

# ***N*-Heterocyclic Carbene-Catalyzed Enantioselective Annulations: A Dual Activation Strategy for a Formal [4+2] Addition for Dihydrocoumarins**

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## **Supporting Information**

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## General Information

All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. All organic solvents were purified by passage through a bed of activated alumina.<sup>1</sup> Reagents were purified prior to use unless otherwise stated following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.<sup>2</sup> Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash chromatography using EM Reagent or Silicycle silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on EM Reagent 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light and ceric ammonium nitrate stain, potassium permanganate stain or ninhydrin stain followed by heating. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 37 FT-IR spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz w/ direct cryoprobe (500 MHz) spectrometer and are reported in ppm using solvent as an internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as (ap = apparent, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, b = broad; coupling constant(s) in Hz, integration). Proton-decoupled <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz w/ direct cryoprobe (125 MHz) spectrometer and are reported in ppm using solvent as an internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra data were obtained on a Waters Acquity-H UPLC-MS with a single quadrupole ESI Spectrometer or on a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (Agilent 7890A/5975C GCMS System).

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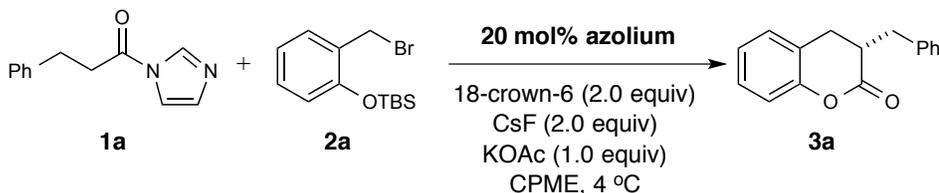
<sup>1</sup> Pangborn, A. B.; Giardello, M. A.; Grubbs, R. H.; Rosen, R. K.; Timmers F. J., *Organometallics* **1996**, *15*, 1518.

<sup>2</sup> D. D. Perrin, W. L. Armarego, *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals*; 3rd Ed., Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1988.

## 1. Optimization Experiments

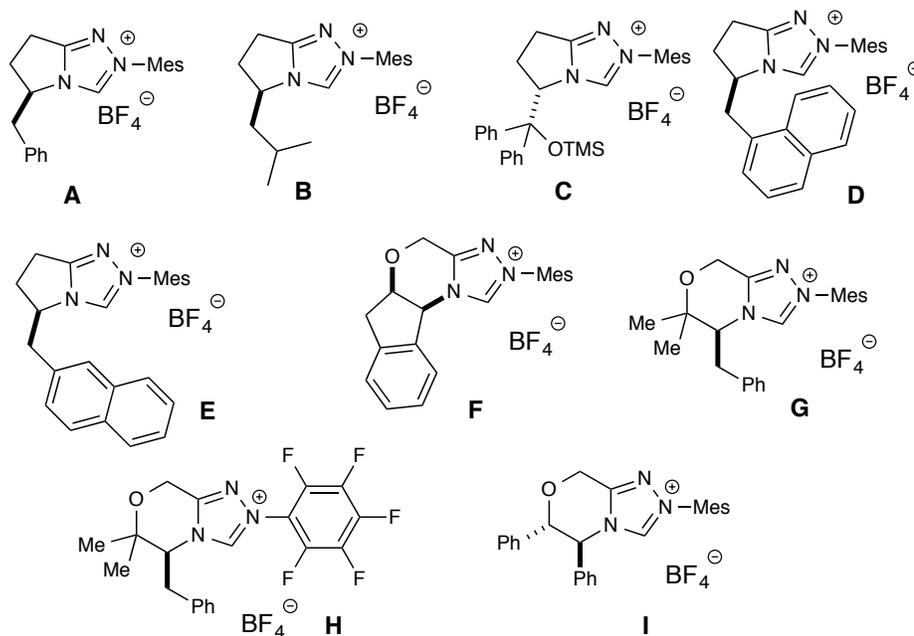
We investigated various reaction conditions, of which selected examples are summarized in Table 1.

<Table 1> Catalyst optimization experiments.<sup>a</sup>



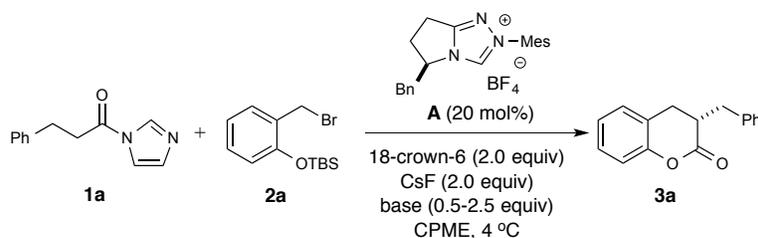
entry	azolium	% yield <sup>b</sup>	er <sup>c</sup>
1	<b>A</b>	75	85:15
2	<b>B</b>	55	79:21
3	<b>C</b>	No Rxn	-
4	<b>D</b>	57	80:20
5	<b>E</b>	47	65:35
6	<b>F</b>	No Rxn	-
7	<b>G</b>	No Rxn	-
8	<b>H</b>	No Rxn	-
9	<b>I</b>	10	75:25

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (2.0 equiv), azolium (0.2 equiv), 18-crown-6 (2.0 equiv), CsF (2.0 equiv), KOAc (1.0 equiv) in CPME (0.125 M) at 4 °C for 15 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by NMR. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase. CPME=cyclopentyl methyl ether)



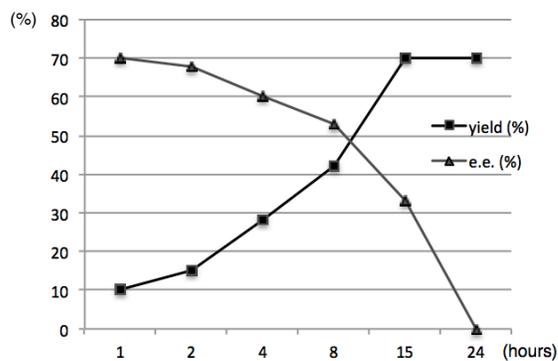
We observed racemization in the presence of strong bases such as CsOAc and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> under the reaction conditions. Therefore, a weak base (KOAc) was selected for further studies. The optimization result was summarized in Table 2, and the comparison of the reaction with CsOAc and KOAc were shown in Figure 1.

<Table 2> Optimization of asymmetric conditions.

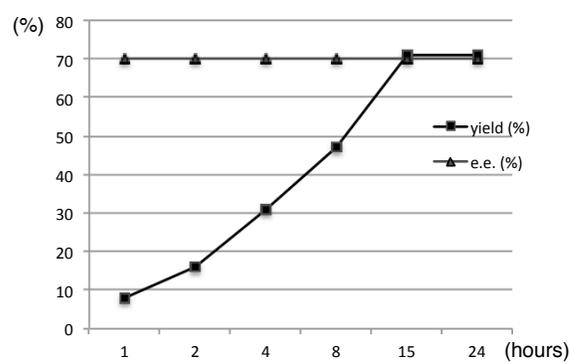


Entry	Base	Equiv.	Yield (%) <sup>b)</sup>	e.r. <sup>c)</sup>
1	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2.5	65	50:50
2	CsOAc	2.5	70	50:50
3	CsOAc	1.0	68	67:33
4	CsOAc	0.5	32	84:16
5	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	1.0	60	59:41
6	KOAc	1.5	74	67:33
<b>7</b>	<b>KOAc</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85:15</b>
8	KOAc	0.5	40	85:15
9	NaOAc	1.0	40	85:15
10	NaOAc	0.5	11	85:15
11	NaOAc	2.5	44	85:15
12 <sup>d)</sup>	KOAc	1.0	no rxn	-
13 <sup>e)</sup>	KOAc	1.0	no rxn	-

<sup>a)</sup> Conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (2.0 equiv), triazolium **A** (0.2 equiv), 18-crown-6 (2.0 equiv), CsF (2.0 equiv) at 4 °C for 15 h. <sup>b)</sup> Determined by NMR analysis with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. <sup>c)</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis. <sup>d)</sup> Reaction conducted in the absence of CsF and 18-crown-6. <sup>e)</sup> Reaction conducted in the absence of 18-crown-6. CPME=cyclopentyl methyl ether.

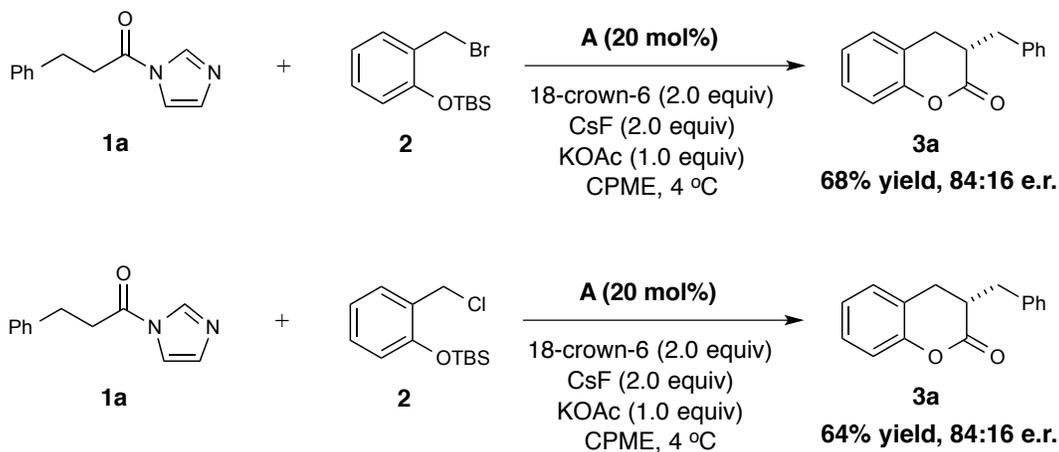


<Figure 1a> Racemization in the presence of 1.0 equiv of CsOAc as the base.



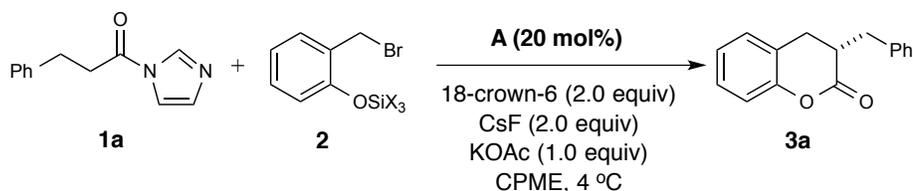
<Figure 1b> The reaction trends in the presence of 1.0 equiv of KOAc as the base.

We also checked the leaving group effect, interestingly, the choice of chloride and bromide leaving groups on substrate **2a** was found to be inconsequential in terms of reactivity and enantioselectivity.



Next, various silyl groups on substrate **2** were evaluated under the reaction conditions, and it was found that the proper rate of *ortho*-quinone methide (*o*-QM) production was achieved by the use of an equimolar combination of crown ether and cesium fluoride in conjunction with the *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl (TBS)-protected phenol substrate (Table 3).

