# Pd-Catalyzed Direct $C(sp^2)$ -H Fluorination of Aromatic Ketones: Concise Access to Anacetrapib

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### Table of Contents

I.	General	. S2
II.	Optimization of the fluorination conditions.	S3
III.	General conditions for the substrate scope research.	. S6
IV.	Characterization of fluorination products.	S6
V.	The application of direct <i>ortho</i> -C-H bond fluorination in the synthesis of Anacetrapib	S16
VI.	Experimental studies on the role of carbamate	S19
VII.	X-Ray data for <b>2e</b> and <b>2ab</b> .	S21
VIII.	References	S24
IX.	NMR Spectra	S25

### I. General

All experiments were carried out under air atmosphere unless specified noted. The reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.  $^{1}$ H NMR and  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker AVANCE III 600/500/400 instrument in CDCl<sub>3</sub> using TMS as an internal standard, operating at 600/500/400 MHz and 126/101 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are expressed in ppm and coupling constants J are given in Hz. For CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions the chemical shifts are reported as parts per million (ppm) to residual protium or carbon of the solvents; CHCl<sub>3</sub>  $\delta$ H (7.26 ppm) and CDCl<sub>3</sub>  $\delta$ C (77.03 ppm);  $^{19}$ F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III or Ascend 400. Multiplicities are reported using the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, t = trip

# II. Optimization of the fluorination conditions

Table S1. Optimizing the additive amount of NH<sub>2</sub>COOMe and AgNO<sub>3</sub><sup>a</sup>

Entry	AgNO <sub>3</sub> (x)	NH <sub>2</sub> COOMe (y)	Yield of 2a [%] <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2a' [%] <sup>b</sup>
1	0.3	0.4	34	0
2	0.3	0	15	0
3	0	0.4	14	0
4	0	0	5	0
5	0.3	0.8	38	0
6	0.3	0.2	55	0
7	0.5	0.2	85	trace
8	0.5	0.4	44	2
9	0.5	0.8	32	12
10	0.75	0.2	83	5
11	0.75	0.4	52	4
12	0.75	0.8	50	2
13	1.0	0.2	69	5
14	1.0	0.4	56	9
15	1.0	0.8	29	31
16 <sup>c</sup>	0.75	0.2	82	2
$17^{\rm d}$	0.75	0.2	82	3
18 <sup>e</sup>	0.75	0.2	72	0
19 <sup>f</sup>	0.75	0.2	77	0
20 <sup>g</sup>	0.5	0.2	74	trace

 $^aReaction$  conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI = N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (78.8 mg, 0.25 mmol),  $AgNO_3$  (x equiv.),  $NH_2COOMe$  (y equiv.),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air.  $^bGC$  yield.  $^cThe$  reaction time is 12 h.  $^dPd(OAc)_2$  (3.3 mg, 0.15 mmol).  $^eNFSI$  (63.1 mg, 0.2 mmol).  $^f75$  °C, 12 h.  $^gAgNO_3$  (0.5 equiv.), 12 h.

Table S2. Screening of amide additives<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Amide additives (0.2 equiv.)	Yield of 2a [%] <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2a' [%] <sup>b</sup>
1	Formamide	0	0
2	Acetamide	25	0
3	Methyl carbamate	85	trace
4	Benzyl carbamate	68	3
5	tert-Butyl carbamate	10	0
6	Trifluoroacetamide	11	0
7	Benzamide	8	0
8	Sulfamic acid	12	0

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI = N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (78.8 mg, 0.25 mmol),  $AgNO_3$  (8.5 mg, 0.05 mmol), amide additives (0.02 mmol),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC yield.

Table S3. Screening of [Pd] catalysts<sup>a</sup>

Entry	[Pd] (10 mol%)	Yield of 2a [%] <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2a' [%] <sup>b</sup>
1	-	0	0
2	$Pd(OAc)_2$	85	trace
3	$Pd(dba)_2$	56	6
4	Pd(TFA) <sub>2</sub>	59	0
5	$[\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{Cl})(\mathrm{C}_3\mathrm{H}_5)]_2$	13	0
6	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	49	0
7	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (cod)	26	4
8	$PdCl_2$	79	3

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), [Pd] (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI = N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (78.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (8.5 mg, 0.05 mmol), NH<sub>2</sub>COOMe (1.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC yield.

Table S4. Screening of additives<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Additives	Yield of 2a [%] <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2a' [%] <sup>b</sup>
1	$AgNO_2$	59	0
2	$KNO_3$	56	0
3	$Ag_2CO_3$	12	0
4	$AgNO_3$	85	trace

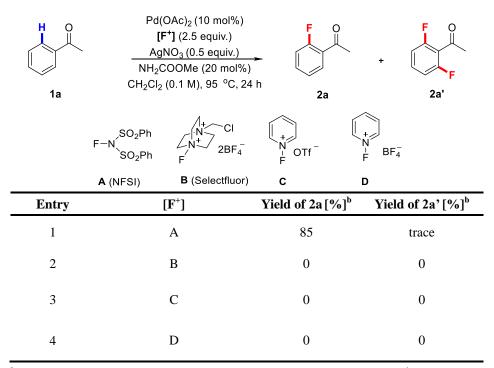
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI = N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (1 mg, 0.25 mmol), additive (8.5 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $NH_2COOMe$  (1.5 mg, 0.02 mmol),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC yield.

Table S5. Screening of solvents<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Solvents	Yield of 2a [%] <sup>b</sup>	Yield of 2a' [%] <sup>b</sup>
1	$CH_2Cl_2$	85	trace
2	DCE	57	2
3	acetone	0	0
4	toluene	3	0
5	DMF	0	0
6	1,4-dioxane	0	0
7	THF	0	0
8	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	25	0
9	CH₃CN	0	0
10	EtOAc	15	0

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI = N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (78.8 mg, 0.25 mmol),  $AgNO_3$  (8.5 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $NH_2COOMe$  (1.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), solvent (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC yield.

Table S6. Screening of fluorination agents <sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol),  $[F^+]$  (0.25 mmol),  $AgNO_3$  (8.5 mg, 0.05 mmol),  $NH_2COOMe$  (1.5 mg, 0.02 mmol),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC yield.

### III. General procedure for the substrate scope research

In a 10 mL test tube equipped with a stir bar, substrate (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.5 mg, 0.02 mmol), NFSI (158.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (16.9 mg, 0.1 mmol), NH<sub>2</sub>COOMe (3.0 mg, 0.04 mmol) and DCM (2.0 mL) were added successively. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at the 95 °C for 24 h. Upon completion, the resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with DCM and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the desired fluorinated products. (The products of 2a, 2b, 2g, 2j, 2k, 2m, 2n, 2o, 2q, 2r, 2s, 2u and 2x require further purification by preparative thin-layer chromatography to afford the desired fluorinated products, and 2aa should be further purified by recycling preparative HPLC (CH<sub>3</sub>CN: H<sub>2</sub>O=70: 30, 5.0 mL/min)).

### IV. Characterization of fluorination products

## 1. Characterization of fluorination products

The products 2a, 2b, 2c, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2n, 2o, 2p, 2r, 2s, 2v and 2aa are known compounds and commercially available. The spectral data of products, 2d, 2e, 2h, 2z and 2ab are consistent with those of previous reports.<sup>1-5</sup>

**1-(2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2a):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added and the reaction time was 12 h; Colorless oil (22.6 mg, 82%);  $R_f = 0.23$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.89 (td, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m , 1H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.0 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 162.3 (d, J = 254.9 Hz), 134.7 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 130.6 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 125.7 (d, J = 12.8 Hz), 124.4 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 116.7 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 31.5 (d, J = 7.3 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -109.40 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_8H_7FO$ , 138.0481; found 138.0487.

**1-(2-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2b):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added and the reaction time was 12 h; Colorless oil (27.1 mg, 89%); R<sub>f</sub> = 0.33 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.79 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.6 (d, J = 31.25 Hz), 162.32 (d, J = 254.7 Hz), 146.4 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 125.2 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 123.0 (d, J = 12.8 Hz), 117.0 (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 21.4 (d, J = 1.2 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -109.98 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO, 152.0637; found 152.0644.

**1-(2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2c):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Colorless solid (26.2 mg, 78%);  $R_f$  = 0.25 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 13.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.61 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 164.9 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 163.8 (d, J = 245.5 Hz), 132.1 (d, J = 4.4 Hz), 118.6 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 110.7 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 101.7 (d, J = 27.7 Hz), 55.9, 31.2 (d, J = 7.8 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -105.78 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>, 168.0587; found 168.0595.

**1-(2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)ethan-1-one (2d):** Following the general condition,  $AgNO_3$  (0.15 mmol) was added; Colorless solid (26.7 mg, 60%);  $R_f = 0.42$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1);  ${}^{1}H$ 

**NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.98 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  194.2 (d, J = 3.9 Hz), 162.5 (d, J = 257.1 Hz), 153.1 (dd, J = 11.3, 2.0 Hz), 132.5-131.8 (m), 123.9 (d, J = 13.1 Hz), 120.2 (q, J = 257.1 Hz), 116.3-116.2 (m), 109.0 (d, J = 27.4 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -57.81 (s, 3F), -105.08 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_0H_6F_4O_2$ , 222.0304; found 222.0315.

**1-(4-(benzyloxy)-2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2e):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (3%); Colorless solid (36.6 mg, 75%);  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 13.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.61 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.6 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 164.0 (d, J = 11.7 Hz), 163.8 (d, J = 255.4 Hz), 135.7, 132.2 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 128.8, 128.5, 127.5, 118.9 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 111.4 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 102.7 (d, J = 27.7 Hz), 70.6, 31.3 (d, J = 7.7 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -105.71 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>, 244.0900; found 244.0907.

**1-(2-fluoro-4-phenoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2f):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (4%); Colorless solid (23.9 mg, 52%); R<sub>f</sub> = 0.29 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.88 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, J = 12.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 163.6 (d, J = 256.0 Hz), 163.4 (d, J = 11.5 Hz), 154.8, 132.3 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 130.3, 125.3, 120.6, 120.1 (d, J = 13.0 Hz), 113.4 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 105.1 (d, J = 27.8 Hz), 31.3 (d, J = 7.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -105.54 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>, 230.0743; found 230.0748.

**1-(3-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (2g):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (14%); Colorless solid (39.5 mg, 82%);  $R_f = 0.40$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.98 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.38 (dd, J = 12.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.4 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 162.6 (d, J = 254.8 Hz), 148.0 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 138.6, 131.1 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 129.0, 128.8, 127.1, 124.1 (d, J = 13.1 Hz), 122.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 114.9 (d, J = 24.9 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -108.93 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO, 214.0794; found 214.0804. (*It contains minor di-fluorination product, which was difficult to be separated from the mono-fluorination product.*)

**1-(3-fluoro-4'-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (2h):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (6%); Colorless solid (42.9 mg, 76%);  $R_f = 0.52$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.00 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.78-7.70 (m, 4H), 7.48 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, J = 12.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.3 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 162.5 (d, J = 255.4 Hz), 146.3 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 142.1, 131.4 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 130.8 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 127.6, 126.0 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.9 (d, J = 13.1 Hz), 123.1 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 115.3 (d, J = 25.2 Hz), 111.0 (d, J = 26.8 Hz), 31.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.65 (s, 3F), -108.54 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_{15}H_{10}F_4O$ , 282.0668; found 282.0664. (*It contains a minor di-fluorination product, which was difficult to be separated from the mono-fluorination product.*)

**1-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2i):** Colorless solid (21.2 mg, 68%);  $R_f = 0.18$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.96 (td, J = 8.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.92-6.86 (m, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  194.3 (d, J = 3.7 Hz),167.0-164.8 (m), 164.1-161.9 (m), 132.6 (dd, J = 10.6, 4.0 Hz), 122.3 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 112.2 (dd, J = 21.4, 3.4 Hz), 104.7 (dd, J = 27.7, 25.4 Hz), 31.3 (d, J = 7.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -101.90 (s, 1F), -104.44 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_8H_6F_2O$ , 156.0387; found 156.0391.

**1-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2j):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (3%); Yellow solid (23.0 mg, 67%);  $R_f = 0.29$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.15 (m, 2H), 2.64 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  194.5, 162.0 (d, J = 258.3 Hz), 140.2 (d, J = 10.6 Hz), 131.7 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 125.9 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 124.1 (d, J = 13.0 Hz), 117.4 (d, J = 27.5 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -107.0 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>CIFO, 172.0091; found 172.0100.

