

Supporting Information

Synthesis of indoline-fused eight-membered azaheterocycles through Zn-catalyzed dearomatization of indoles and subsequent base- promoted C–C activation

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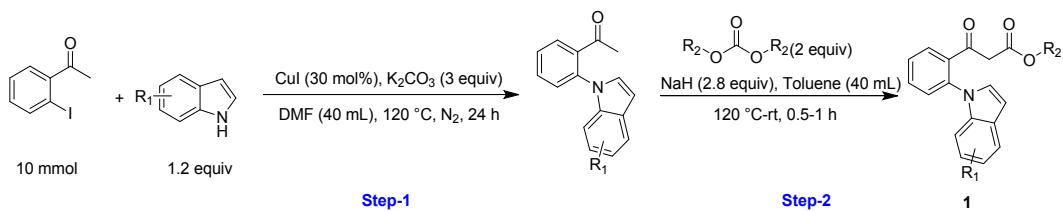
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1. Typical procedure for the synthesis of **1** and **2**



The benzoates tethered with ortho-indole moiety **1** were prepared according to the reference.^{1,2}

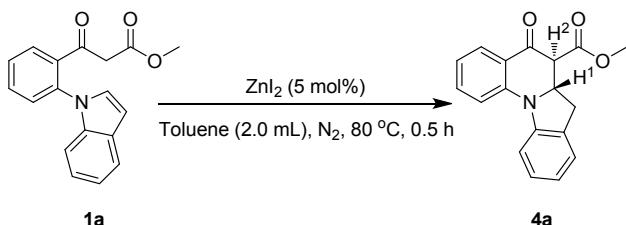
Step-1 To a DMF solution containing 1-(2-iodophenyl)ethanone (10.0 mmol, 2.46 g), indoles (12.0 mmol, 1.41 g) and CuI (3.0 mmol, 571.3 mg) was added K₂CO₃ (30.0 mmol, 4.15 g) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 120 °C. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with H₂O (10 mL), and extracted with EA (40 mL × 3). The organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude product. The residue was purified by silica gel column with petroleum ether/EA as the eluent to give the analytical pure 1-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)ethenone.

Step-2 To a dried 25-mL RBF was added NaH (28 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 1.12 g), dimethyl carbonate (20 mmol, 1.7 mL) and toluene (10 mL) under nitrogen. After the mixture was heated to reflux, a solution of 1-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl) phenyl)ethanone (10 mmol, 2.35 g) in toluene (5 mL) was added dropwise over 0.5 h. After the evolution of hydrogen ceased (15-20 min), the reaction was cooled down to room temperature. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into ice-water (10 mL), acidified with aqueous HCl (3 M) to PH 2~3 and extracted with EA (40 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/EA as the eluent to give the yellow oil methyl-3-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate **1a**.

The yrones **2** are known compounds and the spectroscopic data in

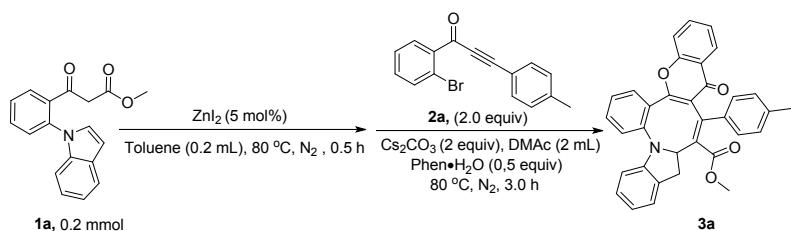
agreement with that previously reported³.

2. Synthesis of 4a



In a schlenk tube methyl 3-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate **1a** (0.20 mmol, 58.6 mg), ZnI₂ (0.01 mmol, 3.2 mg) and toluene (2.0 mL) were stirred at 80 °C for 0.5 h under N₂. After the reaction was completed as monitored by thin-layer chromatography, water was then added to the reaction mixture, and the water layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) afforded desired compound **4a** (yellow solid, 56.9 mg, 97% yield). The stereochemistry of **4a** was assigned on the basis of its spectral data (*J*_{H1H2} = 13.2 Hz).⁴

3. Synthesis of 3a



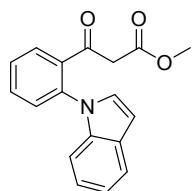
In a schlenk tube methyl 3-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)-3-oxopropanoate **1a** (0.20 mmol, 58.7 mg), ZnI₂ (0.01 mmol, 3.2 mg) and toluene (0.2 mL) were stirred at 80 °C under N₂. After 0.5 h, 1-(2-bromophenyl)-3-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-one **2a** (0.4 mmol, 119.7 mg), Cs₂CO₃ (0.4 mmol, 130.3 mg), phen-H₂O (0.1 mmol, 19.8 mg) and DMAc (2.0 mL) were added. After the completion of the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to react at 80 °C for 3 h in N₂. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to room

temperature and treated with H₂O, then extracted with EA and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removal of the EA, the residue was purified by chromatography on basic silica gel (PE/EA = 10:1) to afford **3a** (yellow solid, 78.9 mg, 77%).

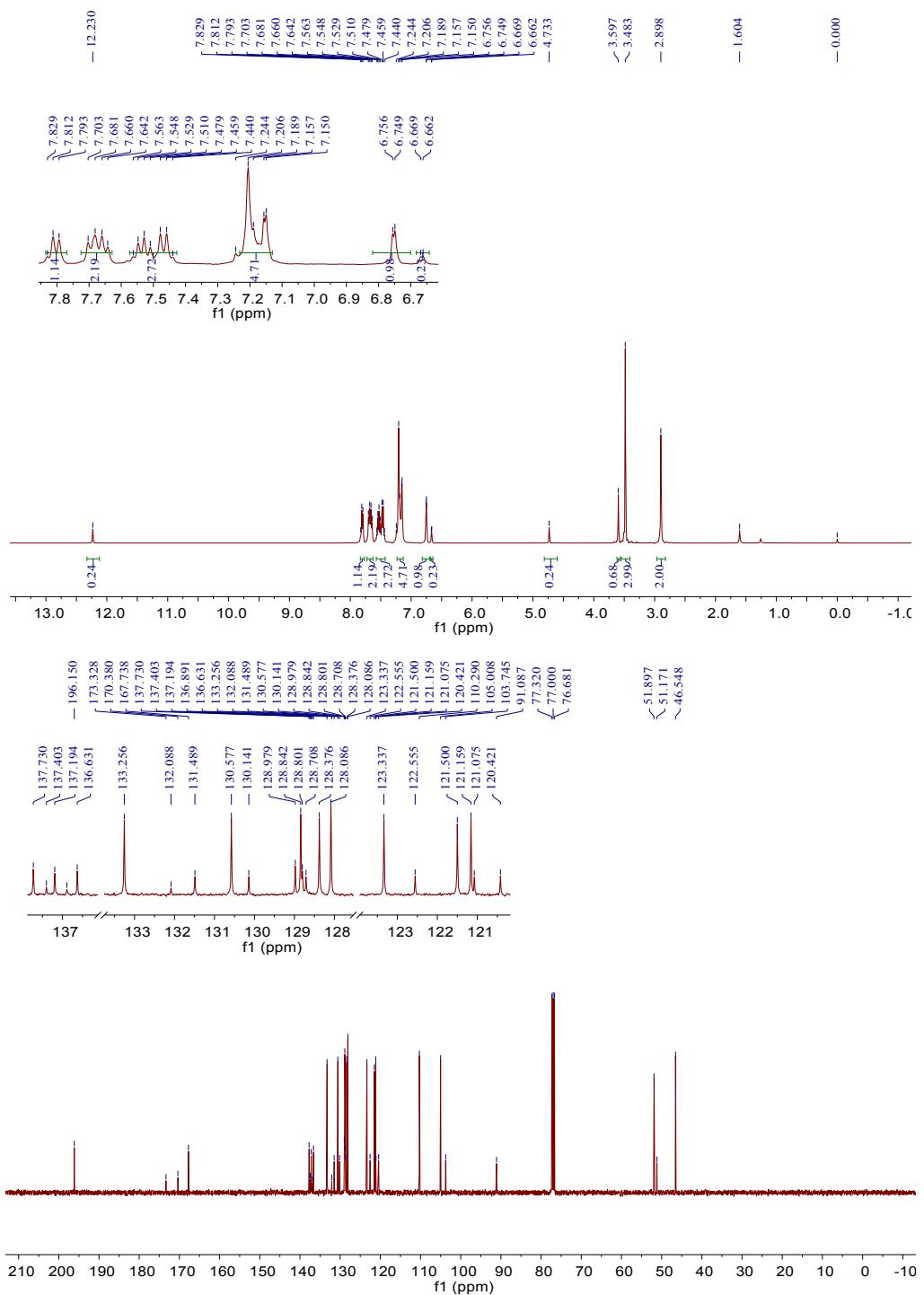
4. References

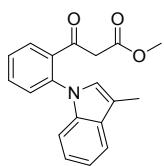
1. (a) S. E. Kiruthika, A. Nandakumar and P. T. Perumal, *Org Lett.*, **2014**, *16*, 4424.
(b) T. Y. Ko and S. W. Youn, *Adv Synth Catal.*, **2016**, *358*, 2059.
2. (a) W. Tang, W. Wang, Y. Chi and X. Tang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2003**, *42*, 3509.
(b) J. Sun, X. Zhen, H. Ge, G. Zhang, X. An and Y. Du, *Beilstein J. Org. Chem.*, **2018**, *14*, 1452.
3. (a) Y. Zhou, X. Tao, Q. Yao, Y. Zhao and Y. Li, *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2016**, *22*, 17936. (b) M. Wang, L. Kong, Y. Wang, B. Song, Y. Sun, R. Tang and Y. Li, *Org. Lett.*, **2018**, *20*, 6130. (c) M. Wang, Y. Yang, B. Song, L. Yin, S. Yan and Y. Li, *Org. Lett.*, **2020**, *22*, 155. (d) Y. Yuan, Z. Guo, Y. Mu, Y. Wang, M. Xu and Y. Li, *Adv Synth Catal.*, **2020**, *362*, 1298.
4. S. Mühlmel, D. Alpers, F. Hoffmann, and M. Brasholz, *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2015**, *21*, 12308-12312.

5. Copies of spectra of new products

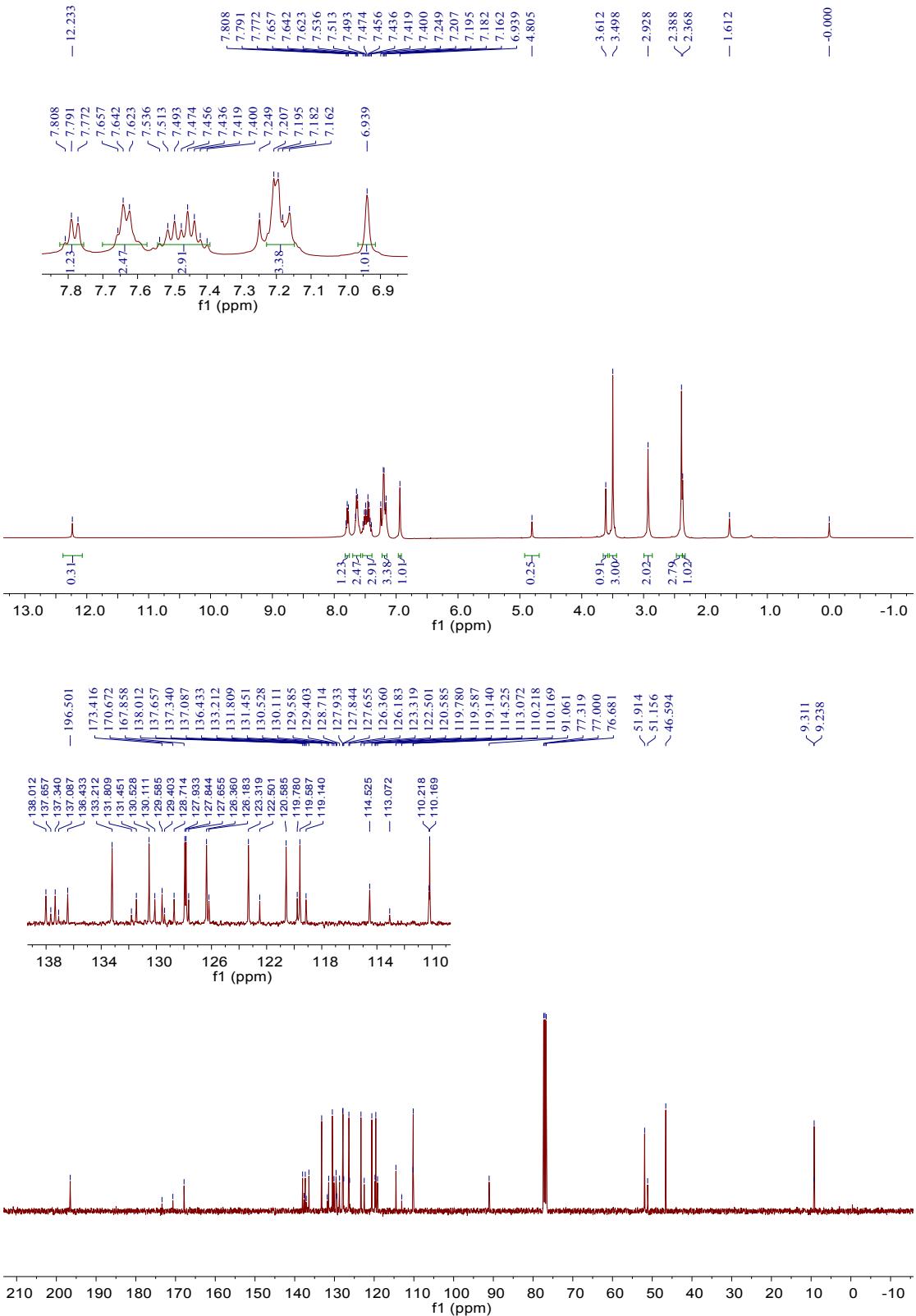


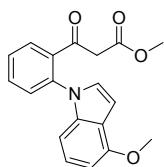
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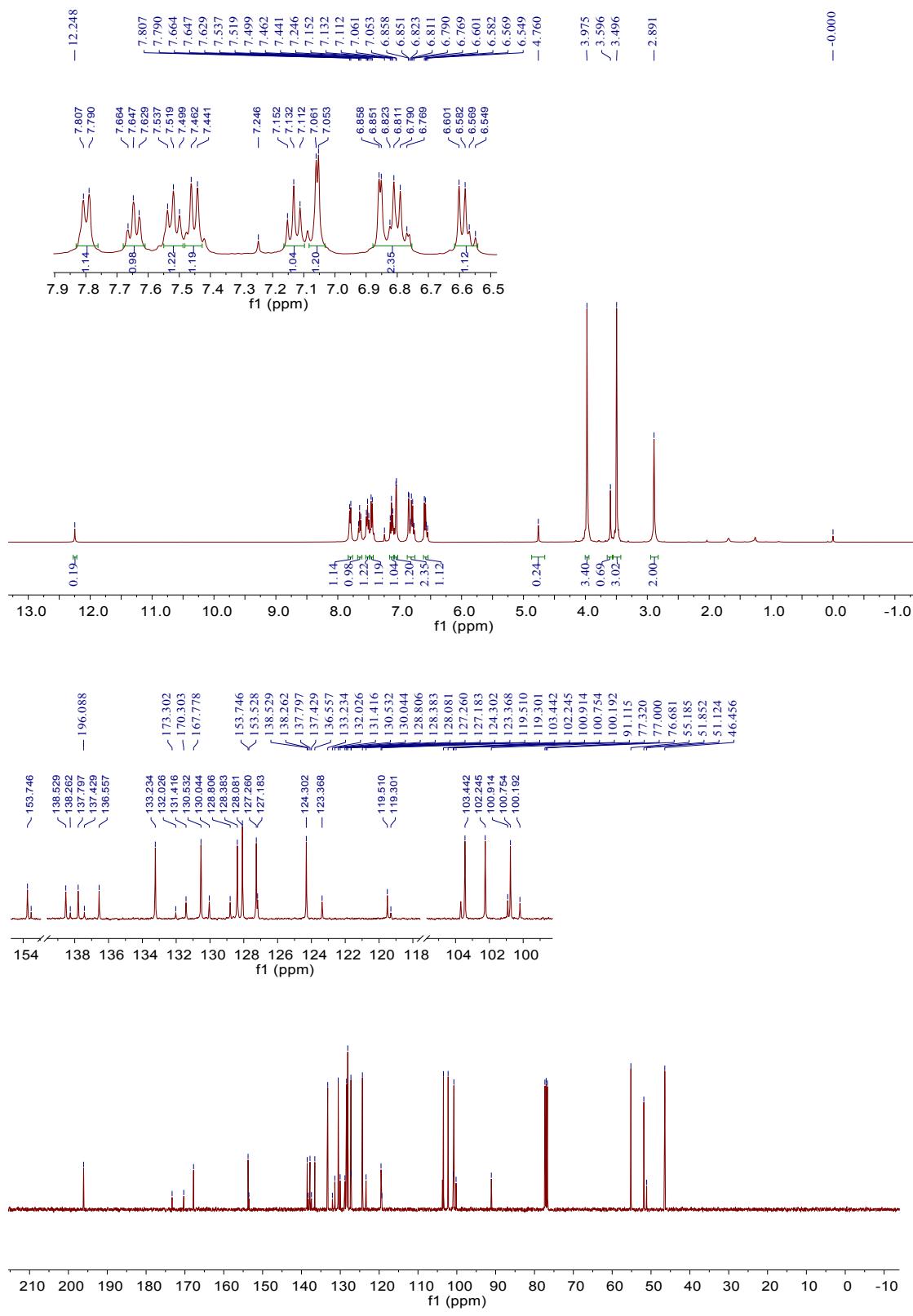


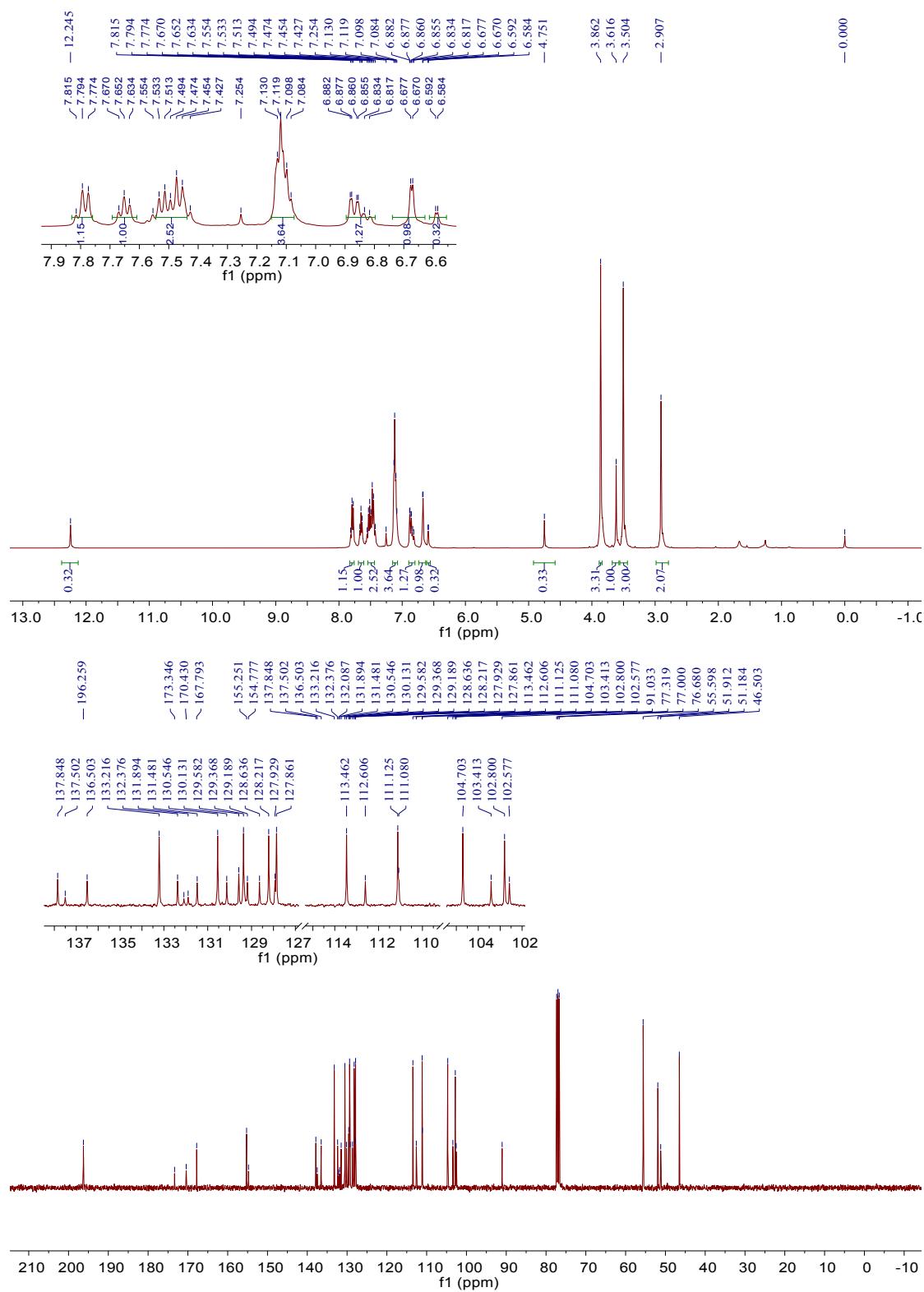
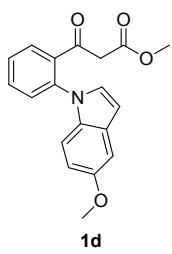
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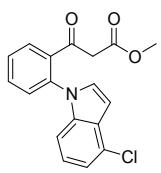




