

Supplementary Information

An Efficient Route to Highly Strained Cyclobutenes: Indium-Catalyzed Reactions of Enynals with Alkynes

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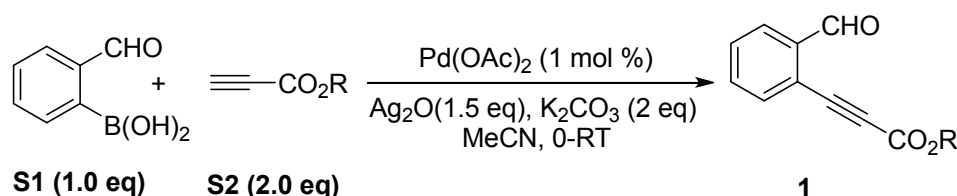
General information

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of dry N₂ in schlenk tube, solvents were purified by standard method. ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 (400 MHz for ¹H; 100 MHz for ¹³C; 376 MHz for ¹⁹F), ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to internal standard TMS at δ 0.0. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm, and coupling constants (*J*) are in Hertz(Hz). The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d =doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Infrared (IR) spectra are recorded on a Nicolet 210 spectrophotometer and were recorded in potassium bromide (KBr) pellet. Mass spectra (MS) were obtained using EI mass spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a hot stage apparatus.

All reagents were used as received from commercial sources, unless specified otherwise, or prepared as described in the literature.

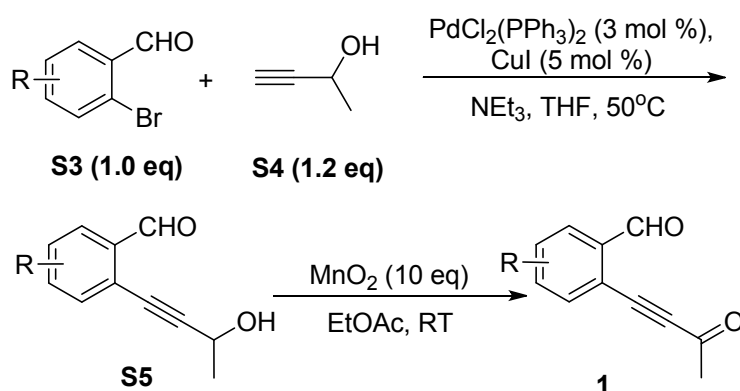
General procedure for preparation of enynals

Method 1:¹



To a Schlenk tube with a magnetic bar under N₂ atmosphere at 0°C was added Pd(OAc)₂ (1.0 mol %), Ag₂O (1.5 eq) and K₂CO₃ (2.0 eq), after that, starting materials of **S1** and **S2** in MeCN (0.125 M) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred from 0°C to rt until **S1** was completely consumed monitored by TLC, then the mixture was filtered through short silica gel, and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude concentrate was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc in petroleum ether (5 %) as eluent to afford the product **1**. Characterization data for products was consistent with literature.²

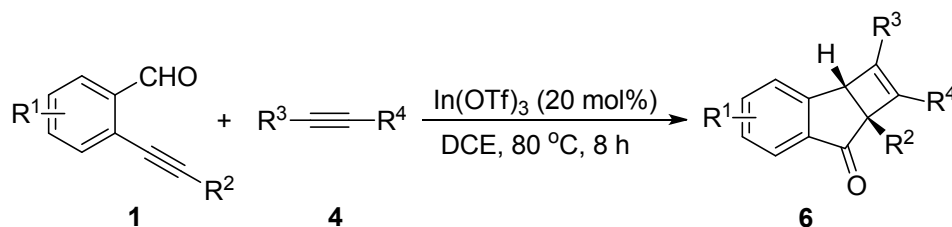
Method 2:



To a suspension of PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (3 mol %) and CuI (5 mol %) in THF (0.125 M) under nitrogen atmosphere was added 2-bromoaldehyde (**S3**, 1.0 eq) and 3-Butyn-2-ol (**S4**, 1.2 eq), and then NEt₃ (0.025 M) was added, the mixture was stirred at 50°C for overnight, after then, the mixture was filtered through short silica gel, and then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude concentrate was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc in petroleum ether (25 %) as eluent to afford the product **S5** as yellow oil.³ The isolated compound was then added to the suspension of MnO₂ (10.0 eq) in EtOAc (0.5 M), after

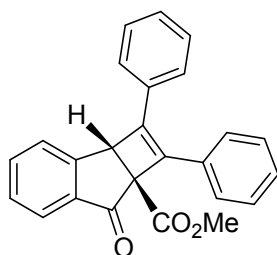
stirred at room temperature for overnight or completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the MnO₂ was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude. The crude concentrate was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc in petroleum ether (20 %) as eluent to afford the product **1**.⁴ Characterization data for products was consistent with literature.²

General procedure for synthesis of 6a-u



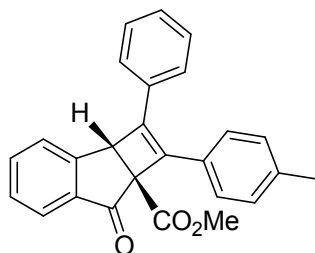
In a Schlenk tube with a magnetic bar under nitrogen atmosphere was added In(OTf)₃ (20 mol %) and dichloroethane (DCE, 1 ml), and then the substrates of enynals (**1**, 0.25 mmol) and alkynes (**4**, 1.3 eq, 0.33 mmol) were added respectively. The mixture was stirred at 80°C for 8h. After that, the solvent was evaporated by rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc/petroleum ether as eluent to afford the product **6**.

Methyl 7-oxo-1,2-diphenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (**6a**)



Yield: 87%. White solid, mp 183-184 °C. *R_f* 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.52 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.17 (m, 6H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 169.1, 151.1, 146.3, 137.5, 136.4, 135.0, 133.3, 132.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.4, 126.7, 126.2, 126.2, 64.2, 52.6, 51.0. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2961, 2920, 2851, 1739, 1704, 1600, 1436, 1259, 1511, 1099, 1025, 799, 757, 696; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉O₃ (M+H)⁺ 367.1329, found 367.1326.

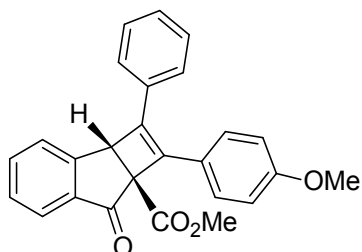
Methyl 7-oxo-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (**6b**)



Yield: 73%. Yellow oil. *R_f* 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.34 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.2, 169.1, 151.3, 145.3, 138.8, 137.6, 136.4,

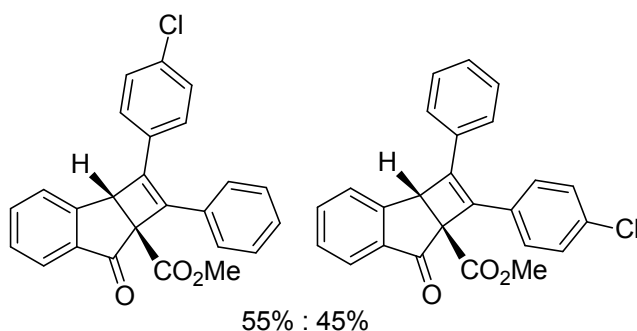
134.9, 133.4, 129.9, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.4, 126.7, 126.2, 126.1, 64.2, 52.5, 50.9, 21.5. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3059, 3028, 2954, 2922, 2848, 1752, 1699, 1604, 1513, 1466, 1435, 1374, 1322, 1290, 1240, 1186, 1152, 1097, 1073, 1047, 973, 898, 876, 826, 762, 736, 697, 636, 609, 585, 556, 519, 489, 420; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ 381.1485, found 381.1480.

Methyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-2-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6c)



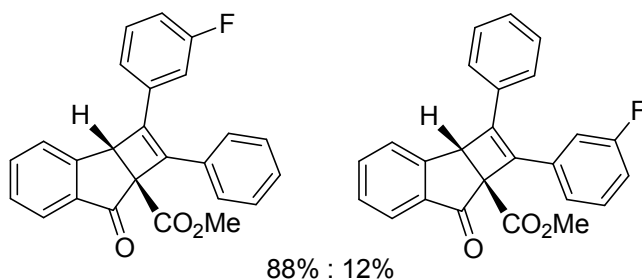
Yield: 46%. Yellow solid, mp 152-153 °C. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/8). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.3, 169.1, 159.9, 151.4, 144.0, 137.5, 136.1, 134.9, 133.6, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.4, 113.9, 64.2, 55.3, 52.5, 50.9. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2955, 2839, 1742, 1705, 1604, 1512, 1464, 1439, 1320, 1282, 1252, 1097, 1073, 1030, 972, 898, 839, 813, 784, 761, 735, 698, 657, 588, 557, 522.

Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6d)



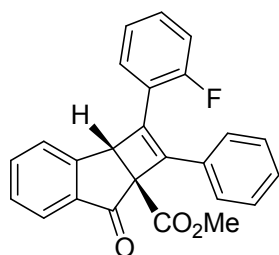
Yield: 54%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.27 (m, 10H), 4.88, 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.1, 196.8, 168.8, 151.0, 150.8, 146.9, 145.0, 137.5, 137.4, 137.1, 135.1, 135.1, 134.8, 134.4, 132.9, 132.4, 131.7, 131.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 126.7, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1, 64.3, 64.2, 52.6, 51.1, 50.9. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3061, 2958, 2926, 2849, 1911, 1751, 1701, 1603, 1494, 1465, 1433, 1400, 1374, 1321, 1284, 1238, 1207, 1151, 1095, 1047, 1013, 972, 897, 837, 789, 763, 726, 697, 647, 604, 546, 518, 466, 441; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ 401.0939, found 401.0934.

Methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6e)



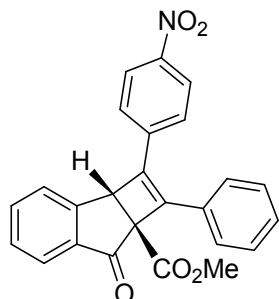
Yield: 62%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.01 (s). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 168.8, 164.1, 161.6, 150.8, 144.9, 137.8, 137.5, 135.4, 135.3, 135.1, 132.3, 130.4, 130.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.5, 126.8, 126.3, 126.2, 122.5, 122.5, 116.0, 115.8, 113.6, 113.4, 64.3, 52.6, 51.0. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2962, 2924, 2850, 1741, 1707, 1606, 1580, 1463, 1377, 1261, 1152, 1102, 1015, 869, 797, 559; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{FO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 385.1234, found 385.1229.

Methyl 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6f)



Yield: 60%. Brown oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 12.2, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.18 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.58 (s). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.0, 168.8, 161.4, 158.9, 151.2, 141.2, 138.5, 137.3, 135.2, 132.5, 130.7, 130.7, 128.9, 128.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.1, 125.7, 124.2, 124.1, 121.1, 121.0, 116.4, 116.2, 65.3, 52.7, 52.6, 52.5. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2957, 1741, 1704, 1597, 1485, 1374, 1290, 1249, 1152, 1106, 1034, 968, 912, 795, 748, 689, 605; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{FO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 385.1234, found 385.1229.

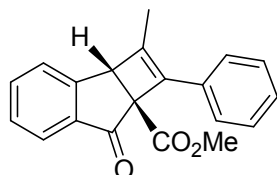
Methyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6g)



Yield: 68%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/8). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (m, 4H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 15.7, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29

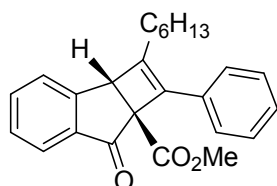
(m, 3H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.2, 168.4, 150.4, 147.5, 143.7, 140.9, 139.5, 137.4, 135.3, 131.9, 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 127.6, 127.4, 126.4, 126.0, 124.1, 64.6, 52.7, 50.8. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2924, 2853, 1743, 1702, 1592, 1524, 1514, 1462, 1380, 1344, 1286, 1245, 1152, 1106, 1042, 968, 911, 856, 806, 745, 728, 686, 608; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_5$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 412.1179, found 412.1174.

Methyl 2-methyl-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6h)



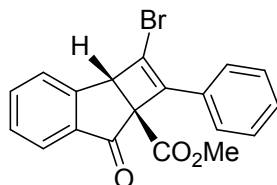
Yield: 73%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 3H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 169.6, 151.1, 146.8, 137.2, 137.1, 134.9, 132.6, 128.4, 128.4, 127.8, 126.9, 126.3, 125.4, 64.5, 53.1, 52.5, 14.9. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3061, 2958, 2922, 2849, 1742, 1705, 1602, 1499, 1464, 1436, 1375, 1285, 1244, 1190, 1154, 1097, 1067, 971, 892, 798, 764, 698, 621, 496; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 305.1172, found 305.1169.

Methyl 2-hexyl-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6i)



Yield: 61%. Brown oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.60 – 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.33 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.55 (dd, J = 13.0, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.37 – 1.22 (m, 5H), 0.80 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 169.6, 151.4, 151.4, 137.4, 136.7, 134.8, 132.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.8, 127.0, 126.2, 125.8, 64.2, 52.5, 51.8, 31.6, 29.3, 29.2, 26.9, 22.5, 14.0. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3060, 3026, 2961, 2927, 2852, 1752, 1702, 1603, 1495, 1467, 1433, 1376, 1284, 1241, 1191, 1150, 1095, 1059, 975, 906, 882, 797, 763, 695, 631, 581, 528, 490, 427; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 375.1955, found 375.1950.

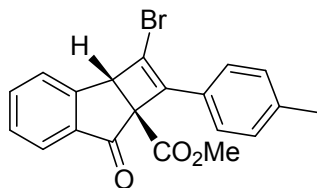
Methyl 2-bromo-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6j)



Yield: 63%. Brown oil. R_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, J = 16.5, 8.9 Hz, 3H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 167.9, 149.1, 142.5, 136.6, 135.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 126.9, 126.4, 125.8, 120.8, 65.9, 56.5, 52.9. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3061, 2960, 2926, 2851, 1753, 1073, 1631, 1603, 1492, 1467, 1433, 1374, 1324, 1261, 1188, 1153, 1096, 1023,

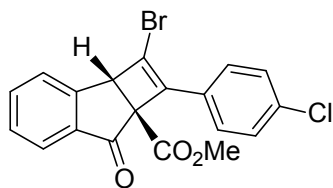
966, 919, 894, 873, 804, 763, 729, 693, 669, 629, 568, 534, 489, 429; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for C₁₉H₁₄BrO₃ (M+H)⁺ 369.0121, found 369.0118.

Methyl 2-bromo-7-oxo-1-(p-tolyl)-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6k)



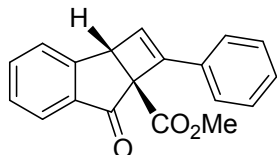
Yield: 70%. White solid, mp 122-123 °C. *R*_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.0, 167.0, 148.2, 141.4, 138.6, 135.5, 134.3, 128.1, 126.3, 125.8, 125.3, 124.8, 118.5, 64.8, 55.4, 51.8, 20.5. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2962, 2922, 2856, 1745, 1706, 1598, 1505, 1465, 1370, 1289, 1245, 1194, 1154, 1093, 1051, 970, 910, 812, 730, 683, 634, 562, 471; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆BrO₃ (M+H)⁺ 383.0277, found 383.0271.

Methyl 2-bromo-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6l)



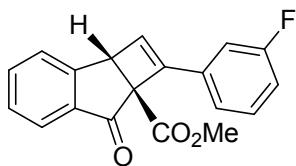
Yield: 72%. Brown oil. *R*_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.8, 166.6, 148.0, 140.4, 135.4, 134.5, 134.2, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 125.4, 124.8, 120.5, 64.8, 55.5, 51.9. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2996, 2922, 1772, 1753, 1709, 1630, 1488, 1381, 1245, 1151, 1092, 1059, 914, 834, 801, 745, 623, 469; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃BrClO₃ (M+H)⁺ 402.9731, found 402.9731.

Methyl 7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6m)



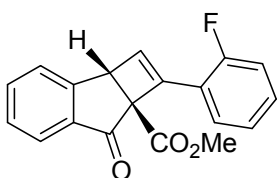
Yield: 54%. Yellow oil. *R*_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dt, *J* = 25.8, 7.5 Hz, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.0, 168.9, 152.0, 145.6, 136.6, 135.2, 134.9, 131.3, 128.9, 128.4, 128.4, 126.0, 125.6, 66.7, 52.6, 50.2. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3061, 2954, 2848, 1752, 1702, 1603, 1577, 1493, 1467, 1433, 1372, 1288, 1242, 1192, 1153, 1096, 1072, 1000, 951, 897, 852, 810, 779, 755, 694, 666, 613, 523, 479, 429; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅O₃ (M+H)⁺ 296.1016, found 296.1013.

Methyl 1-(3-fluorophenyl)-7-oxo-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6n)



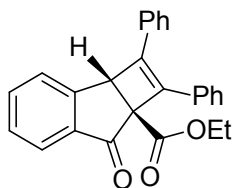
Yield: 50%. Pale yellow solid, mp 75-76 °C. R_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.97 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.82 (s). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.7, 168.7, 164.0, 161.6, 151.7, 144.7, 136.5, 136.4, 135.4, 133.3, 130.1, 130.0, 128.5, 126.1, 125.6, 122.0, 122.0, 115.9, 115.7, 113.0, 112.7, 66.7, 52.7, 50.3. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3072, 2956, 2927, 2852, 1746, 1706, 1605, 1581, 1485, 1434, 1374, 1288, 1271, 1246, 1194, 1150, 1098, 1073, 991, 953, 866, 843, 810, 787, 757, 689, 663, 623, 522; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 309.0921, found 309.0918.

Methyl 1-(2-fluorophenyl)-7-oxo-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (60)



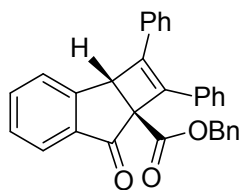
Yield: 54%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.25 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.47 (s). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.0, 168.9, 162.8, 160.3, 151.9, 140.9, 140.8, 140.1, 136.5, 135.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.4, 128.5, 126.1, 125.6, 124.2, 124.1, 119.5, 115.5, 115.3, 67.0, 52.6, 51.5. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2961, 2925, 2853, 1740, 1705, 1602, 1492, 1451, 1432, 1380, 1285, 1260, 1242, 1216, 1190, 1153, 1124, 1096, 1021, 954, 914, 858, 801, 753, 691, 656, 612, 528, 467; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 309.0921, found 309.0918.

Ethyl 7-oxo-1,2-diphenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6p)



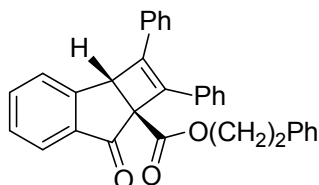
Yield: 65%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, J = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.20 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.3, 168.5, 151.2, 146.2, 137.6, 136.6, 134.9, 133.3, 132.8, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 126.7, 126.2, 126.1, 64.4, 61.5, 50.9, 14.1. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3084, 3058, 3026, 2983, 2920, 2850, 1749, 1694, 1603, 1579, 1498, 1467, 1443, 1392, 1368, 1324, 1278, 1239, 1208, 1185, 1148, 1117, 1096, 1073, 1049, 1010, 959, 904, 858, 817, 785, 760, 733, 695, 644, 560, 537, 519, 496, 465; HRMS (DART Postive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 381.1485, found 381.1481.

Benzyl 7-oxo-1,2-diphenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6q)



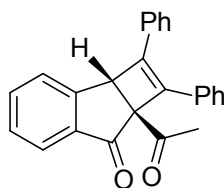
Yield: 74%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd, J = 15.5, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, J = 33.4, 22.9, 16.1 Hz, 10H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 5.19 (dd, J = 27.9, 12.6 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.1, 168.4, 151.1, 146.3, 137.5, 136.5, 135.6, 134.9, 133.2, 132.9, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 126.7, 126.2, 66.9, 64.4, 50.8. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3062, 3030, 2921, 2851, 1743, 1704, 1602, 1497, 1465, 1444, 1374, 1319, 1279, 1236, 1207, 1184, 1152, 1096, 1072, 1048, 1027, 964, 913, 787, 758, 735, 695, 559, 487; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 441.1642, found 441.1635.

Phenethyl 7-oxo-1,2-diphenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6r)



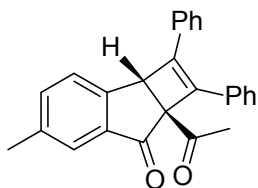
Yield: 77%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 7.47 – 7.24 (m, 9H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 7.05 (s, 2H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.39 – 4.32 (m, 2H), 2.84 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.2, 168.5, 151.2, 146.2, 137.6, 136.4, 134.9, 133.3, 132.8, 129.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 126.7, 126.5, 126.2, 126.1, 65.8, 64.3, 51.0, 35.0. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3085, 3061, 3027, 2958, 2920, 2850, 1750, 1695, 1603, 1579, 1497, 1466, 1444, 1375, 1321, 1282, 1235, 1207, 1184, 1150, 1095, 1074, 1049, 1028, 992, 965, 917, 901, 845, 813, 790, 764, 732, 697, 644, 600, 572, 558, 496, 419; MS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 457.1, found 457.2.

7a-acetyl-1,2-diphenyl-2aH-cyclobuta[a]inden-7(7aH)-one (6s)



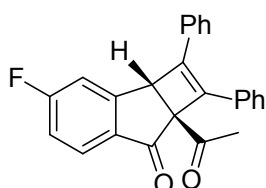
Yield: 32%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.19 (m, 7H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.8, 198.6, 150.9, 146.3, 138.0, 137.9, 135.0, 133.1, 133.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 126.6, 126.4, 125.9, 72.3, 49.5, 29.0. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3059, 3026, 2960, 2926, 2852, 1888, 1743, 1721, 1689, 1602, 1496, 1466, 1444, 1419, 1357, 1318, 1270, 1204, 1147, 1095, 1046, 1025, 958, 918, 874, 831, 800, 773, 764, 738, 692, 611, 555, 513, 483; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 351.1380, found 351.1378.

7a-acetyl-5-methyl-1,2-diphenyl-2aH-cyclobuta[a]inden-7(7aH)-one (6t)



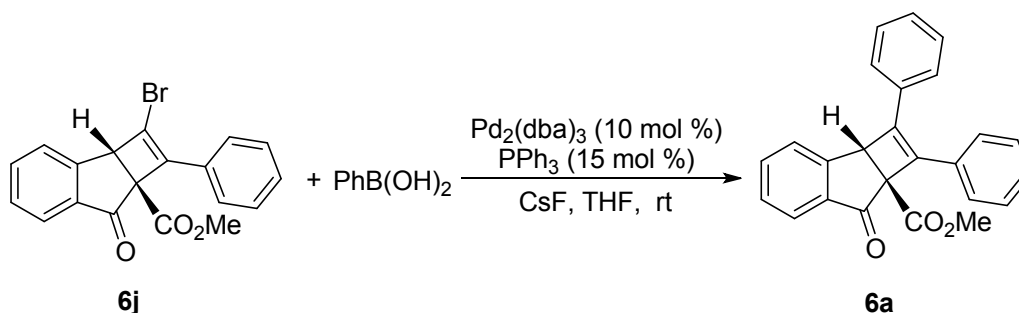
Yield: 34%. Yellow solid, mp 157 °C. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.26 (m, 8H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.9, 198.8, 148.3, 146.4, 138.7, 138.0, 137.9, 136.2, 133.2, 133.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 127.5, 126.6, 126.1, 125.9, 72.7, 49.3, 28.9, 21.2. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3057, 2959, 2924, 2852, 1722, 1689, 1613, 1576, 1491, 1445, 1419, 1357, 1208, 1145, 1114, 1081, 1030, 919, 846, 824, 796, 765, 733, 694, 586, 552, 513; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 365.1536, found 365.1532.

7a-acetyl-4-fluoro-1,2-diphenyl-2aH-cyclobuta[a]inden-7(7aH)-one (6u)



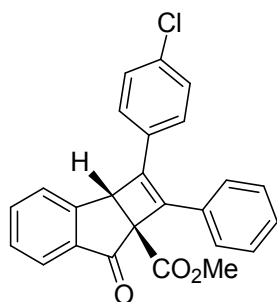
Yield: 33%. Yellow solid, mp 118-121 °C. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.91 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, J = 13.8, 7.4 Hz, 6H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -100.98 (s). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.5, 196.9, 168.3, 165.8, 153.7, 153.6, 145.7, 138.3, 134.2, 132.9, 132.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.5, 126.5, 116.9, 116.6, 113.5, 113.2, 72.6, 48.8, 29.1. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3058, 2925, 2852, 1733, 1692, 1615, 1585, 1488, 1474, 1442, 1363, 1321, 1286, 1249, 1208, 1154, 1090, 1040, 922, 877, 841, 796, 762, 730, 695, 646, 606, 551, 522, 482; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{FO}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 369.1285, found 369.1281.

General procedure of Suzuki coupling between 6j and phenylboronic acid ⁵



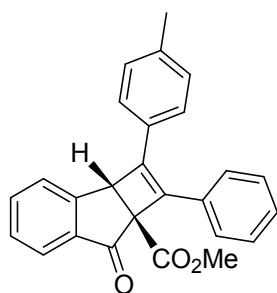
To a suspension of $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$ (10 mol %) and PPh_3 (15 mol %) in deoxygenated THF (1 ml) under N_2 atmosphere, was added **6j** (0.15 mmol), phenylboronic acid (2.0 eq, 0.3 mmol) and CsF (5.0 eq, 0.75 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for overnight. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to obtain **6a** in 87% yield.

Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6d)



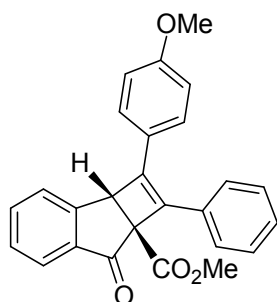
Yield: 74%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/hexanes = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.0, 169.0, 150.9, 145.1, 137.4, 137.1, 135.1, 134.8, 132.4, 131.7, 129.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 126.3, 126.1, 100.0, 64.3, 52.7, 51.0.

Methyl 7-oxo-1-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6b')



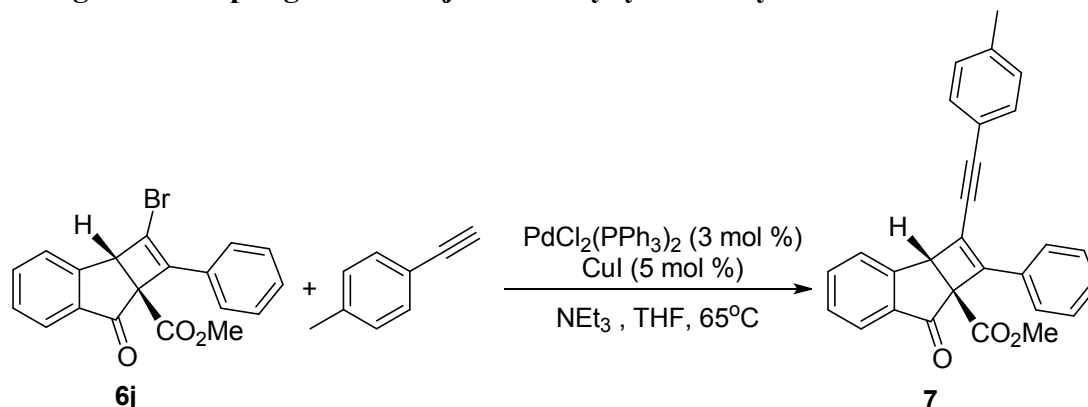
Yield: 85%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/hexanes = 1/15). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.3, 169.2, 151.2, 146.5, 139.2, 137.6, 135.4, 134.9, 132.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 127.4, 126.7, 126.2, 126.1, 64.2, 52.5, 51.0, 21.5.

Methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-oxo-1-phenyl-7,7a-dihydro-2aH-cyclobuta[a]indene-7a-carboxylate (6c')



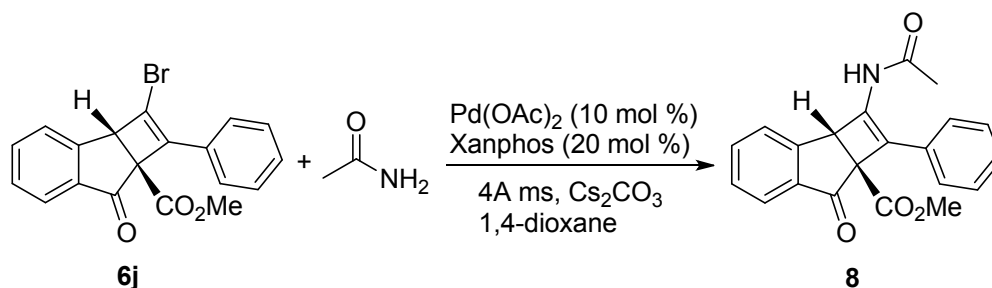
Yield: 94%. Yellow oil. R_f 0.2 (EtOAc/hexanes = 1/8). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, J = 15.5, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.76 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 169.3, 160.2, 151.2, 146.2, 137.6, 134.9, 134.1, 133.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.3, 126.2, 116.1, 114.8, 114.1, 64.2, 55.3, 52.5, 51.0.

Sonogashira coupling between **6j** and 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene ⁵



A suspension of $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (3 mol %), CuI (5 mol %) in dry THF (1ml) was prepared in a Schlenk tube with a magnetic bar, and then **6j** (0.15 mmol), 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (1.2 eq, 0.18 mmol) and NEt_3 (0.2 ml) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 65°C for overnight. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15) to give **7** in 90% yield. Black oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 168.8, 151.1, 145.5, 139.6, 136.9, 135.3, 132.0, 131.6, 129.3, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 127.1, 127.0, 126.1, 125.9, 119.3, 101.4, 83.0, 65.0, 53.0, 52.7, 21.6. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3028, 2958, 2923, 2852, 2183, 1743, 1709, 1603, 1510, 1465, 1434, 1375, 1321, 1281, 1243, 1184, 1150, 1097, 1062, 1022, 973, 916, 817, 768, 723, 691, 648, 606, 579, 529, 484, 425; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 405.1485, found 405.1480.

Buchwald-Hartwig amination reaction of **6j** with acetamide

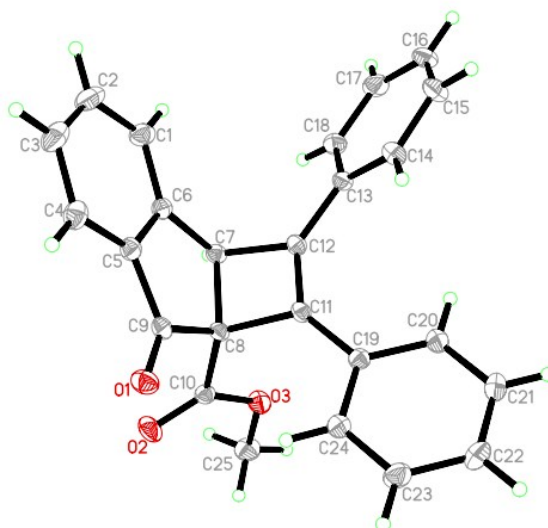


In a Schlenk tube with a magnetic bar, 4Å ms (20 mg) and Cs_2CO_3 (4.0 eq, 0.6 mmol) was added. Under vacuum, the mixture was heated to 300°C using heating gun for 20 min to remove water. After the schlenk tube cooled down, $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10 mol %), Xanphos (20 mol %) and acetamide (4.0 eq, 0.6mmol) were added, then another 10 min heating was conducted under 60°C , after cooling down, **6j** (0.15 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (1ml) was added at last, and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 110°C for overnight. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/3) to give white solid **8** in 51% yield. Mp $234\text{--}235^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 4H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 169.6, 167.6, 150.3, 138.7, 137.1, 135.2, 131.7, 128.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.5, 126.6, 125.8, 116.8, 63.9, 54.1, 52.6, 24.0. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2965, 2923, 2850, 1764, 1700, 1655, 1513, 1474, 1380, 1247, 1155, 1097, 1053, 913, 805, 738, 459; HRMS (DART Positive) Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) 348.1230, found 348.1225.

References

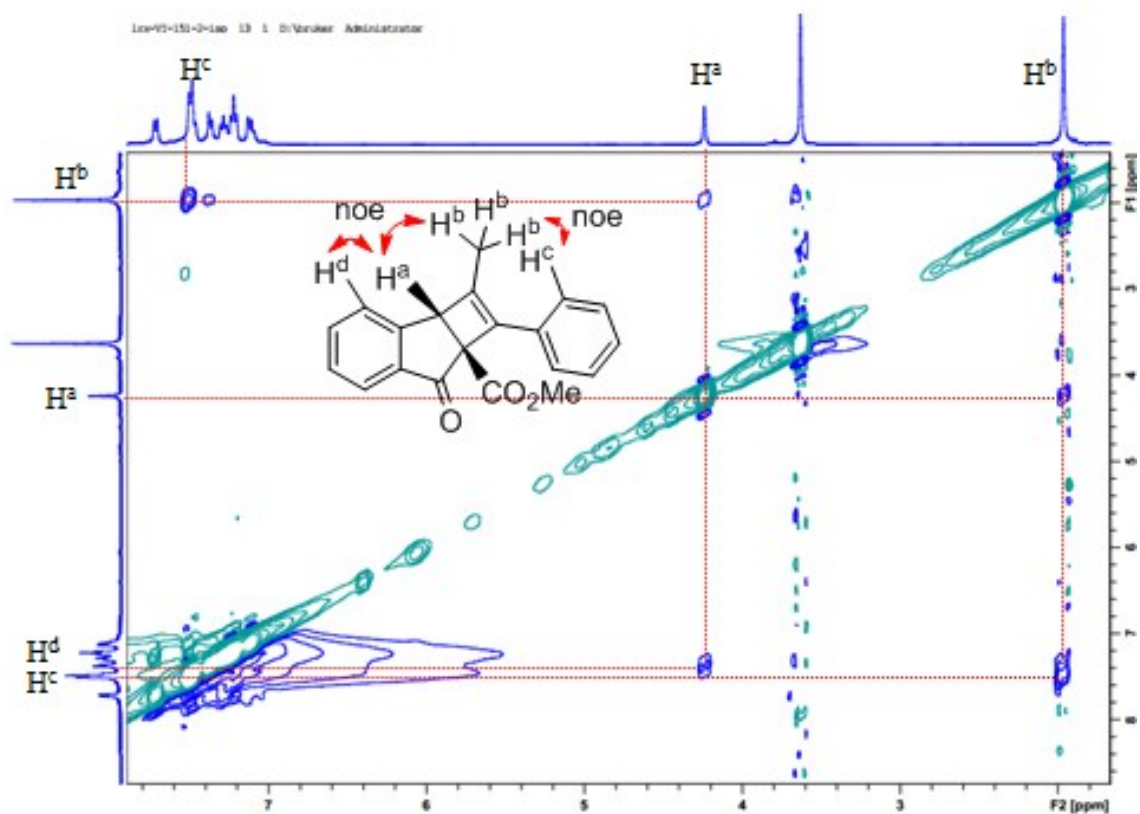
- [1] Zhou, M.-B.; Wei, W.-T.; Xie, Y.-X.; Lei, Y.; Li J.-H. *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 5635.
- [2] Liang, R.; Ma, T.; Zhu, S. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 4412.
- [3] Yoshida, K.; Shida, H.; Takahashi, H.; Yanagisawa, A. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 344.
- [4] Qiu, Y.-F.; Yang, F.; Qiu, Z.-H.; Zhong, M.-J.; Wang, L.-J.; Ye, Y.-Y.; Song, B.; Liang, Y.-M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 12018.
- [5] Villeneuve, K.; Riddell, N.; Jordan, R. W.; Tsui, G. C.; Tam, W. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 4543.

Crystal data and structure refinement for 6a

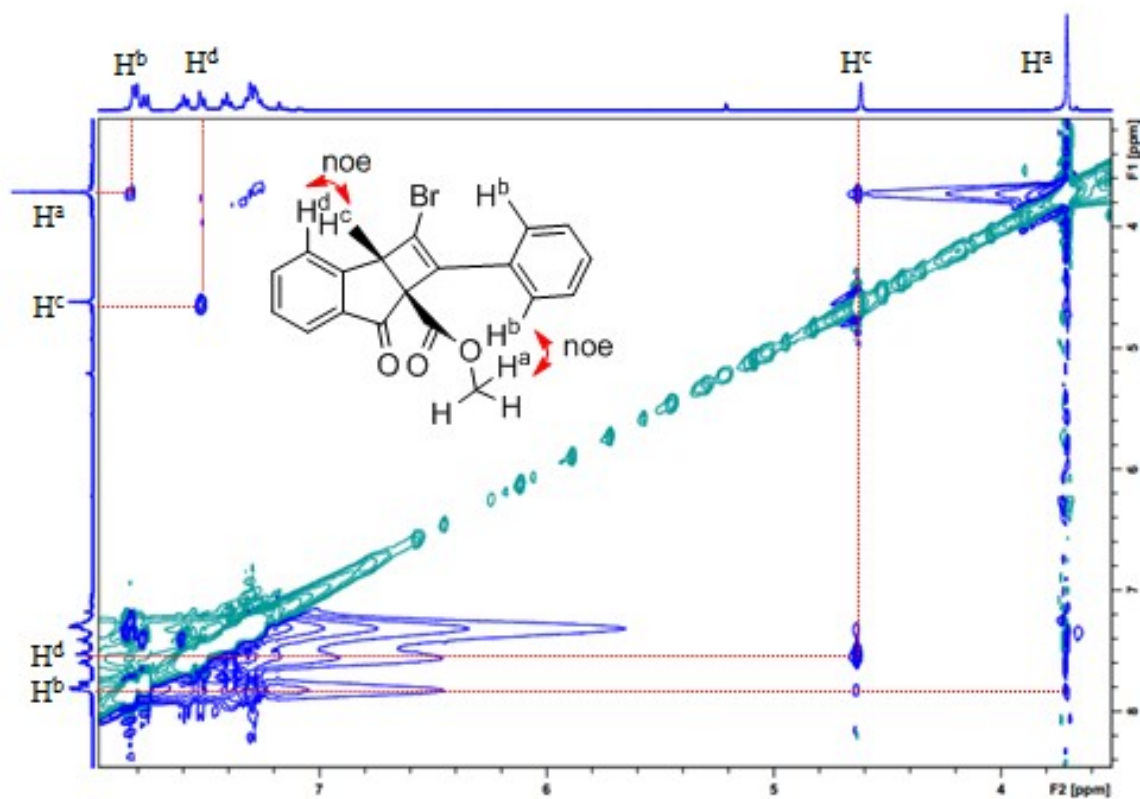


CCDC number	1031051
Identification code	exp_1136
Empirical formula	C ₂₅ H ₁₈ O ₃
Formula weight	366.39
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	1.54178 Å
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 21/c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.12900(10) Å alpha = 90 deg. b = 10.01500(10) Å beta = 94.2110(10) deg. c = 16.4841(2) Å gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1832.31(3) Å ³
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.328 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.692 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	768
Crystal size	0.2 x 0.1 x 0.2 mm
Theta range for data collection	3.98 to 73.61 deg.
Limiting indices	-13 ≤ h ≤ 13, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -20 ≤ l ≤ 20
Reflections collected / unique	20325 / 3686 [R(int) = 0.0269]
Completeness to theta = 73.61	99.40%
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3686 / 0 / 254
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.06
Final R indices [I > 2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0366, wR2 = 0.0960
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0400, wR2 = 0.0995
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.246 and -0.221 e. Å ⁻³

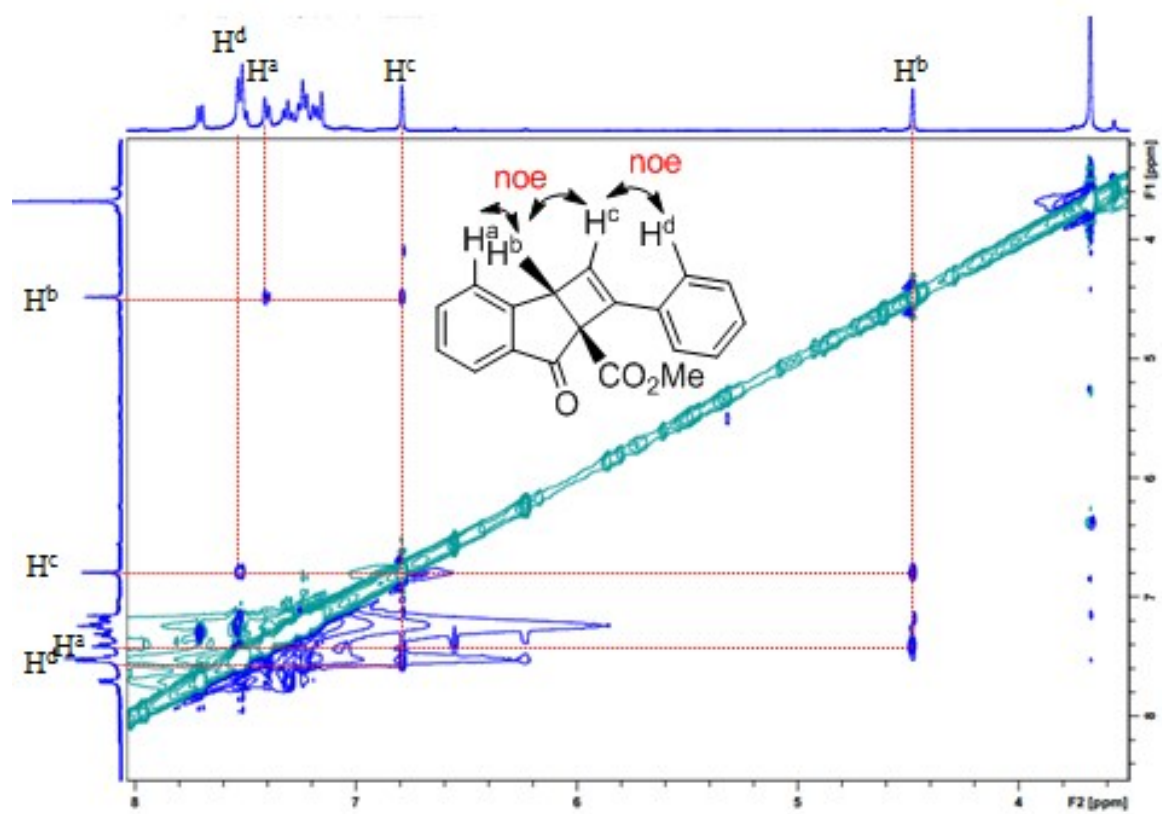
NOE spectrum of 6h



NOE spectrum of 6j

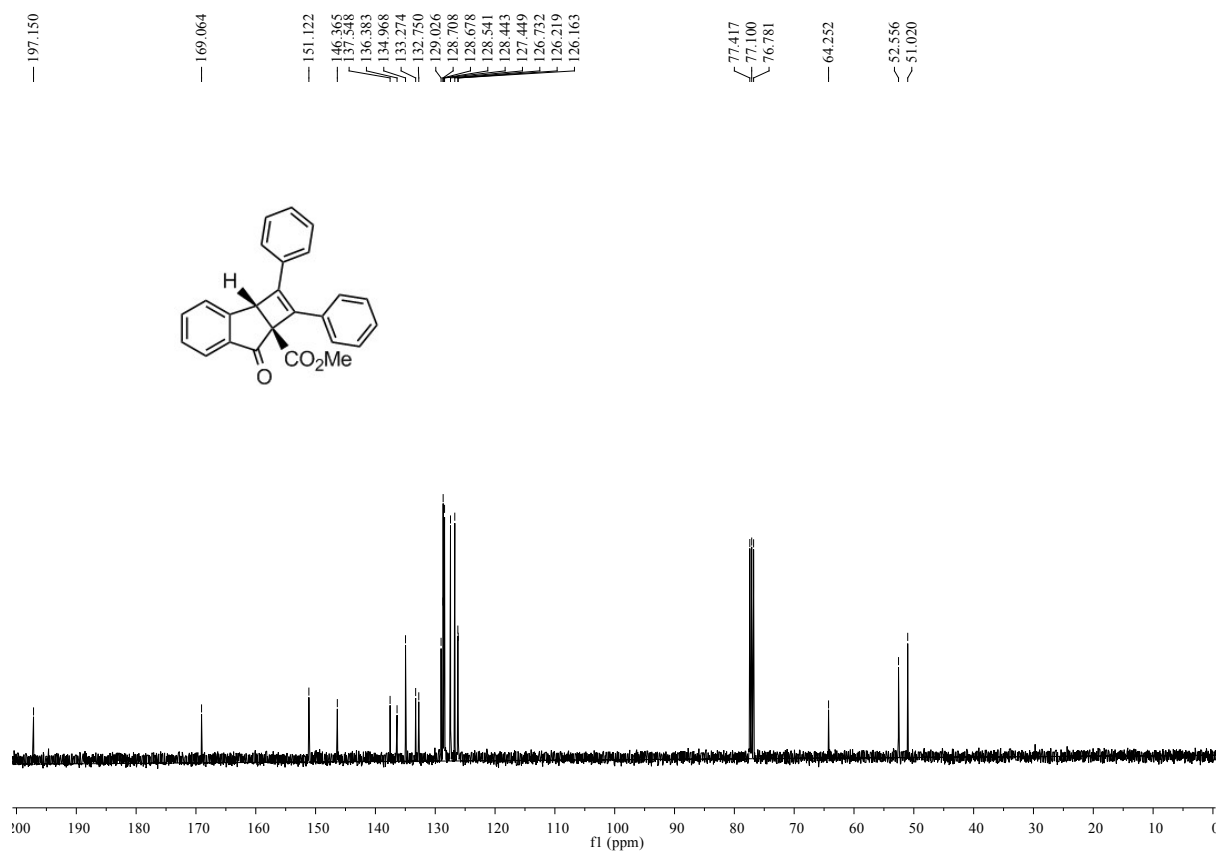
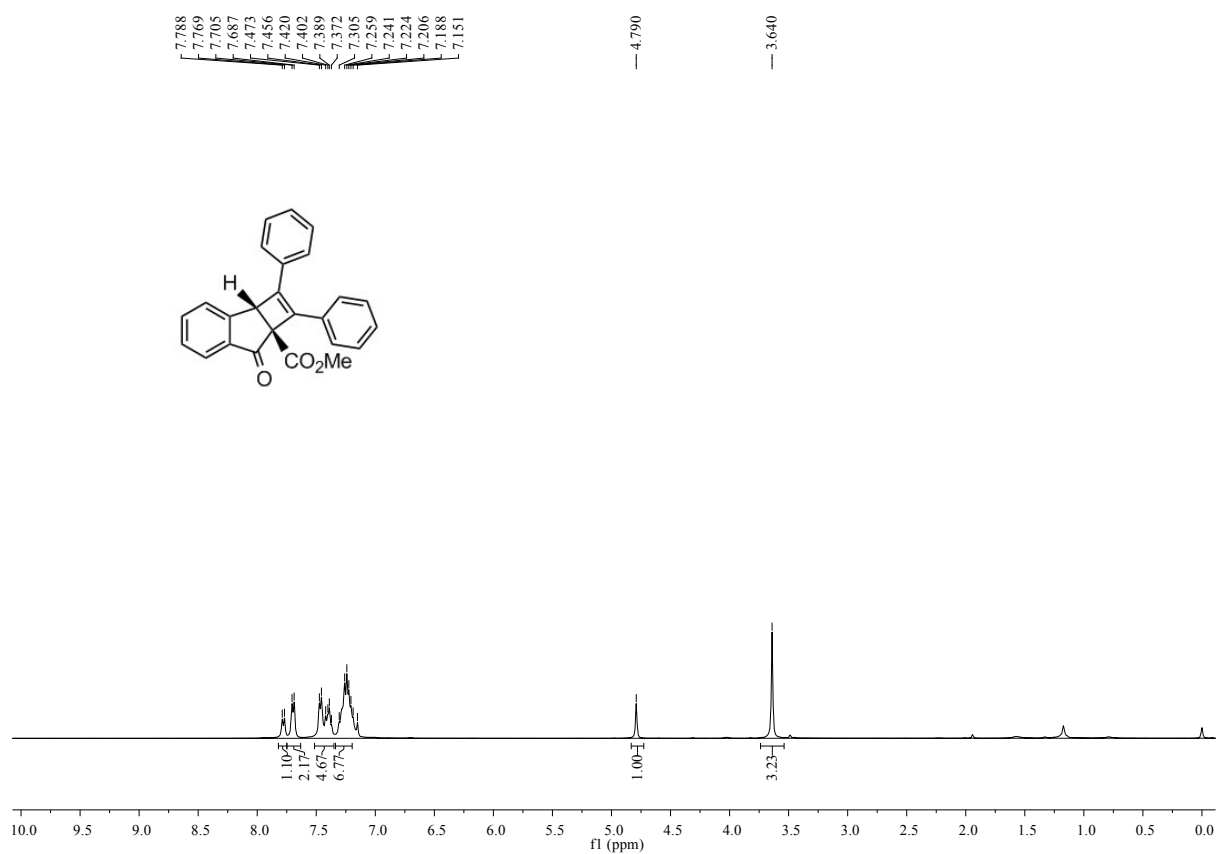


NOE spectrum of 6m

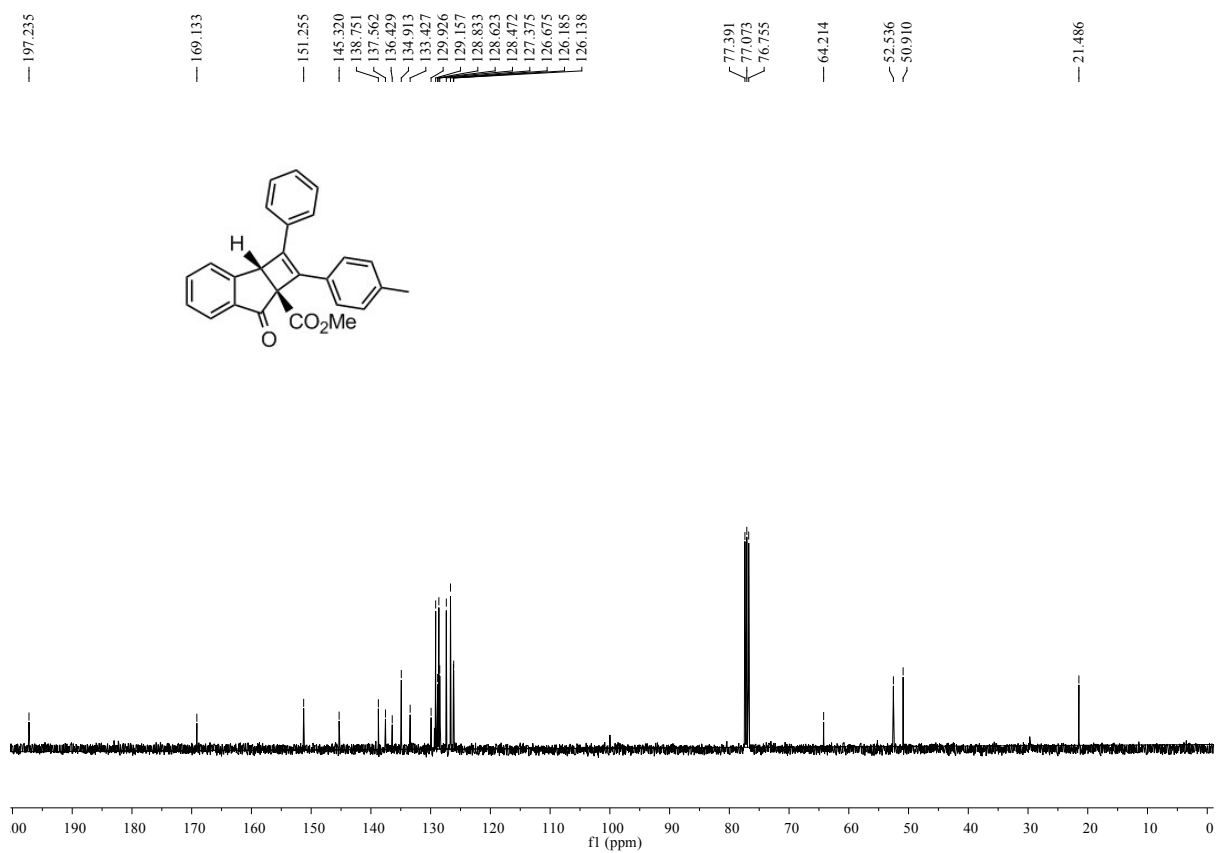
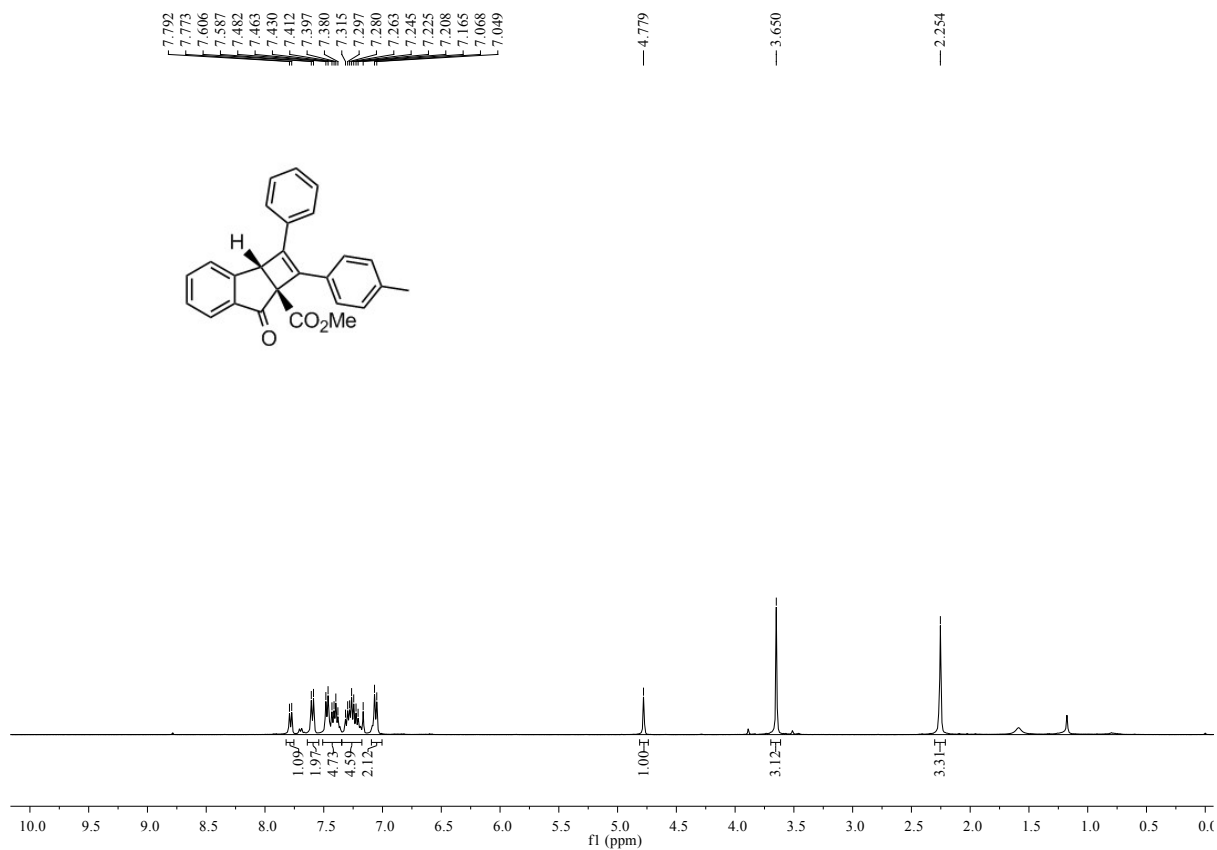


