

## Synthesis of difluoromethylated diarylmethanes via Fe(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed Friedel–Crafts reaction of 2,2-difluoro-1-arylethyl phosphates

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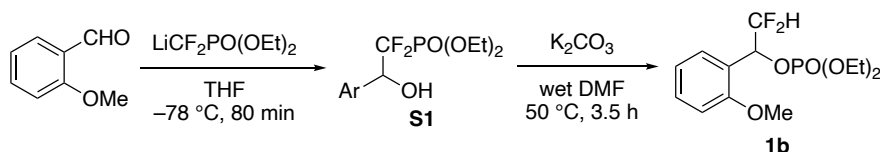
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### Supporting Information

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**General Information.** All air- and moisture sensitive reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere in dried glassware. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using 0.25 mm silica gel plate (Merck TLC Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Cica silica gel 60N) with eluents specified below. NMR spectra were recorded for samples in deuterated solvents specified below at 25 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ, ppm) relative to the singlet at δ 7.26 or 5.32 ppm for chloroform and dichloromethane, respectively. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were fully decoupled and are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ, ppm) relative to the triplet at δ 77.0 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub> or the septet at δ 49.0 ppm for CD<sub>3</sub>OD. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ, ppm) relative to the singlet at δ -63.7 ppm for α,α,α-trifluorotoluene as an external standard. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ, ppm) relative to the singlet at δ 0 ppm for 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as an external standard. Splitting patterns are designated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; quint, quintet; sext, sextet; m, multiplet. Coupling constants are reported in Hz. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on an ESI- or DART-TOF mass spectrometer. CF<sub>2</sub>HPO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>, aromatic compounds, and dry solvents were purchased and used as received. Nitromethane was dried over MS 4Å. Benzylic phosphates **1a**, **1**, **10a**, **b** and alcohols **4** and **6** were reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

### Preparation of Difluoromethyl-Substituted Benzylic Phosphates.



**Representative procedure; Synthesis of 1b:** To a solution of *i*Pr<sub>2</sub>NH (0.84 mL, 6.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise <sup>n</sup>BuLi (15 w/w% in hexane, 4.0 mL, 6.0 mmol) at -78 °C, and the resultant mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. To this solution was added dropwise diethyl difluoromethylphosphonate (0.95 mL, 6.0 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes. To the resultant mixture was added a solution of *o*-methoxybenzaldehyde (0.61 mL, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 80 min. The reaction was quenched by adding sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The

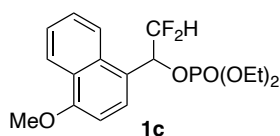
<sup>1</sup> (a) R. Waschbümsch, M. Samadi, P. Savignac, *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1997**, 529, 267-278. (b) B. T. Ramanjaneyyulu, S. Vidyacharan, S. J. Yim, D.-P. Kim, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, 7730-7734. (c) A. Baeza, C. Nájera, J. M. Sansano, *ARKIVOC* **2005** (ix), 353-363. (d) Y. Zhao, W. Huang, J. Zheng, J. Hu, *Org. Lett.* **2011**, 13, 5342-5345. (e) L. S. Dobson, G. Pattison, *Chem. Commun.* **2016**, 52, 11116-11119.

combined organic extract was washed with brine (10 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the resultant colorless solid (crude **S1**) was used without purification in the next step.

According to the report,<sup>2</sup> phospho-Brook rearrangement was carried out as follows. A solution of the crude product (**S1**) obtained as above, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.76 g, 20 mmol) in DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL/2.5 mL) was stirred at 50 °C for 3.5 h. The reaction was quenched by adding sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with Hexane/AcOEt (4:1, 3×10 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the obtained crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt 5:1~1:1) to afford **1b** (1.20 g, 74%) as a yellow oil. This procedure was applied to *p*-methoxybenzophenone to produce dephosphorylated product **6**.

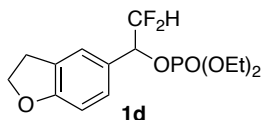
**Analytical data for 1b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.47 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.38–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.01 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.99 (td, 1H, *J* = 54.8, 2.4 Hz), 5.95–5.82 (m, 1H), 4.20–3.91 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.21 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 156.5, 130.5, 128.5, 121.5, 120.8, 113.4 (td, *J* = 245.0, 8.6 Hz), 110.9, 72.5 (ddd, *J* = 26.7, 22.9, 3.8 Hz), 64.1 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 63.9 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 55.5, 15.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –127.7 (dd, *J* = 277.1, 57.9 Hz, 1F), –132.0 (dd, *J* = 277.1, 57.9 Hz, 1F); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ –0.97; HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>P 325.1016, found 325.0993.

**Analytical data for 1c:** 1.29 g, 69%; yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 8.34 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 8.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.57 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 6.8, 2.0 Hz), 7.50 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.6 Hz), 6.83 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.13 (td, 1H, *J* = 55.6, 4.8 Hz), 6.06 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 19.4, 10.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.16–3.80 (m, 4H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 1.22 (td, 3H, *J* = 7.0, 0.8 Hz), 1.07 (td, 3H, *J* = 7.0, 0.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 156.6, 131.7, 127.4, 127.3, 125.6, 125.3, 122.7, 122.6, 120.7, 114.0 (td, *J* = 245.5, 9.5 Hz), 102.9, 75.4 (t, *J* = 26.7 Hz), 64.1 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 63.9 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 55.5, 15.8 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 15.7 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –126.1 (dd, *J* = 288.8, 57.9 Hz, 1F), –127.0 (dd, *J* = 288.8, 57.9 Hz, 1F); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ –1.02; HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>P 392.1438, found 392.1427.

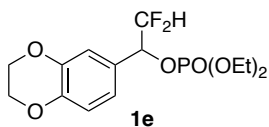


<sup>2</sup> P. Beier, R. Pohl, A. V. Alexandrova, *Synthesis* **2009**, 957-962.

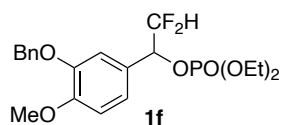
**Analytical data for 1d:** 1.36 g, 81%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.33 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.77 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.05 (td, 1H,  $J = 54.8, 4.4$  Hz), 5.34–5.25 (m, 1H), 4.58 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 4.17–3.99 (m, 2H), 3.94 (quint, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 3.23 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 1.28 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 0.8$  Hz), 1.17 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.2, 0.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  161.2, 128.1, 127.6, 124.8, 124.6, 113.9 (td,  $J = 245.1, 9.5$  Hz), 109.3, 77.3 (t,  $J = 30$  Hz), 71.5, 64.1 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 64.0 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 29.4, 15.93 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 15.85 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.4 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.13; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{O}_5\text{P}$  337.1016, found 337.1043.



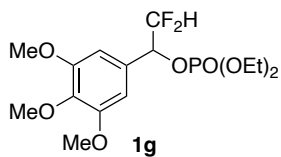
**Analytical data for 1e:** 1.46 g, 83%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  6.95 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.6$  Hz), 6.90 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.4, 1.6$  Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 5.86 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.8$  Hz), 5.27 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.2, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.27 (s, 4H), 4.20–3.89 (m, 4H), 1.30 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 0.8$  Hz), 1.21 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 0.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  146.3, 145.2, 127.3, 122.1, 118.5, 118.0, 115.5 (td,  $J = 243.6, 9.5$  Hz), 78.9 (ddd,  $J = 29.6, 21.9, 4.8$  Hz), 65.73 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 65.68, 65.60 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 65.58, 16.23 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 16.16 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.5 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.13; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}$  353.0966, found 353.0984.



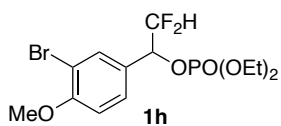
**Analytical data for 1f:** 1.69 g, 78%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.44 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 7.39–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.98 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 5.82 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.0$  Hz), 5.28 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 23.0, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz), 5.17 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.0$  Hz), 5.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.4$  Hz), 4.15–3.94 (m, 2H), 3.92–3.80 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.27 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz), 1.15 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  152.4, 149.6, 138.4, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 126.7, 122.8, 115.5 (td,  $J = 243.2, 9.5$  Hz), 115.0, 113.0, 79.0 (ddd,  $J = 28.6, 24.8, 4.8$  Hz), 72.1, 67.7 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 65.5 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 56.5, 16.24 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 16.18 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.6 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F), -129.2 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.13; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_6\text{P}$  448.1701, found 448.1695.



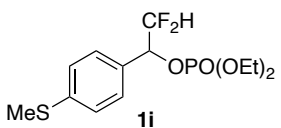
**Analytical data for 1g:** 1.31 g, 68%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  6.64 (s, 2H), 5.87 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.0$  Hz), 5.31 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.0, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.22–3.92 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 1.22 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  154.8, 140.2, 130.3, 115.5 (td,  $J = 243.9, 10.0$  Hz), 106.3, 79.2 (ddd,  $J = 28.1, 23.8, 4.7$  Hz), 67.3 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 65.7 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 61.1, 56.7, 16.3 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz), 16.2 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.5 (dd,  $J = 285.8, 71.4$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 285.8, 71.4$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.02; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{27}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_7\text{P}$  402.1493, found 402.1472.



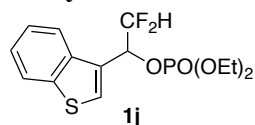
**Analytical data for 1h:** 1.65 g, 82%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.63 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.0$  Hz), 7.35 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.8, 2.4$  Hz), 6.92 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 5.87 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.0$  Hz), 5.31 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.6, 9.6, 4.0$  Hz), 4.21–3.90 (m, 4H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.31 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.2, 0.8$  Hz), 1.21 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 1.2$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.5, 133.8, 129.9, 127.7, 115.3 (td,  $J = 243.6, 9.5$  Hz), 113.1, 112.6, 78.1 (td,  $J = 25.8, 4.8$  Hz), 65.8 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 65.7 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 56.8, 16.24 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 16.19 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.4 (dd,  $J = 286.1, 71.4$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 286.1, 71.4$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.18; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrF}_2\text{NO}_5\text{P}$  420.0387, found 420.0389.



**Analytical data for 1i:** 1.49 g, 88%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.40 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.32 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.08 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.0, 4.0$  Hz), 5.36 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.8, 9.6, 4.0$  Hz), 4.18–4.01 (m, 2H), 3.96 (quint, 2H,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz), 1.18 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  142.7, 130.7, 129.5, 127.1, 115.5 (td,  $J = 244.1, 9.5$  Hz), 78.9 (td,  $J = 26.0, 5.2$  Hz), 64.8 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 65.7 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 16.24 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 16.17 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 15.2;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.4 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F), -129.6 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.13; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_4\text{PS}$  358.1054, found 358.1051.

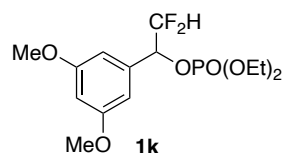


**Analytical data for 1j:** 1.46 g, 83%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.95 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 7.88 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.2, 1.6$  Hz), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.38 (m, 2H), 6.11 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.0$  Hz), 5.82

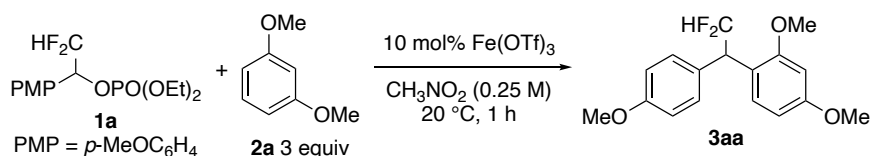


(ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.2, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.21–3.83 (m, 4H), 1.28 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 0.8$  Hz), 1.09 (td, 3H,  $J = 6.8, 0.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  140.4, 136.8, 128.0, 127.8, 127.9, 124.6, 122.9, 122.4, 113.4 (td,  $J = 246.0, 8.6$  Hz), 73.3 (ddd,  $J = 27.2, 4.8$  Hz), 64.3 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 64.1 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz), 15.9 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 15.7 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -126.4 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 57.9$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.08; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{O}_4\text{PS}$  351.0632, found 351.0607.

**Analytical data for 1k:** 1.61 g, 91%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  6.57 (d, 2H,  $J = 2.0$  Hz), 6.48 (t, 1H,  $J = 2.2$  Hz), 5.86 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.2, 4.8$  Hz), 5.31 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.0, 10.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.21–3.91 (m, 4H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 1.30 (td, 3H,  $J = 7.0, 0.8$  Hz), 1.22 (td, 3H,  $J = 6.8, 0.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  162.6, 136.5, 113.8 (ddd,  $J = 245.1, 242.2, 9.6$  Hz), 106.8, 102.3, 79.1 (ddd,  $J = 28.1, 23.8, 4.7$  Hz), 65.8 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz), 65.7 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 55.9, 16.24 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz), 16.18 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -127.5 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 46.2$  Hz, 1F), -128.8 (dd,  $J = 288.8, 46.2$  Hz, 1F);  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta$  -1.19; HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_2\text{O}_6\text{P}$  355.1122, found 355.1150.



### Friedel–Crafts Reaction of Difluoromethylated Benzylic Phosphates

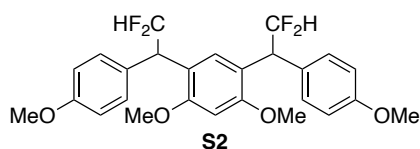


**Representative procedure A. Reaction of 1a with 2a (Table 1, entry 10):** To a solution of **1a** (100.6 mg, 0.31 mmol) and **2a** (116  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.90 mmol) in dry  $\text{MeNO}_2$  (1.2 mL) was added  $\text{Fe}(\text{OTf})_3$  (14.7 mg, 0.029 mmol) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at 20 °C under an Ar atmosphere for 1 h. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction was quenched by adding  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{AcOEt}$  (3 $\times$ 5 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with brine (5 mL) and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the obtained crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/ $\text{AcOEt}$  15:1~3:1) to afford **3aa** (83.3 mg, 87%) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.24 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.20 (d, 1H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.50–6.46 (m, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.30 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.6, 4.4$  Hz), 4.70 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.2, 12.4, 4.4$  Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,

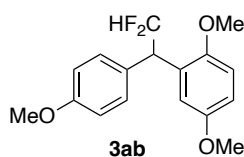
CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  160.1, 158.6, 158.0, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 118.7, 117.2 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 113.7, 104.3, 98.9, 55.5, 55.3, 55.2, 47.3 (t,  $J = 21.5$  Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.5 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -120.5 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9, 23.3$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 309.1302, found 309.1326.

Small amounts of 2:1 adduct **S2** was formed as a mixture of diastereomers under conditions shown in Table 1, entries 3,4,7, and 10.

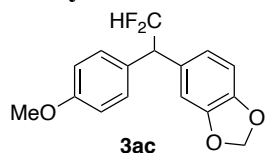
**Analytical data for S2:** colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.26 (s, 1H), 7.21 and 7.18 (d, 2H+2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.84 and 6.82 (d, 2H+2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.29 and 6.26 (td, 1H and 1H,  $J = 56.2, 4.8$  Hz), 4.67 (ddd, 2H,  $J = 24.2, 12.0, 6.0$  Hz), 3.802 (s, 3H), 3.796 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 6H); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.3 and -117.4 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -120.25 and -120.31 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9, 22.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 479.1846, found 479.1844.



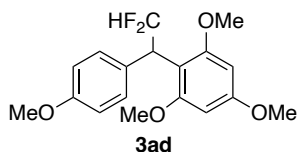
**Analytical data for 3ab:** 66.9 mg, 75%; colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.26 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.90–6.75 (m, 5H), 6.33 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.6, 4.4$  Hz), 4.75 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.2, 12.4, 4.4$  Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.7, 153.5, 151.2, 130.2, 128.7, 127.4, 117.0 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 116.2, 113.8, 112.2, 112.0, 56.1, 55.6, 55.1, 48.1 (t,  $J = 21.5$  Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.5 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -120.4 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9, 22.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$  [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 326.1568, found 326.1571.



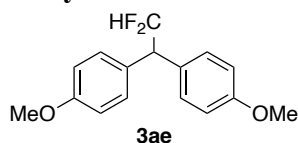
**Analytical data for 3ac:** 78.1 mg, 87%; colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.21 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.88 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.77 (s, 3H), 6.21 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 5.94 (s, 2H), 4.27 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.0, 4.0$  Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.8, 147.8, 146.8, 131.0, 129.9, 129.2, 122.2, 116.9 (t,  $J = 243.2$  Hz), 114.0, 109.4, 108.2, 101.0, 55.1, 53.7 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.2 (d, 2F,  $J = 69.6$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$  [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 310.1255, found 310.1274.



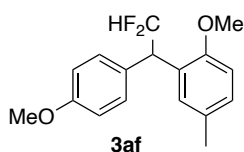
**Analytical data for 3ad:** 92.3 mg, 88%; colorless solid (mp 91.3–91.9 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.27 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.80 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.68 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 60.6, 56.8, 8.0 Hz), 6.15 (s, 2H), 4.85 (dt, 1H, *J* = 18.8, 7.6 Hz), 3.80 (s, 9H), 3.76 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 160.4, 158.7, 158.3, 130.5 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz), 129.8, 117.7 (t, *J* = 240.3 Hz), 113.6, 108.2 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 91.1, 55.8, 55.3, 55.1, 45.4 (t, *J* = 23.9 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –115.4 (ddd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9 Hz), –118.2 (dd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 339.1408, found 339.1412.



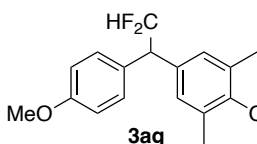
**Analytical data for 3ae:** 77.7 mg, 89%; colorless solid (mp 65.1–66.7 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.21 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.87 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.23 (td, 1H, *J* = 56.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.31 (dt, 1H, *J* = 16.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.79 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 158.7, 129.9, 129.4, 117.0 (t, *J* = 242.7 Hz), 114.0, 55.1, 53.3 (t, *J* = 20.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –119.1 (d, 1F, *J* = 23.3 Hz), –119.2 (d, 1F, *J* = 23.3 Hz); HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 279.1197, found 279.1203.



**Analytical data for 3af:** 66.5 mg, 72%; colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.26 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 7.05 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz), 6.84 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.79 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.35 (td, 1H, *J* = 56.6, 5.2 Hz), 4.73 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 20.2, 12.0, 4.8 Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.771 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 158.6, 154.9, 130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 129.1, 128.8, 126.0, 117.2 (t, *J* = 242.2 Hz), 113.8, 111.1, 55.7, 55.2, 48.2 (t, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 20.6; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –117.3 (dd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9 Hz), –120.3 (ddd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9, 23.3 Hz); HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> 310.1619, found 310.1649.

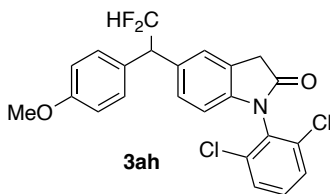


**Analytical data for 3ag:** 85.9 mg, 93%; yellow solid (mp 93.2–94.5 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.22 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.90 (s, 2H), 6.87 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.22 (td, 1H, *J* = 56.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.23 (dt, 1H, *J* = 16.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 158.7, 151.4, 129.9, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 123.2, 117.1 (t, *J* = 242.7 Hz), 114.0, 55.2, 53.4 (t, *J* = 20.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –118.5 (dd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9 Hz), –119.4 (dd, 1F, *J* = 277.5, 57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 292.1275, found 292.1277.

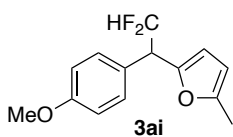




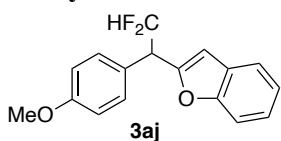
**Analytical data for 3ah:** 81.0 mg, 61%; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.54 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.42 (t, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.15 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.89 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.37 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.29 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.35 (dt, 1H,  $J = 16.4, 4.0$  Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  173.4, 158.8, 142.5, 135.3, 132.0, 130.8, 130.2, 129.9, 128.9, 128.6, 125.4, 124.6, 116.8 (t,  $J = 243.2$  Hz), 114.1, 109.0, 55.1, 53.8 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz), 35.6;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.0 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -120.1 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  448.0683, found 448.0663.



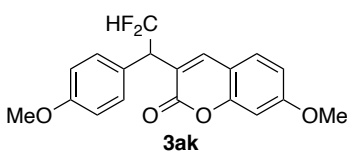
**Analytical data for 3ai:** 64.1 mg, 86%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.25 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.88 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.15 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.2, 4.4$  Hz), 6.13 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.0$  Hz), 5.92 (d, 1H,  $J = 4.0$  Hz), 4.34 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 16.8, 12.8, 4.0$  Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  159.2, 152.0, 148.6 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 130.3, 126.6, 115.7 (t,  $J = 244.1$  Hz), 114.0, 108.8, 106.2, 55.2, 49.0 (t,  $J = 22.0$  Hz), 13.5;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.4 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 34.6$  Hz), -121.4 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.1, 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  270.1306, found 270.1324.



**Analytical data for 3aj:** 79.1 mg, 87%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.55 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.6, 1.6$  Hz), 7.45 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.30–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.32 (td, 1H,  $J = 55.8, 4.4$  Hz), 4.55 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 16.6, 12.8, 4.0$  Hz), 3.81 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  159.5, 154.8, 153.4, 130.4, 128.1, 125.7, 124.2, 122.9, 120.9, 115.4 (t,  $J = 244.1$  Hz), 114.2, 111.1, 105.2, 55.2, 49.4 (t,  $J = 21.9$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.5 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -121.1 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$  289.1040, found 289.1047.

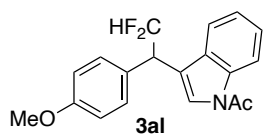


**Analytical data for 3ak:** 54.5 mg, 51%; colorless paste;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.66 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.90 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.85 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.8, 2.4$  Hz), 6.81 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.4$  Hz), 6.44 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.55 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 18.4, 14.4, 4.0$  Hz), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  162.7, 161.3, 159.3, 155.0, 141.3,



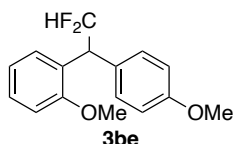
130.3, 128.9, 126.6, 121.9, 116.1 (t,  $J = 243.2$  Hz), 114.2, 112.8, 112.5, 100.4, 55.8, 55.2, 49.1 (t,  $J = 21.9$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.7 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5$ , 57.9 Hz), -120.7 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5$ , 57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_2\text{O}_4$  347.1095, found 347.1093.

**Analytical data for 3al:** 54.1 mg, 56%; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,



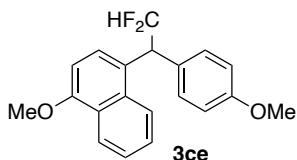
25 °C):  $\delta$  8.41 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.19 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 6.89 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.32 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0$ , 3.2 Hz), 4.63 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.4$ , 3.2 Hz), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  168.5, 159.3, 135.7, 130.2, 129.7, 126.9, 125.5, 123.6, 123.0, 119.3, 117.8, 116.6 (t,  $J = 246.5$  Hz), 116.5, 114.1, 55.2, 46.1 (t,  $J = 21.0$  Hz), 24.0;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.6 (d, 2F,  $J = 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  330.1306, found 330.1310.

**Analytical data for 3be:** 73.7 mg, 80%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,



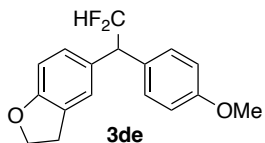
25 °C):  $\delta$  7.30 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.0$ , 1.6 Hz), 7.26 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.96 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.2$ , 1.2 Hz), 6.89 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.35 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.4$ , 4.8 Hz), 4.79 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 20.2$ , 12.4, 4.8 Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.6, 156.9, 130.3, 129.3, 128.9, 128.5, 126.3, 120.7, 117.1 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 113.7, 111.0, 55.5, 55.1, 47.9 (t,  $J = 21.0$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.4 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.1$ , 34.6 Hz), -120.5 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5$ , 57.5, 22.9 Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  296.1462, found 296.1454.

**Analytical data for 3ce:** 72.8 mg, 74%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,

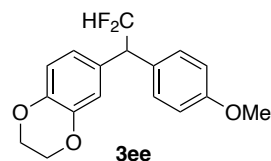


25 °C):  $\delta$  8.33–8.29 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.84 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.47–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.85–6.81 (m, 3H), 6.43 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0$ , 4.0 Hz), 5.04 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 18.0$ , 13.2, 4.0 Hz), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.8, 155.0, 132.5, 130.3, 128.9, 126.9, 126.2, 125.4, 125.3, 125.0, 123.2, 122.7, 117.3 (t,  $J = 242.7$  Hz), 113.9, 102.9, 55.4, 55.1, 49.3 (t,  $J = 21.0$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -116.0 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.1$ , 57.9 Hz), -120.4 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5$ , 57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2$  329.1353, found 329.1374.

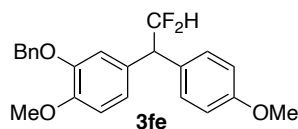
**Analytical data for 3de:** 86.6 mg, 90%; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.22 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 6.87 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.74 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.22 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.55 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 4.29 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.0, 4.8$  Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.18 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  159.3, 158.7, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 127.5, 125.4, 117.1 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 113.8, 109.1, 71.2, 55.1, 53.6 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz), 29.6;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.1 (d, 2F,  $J = 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  308.1462, found 308.1451.



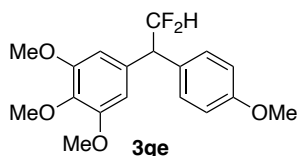
**Analytical data for 3ee:** 80.6 mg, 86%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.21 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.87 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.82 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.81 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 6.76 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4, 2.4$  Hz), 6.21 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.24 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.24 (s, 4H), 3.79 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.8, 143.4, 142.8, 130.5, 130.0, 129.2, 121.9, 117.8, 117.3, 116.9 (t,  $J = 242.7$  Hz), 114.0, 64.3, 55.2, 53.5 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.2 (d, 2F,  $J = 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  324.1411, found 324.1430.



**Analytical data for 3fe:** 72.6 mg, 65%; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.40–7.28 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.85–6.82 (m, 3H), 6.81 (d, 2H,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 6.15 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 5.12 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.4$  Hz), 5.09 (d, 1H,  $J = 12.4$  Hz), 4.23 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.0, 4.0$  Hz), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.7, 149.0, 147.9, 136.9, 129.9, 129.6, 129.1, 128.5, 127.8, 127.4, 121.8, 117.0 (t,  $J = 243.2$  Hz), 115.4, 114.0, 111.7, 60.7, 56.0, 55.1, 54.2 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.0 (t, 1F,  $J = 22.9$  Hz), -119.1 (t, 1F,  $J = 22.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_3$  402.1881, found 402.1890.

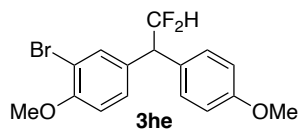


**Analytical data for 3ge:** 64.7 mg, 61%; colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.23 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.89 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.50 (s, 2H), 6.24 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.0, 4.0$  Hz), 4.29 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.4, 4.0$  Hz), 3.832 (s, 3H), 3.826 (s, 6H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.9, 153.2, 137.2, 132.8, 129.9, 128.8, 116.8 (t,  $J = 243.1$  Hz), 114.0, 106.1, 71.1, 55.9, 55.2, 53.5 (t,  $J = 20.5$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -118.4 (dd, 1F,  $J = 276.0, 57.9$  Hz), -119.2 (dd, 1F,  $J = 276.0,$

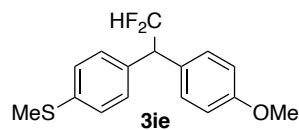


57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{21}F_2O_4$  339.1408, found 339.1394.

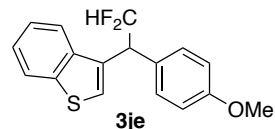
**Analytical data for 3he:**<sup>3</sup> 114.9 mg, 93%; colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.45 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz), 7.22–7.15 (m, 3H), 6.87 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 6.85 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 6.20 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 56.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.27 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 16.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.9, 155.1, 133.7, 130.7, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6, 116.6 (t,  $J$  = 243.7 Hz), 114.1, 111.8, 111.7, 56.1, 55.1, 52.9 (t,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz);  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -118.6 (dd, 1F,  $J$  = 277.5, 57.9 Hz), -119.8 (dd, 1F,  $J$  = 277.5, 57.9 Hz).



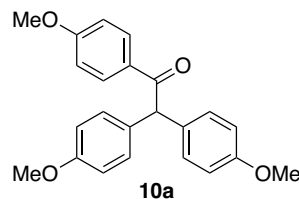
**Analytical data for 3ie:**<sup>3</sup> 83.6 mg, quant; colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.24–7.17 (m, 6H), 6.87 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 6.24 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 56.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.32 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 16.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.8, 133.6, 134.0, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 126.6, 116.8 (t,  $J$  = 243.2 Hz), 114.0, 55.1, 53.6 (t,  $J$  = 20.5 Hz);  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -119.1 (d, 1F,  $J$  = 57.5 Hz), -119.2 (d, 1F,  $J$  = 57.5 Hz).



**Analytical data for 3je:** 85.1 mg, 96%; yellow oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.86 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 6.85 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 6.33 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 56.0, 4.0 Hz), 4.72 (ddd, 1H,  $J$  = 17.8, 14.4, 4.0 Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  159.2, 140.0, 138.4, 131.1, 130.3, 127.0, 124.5, 124.2, 123.4, 122.7, 121.9, 116.6 (t,  $J$  = 243.6 Hz), 114.0, 55.1, 48.5 (t,  $J$  = 21.5 Hz);  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -118.1 (d, 1F,  $J$  = 277.1, 57.9 Hz), -120.7 (d, 1F,  $J$  = 277.1, 57.9 Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[M+NH_4]^+$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{18}F_2NOS$  322.1077, found 322.1090.



