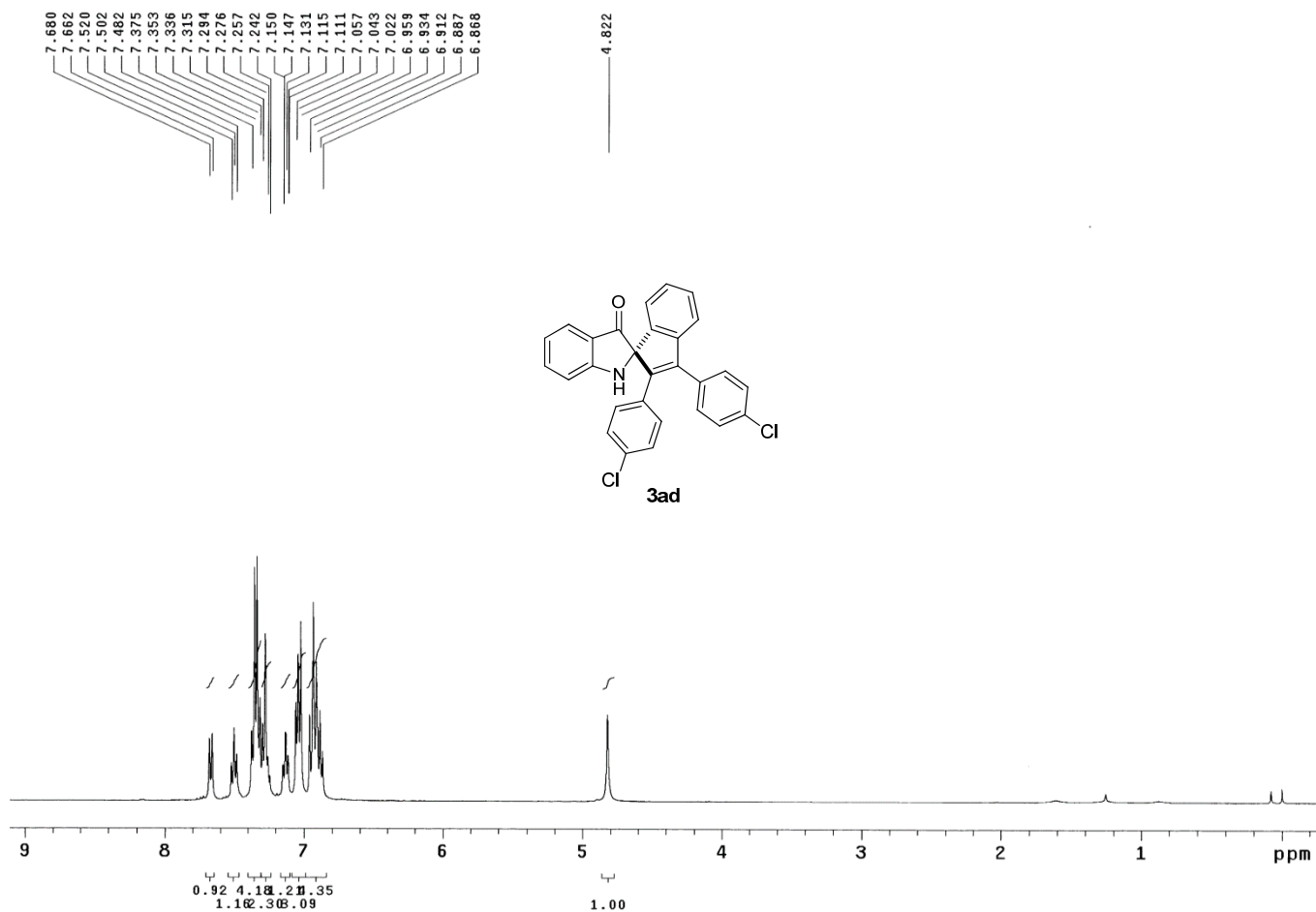
into water. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3.0 mL) and the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. After removal of the solvent, the crude intermediate was added BF₃·Et₂O (0.05 mmol) and HSiEt₃ (0.055 mmol) in DCM at room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured into NaHCO₃ (aq. 3.0 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3.0 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:20) to afford **11** as a white solid (5.8 mg, 78%); m.p. 142-143 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33 (brs, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.12 (m, 9H), 6.94-6.93 (m, 2H), 4.49-4.45 (m, 1H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.6, 137.1, 135.4, 133.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.4, 128.0, 127.0, 126.8, 126.5, 122.3, 119.8, 119.8, 119.8, 114.9, 111.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇N+H 296.1439, found 296.1442.

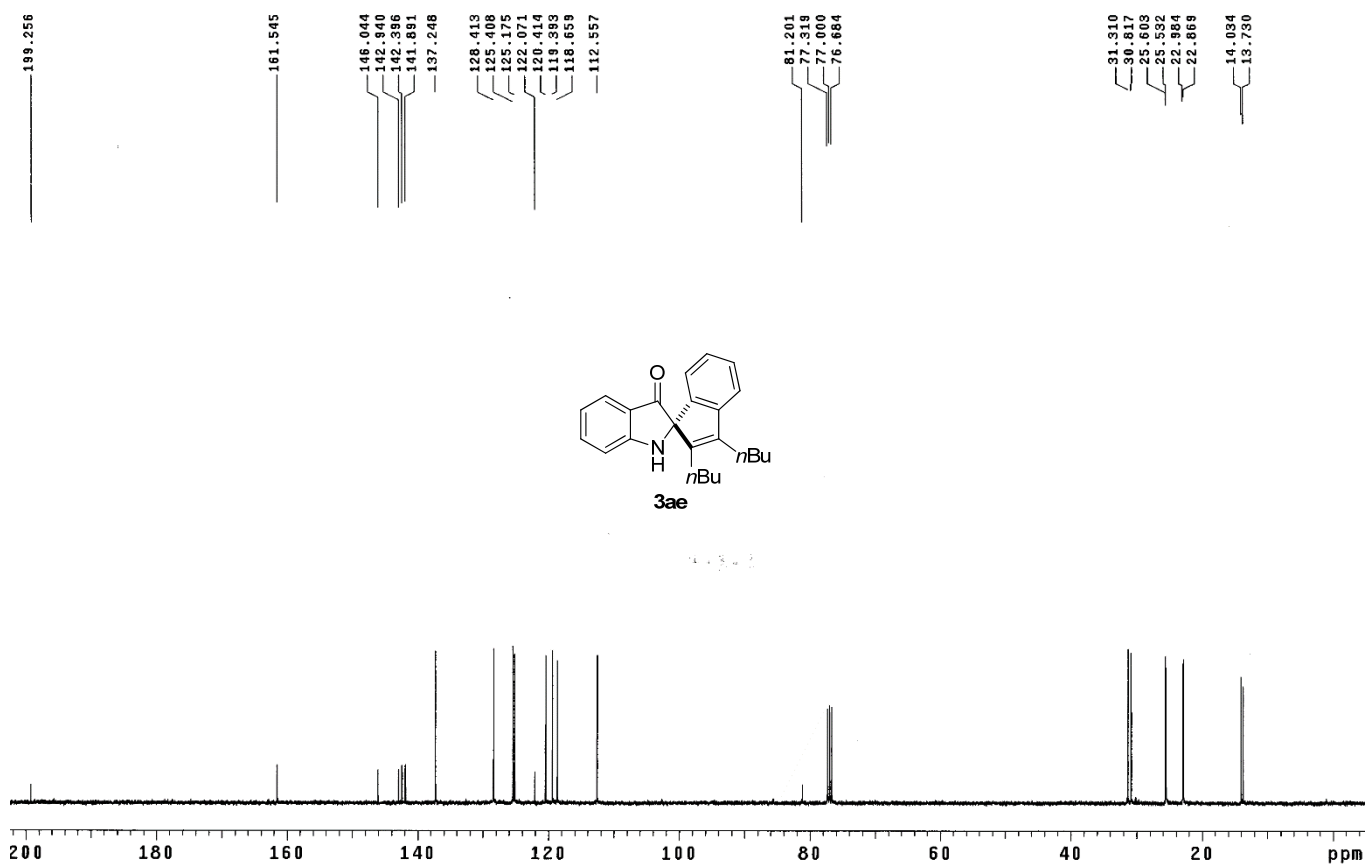
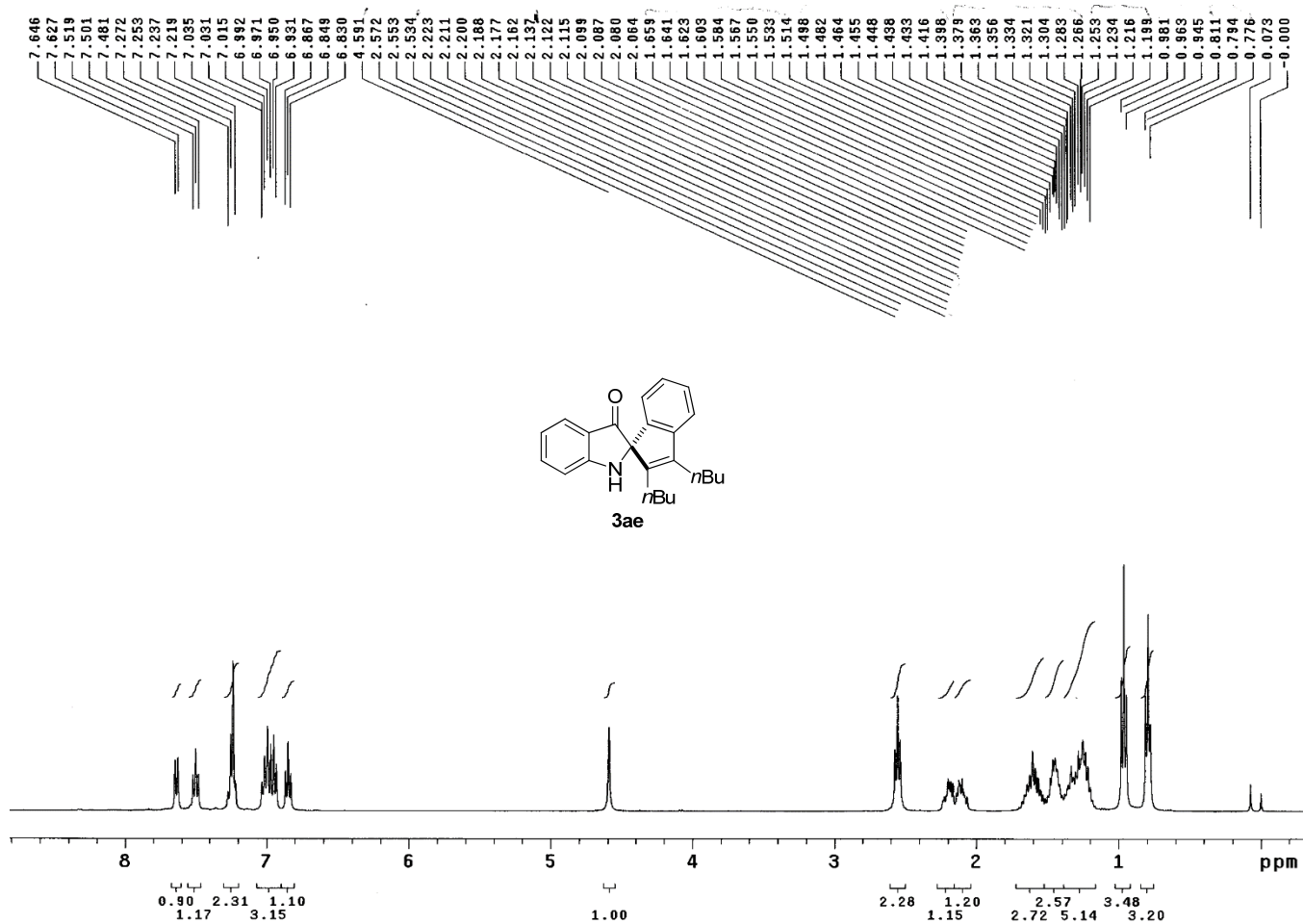
13. NMR Spectra of the Spirocycle Amines, Benzo[*a*]carbazoles, Special Indoxyl Cores and Other Derivatives

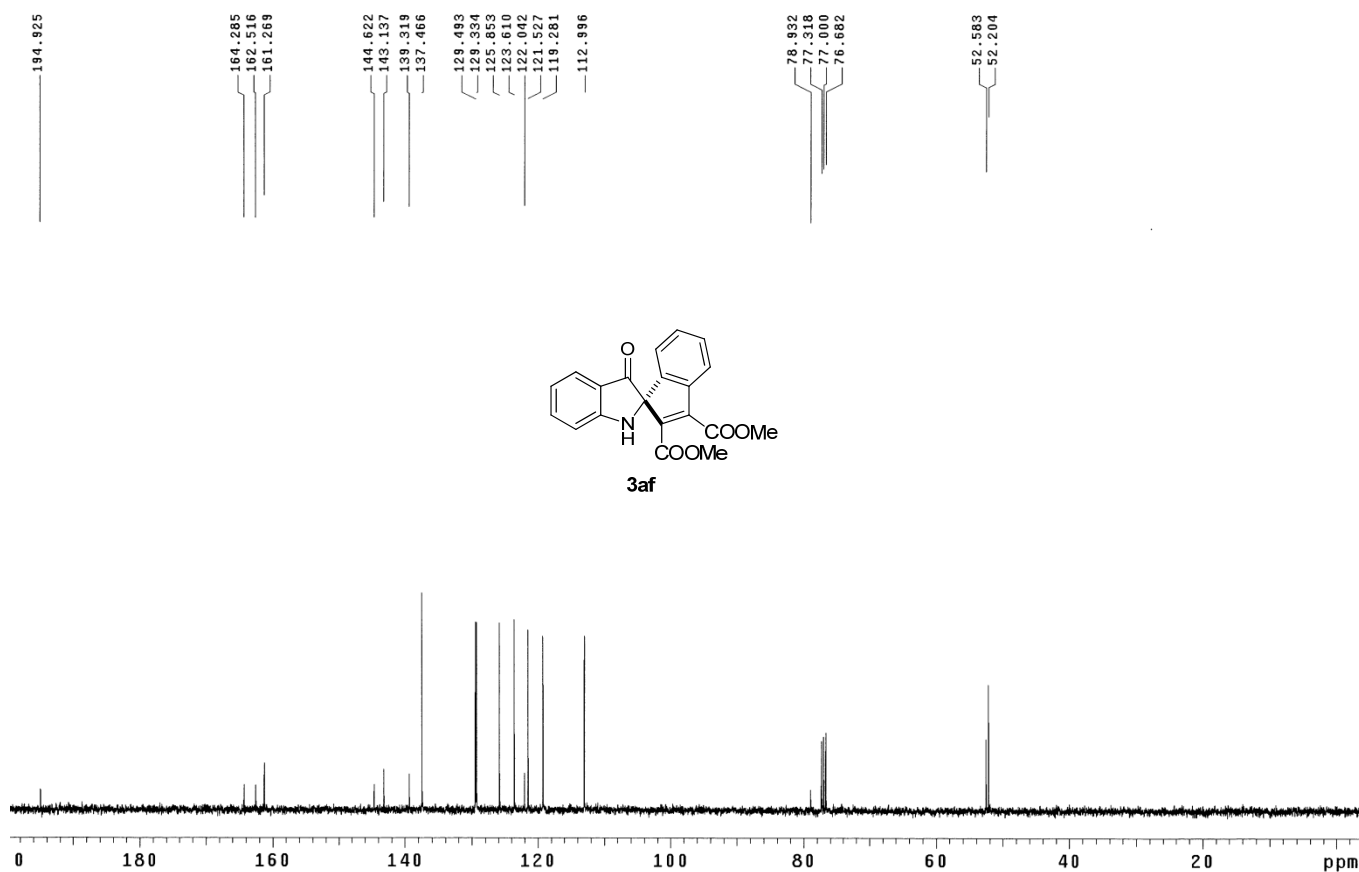
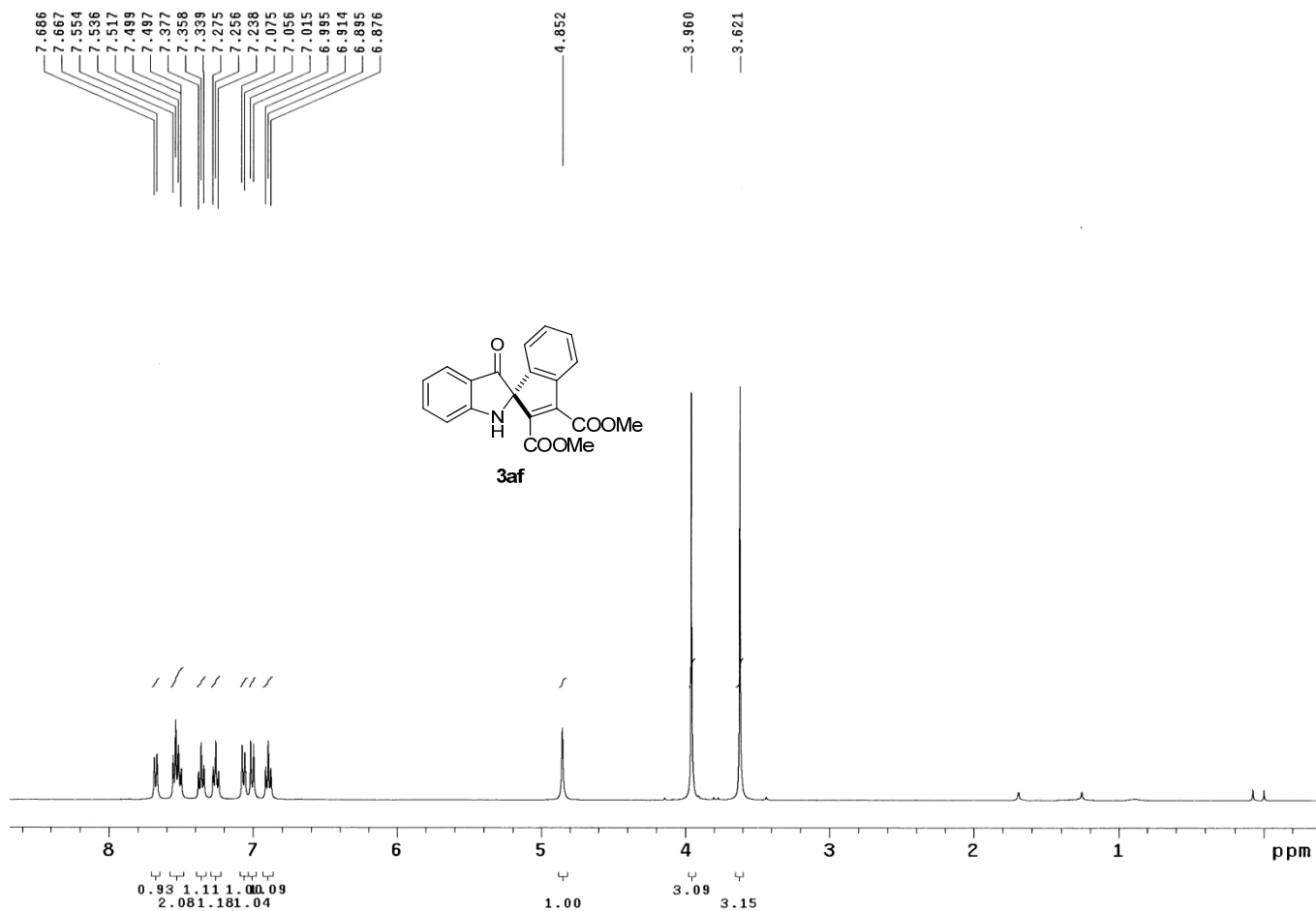


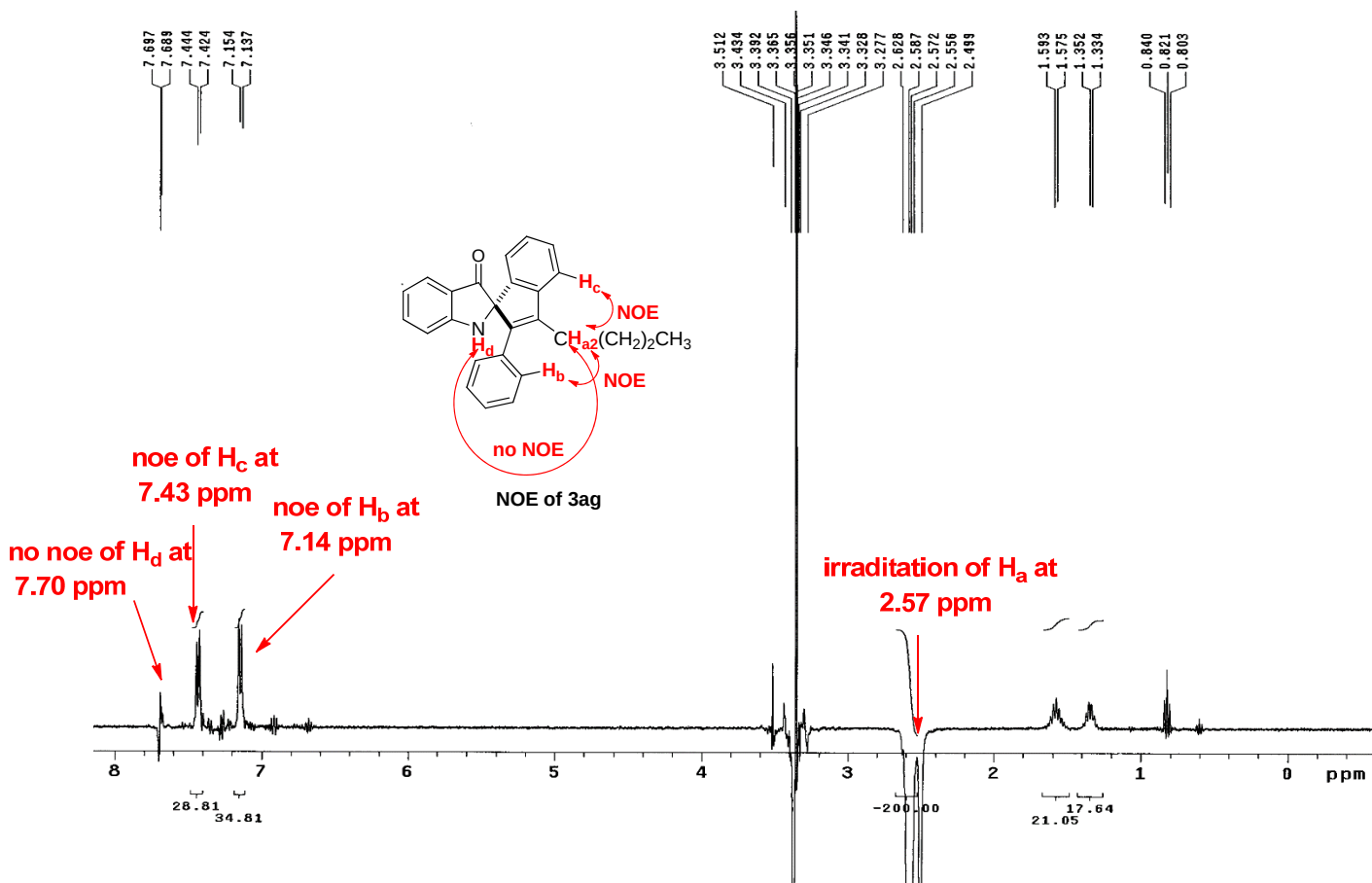
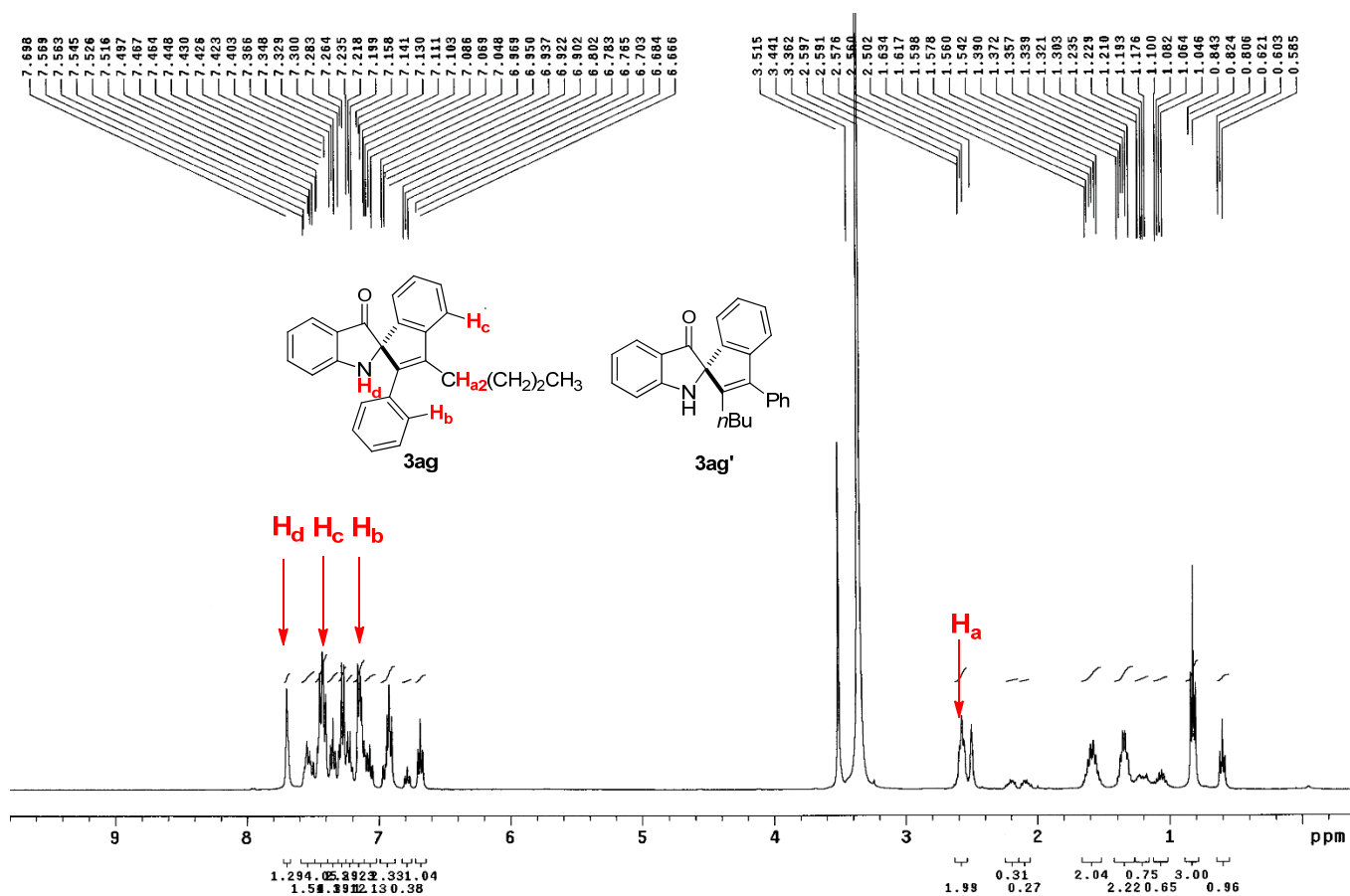


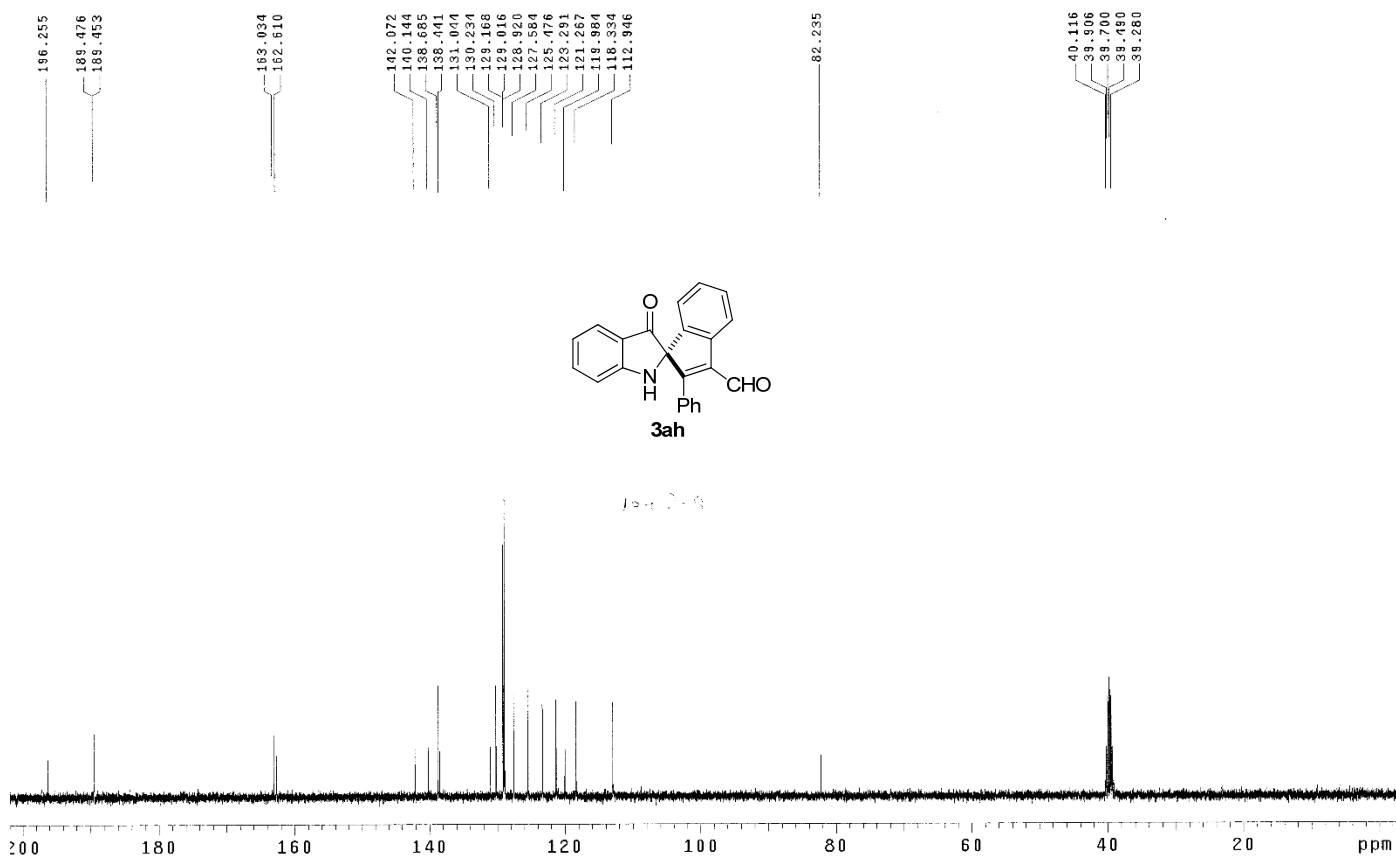
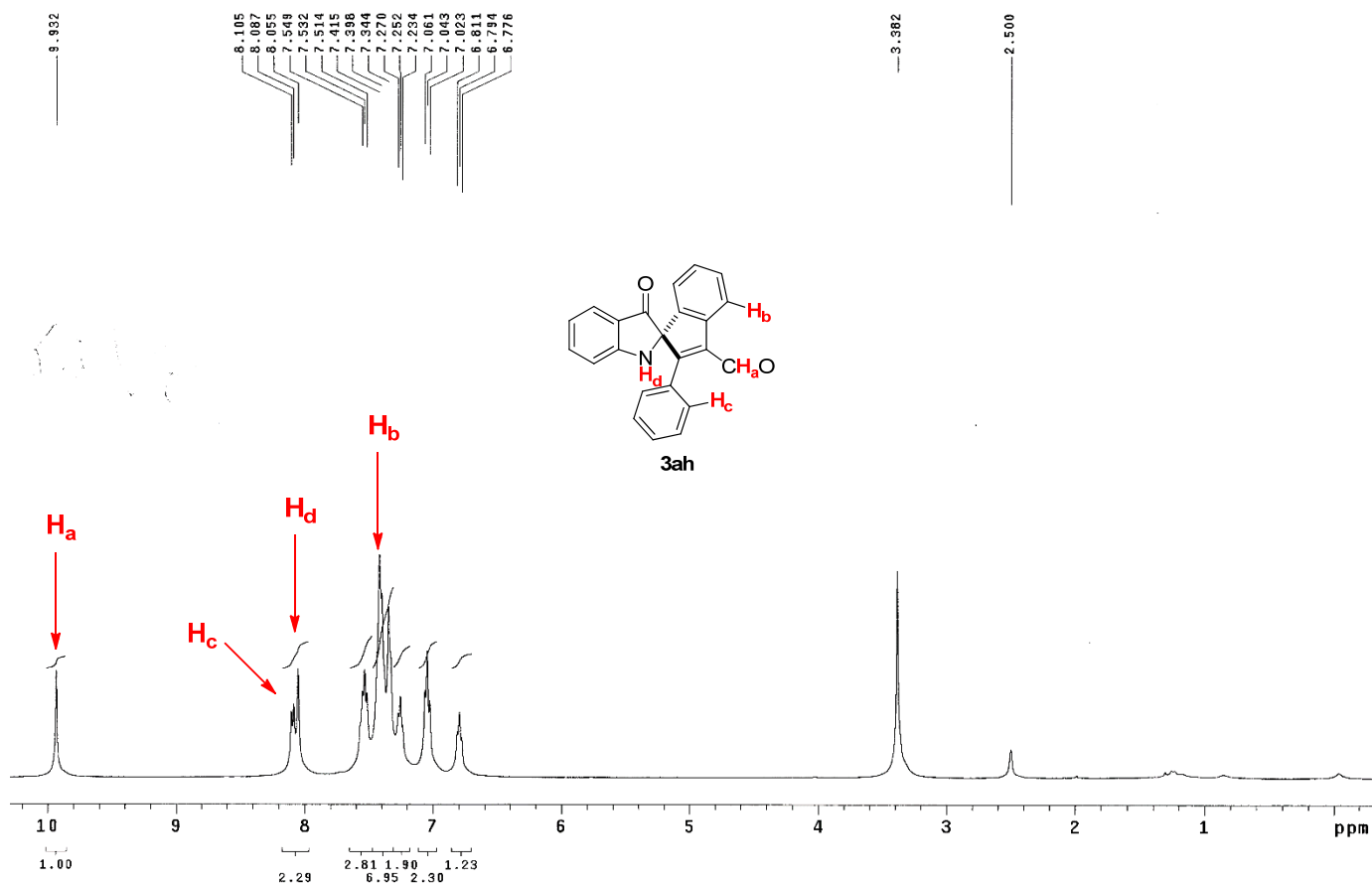


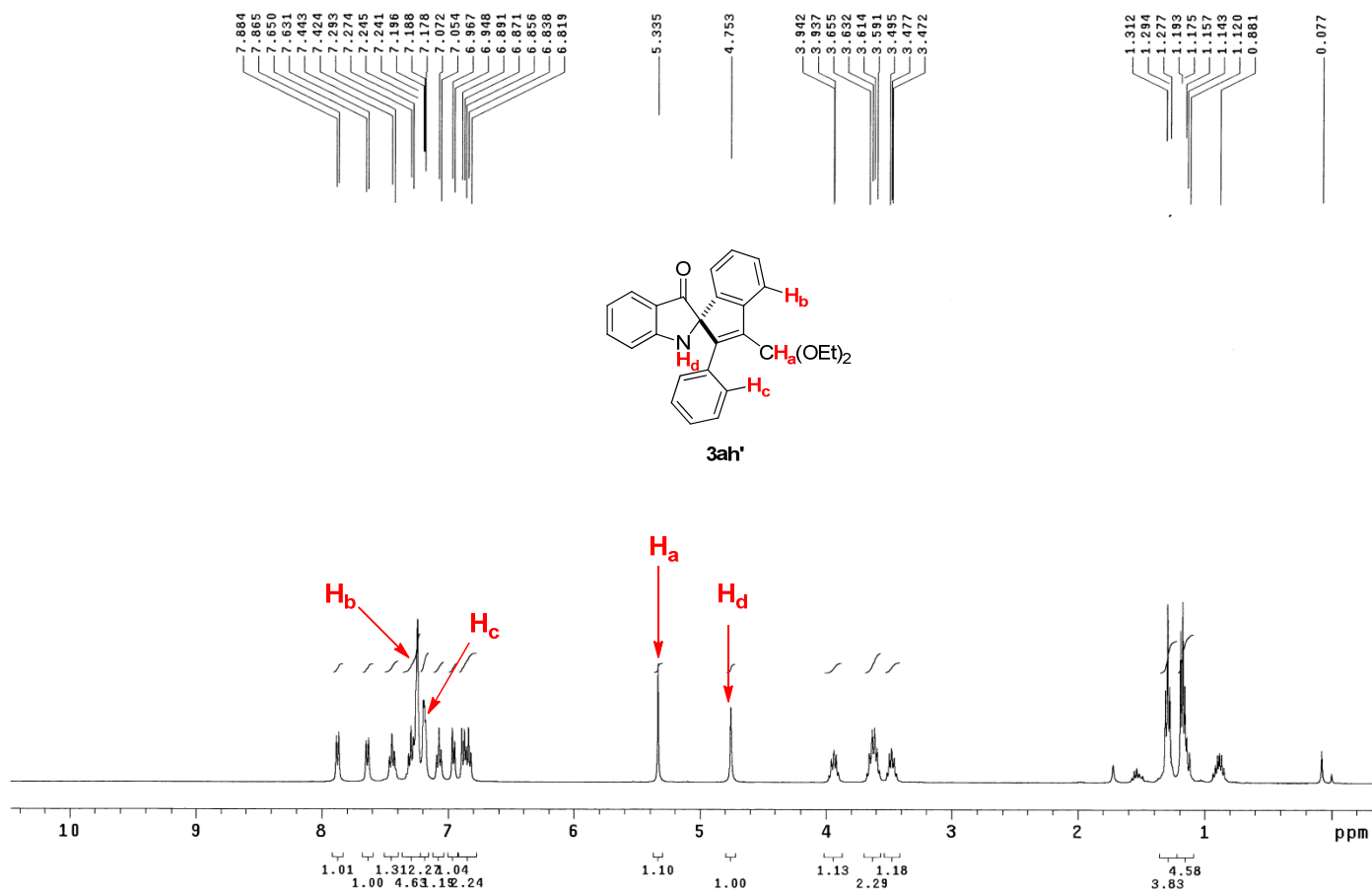
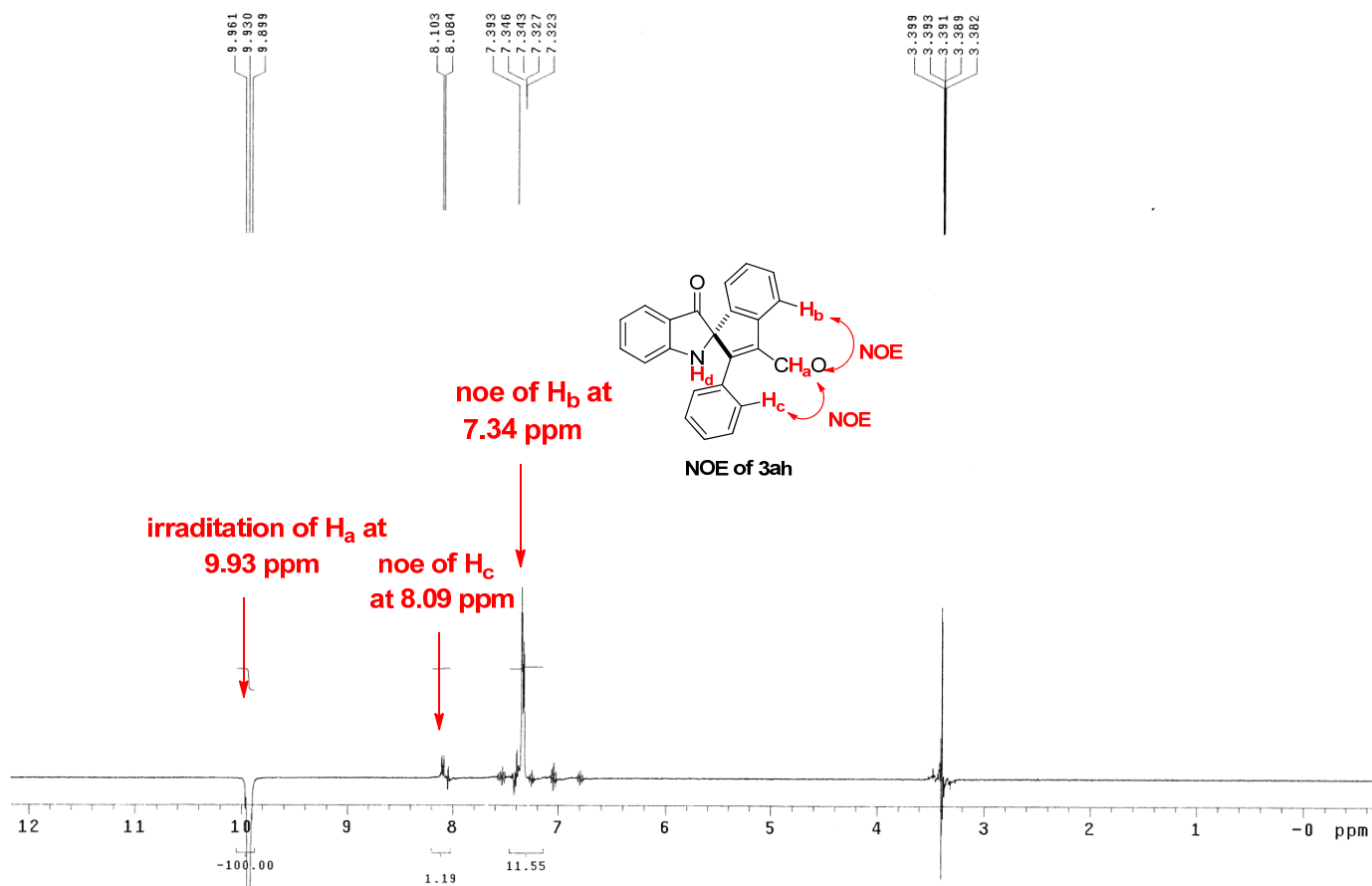


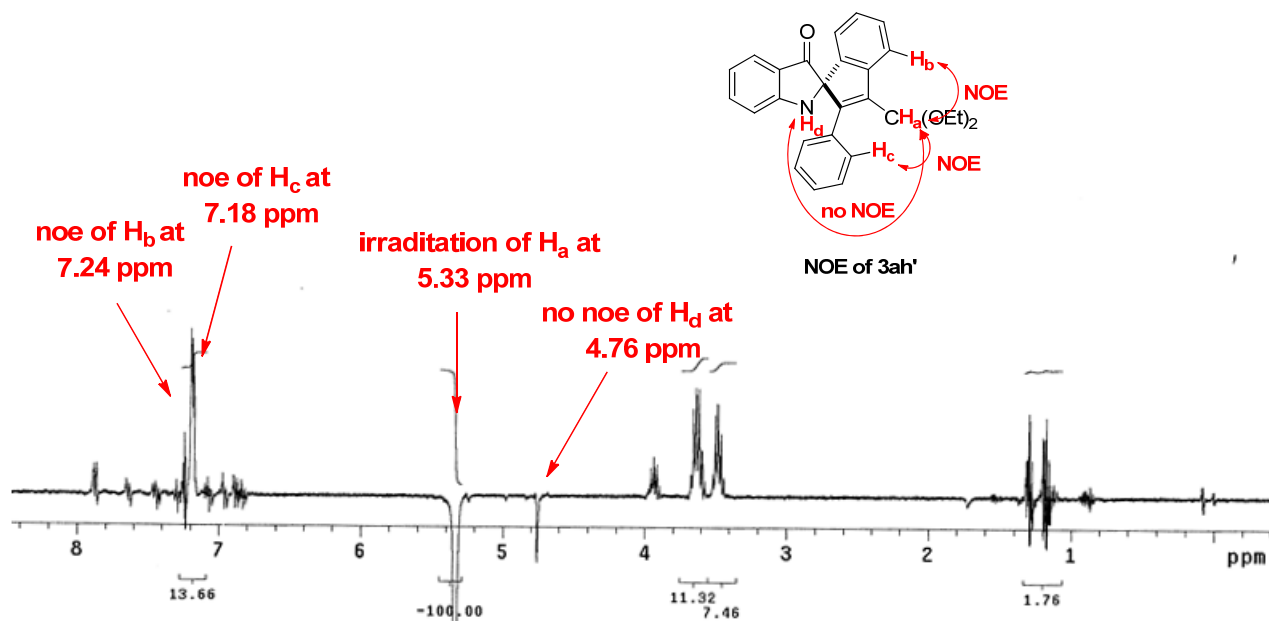
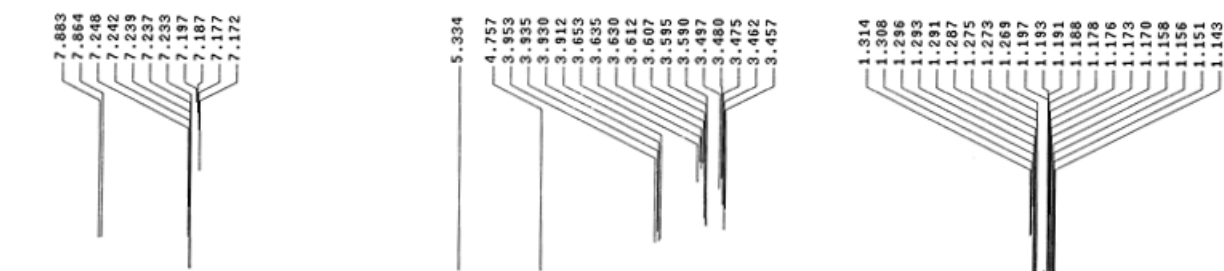
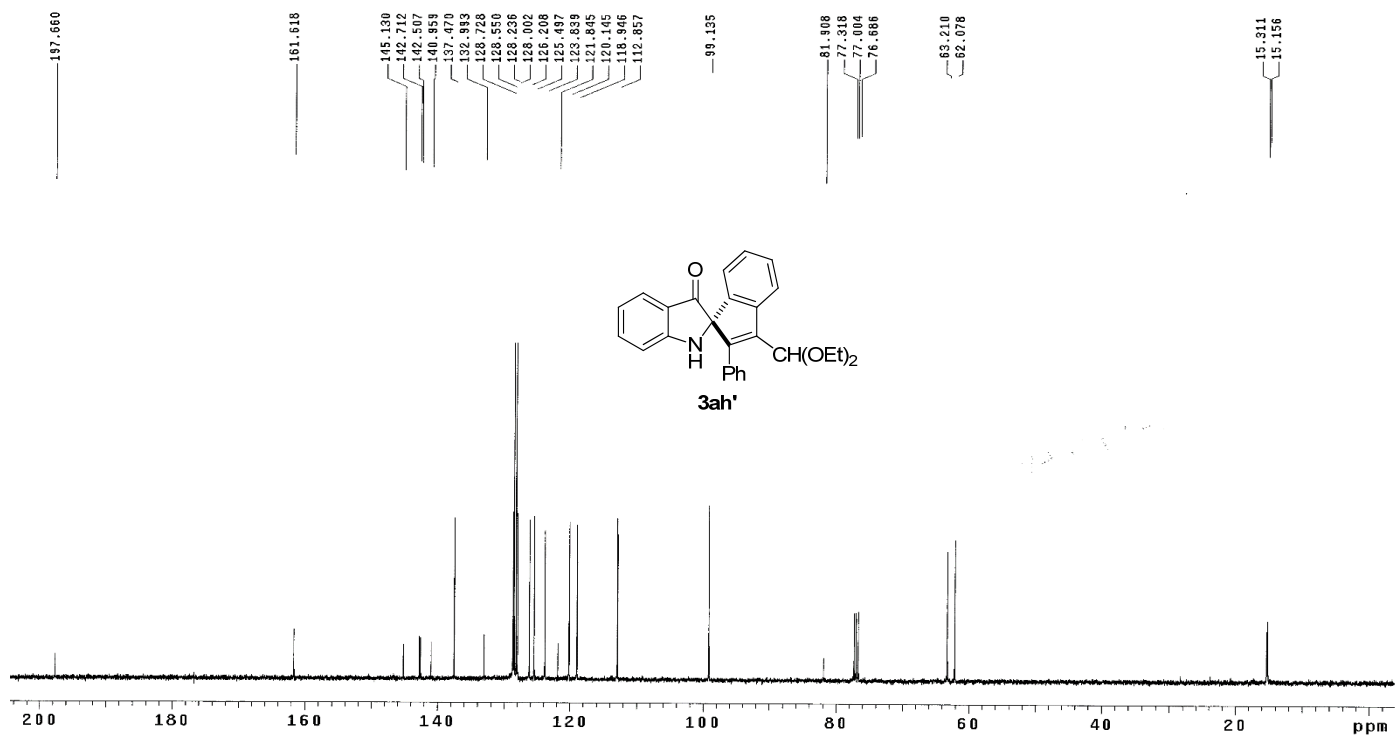


