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Supporting Information

Copper-Catalyzed Regioselective Tri- and Tetrafunctionalization of Alkenylboronic Acids to Synthesize Tetrahydrocarbazol-1-ones and Indolo[2,3-a]carbazoles

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1. General experimental information

 1 H NMR and 13 C NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature using 400 or 500 MHz spectrometers. The data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm from internal tetramethylsilane on the δ scale, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. High resolution mass spectra were acquired on an LTQ FT spectrometer, and were obtained by peak matching. Melting points are reported uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Chromatography was performed using with 300-400 mesh silica gel (SiO₂). Unless otherwise noted, all reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and, where appropriate, purified prior to use. Alkenylboronic acid 1a, *N*-hydroxylbenzotriazin-4-one (HOOBT), and arylhydrazines 2a-2j were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

2. Synthesis of tetrahydrocarbazol-1-ones 3aa-3ia

General procedure A: In a 25 mL reaction flask was charged with alkenylboronic acids 1 (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (0.3 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (5.4 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (400 mg) under an air atmosphere, MeCN (3.0 mL) and pyridine (72 uL, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 18–24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). Then, arylhydrazine 2 (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and HOAc (5 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and then stirred at 80 °C for 10-24 h. At this time, the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compounds 3aa-3ia.

3aa

2,3,4,9-Tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3aa). A brown solid, 0.043 g, 79% yield; mp: 155–156°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.50 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 3.03 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.70–2.66 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.6, 138.0, 131.2, 129.6, 127.0, 125.8, 121.3, 120.3, 121.6, 38.2, 25.0, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₂NO (M+H)⁺ 186.0913, found 186.0910.

3ab

6-Methoxy-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ab). A brown solid, 0.074 g, 85% yield; mp: 198–199 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.92 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.01 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.00–2.97 (s, 2H), 2.67–2.64 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.2, 154.5, 133.2, 131.8, 128.8, 126.1, 118.6, 113.4, 101.3, 55.7, 38.2, 25.0, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{14}NO_2(M+H)^+$ 216.1019, found 216.1018.

3ac

6-Methyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ac). A brown solid, 0.048 g, 80% yield; mp: 173–174 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.50 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 3.03 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.70–2.66 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

191.1, 136.9, 132.6, 129.1, 127.7, 127.4, 124.0, 115.3, 112.5, 38.6, 25.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{14}NO$ (M+H)⁺ 200.1070, found 200.1068.

3ad

6-Chloro-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ad). A brown solid, 0.049 g, 75% yield; mp: 171–172 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (br, 2H), 2.57–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.14–2.11 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 191.2, 136.7, 132.8, 127.8, 126.7, 126.6, 124.7, 120.9, 114.9, 38.4, 25.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁ClNO (M+H)⁺ 220.0524, found 220.0516.

3ae

6-Bromo-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ae). A brown solid, 0.058 g, 74% yield; mp: 186–187 °C; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.81 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 2H), 2.92–2.90 (m, 2H), 2.56–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.14–2.13 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 191.1, 136.9, 132.6, 129.1, 127.7, 127.4, 124.0, 115.3, 112.5, 38.6, 25.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁BrNO (M+H)⁺ 264.0019, found 264.0024.

3af

6-Fluoro-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3af). A brown solid, 0.036 g, 60%

yield; mp: 197–198 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 1H), 3.00 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.30–2.25 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.7, 158.8 (d, J = 236 Hz), 134.5, 132.6, 129.2 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), 126.0 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 116.1 (d, J = 27 Hz), 113.7 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 105.7 (d, J = 23 Hz), 38.2, 24.9, 21.3; ¹⁹F NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -122.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁FNO (M+H)⁺ 204.0819, found 204.0808.

3ag

6-(Trifluoromethyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ag). A brown solid, 0.021 g, 29% yield; mp: 160–161 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.55 (m, 2H), 3.06–3.04 (m, 2H), 2.74 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.34–2.30 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.7, 139.0, 132.5 (q, J = 274 Hz), 125.1, 123.3, 123.2, 123.0 (q, J = 33 Hz), 119.4 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 113.1, 38.2, 24.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}F_{3}NO$ (M+H)⁺ 254.0787, found 254.0801.

3ah (a/b = 2:1)

Indole 3ah, a brown solid, 0.053 g, 89% yield. mp: 156–157 °C; 3ah (a): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.32 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 3.00 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.66–2.63 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.28–2.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.3, 138.2, 133.7, 130.9, 129.8, 125.2, 122.5, 120.9, 110.3, 37.7, 25.0, 22.1, 20.1; 3ah (b): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.24 (s, 1H), 7.21–7.219 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 2.66–2.63 (m, 2H), 2.28–2.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.4, 138.5, 137.5, 131.0, 129.8, 126.9, 123.7, 121.3, 112.2, 38.1, 25.1, 23.9, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO (M+H)⁺ 200.1070, found 200.1068.

3ai (a/b = 1:0.8)

Indole 3ai, a brown solid, 0.048 g, 75% yield. mp: 185–186 °C; 3ai (a): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.61–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.23–2.19 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.0, 139.0, 132.3, 128.5, 127.3, 124.3, 123.6, 119.4, 115.6, 38.2, 24.9, 21.2; 3ai (b): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 12.01 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.29 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.19 (m, 1H), 3.42–3.27 (m, 2H), 2.56–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.18–2.14 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.2, 139.5, 132.6, 137.7, 124.7, 124.1, 116.1, 123.2, 113.0, 38.5, 25.0, 23.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁BrNO (M+H) ⁺ 264.0019, found 264.0003.

3aj

8-Bromo-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3aj). A brown solid, 0.039 g, 65% yield. mp: 154–155 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.88 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.69 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.30–2.26 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.1, 136.5, 131.4, 130.0, 129.0, 127.0, 121.4, 120.5, 105.8, 38.2, 24.8, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₁BrNO (M+H)⁺ 264.0019, found 264.0029.

3ba

7,8,9,10-Tetrahydrocyclohepta[b]indol-6(5H)-one (3ba). A brown solid, 0.041 g, 68% yield; mp: 140–141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.21 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J =

8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 1H), 3.15–3.12 (m, 2H), 2.85 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.10–1.98 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.9, 136.6, 132.7, 127.8, 126.5, 124.5, 121.2, 120.0, 111.9, 42.8, 26.6, 25.6, 22.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO (M+H)⁺ 200.1070, found 200.1066.

3ca

8,9,10,11-Tetrahydro-5H-cycloocta[b]indol-6(7H)-one (3ca). A brown solid, 0.039 g, 60% yield; mp: 171–172 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.16 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 3.32 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.87–1.76 (m, 4H), 1.48–1.47 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.8, 136.4, 135.1, 128.0, 126.4, 121.8, 120.9, 120.1, 112.0, 40.5, 25.3, 23.8, 23.2, 22.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{16}NO$ (M+H)⁺ 214.1226, found 214.1224.

3da

4,4-Dimethyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3da). A brown solid, 0.042 g, 67% yield; mp: 153–154 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.59 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.08–7.05 (m, 1H), 2.87–2.82 (m, 2H), 2.47–2.42 (m, 2H), 1.08 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 190.3, 138.8, 130.8, 126.5, 126.1, 121.5, 120.1, 113.3, 52.3, 36.8, 35.2, 28.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{16}NO(M+H)^+$ 214.1226, found 214.1223.

3ea

4-(Tert-butyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ea). A brown solid, 0.044 g,

61% yield; mp: 184–185 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.20–3.15 (m, 1H), 2.76–2.66 (m,1H), 2.50–2.43 (m,1H), 2.20–2.13 (m,1H), 1.04 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.8, 138.1, 131.0, 129.6, 127.0, 126.0, 121.3, 120.4, 112.5, 48.2, 40.1, 32.8, 27.5, 22.8; IR (thin film) 3030, 2922, 1724, 1643, 1433, 1325, 1149, 743 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NO (M+H)⁺ 242.1539, found 242.1537.

3fa

4-Phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3fa). A brown solid, 0.040 g, 51% yield; mp: 188–189 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): δ 11.70 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.62–3.59 (m, 1H), 3.31–3.26 (m, 1H), 3.14–3.00 (m, 2H), 2.68–2.63 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ 189.9, 144.6, 138.8, 131.5, 129.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 126.8, 125.6, 121.8, 120.3, 113.3, 45.5, 43.4, 29.5. IR (thin film) 3033, 2932, 1647, 1471, 1384, 1282, 1190, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₆NO (M+H)⁺ 262.1226, found 262.1225.

3ga

3-Methyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-one (3ga). A brown solid, 0.048 g, 81% yield; mp: 120–121 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.14 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.18–3.13 (m, 2H), 2.71–2.39 (m, 4H), 1.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.2, 138.1, 131.0, 129.0, 127.0, 125.8, 121.3, 120.4, 112.6, 46.4, 33.0, 29.7, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO (M+H)⁺ 200.1070, found 200.1083.

3. Synthesis of indoles 3ha and 3ia

General procedure B: In a 25 mL reaction flask was charged with alkenylboronic acids 1 (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (0.3 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (5.4 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (400 mg) under an air atmosphere, MeCN (3.0 mL) and pyridine (72 uL, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 18–24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). Then, phenylhydrazine 2a (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), PPA (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and HOAc (5 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and then stirred at 80 °C for 10-24 h. At this time, the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compounds 3ha and 3ia.

3ha

1-(3-Methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)propan-1-one (3ha). A yellow solid, 0.025 g, 45% yield; mp: 123–124 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.99 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 3.00 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.65–2.64 (m, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.8, 135.9, 132.3, 132.3, 128.9, 126.2, 121.1, 120.0, 117.9, 111.8, 34.3, 11.2, 8.0; IR (thin film) 3077, 2923, 1732, 1640, 1432, 1226, 1026, 740 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₄NO (M+H)⁺ 188.1070, found 188.1068.

3ia

(3-Methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3ia). A yellow solid, 0.038 g, 53% yield; mp: $109-110^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J=7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, J=7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, J=7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 189.3, 139.4, 136.6, 132.0, 131.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 126.5, 121.3, 120.5, 120.2, 111.8, 11.2; IR (thin film) 3069, 2973, 1694, 1642, 1450, 1242, 1108, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ (M+H)⁺ 236.1070, found 236.1068.

4. Synthesis of indolo[2,3-a]carbazoles 4

General procedure C: In a 25 mL reaction flask was charged with alkenylboronic acids 1 (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (0.3 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (5.4 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (400 mg) under an air atmosphere, MeCN (3.0 mL) and pyridine (72 uL, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 18–24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). Then, arylhydrazine 2 (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) [or Ar¹NHH₂ (1.5 equiv.) for 10 h, then adding Ar²NHNH₂ (1.5 equiv.)] and HOAc (5 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and then stirred at 80 °C for 10-24 h. At this time, the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compounds 4.

4aa

11,12-Dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4aa).** A yellow solid, 0.051 g, 66% yield. Mp: 280–281 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.07 (s, 2H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.91–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.5, 126.1, 125.0, 124.3, 120.6, 120.2, 119.4, 112.1. IR (thin film) 3067, 2963, 1656, 1451, 1329, 1262, 1098, 803 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{13}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 257.1073, found 257.1077.

4bb

3,8-Dimethoxy-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4bb).** A yellow solid, 0.028 g, 30% yield. mp: 284–285 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.82 (s, 2H), 7.84 (s, 2H), 7.69–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.03–7.00 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 153.8, 134.3, 126.9, 124.7, 120.4, 114.2, 112.7, 111.8, 102.8, 56.1; IR (thin film) 3042, 2923, 1607, 1412,30 1384, 1284, 1021, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{15}N_2O_2$ (M-H) 315.1139, found 315.1135.

4cc

3,8-Dimethyl-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4cc).** A yellow solid, 0.060 g, 70% yield. mp>300 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.87 (s, 2H), 7.92 (s, 2H), 7.82 (s, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 137.7, 127.9, 126.4, 126.2, 124.4, 120.2, 119.9, 111.8,

111.7, 21.7; IR (thin film) 3046, 2926, 1607, 1412, 1384, 1282, 1023, 727 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{17}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 285.1386, found 285.1394.

4dd

3,8-Dichloro-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4dd).** A yellow solid, 0.062 g, 64% yield. mp: 302-303 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.39 (s, 2H), 8.28–8.24 (m, 2H), 7.96 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 137.9, 126.8, 125.4, 124.9, 123.9, 120.2, 119.8, 113.6, 112.8; IR (thin film) 3043, 2924, 1607, 1466, 1384, 1279, 1094, 728 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_9Cl_2N_2$ (M-H)⁻ 323.0148, found 323.0145.

4ab

3-Methoxy-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4ab).** Using **2a** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and **2b** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). A yellow solid, 0.045 g, 53% yield. mp: 282-283 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.06 (s, 1H), 10.84 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.02 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 153.8, 139.4, 134.4, 126.9, 126.2, 124.9, 124.7, 124.3, 120.7, 120.4, 120.1, 119.4, 114.3, 112.8, 112.2, 112.0, 111.7, 102.9, 56.1; IR (thin film) 3066, 2925, 1609, 1464, 1385, 1211, 1025, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{13}N_2O$ (M-H) 285.1033, found 285.1029.

4ad

3-Chloro-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4ad).** Using **2a** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and **2d** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). A yellow solid, 0.047 g, 54% yield. mp>300 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.22 (s, 1H), 11.13 (s, 1H), 8.27–8.23 (m, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m,1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.5, 137.9, 127.0, 125.9, 125.6, 125.2, 124.7, 124.1, 123.8, 121.1, 120.3, 119.8, 119.7, 119.5, 113.5, 112.5, 112.3, 112.1; IR (thin film) 3060, 2955, 1644, 1425, 1384, 1223, 1026, 618 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{18}H_{12}ClN_2$ (M+H)⁺ 291.0684, found 291.0661.

4af

3-Fluoro-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4af).** Using **2a** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and **2f** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). A yellow solid, 0.053 g, 64% yield. mp: 288-289 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.13 (s, 1H), 11.10 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.70–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 158.4 (d, J = 231 Hz), 139.5, 136.0, 127.4, 126.0, 125.1, 124.8 (d, J = 10.2 Hz), 124.2, 120.9, 120.4 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 120.2, 119.4, 113.0, 112.9, 112.7 (d, J = 25.6 Hz), 112.4, 112.1, 105.7(d, J = 23 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –124.6; IR (thin film) 3055, 2926, 1608, 1464, 1384, 1283, 1023, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for $C_{18}H_{10}FN_2$ (M-H)⁻ 273.0833, found 273.0827.

4ah (1:1)

2-Methyl-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-a]carbazole (4ah). Using **2a** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and **2h** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). A yellow solid, 0.043 g, 53% yield. mp: 273-274 °C; one isomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.10 (s, 1H), 11.00 (s, 1H), 8.14-8.11 (m, 2H), 8.01 (d, J=7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 2H), 3.36 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.9, 139.5, 134.4, 126.2, 126.0, 125.0, 124.9, 124.2, 122.8, 121.1, 120.8, 120.2, 120.0, 119.9, 119.4, 114.2, 112.0, 111.9, 22.2; another iosmer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.01 (s, 1H), 11.89 (s, 1H), 7.95-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.35 (m,2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.03-6.97 (m, 2H), 2.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.5, 139.4, 132.1, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 124.3, 124.8, 124.2, 122.1, 120.9, 120.7, 120.2, 120.0, 119.3, 112.0, 111.8, 109.7, 21.2; IR (thin film) 3058, 2925, 1607, 1455, 1384, 1284, 1023, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{13}N_2$ (M-H) 269.1084, found 269.1061.

4bd

3-Chloro-8-methoxy-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4bd).** Using **2b** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and **2d** (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). A yellow solid, 0.048 g, 50% yield. mp: 270–271 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.22 (s, 1H), 10.91 (s, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.05–7.02 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 153.9, 137.9, 134.4, 127.0, 126.7, 125.7, 124.6, 124.5, 123.8, 121.2, 119.7, 119.6, 114.6, 113.5, 112.9, 112.7, 111.9, 102.9, 56.1; IR (thin film) 3069, 2925, 1608, 1467, 1384, 1284, 1023, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{12}N_2O$ (M-H)⁻ 319.0643, found 319.0639.

4ba

6,7,12,13-Tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[**1,2-***b*:**7,6-***b*']**diindole** (**4ba**). A yellow solid, 0.055 g, 67% yield. mp: 240–241 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.89 (s, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.99 (m, 2H), 3.12–3.10 (m, 4H), 2.12–2.10 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 136.1, 129.1, 128.1, 122.0, 119.5, 118.3, 113.5, 111.3, 26.1, 23.9; IR (thin film) 3043, 2923, 1607, 1440, 1384, 1286, 1014, 742 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{17}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 273.1386, found 273.1385.

4ca

5,6,7,8,13,14-Hexahydrocycloocta[**1,2-***b***:8,7-***b***']diindole (4ca).** A yellow solid, 0.057 g, 66% yield. mp: 222–223 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.00 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13–7.10 (m, 2H), 7.04–7.00 (m, 2H), 2.98–0.90 (m, 4H), 1.83–1.80 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 139.9, 128.9, 128.2, 122.0, 119.2, 118.5, 113.4, 111.6, 26.8, 22.8; IR (thin film) 3056, 2924, 1606, 1465, 1384, 1282, 1042, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₀H₁₉N₂ (M+H)⁺ 287.1543, found 287.1548.

4da

5,6-Dimethyl-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4da).** A yellow solid (0.045 g, 53%). Mp: 291–292 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.03 (s, 2H), 8.28 (d, J =

7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 2H), 2.90 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 139.7, 124.7, 124.4, 124.3, 122.3, 121.3, 119.6, 119.2, 111.8, 16.4; IR (thin film) 3048, 2923, 1608, 1453, 1384, 1256, 1019, 741 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{20}H_{17}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 258.1386, found 285.1357.

4fa

5-Phenyl-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4fa).** A yellow solid, 0.068 g, 68% yield. mp: 288–289 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.29 (s, 1H), 11.09 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75–7.65 (m, 5H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42 –7.31 (m, 3H), 7.22–7.18 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 142.4, 139.8, 139.7, 130.0, 129.3, 128.9, 127.6, 126.3, 125.5, 125.3, 124.8, 124.2, 123.8, 121.5, 120.5, 120.4, 119.5, 119.0, 118.0, 113.3, 112.2, 112.1; IR (thin film) 3055, 2925, 1608, 1450, 1383, 1210, 1026, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₁₅N₂ (M-H)⁻ 331.1241, found 331.1260.

4ga

5-Methyl-11,12-dihydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4ga).** A yellow solid, 0.051 g, 63% yield. mp: 268–269 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.19 (s, 1H), 10.96 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.68 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 2H), 2.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 139.7, 139.6, 126.1, 125.0, 124.9, 124.8, 124.6, 124.1, 122.1, 120.5, 120.2, 119.6, 119.4, 119.3, 112.6, 112.1, 111.9, 21.5; IR (thin film) 3048, 2923, 1608, 1455, 1384, 1283, 1019, 742 cm^{-1;} HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{13}N_2$ (M-H)⁻ 269.1084, found 269.1081.

4ja

4b-Methyl-4b,5,6,11-tetrahydroindolo[2,3-*a***]carbazole (4ja).** A brown solid, 0.042 g, 65% yield. mp:93–94 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.2 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.26–3.18 (m, 2H), 2.64–2.59 (m, 1H), 2.04–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 177.9, 154.9, 144.5, 138.7, 128.7, 128.1, 127.8, 126.6, 125.1, 125.0, 122.9, 121.8, 120.2, 119.9, 119.8, 112.4, 53.5, 34.4, 22.5, 19.5. IR (thin film) 3056, 2924, 1729, 1615, 1497, 1266, 1012, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₂ (M+H)⁺ 273.1386, found 273.1381.

5. Synthesis of compounds 4cc and 4dd from cyclohexenane-1,2-dione

General procedure D: In a 25 mL round-bottom flask was charged with cyclohexane-1,2-dione (56 mg, 0.5 mmol) and ArNHNH₂ (**2c** or **2d**, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) under air. HOAc (5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was then heated to 80 °C for 24 h. After the completion of the reaction, then the reaction was quenched with H_2O (10 mL). The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with NaHCO₃ (2 × 10 mL), brine (10 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent under the reduced pressure afforded the crude product. Purification by silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, V:V = 1:6) afforded compound **4cc** (20 mg, 14% yield) or **4dd** (58 mg, 36%).

6. Synthesis of α-nitrogenated ketone 5h and hydrazone 6

$$\bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} O \\ \bigcap_{N \in \mathbb{N}} O \\ \to \mathbb{E}t$$

5h

In a 25 mL reaction flask was charged with alkenylboronic acid **1h** (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (0.3 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (5.4 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (400 mg) under an air atmosphere. MeCN (3.0 mL) and pyridine (72 uL, 0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 18–24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/6 to 2/1, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide α -nitrogenated ketones **5h**.

4-Oxo-2-(4-oxohexan-3-yl)-4H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazin-2-ium-3-ide (5h). A light yellow solid, 0.065 g, 87%. mp: 95–96 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.39 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.86 (m, 3H), 5.27 (dd, J = 10.8 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.58–2.48 (m, 3H), 2.43–2.36 (m, 1H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.9, 167.6, 146.2, 134.6, 133.9, 126.6, 125.6, 118.0, 87.7, 32.6, 23.7, 10.3, 7.3; IR (thin film) 3059, 2936, 1723, 1646, 1458, 1240, 1110, 778 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₆N₃O₂ (M+H)⁺ 246.1237, found 246.1233.

In a 25 mL flask was charged with compound **5h** (0.073 g, 0.3 mmol), phenylhydrazine **2a** (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and HOAc (5.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 80 °C for 4 h. At this time, the reaction was quenched by H_2O (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). Then, the organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (10 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1:10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compound **6**.

4-(2-Phenylhydrazono)hexan-3-one (6). A brown solid, 0.030 g, 49% yield; mp: 52-53 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.22–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.01–6.97 (m,1H), 2.99 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.0, 145.1, 143.2, 129.4, 122.0, 113.8, 29.5, 14.9, 9.6, 8.9; IR (thin film) 3069, 2973, 1694, 1642, 1450, 1242, 1108, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{17}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 205.1335, found 205.1337.

7. Gram scale preparations of compounds 3aa and 4aa

Procedure for preparing 3aa: In a 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with alkenylboronic acid **1a** (3.0 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (1.3 g, 8 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (288 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (10 g) under an air atmosphere. MeCN (80 mL) and pyridine (1.92 mL, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). Then, phenylhydrazine **2a** (1.0 g, 9.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and HOAc (80 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and then stirred at 80 °C for 24 h. At this time, the reaction was poured into H₂O (100 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 60 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (2 ×50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compound **3aa** as a yield solid (1.11 g, 75% yield).

Alternatively, after revmoval of the solvent the crude product was purified by recrystallized by EtOH twice to provide **3aa** as a yellow solid (1.05 g, 71% yield).

Procedure for preparing 4aa: In a 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with alkenylboronic acid **1a** (3.0 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), HOOBT (1.3 g, 8 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (288 mg, 20 mol%), and Na₂SO₄ (10 g) under an air atmosphere. MeCN (80 mL) and pyridine (1.92 mL, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were then added. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 24 h until HOOBT disappeared (monitored by TLC). Then, phenylhydrazine **2a** (2.5 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and HOAc (80 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and then stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. At this time, the reaction was poured into H₂O (100 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 60 mL). Then, the combined organic layers were washed by NaHCO₃ (2 ×50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by

flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compound **4aa** as a brown solid (1.25 g, 61% yield).

Alternatively, after revmoval of the solvent the crude product was purified by recrystallized by EtOH twice to provide **4aa** as a yellow solid (1.33 g, 65% yield).

8. Synthesis of indole scaffolds 8 and 11

In a 25 mL flask, indole **3aa** (93 mg, 0.5 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was added to the mixture of NH₂OH (2.0 equiv) and anhydrous AcONa (2.0 equiv) in H₂O (5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 70 °C for 24 h. After the completion of the reaction, ethanol was removed under the reduced pressure, then H₂O (10 mL) was added to the residue. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent under the reduced pressure afforded the corresponding oxime as a brown solid, which was used directly in the next step.

A round-bottom flask was charged with the above crude oxime. Then, a solution of POCl₃ in MeCN (0.4 mol/L) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C and heated to reflux until the oxime intermediate was completely disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction mixture was poured into cool saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the water phase was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL \times 1), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, V:V = 1:2) afforded product **8**.

2,3,4,5-Tetrahydroazepino[3,4-*b***]indol-1(10H)-one (8)**. A white solid, 0.063 g, 63% yield; mp: 225–226 °C; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 6.10 (s,1H), 3.52–3.49 (m, 2H), 3.17–3.14 (m, 2H), 2.25–2.19 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.4, 135.8, 128.1, 126.3, 125.2, 120.3, 119.8, 118.9, 111.7, 45.0, 26.7, 25.8; IR (thin film) 3050, 2923, 1631, 1546, 1479, 1333, 1154, 741 cm^{-1;} HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{13}N_2$ (M+H)⁺ 201.1022, found 201.1017.

To a solution of indole **3aa** (93 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (5 mL), NaH (0.75 mol) was added slowly at 0 °C. After the completion of addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min and then 3-brompropyne (0.75 mmol) was carefully added dropwise to the solution. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched by H_2O (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent under the reduced pressure afforded the crude alkynylindole as a yellow solid, which was used directly in the next step.

In a 25 mL sealed-flask, a solution of the above alkynylindole in ethanol (5 mL) was added to NH₂OH (2.0 equiv.) and AcONa (2.0 equiv.) in H₂O (5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 70 °C for 24 h. After the completion of the reaction, ethanol was removed under the reduced pressure, then H₂O (10 mL) was added to the residue. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent under the reduced pressure afforded the corresponding oxime as a brown solid, which was used directly in the next step.

In a 25 mL flask, the above crude oxime was dissolved in CHCl₃ (5 mL) and AuCl₃ (5 mol %) was added to the mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 60 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated under the reduced pressure. Purification using medium pressure chromatography (ethyl acetate: ethanol, V:V = 8:1) afforded compound 9 as a yellow solid.

