Lewis Acid-Catalyzed Double Addition of Indoles to Ketones: Synthesis of Bis(indolyl)methanes with All-Carbon Quaternary Centers

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Supporting Information

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I. General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were conducted with stirring under an atmosphere of nitrogen. All reagents including anhydrous solvents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, TCI or Alfa Aesar and used as received. N-ethylindole and N-allylindole were prepared by the reaction between indole and alkyl halides.¹ Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 ($40-63 \mu m$) as a stationary phase.

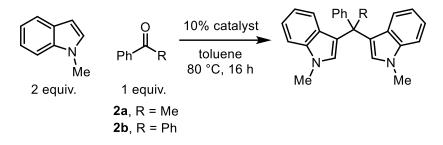
NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AVANCE III HD 300 (300 MHz) or a Bruker AVANCE III HD 400 (400 MHz) at Yonsei University, using CDCl₃ as the solvent. Chemical shifts were expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ), referenced to the residual signal of CDCl₃ (7.26 ppm for ¹H, 77.16 ppm for ¹³C). All coupling constants (*J*) were expressed in Hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations were used for the descriptions of splitting patterns: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet.

High resolution mass spectra were obtained using an Agilent 6530 Accurate-Mass Q-TOF.

¹ (a) G. Raina, P. Kannaboina, N. Mupparapu, S. Raina, Q. N. Ahmed and P. Das, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2019, **17**, 2134-2147. (b) K. J. Hock, A. Knorrscheidt, R. Hommelsheim, J. Ho, M. J. Weissenborn and R. M. Koenigs, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2019, **58**, 3630-3634.

II. Development of LA-Catalyzed Additions of Indoles to Ketones

General procedure for Table 1 in the main paper and other experiments in Section II.



In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, ketone (**2a** 6.1 mg/ **2b** 9.1 mg, 0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 1methylindole (24.9-49.8 μ L, 2.00–4.00 equiv.), a Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of B(C₆F₅)₃ (2.5 mg) or PhSiCl₃ (0.80 μ L)) and toluene (1.0 M, 0.050 mL) were combined in a 4-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The yield of the product was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.

	Ph M		10 % LA solvent	\rightarrow	Ph Me	
l 2 equiv.	Ve 1 equiv.	ter	np. (°C), 16	∂h Me	N K Me	
entry	cat.	cat. mol%	6 T (°C)	solvent	yield (%) ^b	
1	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	10	r.t.	chloroform	79	
2	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	r.t.	toluene	78	
3	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	r.t.	THF	6	
4	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	80	chloroform	77	
5	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	80	toluene	96 (85 ^c)	
6	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	80	THF	27	
7	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	80	neat	71	
8	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	5	80	toluene	52 (>95 ^d)	
9	PhSiCl ₃	10	r.t.	chloroform	99	
10	PhSiCl ₃	10	r.t.	toluene	80	
11	PhSiCl ₃	10	r.t.	THF	60	
12	PhSiCl ₃	10	80	chloroform	90	
13	PhSiCl ₃	10	80	toluene	99 (93 ^c)	
14	PhSiCl ₃	10	80	THF	83	
15	Ū.		80	neat	78	
O 10 % LA Solvent						
x equiv		iv.	emp. (°C),	Me		
entry 1	cat.	x equiv 2	. T (°C) r.t.	solvent chloroform	yield (%) ^b <5	
2	B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃ B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃	2	r.t.	toluene	<5 <5	
2		2	80	chloroform	<5 7	
3 4	B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃ B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃	2	80 80	toluene	22	
4 5		2 4	80 80	chloroform	36	
6	B(C ₆ F ₅) ₃	4	80 80	toluene	56 56	
0	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	т	00	IUIUGIIG		

Table S1. Effect of temperatures and solvents.^a

[a] Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.050 mmol), 1-methylindole (0.10 mmol), and catalyst (10 mol%) in solvent for 16 h. [b] Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard. [c] Yield after 3 h. [d] Yield after 72 h.

product	cat.	yield (%) ^b	cat.	yield (%) ^c
3aa	PhSiCl ₃	99	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	97
3ab	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	56	PhSiCl ₃	41
3ac	PhSiCl ₃	72	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	57
3ad	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	80	PhSiCl ₃	48
3ae	PhSiCl ₃	96	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	95
3af	PhSiCl ₃	98	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	57
3ag	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	55	PhSiCl ₃	30
3ah	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	72	PhSiCl ₃	95
3ai	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	64	PhSiCl ₃	42
3aj	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	45	PhSiCl ₃	11
3ak	PhSiCl ₃	94	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	74
3al	PhSiCl ₃	98	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	63
3am	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	57	PhSiCl ₃	<5
3an	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	63	PhSiCl ₃	40
3ao	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	94	PhSiCl ₃	75
Зар	PhSiCl ₃	92	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	43
3aq	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	63	PhSiCl ₃	<5
3ar	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	78	PhSiCl ₃	15
3as	PhSiCl ₃	46	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	30
3at	PhSiCl ₃	83	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	46
3ba	PhSiCl ₃	30	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	23
3ca	PhSiCl ₃	76	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	93
3da	PhSiCl ₃	88	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	57
3ea	PhSiCl ₃	79	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	80
3fa	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	97	PhSiCl ₃	70

Table S2. Effect of boron and silicon catalysts for each substrate.^a

[a] Reaction conditions: standard condition. [b] Isolated yield under optimized condition. [c] Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.

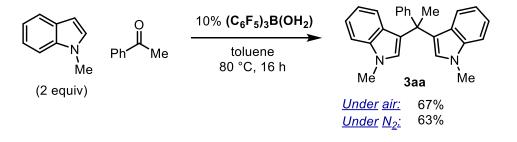
 Table S3. LA-catalyzed double-additions of 1-methylpyrrole to acetophenone:

 Effect of reaction parameters.^a

[[(×	N Me (equiv)	Ph Me	Y% LA toluene 80 °C, 16		Ph Me N Me N 3fa
	entry	cat.	Y (%)	X (equ	iv) yield (%) ^b
	1	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	10	2	5
	2	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	20	2	12
	3	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	20	3	62
	4	$B(C_6F_5)_3$	20	4	97 ^c
	5	PhSiCl ₃	10	2	4
-	6	PhSiCl ₃	20	4	70

[a] Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.050 mmol), 1-methylpyrrole (0.10-0.20 mmol), and catalyst (10-20%) in toluene for 16 h. [b] Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard. [c] Isolated yield

Scheme S1. *Reaction with* $(C_6F_5)_3B(OH_2)$ *as a catalyst.*^{*a*}



[a] Reaction conditions: acetophenone (0.050 mmol), 1-methylindole (0.10 mmol), and catalyst (10%) in toluene for 16 h. [b] Yields were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.

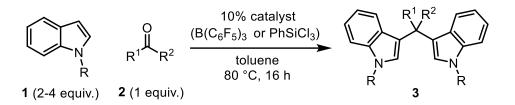
: Because water was generated as a side-product in our reaction, the hydrated form of a catalyst, $(C_6F_5)_3B(OH_2)^2$ was tried as a catalyst. The product was produced in 63-67% yield (lower than the product yield obtained from the reaction with $B(C_6F_5)_3$); once $B(C_6F_5)_3$ is hydrated, the reaction atmosphere (air or N₂) does not seem to affect the reaction yield.

² Rabanzo-Castillo, K. M.; Kumar, V. B.; Söhnel, T.; Leitao, E. M. Catalytic Synthesis of Oligosiloxanes Mediated by an Air Stable Catalyst, $(C_6F_5)_3B(OH_2)$. *Front. Chem.* **2020**, *8*, 477.

III. LA-Catalyzed Additions of N-Heterocycles to Ketones

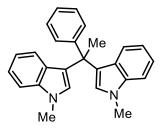
General Procedure

Table 2, Scheme 2, Scheme 3



In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, ketone (0.20–0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), indole (2.0–4.0 equiv.), a Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ or PhSiCl₃) and toluene (1.0 M, 0.20–0.25 mL) were combined in 20-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography. The yield of the product was calculated based on the amount of ketone. The yield of the product was calculated based on the amount of ketone.

The following compounds have been reported previously: **3aa**, **3ad**, **3ah** in Table 2, **3ar** in Scheme 2, and **3ba**, **3ca**, **3da**, **3ea**, **3fa** in Scheme 3.



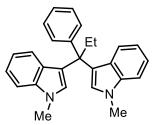
3,3'-(1-Phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3aa) [96005-17-3]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (29.1 μ L, 0.250 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (62.5 μ L, 0.500 mmol), and toluene (0.25 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (4.0 μ L, 0.025 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (90.2 mg, 99% yield).

Spectral data matched those of the previous report.³

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.56 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.5, 137.9, 128.2, 127.9, 127.0, 125.8, 123.4, 122.3, 121.1, 118.5, 109.3, 43.8, 32.7, 29.3.

³ F. Ling, L. Xiao, L. Fang, C. Feng, Z. Xie, Y. Lv and W. Zhong, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2018, 16, 9274-9278.

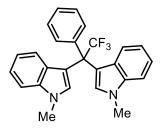


3,3'-(1-Phenylpropane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ac). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using propiophenone [93-55-0] (26.5 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). Reaction temperature 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (54.3 mg, 72% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (dt, *J* = 3.3, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 6.94 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 2.83 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.7, 137.7, 128.6, 128.6, 127.7, 127.4, 125.5, 122.6, 121.0, 120.7, 118.3, 109.1, 48.4, 33.4, 32.8, 11.2.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₇H₂₆N₂ [M + H]⁺: 379.2174, found: 379.2052.



3,3'-(2,2,2-Trifluoro-1-phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ad) [1640116-58-0]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2,2,2-trifluoroacetophenone [434-45-7] (28.0 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (66.9 mg, 80% yield).

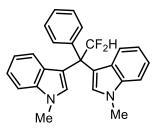
Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁴

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 6.94 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.74, 137.57, 131.06, 129.73, 128.05, 127.56, 126.97, 122.62, 122.59, 121.61, 119.34, 113.97, 109.33, 33.01.

¹⁹**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.6.

⁴ V. K. Pandey and P. Anbarasan, J. Org. Chem., 2017, 82, 12328-12336.



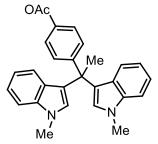
3,3'-(2,2-Difluoro-1-phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ae). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2,2-difluoroacetophenone [395-01-7] (26.4 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (77.1 mg, 96% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (t, *J* = 55.9 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 6H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.0, 137.6, 130.3, 129.6, 128.1, 127.2, 122.3, 121.6, 121.4, 119.2, 118.9, 115.0 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 109.4, 53.7, 33.0.

¹⁹**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.5.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₂F₂N₂ [M + H]⁺: 401.1829, found: 401.1708.

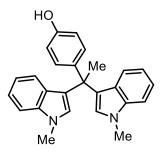


4-(1,1-Bis(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)phenyl acetate (Table 2, 3af). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 4'-acetoxyacetophenone [13031-43-1] (35.6 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (82.6 mg, 98% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.06 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 6.55 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 148.7, 146.0, 137.9, 129.2, 128.2, 126.8, 123.2, 122.2, 121.2, 120.7, 118.6, 109.3, 43.5, 32.7, 29.4, 21.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₆N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺: 423.2072, found: 423.1940.

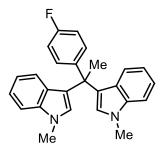


4-(1,1-Bis(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)phenol (Table 2, 3ag). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 4'-hydroxyacetophenone [99-93-4] (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (1 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (42.0 mg, 55% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.23 (m, 8H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 6H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.8, 140.6, 137.9, 129.3, 128.2, 126.9, 123.7, 122.3, 121.1, 118.4, 114.7, 109.3, 43.1, 32.7, 29.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₄N₂O [M + Na]⁺: 403.1786, found: 403.1657.



3,3'-(1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ah) [1352821-96-5]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 4'fluoroacetophenone [403-42-9] (24.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (55.4 mg, 72% yield). Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁵

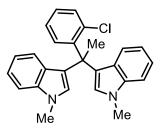
¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.35 (m, 6H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.07 – 6.97 (m, 4H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.8 (s), 144.3 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 137.9 (s), 129.7 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 128.1 (s), 126.8 (s), 123.3 (s), 122.2 (s), 121.3(s), 118.6 (s), 114.5 (d, *J* = 20.8 Hz), 109.3 (s), 43.4 (s), 32.7 (s), 29.4 (s).

¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.00 (s).

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₃FN₂ [M + H]⁺: 383.1923, found: 383.1808.

⁵ D. Xia, Y. Wang, Z. Du, Q.-Y. Zheng and C. Wang, Org. Lett., 2012, **14**, 588-591.

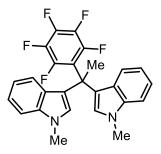


3,3'-(1-(2-Chlorophenyl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ai). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2'-chloroacetophenone [2142-68-9] (26.0 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as light green solid (51.3 mg, 64% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 6H), 2.59 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.8, 137.8, 134.7, 132.1, 131.4, 128.6, 127.8, 127.1, 126.2, 122.02, 121.98, 121.1, 118.6, 109.4, 44.9, 32.8, 27.7.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₃ClN₂ [M + H]⁺: 399.1628, found: 399.1629.



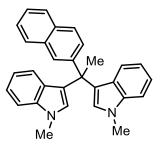
3,3'-(1-(Perfluorophenyl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3aj). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2',3',4',5',6'-pentafluoroacetophenone [652-29-9] (28.5 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (40.8 mg, 45% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.57 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.4, 144.8, 139.2, 137.9, 136.7, 127.2, 126.3, 121.5, 120.9, 120.5, 118.9, 109.7, 42.7, 32.8 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 29.7.

¹⁹**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -135.1, -136.6 (m), -157.4 (t, *J* = 21.3 Hz), -162.5 (dt, *J* = 21.8, 6.5 Hz).

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₁₉F₅N₂ [M + H]⁺: 455.1546, found: 455.1405.

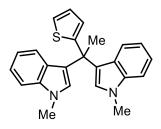


3,3'-(1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ak). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-acetonaphthone [93-08-3] (34.0 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (78.0 mg, 94% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 – 8.05 (m, 1H), 7.92 – 7.79 (m, 3H), 7.68 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 4H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 2.60 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.1, 137.9, 133.4, 132.1, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 125.9, 125.6, 125.4, 123.2, 122.3, 121.2, 118.6, 109.3, 44.0, 32.7, 29.1.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₀H₂₆N₂ [M + H]⁺: 415.2174, found: 415.2037.

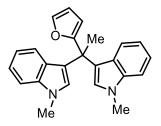


3,3'-(1-(Thiophen-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3al). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-acetylthiophene [88-15-3] (21.6 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (72.6 mg, 98% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.07 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.51 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.0, 137.8, 127.8, 126.6, 126.1, 125.0, 123.6, 123.2, 122.0, 121.2, 118.6, 109.3, 41.9, 32.8, 30.8.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₂S [M + H]⁺: 371.1582, found: 371.1463.

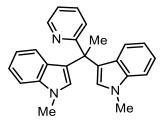


3,3'-(1-(Furan-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3am). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-acetylfuran [1192-62-7] (22.0 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (40.0 mg, 57% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (s, 2H), 6.39 – 6.34 (m, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 141.1, 137.7, 127.4, 126.7, 121.8, 121.2, 120.9, 118.6, 110.0, 109.3, 106.1, 40.4, 32.8, 27.5.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₂O [M + Na]⁺: 377.1630, found: 377.1608.

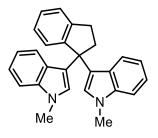


3,3'-(1-(Pyridin-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3an). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-acetylpyridine [1122-62-9] (22.4 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (45.9 mg, 63% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 – 8.65 (m, 1H), 7.52 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.98 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 2.44 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 148.9, 137.8, 135.9, 128.1, 126.8, 123.3, 122.1, 121.9, 121.1, 121.0, 118.5, 109.3, 46.3, 32.8, 28.1.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₃N₃ [M + H]⁺: 366.1970, found: 366.1863.

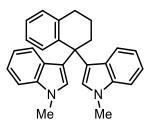


3,3'-(2,3-Dihydro-1H-indene-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ao). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 1-indanone [83-33-0] (26.4 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). Reaction temperature 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (70.9 mg, 94% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.30 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 6H), 3.17 – 2.98 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.0, 143.5, 138.1, 128.5, 126.9, 126.6, 126.3, 125.5, 124.8, 121.8, 121.2, 120.9, 118.4, 109.3, 51.7, 40.8, 32.7, 30.9.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₇H₂₄N₂ [M + H]⁺: 377.2017, found: 377.1907.

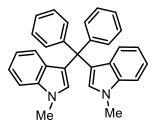


3,3'-(1,2,3,4-Tetrahydronaphthalene-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Table 2, 3ap). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using α -tetralone [629-34-0] (26.6 µL, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 µL, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 µL, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (71.5 mg, 92% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.16 (m, 4H), 7.10 – 6.96 (m, 4H), 6.47 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 6H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.95 – 2.84 (m, 2H), 1.72 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.1, 138.0, 136.8, 130.6, 130.1, 129.0, 126.4, 125.9, 125.4, 122.8, 122.1, 121.1, 118.3, 109.3, 44.3, 35.3, 32.6, 30.0, 20.1.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₆N₂ [M + H]⁺: 391.2174, found: 391.2058.

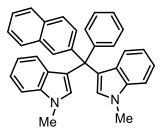


Bis(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)diphenylmethane (Scheme 2, 3ab). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using benzophenone [119-61-9] (38.8 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (48.0 mg, 56% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 4H), 6.73 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.4, 137.7, 130.3, 129.7, 128.3, 127.5, 126.0, 122.8, 122.6, 121.1, 118.6, 109.0, 53.9, 32.8.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₁H₂₆N₂ [M + H]⁺: 427.2174, found: 427.2043.

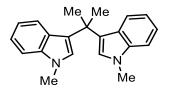


3,3'-(Naphthalen-2-yl(phenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 2, 3aq). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-benzoylnaphthalene [644-13-3] (46.4 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as red to yellow solid (59.8 mg, 63% yield).

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 – 6.73 (m, 6H), 3.73 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.1, 144.1, 137.6, 133.1, 132.0, 130.3, 129.8, 129.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 126.6, 126.0, 125.6, 125.5, 122.6, 122.1, 121.1, 118.6, 109.0, 54.0, 32.8.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₅H₂₈N₂ [M + H]⁺: 477.2330, found: 477.2183.

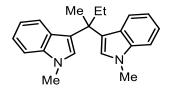


3,3'-(Propane-2,2-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 2, 3ar) [94861-81-1]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), with 10 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (10 mg, 0.020 mmol). Acetone (0.20 mL) instead of toluene. Reaction temperature 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane) and washed by hexane, the title compound was isolated as a white solid (47.1 mg, 78% yield).

Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁶

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.91 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 6H), 1.92 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.9, 126.8, 125.6, 124.2, 121.6, 121.0, 118.2, 109.2, 35.1, 32.8, 30.5.



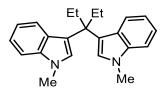
3,3'-(Butane-2,2-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 2, 3as). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 2-butanone [78-93-3] (27.2 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). Reaction temperature 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (28.9 mg, 46% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 2.46 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.8, 127.0, 126.4, 122.9, 121.6, 120.9, 118.1, 109.1, 38.9, 33.1, 32.8, 26.8, 9.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₄N₂ [M + H]⁺: 317.2017, found: 317.1918.

⁶ C. Huo, L. Kang, X. Xu, X. Jia, X. Wang, H. Xie and Y. Yuan, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2014, 55, 954-958.

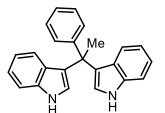


3,3'-(Pentane-3,3-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 2, 3at) [1042375-24-5]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 3-pentanone [96-22-0] (21.1 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (99.8 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol) at 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (54.8 mg, 83% yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.08 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (s, 2H), 6.83 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 2.33 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.8, 127.3, 127.0, 121.5, 121.4, 120.8, 117.9, 108.9, 42.2, 32.9, 28.5, 8.6.

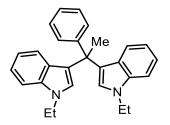
HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₆N₂ [M + H]⁺: 331.2174, found: 331.2075.



3,3'-(1-phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole) (Scheme 3, 3ba) [96413-90-0]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (23.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), indole [120-72-9] (93.7mg, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). <u>36%</u> of the title compound was produced, as determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude mixture with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroehtane as an internal standard. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (20.1 mg, <u>30%</u> yield). Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁷

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (s, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

⁷ J. Nie, G.-W. Zhang, L. Wang, A. Fu, Y. Zheng and J.-A. Ma, *Chem. Commun.*, 2009, 2356-2358.

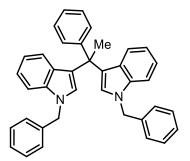


3,3'-(1-Phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-ethyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 3, 3ca) [791836-02-7]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (23.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-ethylindole [10604-59-8] (58.0mg, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). <u>76%</u> of the title compound was produced, as determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude mixture with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroehtane as an internal standard. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: diethyl ether in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (30.0 mg, <u>38%</u> yield).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (s, 2H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.5, 136.9, 128.2, 127.8, 127.2, 126.7, 125.8, 123.5, 122.4, 121.0, 118.3, 109.3, 43.9, 40.9, 29.2, 15.6.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₈N₂ [M + H]⁺: 393.2330, found: 393.2217.

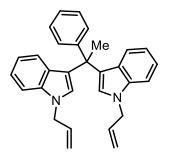


3,3'-(1-Phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-benzyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 3, 3da) [2166321-60-2]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (23.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-benzylindole [3377-71-7] (82.9 mg, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a white solid (91.2 mg, 88% yield). Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁸

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 6H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 5.44 (s, 4H), 2.66 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 138.0, 137.5, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 126.5, 125.9, 123.8, 122.4, 121.4, 118.7, 109.9, 49.9, 43.9, 29.4.

⁸ F. Ling, L. Xiao, L. Fang, C. Feng, Z. Xie, Y. Lv and W. Zhong, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2018, **16**, 9274-9278.