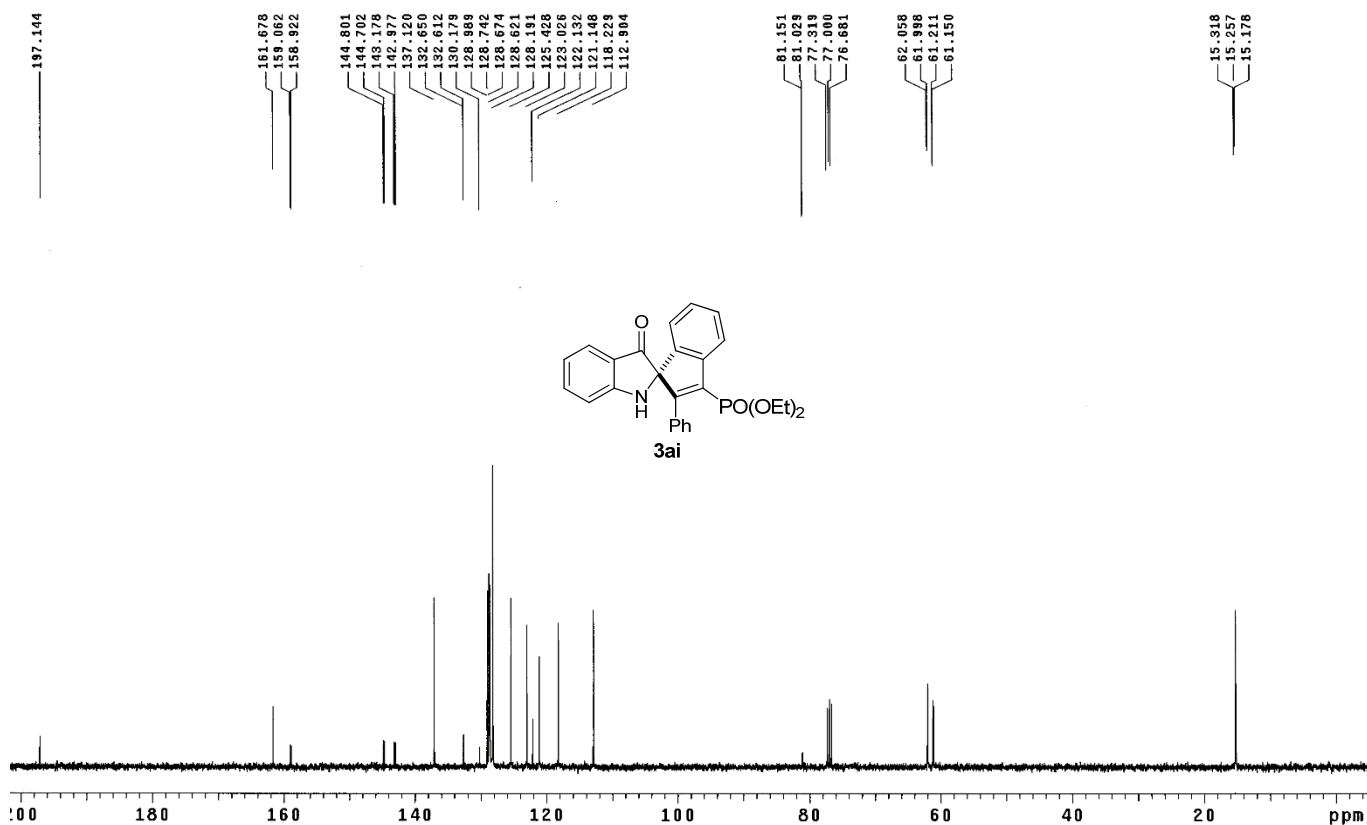
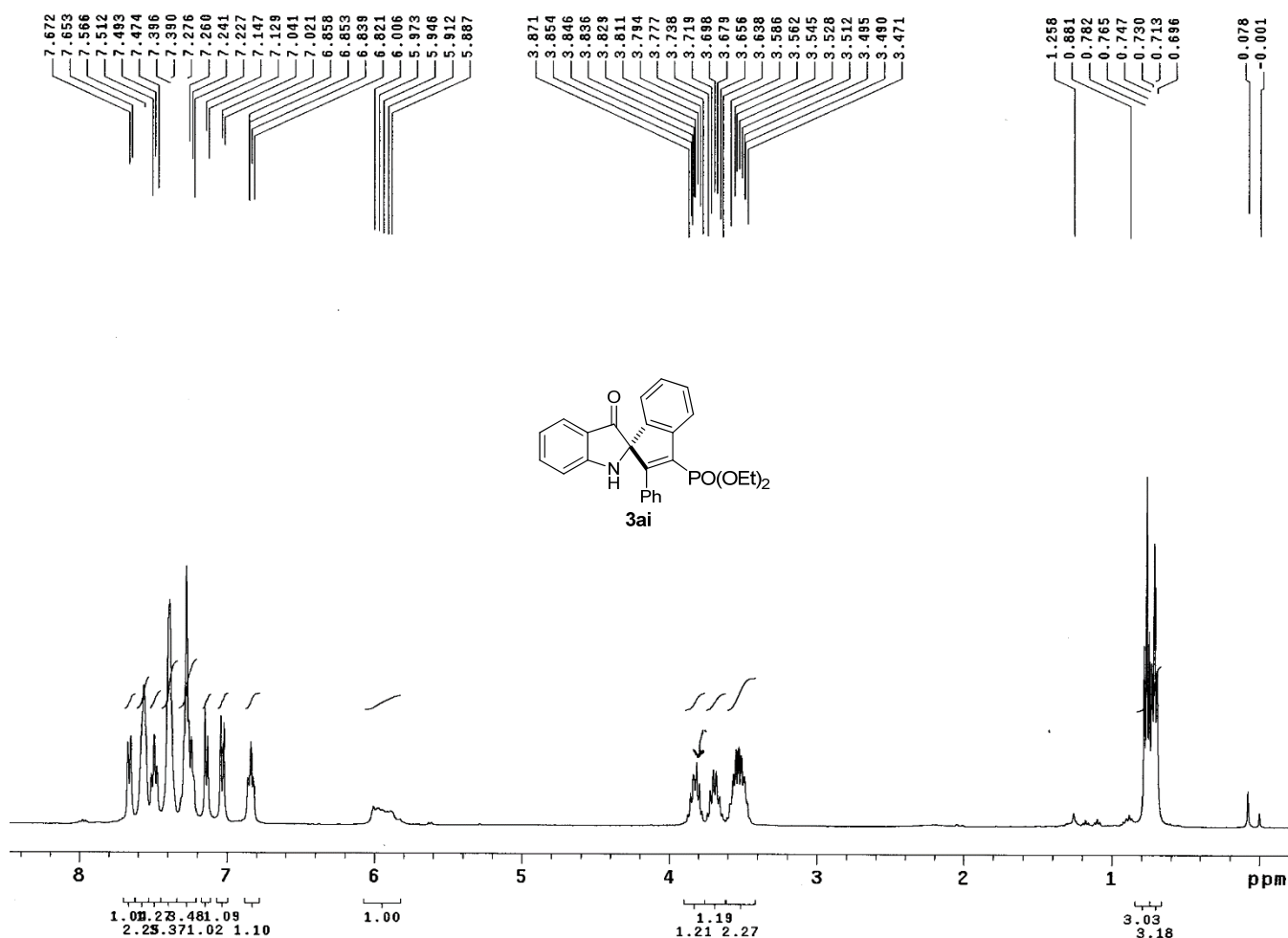


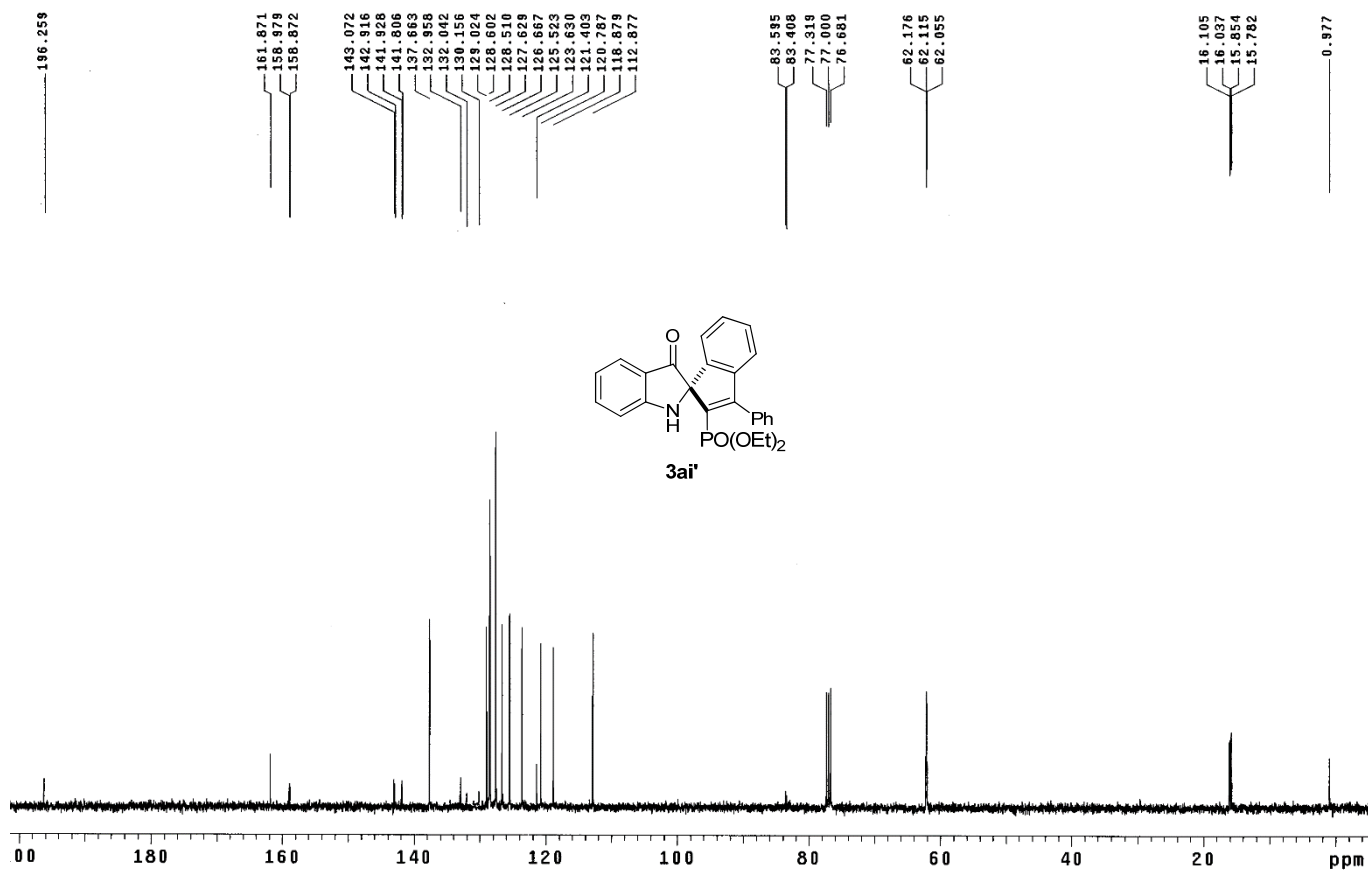
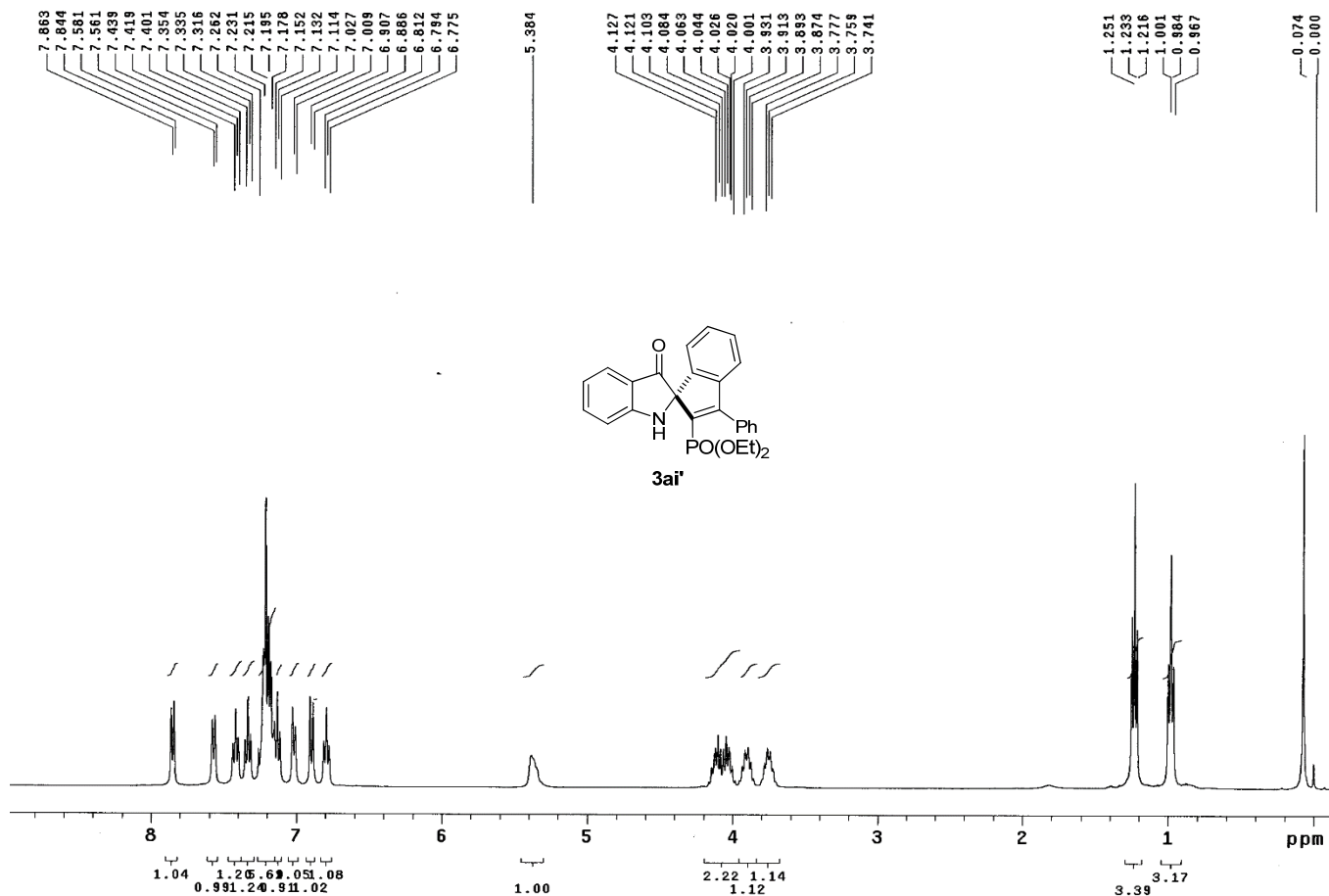


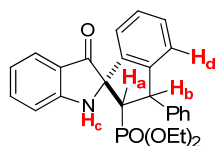
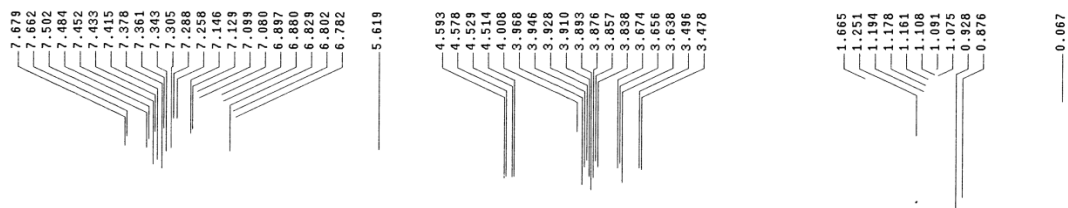




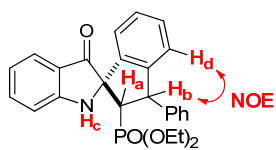
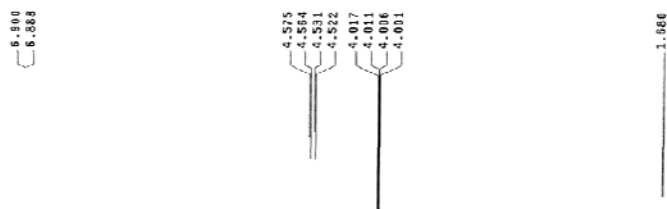
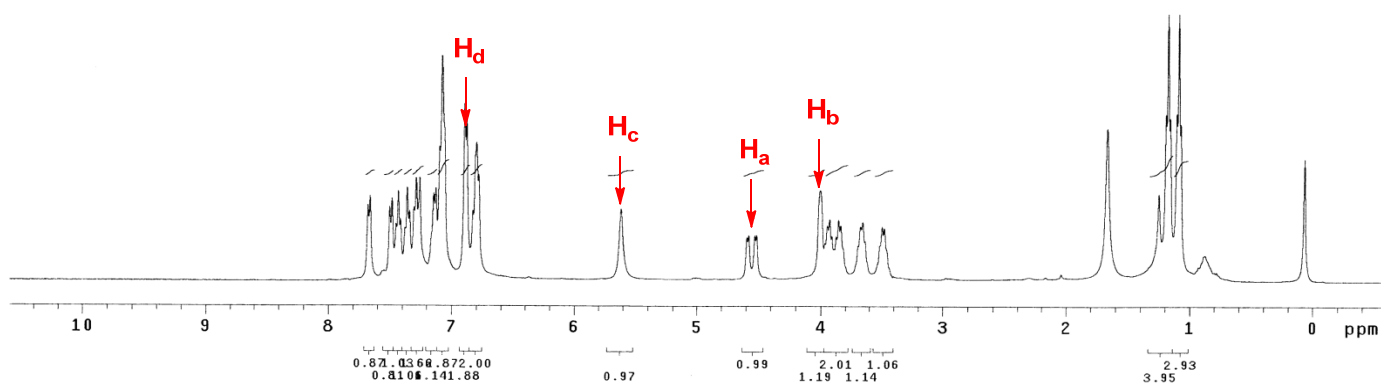




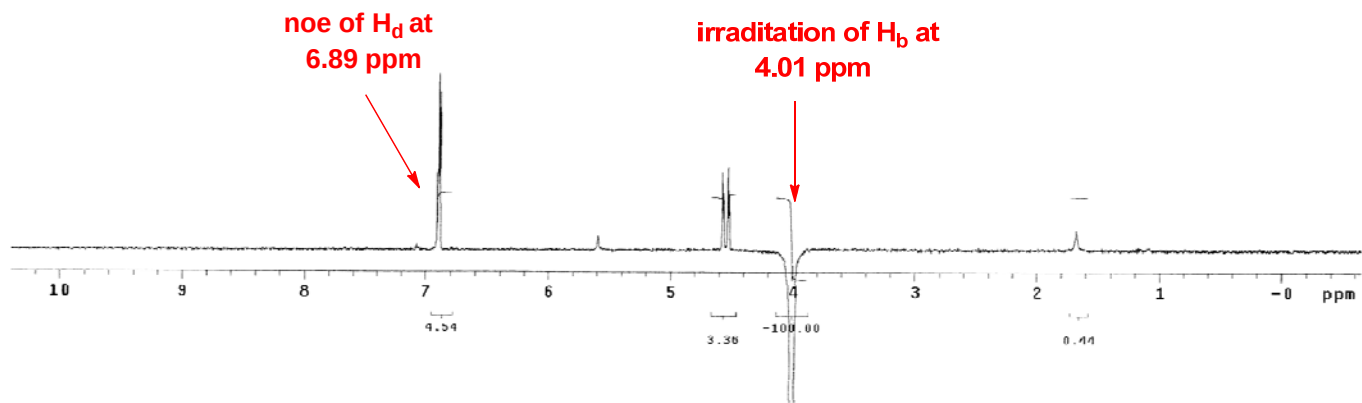


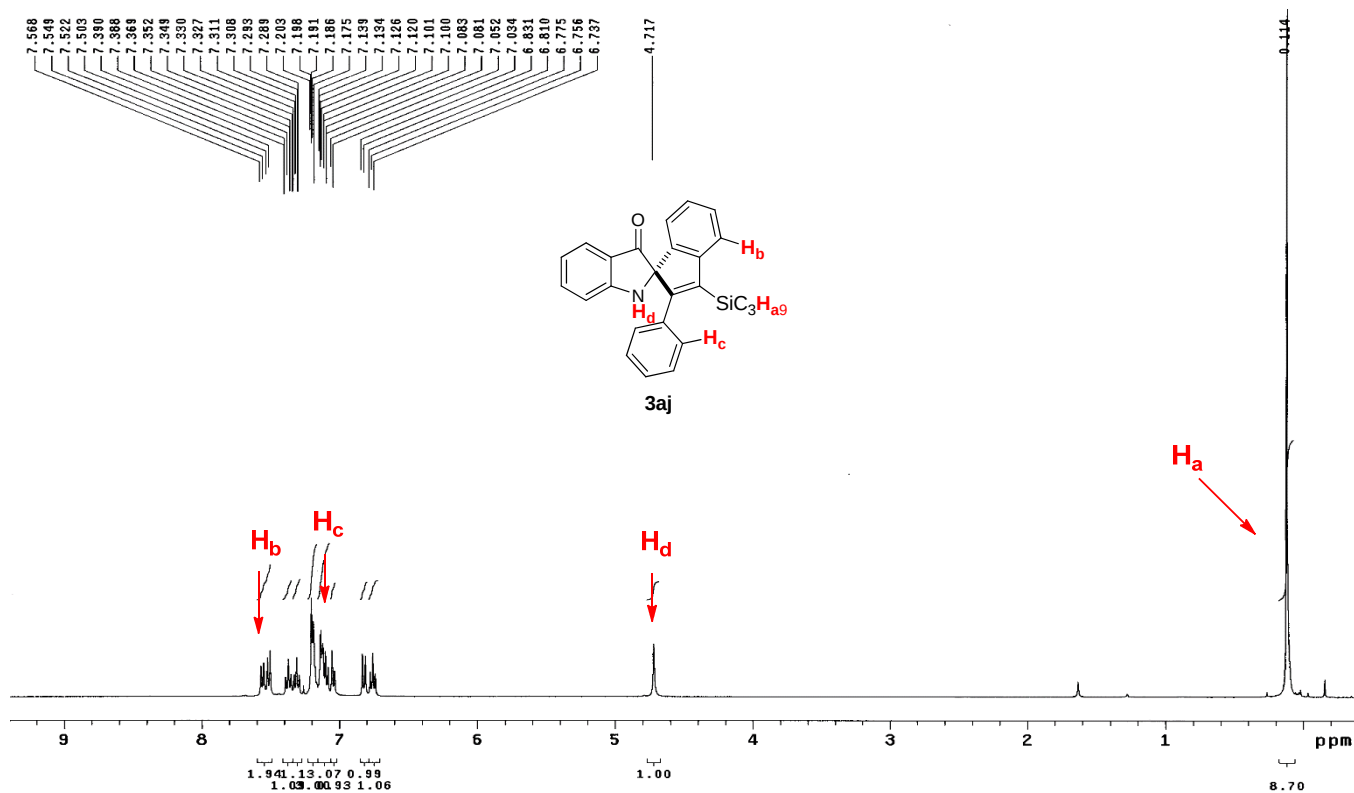
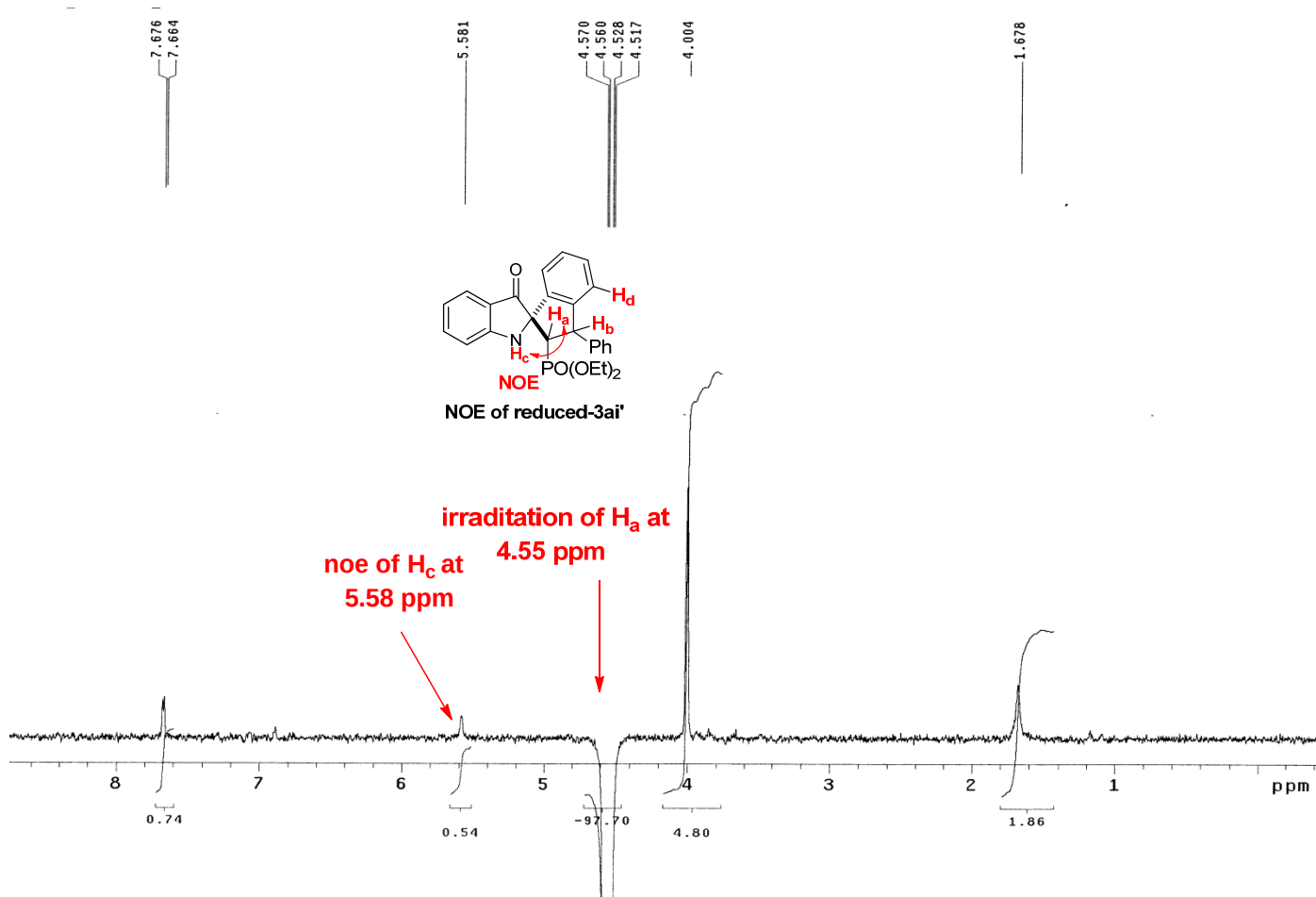


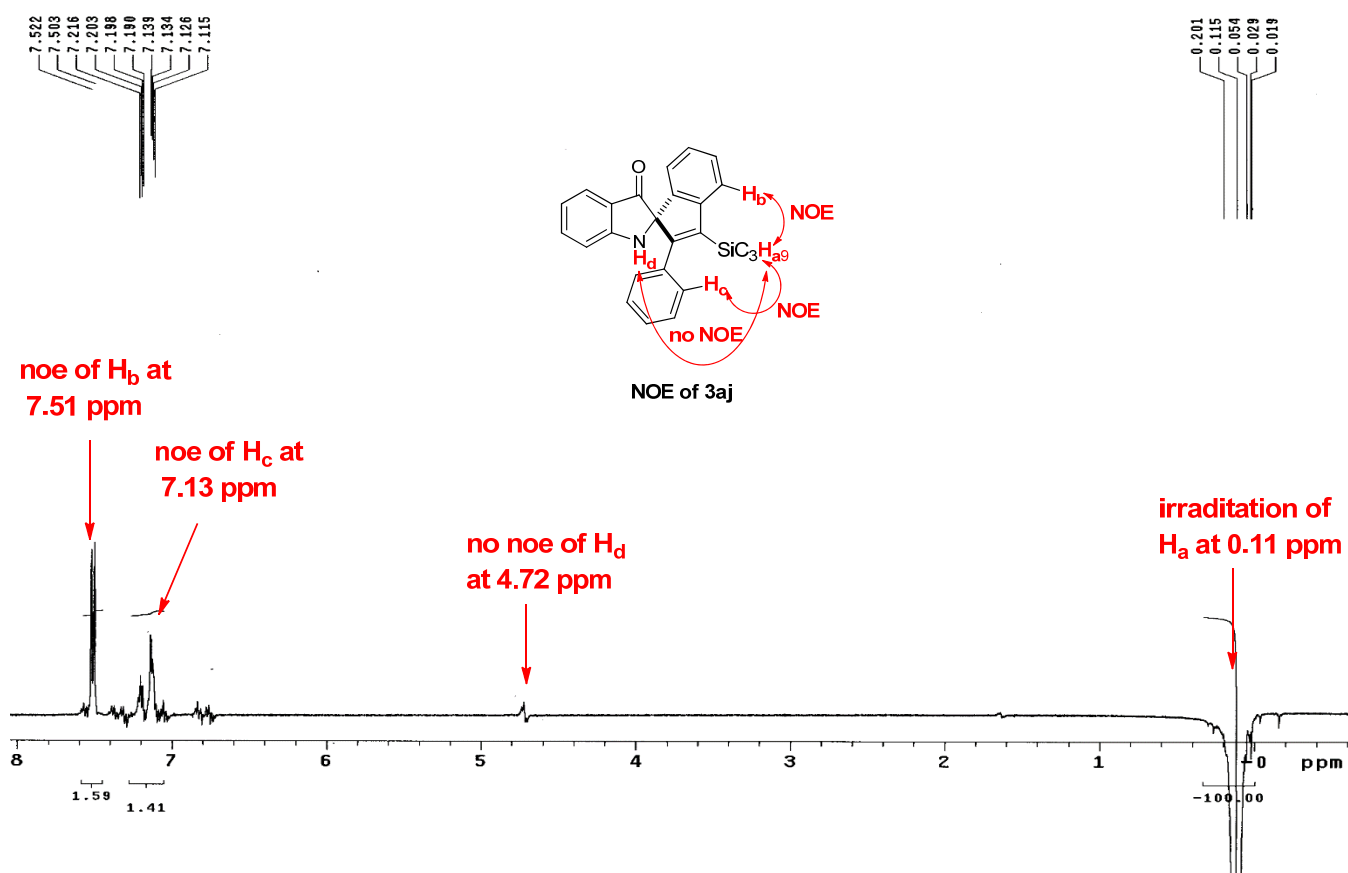
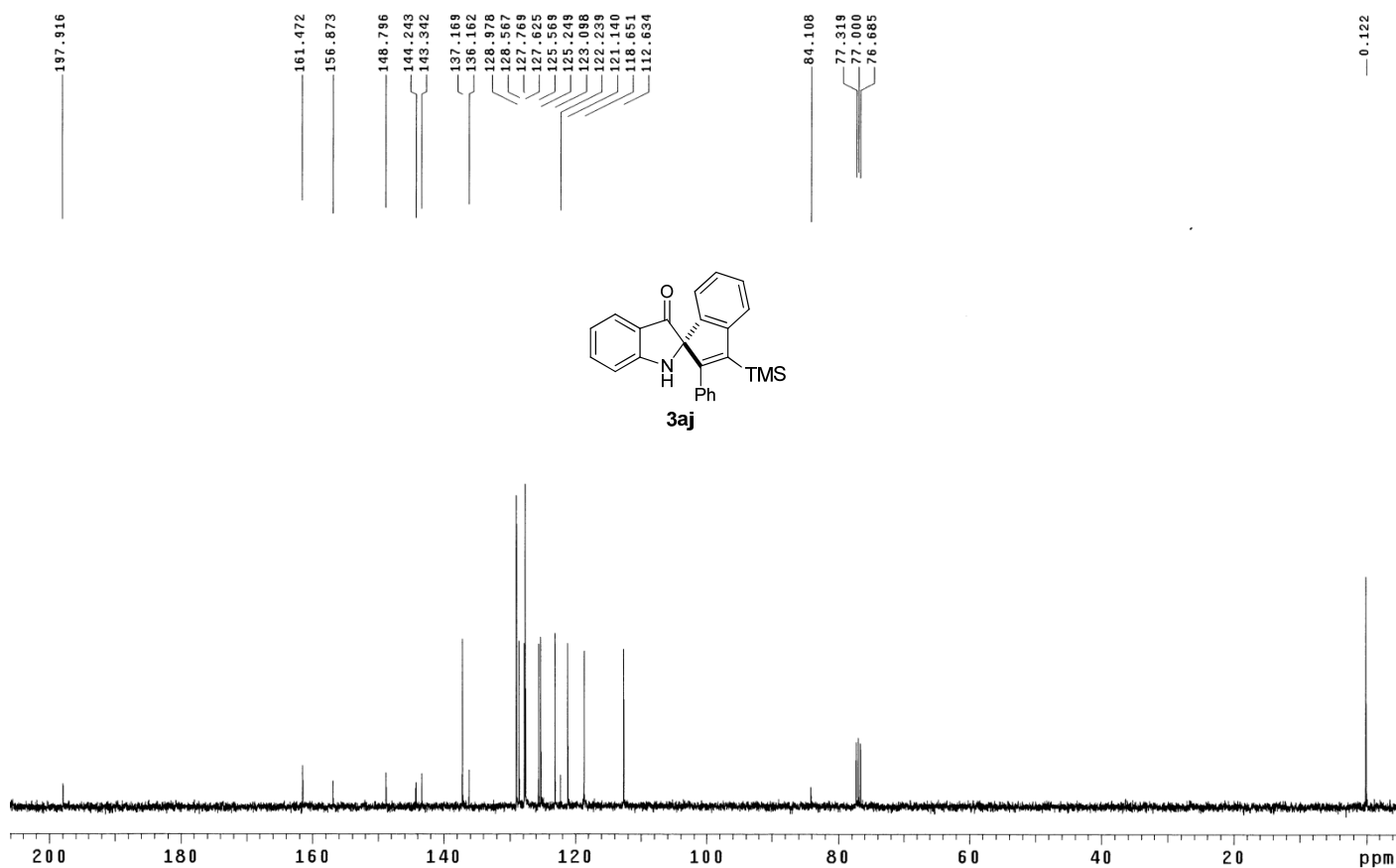
reduced-3ai'

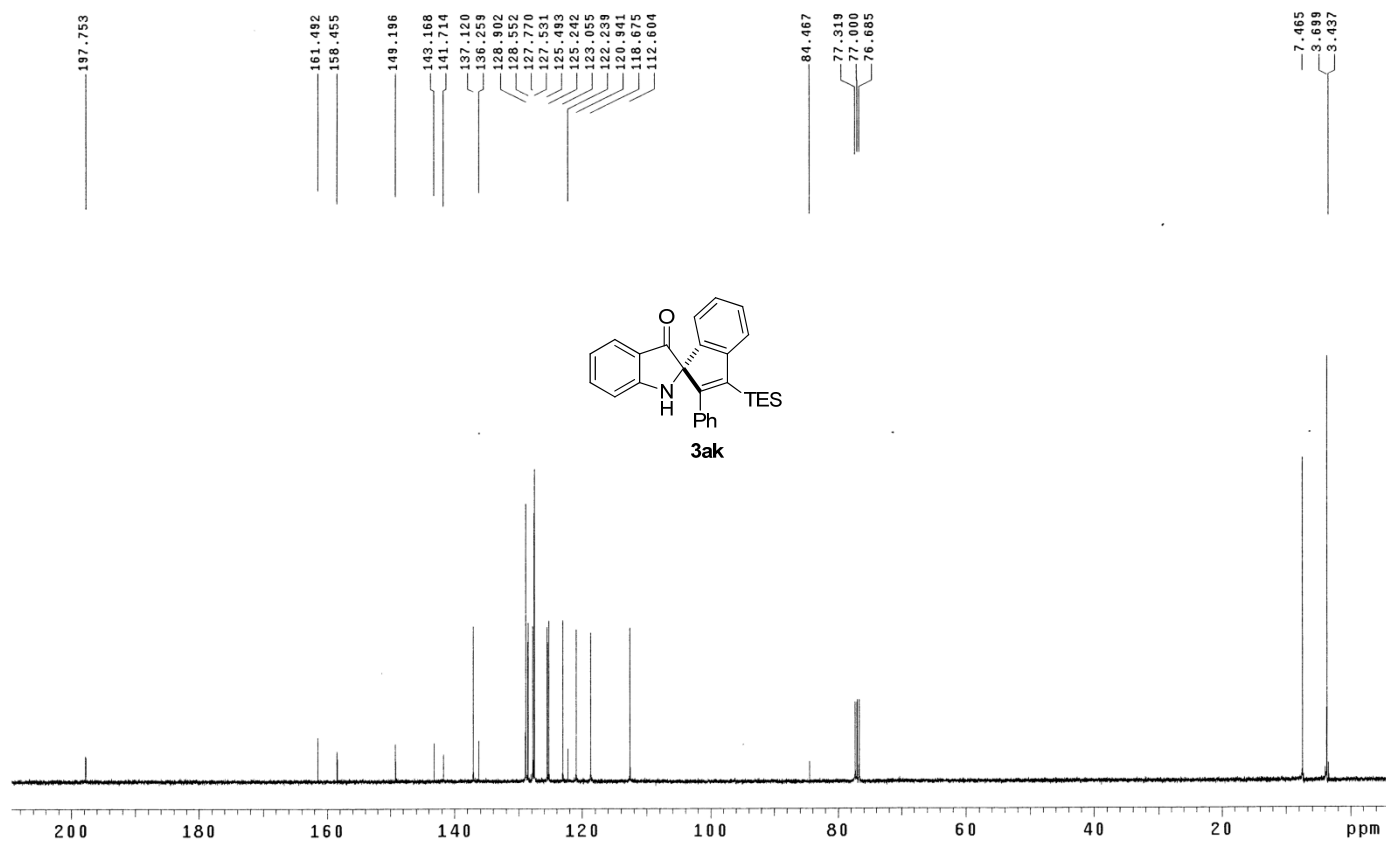
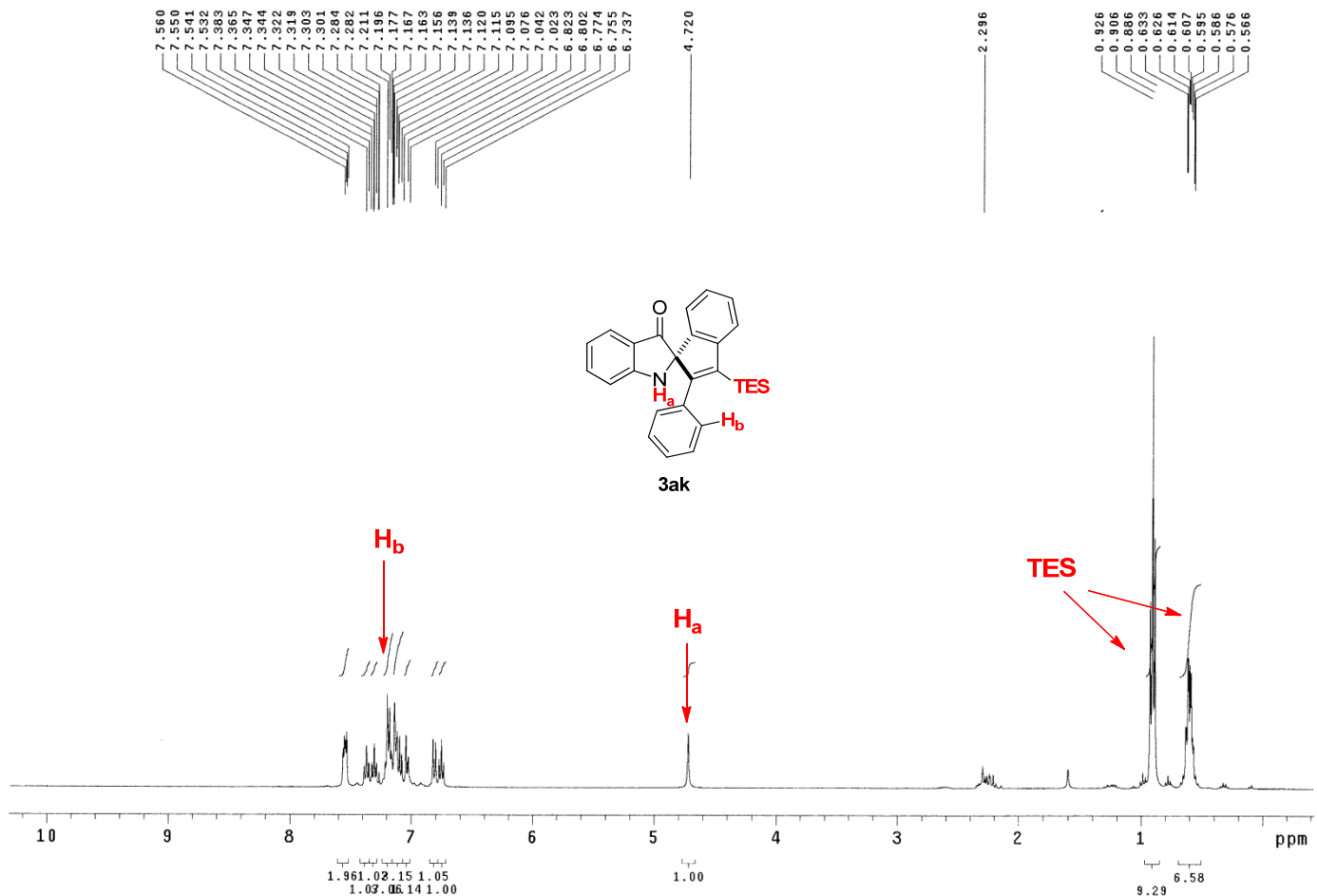