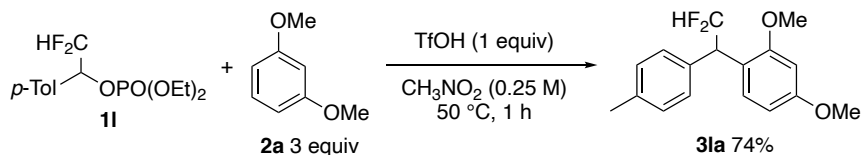
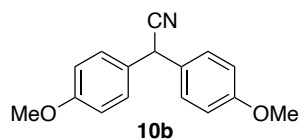
**Analytical data for 10a:**<sup>4</sup> 67.0 mg, 85%; colorless oil;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  7.98 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 7.17 (d, 4H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 6.88 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 7.24 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 6.85 (d, 4H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 5.89 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 6H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  197.2, 163.3, 158.5, 131.8, 131.2, 130.0, 129.7, 114.0, 113.7, 57.3, 55.4, 55.2.



<sup>3</sup> C. Kuang, X. Zhou, Q. Xie, C. Ni, Y. Gu, J. Hu, *Org. Lett.* **2020**, *22*, 8670-8675.

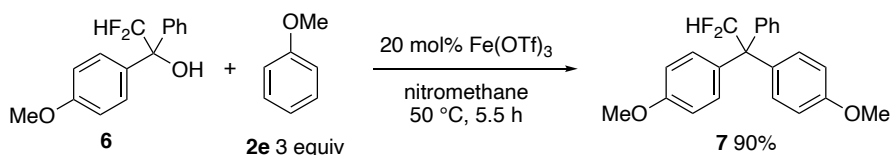
<sup>4</sup> R. Parnes, H. Reiss, D. Pappo, *J. Org. Chem.* **2018**, *83*, 723-732.

**Analytical data for 10b:**<sup>5</sup> 42.9 mg, 79%; colorless solid (mp 153.0–155.2 °C); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.24 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.88 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 5.05 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 159.3, 128.8, 128.2, 120.1, 114.4, 55.3, 41.0.



**Representative procedure B. Reaction of 11 with 2a:** To a solution of **11** (92.0 mg, 0.30 mmol) and **2a** (120 μL, 0.93 mmol) in dry MeNO<sub>2</sub> (1.2 mL) was added TfOH (26 μL, 0.3 mmol) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C under an Ar atmosphere for 1 h. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction was quenched by adding H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt (3×5 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with brine (1×5 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the obtained crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt 50:1~30:1) to afford **3la** (64.4 mg, 74%) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.25–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 6.53–6.47 (m, 2H), 6.36 (td, 1H, *J* = 56.8, 4.4 Hz), 4.70 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 16.0, 12.8, 4.8 Hz), 3.78 (s, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ 160.1, 158.0, 136.7, 134.3, 129.9, 129.1, 129.0, 118.6, 117.2 (t, *J* = 242.2 Hz), 104.3, 98.9, 55.5, 55.3, 47.7 (t, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 21.0; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ –117.6 (dd, 1F, *J* = 277.1, 57.9 Hz), –120.2 (ddd, 1F, *J* = 277.1, 57.9, 23.3 Hz); HRMS (DART) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 293.1353, found 293.1373.

### Synthesis of Triarylmethane 7.

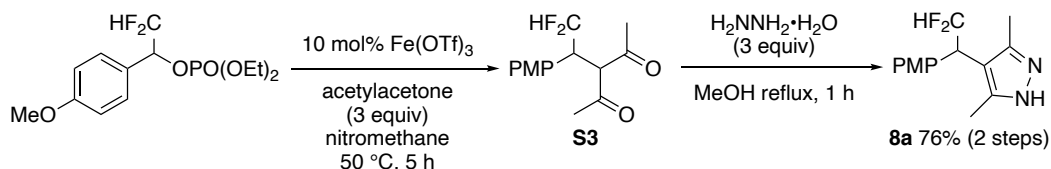


In a similar manner with representative procedure A, benzhydrol **6** (78.2 mg, 0.30 mmol), anisole (100 μL, 0.92 mmol), and Fe(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (29.8 mg, 0.059 mmol) was stirred in nitromethane (1.2 mL) at 50 °C for 5.5 h to afford triarylmethane **7** (94.5 mg, 90%) as a colorless solid (mp 99.8–102.5 °C): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C): δ 7.35–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, 2H,

<sup>5</sup> V. V. Tumanov, A. A. Tishkov, H. Mayr, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 3563-3566.

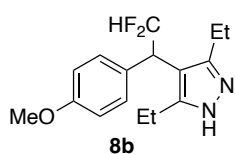
$J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.03 (d, 4H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 4H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.79 (t, 1H,  $J = 55.2$  Hz), 3.79 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.4, 142.1, 133.7, 131.0, 129.7, 128.1, 127.1, 119.2 (t,  $J = 248.4$  Hz), 113.4, 60.6 (t,  $J = 18.6$  Hz), 55.2;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.2 (d, 2F,  $J = 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2$  372.1775, found 372.1784.

### Synthesis of Pyrazoles 8.



To a solution of **1a** (103.0 mg, 0.317 mmol) and acetylacetone (92  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.90 mmol) in dry  $\text{MeNO}_2$  (1.2 mL) was added  $\text{Fe(OTf)}_3$  (18 mg, 0.036 mmol) at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C under an Ar atmosphere for 5 h. The reaction was quenched by adding  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (5 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{AcOEt}$  (3 $\times$ 5 mL). The combined organic extract was washed with brine (5 mL) and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*, and the obtained crude materials were filtered through a pad of silica gel and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. To the solution of the crude product **S3** in  $\text{MeOH}$  (0.75 mL) was added  $\text{H}_2\text{NNH}_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (44  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.90 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane/ $\text{AcOEt}$  3:1 then  $\text{AcOEt}/\text{MeOH}$  19:1) to afford **8a** (64.1 mg, 76%) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  11.1 (br s, 1H), 7.18 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.86 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.28 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.2, 4.8$  Hz), 4.34 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.4, 4.4$  Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.5, 143.1, 129.4, 128.7, 116.8 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 113.8, 111.3, 55.1, 44.4 (t,  $J = 21.5$  Hz), 11.6;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  -117.7 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9, 23.3$  Hz), -118.5 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$  267.1309, found 267.1310.

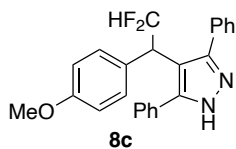
**Analytical data for 8b:** 76.8 mg, 82%; yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,



25 °C):  $\delta$  9.55 (br s, 1H), 7.17 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.84 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.27 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.2, 4.8$  Hz), 4.37 (td, 1H,  $J = 16.2, 4.8$  Hz), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.52 (sept,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 4H), 1.15 (t, 6H,  $J = 7.8$  Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  158.4, 148.4, 129.3, 128.9, 116.7 (t,  $J = 242.2$  Hz), 113.7, 109.7 (t,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 55.1, 44.1 (t,  $J = 21.9$  Hz), 19.3, 13.2;

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta$  -117.2 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.1, 57.9, 22.9$  Hz), -118.0 (ddd, 1F,  $J = 277.1, 57.9, 22.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$  295.1622, found 295.1620.

**Analytical data for 8c:** 75.6 mg, 60%; colorless solid (mp 68.8–73.4  $^\circ\text{C}$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR



(400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta$  11.25 (br s, 1H), 7.38–7.28 (m, 10H), 7.08 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.80 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 6.27 (td, 1H,  $J = 56.4, 7.2$  Hz), 4.55 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 16.6, 9.6, 7.2$  Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta$  158.6, 147.2 (br s), 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 116.3 (t,  $J = 241.7$  Hz), 113.9, 112.5, 112.4, 55.2, 45.0 (t,  $J = 22.4$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta$  -115.2 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz), -116.7 (dd, 1F,  $J = 277.5, 57.9$  Hz); HRMS (DART)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$  391.1622, found 391.1641.

## DFT Calculations

The Gaussian 16 program package was used for all calculations.<sup>63</sup> The geometries of the stationary points were fully optimized using the Becke's three-parameter hybrid density functional method (B3LYP)<sup>7</sup> with the 6-31G(d)<sup>8</sup> basis sets for all elements. The D3 version of Grimme's dispersion with Becke-Johnson damping<sup>9</sup> was used for empirical dispersion correction. The vibrational frequencies and the thermal correction to Gibbs free energy (TCGFE) including the zero-point energy were calculated at the same level of theory. Single-point energies for geometries obtained using the above method were

<sup>6</sup> Gaussian 16, Revision A.03, M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, X. Li, M. Caricato, A. V. Marenich, J. Bloino, B. G. Janesko, R. Gomperts, B. Mennucci, H. P. Hratchian, J. V. Ortiz, A. F. Izmaylov, J. L. Sonnenberg, D. Williams-Young, F. Ding, F. Lipparini, F. Egidi, J. Goings, B. Peng, A. Petrone, T. Henderson, D. Ranasinghe, V. G. Zakrzewski, J. Gao, N. Rega, G. Zheng, W. Liang, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, K. Throssell, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. J. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. N. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. A. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. P. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, C. Adamo, R. Cammi, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, and D. J. Fox, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> (a) W. Kohn, A. D. Becke, R. G. Parr, *J. Phys. Chem.* **1996**, *100*, 12974-12980. (b) P. J. Stephen, F. J. Devlin, C. F. Chabalowski, M. Frisch, *J. Phys. Chem.* **1994**, *98*, 11623-11627. (c) A. D. Becke, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1993**, *98*, 5648-5652. (d) C. Lee, W. Yang, R. G. Parr, *Phys. Rev. B* **1988**, *37*, 785-789.

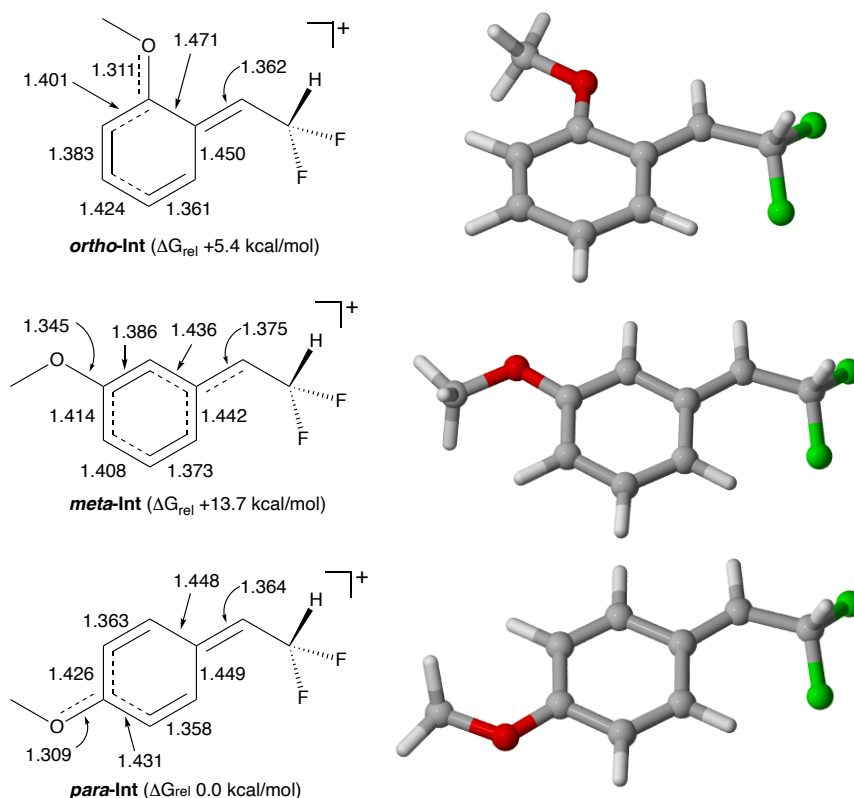
<sup>8</sup> (a) W. J. Hehre, R. Ditchfield, J. A. Pople, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *56*, 2257-2261. (b) P. C. Hariharan, J. A. Pople, *Theor. Chim. Acta* **1973**, *28*, 213-222. (c) M. M. Fracal, W. J. Pietro, W. J. Hehre, J. S. Binkley, M. S. Gordon, D. J. DeFrees, J. A. Pople, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1982**, *77*, 3654-3665.

<sup>9</sup> S. Grimme, S. Ehrlich, L. Goerigk, *J. Comp. Chem.* **2011**, *32*, 1456-1465.

calculated at the same level of theory using the 6-311++G(d,p) basis sets<sup>10</sup> for all elements. The GD3BJ dispersion correction (D3) was also employed for the single-point energy calculations. To examine the solvent effect, the above geometry optimizations and single-point energy calculations were performed using the SMD model<sup>11</sup> with MeNO<sub>2</sub> as the solvent. CYLview (Ver. 1.0b)<sup>12</sup> was used for the visualization of the optimized structures. The obtained results are summarized in Table S1 and Figure S1.

**Table S1.** Summary of theoretical calculations.

Model	TCGFE/au	SMD Energy/au	$\Delta G$ /au	$\Delta G_{\text{rel}}$ /kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>
<i>ortho</i> -Int	0.126121	-623.285244	-623.159123	+5.4
<i>meta</i> -Int	0.125390	-623.271310	-623.145920	+13.7
<i>para</i> -Int	0.126293	-623.293975	-623.167682	0.0



**Figure S1.** Calculated structures of cationic intermediates with interatomic distances (Å).

<sup>10</sup> (a) R. Krishnan, J. S. Binkley, R. Seeger, J. A. Pople, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1980**, *72*, 650-654. (b) A. D. McLean, G. S. Chandler, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1980**, *72*, 5639-5648. (c) M. J. Frisch, J. A. Pople, J. S. Binkley, *J. Chem. Phys.* **1984**, *80*, 3265-3269. (d) T. Clark, J. Chandrasekhar, G. W. Spitznagel, P. v. R. Schleyer, *J. Comp. Chem.* **1983**, *4*, 294-301.

<sup>11</sup> A. V. Marenich, C. J. Cramer, D. G. Truhlar, *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2009**, *113*, 6378-6396.

<sup>12</sup> CYLview, 1.0b; Legault, C. Y., Université de Sherbrooke, 2009 (<http://www.cylview.org>).



### Cartesian coordinates

21

#### *ortho-Int*

C	-0.443000	1.047400	0.068300
C	-0.197300	0.554000	1.356300
C	0.988200	1.008200	2.099500
C	1.865200	1.971100	1.461900
C	1.595500	2.426800	0.208100
C	0.437800	1.962300	-0.479300
H	-1.309600	0.723000	-0.492300
H	2.741700	2.308300	1.997800
H	2.252500	3.139600	-0.276600
H	0.237500	2.339800	-1.477600
C	1.209200	0.491000	3.340000
H	0.532500	-0.265500	3.726600
C	2.364400	0.787200	4.252200
H	3.242200	0.187300	3.986800
F	2.713600	2.110600	4.227200
F	1.996800	0.486300	5.532700
O	-0.968600	-0.305400	1.977700
C	-2.163300	-0.816700	1.334000
H	-2.600000	-1.499200	2.060900
H	-2.848500	0.006400	1.119700
H	-1.892800	-1.350200	0.419800

21

#### *meta-Int*

C	-2.084800	1.424400	2.519100
C	-1.120400	0.693100	3.193400
C	0.215700	1.199900	3.330200
C	0.562300	2.473600	2.750900
C	-0.407500	3.175400	2.077700
C	-1.716300	2.670200	1.961700
H	-1.374500	-0.267100	3.629500
H	1.569400	2.855000	2.836400
H	-0.176600	4.132900	1.624400

H	-2.450400	3.260200	1.425300
C	1.102300	0.415000	4.029300
H	0.762600	-0.552600	4.392700
C	2.554200	0.668200	4.307300
H	3.165300	0.238100	3.503200
F	2.880600	0.063200	5.486600
F	2.848900	1.995100	4.426500
O	-3.315500	0.886900	2.441300
C	-4.341500	1.615500	1.750100
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H	-4.525400	2.583500	2.228900
H	-4.077000	1.760800	0.697200

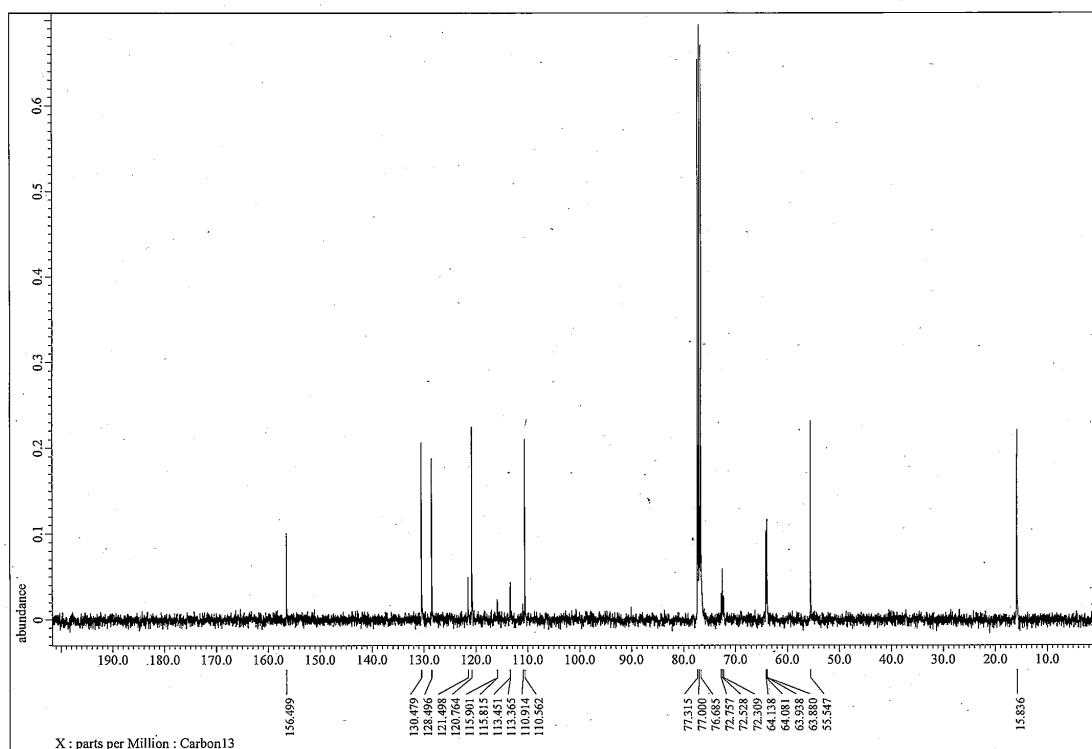
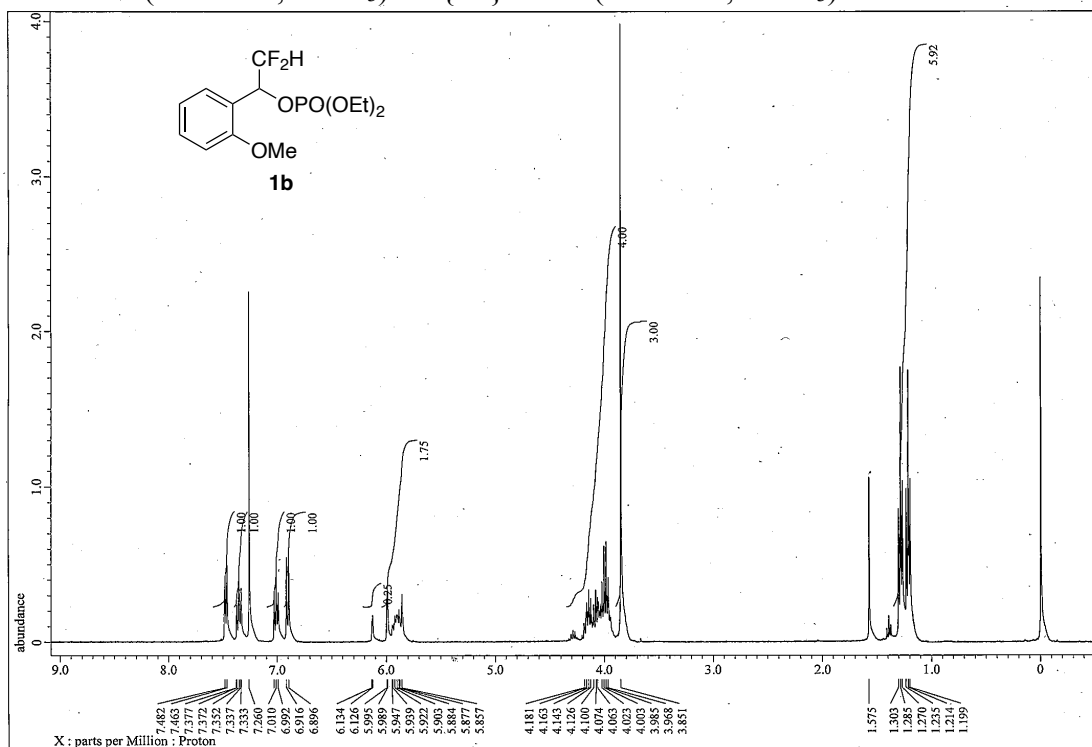
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***para-Int***

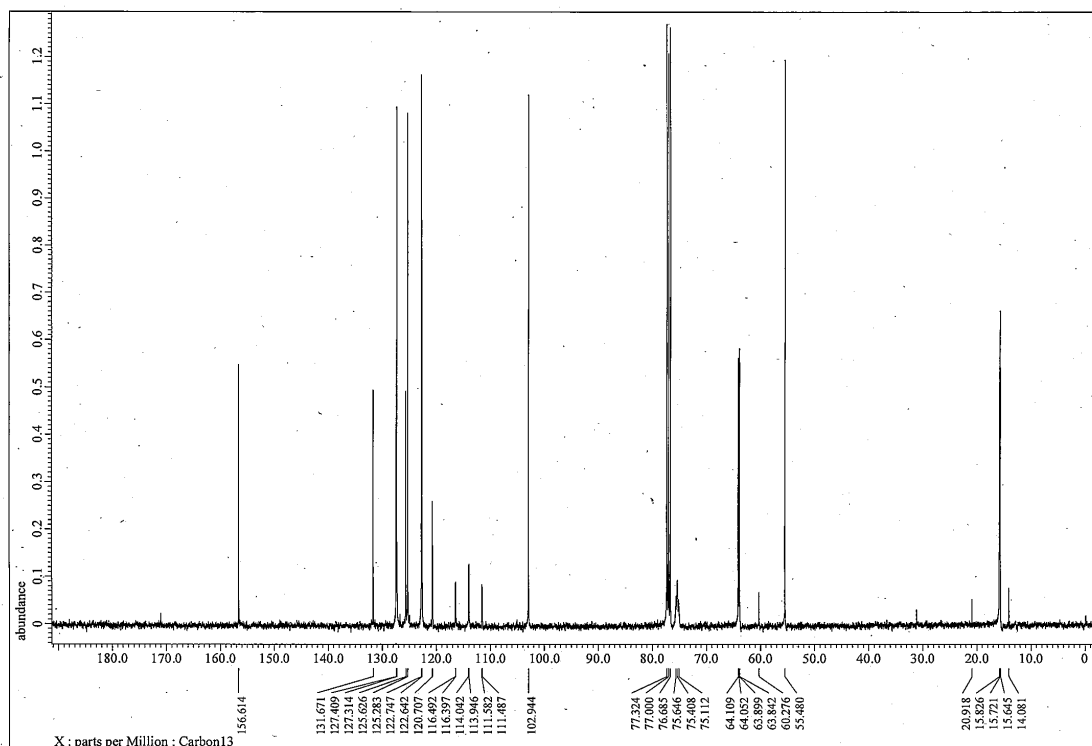
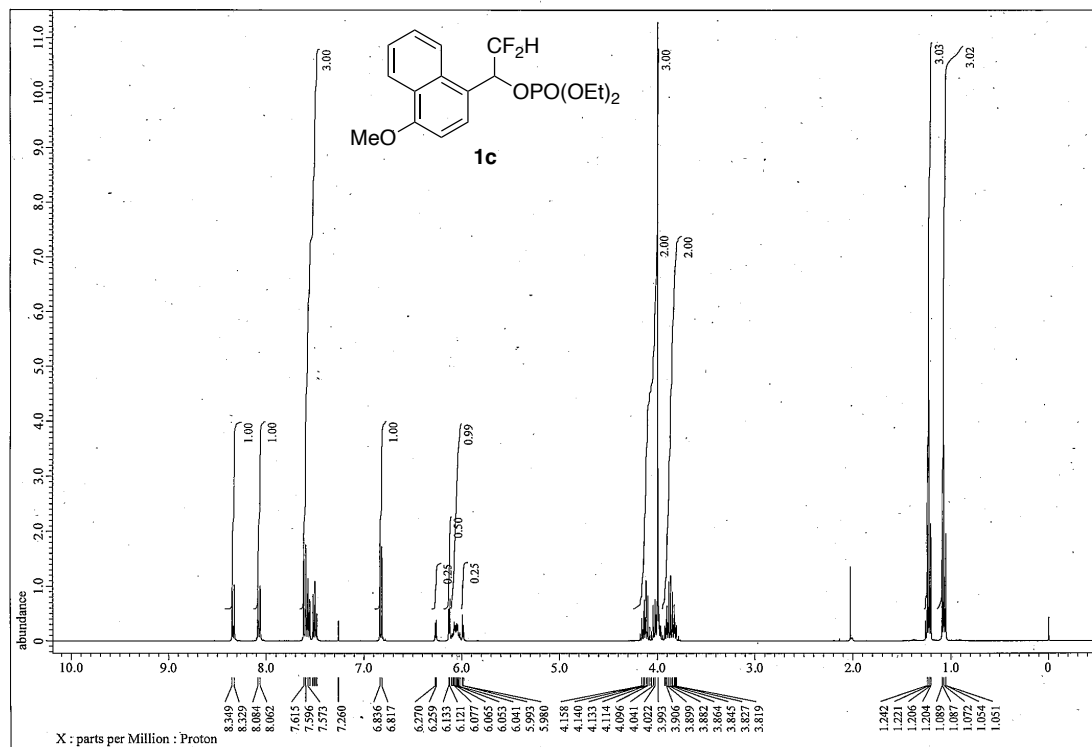
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C	1.278400	0.240200	1.897200
C	2.494300	-0.157100	1.218300
C	2.477500	-0.224200	-0.229400
C	1.344000	0.073700	-0.916000
H	-0.756300	0.846700	1.732300
H	1.291200	0.291800	2.981100
H	3.370000	-0.525400	-0.760600
H	1.300600	0.022600	-1.998000
C	3.581000	-0.449500	1.988800
H	3.479300	-0.412100	3.070700
C	4.931700	-0.908000	1.524600
H	4.958600	-1.994200	1.382200
F	5.303500	-0.306100	0.351500
F	5.858500	-0.567200	2.470300
O	-0.871100	0.732500	-0.973200
C	-2.137000	1.136400	-0.388100
H	-2.801800	1.282500	-1.237500
H	-2.514100	0.344300	0.262400
H	-2.009800	2.070400	0.163700

# NMR Charts

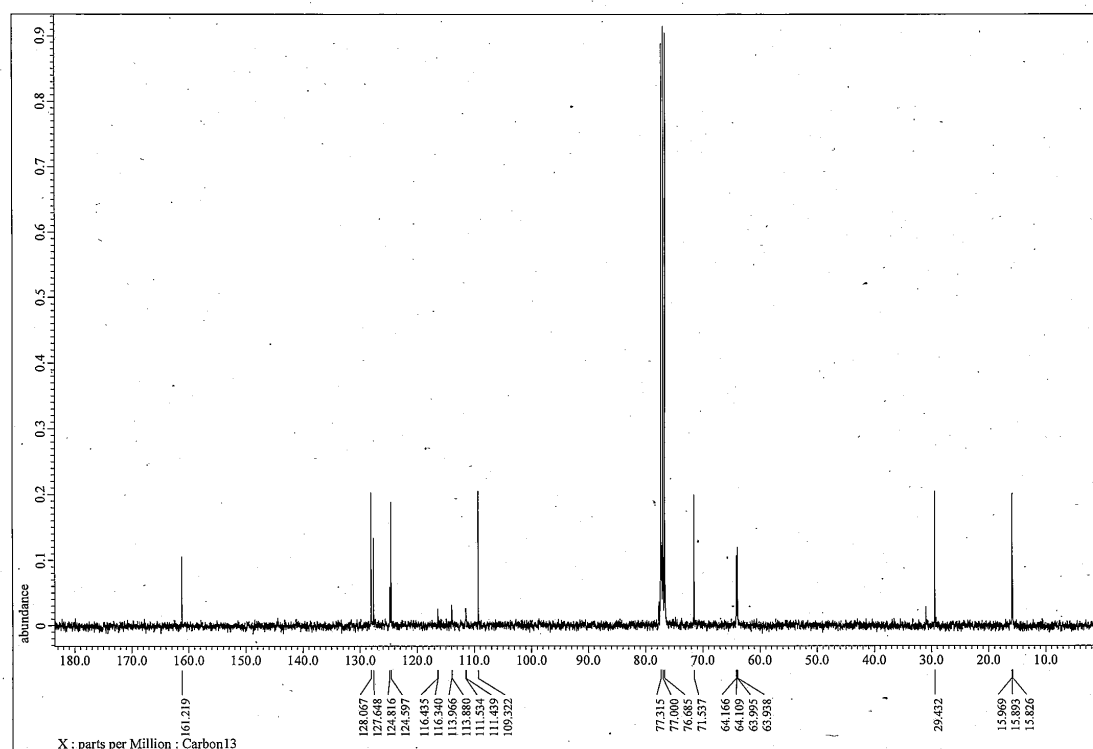
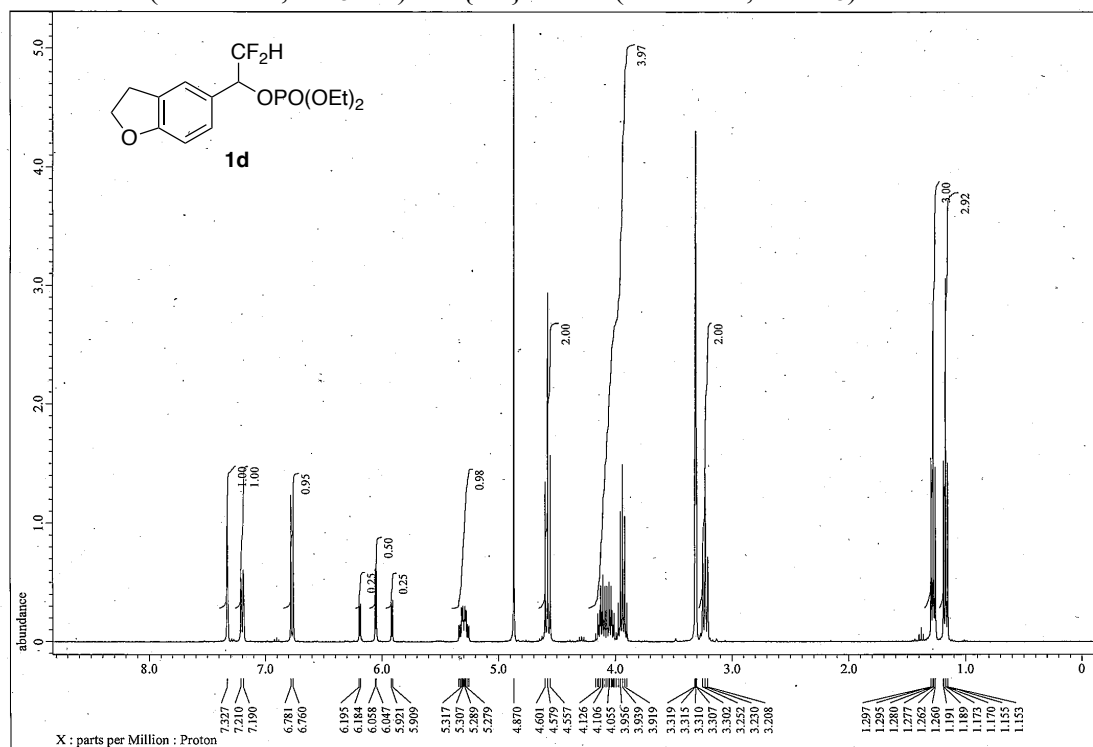
**1b:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$ { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