**1-(4-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2k**): Colorless oil (29.8 mg, 69%);  $R_f = 0.49$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 2H), 2.64 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.7 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 161.8 (d, J = 259.2 Hz), 131.8 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 128.2 (d, J = 9.8 Hz), 128.0 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 124.6 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 120.3 (d, J = 27.2 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -107.15 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_8H_6$ BrFO, 215.9586; found 230.9595.

**1-(2-fluoro-4-iodophenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2l):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (5%); Colorless solid (39.6 mg, 75%);  $R_f = 0.46$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.86 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.16 (m, 2H), 2.64 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 162.1 (d, J = 261.25 Hz), 140.2 (d, J = 10.6 Hz), 131.7 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 125.1 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 124.1 (d, J = 12.5 Hz), 117.4 (d, J = 27.4 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -107.51 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FIO, 263.9447; found 263.9436.

**1-(2-fluoro-6-methylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2m):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added and the reaction time was 12 h; Colorless oil (24.3 mg, 80%);  $R_f = 0.33$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (td, J = 8.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, 1H), 2.57 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  201.2, 160.2

(d, J = 247.2 Hz), 138.1 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 131.0 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 128.6 (d, J = 16.2 Hz), 126.7 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 113.2 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 32.5 (d, J = 4.4 Hz), 19.6 (d, J = 2.3 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.78 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO, 152.0637; found 152.0646.

**1-(2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2n**): Colorless oil (21.3 mg, 62%);  $R_f = 0.42$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.32 (td, J = 8.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 -7.02 (m, 1H), 2.59 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.7, 159.1 (d, J = 250.5 Hz), 131.1 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 130.8 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 129.3 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 125.8 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 114.5 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 32.0 (d, J = 1.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F **NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -114.05 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_8H_6$ CIFO, 172.0091; found 172.0101.

**1-(2-fluoro-5-methylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2o):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added and the reaction time was 12 h; Colorless oil (26.8 mg, 88%);  $R_f = 0.42$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.66 (dd, J = 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J = 10.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.2 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 160.6 (d, J = 252.3 Hz), 135.2 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 133.9 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 130.5 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 125.2 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 116.4 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 53.4, 31.4 (d, J = 7.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -114.55 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO, 152.0637; found 152.0642.

**1-(2-fluoro-5-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2p):** Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Colorless solid (17.8 mg, 53%);  $R_f = 0.31$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36-7.34 (m, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.65 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  195.7 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 156.9 (d, J = 247.9 Hz), 155.7 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 125.7 (d, J = 14.5 Hz), 121.7 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 117.6 (d, J = 26.3 Hz), 112.7 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 55.9, 31.4 (d, J = 8.1 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -119.42 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>, 168.0587; found 168.0593.

**1-(4-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)ethan-1-one (2q):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (4%); Colorless solid (32.5 mg, 76%);  $R_f$  = 0.41 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.11 (dd, J = 7.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 10.7, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.9 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 161.8 (d, J = 255.3 Hz), 139.1, 137.7 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 133.1 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 129.0 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 128.9, 127.8, 127.0, 125.7 (d, J = 13.3 Hz), 117.1 (d, J = 24.3 Hz), 31.2 (d, J = 7.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -112.19 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO, 214.0794; found 214.0802.

**1-(5-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2r**): Colorless oil (24.1 mg, 70%); R<sub>f</sub> = 0.33 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (dd, J = 6.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m,1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 10.2, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.5, 160.6 (d, J = 254.7 Hz), 134.4 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 130.2 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 130.0 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 126.7 (d, J = 14.7 Hz), 118.3 (d, J = 26.0 Hz), 31.3 (d, J = 7.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -112.30 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>CIFO, 172.0091; found 172.0092.

**1-(5-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2s**): Colorless solid (26.4 mg, 61%);  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.42$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.99 (dd, J = 6.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 10.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.4 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 161.2 (d, J = 255.2 Hz), 137.3 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 133.3 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 127.1 (d, J = 14.4 Hz), 118.7 (d, J = 25.5 Hz), 117.3 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 31.3 (d, J = 7.5 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -111.78 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrFO, 215.9586; found 215.9592.

**1-(1-fluoronaphthalen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (2t):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (6%); Colorless solid (30.5 mg, 81%);  $R_f = 0.31$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.43 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 2H), 2.75 (d, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.2 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 158.8 (d, J = 251.7 Hz), 136.2 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 132.6 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 129.7, 129.7, 129.2, 126.9 (d, J = 5.1 Hz), 126.3, 126.1 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 112.5 (d, J = 23.1 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.3 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.96 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO, 188.0637; found 188.0644.

**1-(2-fluoro-4,5-dimethylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2u):** Colorless oil (30.2 mg, 91%);  $R_f = 0.33$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.63 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  195.8 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 160.6 (d, J = 252.6 Hz), 144.8 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 132.7 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 130.9 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 122.8 (d, J = 12.4 Hz), 117.3 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 31.4 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 20.0, 18.8; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.20 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO, 166.0794; found 166.0803.

**1-(2,6-difluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one** (**2v**): Colorless solid (34.6 mg, 93%);  $R_f = 0.41$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.51-6.43 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.57 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.7, 163.4-163.1 (m), 162.2 (d, J = 254.6 Hz), 162.1 (d, J = 254.6 Hz), 111.0-110.7 (m), 98.6 (d, J = 18.3), 98.6 (dd, J = 28.7, 1.5 Hz), 56.0, 32.5; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -109.05 (s, 2F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 186.0492; found 186.0498.

**1-(5-bromo-2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2w):** Colorless solid (38.4 mg, 78%);  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.60 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  193.2 (d, J = 4.1

Hz), 162.8 (d, J = 256.1 Hz), 160.6 (d, J = 10.9 Hz), 134.7 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 119.1 (d, J = 14.0 Hz), 107.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 100.3 (d, J = 29.8 Hz), 56.9, 31.1; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -105.92 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrFO<sub>2</sub>, 245.9692; found 245.9695.

**cyclopropyl(2-fluorophenyl)methanone** (**2x**): Colorless oil (28.9 mg, 88%);  $R_f = 0.40$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77 (td, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (td, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.65 (m, 1H), 1.30 (q, J = 3.8 Hz, 2H), 1.10-1.06 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 199.7 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 161.7 (d, J = 253.8 Hz), 133.9 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 130.3 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 127.2 (d, J = 12.8 Hz), 124.3 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 116.6 (d, J = 23.4 Hz), 21.4 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 12.5; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -111.50 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO, 164.0637; found 164.0647.

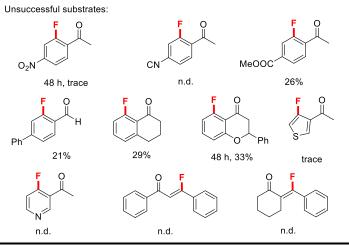
**cyclohexyl(2-fluorophenyl)methanone** (**2y):** Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (5%); Colorless solid (31.7 mg, 77%);  $R_f = 0.47$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 20:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.75 (td, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.22 (td, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.22-3.07 (m, 1H), 1.95 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.84-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.68 (m, 1H), 1.42-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.21 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 202.9 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 161.1 (d, J = 253.0 Hz), 133.8 (d, J = 8.9 Hz), 130.8 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 126.1 (d, J = 13.7 Hz), 124.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 23.9 Hz), 50.1 (d, J = 6.1 Hz), 28.8, 26.0, 25.8; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -111.70 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>FO, 206.1107; found 206.1102. (*It contains a minor di-fluorination product, which was difficult to be separated from the mono-fluorination product.*)

methyl 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate (2z): Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Colorless oil (27.7 mg, 66%);  $R_f = 0.28$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (td, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 10.9, 8.7 Hz, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.35-3.30 (m, 2H), 2.76 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.3 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 173.2, 162.2 (d, J = 254.9 Hz), 134.7 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 130.7 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 125.1 (d, J = 13.0 Hz), 124.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 116.7 (d, J = 23.9 Hz), 51.8, 38.3, 28.1; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -108.90 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>, 210.0692; found 210.0701.

(2-fluorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (2aa): Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added and the reaction time was 12 h; Difluorination product has also been determined by GC-MS (8%); Colorless solid (30.0 mg, 75%);  $R_f = 0.58$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.647.60 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.56 (m 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  193.6, 160.1 (d, J = 252.4 Hz), 137.3, 133.5, 133.2 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 130.8 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 129.9 (d, J = 0.7 Hz)), 128.5, 127.0 (d, J = 14.3 Hz), 124.3 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 116.3 (d, J = 21.7 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -110.99 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for  $C_{13}H_9FO$ , 200.0637; found 200.0634. (*It contains a minor di-fluorination product, which was difficult to be separated from the mono-fluorination product.*)

**(2-fluorophenyl)**(**4-nitrophenyl)**methanone (**2ab**): Following the general condition, AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.15 mmol) was added; Yellow solid (33.3 mg, 68%); R<sub>f</sub> = 0.64 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.8, 160.4 (d, J = 253.7 Hz), 150.4, 142.5, 134.4 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 131.1 (d, J = 2.2 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 1.2 Hz), 125.7 (d, J = 14.1 Hz), 124.8 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.7, 116.6 (d, J = 21.6 Hz); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -109.16 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub>, 245.0488; found 245.0496.

### 2. The unsuccessful substrates in direct ortho-C-H bond fluorination of ketones



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: ketone (0.1 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), NFSI (0.25 mmol),  $AgNO_3$  (8.5 mg, 0.075 mmol),  $NH_2COOMe$  (1.5 mg, 0.02 mmol),  $CH_2CI_2$  (1.0 mL) at 95 °C for 24-48 h, under air. <sup>b</sup>GC-MS yield.

# V. The application of direct ortho-C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H bond fluorination in the synthesis of Anacetrapib

### 1. Synthetic routine

### 2. Characterization of the products

methyl 2'-methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate (3): The biarly 3 was prepared according to the literature.<sup>6</sup> An oven-dried 25 mL thick wall tubes equipped with a stir bar was charged with [Rh(OAc)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (22.1 mg, 0.05 mmol), 3-trifluoromethylbenzoic (237.5 mg, 1.25 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (262.4 mg, 1.9 mmol), and closed with a sealing cap. After the vessel was flushed with three alternating vacuum and nitrogen purge cycles, dry DMF (2 mL) and an O-bromoanisole (350.6 mg, 1.9 mmol) were added via syringe. The resulting mixture was stirred at 140 ℃ for 48 h. After cooling down to room temperature,  $K_2CO_3$  (172.8 mg, 1.25 mmol) and MeI (234  $\mu L$ , 3.75 mmol) were added and stirred at room temperature for 6 h. Another five tubes were gave the same operation and after the reaction was completed, the combined mixture of six tubes were filtered, diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with water and brine (30 mL each), then the aqueous phases were extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1) to give the product 3 as a colorless oil (1.86 g, 80% yield),  $R_f$ 0.66 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.17 (s, 1H), 7.85-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.0 Hz,1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.3, 155.9, 142.5, 132.3, 132.0, 129.8,  $129.6, 129.4 \text{ (d, } J = 33.1 \text{ Hz)}, 129.1, 128.0 \text{ (q, } J = 3.6 \text{ Hz)}, 126.4 \text{ (q, } J = 3.7 \text{ Hz)}, 123.8 \text{ (q, } J = 273.6 \text{ Hz)}, 128.0 \text{ (q, } J = 3.6 \text{ Hz)}, 128.0 \text{ (q$ 120.6, 110.3, 55.2, 52.0; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z:  $[M+Na]^+$  Calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{13}F_3O_3Na$  333.0714; found: 333.0715.

**methyl 5'-acetyl-2'-methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate** (4): The product of **4** was prepared according to the literature. A dried 50 mL round bottle flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3** (1.71 g, 5.5 mmol), and dried DCE (25 mL) under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Acetyl chloride (0.55 g, 7.0 mmol) was added dropwise to the mixture at 0 °C under stirring. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min and then AlCl<sub>3</sub> (1.67 g, 12.5 mmol) was slowly added into the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Purification was conducted by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **4** as a colorless solid (1.37 g, 71% yield),  $R_f = 0.27$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); **H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.05 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.5, 166.8, 159.9, 141.6, 132.0, 131.9, 130.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.4 (d, J = 33.3 Hz), 129.5, 128.4 (q, J = 3.3 Hz), 126.7 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 272.3 Hz), 109.7, 55.6, 52.1, 26.3; **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na 375.0820; found: 375.0820.

methyl 5'-acetyl-4'-fluoro-2'-methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate (5): In a 25 mL test tube equipped with a stir bar, substrate 4 (211.2 mg, 0.6 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (13.4 mg, 0.06 mmol), NFSI (473 mg, 1.5 mmol), NH<sub>2</sub>COOMe (4.5 mg, 0.12 mmol), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (50.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) and DCM (2.5 mL) were added successively. Then the tube was sealed and stirred at the 95 °C for 24 h. Another two tubes were gave the same operation and after the reaction was complete, the combined mixture of three tubes were combined, the resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with DCM and concentrated under reduced pressure. Then the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the desired fluorination product 5 as a colorless solid (433 mg, 65% yield),  $R_f = 0.45$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.66 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  194.3 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 166.7, 164.0 (d, J = 4.0 Hz) 257.2 Hz), 161.3 (d, J = 10.8 Hz), 140.8, 132.2, 131.7, 131.5 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 130.1 (q, J = 33.2 Hz), 128.5 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 126.8 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 126.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 118.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.5 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 126.8 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 126.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 128.6 (q, J = 272.4 Hz), 128.1 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 1213.0 Hz), 98.9 (d, J = 28.9 Hz), 56.1, 52.2, 31.4 (d, J = 7.8 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.75 (s, 3F), -104.48 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) m/z:  $[M+Na]^+$  Calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{14}F_4O_4Na$  393.0726; found: 393.0725.

