

Visible light-induced one-pot synthesis of trifluoromethyl/*gem*-difluoromethylene substituted cyclobutene derivatives

Xiao Hu,^a Aishun Ding,^a Dawen Xu,^{a,b,*} Hao Guo^{a,*}

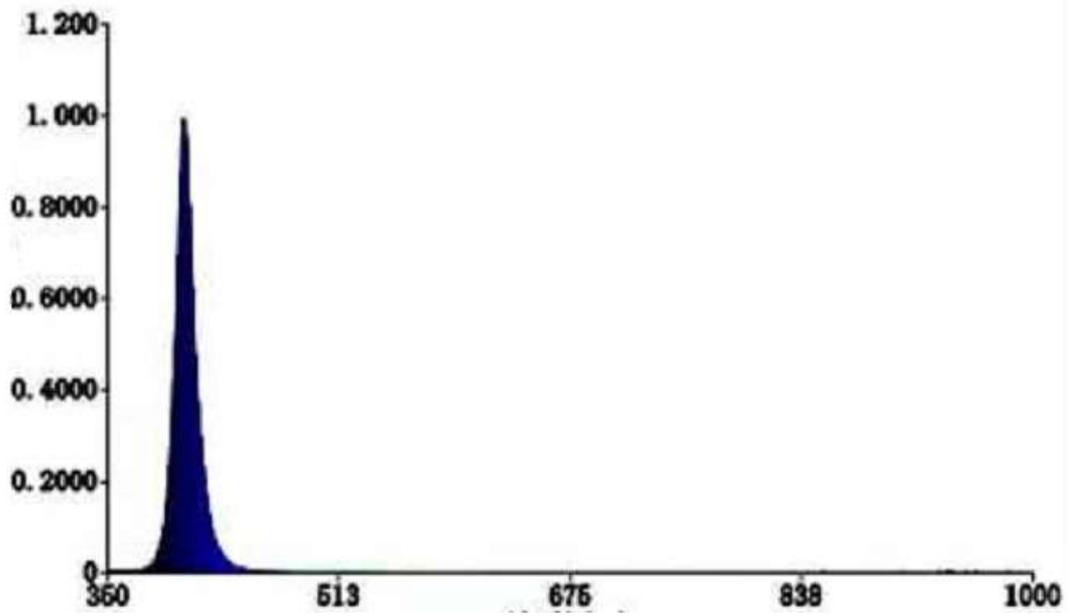
^a Department of Chemistry, Fudan University, 2005 Songhu Road, Shanghai 200438, PR China, E-mail: Hao_Guo@fudan.edu.cn

^b Zhuhai Fudan Innovation Institute, Hengqin New Area, Zhuhai, Guangdong 519000, PR China, E-mail: 13210220024@fudan.edu.cn

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Figure S1. Spectral distribution of irradiance density for the purple LED strip



X-ray Crystallographic Details

The crystal samples were prepared by dissolving the respective compounds in ethyl acetate/petroleum ether solvent system. The solution was placed in the refrigerator, the crystals were grown by slow cooling. Data were collected on a single crystal X-ray diffractometer equipped with a CMOS detector (Bruker APEX III, κ -CMOS), an IMS microsource with MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) and a Helios optic using the APEX3 software package.¹ Measurements were performed on single crystals coated with perfluorinated ether. The crystals were fixed on top of a kapton micro sampler and frozen under a stream of cold nitrogen. A matrix scan was used to determine the initial lattice parameters. Reflections were corrected for Lorentz and polarisation effects, scan speed, and background using SAINT.² Absorption correction, including odd and even ordered spherical harmonics was performed using SADABS.³ Space group assignment was based upon systematic absences, E statistics, and successful refinement of the structure. The structures were solved using SHELXS or SHELXT with the aid of successive difference Fourier maps, and were refined against all data using SHELXL in conjunction with SHELXLE.^{4,5,6} Hydrogen atoms were calculated in ideal positions as follows: Methyl hydrogen atoms were refined as part of rigid rotating groups, with a C–H distance of 0.98 \AA and $U_{\text{iso(H)}} = 1.5 \cdot U_{\text{eq(C)}}$. Other H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model, with methylene and aromatic C–H distances of 0.99 \AA and 0.95 \AA , respectively, and other C–H distances of 1.00 \AA , all with $U_{\text{iso(H)}} = 1.2 \cdot U_{\text{eq(C)}}$. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Full-matrix least-squares refinements were carried out by minimizing $\Sigma w(\text{Fo}^2 - \text{Fc}^2)^2$ with the SHELXL weighting scheme.⁴ Neutral atom scattering factors for all atoms and anomalous dispersion corrections for the non-hydrogen atoms were taken from *International Tables for Crystallography*.⁷ A split layer refinement was used for disordered groups and additional SIMU, DELU, RIGU, ISOR and SAME restraints were used, if necessary. Images of the crystal structures were generated with PLATON.⁸ Crystallographic data are provided free of charge by The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

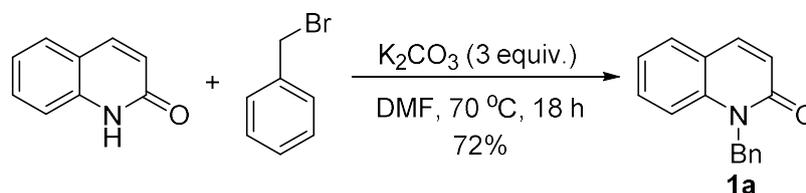
Experimental Section

General information

All the photo reactions were carried out using purple LED strip (height: 10 cm, diameter: 15 cm, 30 W) at a distance of 3-5 cm at rt unless stated otherwise. ^1H (400 MHz), ^{13}C (101 MHz), and ^{19}F (376 MHz) NMR spectra of samples in CDCl_3 were recorded on an AVANCE III 400 spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded on an Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrometer. HRMS (ESI) determinations were carried out on a Bruker Daltonics APEXIII ESI-FTICRMS spectrometer. Melting points were determined on a WRS-2 apparatus. Anhydrous DMF is commercially available from Energy®. Anhydrous DCM was distilled with CaH_2 . Anhydrous THF was distilled with Na using benzophenone as monitor. **1m**⁹, **1o**¹⁰ and **1p**¹¹ were synthesized according to literature procedures.

Typical Procedure I for the synthesis of substrates

Synthesis of 1-benzylquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1a**)

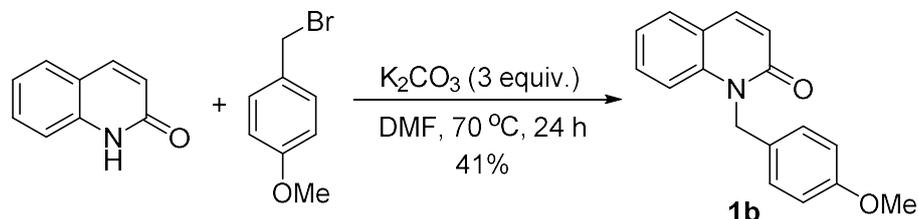


Quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (4.356 g, 30.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)benzene (4.3 mL, 36.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (12.440 g, 90.0 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (30 mL) were added subsequently into a 120 mL of sealed tube. The mixture was stirred at $70\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ with an oil bath for 18 h as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled, diluted with ethyl acetate. The mixture was washed with H_2O (90 mL) and saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30:1→3:1) afforded **1a**¹² as a white solid (5.068 g, 72%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.33-7.14 (m, 7 H),

6.80 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.56 (s, 2 H).

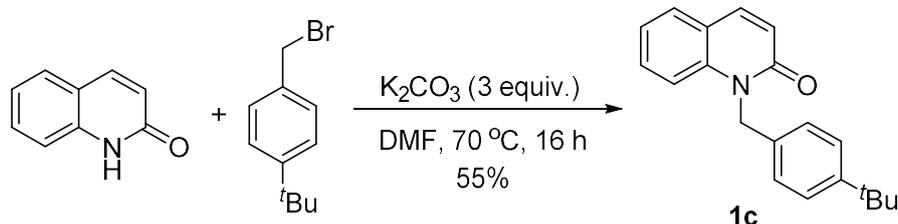
The following compounds were synthesized according to Typical Procedure I.

1) 1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1b)



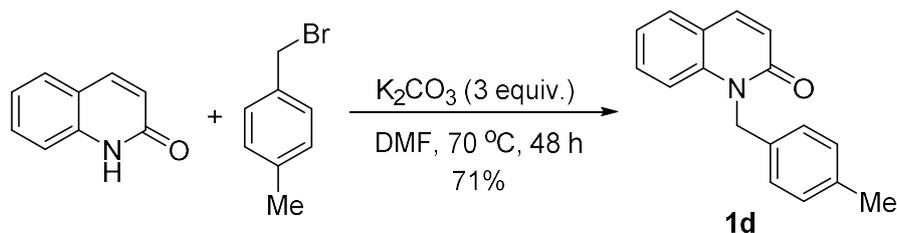
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (2.903 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-methoxybenzene (3.7 mL, 25.4 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.293 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1b**¹² as a white solid (2.157 g, 41%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 3 H), 6.85-6.80 (m, 2 H), 6.78 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.48 (s, 2 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H).

2) 1-(4-(*Tert*-butyl)benzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1c)



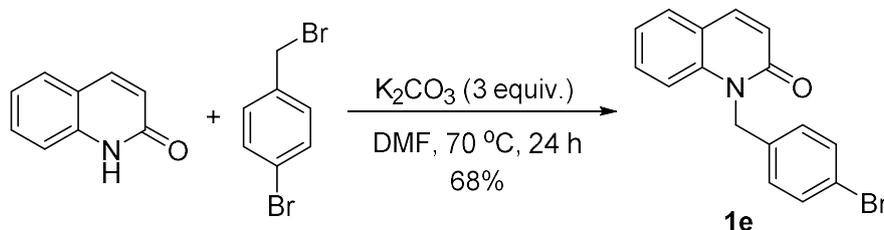
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (2.904 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-(*tert*-butyl)benzene (4.4 mL, 24.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.293 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1c** as a white solid (3.177 g, 55%). Mp: $159.4\text{--}159.9\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 3 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.51 (s, 2 H), 1.26 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.4, 150.0, 139.5, 139.4, 133.1, 130.5, 128.7, 126.3, 125.6, 122.0, 121.6, 120.8, 115.0, 45.5, 34.3, 31.2; IR (neat) 1664, 1590, 1564, 1519, 1496, 1450, 1405 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{20}H_{21}NNaO^+$ $[M+Na]^+$: 314.1515, found: 314.1507.

3) 1-(4-Methylbenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1d)



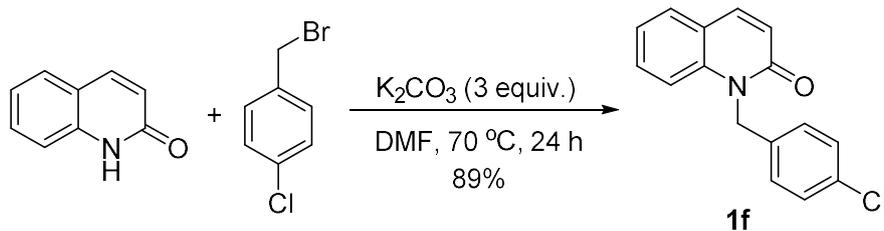
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (2.904 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-methylbenzene (4.443 g, 24.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.295 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1d**¹² as a white solid (3.540 g, 71%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 1 H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 4 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1 H), 5.51 (s, 2 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H).

4) 1-(4-Bromobenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1e**)



The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1.452 g, 10.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-bromobenzene (3.000 g, 12.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4.147 g, 30.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1e** as a white solid (2.129 g, 68%). Mp: 154.3-154.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 3 H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2 H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.50 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.3, 139.7, 139.2, 135.4, 131.9, 130.7, 128.9, 128.4, 122.3, 121.6, 121.1, 120.9, 114.7, 45.3; IR (neat) 1651, 1589, 1564, 1489, 1451, 1401 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{16}H_{12}BrNNaO^+$ [$M+Na$]⁺: 335.9994, found: 335.9995.

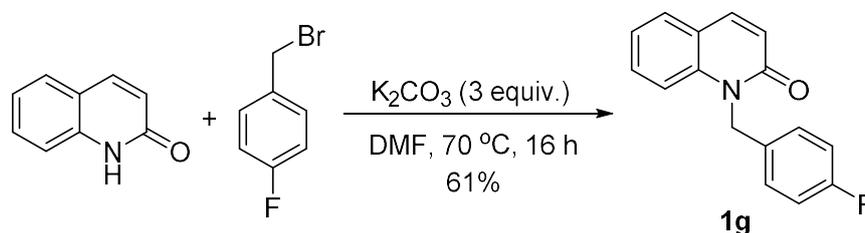
5) 1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1f**)



The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1.453 g, 10.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-

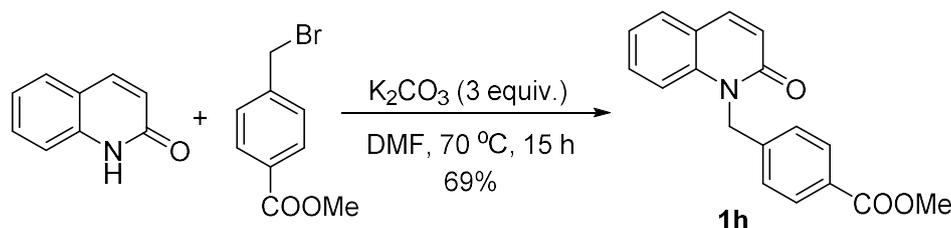
chlorobenzene (2.467 g, 12.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4.146 g, 30.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1f** as a white solid (2.393 g, 89%). Mp: 148.8-149.1 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 2 H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.4, 139.7, 139.2, 134.9, 133.1, 130.7, 128.9, 128.0, 122.3, 121.6, 120.9, 114.7, 45.3; IR (neat) 1652, 1590, 1565, 1492, 1452, 1402 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{16}H_{12}ClNNaO^+$ $[M+Na]^+$: 292.0500, found: 292.0505.

