

Aminium Cation-Radical Catalysed Selective Hydration of (*E*)-Aryl Enynes

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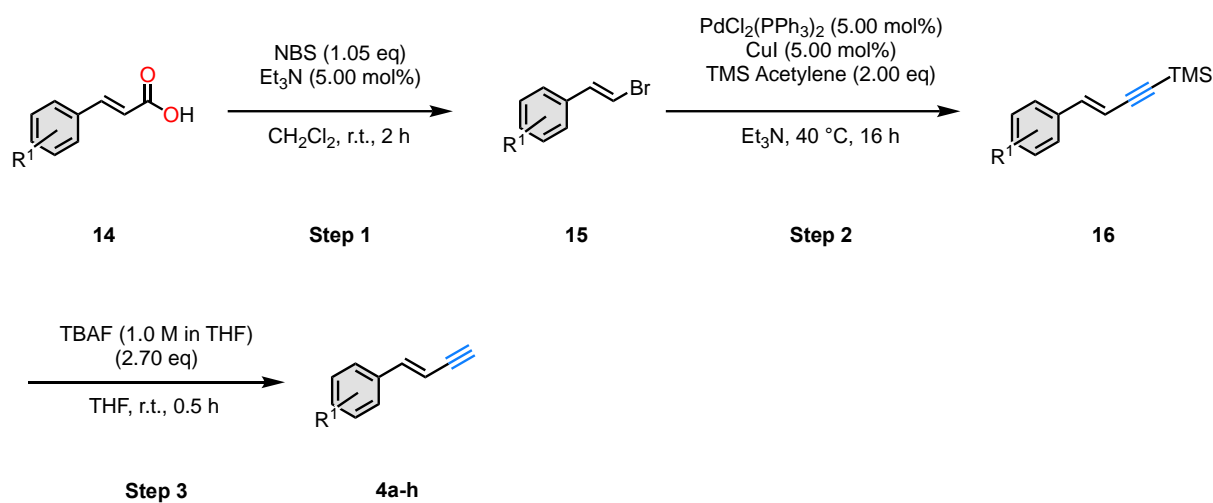
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General Methods

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were performed with reagent-grade solvents. All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. High purity acetone (max. 0.01%) was purchased from VWR Chemicals. Reactions were monitored using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and visualized using UV light and stained using a basic KMnO₄ (potassium permanganate) solution. Flash column chromatography was performed using a Biotage® Isolera™ on Biotage® KP-Sil SNAP cartridges. Petrol refers to petroleum spirit (b.p. 40-60 °C). NMR spectra (¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F) were recorded on Bruker Ascend™ 400 (400 MHz) and Ultrashield™ 500 PLUS (500 MHz) spectrometers as dilute solutions in the stipulated solvent. All chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) with ¹H and ¹³C NMR referenced to solvent signals [¹H NMR: CDCl₃ (7.27); ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ (77.16)] Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz) and recorded after averaging. The multiplicity of the ¹H NMR signals are designated by one of the following abbreviations: s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, m=multiplet, appt s=apparent singlet, appt d=apparent doublet, appt t=apparent triplet signal. Infra-red spectra were obtained using an Agilent Cary 660 FTIR spectrometer in ATR mode, with the peaks recorded as $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$. HRMS were obtained using an Agilent 6530 accurate-massQ-TOF LC/MS in electrospray ionisation (ESI). Melting point data was collected using a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected on an XtaLAB Pro: Kappa single diffractometer.

General procedures for the synthesis of compounds 1, 4, 6 and 12

Synthesis of Enynes 1 and 4a-h



Step 1: The bromides **15** were synthesized using a catalytic Hunsdiecker reaction.¹

A typical procedure: To a solution of the required cinnamic acid **14** (1.00 eq) in CH₂Cl₂ (3.00 mL/1.00 mmol) was added Et₃N (5.00 mol%) and stirred at room temperature for 5 minutes to which NBS (1.05 eq) was added and the solution stirred for a further 2 h. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

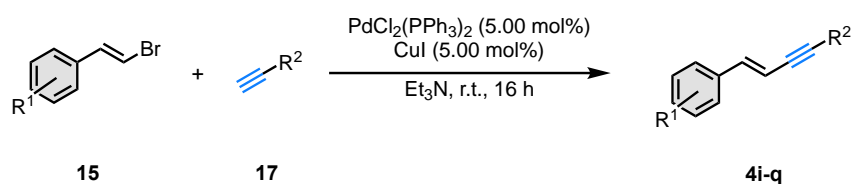
Step 2: TMS-protected enynes **16** were synthesized using a Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction.²

A typical procedure: To a solution of the required bromide **15** (1.00 eq) in Et₃N (5.00 mL/1.00 mmol) degassed with argon for 5 min was added Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (5.00 mol%) and CuI (5.00 mol%). The solution was stirred for 5 min at 40 °C followed by the addition of TMS acetylene (2.00 eq) and then stirred for a further 16 h at 40 °C. The resultant mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite[®], concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

Step 3: The enynes **1** and **4a-h** were synthesized by TMS deprotection using TBAF.³

A typical procedure: To a solution of the desired TMS protected enyne **16** (1.00 eq) in THF (10.0 mL/1.00 mmol) was added TBAF (1M in THF) (2.70 eq). The resultant solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature and then concentrated under reduced pressure, dissolved in EtOAc, and washed with H₂O. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

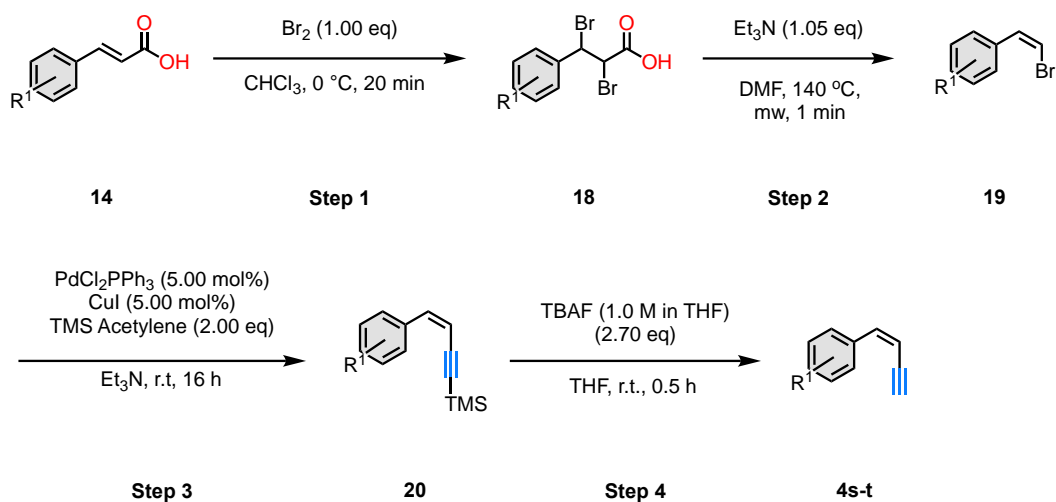
Synthesis of Enynes **4i-q**



Enynes **4i-q** were synthesized by a Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction.²

A typical procedure: To a solution of the required bromide **15** (1.00 eq) in Et₃N (5.00 mL/1.00 mmol) degassed with argon for 5 min was added PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (5.00 mol%), and CuI (5.00 mol%). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 min, followed by the addition of the required alkyne **17** (1.10 eq) and stirred for a further 16 h. The resultant mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

Synthesis of Enynes 4s-t



The bromides **19** were synthesized from the corresponding cinnamic acid **14**, *via* a two-step reaction procedure.

A typical procedure:⁴

Step 1: To a solution of the required cinnamic acid **14** (1.00 eq) in CHCl₃ (10.0 mL/1.00 mmol) at 0 °C was added bromine (1.00 eq) dropwise and the solution stirred for 20 mins. The resultant solution was stored in the refrigerator overnight, the precipitate filtered and washed twice with CHCl₃ to give the analytically pure product.

Step 2: To a solution of the required 2, 3-dibromo-3-phenylpropanoic acid derivative **18** (1.00 eq) in DMF (1.00 mL/1.00 mmol) was added Et₃N (1.05 eq). The reaction vial was sealed and irradiated with microwaves for 1 min at 140 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O and was washed with 5% LiCl in H₂O. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the analytically pure product.

Step 3: The TMS-protected enynes **20** were synthesized by a Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction.²

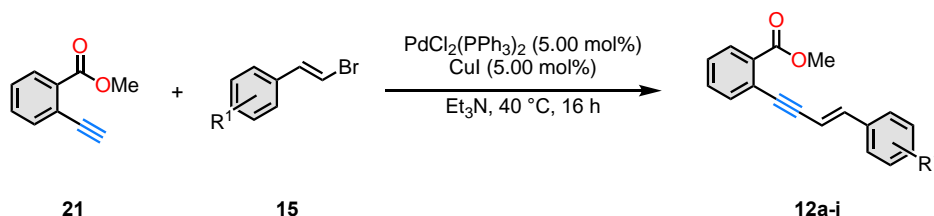
A typical procedure: To a solution of the required bromide **19** (1.00 eq) in Et₃N (5.00 mL/1.00 mmol) degassed with argon for 5 min was added Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (5.00 mol%) and Cul (5.00 mol%). The solution was stirred for 5 min at room temperature followed by the addition of TMS acetylene (2.00 eq) and

then stirred for a further 16 h. The resultant mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®; the filtrate quenched with sat. $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{aq})}$ and extracted into Et_2O . The organic phase dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

Step 4: Terminal enynes **4s-t** were synthesized by a TMS deprotection of enyne **20** using TBAF.³

A typical procedure: To a solution of the required TMS protected enyne **20** (1.00 eq) in THF (5.00 mL/1.00 mmol) was added TBAF (1M in THF) (2.70 eq). The resultant solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure, dissolved in EtOAc, and washed with H_2O . The organic phase over dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

Synthesis of Enynes **12a-i**



Enynes **12a-i** were synthesized by a Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction.²

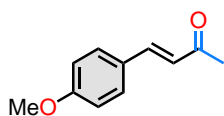
A typical procedure: To a solution of required bromide **15** (1.00 eq) in Et_3N (10.0 mL/1.00 mmol) degassed with argon for 5 min was added $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (5.00 mol%), and CuI (5.00 mol%). The solution was stirred at $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 5 min, followed by the addition of methyl 2-ethynylbenzoate **21** (1.00 eq) added and stirred for a further 16 h at $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The resultant mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite®, concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the analytically pure product.

Synthesis and experimental data for compounds 2 and 5a-u

General procedure A

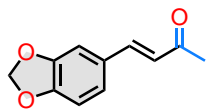
A solution of the required enyne (0.20 mmol, 1.00 eq) in acetone (1.00 mL) was degassed by purging with nitrogen for 5 min. A separate solution of acetone (1.00 mL) was degassed for 5 min, placed under nitrogen, heated to 40 °C and tris(4-bromophenyl)-ammoniumyl hexachloroantimonate (TBPA) (0.02 mmol, 0.10 eq) added. The enyne solution was added dropwise immediately after, and the solution stirred for 2 h at 40 °C. The reaction was quenched with sat. K₂CO₃ in methanol (1.00 mL), washed with brine (5.00 mL), and extracted into EtOAc (2 x 5.00 mL). The organic fractions were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography.

(*E*)-4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (**2**)⁶



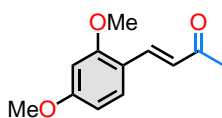
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-12% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a white solid (26.0 mg, 74%). **m.p.** 75-77 °C (lit: 72-74 °C);⁶ **IR** ν_{max} (CDCl₃)/cm⁻¹: 3011, 2841, 1664, 1602, 1512, 1250; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (m, 3H), 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.7, 161.9, 143.6, 130.3, 127.3, 125.3, 114.7, 56.8, 27.7; **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for C₁₁H₁₃O₂ [M+H⁺]: 177.0910, found 177.0909.

(E)-4-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)but-3-en-2-one (5a)⁷



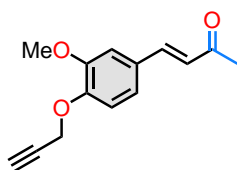
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (29.0 mg, 76%). **m.p.** 107-108 °C (lit:110-113 °C);⁷ **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2901, 1660, 1624, 1501, 1237; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3, 150.0, 148.6, 143.3, 129.0, 125.5, 124.9, 108.8, 106.7, 101.8, 27.7; **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 191.0703, found 191.0706.

(E)-4-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5b)⁸



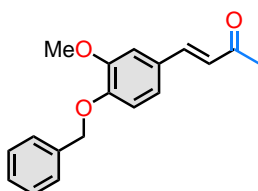
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a colourless solid (31.0 mg, 76%). **m.p.** 77-78 °C (lit: 58.5-59.5 °C);⁸ **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2949, 2923, 2843, 1653, 1571, 1250; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) 7.81 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.0, 162.9, 159.6, 138.6, 129.7, 125.3, 116.2, 105.3, 98.2, 55.3, 55.3, 26.9; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 207.1016, found 207.1013.

(E)-4-(3-Methoxy-4-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5c)⁹



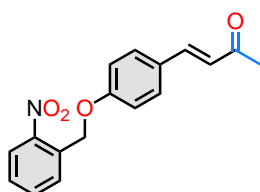
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-25% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a brown solid (36.0 mg, 78%) **m.p.** 104-106 °C (lit: 110-111 °C);⁹ **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3256, 2616, 2128, 1671, 1512; **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (appt dd, $J = 8.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (appt d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (appt d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.54 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.5, 150.0, 149.1, 143.4, 128.6, 125.9, 122.6, 113.8, 110.4, 78.1, 76.4, 56.8, 56.1, 27.6; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 253.0835, found 253.0831.

(E)-4-(4-(Benzyloxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5d)



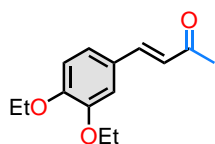
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-15% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a brown solid (42.0 mg, 75%). **m.p.** 90-91 °C; **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2999, 2617, 1683, 1592, 1510; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.11 (appt d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (appt dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (appt d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.5, 150.7, 150.0, 143.6, 136.7, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 127.4, 125.5, 122.9, 113.6, 110.4, 71.0, 56.2, 27.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: calculated for 305.1148, found 305.1147.

(E)-4-(4-((2-nitrobenzyl)oxy)phenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5e)



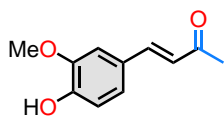
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-15% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a brown solid (49.0 mg, 82%). **m.p.** 150 - 153 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2925, 2853, 1661, 1601, 1501; **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.24 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 7.91 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.62 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.5, 160.2, 147.1, 143.0, 134.2, 133.4, 130.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 125.7, 125.3, 115.5, 67.0, 27.6; **HRMS** (ESI^+): calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: calculated for 320.0893, found 320.0887.

(E)-4-(3,4-diethoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5f)¹⁰



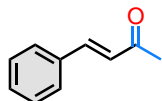
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-30% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a brown solid (38.0 mg, 81%). **m.p.** 89-90 °C (lit: 86 °C)¹⁰; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2887, 1835, 1642, 1592, 1514; **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.87 (appt d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.17 – 4.08 (m, 4H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.5, 151.4, 149.0, 143.8, 127.3, 125.2, 123.1, 112.8, 112.0, 64.8, 64.6, 27.5, 14.9, 14.8; **HRMS** (ESI^+): calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 257.1148, found 257.1147.

(E)-4-(4-Hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-2-one (5g)¹¹



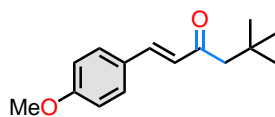
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-12% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a brown solid (30.0 mg, 79%). **m.p.** 110-113 °C (lit: 118-120 °C);¹¹ **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3288, 2924, 2853, 1637, 1582, 1517; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (appt dd, $J = 8.2, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (appt d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (appt d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.6, 148.4, 147.0, 143.9, 127.1, 125.2, 123.7, 115.0, 109.4, 56.1, 27.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [M+Na⁺]: 215.0679, found 215.0670.

(E)-4-Phenylbut-3-en-2-one (5h)¹²



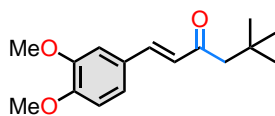
Following general procedure A, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-12% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a colourless solid (14.0 mg, 48%). **m.p.** 44-47 °C (lit: 40-42 °C);¹² **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3011, 1667, 1626, 1609, 1577; **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.42 (m, 3H), 6.73 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.6, 143.8, 134.7, 130.8, 129.3, 128.7, 127.6, 24.0; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}$ [M+H⁺]: 147.0804, found 147.0798.

(E)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5,5-dimethylhex-1-en-3-one (5i)



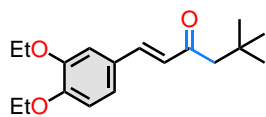
Following a modified general procedure A (heated to 50 °C), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a colourless solid (41 mg, 88%). **m.p.** 58-60 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2956, 2871, 2038, 1685, 1597; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 6.91 (appt d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 1.06 (s, 9H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.4, 161.6, 142.0, 130.1, 127.5, 125.7, 114.5, 55.5, 53.9, 31.8, 30.2; **HRMS** (ESI^+): calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 255.1356, found 255.1354.

(E)-1-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-5,5-dimethylhex-1-en-3-one (5j)



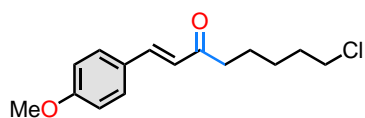
Following a modified general procedure A (heated to 50 °C), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-15% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (39.0 mg, 75%). **m.p.** 48-50 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2953, 2866, 1635, 1596, 1510; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (appt dd, $J = 8.3, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (appt d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (appt d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 2H), 1.07 (s, 9H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.3, 151.4, 149.4, 142.4, 127.8, 126.1, 123.1, 111.3, 110.0, 56.1, 56.1, 53.6, 31.8, 30.2; **HRMS** (ESI^+): calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 263.1642, found 263.1643.

(E)-1-(3,4-diethoxyphenyl)-5,5-dimethylhex-1-en-3-one (5k)



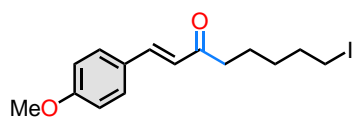
Following a modified general procedure A (heated to 50 °C), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (10-20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (48.0 mg, 83%). **m.p.** 55-57 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2955, 2870, 1678, 1593, 1510; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (appt dd, $J = 8.3, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (appt d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (appt d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.16 – 4.09 (appt qd, $J = 7.0, 1.9$ Hz, 4H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 1.46 (appt td, $J = 7.0, 1.4$ Hz, 6H), 1.06 (s, 9H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.3, 151.3, 149.0, 142.5, 127.6, 125.9, 123.0, 112.9, 112.3, 64.8, 64.6, 53.6, 31.7, 30.2, 14.9, 14.8; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [M+Na⁺]: 313.1774, found 313.1769.

(E)-8-Chloro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)oct-1-en-3-one (5i)



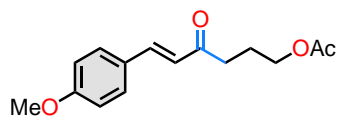
Following a modified general procedure A (performed on a 0.66 mmol scale at 50 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a pale yellow oil (64.0 mg, 69%). **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2935, 1604, 1510, 1247; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 6.99 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.55 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.82 (dq, $J = 8.1, 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.76 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.46 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.0, 161.5, 142.2, 129.9, 127.1, 123.9, 114.4, 55.4, 44.8, 40.4, 32.4, 26.6, 23.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClO}_2$ [M+H⁺] 267.1146, found 267.1141.

(E)-8-Iodo-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)oct-1-en-3-one (5m)



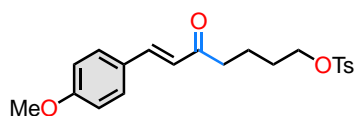
Following a modified general procedure A (performed on a 0.29 mmol scale at 50 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a pale yellow oil (63.0 mg, 60%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2930, 1649, 1604, 1250; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 6.91 (appt d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.21 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.91 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.43 (m, 2H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.0, 161.6, 142, 130.0, 127.1, 124.0, 114.4, 55.4, 40.4, 33.3, 30.2, 23.2, 6.8; **HRMS** (ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{IO}_2$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 359.0503, found 359.0497.

(E)-6-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-oxohex-5-en-1-yl acetate (5n)



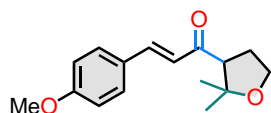
Following general procedure A (performed on a 0.41 mmol scale at 50 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow oil (33.0 mg, 31%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2966, 1726, 1683, 1599, 1513, 1253; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 6.92 (appt d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.74 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.08 – 1.99 (m, 5H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.0, 171.0, 161.6, 142.4, 130.0, 127.0, 123.8, 114.4, 63.8, 55.4, 36.9, 23.2, 20.9; **HRMS** (ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 263.1278, found 263.1280.

(E)-7-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-oxohept-6-en-1-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (5o)



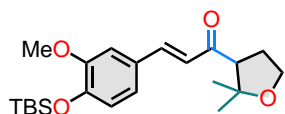
Following general procedure A (performed at 50 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-35% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow oil (48.0 mg, 62%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2925, 2854, 1923, 1680, 1597; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78 (appt d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.33 (appt d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.09 – 4.02 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.65 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.75 – 1.67 (m, 4H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.6, 161.8, 144.9, 142.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.0, 127.2, 123.9, 114.6, 70.3, 55.5, 39.6, 28.4, 21.7, 20.3; **HRMS** (ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 411.1237, found 411.1236.

(E)-1-(2,2-Dimethyltetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (5p)



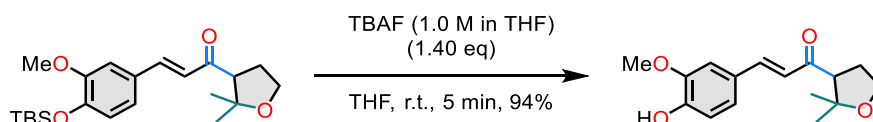
Following general procedure A (performed on a 0.62 mmol scale at 45 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (20-30% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a pale yellow oil (69.0 mg, 43%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2973, 1593, 1510, 1171; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.02 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 8.6, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 7.9, 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, $J = 8.5, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.6, 8.5, 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.10 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.2, 7.9, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.6, 161.9, 143.0, 130.3, 127.2, 123.7, 114.6, 82.1, 65.7, 59.0, 55.5, 29.1, 29.0, 23.7; **HRMS** (ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 283.1305, found 283.1302.

(E)-3-(4-((tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2,2-dimethyltetrahydrofuran-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (5q)



Following general procedure A (performed on a 0.94 mmol scale at 50 °C for 3 h), the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a pale yellow oil (107 mg, 29%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} 2929, 1681, 1591, 1507, 1283; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.03 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 8.6, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd, $J = 8.5, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.6, 8.5, 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.10 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.2, 8.0, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 9H), 0.19 (s, 6H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.7, 151.4, 148.2, 143.5, 128.4, 124.1, 122.8, 121.4, 111.5, 82.1, 65.7, 58.7, 55.7, 29.1, 29.1, 25.8, 23.8, 18.6, -4.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{35}\text{O}_4\text{Si}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 391.2299, found 391.2300.

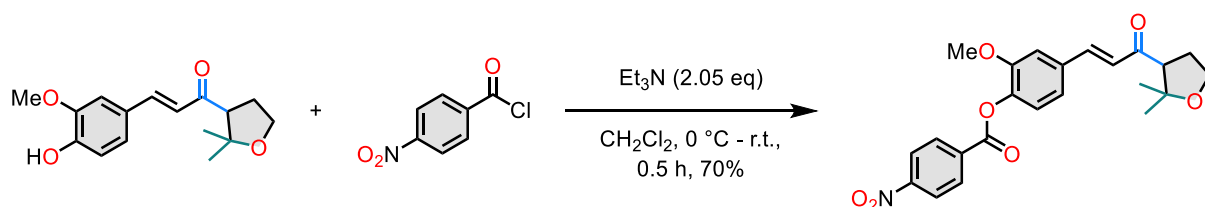
(E)-1-(2,2-Dimethyltetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one



To a solution of (E)-tert-butyl(4-(2-(6,6-dimethyl-2,7-dioxabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-1-yl)vinyl)-2-methoxyphenoxy)dimethylsilane (27.0 mg, 0.0700 mmol) in THF (1.00 mL) at room temperature was added TBAF (1M in THF, 104 μL , 0.100 mmol) and the resultant solution stirred for 5 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (25.0 mL) and washed with water (25.0 mL). The aqueous phase was washed with EtOAc (25.0 mL), the organic phases combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified through a short silica pad (100% EtOAc) to obtain the analytically pure product as a pale yellow oil (18.0 mg, 94%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3328, 2970, 1582, 1512, 1272; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): 7.57 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 4.05

(ddd, $J = 8.5, 8.3, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.92 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 8.1, 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 8.3, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.5, 8.3, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 2.06 (dddd, $J = 12.7, 8.2, 8.0, 4.6$, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): 198.5, 148.4, 146.8, 143.4, 126.9, 123.6, 123.4, 114.9, 109.8, 82.0, 65.5, 58.6, 56.0, 28.9, 28.9, 23.6; **HRMS** (ESI^+) calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 277.1434, found 277.1435.

(E)-4-(3-(2,2-Dimethyltetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-2-methoxyphenyl 4-nitrobenzoate (5r)



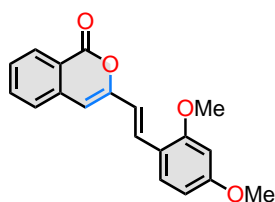
To a solution of (*E*)-4-(2-(6,6-dimethyl-2,7-dioxabicyclo[3.2.0]heptan-1-yl)vinyl)-2-methoxyphenol (54.0 mg, 0.190 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2.50 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (54.0 μL , 0.390 mmol), followed by a solution of 4-nitrobenzoyl chloride (36.0 mg, 0.190 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2.50 mL). The resultant solution was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min, then 25 min at room temperature. The reaction was then diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (50.0 mL) and washed with water (50.0 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography (50% EtOAc in petroleum ether) to obtain the analytically pure product as a colourless solid (58.0 mg, 70%). m.p. 132 °C. **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2973, 1744, 1607, 1254; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): 8.42 – 8.35 (m, 4H), 7.61 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.80 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (ddd, $J = 8.7, 8.4, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (ddd, $J = 8.7, 7.8, 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 8.2, 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.58 (dddd, $J = 12.6, 8.2, 8.4, 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.14 (dddd, $J = 12.6, 8.0, 7.8, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): 198.5, 162.6, 151.4, 151.0, 142.2, 141.4, 134.5, 133.9, 131.5, 126.3, 123.7, 123.2, 121.4, 111.9, 82.0, 65.5, 58.9, 56.0, 28.9, 28.8, 23.6; **HRMS** (ESI^+) calculated for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_7$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 448.1367, found 448.1371.

Synthesis and experimental data for compounds 13a-i

General procedure B

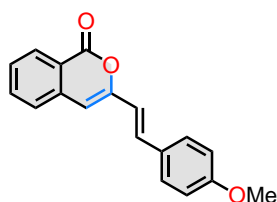
A solution of the required 1,4-diarylnyne (0.20 mmol, 1.00 eq) in acetone (1.50 mL) was degassed with nitrogen for 5 min followed by the addition of TBPA (0.02 mmol, 0.10 eq.), and the resultant solution stirred for 1 h at 50 °C. The reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. K₂CO₃ in methanol (1.00 mL), diluted with brine (10 mL) and extracted between EtOAc (2 x 10.0mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography.

(*E*)-3-(2,4-Dimethoxystyryl)-1*H*-isochromen-1-one (13a)



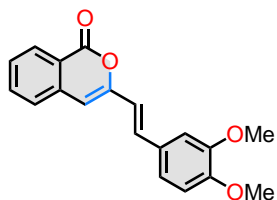
Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (51.0 mg, 82%). **m.p.** 129-131 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹: 2924, 2854, 1729, 1601, 1558; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27 (appt d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.39 (appt d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (appt dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (appt d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5, 161.7, 159.3, 153.9, 138.2, 134.8, 130.0, 129.3, 128.6, 127.7, 125.7, 120.8, 118.2, 105.3, 104.6, 98.7, 55.6, 55.6; **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for C₁₉H₁₆O₄ [M+H⁺]: 309.1121, found 309.1122.

(E)-3-(4-Methoxystyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13b)¹³



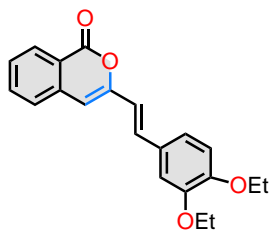
Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-10% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (41.0 mg, 73%). **m.p.** 58-60 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2926, 2853, 2191, 1728, 1600; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 6.94 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.57 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.3, 160.5, 153.2, 138.0, 134.9, 132.8, 130.0, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 125.8, 120.9, 117.4, 114.5, 105.0, 55.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 301.0835, found 301.0836.

(E)-3-(3,4-Dimethoxystyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13c)



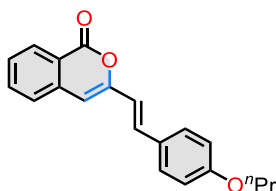
Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-12% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (54.0 mg, 88%). **m.p.** 140-141 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2928, 2834, 1721, 1650, 1513; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (appt d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (appt td, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.10 (appt dd, $J = 8.4, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (appt d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (appt d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.3, 153.0, 150.1, 149.3, 137.9, 134.9, 133.0, 129.9, 129.0, 128.0, 125.8, 121.1, 120.8, 117.6, 111.4, 109.4, 105.1, 56.1, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 309.1121, found 309.1121.

(E)-3-(3,4-Diethoxystyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13d)



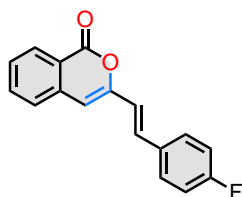
Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-40% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (48.0 mg, 72%). **m.p.** 168-169 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3444, 2978, 2927, 2872, 1726; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.29 – 8.22 (m, 1H), 7.70 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 6.54 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 4.18 – 4.07 (m, 4H), 1.51 – 1.42 (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.3, 153.1, 149.9, 148.9, 137.9, 134.9, 133.1, 129.9, 128.9, 127.9, 125.8, 121.1, 120.8, 117.4, 113.2, 111.7, 105.0, 64.7, 64.6, 15.0, 14.9; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 359.1254, found 359.1270.

(E)-3-(4-Propoxystyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13e)



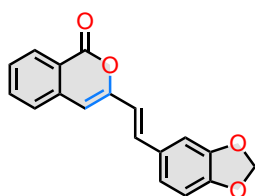
Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-15% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (40.0 mg, 66%). **m.p.** 114-115 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2962, 2926, 2874, 1730, 1709; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (appt d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (appt td, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 6.90 (appt d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 3.95 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.05 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.4, 160.1, 153.2, 138.0, 134.9, 132.9, 130.0, 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 125.8, 120.8, 117.3, 115.0, 104.9, 69.8, 22.7, 10.6; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 329.1148, found 329.1139.

(E)-3-(4-Fluorostyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13f)¹³



Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-25% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (53.0 mg, 72%). **m.p.** 141-143 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 2923, 2854, 1721, 1596, 1508; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.29 (appt d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.65 (appt td, $J = 7.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.12 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.62 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.2 (d, $J = 249.5$ Hz), 162.1, 152.6, 137.7, 135.0, 132.3 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 131.9, 130.0, 128.9 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 128.3, 125.9, 121.1, 119.4 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 116.1 (d, $J = 21.8$ Hz), 105.9; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -111.9; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{FO}_2\text{Na}$ [M+Na⁺]: 289.0635, found 289.0642.

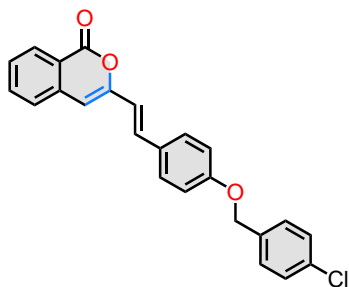
(E)-3-(2-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)vinyl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13g)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (35.0 mg, 60%). **m.p.** 180 °C (decomposed). **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3087, 2924, 2096, 1719, 1655; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.28 (appt d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (appt td, $J = 7.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.04 (appt d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (appt dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (appt d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 6.00 (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.3, 153.0, 148.6, 148.5, 137.9, 135.0,

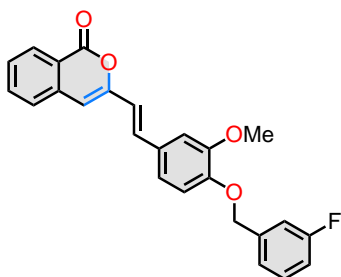
132.8, 130.5, 130.0, 128.0, 125.8, 123.1, 120.9, 117.9, 108.8, 105.9, 105.3, 101.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺):
calculated for C₁₈H₁₃O₄Na [M+Na⁺]: 315.0628, found 315.0631.

