

## Supporting Information

### A co-operative Ni-Cu system for $C_{sp}$ - $C_{sp}$ and $C_{sp}$ - $C_{sp2}$ cross-coupling providing a direct access to unsymmetrical 1,3-diynes and en-yne

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## Experimental procedure

IR spectra were taken as KBr pellets for solids. NMR spectra were recorded at 300, 400 and 500 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  spectra and at 75, 100 and 125 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solutions.  $\text{Ni}(\text{acac})_2$ ,  $\text{CuI}$  and vinyl halides were procured commercially and all styrenyl and alkynyl halides were prepared following reported procedures.

**Representative experimental procedure for the cross-coupling of 1-(2-bromoethynyl)benzene and 4-ethynylanisole to 1-Methoxy-4-(4-phenylbuta-1,3-diynyl)benzene (Scheme 2, 3aa):** In a 10 mL round bottom flask a mixture of 1-(2-bromoethynyl)benzene (181 mg, 1 mmol), 4-ethynylanisole (158 mg, 1.2 mmol),  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (650 mg, 2 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{acac})_2$  (13 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $\text{CuI}$  (10 mg, 0.05 mmol) and NMP (3 mL) was heated at 100 °C under argon for 9 h (TLC). The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool and was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 20 mL). The extract was washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL). Then the organic phase was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to leave the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography over silica gel (hexane/diethyl ether 98:2) to provide the pure 1-methoxy-4-(4-phenylbuta-1,3-diynyl)benzene as a white solid (206 mg, 89%), Mp (°C) = 88-90; IR (KBr): 2966, 2939, 2839, 2207, 1605, 1509, 1431  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.83 (s, 3H), 6.85 (d,  $J$  = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 4H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.35, 72.87, 7431, 81.16, 81.96, 113.86 (2C), 114.29 (2C), 122.16, 128.54 (2C), 129.18, 132.60, 134.29 (2C), 160.52 ppm; HRMS:  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}$ : 233.0961  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ; found: 233.0964.

This procedure was followed for all the reactions listed in Table 2, Table 3, and Scheme 2. All of the known compounds are characterized by their spectroscopic data ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR) and the data are consistent with those reported earlier. Similarly all of the unknown compounds are well characterized by their spectroscopic and spectrometric data (IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HRMS and elemental analysis). All these data are provided bellow.

**1-(4-(2-Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)buta-1,3-diynyl)benzene (Table 2, 3ae):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 91-93, IR (KBr): 3066, 3018, 2968, 2927, 2399, 2219, 1600, 1572, 1487, 1452, 1442, 1317, 1261, 1215 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.32-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.67- 7.72 (m, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 73.7, 79.3, 81.7, 83.6, 121.6, 126.1, 128.6 (2C), 128.63, 128.9, 129.3, 129.6, 131.6, 132.6, 132.7, 135.2 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>; C 75.55, H 3.36; found: C 75.59, H 3.38 %.

**2,4-Dimethyl-1-(4-phenylbuta-1,3-diynyl)benzene (Table 2, 3ab):** Off-white solid, Mp (°C) = 82-84, IR (KBr): 2967, 2938, 2835, 2211, 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 7.07-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 20.3, 20.8, 74.2, 77.4, 81.2, 81.8, 121.6, 122.0, 128.5, 129.2, 129.6, 130.2, 132.6, 133.4, 135.3, 138.7 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>: C 93.87, H 6.13; found: C 93.83, H 6.17 %.

**1-(4-(4-*Tert*-butylphenyl)buta-1,3-diynyl)-4-pentylbenzene (Table 2, 3fh):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 91-93, IR (KBr): 2954, 2926, 2856, 2216, 2144, 1726, 1600, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 1.312 (s, 11H), 1.57-1.63 (m, 4H), 2.602 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.354 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.394-7.470 (m, 4H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 14.1, 22.6, 30.9, 31.2 (3C), 31.5, 35.0, 36.11, 73.62, 77.58 (2C), 81.7, 118.9, 119.1, 125.6 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 132.4 (2C), 132.5 (2C), 144.6, 152.7 ppm; HRMS: *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>: 329.2269 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 329.2266.

**4-((2-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)buta-1,3-diynyl)biphenyl (Table 2, 3gi):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 88- 91; IR (KBr): 2920, 2851, 2214, 1319, 1263 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.37 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.63 (m, 6H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 74.3, 77.5, 79.3, 83.6, 116.3, 120.4, 126.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 5.25 Hz, 1C), 127.2 (2C), 127.3 (2C), 128.0, 128.9, 129.0 (2C), 131.6, 132.8, 133.2 (2C), 135.2, 136.7, 140.1, 142.3 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>: C 79.76, H 3.78; found: C 79.81, H 3.80 %.

**1-((*E*)-Dec-1-en-3-ynyl)naphthalene (Table 3, 5ac):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 102-105; IR (KBr): 3056, 3041, 2954, 2926, 2856, 2210, 1589, 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.89-0.94 (m, 3H), 1.32-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.44-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.43 (m, 2H), 6.21-6.25 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.85 (m, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 14.1, 19.8, 22.7, 28.8, 28.9, 31.5, 78.5, 80.1, 93.0, 111.8, 123.3, 123.7, 125.6, 126.0, 126.3, 128.6, 130.9, 133.8, 134.2, 137.1 ppm; anal. Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>: C 91.55, H 8.45; found: C 91.59, H 8.41 %.

**1-((*E*)-4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)but-1-en-3-ynyl)naphthalene (Table 3, 5aa):** Yellow solid, Mp (°C) = 107-111; IR (KBr): 3018, 2962, 2933, 2839, 2399, 2192, 1598, 1508 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.56 (m, 5H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.88 (m, 3H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.4, 88.1, 91.8, 111.2, 114.2 (2C), 115.6, 123.4, 123.7, 125.7, 126.1, 126.4,

128.7, 128.9, 131.0, 132.2 (2C), 133.8, 134.0, 137.6, 159.8 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O: C 88.70, H 5.67; found: C 88.72, H 5.70 %.

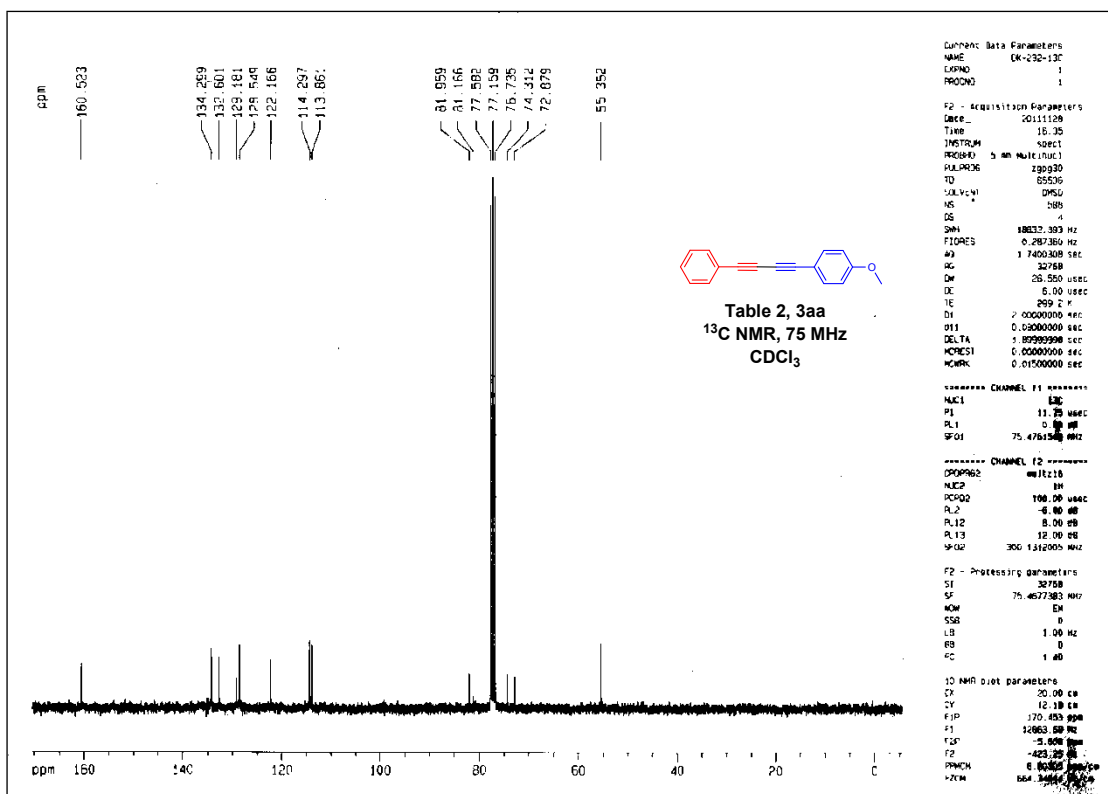
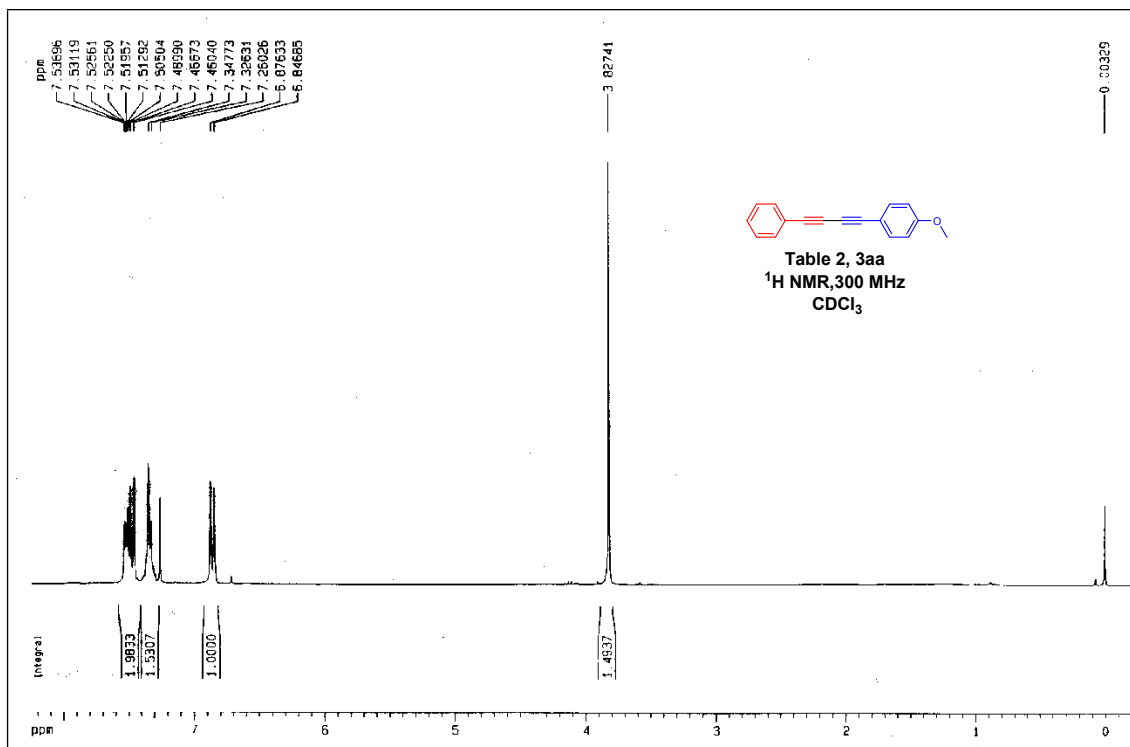
**3-((E)-4-(Naphthalene-1-yl)but-3-en-1-ynyl)thiophene (Table 3, 5ag):** Off white solid, Mp (°C) = 115-118; IR (KBr): 3105, 3043, 2952, 2921, 2850, 1587 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.44 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.89 (m, 3H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 86.8, 88.8, 110.8, 122.5, 123.5, 123.6, 125.5, 125.7, 126.1, 126.5, 126.6, 128.7, 129.1, 129.9, 131.0, 133.8, 133.9, 138.2 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>S: C 83.04, H 4.65; found: C 83.08, H 4.67 %.

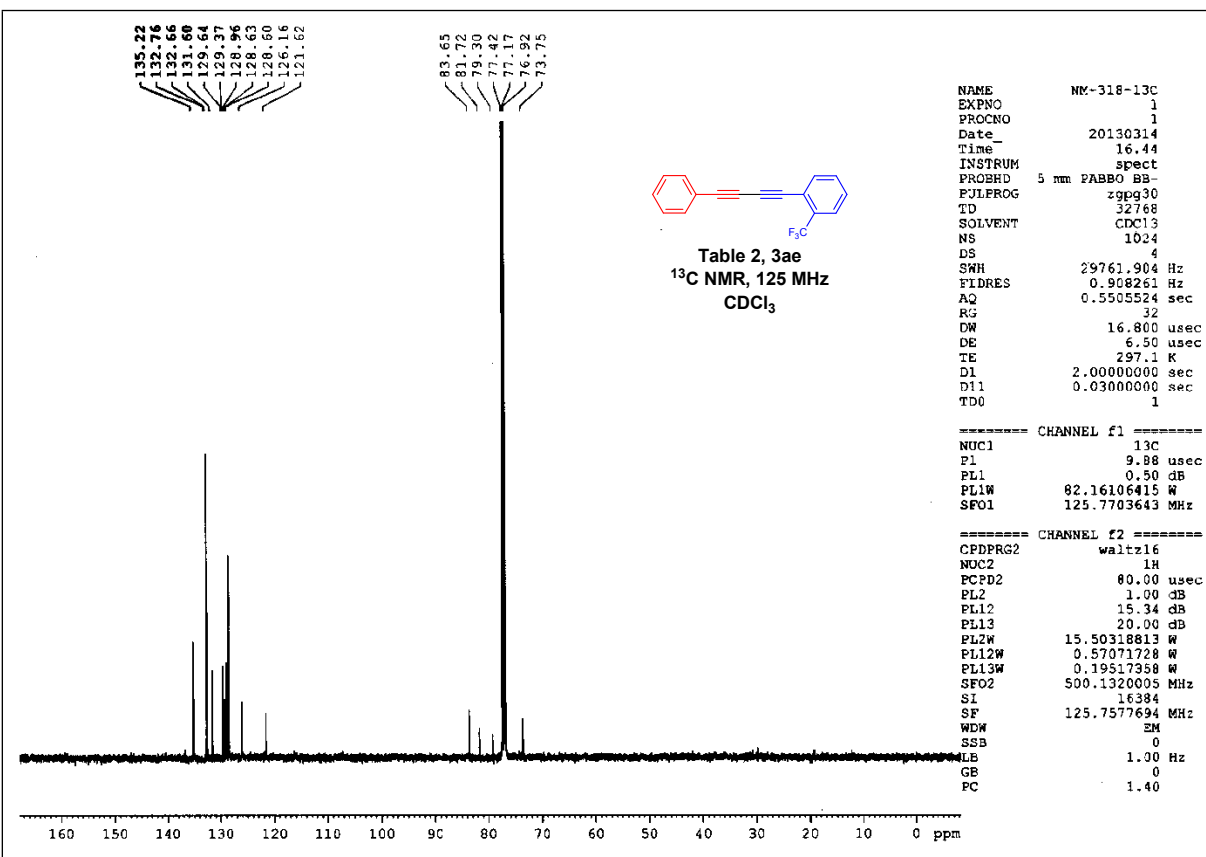
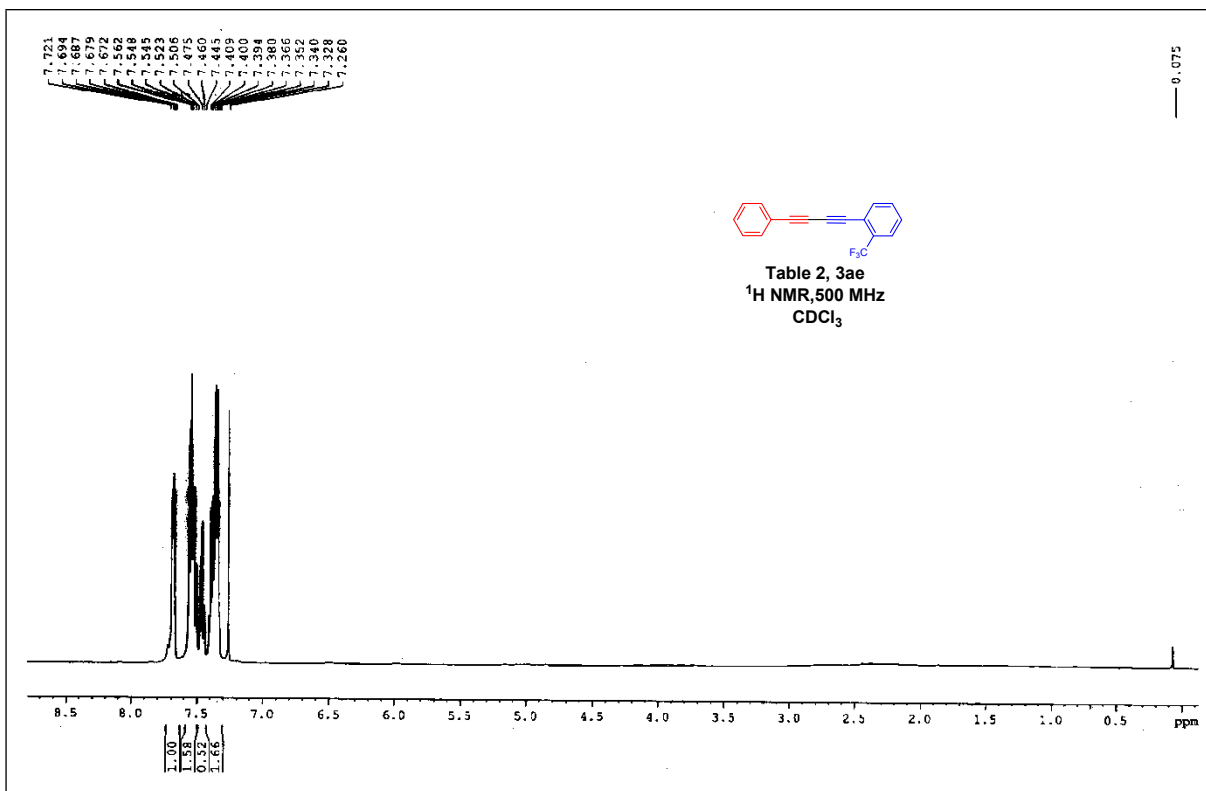
**1-Tert-butyl-4-(3-cyclohexylideneprop-1-ynyl)benzene (Table 3, 5bd):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 90-92; IR (KBr): 2950, 2927, 2854, 1512, 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.59 (s, 6H), 2.21 (s, 2H), 2.48 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 26.5, 27.7, 28.4, 31.2 (2C), 31.8, 35.0, 36.2, 86.7, 91.5, 101.9, 121.2, 125.3 (2C), 131.16 (2C), 152.7, 156.0 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>: C 90.42, H 9.58; found: C 90.44, H 9.56 %.

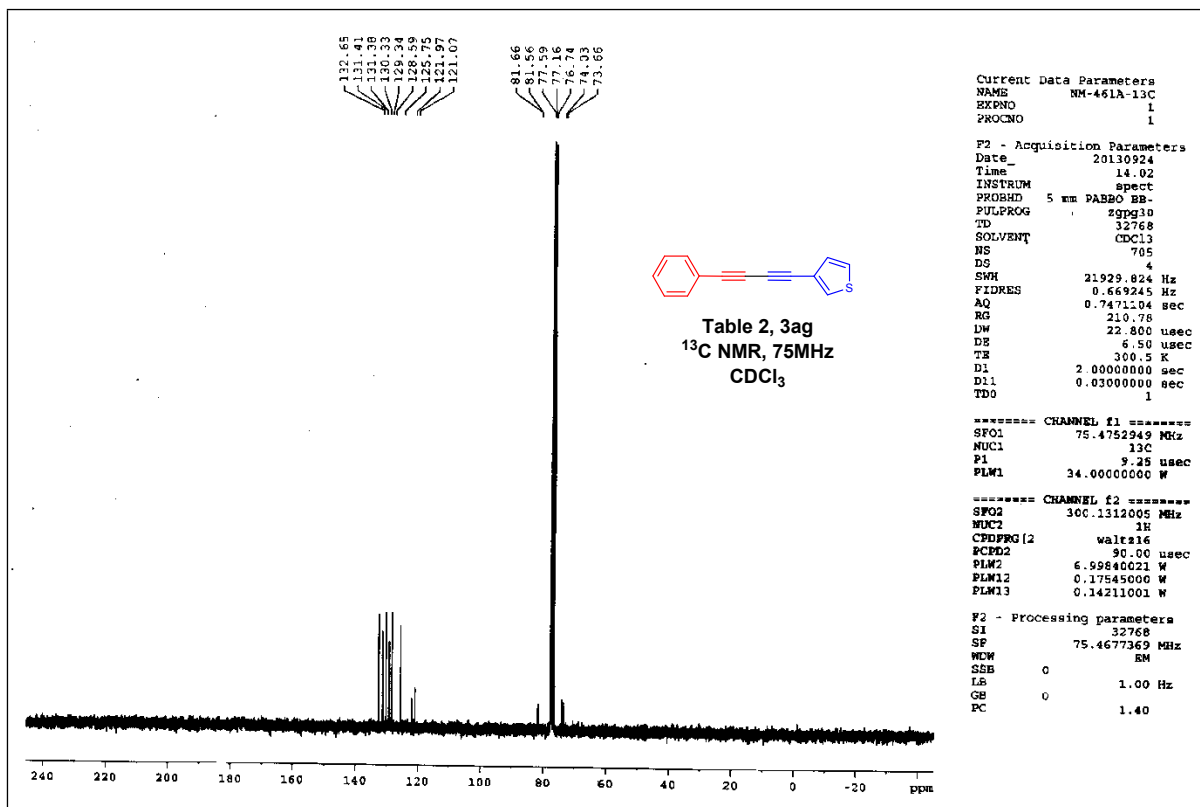
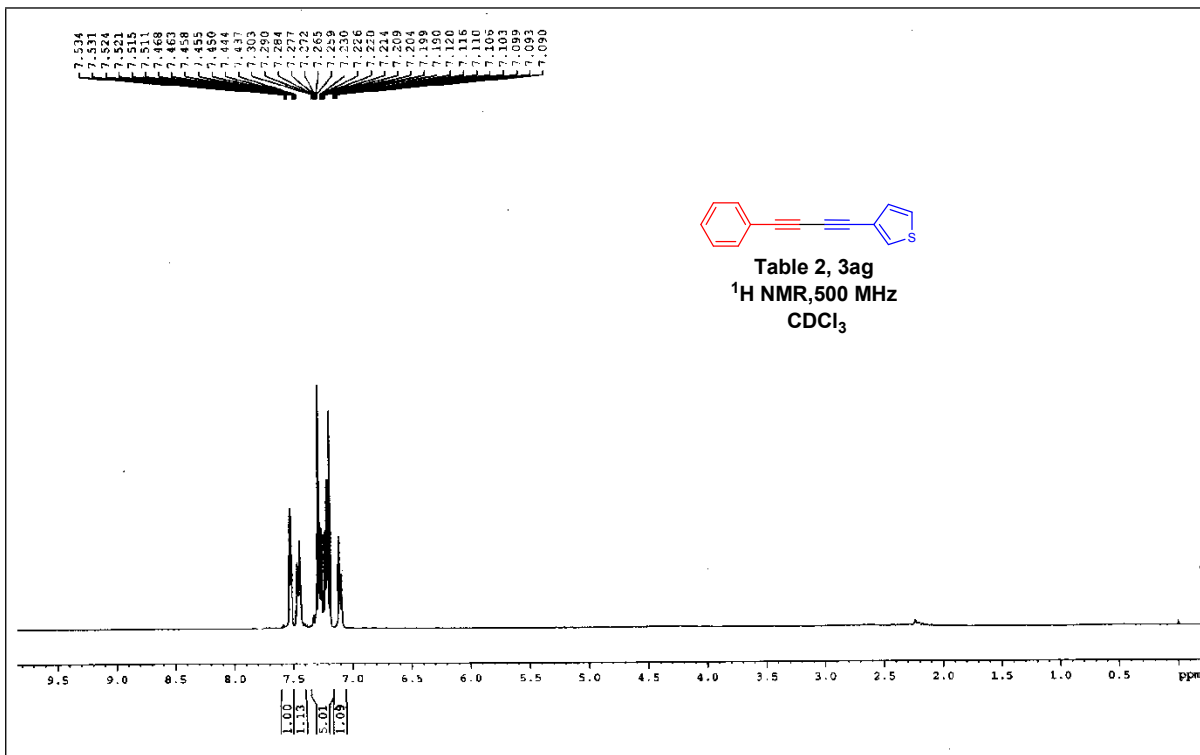
**1-((3E, 5E)-5-Benzylidenedec-3-en-1-ynyl)-4-methoxybenzene (Table 3, 5ca):** Off white solid, Mp (°C) = 101-102; IR (KBr): 3026, 2954, 2929, 2867, 2858, 2837, 2189, 1606, 1585, 1568, 1508 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.81-0.83 (m, 3H), 1.26-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.51 (m, 2H), 2.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.7 (s, 3H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.31 (m, 4H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 14.1, 22.5, 27.1, 28.9, 32.3, 55.3, 88.3, 92.2, 107.4, 114.1 (2C), 115.9, 127.1, 128.4 (2C), 129.0 (2C), 132.9, 133.0, 137.4 (2C), 140.5, 145.3, 159.6 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O: C 87.23, H 7.93; found: C 87.25, H 7.96 %.

