

Synthesis of unsymmetrical benzils via palladium-catalysed α -arylation–oxidation of 2-hydroxyacetophenones with aryl bromides

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Supporting Information

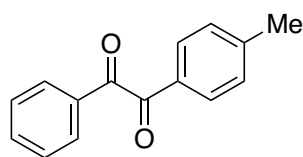
General. All reactions were carried out with standard Schlenk techniques under a nitrogen or an argon atmosphere. Column chromatography was carried out on Wakogel® C-200 (75–150 μm). Preparative thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Wakogel® B-5F. Proton chemical shifts (δ) were referenced to tetramethylsilane (at 0.00 ppm) or residual CHCl_3 (at 7.26 ppm). Carbon chemical shifts (δ) were referenced to CDCl_3 (at 77.0 ppm). Fluorine chemical shifts (δ) were referenced to C_6F_6 (at -164.9 ppm).

Materials. α -Hydroxy ketones¹ and **2k**² were prepared by the literature methods. All other reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification.

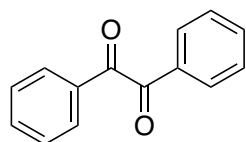
General Procedure for the Palladium-Catalysed α -Arylation–Oxidation of α -Hydroxy Ketones 1. To a sealed tube with a rubber septum under an argon atmosphere charged with $[\text{PdCl}(\text{allyl})]_2$ (3.7 mg, 0.010 mmol), XPhos (19.1 mg, 0.040 mmol), K_3PO_4 (106.1 mg, 0.500 mmol) and α -hydroxy ketone **1** (0.200 mmol) was added *t*-BuOH (0.50 mL). The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min. Aryl bromide **2** (0.500 mmol) was added via a syringe through the septum, and the septum was replaced with a screw cap, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 18 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture

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- 1 (a) Y. Yang and W. Yang, *Chem. Commun.*, 2018, **54**, 12182–12185; (b) Y. Zhang, L. He and L. Shi, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2018, **360**, 1926–1931.
2 H. Noguchi, K. Hojo and M. Suginome, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2007, **129**, 758–759.

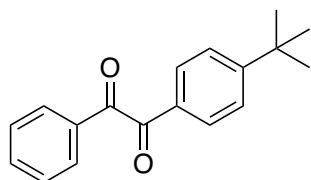
was filtered through a plug of Florisil® eluting with hexane–AcOEt (3:1), and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (hexane–AcOEt) to afford benzil **3**.



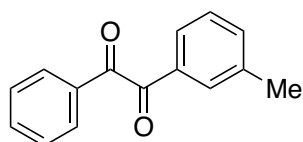
1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3aa). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3aa** (40.3 mg, 0.180 mmol, 90%) as a yellow solid. Mp 90–92 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dt, *J* = 1.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 194.3, 146.2, 134.8, 133.0, 130.5, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 128.9, 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



1,2-Diphenylethane-1,2-dione (3ab). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.1 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2b** (78.3 mg, 0.499 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ab** (37.1 mg, 0.176 mmol, 88%) as a yellow solid. Mp 92–93 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01–7.95 (m, 4H), 7.70–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 134.9, 132.9, 129.9, 129.0. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³

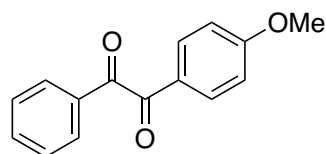


1-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ac). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.1 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2c** (106.9 mg, 0.502 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ac** (45.7 mg, 0.172 mmol, 86%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.93–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 4H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 194.3, 159.0, 134.8, 133.1, 130.4, 129.9 [overlapping], 128.9, 126.0, 35.4, 30.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³

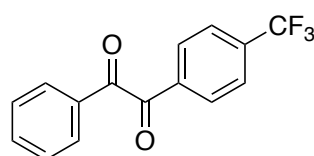


1-(3-Methylphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ad). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2d** (85.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ad** (43.9 mg, 0.196 mmol, 98%) as a yellow solid. Mp 88–

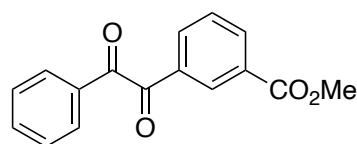
89 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.80–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.8, 194.7, 139.0, 135.7, 134.8, 133.0, 132.9, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 127.2, 21.2. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



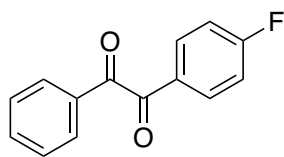
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ae). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2e** (93.3 mg, 0.499 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 7:1) yielded **3ae** (37.2 mg, 0.155 mmol, 78%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.8, 193.2, 165.0, 134.7, 133.1, 132.3, 129.8, 128.9, 126.0, 114.3, 55.6. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



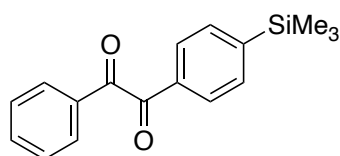
1-Phenyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3af). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.1 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2f** (112.8 mg, 0.501 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3af** (39.0 mg, 0.140 mmol, 70%) as a yellow solid. Mp 57–58 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14–8.08 (m, 2H), 8.01–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.69 (tt, J = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.50 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.5, 193.0, 135.8 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 33.0 Hz), 135.5 (q, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 1.4 Hz), 135.3, 132.5, 130.2, 130.0, 129.1, 126.0 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6 Hz), 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 273.1 Hz). The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



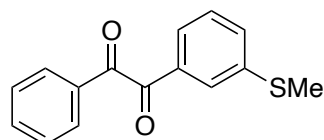
1-[3-(Methoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ag). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2g** (107.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 5:1) yielded **3ag** (32.4 mg, 0.121 mmol, 61%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.63–8.60 (m, 1H), 8.33 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.22–8.16 (m, 1H), 7.99 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.72–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.7, 193.4, 165.7, 135.5, 135.1, 133.7, 133.2, 132.7, 131.2, 130.9, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 52.5. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁴



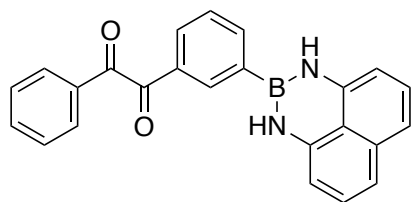
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ah). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2h** (87.4 mg, 0.499 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ah** (40.7 mg, 0.178 mmol, 89%) as a yellow solid. Mp 61–62 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06–7.95 (m, 4H), 7.67 (tt, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.15 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.1, 192.7, 166.7 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 258.6 Hz), 135.0, 132.8, 132.7 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 10.1 Hz), 129.9, 129.4 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.9 Hz), 129.0, 116.4 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.4 Hz). The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



1-Phenyl-2-[4-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3ai). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.1 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2i** (114.7 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ai** (55.2 mg, 0.195 mmol, 98%) as a yellow solid. Mp 60–61 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70–7.62 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.47 (m, 2H), 0.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.9, 194.6, 149.9, 134.8, 133.8, 133.0, 132.9, 129.9, 129.0, 128.6, –1.5. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁵

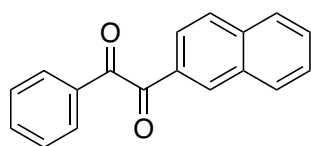


1-[3-(Methylthio)phenyl]-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3aj). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2j** (101.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 7:1) yielded **3aj** (38.8 mg, 0.141 mmol, 76%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.88–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.71–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.2, 194.1, 140.6, 135.0, 133.4, 132.8, 132.5, 129.9, 129.2, 129.0, 126.7, 126.3, 15.4; IR (ATR, ν/cm⁻¹): 1683, 1596, 1581, 1211; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₂S [*M* + *H*]⁺ 257.0631, found 257.0636;



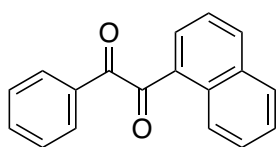
1-[3-(Naphtho[1,8-*de*][1,3,2]diazaborinin-2-yl)-phenyl]-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ak). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2k** (161.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC

(hexane:AcOEt = 5:1) yielded **3ak** (37.1 mg, 0.0987 mmol, 49%) as an orange solid. Mp 165 °C (decomp); ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.04–7.98 (m, 3H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.59–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.17–7.03 (m, 4H), 6.42 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.06 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.6, 194.4, 140.6, 137.8, 136.2, 135.1, 132.9, 132.6, 132.5, 131.7, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 127.6, 119.9, 118.2, 106.3 [The carbon atom attached to the boron atom was not observed due to quadrupolar broadening]; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 3400, 1669, 1602, 1408, 1198, 766; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{BN}_2\text{O}_2$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ 377.1460, found 377.1456.



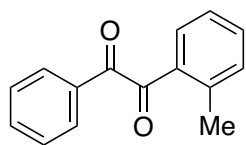
1-(2-Naphthyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3al). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.201 mmol) and **2l** (103.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on

silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) yielded **3al** (41.0 mg, 0.158 mmol, 79%) as a yellow solid. Mp 86–87 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.10 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.06–8.01 (m, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.6 [overlapping], 136.4, 134.9, 133.5, 133.1, 132.3, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 127.9, 127.2, 123.6. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³

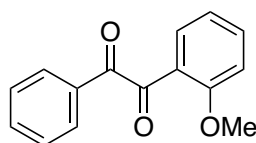


1-(1-Naphthyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3am). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.1 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2m** (103.7 mg, 0.501 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt =

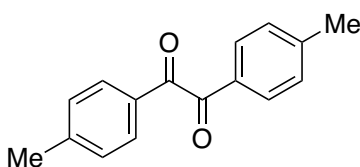
10:1) yielded **3am** (30.0 mg, 0.115 mmol, 58%) as a yellow solid. Mp 99–100 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.31 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.96–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.78–7.71 (m, 1H), 7.66–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.1, 194.6, 136.0, 135.1, 134.7, 134.0, 133.3, 130.9, 130.0, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 127.1, 125.9, 124.4. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



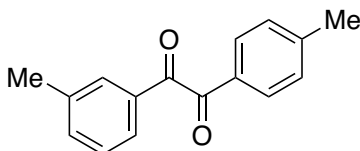
1-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3an). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2n** (85.7 mg, 0.501 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3an** (20.2 mg, 0.090 mmol, 45%) as a yellow solid. Mp 56–57 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.23 (m, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.8, 194.8, 141.4, 134.7 [overlapping], 133.8, 133.0, 132.5, 131.7, 129.9, 129.0, 126.0, 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁶



1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3ao). The general procedure was followed using **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2o** (93.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 7:1) yielded **3ao** (21.2 mg, 0.088 mmol, 44%) as a yellow solid. Mp 70–71 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 193.5, 160.4, 136.5, 133.8, 132.9, 130.5, 129.3, 128.7, 123.8, 121.5, 112.3, 55.6. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³

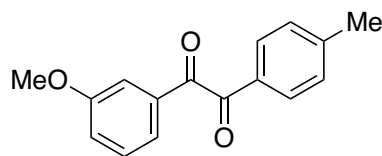


1,2-Bis(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ba). The general procedure was followed using **1b** (29.9 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ba** (43.5 mg, 0.183 mmol, 92%) as a yellow solid. Mp 103–105 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 2.42 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.5, 146.1, 130.6, 130.0, 129.7, 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



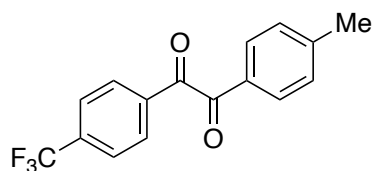
1-(3-Methylphenyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ca). The general procedure was followed using **1c** (30.1 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ca** (45.3 mg, 0.190 mmol, 95%) as a yellow solid. Mp 61–62 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.79–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C

NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.0, 194.4, 146.1, 138.9, 135.6, 133.0, 130.6, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 127.2, 21.9, 21.2. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁶



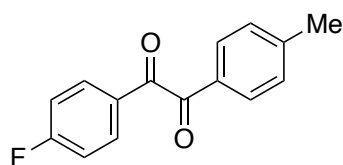
1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3da). The general procedure was followed using **1d** (33.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.6 mg, 0.500 mmol).

Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 5:1) yielded **3da** (40.5 mg, 0.159 mmol, 80%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 194.2, 160.0, 146.2, 134.3, 130.5, 130.0 [overlapping], 129.7, 123.2, 121.8, 112.7, 55.5, 21.9; IR (ATR, ν /cm⁻¹): 1682, 1605, 1256; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₄NaO₃ [M + Na]⁺ 277.0835, found 277.0834.



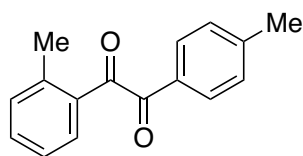
1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3ea). The general procedure was followed using **1e** (40.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol).

Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ea** (37.3 mg, 0.128 mmol, 64%) as a yellow solid. Mp 101–102 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.19, 193.15, 146.7, 135.66 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 33.0 Hz), 135.65, 130.2, 130.11, 130.05, 129.8, 125.9 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.6 Hz), 123.3 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 273.1 Hz), 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.³



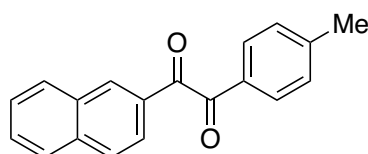
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3fa). The general procedure was followed using **1f** (30.8 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3fa** (38.0 mg, 0.157 mmol,

79%) as a yellow solid. Mp 78–79 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.13 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.8, 192.9, 166.7 (d, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 257.9 Hz), 146.4, 132.7 (d, ³*J*_{C-F} = 10.1 Hz), 130.3, 130.0, 129.7, 129.5 (d, ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.9 Hz), 116.3 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.4 Hz), 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁶



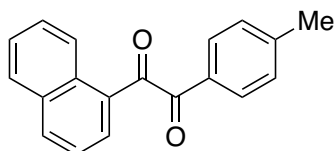
1-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ga).

The general procedure was followed using **1g** (30.0 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ga** (33.6 mg, 0.141 mmol, 71%) as a yellow solid. Mp 101–102 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dt, *J* = 1.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.0, 194.6, 146.0, 141.3, 133.7, 133.0, 132.5, 131.9, 130.7, 130.0, 129.7, 126.0, 21.9 [overlapping]. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁷



1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-(2-naphthyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ha).

The general procedure was followed using **1h** (37.3 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.7 mg, 0.501 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ha** (40.7 mg, 0.148 mmol, 74%) as a yellow solid. Mp 88–89 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.97–7.85 (m, 5H), 7.62 (dt, *J* = 10.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 194.4, 146.2, 136.3, 133.5, 132.3, 130.6, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 127.9, 127.1, 123.6, 21.9. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁸

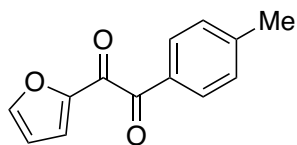


1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ia).

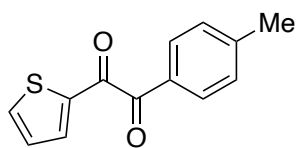
The general procedure was followed using **1i** (37.3 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3ia** (39.1 mg, 0.143 mmol, 72%) as a yellow solid. Mp 93–94 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.30 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.88 (m, 4H), 7.76–7.70 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3, 194.3, 146.0, 135.8, 135.0, 134.0, 130.9 [overlapping], 130.1, 129.7, 129.3, 128.73, 128.68, 127.0, 125.9, 124.4, 21.9; IR (ATR, ν/cm⁻¹): 1669, 1605, 1510, 1225, 1176, 890, 769; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₅O₂ [M + H]⁺ 275.1067, found 275.1063.

7 D. Ragno, O. Bortolini, P. P. Giovannini, A. Massi, S. Pacifico and A. Zaghi, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2014, **12**, 5733–5744.

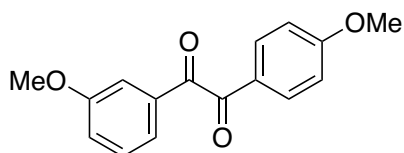
8 M. R. Rohman, I. Kharkongor, M. Rajbangshi, H. Mecadon, B. M. Laloo, P. R. Sahu, I. Kharbangar and B. Myrboh, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2012, 320–328.



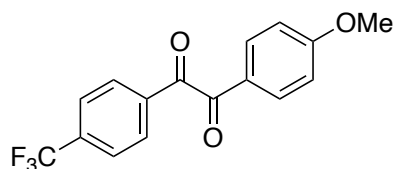
1-(2-Furyl)-2-(4-methylphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ja). The general procedure was followed using **1j** (25.3 mg, 0.201 mmol) and **2a** (85.8 mg, 0.502 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 5:1) yielded **3ja** (23.5 mg, 0.110 mmol, 55%) as a yellow solid. Mp 75–76 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.77–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.3, 180.7, 149.9, 149.1, 146.2, 130.3, 130.0, 129.6, 123.2, 112.9, 21.9; IR (ATR, ν/cm⁻¹): 1652, 1605, 1461; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₀NaO₃ [M + Na]⁺ 237.0522, found 237.0516.



1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-(2-thienyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3ka). The general procedure was followed using **1k** (28.3 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2a** (85.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 5:1) yielded **3ka** (34.9 mg, 0.152 mmol, 76%) as a yellow solid. Mp 63–64 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.16 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.8, 185.9, 146.2, 139.9, 136.71, 136.65, 130.3, 130.1, 129.6, 128.8, 21.9; IR (ATR, ν/cm⁻¹): 1668, 1655, 1603, 1410, 1226; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₁O₂S [M + H]⁺ 231.0474, found 231.0470.

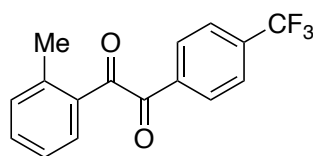


1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3de). The general procedure was followed using **1d** (33.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2e** (93.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 4:1) yielded **3de** (38.2 mg, 0.141 mmol, 71%) as a yellow solid. Mp 81–82 °C; ¹H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 2.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00–6.94 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 193.1, 164.9, 160.0, 134.4, 132.3, 130.0, 126.0, 123.2, 121.7, 114.3, 112.8, 55.6, 55.5; IR (ATR, ν/cm⁻¹): 1666, 1654, 1600, 1574, 1261, 1171; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₄NaO₄ [M + Na]⁺ 293.0784, found 293.0783.



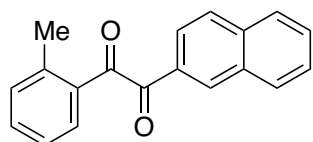
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3ee). The general procedure was followed using **1e** (40.6 mg, 0.199 mmol) and **2e** (93.8 mg, 0.501 mmol).

Purification by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 7:1) yielded **3ee** (36.4 mg, 0.118 mmol, 59%) as a yellow solid. Mp 95–97 °C, ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.99–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03–6.96 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.3, 192.0, 165.3, 135.8, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.8 Hz), 132.5, 130.2, 125.9 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6 Hz), 125.6, 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 272.7 Hz), 114.5, 55.7. The spectral data matched those reported in the literature.⁹



1-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3gf). The general procedure was followed using **1g** (29.7 mg, 0.196 mmol) and **2f** (112.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by

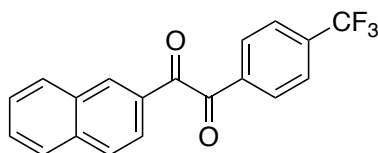
preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3gf** (37.5 mg, 0.128 mmol, 65%) as a yellow solid. Mp 85–86 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.13–8.08 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.53 (dt, J = 1, 4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.8, 193.3, 141.6, 135.8, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.8 Hz), 134.1, 133.0, 132.7, 131.4, 130.2, 126.1, 126.0 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6 Hz), 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 273.1 Hz), 21.9; ^{19}F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl_3) δ –66.5; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 1683, 1667, 1331, 1182, 1123; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 293.0784, found 293.0783.



1-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-(2-naphthyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3gl). The general procedure was followed using **1g** (30.0 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2l** (103.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by column chromatography

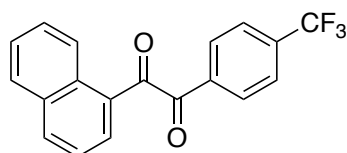
on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 15:1) yielded **3gl** (38.5 mg, 0.140 mmol, 70%) as a yellow solid. Mp 76–77 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.12–8.06 (m, 1H), 7.98–7.86 (m, 3H), 7.71–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 195.0, 141.4, 136.3, 133.8, 133.3, 133.1, 132.6, 132.3, 131.9, 130.4, 129.9, 129.4, 129.1, 127.9, 127.1, 126.0, 123.8, 22.0; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 1669, 1627, 1184, 733; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 297.0886, found 297.0891.

9 J. B. Bharate, S. Abbat, R. Sharma, P. V. Bharatam, R. A. Vishwakarma and S. B. Bharate, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2015, **13**, 5235–5242.



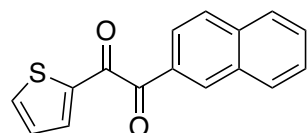
1-(2-Naphthyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3hf). The general procedure was followed using **1h** (37.3 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2f** (112.4 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification

by preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3hf** (40.3 mg, 0.123 mmol, 62%) as a yellow solid. Mp 104–105 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.5, 193.1, 136.5, 135.8 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.8 Hz), 135.7, 133.7, 132.3, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 128.0, 127.3, 126.0 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6 Hz), 123.6, 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 272.7 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl_3) δ –66.5; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 1675, 1663, 1328, 1119; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 329.0784, found 329.0788.



1-(1-Naphthyl)-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethane-1,2-dione (3if). The general procedure was followed using **1i** (37.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2f** (112.6 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by

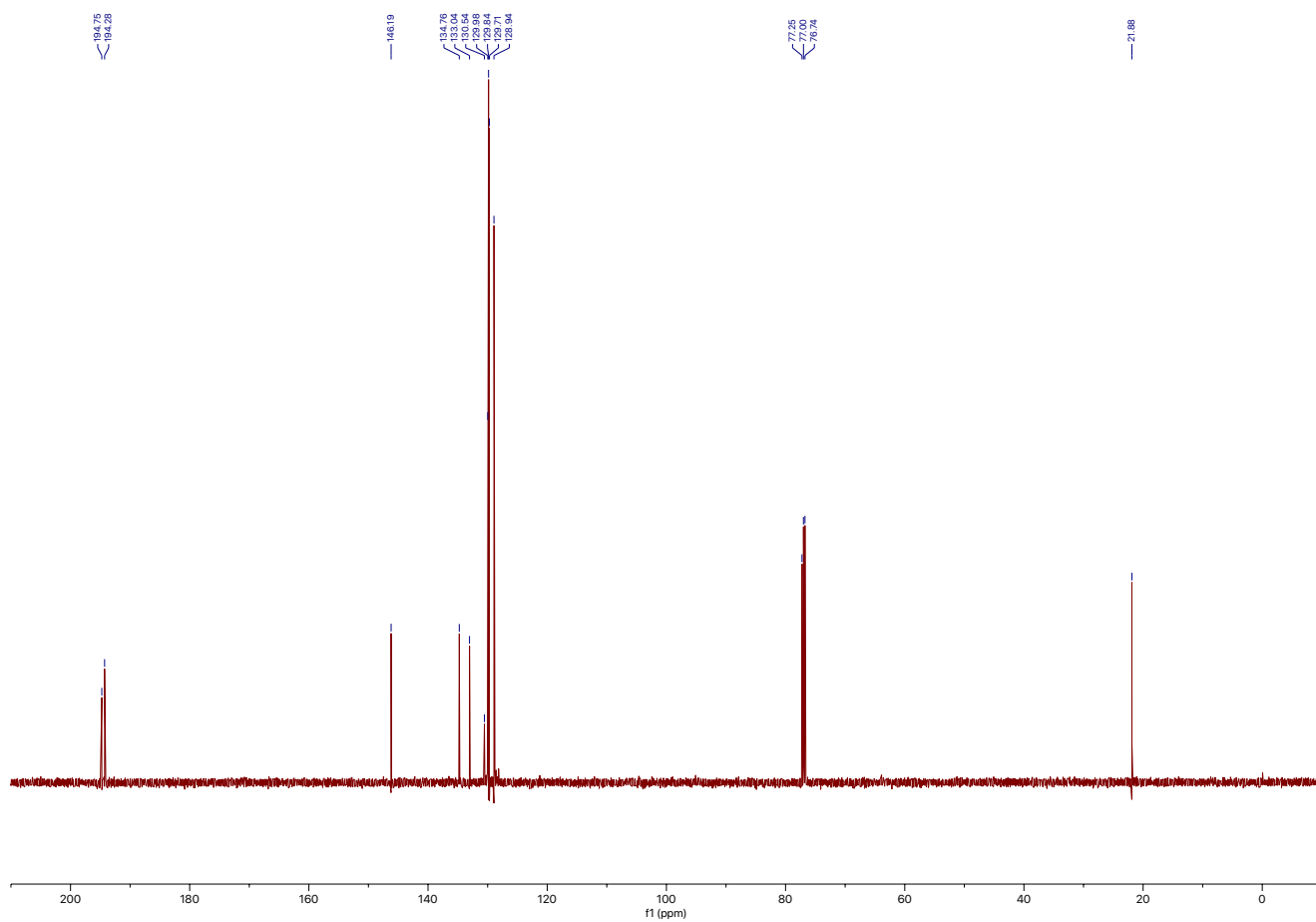
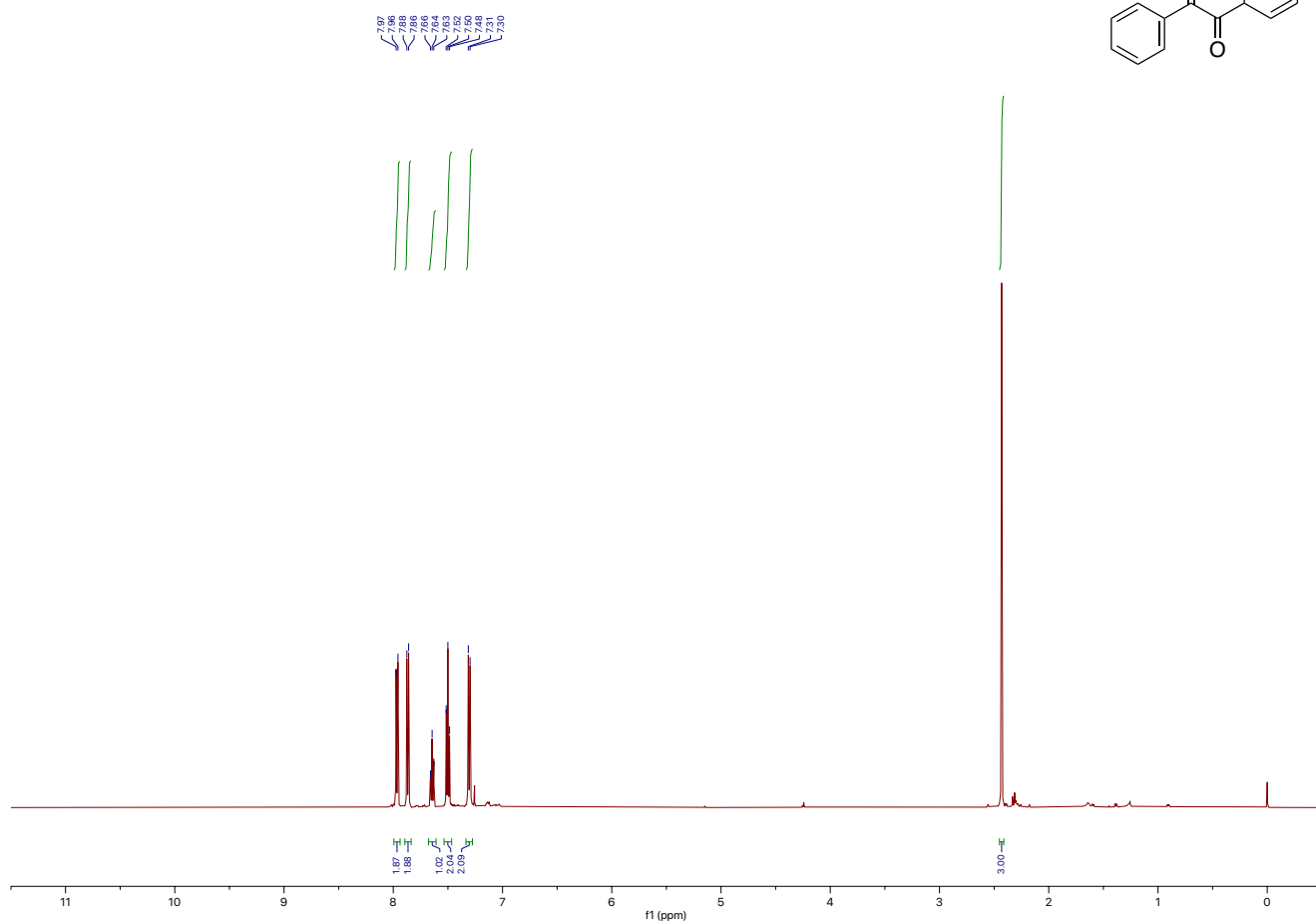
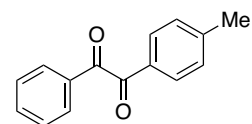
preparative TLC (hexane:AcOEt = 10:1) yielded **3if** (40.0 mg, 0.122 mmol, 61%) as a yellow solid. Mp 125–126 °C; ^1H NMR (301 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.29 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19–8.13 (m, 3H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.86 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.74 (m, 3H), 7.69–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.0, 193.1, 136.4, 136.0, 135.7 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.8 Hz), 135.2, 134.1, 130.9, 130.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.2, 127.3, 126.1 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6 Hz), 125.8, 124.4, 123.3 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 273.1 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl_3) δ –66.5; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 1682, 1659, 1329, 1317, 1167, 1121; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 351.0603, found 351.0611.