(E)-3-(4-((4-Chlorobenzyl)oxy)styryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13h)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-15% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (48.0 mg, 62%). **m.p.** 175-176 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹: 3038, 1726, 1629, 1603; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (appt d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (appt t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.34 (m, 9H), 6.96 (appt d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.3, 159.3, 153.1, 137.9, 135.4, 135.0, 134.1, 132.6, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 125.8, 120.9, 117.7, 115.4, 105.1, 69.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺):
calculated for C₂₄H₁₈ClO₃Na [M+Na⁺]: 389.0939, found 389.0942.

(E)-3-(4-((3-Fluorobenzyl)oxy)-3-methoxystyryl)-1H-isochromen-1-one (13i)

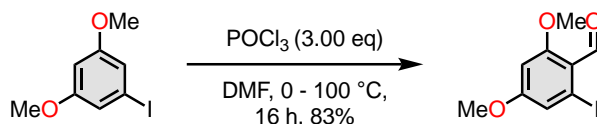


Following general procedure B, the title compound was isolated after purification by flash column chromatography (0-20% EtOAc in petroleum ether) as a yellow solid (37.0 mg, 70%). **m.p.** 113-115 °C; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹: 3066, 2924, 2853, 1722, 1592; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (appt d, *J* = 7.8 Hz,

1H), 7.67 (appt td, $J = 7.6, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 6.96 (m, 3H), 6.86 (appt d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.2 (d, $J = 246.3$ Hz), 162.3, 153.0, 150.0, 148.9, 139.6 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 137.9, 135.0, 132.9, 130.3 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 130.0, 129.8, 128.0, 125.8, 122.7 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 120.9, 120.8, 118.9, 115.0 (d, $J = 21.2$ Hz), 114.4 – 114.1 (m), 110.2, 105.2, 70.4, 56.2; **^{19}F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -112.8. **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{FO}_4\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$]: 425.1160, found 425.1161.

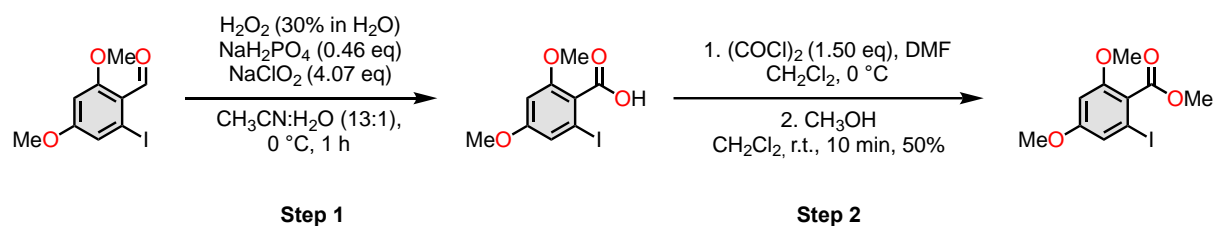
Synthesis and experimental data for compounds 12j and 13j

2-Iodo-4,6-dimethoxybenzaldehyde¹⁴



To a solution of 1-iodo-3,5-methoxybenzene (2.40 g, 9.09 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (15.0 mL) was added POCl₃ (2.55 mL, 27.3 mmol, 3.00 eq) dropwise at 0 °C. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min and then heated to 100 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature then poured into ice cold water (100 mL), the resultant precipitate collected by filtration and washed with water (2 x 10.0 mL) to obtain the analytically pure product as a light brown solid (2.19 g, 83%). **m.p.** 78-79 °C (lit: 81-82 °C)¹⁴; **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹: 3019, 1595, 1422, 1206, 1157; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.1 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.6, 164.6, 163.3, 119.2, 118.3, 99.2, 98.6, 56.0, 56.0; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for C₈H₁₀IO₂ [M+H⁺]: 264.9720, found 264.9724.

Methyl 2-iodo-4,6-dimethoxybenzoate¹⁵

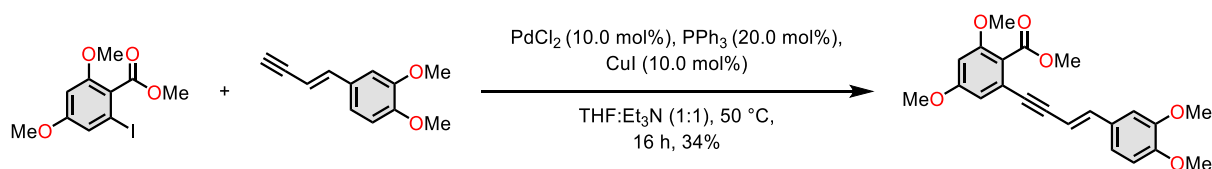


Step 1: To a solution of 2-iodo-4,6-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (2.00 g, 6.85 mmol) in an CH₃CN:H₂O mixture (13:1) (86.0 mL) was added NaH₂PO₄ (374 mg, 3.16 mmol, 0.46 eq), NaClO₂ (2.52 g, 27.9 mmol, 4.07 eq) and H₂O₂ (30% in H₂O, 1.71 mL) successively at 0 °C and vigorously stirred for 1 h. The solution was diluted with H₂O (75.0 mL) and extracted into EtOAc (2 x 75.0 mL). The organic phases were

combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was used directly into the next step without further purification.

Step 2: To a solution of crude 2-iodo-4,6-dimethoxybenzoic acid in CH_2Cl_2 (50.0 mL) at 0 °C was added $(\text{COCl})_2$ (885 μL , 10.3 mmol, 1.50 eq) followed by the 1 drop of DMF. The reaction mixture was stirred until the effervescence ceased and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (40.0 mL) and CH_3OH (5.0 mL) and stirred for 10 min. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product purified by flash column chromatography (0-25% EtOAc in petroleum ether) to obtain the analytically pure product as a colourless solid (1.10 g, 50% over steps 1 and 2). **m.p.** 71-72 °C (lit: 72-74 °C);¹⁵ **IR** ν_{max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3019, 2399, 1732, 1599, 1558; **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.91 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.79 (appt d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 6H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.1, 161.7, 158.0, 123.5, 115.3, 99.1, 93.0, 56.2, 55.8, 52.8; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{IO}_4$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 322.9775, found 322.9773.

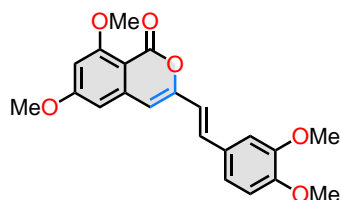
Methyl (*E*)-2-(4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-yn-1-yl)-4,6-dimethoxybenzoate (12j)



To a solution of methyl 2-iodo-4,6-dimethoxybenzoate (600 mg, 1.86 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20.0 mL) and Et_3N (20.0 mL) degassed with argon for 5 min was added PdCl_2 (33.0 mg, 0.190 mmol, 10.0 mol%), PPh_3 (98.0 mg, 0.370 mmol, 20.0 mol%) and CuI (35.0 mg, 0.190 mmol, 10.0 mol%) successively at room temperature. The solution was then degassed with argon for a further 5 mins followed by the addition of (*E*)-4-(but-1-en-3-yn-1-yl)-1,2-dimethoxybenzene (421 mg, 2.24 mmol, 1.20 eq). The reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C and stirred for 16 h. The resultant solution was cooled to room temperature, filtered through a short pad of Celite® and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue purified by flash column chromatography (0-30% EtOAc in petrol) to obtain the

analytically pure product as a brown paste (242 mg, 34%). **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} : 3018, 1734, 1719, 1463, 1456; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.99 – 6.93 (m, 3H), 6.83 (appt d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.82 (appt d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 6H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5, 161.5, 158.1, 150.1, 149.3, 142.1, 129.4, 123.9, 120.3, 118.8, 111.3, 108.6, 108.0, 105.7, 99.6, 92.6, 88.5, 56.2, 56.1, 56.0, 55.7, 52.5; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_6$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 383.1489, found 383.1488.

(E)-3-(3,4-dimethoxystyryl)-6,8-dimethoxy-1H-isochromen-1-one (13j)



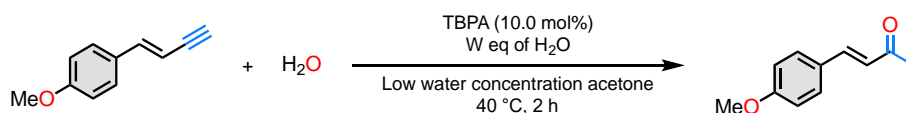
Following modified general procedure B (performed on a 0.66 mmol scale for 7 h), the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (0-60% EtOAc in petrol) to yield the title compound (**13j**) as a yellow solid (69 mg, 30%). **m.p.** 98-100 °C. **IR** ν_{\max} (ATR)/ cm^{-1} 2931, 2840, 1715, 1595, 1563, 1514, 1455, 1207. **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.5, 163.6, 158.9, 153.8, 150.1, 149.3, 142.5, 133.4, 129.1, 121.0, 117.4, 111.4, 109.6, 105.3, 103.6, 100.4, 98.7, 56.5, 56.1, 56.0, 55.8; **HRMS** (ESI⁺): calculated for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_6$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$]: 369.1333, found 369.1331.

NMR experiments

General Procedure for the Investigation into the Effect of Water Content on the Hydration Reaction

A solution of the required enyne (0.20 mmol, 1.00 eq) and the stipulated equivalents of H₂O in low water concentration (max. 0.01%, purchased from VWR Chemicals) acetone (1.00 mL) was degassed by purging with argon for 5 min. A separate solution of low water concentration acetone (1.00 mL) was degassed by purging with argon for 5 min, placed under argon, heated to 40 °C and tris(4-bromophenyl)-ammoniumyl hexachloroantimonate (TBPA) (0.02 mmol, 0.10 eq) added. The enyne solution was added dropwise immediately after, and the solution stirred for 2 h at 40 °C. The reaction was quenched with sat. K₂CO₃ in methanol (1.00 mL), washed with brine (5.00 mL), and extracted into EtOAc (2 x 5.00 mL). The organic fractions were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure, and the percentage conversion determined by quantitative ¹H NMR using hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDSO) as an internal standard.

Table S1. The effect of water content on the hydration reaction



| Entry | Water equivalents added | Percentage conversion/% ^[a] |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 | 0.00 | 28 |
| 2 | 1.00 | 78 |
| 3 | 2.00 | 60 |
| 4 | 3.00 | 30 |
| 5 | 4.00 | 26 |
| 6 | 5.00 | 7 |

^a Percentage conversion determined by quantitative ¹H NMR using hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDSO) as an internal standard.

Labelling experiments

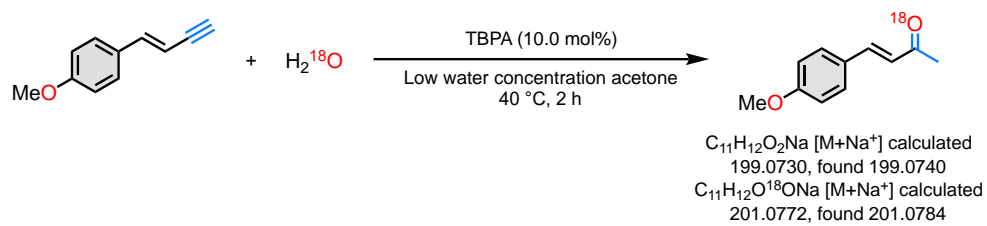
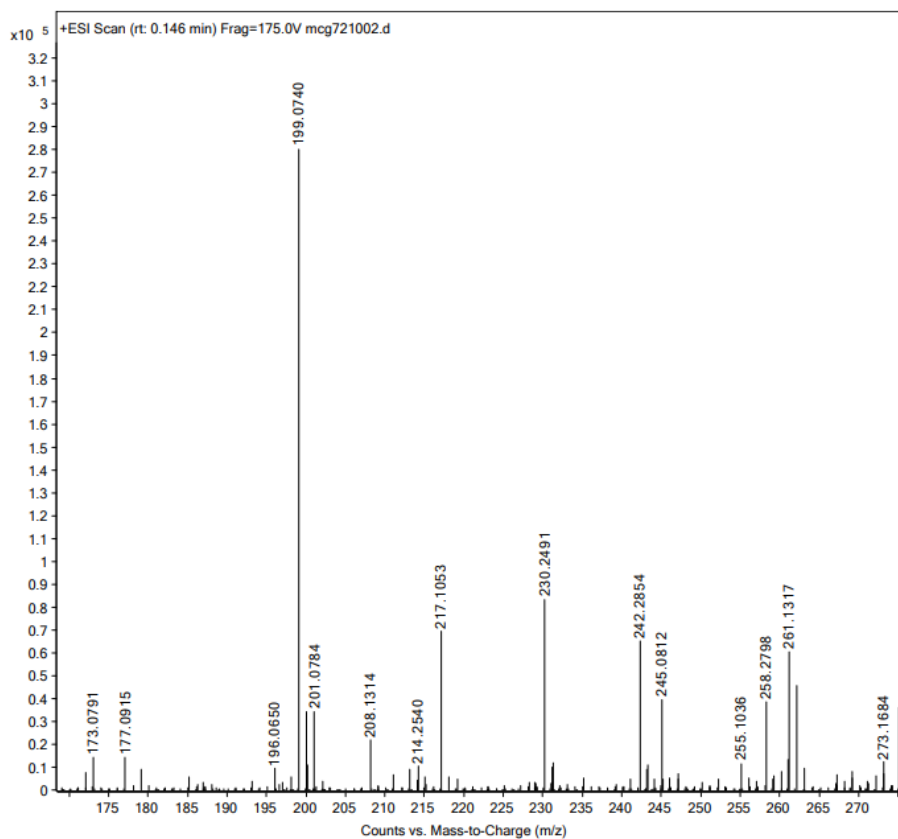
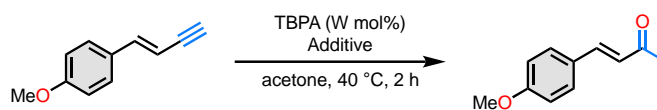


Figure S1. Mass Spectrum of Labelling Experiment with H₂¹⁸O



Control experiments

Table S2. Control experiments to support the cation-radical mechanistic pathway



| Entry | W (mol%) | Additive | Percentage yield/% ^[a] |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 0 | tris(4-bromophenyl)amine (10 mol%) | 0 |
| 2 | 10 | 2,6-di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-4-methylpyridine (20 mol%) | 68 |
| 3 | 10 | TEMPO (20 mol%) | 0 |
| 4^b | 10 | — | 43 |

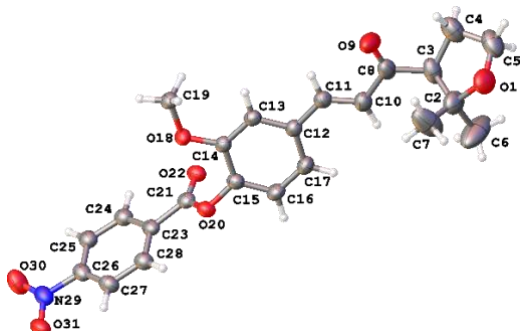
^aThe reactions were performed on a 0.20 mmol scale of enyne; isolated yields. ^bReaction performed under an atmosphere of oxygen.

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X-ray Crystallography Data

X-ray data of structure **5r** (CCDC2059518)



Datablock: abjenc

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0030 Å

Wavelength=1.54184

Cell: a=6.85821(12)

b=12.4948(3)

c=15.2391(3)

alpha=72.5999(17)

beta=78.0024(16)

gamma=89.0863(16)

Temperature: 120 K

| | Calculated | Reported |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Volume | 1217.40(5) | 1217.39(4) |
| Space group | P -1 | P -1 |
| Hall group | -P 1 | -P 1 |
| Moiety formula | C23 H23 N O7, C H2 C12 | C23 H23 N O7, C H2 C12 |
| Sum formula | C24 H25 C12 N O7 | C24 H25 C12 N O7 |
| Mr | 510.35 | 510.35 |
| Dx, g cm ⁻³ | 1.392 | 1.392 |
| Z | 2 | 2 |
| Mu (mm ⁻¹) | 2.785 | 2.785 |
| F000 | 532.0 | 532.0 |
| F000' | 535.03 | |
| h, k, lmax | 8, 15, 19 | 8, 15, 19 |
| Nref | 5172 | 5011 |
| Tmin, Tmax | 0.607, 0.761 | 0.887, 0.947 |
| Tmin' | 0.393 | |

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.887 Tmax=0.947

AbsCorr = GAUSSIAN

Data completeness= 0.969

Theta(max)= 77.388

R(reflections)= 0.0532(4599)

wR2(reflections)= 0.1339(5011)

S = 1.053

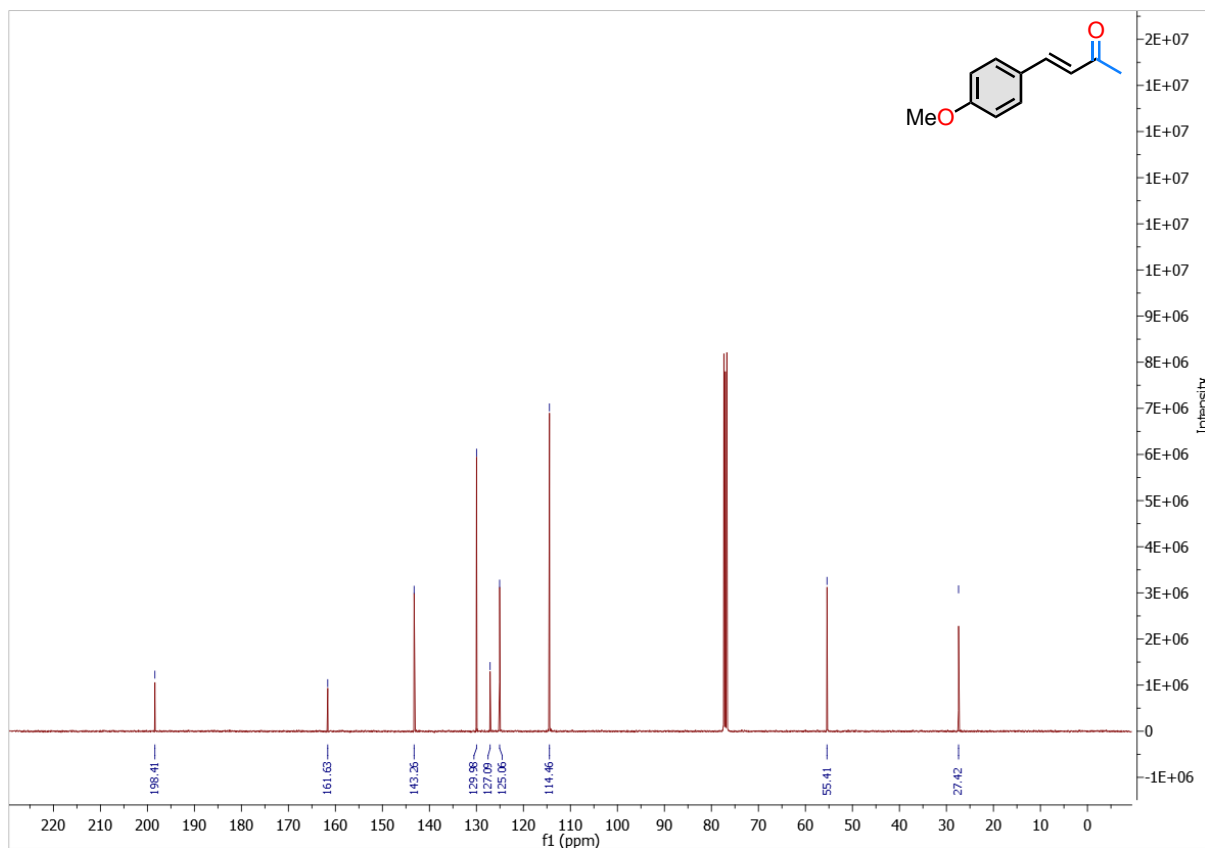
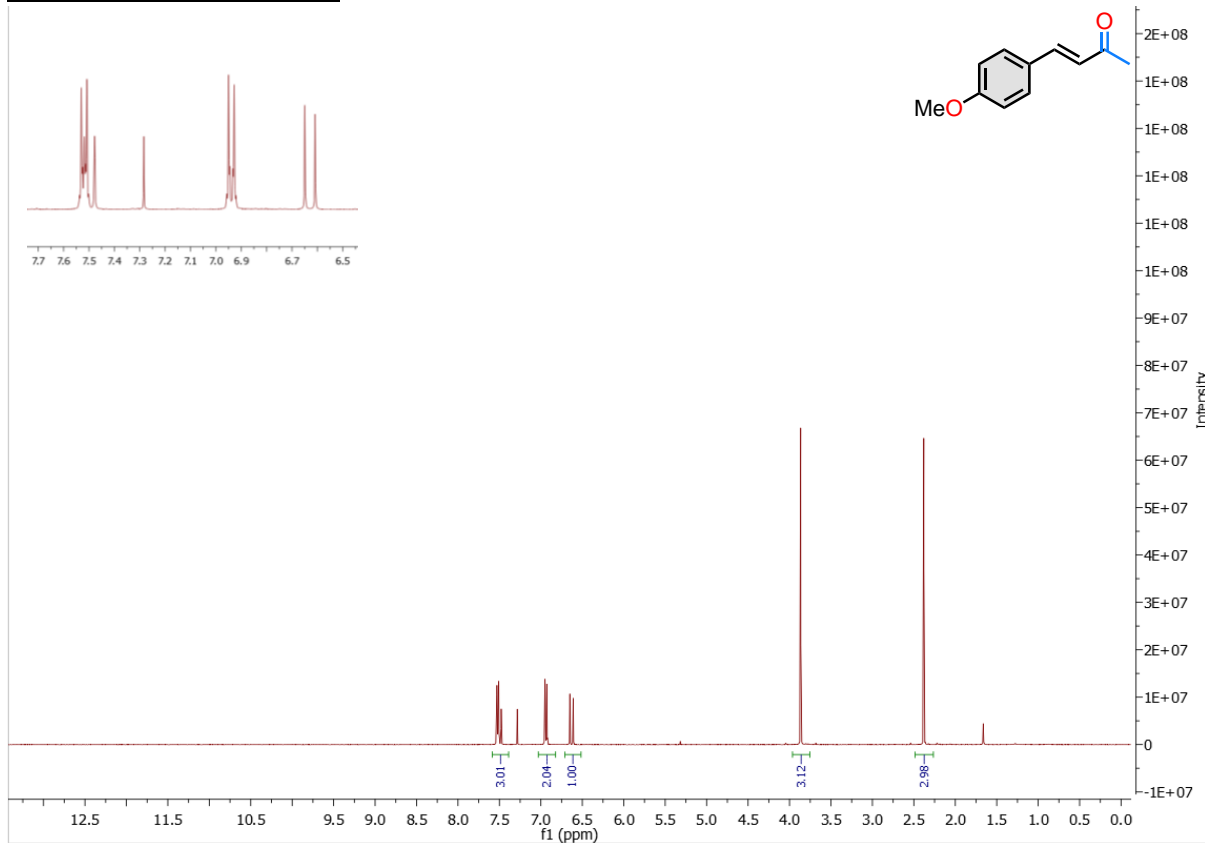
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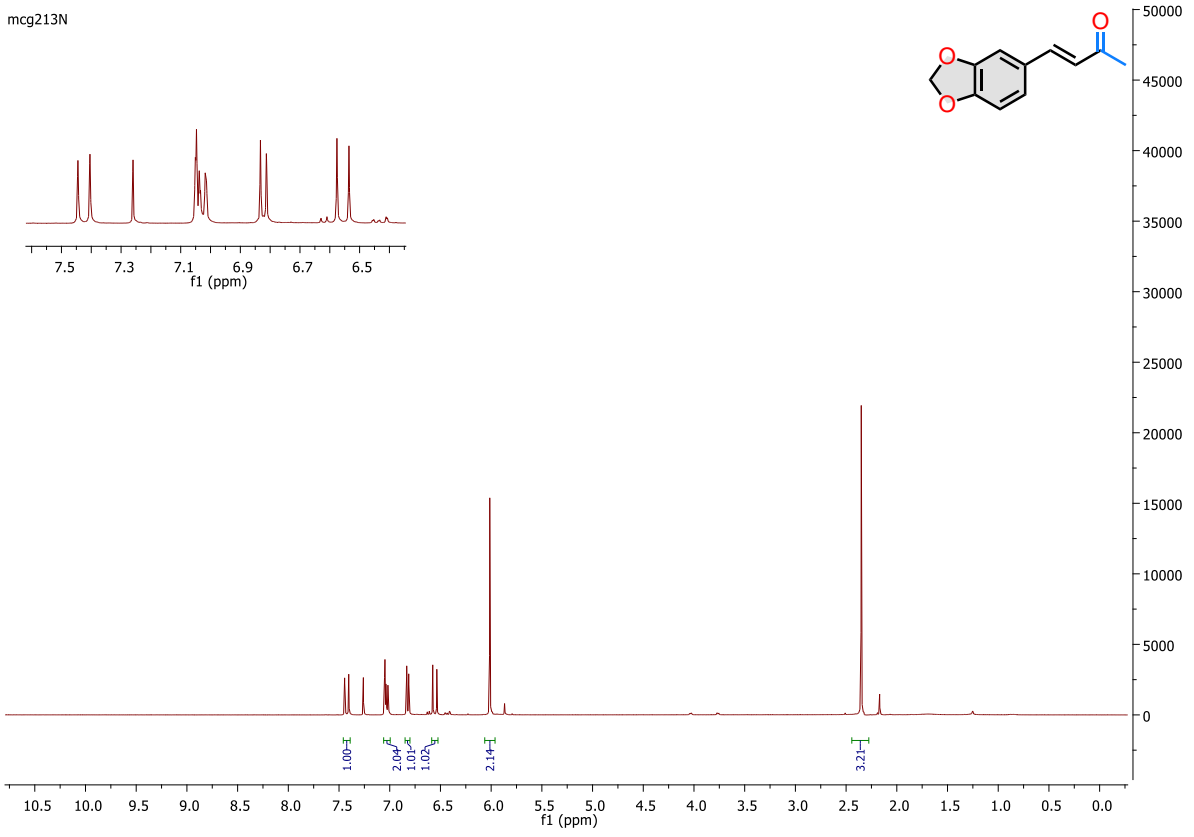
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Click on the hyperlinks for more details of the test.

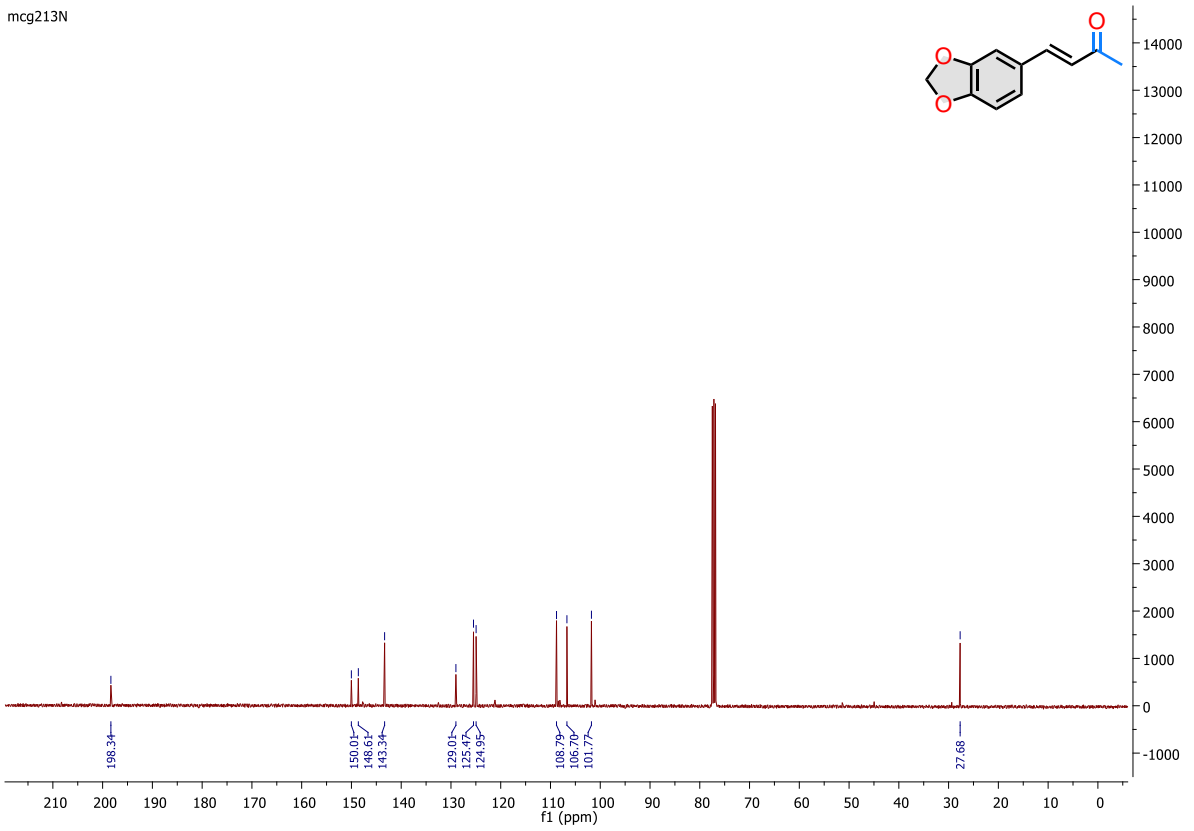
^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra



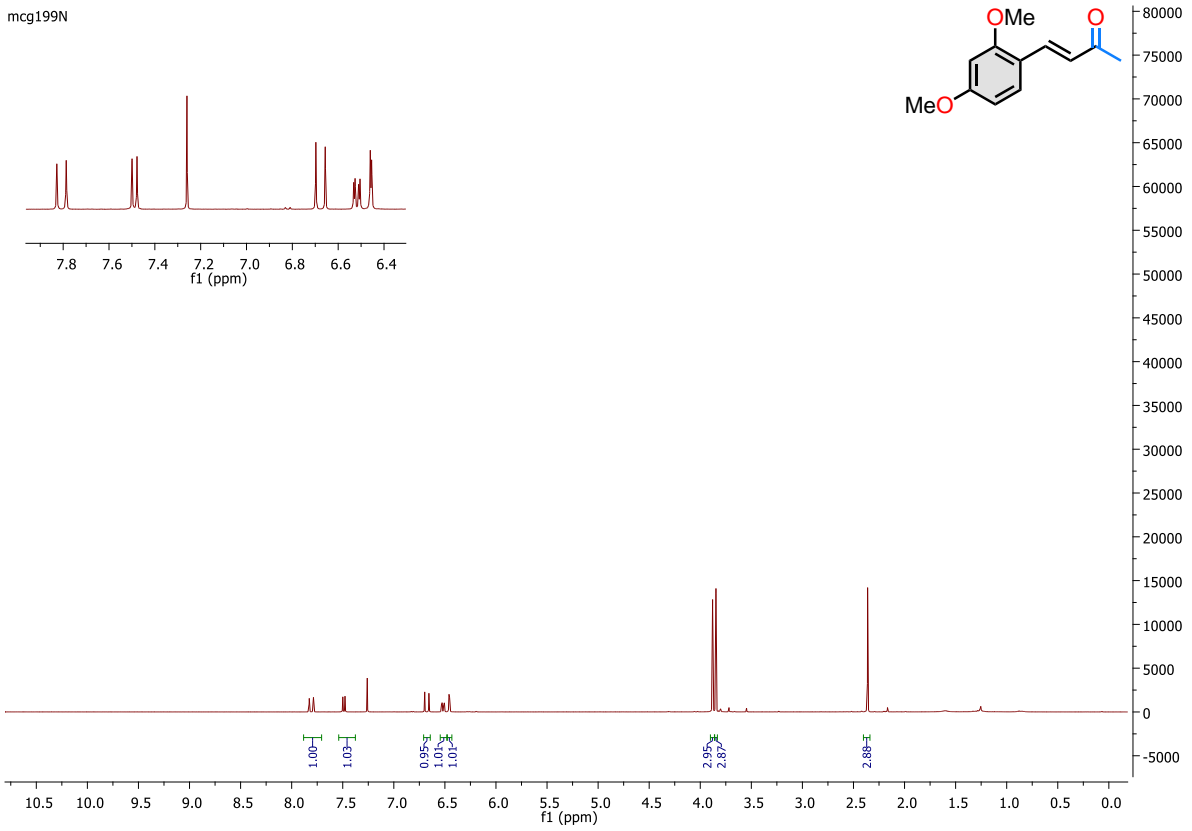
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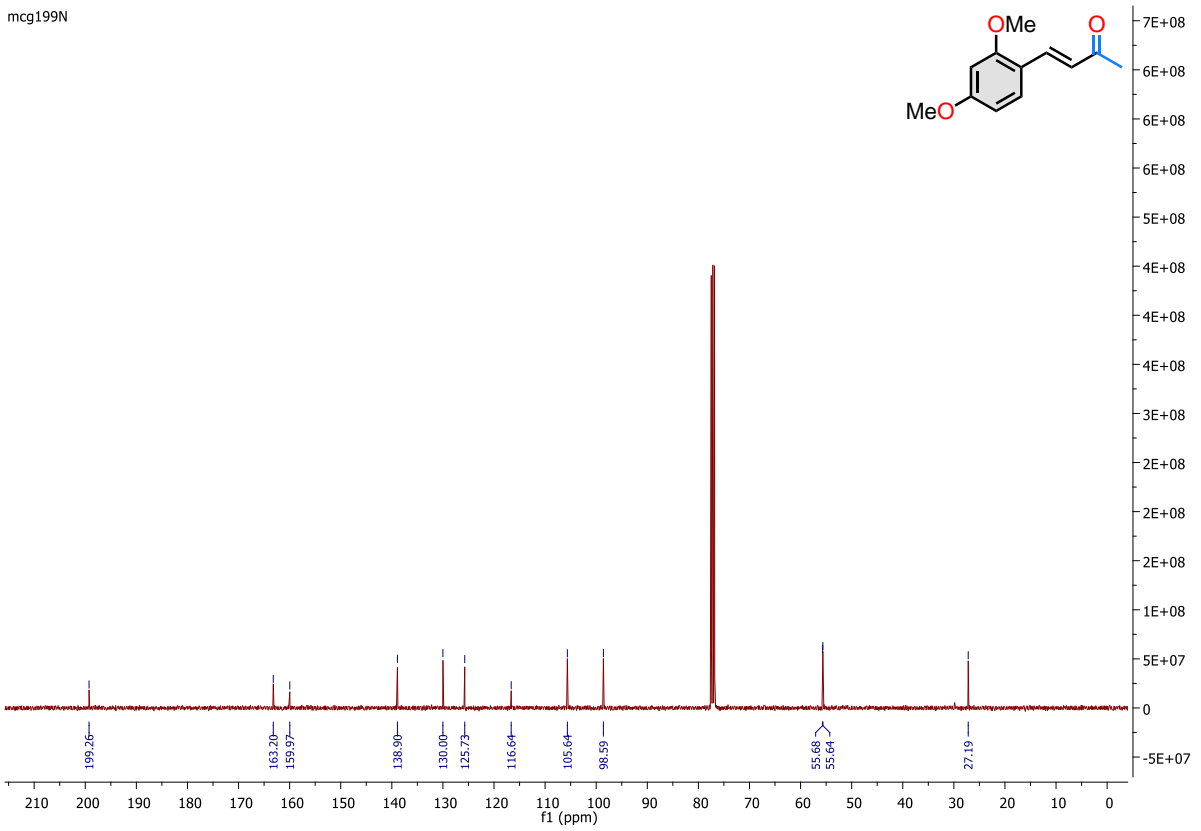
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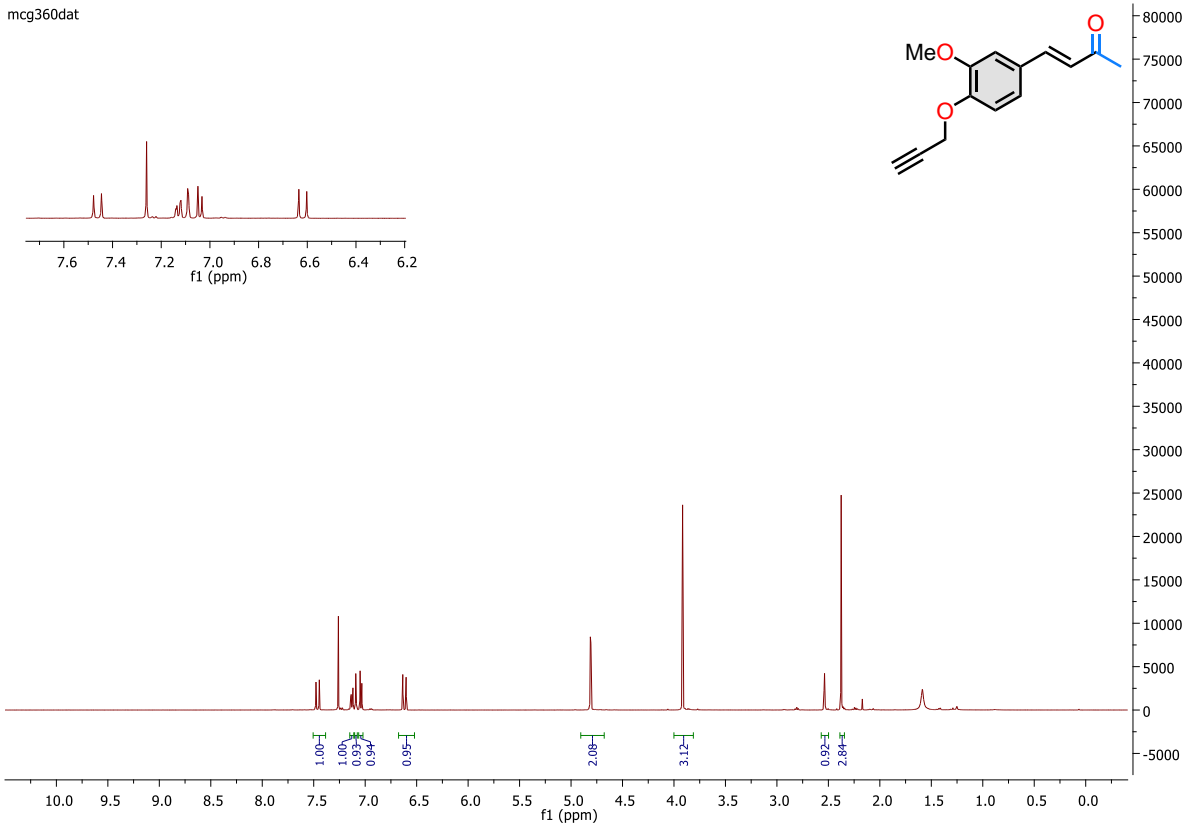
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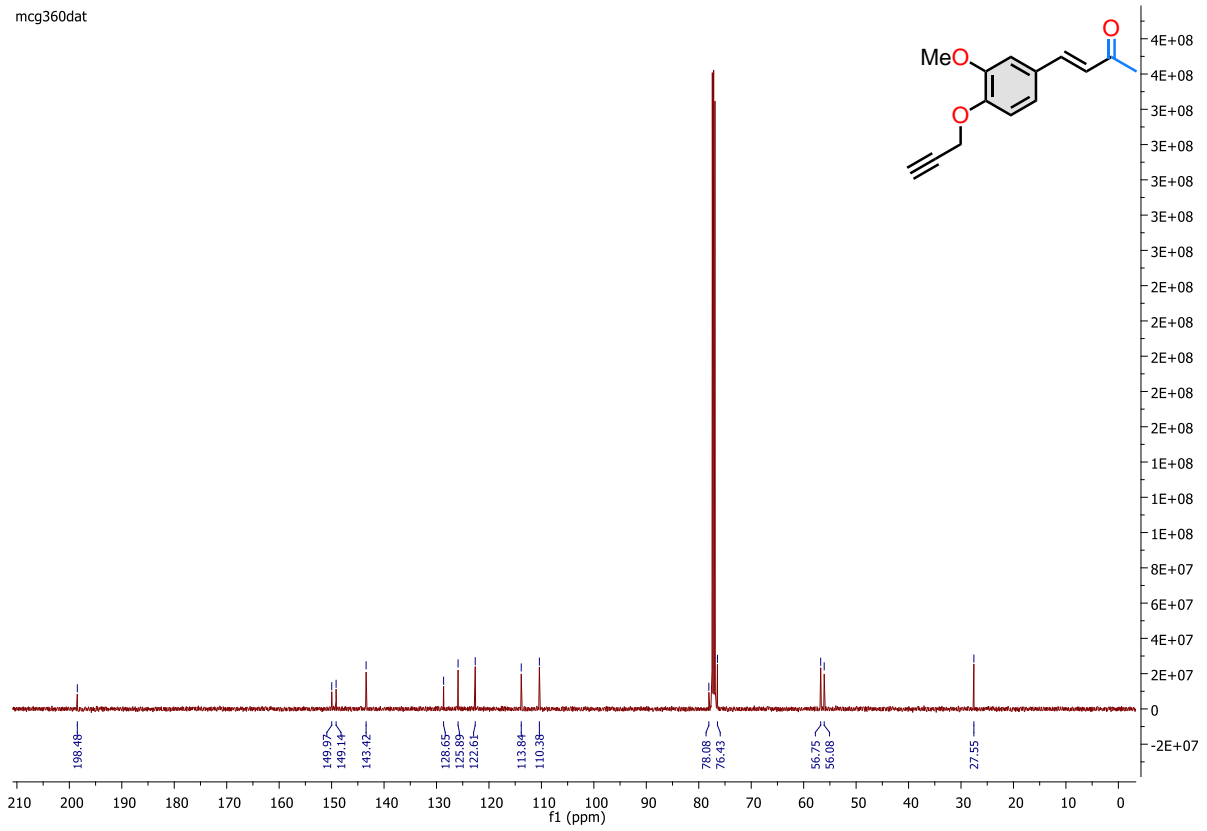
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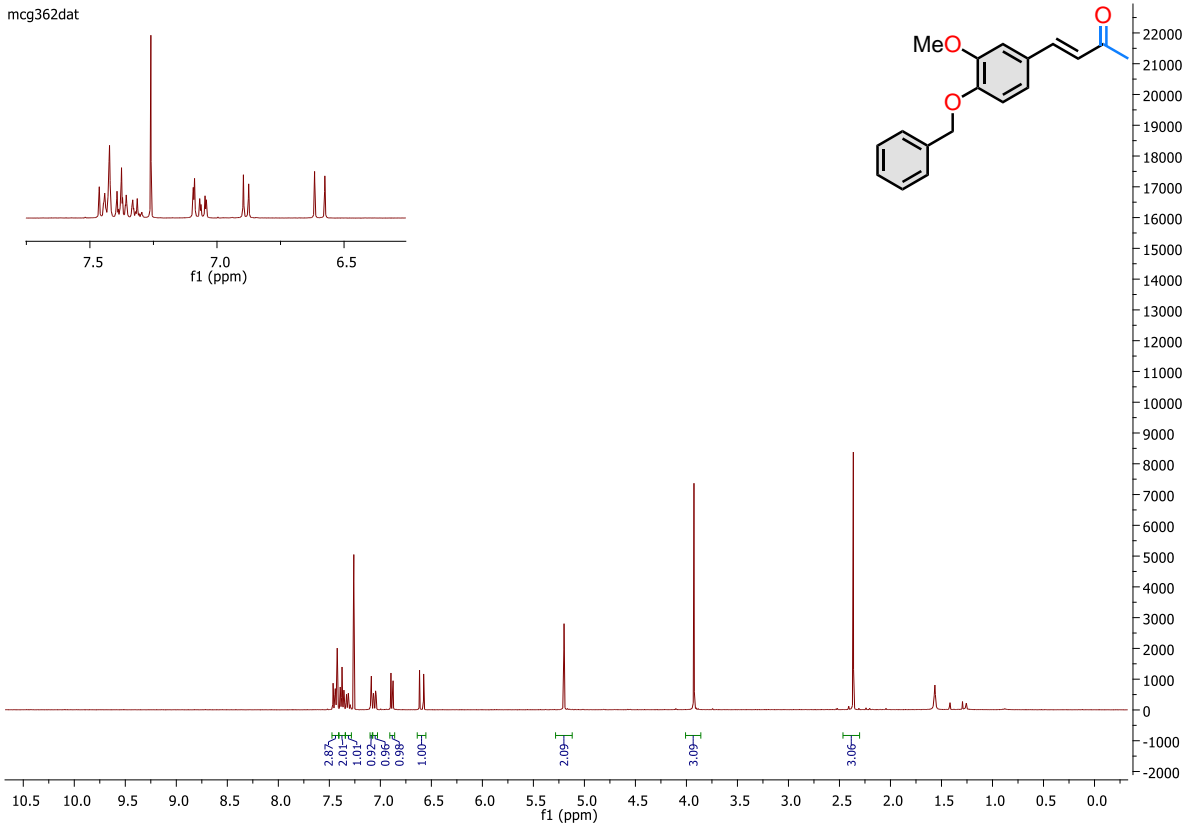
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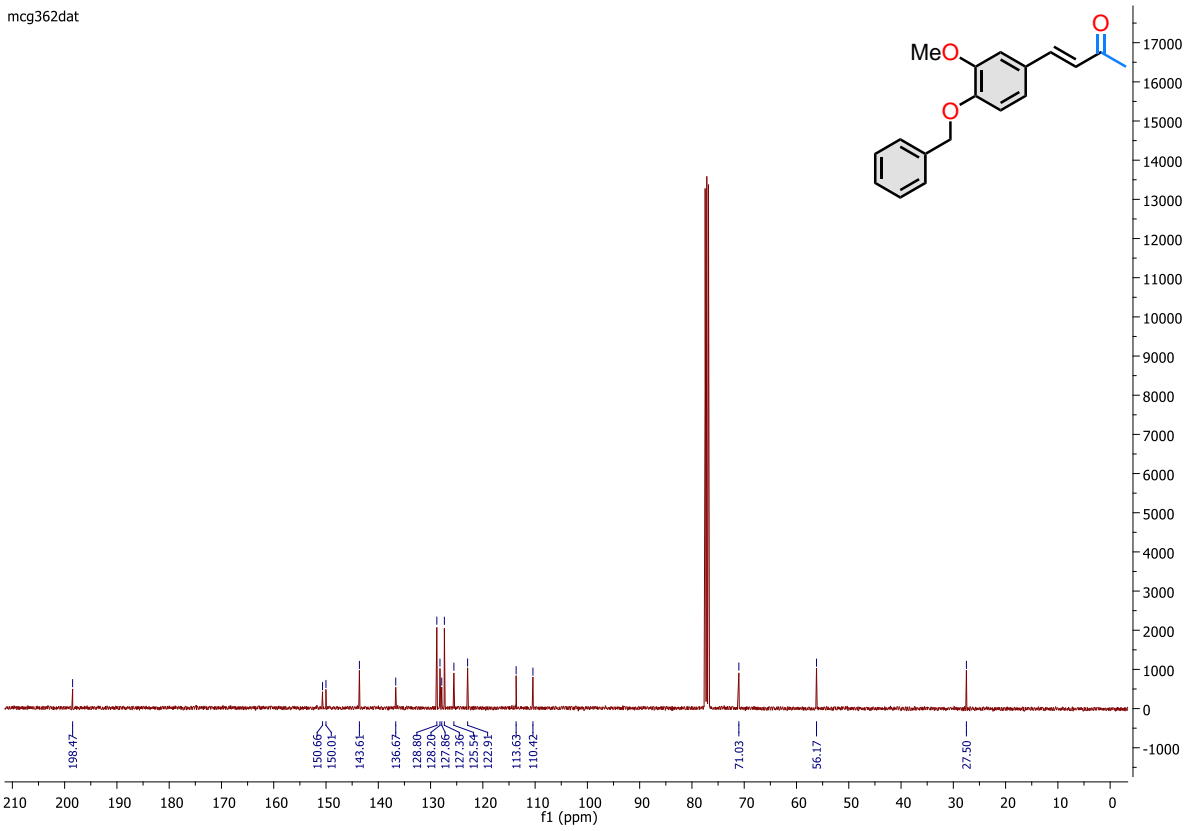
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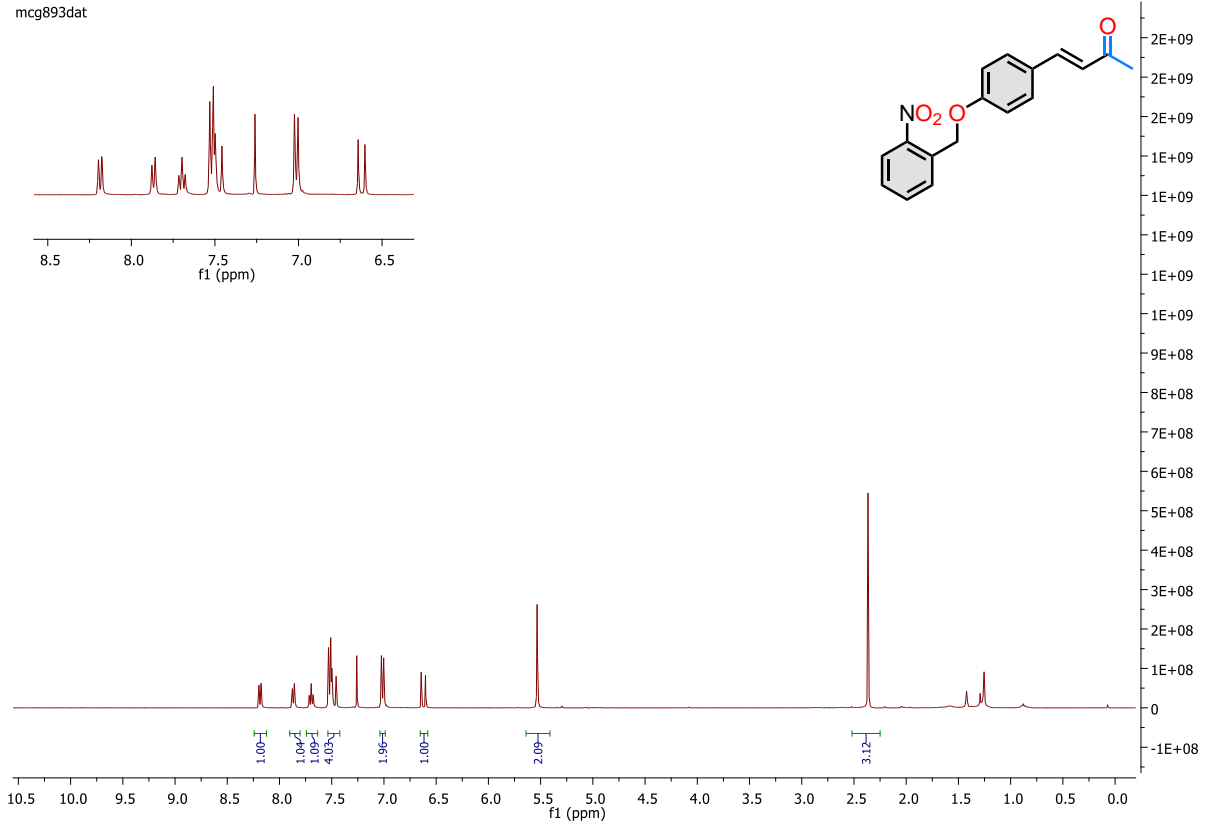
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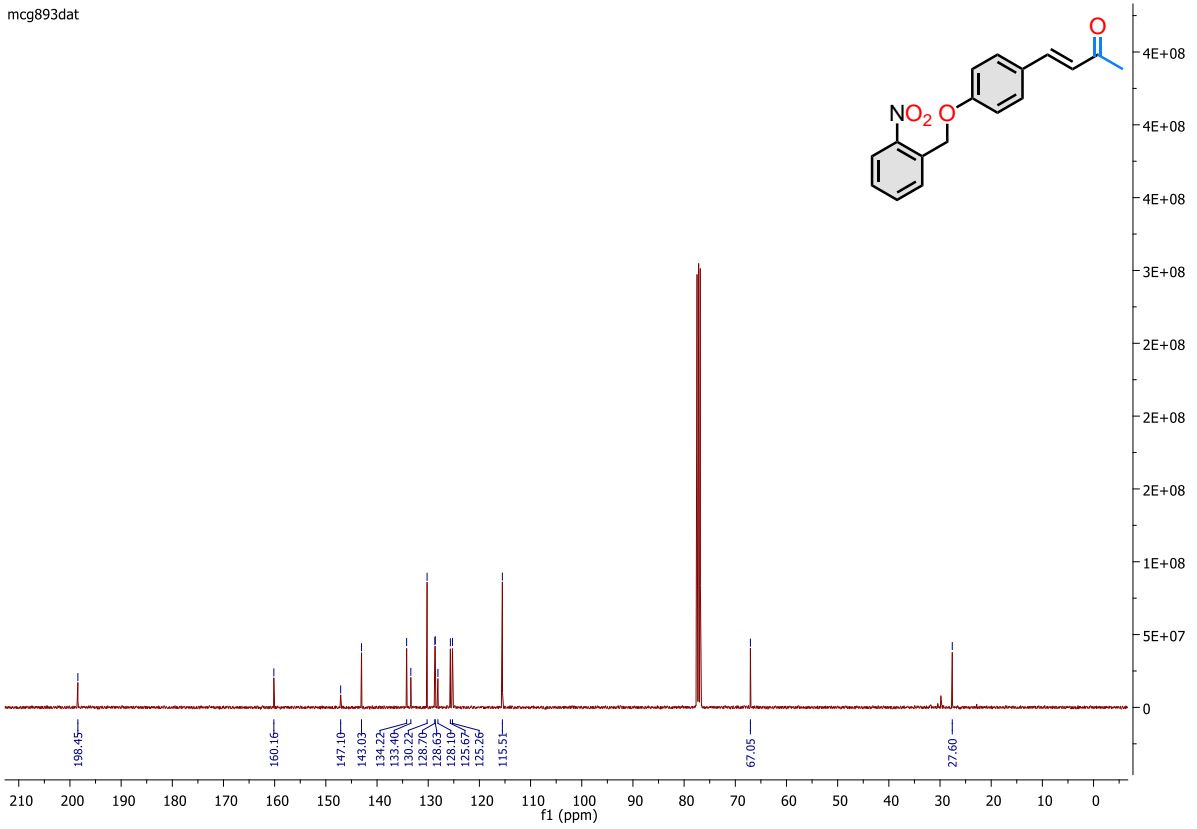
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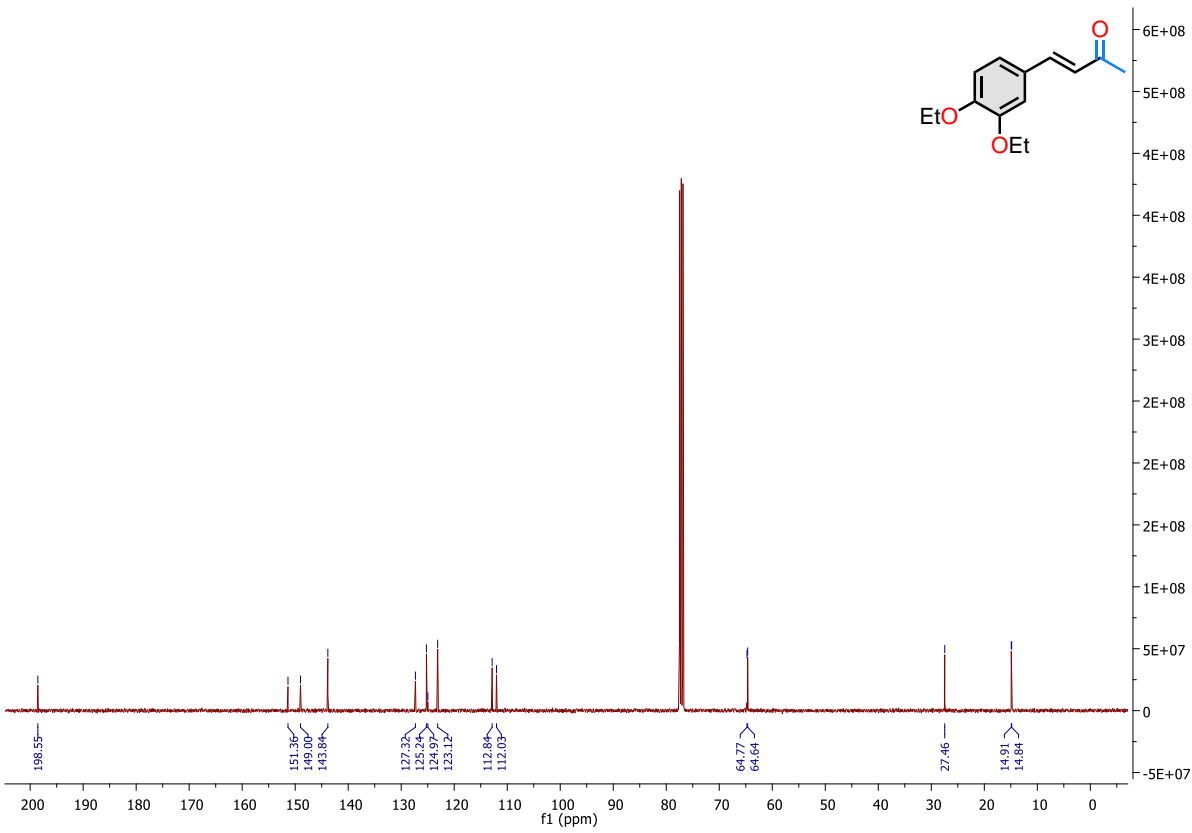
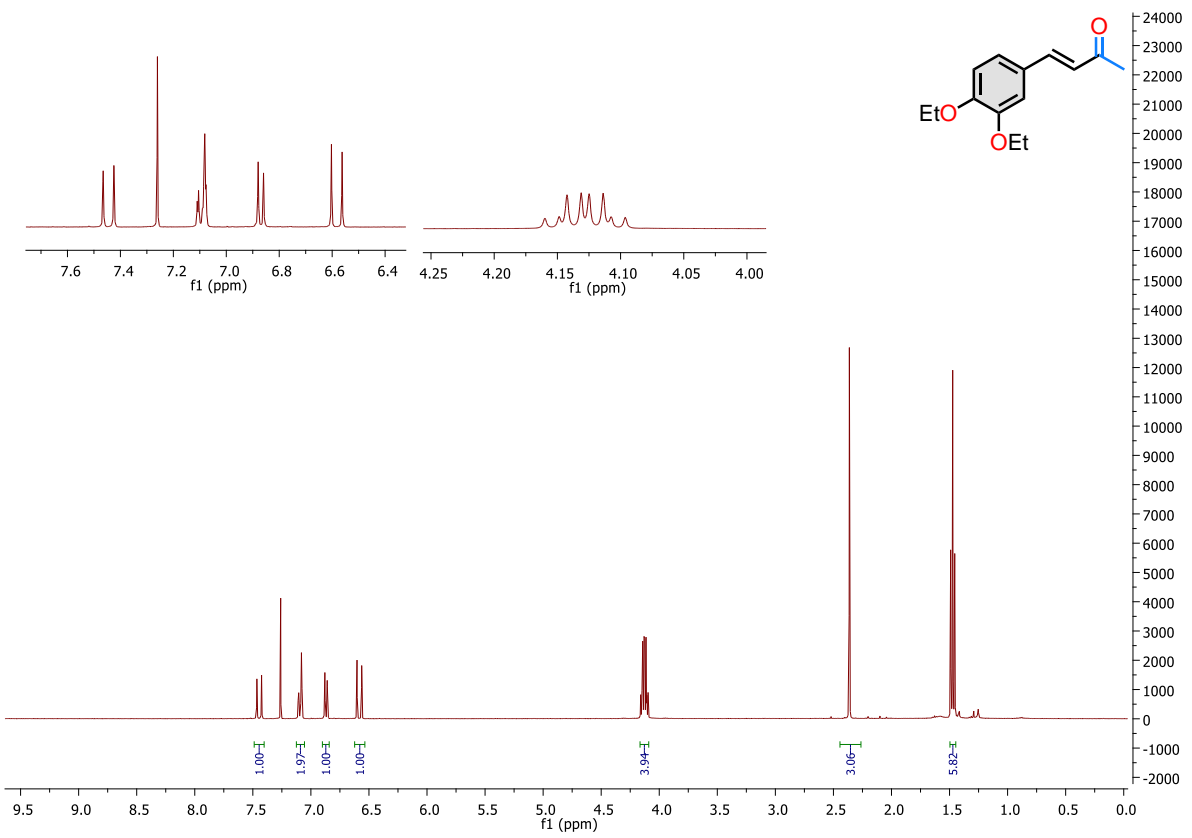