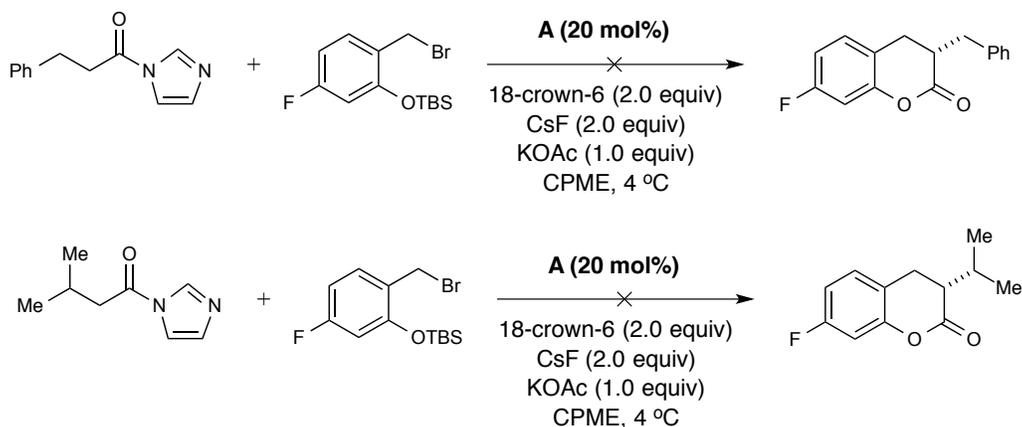
<Table 3> Silyl group effects.<sup>a</sup>



entry	SiX <sub>3</sub>	% yield <sup>b</sup>	er <sup>c</sup>
1	<b>TMS</b>	No Rxn	-
2	<b>TES</b>	No Rxn	-
3	<b>TIPS</b>	55	75:25
4	<b>TBS</b>	75	85:15

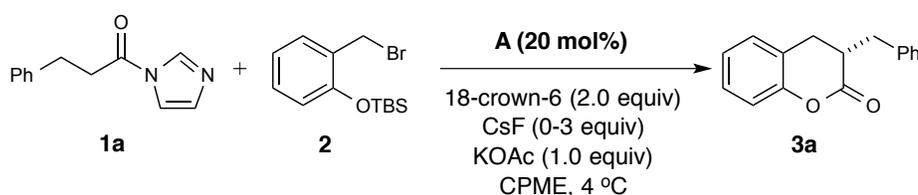
<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (2.0 equiv), azolium (0.2 equiv), 18-crown-6 (2.0 equiv), CsF (2.0 equiv), KOAc (1.0 equiv) in CPME (0.125 M) at 4 °C for 15 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by NMR. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

For substrate screening experiments, tolerance to substitution on the benzyl bromide derivative **2** was also investigated. Various substituents were tolerated at the C-3, C-4, and C-5 positions affording the desired products in good to high yields and high enantioselectivities. However, the bromides including electron-withdrawing groups at C-5 positions were not suitable substrates, and no desired products were obtained. The SM (*o*-QM precursor) was mostly recovered, this indicates that the generation of *o*-QM did not take place properly.



Additionally, we found that the ratio of CsF and the *o*-QM precursor would be important in the reaction. We employed 2.0 equiv of CsF and 2.0 equiv of *o*-QM precursor, no racemization was observed in this case. However, in the presence of more than 2.0 equiv of CsF (with 2.0 equiv of *o*-QM), we observed reduced enantioselectivity, this indicates additional CsF could act as the base under the reaction condition. The additional information for this issue is summarized in Table 4.

<Table 4> CsF optimization experiment.



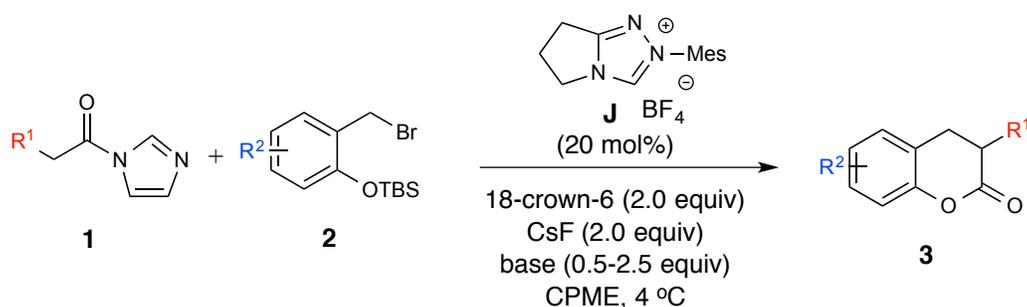
entry	<b>2</b> (equiv)	CsF (equiv)	% yield <sup>b</sup>	er <sup>c</sup>
1	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	75	85:15
2	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	40	85:15
3	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	78	75:25
4	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	No Rxn	-
5	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	77	84:16
6	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	31	n.d.

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (1-3 equiv), azolium (0.2 equiv), 18-crown-6 (2.0 equiv), CsF (0-3 equiv), KOAc (1.0 equiv) in CPME (0.125 M) at 4 °C for 15 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by NMR. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

## 2. General Procedure for the [4+2] Annulation Reaction via NHC Catalysis

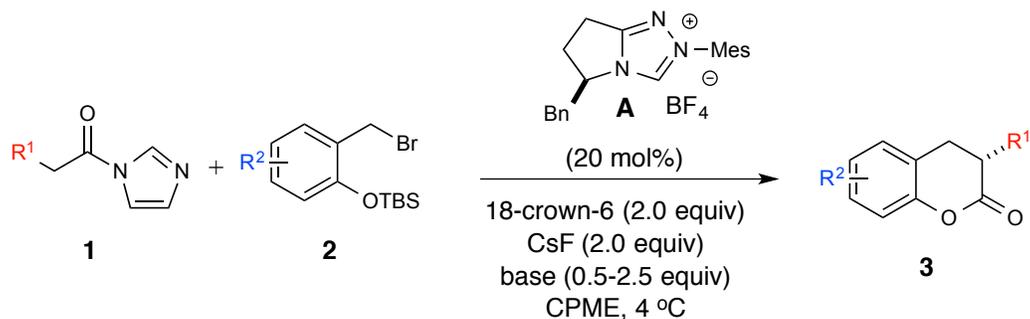
The starting acyl imidazoles **1** were prepared based on the previous procedure<sup>3</sup>: The appropriate acid (1.0 equiv) was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (0.3 M), and CDI (carbonyldiimidazole, 1.5 equiv) was added at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h at RT, washed with dichloromethane and sat. sodium bicarbonate solution. After drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, residue solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the resulting acyl imidazole was used for the reaction without further purification.

### 2.1. General Procedure for Racemate Preparation

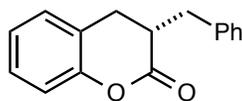


An oven-dried screw-capped tube-vial equipped with a magnetic stirbar was taken into a nitrogen-filled drybox at which time achiral 5,5-mesityl triazolium NHC pre-catalyst **J** (0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), acylimidazole **1** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), 18-crown-6 (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), cesium fluoride (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), and potassium acetate (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added. The vial was capped with a septum cap, removed from the drybox and put under positive nitrogen pressure. The mixture was dissolved in 1.0 mL of dry CPME (cyclopentyl methyl ether) and stirred for 10 min at 4 °C. Then, benzyl bromide **2** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) dissolved in 0.6 mL of dry CPME was added slowly. After 15 hours at 4 °C, the reaction mixture was filtered over a pad of silica washing with ethyl acetate and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate/hexanes afforded the corresponding racemic dihydrocoumarin **3**.

<sup>3</sup> T. B. Durham, M. J. Miller, *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 27-34.

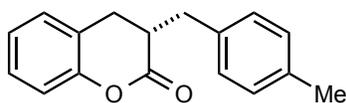
**2.2. General Procedure for the Asymmetric [4+2] Annulation Reaction via NHC catalysis**

An oven-dried screw-capped tube-vial equipped with a magnetic stirbar was taken into a nitrogen-filled drybox at which time chiral NHC pre-catalyst **A** (0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), acylimidazole **1** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), 18-crown-6 (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), cesium fluoride (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), and potassium acetate (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added. The vial was capped with a septum cap, removed from the drybox and put under positive nitrogen pressure. The mixture was dissolved in 1.0 mL of dry CPME (cyclopentyl methyl ether) and stirred for 10 min at 4 °C. Then, benzyl bromide **2** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) dissolved in 0.6 mL of dry CPME was added slowly. After 15 hours at 4 °C, the reaction mixture was filtered over a pad of silica washing with ethyl acetate and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography with ethyl acetate/hexanes afforded the corresponding enantioenriched dihydrocoumarin **3**.

**3a**

**(S)-3-benzylchroman-2-one (3a):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (34 mg, 71% yield) as a colorless oil.

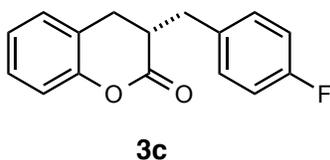
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.01 (m, 3H), 3.41 (dd,  $J = 13.9, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.01 – 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.85 (dd,  $J = 15.8, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.68 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.6, 151.6, 138.0, 129.2, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 126.8, 124.4, 122.4, 116.6, 40.8, 35.6, 28.3; IR (film) 3028, 1760, 1589, 1488, 1458, 1361, 1229, 1124, 1078, 1031, 979, 919, 754, 700, 622  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 238.1; found 238.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 5%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 22.5 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 28.9 min; er = 85:15.

**3b**

**(S)-3-(4-methylbenzyl)chroman-2-one (3b):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)propan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (36 mg, 70% yield) as a white solid.

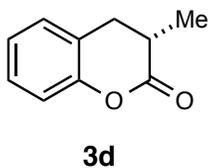
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.12 – 7.02 (m, 5H), 3.36 (dd,  $J = 14.0, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.93 (tdd,  $J = 10.4, 5.9, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd,  $J = 15.8, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dt,  $J = 14.0, 10.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.6, 151.6, 136.4, 134.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.3, 124.4, 122.4, 116.6, 40.9, 35.2, 28.2, 21.1; IR (film)

3128, 2250, 1761, 1489, 1459, 1230, 1132, 905, 808, 725, 649  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 252.1; found 252.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $R_{t_1}$  (major) = 16.2 min,  $R_{t_2}$  (minor) = 18.3 min; er = 85:15.



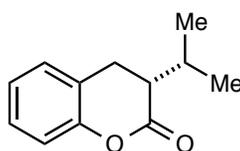
**(S)-3-(4-fluorobenzyl)chroman-2-one (3c)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)propan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (37 mg, 71% yield) as a white solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.25 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.2, 6.1, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 6.96 (m, 5H), 3.34 (dd,  $J$  = 14.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.84 (dd,  $J$  = 15.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.69 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.3, 161.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 245.1 Hz), 151.5, 133.6, 133.5, 130.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 7.9 Hz), 128.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 21.4 Hz), 124.4, 122.2, 116.6, 115.6, 115.4, 40.9, 34.8, 28.3; IR (film) 2923, 1758, 1588, 1510, 1488, 1457, 1357, 1280, 1230, 1194, 1159, 1128, 1109, 1024, 976, 918, 847, 758, 737, 644  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 256.1; found 256.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $R_{t_1}$  (major) = 18.9 min,  $R_{t_2}$  (minor) = 22.9 min; er = 85:15.



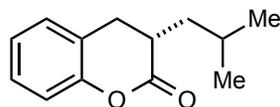
**(S)-3-methylchroman-2-one (3d)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)propan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (21 mg, 65% yield) as a white solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.17 (dt,  $J = 7.5, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd,  $J = 14.5, 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.72 (m, 2H), 1.38 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.6, 151.8, 128.2, 127.9, 124.3, 122.9, 116.6, 34.3, 31.7, 15.4; IR (film) 3120, 1763, 1489, 1459, 1265, 1228, 1146, 1085, 732, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 162.1; found 162.0. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 2%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (minor) = 26.9 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (major) = 28.5 min; er = 88:12.

