

Supporting Information for *Chemical Communications*

**An efficient route to highly enantioenriched  
tetrahydroazulenes and  $\beta$ -tetralones by desymmetrization  
reactions of  $\delta,\delta$ -diaryldiazoacetates**

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**Contents**

<b>General information and materials</b>	<b>S2</b>
<b>General procedure for the preparation of <math>\delta,\delta</math>-diaryldiazoacetates and their characterization</b>	<b>S2-4</b>
<b>Catalyst screening</b>	<b>S5</b>
<b>General procedure for the catalytic enantioselective synthesis of <math>\beta</math>-tetralones and tetrahydroazulenes and their characterization</b>	<b>S6-9</b>
<b>General procedure for the synthesis of (<i>R</i>)-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1<i>H</i>)-one</b>	<b>S10</b>
<b>Determination of enantioselectivity for 2a and 3a</b>	<b>S10</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>S11</b>
<b>NMR spectra of 1a-j, 3a-f, 2g-i, 4</b>	<b>S12-31</b>
<b>HPLC analyses figures of 3a-f, 2g-i, 4</b>	<b>S32-42</b>
<b>Data collection and structure refinement for <i>tert</i>-butyl (1<i>R</i>,3<i>aS</i>)-6-chloro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3<i>a</i>-tetrahydroazulene-3<i>a</i>-carboxylate (2h)</b>	<b>S43</b>

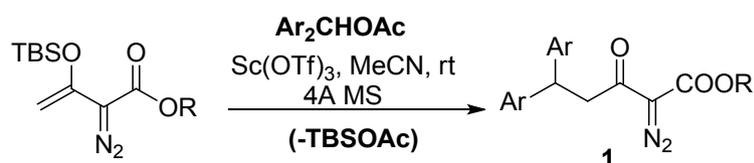
## General Information

All reactions, unless noted, were carried out under an inert atmosphere of dried nitrogen in flame-dried or oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Dynamic Adsorbents precoated (0.25 mm thickness) silica gel plates with F254 indicator. Visualization was accomplished by UV light (254 nm) or phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) solution in ethanol. Flash chromatography was performed with silica gel (32-63  $\mu\text{m}$ ) supplied by Dynamic Adsorbents.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 (400 MHz) spectrometer, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm. The peak information was described as: br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, comp = composite; coupling constant(s) in Hz.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 (100 MHz) spectrometer with complete proton decoupling. Enantioselectivity was determined on an Agilent 1200 Series HPLC using Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column, AD-H column. Optical rotation was recorded on JASCO DIP-1000 digital polarimeter. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were performed on JEOL AccuTOF-CS mass spectrometer using CsI as the standard.

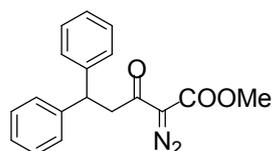
## Materials

$\text{Rh}_2(\text{PTA})_4$ ,  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-PTTL})_4$  and all other dirhodium carboxylates catalysts were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>[1]</sup>  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-TFPTTL})_4$  <sup>[2]</sup> was prepared by following the same synthetic procedure.  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-PTAD})_4$  and  $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-DOSP})_4$  were purchased from Strem Chemicals.  $\delta,\delta$ -Diaryldiazoacetate acetates **1a-i** were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>[3]</sup> Alkyl 3-(*tert*-butyl-dimethylsilyloxy)-2-diazobut-3-enoates (enoldiazoacetates) were prepared from their corresponding 3-oxo-2-diazo-butanoates.<sup>[4]</sup> Solvents were dried over 4 Å MS before use. All the other chemicals and Lewis acid were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification.

## General Procedure for the Preparation of $\delta,\delta$ -Diaryldiazoacetates

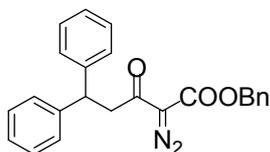


Molecular sieves (100 mg) were added to the Schlenk tube and flame dried under vacuum, then anhydrous  $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$  (3.0 mol %) was added and heated (110 °C) under vacuum for 1 h to dehydrate the catalyst. After cooling to room temperature the benzhydryl acetate (1.0 mmol) in 3 mL of dry acetonitrile was added, and this mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. Enoldiazoacetate (1.3 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) was added via syringe all at once. The bright yellow solution was stirred vigorously at room temperature. After 16 h the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the resulting mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 1:30 EtOAc/hexane to give the corresponding product **1a-i**.

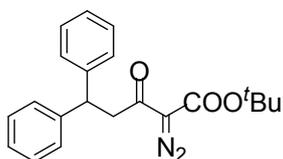


**Methyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1a).** Yield: 79%; Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,

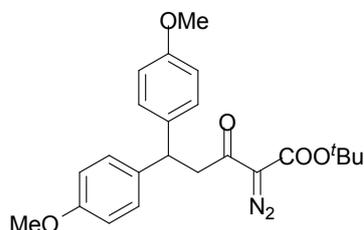
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.29 (comp, 8H), 7.24 – 7.17 (comp, 2H), 4.74 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  190.9, 162.1, 144.1, 128.8, 128.2, 126.7, 52.5, 46.4, 45.8 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 309.1239; found 309.1228.



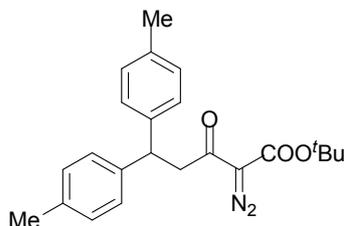
**Benzyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1b).** Yield: 76%; White solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42 – 7.41 (comp, 5H), 7.31 – 7.28 (comp, 5H), 7.25 – 7.17 (comp, 2H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 4.75 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  190.9, 161.6, 144.2, 135.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 126.8, 67.4, 46.5, 45.0 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 385.1552; found 385.1543.



**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1c).** Yield: 72%; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20 – 7.16 (comp, 4H), 7.15 – 7.12 (comp, 4H), 7.10 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 4.59 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd,  $J$  = 17.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd,  $J$  = 17.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.5, 160.9, 144.4, 128.9, 128.3, 126.8, 83.8, 45.8, 45.7, 28.7 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 351.1709; found 351.1721.

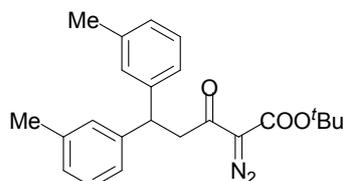


**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-anisyl pentanoate (1d).** Yield: 76%; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.21 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 6.83 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 4.63 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.62 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.8, 160.9, 158.4, 136.9, 129.1, 114.2, 83.6, 55.6, 46.0, 45.1, 28.7 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 411.1920; found 411.1912.

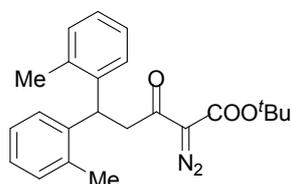


**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-tolylpentanoate (1e).** Yield: 70%; Pale yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 4.54 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 6H), 1.44 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.3, 160.6, 141.6, 136.1,

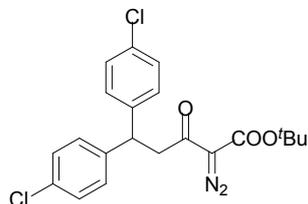
129.6, 128.1, 83.5, 45.9, 45.8, 28.4, 21.6 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{23}H_{27}N_2O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 379.2022; found 379.2015.



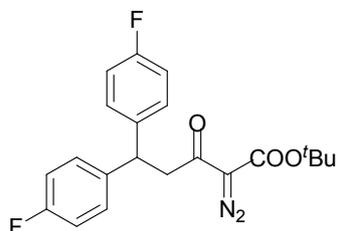
**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*m*-tolylpentanoate (1f).** Yield: 58%; Colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.20 – 7.13 (comp, 2H), 7.11 – 7.09 (comp, 4H), 7.01 – 6.98 (comp, 2H), 4.63 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 6H), 1.54 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  191.6, 160.9, 144.4, 136.4, 129.0, 128.7, 127.5, 125.1, 83.5, 46.5, 45.5, 28.7, 21.9 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{23}H_{27}N_2O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 379.2022; found 379.2026.



**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*o*-tolylpentanoate (1g).** Yield: 42%; White solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.23 – 7.04 (comp, 8H), 5.08 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 6H), 1.57 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  191.6, 160.9, 141.8, 136.5, 131.0, 127.4, 126.6, 126.4, 83.7, 44.6, 39.0, 28.7, 19.9 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{23}H_{27}N_2O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 379.2022; found 379.2018.

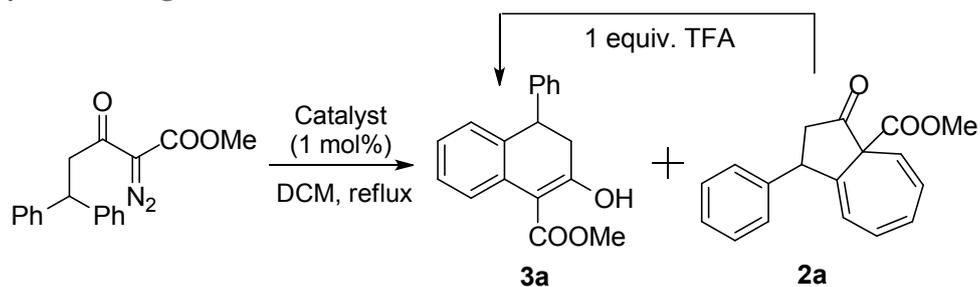


**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-chlorophenylpentanoate (1h).** Yield: 56%; Pale yellow solid;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 – 7.22 (comp, 4H), 7.22 – 7.16 (comp, 4H), 4.66 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.54 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  190.9, 160.7, 142.1, 132.7, 129.6, 129.1, 83.8, 83.5, 45.3, 28.7 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{21}H_{21}Cl_2N_2O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 419.0929; found 419.0925.



**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-fluorophenylpentanoate (1i).** Yield: 51%; Pale yellow oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.21 – 7.03 (comp, 4H), 6.99 – 6.67 (comp, 4H), 4.58 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  191.2, 163.1, 160.8, 160.6, 139.9, 139.8, 129.7, 129.6, 115.8, 115.6, 83.7, 45.8, 45.1, 28.7 (diazo carbon not detected); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{21}H_{21}F_2N_2O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 387.1520; found 387.1528.

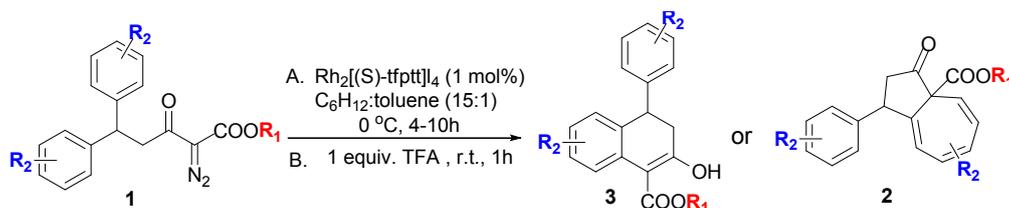
### Catalyst Screening<sup>a</sup>



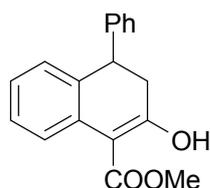
Entry	Catalyst	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee <sup>c</sup> of <b>3a</b> (%)	Product ratio ( <b>3a:2a</b> )
1	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-pttl} <sub>4</sub> ]	90	52	1:0.8
2	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-ptpa} <sub>4</sub> ]	89	34	1:0.6
3	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-pta} <sub>4</sub> ]	90	38	1:1.5
4	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-ptad} <sub>4</sub> ]	90	55	1:1.4
5	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-tcpttl} <sub>4</sub> ]	92	64	1:2.4
6	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-tfpttl} <sub>4</sub> ]	91	<b>70</b>	<b>1:2.7</b>
7	[Rh <sub>2</sub> {(S)-nttl} <sub>4</sub> ]	90	60	1:2.2

<sup>a</sup> A solution of methyl 2-diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (**1a**) (0.1 mmol) in 0.5 mL of anhydrous DCM was added via syringe pump to a solution of the Hashimoto catalyst (0.0010 mmol) in 0.5 mL of anhydrous refluxing DCM for 1h. The reaction mixture then passed through a short flash column of silica gel (dimensions: 0.5 cm x 10 cm) and, after removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, then subjected to <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis to determine the ratio of two products. After <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis, the reaction mixture followed by in situ treatment with TFA (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) for 1 hour. Then the crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent hexanes/EtOAc =50:1-30:1) to give the corresponding product **3a**. <sup>b</sup> Yield of isolated product. <sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

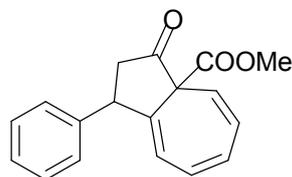
## General Procedure for the Catalytic Enantioselective Synthesis of $\beta$ -Tetralones and Tetrahydroazulenes



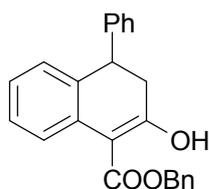
$\delta,\delta$ -Diaryldiazoacetates **1a-i** (0.15 mmol) in 1.2 mL solvent (cyclohexane: toluene = 15:1) was added over a 1h period by a syringe pump at 0 °C to a solution of  $\text{Rh}_2[(S)\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  catalyst (0.0015 mmol) in 0.4 mL of solvent. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4-10 hours at 0 °C, and/or followed by in situ treatment with TFA (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) for 1 hour. The reaction mixture then passed through a short flash column of silica gel (dimensions: 0.5 cm x 10 cm) and, after removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, then subjected to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopic analysis to determine product diastereoselectivity. The crude reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent hexanes/EtOAc = 50:1-30:1) to give the corresponding product **3a-f** / **2g-i**.



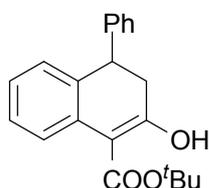
**Methyl (*R*)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (**3a**).** Catalyzed by  $\text{Rh}_2[(S)\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3a** in 90% isolated yield with 90% *ee*; Pale yellow oil;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21} = +79.0$  ( $c = 0.14$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.18 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.18 (comp, 3H), 7.17 – 7.07 (comp, 3H), 6.99 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.09 (t,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.85 (dd,  $J = 14.3, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd,  $J = 14.3, 5.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 171.5, 141.0, 134.9, 130.6, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 126.1, 126.0, 125.4, 124.6, 99.3, 51.1, 42.5, 35.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd 281.1178; found 281.1177. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: AD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 95:5, minor enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 10.3$  min, major enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 11.1$  min.



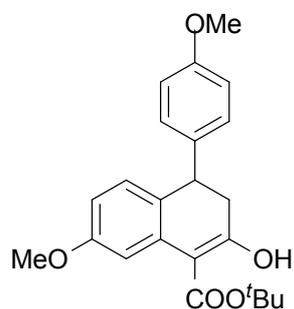
**Methyl (*1R,3aS*)-3-Oxo-1-phenyl-1,2,3,3a-tetrahydroazulene-3a-carboxylate (**2a**).** Colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36 – 7.30 (comp, 2H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.14 (comp, 2H), 6.66 – 6.36 (comp, 3H), 6.19 – 5.98 (m, 1H), 5.59 – 5.33 (m, 1H), 4.58 (td,  $J = 9.3, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd,  $J = 18.3, 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd,  $J = 18.3, 9.3$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  211.2, 168.2, 143.1, 142.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 128.5, 127.5, 124.5, 120.2, 64.7, 53.3, 47.4, 46.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd 281.1178; found 281.1173.



**Benzyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3b).** Catalyzed by  $\text{Rh}_2[(\text{S})\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3b** in 88% isolated yield with 82% *ee*. Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21} = +38.3$  ( $c = 0.15$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.29 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.28 (comp, 8H), 7.22 – 7.20 (comp, 3H), 7.06 – 6.89 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.69 – 5.27 (comp, 2H), 4.39 – 3.97 (t,  $J = 7.4$ , 1H), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 15.5$ , 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd,  $J = 15.5$ , 7.4 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  177.4, 172.0, 142.1, 136.2, 136.0, 131.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.3, 127.1, 126.6, 125.7, 100.5, 67.1, 43.7, 37.2; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd 357.1491; found 357.1495. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 99:1, major enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 22.1$  min, minor enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 23.7$  min.

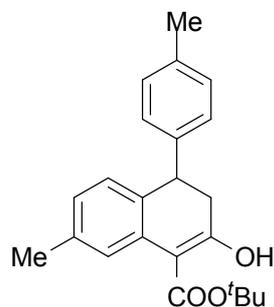


**tert-Butyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3c).** Catalyzed by  $\text{Rh}_2[(\text{S})\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3c** in 87% isolated yield with 91% *ee*. Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21} = +42.2$  ( $c = 0.30$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.67 (s, 1H), 7.88 (dd,  $J = 8.0$ , 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.36 (comp, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.22 (comp, 3H), 7.08 (td,  $J = 8.0$ , 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.83 (m, 1H), 4.21 (t,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 16.4$ , 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd,  $J = 16.4$ , 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 171.0, 141.3, 135.4, 131.5, 128.1, 127.7, 126.9, 126.3, 125.8, 125.5, 124.3, 100.4, 82.2, 42.9, 36.2, 27.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd 323.1647; found 323.1632. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 99.5:0.5, major enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 11.3$  min, minor enantiomer  $t_{\text{r}} = 12.5$  min.

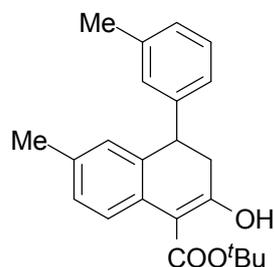


**tert-Butyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-7-methoxy-4-(p-anisyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3d).** Catalyzed by  $\text{Rh}_2[(\text{S})\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3d** in 68% isolated yield with 80% *ee*. Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21} = +77.5$  ( $c = 0.04$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ );  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  13.42 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.07 (comp, 2H), 6.97 – 6.86 (comp, 2H), 6.77 (dd,  $J = 8.8$ , 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dd,  $J = 2.8$ , 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd,  $J = 9.8$ , 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.84 (dd,  $J = 16.3$ , 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd,  $J = 16.3$ , 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.2, 172.0, 158.9, 157.4,

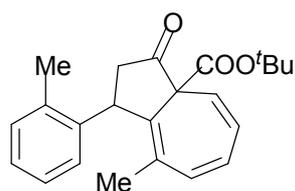
138.6, 134.1, 129.6, 127.5, 125.1, 114.5, 114.0, 111.4, 101.0, 83.0, 55.7, 55.6, 43.5, 37.3, 28.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{23}H_{27}O_5$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 383.1859; found 383.1863. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.4 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 99.5:0.5, major enantiomer  $t_r$  = 25.8 min, minor enantiomer  $t_r$  = 35.3 min.



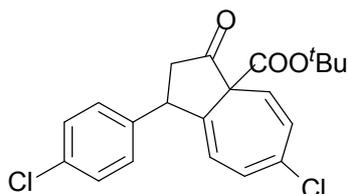
**tert-Butyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-7-methyl-4-(p-tolyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3e).** Catalyzed by  $Rh_2[(S)\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3e** in 70% isolated yield with 87% *ee*. Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{21}$  °C = + 58.3 (*c* = 0.13,  $CHCl_3$ );  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  13.41 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 9H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  175.0, 171.1, 138.4, 135.8, 135.5, 133.9, 128.8, 127.6, 126.5, 125.5, 100.3, 82.1, 42.6, 36.5, 28.0, 20.5; HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{23}H_{27}O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 351.1960; found 351.1962. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: AD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 99:1, minor enantiomer  $t_r$  = 9.1 min, major enantiomer  $t_r$  = 9.9 min.



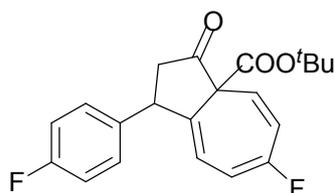
**tert-Butyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-6-methyl-4-(m-tolyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3f).** Catalyzed by  $Rh_2[(S)\text{-tfpttl}]_4$  at 0 °C to give **3f** in 78% isolated yield with 80% *ee*. Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{21}$  °C = + 45.1 (*c* = 0.49,  $CHCl_3$ );  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  13.41 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 – 6.86 (comp, 3H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  174.6, 170.7, 143.6, 141.1, 137.2, 135.1, 133.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 126.7, 126.1, 125.1, 124.5, 99.9, 81.7, 42.6, 36.1, 27.6, 20.6, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{23}H_{27}O_3$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd 351.1960; found 351.1957. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: AD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 98:2, minor enantiomer  $t_r$  = 8.2 min, major enantiomer  $t_r$  = 9.2 min.



***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-8-Methyl-3-oxo-1-(*o*-tolyl)-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2g).** Catalyzed by Rh<sub>2</sub>[(S)-tfpttl]<sub>4</sub> at 0 °C to give **2g** in 80% isolated yield with 72% *ee*. Colorless oil; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> °C = + 50.1 (c = 0.09, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 6.97 (comp, 2H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 – 6.32 (comp, 3H), 5.47 – 5.38 (m, 1H), 4.67 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 210.9, 165.4, 140.8, 134.3, 132.5, 130.0, 129.6, 128.1, 126.1, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 81.4, 62.3, 44.7, 40.3, 26.7, 19.1, 18.4; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 351.1960; found 351.1964. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.3 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 98:2, minor enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 20.7 min, major enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 22.3 min.



***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-6-Chloro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2h).** Catalyzed by Rh<sub>2</sub>[(S)-tfpttl]<sub>4</sub> at 0 °C to give **2h** in 70% isolated yield with 97% *ee*. Colorless solid; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> °C = - 77.1 (c = 0.14, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.21 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.99 – 6.93 (comp, 2H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 210.4, 166.2, 143.6, 141.7, 135.1, 133.3, 130.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.1, 123.1, 122.7, 83.6, 65.5, 47.1, 46.0, 28.0; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 391.0868; found 391.0873. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 230 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 98:2, major enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 17.4 min, minor enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 19.3 min.

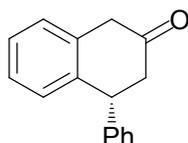


***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-6-Fluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2i).** Catalyzed by Rh<sub>2</sub>[(S)-tfpttl]<sub>4</sub> at 0 °C to give **2i** in 74% isolated yield with 97% *ee*. White solid; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> °C = - 141.3 (c = 0.16, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.11 – 7.09 (comp, 2H), 7.05 – 6.98 (comp, 2H), 6.48 (ddd, *J* = 15.1, 10.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 5.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 209.4, 164.9, 162.0, 161.3, 159.5, 158.8, 139.3, 137.7, 128.5, 128.4, 123.2, 123.0, 122.8, 122.4, 119.6, 119.4, 114.9, 114.7, 109.1, 108.8, 82.2, 64.4, 45.9, 44.6, 26.7; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 359.1459; found 359.1454. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 98:2, major enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 16.0 min, minor enantiomer t<sub>r</sub> = 18.4 min.

## General Procedure for the Synthesis of (*R*)-4-Phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one

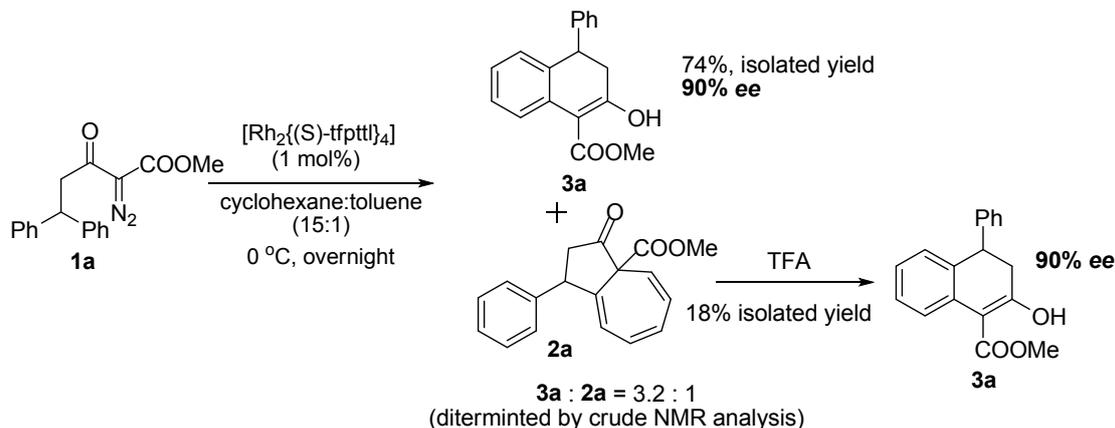


Compound **3a** (1.5 mmol) was dissolved in 5.2 mL of solvent (DMSO:H<sub>2</sub>O = 25:1), followed by addition of lithium chloride (1.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction was allowed to reflux for 4.5 h during which the color of the reaction solution turned from colorless to yellow. The crude material was filtered through a silica gel plug (eluent cyclohexane-ethyl acetate, 7:3), and the resulting yellow oil was purified by Kugelrohr distillation obtaining a light yellow oil.



**(R)-4-Phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (4)**. Catalyzed by Rh<sub>2</sub>[(S)-tfpttl]<sub>4</sub> at 0 °C to give **4** in 83% isolated yield with 87% *ee*. Light yellow oil; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> = + 16.2 (c = 0.70, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.04 (comp, 7H), 6.93 – 6.91 (m, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 20.0, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.89 – 2.78 (comp, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 208.6, 142.5, 136.4, 132.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 127.0, 126.4, 126.2, 126.1, 44.9, 44.0, 43.7; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd 223.1123; found 223.1119. HPLC conditions for determination of enantiomeric excess: OD-H column, 254 nm, 0.5 mL/min, Hexane:IPA = 90:10, minor enantiomer *t<sub>r</sub>* = 19.2 min, major enantiomer *t<sub>r</sub>* = 26.5 min.

