

Supporting Information

Ruthenium-Catalyzed α -Carbonyl Sulfoxonium Ylides Annulations with Aryl Substituted Pyrazoles via C–H/N–H Bond Functionalizations

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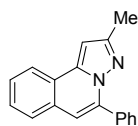
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I. General Information

All reagents and solvents used in this work were obtained from commercial sources and were used without further purification. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel GF254 (0.25 mm thickness) plates and visualized under UV light. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure at 40 °C (water bath temperature) using a Büchi rotary evaporator, unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh). ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker Avance III Ascend 500 (500 MHz, 126 MHz and 471 MHz respectively) and Avance III HD (400 MHz, 101 MHz and 376 MHz respectively) spectrometers. NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quarter, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling (*J*) constant and integration. Melting points were measured on a digital Electrothermal 9100 apparatus. The high resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) data were recorded on Agilent 1290 Infinity LC & 6540 UHD Q-TOF mass spectrometer.

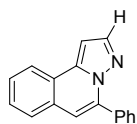
II. General Procedures for the Synthesis of 3

A suspension of 1*H*-pyrazoles **1** (0.10 mmol), sulfoxonium ylides **2** (0.20 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF₆ (6.9 mg, 20 mol %) and PhCO₂H (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) in EtOH (1.0 mL) was stirred at 140 °C for 20 h under an ambient atmosphere of N₂. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated brine and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvents *in vacuo*, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (n-hexane/EtOAc: 20/1~10/1) to yield the corresponding products.



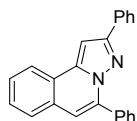
3aa: 84% yield

2-Methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3aa): known compound¹, 21.6 mg, 84% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 5H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.5, 140.2, 138.3, 134.0, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.3, 127.7, 127.0, 127.0, 123.7, 123.4, 111.6, 97.5, 14.3.



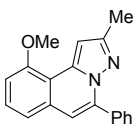
3ba: 80% yield

5-Phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ba): known compound², 19.5 mg, 80% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.8, 139.3, 138.5, 133.9, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.0, 127.4, 127.2, 124.1, 123.5, 112.6, 97.8.



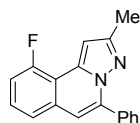
3ca: 77% yield

2,5-Diphenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ca): known compound³, 24.7 mg, 77% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 8.04 – 8.100(m, 2H), 7.77 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 5H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 140.7, 138.4, 133.7, 133.4, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 127.2, 126.4, 123.9, 123.5, 112.5, 94.8.



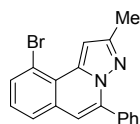
3da: 68% yield

10-Methoxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3da): unknown compound, 19.6 mg, 68% yield, yellow solid, mp: 105-106 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 150.7, 140.3, 138.7, 134.0, 130.8, 129.4, 129.2, 128.3, 125.1, 117.9, 117.0, 111.3, 107.8, 96.4, 55.4, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₂O [M+H]⁺: 289.1341, found: 289.1347.



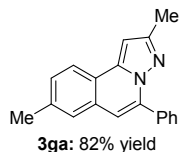
3ea: 60% yield

10-Fluoro-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ea): unknown compound, 16.6 mg, 60% yield, yellow solid, mp: 99-101 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.43 (m, 5H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.3 (d, *J* = 252.2 Hz), 151.0, 139.3, 135.2 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 133.7, 131.5 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 129.4, 128.3, 128.0 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 122.4 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 113.4 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz), 112.6 (d, *J* = 20.3 Hz), 110.8 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 102.2 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 14.3. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄FN₂ [M+H]⁺: 277.1141, found: 277.1145.

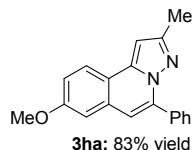


3fa: 61% yield

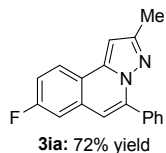
10-Bromo-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3fa): unknown compound, 20.6 mg, 61% yield, yellow solid, mp: 164-166 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.1, 139.0, 138.3, 133.7, 132.7, 132.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 127.8, 126.7, 123.3, 119.2, 111.7, 103.4, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrN₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.0340, found: 337.0336.



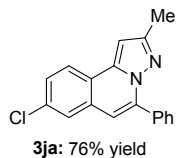
2,8-Dimethyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ga): known compound¹, 22.3 mg, 82% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 4H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.47, 140.3, 138.2, 137.7, 134.1, 129.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 126.7, 123.3, 121.5, 111.4, 97.0, 21.6, 14.3.



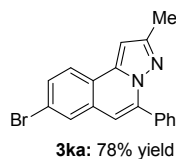
8-Methoxy-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ha): unknown compound, 23.9 mg, 83% yield, yellow solid, mp: 111-112 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 150.7, 140.3, 138.7, 134.0, 130.8, 129.4, 129.2, 128.3, 125.1, 117.9, 117.0, 111.3, 107.8, 96.4, 55.4, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₂O [M+H]⁺: 289.1341, found: 289.1347.



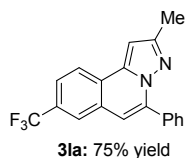
8-Fluoro-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ia): known compound¹, 19.9 mg, 72% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.95 (d, *J* = 247.2 Hz), 150.9, 139.6 (d, *J* = 69.6 Hz), 133.6, 130.9 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 125.7, 125.7, 120.3 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 115.7 (d, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 111.7 (d, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 110.8 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 97.3, 14.3. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.7.



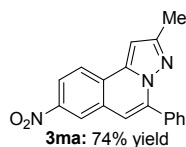
8-Chloro-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ja): unknown compound, 22.2 mg, 76% yield, yellow solid, mp: 152-153 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.0, 139.7, 139.4, 133.6, 133.4, 130.4, 129.5, 129.4, 128.4, 127.4, 126.2, 124.9, 122.0, 110.4, 97.8, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClN₂ [M+H]⁺: 293.0846, found: 293.0849.



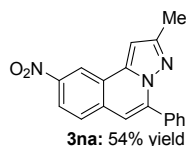
8-Bromo-2-methyl-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3ka): unknown compound, 26.3 mg, 78% yield, yellow solid, mp: 178-179 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 – 7.89 (m, 3H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 6.86 (s, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.0, 139.7, 139.4, 133.5, 130.8, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 129.3, 128.4, 125.0, 122.3, 121.5, 110.3, 97.9, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrN₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.0340, found: 337.0344.



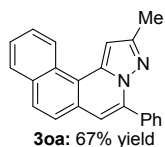
2-Methyl-5-phenyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline (3la): unknown compound, 24.5 mg, 75% yield, yellow solid, mp: 128-129 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.94 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.1, 139.6, 139.4, 133.4, 129.6, 129.4, 128.9, 128.9 (q, *J* = 39.1 Hz), 128.4, 125.6, 124.3 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 124.2, 124.1 (q, *J* = 273.4 Hz), 123.1 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 111.0, 98.8, 14.3. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –62.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₄F₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 327.1109, found: 327.1103.



2-Methyl-8-nitro-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ma): unknown compound, 22.4 mg, 74% yield, yellow solid, mp: 133-134 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.93-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.6, 146.6, 140.4, 139.0, 132.9, 129.9, 129.4, 129.1, 128.5, 127.4, 124.6, 122.8, 121.1, 111.0, 99.9, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: 304.1086, found: 304.1091.

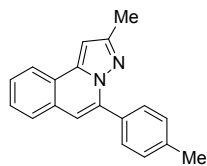


2-Methyl-9-nitro-5-phenylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3na): unknown compound, 16.4 mg, 54% yield, yellow solid, mp: 128-129 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.93 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.7 Hz, 3H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.9, 145.8, 141.7, 139.6, 133.6, 132.9, 130.1, 129.4, 128.4, 128.0, 123.2, 121.8, 119.5, 110.2, 99.3, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: 304.1086, found: 304.1091.



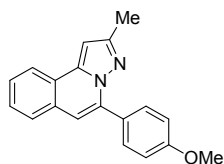
2-Methyl-5-phenylbenzo[*h*]pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3oa): unknown compound, 20.7 mg, 67% yield, yellow solid, mp: 124-125 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.98 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02 – 7.98 (m, 3H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.5

Hz, 1H), 7.79 (ddd, $J = 8.5, 6.9, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.4, 139.1, 138.8, 134.1, 132.8, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.3, 126.1, 125.7, 125.4, 124.9, 119.6, 112.6, 101.1, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 309.1392, found: 309.1398.



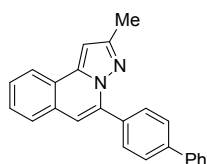
3ab: 82% yield

2-Methyl-5-(p-tolyl)pyrazolo[5,1-a]isoquinoline: (3ab): unknown compound, 22.3 mg, 82% yield, yellow solid, mp: 97-99 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 – 8.03 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.5, 140.2, 139.2, 138.4, 131.1, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 127.6, 126.9, 126.9, 123.6, 123.4, 111.2, 97.5, 21.4, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 273.1392, found: 273.1396.



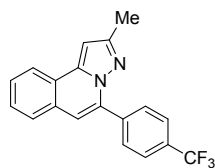
3ac: 87% yield

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-a]isoquinoline: (3ac): known compound¹, 25.1 mg, 87% yield, yellow solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.92 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.3, 150.4, 140.2, 138.0, 130.8, 129.4, 127.6, 126.8, 126.8, 126.4, 123.4, 123.4, 113.7, 110.9, 97.5, 55.4, 14.3.



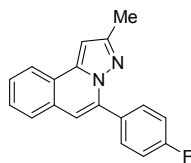
3ad: 80% yield

5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-a]isoquinoline: (3ad): unknown compound, 26.7 mg, 80% yield, yellow solid, mp: 142-143 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 – 8.06 (m, 1H), 8.05 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.68 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.6, 142.0, 140.8, 140.2, 137.9, 132.9, 129.8, 129.3, 128.8, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 123.7, 123.5, 111.6, 97.6, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 335.1548, found: 335.1551.



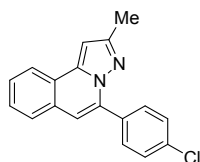
3ae: 70% yield

2-Methyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ae): unknown compound, 22.8 mg, 70% yield, yellow solid, mp: 121-122 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 – 8.05 (m, 3H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.75 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.8, 140.2, 137.4, 136.8, 131.0 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 129.8, 128.9, 127.9, 127.6, 127.2, 125.3 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.9, 123.5, 123.0 (q, *J* = 273.4 Hz), 112.3, 97.8, 14.3. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₄F₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 327.1109, found: 327.1105.



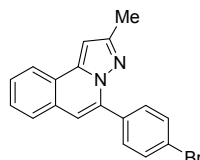
3af: 71% yield

5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3af): known compound¹, 19.6 mg, 71% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 – 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.95 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.2 (d, *J* = 248.9 Hz), 150.6, 140.2, 137.2, 131.4 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 130.0 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 129.2, 127.8, 127.2, 127.0, 123.7, 123.5, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 111.5, 97.6, 14.3. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -111.9.



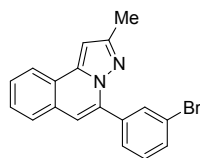
3ag: 73% yield

5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ag): known compound¹, 21.4 mg, 73% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 – 8.03 (m, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.7, 140.2, 137.1, 135.1, 132.4, 130.8, 129.1, 128.6, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 123.7, 123.5, 111.6, 97.7, 14.3.



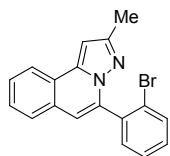
3ah: 76% yield

5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ah): unknown compound, 25.6 mg, 76% yield, yellow solid, mp: 167-168 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.7, 140.2, 137.1, 132.8, 131.5, 131.0, 129.1, 128.8, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 123.7, 123.5, 111.6, 97.7, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrN₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.0340, found: 337.0343.



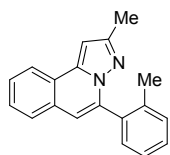
3ai: 73% yield

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ai): unknown compound, 24.6 mg, 73% yield, yellow solid, mp: 156-157 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.91 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.61 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 1.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.7, 140.1, 136.6, 135.9, 132.2, 132.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 127.1, 123.8, 123.4, 122.3, 112.0, 97.7, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrN₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.0340, found: 337.0345.



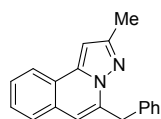
3aj: 60% yield

5-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3aj): unknown compound, 20.2 mg, 60% yield, yellow solid, mp: 138-139 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 – 8.07 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.47 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (td, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.8, 139.5, 136.9, 135.5, 133.0, 131.8, 130.5, 128.8, 127.6, 127.4, 127.3, 127.1, 124.3, 124.0, 123.5, 112.3, 97.6, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrN₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.0340, found: 337.0338.



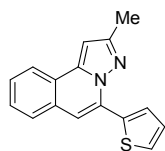
3ak: 70% yield

2-Methyl-5-(*o*-tolyl)pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ak): unknown compound, 19.1 mg, 70% yield, yellow solid, mp: 81-82 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.9, 139.6, 138.4, 138.0, 134.2, 130.1, 130.1, 129.3, 129.1, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 125.8, 123.8, 123.5, 111.7, 97.4, 19.8, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 273.1392, found: 273.1393.



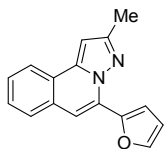
3al: 74% yield

5-Benzyl-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3al): known compound¹, 20.2 mg, 74% yield, yellow oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.3, 139.6, 138.6, 137.0, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6, 127.5, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 123.3, 123.1, 109.7, 97.6, 36.8, 14.2.



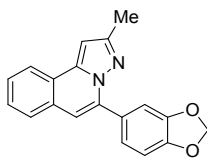
3am: 81% yield

2-Methyl-5-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3am): unknown compound, 21.4 mg, 81% yield, yellow solid, mp: 73-74 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.08 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.73 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.4, 140.1, 134.6, 132.0, 129.0, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 127.0, 126.9, 123.4, 123.2, 109.4, 97.6, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂S [M+H]⁺: 265.0799, found: 265.0795.



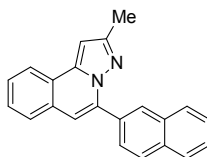
3an: 83% yield

5-(Furan-2-yl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3an): unknown compound, 20.6 mg, 83% yield, yellow solid, mp: 65-67 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 – 8.05 (m, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.6, 146.4, 142.9, 140.2, 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.3, 127.0, 123.4, 123.1, 114.3, 112.1, 107.5, 97.3, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂O [M+H]⁺: 249.1028, found: 249.1032.



3ao: 66% yield

5-(Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-methylpyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ao): unknown compound, 20.0 mg, 66% yield, yellow solid, mp: 103-104 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 – 8.00 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.5, 148.4, 147.4, 140.2, 137.8, 134.6, 129.2, 127.7, 127.7, 126.9, 126.9, 123.5, 123.4, 111.1, 110.1, 108.3, 101.3, 97.5, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 303.1134, found: 303.1138.

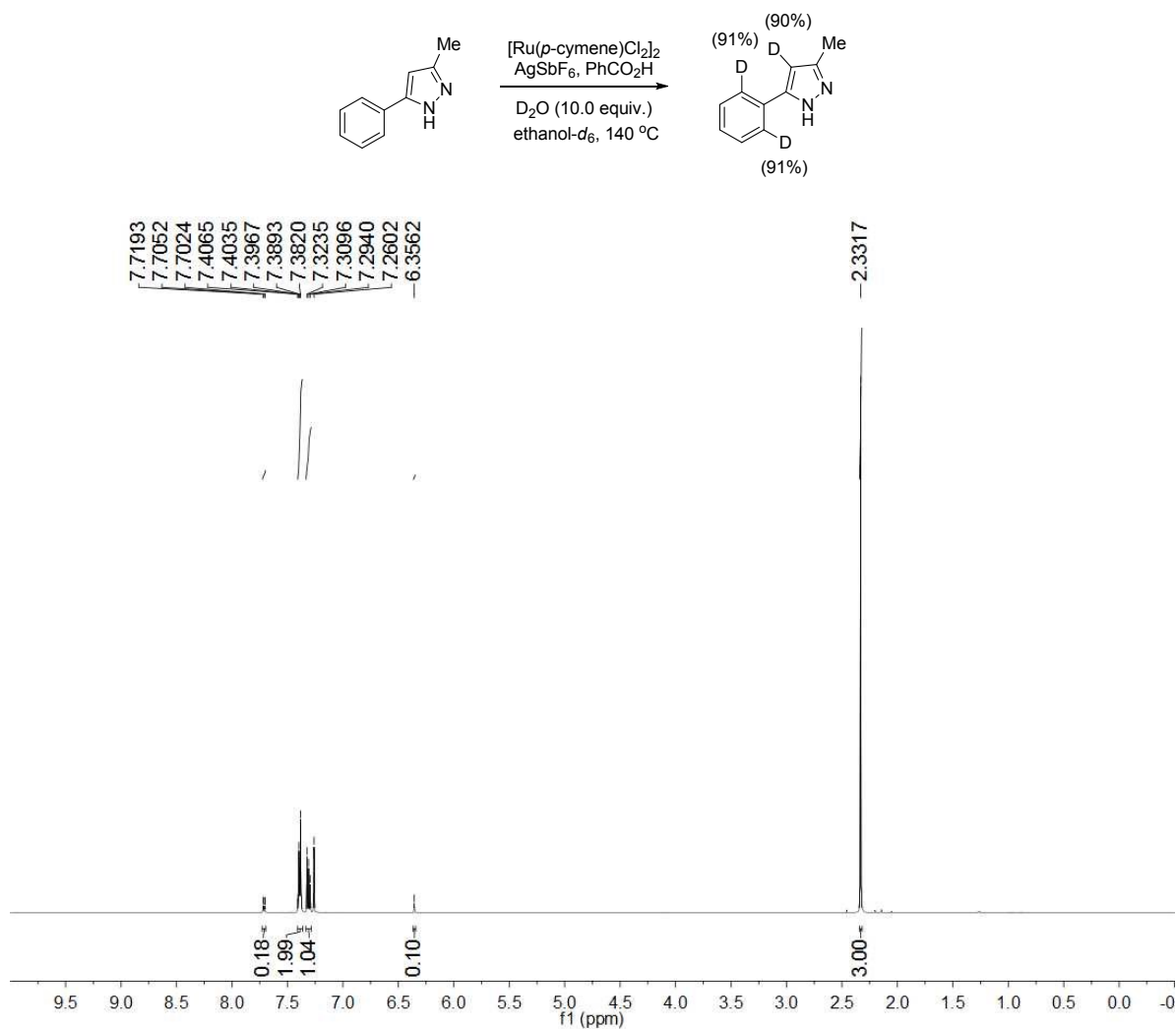


3ap: 78% yield

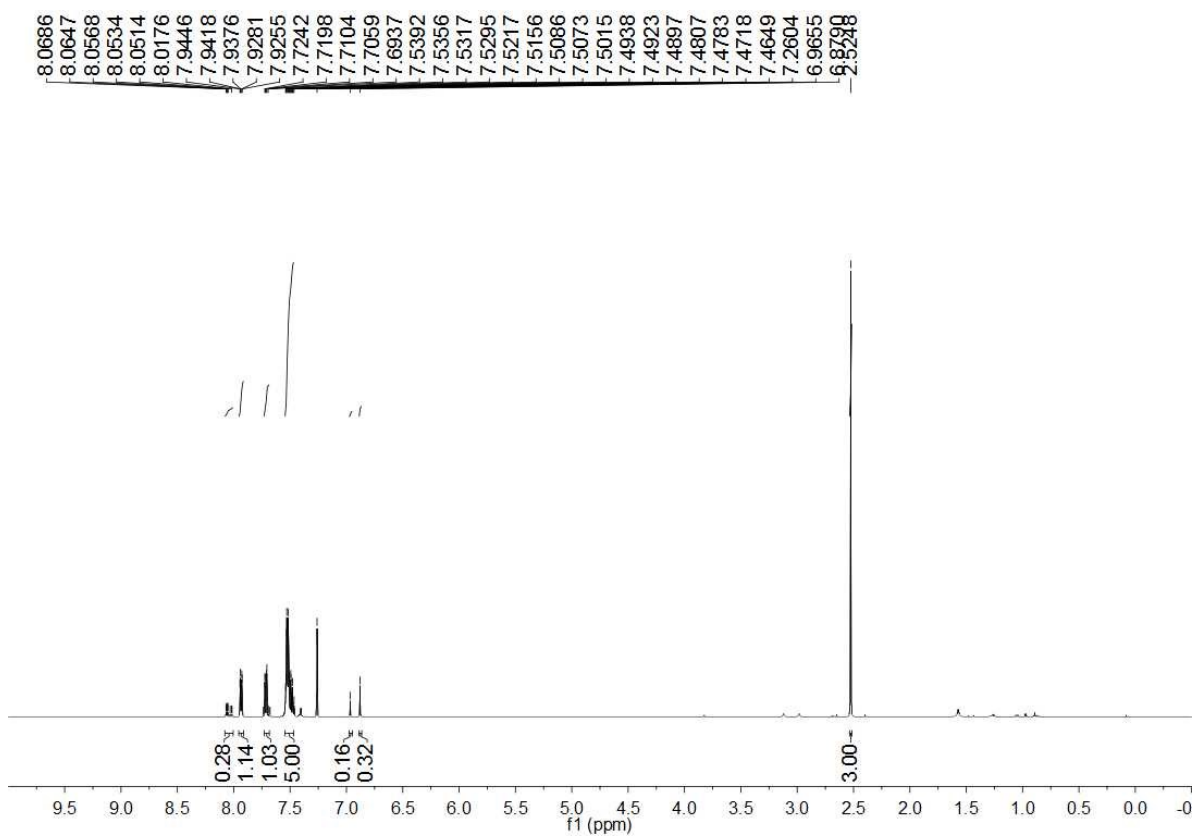
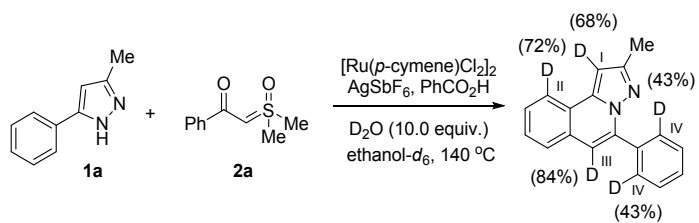
2-Methyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrazolo[5,1-*a*]isoquinoline: (3ap): unknown compound, 24.1 mg, 78% yield, yellow solid, mp: 116-117 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.90 (m, 3H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.6, 140.2, 138.3, 133.7, 133.3, 131.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 127.1, 127.0, 126.7, 126.2, 123.7, 123.5, 112.0, 97.6, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₂₂H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 309.1392, found: 309.1392.