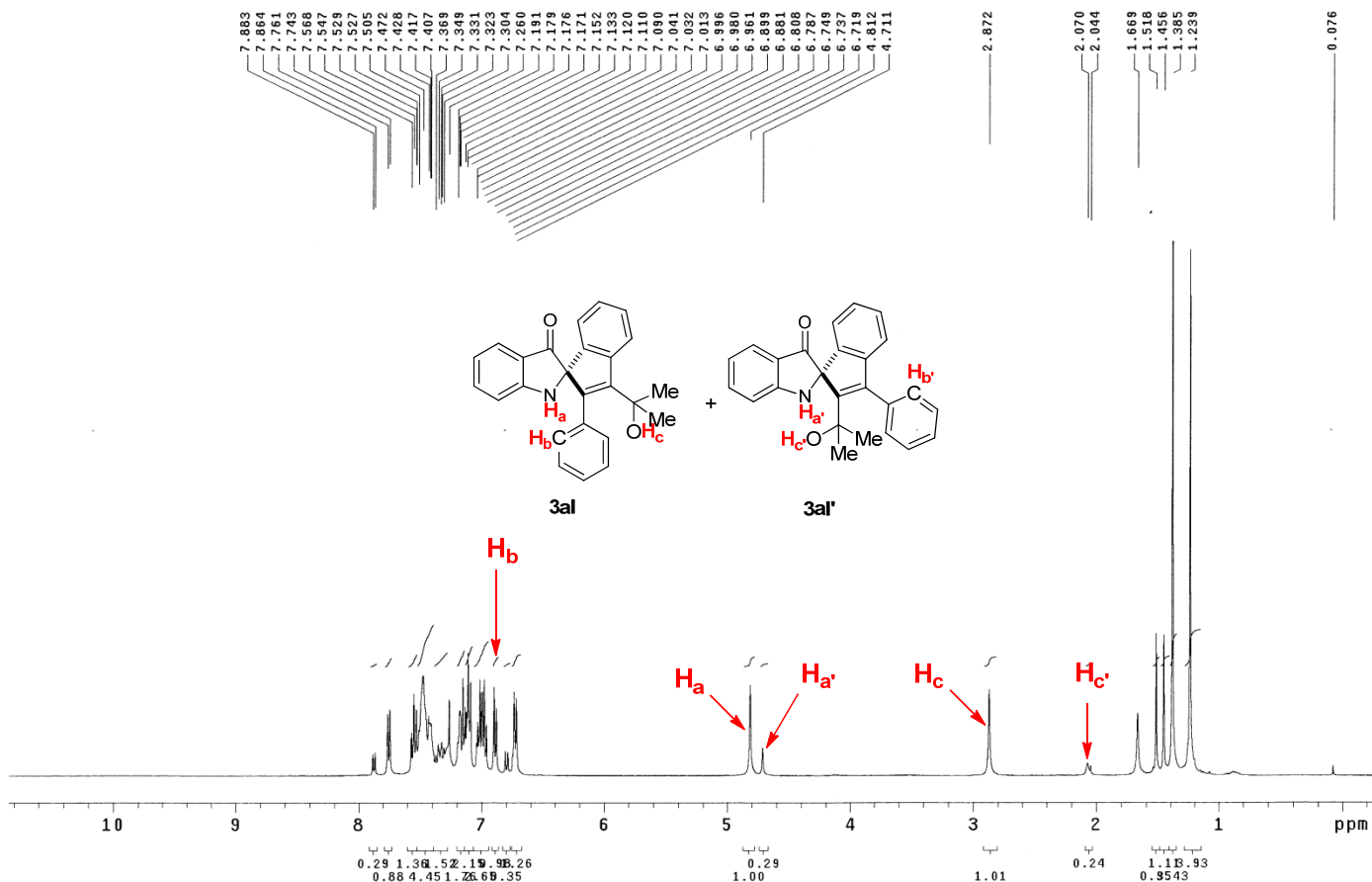
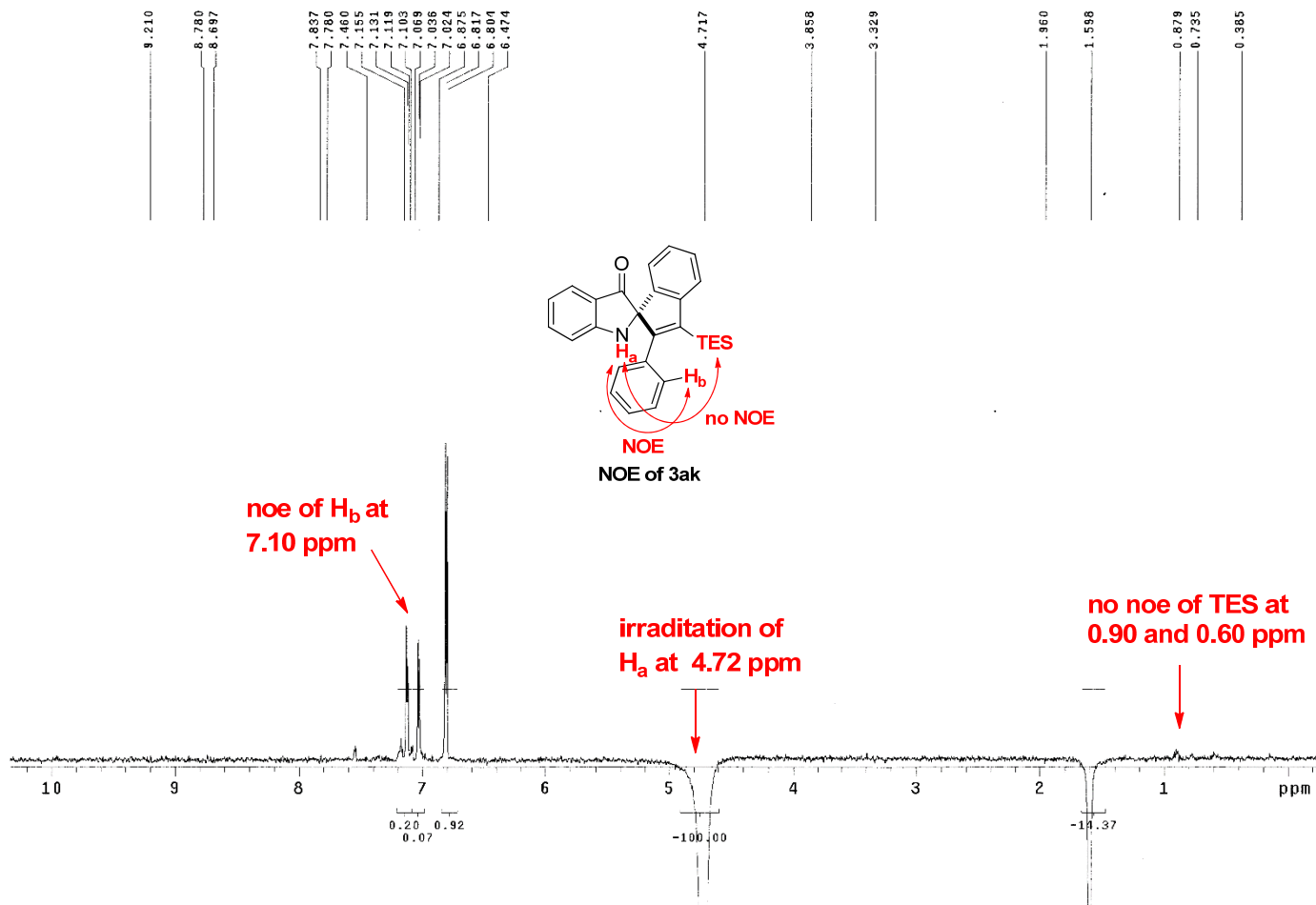
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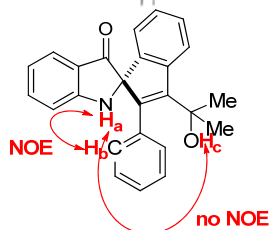
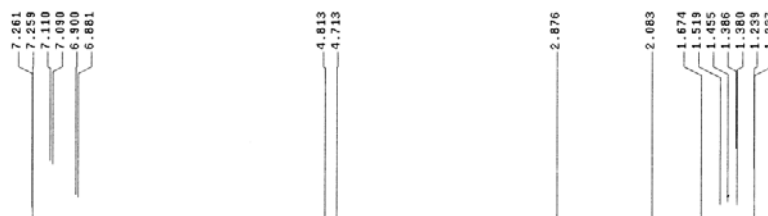




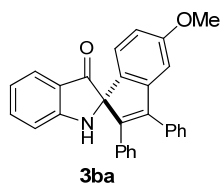
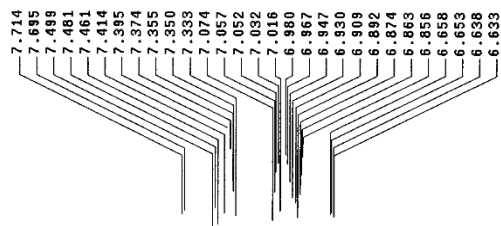
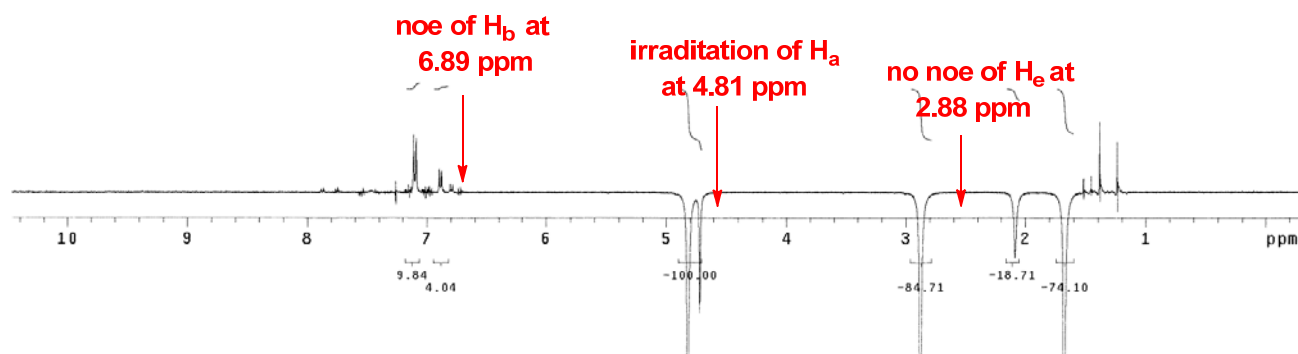




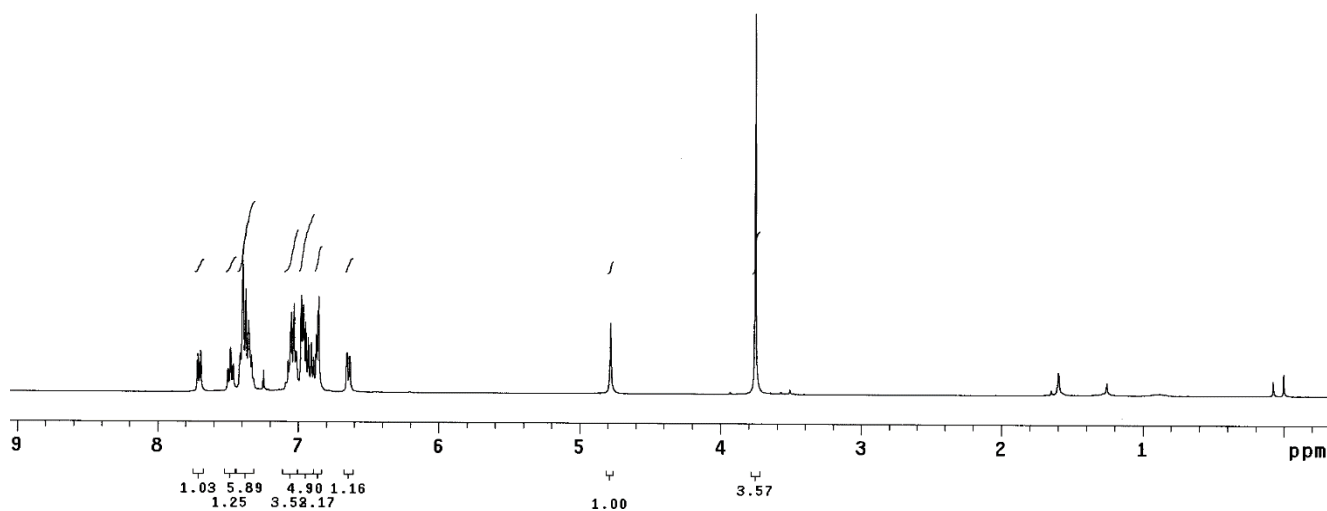


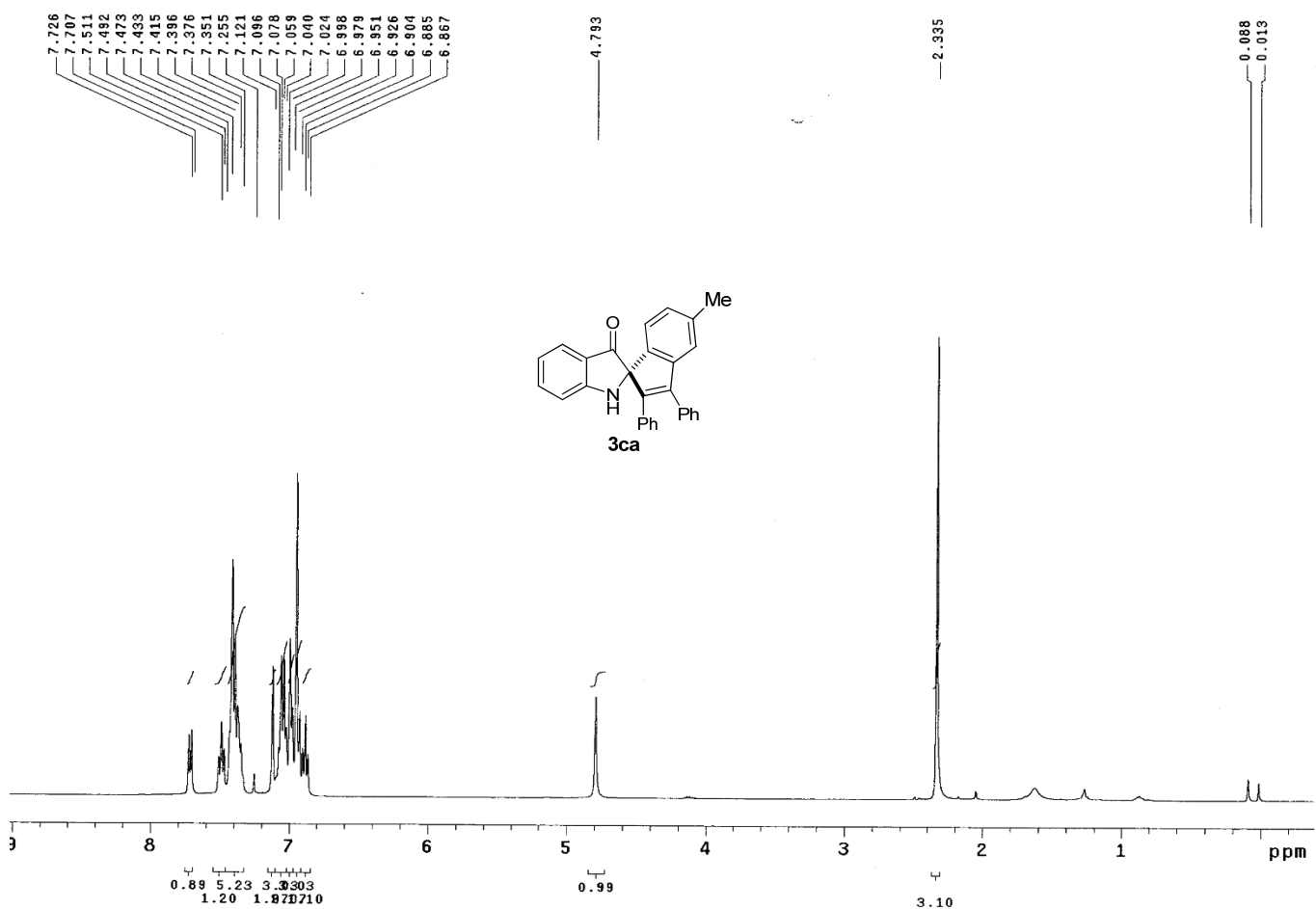
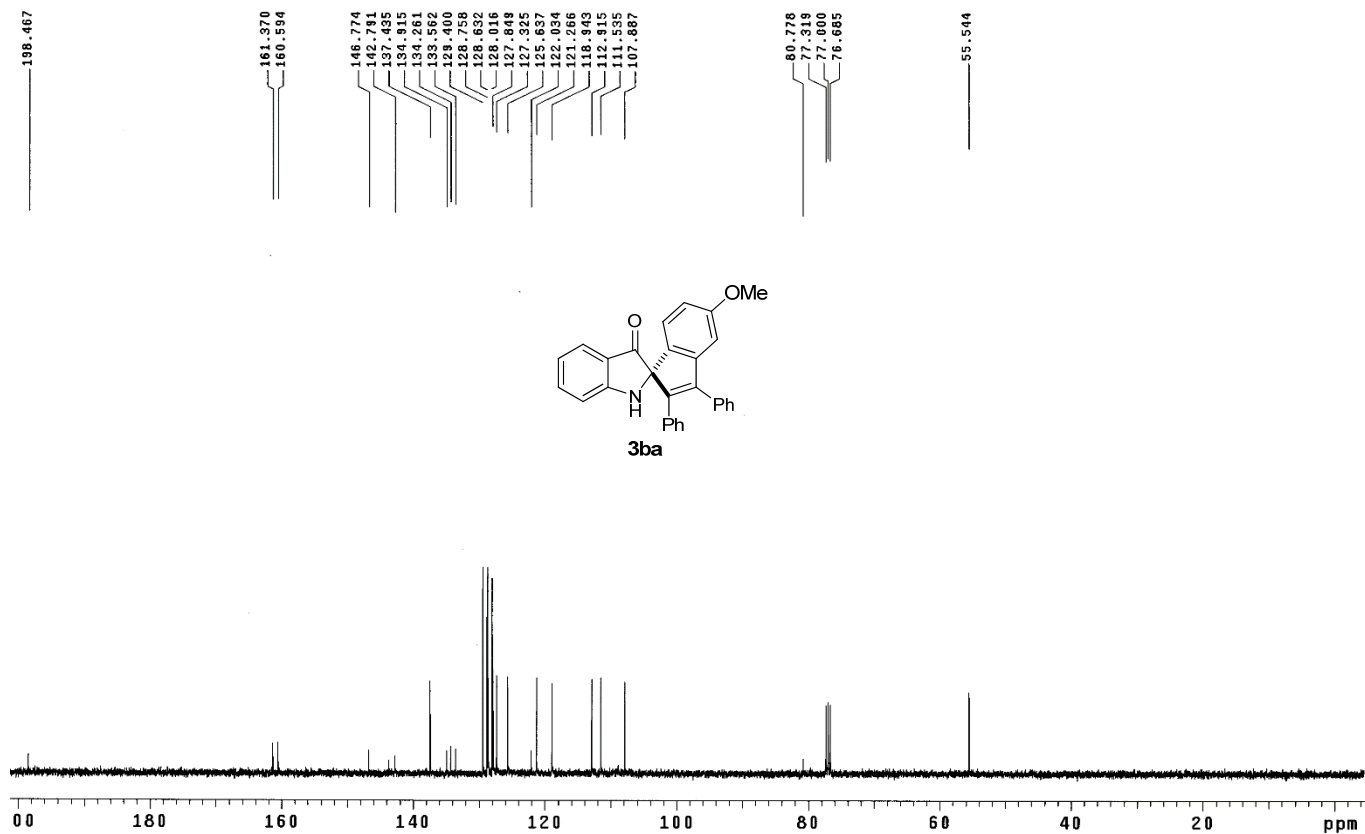


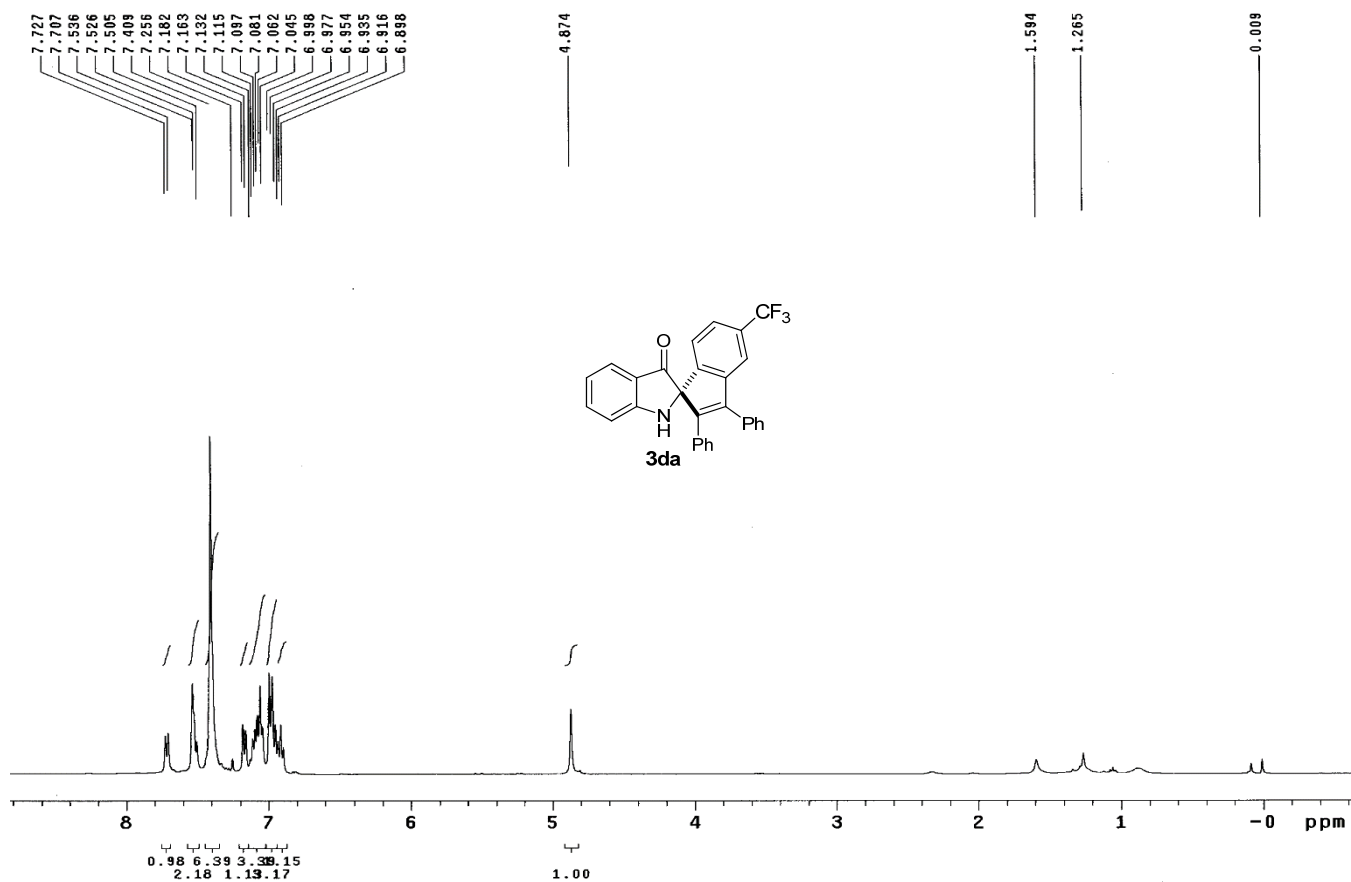
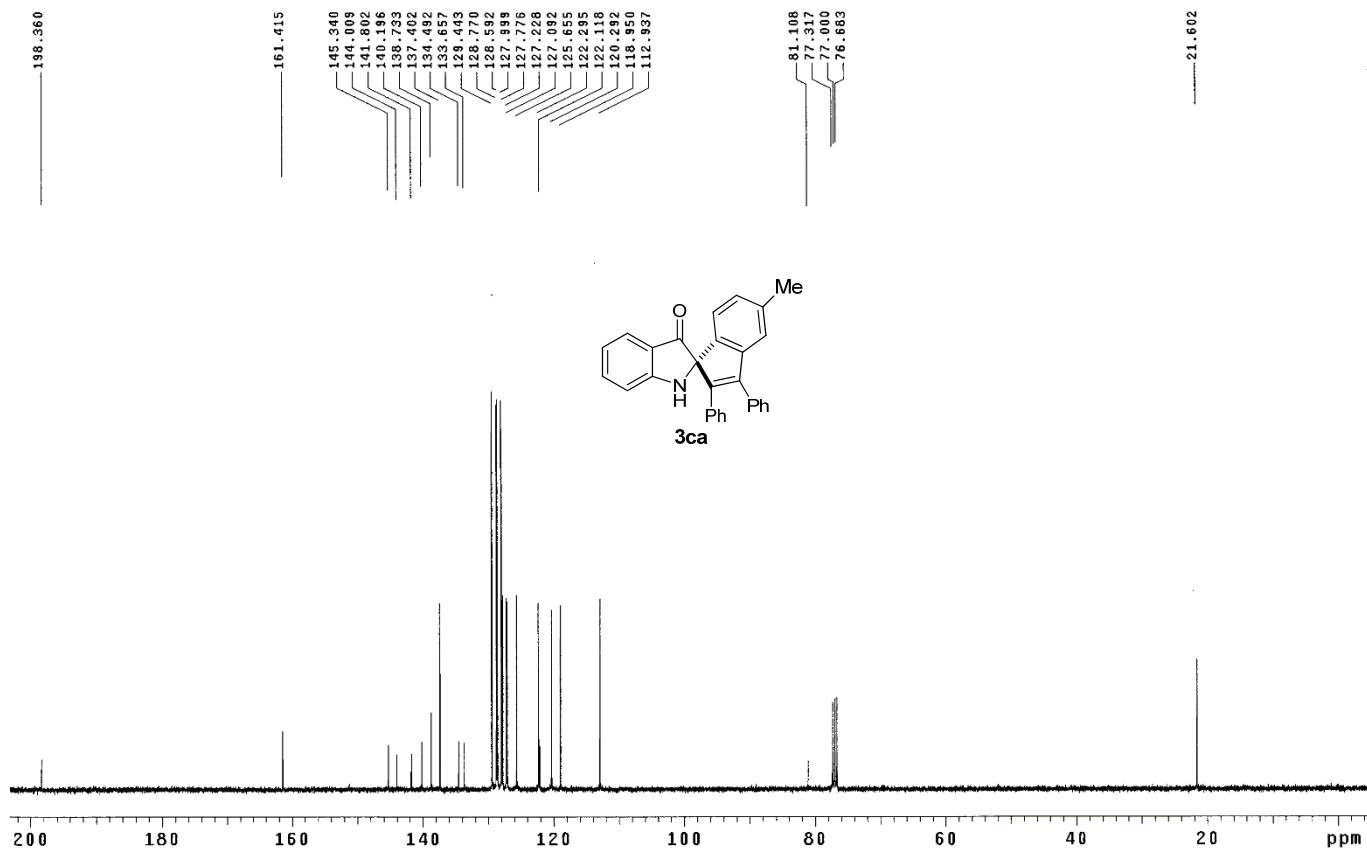
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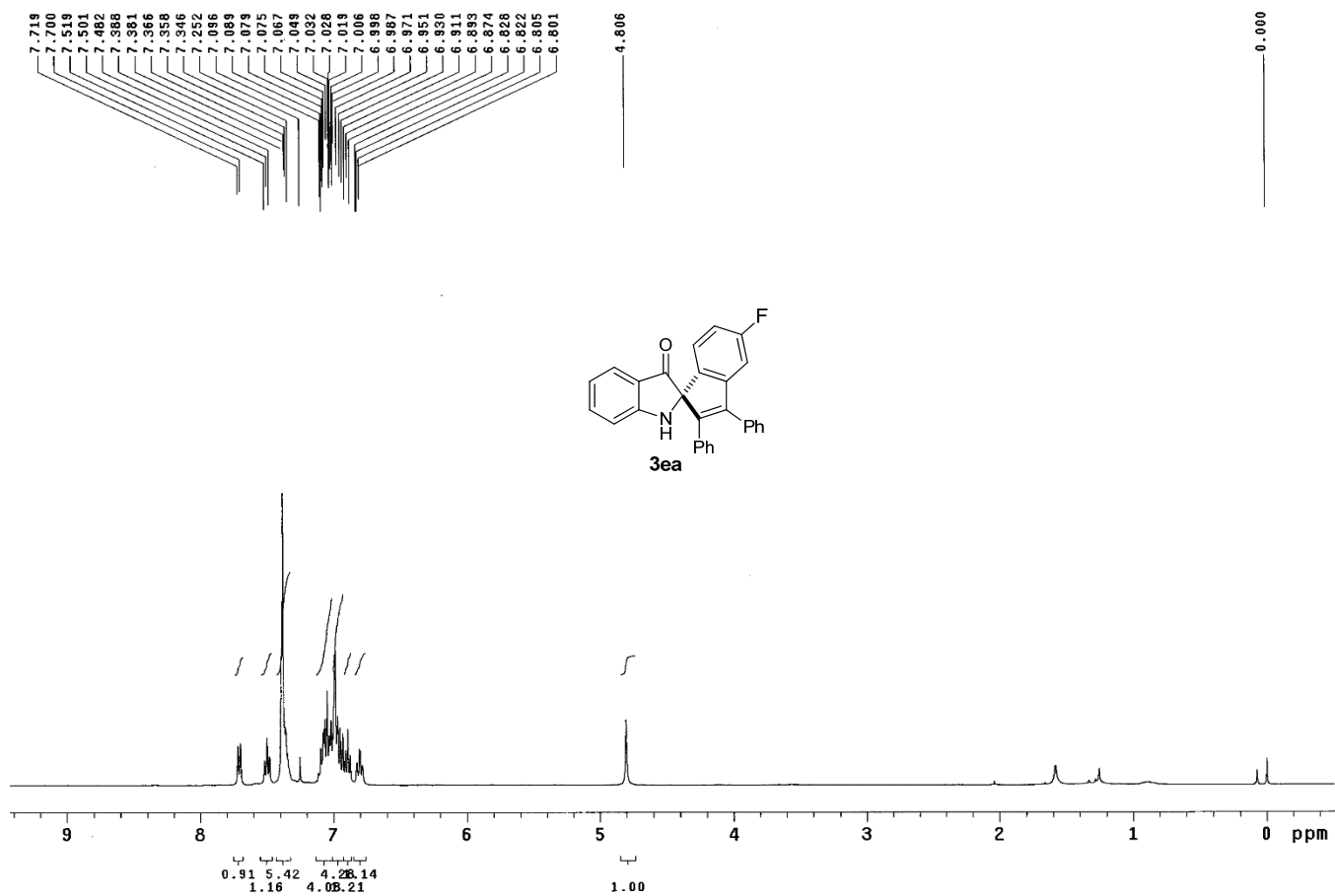
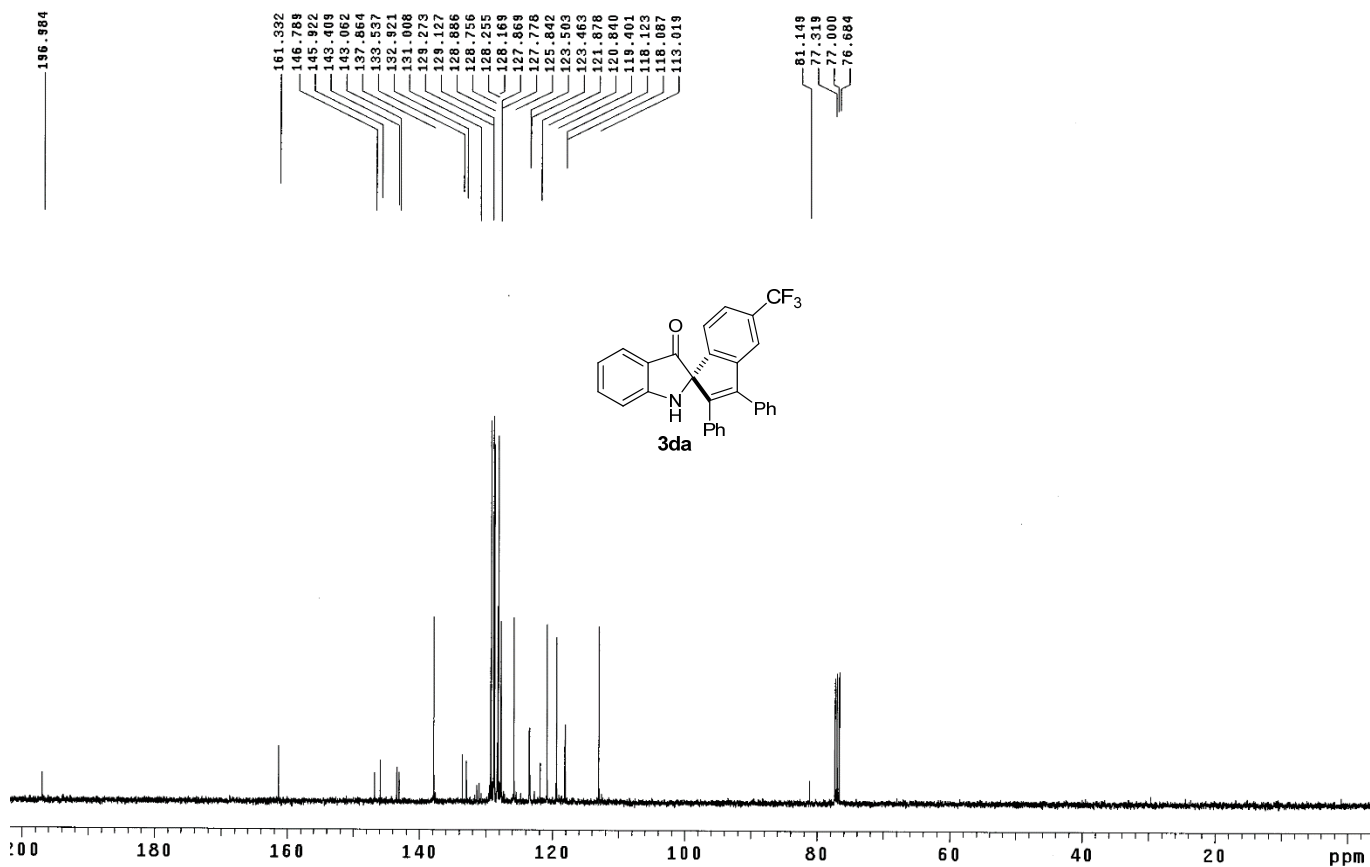


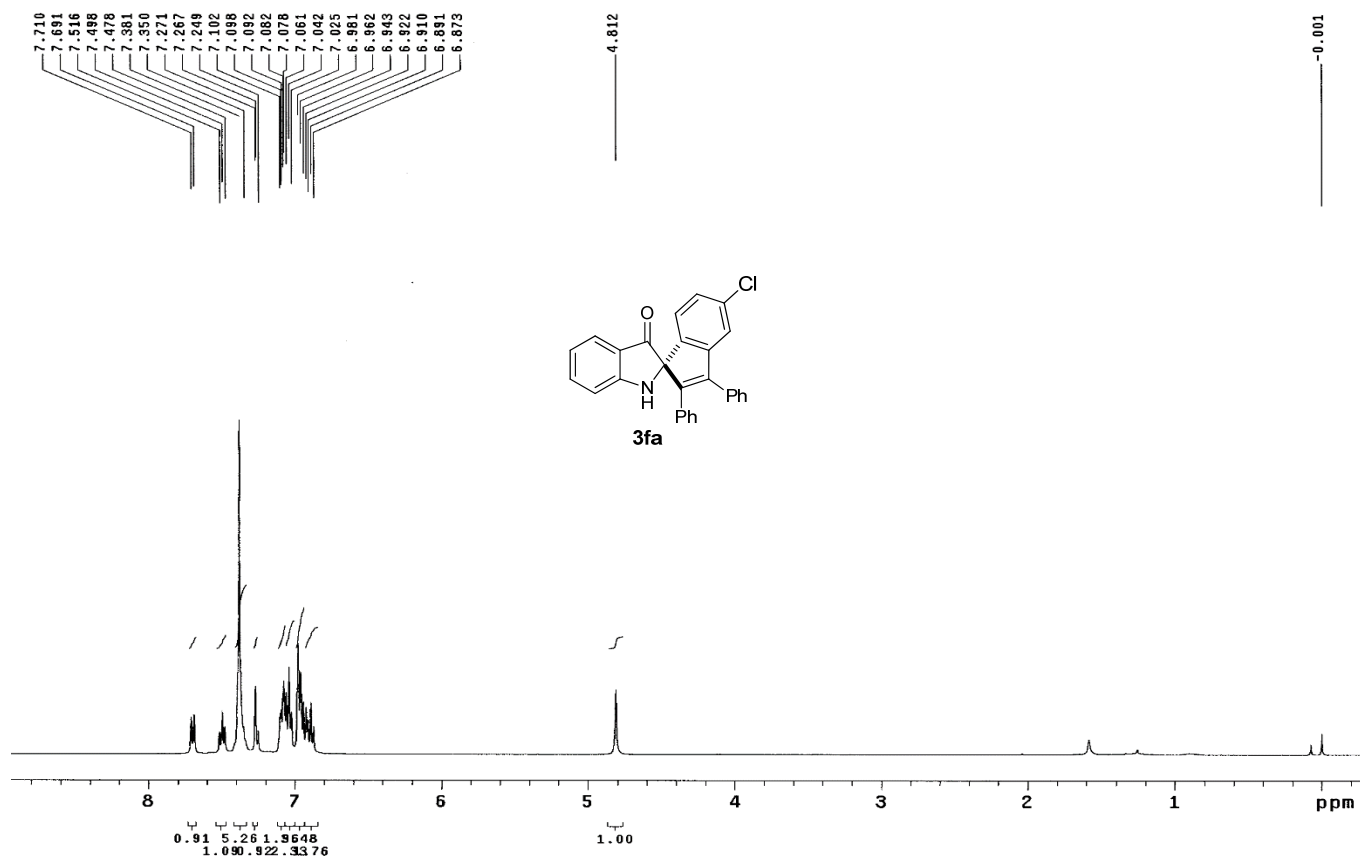
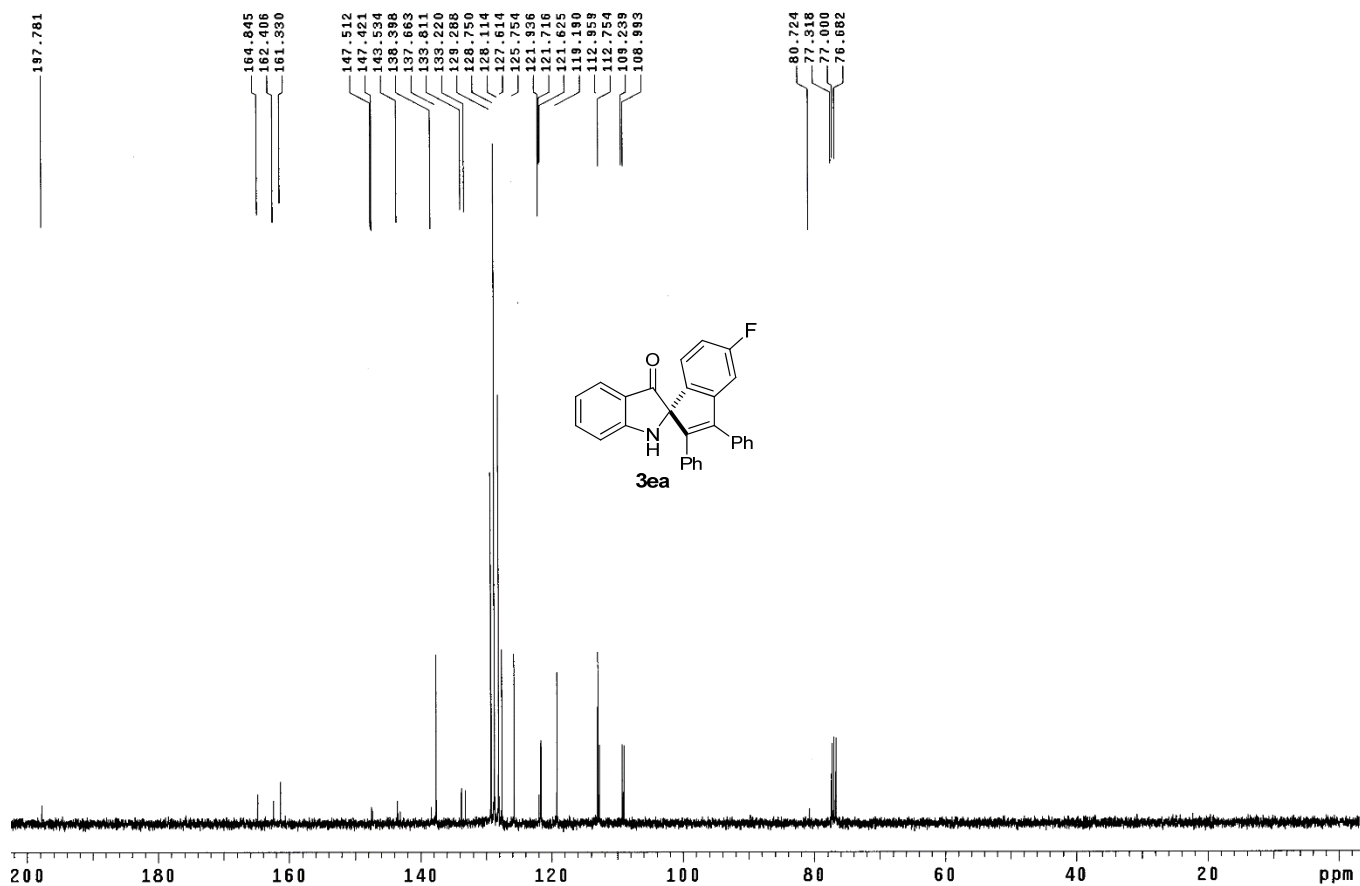
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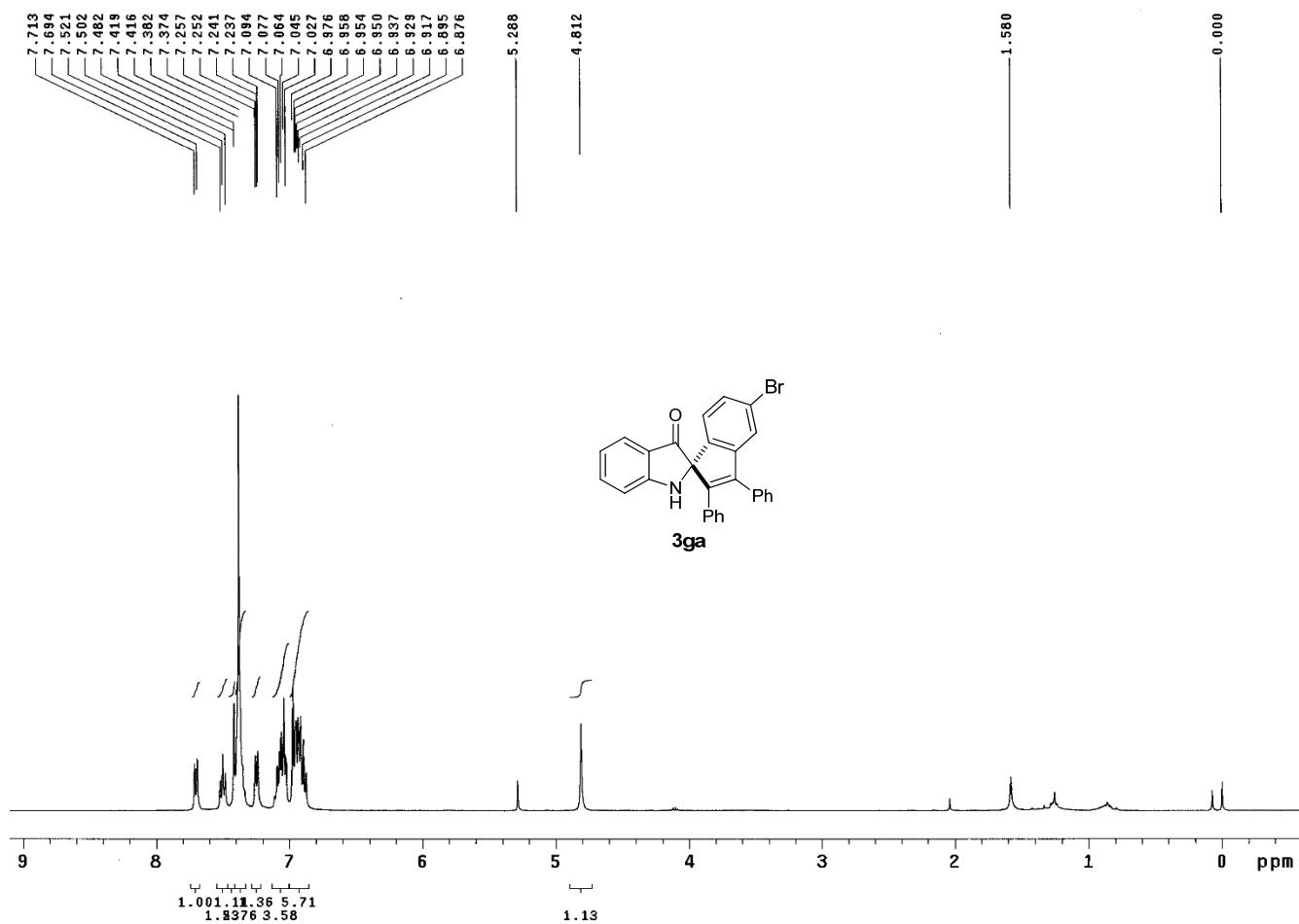
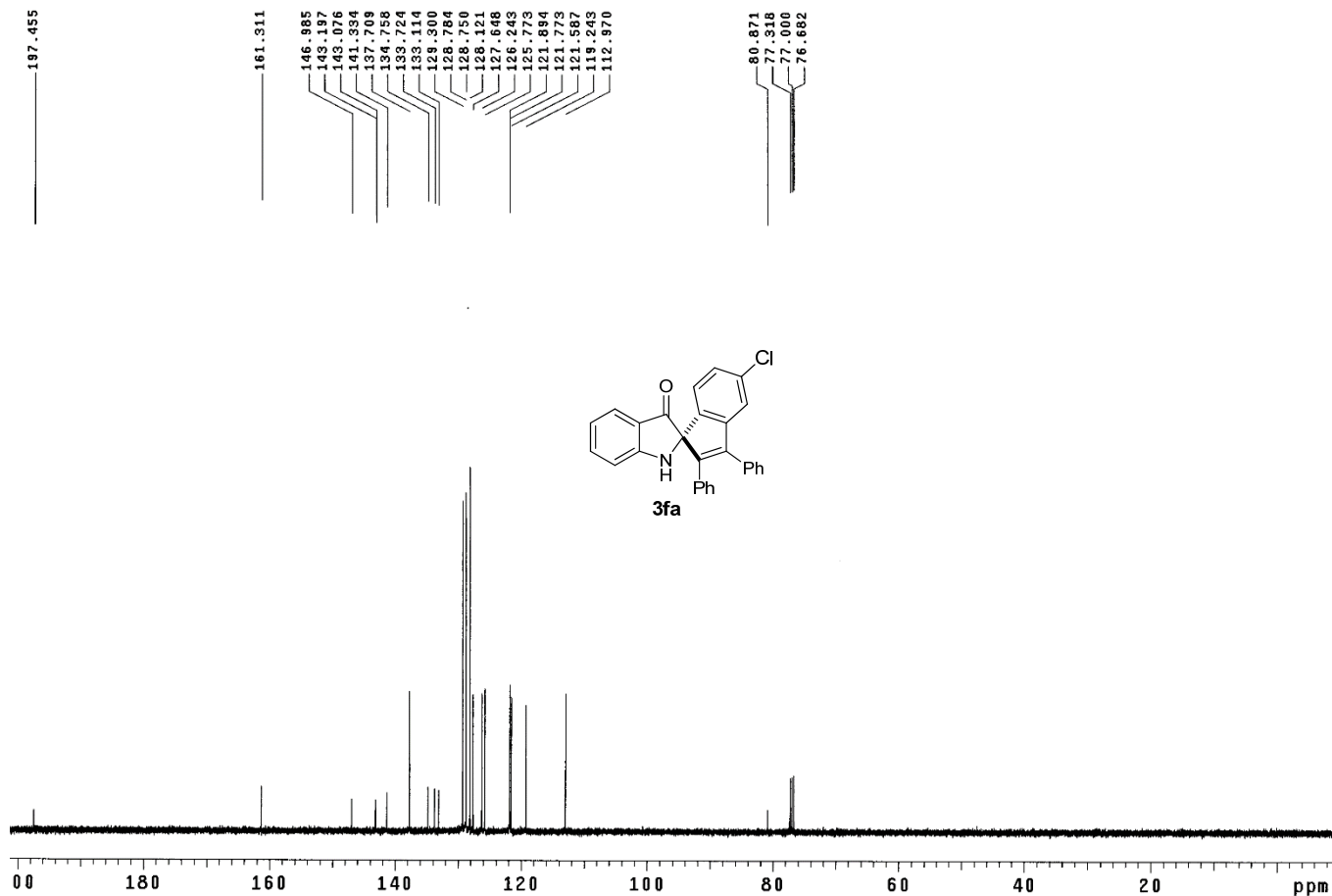