**3e**

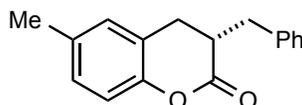
**(*R*)-3-isopropylchroman-2-one (3e)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (26 mg, 67% yield) as a colorless oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.26 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.93 (qd,  $J = 15.8, 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.54 (dt,  $J = 9.6, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.21 (dq,  $J = 13.3, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.23, 151.55, 128.15, 128.13, 124.21, 122.76, 116.43, 45.43, 26.94, 25.43, 20.60, 18.73; IR (film) 3120, 1763, 1489, 1459, 1265, 1228, 1146, 1085, 732, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 190.1; found 190.0. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 5%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (minor) = 26.9 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (major) = 28.5 min; er = 92:8.

**3f**

**(S)-3-isobutylchroman-2-one (3f):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-4-methylpentan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (29 mg, 71% yield) as a colorless oil.

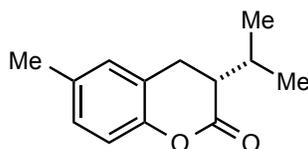
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.04 (q,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.81 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 1.86 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.2, 151.6, 128.2, 128.2, 124.2, 122.5, 116.5, 38.7, 37.1, 29.5, 25.3, 22.9, 21.9; IR (film) 2957, 1764, 1589, 1489, 1458, 1368, 1232, 1188, 1137, 1105, 980, 946, 916, 757, 735, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 204.1; found 204.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 5%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 12.5 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 13.8 min; er = 88:12.

**3g**

**(S)-3-benzyl-6-methylchroman-2-one (3g):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-methylphenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (40 mg, 80% yield) as a colorless oil.

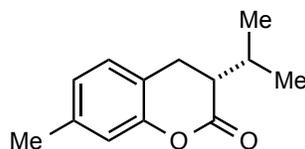
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (dd,  $J = 7.3, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.04 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd,  $J = 13.9, 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.98 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.83 – 2.64 (m, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.8, 149.5, 138.1, 133.9, 129.2, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 126.7, 122.0, 116.2, 40.9, 35.6, 28.2, 20.7; IR (film) 2957, 1764, 1589, 1489, 1458, 1368, 1232, 1188, 1137, 1105,

980, 946, 916, 757, 735, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 252.1; found 252.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (minor) = 19.5 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (major) = 21.6 min; er = 88:12.

**3h**

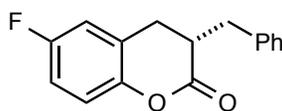
**(R)-3-isopropyl-6-methylchroman-2-one (3h)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-methylphenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (27 mg, 65% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.08 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (qd,  $J$  = 15.8, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (dt,  $J$  = 9.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.23 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.5, 149.4, 133.7, 128.6, 128.5, 122.4, 116.1, 45.5, 26.9, 25.4, 20.7, 20.6, 18.8; IR (film) 2957, 1762, 1580, 1455, 1264, 1180, 978, 731, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 204.1; found 204.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 5%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 14.6 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 17.4 min; er = 93:7.

**3i**

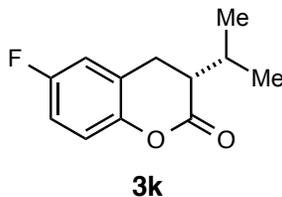
**(R)-3-isopropyl-7-methylchroman-2-one (3i)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-5-methylphenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (27 mg, 67% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.05 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.50 (dt,  $J = 9.5, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.19 (dq,  $J = 13.4, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.5, 151.4, 138.3, 127.9, 124.9, 119.5, 116.8, 45.6, 26.9, 25.1, 21.1, 20.6, 18.7; IR (film) 2962, 1768, 1627, 1585, 1509, 1416, 1370, 1258, 1229, 1140, 1120, 1092, 1012, 962, 856, 811, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 204.1; found 204.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 5%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (minor) = 23.1 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (major) = 24.6 min; er = 89:11.

**3j**

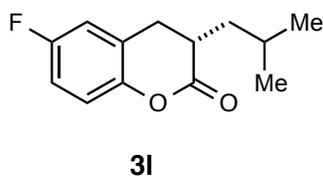
**(S)-3-benzyl-6-fluorochroman-2-one (3j)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-fluorophenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (40 mg, 78% yield) as a colorless solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.01 (dd,  $J = 8.9, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd,  $J = 14.0, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.99 – 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dd,  $J = 16.0, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.67 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.1, 158.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 243.7$  Hz), 147.6, 147.5, 137.7, 129.1, 128.8, 126.9, 124.0 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.1$  Hz), 117.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.5$  Hz), 114.8 (dd,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 23.6, 11.1$  Hz), 40.4, 35.5, 28.3; IR (film) 3120, 2880, 1763, 1601, 1489, 1434, 1360, 1266, 1202, 1124, 1078, 982, 957, 890, 816, 773, 738, 698, 673, 656  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 256.1; found 256.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 280 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 20.4 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 25.6 min; er = 84:16.



**(R)-6-fluoro-3-isopropylchroman-2-one (3k):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-methylbutan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-fluorophenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (27 mg, 65% yield) as a pale yellow oil.

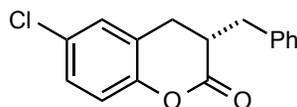
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.01 – 6.87 (m, 3H), 2.91 (qd,  $J = 16.0, 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.52 (dt,  $J = 9.6, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.20 (dq,  $J = 13.4, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.7, 158.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 243.3$  Hz), 147.5, 128.3, 124.4 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.2$  Hz), 117.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.6$  Hz), 114.7 (dd,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 23.7, 6.7$  Hz), 44.9, 26.9, 25.5, 20.5, 18.7; IR (film) 3071, 2962, 1749, 1600, 1490, 1456, 1437, 1369, 1340, 1265, 1236, 1187, 1163, 1141, 1099, 972, 944, 910, 884, 844, 821, 797, 723, 701, 638  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 208.1; found 208.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 12.7 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 14.0 min; er = 86:14.



**(S)-6-fluoro-3-isobutylchroman-2-one (3l):** Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-4-methylpentan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-fluorophenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (31 mg, 70% yield) as a colorless oil.

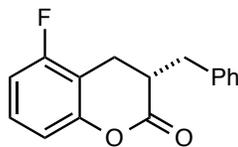
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.03 – 6.83 (m, 3H), 3.02 (q,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.79 – 2.68 (m, 2H), 1.85 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.40 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.7, 158.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 243.3$  Hz), 147.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 2.6$  Hz), 124.1

(d,  $J_{CF} = 8.1$  Hz), 117.7 (d,  $J_{CF} = 8.5$  Hz), 114.8 (dd,  $J_{CF} = 23.0, 6.0$  Hz), 38.6, 36.7, 29.6, 25.3, 22.8, 21.8; IR (film) 2959, 1754, 1490, 1435, 1368, 1221, 1189, 1140, 1112, 973, 955, 891, 817, 742, 701, 676  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 222.1; found 222.0. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 12.1 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 14.4 min; er = 88:12.

**3m**

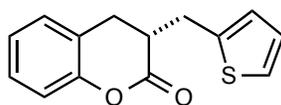
**(S)-3-benzyl-6-chlorochroman-2-one (3m)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-4-chlorophenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (31 mg, 56% yield) as a white solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd,  $J = 14.0, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.98 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.82 (dd,  $J = 16.0, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.67 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.8, 150.1, 137.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 126.9, 124.0, 117.9, 40.4, 35.5, 28.1; IR (film) 2959, 2161, 1766, 1480, 1454, 1416, 1234, 1194, 1128, 1081, 850, 818, 741, 701  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 272.1; found 272.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 250 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 20.1 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 22.1 min; er = 82:18.

**3n**

**(S)-3-benzyl-5-fluorochroman-2-one (3n)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)-3-fluorophenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (31 mg, 60% yield) as a colorless oil.

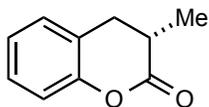
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.95 – 6.75 (m, 2H), 3.39 (dd,  $J = 13.9, 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.06 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 2.78 (dd,  $J = 13.9, 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd,  $J = 15.9, 10.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.6, 159.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 246.7$  Hz), 152.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 6.8$  Hz), 137.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 126.9, 112.3, 111.2 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 21.6$  Hz), 110.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 22.6$  Hz), 53.4, 40.0, 35.7, 21.7, 21.6; IR (film) 2899, 2060, 1764, 1467, 1444, 1416, 1264, 1124, 1081, 731, 701  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 256.1; found 256.1. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 230 nm),  $\text{Rt}_1$  (major) = 15.8 min,  $\text{Rt}_2$  (minor) = 17.2 min; er = 82:18.

**3o**

**(R)-3-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)chroman-2-one (3o)**: Prepared according to the general procedure using 1-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-1-one and (2-(bromomethyl)phenoxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexane to afford the product (32 mg, 65% yield) as a colorless oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.19 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.12 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.97 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd,  $J = 3.4, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.55 (ddd,  $J = 15.2, 4.4, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd,  $J = 15.1, 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.02 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 2.80 (dd,  $J = 17.1, 13.3$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.0, 151.5, 139.9, 128.3, 128.2, 127.0, 126.5, 124.4, 122.3, 116.6, 41.0, 29.7, 28.4; IR (film) 3310, 3150, 2460, 1850, 1768, 1469, 1416, 1264, 1124, 1081, 974, 731, 703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; LRMS (EI); Mass calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}]^+$ : 244.1; found 244.0. Enantiomeric ratio was measured by chiral phase HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, 10%, *i*-

PrOH/Hexanes, 0.5 mL/min, 254 nm),  $R_{t_1}$  (major) = 21.5 min,  $R_{t_2}$  (minor) = 24.4 min; er = 75:25.



**3d**

**Determination of the absolute configuration of compound 3d:**

The absolute configuration of compound **3d** was determined to be (*S*)-configuration by comparison with the reported optical rotation value.<sup>4</sup>