Methyl-5,6-dihydro-4H-pyrazino[3,2,1-*jk*]carbazole 3-oxide (9), a yellow solid, 0.081 g, 69% yield; mp: 197–198 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.74–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.36 (m, 2H), 3.22 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.24 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.2, 129.7, 129.2, 127.6, 127.3, 122.8, 122.1, 119.7, 115.2, 110.6, 107.2, 23.4, 22.2, 20.1, 14.9; IR (thin film) 3099, 2925, 1729, 154, 1449, 1291, 1983, 745 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₂O (M+H)⁺ 239.1179, found 239.1173.

In a 25 mL flask was charged with indole **3aa** (0.093 g, 0.5 mmol), NH₄OAc (0.385 g, 5 mmol) and MeOH (5 mL). NaBH₃CN (0.158 g, 2.5 mmol) was added portions. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 10 h. Then the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under the reduced pressure and the crude tetrahydrocarbazole was used directly to next step.

To a solution of the above crude tetrahydrocarbazole in dichloromethane (3 mL), N-iodosuccinimide (NIS, 0.123 g, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then, the reaction was cooled down to 0 °C. Aniline (0.117 g, 1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), AgOTf (0.256 g, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), NaOH (0.040 g, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). Then, dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/20 to 1/6, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide product 10 as a white solid.

N-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-4aH-carbazol-4a-amine (10). A white solid, 0.068 g, 52% yield; mp: 196–197 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 1H), 6.95–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 1H), 2.84–2.81 (m, 1H), 2.63–2.50 (m,2H), 2.22–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.02–1.94 (m, 1H), 1.72–1.68 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.49 (m,1H), 1.26–1.18 (m,1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 188.6, 153.5, 145.5, 141.6, 129.1, 128.6, 125.6, 121.7, 121.0, 118.3, 113.1, 69.9, 43.0, 29.7, 29.5, 20.9. IR (thin film) 3060, 2929, 1744, 1661, 1443, 1211, 1081, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₉N₂ (M+H)⁺ 263.1543, found 263.1548.

In a 25 mL flask was charged with indole **3aa** (0.093 g, 0.5 mmol), NH₄OAc (0.385 g, 5 mmol) and MeOH (5 mL). NaBH₃CN (0.158 g, 2.5 mmol) was added portions. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 10 h. Then the reaction was quenched by H₂O (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude tetrahydrocarbazole was used directly to next step.

To a solution of crude tetrahydrocarbazole in dichloromethane (3 mL), *N*-iodosuccinimide (NIS, 0.123 g, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then, the reaction was cooled down to 0 °C. 4-MeOC₆H₄OH (0.155 g, 1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv), AgOTf (0.256 g, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), NaOH (0.040 g, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). Then, dried over with Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide product 11.

2-Methoxy-6*H***-5a,10b-butanobenzofuro[2,3-***b***]indole (11). A white solid, 0.066 g, 45% yield; mp: 157–158 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta 7.07–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.78–6.69 (m, 2H), 6.64–6.59 (m, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.42–2.39 (m,1H), 2.22–2.19 (m,1H), 1.93–1.87 (m,1H), 1.71–1.33 (m,7H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta 154.4, 153.0, 146.6, 134.2, 133.2, 127.8, 122.8, 120.0, 112.3, 109.6, 109.5, 109.4, 56.4, 56.0, 32.4, 31.9, 20.7, 19.9. IR (thin film) 3061, 2935, 1609, 1482, 1266, 1166, 1028, 786 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI)** *m/z* **calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO (M+H)⁺ 294.1489, found 294.1479.**

9. Synthesis of alkenylboronic acids 1a-1j

General procedure for cyclic alkenylboronic acids 1a-1g and 1j: A mixture of ketone S1 (10 mmol) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonohydrazide (10 mmol) in hot MeOH (10 mL) were heated at 70 °C for 2 h to obtain the corresponding crude S2 as white precipitate, which was filtered and washed with petroleum ether (5 mL \times 3) and dried under vacuum to afford *N*-tosylhydrazone S2.

A 100 mL round bottom flask was charged with *N*-tosylhydrazone **S2** (1.0 equiv), hexanes (3 mL/mmol hydrazone), and TMEDA (3mL/mmol hydrazone). The resulting slurry was cooled to -78 °C with a dry ice-acetone bath and a 2.5 M *n*-BuLi solution in hexane (4.0 equiv) was added *via* syringe. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at -78 °C for 1 h and then allowed to warm to 25 °C. After stirring for an additional 2 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C again with a dry ice-acetone bath and B(O*i*-Pr)₃ or B(OMe)₃ was added *via* syringe. The reaction was

quenched with water (30 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 \times 40 mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with brine (40 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude sample product of S3.

A scintillation vial was charged with alkenyl boronic acid pinacol ester **S3** (1 equiv), NaIO₄ (3 equiv), and NH₄OAc (3 equiv). These reagents were then diluted with a mixture of acetone and water in a 1:1 ratio to form a 0.04 M solution of the alkenyl boronic acid pinacol ester. The resulting slurry was allowed to stir vigorously for 24-48 h. The slurry was then filtered and diluted with ethyl acetate or diethyl ether. The organic layer was then washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give pure alkenyl boronic acids **1a-1g** and **1j**.

$$R_{1} = R_{2} = \frac{\text{(i) HBBr}_{2} \cdot \text{SMe}_{2}, \text{CH}_{2}\text{Cl}_{2}}{\text{(ii) Et}_{2}\text{O}, \text{H}_{2}\text{O}} \xrightarrow{\text{(HO)}_{2}\text{B}} R_{1}$$

$$R_{1} = R_{2} = R_{2} = R_{2}$$

$$R_{2} = R_{2} = R_{2}$$

$$R_{2} = R_{2} = R_{2}$$

General procedure for linear alkenylboronic acids 1h and 1i: A round bottom flask was charged with an alkyne (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) under N₂ and cooled to 0 °C with an ice-water bath. A 1M solution of HBBr₂·SMe₂ in CH₂Cl₂ (12 mL, 1.2 equiv) was added slowly for 5 min and allowed to stir for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then added to 60 mL of a 10 : 1 mixture of diethyl ether and water, and then allowed to stir for 15 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with additional diethyl ether (40 mL) and H₂O (20 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed with brine (2 × 10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude sample of the alkenyl boronic acids 1h-1i, which was used to next step directly without purification.

All alkenylboronic acids **1a-1j** were prepared as described in the literatures, and spectral data matched literature values.^[1-2]

10. References

- [1] C.-H. Chen, Q.-Q. Liu, X.-P. Ma, Y. Feng, C. Liang, C.-X. Pan, G.-F. Su, D.-L. Mo, *J. Org. Chem.* 2017, **82**, 6417.
- [2] A. S. Patil, D.-L. Mo, H.-Y. Wang, D. S. Mueller and L. L. Anderson, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2012, **51**, 7799.

11. X-ray structures for compound 3ga

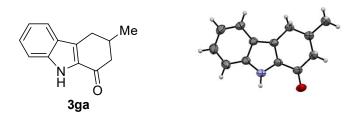
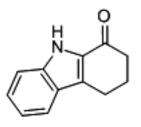


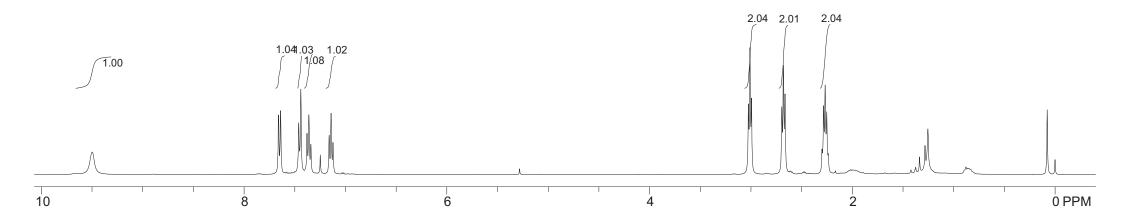
Figure S1: ORTEP diagram of 3ga at 50% ellipsoid probability.

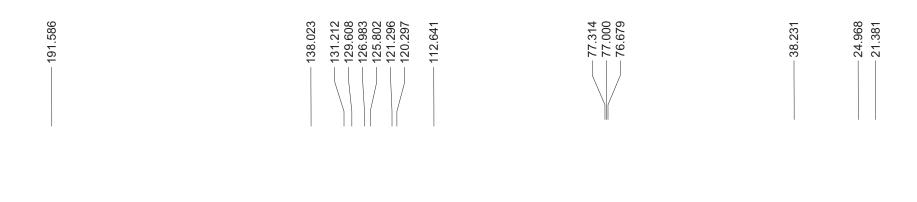
12. NMR spectra for compounds 3, 4, 5h, 6 and 8-11

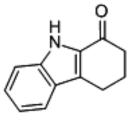




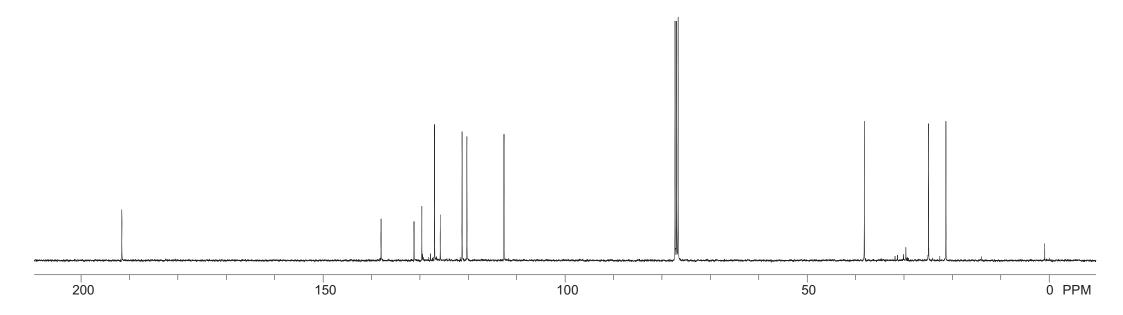
3aa







3aa

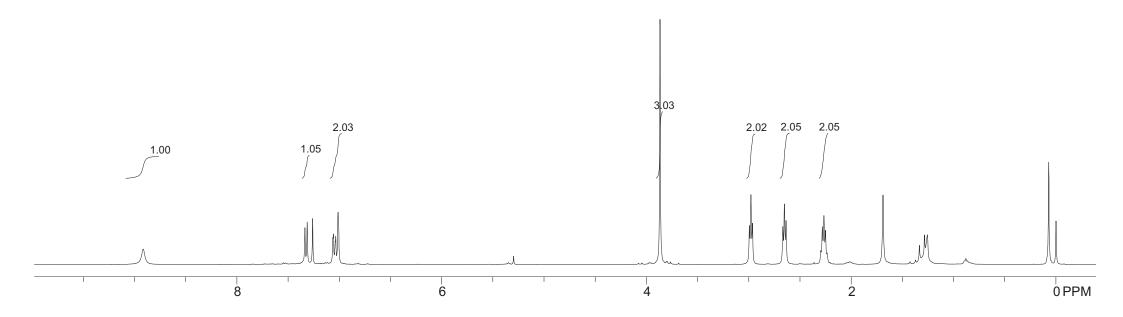


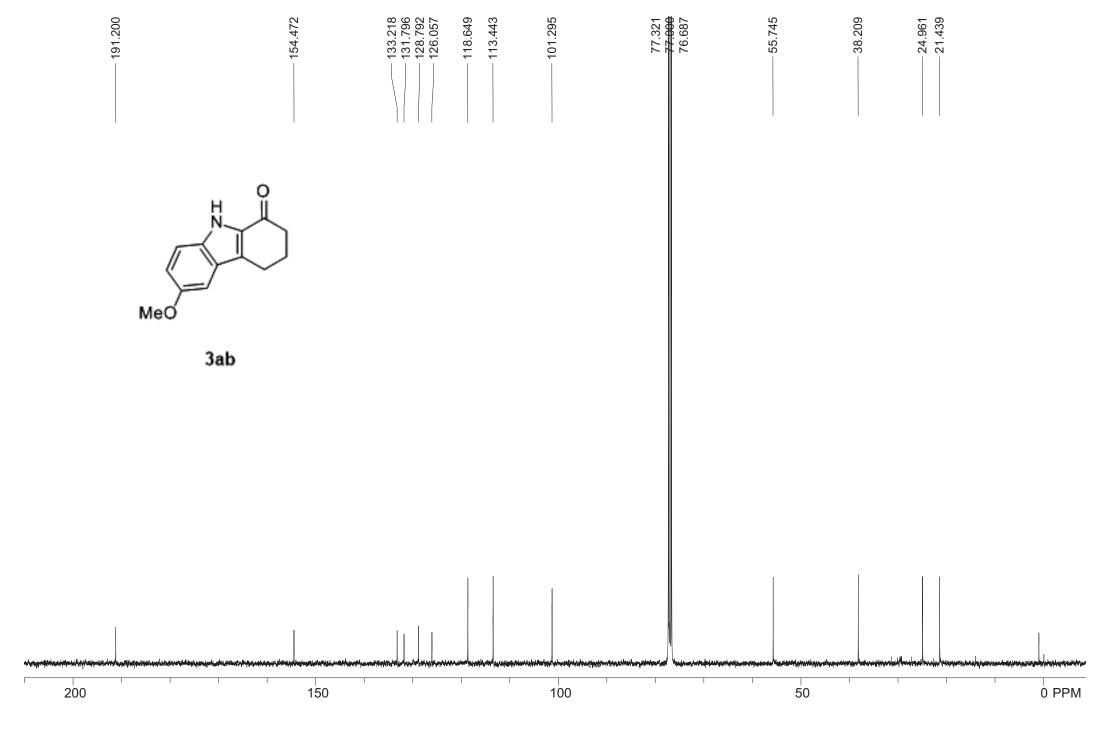


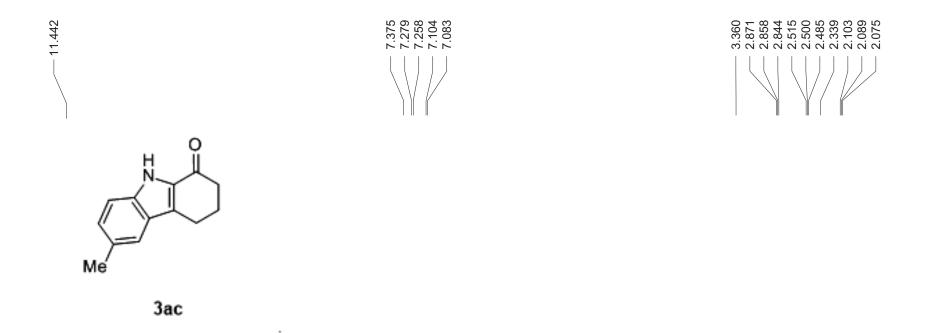
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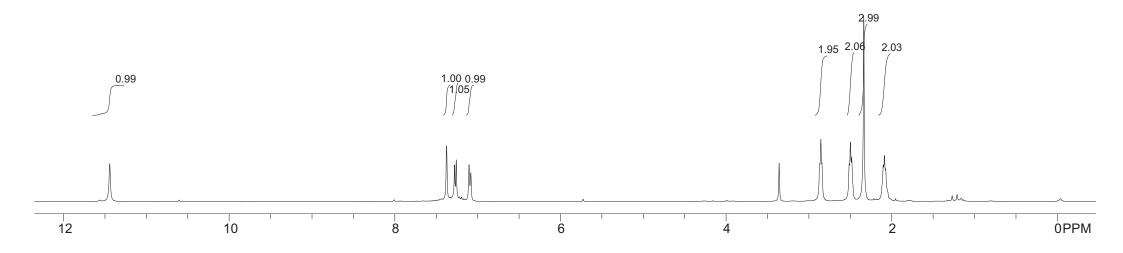
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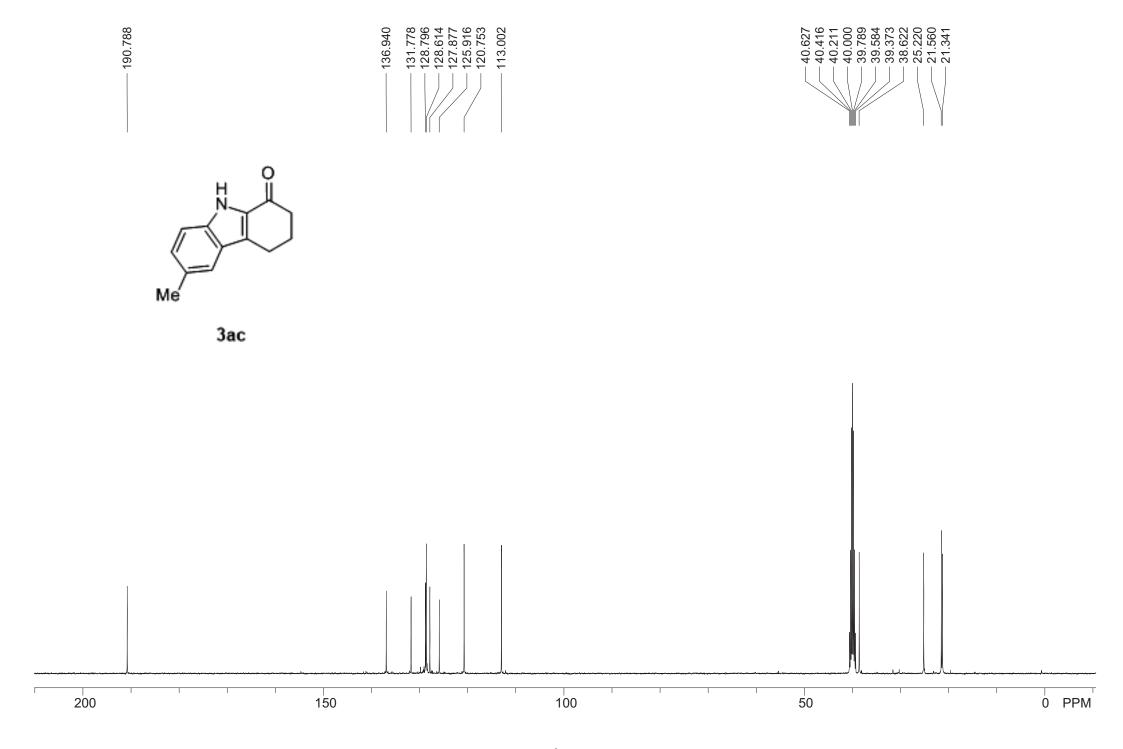
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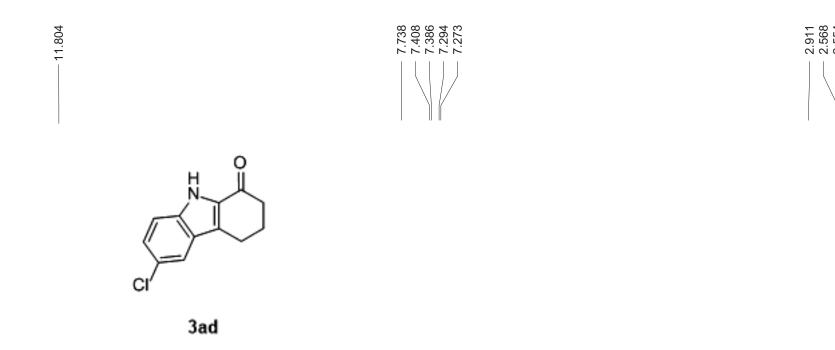