**methyl 4'-fluoro-2'-methoxy-5'-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate** (6): The product of **6** was prepared according to the literature.<sup>8</sup> In a dry round bottom flask, a dissolved methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (750 mg, 2.1 mmol) in dry THF solution (10 mL) was added dropwise n-Butyl lithium (1.3 mL, 2.0 mmol, 1.6 mol/L in hexane) in THF solution under N<sub>2</sub> protection at -30 °C. After addition, the mixture was continued to stir for 30 minutes at the same temperature then the **5** (370 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 1 mL THF was added dropwise by syringe. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 24 h. The resulting solution was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (2 mL) at 0 °C and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo, purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the desired product **6** as a colorless solid (232 mg, 63% yield), R<sub>f</sub> = 0.64 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, *J* = 32.9 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 160.6 (d, *J* = 250.4 Hz), 156.1 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz), 141.5, 139.2, 132.2, 132.1, 130.1 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 129.6 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 128.1 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 126.6 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.8 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.7 (q, *J* = 273.3 Hz), 122.2 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz),

115.9 (d, J = 4.7 Hz), 99.2 (d, J = 28.2 Hz), 55.6, 52.1, 23.2 (d, J = 3.4 Hz); <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.75 (s, 3F), -104.48 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 368.1036; found 368.1034.

methyl 4'-fluoro-5'-isopropyl-2'-methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylate (7): The product of **7** was prepared according to the literature. In a dry round bottom flask, substrate **6** (184 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added to 95% ethanol (10 mL), followed by addition of ammonium formate (94.5 mg, 1.5 mmol). Pd/C (55 wt%, 10 mg) was then added, and the reaction was heated under reflux for 8 h. Afterwards the reaction was cooled, followed by filtration. The solution was diluted with 0.1 M KOH (aq) (10 mL), followed by extraction with dichloromethane (4 × 10 mL). The combined organic fractions were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, then evaporated in vacuo to give the desired product **7** as a colorless solid (170 mg, 92% yield),  $R_f = 0.67$  (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.30-3.18 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 161.0 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 154.8 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 141.9, 132.3, 132.1, 129.4 (q, J = 33.1 Hz), 123.8 (q, J = 274.4 Hz), 128.2 (d, J = 7.4 Hz), 128.0 (q, J = 3.5 Hz), 127.1 (d, J = 15.4 Hz),

126.1 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.6 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 98.8 (d, J = 27.7 Hz), 55.6, 52.2, 26.7, 22.8; <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.61 (s, 3F), -116.14 (s, 1F); **HRMS** (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 370.1192; found 370.1181.

(4'-fluoro-5'-isopropyl-2'-methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)methanol (8): The product of **8** was prepared according to the literature. In a dry round bottom flask, to a stirred suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.4 mL, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 mol/L in THF) in THF (20 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of **7** (130 mg, 0.35 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The reaction was stirred at room temperature and was monitored by TLC to determine the consumption of the **7**. The reaction mixture was quenched at 0 °C with 1N HCl and was then extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the desired product **8** as a colorless solid (113 mg, 94% yield),  $R_f$  = 0.48 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 5:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.61-4.39 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.17-3.30 (m, 1H), 2.17 (s, 1H), 1.27 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.9 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 155.0 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 140.5, 140.3, 131.0, 130.0 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 129.1 (d, J = 7.3 Hz), 127.4 (d, J = 15.3 Hz), 124.7 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.2 (q, J = 272.2 Hz), 124.2 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.8 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 99.4 (d, J = 27.7 Hz), 62.9, 56.0, 26.7 (d, J = 1.1 Hz), 22.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.43 (s, 3F), -116.17 (s, 1F); HRMS (EI): [M<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 342.1243; found 342.1240.

### VI. Experimental studies on the role of carbamate

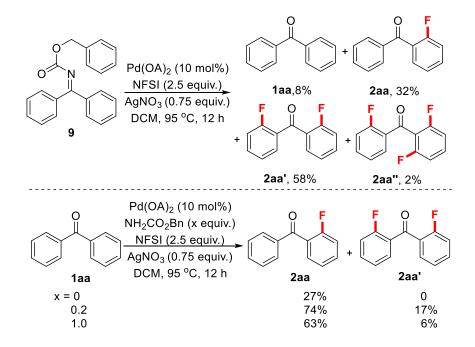
### 1. The synthesis of complex 9

**benzyl** (**diphenylmethylene**)**carbamate** (**9**): The product of **9** was prepared according to the literature. <sup>12</sup> Benzyl carbonochloridate (1.28 g, 7.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of diphenylmethanimine (0.91 g, 5.0 mmol) and 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine (0.81 g, 6.7 mmol) in dry hexane (25 mL) at room temperature under the nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h. The white precipitate was then filtered off and washed with hot hexane (30 mL). The filtrate and washings

were combined and the volatile components removed in vacuo. The residue was crystallized from pentane to afford the desired product  $\bf 9$  as a colorless solid (1.10 g, 70% yield),  $R_f$  = 0.40 (petroleum ether-EtOAc = 10:1);  ${}^{1}\bf{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 5.11 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 2H);  ${}^{13}\bf{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.78, 156.7, 137.6, 136.2, 132.4, 130.1, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 67.0; HRMS (EI): [M $^{+}$ ] calcd. for  $C_{21}H_{17}NO_2$  315.1259; found: 315.1260.

# 2. Experimental studies on the role of carbamate

Table S7. Experimental studies on the role of carbamate



# VII. X-Ray data for 2e and 2ab

# 1. X-Ray data for 2e

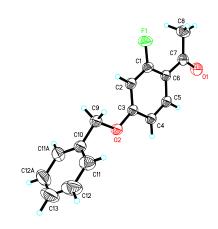


Table S8. Crystal data and structure refinement for d8v18818.

Identification code	d8v18818
Empirical formula	$C_{15}H_{13}FO_2$
Formula weight	244.25
Temperature	190(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	P n m a

Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.2060(8)  Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$ .
Clift CCII difficilisions	a = 6.2000(8)  A	$\alpha - j0$ .

b = 6.9192(6) Å  $\beta = 90 ^{\circ}.$  c = 22.420(2) Å  $\gamma = 90 ^{\circ}.$ 

Volume 1273.0(2) Å<sup>3</sup>

Z 4

 $\begin{array}{cc} \text{Density (calculated)} & 1.274 \text{ Mg/m}^3 \\ \text{Absorption coefficient} & 0.093 \text{ mm}^{-1} \end{array}$ 

F(000) 512

Crystal size  $0.200 \times 0.170 \times 0.130 \text{ mm}^3$ 

Theta range for data collection 2.643 to 25.987°.

Index ranges -10<=h<=9, -8<=k<=8, -23<=l<=27

Reflections collected 6041

Independent reflections 1348 [R(int) = 0.0502]

Completeness to theta =  $25.242^{\circ}$  99.1 %

Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents

Max. and min. transmission 0.7456 and 0.6035

Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup>

Data / restraints / parameters 1348 / 0 / 111

Goodness-of-fit on F<sup>2</sup> 1.044

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.0429, wR2 = 0.1140 R indices (all data) R1 = 0.0616, wR2 = 0.1351

Extinction coefficient 0.088(16)

Largest diff. peak and hole 0.145 and -0.114 e.Å-3

# 2. X-Ray data for 2ab

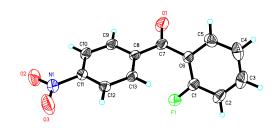


Table S9. Crystal data and structure refinement for dd19334.

Identification code dd19334

Empirical formula  $C_{13} H_8 F N O_3$ 

Formula weight 245.20
Temperature 293(2) K
Wavelength 0.71073 Å
Crystal system Monoclinic

Space group P 21/n

Unit cell dimensions a = 4.1258(2) Å  $\alpha = 90 \degree$ .

b = 22.7811(8) Å  $\beta = 93.5990(10) ^{\circ}.$ 

c = 11.8050(7) Å  $\gamma = 90 \degree$ .

Volume  $1107.37(9) \text{ Å}^3$ 

Z 4

Density (calculated)  $1.471 \text{ Mg/m}^3$ Absorption coefficient  $0.117 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

F(000) 504

Crystal size  $0.180 \times 0.150 \times 0.130 \text{ mm}^3$ 

Theta range for data collection 2.487 to 25.998 °.

Index ranges -5<=h<=5, -28<=k<=28, -14<=l<=14

Reflections collected 16486

Independent reflections 2144 [R(int) = 0.0320]

Completeness to theta =  $25.242^{\circ}$  98.8 %

Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents

Max. and min. transmission 0.7456 and 0.6695

Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup>

Data / restraints / parameters 2144 / 2 / 177

Goodness-of-fit on F<sup>2</sup> 1.037

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.0451, wR2 = 0.1156 R indices (all data) R1 = 0.0538, wR2 = 0.1251

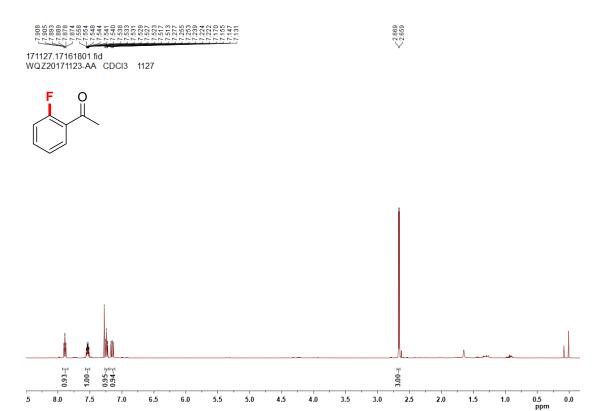
Extinction coefficient 0.044(17)

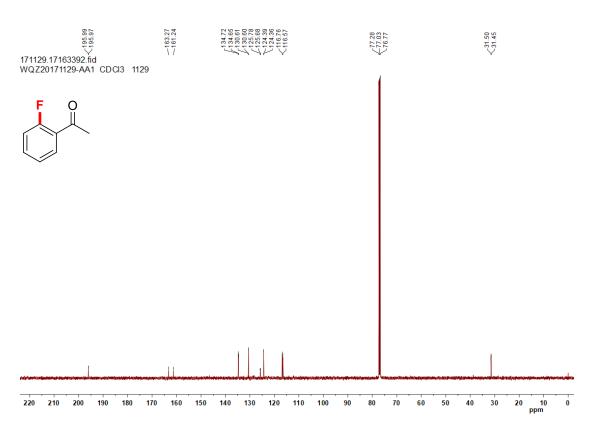
Largest diff. peak and hole 0.180 and -0.181 e.Å-3

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# IX. NMR Spectra

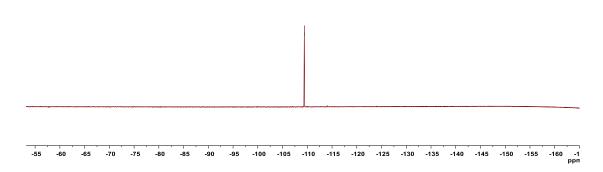






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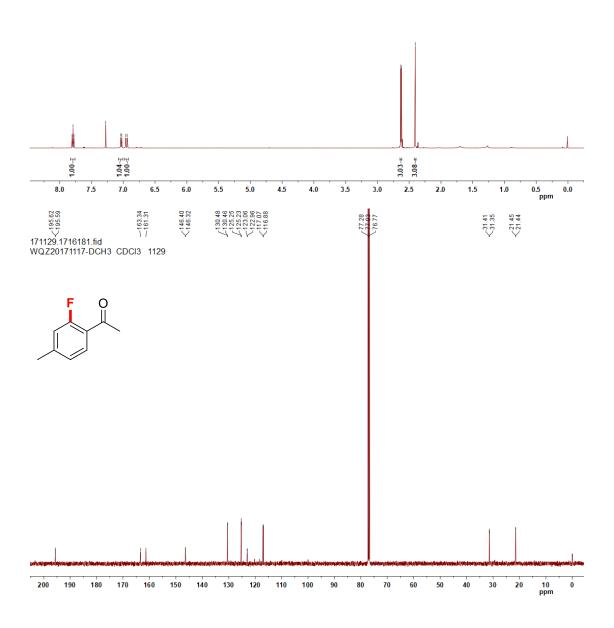










