

Synthesis of α -Indolylacrylates as potential anti-cancer agents by Brønsted acid ionic liquid catalyst and butyl acetate solvent†

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1. Synthesis of ionic liquid **1a**¹

Brønsted acid IL **1a** was synthesized through the following three steps: (i) synthesis of **2a**: in 100 ml of around bottomed flask equipped with mechanical stirring, equal amount of divinyl sulfone **2a** (5.0 g, 42.3 mmol) was mixed with 1-(3-aminopropanyl)imidazole (5.2 g, 42.3 mmol) in 75 ml of methanol; the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h; then, volatile methanol was removed by a rotary evaporator; a yellow-pale oil was obtained, which is **2a**, in nearly quantitative yield. (ii) synthesis of **3a** via quaternization: **2a** (10.0 g, 41.1 mmol), 1,3-propanesulfonate (10.0 g, 82.3 mmol), and acetonitrile (75 ml) were mixed in a 250 ml of around bottomed flask equipped with mechanical stirring; the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h; a yellow solid was generated; then the solvent was decanted out; the yellow solid was filtrated, and washed with acetone (5.0 ml \times 3); **3a** can be obtained as white solid; then, the white solid was dried at 60 °C under vacuum (20 mmHg) for 4 h; and (iii) acidification: **3a** (10.0 g, 20.5 mmol) was mixed with triflic acid (3.1 g, 20.5 mmol) in 25 mL of around bottomed flask; to facilitate the reaction, a small amount of water (0.25 ml) was also added in this step. Then, the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. The generated ionic liquid was washed with ethyl acetate (5.0 ml \times 3) and diethyl ether (5.0 ml \times 3); then, water and volatile solvents were removed under reduced pressure; finally, **1a** was obtained as a yellow-pale viscous liquid. Through all these three-step reactions, the ionic liquid **1a** can be synthesized in 88% yield.

2. Synthesis of Forbes's ionic liquid **1b**²

1-Methylimidazole (8.2 g, 0.1 mol) is stirred under solvent-free conditions with 1,3-propanesultone (12.2 g, 0.1 mol) at 50 oC for 6 hours. After reaction, the obtained viscous liquid was washed with ethyl acetate (10 ml \times 3) and then dried under vacuum (10 mmHg) for 2 hours. With this procedure, 3-(1-methyl-3-imidazolio)propanesulfonate was obtained in 97 % of yield (mp. = 215-216 oC). In a 100 ml of round bottomed flask equipped with mechanical stirring, 3-(1-methyl-3-imidazolio)propanesulfonate (10.2 g, 50 mmol) was mixed with trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (7.5 g, 50 mmol). The mixture was then heated at 80 °C for 6 hours under stirring. Then, the generated viscous liquid washed with ethyl acetate (10 ml \times 3). After 6 hours of drying at 60 °C under vacuum (20 mmHg), Forbes's IL **1b** was obtained as a brown viscous liquid (16.8 g, 95 %).

3. Synthesis of ionic liquid **1c**³

In 250 ml of round bottomed flask equipped with mechanical stirring, divinyl sulfone **2c** (11.8 g, 0.10 mol) was mixed with n-butylamine (7.3 g, 0.10 mol) in methanol (150 ml). The mixture was then stirred at 60 °C for 5 hours. Methanol was removed by a rotary evaporator under vacuum, and **3c** was obtained as a color-less oil quantitatively. The obtained **3c** was then mixed with 1,3-propane sultone (13.4 g, 0.11 mol) in acetonitrile (150 ml). The solution was refluxed for 5 hours. Then, the generated white solid was filtrated, and washed with acetone (10 ml \times 3). After 6 hours of drying at 60 °C under vacuum (20 mmHg), **4c** was obtained as a white powder (23.1 g, 74 %). In a 100 ml of round bottomed flask, **4c** (15.6 g, 50 mmol) was mixed with trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (7.5 g, 50 mmol). Then, the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 8 hours. In order to facilitate the stirring, water (1.0 ml) was added into the system. The formed liquid was washed with ethyl acetate (15 ml \times 3) and diethyl ether (15 ml \times 3). After that, it was dried at 80 °C under vacuum (10 mmHg) for 4 hours. Finally, IL **1c** was obtained as a viscous brown oil (22.2g, 96 %).

4. Figure S1: X-ray Single Crystal Data for **5a**

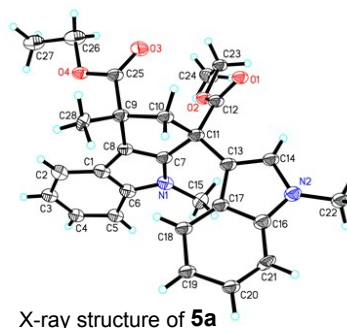
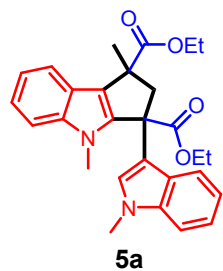


Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 5a.

Identification code	exp_1776
Empirical formula	C ₂₈ H ₃₀ N ₂ O ₄
Formula weight	458.54
Temperature/K	100.01(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁
a/Å	16.179(2)
b/Å	8.8178(15)
c/Å	17.233(2)
α/°	90
β/°	103.819(13)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	2387.3(6)
Z	2
ρ _{calc} /cm ³	0.638
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.043
F(000)	488.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.13 × 0.12 × 0.11
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)
2θ range for data collection/°	4.868 to 49.98

Index ranges	-15 ≤ h ≤ 19, -8 ≤ k ≤ 10, -20 ≤ l ≤ 20
Reflections collected	11382
Independent reflections	7256 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0473$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0860$]
Data/restraints/parameters	7256/109/174
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.070
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0732$, $wR_2 = 0.1990$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0787$, $wR_2 = 0.2059$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$	0.51/-0.47
Flack parameter	-0.2(9)

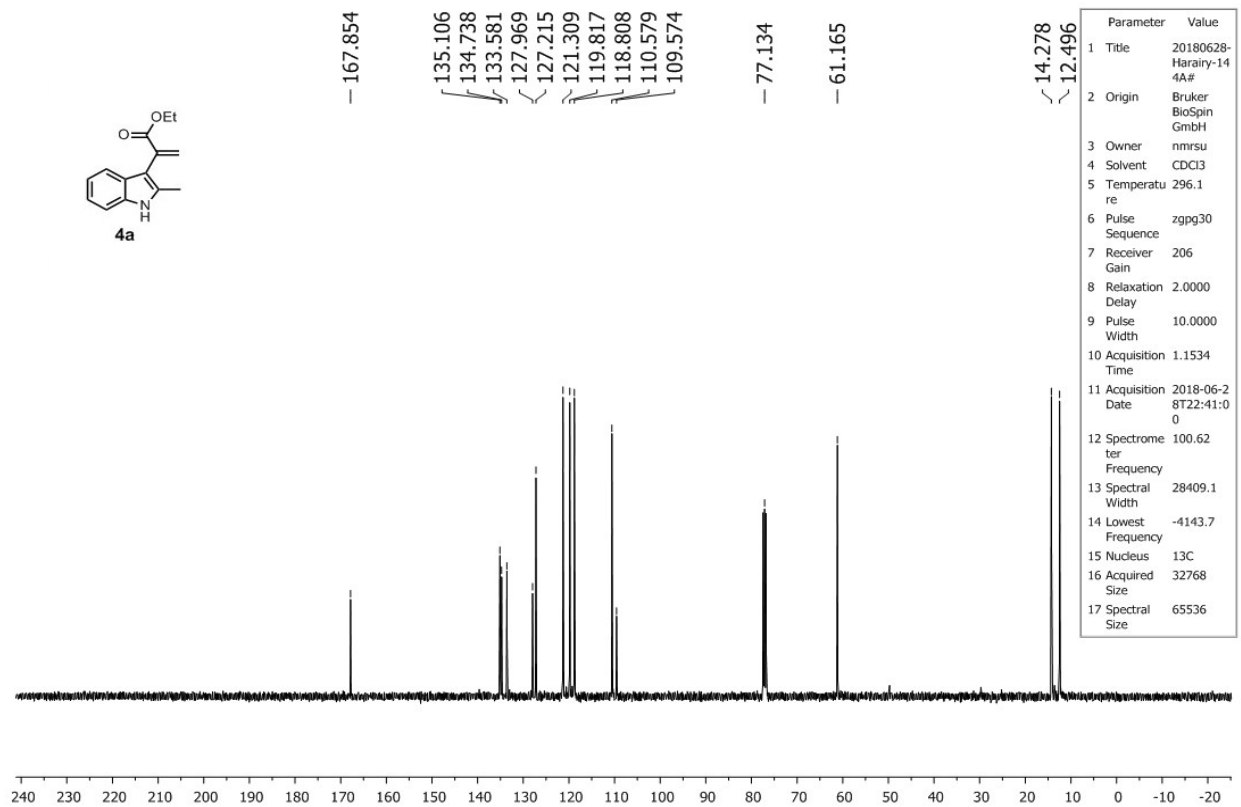
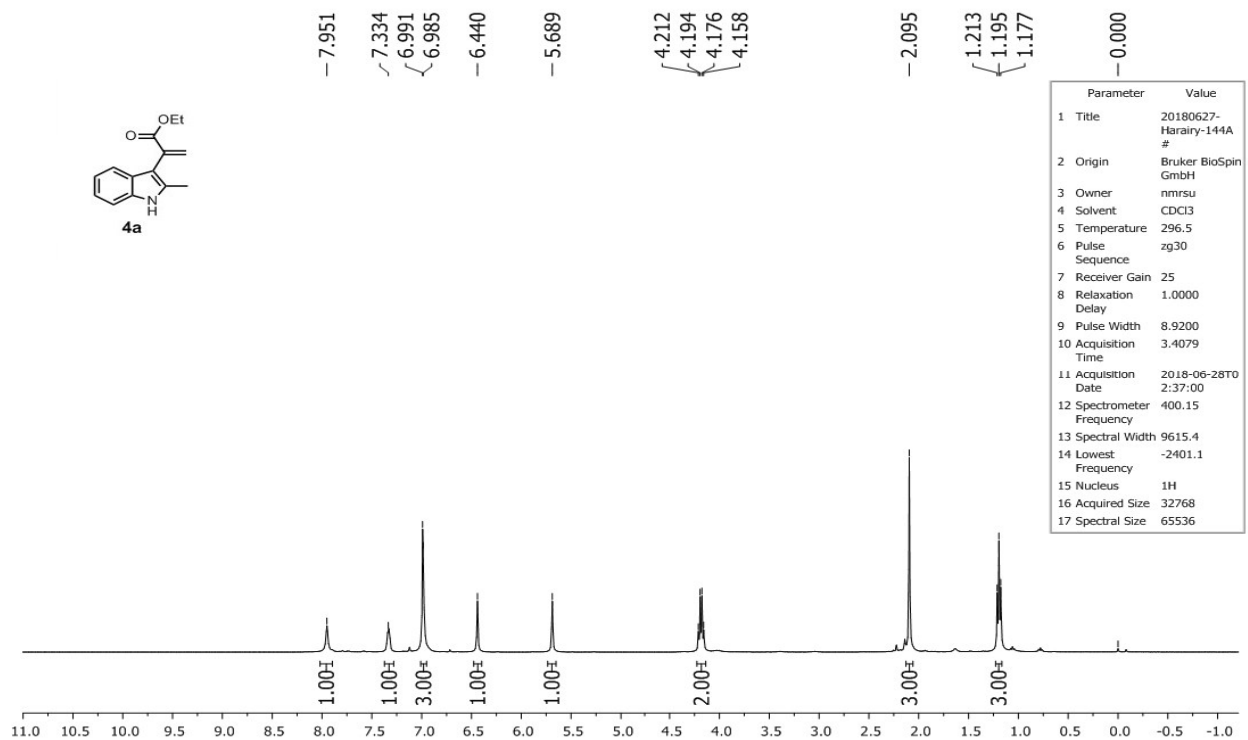
Crystal structure determination of 5a