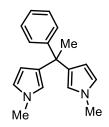


3,3'-(1-Phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-allyl-1H-indole) (Scheme 3, 3ea) [2254296-56-3]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (23.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-allylindole [16886-08-1] (62.8 mg, 0.400 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 10 mol% PhSiCl₃ (3.2 μ L, 0.020 mmol). Reaction temperature 40 °C. After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (65.8 mg, 79% yield). Spectral data matched those of the previous report.⁹

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (s, 2H), 6.08 – 5.97 (m, 2H), 5.27 – 5.21 (m, 2H), 5.14 – 5.07 (m, 2H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.3, 137.3, 133.8 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 128.2, 127.9, 127.3, 127.2, 125.8, 123.6, 122.4, 121.2, 118.6, 116.8, 109.7, 48.7, 43.8, 29.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₀H₂₈N₂ [M + H]⁺: 417.2330, found: 417.2205.



3,3'-(1-Phenylethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrole) (Scheme 3, 3fa) [1167441-87-3]. The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using acetophenone [98-86-2] (23.3 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylpyrrole [96-54-8] (71.0 μ L, 0.800 mmol), and toluene (0.20 mL), with 20 mol% B(C₆F₅)₃ (20.4 mg, 0.040 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as an off-white solid (51.4 mg, 97% yield). Spectral data matched those of the previous report.¹⁰

⁹ F. Ling, L. Xiao, L. Fang, C. Feng, Z. Xie, Y. Lv and W. Zhong, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2018, 16, 9274-9278.

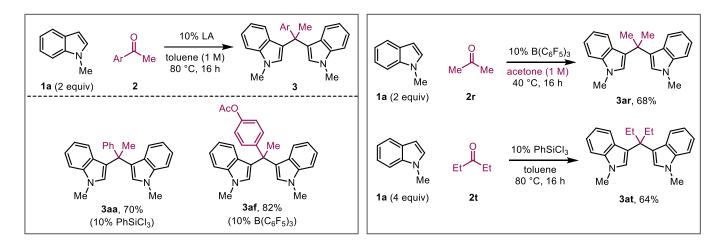
¹⁰ T. Tsuchimoto, T. Ainoya, K. Aoki, T. Wagatsuma and E. Shirakawa, Eur. J. Org. Chem., 2009, 2009, 2437-2440.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 6.27 (s, 2H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 6H), 2.05 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.3, 134.3, 127.8, 127.5, 125.3, 121.3, 120.1, 108.4, 42.9, 36.1, 30.8.
 HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₀N₂ [M + H]⁺: 265.1704, found: 265.1633.

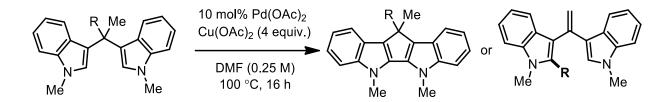
Glovebox-Free Procedure.

A Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ (2.5 mg) or PhSiCl₃ (0.80 µL)) was placed in a 20mL vial equipped with a stir bar. This vial was capped with a septum-lined cap, and then it was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three cycles). Toluene (1 M, 0.2 mL) (acetone 0.2 mL instead of toluene for the synthesis of **3ar**) was added via syringe; next, ketone (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), 1-methylindole (0.4–0.8 mmol, 2–4 equiv) were added in turn via syringe. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography. The yield of the product was calculated based on the amount of ketone. The yield of the product was calculated based on the amount of ketone.

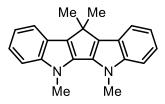


IV. Pd-Catalyzed Coupling Reactions of Bis(indolyl)methanes

General Procedure for Pd-Catalyzed Coupling Reactions of Bis(indolyl)methanes *Scheme 5 of the main paper*



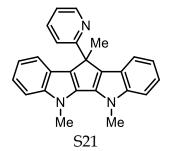
In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, bis(indolyl)methane product (0.200 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), palladium(II) acetate (0.020 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), copper(II) acetate (0.800 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.25 M, 0.8 mL) were combined in a 20-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. The mixture then went through Celite filter and work-up step. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography.



5,6,11,11-Tetramethyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-cyclopenta[1,2-b:5,4-b']diindole (Scheme 5, 6ar). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using **3ar** (60.4 mg, 0.200 mmol) and palladium(II) acetate [3375-31-3] (4.4 mg, 0.020 mmol), with copper(II) acetate [142-71-2] (145 mg, 0.800 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a yellow solid (24.0 mg, 40% yield.)

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (s, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (s, 4H), 4.12 (s, 6H), 1.75 (s, 6H).

¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.2, 120.3, 119.9, 117.7, 110.1, 53.5, 32.9, 26.1. **HRMS** (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for **C**₂₁**H**₂₀**N**₂ [M]⁺: 300.1626, found: 300.1650.



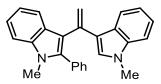
5,6,11-Trimethyl-11-(pyridin-2-yl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-cyclopenta[1,2-b:5,4-b']diindole (Scheme 5, 6an). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using 3an (73.2 mg, 0.200 mmol) and palladium(II) acetate [3375-31-3] (4.4 mg, 0.020 mmol), with copper(II)

acetate [142-71-2] (145 mg, 0.800 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: Hex, EtOAc), the title compound was isolated as a yellow solid (14.5 mg, 20% yield.)

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.90 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.2, 159.3, 141.1, 137.3, 132.2, 126.4, 123.4, 122.7, 122.2, 121.3, 120.8, 118.1, 110.1, 33.0, 29.6, 22.7.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂ [M + H]⁺: 364.1813, found: 364.1828.

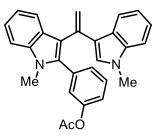


1-methyl-3-(1-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)vinyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (Scheme 5, 7aa). the title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using **3aa** (72.8 mg, 0.200 mmol) and palladium(II) acetate [3375-31-3] (4.4 mg, 0.020 mmol), with copper(II) acetate [142-71-2] (145 mg, 0.800 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a yellow sticky liquid (17.4 mg, 24% yield.)

¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 141.3, 137.6, 137.5, 130.5, 129.9, 128.0, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 122.6, 122.0, 121.1, 120.7, 120.0, 119.8, 117.9, 115.8, 109.6, 109.6, 105.6, 30.8, 30.6.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₂N₂ [M + H]⁺: 363.1861, found: 363.1875.



3-(1-Methyl-3-(1-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)vinyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl acetate (Scheme 5, 7af). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure, using **3af** (84.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and palladium(II) acetate [3375-31-3] (4.4 mg, 0.020 mmol), with copper(II) acetate [142-71-2] (145 mg, 0.800 mmol). After purification by flash column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc in hexane), the title compound was isolated as a yellow solid (33.6 mg, 40% yield.)

¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H).

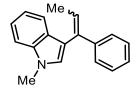
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 150.2, 141.1, 139.1, 137.7, 137.6, 130.4, 130.1, 128.3, 127.8, 127.0, 122.7, 122.2, 121.1, 120.9, 120.2, 119.9, 117.7, 116.1, 109.7, 105.7, 30.9, 30.7, 21.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₈H₂₄N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺: 421.1916, found: 421.1922.

V. Reactivity Studies: Isolation of an Alkene Side Product

Procedure for Scheme 4 (a) of the Main Paper. Formation of an Alkene

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, propiophenone [93-55-0] (26.6 μ L, 0.200 mmol), 1-methylindole [603-76-9] (49.9 μ L, 0.400 mmol), Lewis acid catalyst (0.200 mmol, 10 mol% of B(C₆F₅)₃) and toluene (1 M) were combined in 4-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent: Hex, EtOAc), the title compound was isolated as a brown sticky liquid (26.2 mg, 53% yield.).



(*E*)-1-Methyl-3-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1H-indole and (*Z*)-1-methyl-3-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1H-indole (1.5:1) (Scheme 4, 5). The title compound was isolated as an *E*/*Z* mixture.

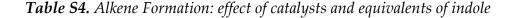
¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.66H), 7.64 – 7.53 (m, 6.35H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 6.34H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 0.66H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 0.66H), 6.55 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.66H), 6.47 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 2H), 2.13 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.08 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H). * The *N*-methyl protons of the 1.5 ratio form were set to 3 protons.

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0, 141.4, 137.8, 137.1, 136.8, 135.5, 130.1, 129.1, 128.5, 128.3 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 127.5, 126.9 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 126.5, 125.0, 122.0, 121.8, 121.1, 120.7, 119.8, 119.4, 118.9, 109.6, 109.4, 32.9, 16.6, 15.5.

HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₇N [M + H]⁺: 248.1439, found: 248.1367.

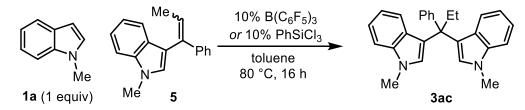
Procedure for Table S3

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, propiophenone (0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 1-methylindole (1.0-3.0 equiv.), Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ or PhSiCl₃) and toluene (1 M) were combined in 4-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The yield of the product was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.



N Ph Et 10% cataly toluene 80 °C, 16 1a 2c		oluene	$ \begin{array}{c} HO \\ HO \\ Ph \\ Me \\ 4 \end{array} \right] - H_2O \\ Me \\ Me \\ 5 \end{array} $	Ph
entry	catalyst	indole equiv.	pdt : alkene a : alkene b	
а	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	3	29:24:16	
b	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	2	18 : 32 : 21	
С	$B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$	1	<5 : 30 : 20	
d	PhSiCl ₃	3	80 : 12 : 8	
е	PhSiCl ₃	2	22 : 26 : 18	
f	PhSiCl ₃	1	10 : 34 : 22	

Procedure for Scheme 4(b)



In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, **5** (0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 1-methylindole (0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ or PhSiCl₃) and toluene (1 M) were combined in 4-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The yield of the product was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.

VI. Reactivity Studies: Addition of Indole to an Alcohol

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, 2-phenyl-2-propanol (0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 1-methylindole (0.050 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Lewis acid catalyst (10 mol% of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ or PhSiCl₃) and toluene (1 M) were combined in 4-mL vial equipped with a stir bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was then exposed to air, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The yield of the product was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard.



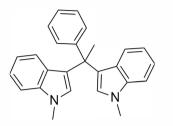
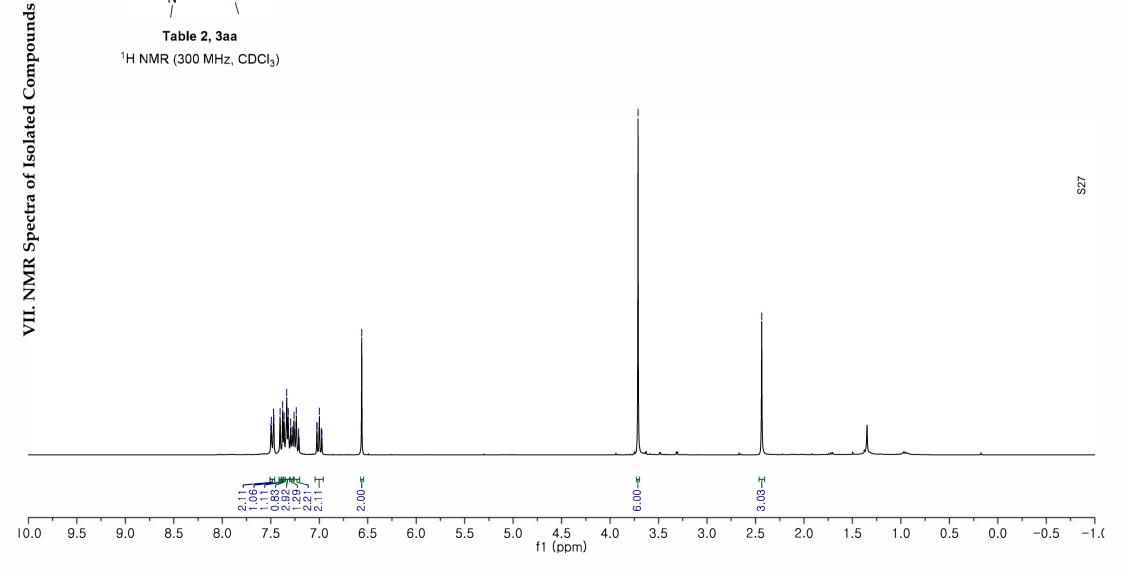
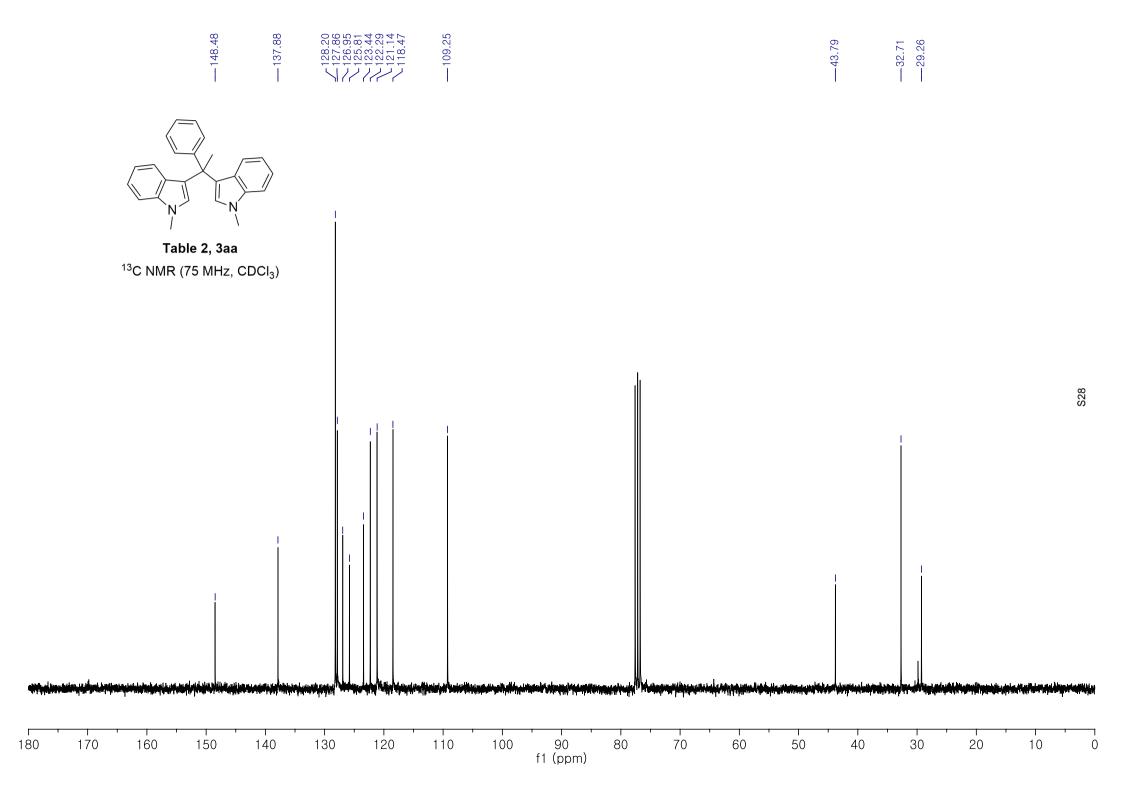


Table 2, 3aa ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)



---2.44

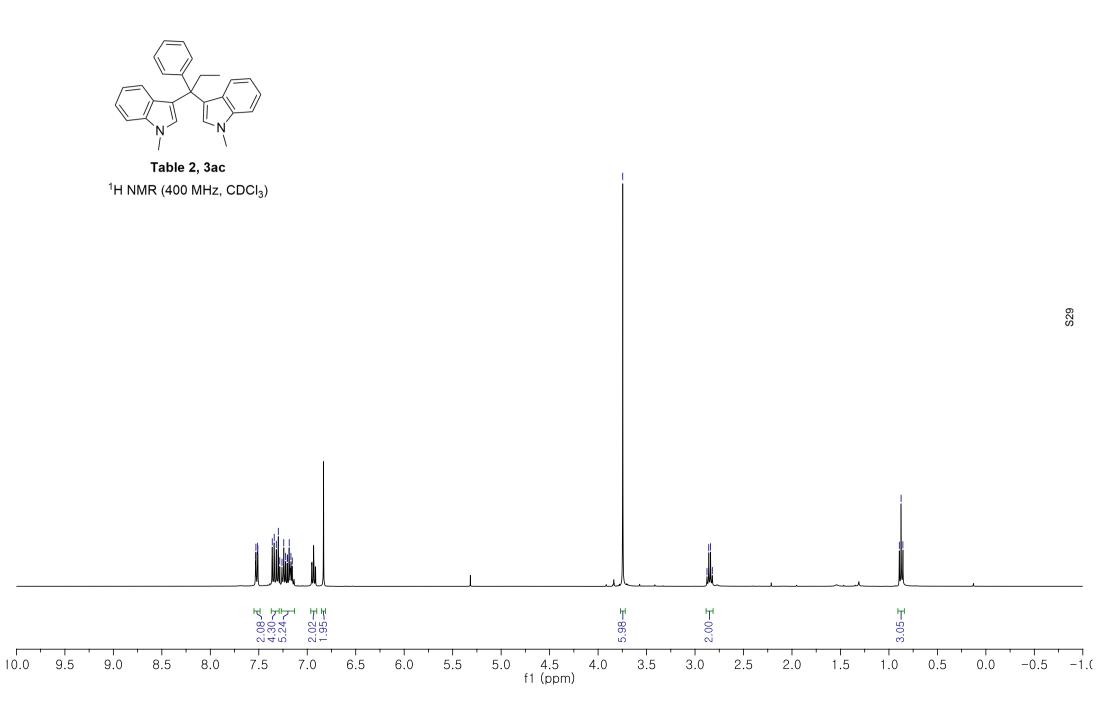


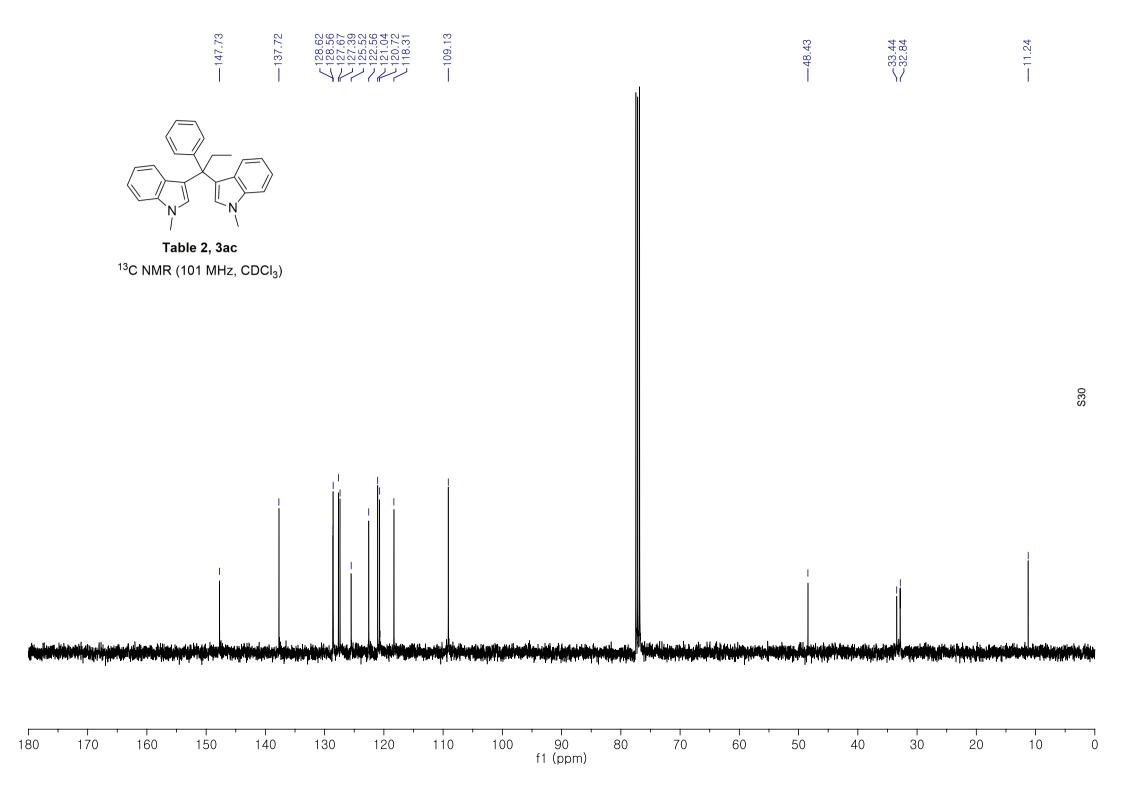




2.88 2.86 2.82 2.82











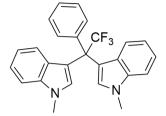
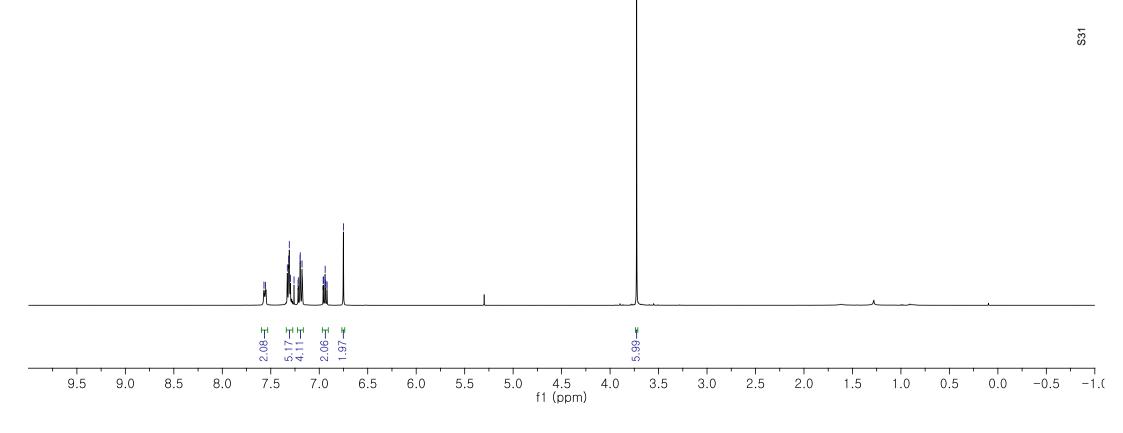
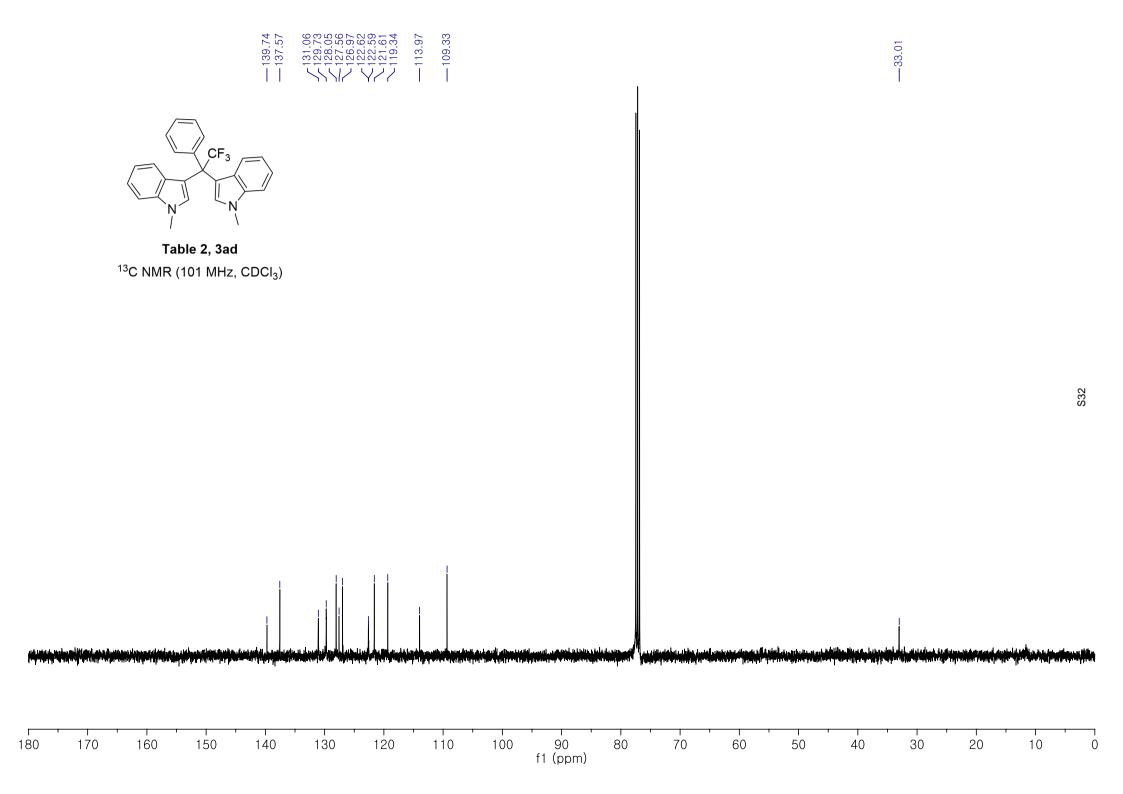