### Determination of Enantioselectivity for **2a** and **3a**



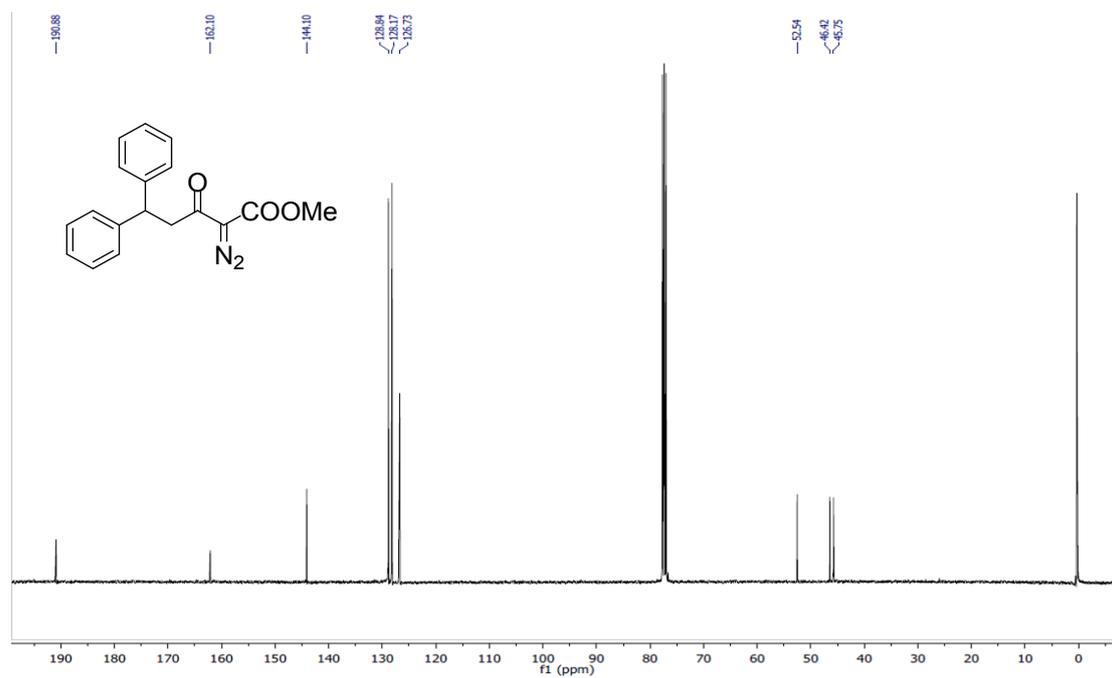
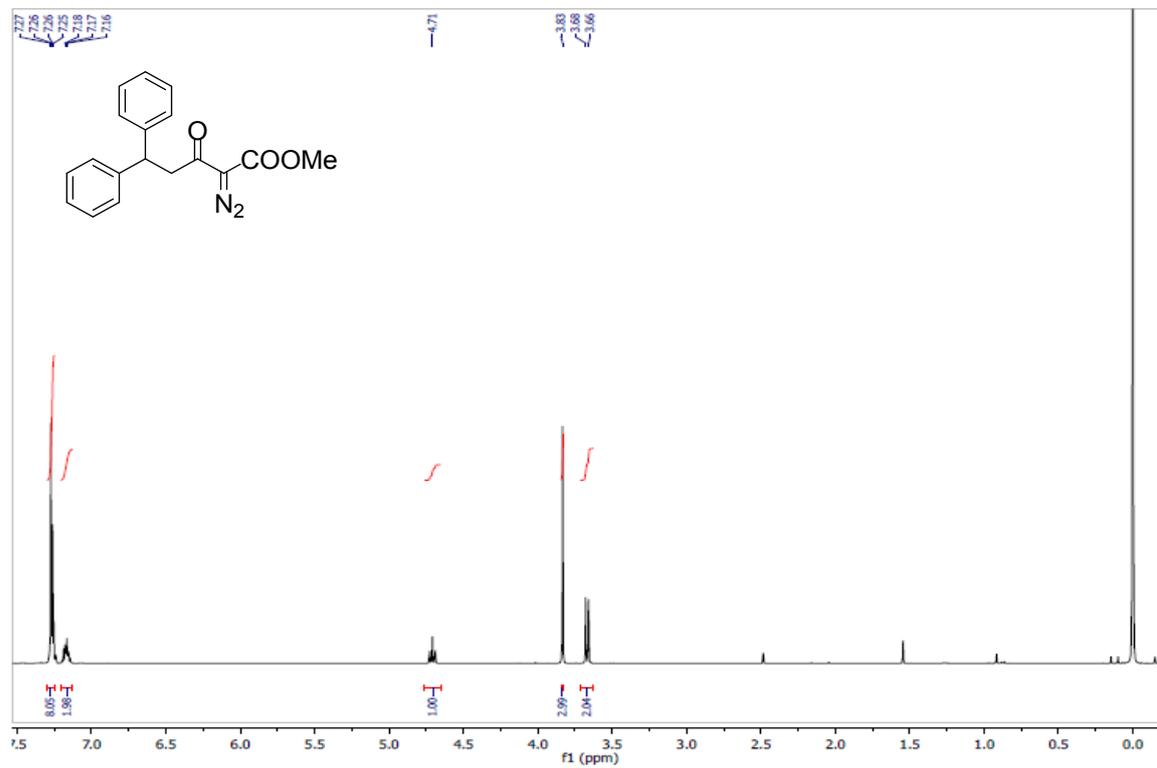
$\delta,\delta$ -Diaryldiazoacetates **1a** (0.15 mmol) in 1.2 mL solvent (cyclohexane: toluene = 15:1) was added over 1h by a syringe pump at 0 °C to 0.4 mL solvent of Rh<sub>2</sub>[(S)-tfpttl]<sub>4</sub> (0.0015 mmol). After 6 h of reaction time at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes/EtOAc/TEA = 100:5:0.5) to give the corresponding product **2a** (18% yield) and **3a** (74% yield) separately. Enantiomeric excess of isolated compound **3a** was determined by HPLC using Daicel Chiralcel AD-H column (**3a**, 90% *ee*). Isolated compound **2a** was treated with TFA (1.5 equiv.) to generate **3a** for enantioselectivity determination (**2a**, 90% *ee*).

### References

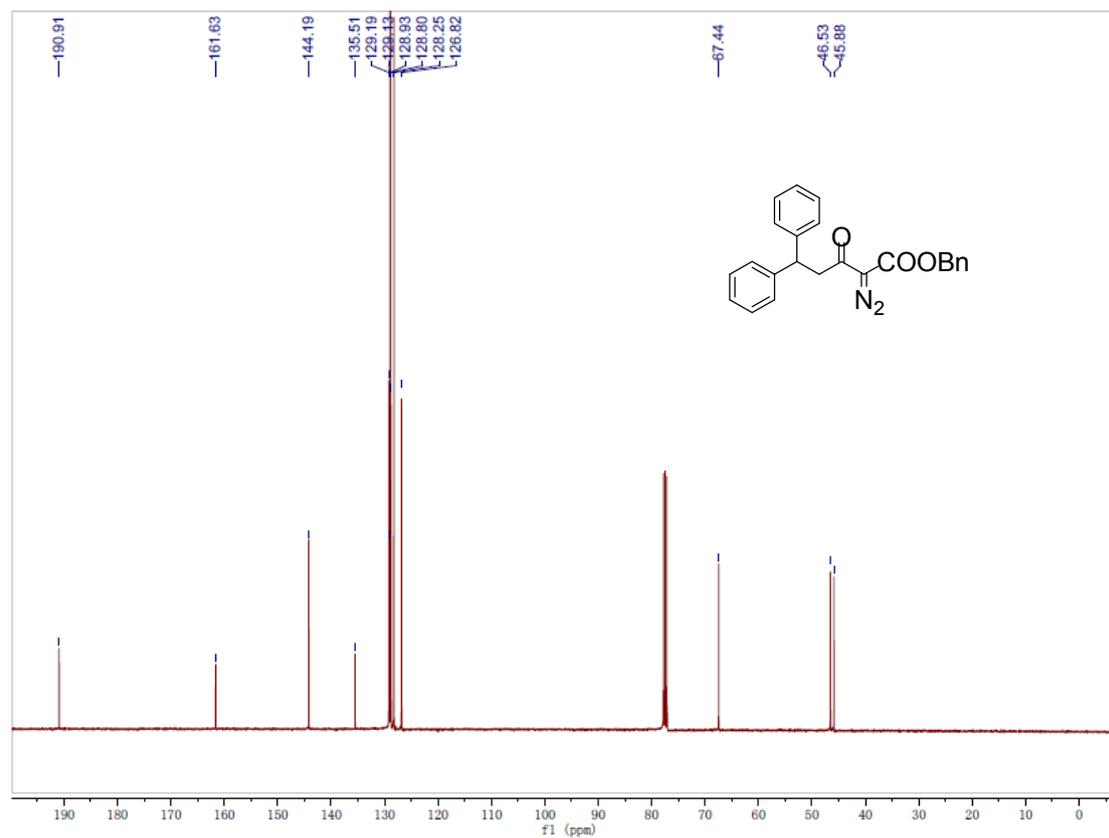
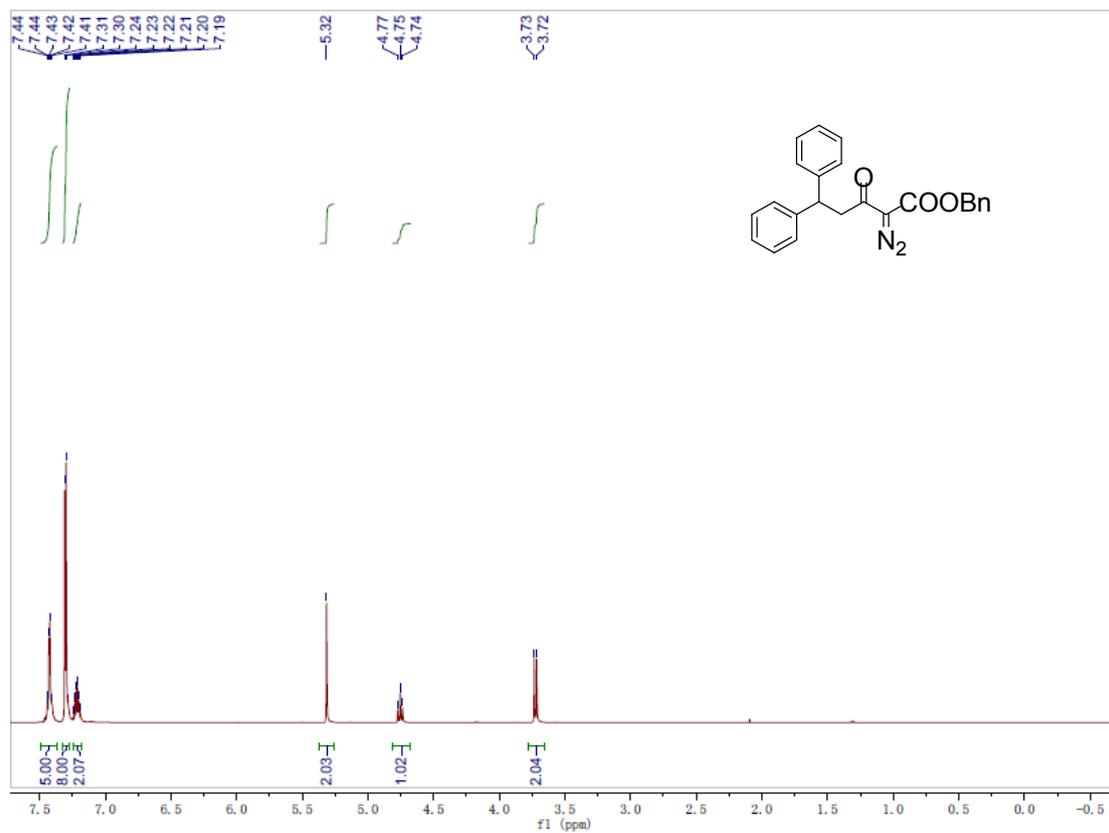
- [1] (a) S. Hashimoto, N. Watanabe, T. Sato, M. Shiro, S. Ikegami, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1993, **34**, 5109.  
(b) H. Tsutsui, T. Abe, S. Nakamura, M. Anada, S. Hashimoto, *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* 2005, **53**, 1366;  
(c) S. Kitagaki, M. Anada, O. Kataoka, K. Matsuno, C. Umeda, N. Watanabe, S. Hashimoto, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1999, **121**, 1417.
- [2] H. Tsutsui, Y. Yamaguchi, S. Kitagaki, S. Nakamura, S. Hashimoto. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, 2003, **14**, 817.
- [3] X. Liu, X. Liu, C. S. Shanahan, X. Xu, M. P. Doyle. *Org. & Biomol. Chem.* 2014, **12**, 5227.
- [4] H. M. L. Davies, G. Ahmed, M. R. Churchill, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1996, **118**, 10774.

# NMR Spectra

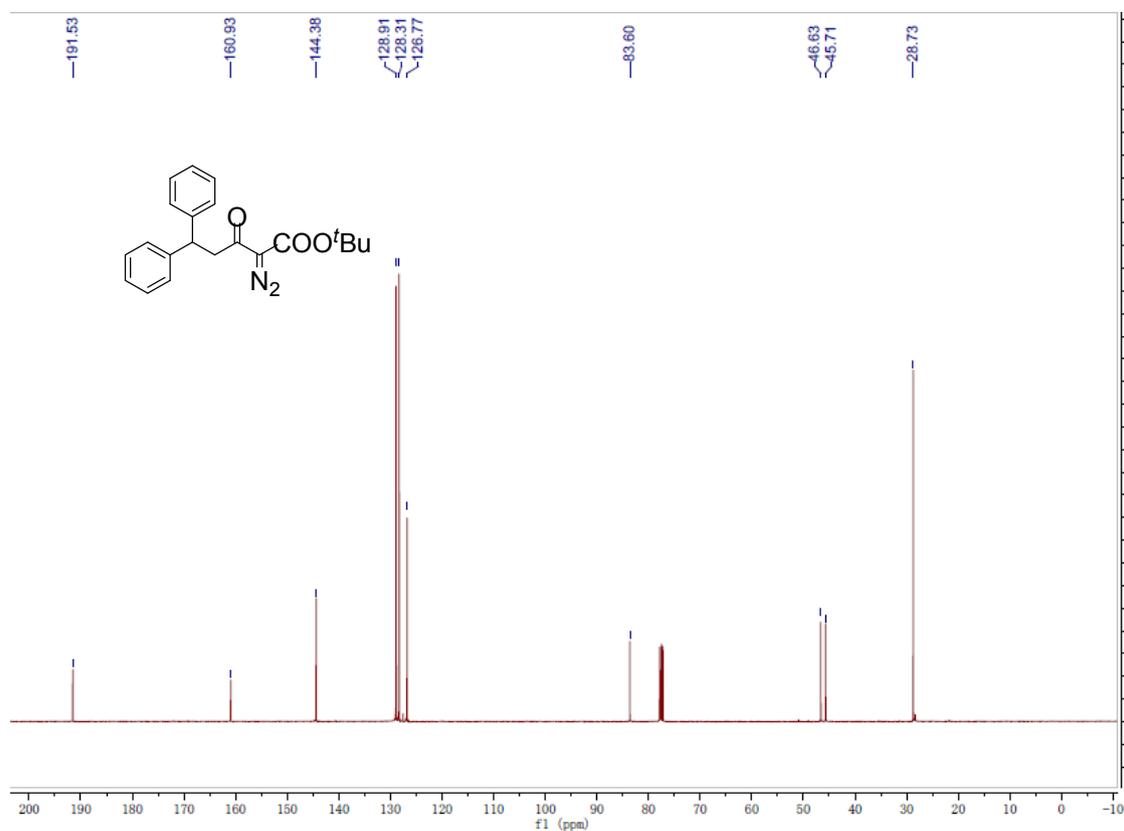
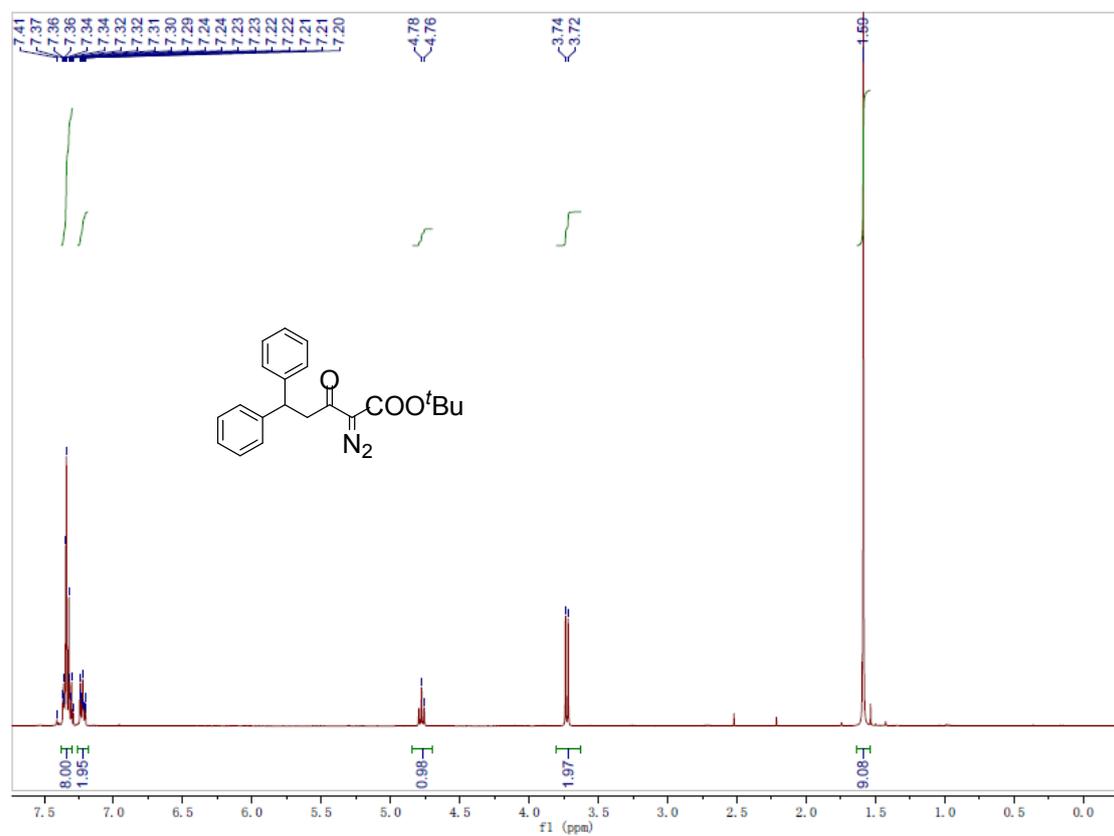
## Methyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1a)



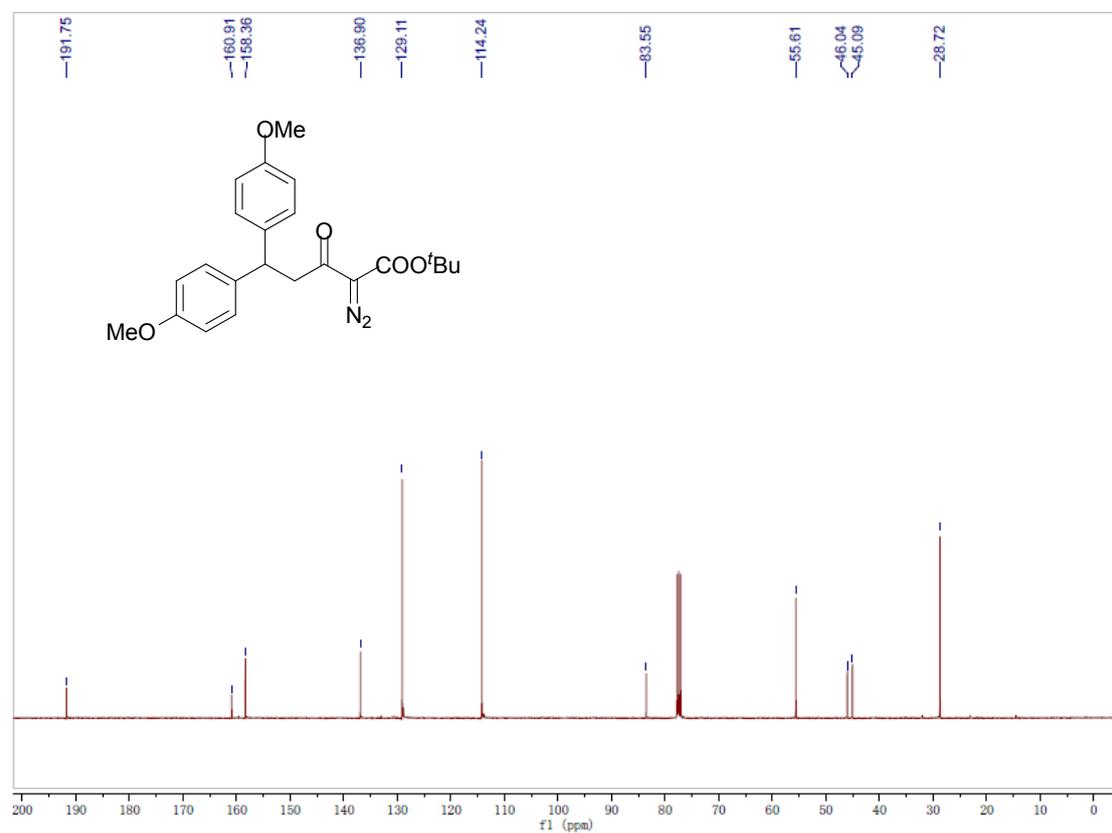
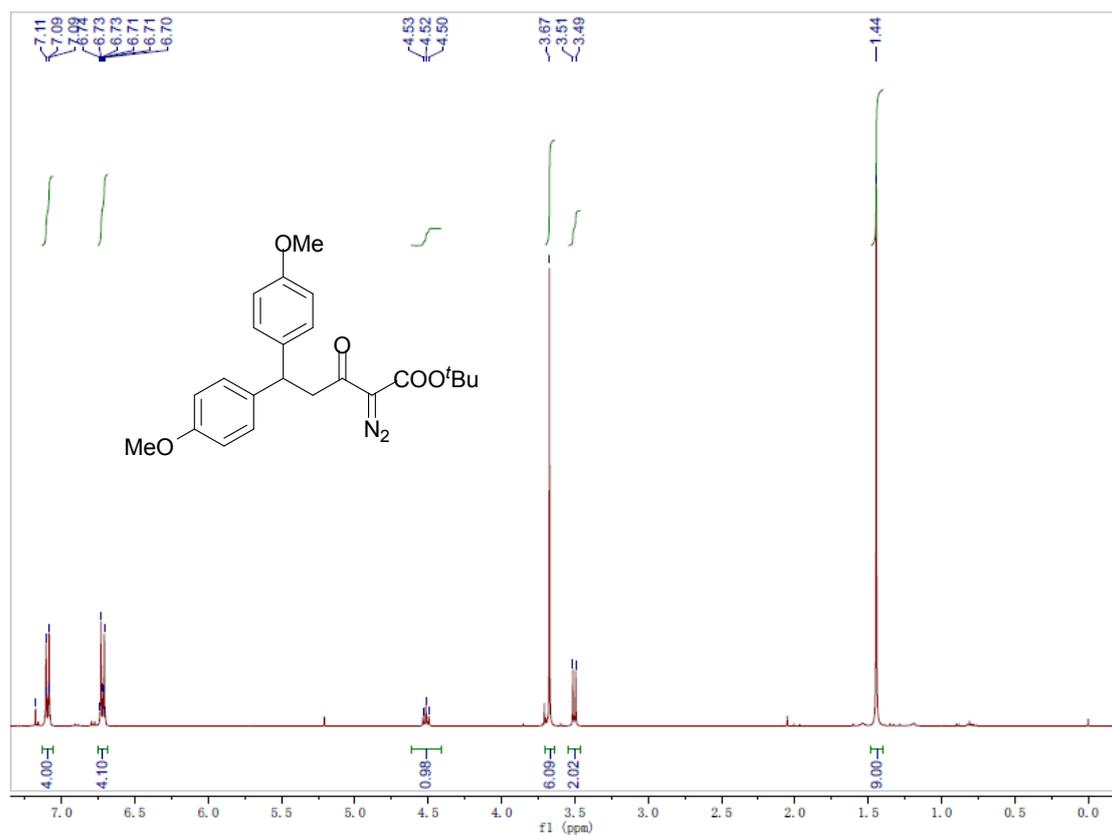
### Benzyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1b)