NMR spectrum

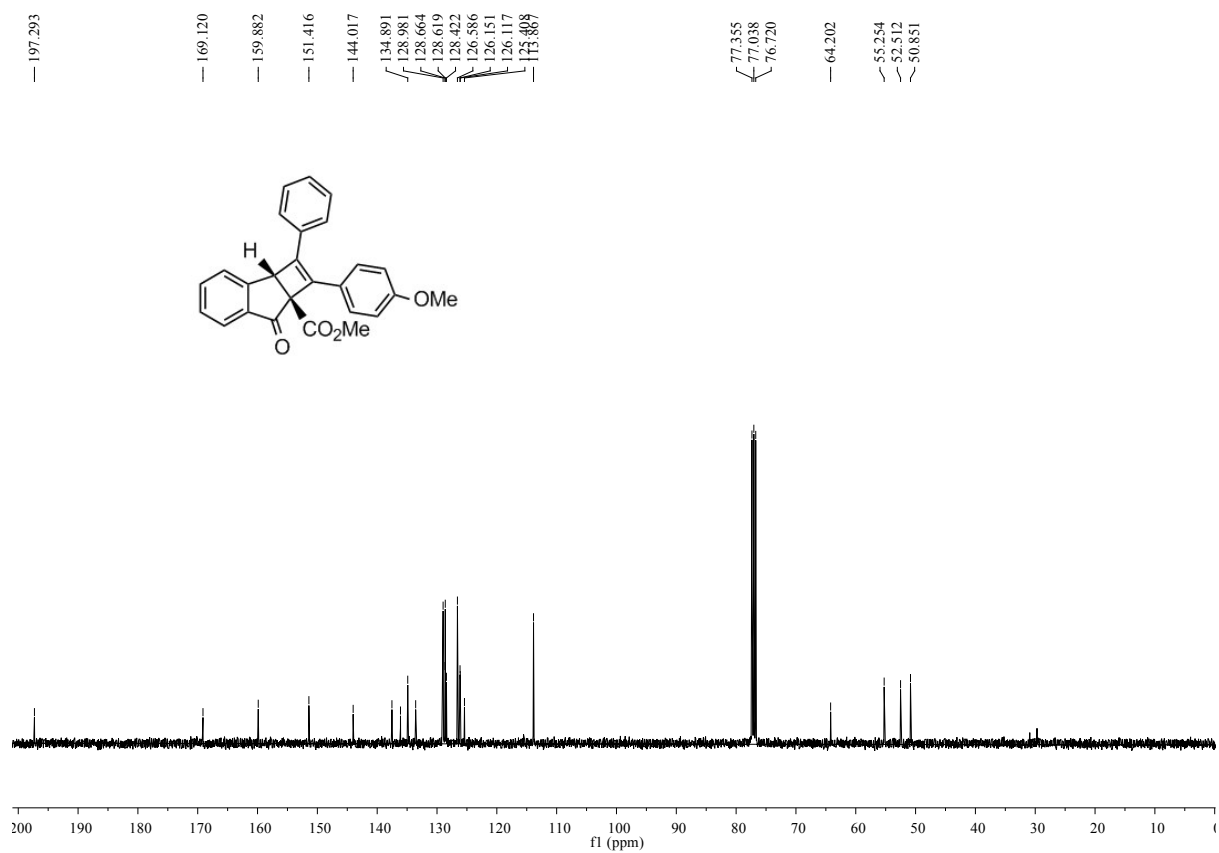
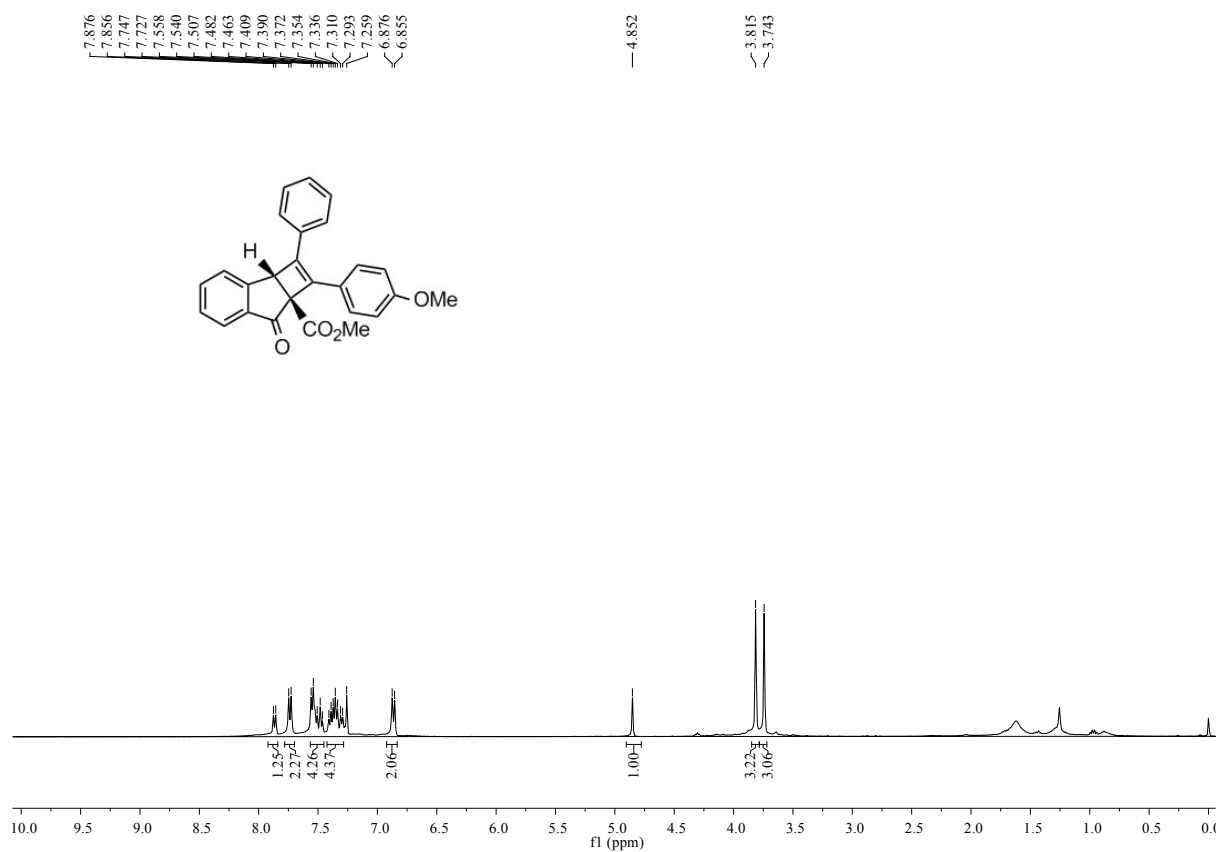
6a



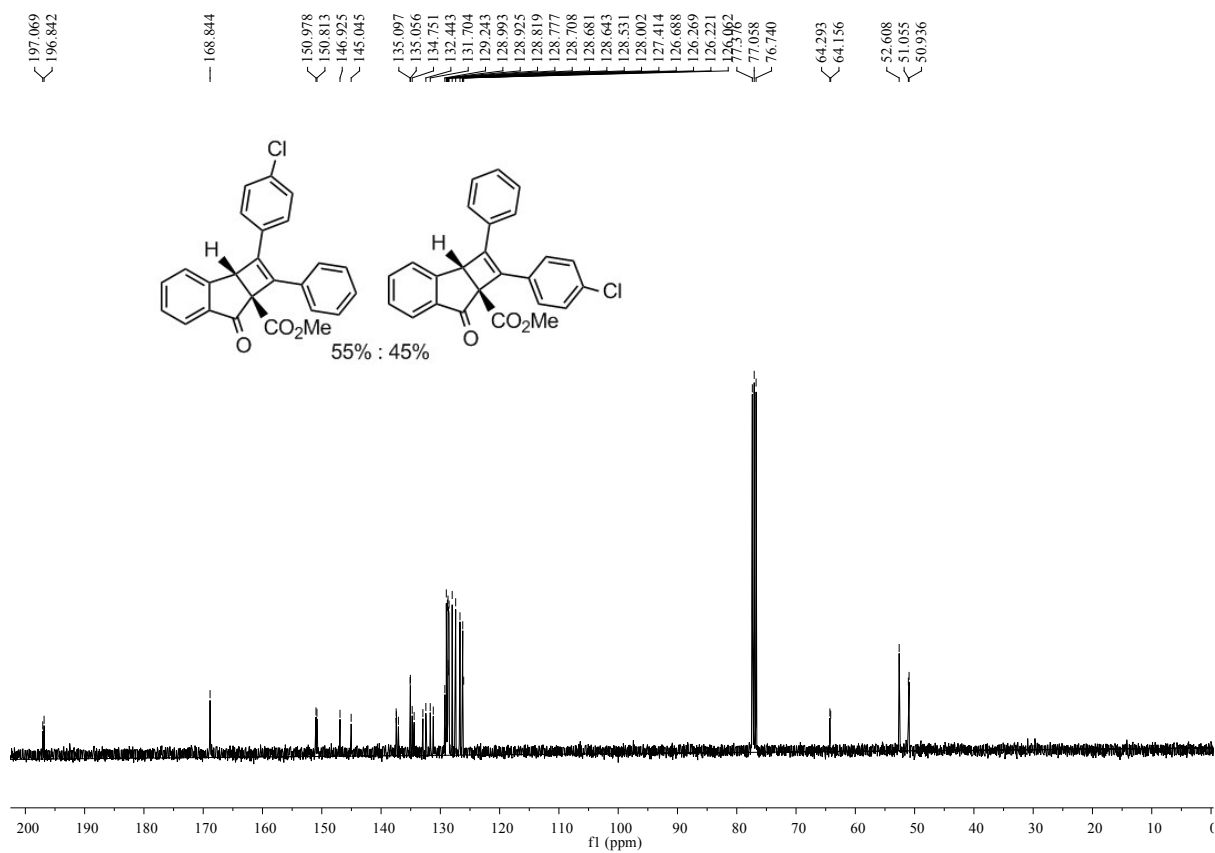
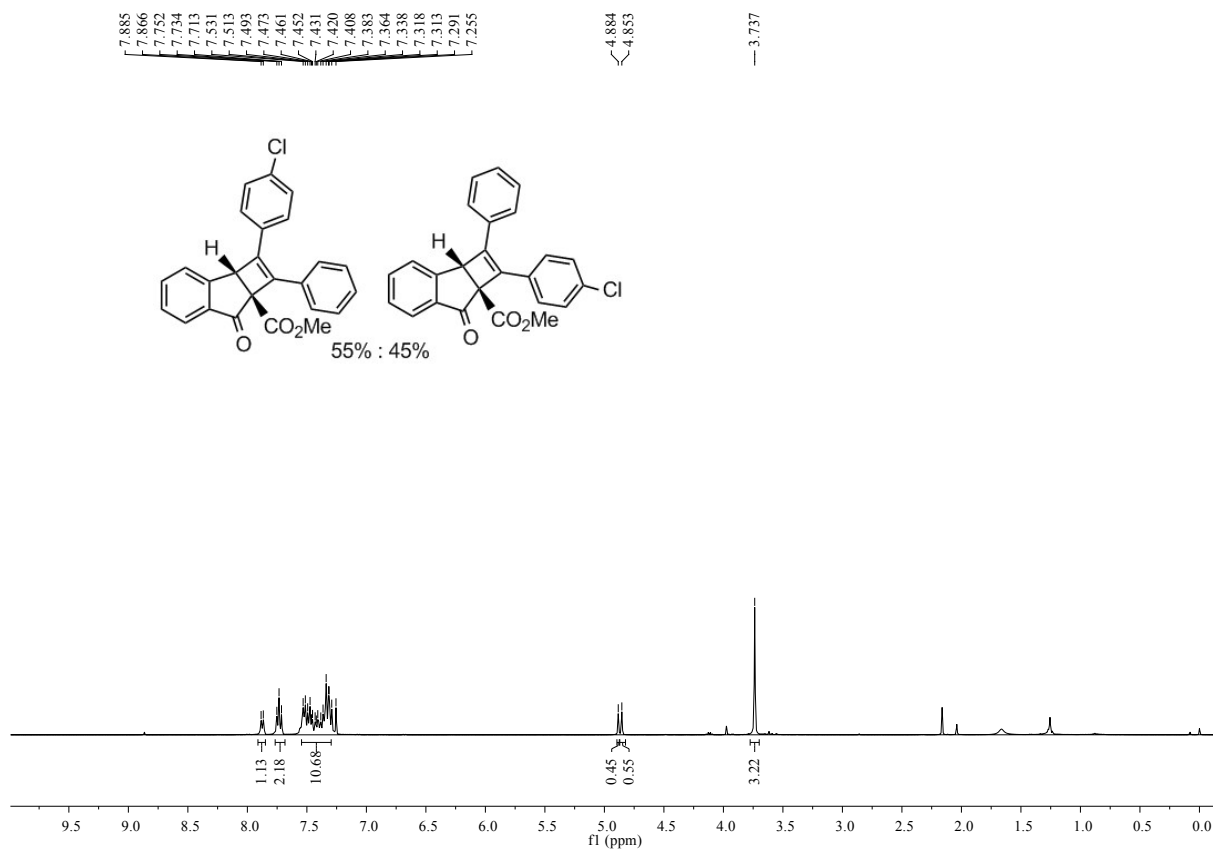
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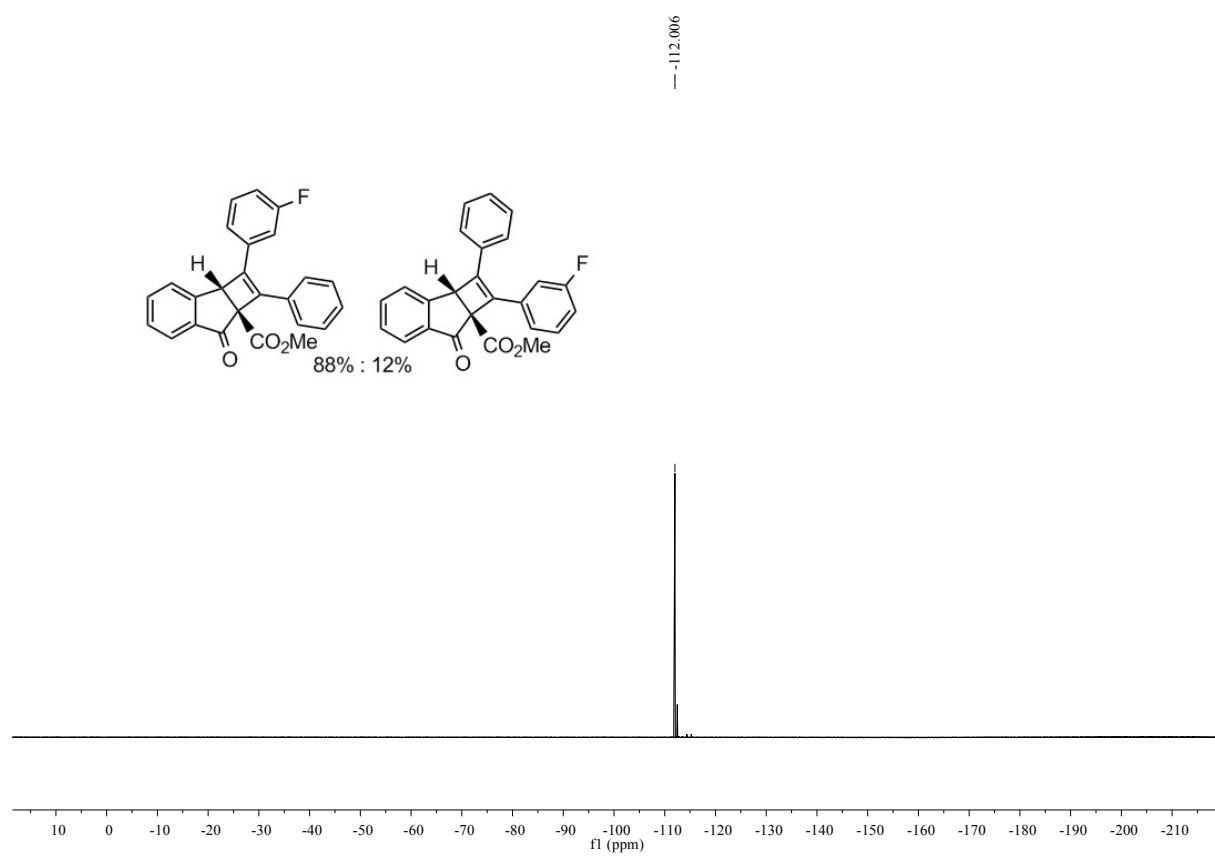
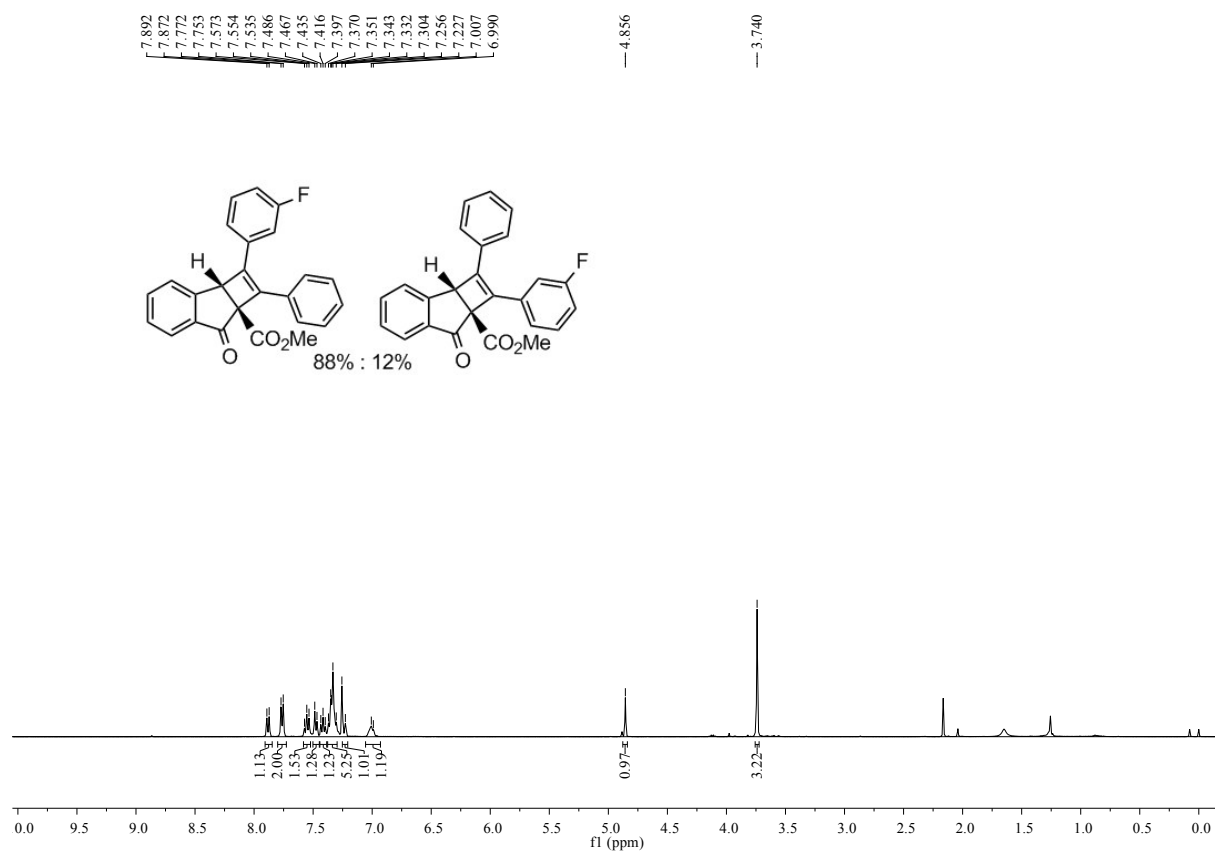
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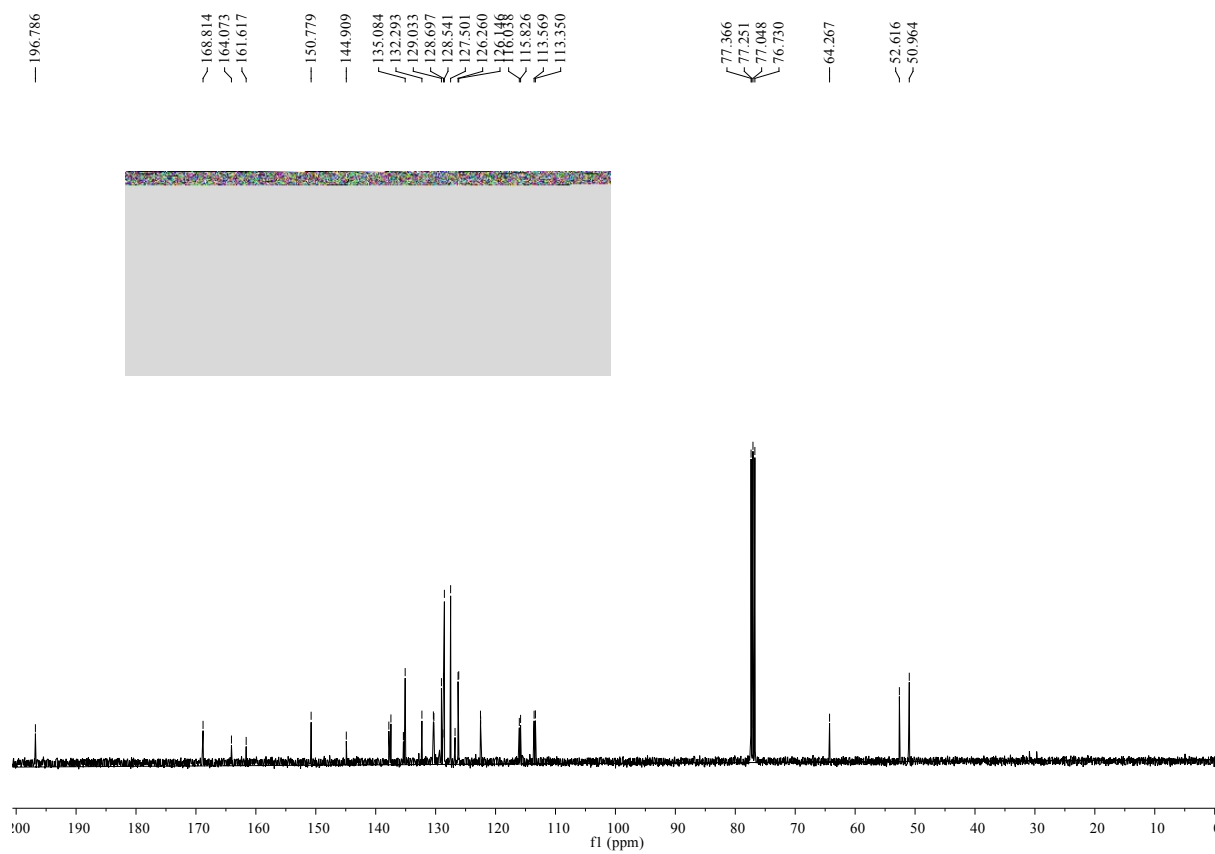
6d/6d'