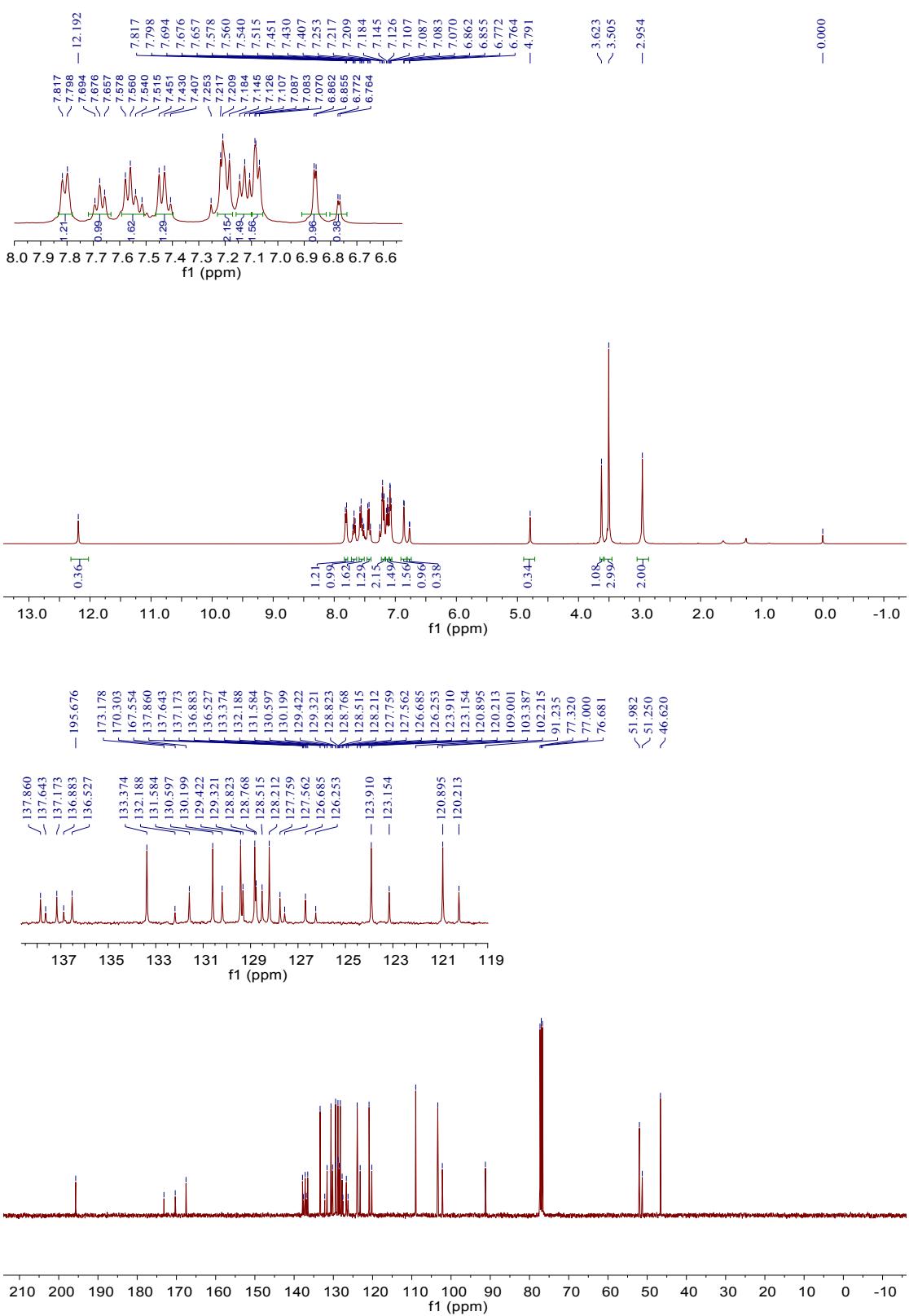
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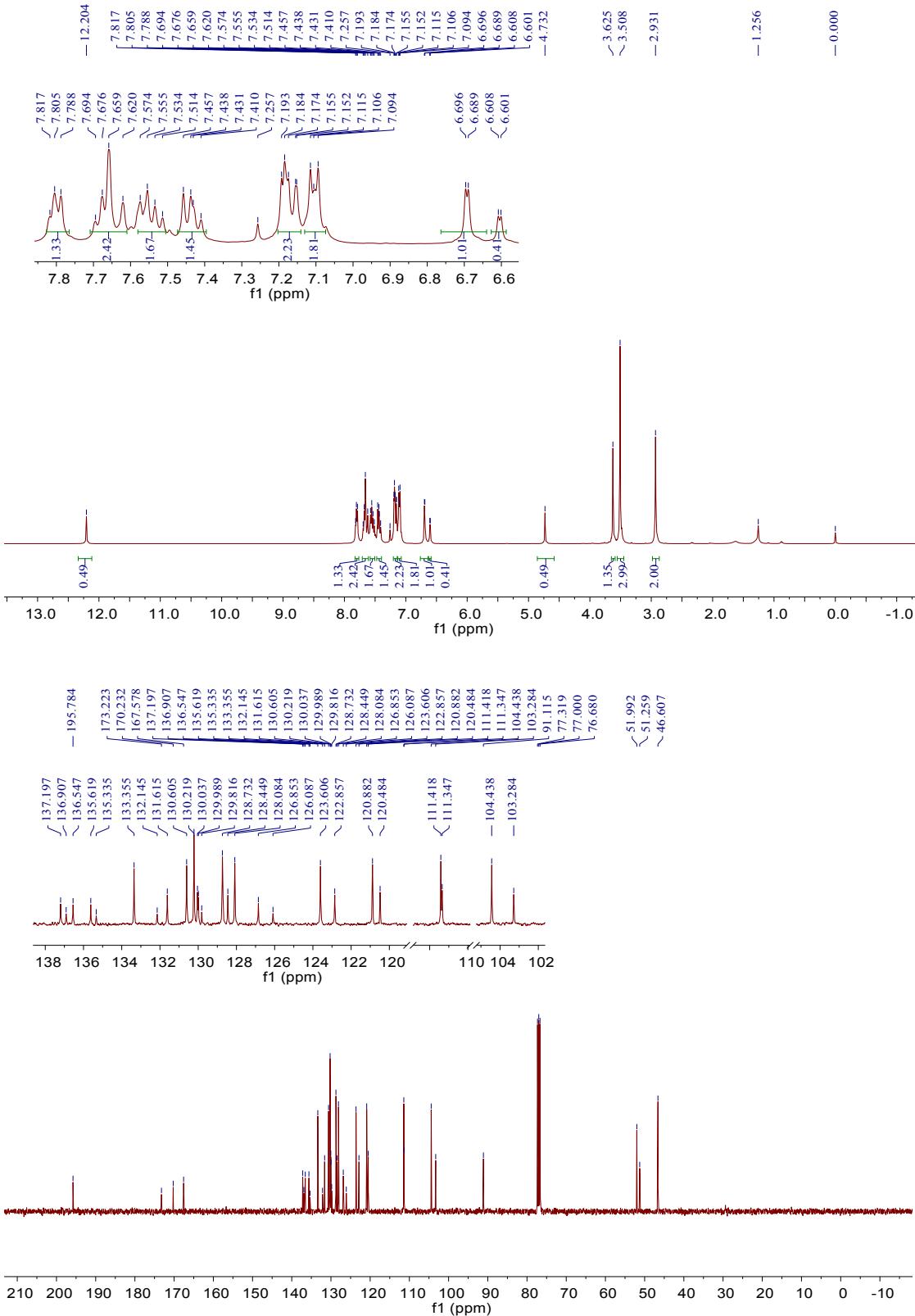
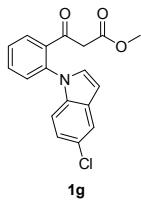


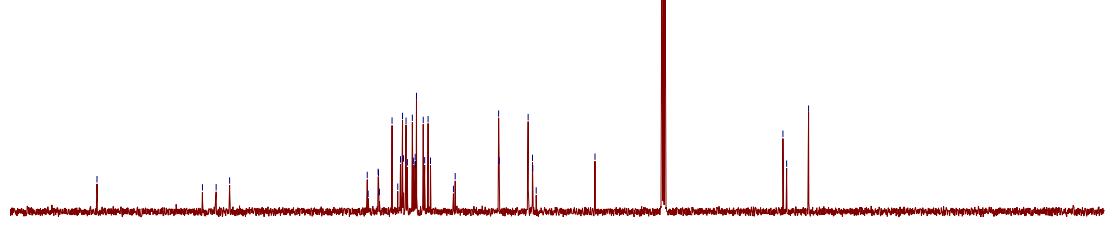
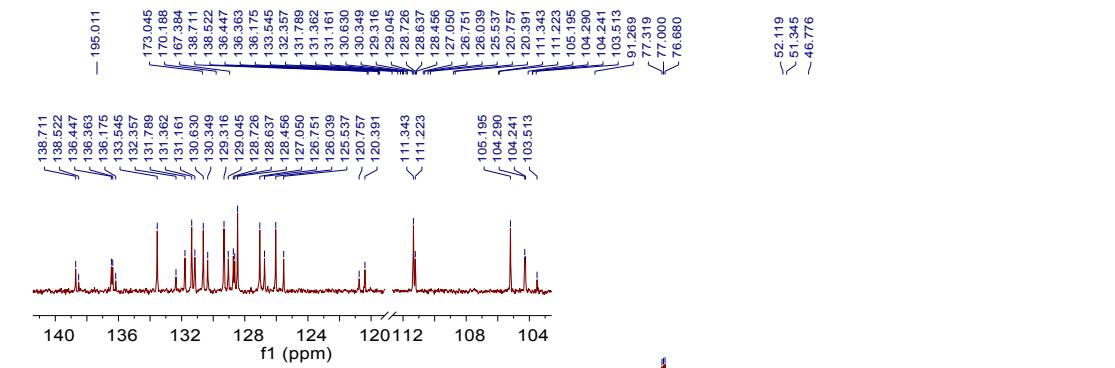
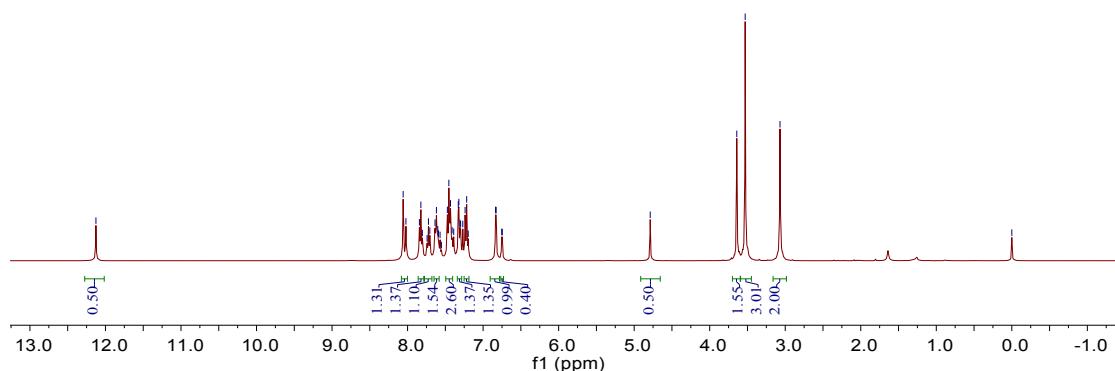
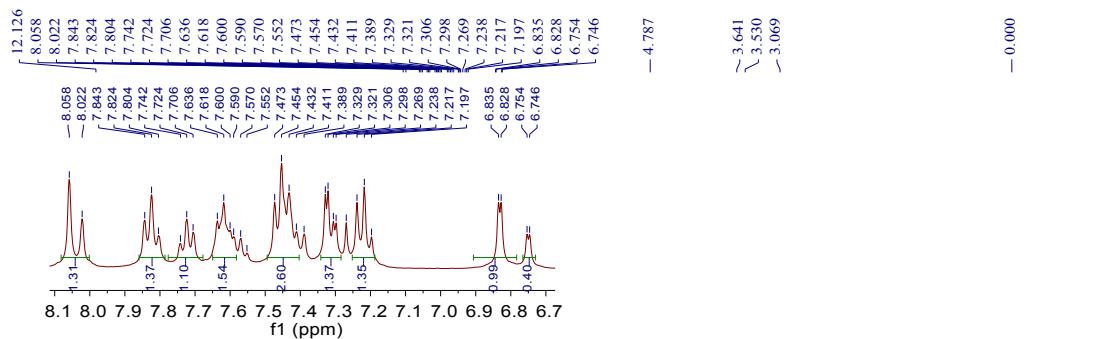
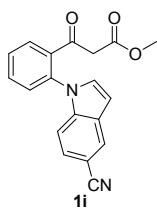


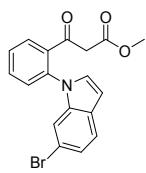


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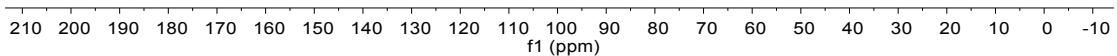
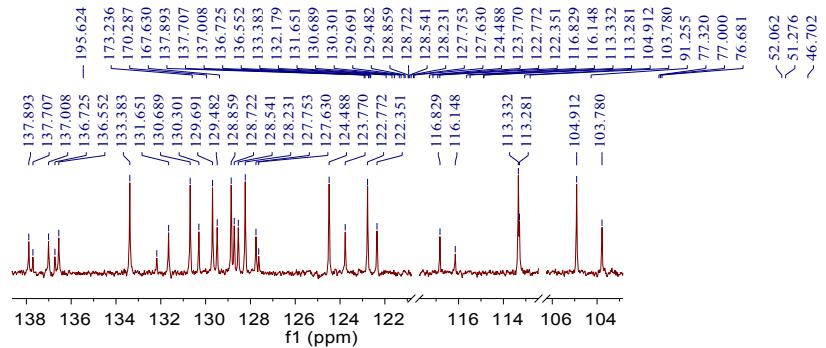
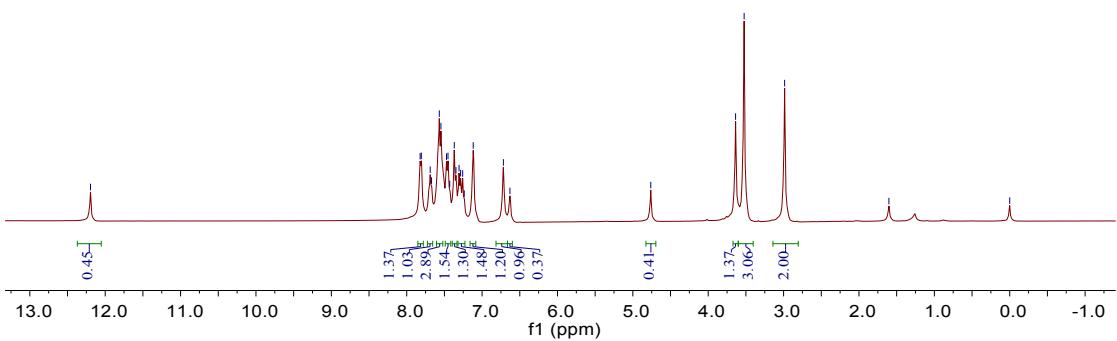
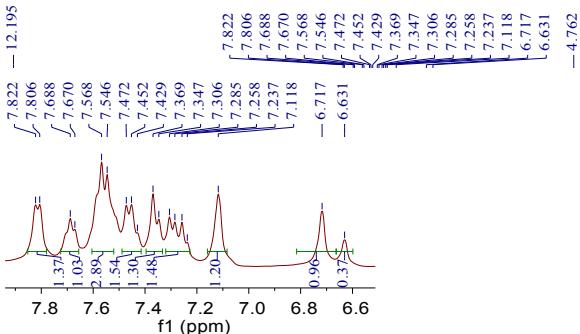


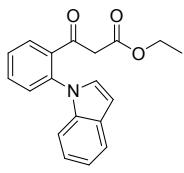




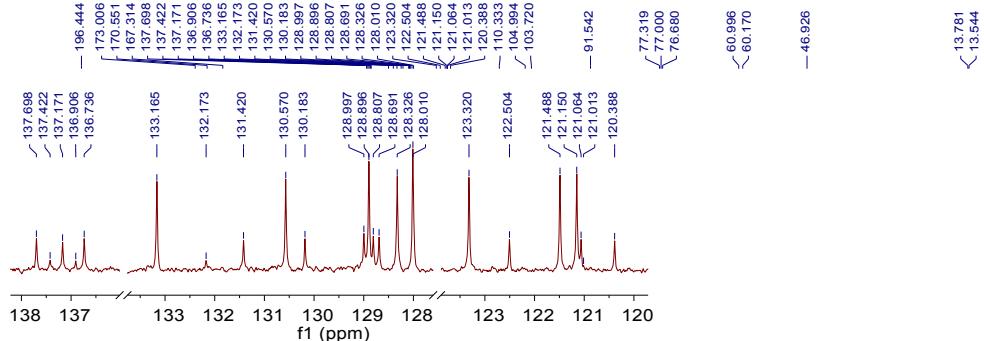
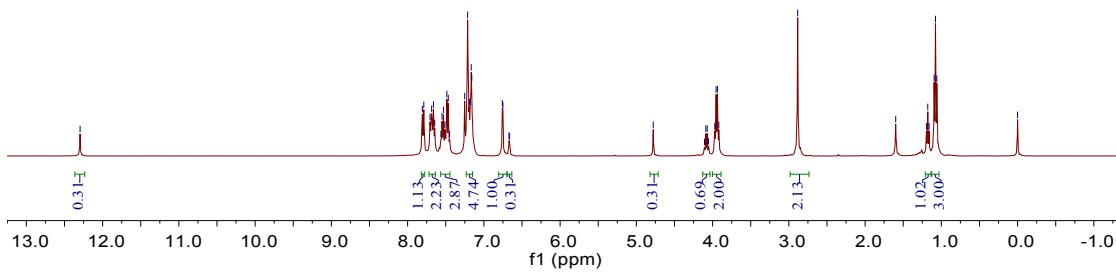
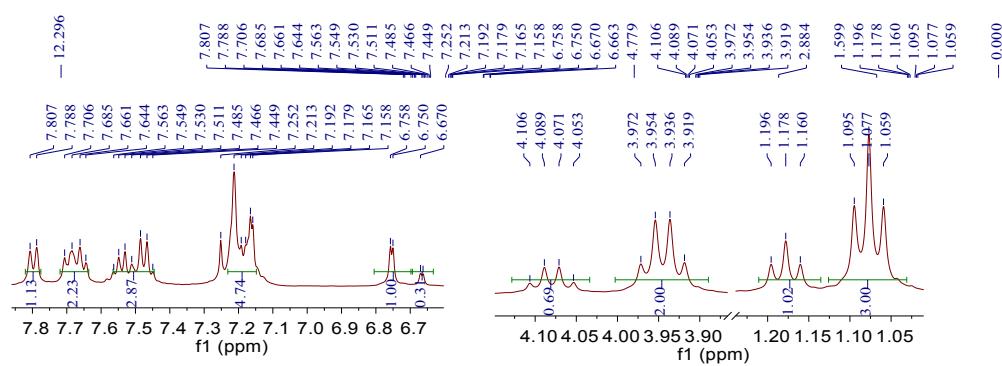


