

# **An efficient and practical aerobic oxidation of benzylic methylenes by recyclable **N-hydroxyimide****

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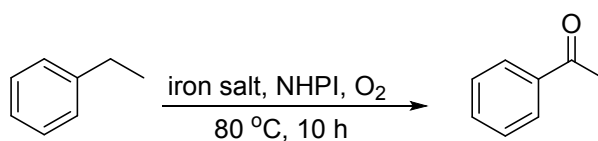
<sup>#</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work

## Supplementary Information

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**Table S1. Screen of iron salts<sup>a</sup>**



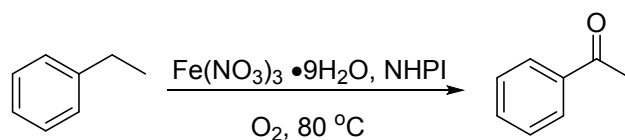
Entry	Catalyst	Conversion (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Iron tristearate	78
2	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub>	73
3	Fe(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	trace
4	FeOH(CH <sub>3</sub> COO) <sub>2</sub>	80
5	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	trace
6	Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ·9H <sub>2</sub> O	83
7	Fe <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> <sup>c</sup>	69

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 2 mmol ethylbenzene and 10 mol % metal salts, 10 mol % NHPI in 2 mL AcOH are stirred at 100°C oil bath for 10 h.

<sup>b</sup>Conversion is determined by GC.

<sup>c</sup>5 mol% Fe<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> was added.

**Table S2.** Screen of solvents<sup>a</sup>

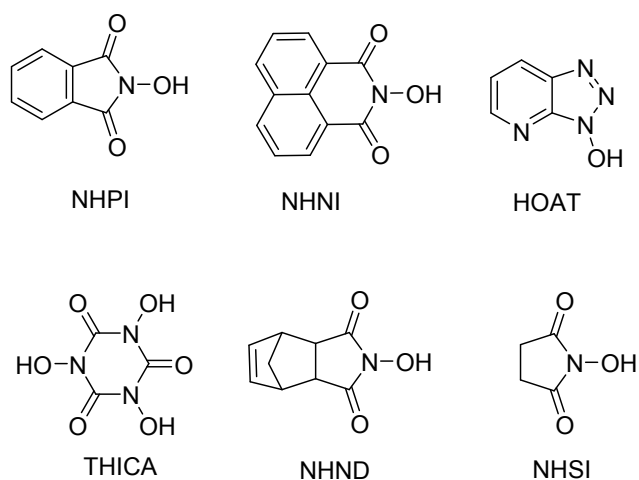


Entry	Solvent	Conversion (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	AcOH	23
2	Chlorobenzene	trace
3	Cyclohexanone	9
4	EtOAc <sup>c</sup>	11
5	EtOH <sup>c</sup>	<5
6	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	41
7	PhCN	57
8	DMF	trace
9	DMSO	<5
10	Toluene	19
11	n-Butanol	<5
12	t-Butanol	<5

<sup>a</sup>2 mmol ethylbenzene, 5 mol % metal salts, 5 mol % NHPI in 2 mL solvents are stirred at 80 °C oil bath for 10 h.

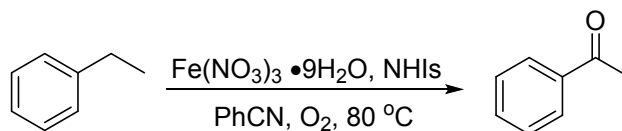
<sup>b</sup>Conversion is determined by GC.

<sup>c</sup>Reaction mixture was stirred at refluxing condition.



**Figure S1.** Structure of screened NHIs

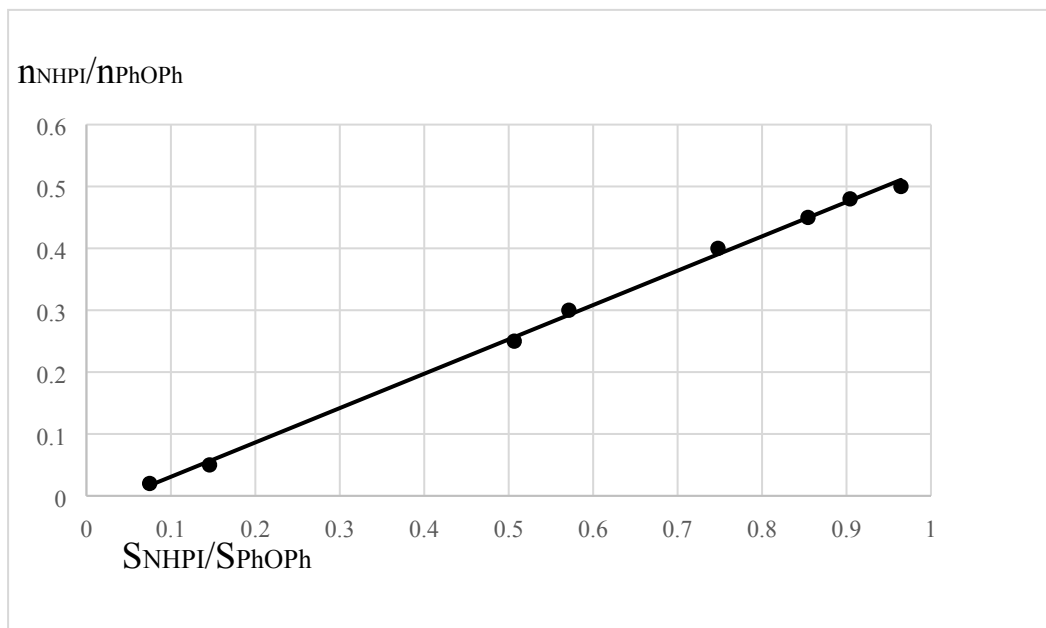
**Table S3.** Screen of NHIs<sup>a</sup>



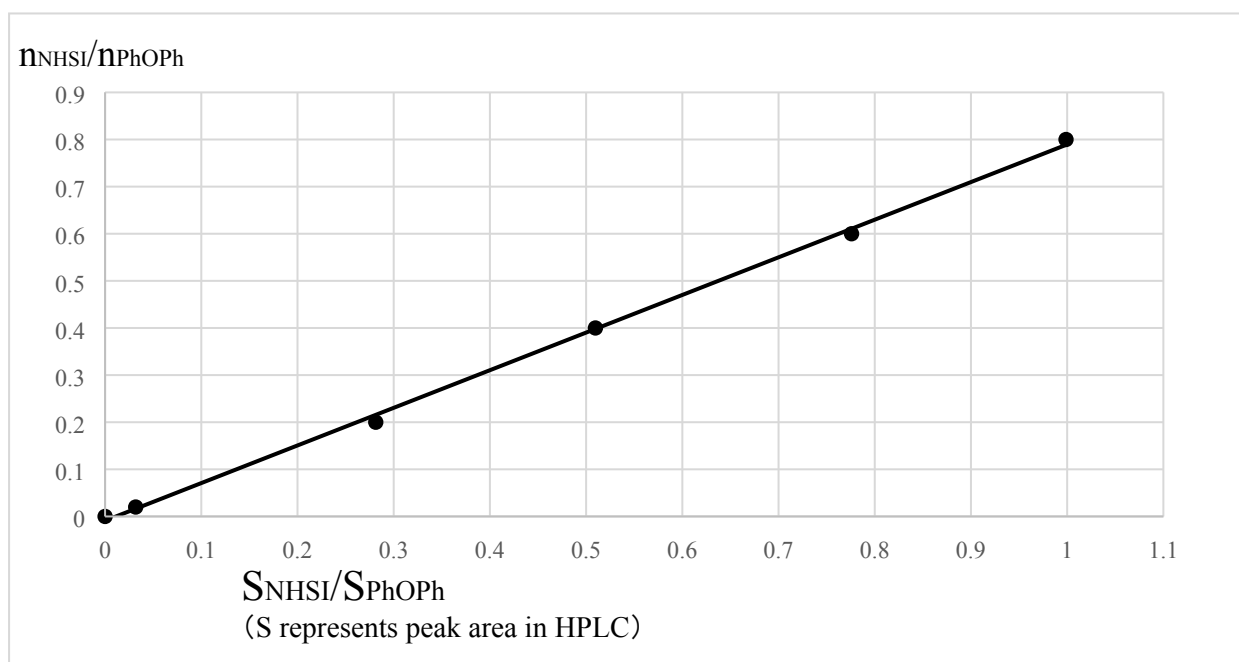
Entry	NHIs	Conversion (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	NHPI	99
2	NHNI	44
3	NHND	11
4	NHSI	97
5	HOAT	<5
6	THICA	38

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 2 mmol ethylbenzene and 5 mol % metal salts, 5 mol % NHIs in 2 mL PhCN are stirred in 90 °C oil bath for 10 h.

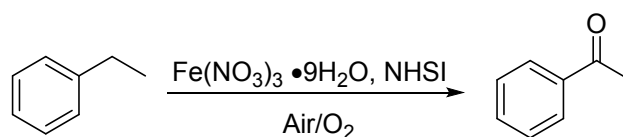
<sup>b</sup> Conversion is determined by GC with diphenyl ether as internal standard.



**Figure S2.** Linear regression line and regression equation of NHPI/internal standard when molar raion of NHPI : PhOPh = 0.02 - 0.50)



**Figure S3.** Linear regression line and regression equation of NHSI/internal standard when molar ratio of NHSI : PhOPh = 0.00 - 0.80)

**Table S4.** Further optimization of Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>/NHSI/O<sub>2</sub> system<sup>a</sup>

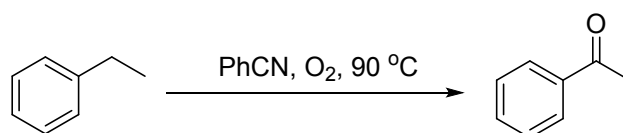
Entry	Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ·9H <sub>2</sub> O (mol%)	NHSI (mol%)	PhCN (mL)	T (°C)	Oxygen Source <sup>b</sup>	Time (h)	Yield <sup>c</sup> (%)
1	5	5	2	90	A	10	93
2	3	3	2	90	A	18	93
3	1	1	2	90	A	24	57
4	1	1	2	100	A	48	68
5	1	2	2	100	A	48	77
6	2	2	2	100	A	24	83
7	1	3	2	100	A	12	86
8	1	3	2	90	A	18	86
9	1	3	2	80	A	48	63
10	1	3	1	90	A	16	86
11	1	3	0.5	90	A	48	61
12	1	3	1	90	B	14	90
13	1	3	1	90	C	16	90
14 <sup>d</sup>	1	3	1	90	B	16	89

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 2 mmol ethylbenzene, Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O and NHSI in PhCN are stirred in 90 °C oil bath.

<sup>b</sup>Oxygen source condition: A: Air (open system); B: O<sub>2</sub> Balloon without purging; C: O<sub>2</sub> balloon with purging (replacing original air in system with pure O<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>c</sup>Determined by GC with diphenyl ether as internal standard.

<sup>d</sup>20 mmol% KPF<sub>6</sub> was added as additive.

**Table S5.** Controlled experiments of EB oxidation<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	Additive	Conversion <sup>b</sup>
1	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	\	98
2 <sup>c</sup>	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	\	98
3	2 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	\	79

	5 mol% NHSI		
4	5 mol% NHSI	\	54
5	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	\	trace
6	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 1 mol% NHSI	\	21
7	2.5 mol% Fe <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	\	71
8	15 mol% NaNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	\	57
9	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	5 mol% BHT	79
10	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	20 mol% BHT	53
11	5 mol% Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol% NHSI	100 mol% BHT	trace

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 2 mmol ethylbenzene, catalyst, additive in 1 mL PhCN with O<sub>2</sub> balloon are stirred in 90 °C oil bath for 24 h.

<sup>b</sup>Conversion was determined by GC.

<sup>c</sup>Reaction flask was tightly wrapped by aluminum foil to avoid any visible light.

### Product characterization

**Benzophenone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2a**). Compound **2a** was obtained as white solid (357 mg, 98% yield). m. p. 48-49 °C (lit.<sup>[1]</sup> 47-49 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.84 – 7.82 (m, 4H), 7.60 (tt, 2H, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz), 7.52 – 7.48 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 196.8, 137.6, 132.4, 130.1, 128.3.

**4-Chlorobenzophenone**<sup>[2]</sup> (**2b**). Compound **2b** was obtained as white solid (359 mg, 83% yield). m. p. 75-76 °C (lit.<sup>[2]</sup> 75-77 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.80-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.62 (tt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 195.5, 138.9, 137.3, 135.9, 132.7, 131.5, 129.9, 128.7, 128.4.

**9-Fluorenone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2c**). Compound **2c** was obtained as yellow solid (349 mg, 97% yield). m. p. 83-84 °C (lit.<sup>[5]</sup> 84-86 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.66 (dt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (dt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dt, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.9, 144.4, 134.7, 134.1, 129.0, 124.3, 120.3.

**9-Xanthenone**<sup>[3][4]</sup> (**2d**). Compound **2d** was obtained as white solid (384 mg, 98% yield). m. p. 170-172 °C (lit.<sup>[3]</sup> 168-170 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.33 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 177.1, 156.1, 134.7, 126.7, 123.9, 121.8, 117.9.

**1-[4-(4-Pyridinyl)phenyl]ethenone**<sup>[5]</sup> (**2e**). Compound **2e** was obtained as off-white solid (362 mg, 99% yield). m. p. 71-72 °C (lit.<sup>[5]</sup> 71-72 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.82 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 195.1, 150.3, 144.4, 135.9, 133.6, 130.1, 128.7, 122.9.

**1-Tetralone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2f**). Compound **2f** was obtained as light yellow liquid (289 mg, 99% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10-2.03 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.9, 144.2, 133.1, 132.4, 128.6, 126.8, 126.3, 38.9, 29.4, 23.1.

**1-Indanone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2g**). Compound **2g** was obtained as light yellow solid (230 mg, 87% yield). m. p. 39-41 °C (lit.<sup>[1]</sup> 40-42 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dt, *J* = 8 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 3.15 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 207.1, 155.1, 137.0, 134.6, 127.2, 126.7, 123.7, 36.2, 25.8.

**3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzopyran-1-one**<sup>[6]</sup> (**2h**). Compound **2h** was obtained as light yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (tt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.0, 139.5, 133.5, 130.1, 127.5, 127.2, 125.1, 67.2, 27.6.