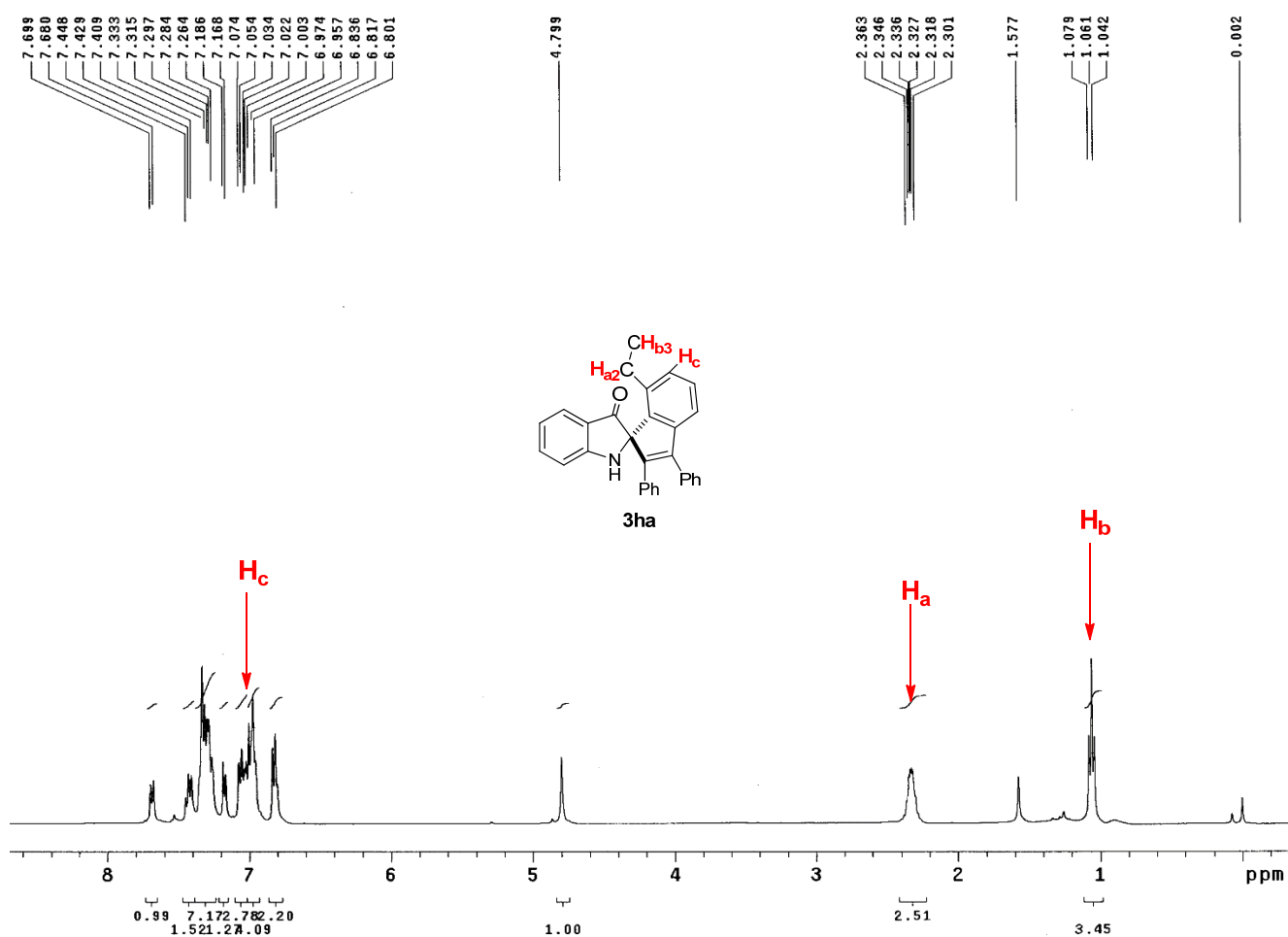
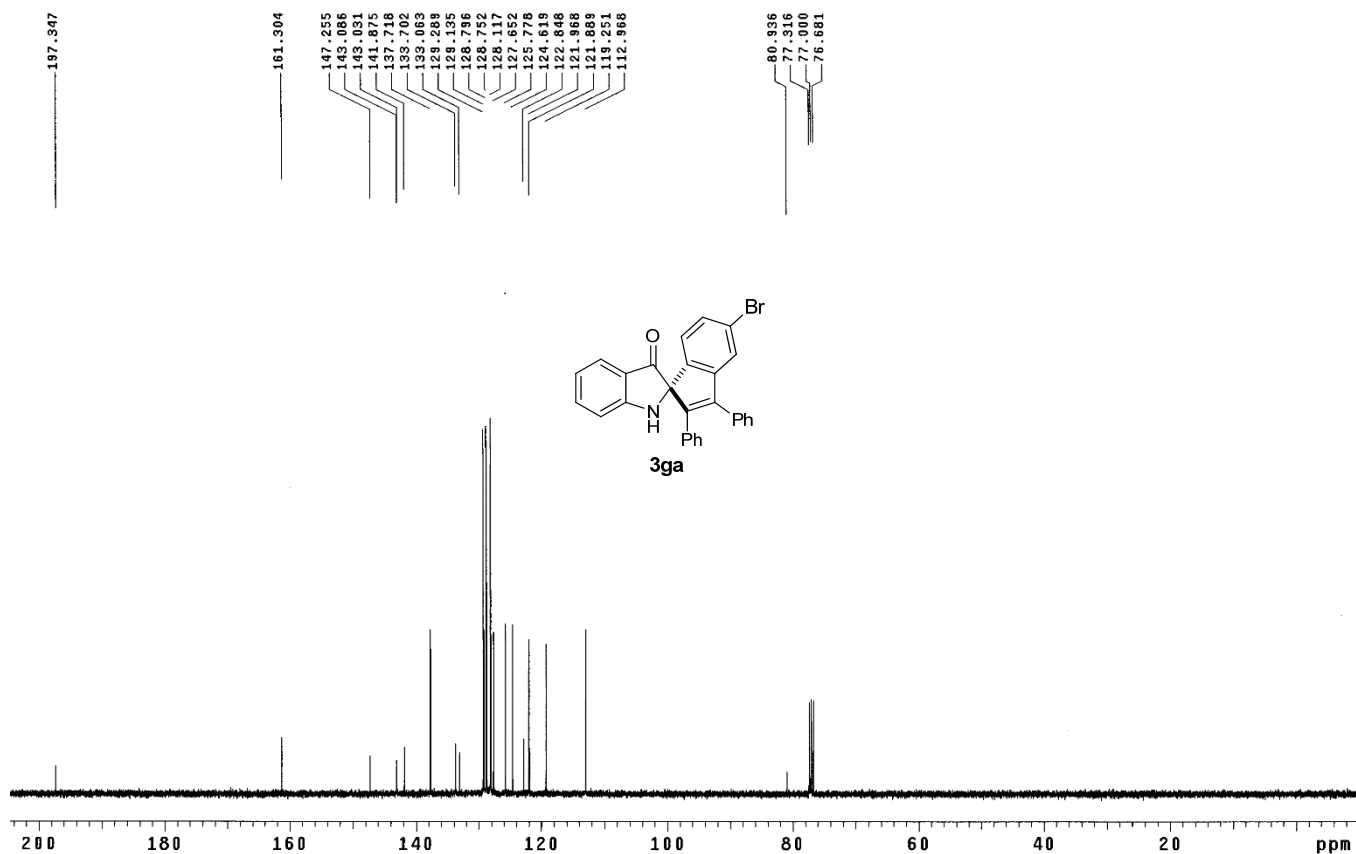


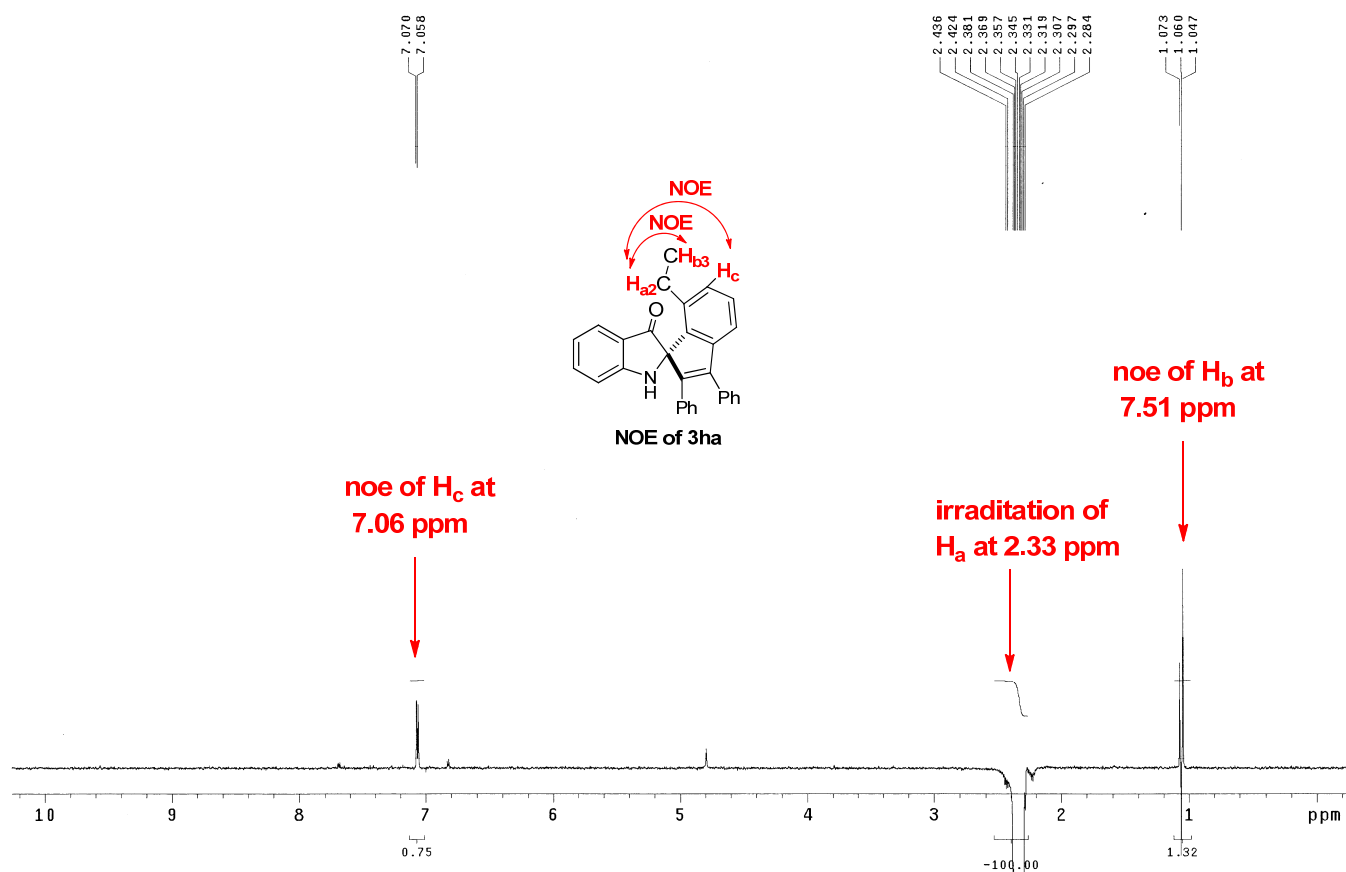
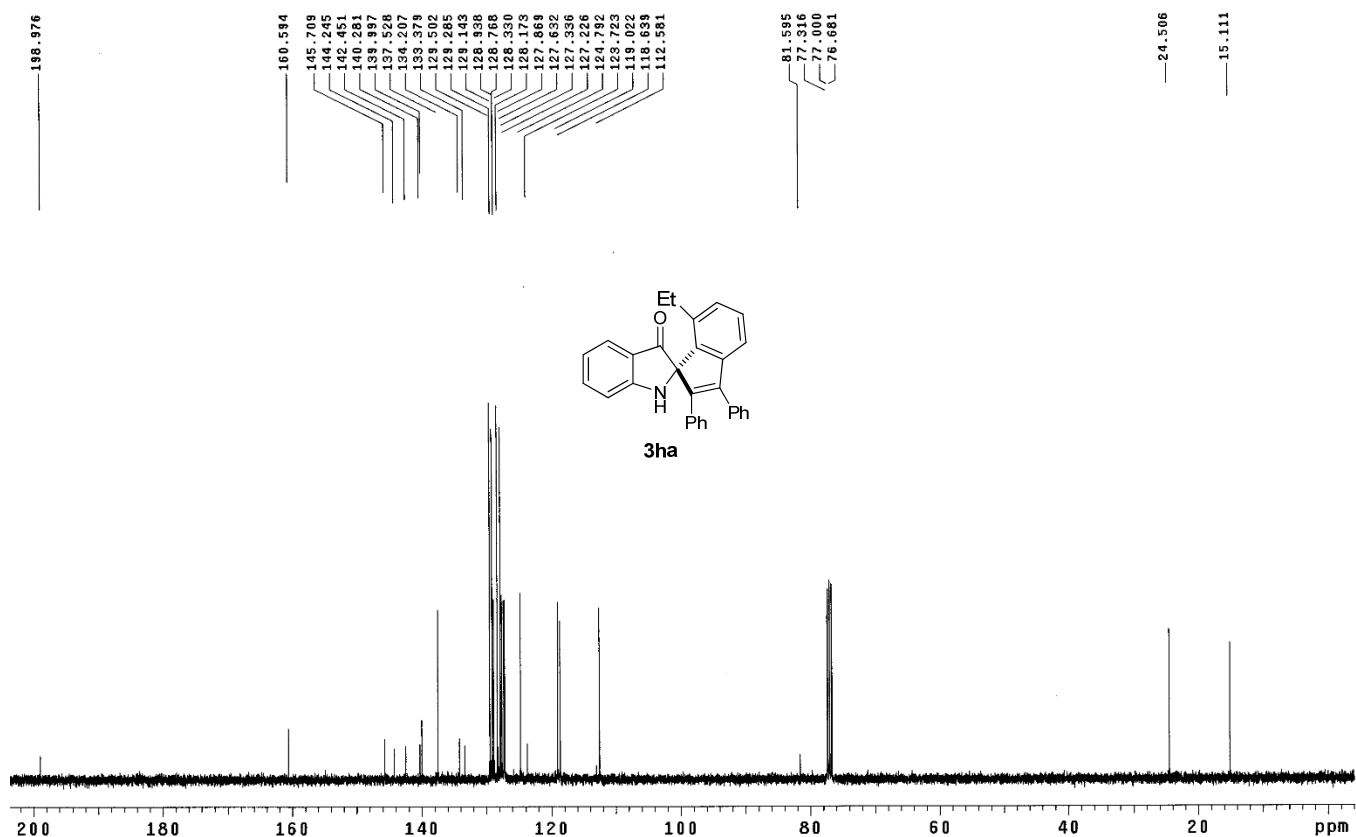


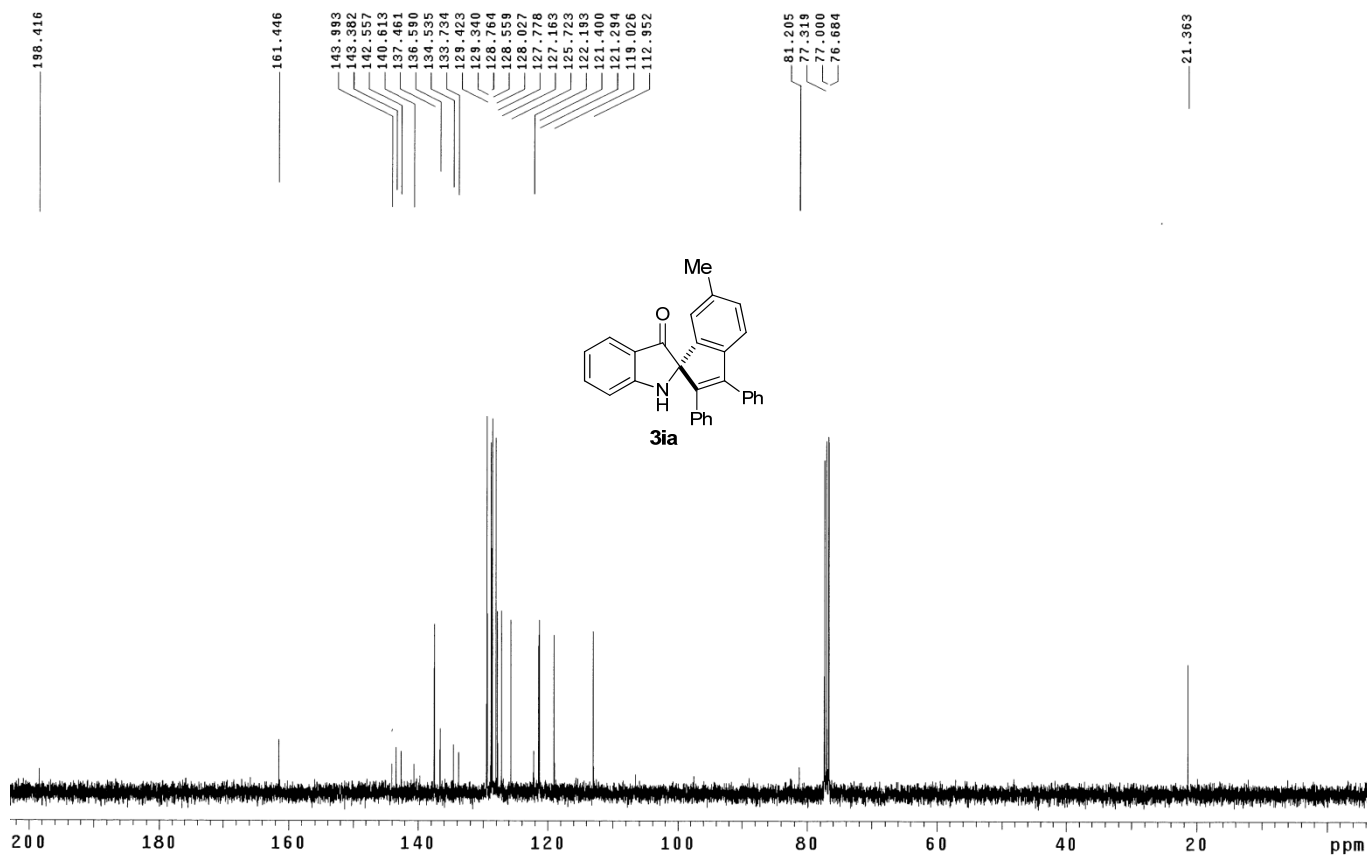
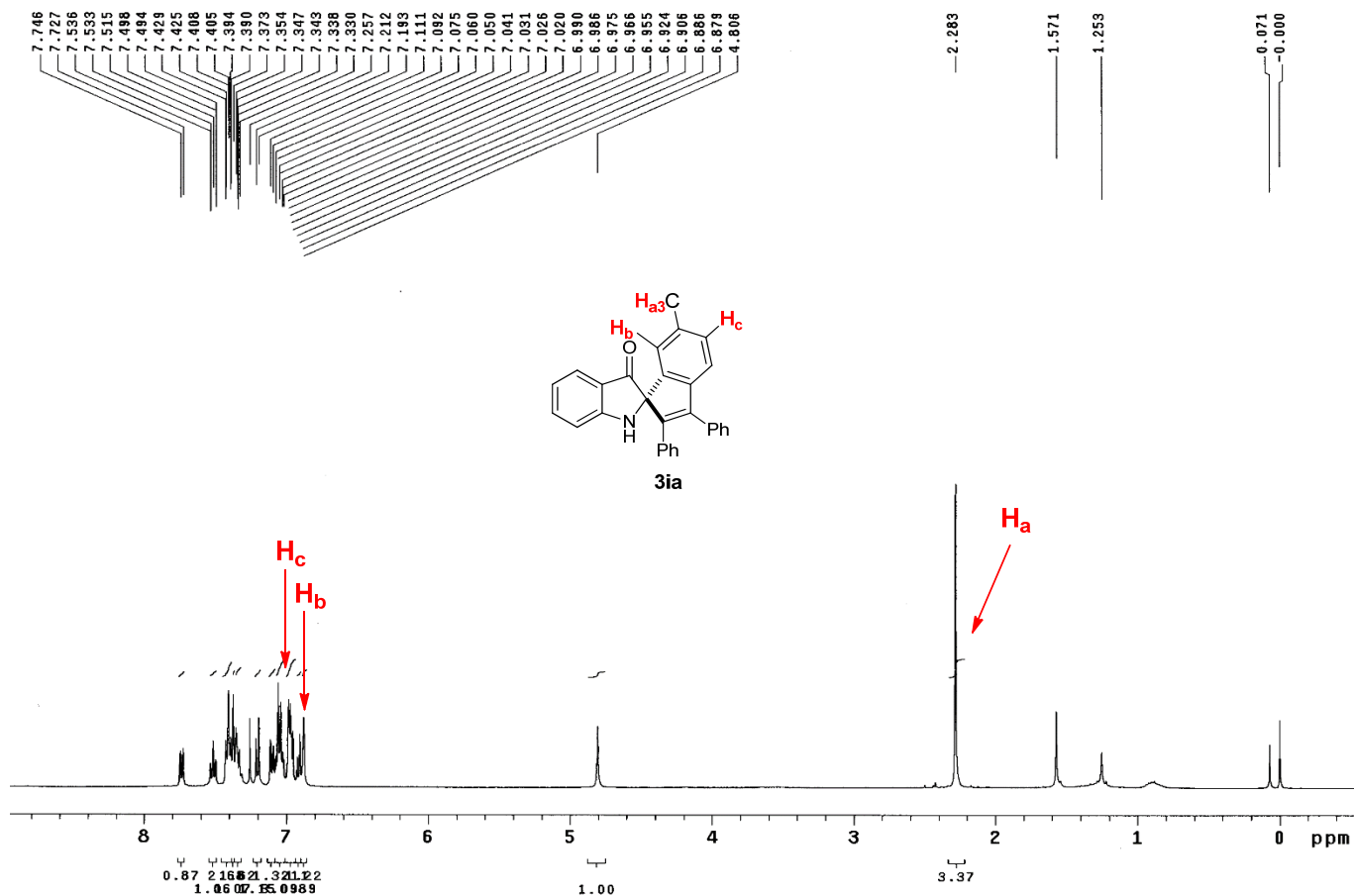


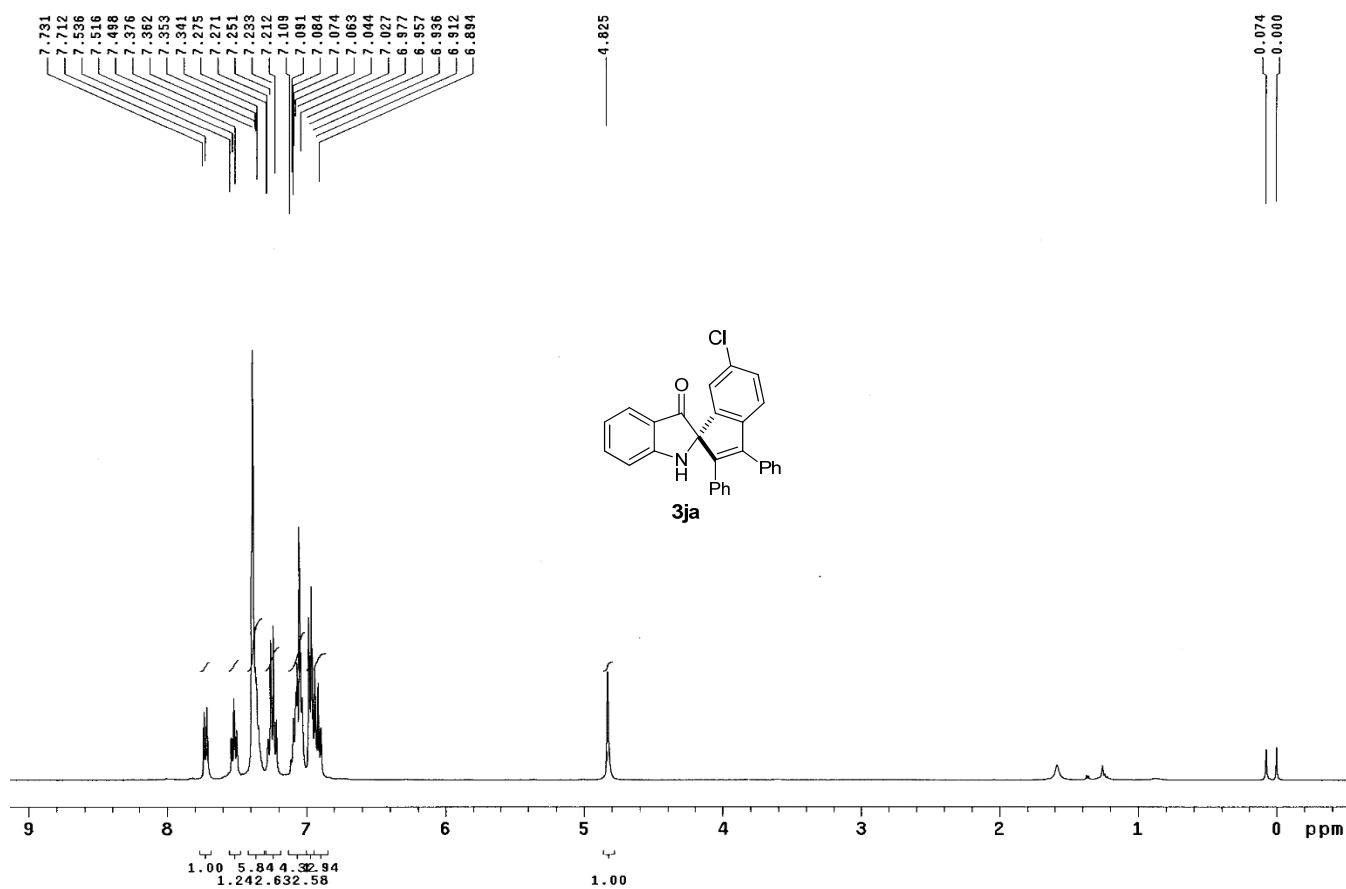
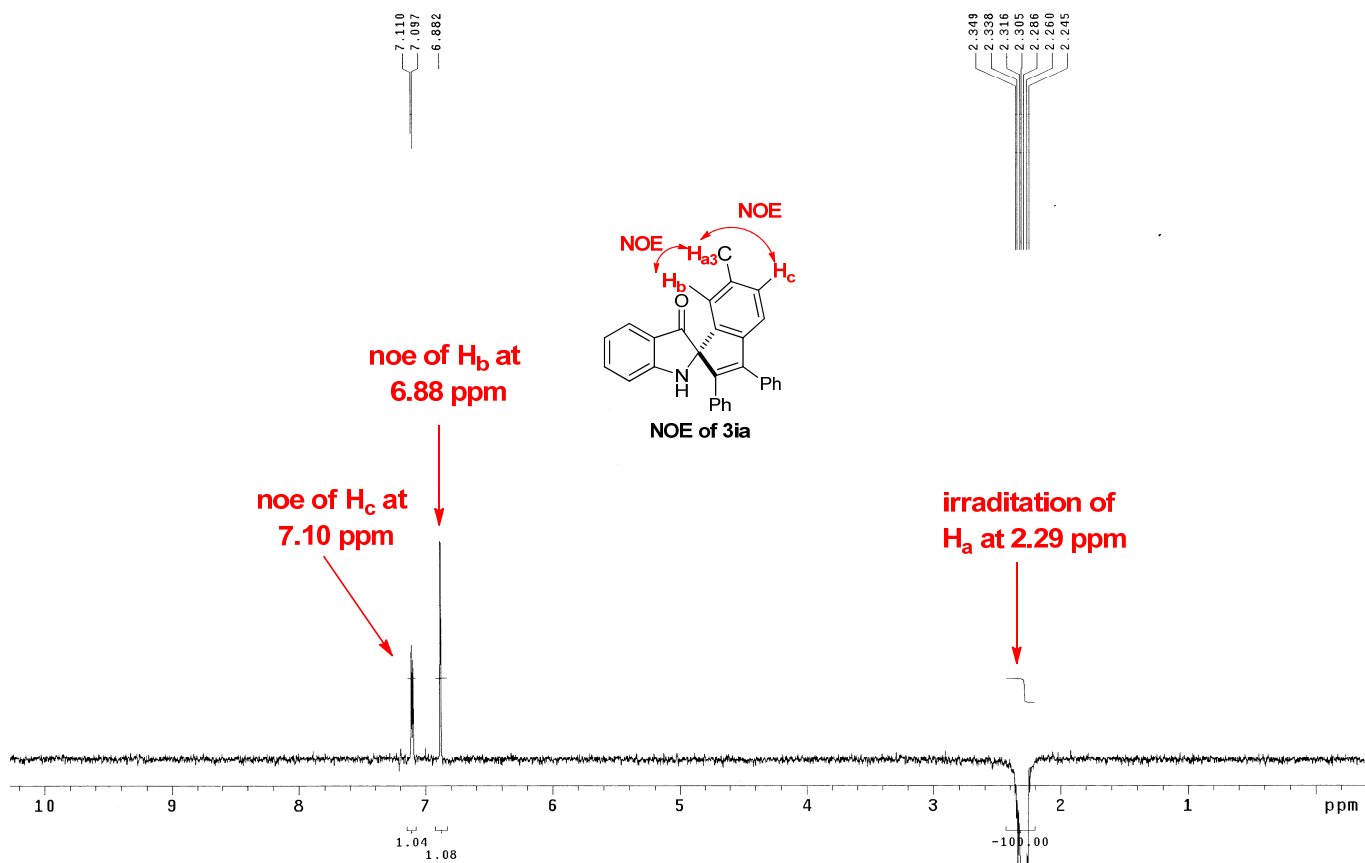


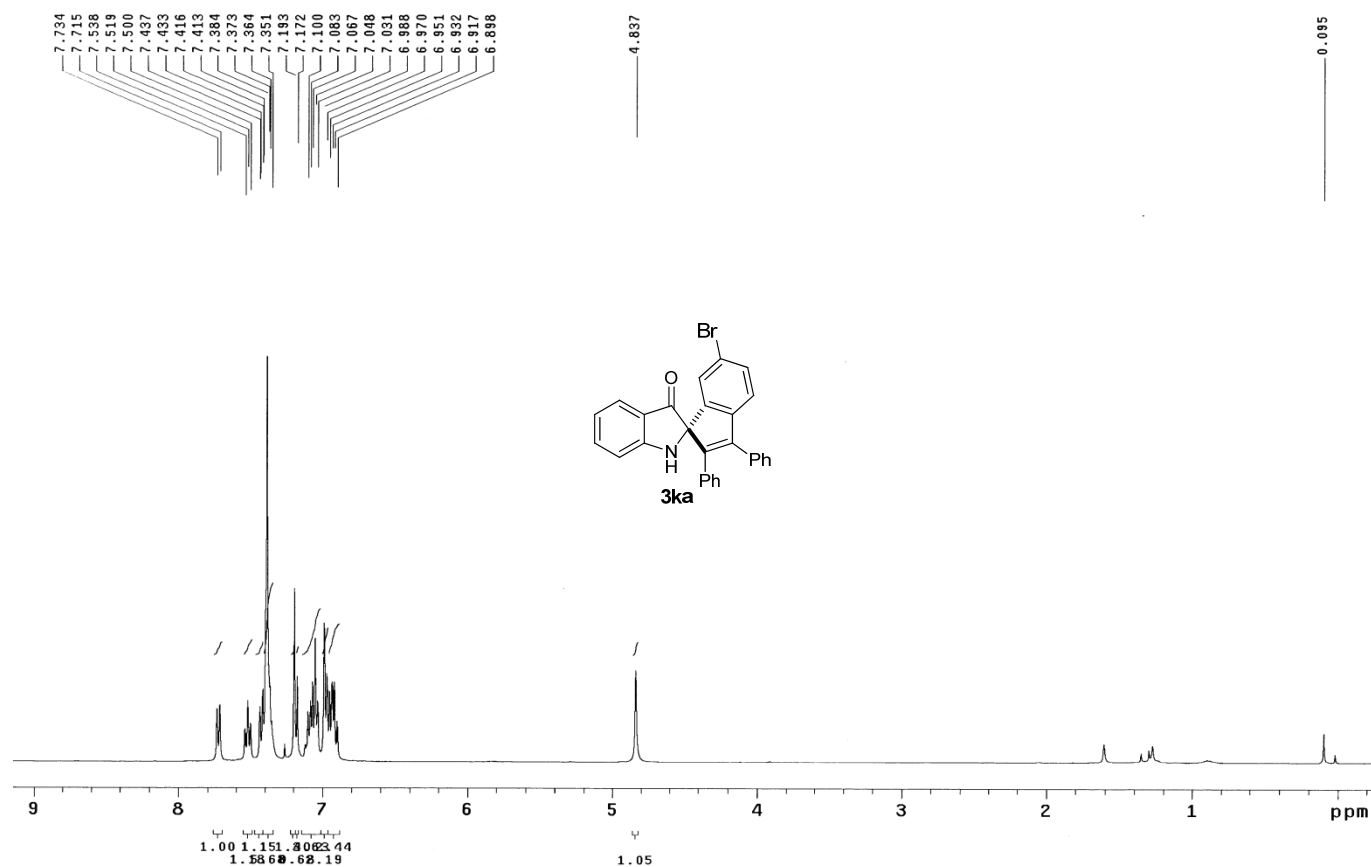
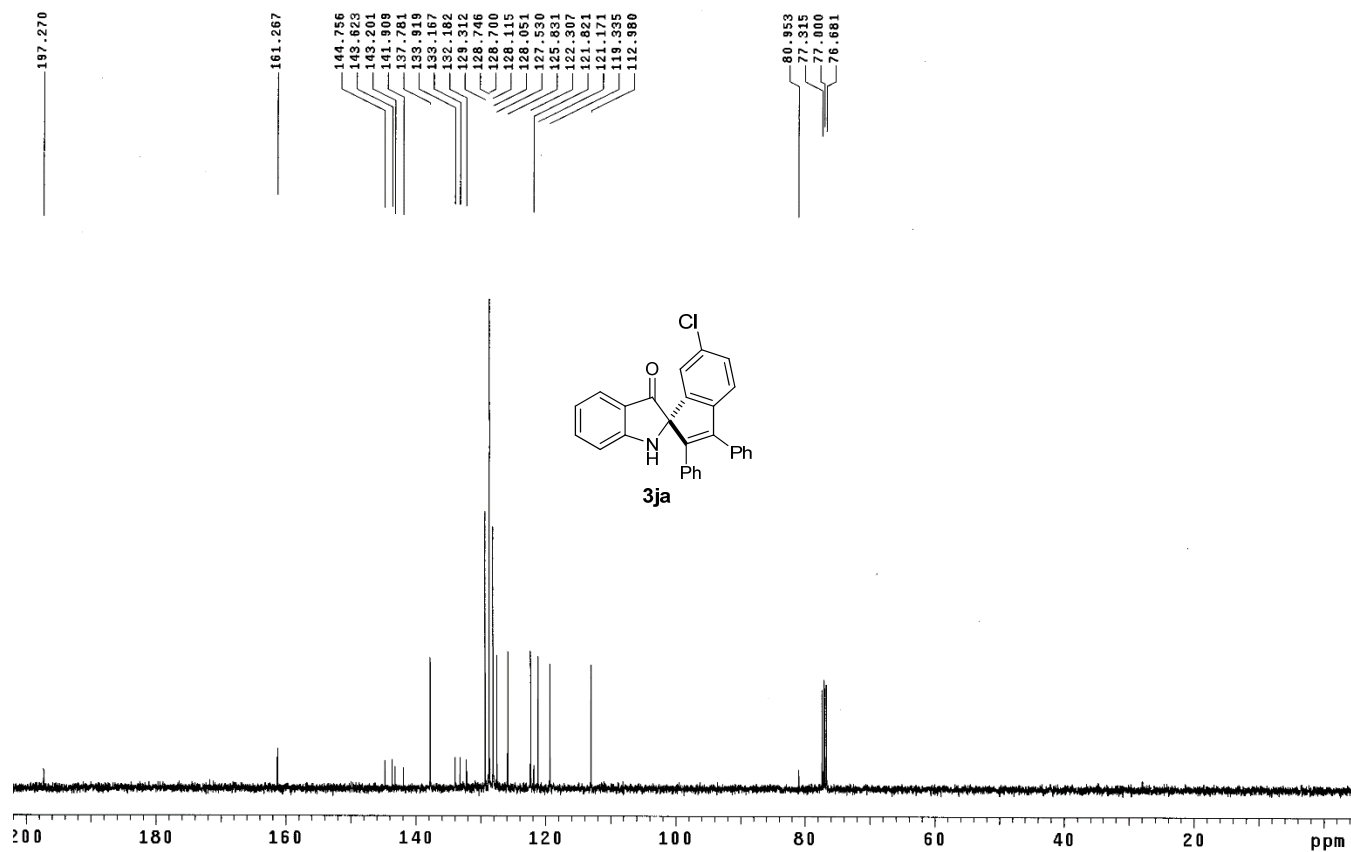


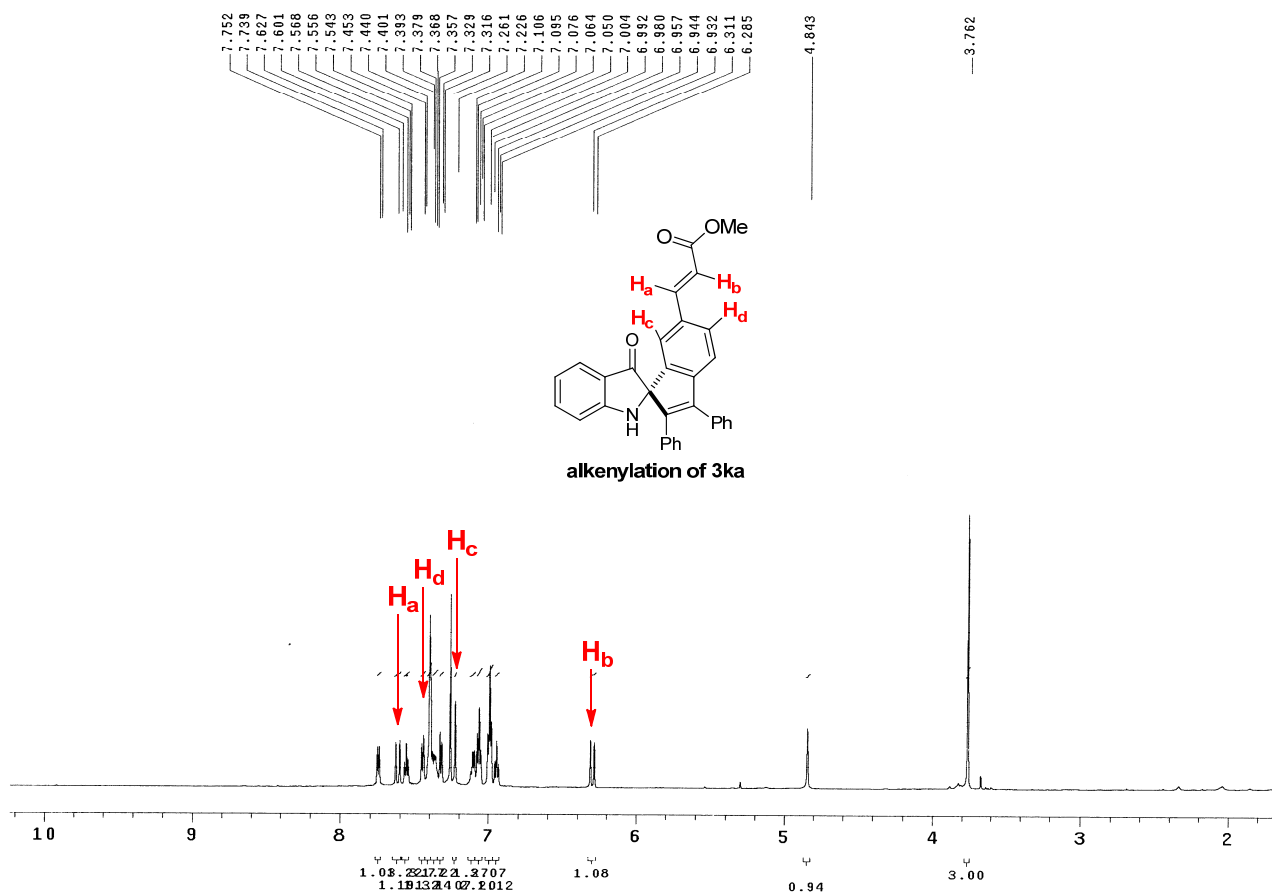
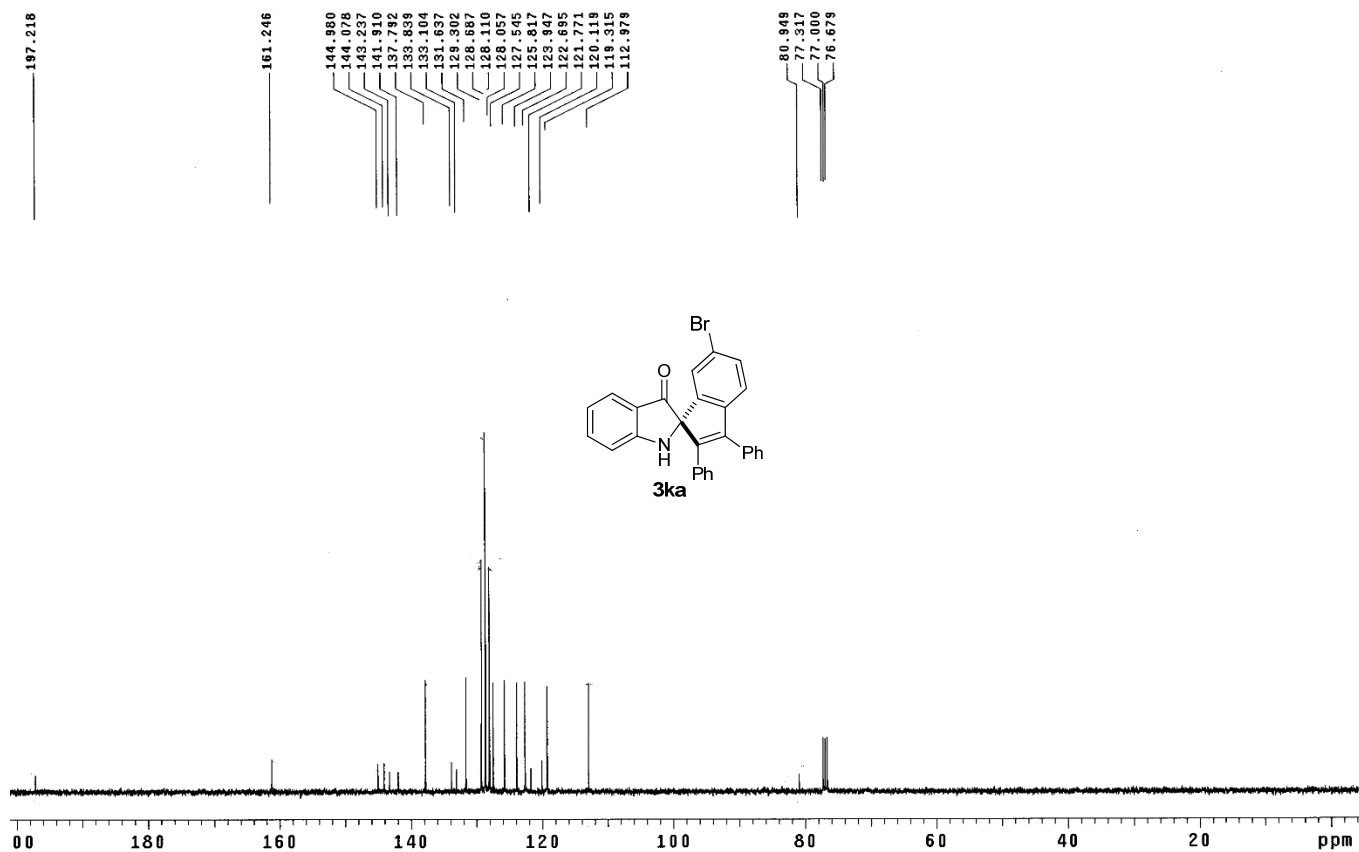