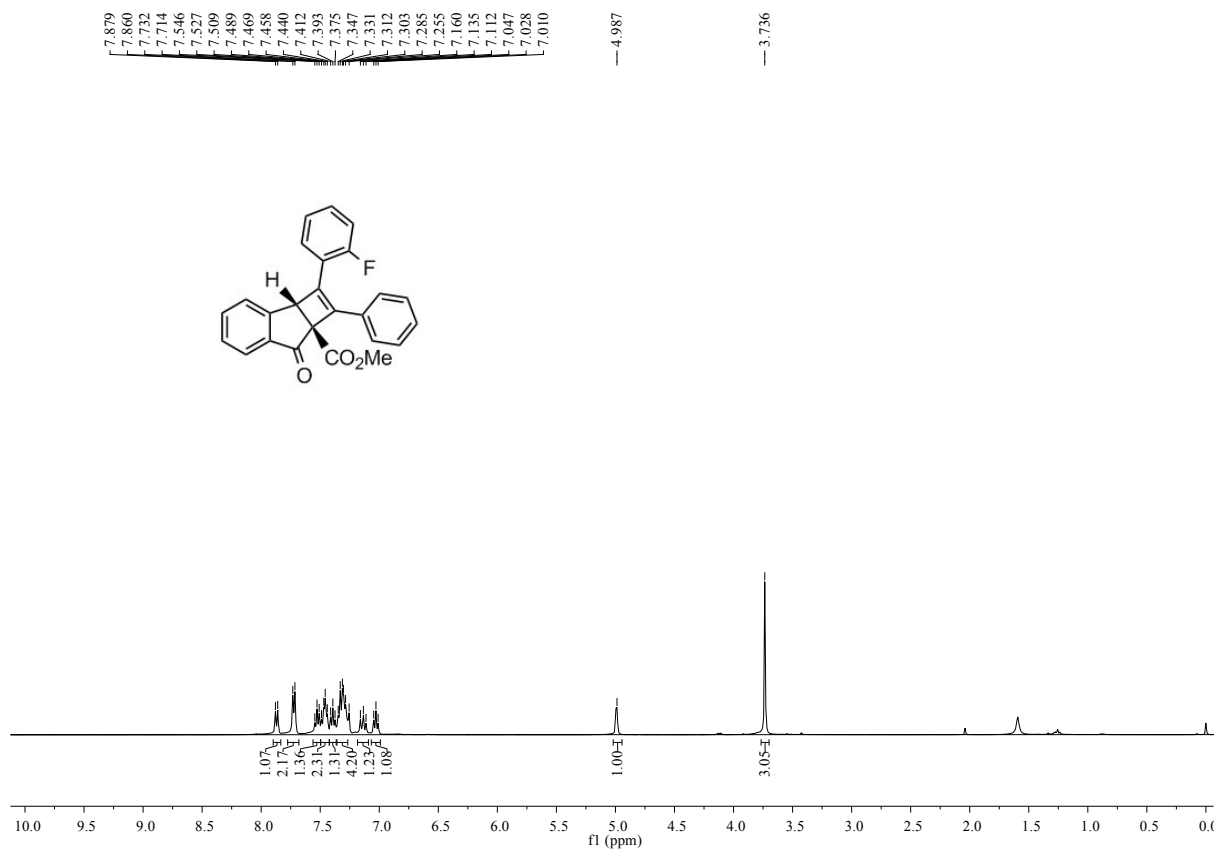
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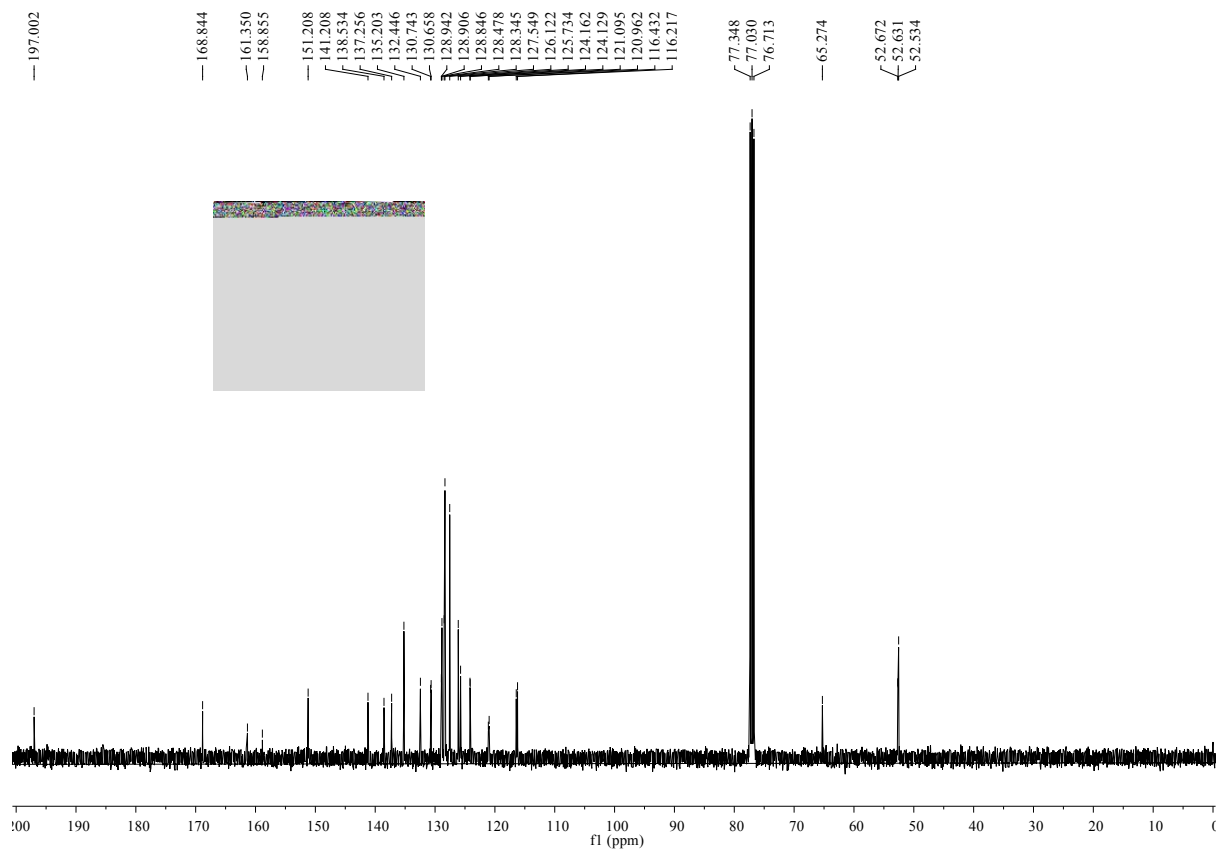
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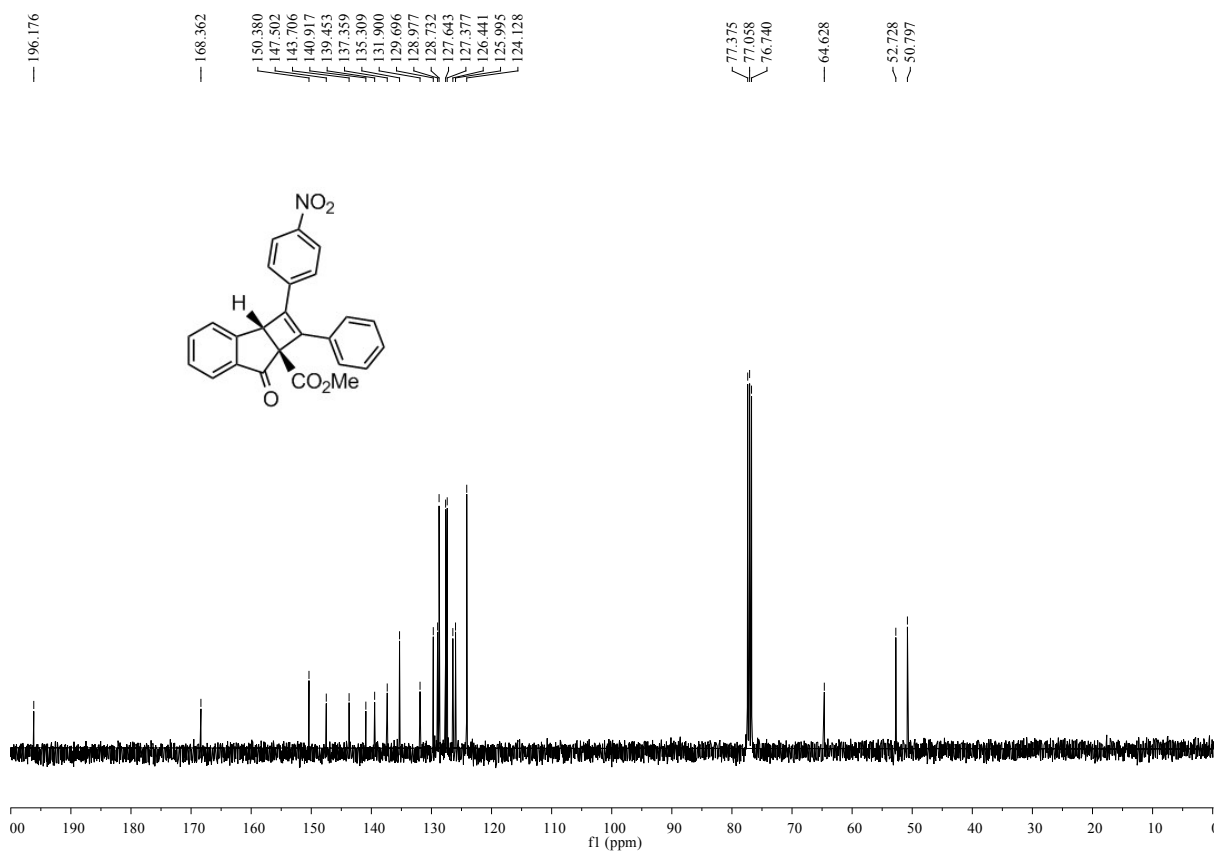
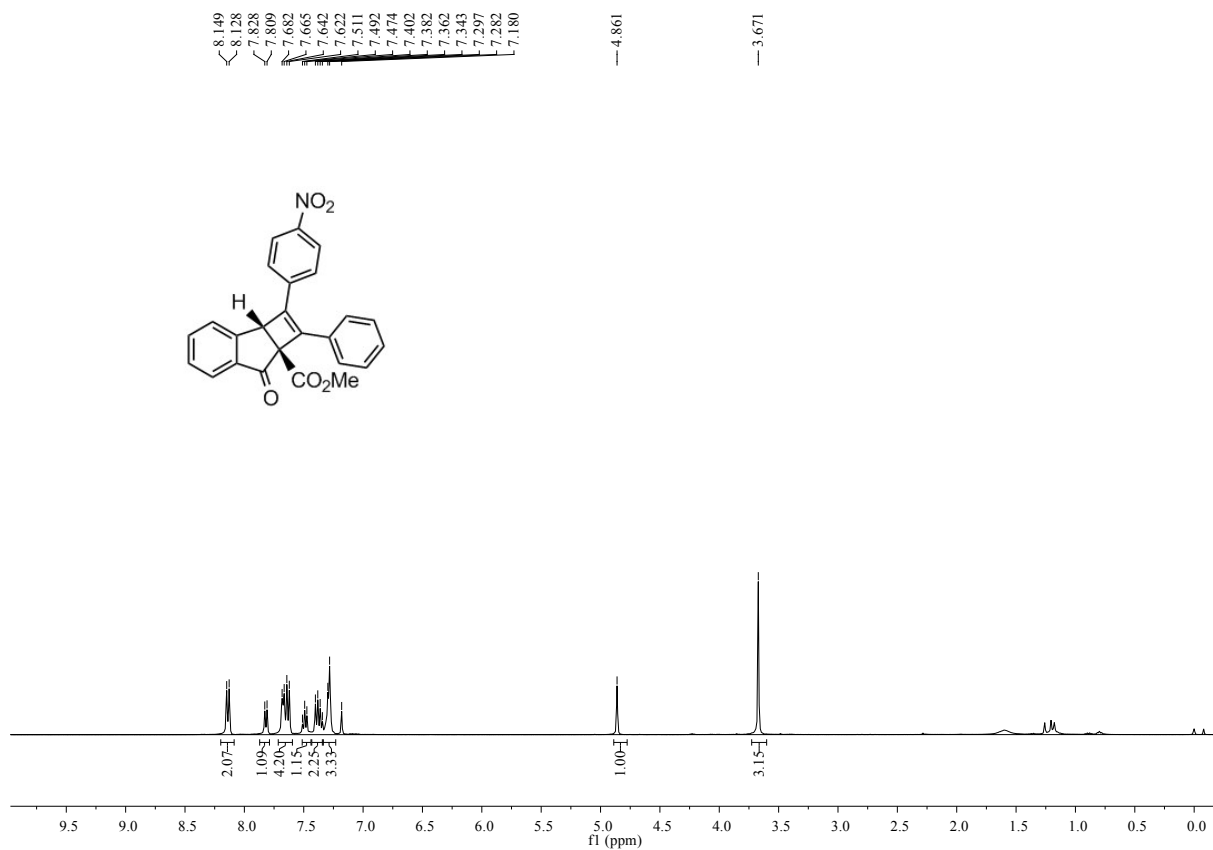
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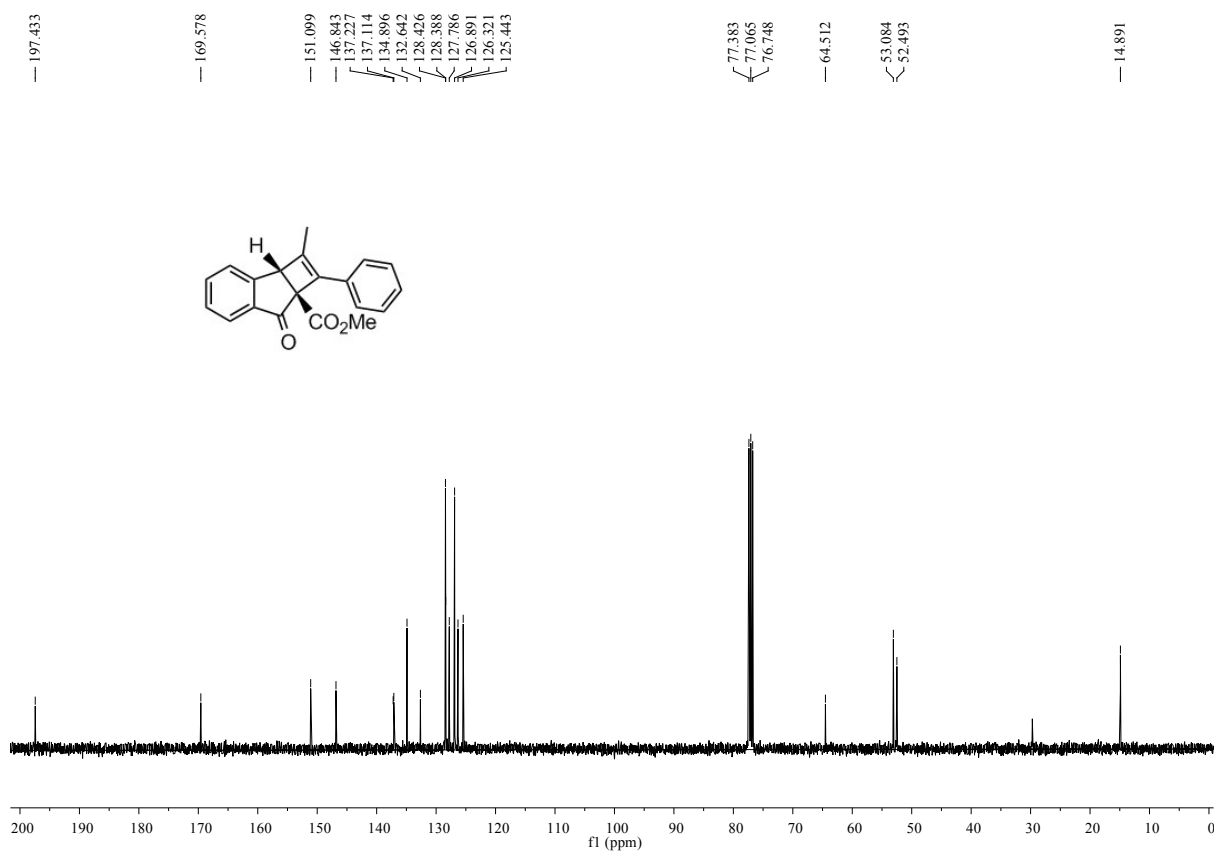
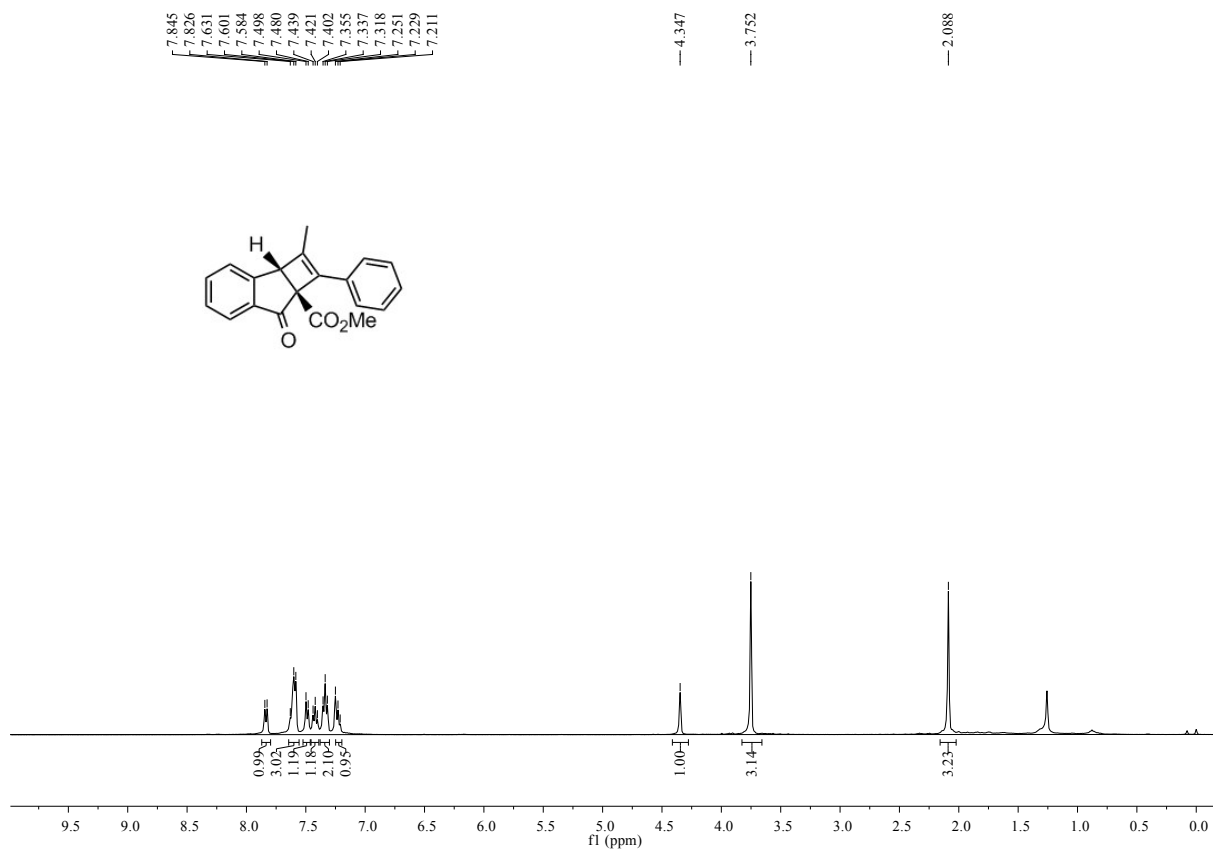
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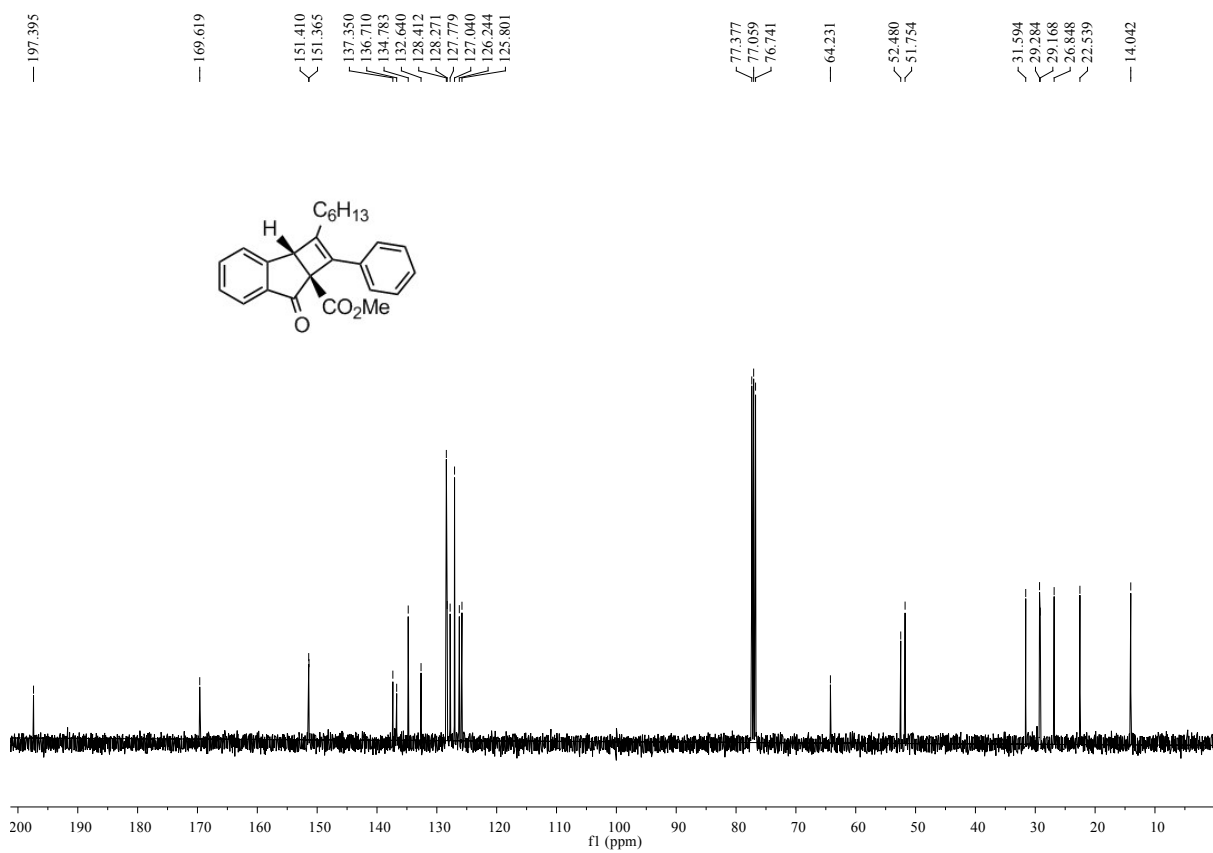
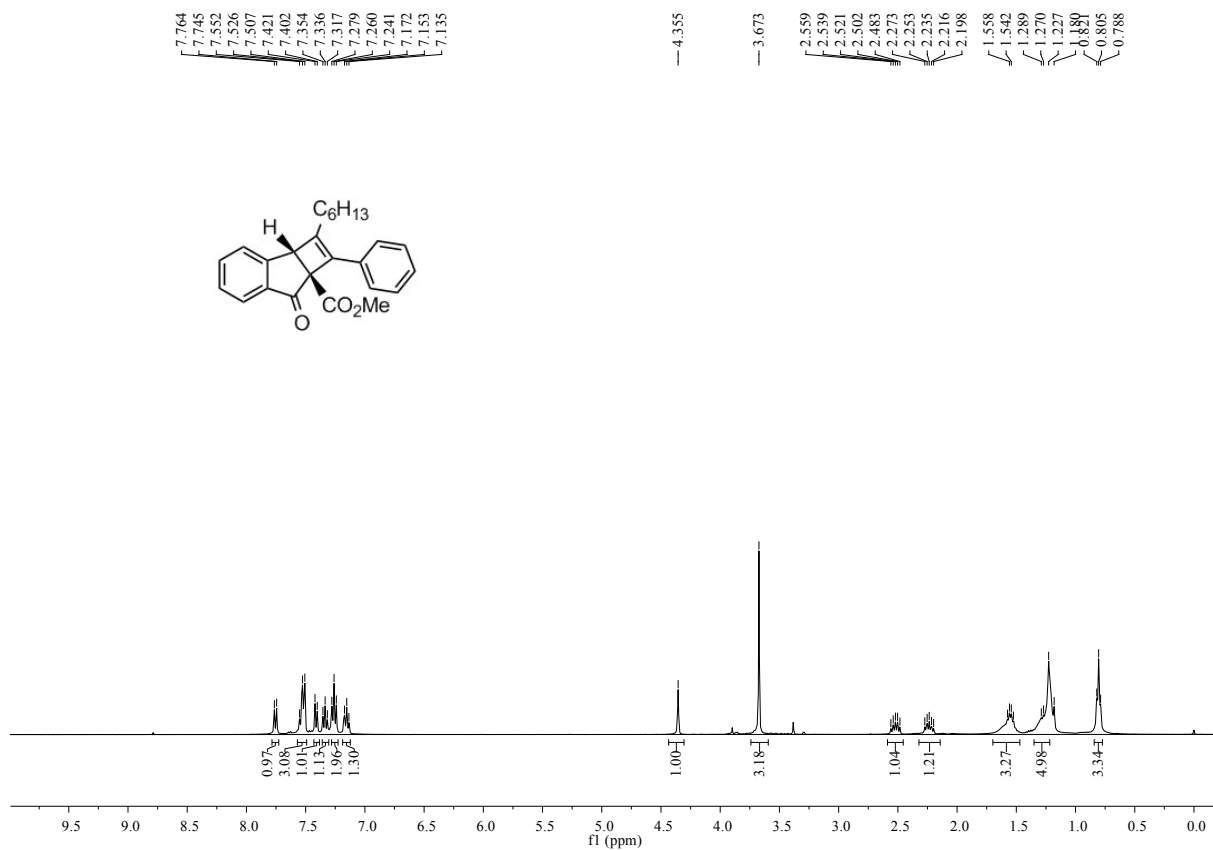
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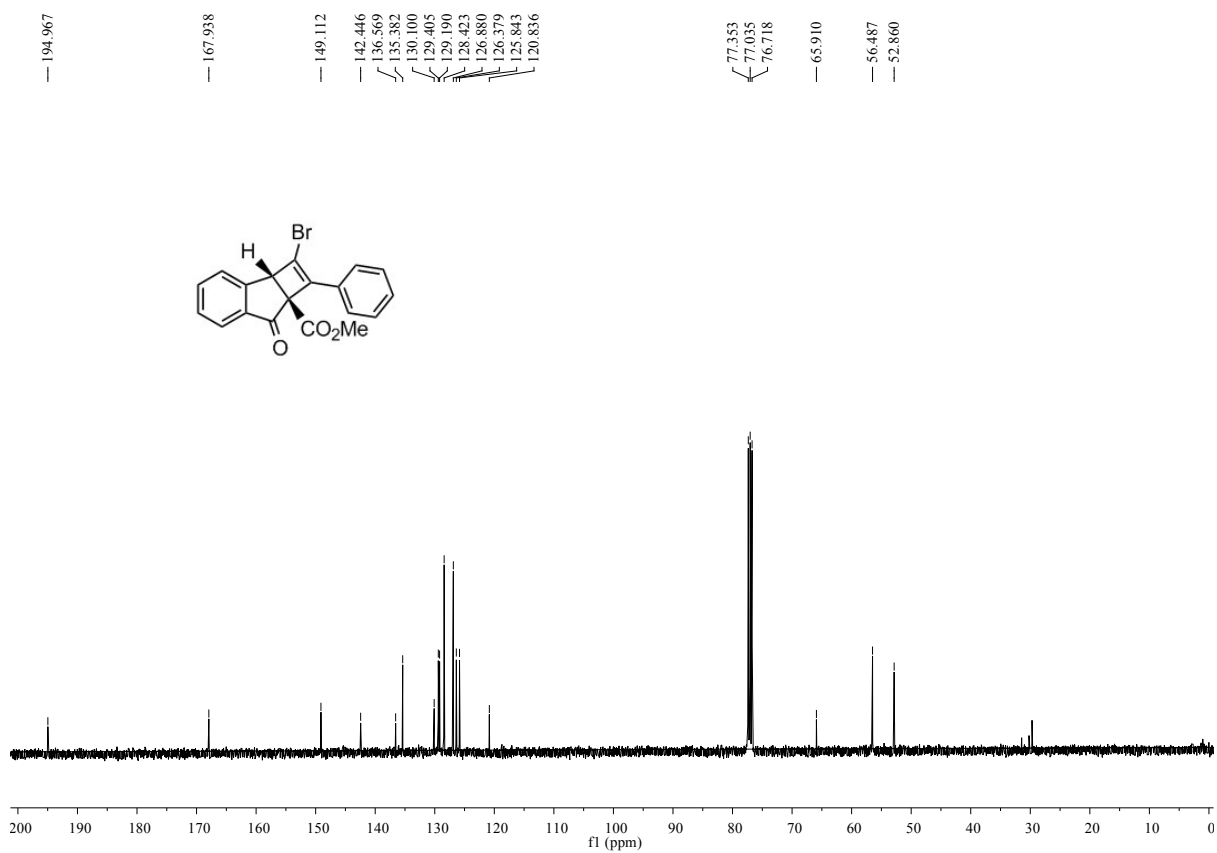
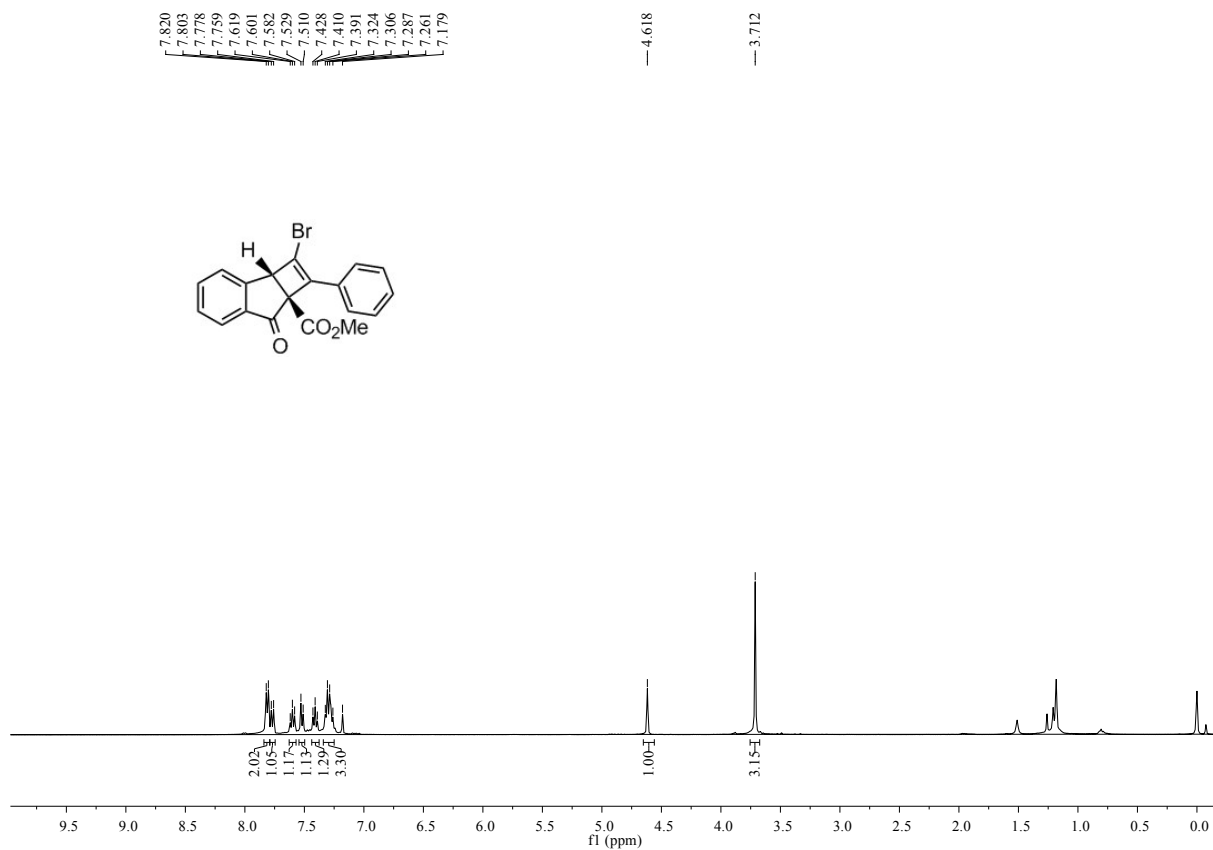
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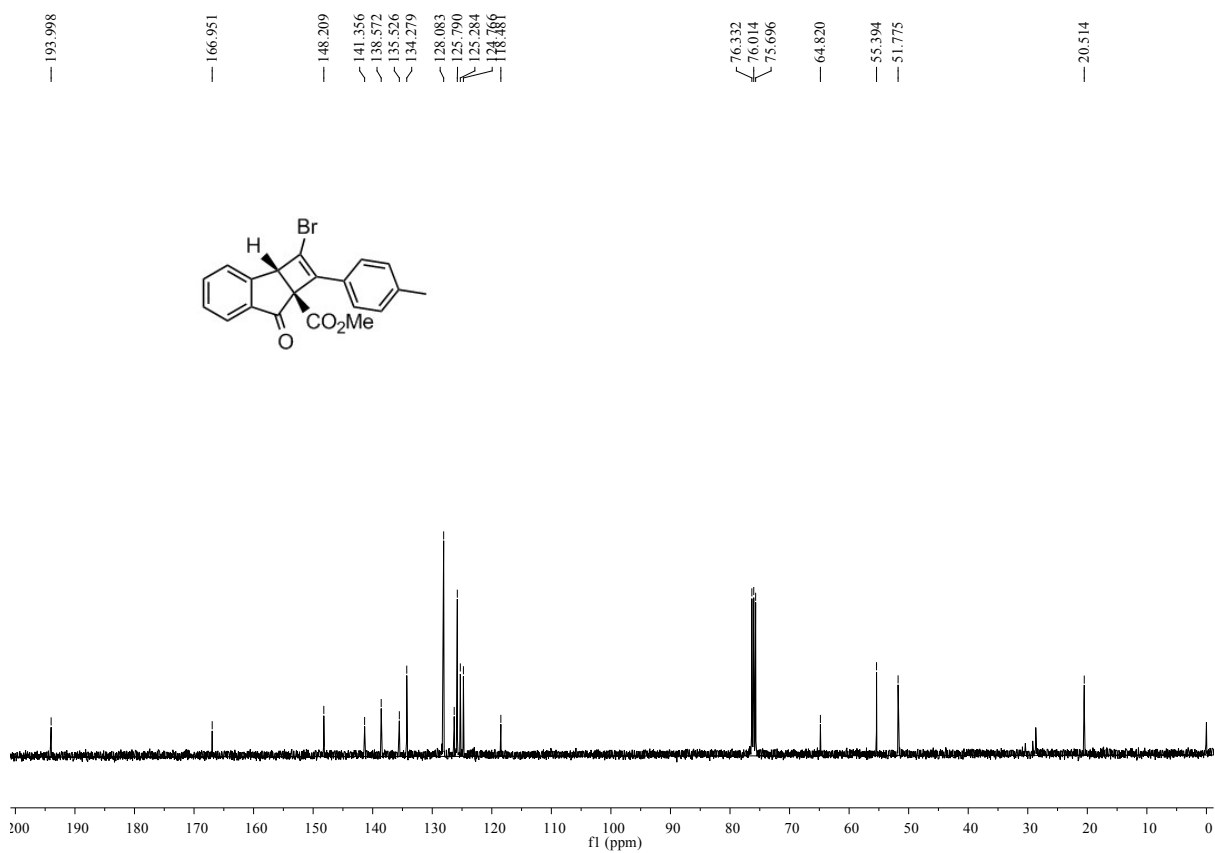
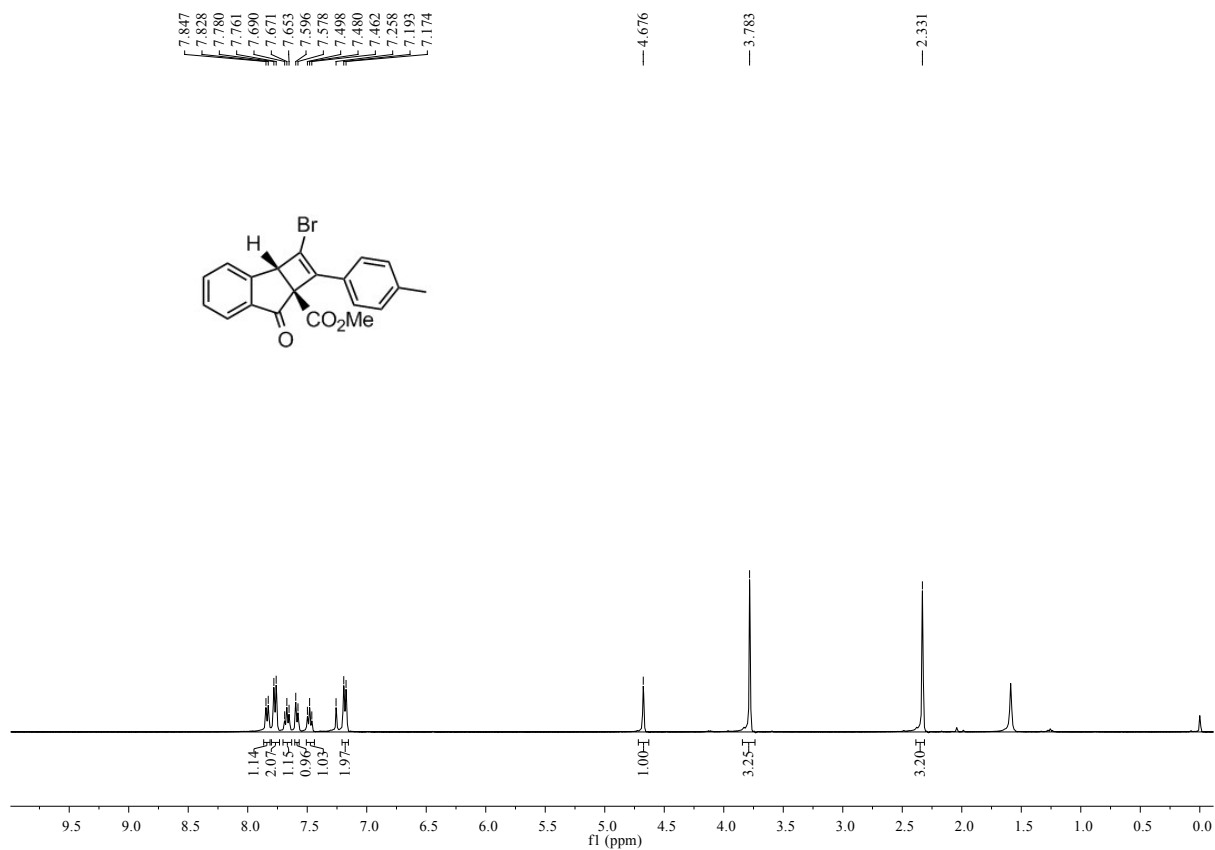
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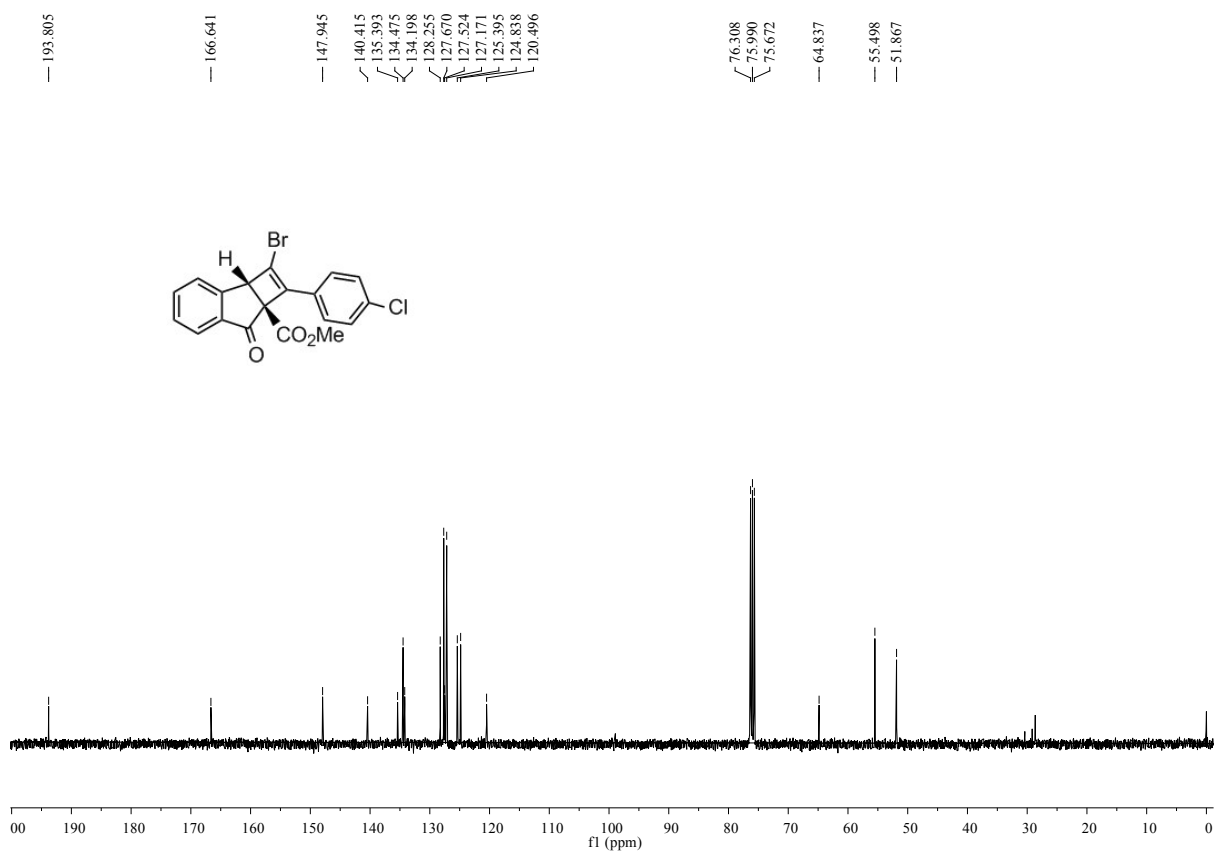
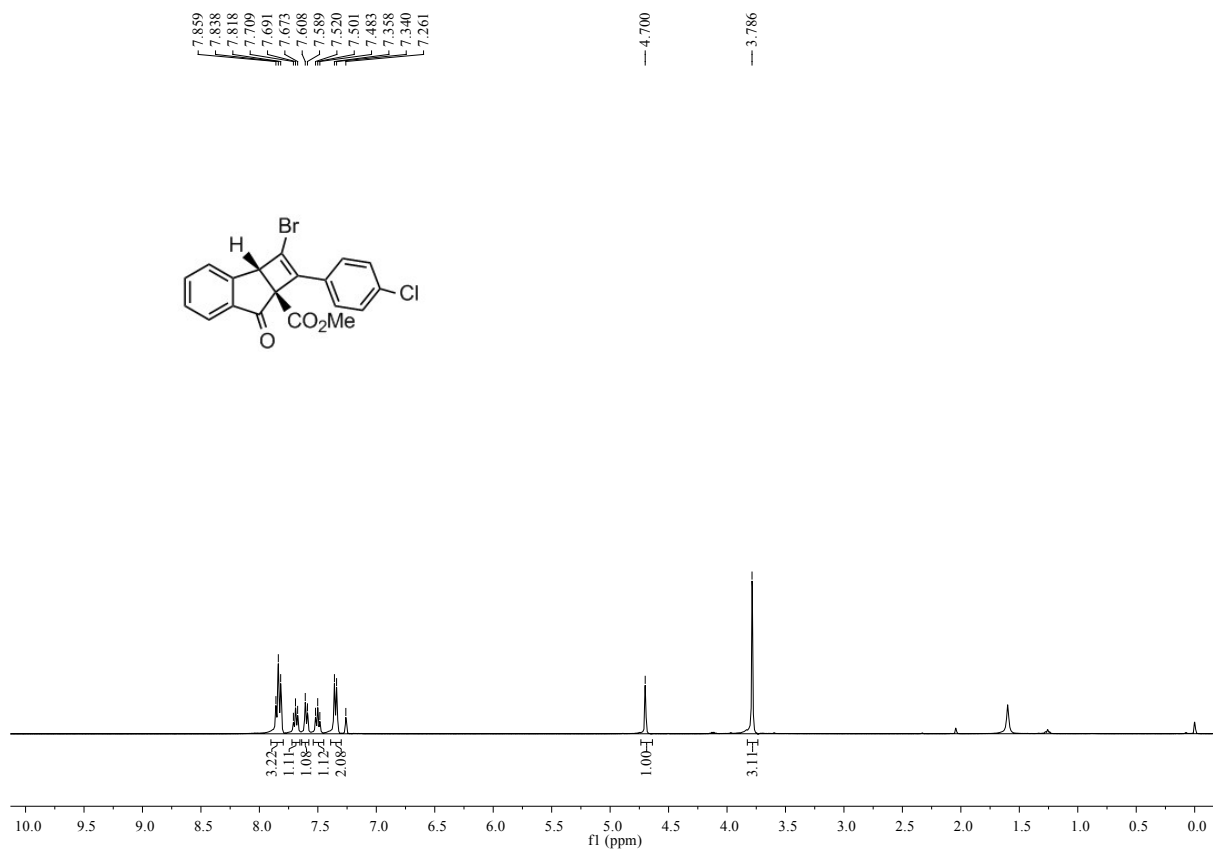


