

Enantioselective *N*-heterocyclic carbene-catalysed intermolecular crossed benzoin condensations: improved catalyst design and the role of *in situ* racemisation

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1 General Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all commercially available compounds were used as provided without further purification.

Melting points were determined using a standard melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Proton NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz (400.23 MHz) spectrometer using the solvent peak as internal reference (CDCl_3 : δ H 7.26; δ C 77.0 and DMSO-d_6 : δ H 2.51; δ C 39.5). Multiplicities are indicated, s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quint (quintet), sept (septet), m (multiplet); coupling constants (J) are in Hertz (Hz). Carbon NMR were recorded on the previously mentioned instrument (100.61 Hz) with total proton decoupling. Mass spectra (MS-ESI) were recorded using a Finnigan MAT 95 or Varian MAT 311A. Electron Impact mass spectra were recorded on the same machine in EI mode. TLC analysis was performed on precoated 60F₂₅₄ slides, and visualised under a UV lamp. Flash chromatography was carried out using silica gel, particle size 0.2-0.063 mm and using the indicated mobile phase as correlated with TLC analysis. Infrared spectra were obtained on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer equipped with a universal ATR sampling accessory. Optical rotation measurements were made on a Rudolph Research Analytical Autopol IV instrument and are quoted in units of 10^{-1} deg cm² g⁻¹ with concentration units in mol L⁻¹. Analytical CSP-HPLC was performed on a Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H (4.6 mm x 25 mm) in isocratic mode (*n*-hexane/IPA, 9/1) at a flow speed of 1.0 mL min⁻¹. RT UV detection was collected at 254 nm. Tetrahydrofuran was distilled from sodium/benzophenone under argon. Liquid aldehydes were distilled under vacuum prior to use. Solid aldehydes were washed acid-free with 10% aq. K_2CO_3 -solution prior to use.

2 General Procedures

General Procedure 1 (Synthesis of Arylhydrazine Precursors to Triazolium Ion Precatalysts)

To a 500 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged the relevant aniline precursor. Glacial acetic acid was added to create a 0.8 M solution which was stirred gently at room temperature for 2 minutes. A 1.7 M solution of sodium nitrite (1.09 equiv.) in sulfuric acid was then added dropwise, ensuring that the temperature did not exceed 40 °C. A red or yellow colour was observed upon formation of the diazonium species *in situ*. The solution was then cooled to 0 °C and stirred for 15 minutes before rapid addition of a 3.86 M solution of stannous chloride dihydrate (3.34 equiv.) in hydrochloric acid (note: a thick white slurry results that can cause stirring to halt; it is recommended that the rate of stirring is increased prior to addition or use of an overhead stirrer is employed). Stirring was continued at 0 °C for 15 minutes before allowing the solution to warm to room temperature and stir for a further 1 hour. It was then filtered and the resulting white solid dried *via* suction filtration for 2 hours. This solid was charged to a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and 2 M NaOH (30 mL) added. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes before extracting with Et_2O (3 x

100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Recrystallisation of the resulting solid from hexane yields the desired arylhydrazine.

General Procedure 2 (Synthesis of Triazolium Ion Precatalysts)

5-(Diphenyl-trimethylsilanyloxy-methyl)-pyrrolidin-2-one (**16** below, 1.00 equiv.) was charged to 250 mL round-bottom flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, the vessel flushed with argon and fitted with a rubber septum. CH₂Cl₂ was added *via* syringe, followed quickly by trimethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate (Meerwein salt, 1.00 equiv.) in one portion. The solution was stirred under argon for 18 h at room temperature before the addition of the relevant arylhydrazine (1.00 equiv.) and stirring continued for a further 24 h. The solution was then concentrated *in vacuo* to yield the hydrazone intermediate as a white fluffy solid. This was dissolved in chlorobenzene and the vessel set up for reflux under argon. Triethyl orthoformate (4.3 equiv.) was added *via* syringe and the solution refluxed at 120 °C for 24 h. A further aliquot of triethyl orthoformate (4.3 equiv.) was added and refluxing continued for a further 48 h. Upon cooling, the dark brown solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the oily residue dissolved in MeOH. The vessel was again flushed with argon and fitted with a rubber septum. Bromotrimethylsilane (TMS-Br, 3.5 equiv. as a 10% v/v solution in MeOH) was added *via* syringe and the solution stirred under argon for 24 h at room temperature. Upon concentration, the dark brown residue was subjected to flash chromatography as outlined below to obtain the final compound.

An important note is that the ¹⁹F NMR spectra of catalysts of general type **20** are silent, so full or partial anion exchange (most likely with bromide derived from the last step) may occur.

General Procedure 3 (Asymmetric NHC-Catalysed Crossed Aromatic-Aromatic Benzoin Condensation Between Two Non-identical Aromatic Aldehydes)

A flame-dried 5 mL round-bottom flask containing a magnetic stirring bar was charged with the relevant chiral triazolium ion precatalyst (0.066 mmol, 6 mol%), flushed with argon gas and sealed with a rubber septum under an inert atmosphere. Toluene and THF (7.5:1, 1.1 M) and DIPEA (11.5 µL, 0.066 mmol, 6 mol%) were added *via* syringe and the suspension stirred for 5 minutes. A colour change from orange to red is usually observed upon formation of the carbene species *in situ*. The relevant *ortho*-substituted aromatic benzaldehyde was then added *via* syringe, followed by the relevant aldehyde coupling partner (1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The septum was replaced with a glass stopper under a gentle flow of argon and the vessel sealed to the external atmosphere using parafilm. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours before quenching with H₂O (5 mL) and extracting with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 10 mL). The combined

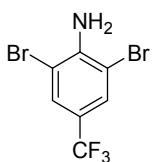
organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was then purified *via* flash chromatography.

Hydrodebromination of Crossed-Benzoin **30**

To a flame-dried 50 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged **30** (116 mg, 0.34 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), MeOH (10 mL), palladium on activated charcoal (10% Pd basis, 25 wt%) and ammonium formate (100 mg, 1.6 mmol, 5.00 equiv.). After fitting the flask with a reflux condenser, the mixture was refluxed and the progress of the reaction monitored *via* TLC. Upon consumption of the starting material, the reaction was allowed to cool and filtered to remove the Pd/C. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* before adding CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and H₂O (5 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted once further with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* once more to yield **6** (83 mg, 93%).

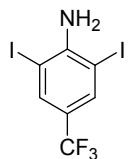
3 Synthesis

2,6-Dibromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (S1**)¹**



To a 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (2.3 mL/3 g, 18.6 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), iron filings (190 mg) and ethyl acetate (20 mL). Br₂ (1.92 mL, 37.2 mmol, 2.00 equiv.) was added dropwise at 30 – 50 °C. The solution was then heated at reflux for 1 hour before being concentrated *in vacuo*, redissolved in Et₂O and basefied to pH 14 with 2 M NaOH. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer washed with Et₂O (2 x 50 mL). The organic extracts were then combined, washed with H₂O (2 x 50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a pale yellow oil. Purification *via* flash chromatography (100% hexane) yielded a colourless oil. Scratching the bottom of the vessel with a glass pipette caused solidification, producing the title compound as a white solid (3.00 g, 50%). M.p. 37 °C (lit. 37-39 °C). δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.78 (s, 2H), 7.62 (s, 2H).

2,6-Diiodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (S2)²

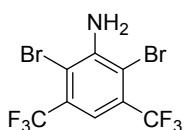


To a 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (1.54 mL/2 g, 12 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) and acetic acid (12.5 mL). A solution of iodine monochloride (4.5 g, 27 mmol, 2.27 equiv.) in acetic acid (15 mL) was added dropwise followed by immediate addition of H₂O (50 mL). The resulting suspension was heated gradually to 80 °C, stirred at this temperature for 3 hours and, upon cooling, basefied with a 40% NaOH solution to pH 11. The product was then extracted with EtOAc (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a light brown solid. Trituration with cold hexane provided the title compound as a white solid (4.28 g, 86%). M.p. 97 °C (lit. 96 °C). δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.95 (s, 2H), 7.84 (s, 2H).

2,6-Dibromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenylamine (S3)³

¹ “5-Acylamino-4-cyano-1-phenylpyrazole derivatives and use as herbicides”, Mayr & Baker Ltd, Patent US4459150 A1, 1984.

² D. M. Lindsay, W. Dohle, A. E. Jensen, F. Kopp, P. Knochel, *Org. Lett.*, 2002, **4**, 1819.



To a mixture of 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)aniline (2.04 mL/3.00 g, 13.2 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), K₂CO₃ (2.32 g, 16.7 mmol) and iron filings (384 mg) in a 500 mL round-bottom flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, was added CH₂Cl₂ (300 mL). A solution of Br₂ (3 mL, 41.3 mmol, 3.13 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) was added dropwise with stirring and the mixture heated at reflux for 3 days. Upon cooling, a saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ solution (200 mL) was added the organic layer extracted with Et₂O (2 x 100 mL). After drying over MgSO₄ and filtering, the organic extracts were concentrated *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a red solid which was purified *via* flash chromatography (100% hexane). The title compound was obtained as a white solid (2.45 g, 48%). M.p. 76 °C (lit. 75 – 76 °C).

(2,4,6-tribromophenyl)hydrazine (S4)⁴



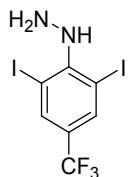
Commercially available 1,3,5-tribromoaniline (3.0 g, 9.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) was charged to a 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a large magnetic stirring bar and cooled to -25 °C. Hydrochloric acid (36.5%, 12 mL) was added before a 3.2 M aqueous solution of NaNO₂ (0.66 g, 9.57 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) was added dropwise with stirring and the solution turned yellow. Stirring was continued for 15 minutes before rapid addition of a 3.6 M solution of SnCl₂.2H₂O (4.926 g, 21.83 mmol, 2.40 equiv.) in hydrochloric acid (36.5%, 6 mL). A thick white slurry developed which required swirling by hand for 5 minutes. Following this, the solution was warmed to 0 °C and stirred vigourously for 1 hour. The white solid was filtered, washed with water and dried extensively in air before being collected and transferred to an Erlenmeyer flask. A magnetic stirring bar was charged to the flask followed by a 40% aqueous solution of NaOH (30 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 hour before filtering the obtained solid again and drying further in air. Recrystallisation from hot EtOH yielded the titled compound as tan needle-like crystals (1.41 g, 45%). M.p. 143 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 4.33 (s, 2H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 2H).

³ D. E. Grocock, T. K. Jones, G. Hallas, J. D. Hepworth, *J. Chem. Soc. C*, 1971, 3305.

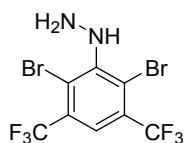
⁴ M. Soroka, W. Goldemann, P. Malysa, M. Stochaj, *Synthesis*, 2003, **15**, 2341.

(2,6-Dibromo-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)hydrazine (S5)¹

Prepared according to **general procedure 1** using **S1** (3.32 g, 10.4 mmol) as white needle-like crystals (0.973 g, 28%). M.p. 65-66 °C. (lit. 65-67 °C). δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.03 (s, 2H), 5.78 (s, 1H) 7.71 (s, 2H). HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 332.8848 ([M + H]⁺, C₇H₆Br₂F₃N₂ requires 332.8844).

(2,6-Diiodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl)hydrazine (S6)

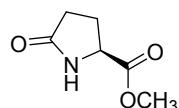
Prepared according to **general procedure 1** using **S2** (2.42 g, 5.8 mmol) as white needle-like crystals (0.81 g, 32%). M.p. 94-95 °C. R_f = 0.17 (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc). δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.96 (s, 2H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 7.99 (s, 2H). δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 79.5, 118.2 (quart., *J*_{CF} 273.6), 122.0 (quart., *J*_{CF} 33.8), 136.3 (quart., *J*_{CF} 3.7), 148.9. δ_{F} (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -61.40. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3410, 3323, 3088, 1784, 1604, 1545, 1464, 1387, 1307, 1110, 1088, 933, 886, 739, 700, 655, 619. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 428.8572 ([M + H]⁺, C₇H₆I₂F₃N₂ requires 428.8567).

(2,6-Dibromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hydrazine (S6)

Prepared according to **general procedure 1** using **S3** (2.45 g, 6.33 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) as white needle-like crystals (1.27 g, 50%). M.p. 122 °C. R_f = 0.13 (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc). δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.02 (s, 2H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H). δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 118.0 (quart., *J*_{CF} 273.8), 119.8, 120.8 (quart., *J*_{CF} 5.8), 130.5 (quart., *J*_{CF} 32.5), 150.2. δ_{F} (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -62.19, -62.16. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3369, 3268, 3103, 1586, 1497, 1413, 1350, 1279, 1176, 1113, 1053, 937, 900, 799, 725, 661. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 400.8728 ([M + H]⁺, C₈H₅Br₂F₆N₂ requires 400.8718).

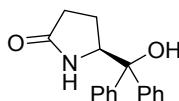
3.1 Experimental Data for Triazolium Salt Precatalysts

(5S)-oxopyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**14**)⁵



To an oven-dried 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged *L*-pyroglutamic acid (10.00 g, 77.447 mmol) and Dowex-50W (X8-200) resin (5.00 g). The flask was evacuated and back-flushed with Argon x 3. Methanol (HPLC grade) was added to the flask, which was then equipped with a reflux condenser. The reaction was heated under reflux at for 72 h. The solution was filtered to remove the solid resin and concentration of the filtrate *in vacuo* yielded the title product as a pale yellow oil (11.08 g, 100%). δ_{H} (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.13-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.48 (m, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 4.22 (dd, *J* 8.8, 5.0, 1H), 7.35 (br. s, 1H). δ_{C} (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 24.8, 29.3, 52.5, 55.5, 172.7, 178.5. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 166.0477 ([M⁺ + Na]⁺ C₆H₉NO₃Na requires 166.0480).

(5S)-(Hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-pyrrolidin-2-one (**15**)^{6,7}



An oven-dried 500 mL round bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was charged with magnesium (3.28 g, 0.175 mol, 3.00 equiv.) and THF (15 mL) was added. Bromobenzene (15.12 mL 0.175 mol, 3.00 equiv.) was added slowly over 5 minutes in 1 mL aliquots with stirring. Gentle heating was provided by holding the flask with one hand and once 3.0 mL of bromobenzene had been added, formation of the Grignard reagent was observed *in situ* as the solution turned dark brown. Bromobenzene was continually added in 1 mL aliquots. Once 7 mL of bromobenzene had been added, a further 15 mL THF was syringed into the reaction mixture and the remaining bromobenzene was added in 1 mL aliquots. The reaction was then heated to 80 °C for 1 hour to ensure complete formation of the Grignard reagent. Upon cooling, **14** (4.7 g, 36.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) was charged to a pressure-equalised dropping funnel and dissolved in THF (150 mL). This solution was added in a dropwise manner over the course of 30

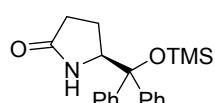
⁵ K. Drauz, A. Kleemann, J. Martens and P. Scherberich, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1986, **51**, 3494.

⁶ M. Ostendorf, J. Dijkink, F. P. J. T. Rutjes and H. Hiemstra, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2000, 115.

⁷ W.-B. Liu, H.-F. Jiang, and C.-L. Qiao, *Tetrahedron*, 2009, **65**, 2110.

minutes. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 hours before it was cooled to 0 °C and excess phenylmagnesium bromide quenched with 5% (*v/v*) HCl (30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 x 100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give an off-white solid. Recrystallisation from CH₂Cl₂ and Et₂O gave the title compound as a white solid (5.37 g, 76%). M.p. 192-194 °C (lit. 191-192 °C). (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.94-2.01 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.24-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.39 (m, 1H), 2.74 (br. s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, *J* 8.3, 5.0, 1H), 5.47 (br. s, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* 7.3, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* 7.3, 1H), 7.33 (app. t, 2H), 7.37 (app. t, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* 7.5, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* 8.3, 2H). δ_C (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.5, 30.1, 60.5, 78.6, 125.5, 125.7, 127.0, 127.4, 128.2, 128.7, 143.0, 145.1, 179.1.

(5*S*)-(Diphenyl-trimethylsilyloxy-methyl)-pyrrolidin-2-one (16)^{8,9}



An oven-dried 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was charged with **15** (0.470 g, 1.750 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) and dimethylaminopyridine (22.0 mg, 0.175 mmol, 0.10 equiv.). The flask was evacuated and back-flushed with Argon x 3. CH₂Cl₂ (18.0 mL) was added *via* a syringe and the reaction cooled to 0 °C. Triethylamine (1.0 mL, 3.06 mmol, 9.00 equiv.) was charged and the reaction stirred for 20 min. Trimethylsilane chloride (1.10 mL, 8.5 mmol, 18.0 equiv.) was added to the reaction slowly over 30 min. The reaction was stirred overnight at ambient temperature and quenched *via* slow addition of deionised water (10 mL). The organic layer was removed and the aqueous layer was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (4 x 10 mL aliquots). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄) and solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a brown residue. Purification by column chromatography (3:2 EtOAc:hexane, R_f 0.4) yielded the title compound as a white solid (0.285 g, 96%). M.p. 120-121 °C (lit. 120-122 °C). δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): -0.10 (s, 9H) 1.28-1.38 (m, 1H), 1.94-2.02 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.16 (m, 2H), 4.64 (dd, *J* 7.8, 4.3, 1H), 5.89 (bs, 1H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 10H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.9, 22.3, 29.2, 60.3, 82.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 142.9, 143.1, 178.7.

Precatalysts **12** and **21** were prepared according to previous literature.^{10,11}

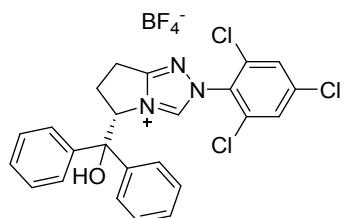
⁸ Y.-R. Zhang, L. He, X. Wu, P. -L. Shao and S. Ye, *Org. Lett.*, 2008, **10**, 2, 277.

⁹ a) C. B. Cui, H. Kakeya, H. Osada, *Tetrahedron* 1996, **52**, 12651. b) C. B. Cui, H. Kakeya and H. Osada, *J. Antibiot.*, 1996, **49**, 832.

¹⁰ D. Enders and J. Han, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, 2008, **19**, 1367.

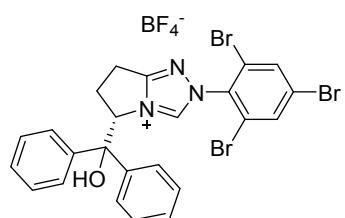
¹¹ S. E. O'Toole, S. J. Connon, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2009, **7**, 3584.

(S)-5-(Hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-2-(2,4,6-trichloro-phenyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ylium tetrafluoroboride (22)



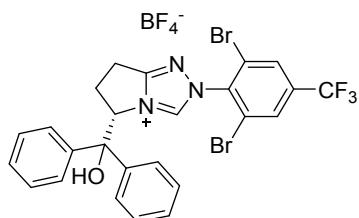
Prepared according to **general procedure 2** using **16** (1.27 g, 3.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), Meerwein salt (0.71 g, 3.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL), 2,4,6-trichlorophenyl hydrazine (0.79 g, 3.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), chlorobenzene (35 mL), triethyl orthoformate (2 x 2.7 mL, 26 mmol, 8.6 equiv.), TMS-Br (1.7 mL, 13.1 mmol, 3.5 equiv.) and MeOH (100 mL). Purified *via* flash chromatography using a solvent gradient of EtOAc:hexanes (9:1) to EtOAc:MeOH (9:1). Concentration *in vacuo* yielded a tan residue that was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and re-concentrated to produce a yellow crystalline solid (854 mg, 41 %). M.p. 182-184 °C. R_f = 0.4 (9:1, EtOAc:MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = -168 (c 1.40 in CHCl₃), for *S* enantiomer with 100% ee. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 2.64-2.74 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.86 (m, 1H), 3.08-3.21 (m, 2H), 6.16 (d, J 7.3, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.44 (d, J 7.6, 2H), 8.11 (s, 2H), 9.45 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 21.9, 30.3, 68.5, 79.3, 126.6, 126.8, 128.2, 128.4, 128.9, 129.2, 129.7, 130.7, 134.0, 138.6, 143.3, 143.5, 164.8. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3187, 2951, 1729, 1671, 1593, 1572, 1559, 1448, 1413, 1374, 1245, 1192, 1152, 959, 855, 823, 768, 700. HRMS (m/z-ESI⁺): Found 470.0574 (M⁺, C₂₄H₁₉Cl₃N₃O requires 470.0594).

(S)-5-(Hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-2-(2,4,6-tribromo-phenyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ylium tetrafluoroboride (23)



Prepared according to **general procedure 2** using **16** (1.42 g, 4.2 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), Meerwein salt (0.80 g, 4.2 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL), 2,4,6-tribromophenyl hydrazine (1.44 g, 4.2 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), chlorobenzene (40 mL), triethyl orthoformate (2 x 3 mL, 29 mmol, 8.60 eq), TMS-Br (1.90 mL, 14.7 mmol, 3.50 equiv.) and MeOH (120 mL). Purified twice via flash chromatography using 1) 100 % EtOAc to EtOAc:MeOH (9:1) and 2) EtOAc:MeOH (9:1). Concentration *in vacuo* yielded a tan residue that was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and re-concentrated to produce a light tan crystalline solid (913 mg, 31 %). M.p. 190 – 192 °C. R_f = 0.34 (9:1, EtOAc:MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = -175 (*c* 1.40 in CHCl₃), for *S* enantiomer with 100% *ee*. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 2.68-2.73 (m, 2H), 3.08-3.23 (m, 2H), 6.24 (d, *J* 8.0, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.43 (m, 6H, H-4), 7.45 (d, *J* 7.51, 2H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 9.39 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 21.9, 30.4, 68.6, 79.3, 123.6, 123.9, 126.6, 126.8, 127.4, 128.2, 128.4, 129.0, 129.2, 133.8, 135.6, 142.8, 143.4, 143.5, 164.6. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3243, 1668, 1592, 1553, 1494, 1445, 1405, 1371, 1250, 1190, 1066, 1012, 963, 856, 750, 699, 654, 627. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 601.9080 (M⁺, C₂₄H₁₉Br₃N₃O requires 601.9073).

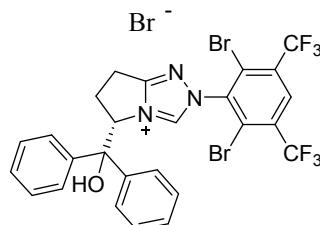
(*S*)-2-(2,6-Dibromo-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-(hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ylidium tetrafluoroboride (24)



Prepared according to **general procedure 2** using **16** (0.99 g, 2.9 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), Meerwein salt (0.43 g, 2.9 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL), 2,6-dibromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl hydrazine (0.97 g, 2.9 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), chlorobenzene (35 mL), triethyl orthoformate (2 x 2.1 mL, 25 mmol, 8.60 equiv.), TMS-Br (1.34 mL, 10.2 mmol, 3.50 equiv.) and MeOH (90 mL). Purified twice via flash chromatography using 1) 100 % EtOAc to EtOAc:MeOH (9:1) and 2) EtOAc:MeOH (9:1). Concentration *in vacuo* yielded a tan residue that was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and re-concentrated to produce a light tan crystalline solid in 577 mg (29 %) yield. M.p. 187 °C. R_f = 0.38 (9:1, EtOAc:MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = -189 (*c* 1.40 in CHCl₃), for *S* enantiomer with 100% *ee*. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 2.70 (t, *J* 10.8, 1H), 2.92-2.98 (m, 1H), 3.12 (m, 2H), 6.27 (d, *J* 7.3, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* 7.8, 2H), 7.37 (app. t, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* 7.6, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* 7.6, 2H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 9.37 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 21.9, 30.5, 63.2, 68.7, 79.4, 118.1 (quart., *J*_{CF} 272.8), 124.1, 124.3, 126.6, 126.8, 128.2, 128.4, 129.0, 129.2, 130.5 (quart., *J*_{CF} 3.9), 134.2 (quart., *J*_{CF} 33.6), 137.8 (d, *J*_{CF} 1.2), 142.8, 143.4, 143.5, 164.8. δ_F (376 MHz, DMSO-d₆): -61.52. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3215, 3060, 2972, 1668, 1593, 1493, 1449, 1389, 1307, 1136, 1100,

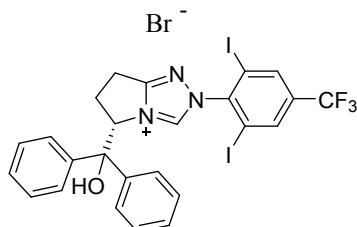
962, 881, 751, 700, 656, 623. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 591.9859 (M⁺, C₂₅H₁₉Br₂F₃N₃O requires 591.9841).

(S)-2-(2,6-Dibromo-3,5-bis-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-(hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ylium bromide (25)



Prepared according to **general procedure 2** using **16** (0.93 g, 2.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), Meerwein salt (0.40 g, 2.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL), 2,6-dibromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl hydrazine (1.1 g, 2.7 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), chlorobenzene (40 mL), triethyl orthoformate (2 x 1.93 mL, 23 mmol, 8.60 equiv.), TMS-Br (1.25 mL, 9.5 mmol, 3.50 equiv.) and MeOH (100 mL). Purified *via* flash chromatography using a solvent gradient of 100 % EtOAc to EtOAc:MeOH (97:3). Concentration *in vacuo* yielded a tan residue that was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and re-concentrated to produce a light tan crystalline solid (568 mg, 28 %). M.p. 147 °C. R_f = 0.35 (9:1, EtOAc:MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = -194 (c 1.40 in CHCl₃), for *S* enantiomer with 100% ee. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 2.74 (app. t, 1H), 2.97-3.20 (m, 3H), 6.32 (d, *J* 7.6, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.39 (app. t, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* 7.9, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* 7.9, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 9.24 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 22.1, 30.5, 63.2, 68.9, 79.5, 122.0 (quart., *J*_{CF} 272.9), 126.6, 126.8, 127.1, 127.6, 128.2, 128.4, 128.8 (quart., *J*_{CF} 30.7) 129.1, 129.2, 129.9 (quart., *J*_{CF} 30.7), 138.9, 143.3, 143.3, 143.7, 165.1. δ_F (376 MHz, DMSO-d₆): -61.91, -62.04. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3283, 2936, 1596, 1333, 1282, 1260, 1190, 1145, 1040, 701. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 659.9717 (M⁺, C₂₅H₁₉F₃I₂N₃O requires 659.9721).

(S)-2-(2,6-Diiodo-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-(hydroxy-diphenyl-methyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ylium bromide (26)

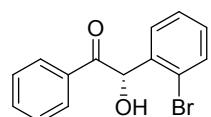


Prepared according to **general procedure 2** using **16** (1.11 g, 3.3 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), Meerwein salt (0.48 g, 3.3 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL), 2,6-diiodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl hydrazine (1.4 g, 3.3

mmol, 1.00 equiv.), chlorobenzene (40 mL), triethyl orthoformate (2 x 2.33 mL, 28 mmol, 8.60 equiv.), TMS-Br (1.51 mL, 11.5 mmol, 3.50 equiv.) and MeOH (100 mL). Purified *twice via* flash chromatography using 1) 100 % EtOAc to EtOAc:MeOH (9:1) and 2) EtOAc:MeOH (9:1). Concentration *in vacuo* yielded a tan residue that was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and re-concentrated to produce a light tan crystalline solid (948 mg, 37 %). M.p. 196 °C. R_f = 0.47 (9:1, EtOAc:MeOH). [α]_D²⁰ = -162 (c 1.40 in CHCl₃), for *S* enantiomer with 100% *ee*. δ_H (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 2.71 (t, J 10.8, 1H), 2.97-3.01 (m, 1H), 3.03-3.14 (m, 1H), 3.23 (obscured, 1H), 6.37 (d, J 8.1, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.34 (app. t, 2H), 7.38 (app. t, 2H), 7.46 (d, J 7.7, 2H), 7.51 (d, J 7.7, 2H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 9.38 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 21.8, 30.6, 68.6, 79.4, 100.3, 101.2, 121.8 (quart., J_{CF} 271.4), 126.7, 126.9, 128.1, 128.3, 129.1, 129.2, 134.1 (quart., J_{CF} 32.7), 136.4 (quart., J_{CF} 7.7), 142.1, 143.3, 144.8, 144.1, 164.5. δ_F (376 MHz, DMSO-d₆): -61.92, -62.05. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3255, 3057, 2974, 1587, 1497, 1448, 1383, 1306, 1133, 1077, 963, 884, 757, 700, 653, 629. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 687.9565 (M⁺, C₂₅H₁₉F₃I₂N₃O requires 687.9564).