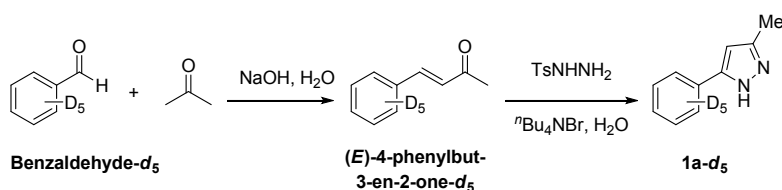
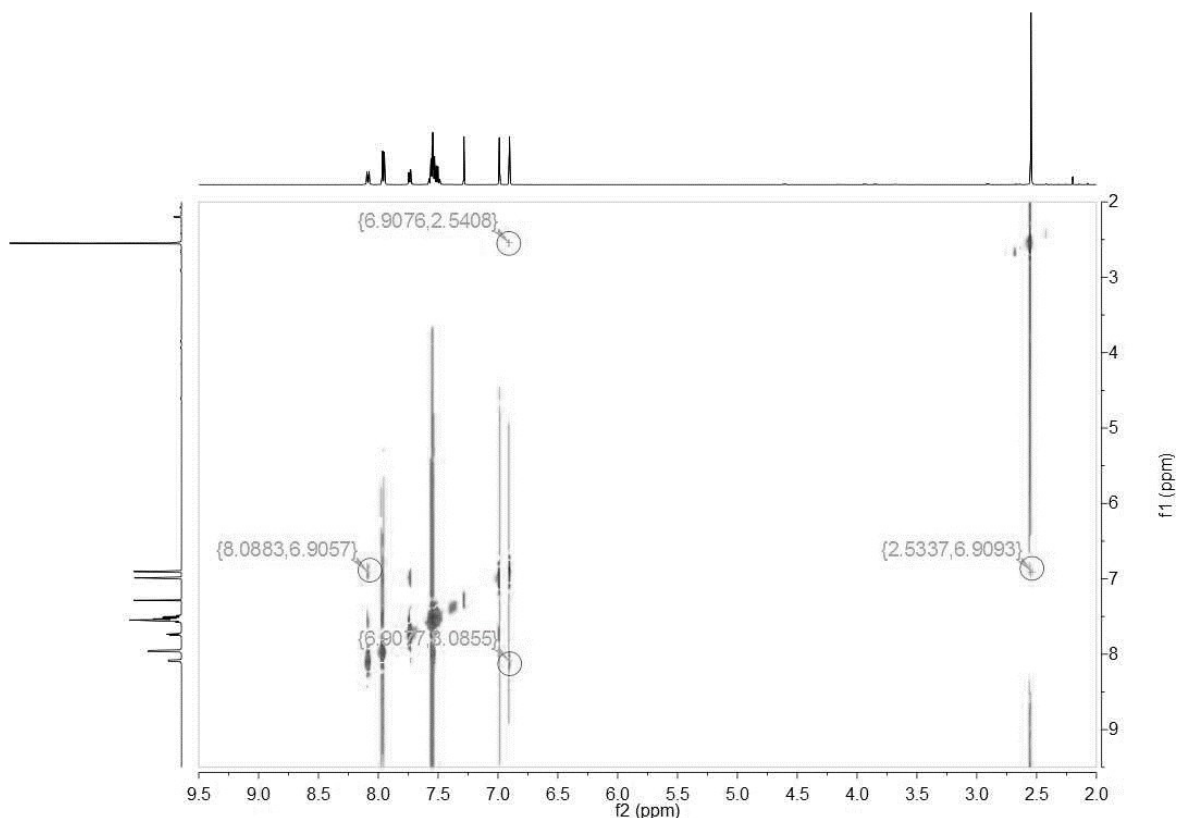
III. Mechanistic Studies

H/D Exchange Experiments. Under N₂, a suspension of 1*H*-pyrazoles **1a** (0.10 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF₆ (6.9 mg, 20 mol %), D₂O (18 μL, 1.0 mmol), and PhCO₂H (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) in ethanol-*d*₆ (1.0 mL) was stirred at 140 °C for 20 h. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated brine and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄. After that, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using PE/EA to afford a white solid product, which was characterized by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.



A suspension of 1*H*-pyrazoles **1** (0.10 mmol), sulfoxonium ylides **2** (0.20 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF₆ (6.9 mg, 20 mol %), D₂O (18 μL, 1.0 mmol), and PhCO₂H (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) in ethanol-*d*₆ (1.0 mL) was stirred at 140 °C for 20 h under an ambient atmosphere of N₂. At ambient temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated brine and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvents *in vacuo*, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (n-hexane/EtOAc: 20/1~10/1) to yield the corresponding product.



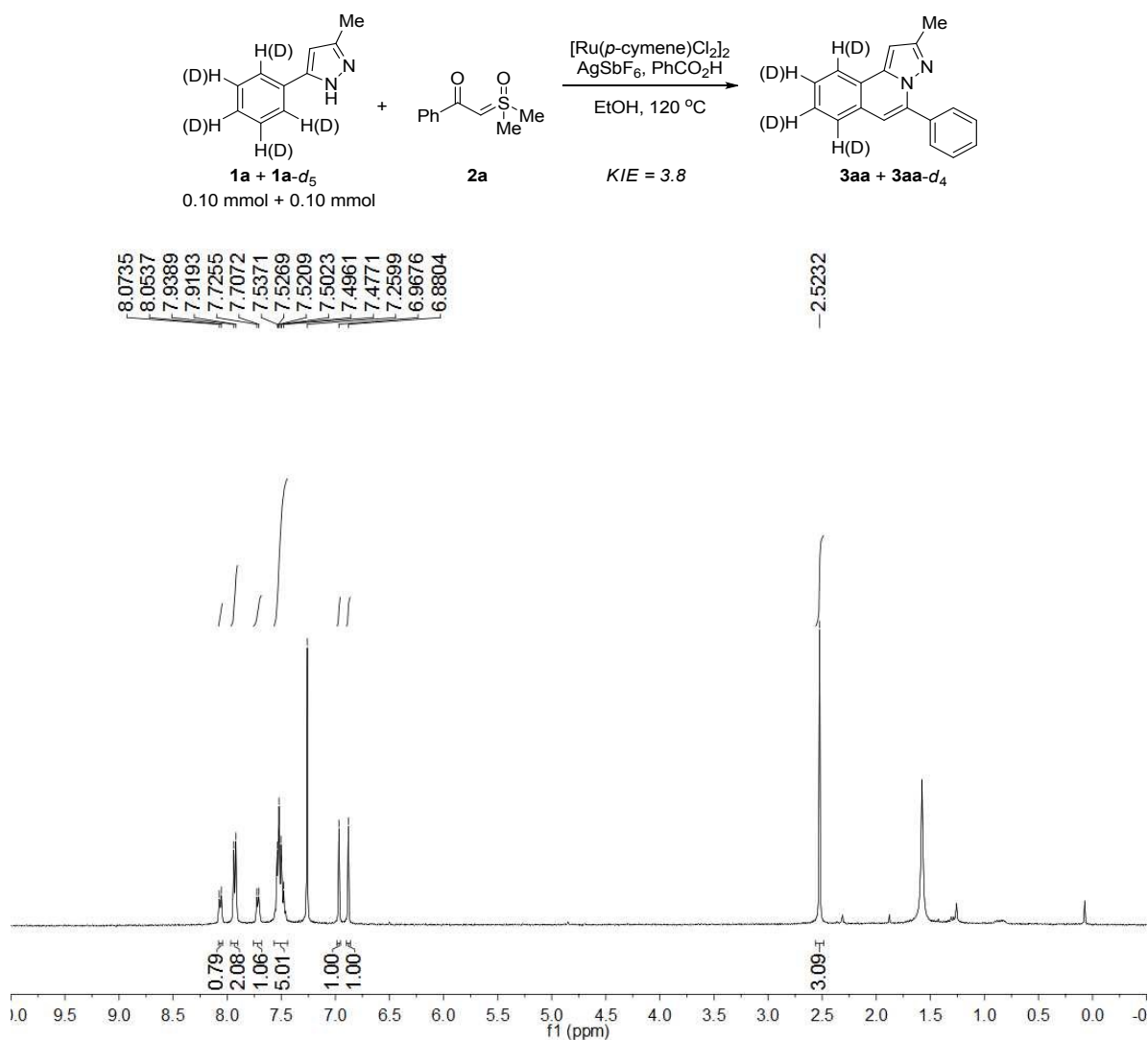


(*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-one- d_5 was synthesized according to the known method.⁴ Benzaldehyde- d_5 (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was suspended in a mixture of acetone/water (2 mL/2 mL), and 1% aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (5 mL) was slowly added to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was heated to 65 °C and stirred until no benzaldehyde- d_5 was detected by TLC. The reaction mixture was cooled to ambient temperature, a mixture of water (10 mL) and toluene (10 mL) was added to the flask. The organic phase was separated, washed with brine. The combined organic layer was dried with $MgSO_4$ and concentrated to dryness, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the product (75% yield). (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-one- d_5 : 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.52 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.1, 143.1, 134.0, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 27.28.

1a- d_5 was synthesized according to the known method.⁵ (*E*)-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-one- d_5 (5.0 mmol, 1 equiv), tosyl hydrazide (6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), NaOH (1.5 equiv), nBu_4NBr (1.5 equiv), and 5 mL H_2O were added to a Schlenk tube, under N_2 . The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C and stirred for 10 h. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to ambient temperature, and diluted with 15 mL of ethyl acetate, and washed with brine (15 mL), water (15 mL), and then the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 . After concentrated *in vacuo*, the crude product was purified

by column chromatography to give the product (60% yield). **1a-d₅**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.35 (s, 1H), 2.32 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 132.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 125.5, 125.3, 125.1, 102.0, 11.5.

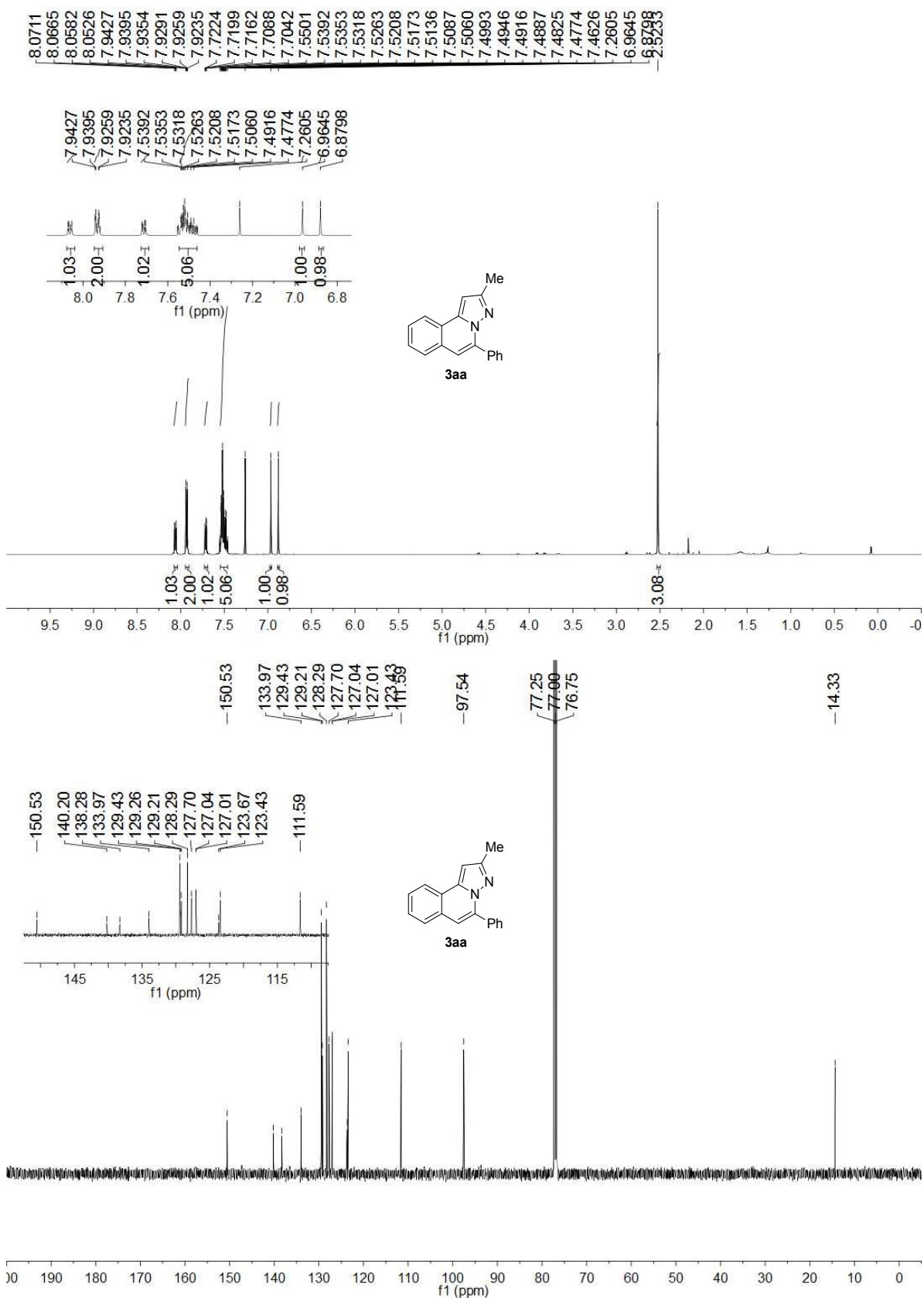
Kinetic Isotope Effect Experiments. Two pressure tubes were separately charged with **1a** (0.10 mmol) and **1a-d₅** (0.1 mmol), and to each tube was added sulfoxonium ylides **2** (0.20 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (3.1 mg, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF₆ (6.9 mg, 20 mol %), PhCO₂H (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol), and EtOH (1.5 mL) under N₂. The two reaction mixtures were stirred side by side in an oil bath preheated at 120 °C for 30 min. After that, the reaction was quenched in an ice bath and n-hexane was rapidly added to each tube. The two mixtures were combined and the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using n-hexane/EtOAc: 20/1~10/1 to yield the product **3aa** and **3aa-d₄** as white solid (20.0 mg, 8% yield). The KIE value was determined to be *k_H*/*k_D* = 3.8 on the basis of ¹H NMR analysis.