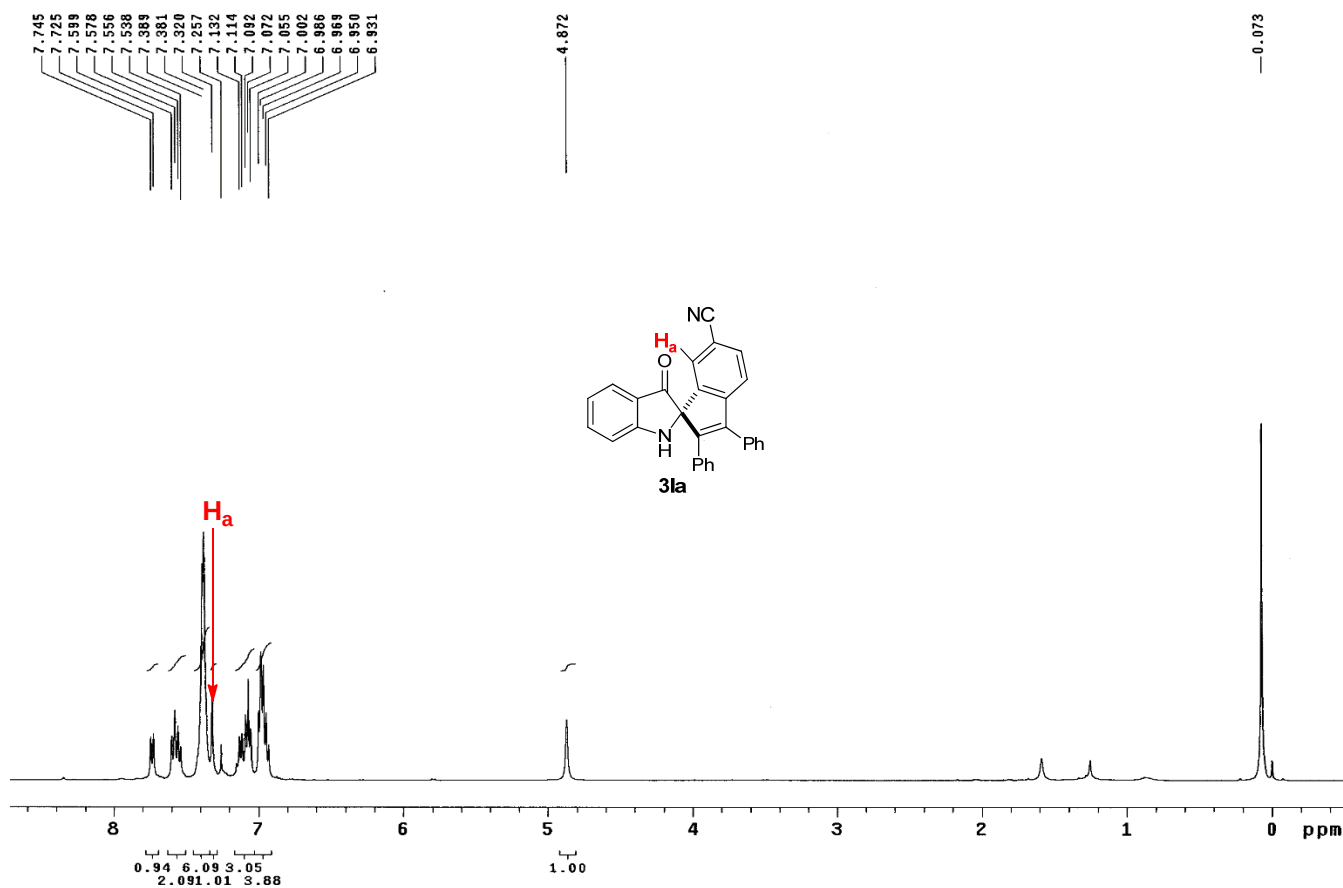
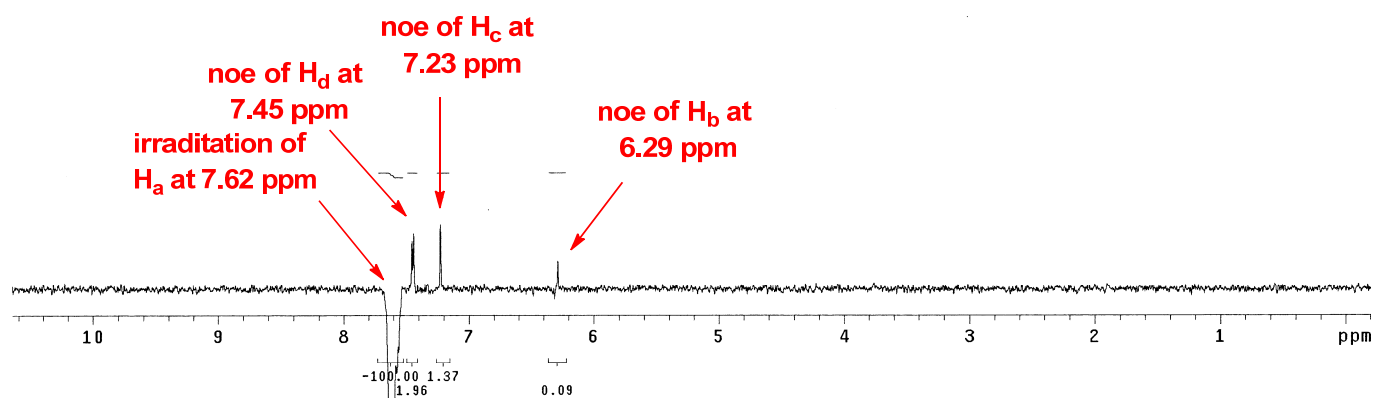
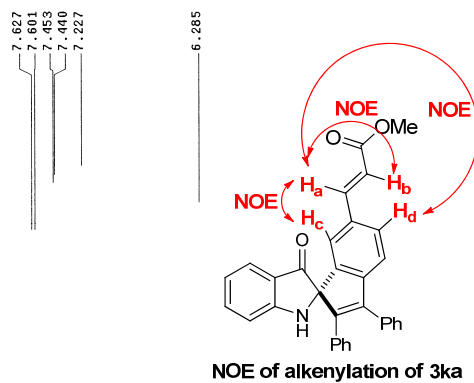


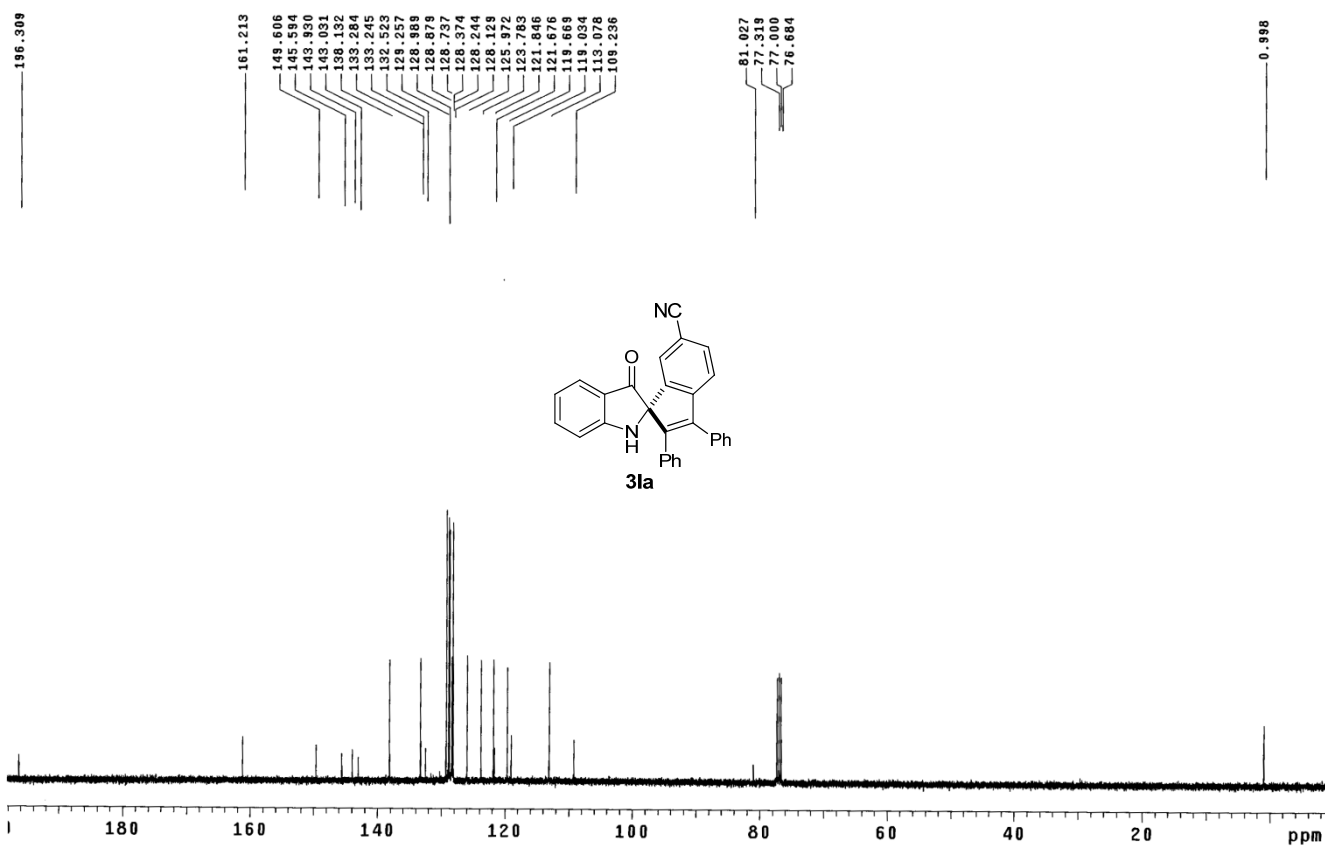
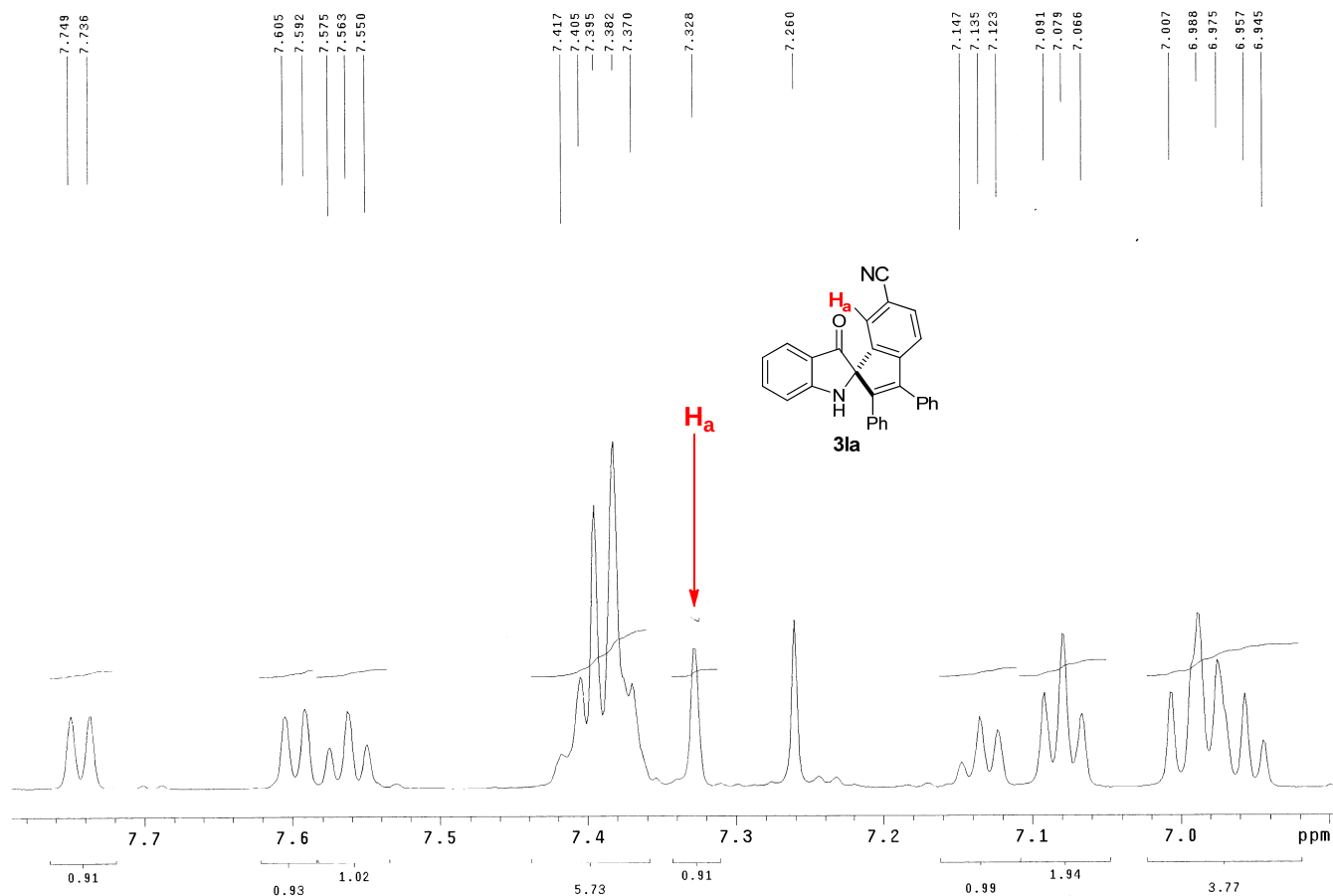


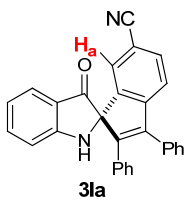
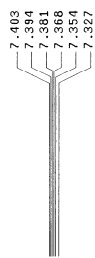




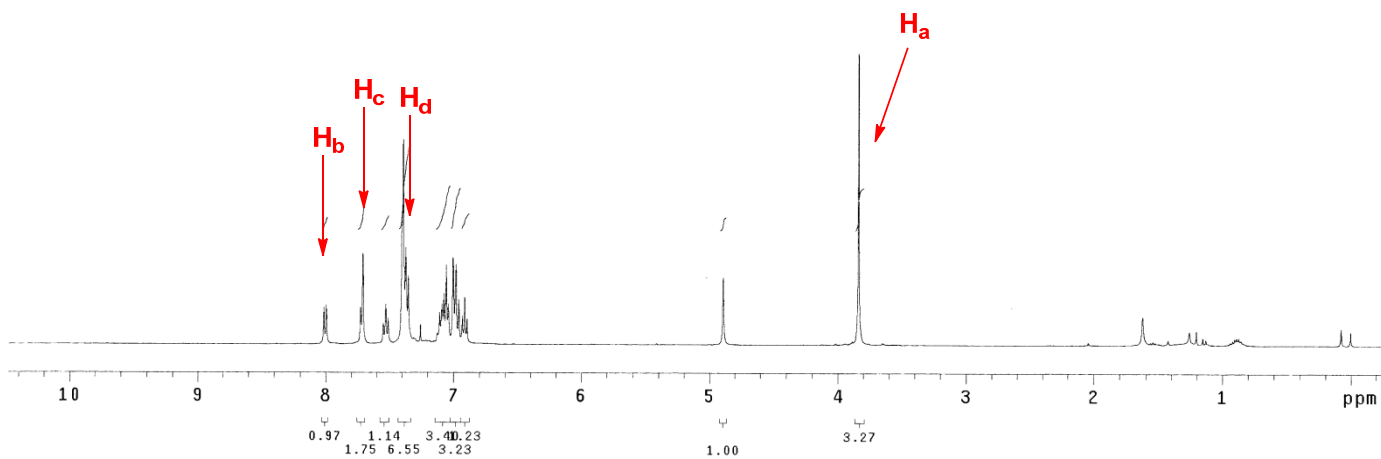
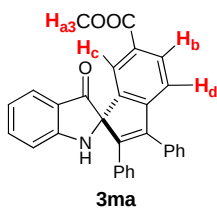
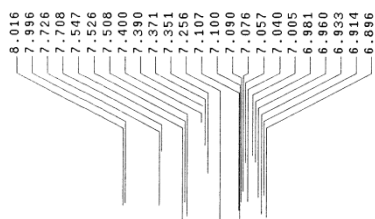
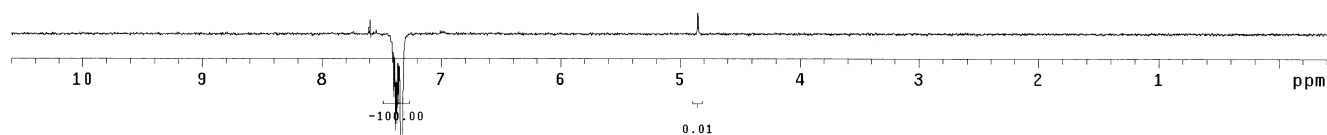


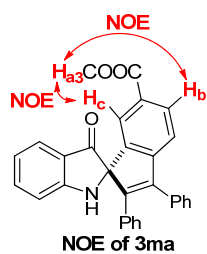
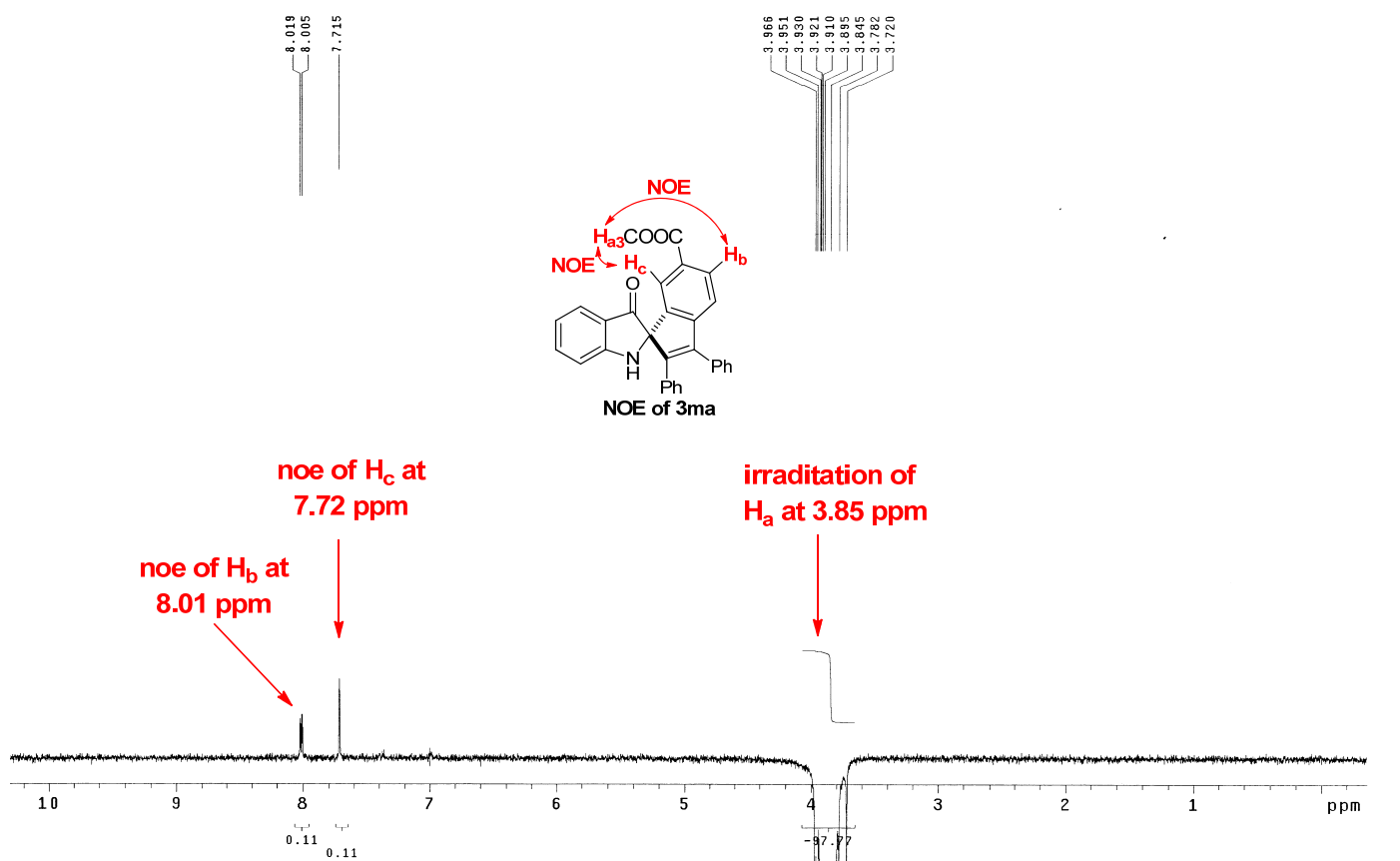
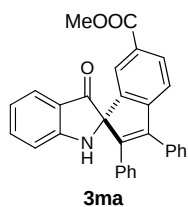
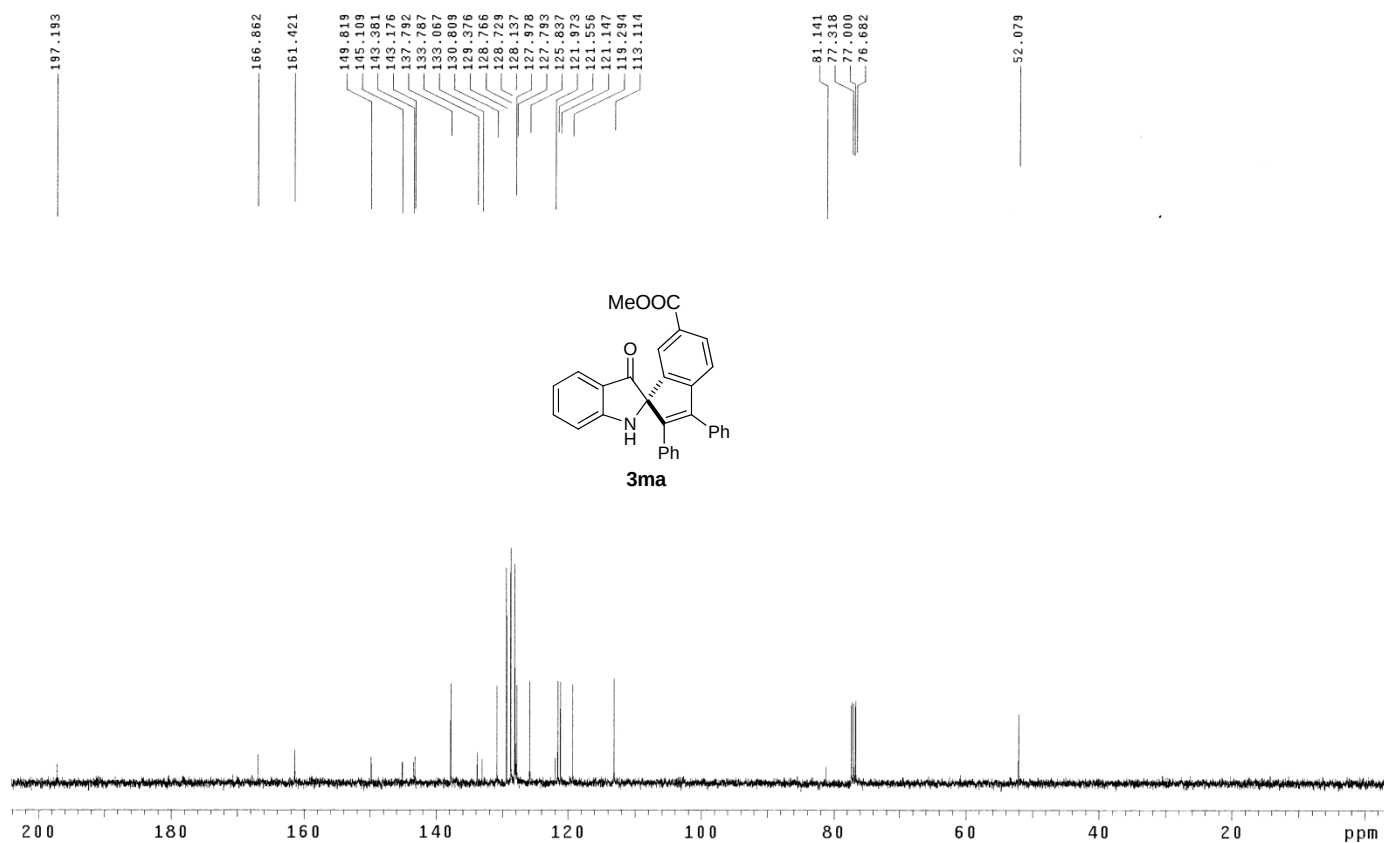






irradiation of
H_a at 7.32 ppm

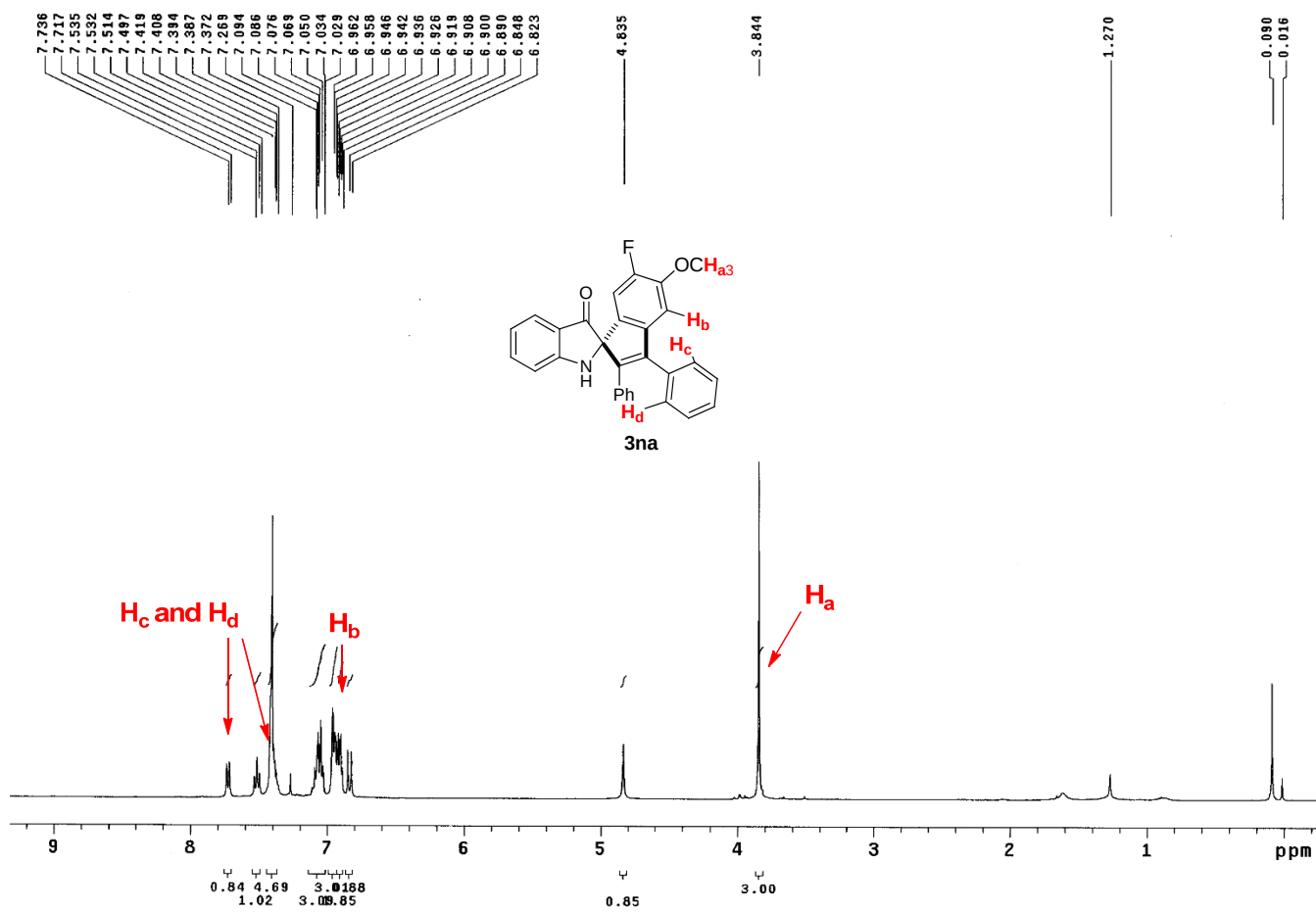
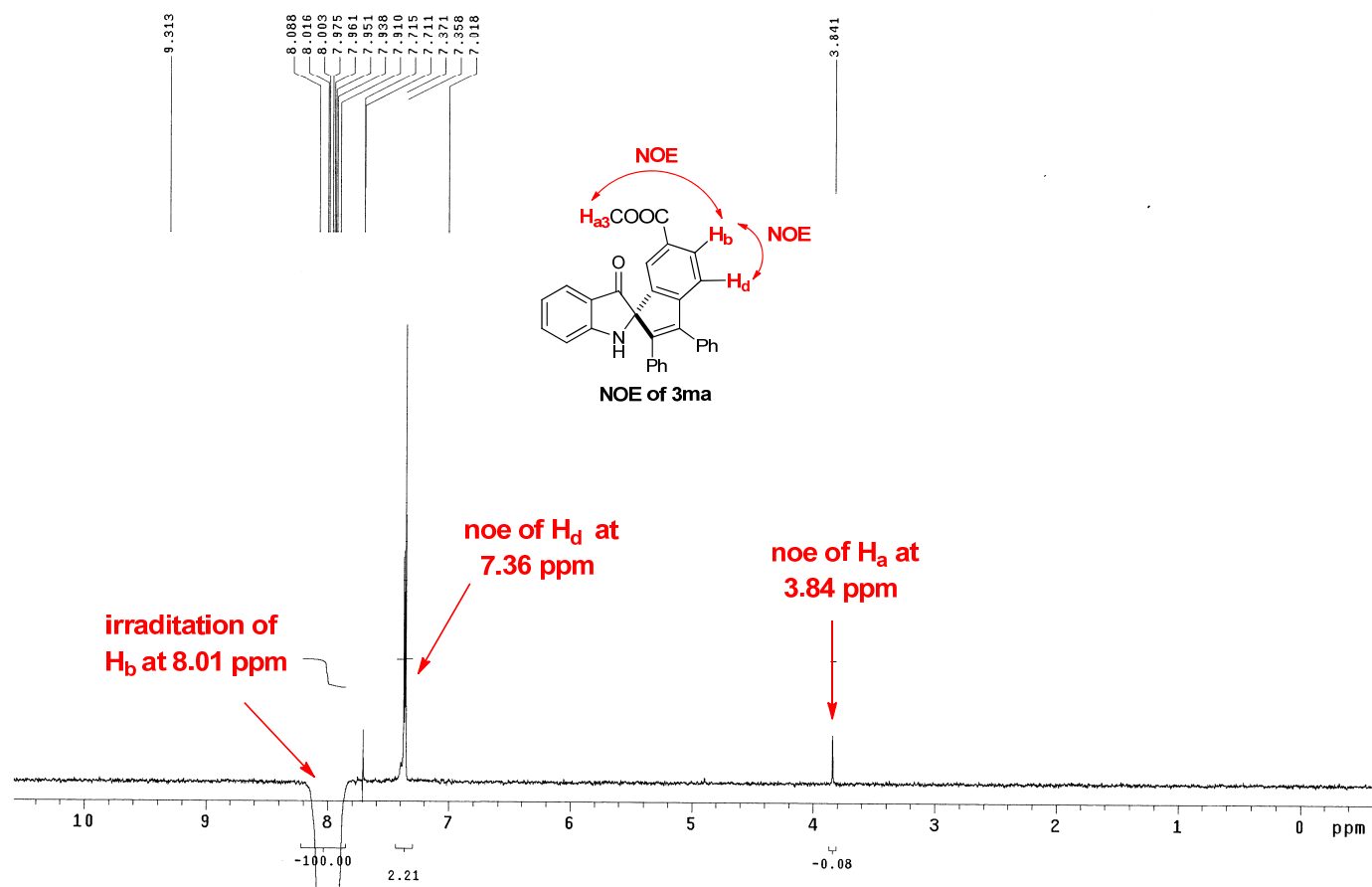




noe of H_c at 7.72 ppm

noe of H_b at 8.01 ppm

irradiation of H_a at 3.85 ppm



197.838

161.250

152.735

150.281

148.167

143.152

142.072

141.190

137.712

134.925

134.186

133.307

128.781

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125.746

121.603

119.186

112.936

109.424

108.418

106.328

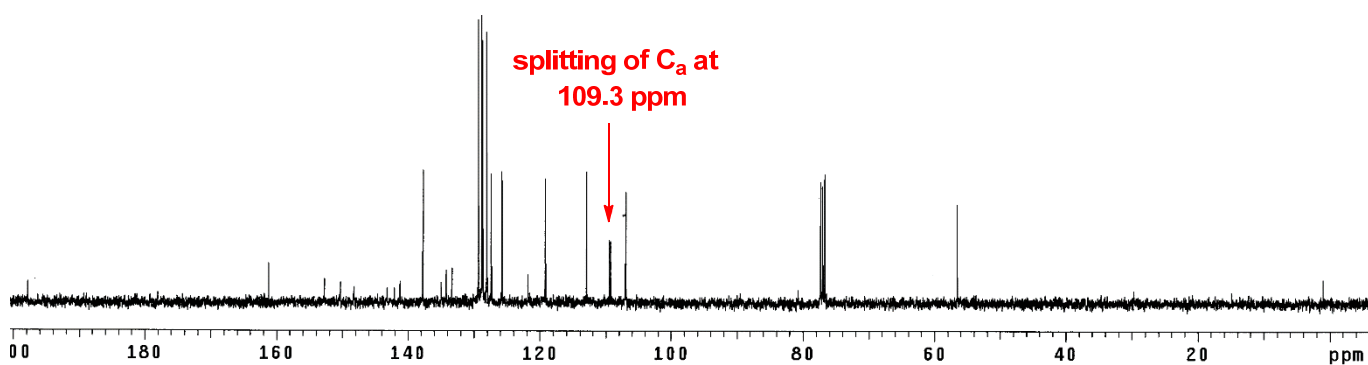
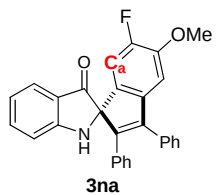
77.318

77.000

76.886

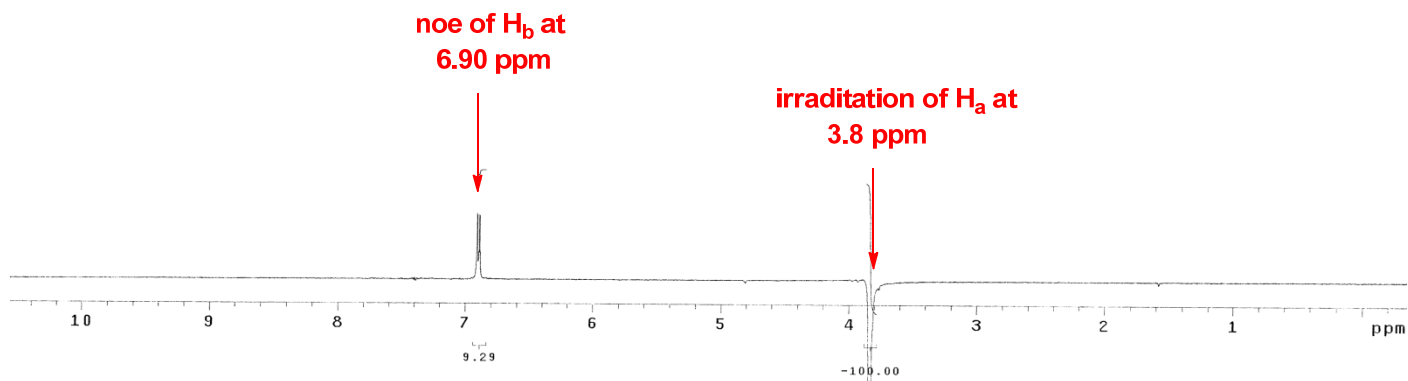
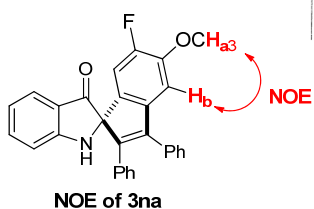
56.557

1.000

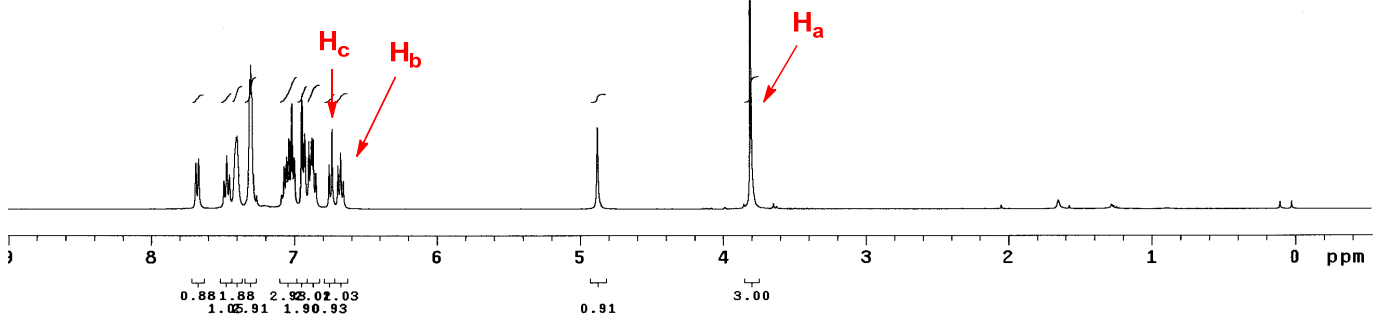
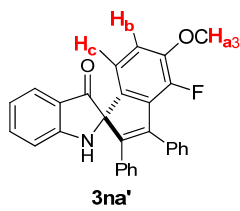
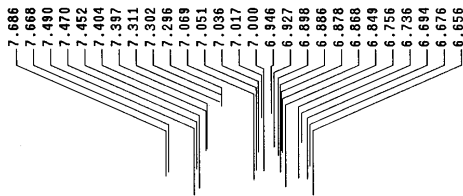
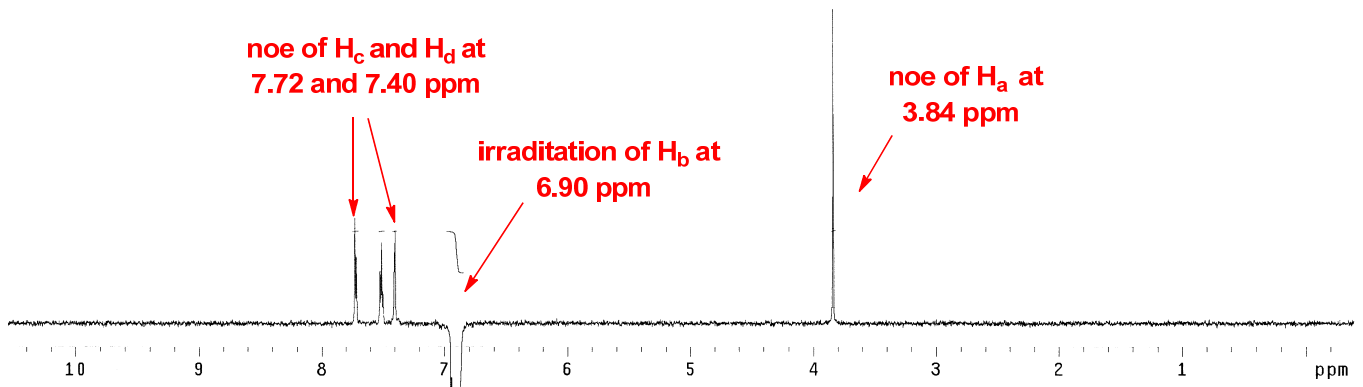
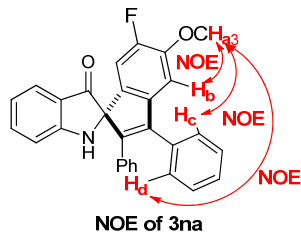
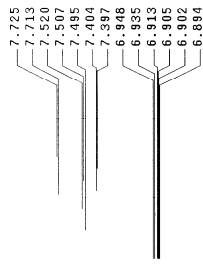


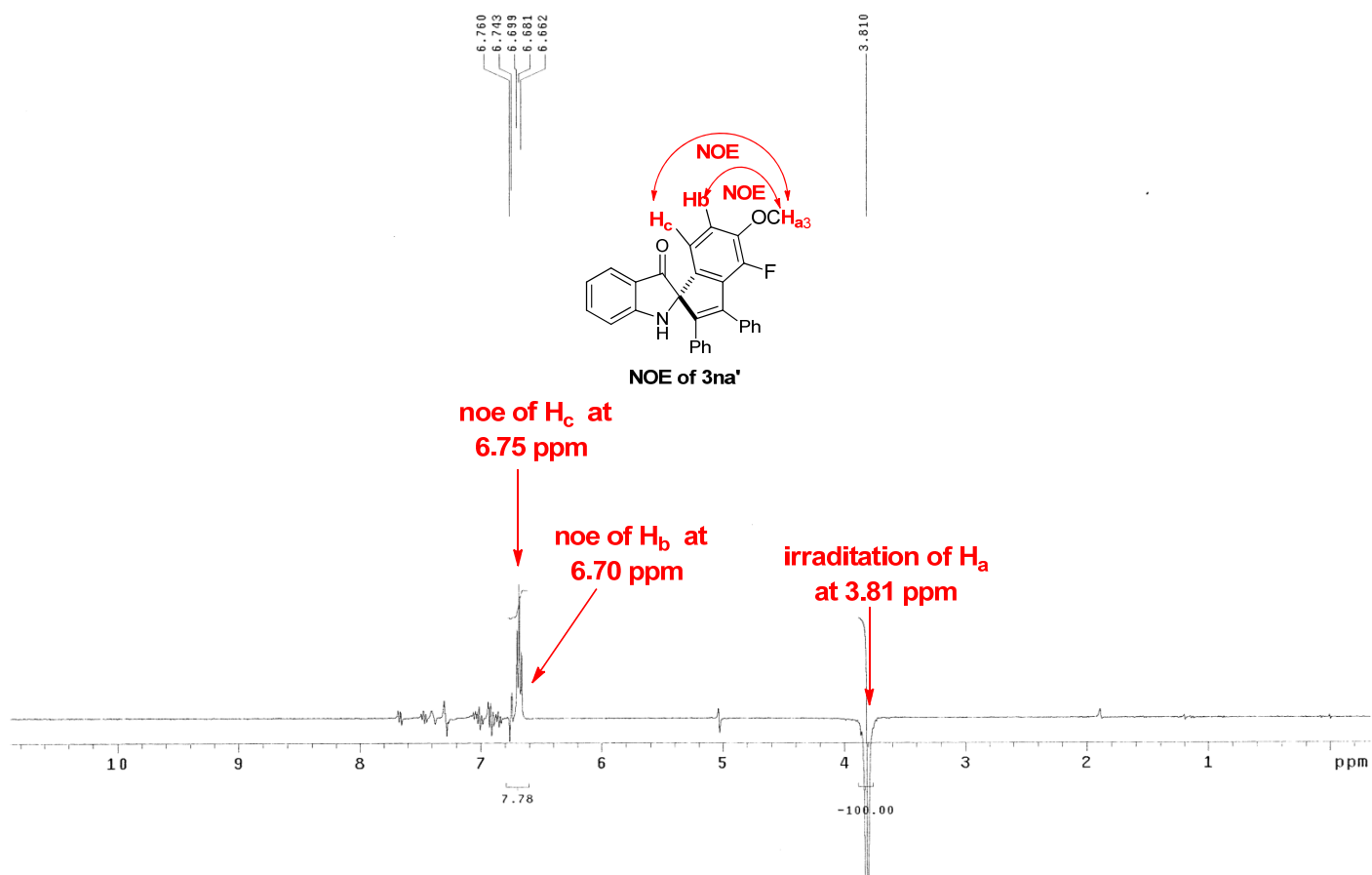
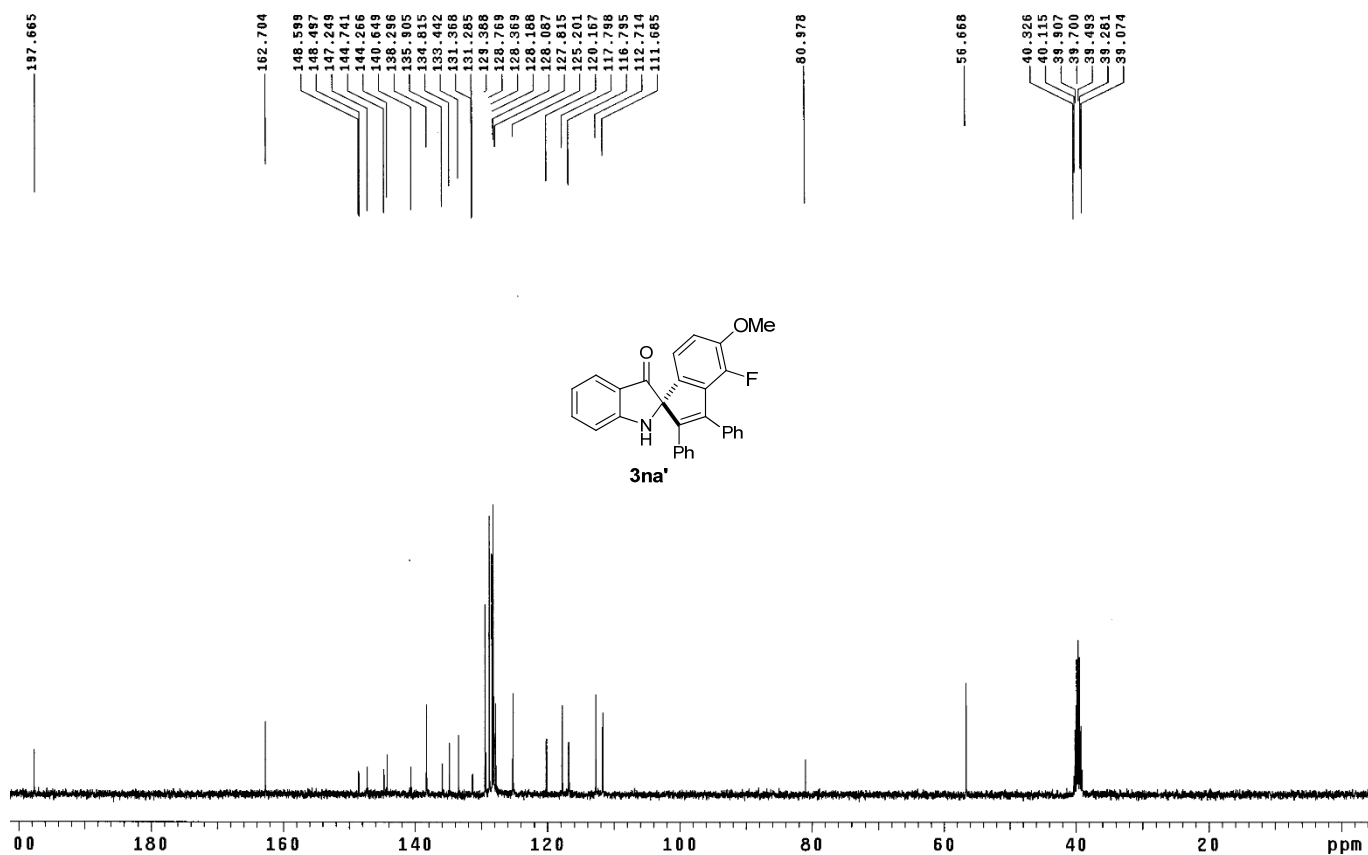
6.906
6.887