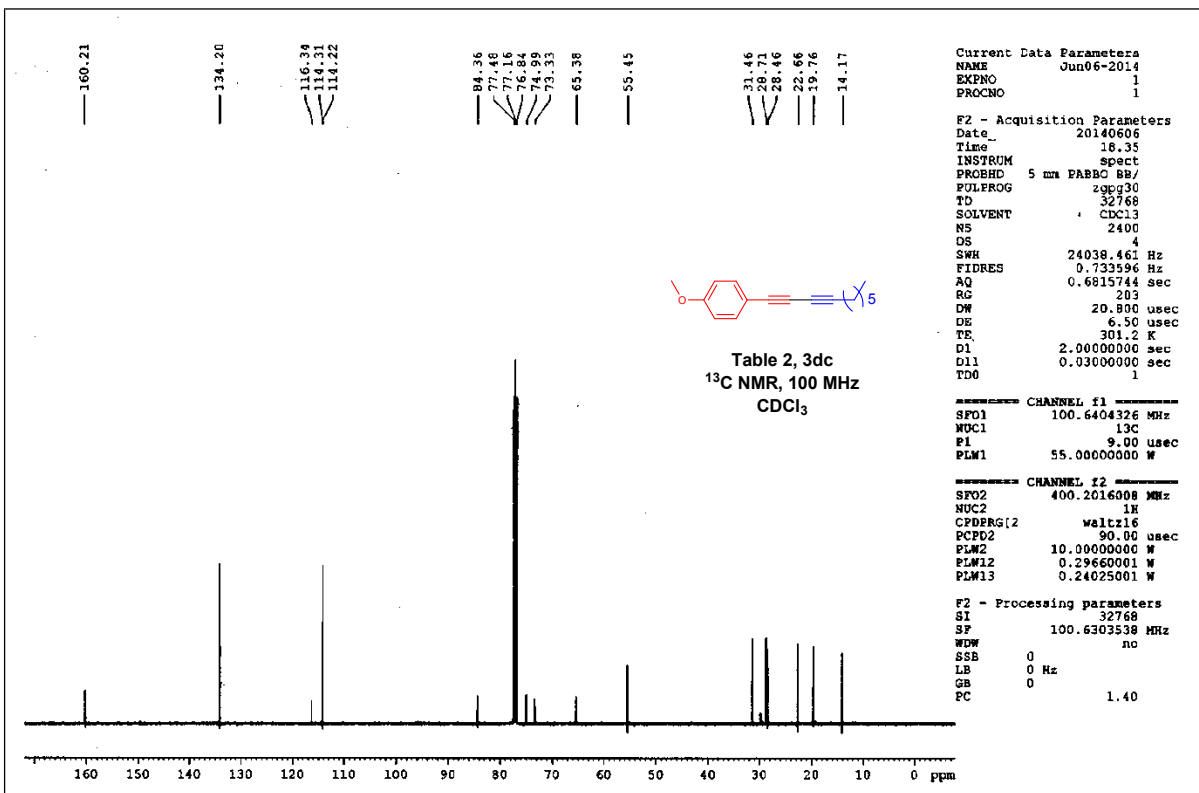
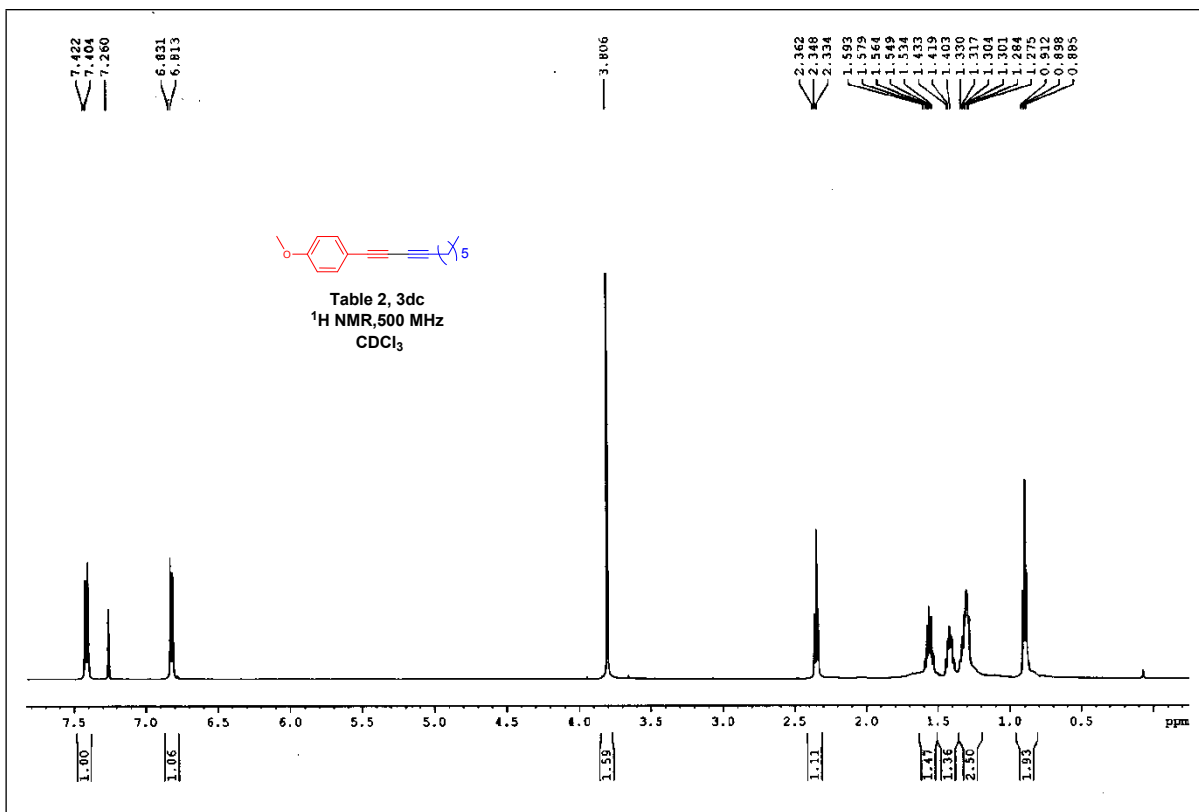
**(E)-1,6-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)hexa-1-en-3,5-diyne (Scheme 2, 7aa):** White solid, Mp (°C) = 119-121; IR (KBr): 3018, 2977, 2873, 2399, 1247, 1215 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.82 (s, 6H), 6.11 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 6.84-6.87 (m, 4H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.45 (m, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.4 (2C), 73.3, 75.7, 81.4, 82.2, 104.5, 114.1, 114.2 (2C), 114.4 (2C), 128 (2C), 128.9, 134.1 (2C), 143.9, 160.4 (2C) ppm; HRMS: *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 289.1223 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 289.1250.

**1-((E)-6-(4-Chlorophenyl)hexa-5-en-1,3-diyne)-2-methoxybenzene (Scheme 2, 7bj):** Yellow solid, Mp (°C) = 121-122; IR (KBr): 3068, 3018, 2978, 2935, 2873, 2401, 1215 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.92 (s, 3H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.90-6.95 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 5H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.9, 77.4, 77.9, 79.3, 81.6, 107.8, 110.8, 111.2, 116.3, 120.7, 127.7 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 130.8, 134.5, 135.0, 142.8, 161.5 ppm; anal. calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO: C 77.9, H 4.48; found: C 77.5, H 4.54 %.

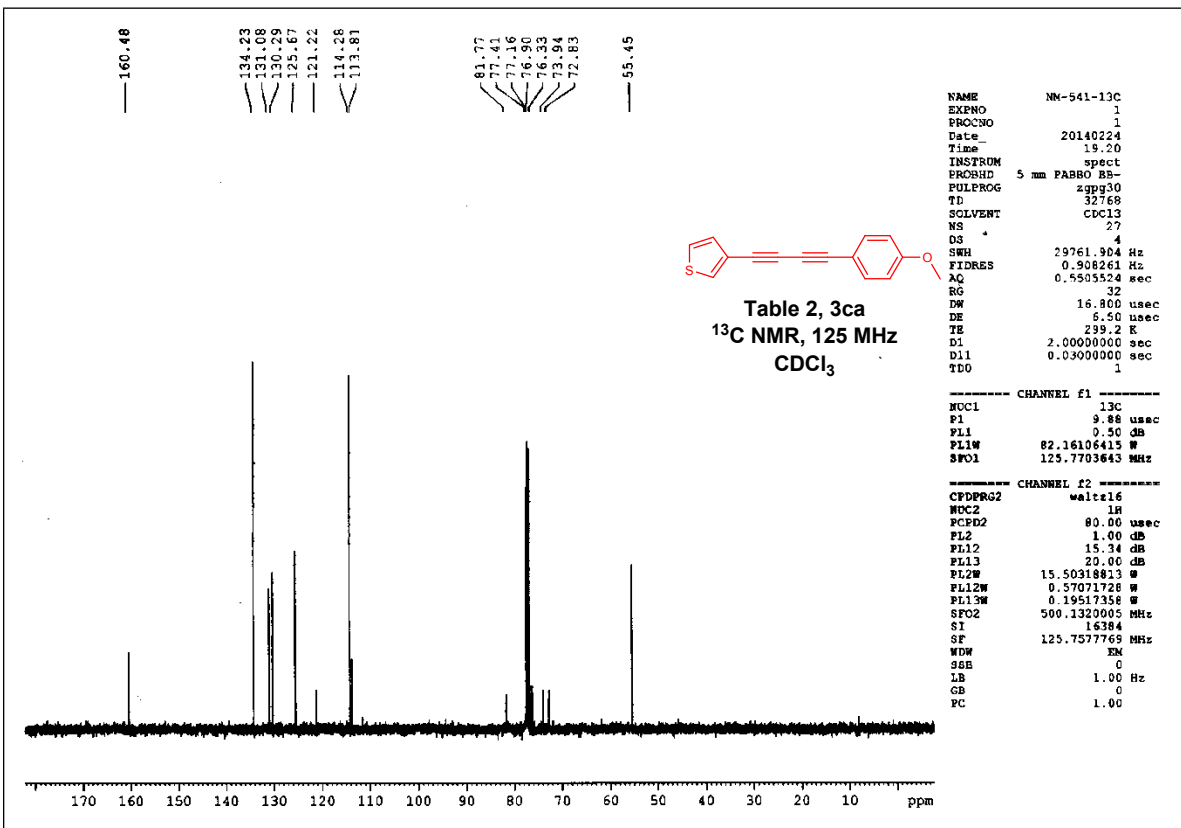
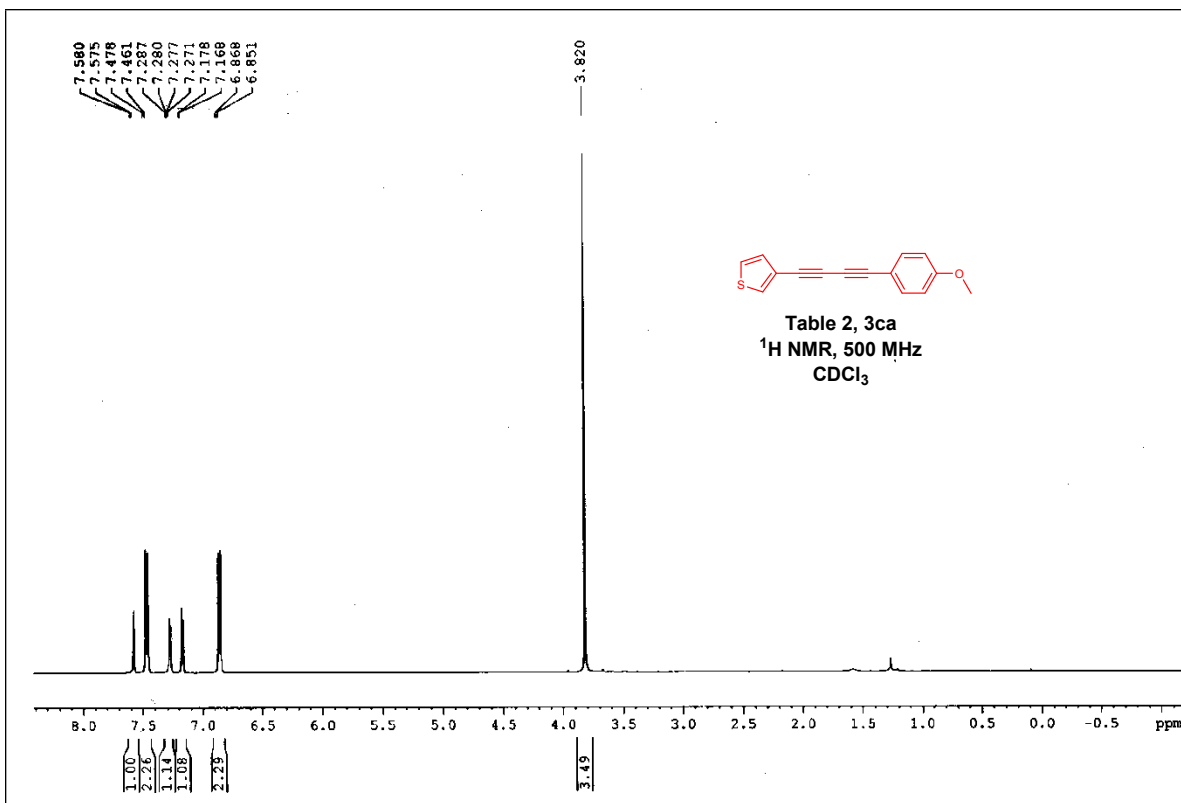


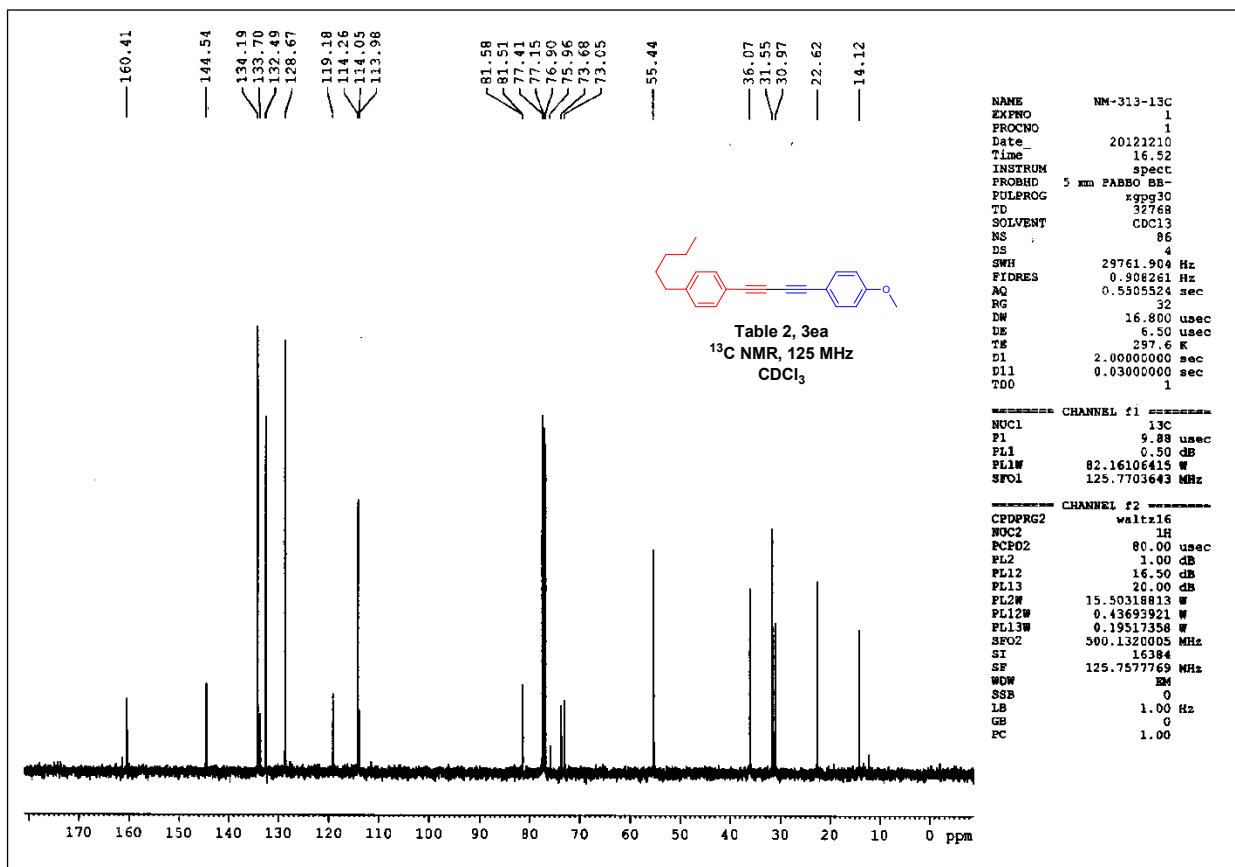
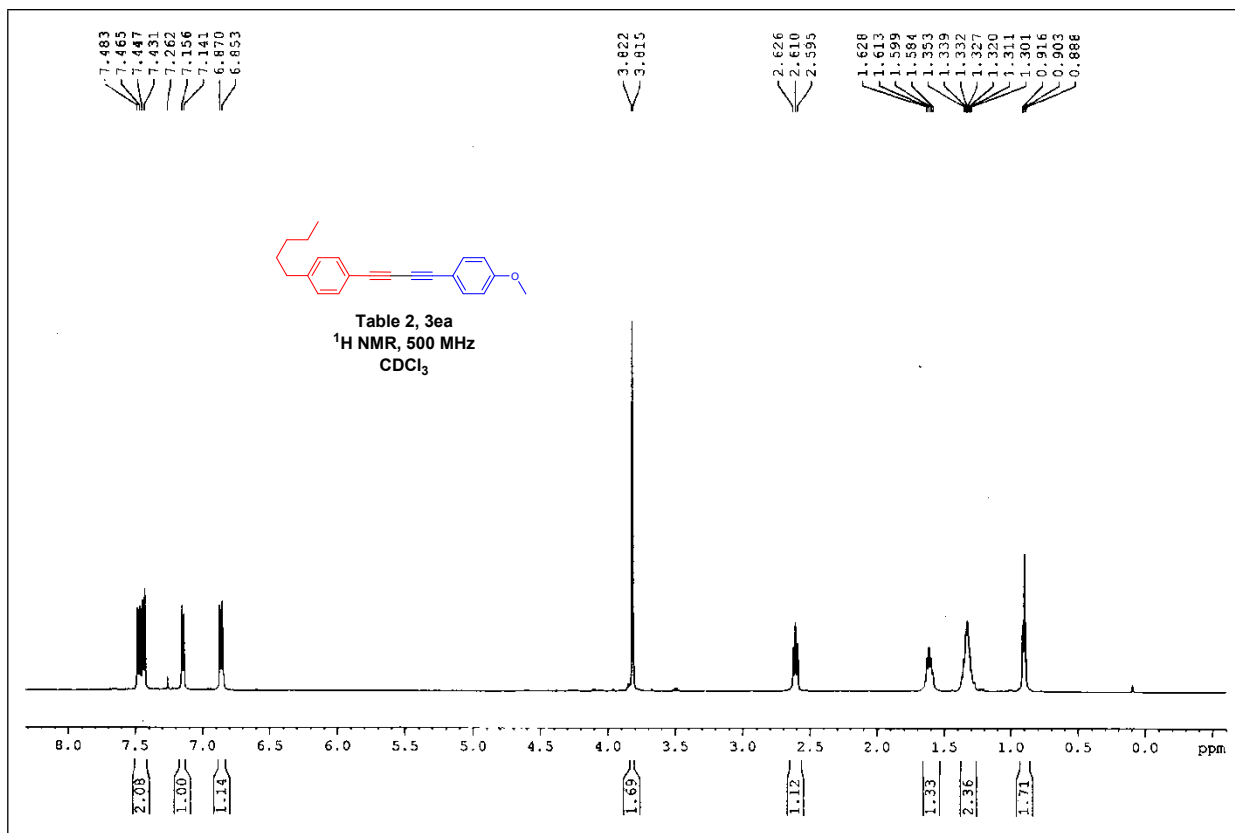