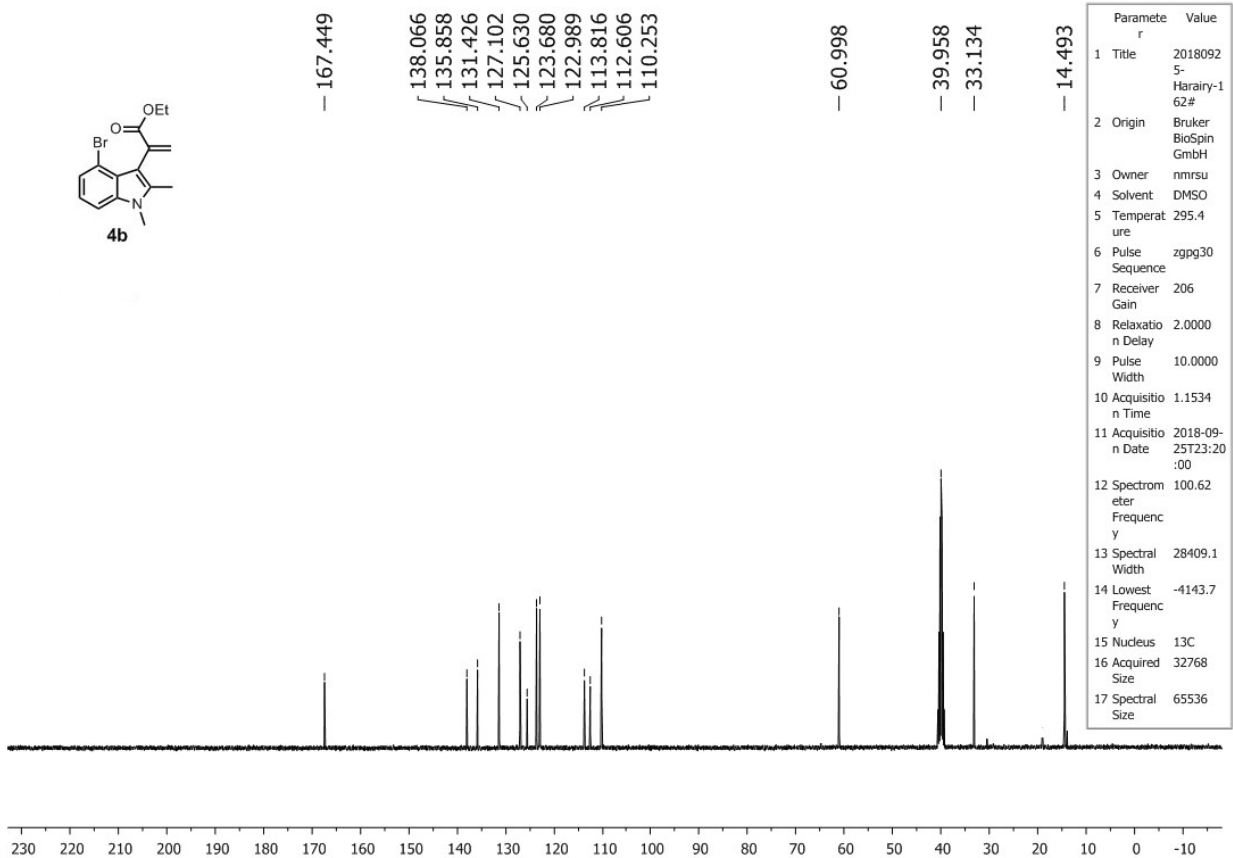
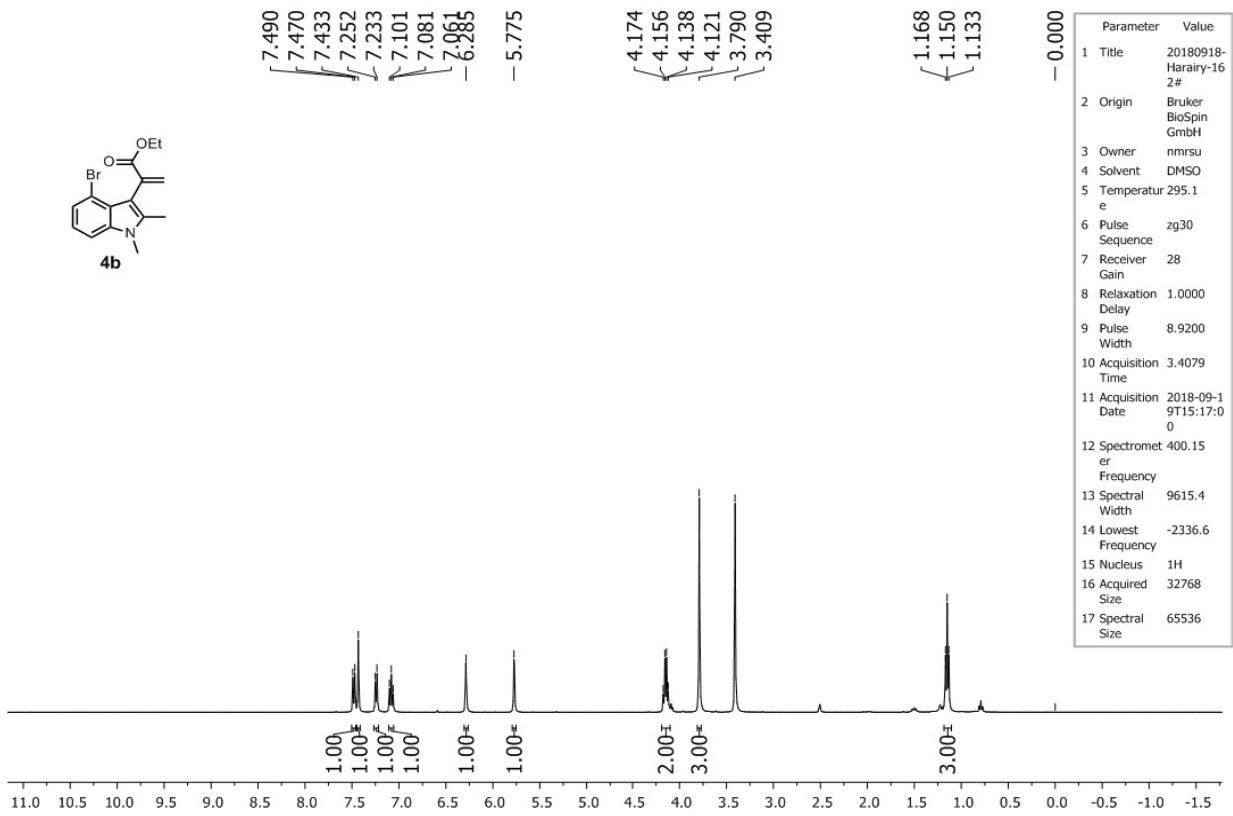
Crystal Data for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ ($M = 458.54 \text{ g/mol}$): monoclinic, space group $P2_1$ (no. 4), $a = 16.179(2) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 8.8178(15) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 17.233(2) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 103.819(13)^\circ$, $V = 2387.3(6) \text{ \AA}^3$, $Z = 2$, $T = 100.01(10) \text{ K}$, $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.043 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, $D_{\text{calc}} = 0.638 \text{ g/cm}^3$, 11382 reflections measured ($4.868^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 49.98^\circ$), 7256 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0473$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0860$) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0732 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.2059 (all data).

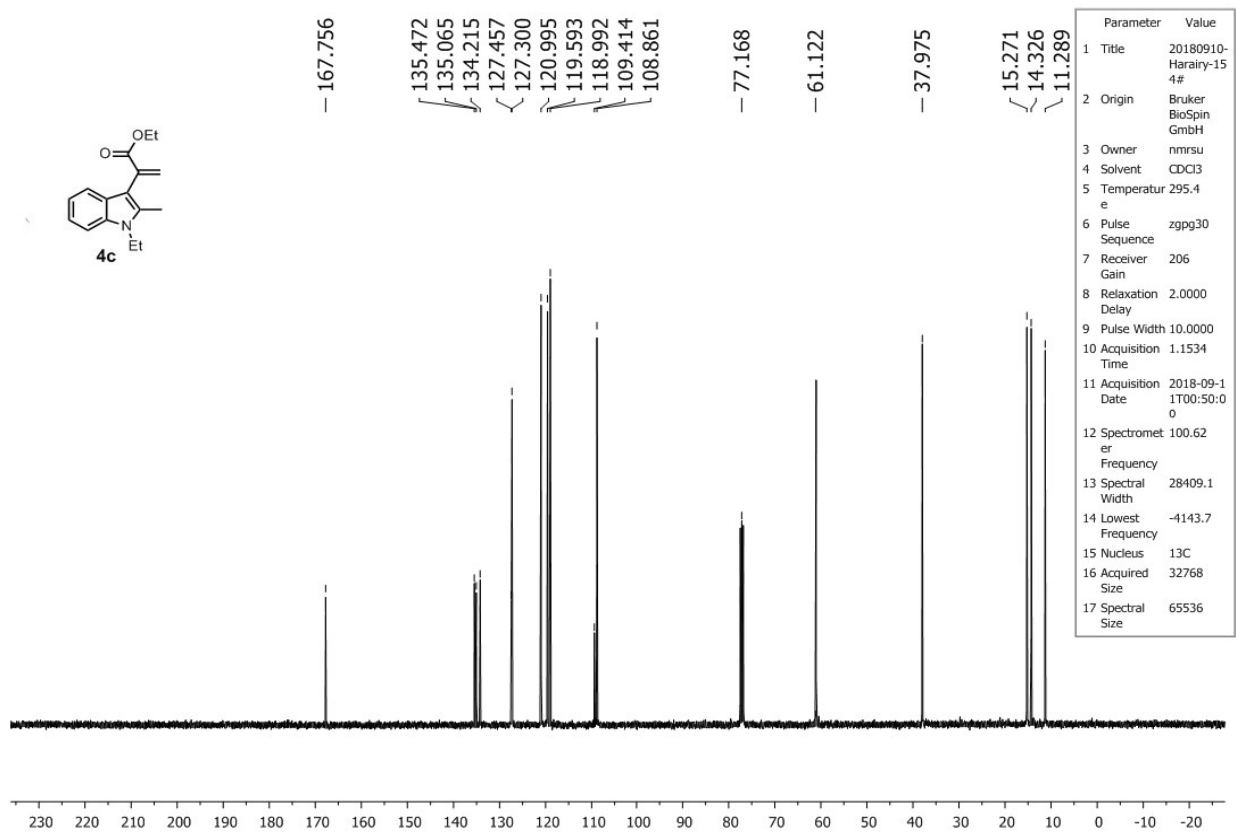
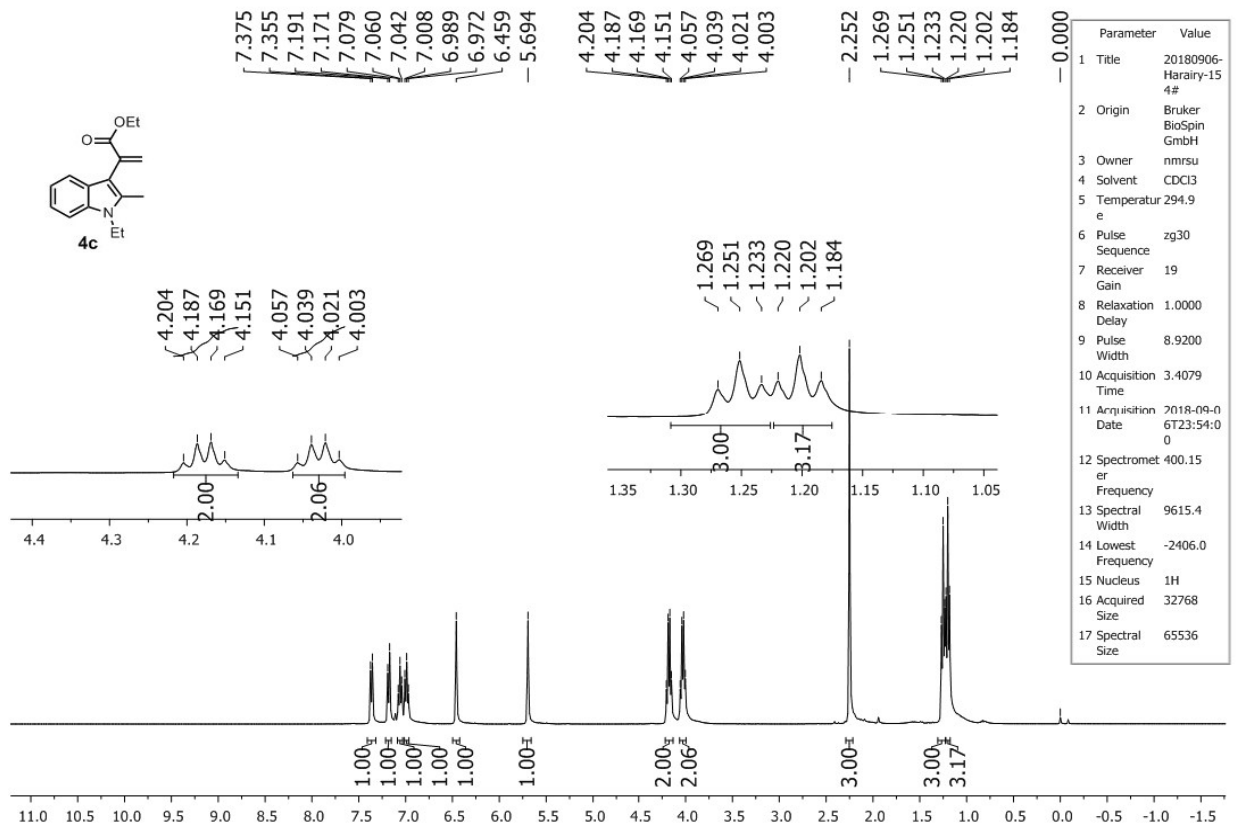
5. References

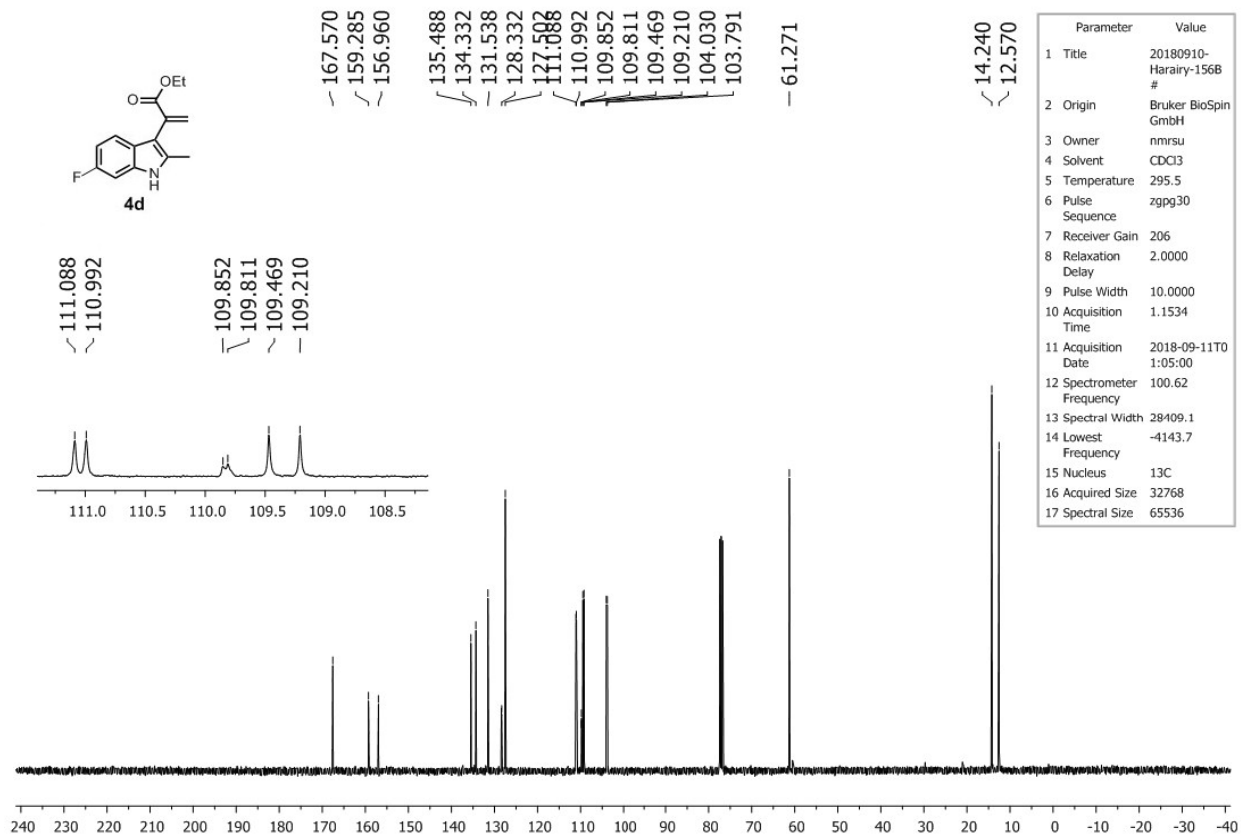
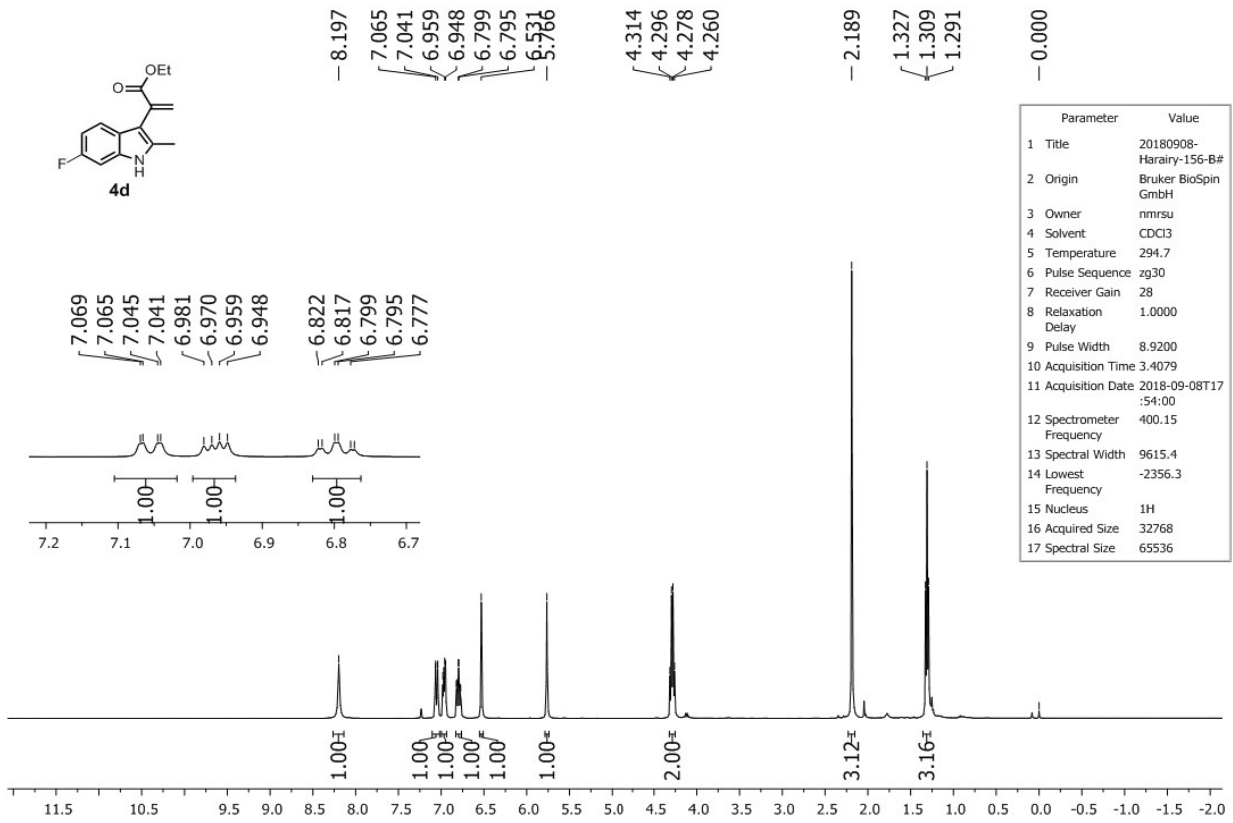
1. (a) A. El-Harairy, B. Lai, L. Vaccaro, M. Li, Y. Gu, *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*. 2019, **361**, 3342-3350; b) A. El-Harairy, M. Yue, W. Fan, F. Popowycz, Y. Queneau, M. Li, Y. Gu, *ChemCatChem*, 2019, **11**, 4403-4410.
2. Y. Gu, F. Shi, Y. Deng, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.* 2004, **212**, 71–75.
3. A. Taheri, X. Pan, C. Liu, Y. Gu, *ChemSusChem* 2014, **7**, 2094–2100.