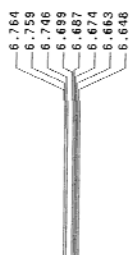
3.832



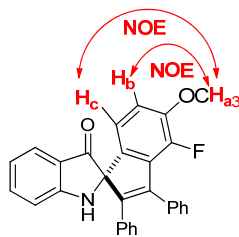
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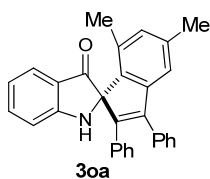
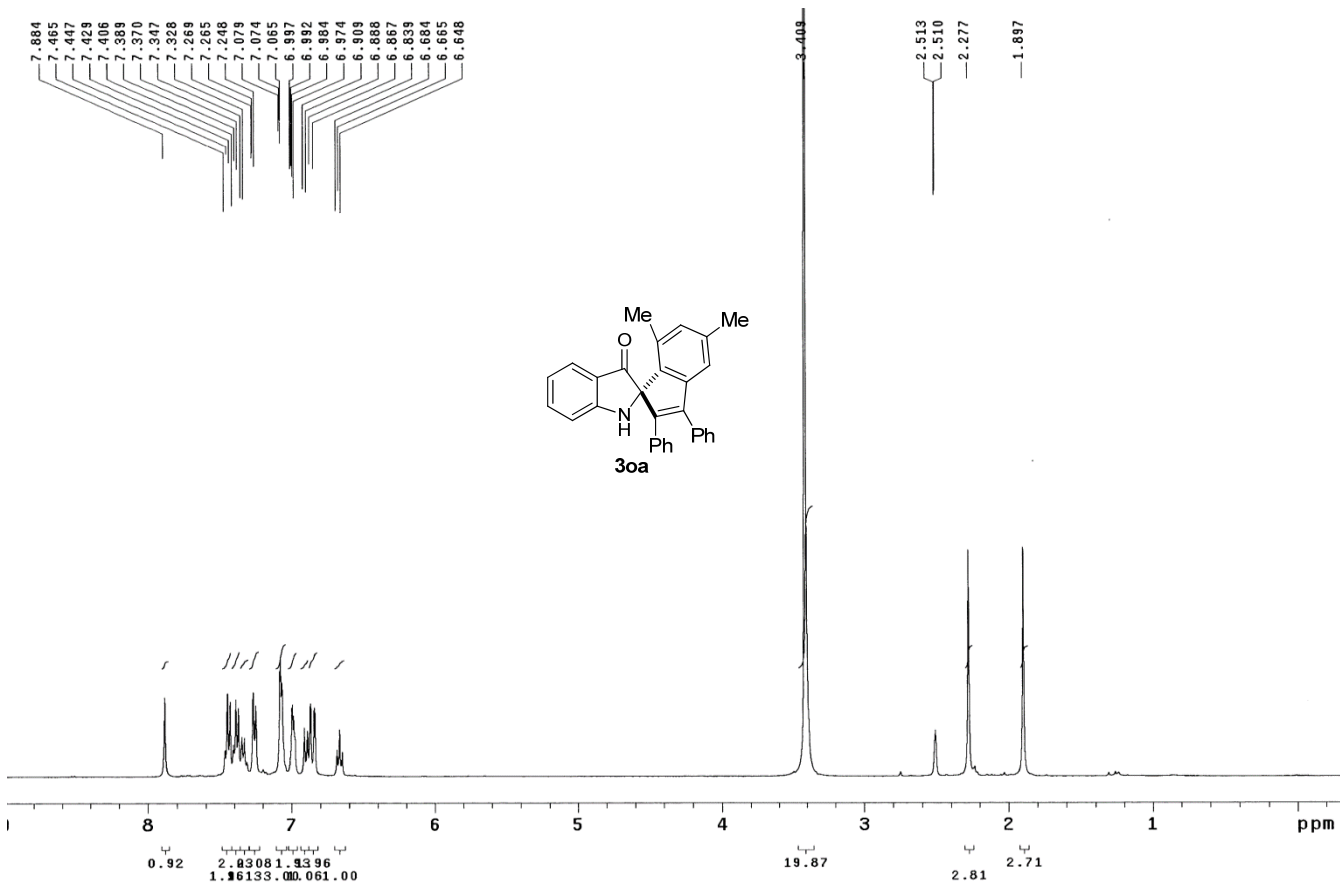
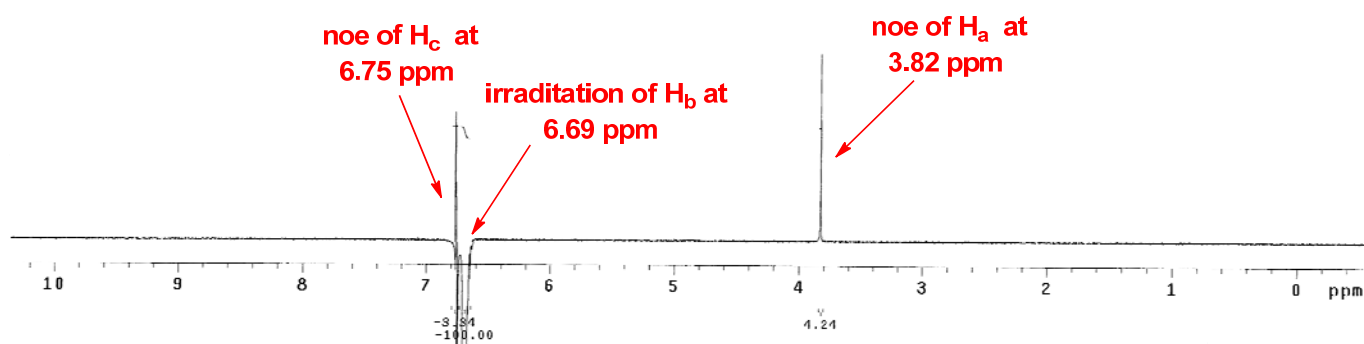


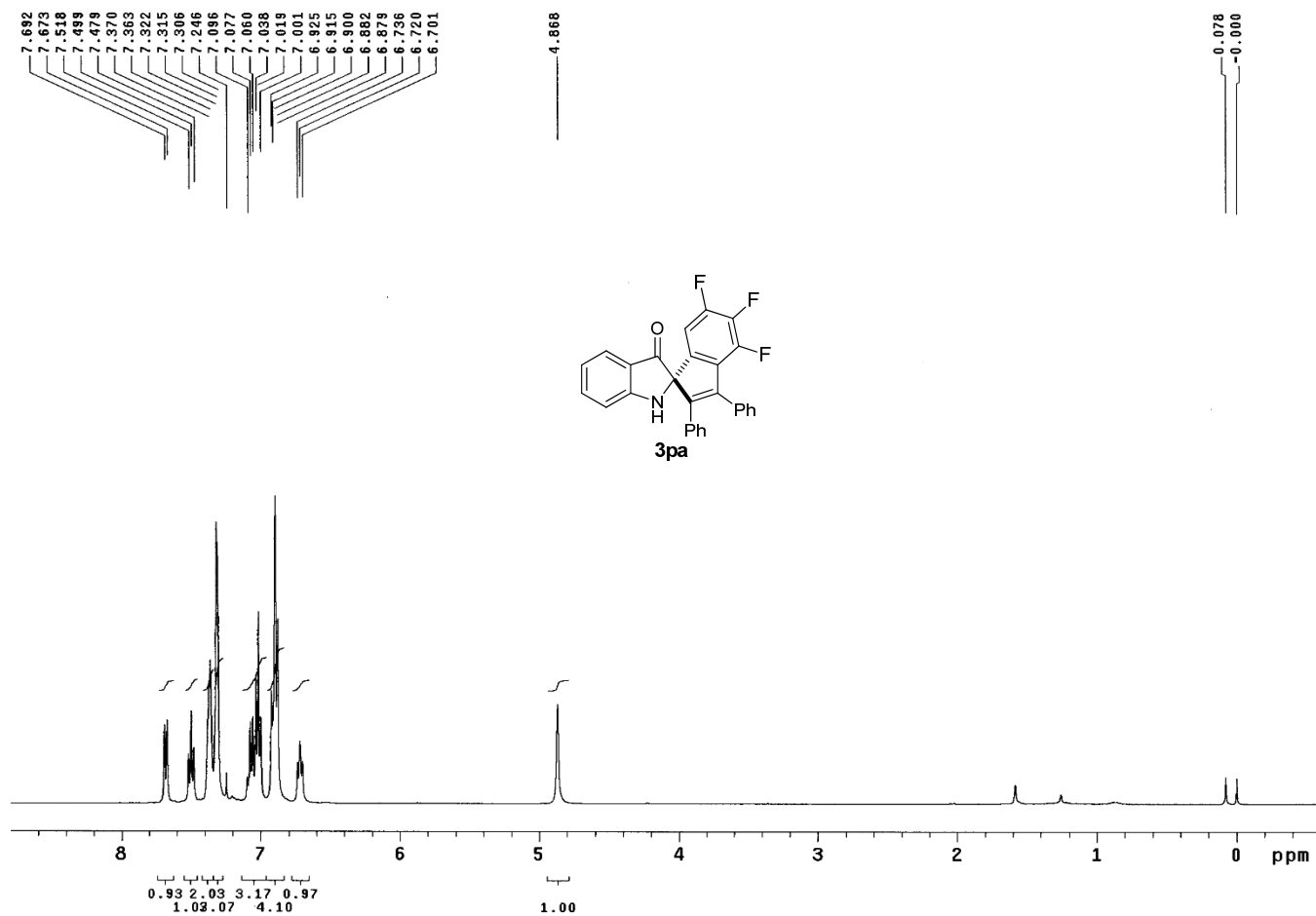
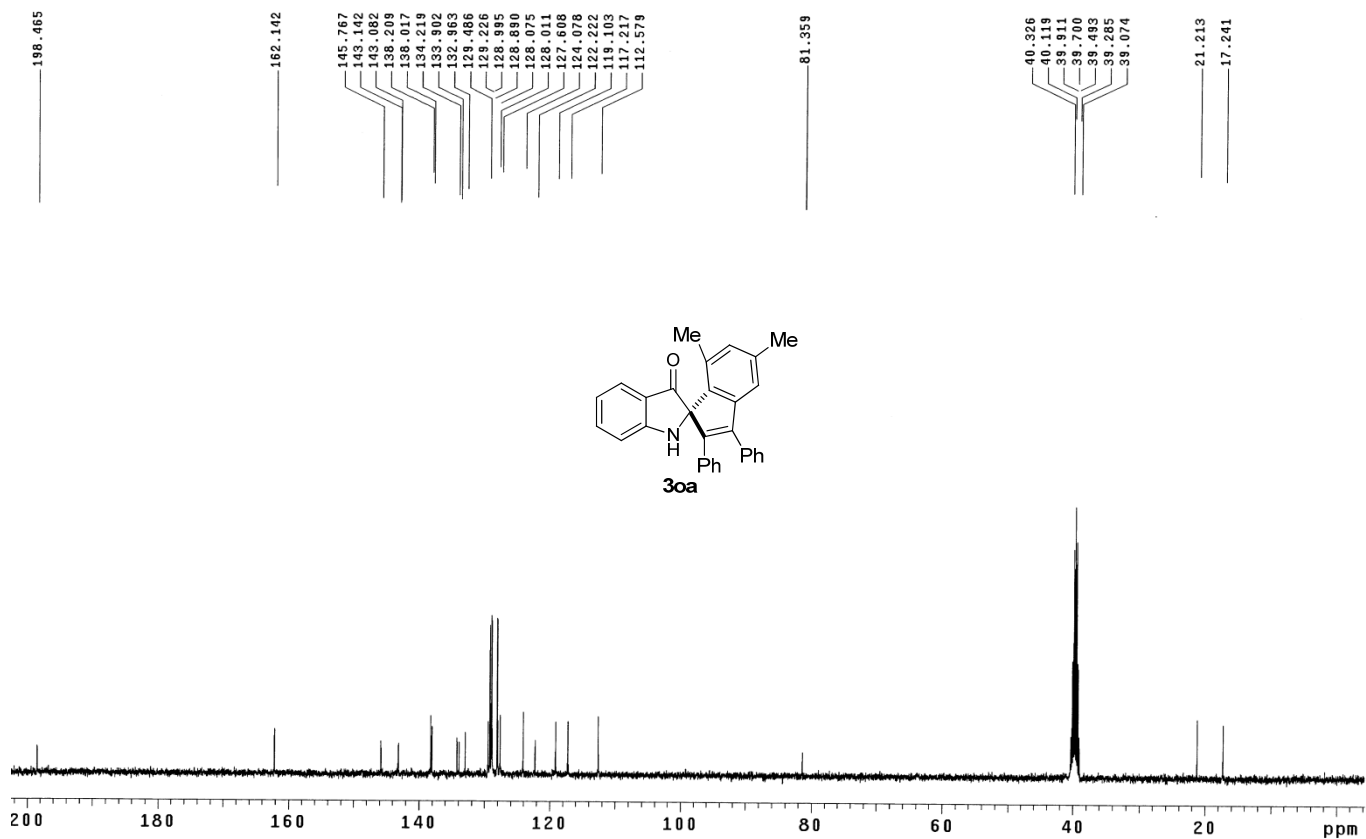


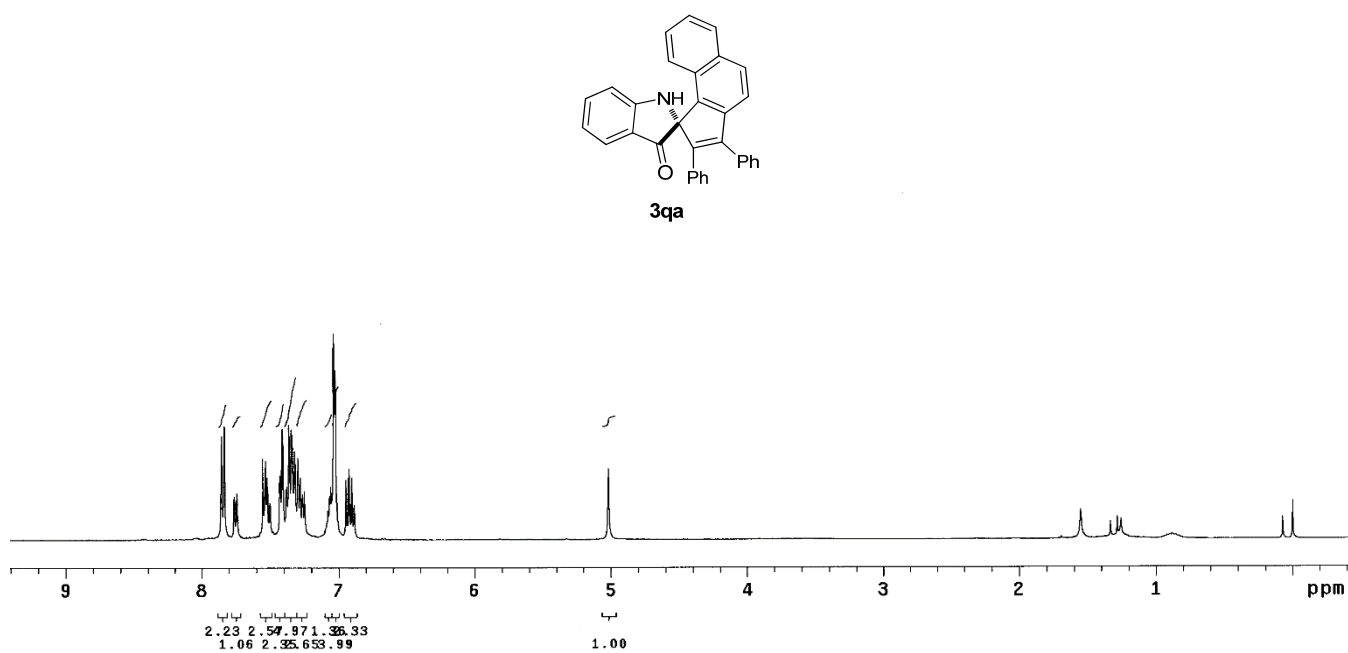
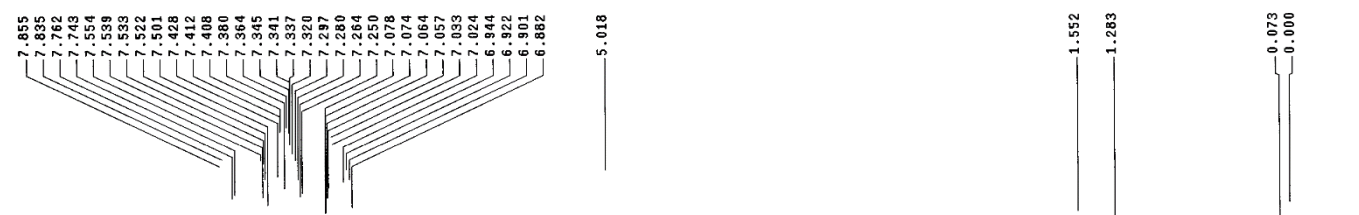
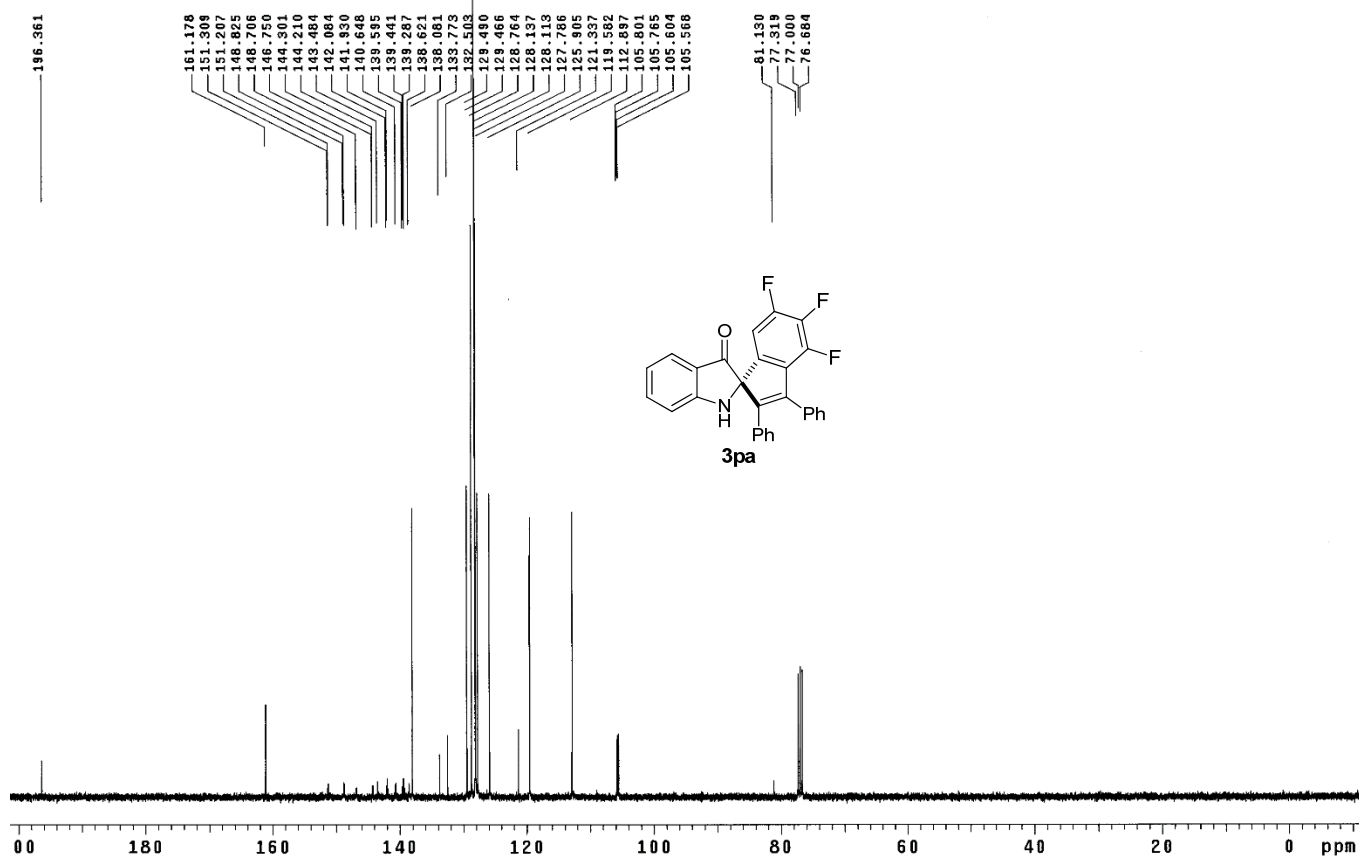
3.818

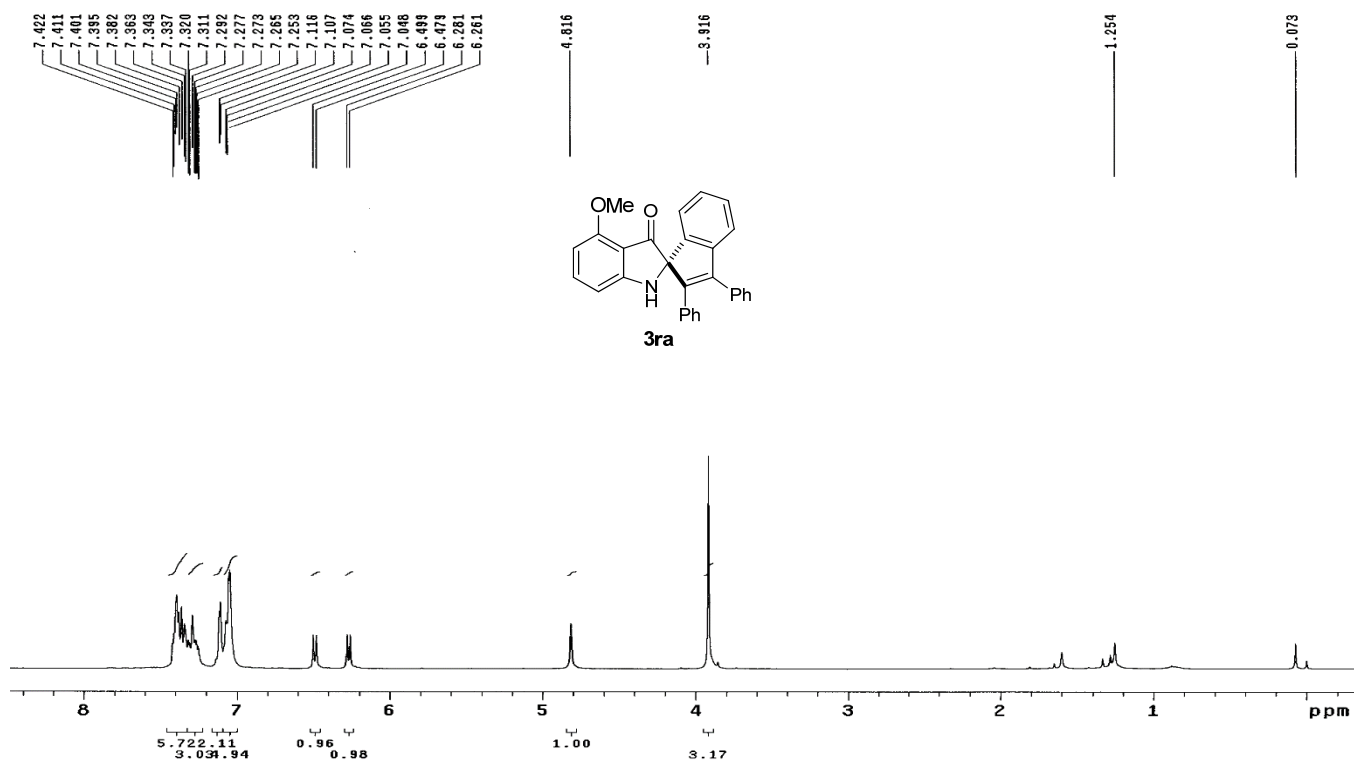
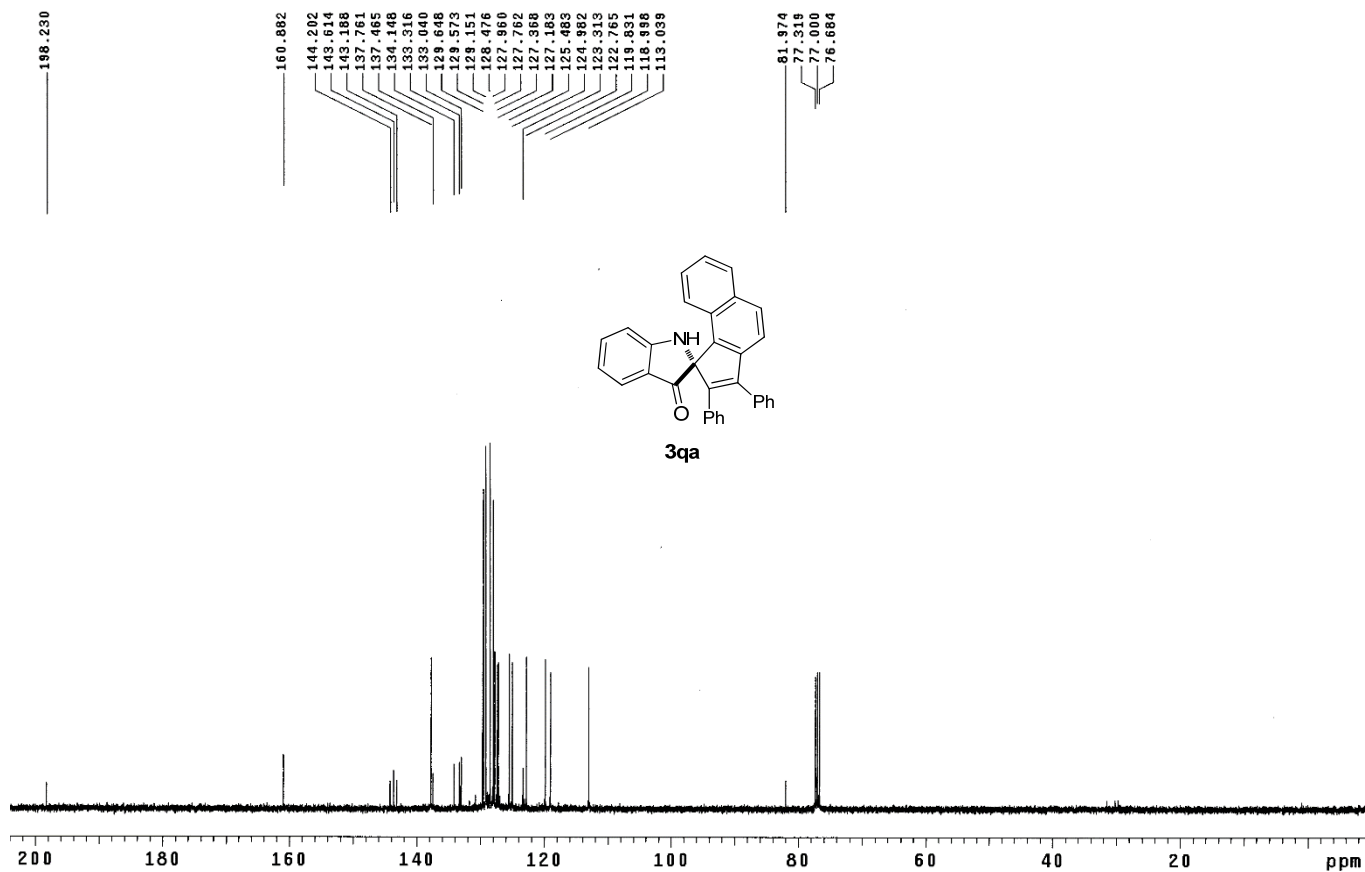


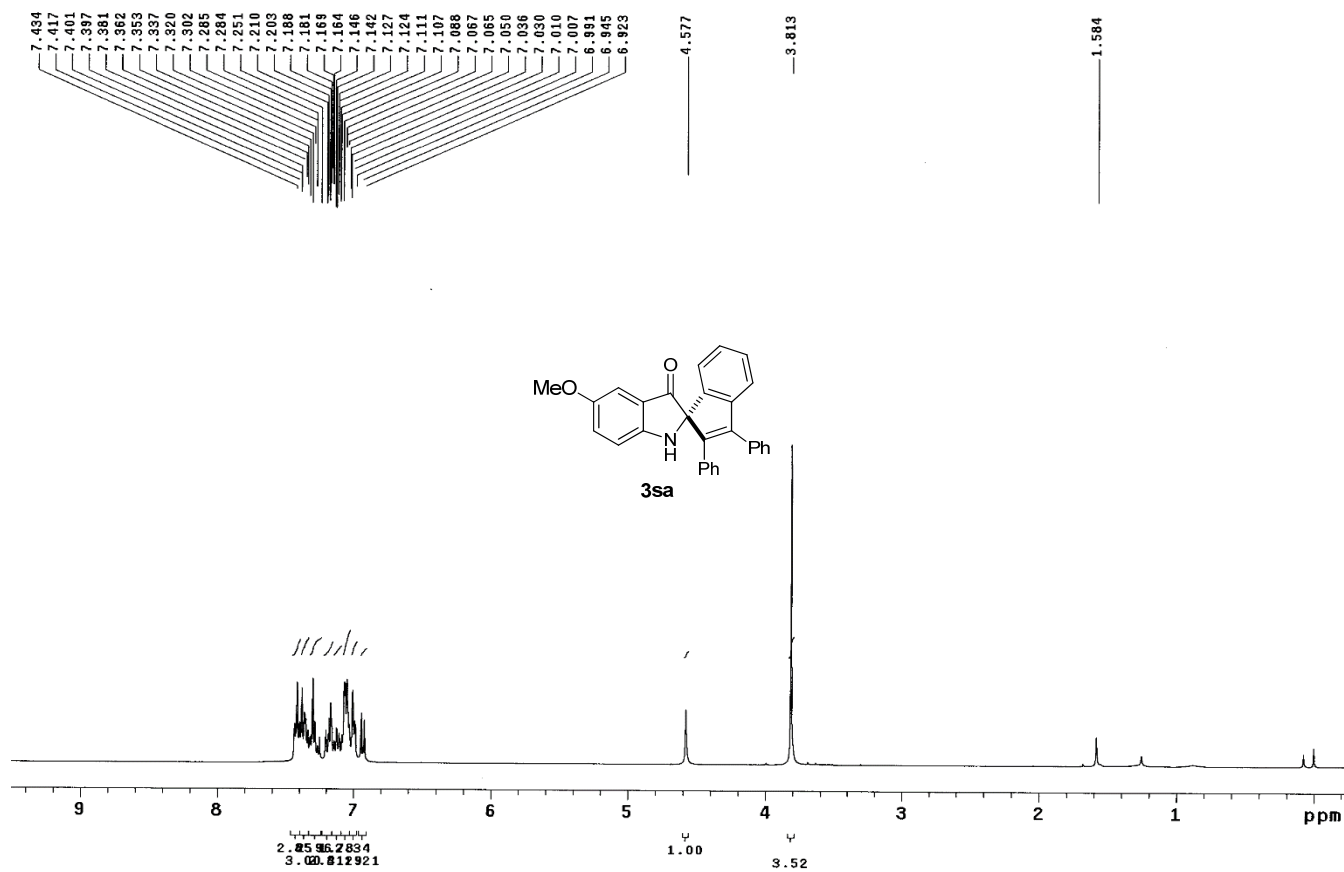
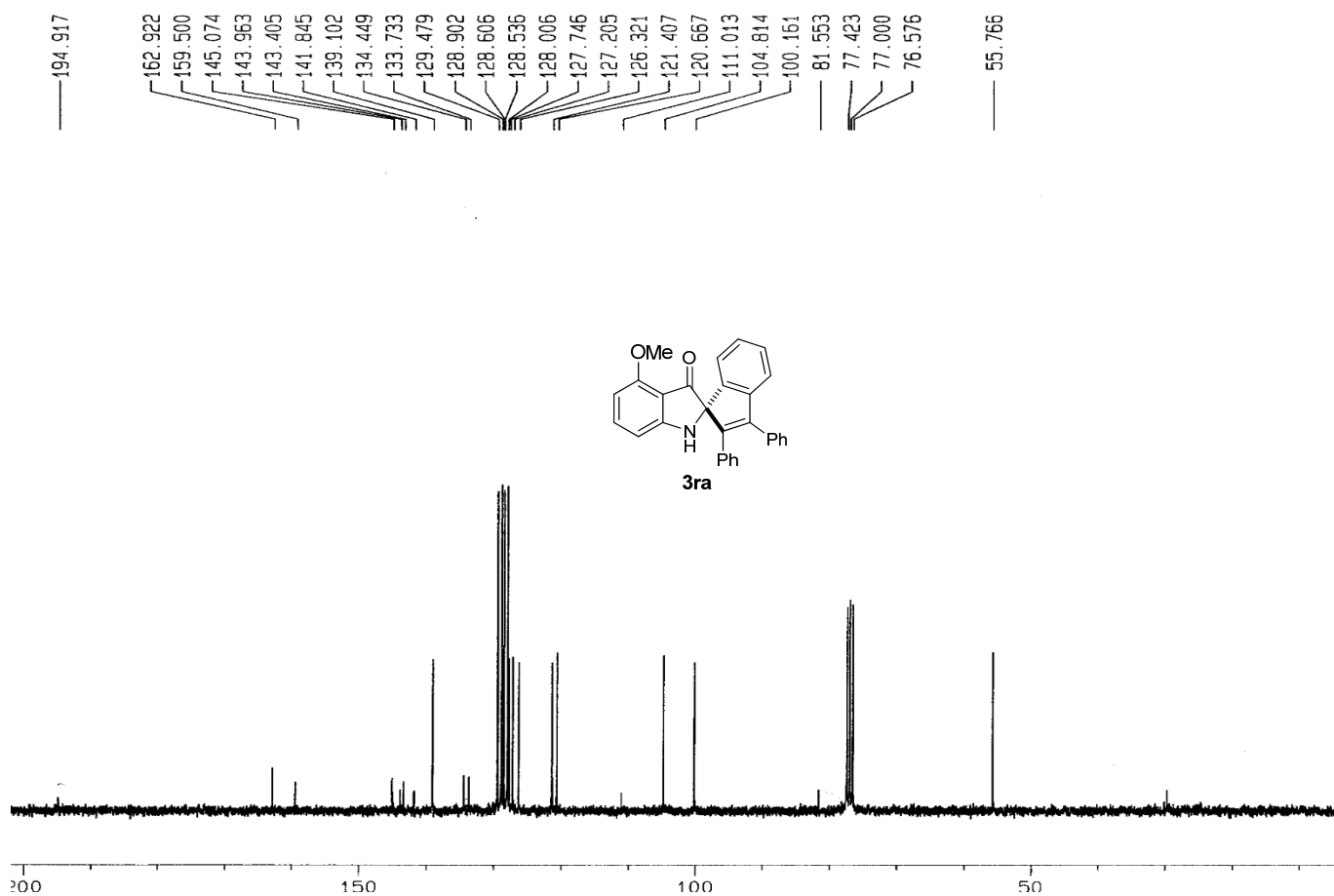
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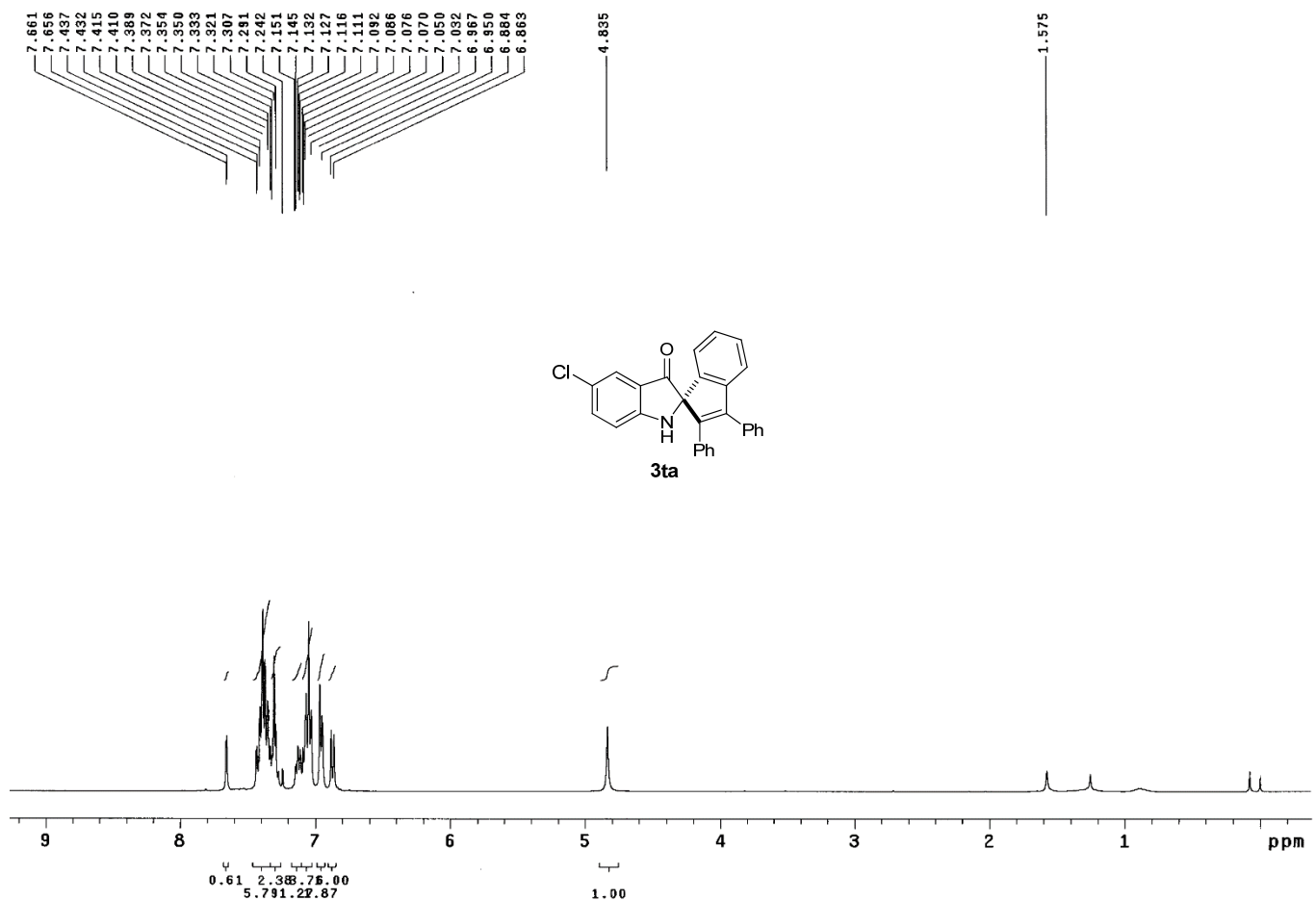
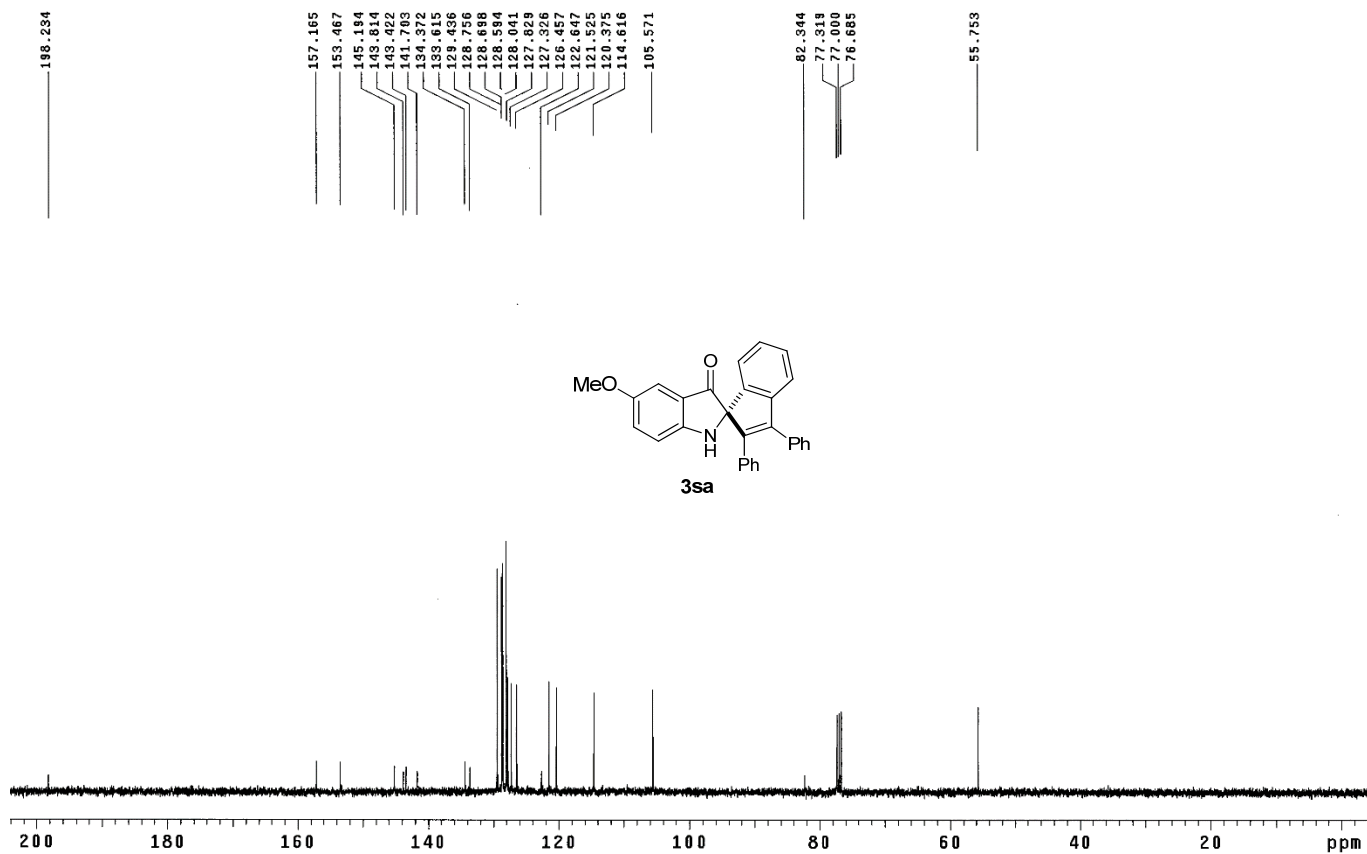


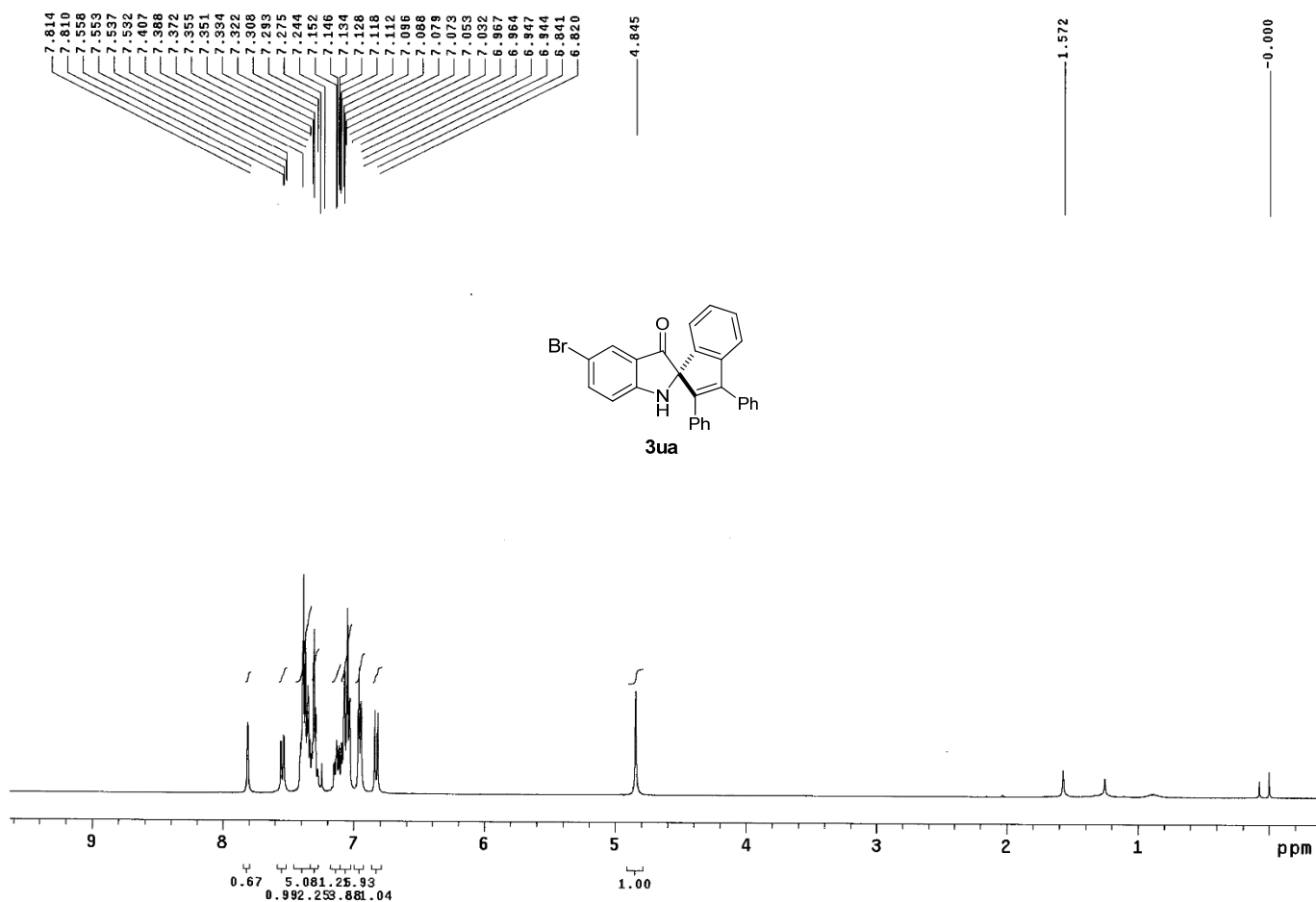
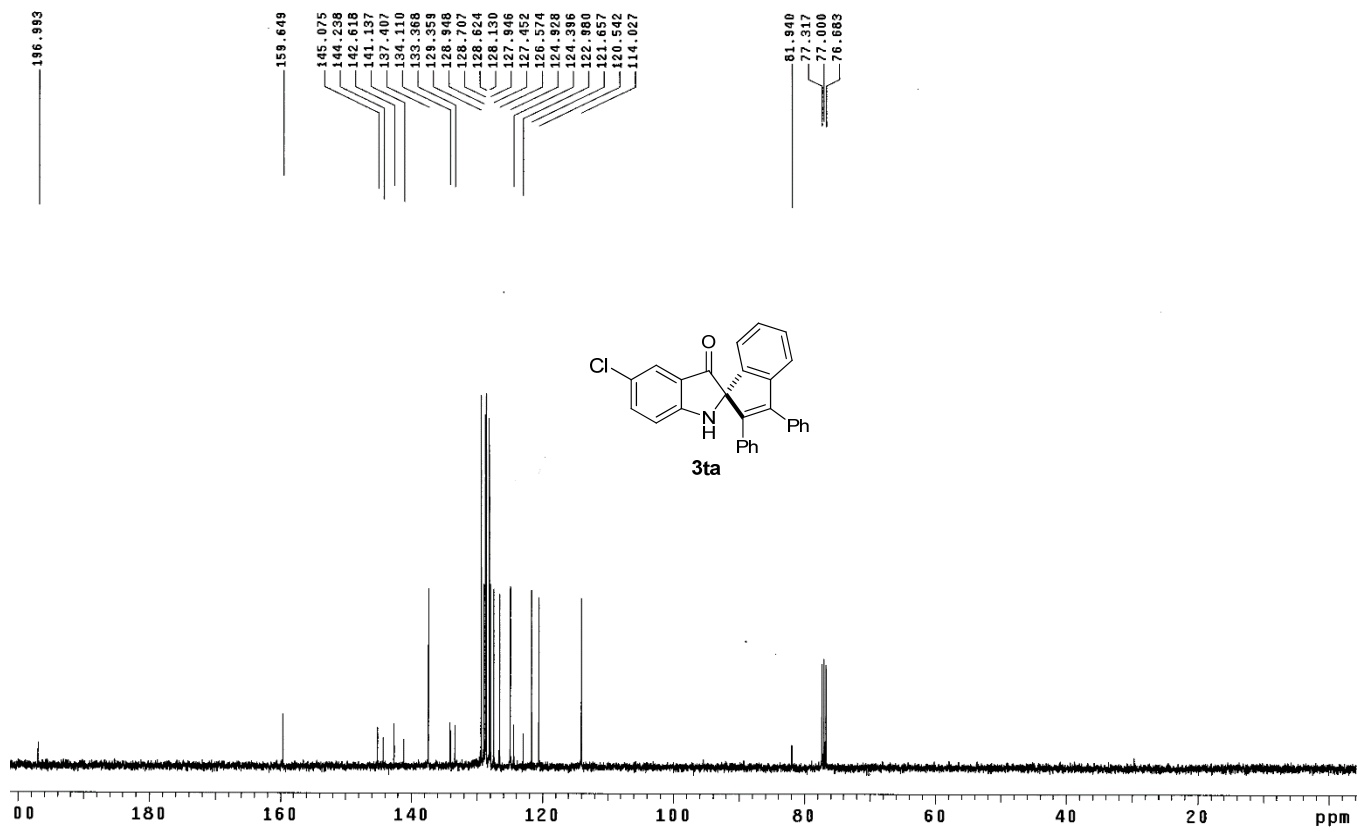