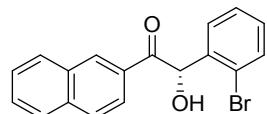
4 Experimental data for cross-benzoin products

(*S*)-2-(2-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethan-1-one (30)



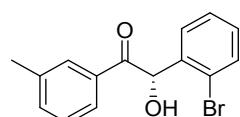
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and benzaldehyde (112 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid in 202 mg (63%) yield following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.27$. M.p. 74 – 76 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.51 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 6.34 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J 7.7, 1.8, 1H), 7.10 (td, J 7.7, 1.8, 1H), 7.17 (td, J 7.5, 1.2, 1H), 7.37 (app. t, 2H), 7.50 (t, J 7.5, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J 8.0, 1.2, 1H), 7.89 (dd, J 7.3, 1.2, 2H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.3, 124.2, 128.3, 128.8, 129.0, 129.2, 130.2, 133.1, 133.6, 134.1, 138.4, 198.7. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3479, 2924, 1669, 1595, 1446, 1245, 1193, 1083, 969, 760, 703, 681. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 288.9878 (C₁₄H₁₀BrO₂ requires 288.9864). [α]_D²⁷ = + 2 (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃) for 75% ee. CSP-HPLC analysis: 12.9 min (major enantiomer) and 30.1 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (40)



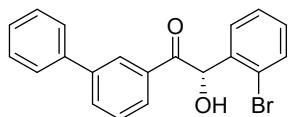
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 2-naphthaldehyde (172 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (233 mg, 62%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.23$. M.p. 128 – 130 °C. δ_H (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.61 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 6.51 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.80 (app. t, 2H), 7.89 (d, J 8.2, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J 1.7, 8.7, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H). δ_C (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.3, 124.0, 124.2, 127.0, 127.7, 128.4, 128.7, 129.1, 129.2, 129.2, 129.8, 130.2, 130.3, 131.3, 132.2, 133.7, 135.9, 138.6, 198.7. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3448, 3057, 2925, 1665, 1621, 1598, 1584, 1470, 1440, 1380, 1350, 1279, 1229, 1182, 1127, 1117, 1071, 1022, 981, 937, 865, 803, 760, 744. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 362.9997 (M⁺ + Na. C₁₈H₁₃BrO₂Na requires 362.9997). [α]_D²⁸ = + 1 (*c* 0.15, CHCl₃) for 84% ee. CSP-HPLC analysis: 17.5 min (major enantiomer) and 46.2 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-(3-tolyl)ethan-1-one (42)



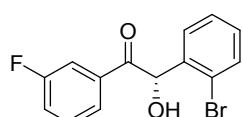
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-tolualdehyde (130 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (222 mg, 66%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.26$. M.p. 86 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.34 (s, 3H), 4.53 (d, *J* 5.6, 1H), 6.34 (d, *J* 5.6, 1H), 7.04 (dd, *J* 1.7, 7.7, 1H), 7.10-7.14, (m, 1H), 7.17 (td, *J* 1.2, 7.7, 1H), 7.26 (obscured, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* 7.6, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* 1.3, 7.9, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* 7.6, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.2, 75.2, 124.2, 126.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.2, 129.4, 130.2, 133.1, 133.6, 135.0, 138.5, 138.7, 198.9. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3431, 2921, 1665, 1582, 1468, 1432, 1372, 1272, 1186, 1114, 1073, 1022, 975, 890, 816, 786, 757, 706, 680. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 303.0034 (C₁₅H₁₂BrO₂ requires 303.0021). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = +3$ (*c* 0.79, CHCl₃) for 83% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 13.0 min (major enantiomer) and 30.0 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-3-yl)-2-(2-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (44)



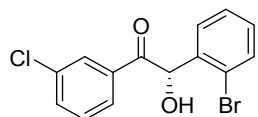
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and biphenyl-3-carbaldehyde (179 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (230 mg, 57%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.23$. M.p. 72 °C. δ_H (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.59 (d, *J* 5.3, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* 5.3, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* 7.6, 1H), 7.17 (app. t, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* 7.5, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* 7.3, 1H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d, *J* 8.3, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* 7.9, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* 7.7, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* 7.9, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* 1.2, 1H). δ_C (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.5, 124.2, 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 128.0, 128.4, 129.3, 129.3, 130.3, 132.7, 133.6, 133.7, 138.5, 139.6, 141.9, 198.7. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3471, 2912, 1674, 1622, 1579, 1474, 1291, 1227, 1187, 1090, 1021, 978, 756, 688. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 389.0144 (C₂₀H₁₆BrO₂ requires 389.0148). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = +2$ (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃) for 77% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 20.4 min (major enantiomer) and 58.3 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (46)



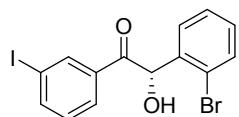
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-fluorobenzaldehyde (117 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a yellow oil (160 mg, 47%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.25$. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.40 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 6.31 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J 7.7, 1.7, 1H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.67 (m, 3H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.6, 115.6 (d, J_{CF} 22.8), 121.2 (d, J_{CF} 21.8), 124.2, 124.7 (d, J_{CF} 3.1), 128.4, 129.2, 130.4, 130.5 (d, J_{CF} 7.7), 133.8, 135.2 (d, J_{CF} 6.5), 137.9, 162.7 (d, J_{CF} 249.3), 197.8 (d, J_{CF} 2.3). δ_F (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -110.88 (dt, J_{HF} 8.8, 3.2). ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3450, 3072, 2925, 1683, 1587, 1440, 1258, 1079, 1015, 889, 785, 755. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 306.9776 (C₁₄H₉BrFO₂ requires 306.9770). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = + 2$ (*c* 0.29, CHCl₃) for 66% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 14.5 min (major enantiomer) and 44.9 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (48)



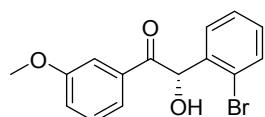
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-chlorobenzaldehyde (124 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a pale yellow solid (172 mg, 48%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.24$. Upon standing for several hours, this oil gradually solidified to a pale yellow solid. M.p. 93 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.39 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 6.31 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J 7.7, 1.8, 1H), 7.12 (td, J 7.8, 1.6, 1H), 7.20 (obscured, 1H), 7.30 (t, J 7.9, 1H), 7.47 (d, J 7.9, 1H), 7.60 (d, J 7.9, 1H), 7.72 (d, J 7.8, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.7, 124.1, 126.9, 128.4, 128.9, 129.2, 130.1, 130.5, 133.8, 134.0, 134.7, 135.2, 137.8, 197.8. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3492, 3069, 2904, 1677, 1565, 1469, 1419, 1353, 1285, 1234, 1185, 1118, 1086, 1021, 975, 871, 798, 750, 708, 672. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 322.9468 (C₁₄H₉BrClO₂ requires 322.9474). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = + 1$ (*c* 0.25, CHCl₃) for 45% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 14.9 min (major enantiomer) and 48.3 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-bromophenyl)-1-(3-iodophenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (50)



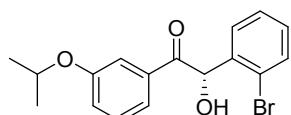
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-iodobenzaldehyde (272 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (172 mg, 48%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.26$. M.p. 86 $^{\circ}$ C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.41 (d, J 5.6, 1H, OH), 6.31 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J 7.6, 1.5, 1H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.21 (obsured, 1H), 7.61 (d, J 7.9, 1H), 7.81-7.85 (m, 2H), 8.32 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.3, 94.4, 124.1, 127.9, 128.4, 129.2, 130.4, 130.5, 133.8, 134.8, 137.7, 137.8, 142.8, 197.6. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3492, 3067, 2905, 1674, 1583, 1557, 1354, 1284, 1233, 1183, 1087, 1019, 971, 862, 795, 756, 726, 693, 672, 639. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 414.8841 (C₁₄H₉BrIO₂ requires 414.8836). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = +1$ (*c* 0.35, CHCl₃) for 52% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 15.2 min (major enantiomer) and 50.7 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (52)



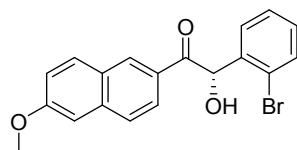
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-anisaldehyde (134 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as white solid (170 mg, 48%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.26$. M.p. 67 – 68 $^{\circ}$ C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.50 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 6.34 (d, J 5.7, 1H), 7.04-7.07 (m, 2H, H-2), 7.10 (td, J 7.7, 1.3, 1H), 7.18 (t, J 7.5, 1H), 7.26 (t, J 7.9, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, J 7.6, 1H), 7.60 (d, J 7.9, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 55.5, 75.4, 112.7, 121.1, 121.6, 124.2, 128.4, 129.2, 129.8, 130.2, 133.6, 134.3, 138.5, 159.7, 198.5. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3430, 2943, 1675, 1593, 1463, 1427, 1389, 1336, 1259, 1176, 1117, 1082, 1009, 875, 763, 719, 675. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI): Found 318.9974 (C₁₅H₁₄BrO₃ requires 318.9970). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = +2$ (*c* 0.5, CHCl₃) for 83% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 16.8 min (major enantiomer) and 38.2 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-1-(3-isopropoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethan-1-one (54)



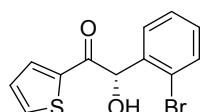
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-isopropoxybenzaldehyde (187 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (161 mg, 42%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), R_f = 0.28. M.p. 66 - 67 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.22 (d, J 6.0, 3H), 1.30 (d, J 6.0, 3H), 4.49-4.58 (m, 2H), 6.31 (d, J 5.5, 1H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.18 (app. t, 1H), 7.24 (app. t, J 7.9, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J 7.6, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.5, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 21.7, 22.0, 70.2, 75.4, 114.5, 121.3, 122.9, 124.2, 128.4, 129.2, 129.8, 130.2, 133.6, 134.2, 138.6, 158.1, 198.5. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3423, 2984, 2937, 1675, 1575, 1469, 1434, 1378, 1273, 1194, 1108, 1067, 1019, 953, 874, 761, 719, 674. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 347.0269 (C₁₇H₁₆BrO₃ requires 347.0283). $[\alpha]_D^{29} = + 2$ (*c* 0.6, CHCl₃) for 76% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 12.8 min (major enantiomer) and 34.8 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (56)



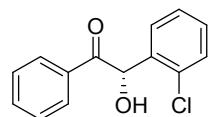
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 6-methoxynaphthaldehyde (205 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (229 mg, 56%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), R_f = 0.18. M.p. 84 °C. δ_H (600 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.61 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 6.51 (d, J 5.6, 1H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, J 7.9, 1H), 7.73 (d, J 8.7, 1H), 7.81 (d, J 8.7, 1H), 7.96 (d, J 8.7, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H). δ_C (150 MHz, CDCl₃): 55.5, 75.1, 105.7, 120.0, 124.1, 124.8, 127.3, 127.6, 128.3, 128.4, 129.2, 130.2, 131.2, 131.5, 133.6, 137.8, 138.9, 160.3, 198.2. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3459, 2937, 1673, 1622, 1476, 1396, 1275, 1171, 1083, 1025, 984, 853, 760, 704. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 393.0090 (M⁺ + Na. C₁₉H₁₅BrO₃Na requires 393.0097). $[\alpha]_D^{29} = + 1$ (*c* 0.23, CHCl₃) for 67% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 22.7 min (major enantiomer) and 51.4 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (58)



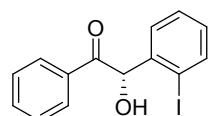
Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (160 μ L, 1.38 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 2-thiophenecarbaldehyde (103 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a yellow solid (248 mg, 76%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc). $R_f = 0.29$. M.p. 87 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.41 (d, J 5.5, 1H), 6.18 (d, J 5.5, 1H), 7.03 (app. t, 1H), 7.14-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.26 (app. t, 1H), 7.61-7.67 (m, 3H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.8, 124.2, 128.4, 128.5, 129.5, 130.4, 133.6, 133.9, 135.2, 138.7, 139.4, 191.2. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3413, 3096, 3084, 2901, 1638, 1471, 1407, 1244, 1189, 1051, 1018, 934, 864, 815, 743, 662. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 296.9586 (C₁₂H₁₀BrO₂S requires 296.9579). $[\alpha]_D^{28} = + 3$ (*c* 0.68, CHCl₃) for 71% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 16.5 min (major enantiomer) and 33.8 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethan-1-one (37)



Prepared according to **general procedure 3** (in THF exclusively) using **23** (45 mg), 2-chlorobenzaldehyde (124 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and benzaldehyde (112 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (76 mg, 28%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), $R_f = 0.27$. M.p. 70 – 72 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.53 (d, J 5.8, 1H), 6.35 (d, J 5.8, 1H), 7.09 (d, J 7.4, 1H), 7.14-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.49 (t, J 7.4, 1H), 7.89 (d, J 7.6, 2H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 72.8, 127.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.2, 130.0, 130.3, 133.1, 133.6, 134.1, 136.7, 198.7. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3479, 2958, 2913, 1669, 1595, 1445, 1392, 1358, 1314, 1240, 1178, 1089, 1035, 970, 851, 759, 713, 678, 628. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 244.0291 (C₁₄H₉ClO₂ requires 244.0297). $[\alpha]_D^{20} = + 2$ (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃) for 53% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 12.8 min (major enantiomer) and 22.2 min (minor enantiomer)

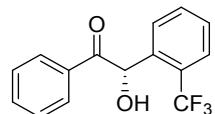
(S)-2-(2-Iodophenyl)-2-hydroxy-1-phenylethan-1-one (38)



Prepared according to **general procedure 3** (in THF exclusively) using **23** (45 mg), 2-iodobenzaldehyde (272 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and benzaldehyde (112 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (91 mg, 27%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc). $R_f = 0.27$. M.p. 104 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.47 (d, J 5.5, 1H), 6.21 (d, J 5.5, 1H), 6.93-6.99 (m, 2H, H-5), 7.19

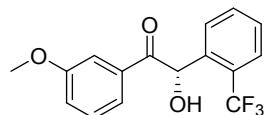
(app. t, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* 7.7, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* 7.4, 1H), 7.87-7.91 (m, 3H). δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 75.3, 124.1, 122.9, 128.4, 129.2, 130.4, 130.5, 133.8, 134.8, 137.7, 137.8, 142.8, 197.6. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3479, 3057, 2912, 1669, 1579, 1447, 1363, 1311, 1244, 1186, 1084, 1007, 970, 844, 759, 724, 695, 674. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): 360.9695 (M⁺ + Na. C₁₄H₁₁IO₂Na requires 360.9696). [α]_D²⁰ = + 3 (c 0.3, CHCl₃) for 74% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 14.3 min (major enantiomer) and 47.4 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-2-Hydroxy-1-phenyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (62)



Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-(trifluoro)benzaldehyde (145 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and benzaldehyde (112 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (105 mg, 34%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), R_f = 0.25. M.p. 83 – 84 °C. δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.49 (d, *J* 5.5, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* 5.5, 1H), 7.05-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.48 (t, *J* 7.4, 1H), 7.74-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.83-7.85 (m, 2H). δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 71.8 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.5), 124.3 (quart., *J*_{CF} 275.2), 126.7 (quart., *J*_{CF} 5.7), 128.7 (quart., *J*_{CF} 36.6,), 128.8, 129.1, 129.2, 132.8, 133.1, 134.1, 137.3 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.6), 198.6. δ_{F} (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -57.68. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3483, 2939, 1673, 1582, 1451, 1369, 1304, 1241, 1158, 1117, 1058, 1033, 969, 852, 768, 693, 670. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁺): Found 303.0609 (C₁₅H₁₂F₃O₂ requires 303.0603). [α]_D²⁴ = + 1 (c 0.15, CHCl₃) for 92% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 7.9 min (major enantiomer) and 13.3 min (minor enantiomer).

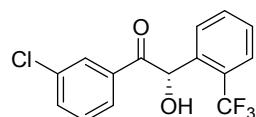
(S)-2-hydroxy-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (63)



Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (145 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-anisaldehyde (134 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (21 mg, 6%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), R_f = 0.18. M.p. 78 °C. δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.74 (s, 3H), 4.47 (d, *J* 5.4, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* 5.4, 1H), 7.03-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.27 (obscured, 1H), 7.37-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.75 (d, *J* 6.8, 1H). δ_{C} (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 55.3, 71.9 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.8), 120.2 (quart., *J*_{CF} 274.3), 121.1, 121.7 (d, *J*_{CF} 0.7), 126.6 (quart., *J*_{CF} 5.8), 128.8, 129.1, 129.8, 132.8 (d, *J*_{CF} 0.8), 134.3, 137.4, 159.8, 198.4. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3470, 3080, 2967, 2840, 1685, 1599, 1458, 1306,

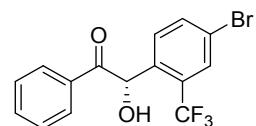
1261, 1153, 1109, 1035, 1011, 875, 804, 778, 705, 674, 608. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁻): Found 308.0750 (C₁₆H₁₃F₃O₃ requires 309.0739). [α]_D²⁴ = + 2 (*c* 0.01, CHCl₃) for 90% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 9.2 min (major enantiomer) and 15.8 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (64)



Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (145 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) and 3-chlorobenzaldehyde (124 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a white solid (42 mg, 12%) following flash chromatography (9:1, hexanes:EtOAc), R_f = 0.24. M.p. 78–80 °C. δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.35 (d, *J* 5.5, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* 5.5, 1H), 7.04 (app. t, 1H), 7.27 (app. t, 1H), 7.42 (m, 3H, H-3), 7.63 (d, *J* 7.8, 1H), 7.76 (app. t, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 71.9 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.6), 120.1 (quart., *J*_{CF} 274.2), 126.8 (quart., *J*_{CF}, 5.8), 127.0 (d, *J*_{CF} 1.1), 129.0, 129.1, 129.1, 130.1, 132.9 (quart., *J*_{CF} 0.8), 134.7, 135.3, 136.7 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.3), 197.6. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹ 3481, 3073, 2964, 1684, 1572, 1427, 1396, 1309, 1259, 1144, 1110, 1034, 997, 903, 869, 766, 702, 671, 642, 604. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁻): Found 313.024883 (C₁₅H₁₀ClF₃O₂ requires 313.024865). [α]_D²⁴ = + 0.36 (*c* 0.1, CHCl₃) for 80% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 7.5 min (major enantiomer) and 16.2 min (minor enantiomer).

(S)-1-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-2-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethanone (66)

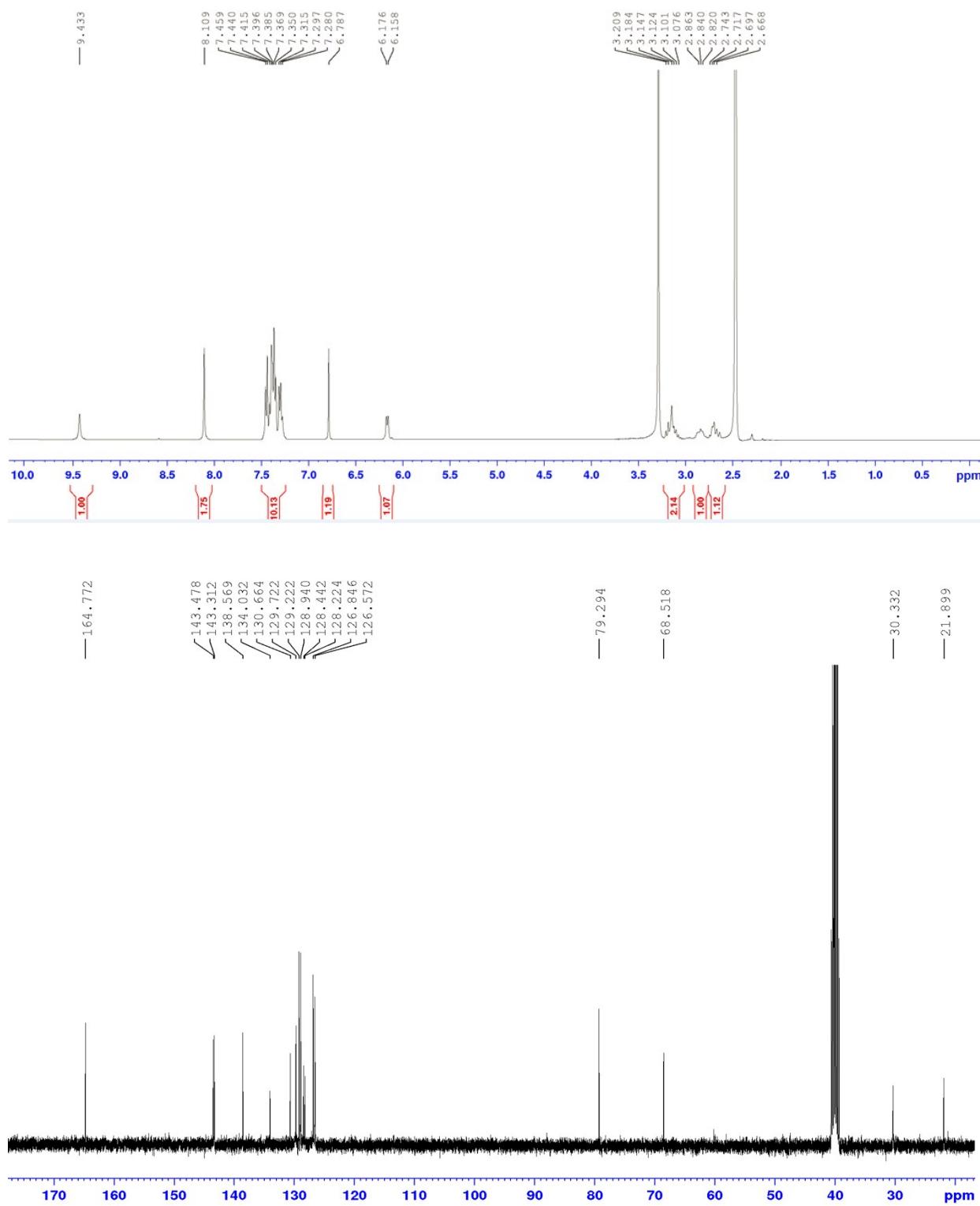


Prepared according to **general procedure 3** using **22** (36 mg), 4-bromo-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (278 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) and benzaldehyde (112 μL, 1.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The title product was obtained as a pale yellow oil (41 mg, 12%) following flash chromatography (95:5, hexanes:EtOAc). δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.47 (d, *J* 5.4, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* 5.4, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* 8.4, 1H), 7.37 (app. t, 2H), 7.50–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.81 (dd, *J* 8.5, 1.1, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 71.2 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.8), 122.9, 123.3 (quart., *J*_{CF} 275.2), 128.9, 129.0, 130.0 (quart., *J*_{CF} 6.0), 130.3 (quart., *J*_{CF} 31.4), 130.8, 132.8, 134.4, 135.9 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.0), 136.4 (quart., *J*_{CF} 1.1), 198.1. δ_F (376 MHz, CDCl₃): -58.07. ν_{max} (neat)/cm⁻¹: 3444, 3072, 2959, 1683, 1596, 1403, 1300, 1162, 1121, 1046, 973, 832, 706, 682. HRMS (*m/z*-ESI⁻): Found 356.9741

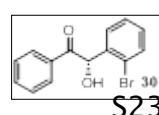
(C₁₅H₉BrF₃O requires 356.9744). [α]_D²⁴ = - 2 (c 0.01, CHCl₃) for 50% *ee*. CSP-HPLC analysis: 35.7 min (major enantiomer) and 38.5 min (minor enantiomer).

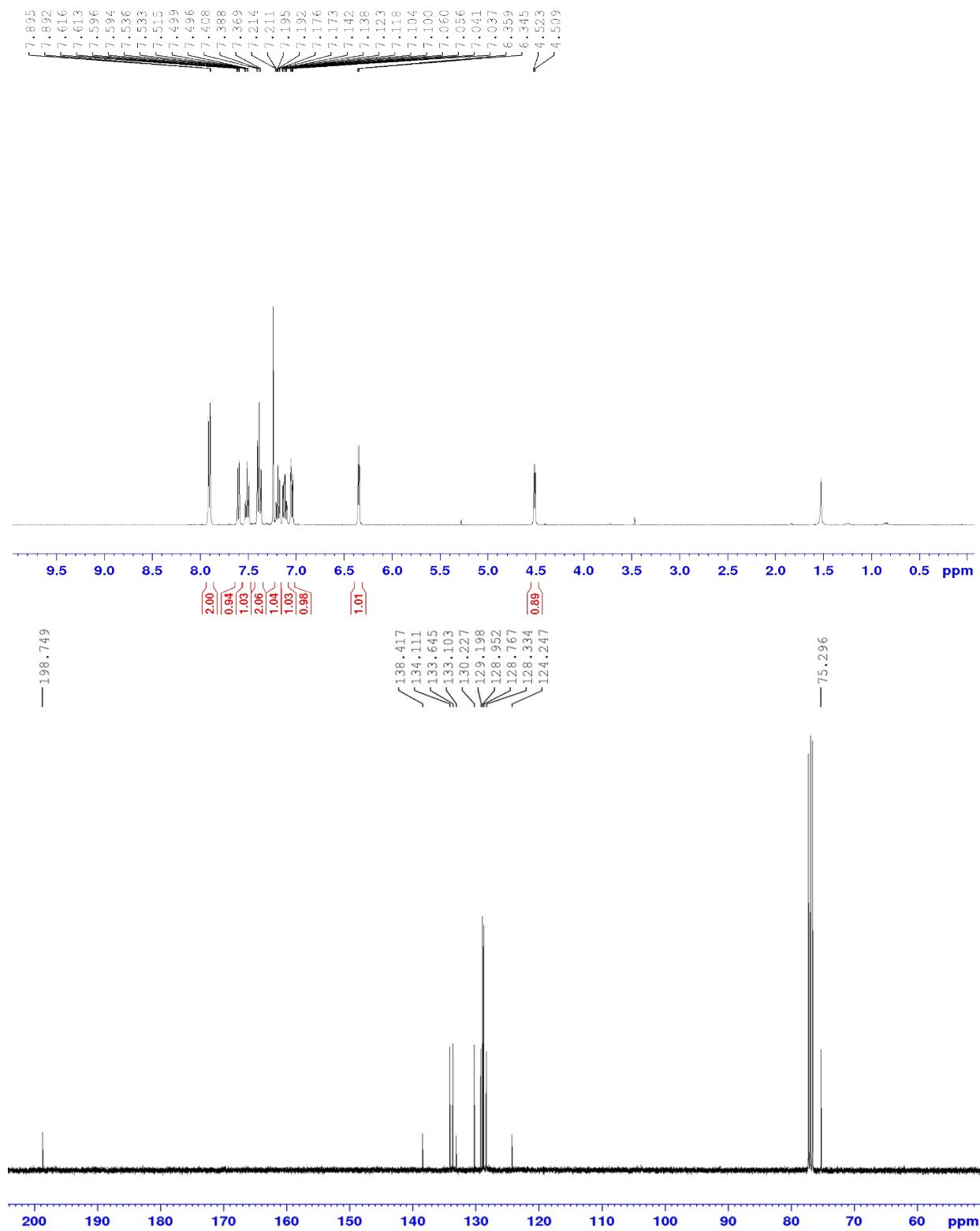
5 NMR spectral data

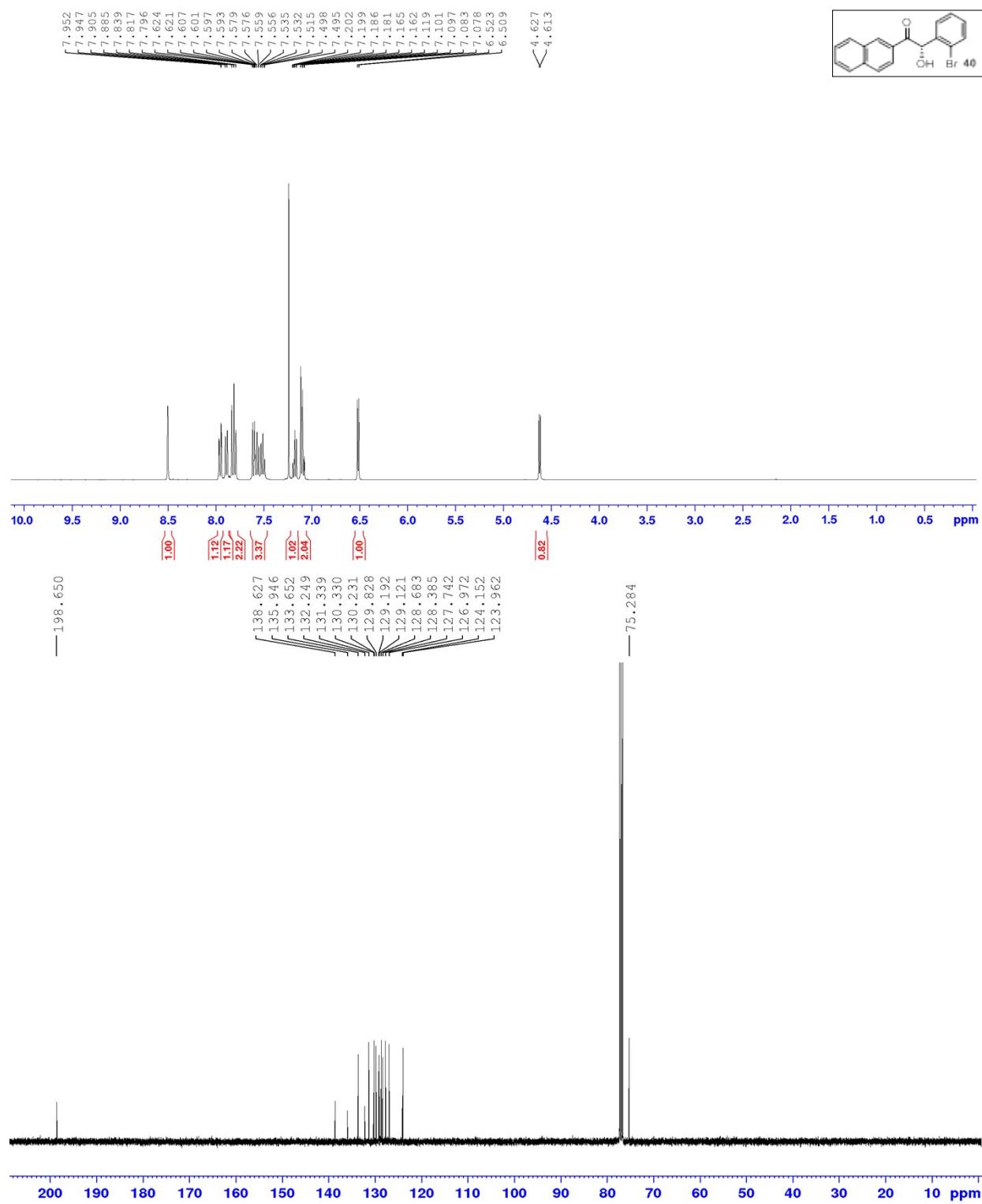
5.1 NMR spectral data for triazolium precatalyst 22