6) 1-(4-Fluorobenzyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (**1g**)



The reaction of quinolin-2(1H)-one (2.903 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-fluorobenzene (3.0 mL, 24.1 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.295 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1g** as a white solid (3.081 g, 61%). Mp: 183.1-183.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 7.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.24 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 3 H), 7.03-6.93 (m, 2 H), 6.80 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.4, 162.0 (C-F, $^1J_{C-F} = 246.3$ Hz), 139.6, 139.3, 132.0 (C-F, $^4J_{C-F} = 3.5$ Hz), 130.6, 128.9, 128.3 (C-F, $^3J_{C-F} = 8.2$ Hz), 122.3, 121.6, 120.9, 115.7 (C-F, $^2J_{C-F} = 21.6$ Hz), 114.8, 45.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -115.2 (ddd, $J = 13.5, 8.5, 5.1$ Hz); IR (neat) 1651, 1591, 1565, 1510, 1454, 1403 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{16}H_{12}FNNaO^+$ $[M+Na]^+$: 276.0795, found: 276.0800.

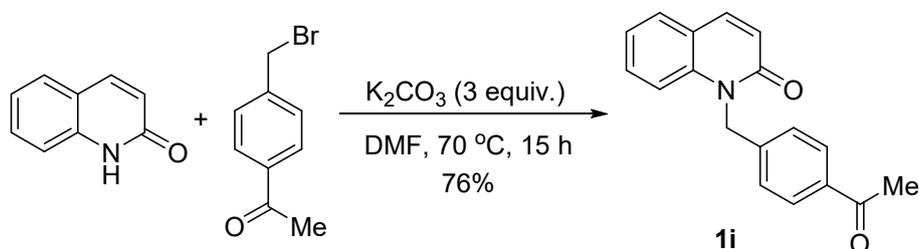
7) 1-(4-Methoxycarbonylbzyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (**1h**)



The reaction of quinolin-2(1H)-one (4.355 g, 30.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-

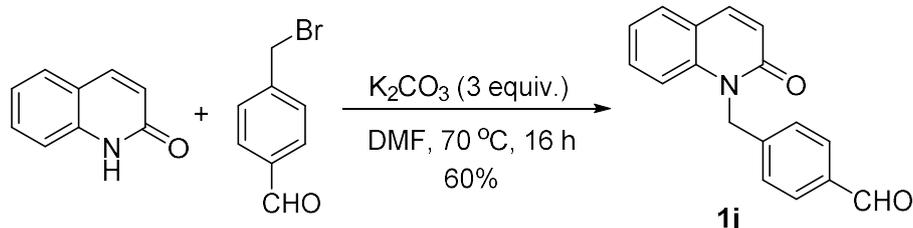
methoxycarbonylbenzene (8.246 g, 36.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (12.435 g, 90.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (30 mL) afforded **1h** as a solid (6.072 g, 69%). Mp: 134.7-134.8 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.76 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.23-7.13 (m, 2 H), 6.81 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.61 (s, 2 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 166.6, 162.3, 141.6, 139.7, 139.2, 130.7, 130.1, 129.2, 128.9, 126.5, 122.3, 121.5, 120.9, 114.7, 52.0, 45.7; IR (neat) 1720, 1653, 1613, 1590, 1565, 1452, 1435, 1403 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_3^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 294.1125, found: 294.1130.

8) 1-(4-Acetylbenzyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (**1i**)



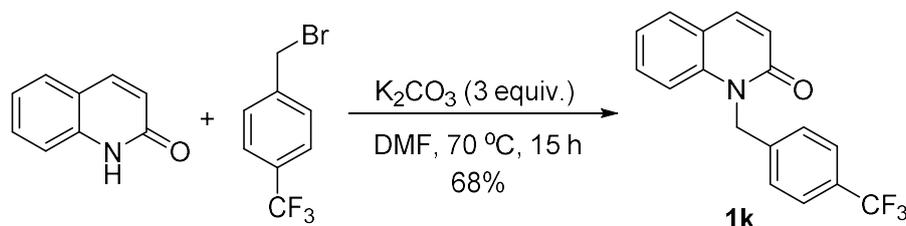
The reaction of quinolin-2(1H)-one (1.455 g, 10.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-acetylbenzene (2.560 g, 12.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4.146 g, 30.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1i** as a solid (2.109 g, 76%). Mp: 157.1-157.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.76 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 2 H), 6.80 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.60 (s, 2 H), 2.54 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.4, 162.2, 141.7, 139.7, 139.1, 136.1, 130.6, 128.9, 128.7, 126.6, 122.3, 121.4, 120.8, 114.6, 45.6, 26.4; IR (neat) 1684, 1658, 1615, 1590, 1499, 1453, 1408 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{18}H_{16}NO_2^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 278.1176, found: 278.1177.

9) 1-(4-Formylbenzyl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (**1j**)



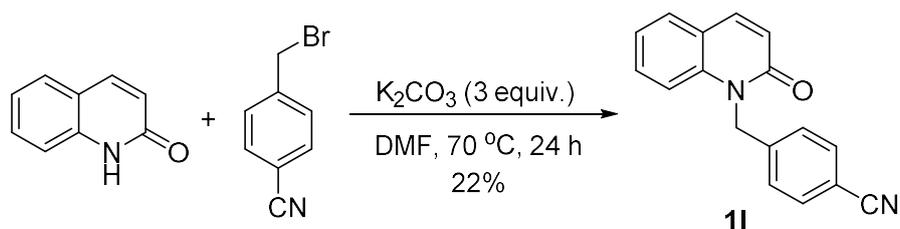
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (725 mg, 5.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-formylbenzene (1.195 g, 6.0 mmol), K₂CO₃ (2.072 g, 15.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (5 mL) afforded **1j** as a white solid (789 mg, 60%). Mp: 96.7-97.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethylacetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.96 (s, 1 H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.64 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6, 162.4, 143.4, 139.9, 139.2, 135.6, 130.8, 130.3, 129.1, 127.1, 122.5, 121.5, 121.0, 114.6, 45.8; IR (neat) 1697, 1651, 1608, 1590, 1565, 1496, 1452, 1403 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₁₃NNaO₂⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 286.0838, found: 286.0836.

10) 1-(4-Trifluoromethylbenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1k)



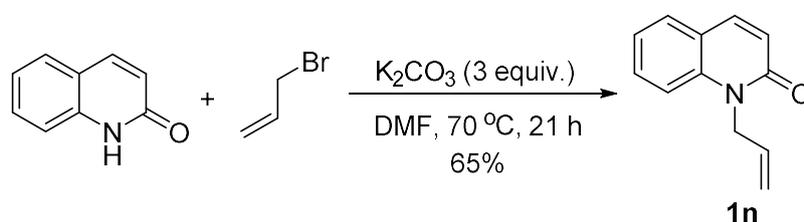
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1.451 g, 10.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-trifluoromethylbenzene (2.870 g, 12.0 mmol), K₂CO₃ (4.246 g, 30.7 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1k** as a white solid (2.074 g, 68%). Mp: 119.8-120.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 2 H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.60 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.2, 140.4, 139.7, 139.1, 130.7, 129.5 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 128.9, 126.8, 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.9 (q, *J* = 273.3 Hz), 122.3, 121.4, 120.8, 114.5, 45.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.5; IR (neat) 1652, 1590, 1564, 1496, 1459, 1419, 1402 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₁₃F₃NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 304.0944, found: 304.0937.

11) 1-(4-Cyanobenzyl)quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1l)



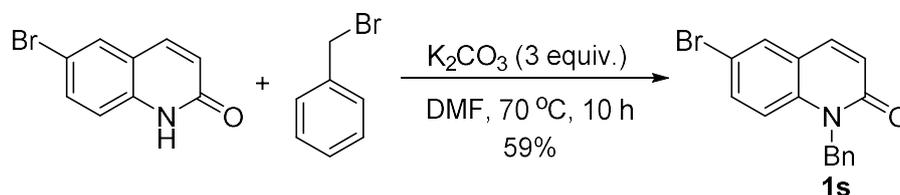
The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (2.903 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)-4-cyanobenzene (4.705 g, 24.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.294 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1l**¹³ as a solid (1.146 g, 22%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.78 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63-7.56 (m, 3 H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 1 H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.60 (s, 2 H).

12) 1-Allylquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1n**)



The reaction of quinolin-2(*1H*)-one (1.453 g, 10.0 mmol), 2-bromo-1-propene (2.6 mL, 30.0 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4.143 g, 30.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1n**¹⁴ as an oil (1.204 g, 65%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.69 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 2 H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 1 H), 6.73 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.02-5.89 (m, 1 H), 5.21 (dm, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.09 (dm, $J = 18.4$ Hz, 1 H), 4.95 (dt, $J = 4.7, 1.7$ Hz, 2 H).

13) 1-Benzyl-6-bromoquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1s**)



The reaction of 6-bromoquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (4.490 g, 20.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)benzene (2.9 mL, 24.4 mmol), K_2CO_3 (8.293 g, 60.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (20 mL) afforded **1s**¹² as a solid (3.737 g, 59%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.65 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.61 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 3 H), 7.10 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.51 (s, 2

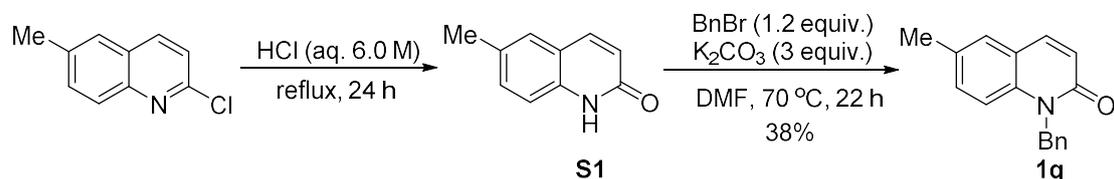
H).

14) 1-Benzyl-6-chloroquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1t**)



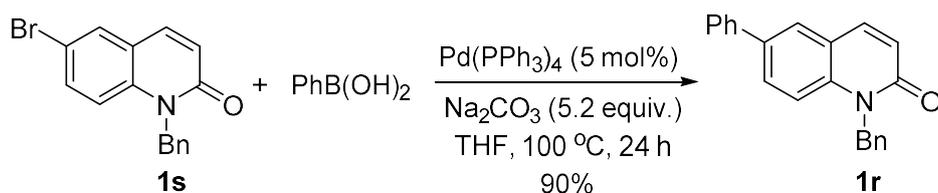
The reaction of 6-chloroquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (899 mg, 5.0 mmol), 1-(bromomethyl)benzene (0.7 mL, 5.9 mmol), K_2CO_3 (2.074 g, 15.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (5 mL) afforded **1t** as a white solid (1.025 g, 76%). Mp: 123.4-123.7 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.64 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.51 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31-7.14 (m, 6 H), 6.82 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.52 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.0, 138.3, 137.9, 135.8, 130.5, 128.8, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 126.4, 122.9, 121.9, 116.4, 46.0; IR (neat) 1659, 1587, 1558, 1488, 1454, 1428 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{16}H_{12}ClNNaO^+$ $[M+Na]^+$: 292.0500, found: 292.0496.

Synthesis of 1-benzyl-6-methylquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1q**)



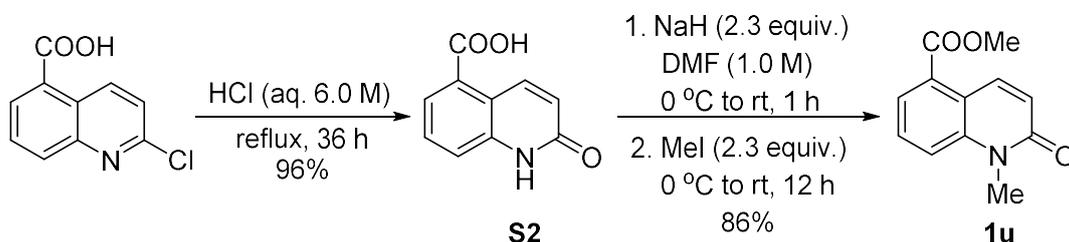
6-Methyl-2-chloroquinoline (1.780 g, 10.0 mmol) was refluxed in aq. HCl (6.0 M, 35 mL) for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and it was extracted with ethyl acetate and dried with $MgSO_4$. After concentration under reduced pressure, the crude residue **S1**¹⁵ was directly subjected to subsequent transformation without further purification. The following step was synthesized according to **Typical Procedure I**. The reaction of crude **S1**, 1-bromomethylbenzene (1.4 mL, 11.8 mmol), K_2CO_3 (4.150 g, 30.0 mmol), and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) afforded **1q**¹² as a white solid (946 mg, 38%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.67 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (s, 1 H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 4 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.54 (s, 2 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H).

Synthesis of 1-benzyl-6-phenylquinolin-2(*1H*)-one (**1r**)



1s (1.565 g, 5.0 mmol), phenylboronic acid (1.123 g, 10.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (286 mg, 0.25 mmol), aq. Na₂CO₃ (2.0 M, 13 mL, 26 mmol), and THF (20 mL) were added subsequently into a 100 mL of sealed tube. The mixture was stirred at 100 °C with an oil bath for 24 h as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled, diluted with ethyl acetate. The mixture was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1) afforded **1r** as a white solid (1.403 g, 90%). Mp: 158.0-158.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.60-7.53 (m, 2 H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2 H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3 H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.59 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.4, 139.6, 138.7, 136.3, 135.3, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 127.3, 126.8, 126.6, 122.1, 121.2, 115.5, 46.0; IR (neat) 1656, 1589, 1566, 1486, 1453, 1426 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₂H₁₈NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 312.1383, found: 312.1381.