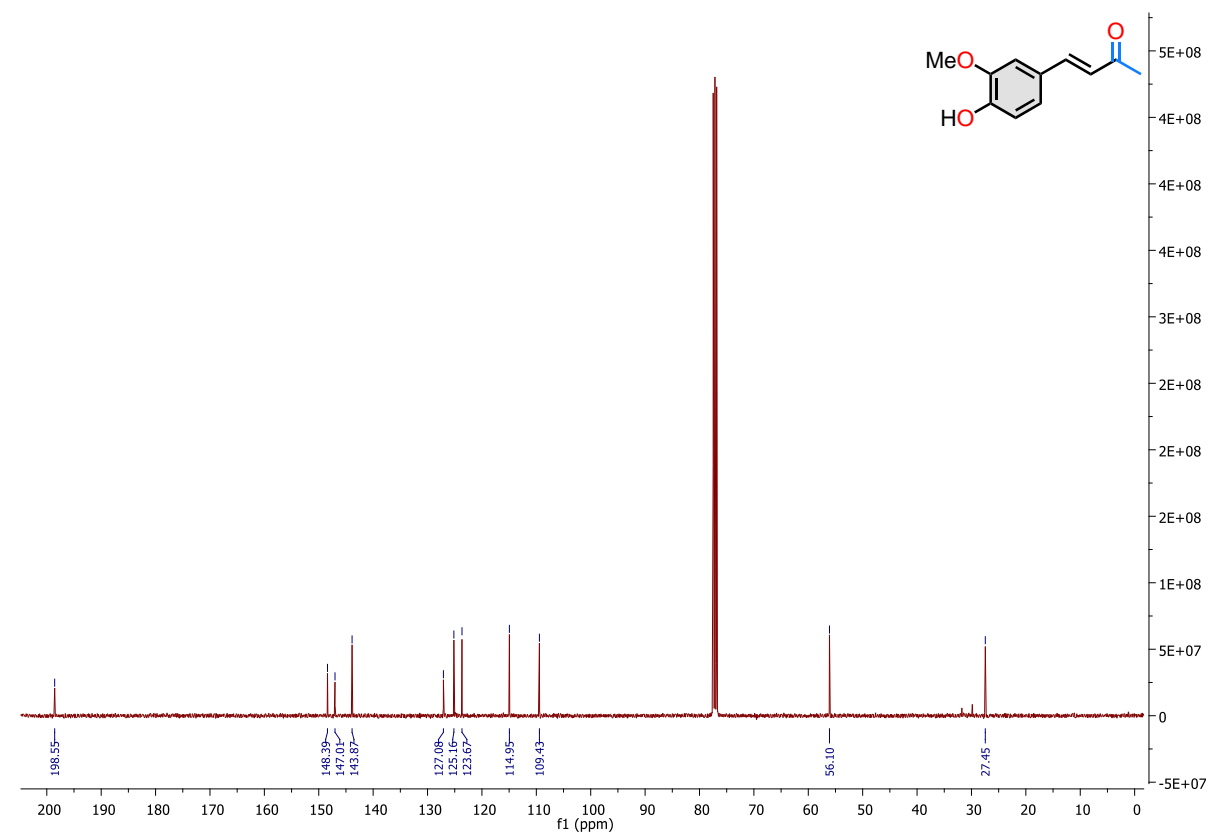
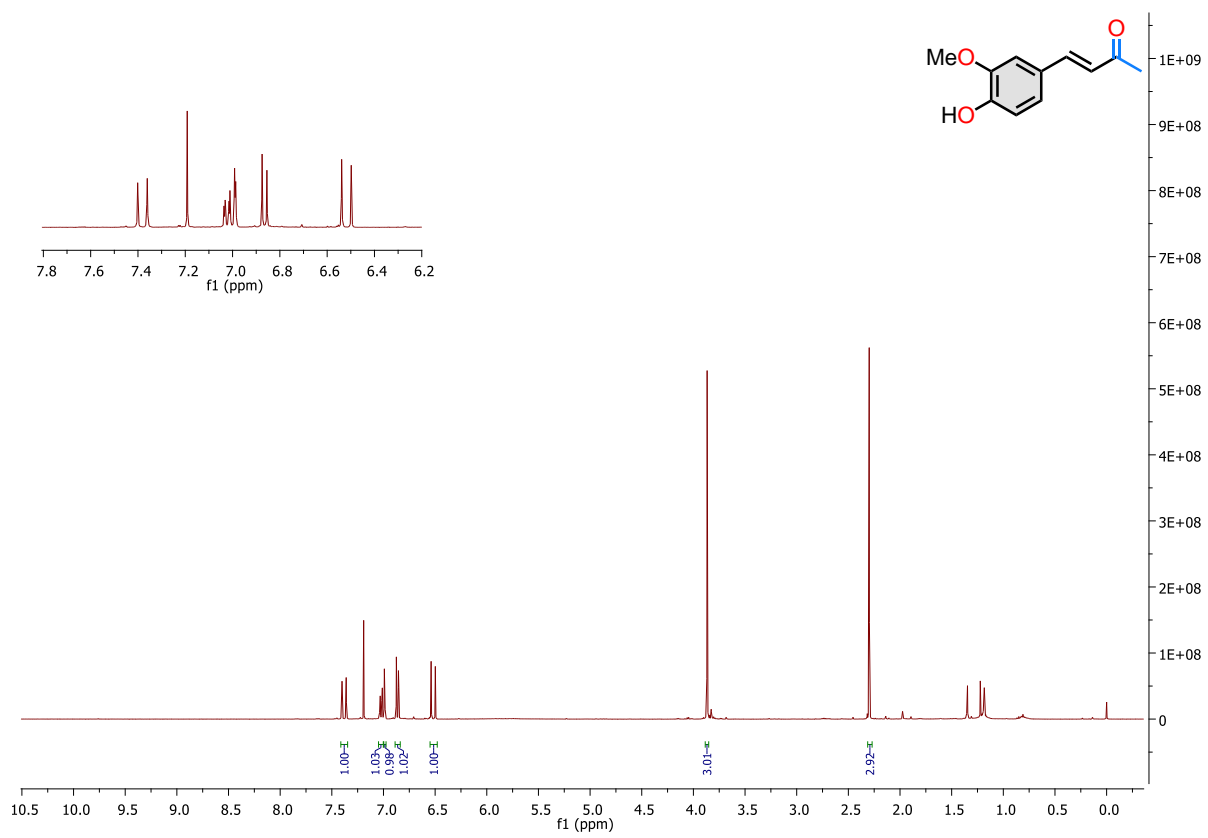
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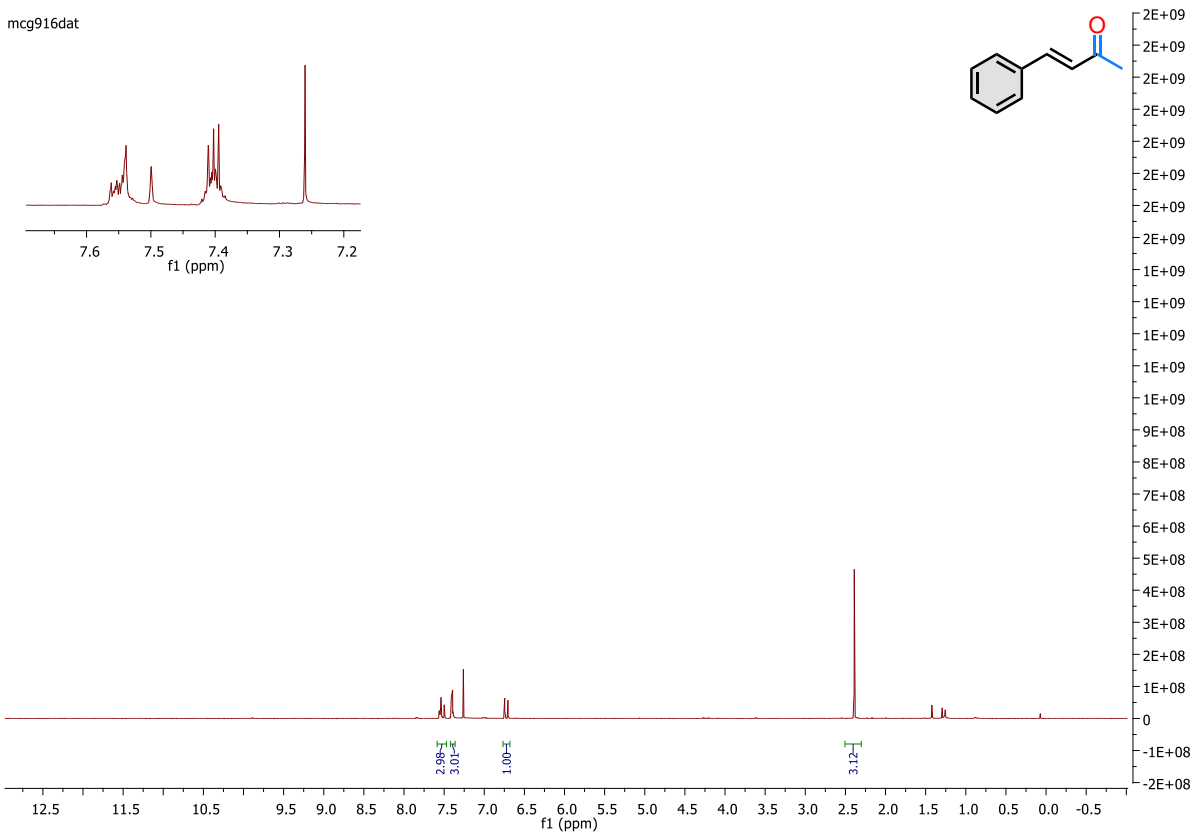
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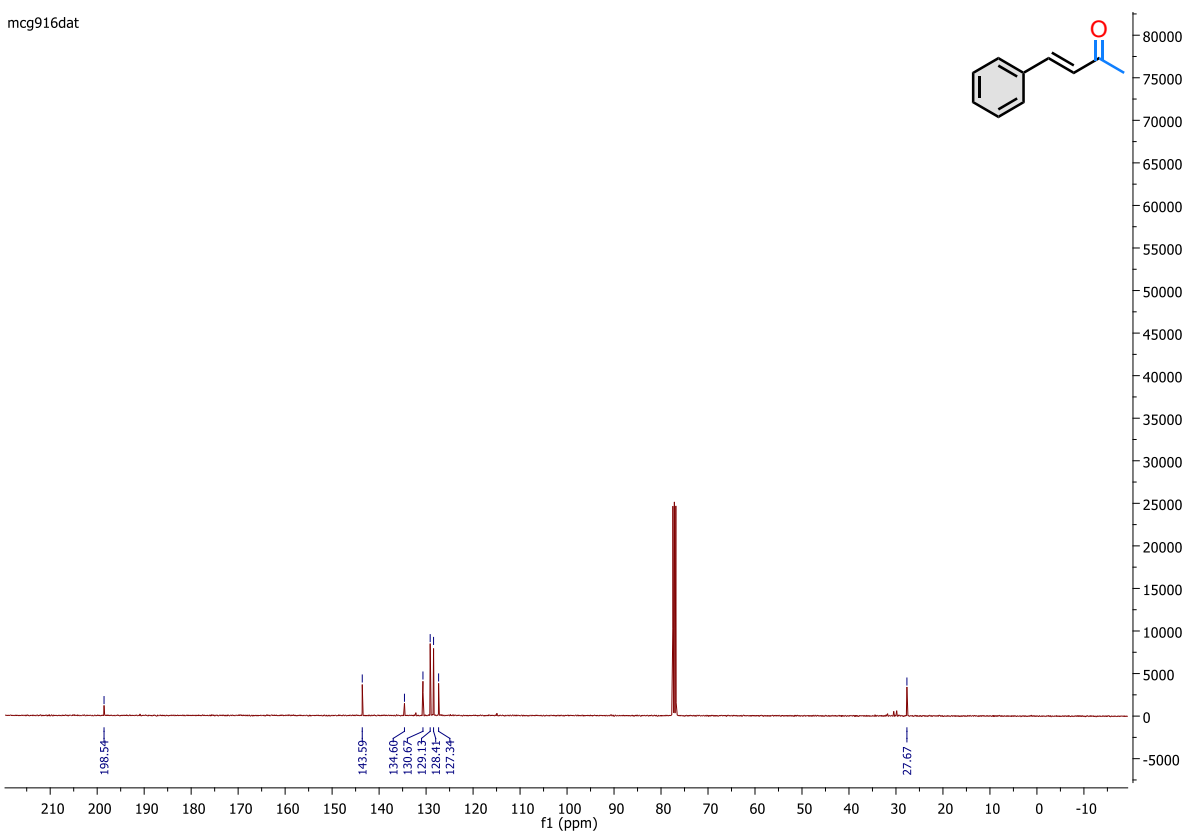


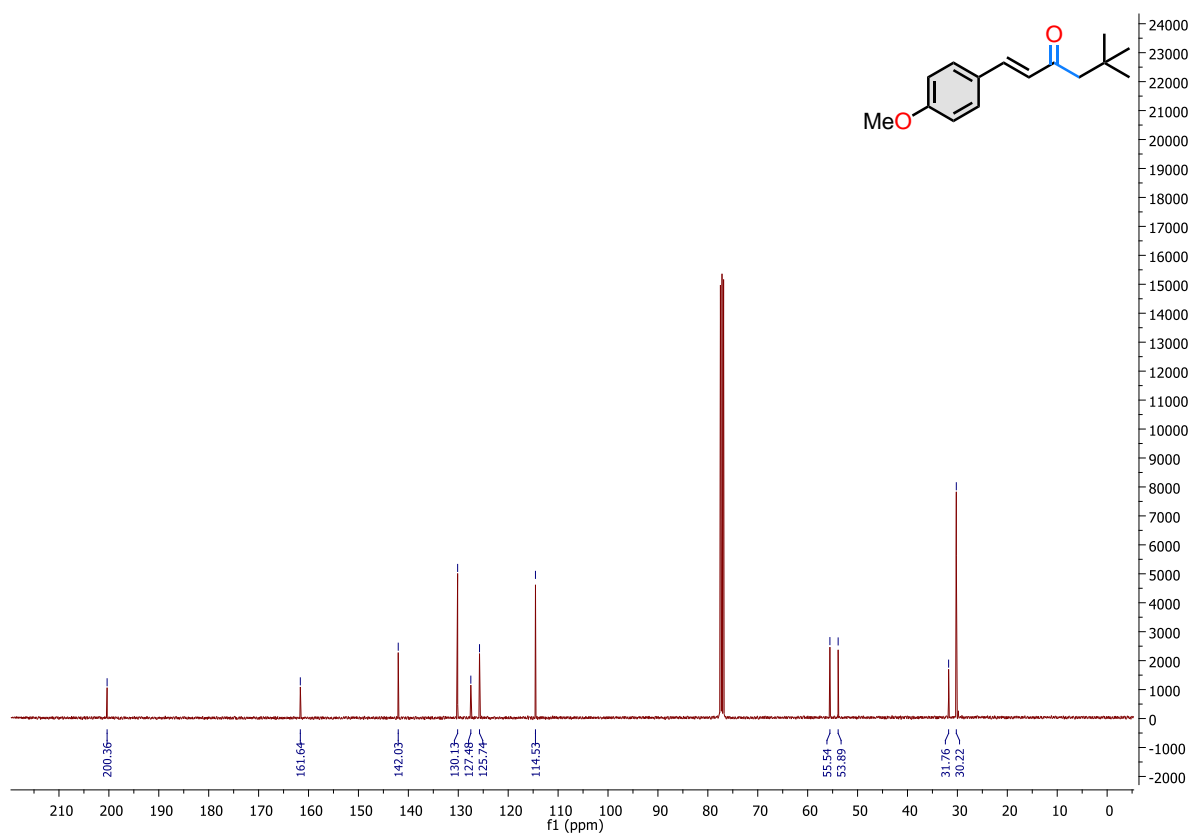
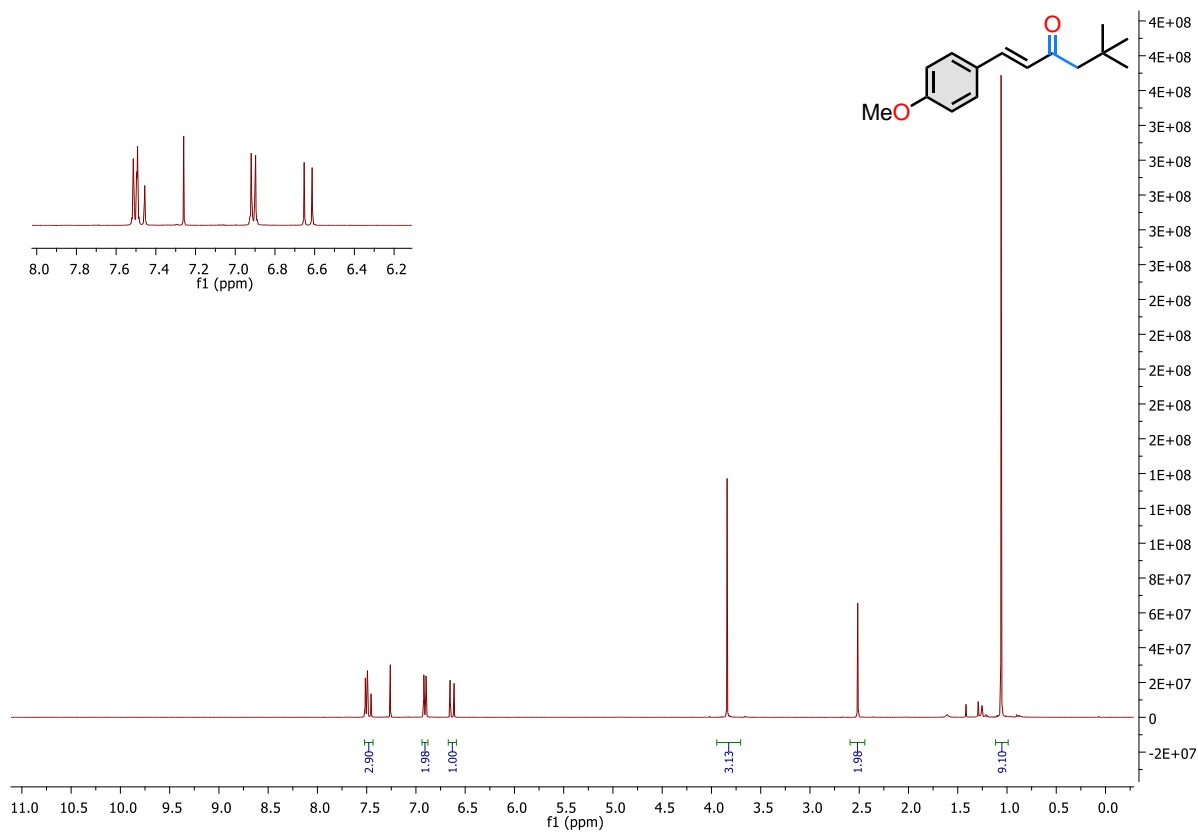


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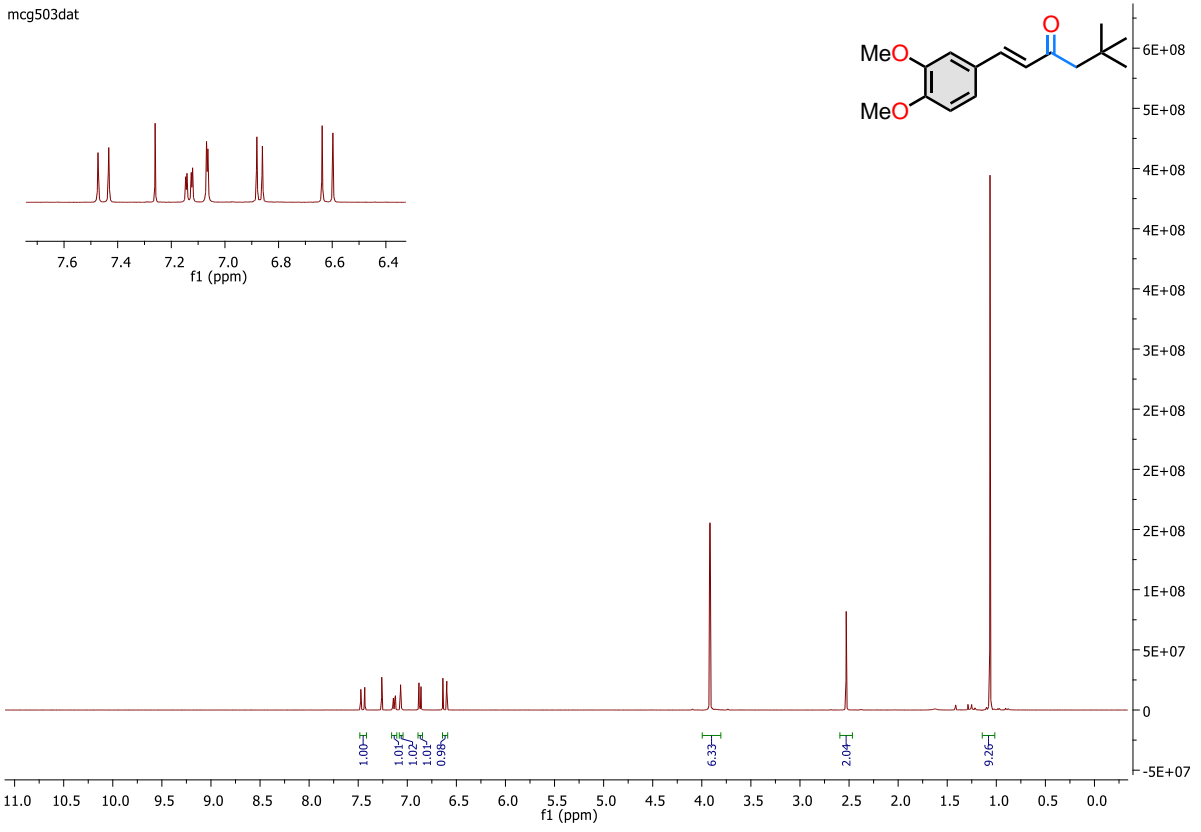


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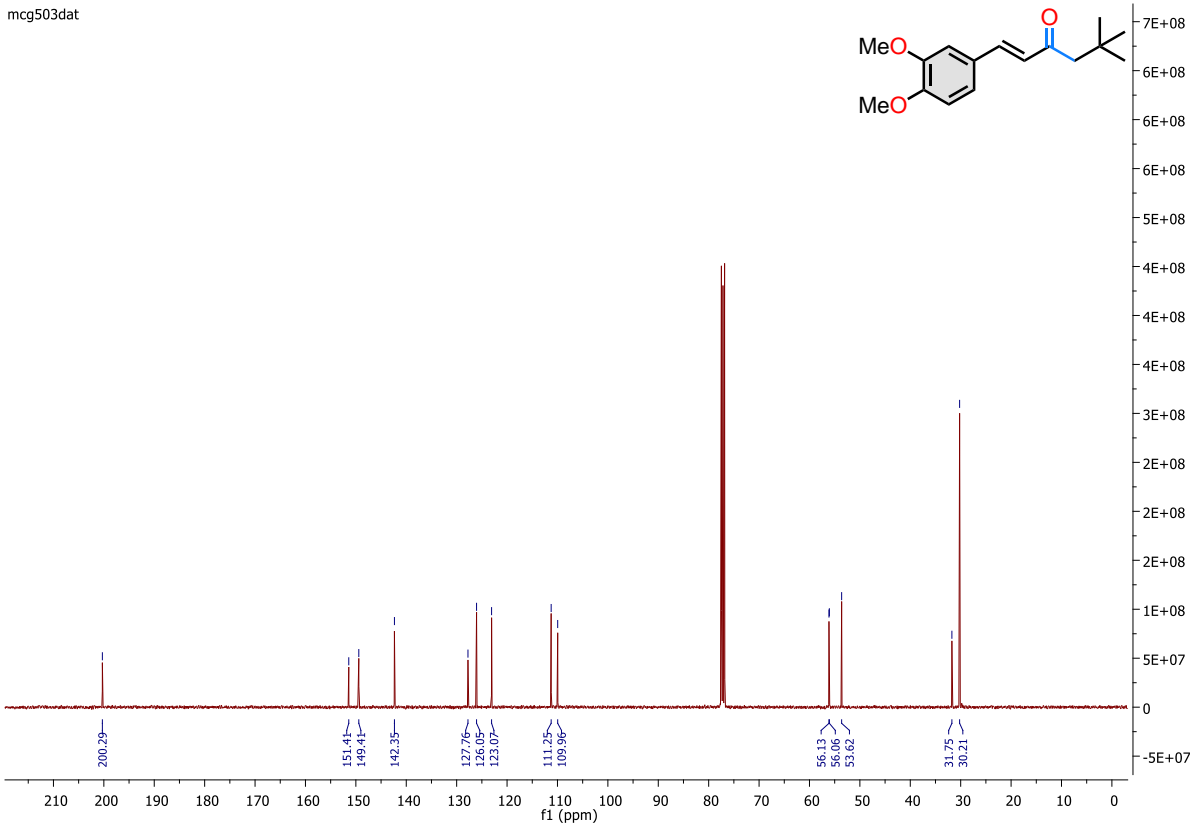