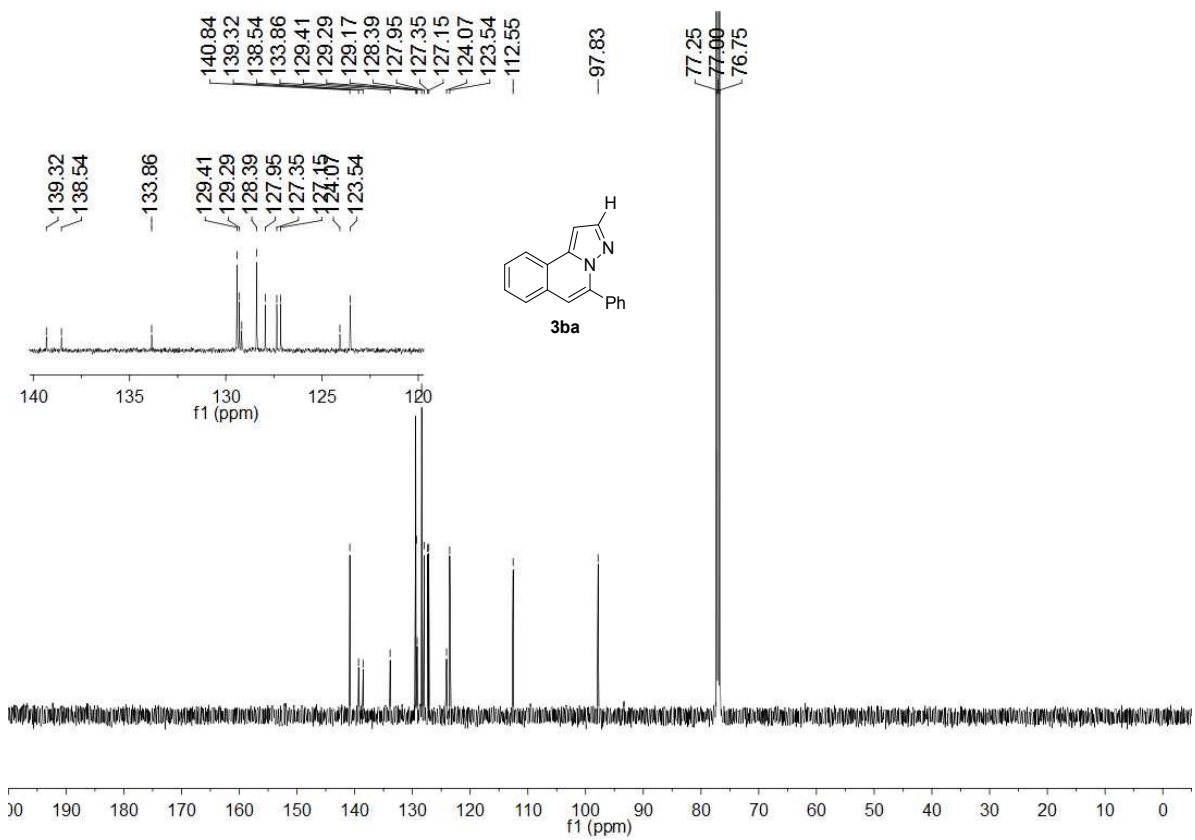
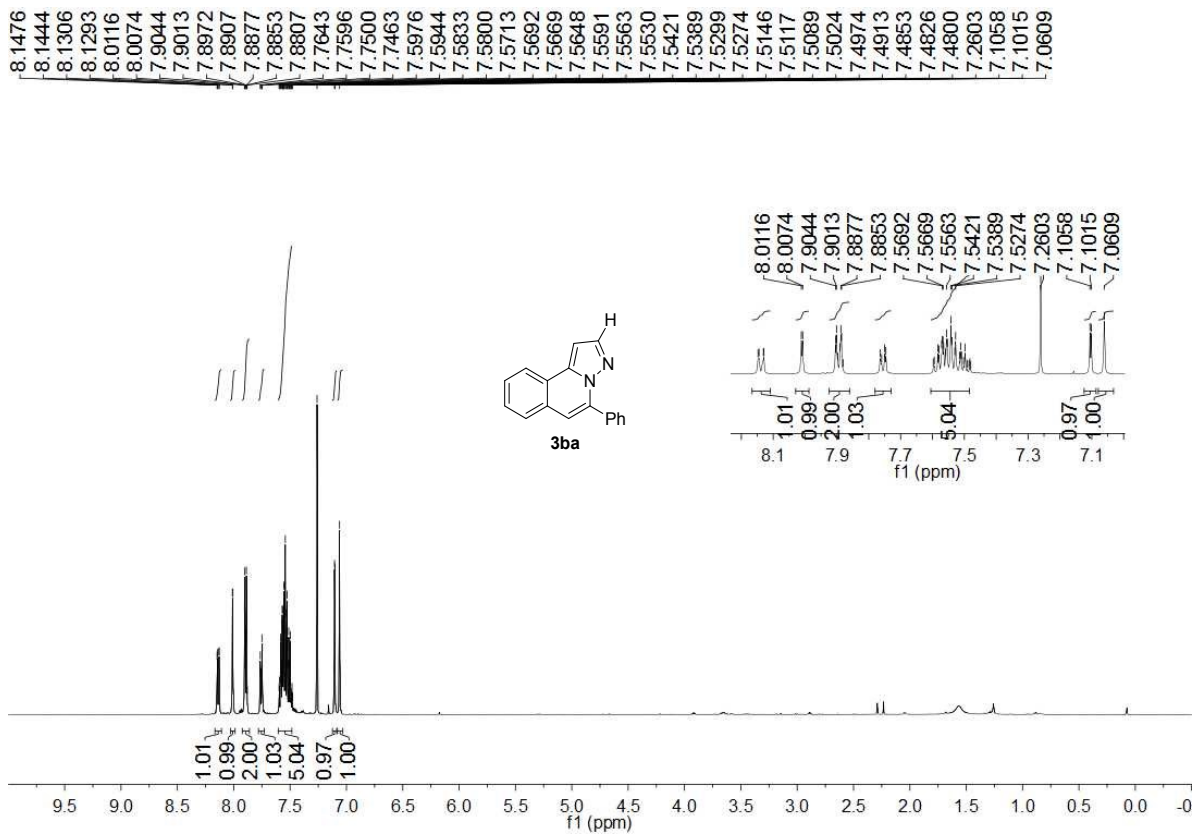


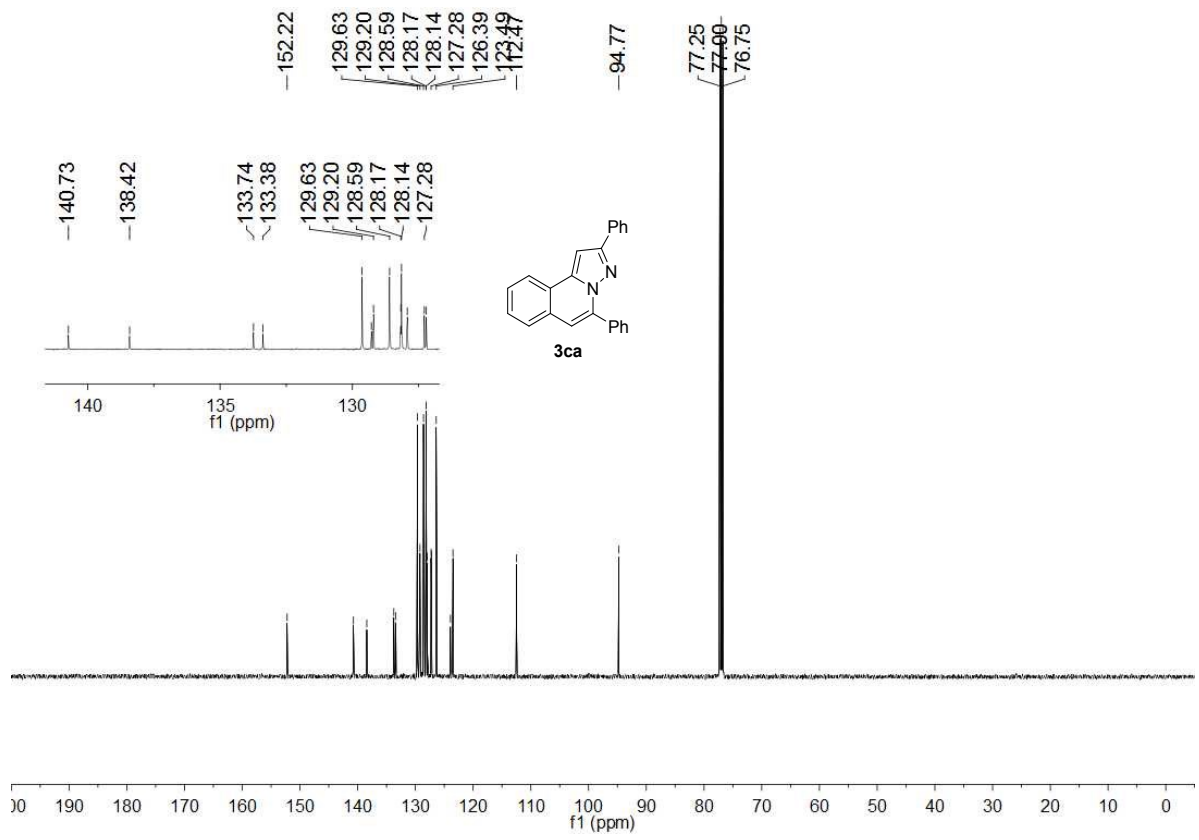
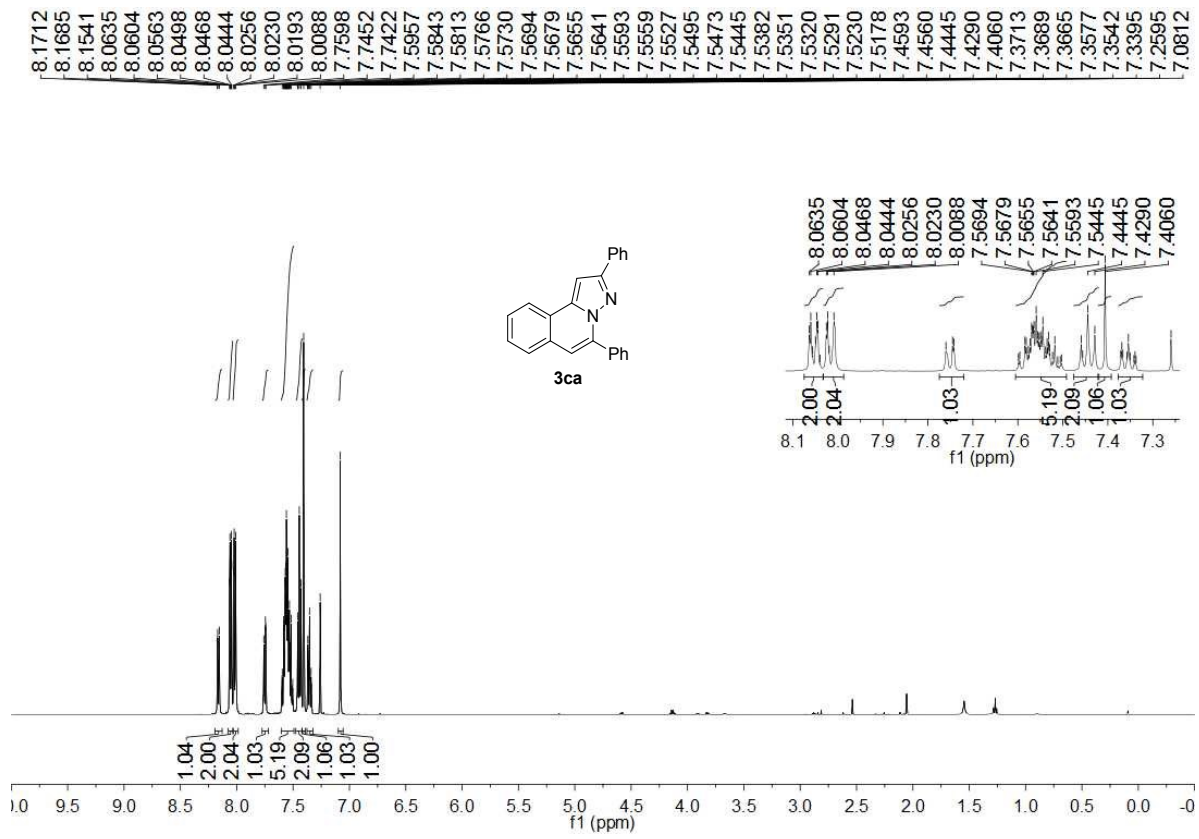
IV. References

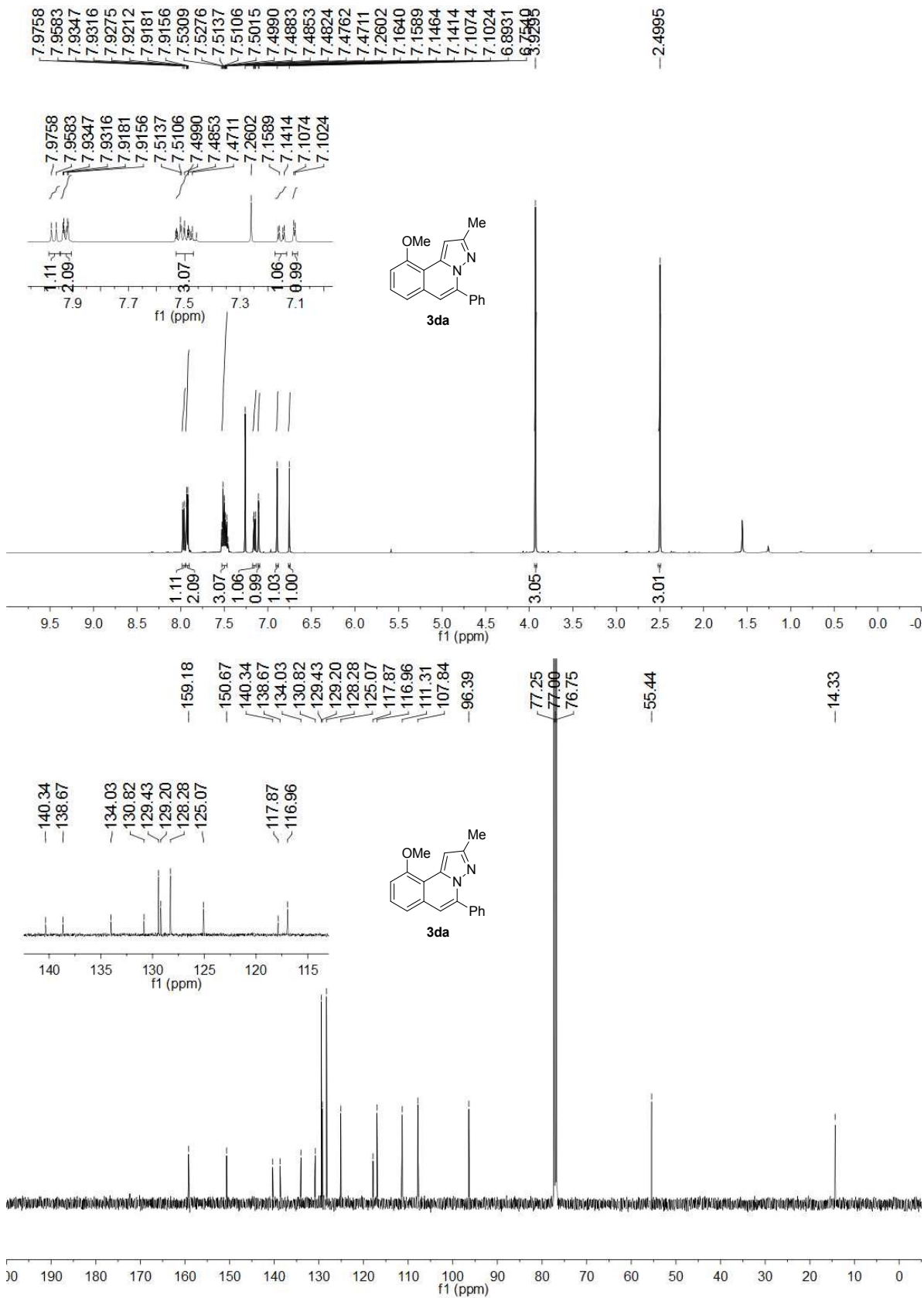
1. X. Fan, M. Yan, Y. Wang, X. Zhang, *J. Org. Chem.*, **2015**, *80*, 10536-10547.
2. S. Li, J. Wu, *Org. Lett.*, **2011**, *13*, 712-715.
3. Y. Yang, H. Ren, D. Wang, F. Shi, C. Wu, *RSC Adv.*, **2013**, *3*, 10434-10441.
4. a) R. Shi, F. Liao, H. Niu, A. Lei, *Org. Chem. Front.*, **2018**, *5*, 1957-1961; b) H.-Y. Hao, Y.-J. Mao, Z.-Y. Xu, S.-J. Lou, D.-Q. Xu, *Org. Lett.*, **2020**, *22*, 2396-2402.
5. J. Wen, Y. Fu, R.-Y. Zhang, J. Zhang, S.-Y. Chen, X.-Q. Yu, *Tetrahedron*, **2011**, *67*, 9618-9621.

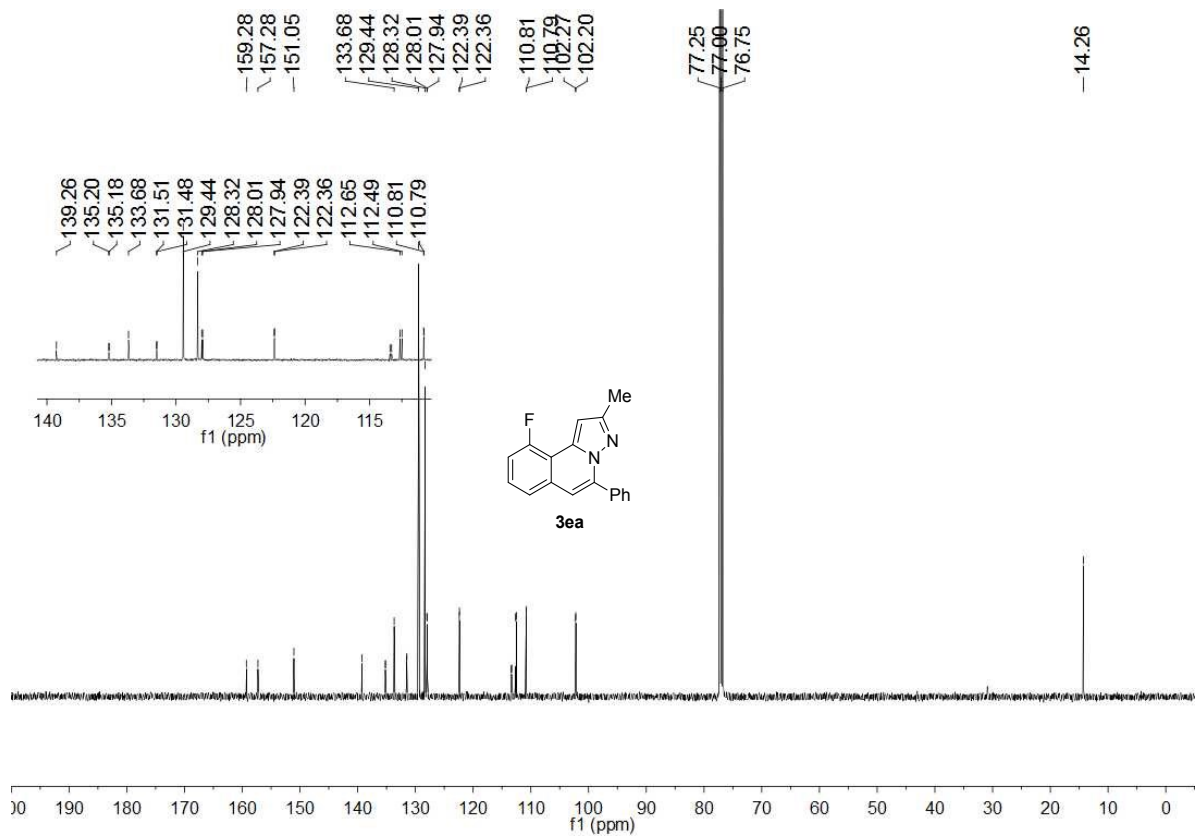
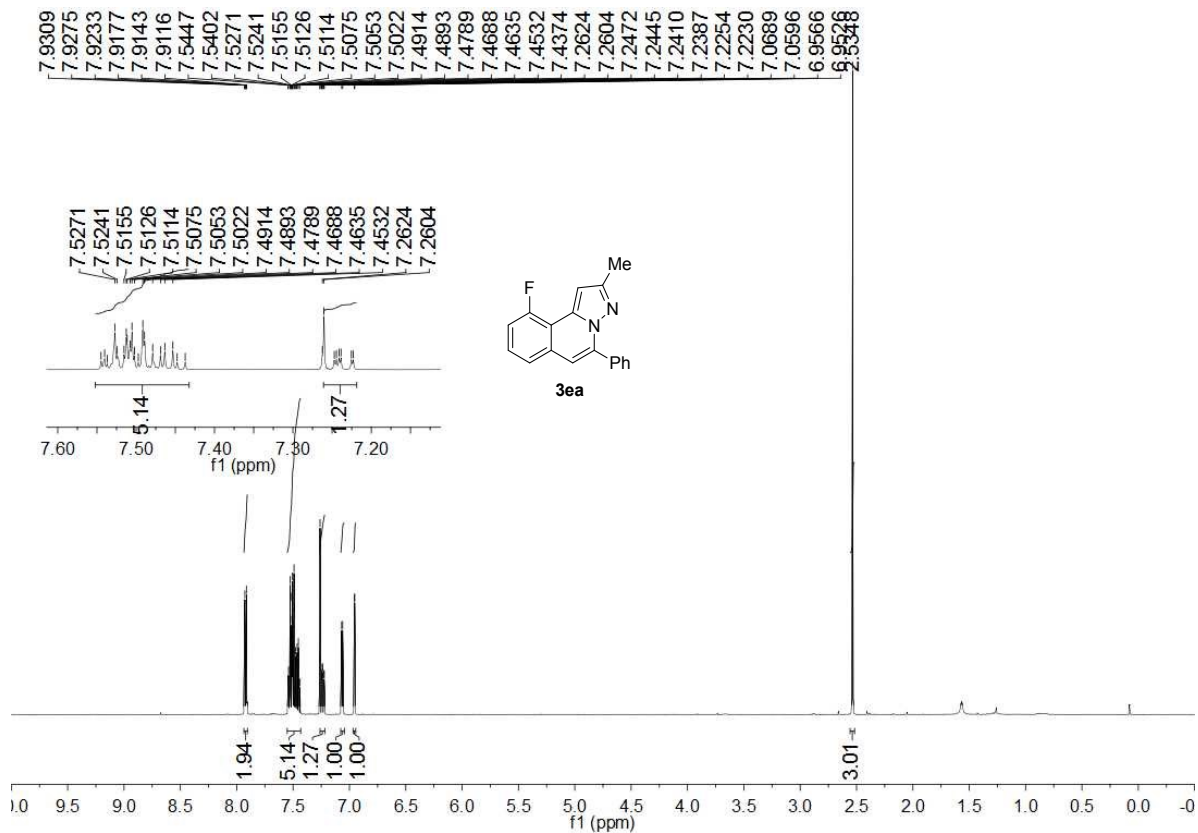
V. Spectral Data for Representative Compounds