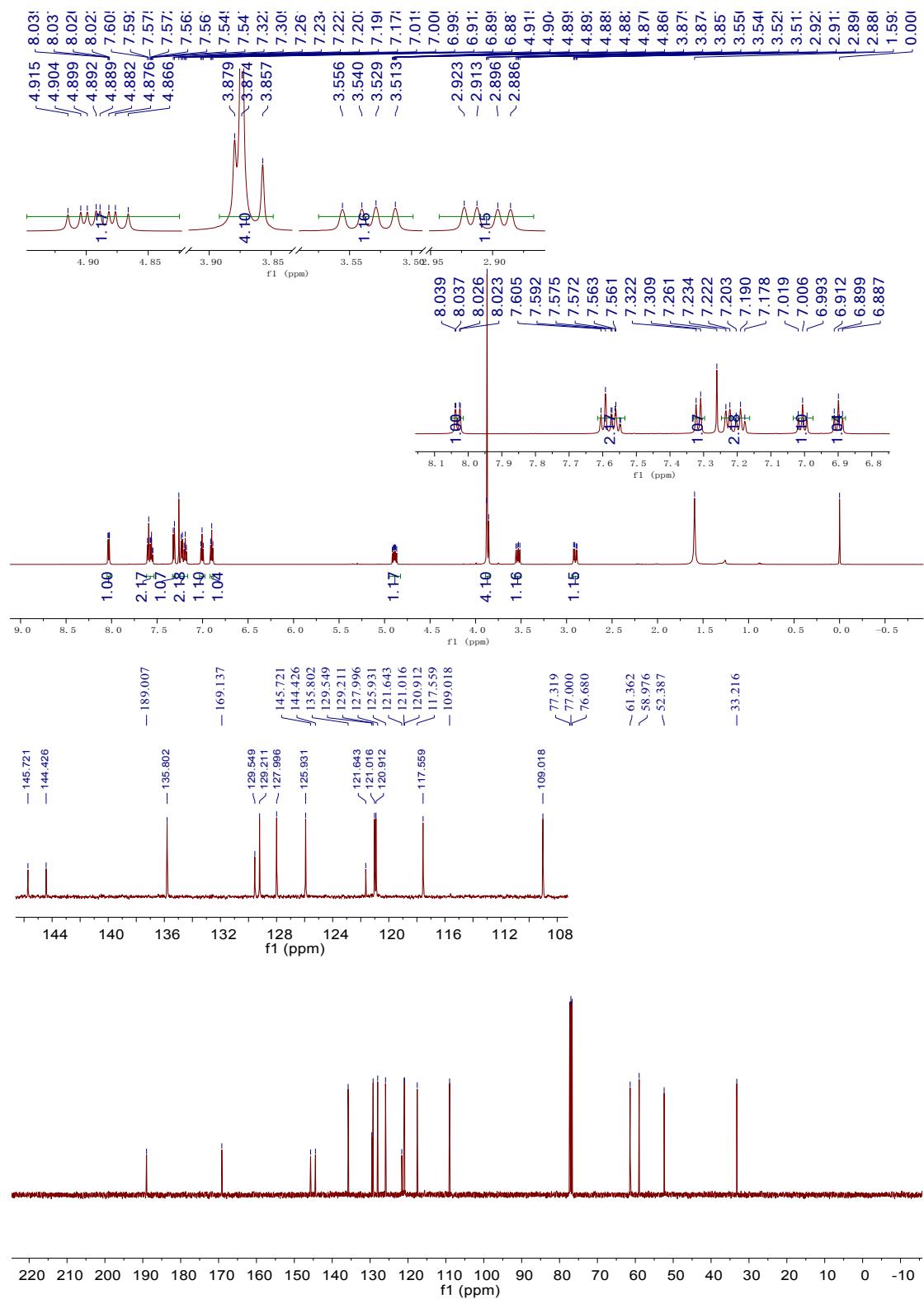
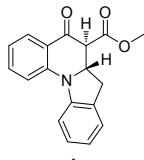
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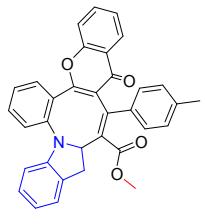




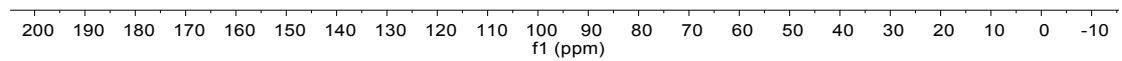
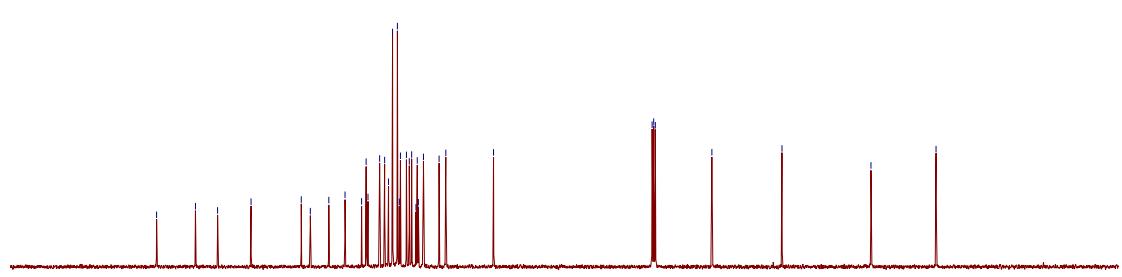
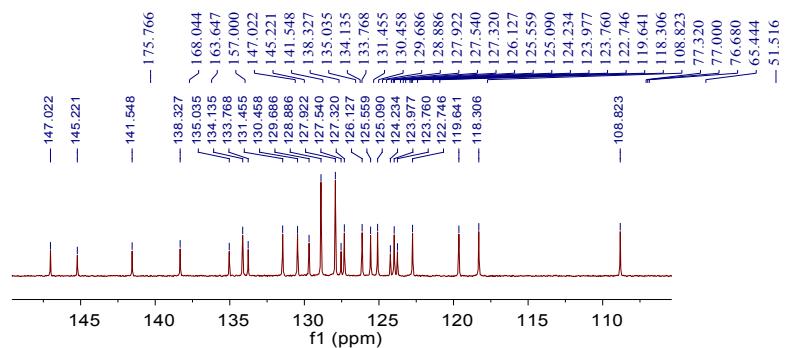
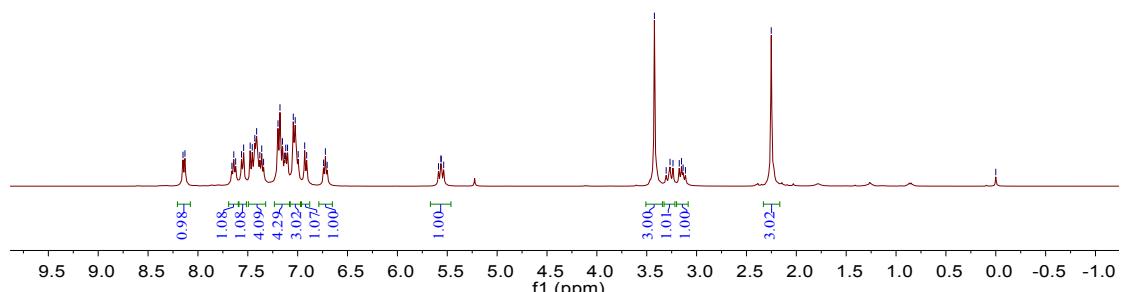
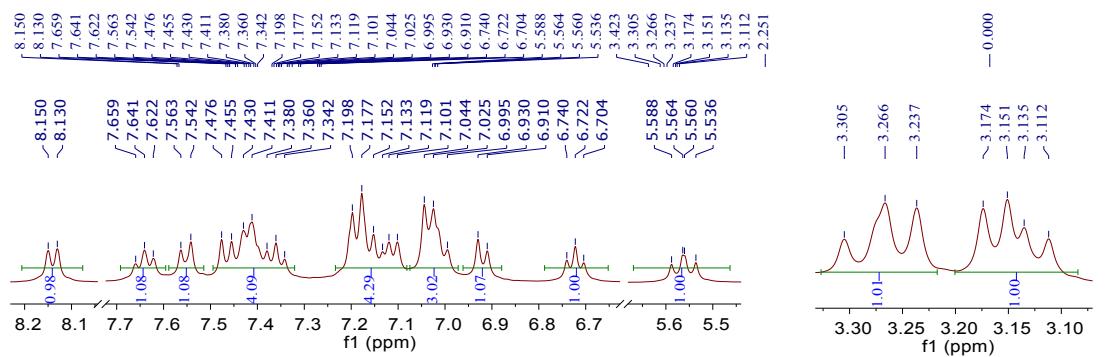
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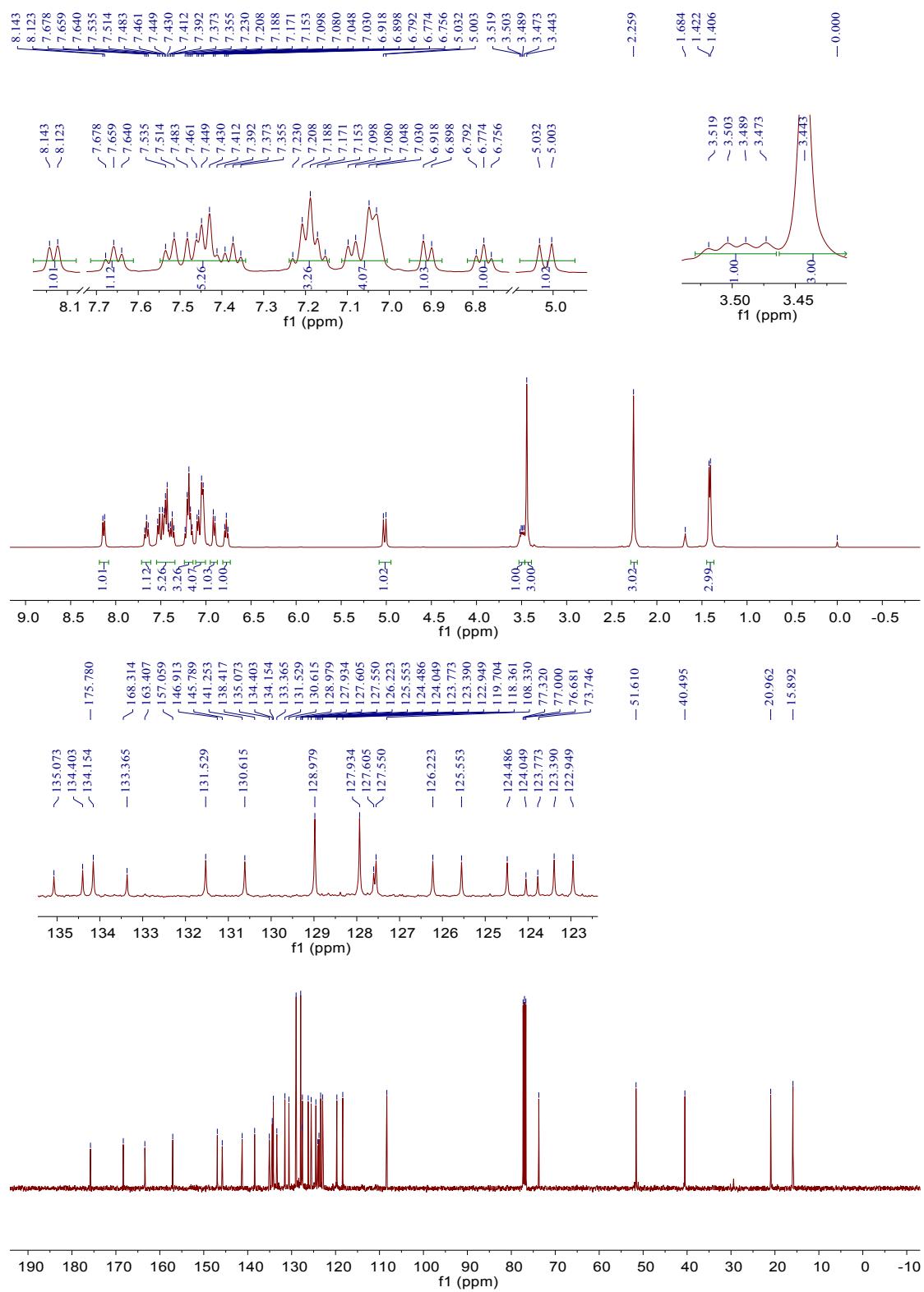
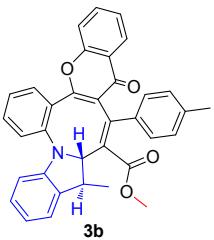




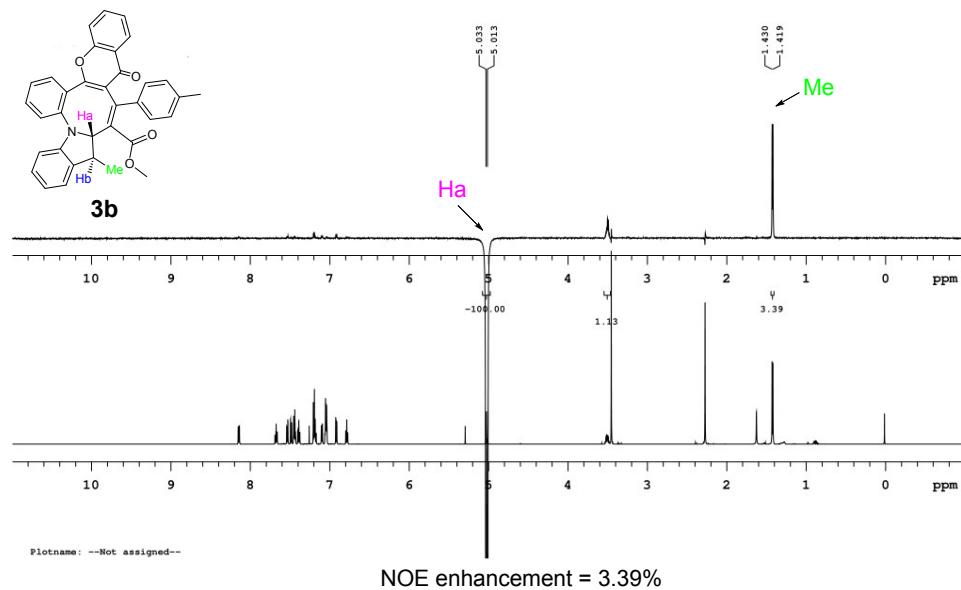


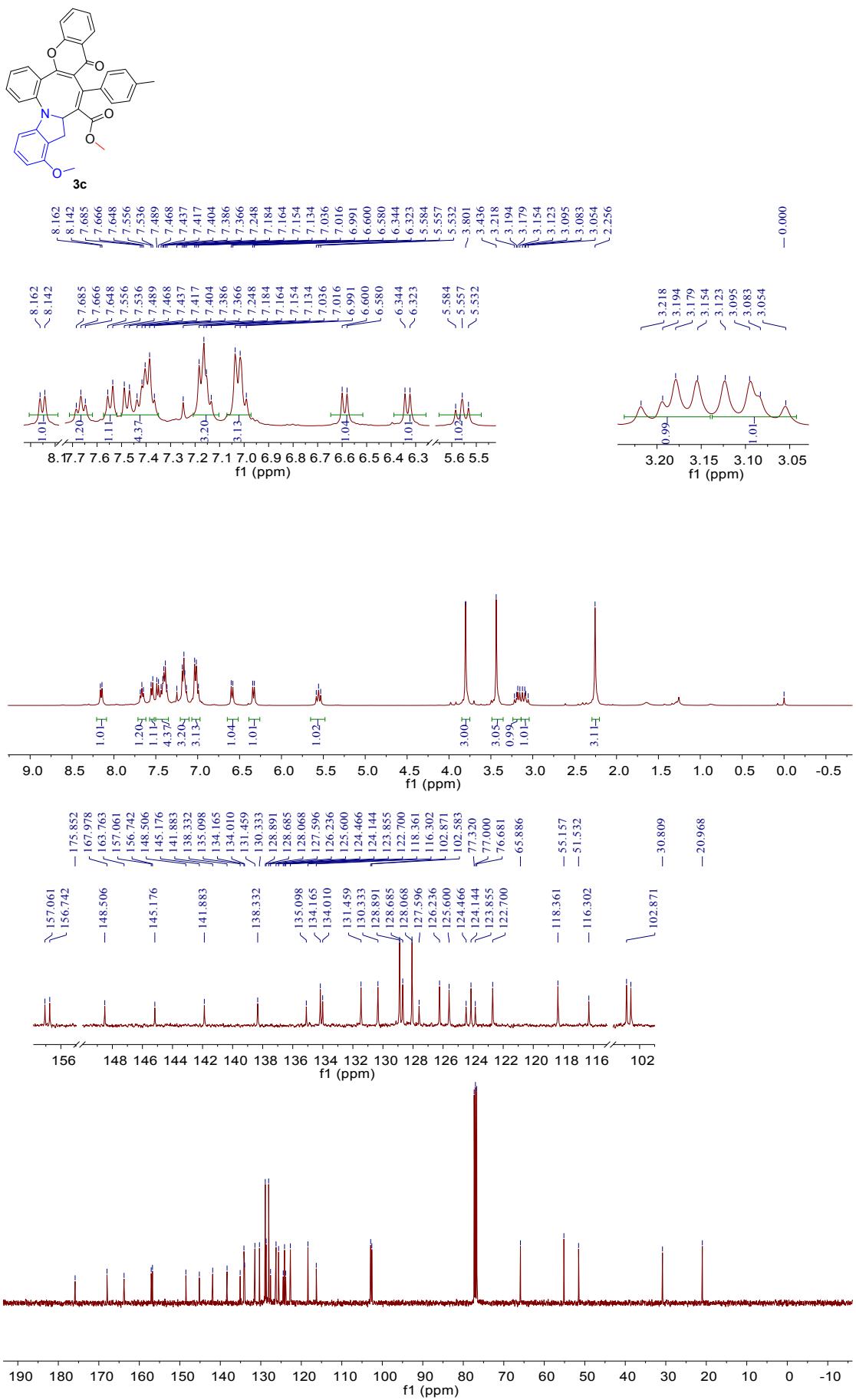
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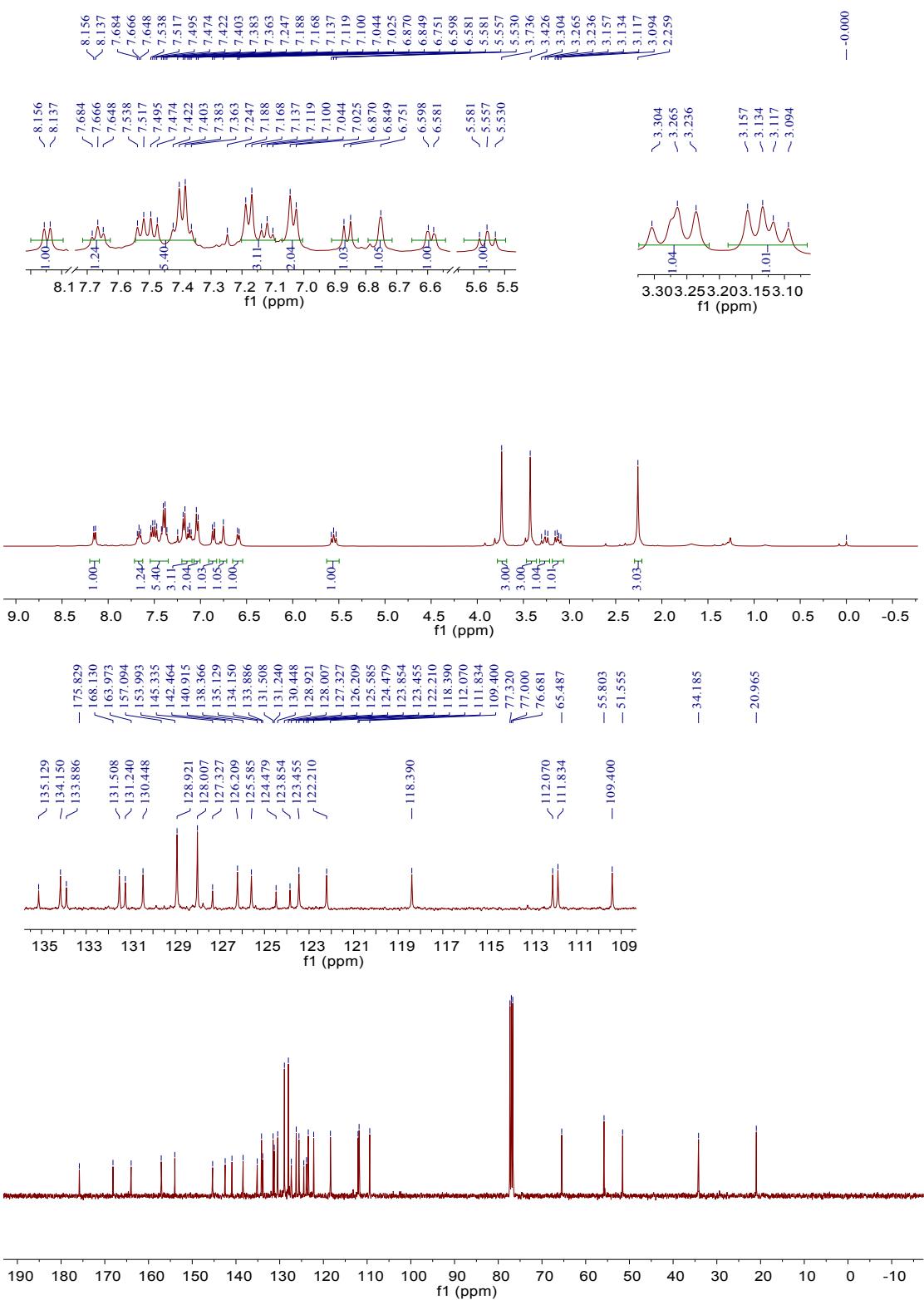
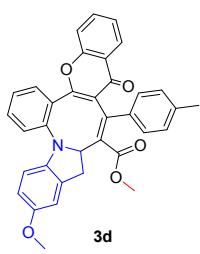