**Acetophenone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2i**). Compound **2i** was obtained as light yellow liquid (204 mg, 85% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.93-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.52 (tt, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 198.06, 137.09, 133.09, 128.55, 128.28, 26.54.

**n-Butyrophenone**<sup>[6]</sup> (**2j**). Compound **2j** was obtained as light yellow liquid (269 mg, 91% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.51 (tt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.02, 136.92, 132.61, 129.31, 40.23, 17.53, 13.64.

**2'-Bromoacetophenone**<sup>[7]</sup> (**2k**). Compound **2k** was obtained as light yellow liquid (394 mg, 99% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (td, *J* = 8 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 201.1, 141.3, 133.7, 131.7, 128.8, 127.3, 118.7, 30.1.

**4'-Bromoacetophenone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2l**). Compound **2l** was obtained as light yellow solid (386 mg, 97% yield). m. p. 51-52 °C (lit.<sup>[1]</sup> 48-50 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.0, 135.9, 131.9, 129.8, 128.3, 26.5.

**2-Bromoacetophenone**<sup>[8]</sup> (**2m**). Compound **2m** was obtained as off-white solid (394 mg, 99% yield). m. p. 46-47 °C (lit.<sup>[8]</sup> 46-48 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.01-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.62 (tt, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 4.47 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 191.3, 134.0, 133.9, 128.9, 30.9.

**4'-Cyanoacetophenone**<sup>[9]</sup> (**2n**). Compound **2n** was obtained as white solid (200 mg, 69% yield). m. p. 57-59 °C (lit.<sup>[21]</sup> 59-60 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 196.5, 139.9, 132.5, 128.7, 117.9, 116.4, 26.7.

**4'-Nitroacetophenone**<sup>[1]</sup> (**2o**). Compound **2o** was obtained as yellow solid (280 mg, 85% yield). m. p. 78-79 °C (lit.<sup>[1]</sup> 80-81 °C) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ



8.30 (dt,  $J = 9$ , 2 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (dt,  $J = 9$ , 2 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  196.3, 150.3, 141.4, 129.3, 123.8, 26.9.

**4'-Ethylacetophenone**<sup>[10]</sup> (**2p**). Compound **2p** was obtained as light yellow liquid (97 mg, 33 % yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.71 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  197.8, 150.0, 134.9, 128.5, 128.0, 28.9, 26.5, 15.1.

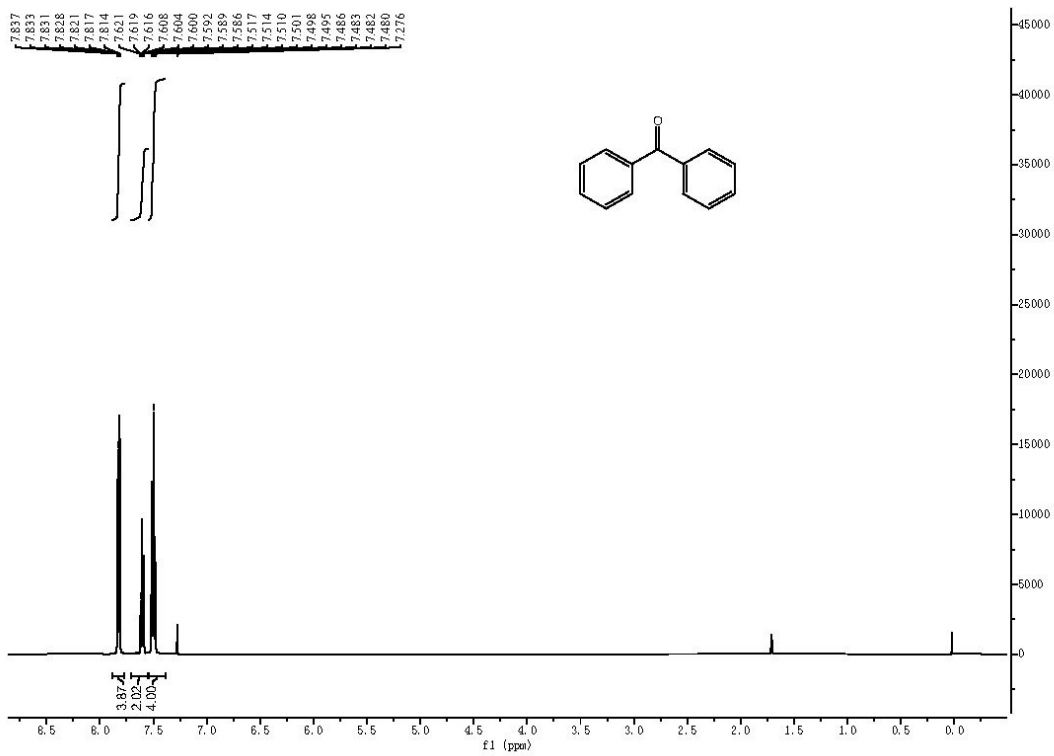
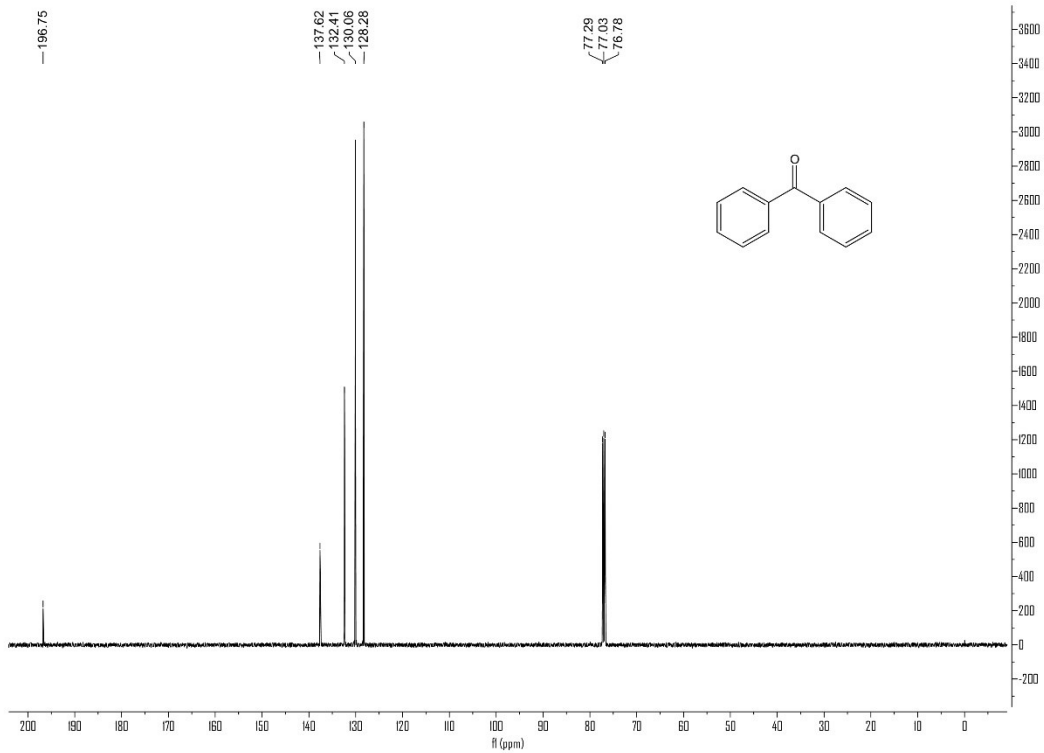
**4'-Methylacetophenone**<sup>[11]</sup> (**2q**). Compound **2q** was obtained as light yellow liquid (99 mg, 37 % yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.84 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  197.6, 143.7, 134.6, 129.1, 128.3, 26.3, 21.5.

**4'-Acetoxyacetophenone**<sup>[12][13]</sup> (**2r**). Compound **2r** was obtained as off-white solid (238 mg, 67 % yield). m. p. 51-52 °C (lit.<sup>[12]</sup> 52-54 °C).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.89-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 1H), 2.19 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  196.4, 168.5, 154.1, 134.4, 129.6, 121.5, 26.6, 20.7.

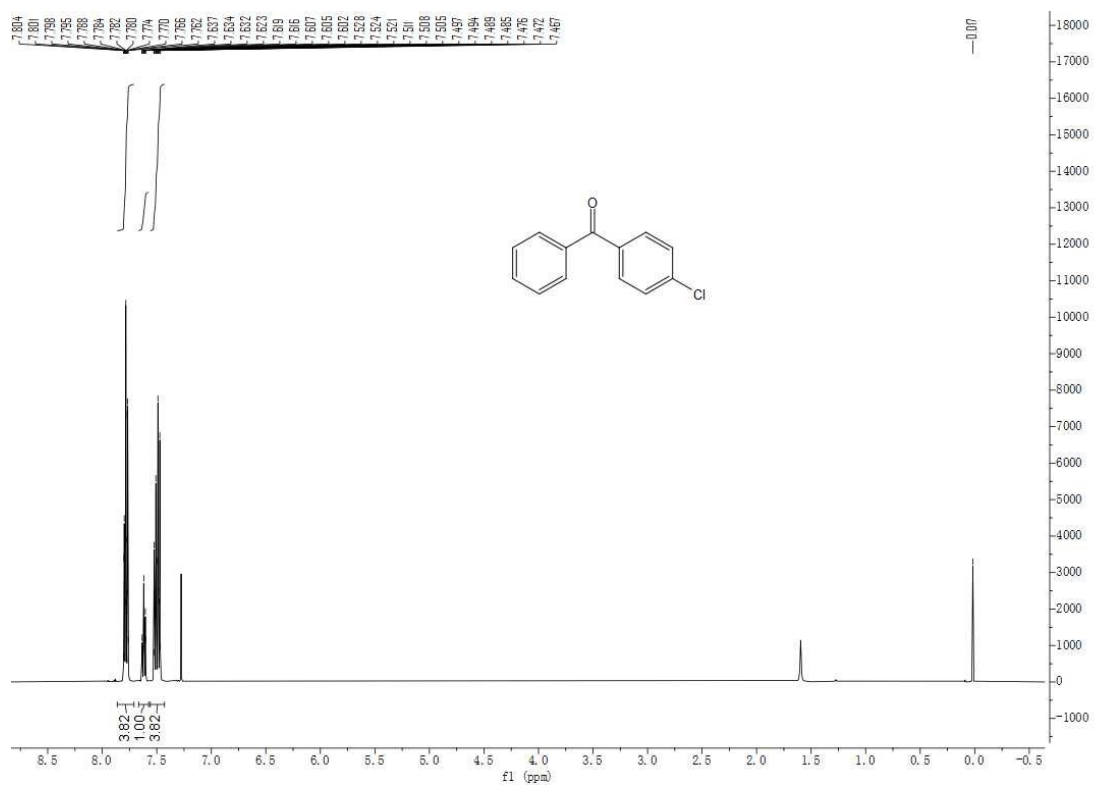
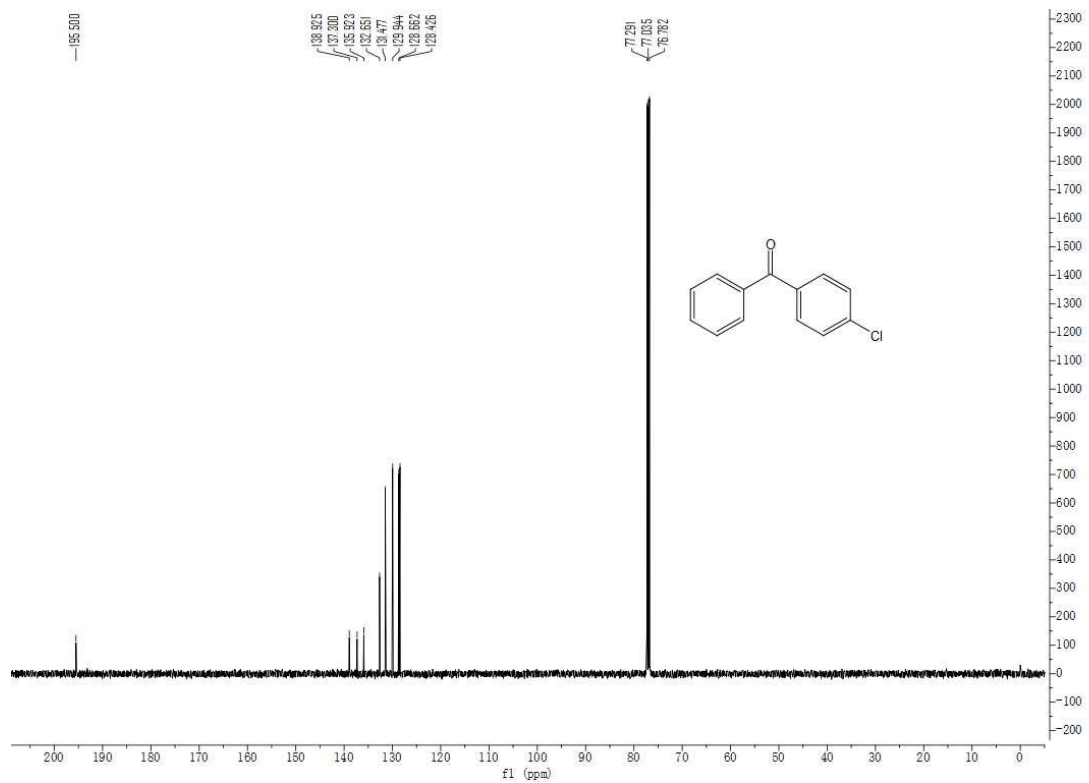
**4'-Methoxyacetophenone**<sup>[11]</sup> (**2s**). Compound **2s** was obtained as light yellow liquid (105 mg, 35 % yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.75-7.72 (m, 2H), 6.75-6.72 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.65 (m, 3H), 2.35-2.34 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  196.4, 163.3, 130.4, 113.5, 55.2, 26.1.