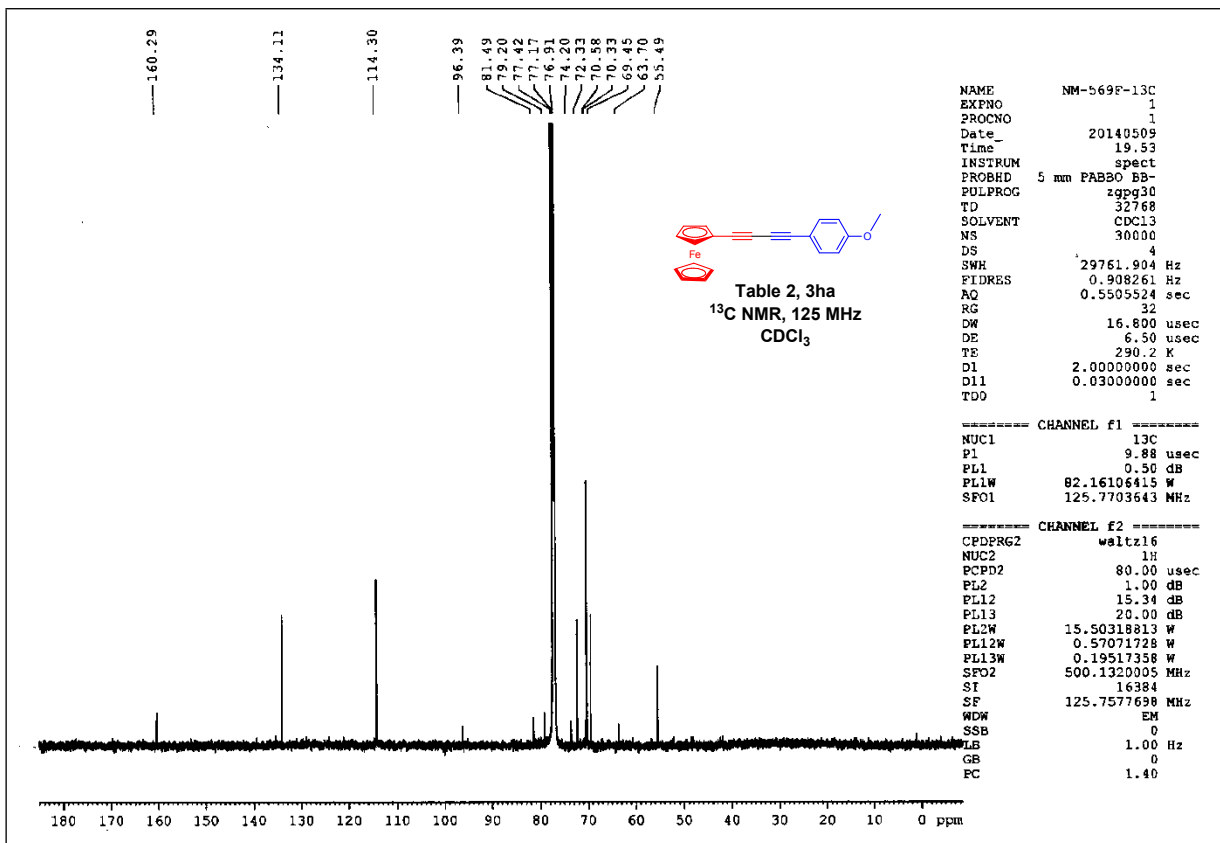
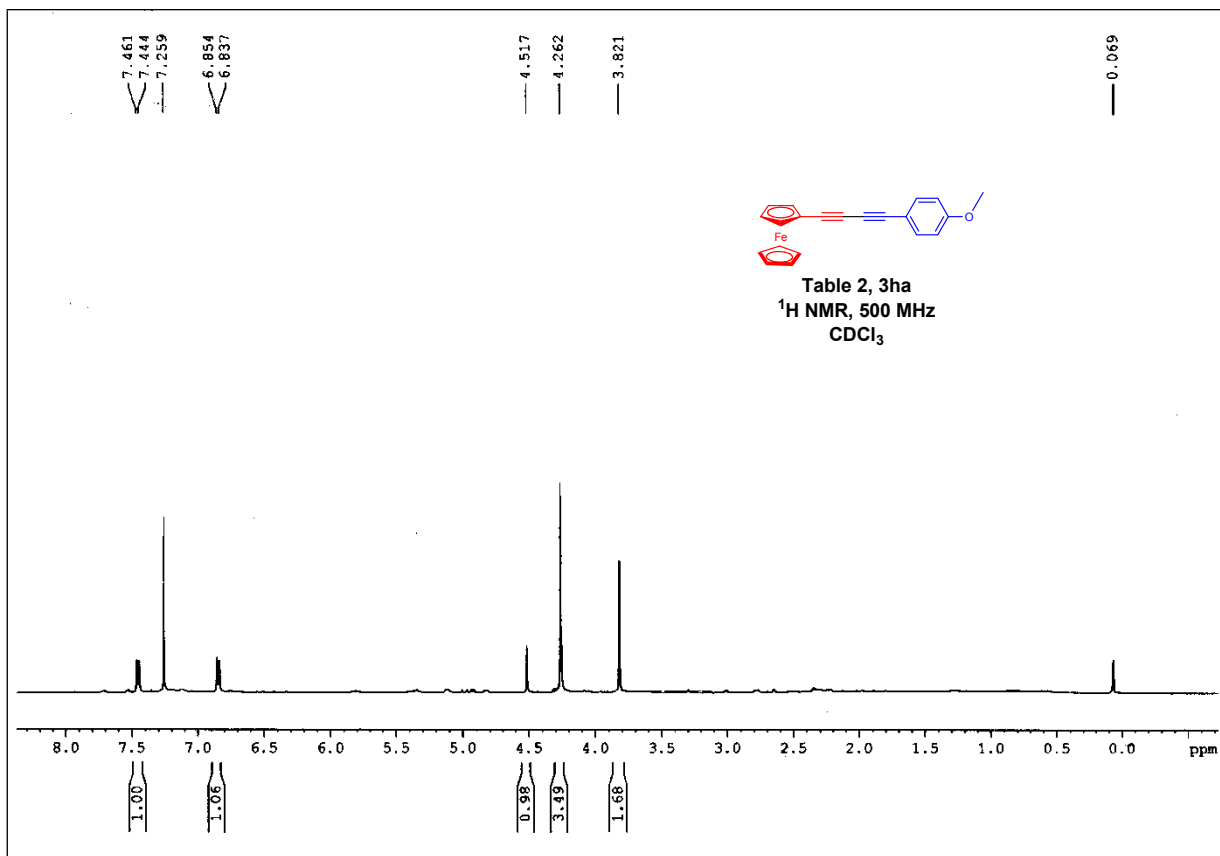


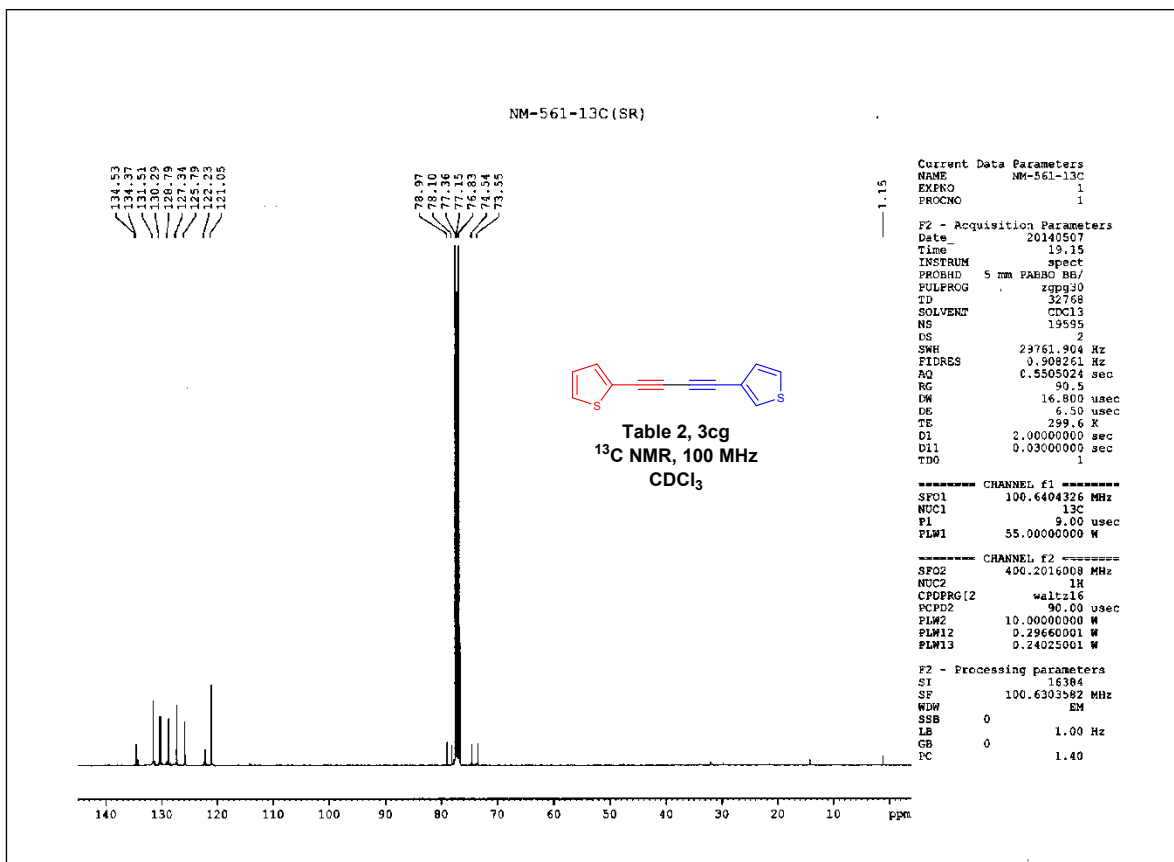
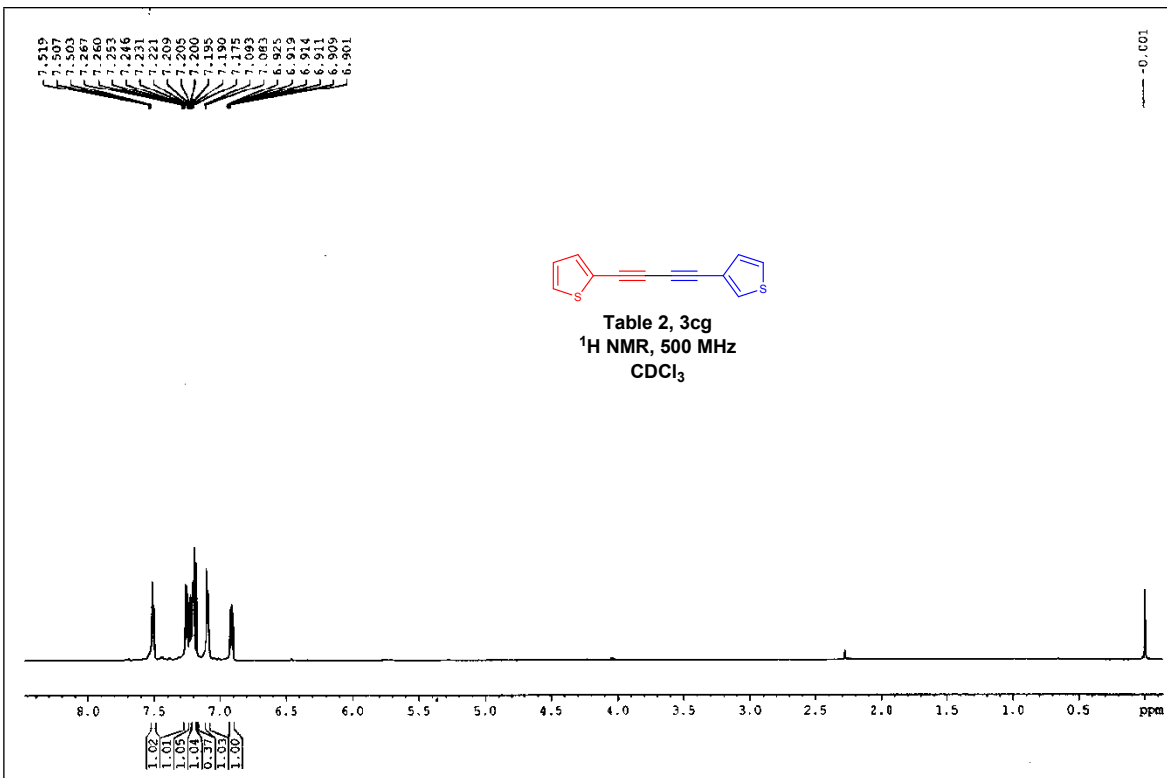


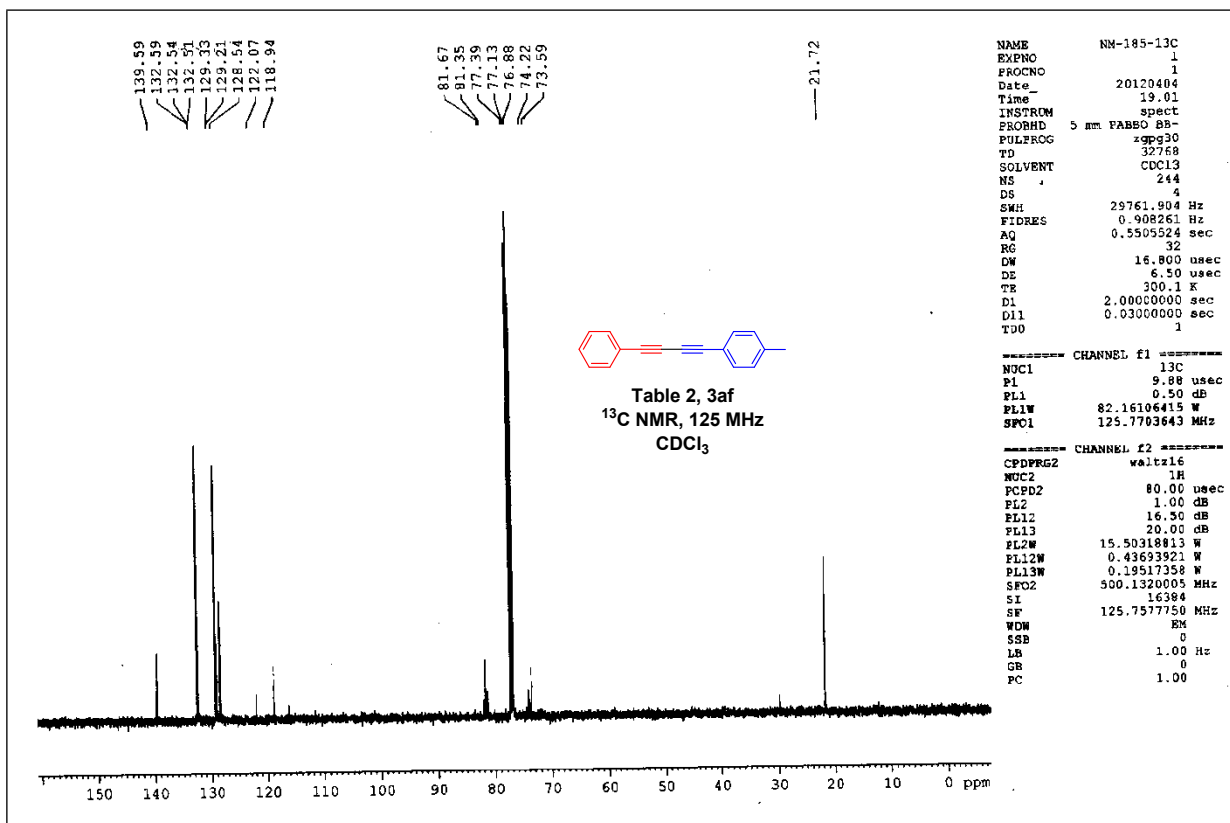
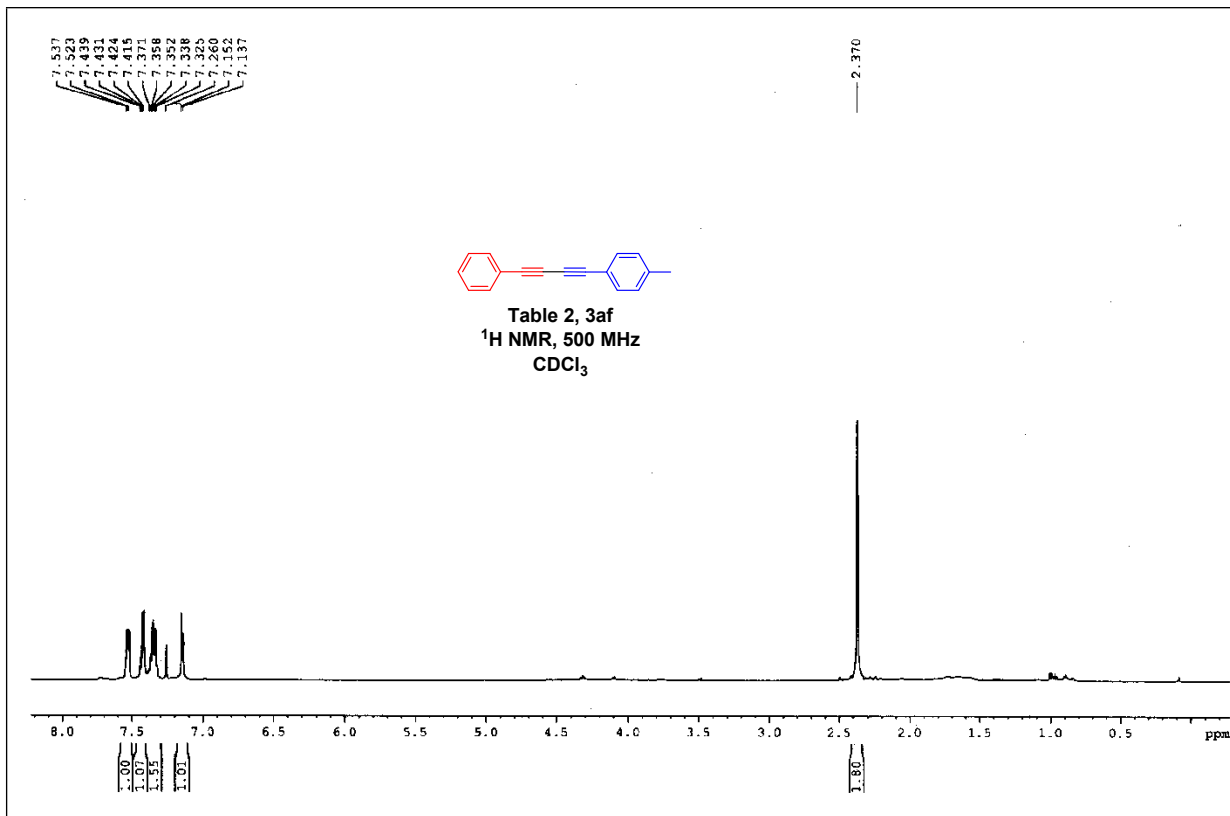


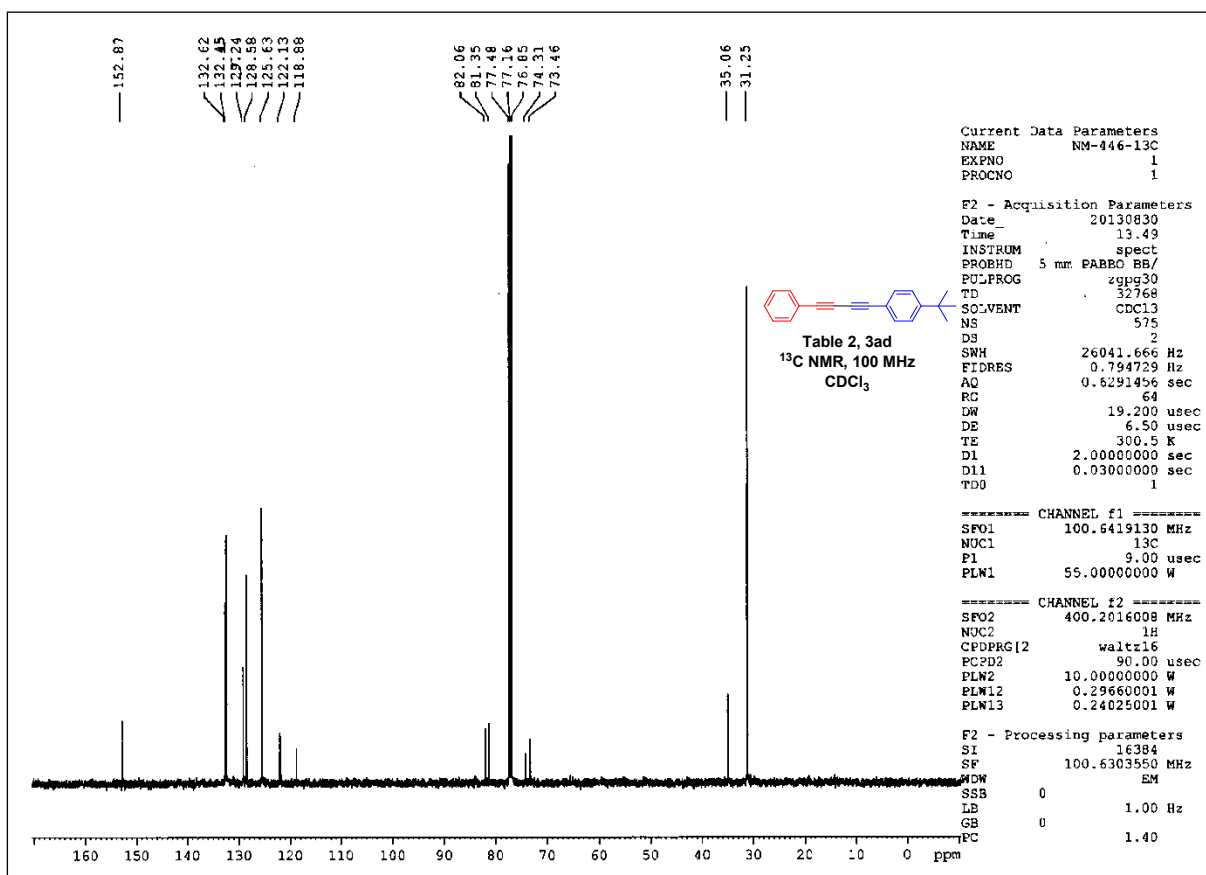
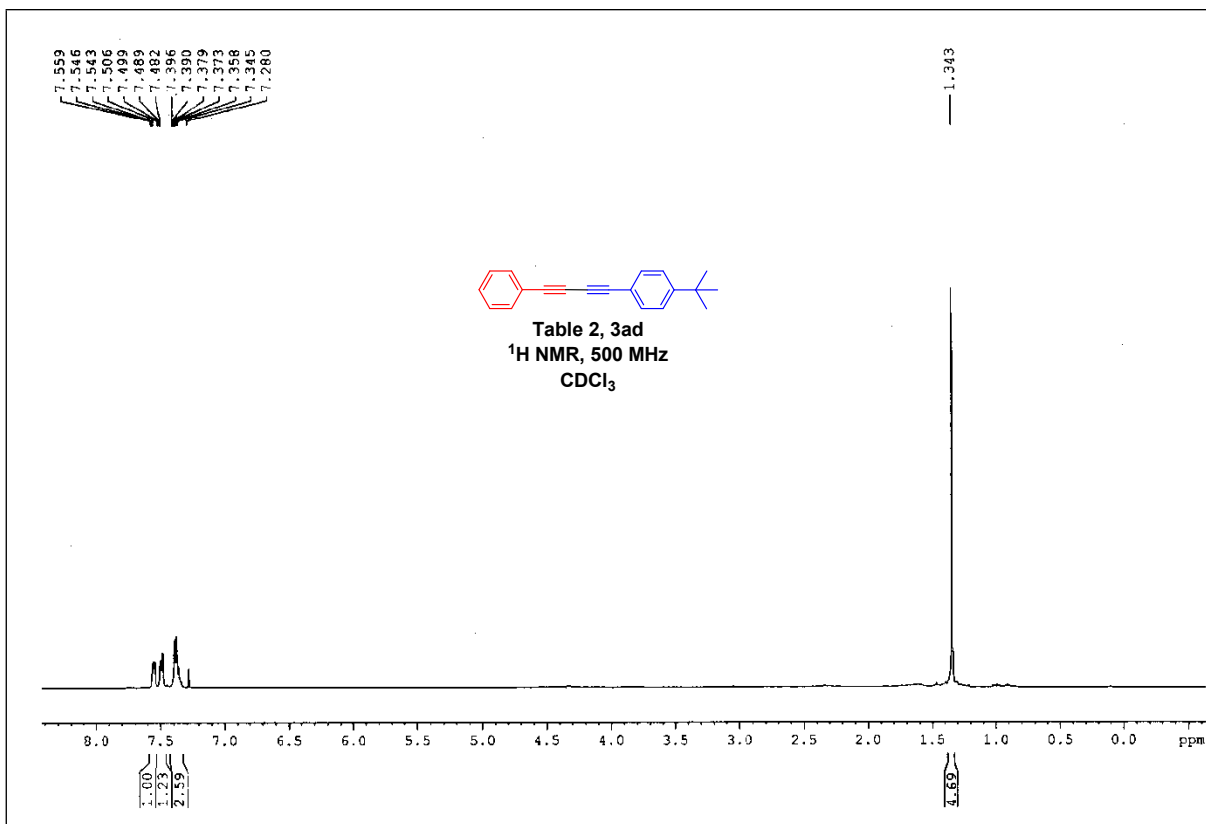