Synthesis of 1-methyl-5-methoxycarbonylquinolin-2(1H)-one (**1u**)^{11,15}

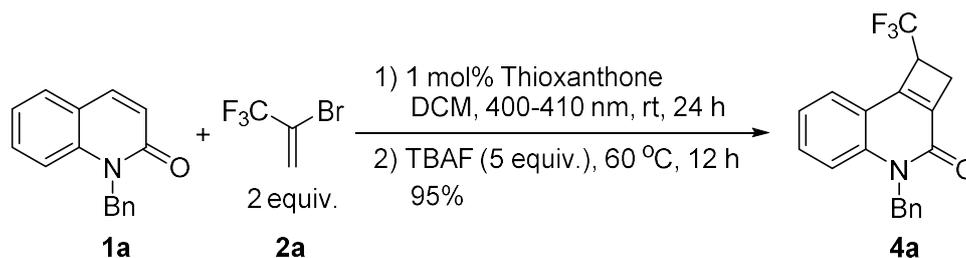


5-Carboxyl-2-chloroquinoline (2.075 g, 10.0 mmol) was refluxed in aq. HCl (6.0 M, 35 mL) for 36 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature while forming a colorless solid which was filtered, washed with cool water and dried in vacuum to give crude **S2**¹⁶ as a white solid (1.823 g, 96%). **S2** was used in the following step without further purification. To a solution of **S2** (1.823 g, 9.64 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10

mL) was slowly added NaH (60% wt. in mineral oil, 880 mg, 22.0 mmol) at 0 °C, the reaction was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. Then the suspension was cooled to 0 °C, followed by dropwise addition of MeI (1.4 mL, 22.5 mmol). The reaction was warmed to room temperature gradually and stirred for 12 h as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1) afforded **1u** as a white solid (1.793 g, 86%). Mp: 121.5-121.9 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.64-7.53 (m, 2 H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.98 (s, 3 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 161.5, 140.8, 136.0, 129.5, 128.6, 124.8, 123.2, 119.7, 118.2, 52.5, 29.8; IR (neat) 1716, 1648, 1608, 1583, 1482, 1456, 1428, 1418 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₂NO₃⁺ [M+H]⁺: 218.0812, found: 218.0806.

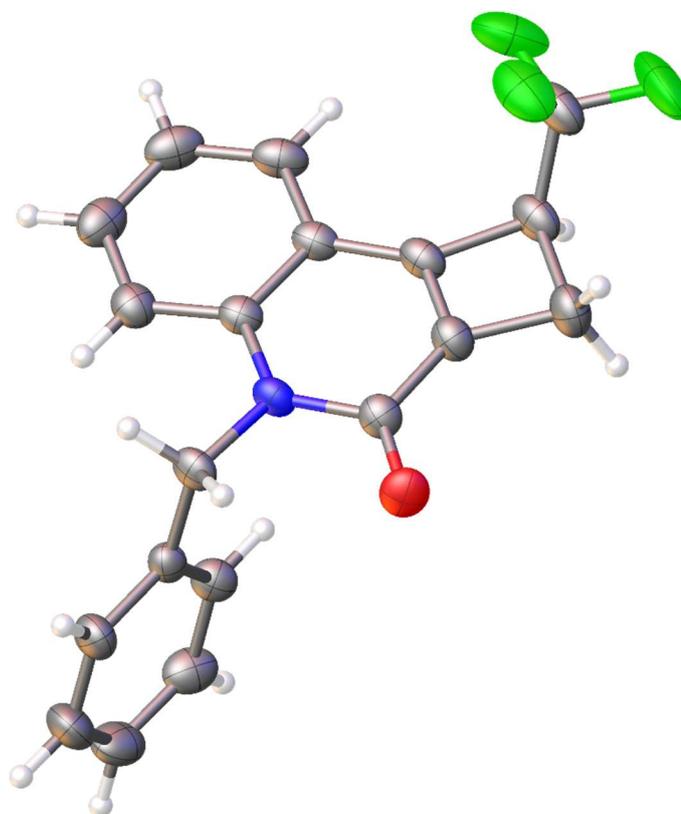
Typical Procedure II for Condition A

Synthesis of 4-benzyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(1*H*)-one (**4a**)



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (47 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (2 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED ($\lambda = 400\text{-}410 \text{ nm}$) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) was added to the solution subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). After completion of the

reaction, the mixture was washed with H₂O (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) afforded **4a** as a white solid (63 mg, 95%). Mp: 175.3-175.6 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 4 H), 5.57 (AB, *J*_{AB} = 15.6 Hz, *J*_{BA} = 36.8 Hz, 2 H), 4.27-4.15 (m, 1 H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 1.6 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 148.4 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 141.6, 136.3, 133.7, 130.6, 128.8, 127.3, 126.4, 125.5 (q, *J* = 278.0 Hz), 123.7 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 122.6, 117.9, 116.5, 46.1, 43.7 (q, *J* = 32.9 Hz), 29.8 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -70.0 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz); IR (neat) 1677, 1640, 1597, 1561, 1497, 1452 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₁₅F₃NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 330.1100, found: 330.1093. Supplementary crystallographic data for **4a** have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center. CCDC: 2076890.

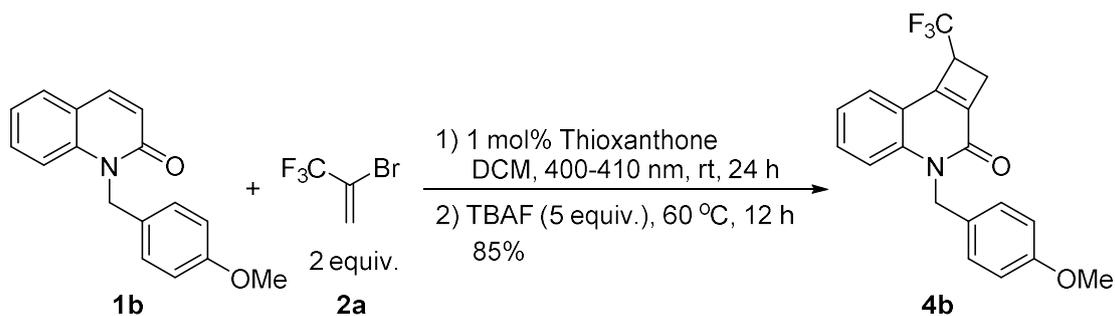


Ortep drawing with 50% ellipsoids for **4a**

Crystal data: C₁₉H₁₄F₃NO, M = 329.31, T = 173(2) K, Space group: P2₁/c, a = 9.0542(7) Å, b = 10.0870(8) Å, c = 16.9352(14) Å, α = 90°, β = 93.412(3)°, γ = 90°, V = 1543.9(2) Å³, Z = 4, R indices: R1 = 0.0511, wR2 = 0.1276.

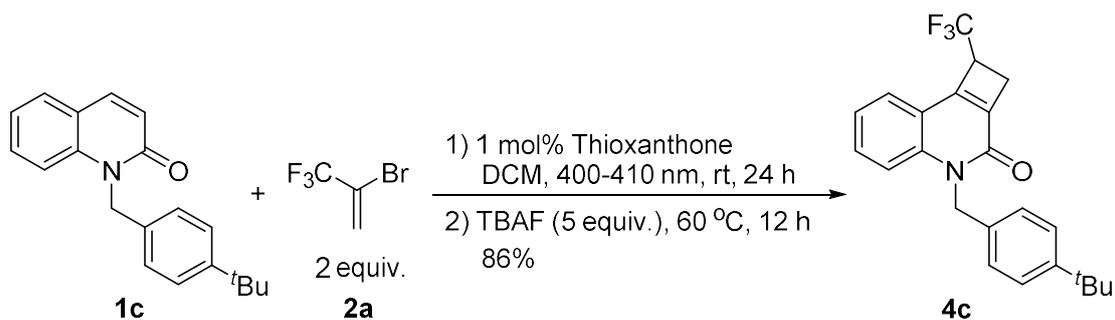
The following compounds were synthesized according to Typical Procedure II.

1) 4-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**4b**)



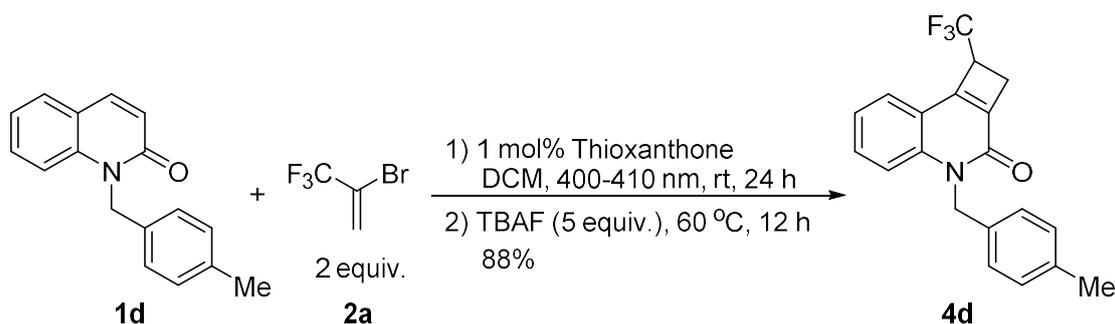
The reaction of **1b** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4b** as a solid (61 mg, 85%). Mp: 157.4-157.8 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.51 (AB, *J*_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, *J*_{BA} = 35.8 Hz, 2 H), 4.27-4.15 (m, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 157.8, 148.3 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 141.7, 133.8, 130.6, 128.4, 127.9, 125.6 (q, *J* = 278.3 Hz), 123.7, 122.6, 118.0, 116.5, 114.2, 55.3, 45.6, 43.7 (q, *J* = 32.9 Hz), 29.8 (q, *J* = 2.3 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -70.0 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz); IR (neat) 1676, 1640, 1613, 1597, 1561, 1513, 1452 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₀H₁₆F₃NNaO₂⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 382.1025, found: 382.1021.

2) 4-(4-(*Tert*-butyl)benzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**4c**)



The reaction of **1c** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4c** as a white solid (66 mg, 86%). Mp: 182.5-182.7 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 5.55 (brs, 2 H), 4.27-4.16 (m, 1 H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 14.2, 4.6$ Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1 H), 1.27 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 150.2, 148.3 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 141.7, 133.8, 133.2, 130.6, 126.2, 125.7, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.0$ Hz), 123.6, 122.5, 117.9, 116.6, 45.8, 43.7 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 34.4, 31.3, 29.8 (q, $J = 3.2$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz); IR (neat) 1676, 1641, 1597, 1561, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 408.1546, found: 408.1552.

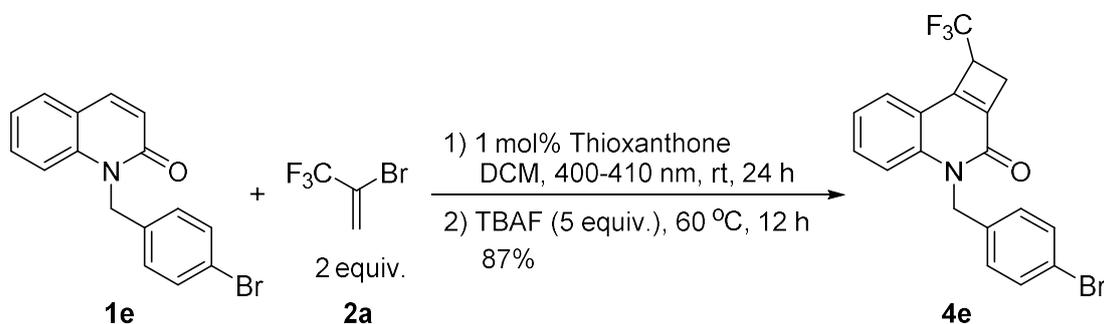
3) 4-(4-Methylbenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**4d**)



The reaction of **1d** (50 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4d** as a white solid (61 mg, 88%). Mp: 149.2-149.5 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.14 -7.06 (m, 4 H), 5.53 (AB, J_{AB}

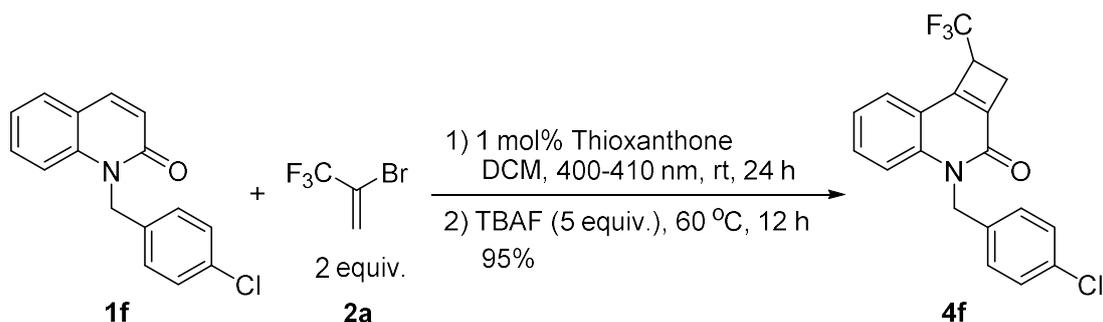
= 15.0 Hz, J_{BA} = 39.4 Hz, 2 H), 4.27-4.15 (m, 1 H), 3.47 (dd, J = 14.2, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, J = 14.2, 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 148.3 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 141.7, 136.9, 133.8, 133.3, 130.6, 129.5, 126.5, 125.5 (q, J = 278.1 Hz), 123.6, 122.5, 117.9, 116.5, 45.9, 43.7 (q, J = 32.8 Hz), 29.8 (q, J = 2.6 Hz), 21.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, J = 8.6 Hz); IR (neat) 1675, 1641, 1597, 1561, 1515, 1500, 1452 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$: 366.1076, found: 366.1073.

4) 4-(4-Bromobenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4e)



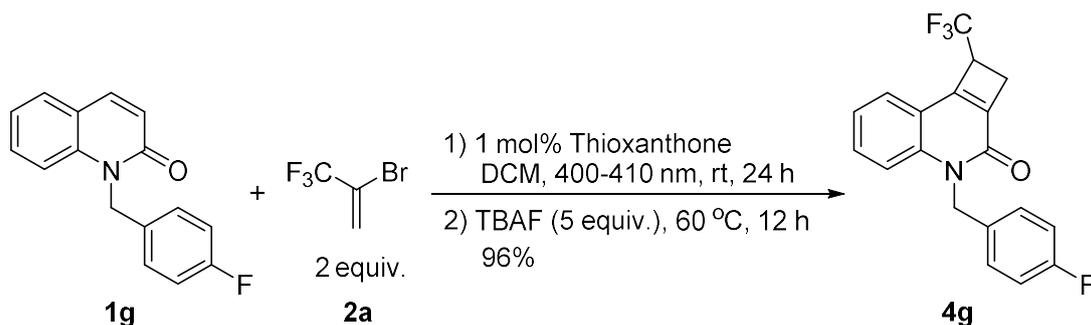
The reaction of **1e** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4e** as a white solid (71 mg, 87%). Mp: 161.0-161.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.39 (m, 3 H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 2 H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.51 (AB, J_{AB} = 15.2 Hz, J_{BA} = 41.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.28-4.16 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (dd, J = 14.2, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, J = 14.0, 1.6 Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.6, 148.6 (q, J = 2.9 Hz), 141.5, 135.4, 133.7, 131.9, 130.7, 128.3, 125.5 (q, J = 278.3 Hz), 123.9, 122.8, 121.2, 118.0, 116.2, 45.6, 43.8 (q, J = 32.9 Hz), 29.8 (q, J = 2.6 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, J = 8.6 Hz); IR (neat) 1677, 1640, 1597, 1561, 1489, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrF}_3\text{NO}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$: 408.0205, found: 408.0210.