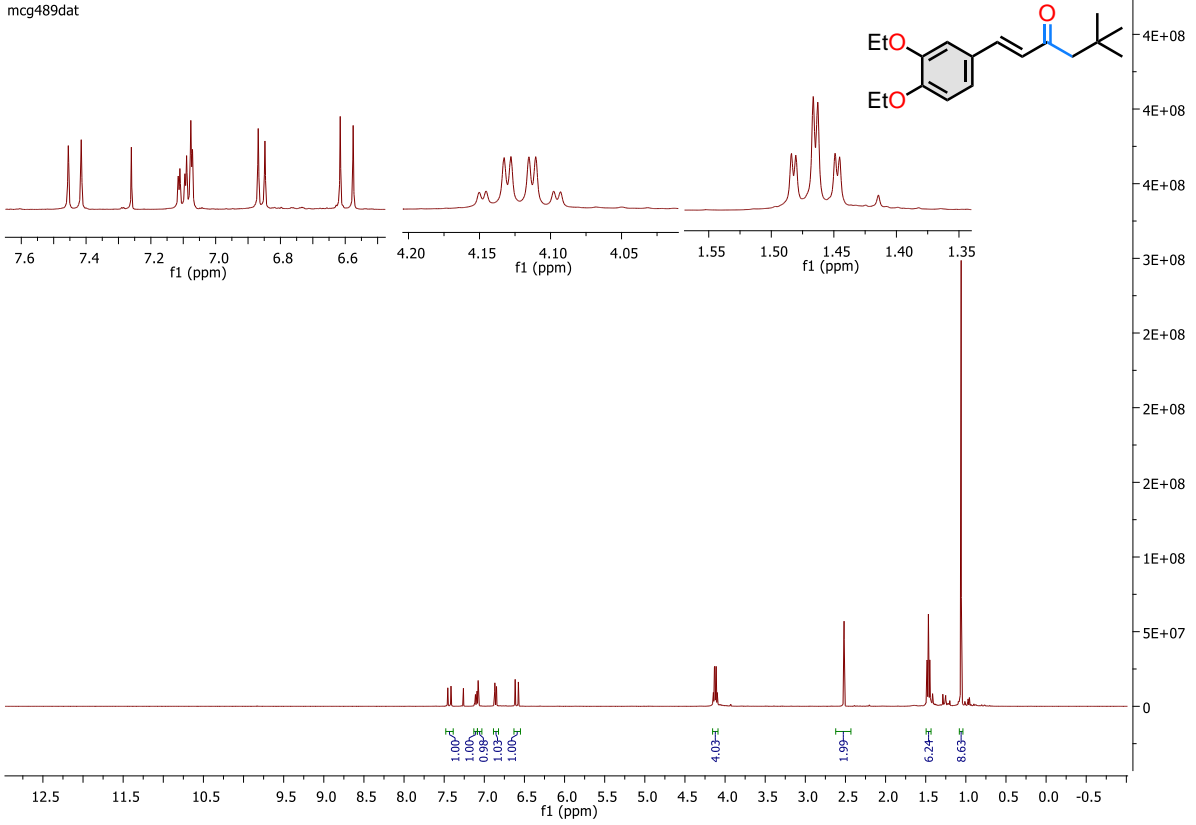
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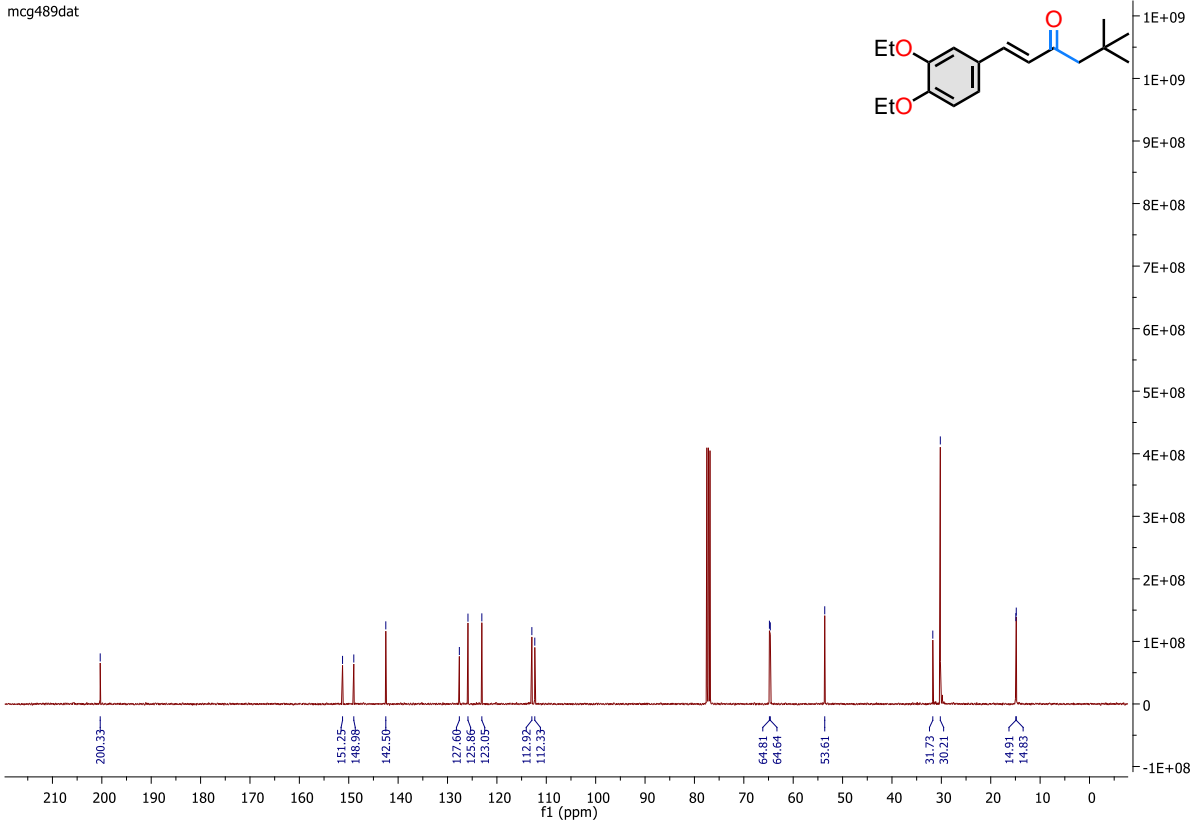
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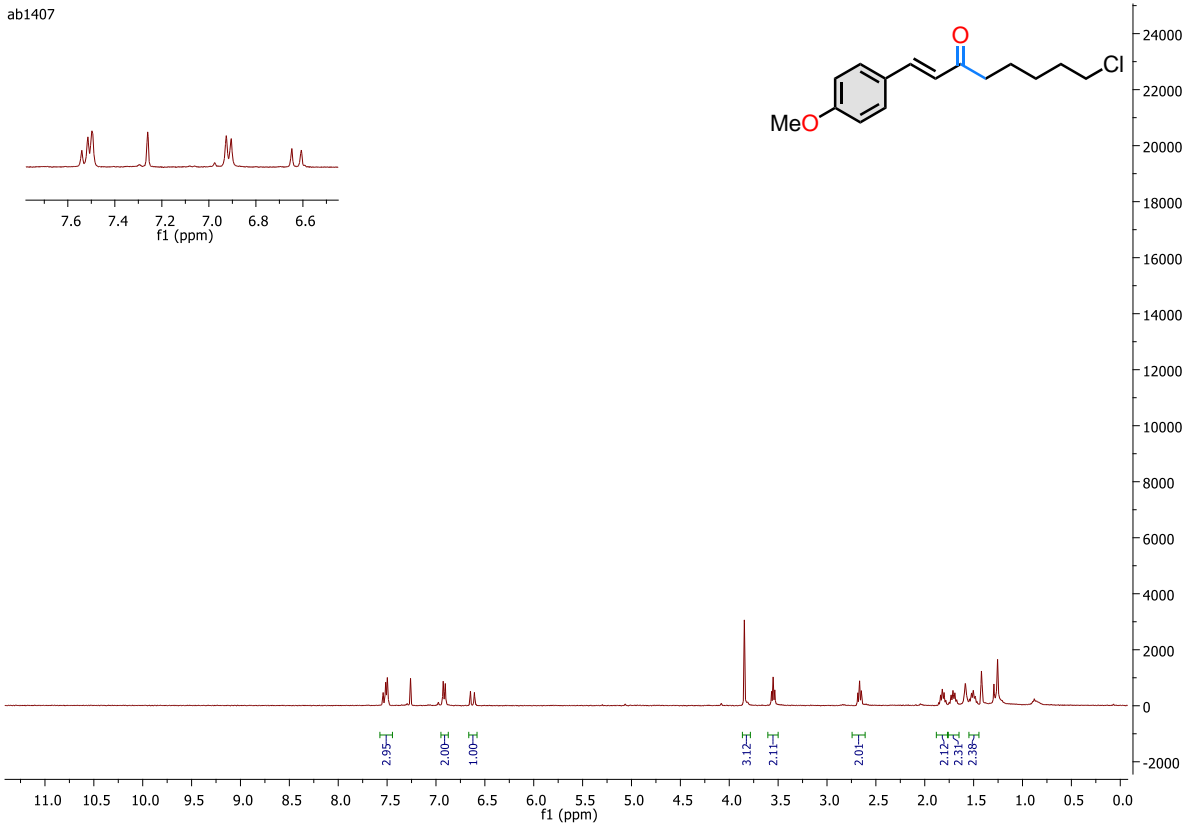
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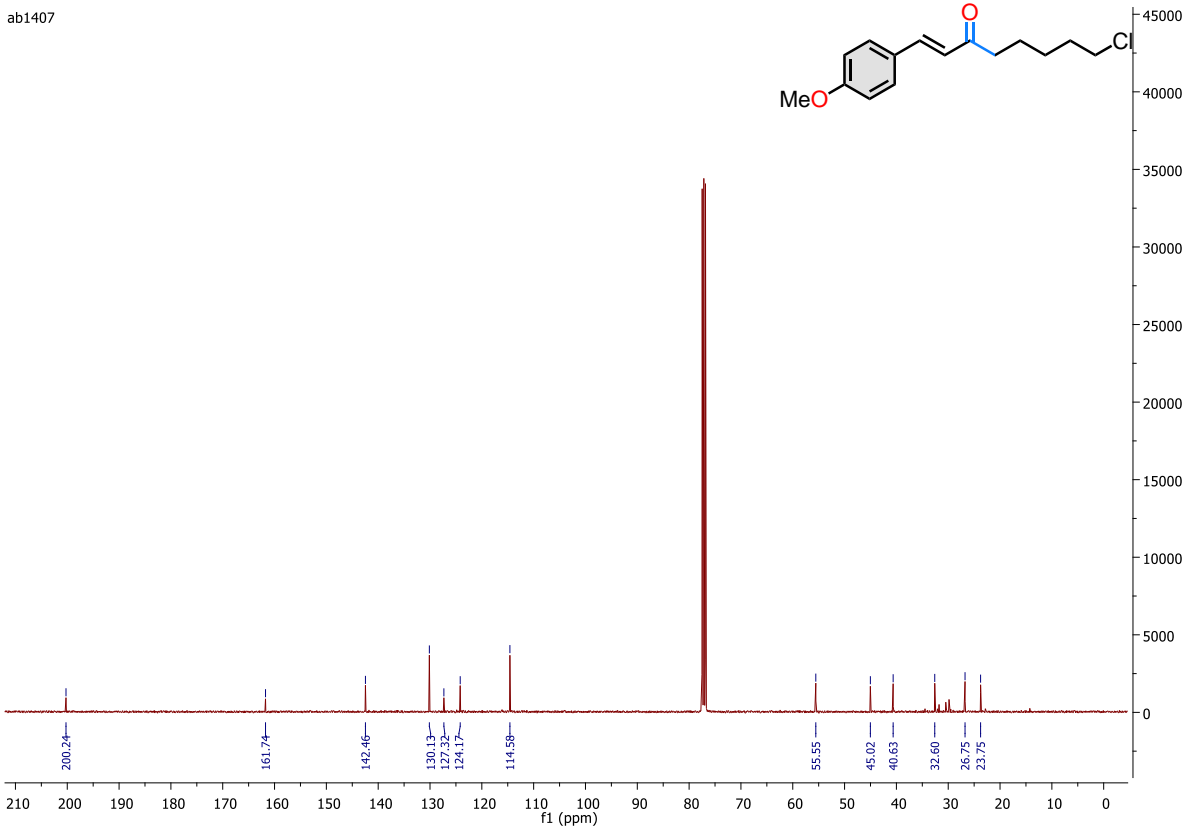
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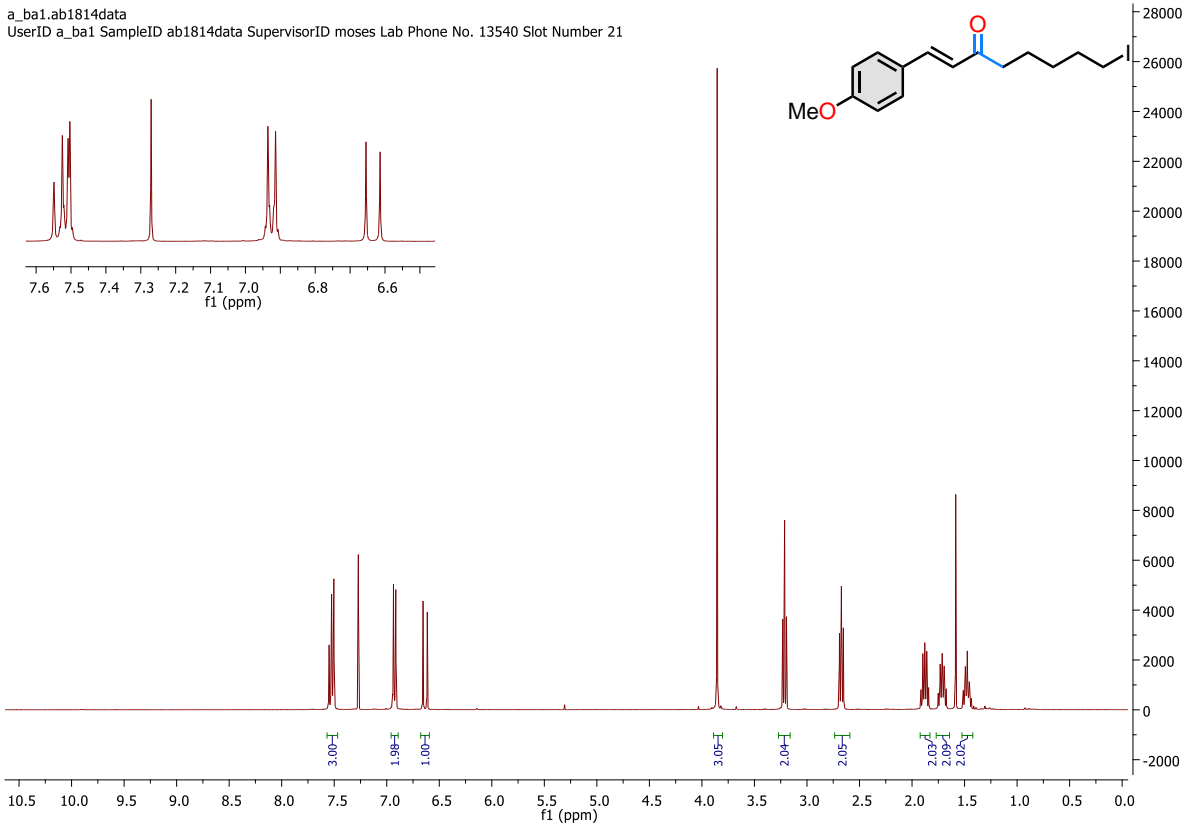
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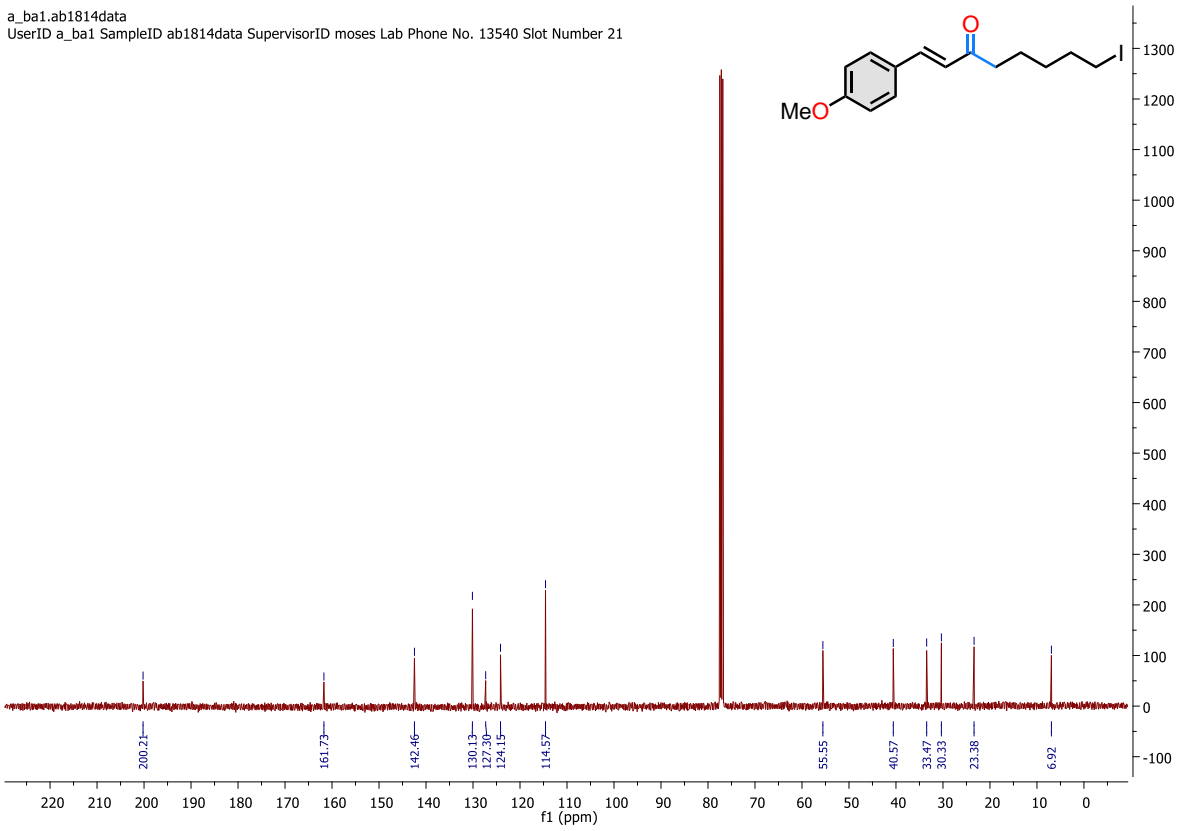
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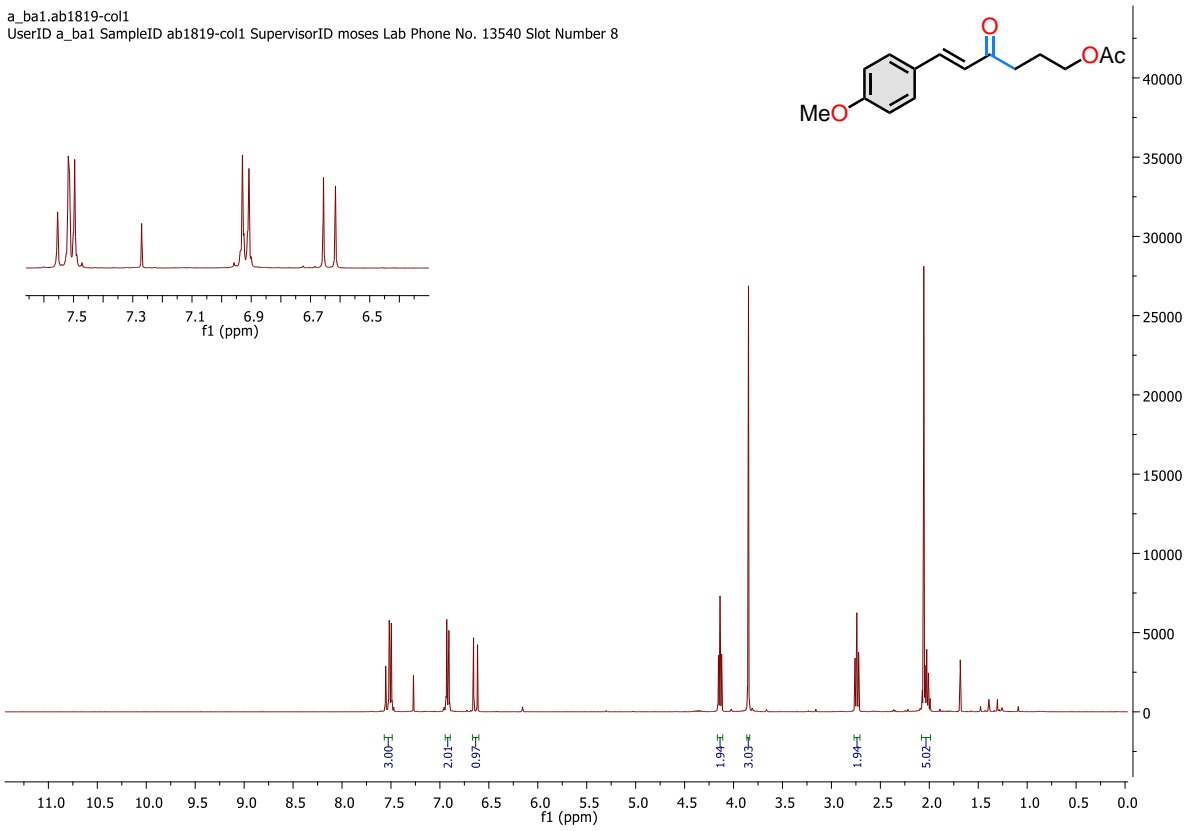
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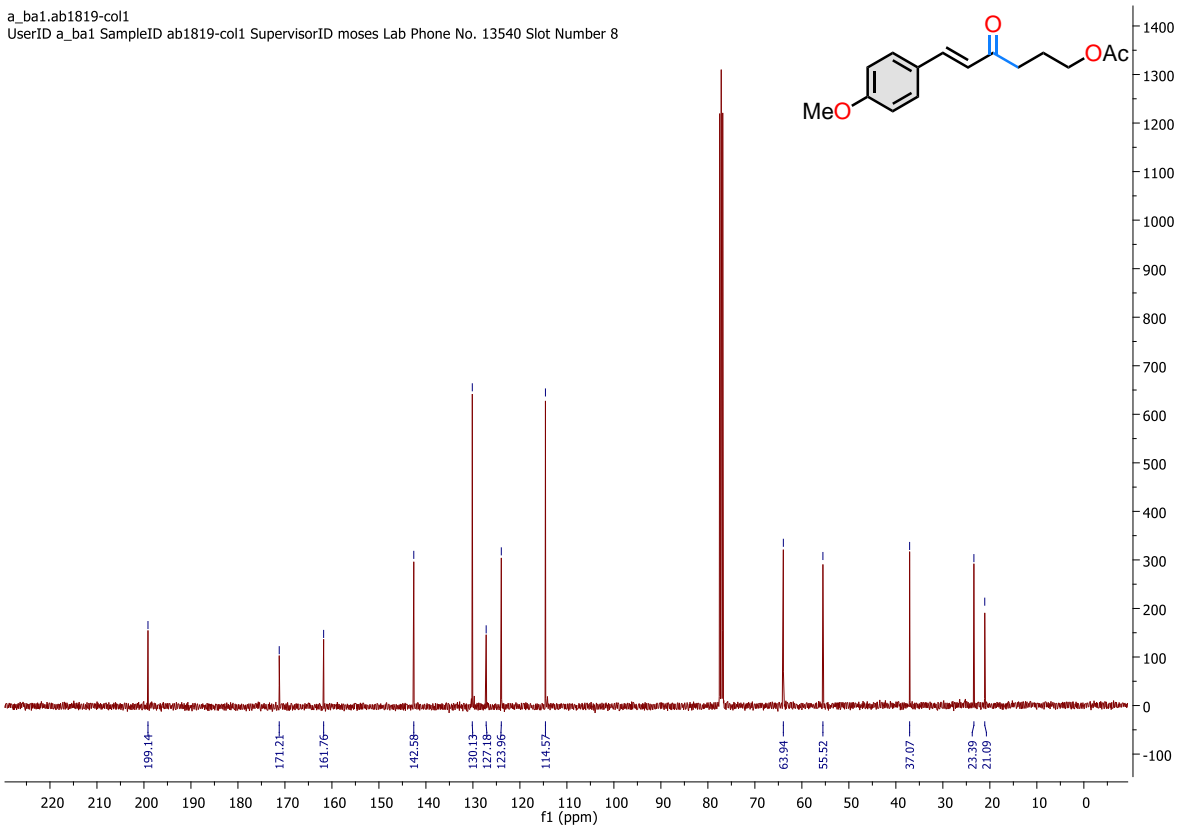
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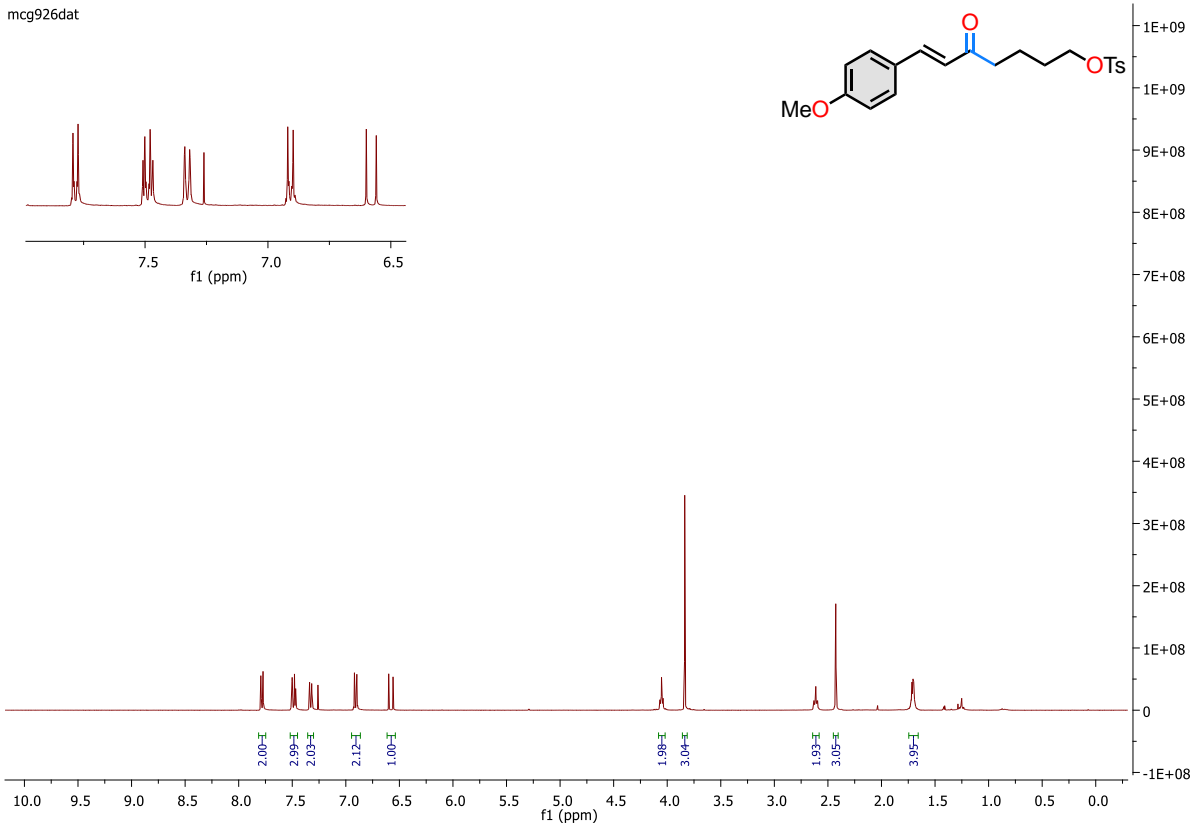
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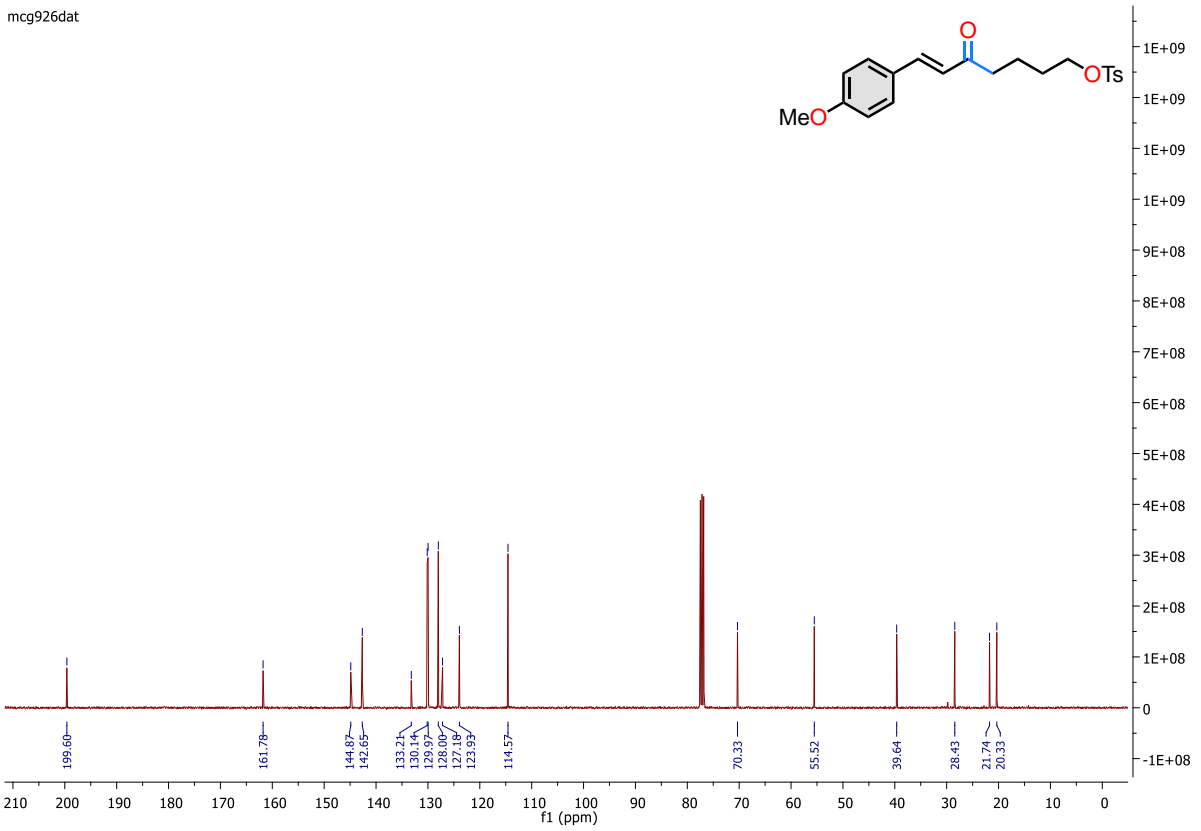
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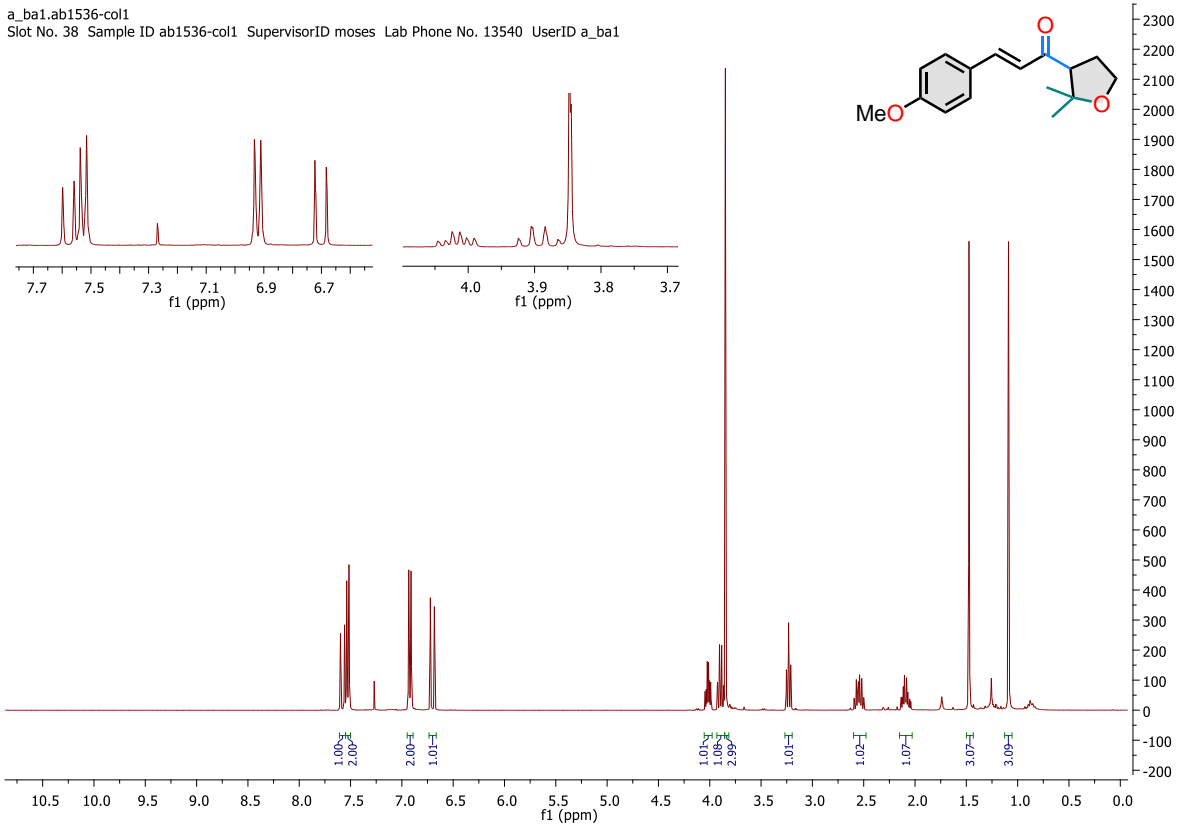
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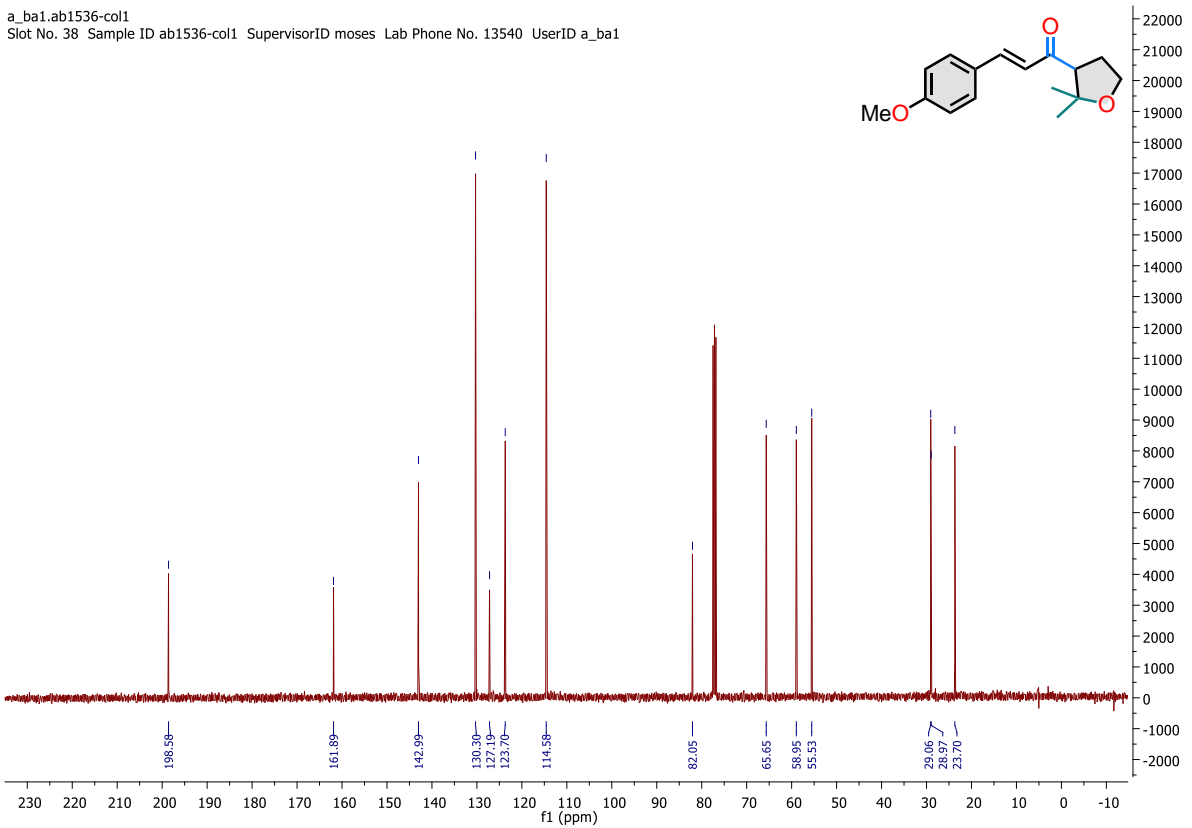
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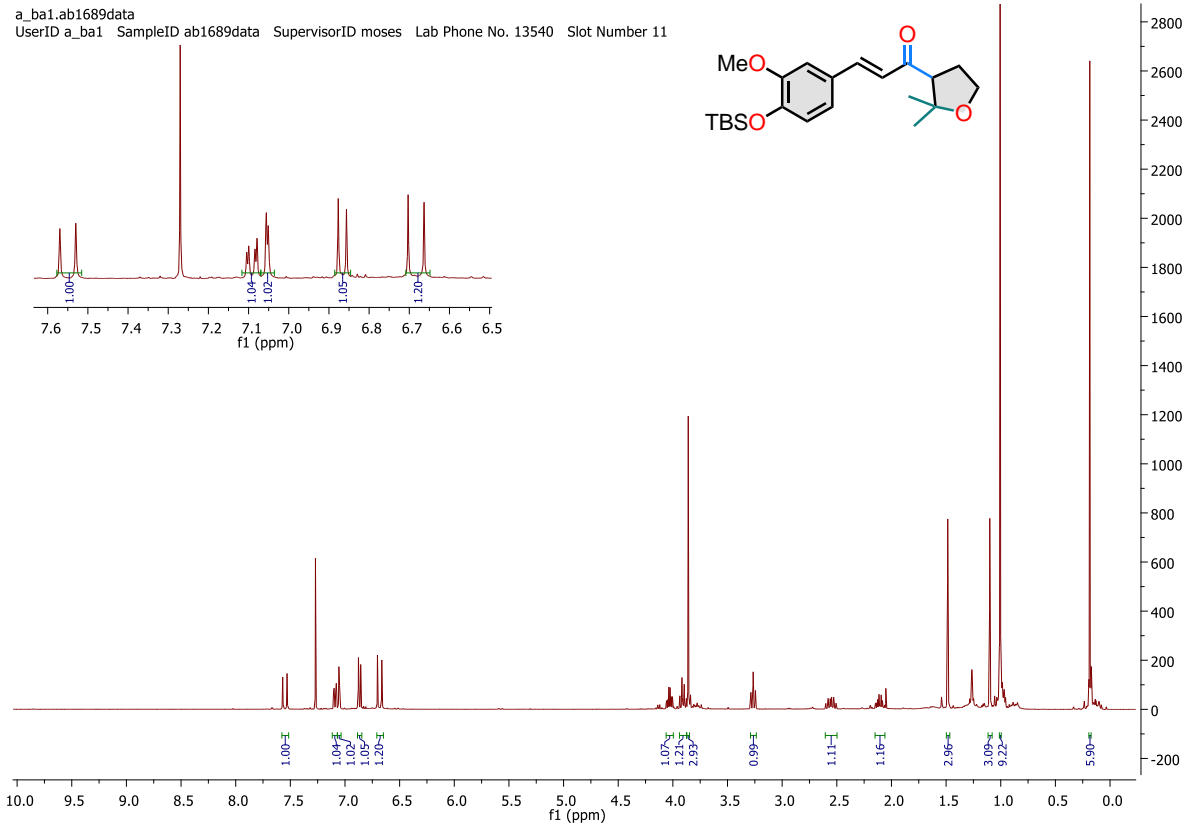