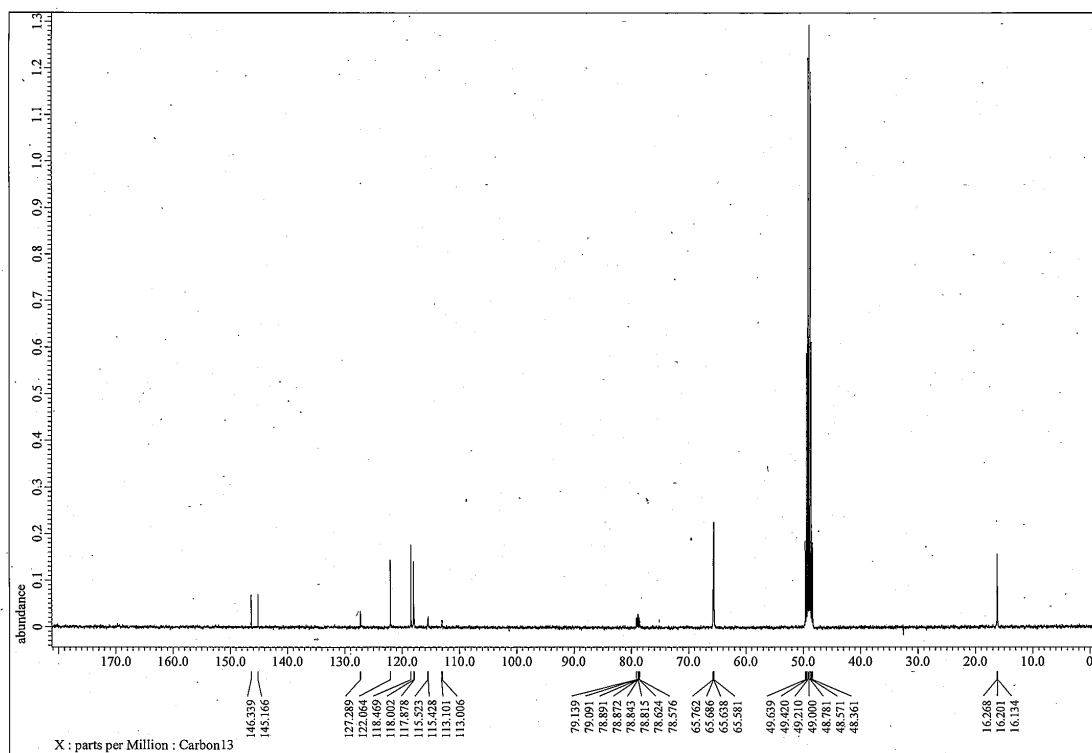
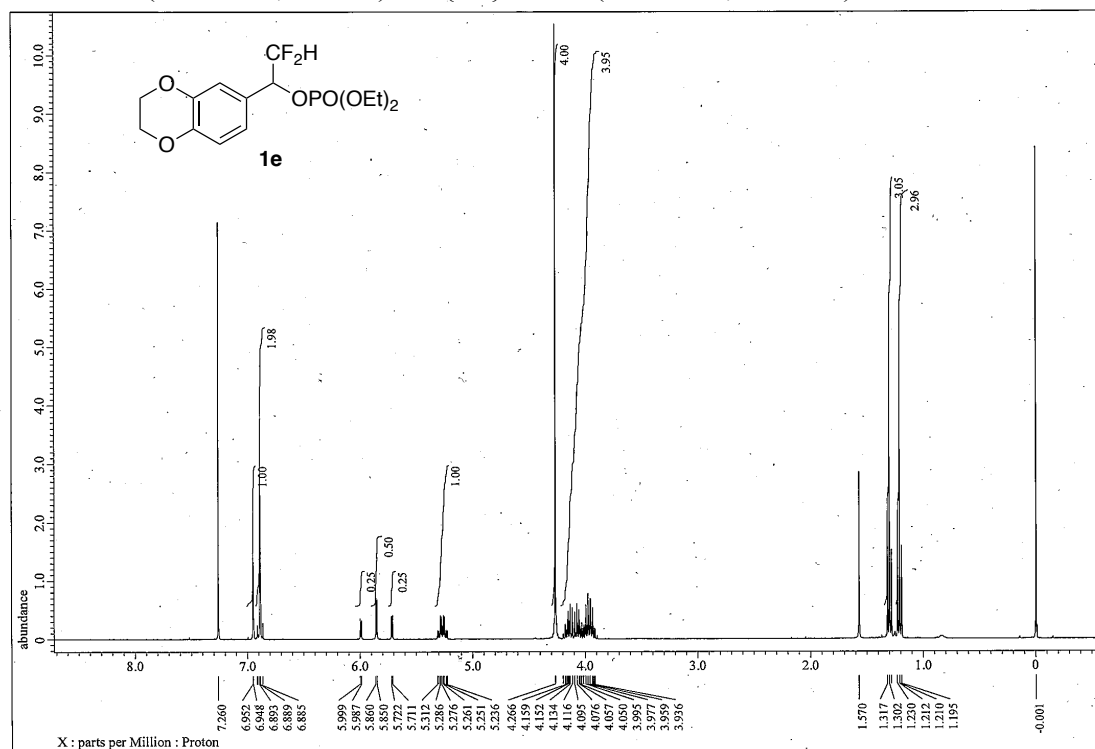
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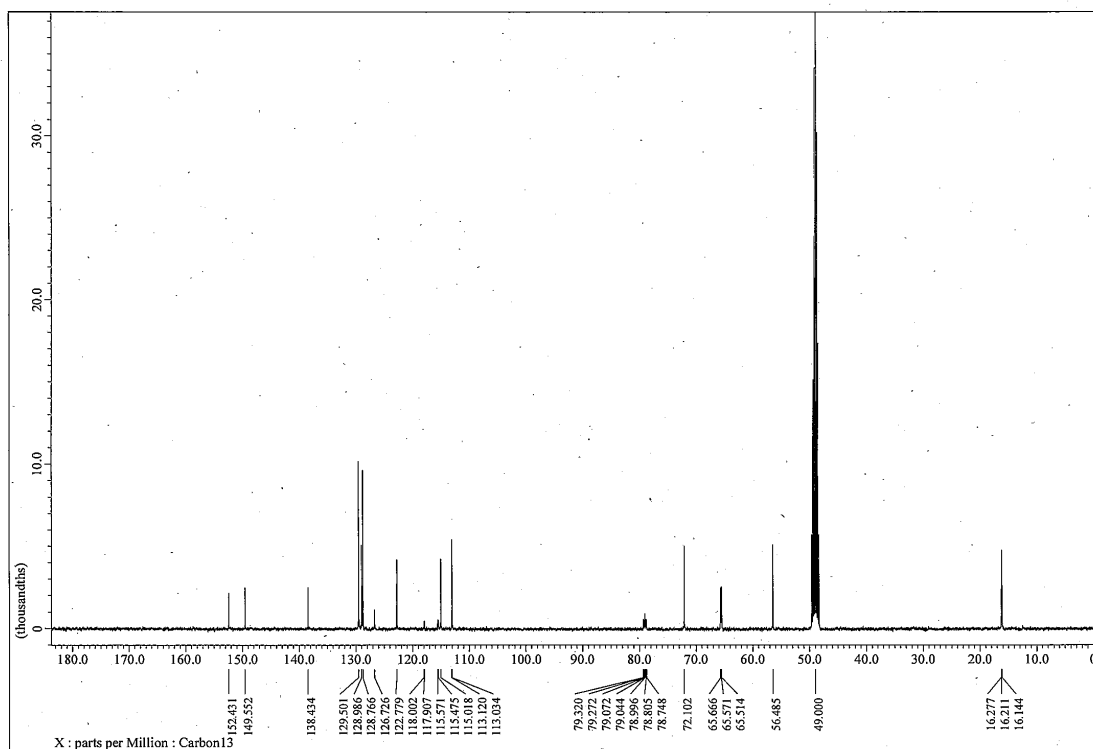
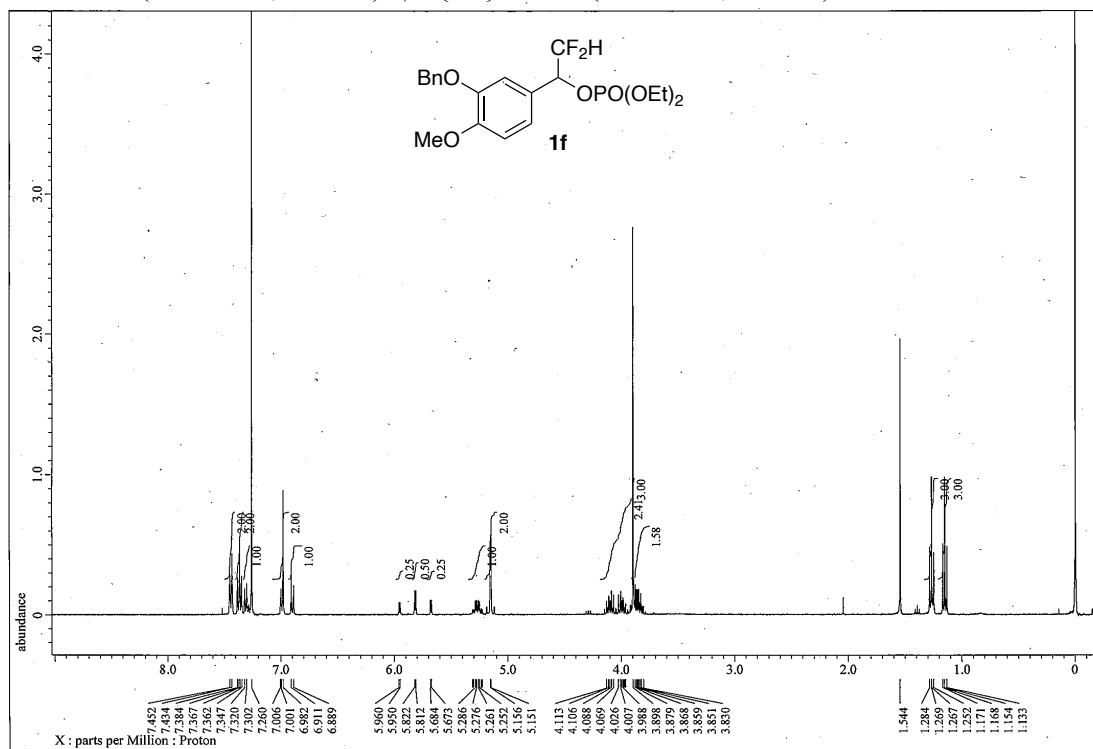
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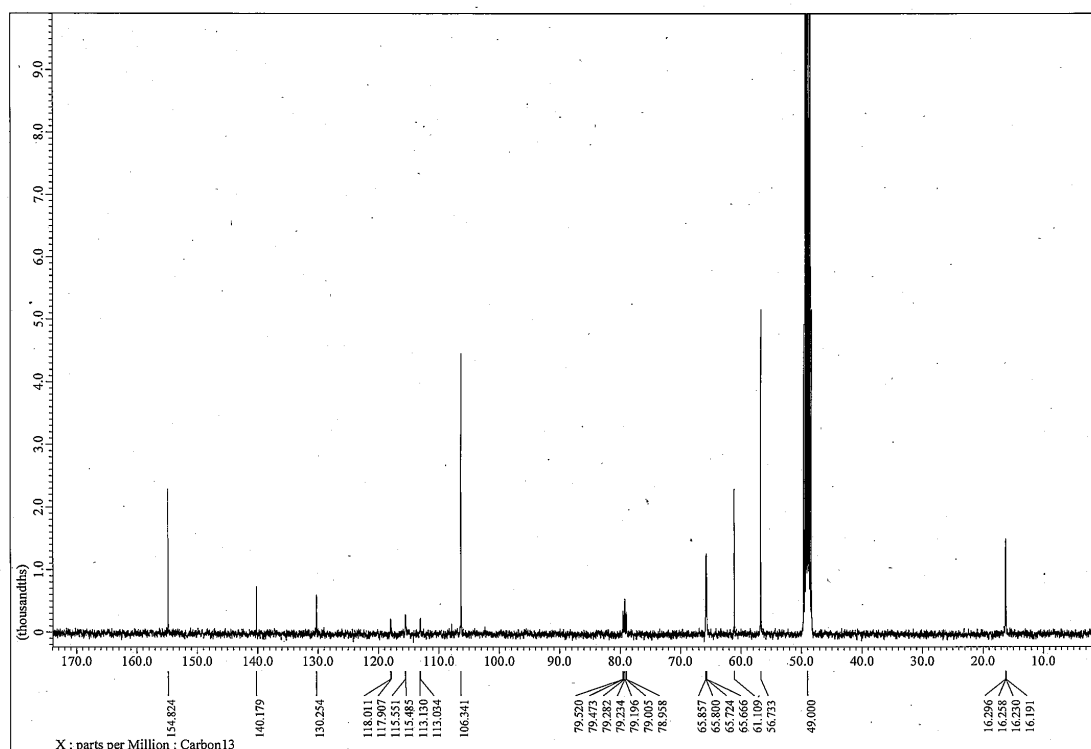
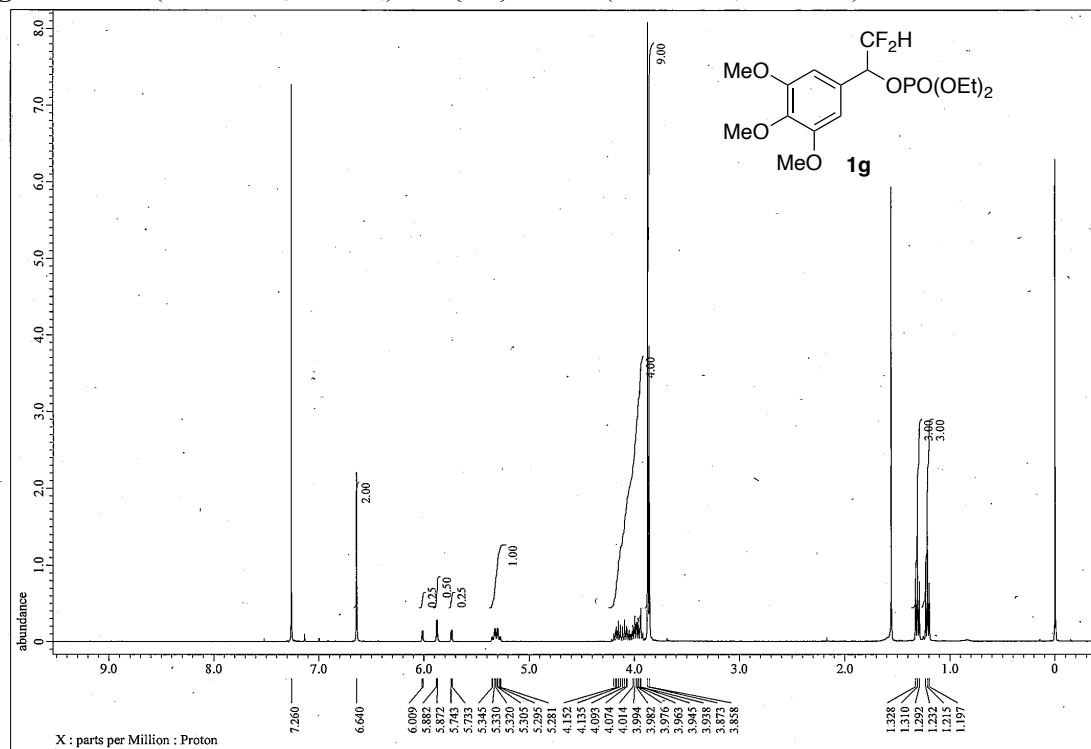
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**1f:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

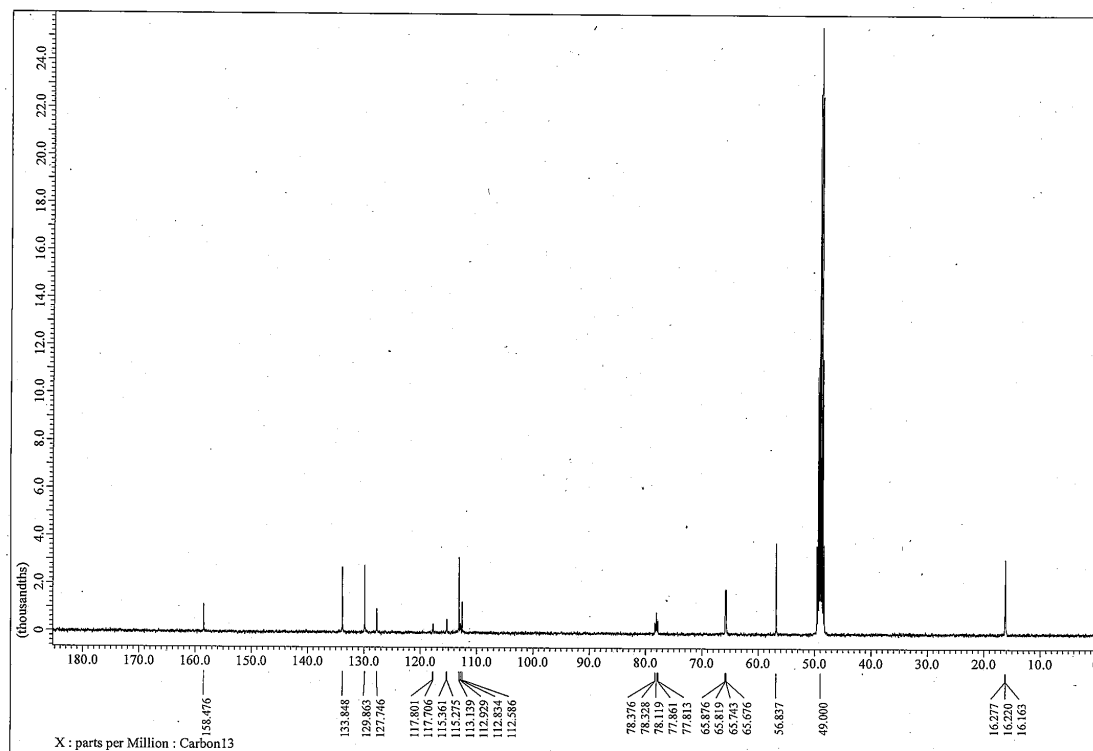
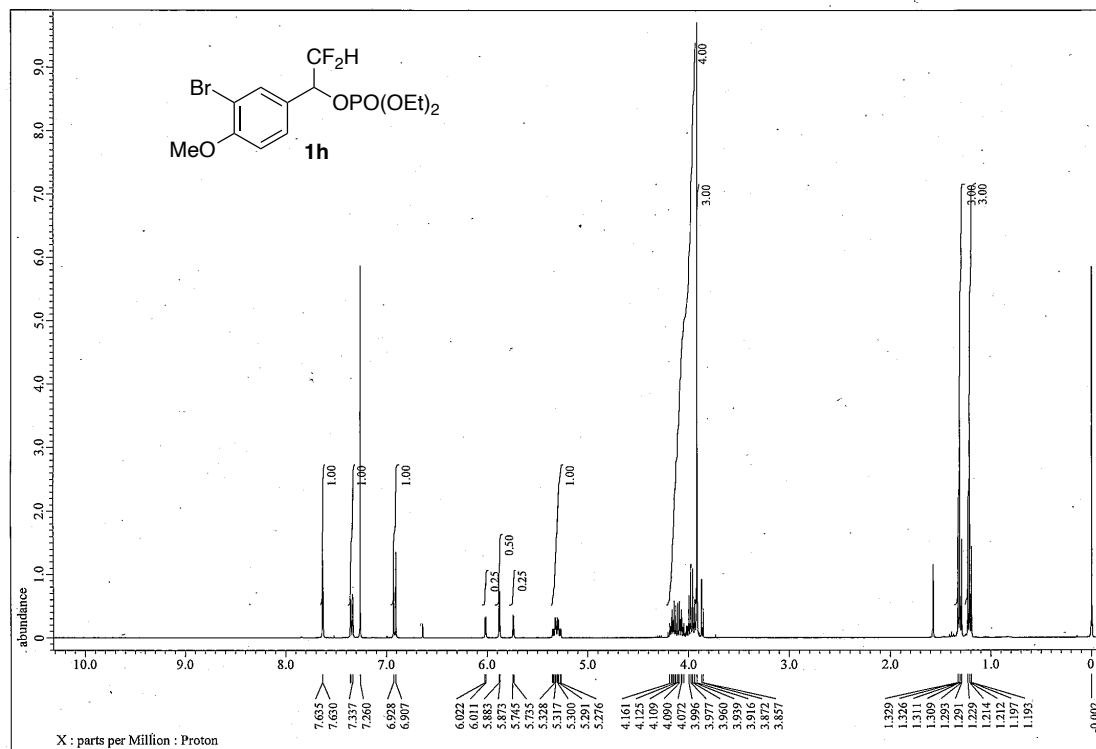


1g:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )

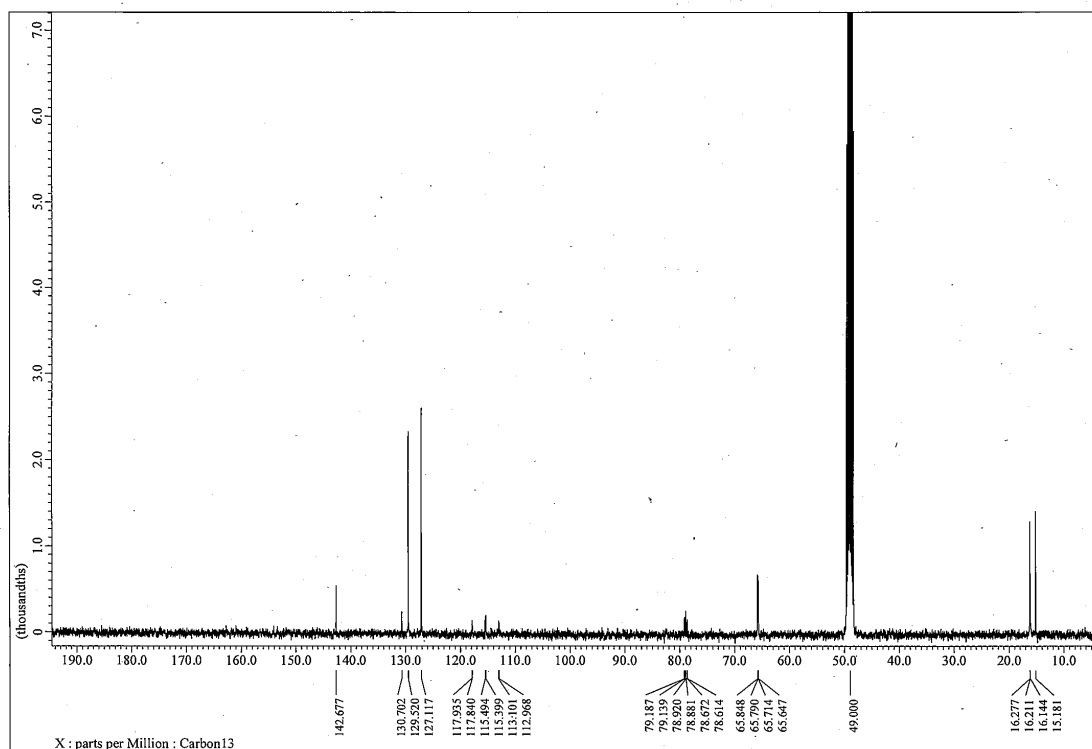
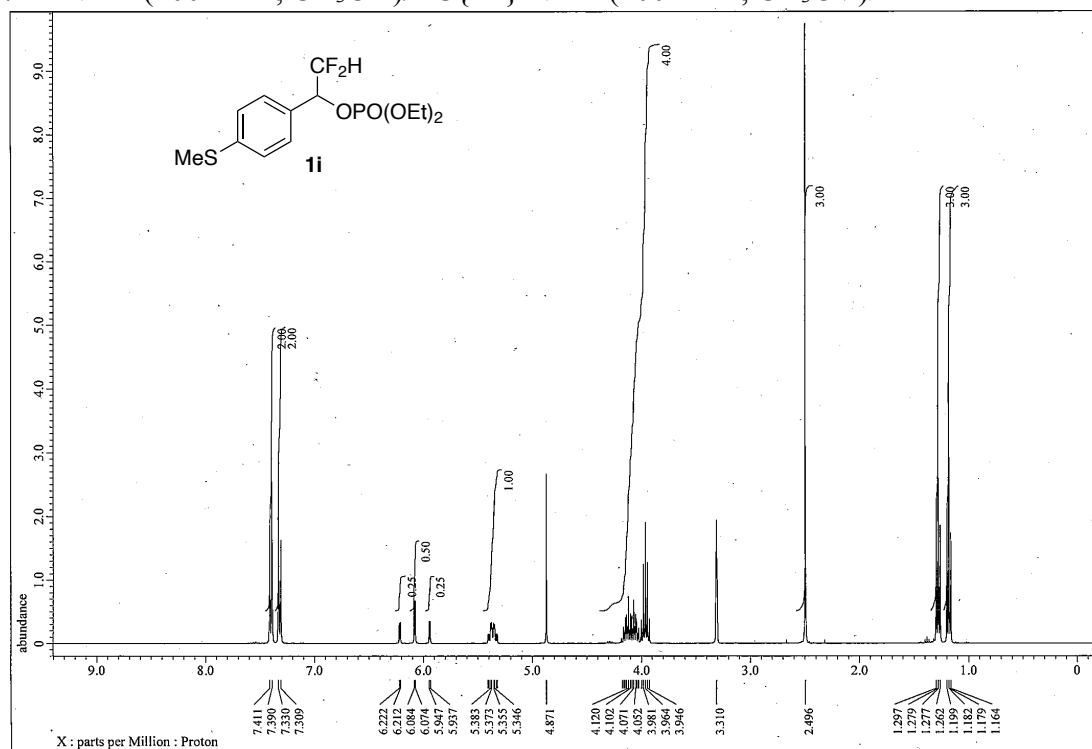