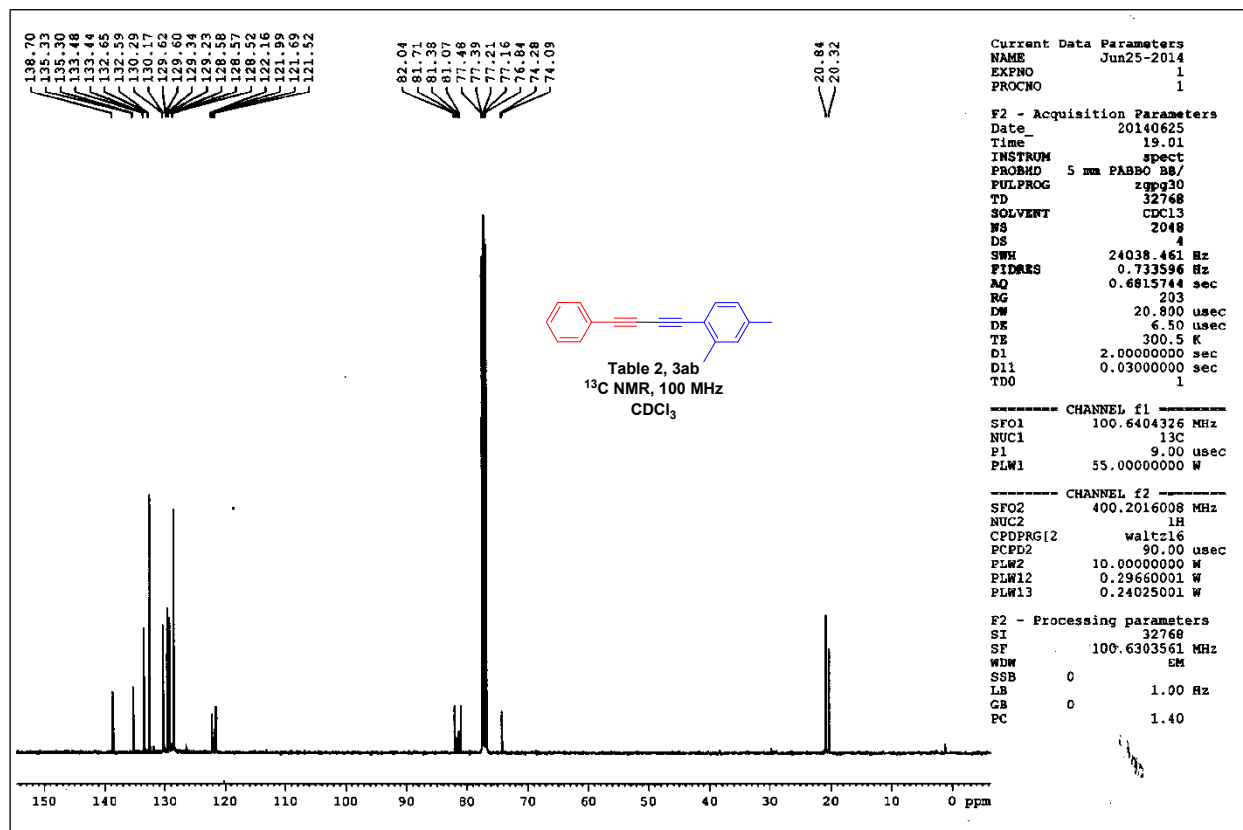
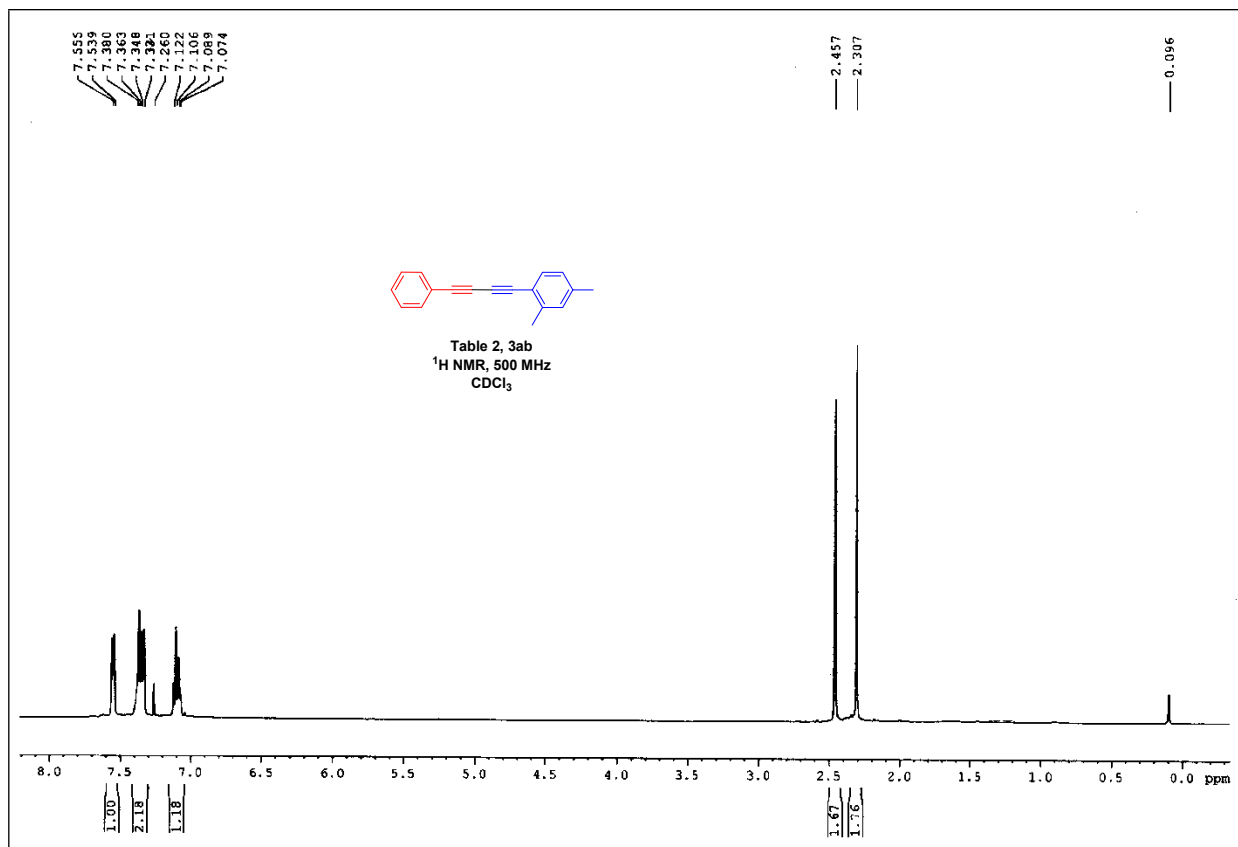


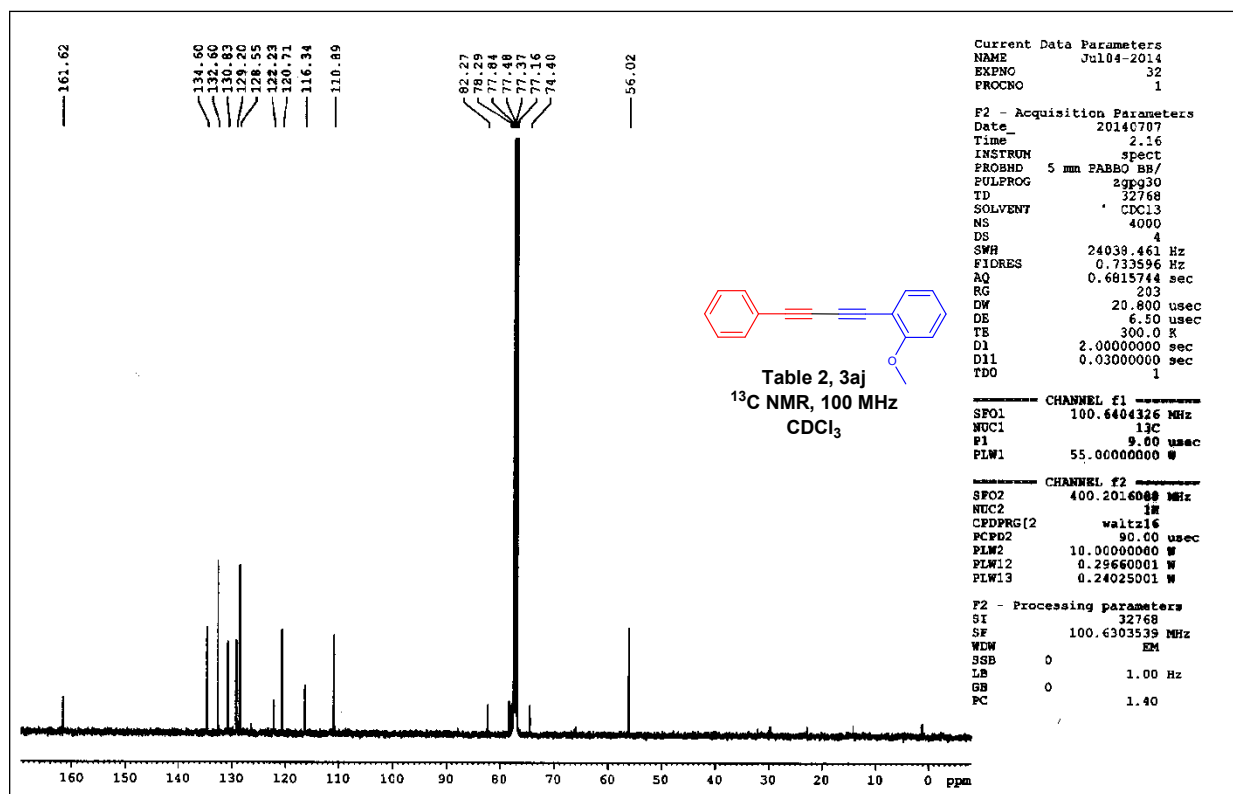
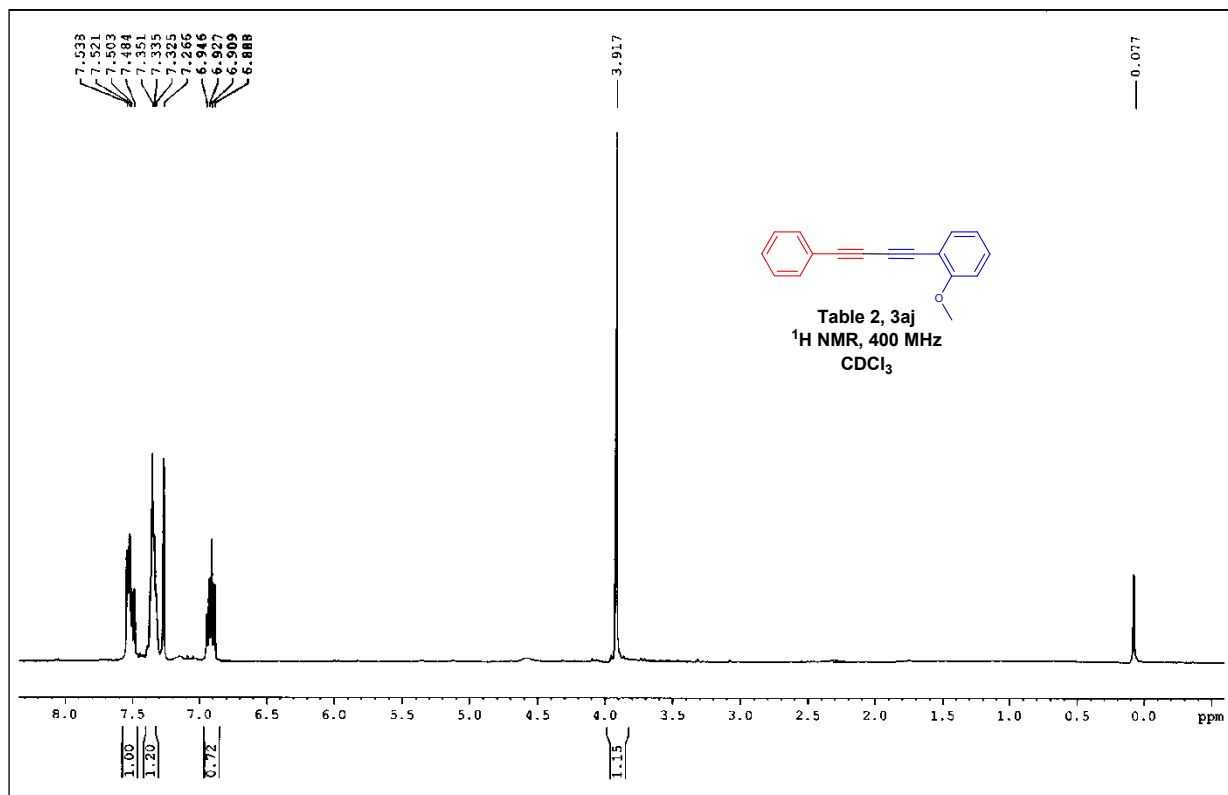




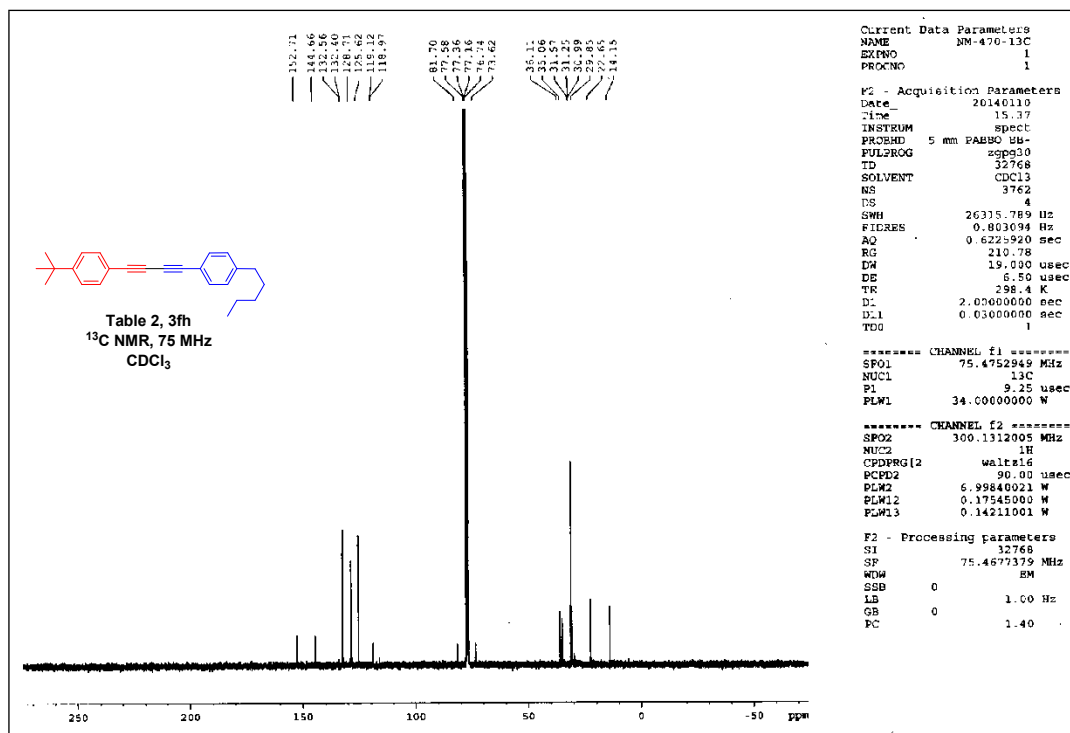
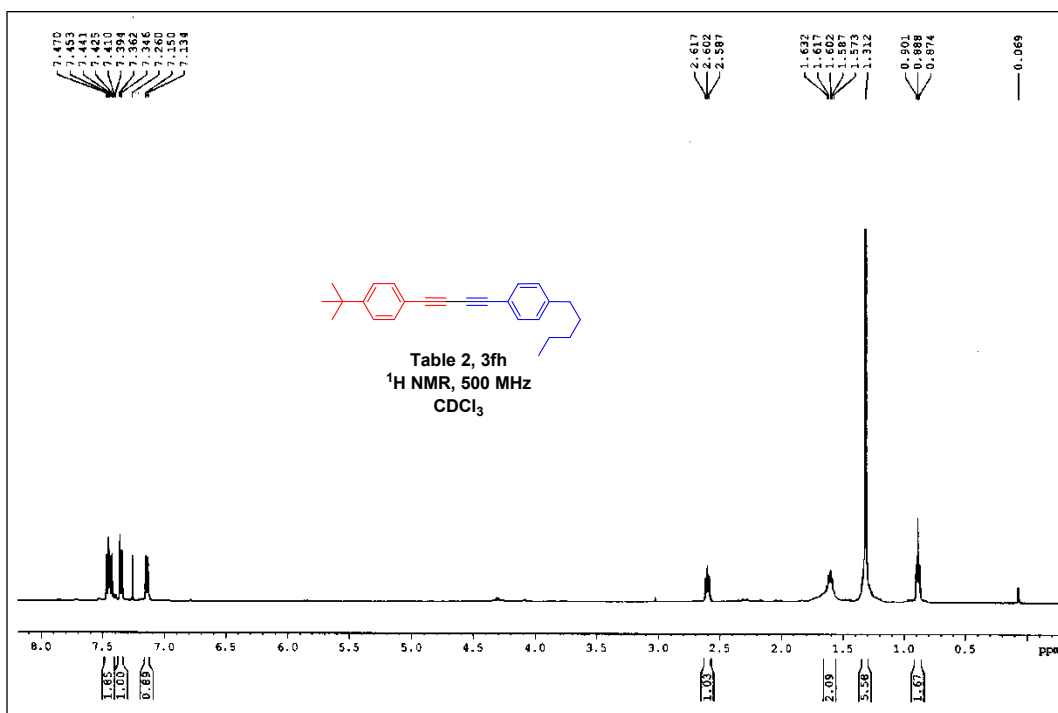


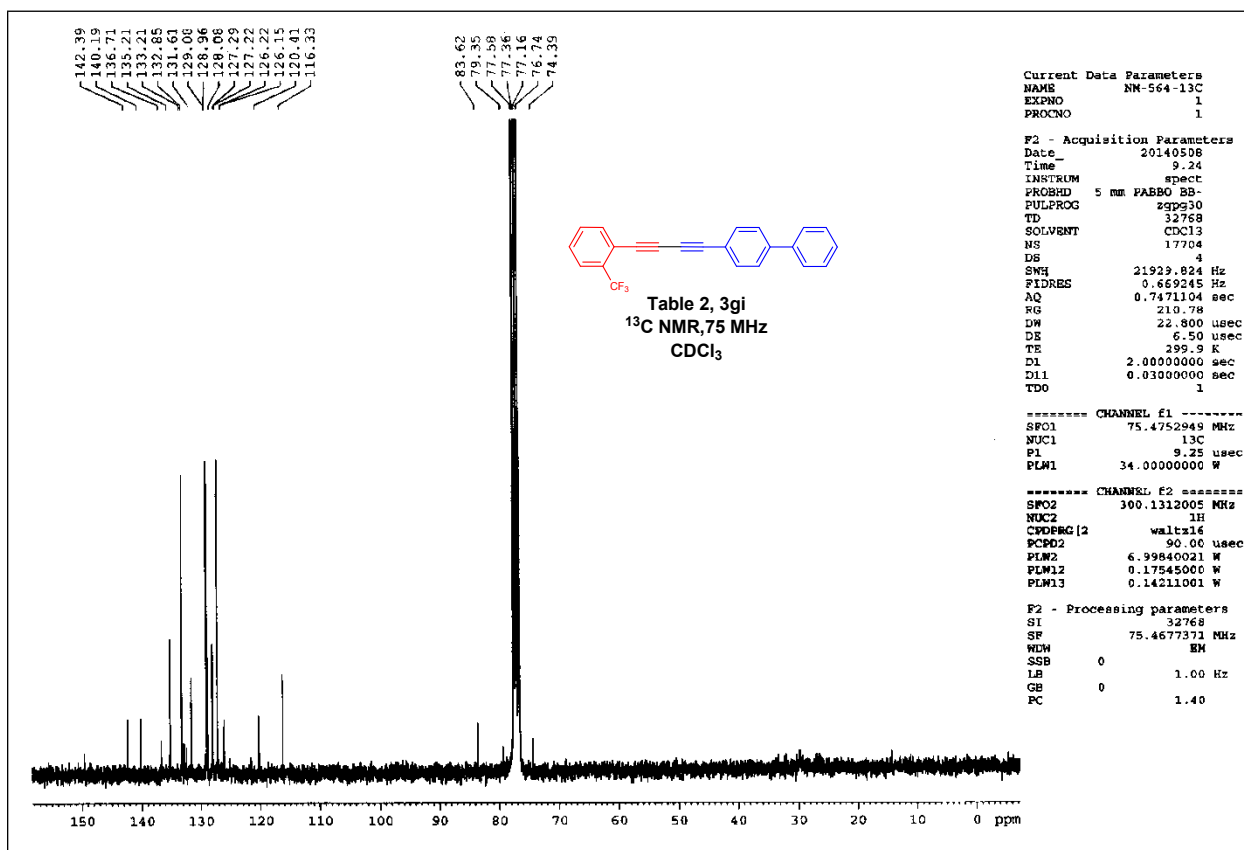
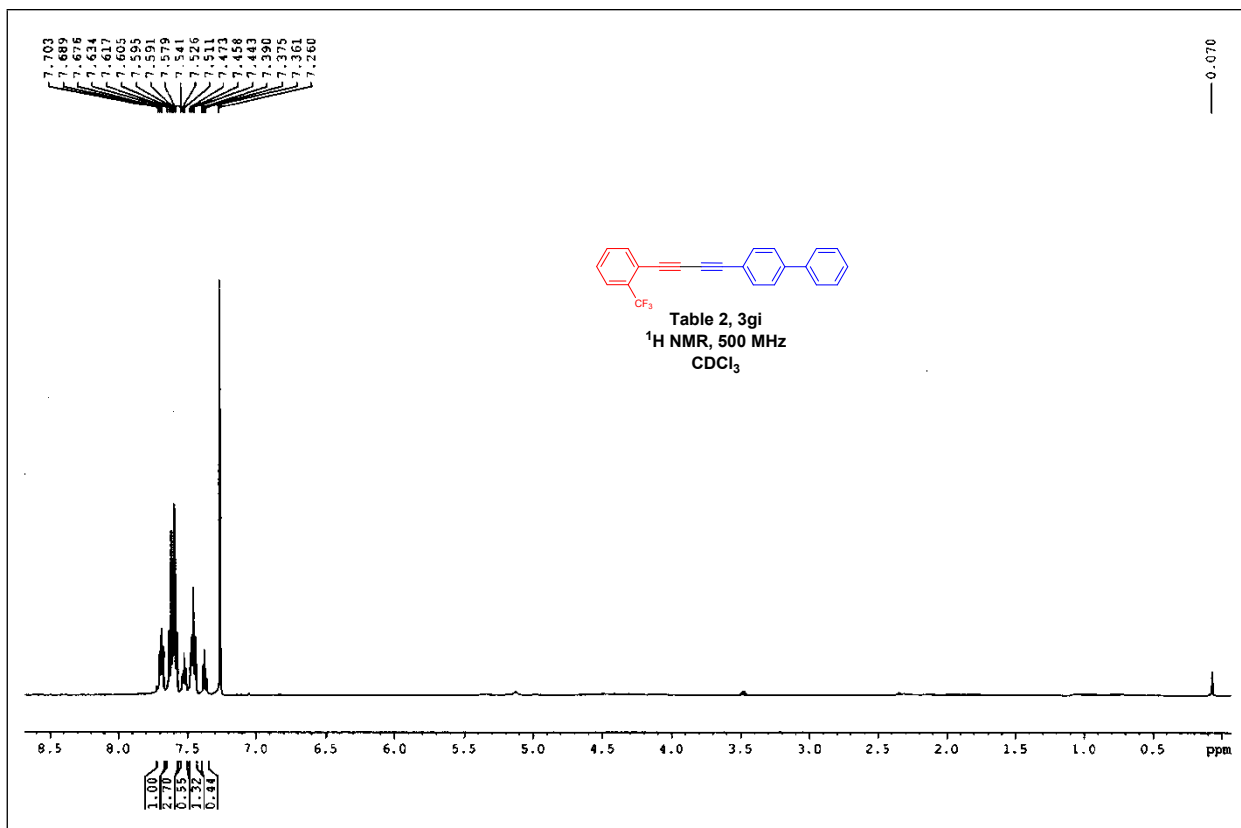