## NMR Spectrum of products

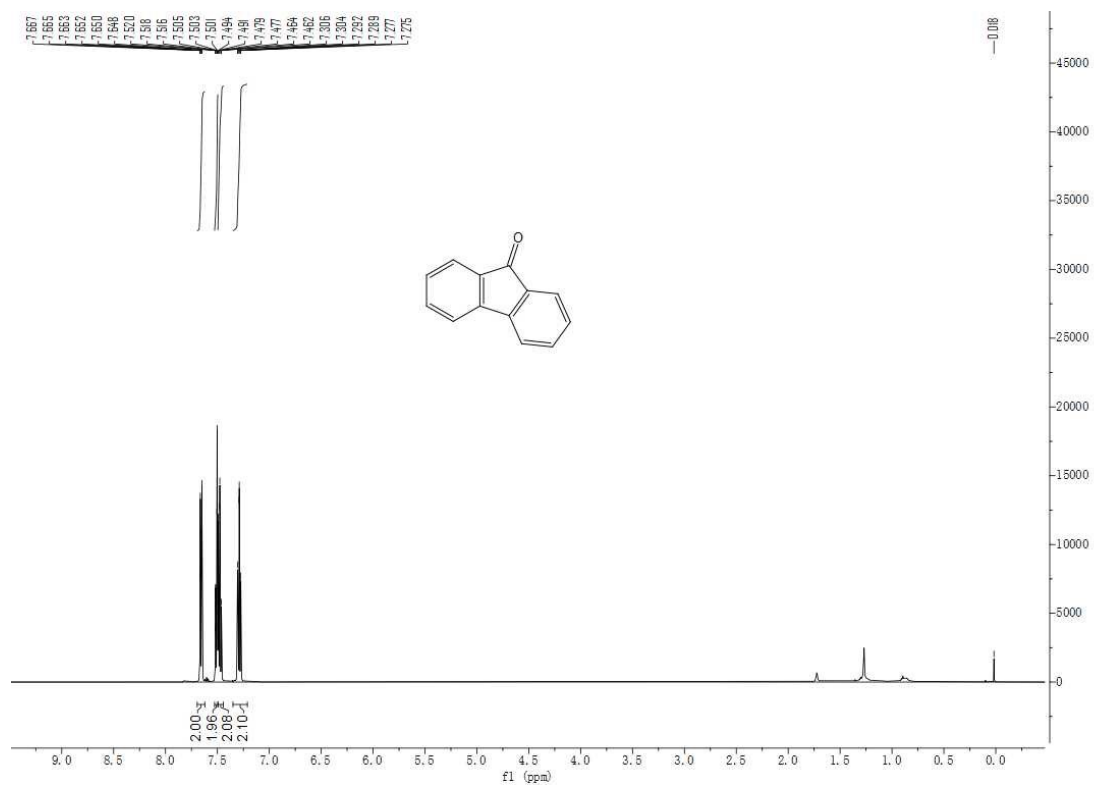
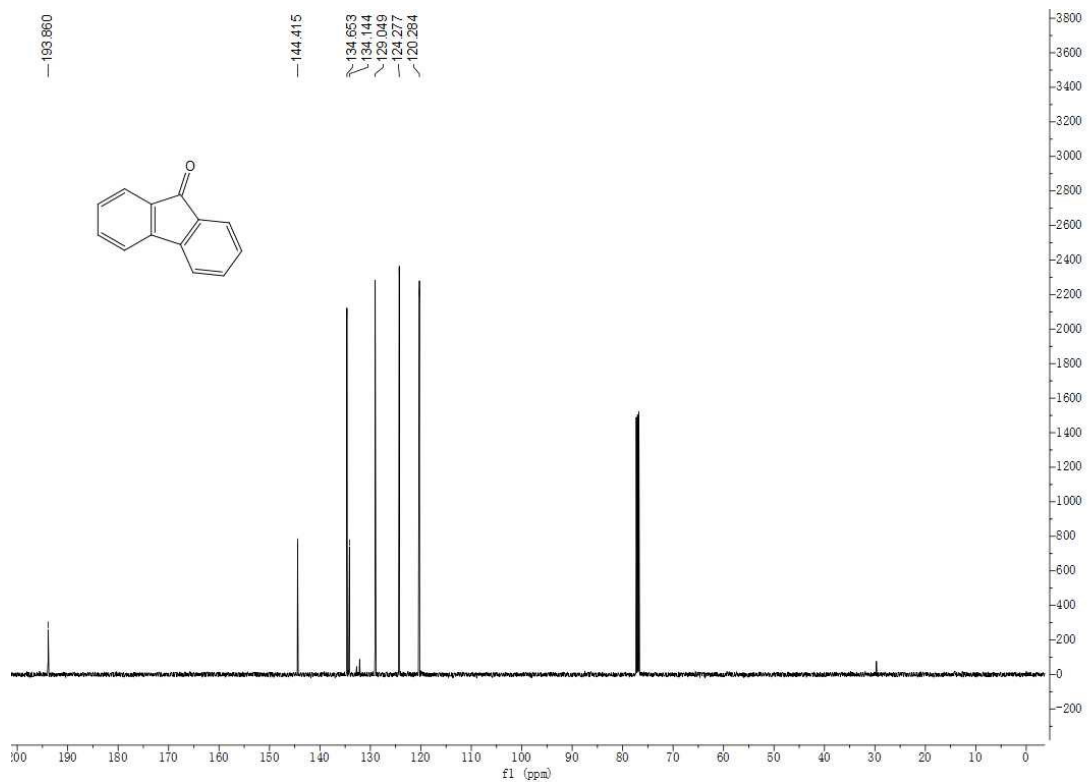
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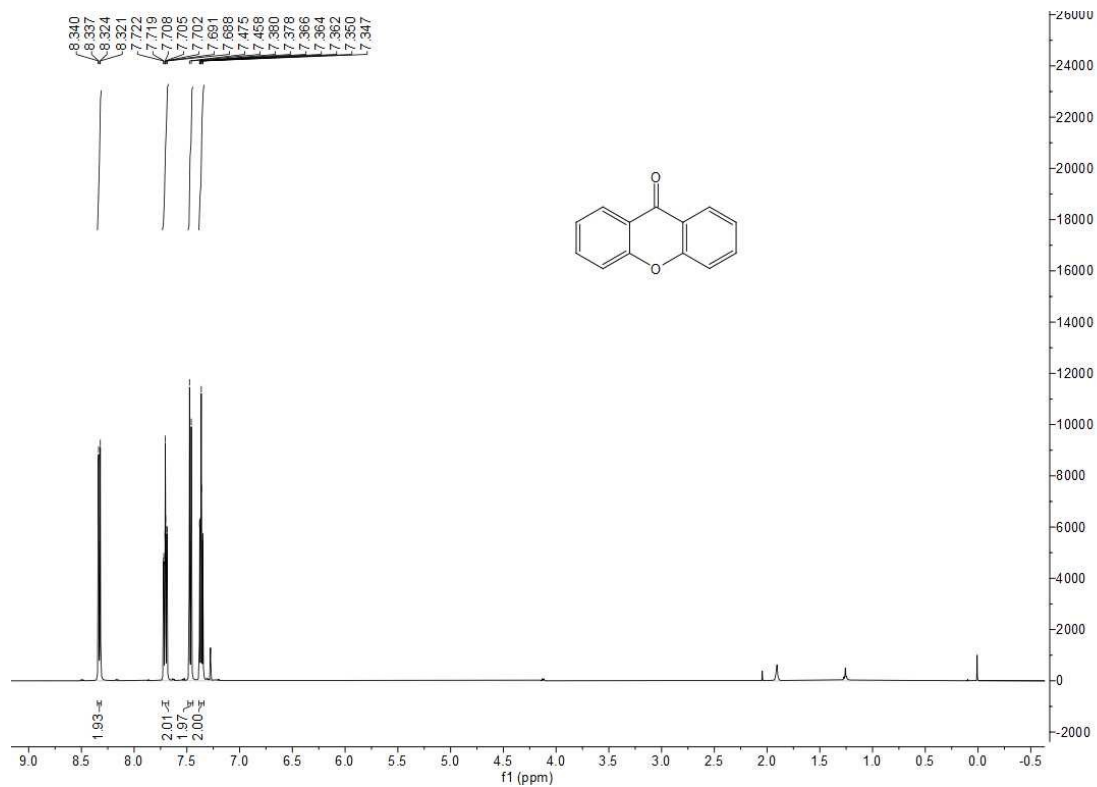
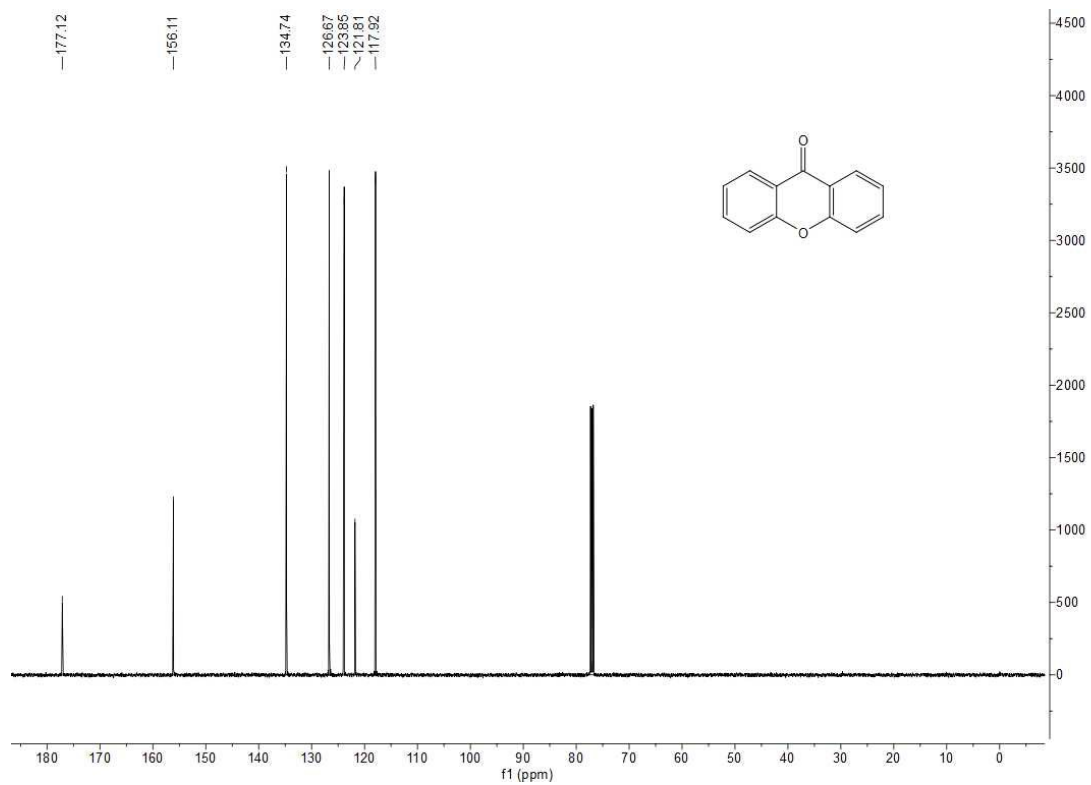
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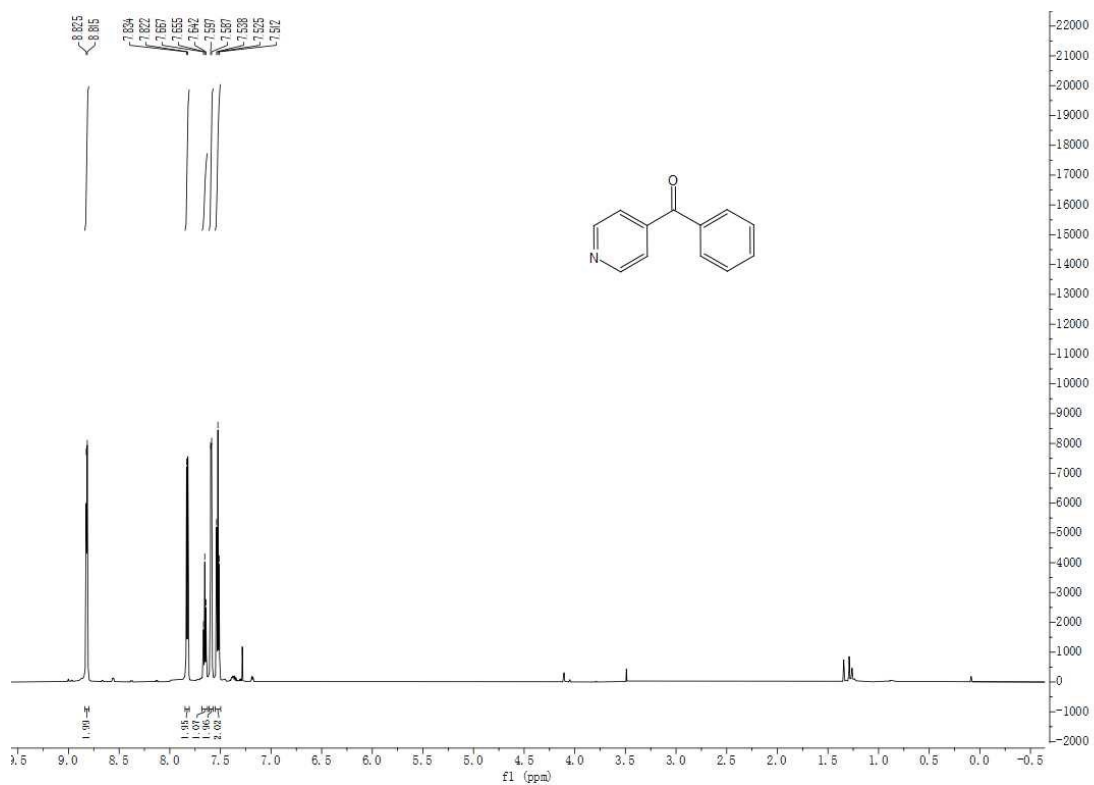
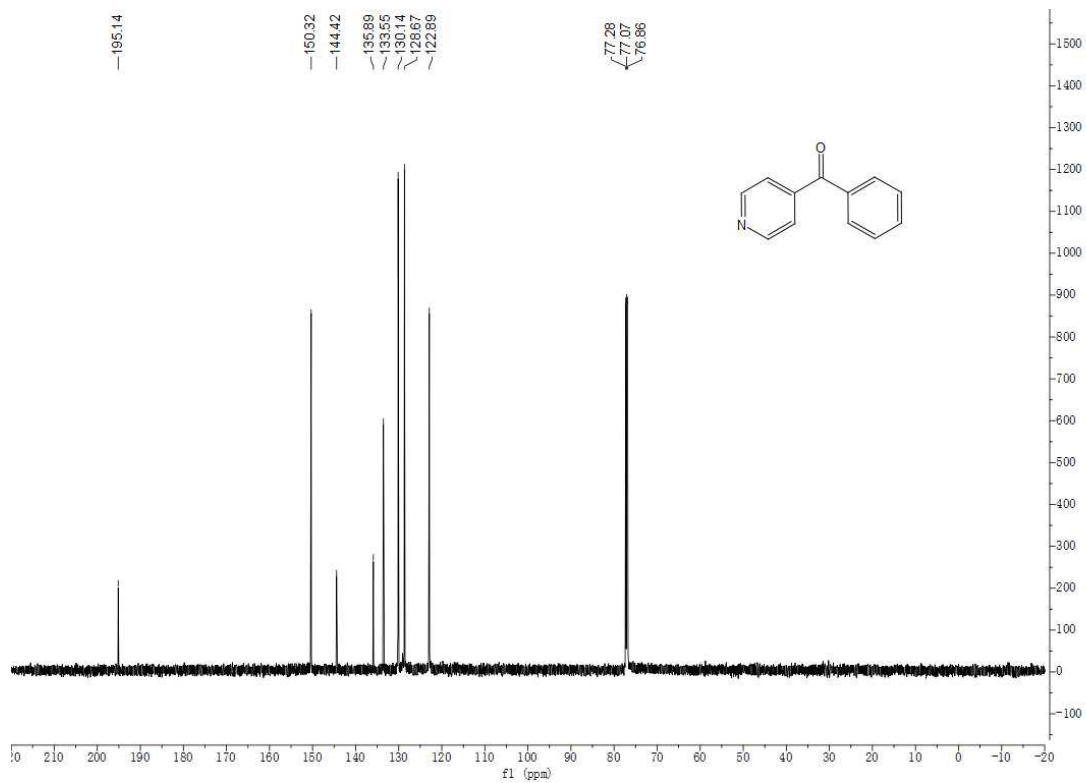
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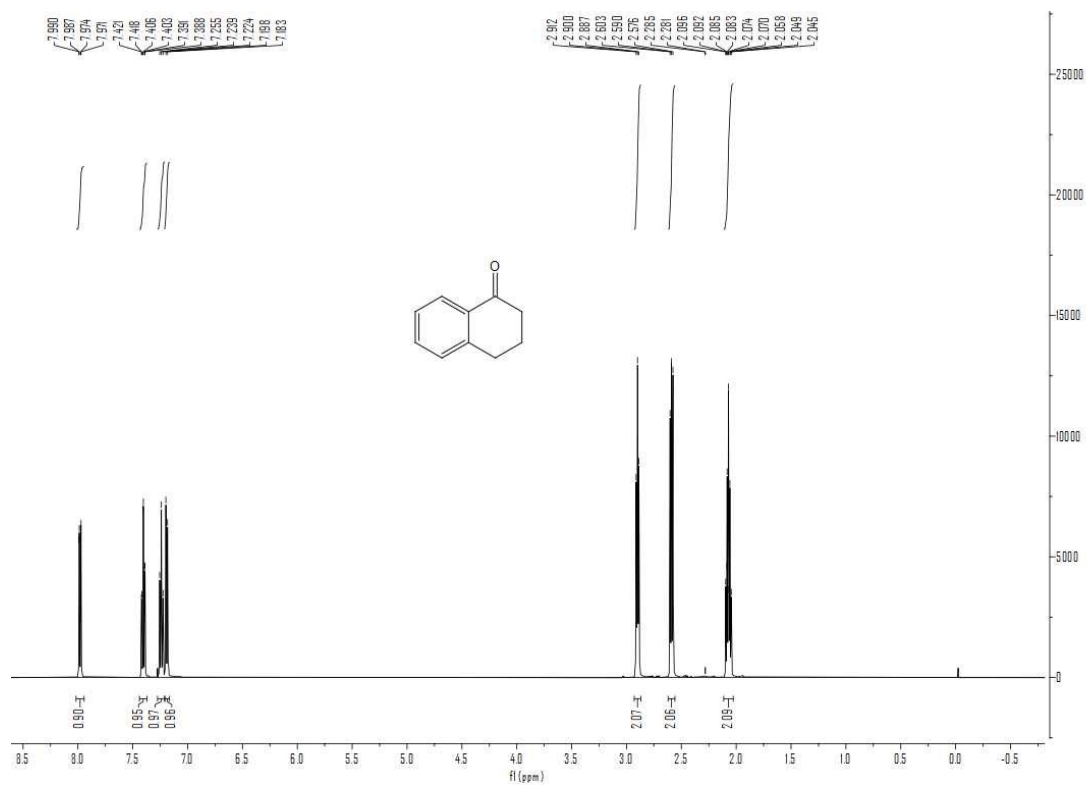
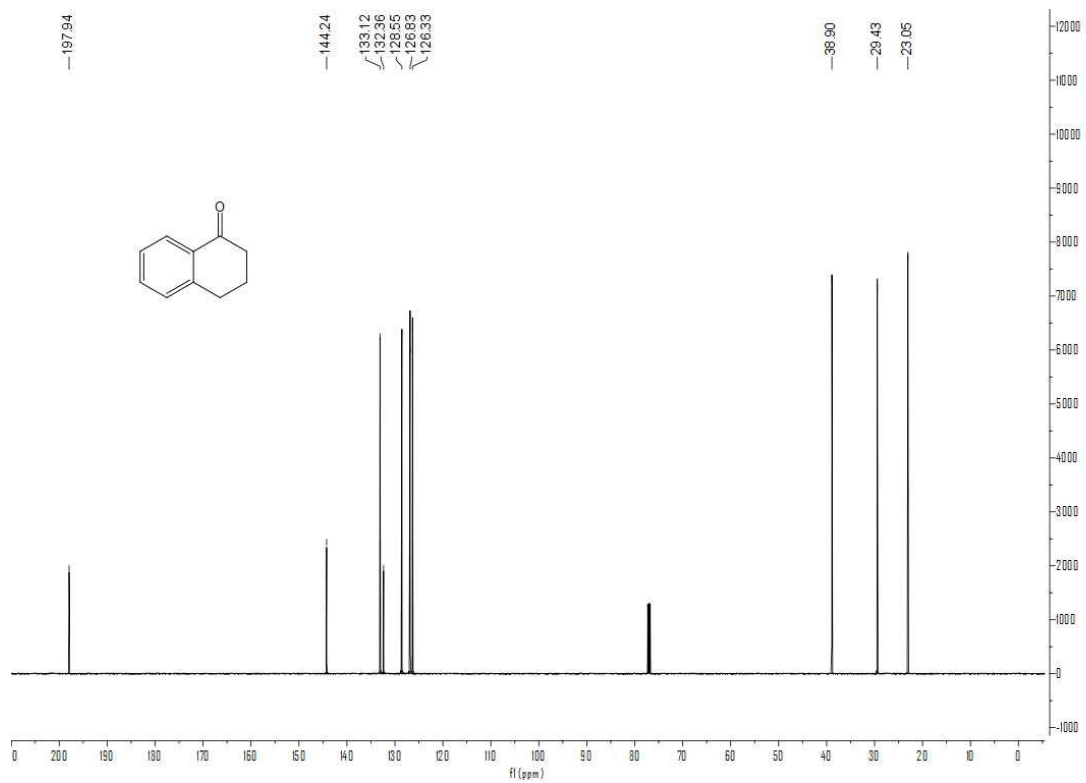
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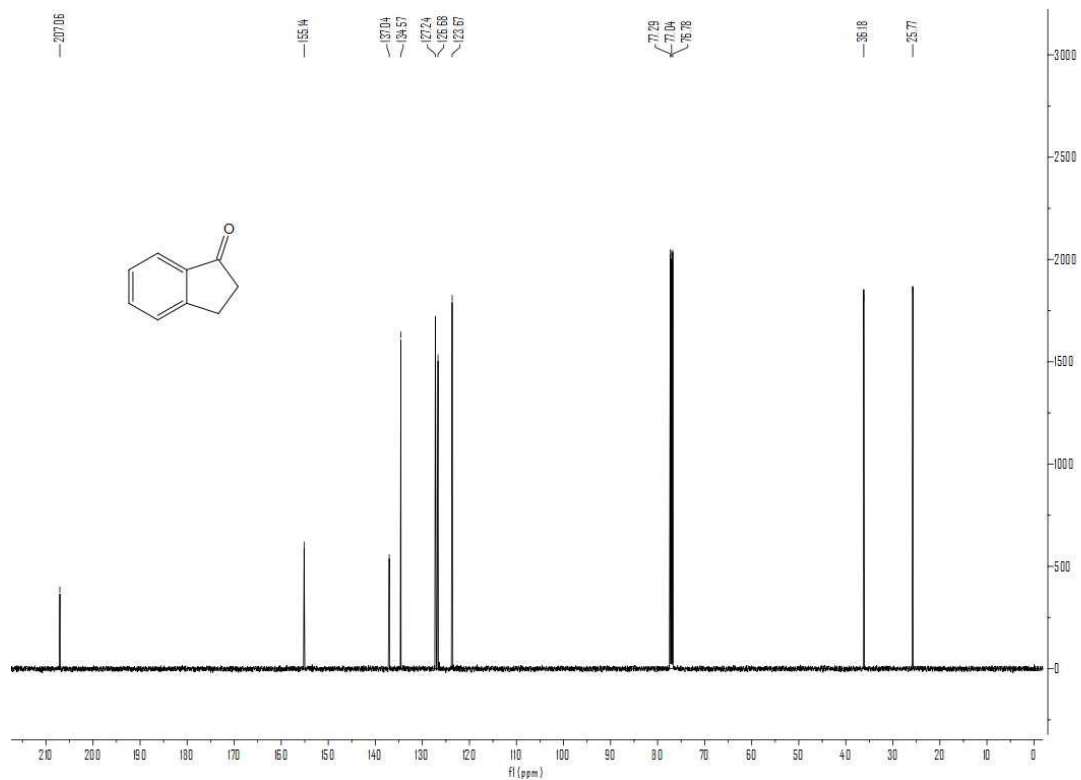
2e:



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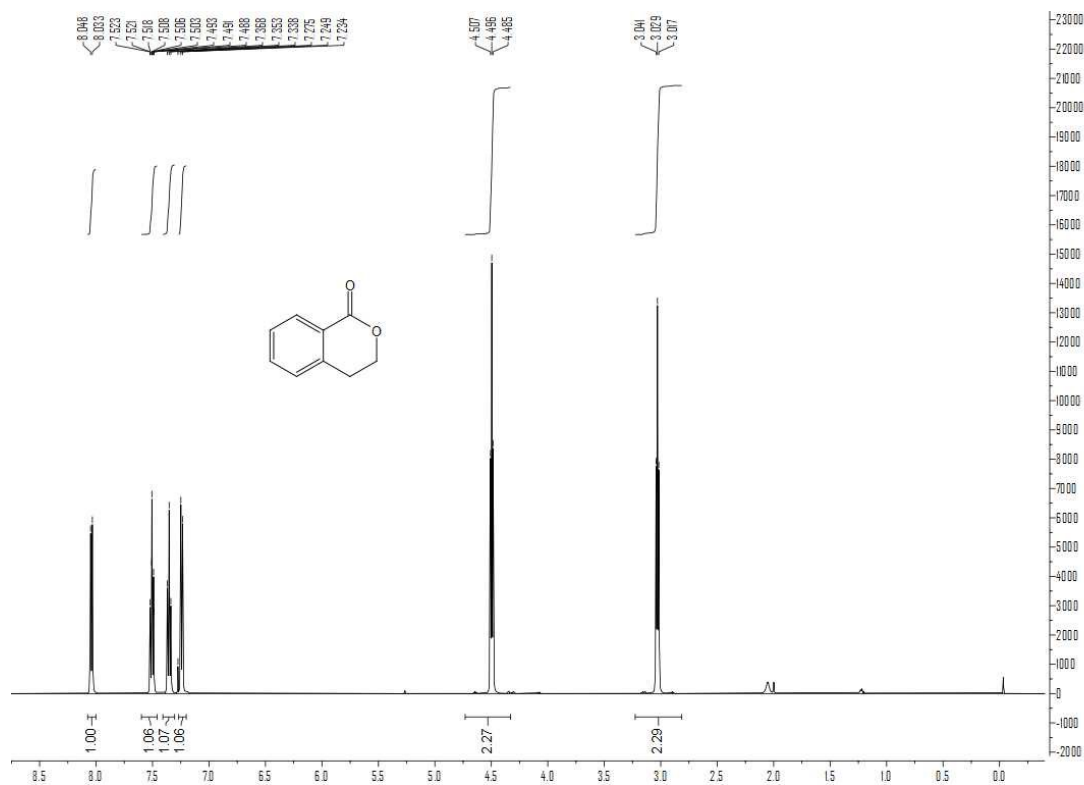
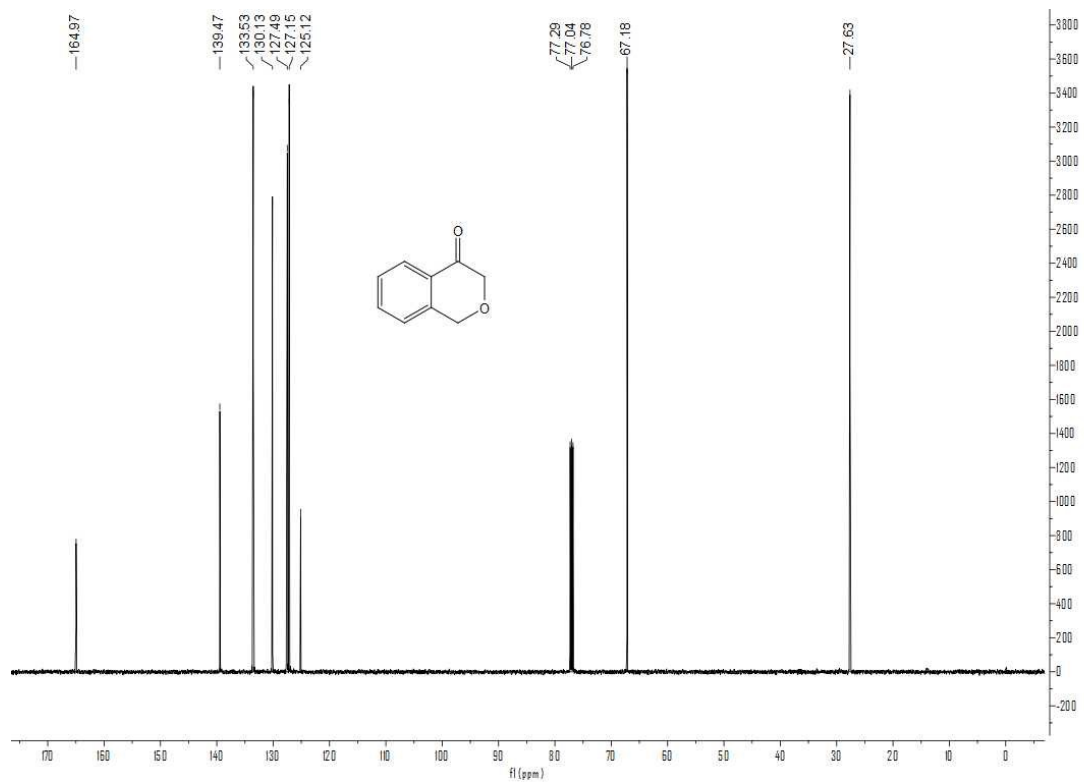