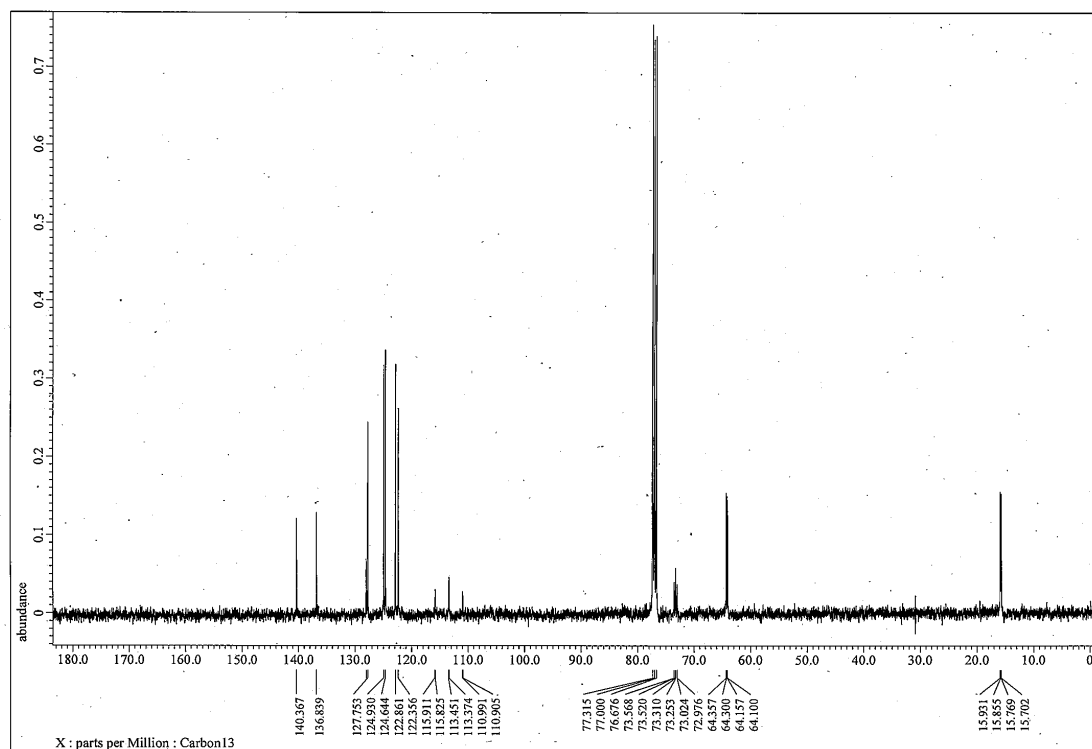
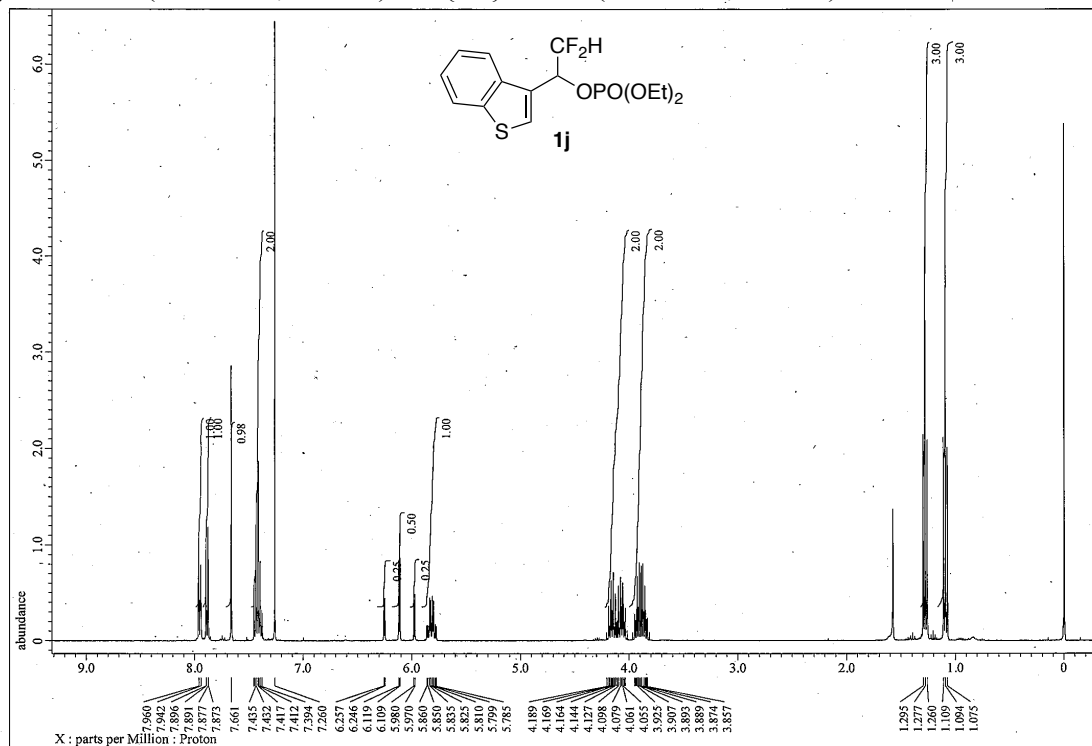
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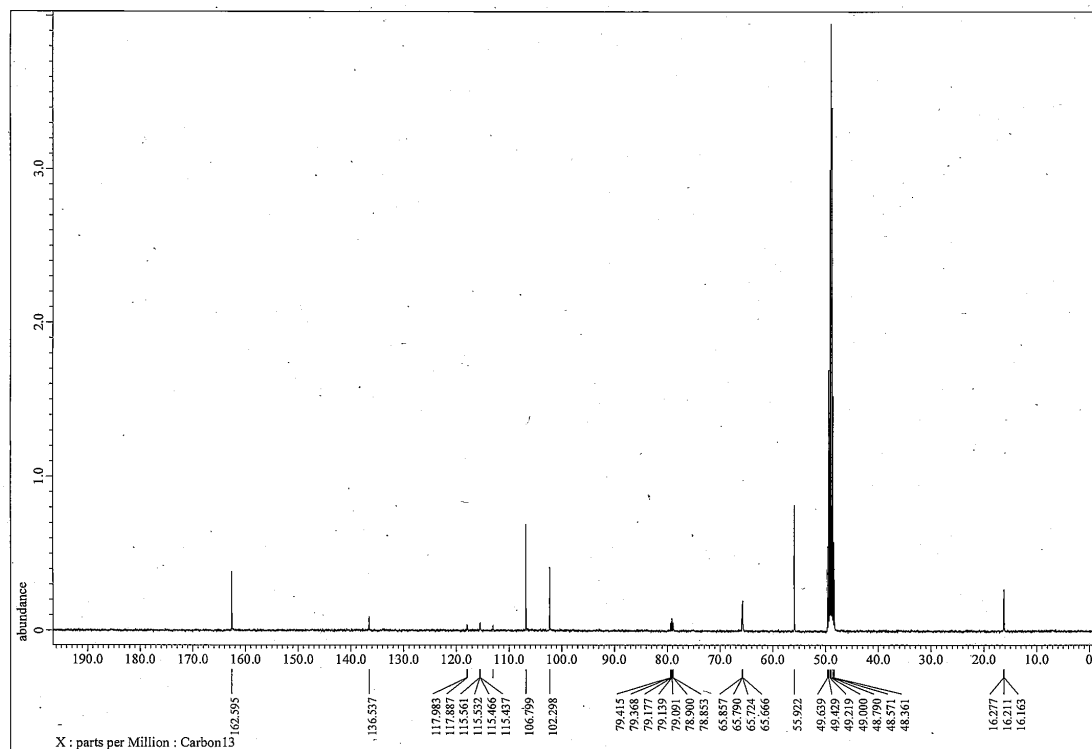
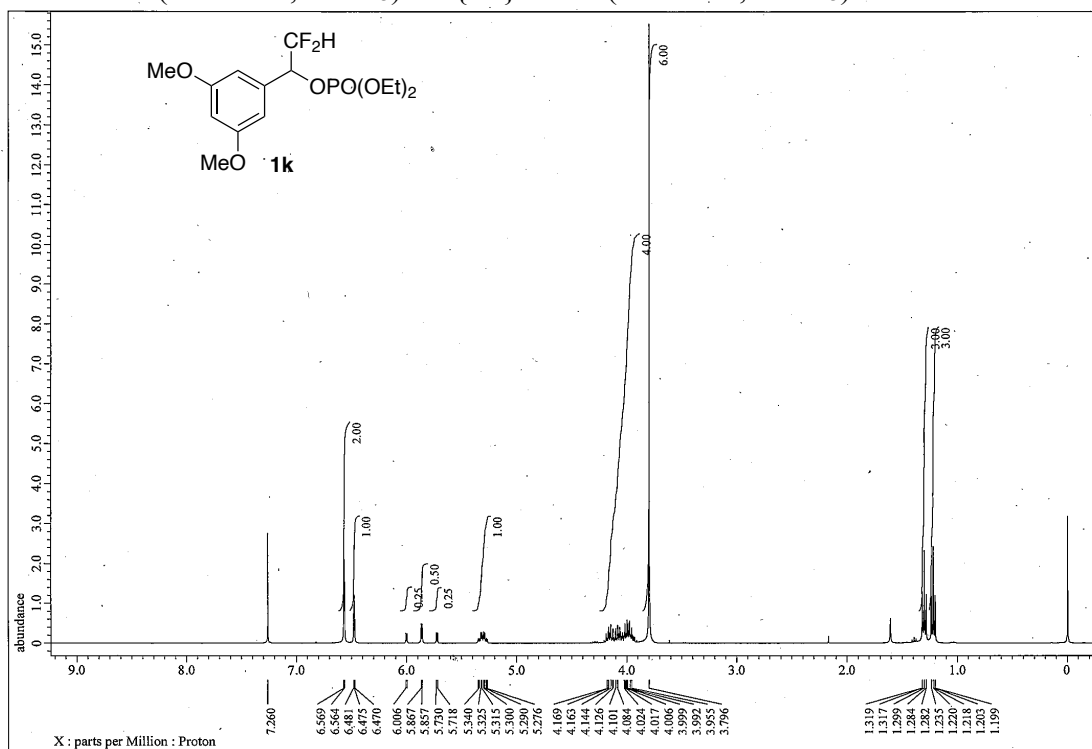
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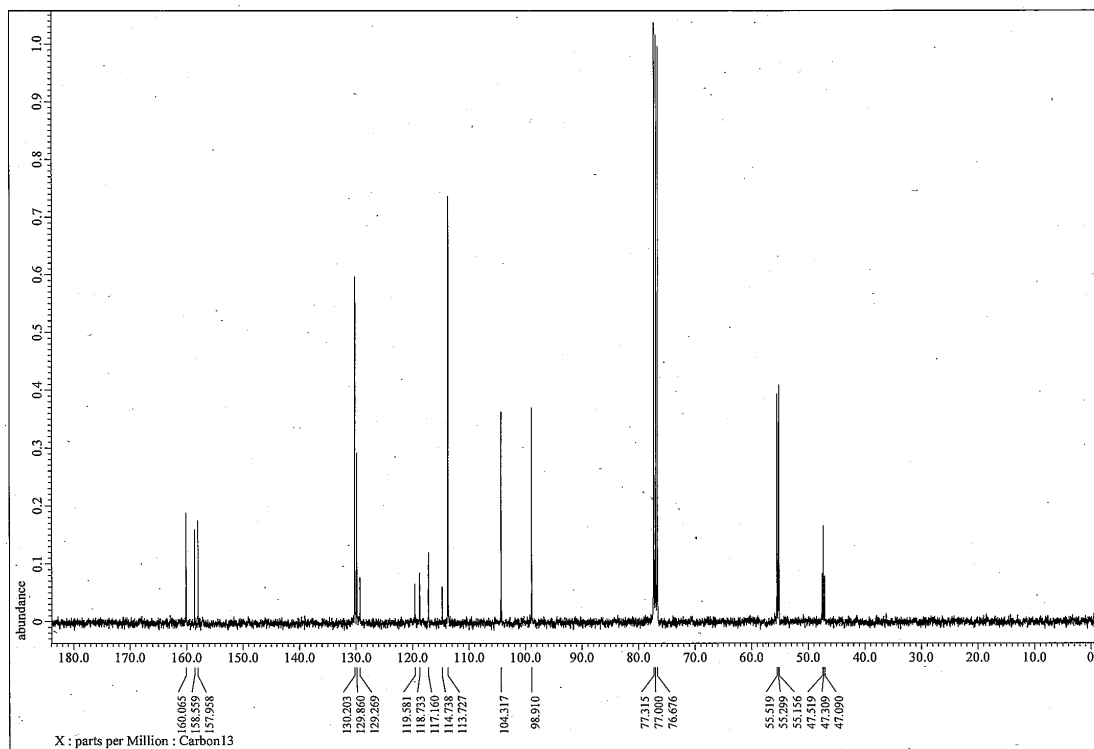
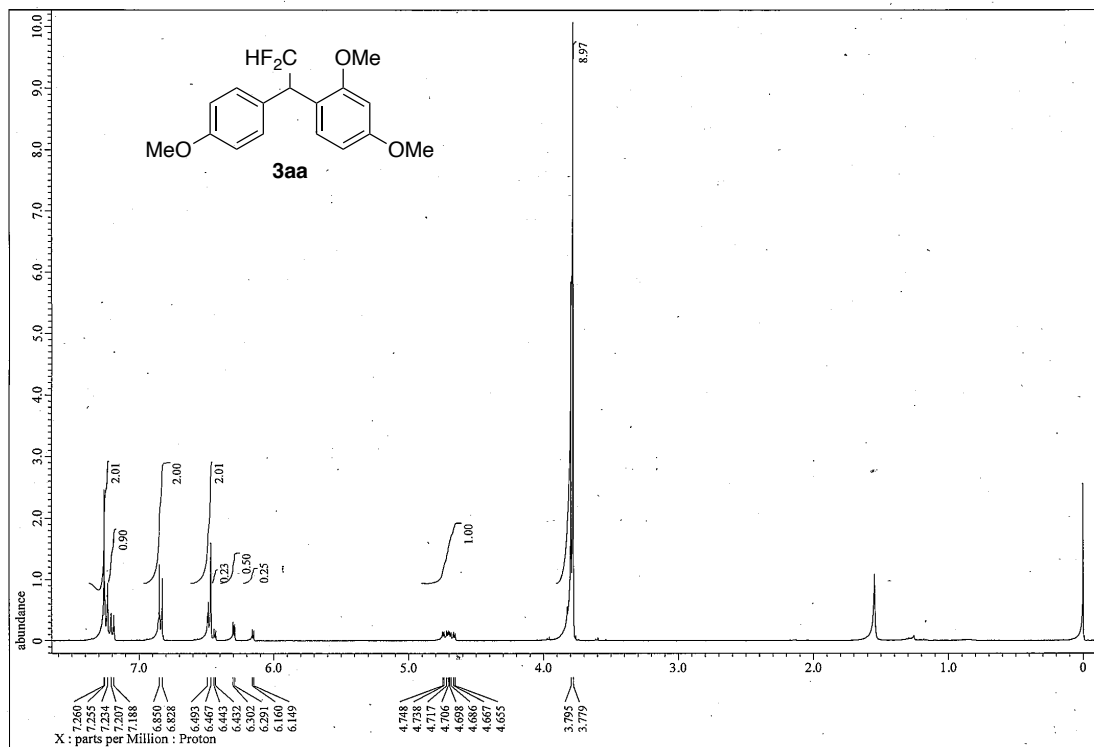
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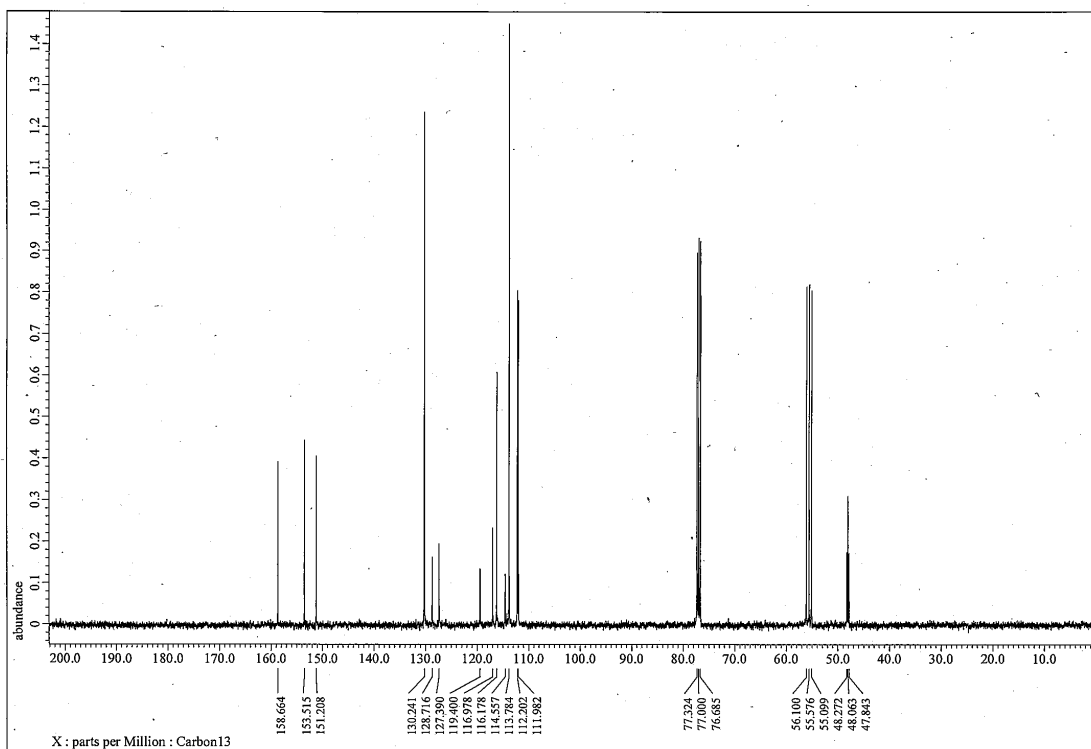
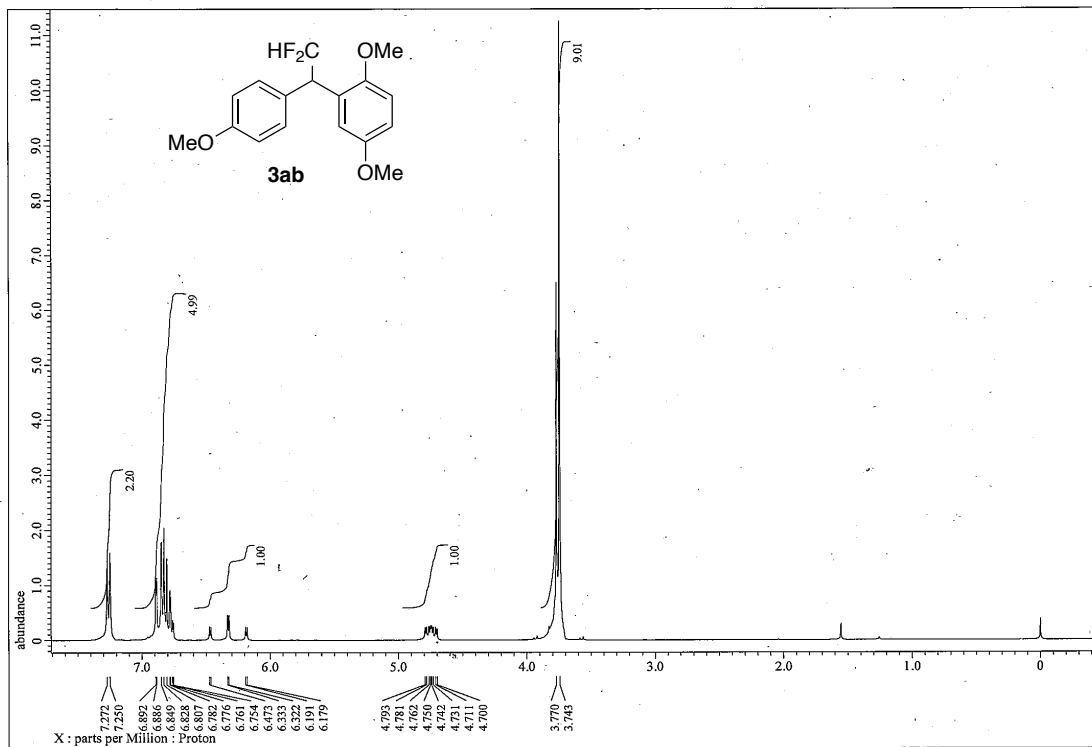
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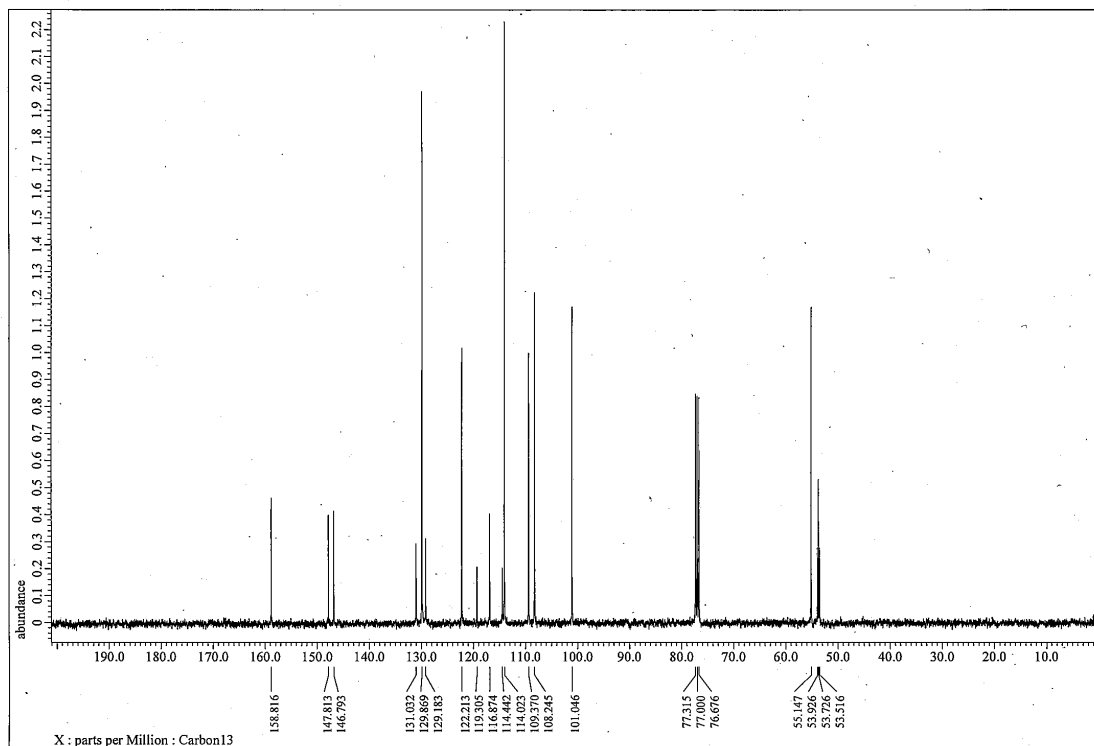
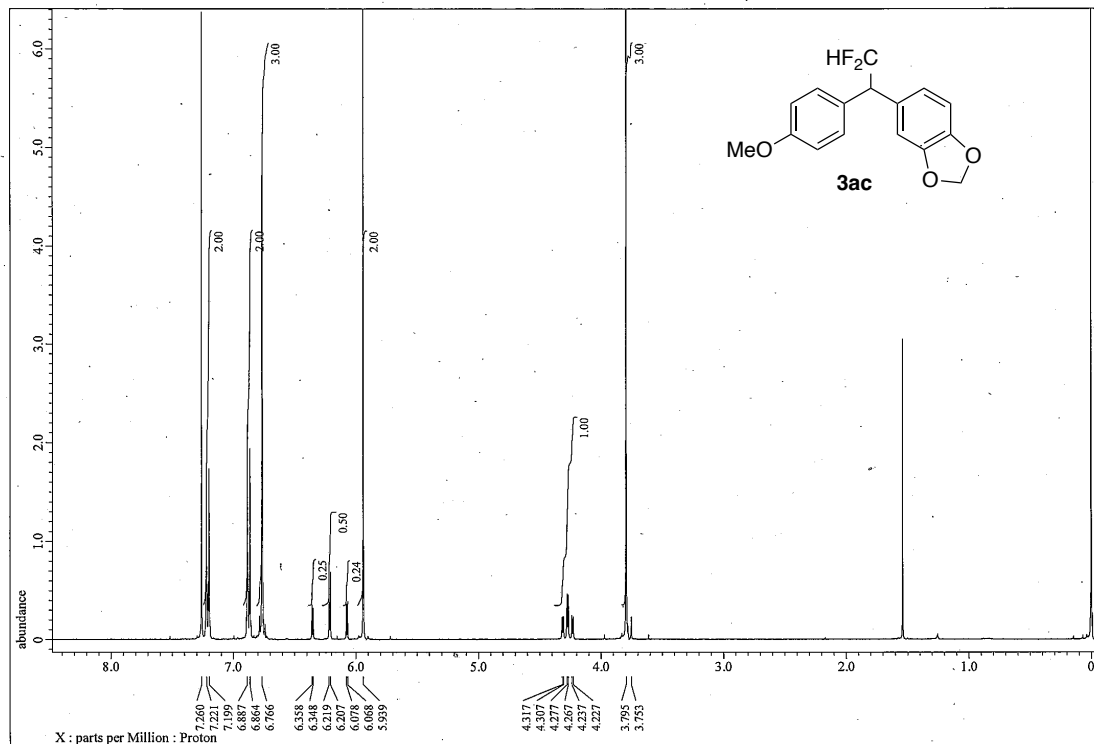
**3aa**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



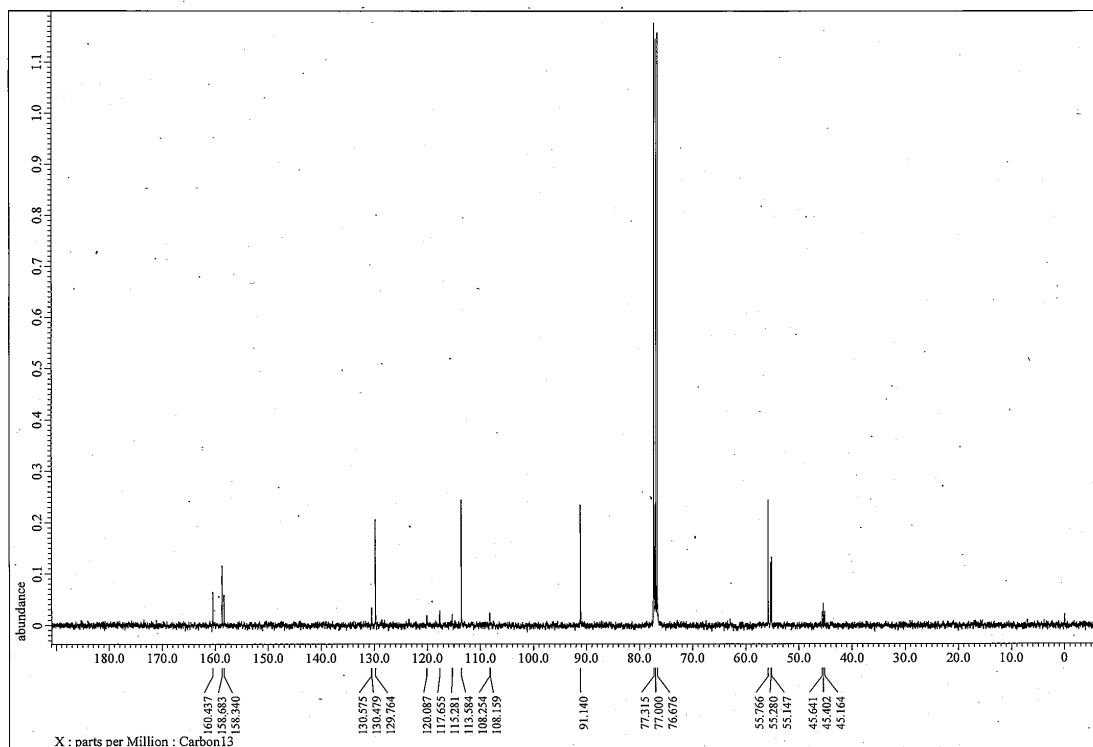
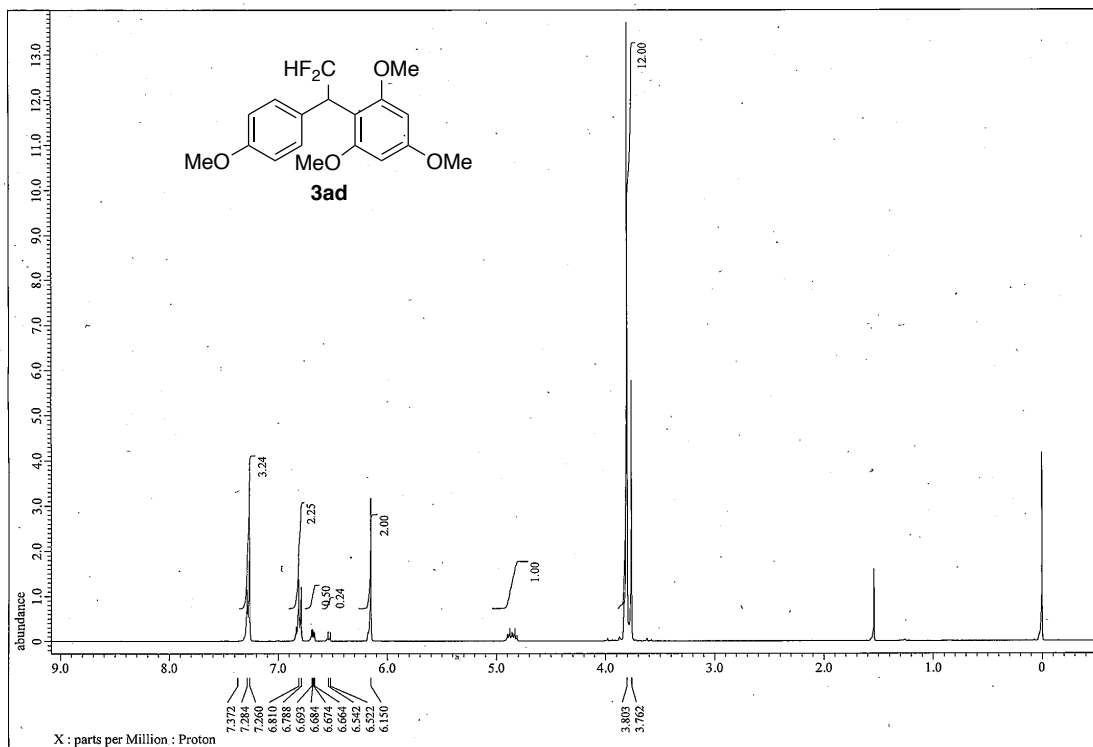
**3ab**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**3ac:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