Table 2, 3ad¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







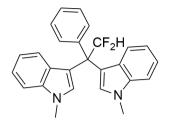
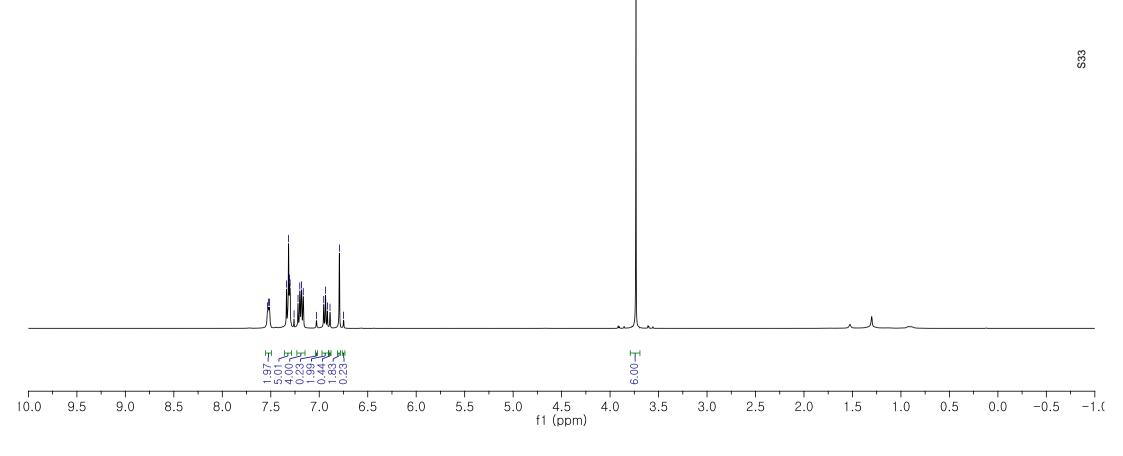
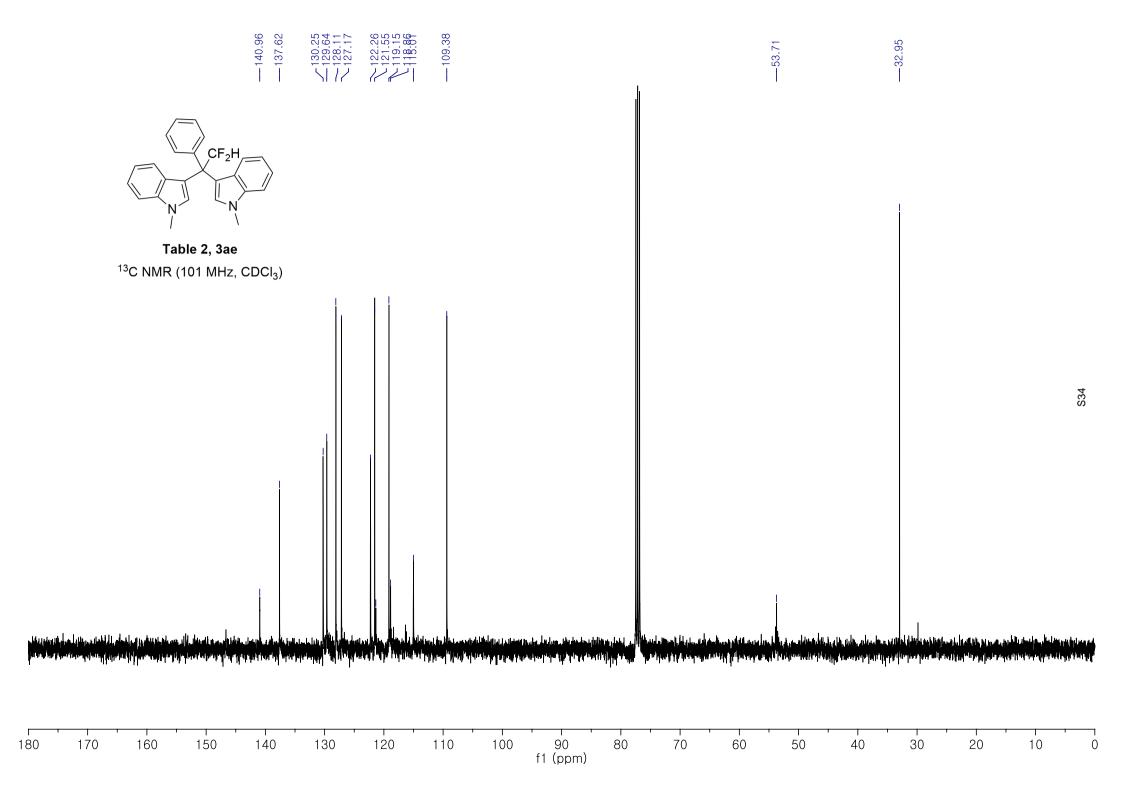


Table 2, 3ae¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







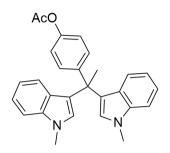
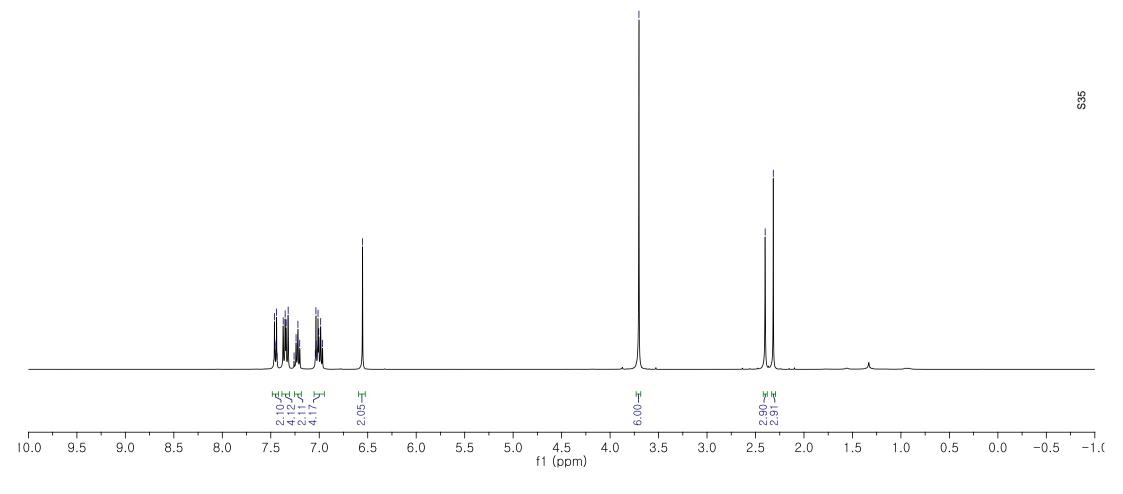
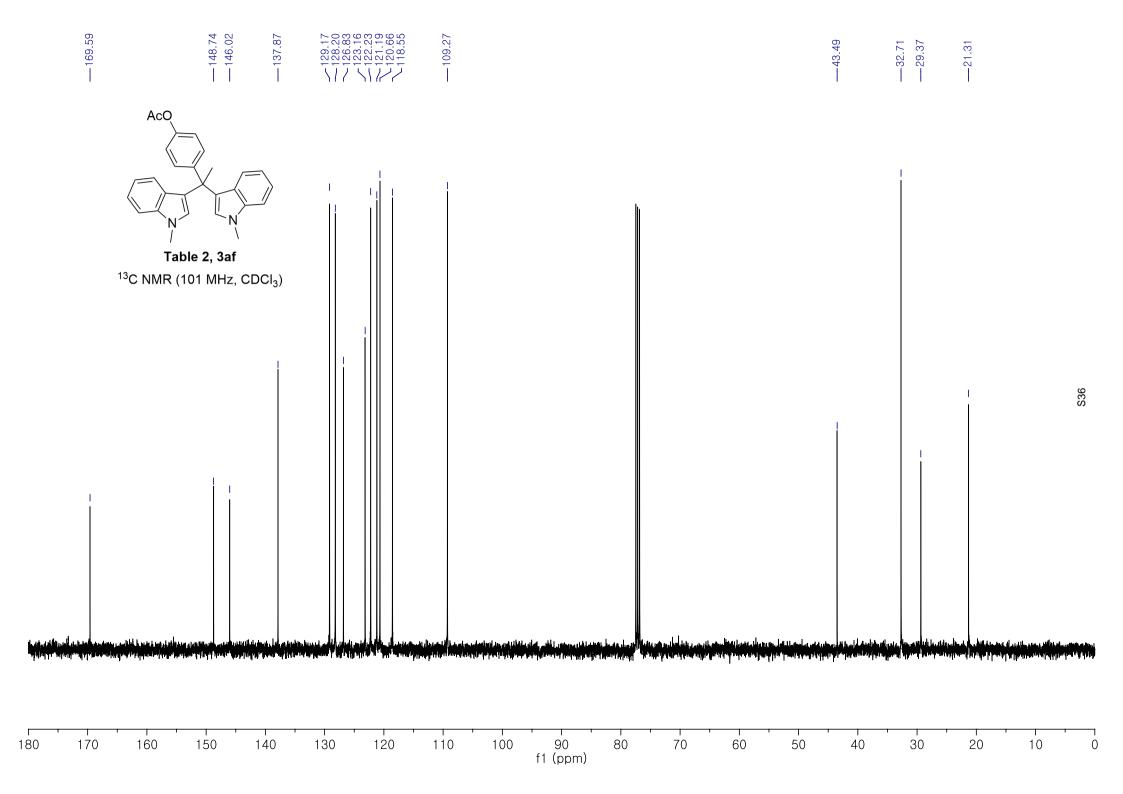