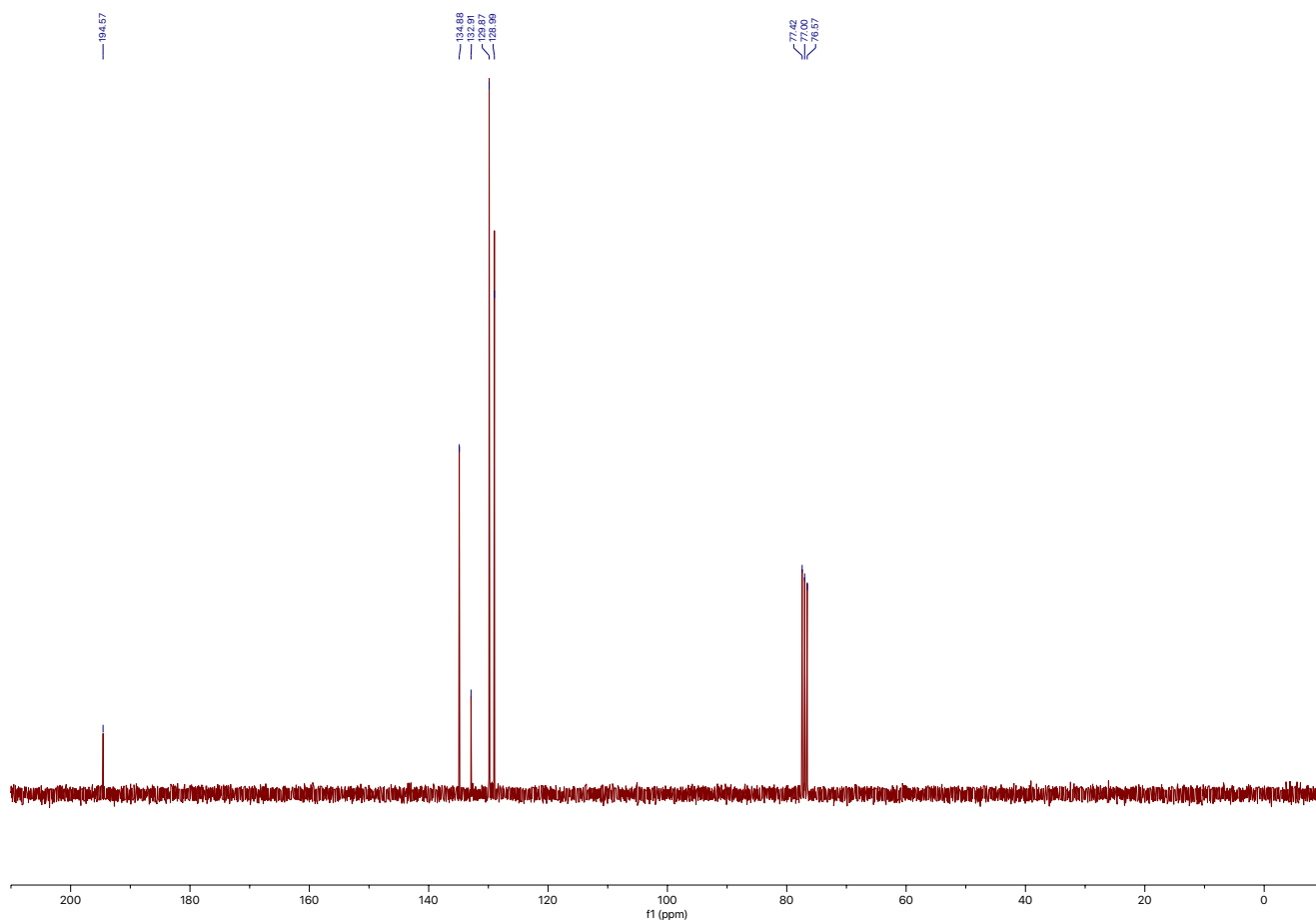
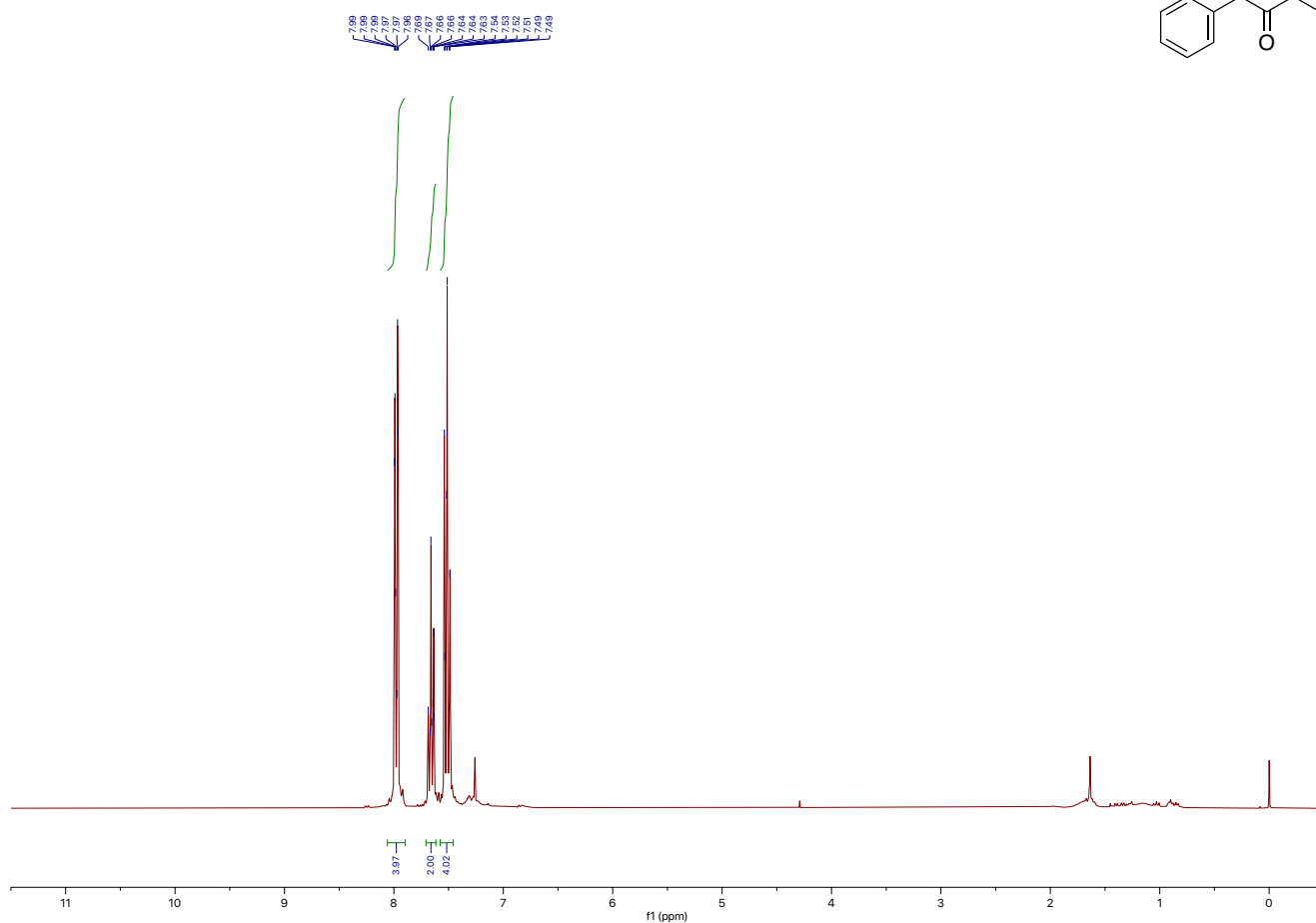
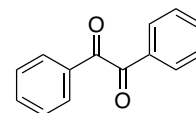
1-(2-Naphthyl)-2-(2-thienyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3kl). The general procedure was followed using **1k** (28.4 mg, 0.200 mmol) and **2l** (103.5 mg, 0.500 mmol). Purification by column chromatography

on silica gel (hexane:AcOEt = 7:1) yielded **3kl** (43.6 mg, 0.164 mmol, 82%) as a yellow solid. Mp 51–53 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.1, 185.7, 140.0, 136.9, 136.8, 136.3, 133.9, 132.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 127.9, 127.1, 124.0; IR (ATR, ν/cm^{-1}): 1666, 1648, 1413, 740; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 289.0294, found 289.0291.

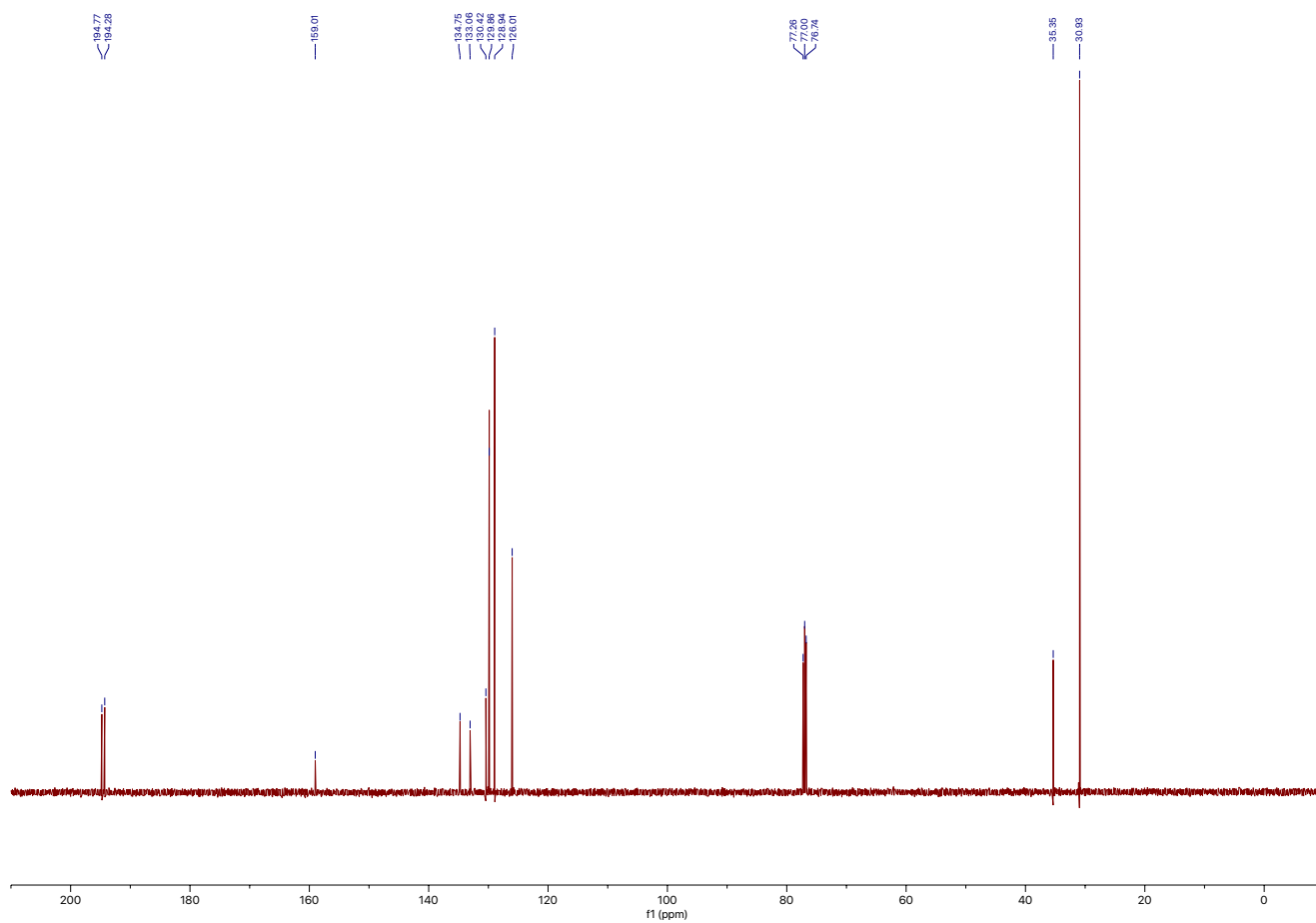
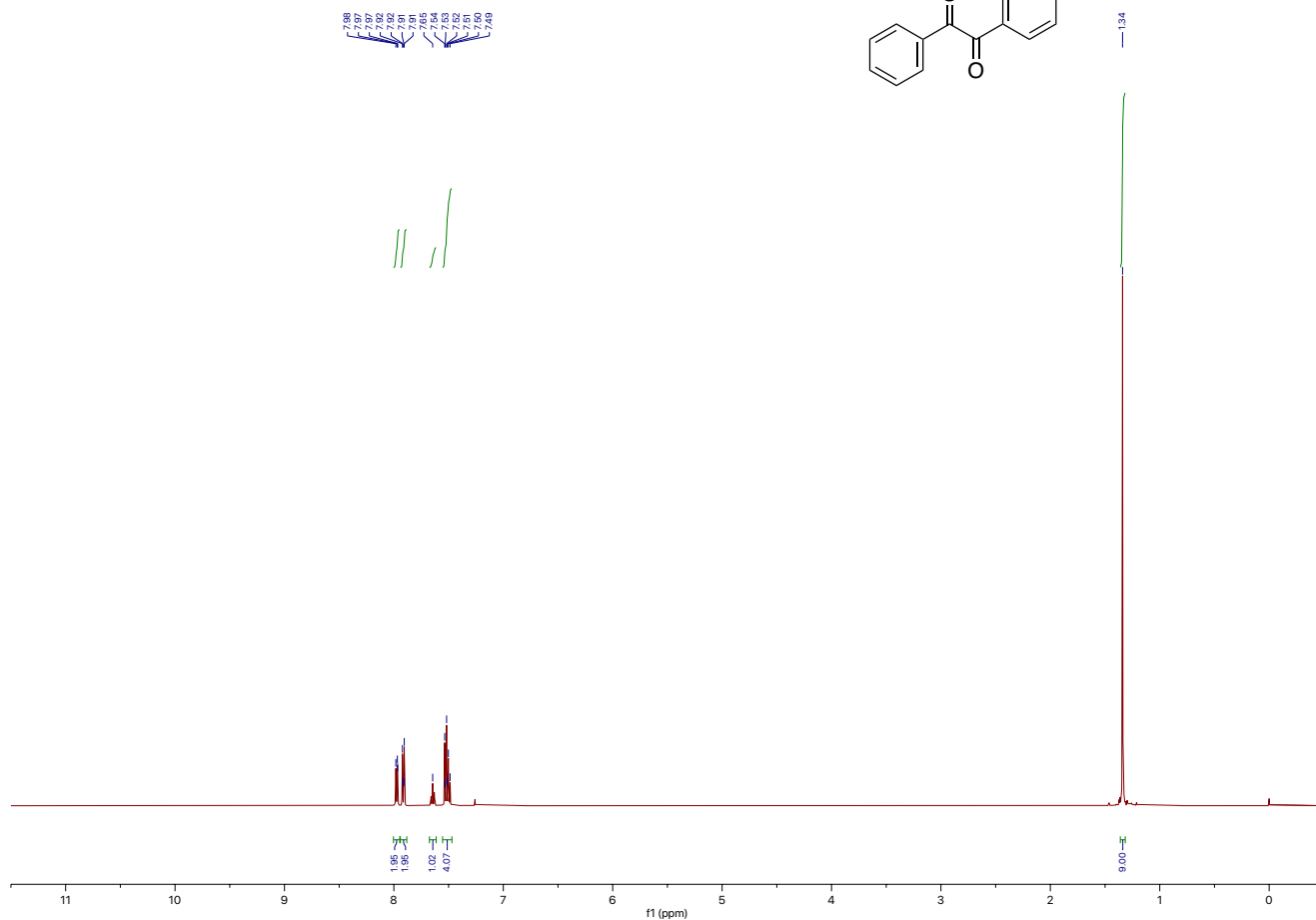
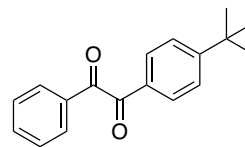
3aa



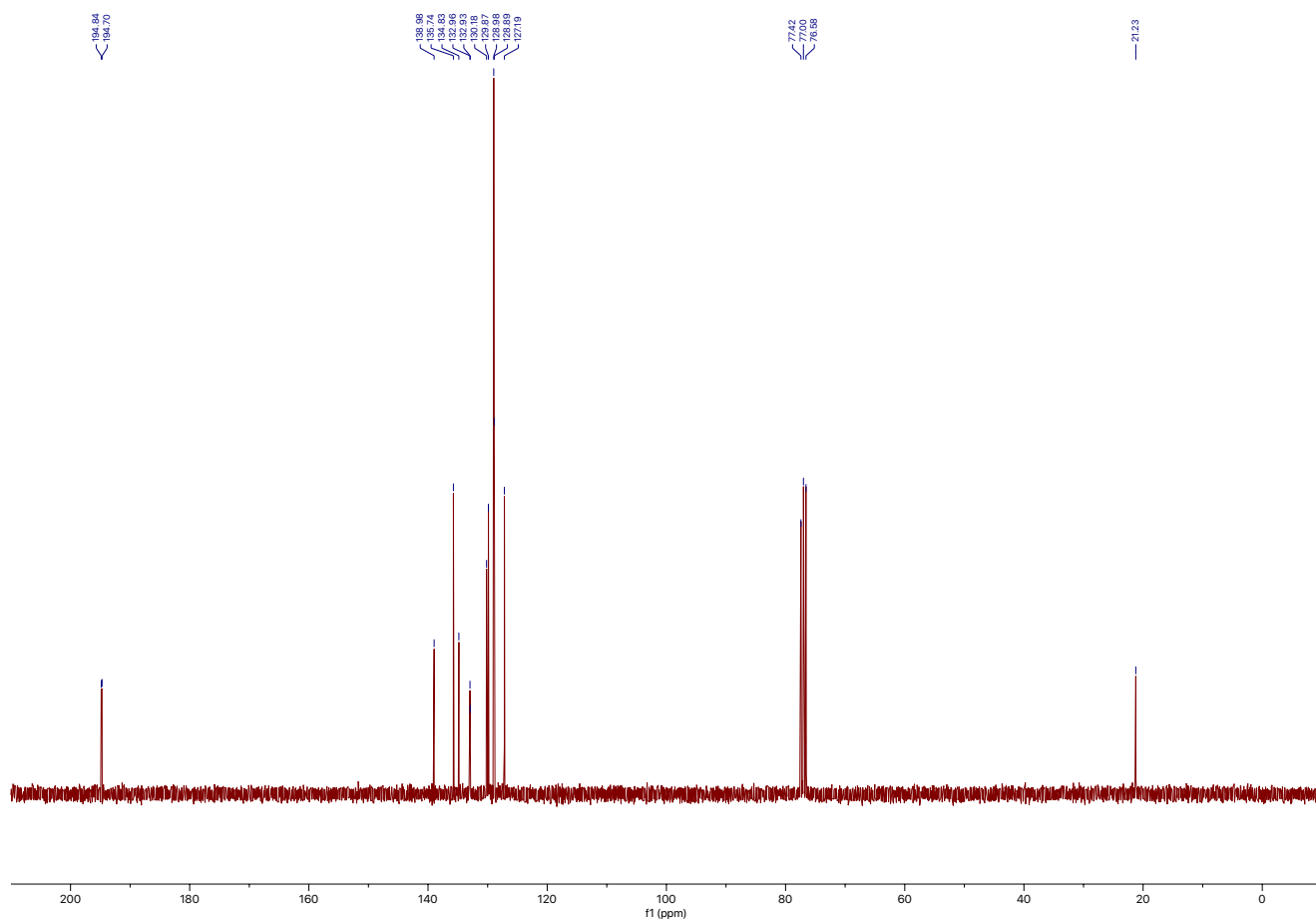
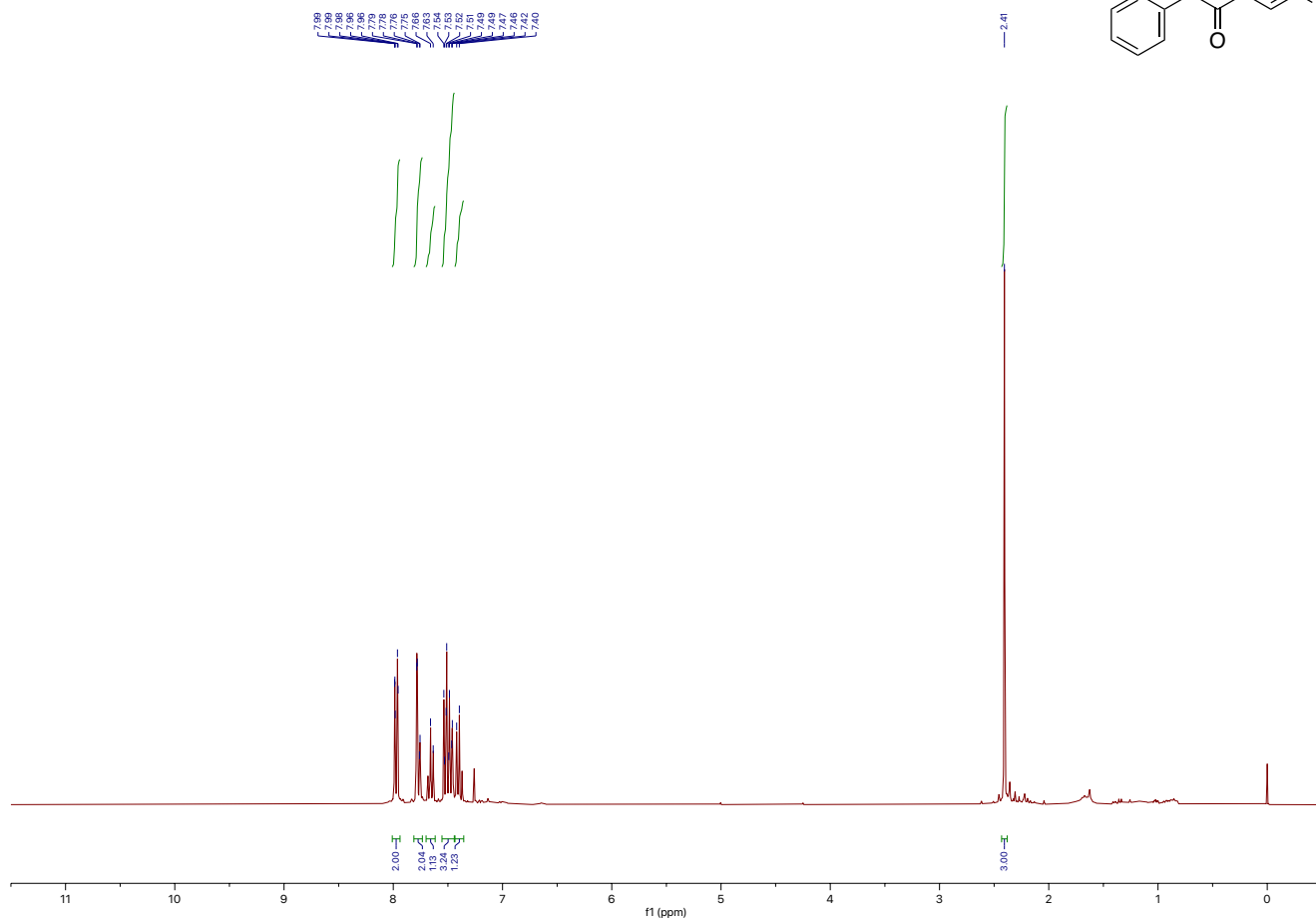
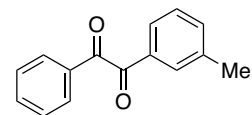
3ab