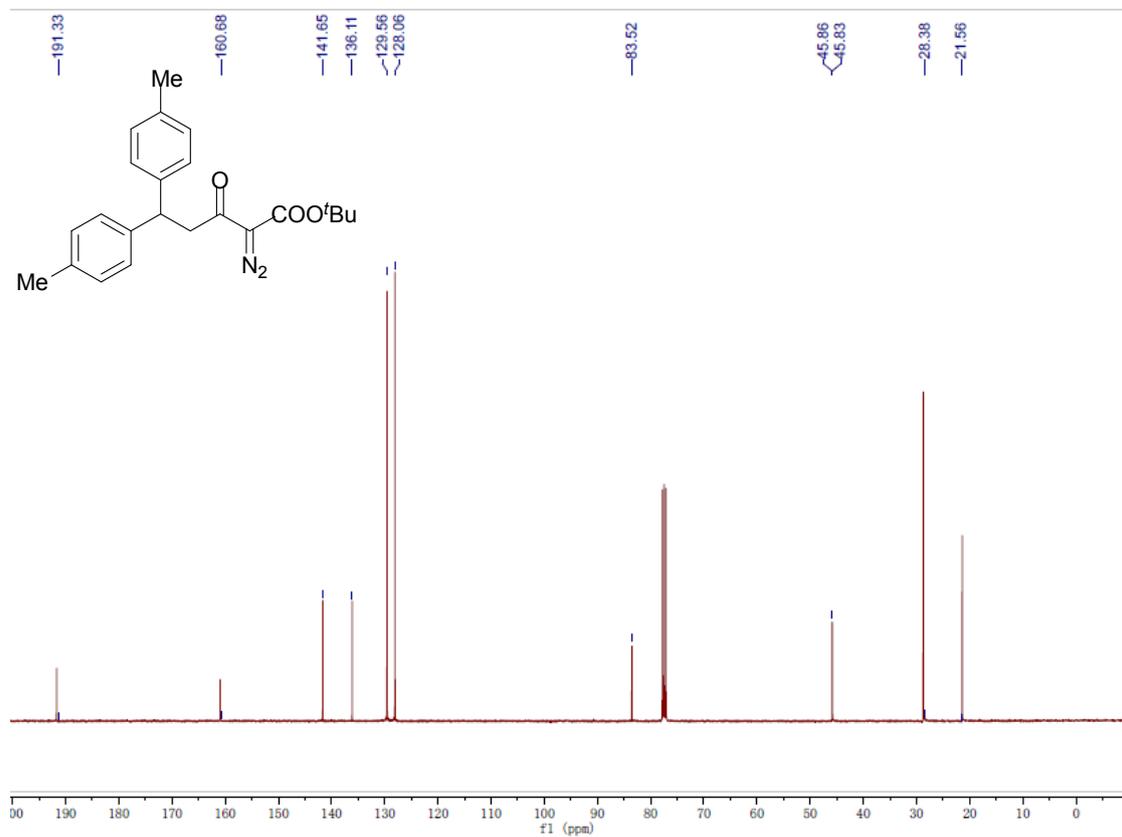
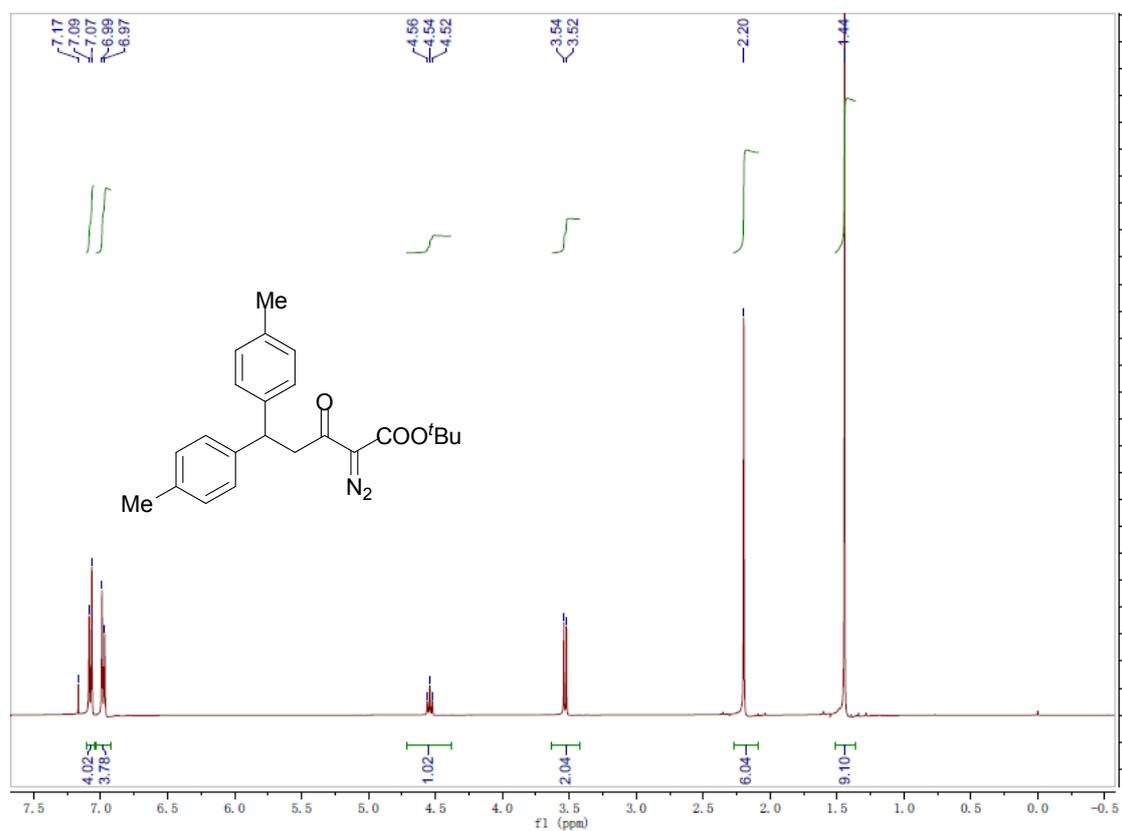
**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-diphenylpentanoate (1c)**



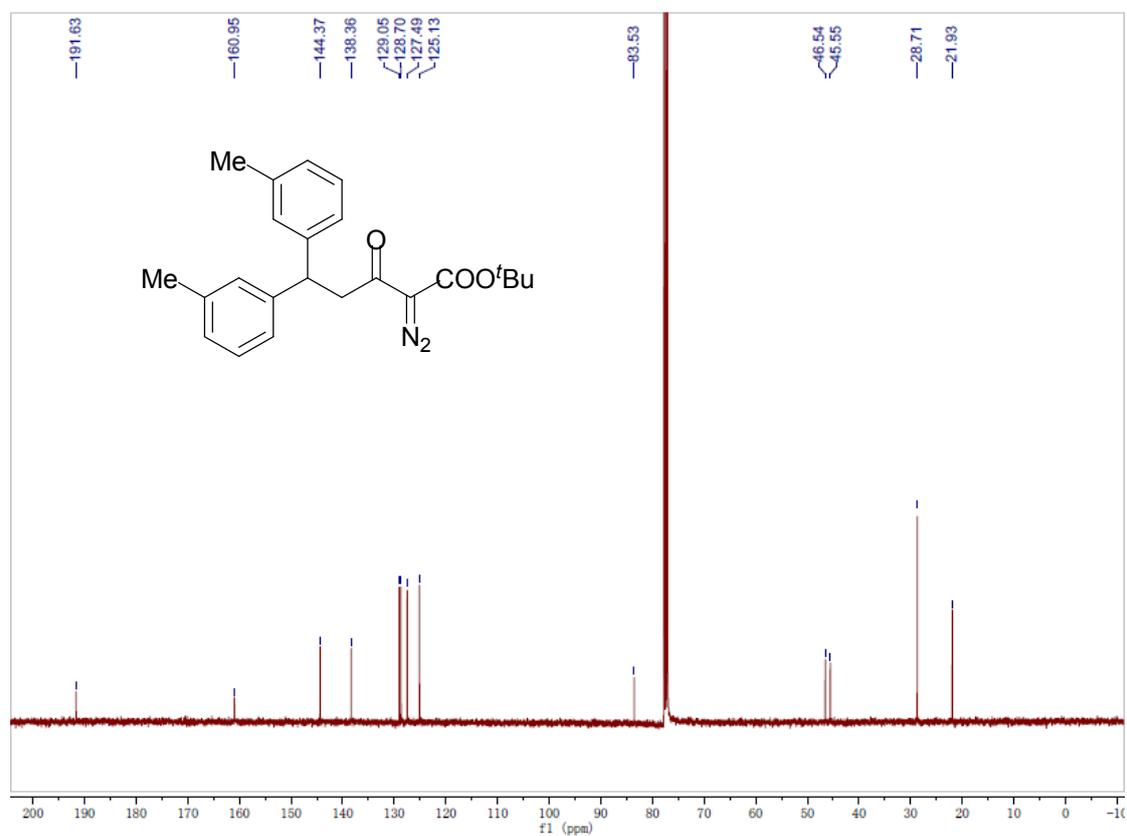
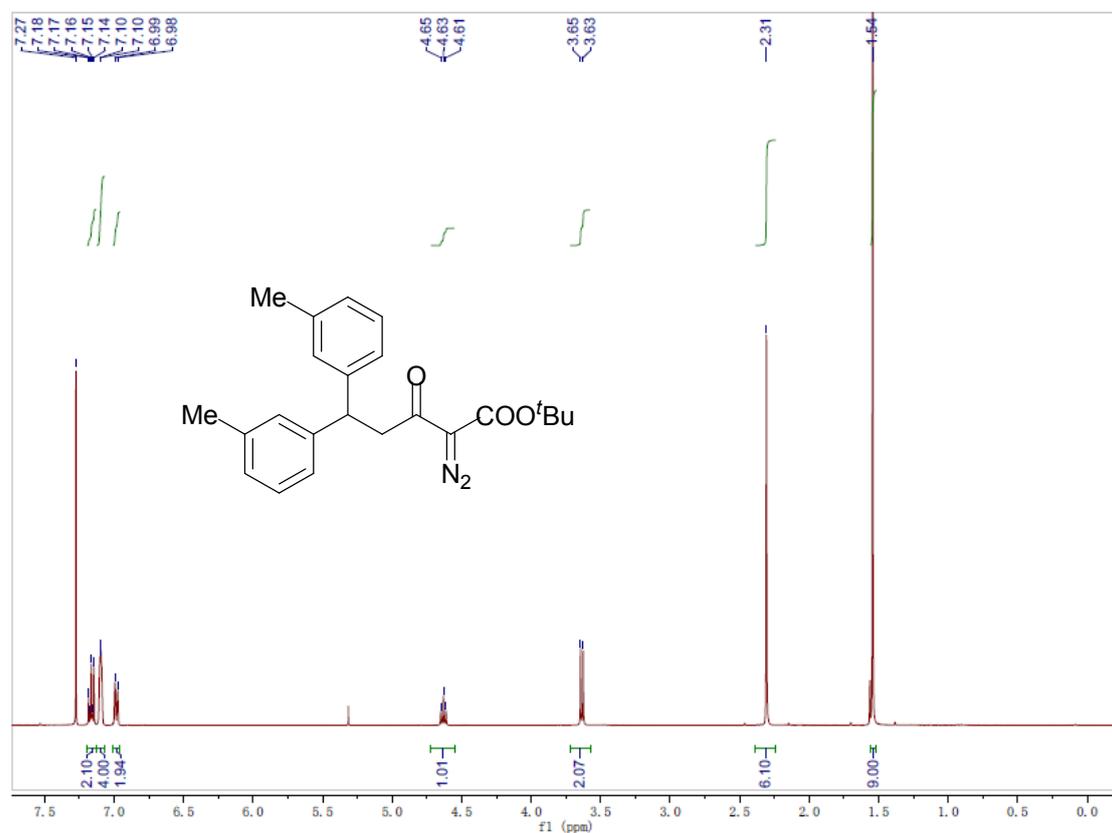
**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-anisyl pentanoate (1d)**



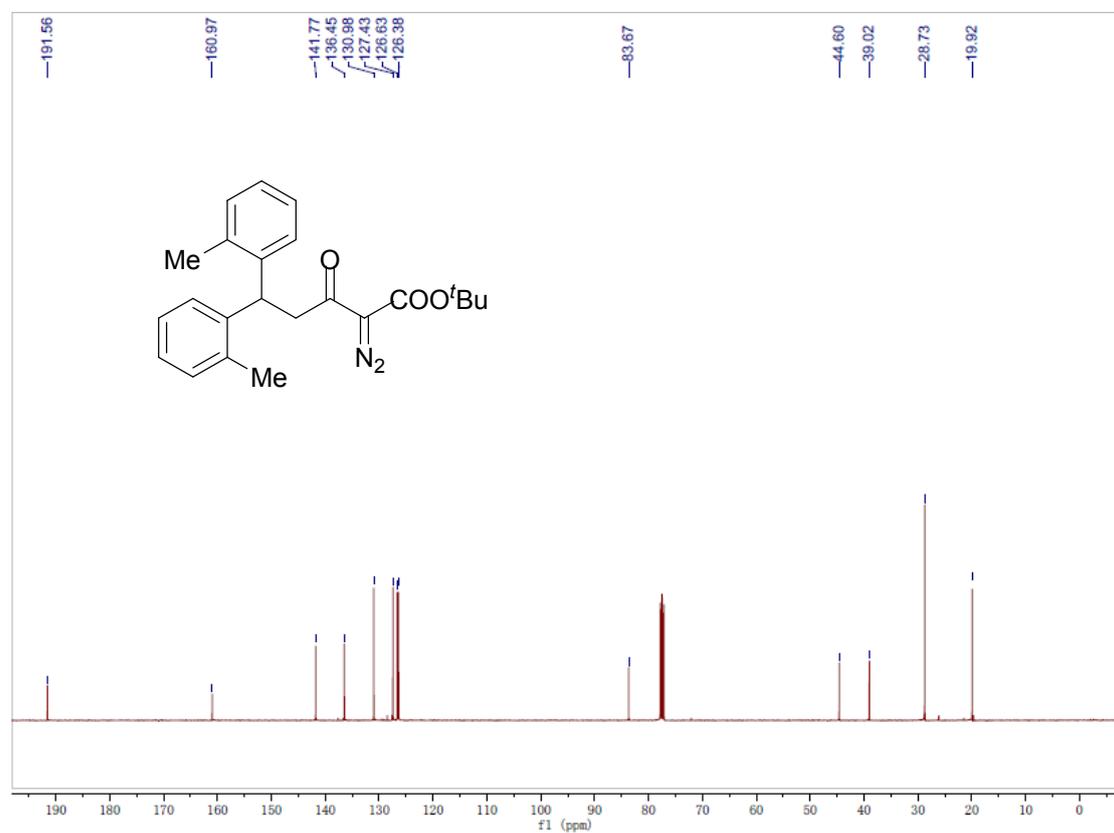
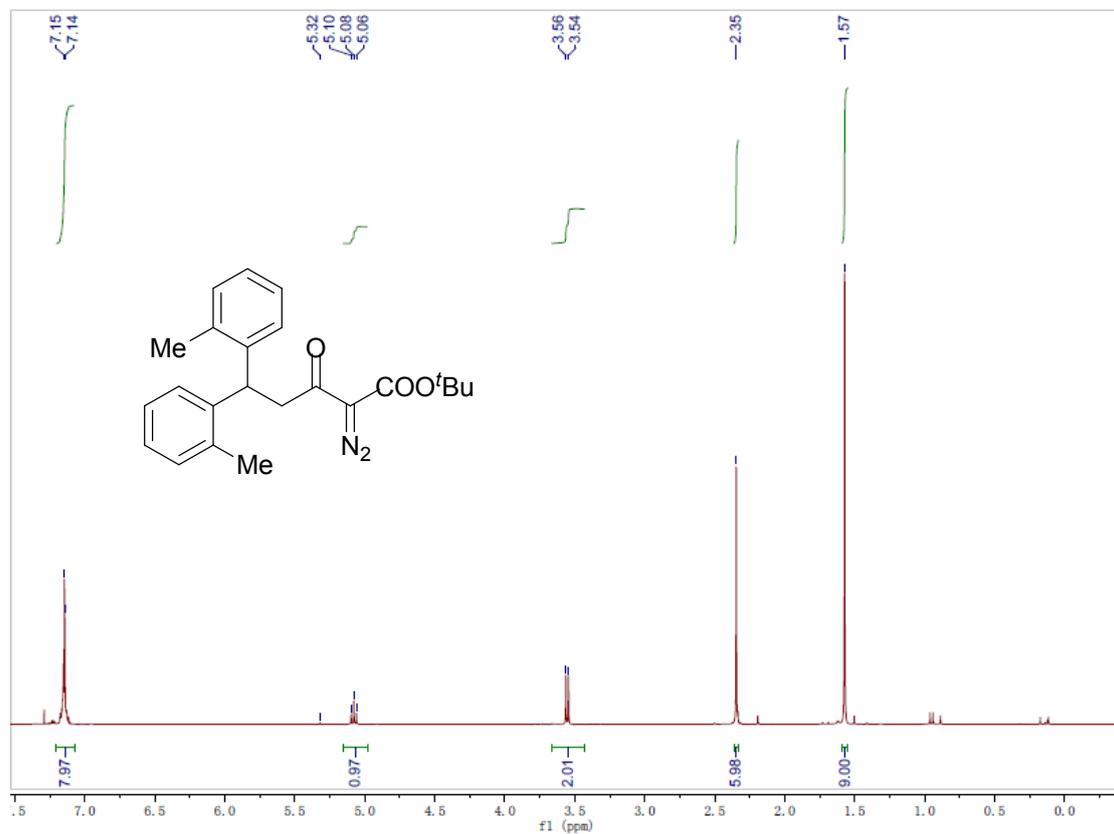
***tert*-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-tolylpentanoate (1e)**



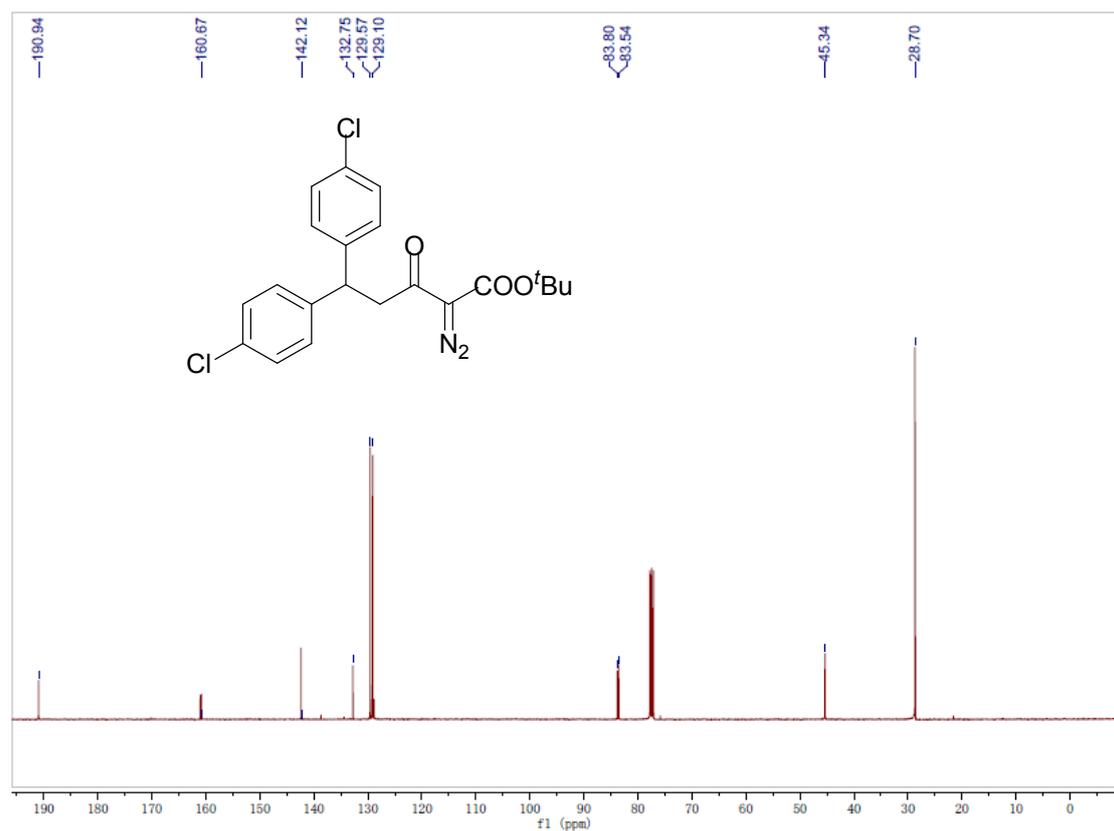
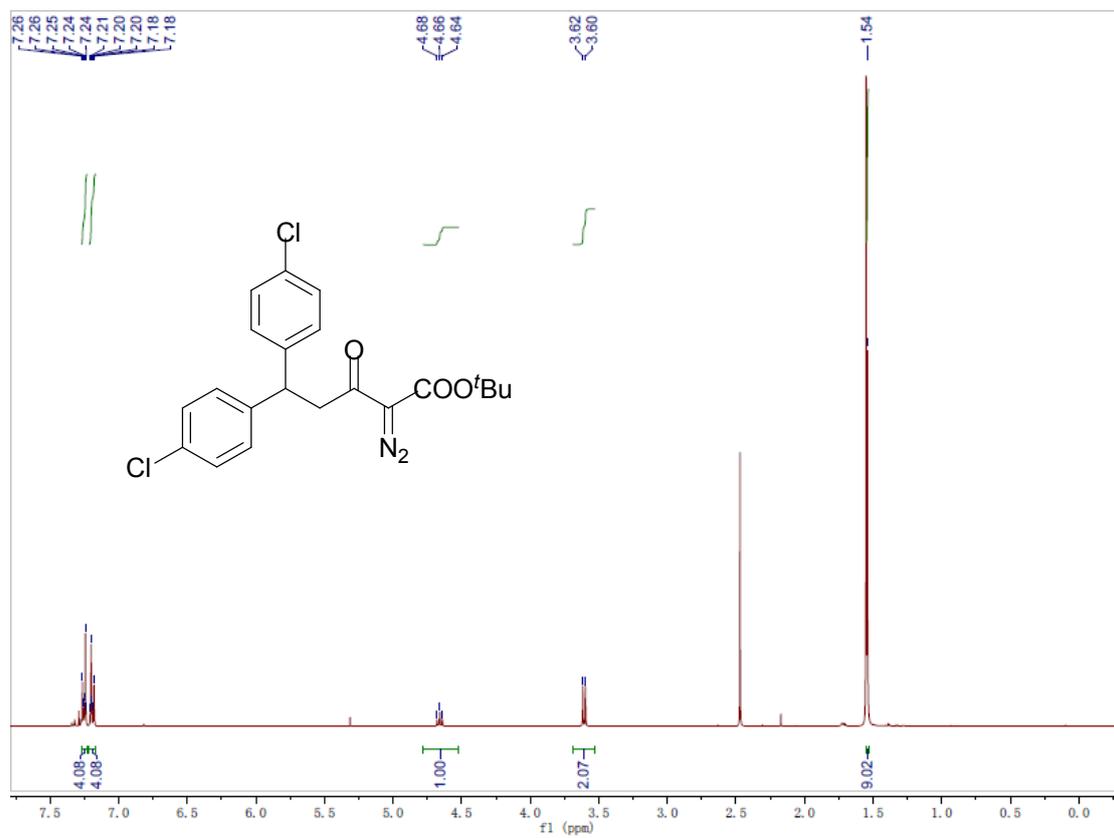
**tert-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*m*-tolylpentanoate (1f)**