Table 2, 3af ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

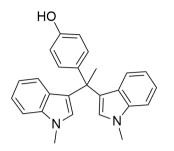


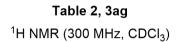
2.40

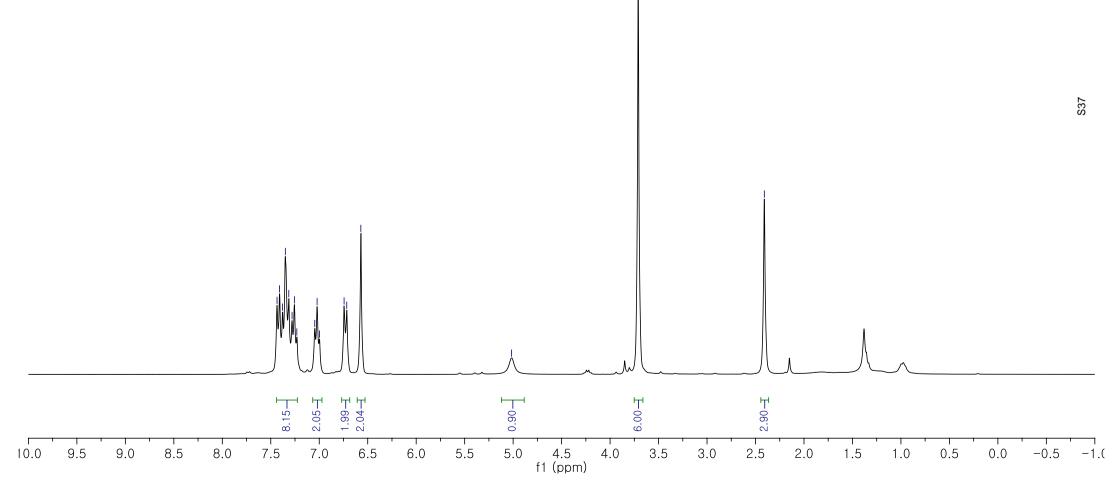
-3.70





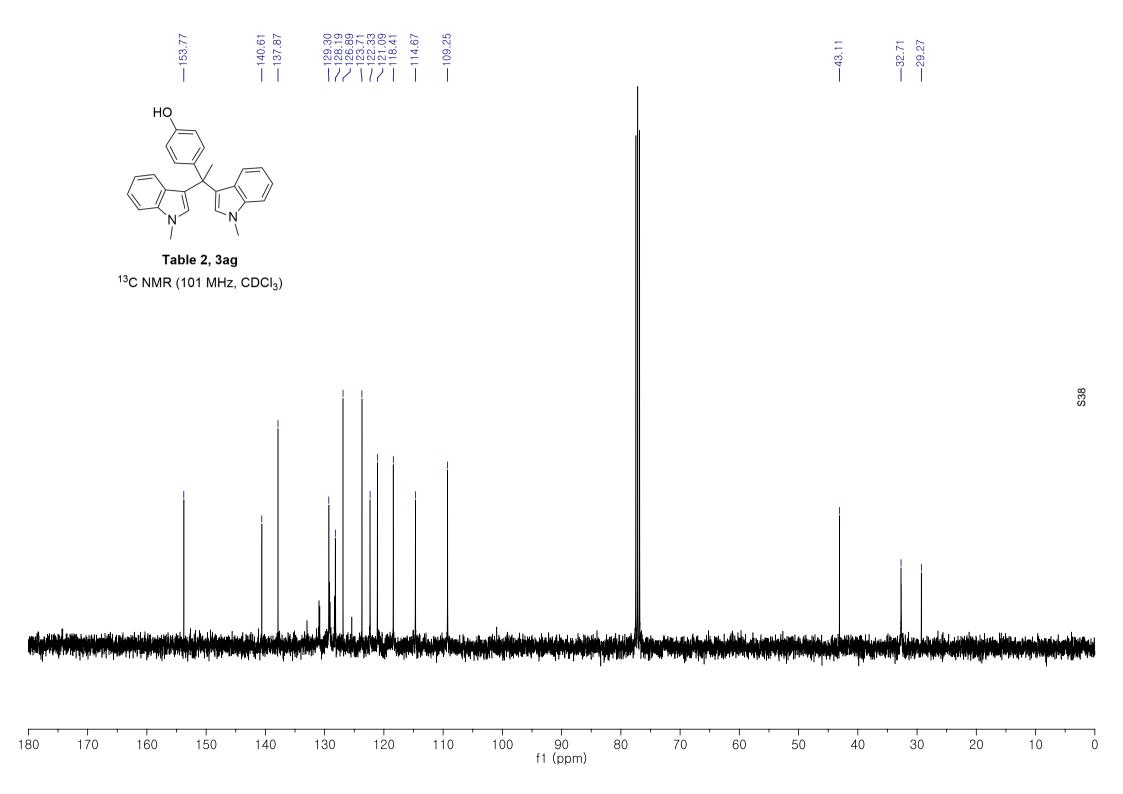




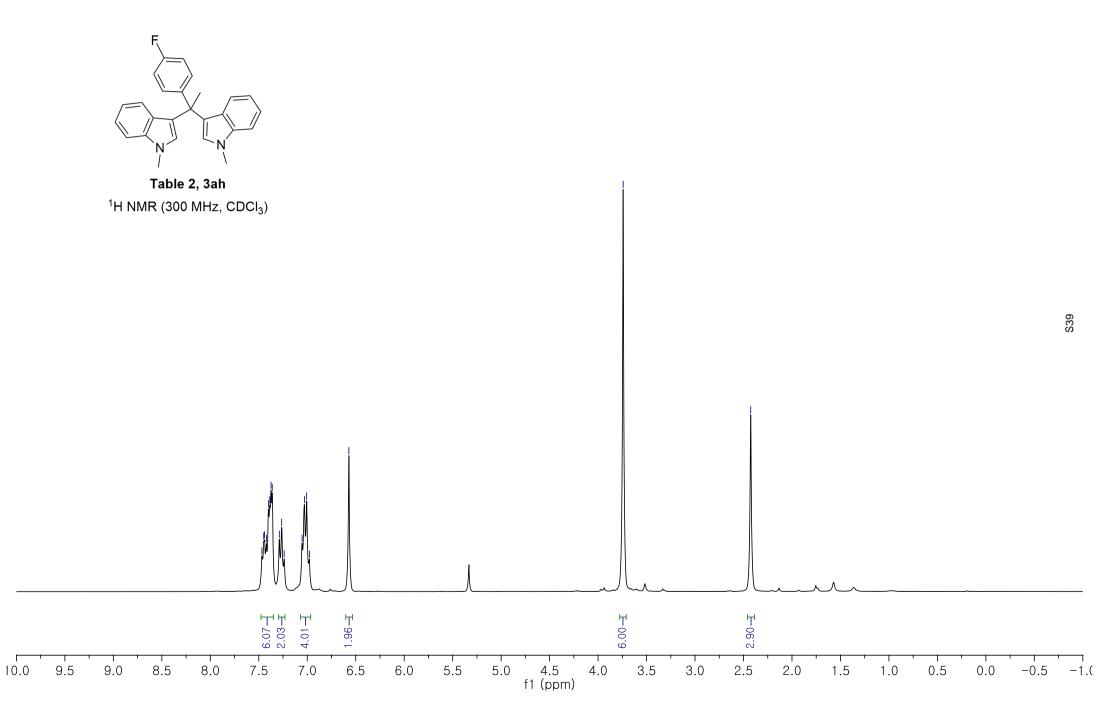


-5.02

---2.41

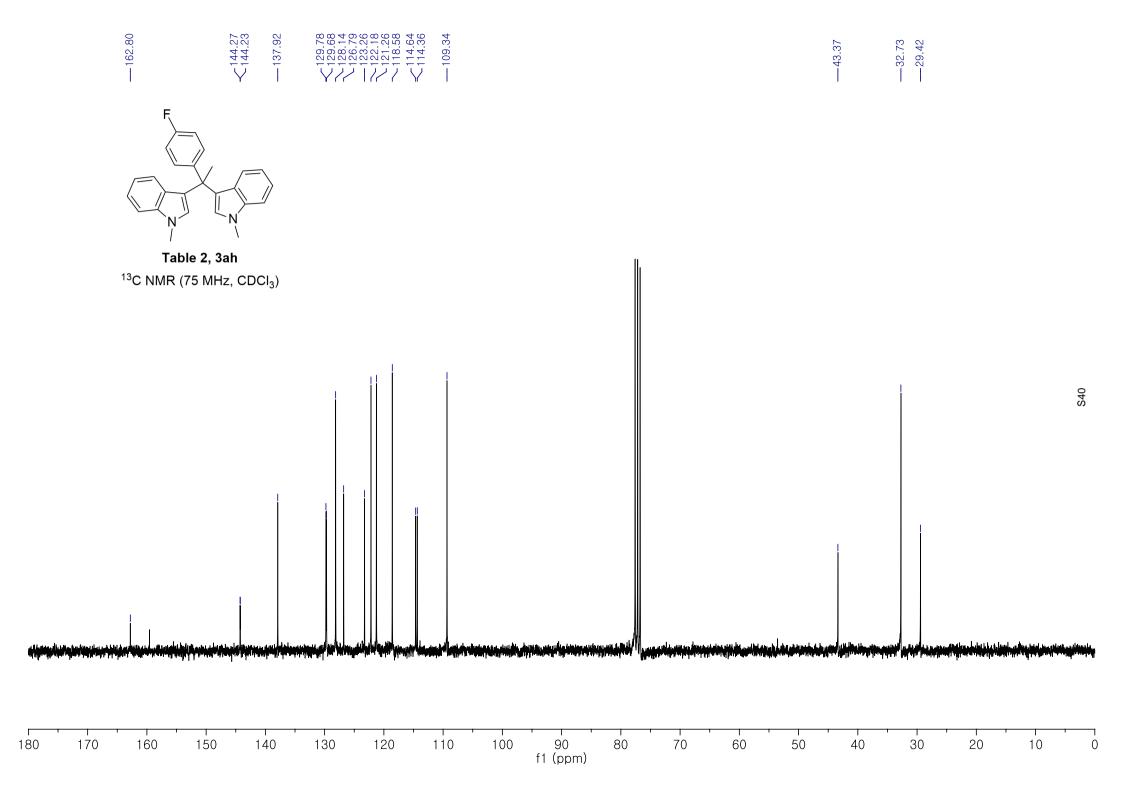






----3.74

---2.43





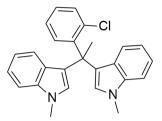
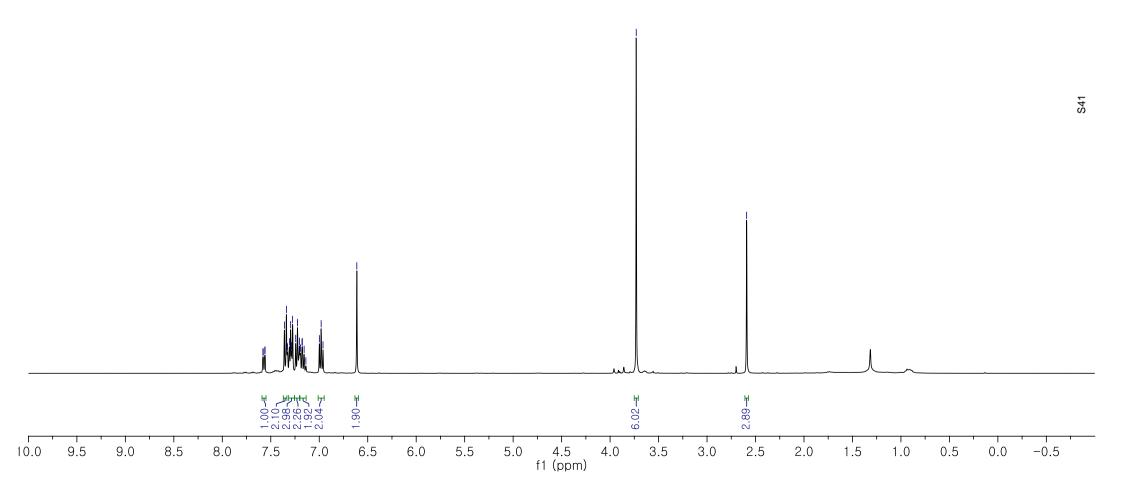
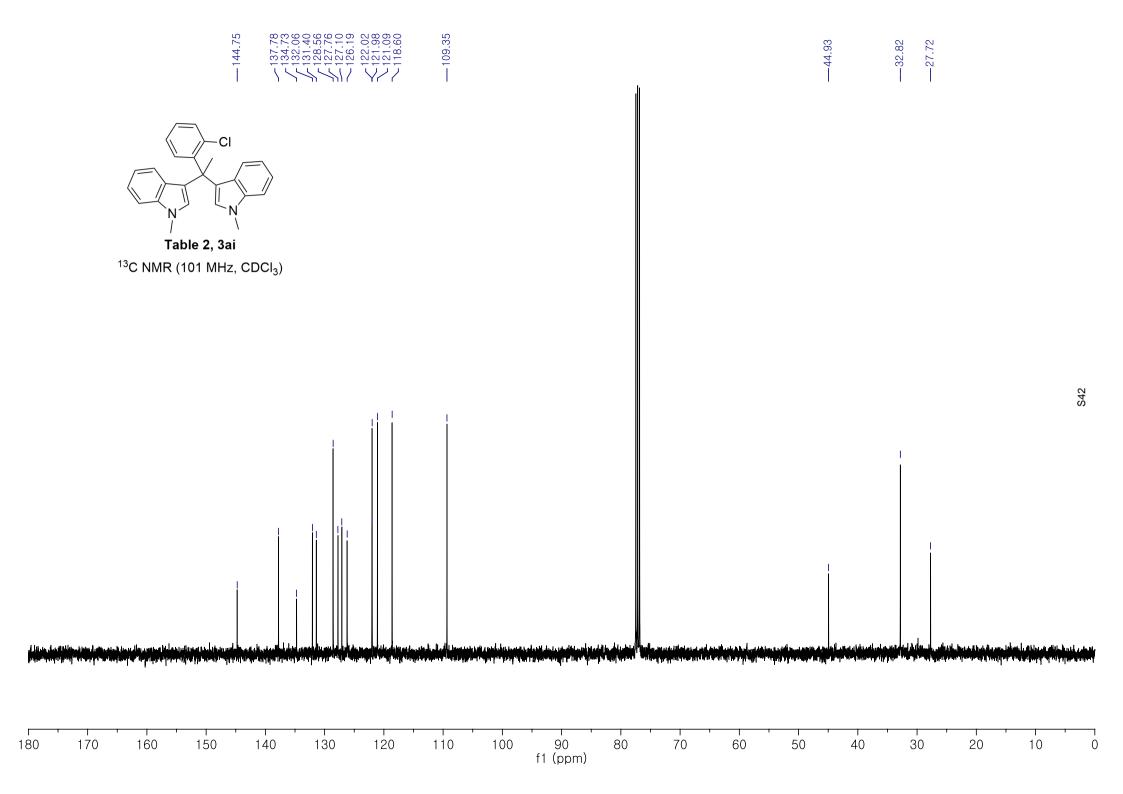