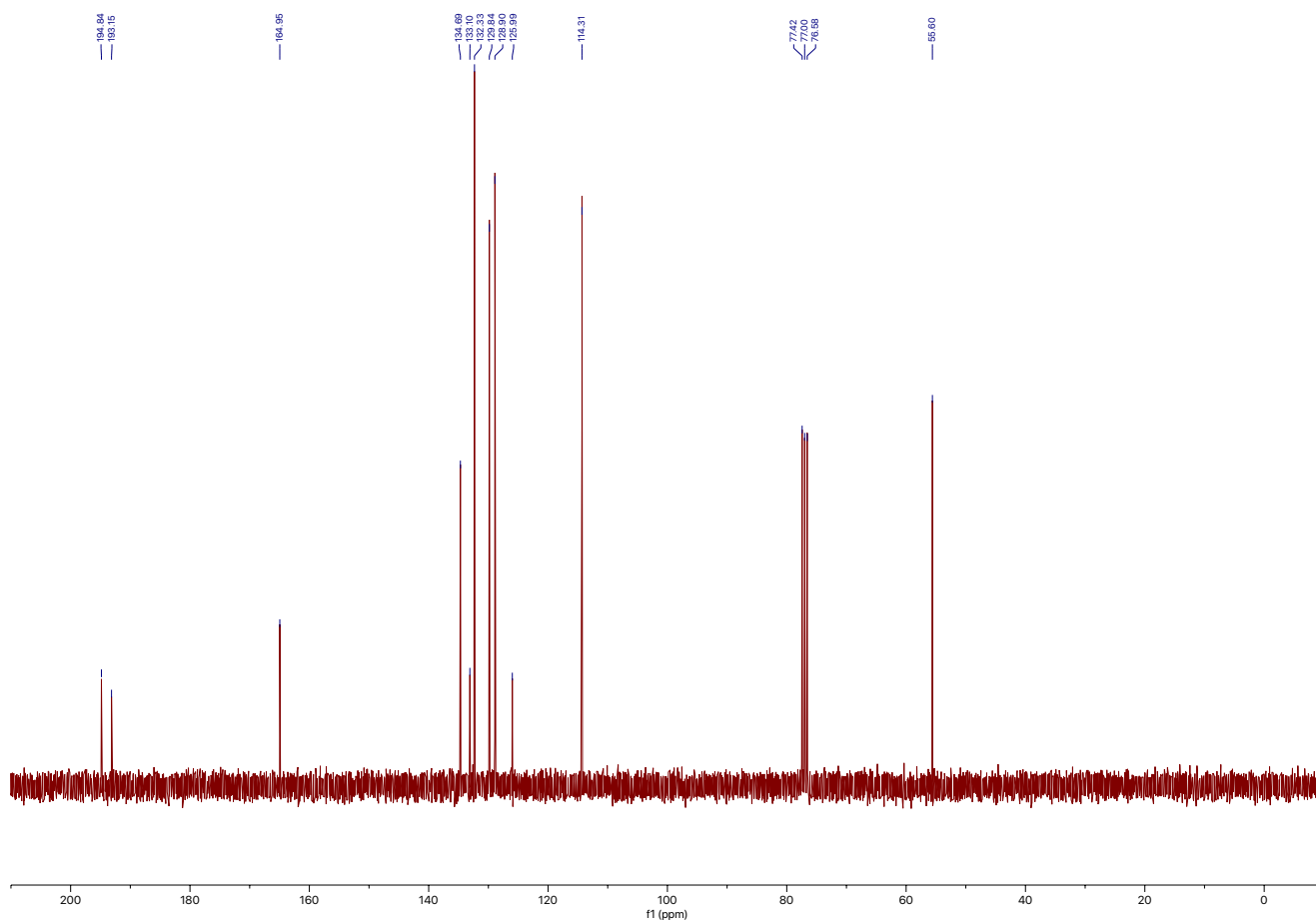
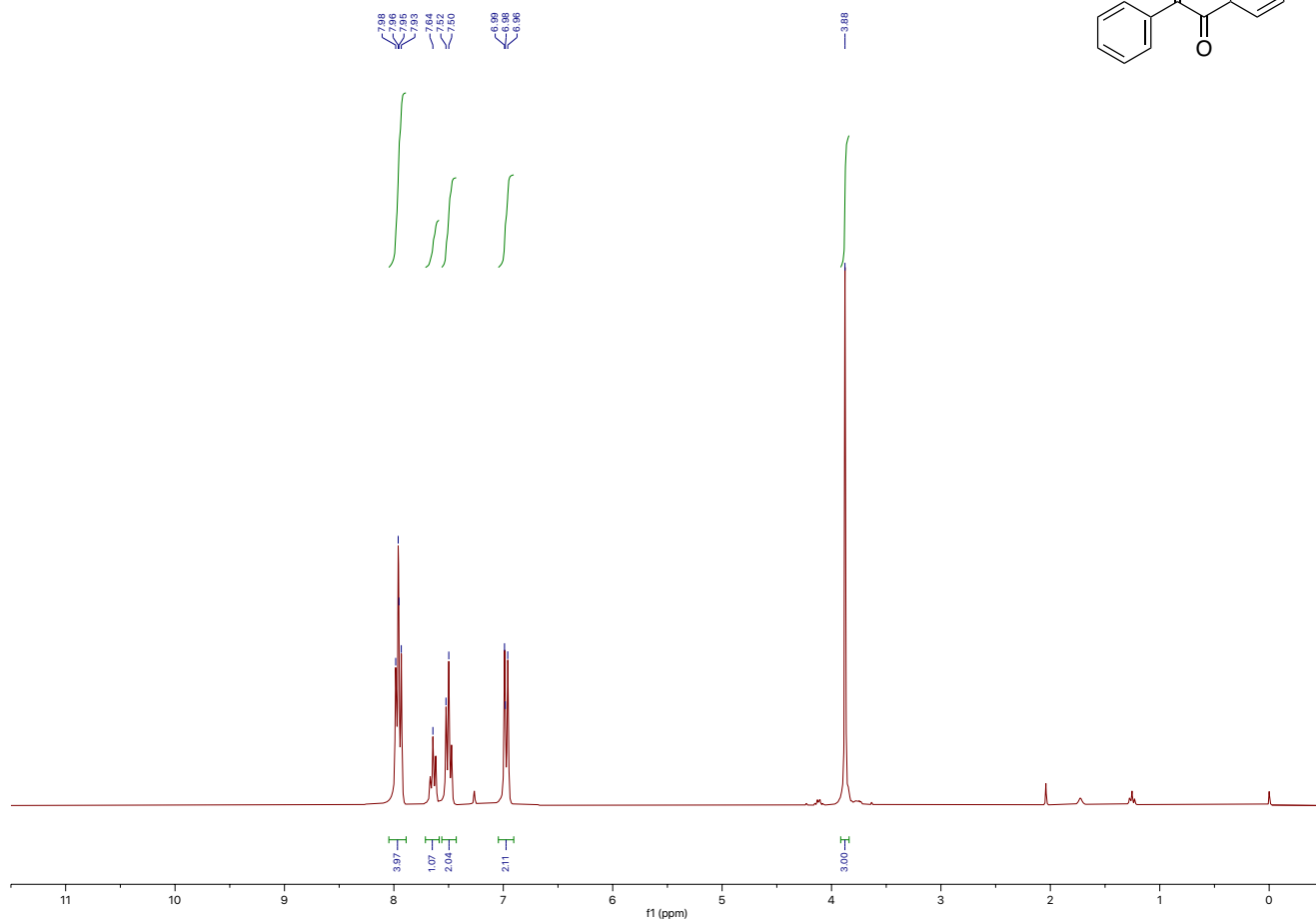
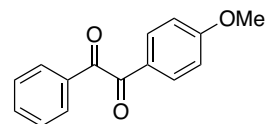
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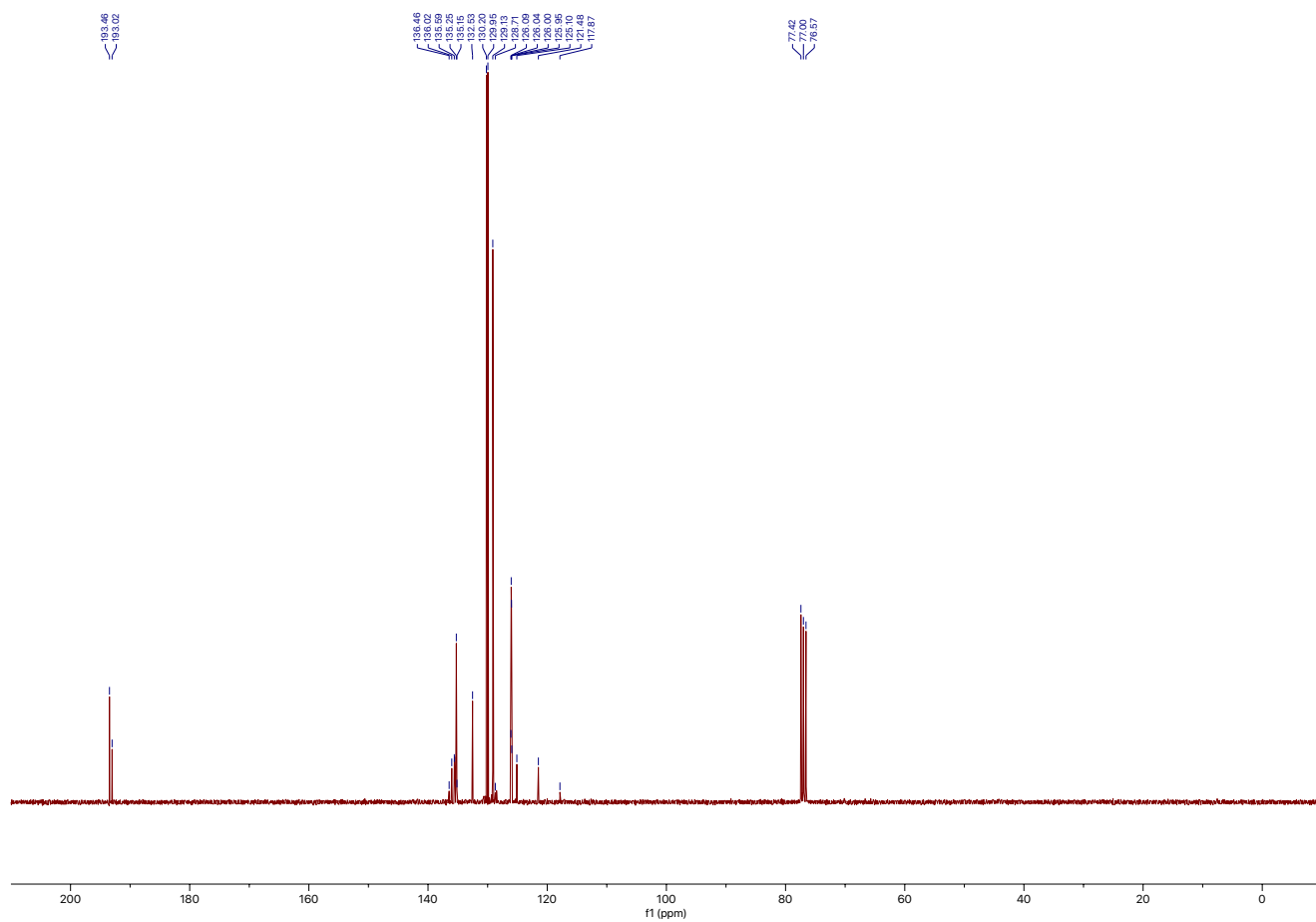
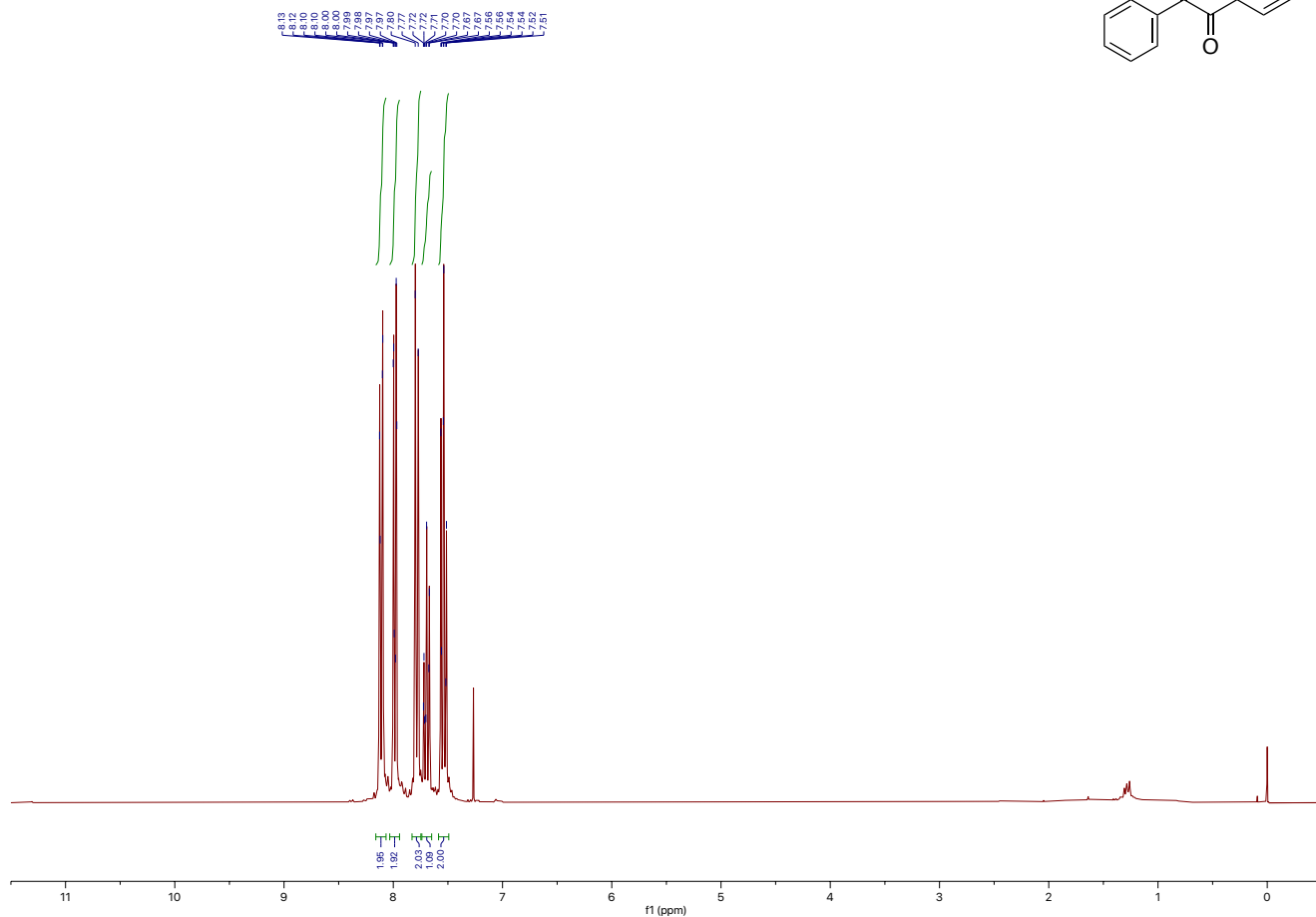
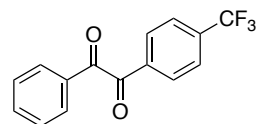
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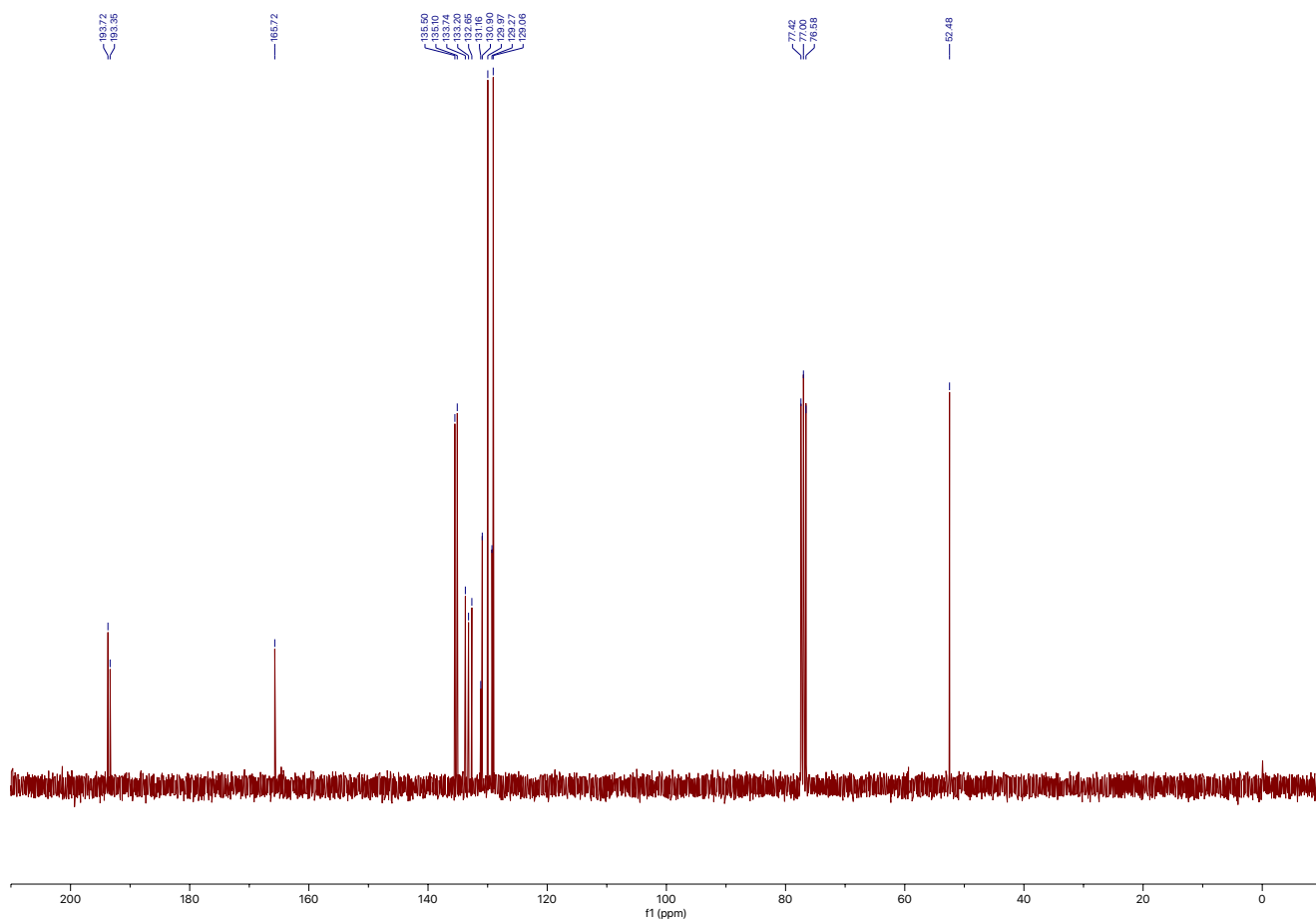
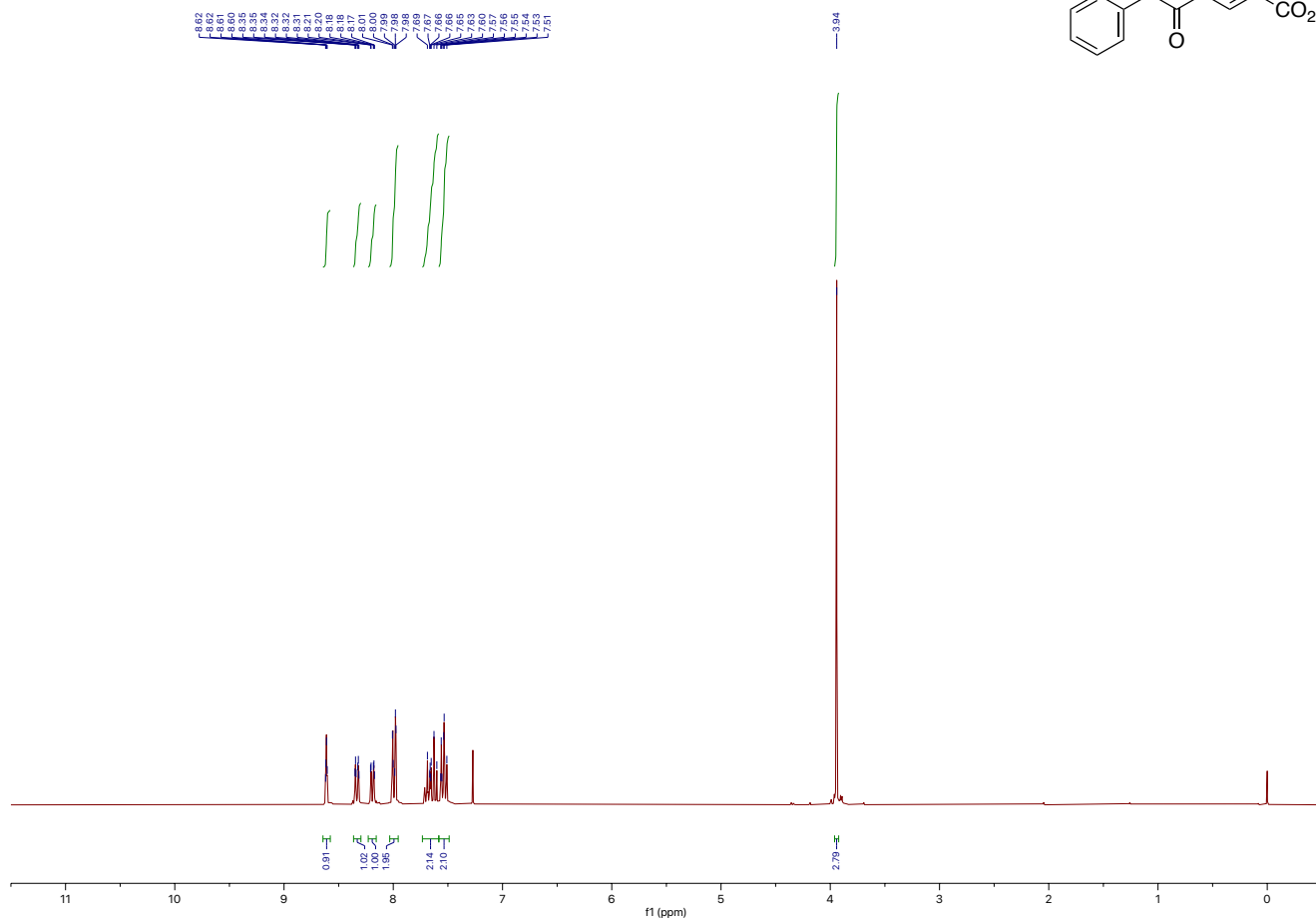
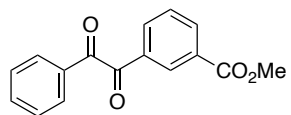
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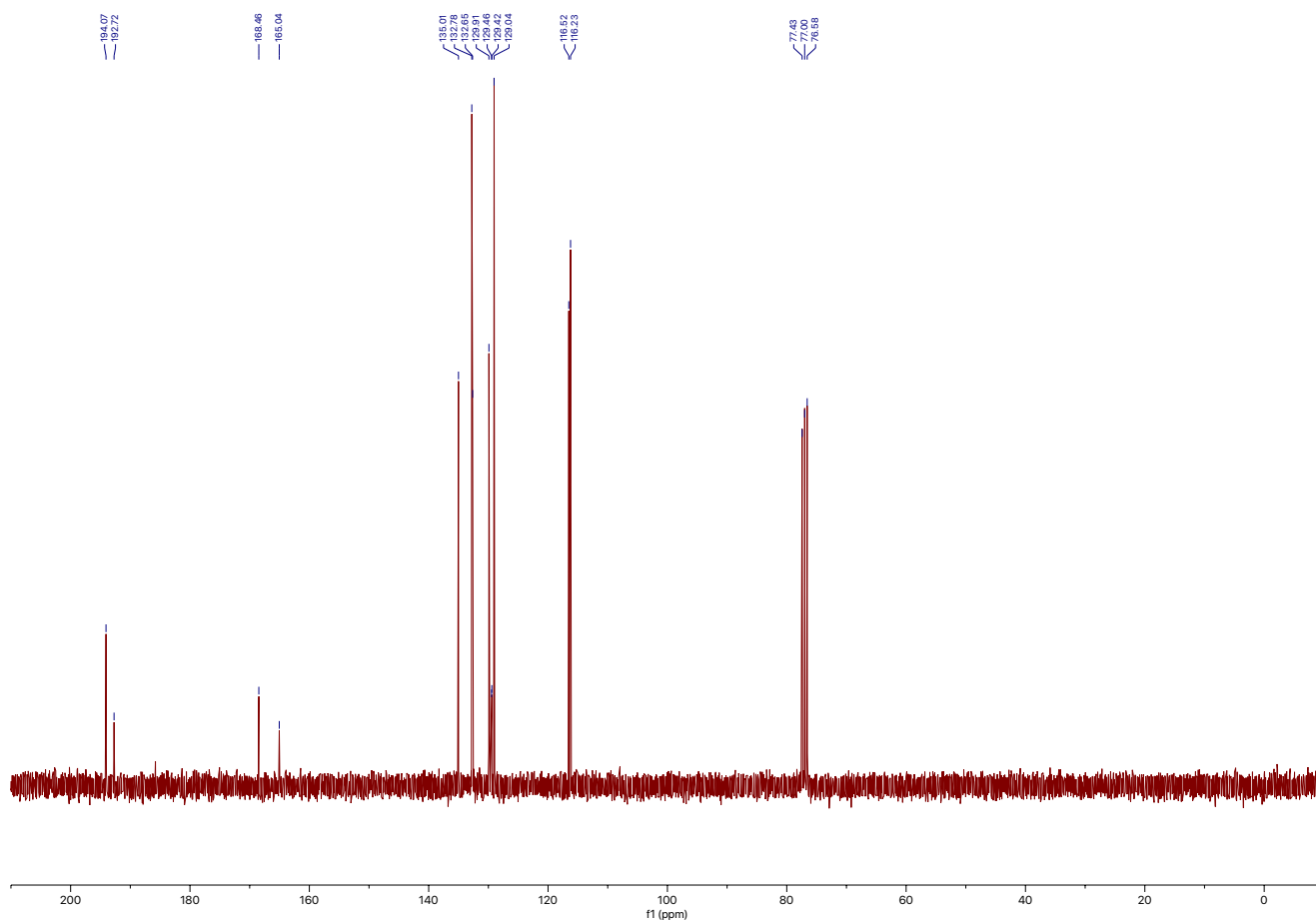
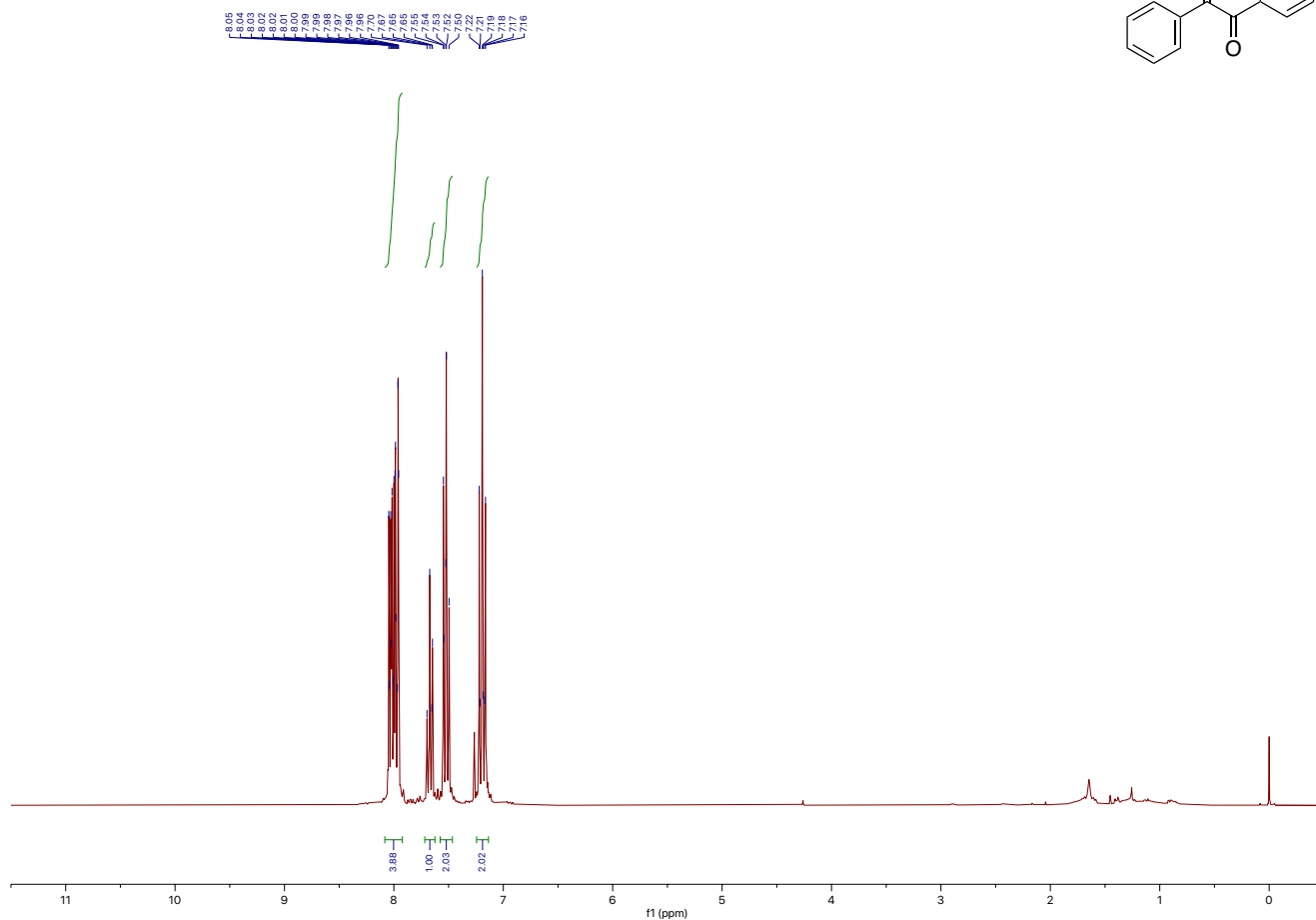
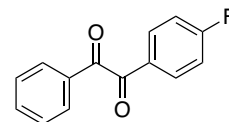
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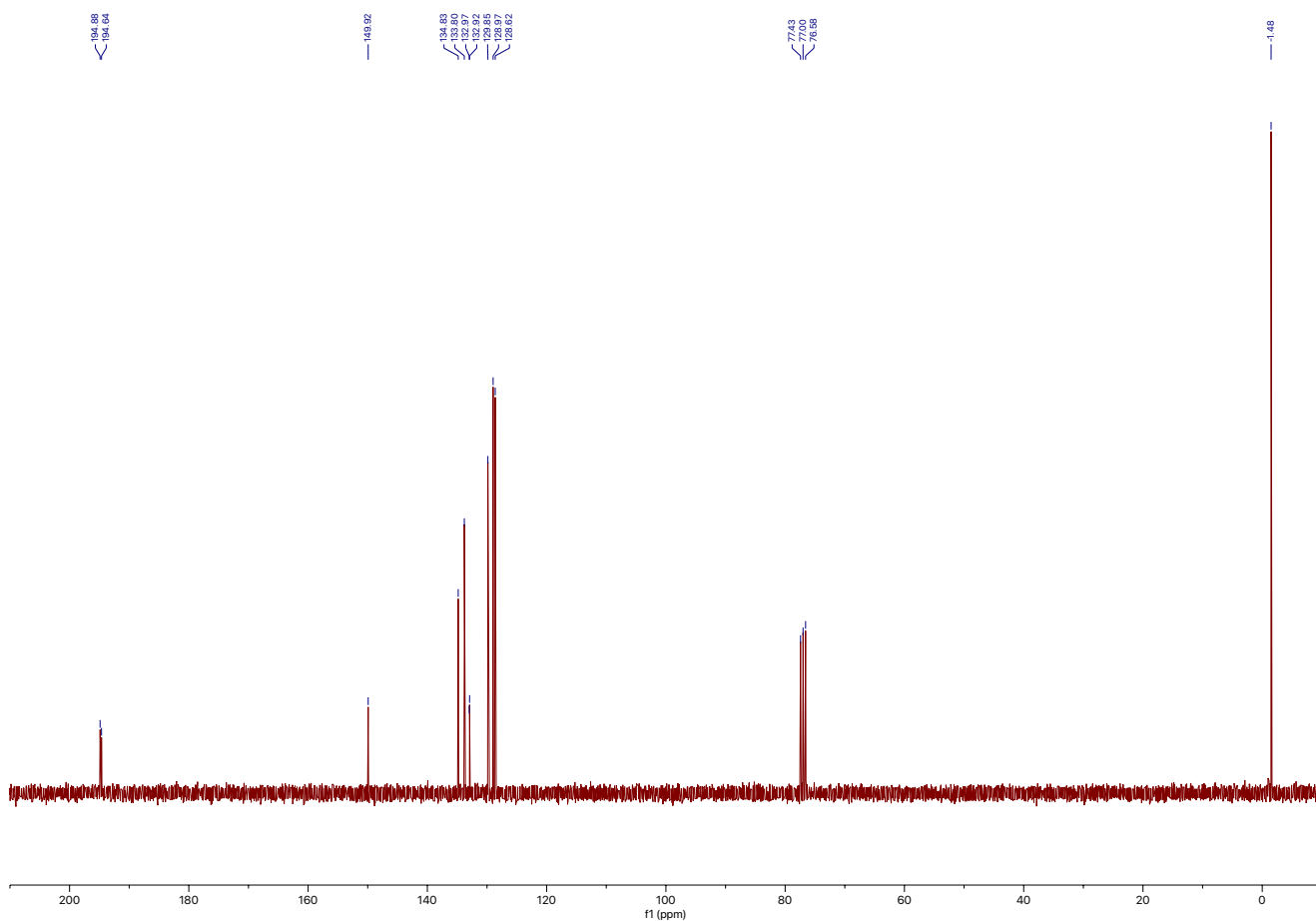
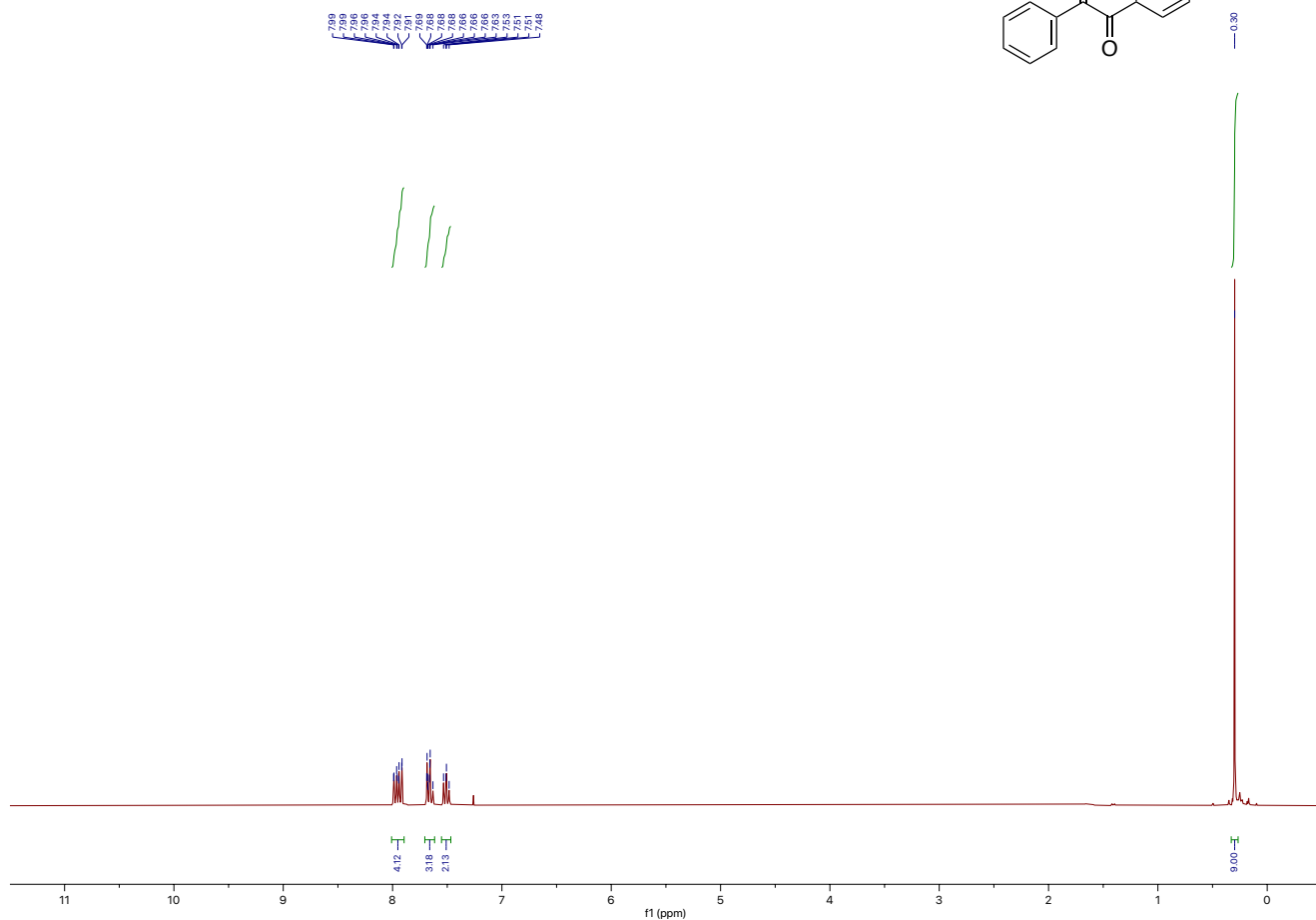