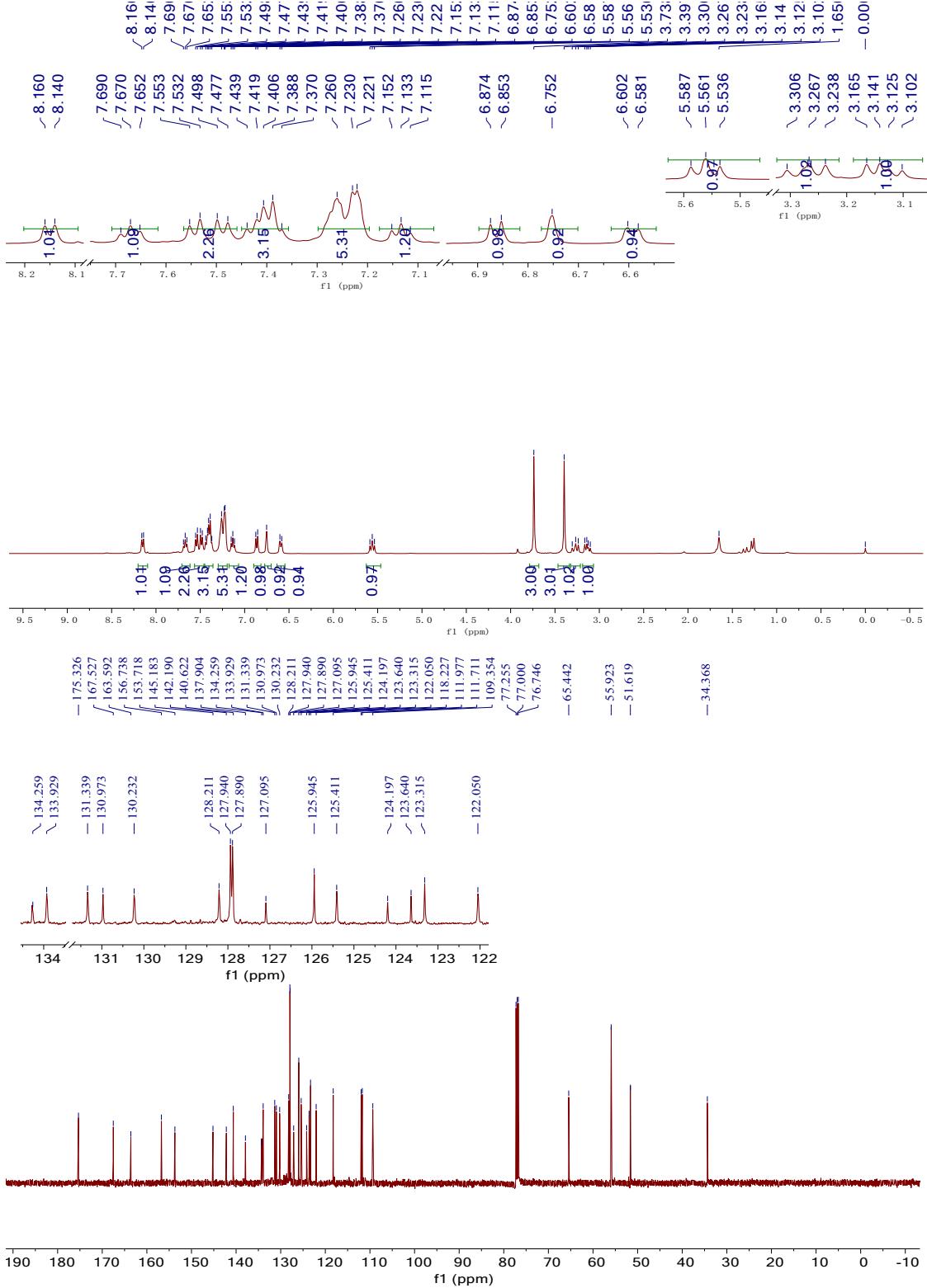
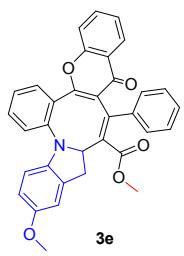


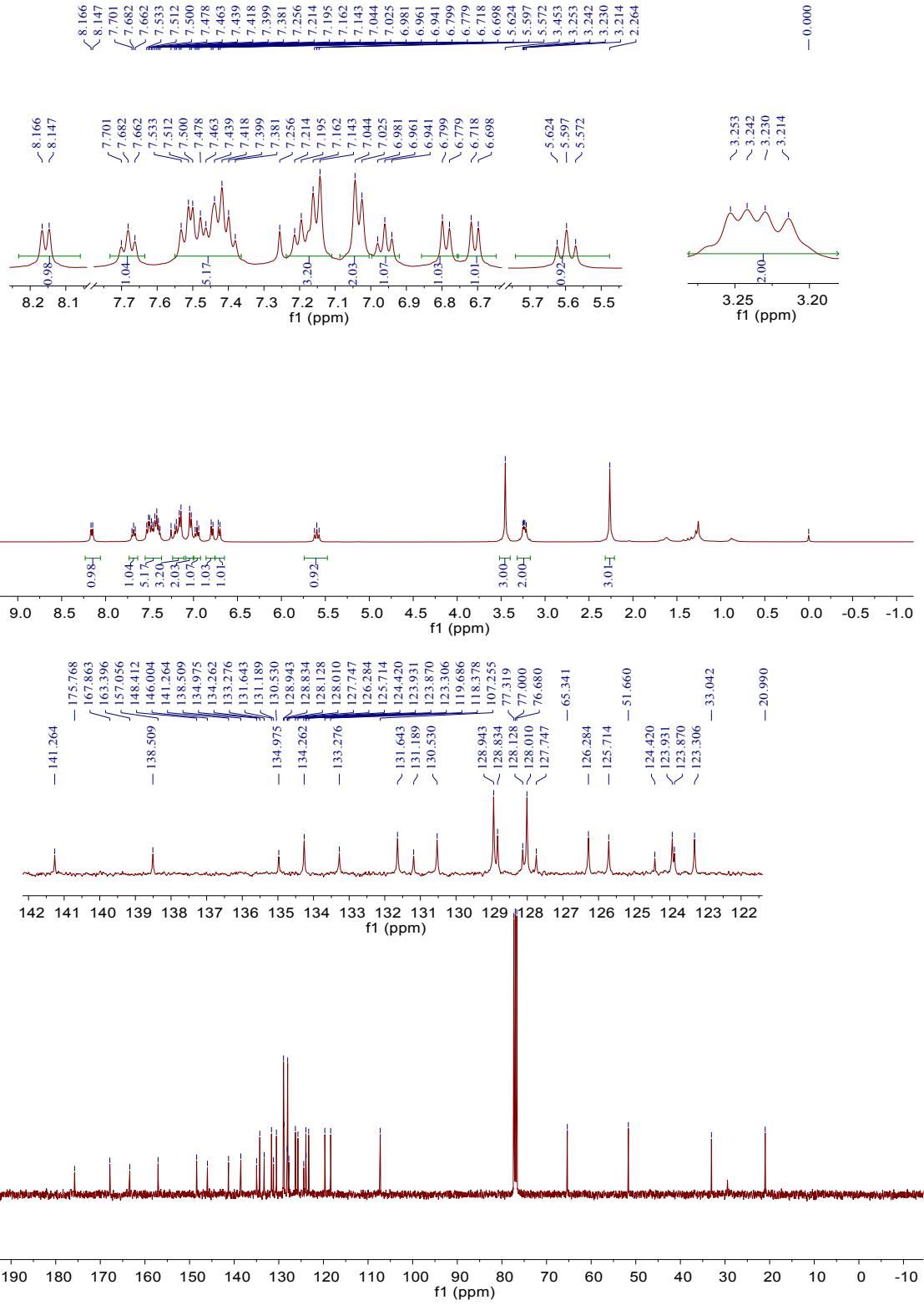
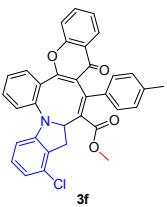
6. The 1D NOESY spectra of 3b

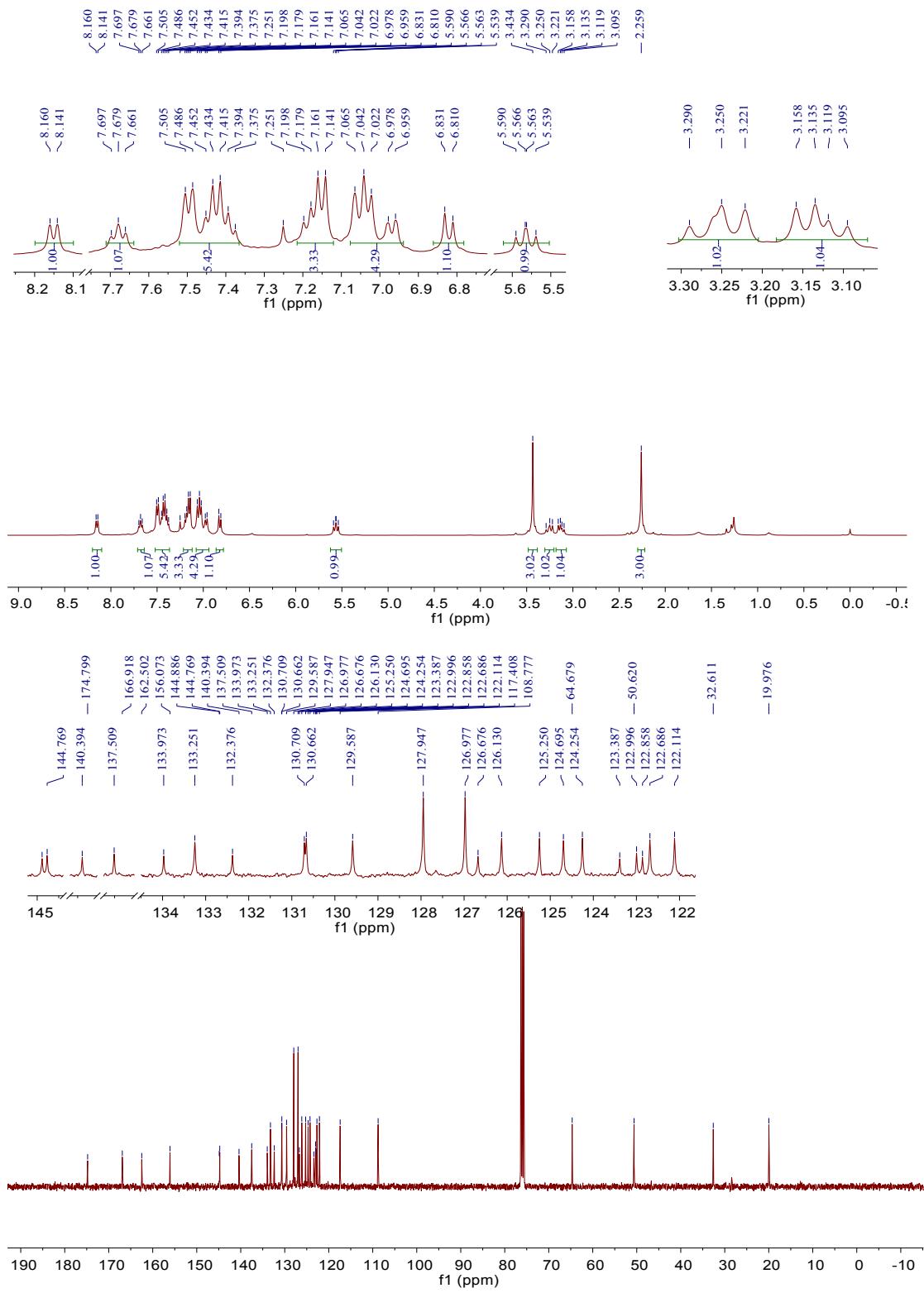
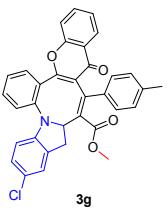


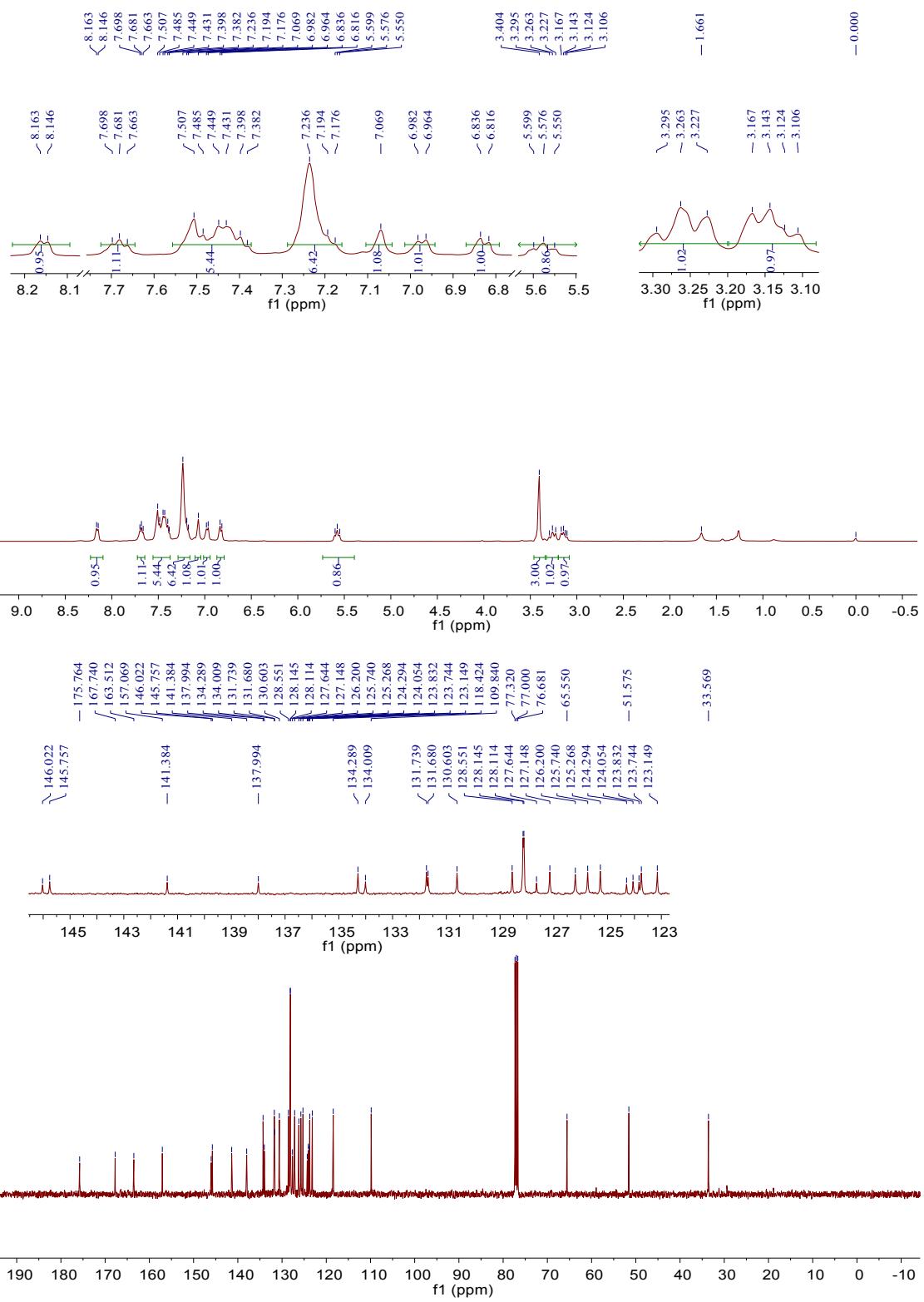
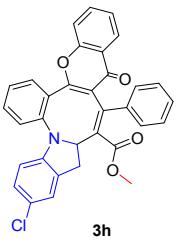