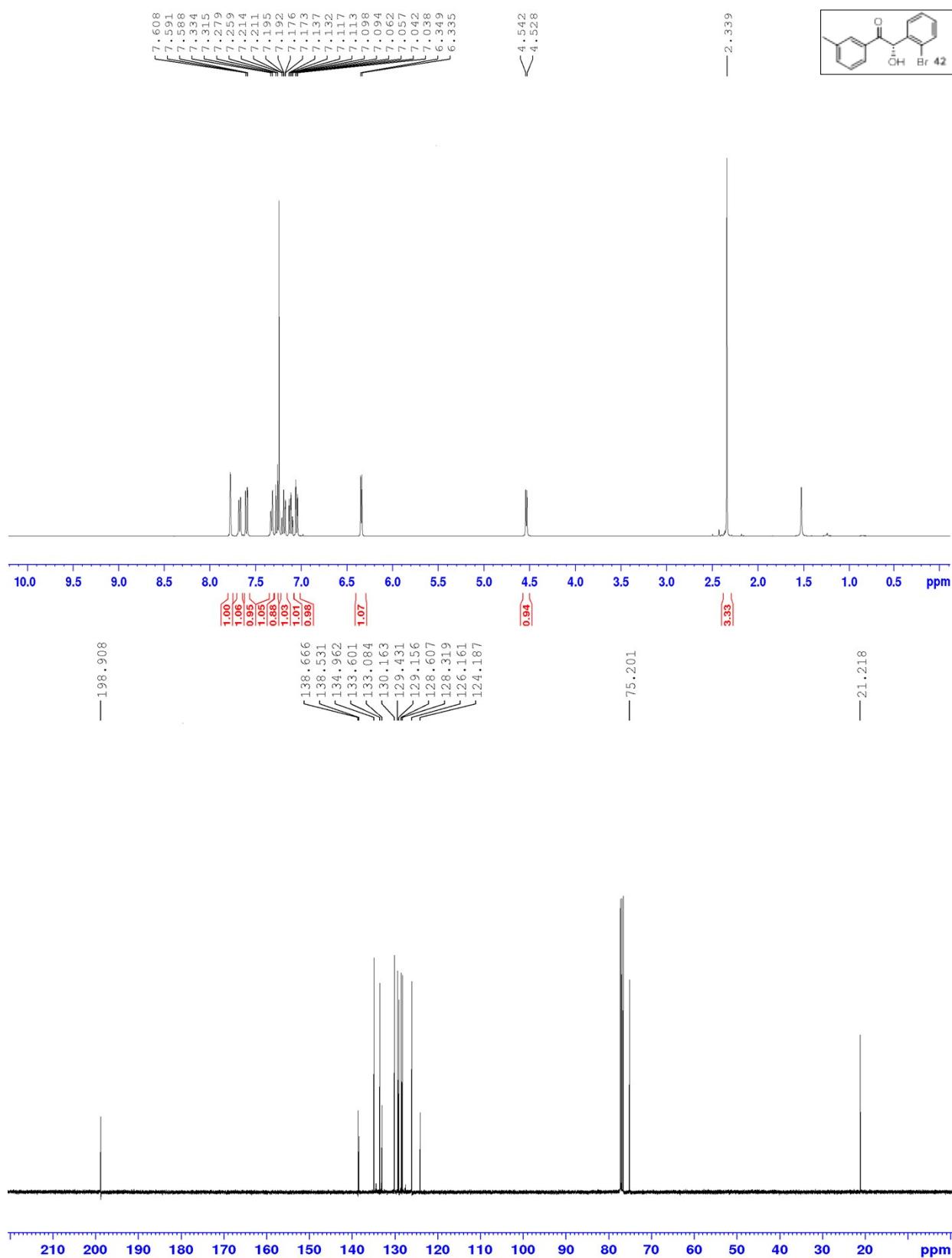


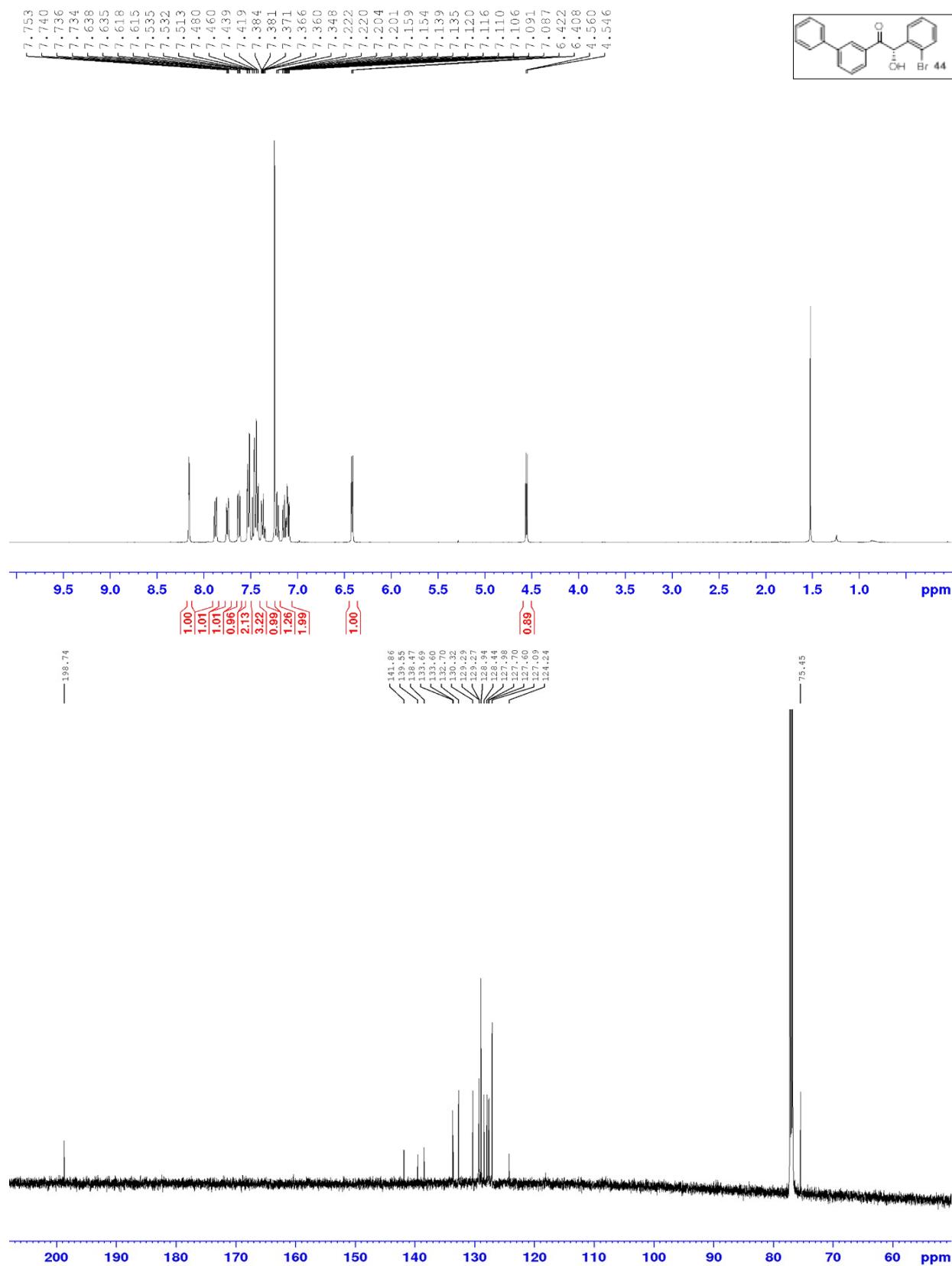
5.2 NMR spectral data for cross-benzoin products