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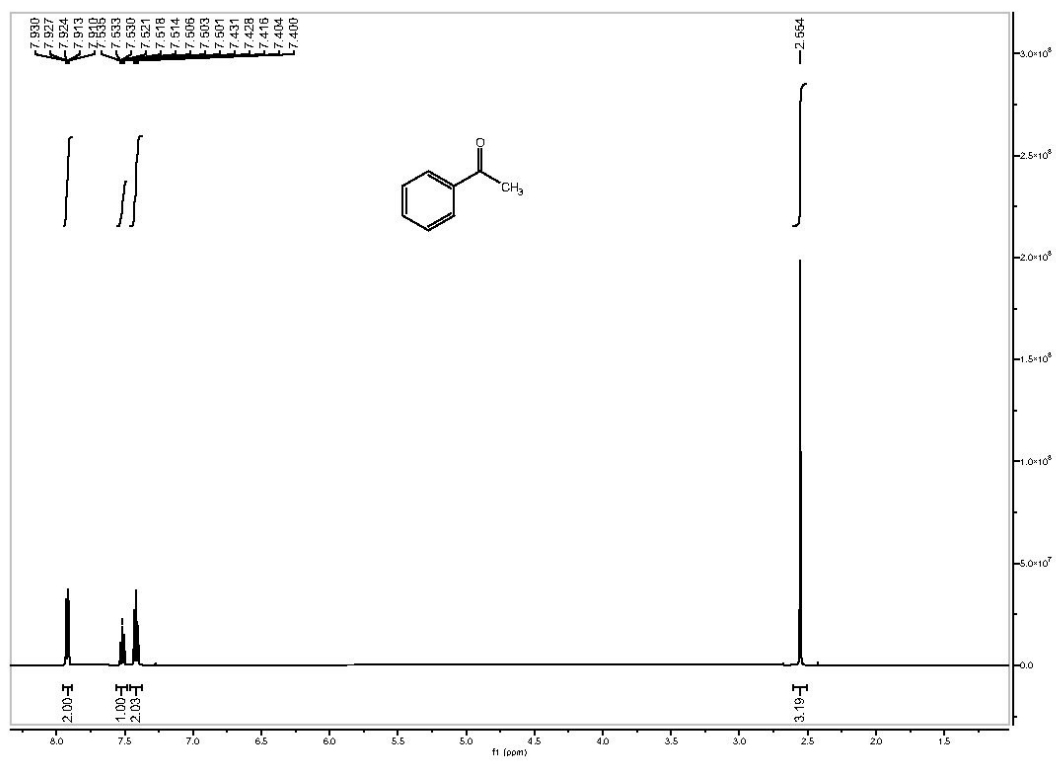
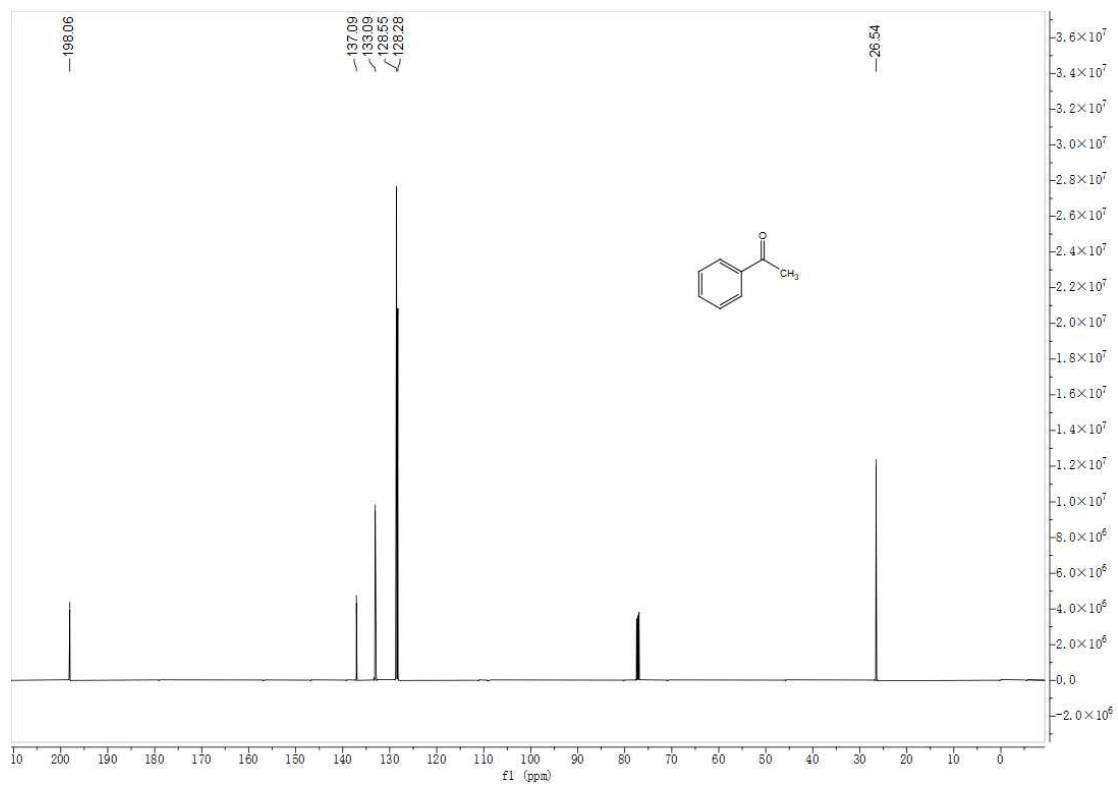


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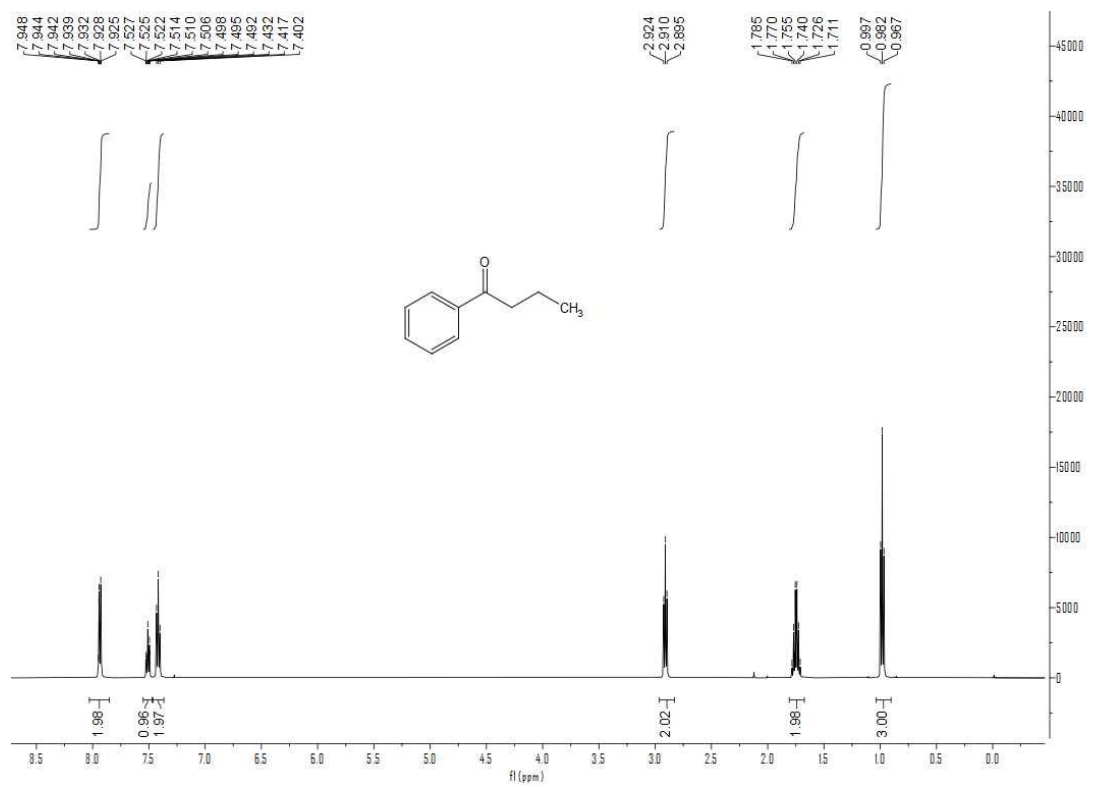