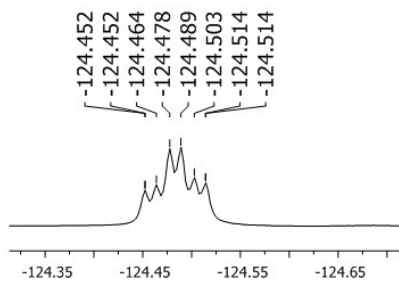
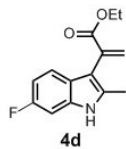
6. NMR Spectra





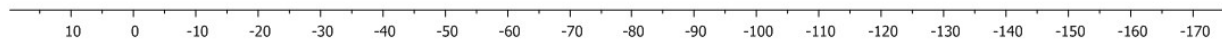


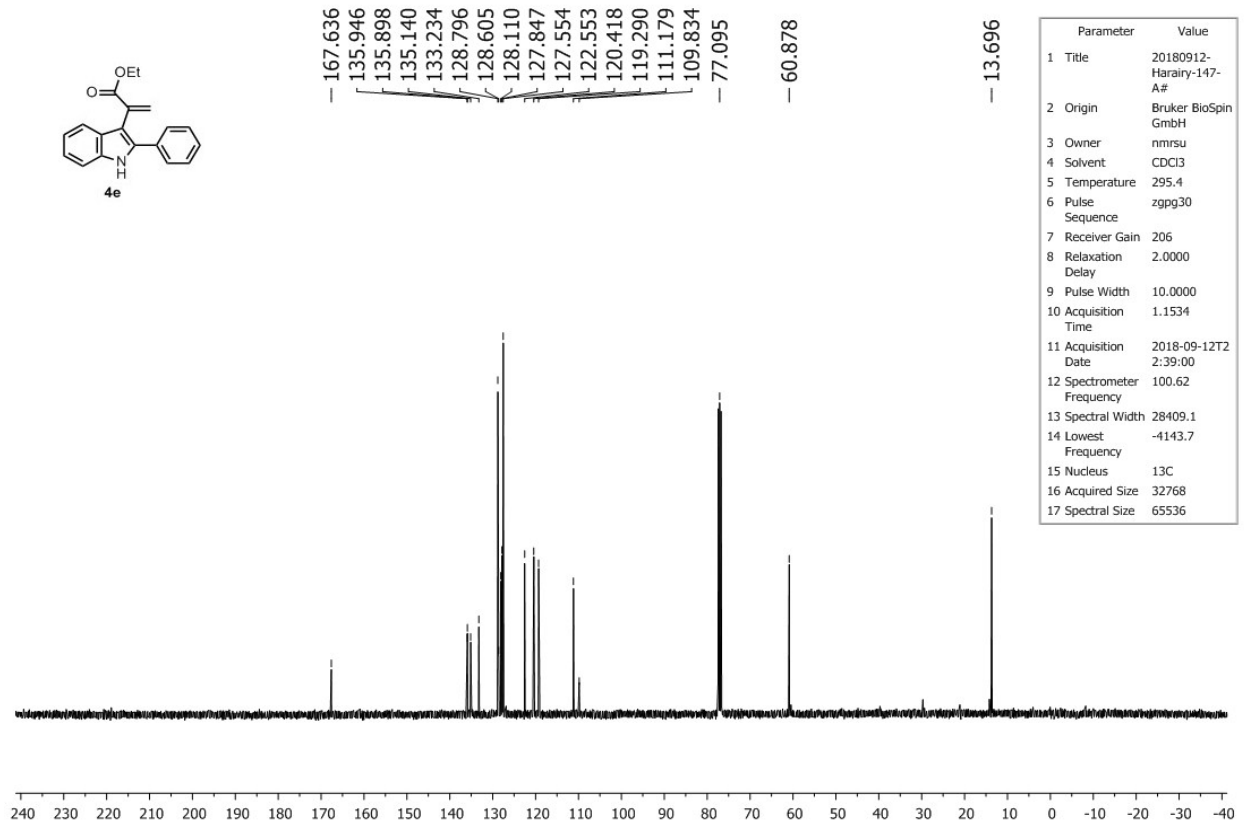
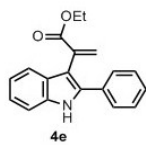
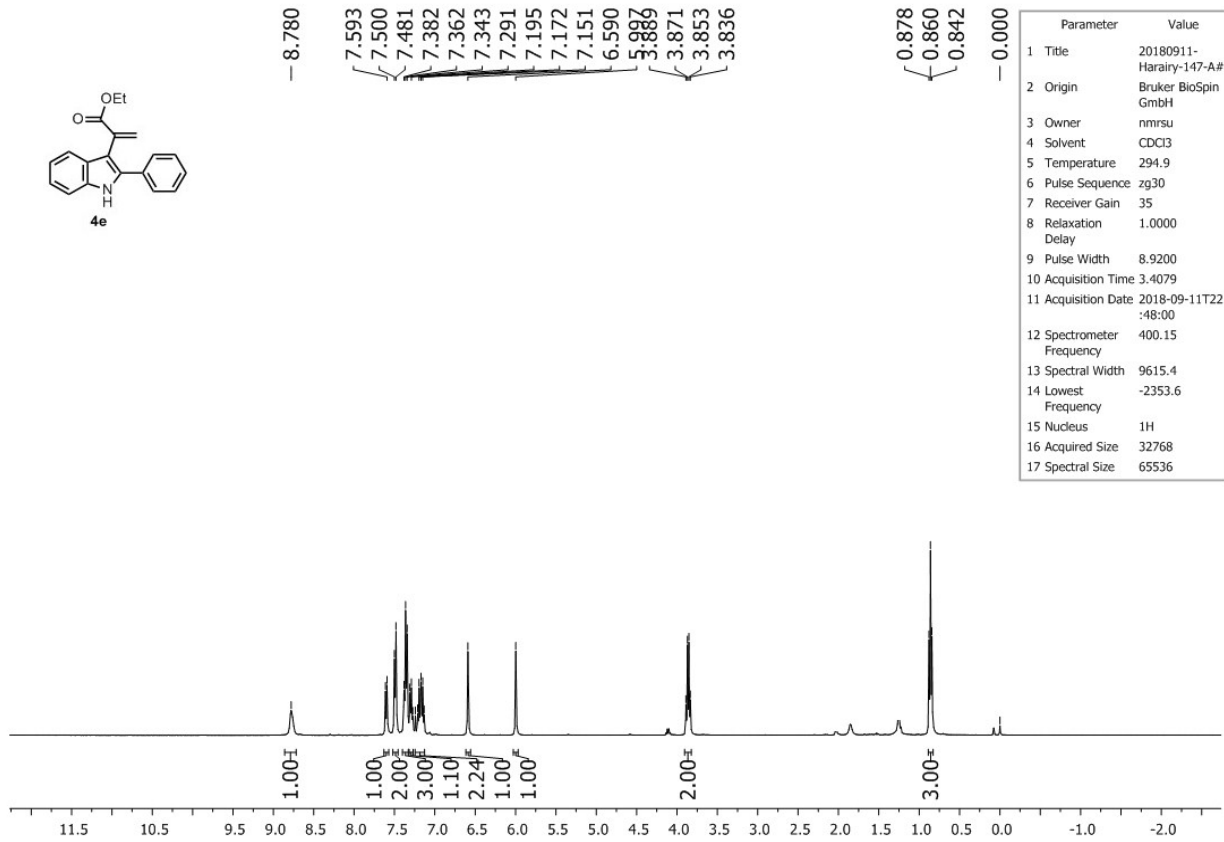
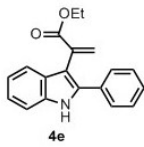


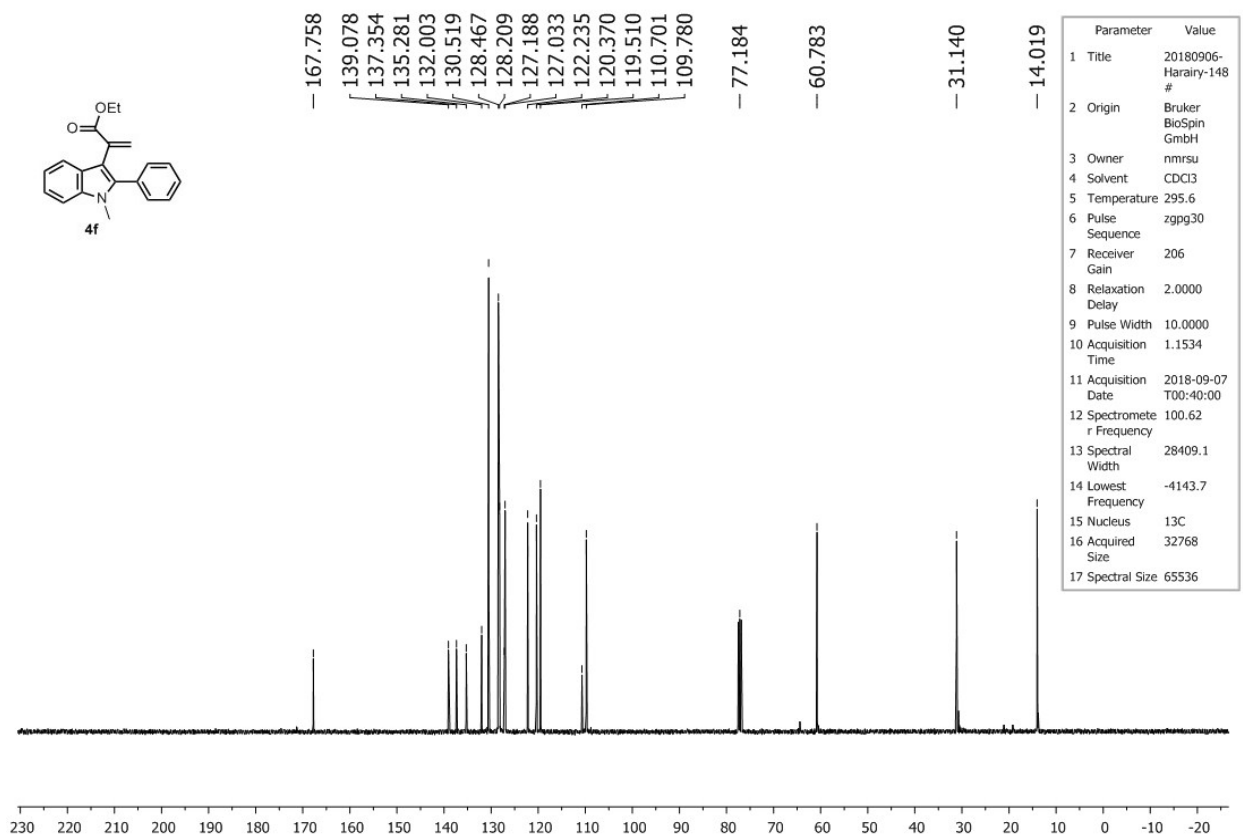
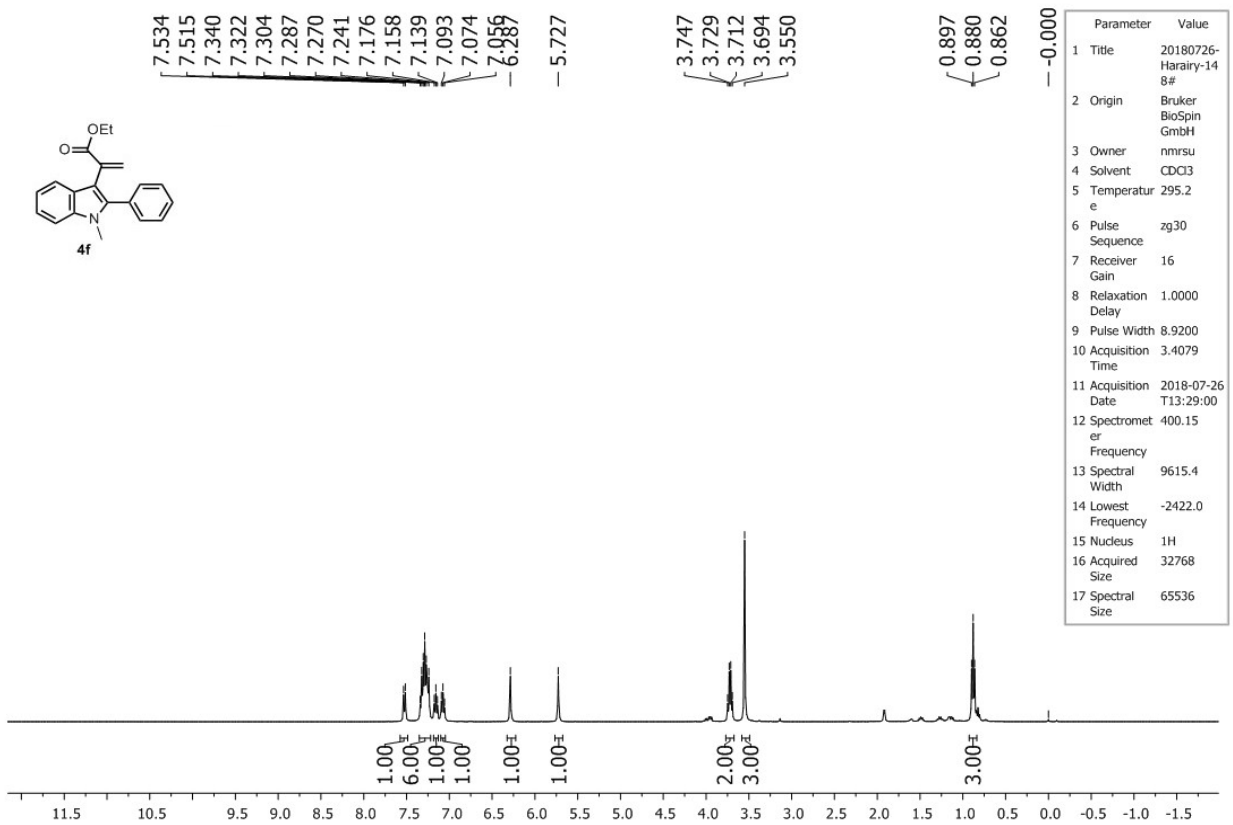