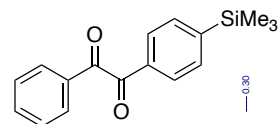
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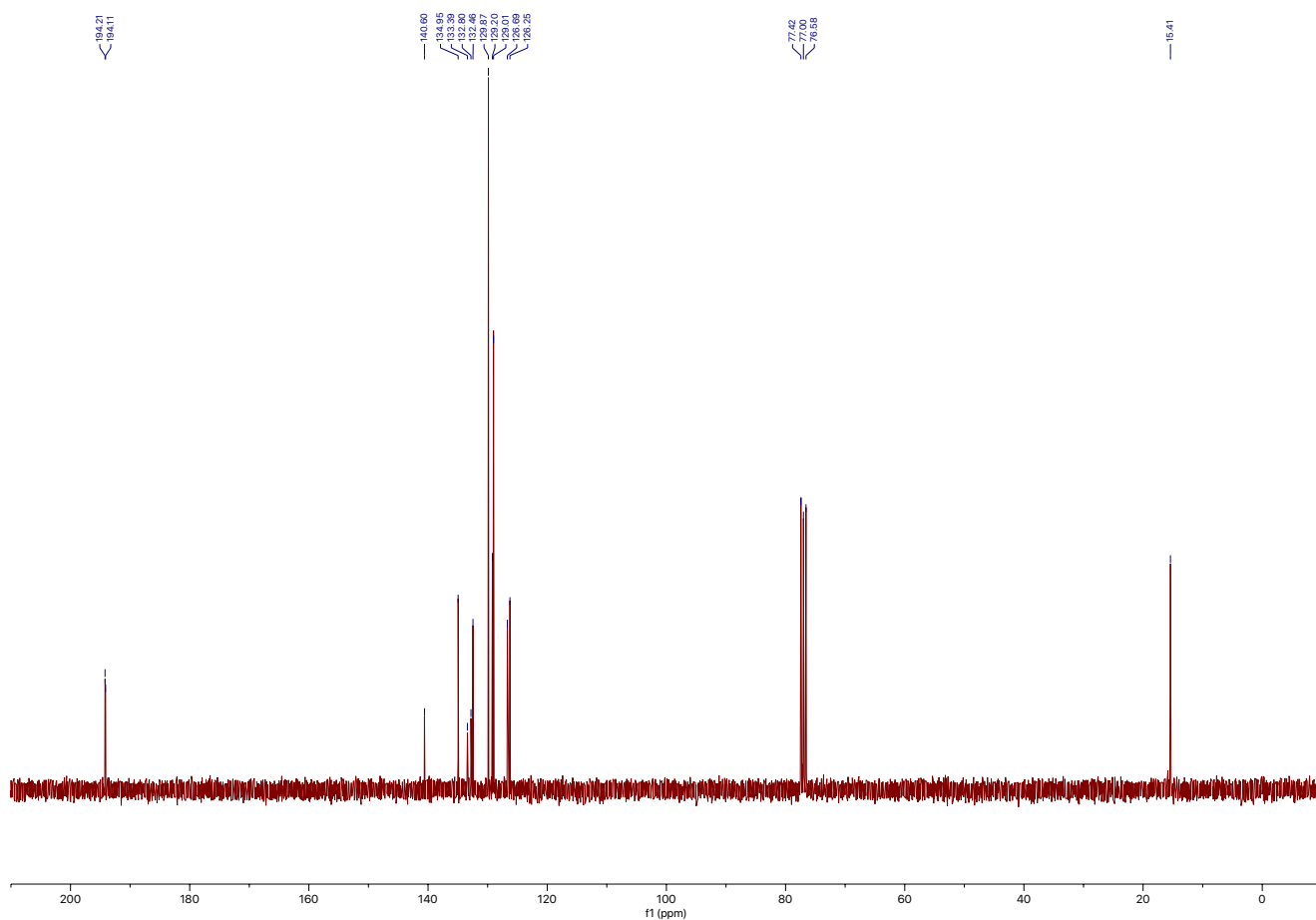
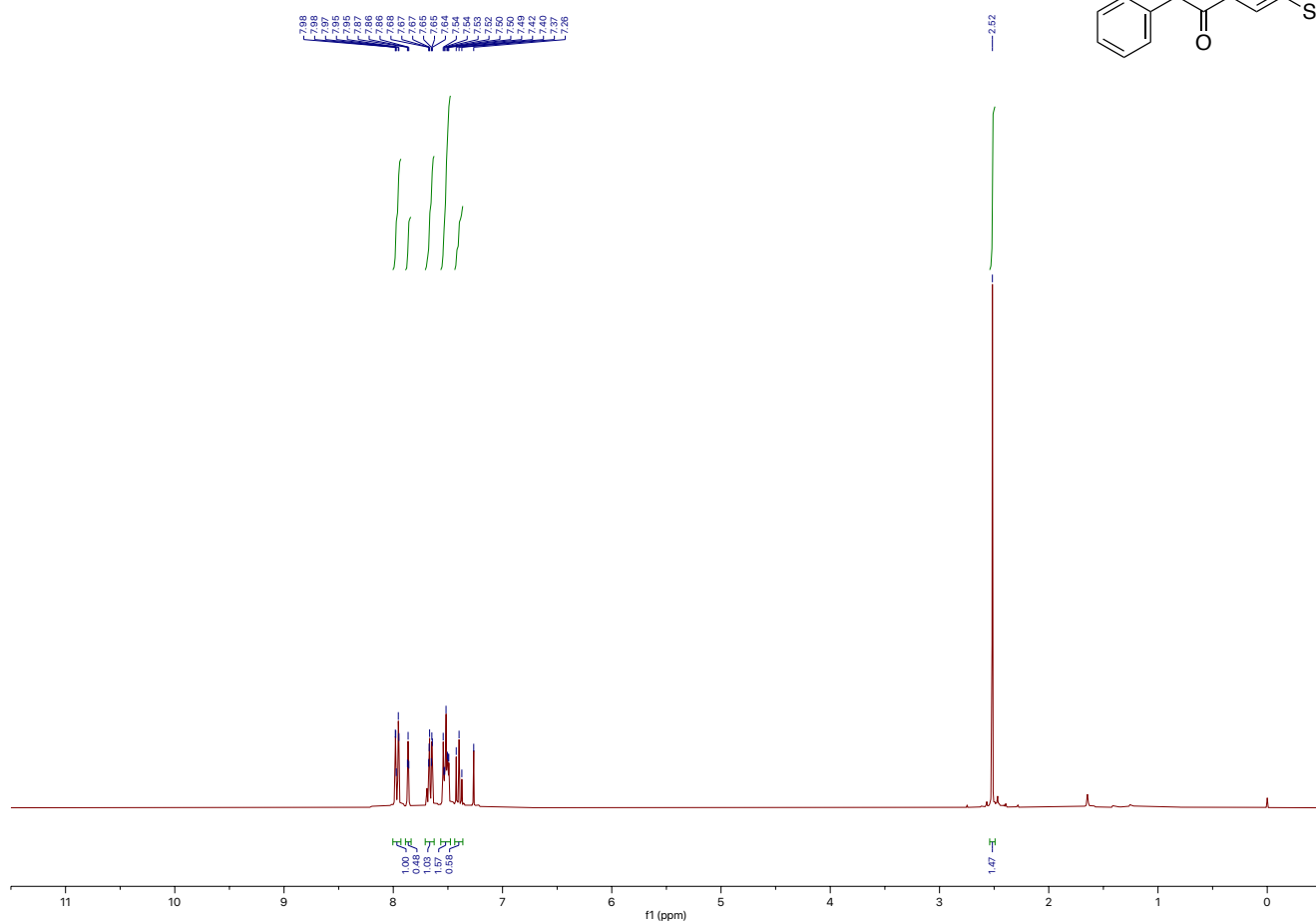
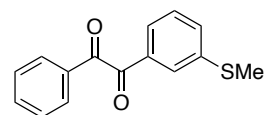
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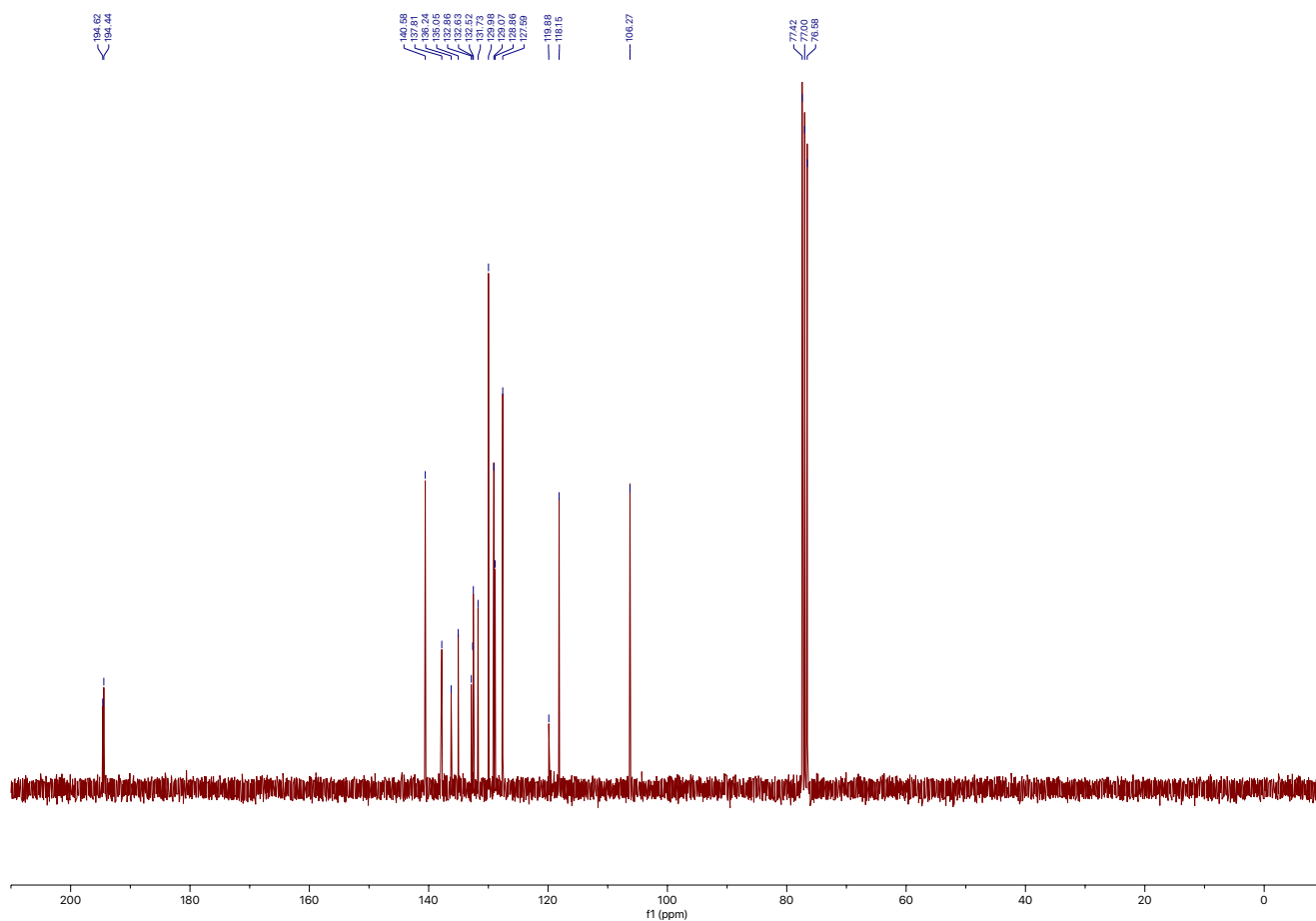
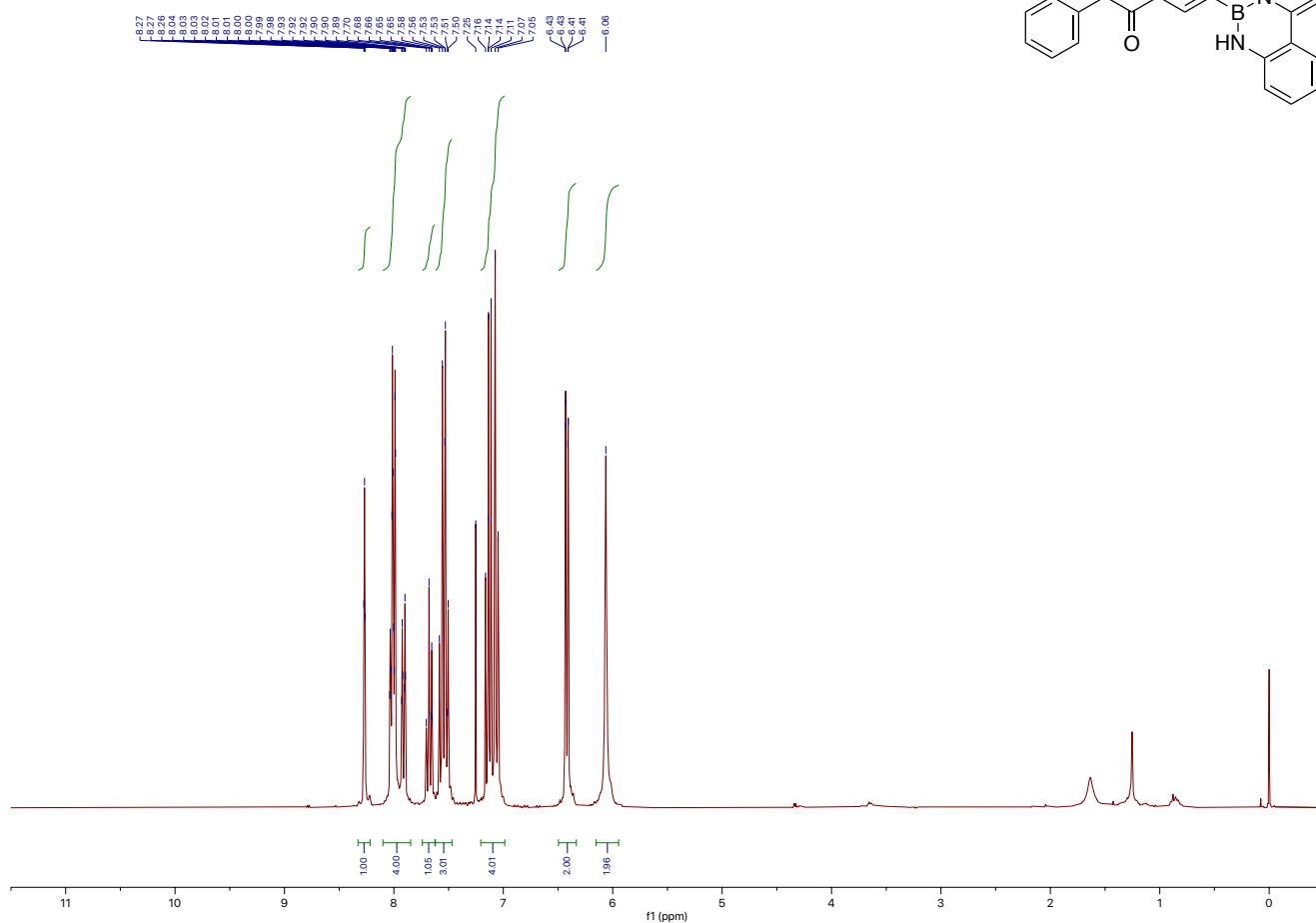
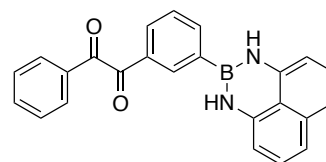
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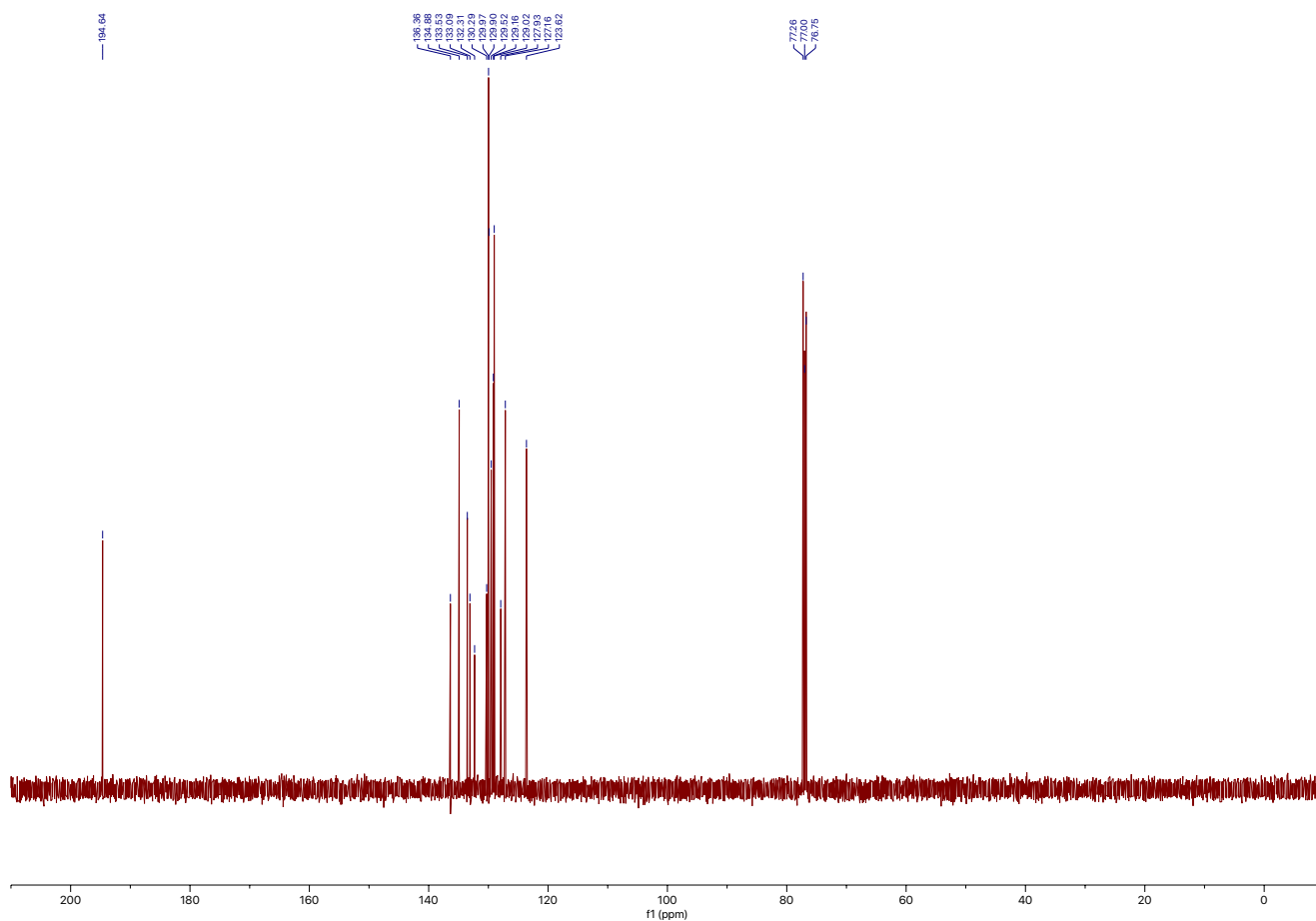
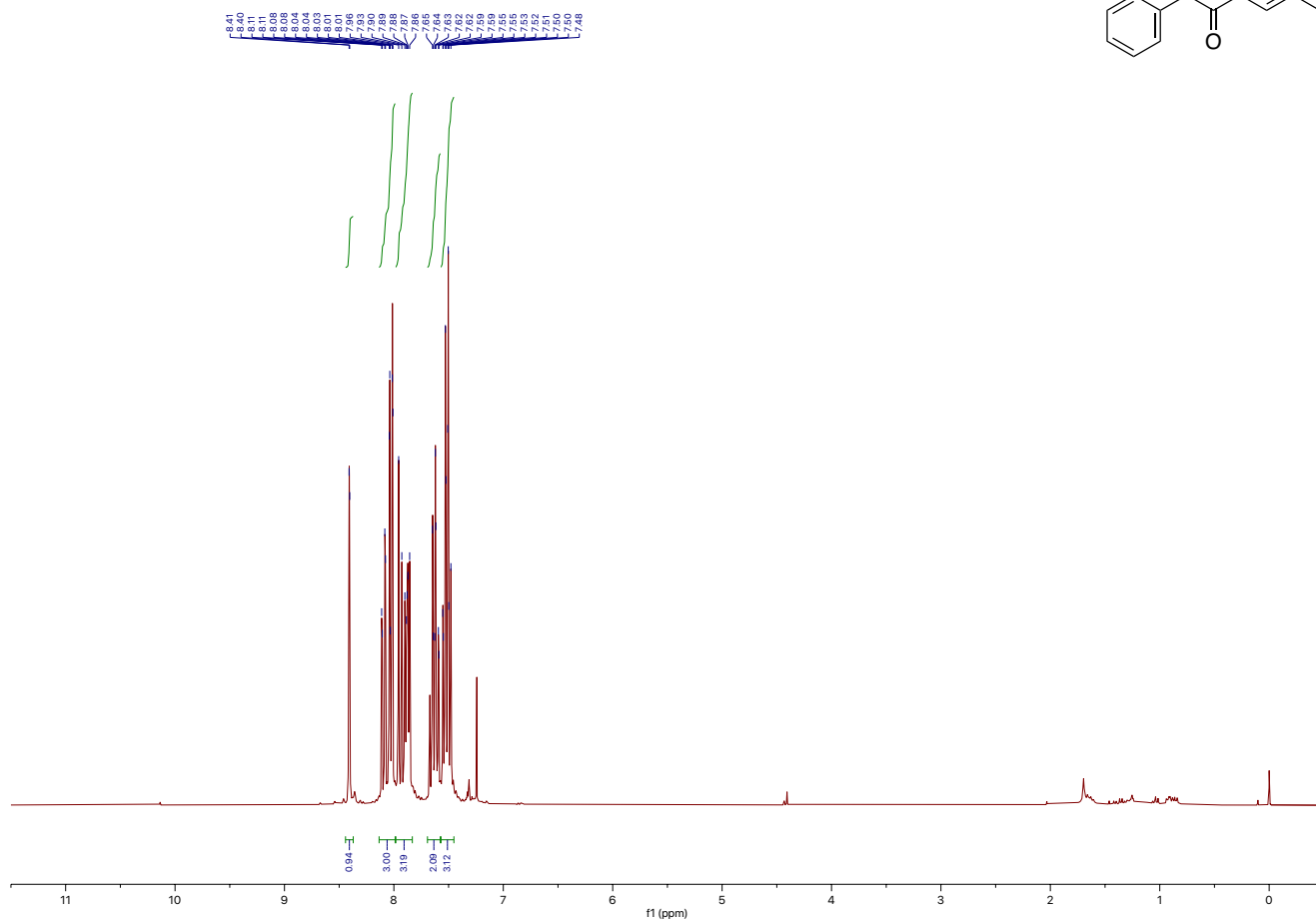
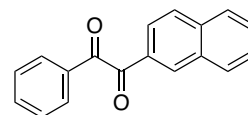
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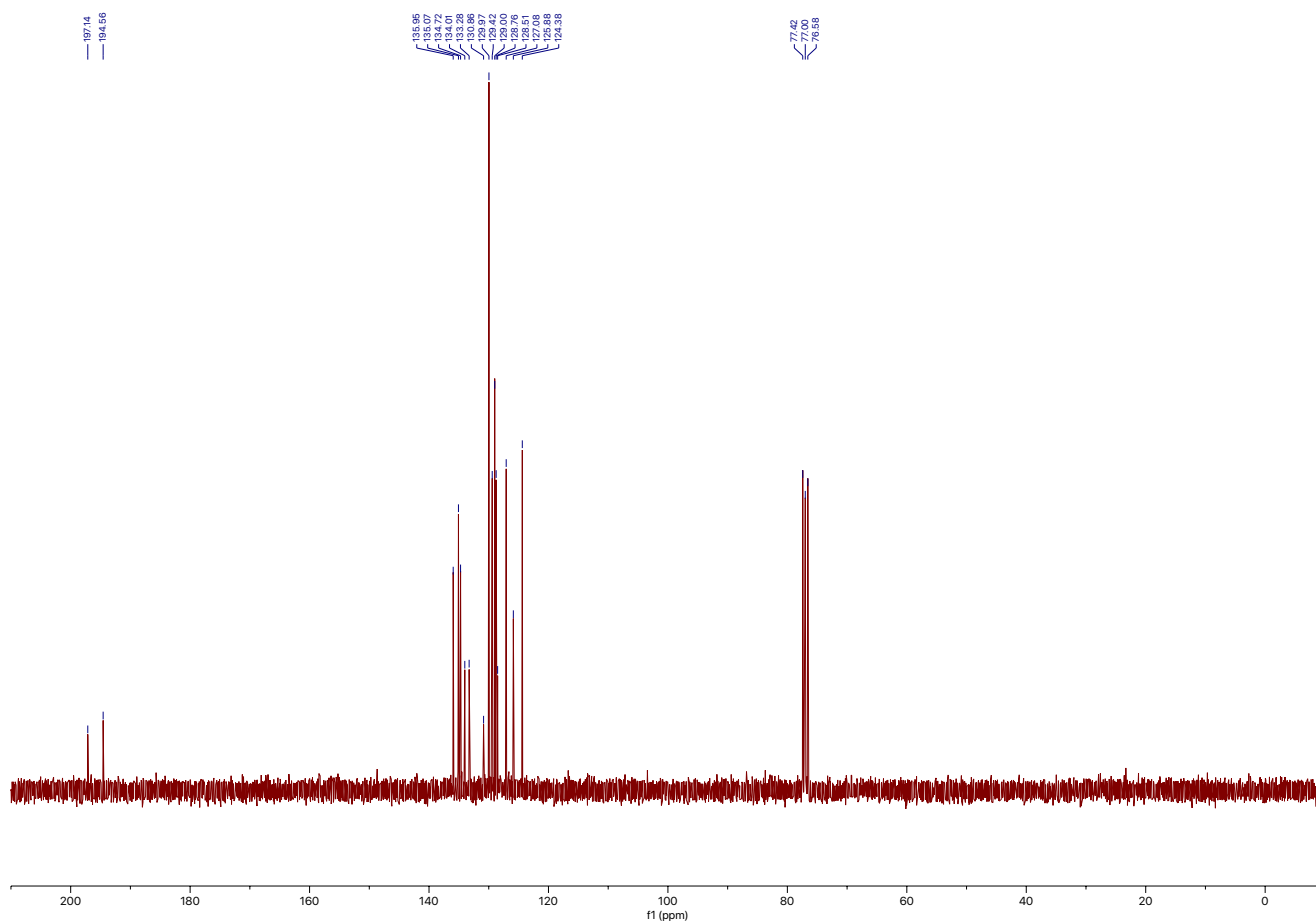
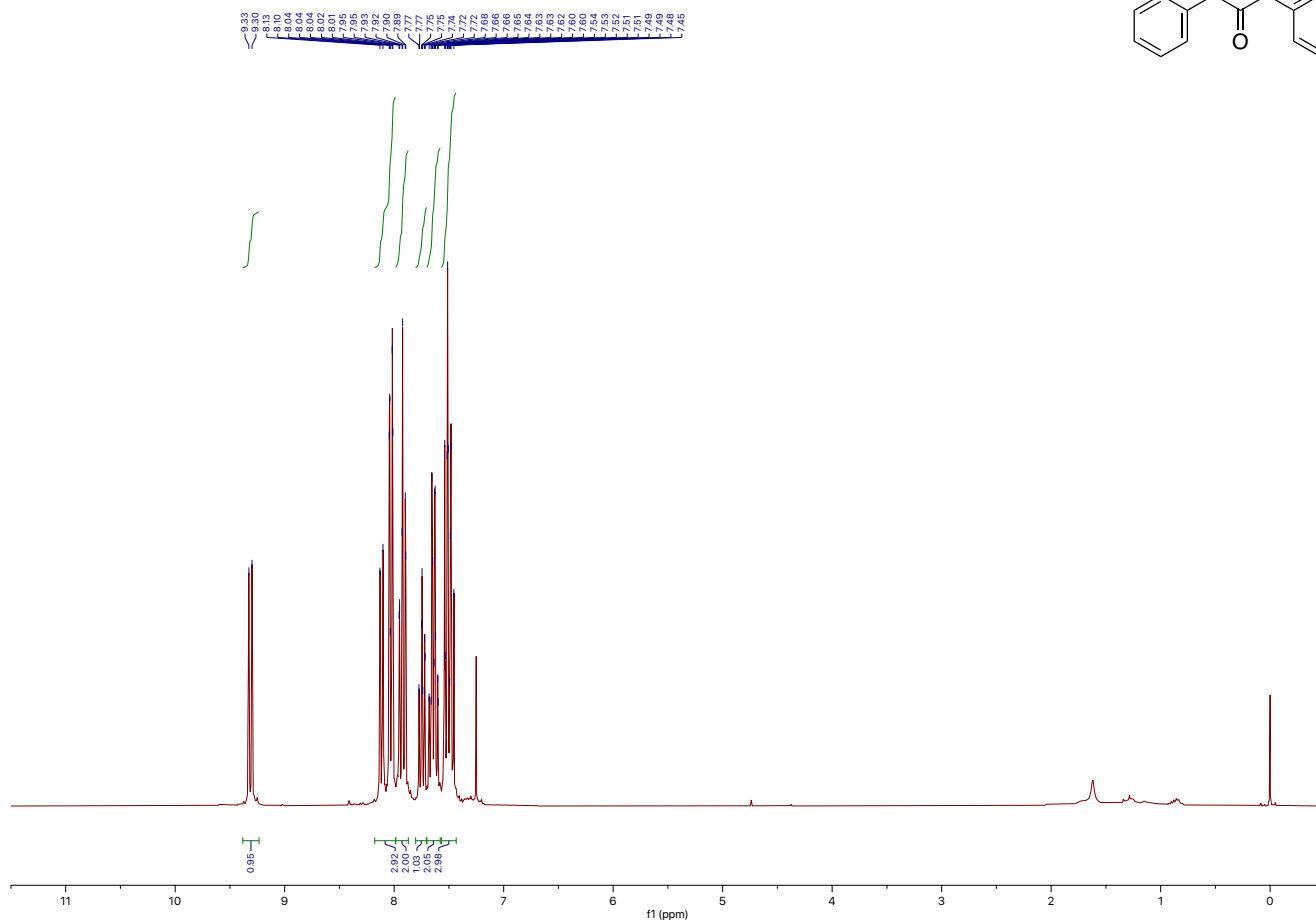
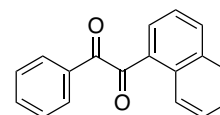
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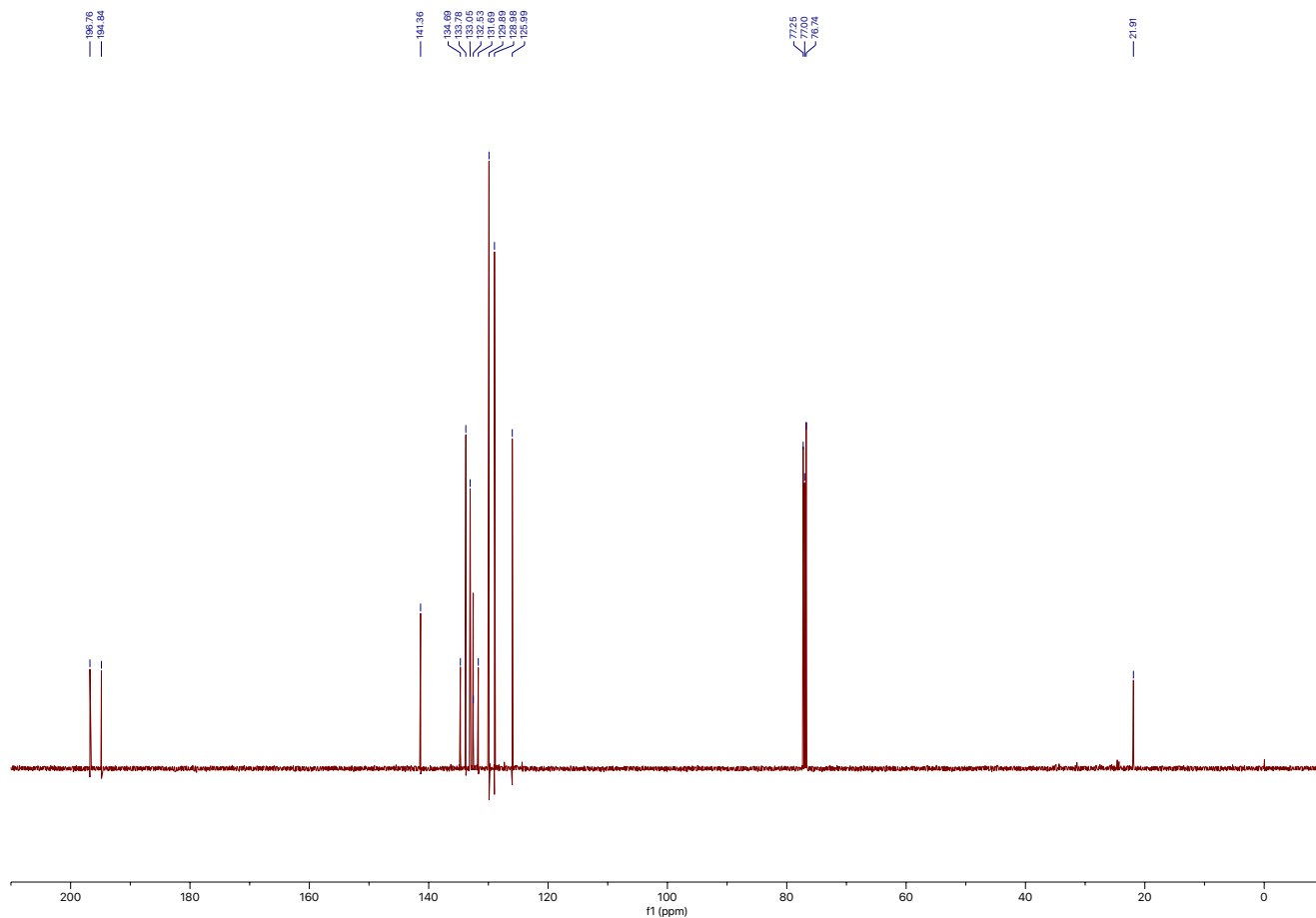