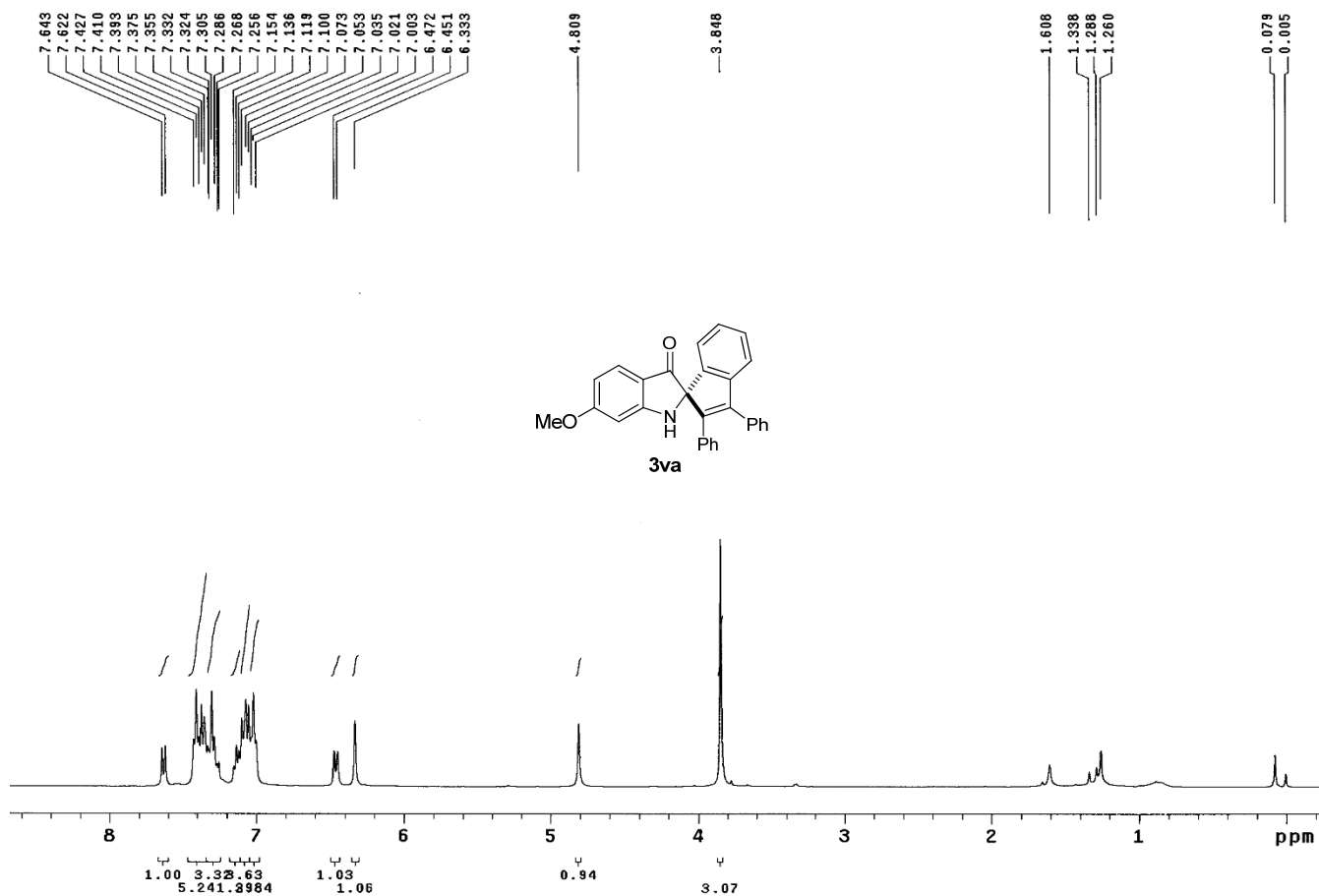
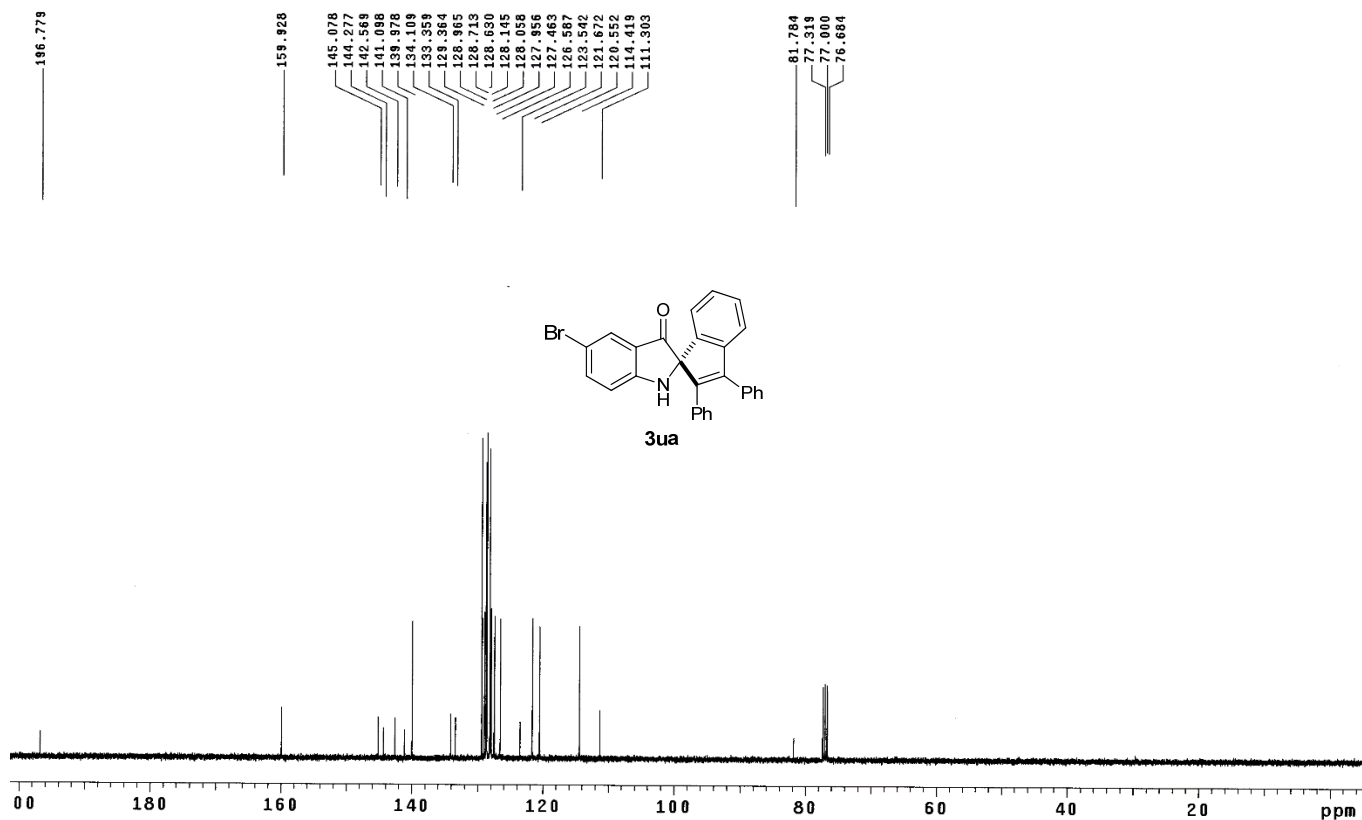


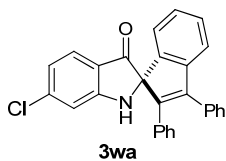
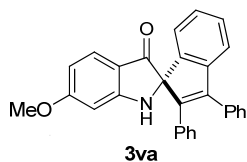


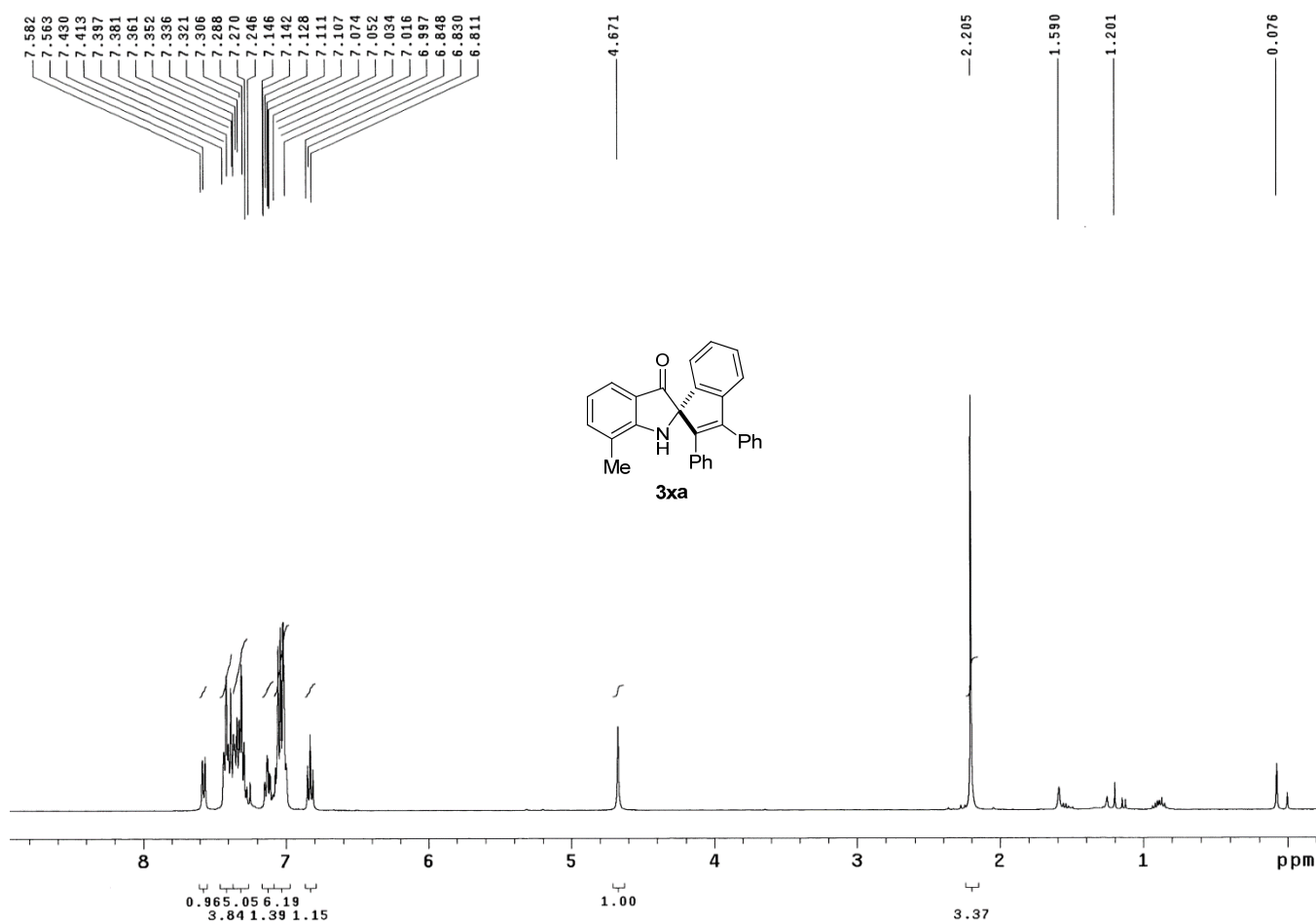
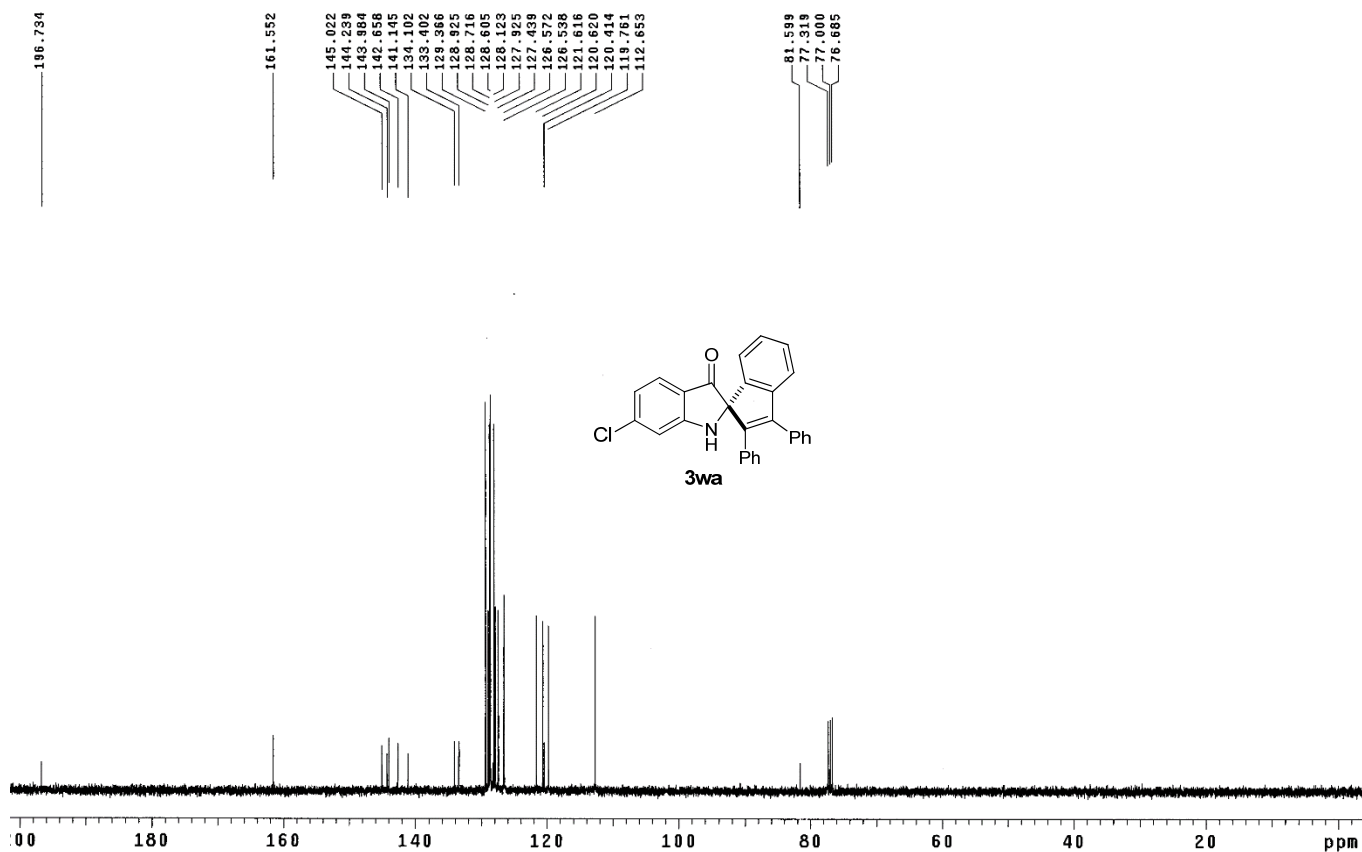


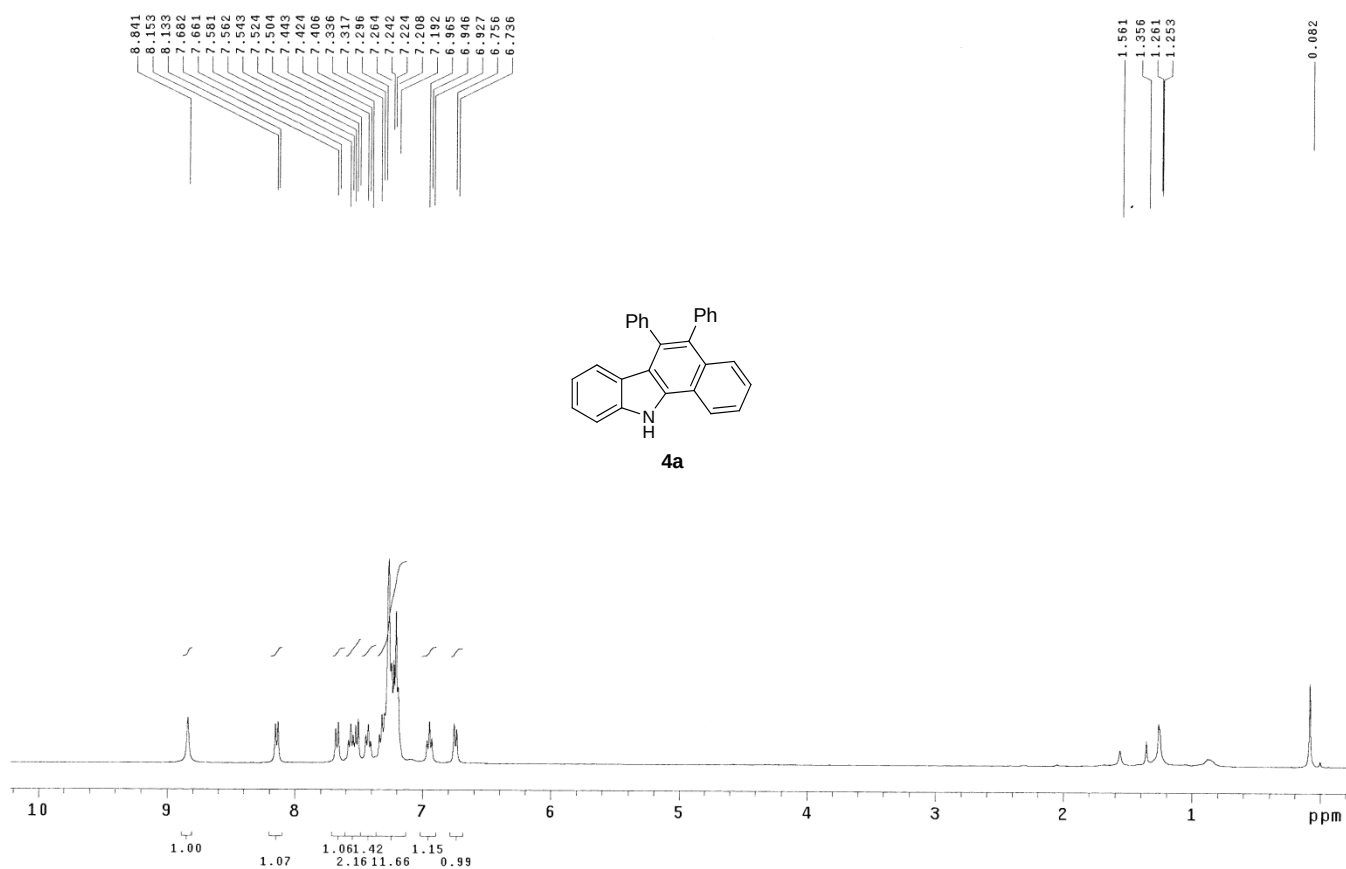
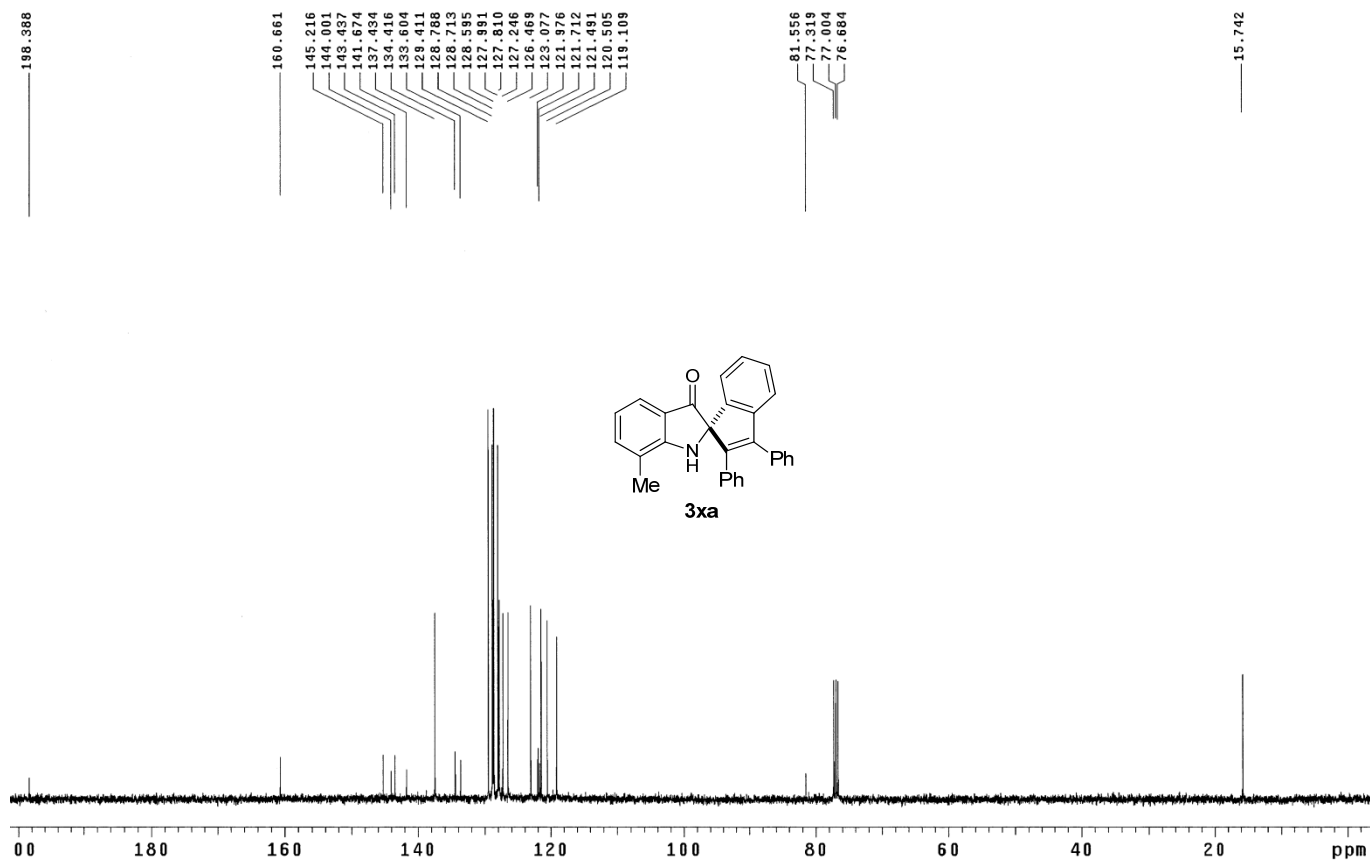


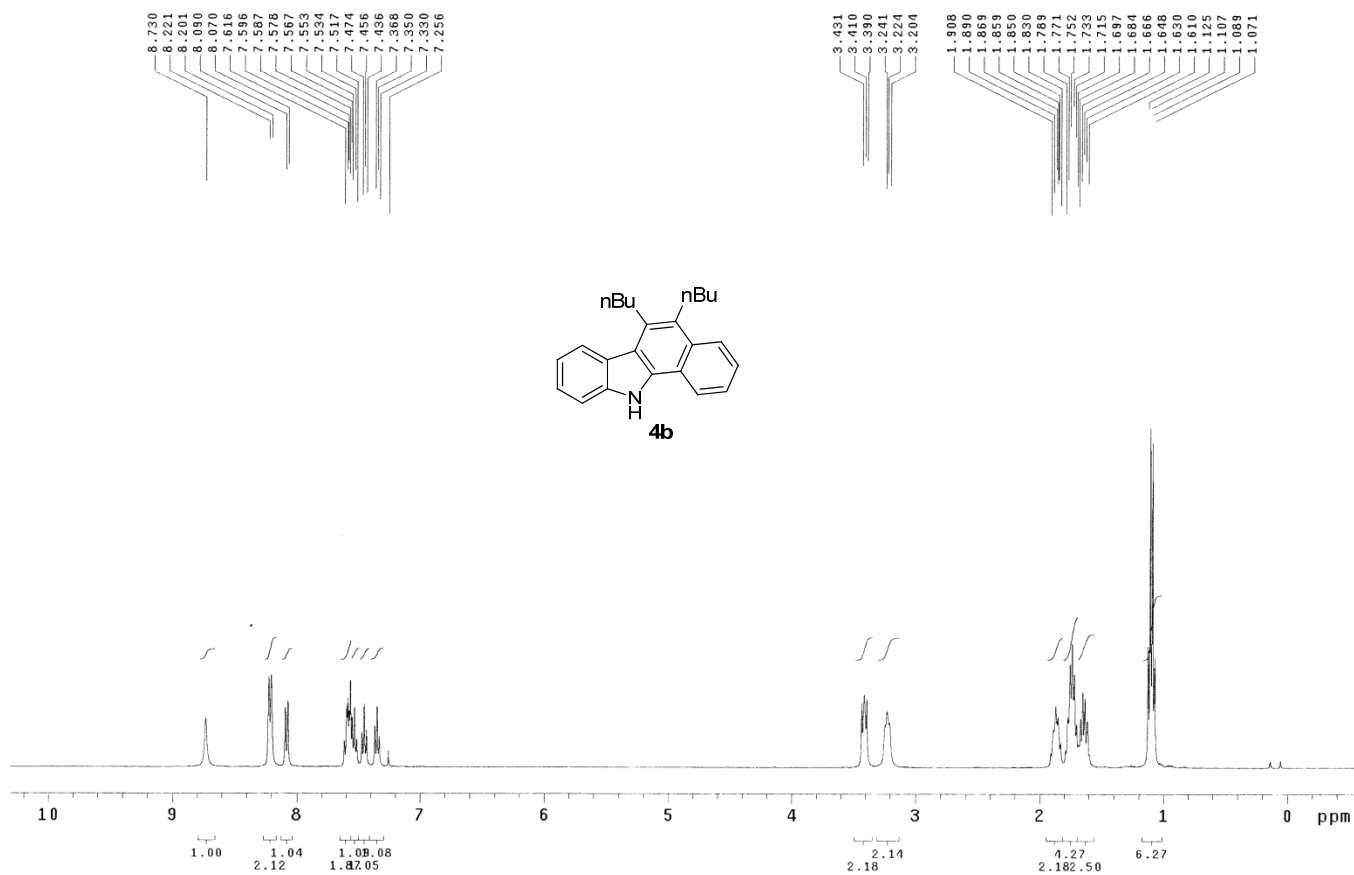
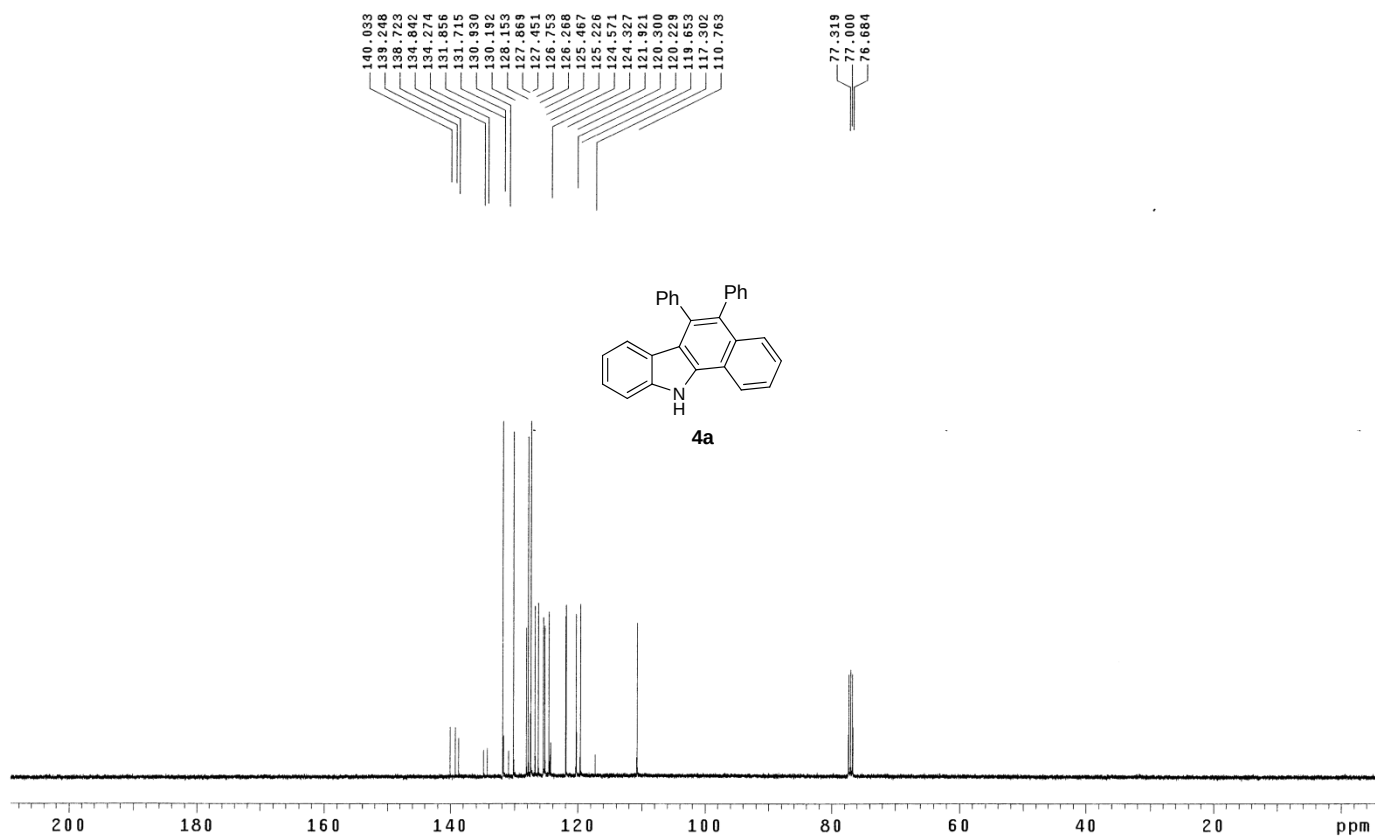


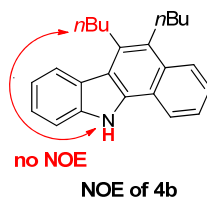
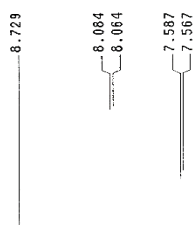
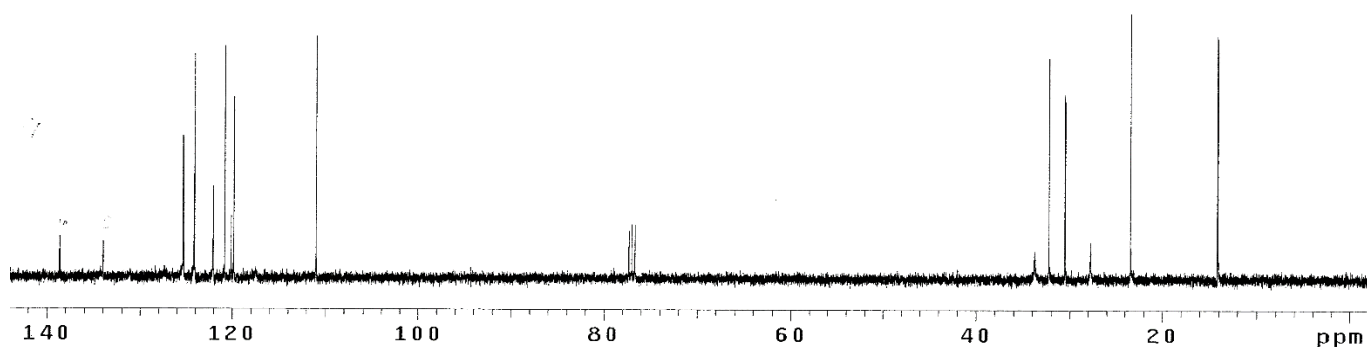
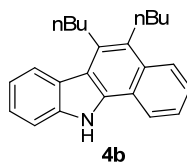
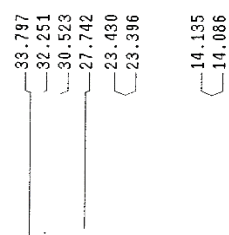
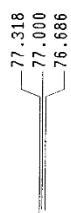
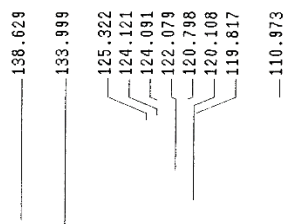




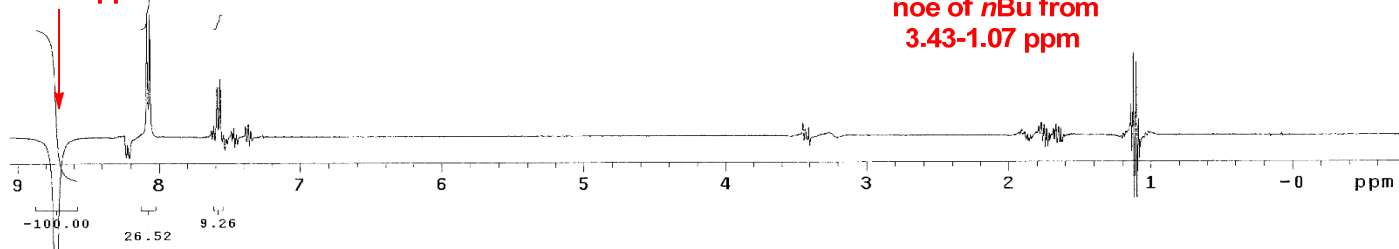




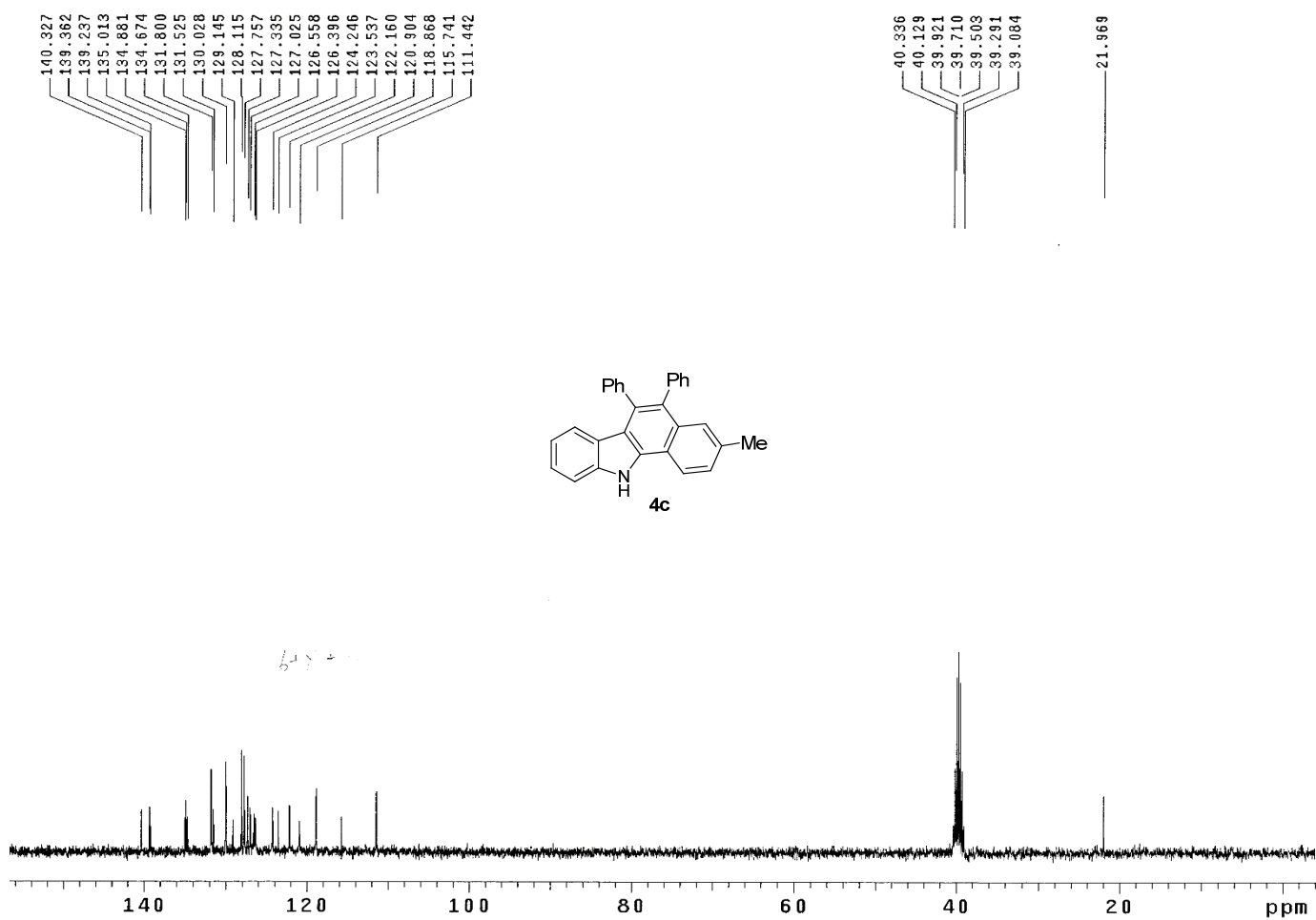
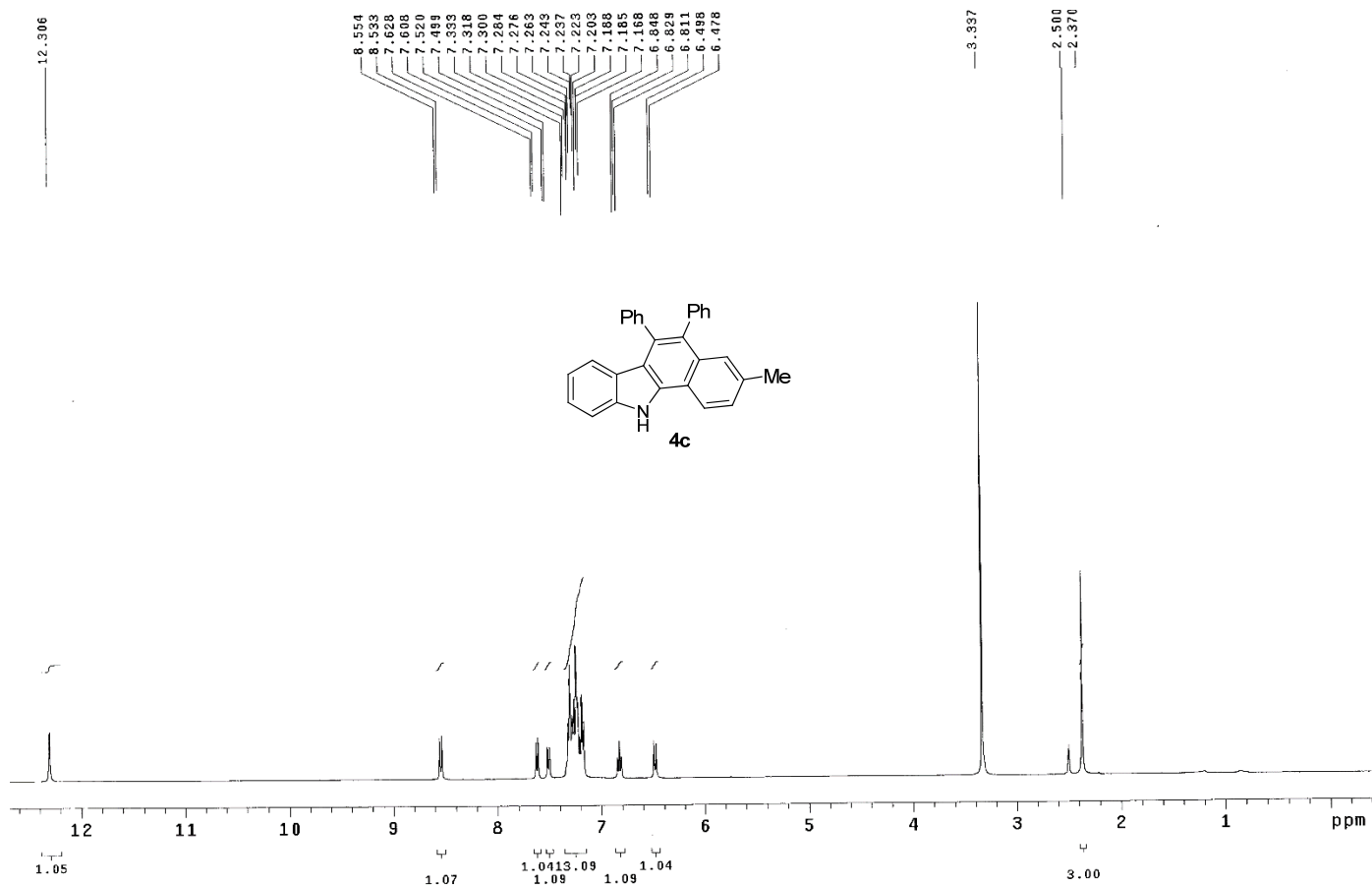


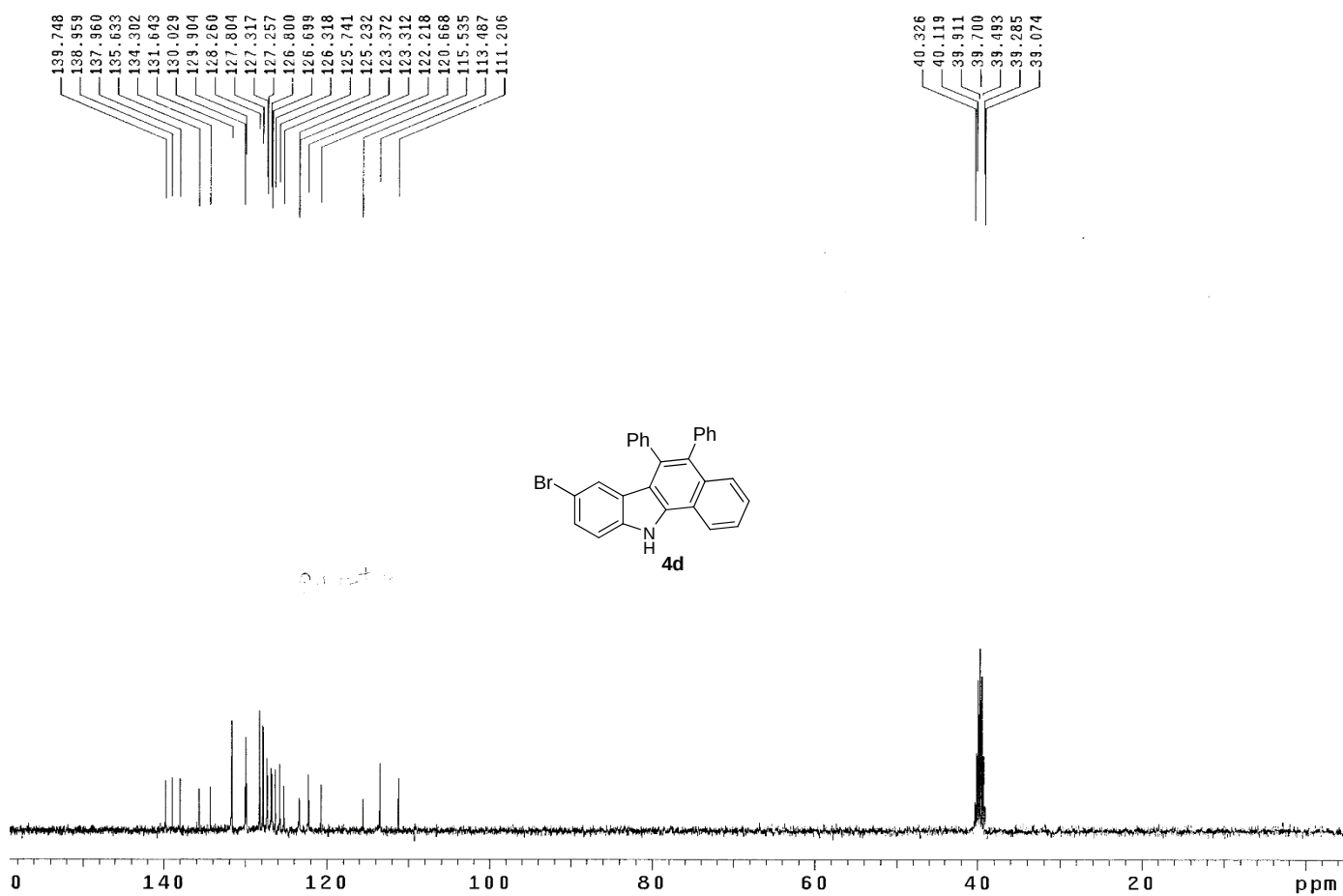
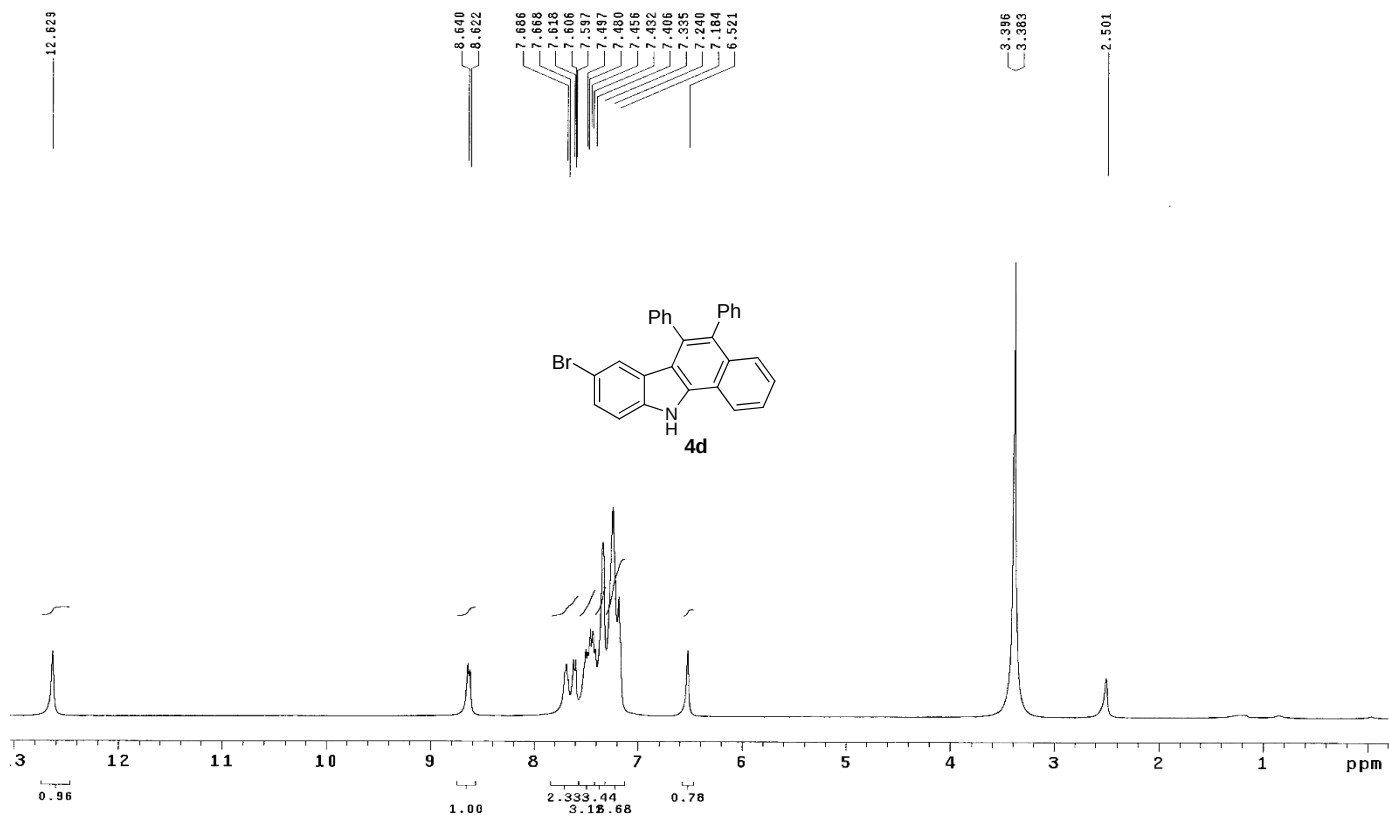