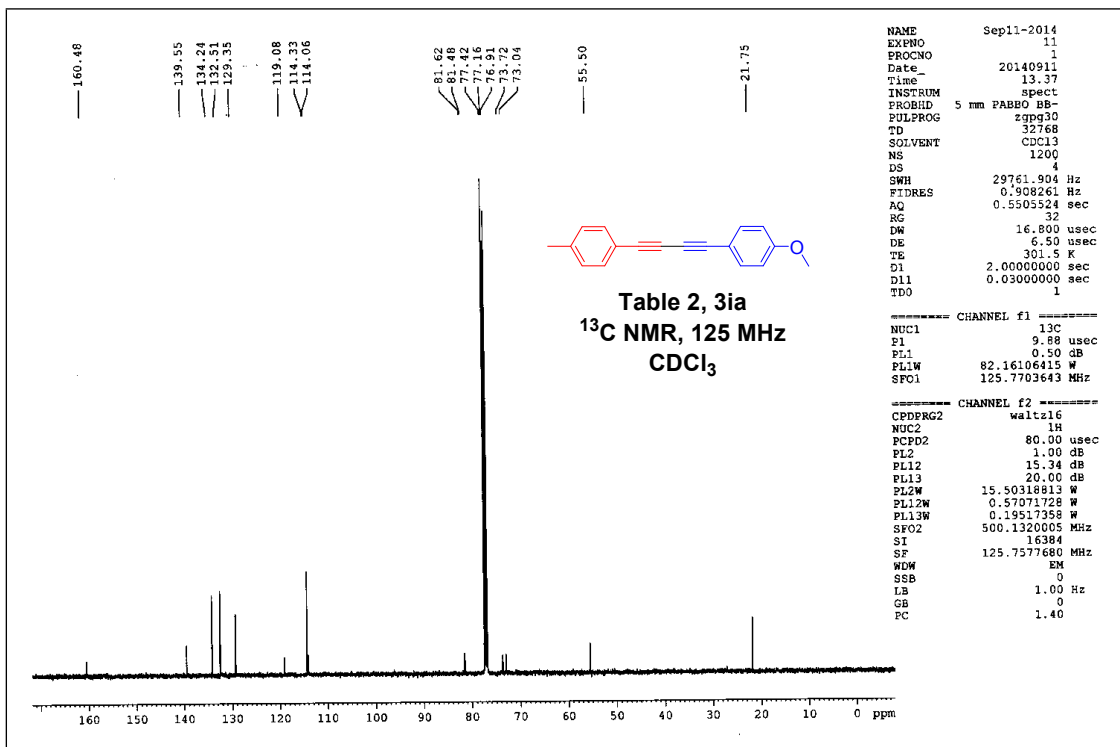
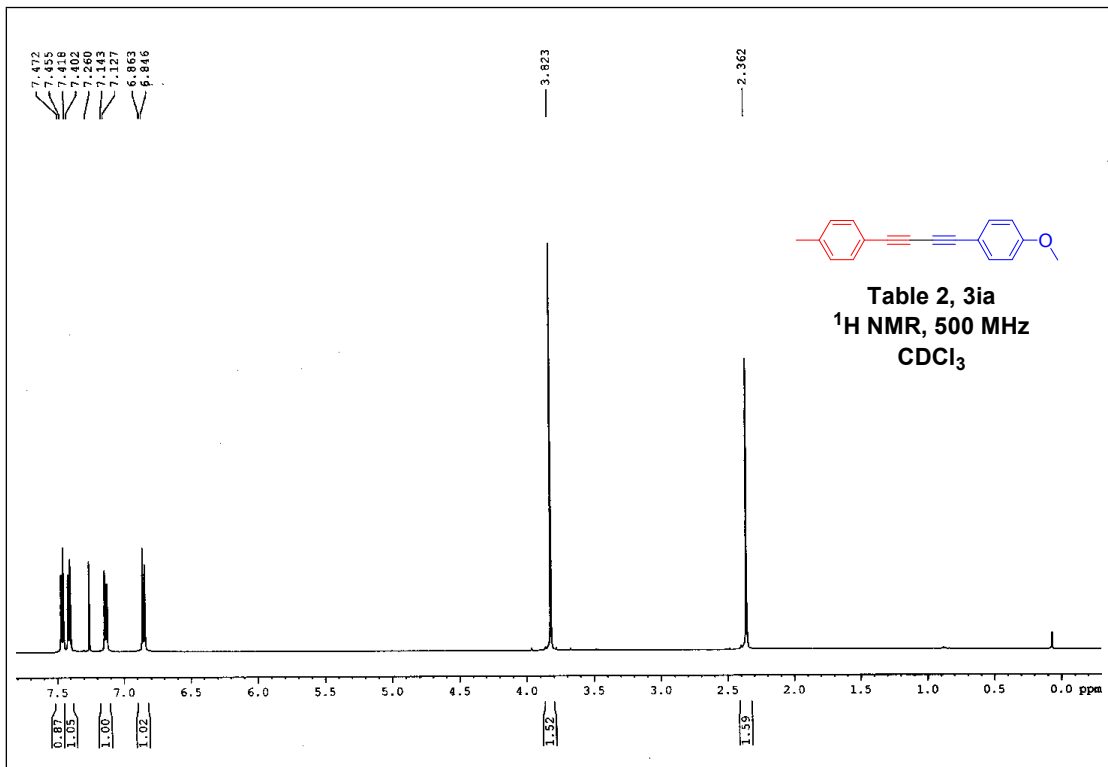


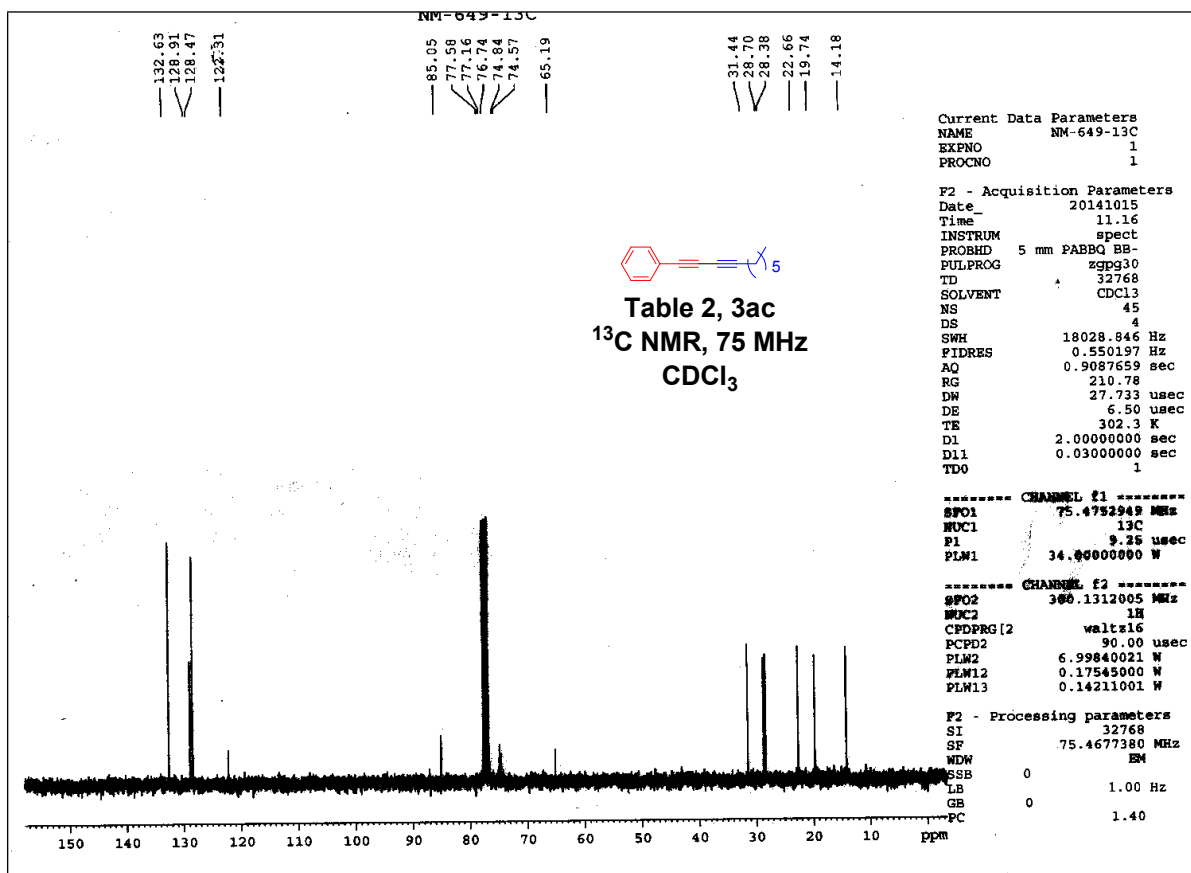
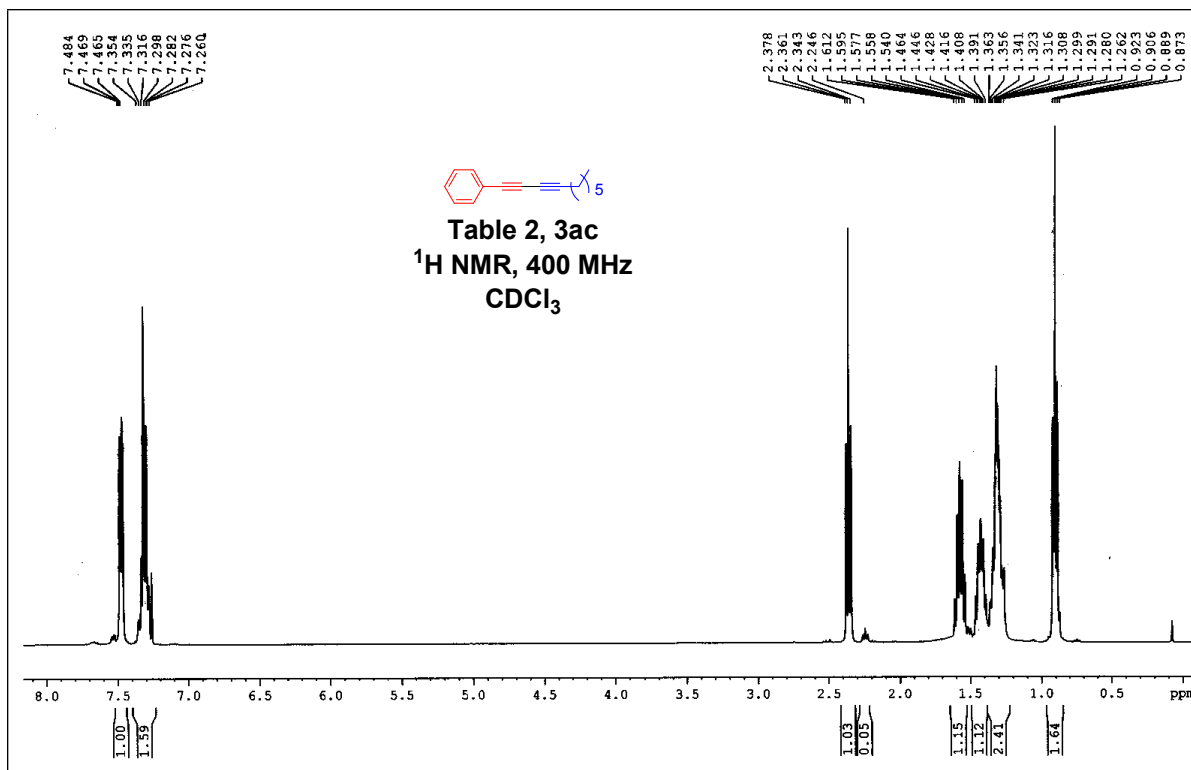


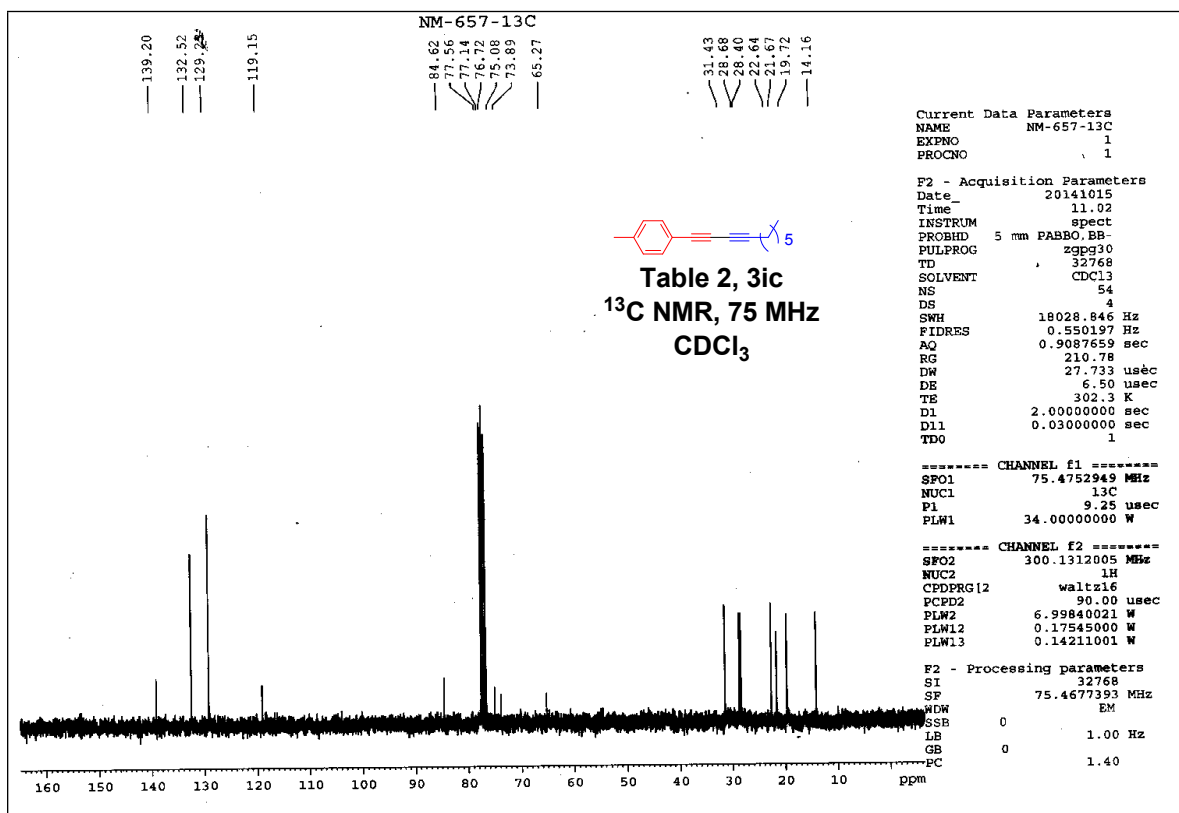
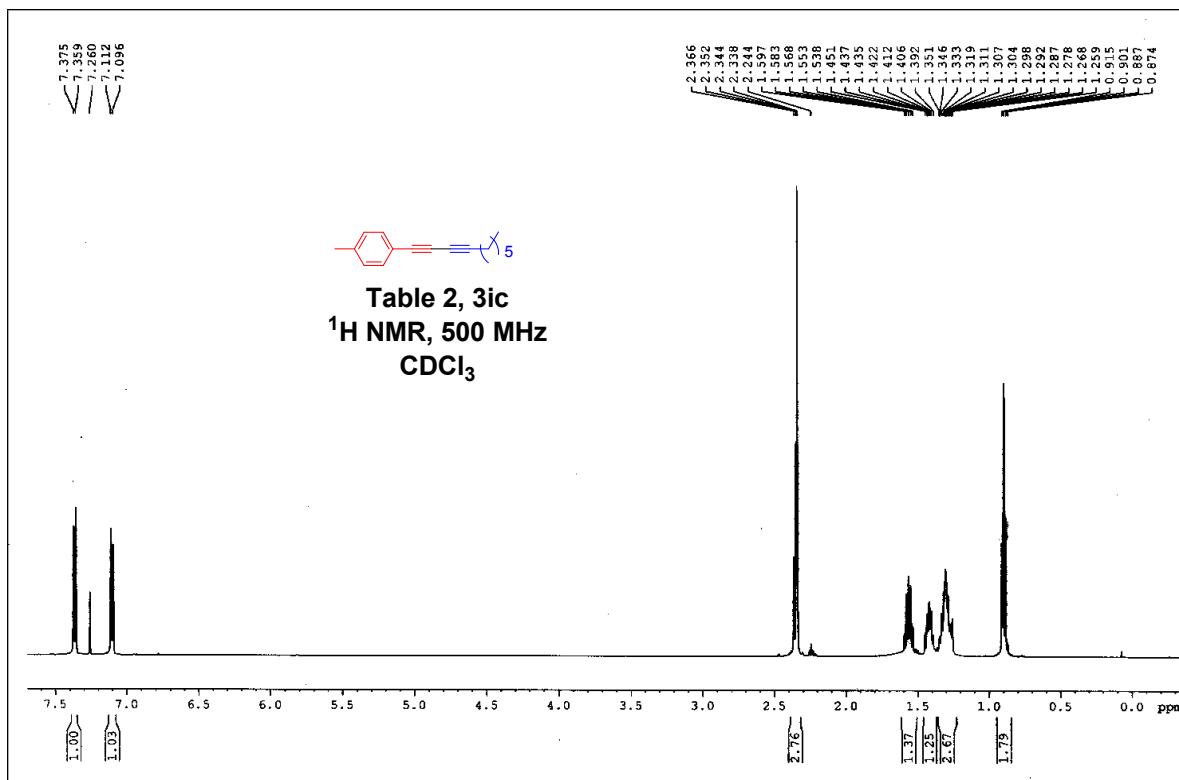


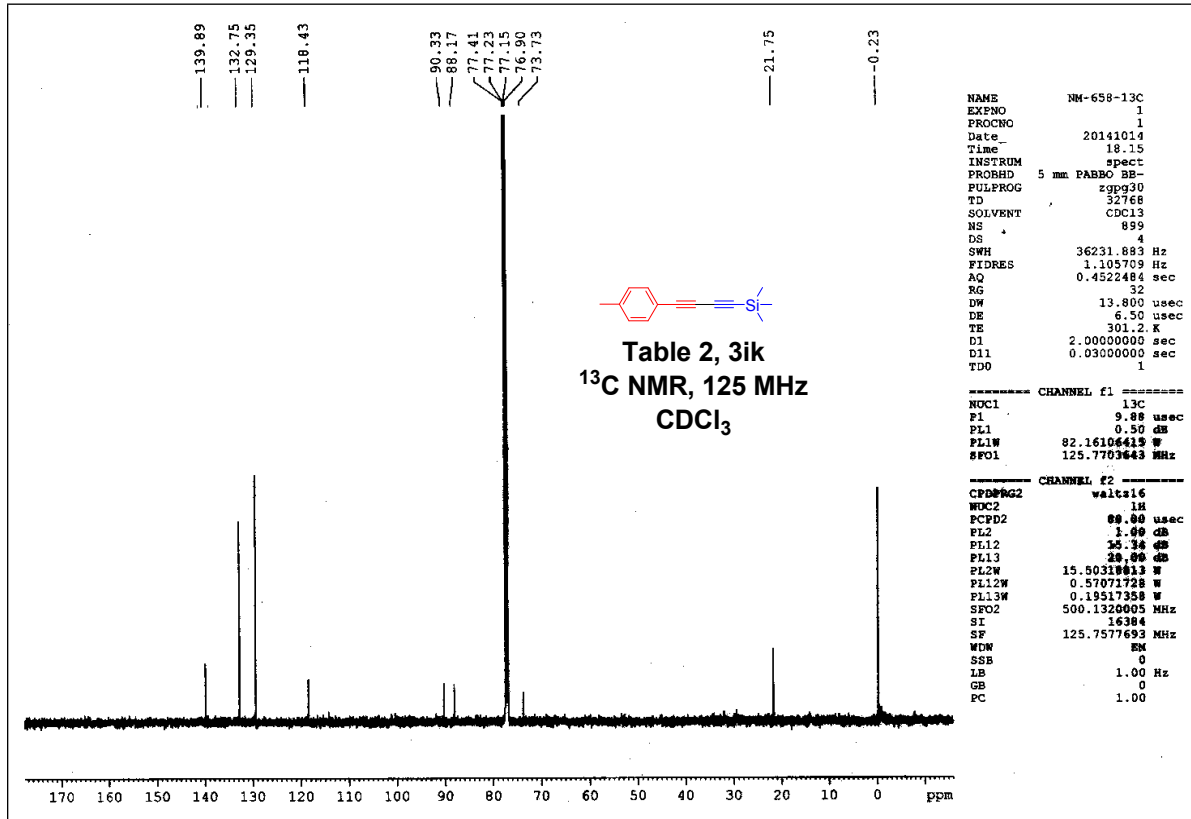
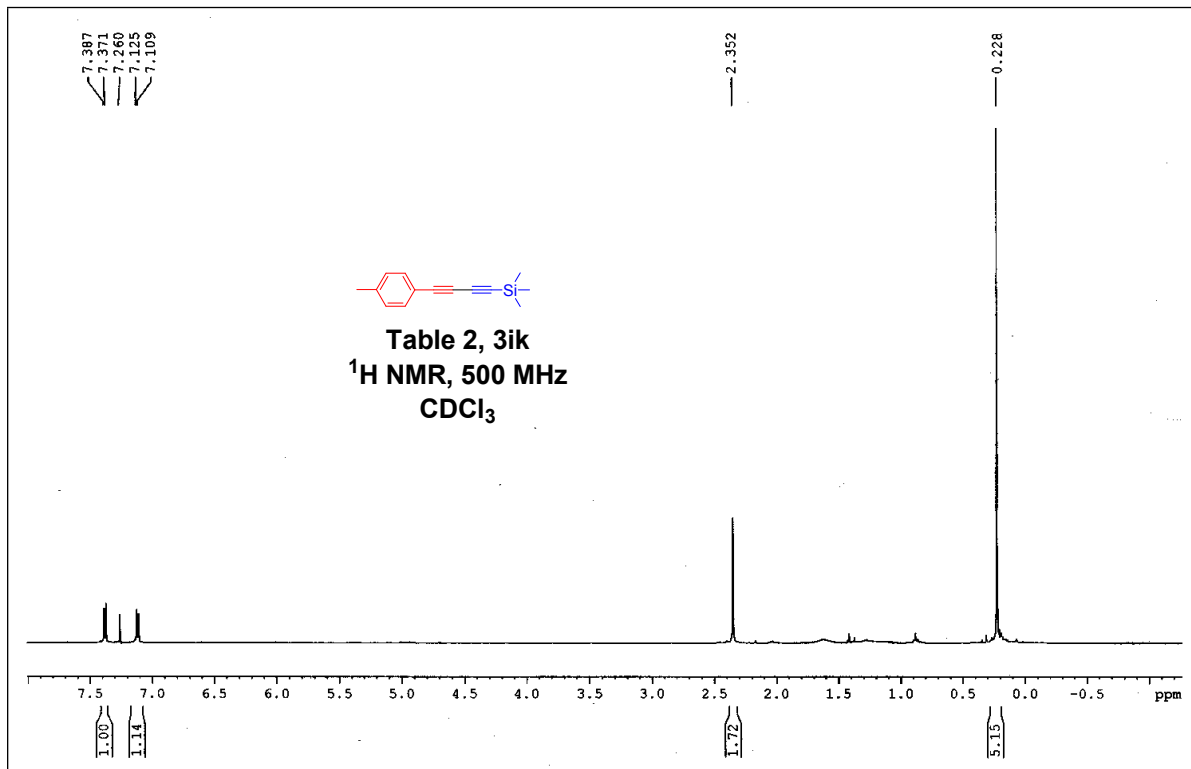