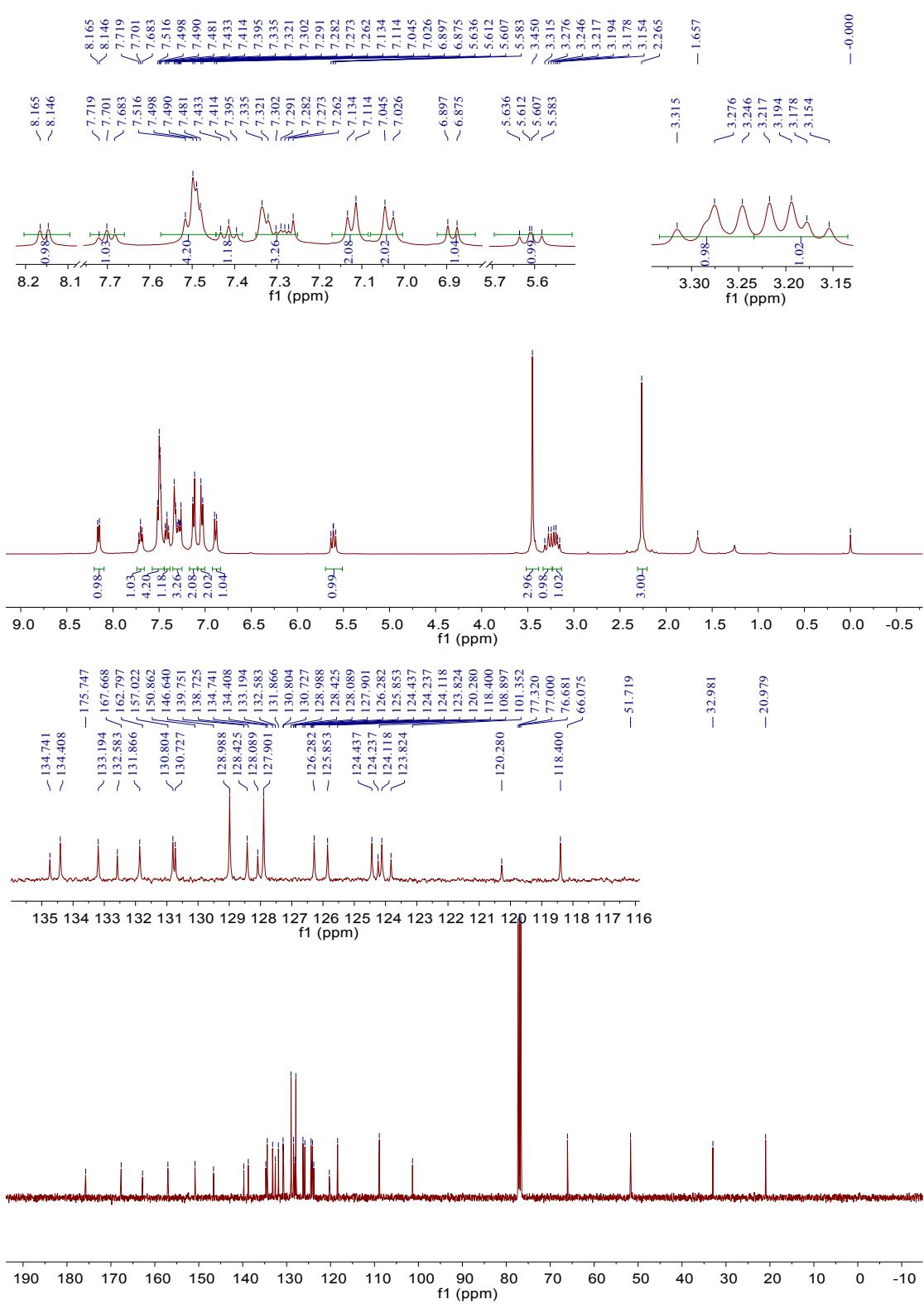
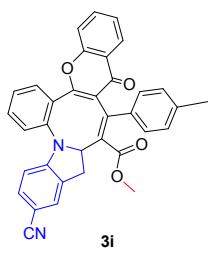


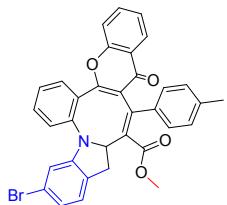




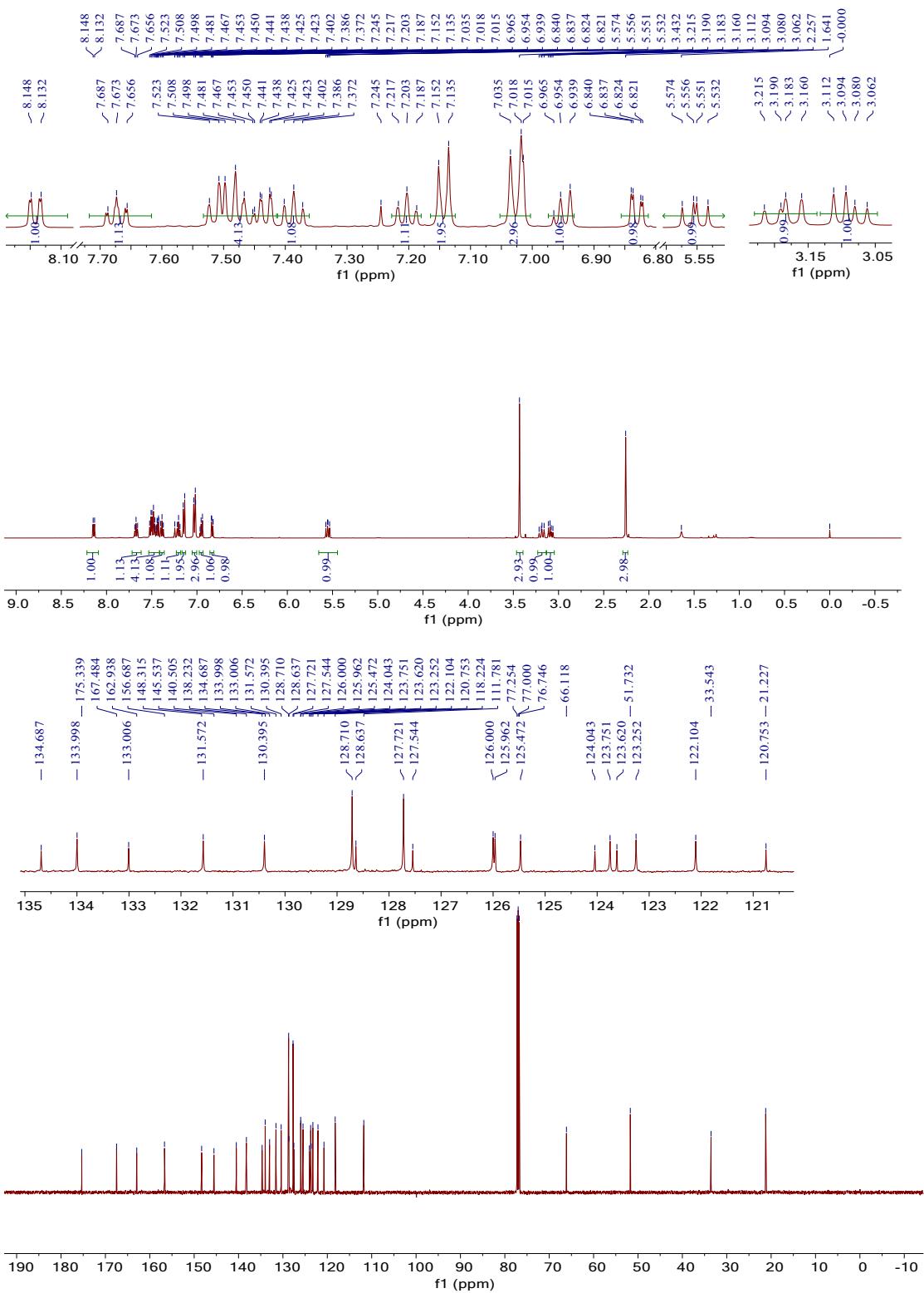


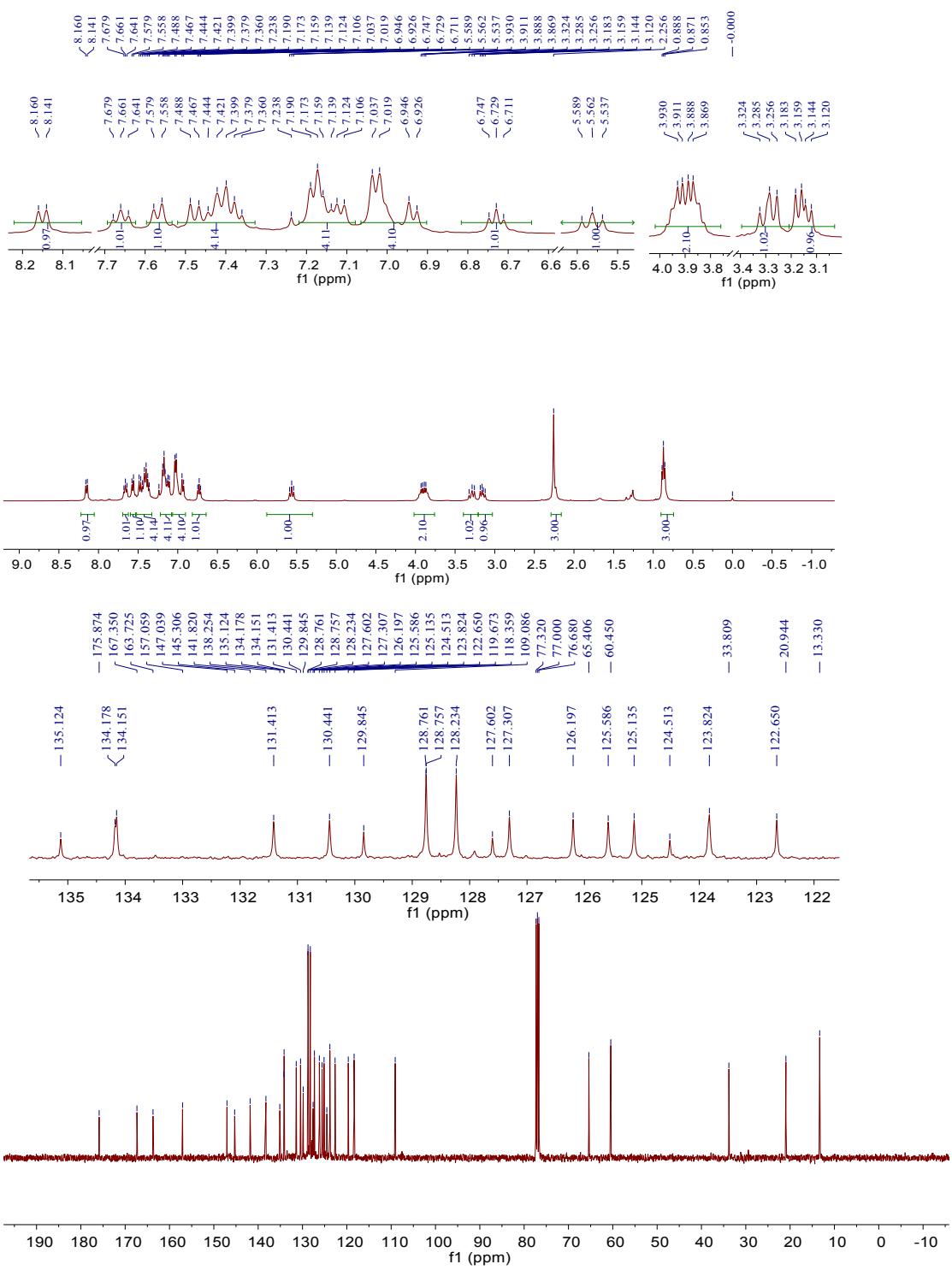
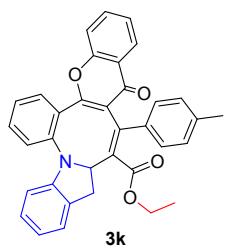


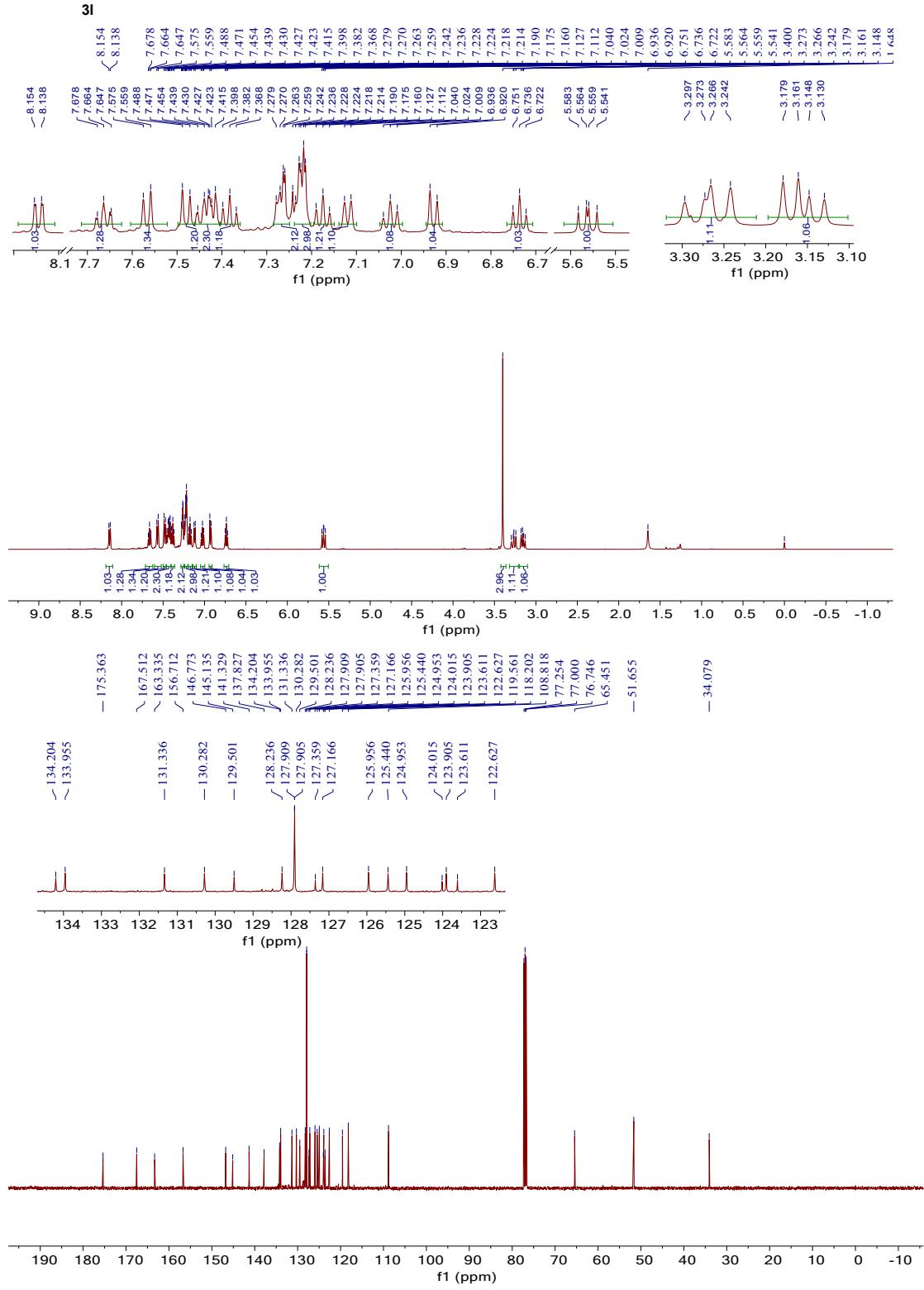


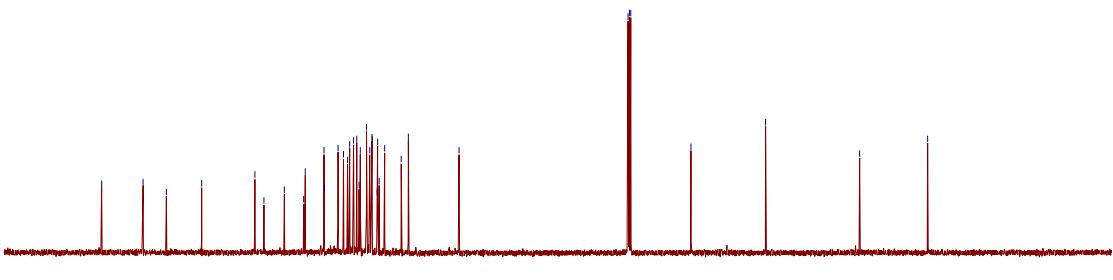
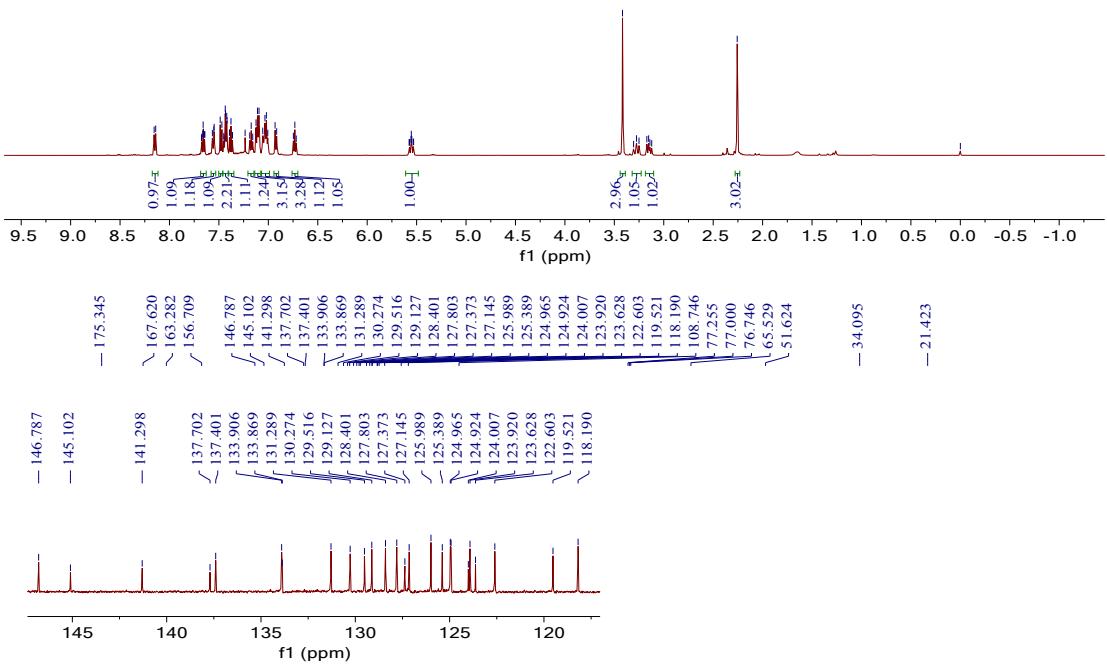
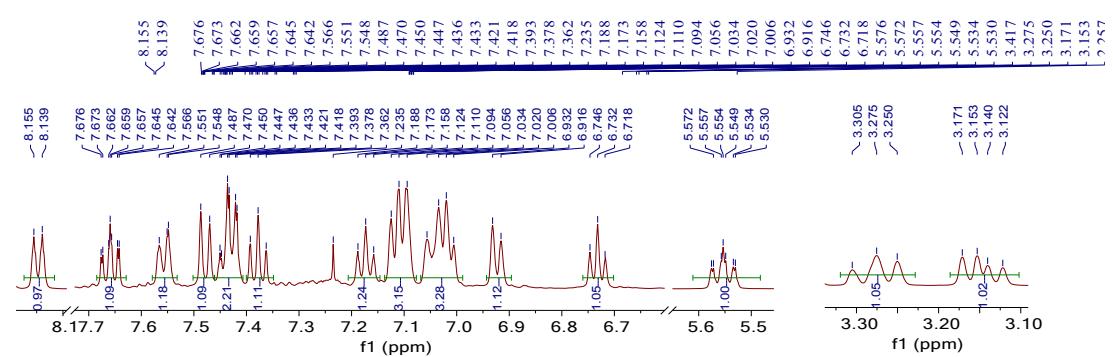
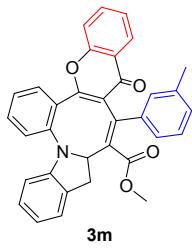