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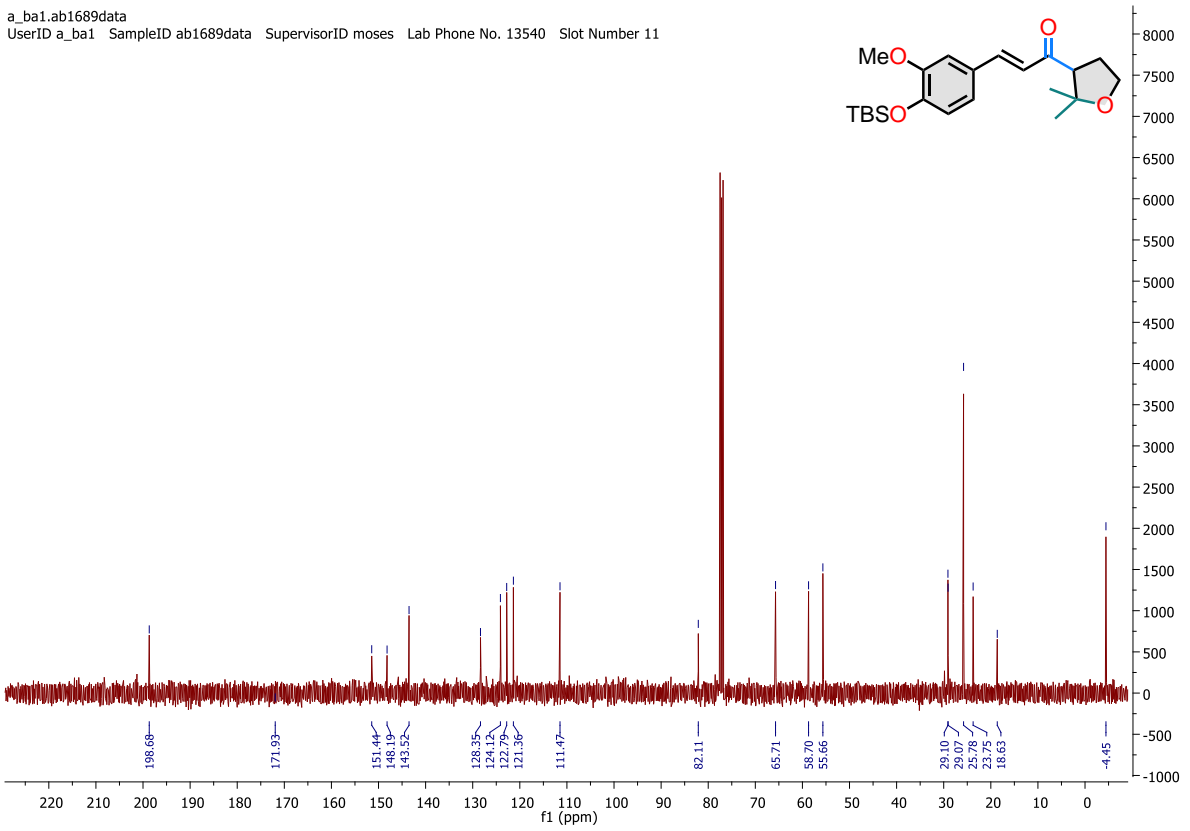
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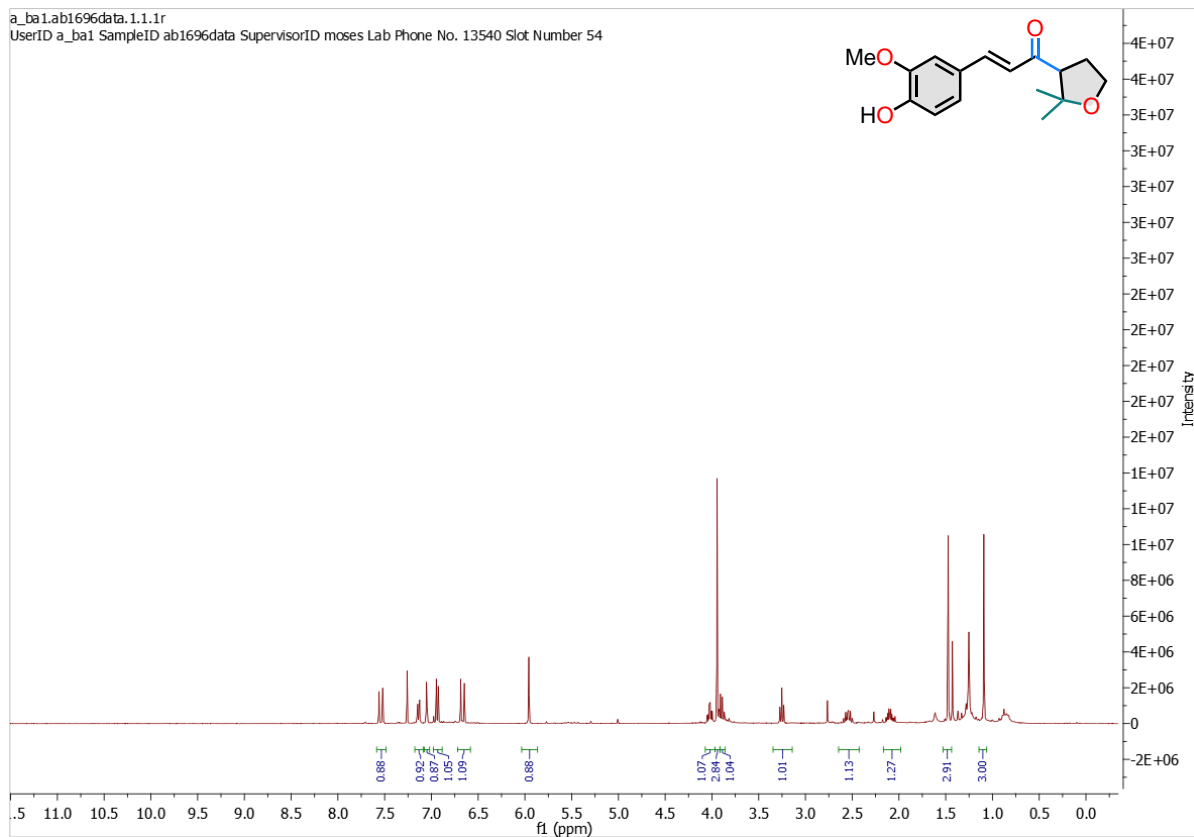
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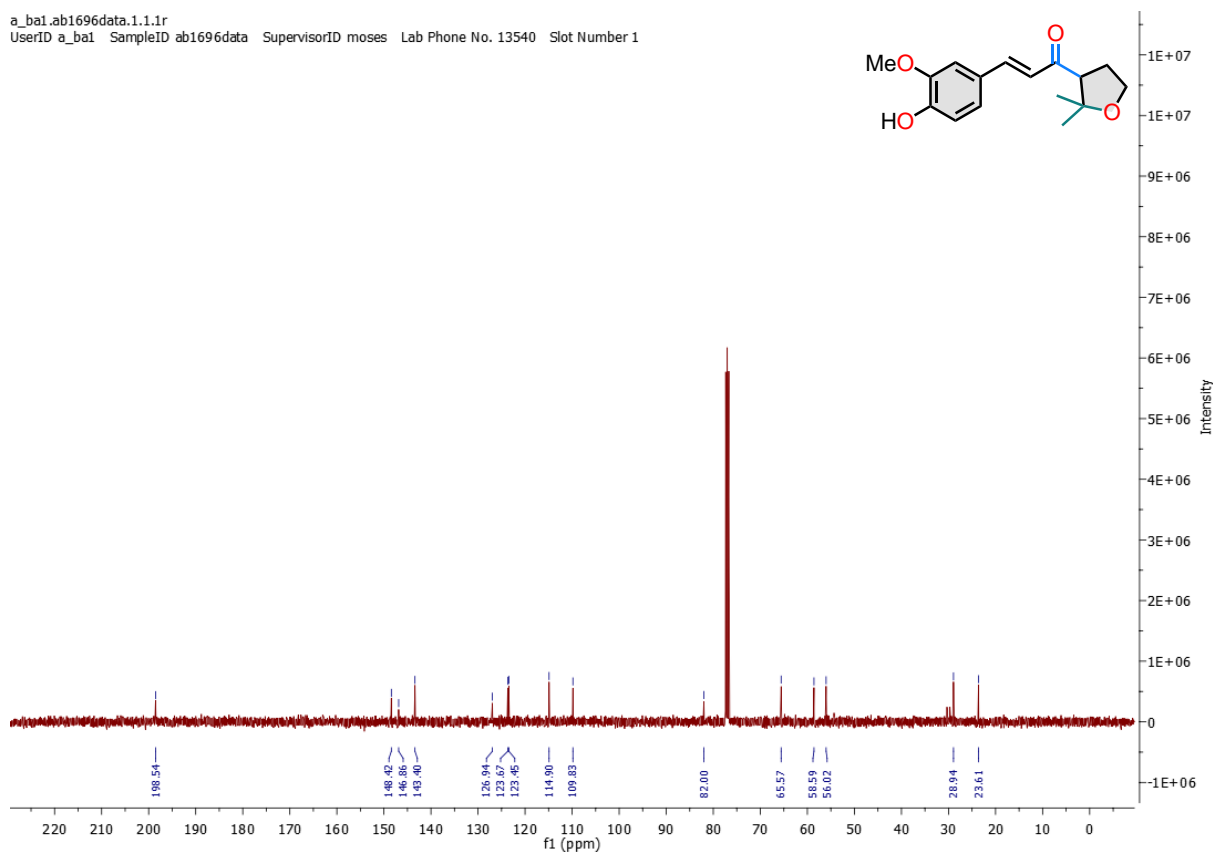
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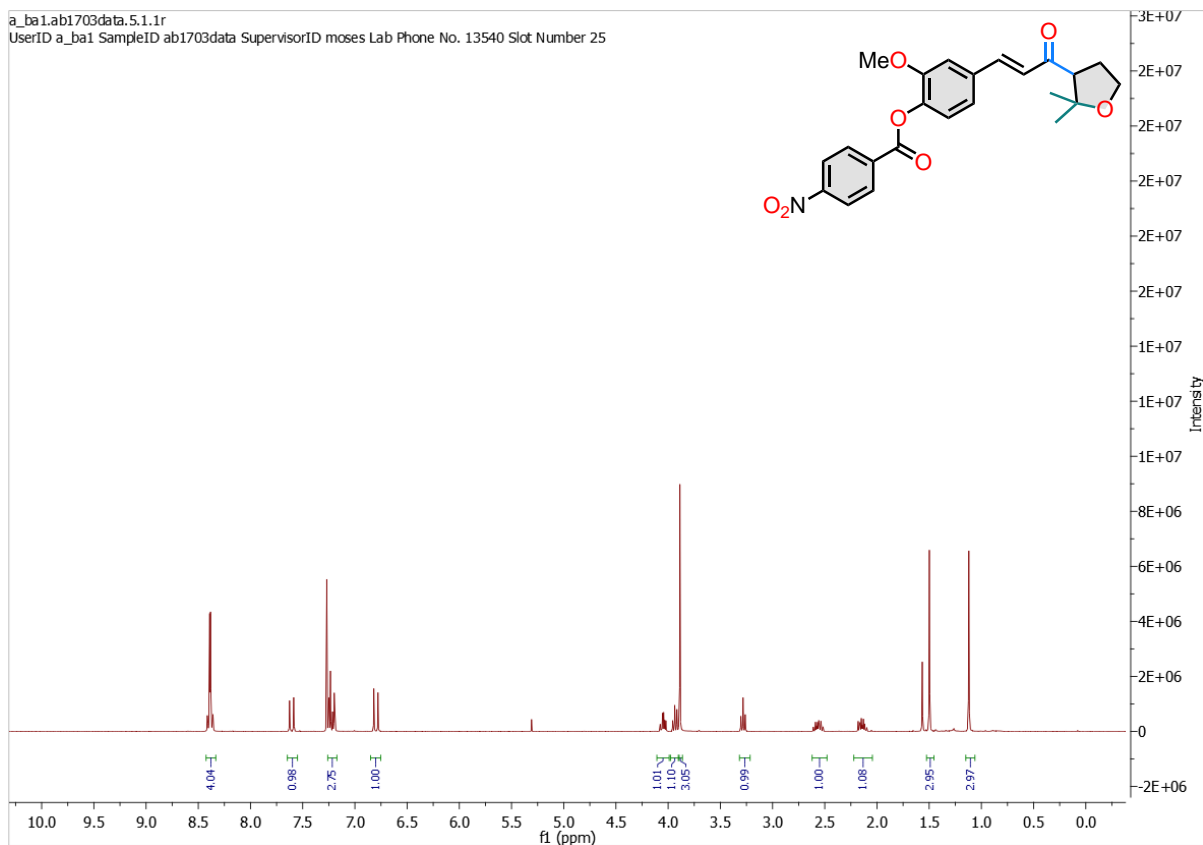
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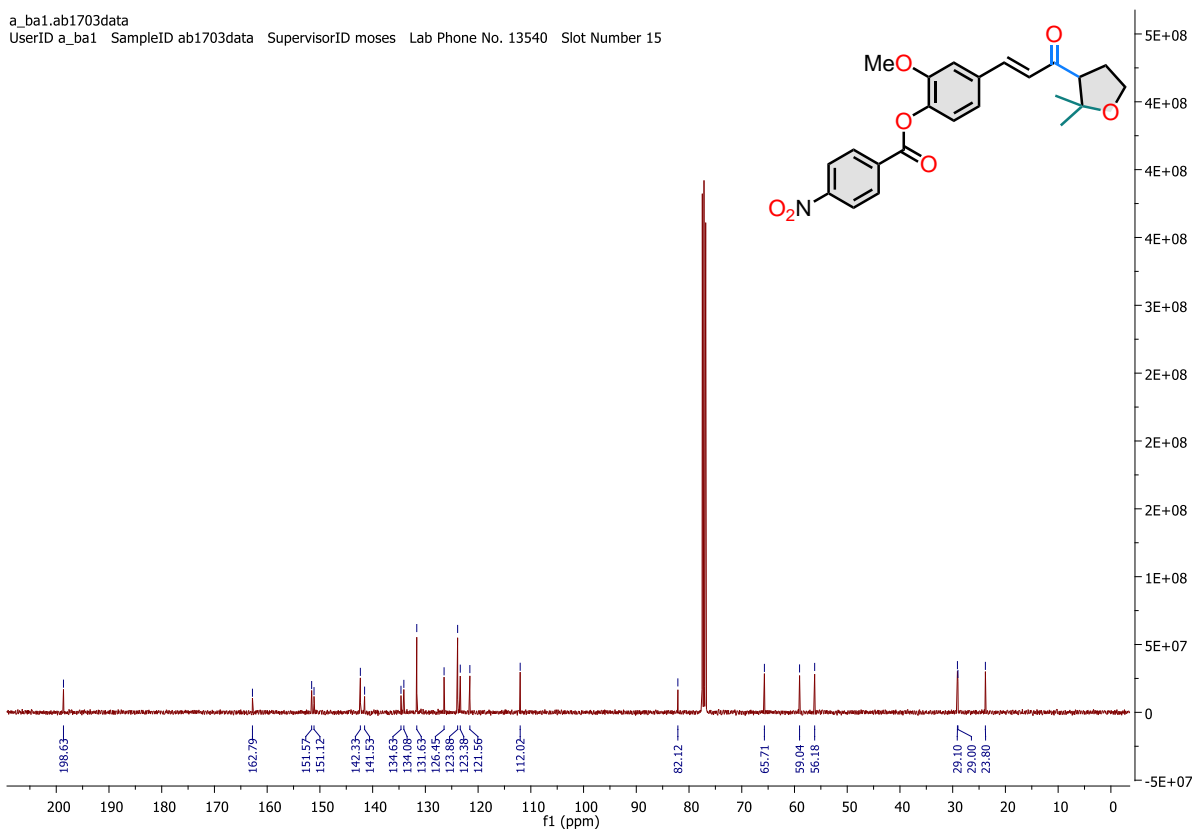
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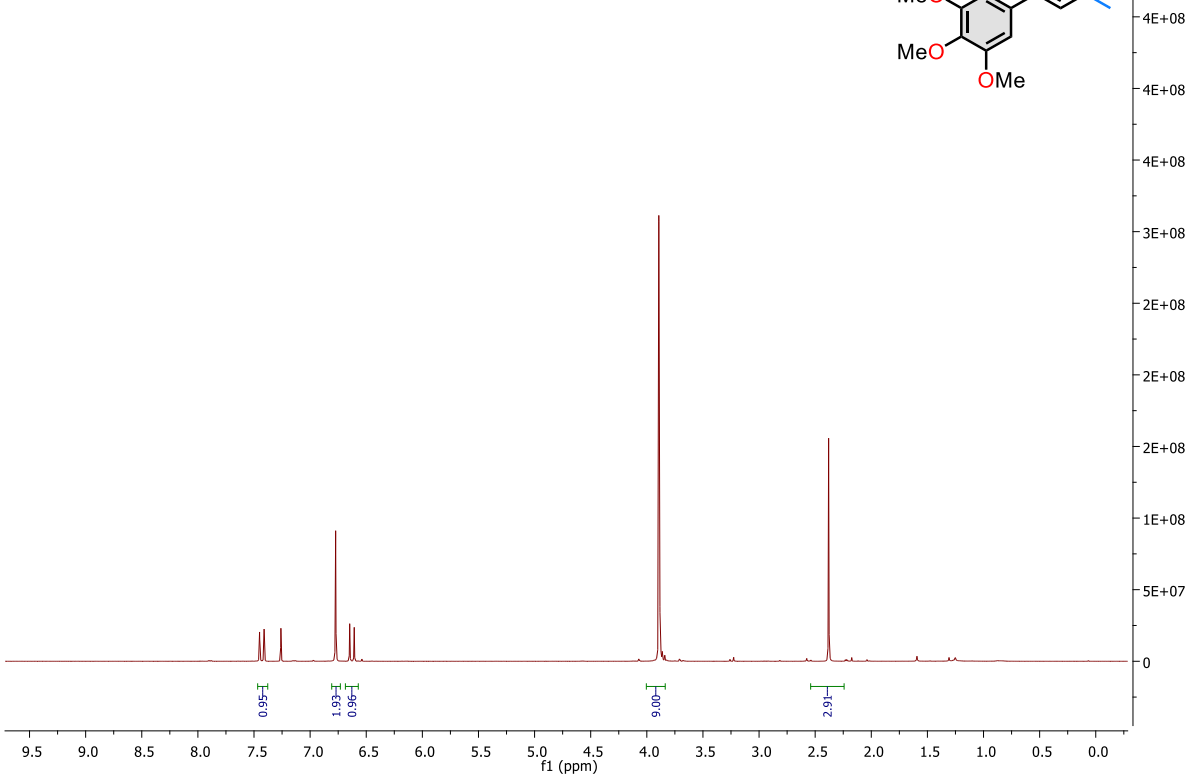
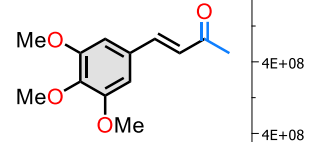
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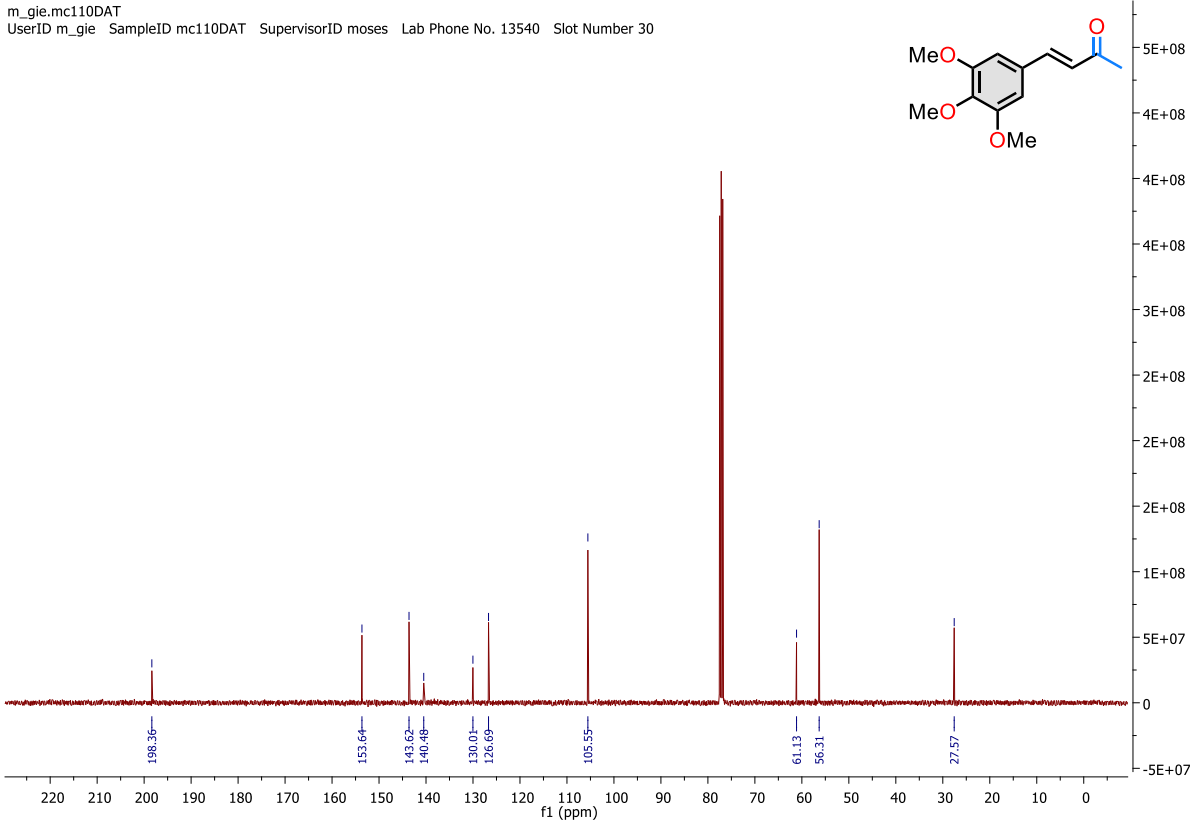
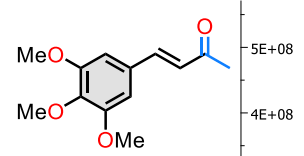
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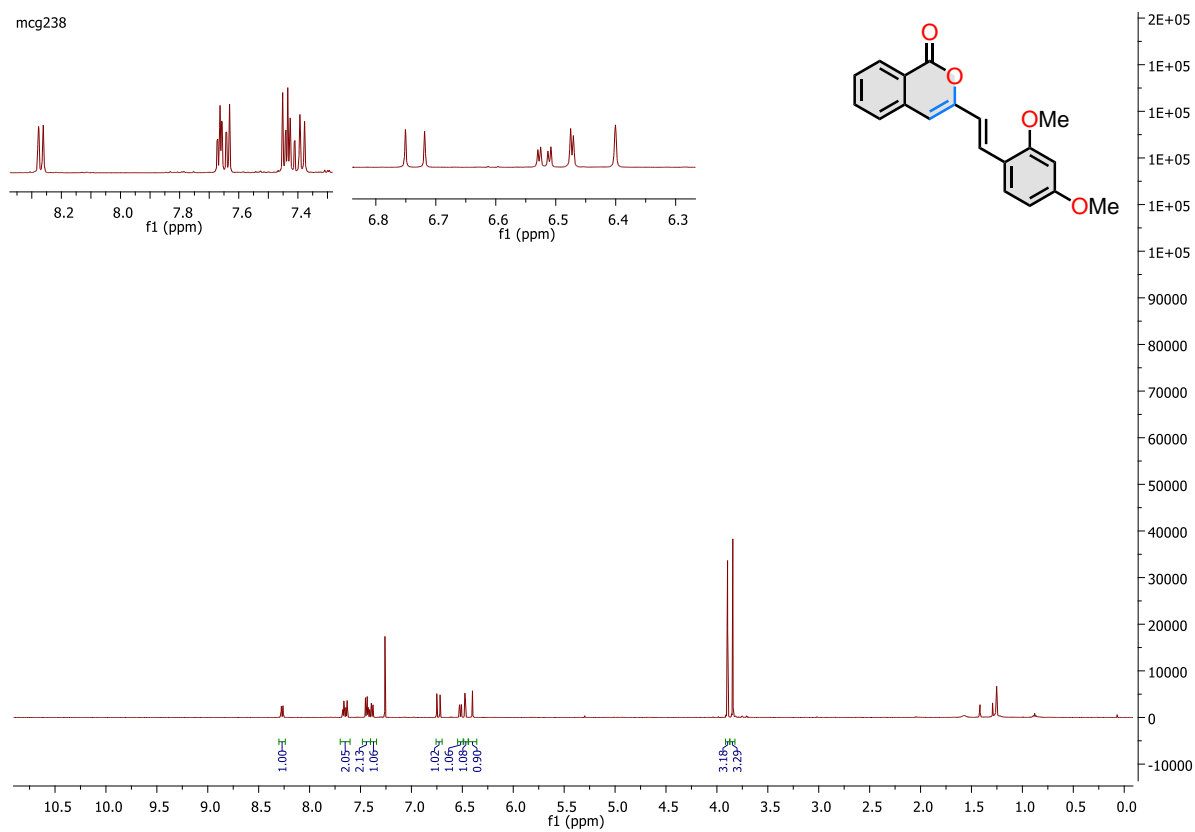
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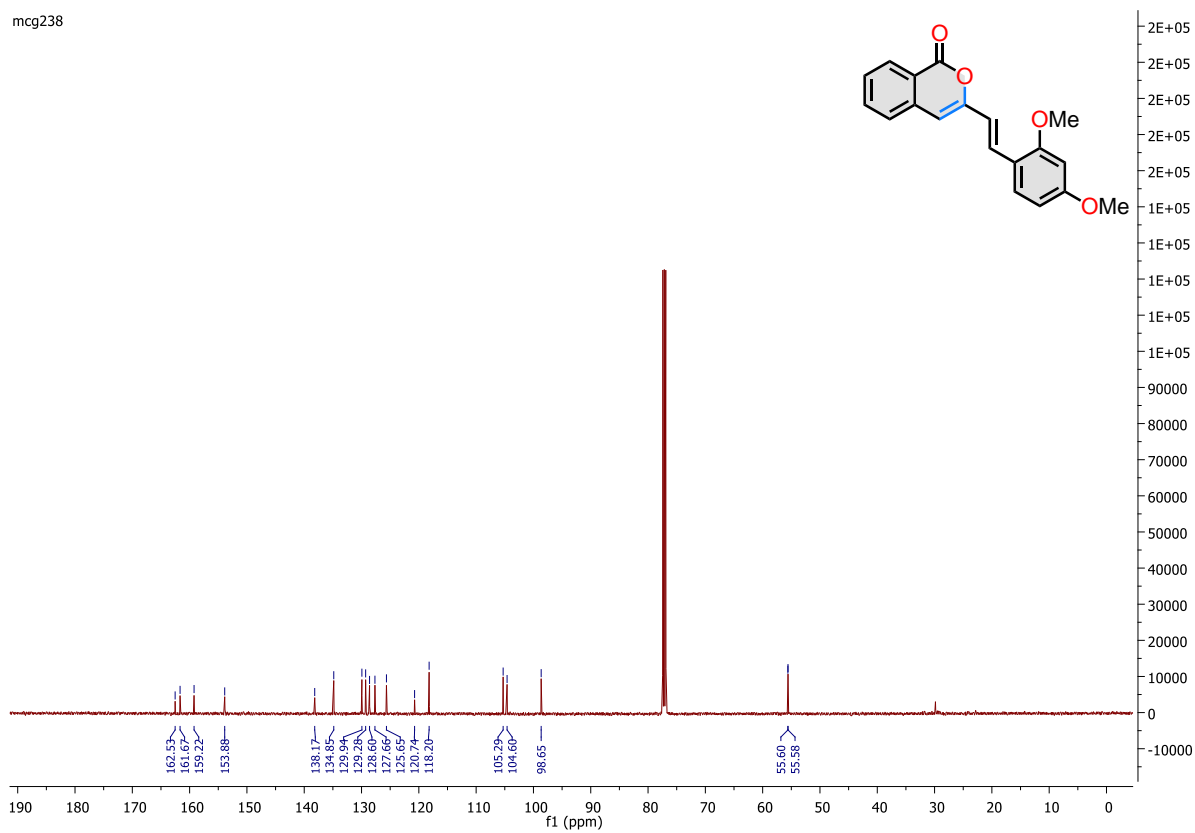
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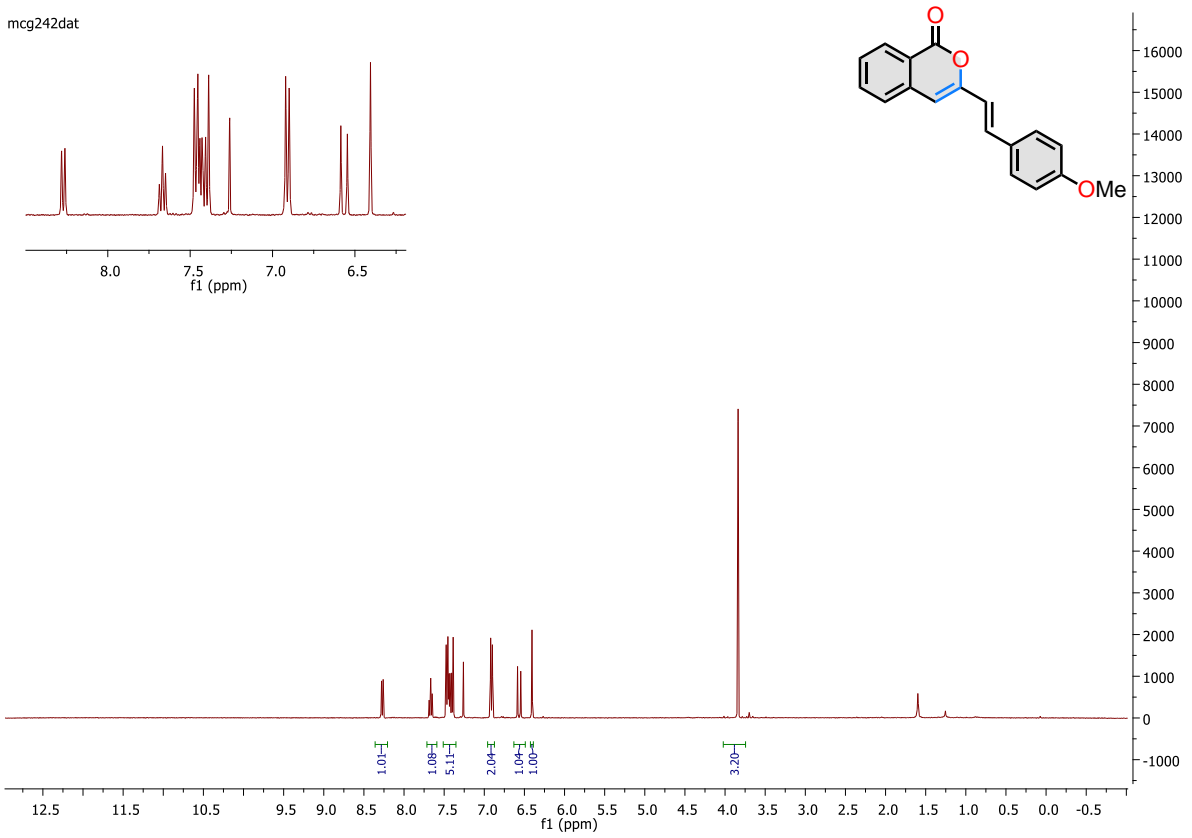
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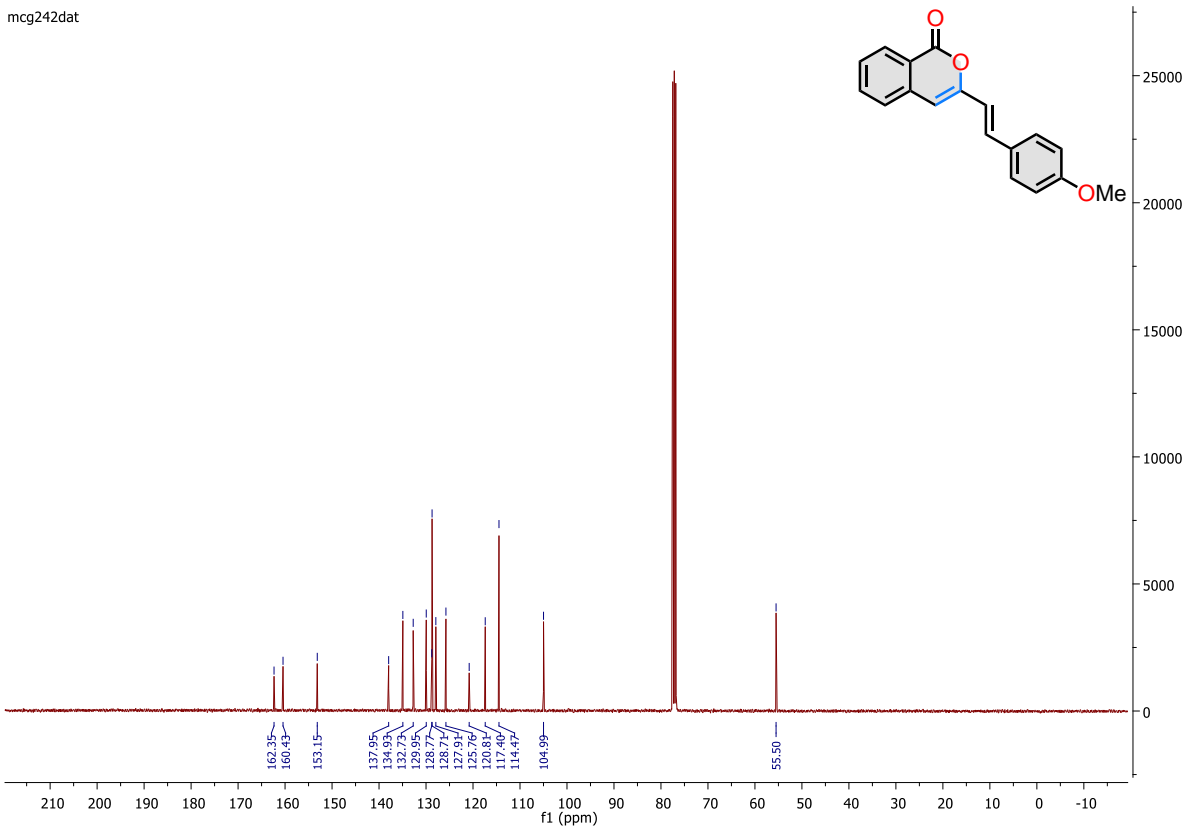
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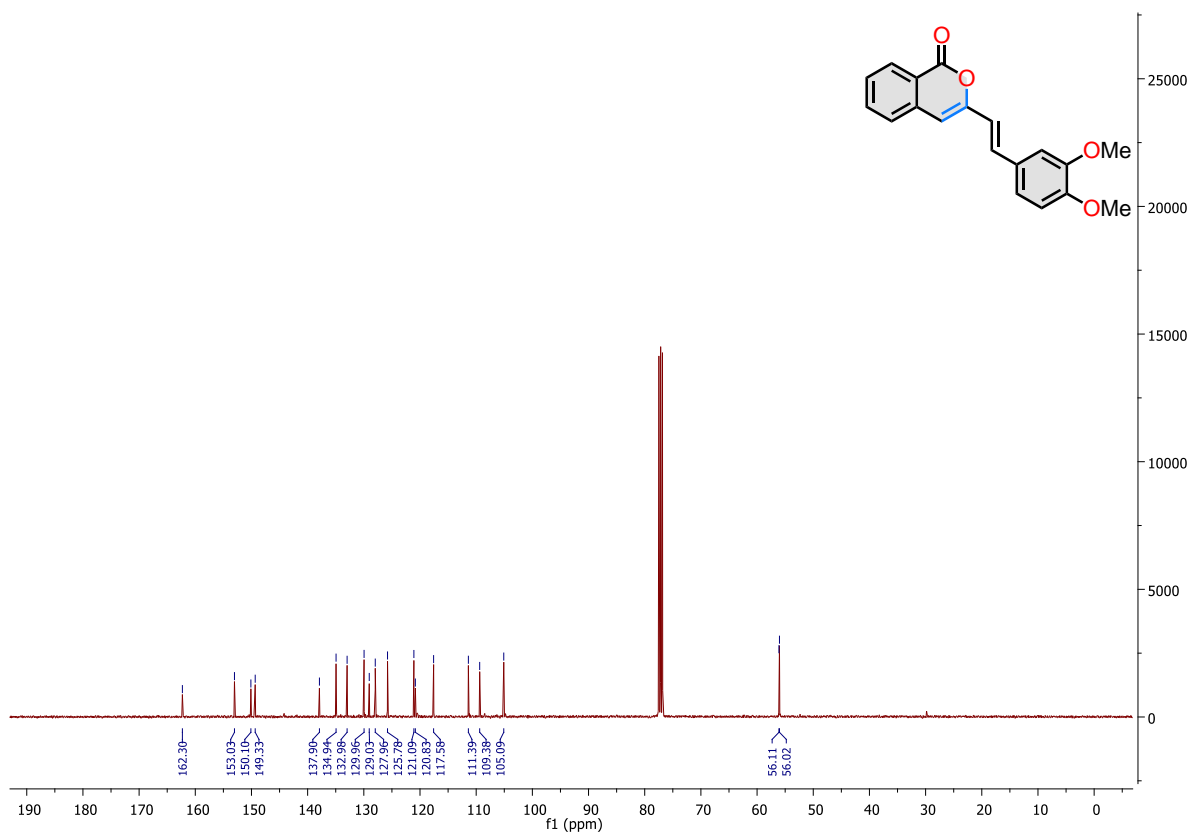
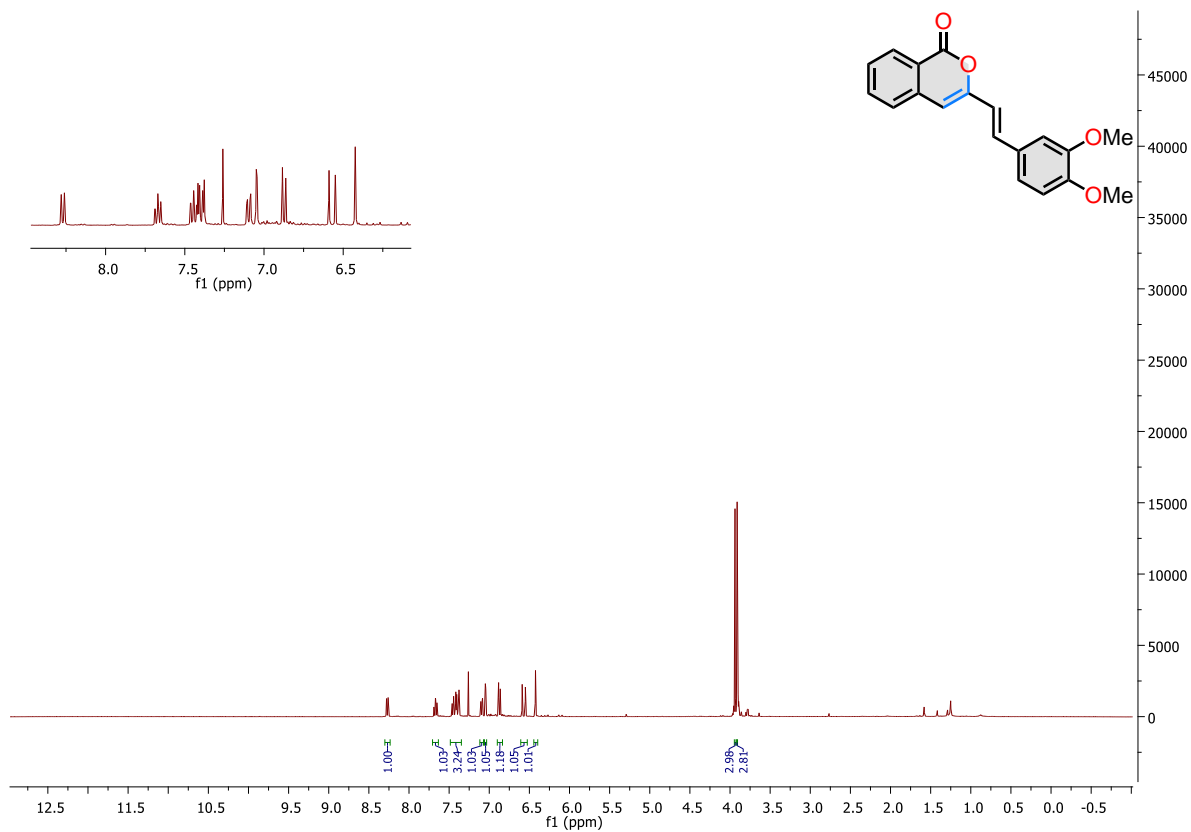