5) 4-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4f)



The reaction of **1f** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4f** as a white solid (69 mg, 95%). Mp: 186.1-186.2 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 1 H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 4 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 5.53 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.4$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 40.6$ Hz, 2 H), 4.28-4.16 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, $J = 14.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 148.6 (q, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 141.5, 134.9, 133.7, 133.2, 130.7, 129.0, 127.9, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 123.9, 122.8, 118.0, 116.2, 45.5, 43.8 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1675, 1640, 1597, 1561, 1492, 1452 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClF}_3\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 364.0711, found: 364.0710.

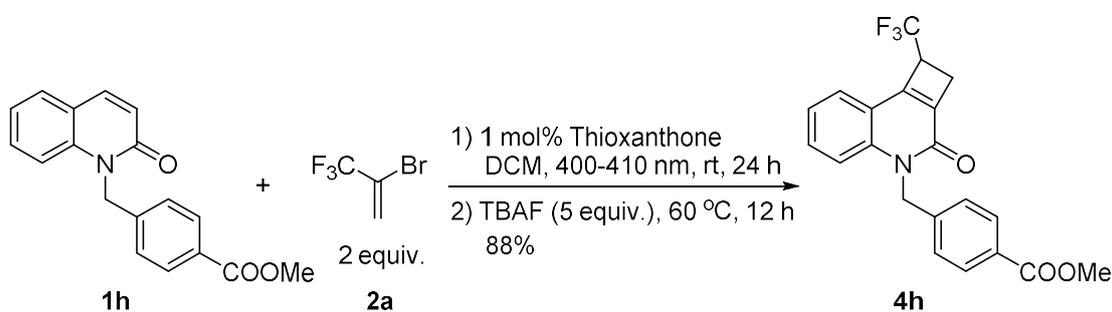
6) 4-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4g)



The reaction of **1g** (51 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4g** as a white solid (66 mg, 96%). Mp: 181.0-181.2 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 3 H), 7.02-6.94 (m, 2 H), 5.53 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.8$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 34.2$ Hz, 2 H), 4.27-4.16 (m, 1 H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.35

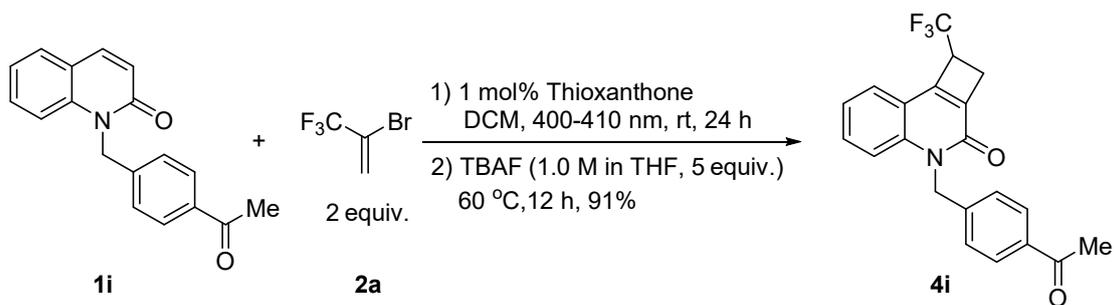
(dd, $J = 14.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.0 (C-F, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 246.8$ Hz), 157.7, 148.5 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 141.5, 133.7, 132.0 (C-F, $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.7$ Hz), 130.6, 128.2 (C-F, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.1$ Hz), 125.5 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 123.8, 122.7, 117.9, 116.2, 115.7 (C-F, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.7$ Hz), 45.4, 43.7 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.9$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz), -115.1 (ddd, $J = 13.3, 8.6, 5.2$ Hz); IR (neat) 1674, 1641, 1597, 1562, 1510, 1452 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_4\text{NNaO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 370.0825, found: 370.0823.

7) **4-(4-Methoxycarbonylbenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4h)**



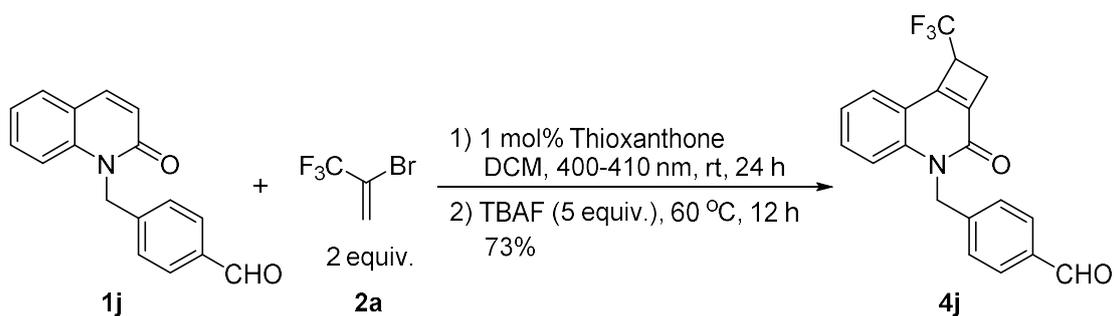
The reaction of **1h** (59 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4h** as a white solid (68 mg, 88%). Mp: 171.3-171.5 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 4 H), 5.62 (AB, $J_{\text{AB}} = 13.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{BA}} = 48.4$ Hz, 2 H), 4.30-4.18 (m, 1 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 14.2, 4.6$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.6, 157.6, 148.7 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 141.6, 141.4, 133.7, 130.7, 130.1, 129.3, 126.4, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.4$ Hz), 123.8, 122.8, 117.9, 116.2, 52.0, 46.0, 43.7 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1722, 1679, 1641, 1613, 1597, 1562, 1500, 1453, 1437, 1416 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 388.1155, found: 388.1148.

8) **4-(4-Acetylbenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4i)**



The reaction of **1i** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4i** as a white solid (67 mg, 91%). Mp: 136.6-136.7 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2 H), 5.63 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.4$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 38.2$ Hz, 2 H), 4.30-4.18 (m, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H), 2.56 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 157.6, 148.7 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 141.8, 141.5, 136.3, 133.7, 130.8, 128.9, 126.6, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 123.9, 122.8, 118.0, 116.2, 45.9, 43.8 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 26.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.0 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1678, 1640, 1609, 1597, 1561, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 372.1206, found: 372.1207.

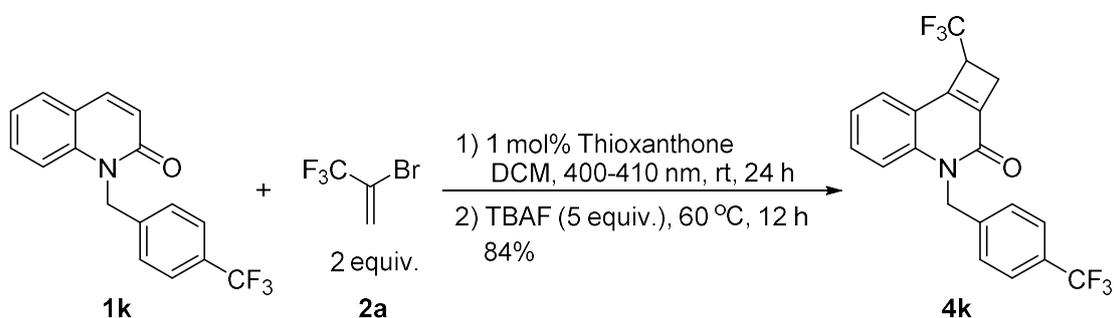
9) 4-(4-Formylbenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4j)



The reaction of **1j** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4j** as a solid (52 mg, 73%). Mp: 168.1-168.6 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.96 (s, 1 H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.24 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.22

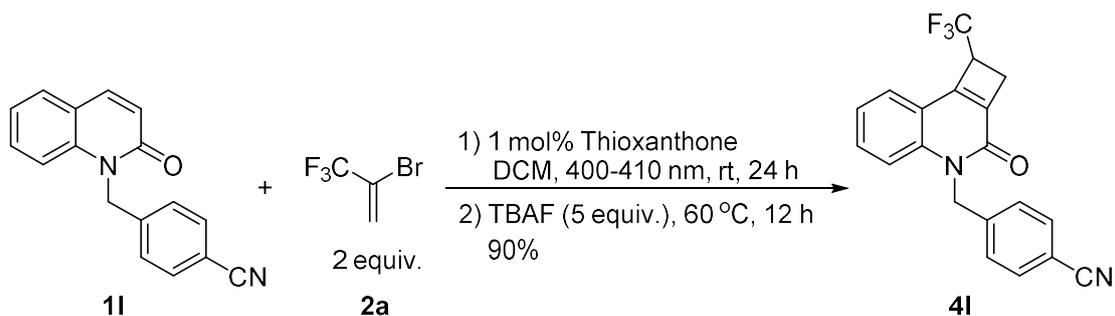
(d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1 H), 5.65 (AB, $J_{AB} = 16.0$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 39.6$ Hz, 2 H), 4.31-4.19 (m, 1 H), 3.50 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.5, 157.6, 148.8 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 143.4, 141.4, 135.6, 133.7, 130.8, 130.3, 127.0, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.3$ Hz), 123.9, 122.9, 117.9, 116.1, 46.0, 43.8 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1704, 1674, 1641, 1608, 1597, 1562, 1501, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 358.1049, found: 358.1044.

10) 4-(4-Trifluoromethylbenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4k)



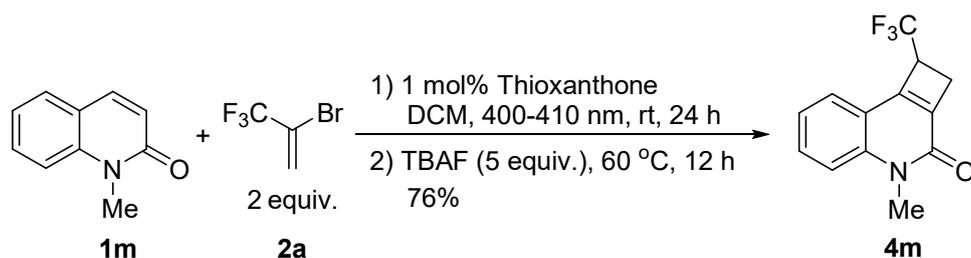
The reaction of **1k** (61 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4k** as a white solid (66 mg, 84%). Mp: 188.2-188.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 2 H), 5.63 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.2$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 37.6$ Hz, 2 H), 4.30-4.18 (m, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.6, 148.8 (q, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 141.4, 140.5, 133.7, 130.8, 129.7 (q, $J = 32.3$ Hz), 126.8, 125.8 (q, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 125.5 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 123.97 (q, $J = 273.1$ Hz), 123.96, 122.9, 118.0, 116.1, 45.8, 43.8 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.6, -70.0 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1673, 1639, 1620, 1596, 1561, 1452, 1430 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_6\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 398.0974, found: 398.0985.

11) 4-(4-Cyanobenzyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4l)



The reaction of **1l** (52 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4l** as a white solid (64 mg, 90%). Mp: 229.3-229.6 $^\circ$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 1 H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 5.62 (AB, $J_{AB} = 16.6$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 33.8$ Hz, 2 H), 4.31-4.18 (m, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (dd, $J = 14.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 148.9 (q, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 141.9, 141.3, 133.7, 132.7, 130.9, 127.2, 125.4 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 124.1, 123.0, 118.5, 118.0, 115.9, 111.4, 45.8, 43.8 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 2229, 1672, 1639, 1610, 1595, 1557, 1509, 1451, 1435, 1415 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 355.1053, found: 355.1048.

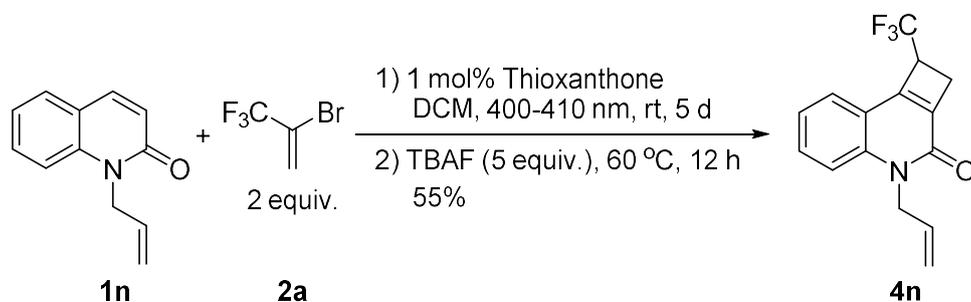
12) 4-Methyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**4m**)



The reaction of **1m** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4m** as a white solid (39 mg, 76%). Mp: 111.2-111.8 $^\circ$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63-7.56 (m, 2 H), 7.45 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 4.24-4.12 (m, 1 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 3.42 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.29 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.6, 147.7 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 142.1, 133.9, 130.6, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.0$ Hz), 123.6 (q, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 122.5, 117.7,

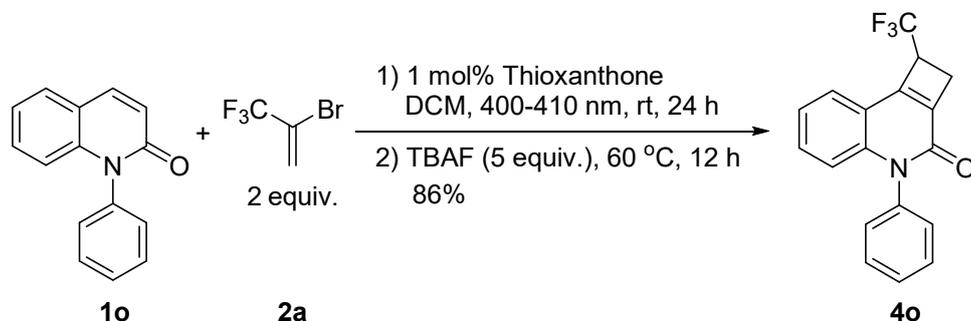
115.6, 43.6 (q, $J = 33.0$ Hz), 29.70 (q, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 29.68; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.1 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz); IR (neat) 1674, 1639, 1596, 1562, 1453 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 254.0787, found: 254.0786.