Table 2, 3ai¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



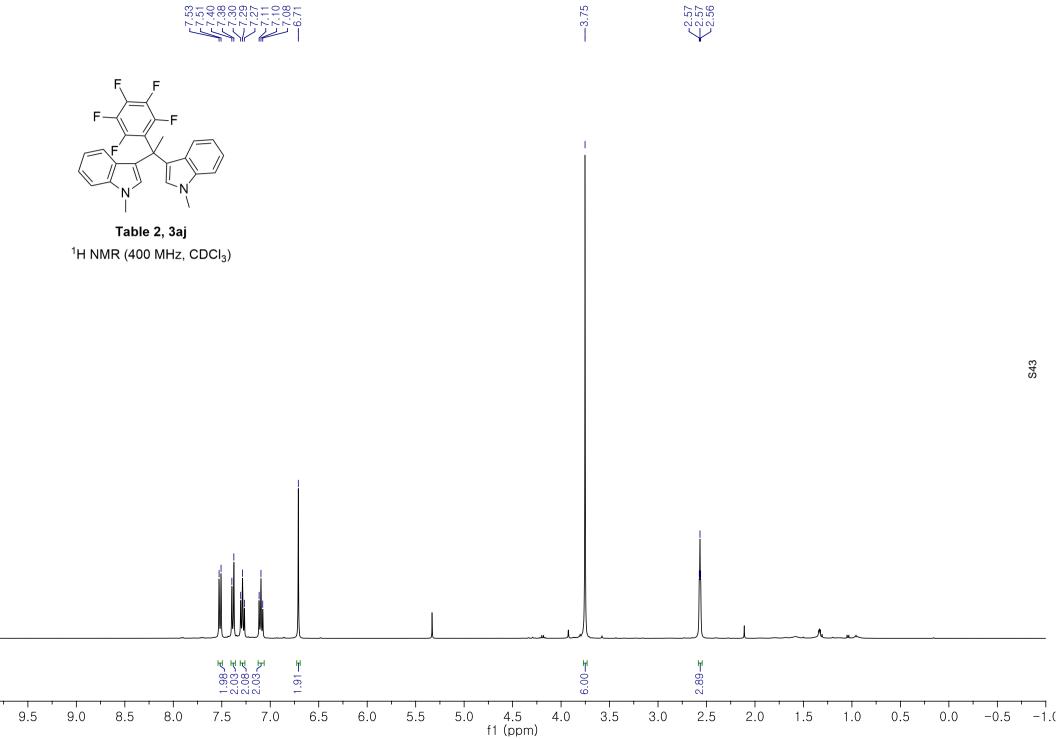
-2.59

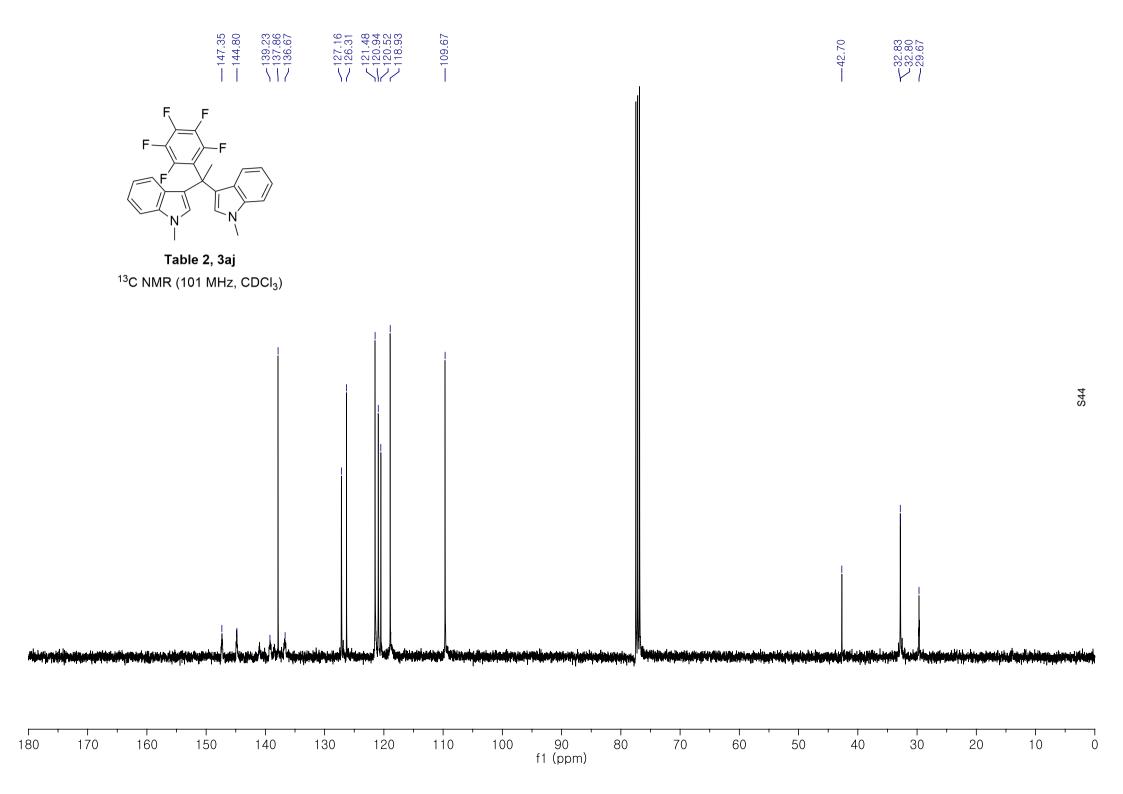


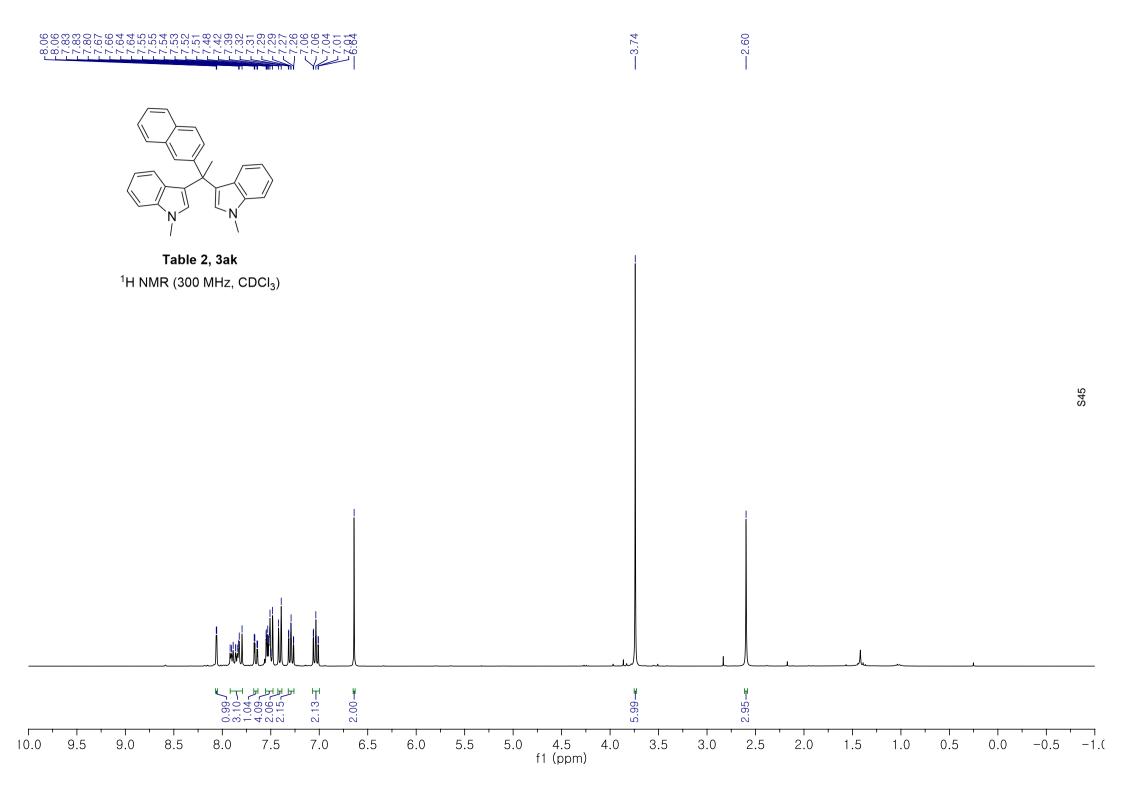


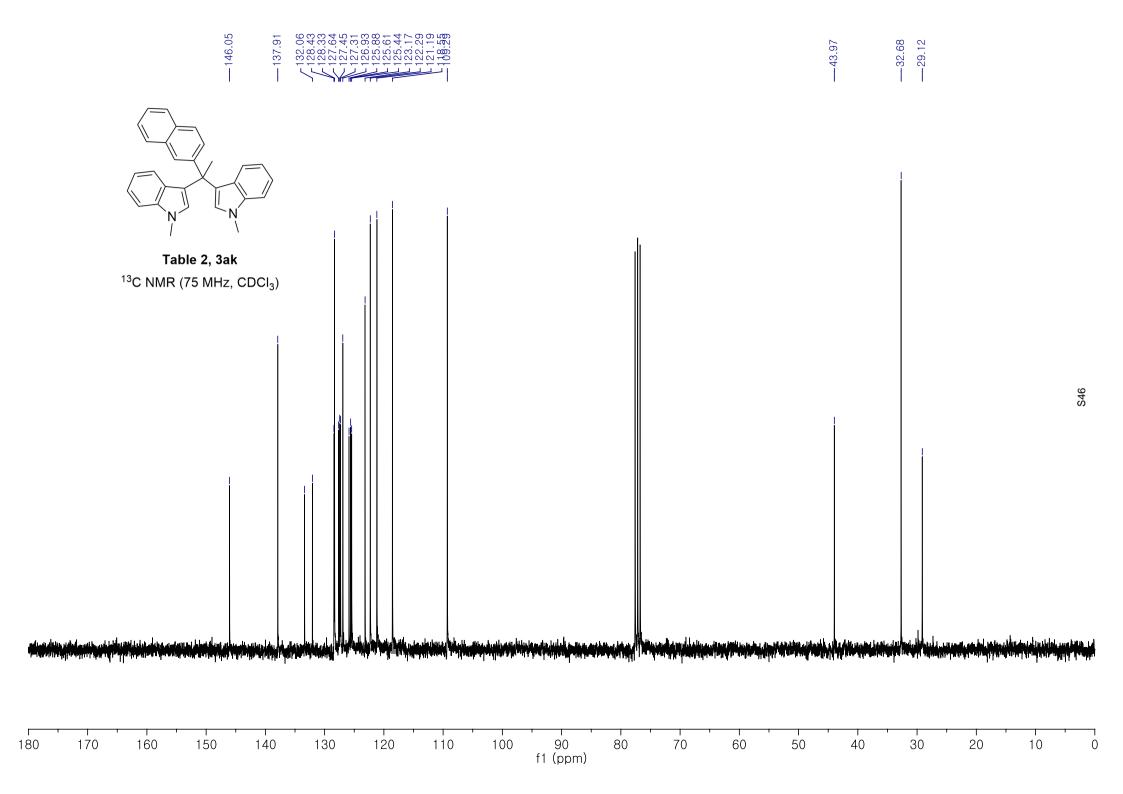
10.0



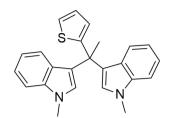


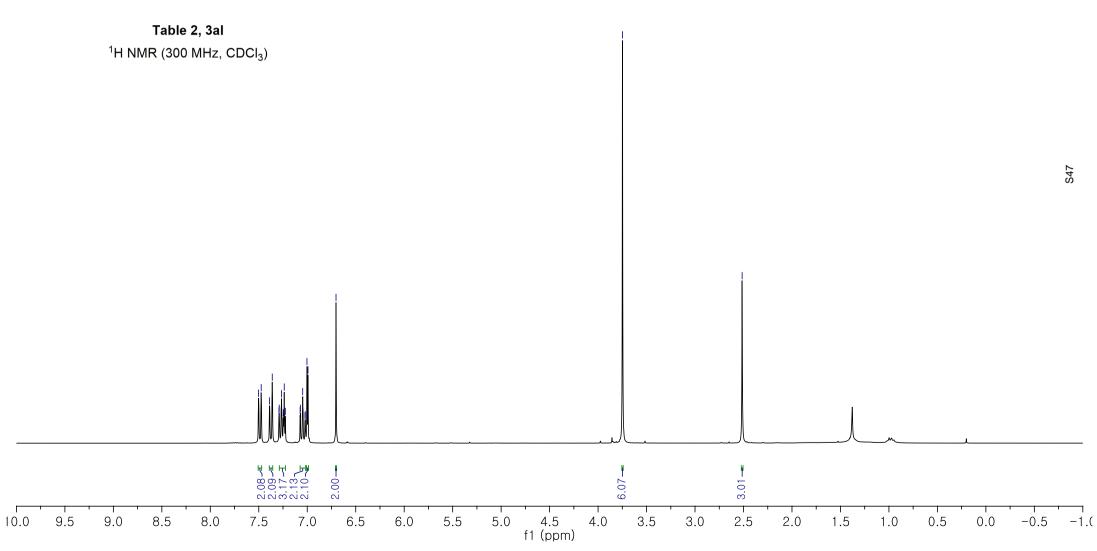


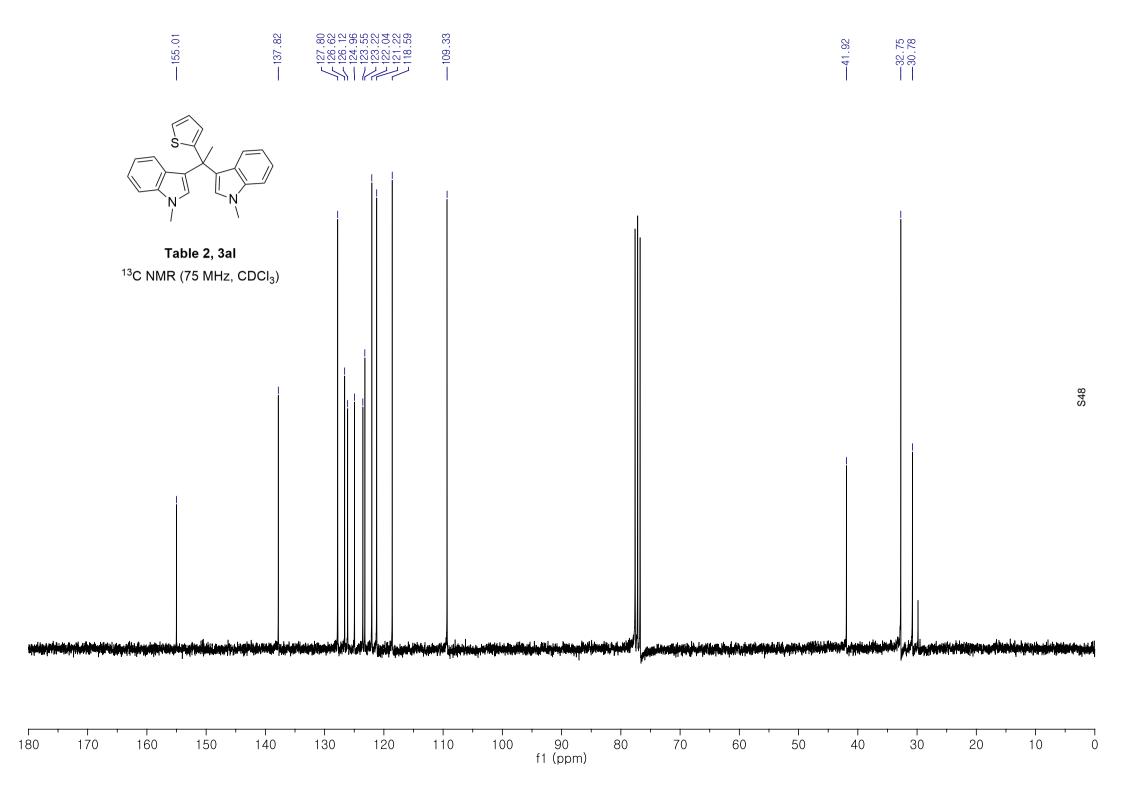




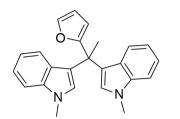


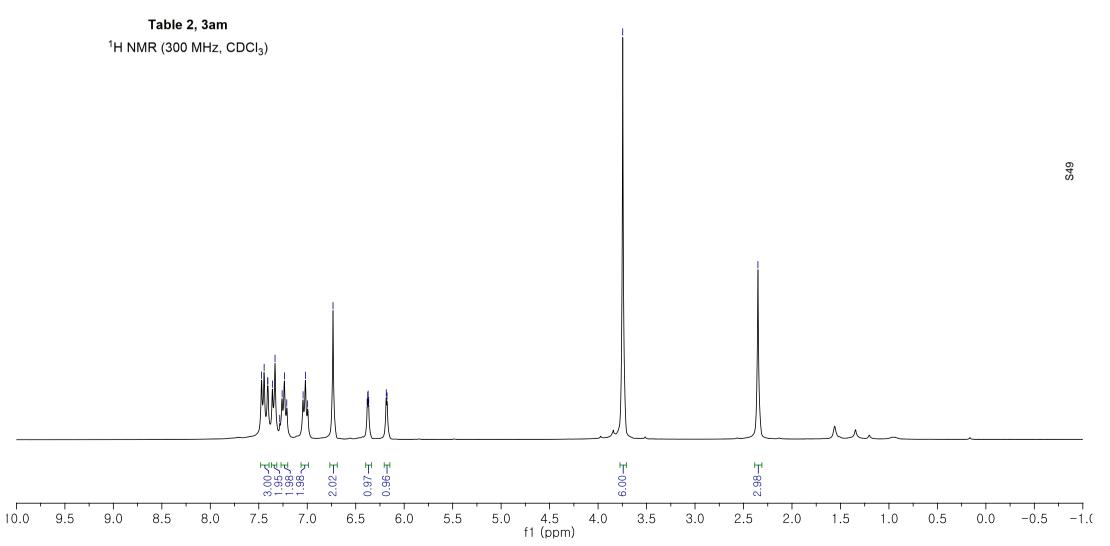


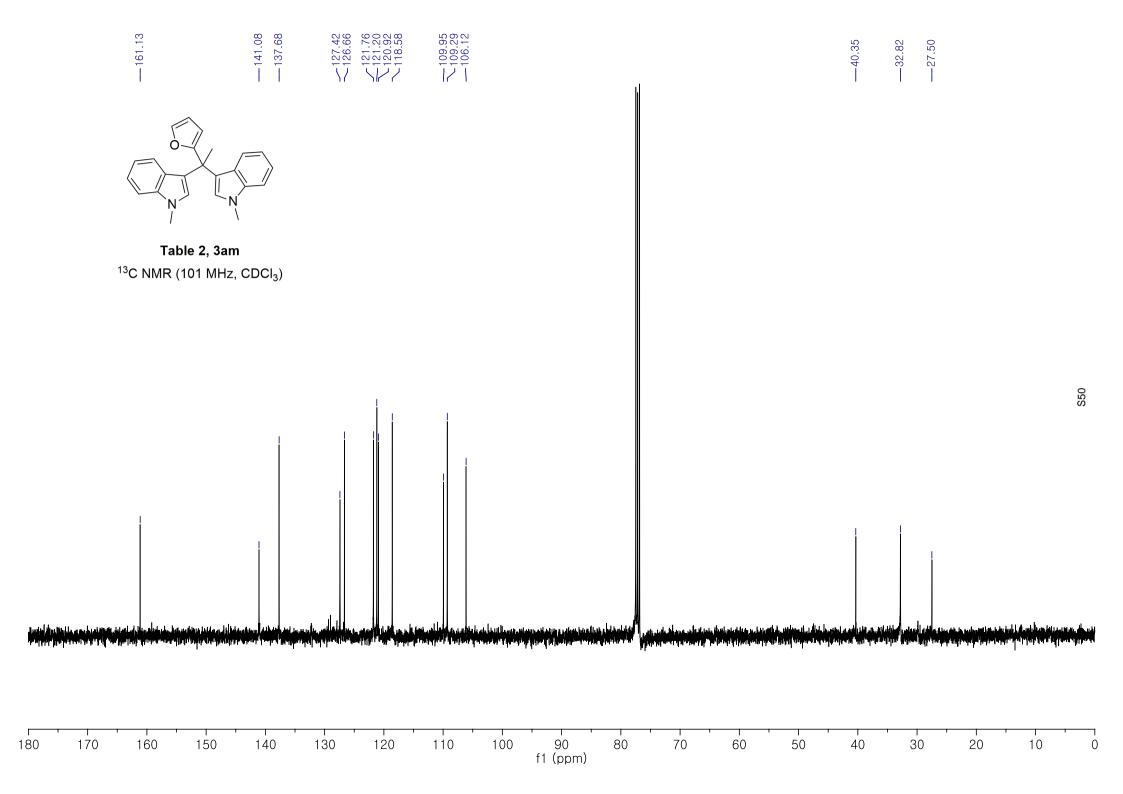














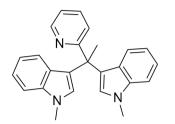
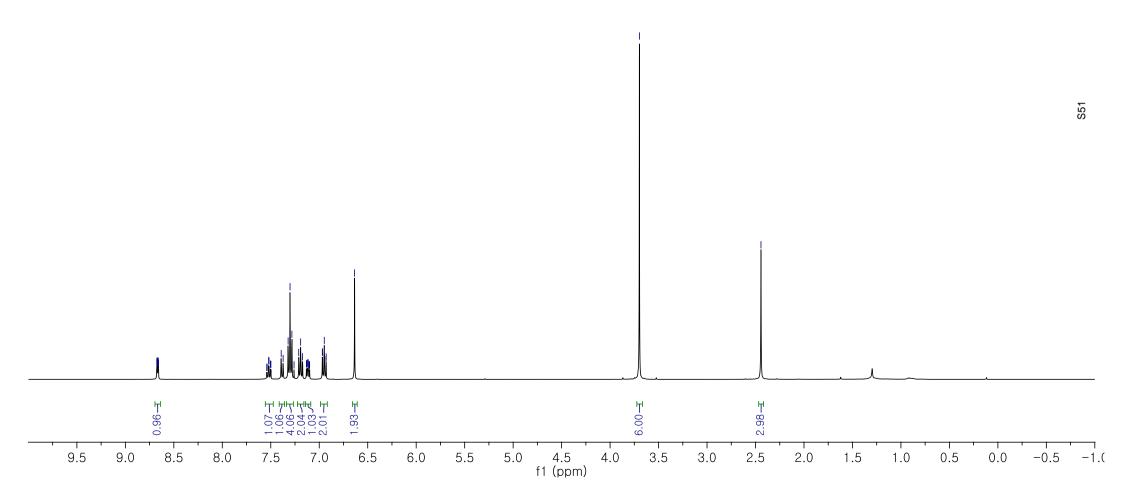
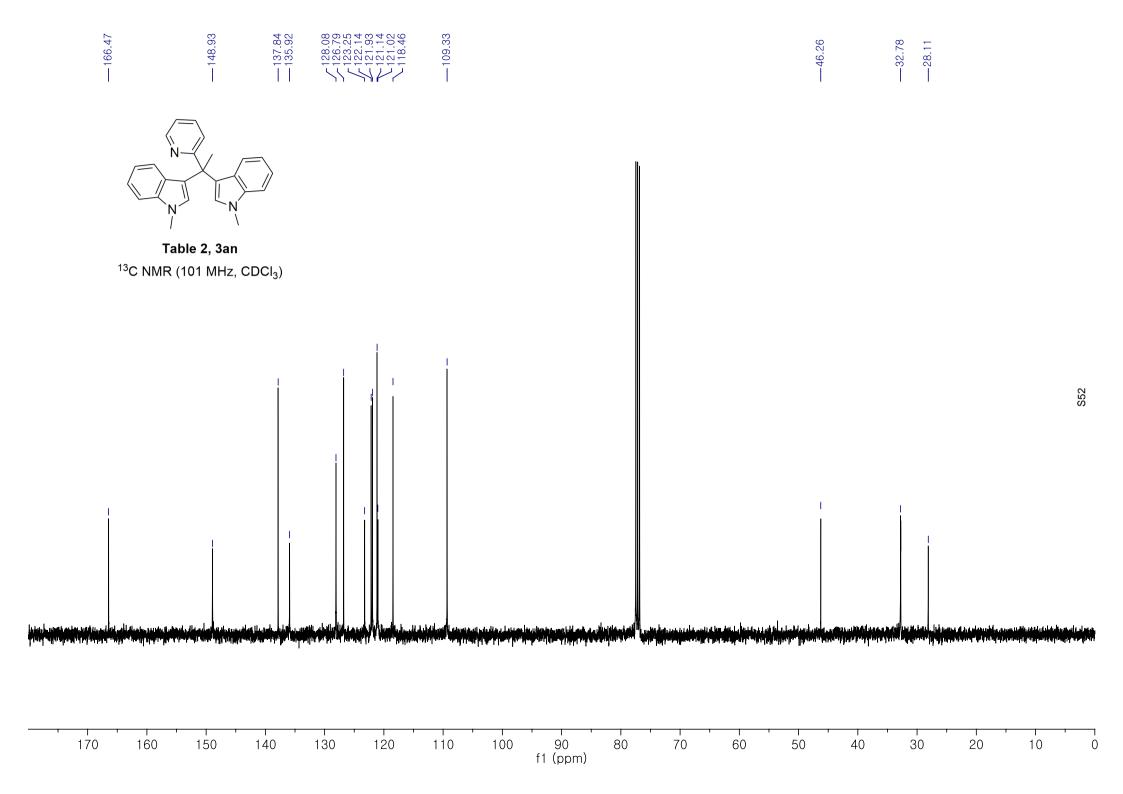


Table 2, 3an¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



---3.70

---2.44







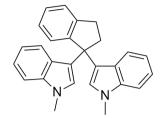
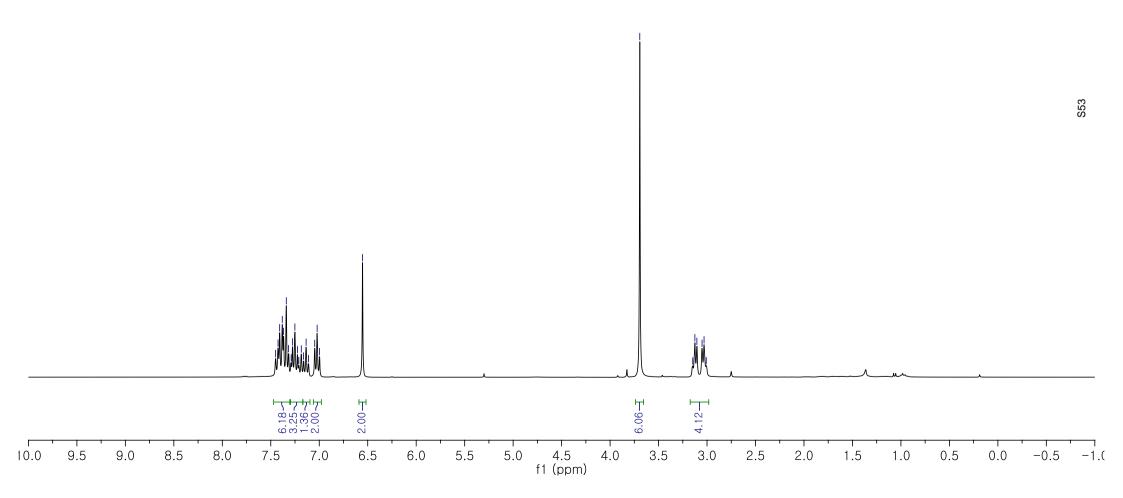
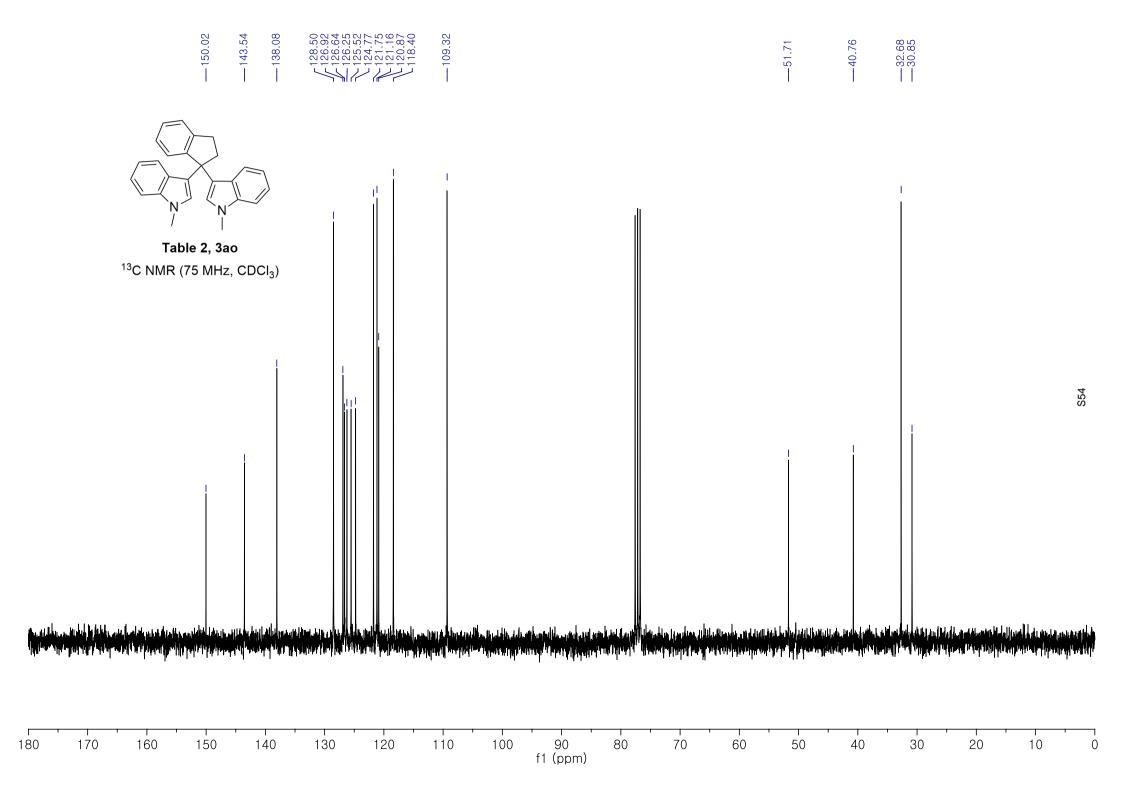


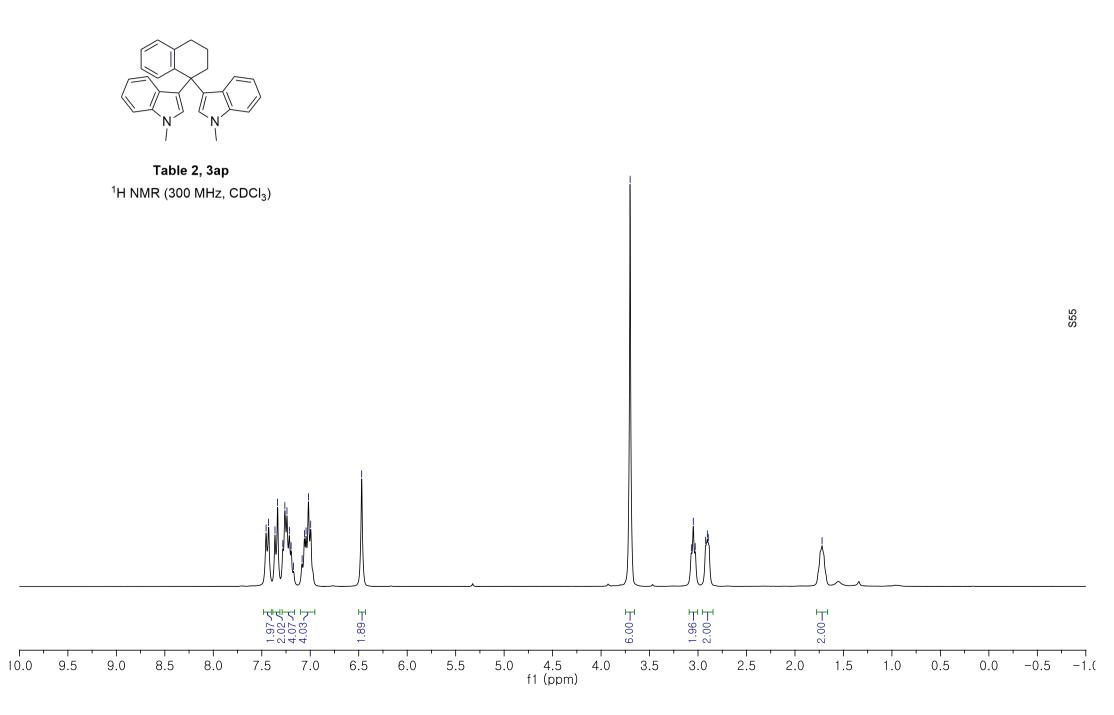
Table 2, 3ao ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