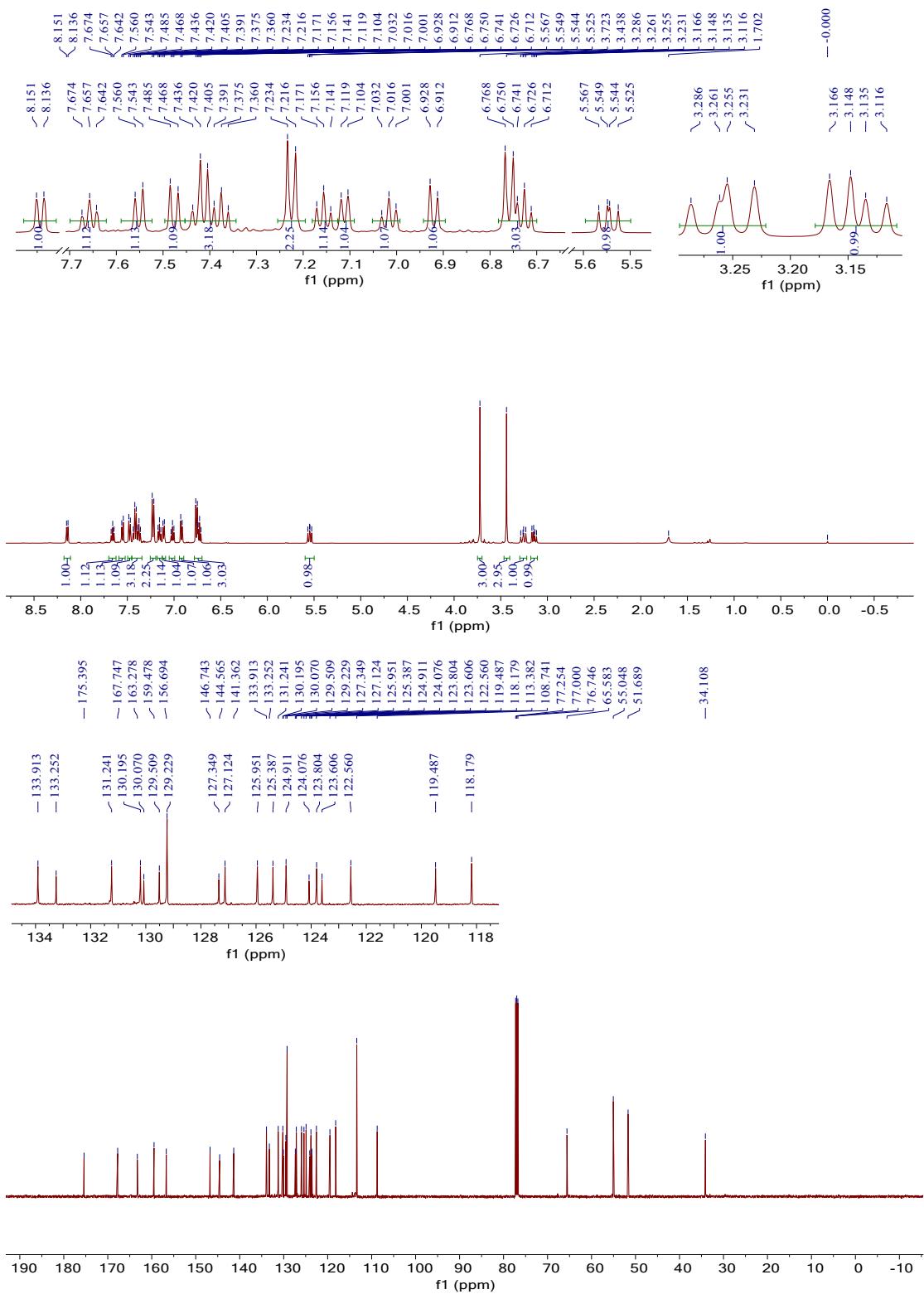
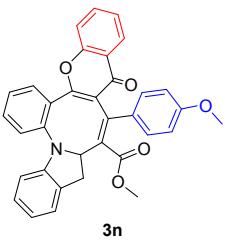
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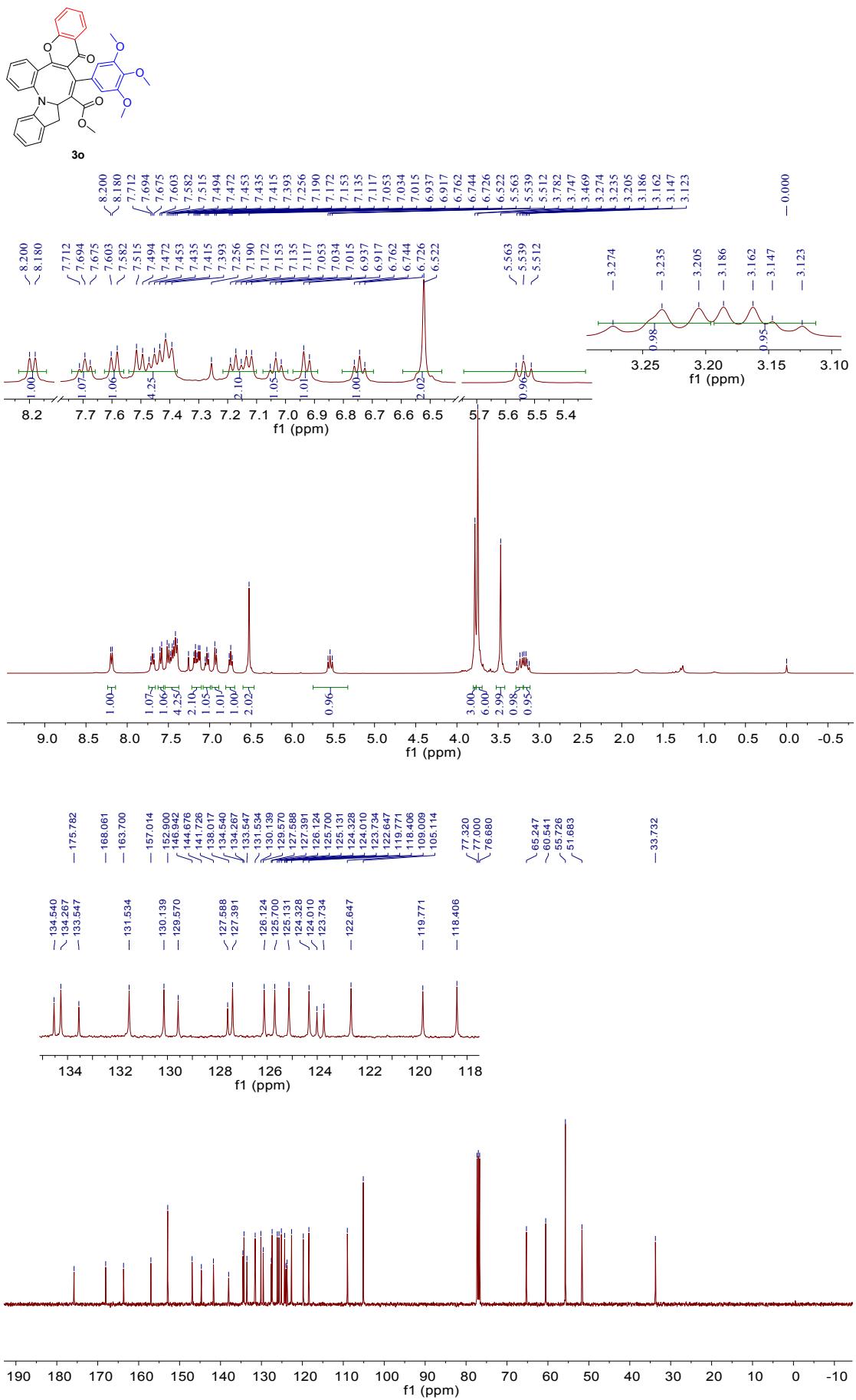


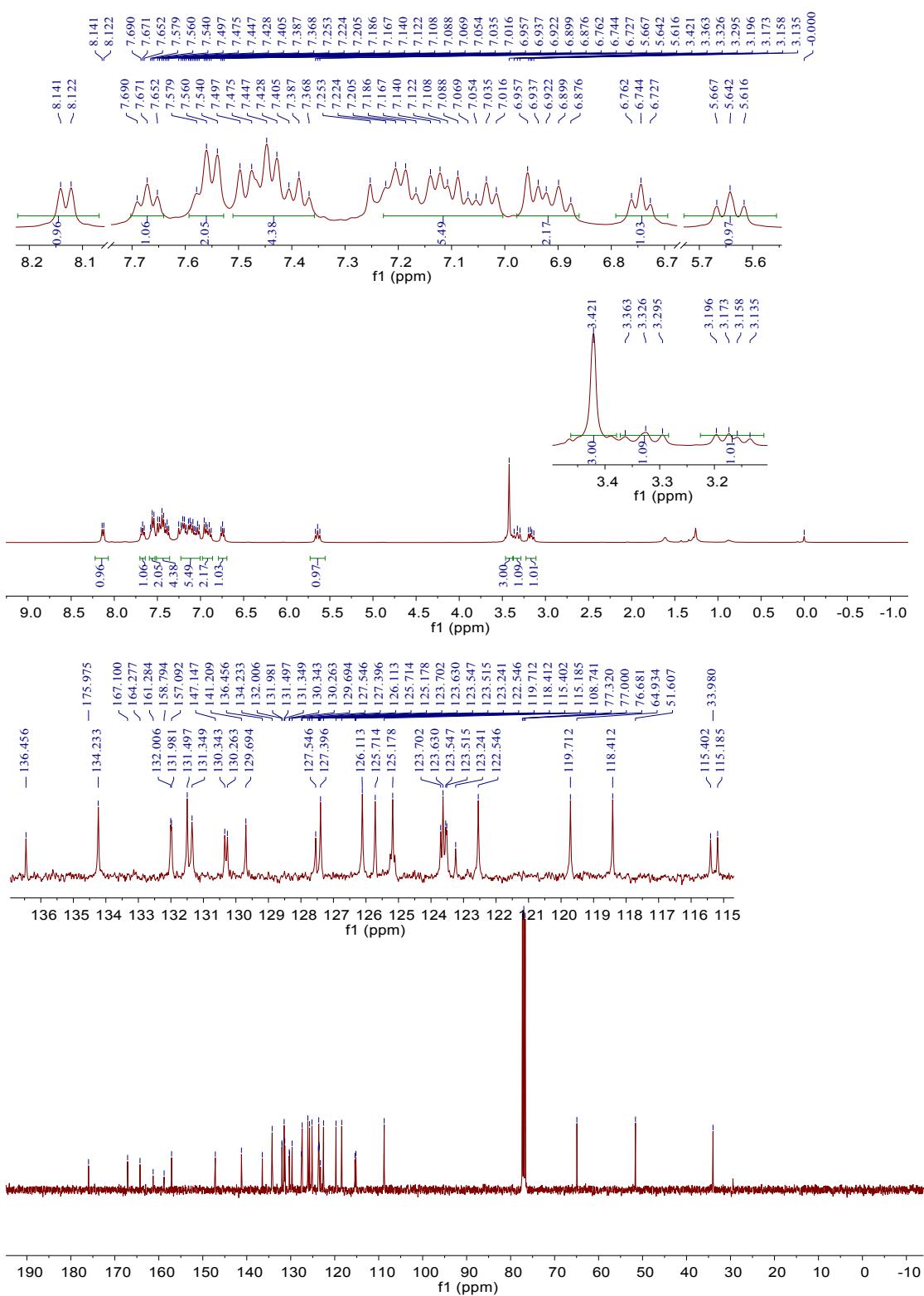
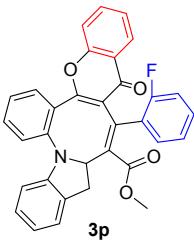


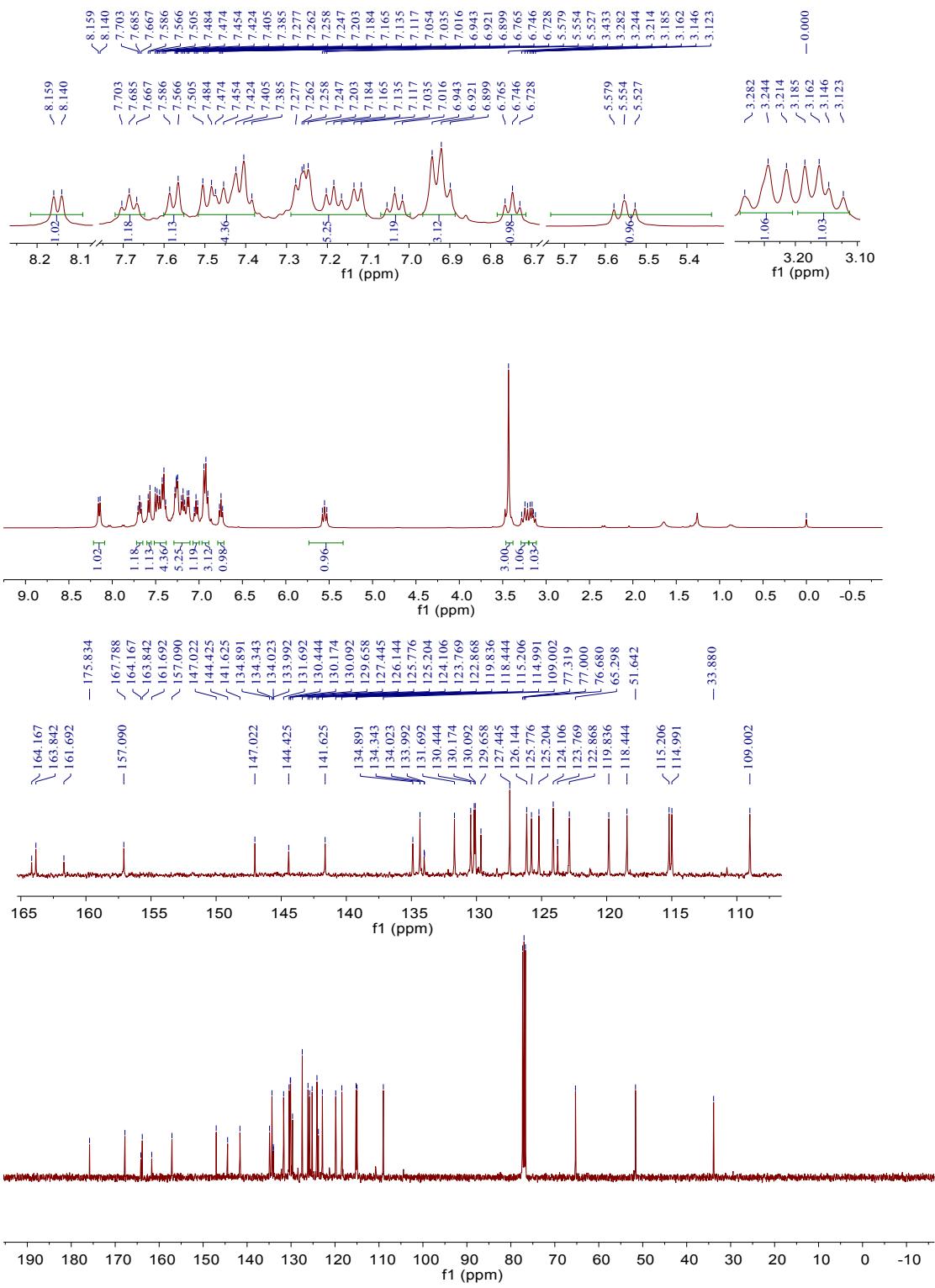
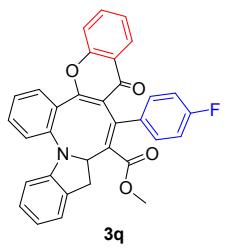


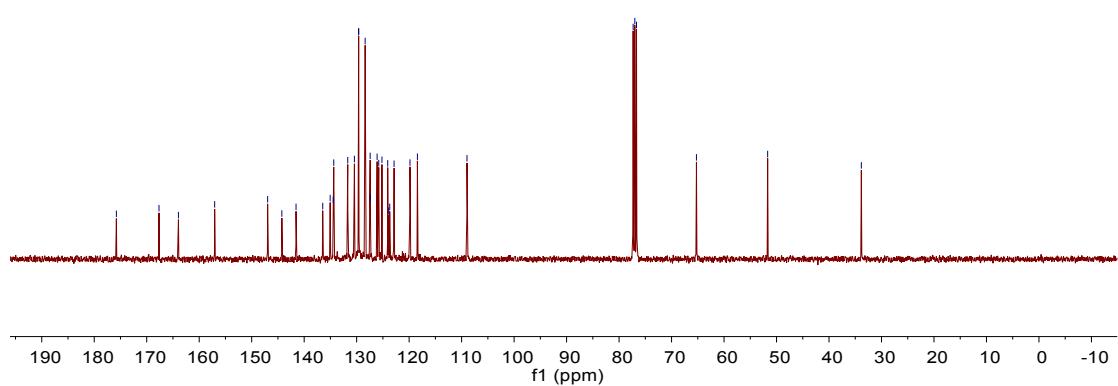
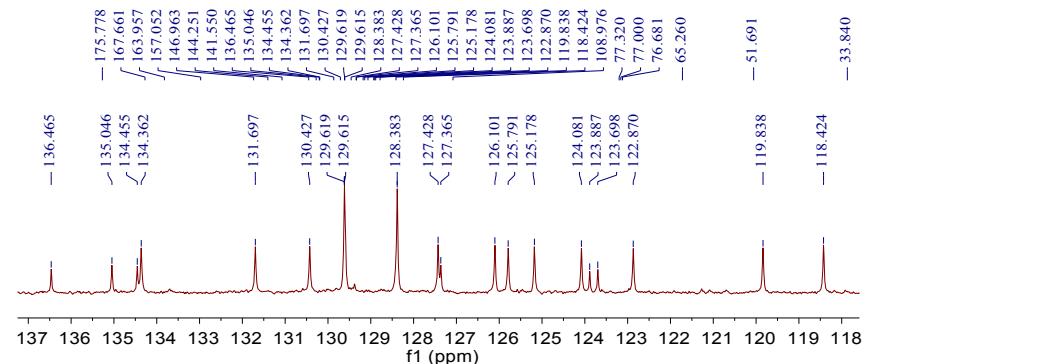
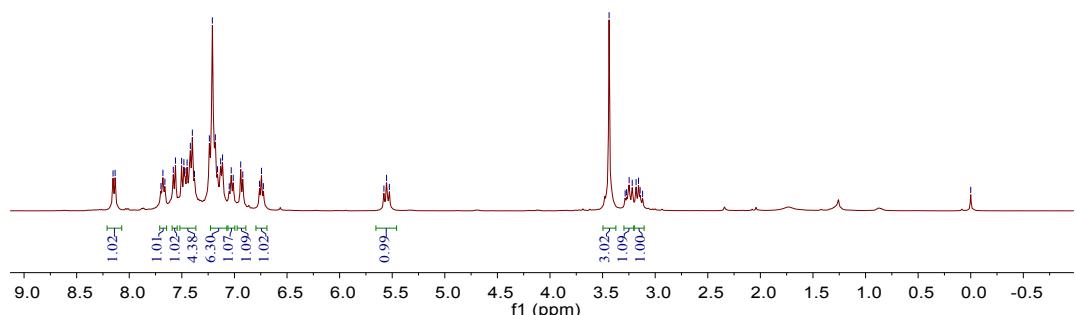
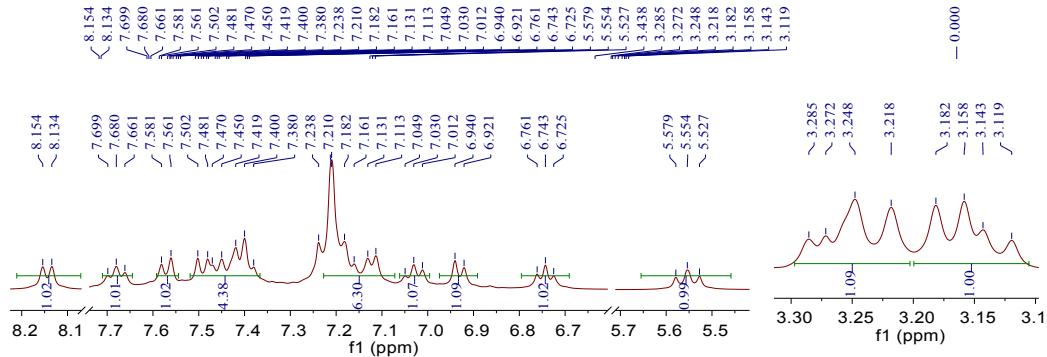
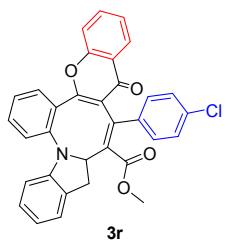