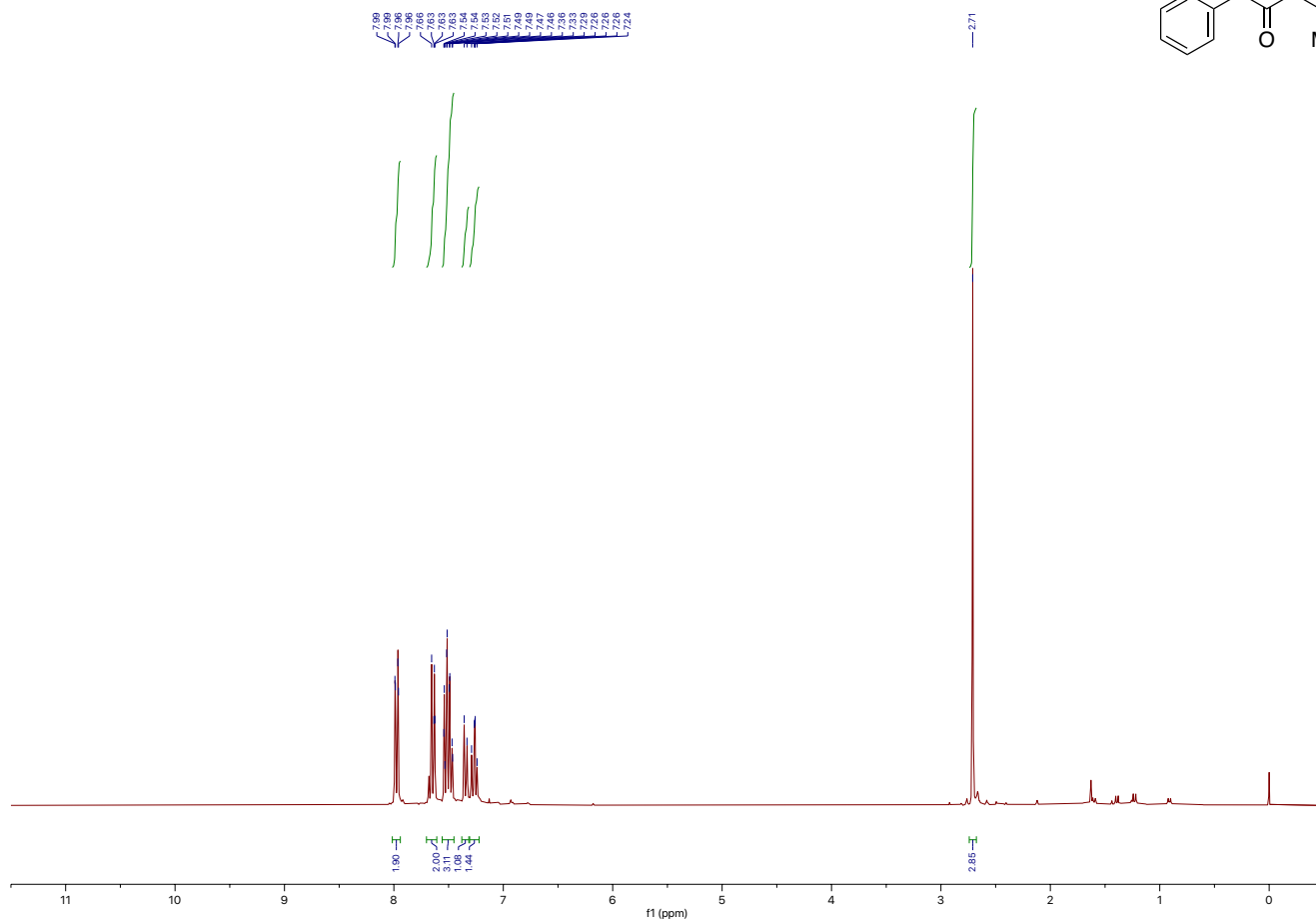
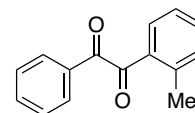
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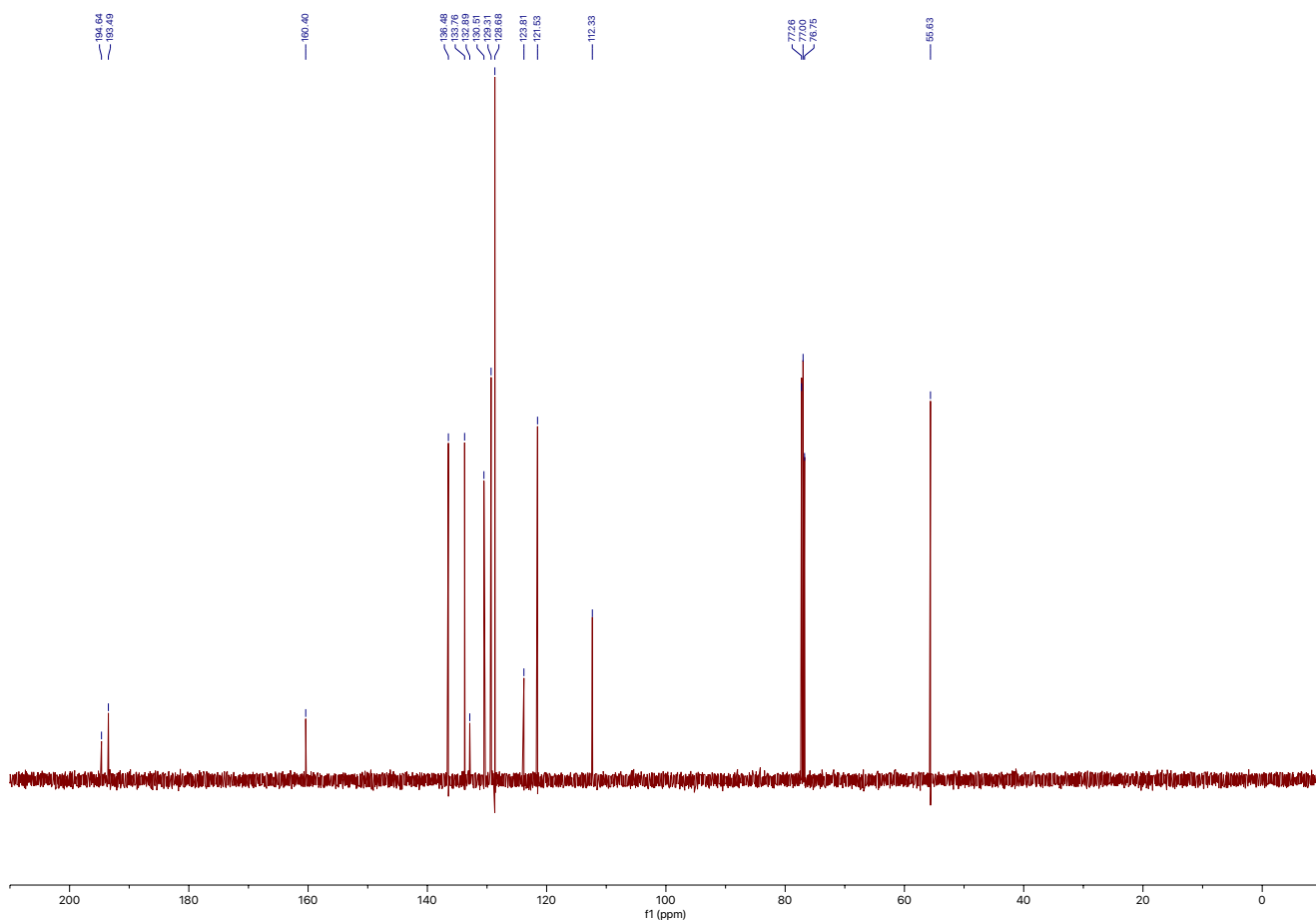
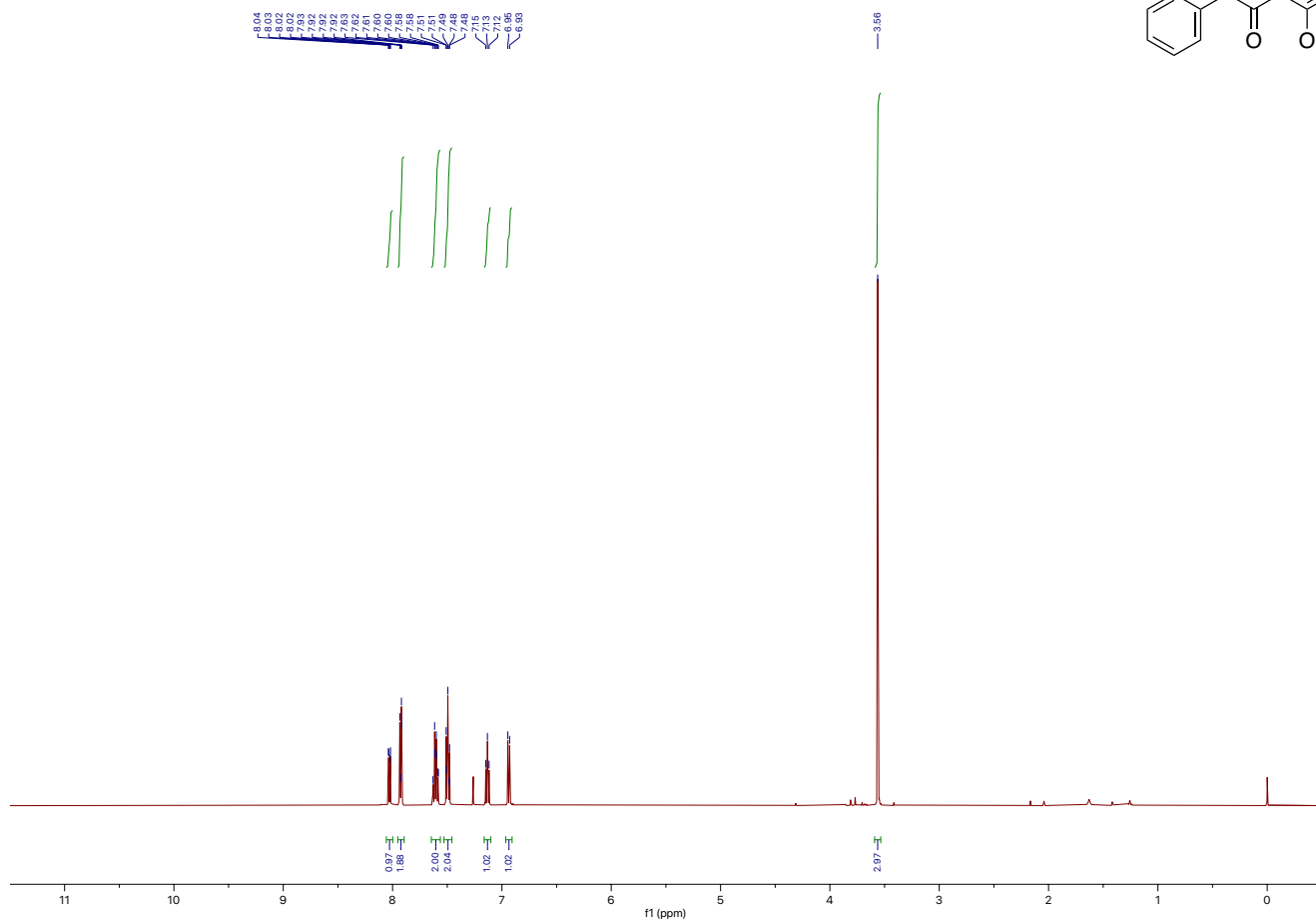
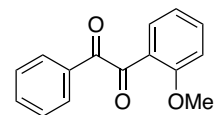
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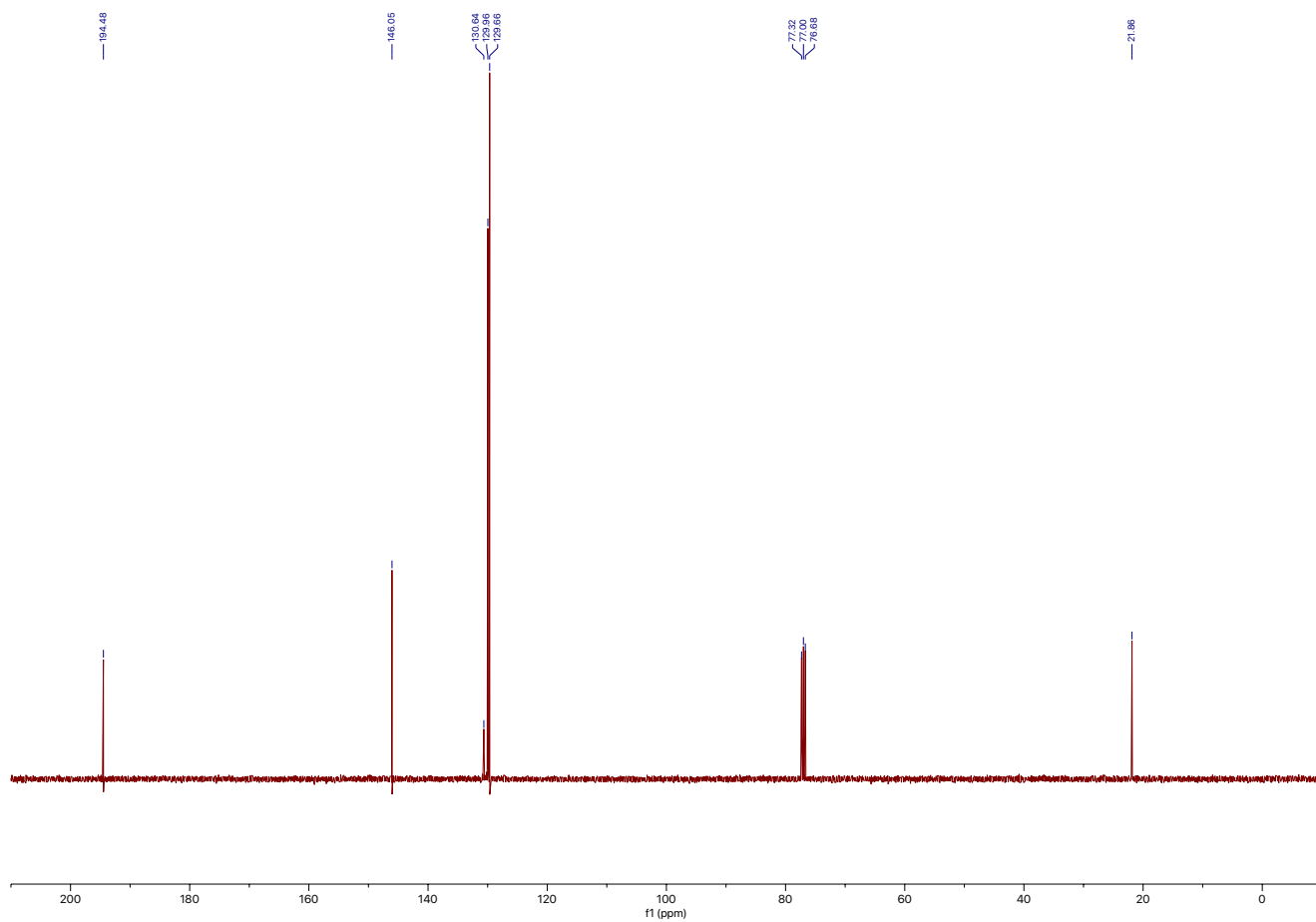
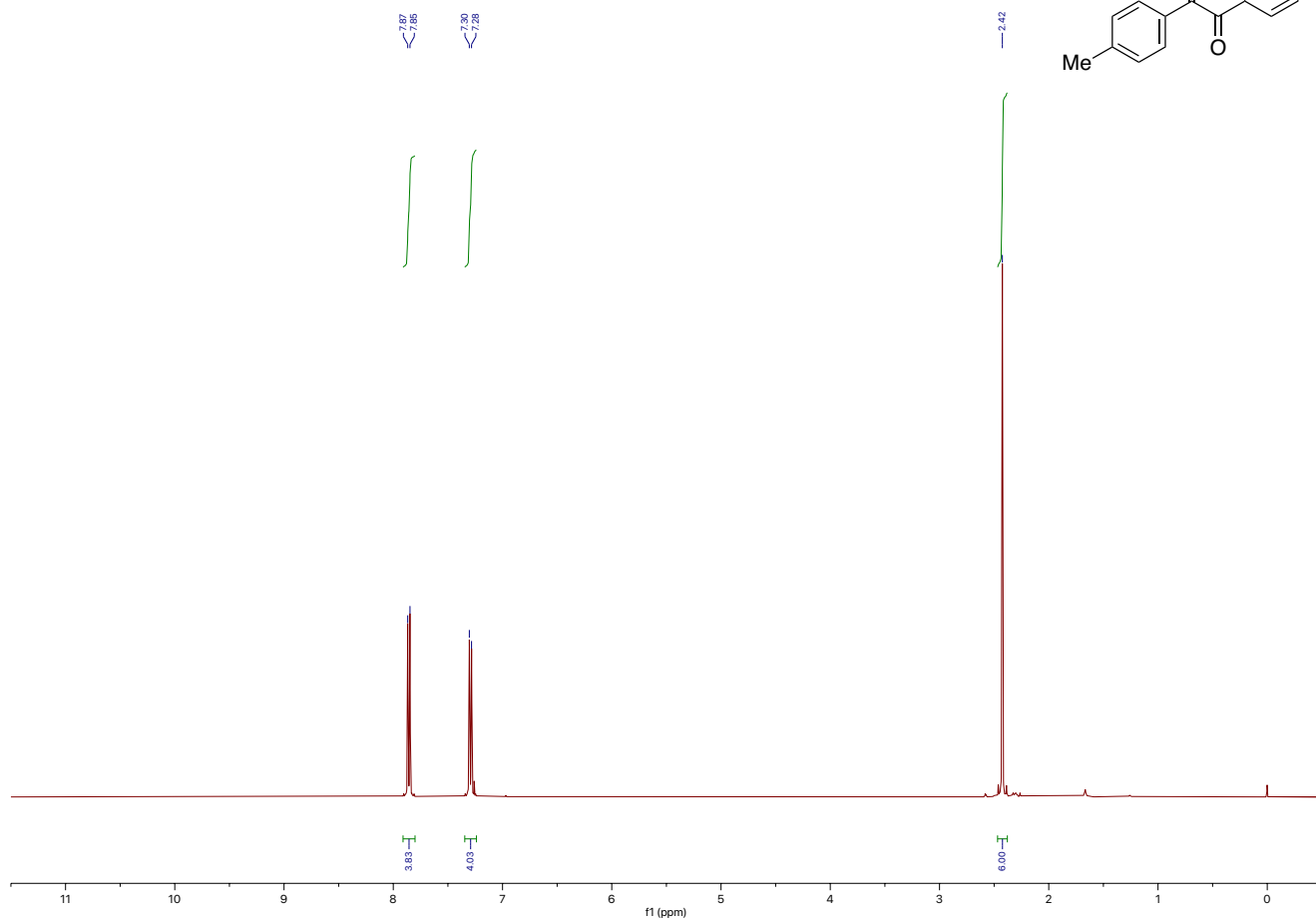
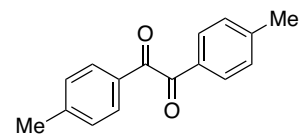
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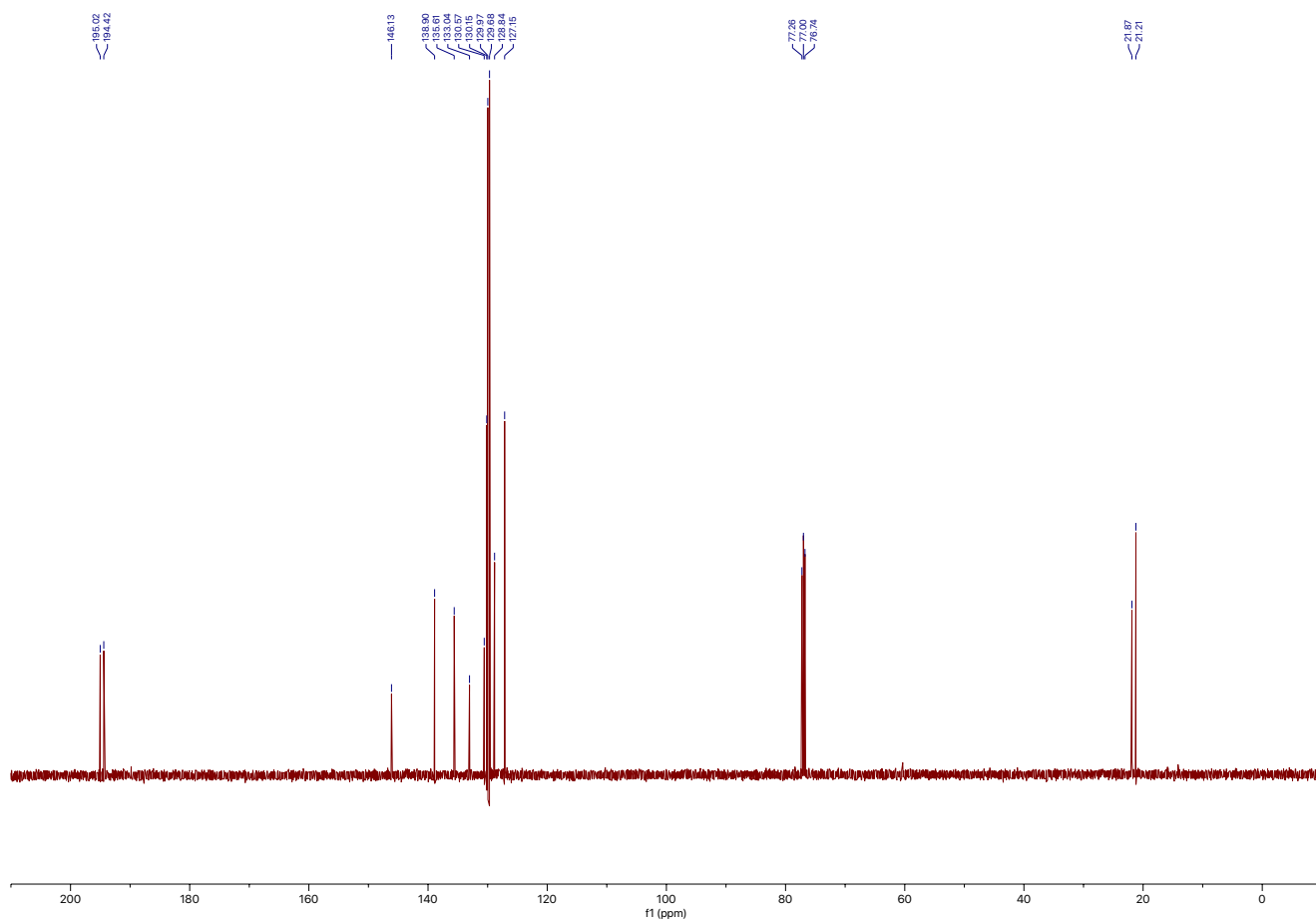
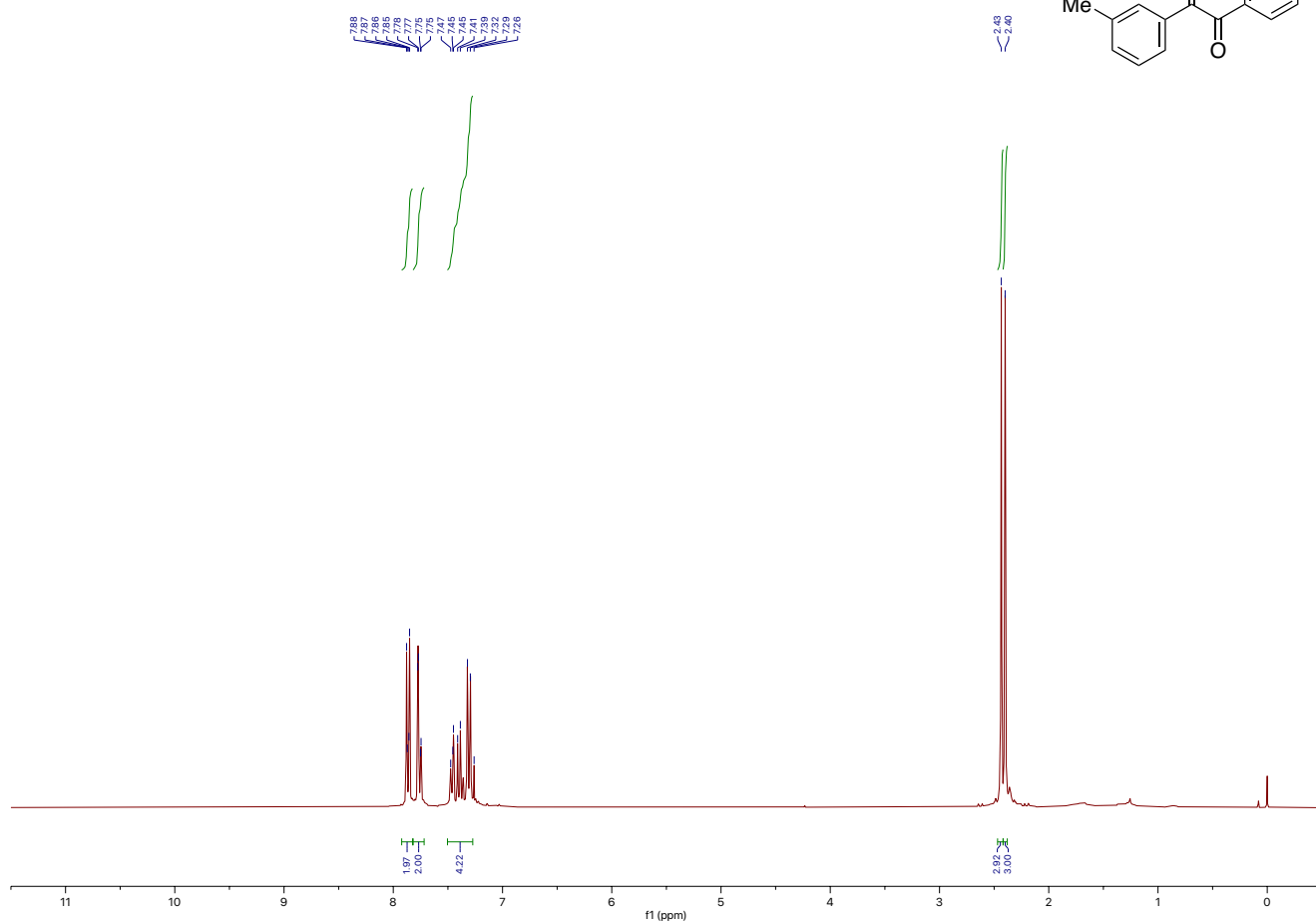
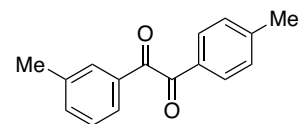
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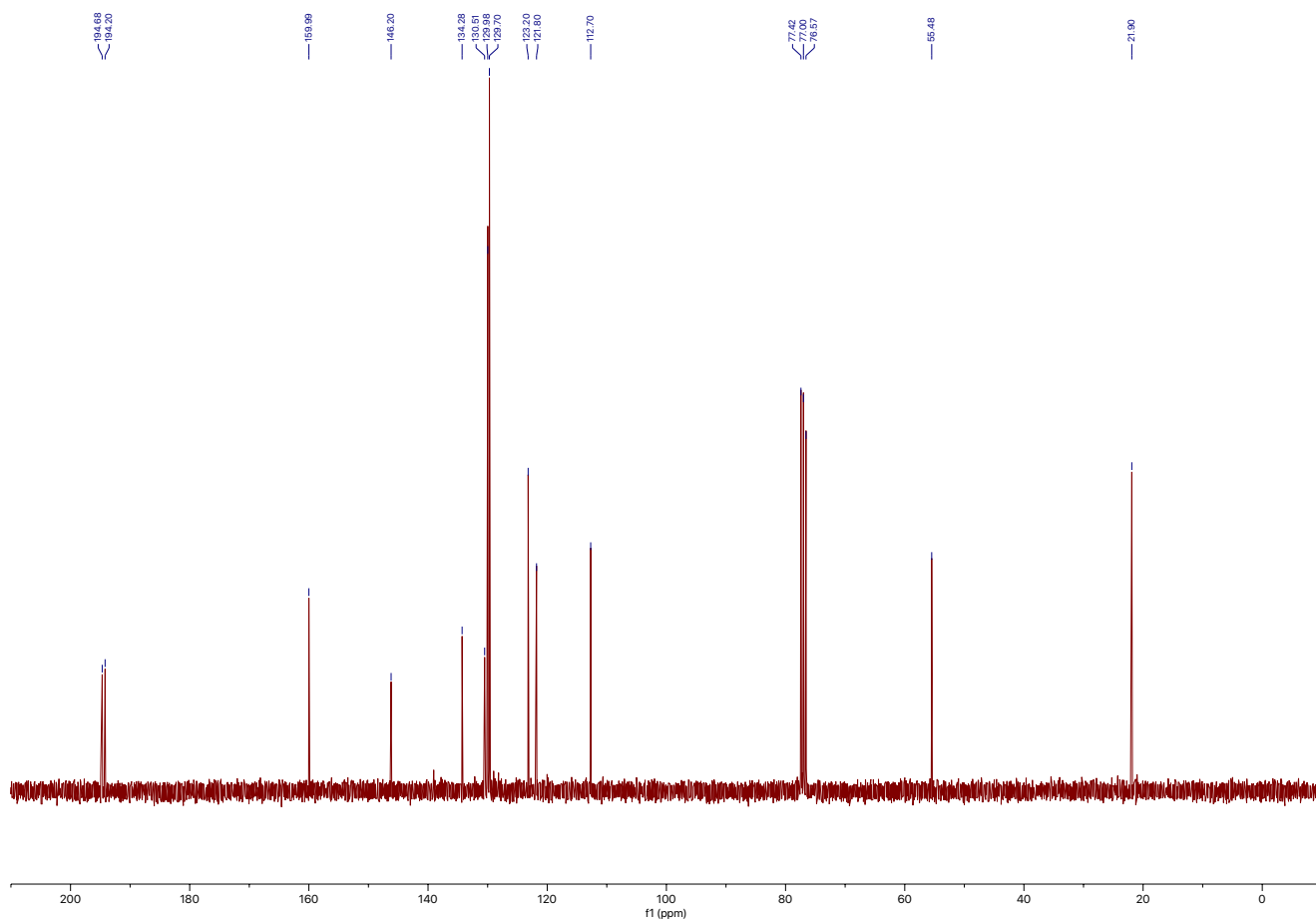
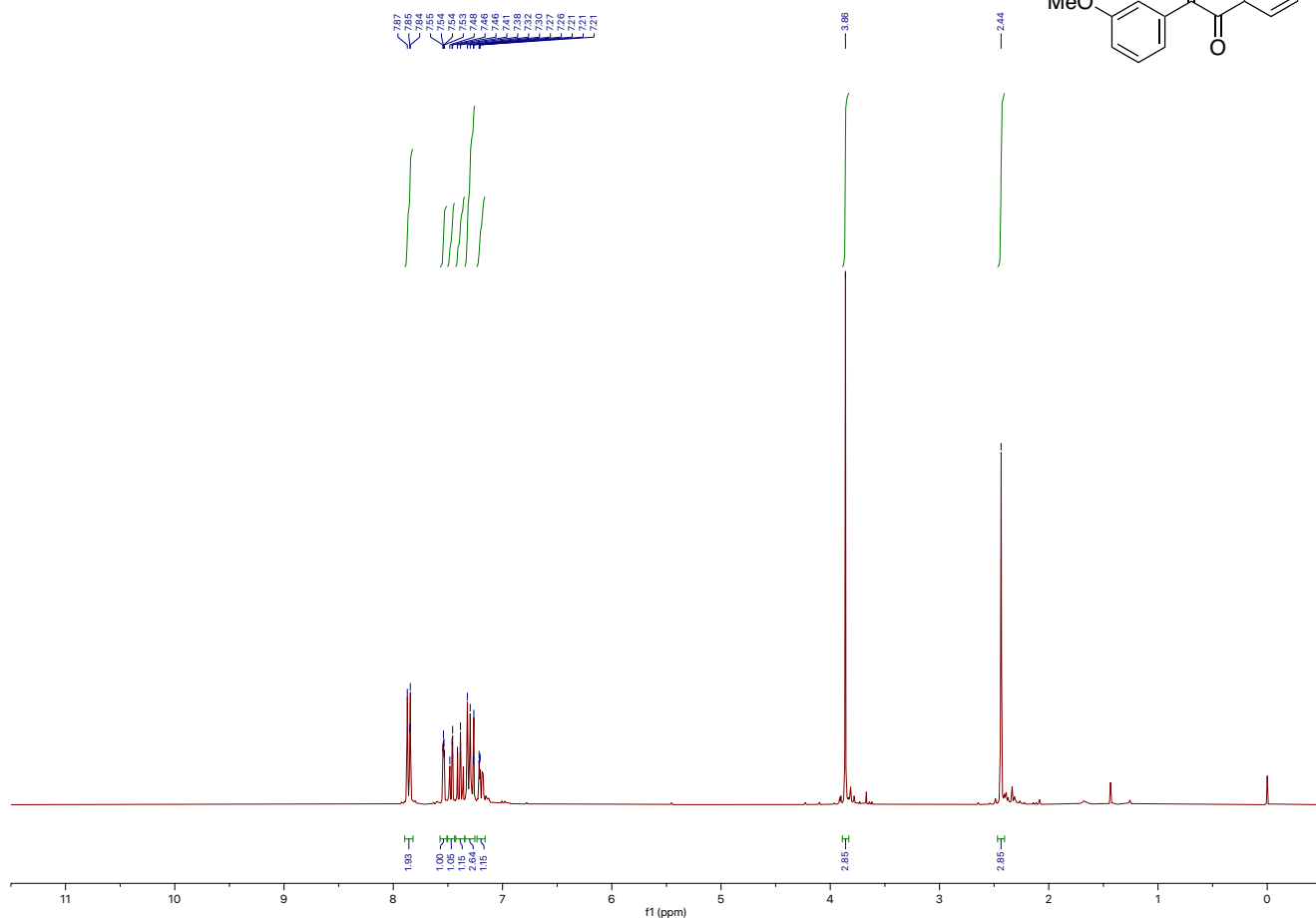