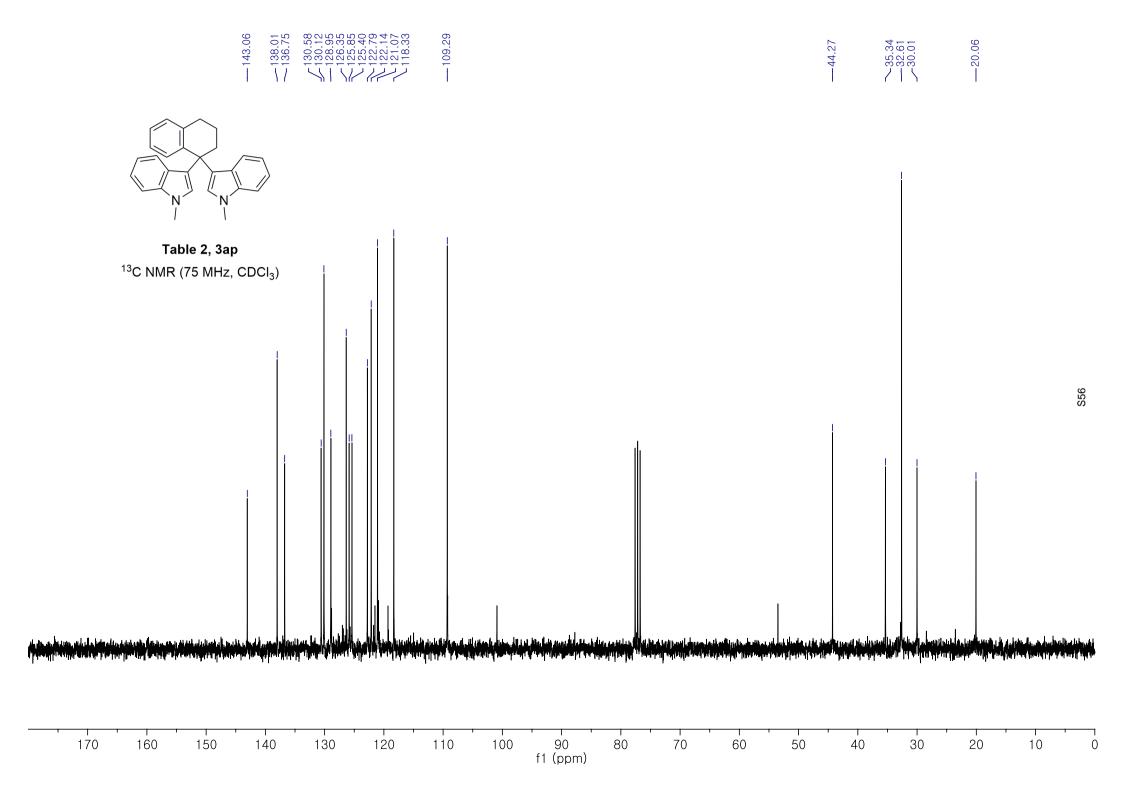




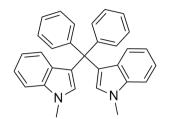




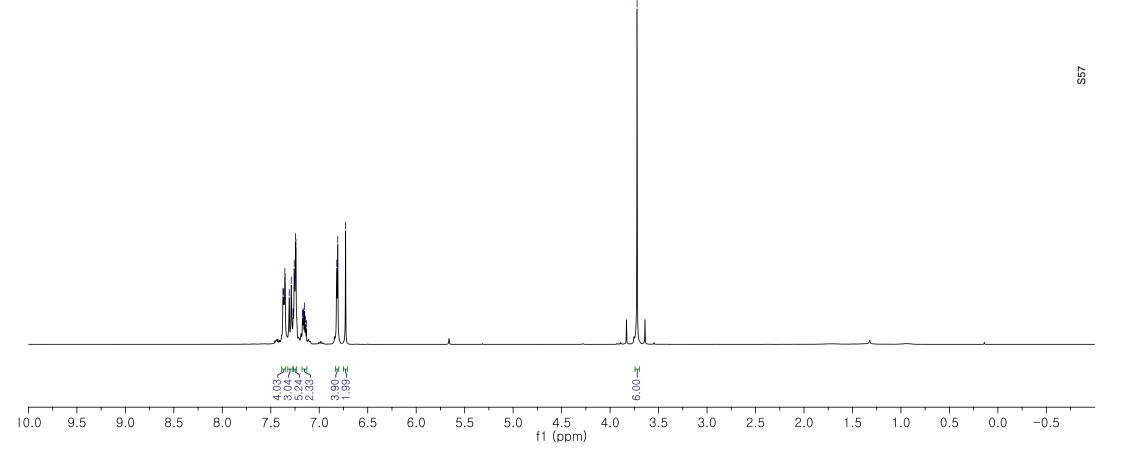


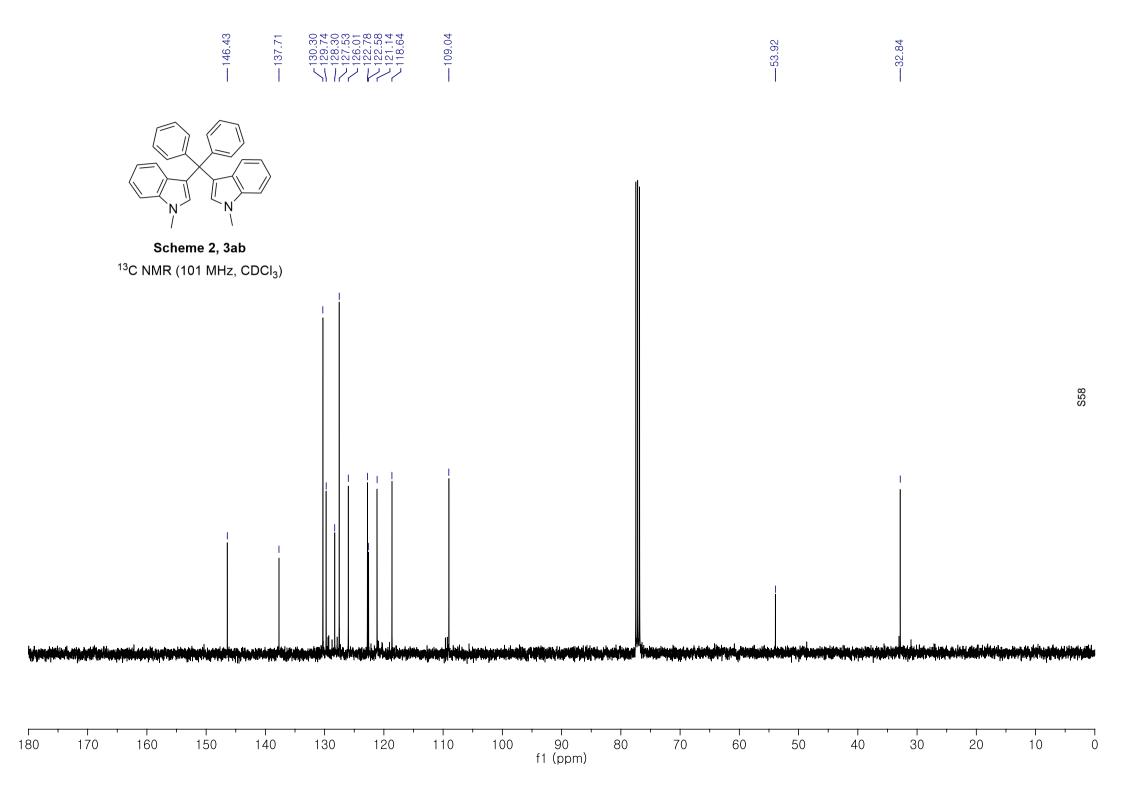




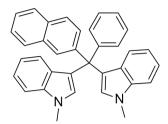


Scheme 2, 3ab ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

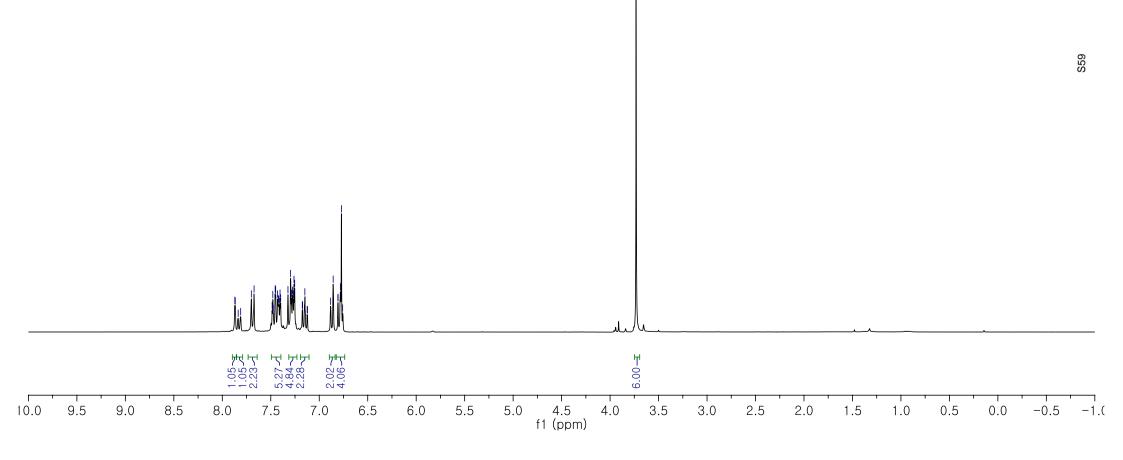


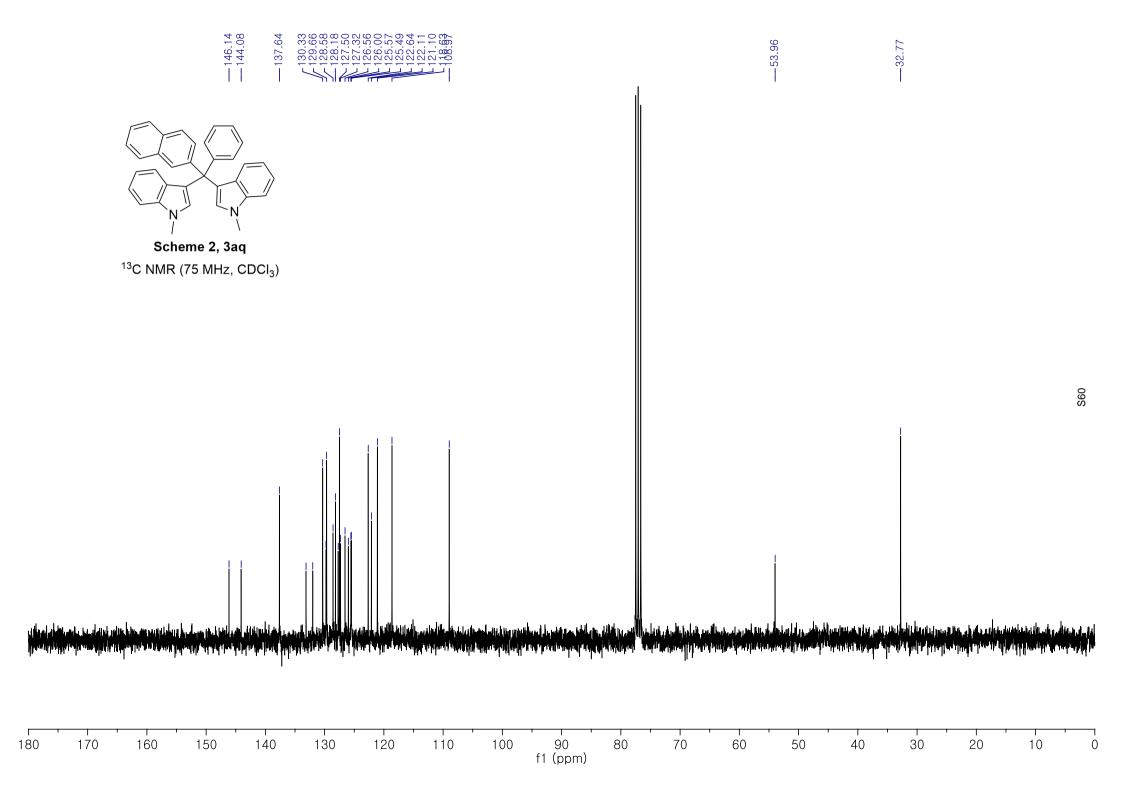




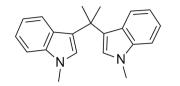


Scheme 2, 3aq ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

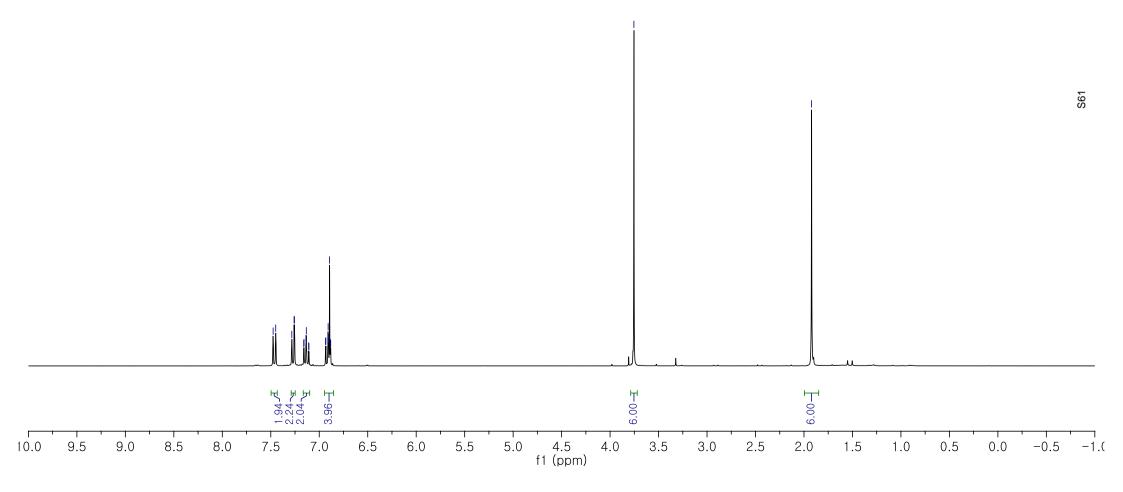


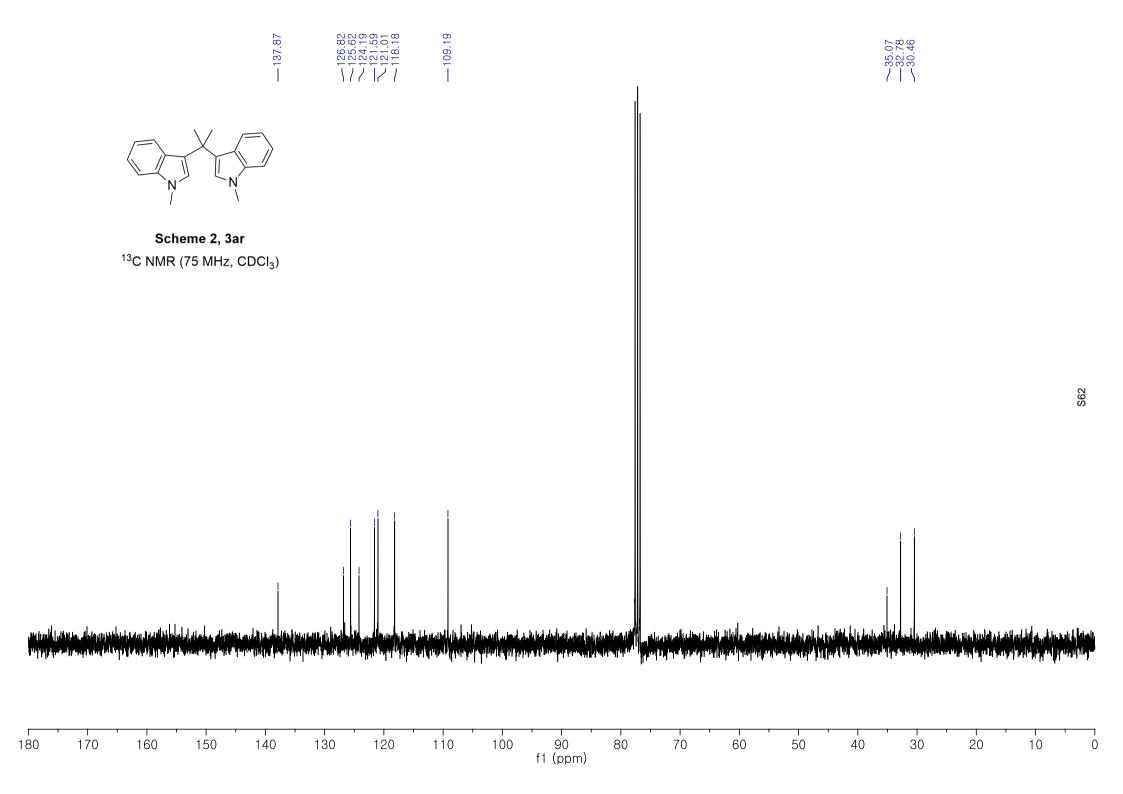






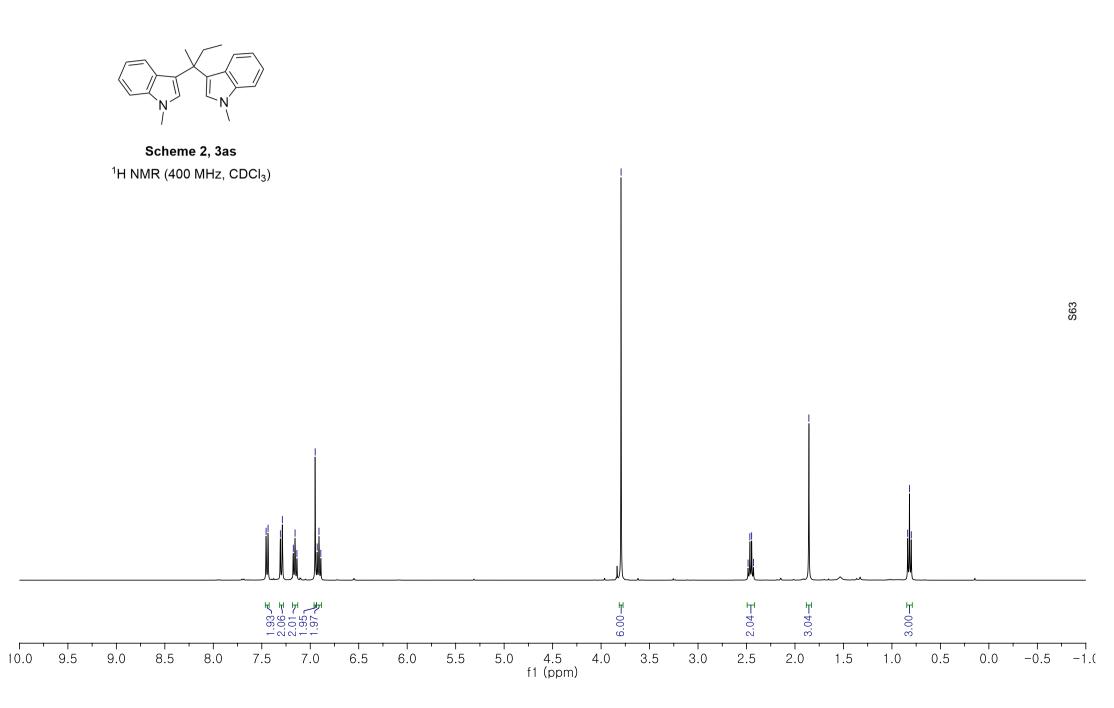
Scheme 2, 3ar ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

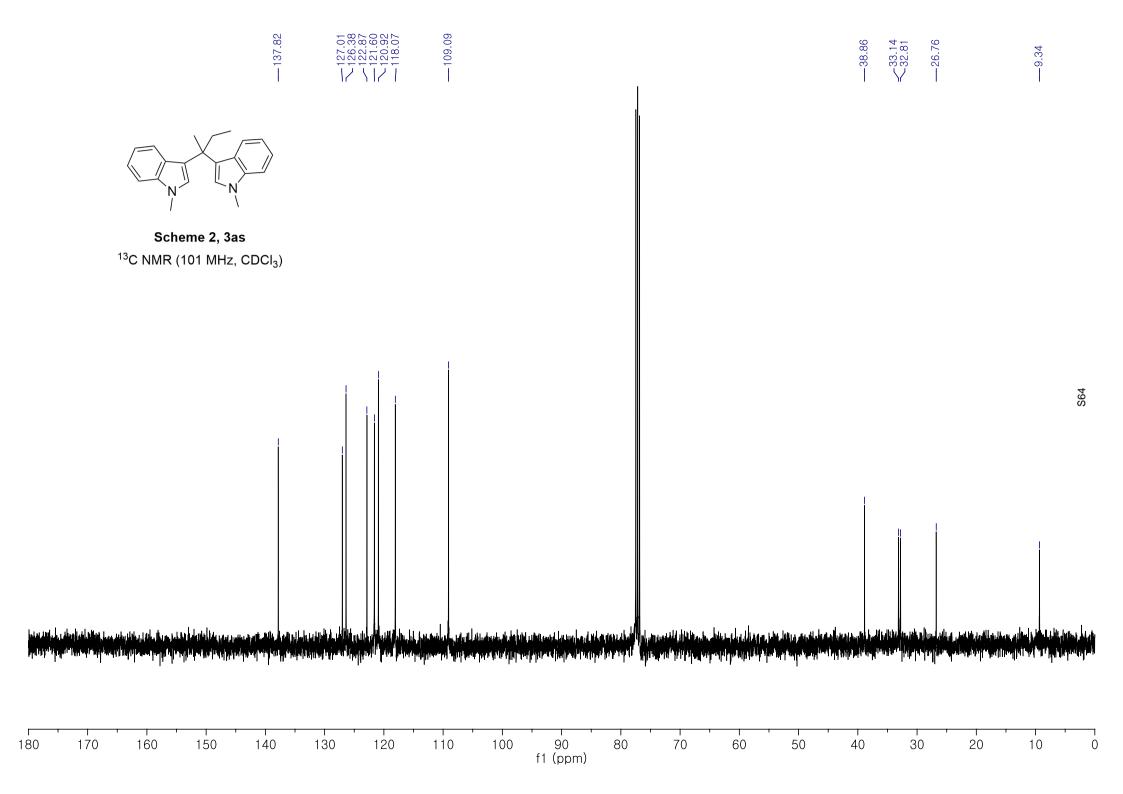










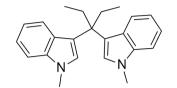




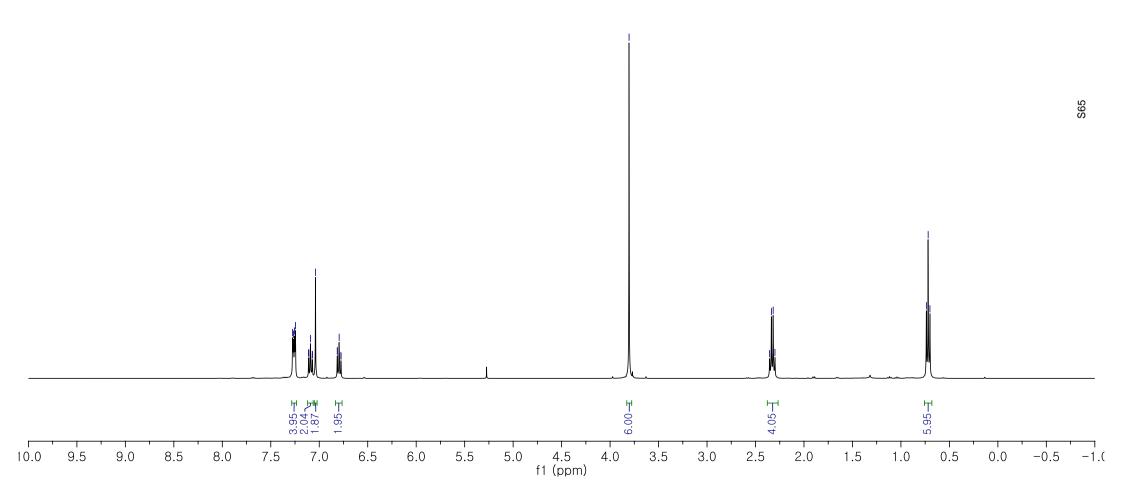


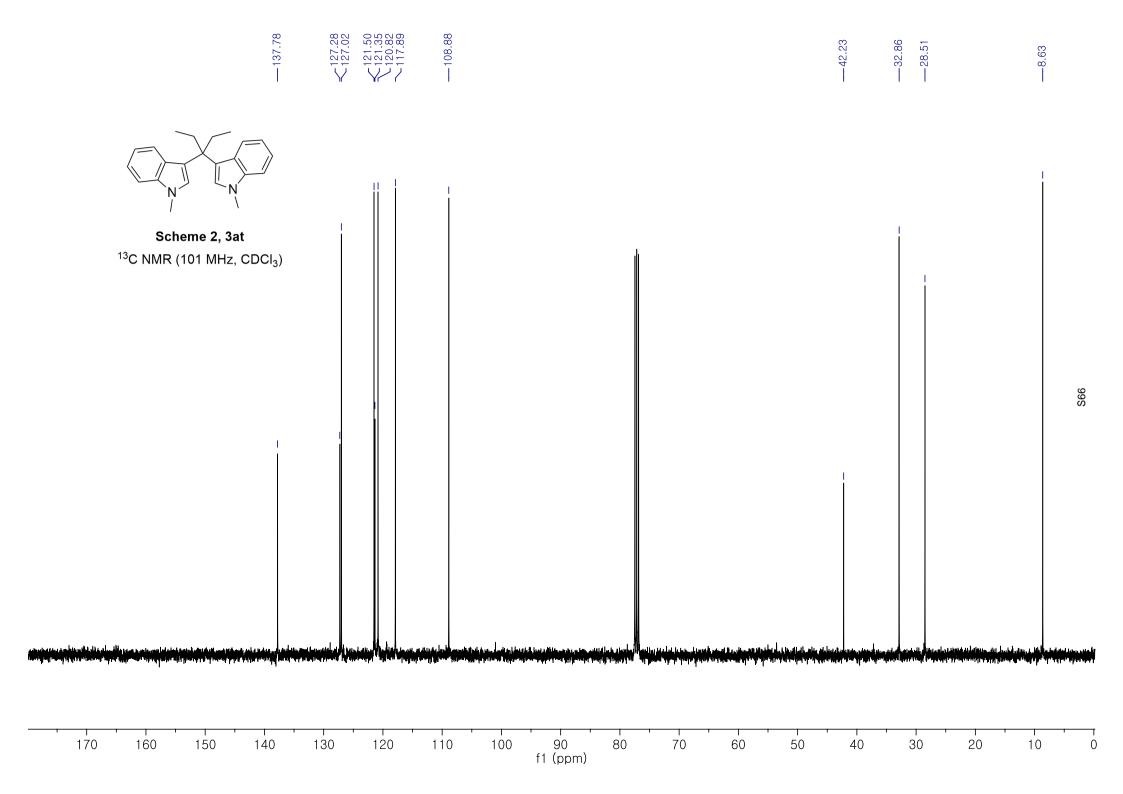




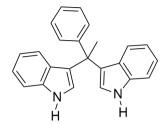


Scheme 2, 3at ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

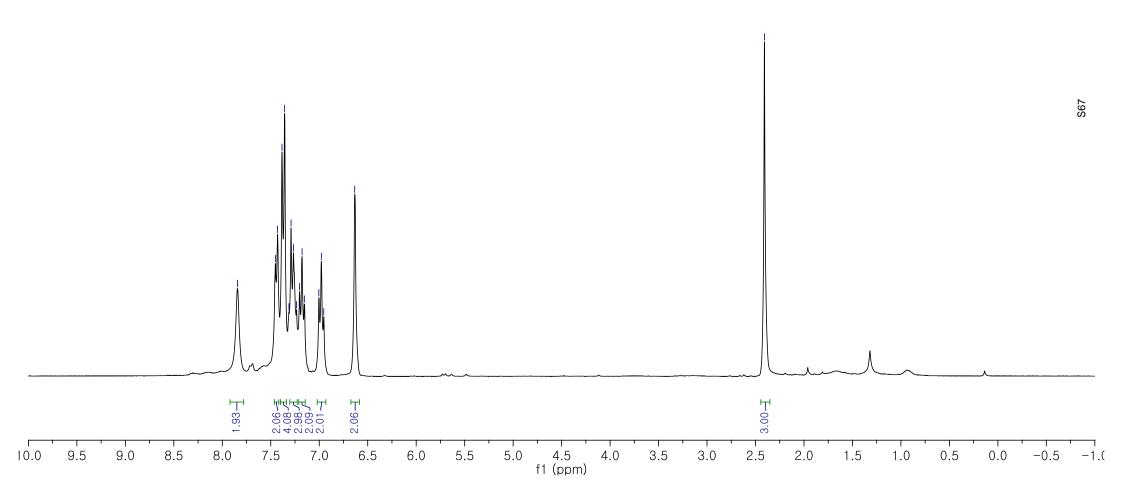








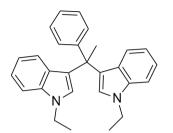
Scheme 3, 3ba ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