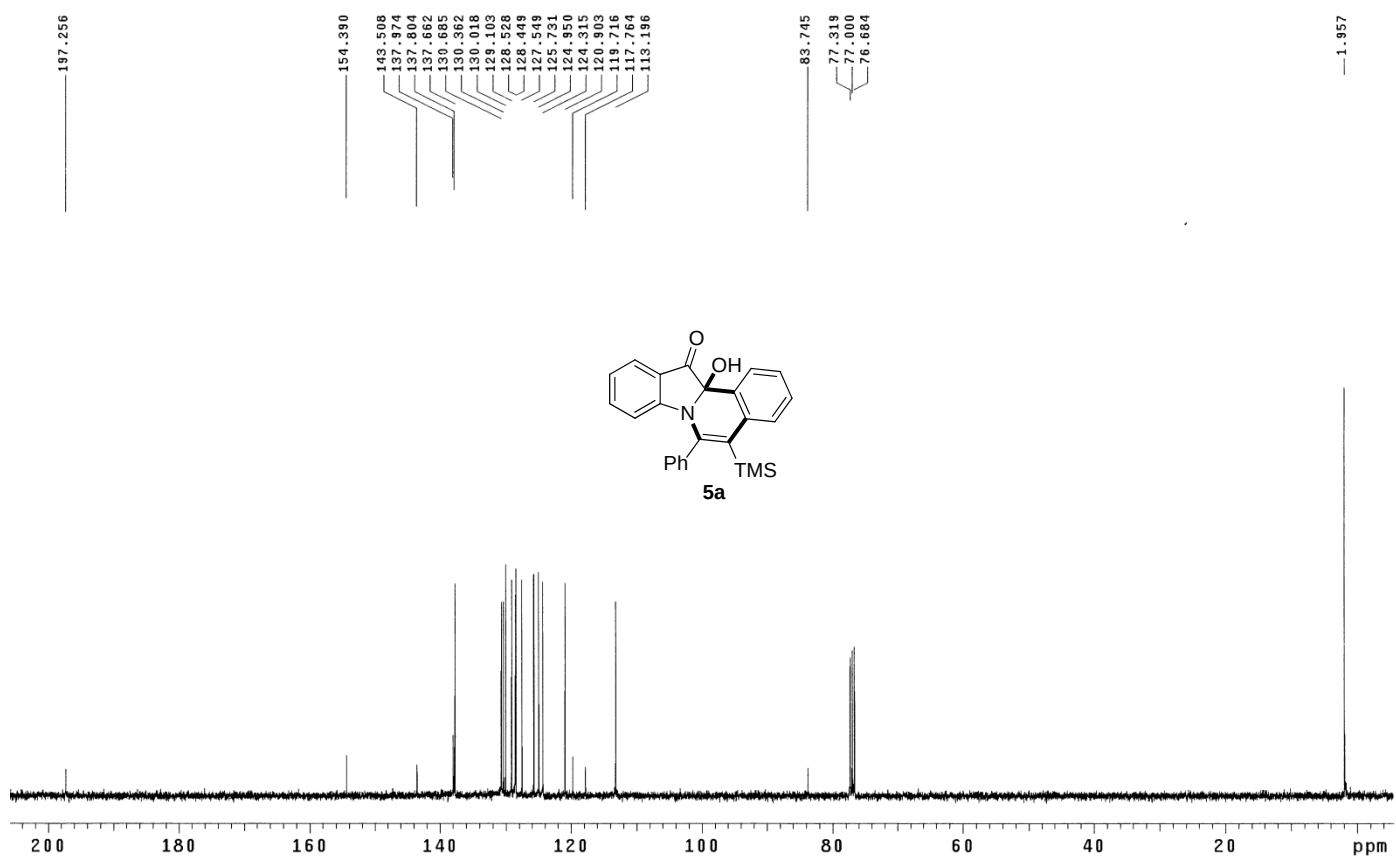
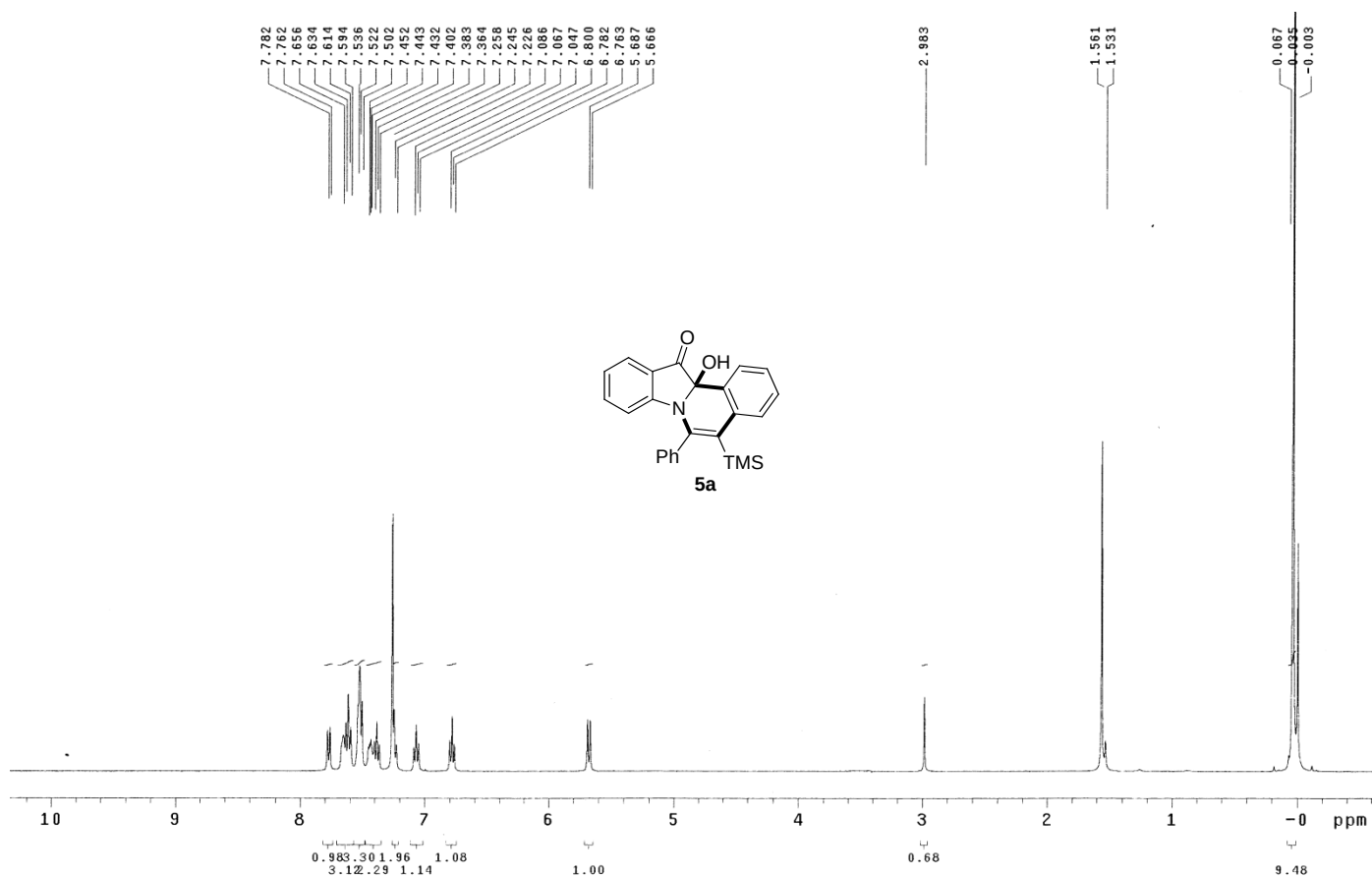
irradiation of NH
at 8.73 ppm

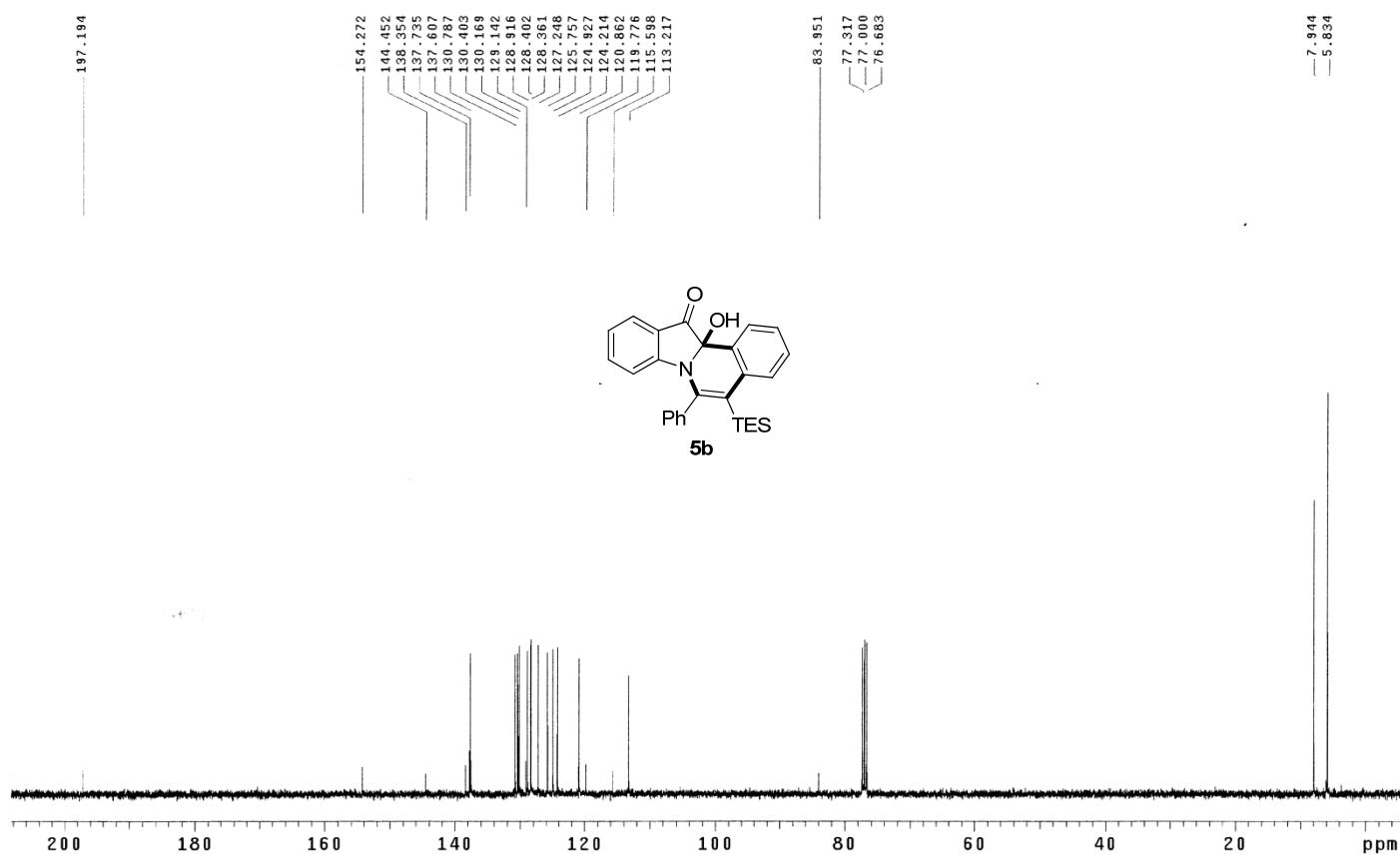
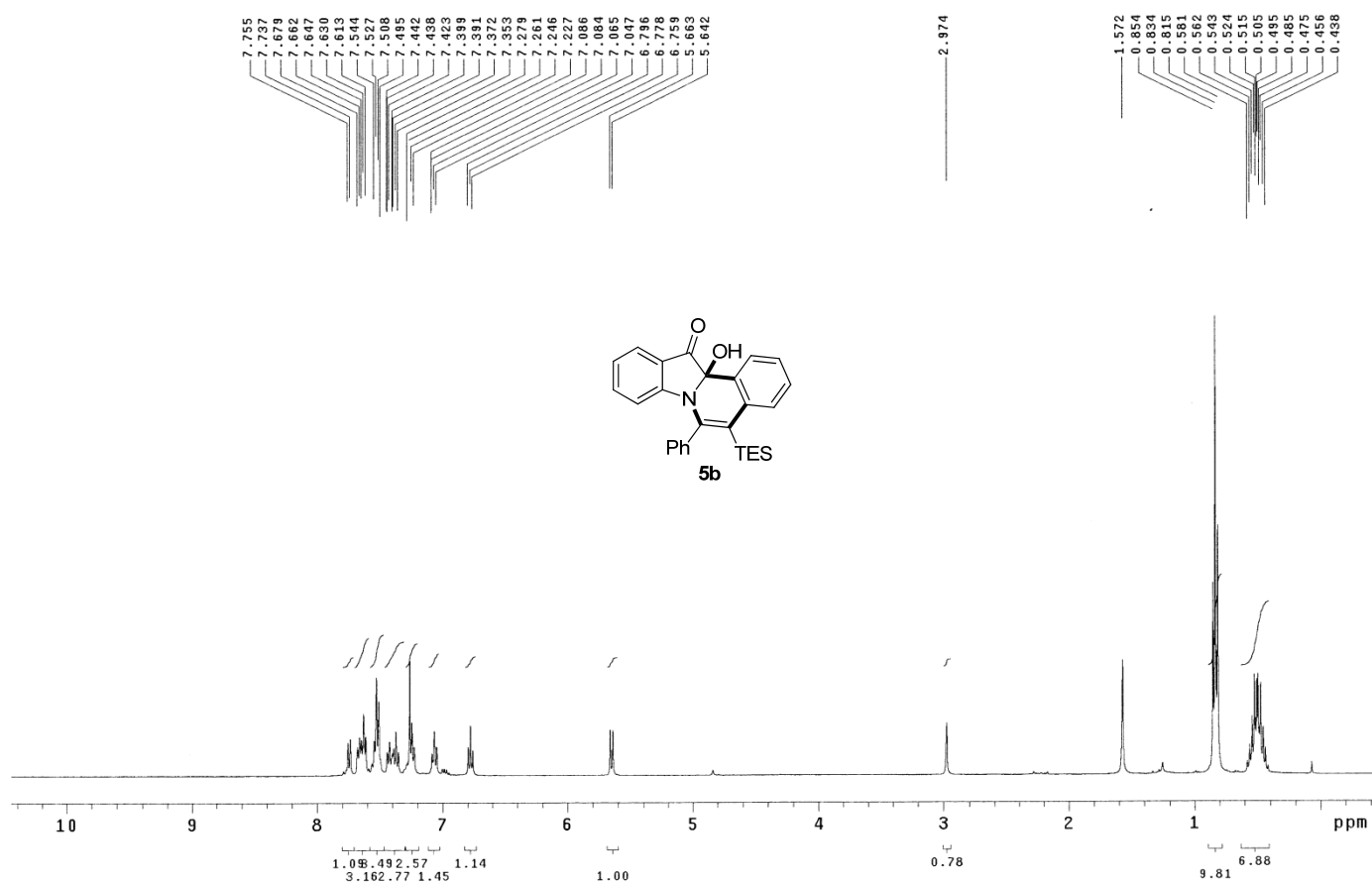


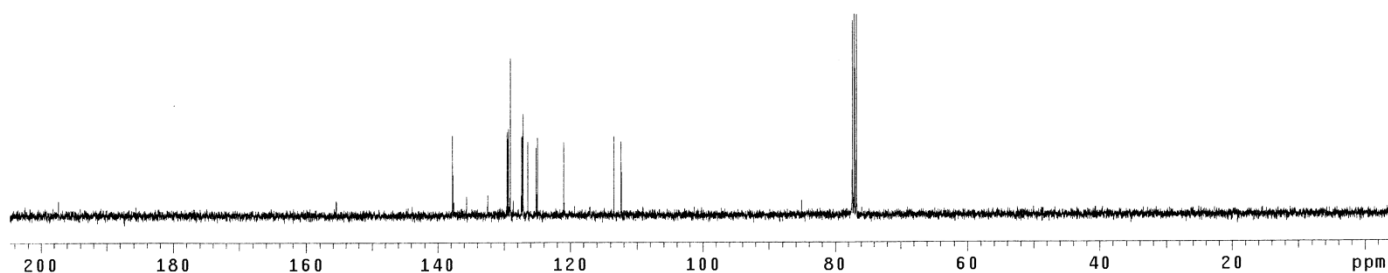
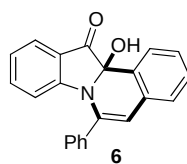
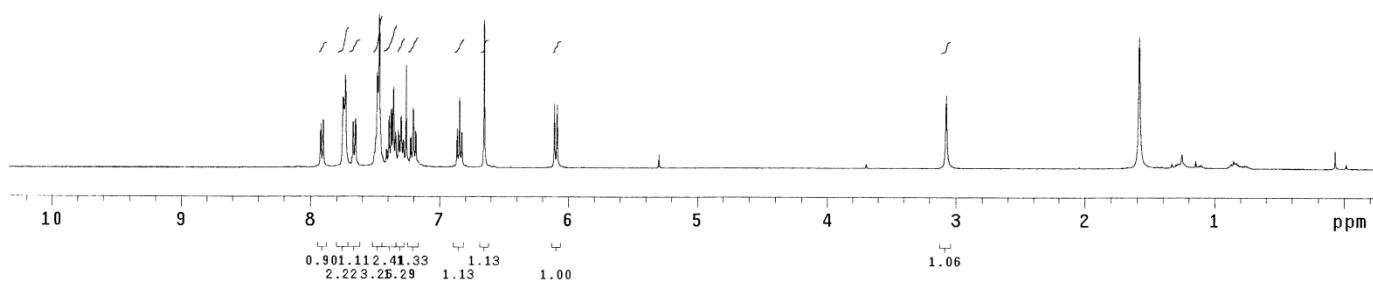
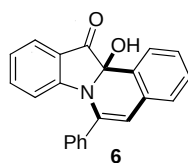
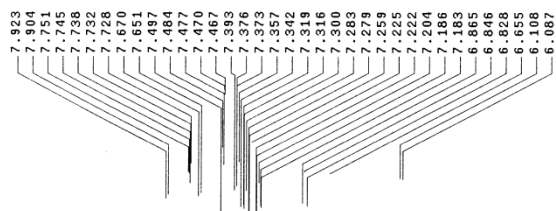
noe of nBu from
3.43-1.07 ppm

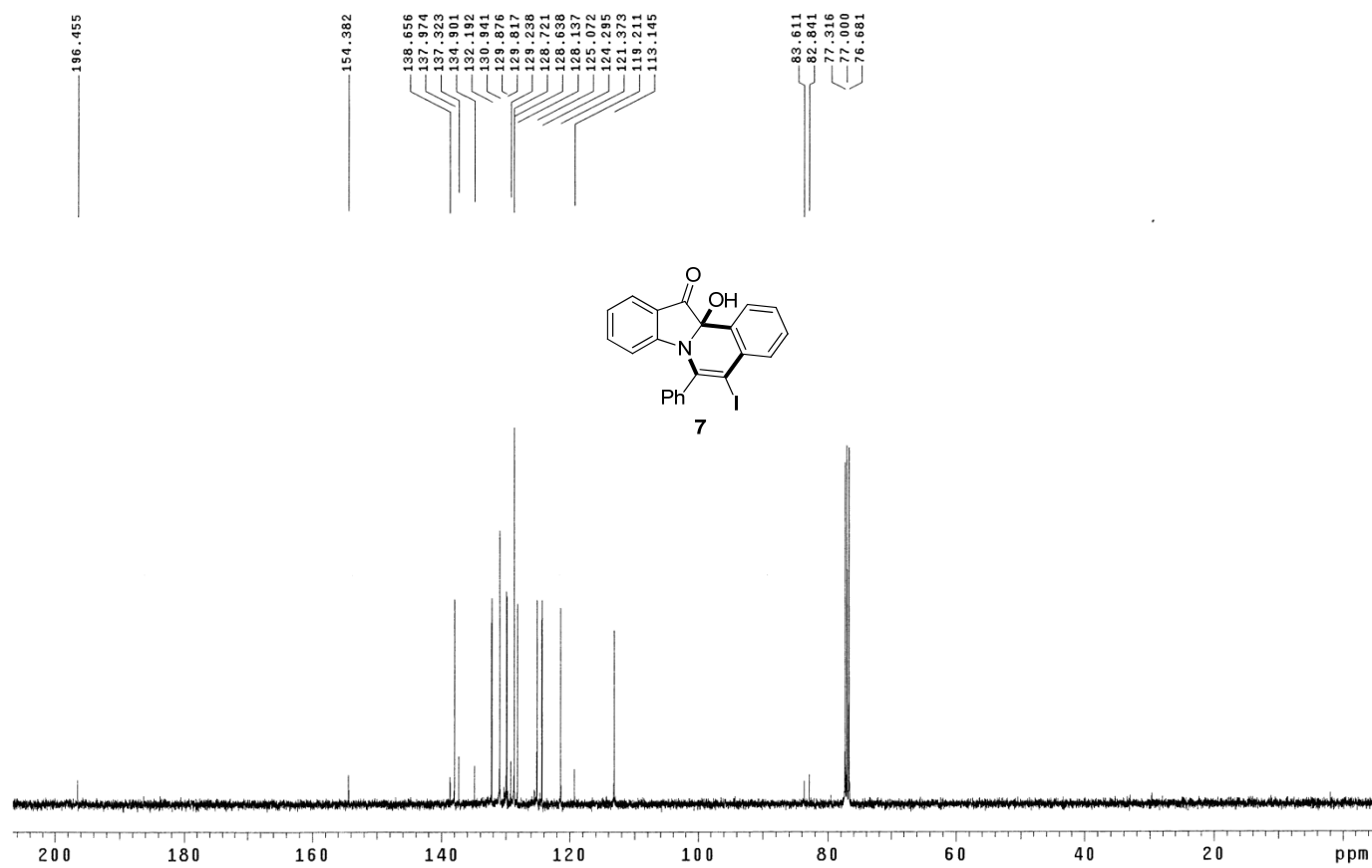
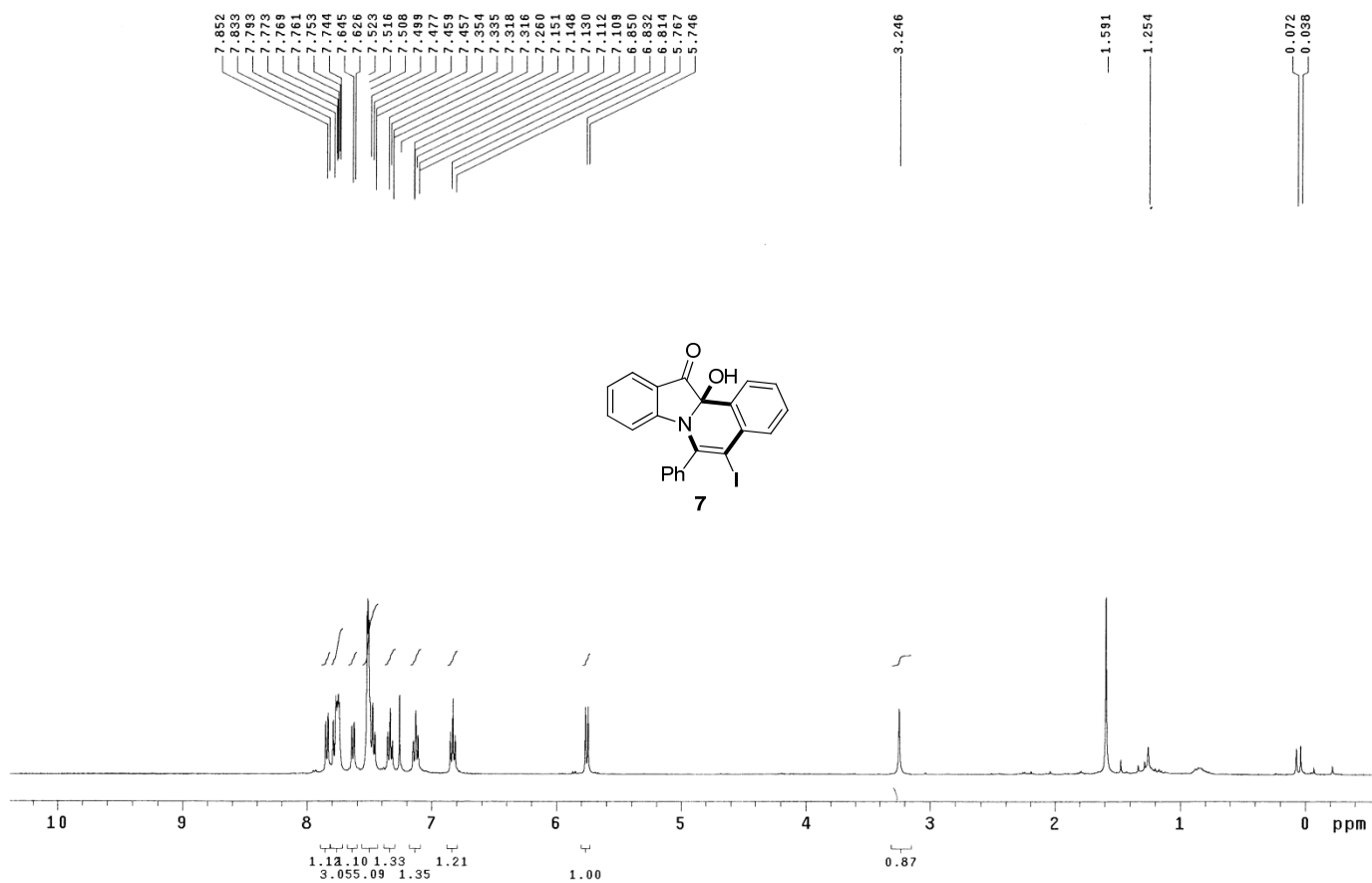


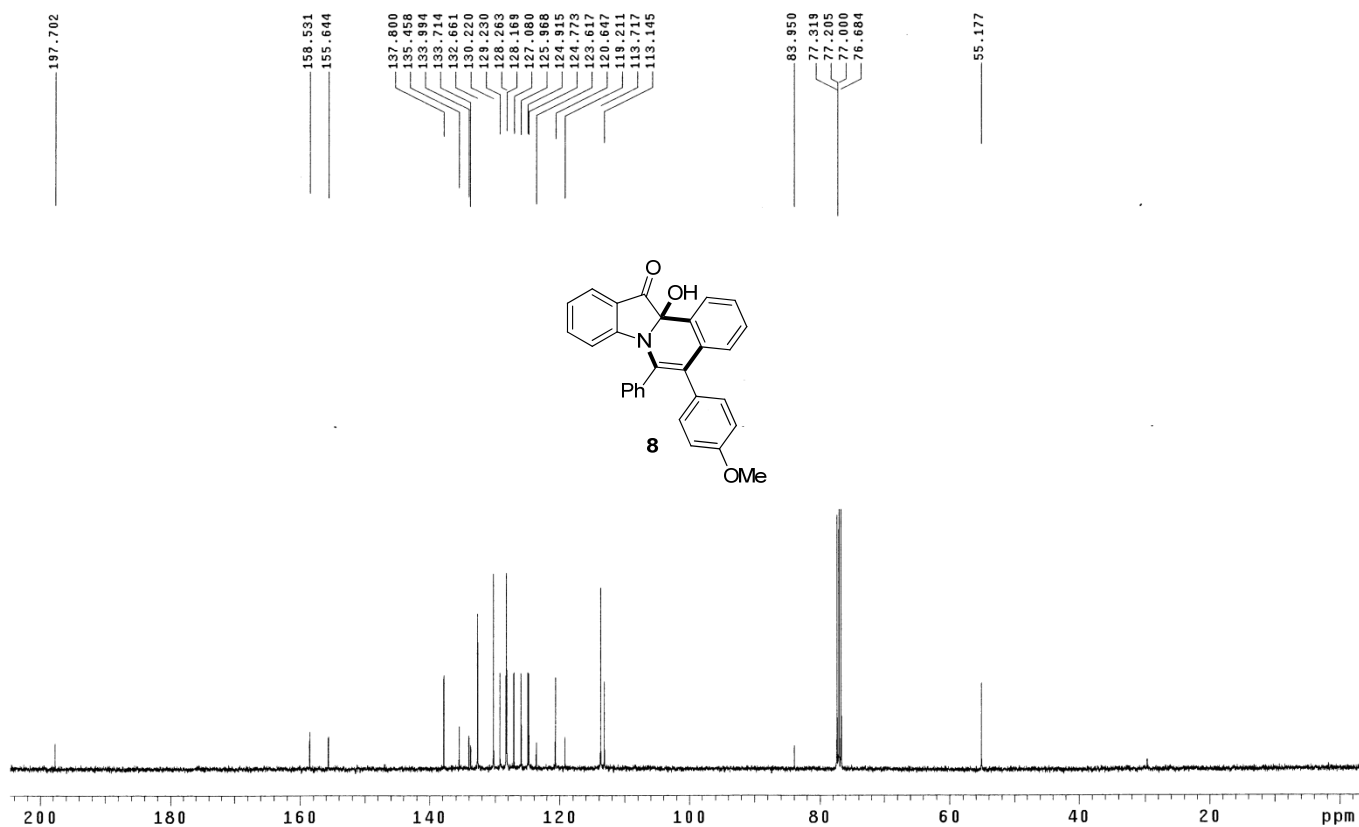
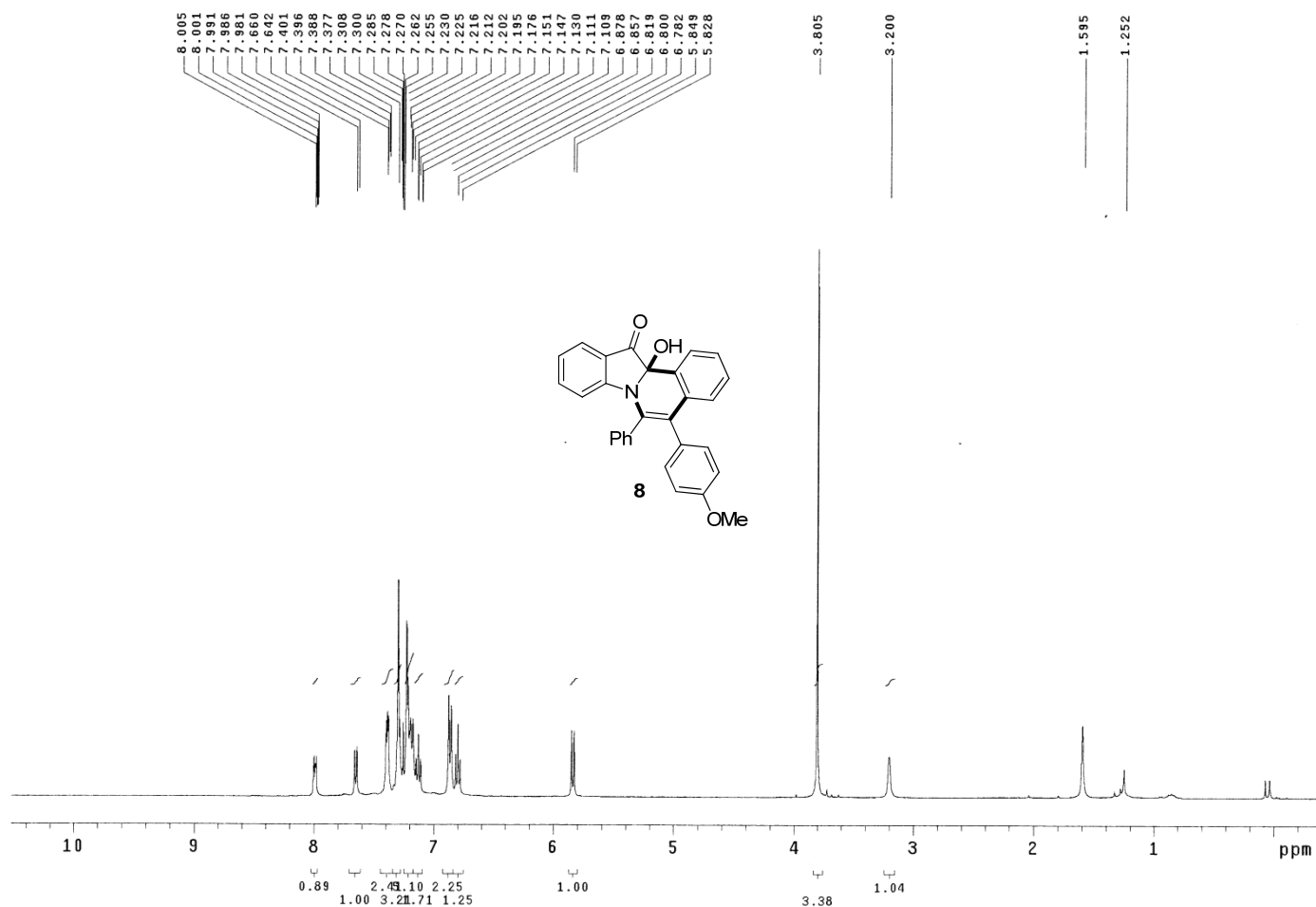


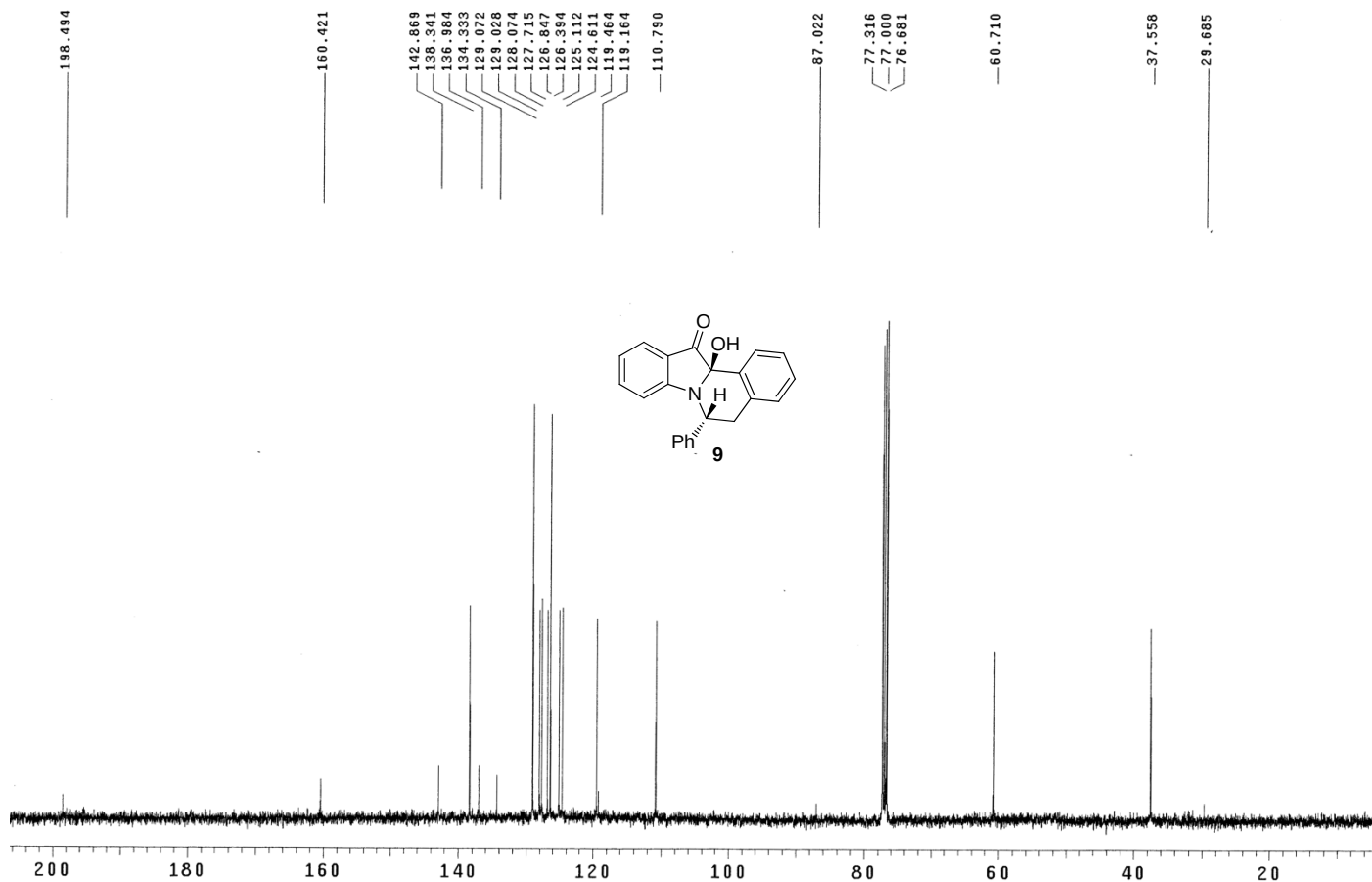
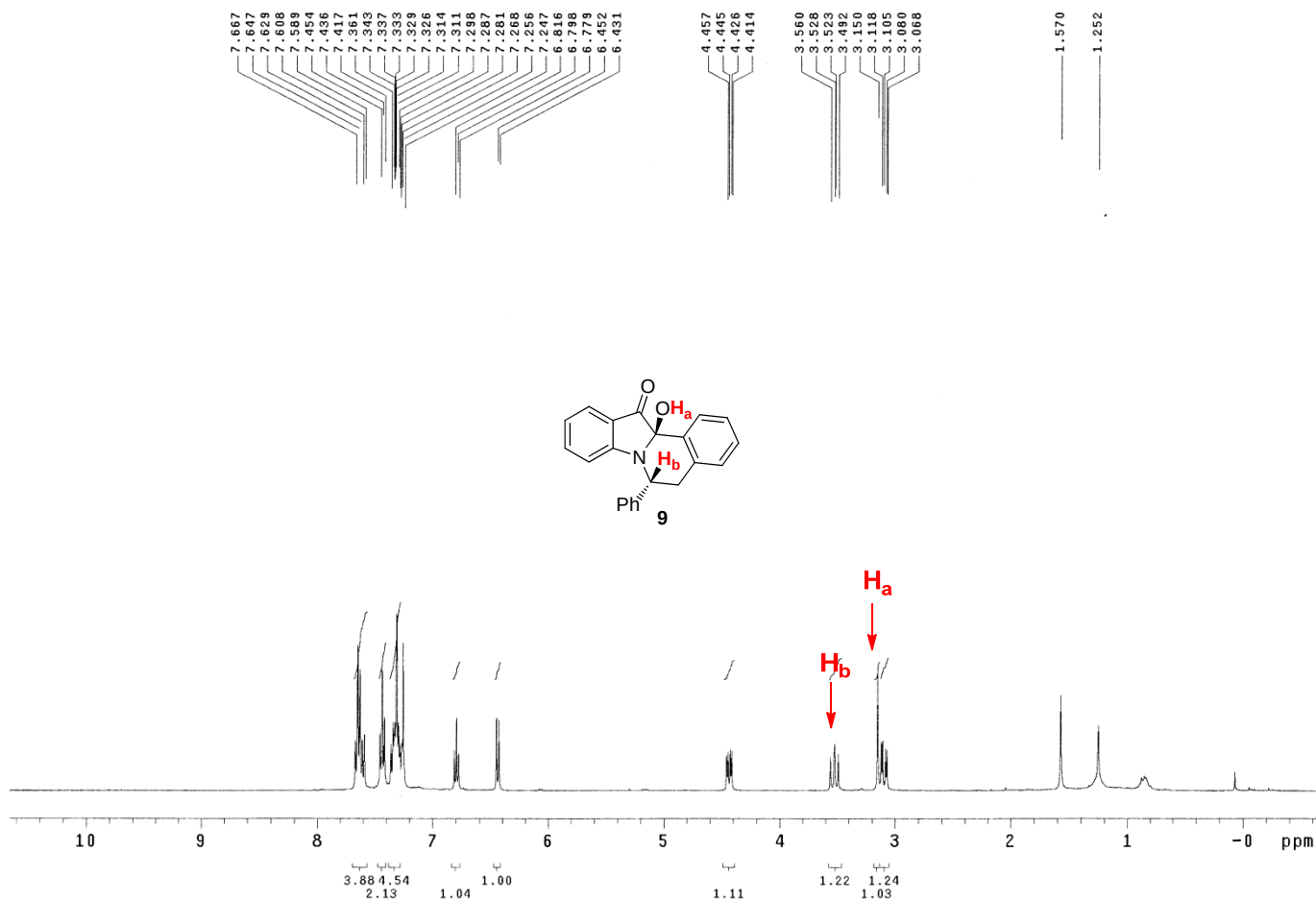


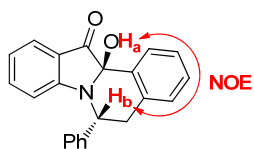
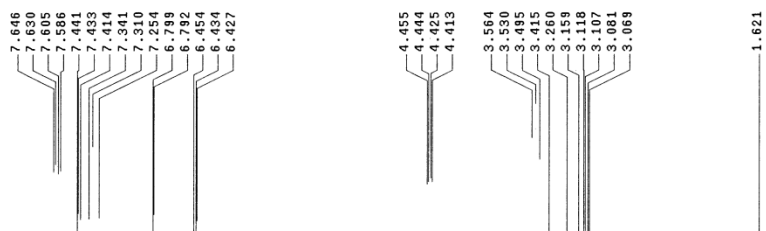




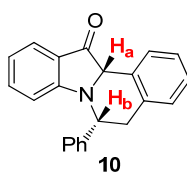
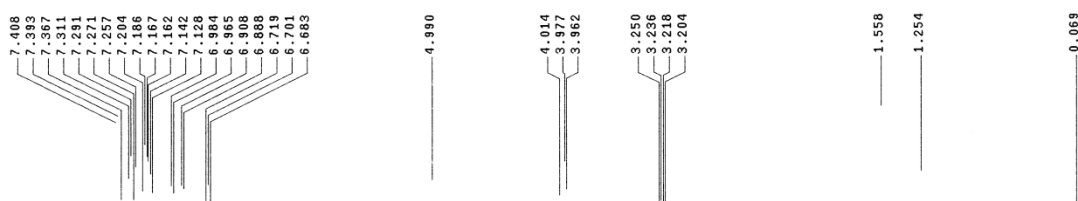
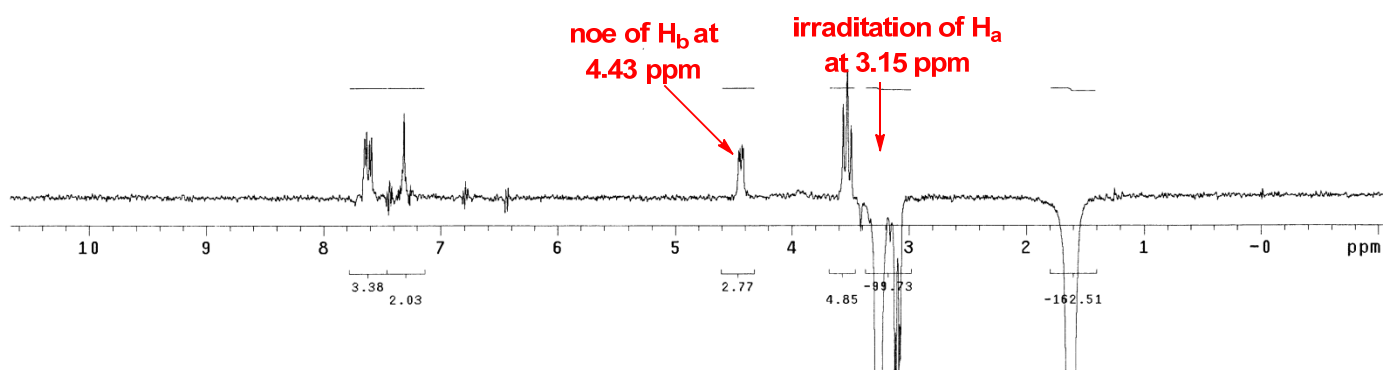








NOE of 9



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