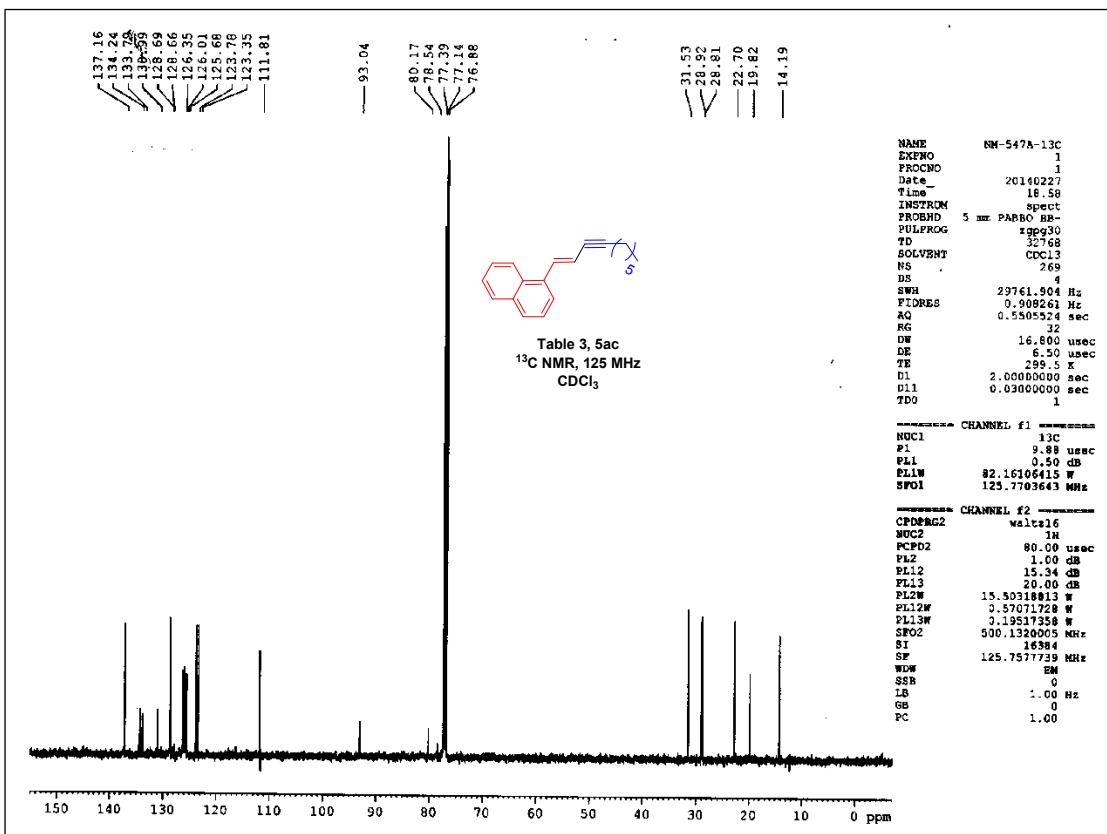
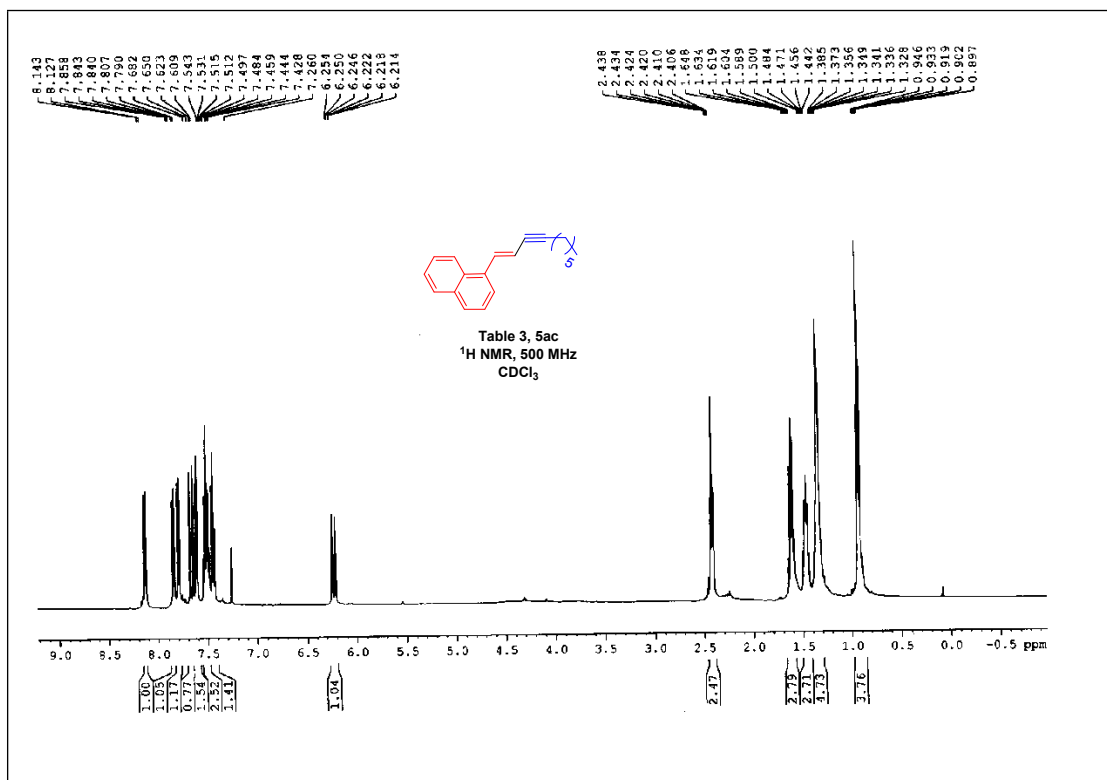


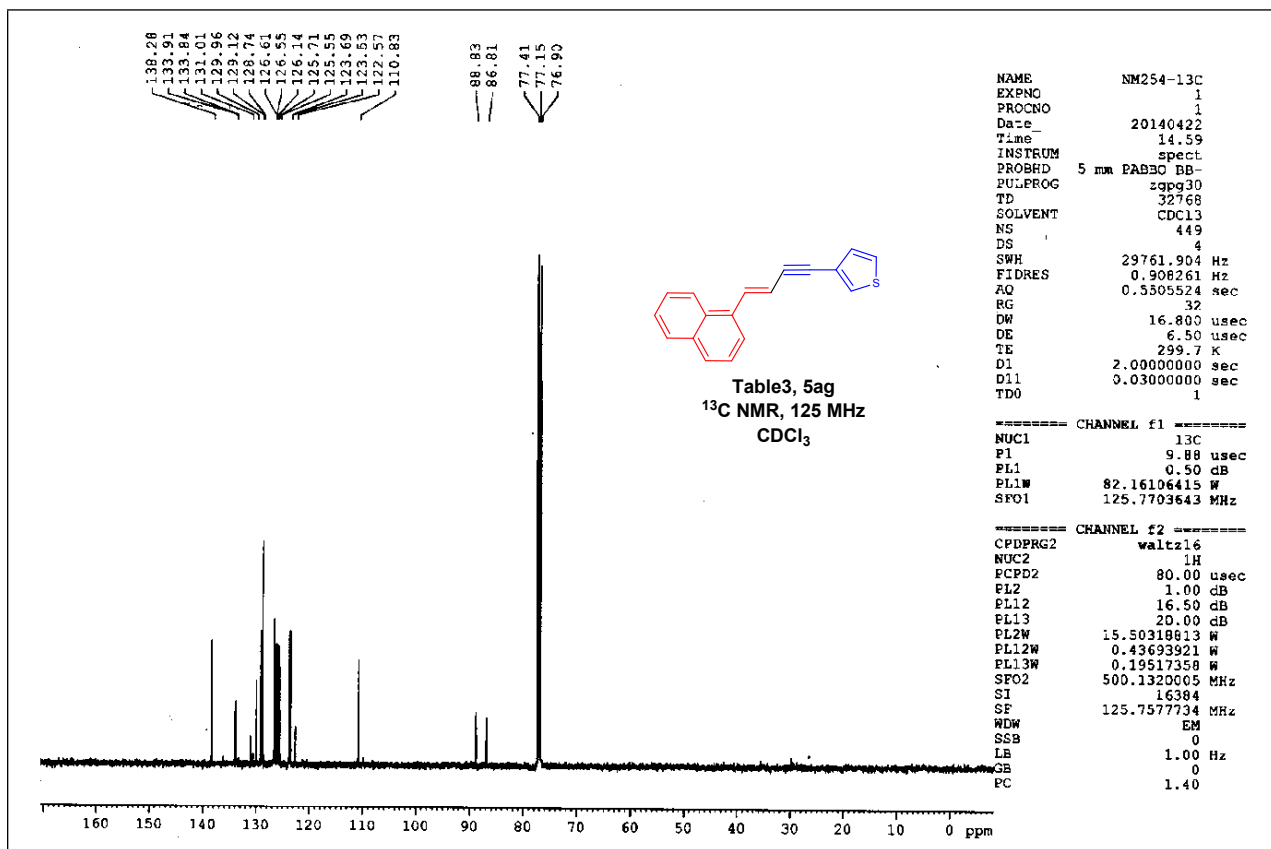
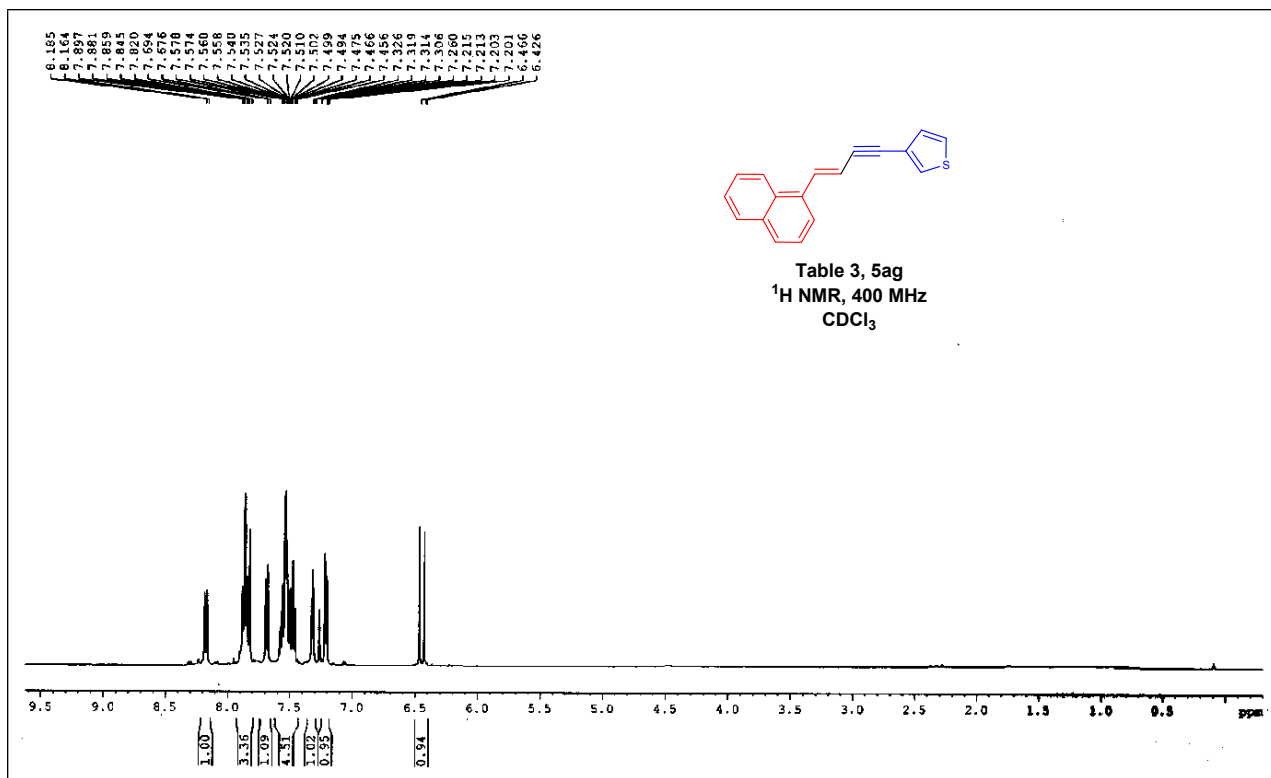




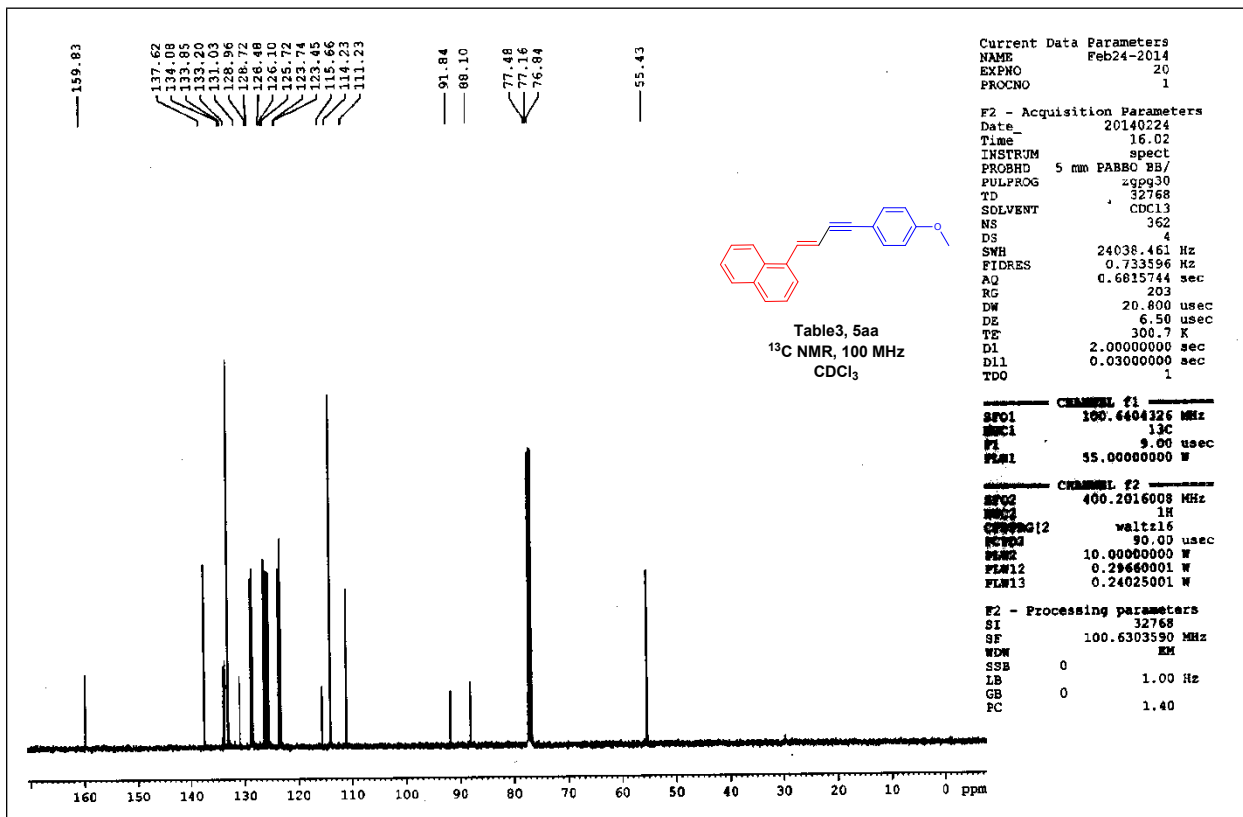
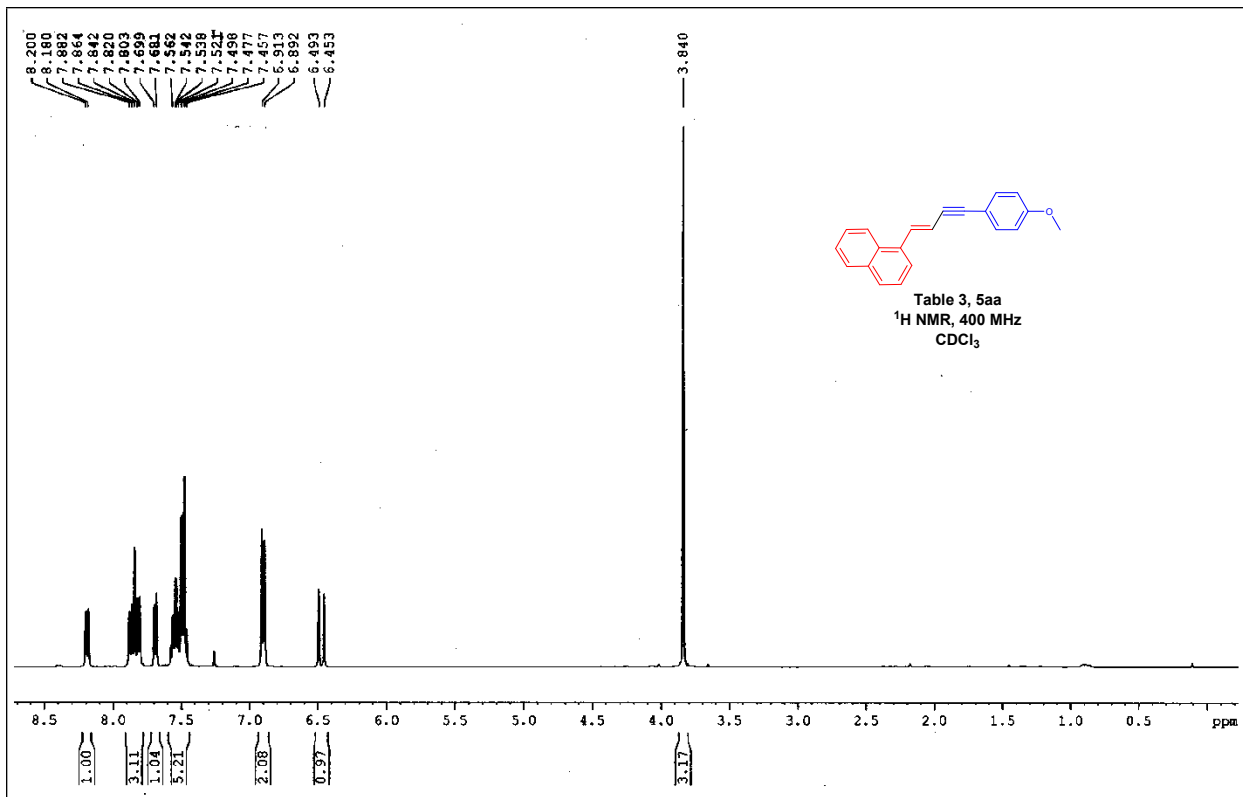


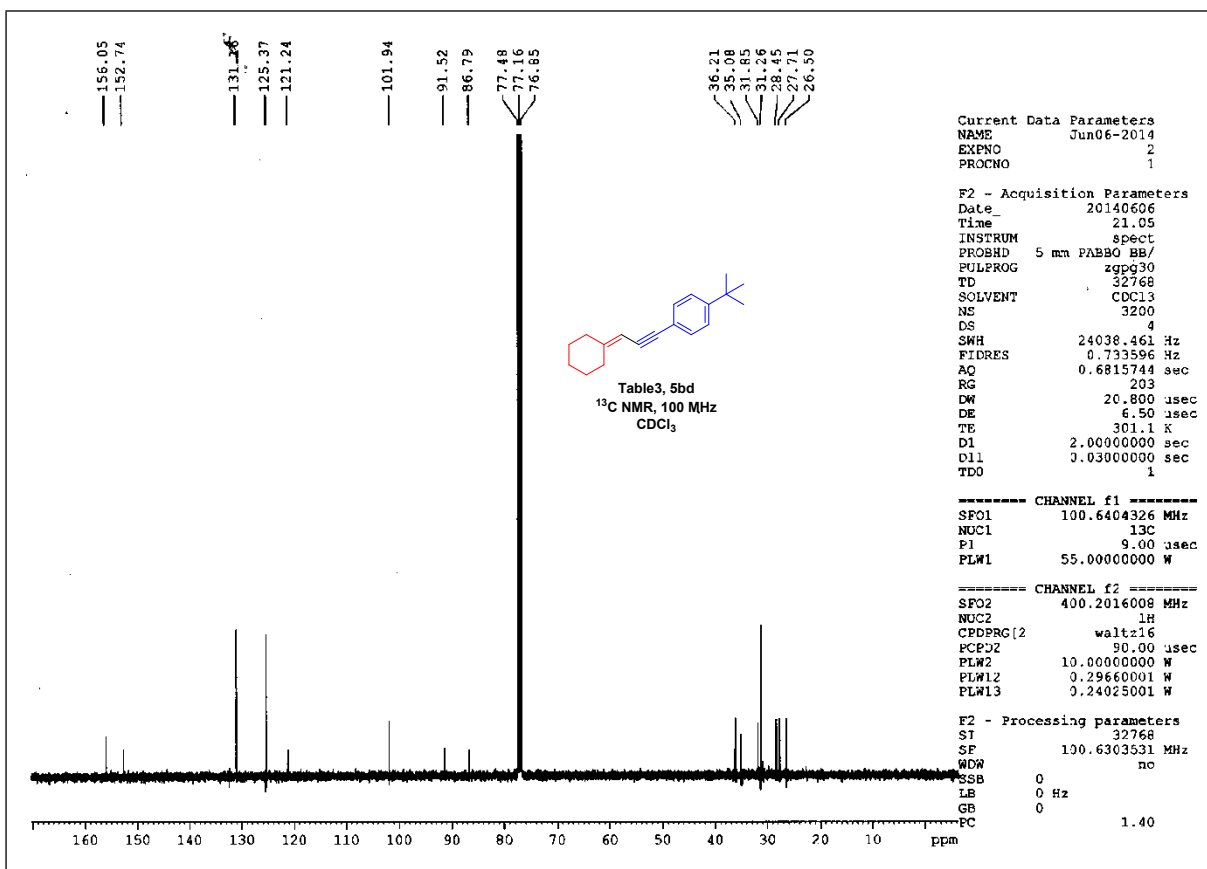
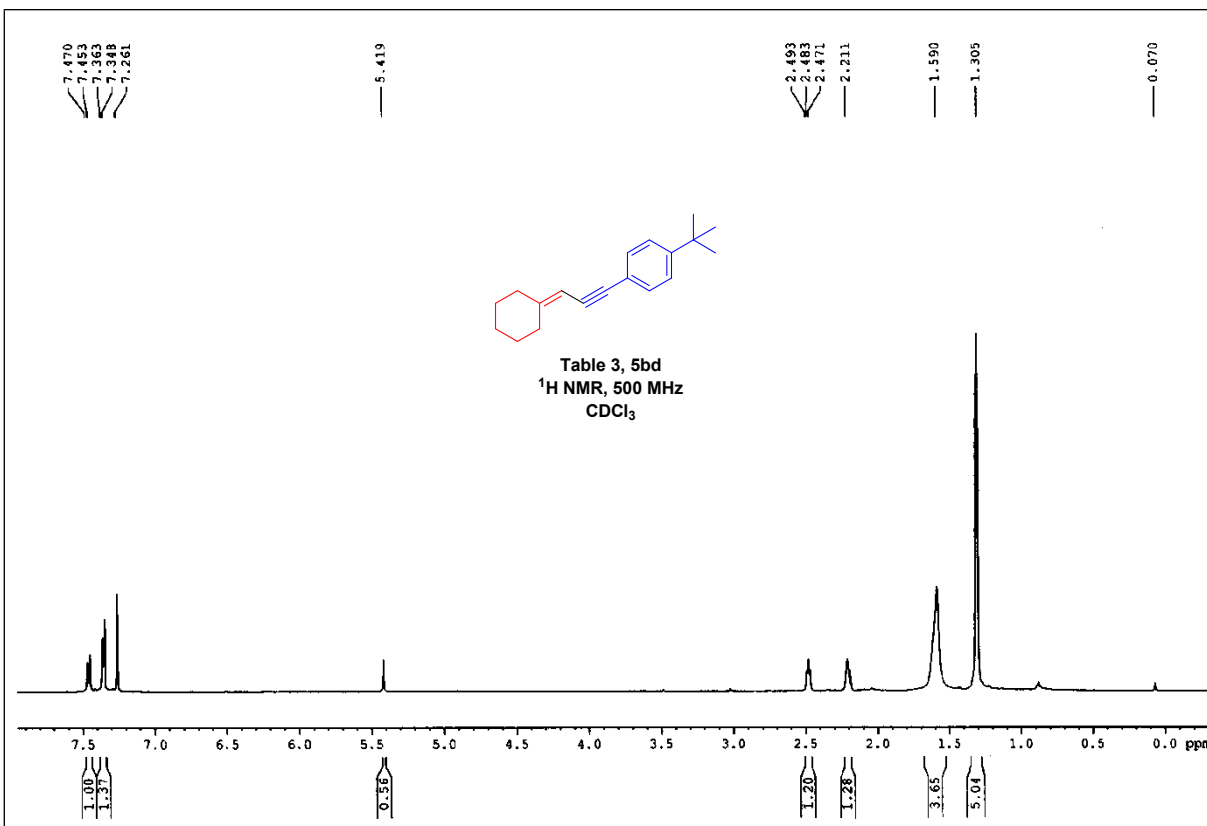