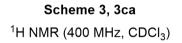


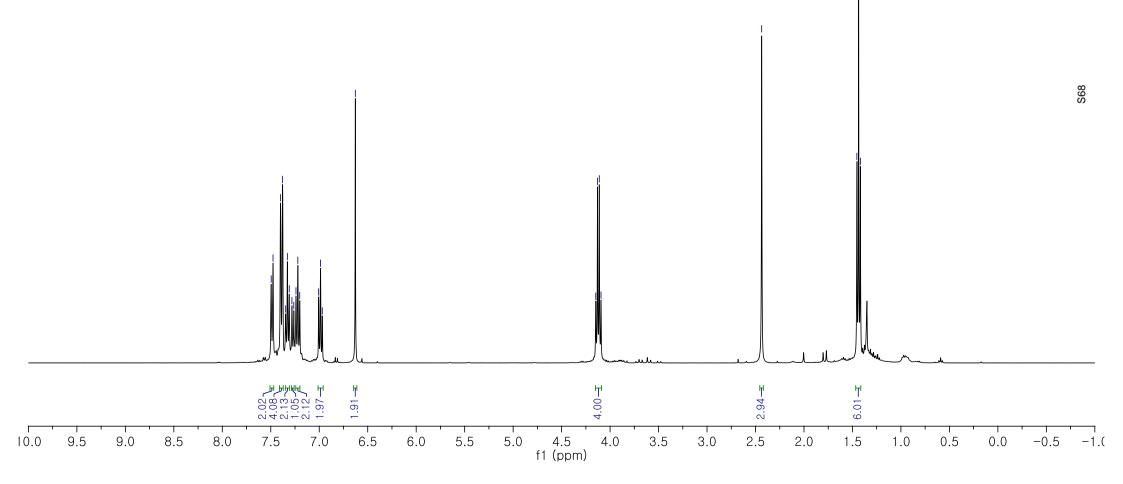


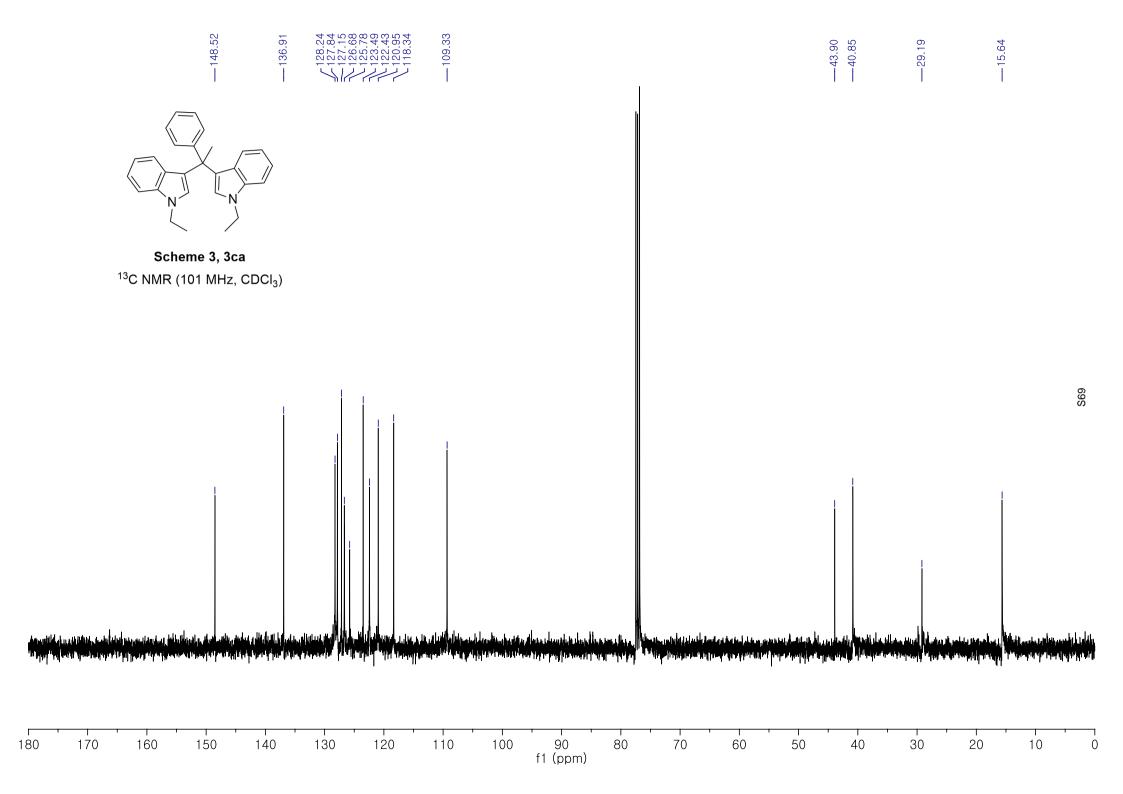






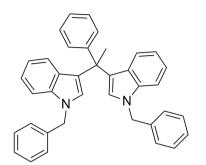


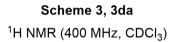


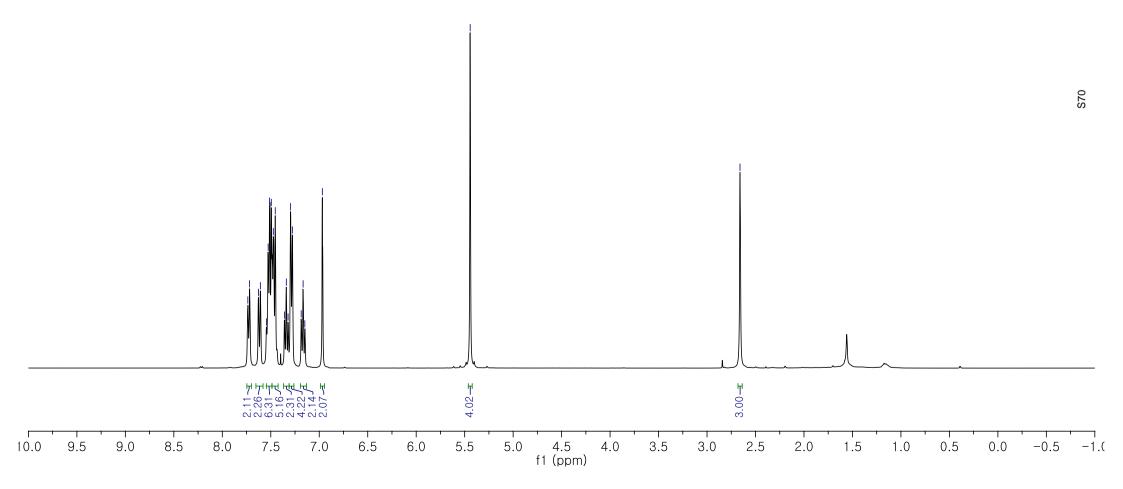




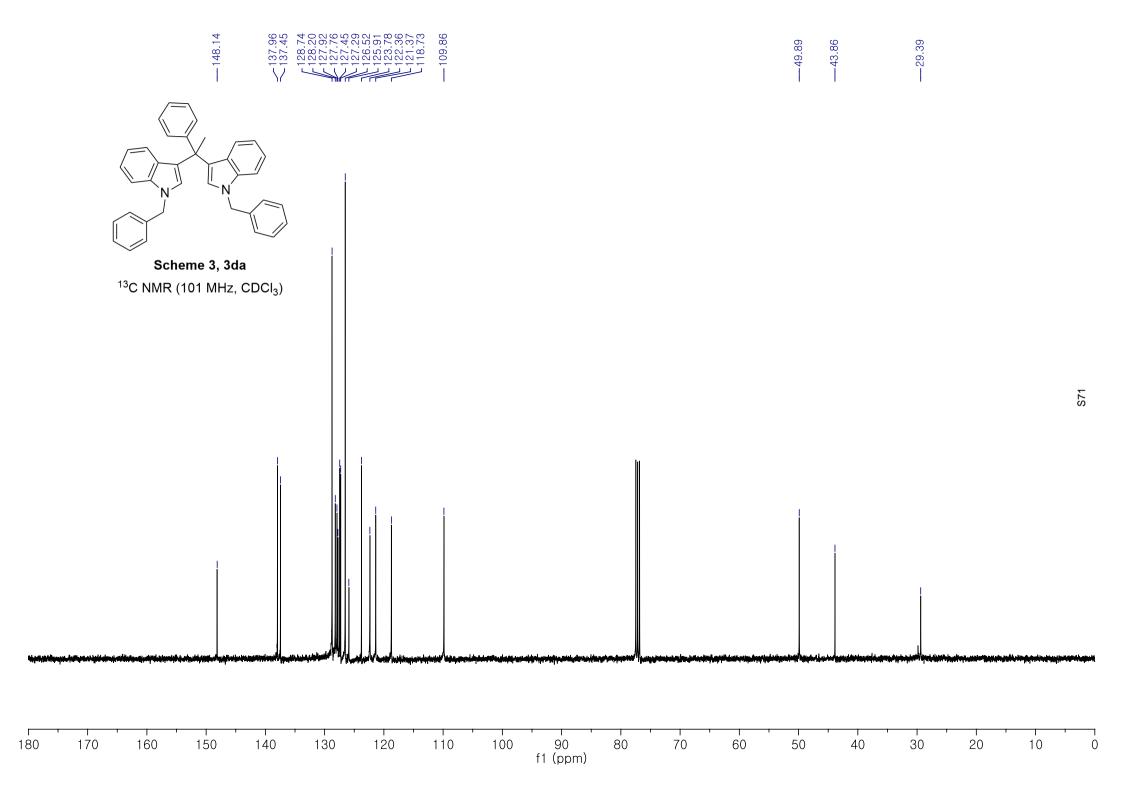
-5.44





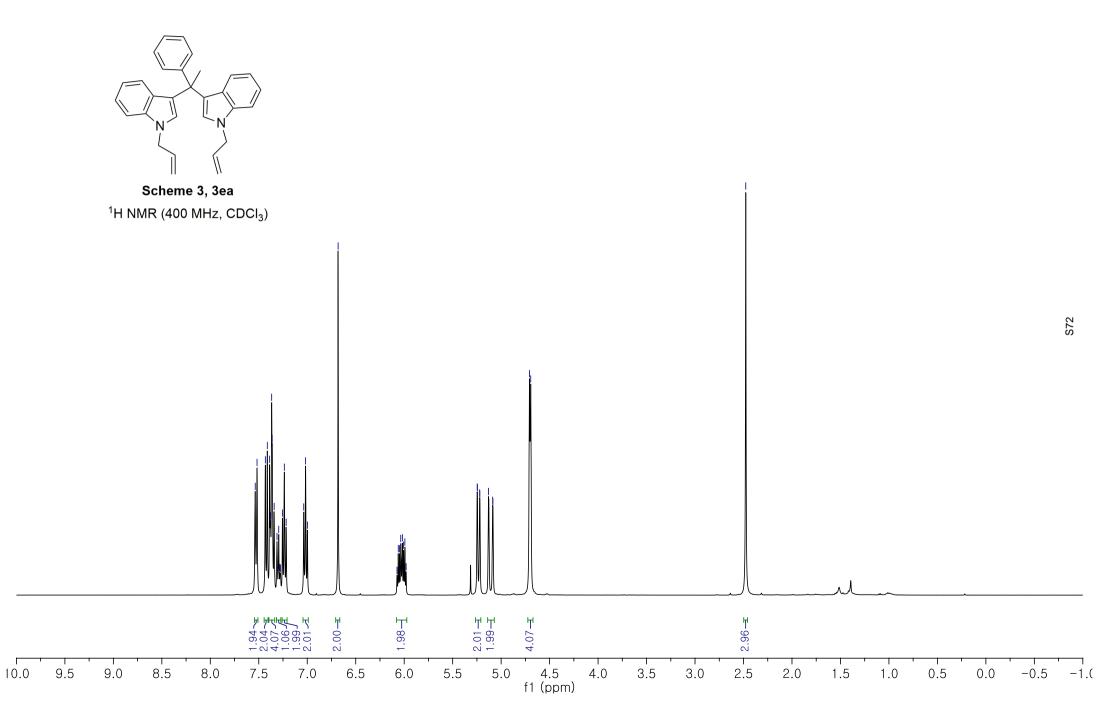


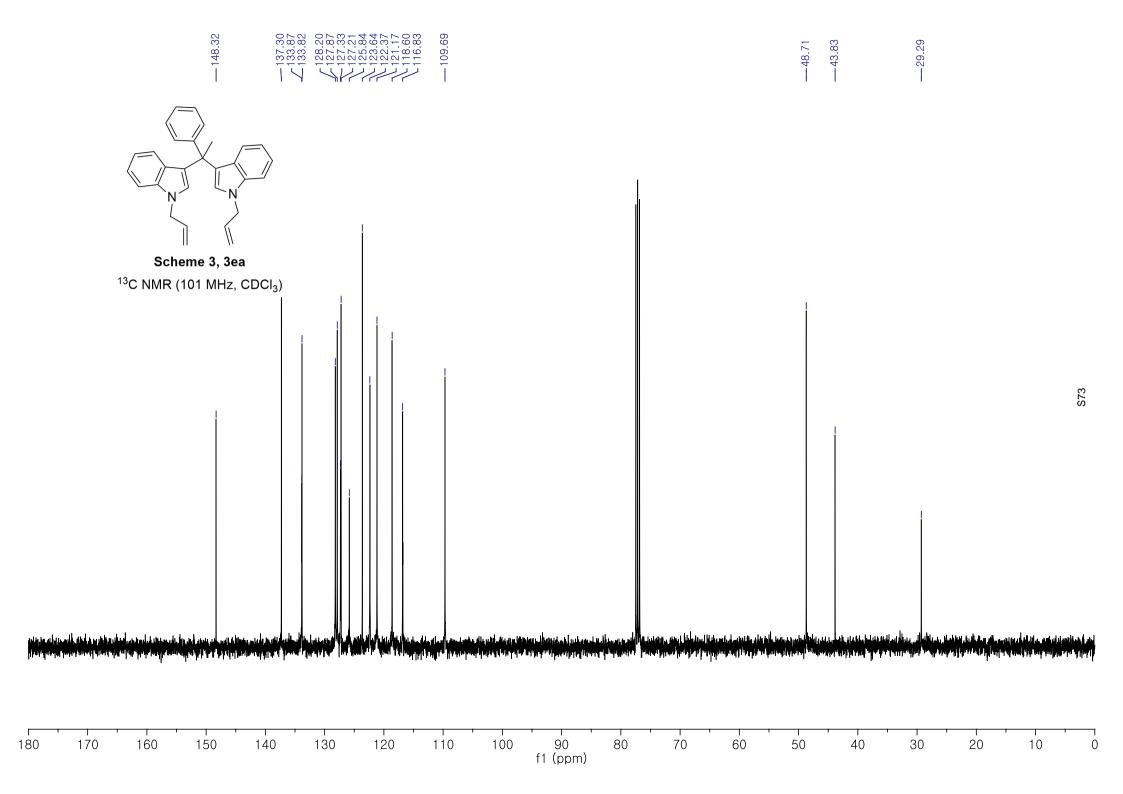
-2.66







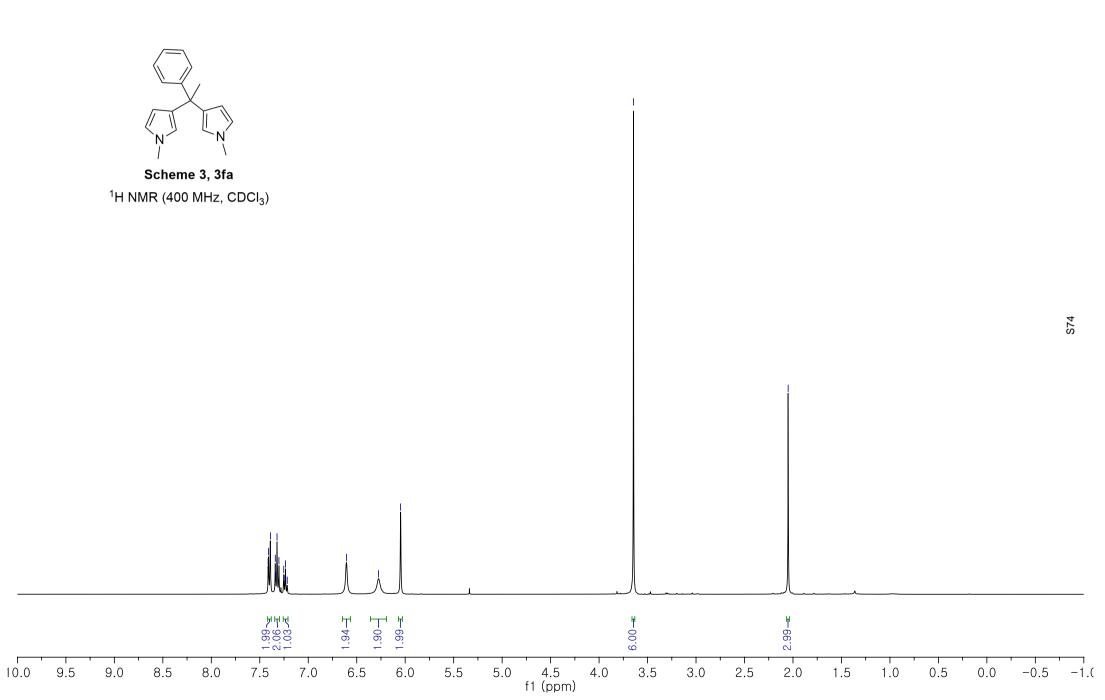


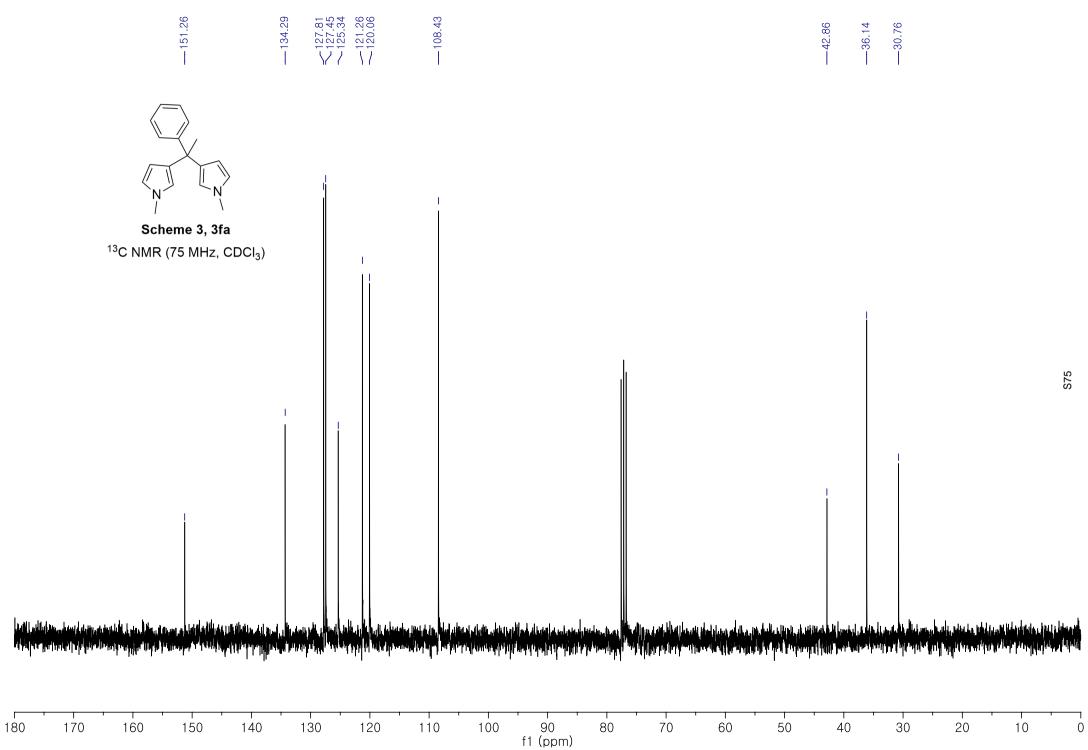




-3.65

----2.05

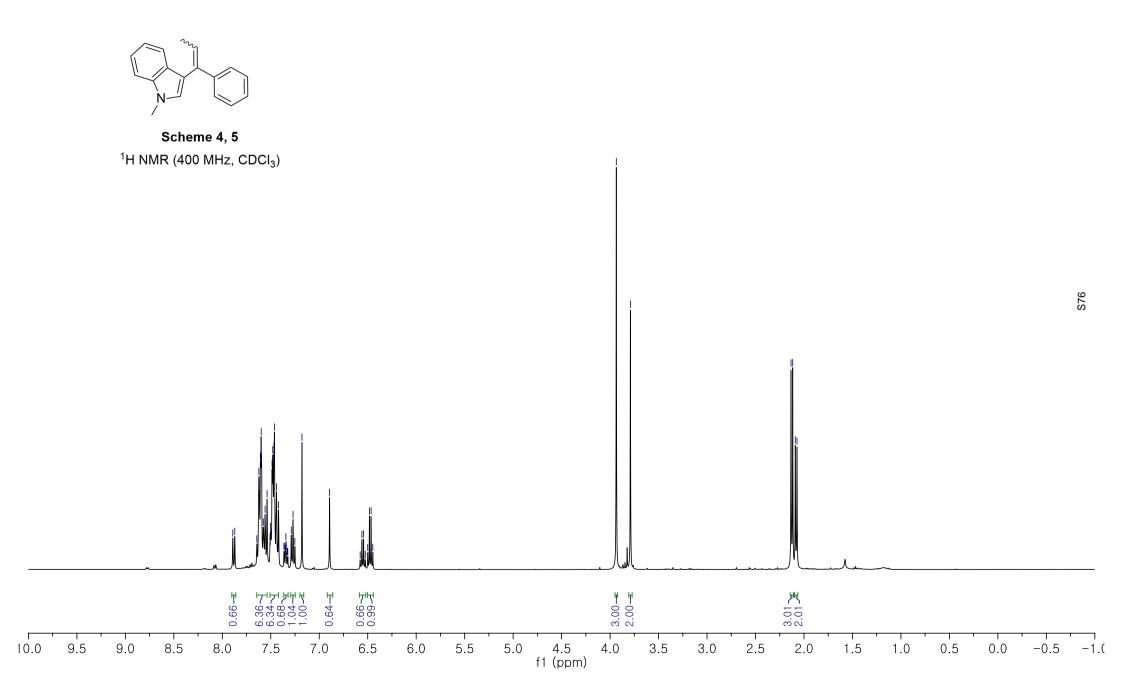


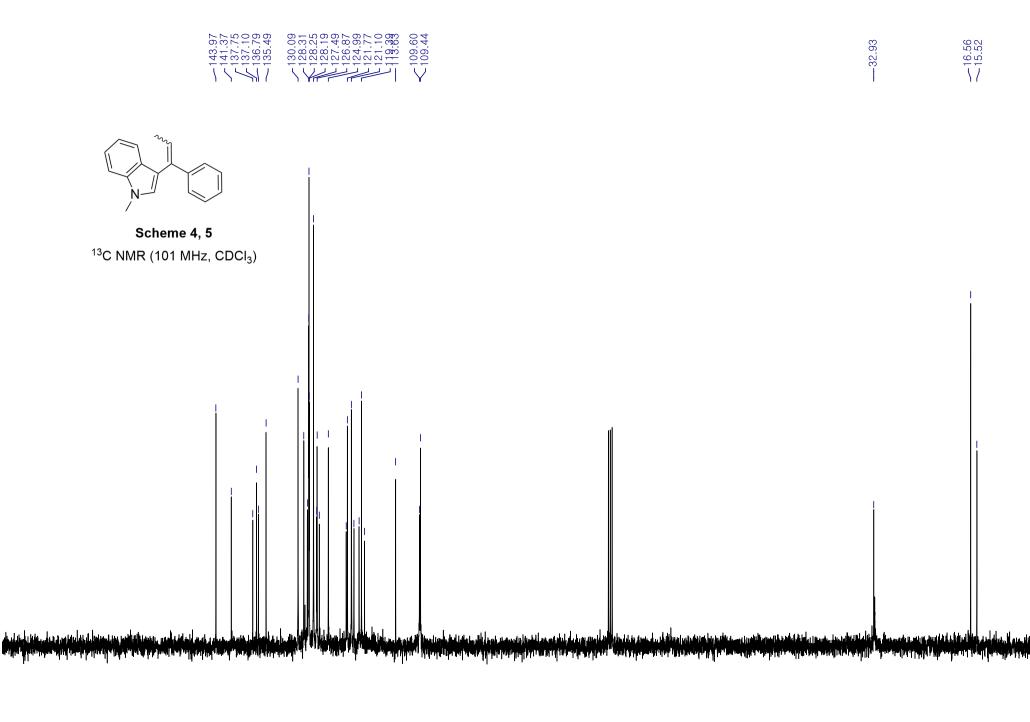




----3.94 ----3.79







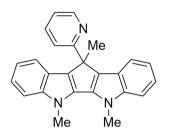
					· ·			1		·		1	1	1		1		1