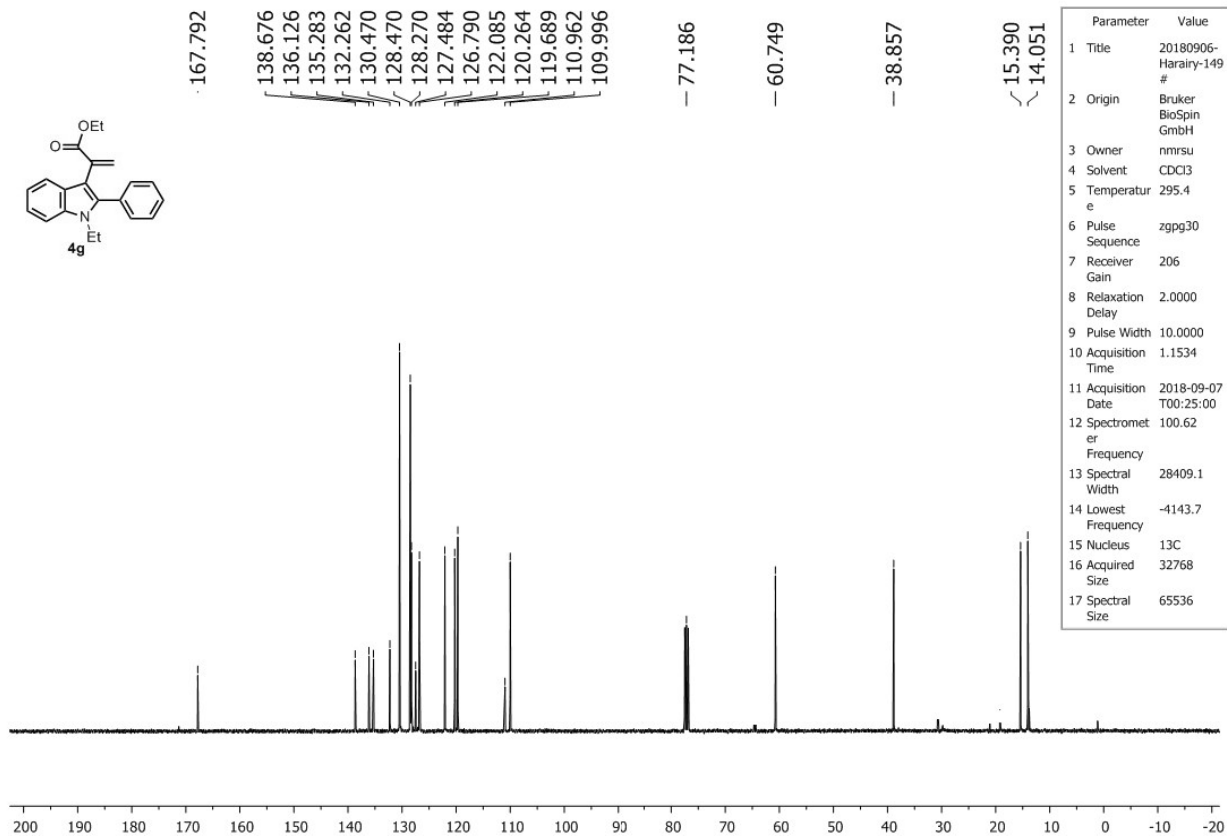
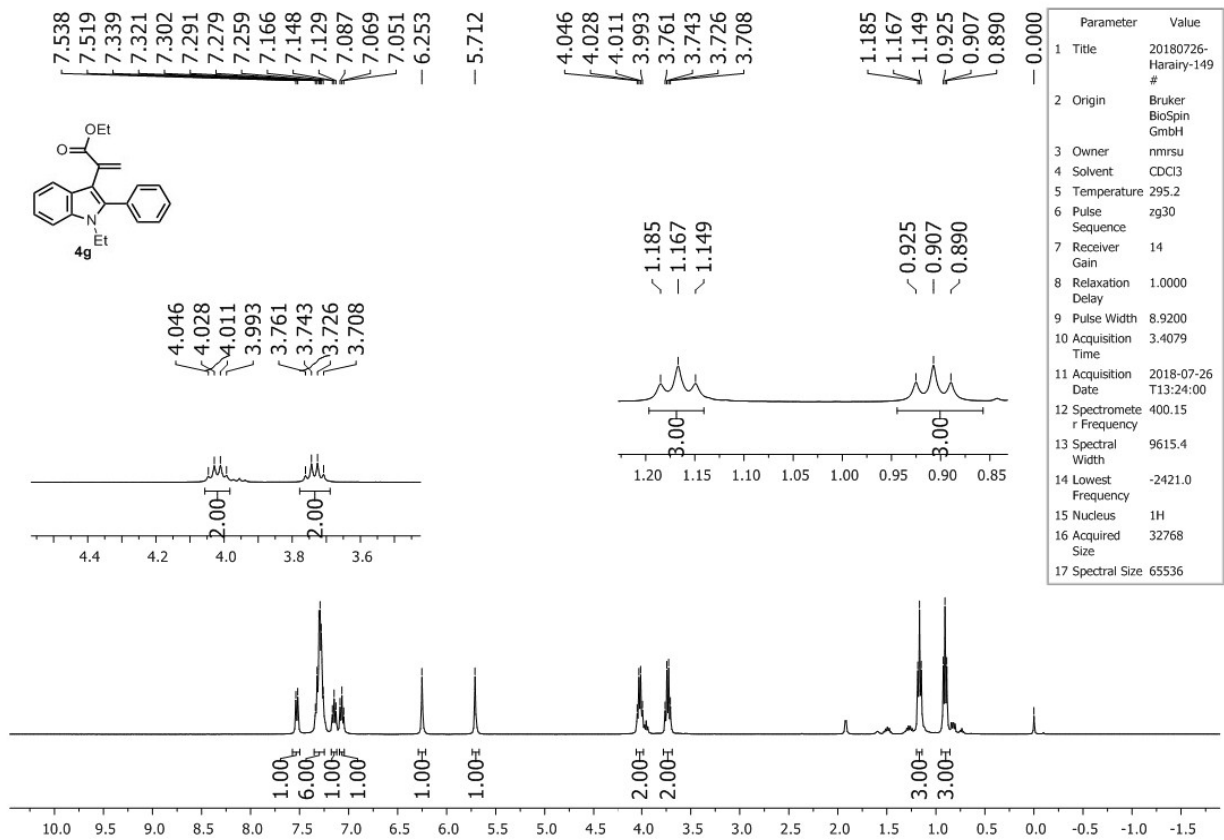
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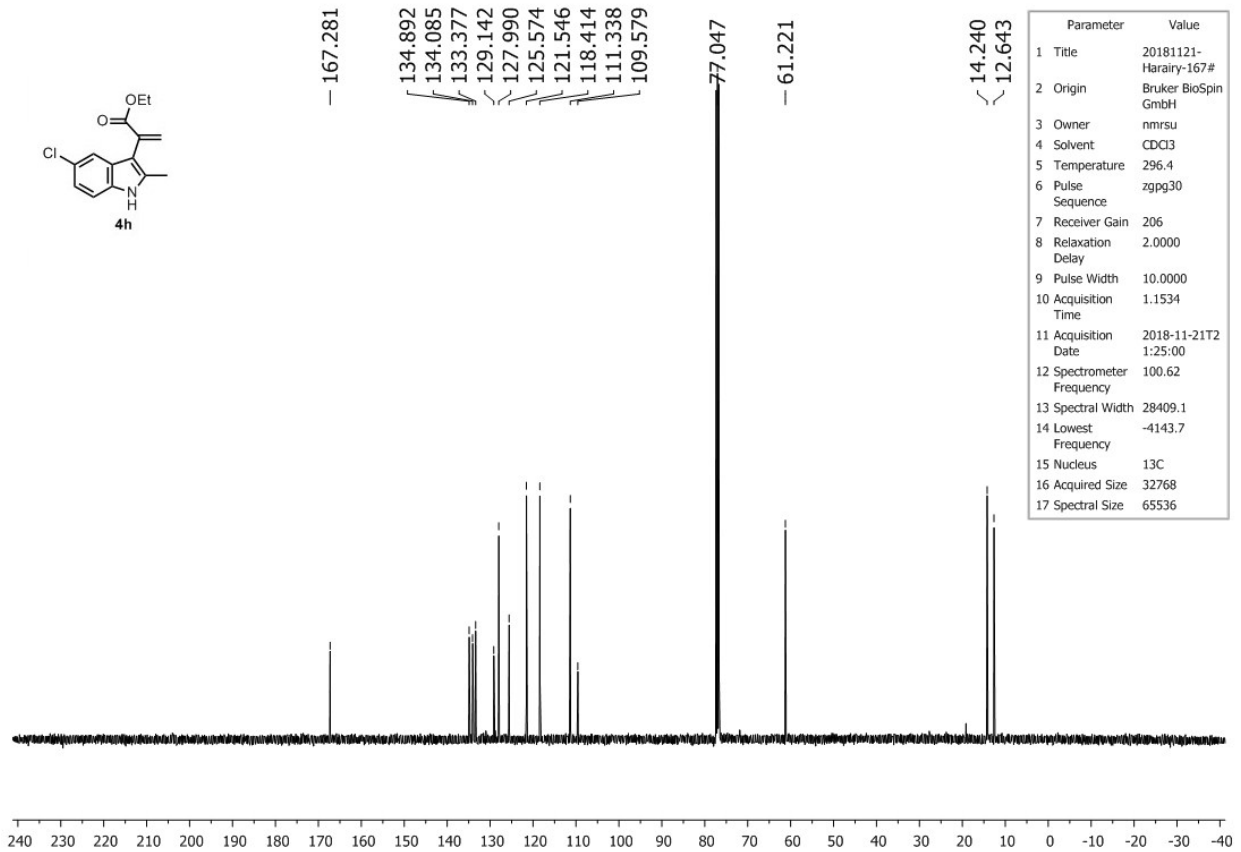
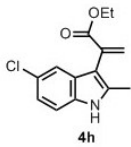
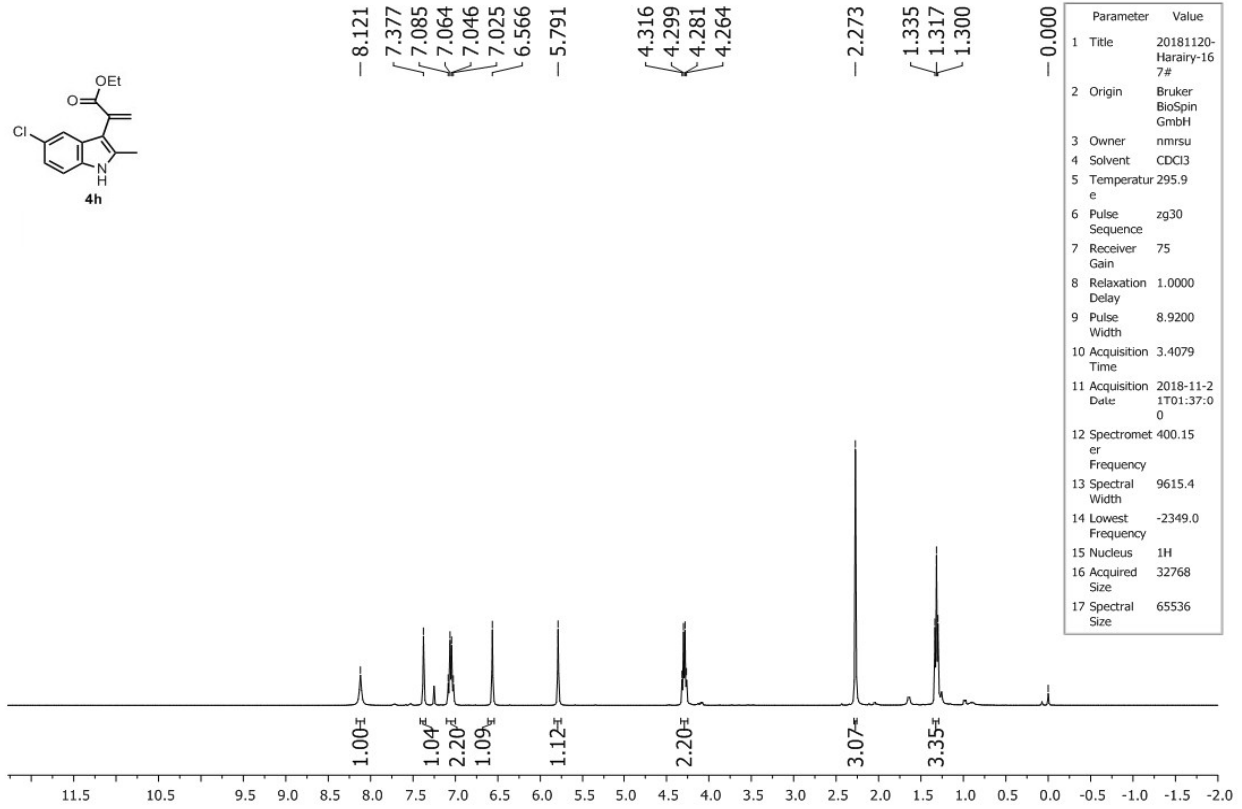
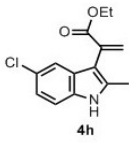
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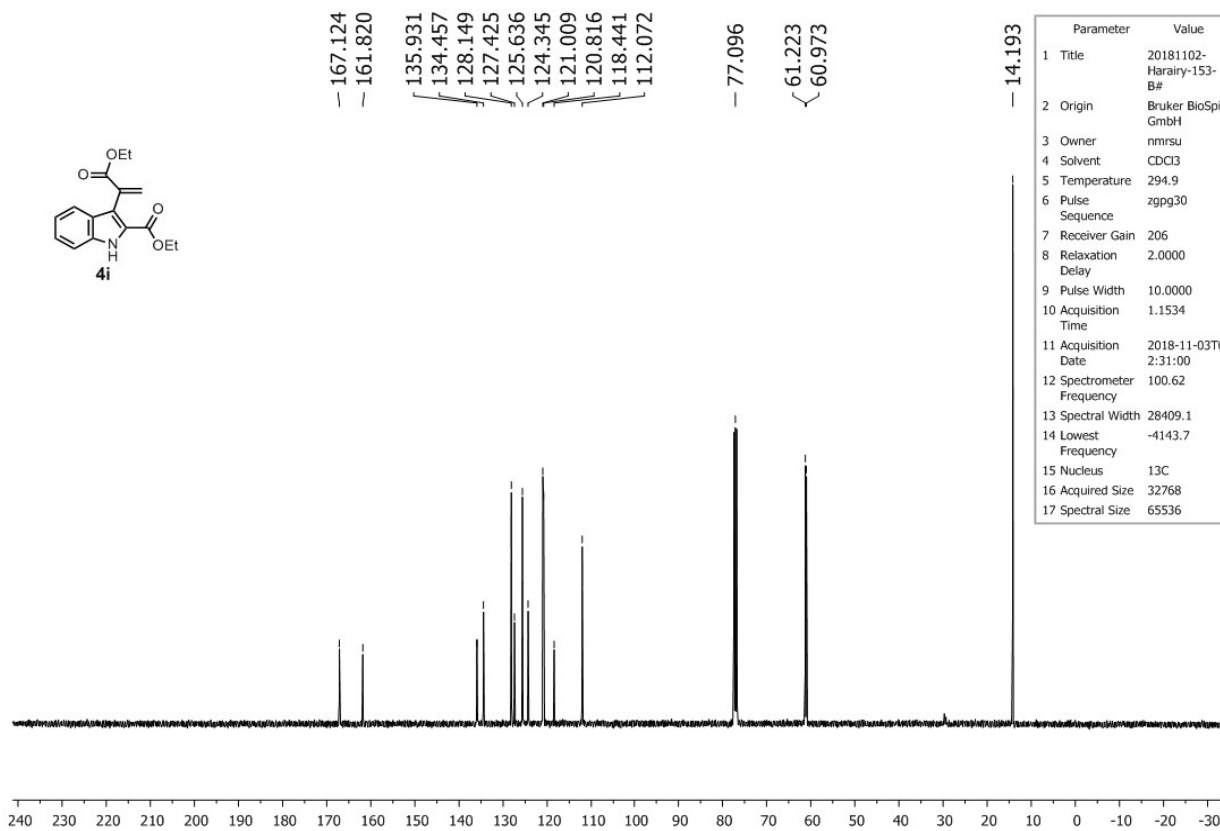
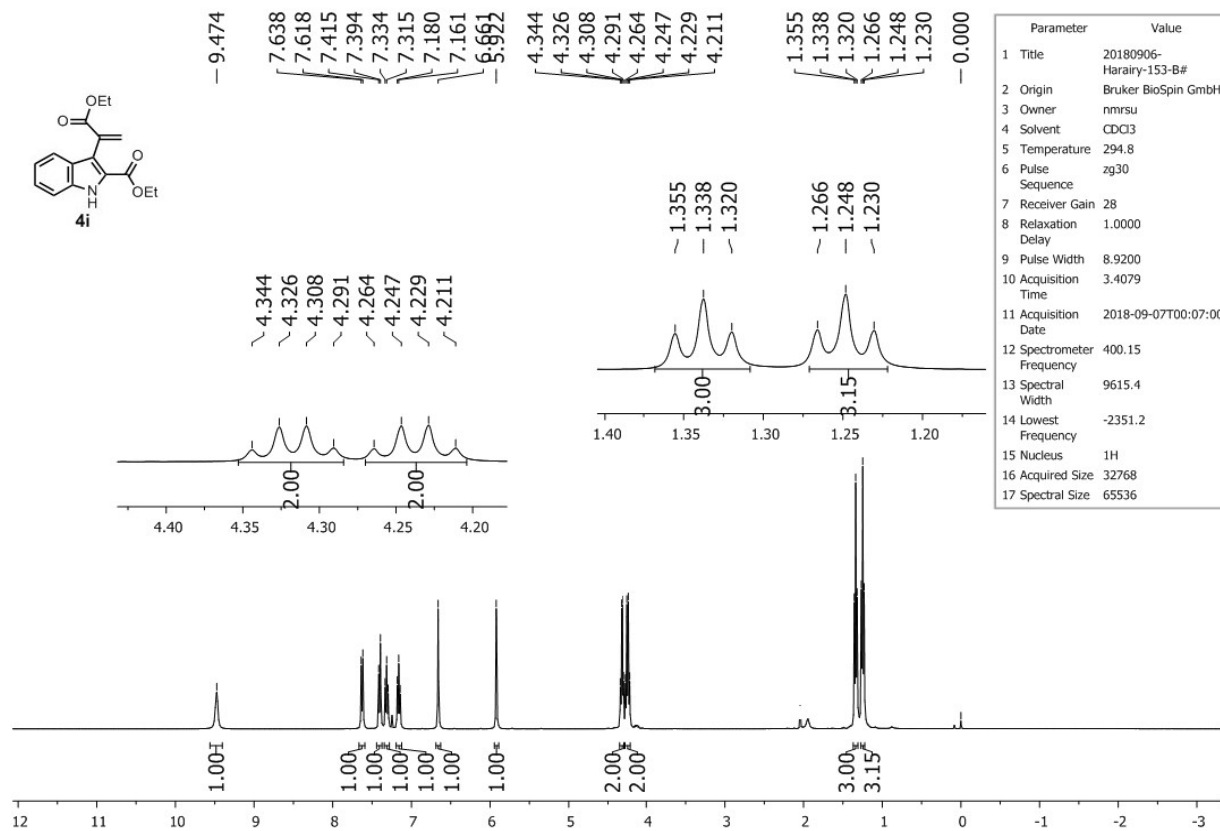