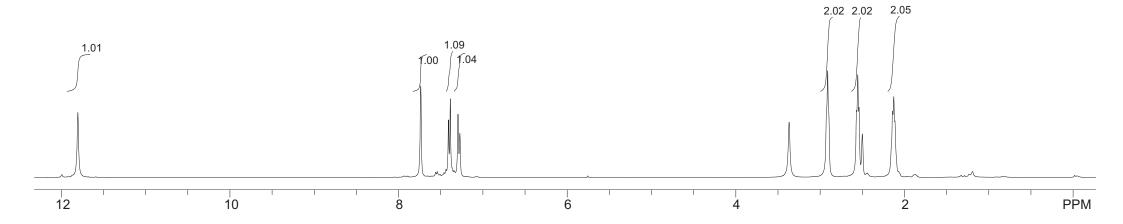


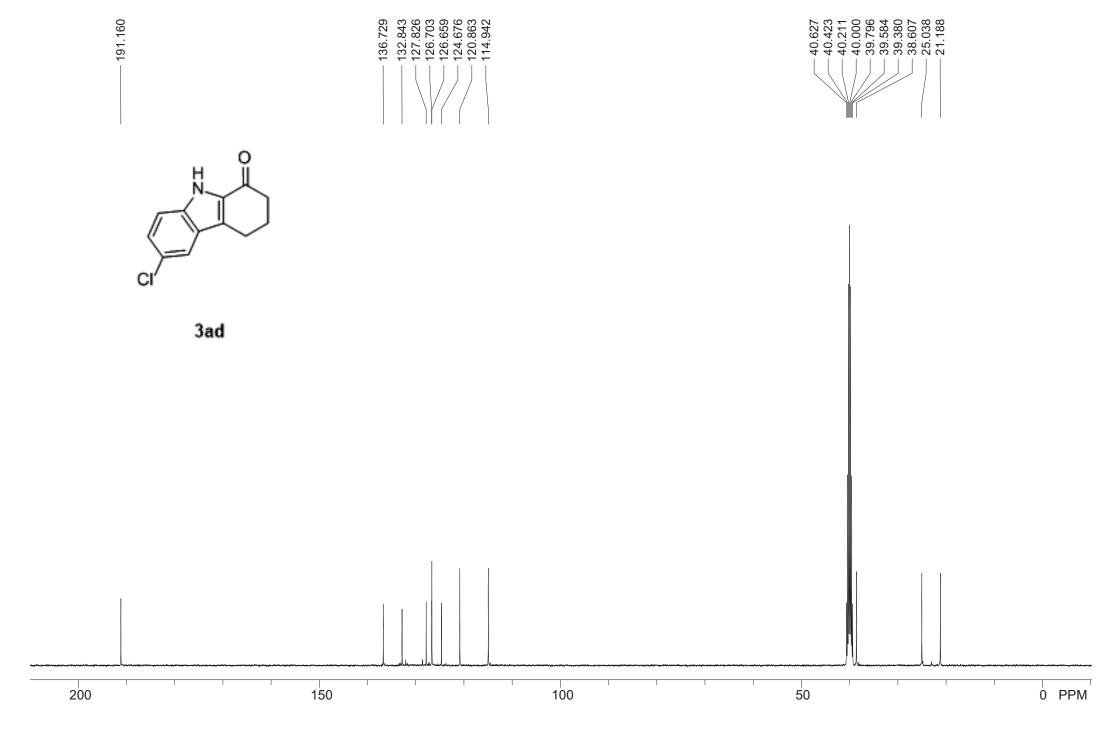


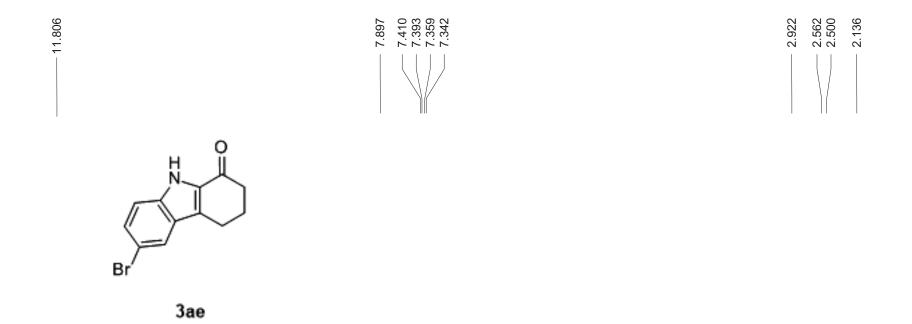


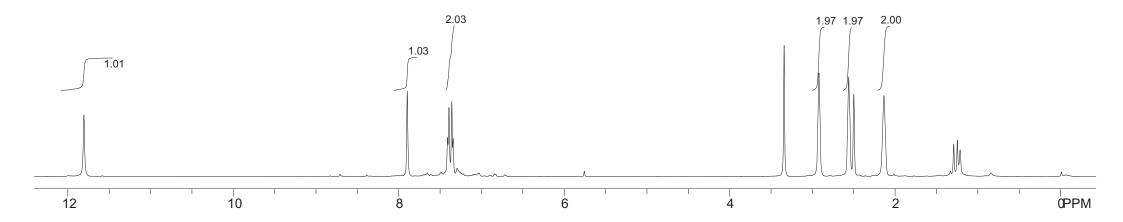


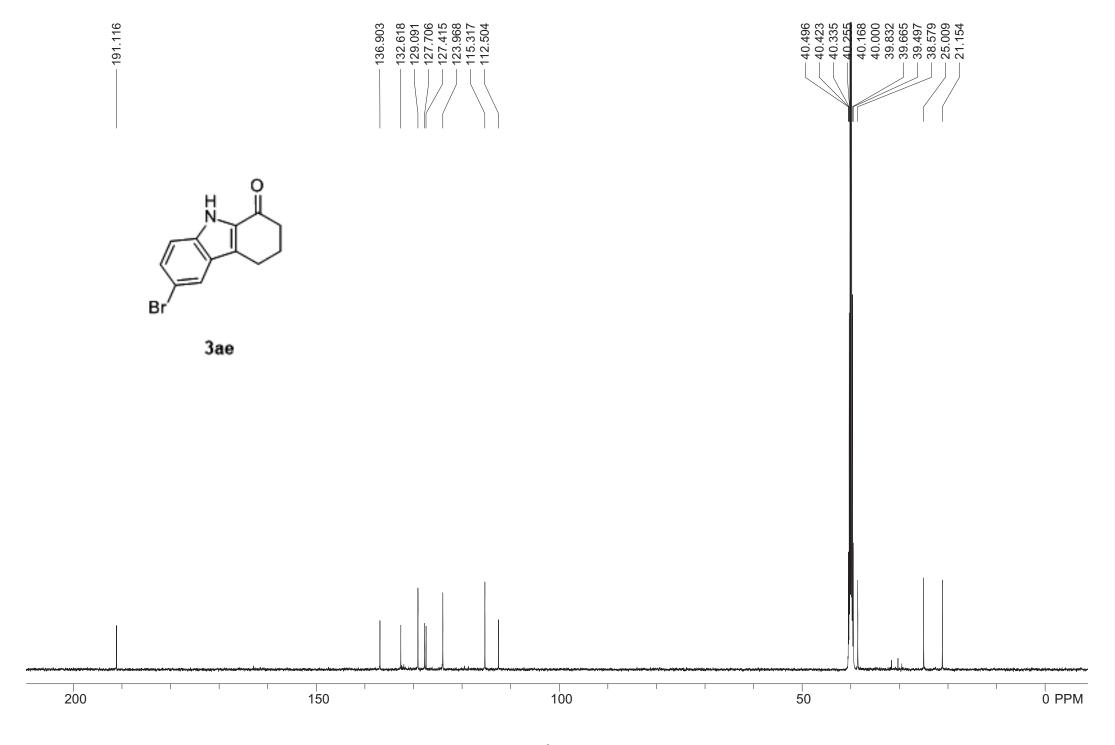


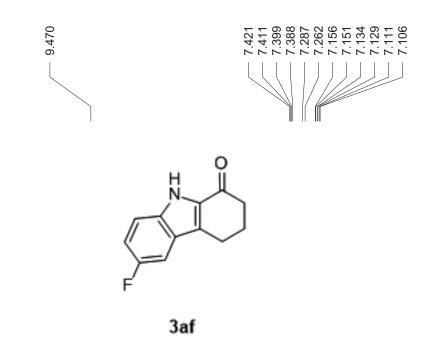










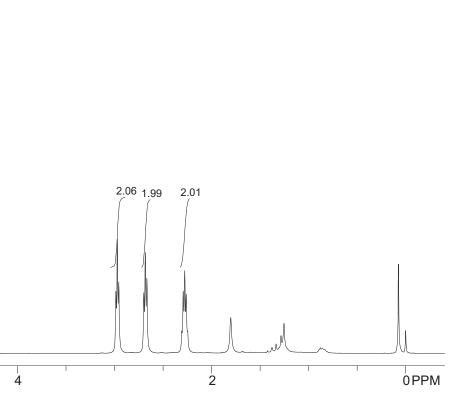


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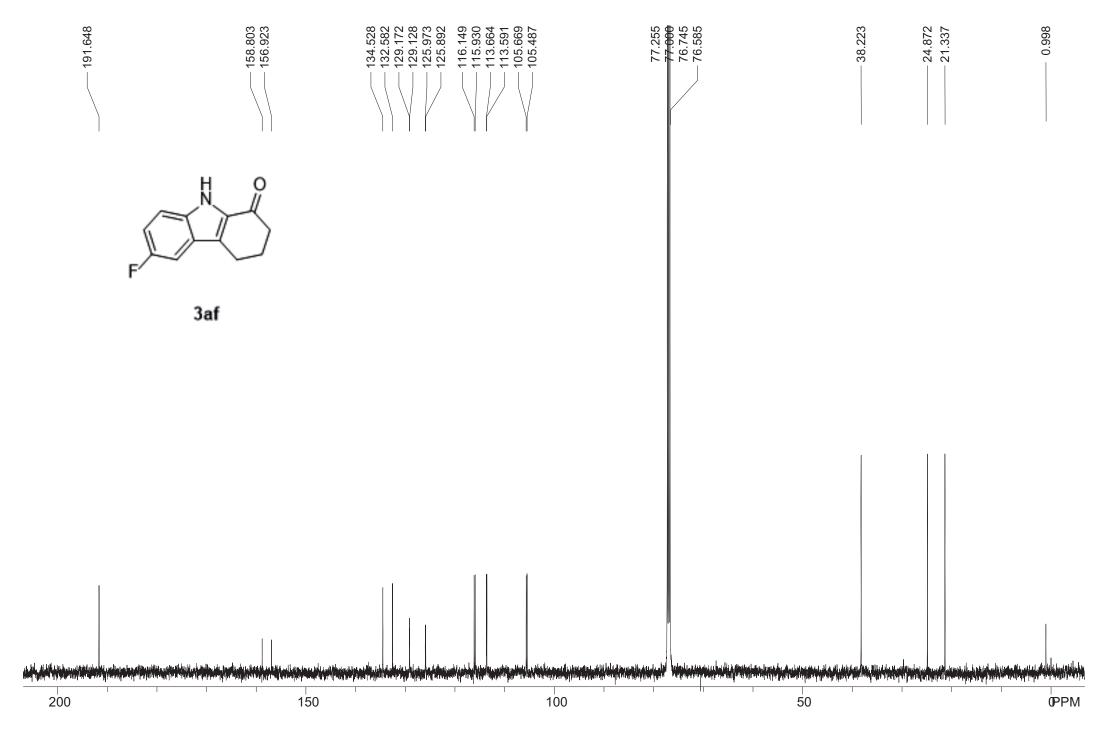
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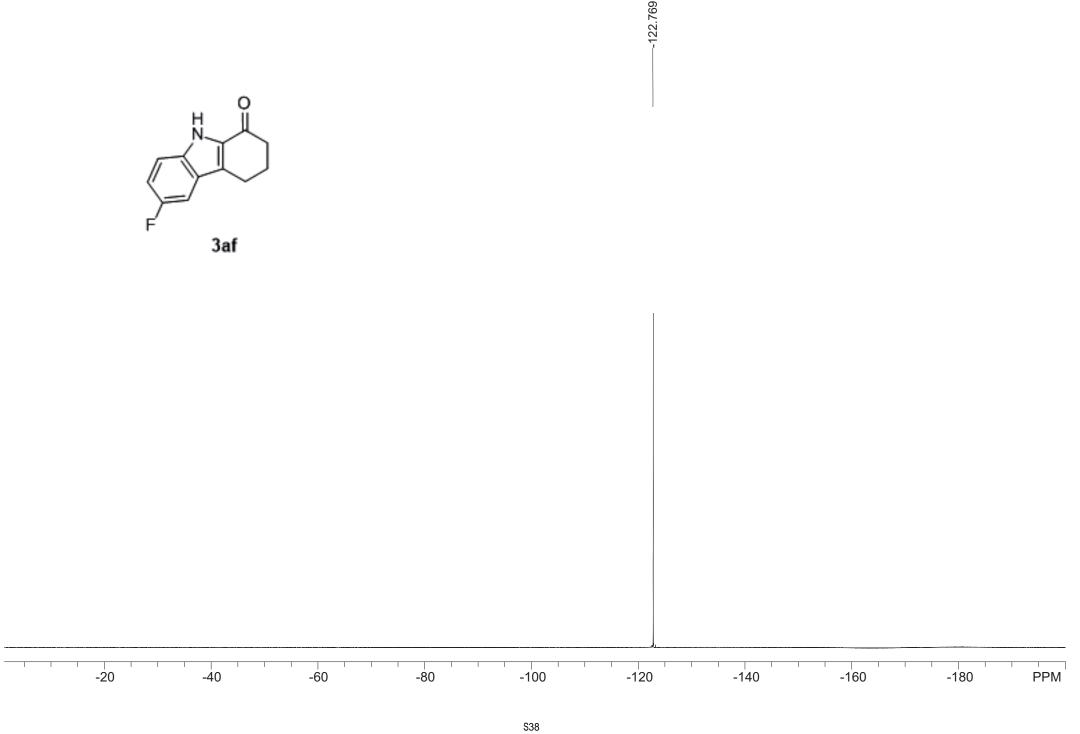
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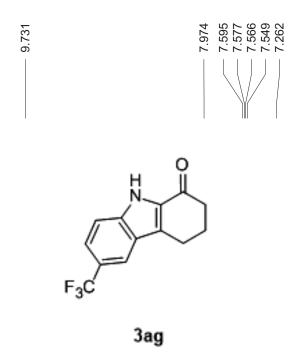


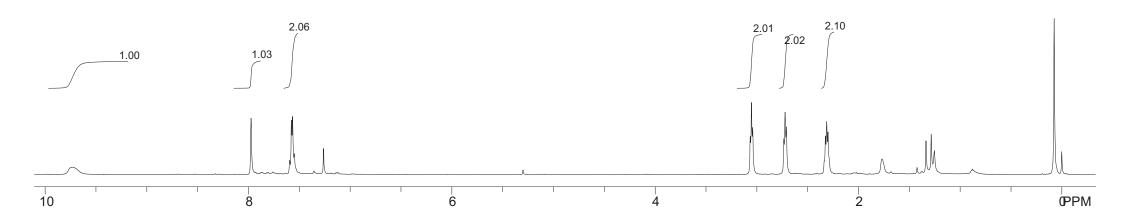
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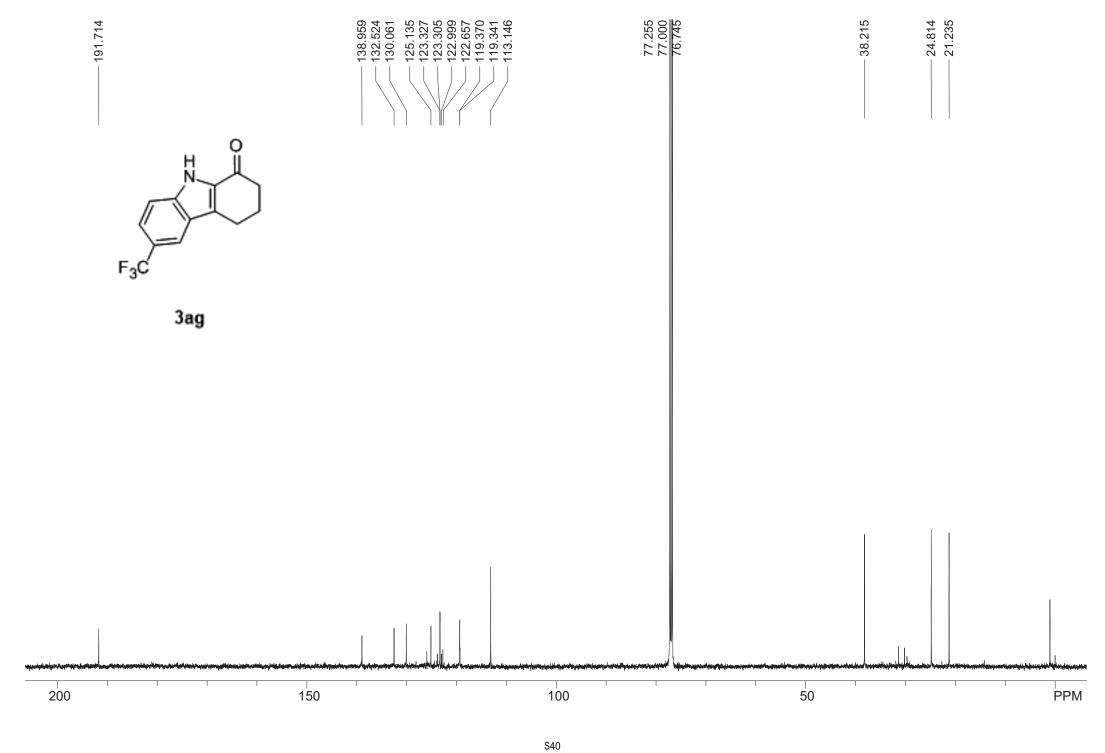


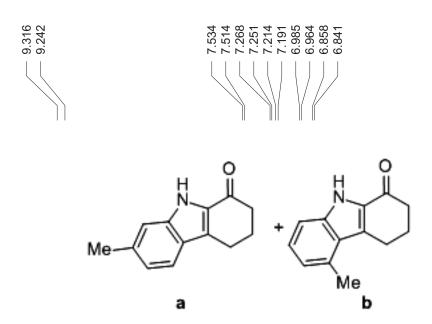




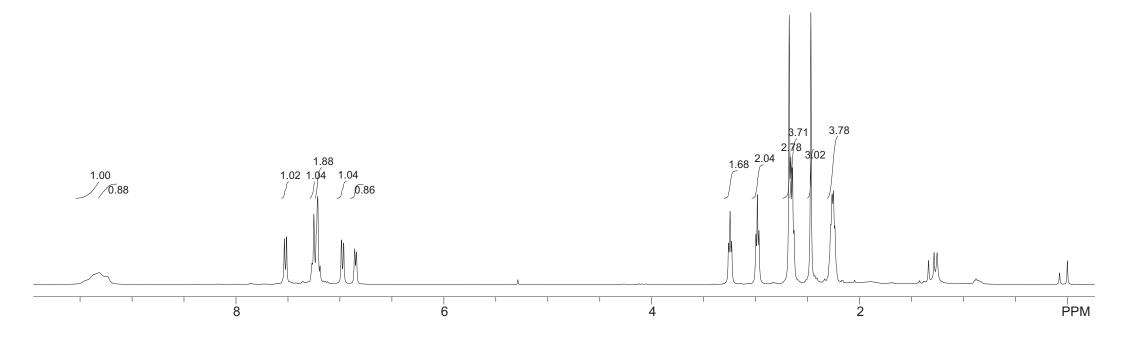
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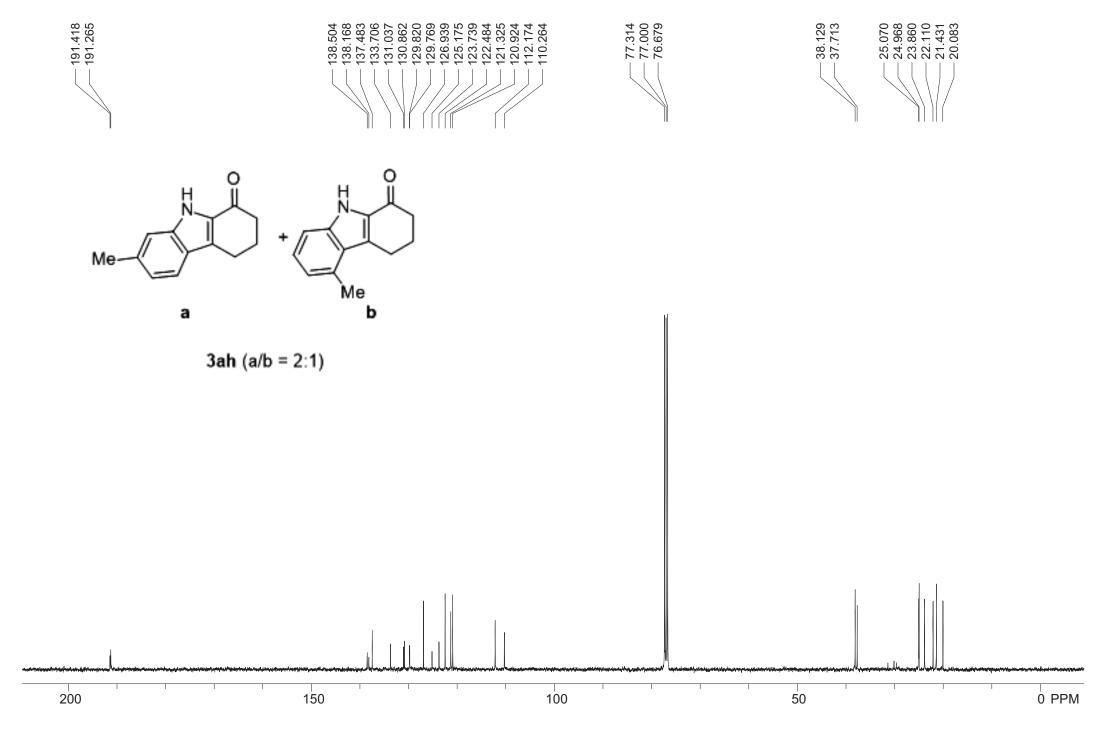


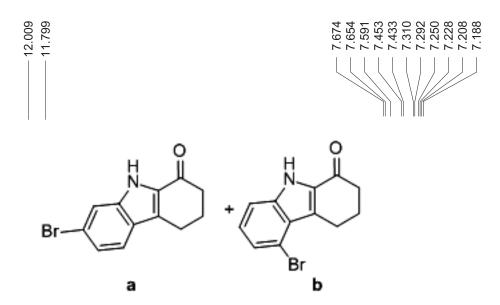


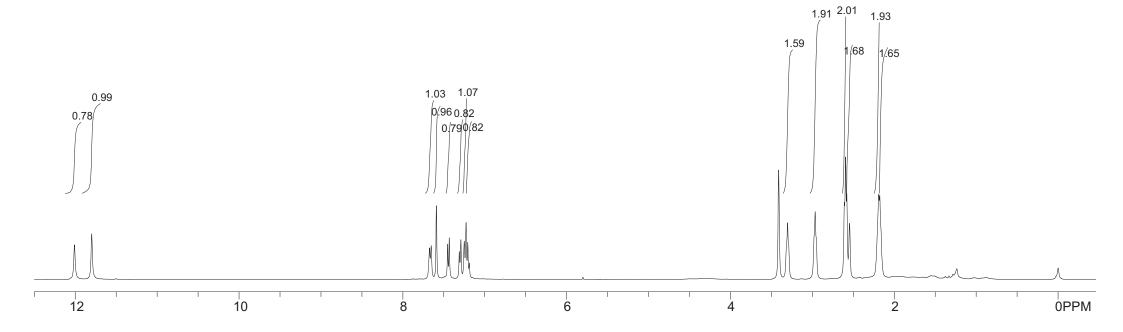
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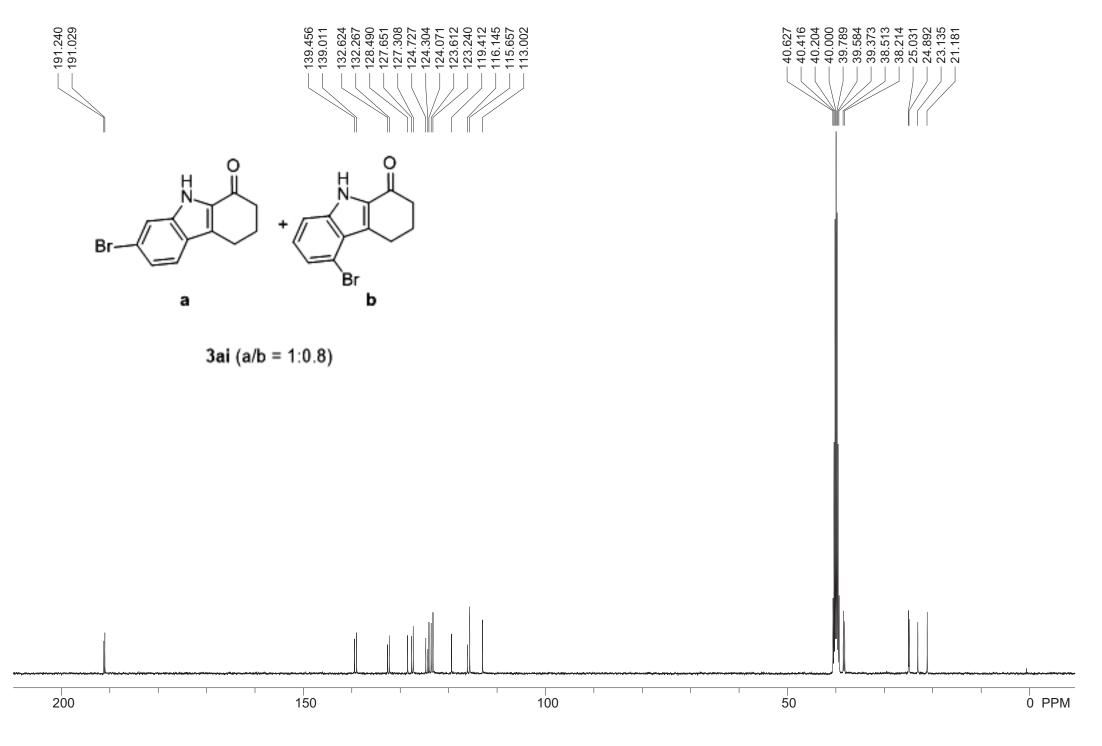






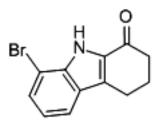
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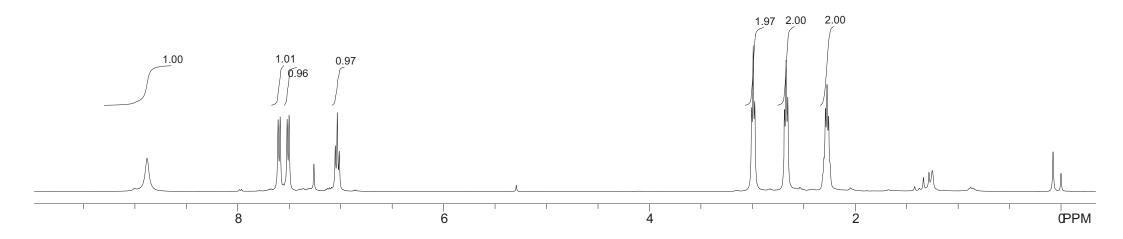


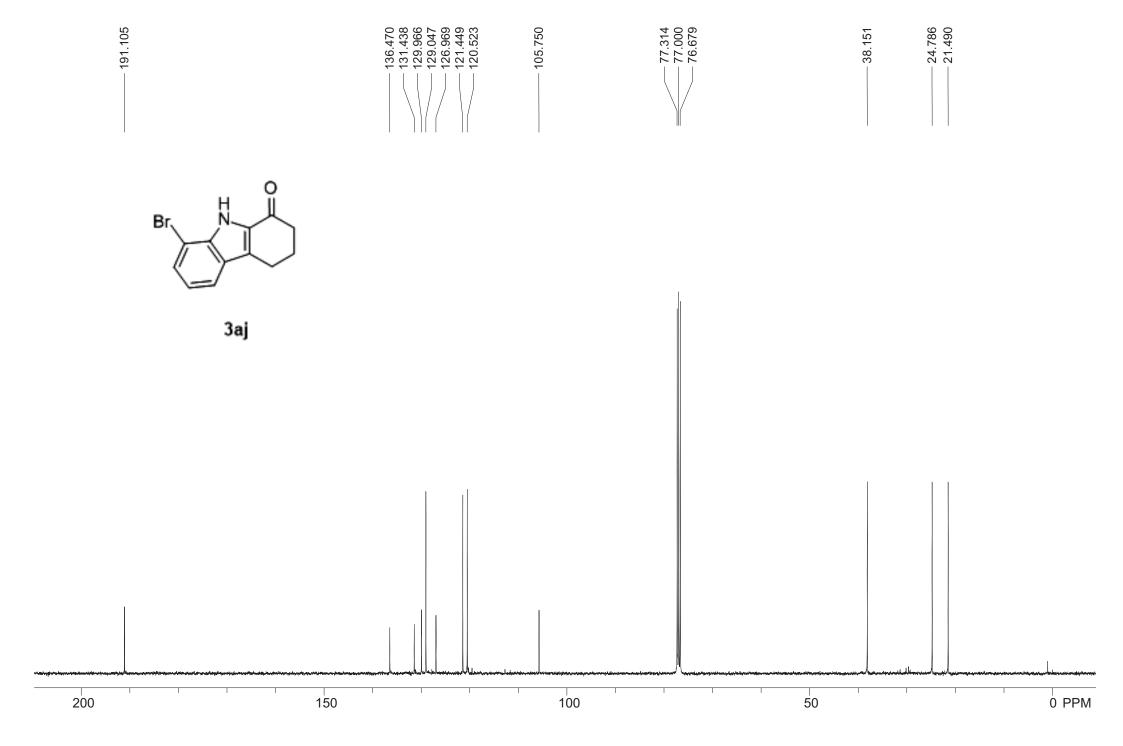


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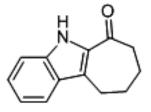


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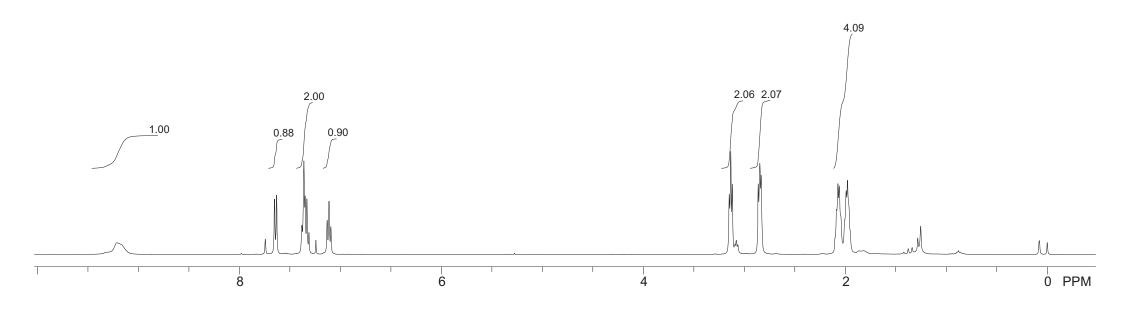


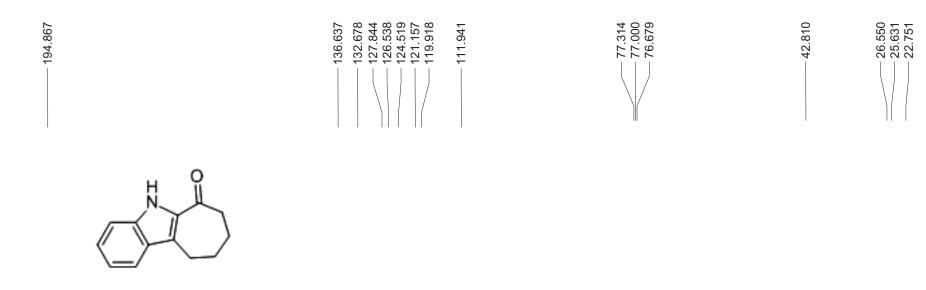




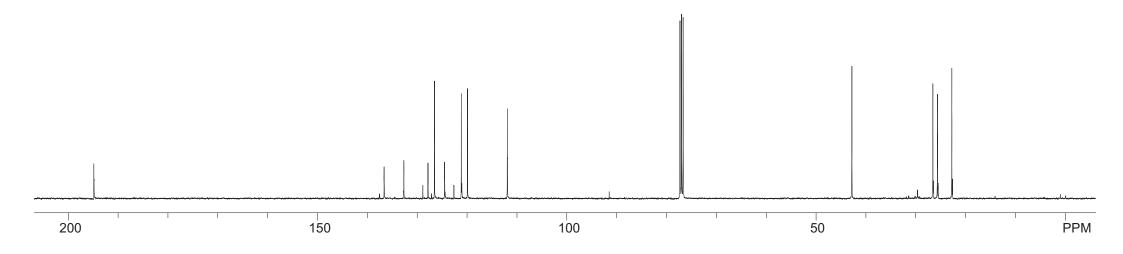


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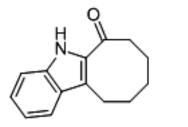