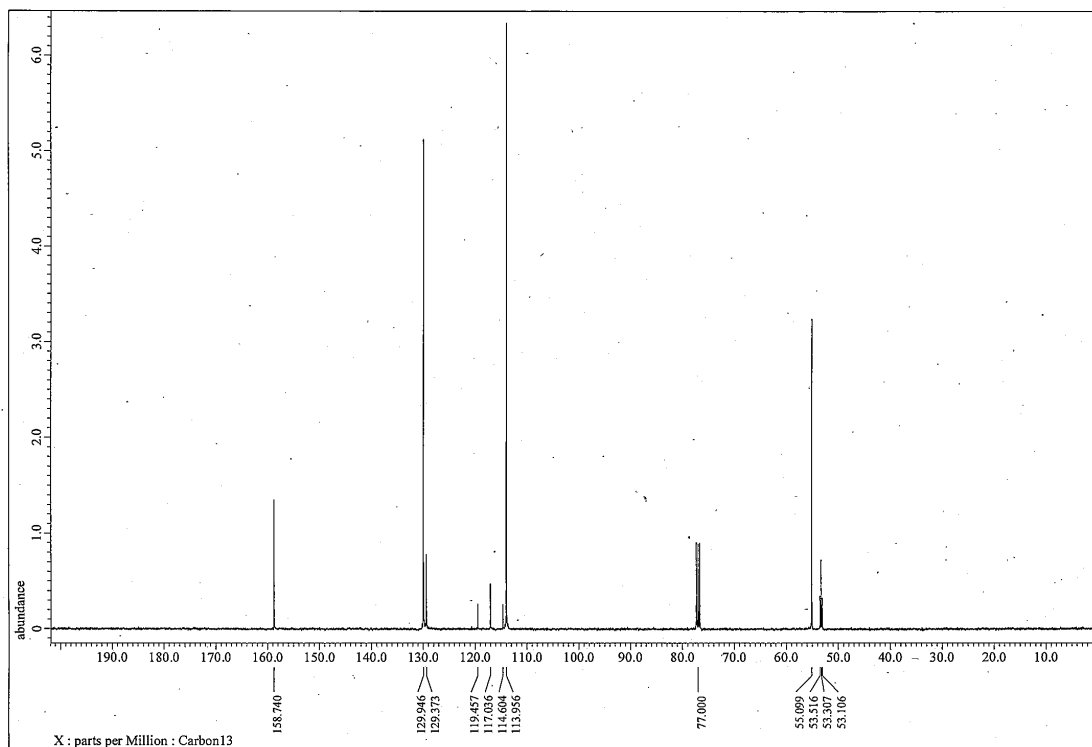
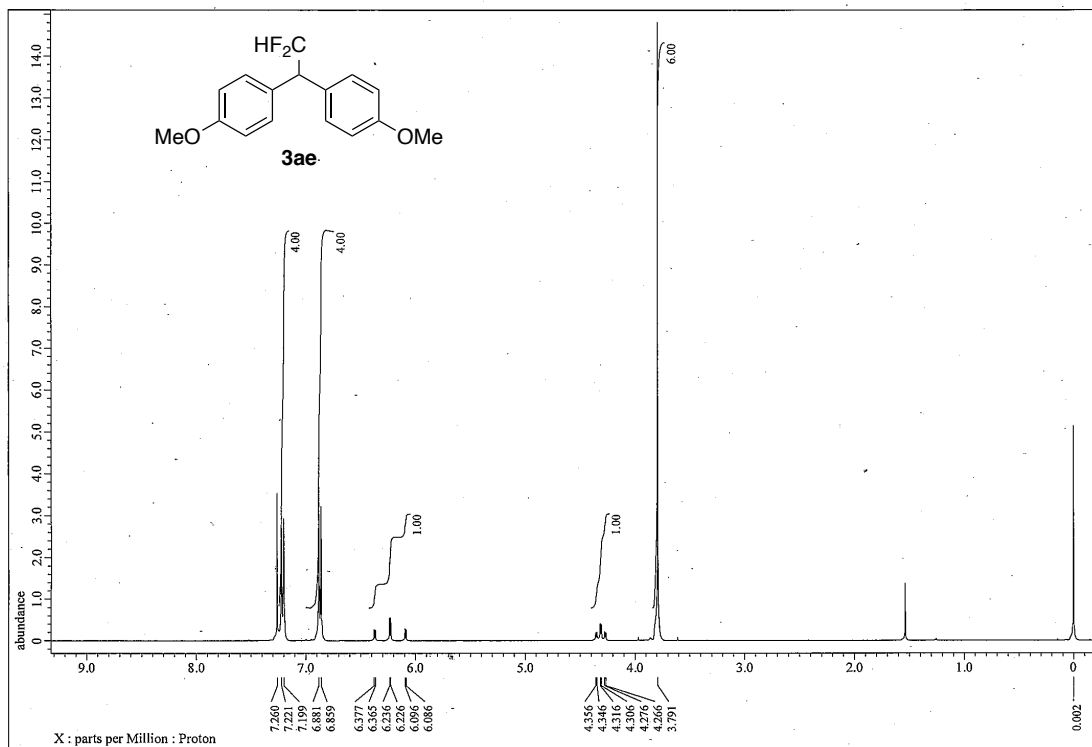


**3ad**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

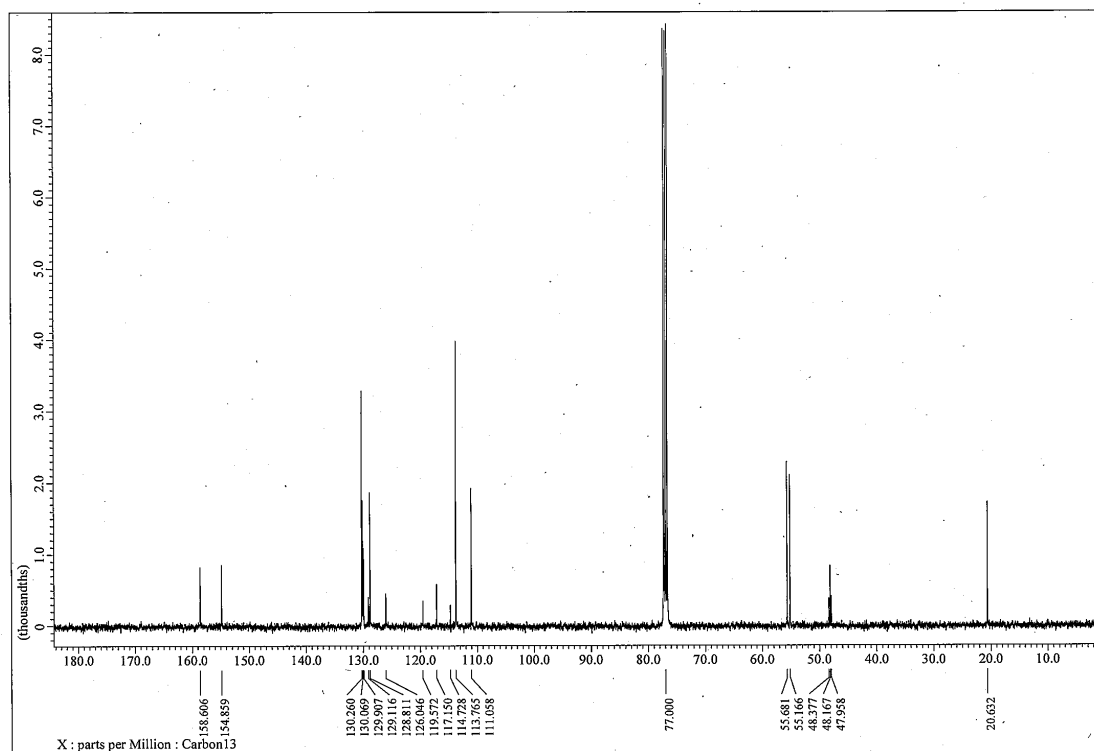
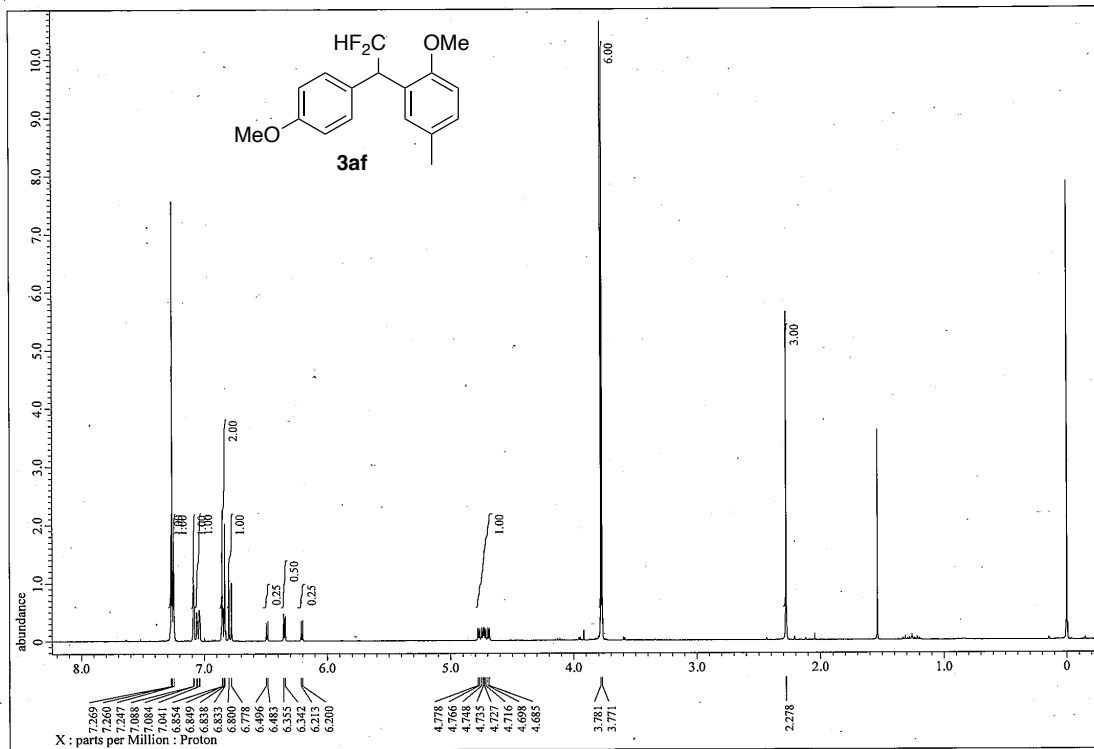




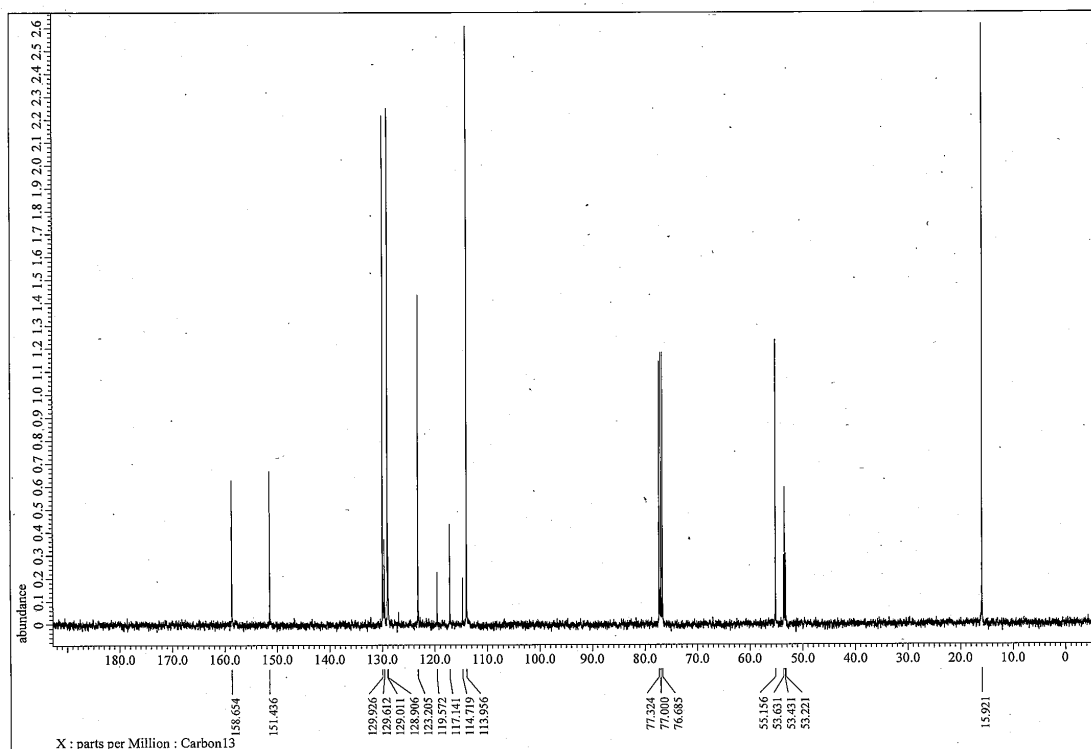
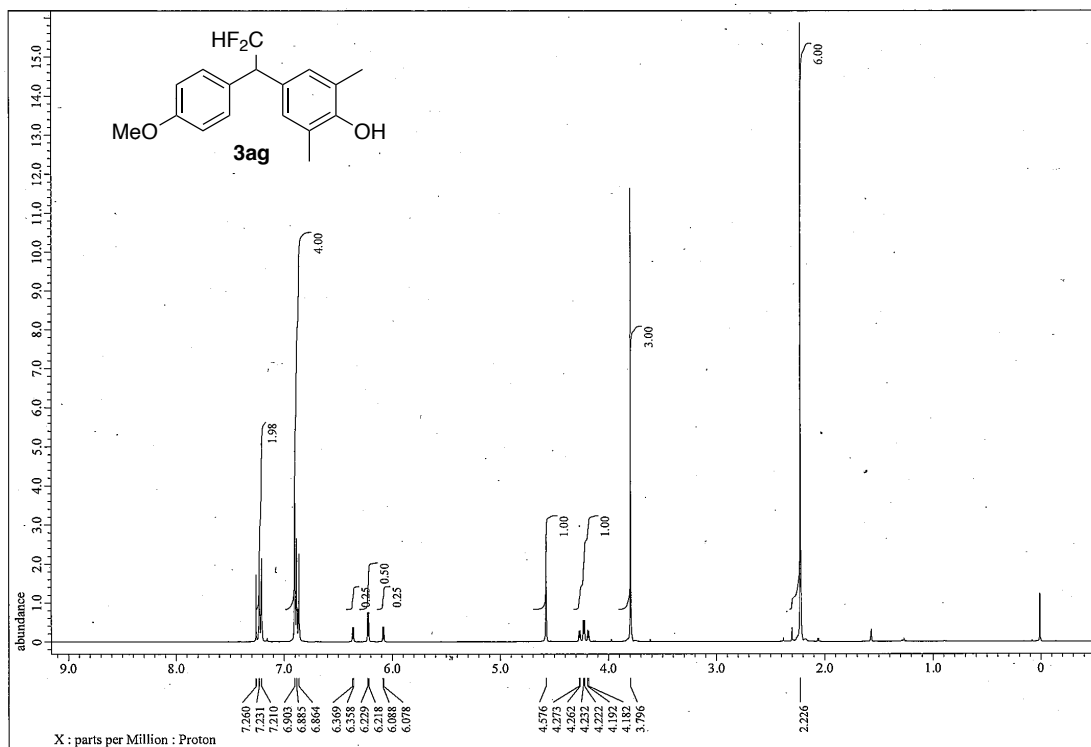
**3ae:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



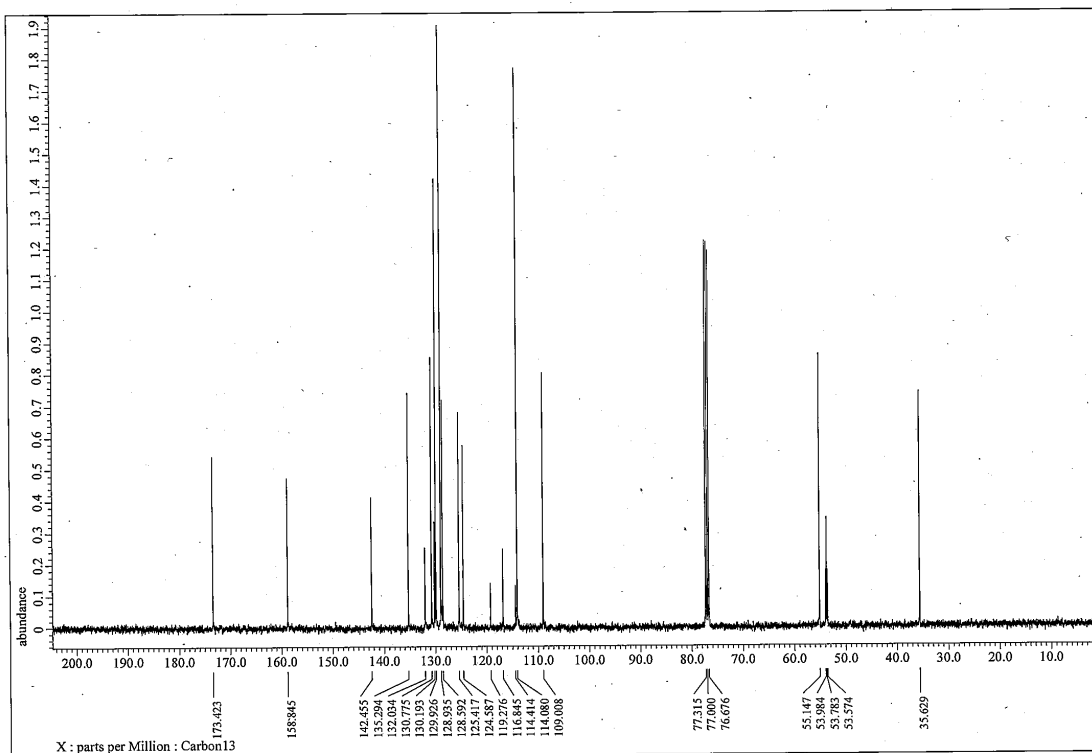
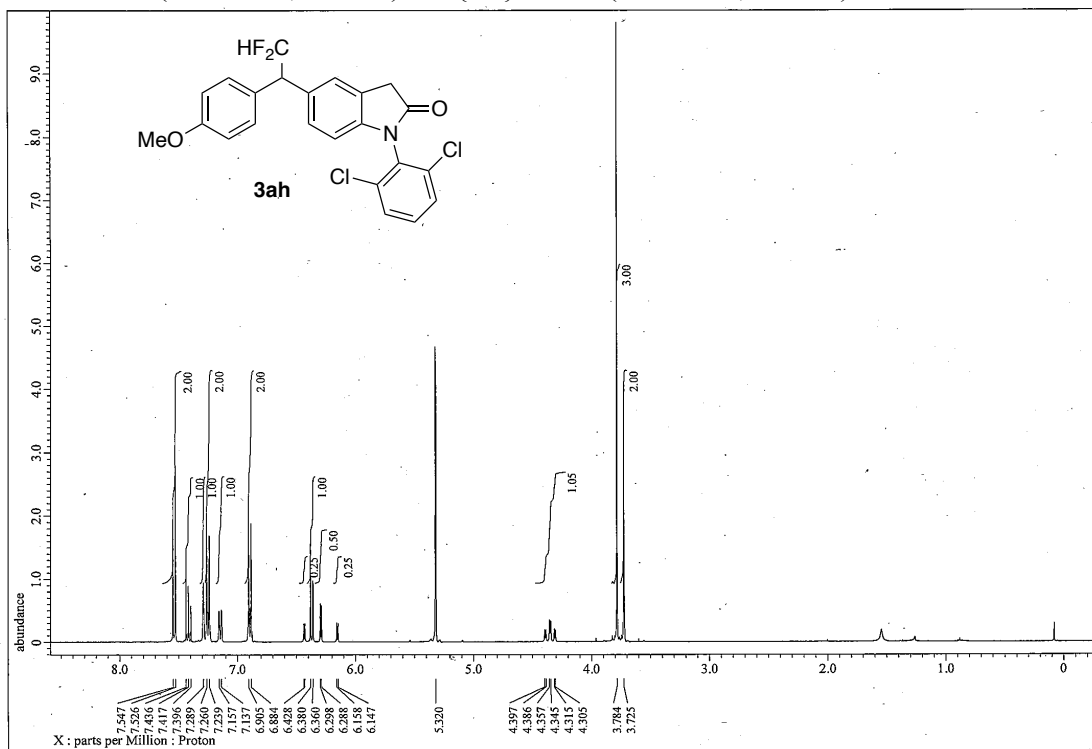
**3af:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



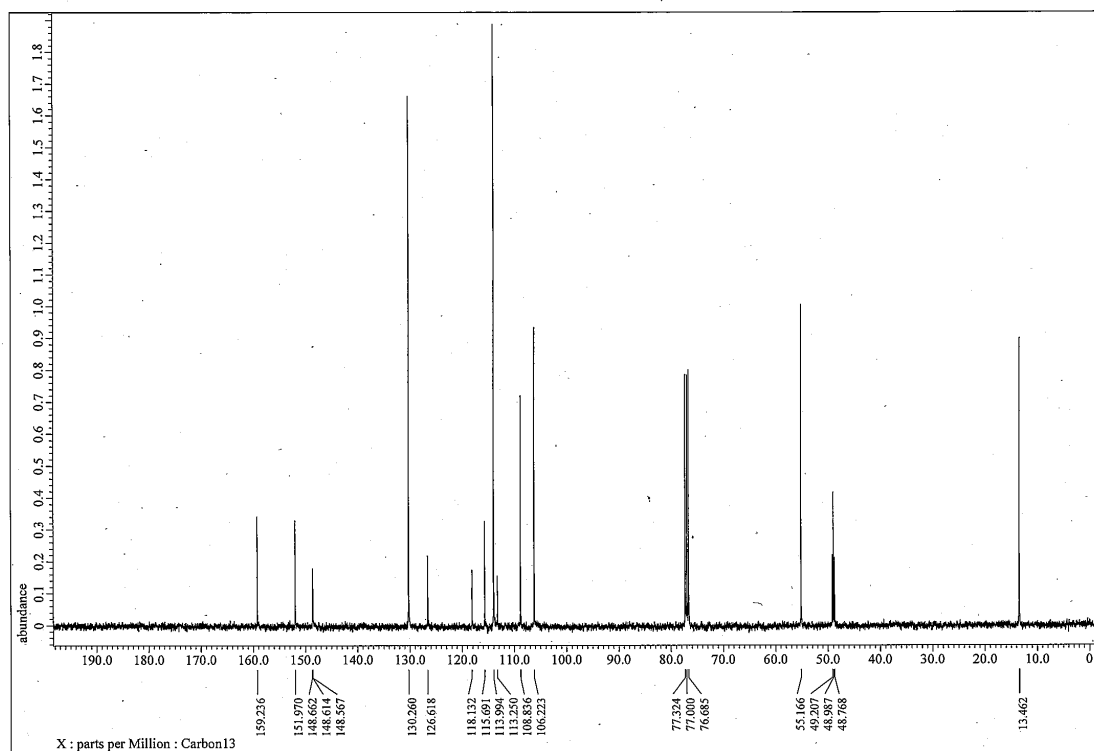
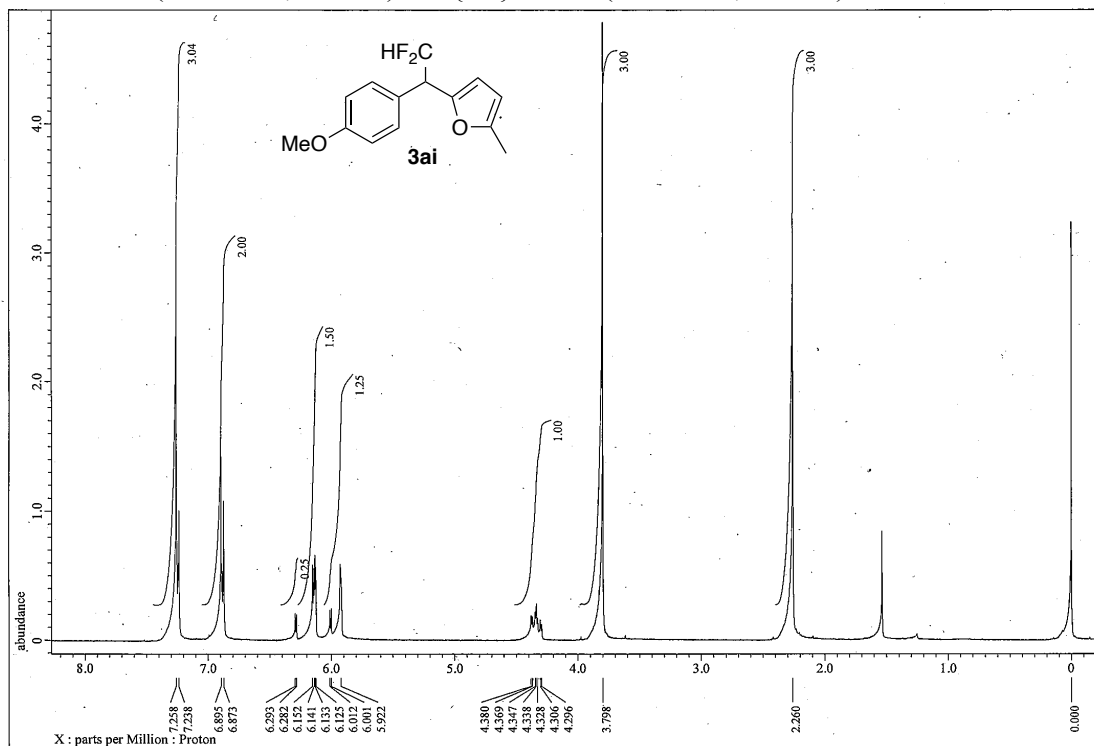
**3ag**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



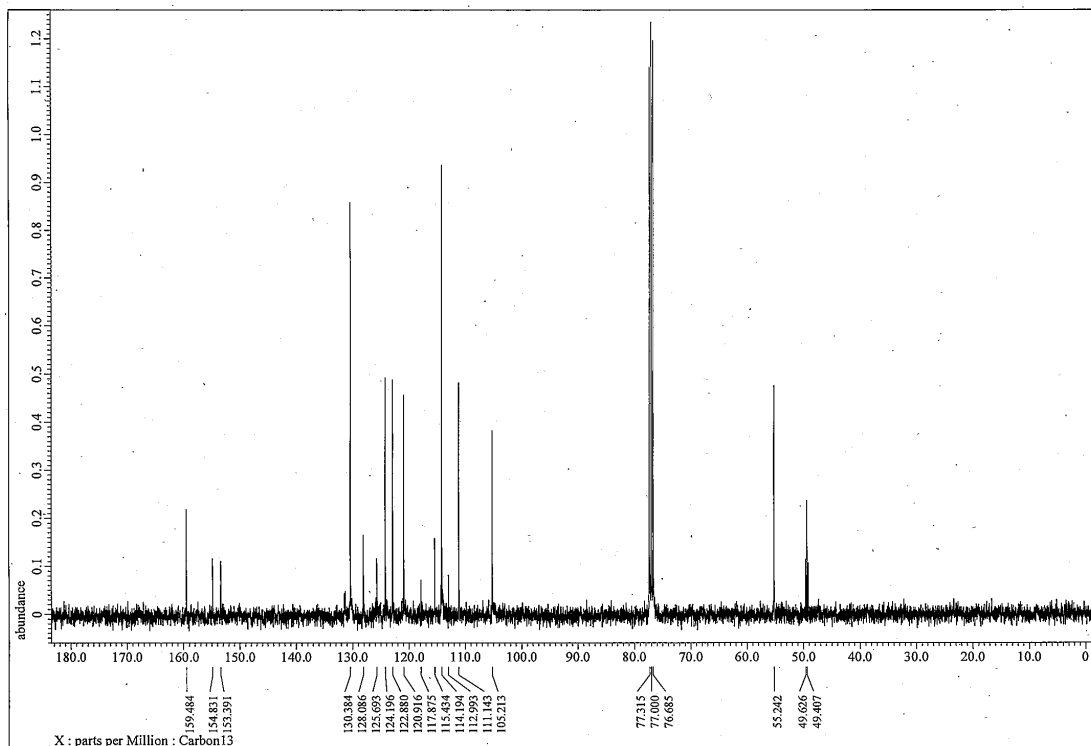
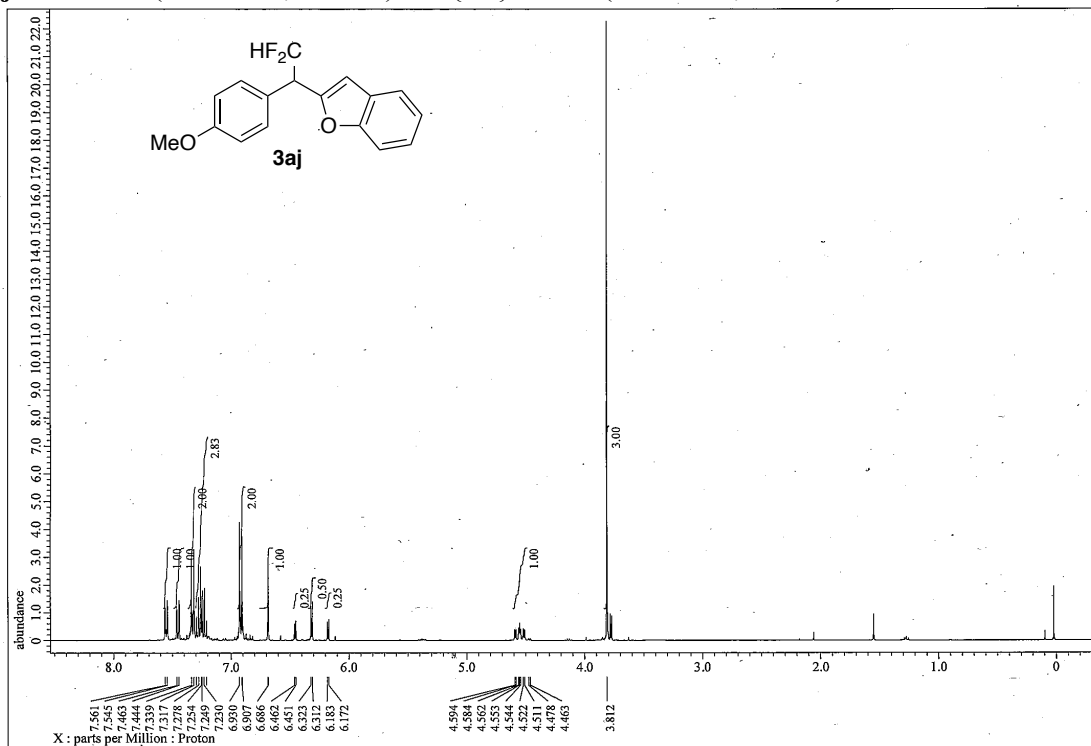
**3ah:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