13) 4-Allyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4n)



The reaction of **1n** (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4n** as a solid (31 mg, 55%). Mp: 111.1-111.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.58-7.51 (m, 1 H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 1 H), 6.03-5.89 (m, 1 H), 5.23 (dm, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.10 (dm, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1 H), 5.05-4.90 (m, 2 H), 4.25-4.13 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (dd, $J = 14.4$, 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.31 (dd, $J = 14.0$, 2.0 Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.2, 148.1 (q, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 141.5, 133.8, 131.9, 130.5, 125.5 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 123.7, 122.5, 117.8, 117.1, 116.3, 44.7, 43.6 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 29.7 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.1 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1676, 1639, 1597, 1561, 1452 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 280.0944, found: 280.0950.

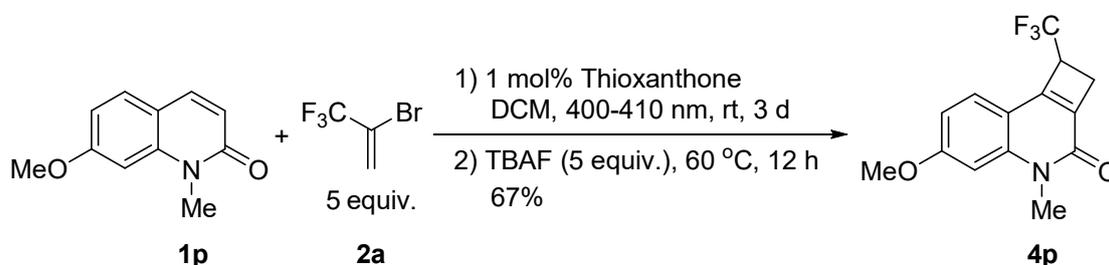
14) 4-Phenyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4o)



The reaction of **1o** (44 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4o** as a white solid (54 mg, 86%). Mp: 199.8-200.2 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl

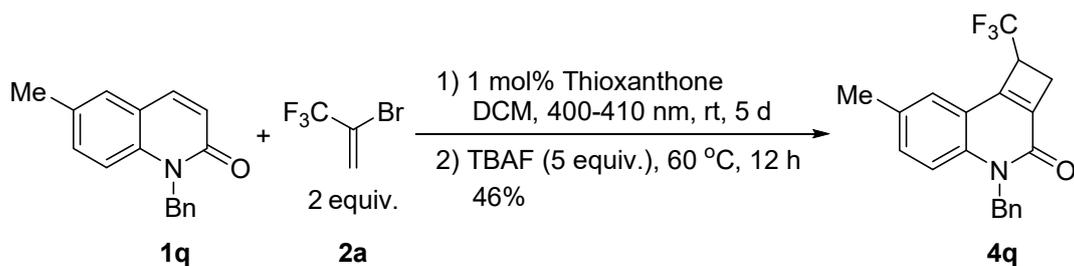
acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65-7.57 (m, 3 H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 2 H), 6.68 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 4.30-4.18 (m, 1 H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 14.2, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 148.8 (q, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 143.5, 137.7, 134.3, 130.2, 130.1 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 129.0, 128.9 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz), 125.6 (q, $J = 278.0$ Hz), 123.2, 122.7, 117.4, 117.3, 43.6 (q, $J = 33.0$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 3.1$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1671, 1592, 1558, 1488, 1448 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 316.0944, found: 316.0940.

15) 4-Methyl-6-methoxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4p)



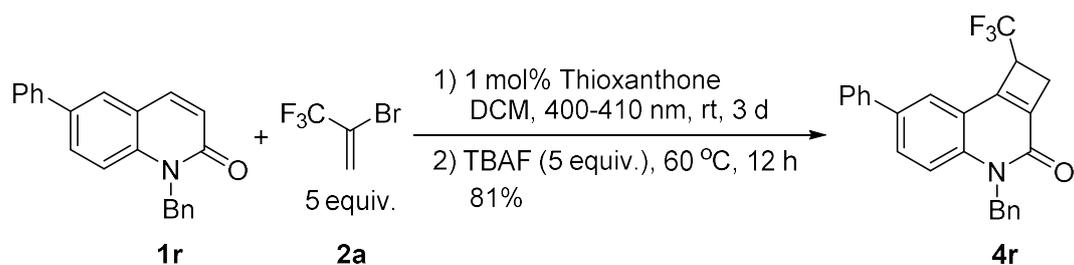
The reaction of **1p** (38 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (104 μL , 1.0 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4p** as a white solid (38 mg, 67%). Mp: 151.8-152.2 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 6.90-6.83 (m, 2 H), 4.19-4.07 (m, 1 H), 3.92 (s, 3 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 3.38 (dd, $J = 13.6, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 13.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 157.9, 147.5 (q, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 143.9, 130.1, 125.6 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 124.9, 111.8, 110.0, 100.1, 55.6, 43.5 (q, $J = 32.7$ Hz), 29.7, 29.5 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.2 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz); IR (neat) 1672, 1605, 1553, 1464, 1420 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 284.0893, found: 284.0889.

16) 4-Benzyl-7-methyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4q)



The reaction of **1q** (50 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4q** as a white solid (32 mg, 46%). Mp: 149.1-149.6 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37 (s, 1 H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 5 H), 5.56 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.8$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 38.2$ Hz, 2 H), 4.25-4.13 (m, 1 H), 3.46 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 14.4, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 148.1 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 139.7, 136.5, 133.7, 132.4, 131.9, 128.8, 127.2, 126.4, 125.6 (q, $J = 278.1$ Hz), 123.4, 117.9, 116.4, 46.1, 43.6 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 29.8 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 20.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1674, 1641, 1607, 1558, 1497, 1454 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 366.1076, found: 366.1069.

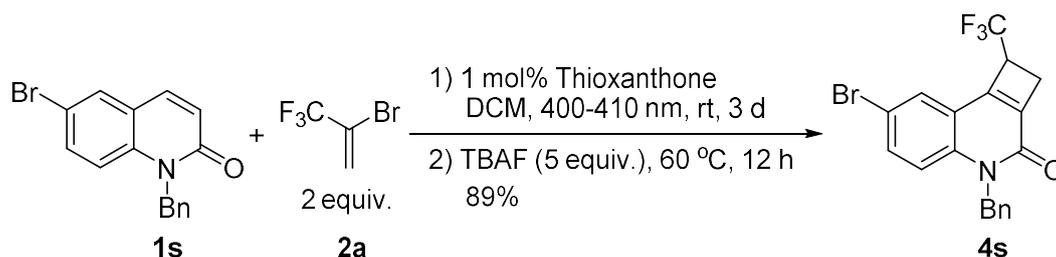
17) 4-Benzyl-7-phenyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4r)



The reaction of **1r** (62 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (104 μL , 1.0 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4r** as a solid (66 mg, 81%). Mp: 155.6-155.9 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.55 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3 H), 5.59 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.4$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 35.0$ Hz, 2 H), 4.31-4.19 (m, 1 H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 14.0, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.37 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3)

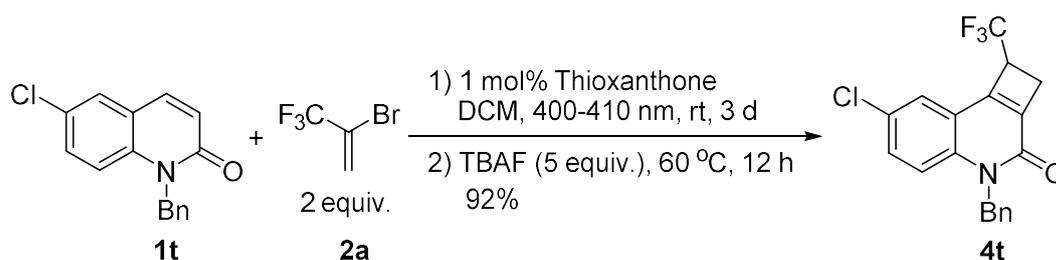
δ 157.6, 148.4 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 140.9, 139.3, 136.3, 135.6, 134.2, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 126.5, 125.6 (q, $J = 278.2$ Hz), 121.5, 118.2, 116.9, 46.2, 43.7 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 29.9 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.8 (dd, $J = 8.3, 3.0$ Hz); IR (neat) 1675, 1641, 1604, 1555, 1496, 1454, 1427 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 406.1413, found: 406.1412.

18) 4-Benzyl-7-bromo-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4s)



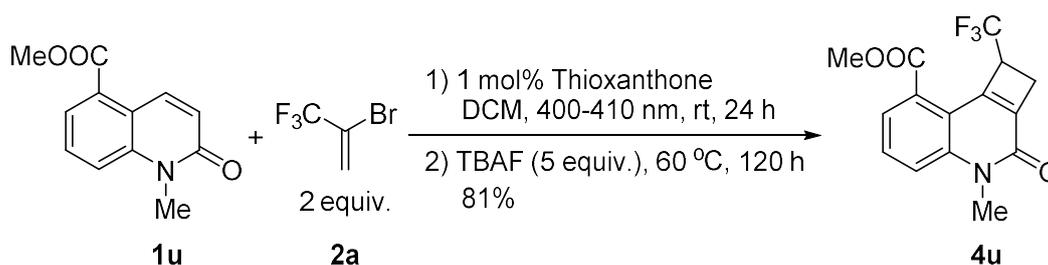
The reaction of **1s** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4s** as a white solid (73 mg, 89%). Mp: 154.8-155.0 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.69 (s, 1 H), 7.49 (dd, $J = 9.0, 1.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.14 (m, 4 H), 5.54 (AB, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 38.8$ Hz, 2 H), 4.27-4.13 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (dd, $J = 14.2, 4.6$ Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.3, 147.2 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz), 140.5, 135.9, 135.2, 133.4, 128.9, 127.5, 126.4, 126.1, 125.3 (q, $J = 278.4$ Hz), 119.2, 118.2, 115.8, 46.2, 43.8 (q, $J = 33.0$ Hz), 30.0 (q, $J = 2.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1679, 1640, 1590, 1549, 1496, 1454, 1423 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrF}_3\text{NNaO}^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 430.0025, found: 430.0031.

19) 4-Benzyl-7-chloro-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (4t)



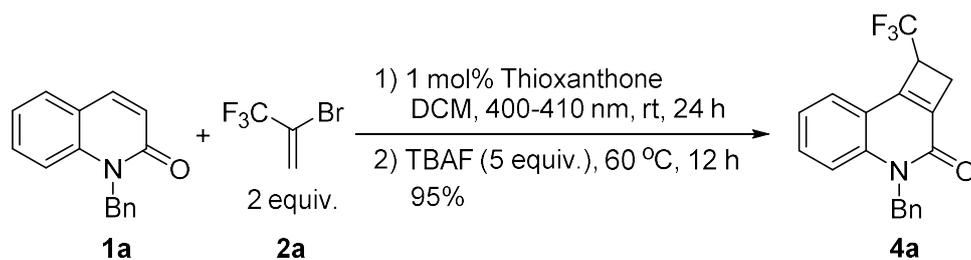
The reaction of **1t** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4t** as a white solid (67 mg, 92%). Mp: 151.8-152.3 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.34-7.20 (m, 4 H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 5.55 (AB, $J_{AB} = 15.6$ Hz, $J_{BA} = 39.6$ Hz, 2 H), 4.26-4.14 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (dd, $J = 14.2, 4.6$ Hz, 1 H), 3.35 (dd, $J = 14.4, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.3, 147.3 (q, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 140.1, 135.9, 135.3, 130.7, 128.9, 128.4, 127.5, 126.4, 125.3 (q, $J = 278.3$ Hz), 123.0, 118.8, 117.9, 46.3, 43.8 (q, $J = 33.1$ Hz), 30.0 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -69.9 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1677, 1595, 1552, 1496, 1455, 1426 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClF}_3\text{NNaO}^+ [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 386.0530, found: 386.0532.

20) 4-Methyl-8-methoxycarbonyl-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(IH)-one (4u)



The reaction of **1u** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol) afforded **4u** as a white solid (50 mg, 81%). Mp: 160.4-160.6 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (dd, $J = 6.4, 1.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.65-7.54 (m, 2 H), 4.58-4.46 (m, 1 H), 3.96 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.43 (dd, $J = 14.4, 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 14.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.0, 157.0, 146.3 (q, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 142.7, 137.5, 129.4, 128.1, 125.7 (q, $J = 278.7$ Hz), 124.0, 119.1, 116.2, 52.6, 46.0 (q, $J = 31.6$ Hz), 30.1, 29.5 (q, $J = 3.0$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.4 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz); IR (neat) 1720, 1672, 1628, 1586, 1561, 1460, 1438 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3^+ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 312.0842, found: 312.0839.

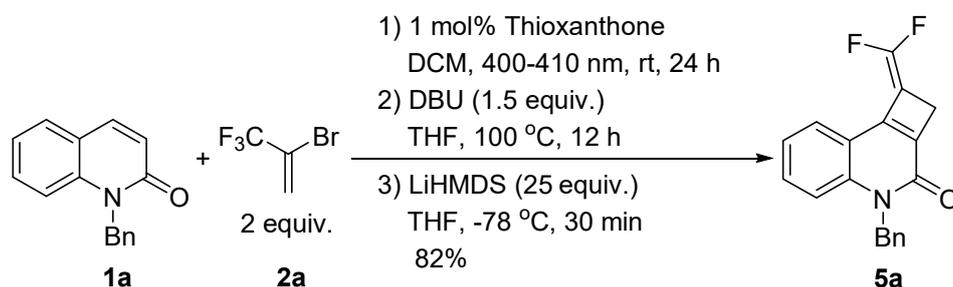
Gram-scale reaction of 1a under Condition A



To an oven-dried 100 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (1.176 g, 5.0 mmol), **2** (1.0 mL, 9.6 mmol), thioxanthone (11 mg, 0.05 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (50 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED ($\lambda = 400\text{-}410$ nm) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 25 mL, 25 mmol) was added to the solution subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was washed with H₂O (50 mL) and saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30:1→5:1) afforded **4a** as a white solid (1.570 g, 95%).