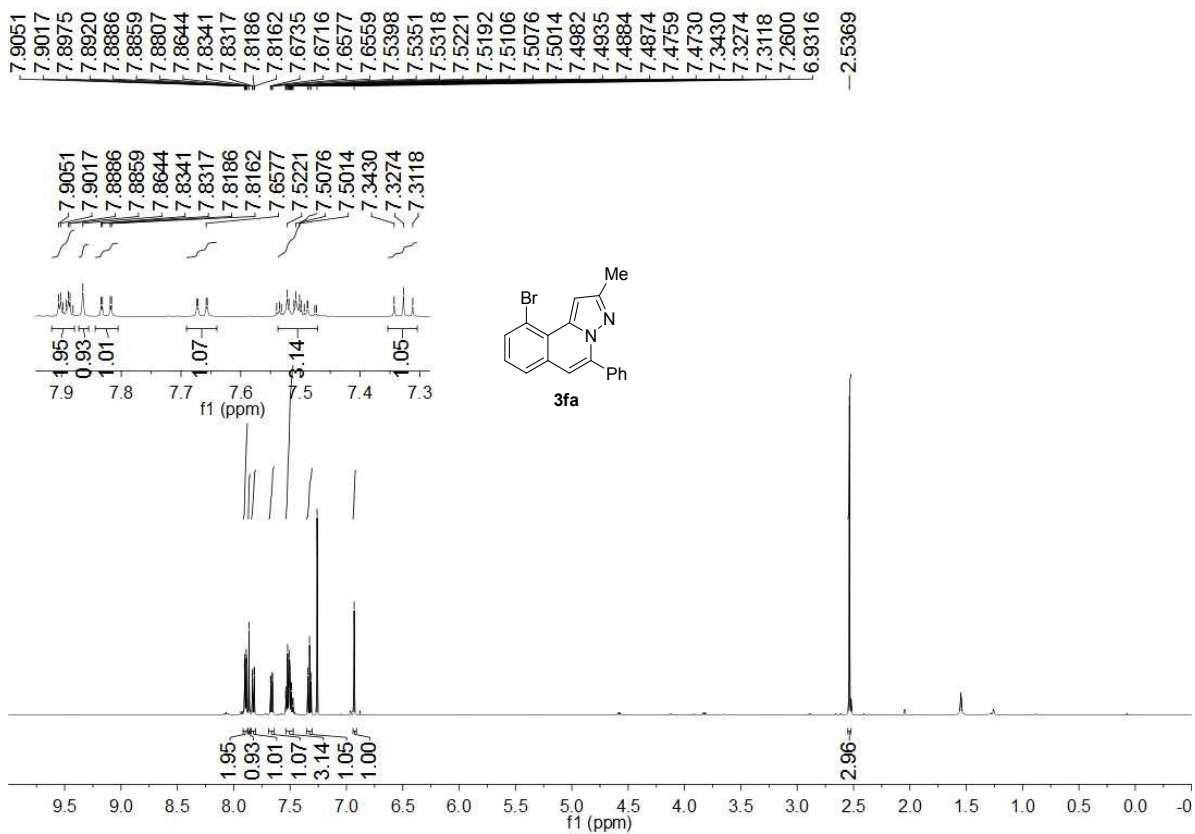
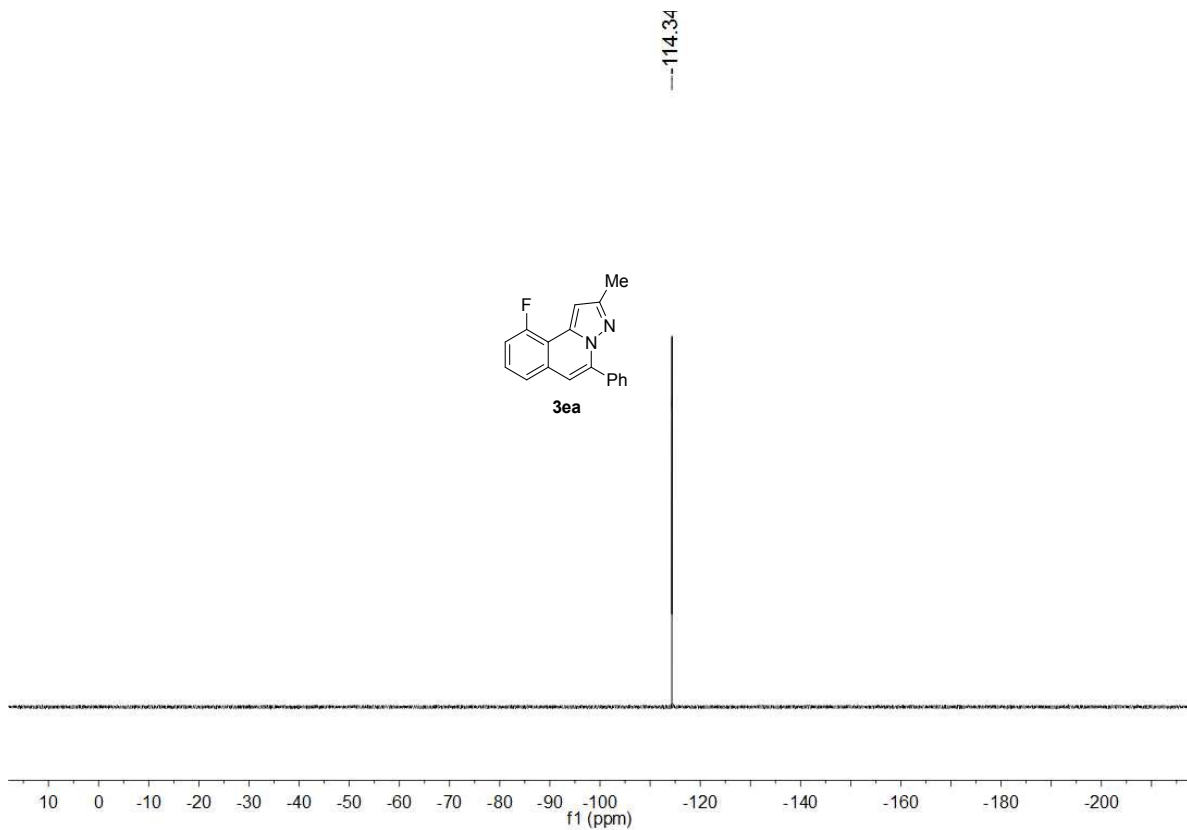


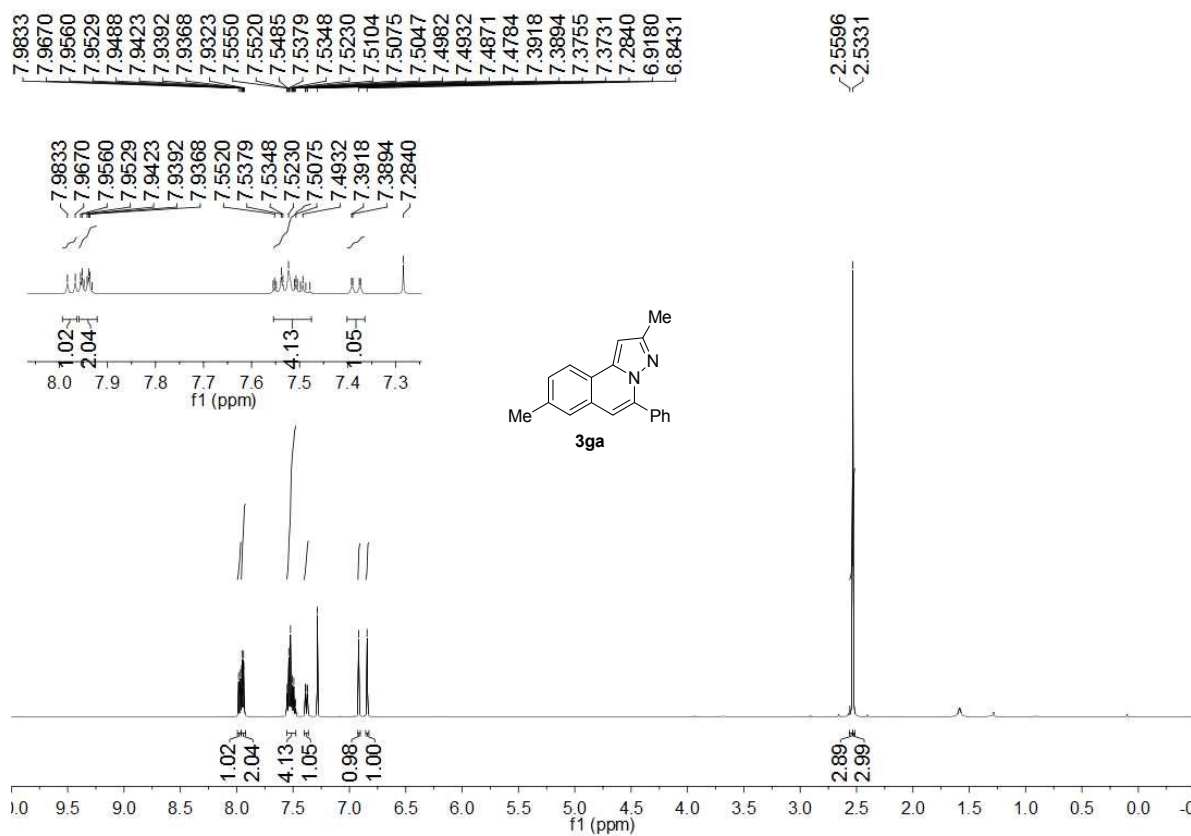
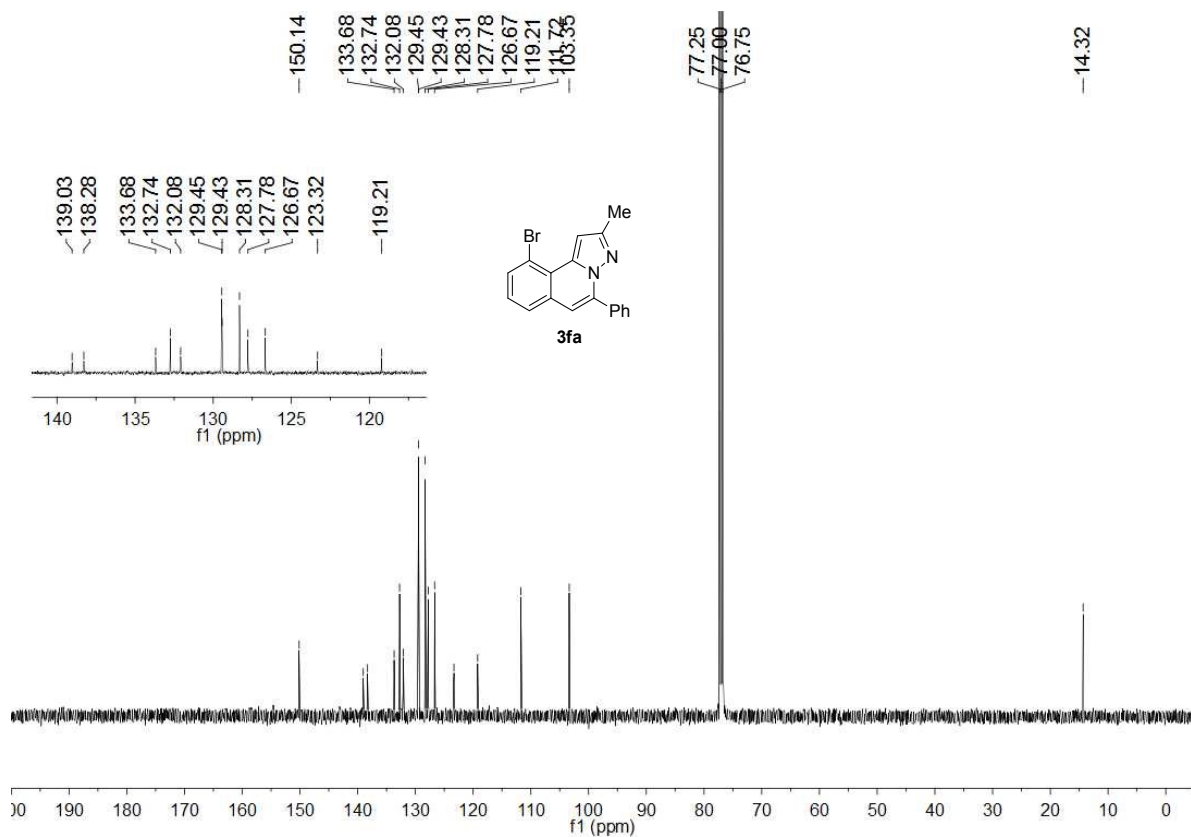


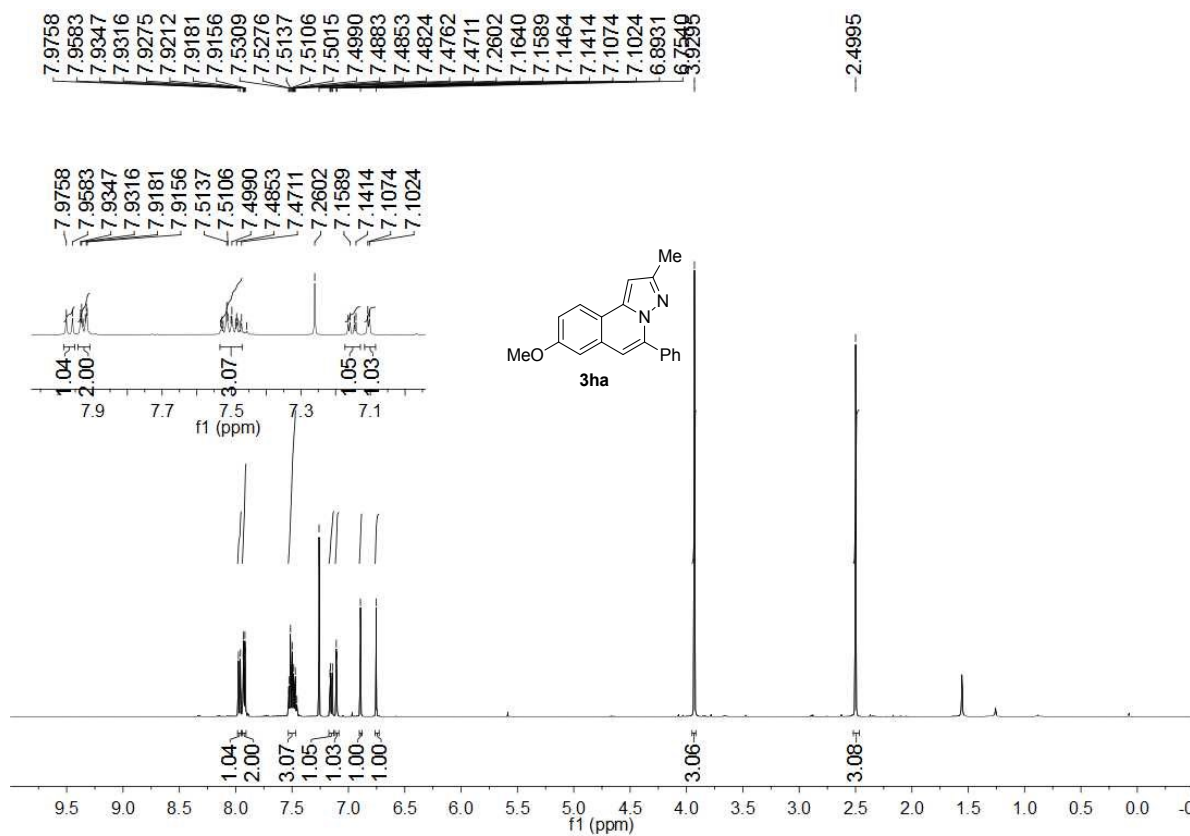
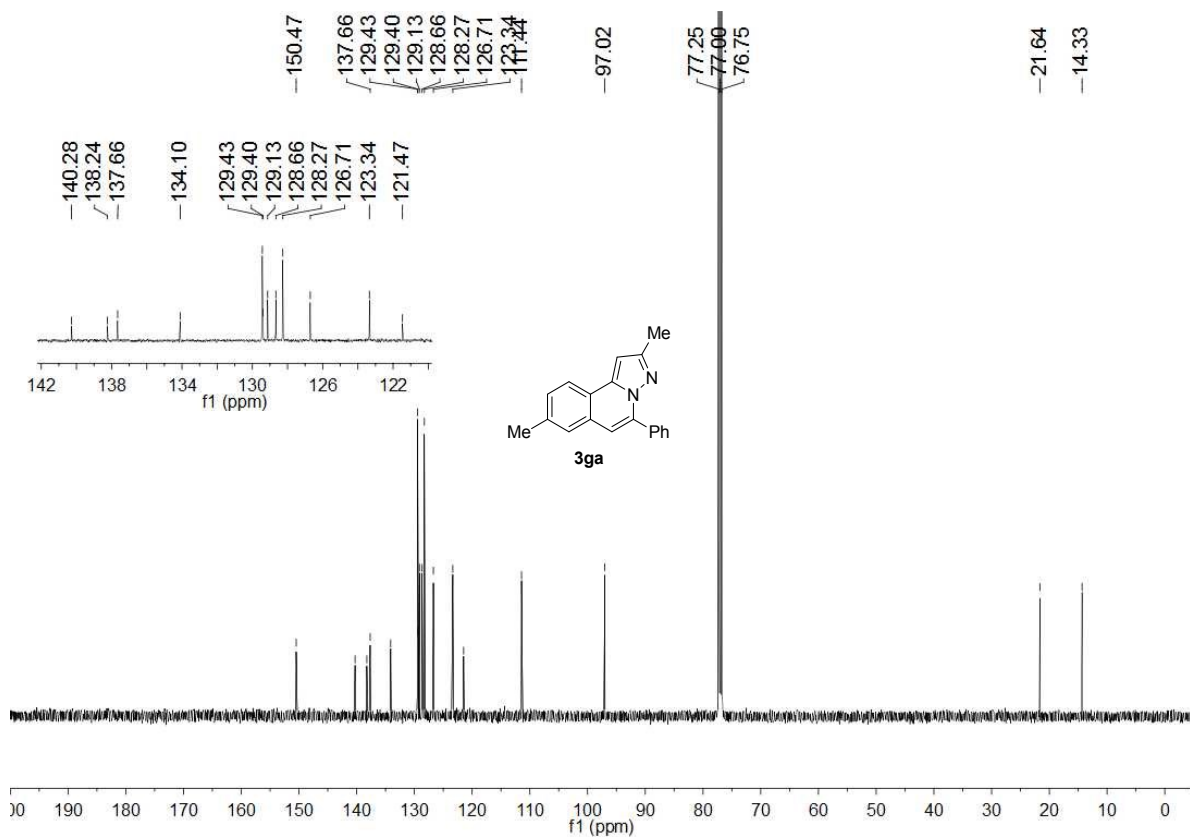