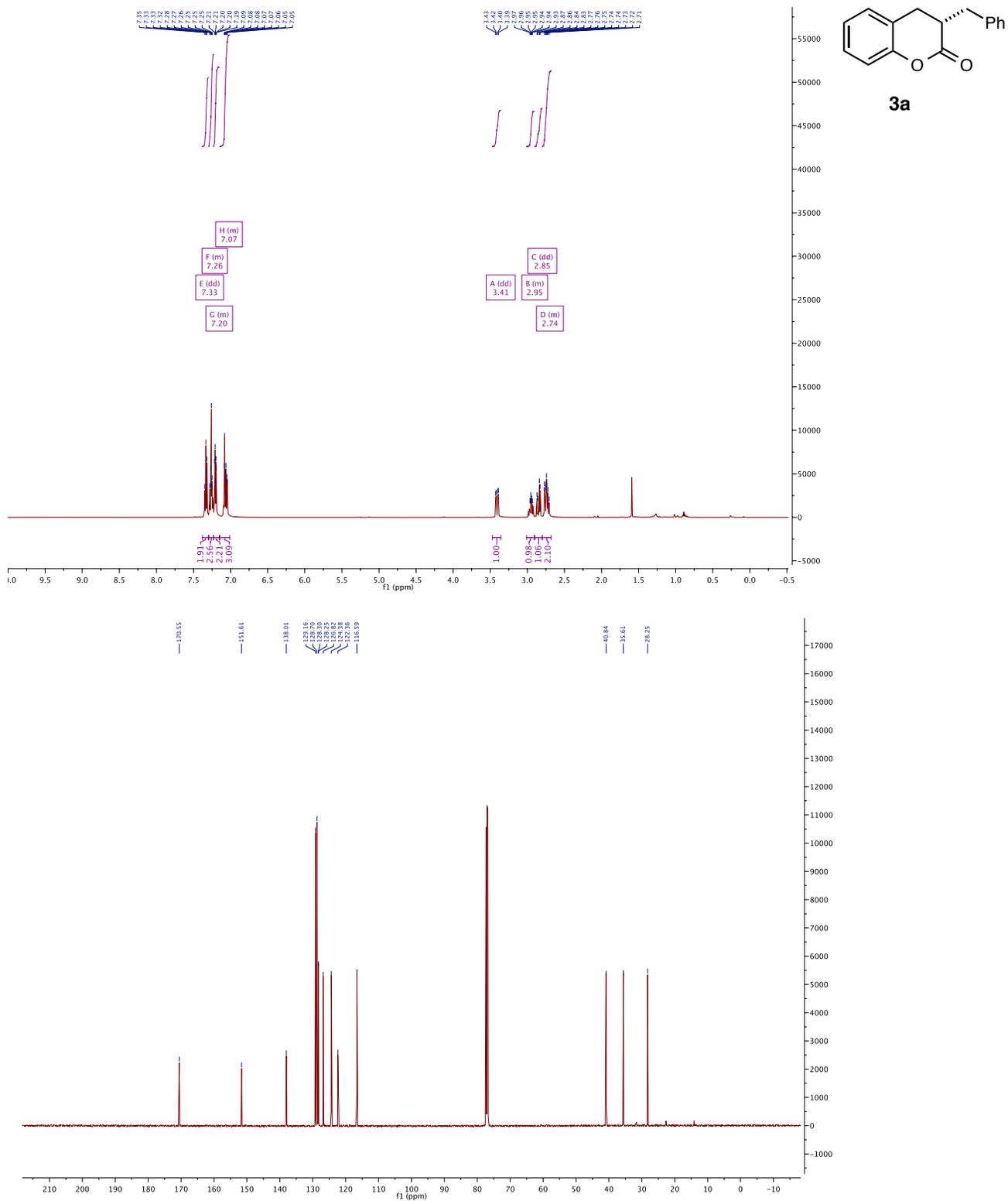
$[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -12.3$  ( $c = 0.8$ , benzene, 88:12 e.r.): (*S*)-configuration

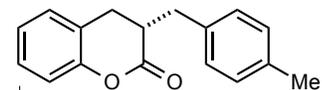
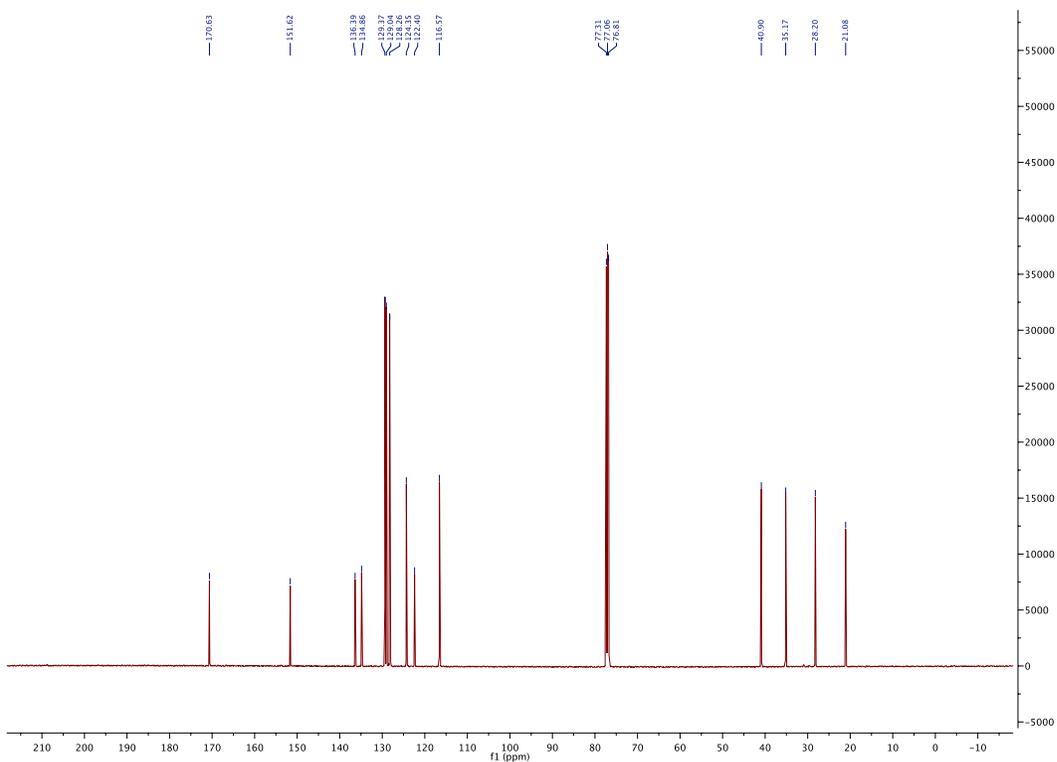
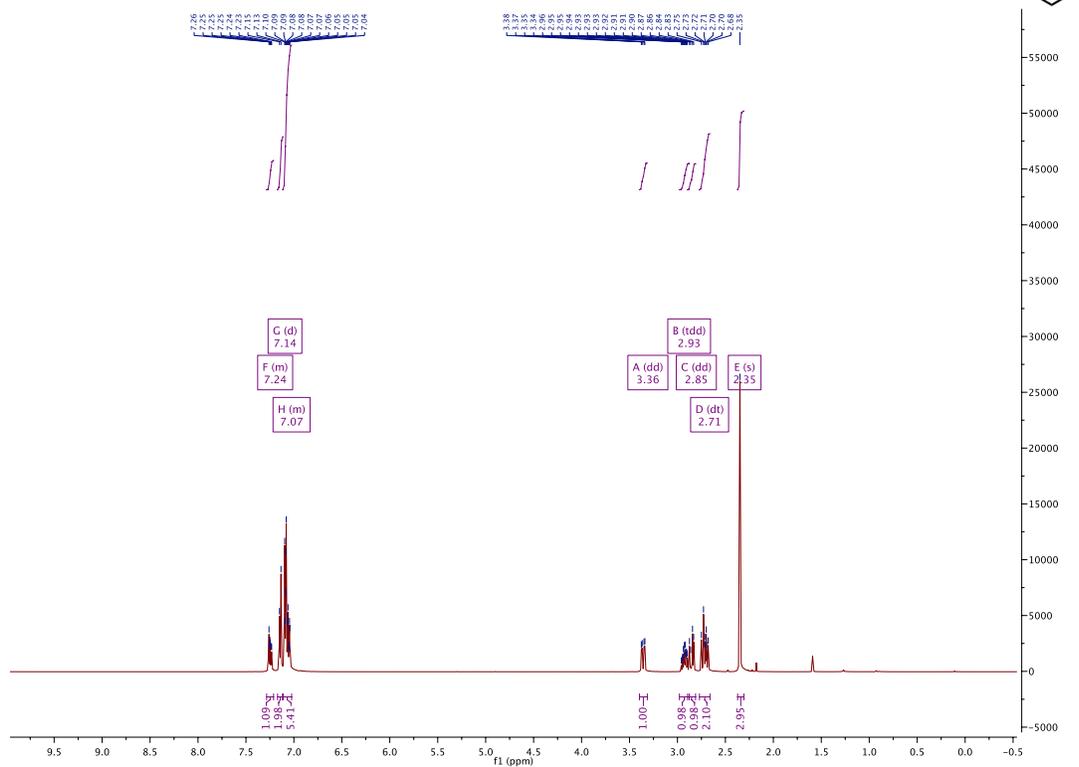
Literature value:  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -3.4$  ( $c = 1.03$  benzene, 66.5:33.5 e.r.)