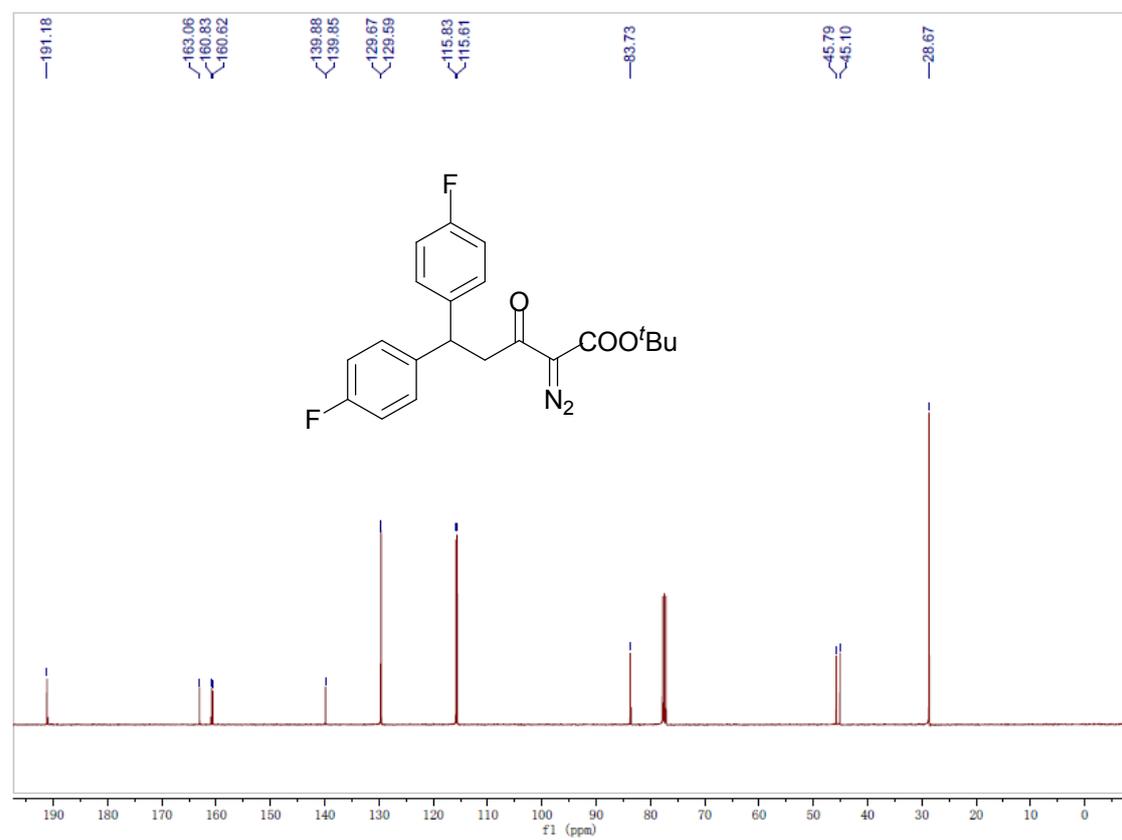
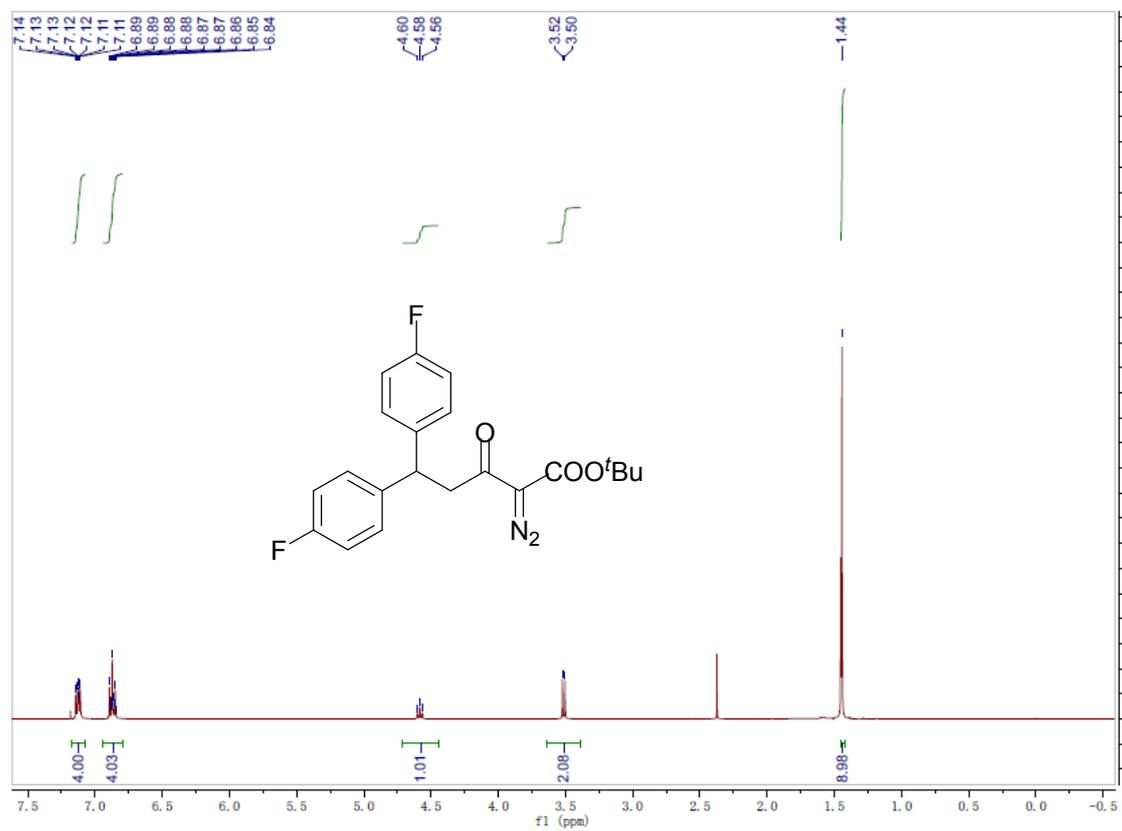
***tert*-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*o*-tolylpentanoate (1g)**



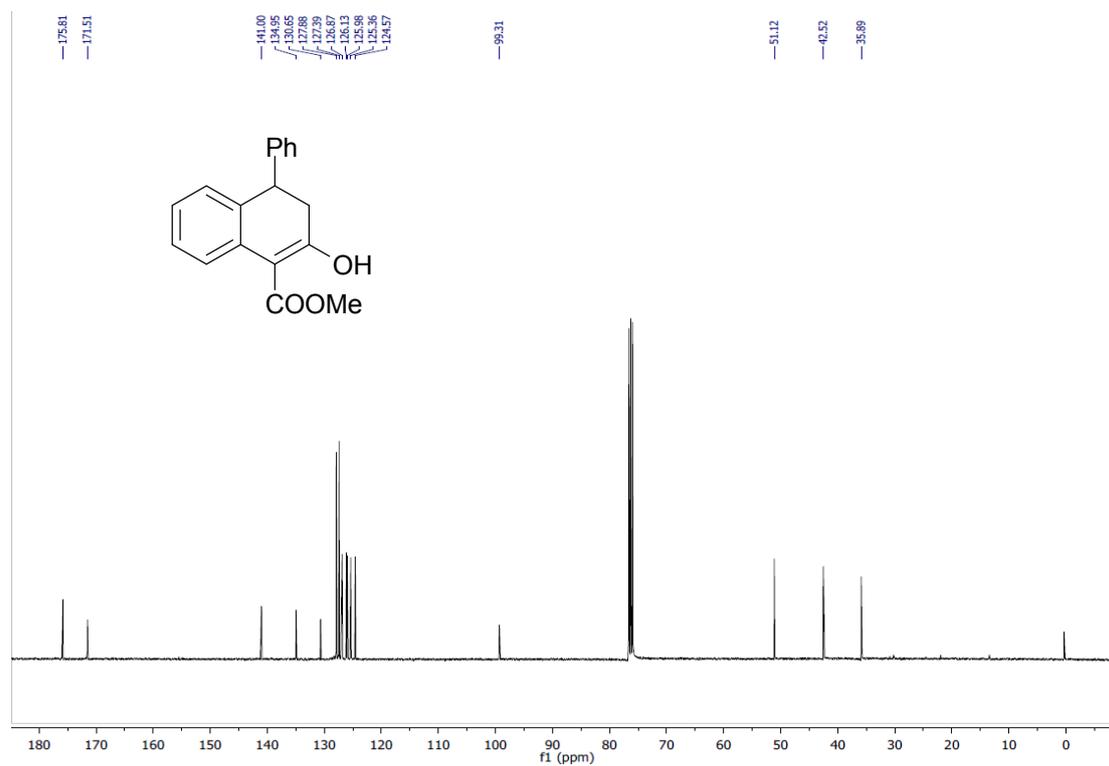
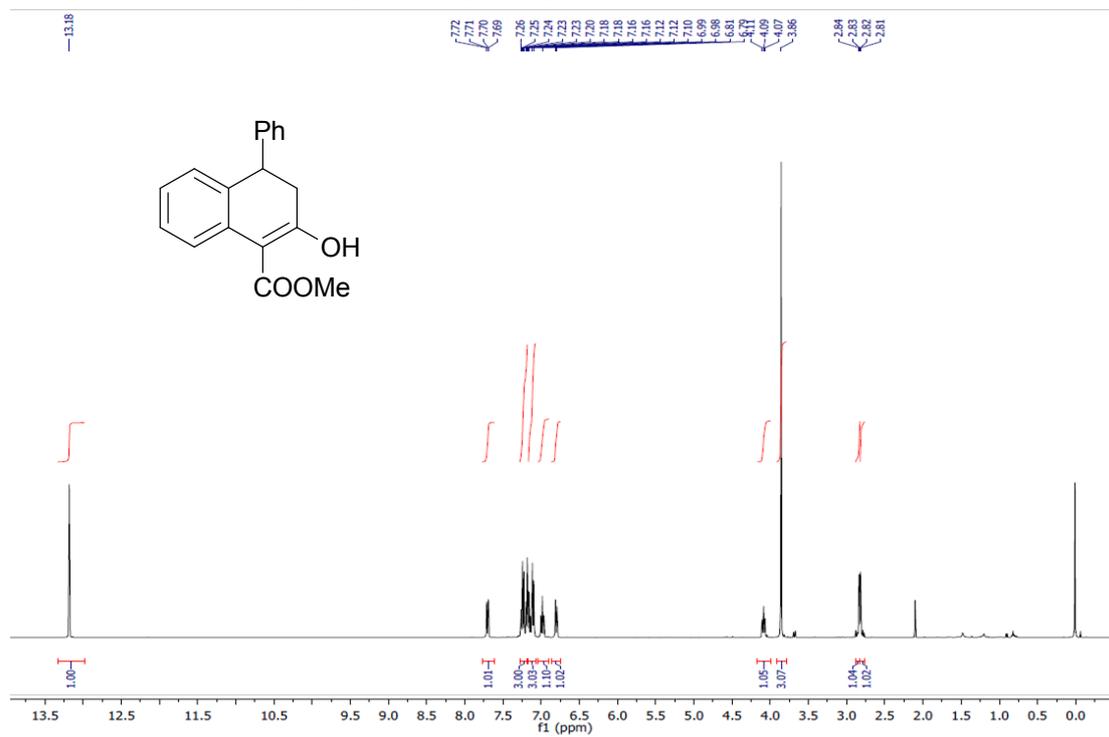
***tert*-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-chlorophenylpentanoate (1h)**



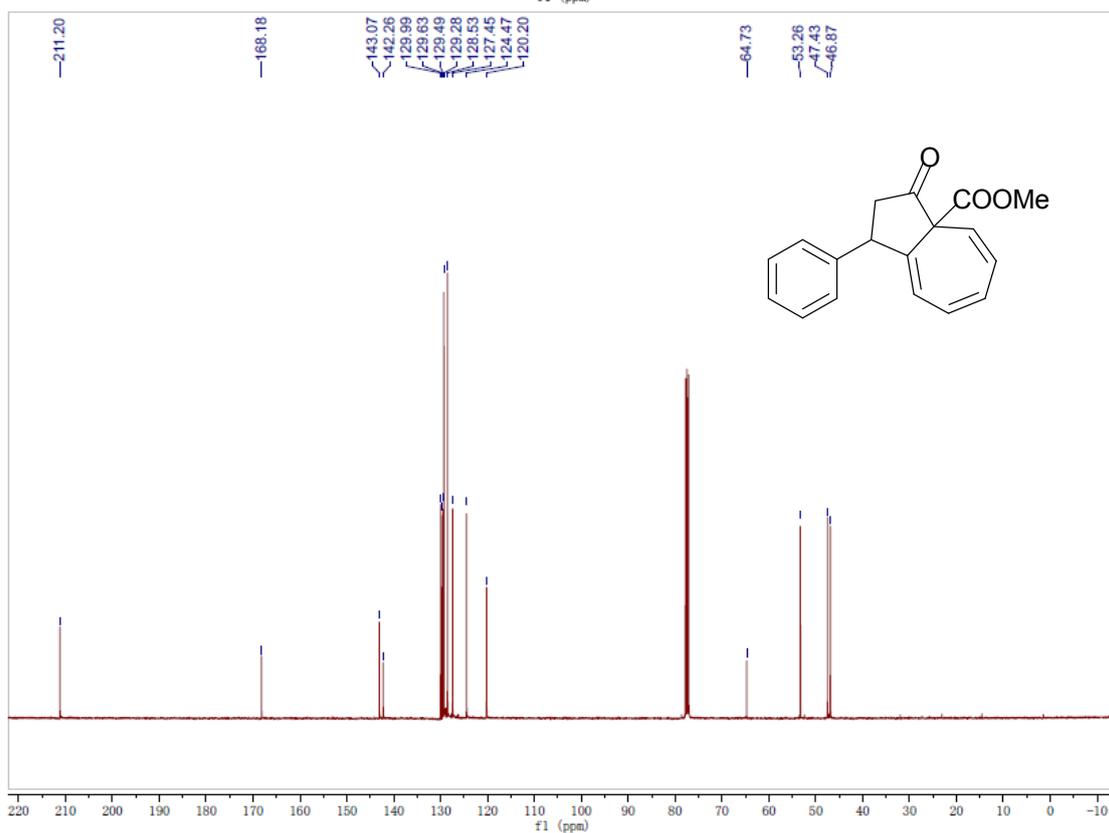
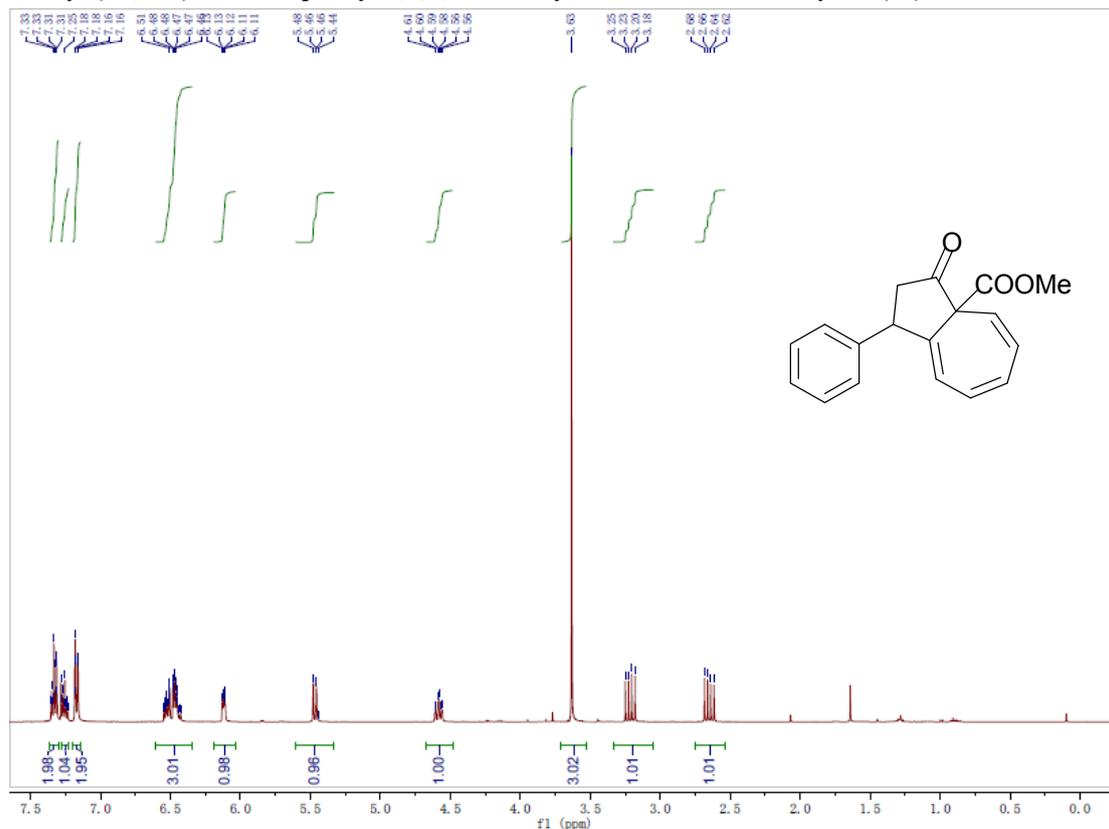
***tert*-Butyl 2-Diazo-3-oxo-5,5-di-*p*-fluorophenylpentanoate (1i)**



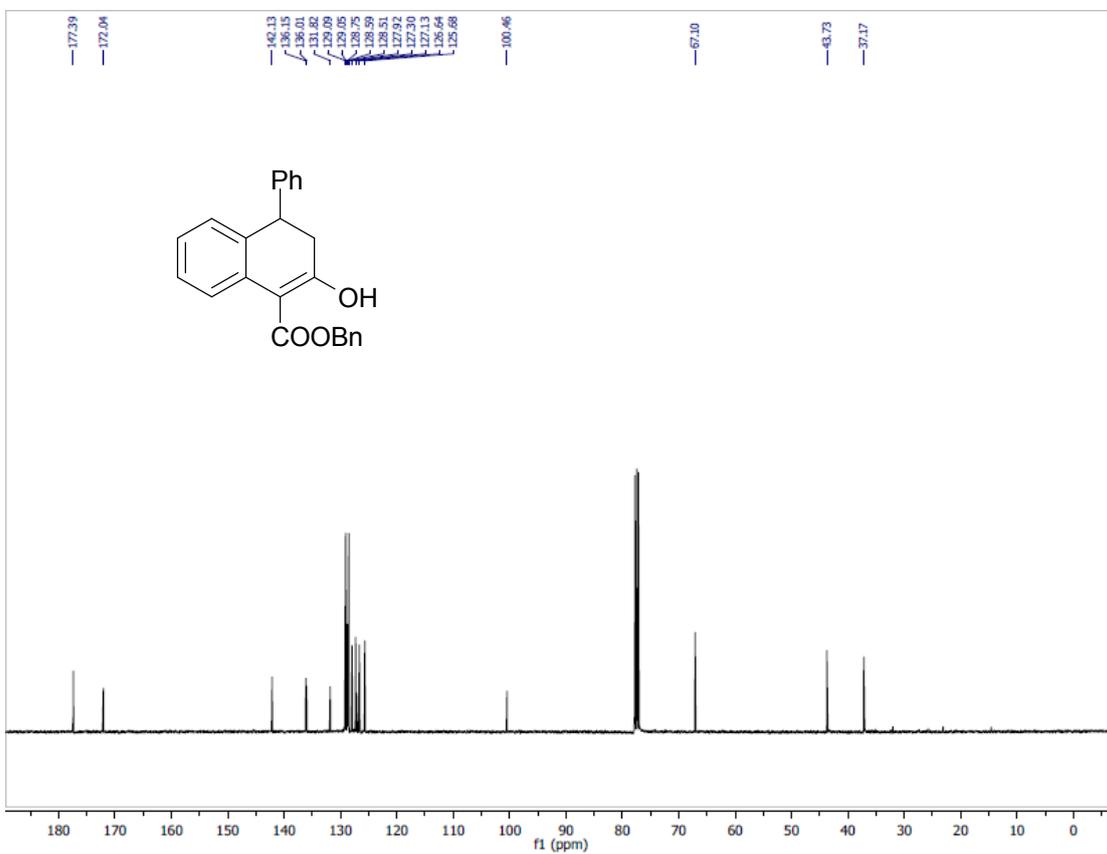
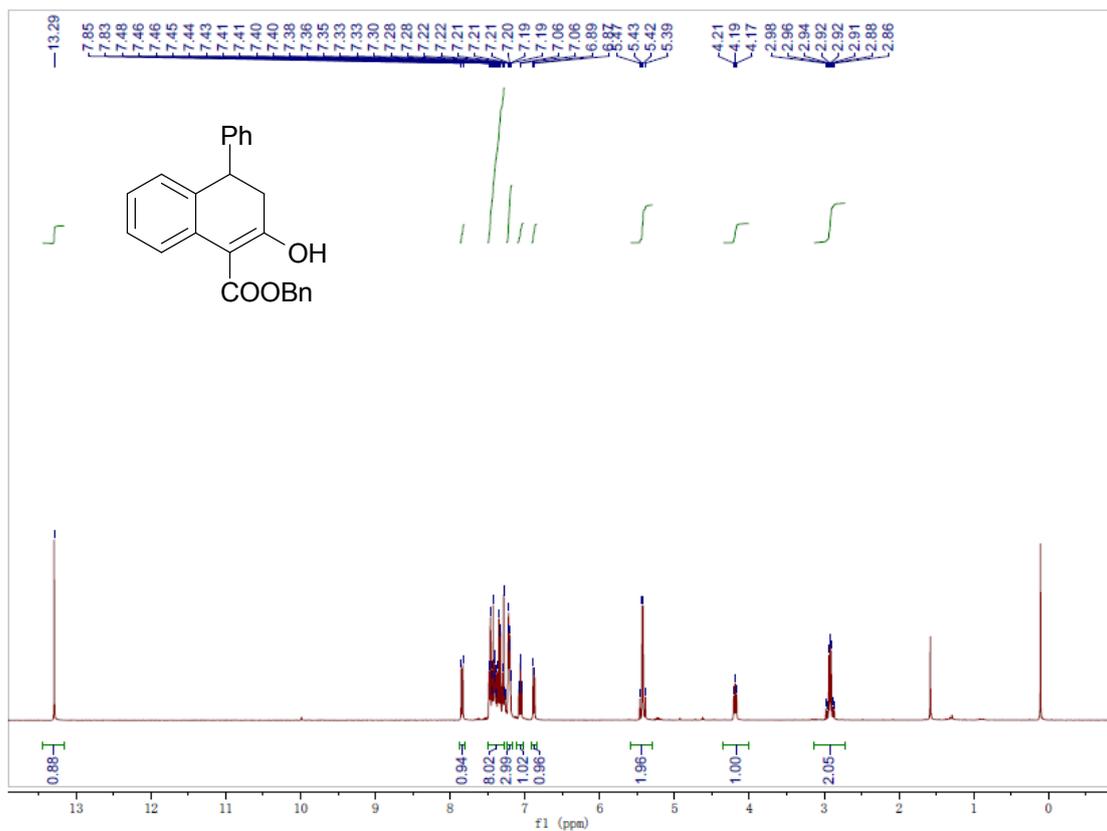
Methyl (*R*)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3a)



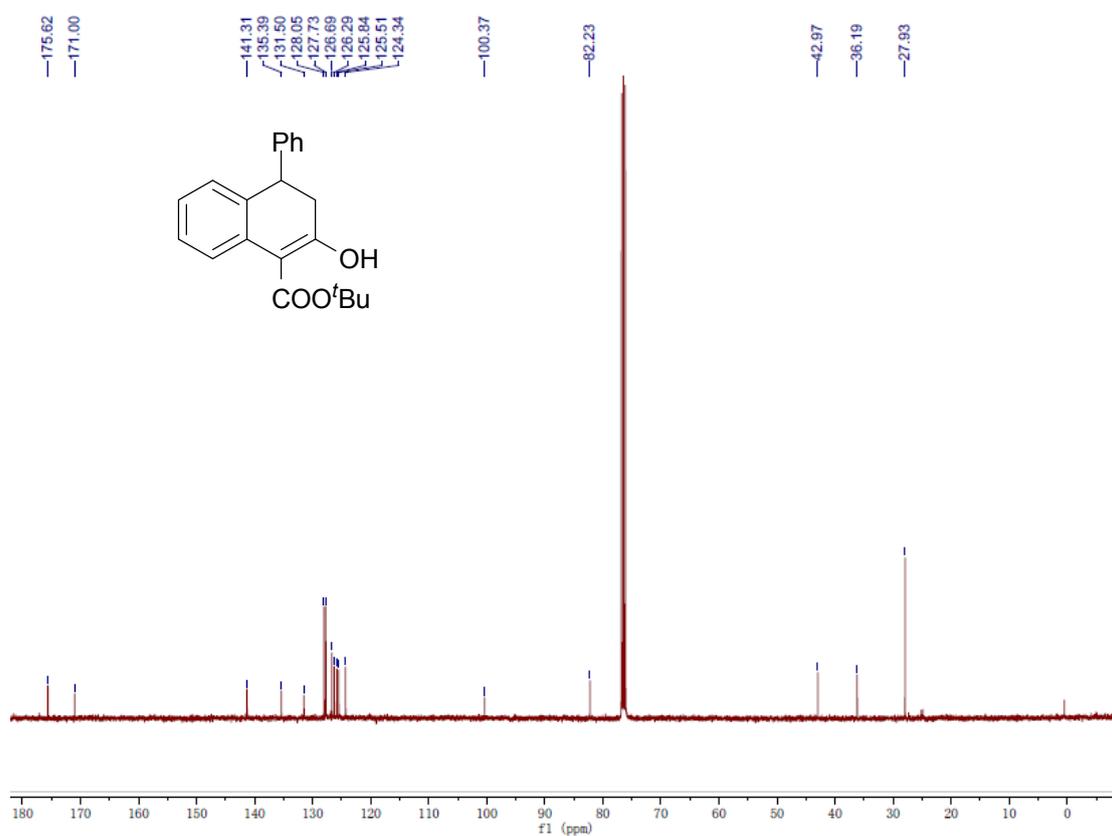
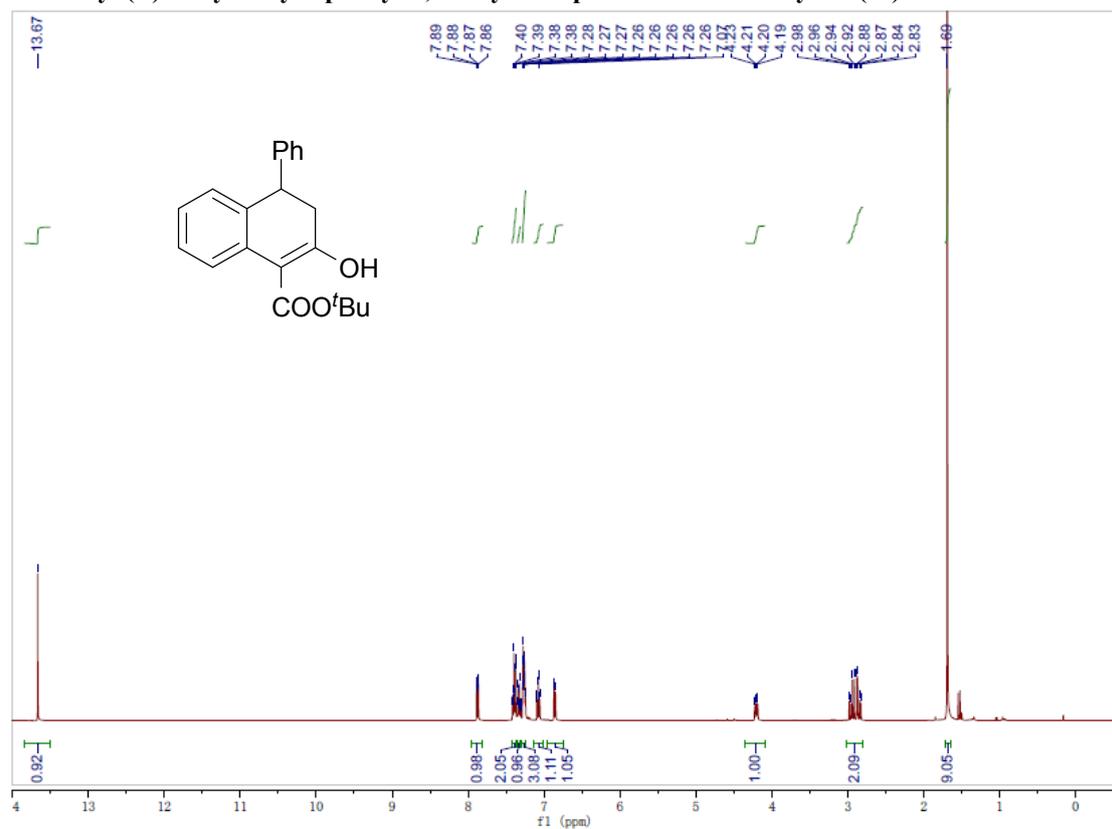
Methyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-3-Oxo-1-phenyl-1,2,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2a)