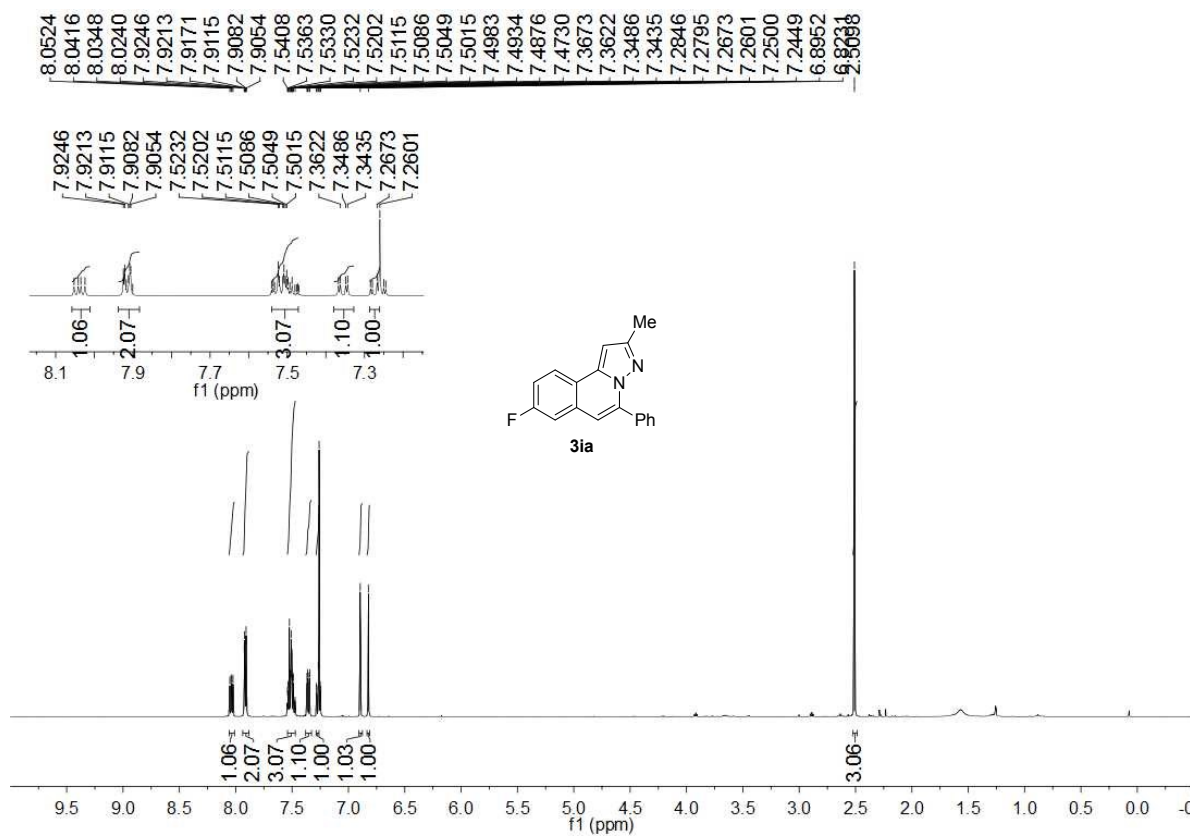
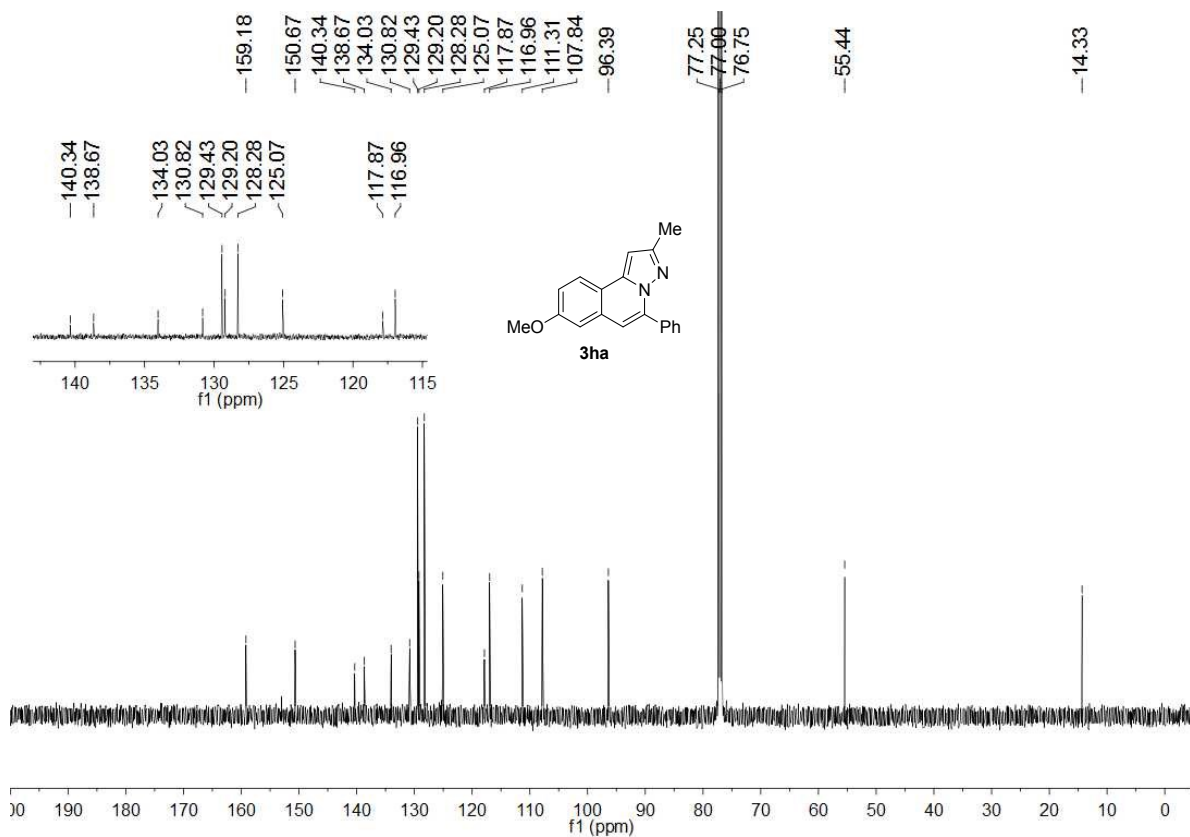


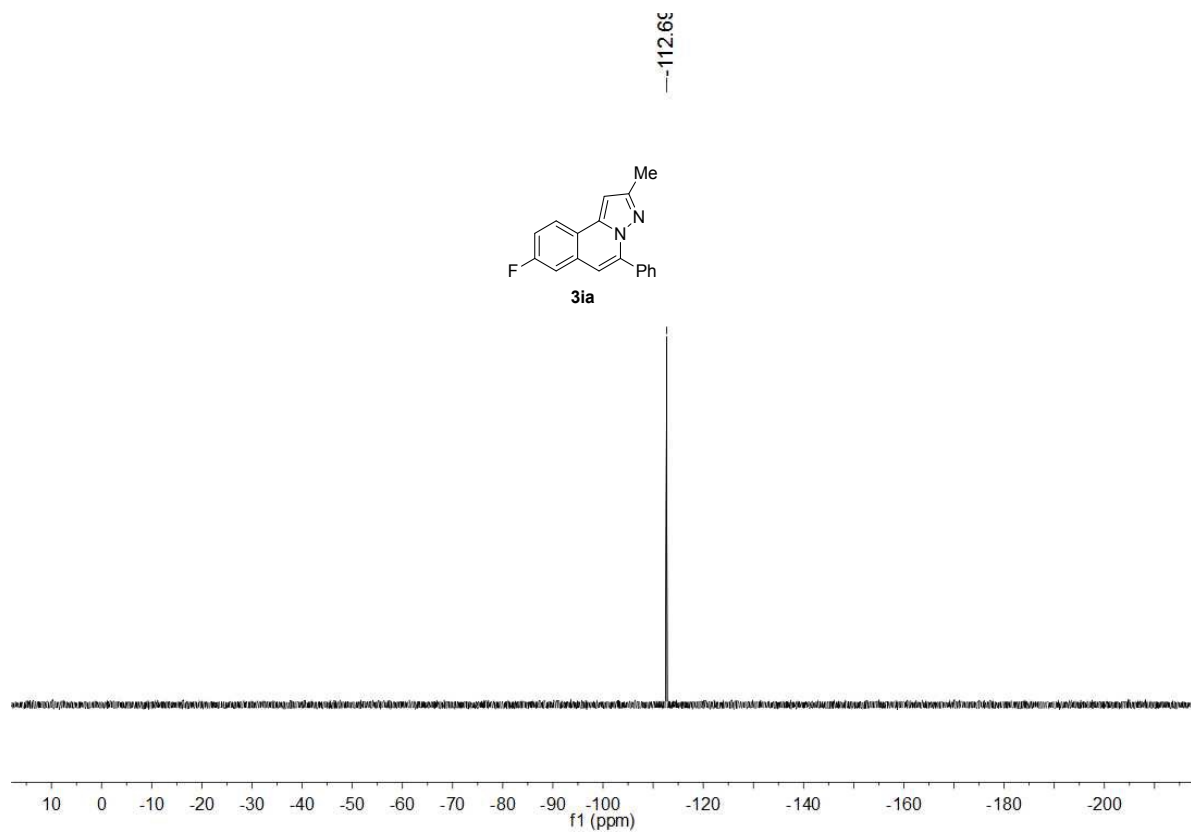
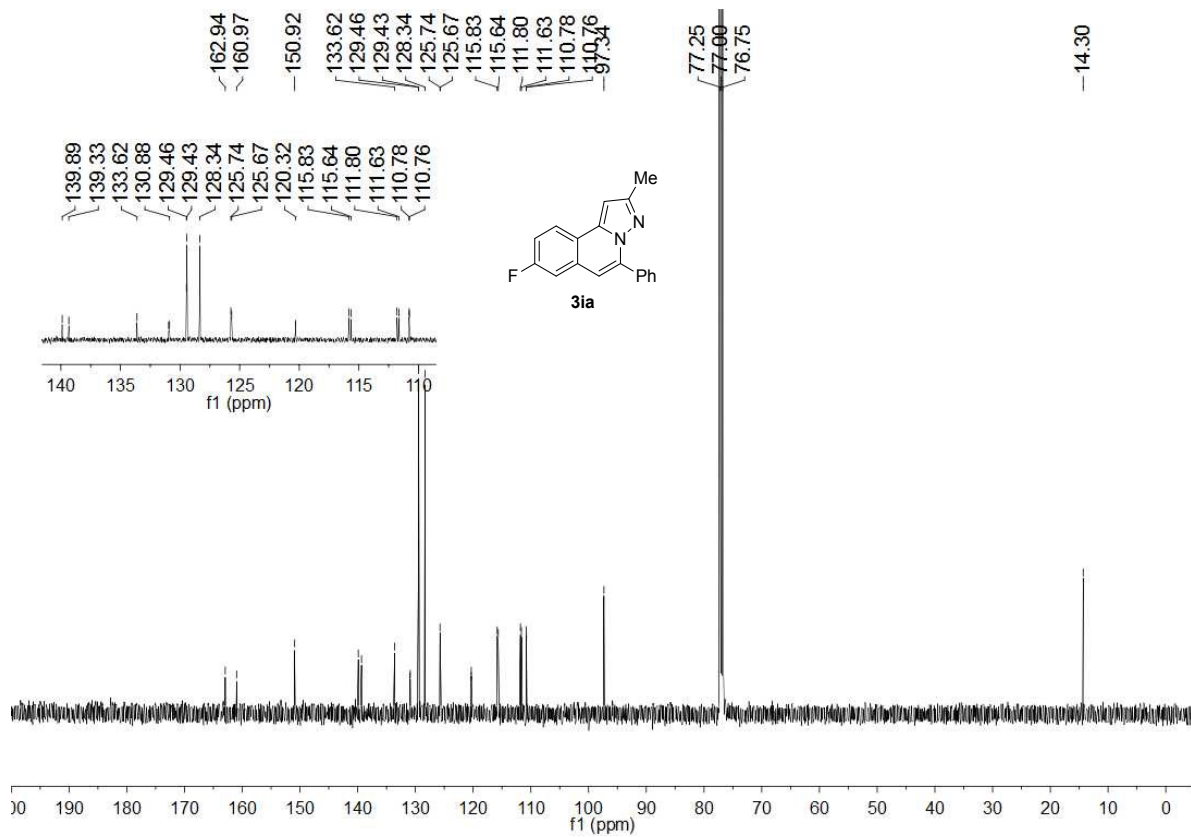


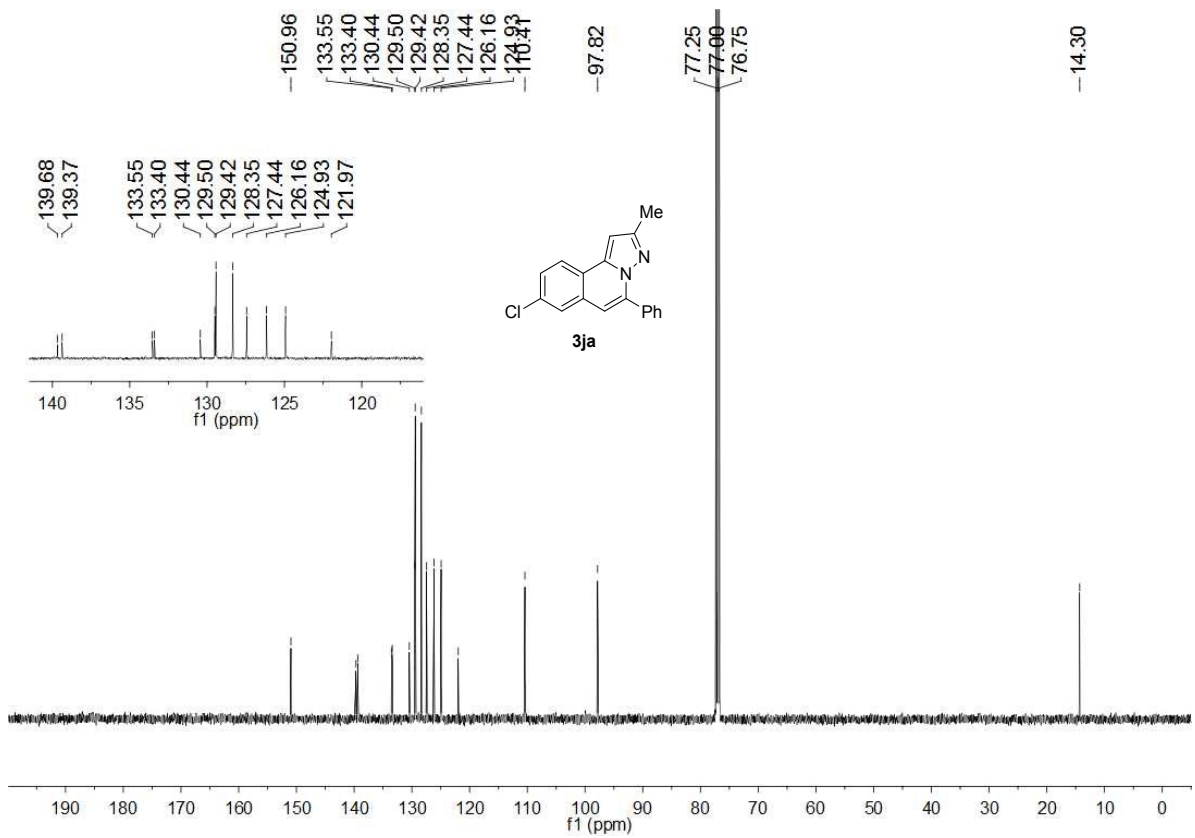
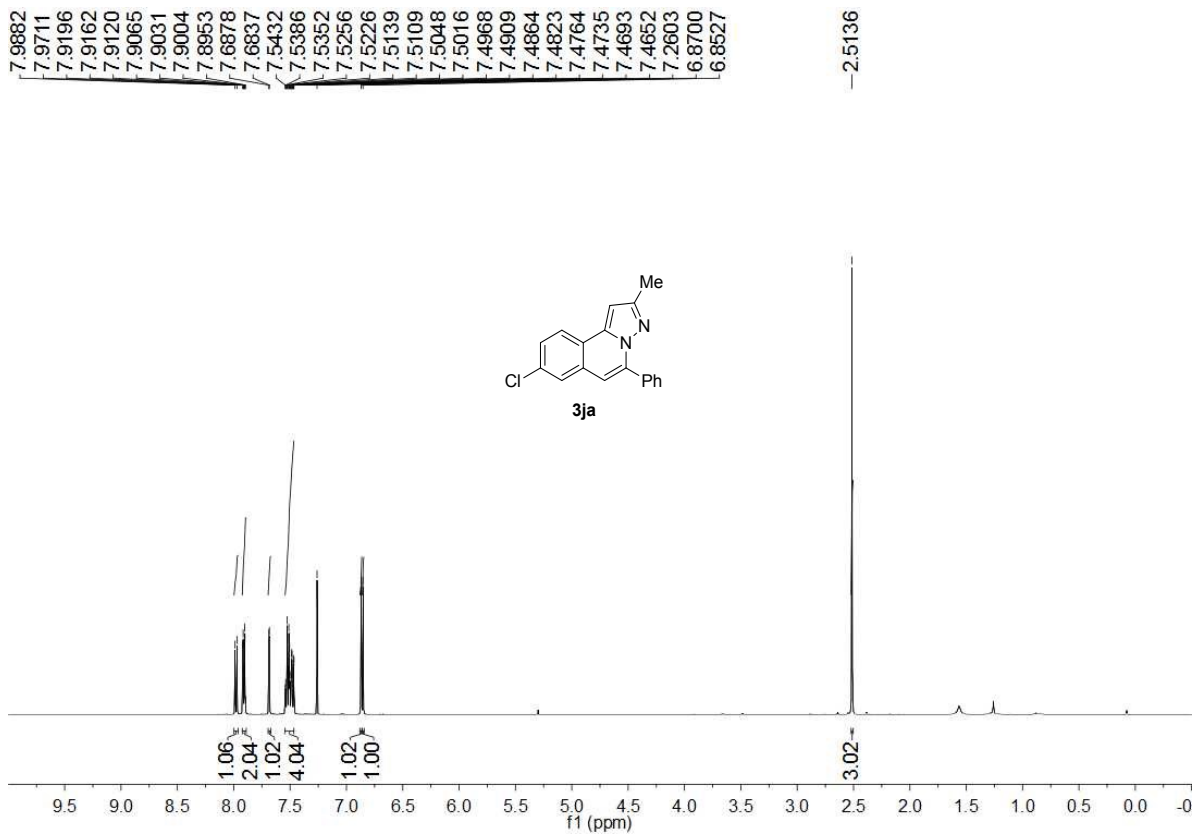