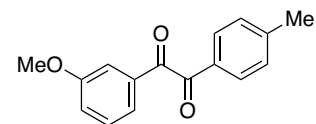
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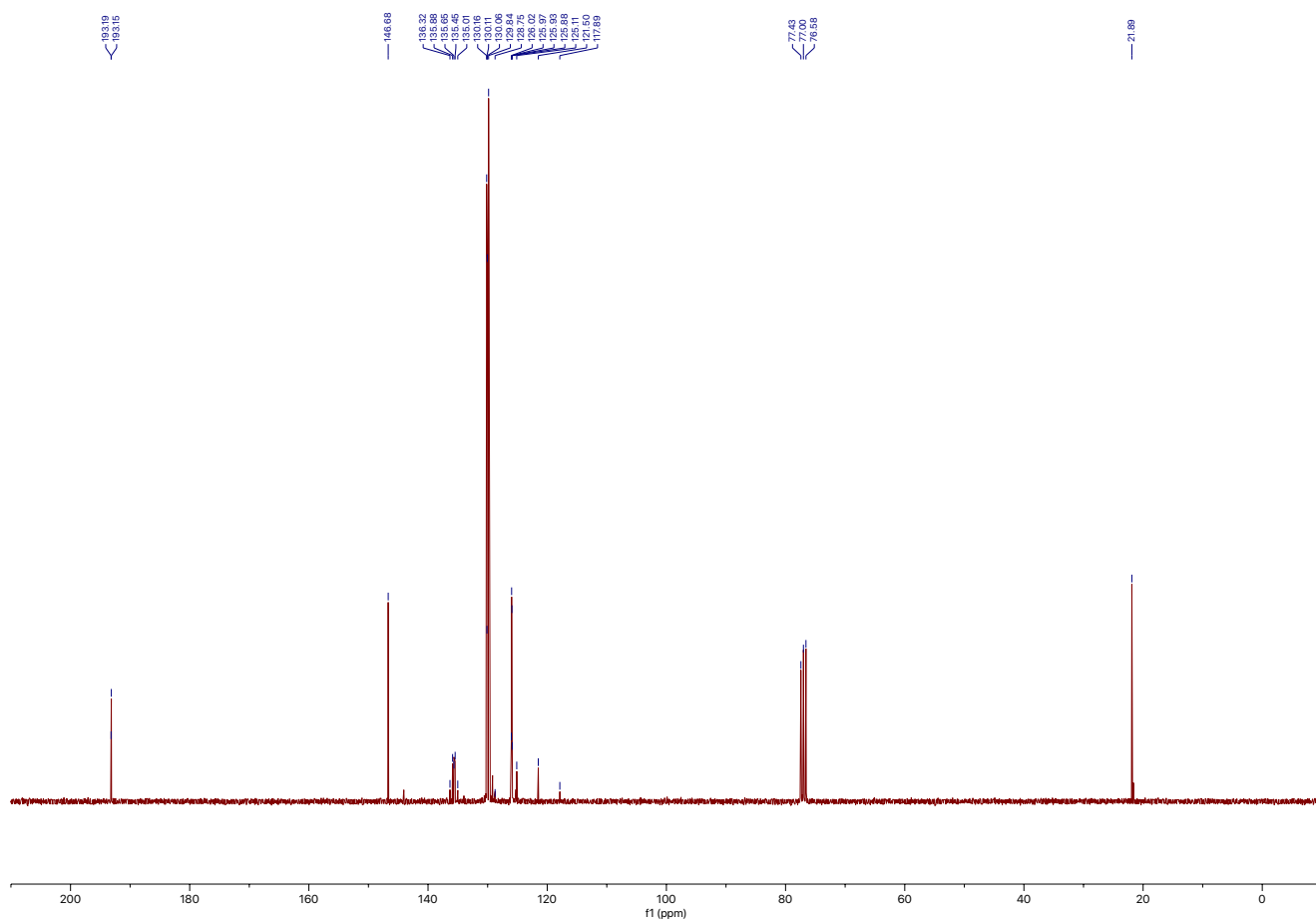
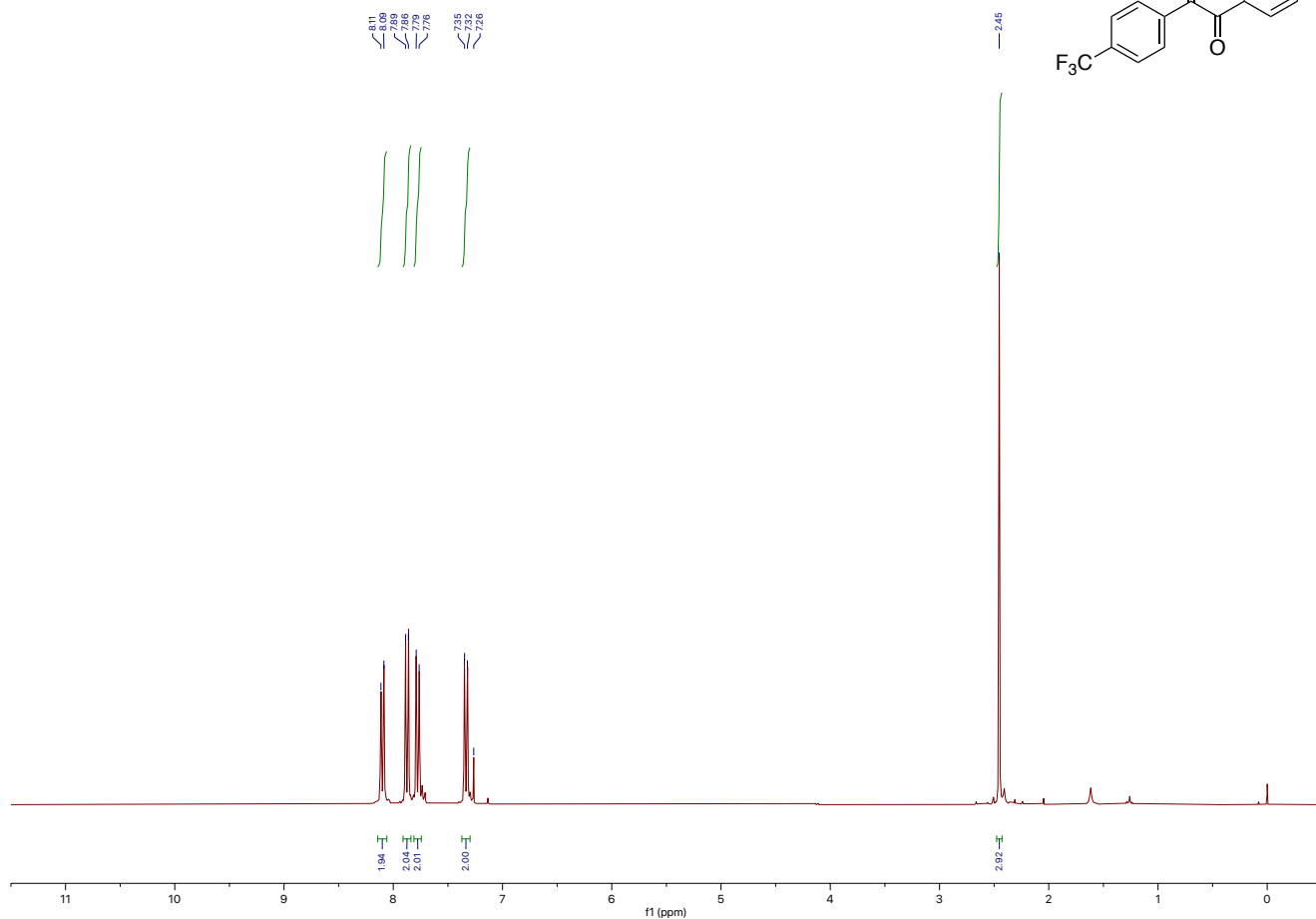
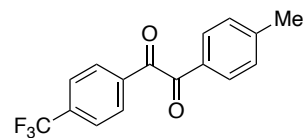
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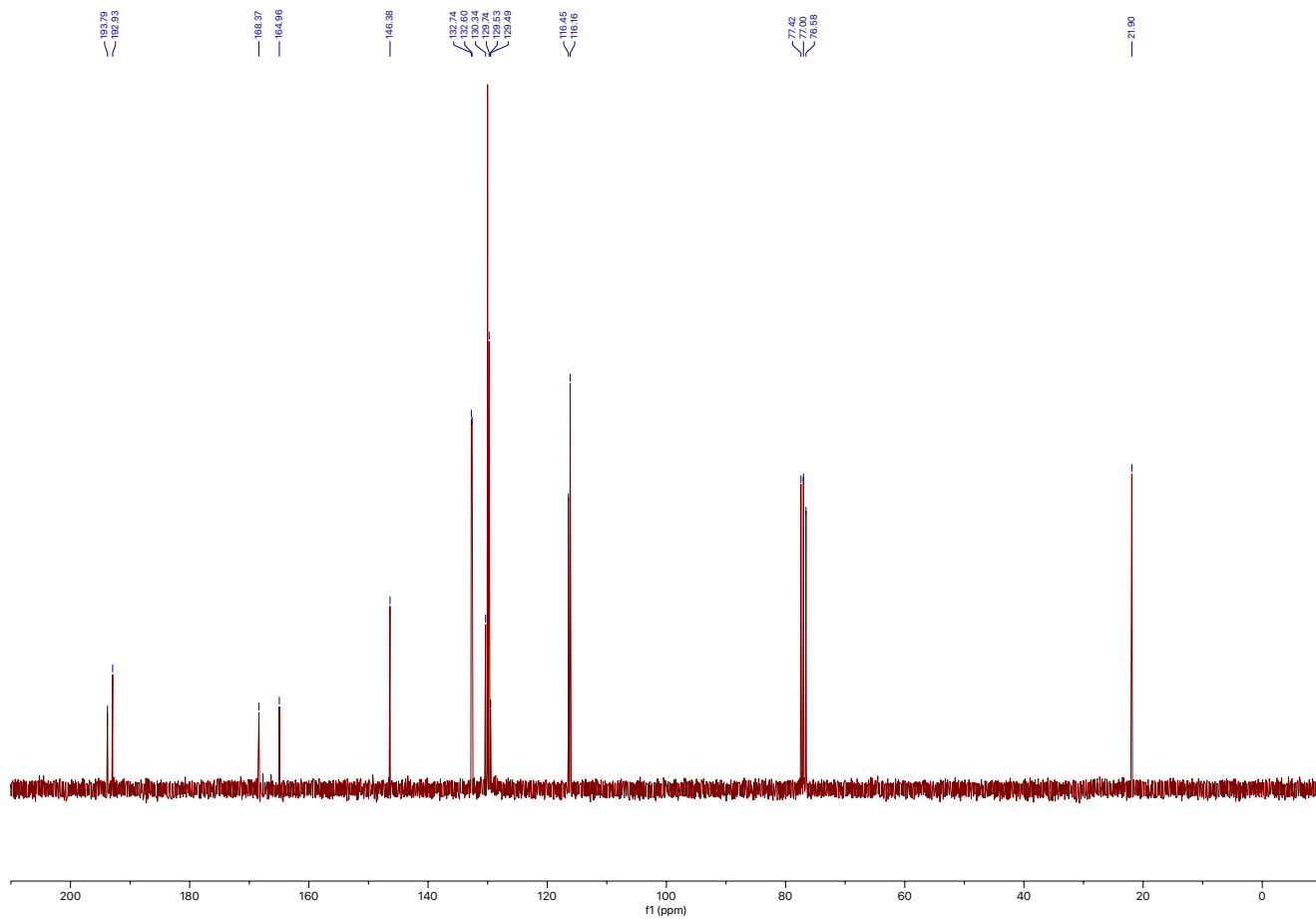
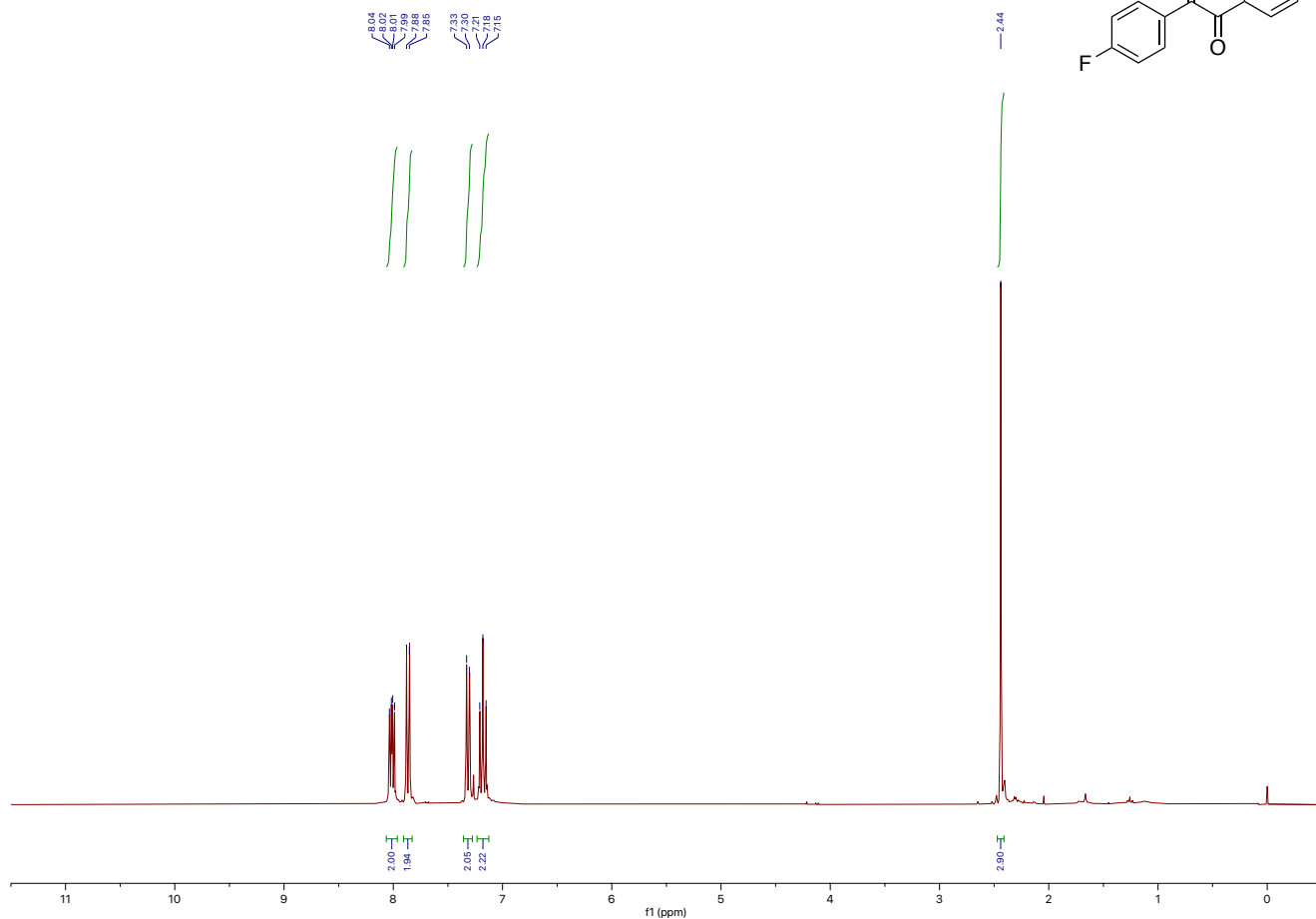
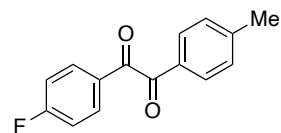
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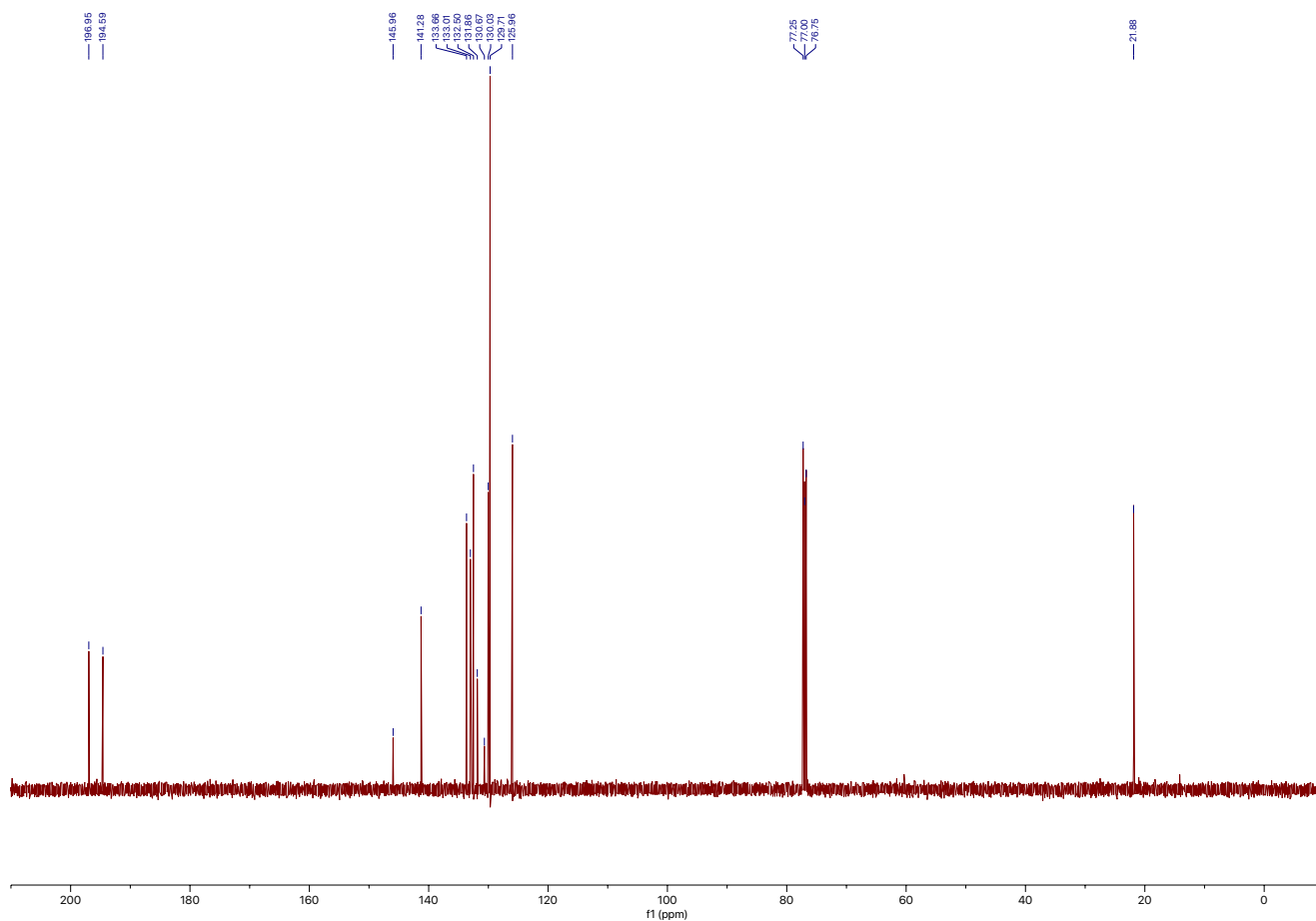
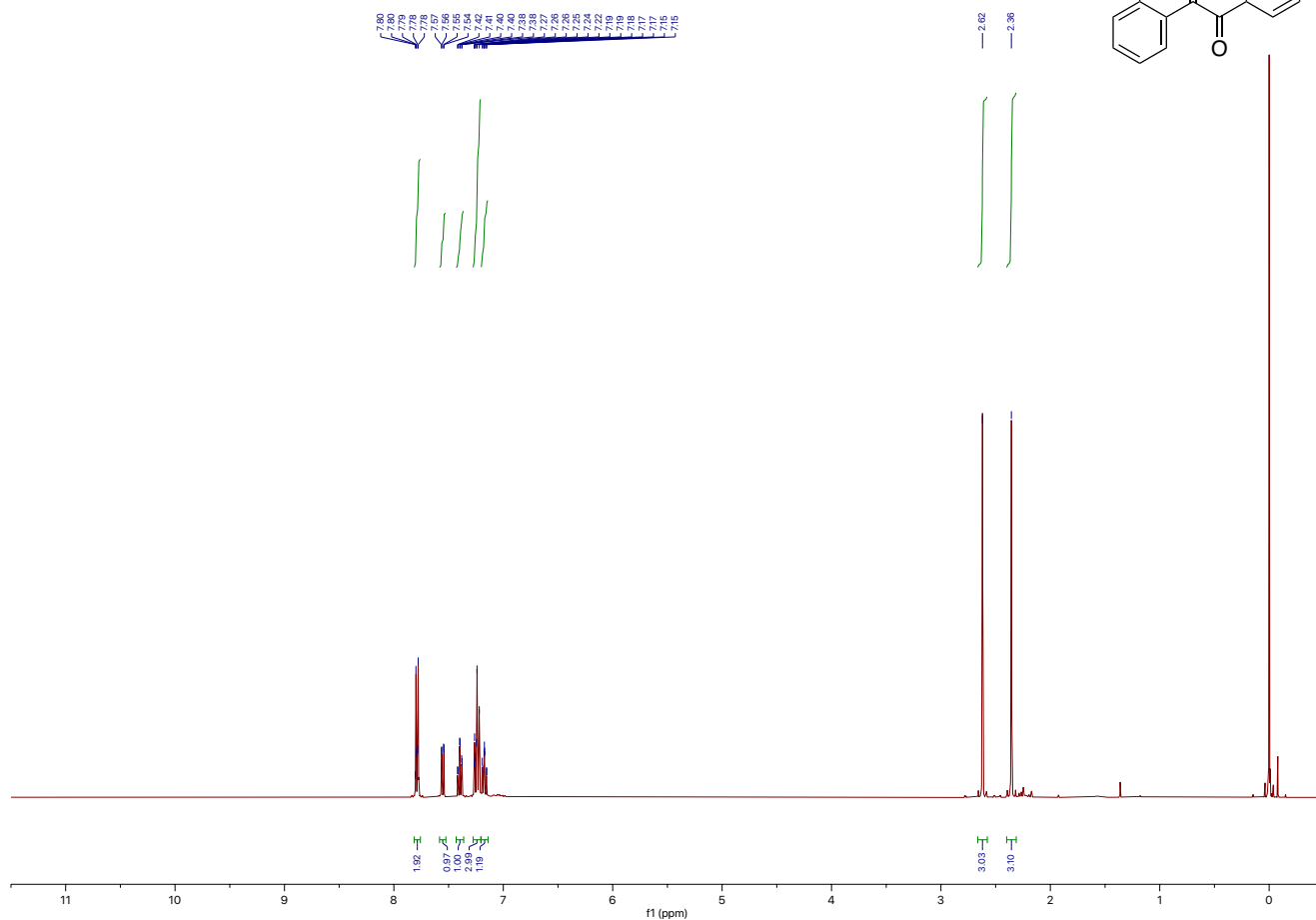
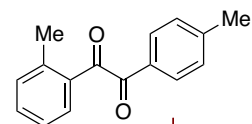
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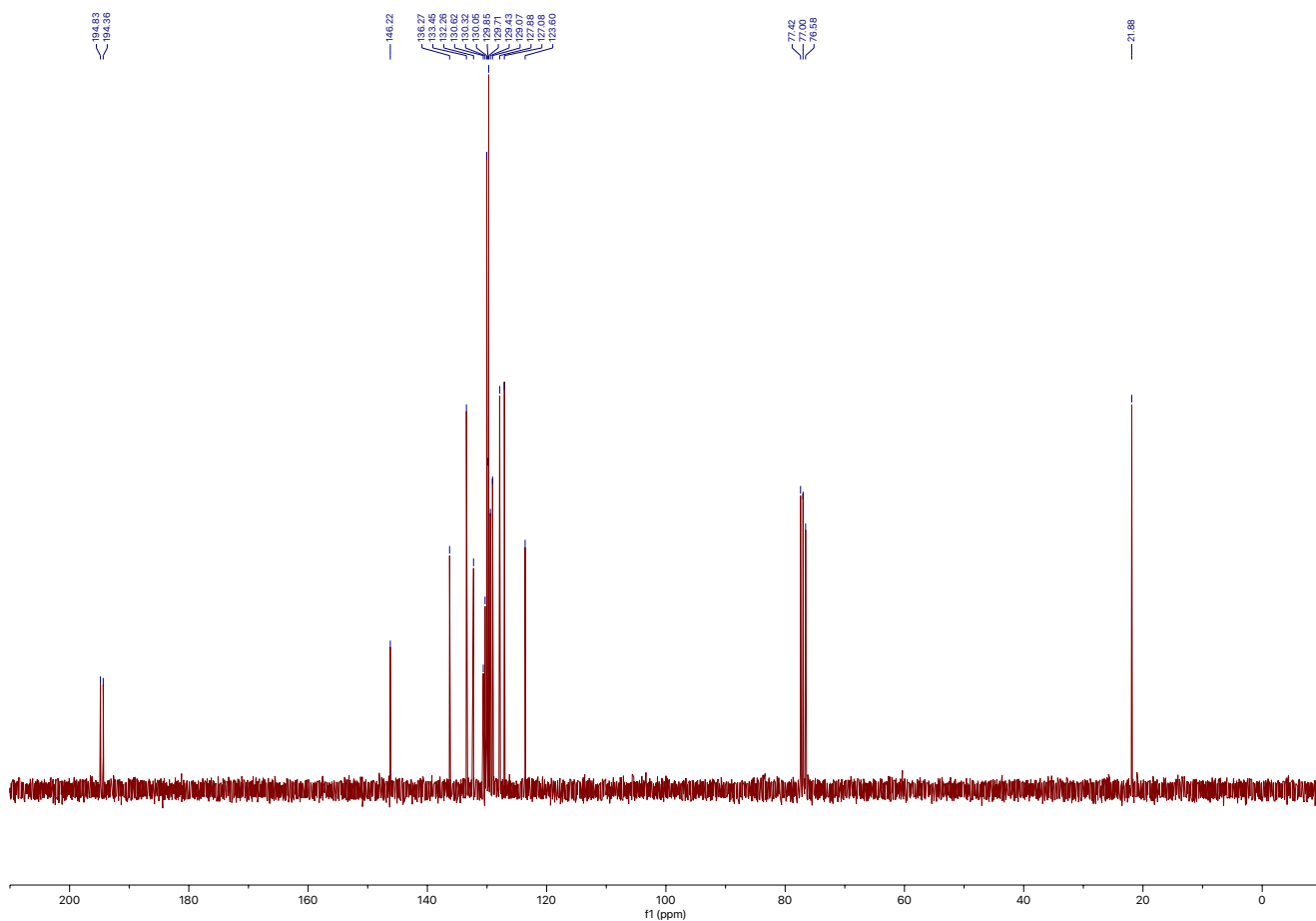
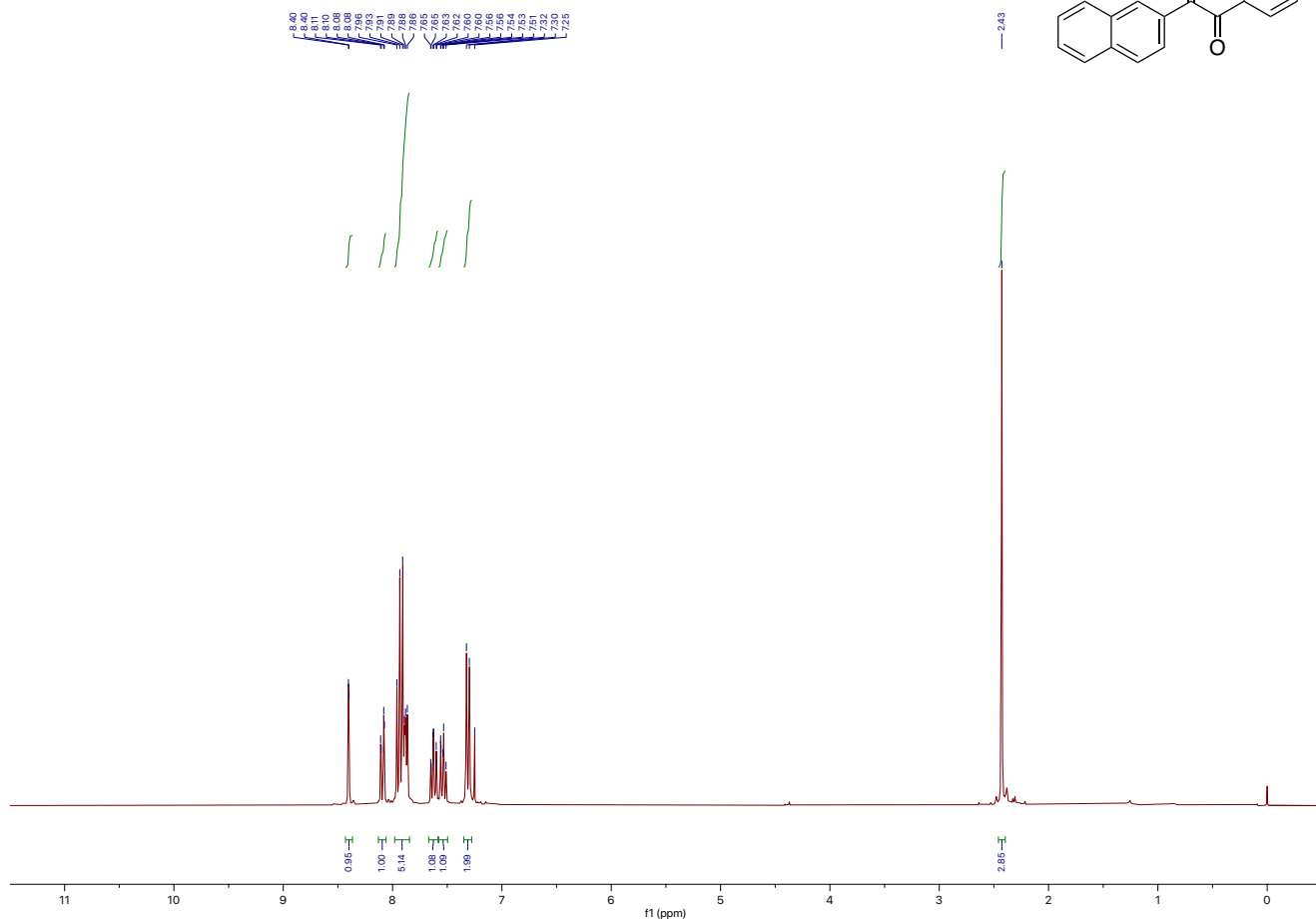
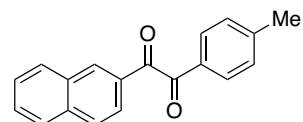
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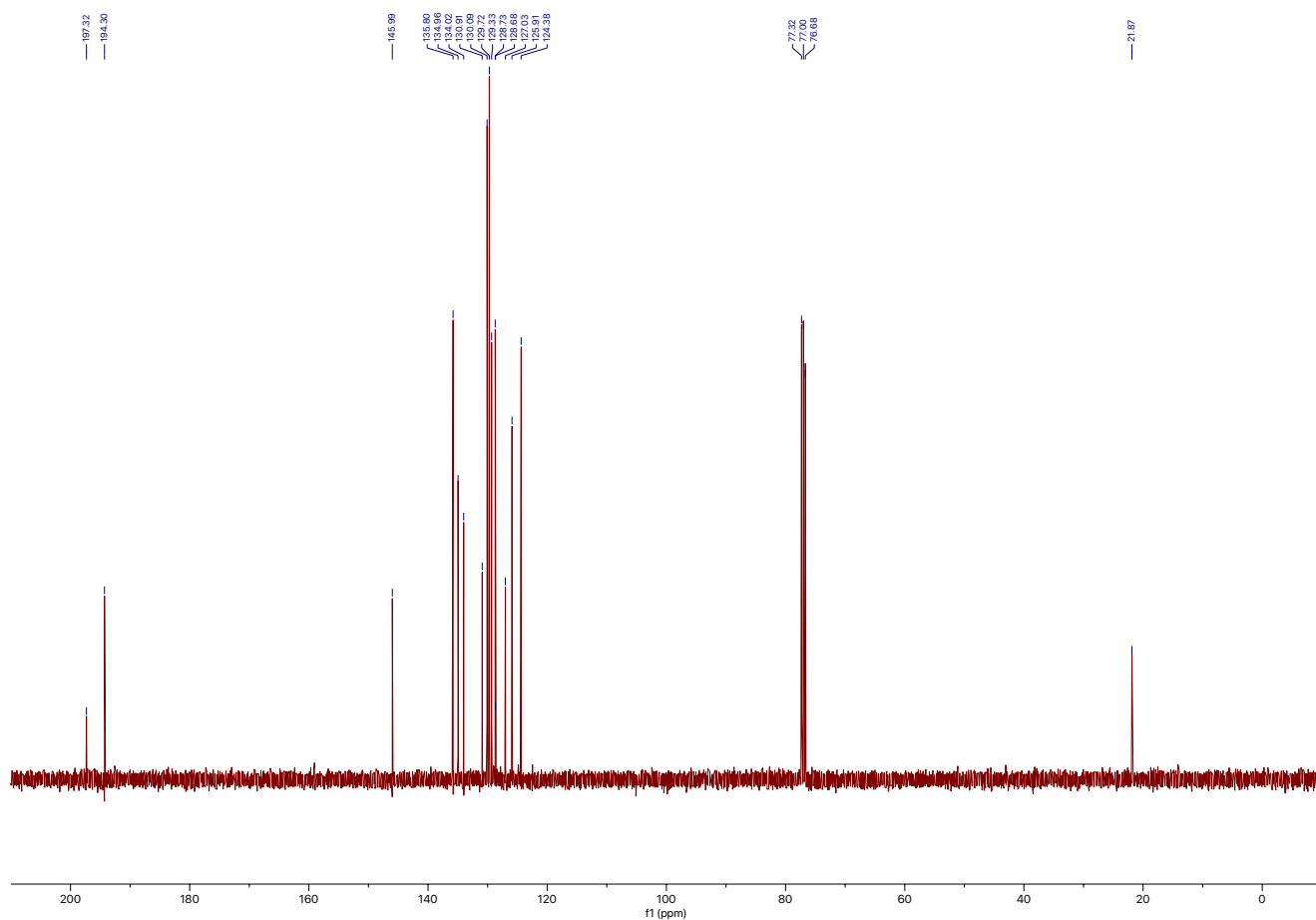