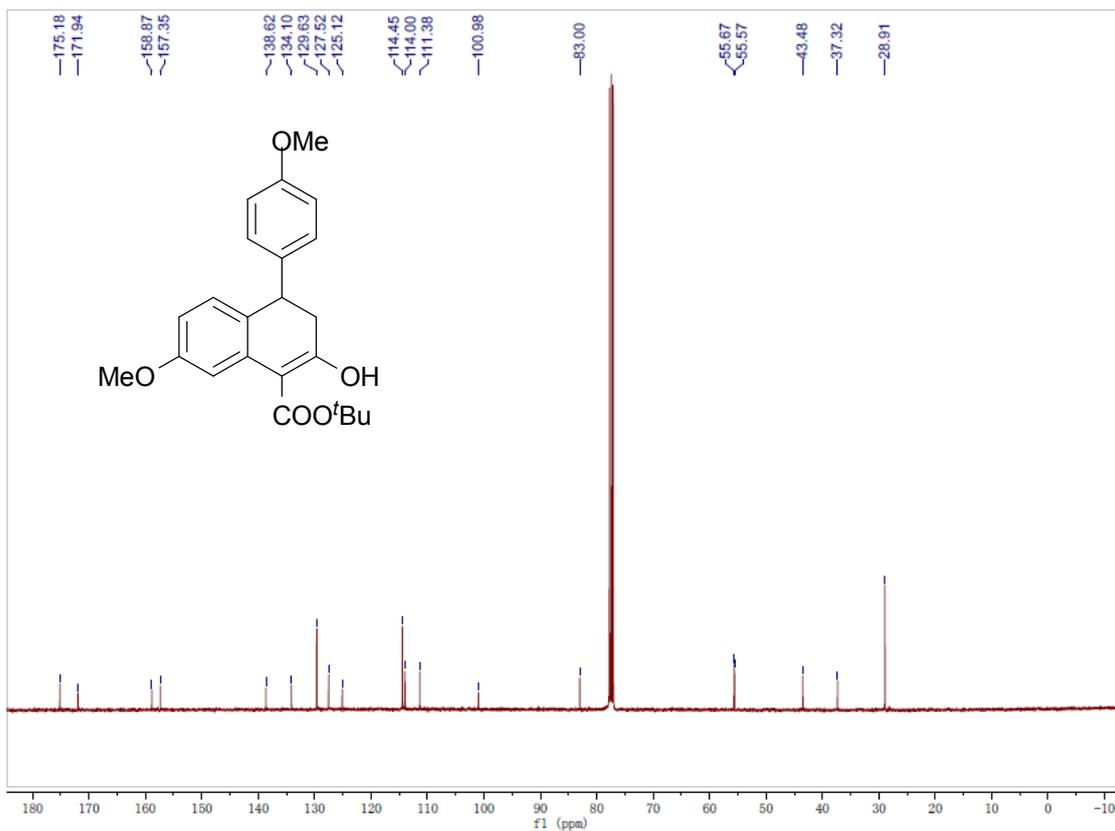
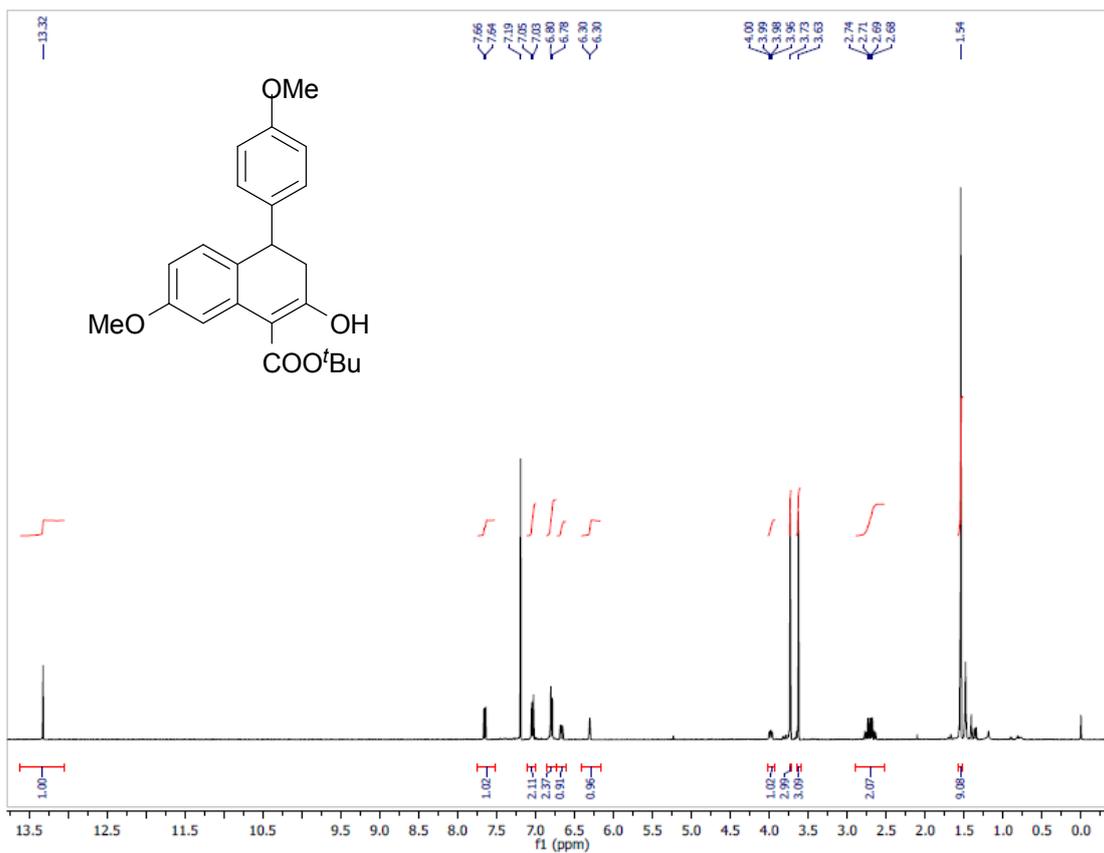
**Benzyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3b)**



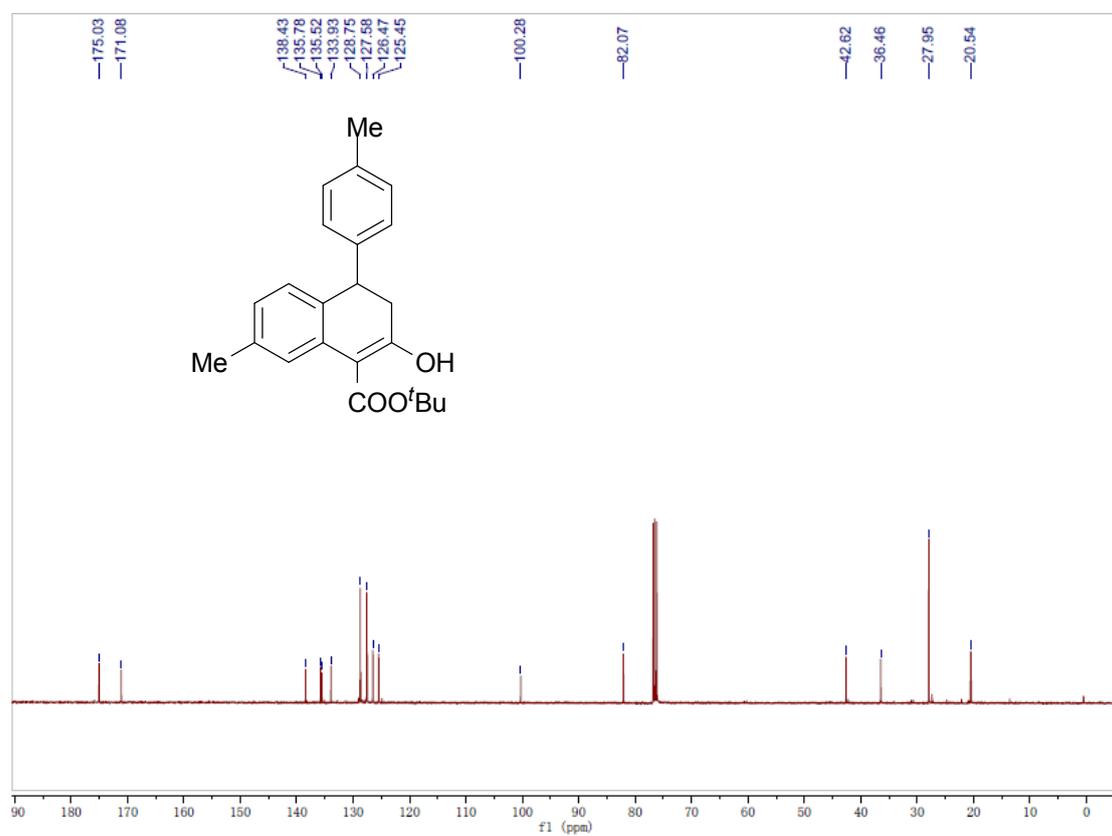
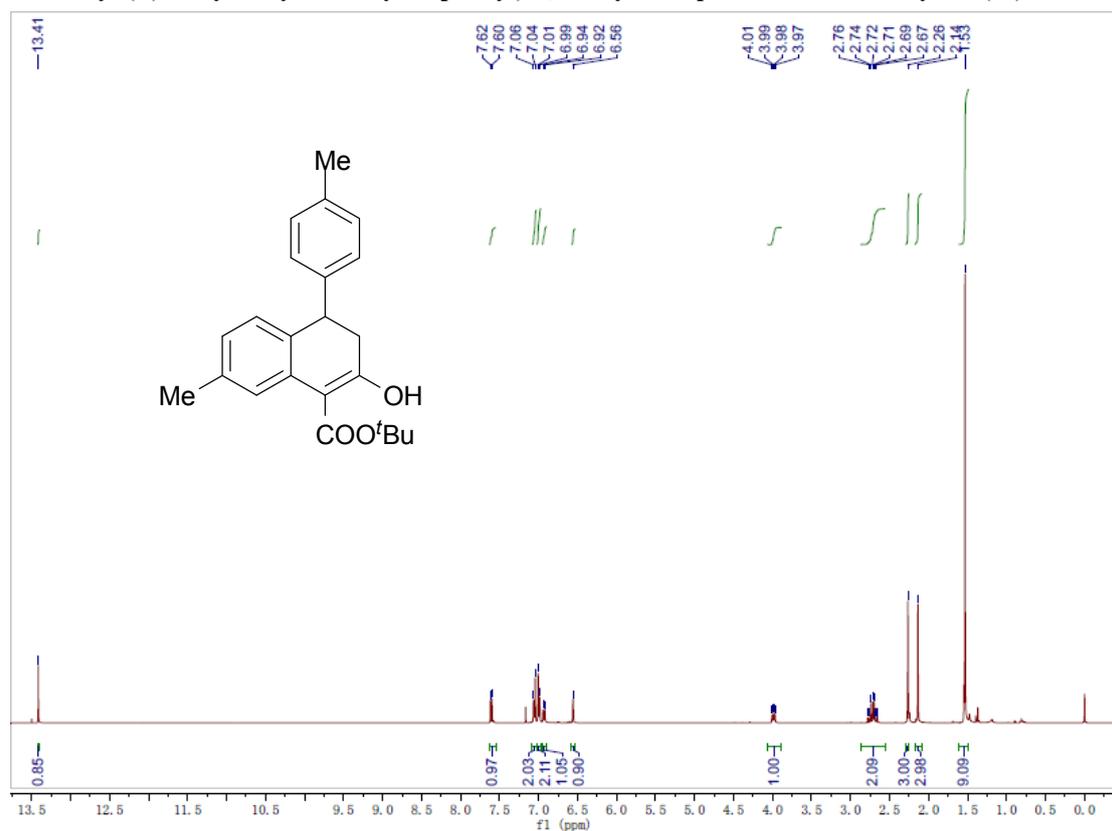
**tert-Butyl (R)-2-Hydroxy-4-phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3c)**



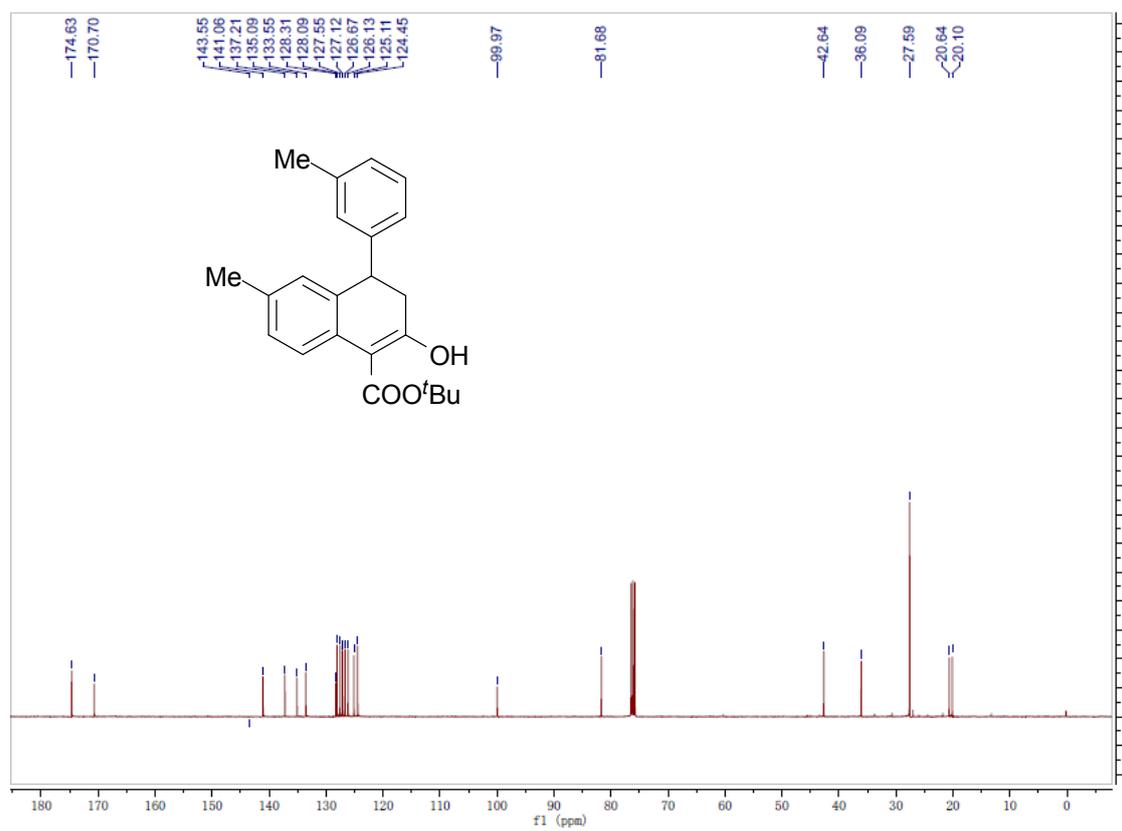
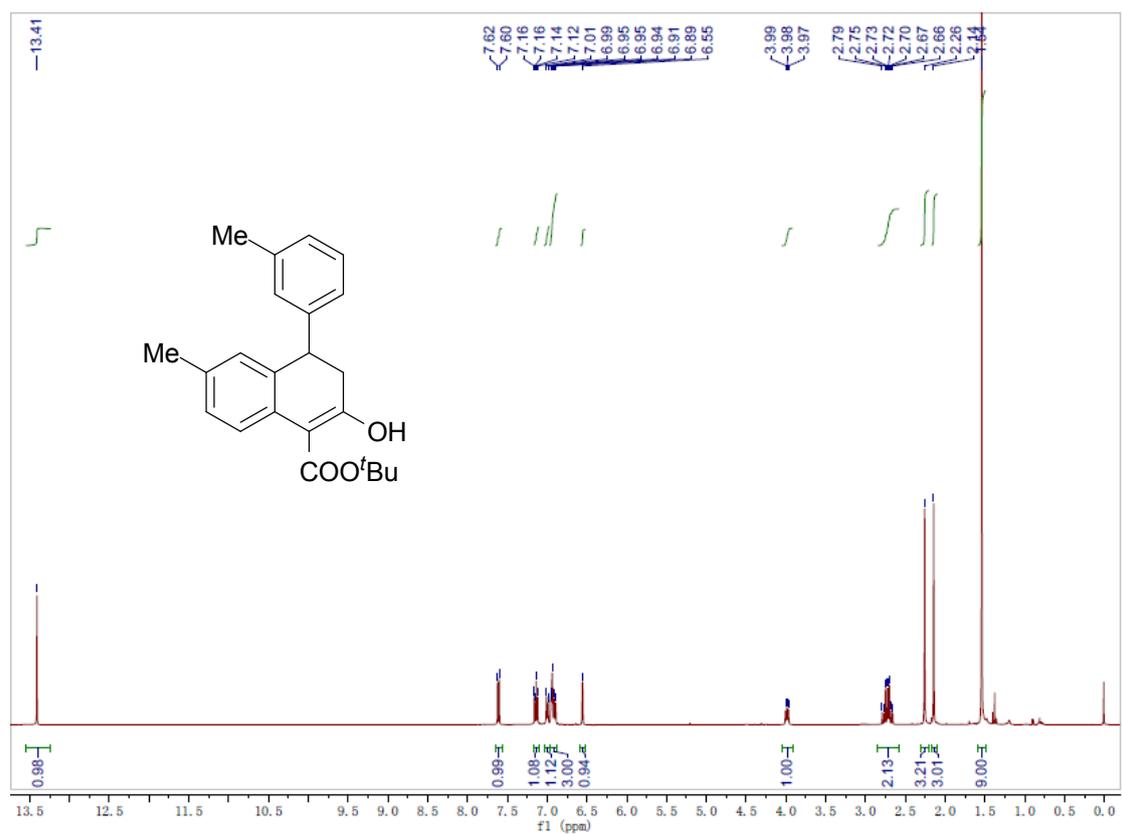
***tert*-Butyl (*R*)-2-Hydroxy-7-methoxy-4-(*p*-anisyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3d)**



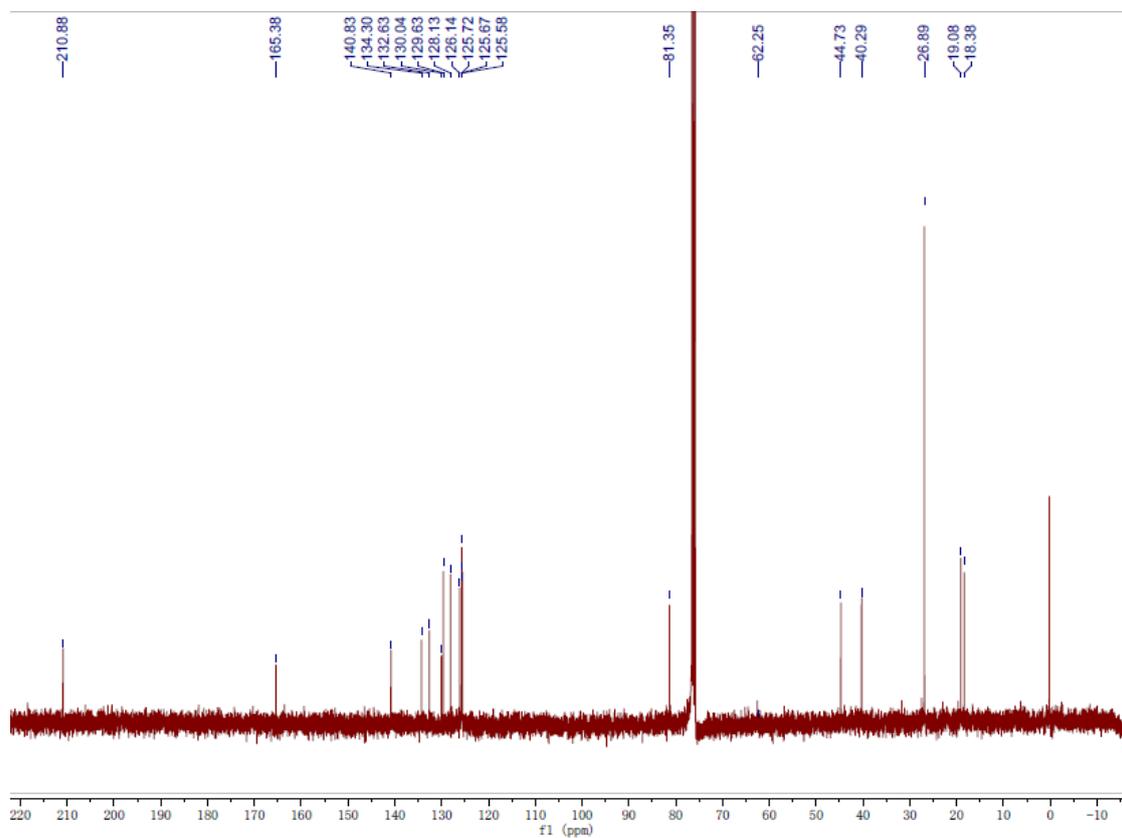
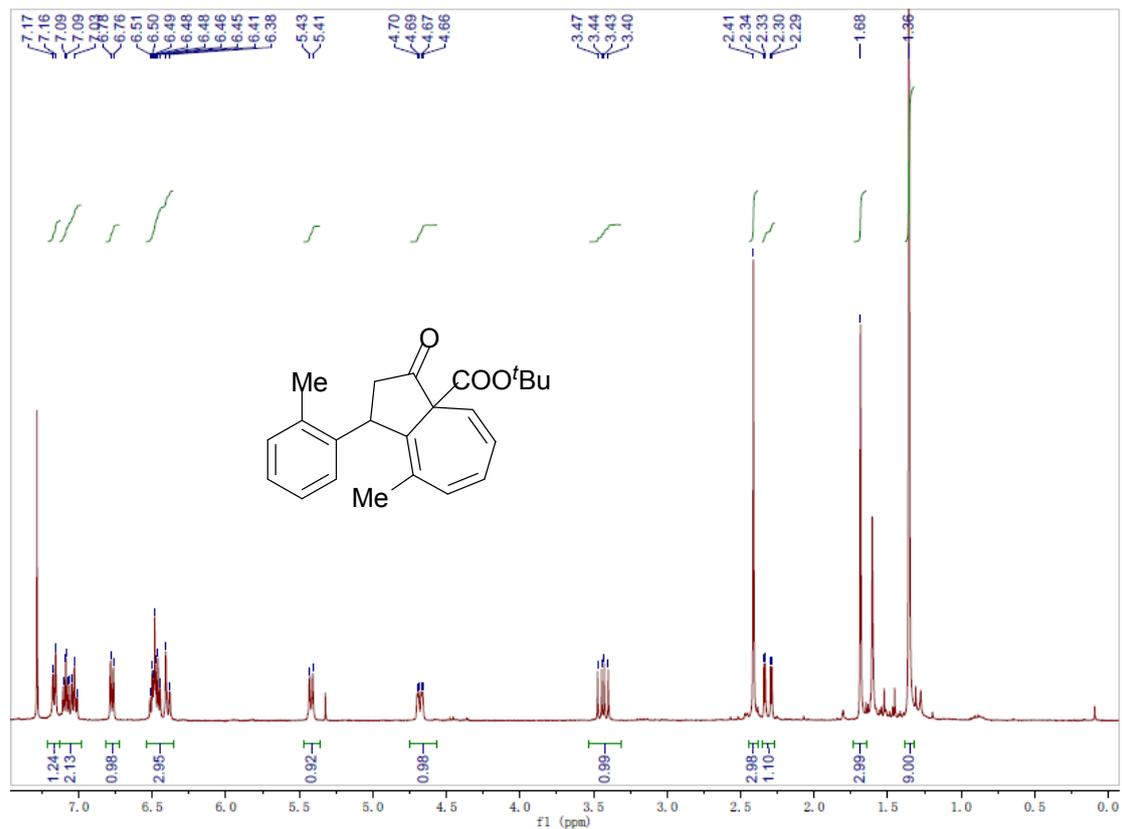
***tert*-Butyl (*R*)-2-Hydroxy-7-methyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (**3e**)**