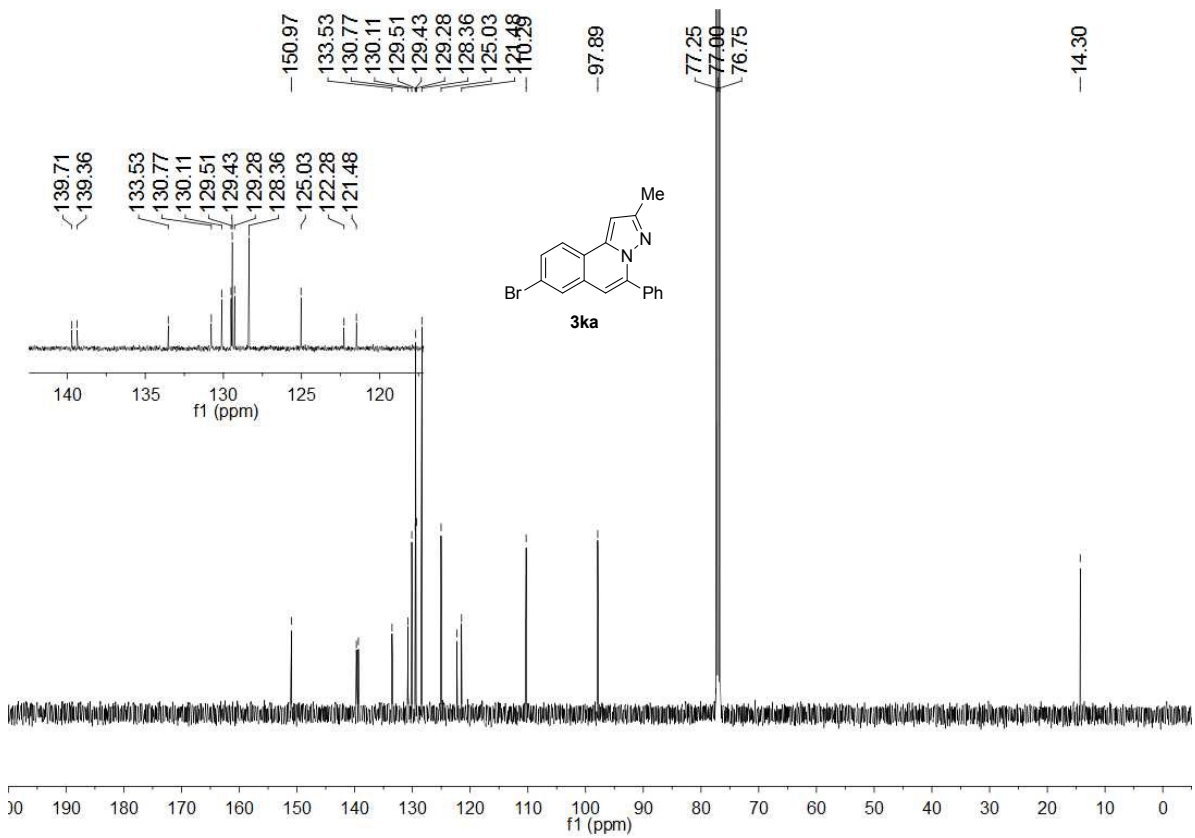
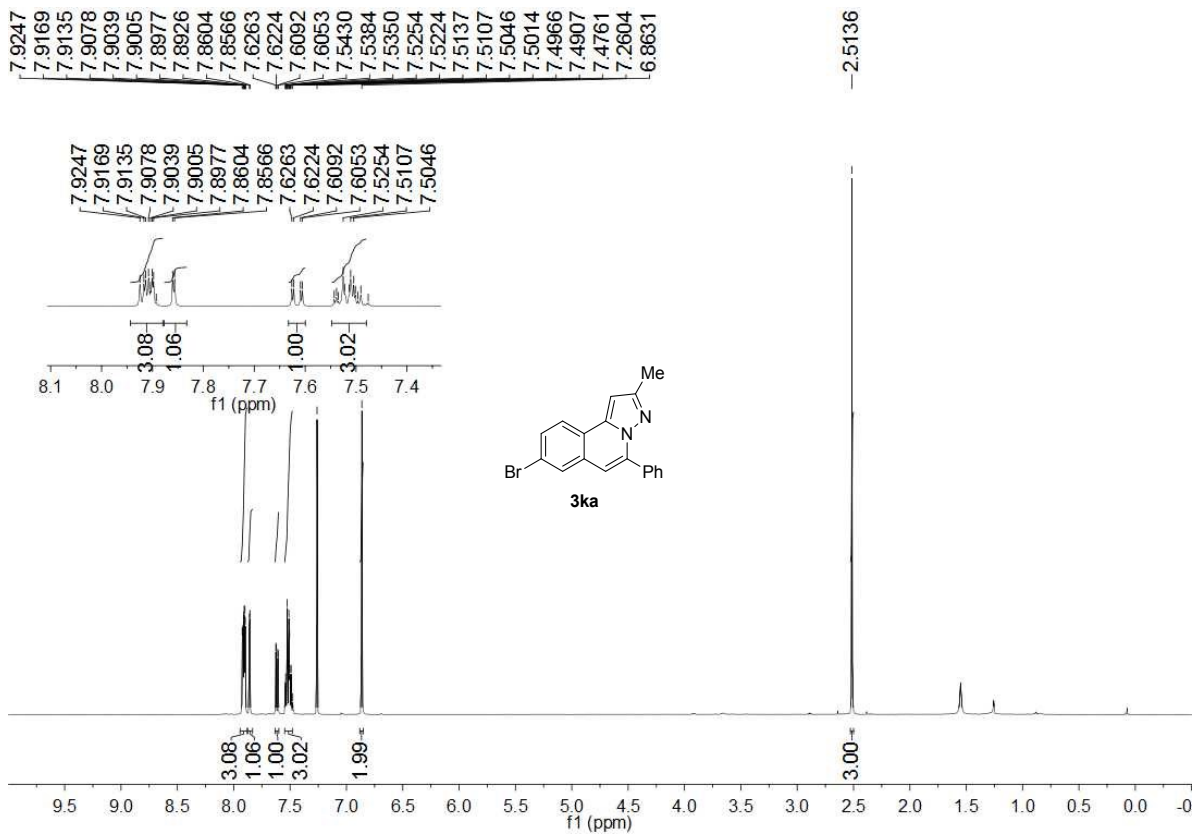


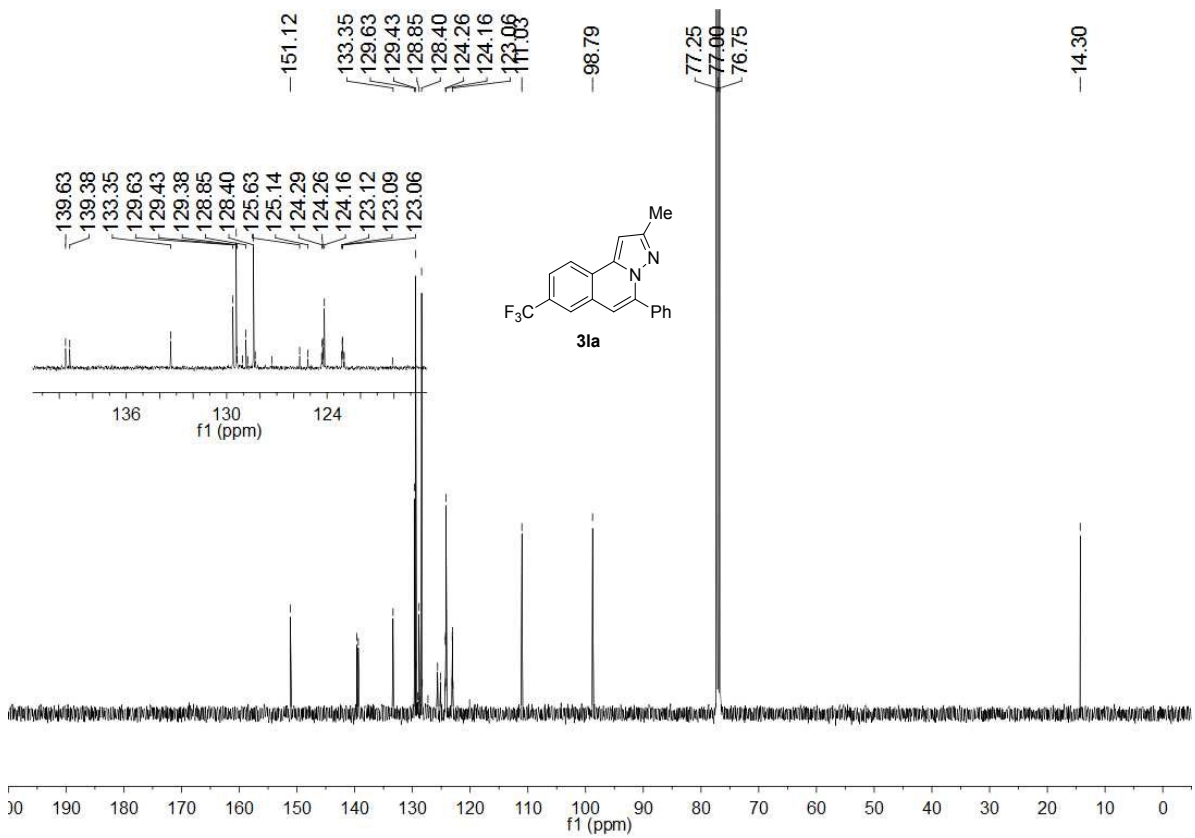
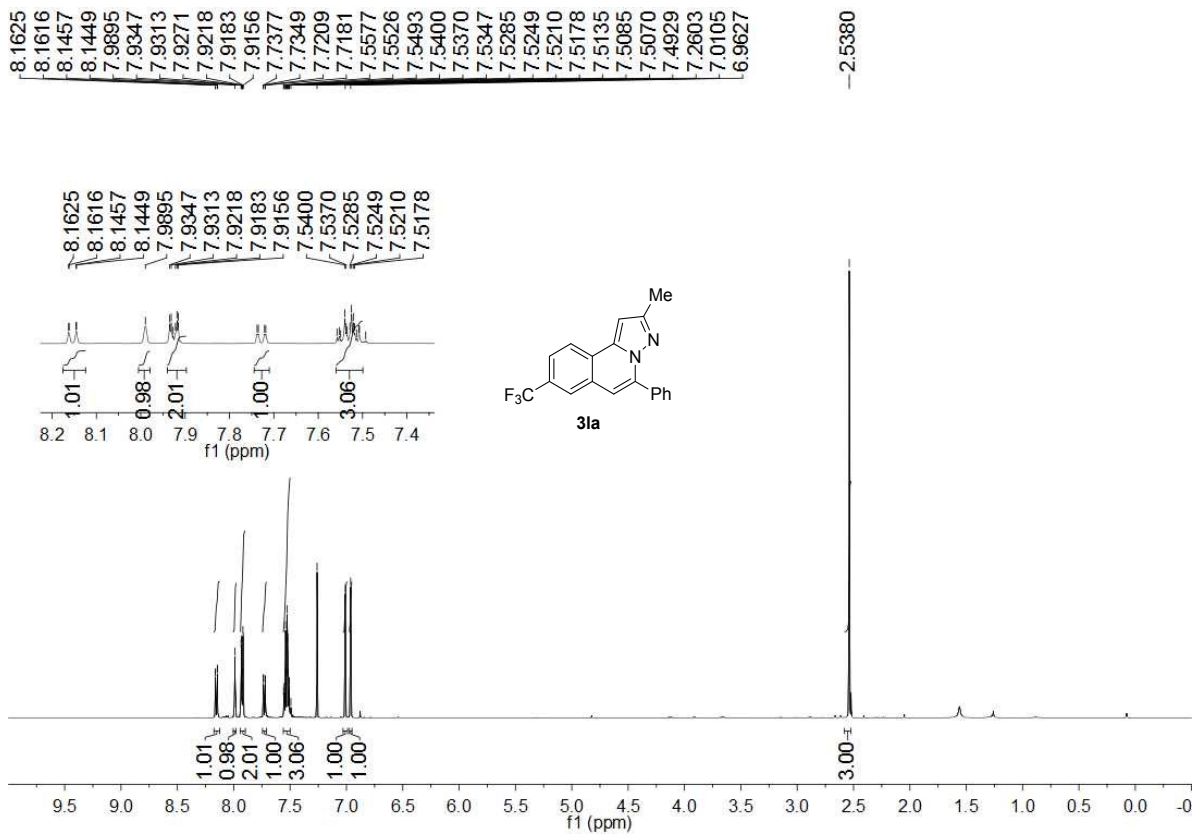


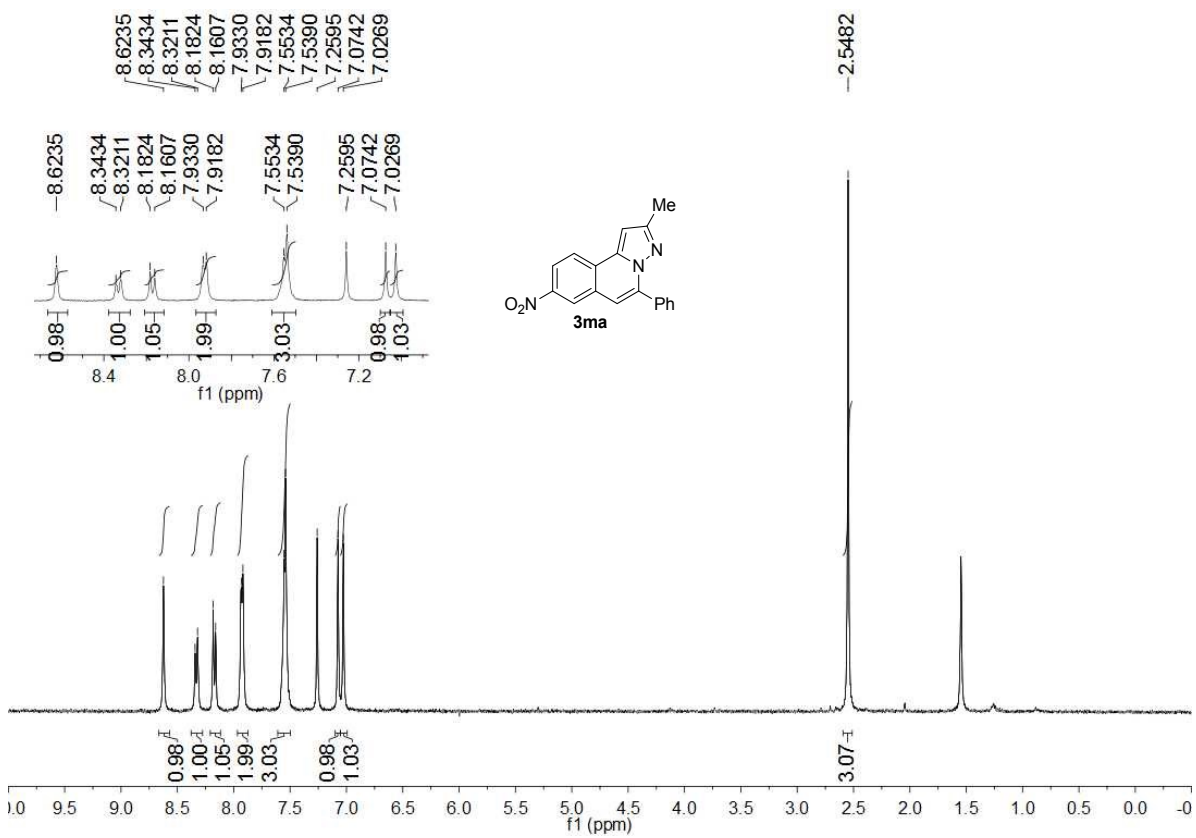
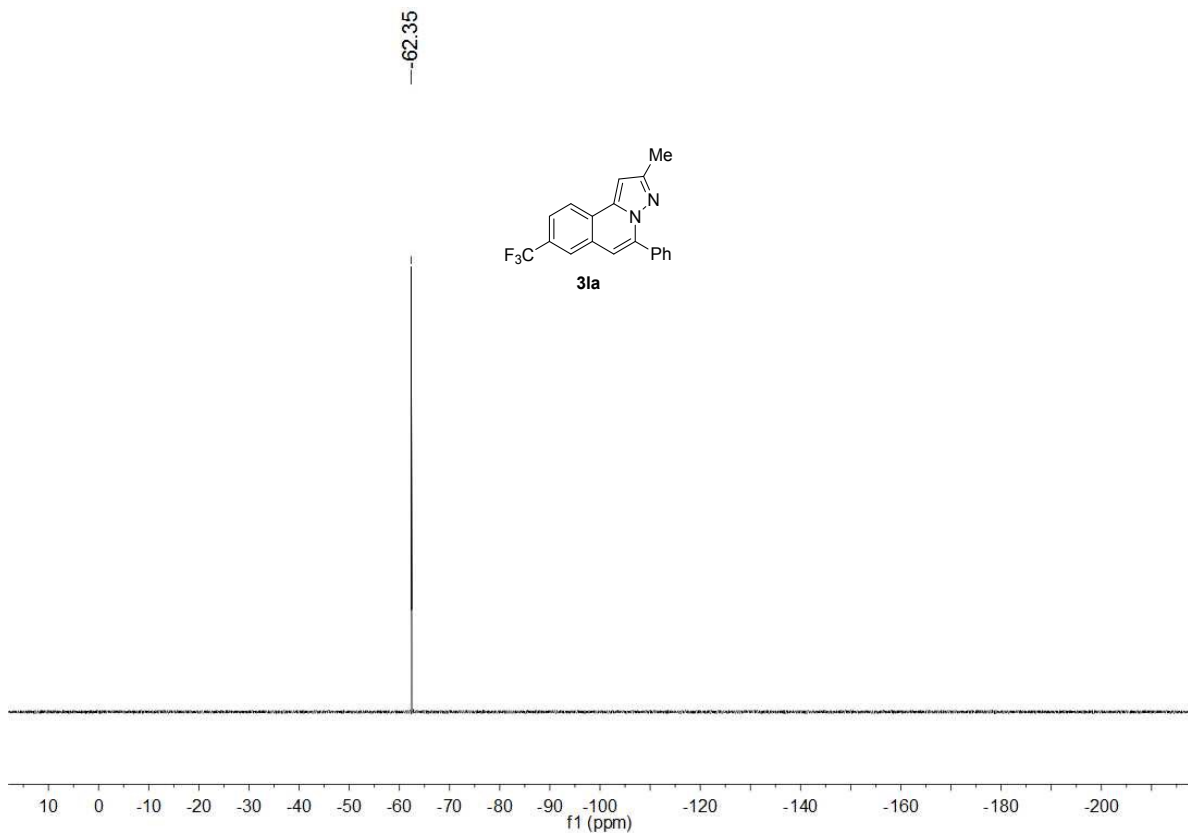