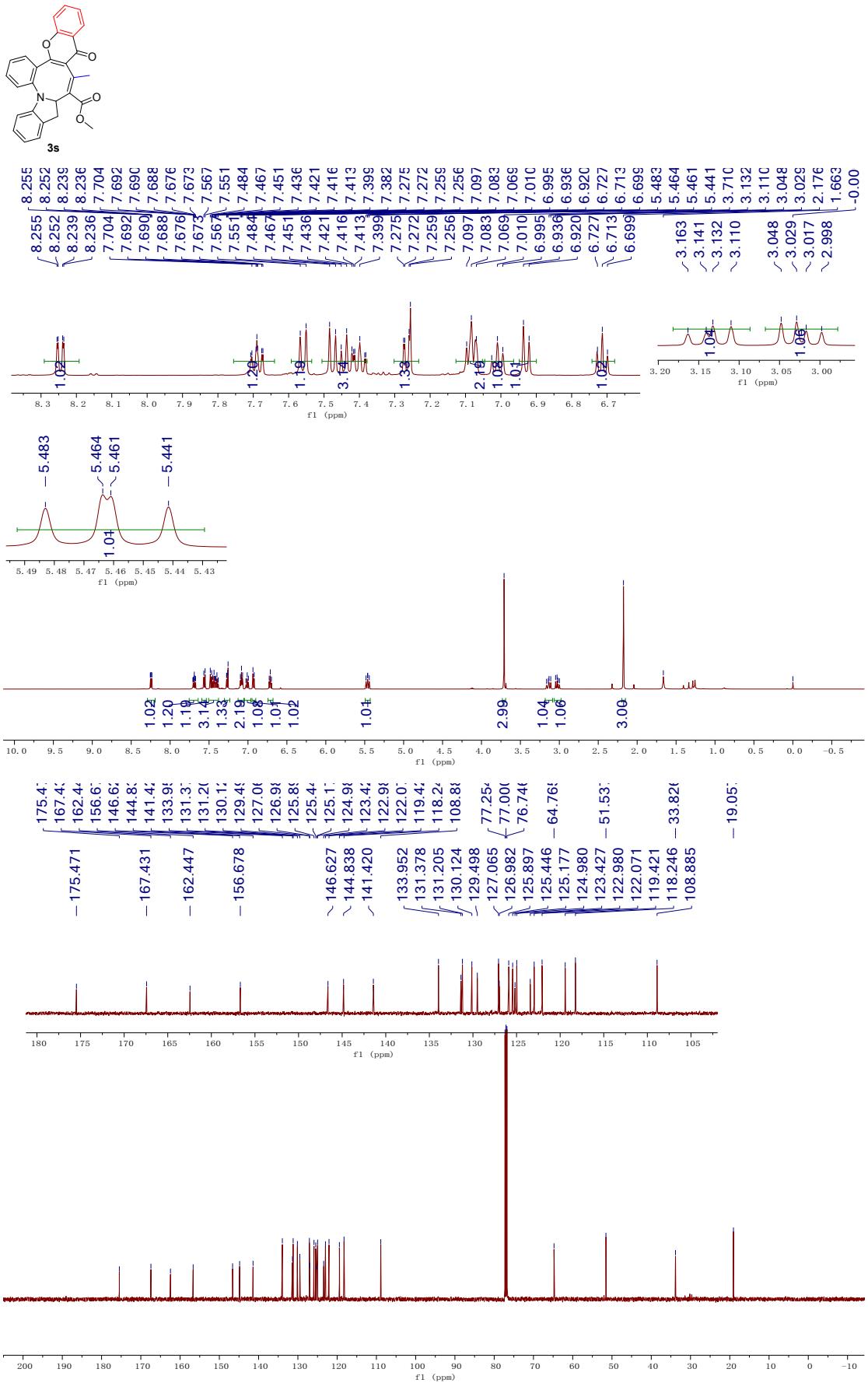


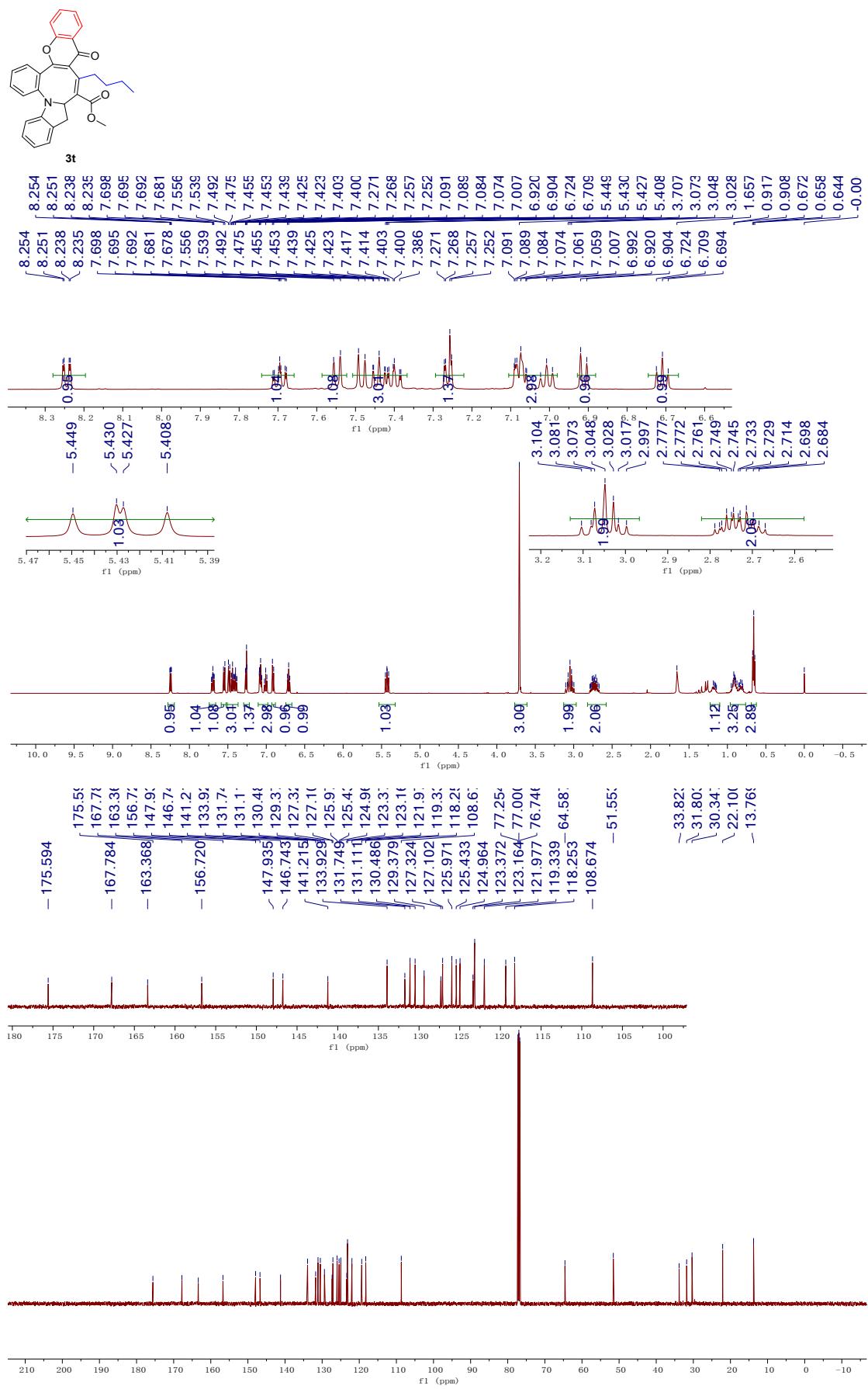


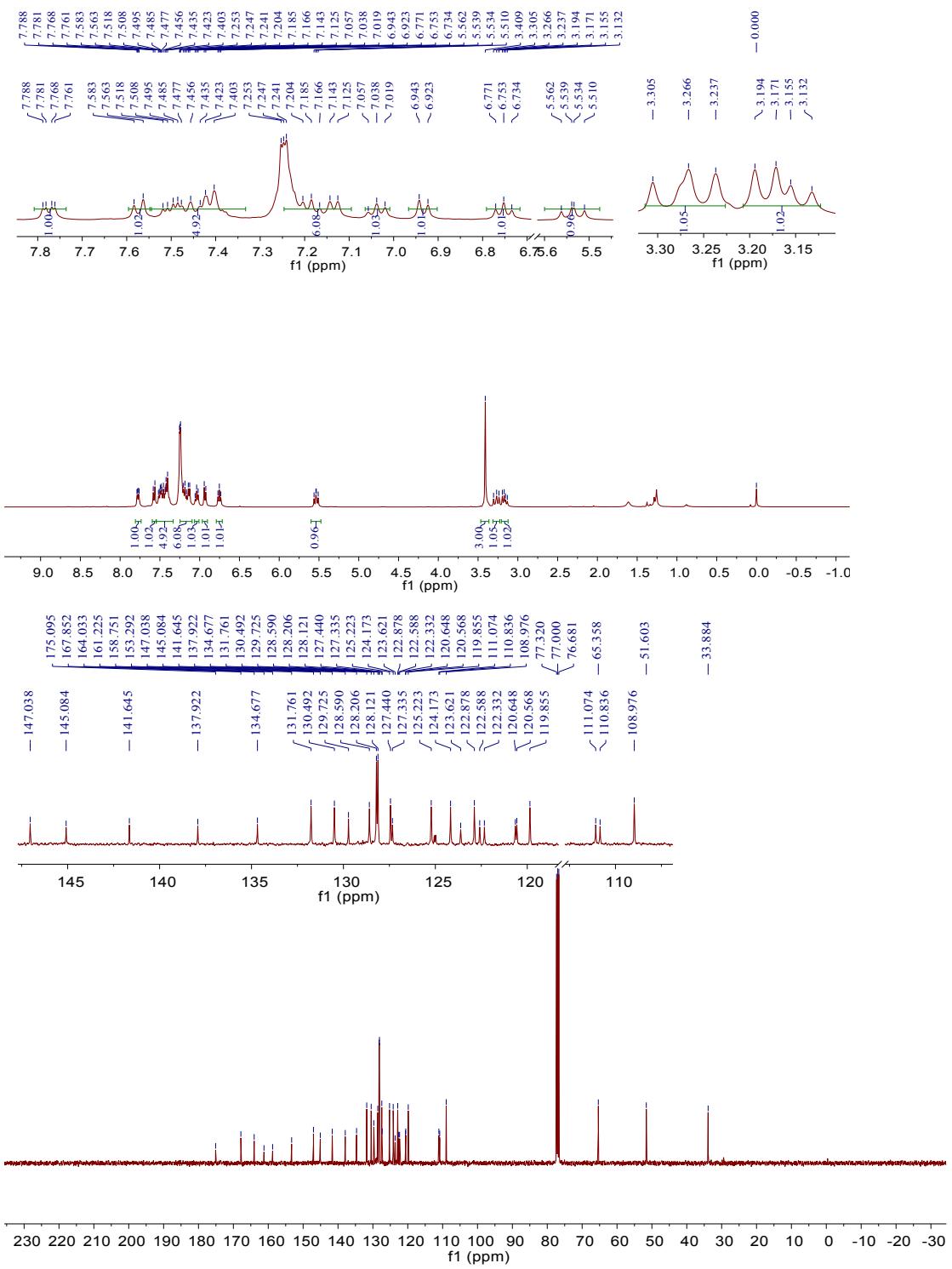
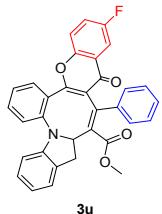


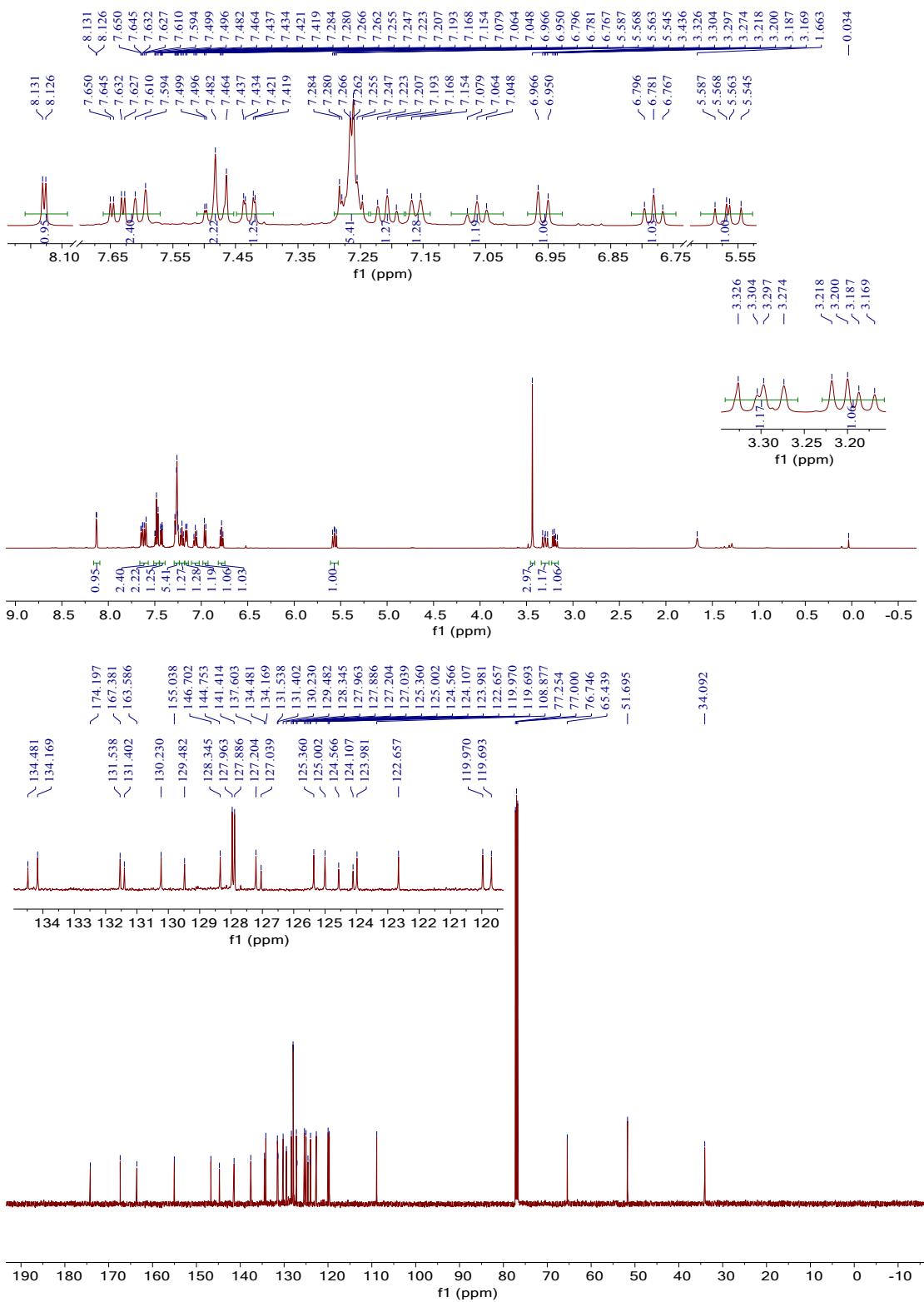
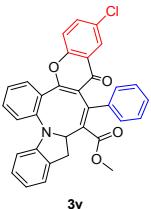


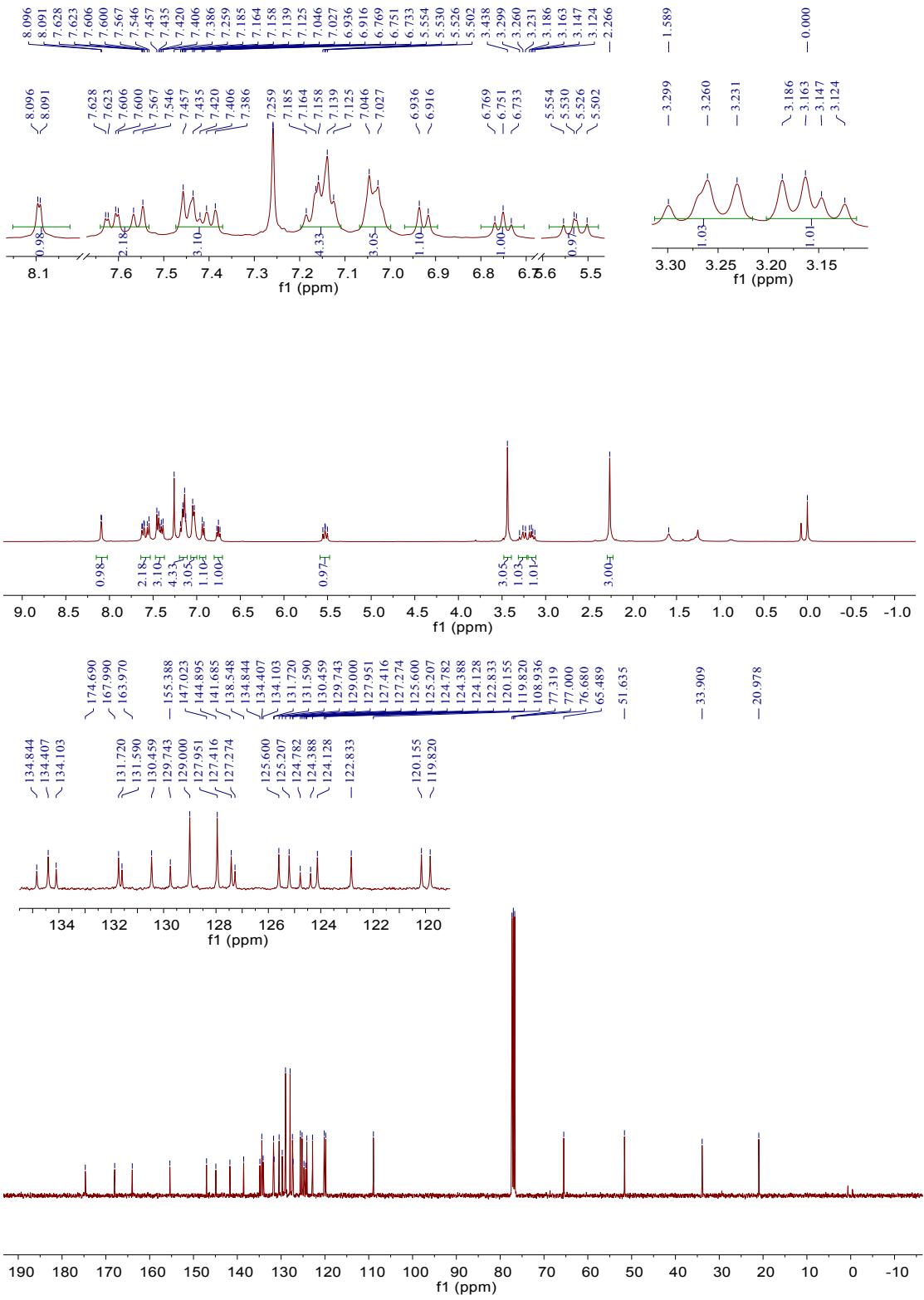
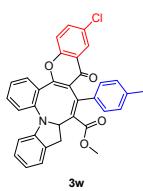