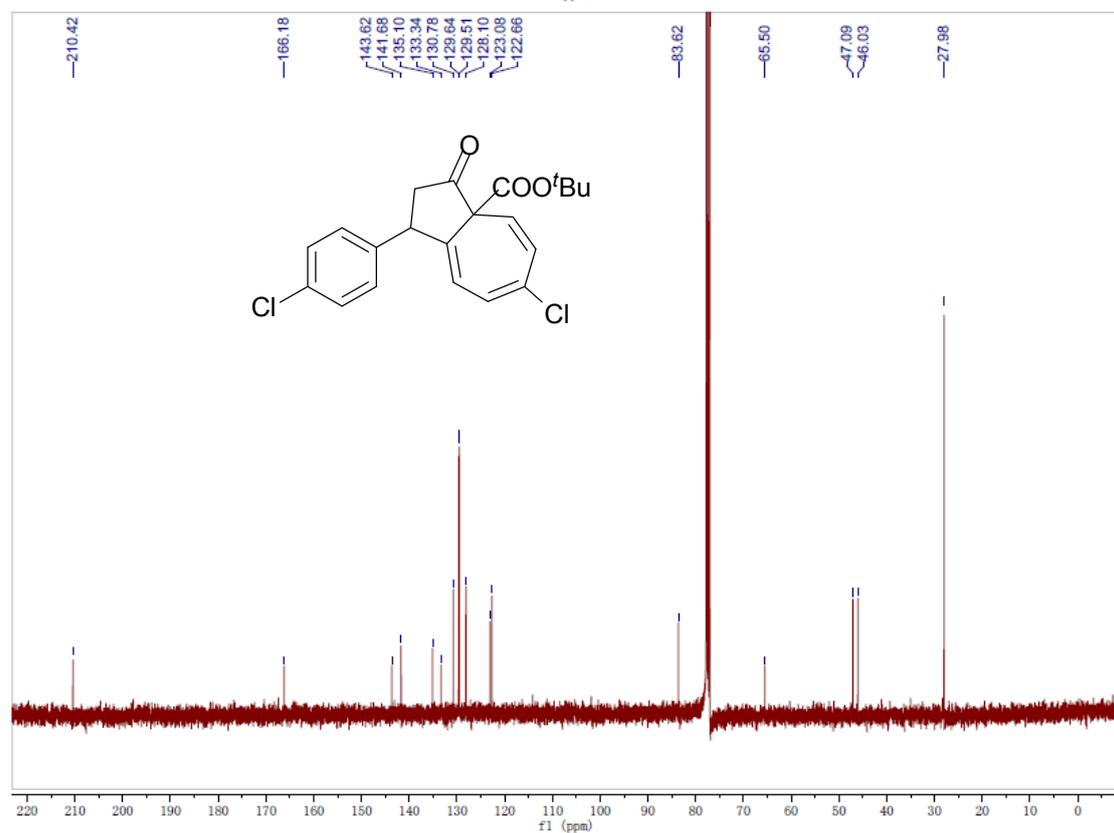
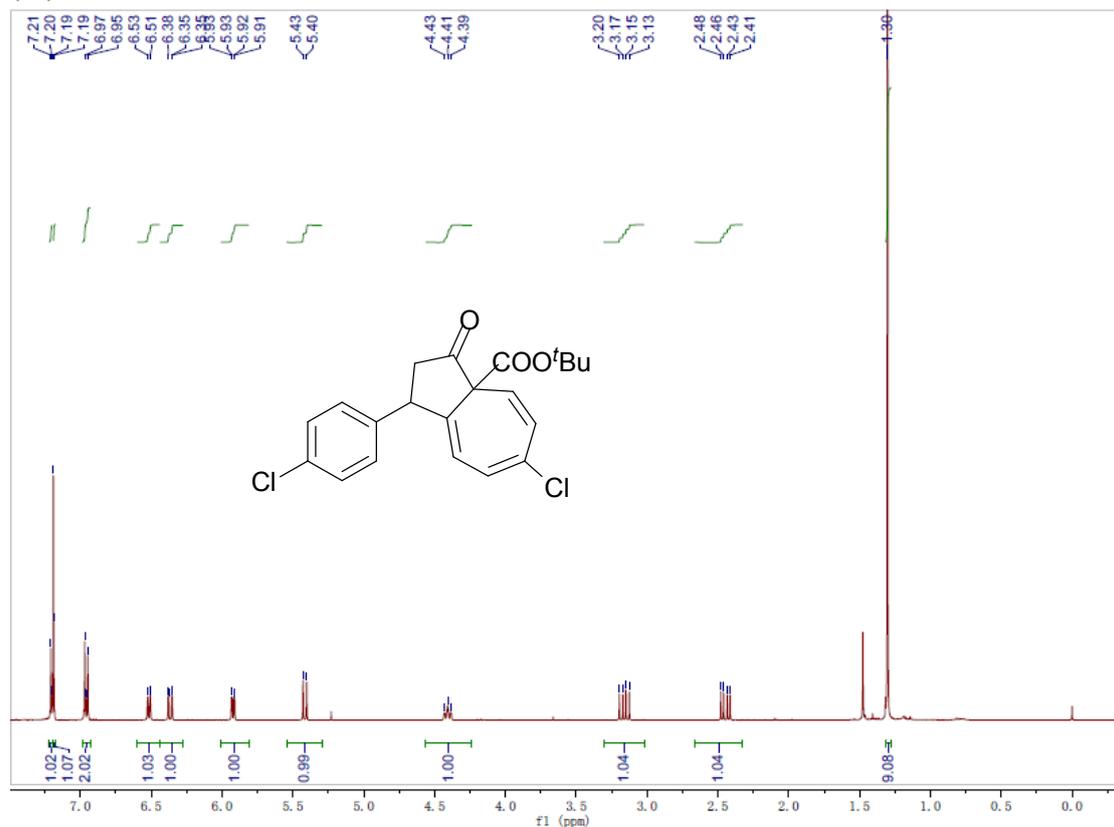
*tert*-Butyl (*R*)-2-Hydroxy-6-methyl-4-(*m*-tolyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalene-1-carboxylate (3f)



***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-8-Methyl-3-oxo-1-(*o*-tolyl)-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2g)**

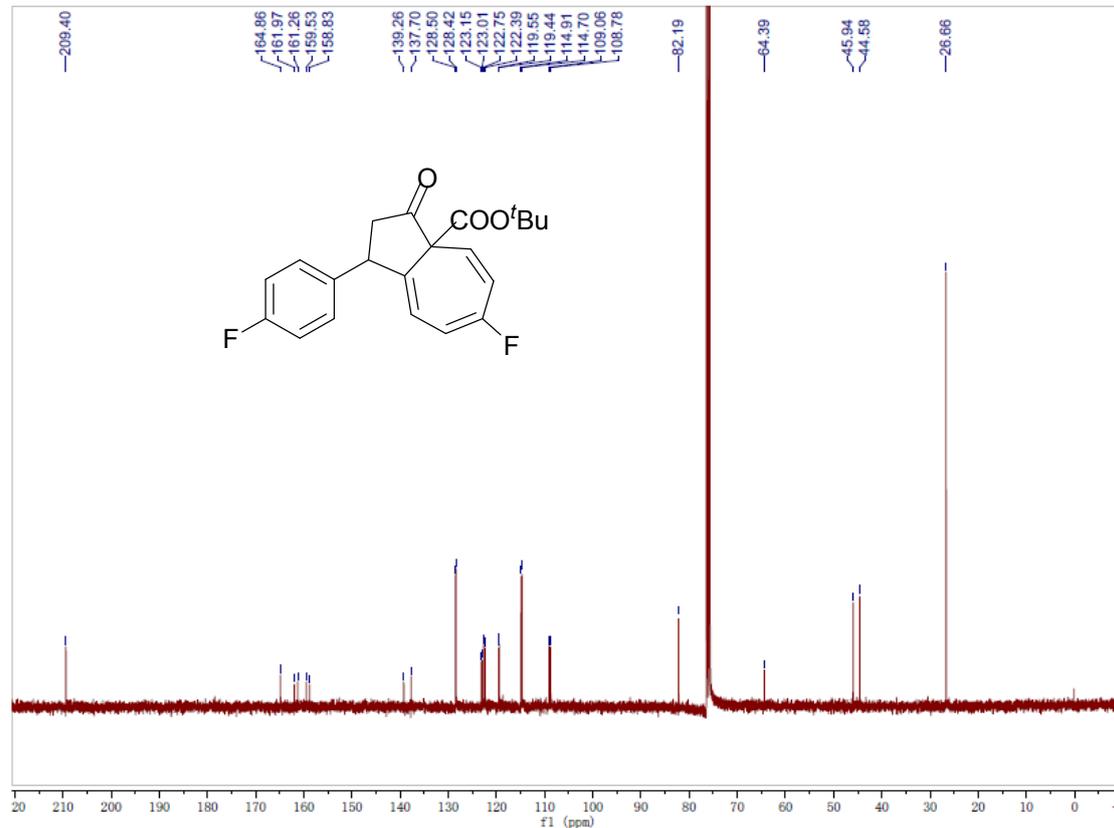
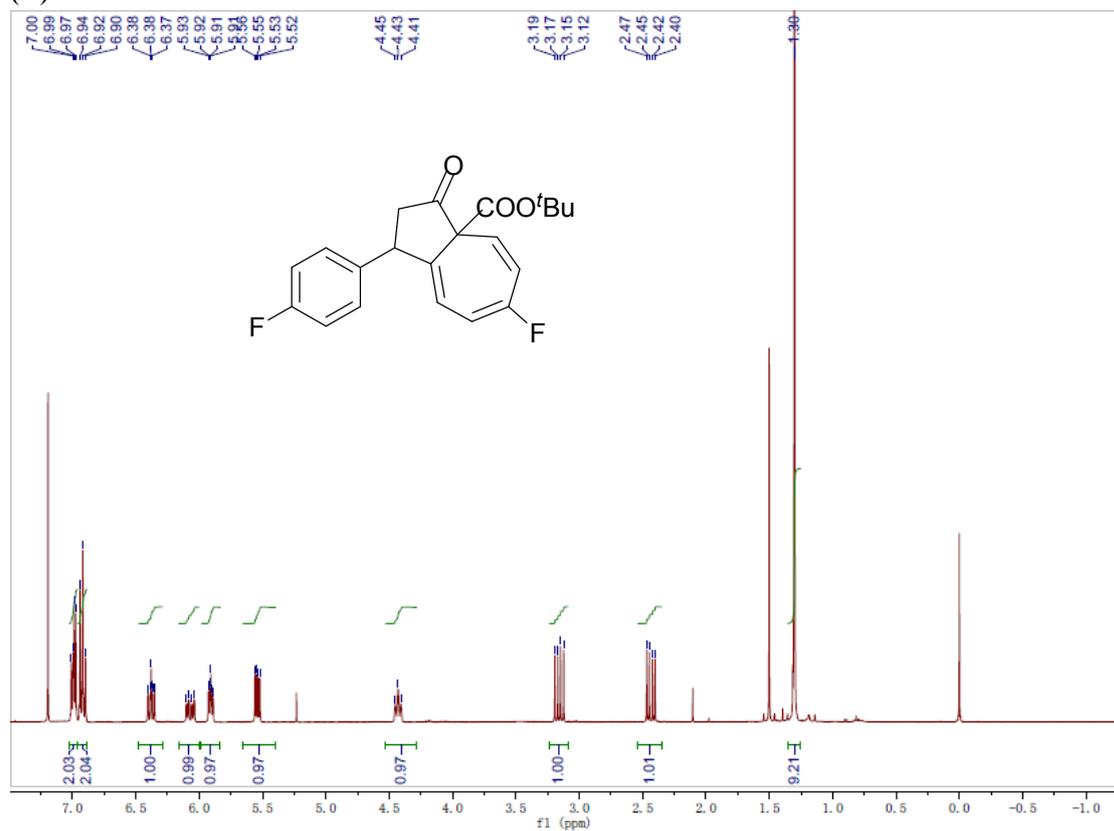


***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-6-Chloro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2h)**

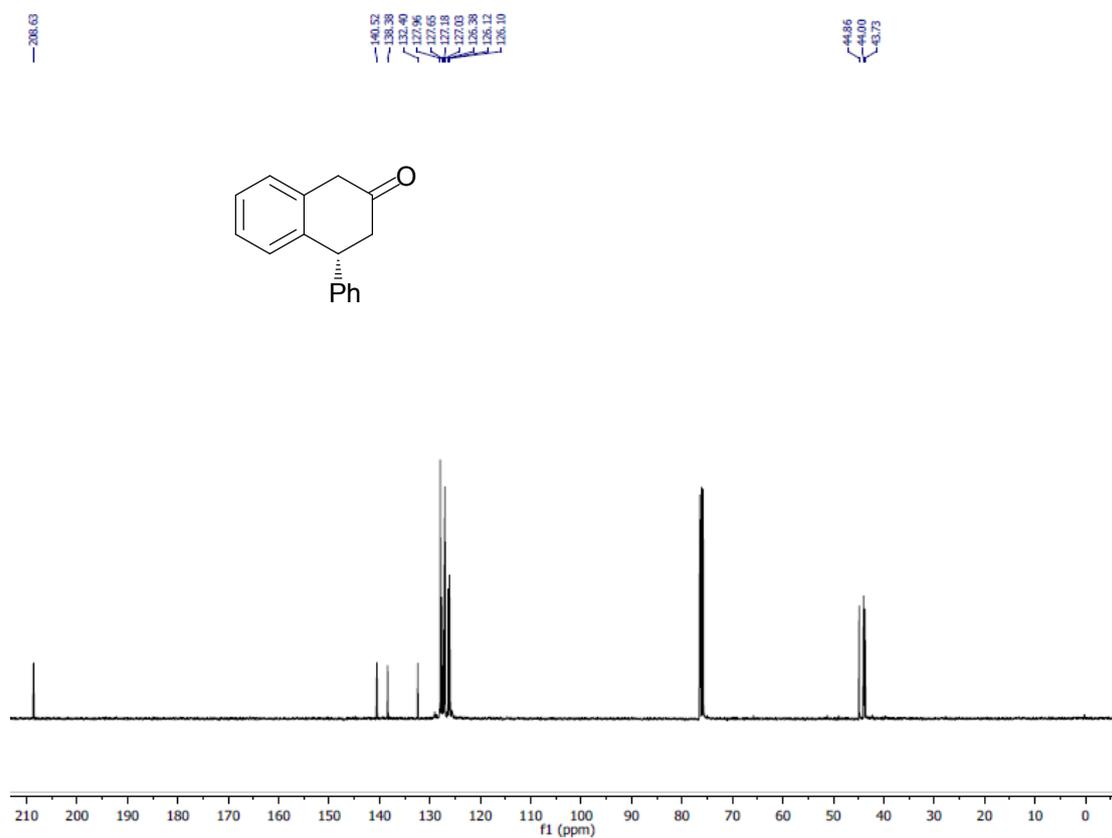
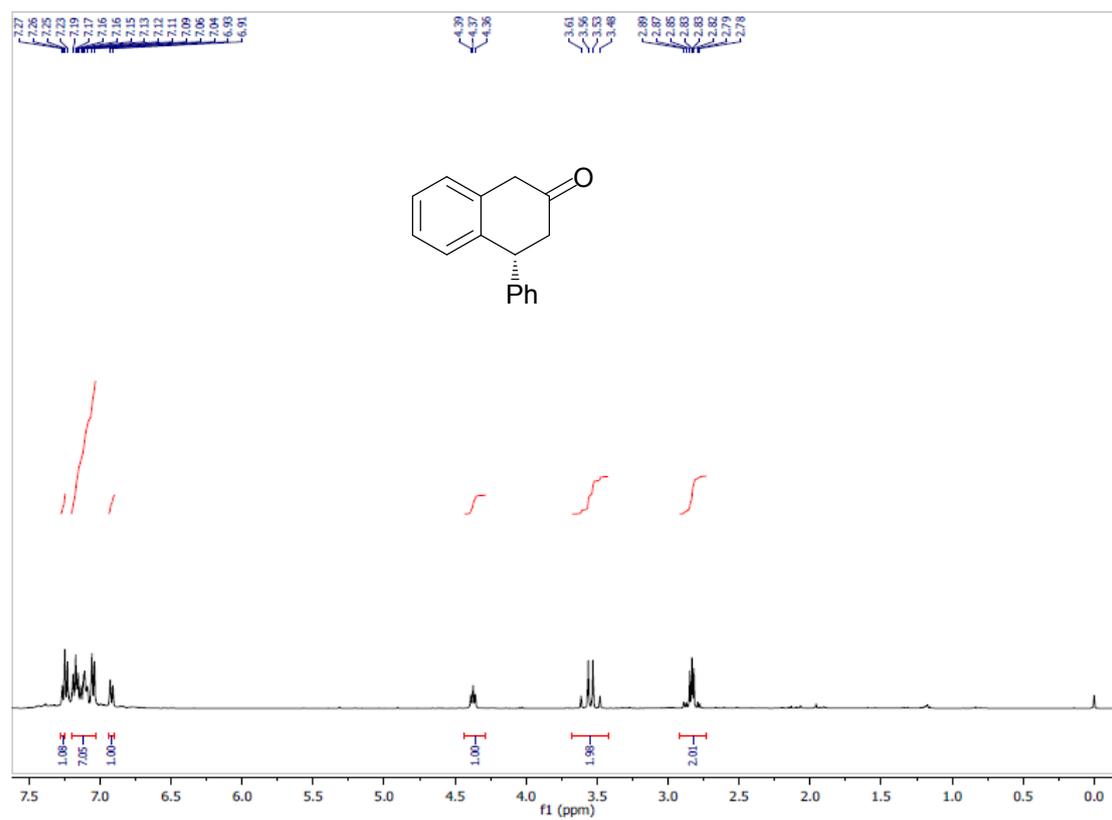


***tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-6-Fluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate**

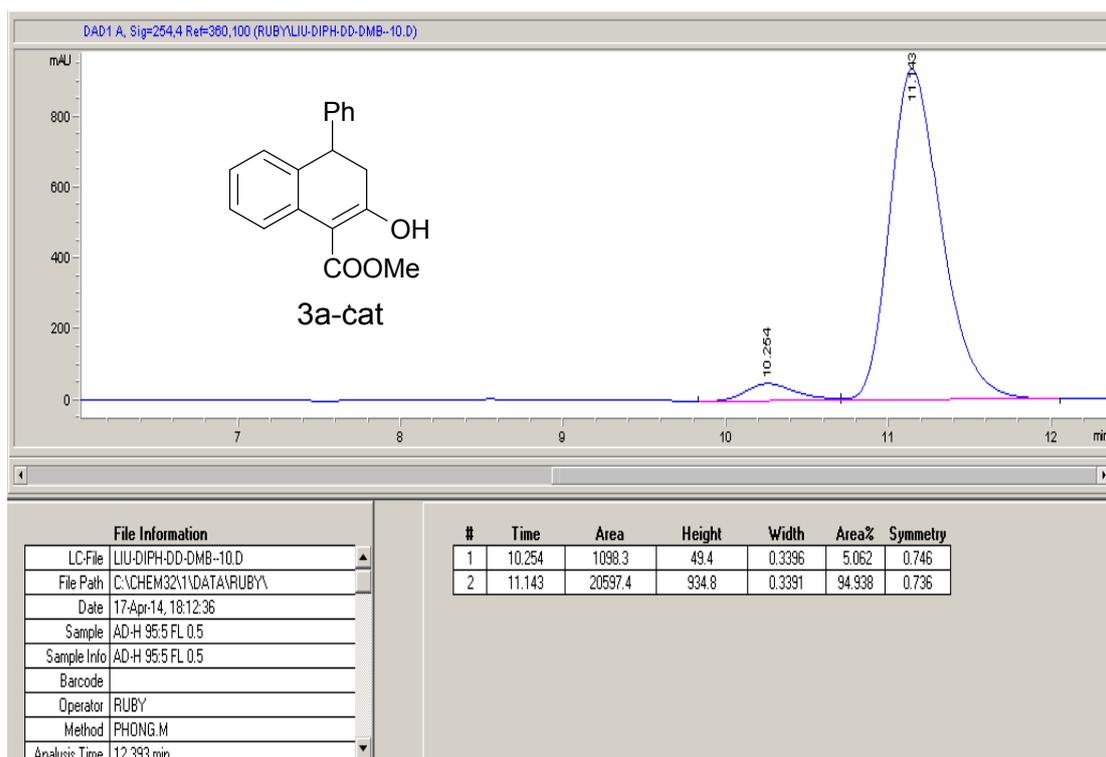
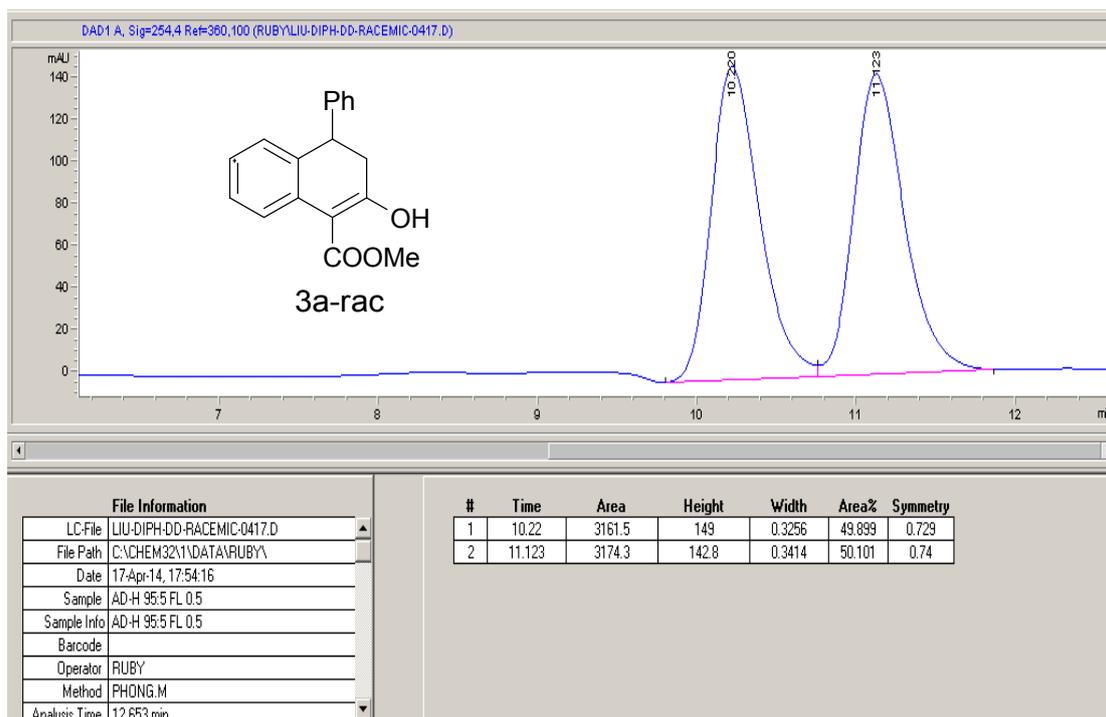
**(2i)**

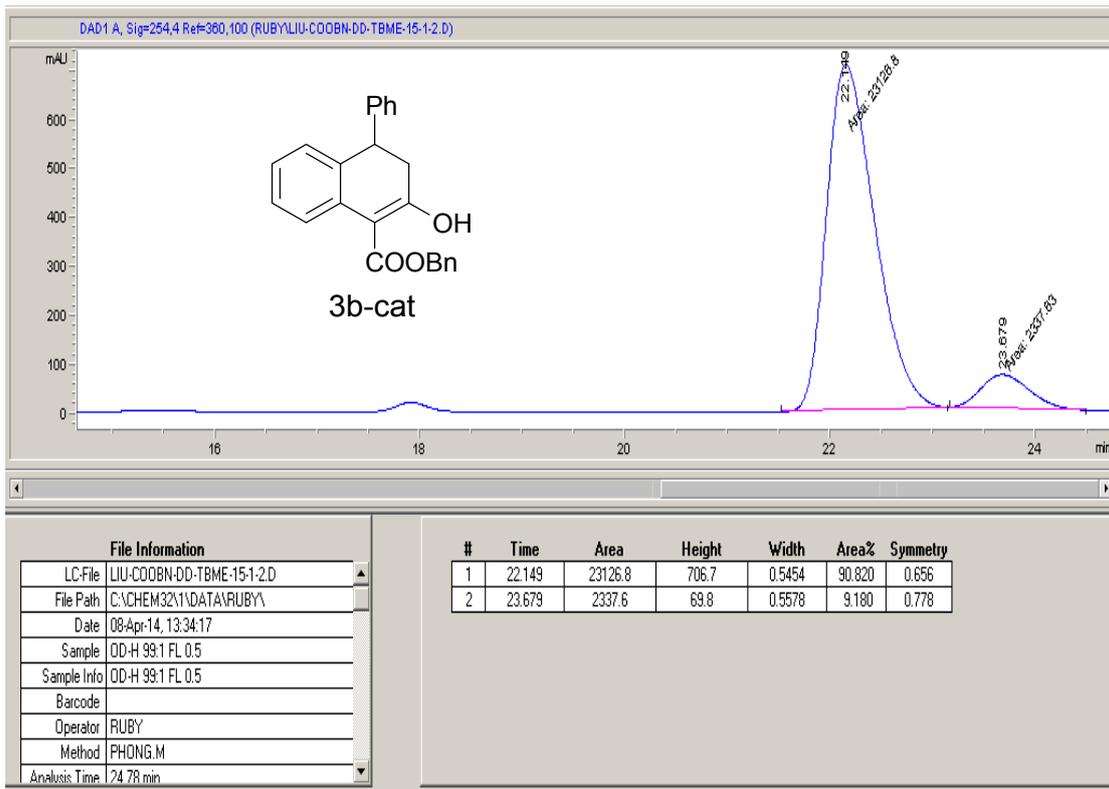
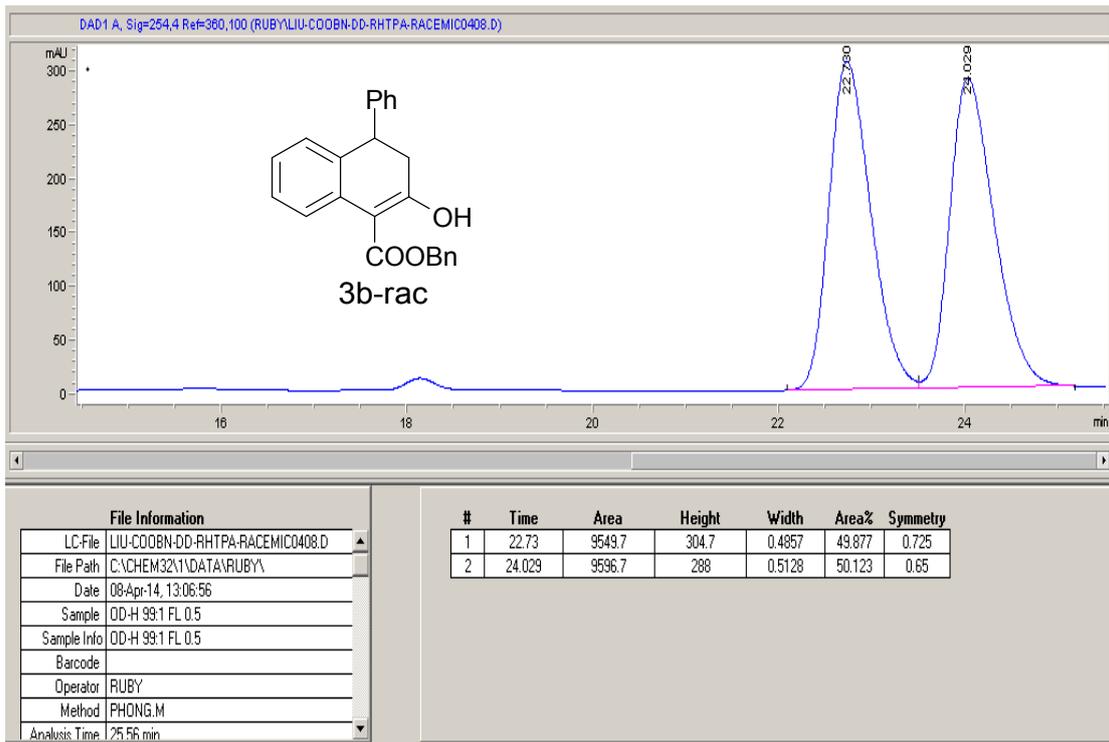