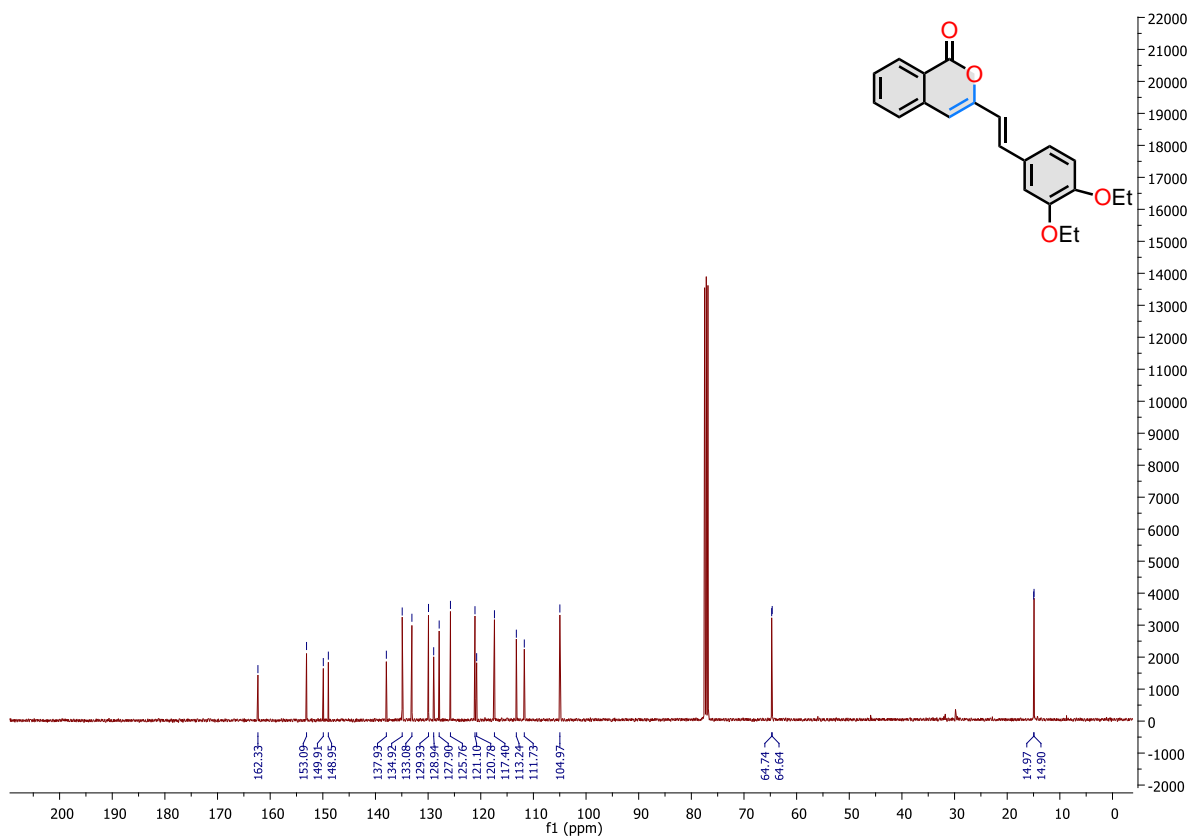
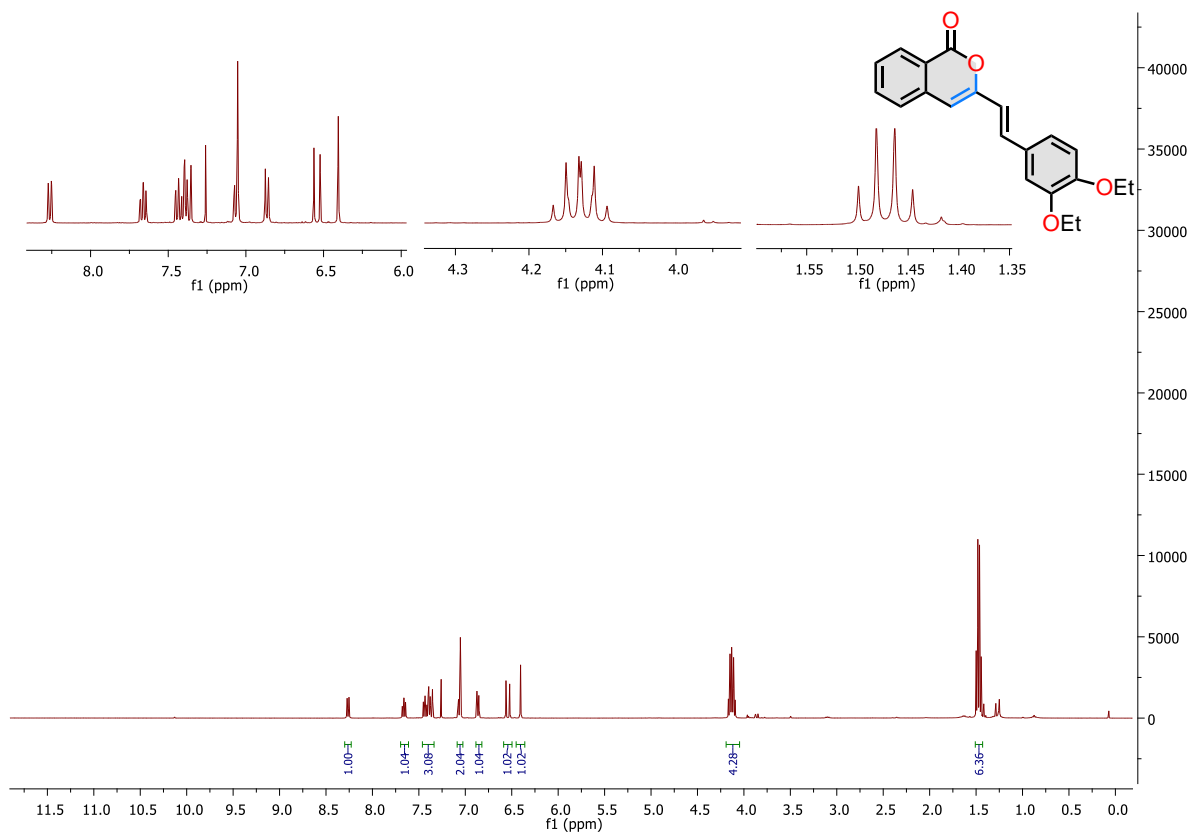
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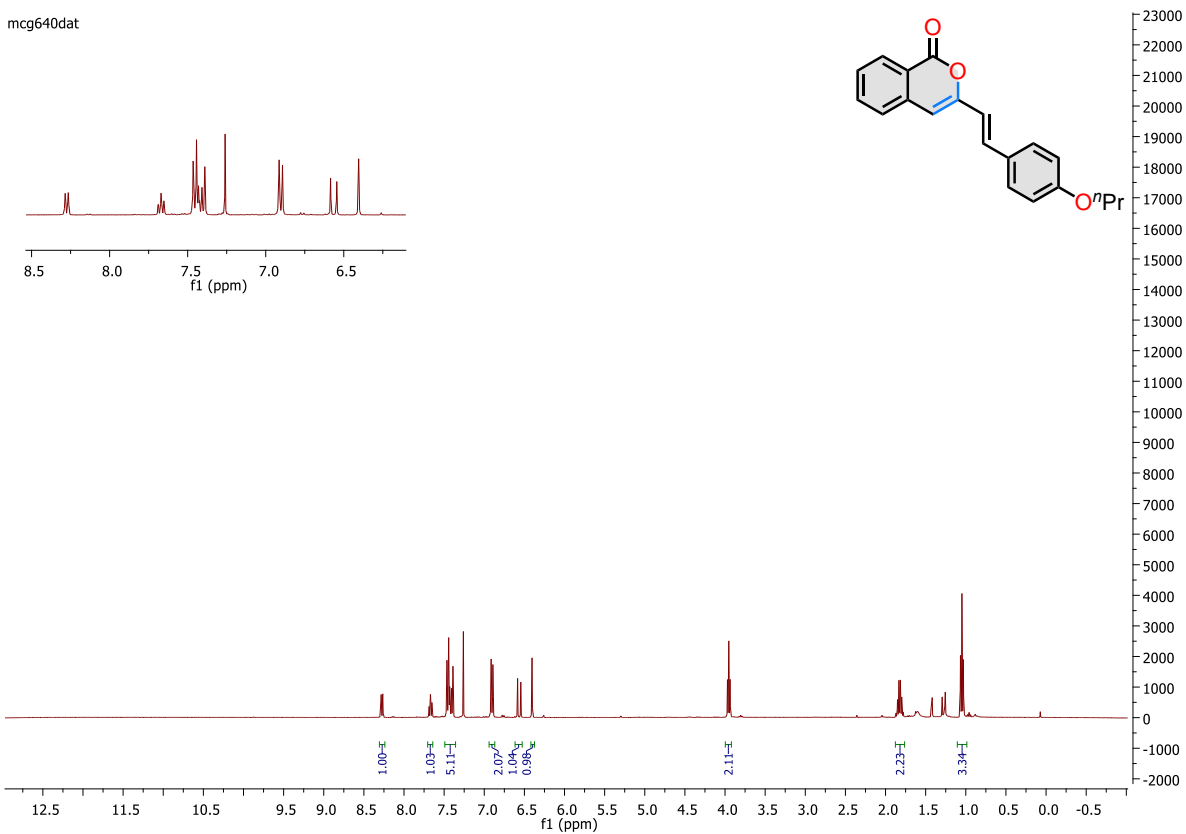
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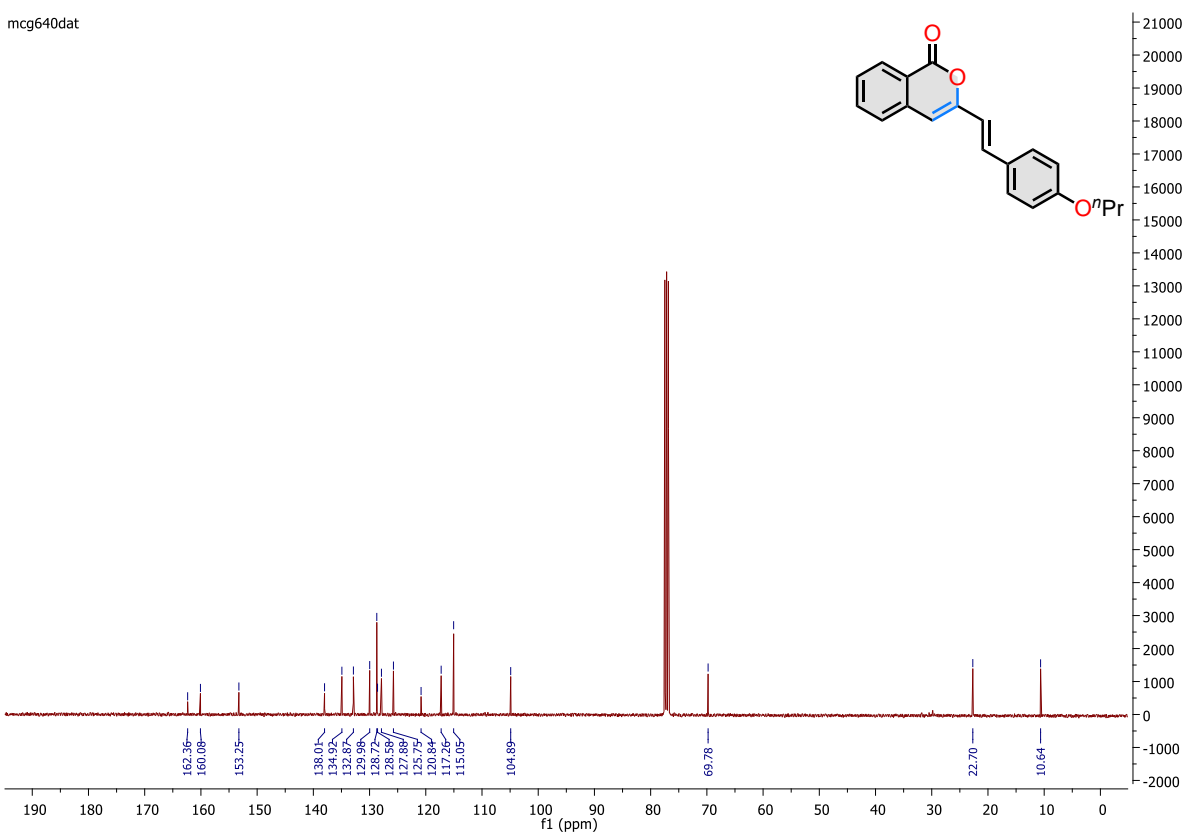