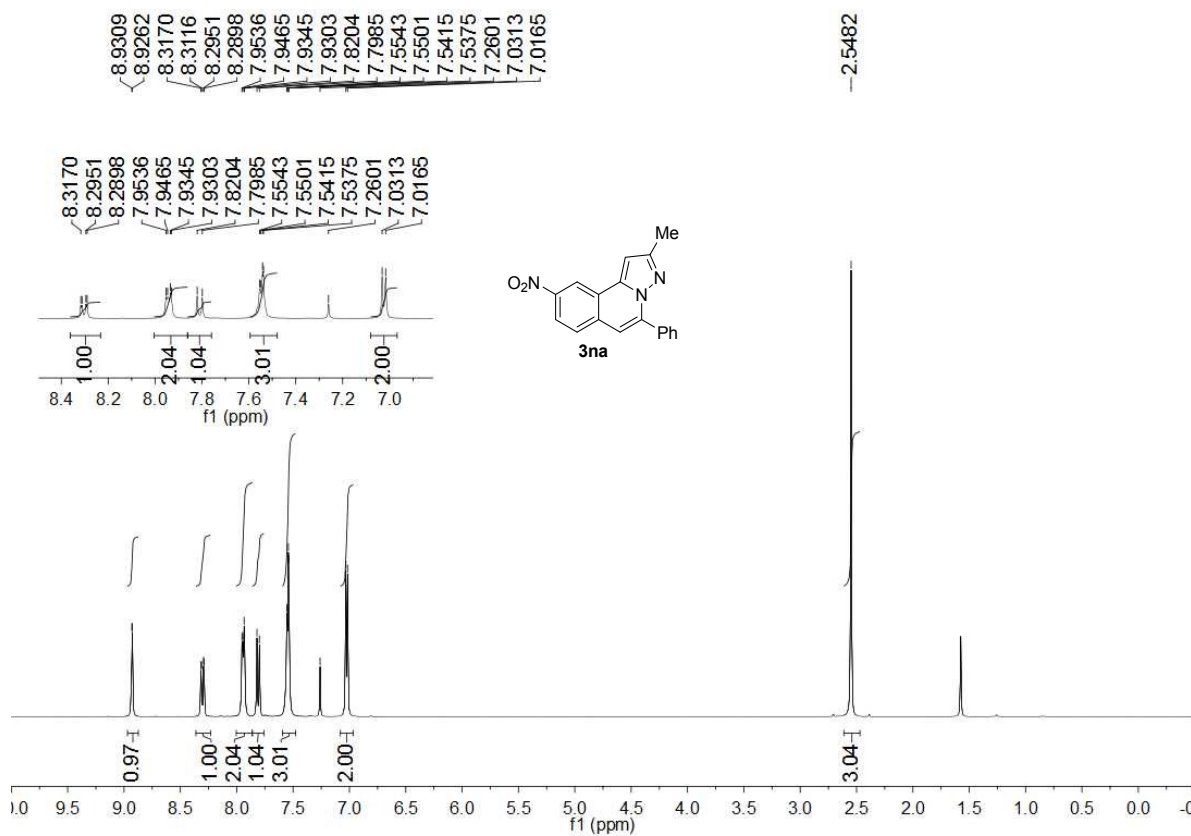
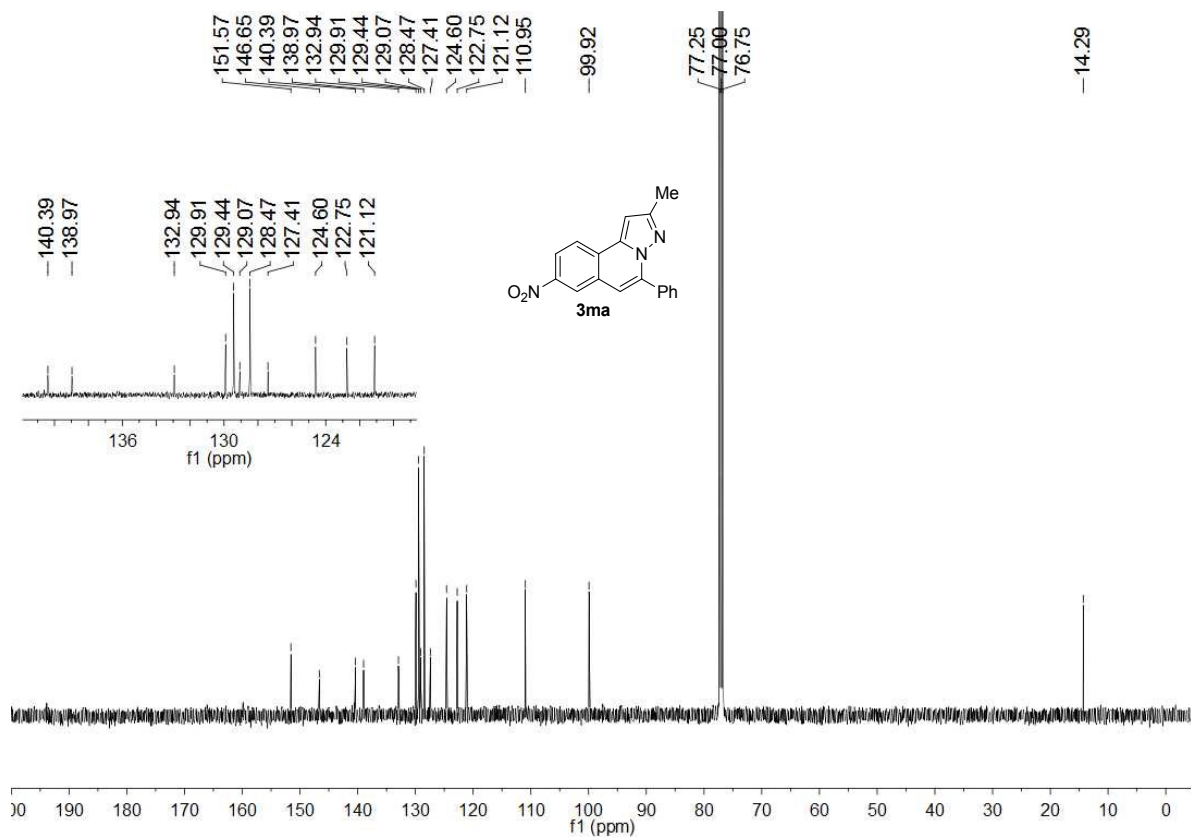


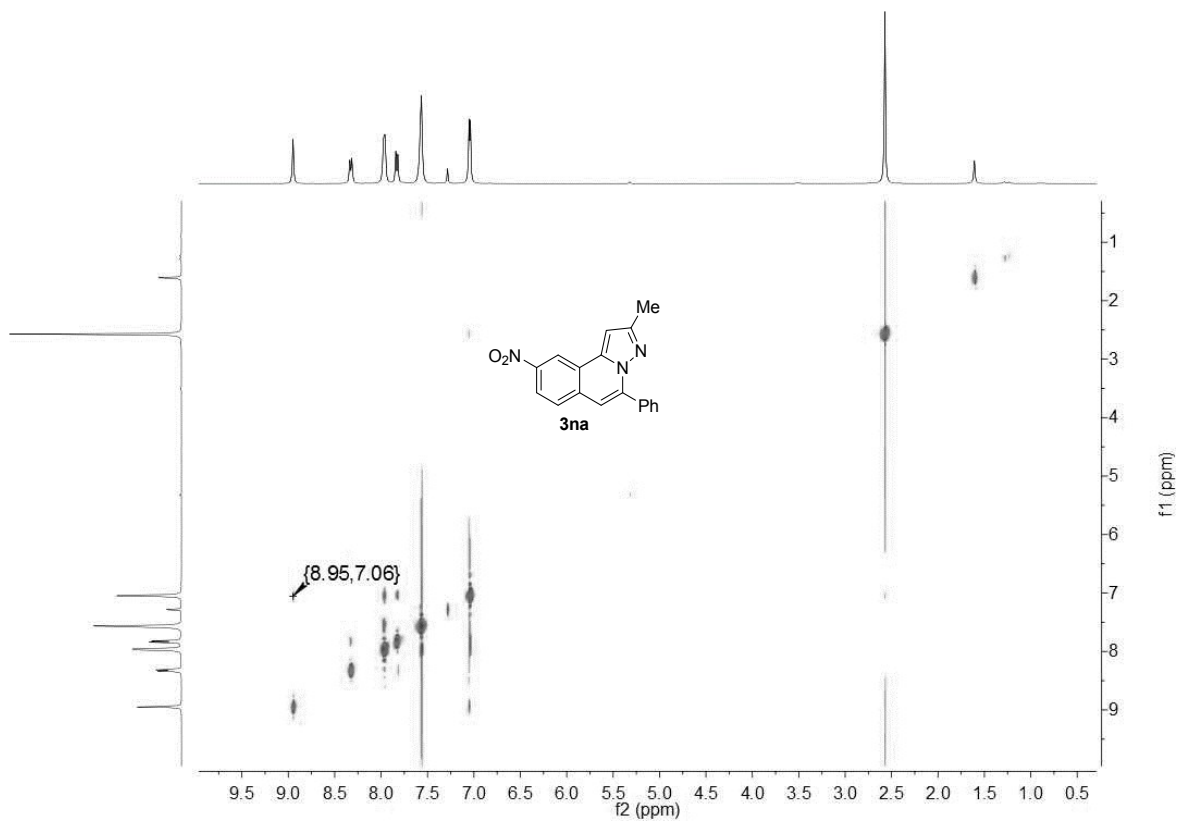
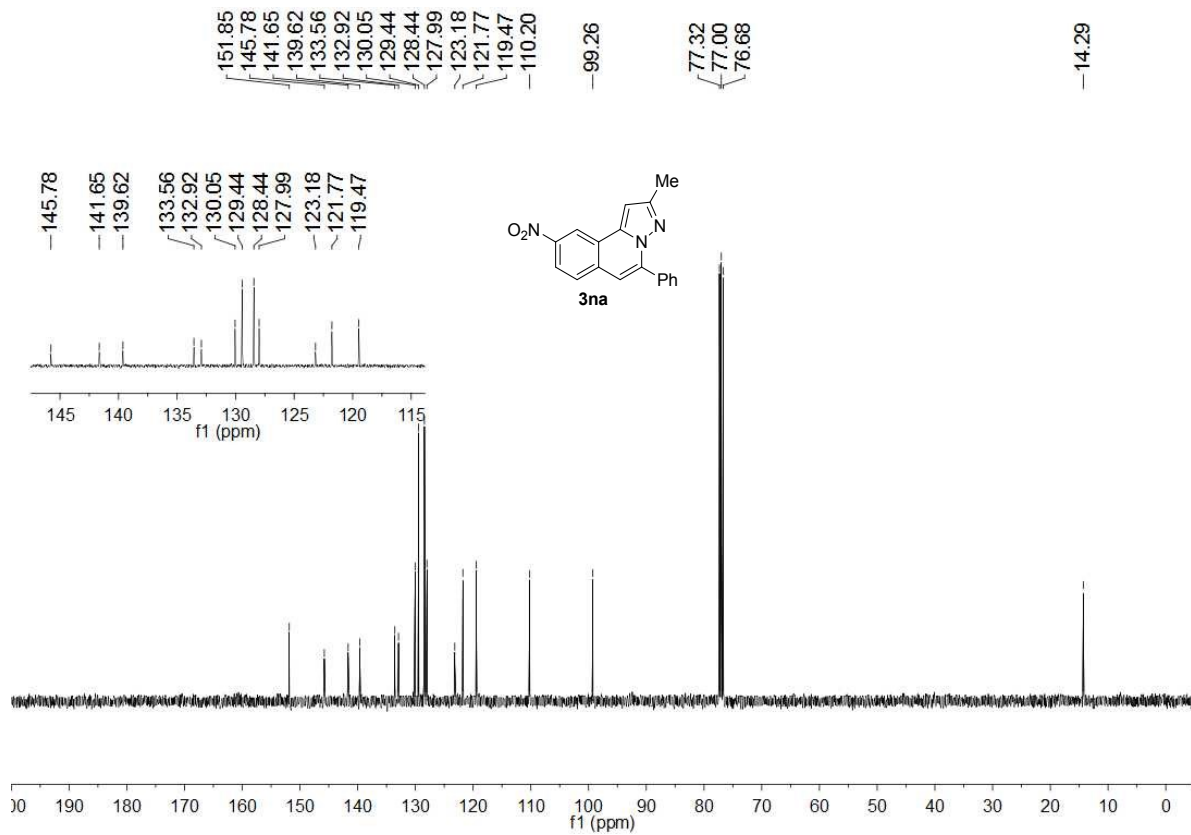


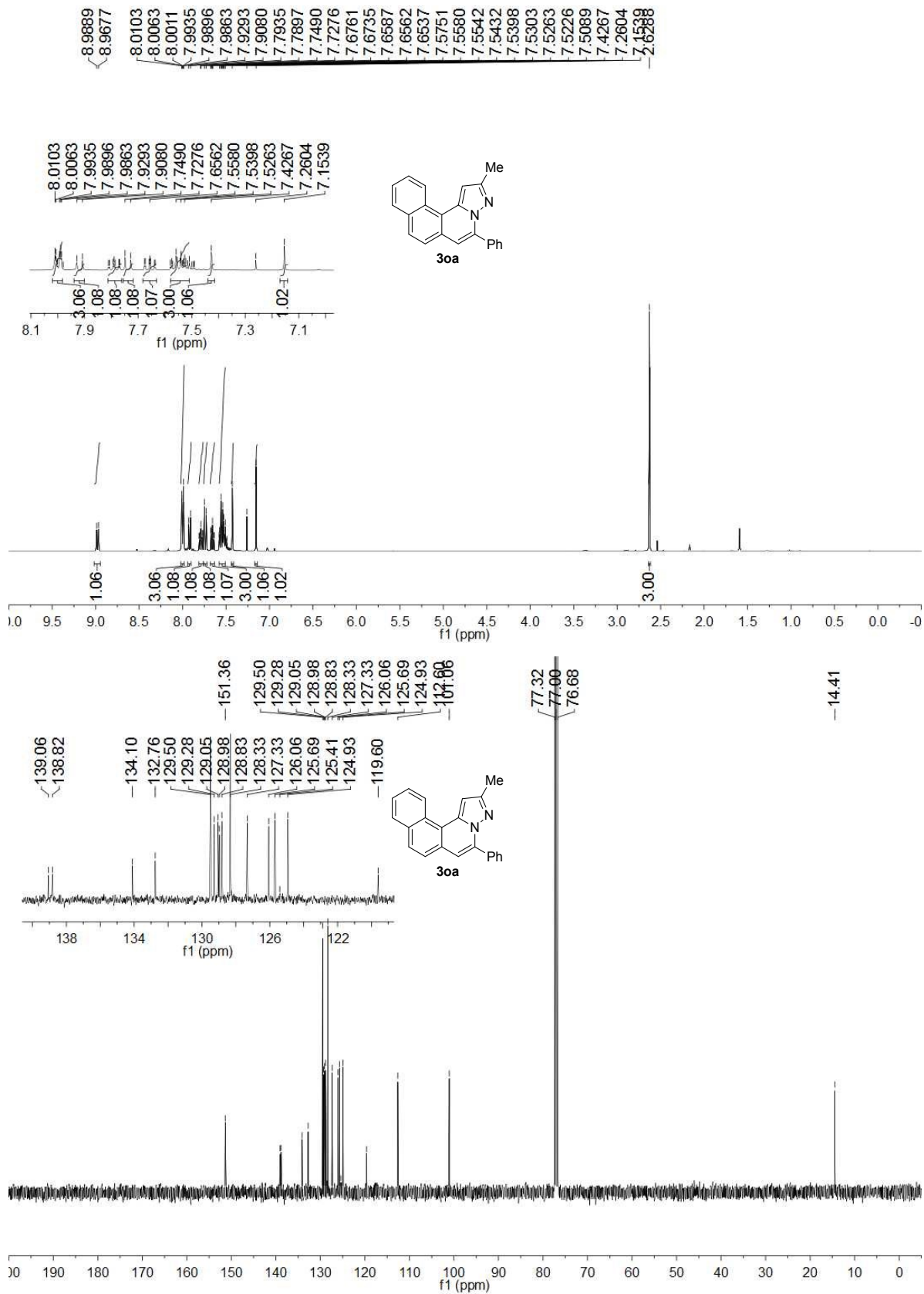


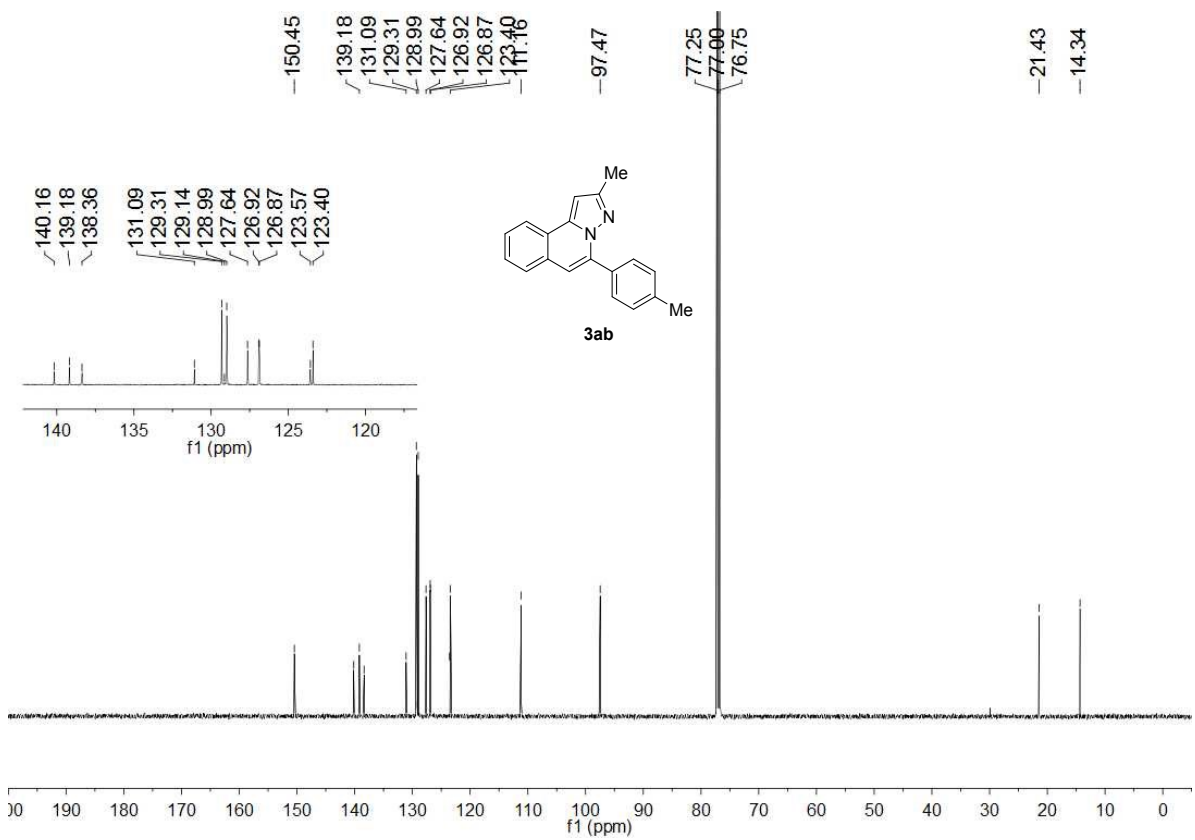
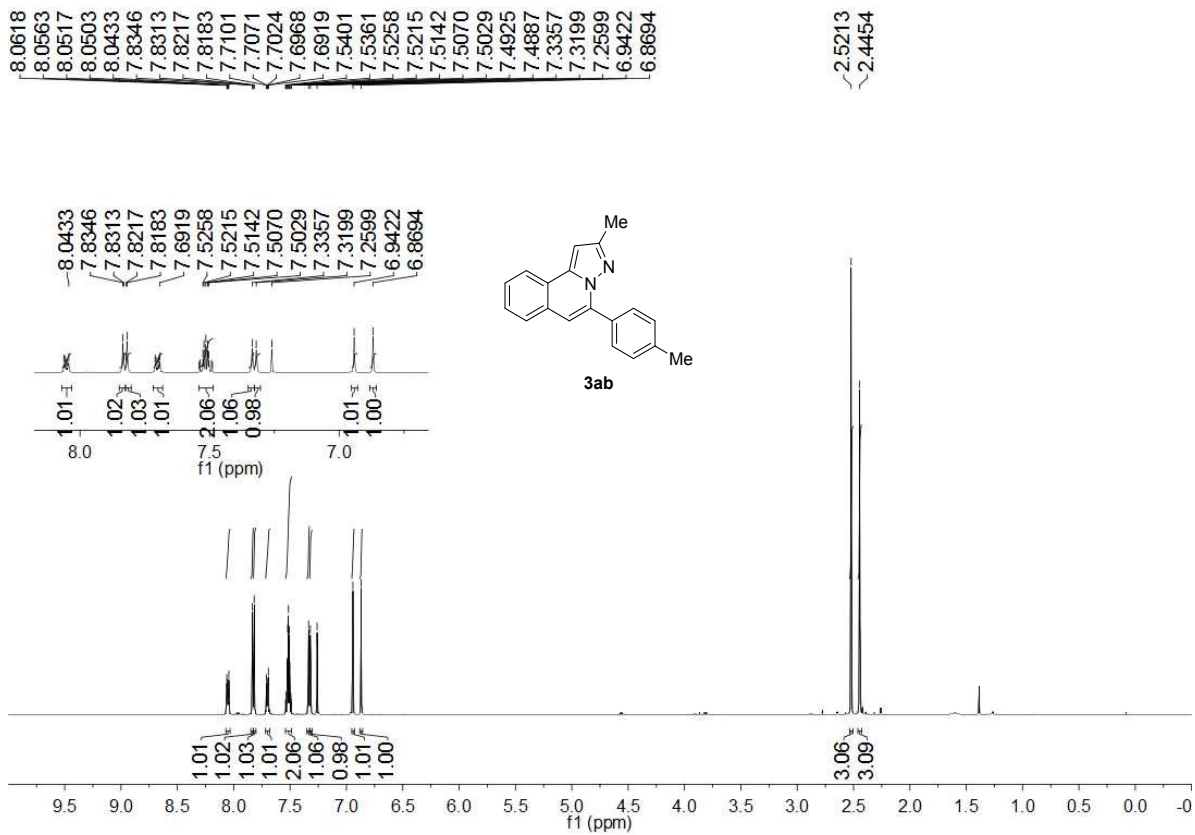