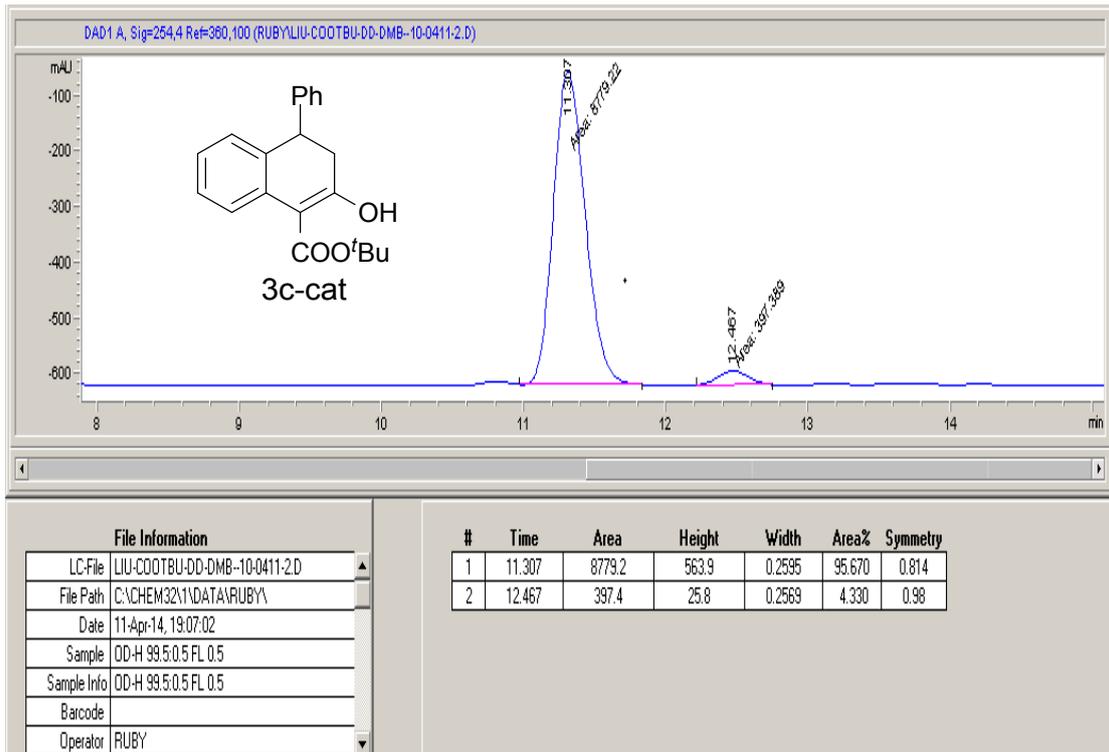
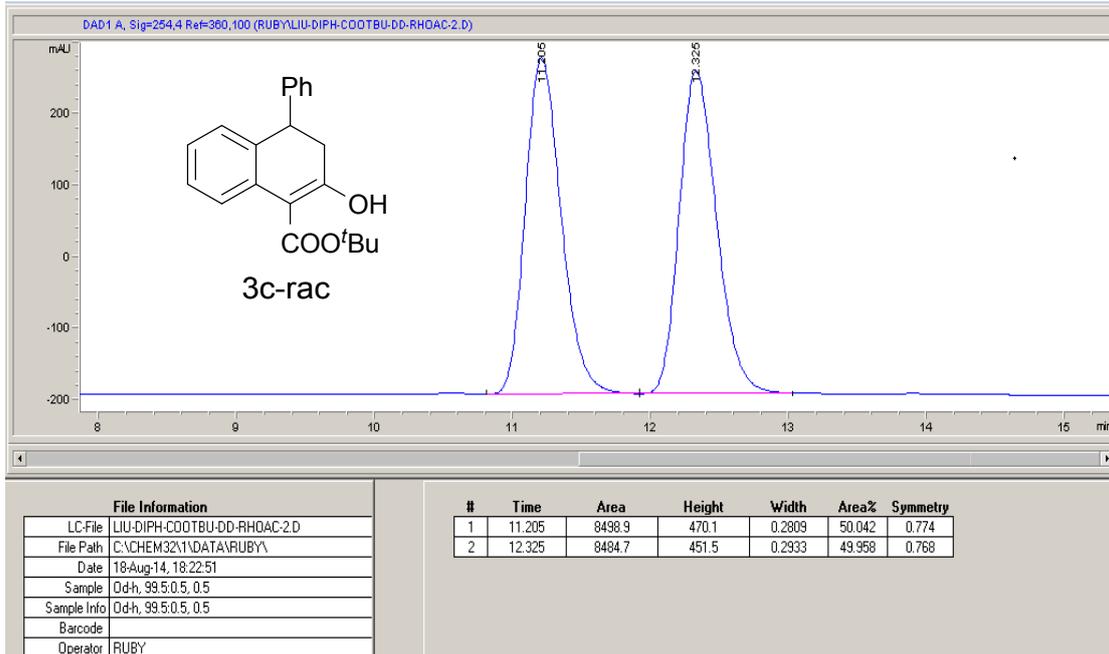
**(R)-4-Phenyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one (4)**

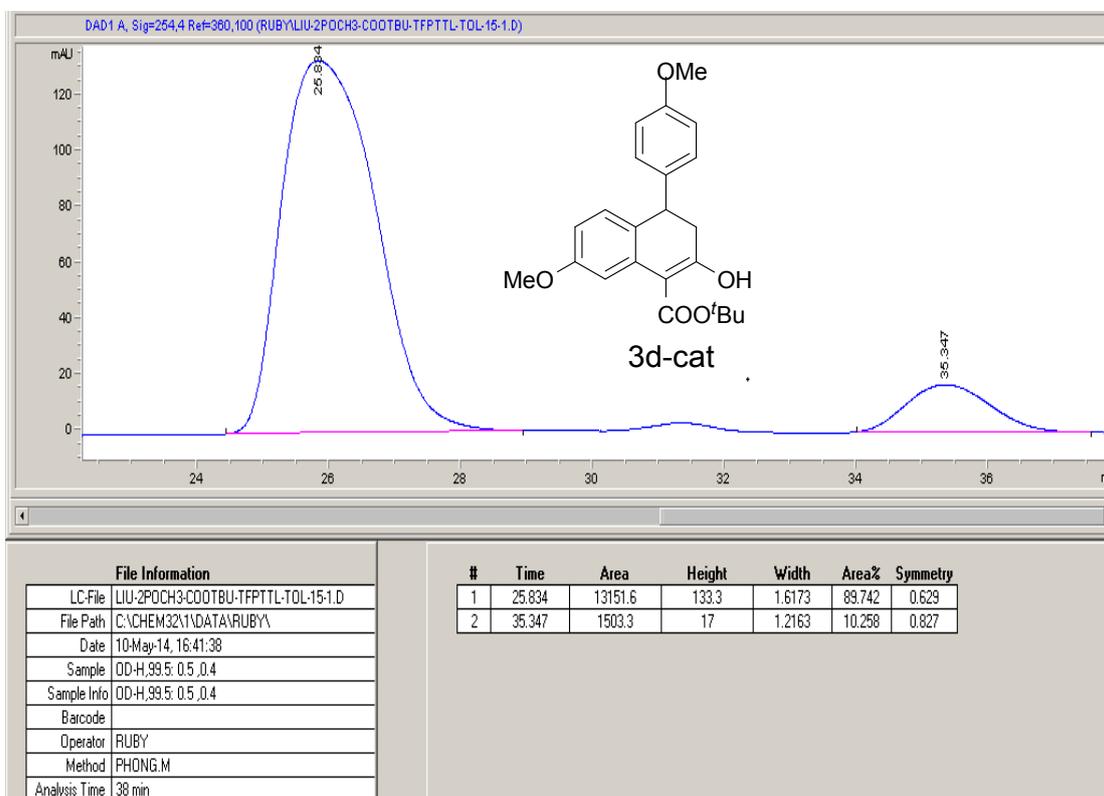
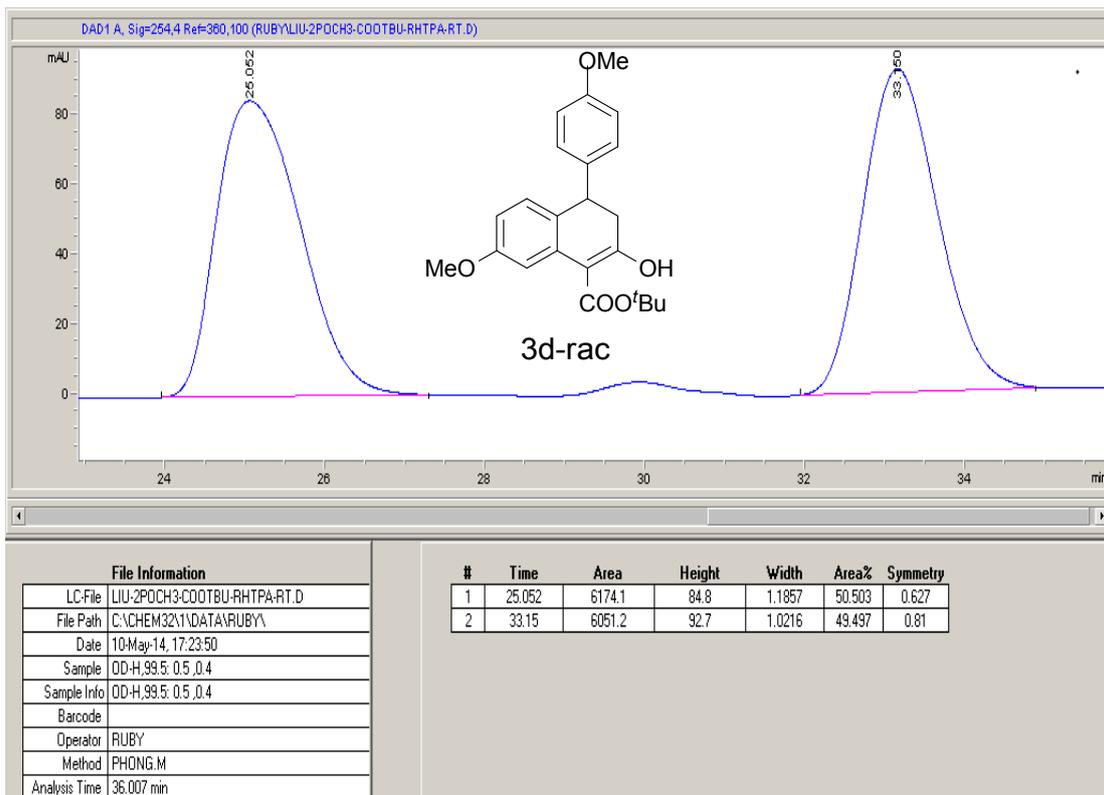


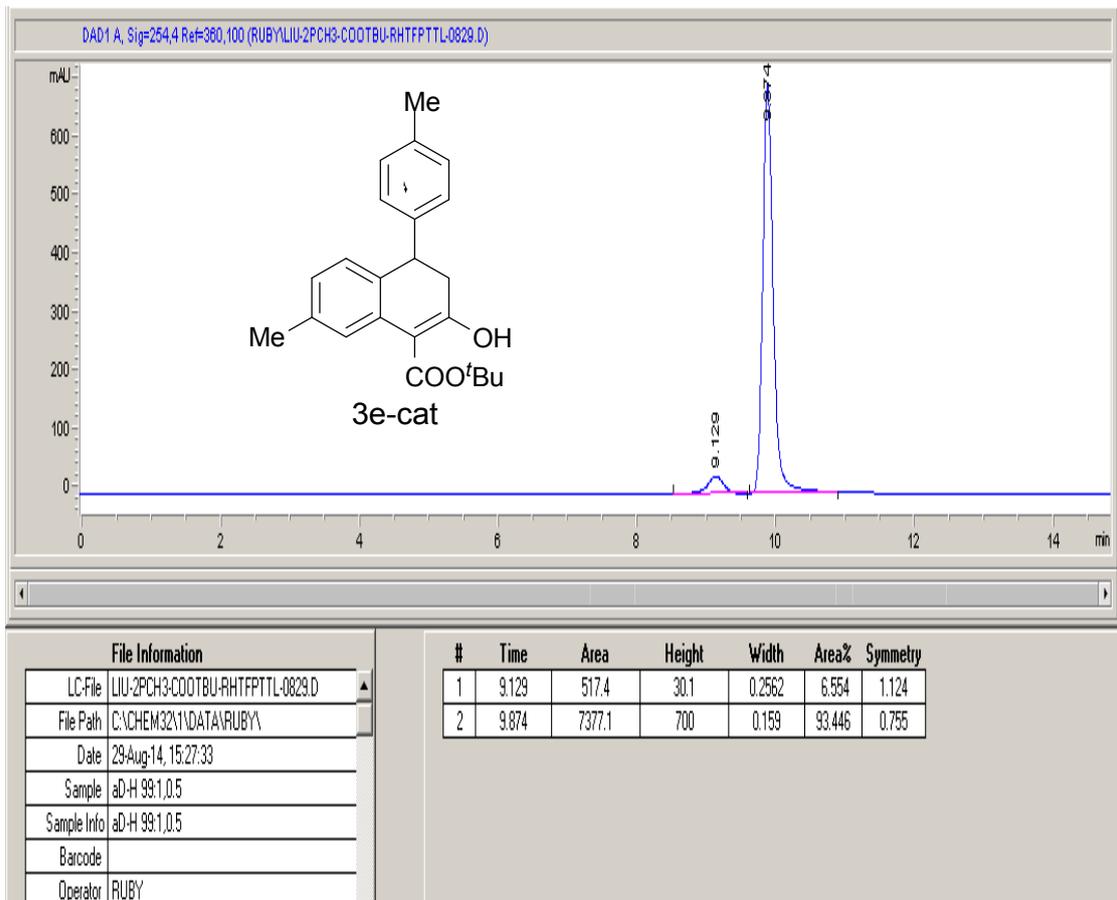
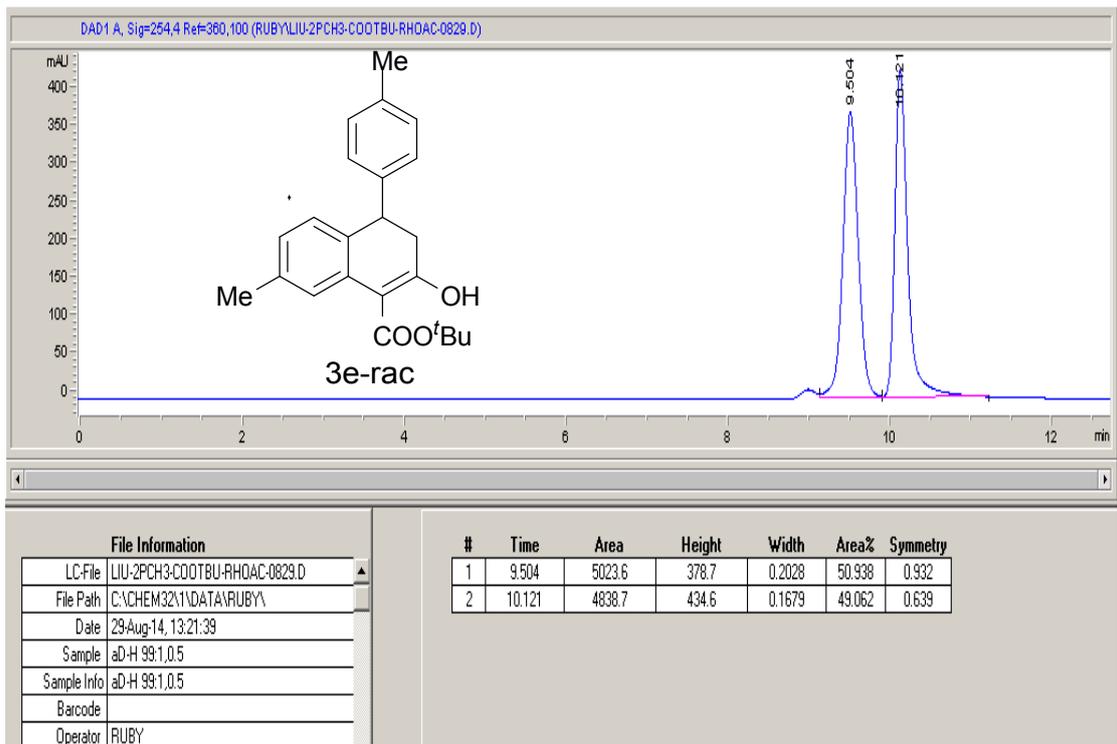
## HPLC Analyses Figures

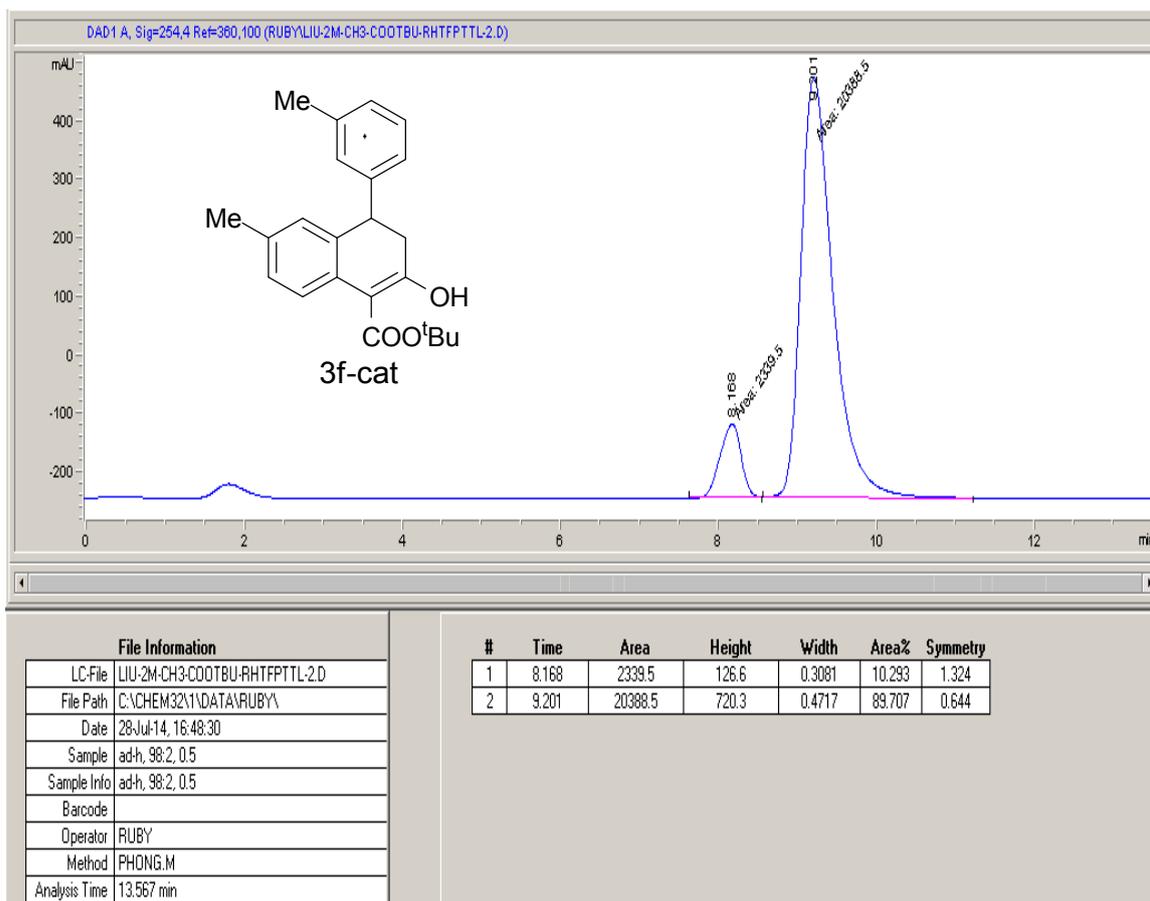
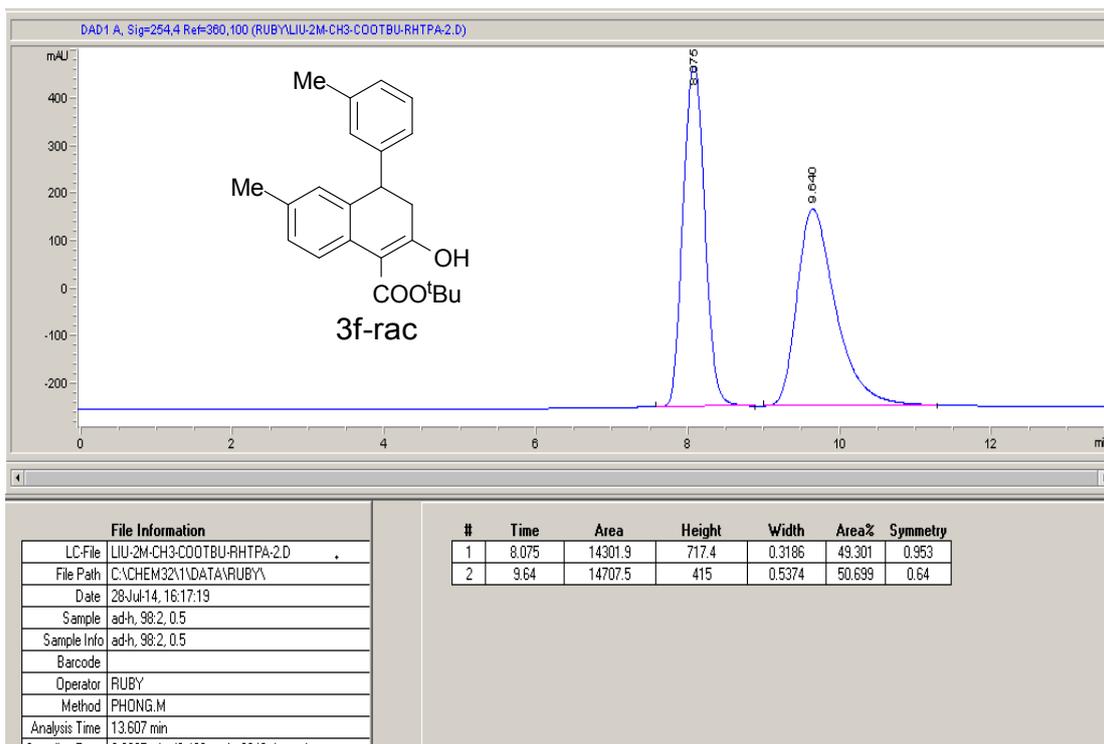