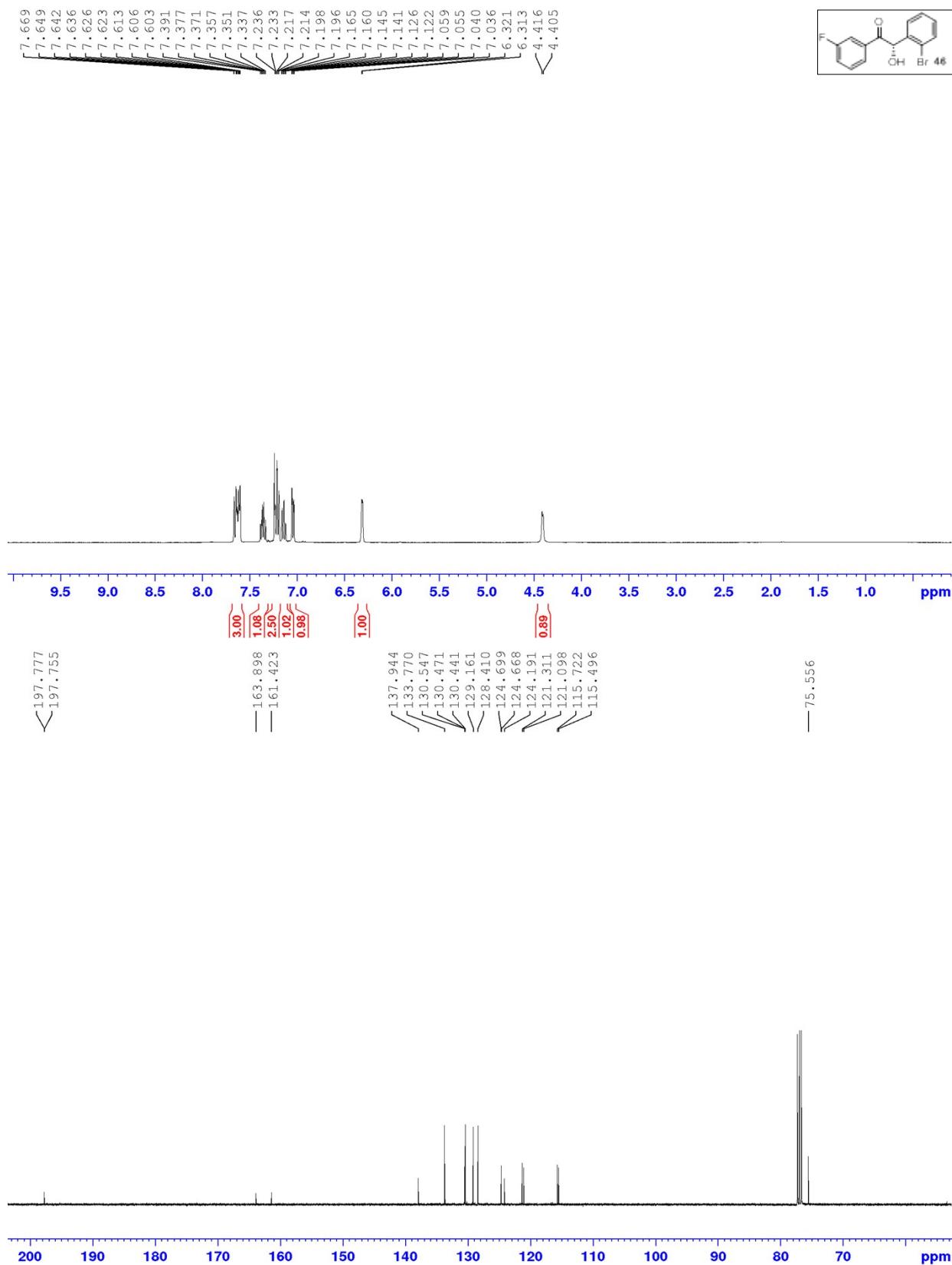


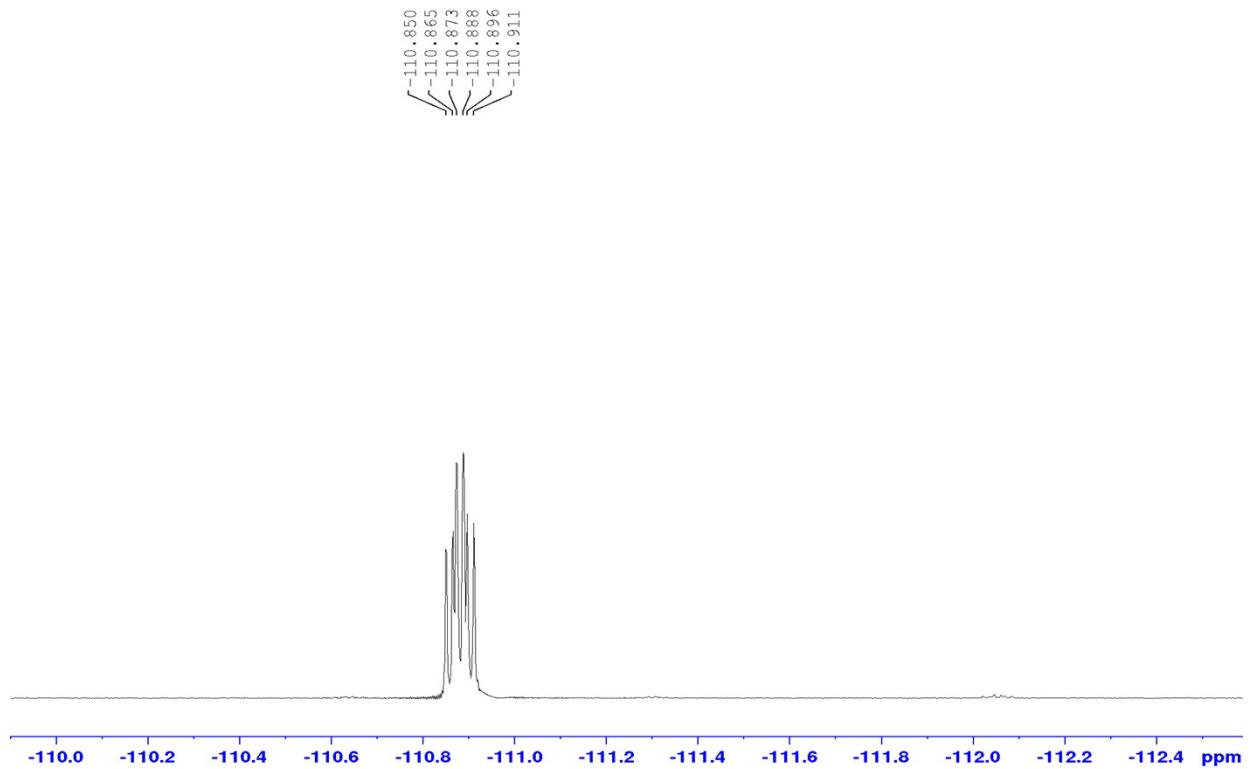


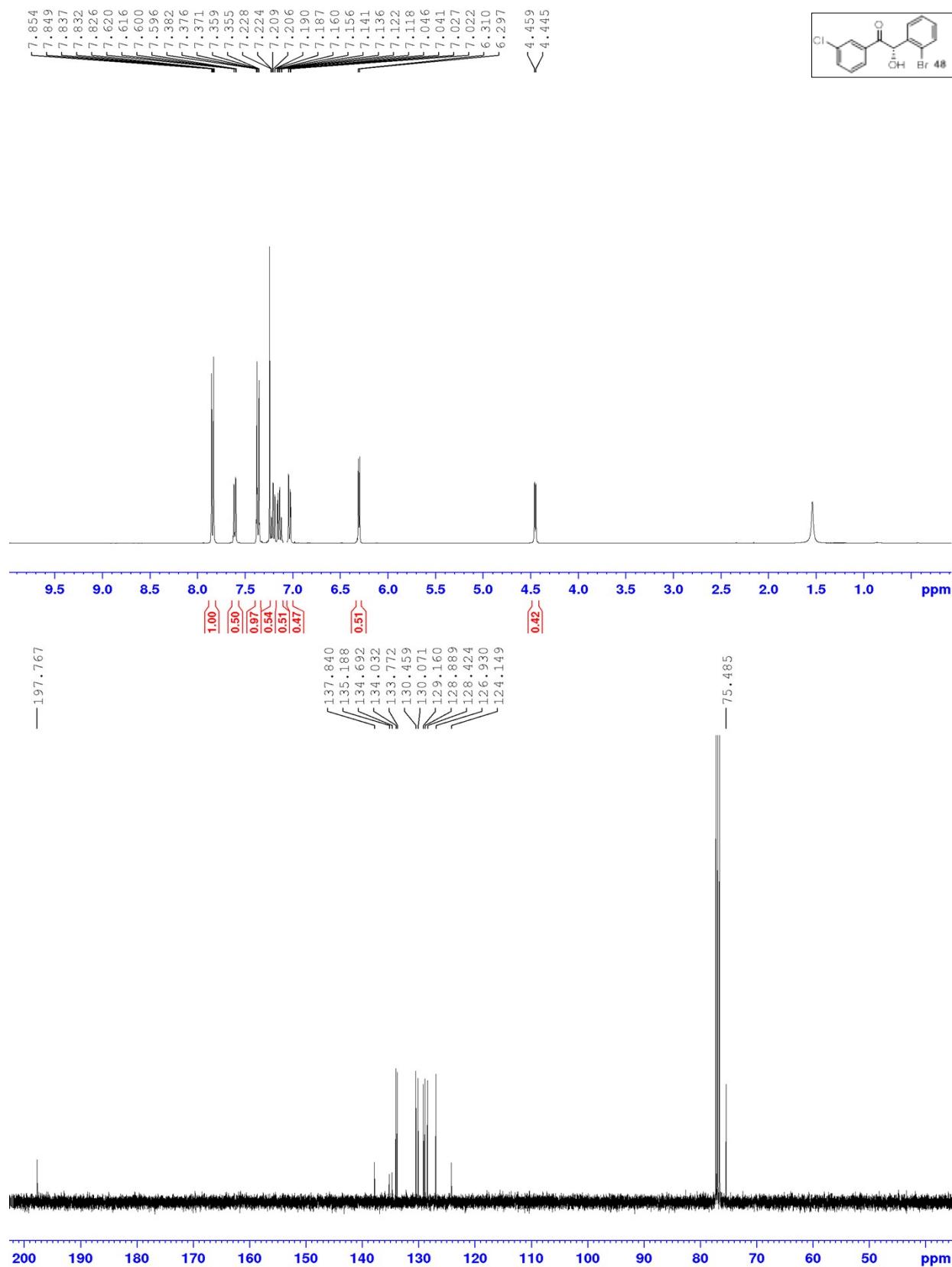


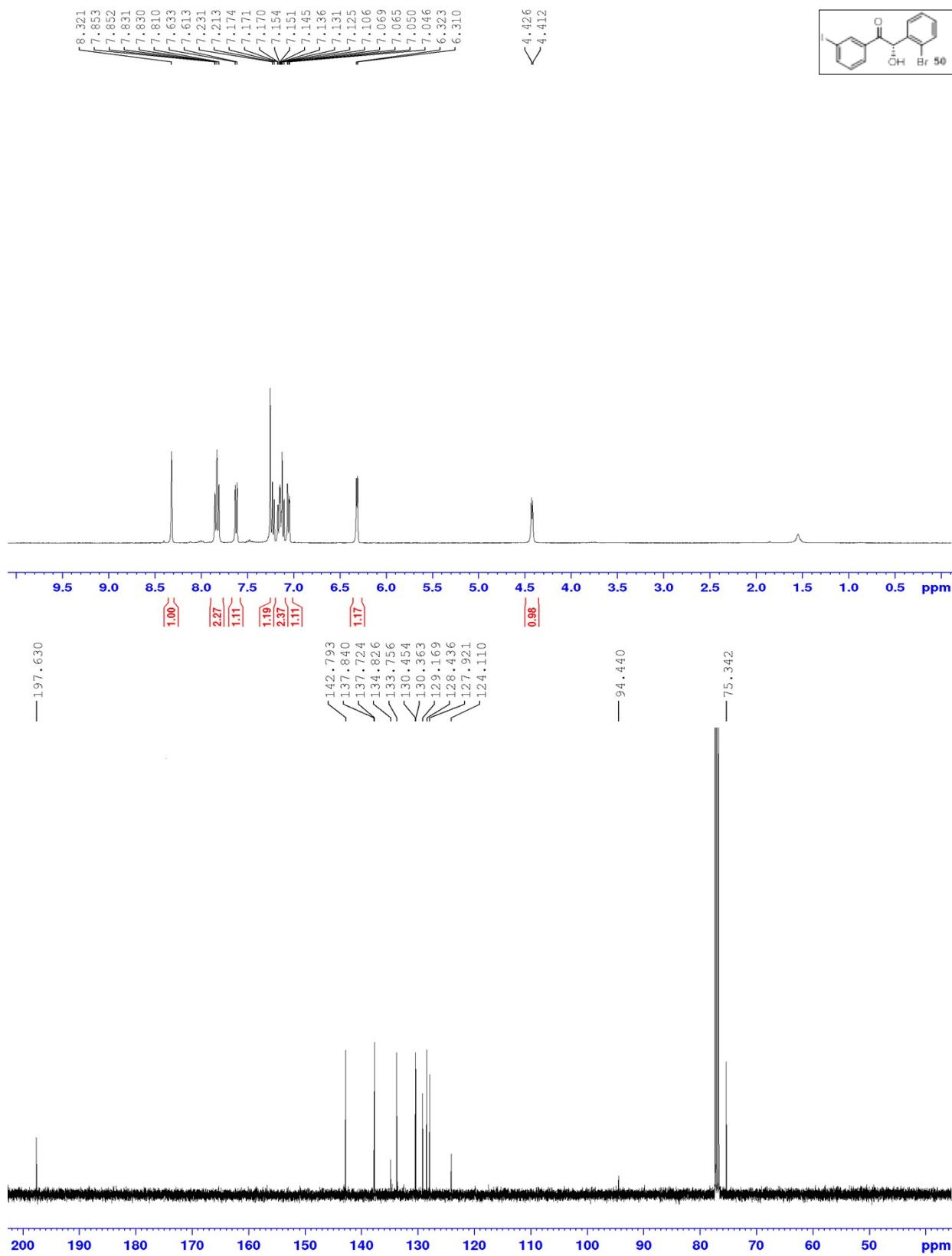


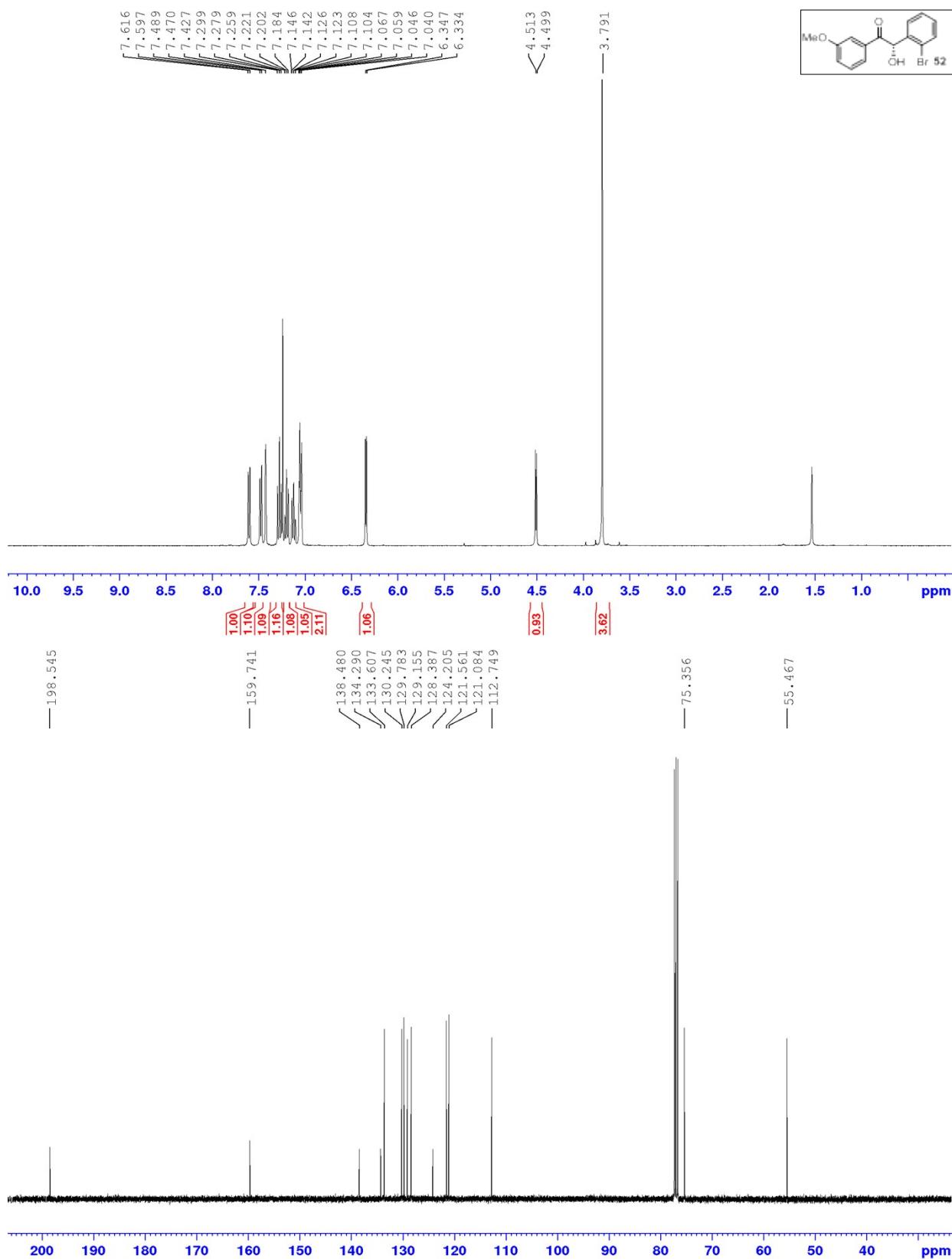


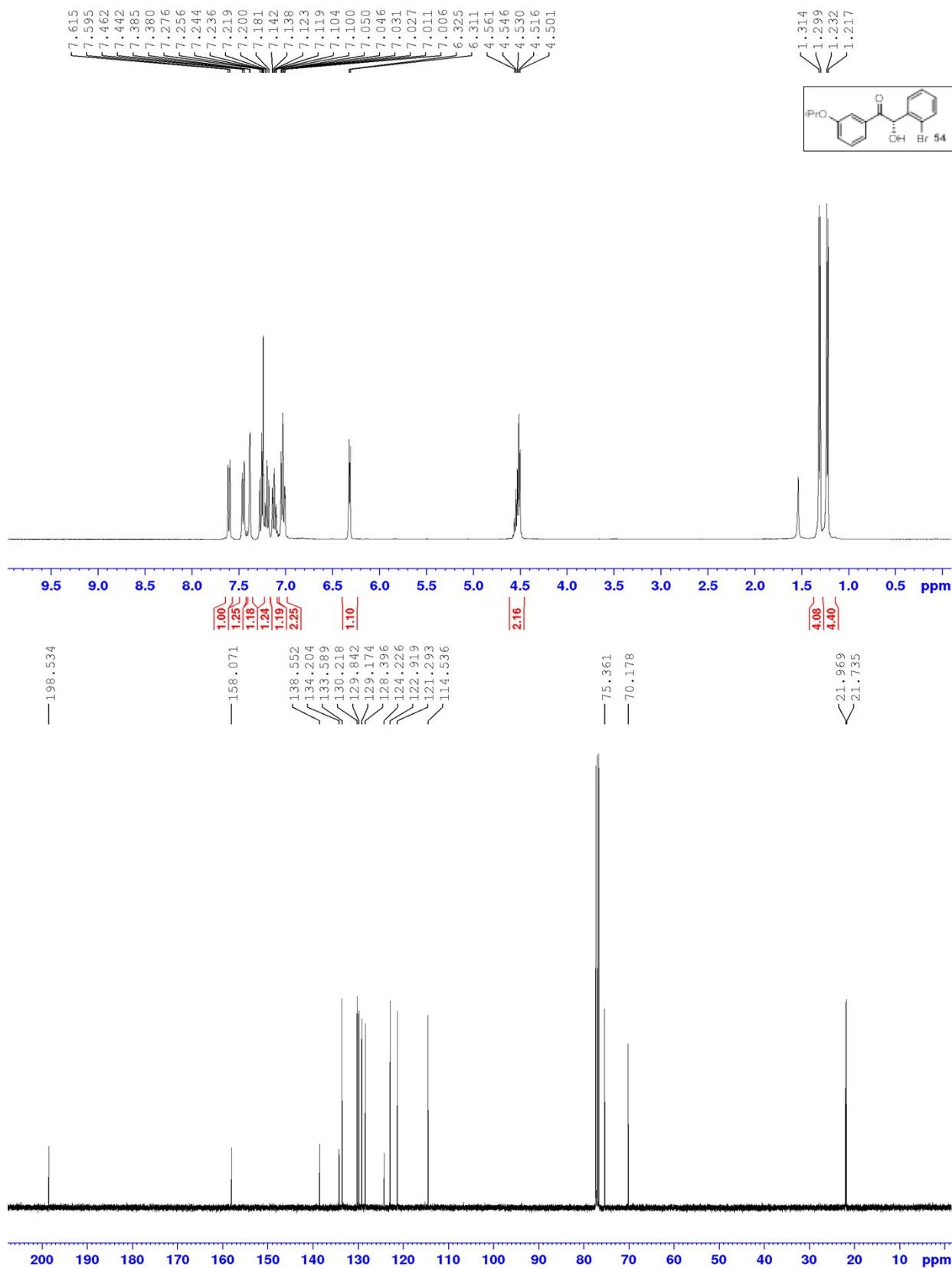


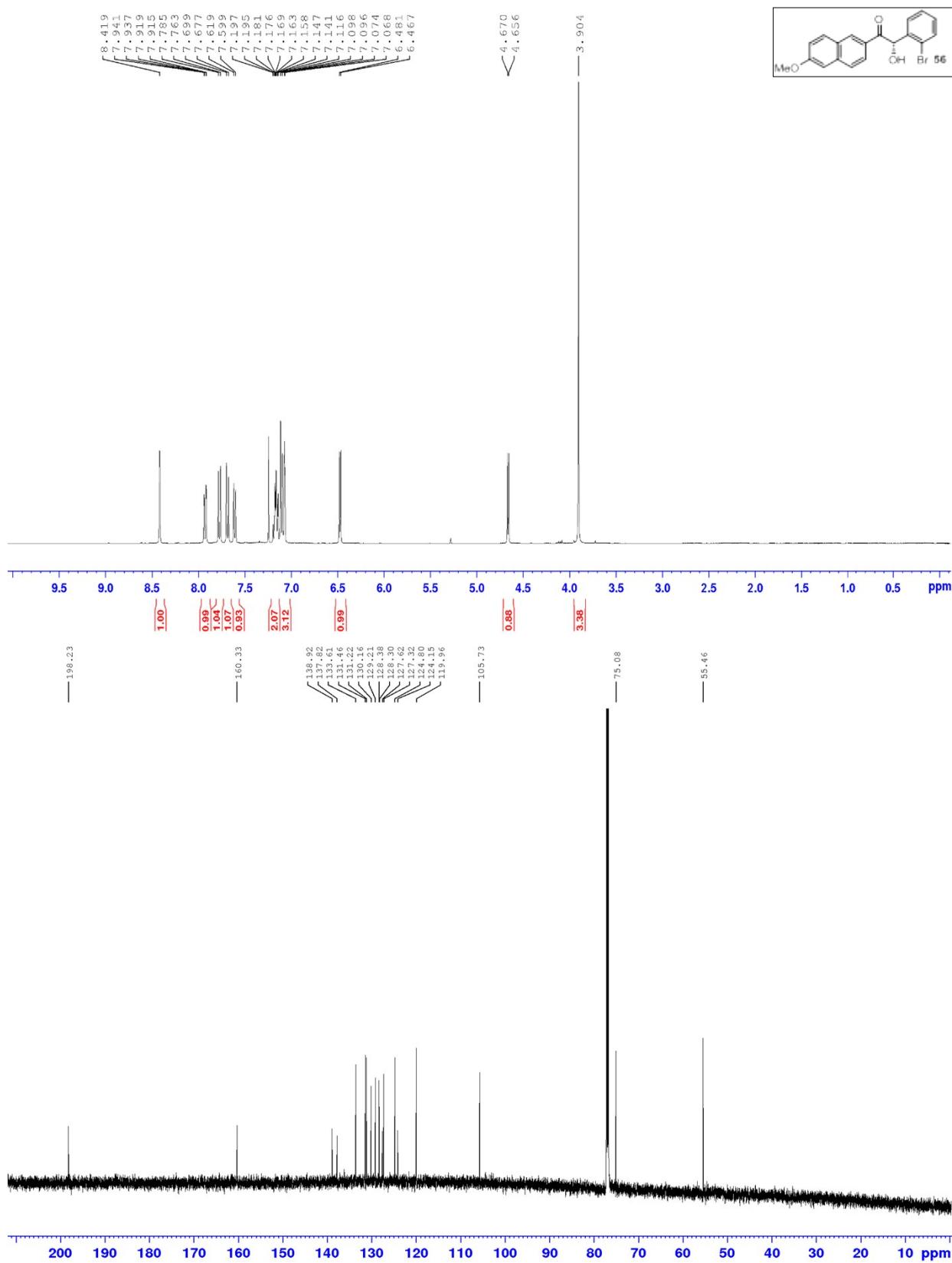


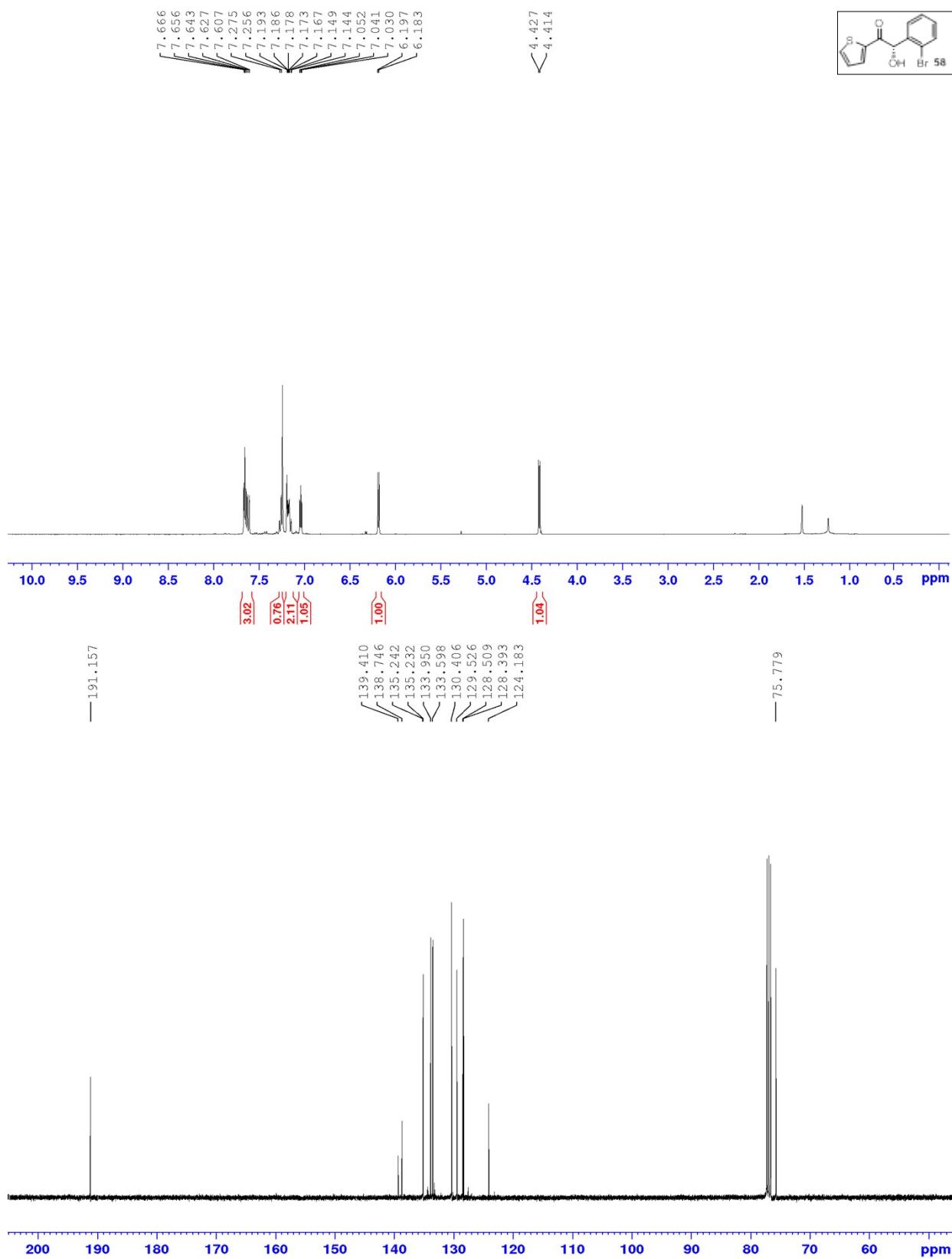


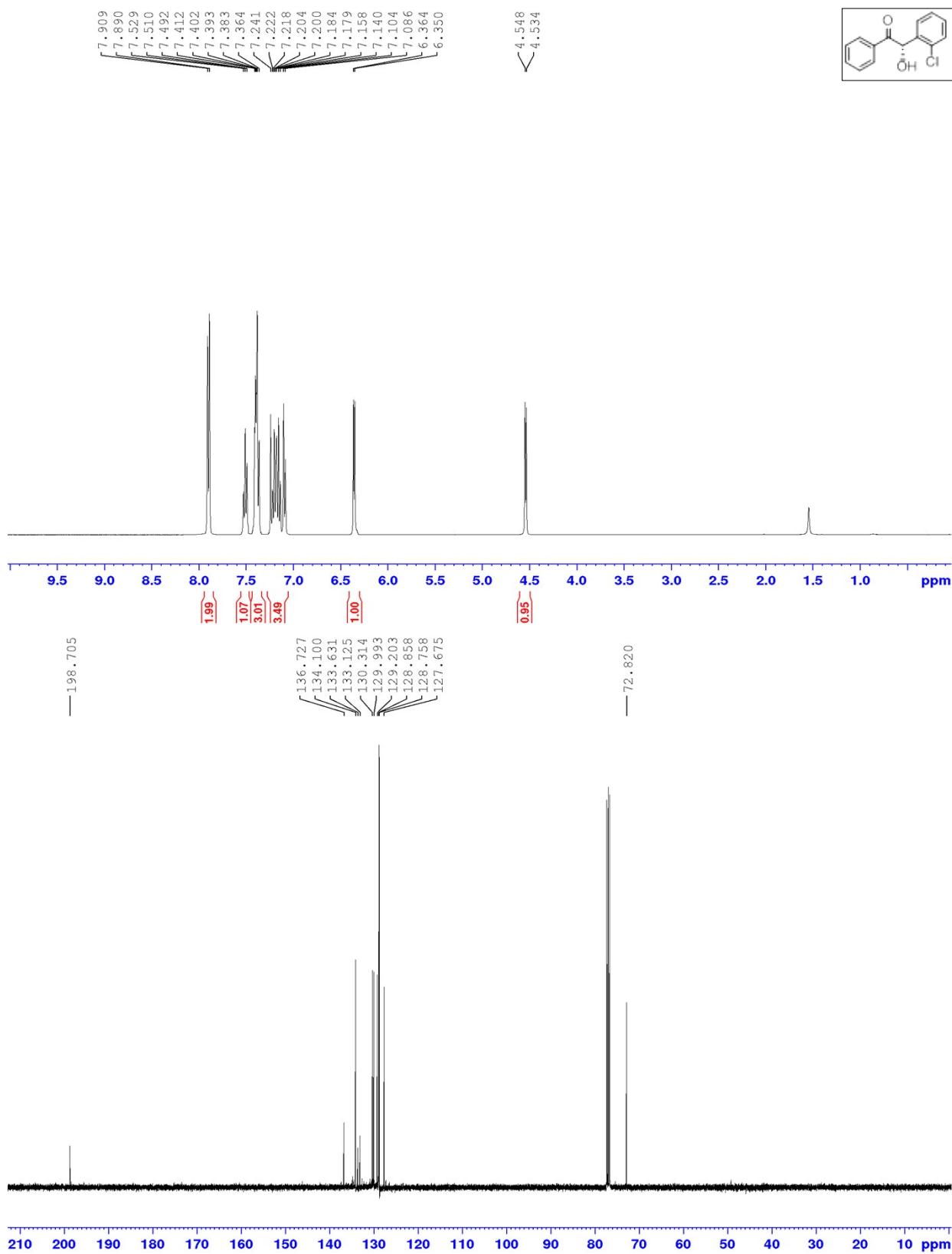


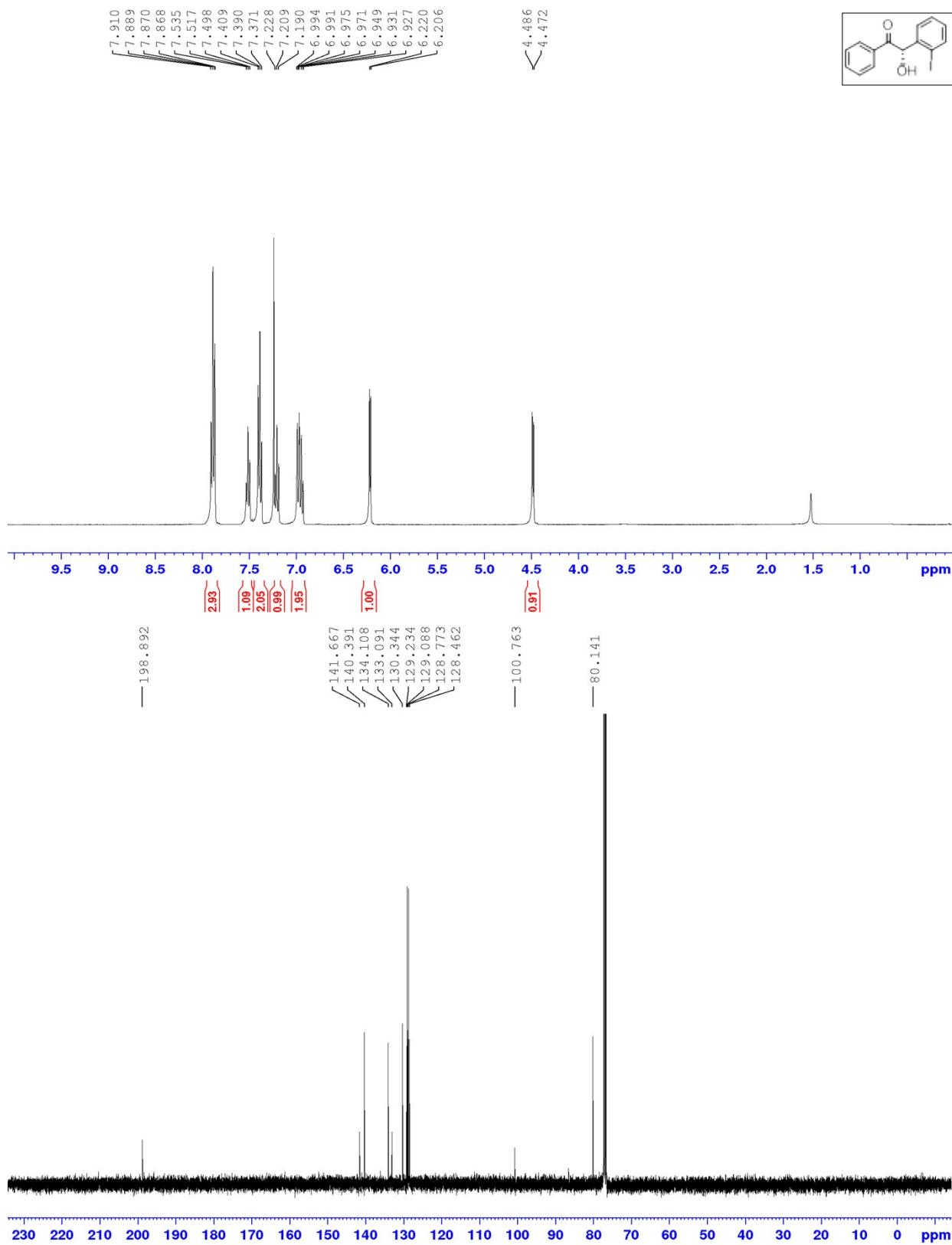


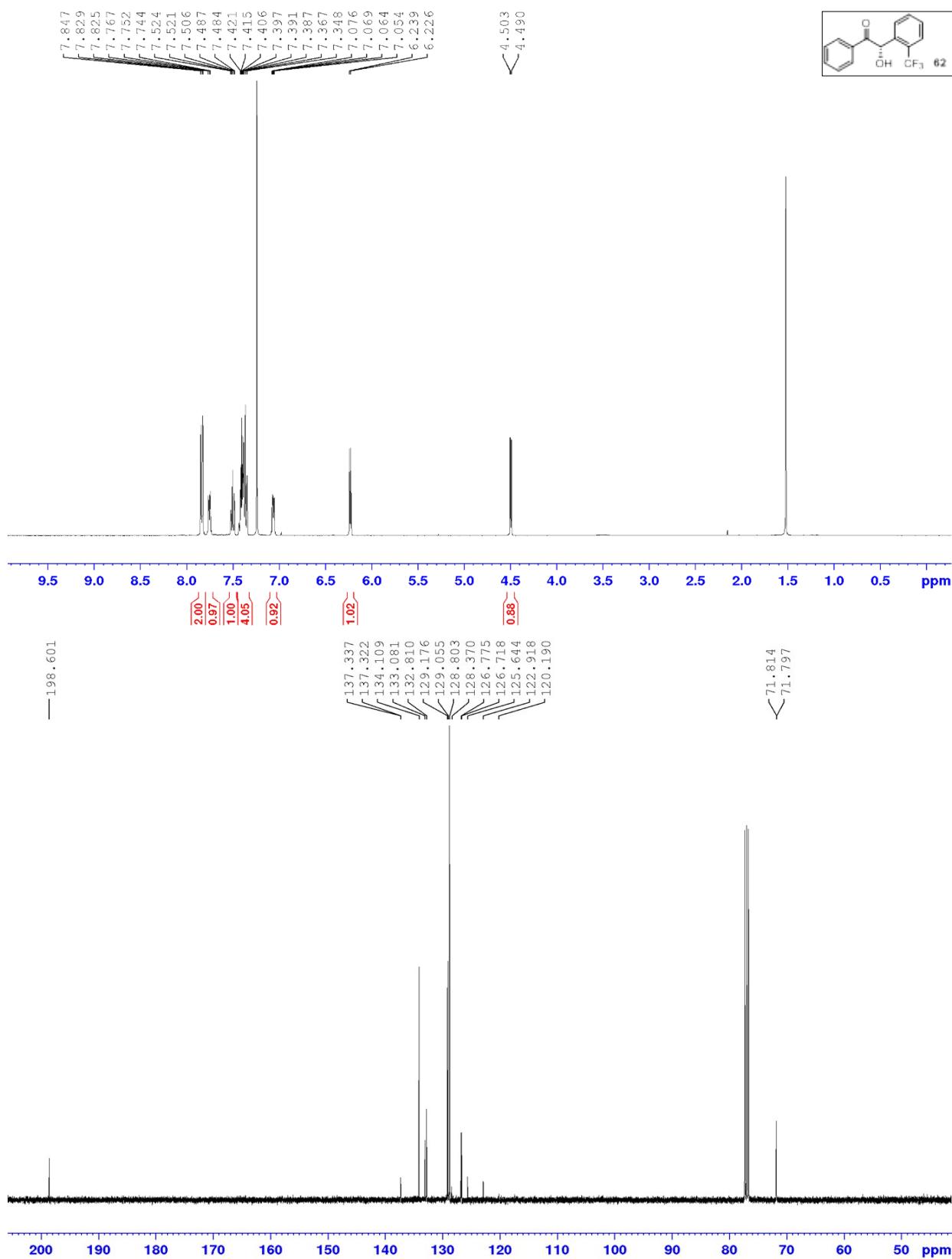