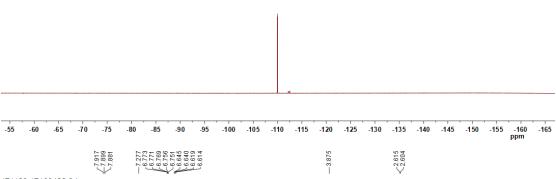




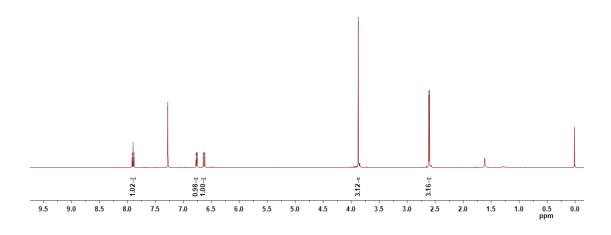


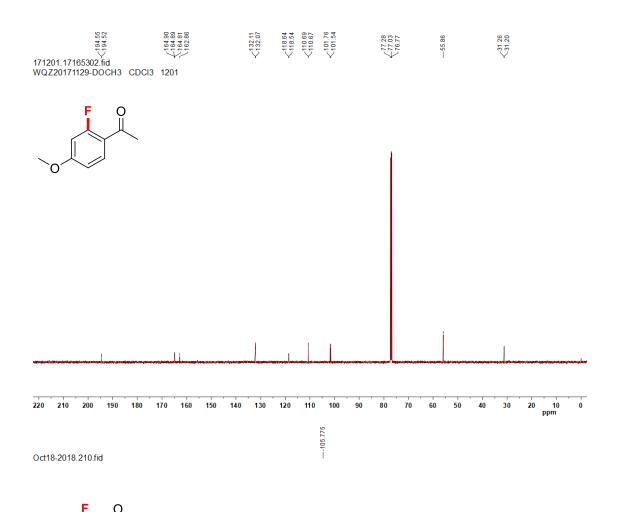


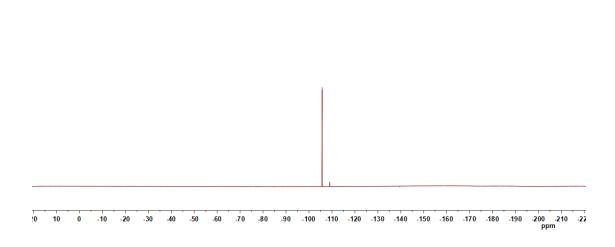
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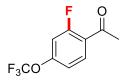


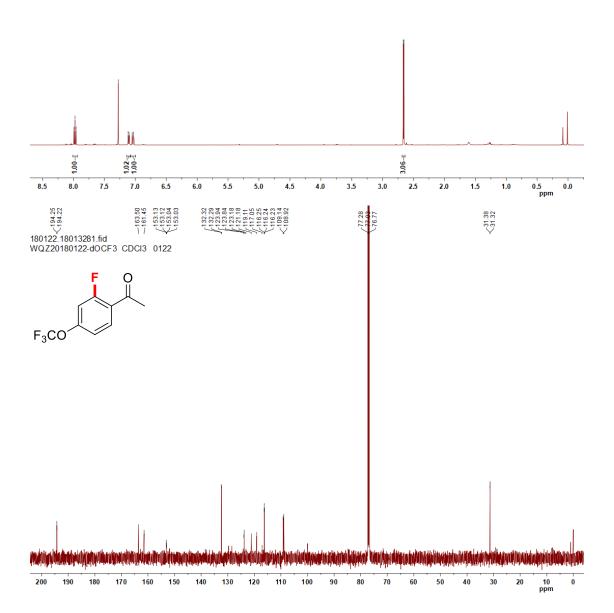


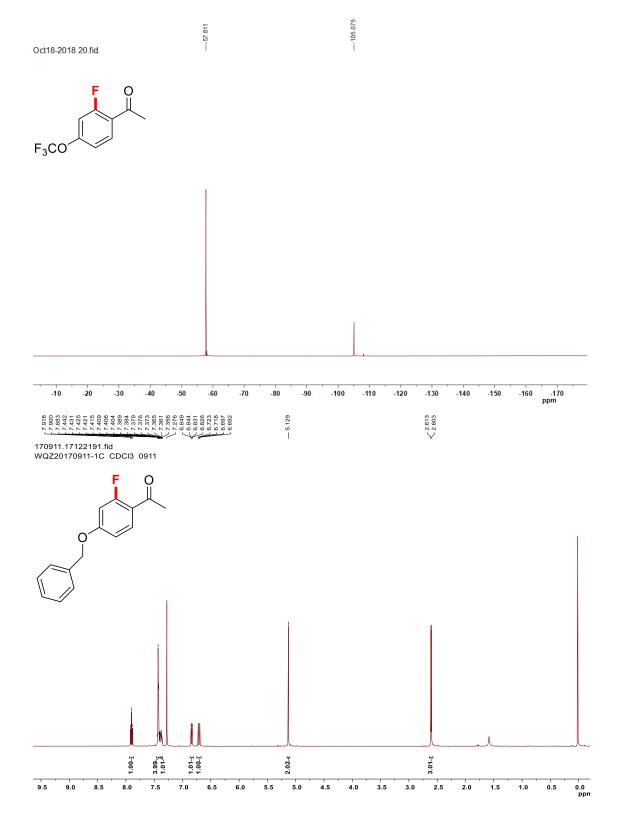


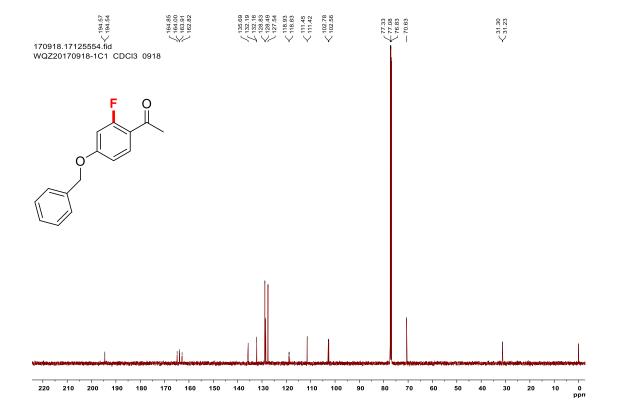






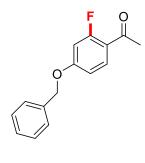


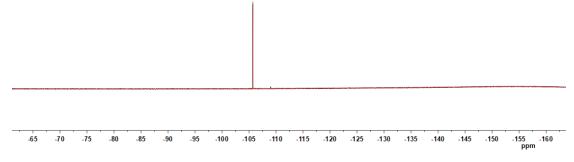


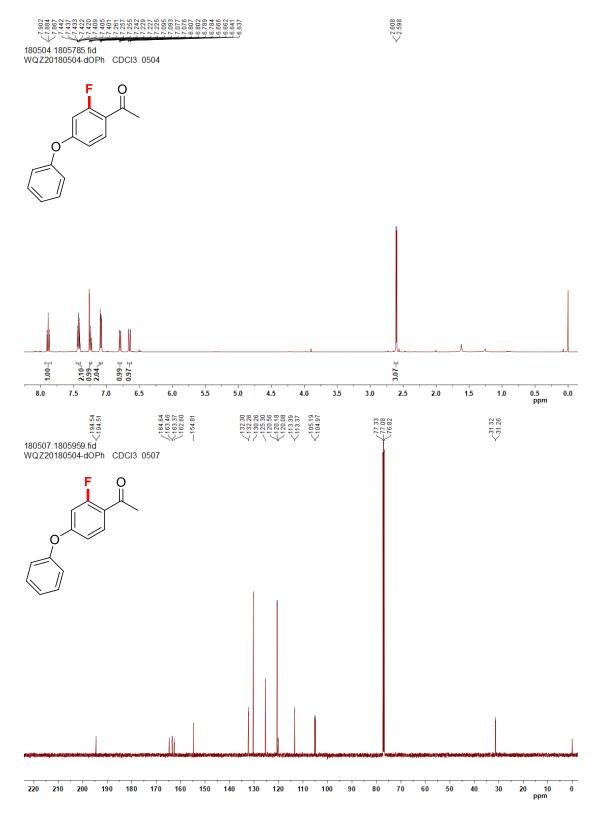


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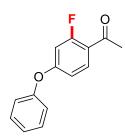


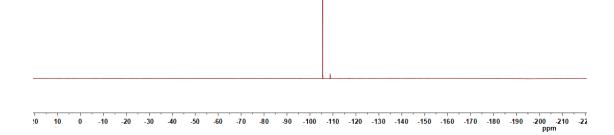






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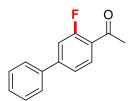


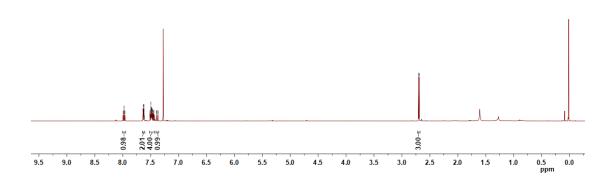


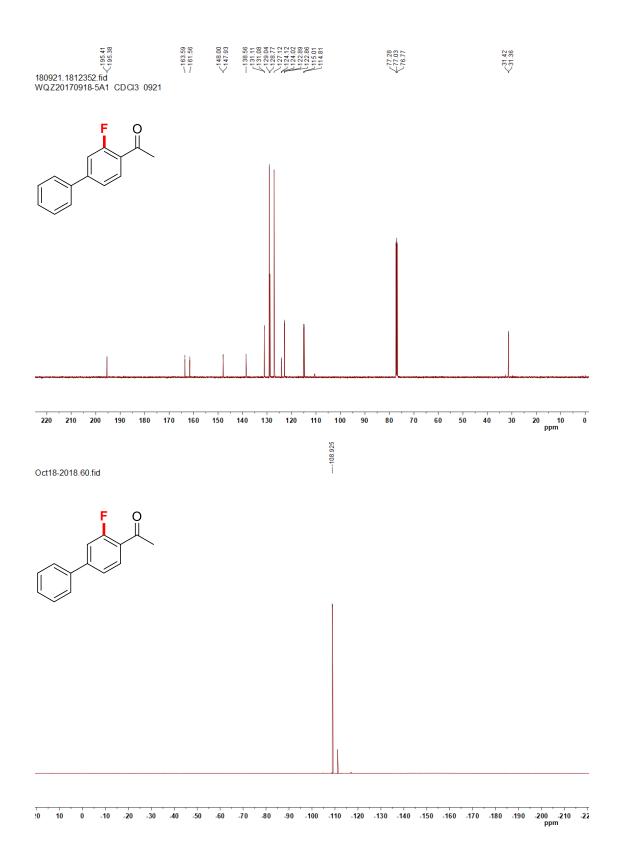


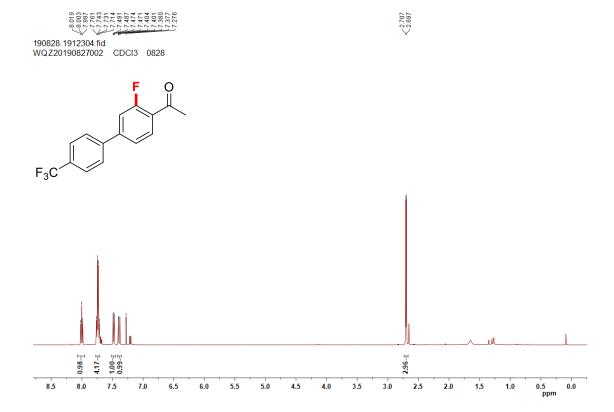
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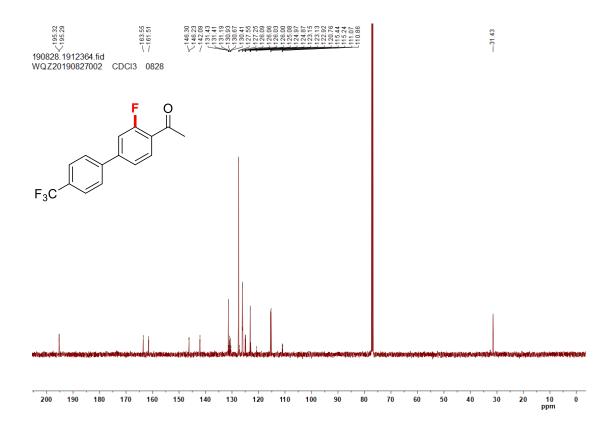
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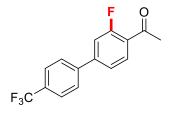