6j

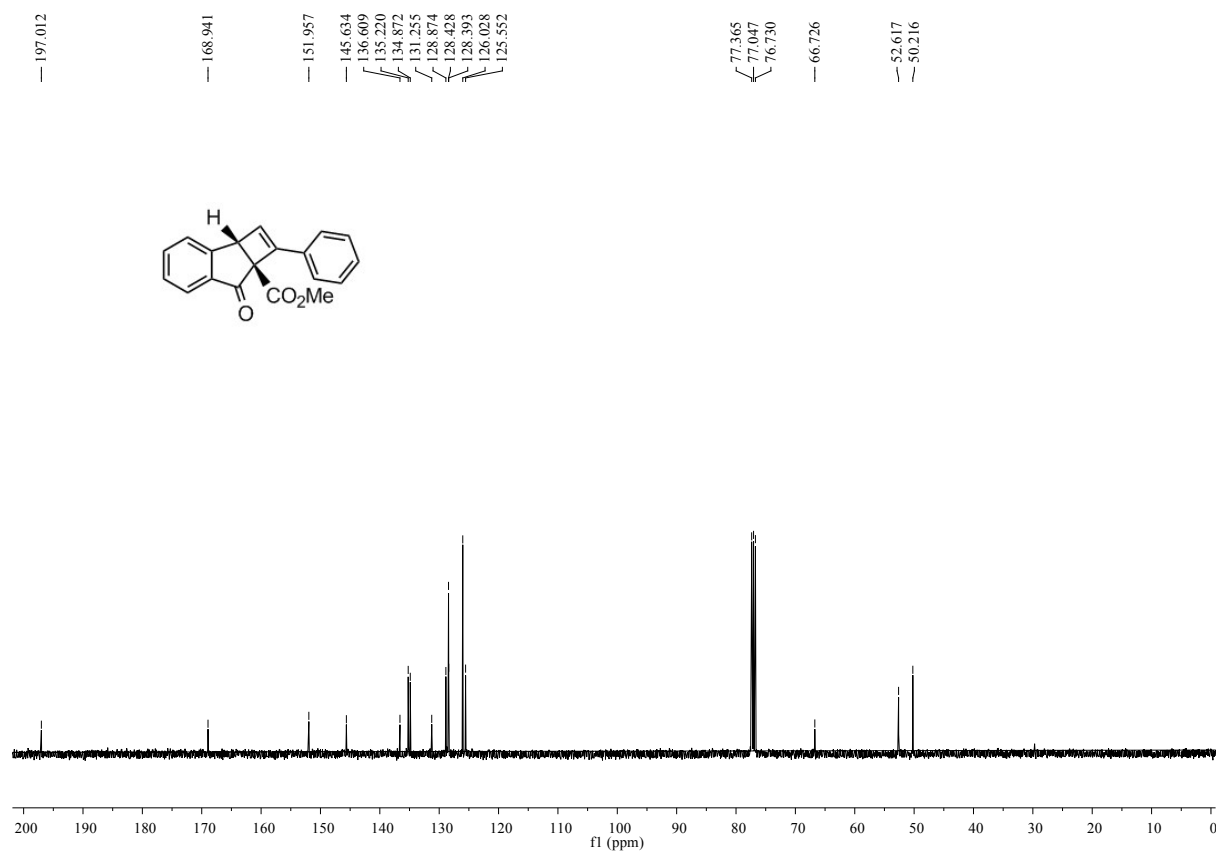
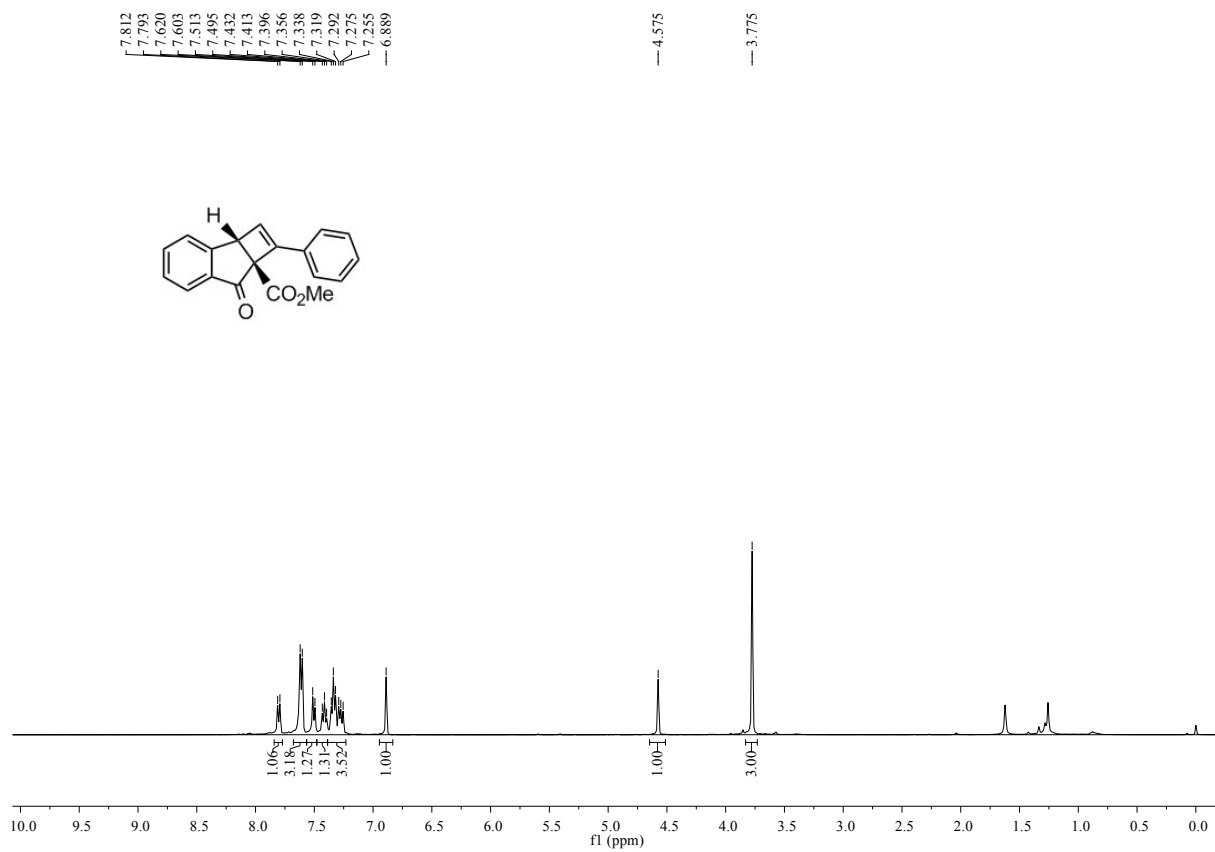


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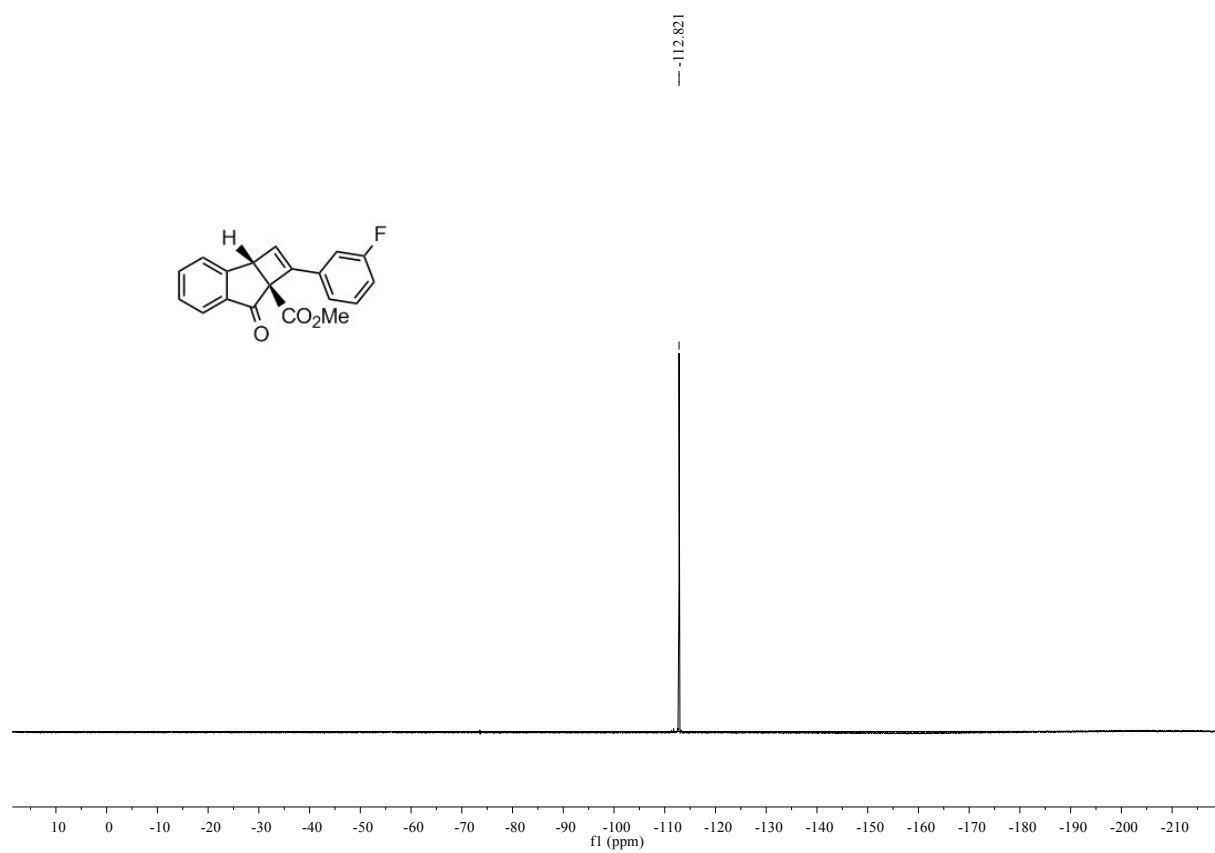
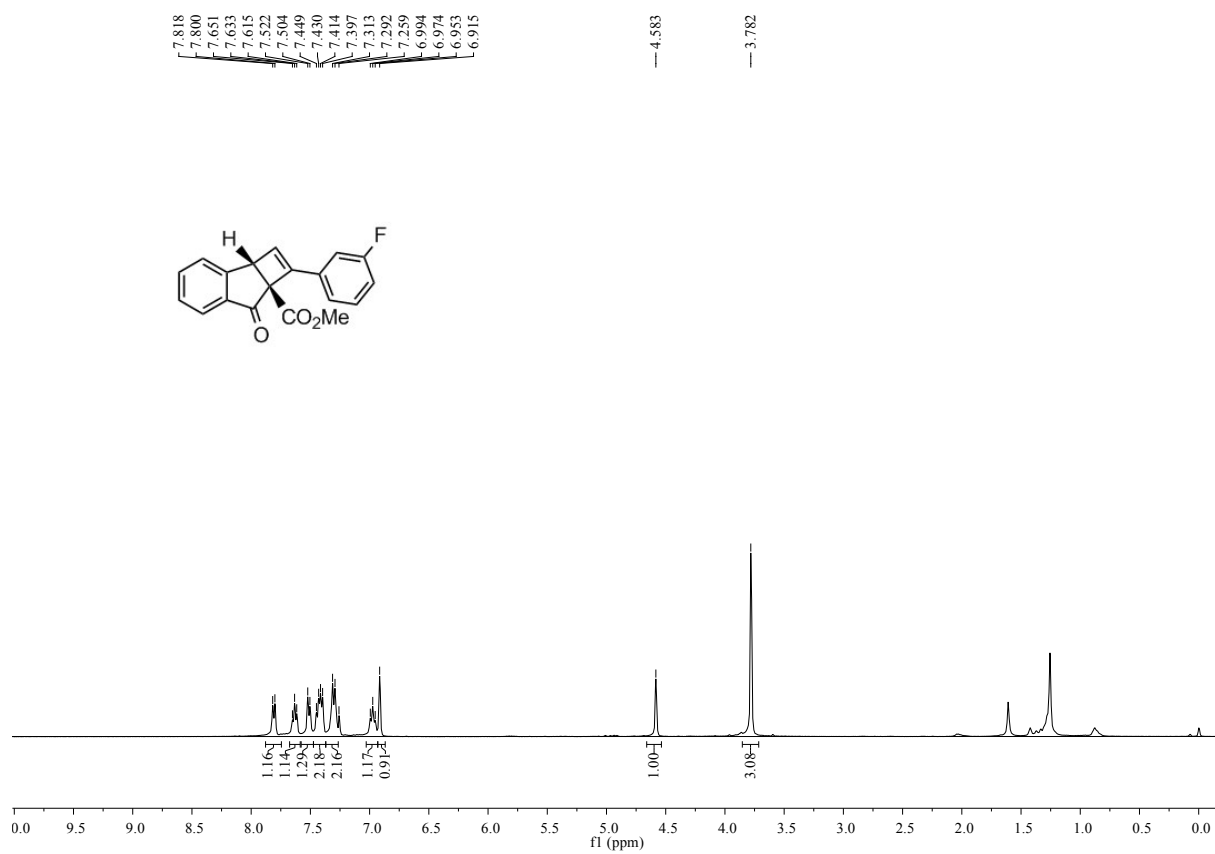