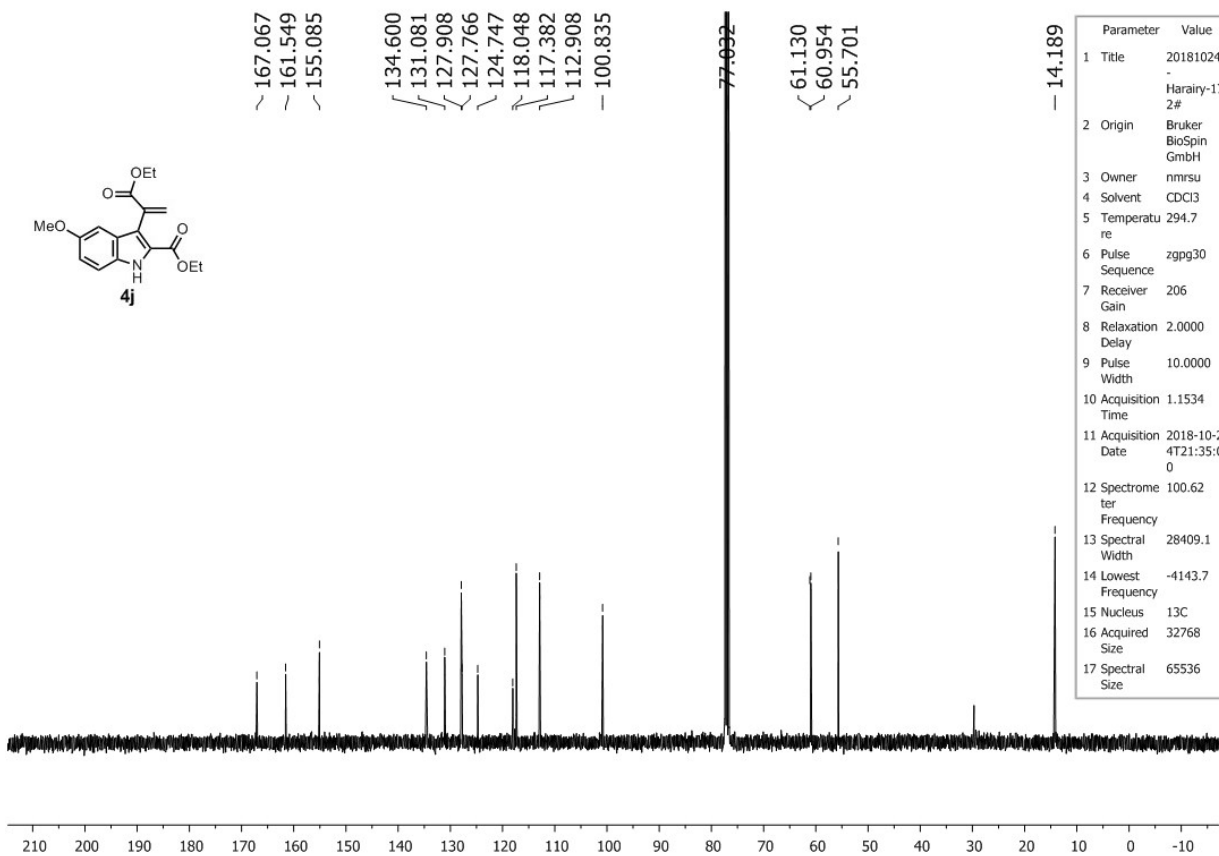
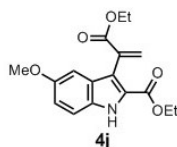
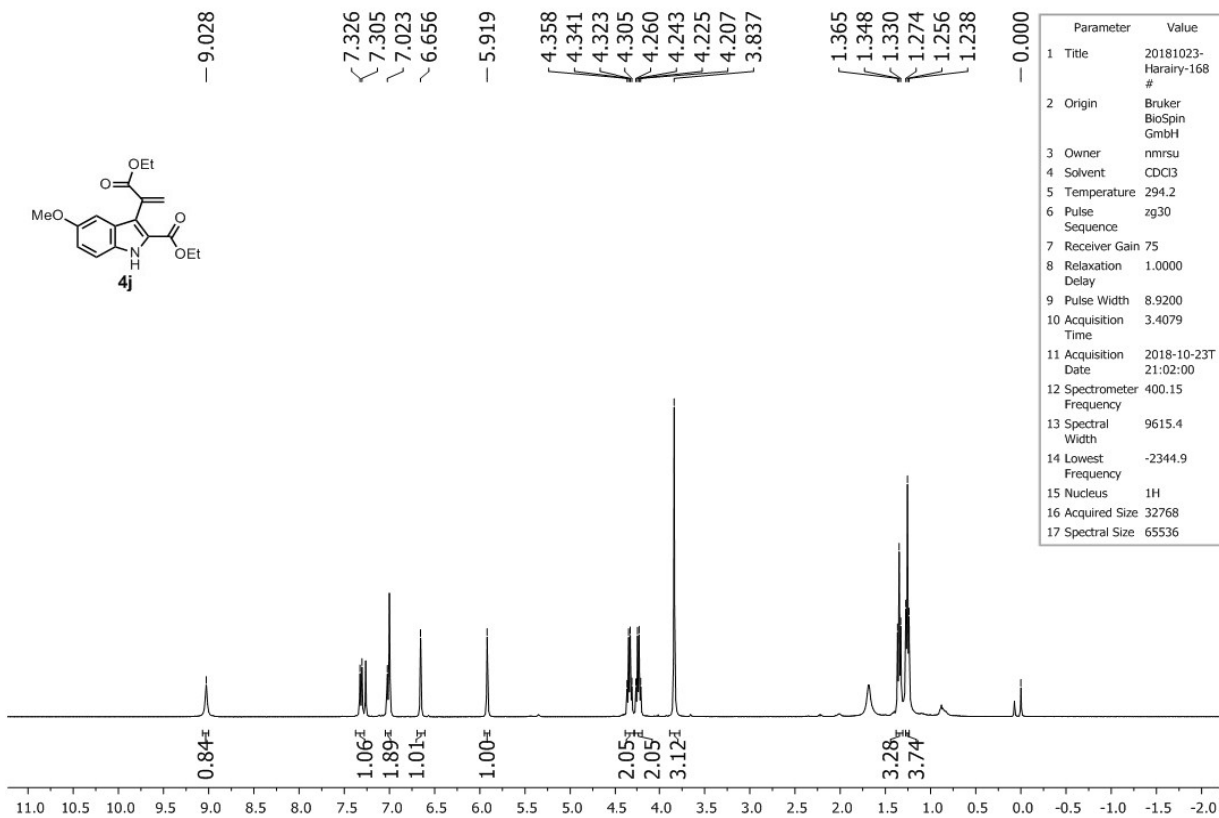
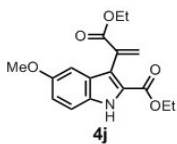