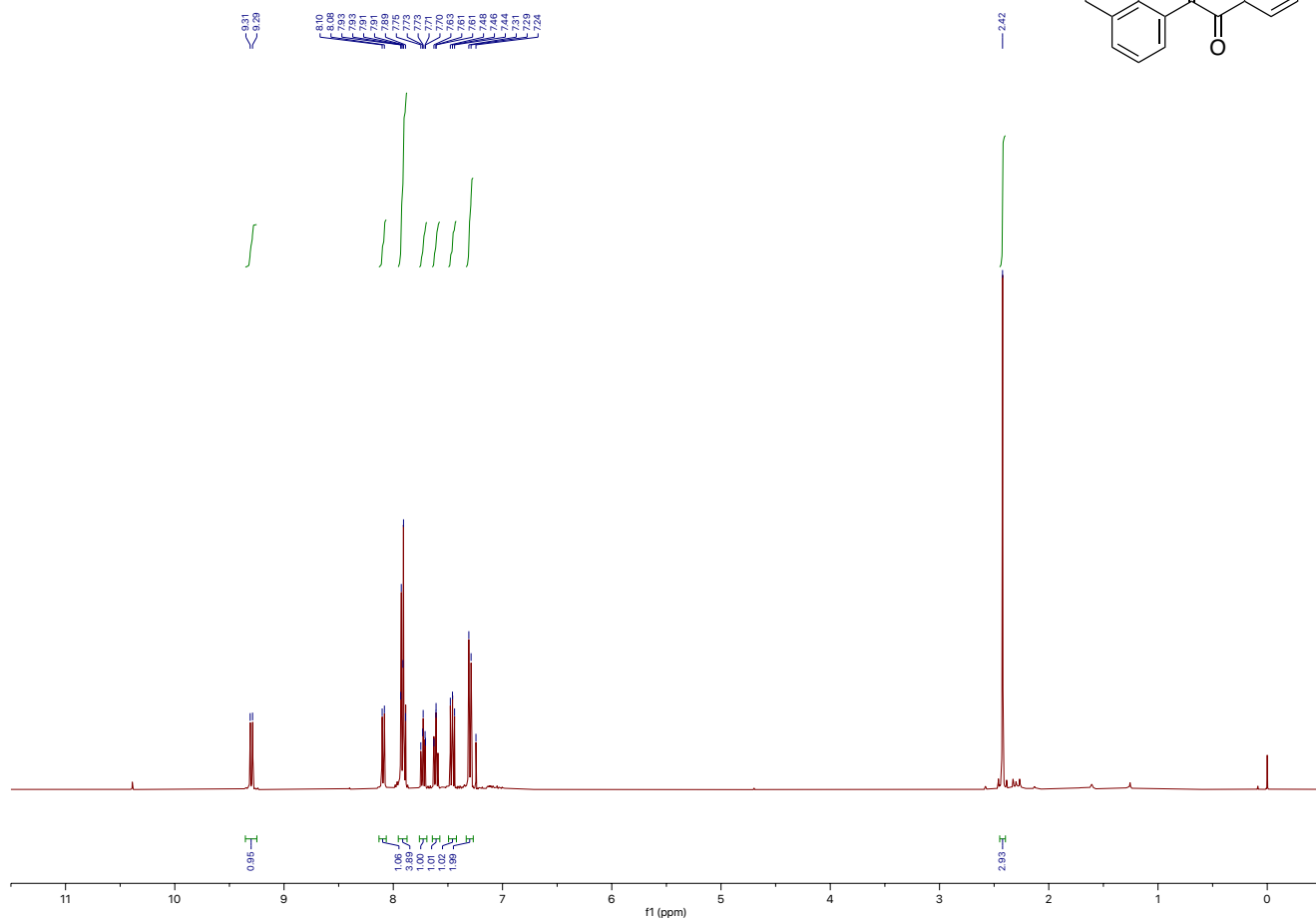
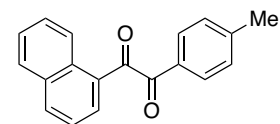
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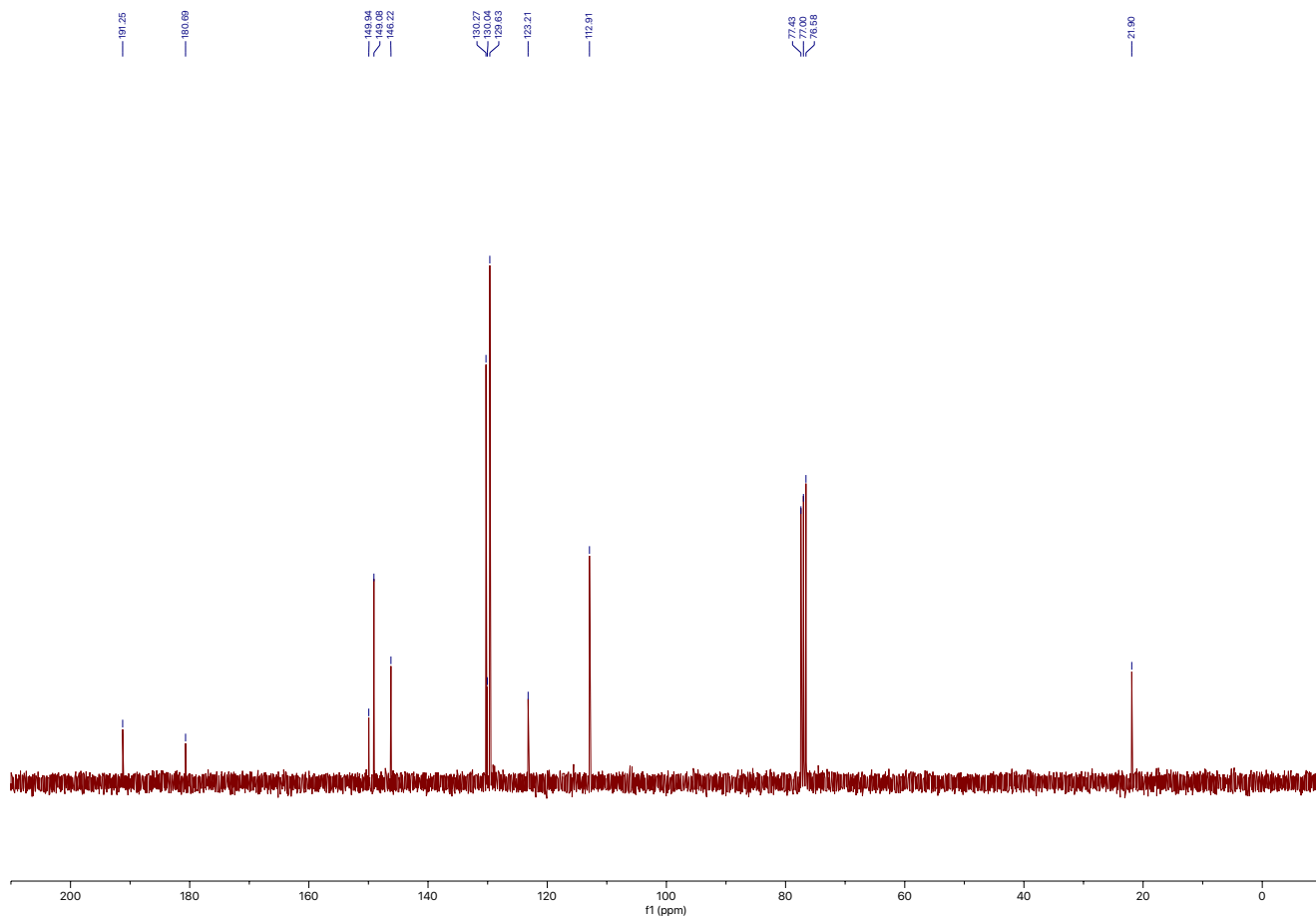
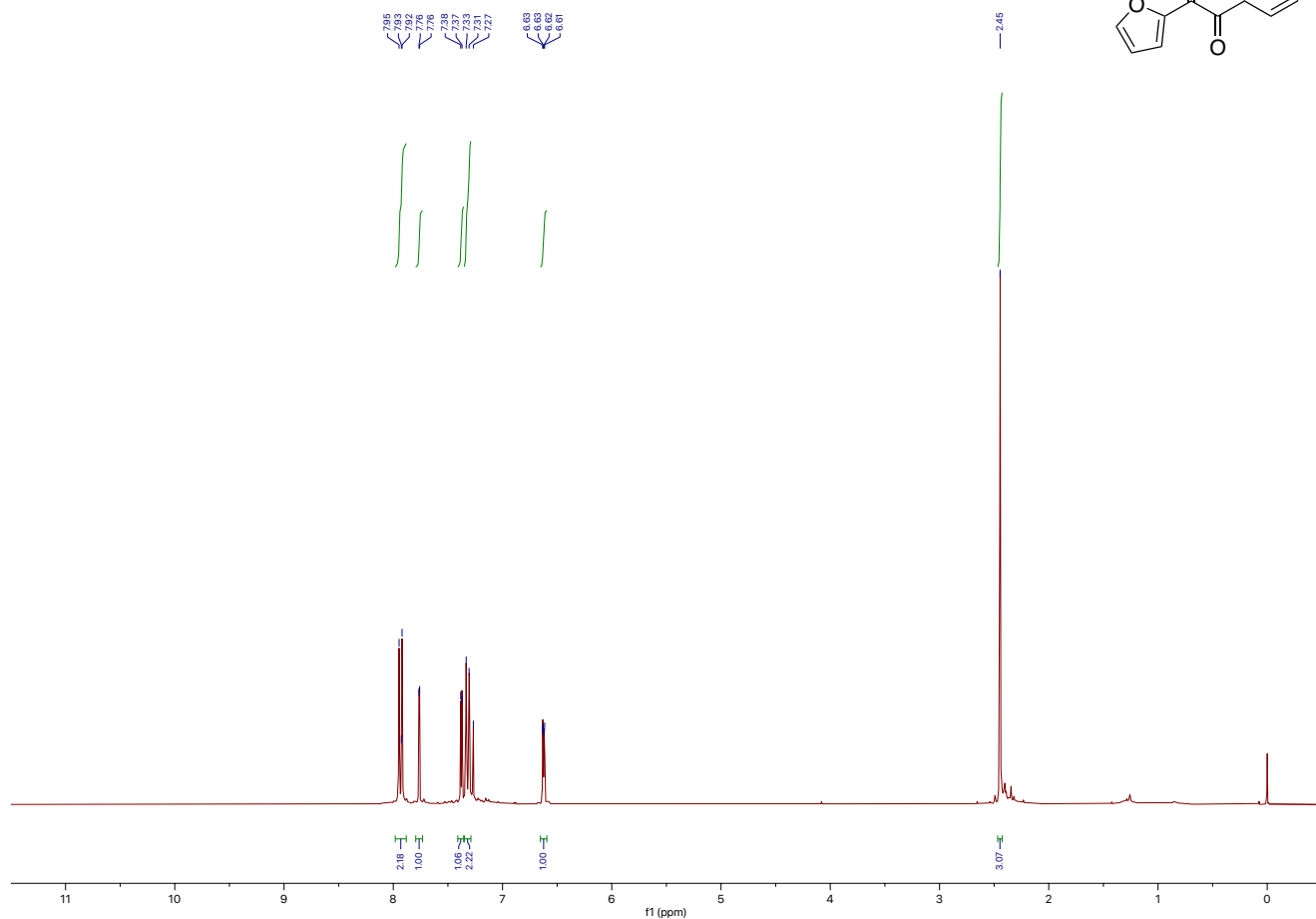
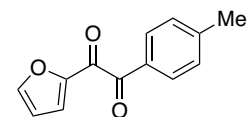
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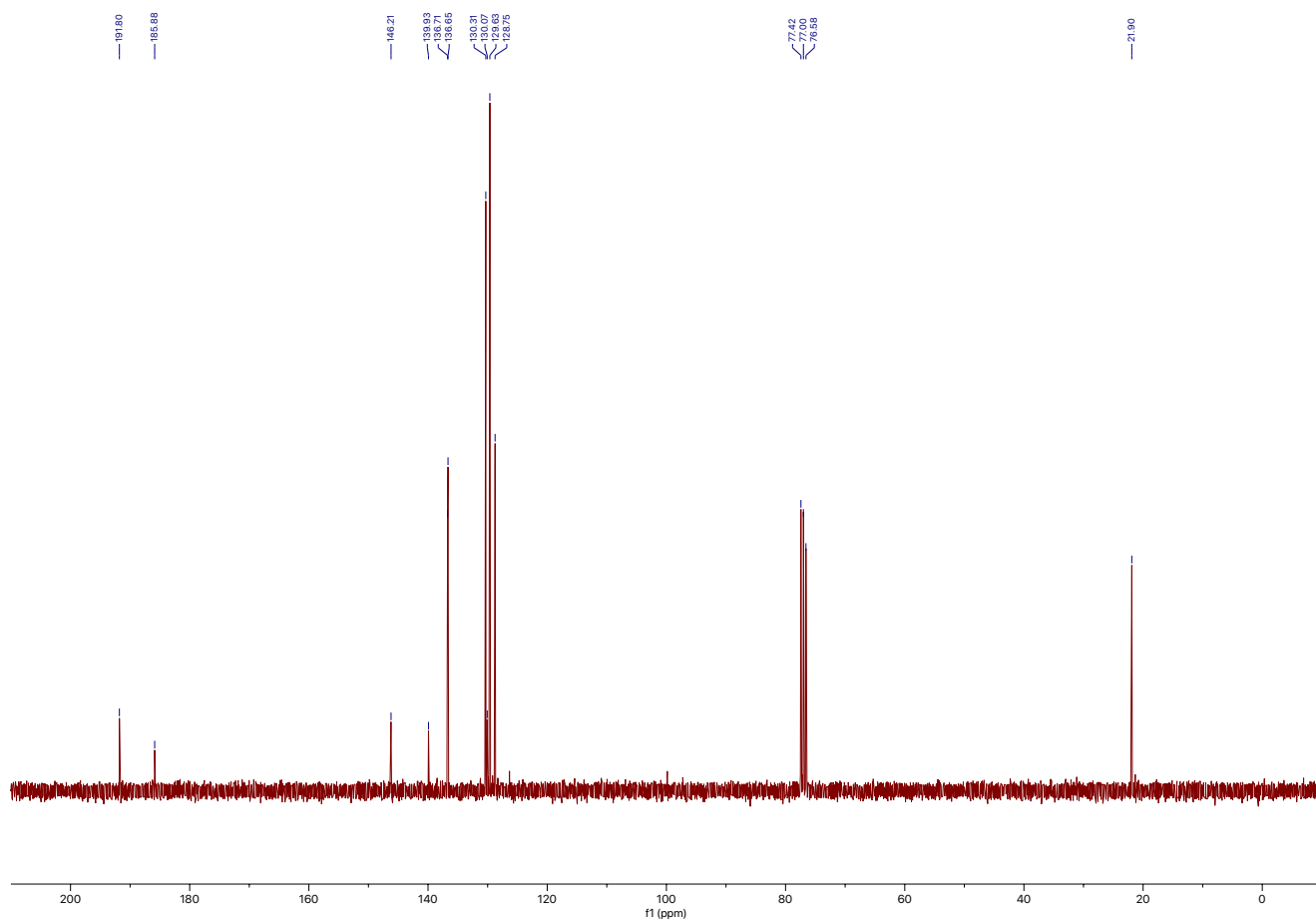
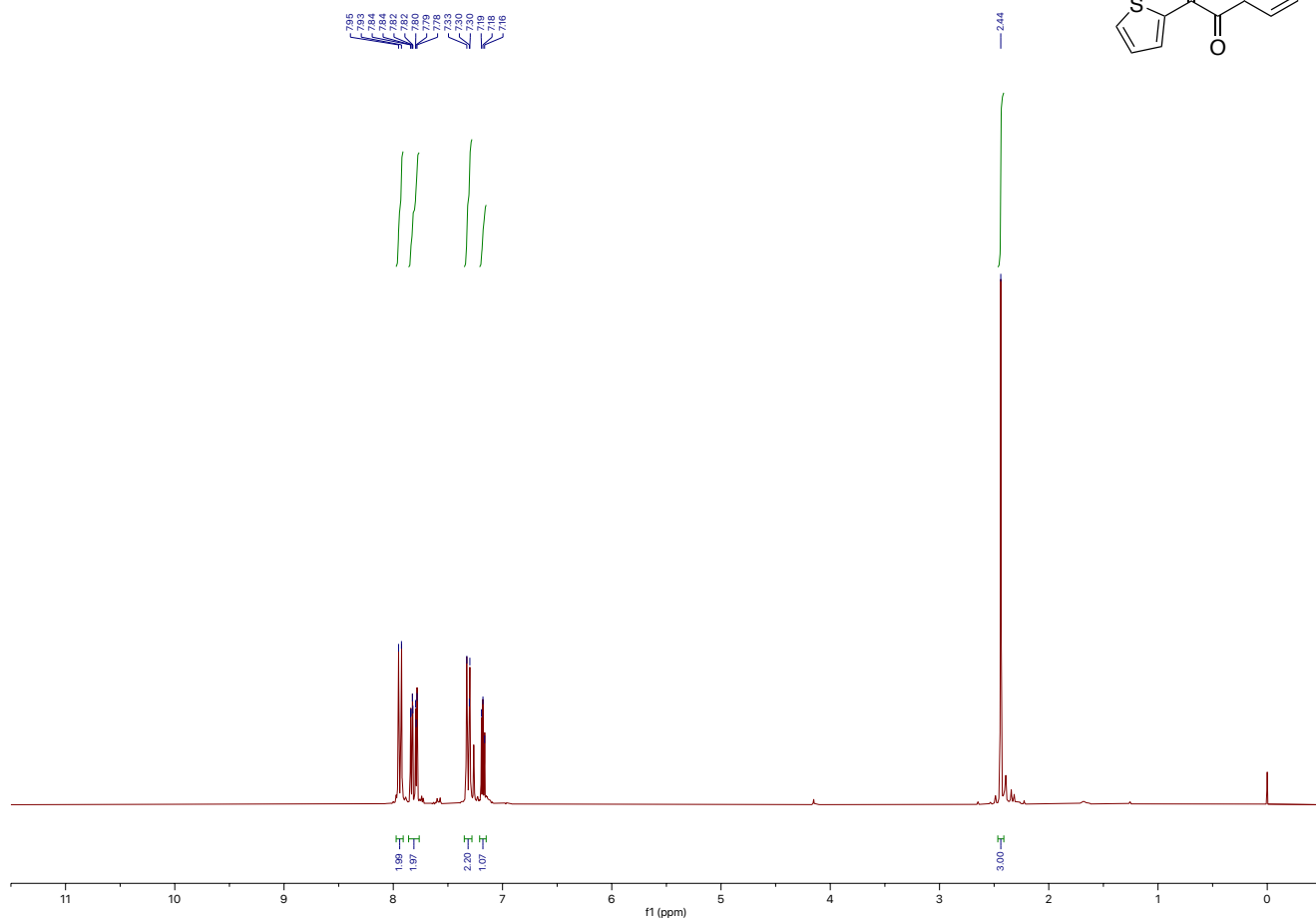
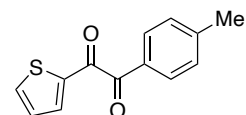
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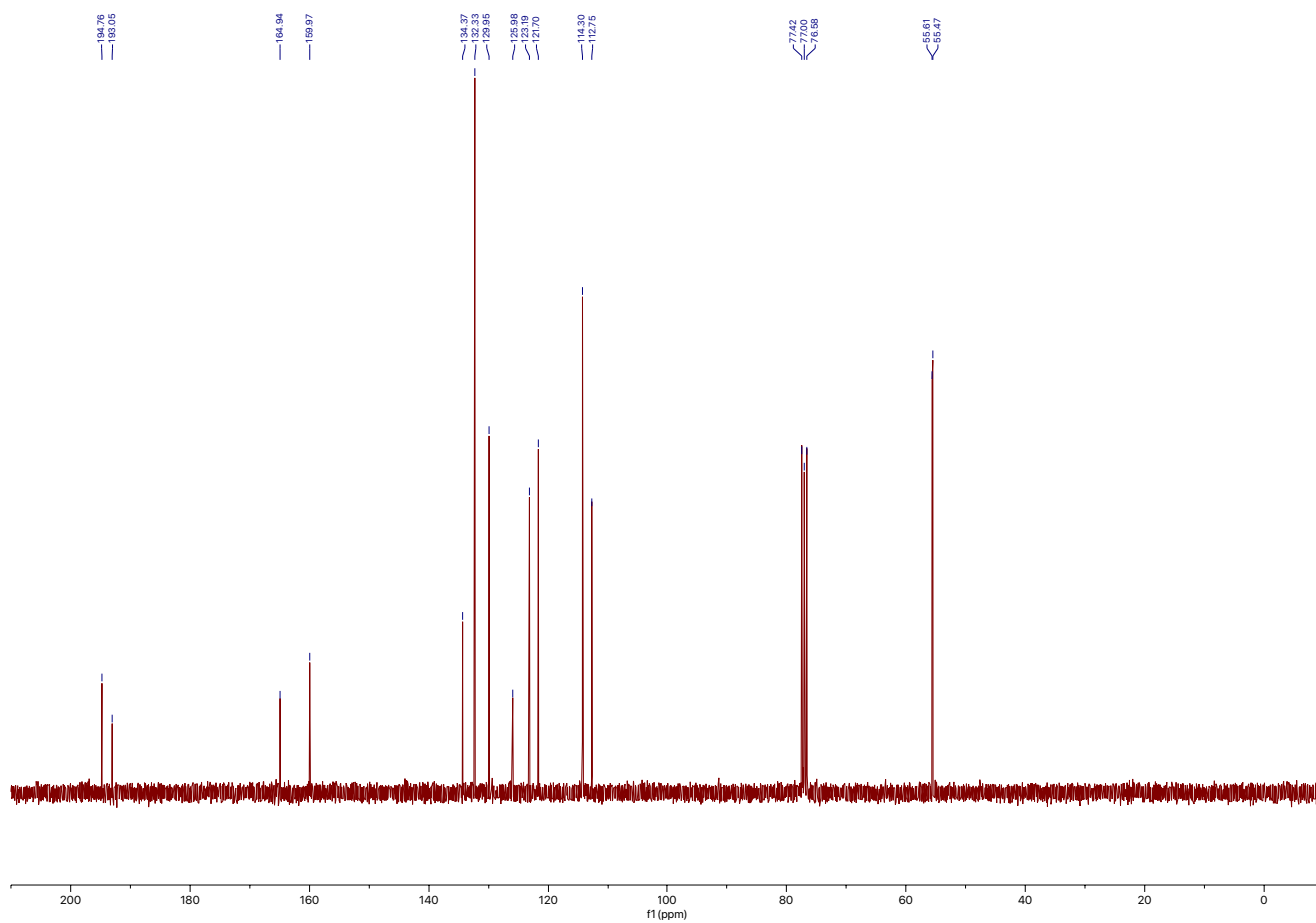
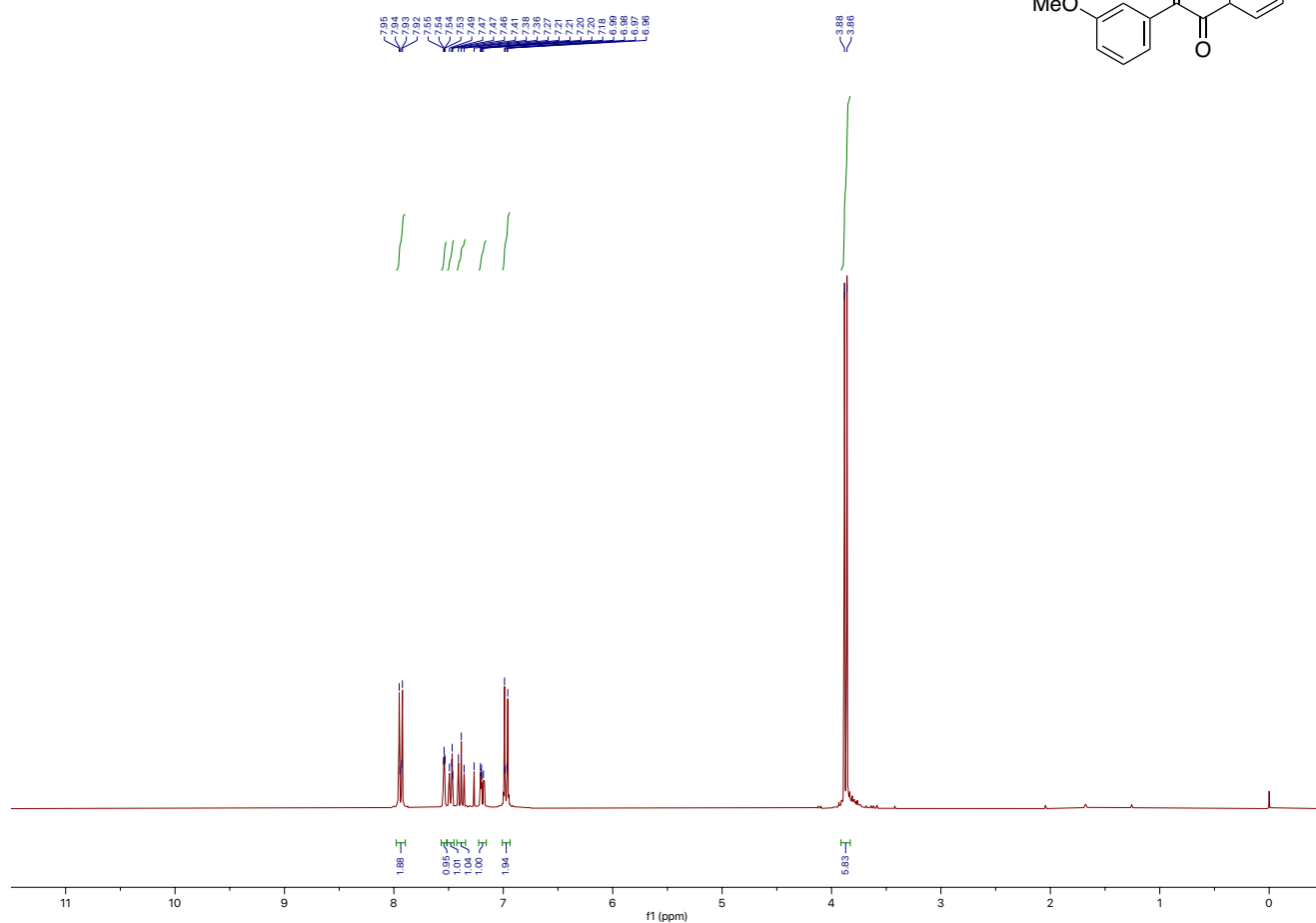
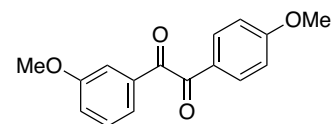
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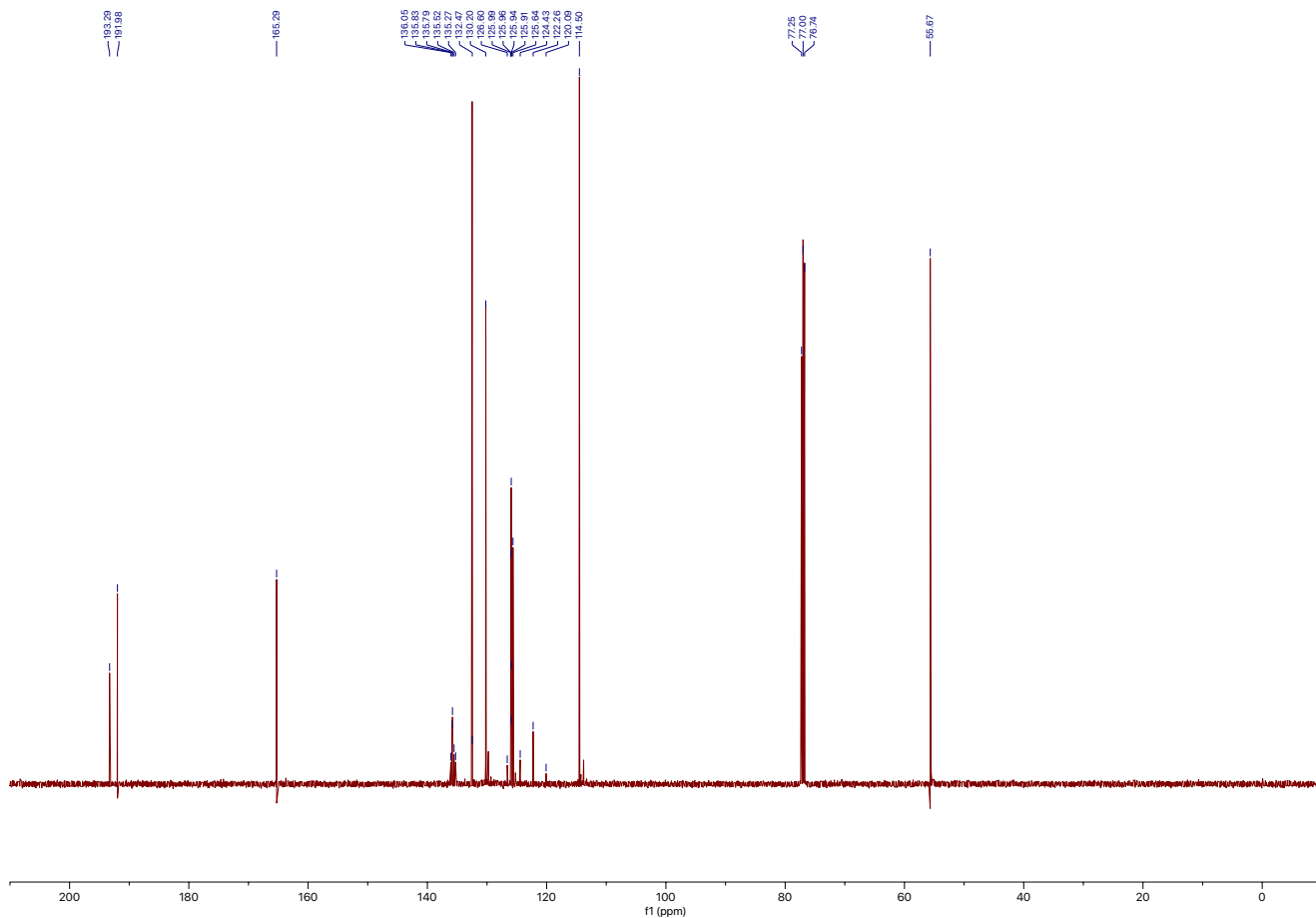
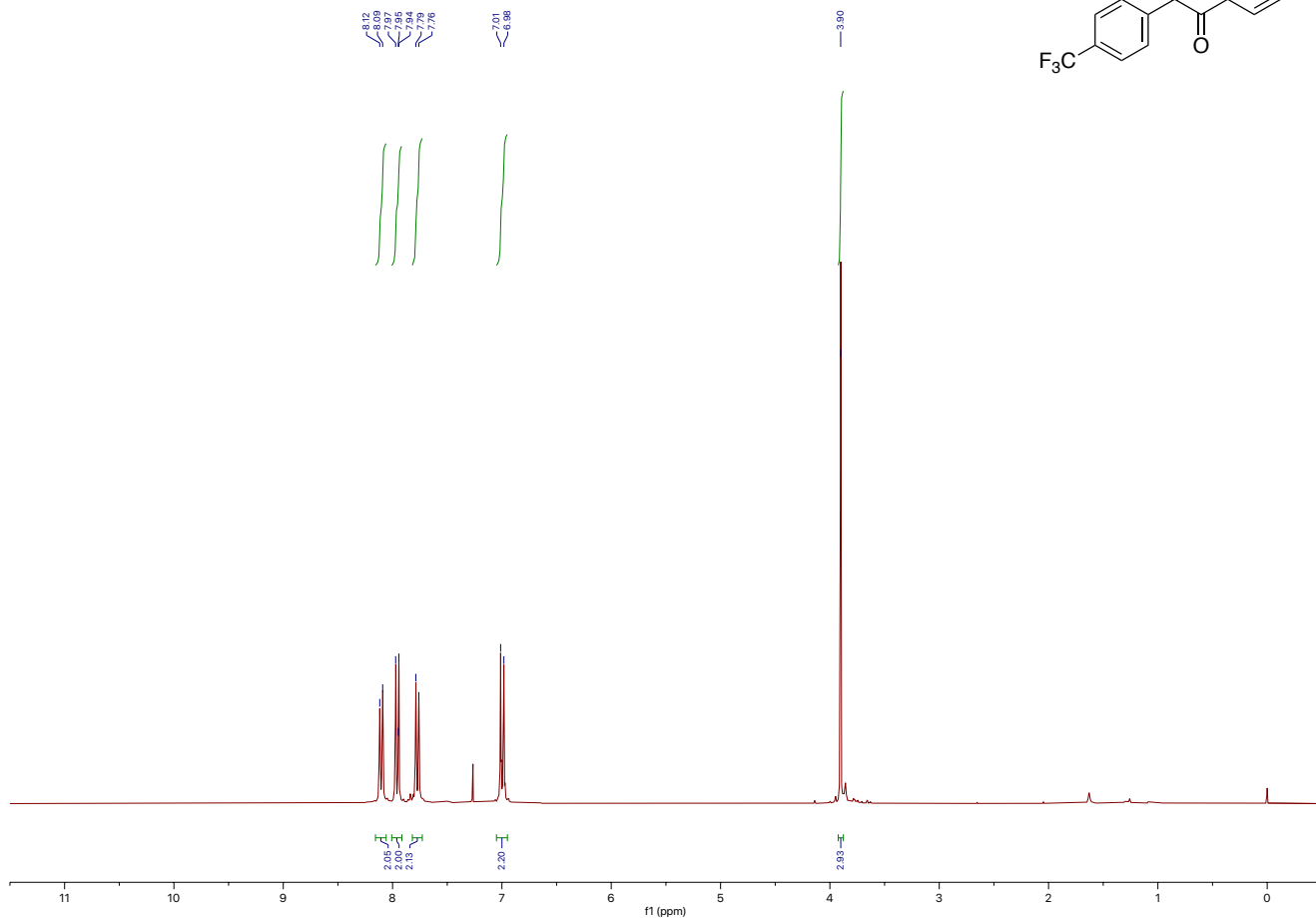
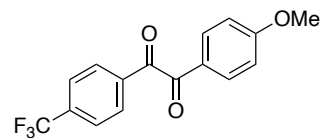