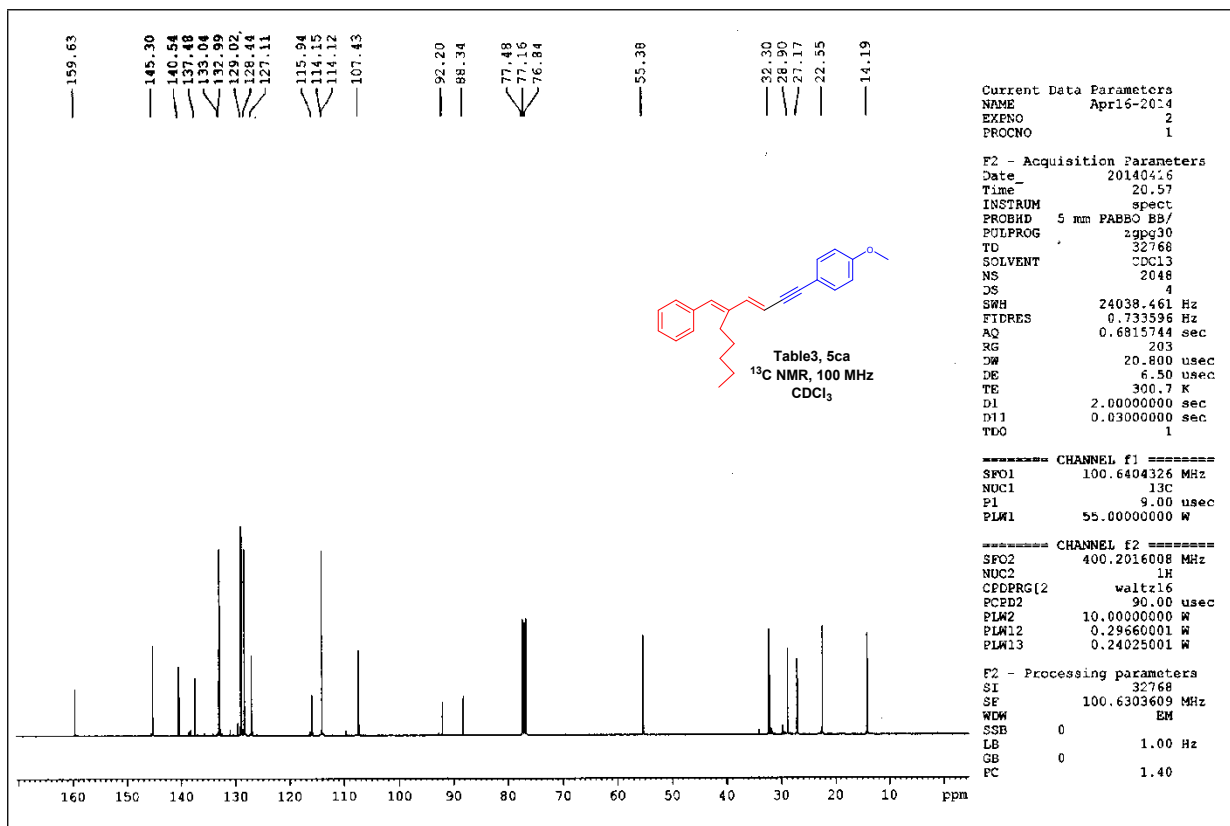
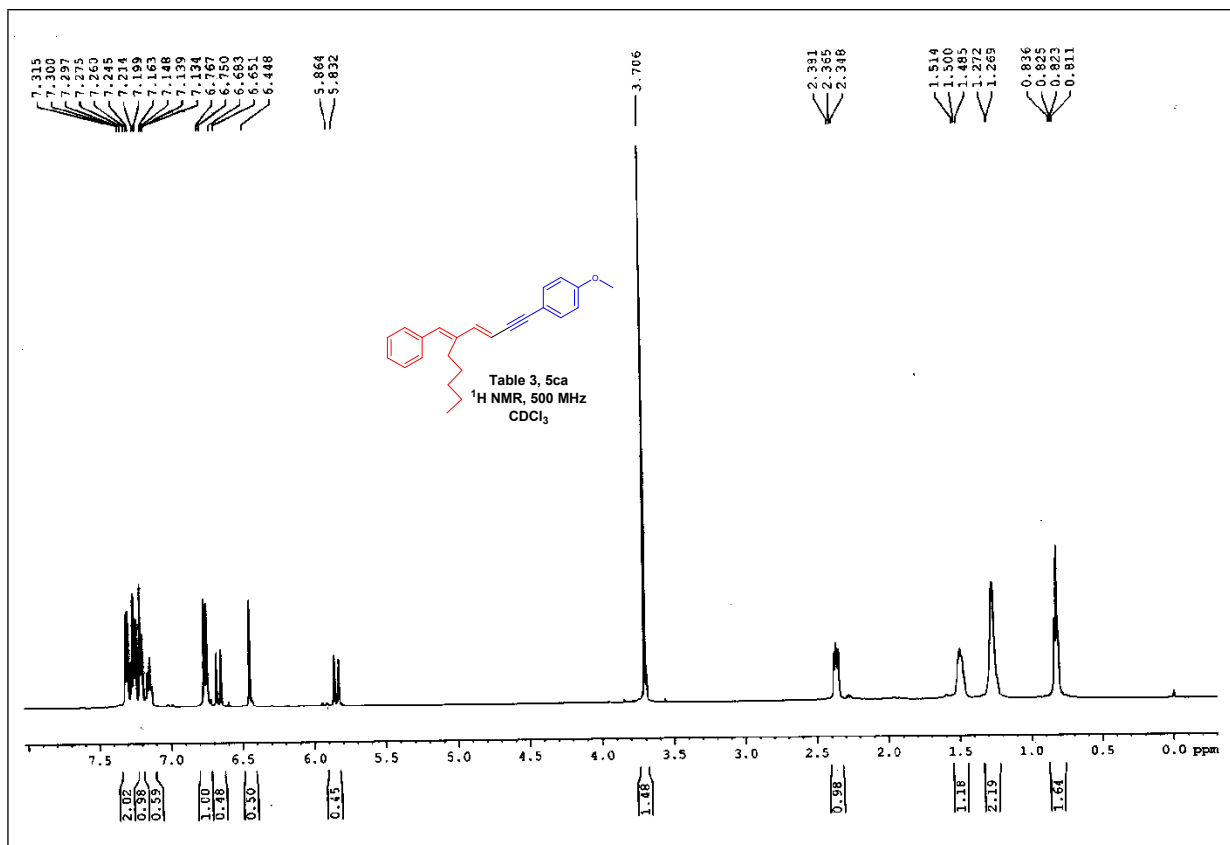


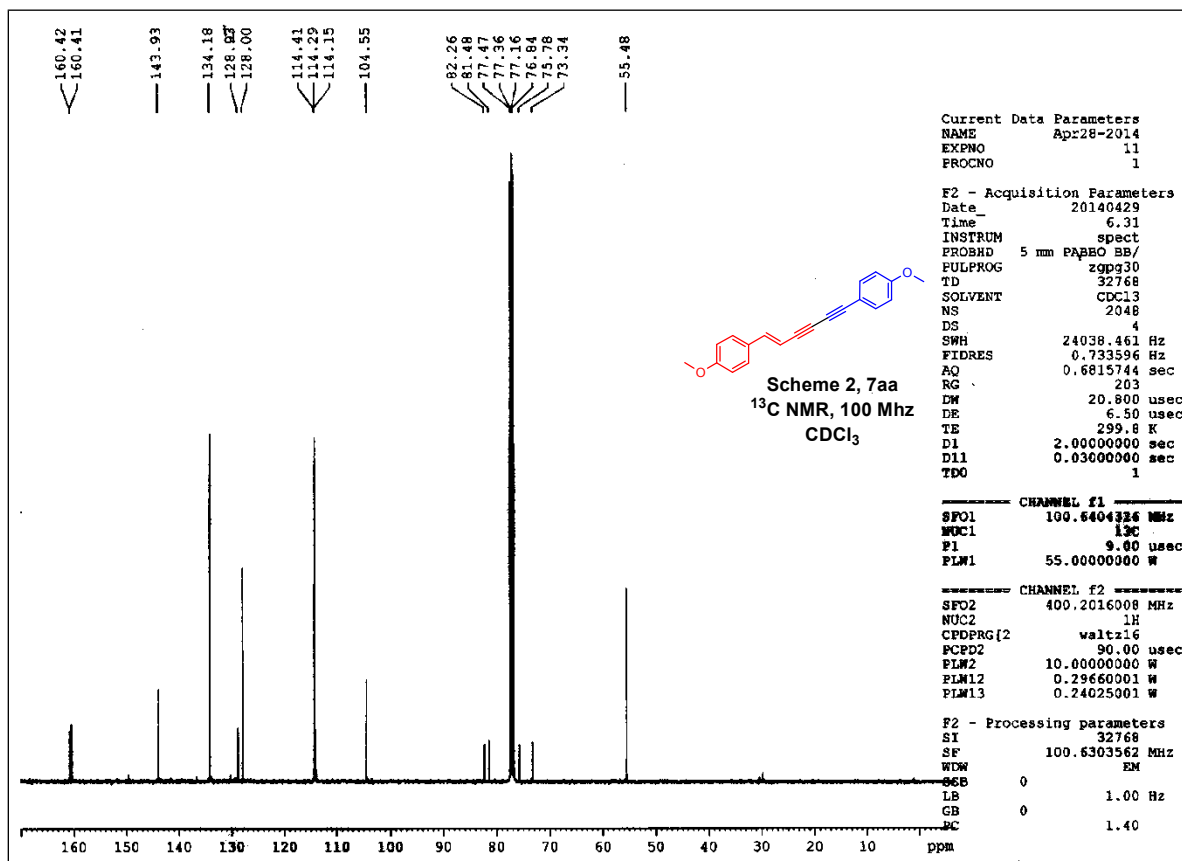
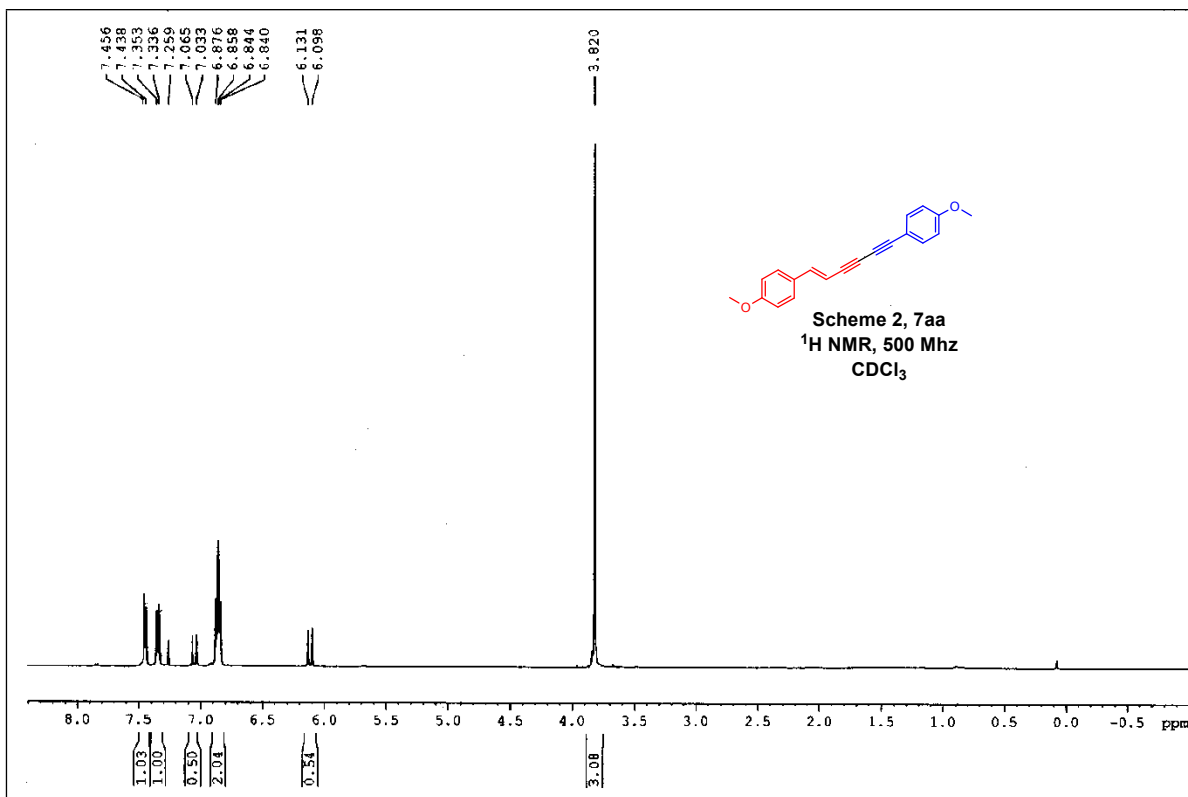


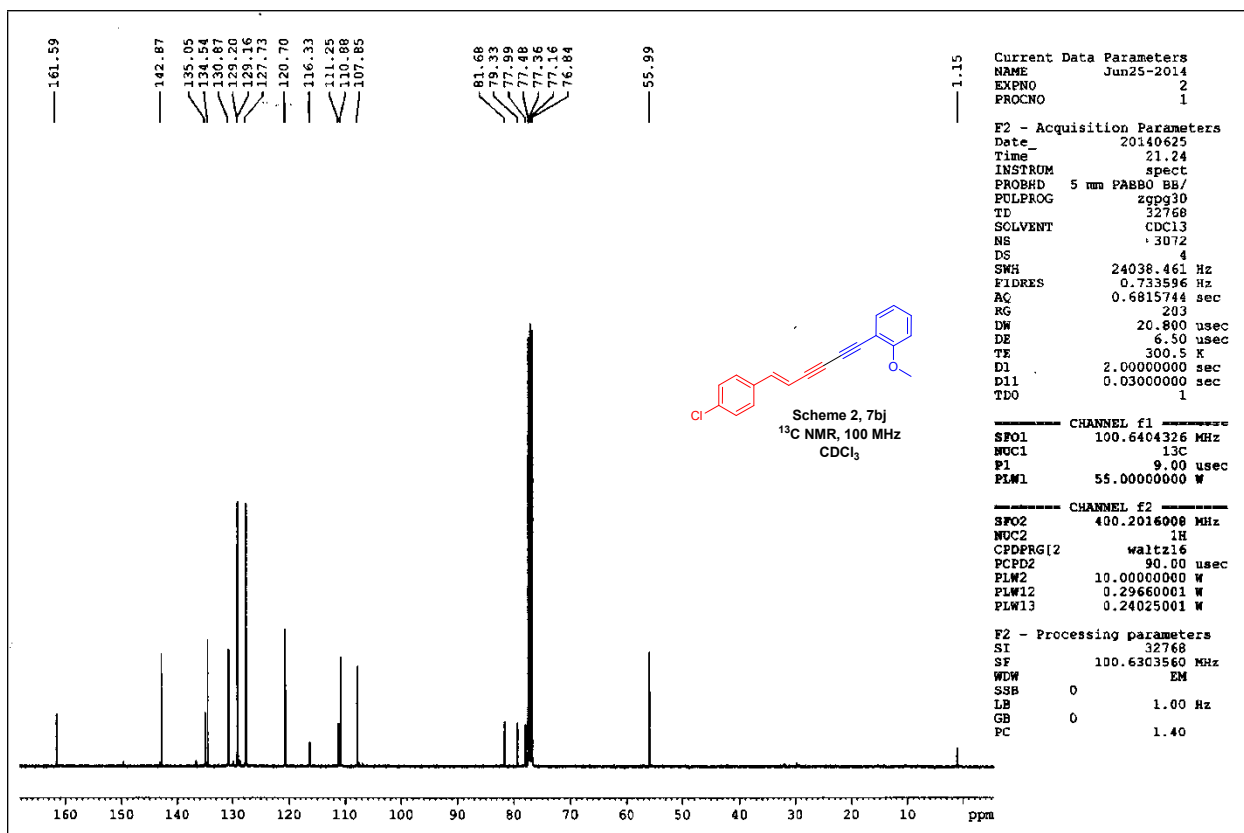
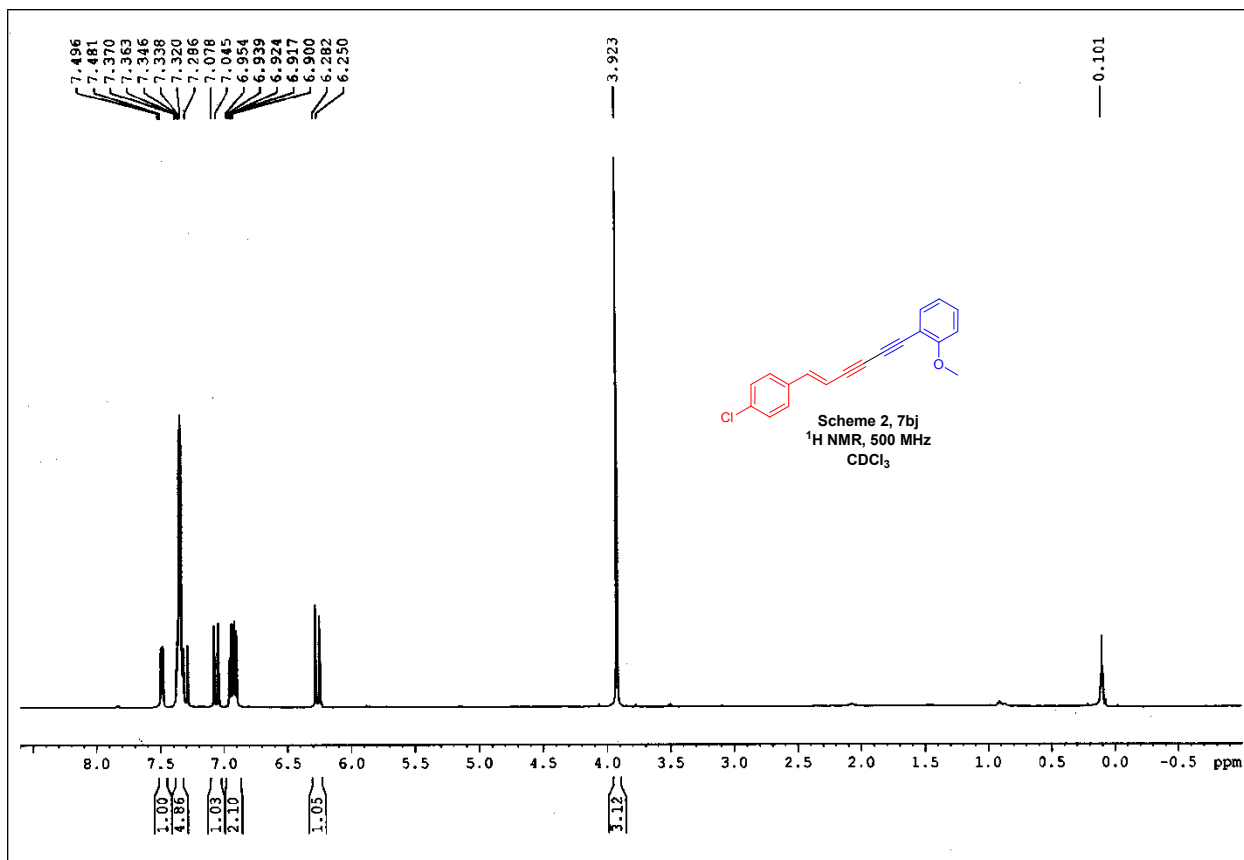


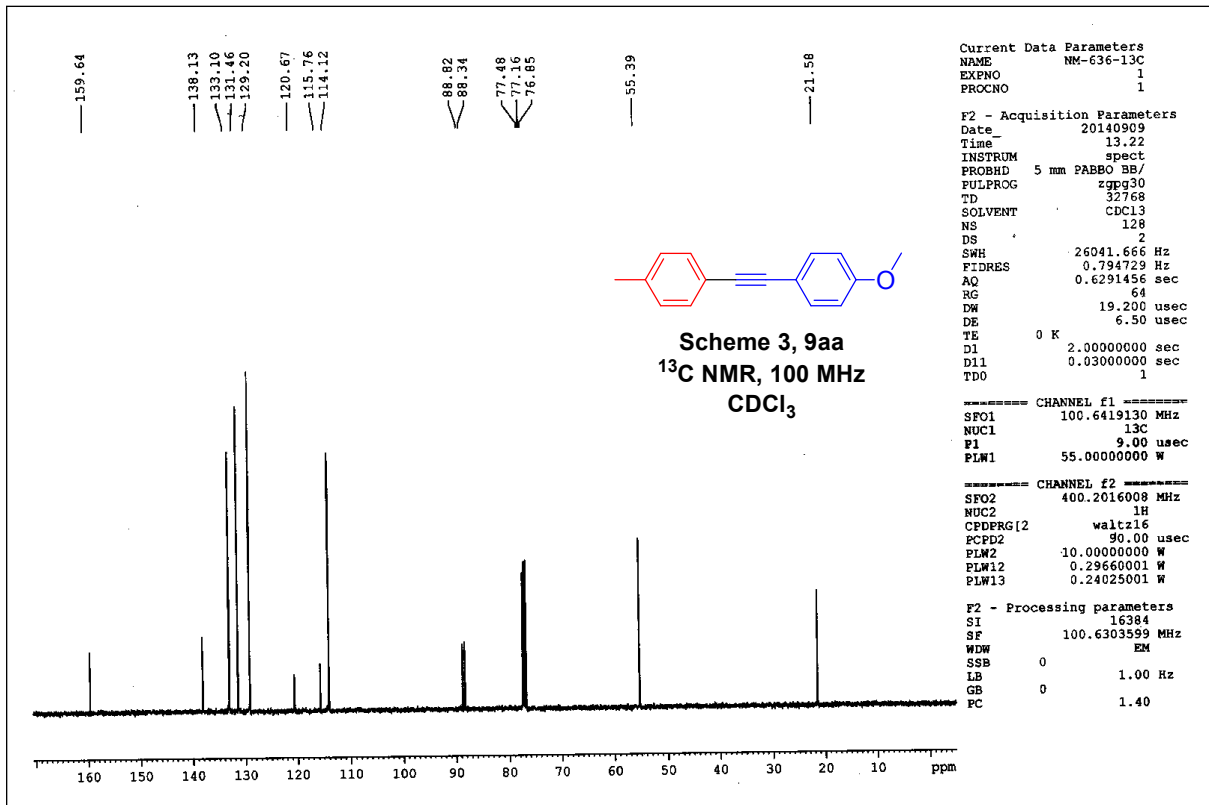
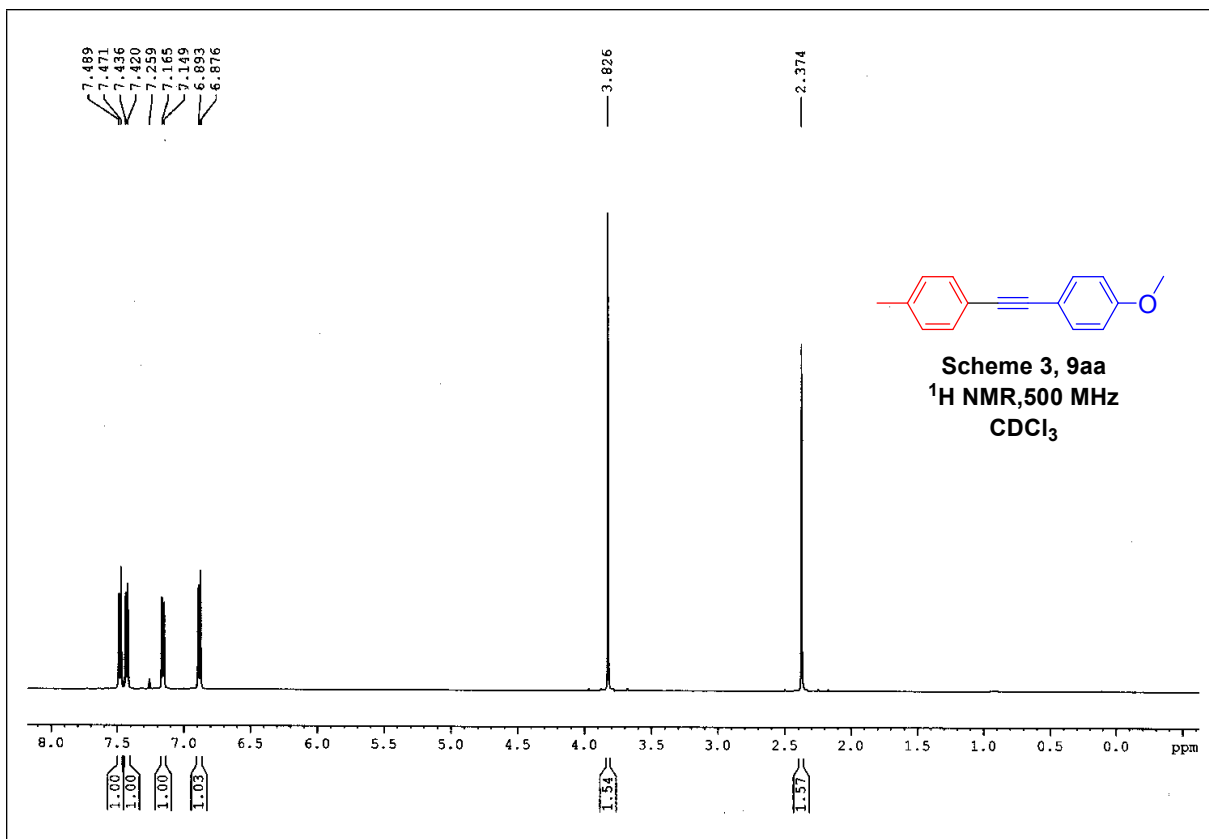