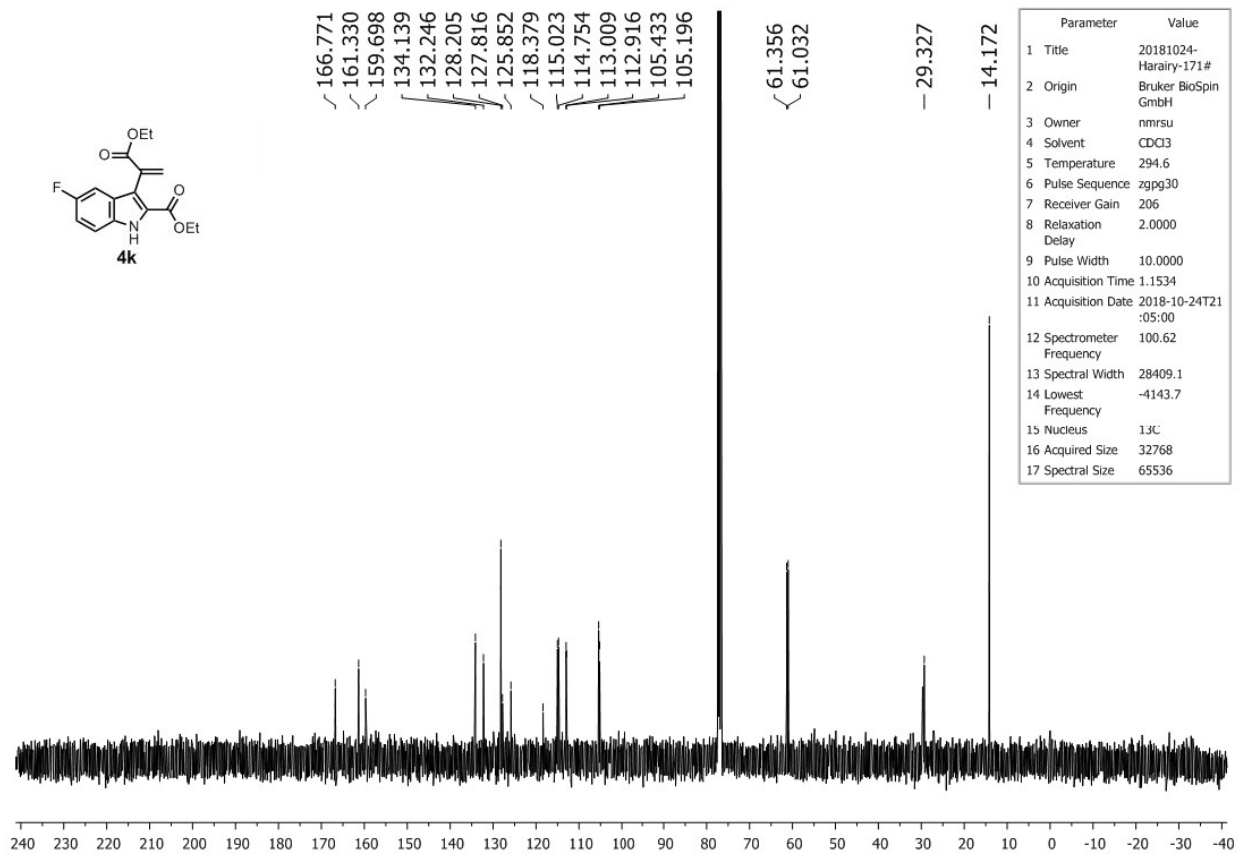
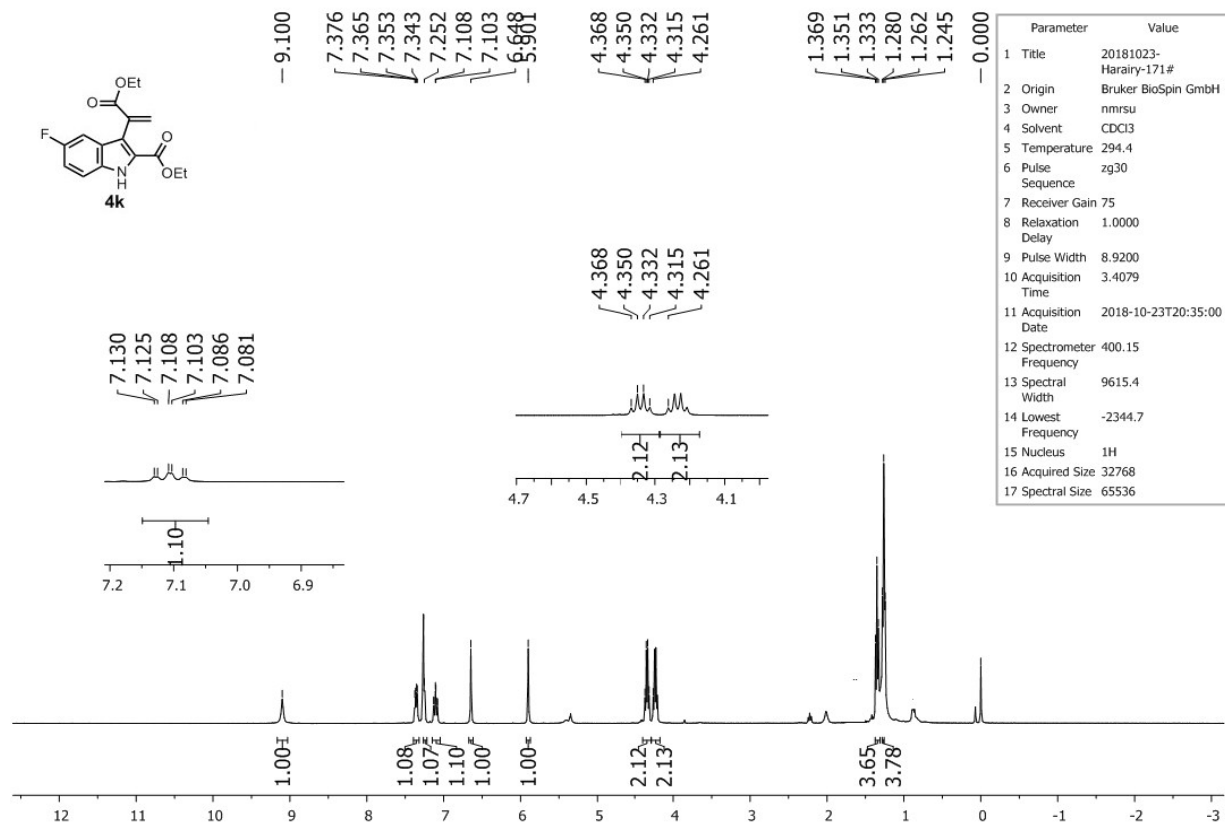