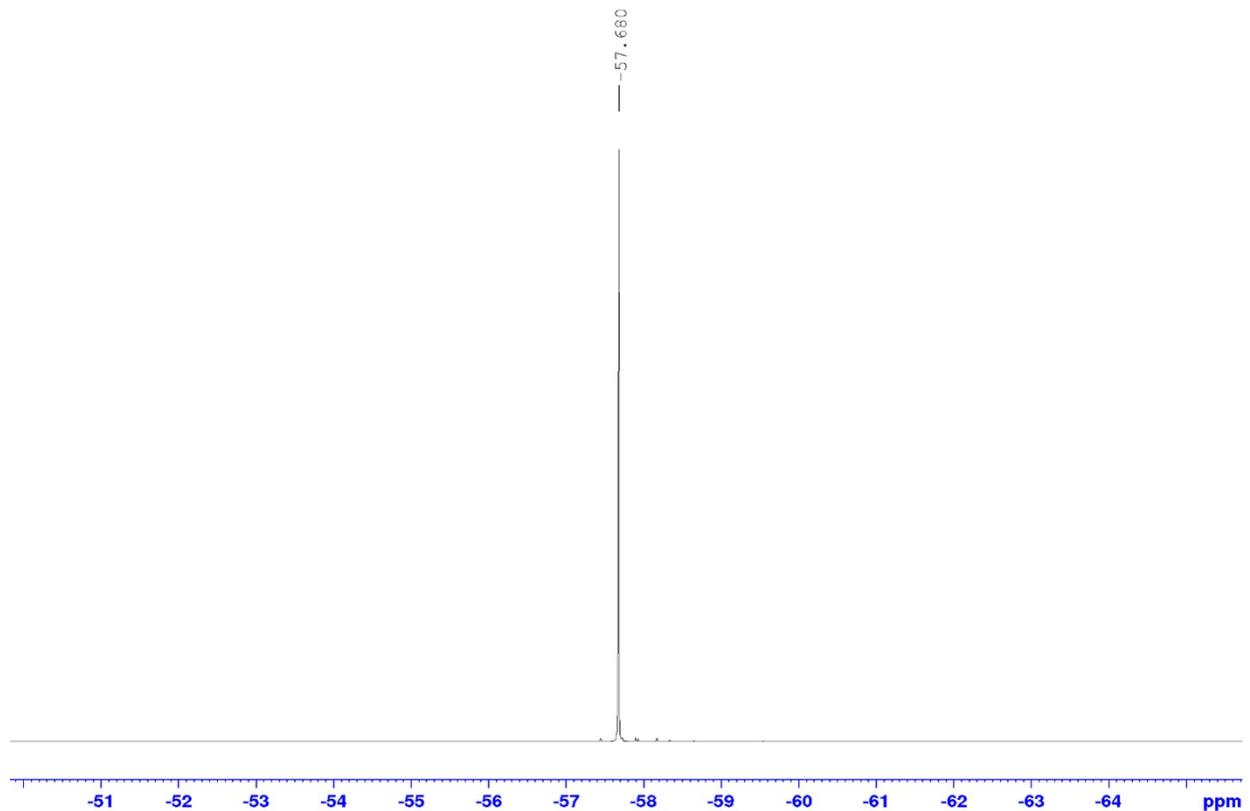


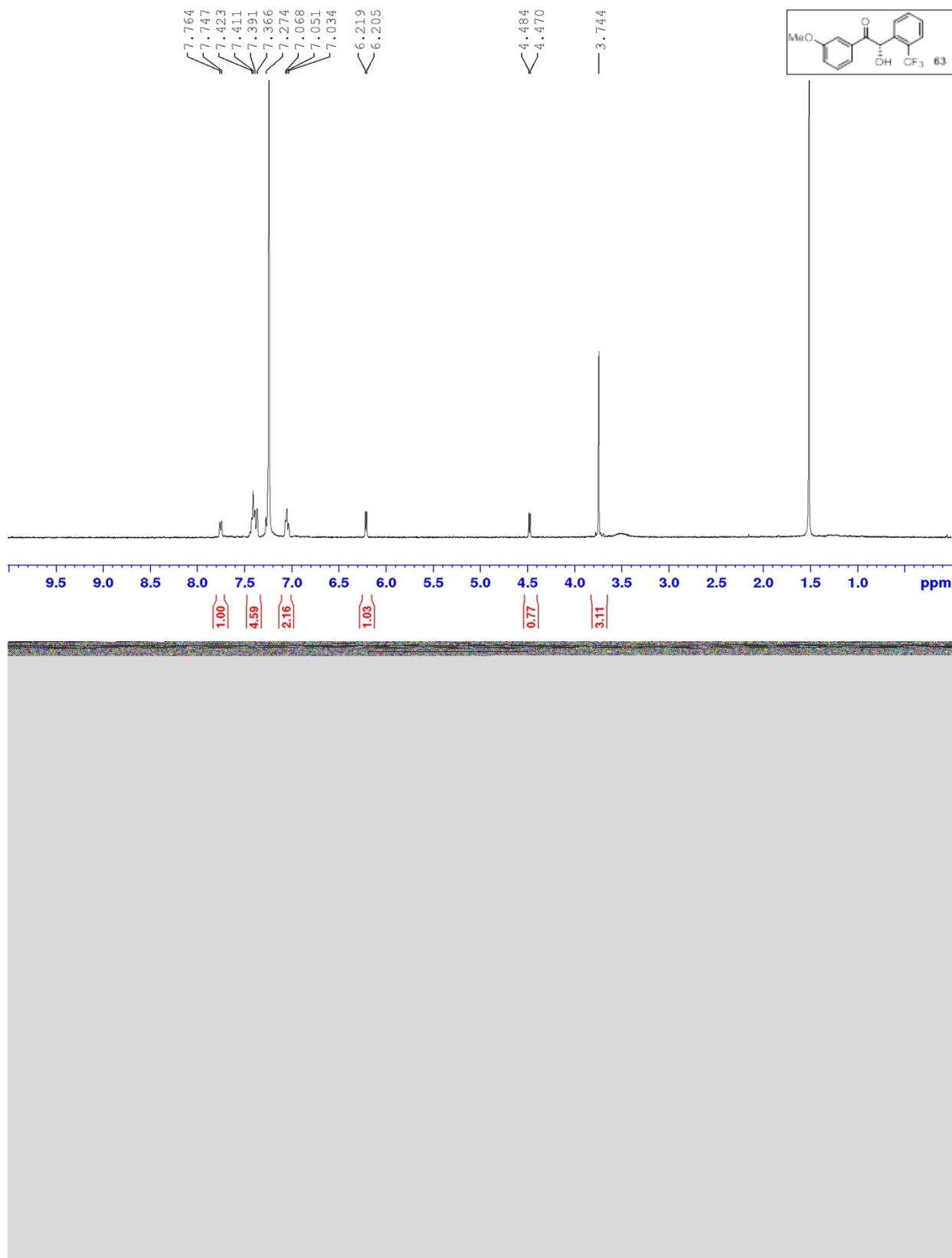


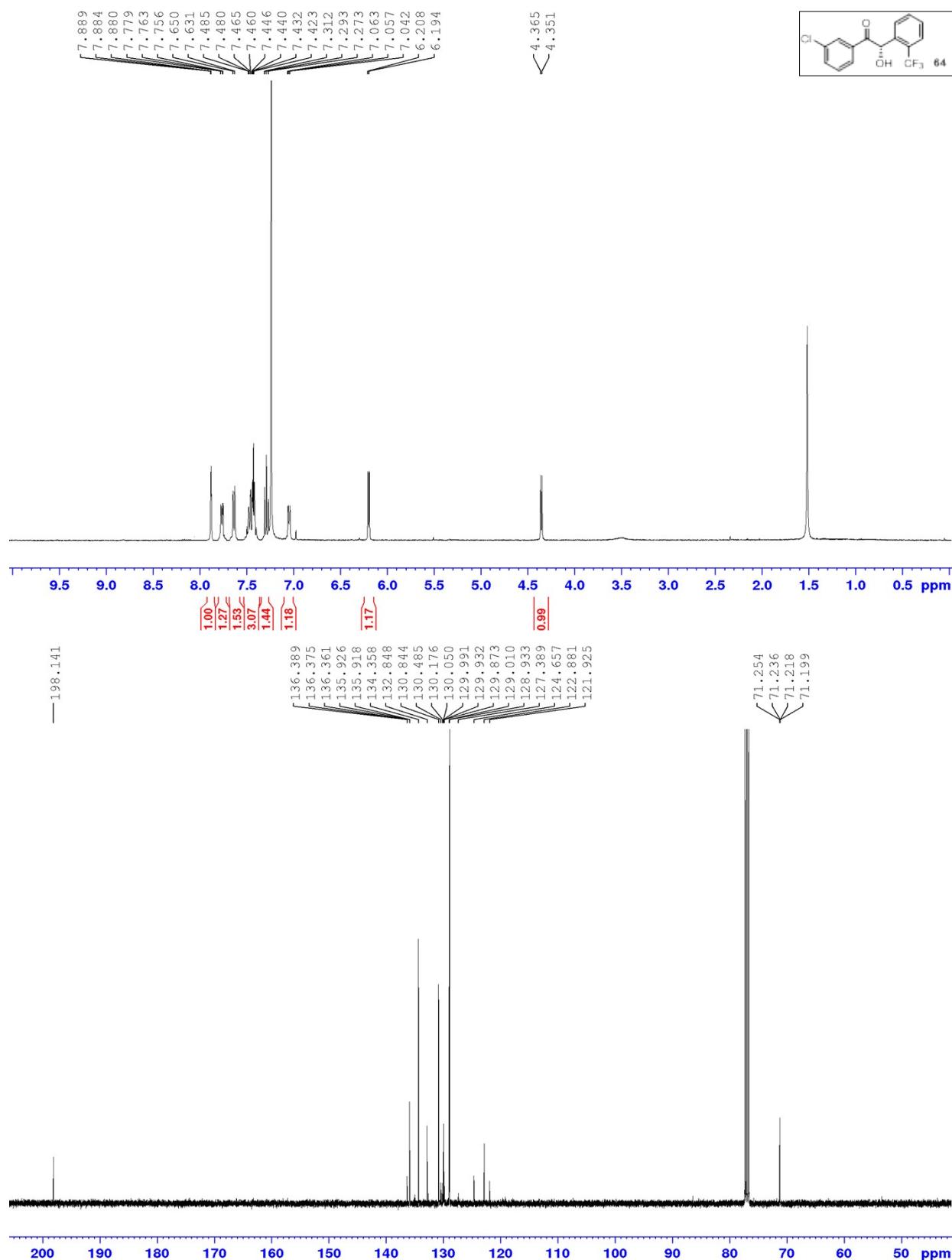


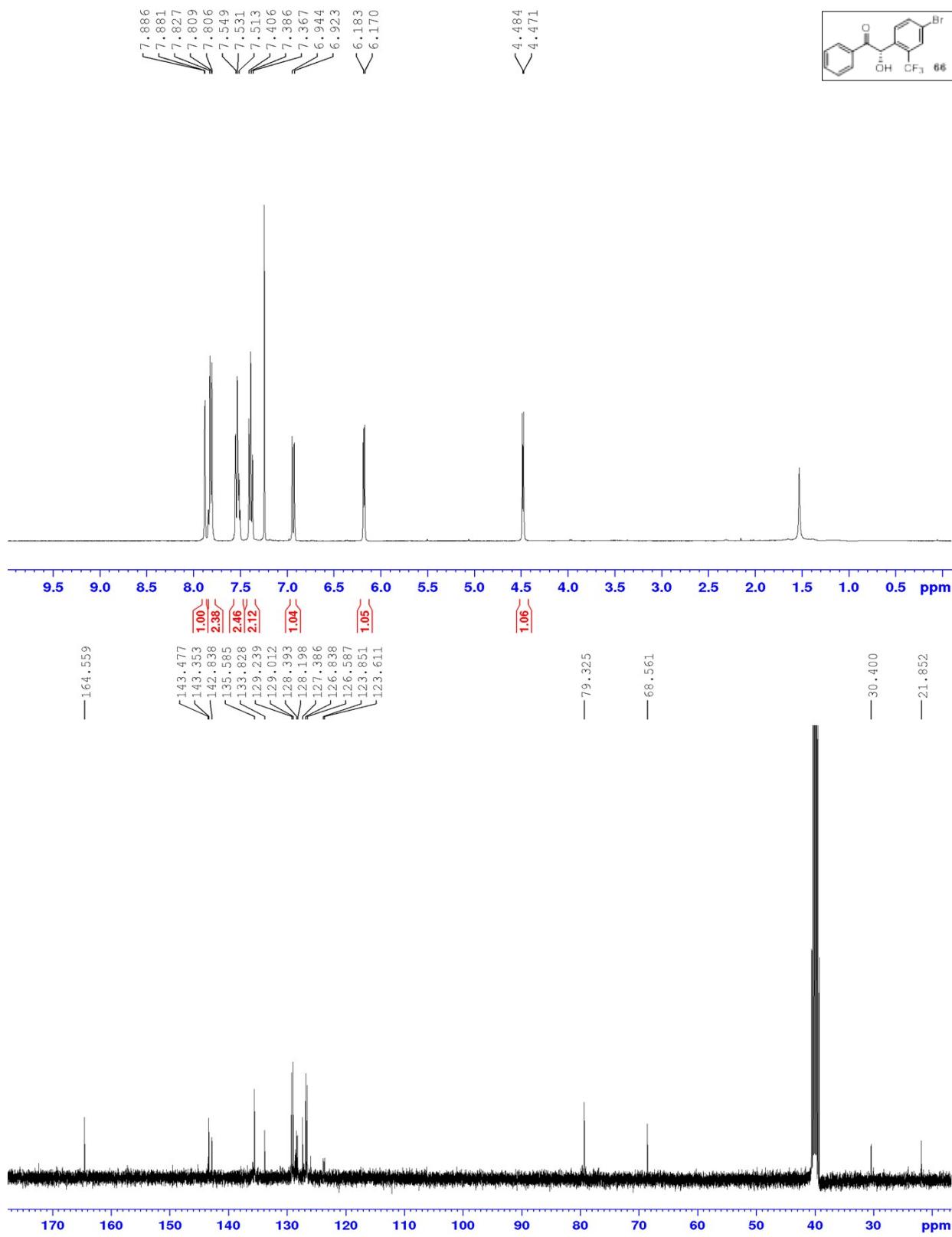


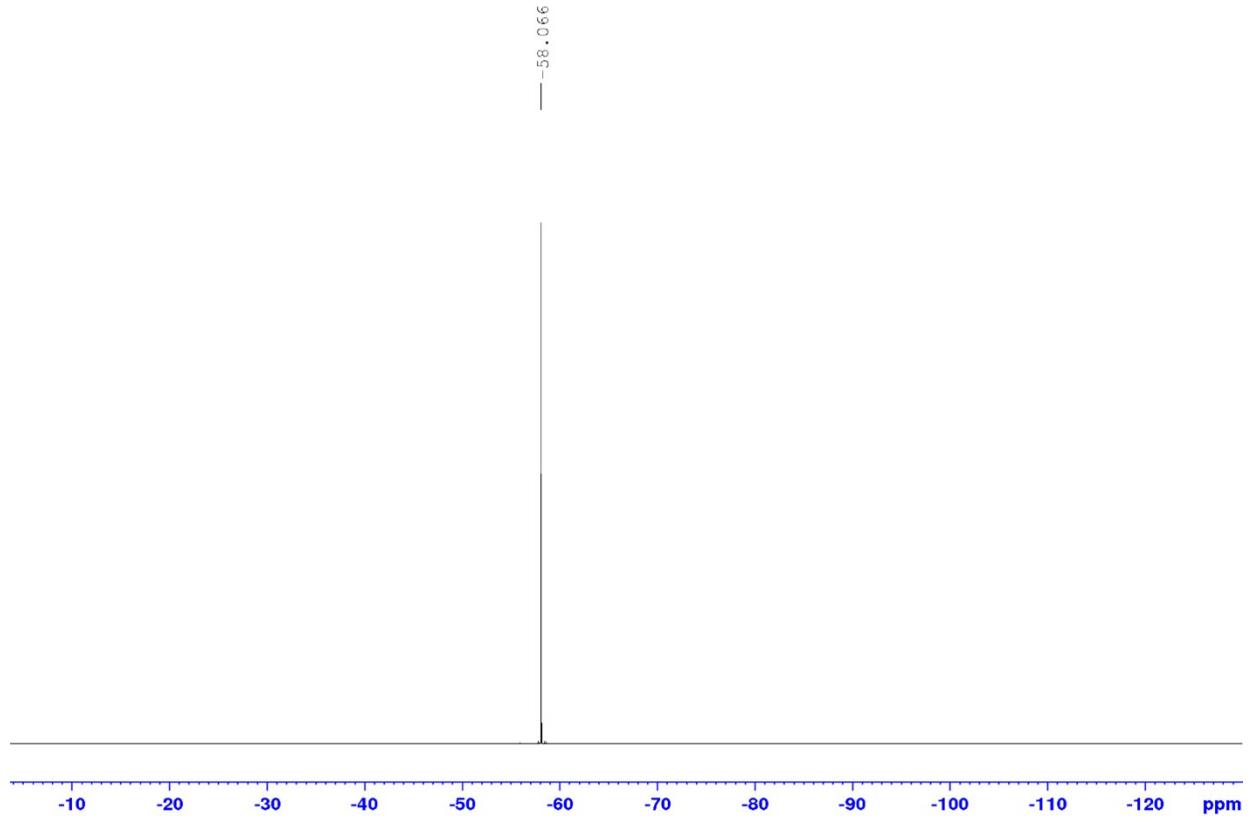






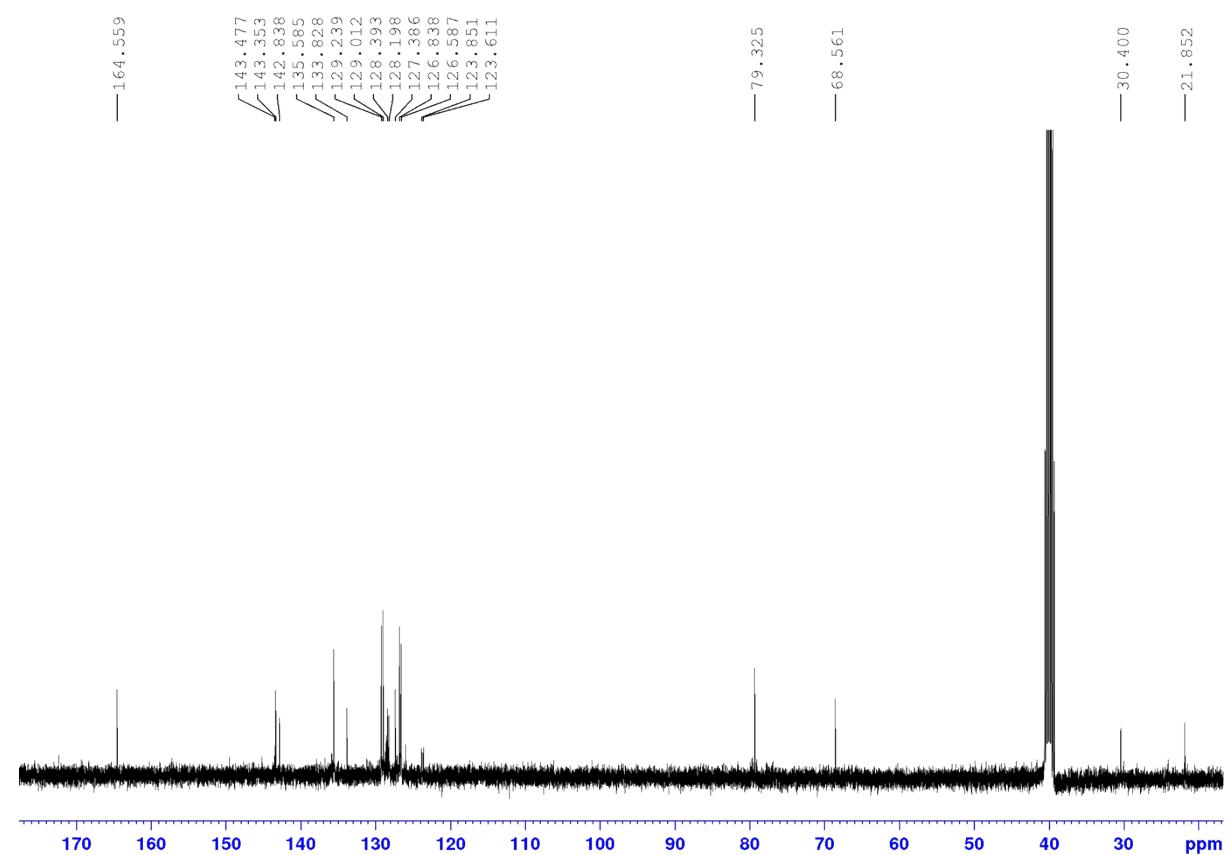


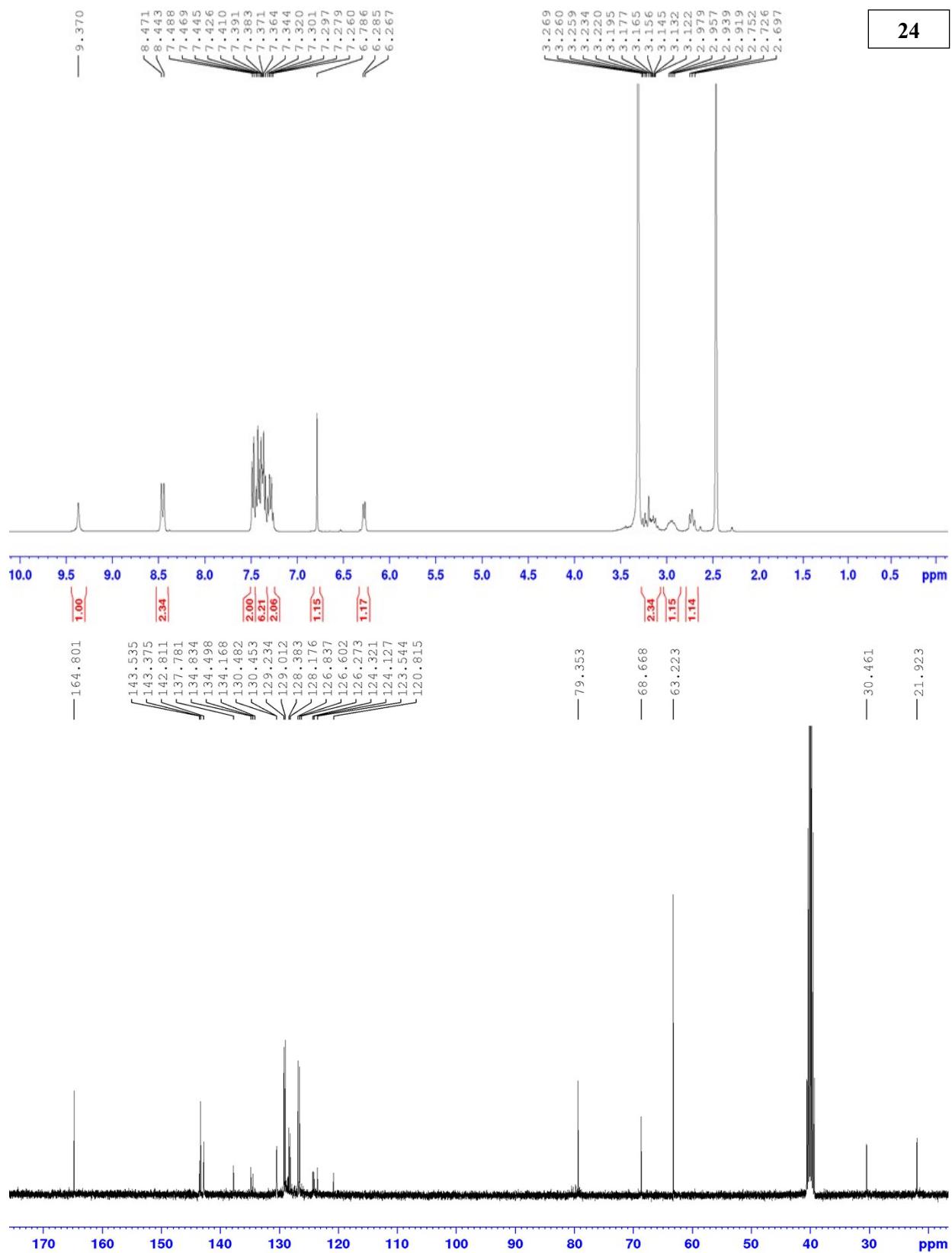


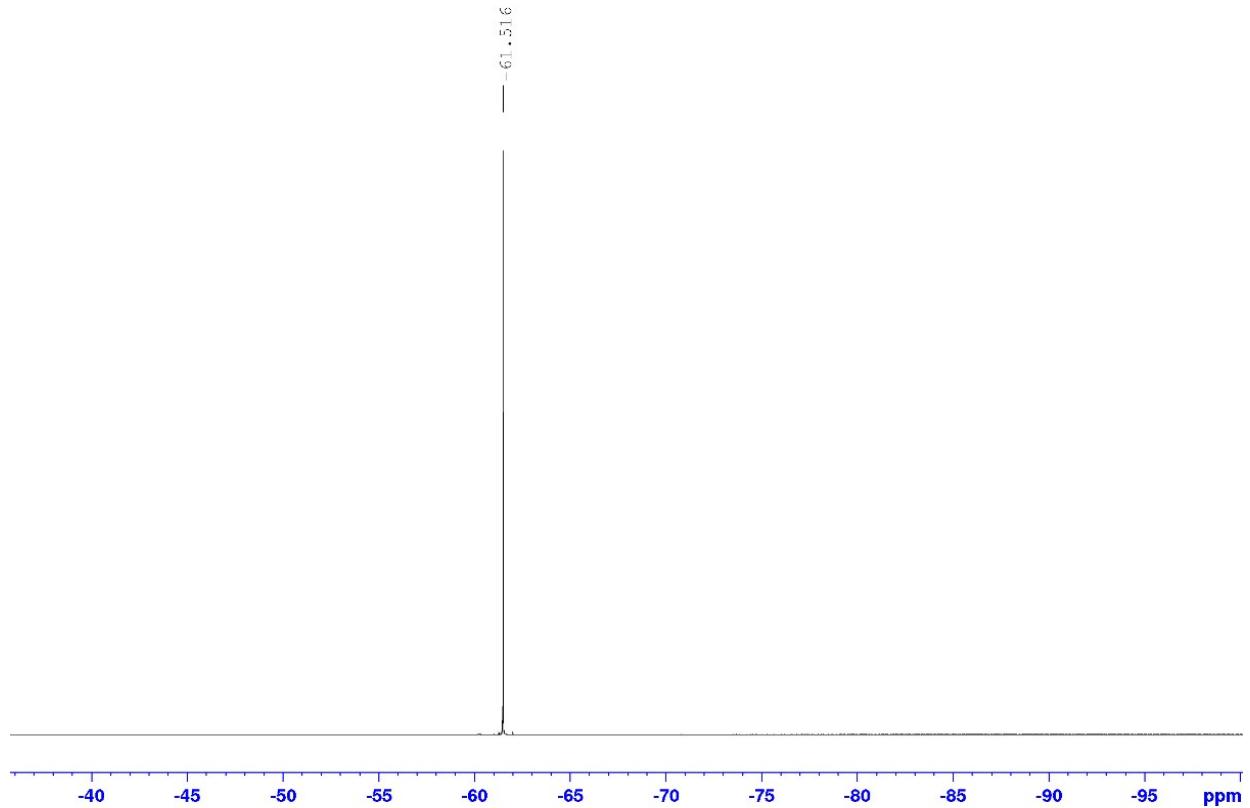


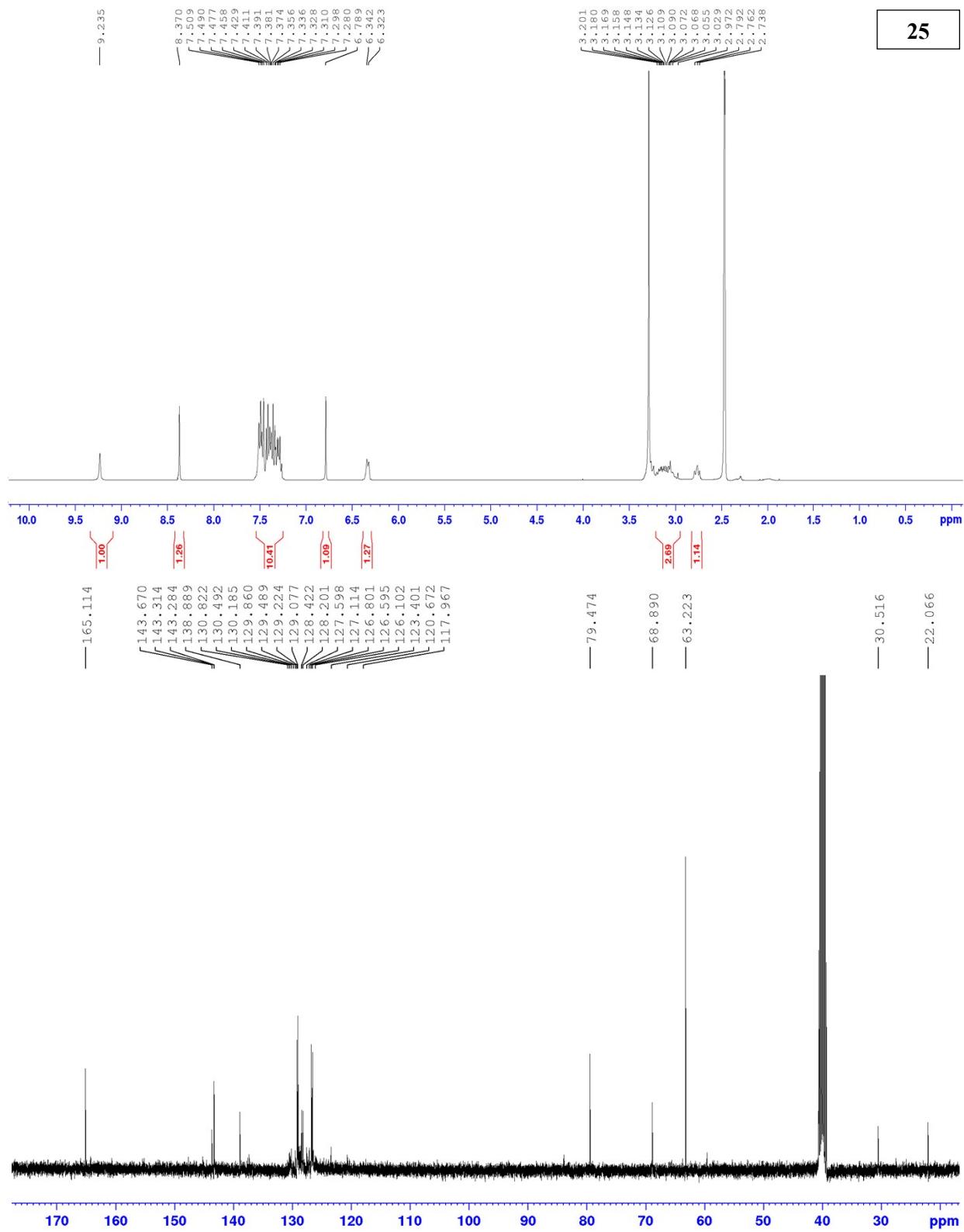
5.3 NMR spectral data for triazolium precatalysts