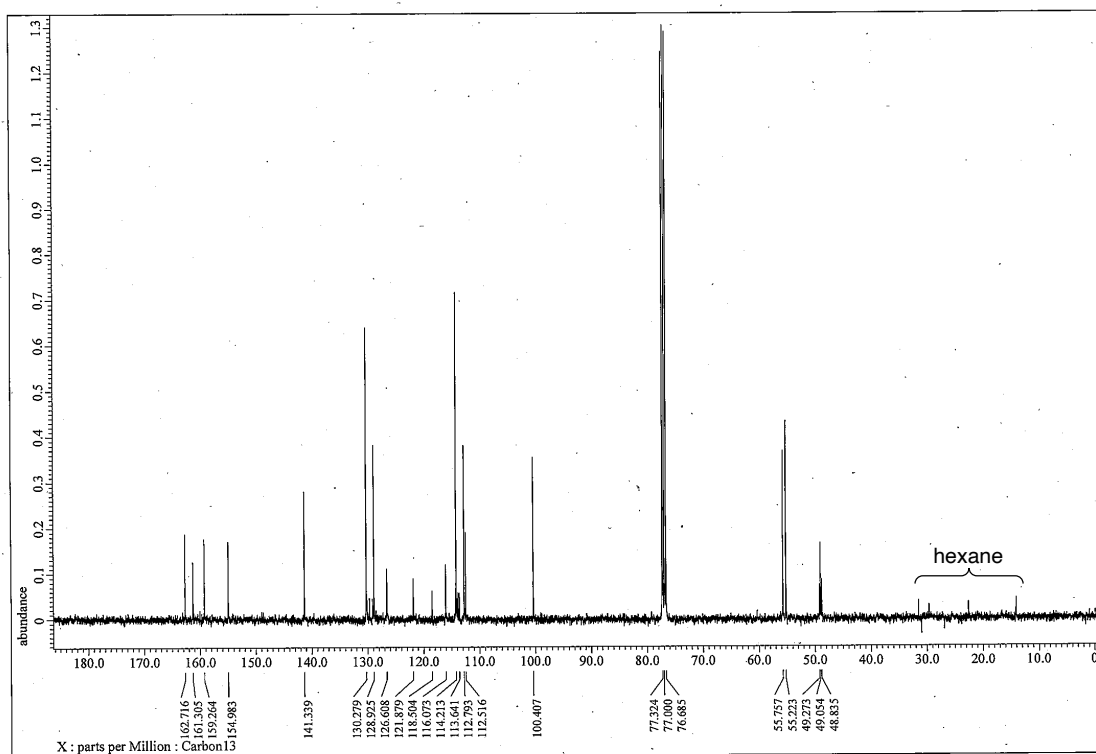
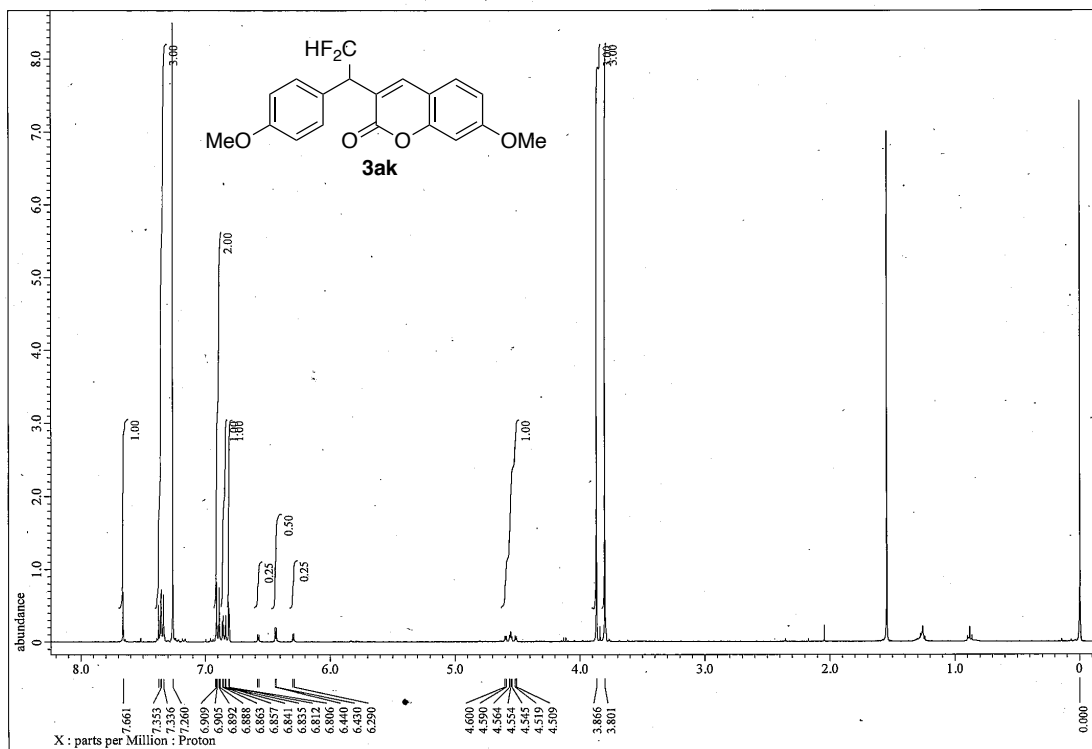
**3ai:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



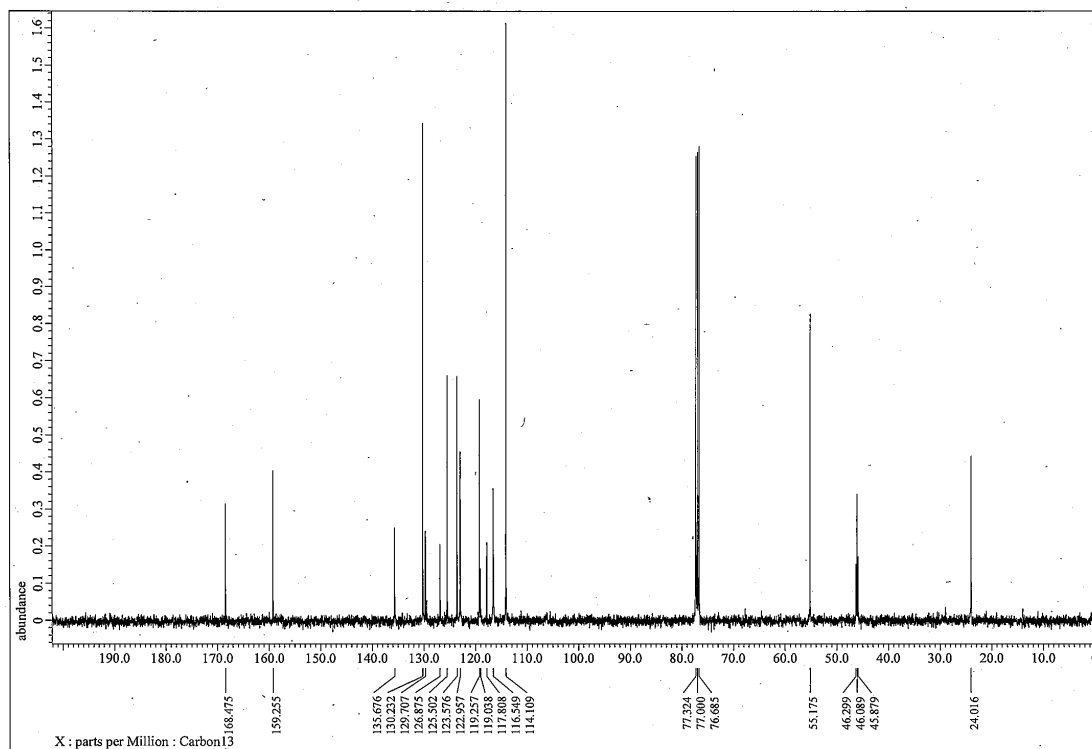
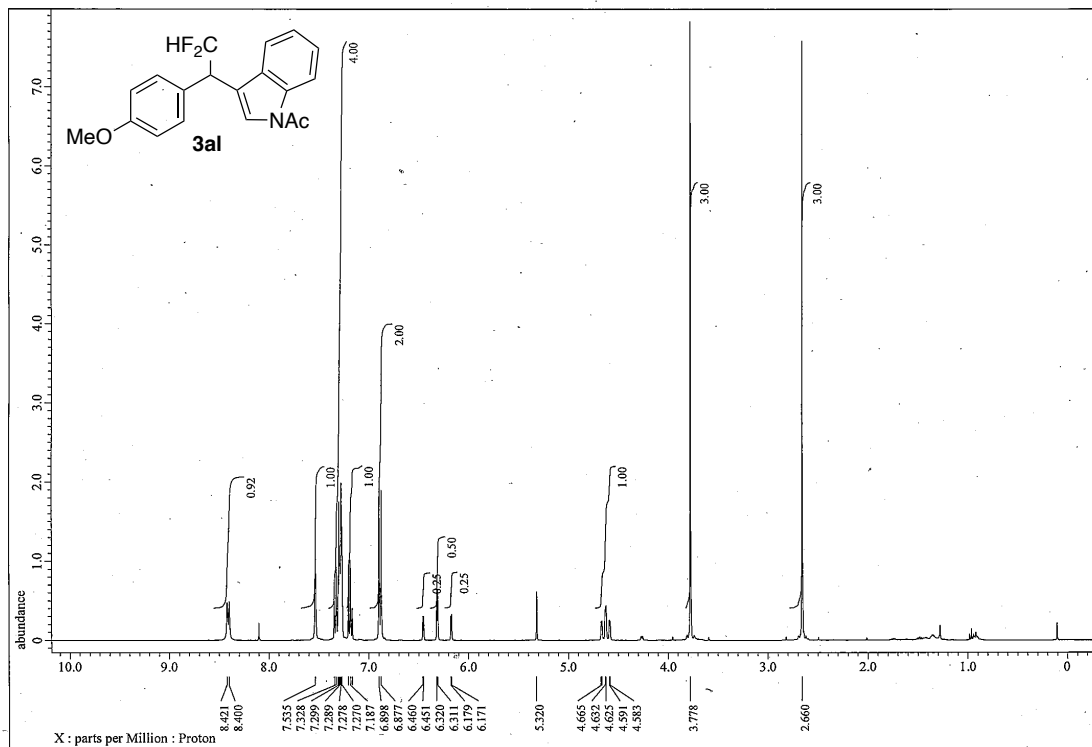
**3aj**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**3ak:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

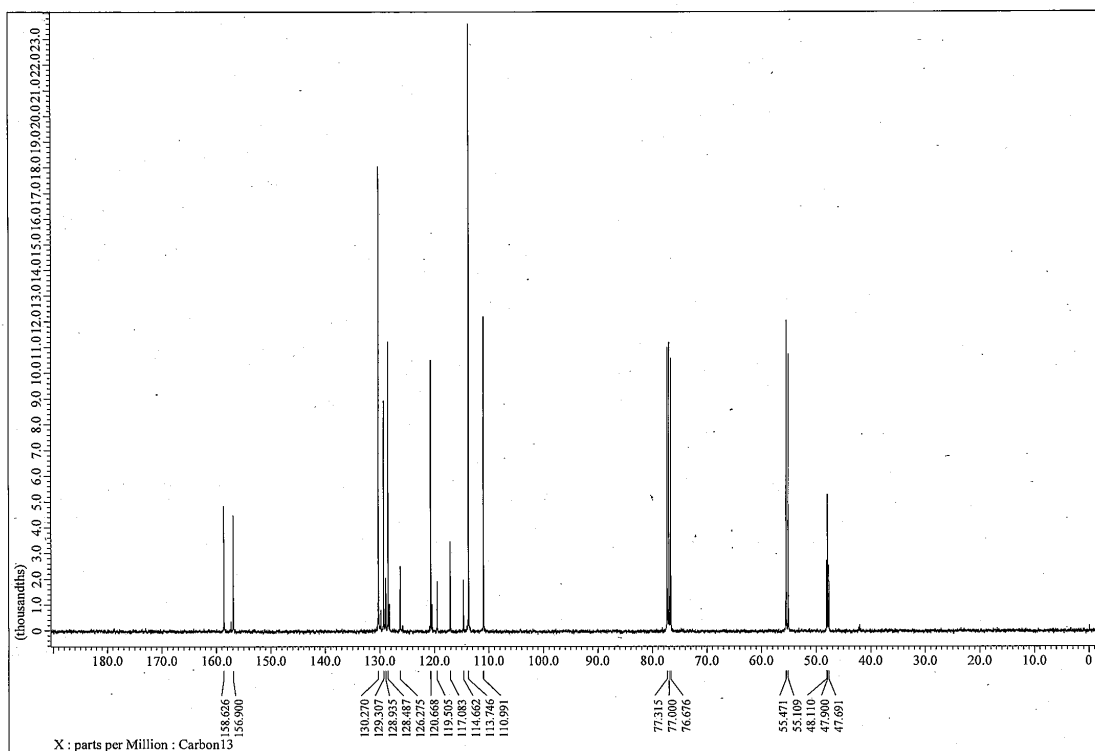
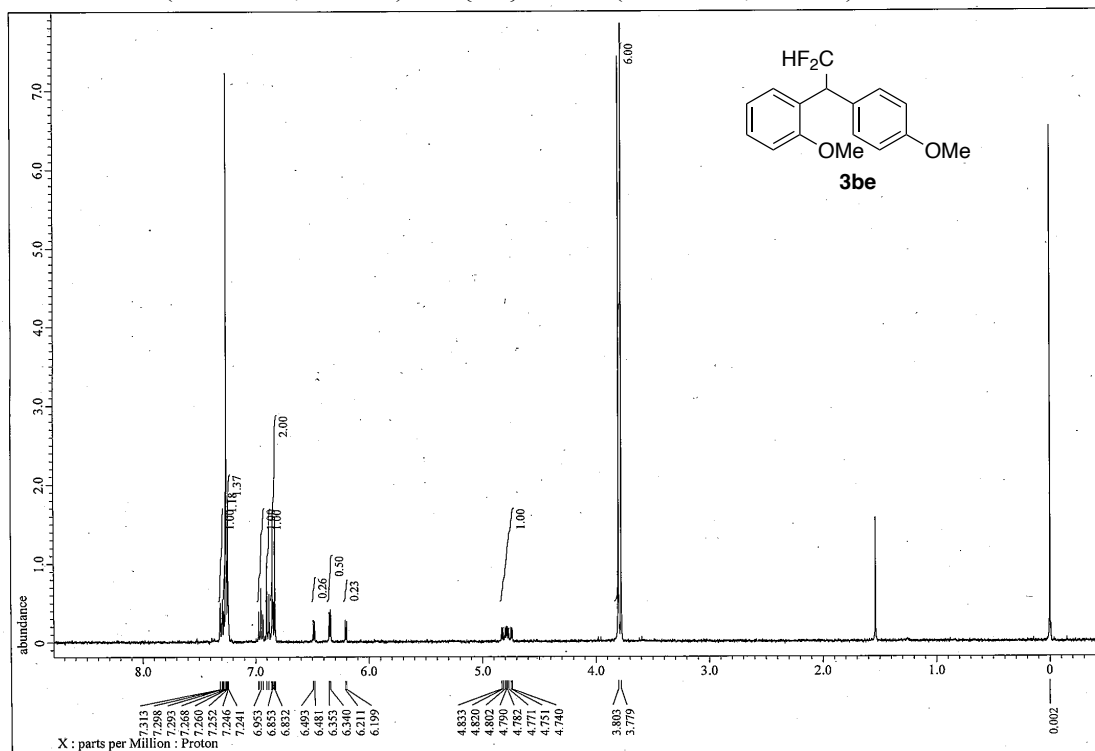


**3al:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

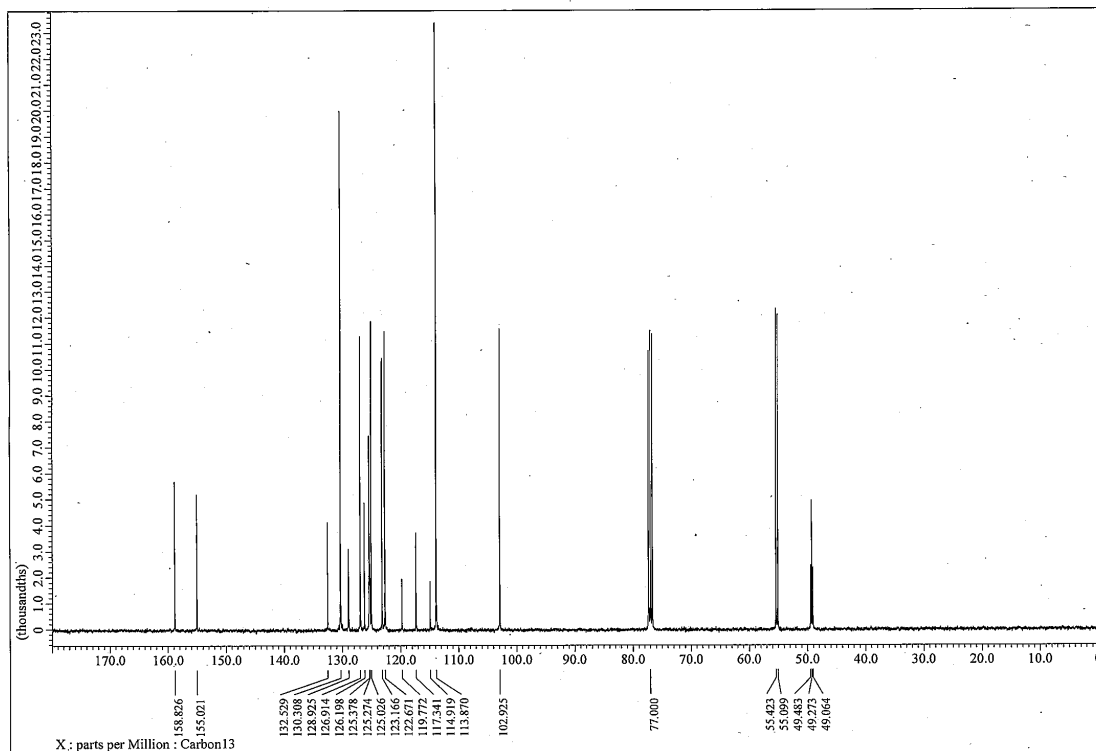
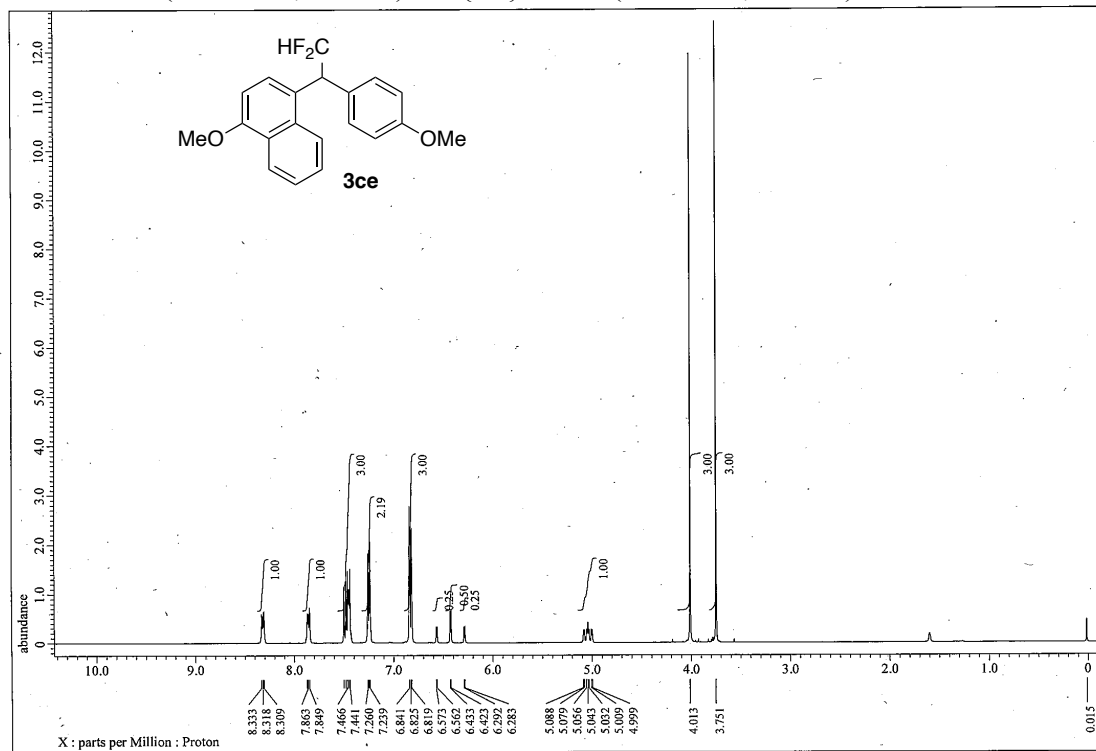




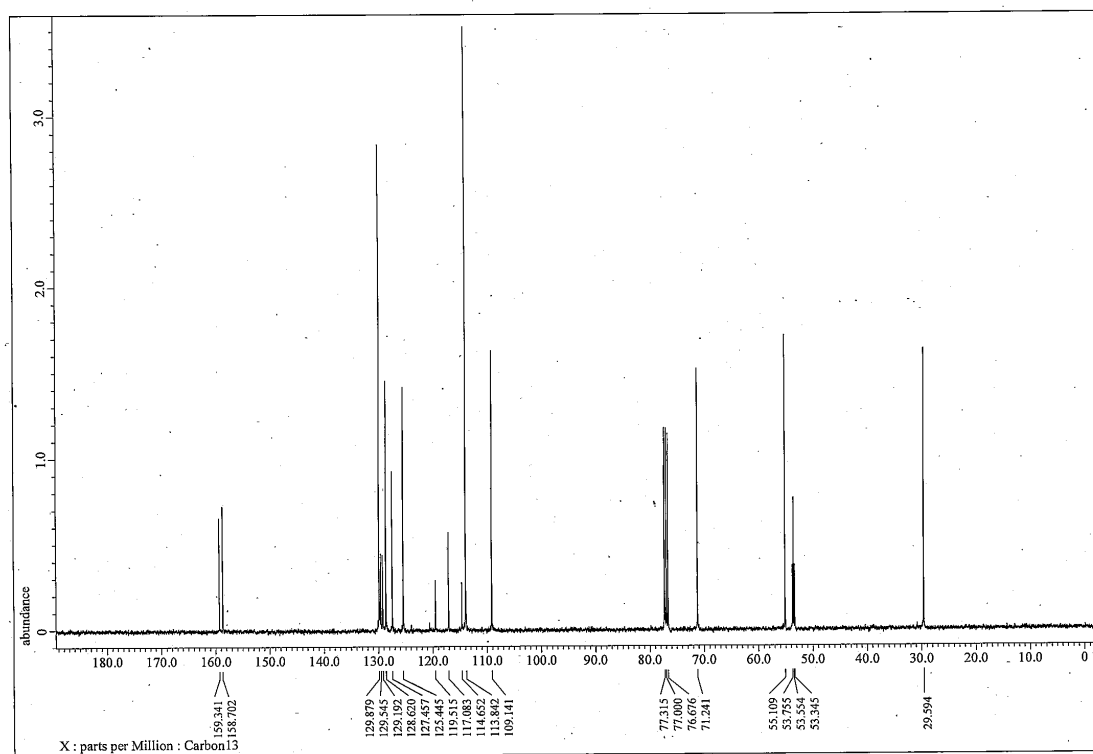
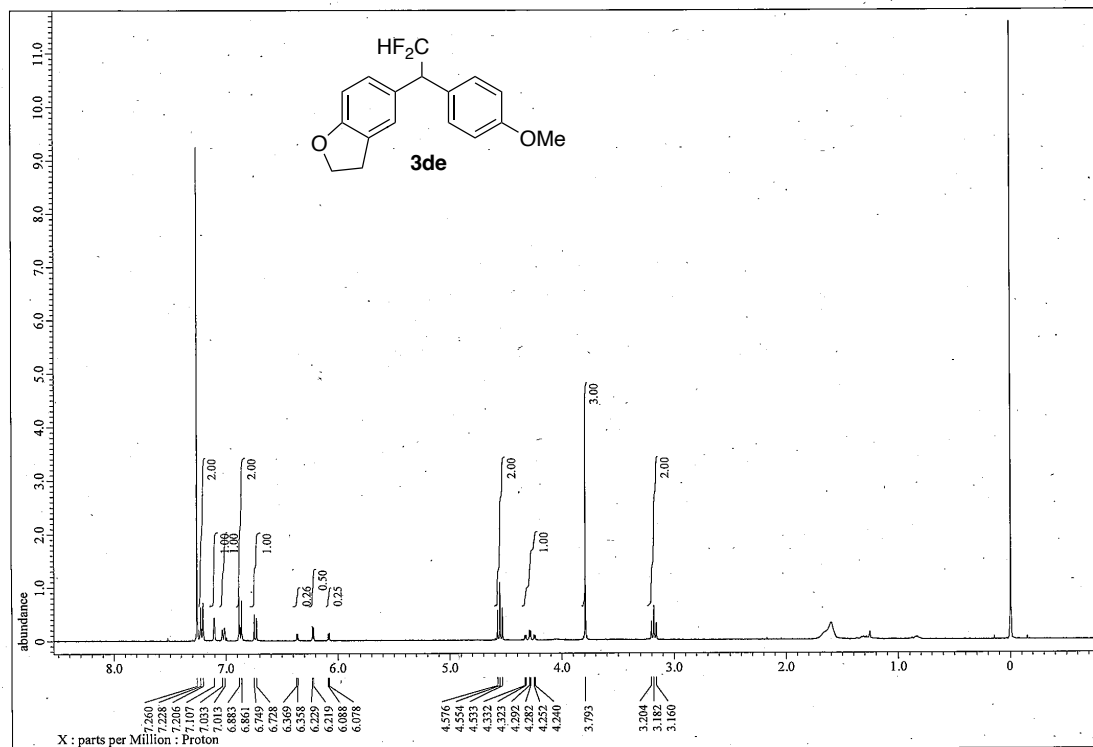
**3be:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) /  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



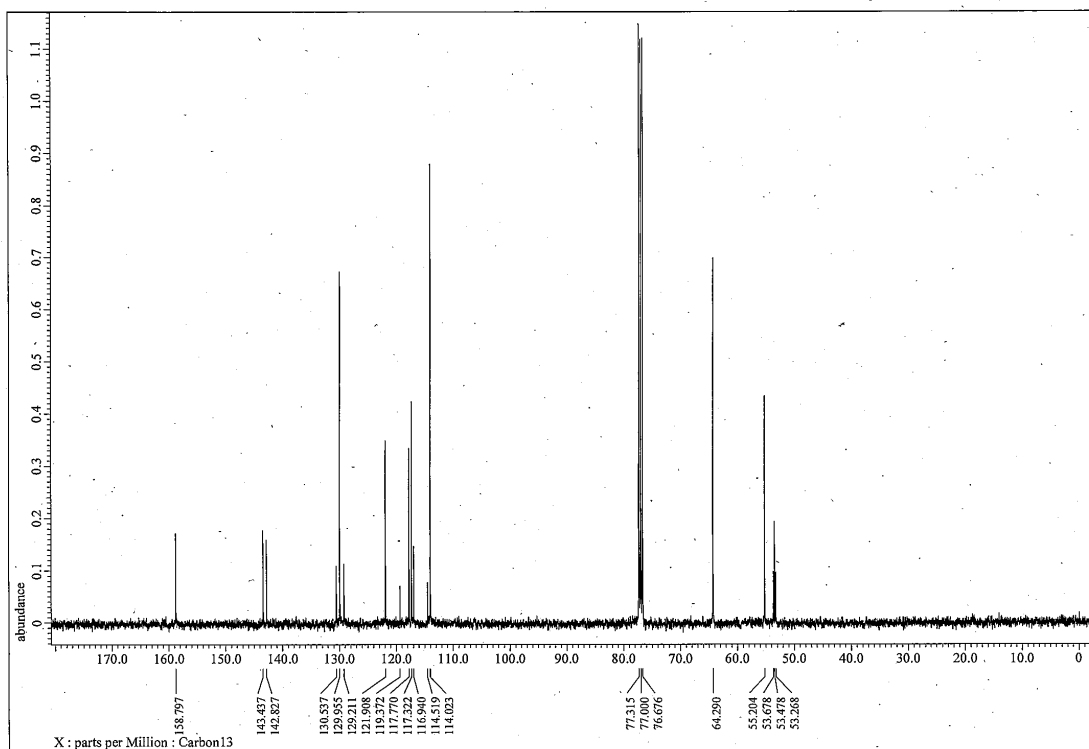
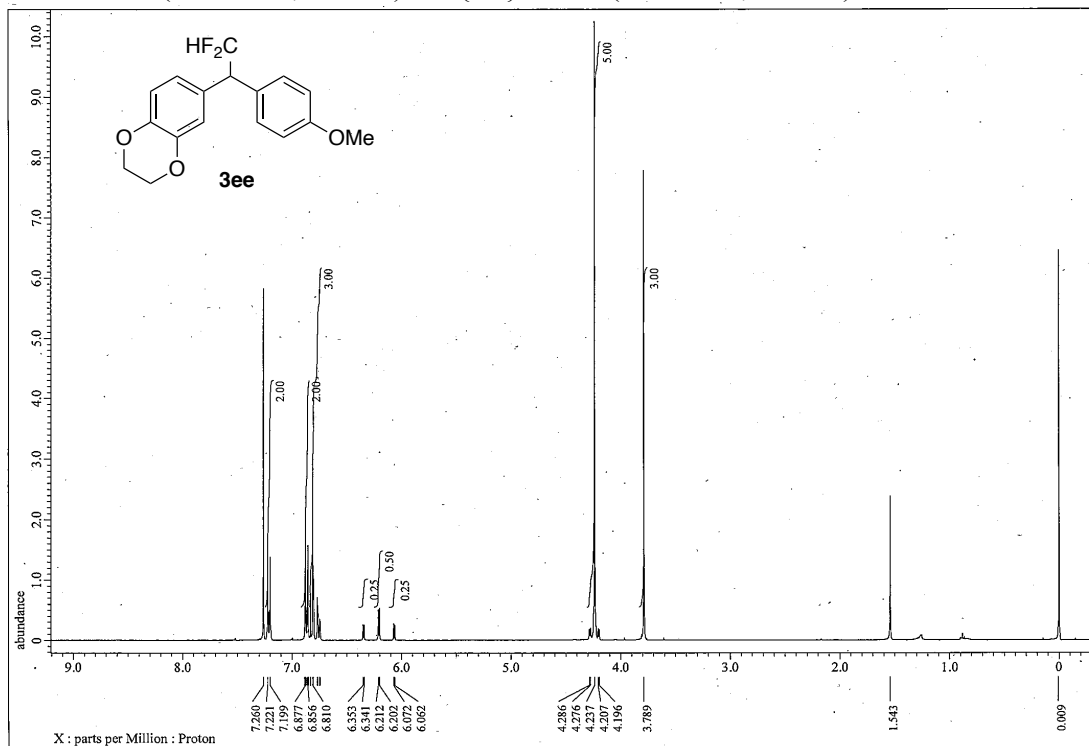
**3ce:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