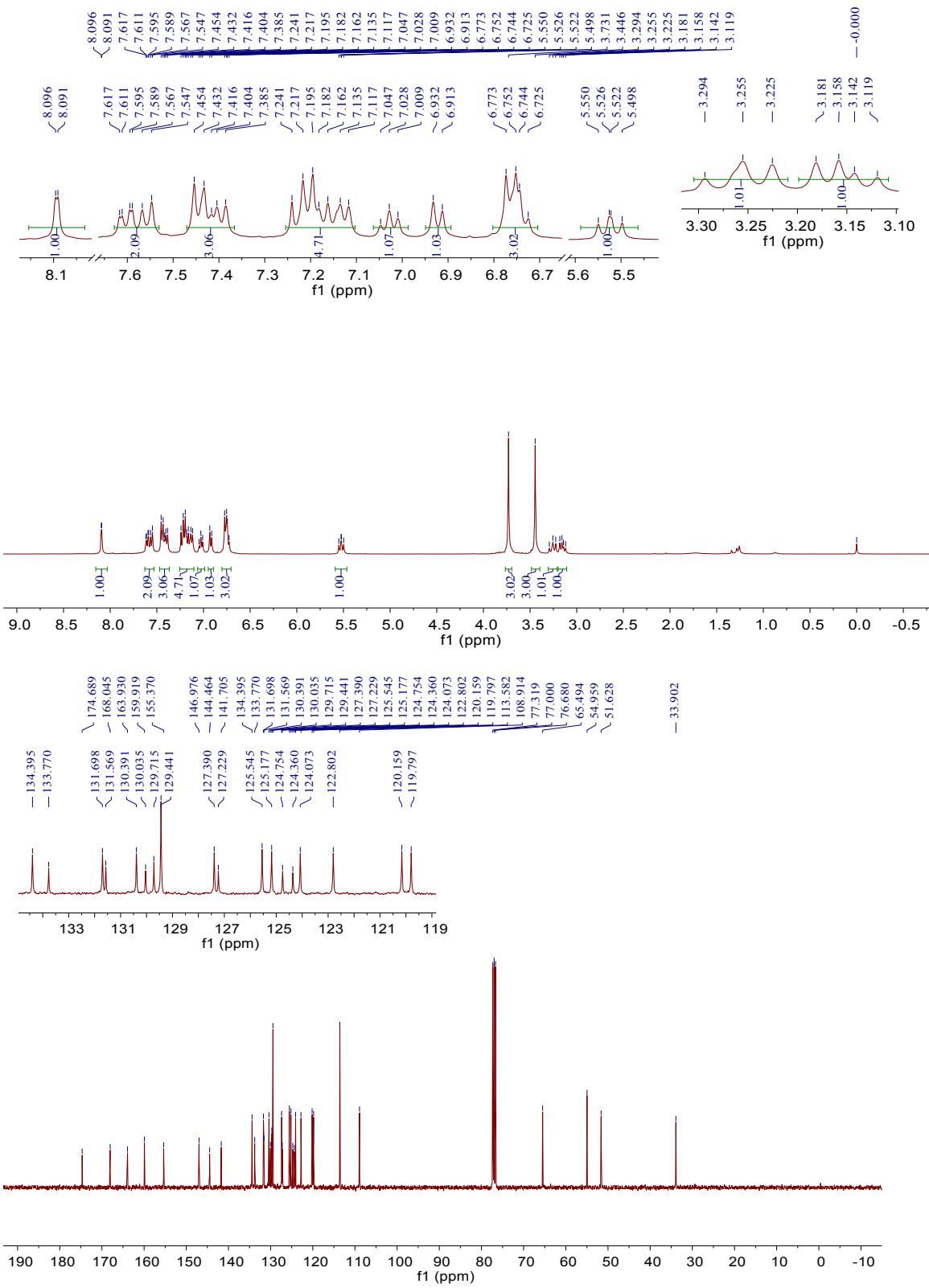
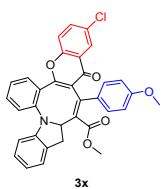


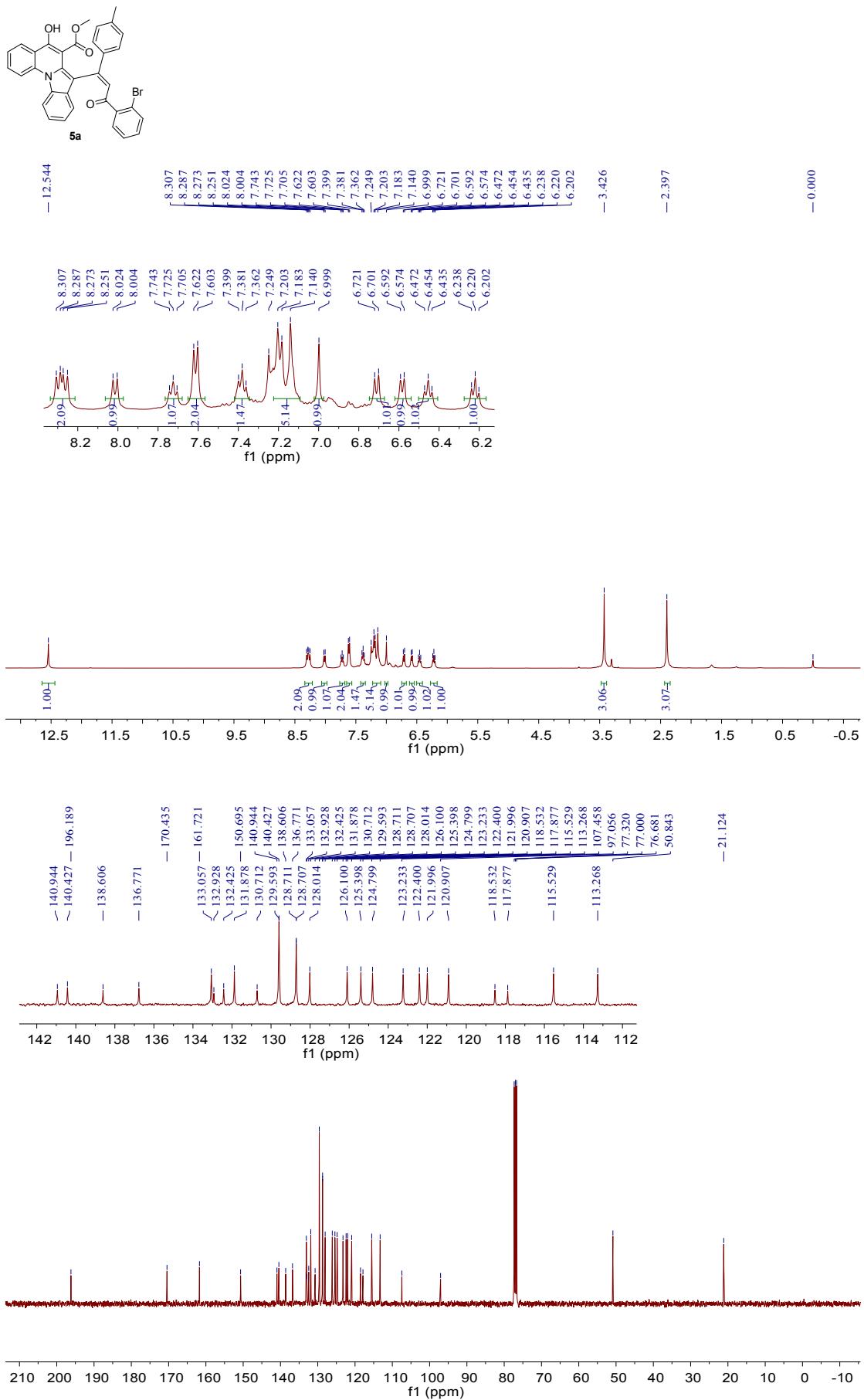


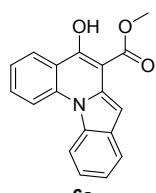




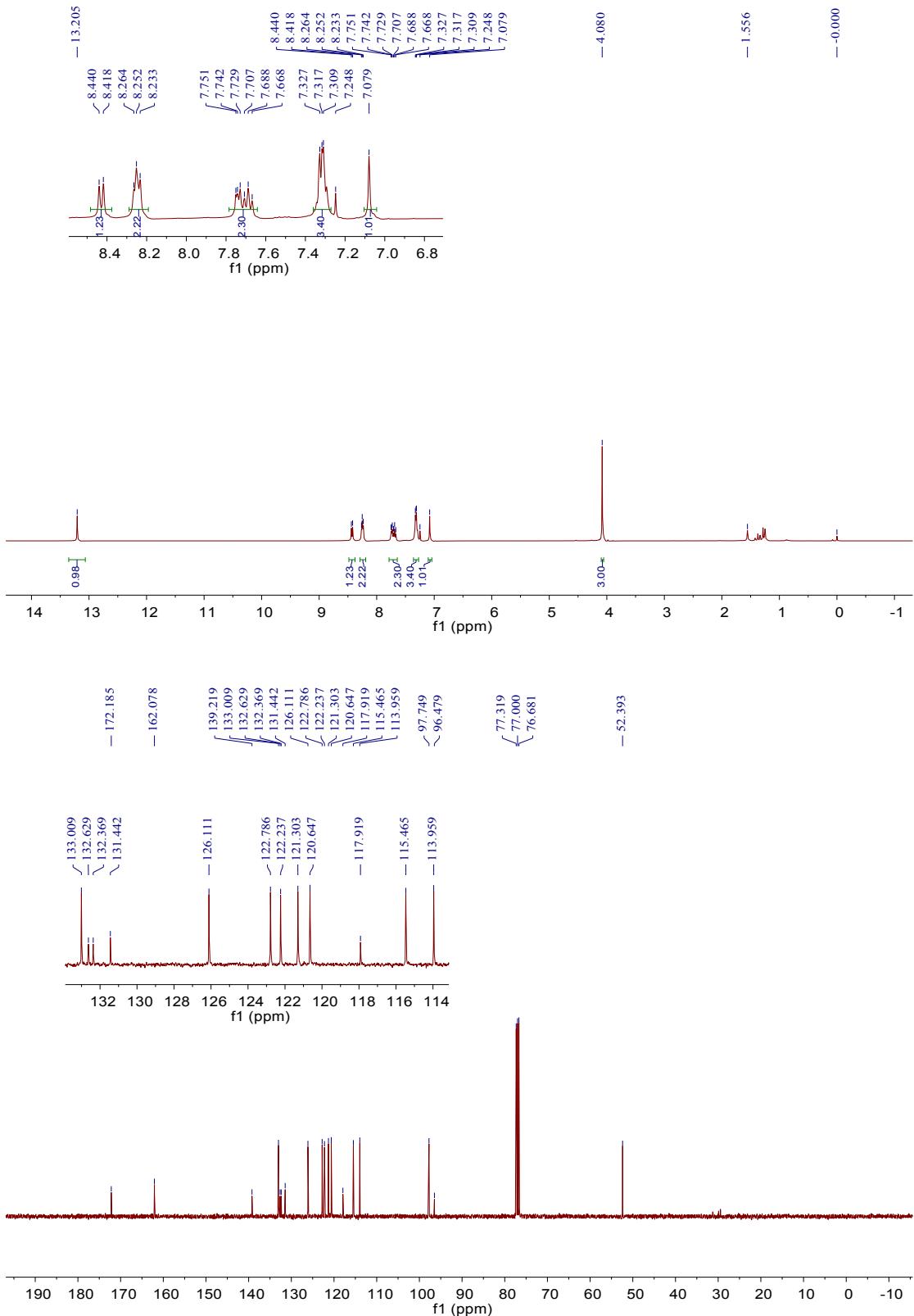








6a



7. X-ray crystallography of 5a

(Z)-methyl 7-(3-(2-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-1-(p-tolyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)-5-hydroxyindole[1,2-a]quinoline-6-carboxylate (5a, mo_d8v19220_0m)

(Ortep ellipsoids are depicted at the 50% level)

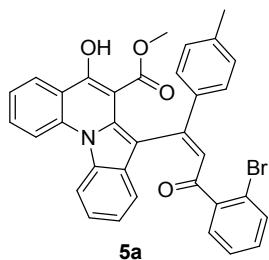
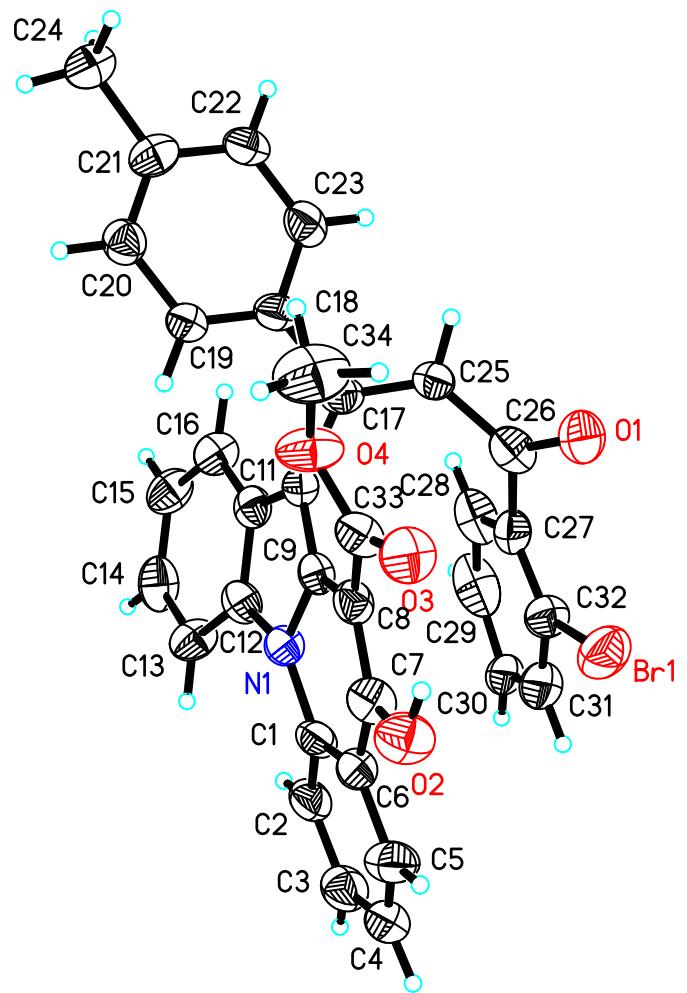
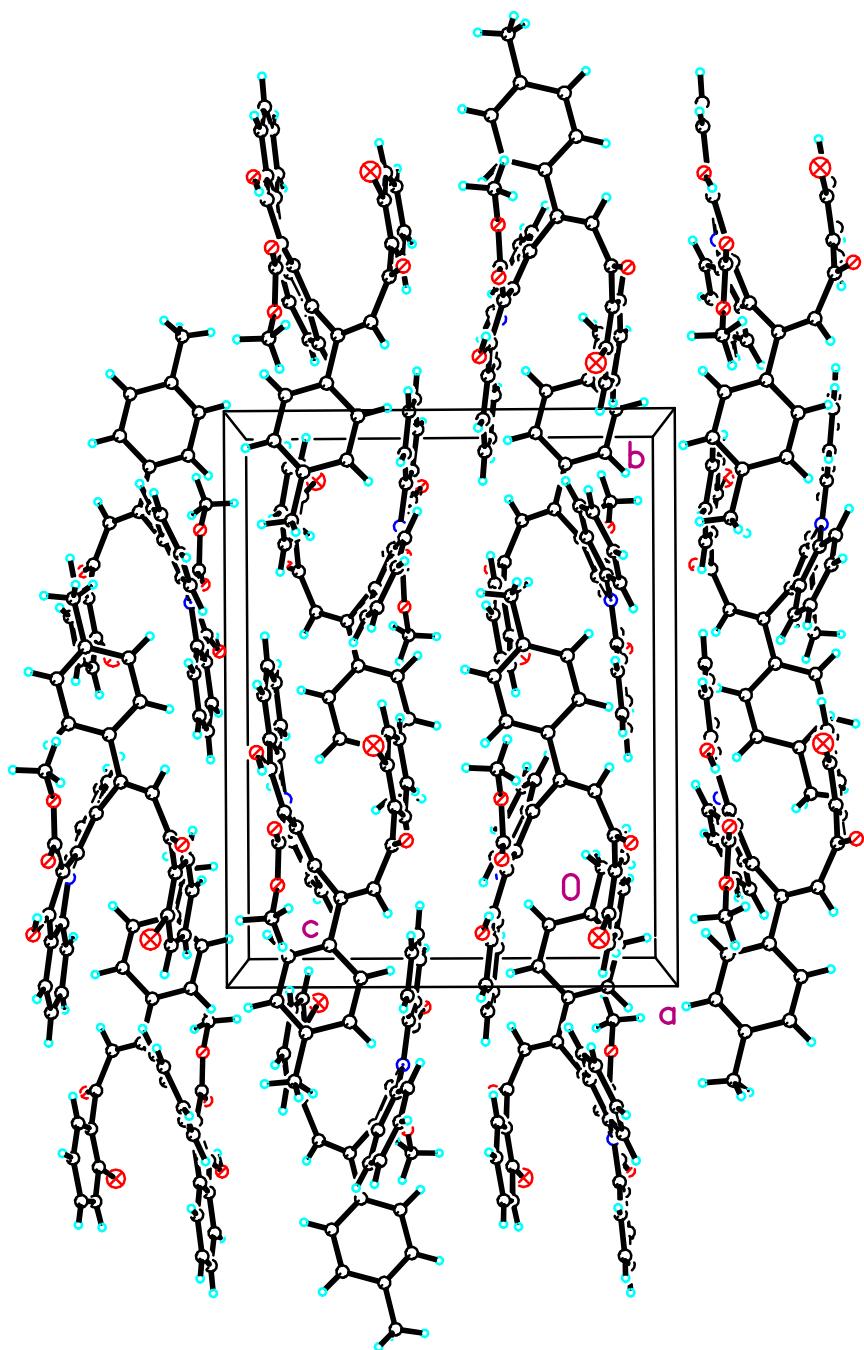


Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **5a**.

Identification code	5a
Empirical formula	C ₃₄ H ₂₄ BrNO ₄
Formula weight	590.45
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P 21/c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.571(3) Å, α = 90°. b = 17.156(5) Å, β = 91.359(9)°. c = 13.431(4) Å, γ = 90°.
Volume	2665.5(14) Å ³
Z	4
Density (calculated)	1.471 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	1.584 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	1208
Crystal size	0.150 x 0.100 x 0.080 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	2.296 to 25.000°.
Index ranges	-13<=h<=13, -20<=k<=20, -15<=l<=15
Reflections collected	33030

Independent reflections	4672 [R(int) = 0.1610]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	98.2 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.4758
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	4672 / 0 / 366
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.032
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.1027, wR2 = 0.2623
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1810, wR2 = 0.3215
Extinction coefficient	0.019(3)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.667 and -0.570 e.Å ⁻³





8. X-ray crystallography of 3a

(E)-methyl 13-oxo-12-(p-tolyl)-10a,13-dihydro-10H-benzo[7,8]chromeno[3',2':5,6]azocino[1,2-a]indole-11-carboxylate(3a, mo_d8v19221_0m)

(Ortep ellipsoids are depicted at the 50% level)

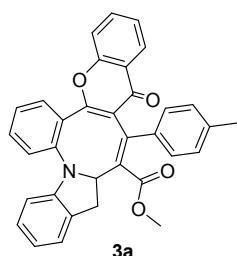


Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for **3a**.

Identification code	3a
Empirical formula	C ₃₄ H ₂₅ NO ₄
Formula weight	511.55
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	P 21 21 21
Unit cell dimensions	a = 7.2273(3) Å, α = 90°. b = 12.6042(5) Å, β = 90°. c = 29.1348(12) Å, γ = 90°.
Volume	2654.02(19) Å ³
Z	4
Density (calculated)	1.280 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.084 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	1072
Crystal size	0.200 x 0.160 x 0.130 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	2.648 to 25.991°.
Index ranges	-8≤h≤8, -15≤k≤15, -35≤l≤24
Reflections collected	13426

Independent reflections	5164 [R(int) = 0.0285]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.2 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.6689
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	5164 / 0 / 355
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.012
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0372, wR2 = 0.0837
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0514, wR2 = 0.0931
Absolute structure parameter	0.4(5)
Extinction coefficient	0.037(4)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.142 and -0.116 e.Å ⁻³