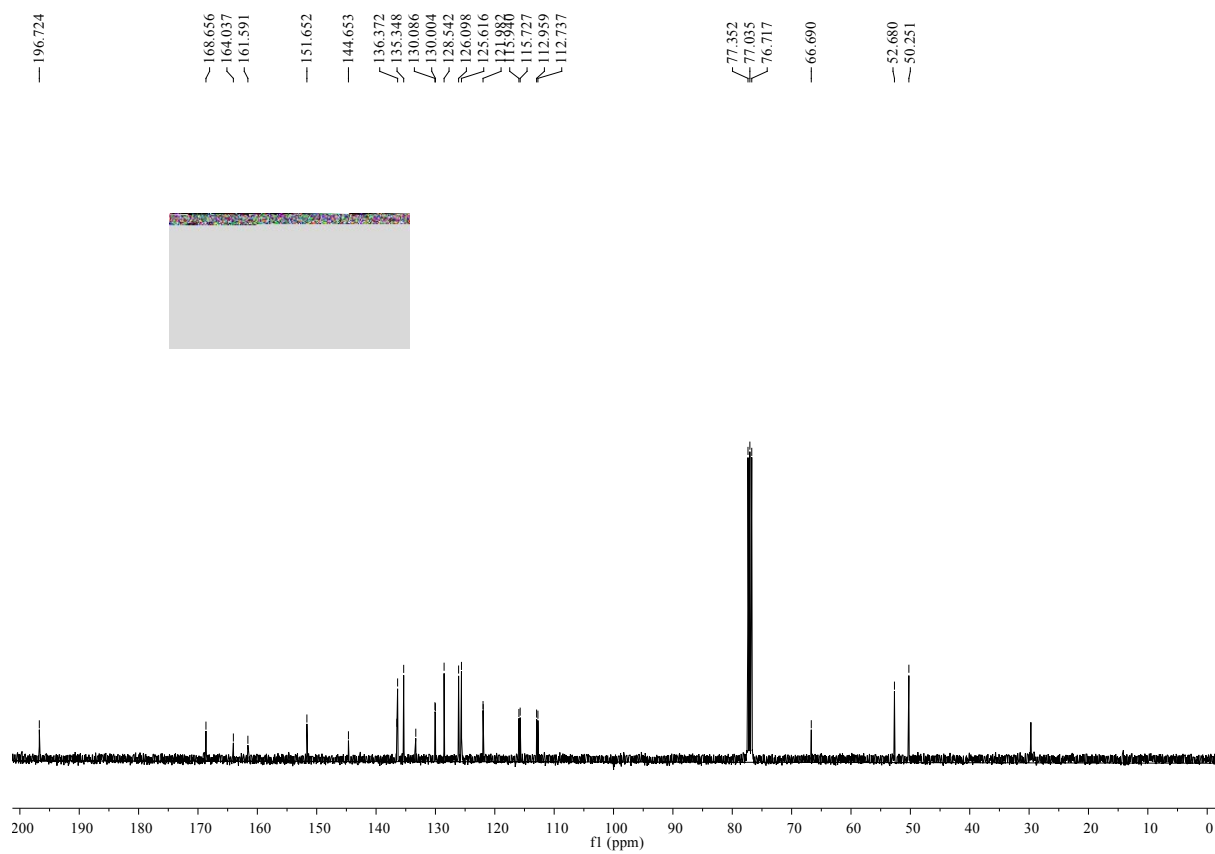
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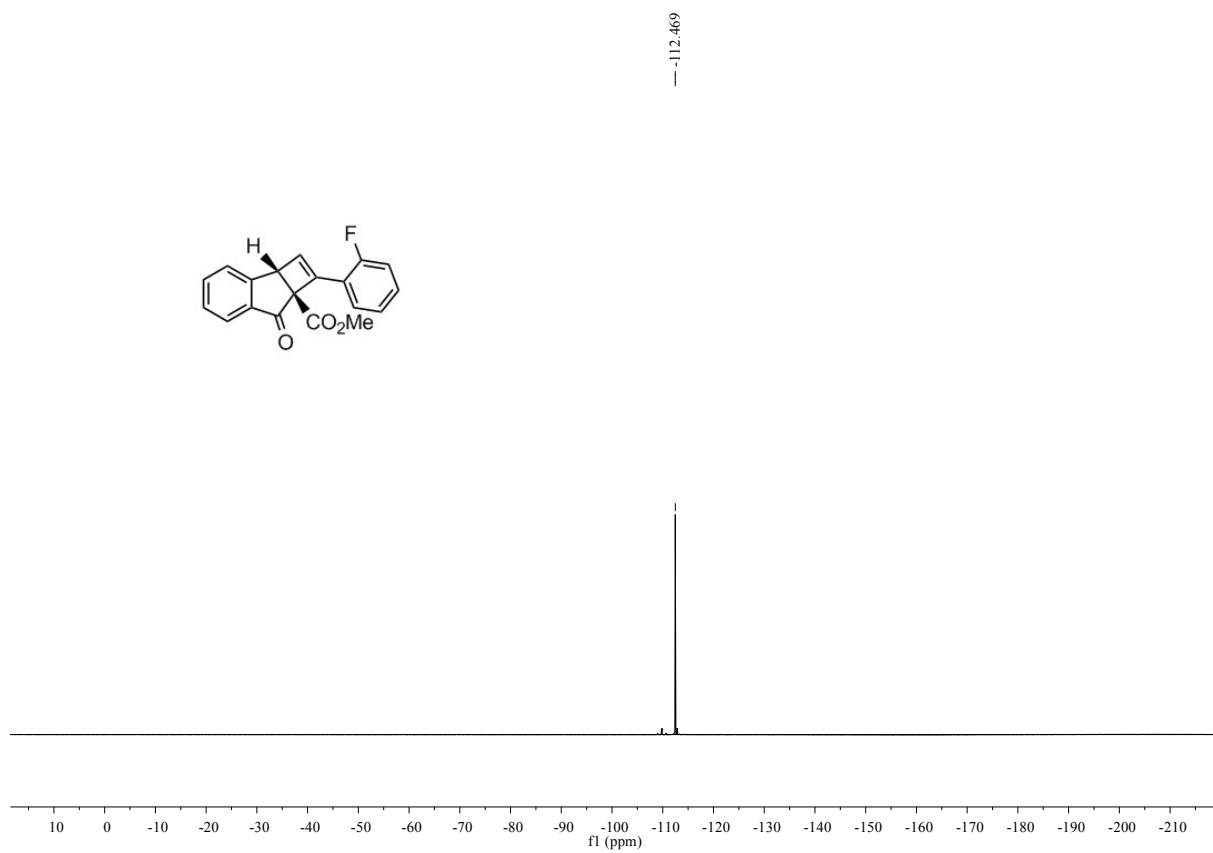
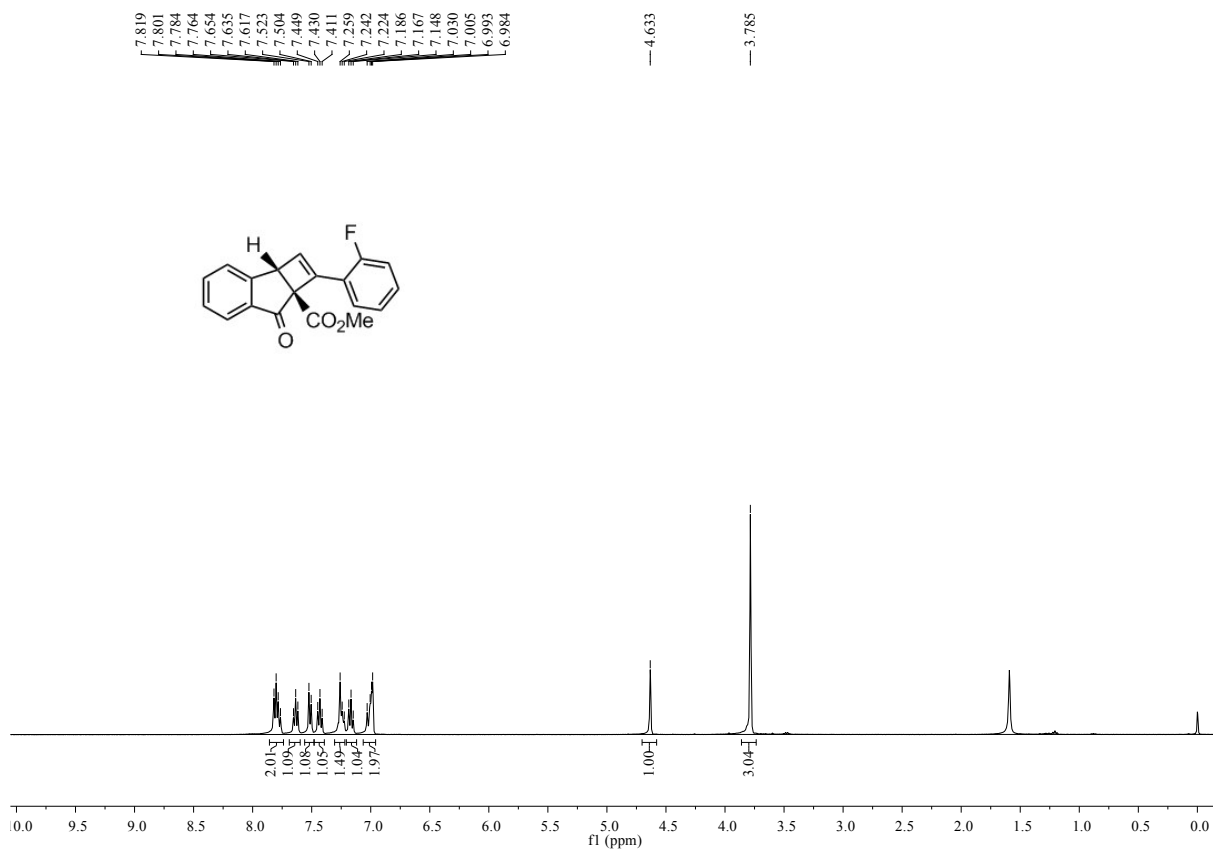


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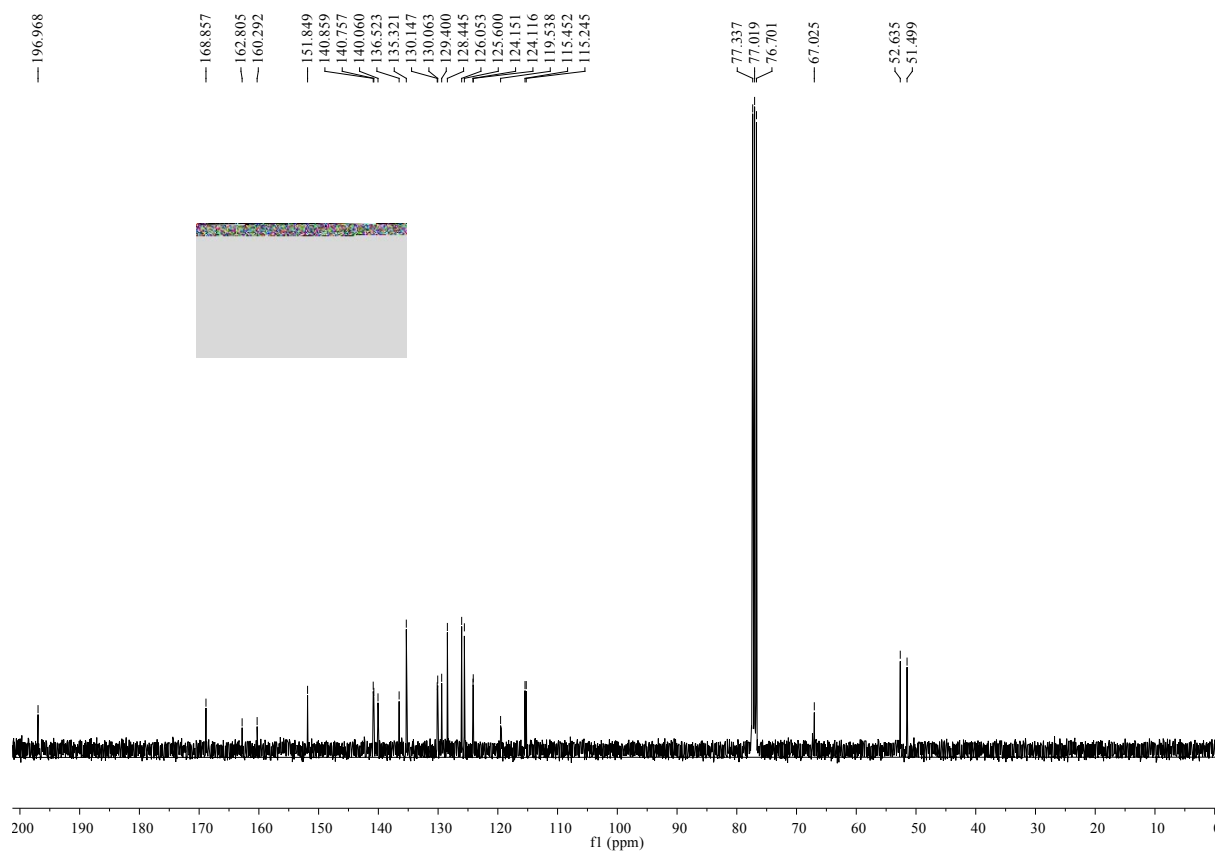


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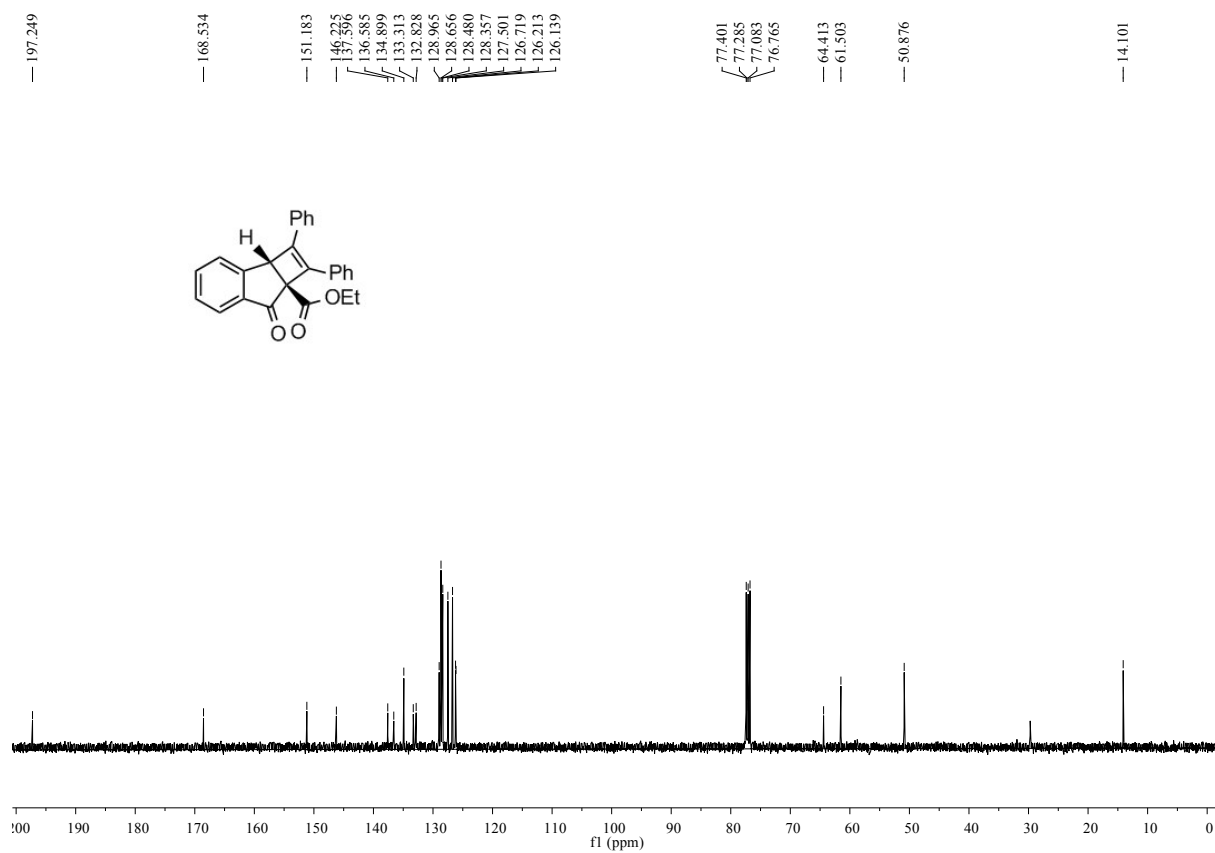
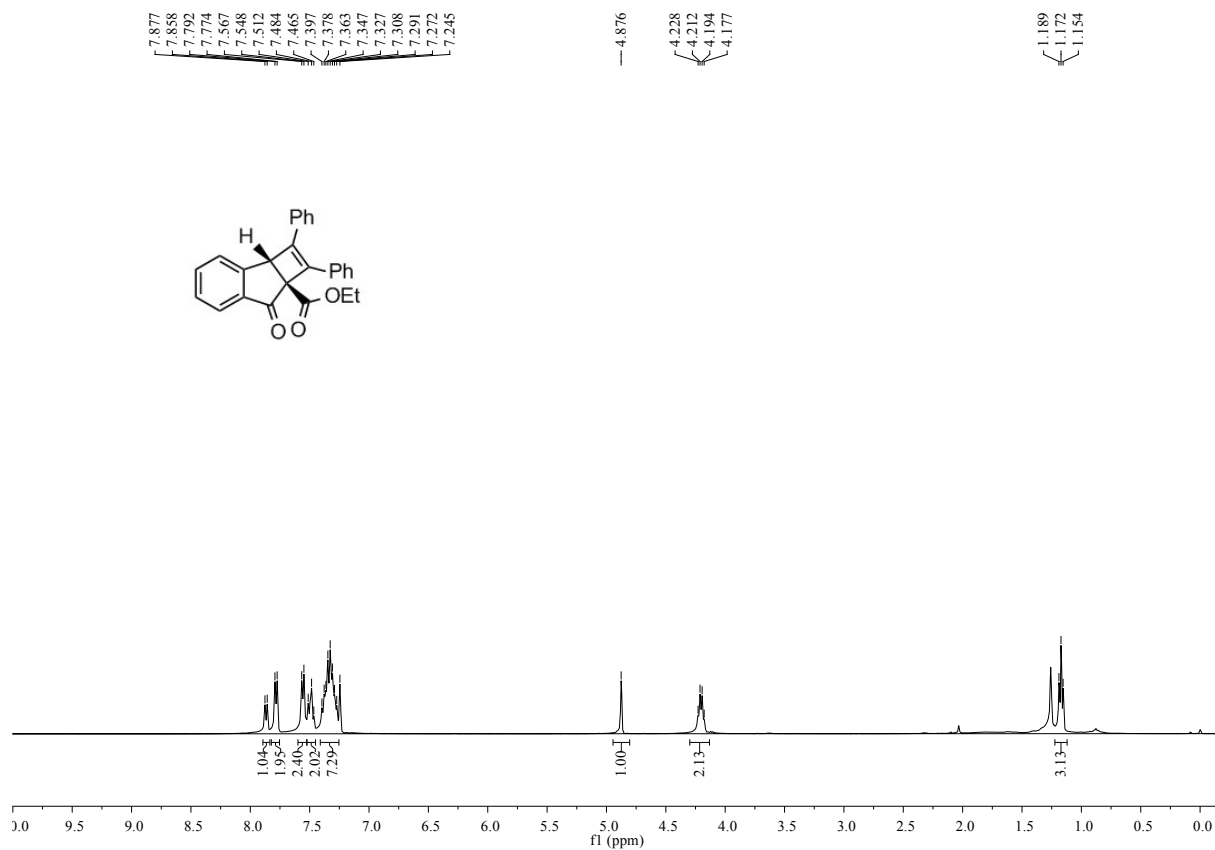