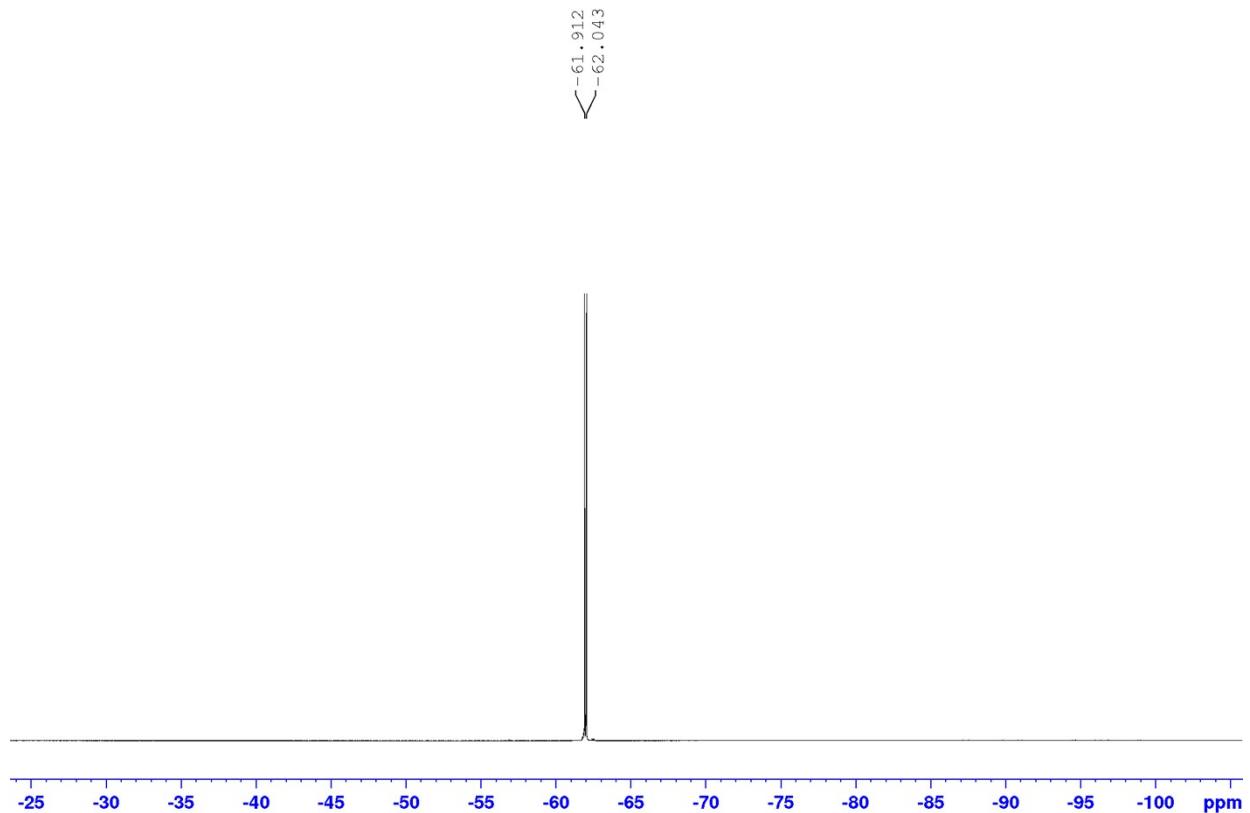
23

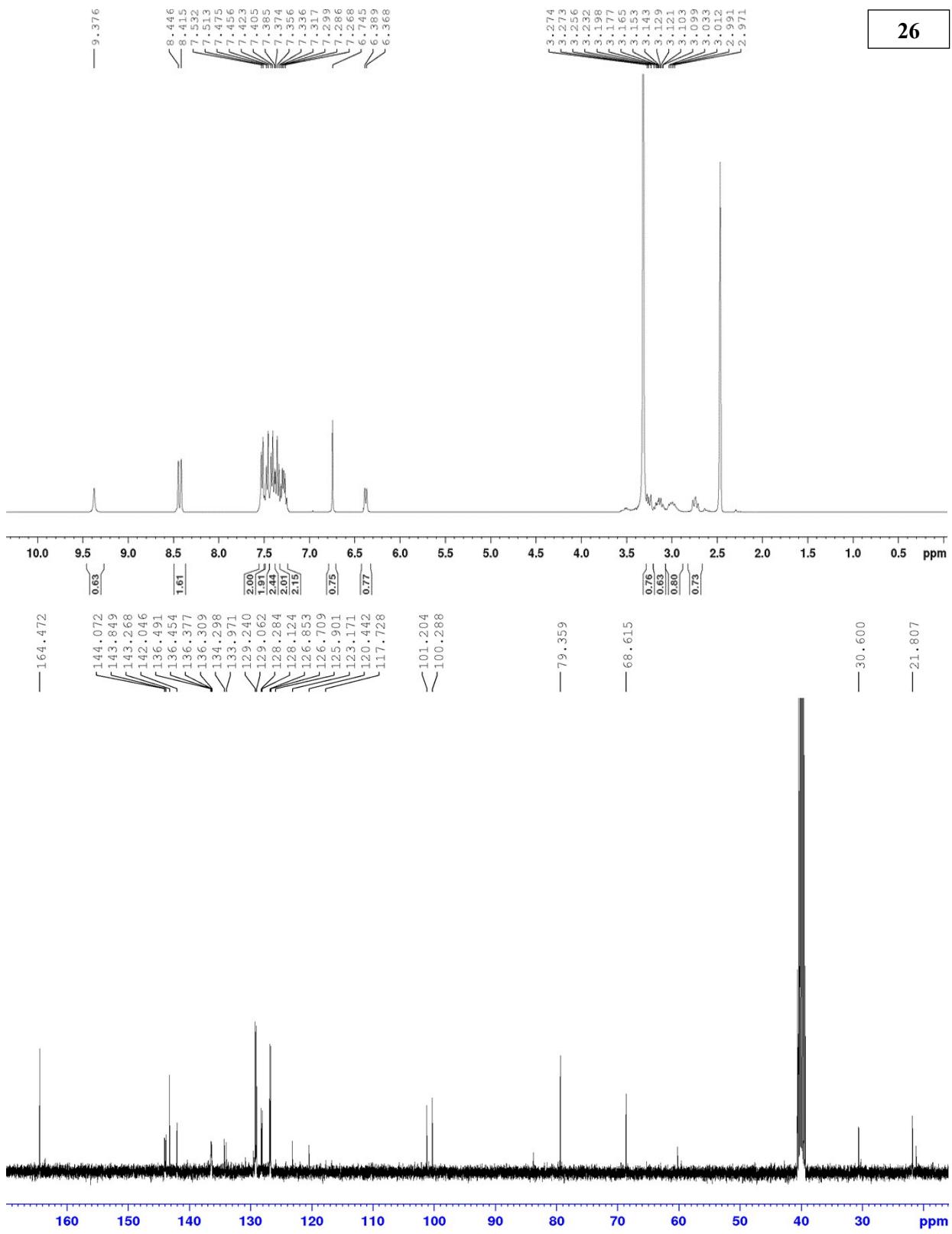


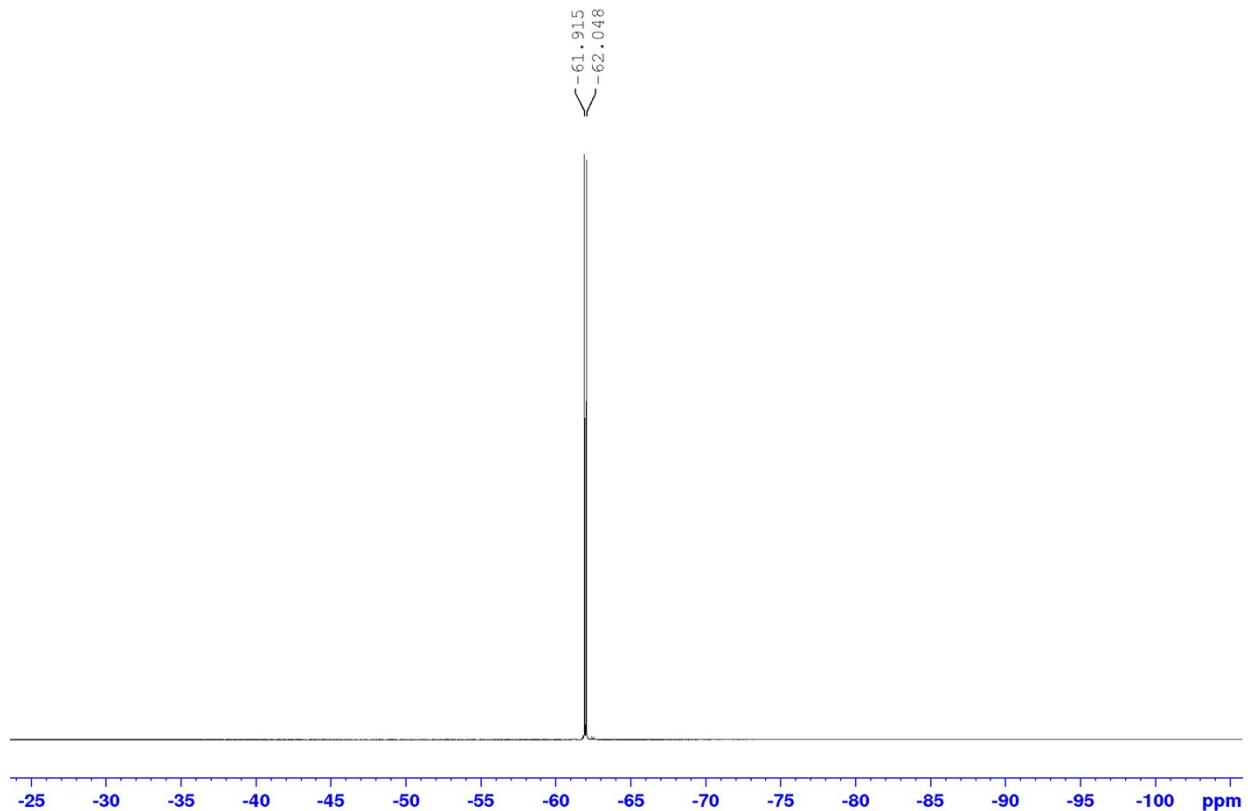




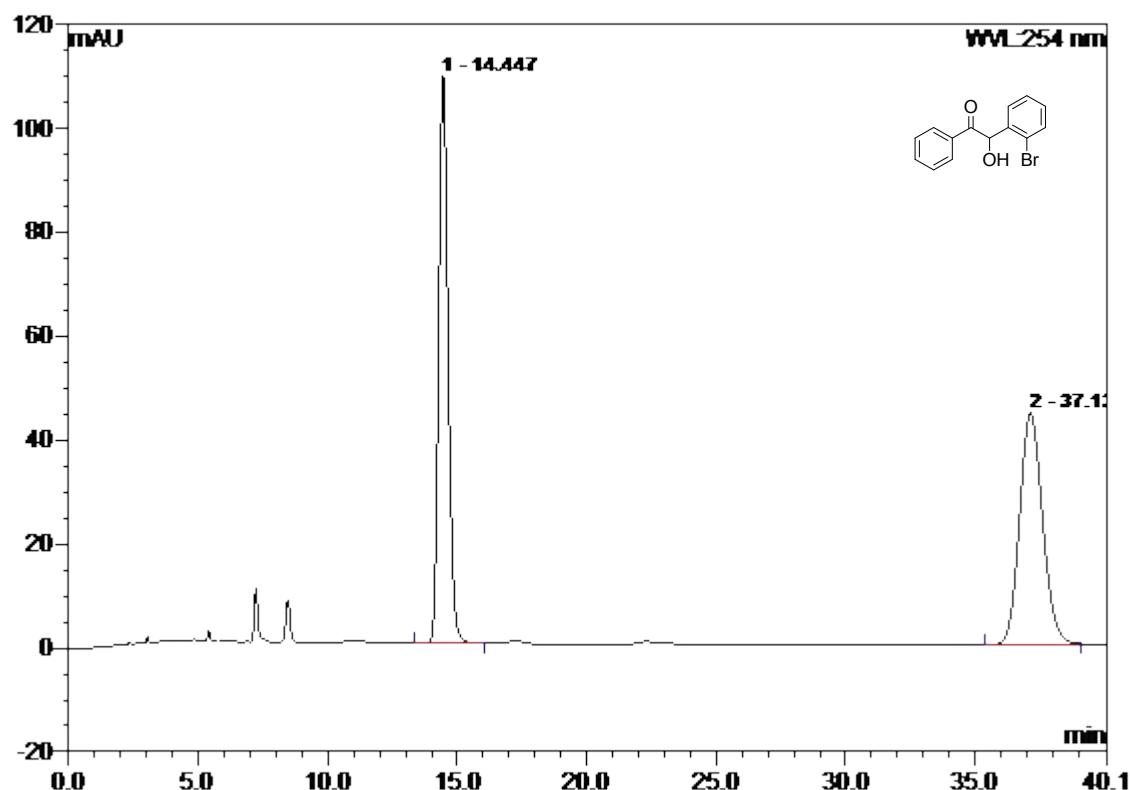




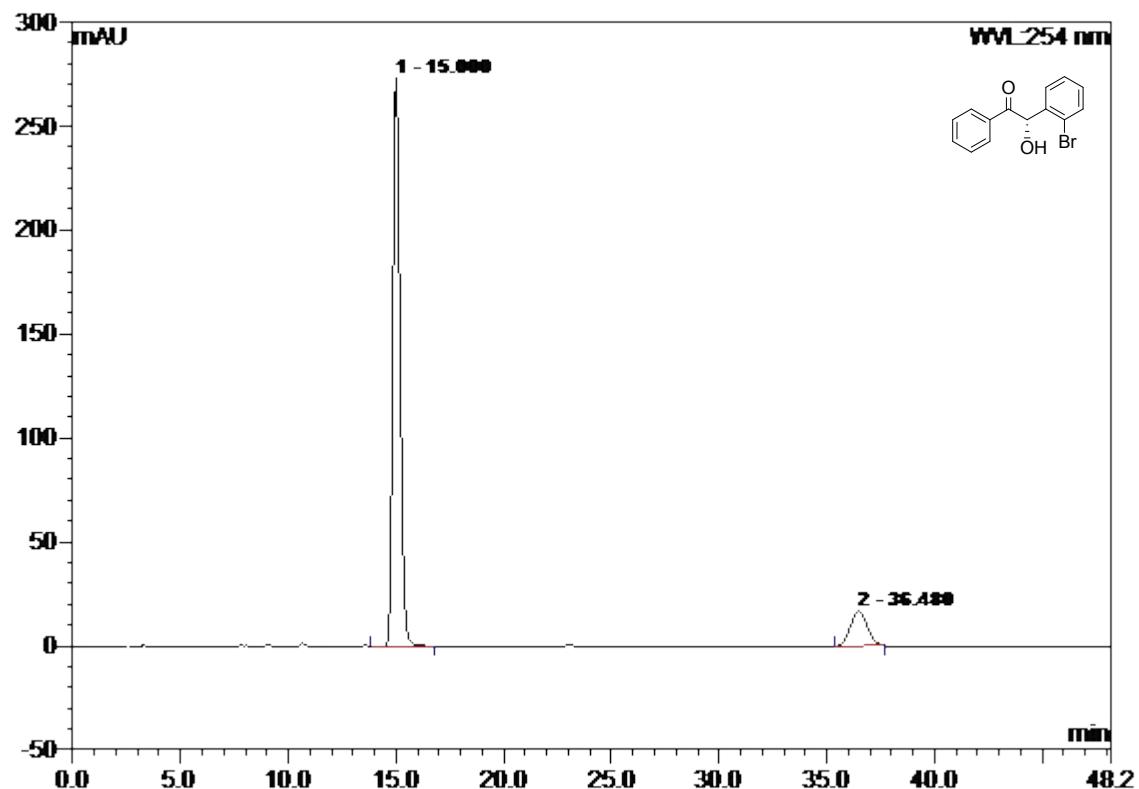


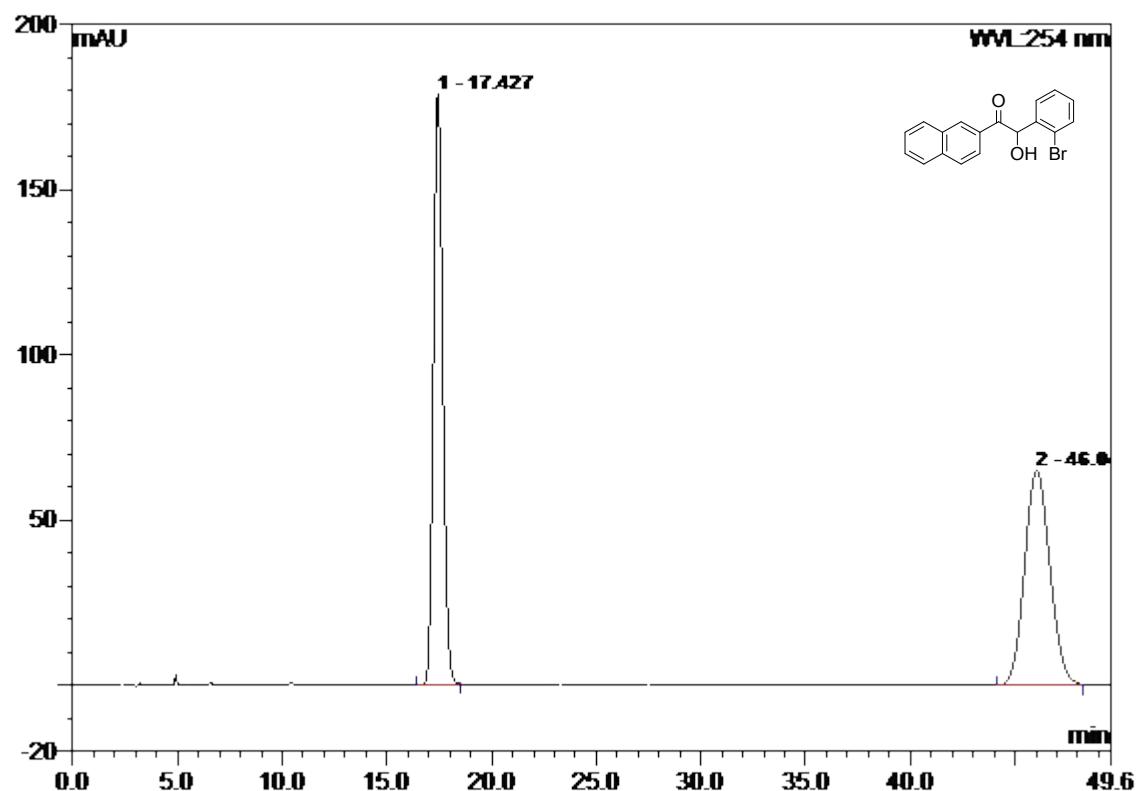


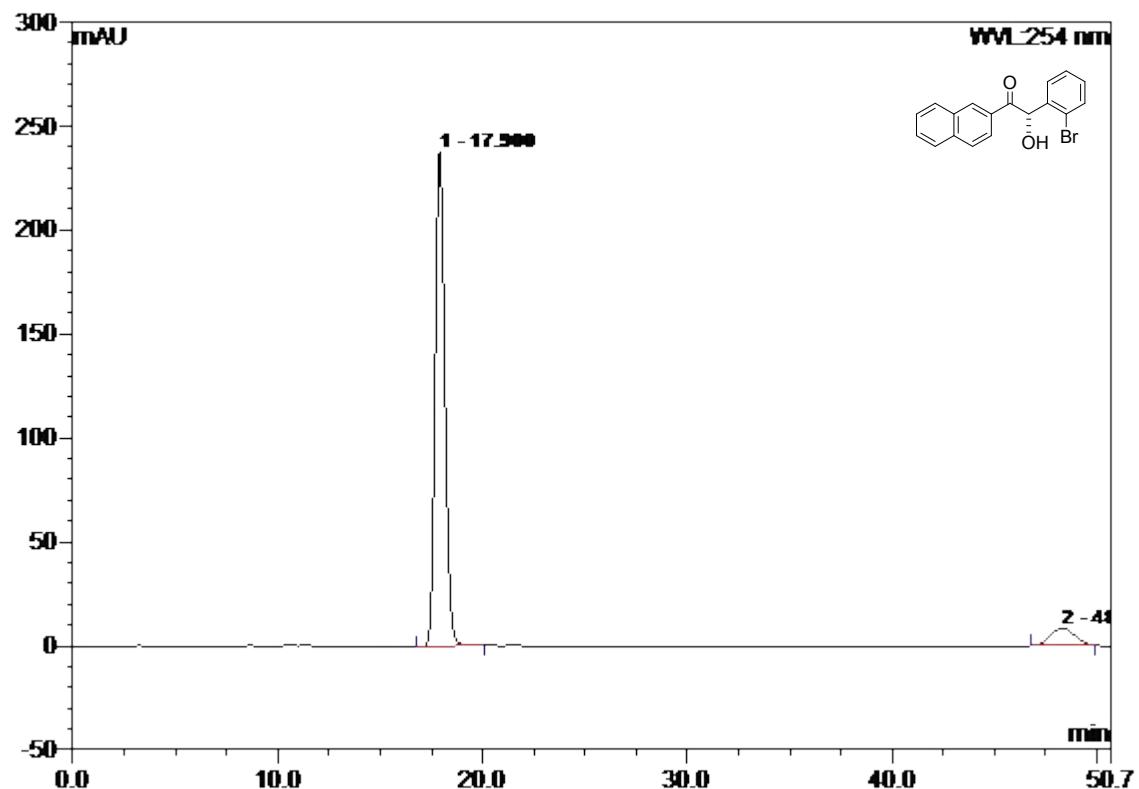
6 HPLC chromatograph data for cross-benzoin products

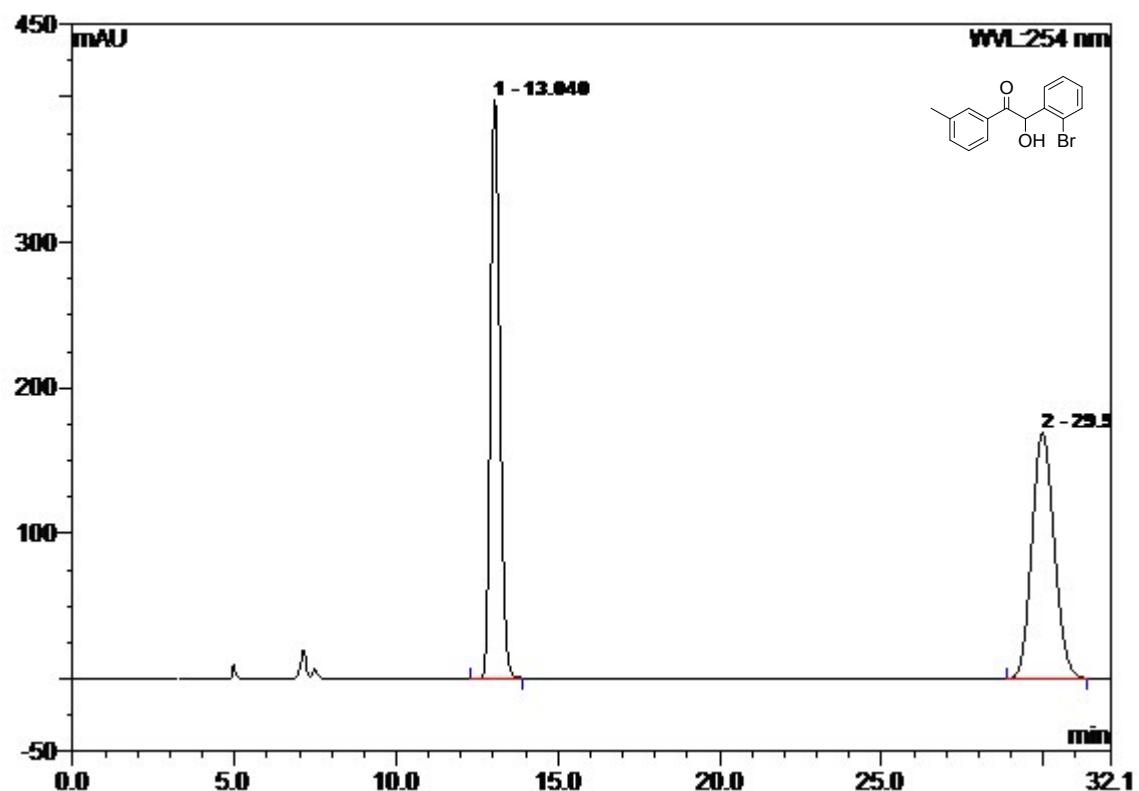


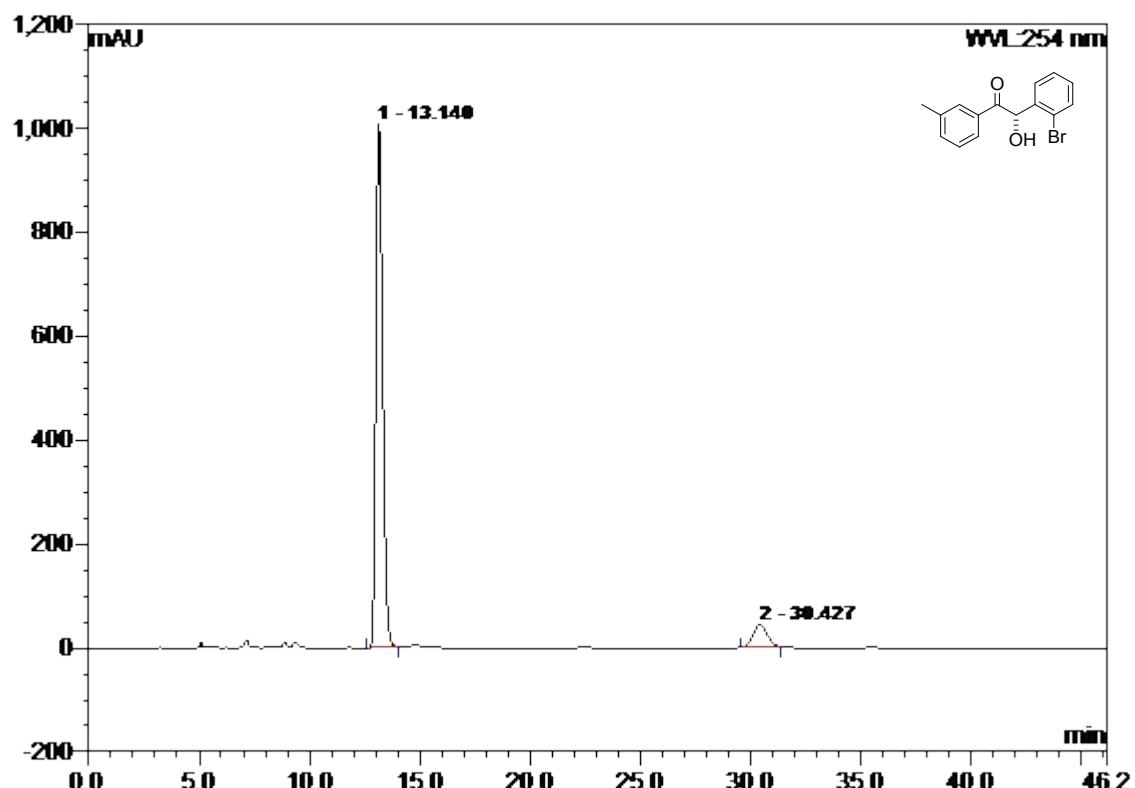
No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	14.45	S-enantiomer	109.137	46.092	50.27	n.a.	BMB*
2	37.13	R-enantiomer	44.446	45.606	49.73	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			153.582	91.698	100.00	0.000	