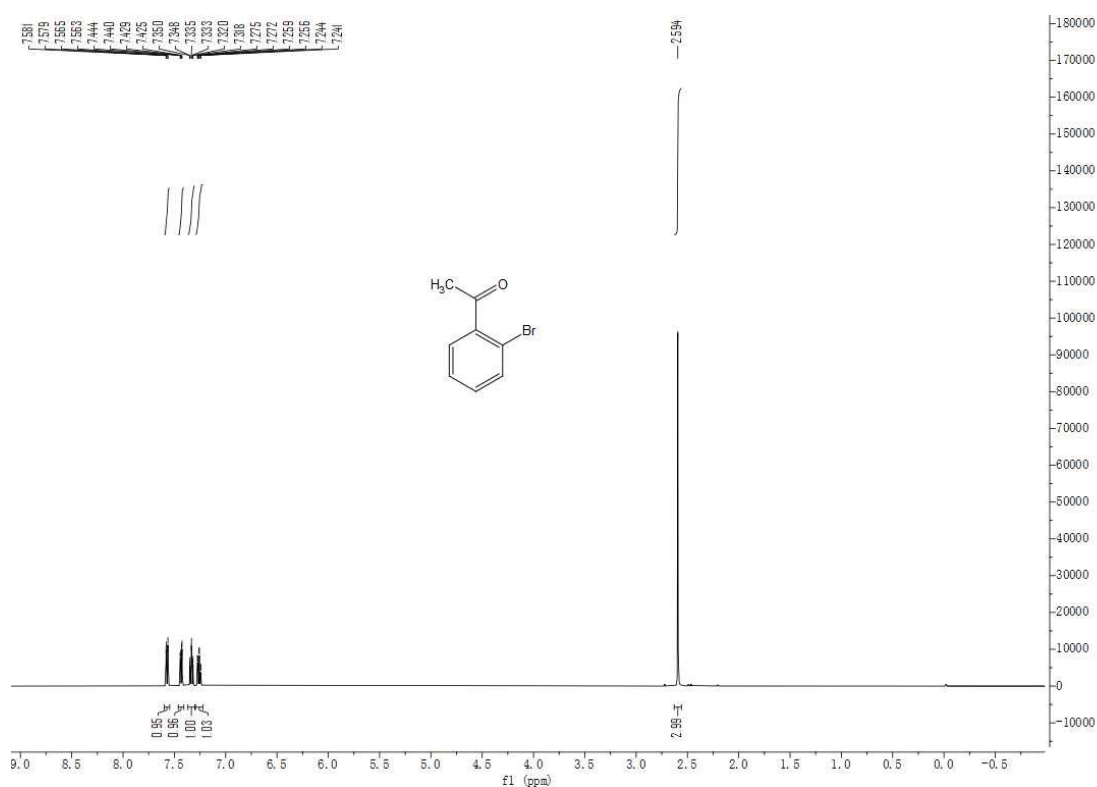
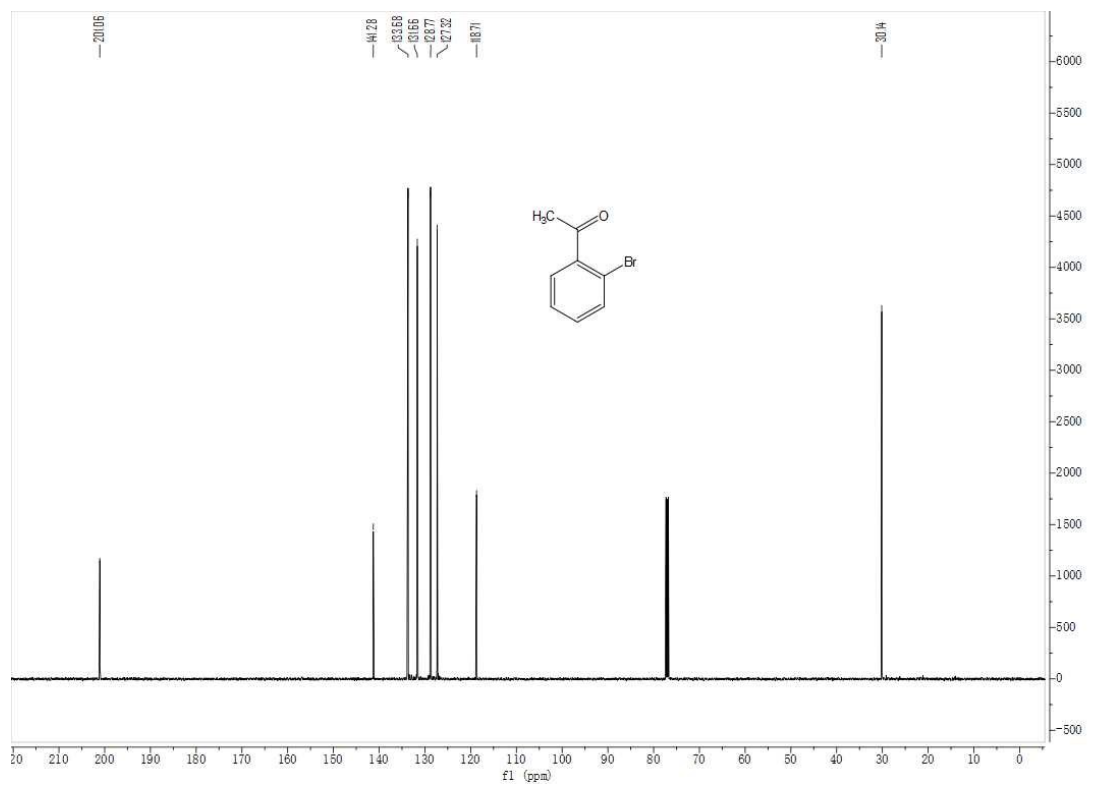
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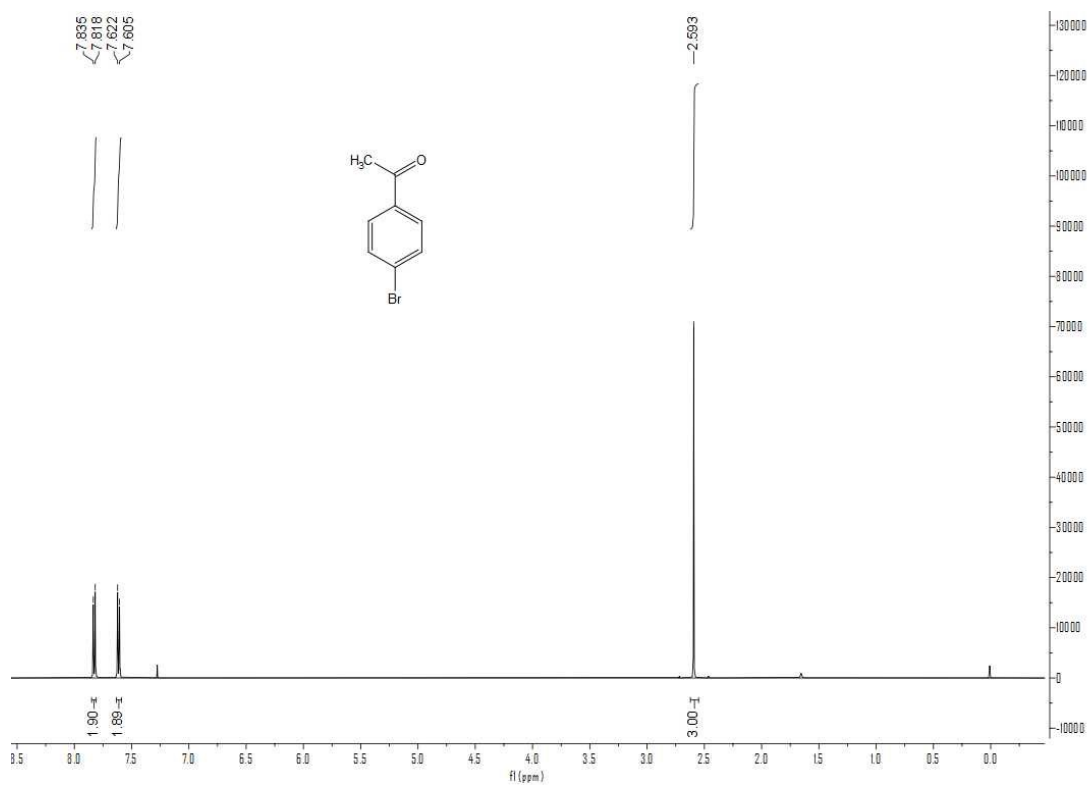
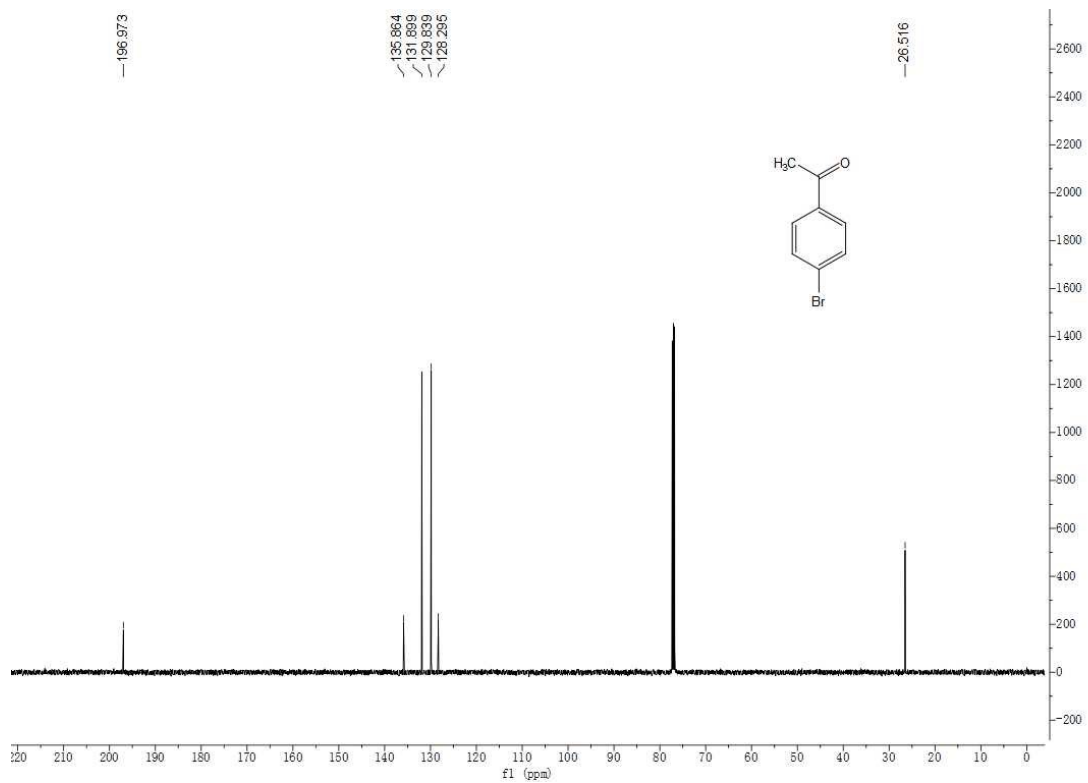
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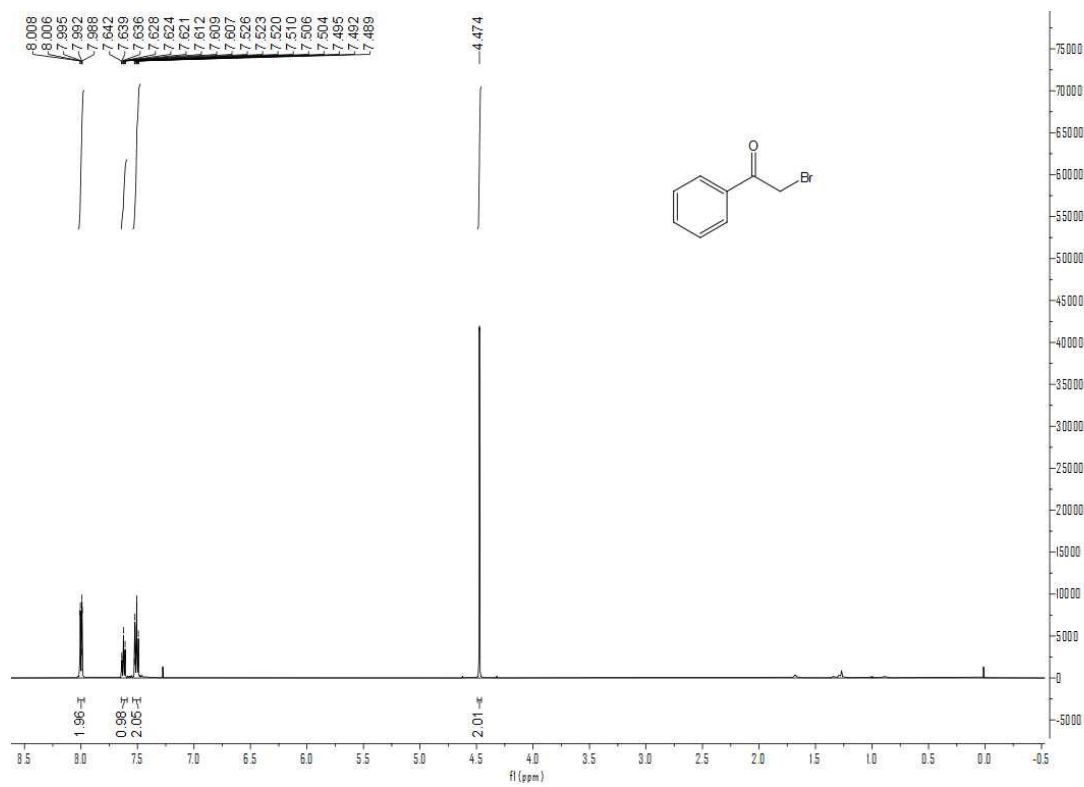
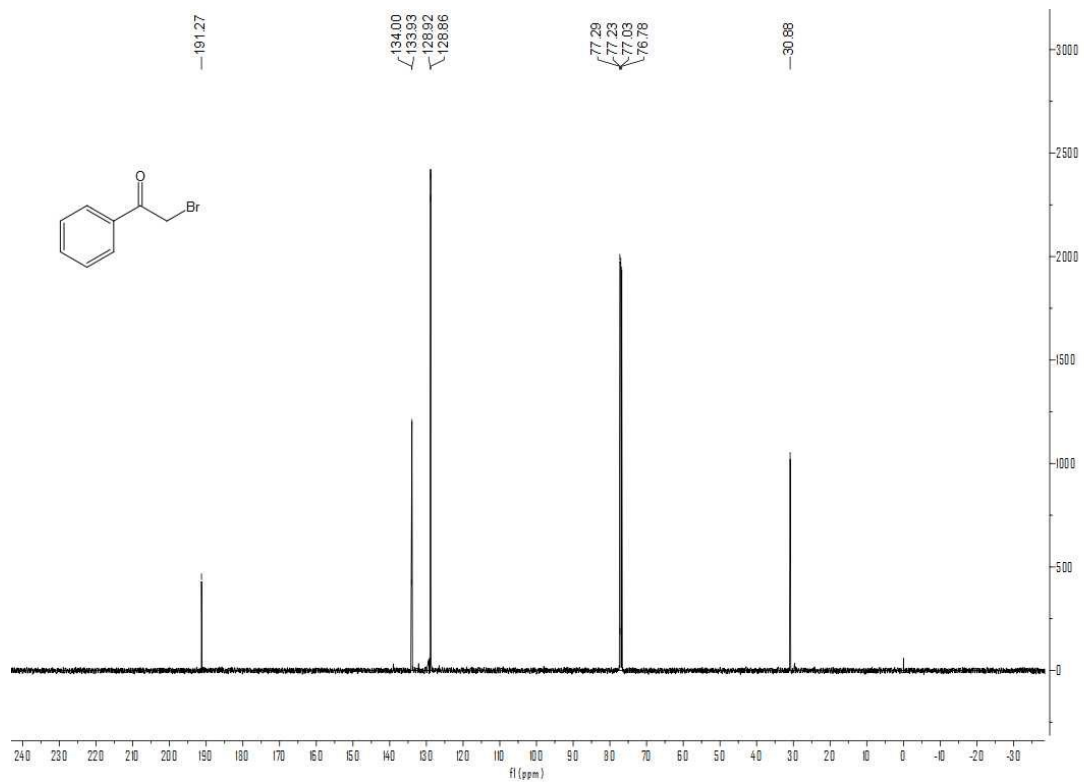
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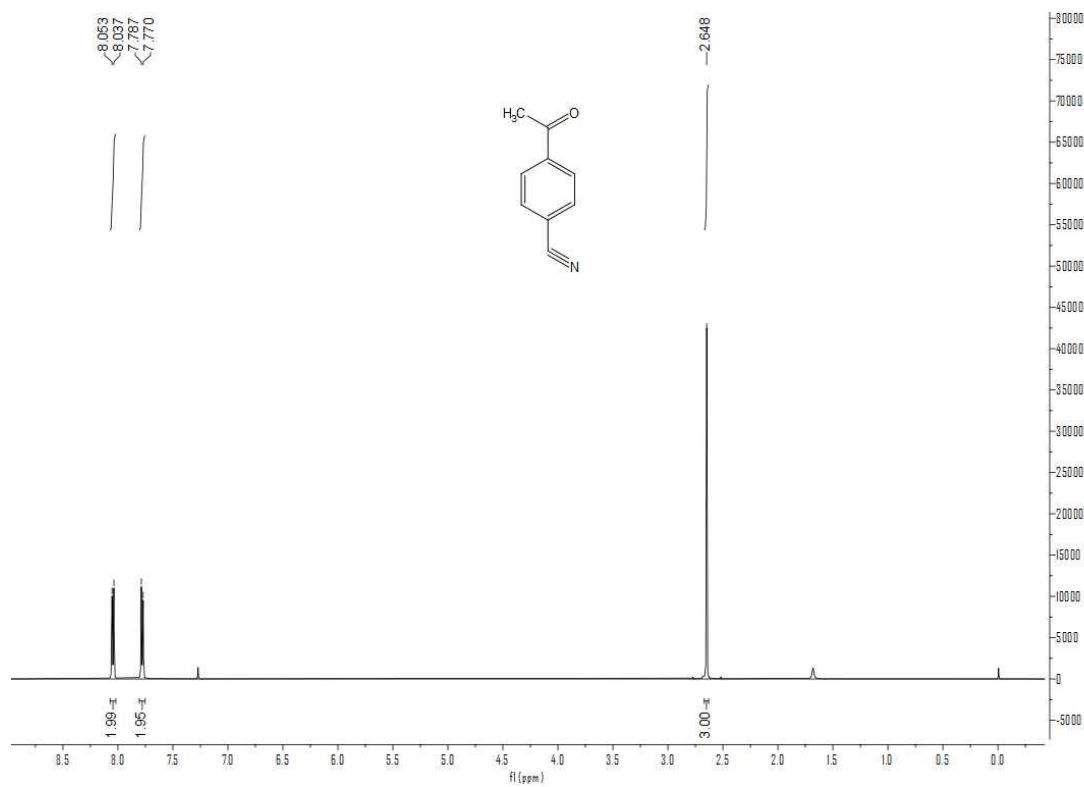
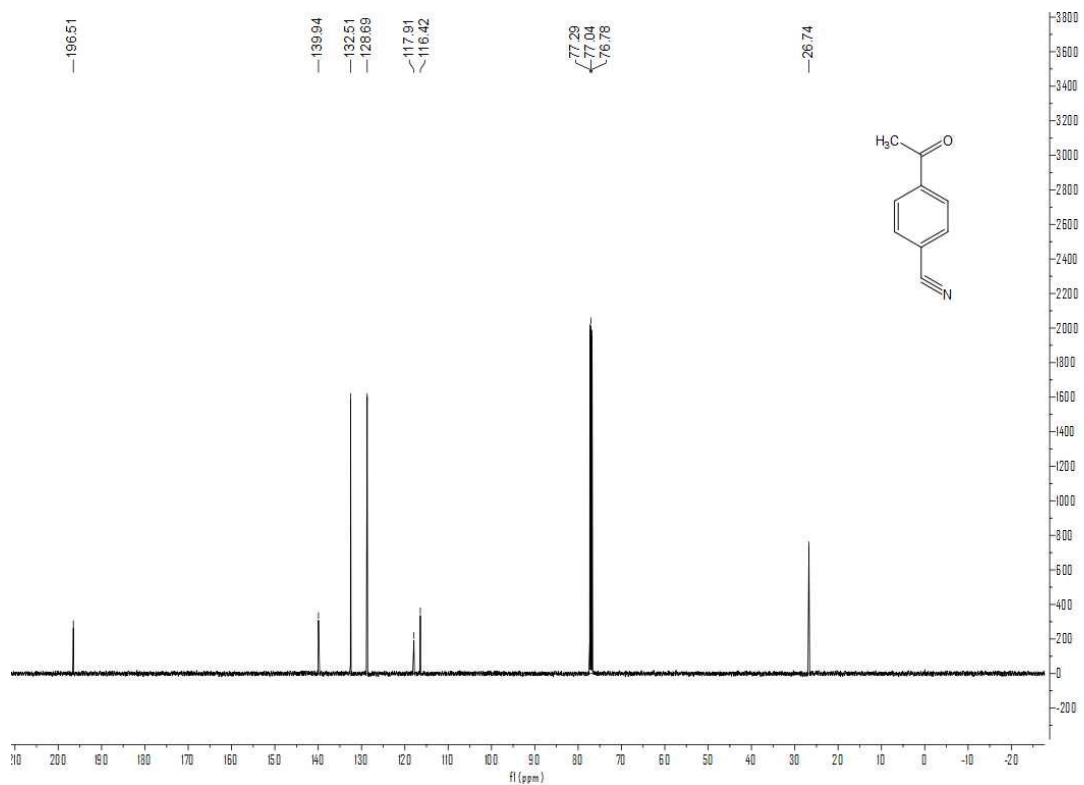
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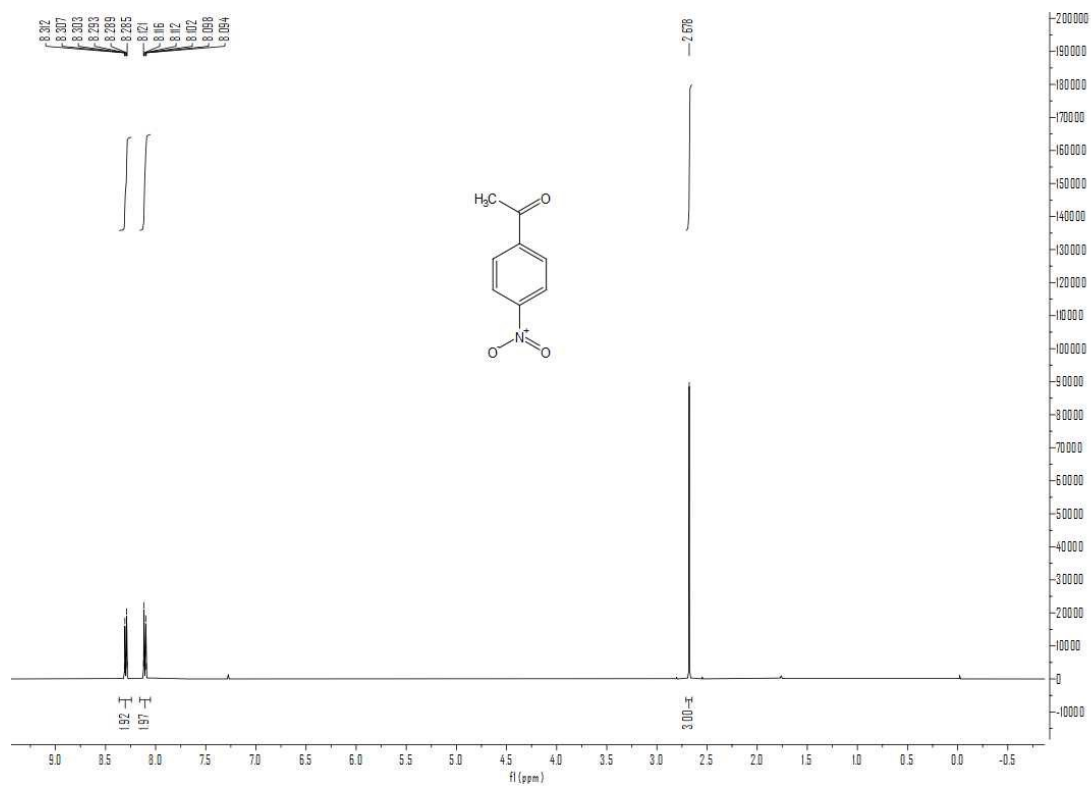
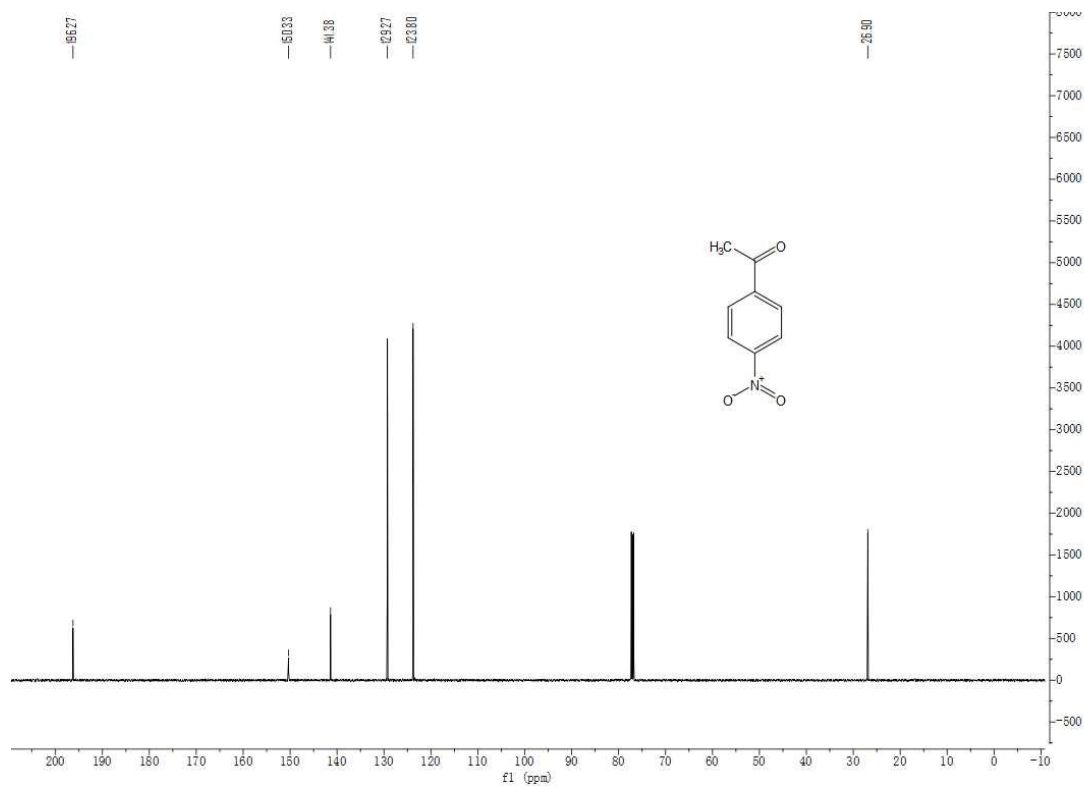
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2n:

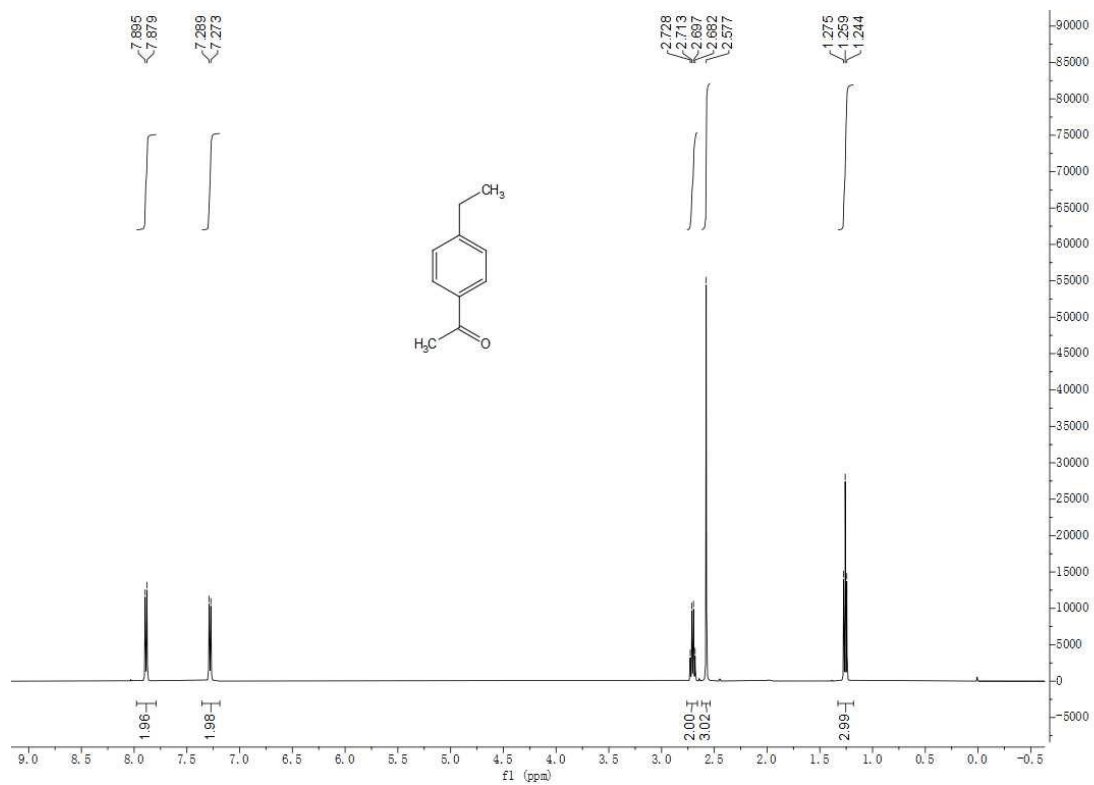
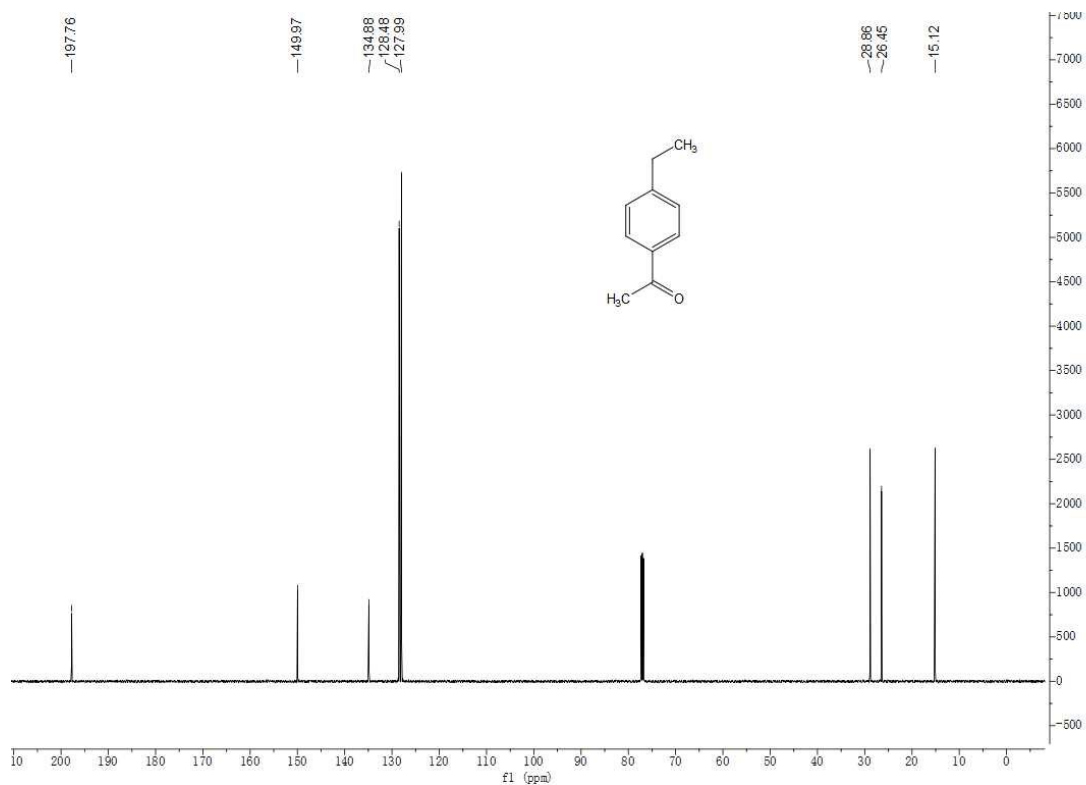