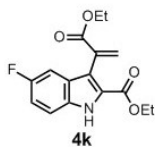






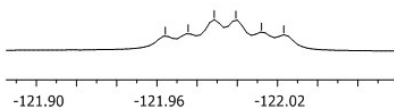




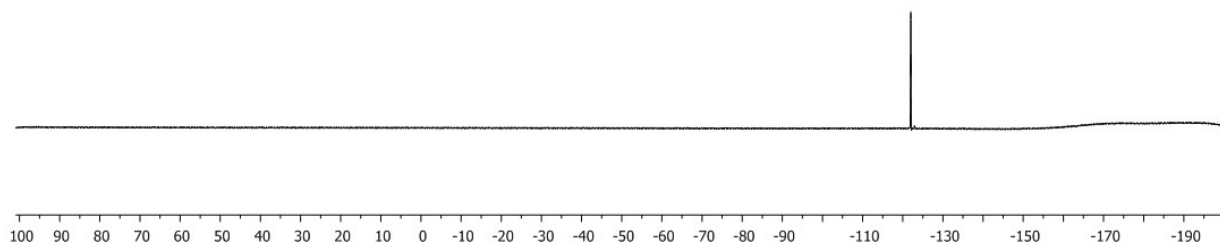


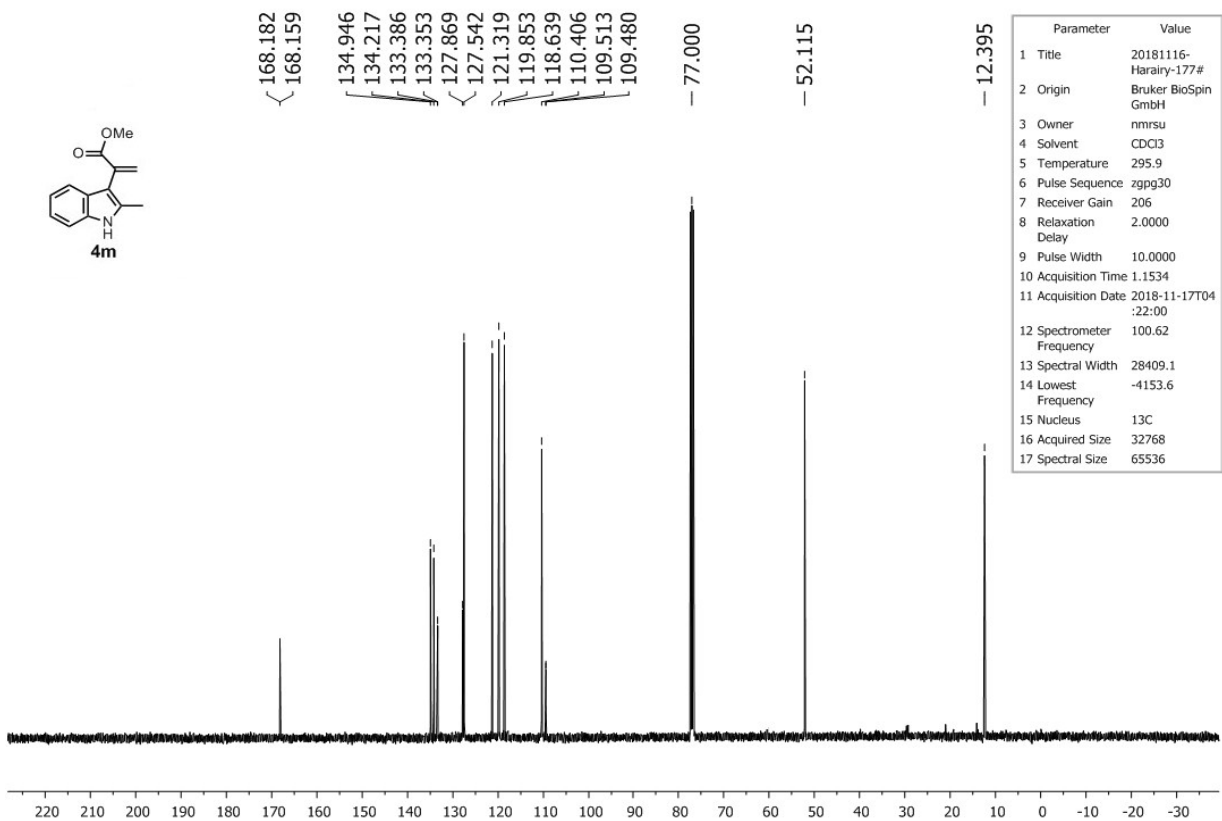
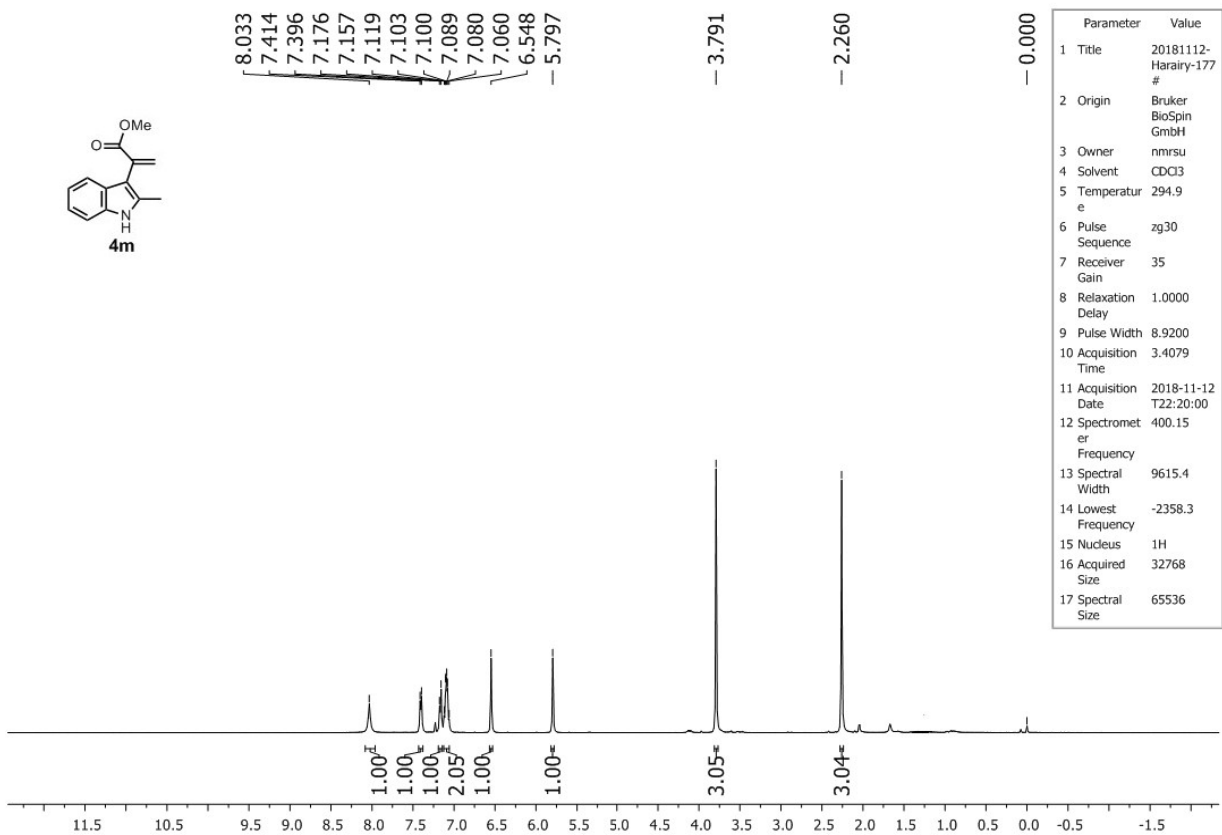
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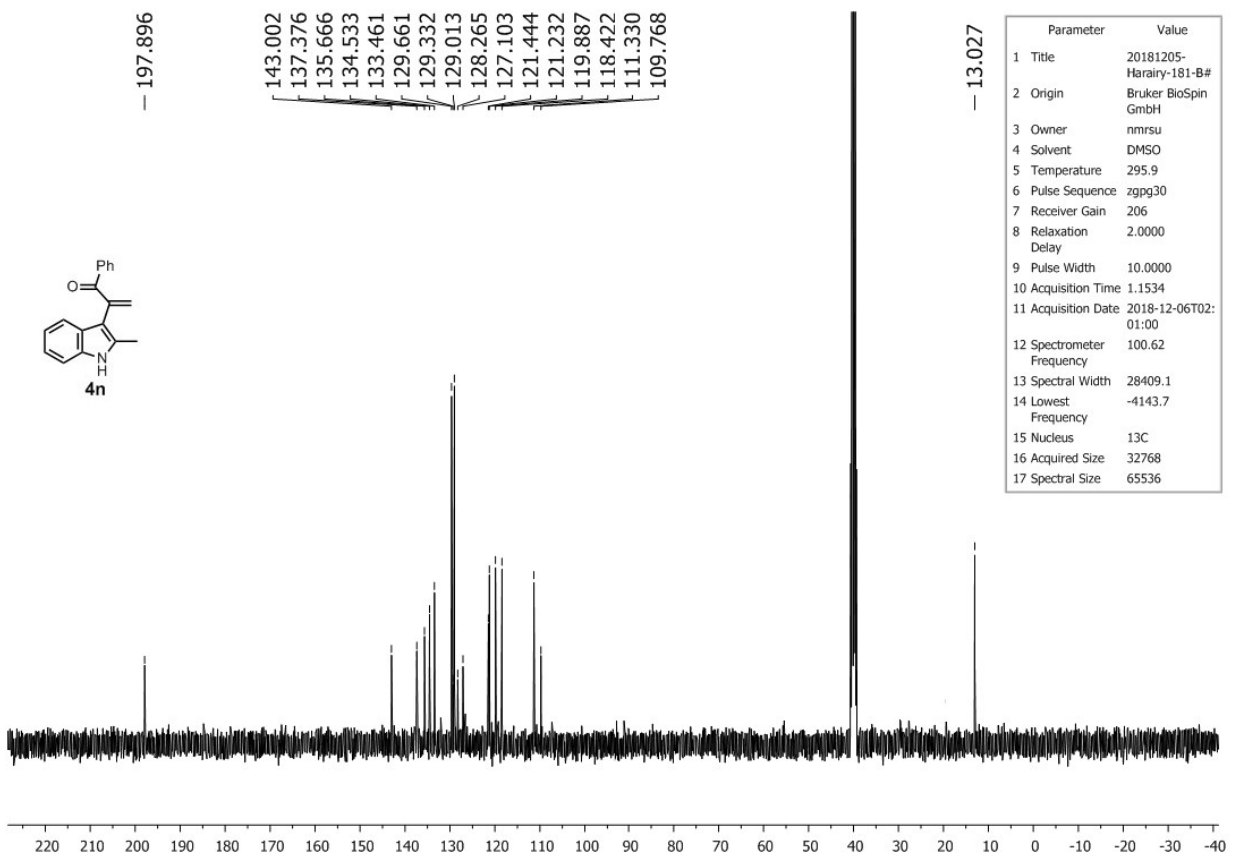
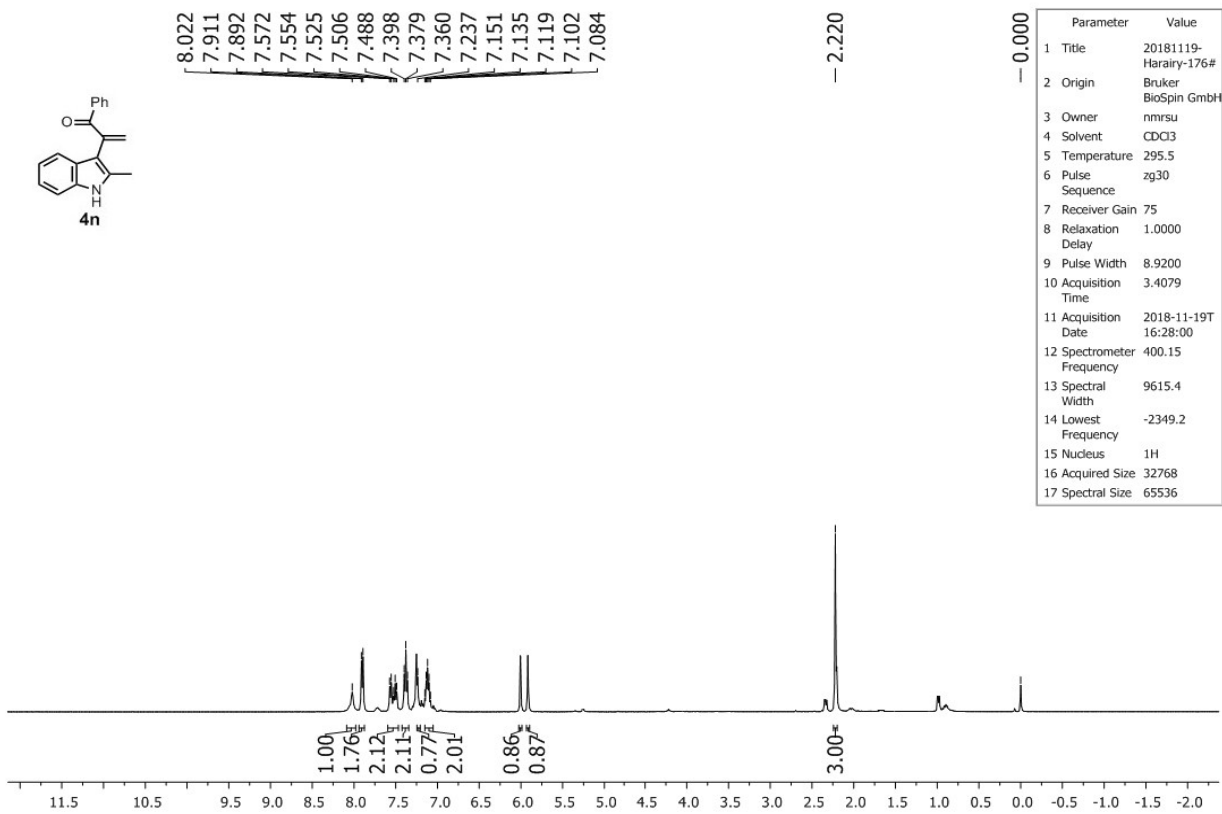
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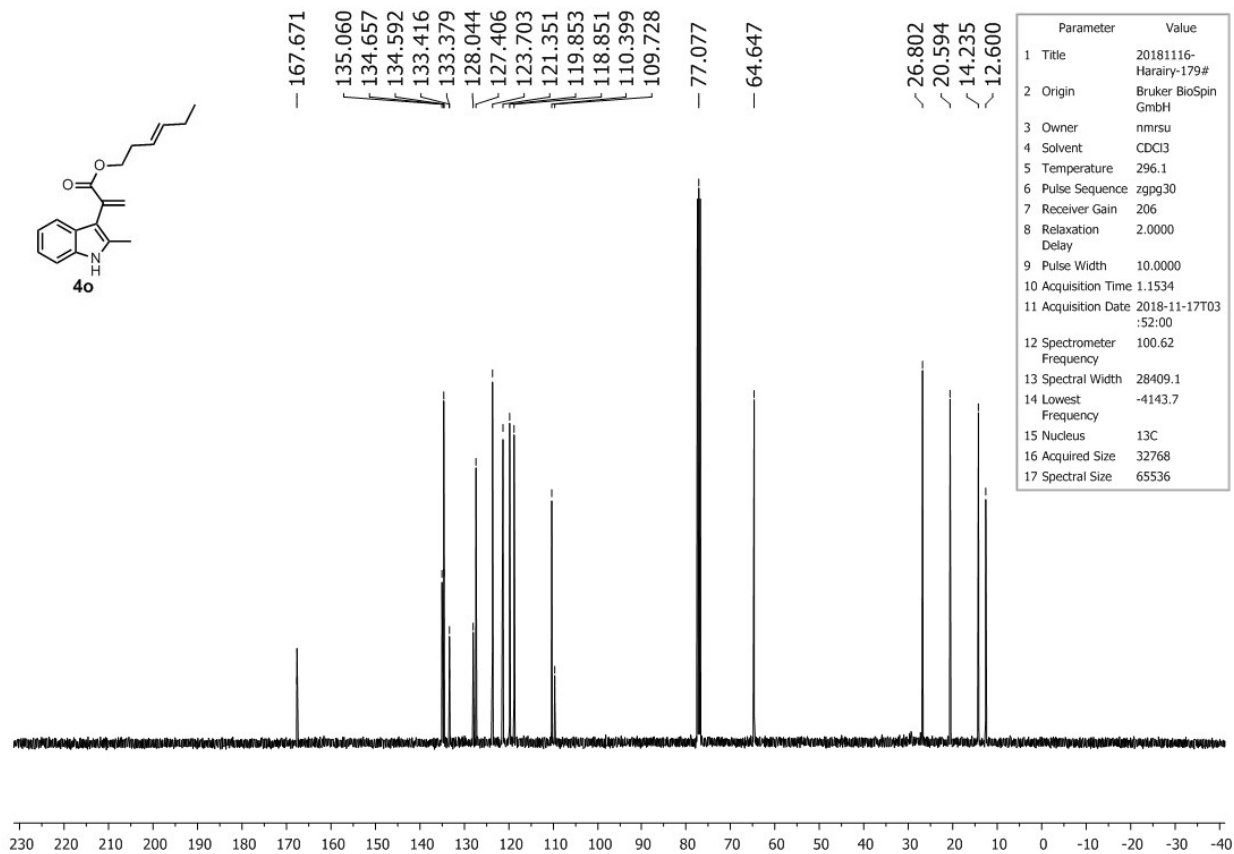
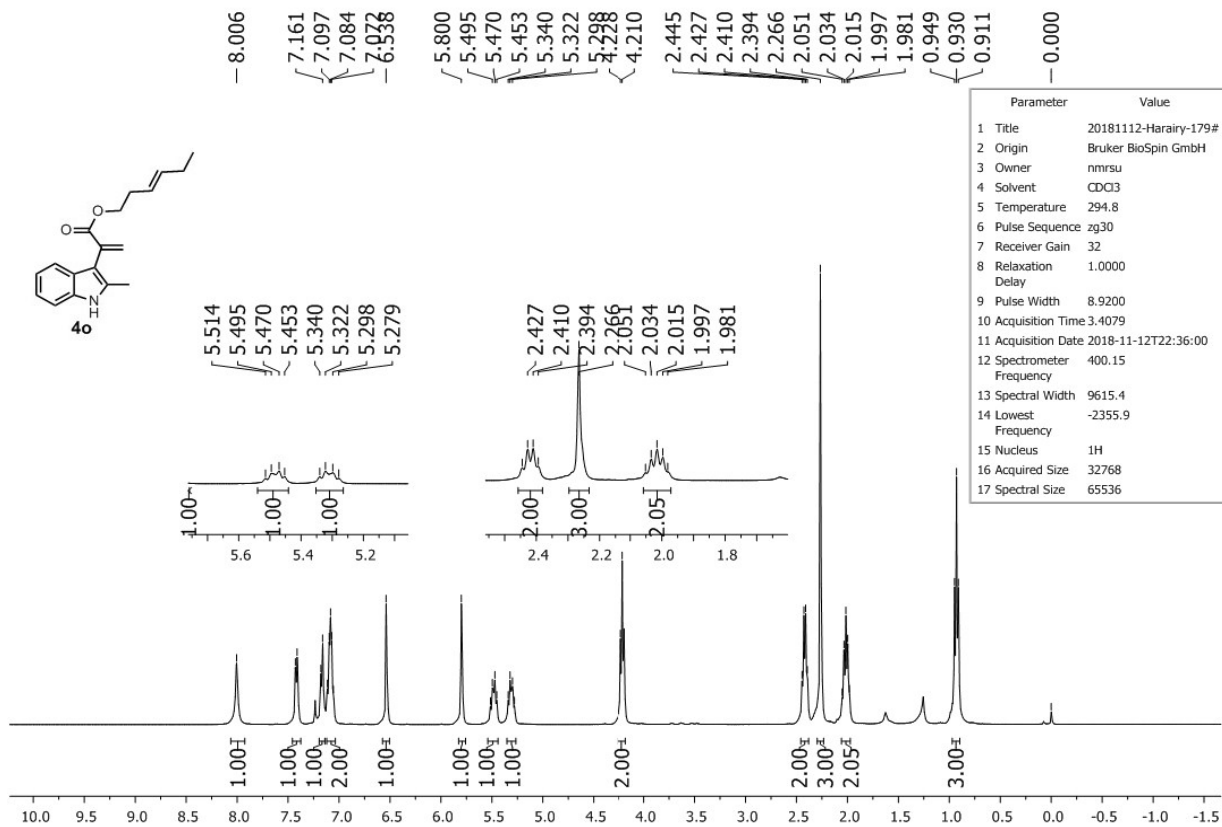