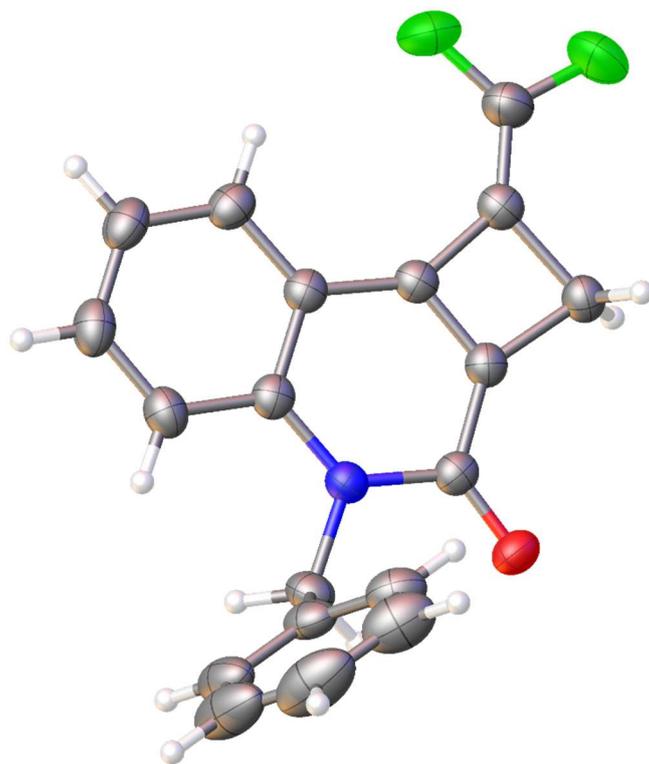
Typical Procedure III for Condition B

Synthesis of 4-benzyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**5a**)



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (47 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (2 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED ($\lambda = 400\text{-}410$ nm) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). DCM was removed in vacuo, anhydrous THF (1

mL) and DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol) were added to the residue subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was completed after 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). The mixture was cannulated under argon atmosphere to a 250 mL of Schlenk flask containing anhydrous THF (100 mL). LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol) was added to the solution at -78 $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The cooling bath was then removed and the reaction was quenched with H₂O (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for another 30 min until the reaction mixture reached room temperature. Then THF was removed by rotary evaporator, the residue was washed with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) afforded **5a** as a white solid (51 mg, 82%). Mp: 112.2-112.4 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.25-7.16 (m, 4 H), 5.57 (s, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 150.1 (dd, *J* = 294.3, 292.0 Hz), 147.8 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 3.6 Hz), 141.9, 136.5, 130.7, 129.1 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 5.1 Hz), 128.8, 127.2, 126.4, 124.5 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 122.4, 116.5, 116.1, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 23.1 Hz), 46.0, 32.2 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -83.9 (d, *J* = 44.4 Hz), -93.4 (d, *J* = 44.4 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1660, 1584, 1557, 1497, 1449, 1406 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₁₃F₂NNaO⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 332.0857, found: 332.0855. Supplementary crystallographic data for **5a** have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center. CCDC: 2076180.

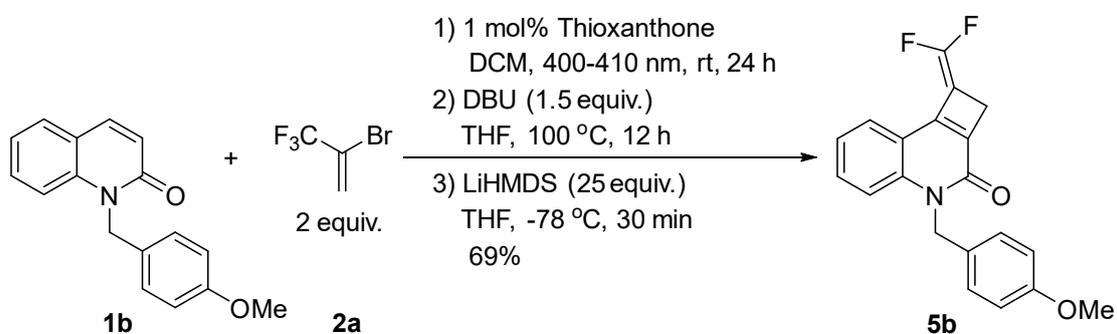


Ortep drawing with 50% ellipsoids for **5a**

Crystal data: C₁₉H₁₃F₂NO, M = 309.30, T = 173(2) K, Space group: P-1, a = 8.982(5) Å, b = 13.786(5) Å, c = 13.975(3) Å, α = 112.81(3)°, β = 107.33(3)°, γ = 96.28(3)°, V = 1472.2(11) Å³, Z = 4, R indices: R1 = 0.0541, wR2 = 0.1250.

The following compounds were synthesized according to Typical Procedure III.

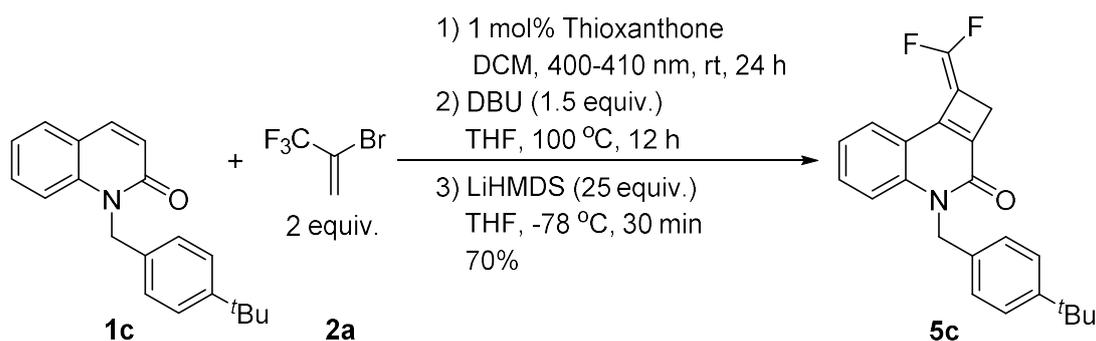
1) 4-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (**5b**)



The reaction of **1b** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μL, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1

mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5b** as a white solid (47 mg, 69%). Mp: 169.0-169.5 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.51 (s, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 2 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 157.9, 150.1 (t, *J* = 293.3 Hz), 147.7 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 3.2 Hz), 141.9, 130.6, 129.2 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 128.6, 127.8, 124.5 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 122.4, 116.5, 116.1, 114.2, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 23.3 Hz), 55.2, 45.5, 32.2 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.0 (d, *J* = 45.1 Hz), -93.5 (d, *J* = 45.1 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1660, 1585, 1556, 1513, 1445 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₀H₁₅F₂NNaO₂⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 362.0963, found: 362.0959.

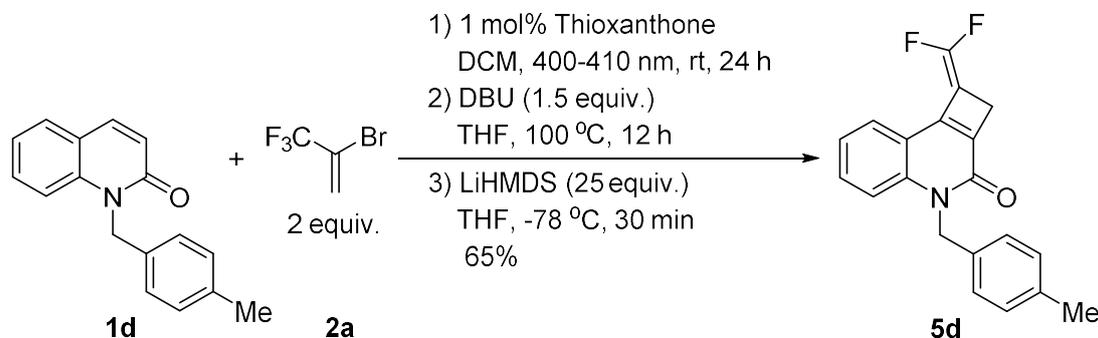
2) **4-(4-(*Tert*-butyl)benzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(*1H*)-one (**5c**)**



The reaction of **1c** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μL, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5c** as a white solid (51 mg, 70%). Mp: 169.6-170.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.55 (brs, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 2 H), 1.27 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 150.12, 150.11 (t, *J* = 293.2 Hz), 147.7 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 3.4 Hz), 142.0, 133.4, 130.7, 129.2 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 5.1 Hz), 126.2, 125.7, 124.5 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 122.4, 116.6, 116.1, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 23.4 Hz), 45.8, 34.4, 32.3 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 31.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.0 (d, *J* = 45.1 Hz), -93.5 (d, *J* = 45.1 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1661, 1586, 1557, 1450 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₂₁F₂NNaO⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 388.1483, found:

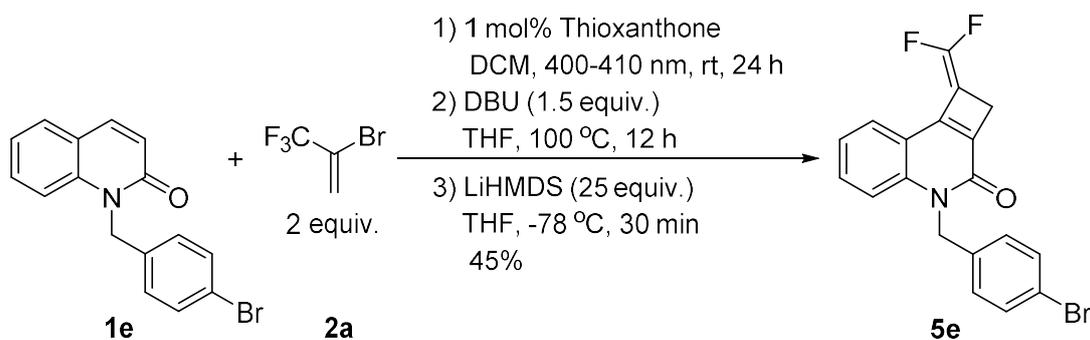
388.1478.

3) 4-(4-Methylbenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5d)



The reaction of **1d** (50 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5d** as a white solid (42 mg, 65%). Mp: 163.5-163.7 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 4 H), 5.54 (brs, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 2 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.9, 150.1 (t, J = 293.5 Hz), 147.7 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.6 Hz), 141.9, 136.9, 133.5, 130.6, 129.4, 129.2 (t, J = 5.5 Hz), 126.4, 124.5 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 122.4, 116.5, 116.1, 90.1 (dd, J = 34.2, 23.2 Hz), 45.8, 32.2 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 21.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.0 (d, J = 44.7 Hz), -93.5 (d, J = 44.4 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1660, 1586, 1557, 1515, 1502, 1449, 1407 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{NNaO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 346.1014, found: 346.1006.

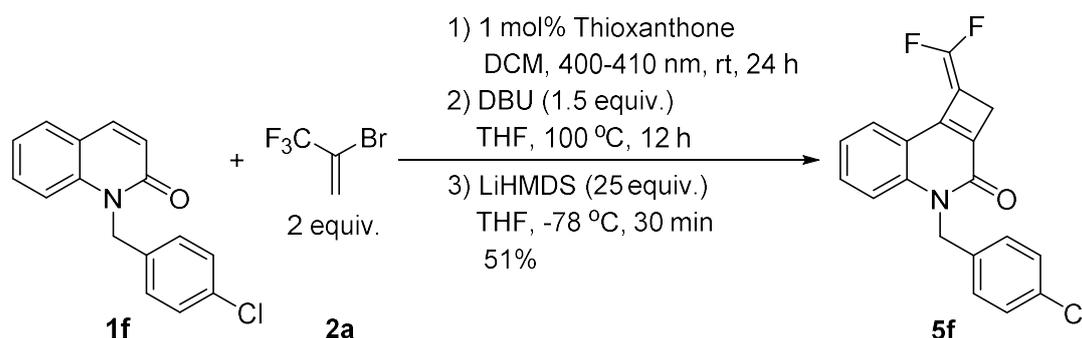
4) 4-(4-Bromobenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5e)



The reaction of **1e** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg,

0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5e** as a white solid (35 mg, 45%). Mp: 162.7-163.3 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2 H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.52 (brs, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 2 H); 13 C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.8, 150.2 (t, J = 293.9 Hz), 148.0 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.8 Hz), 141.7, 135.6, 131.9, 130.8, 129.1 (t, J = 5.7 Hz), 128.3, 124.7 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 122.6, 121.1, 116.24, 116.16, 90.1 (dd, J = 34.4, 23.4 Hz), 45.5, 32.3 (d, J = 5.5 Hz); 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.7 (d, J = 44.0 Hz), -93.1 (d, J = 43.2 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1660, 1586, 1559, 1501, 1488, 1449, 1404 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrF}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 388.0143, found: 388.0146.

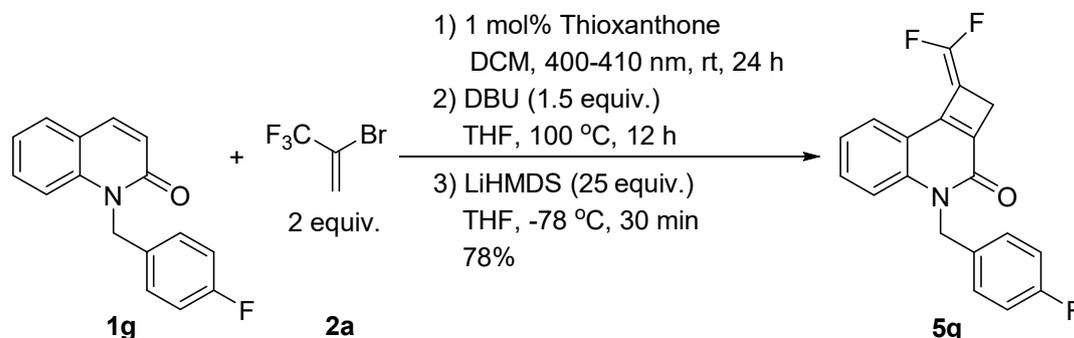
5) 4-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5f)



The reaction of **1f** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5f** as a solid (35 mg, 51%). Mp: 149.2-149.8 $^{\circ}$ C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 4 H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 5.54 (brs, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 2 H); 13 C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.8, 150.2 (dd, J = 294.3, 292.4 Hz), 148.0 (dd, J = 8.7, 3.2 Hz), 141.7, 135.0, 133.1, 130.8, 129.1 (dd, J = 6.7, 4.9 Hz), 129.0, 127.9, 124.7 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 122.6, 116.3, 116.2, 90.1 (dd, J = 34.4, 23.3 Hz), 45.5, 32.3 (d, J = 5.7 Hz); 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.7 (d, J = 44.4 Hz), -93.2 (d, J = 43.2 Hz); IR (neat) 1775, 1660, 1586, 1557, 1492, 1449, 1406 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for

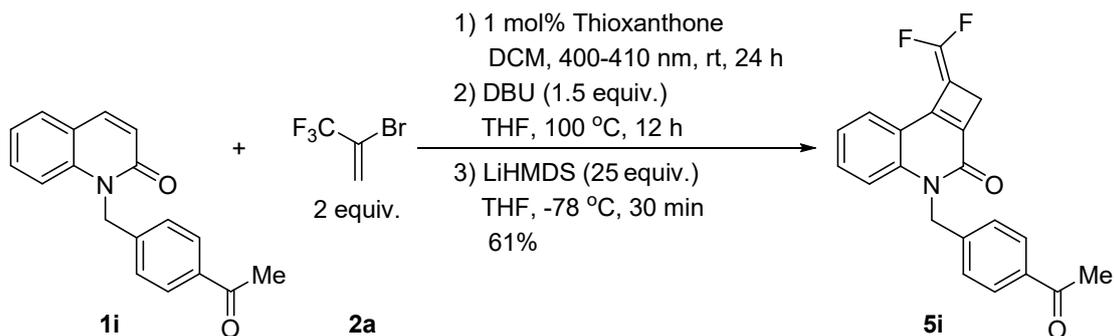
$C_{19}H_{13}ClF_2NO^+$ $[M+H]^+$: 344.0648, found: 344.0639.