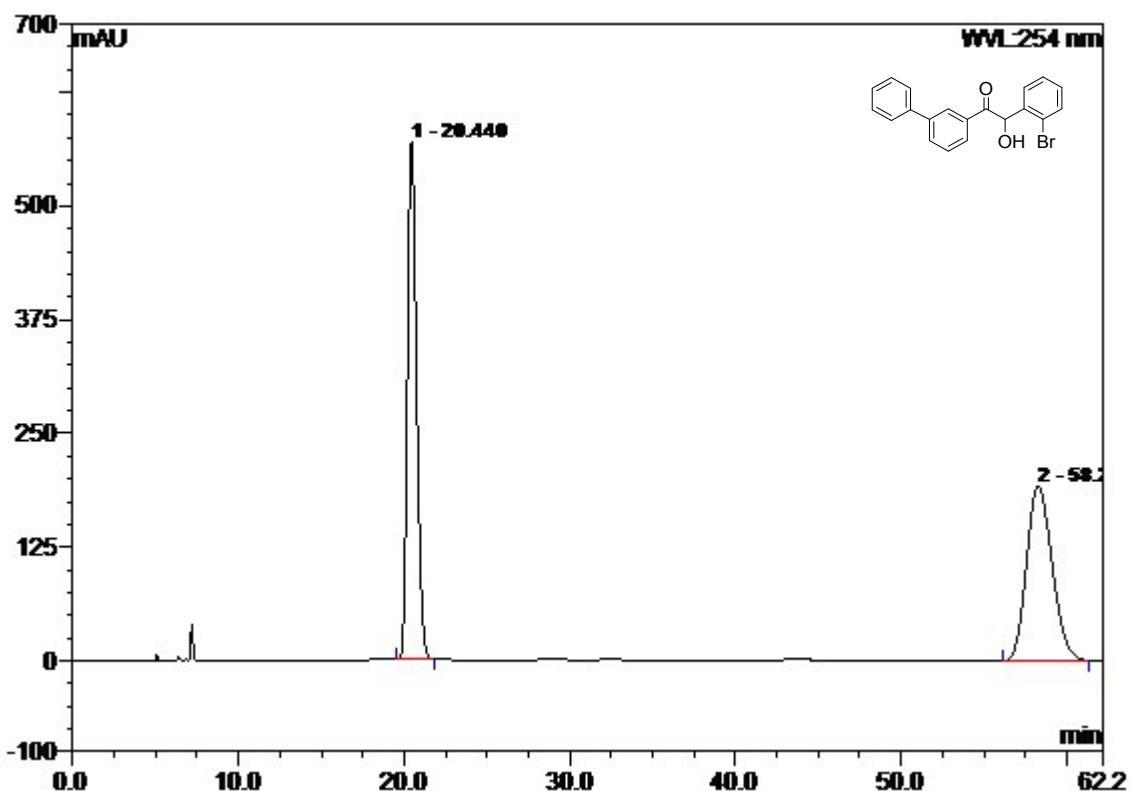


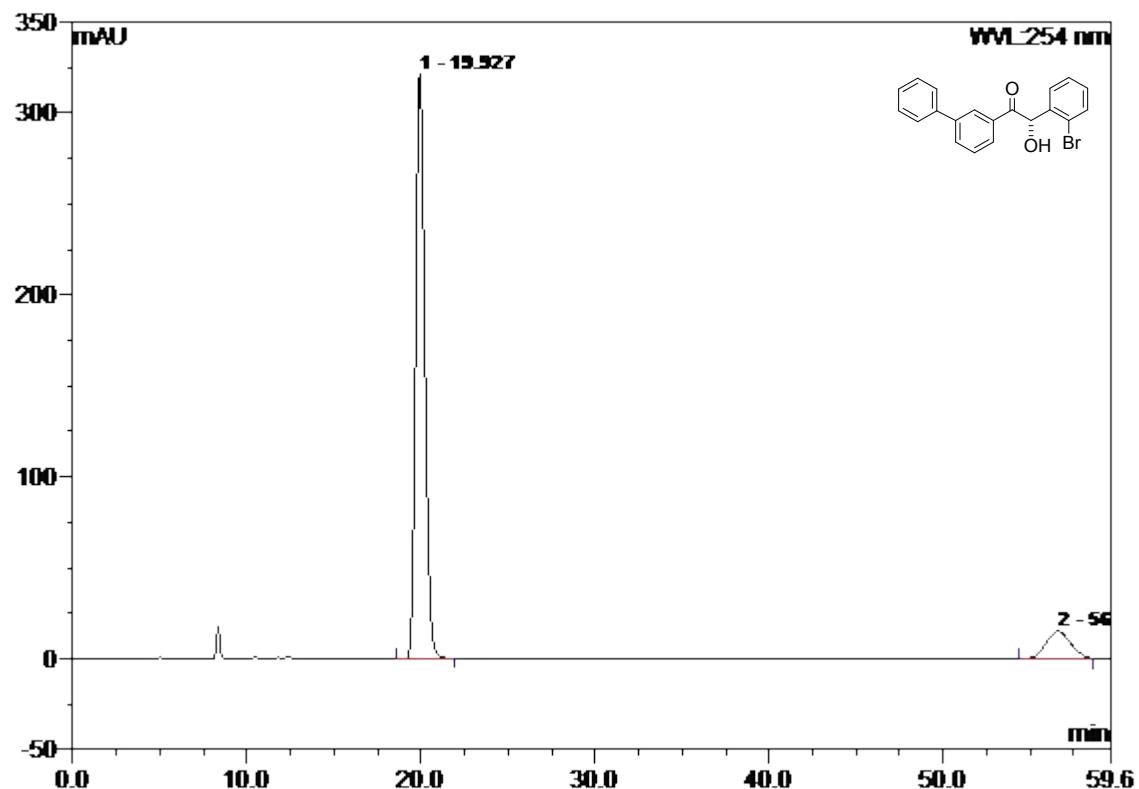


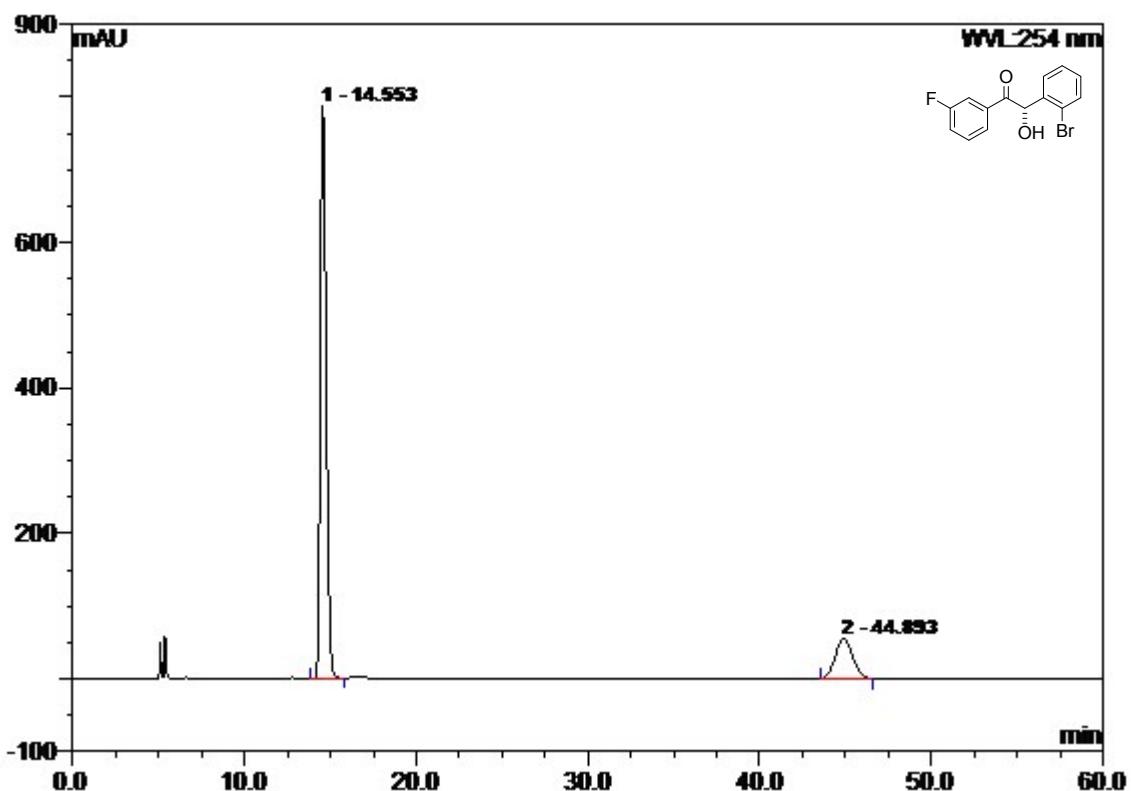


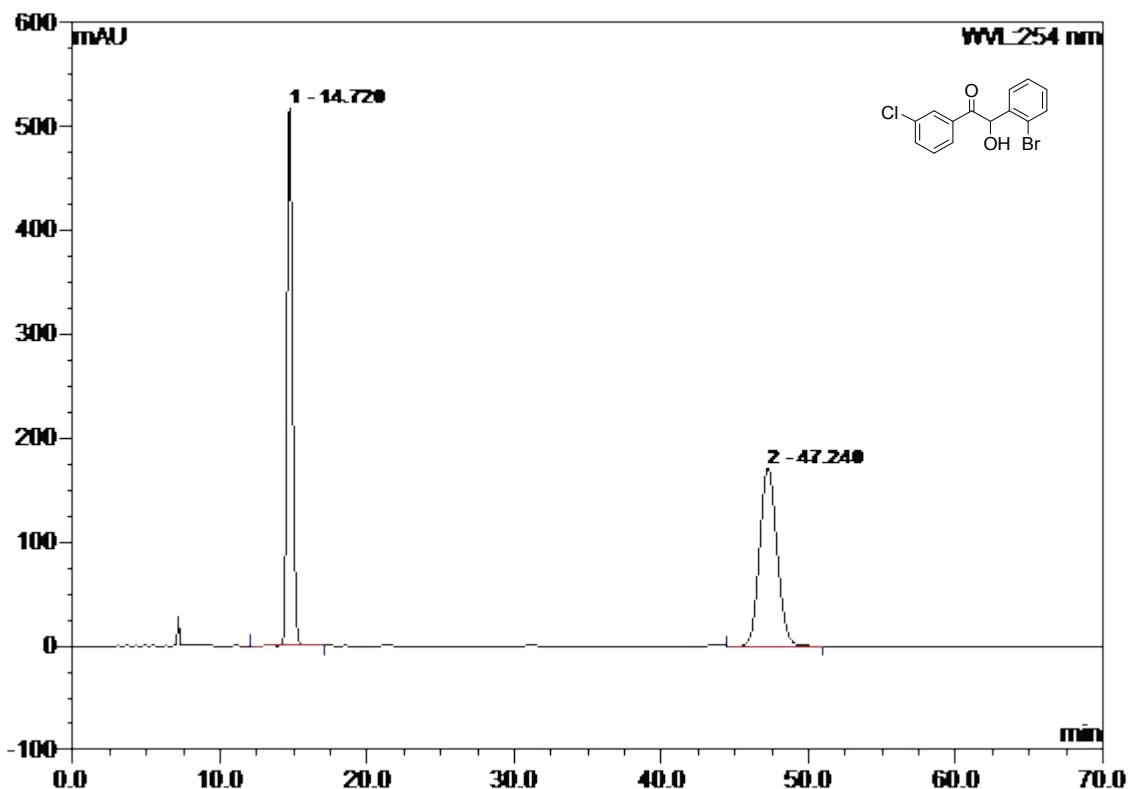


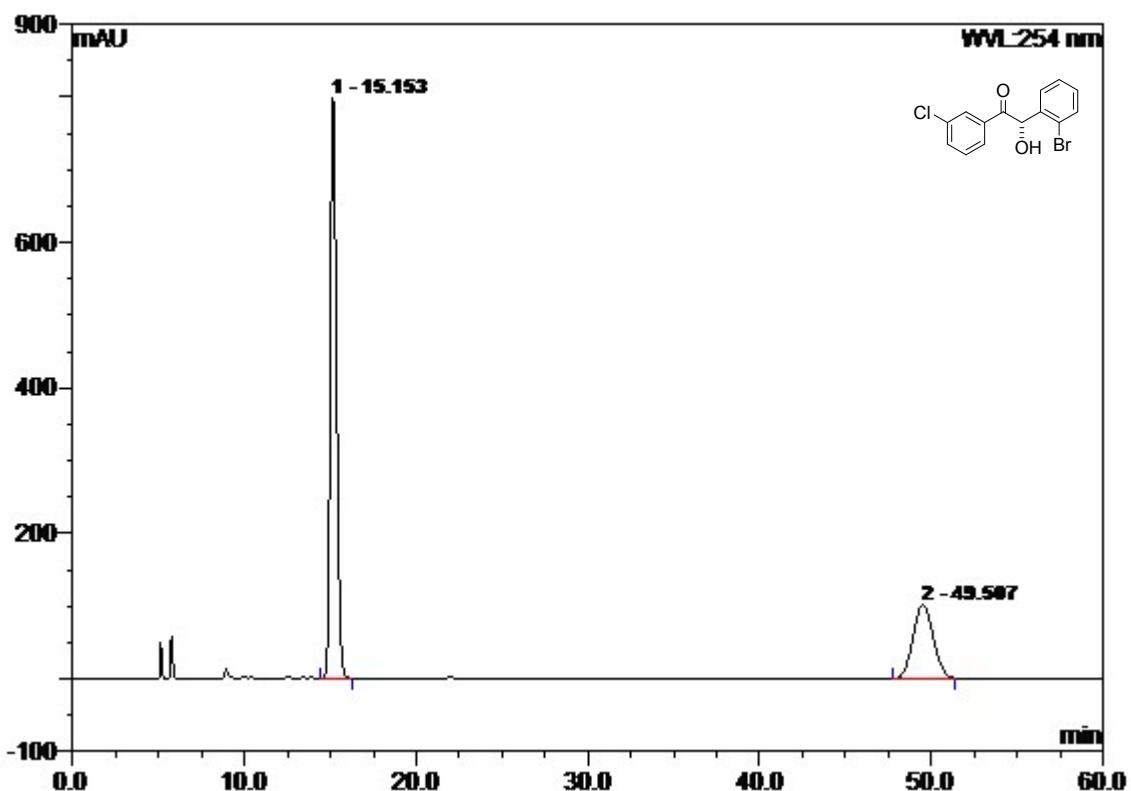


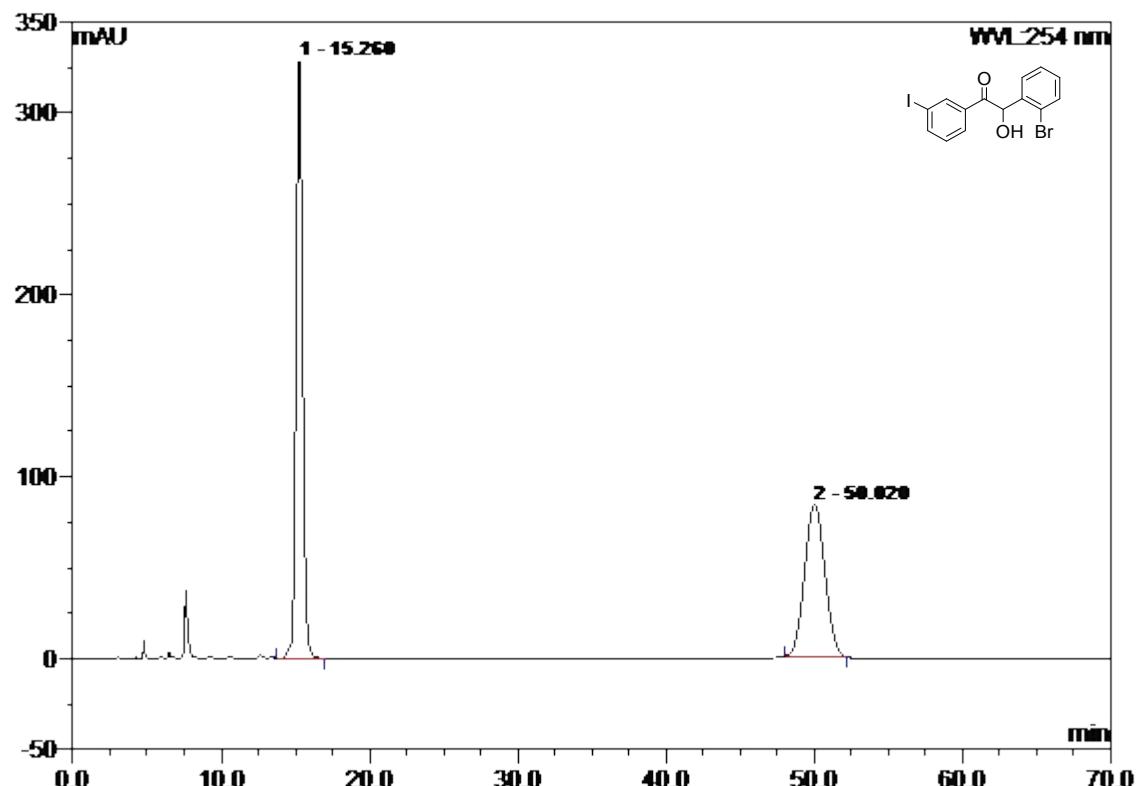




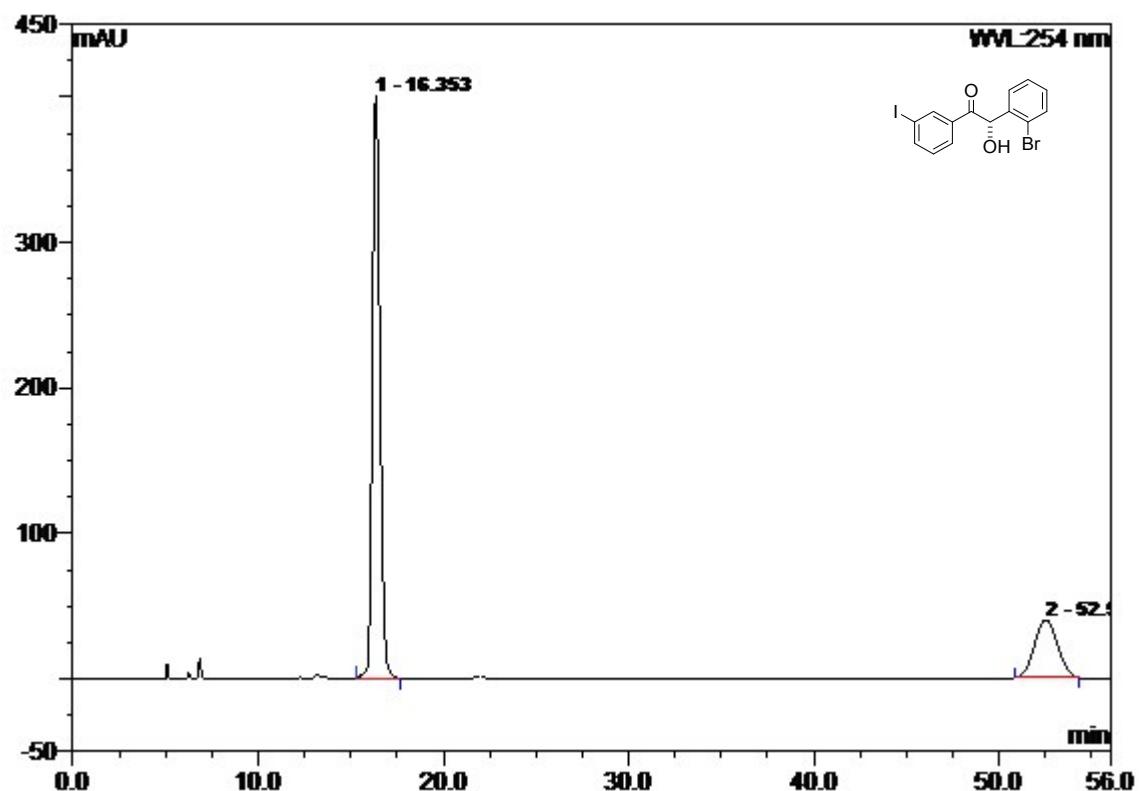


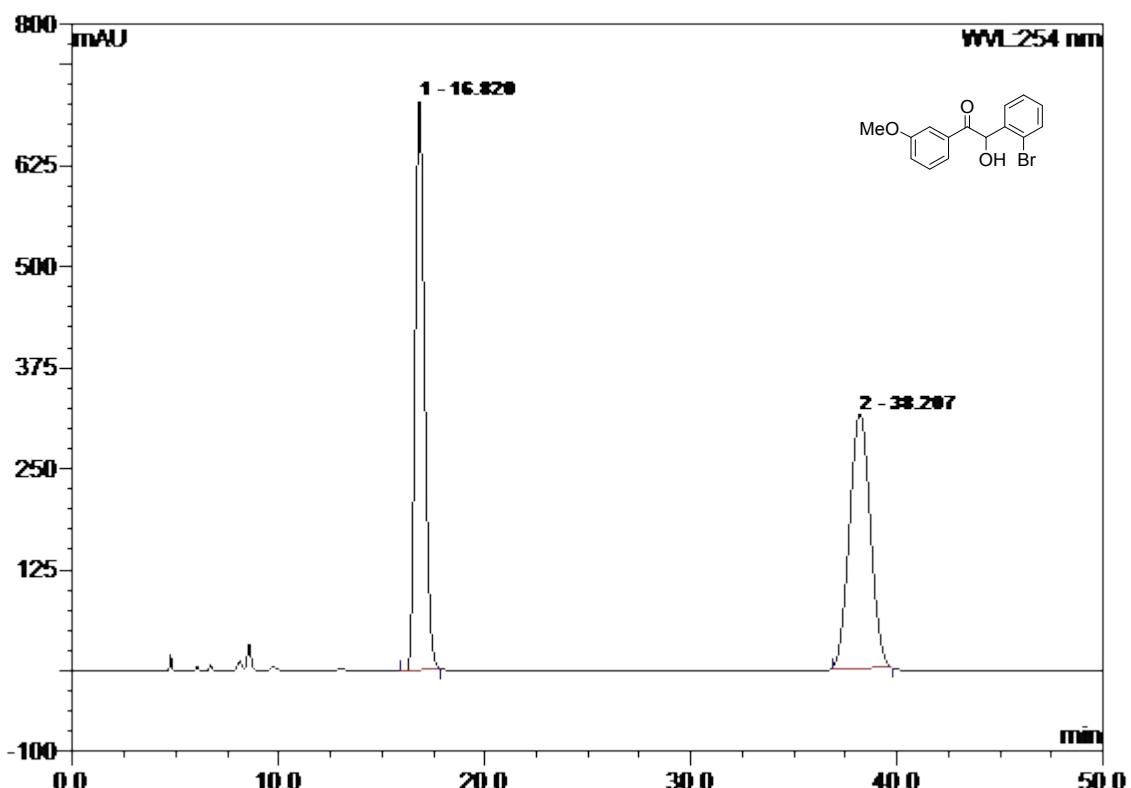




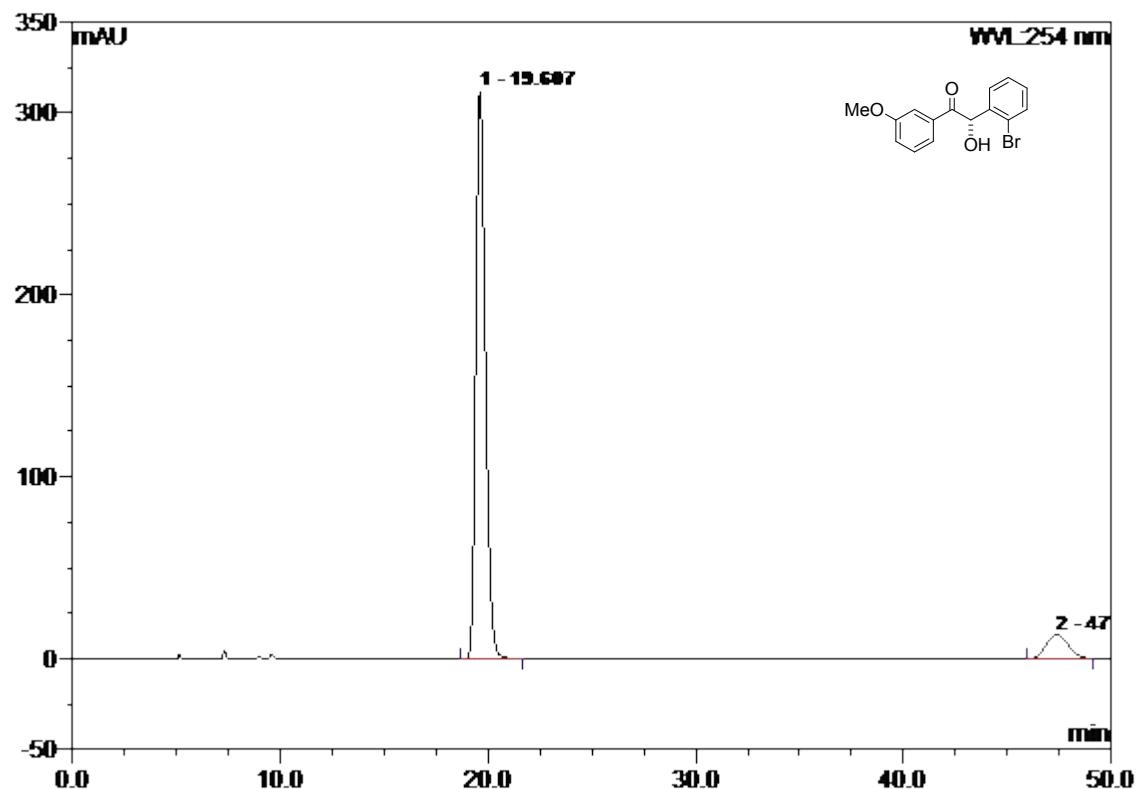


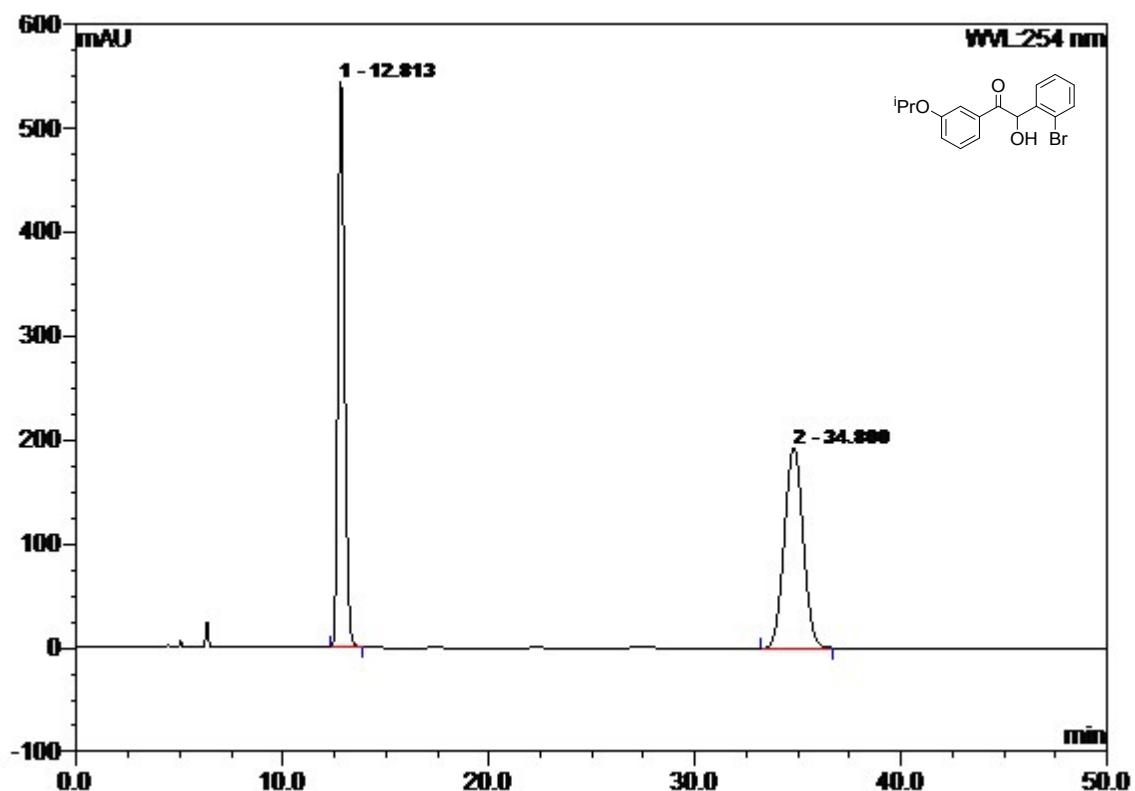
No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	15.26	Enantiomer 1	328.386	150.780	50.07	n.a.	BMB*
2	50.02	Enantiomer 2	83.329	150.337	49.93	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			411.716	301.117	100.00	0.000	



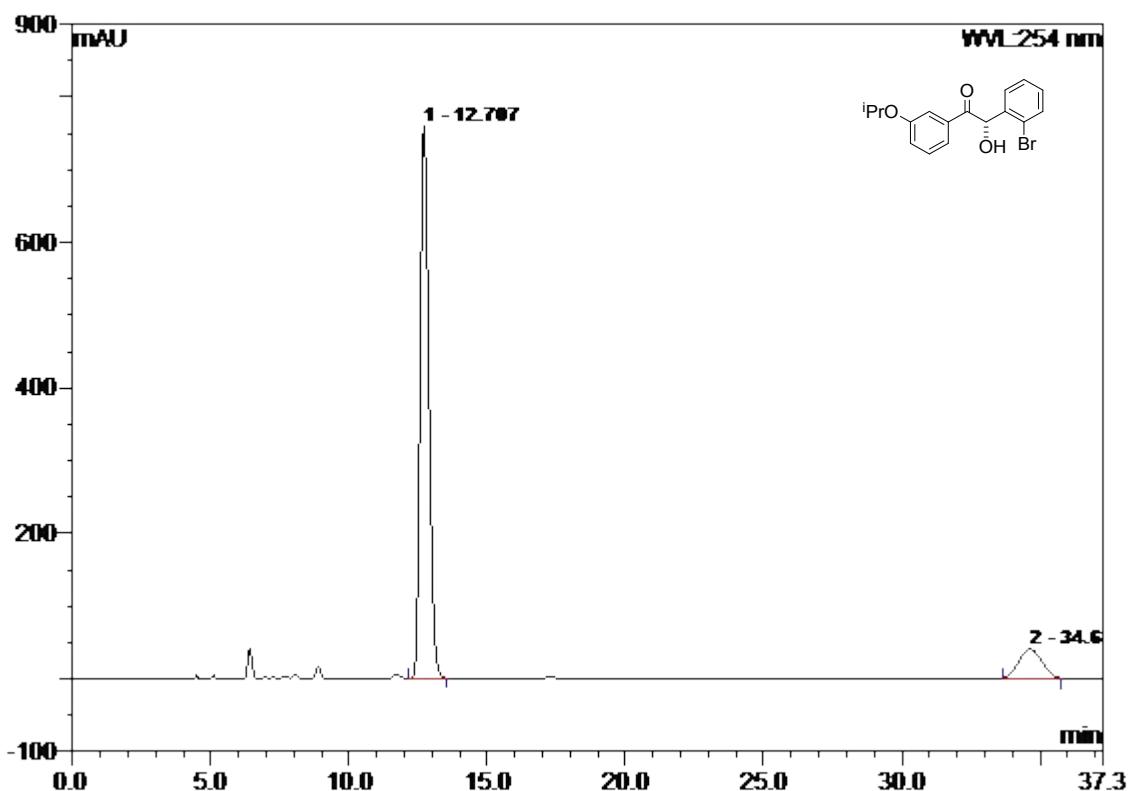


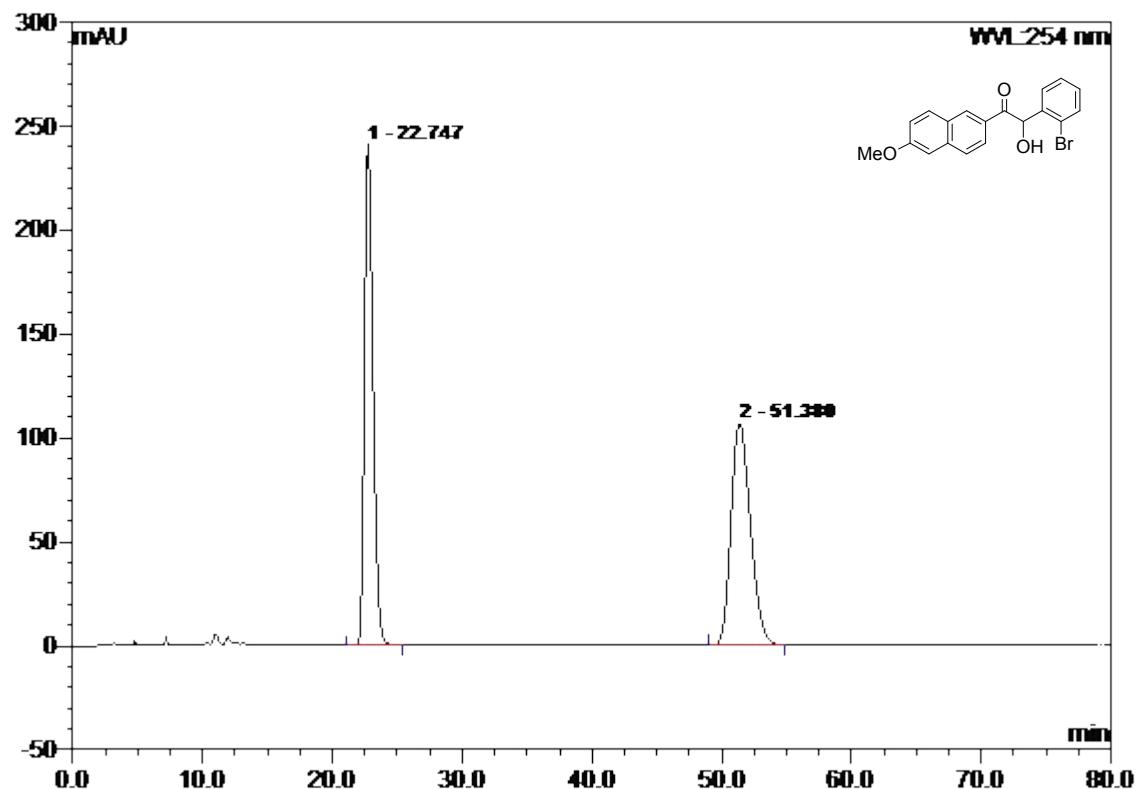
No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	16.82	Enantiomer 1	704.129	373.650	50.38	n.a.	BMB*
2	38.21	Enantiomer 2	313.999	368.015	49.62	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			1018.128	741.665	100.00	0.000	

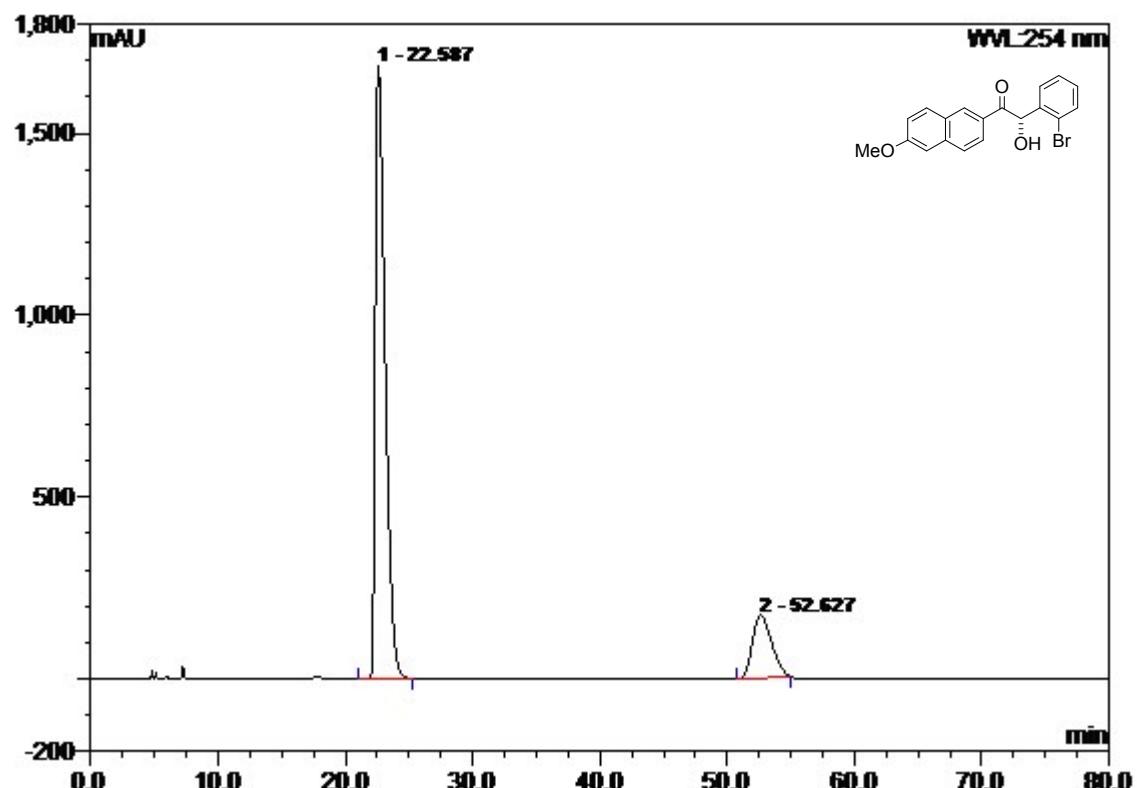


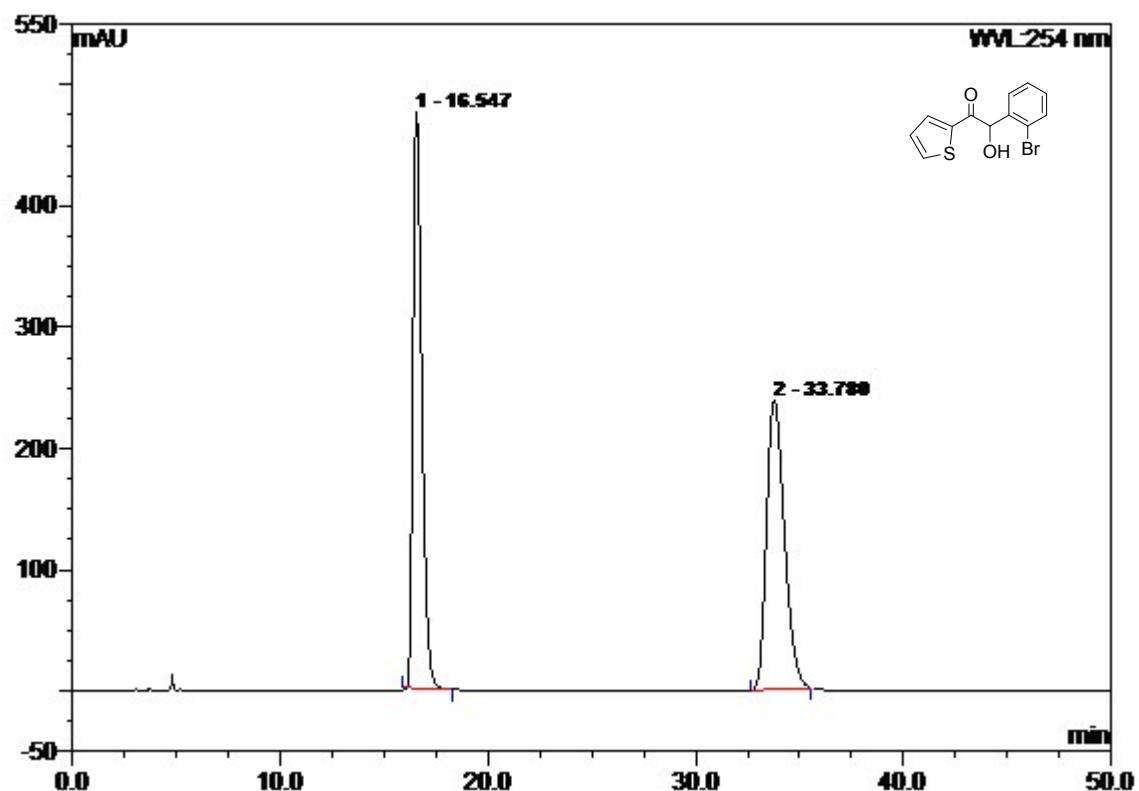


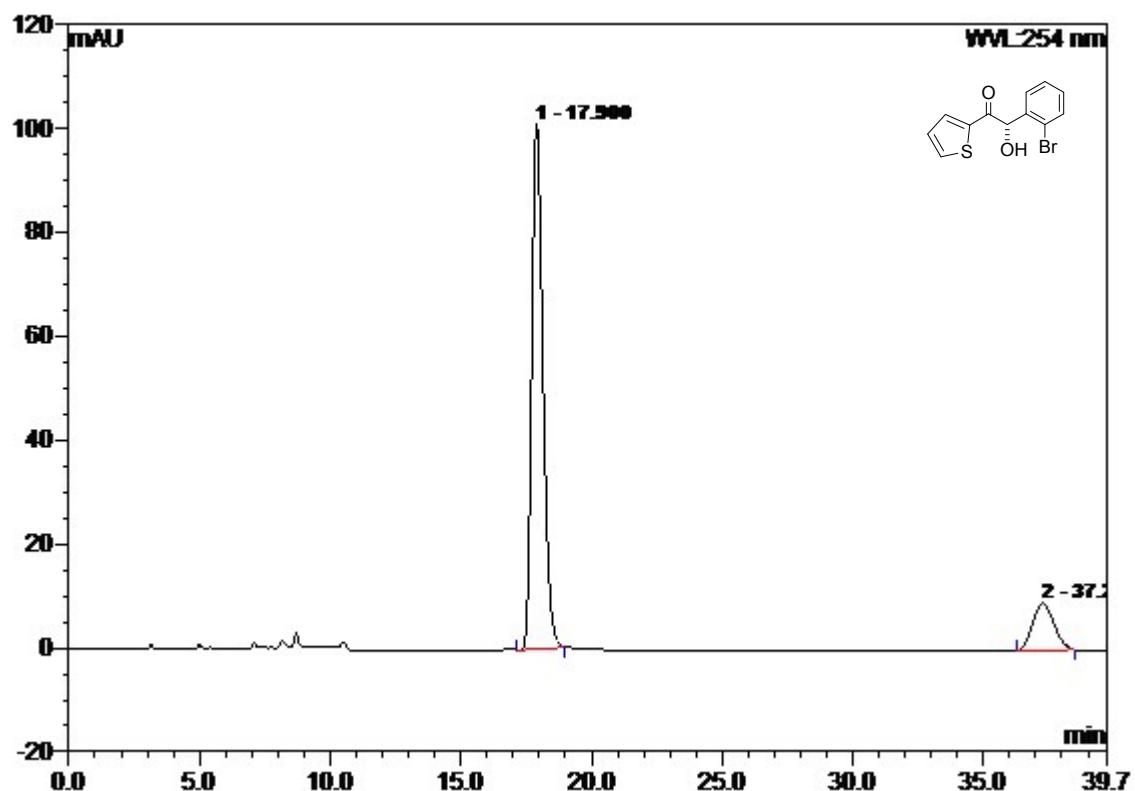
No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	12.81	Enantiomer 1	542.668	202.005	49.72	n.a.	BMB*
2	34.80	Enantiomer 2	192.900	204.309	50.28	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			735.568	406.315	100.00	0.000	