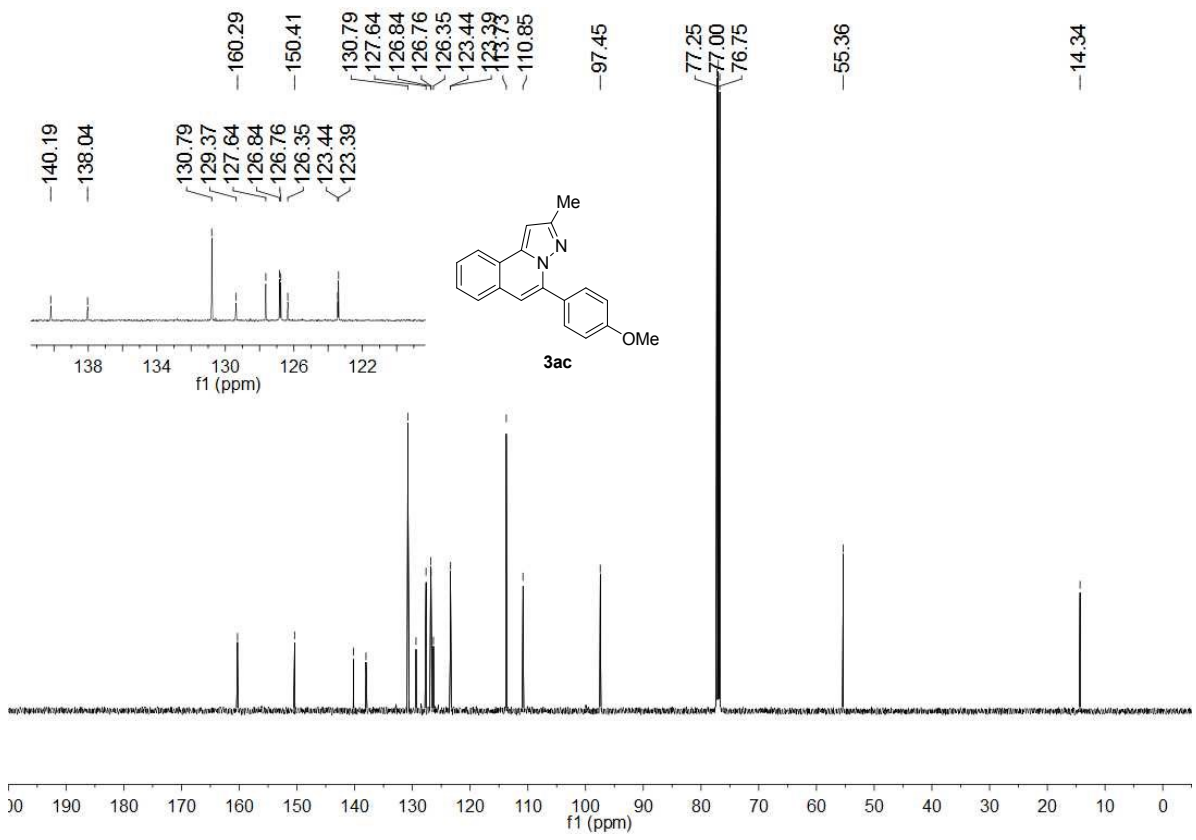
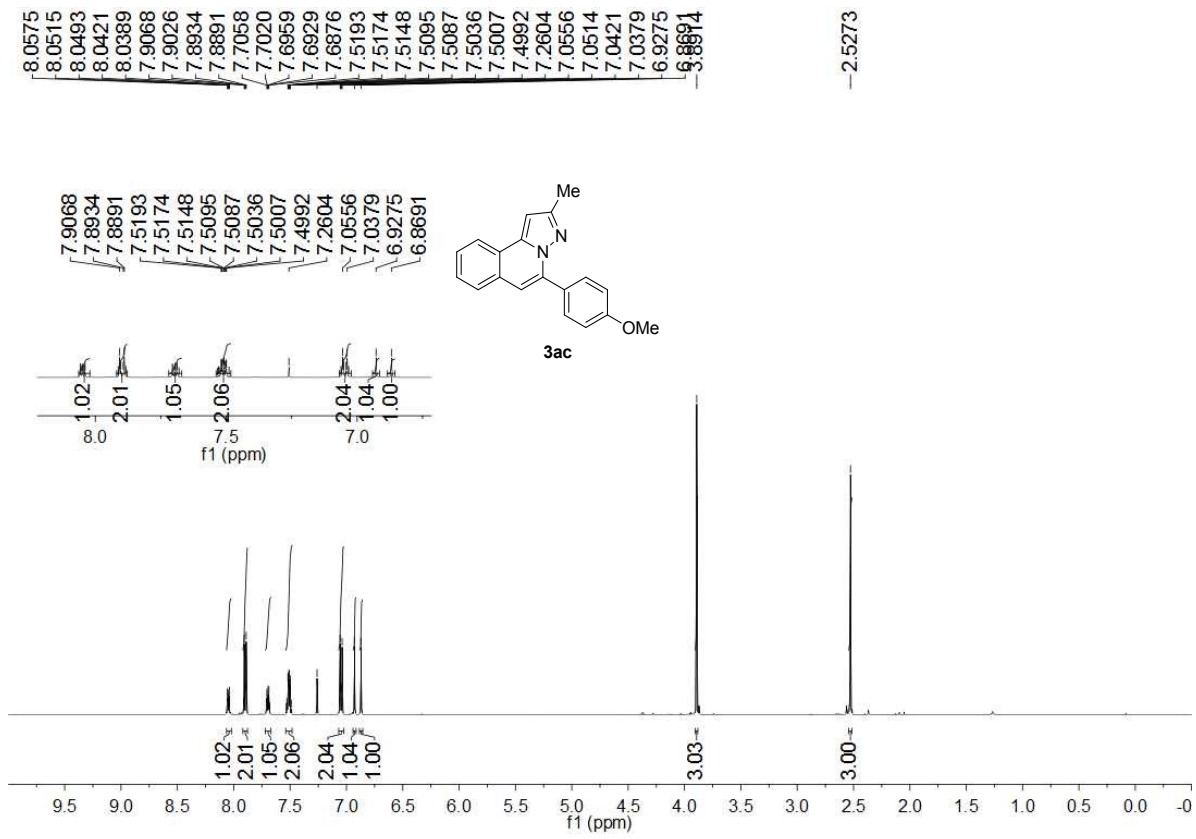


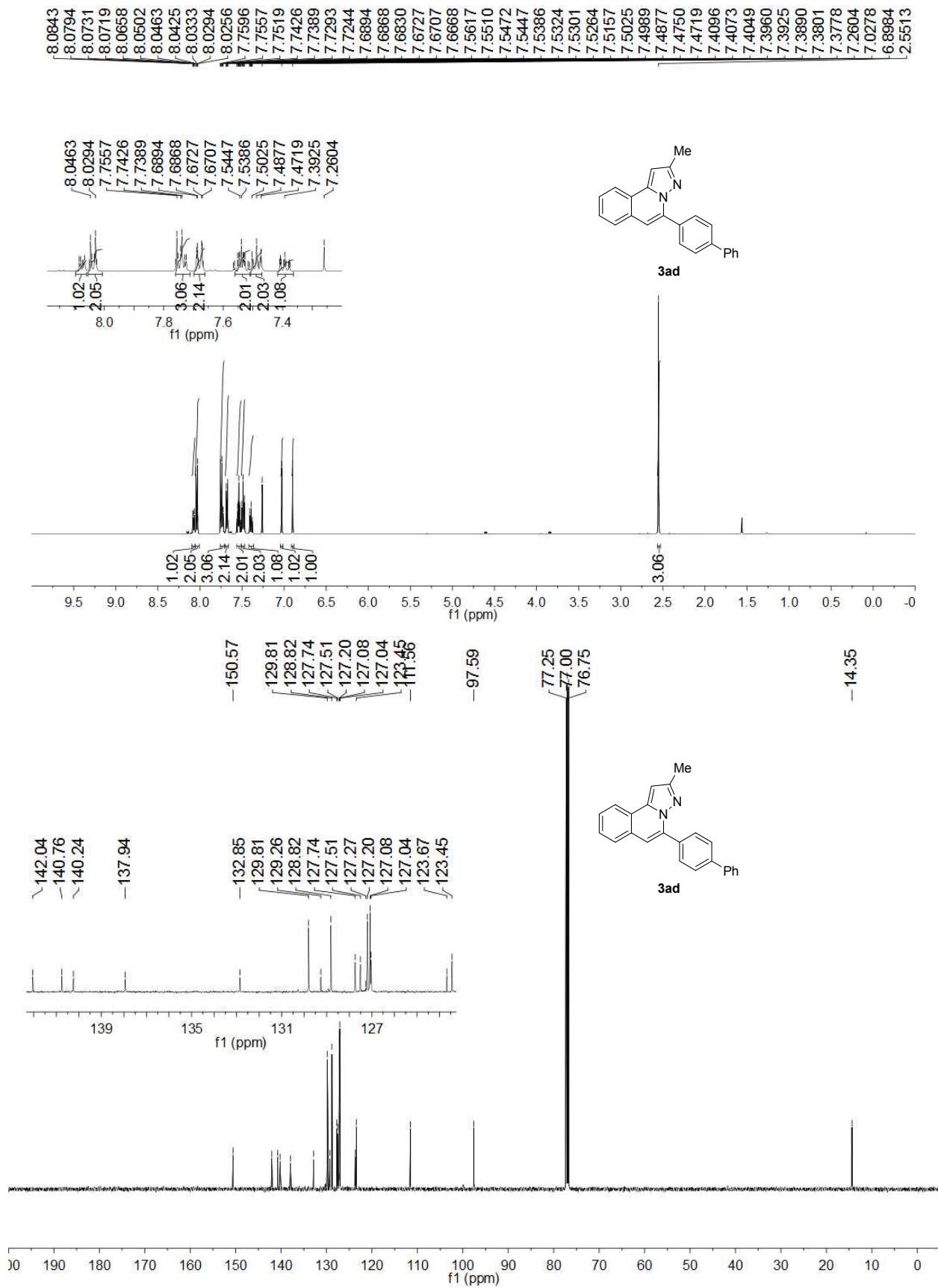


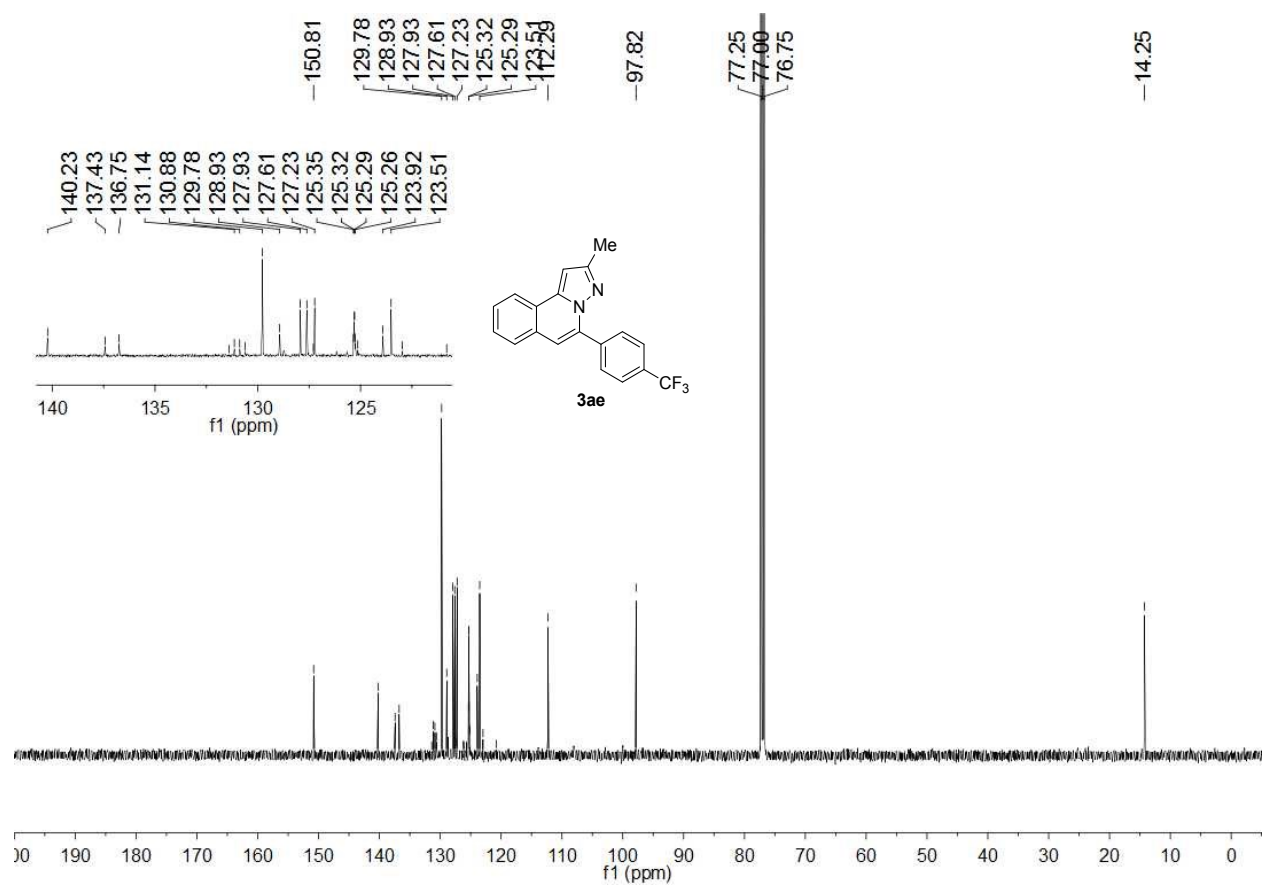
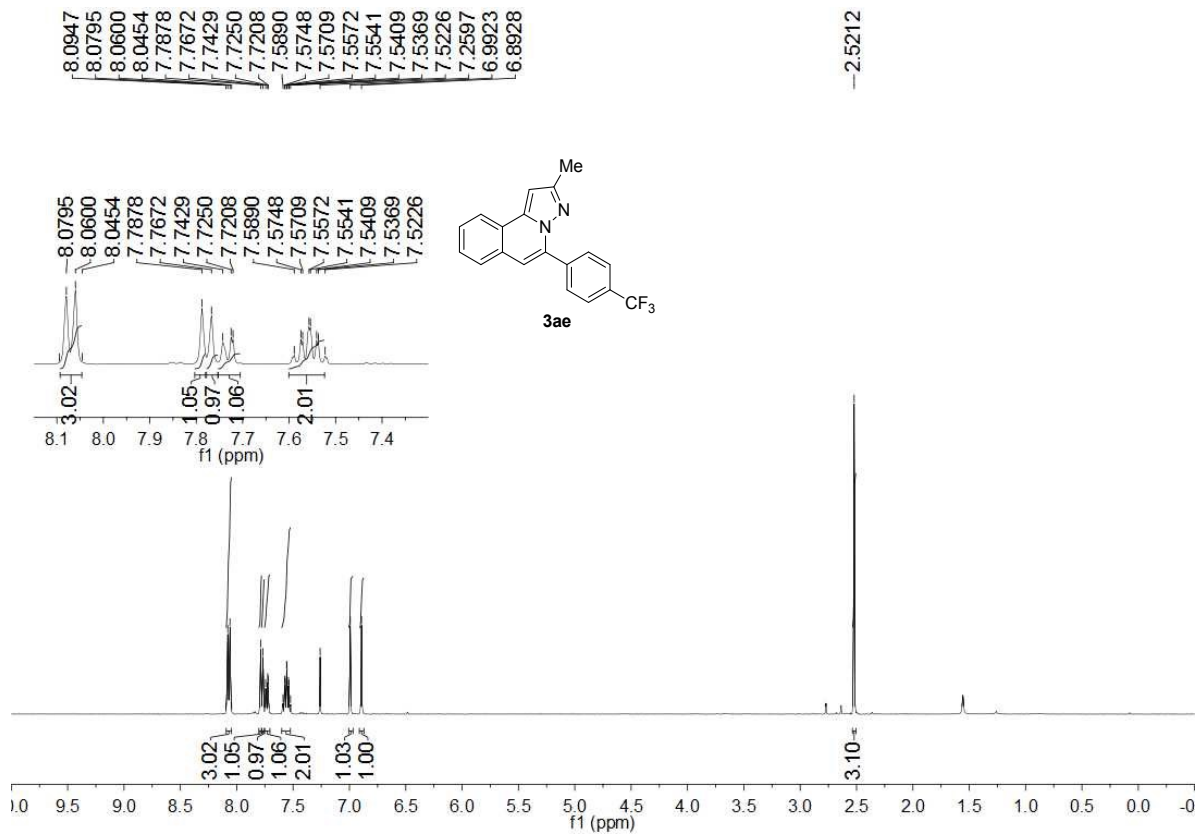


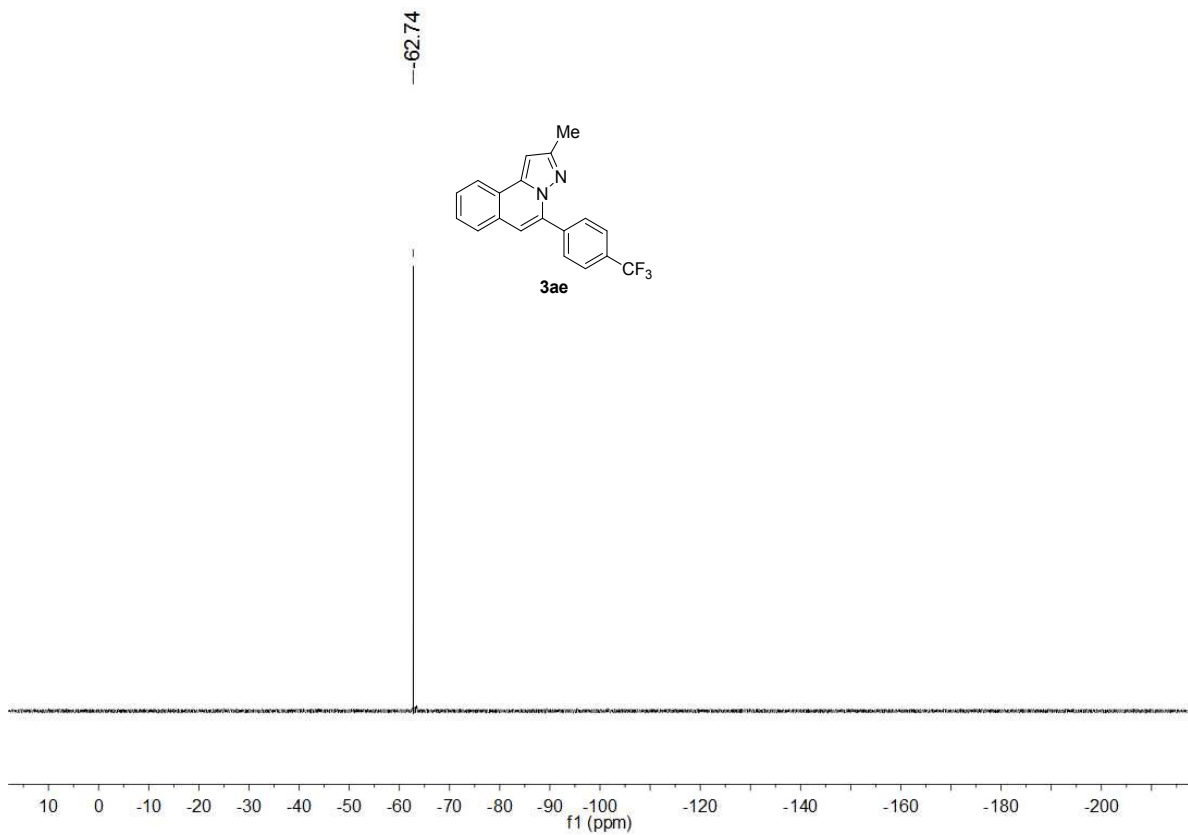












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