6) 4-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5g)



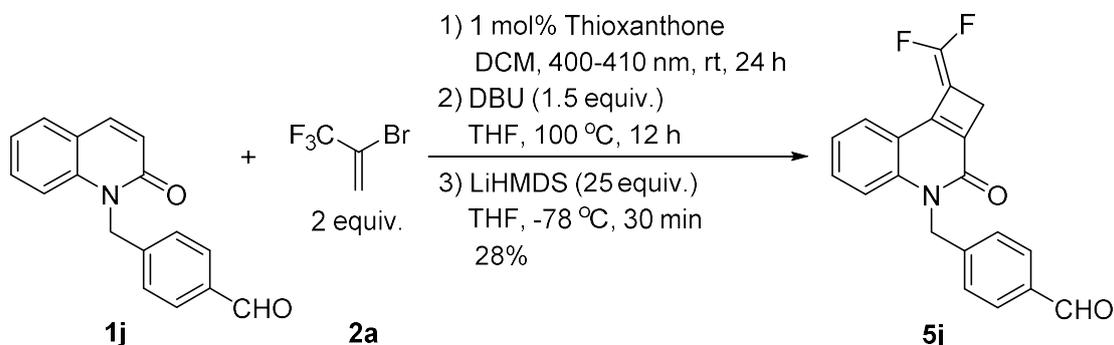
The reaction of **1g** (51 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5g** as a white solid (51 mg, 78%). Mp: 185.6-185.7 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 1 H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.02-6.94 (m, 2 H), 5.53 (brs, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.0 (C-F, $^1J_{C-F}$ = 246.9 Hz), 157.8, 150.1 (t, J = 293.5 Hz), 147.9 (dd, J = 8.7, 3.2 Hz), 141.7, 132.2 (C-F, $^4J_{C-F}$ = 2.8 Hz), 130.7, 129.1 (t, J = 5.6 Hz), 128.2 (C-F, $^3J_{C-F}$ = 8.1 Hz), 124.6 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 122.5, 116.3, 116.1, 115.7 (C-F, $^2J_{C-F}$ = 21.7 Hz), 90.1 (dd, J = 34.4, 23.3 Hz), 45.4, 32.2 (d, J = 5.5 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -83.8 (d, J = 44.4 Hz), -93.2 (d, J = 44.4 Hz), -115.2 (ddd, J = 13.2, 8.5, 4.9 Hz); IR (neat) 1777, 1658, 1607, 1584, 1556, 1510, 1450, 1407 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{19}H_{12}F_3NNaO^+$ $[M+Na]^+$: 350.0763, found: 350.0761.

7) 4-(4-Acetylbenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5i)



The reaction of **1i** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5i** as a white solid (43 mg, 61%). Mp: 165.8-166.2 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.24 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.63 (brs, 2 H), 3.78 (s, 2 H), 2.56 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.4, 157.7, 150.2 (t, J = 293.7 Hz), 148.1 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.9 Hz), 142.0, 141.7, 136.3, 130.8, 129.0 (t, J = 5.8 Hz), 128.9, 126.6, 124.7 (d, J = 5.2 Hz), 122.6, 116.2, 90.1 (dd, J = 34.5, 23.6 Hz), 45.9, 32.3 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 26.5; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.6 (d, J = 42.5 Hz), -93.0 (d, J = 43.6 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1659, 1609, 1586, 1559, 1450, 1409 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 352.1144, found: 352.1143.

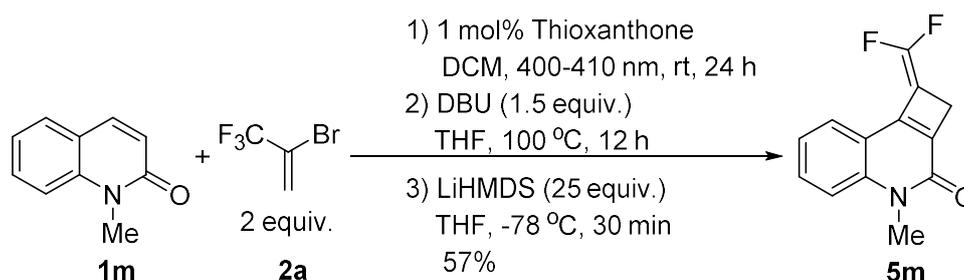
8) 4-(4-Formylbenzyl)-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[*c*]quinolin-3(1*H*)-one (5j**)**



The reaction of **1j** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded

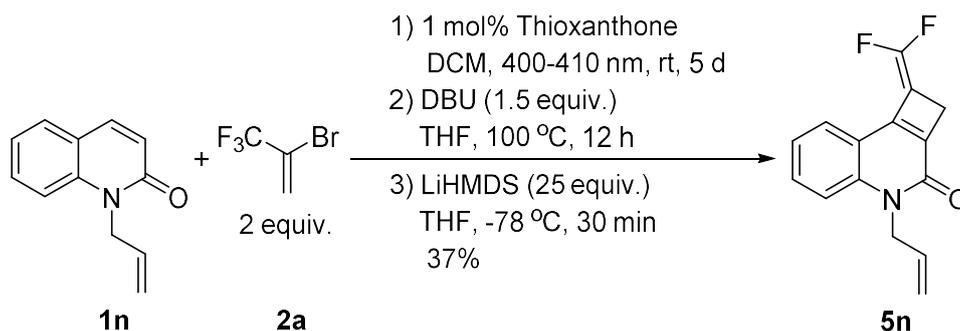
5j as a white solid (19 mg, 28%). Mp: 169.9-170.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.96 (s, 1 H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.65 (brs, 2 H), 3.78 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6, 157.7, 150.2 (dd, *J* = 294.6, 292.5 Hz), 148.2 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 3.4 Hz), 143.6, 141.6, 135.6, 130.8, 130.2, 129.0 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 5.1 Hz), 127.0, 124.7 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz), 122.7, 116.12, 116.09, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.4, 23.1 Hz), 45.9, 32.3 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -83.5 (d, *J* = 43.2 Hz), -92.9 (d, *J* = 43.6 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1703, 1660, 1609, 1586, 1560, 1450, 1407 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₀H₁₄F₂NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺: 338.0987, found: 338.0991.

9) 4-Methyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5m)



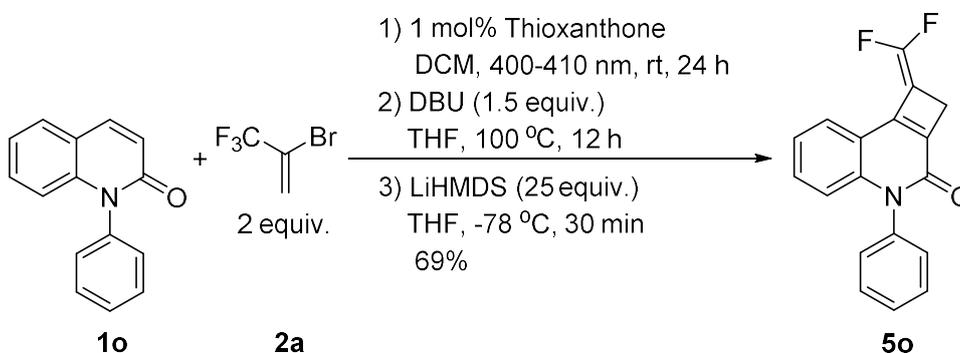
The reaction of **1m** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μL, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5m** as a white solid (27 mg, 57%). Mp: 107.1-107.6 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 3.70 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 150.1 (dd, *J* = 294.0, 292.0 Hz), 147.1 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 3.8 Hz), 142.4, 130.7, 129.3 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 5.1 Hz), 124.5 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 122.3, 115.8, 115.6, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 23.3 Hz), 32.1 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 29.7; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.3 (d, *J* = 45.1 Hz), -93.8 (d, *J* = 45.9 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1655, 1586, 1557, 1452, 1415 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₀F₂NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 234.0725, found: 234.0724.

10) 4-Allyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5n)



The reaction of **1n** (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5n** as a white solid (19 mg, 37%). Mp: 106.5-106.7 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 1 H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 1 H), 6.03-5.89 (m, 1 H), 5.22 (dm, J = 11.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.08 (dm, J = 18.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.01-4.96 (m, 2 H), 3.72 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.4, 150.1 (dd, J = 294.0, 292.0 Hz), 147.6 (dd, J = 8.8, 3.3 Hz), 141.8, 132.0, 130.6, 129.2 (dd, J = 6.4, 5.1 Hz), 124.5 (d, J = 5.5 Hz), 122.4, 117.0, 116.3, 116.0, 90.1 (dd, J = 34.5, 23.1 Hz), 44.7, 32.1 (d, J = 5.9 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.2 (d, J = 45.1 Hz), -93.6 (d, J = 45.1 Hz); IR (neat) 1771, 1655, 1584, 1555, 1407 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 260.0881, found: 260.0877.

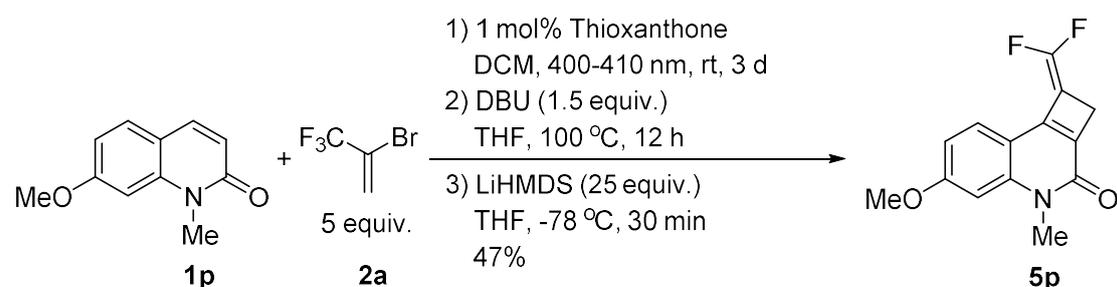
11) 4-Phenyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5o)



The reaction of **1o** (44 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), and LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded

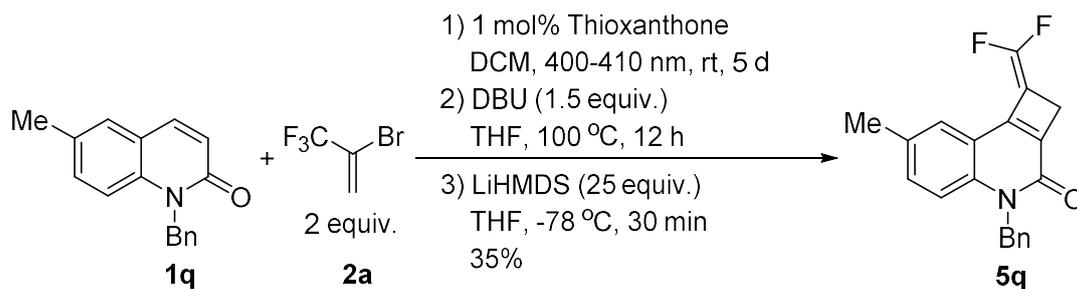
5o as a solid (41 mg, 69%). Mp: 216.1-216.9 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.64-7.56 (m, 2 H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 3 H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.6, 150.1 (t, *J* = 293.7 Hz), 148.2 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.8 Hz), 143.8, 137.9, 130.2, 129.7 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 129.0, 128.9, 124.0 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 122.5, 117.4, 115.5, 90.1 (dd, *J* = 34.3, 23.2 Hz), 32.3 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -83.9 (d, *J* = 44.0 Hz), -93.4 (d, *J* = 44.0 Hz); IR (neat) 1776, 1655, 1582, 1551, 1492, 1444, 1422 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₁₂F₂NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 296.0881, found: 296.0878.

12) 4-Methyl-6-methoxy-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5p)



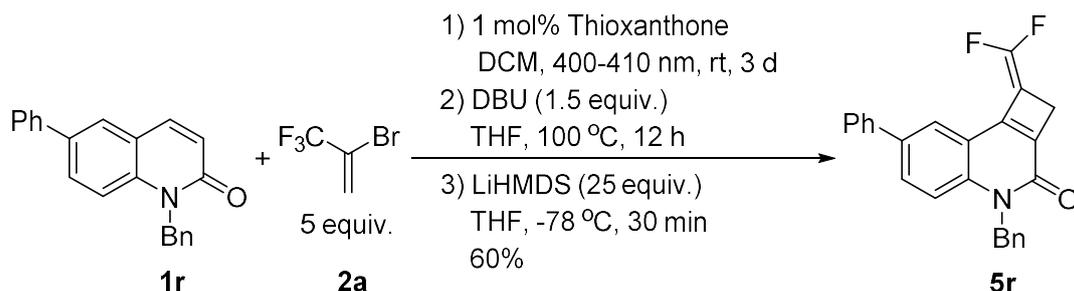
The reaction of **1p** (38 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (104 μL, 1.0 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μL, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5p** as a solid (25 mg, 47%). Mp: 187.5-188.0 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.92 (s, 3 H), 3.67 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.6, 157.9, 150.0 (t, *J* = 293.1 Hz), 146.9 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.7 Hz), 144.1, 125.8 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 125.7 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 109.9, 109.8, 100.0, 90.0 (dd, *J* = 34.1, 23.1 Hz), 55.5, 31.9 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 29.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -84.8 (d, *J* = 47.0 Hz), -94.2 (d, *J* = 46.2 Hz); IR (neat) 1777, 1668, 1629, 1588, 1551, 1516, 1464, 1422 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₂F₂NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺: 264.0831, found: 264.0829.