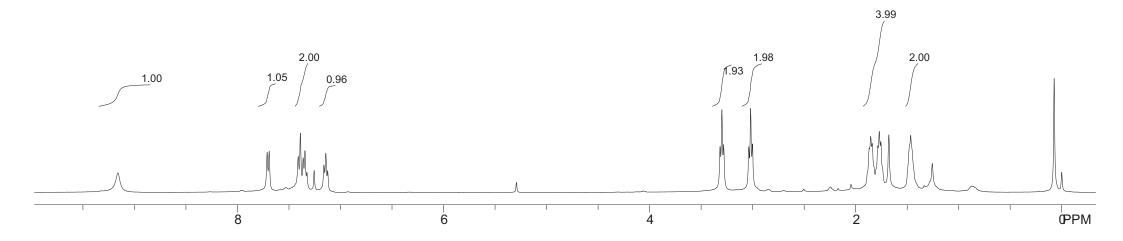
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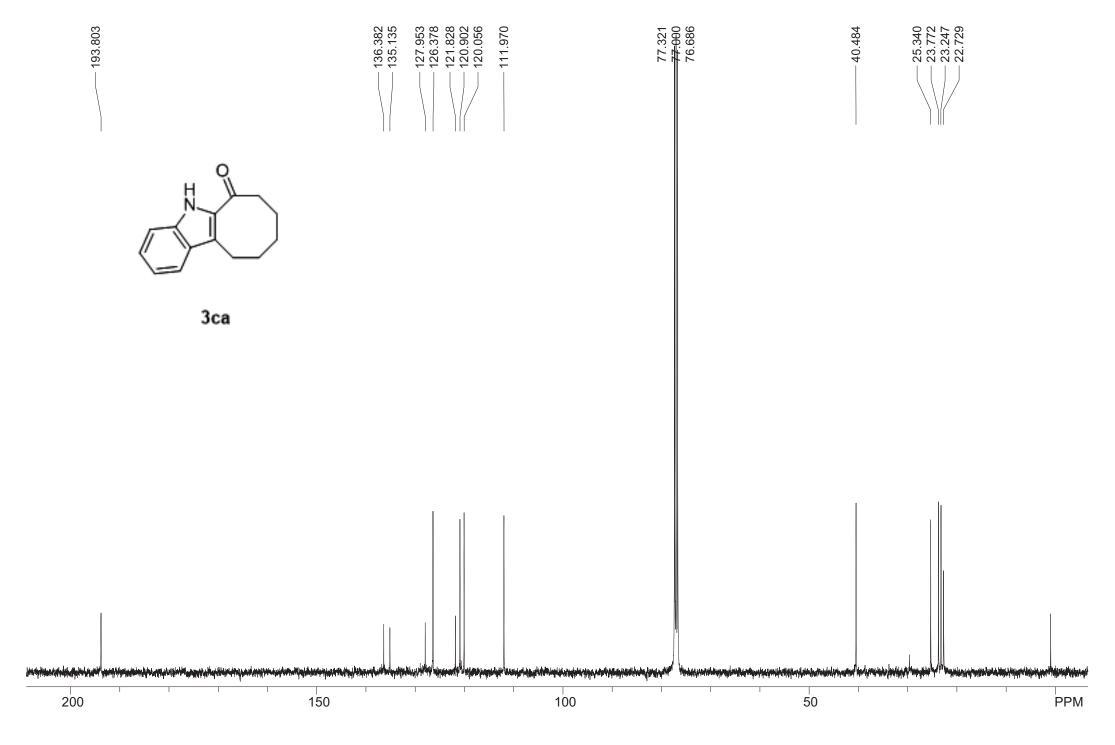


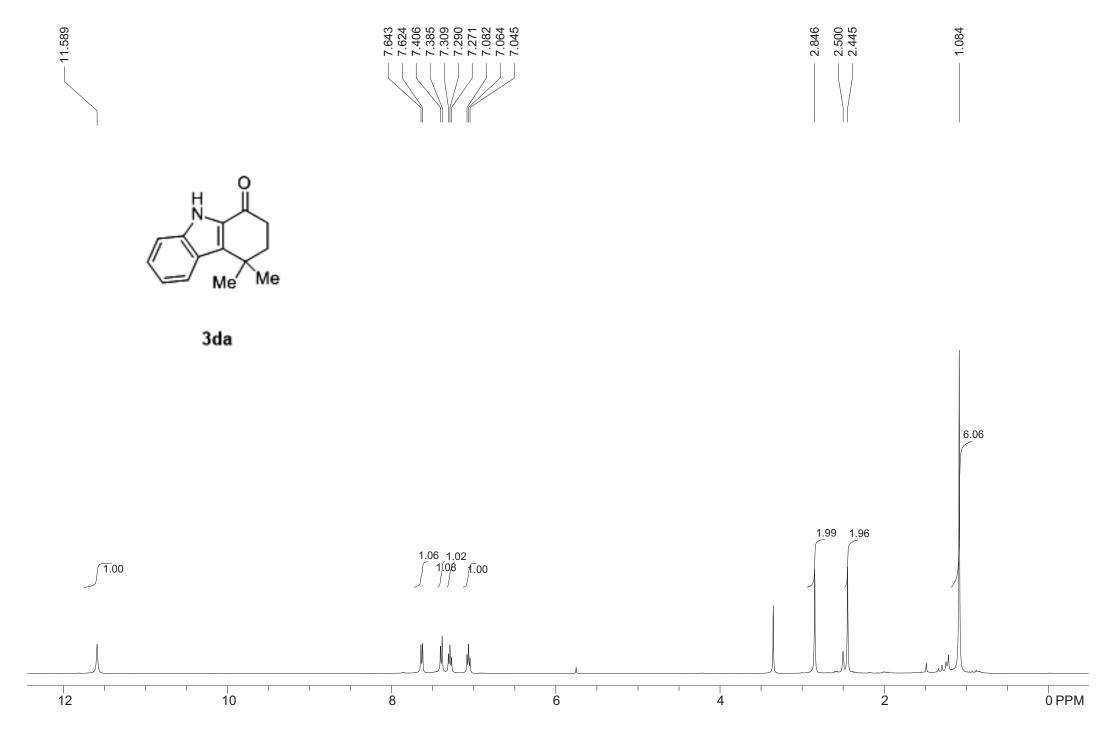


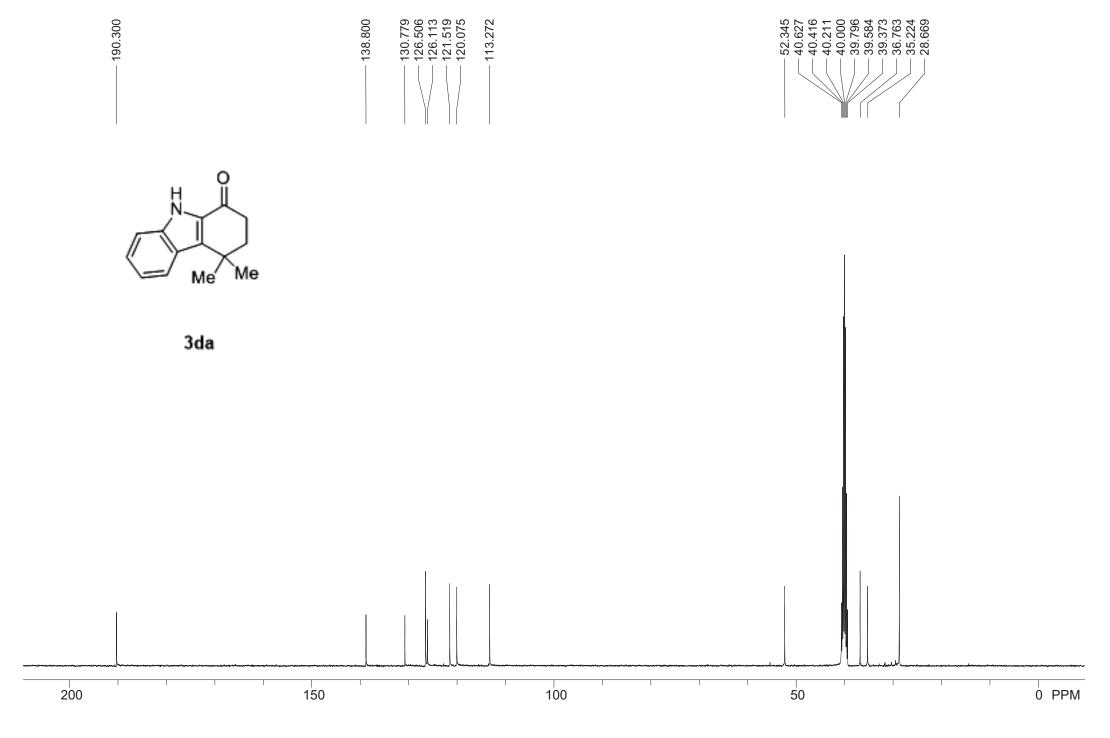


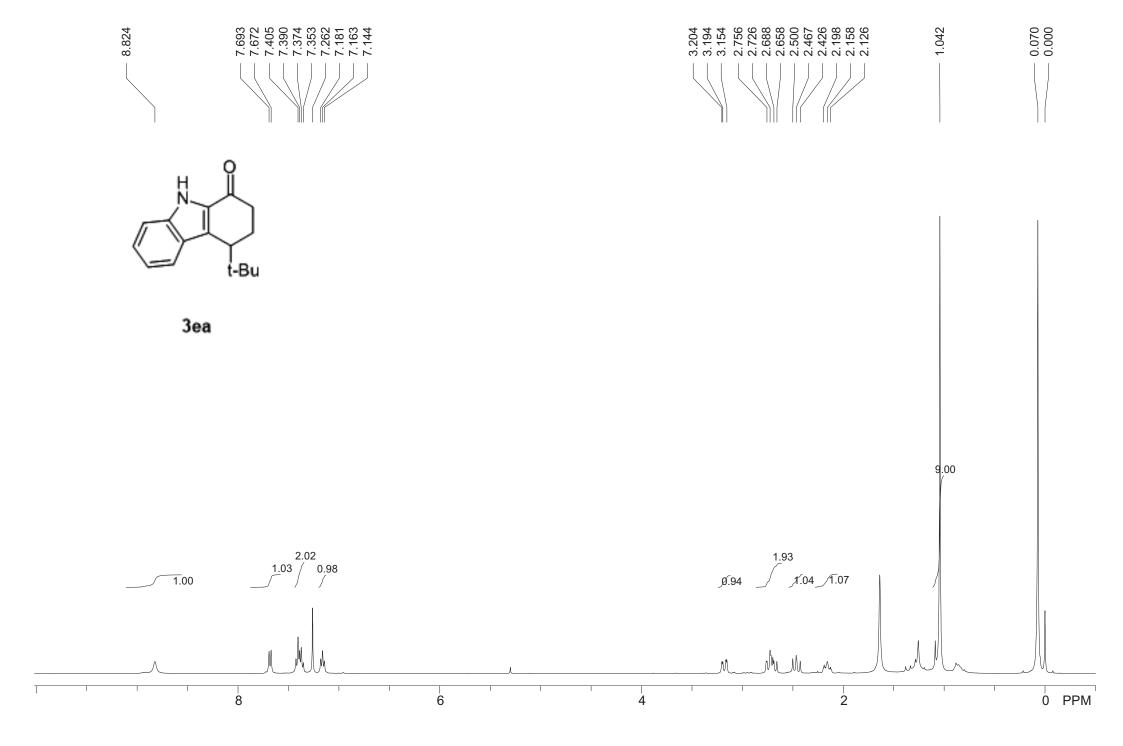
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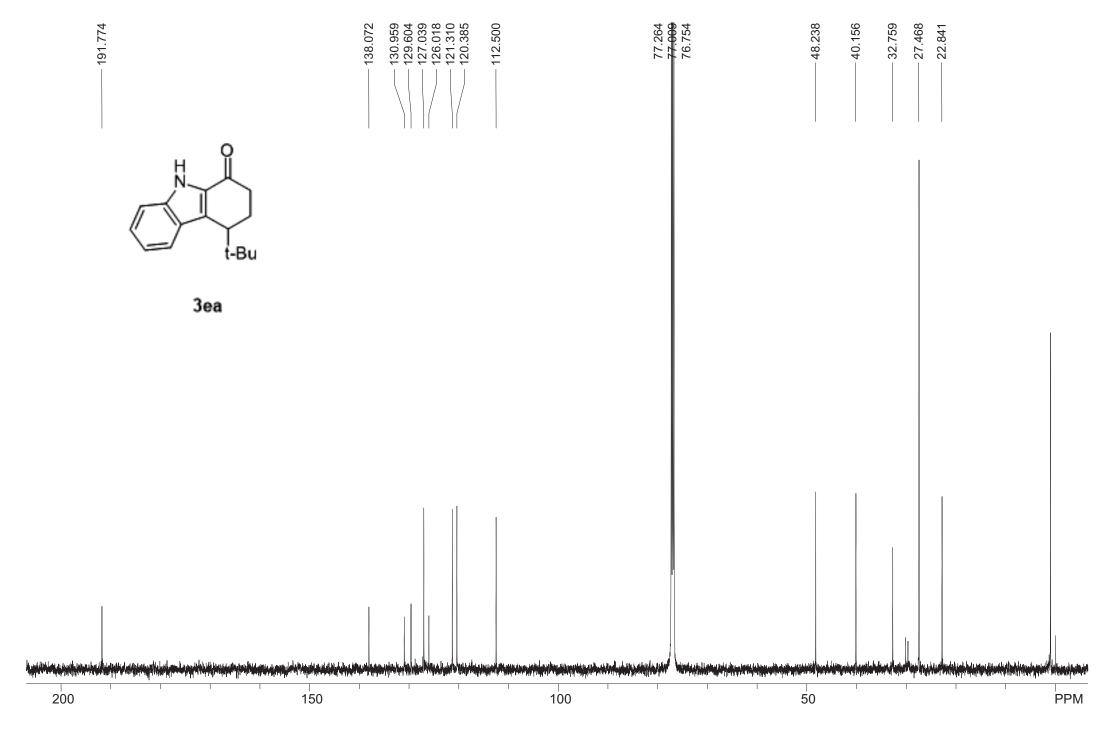


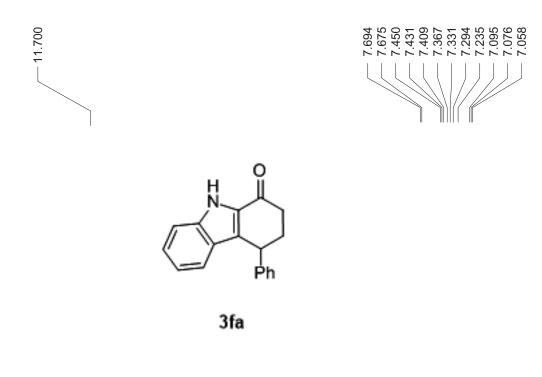


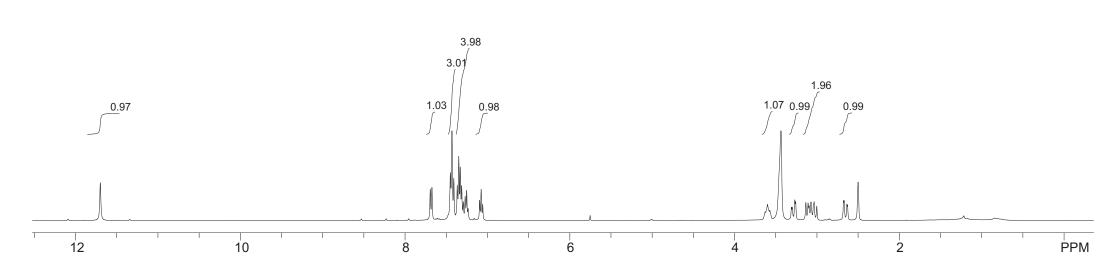




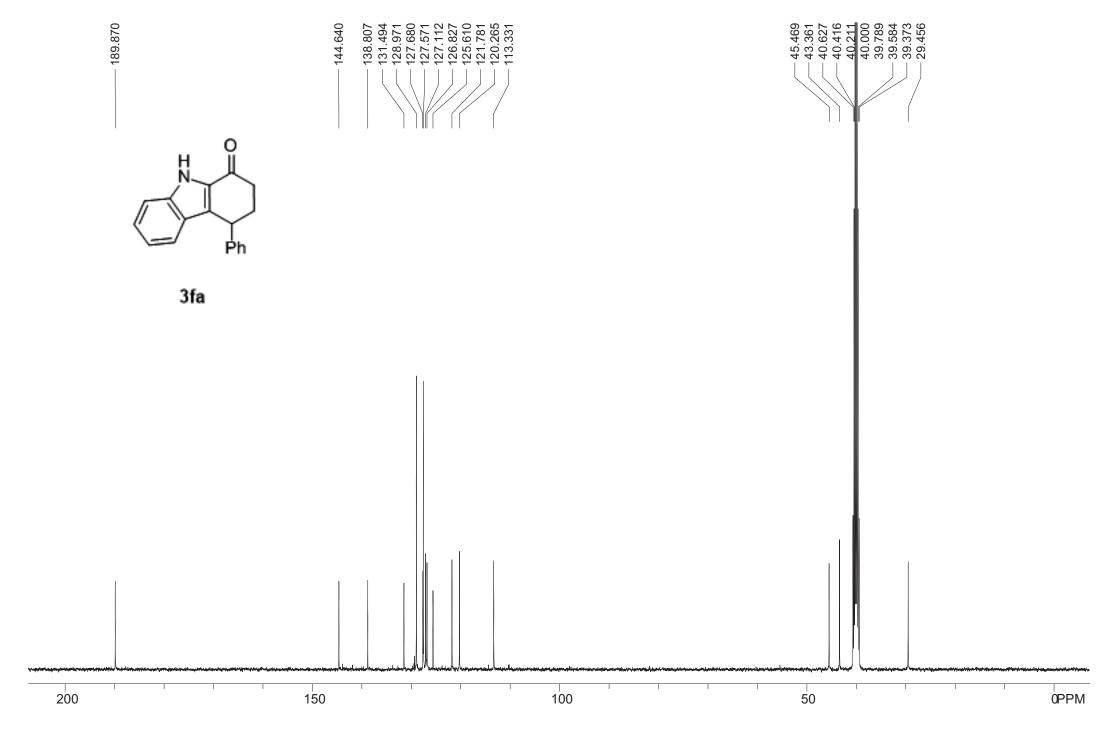


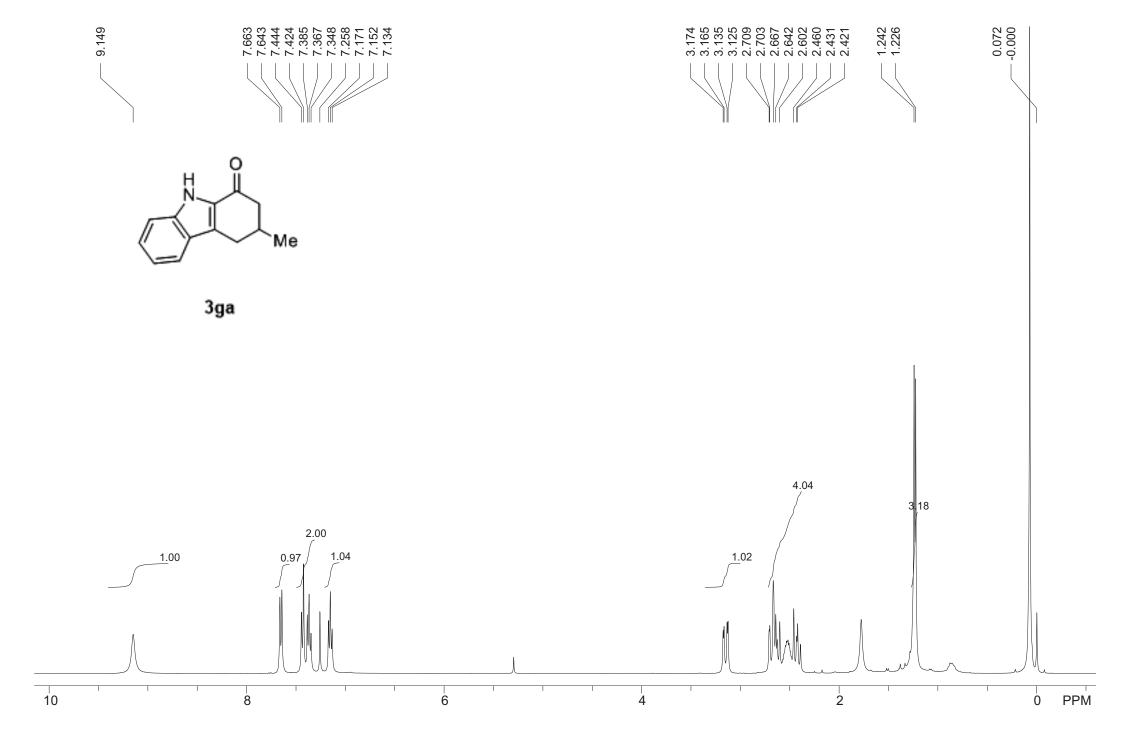


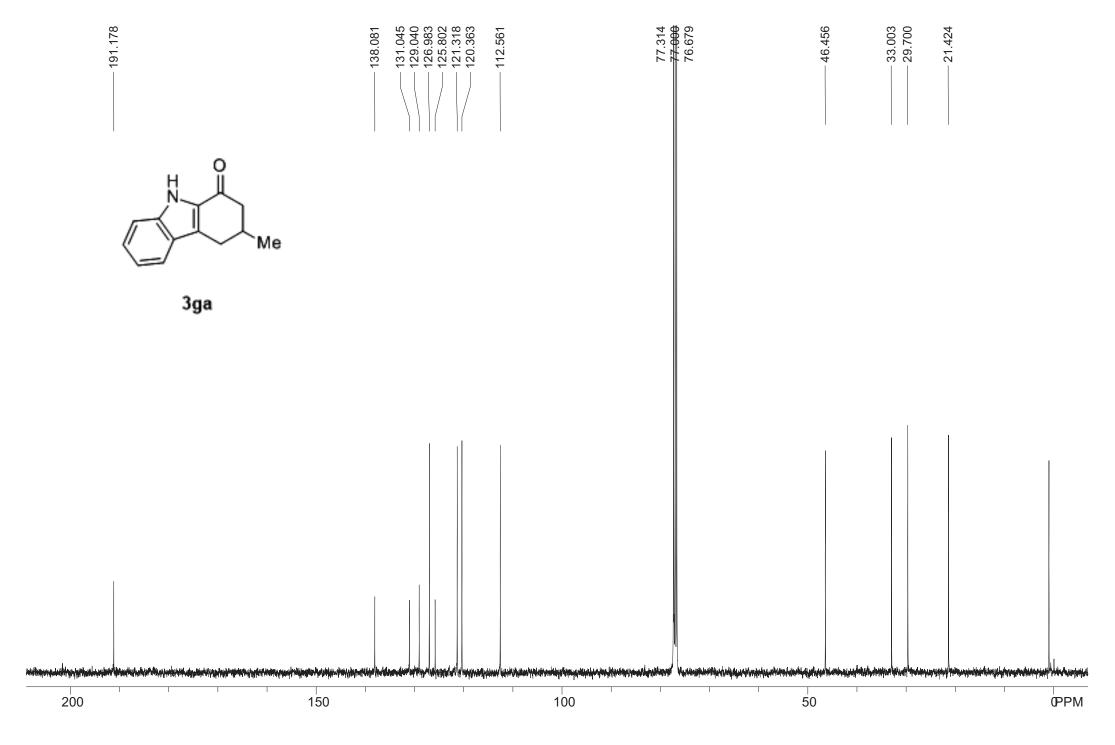


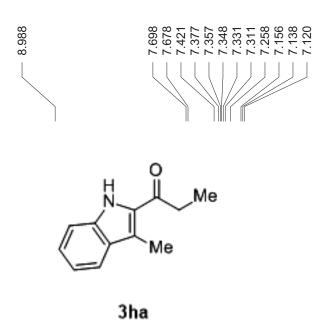


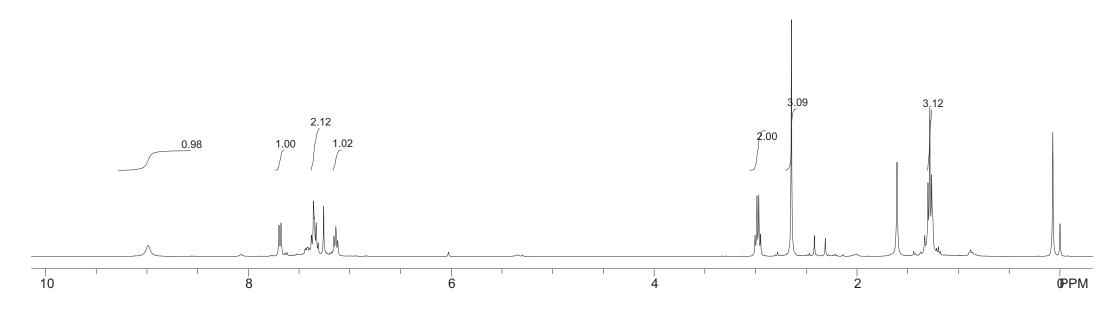
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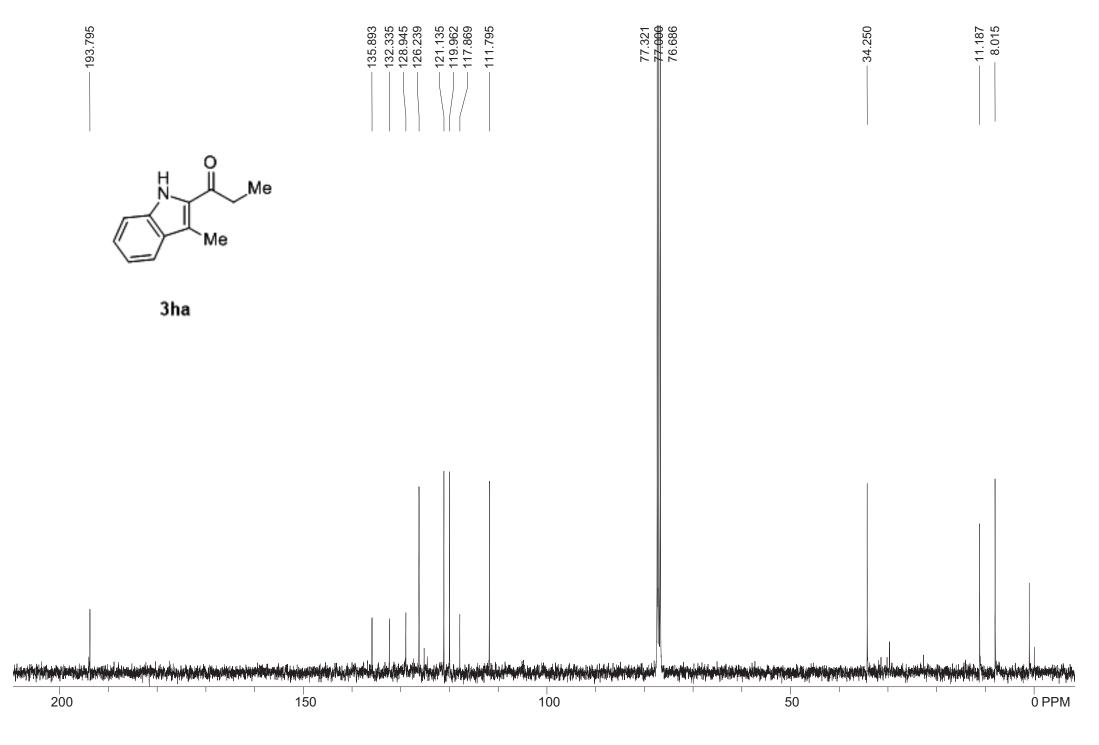