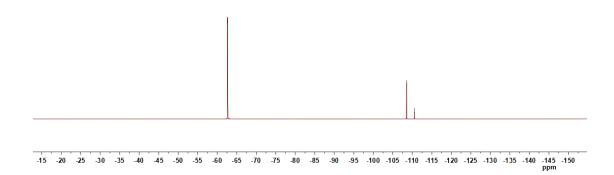








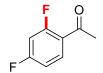


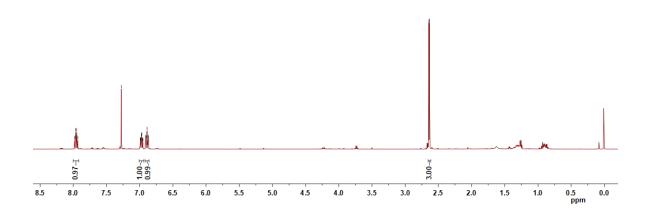


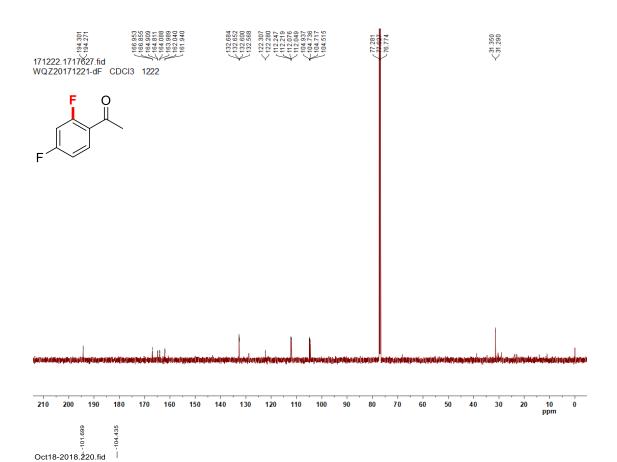
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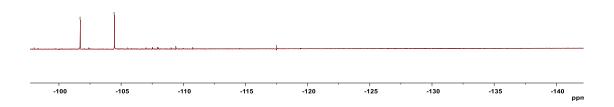
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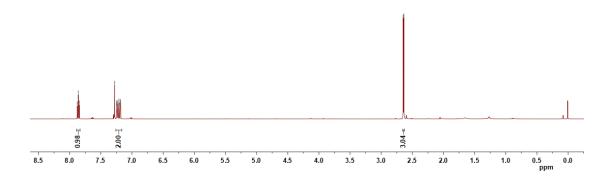


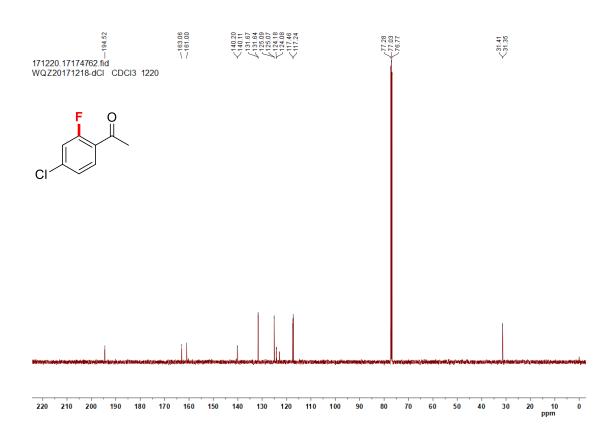


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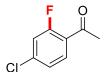


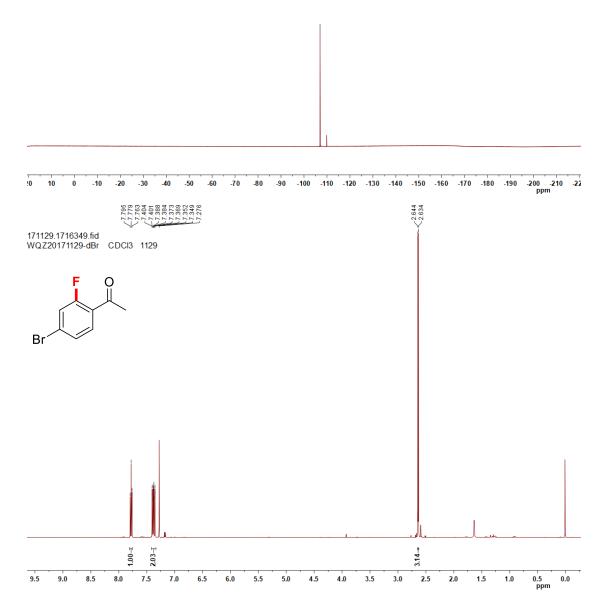


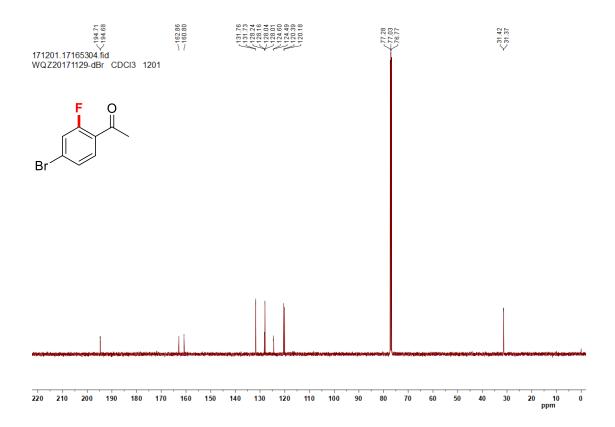




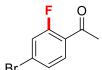
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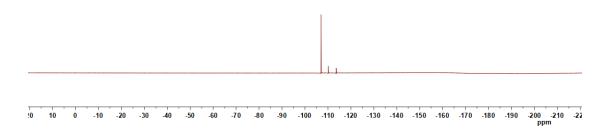


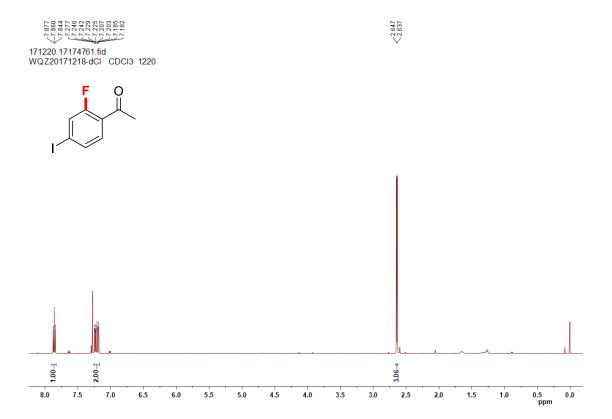


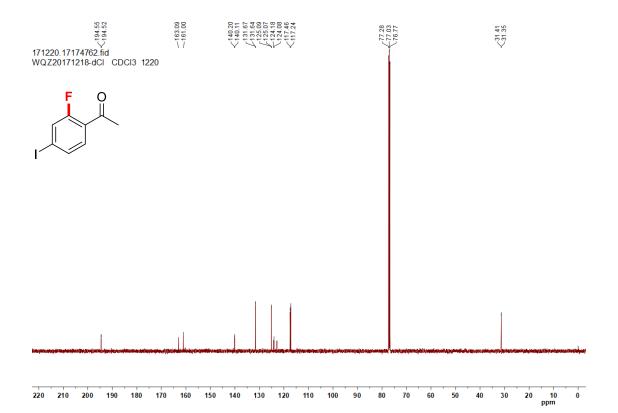


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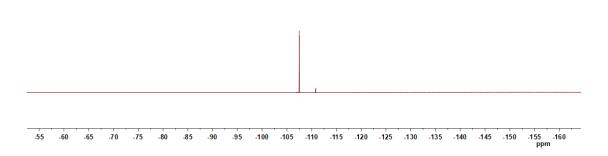








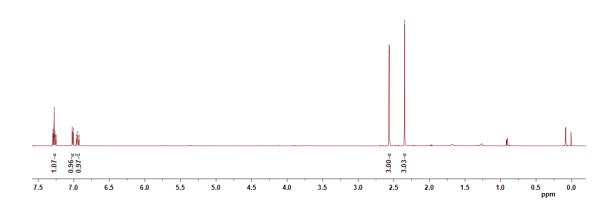
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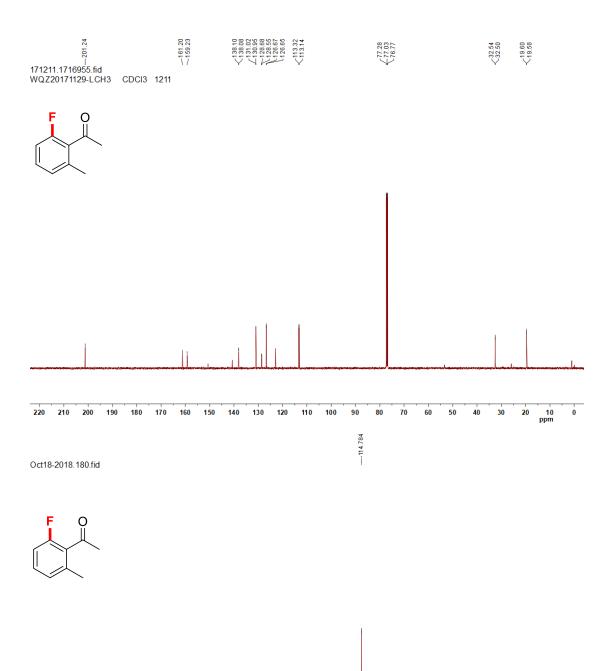