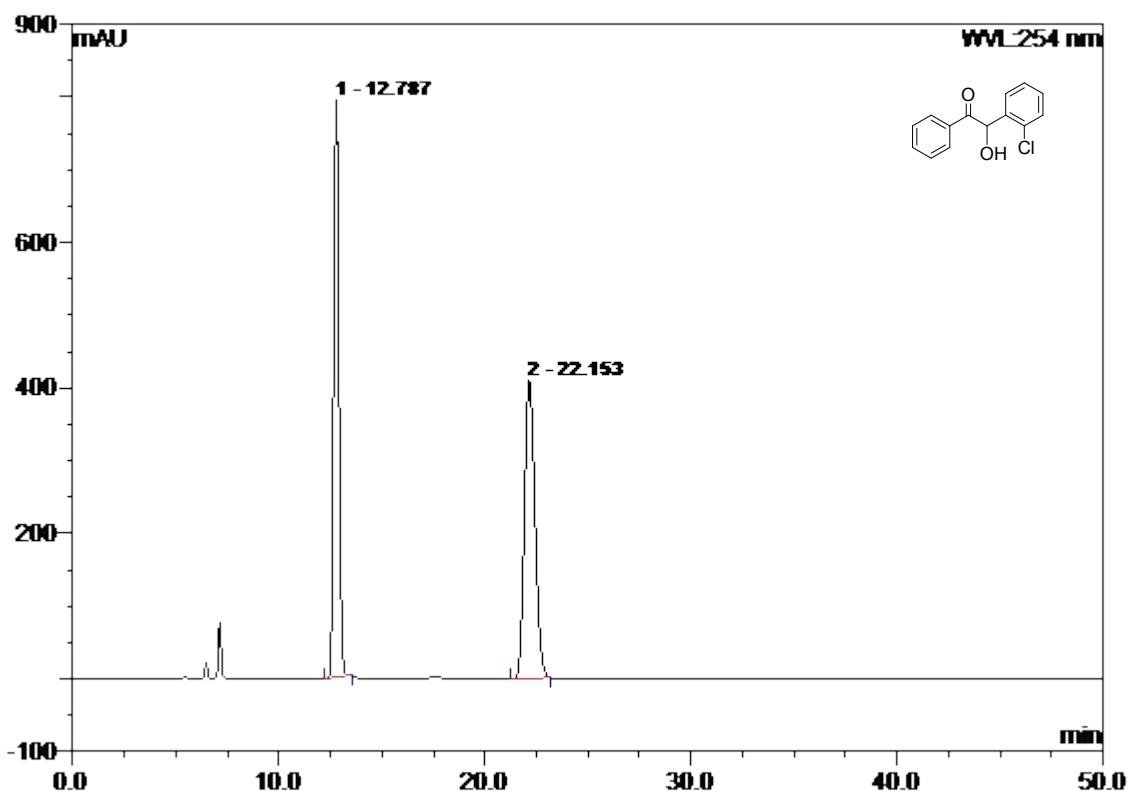




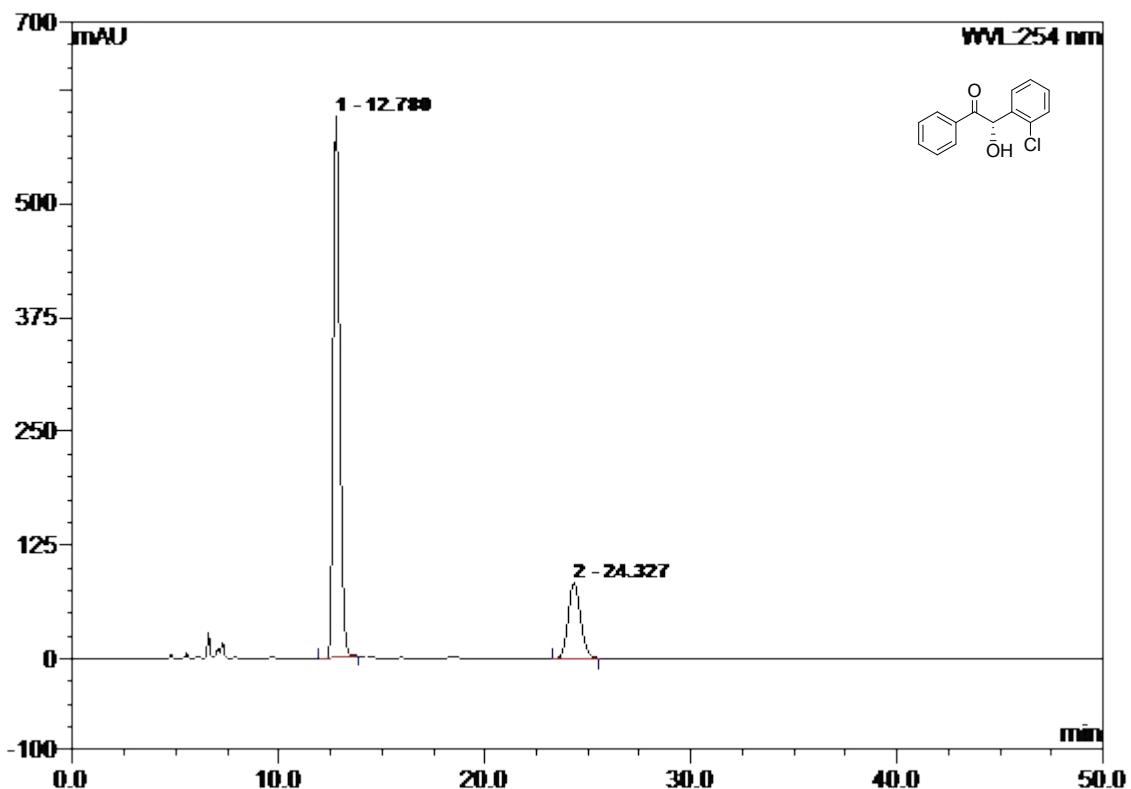


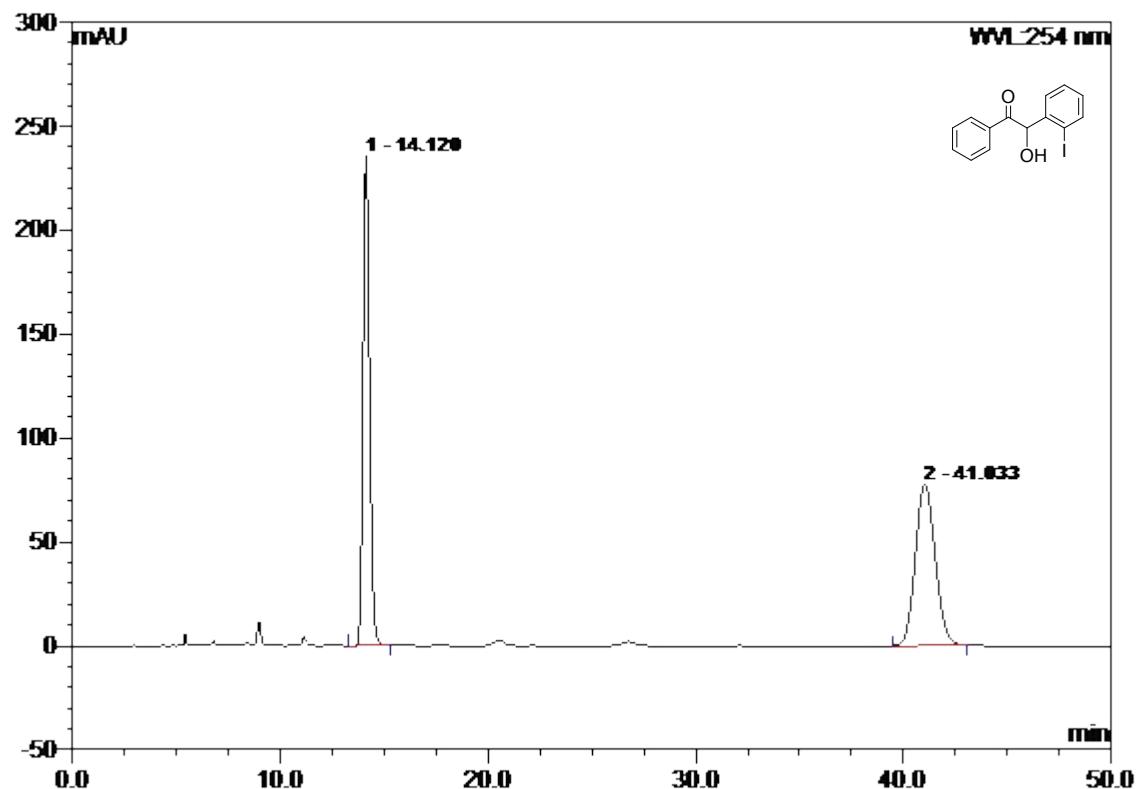


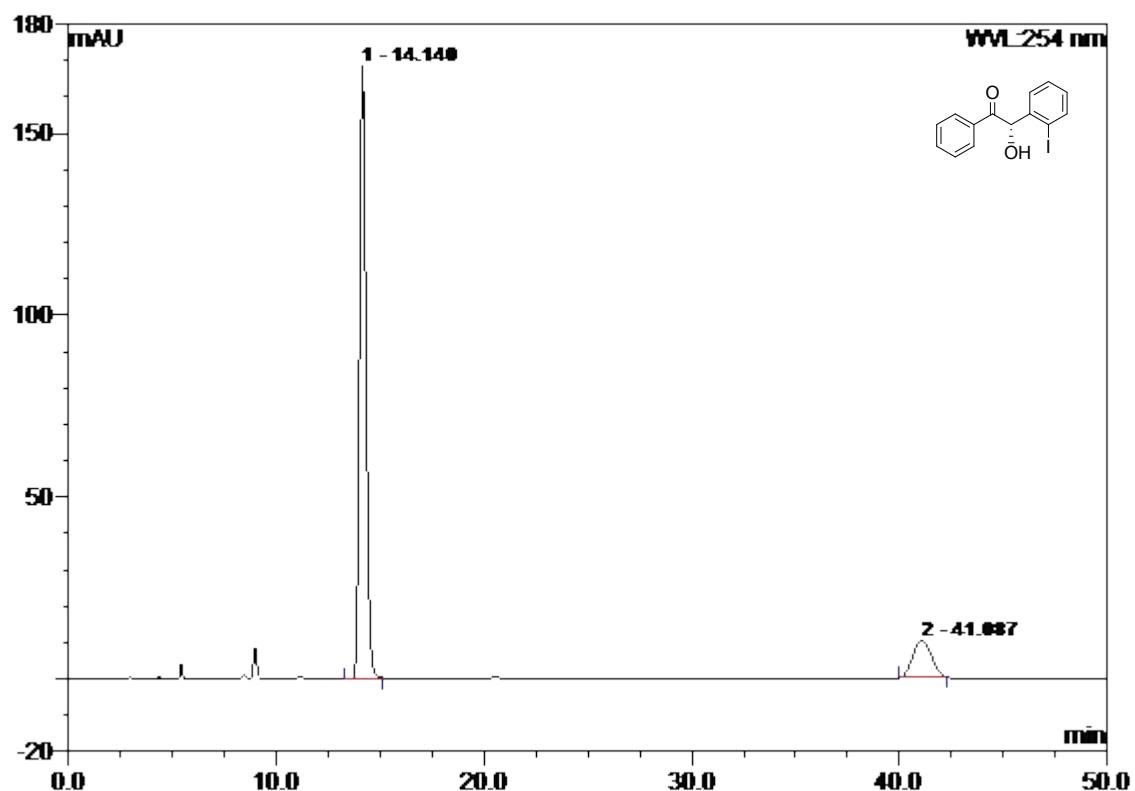


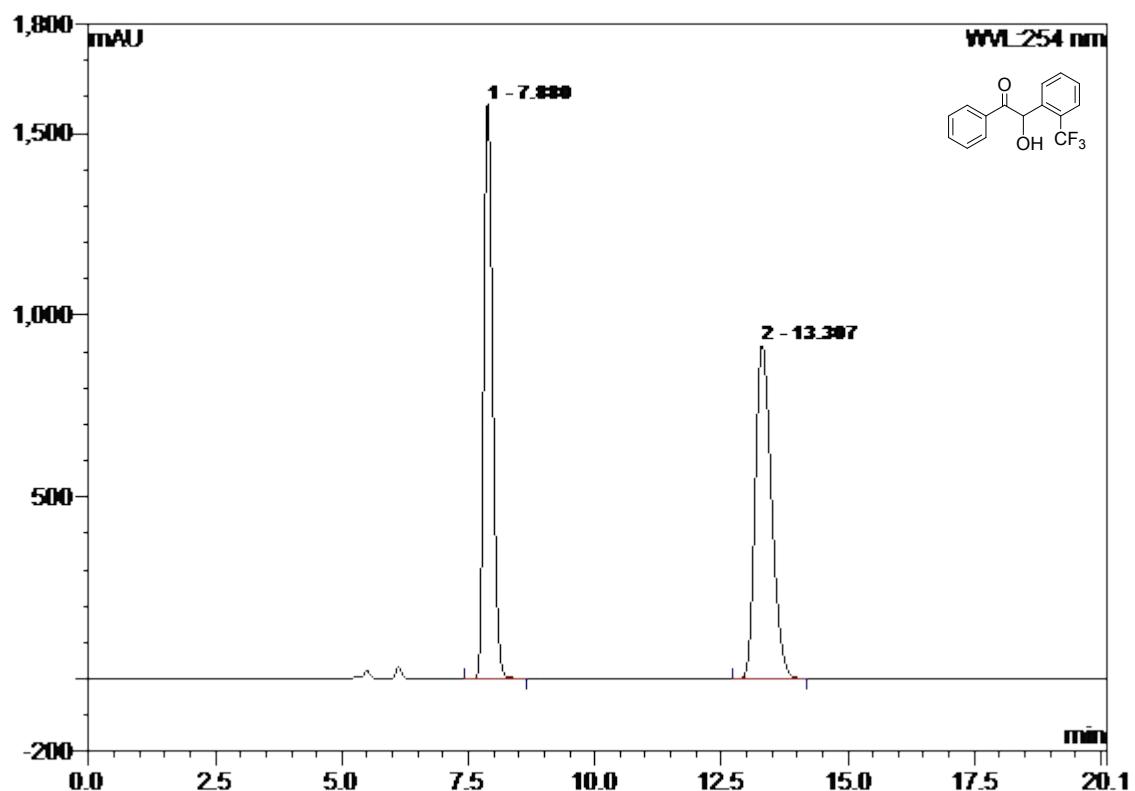


No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	12.79	S-enantiomer	793.490	236.600	49.38	n.a.	BMB*
2	22.15	R-enantiomer	409.227	242.499	50.62	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			1202.718	479.099	100.00	0.000	

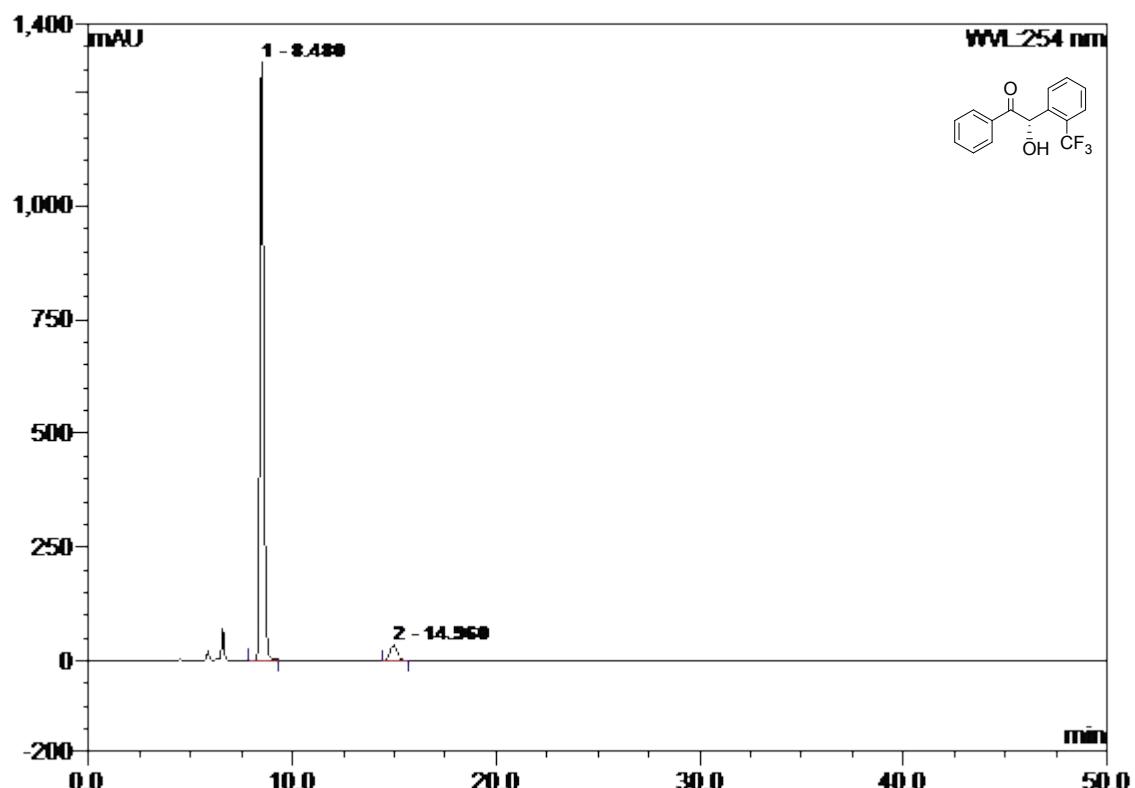




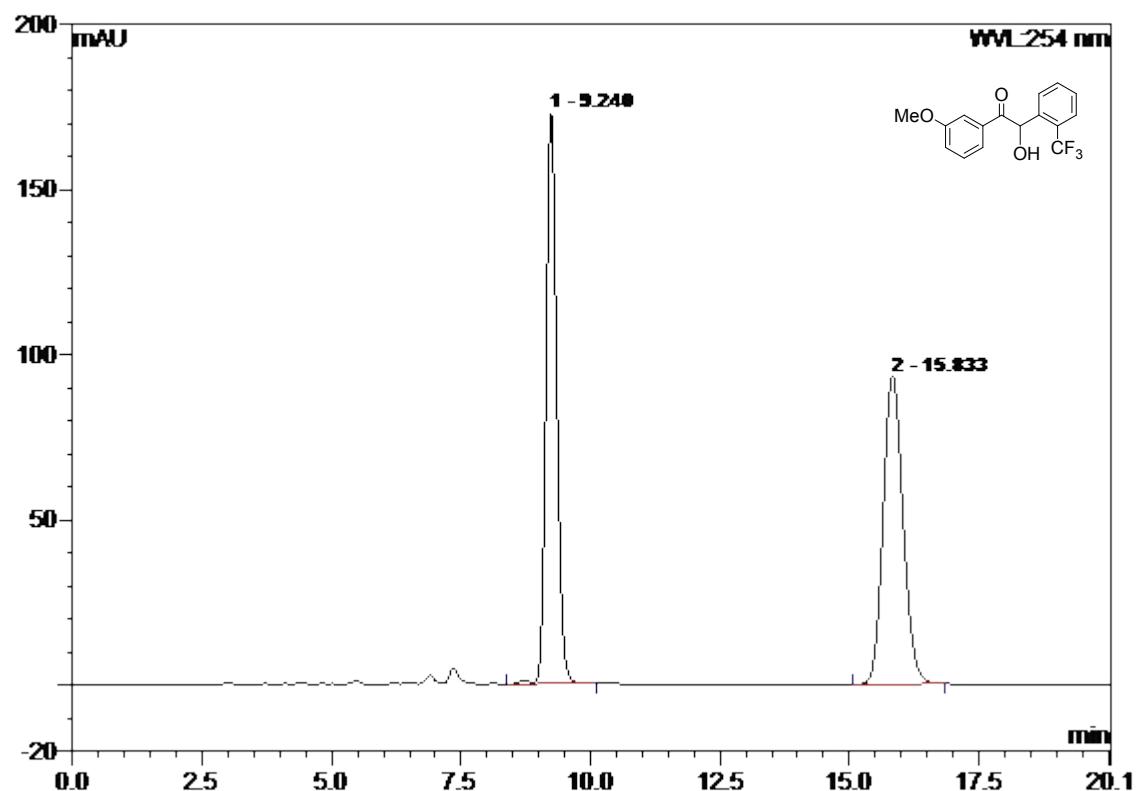


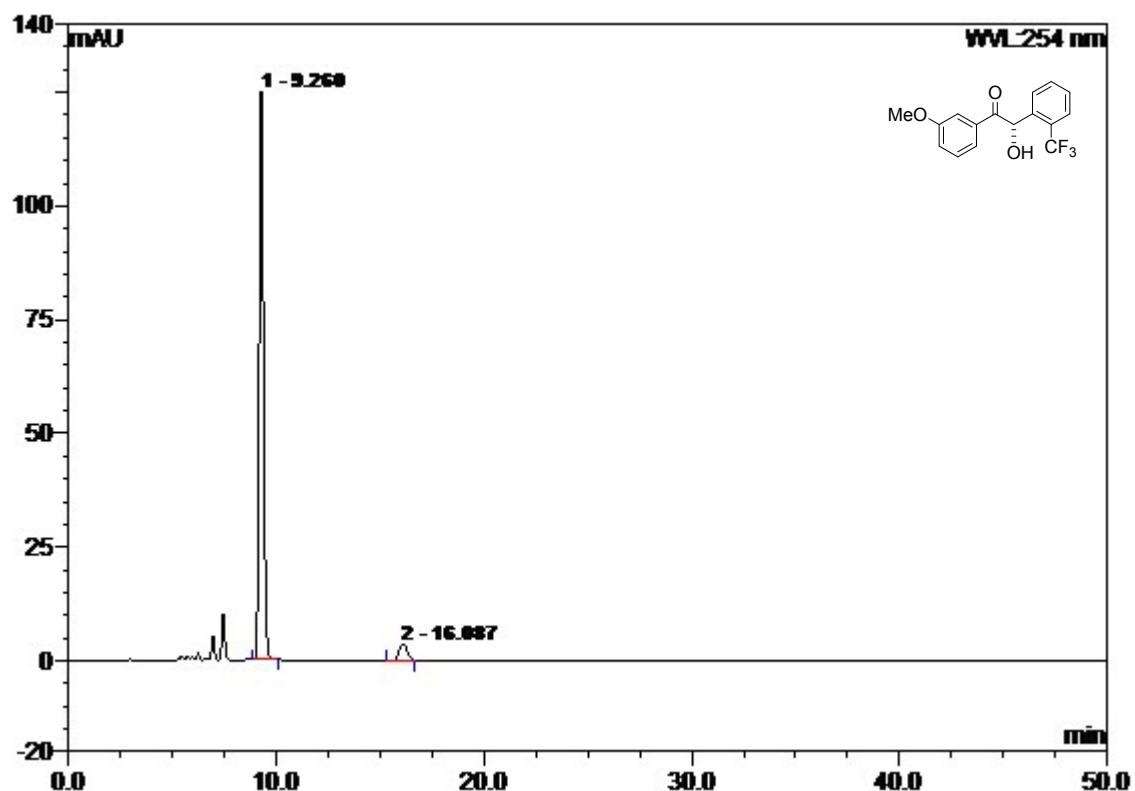


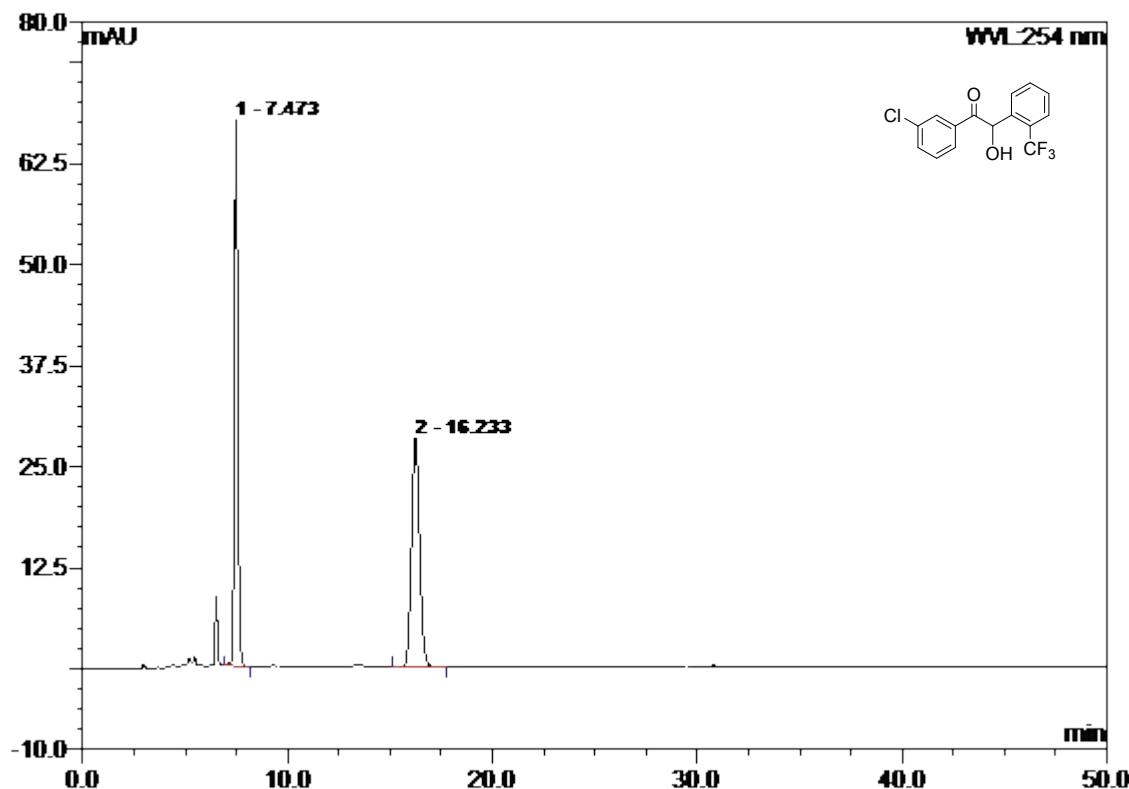
No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	7.88	Enantiomer 1	1581.174	323.235	48.50	n.a.	BMB*
2	13.31	Enantiomer 2	917.204	343.284	51.50	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			2498.378	666.519	100.00	0.000	

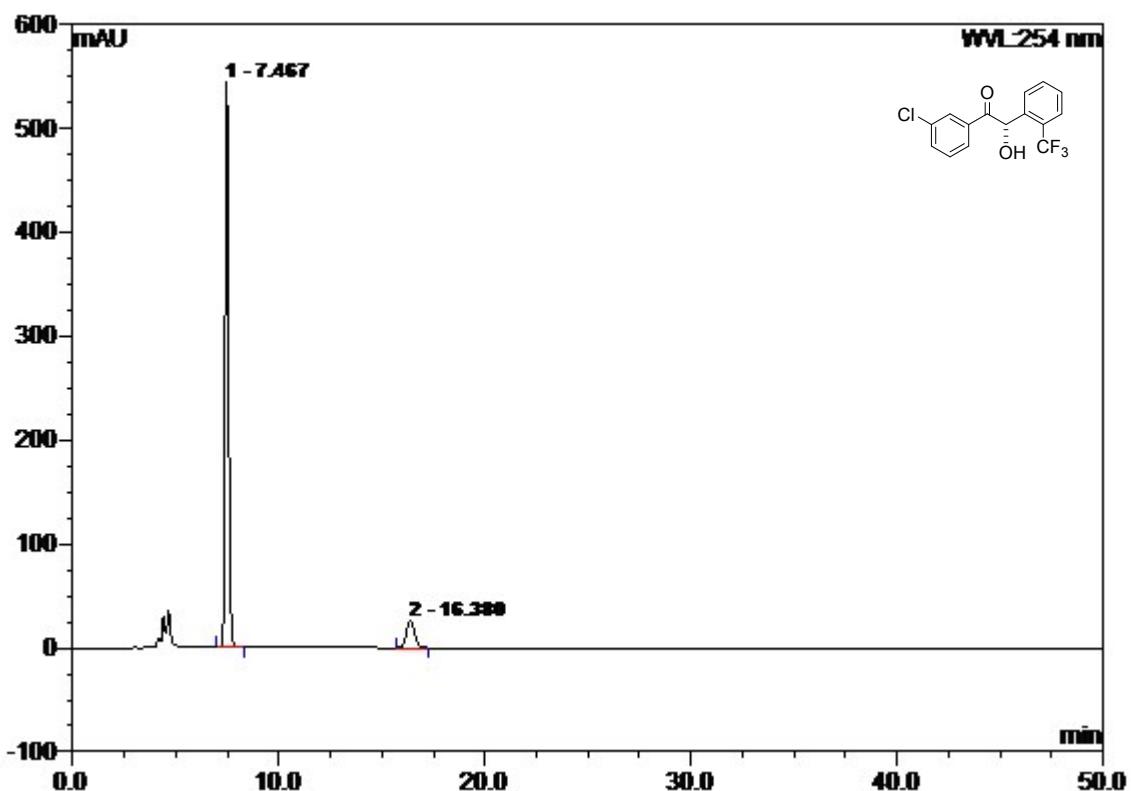


No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	8.48	Enantiomer 1	1316.225	289.638	96.02	n.a.	BMB*
2	14.96	Enantiomer 2	33.120	12.951	3.98	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			1349.345	301.643	100.00	0.000	

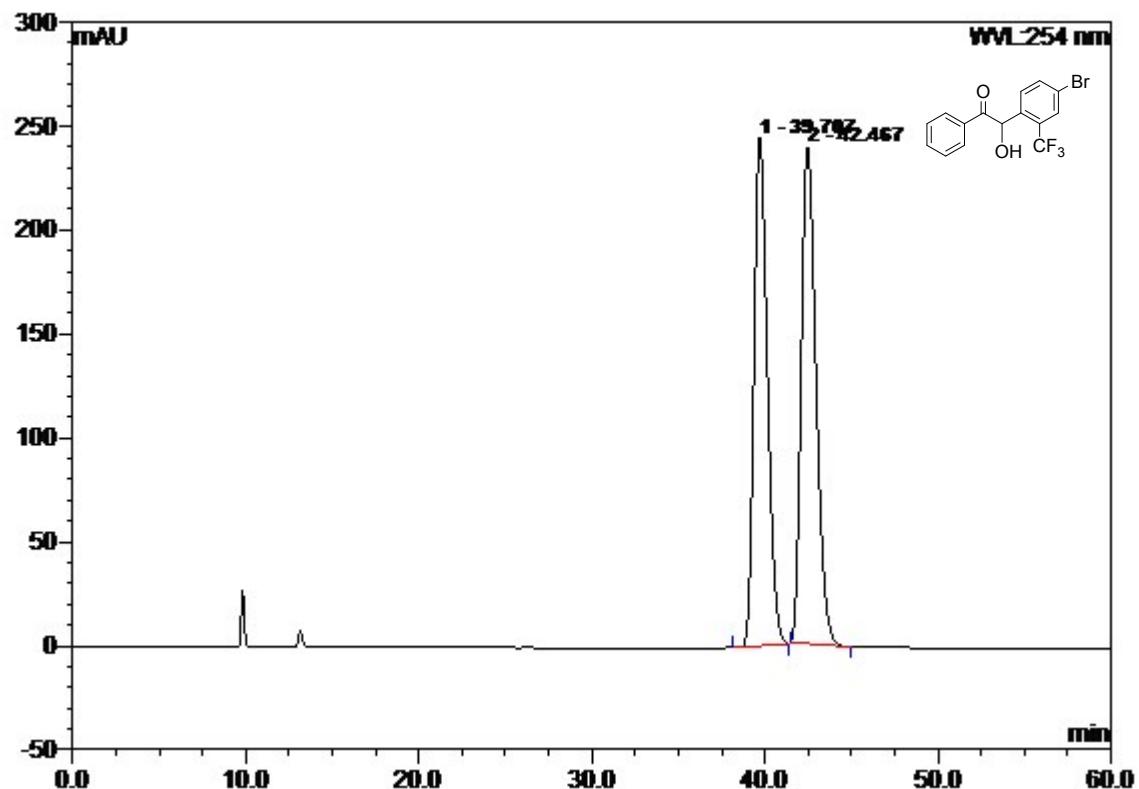








No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	7.47	Enantiomer 1	543.422	105.119	89.76	n.a.	BMB*
2	16.38	Enantiomer 2	26.008	11.988	10.24	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			569.430	117.106	100.00	0.000	



No.	Ret.Time min	Peak Name	Height mAU	Area mAU*min	Rel.Area %	Amount	Type
1	39.71	Enantiomer 1	244.481	218.882	48.11	n.a.	BMB*
2	42.47	Enantiomer 2	238.894	236.049	51.89	n.a.	BMB*
Total:			483.375	454.932	100.00	0.000	