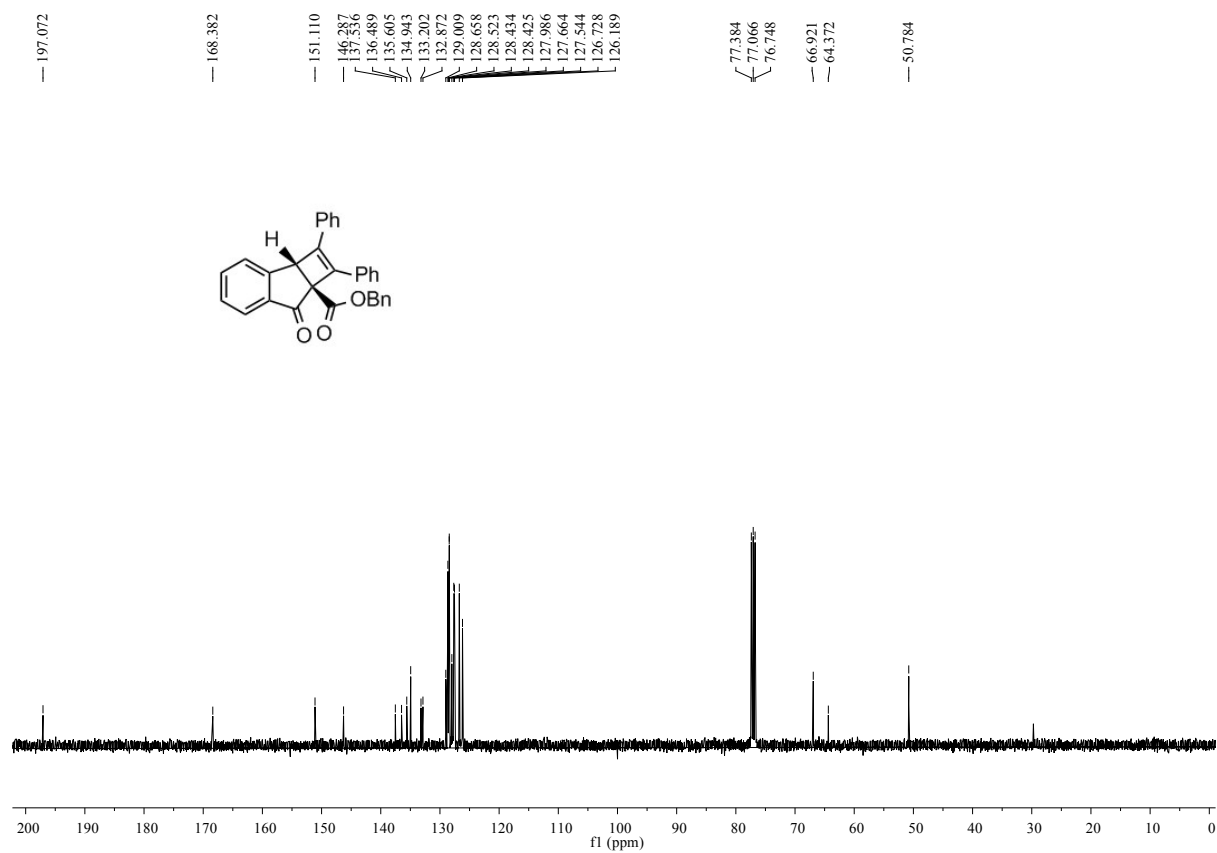
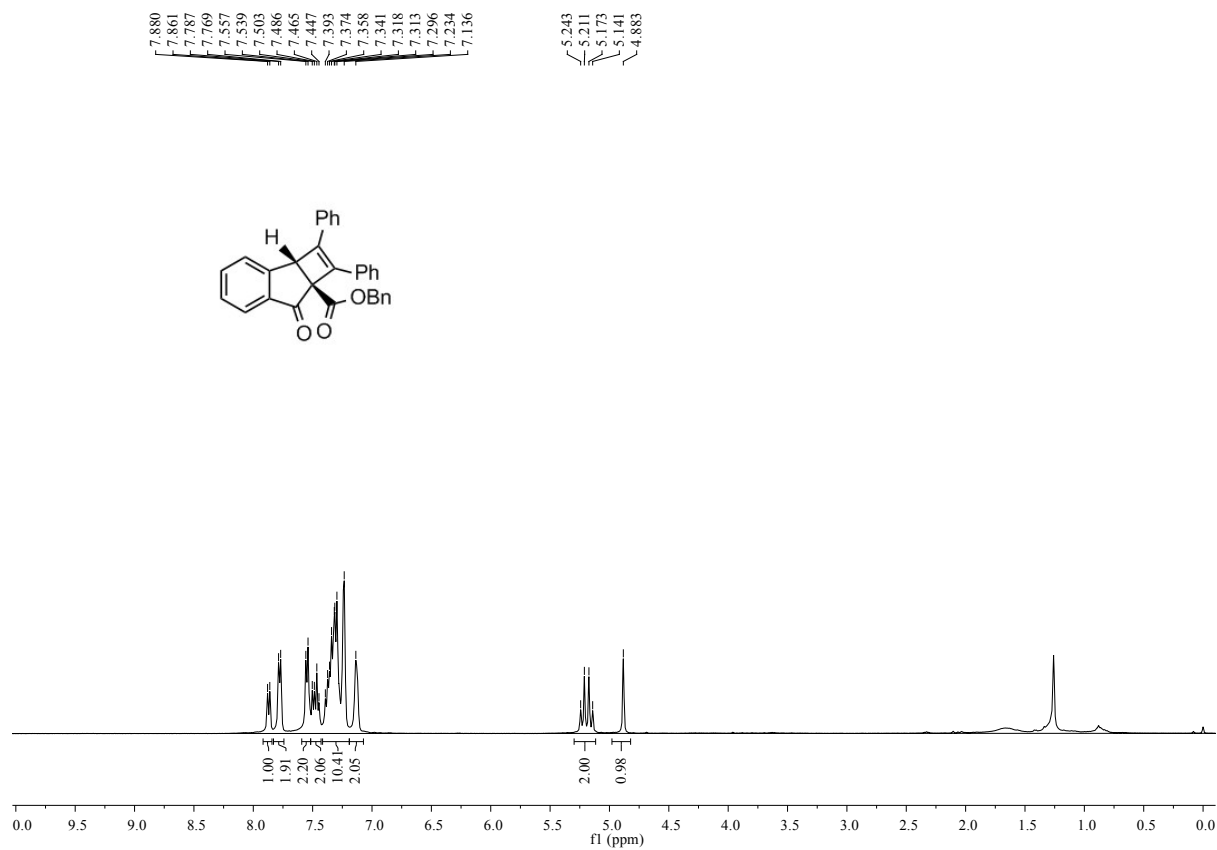
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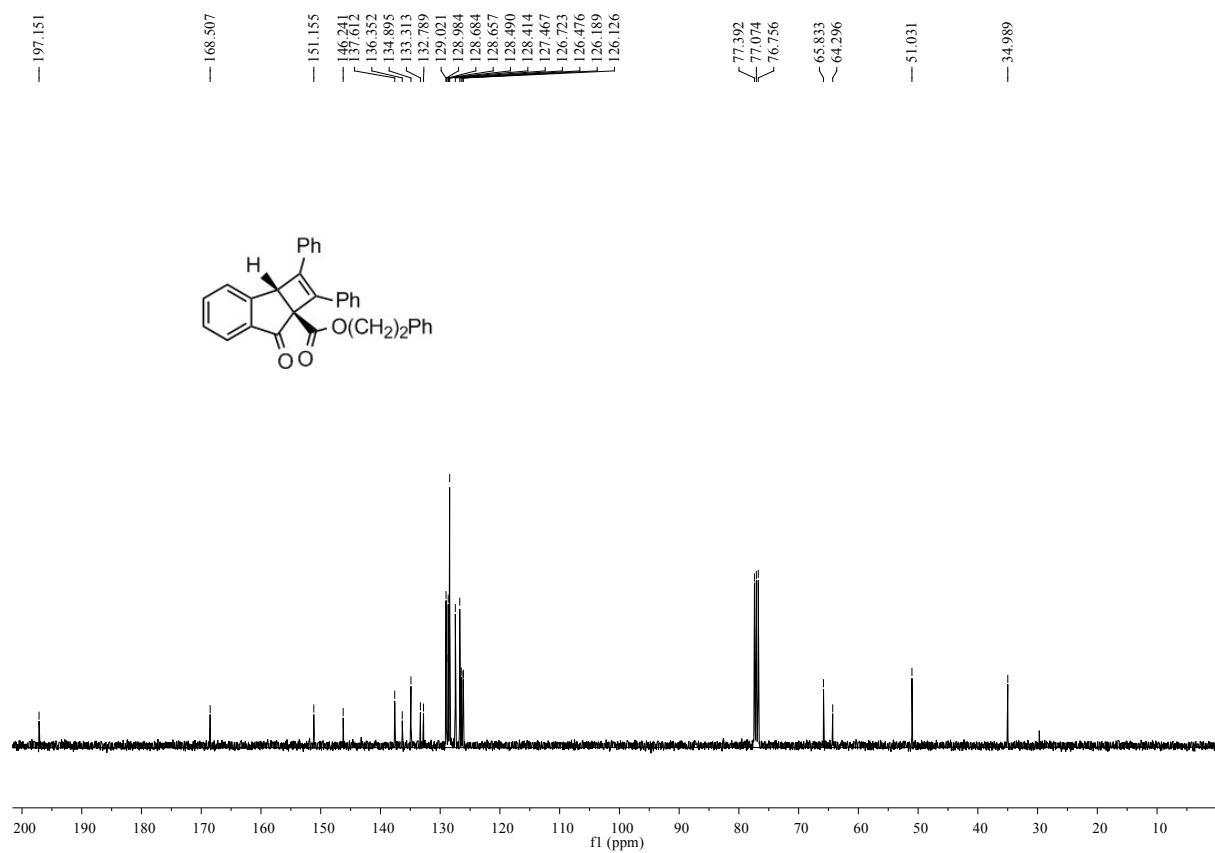
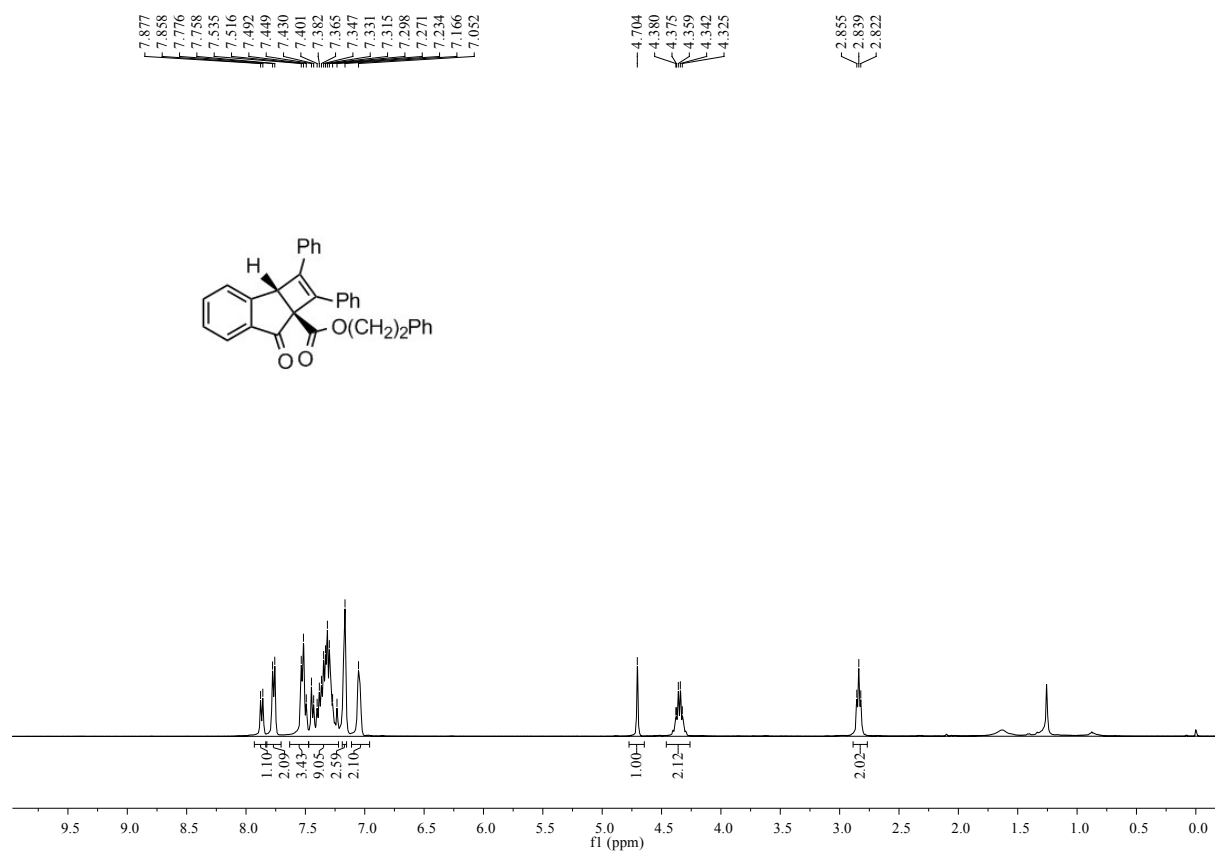
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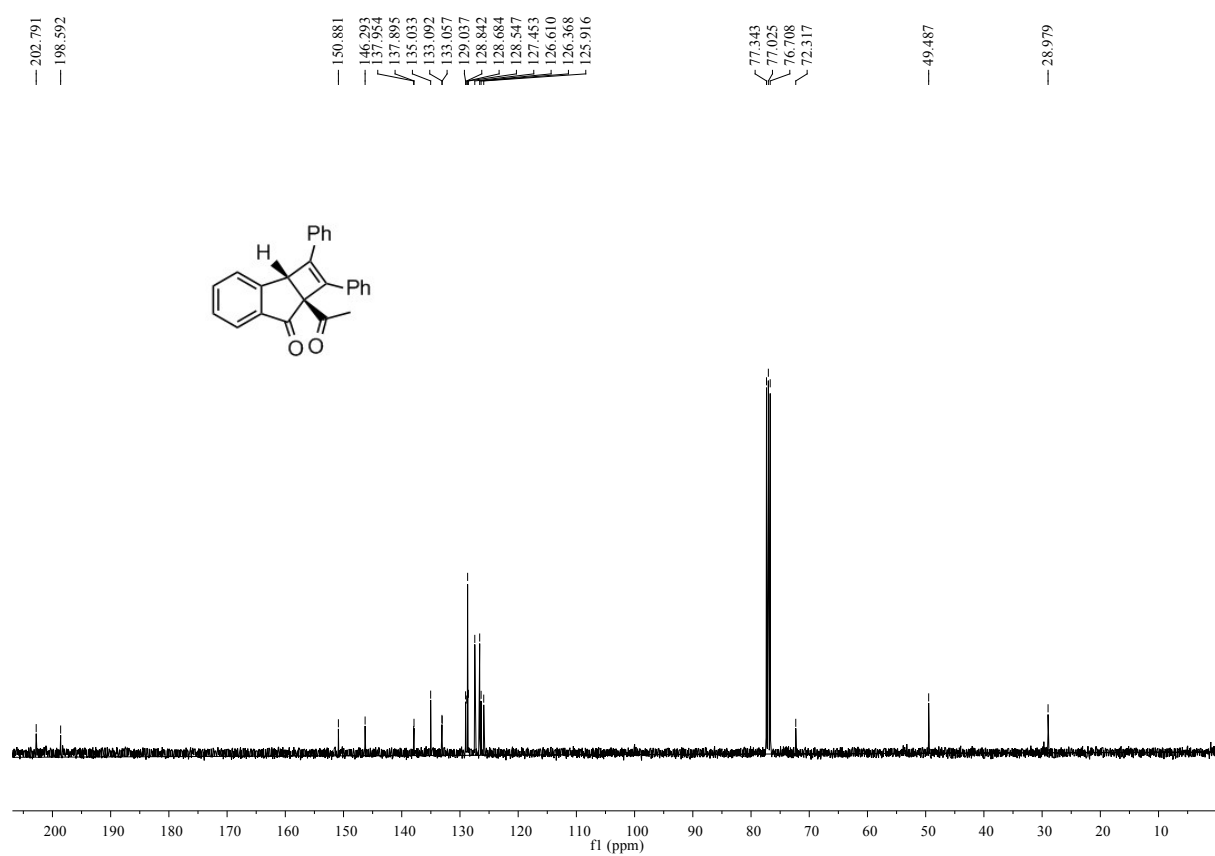
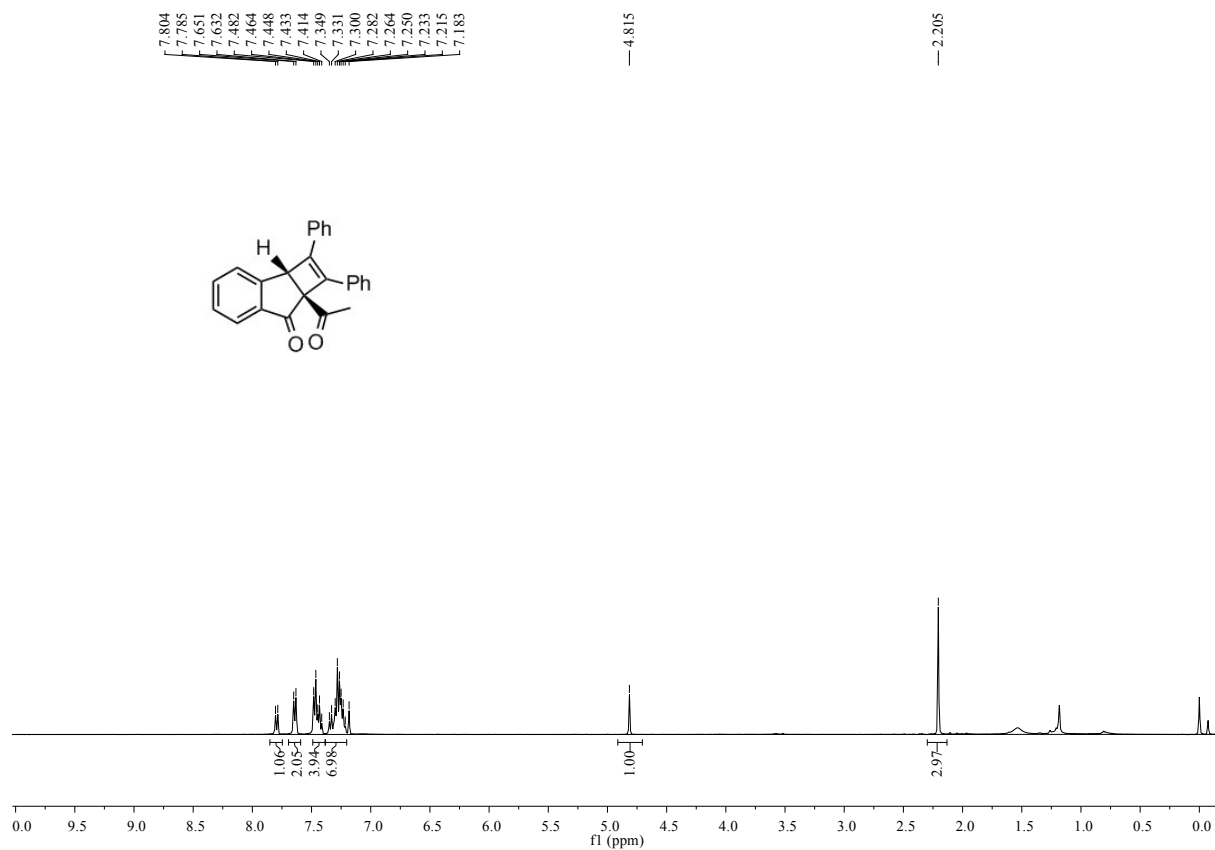
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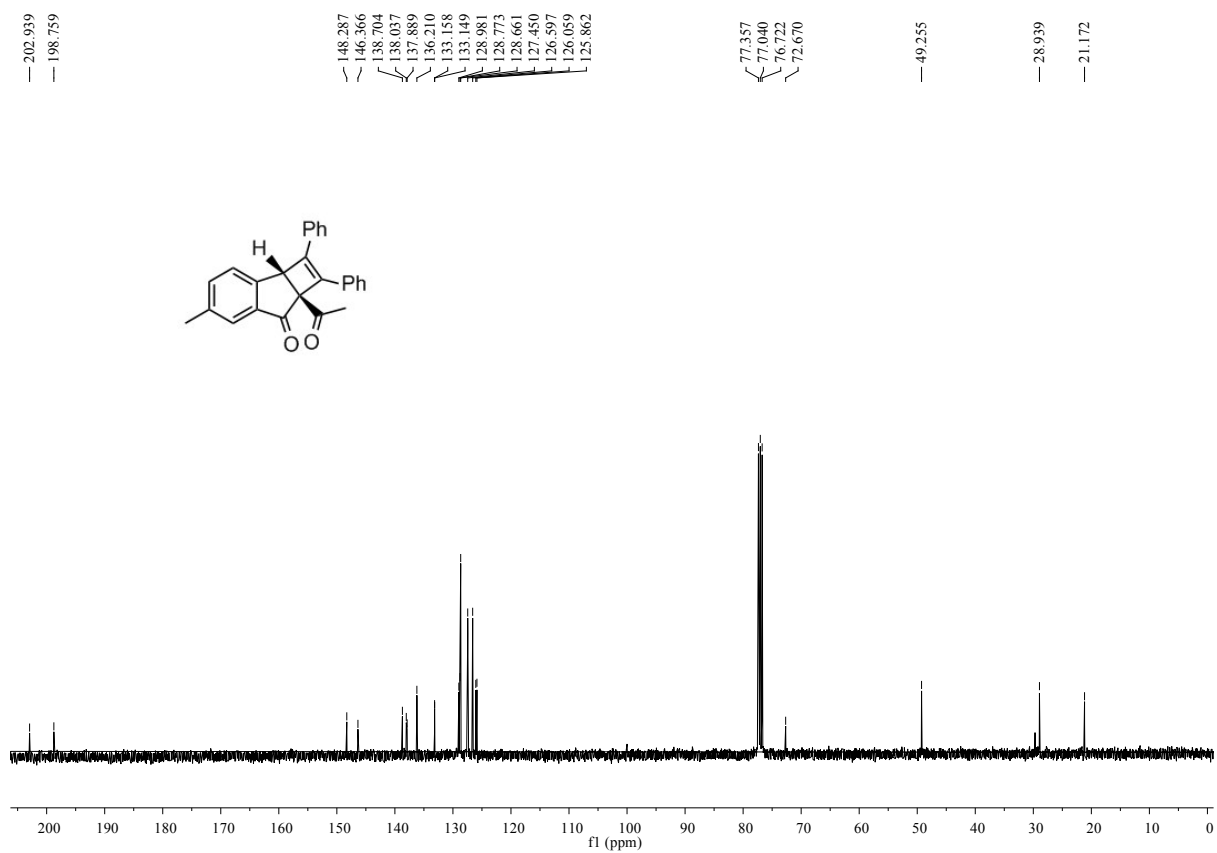
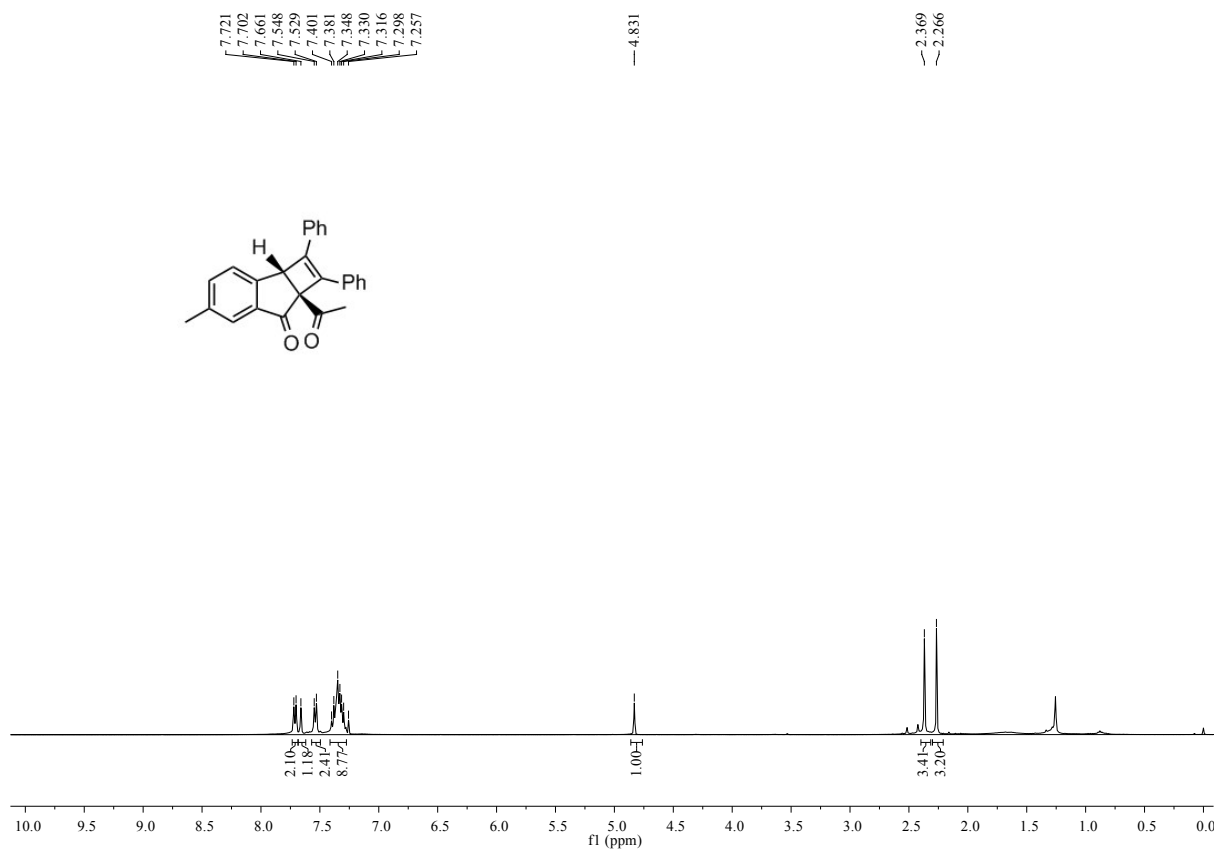
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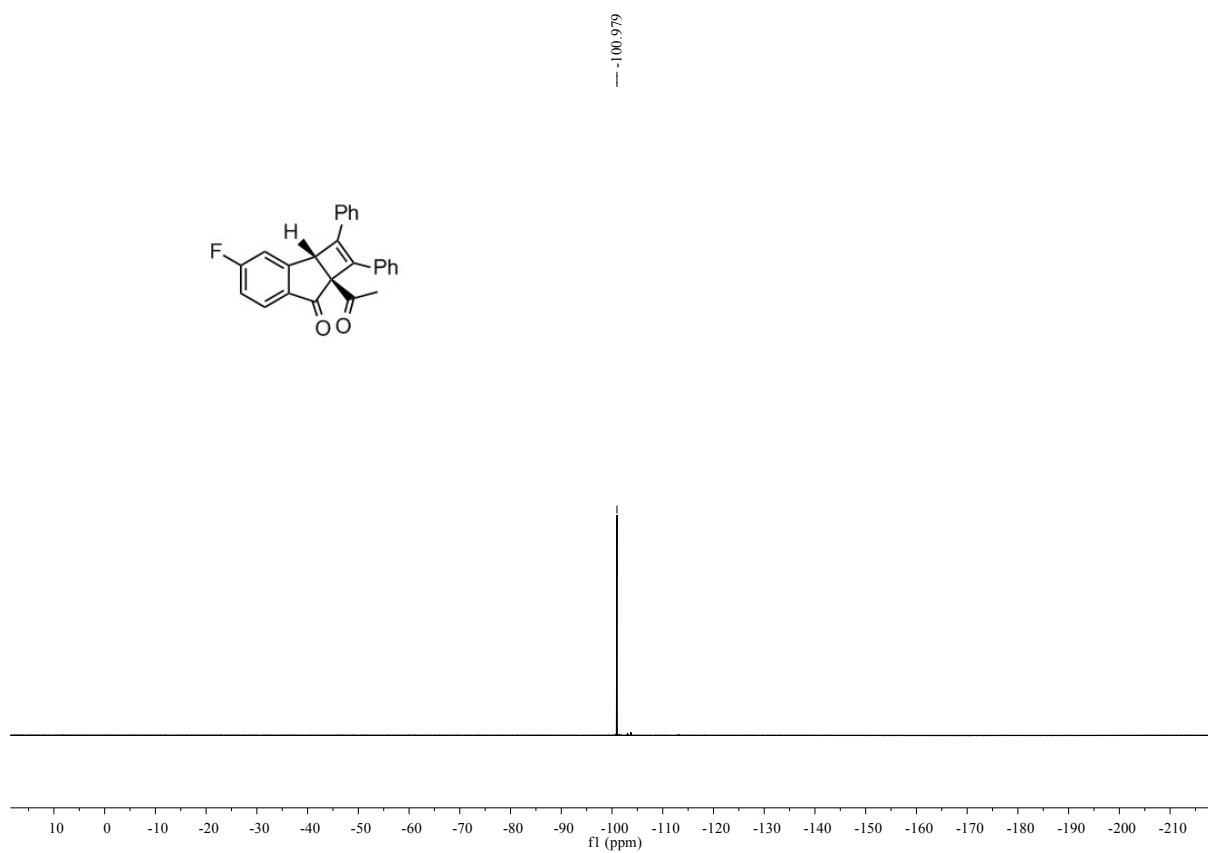
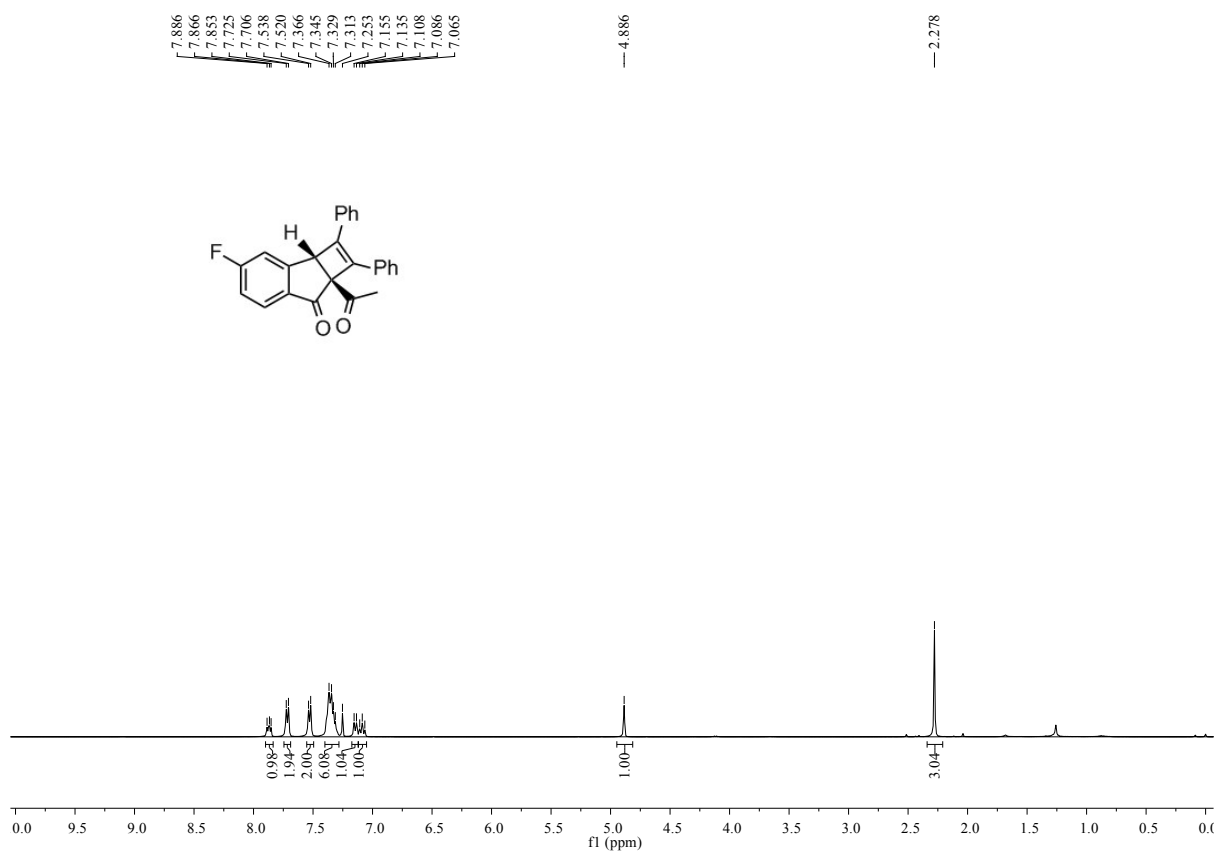
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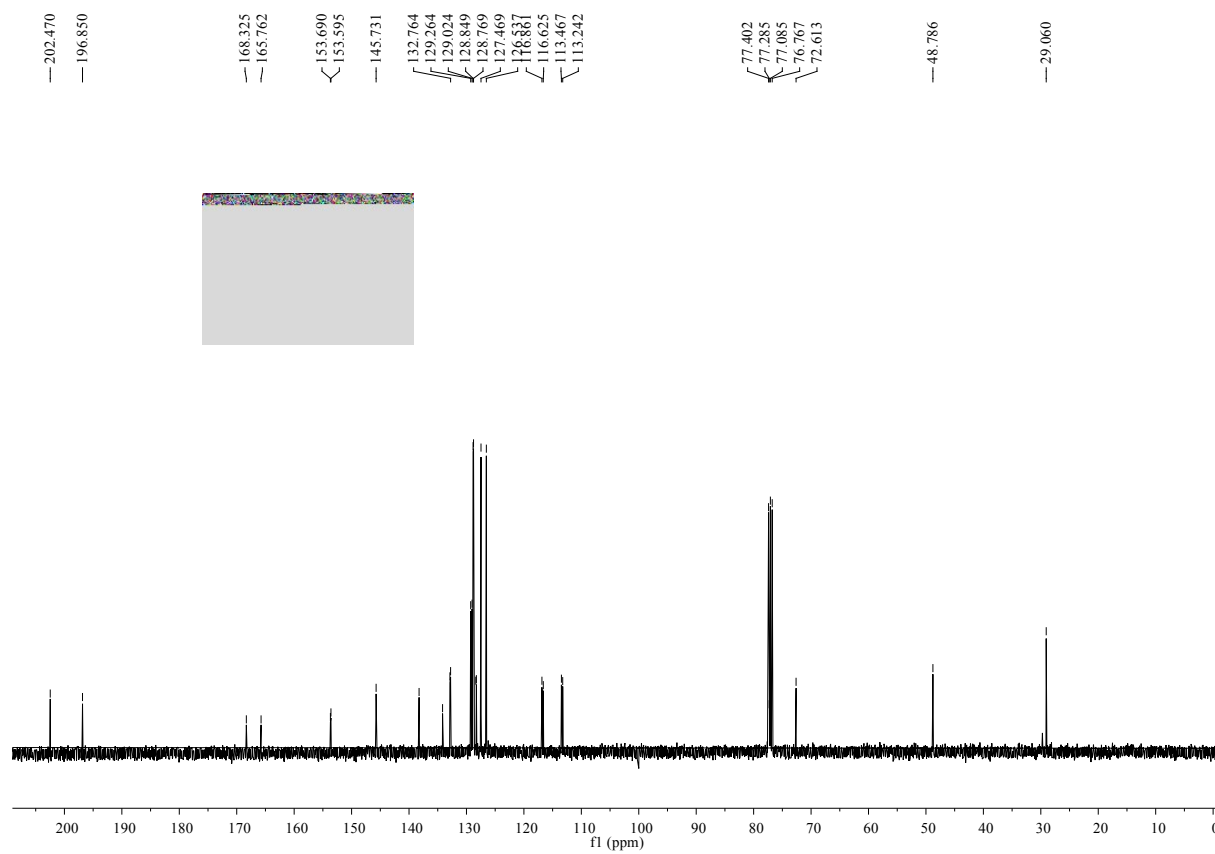
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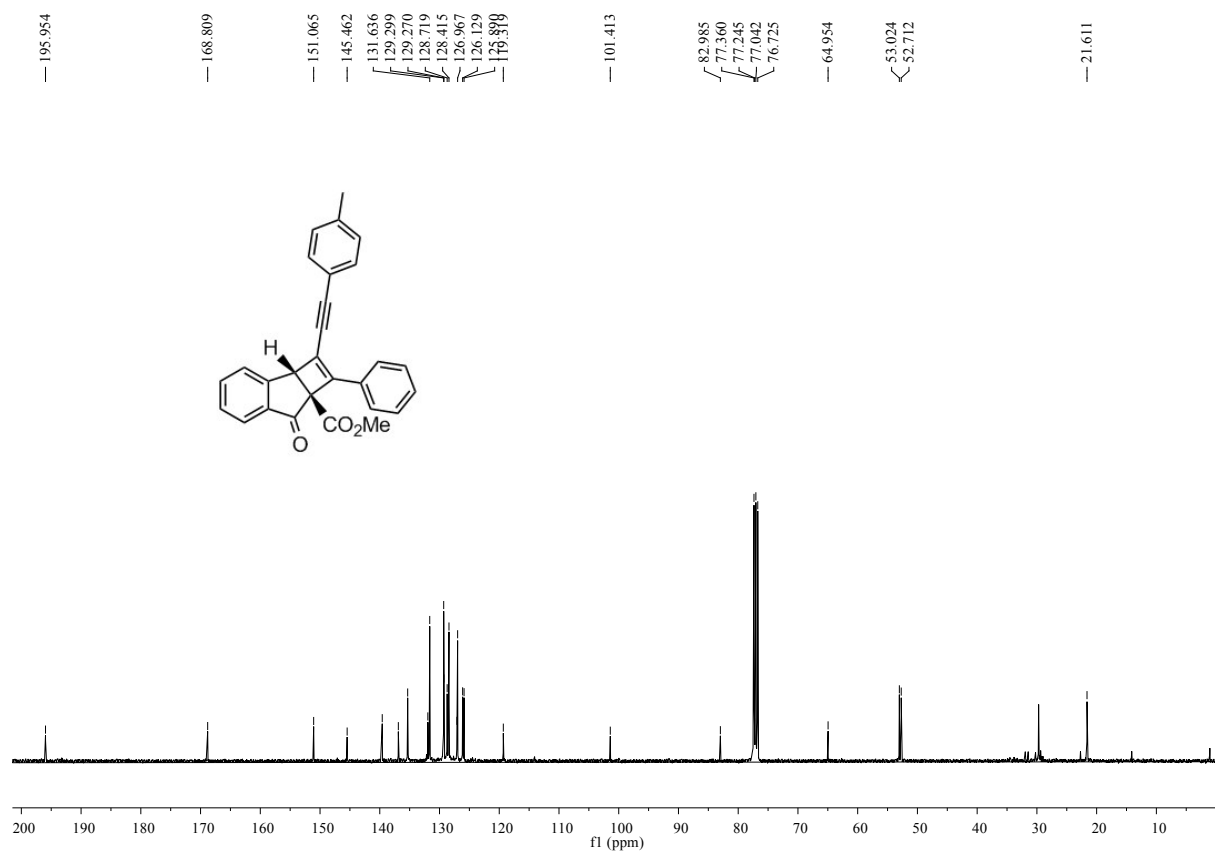
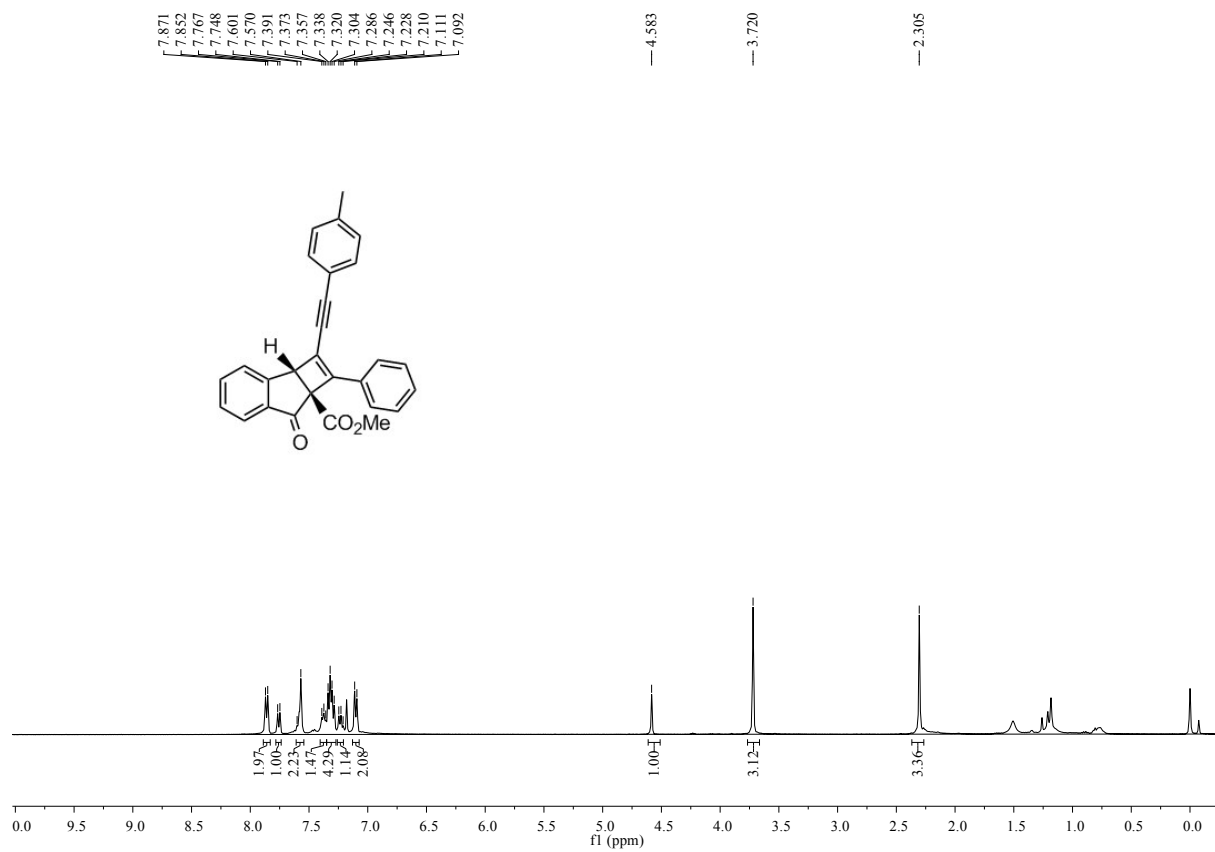