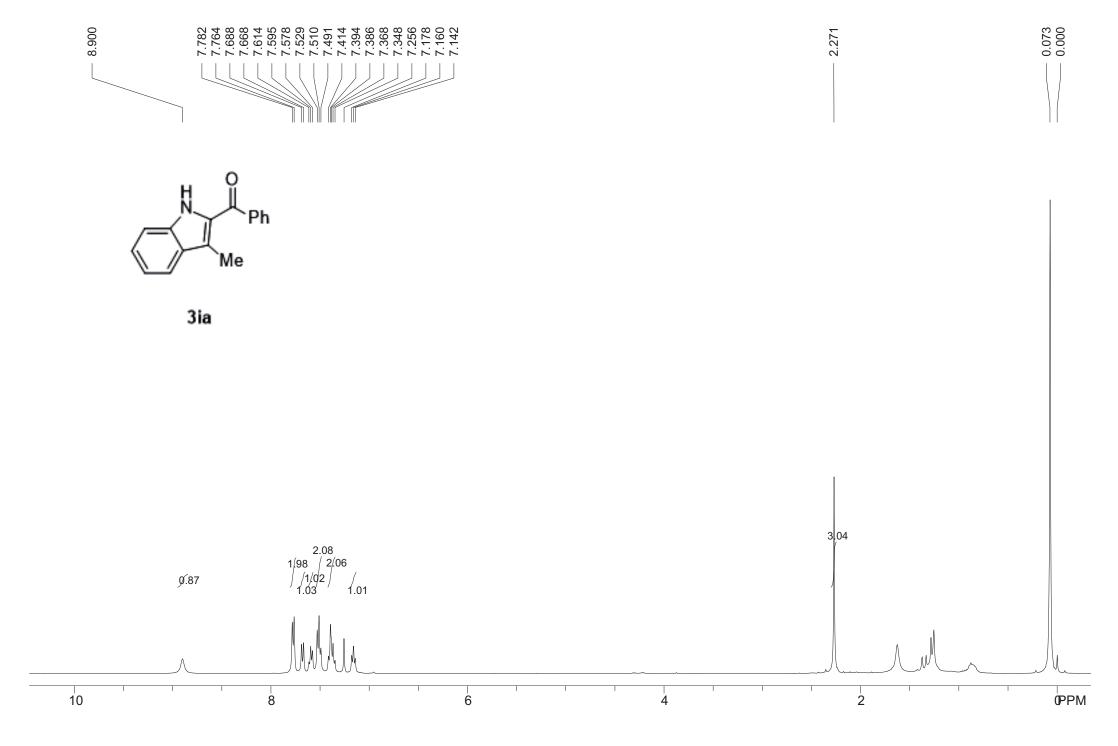


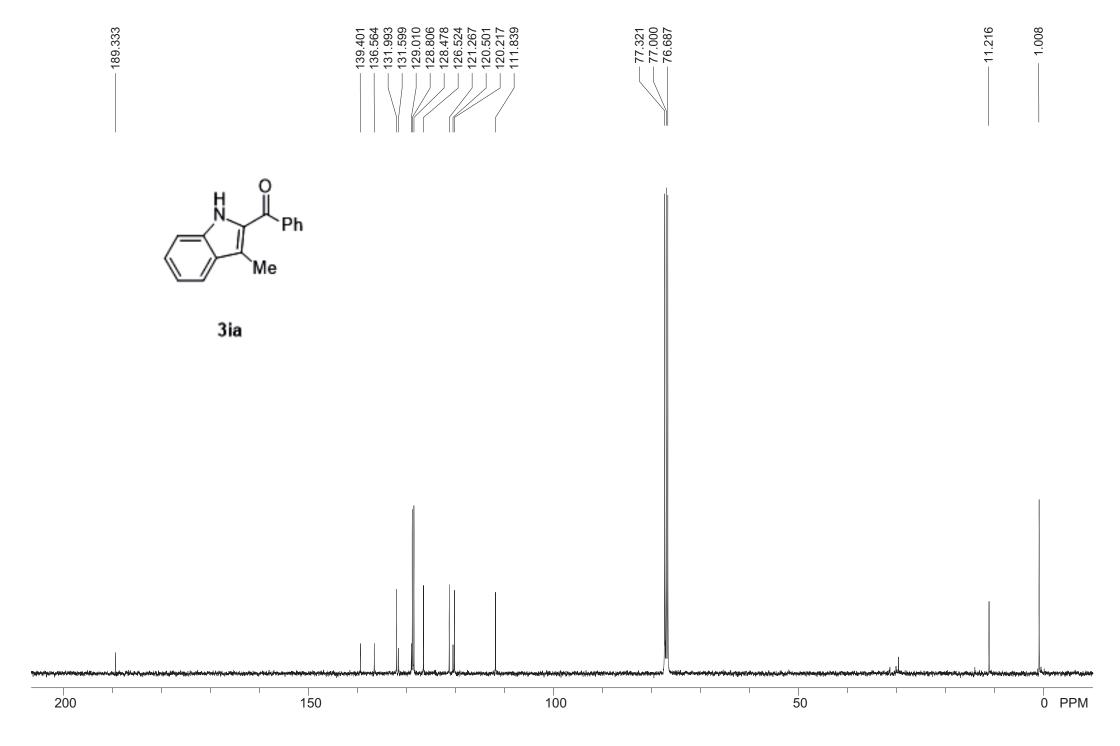
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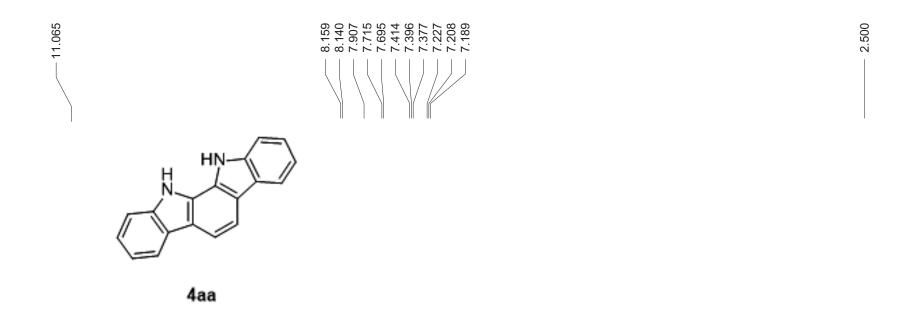
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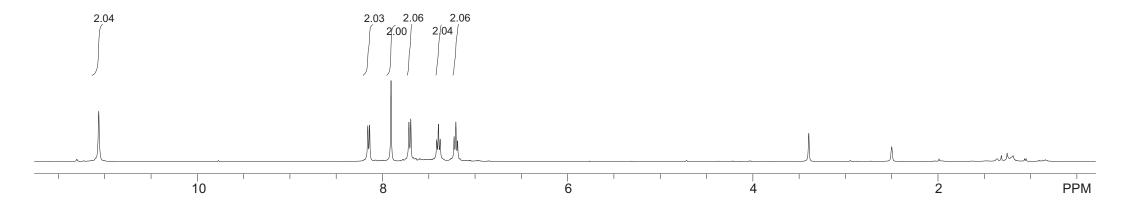
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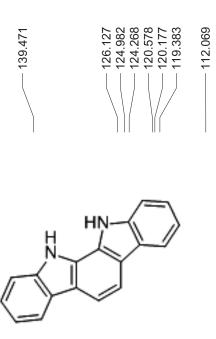




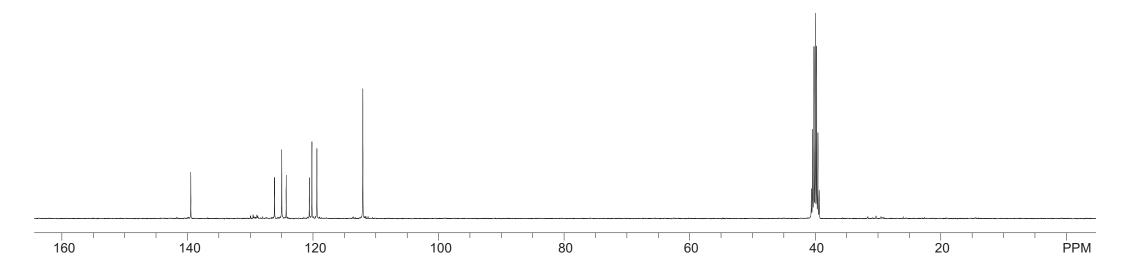




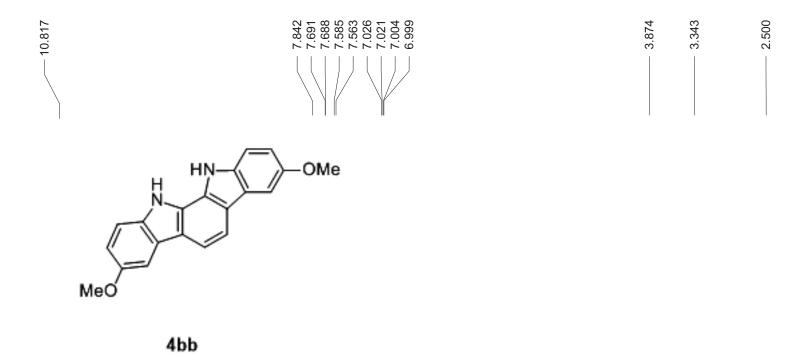


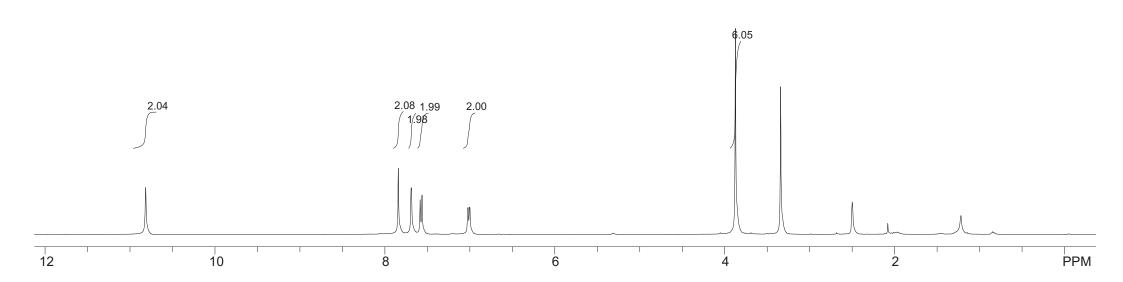


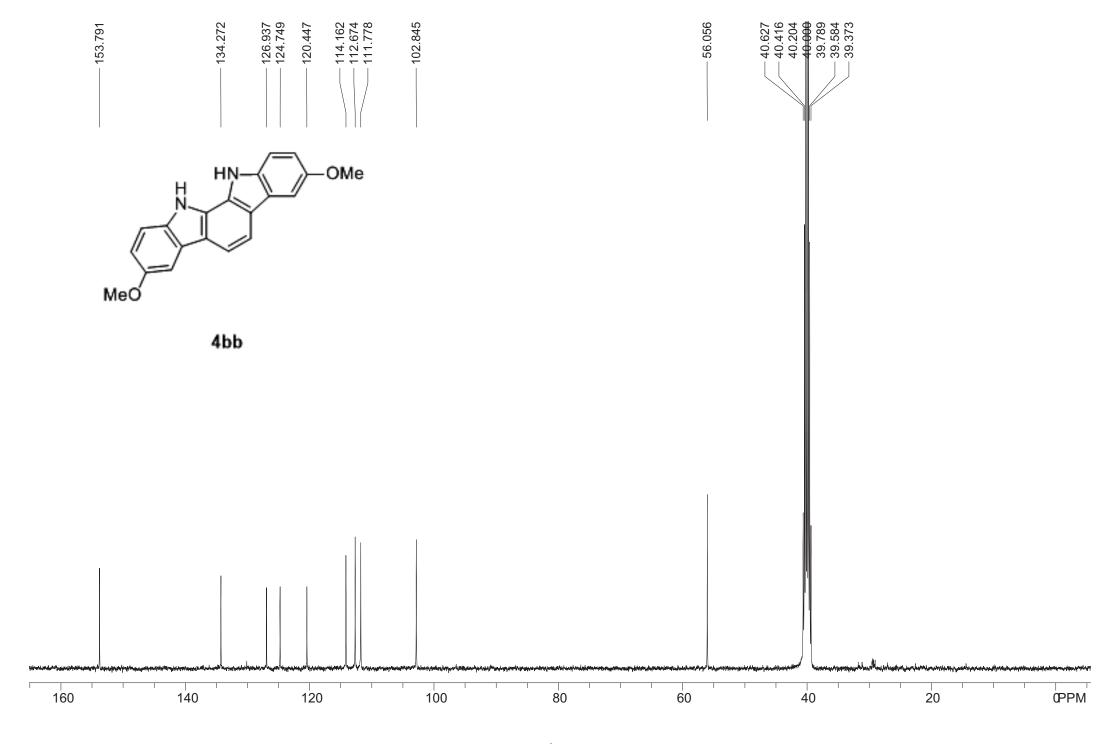
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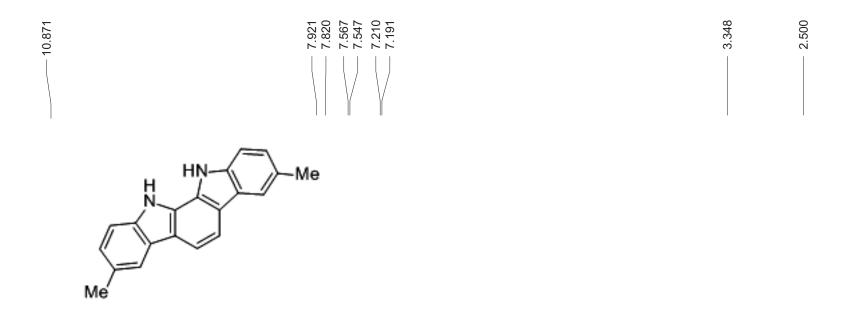


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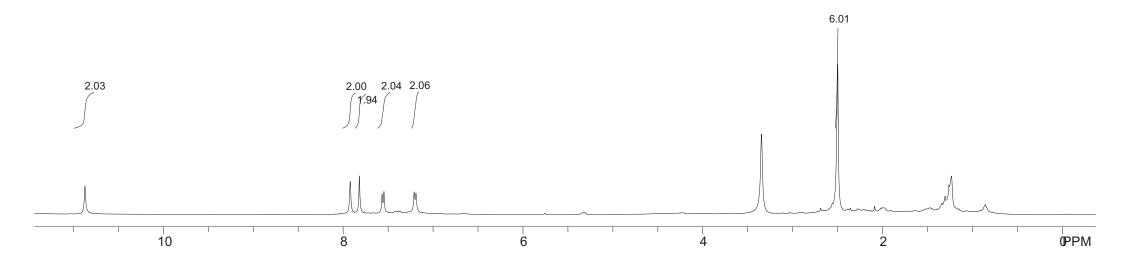


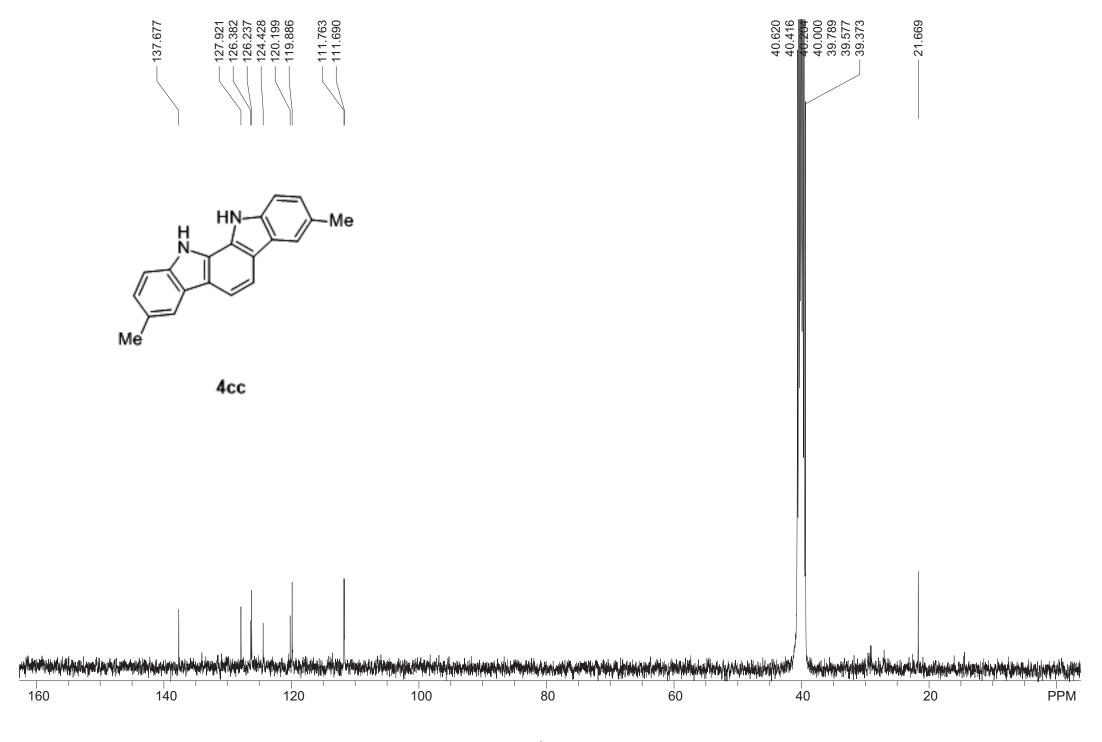


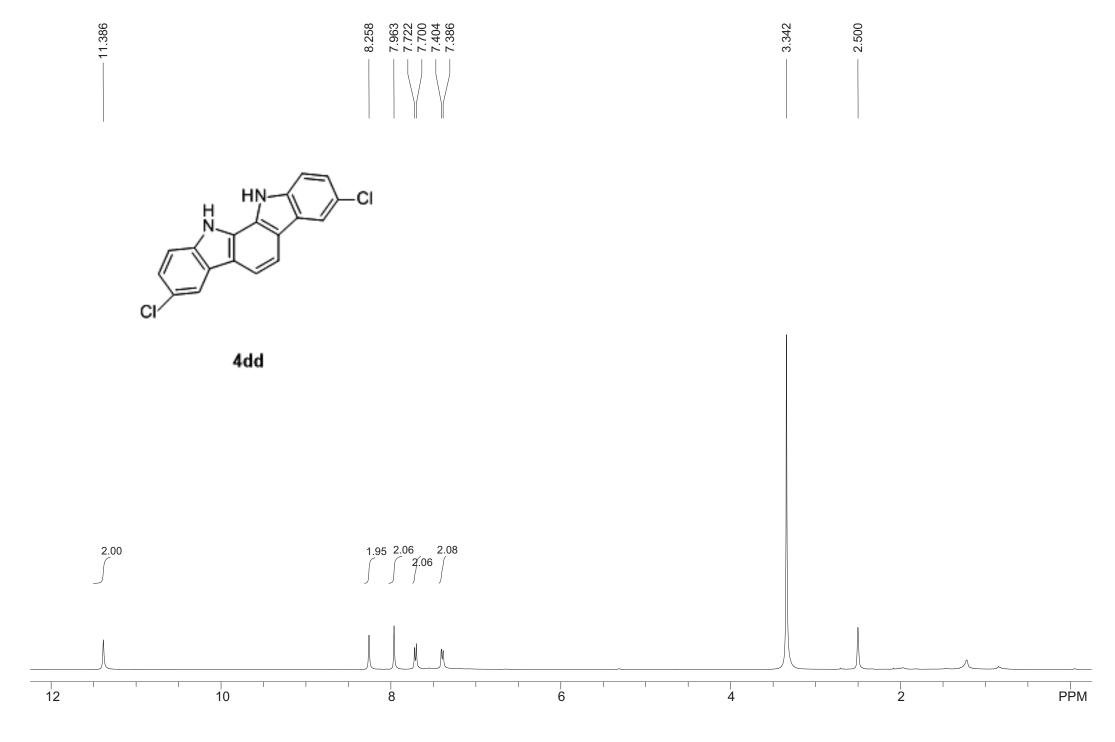


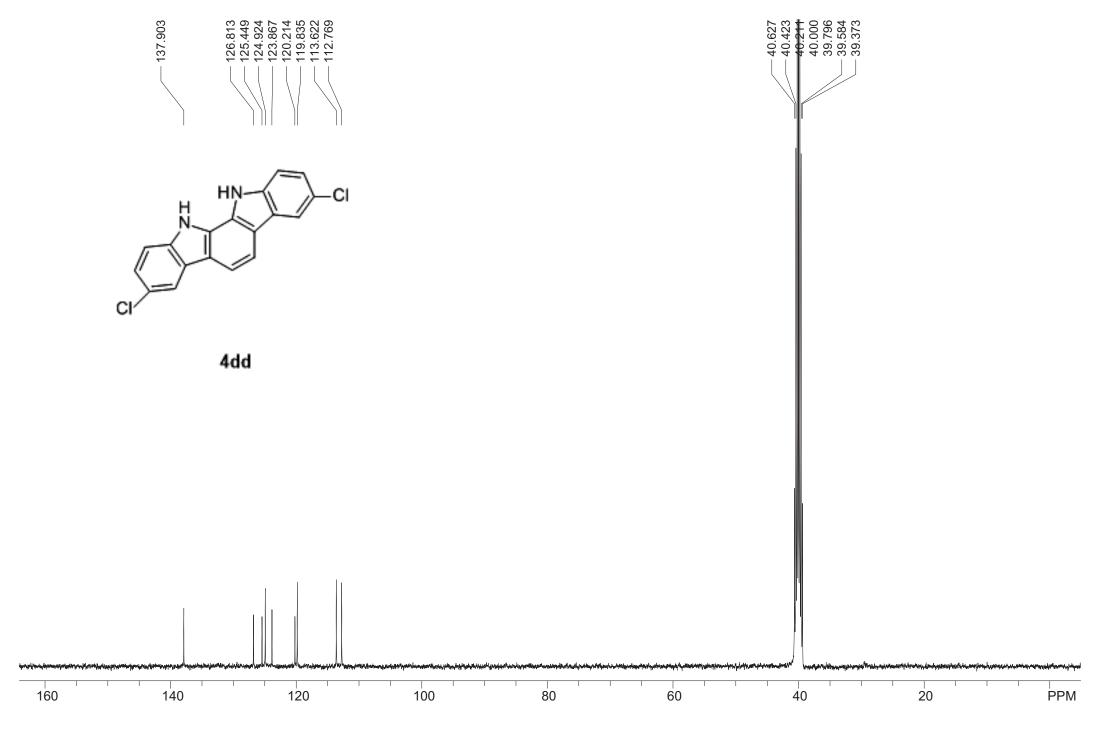


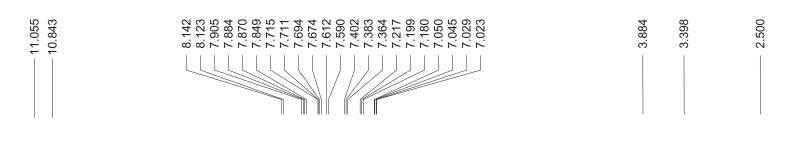
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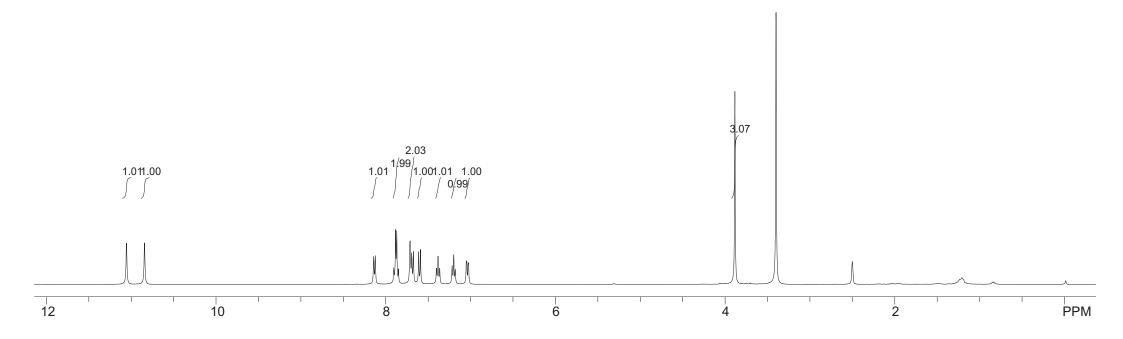