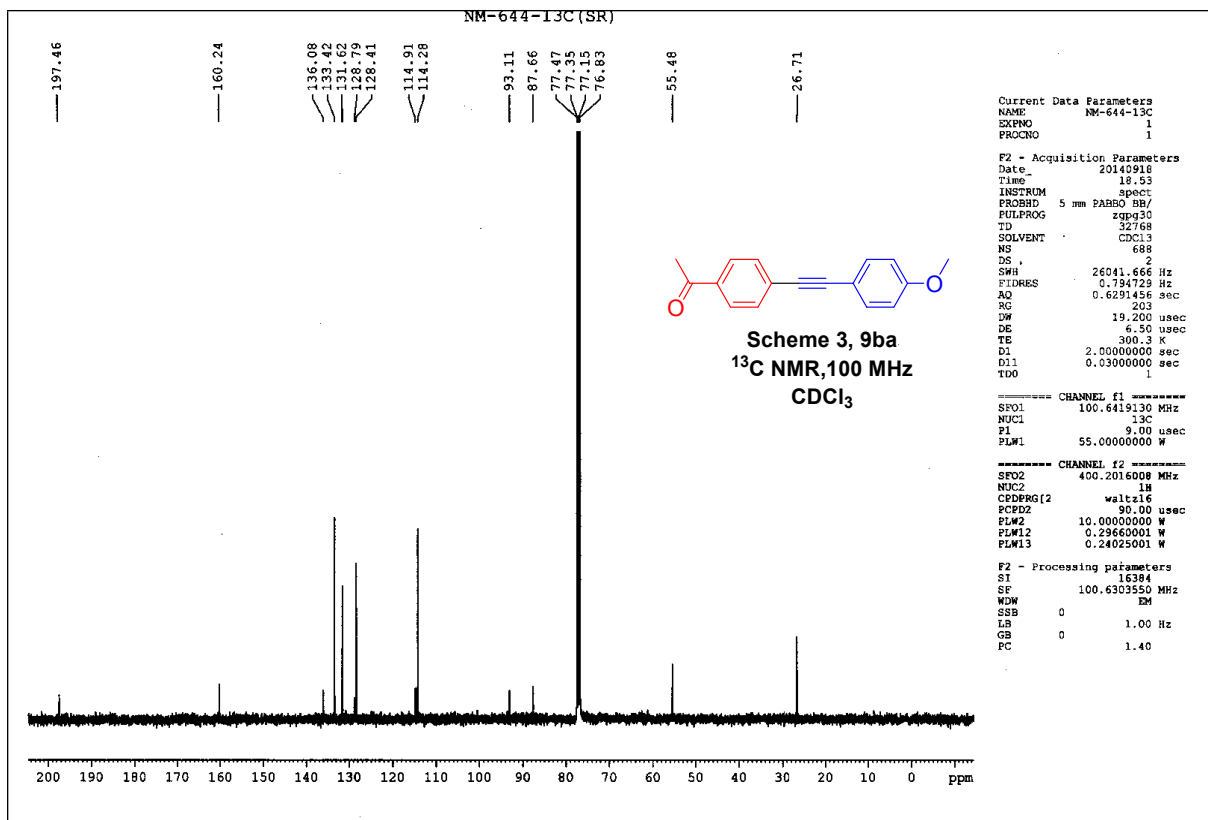
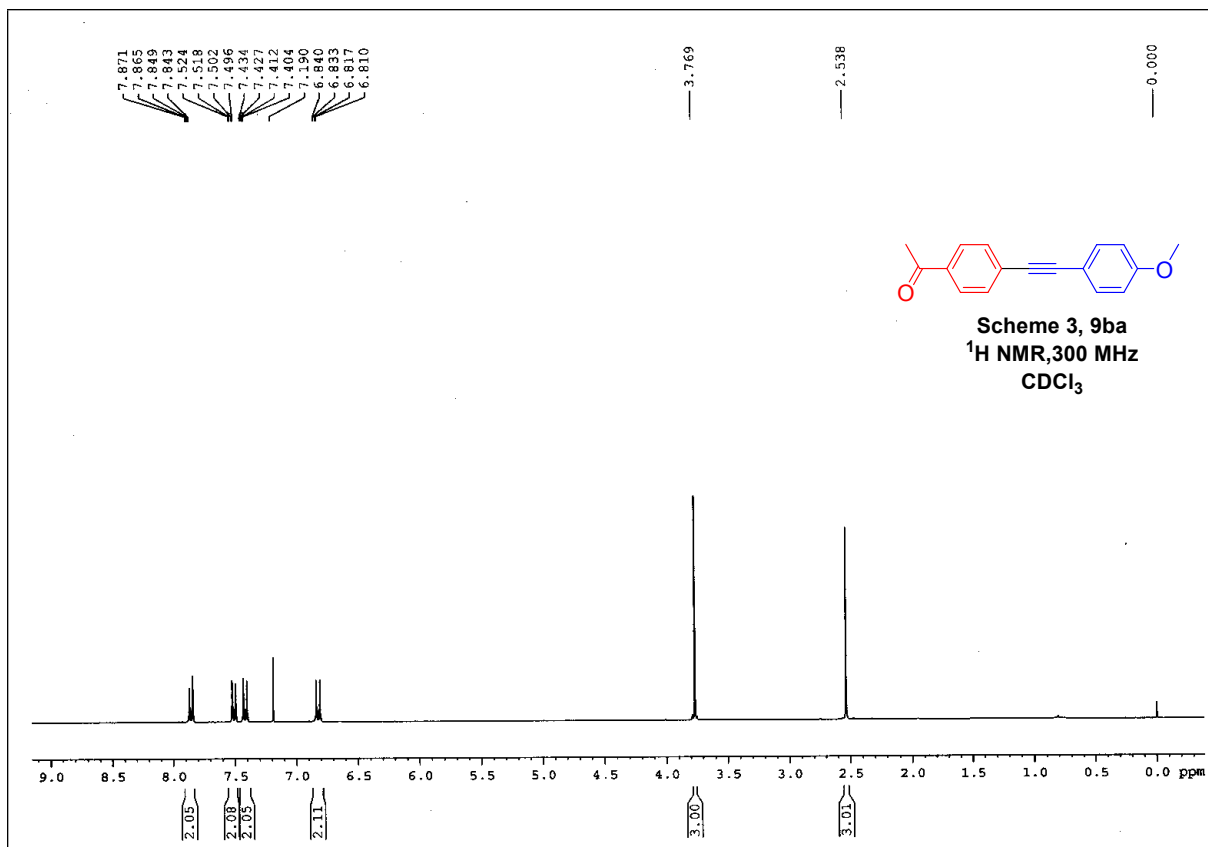


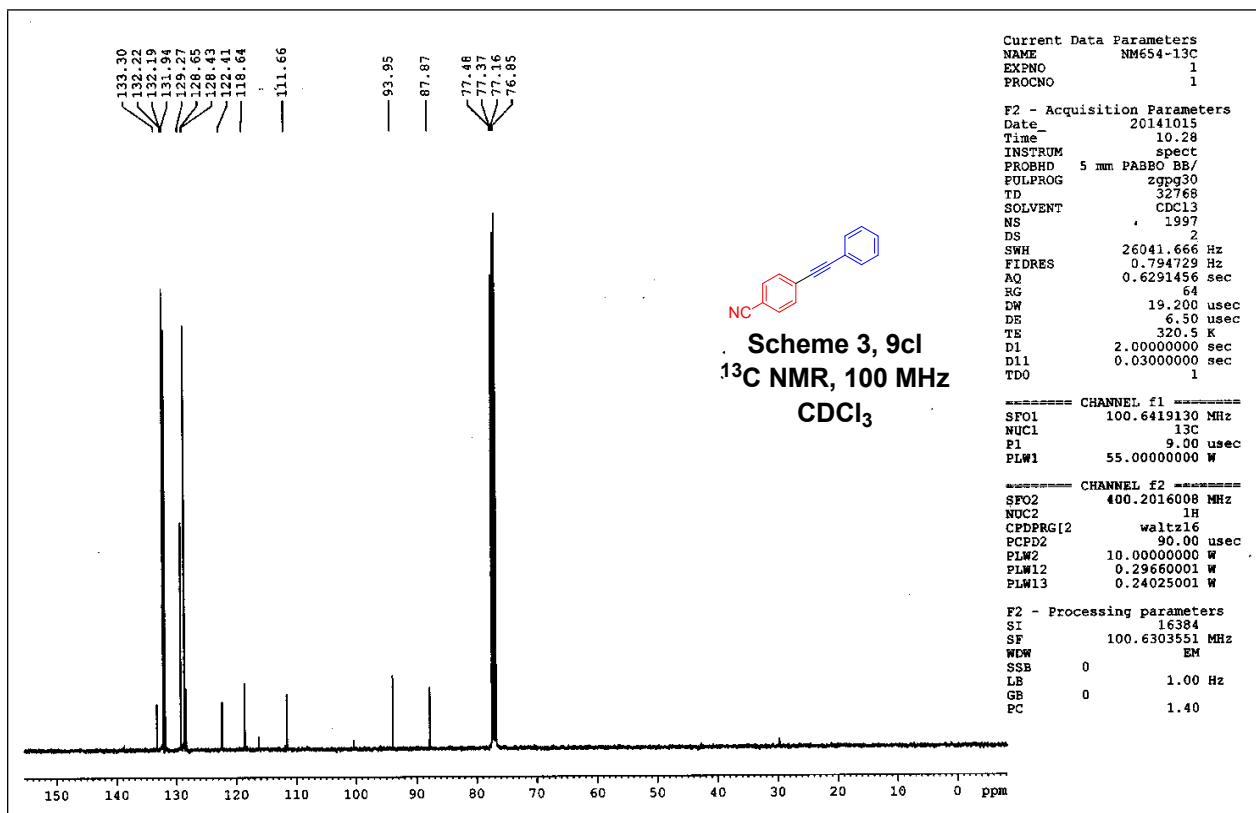
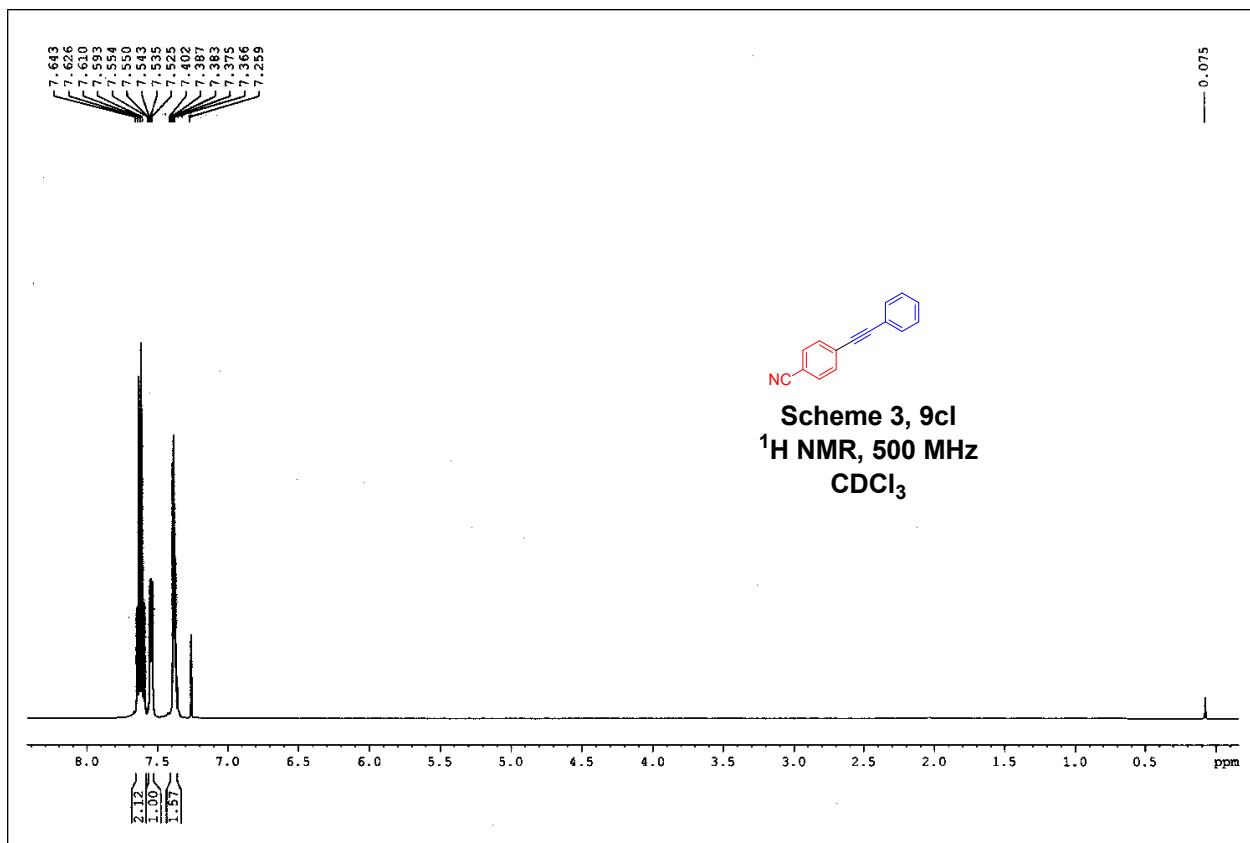




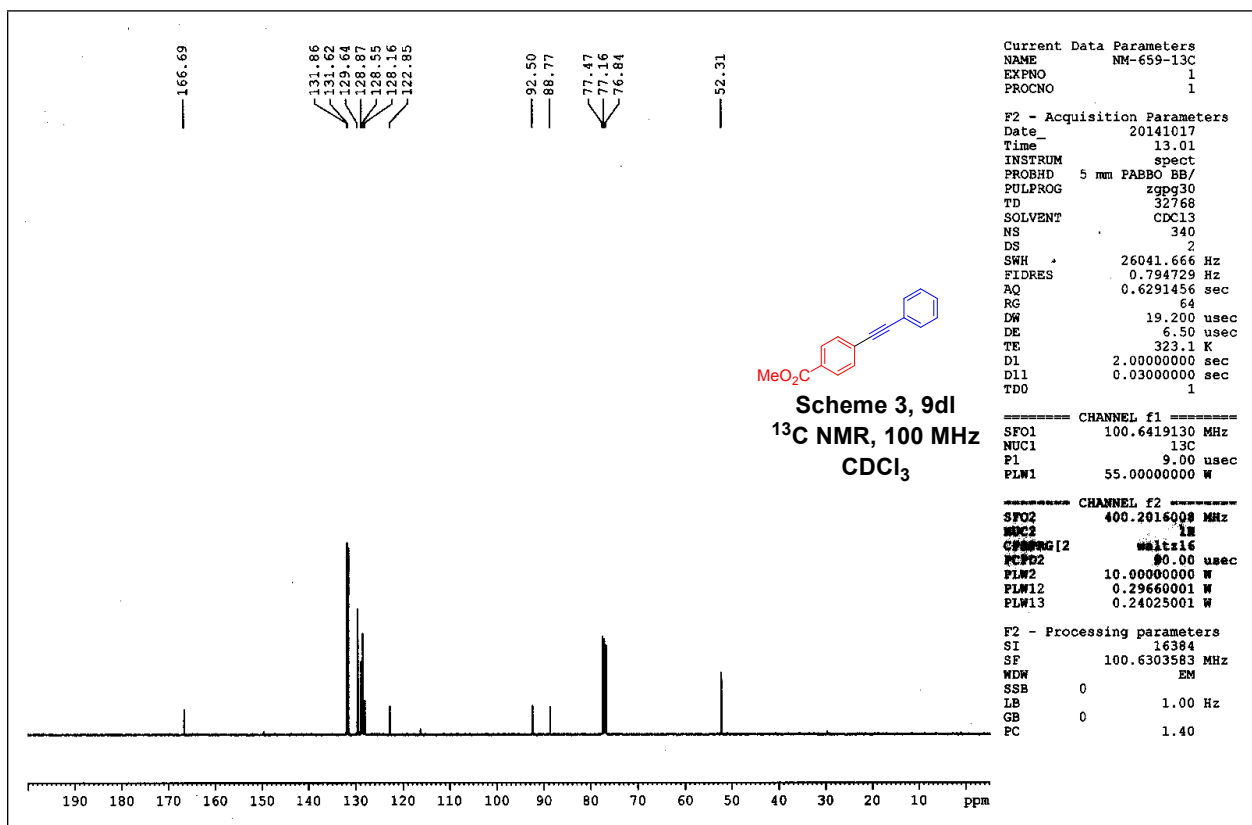
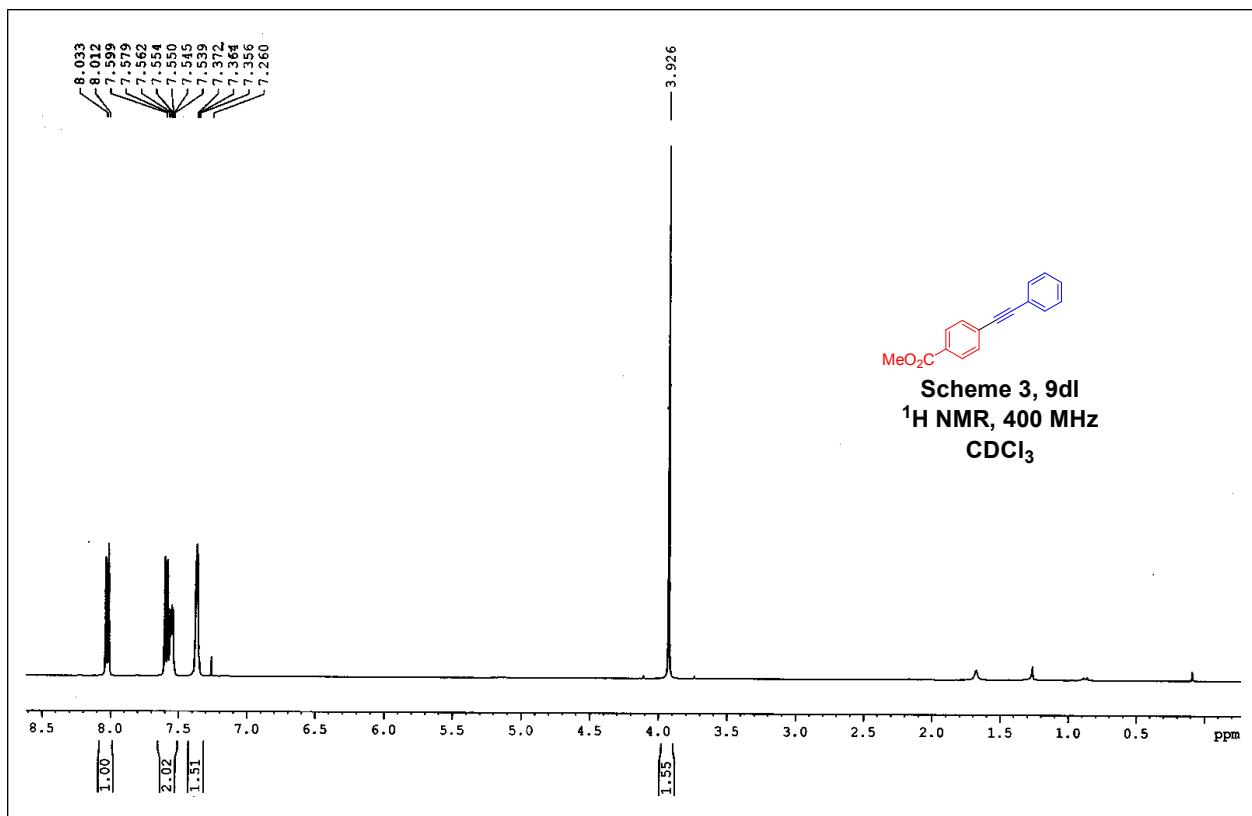


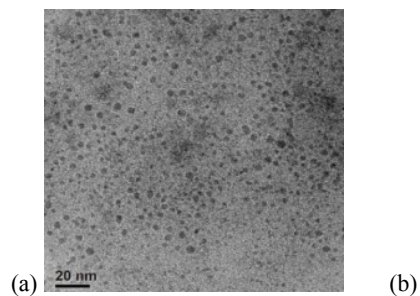




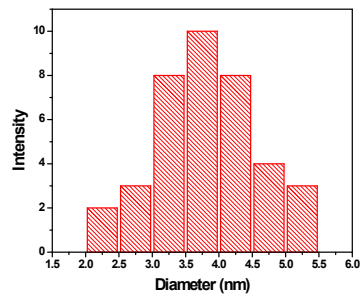








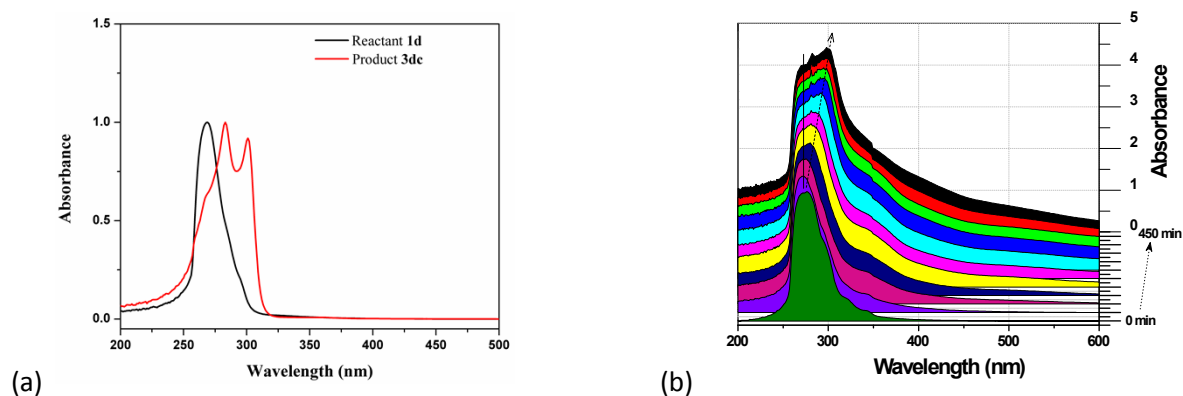
**Figure 2** (a) TEM image of Ni(0) nanoparticles. (b) Ni(0) nanoparticles fringe calculation from HRTEM image.



**Figure 3.** Histogram of the size of Ni(0) nanoparticles obtained from the TEM image.

### UV-experiment for the observation of the progress of the reaction

The progress of the reaction was clearly tracked by UV study. The characteristic peak of the reactant **1d** was obtained at 269 nm while the same for product **3dc** (Figure 4(a)) was found at 283 and 301 nm. Thus the formation of **3dc** was chosen as model experiment and the cross coupling between **1d** (0.10 M) and **2c** (0.10 M) at 100 °C in NMP was monitored in situ by UV. The diminution of **1d** and creation of **3dc** were clearly shown by shifting of the peak position from 270 nm and evolution of two new peaks at 283 nm and 300 nm (Figure 4 (b)). Increase in the concentration of the product was observed with time.



**Figure 4.** (a) UV-spectra of reactant **1d**, and product **3dc**. (b) *In situ* UV-spectra for the reaction of 1-(2-bromoethynyl)-4-methoxybenzene and 1-octyne in the standardized reaction conditions