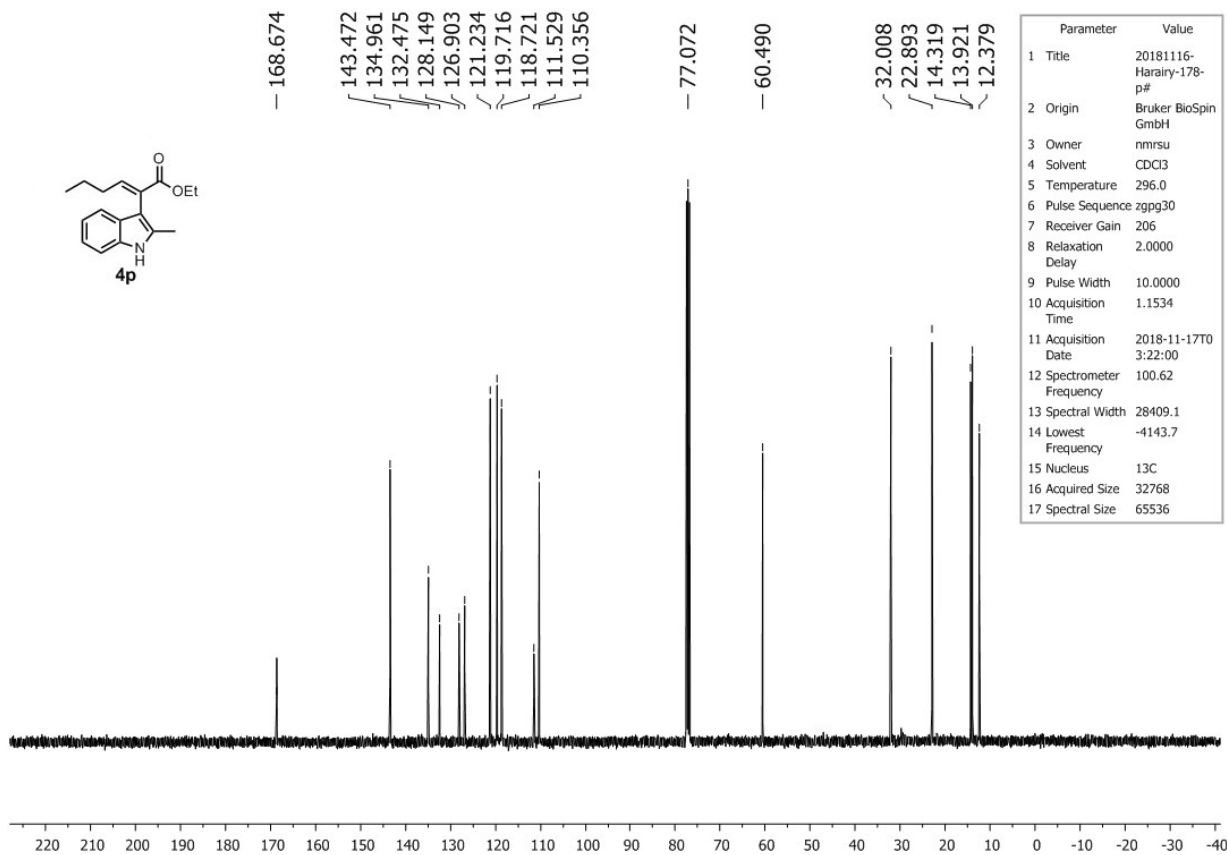
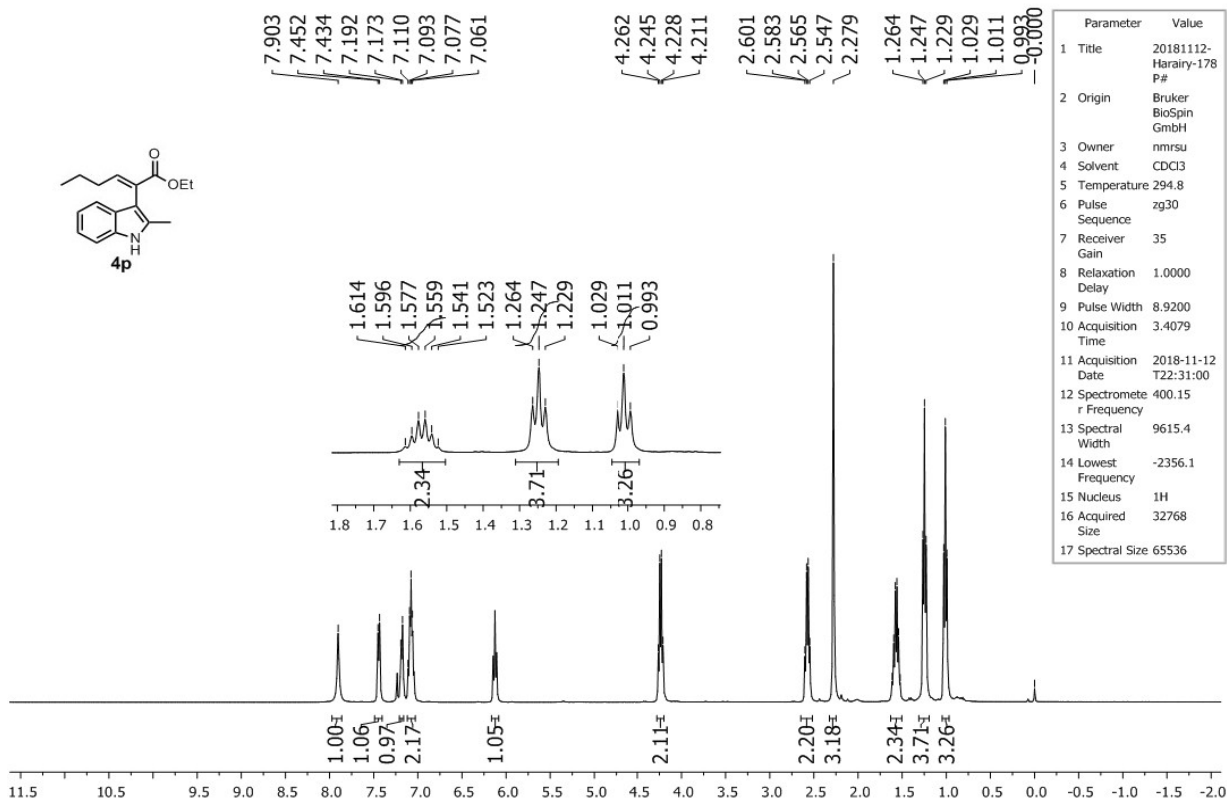
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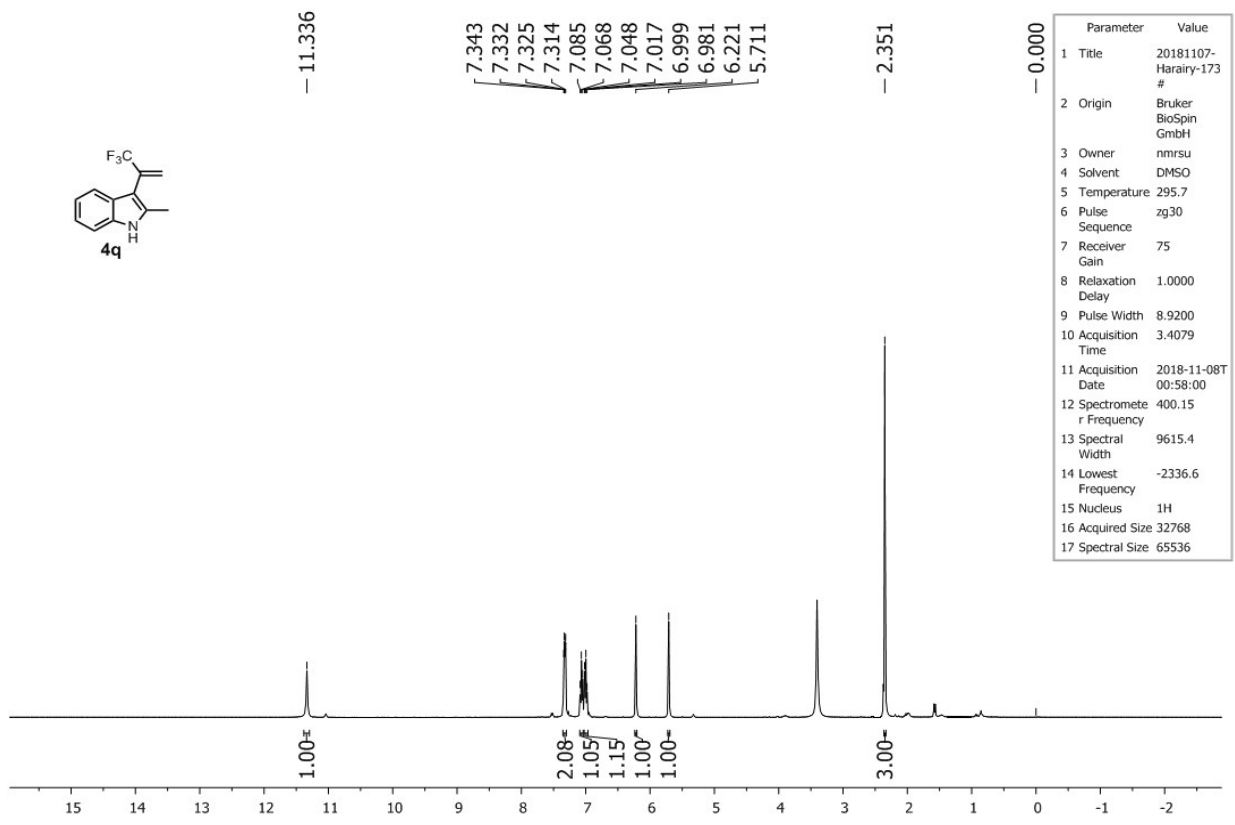




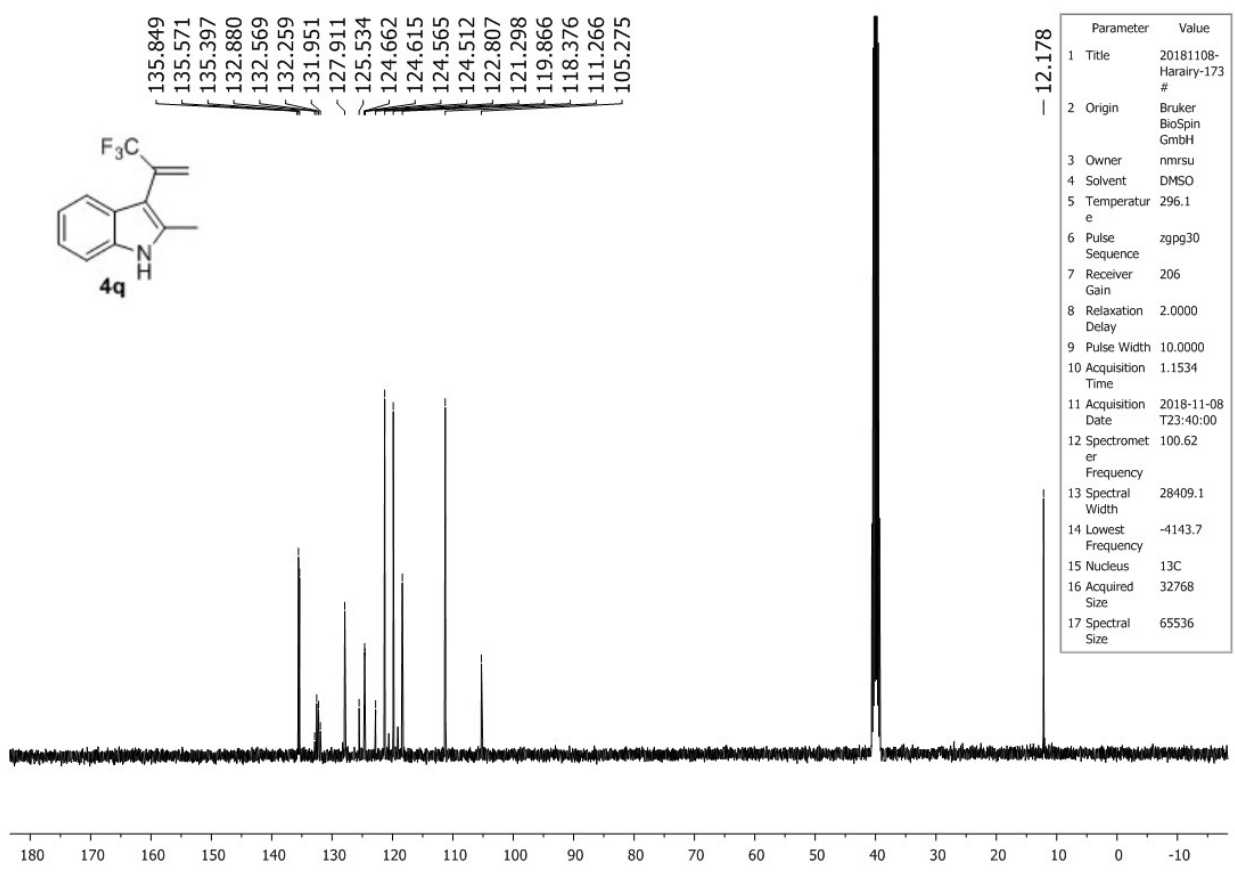




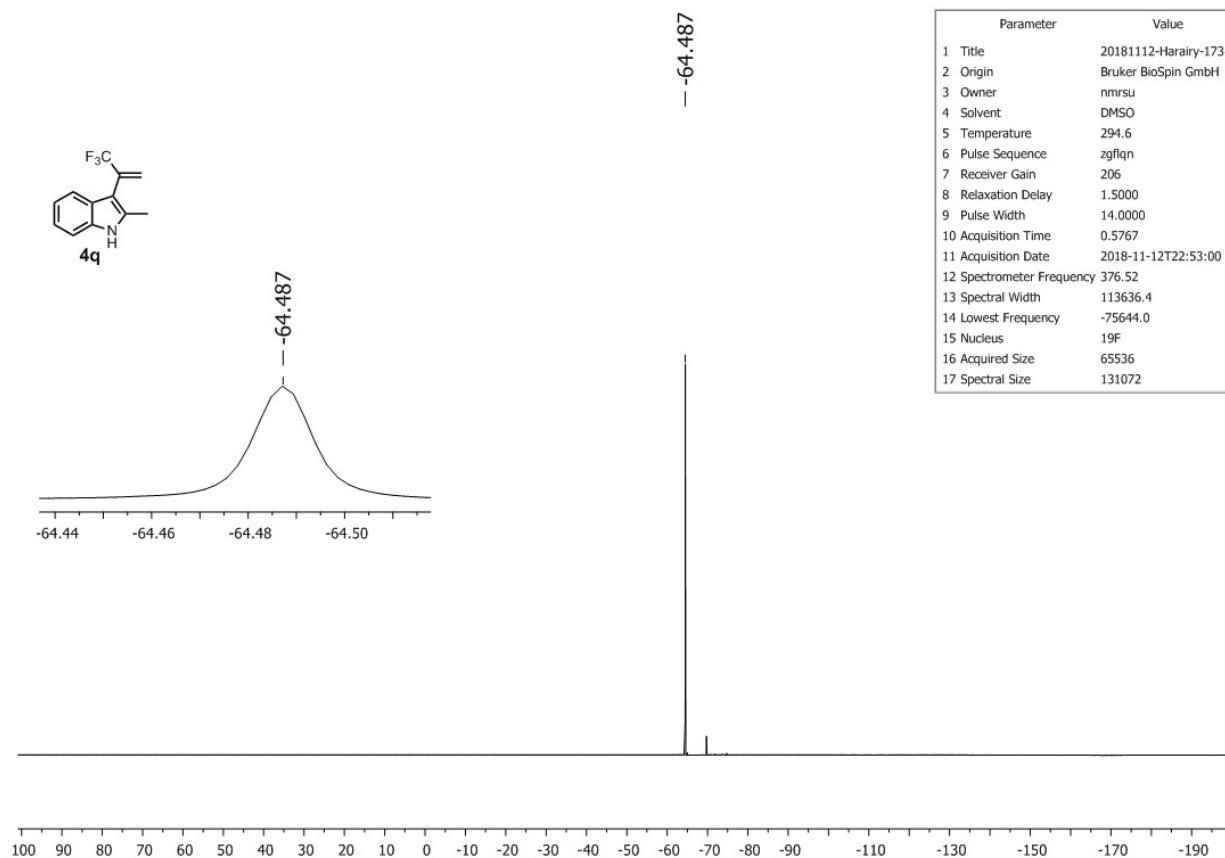
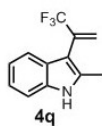




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