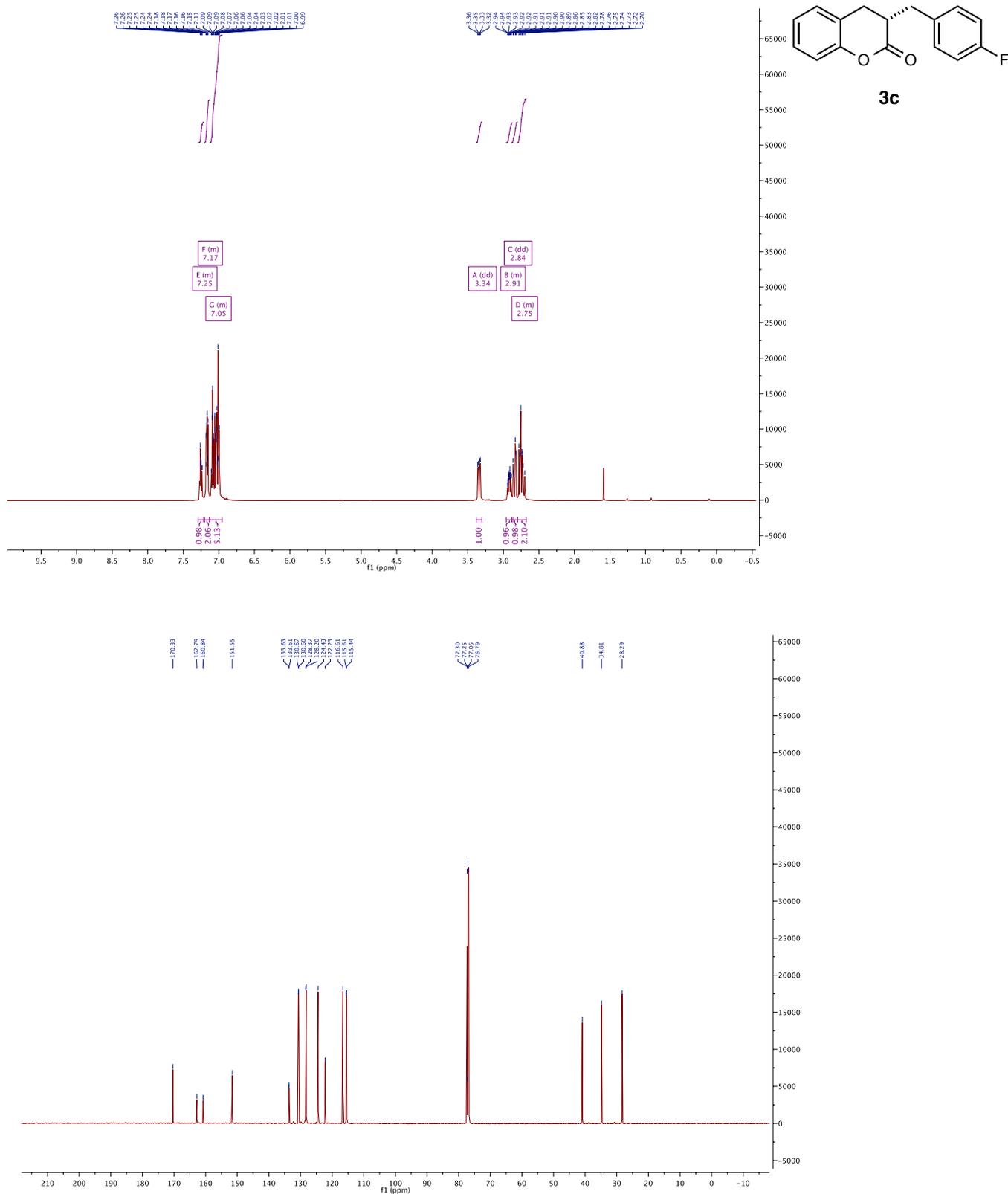
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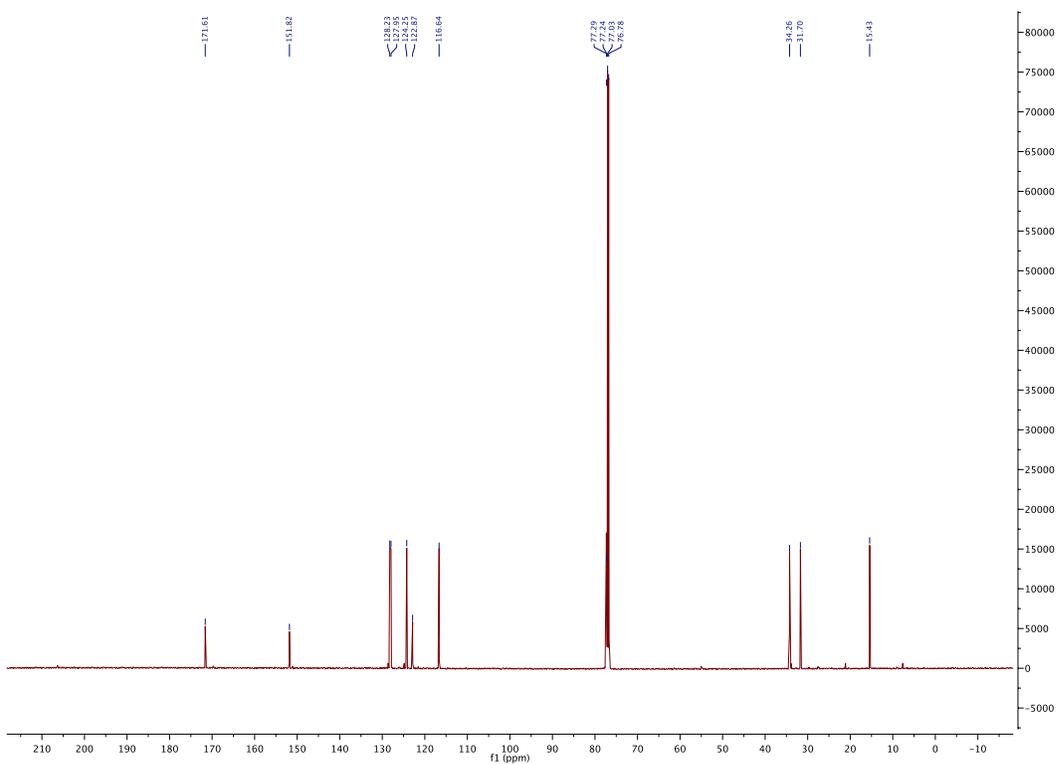
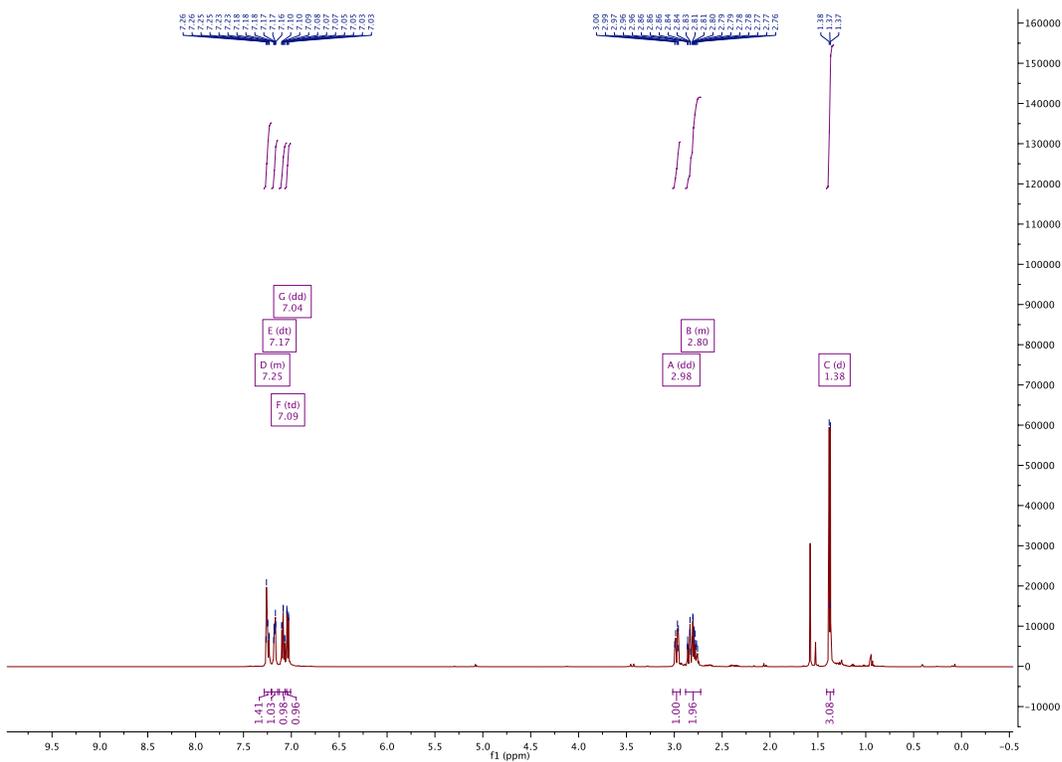
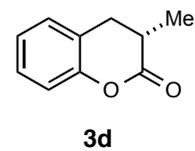
<sup>4</sup> M. Murakata, H. Tsutsui, N. Takeuchi, O. Hoshino Tetrahedron 1999, 55, 10295-10304.