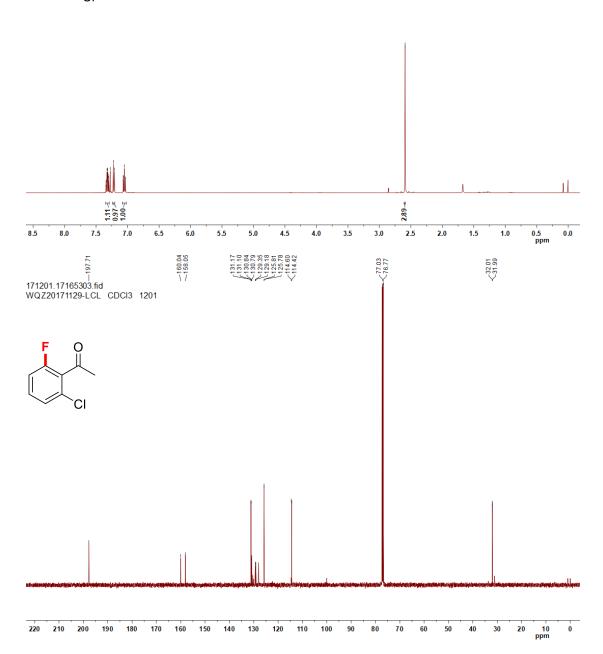






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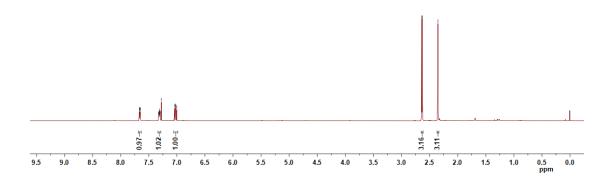
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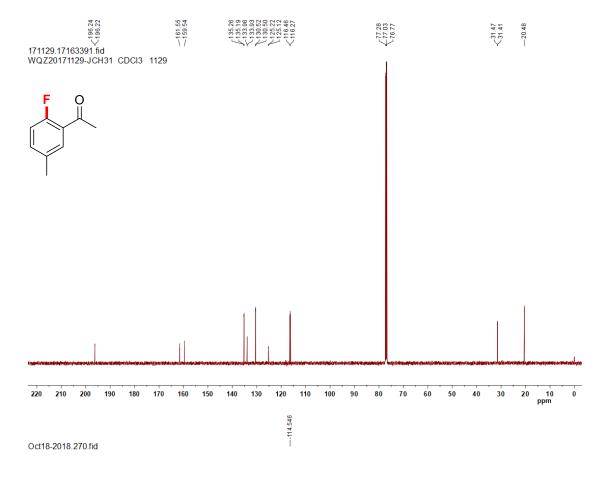
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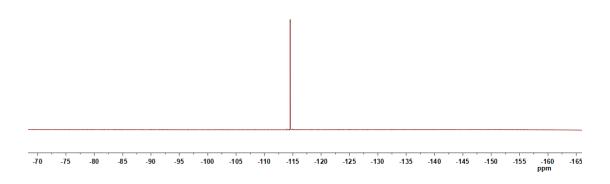
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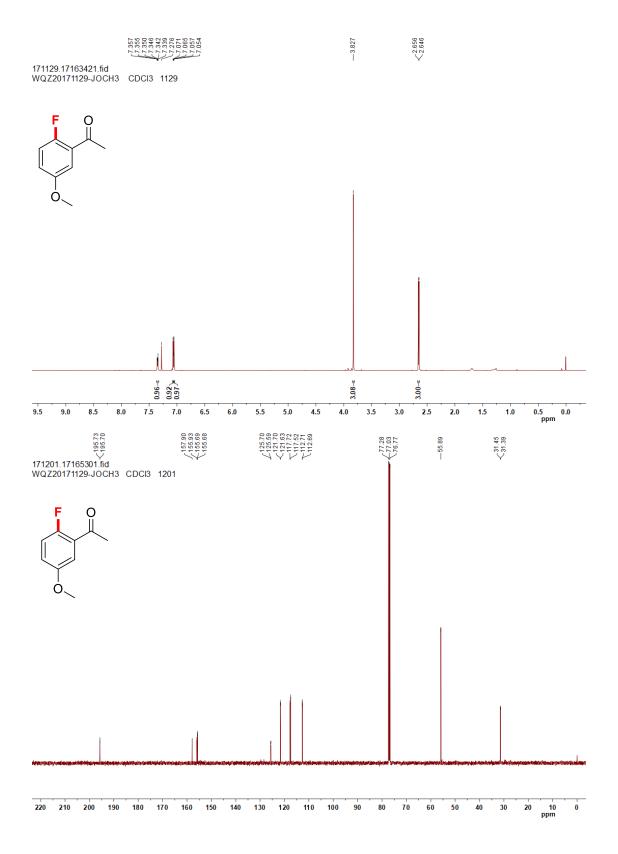






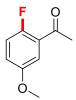


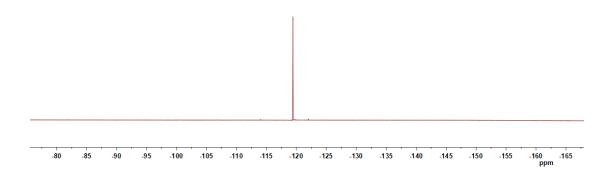






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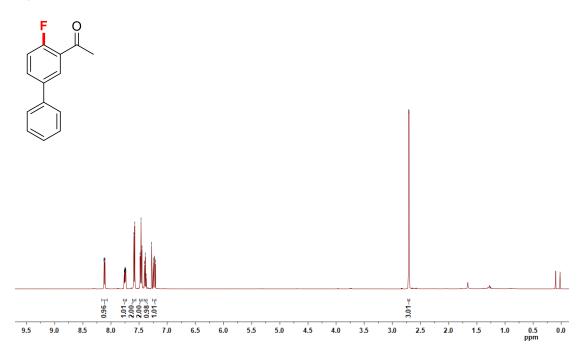


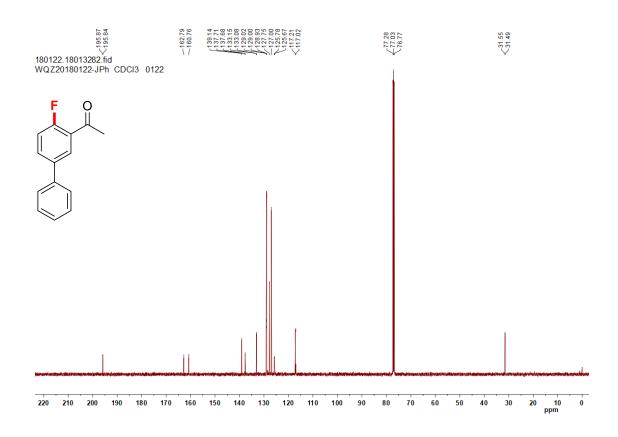




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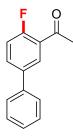
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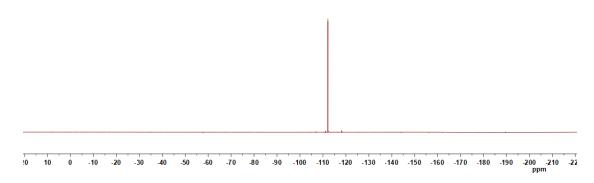




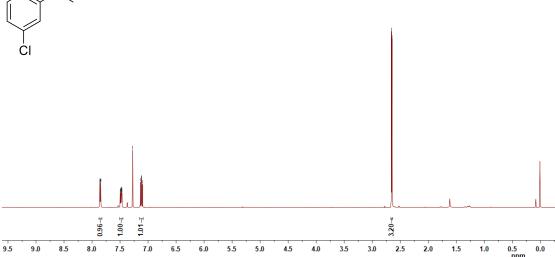


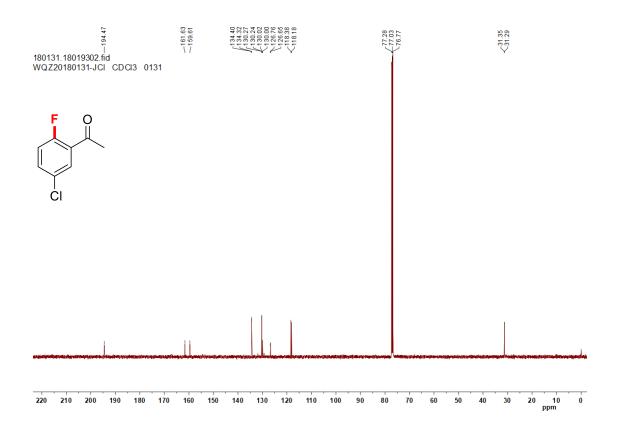
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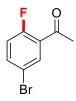
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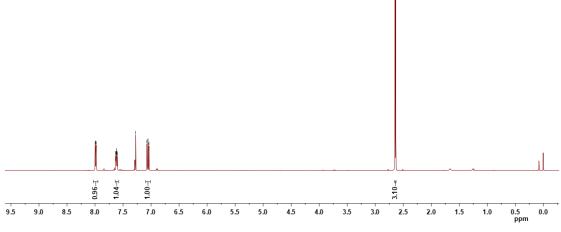


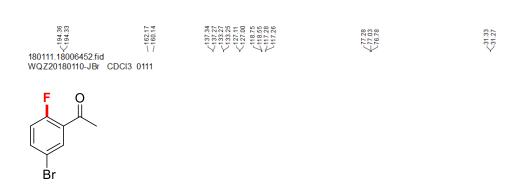
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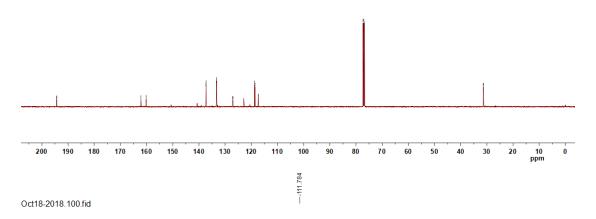
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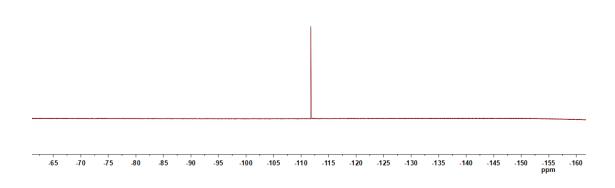




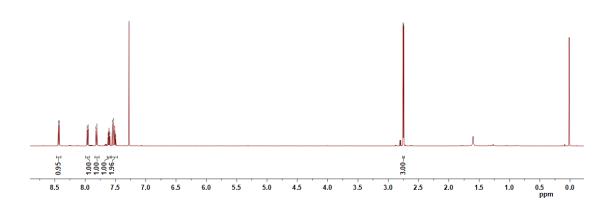


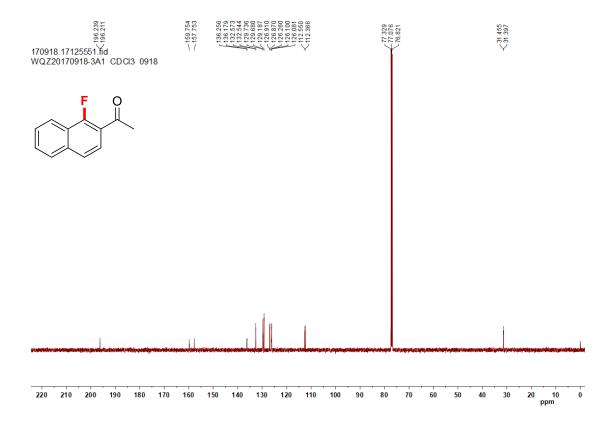


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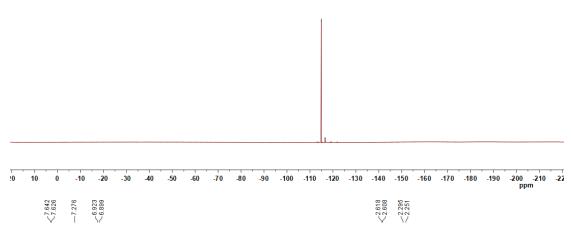




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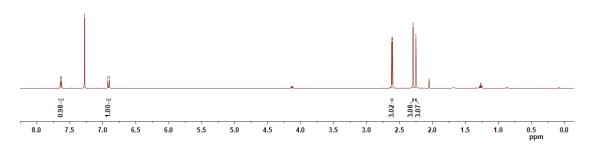
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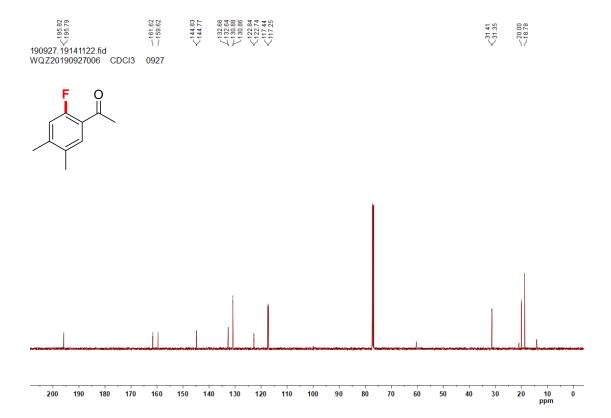




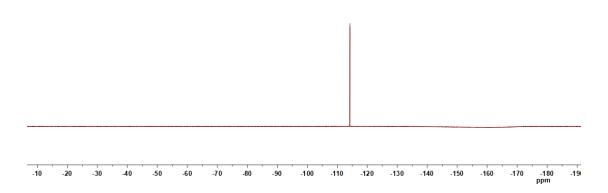
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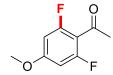