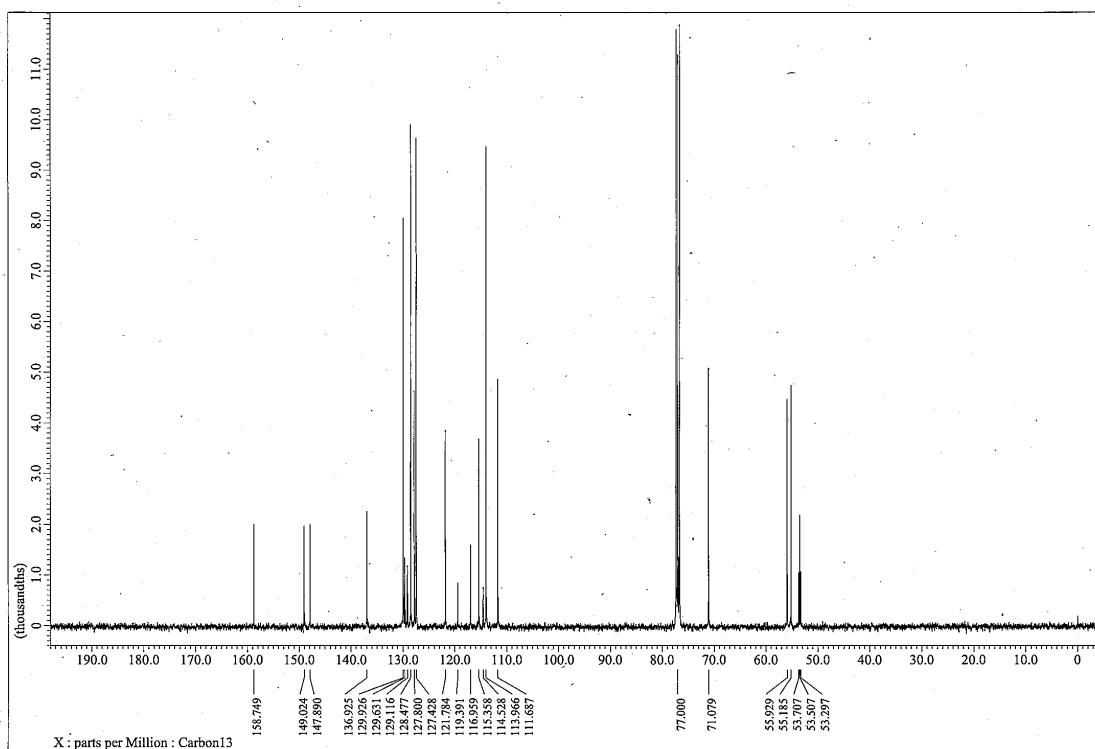
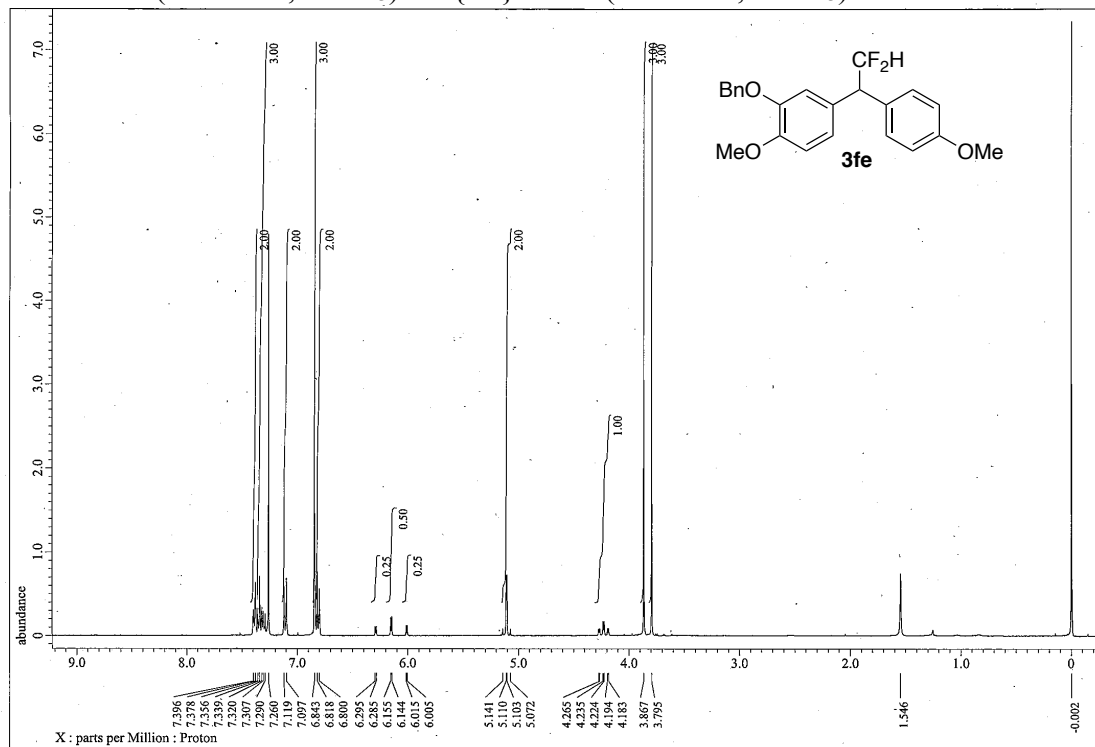
**3de:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



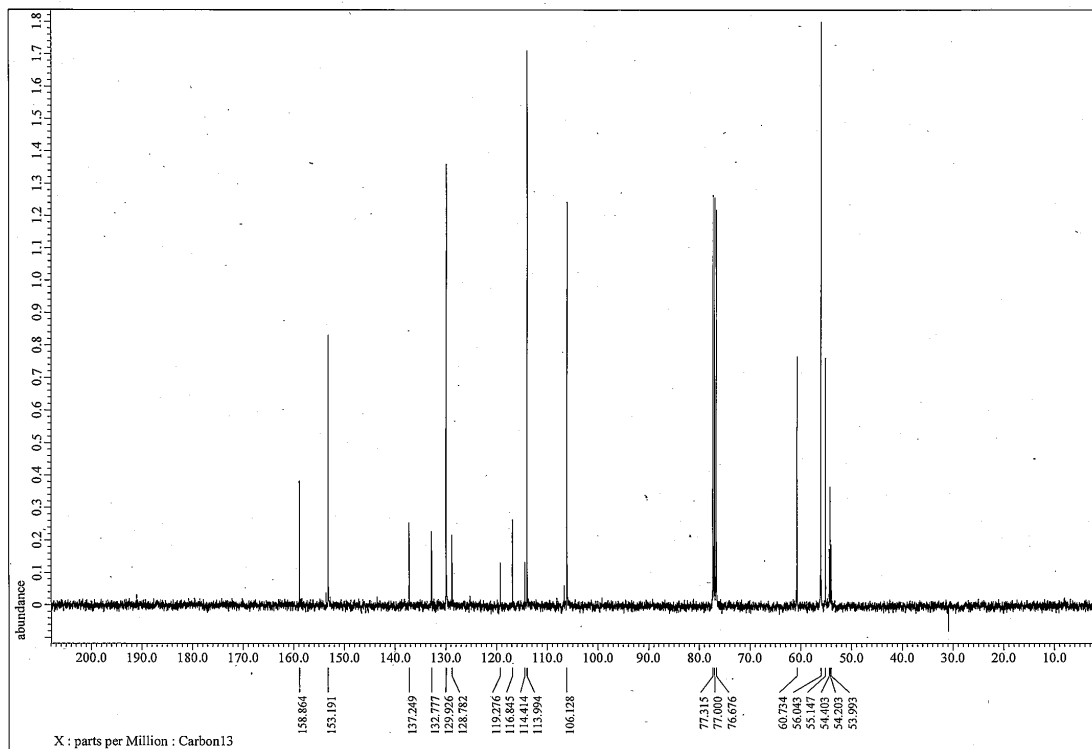
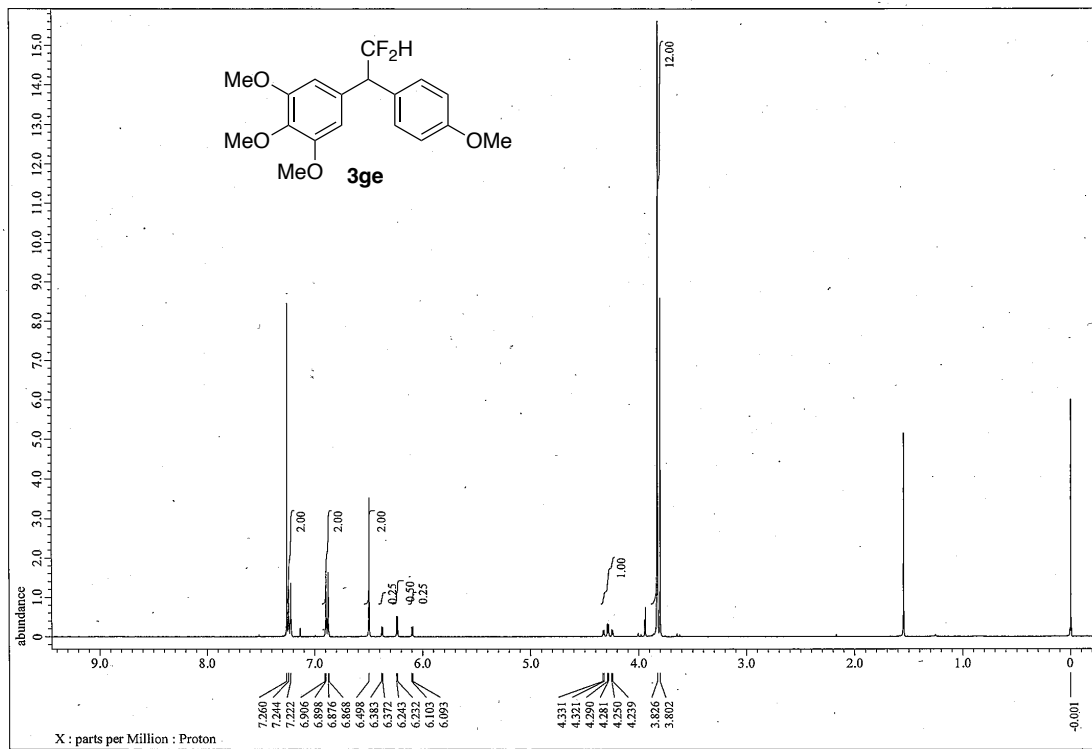
**3ee:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



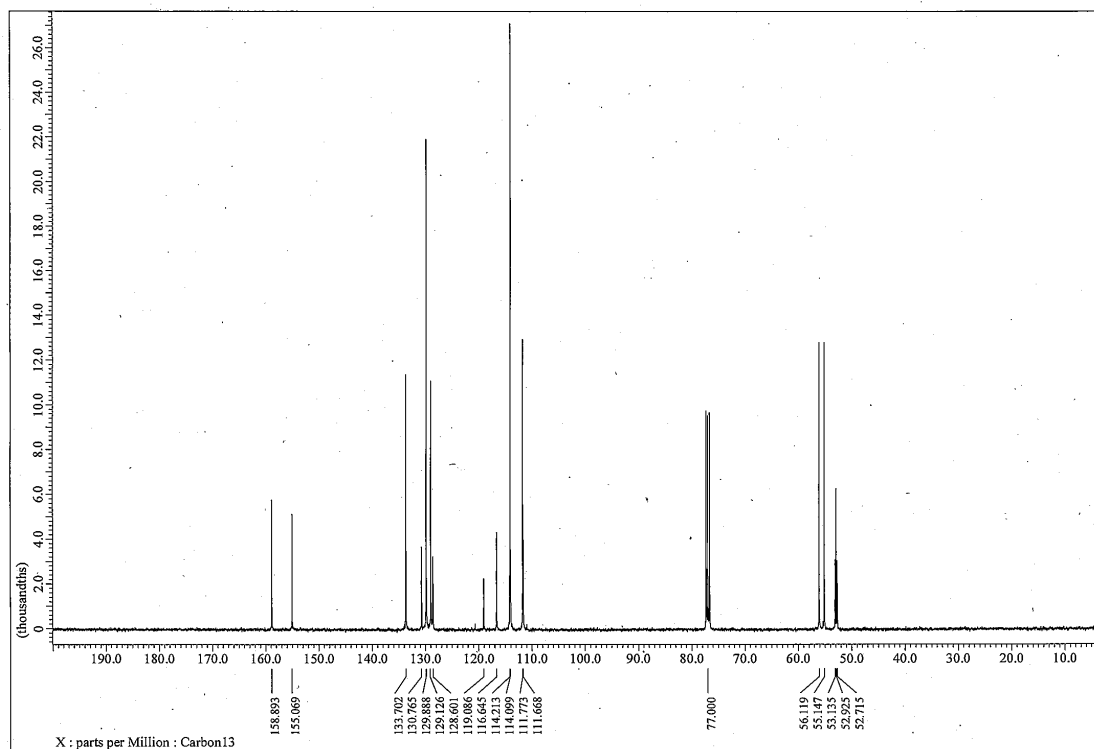
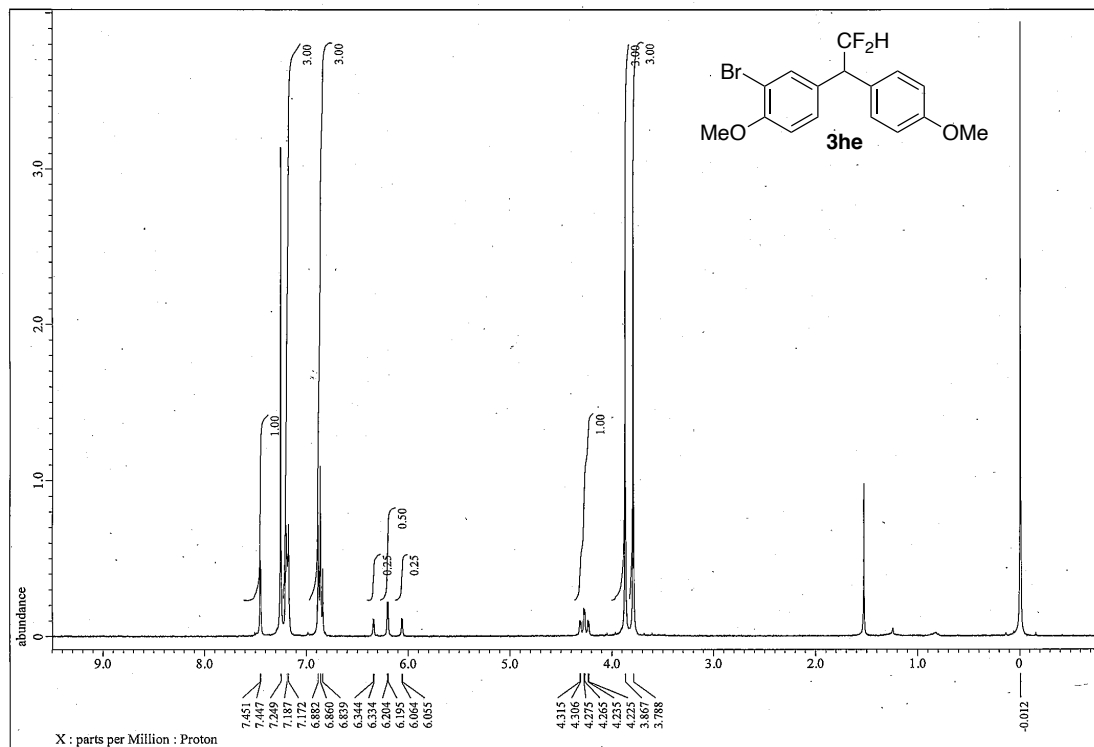
**3fe:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



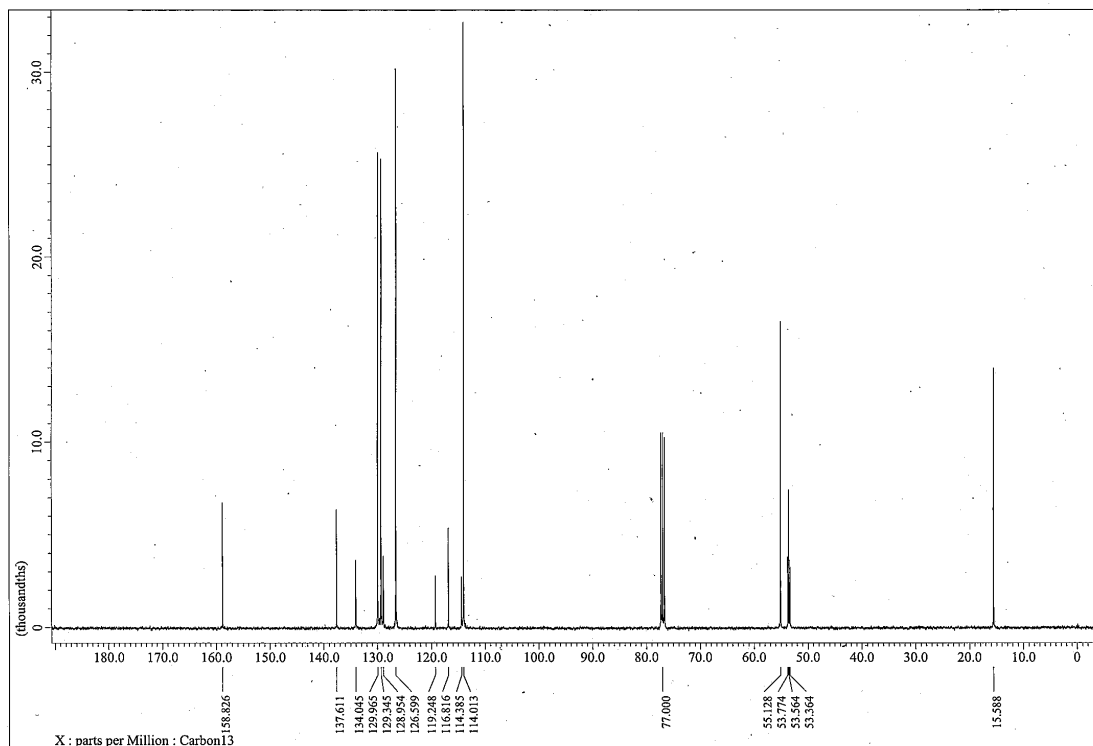
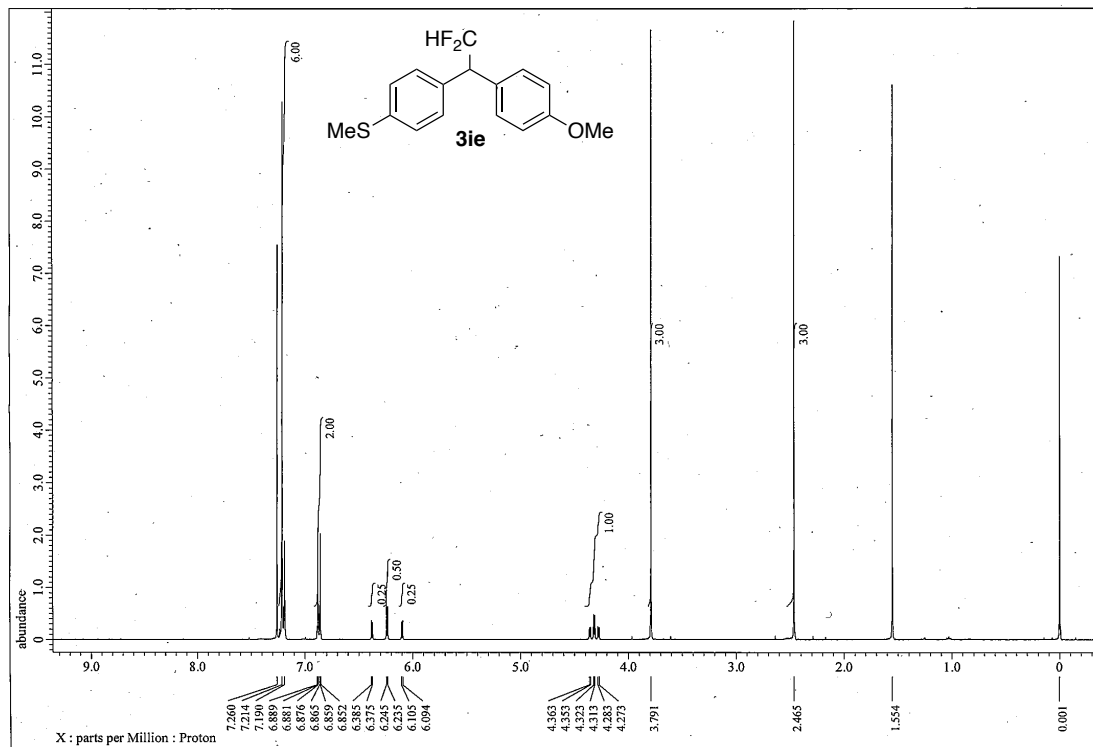
**3ge:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**3he**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) /  $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

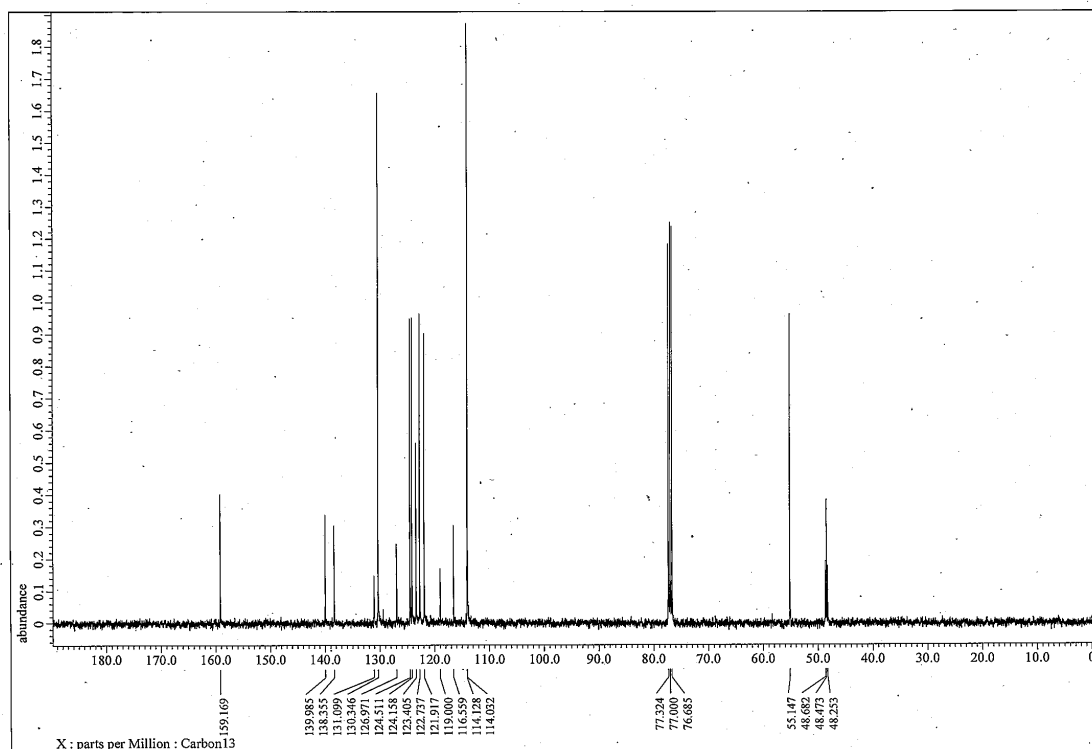
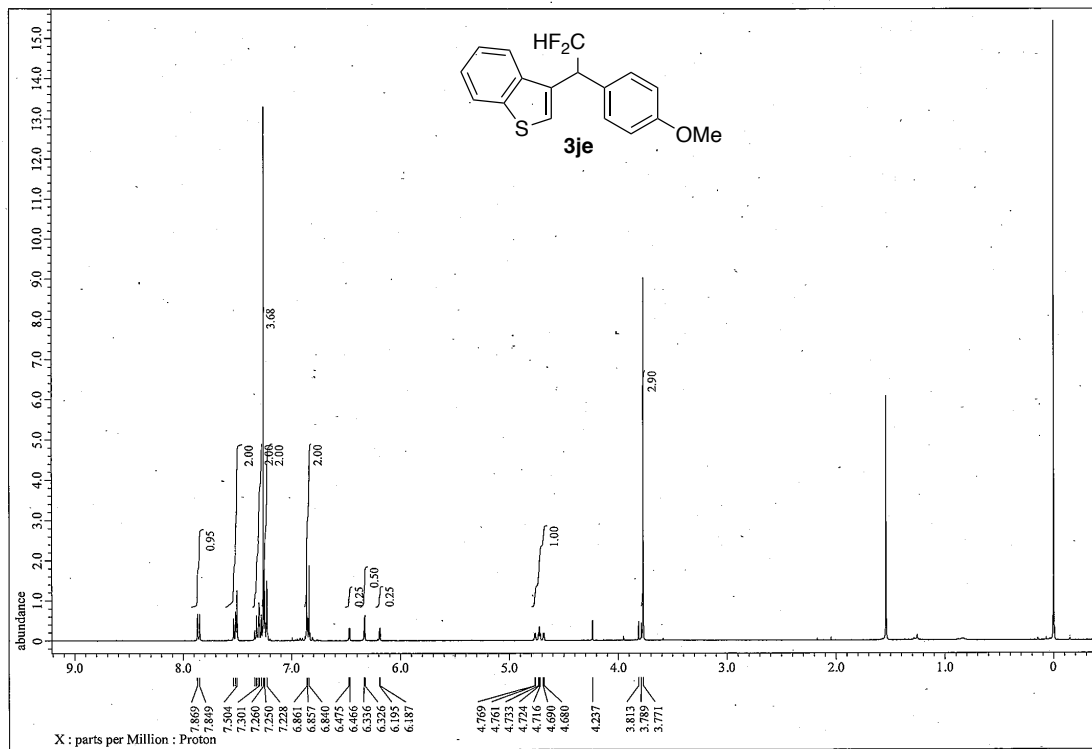