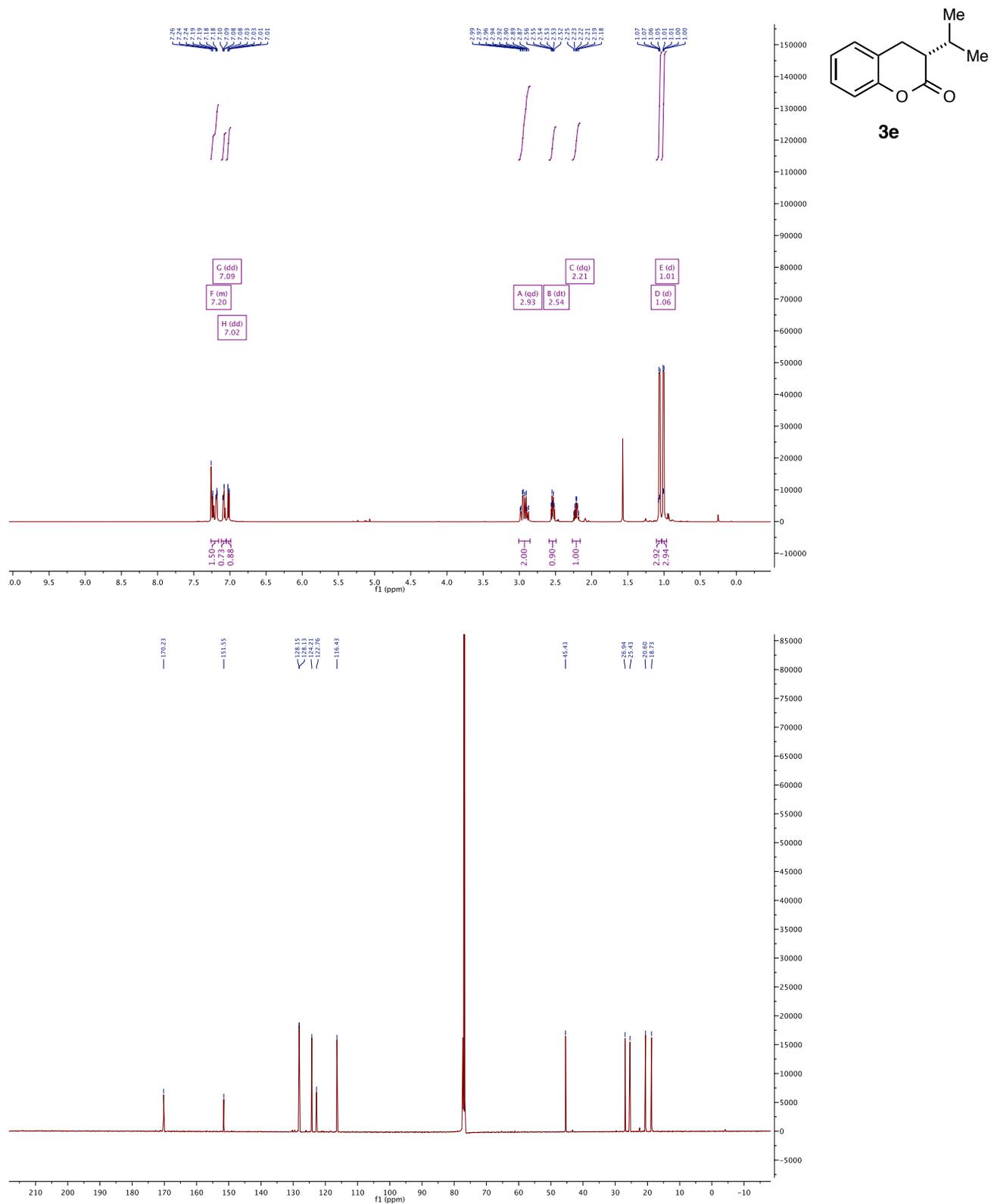
## Selected NMR Spectra

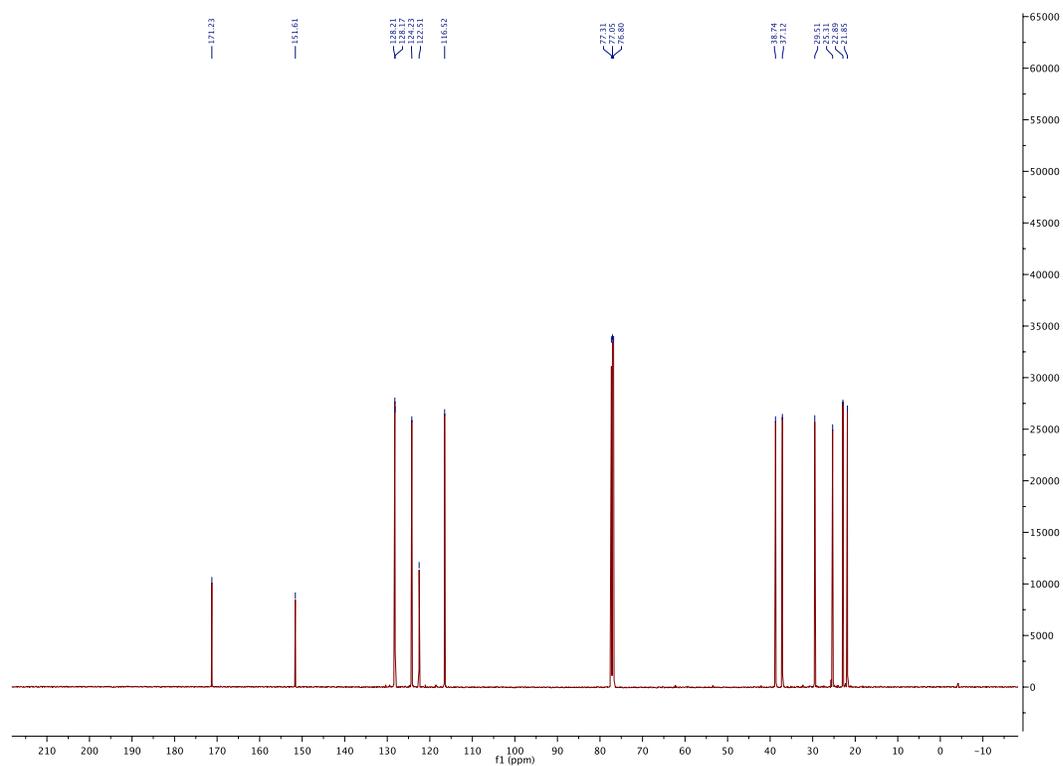
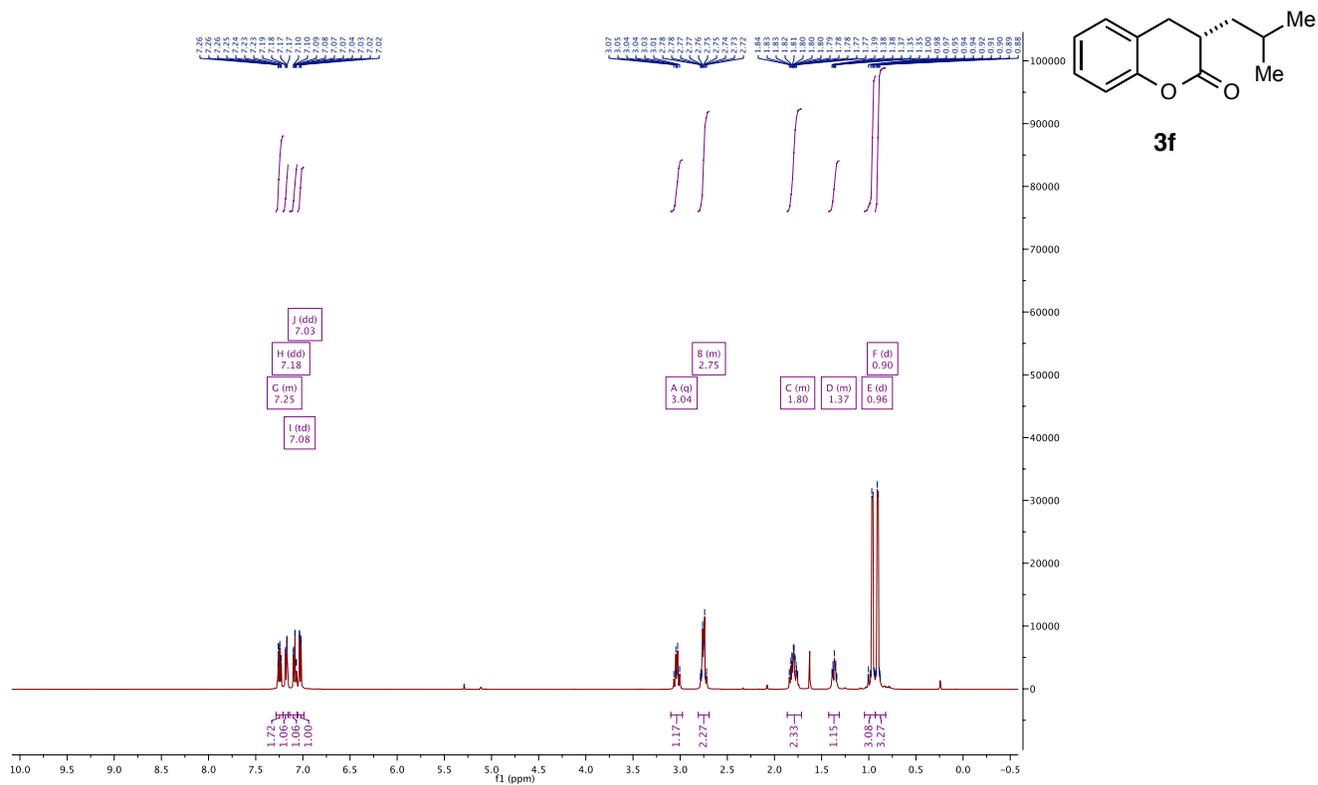


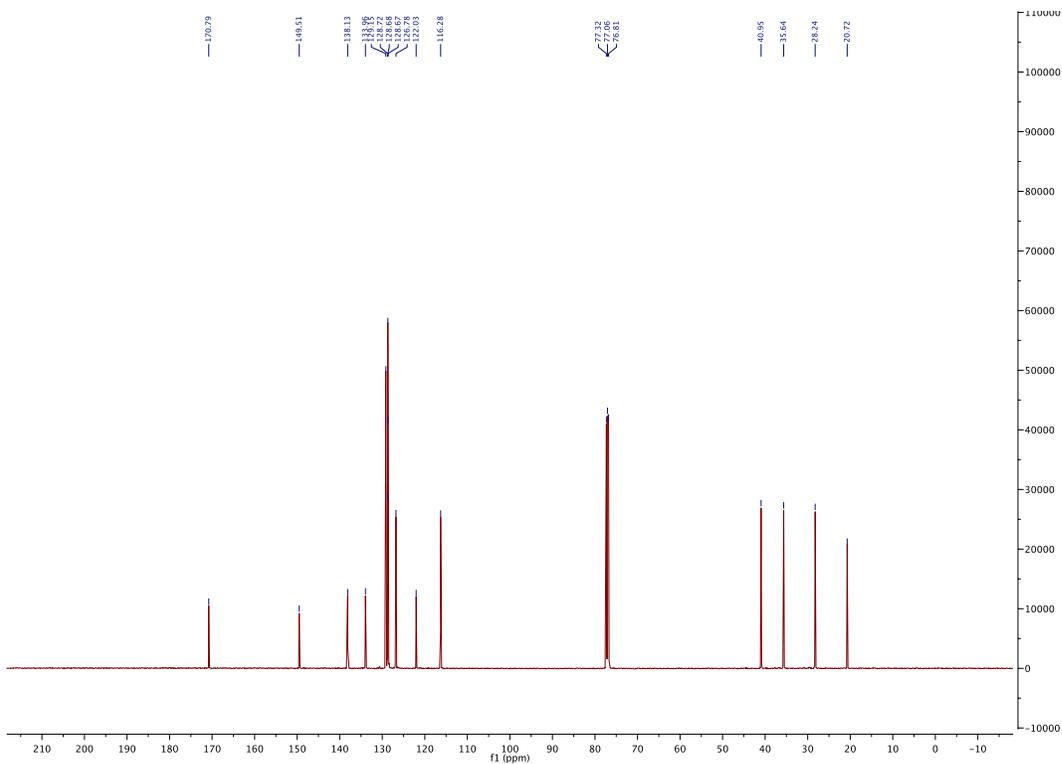
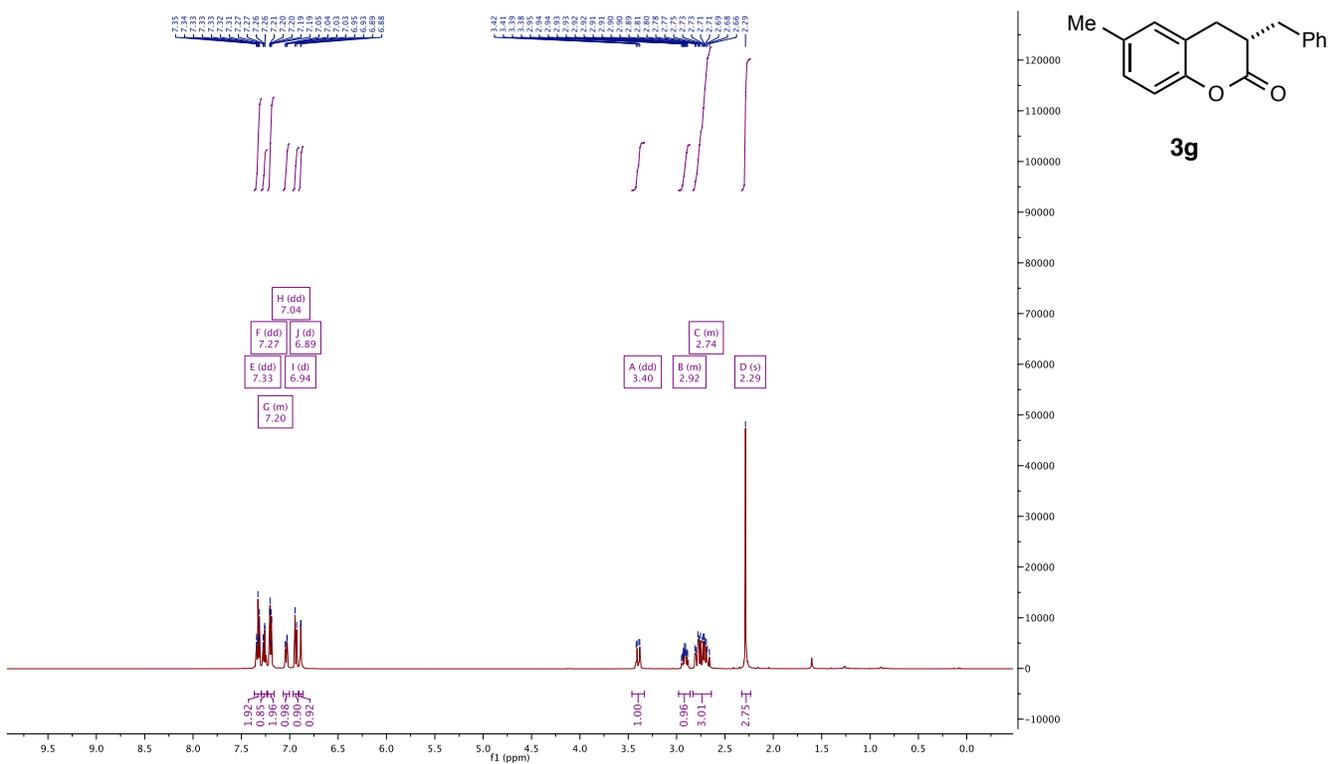
**3b**