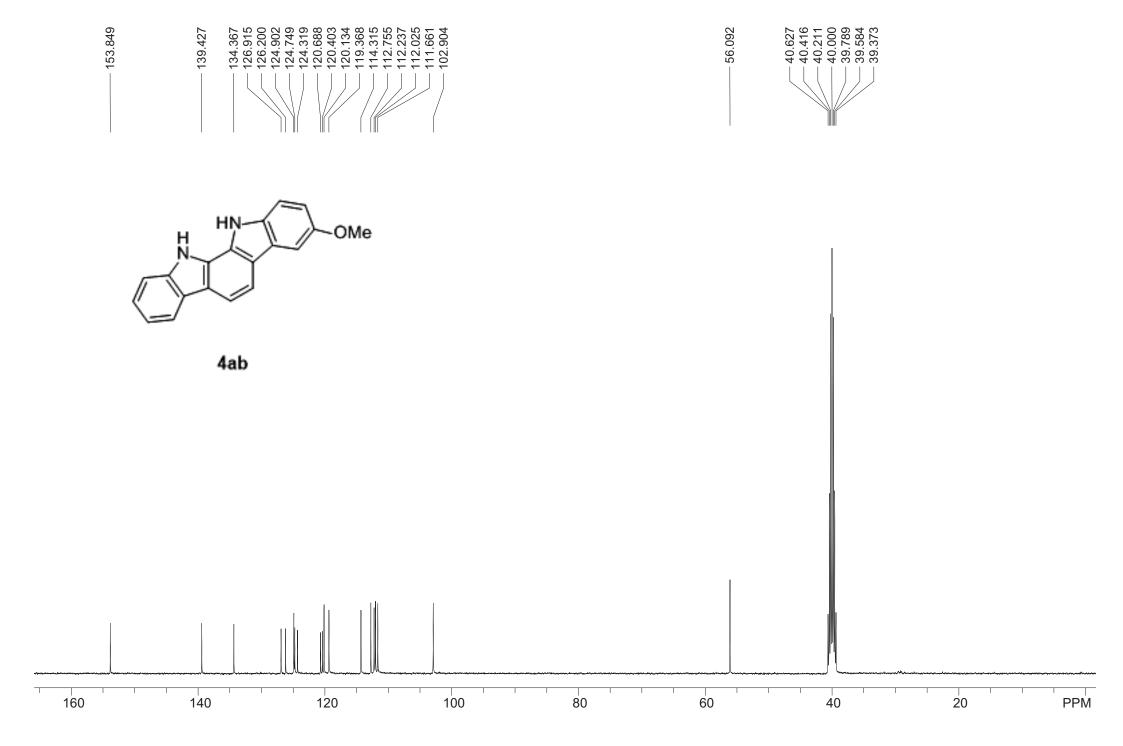


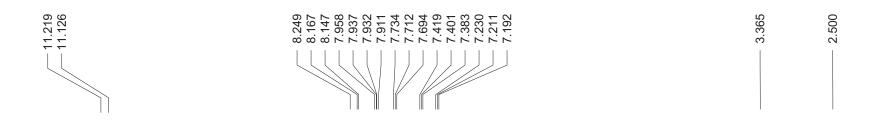




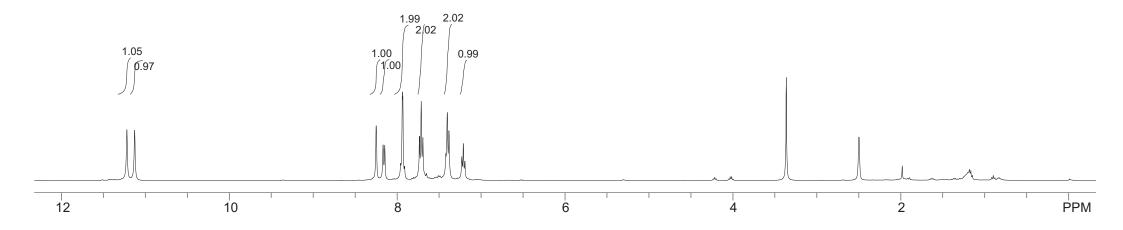
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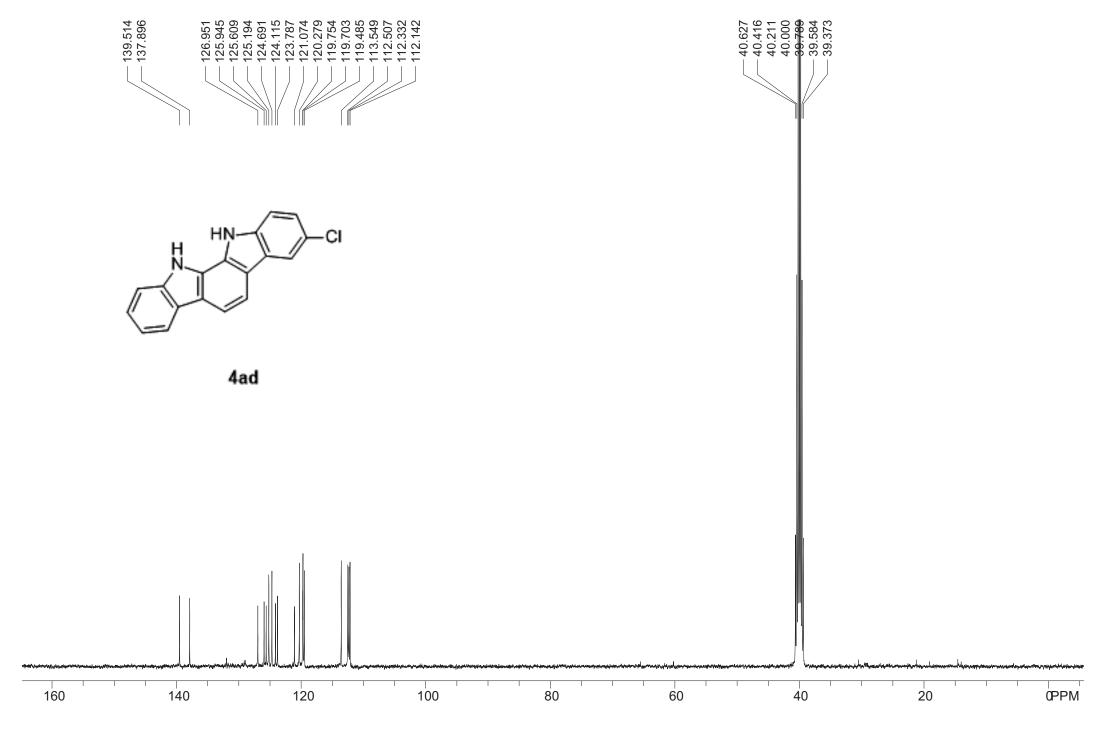


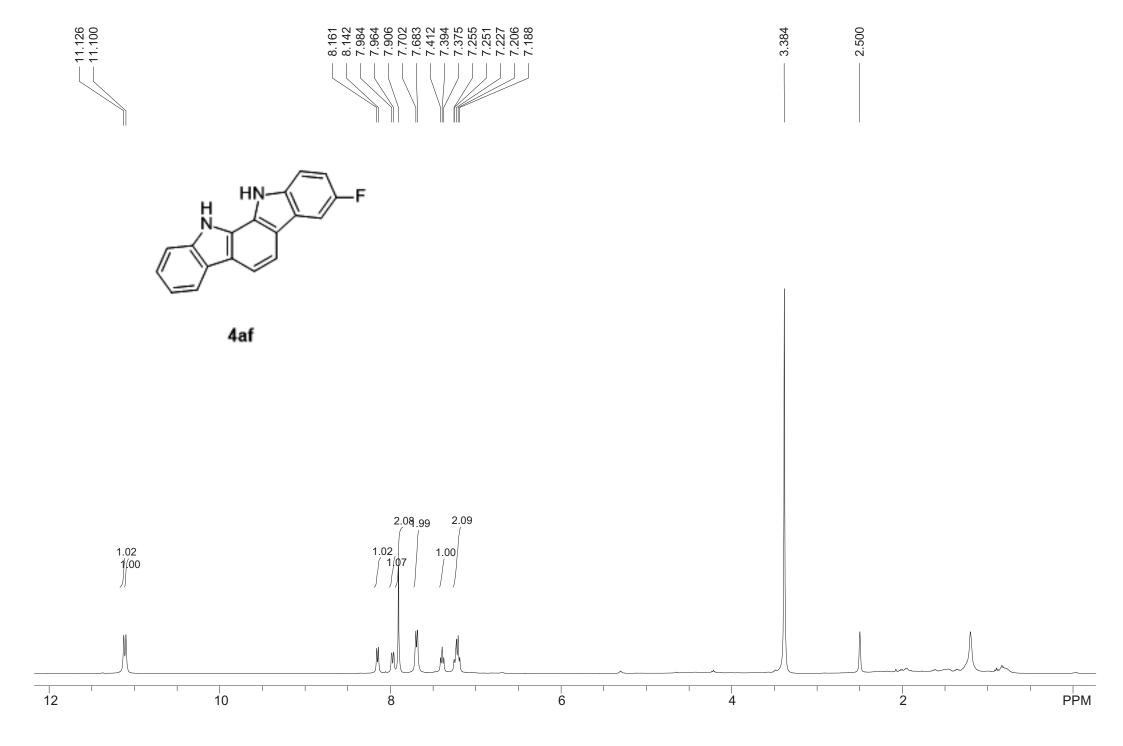


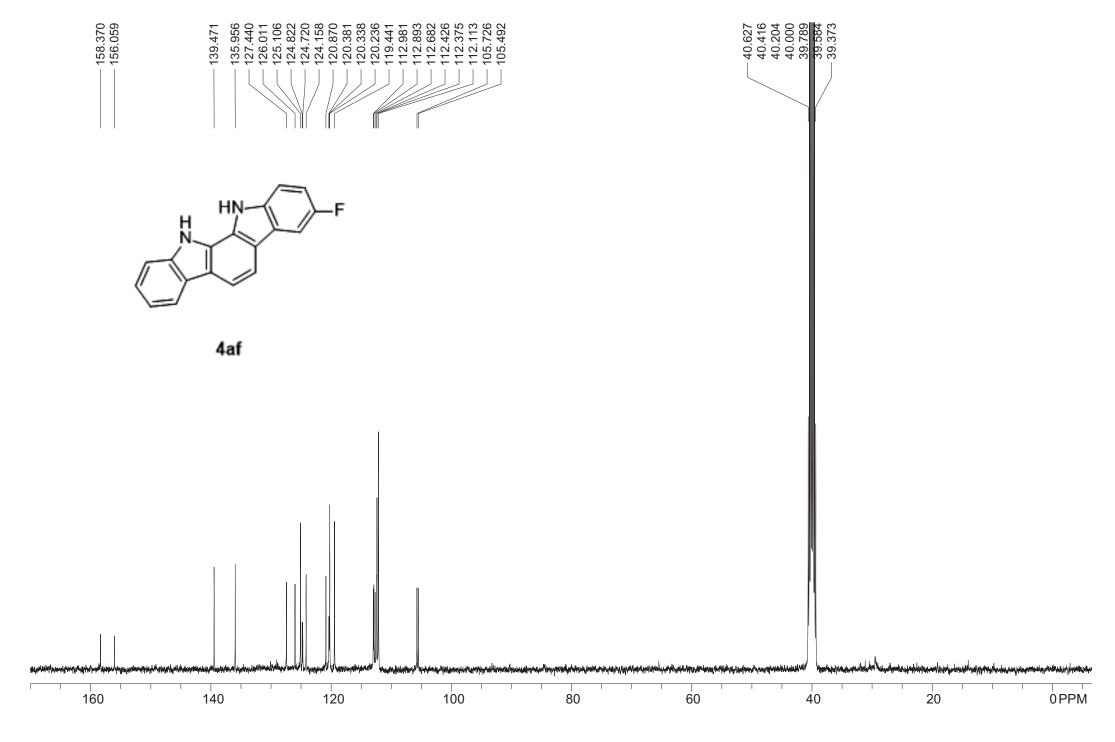


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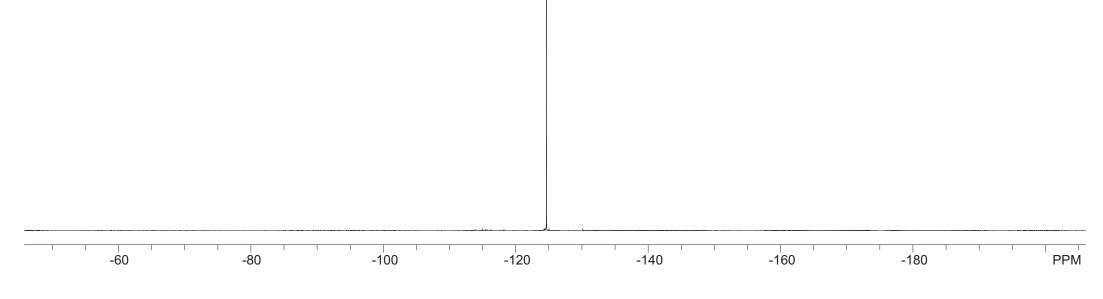


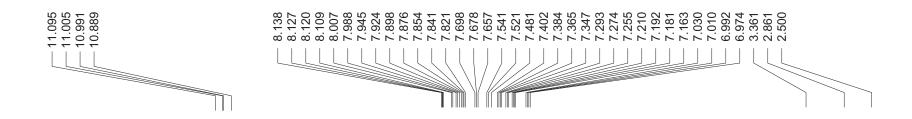


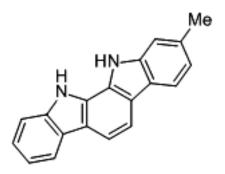




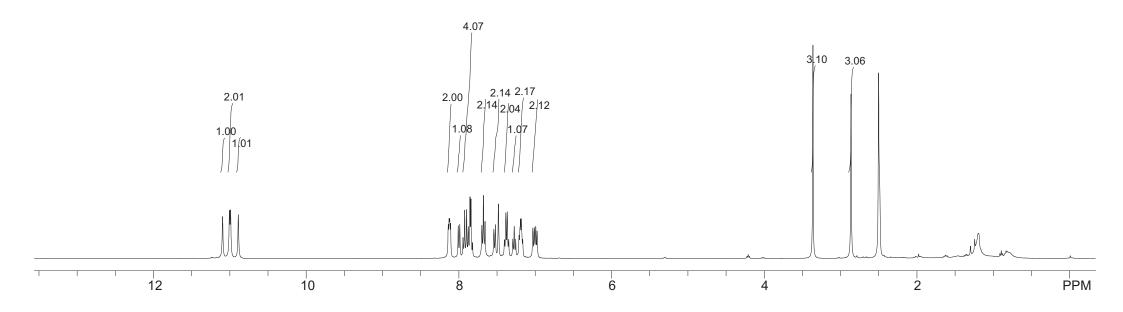
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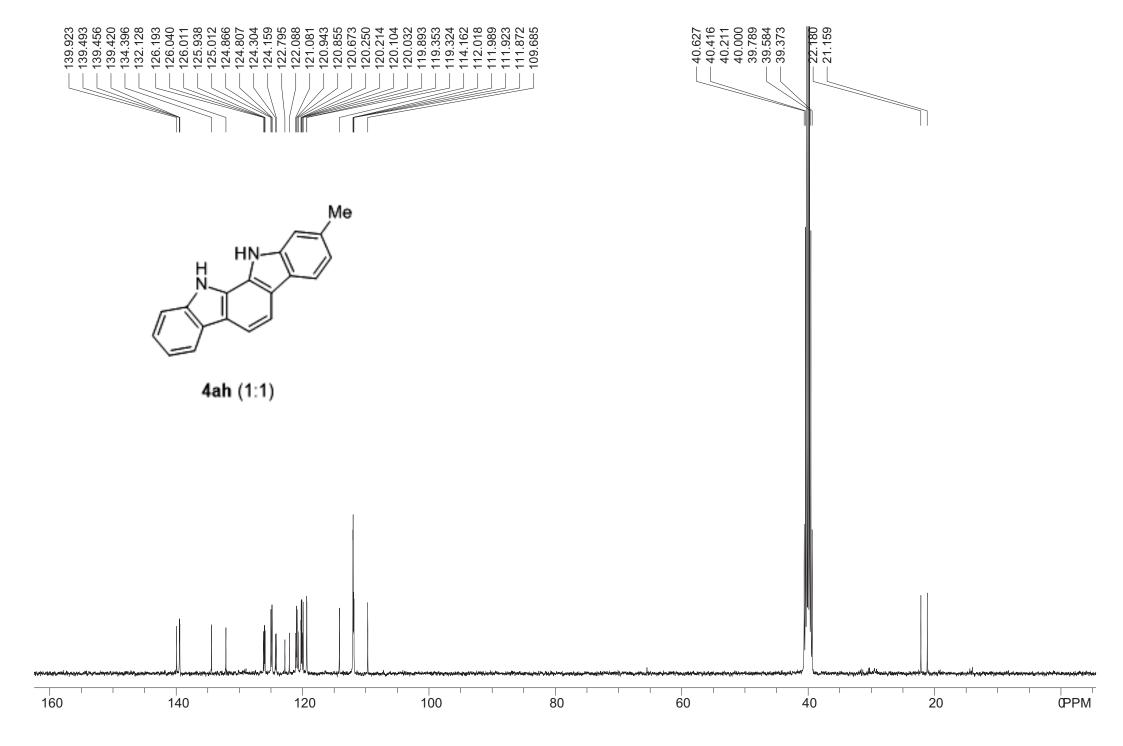