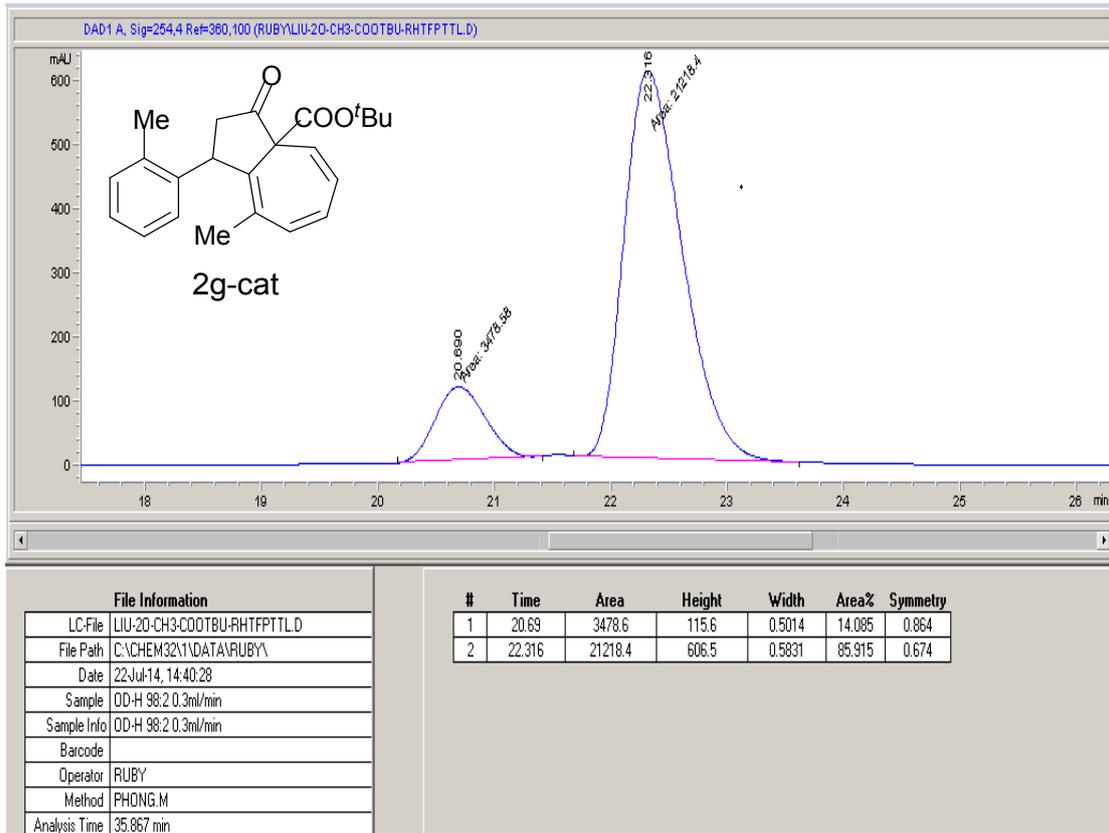
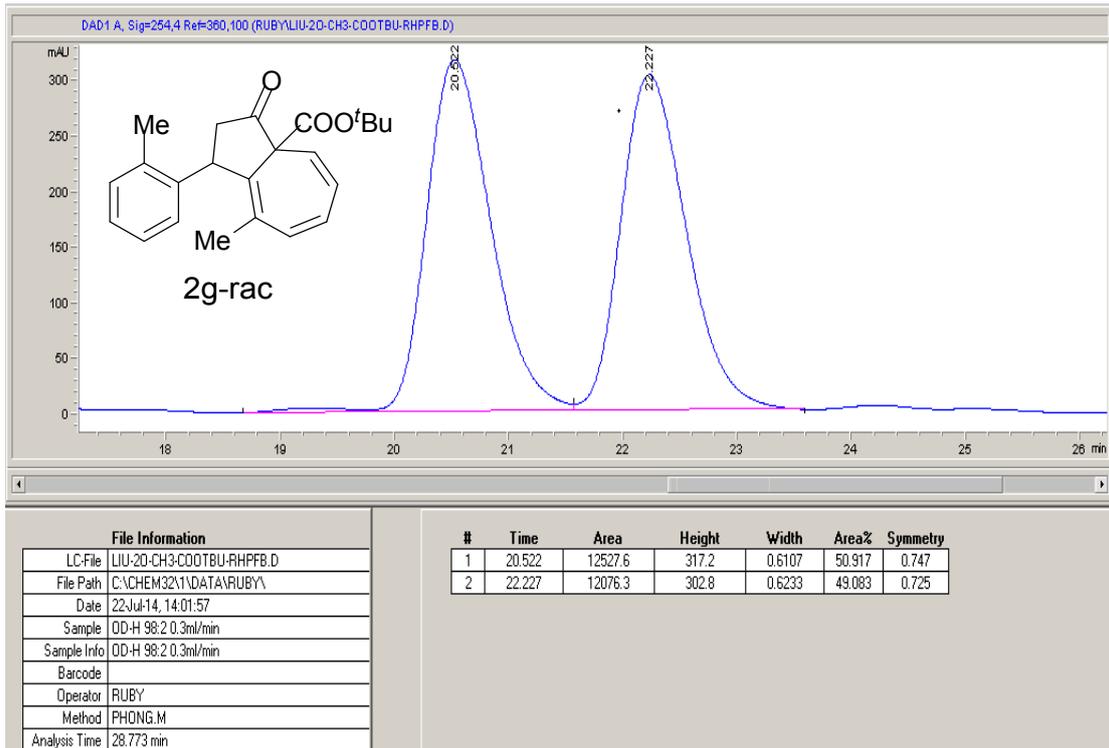


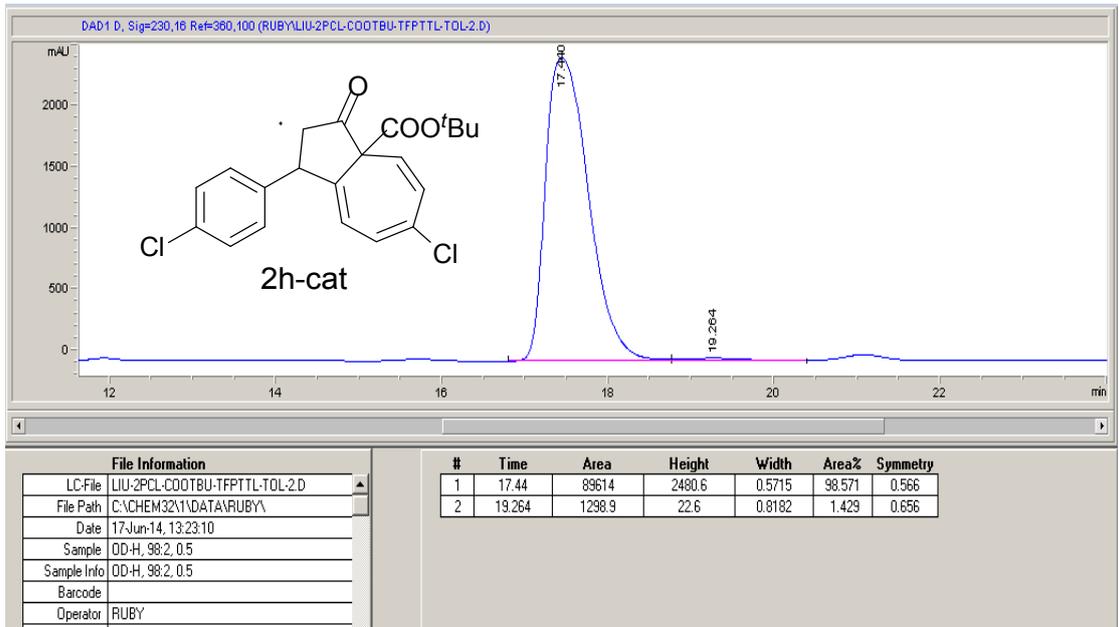
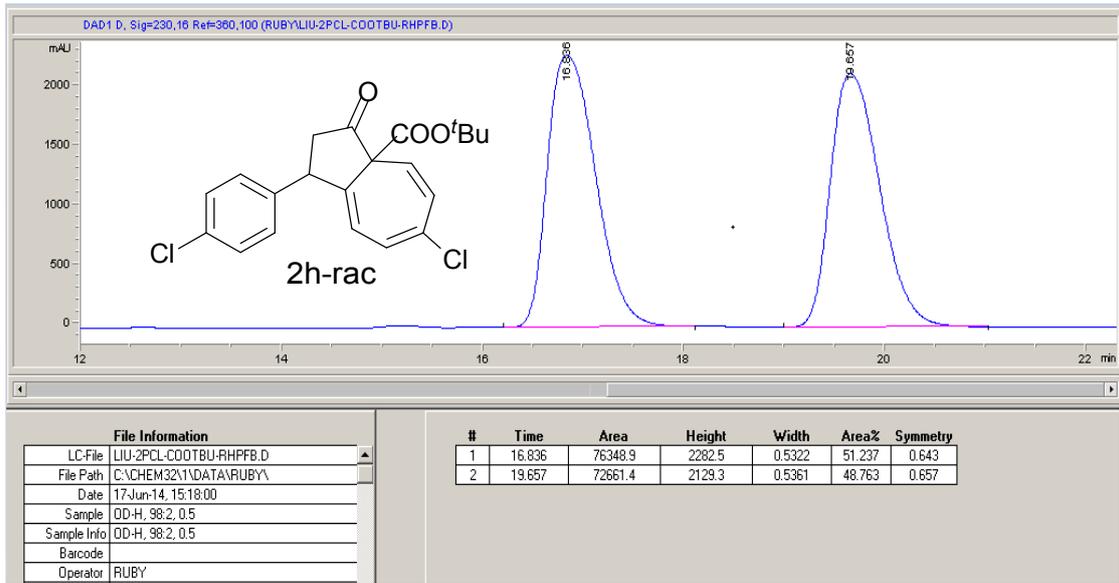


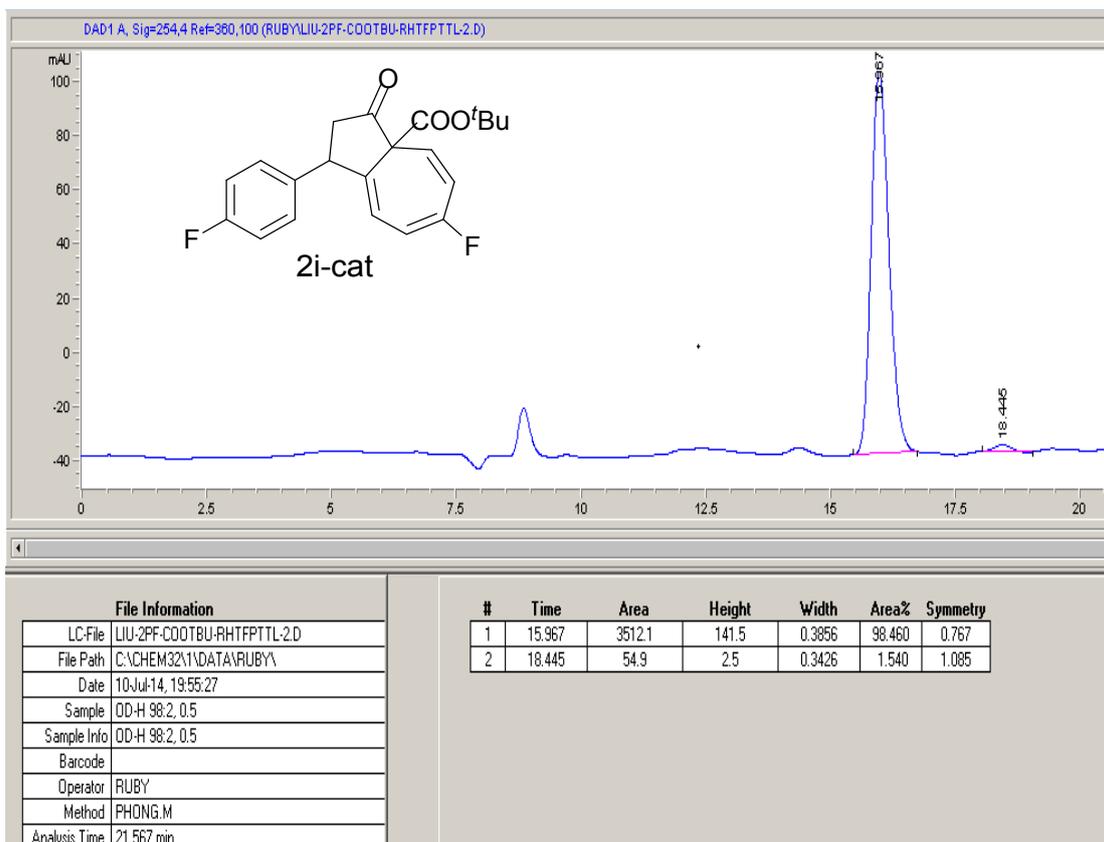
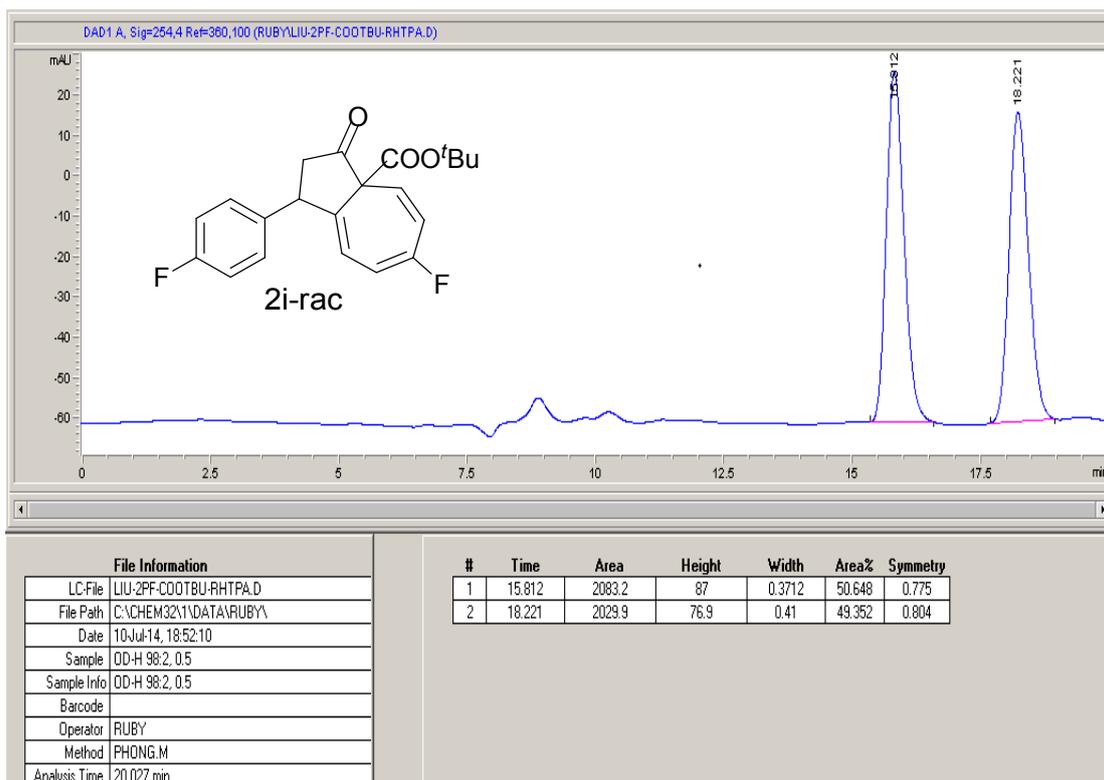


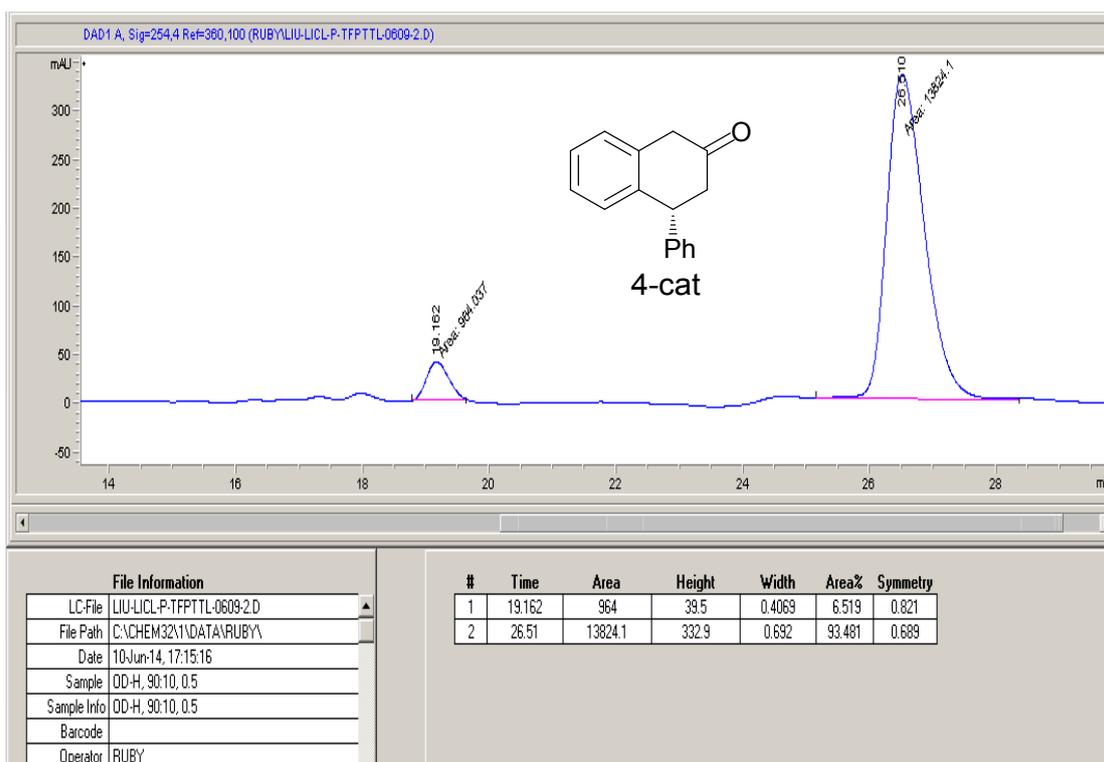
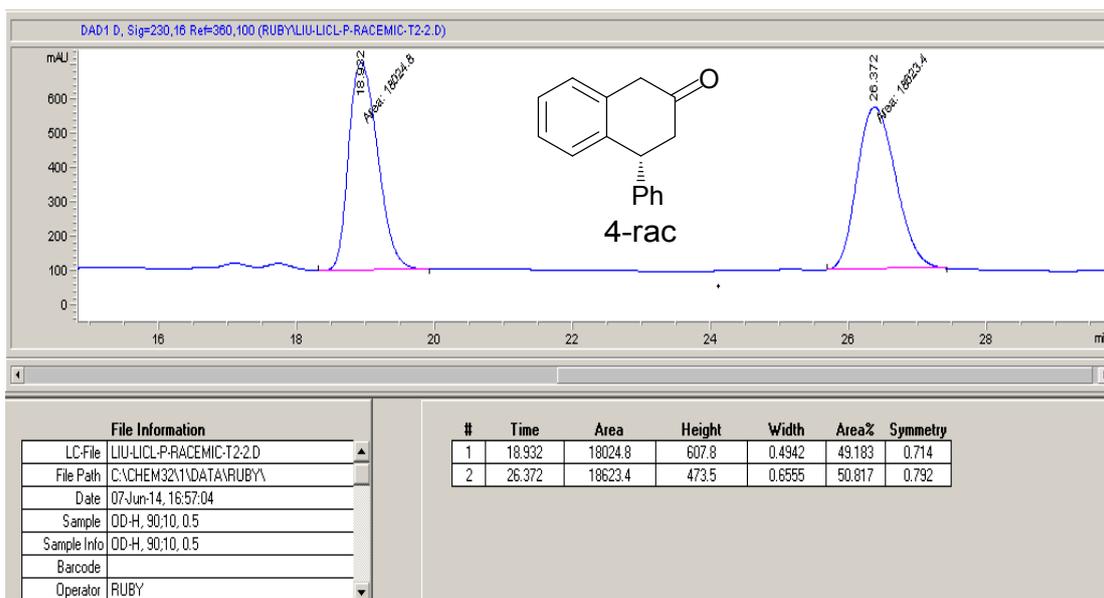




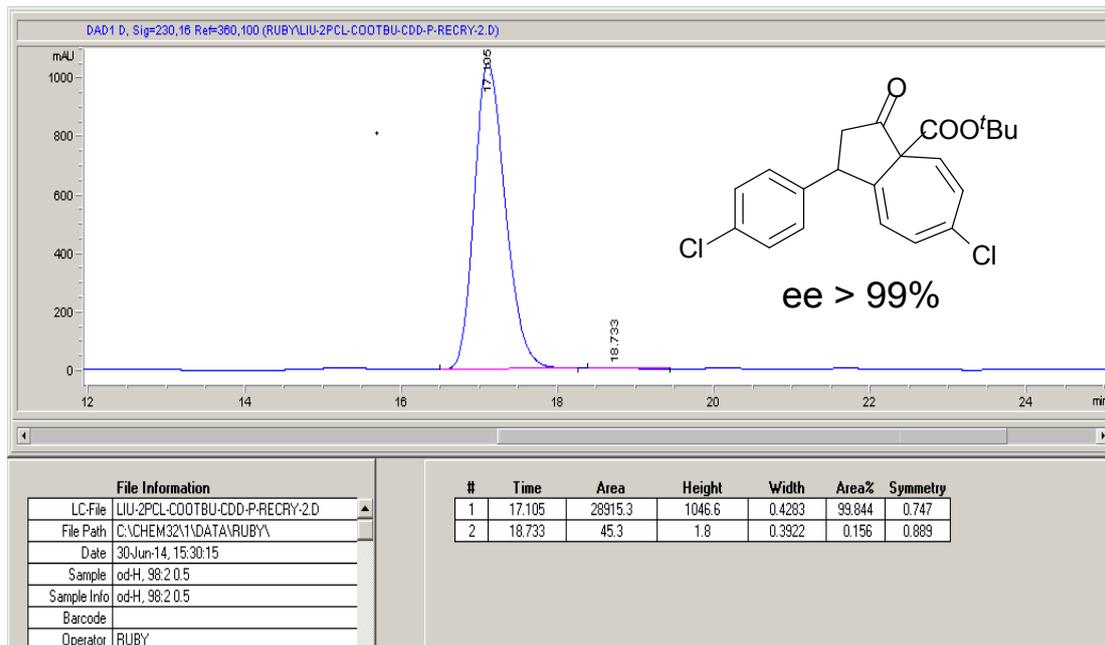




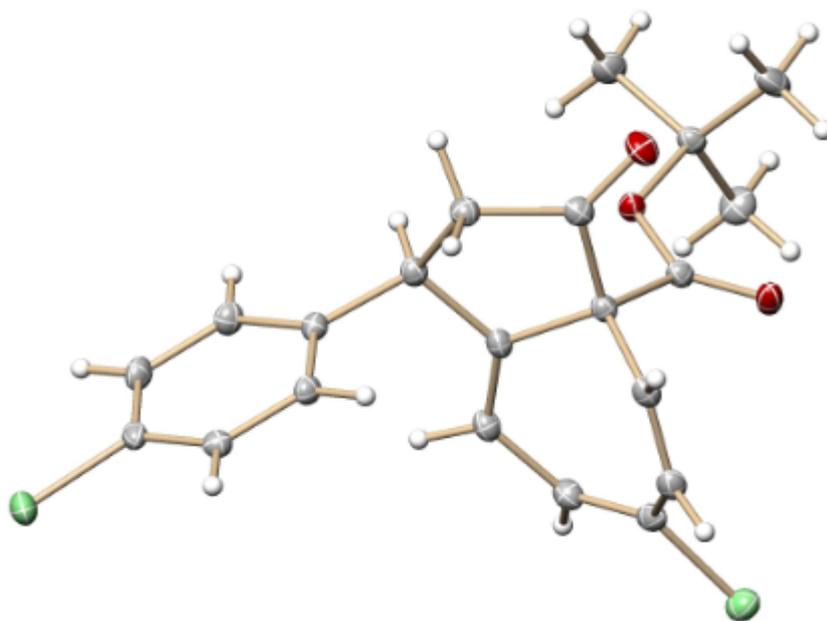




The pure product **2h** was recrystallized in EtOAc and hexanes, and the generated single-crystal was suitable for the X-ray analysis, see S-43.



**Data Collection and Structure Refinement for *tert*-Butyl (1*R*,3*aS*)-6-Chloro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1,2,3,3*a*-tetrahydroazulene-3*a*-carboxylate (2*h*) (UM-2601, CCDC 1029454)**



A colorless prism-like specimen of  $C_{21}H_{20}Cl_2O_3$ , approximate dimensions 0.40 mm  $\times$  0.47 mm  $\times$  0.50 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured on a Bruker APEX-II CCD system equipped with a graphite monochromator and a MoK $\alpha$  sealed tube ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Data collection temperature was 150 K.

The total exposure time was 12.63 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame algorithm. The integration of the data using an orthorhombic unit cell yielded a total of 32314 reflections to a maximum  $\theta$  angle of 29.99° (0.71 Å resolution), of which 5686 were independent (average redundancy 5.683, completeness = 100.0%,  $R_{int} = 1.46\%$ ) and 5582 (98.17%) were greater than  $2\sigma(F^2)$ . The final cell constants of  $a = 10.9383(8)$  Å,  $b = 11.4949(8)$  Å,  $c = 15.5104(11)$  Å,  $V = 1950.2(2)$  Å<sup>3</sup>, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 9955 reflections above  $20\sigma(I)$  with  $4.556^\circ < 2\theta < 61.17^\circ$ . Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multi-scan method (SADABS). The calculated minimum and maximum transmission coefficients (based on crystal size) are 0.8120 and 0.8690.

The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL Software Package, using the space group  $P2_12_12_1$ , with  $Z = 4$  for the formula unit,  $C_{21}H_{20}Cl_2O_3$ . The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on  $F^2$  with 238 variables converged at  $R_1 = 2.49\%$ , for the observed data and  $wR_2 = 5.25\%$  for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.000. The largest peak in the final difference electron density synthesis was  $0.356 e/\text{Å}^3$  and the largest hole was  $-0.261 e/\text{Å}^3$  with an RMS deviation of  $0.089 e/\text{Å}^3$ . On the basis of the final model, the calculated density was  $1.333 g/cm^3$  and  $F(000)$ , 816 e<sup>-</sup>.