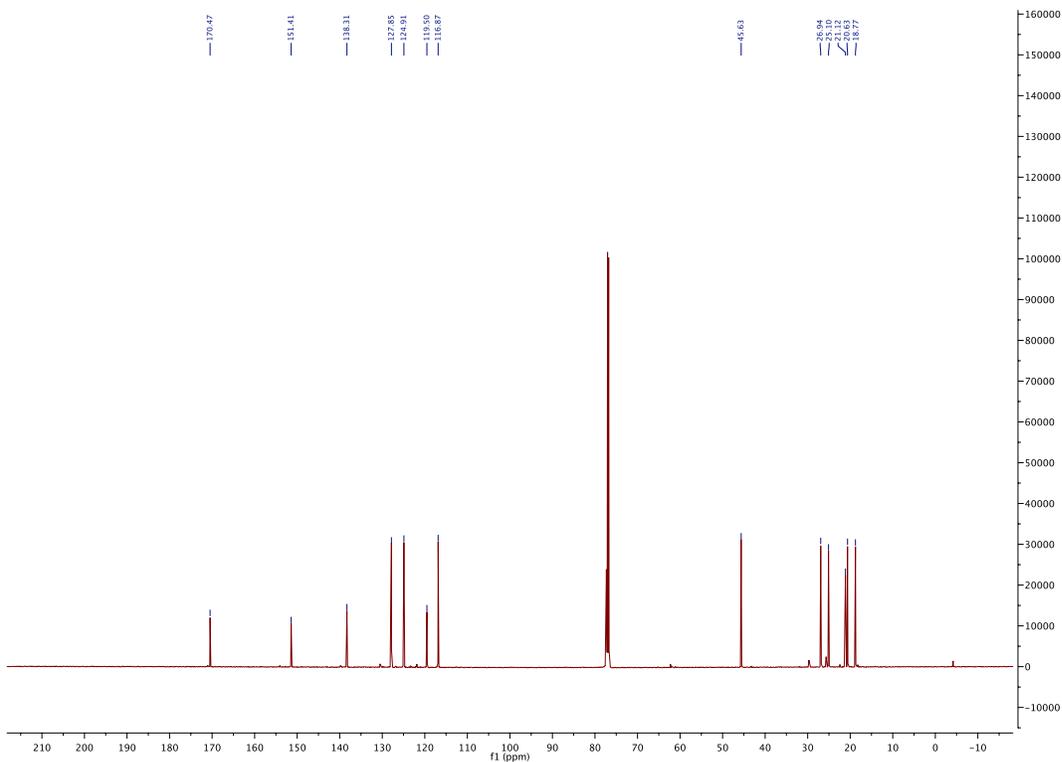
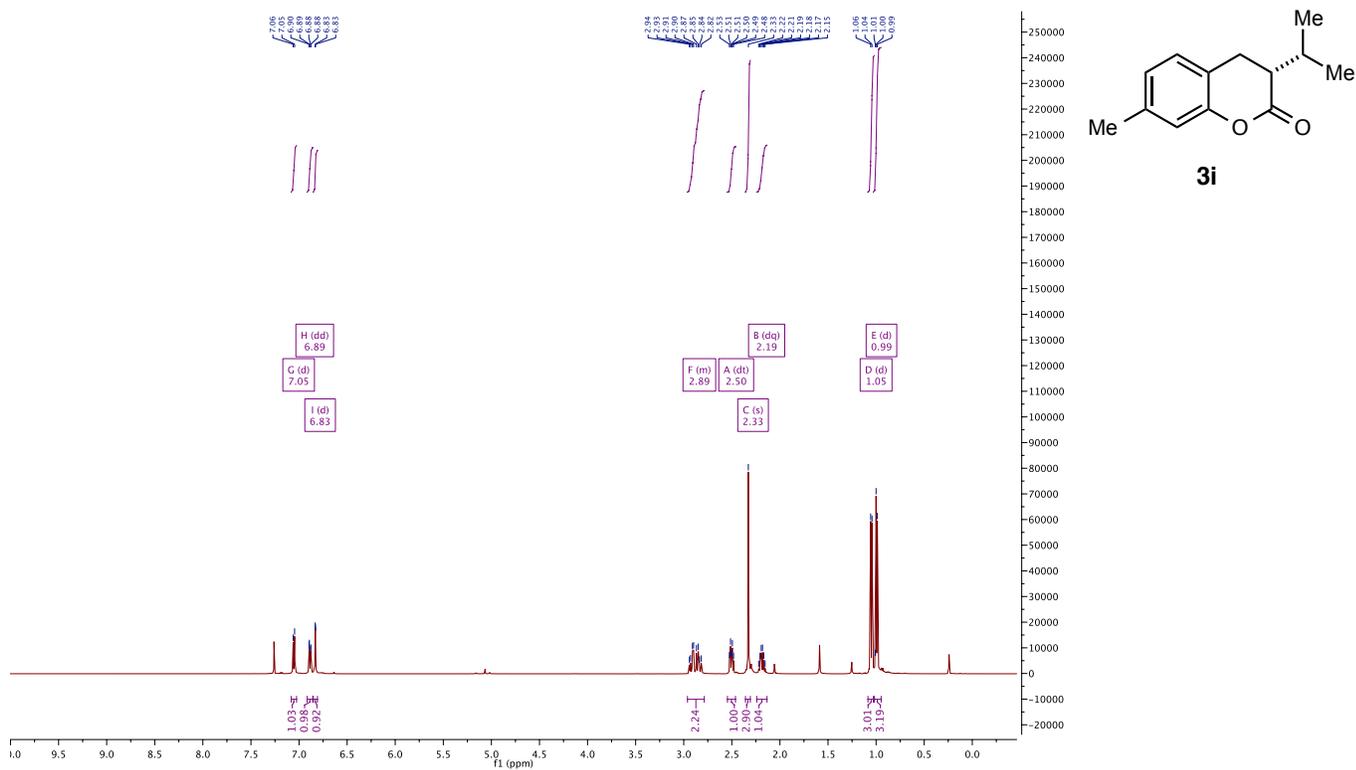




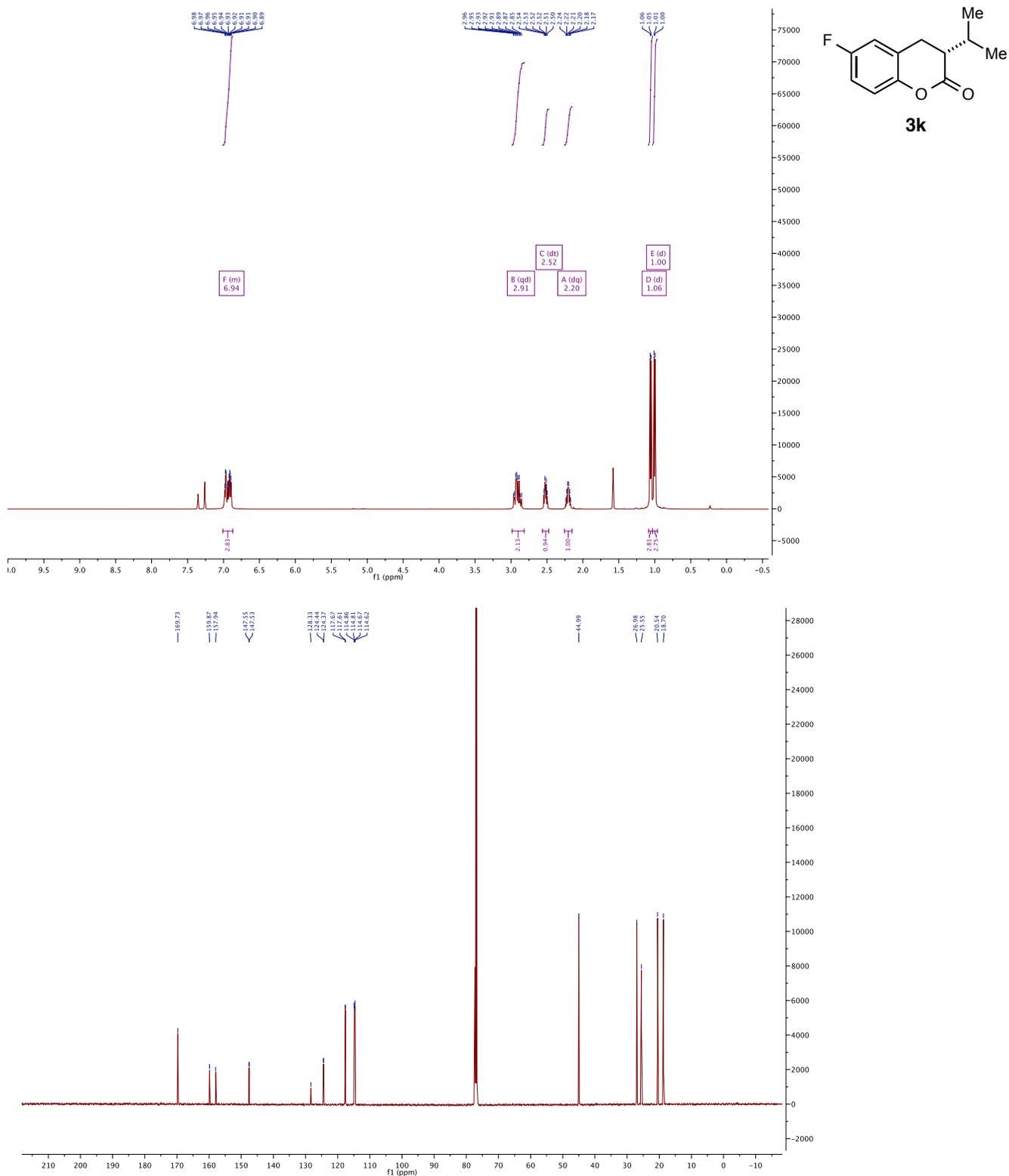


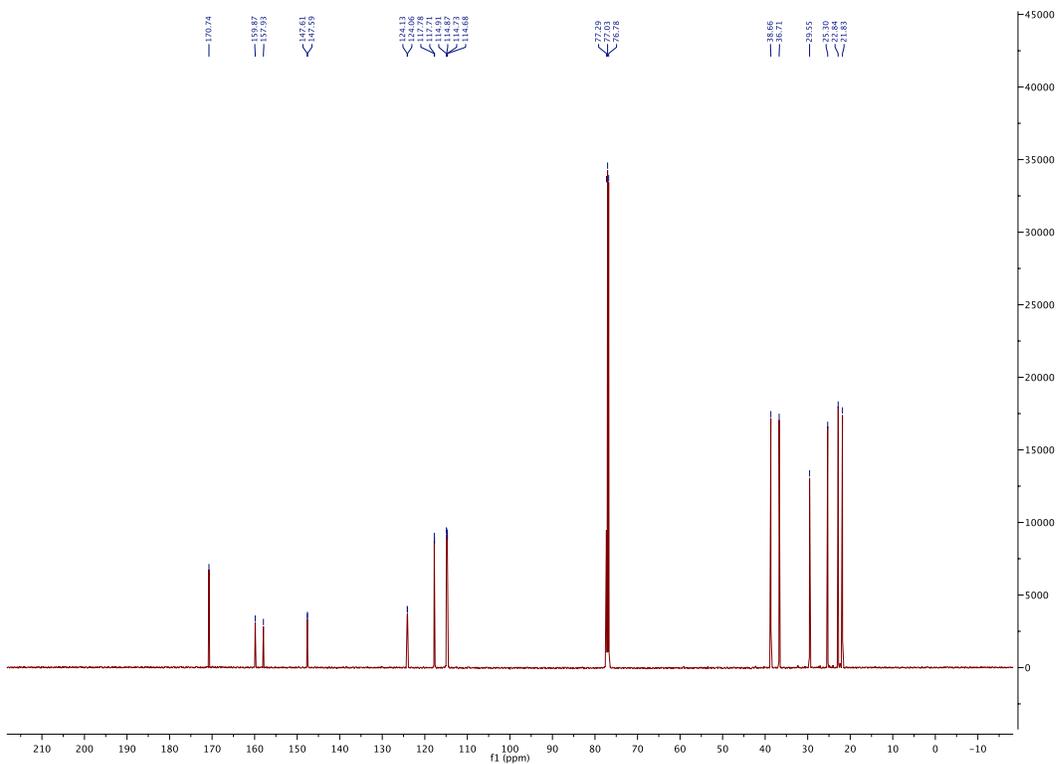
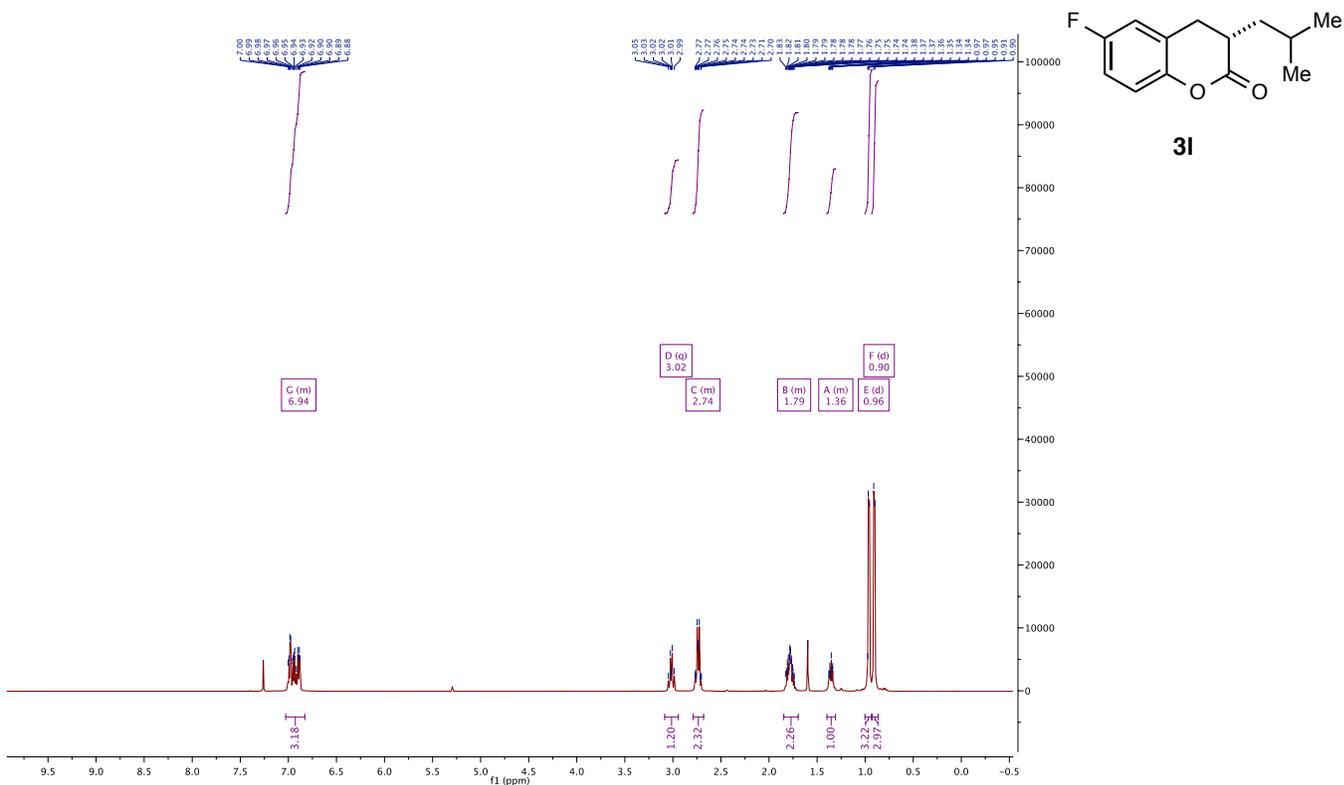