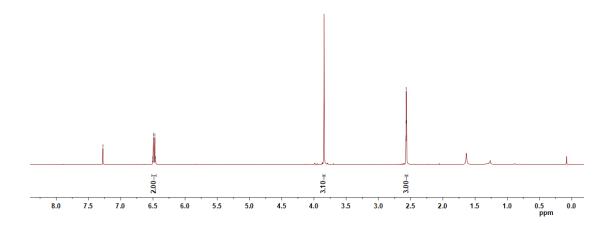


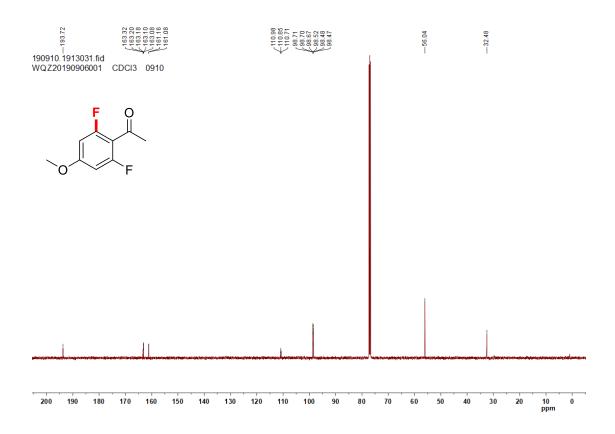


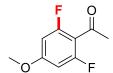


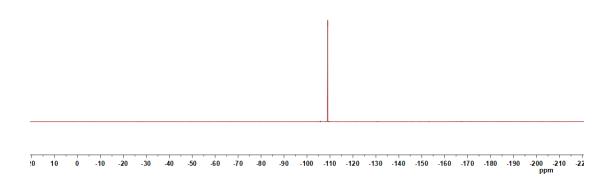






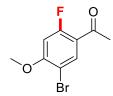


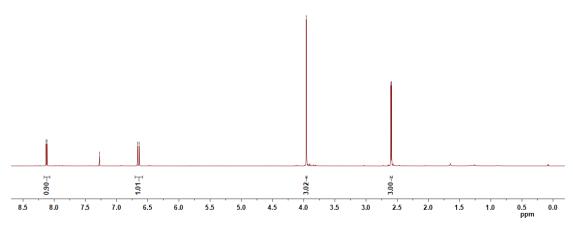


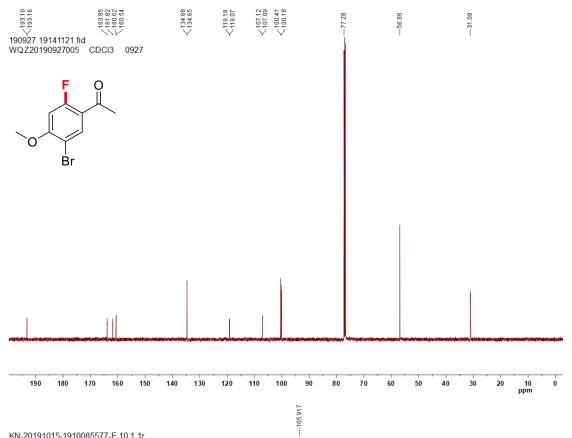


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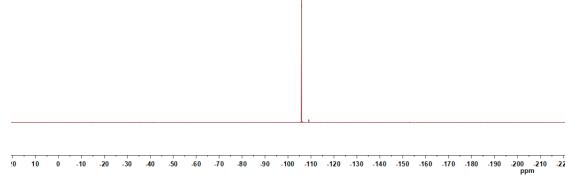
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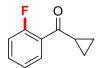
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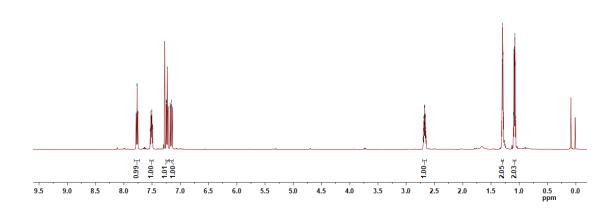


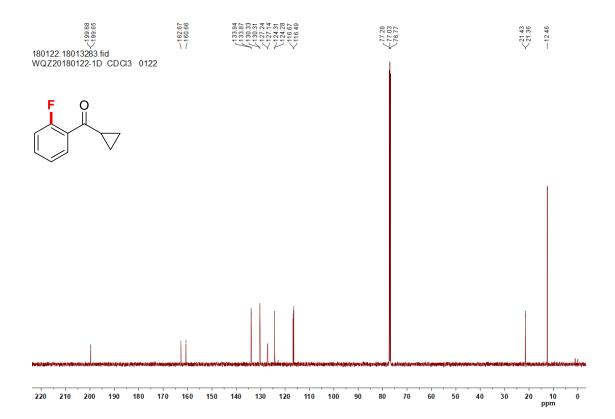
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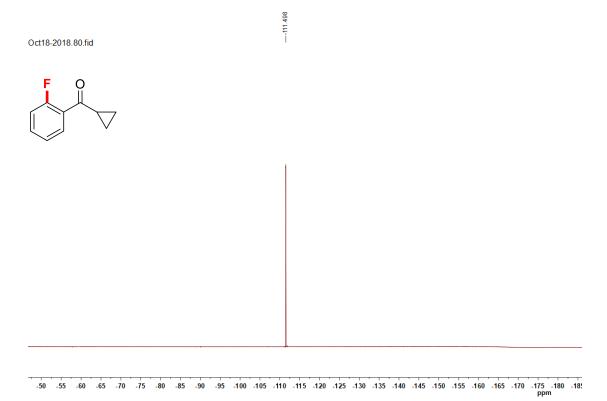
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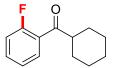


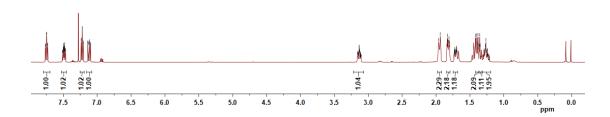


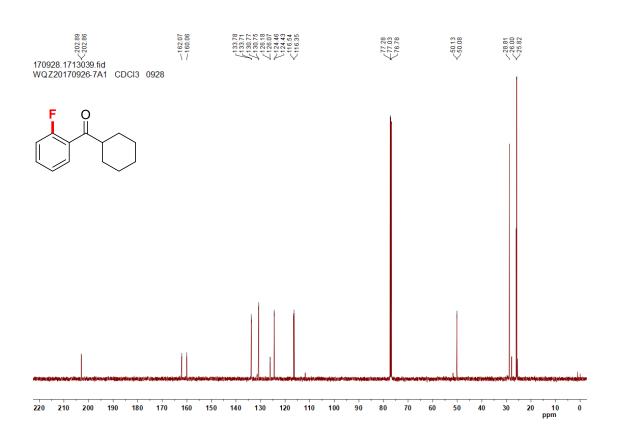




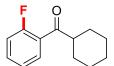
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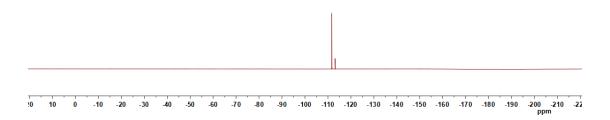




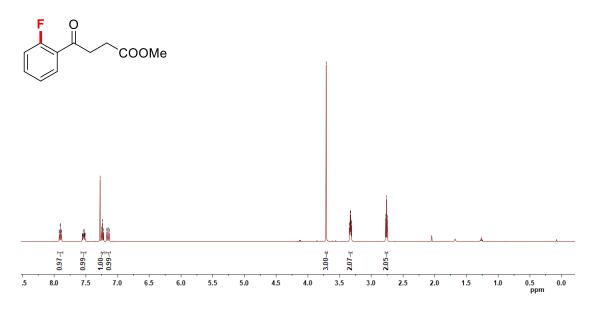


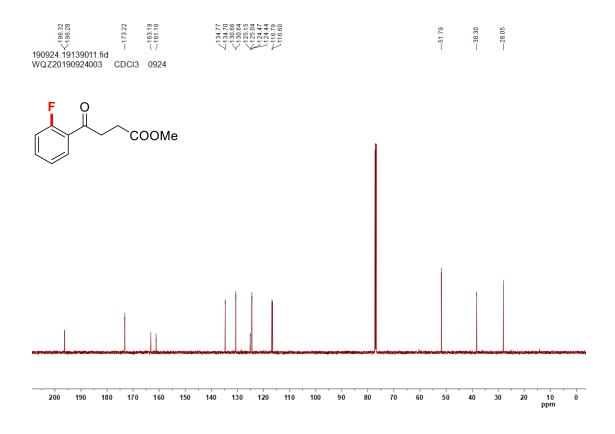
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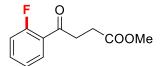
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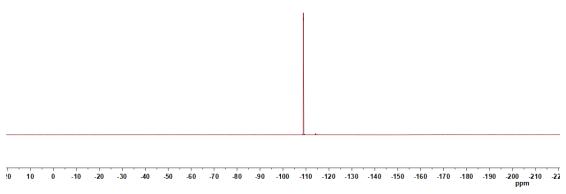




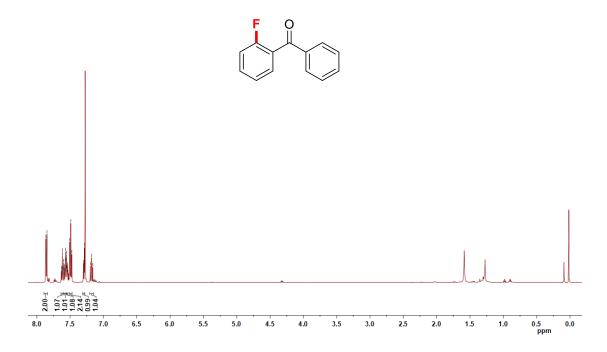


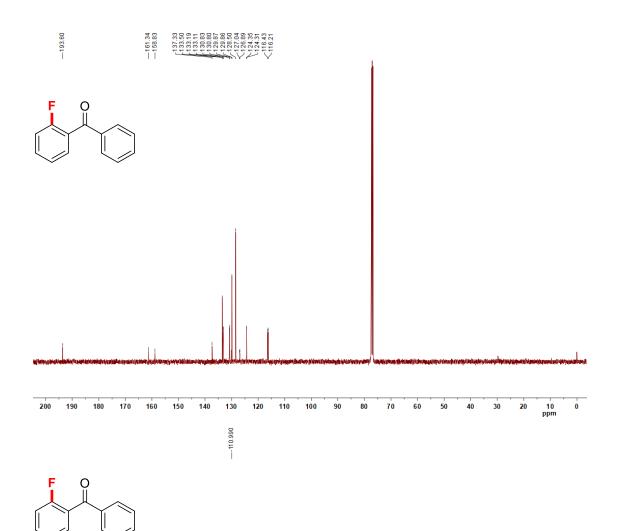
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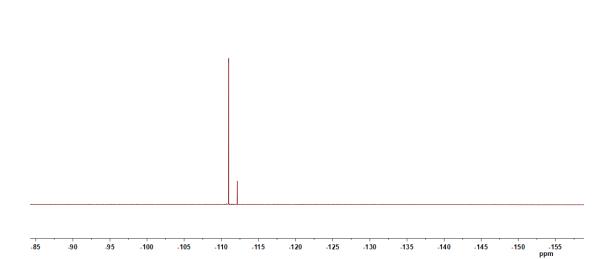




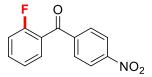
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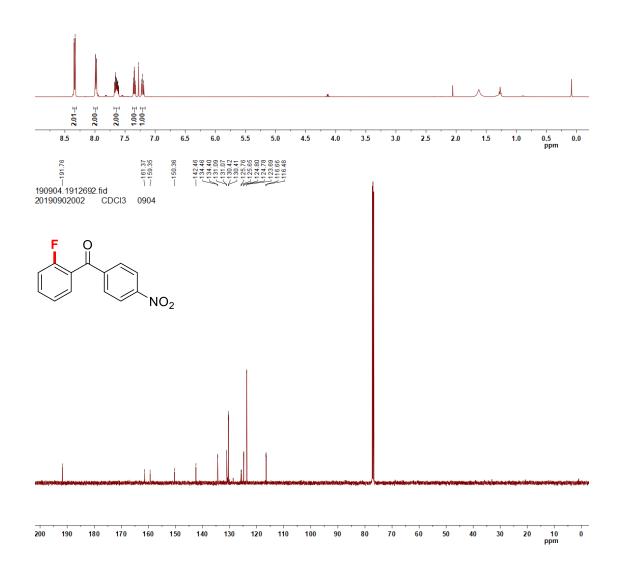




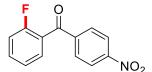


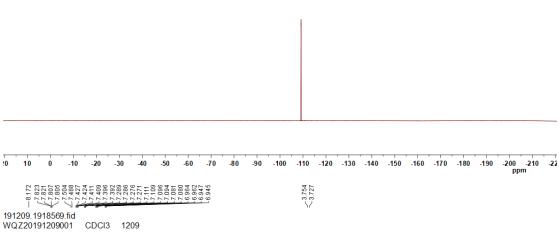
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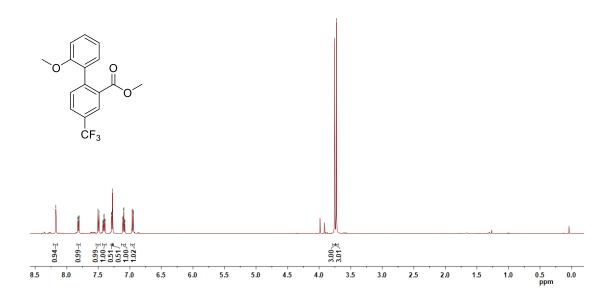