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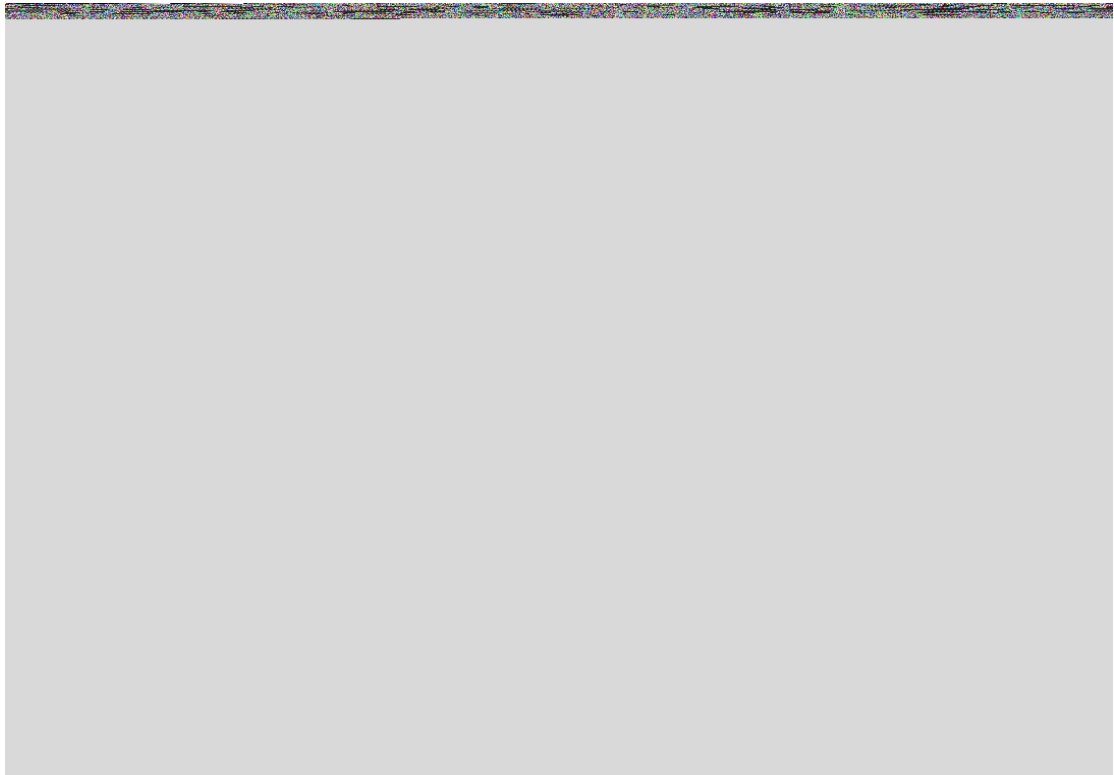
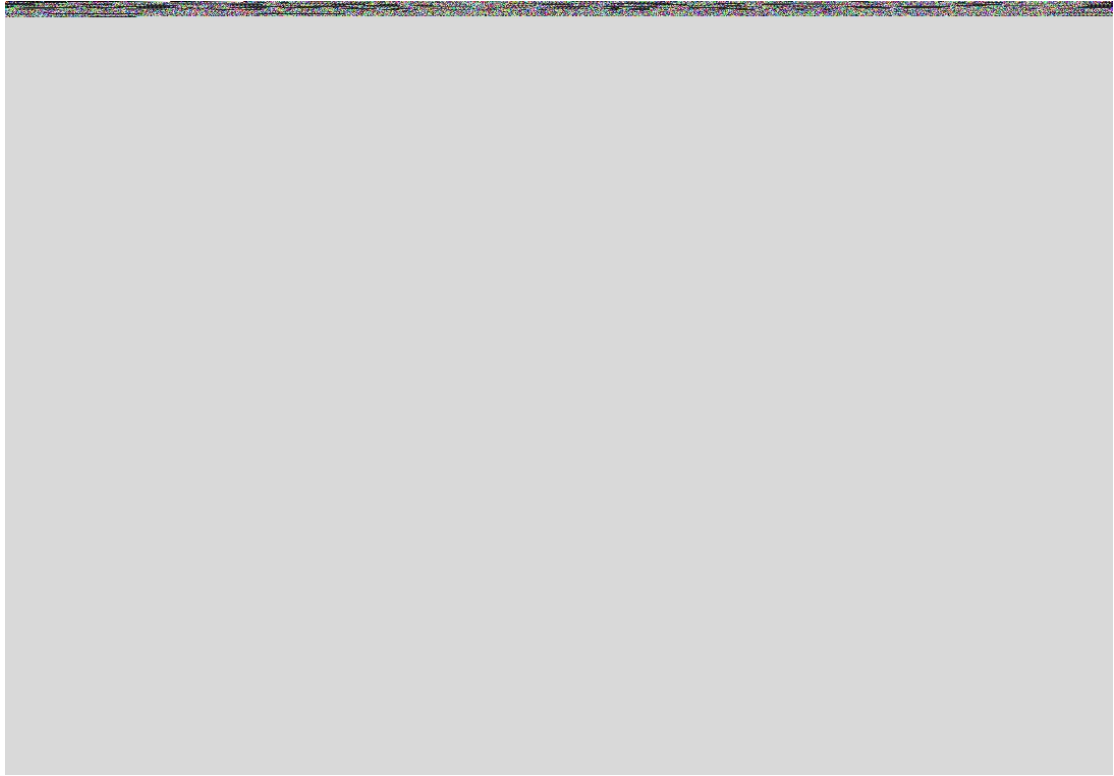




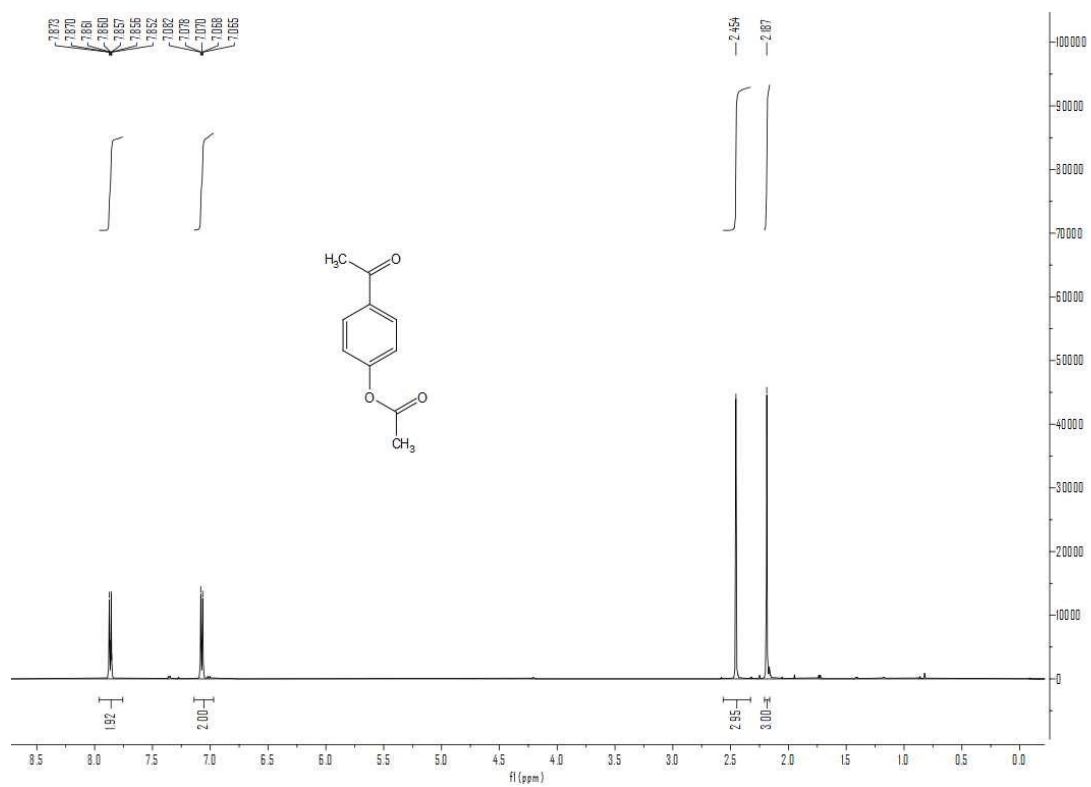
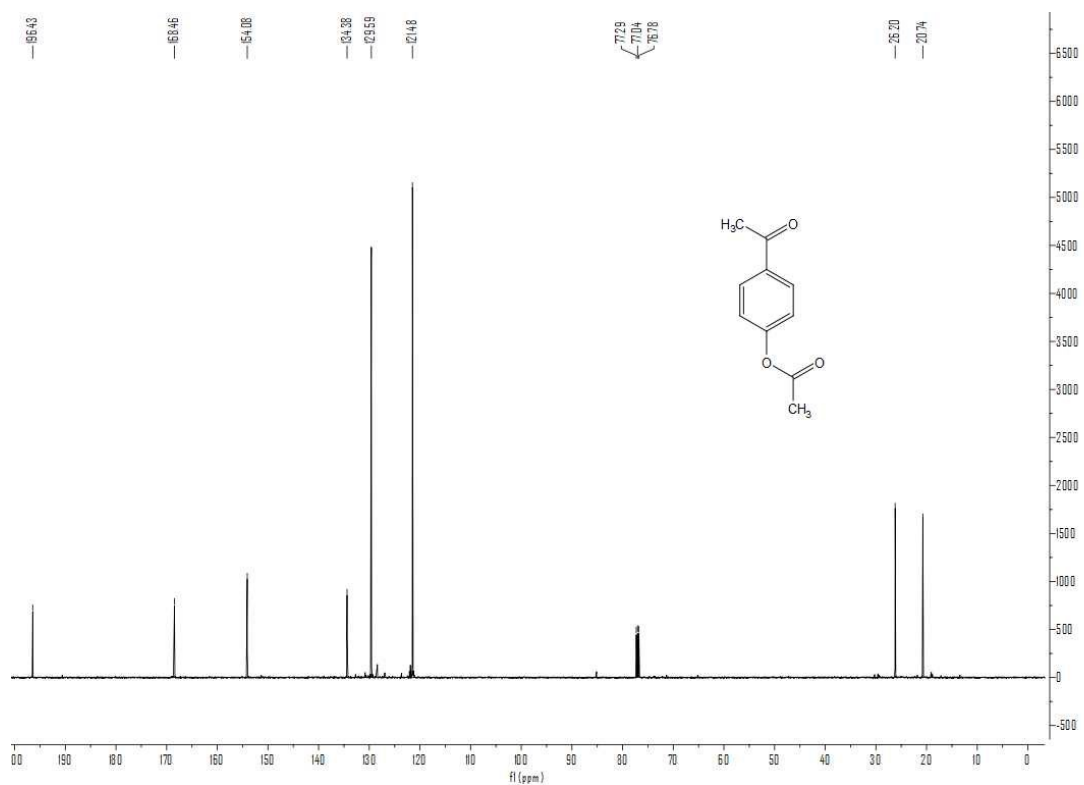
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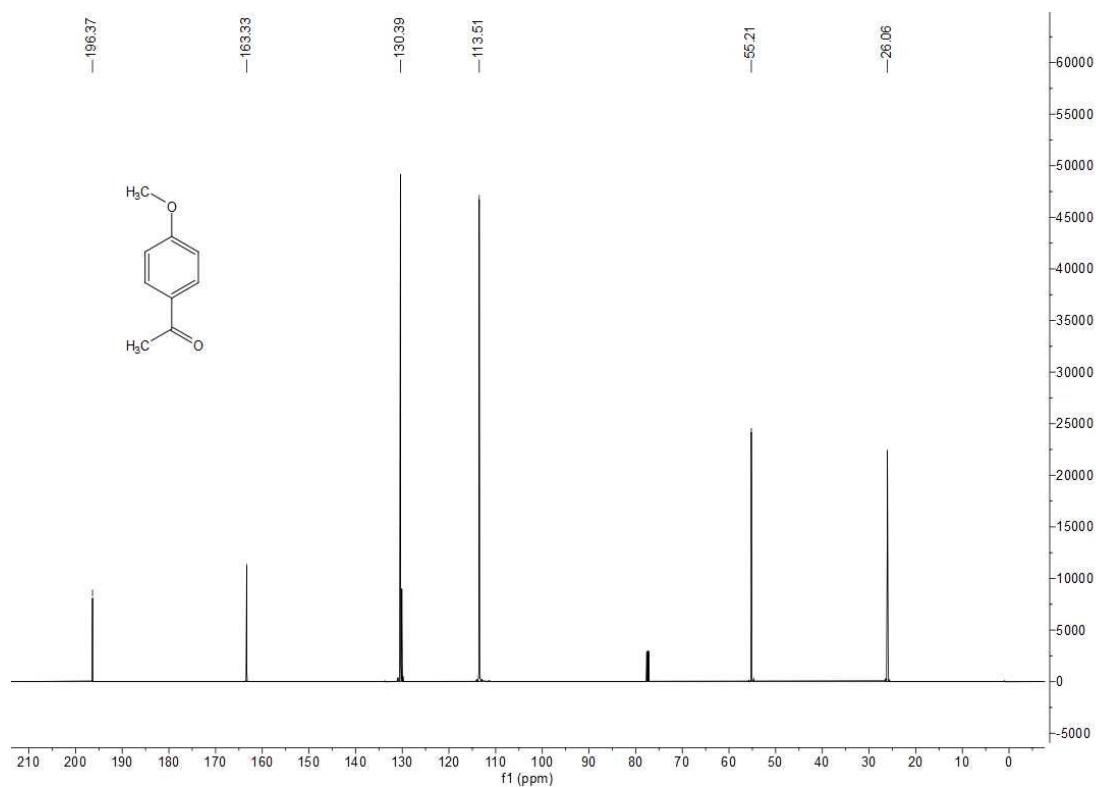
2q:



2r:



2s:



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