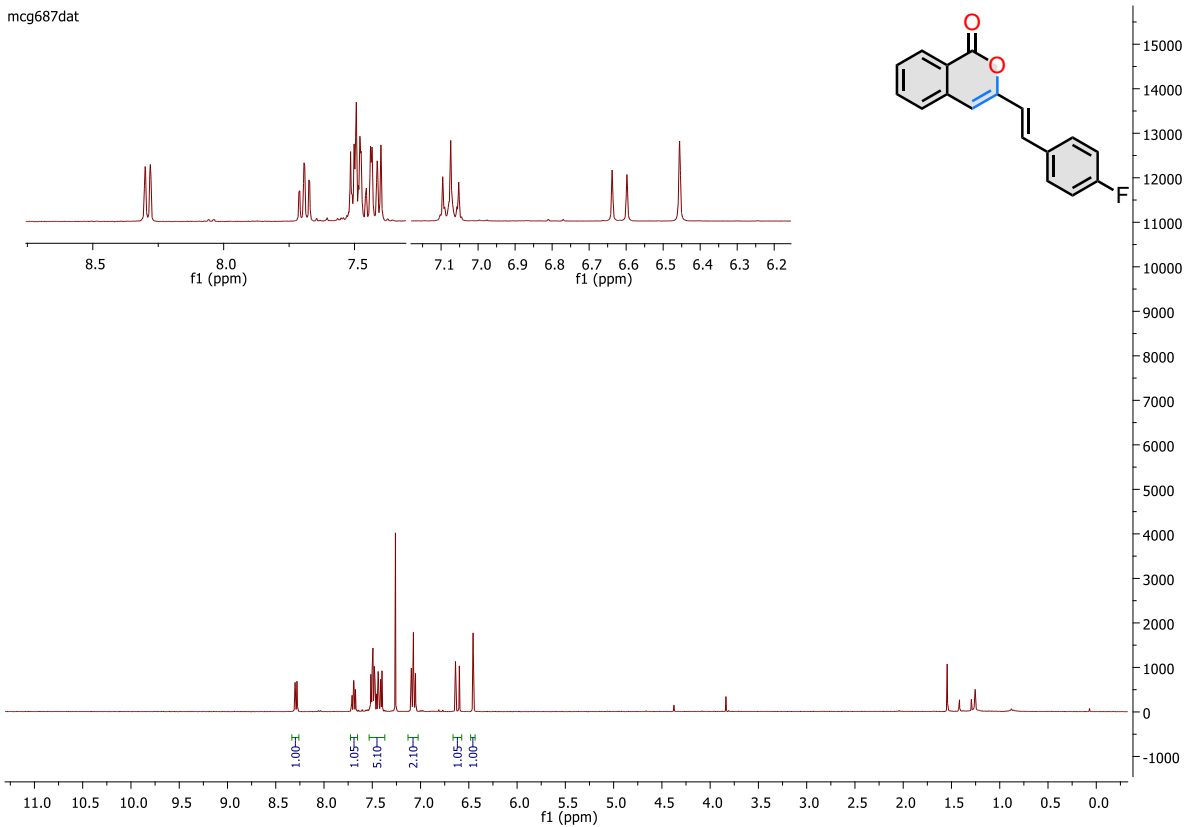
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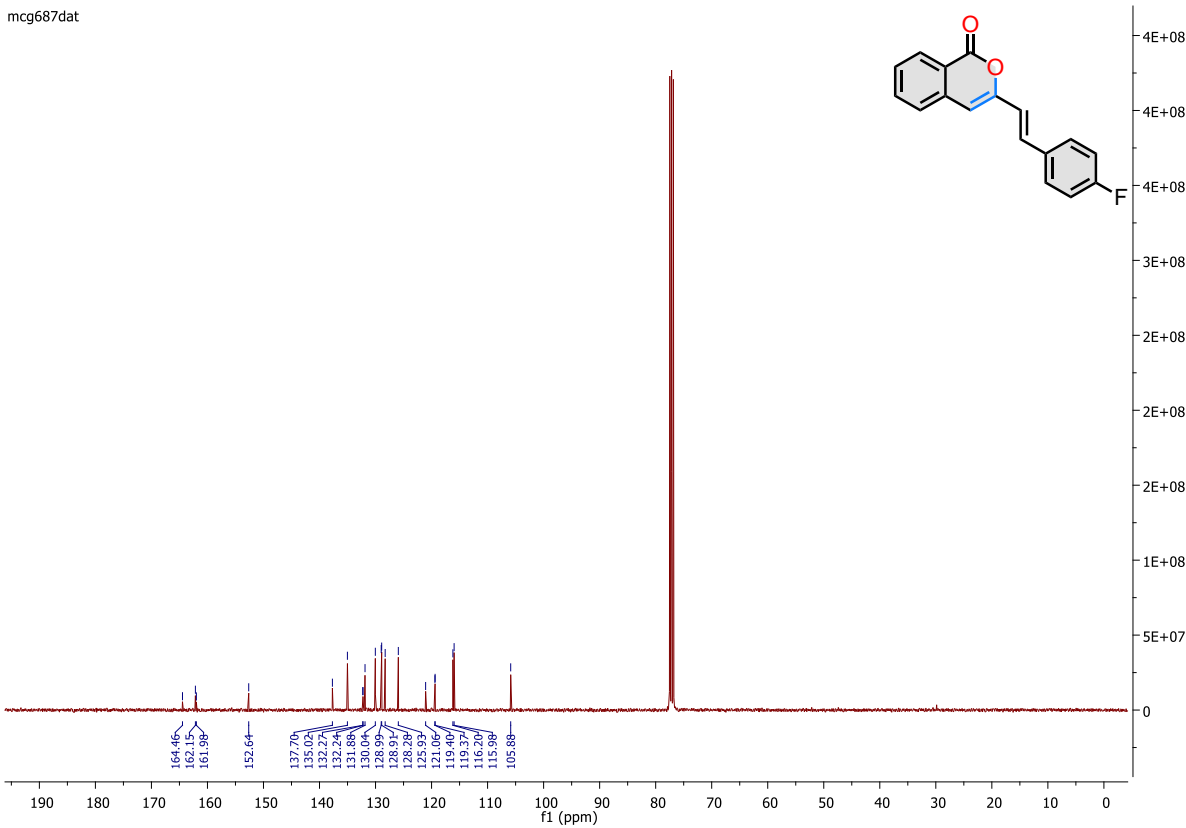
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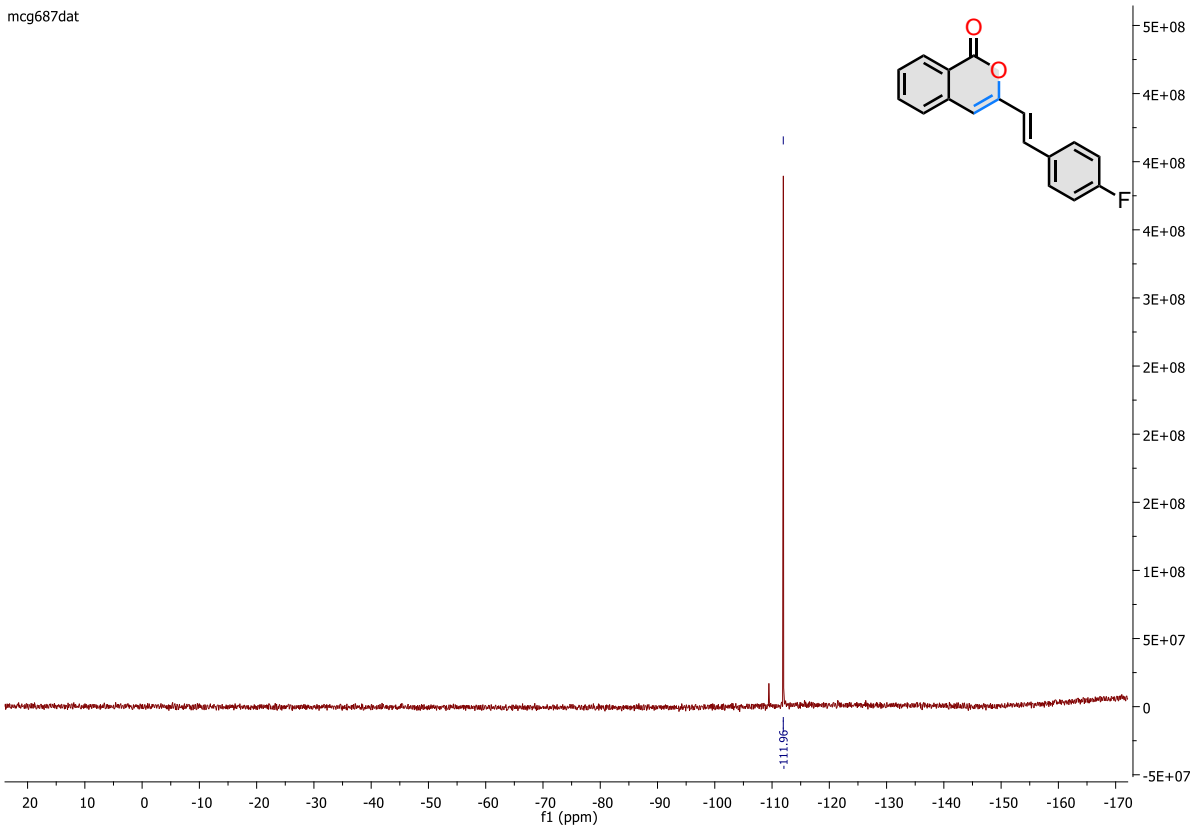
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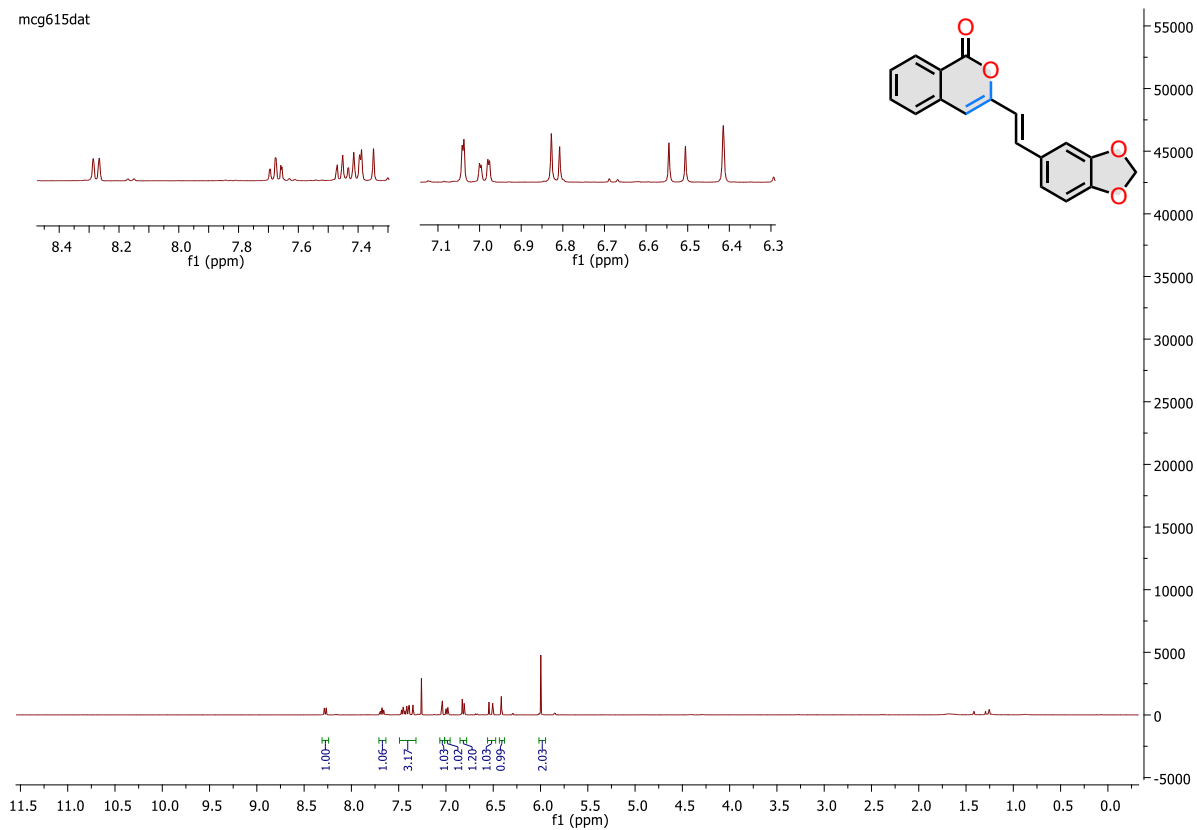
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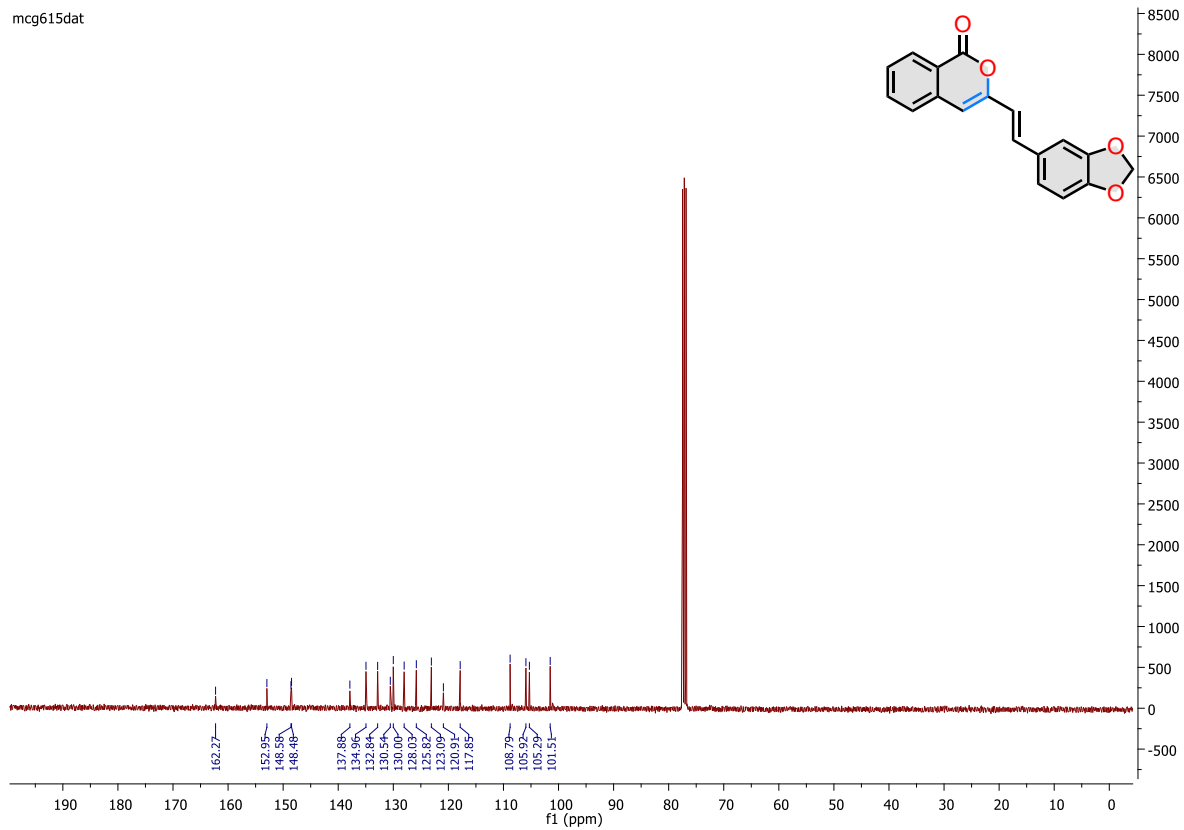
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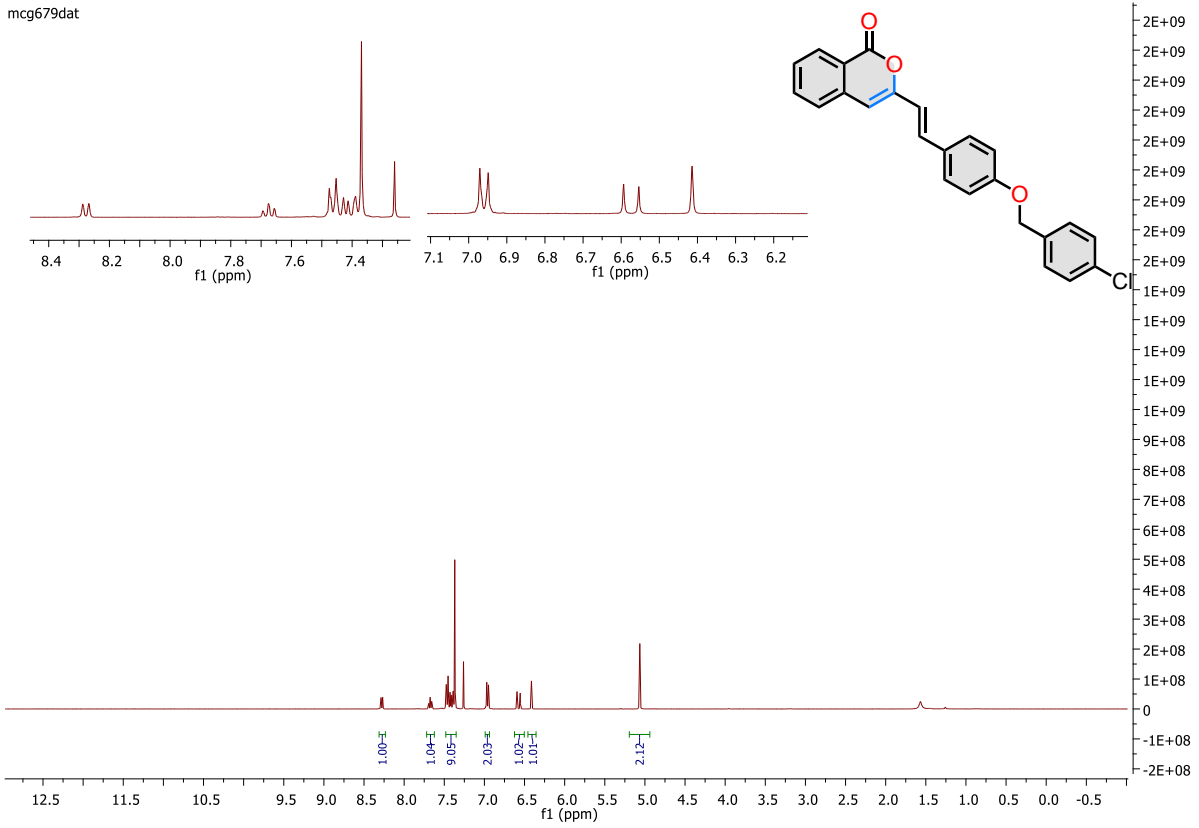
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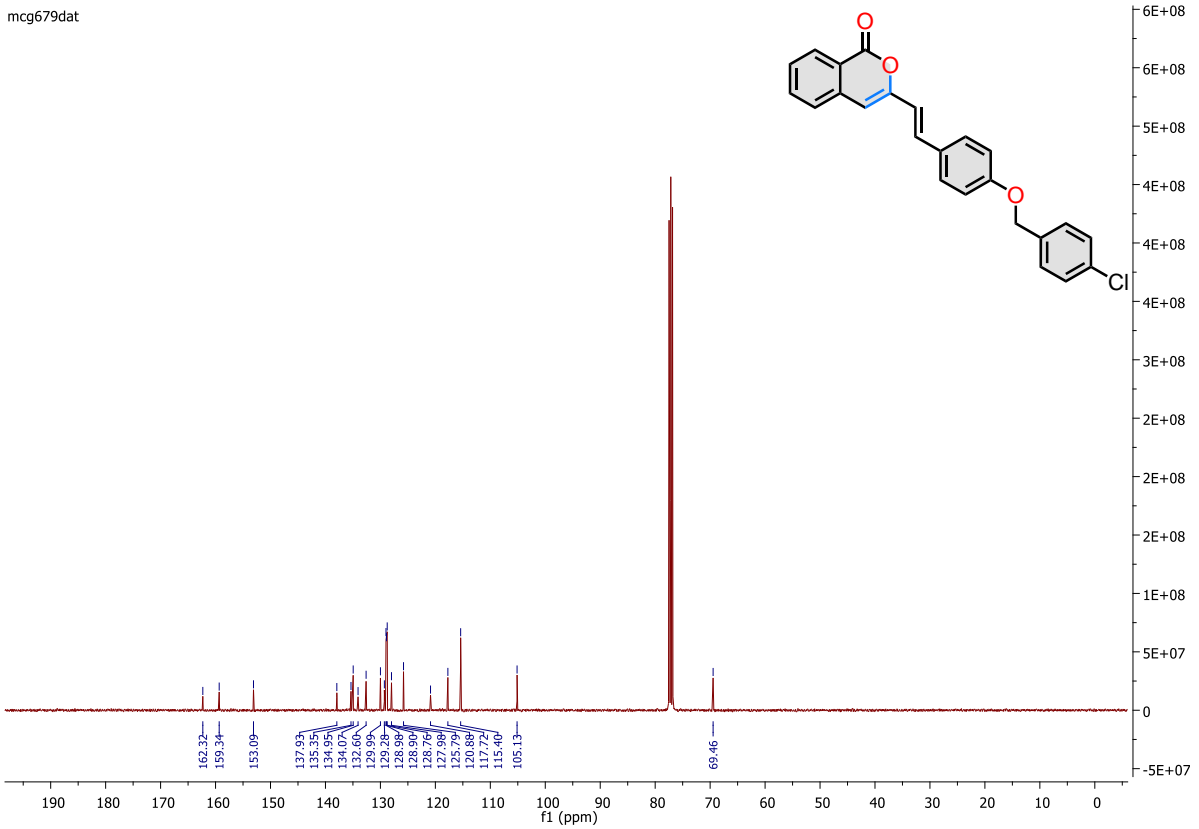
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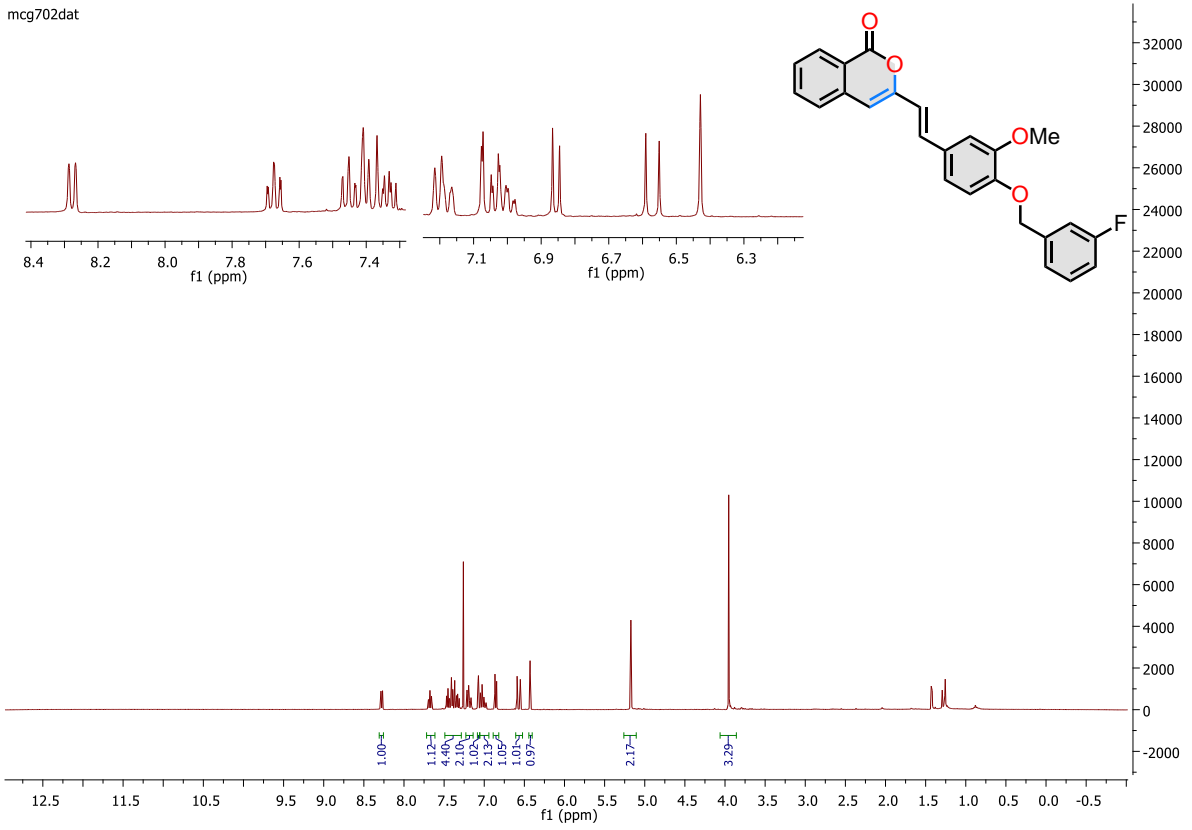
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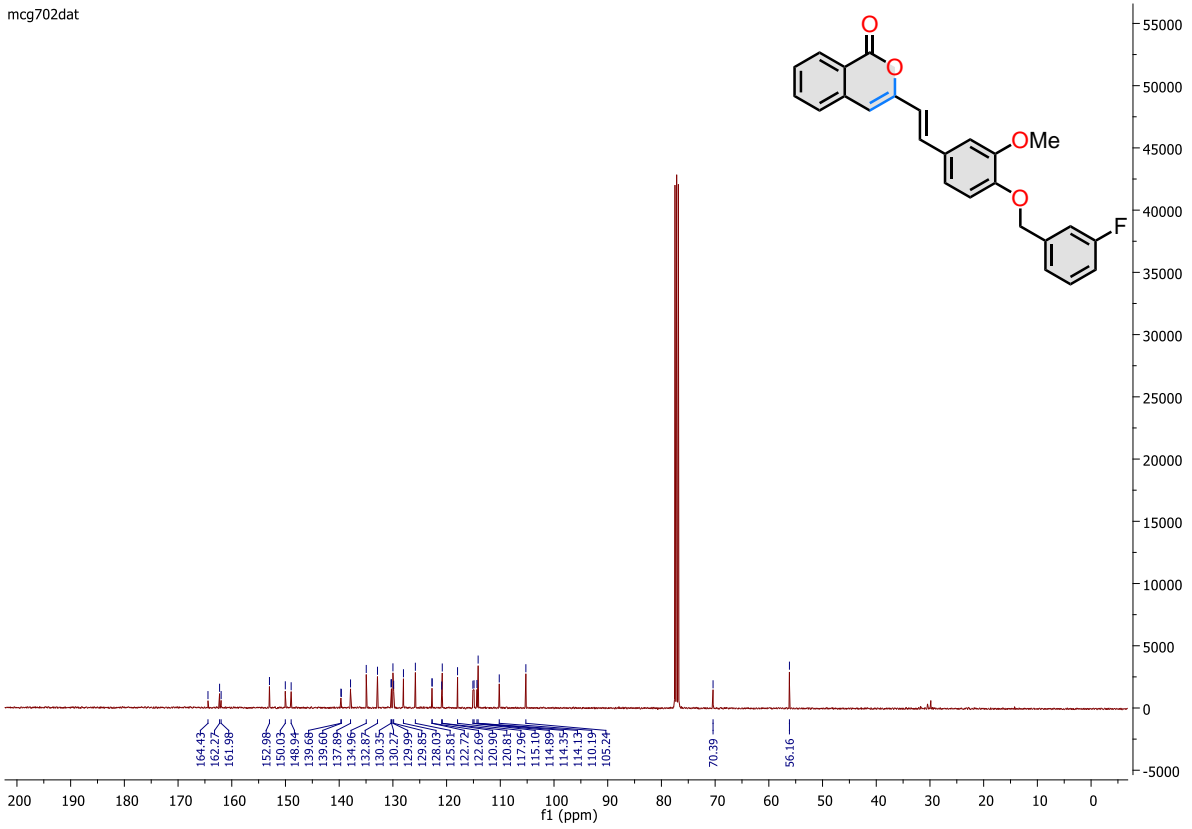
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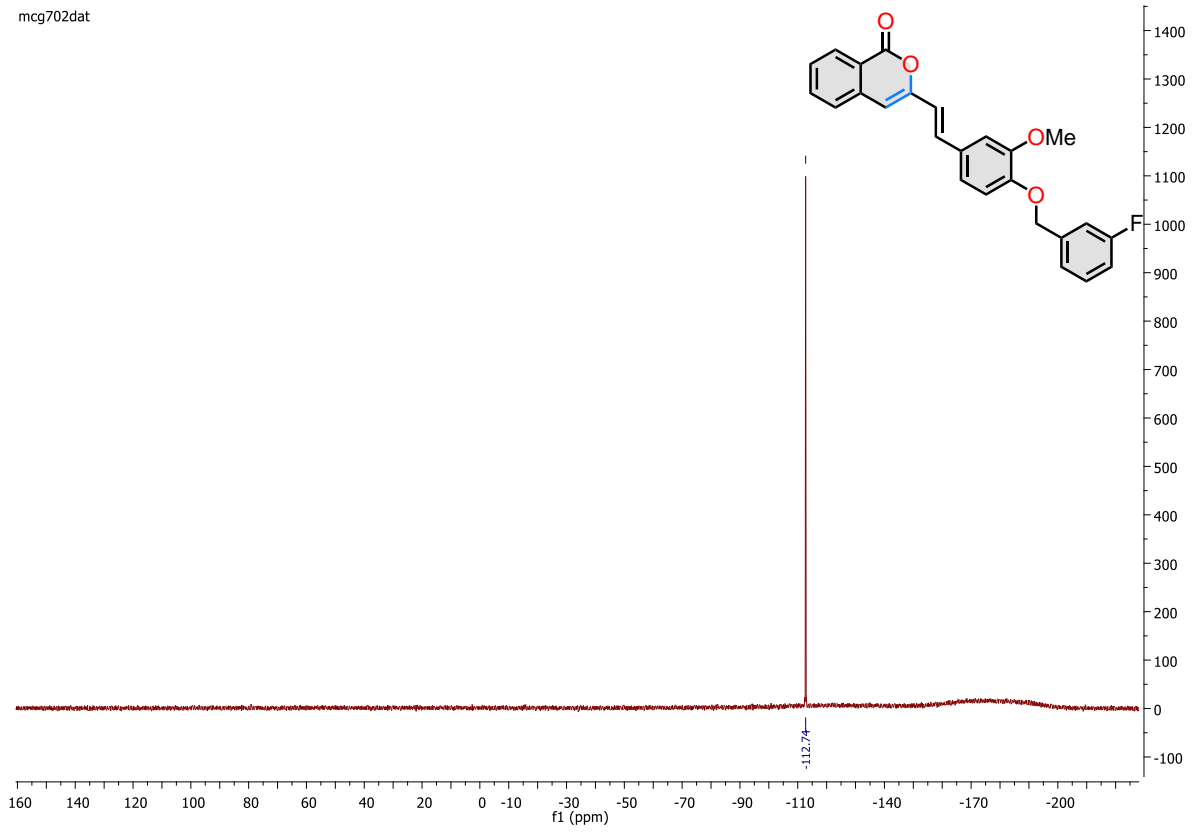
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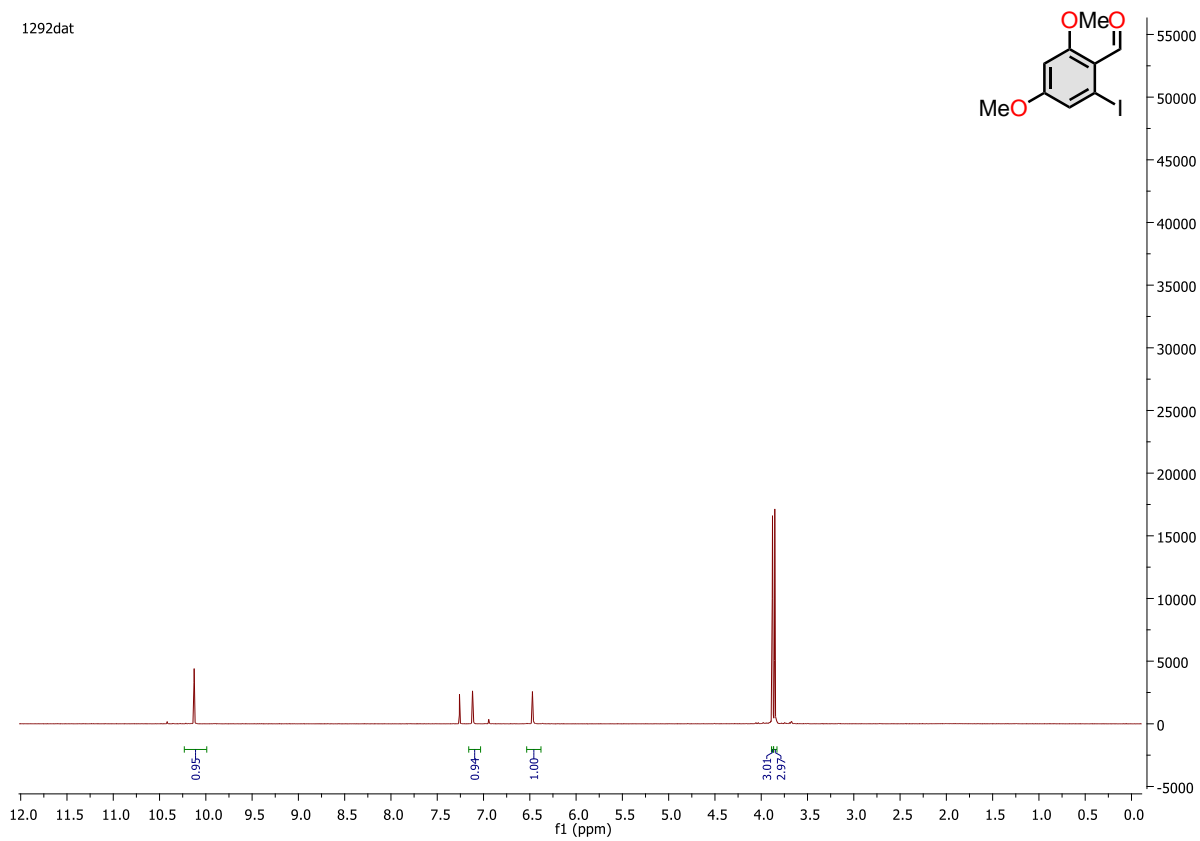
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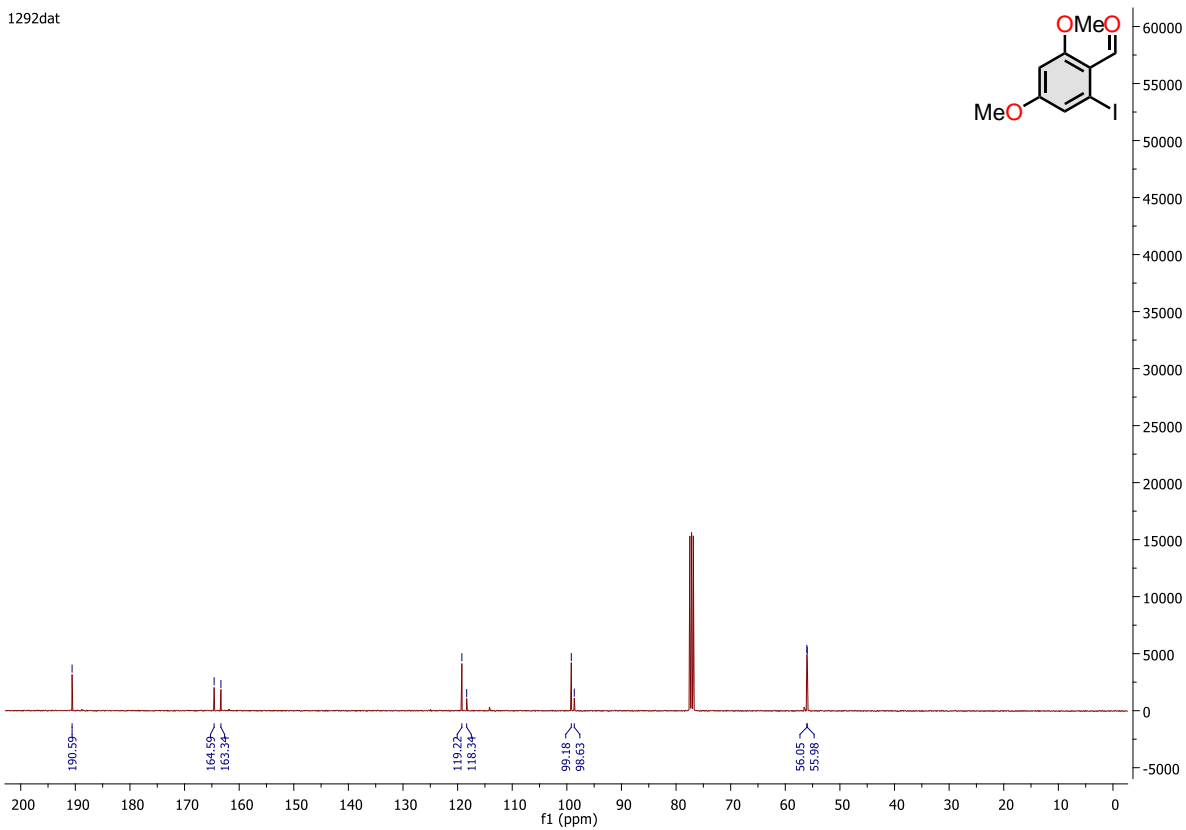
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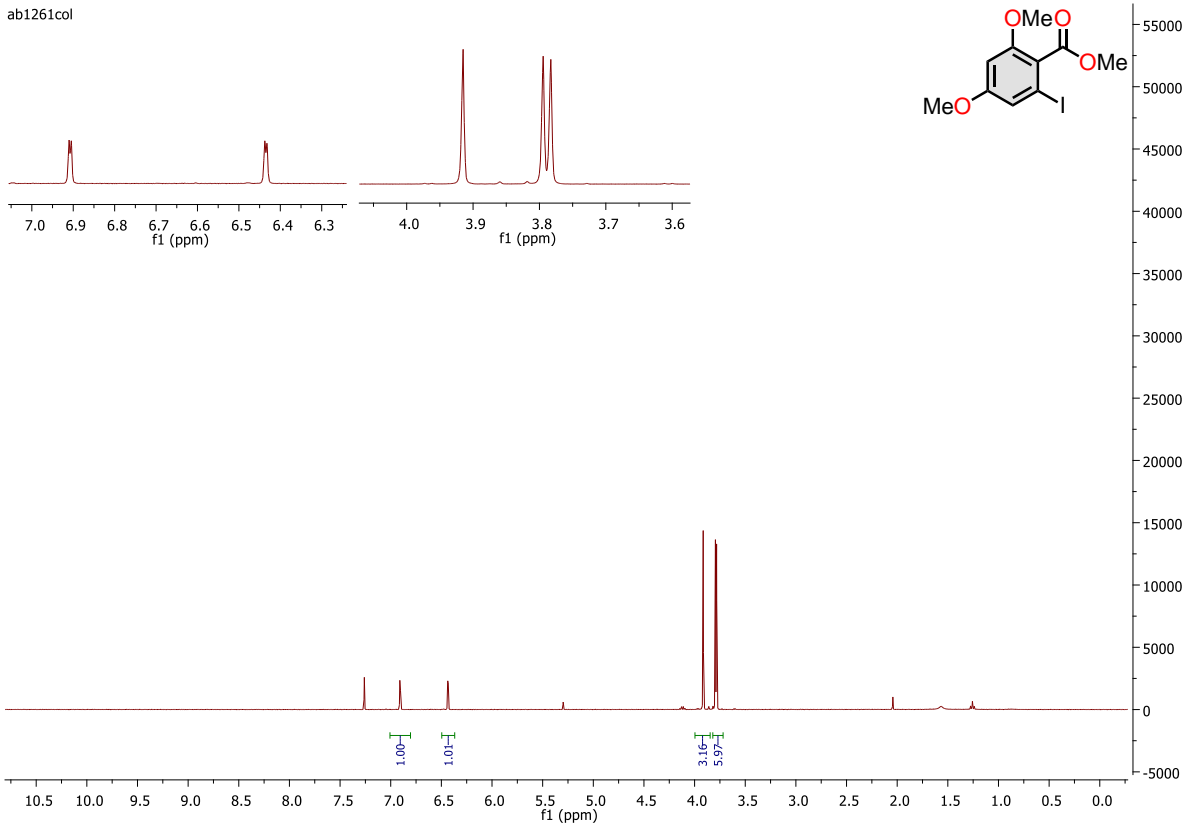
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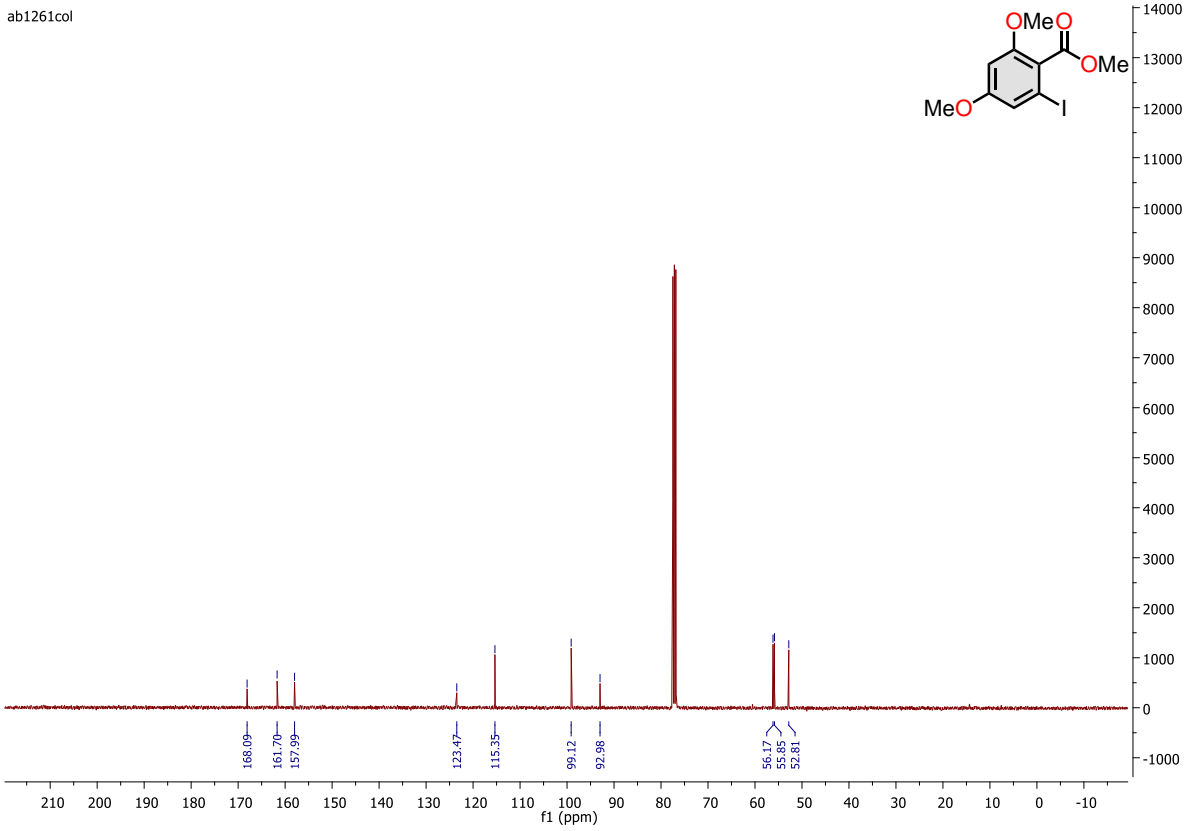
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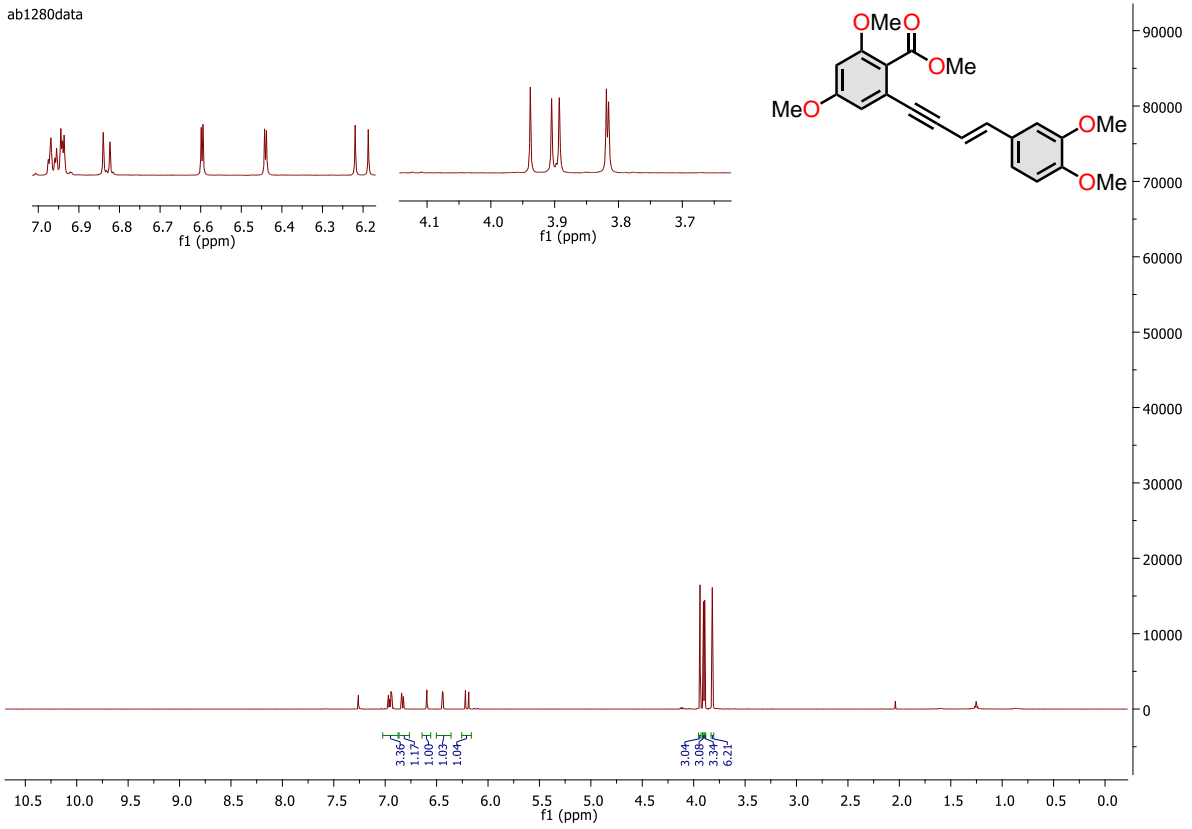
ab1261col



ab1261col



ab1280data



ab1280data