**3ie:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

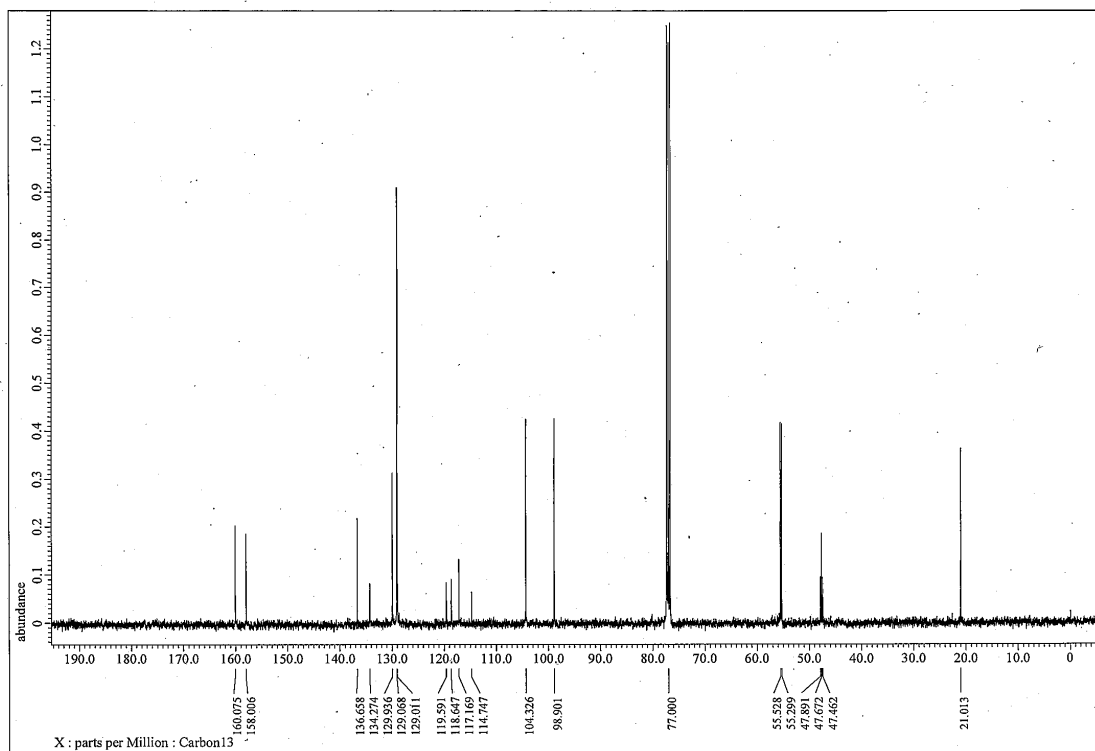
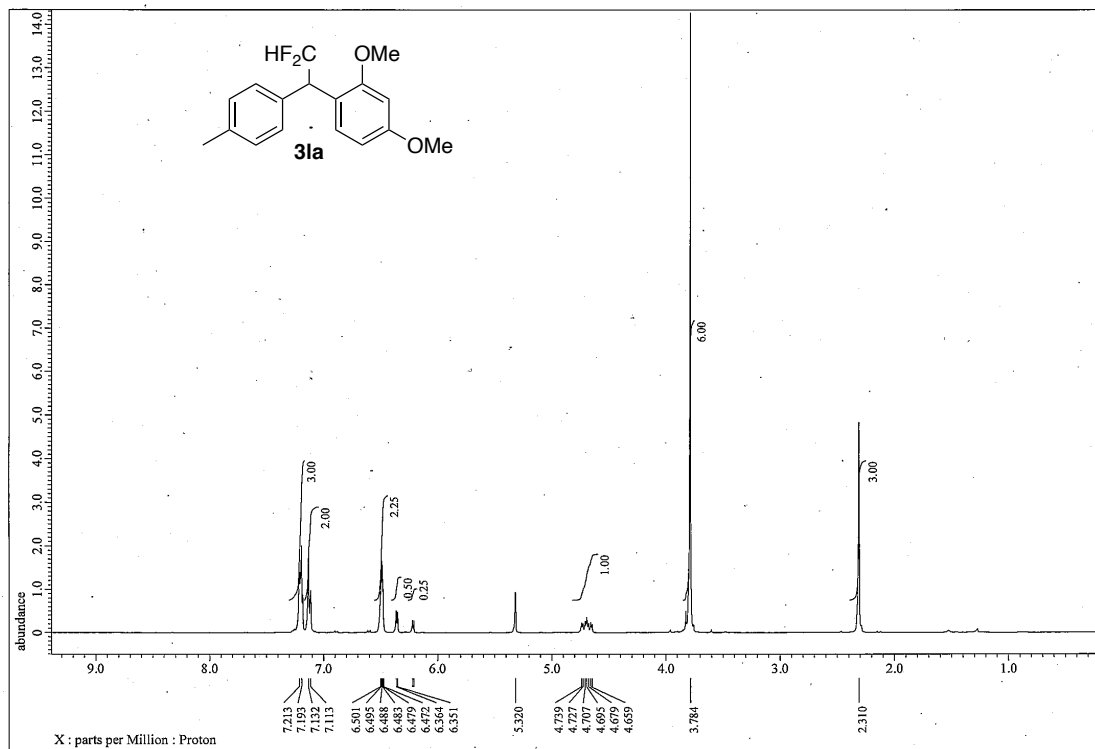




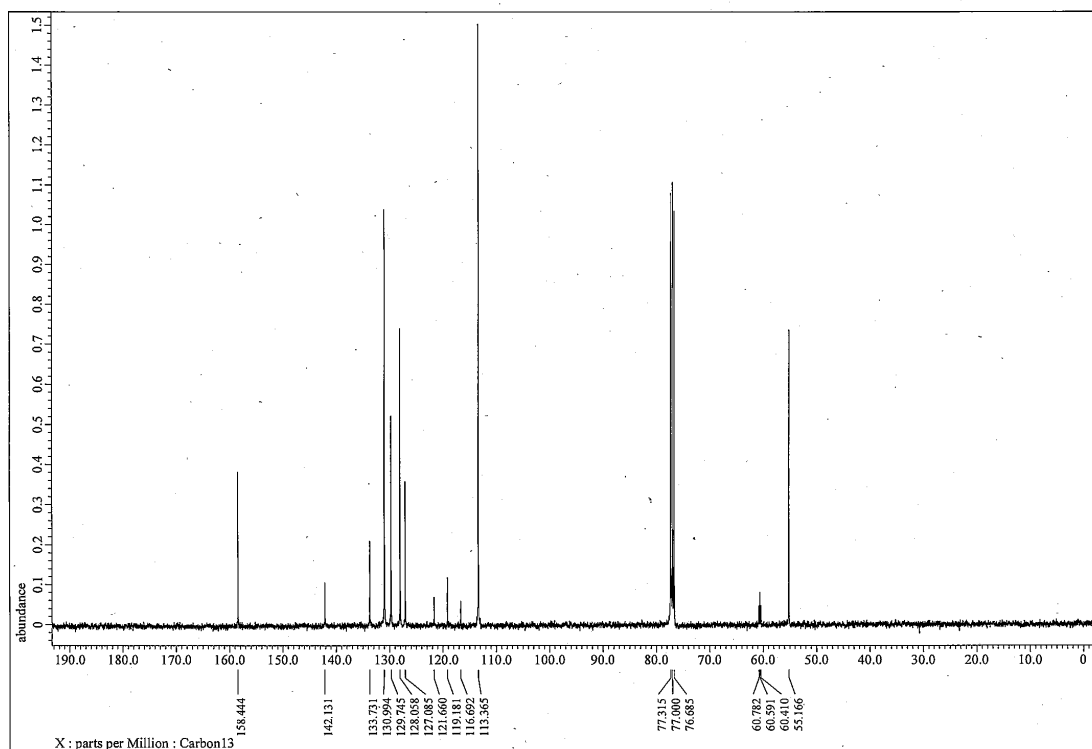
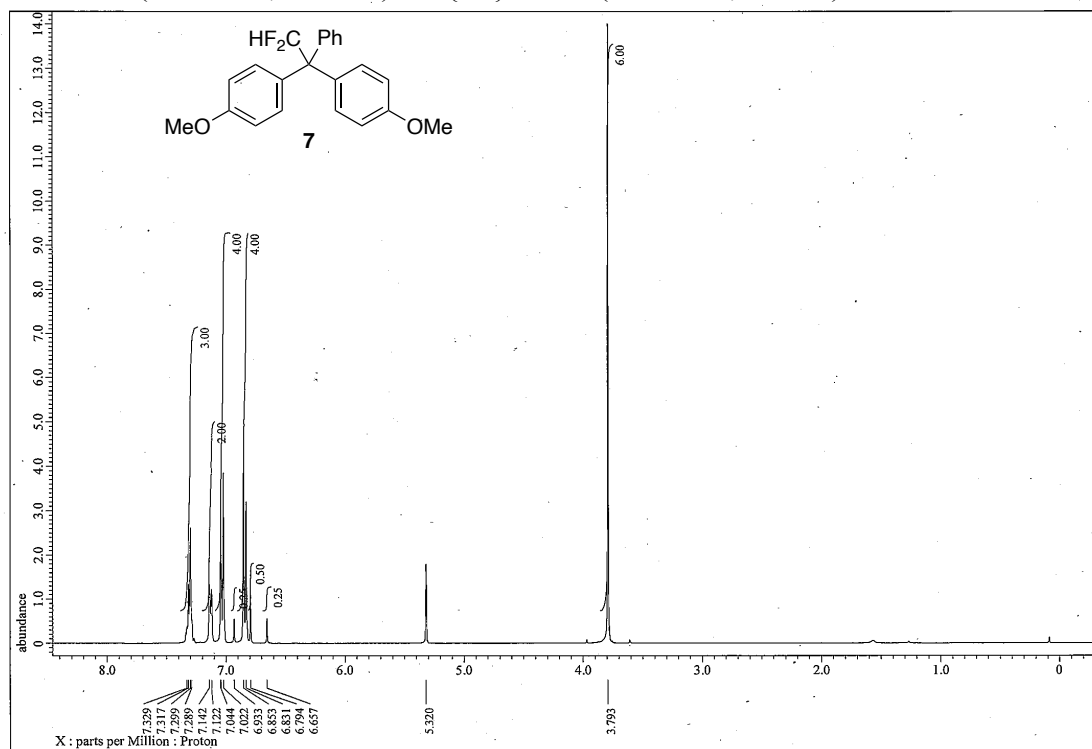
**3je**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



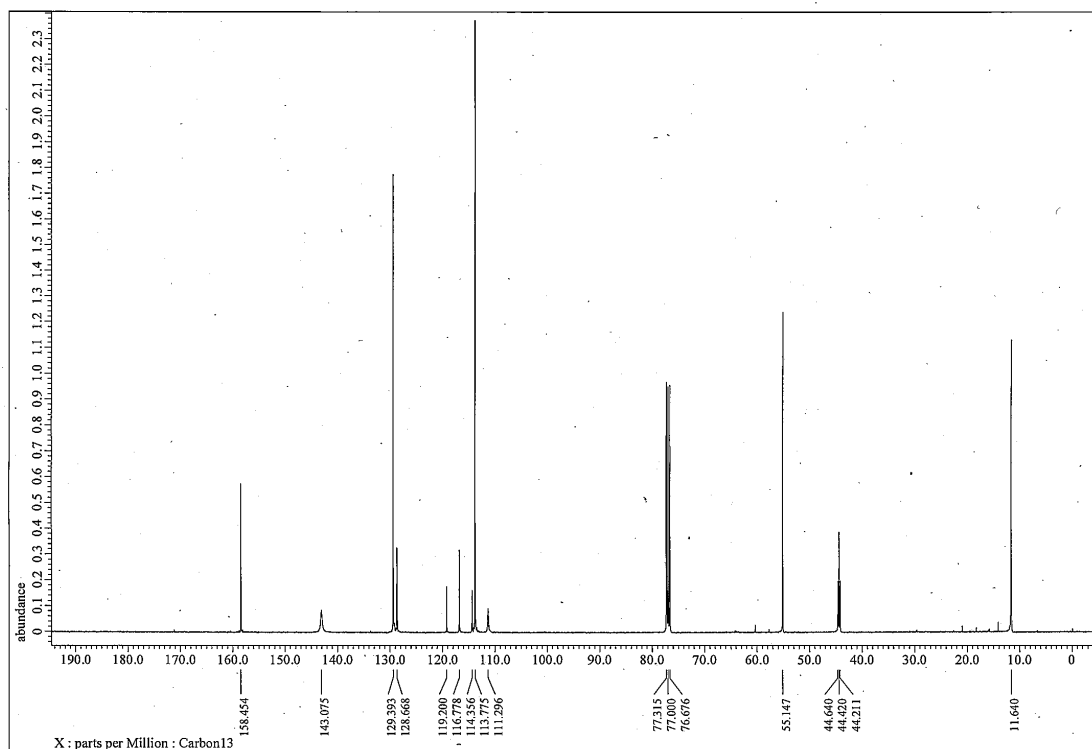
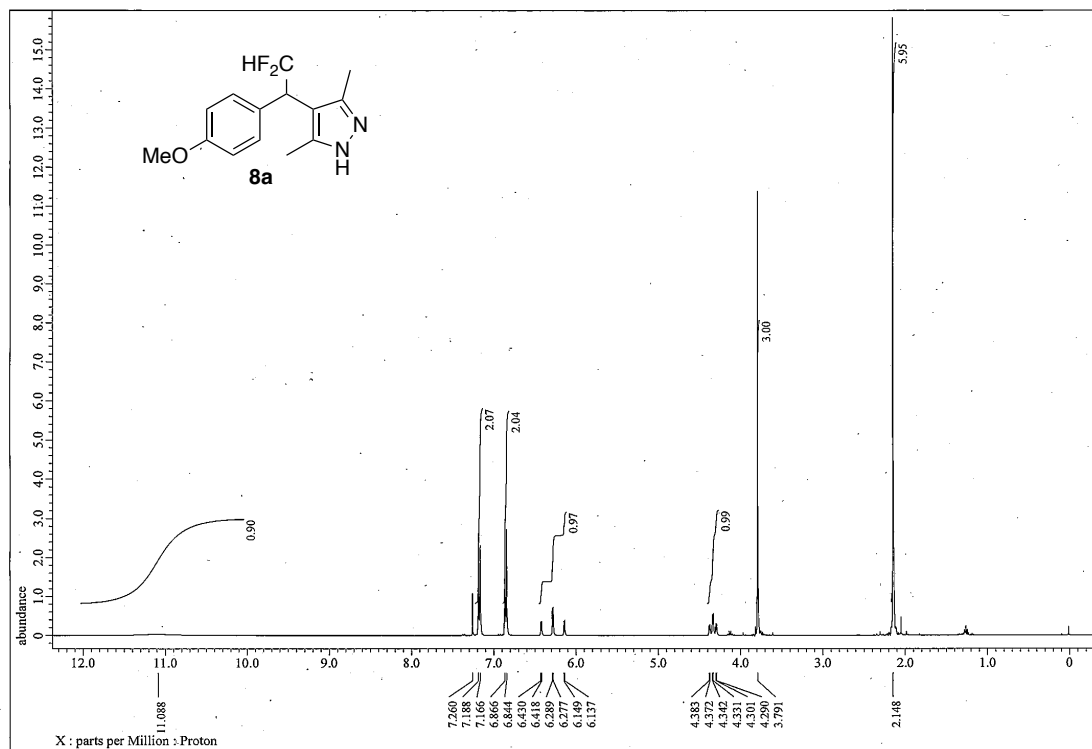
**3la:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



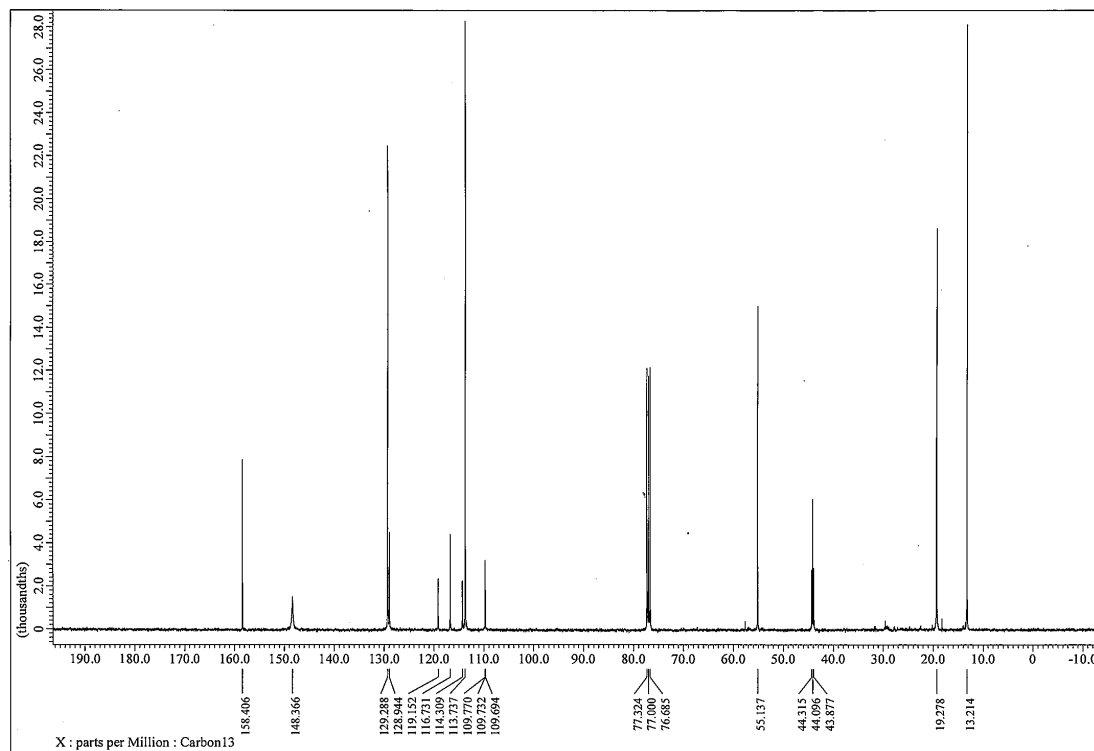
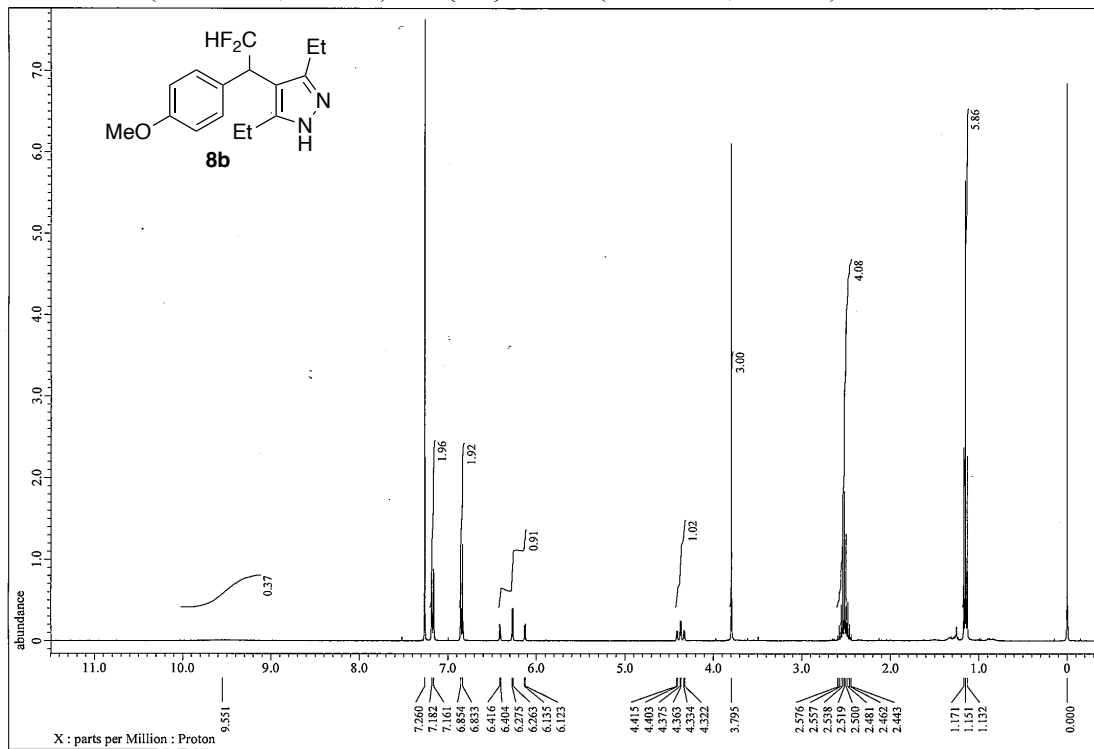
7:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



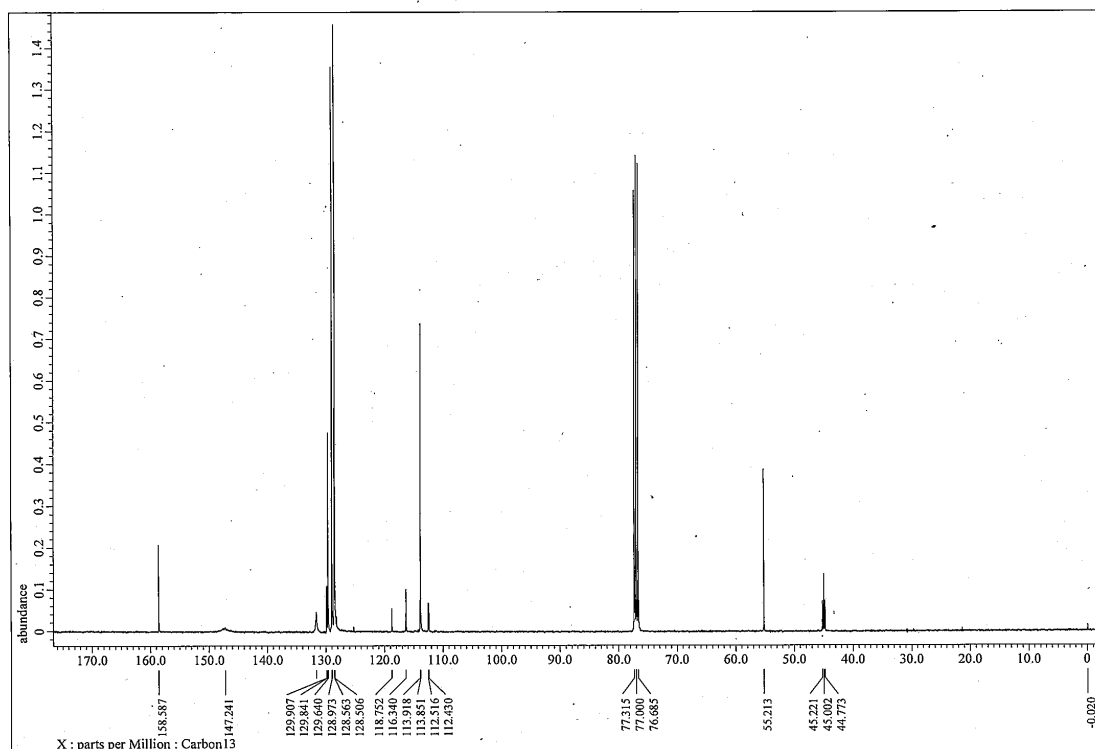
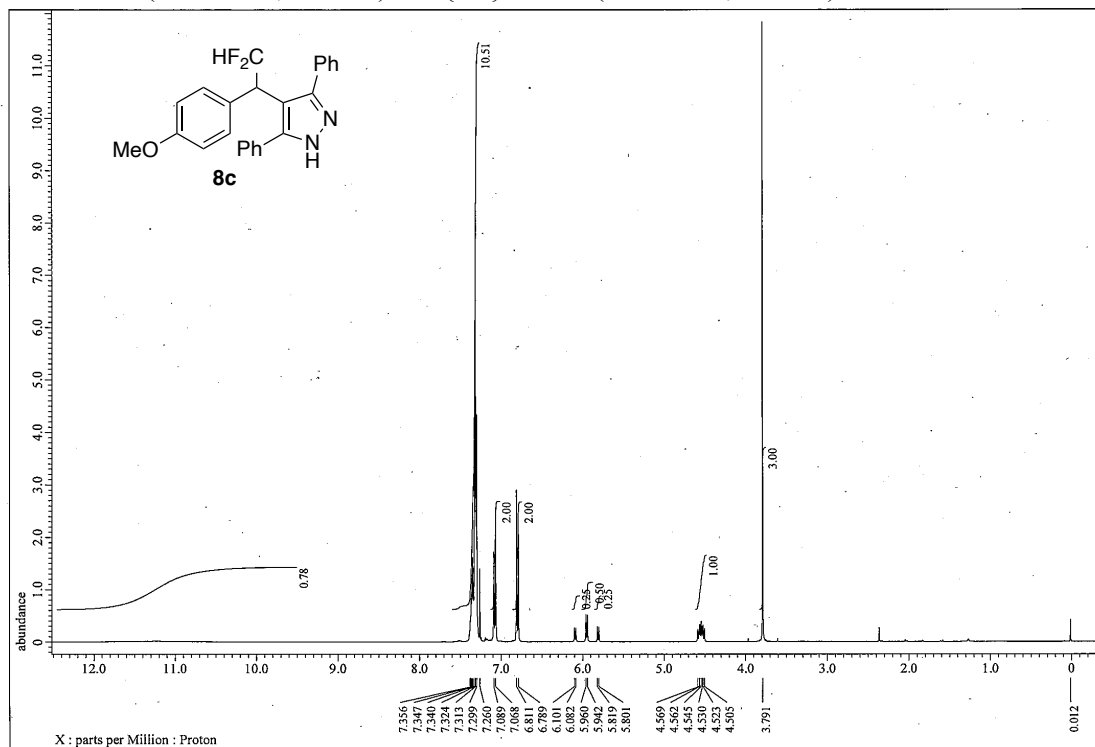
**8a:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



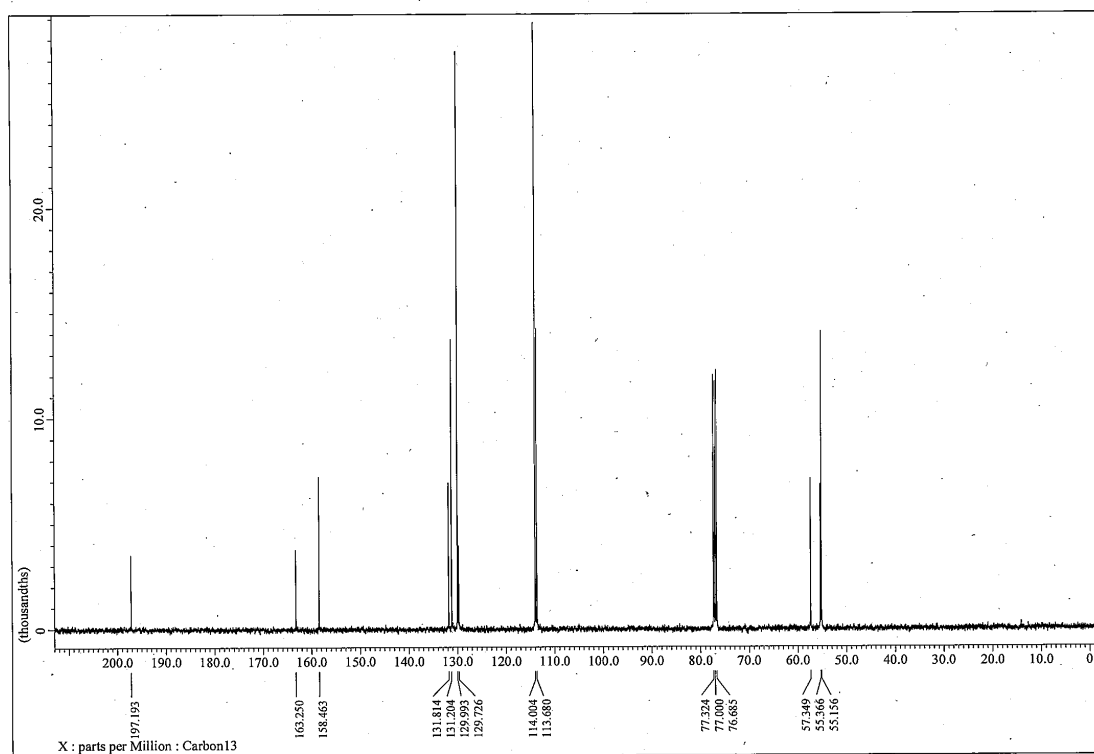
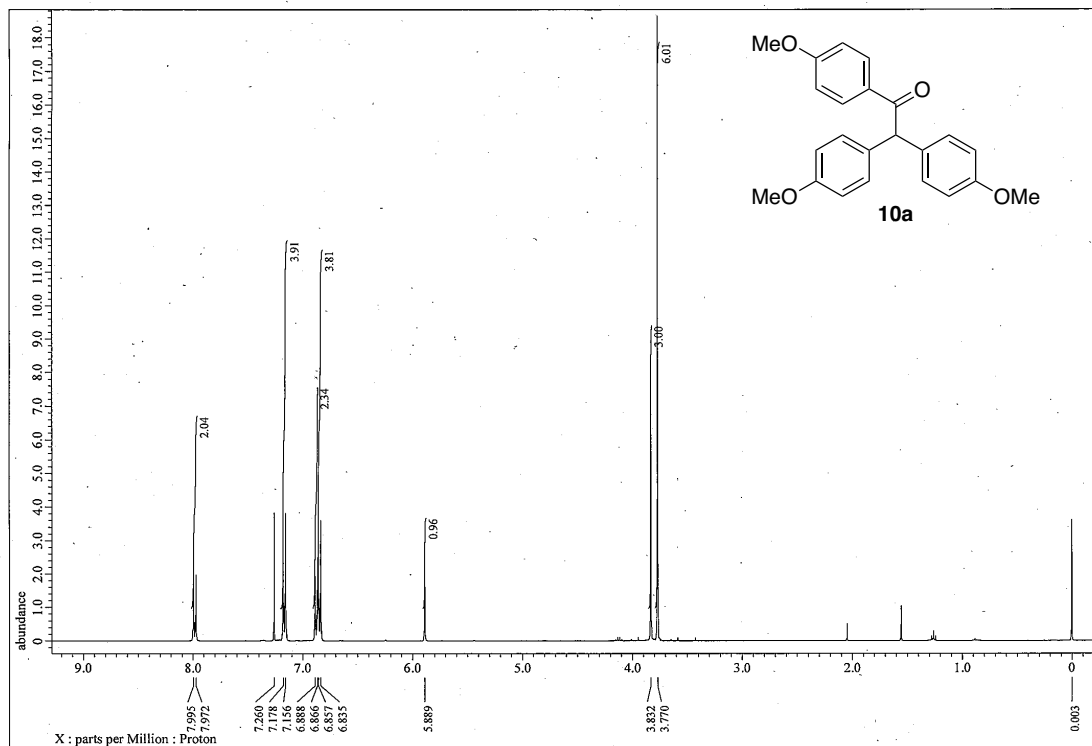
**8b:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$   $\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



8c:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**10a:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**10b**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )/ $^{13}\text{C}$  { $^1\text{H}$ } NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