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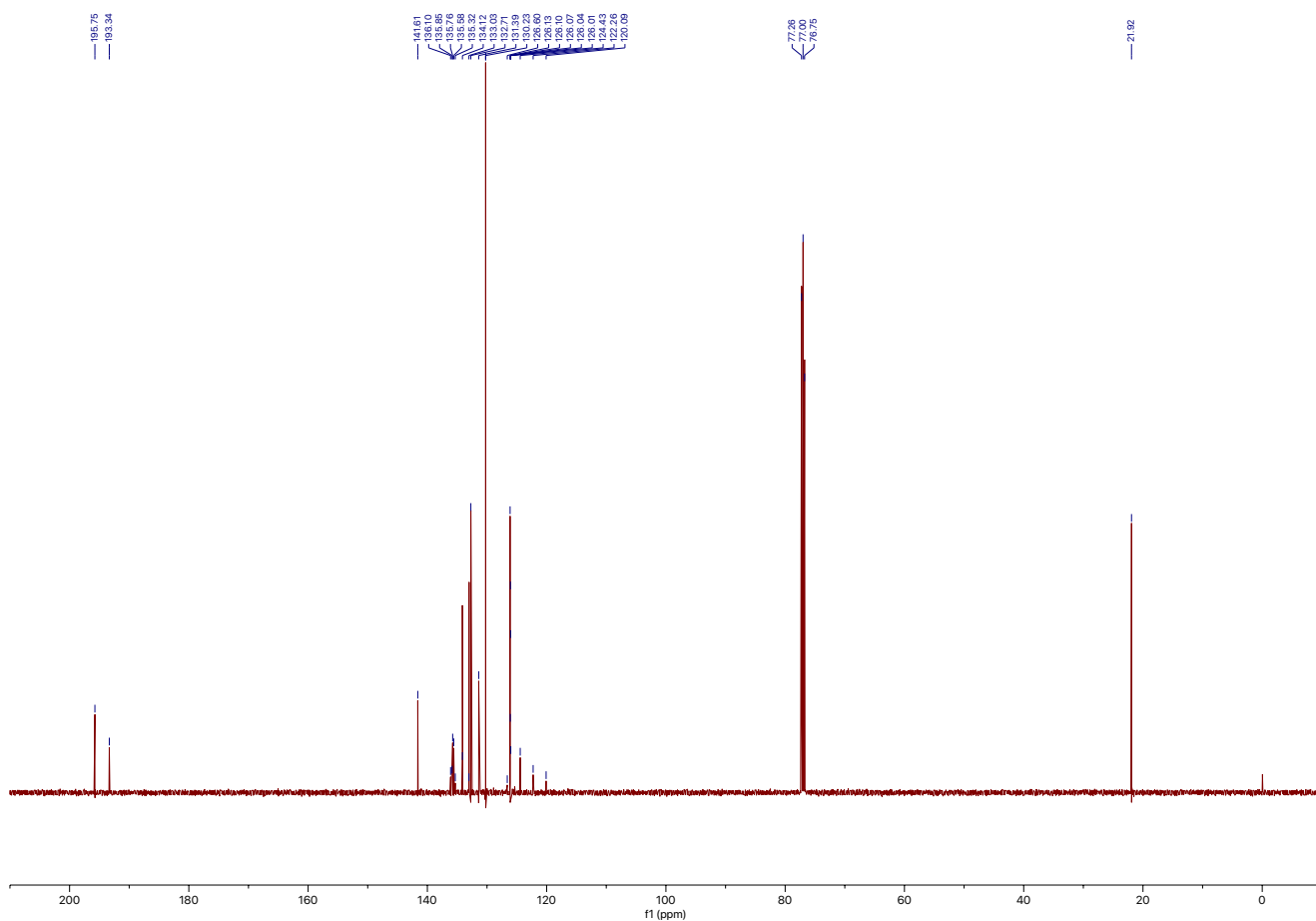
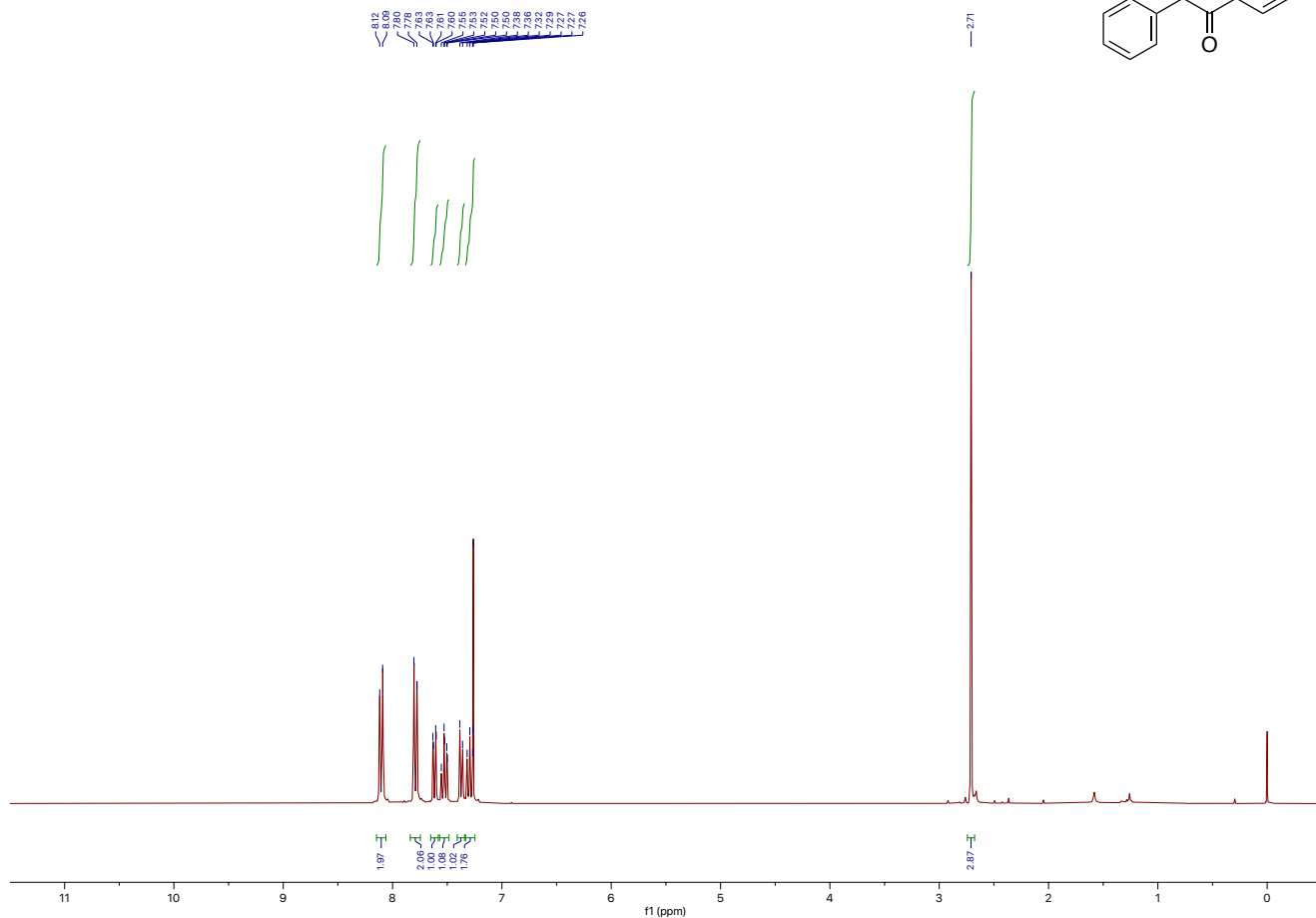
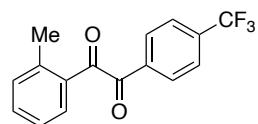
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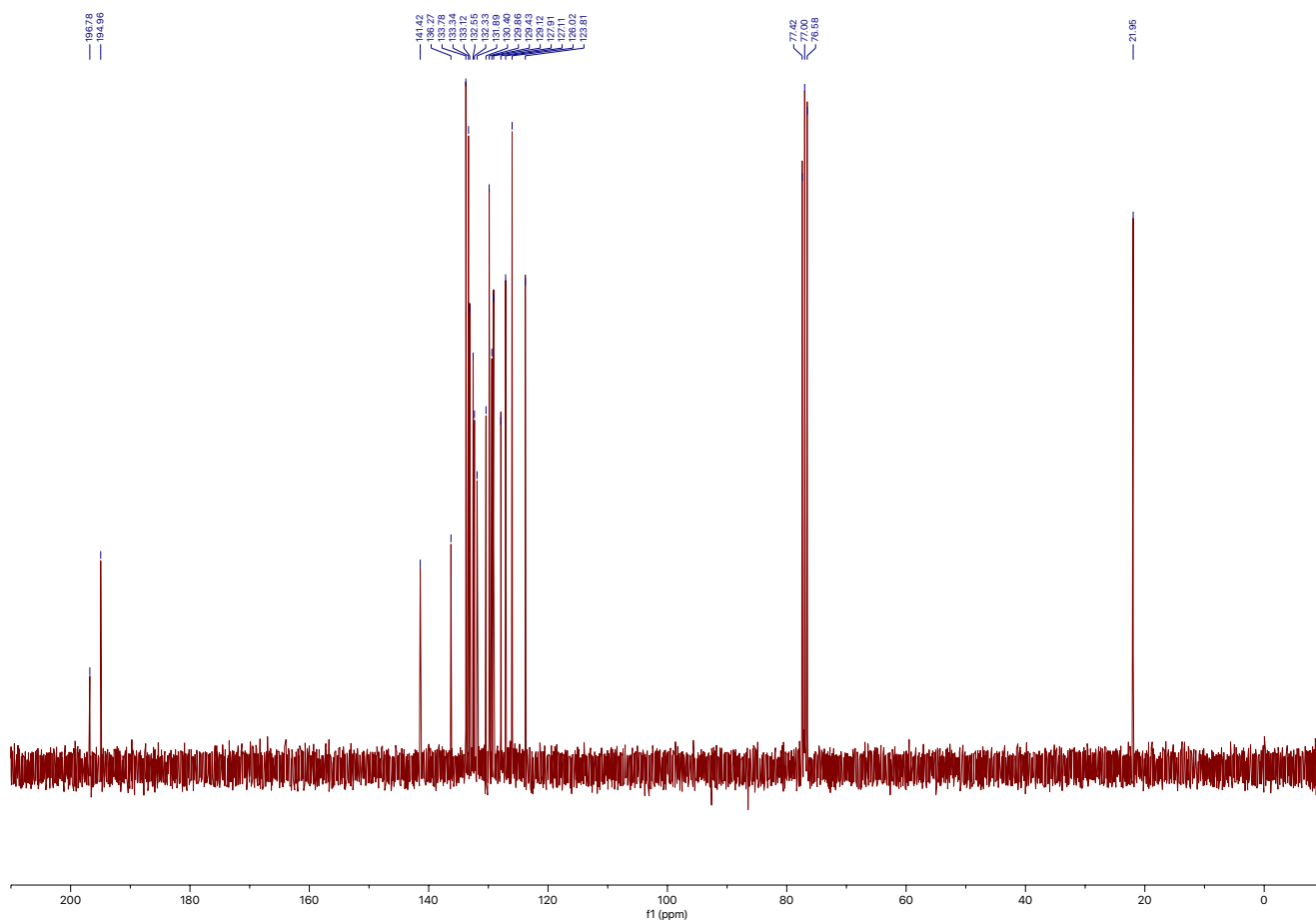
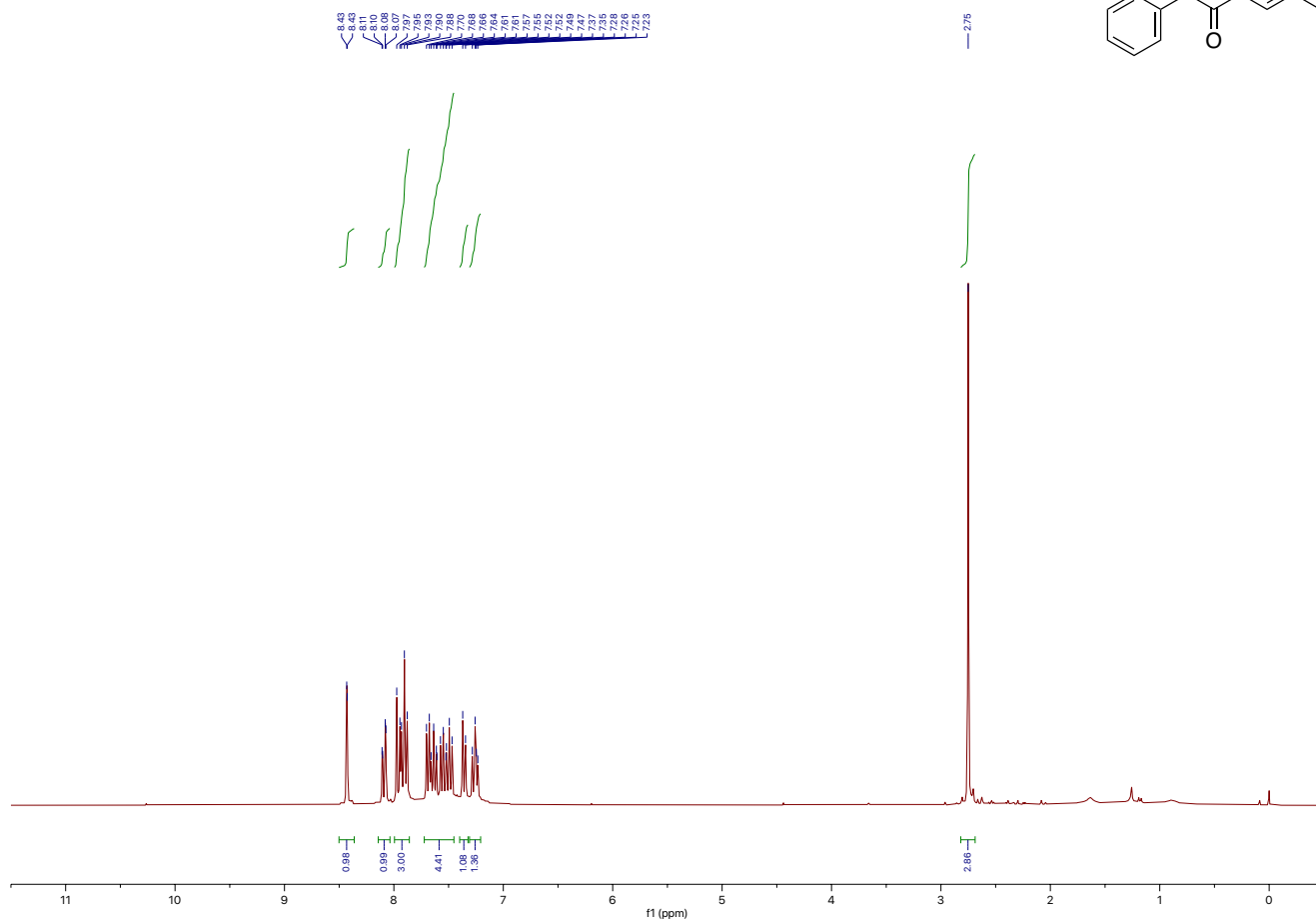
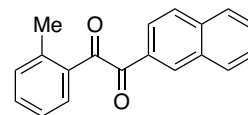
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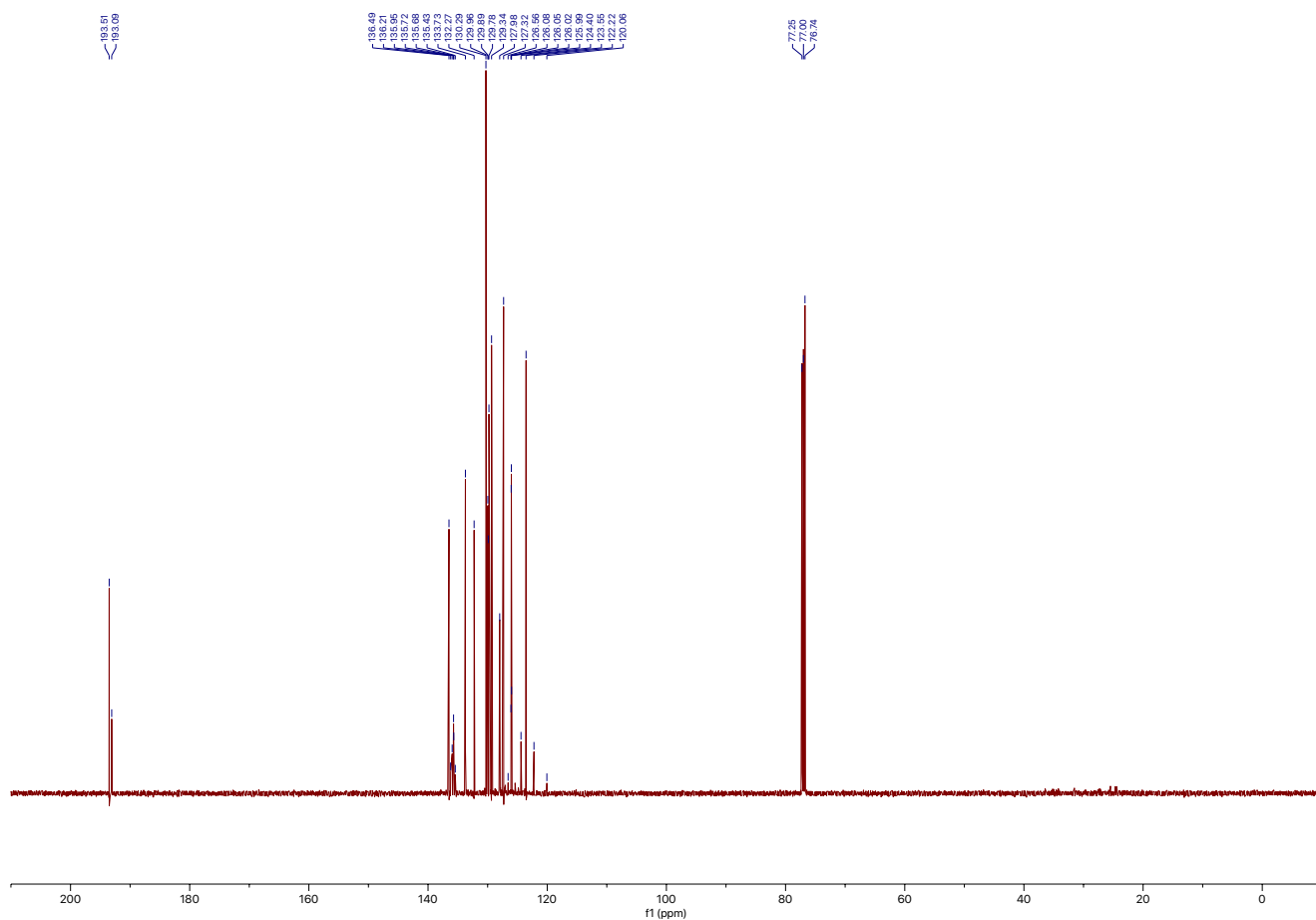
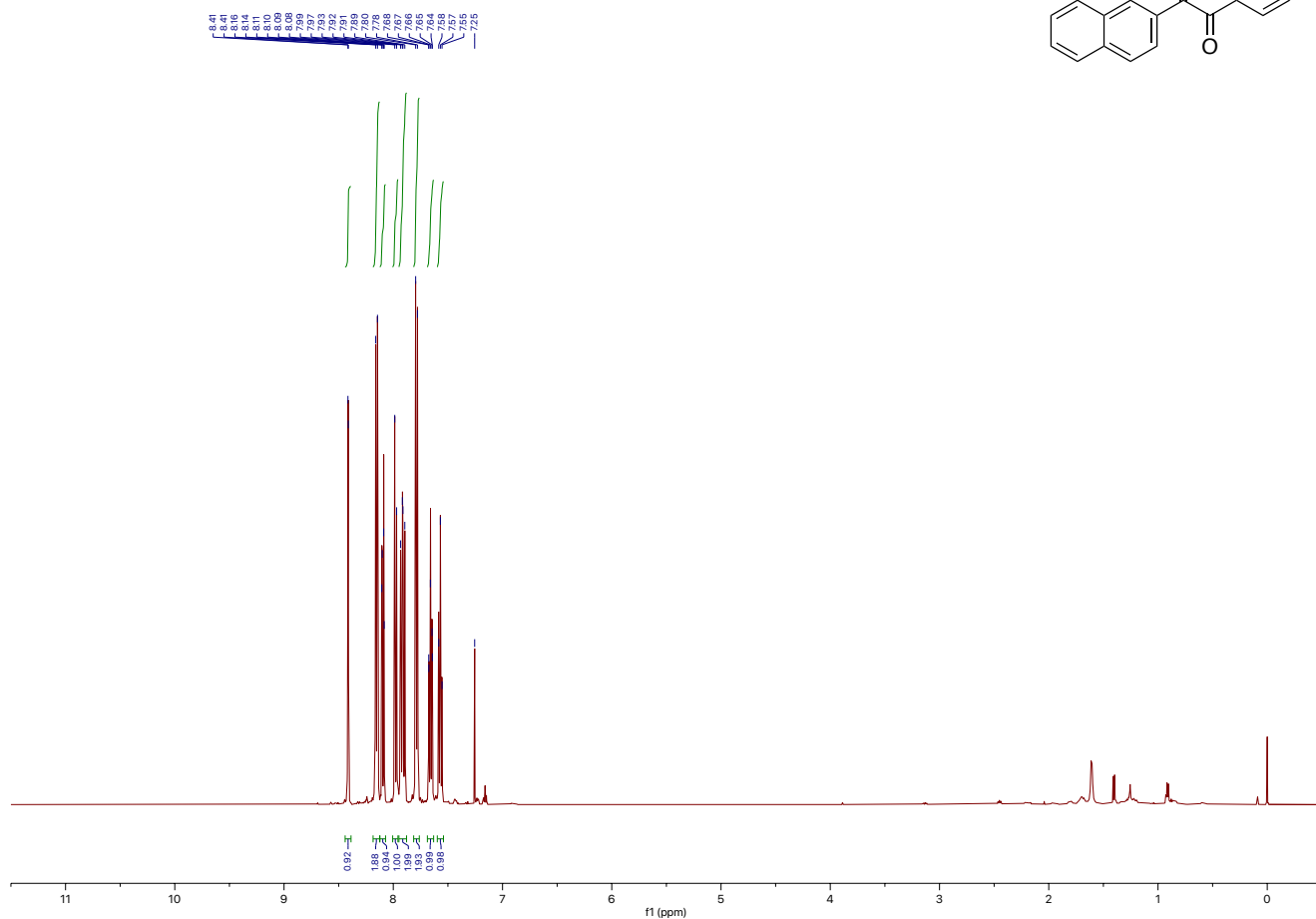
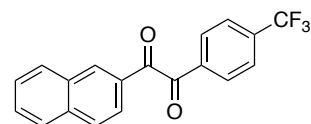
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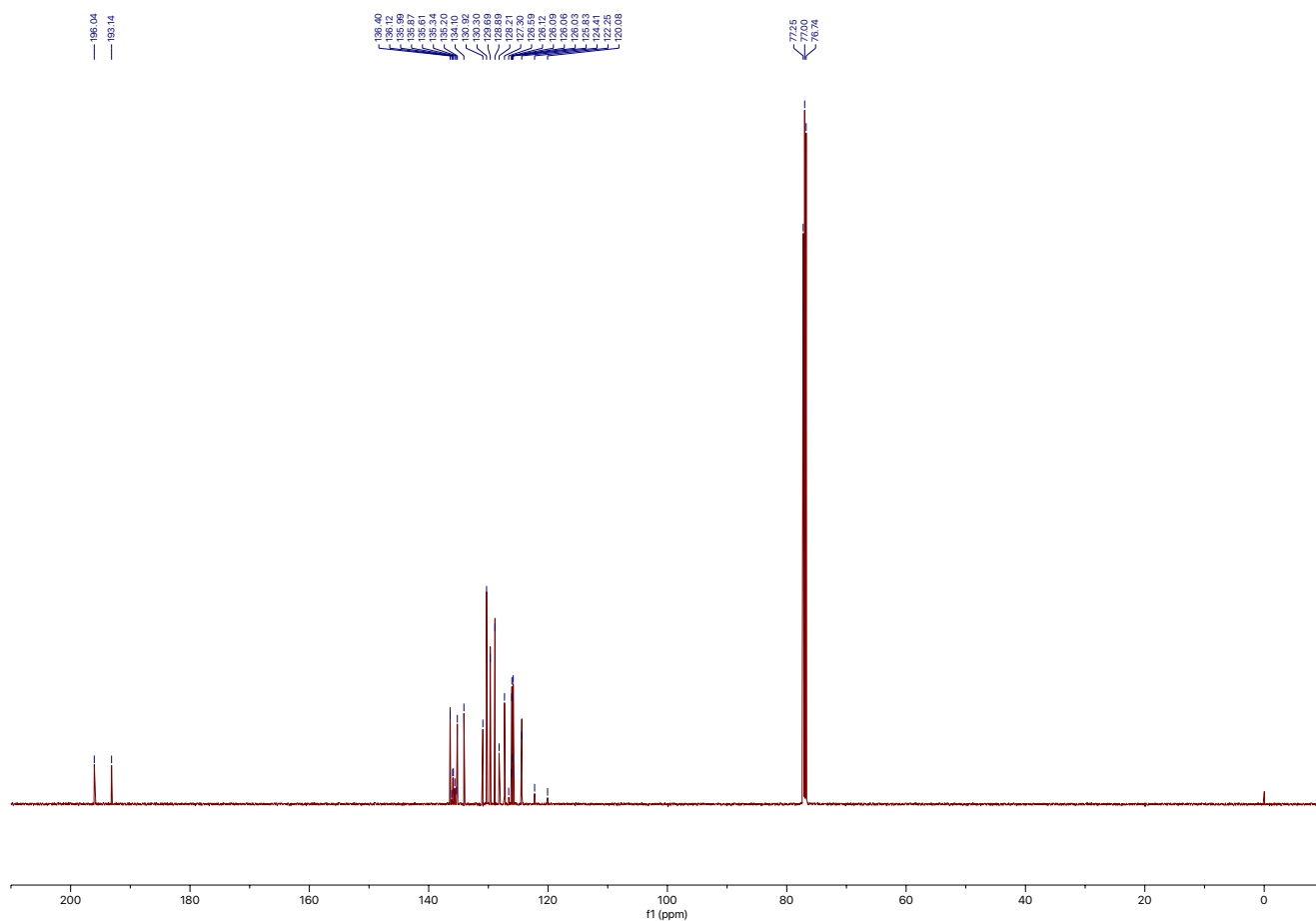
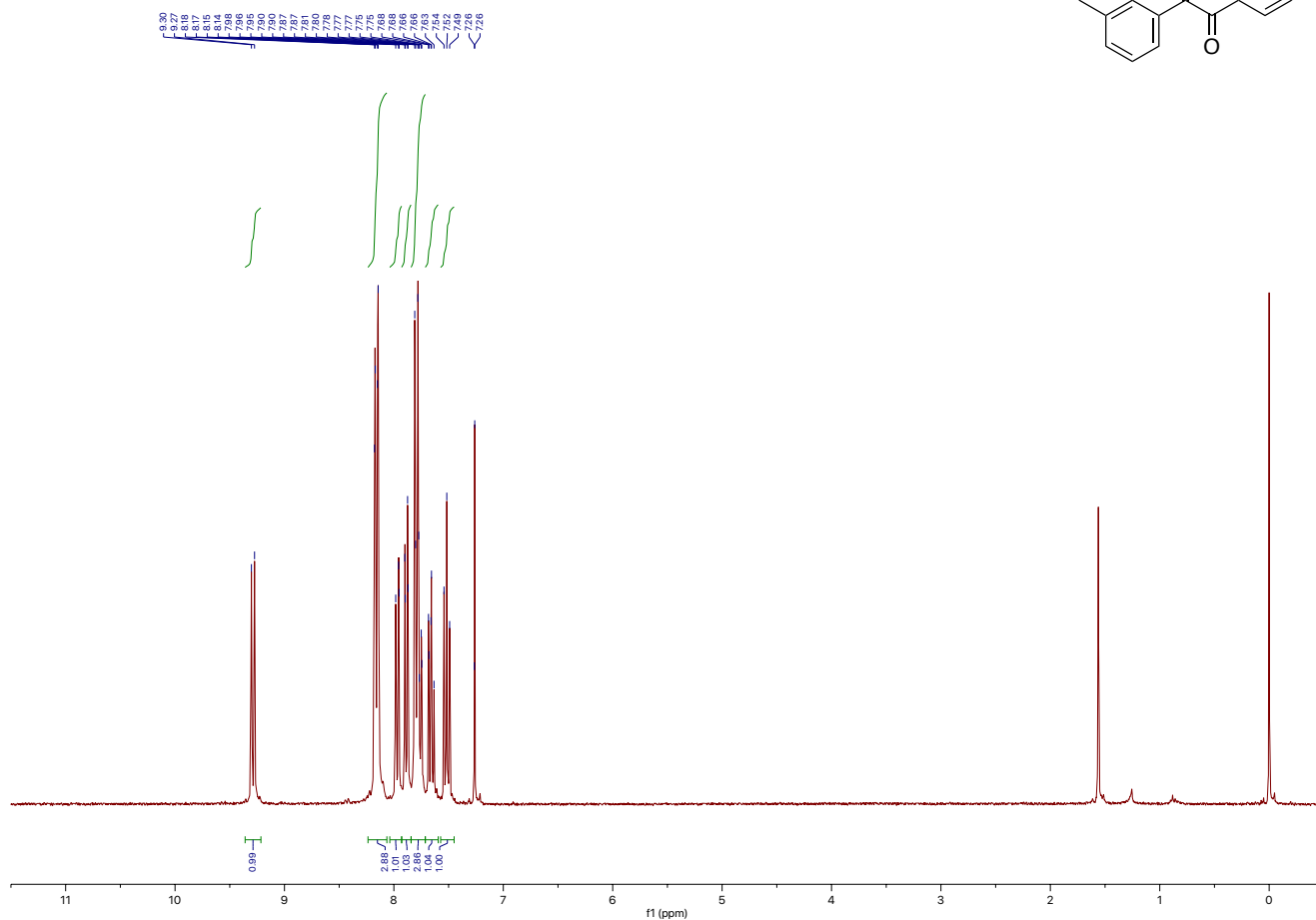
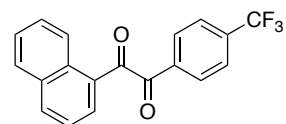
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3hf



3if



3kl