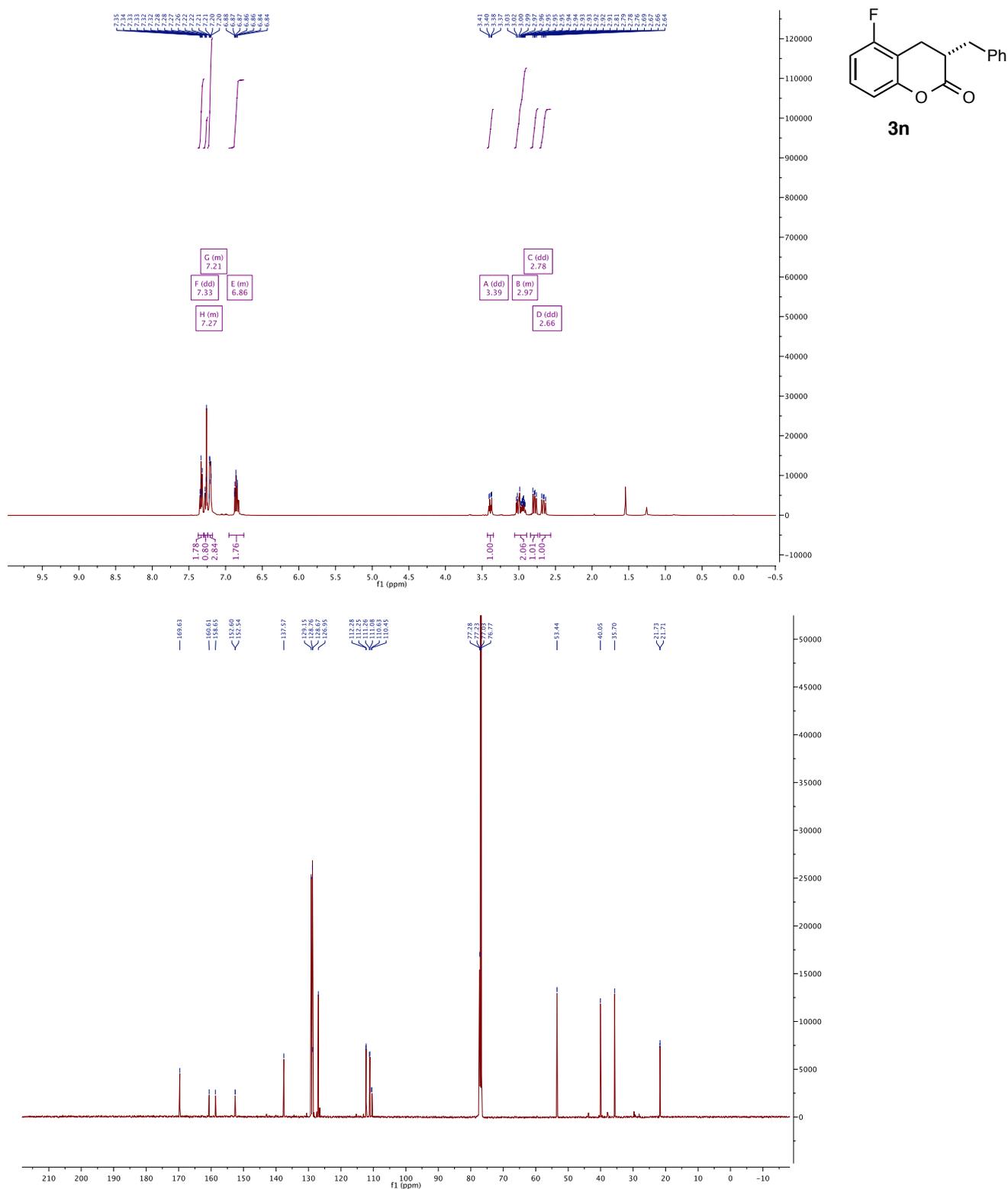


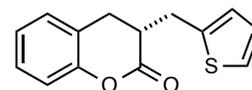
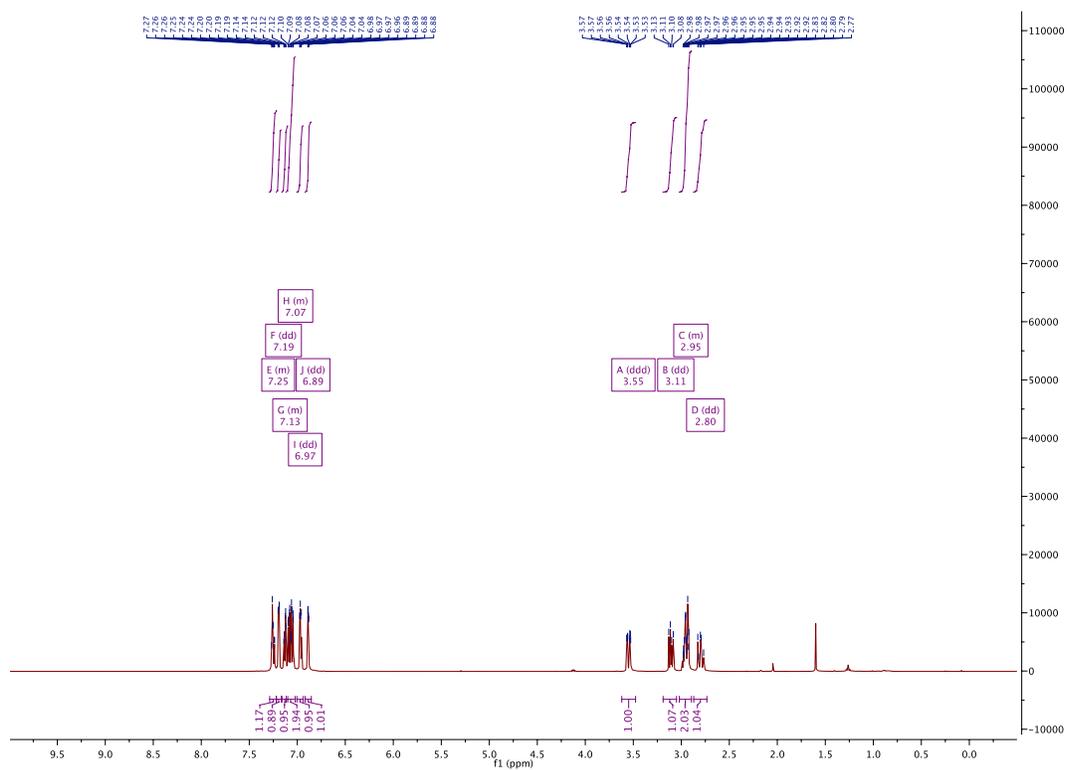
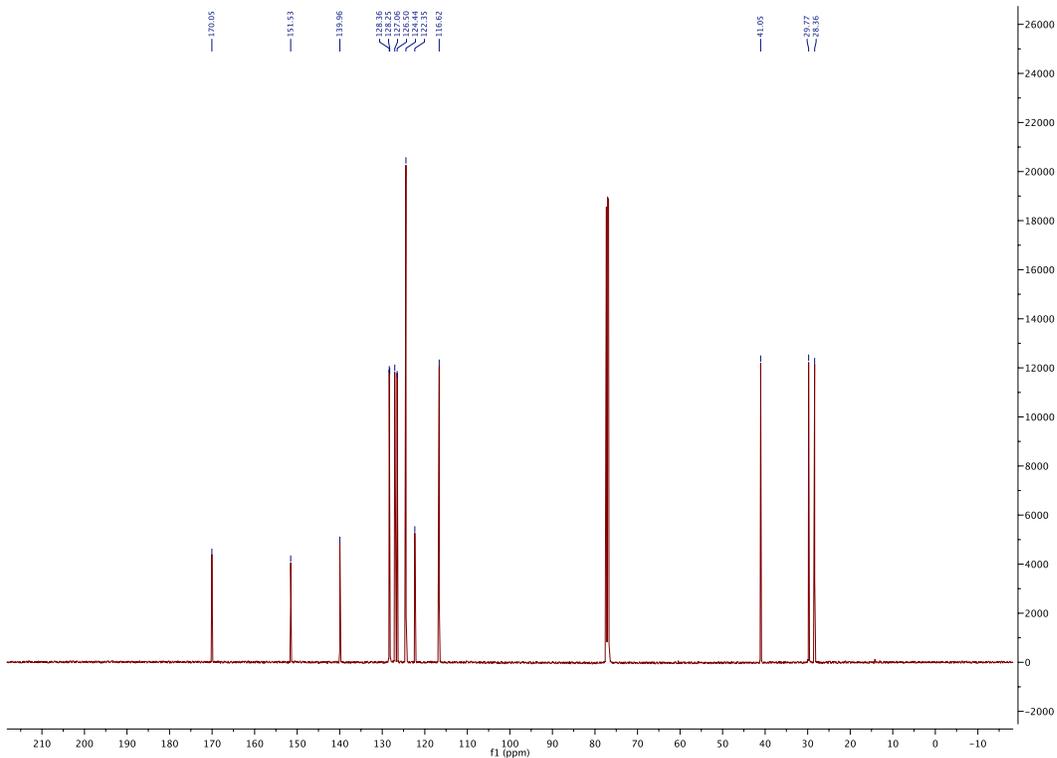










**3o**

## HPLC Traces of Racemic and Enantioenriched Compounds