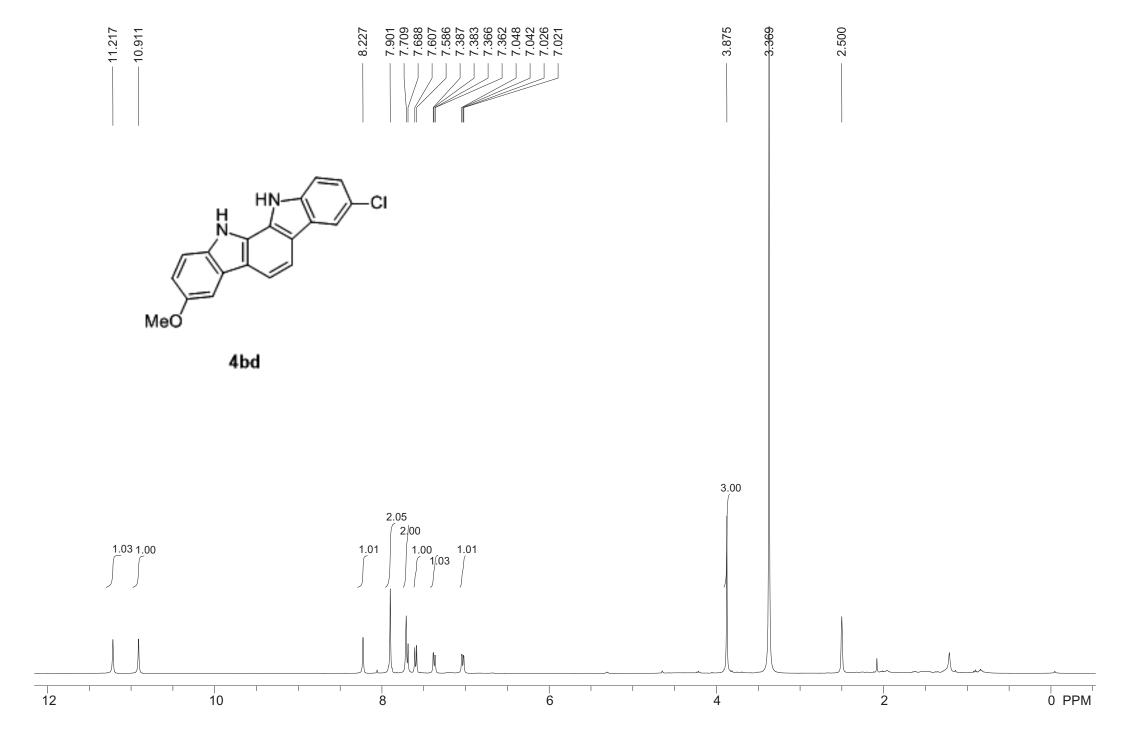


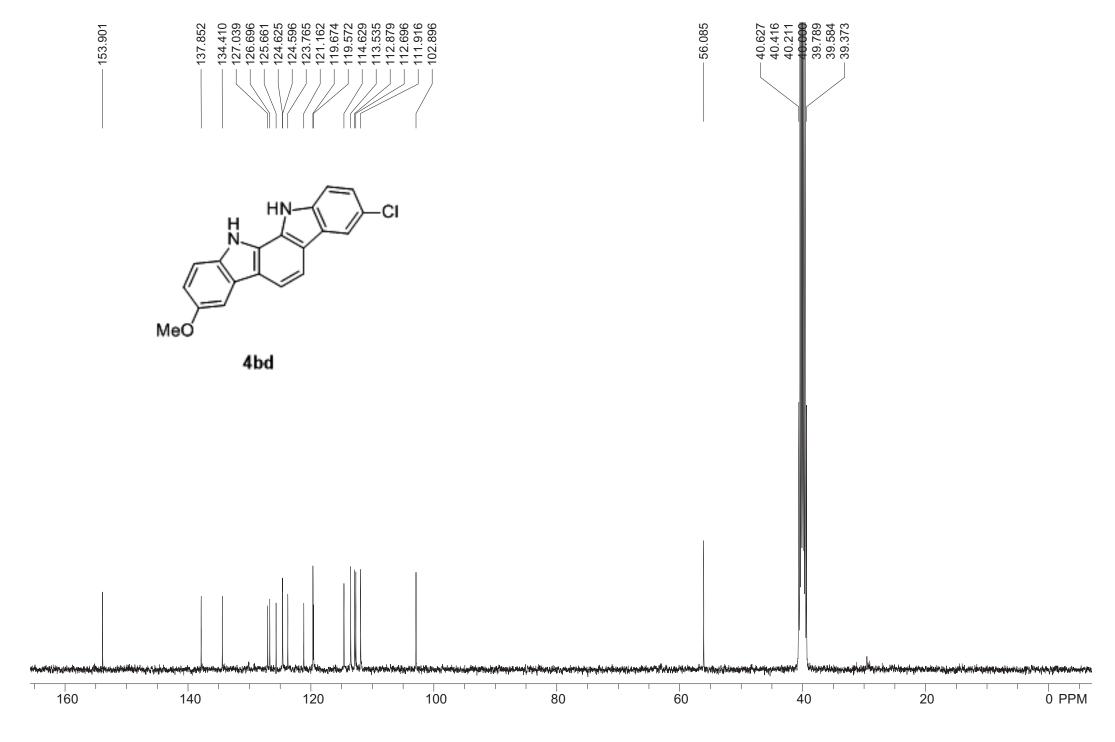


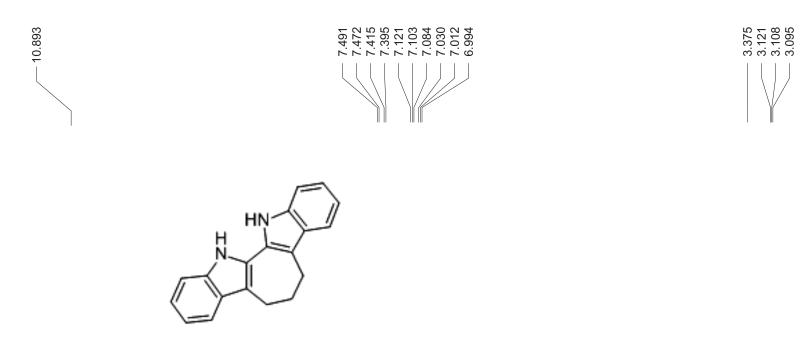




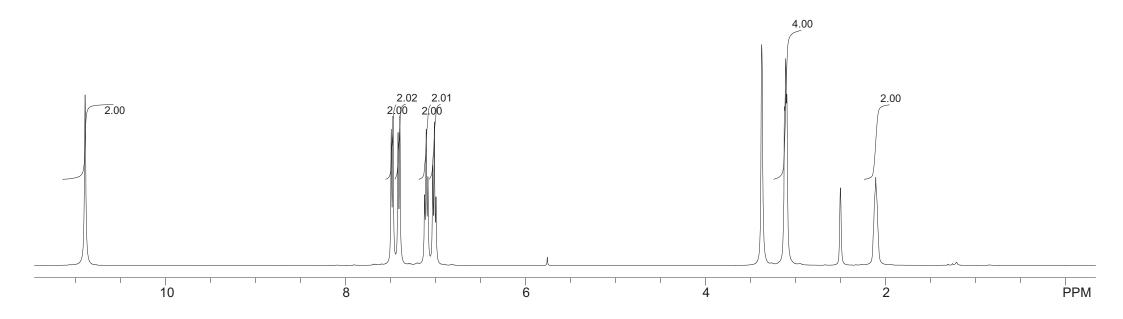






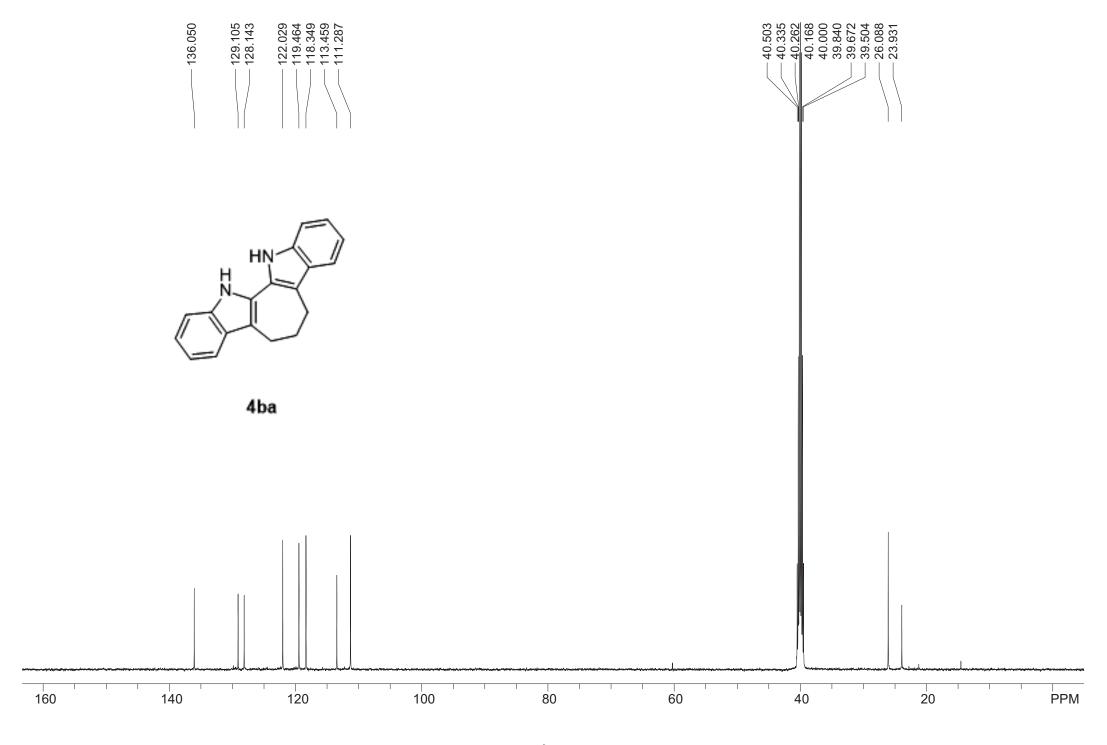


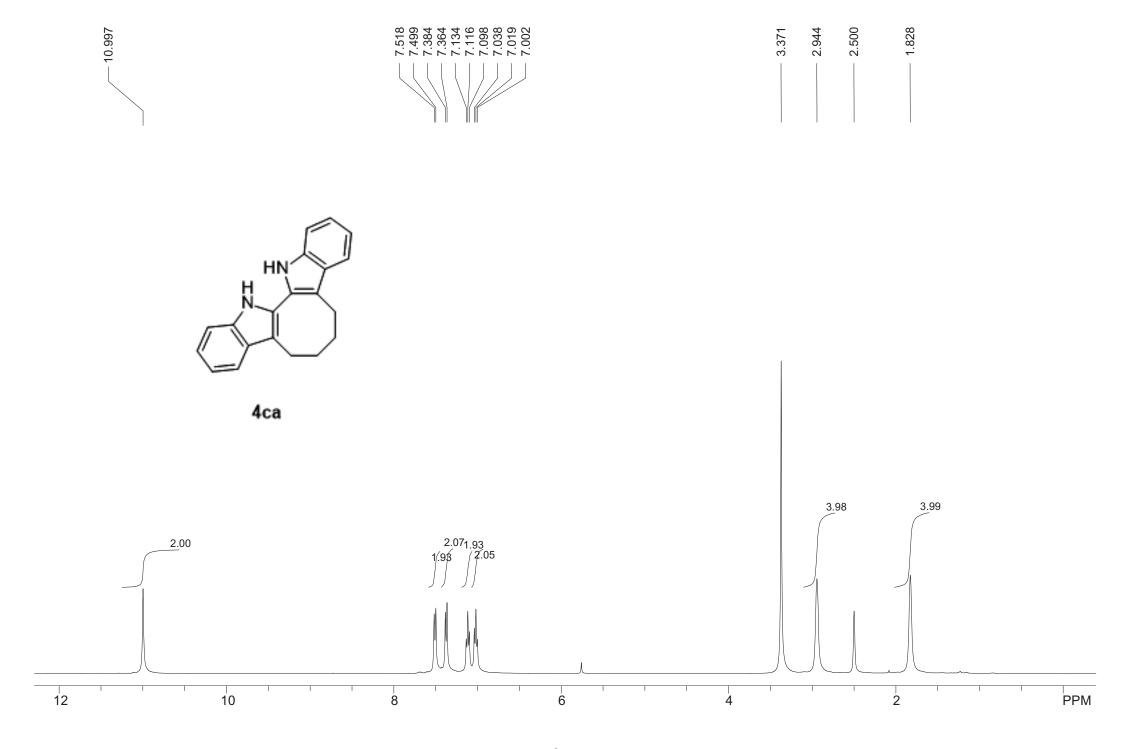
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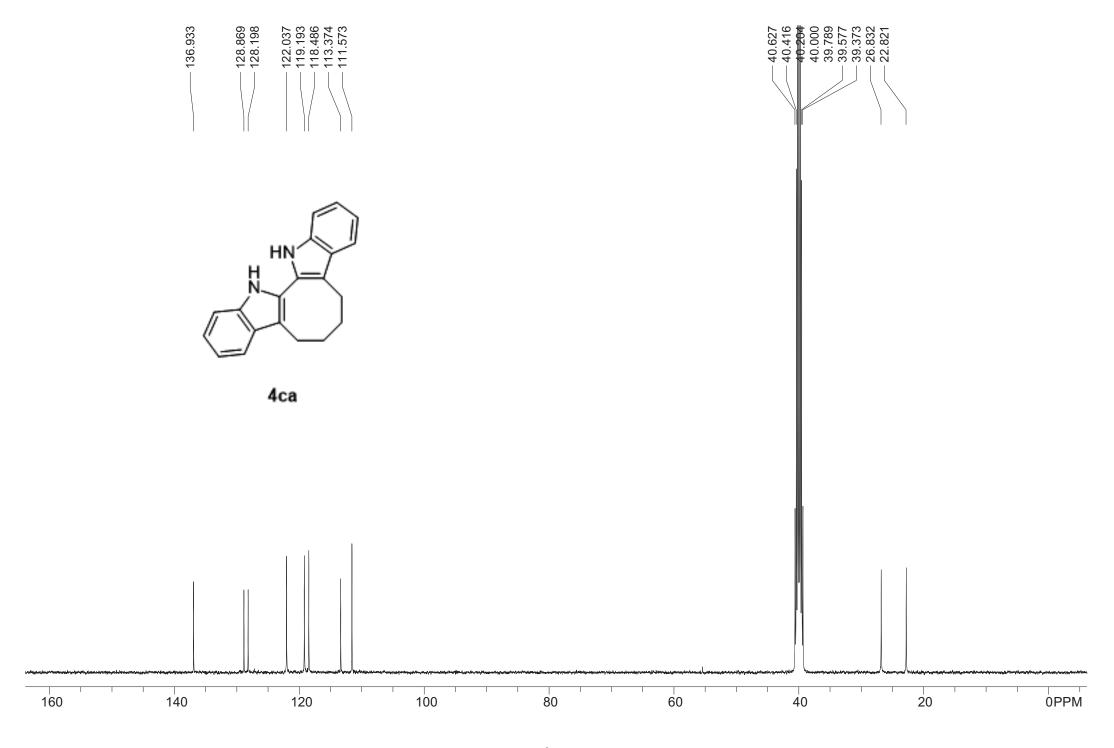


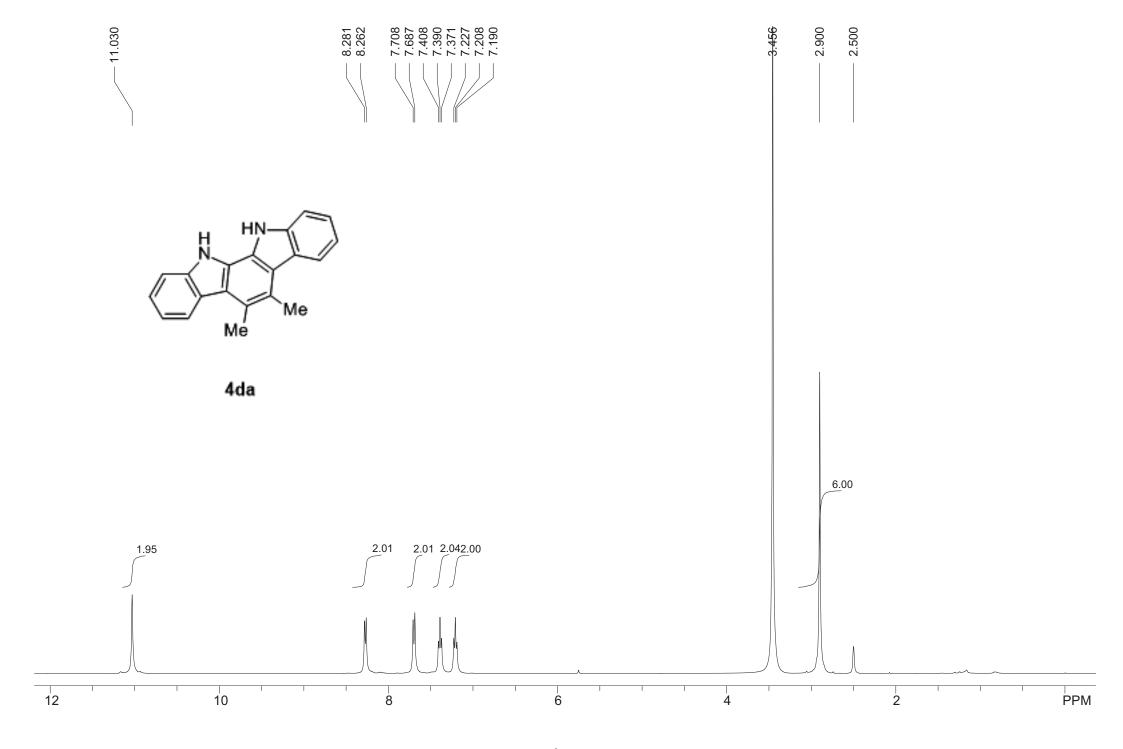
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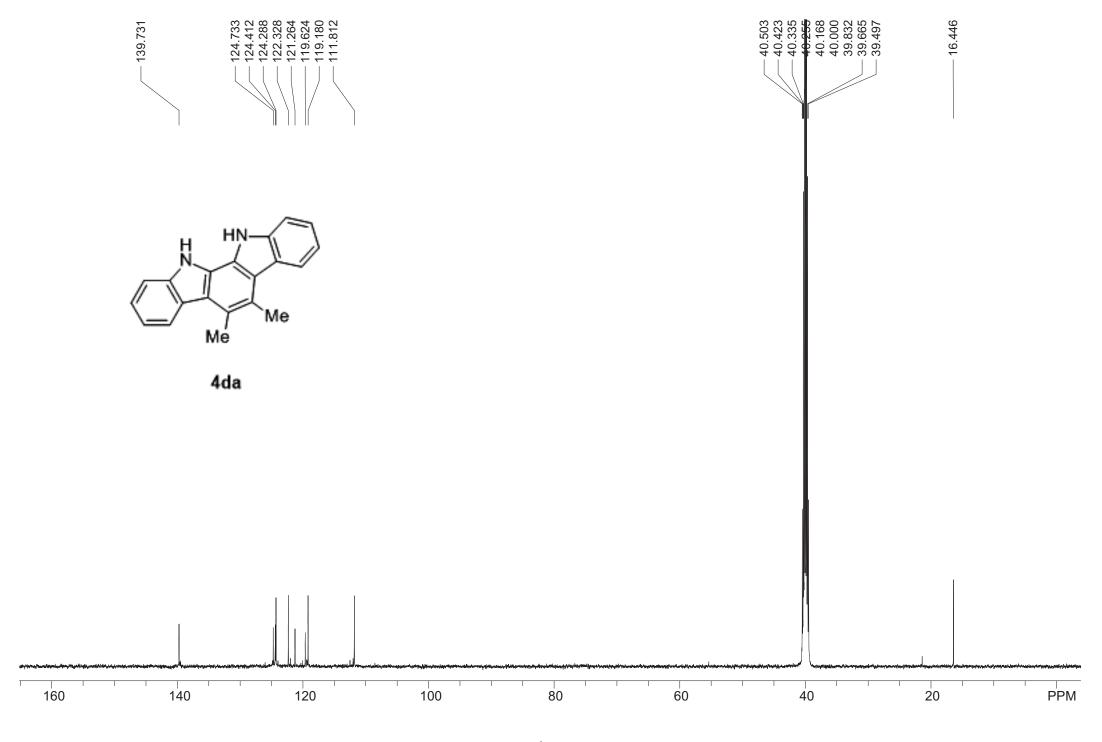
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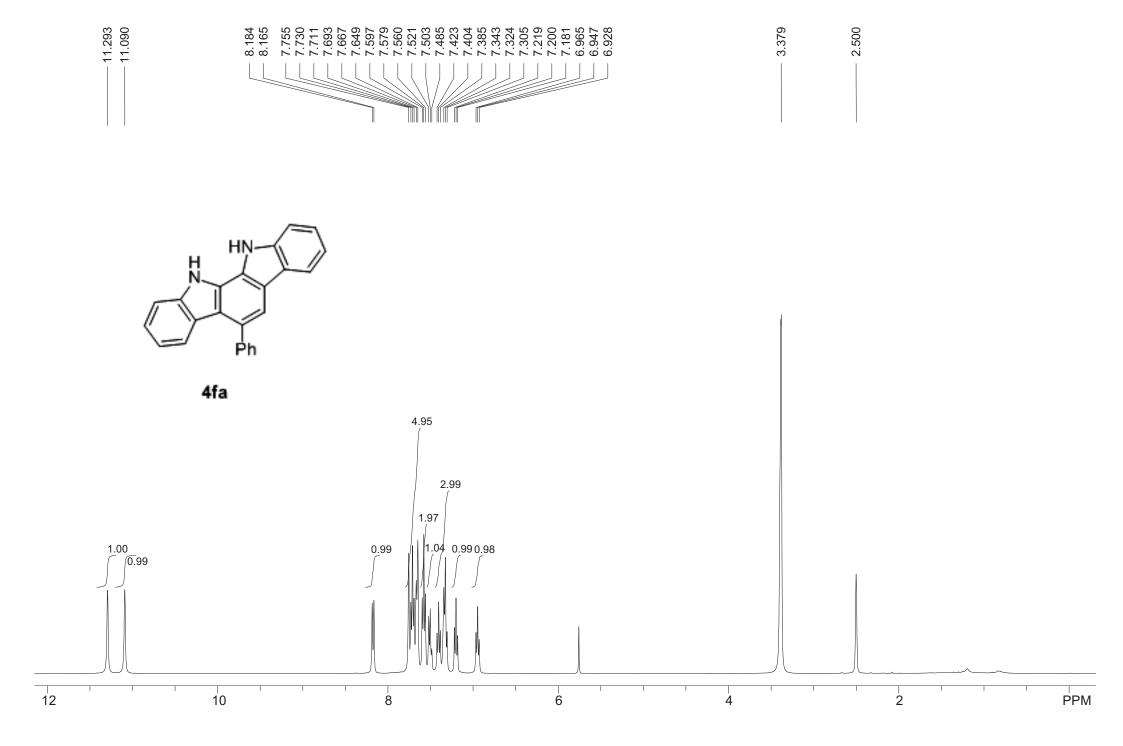