180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90 f1 (ppm)		70	60	50	40	30	20	10	

, di _{je}u

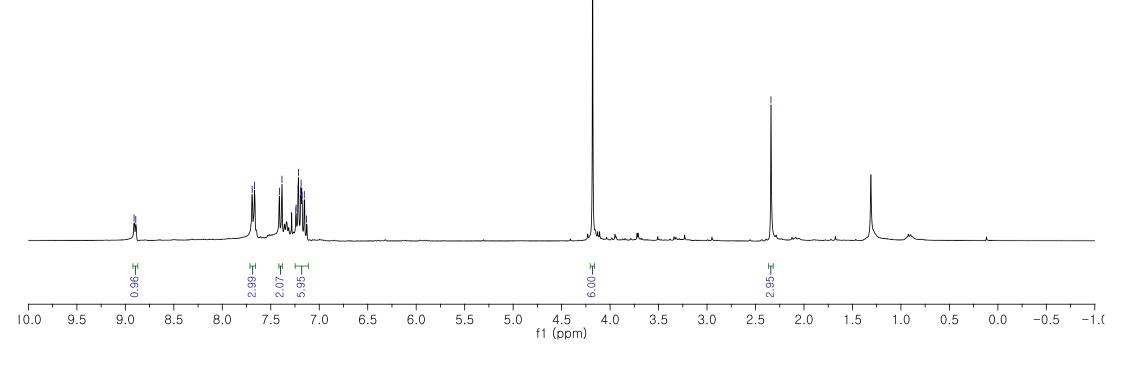
0

√16.56 √15.52





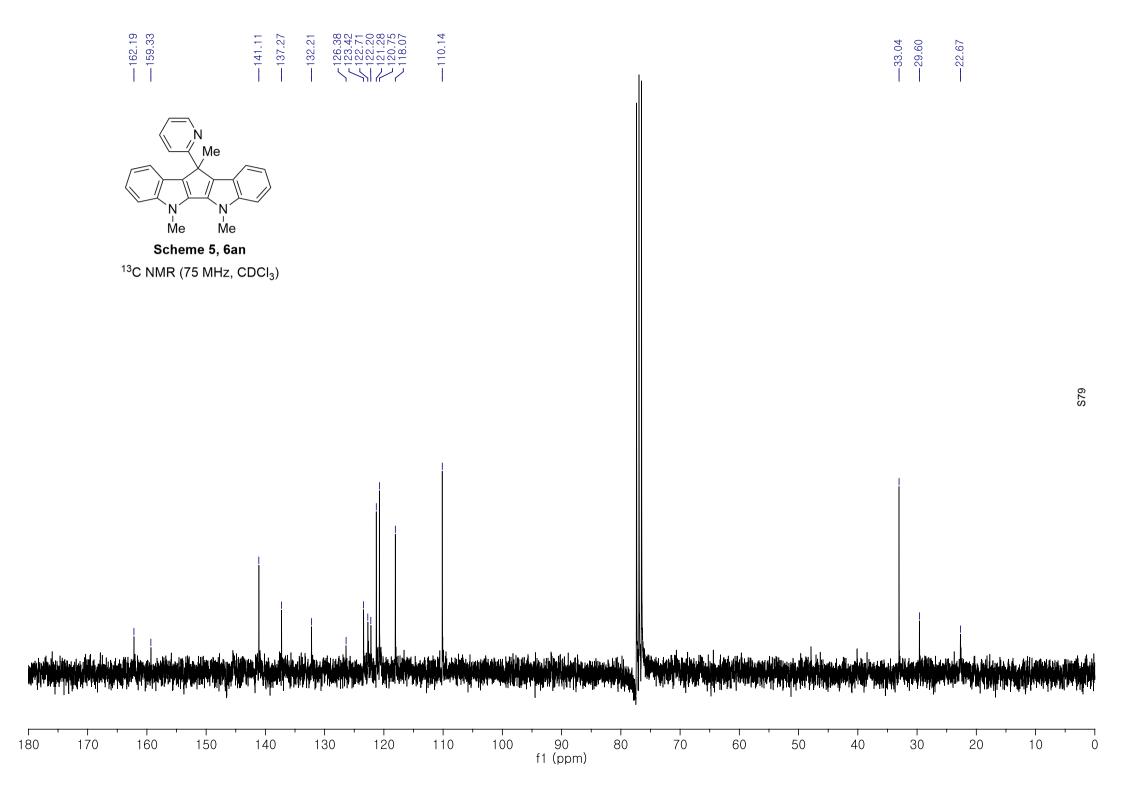
Scheme 5, 6an ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)



-4.18

---2.34

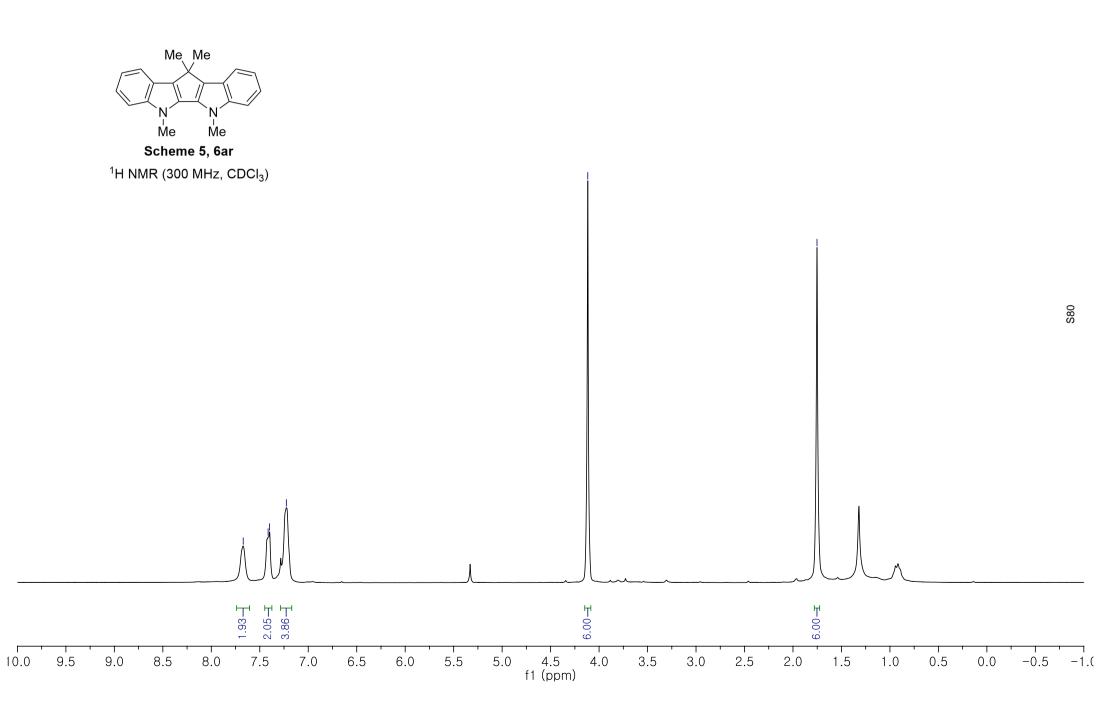
S78

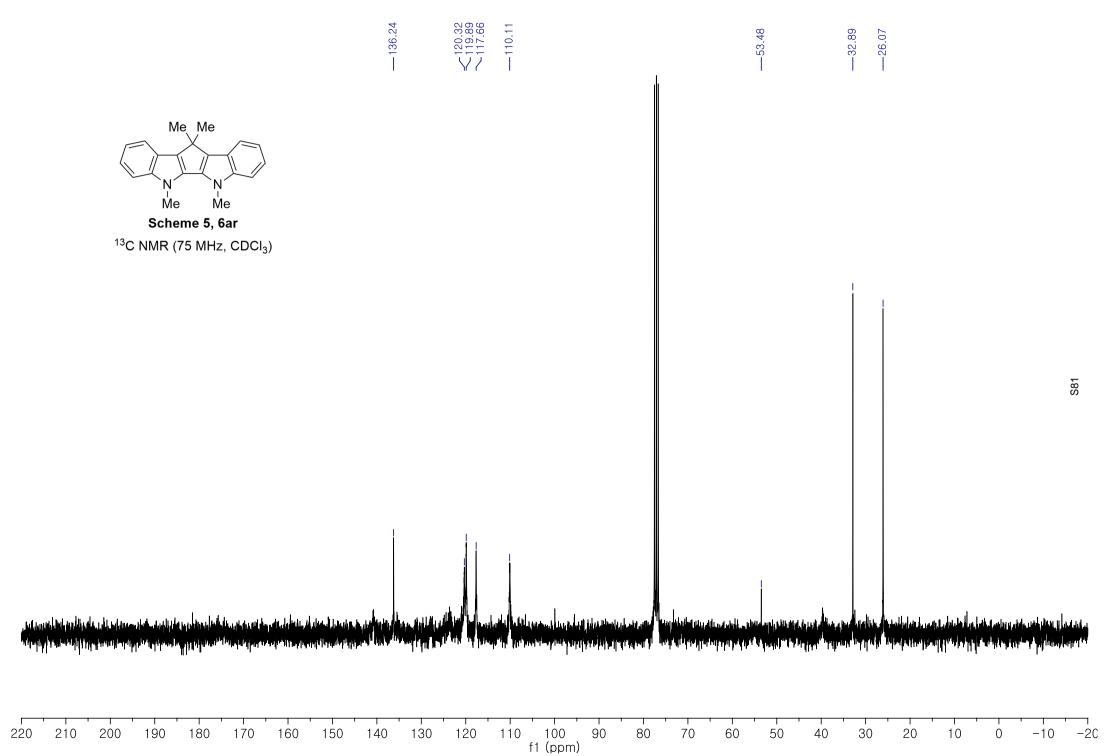








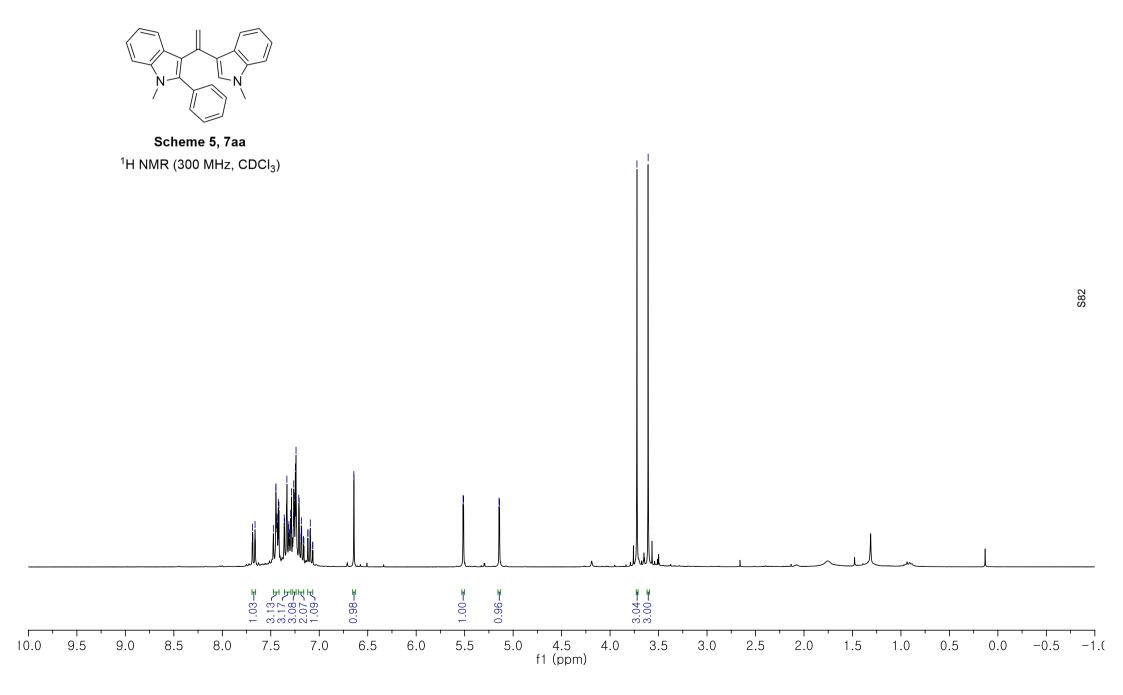


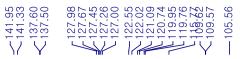




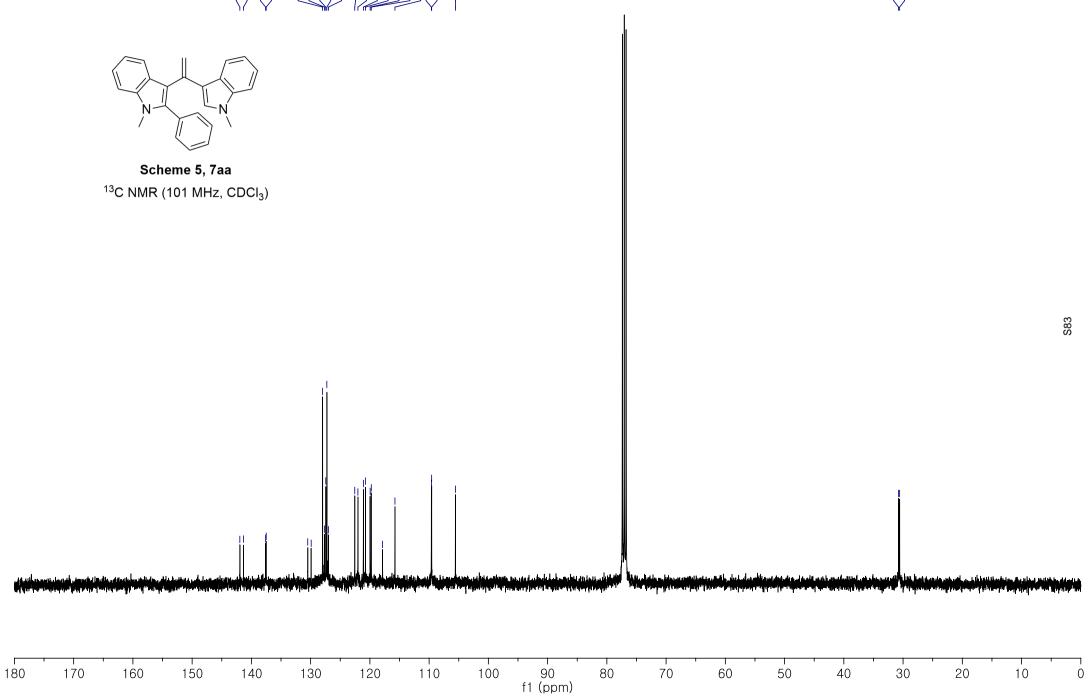




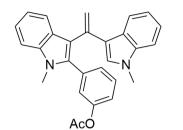




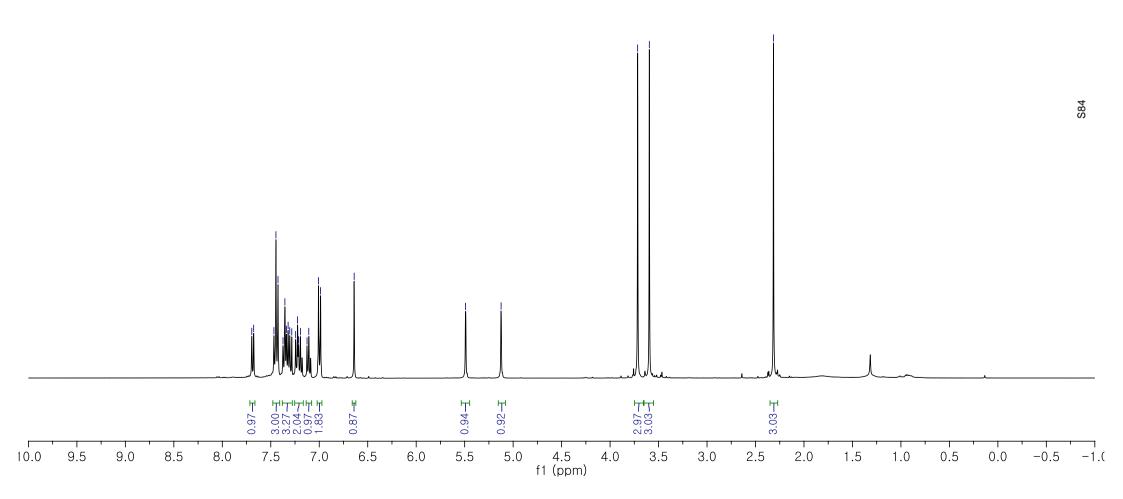








Scheme 5, 7af ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



---5.12

-5.49

-2.31