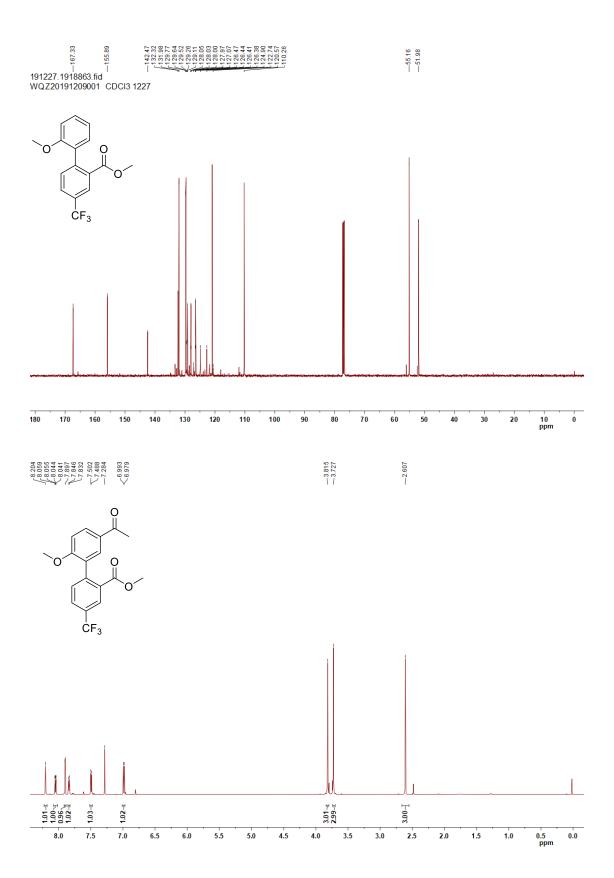


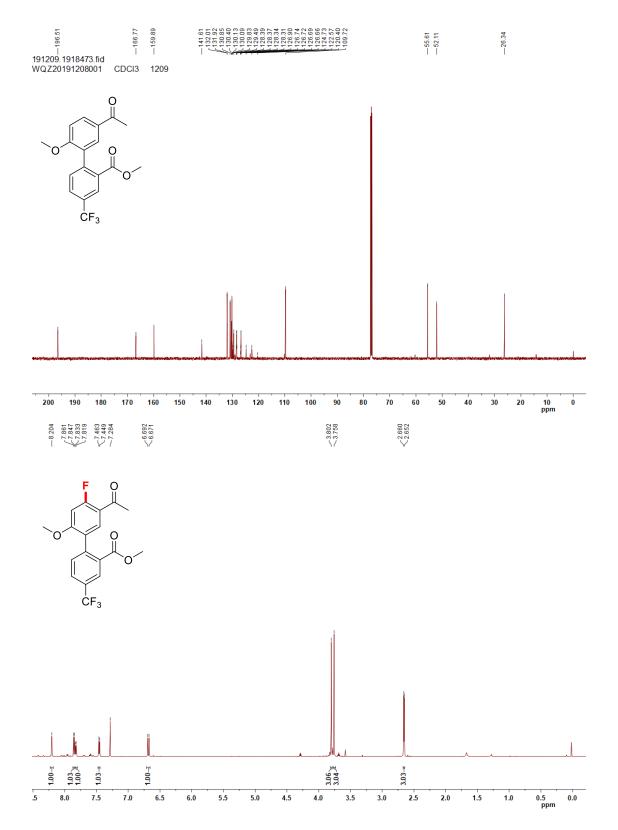
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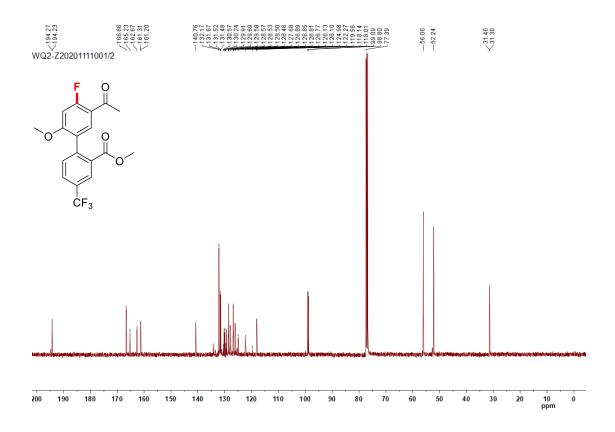


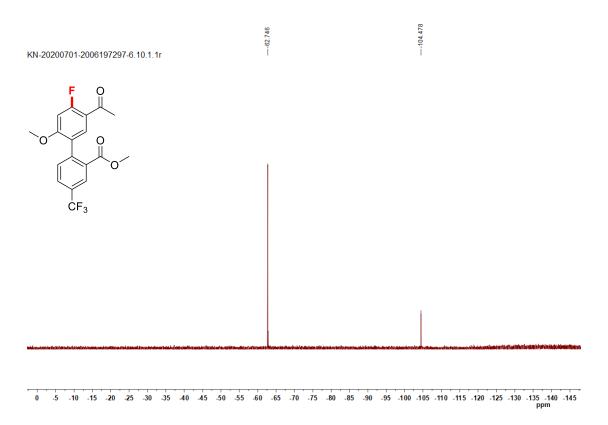


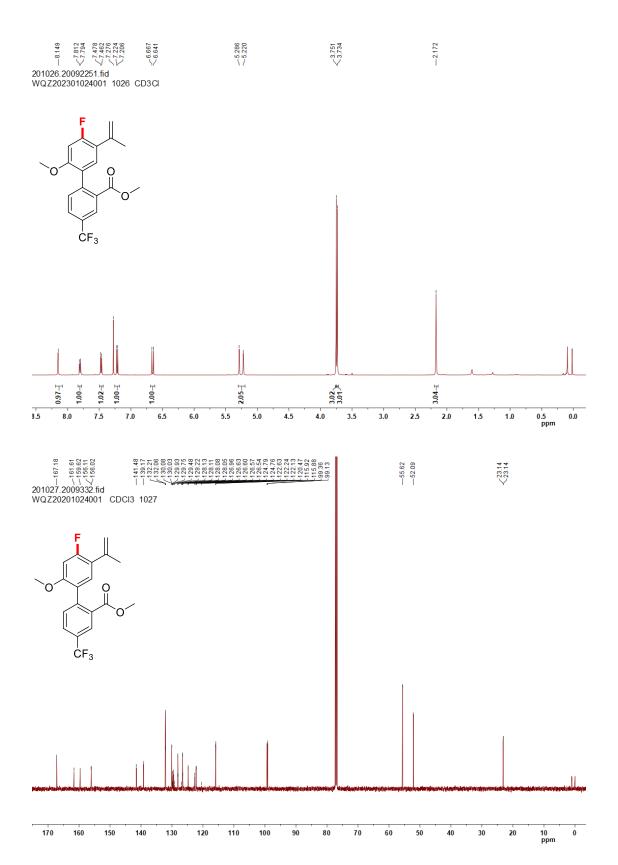


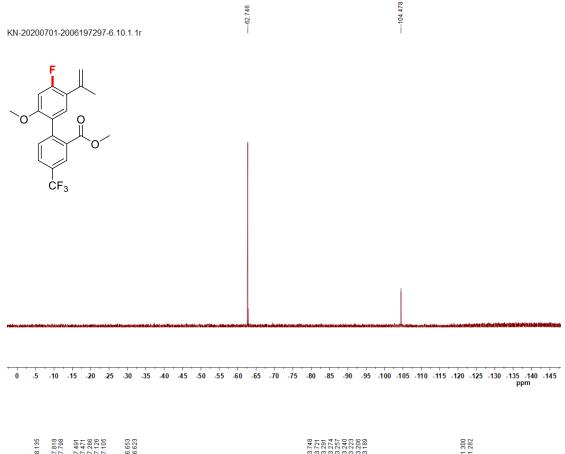


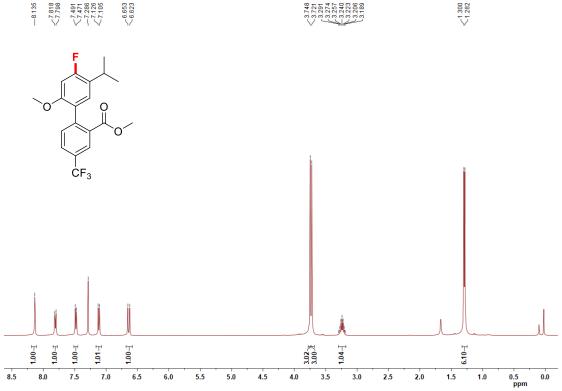


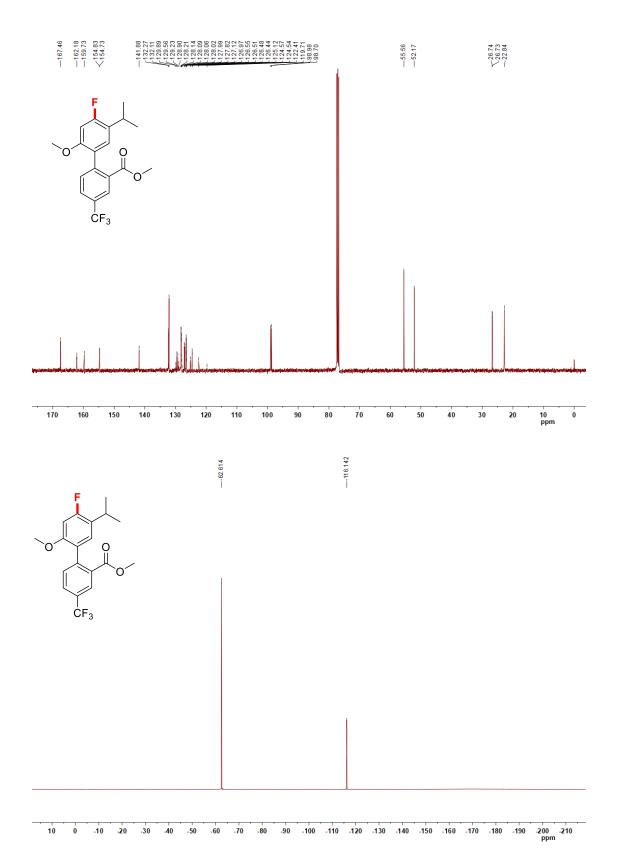


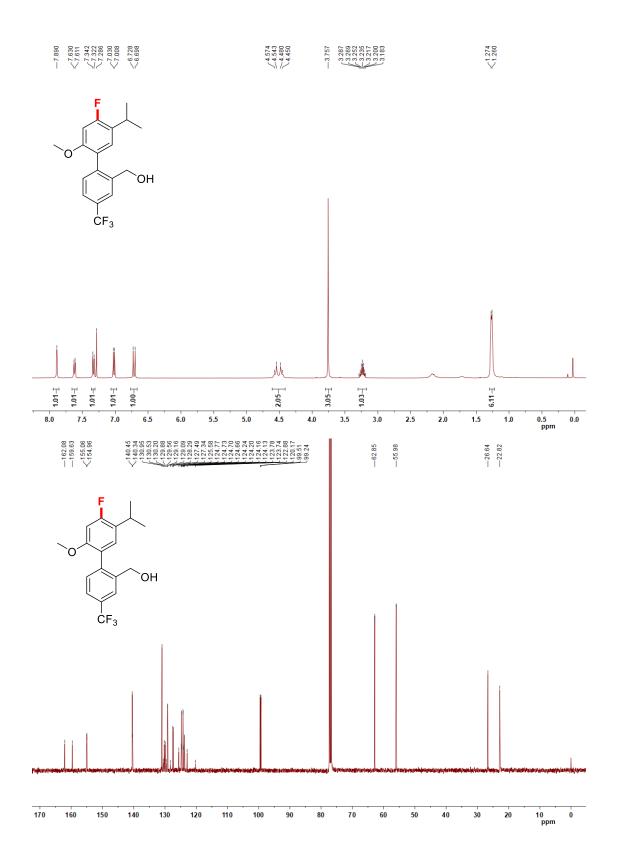


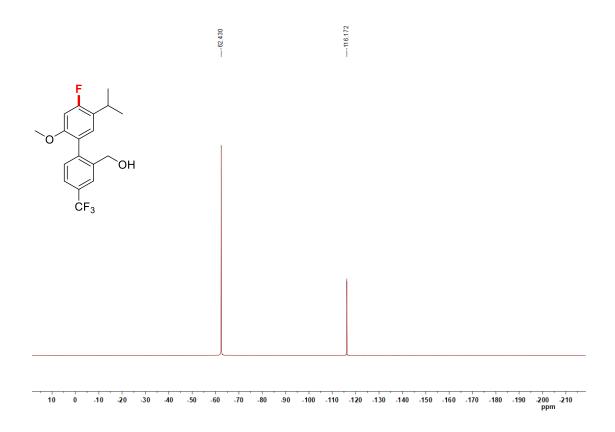












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