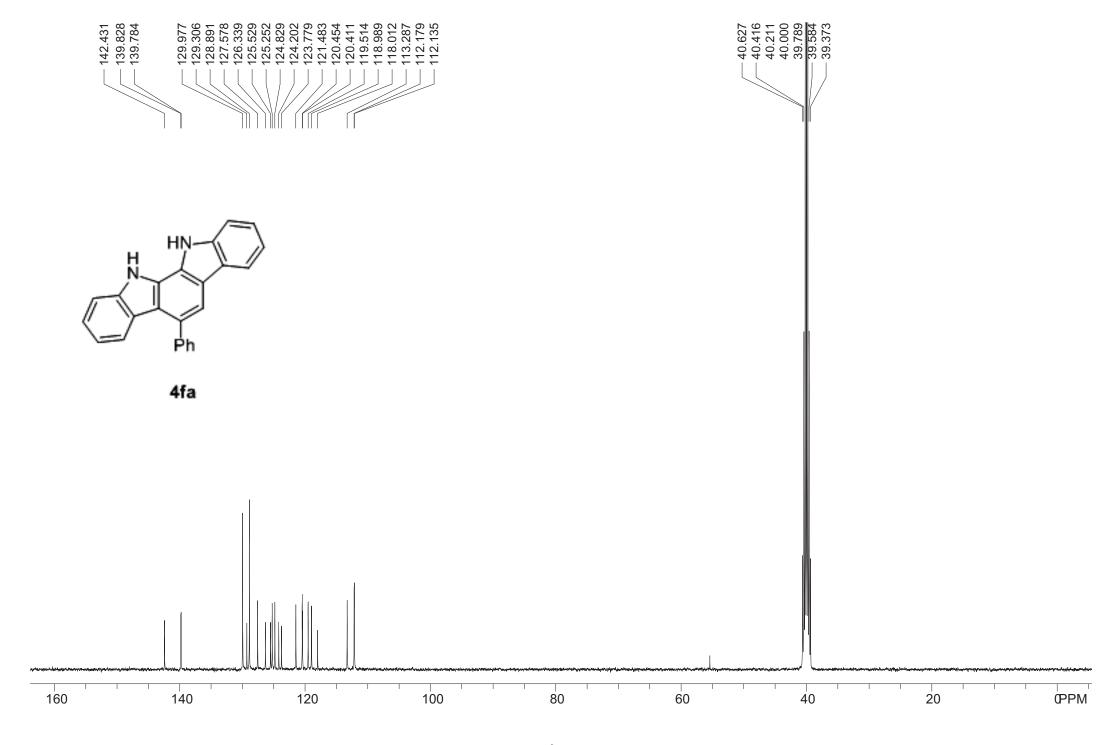


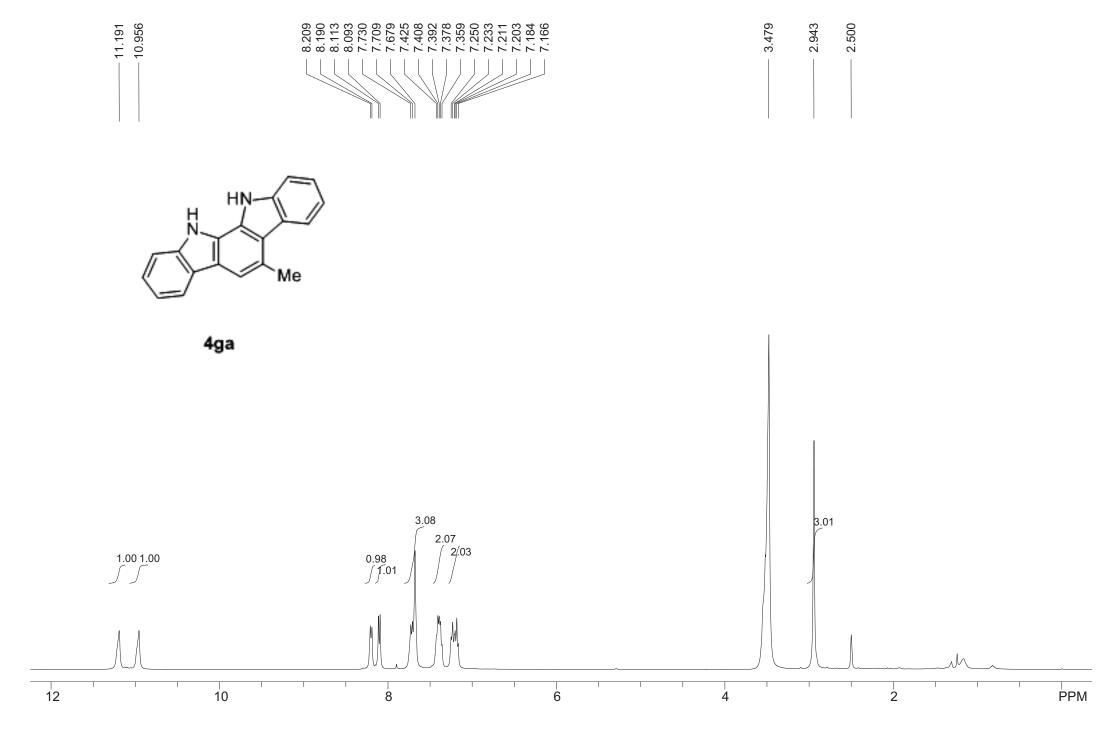


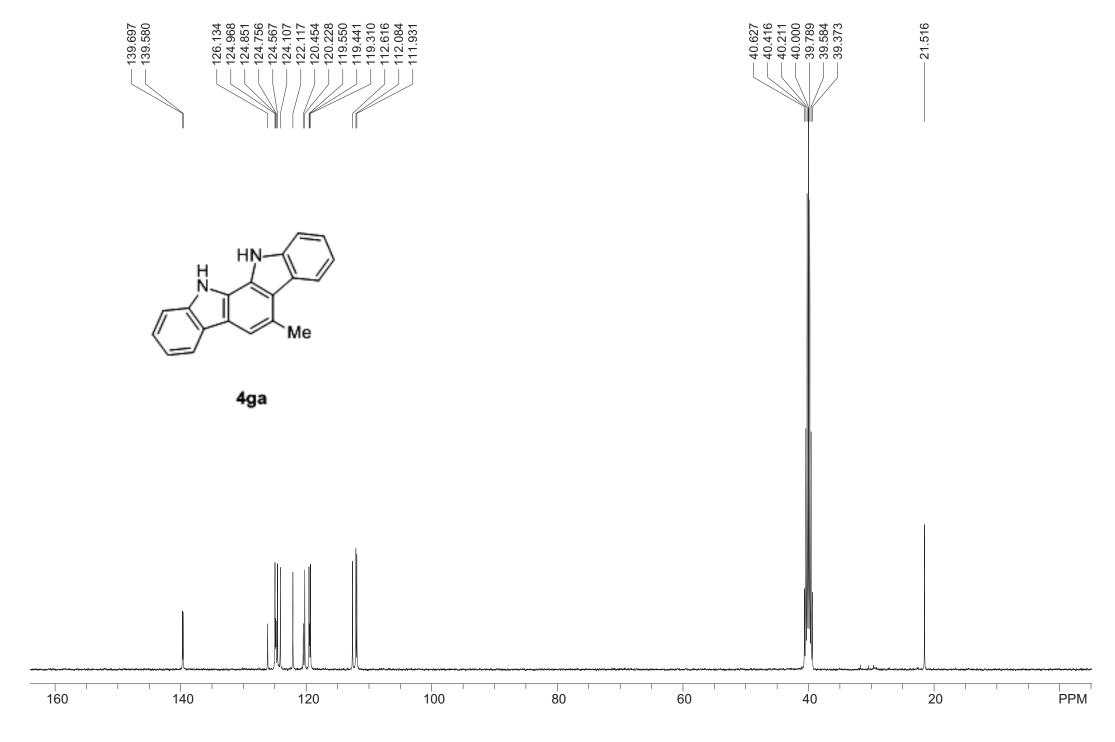


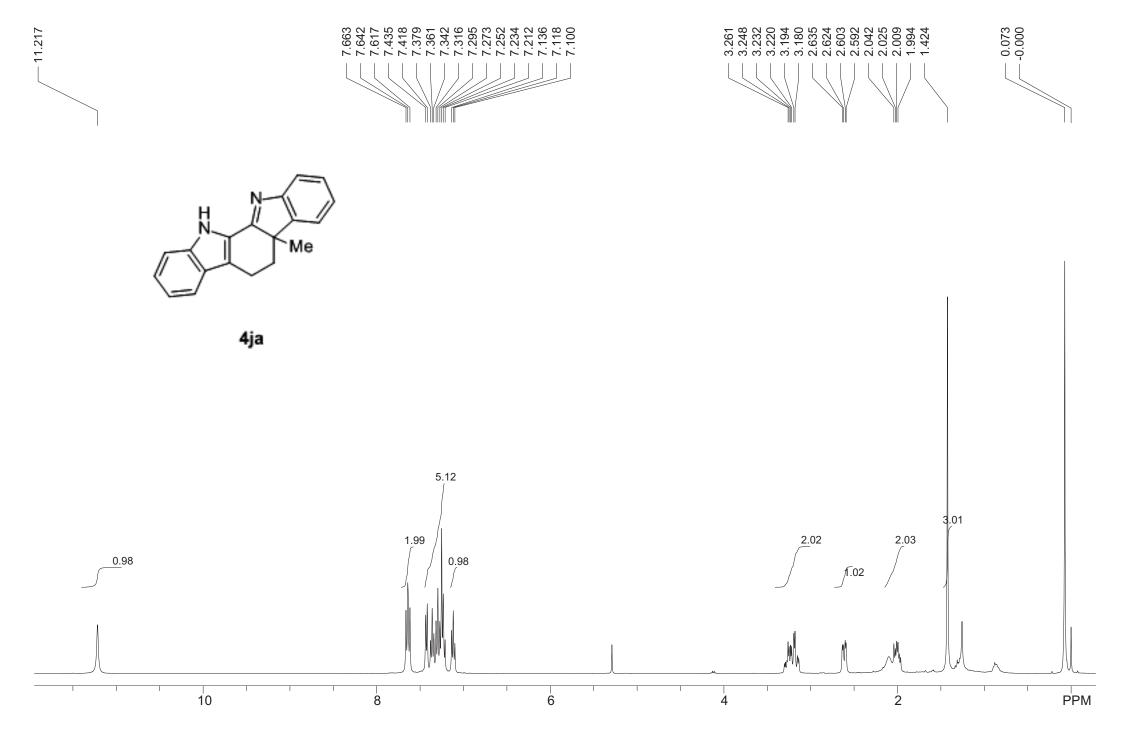


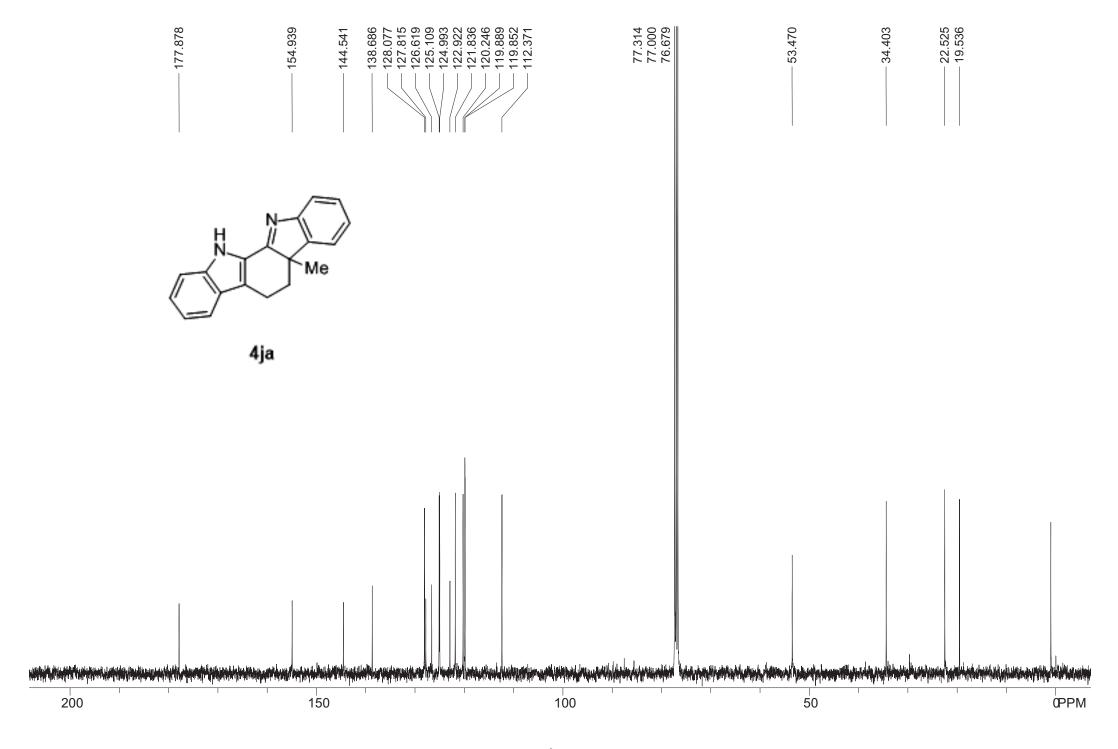




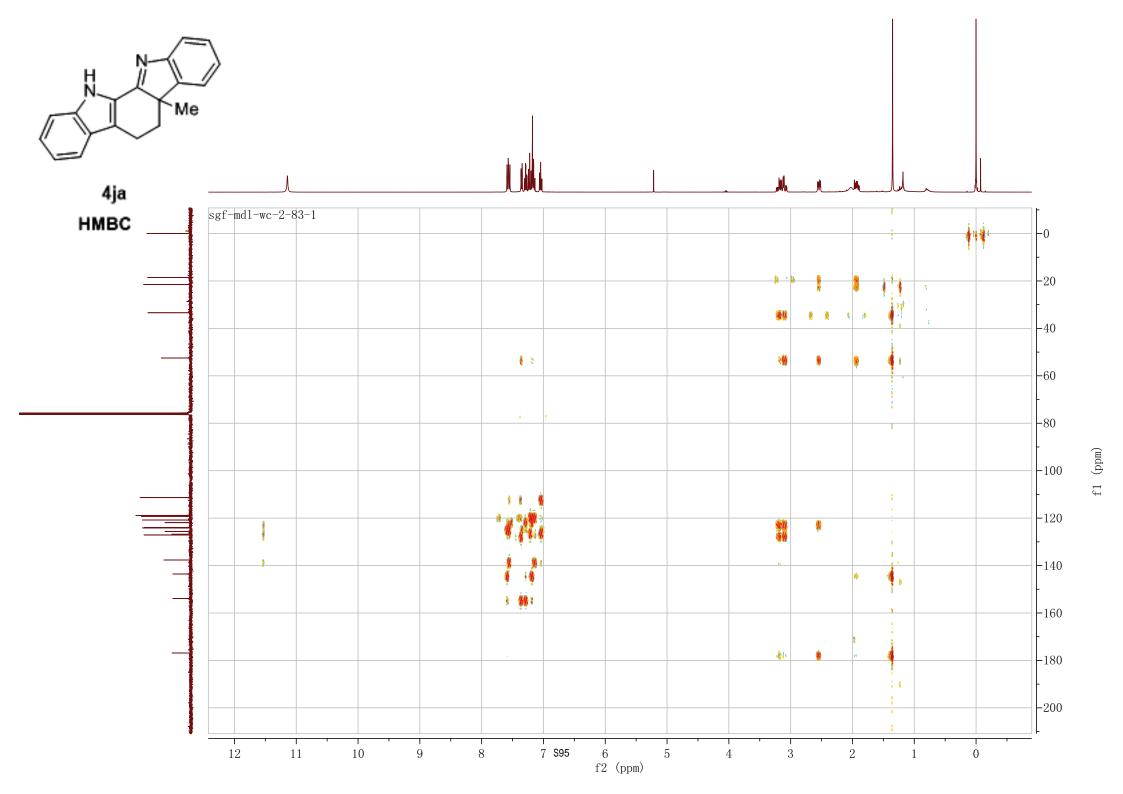


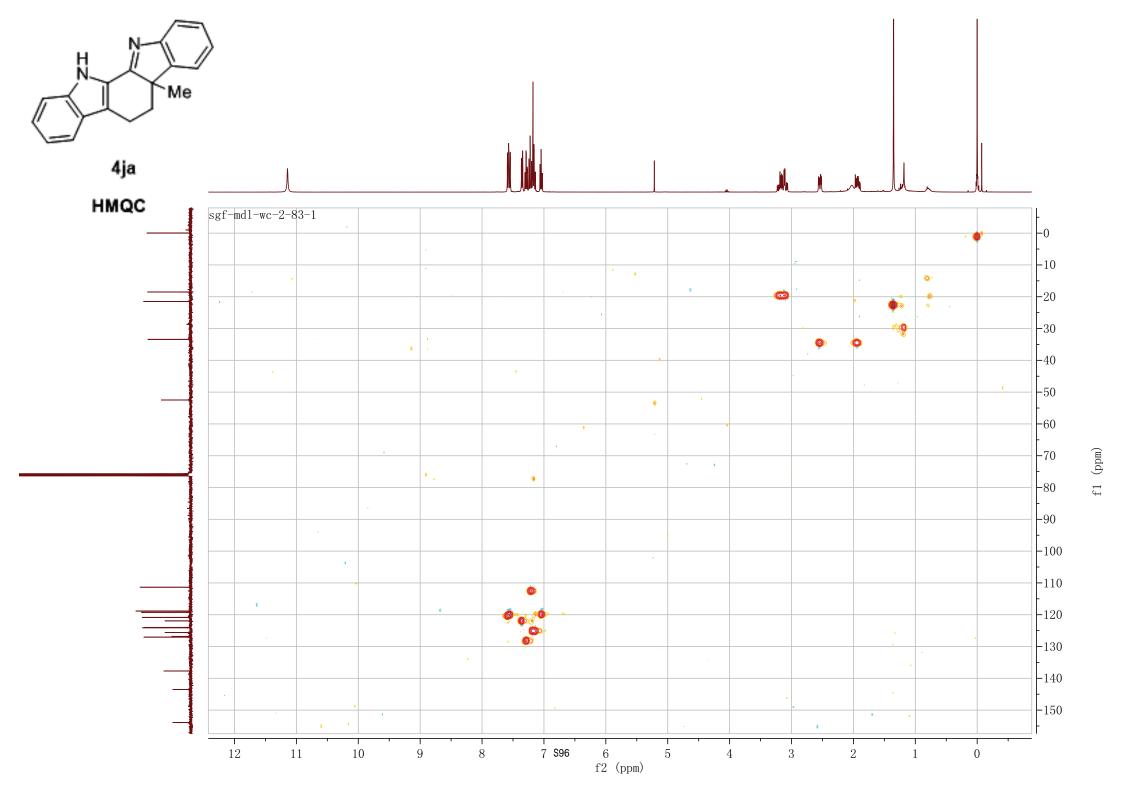


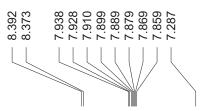


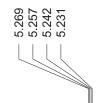


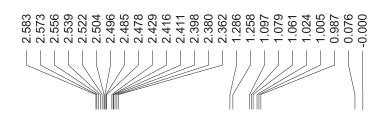
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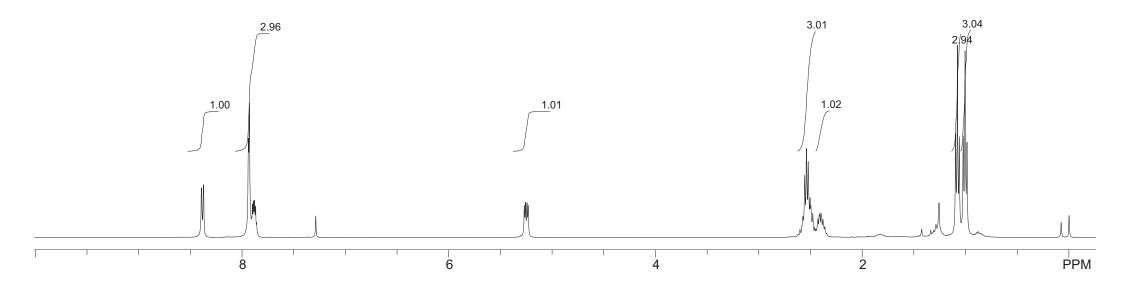


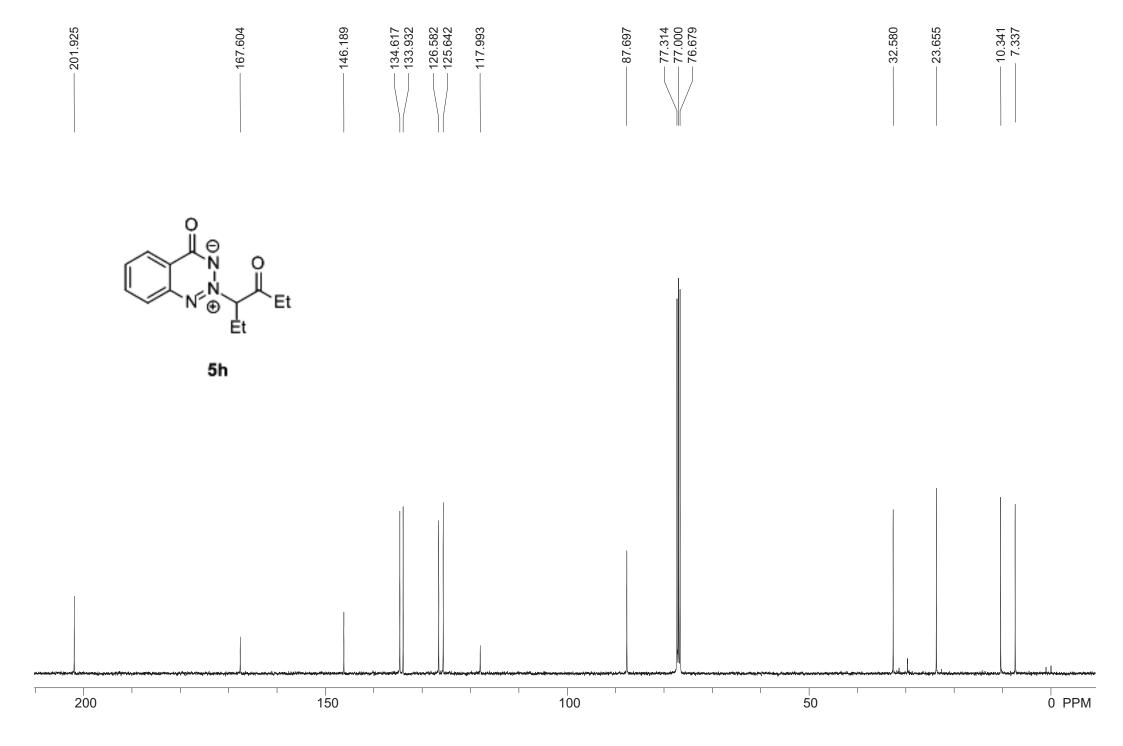




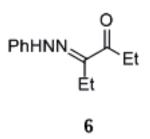


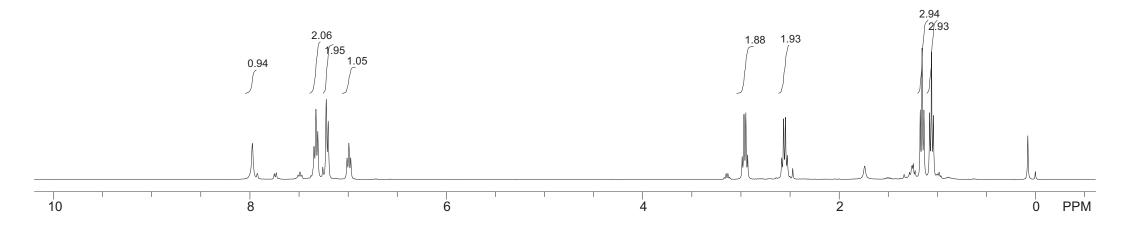


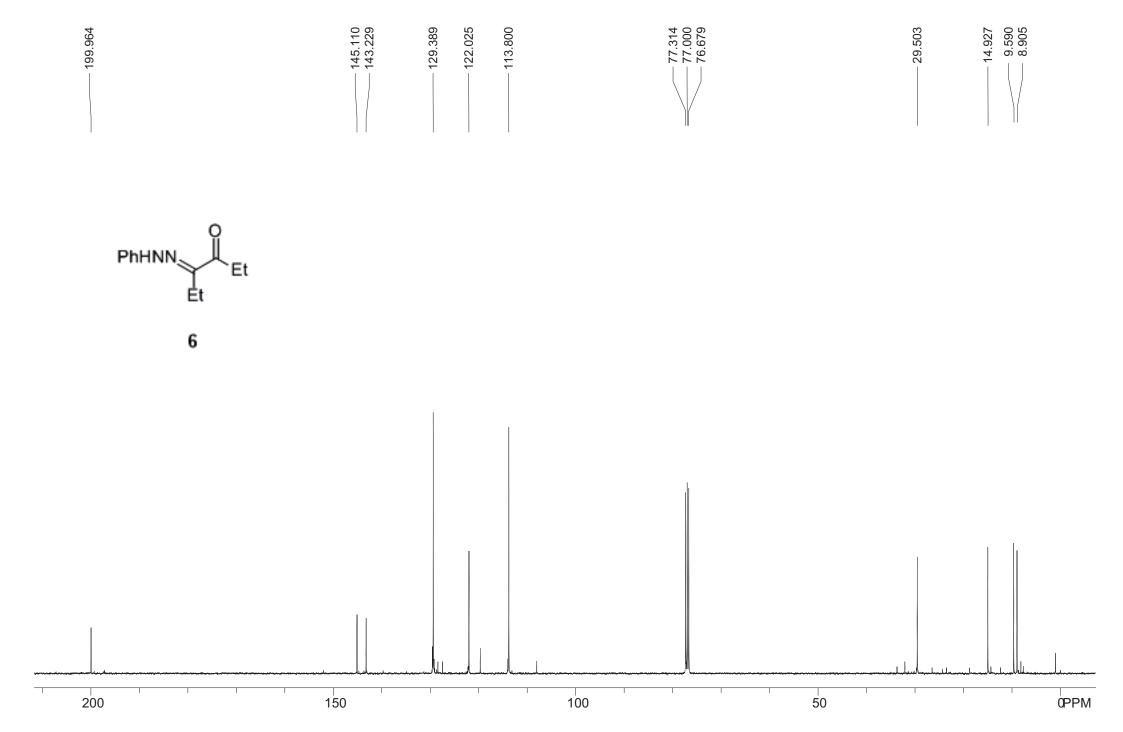


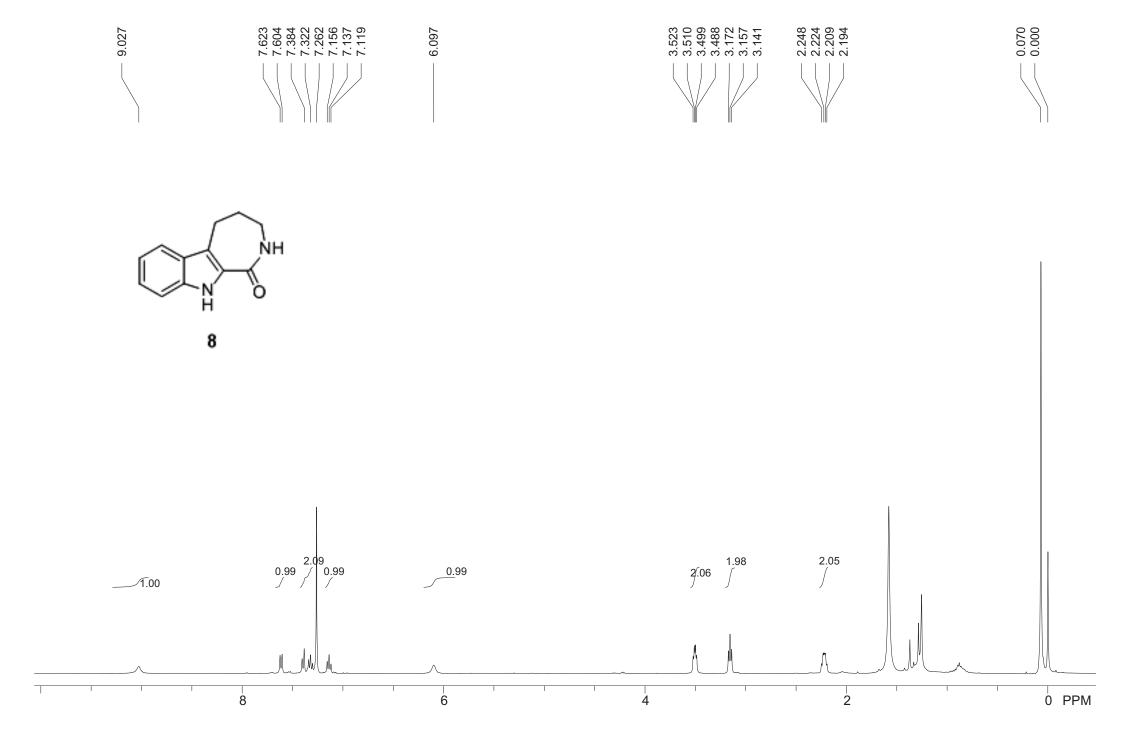


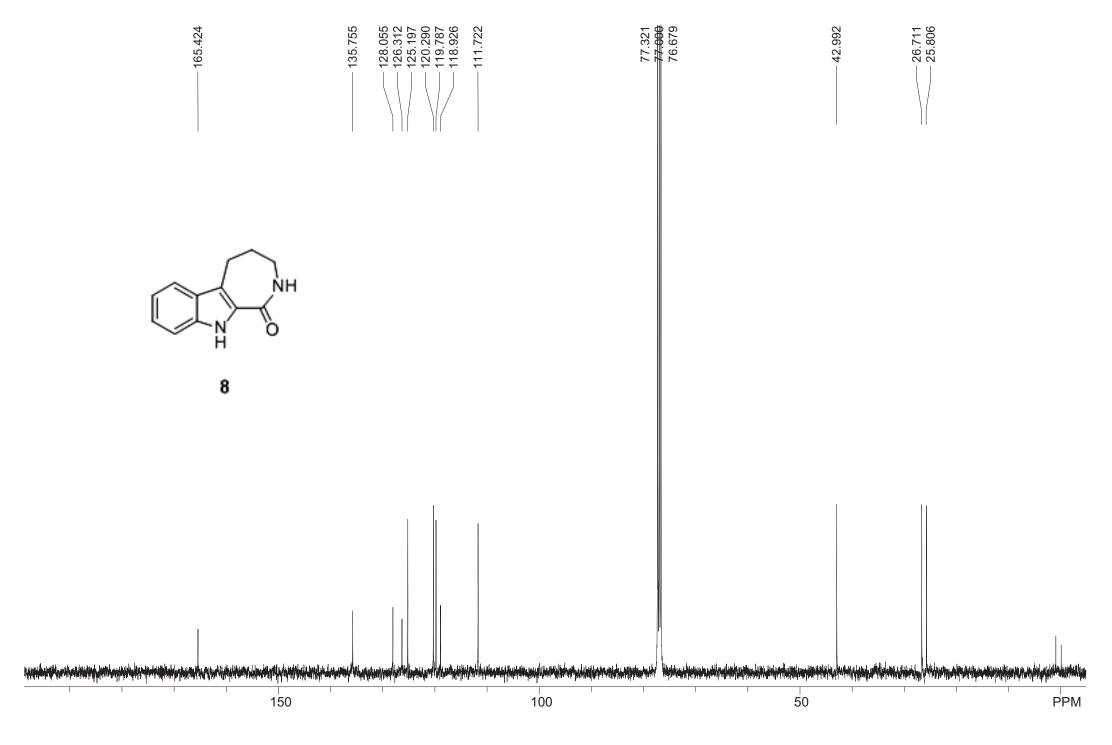


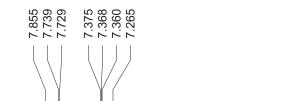




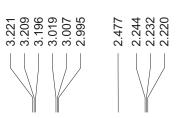




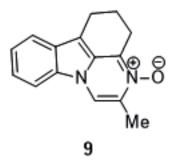


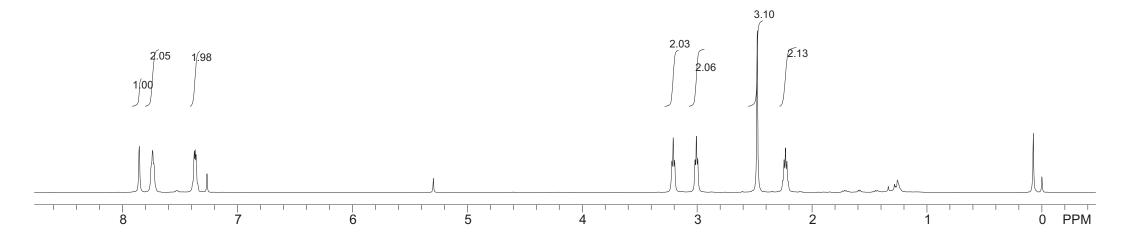


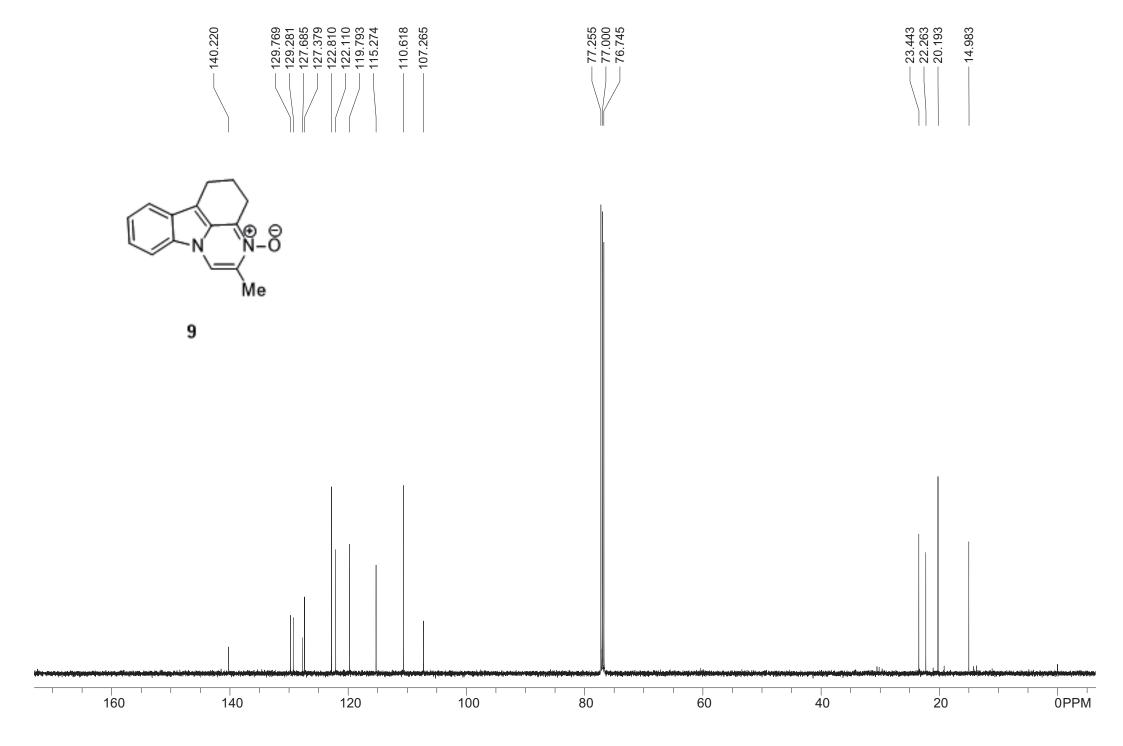


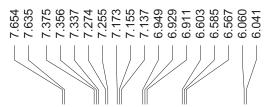


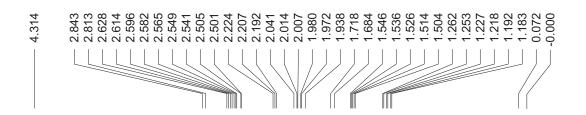


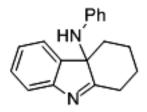












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