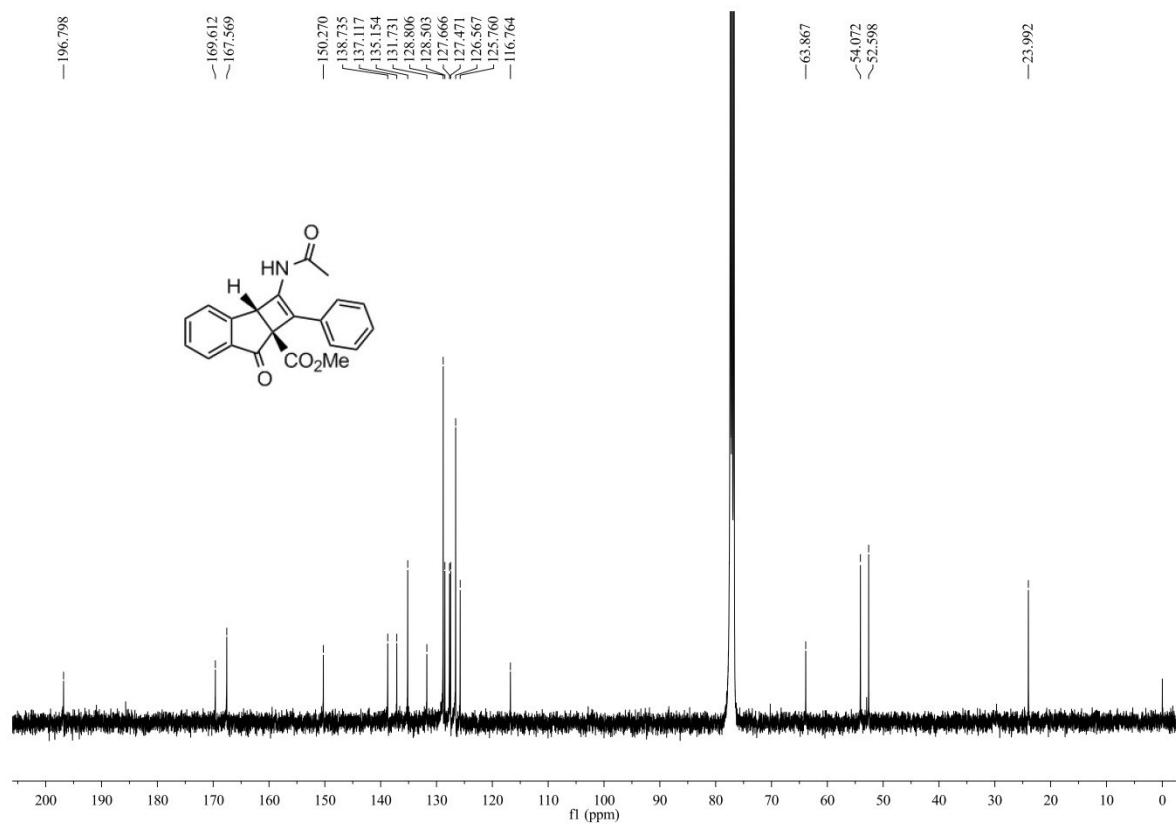
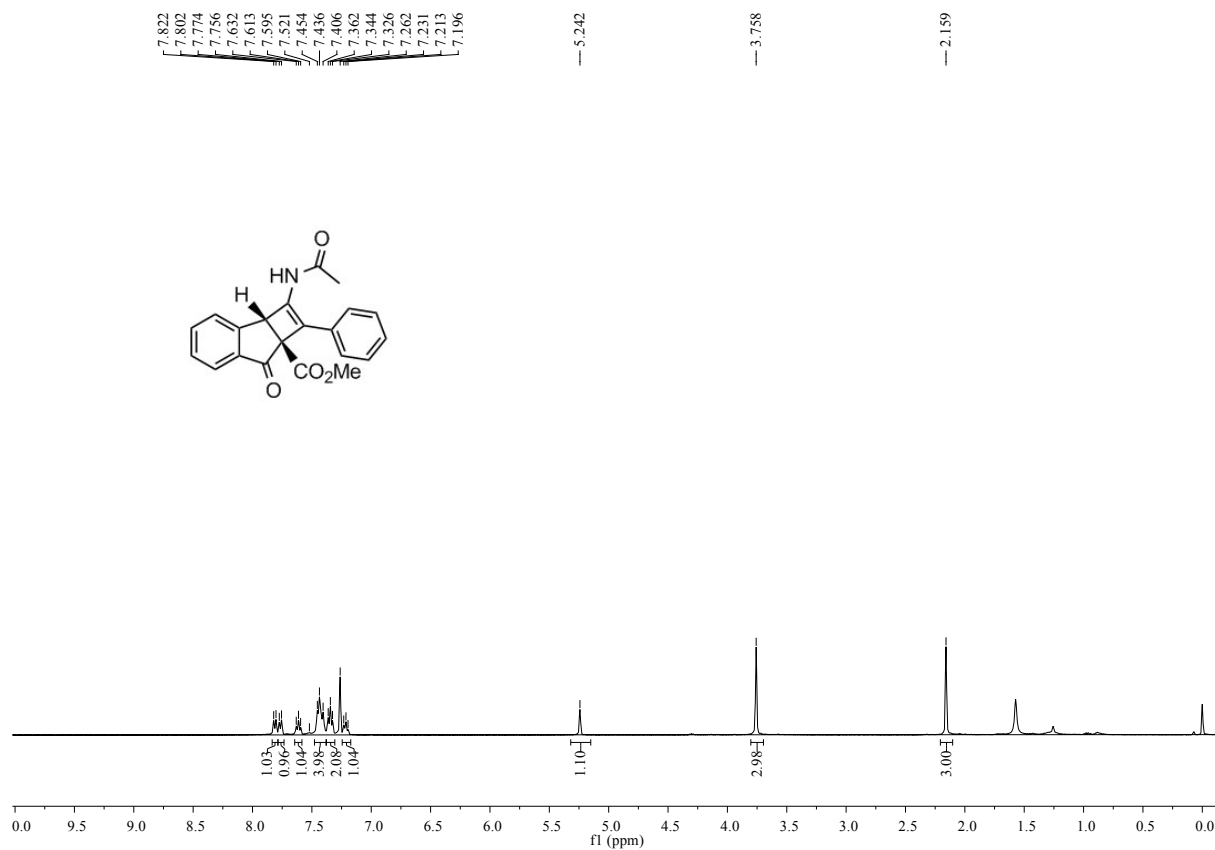
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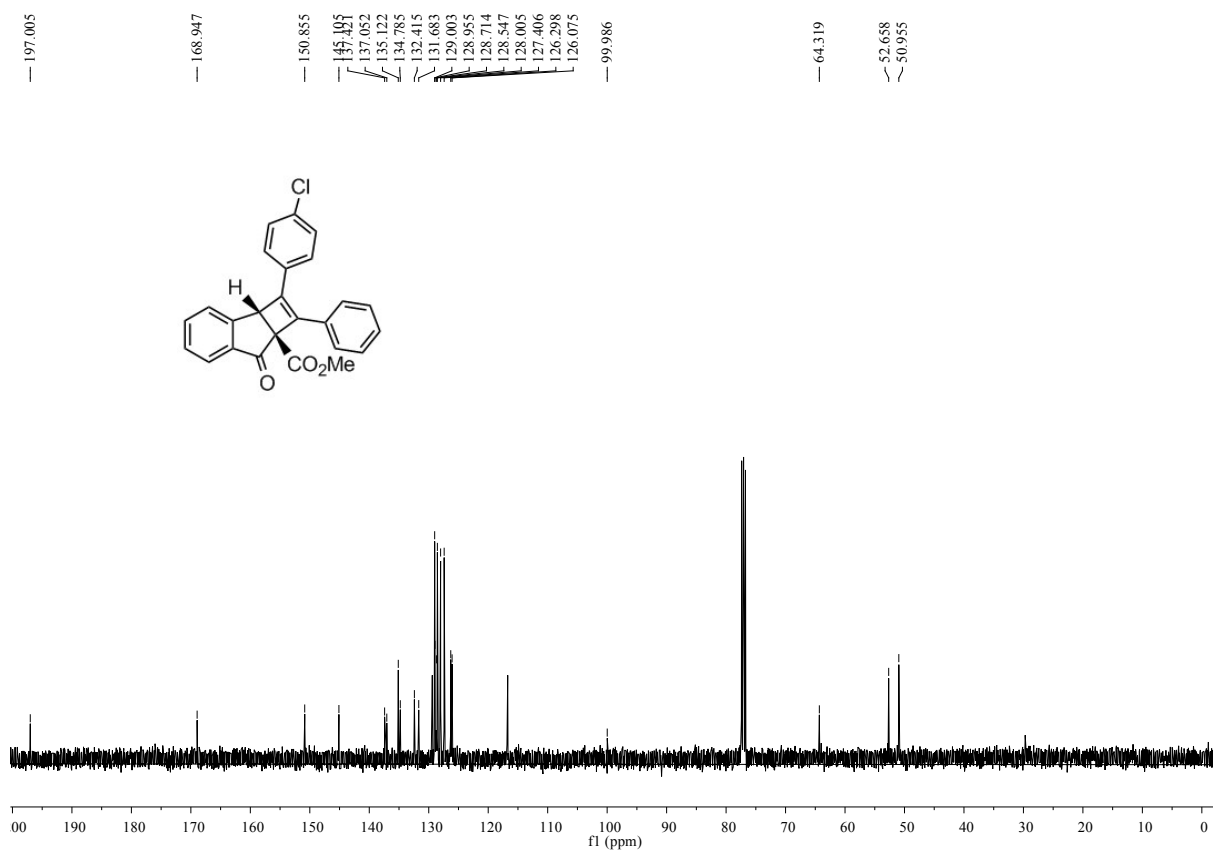
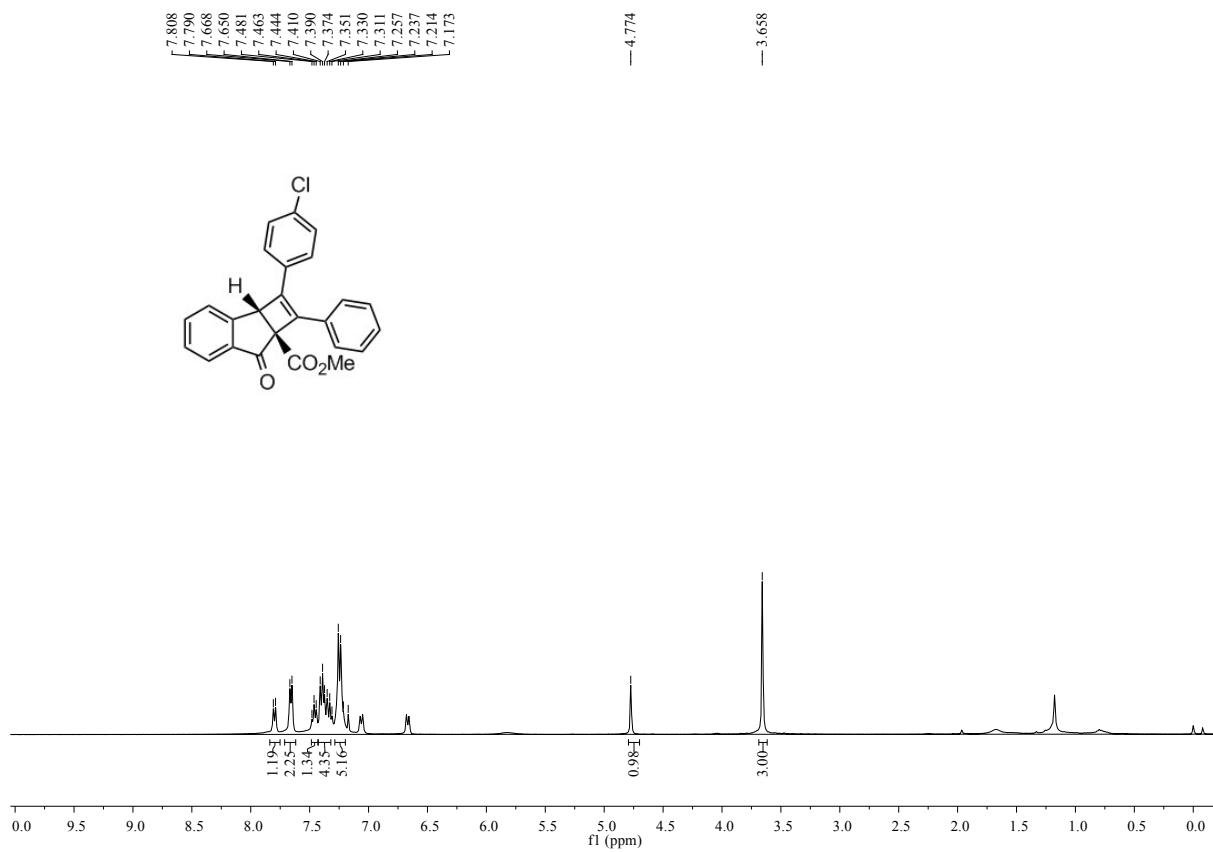
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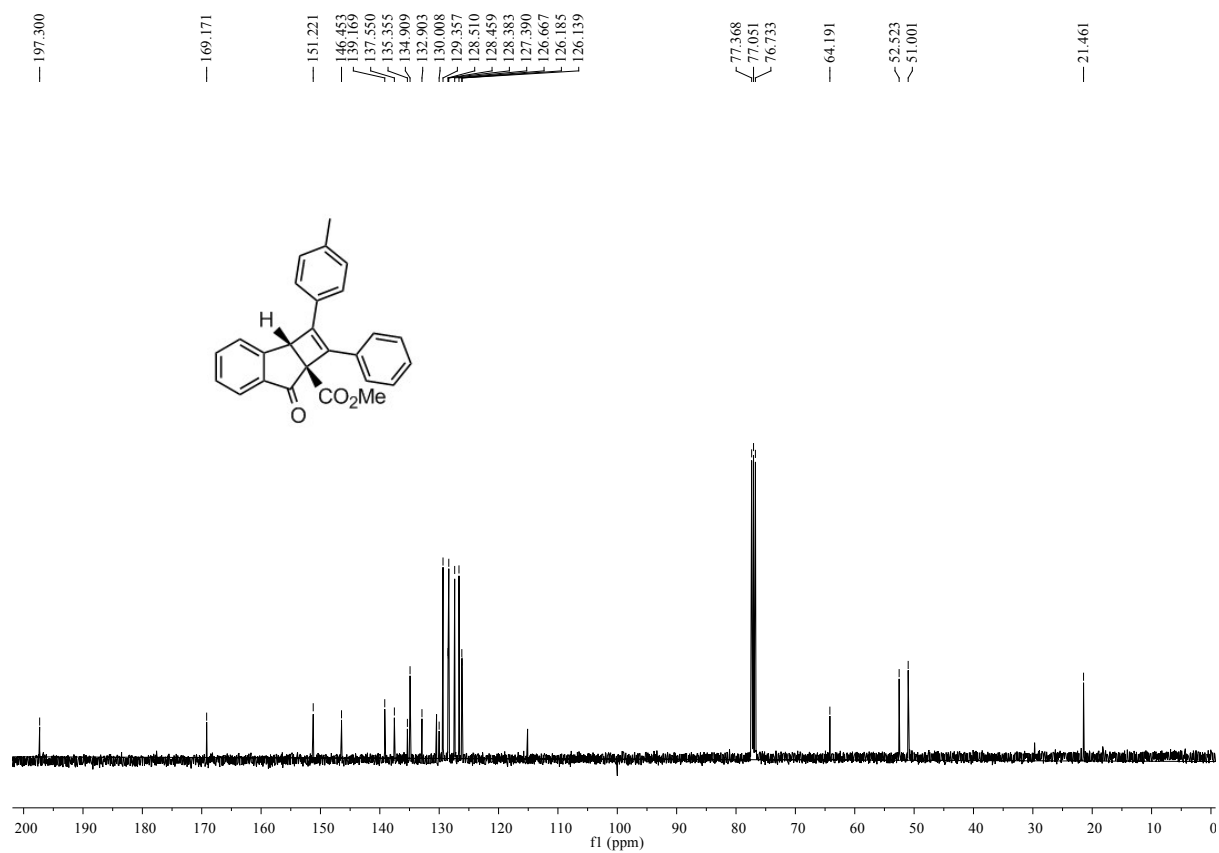
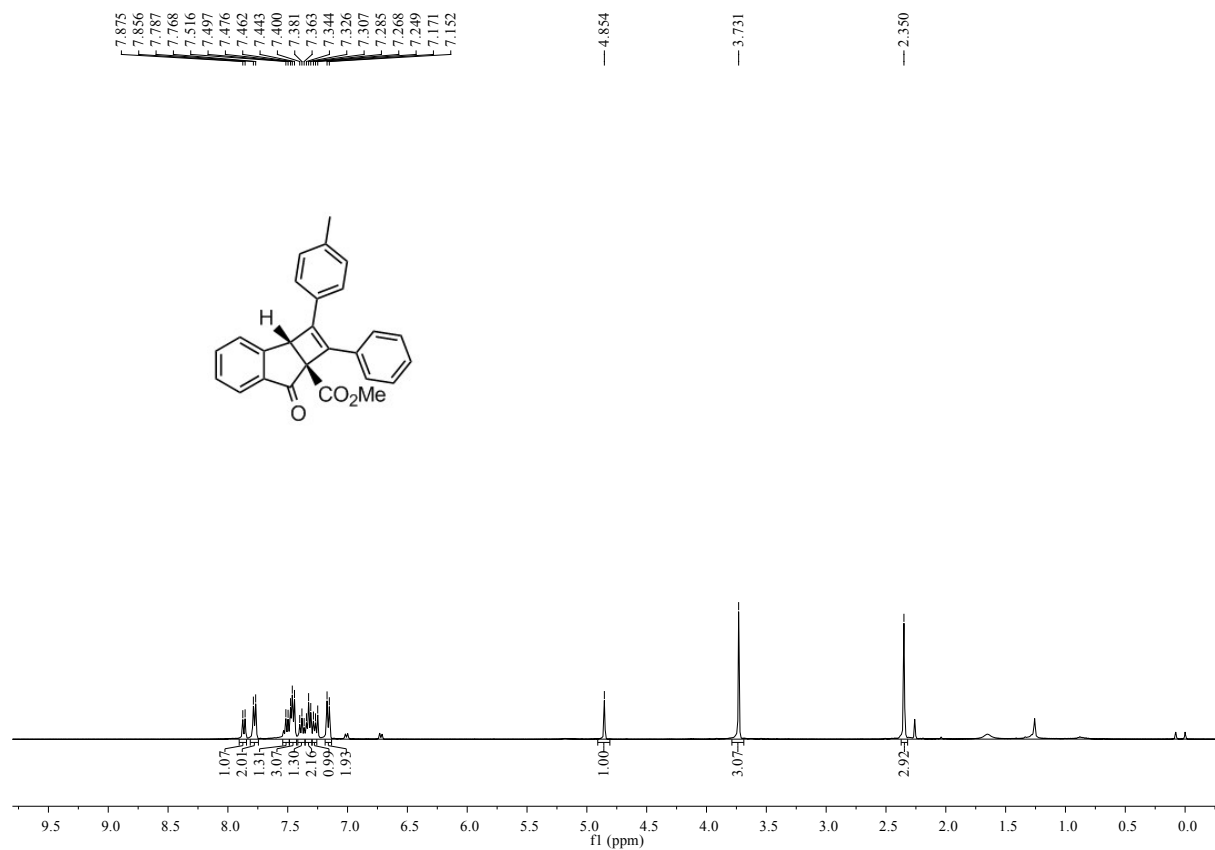




6d



6b'



6c'