13) 4-Benzyl-7-methyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5q)



The reaction of **1q** (50 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5q** as a white solid (23 mg, 35%). Mp: 157.1-157.3 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.51 (s, 1 H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.15 (m, 5 H), 5.57 (brs, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 2 H), 2.38 (s, 3 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.8, 150.1 (t, $J = 293.2$ Hz), 147.5 (dd, $J = 8.6, 3.3$ Hz), 139.9, 136.6, 132.1, 132.0, 129.1 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz), 128.7, 127.2, 126.4, 124.2 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 116.4, 116.1, 90.1 (dd, $J = 34.3, 23.3$ Hz), 46.0, 32.2 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz), 20.6; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.1 (d, $J = 45.9$ Hz), -93.7 (d, $J = 44.7$ Hz); IR (neat) 1775, 1660, 1585, 1560, 1454, 1435 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 324.1194, found: 324.1197.

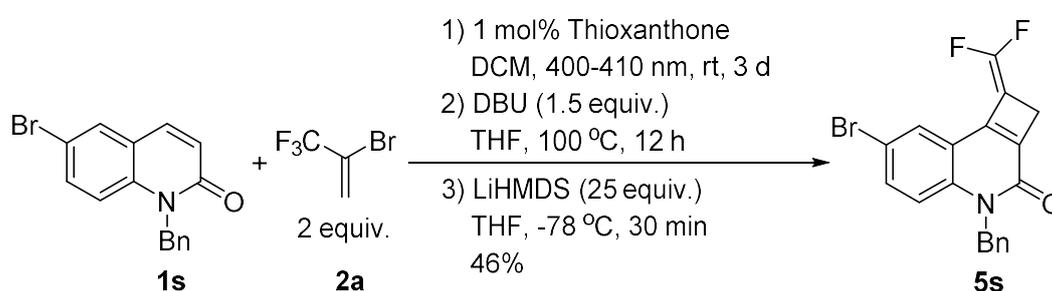
14) 4-Benzyl-7-phenyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5r)



The reaction of **1r** (62 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (104 μ L, 1.0 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5r** as a solid (46 mg, 60%). Mp: 155.4-155.8 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 3 H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 4 H), 5.60 (s,

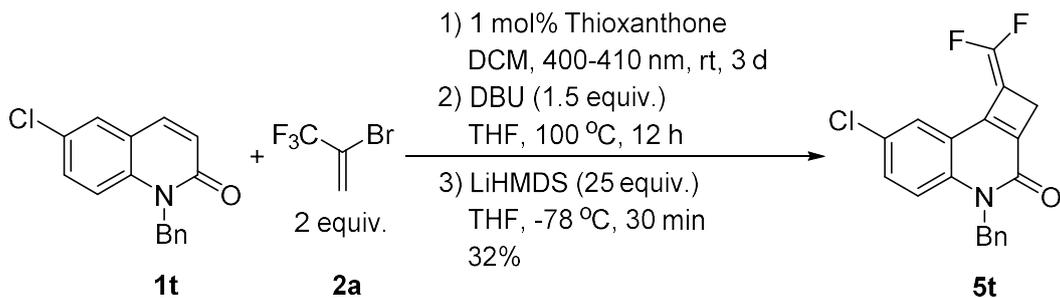
2 H), 3.79 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 150.2 (t, $J = 293.5$ Hz), 147.9 (dd, $J = 8.5, 3.1$ Hz), 141.1, 139.4, 136.5, 135.4, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.8, 126.5, 122.3 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 116.9, 116.4, 90.2 (dd, $J = 34.3, 23.2$ Hz), 46.1, 32.3 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.7 (d, $J = 45.1$ Hz), -93.3 (d, $J = 45.1$ Hz); IR (neat) 1775, 1661, 1556, 1495, 1453, 1424 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 386.1351, found: 386.1355.

15) 4-Benzyl-7-bromo-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5s)



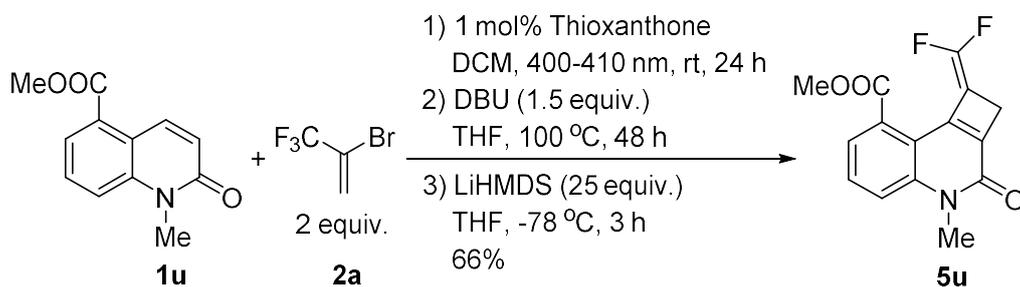
The reaction of **1s** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), and DBU (45 μL , 1.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5s** as a solid (36 mg, 46%). Mp: 163.3-163.5 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (s, 1 H), 7.49 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.13 (m, 6 H), 5.54 (s, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 150.2 (t, $J = 294.3$ Hz), 146.7 (dd, $J = 8.7, 3.0$ Hz), 140.8, 136.1, 133.5, 130.4 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 128.9, 127.4, 126.9 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz), 126.4, 118.2, 117.4, 115.6, 89.9 (dd, $J = 34.5, 23.6$ Hz), 46.1, 32.4 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.2 (d, $J = 43.2$ Hz), -92.6 (d, $J = 43.6$ Hz); IR (neat) 1774, 1665, 1578, 1548, 1496, 1456, 1445, 1417 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrF}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 388.0143, found: 388.0160.

16) 4-Benzyl-7-chloro-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5t)



The reaction of **1t** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5t** as a solid (22 mg, 32%). Mp: 163.4-163.6 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (s, 1 H), 7.36 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 2 H), 7.16 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2 H), 5.55 (s, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 150.2 (t, $J = 294.1$ Hz), 146.8 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.7$ Hz), 140.4, 136.1, 130.7, 130.4 (t, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 128.9, 128.1, 127.4, 126.4, 123.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 117.9, 117.0, 89.9 (dd, $J = 34.8, 23.4$ Hz), 46.2, 32.4 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.3 (d, $J = 43.2$ Hz), -92.7 (d, $J = 43.2$ Hz); IR (neat) 1777, 1661, 1550, 1496, 1454, 1422 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClF}_2\text{NO}^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 344.0648, found: 344.0649.

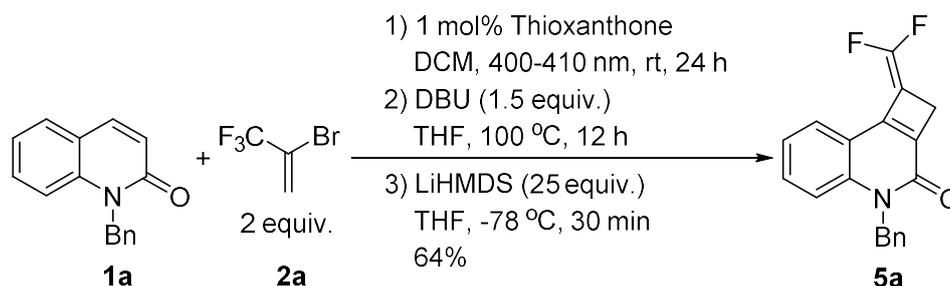
17) 4-Methyl-8-methoxycarbonyl-1-(difluoromethylene)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (5u)



The reaction of **1u** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), anhydrous DCM (2 mL), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol), and anhydrous THF (100 mL) afforded **5u** as a solid (38 mg, 66%). Mp: 161.3-161.5 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66-7.56 (m, 3 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 3.67 (s, 2

H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.1, 157.1, 150.0 (dd, $J = 297.0, 288.5$ Hz), 145.6 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.2$ Hz), 142.9, 132.2 (t, $J = 4.9$ Hz), 129.5, 129.1, 123.7, 118.8, 114.3, 91.1 (dd, $J = 38.9, 18.6$ Hz), 52.5 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 32.4 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 30.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -83.6 (d, $J = 41.7$ Hz), -93.1 (d, $J = 41.4$ Hz); IR (neat) 1772, 1728, 1660, 1580, 1556, 1434 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_3^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 292.0780, found: 292.0776.

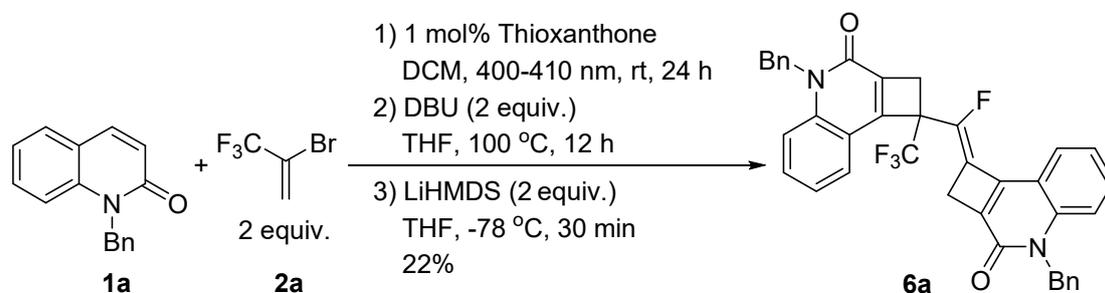
Mmol-scale reaction of **1a** under Condition B



To an oven-dried 50 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (471 mg, 2.0 mmol), **2a** (415 μL , 4.0 mmol), thioxanthone (4.0 mg, 0.02 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (20 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED ($\lambda = 400\text{-}410$ nm) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 5:1:1). DCM was removed in vacuo, anhydrous THF (10 mL) and DBU (448 μL , 3.0 mmol) were added to the residue subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C. The reaction was completed after 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 5:1:1). The mixture was cannulated under argon atmosphere to a 2000 mL of Schlenk flask containing anhydrous THF (1000 mL). LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 50 mL, 50.0 mmol) was added to the solution at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The cooling bath was then removed and the reaction was quenched with H_2O (20 mL). The mixture was stirred for another 30 min until the reaction mixture reached room temperature. Then THF was removed by rotary evaporator, the residue was washed with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (50 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 5:1:1) afforded **5a** as a white solid (398 mg, 64%).

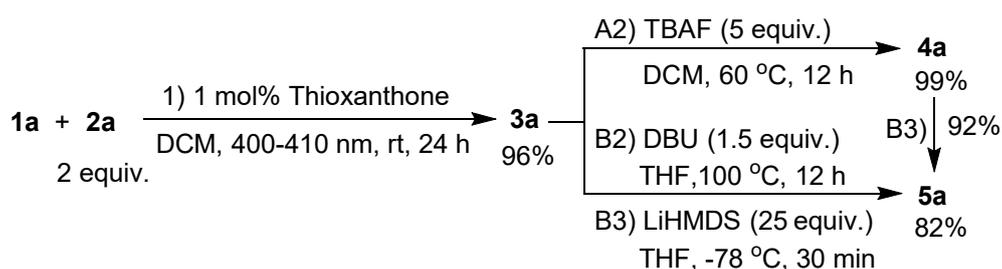
Synthesis of (Z)-4-benzyl-1-((4-benzyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-1(2H)-ylidene)fluoromethyl)-1-(trifluoromethyl)-2,4-dihydrocyclobuta[c]quinolin-3(1H)-one (6a)



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (47 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μ L, 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (2 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED (λ = 400-410 nm) under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). DCM was removed in vacuo, anhydrous THF (1 mL) and DBU (60 μ L, 0.4 mmol) were added to the residue subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C. The reaction was completed after 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). The mixture was cannulated under argon atmosphere to a 25 mL of Schlenk tube containing anhydrous THF (10 mL). LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 0.4 mL, 0.4 mmol) was added to the solution at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The cooling bath was then removed and the mixture was stirred for another 30 min until the reaction mixture reached room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was washed with H₂O (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1) afforded **6a** as a white solid (27 mg, 22%). Mp: 193.9-194.2 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 1 H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 2 H), 7.36-7.15 (m, 13 H), 5.75-5.47 (m, 4 H), 3.85-3.62 (m, 4 H), ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 157.6, 149.4, 148.1, 147.5, 144.9, 141.9

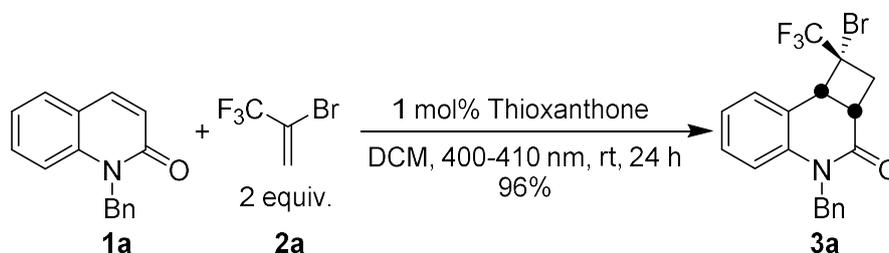
(d, $J = 4.4$ Hz), 136.4, 136.0, 133.6, 131.8, 131.1, 130.7, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 127.3, 126.4, 125.8, 125.7, 124.7 (d, $J = 279.8$ Hz), 124.6, 123.0, 122.5, 119.2 (d, $J = 21.0$ Hz), 117.4, 116.7, 116.5, 116.1, 55.0 (dd, $J = 31.2, 28.1$ Hz), 46.4, 46.2, 36.8, 34.8 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -70.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), -101.6; IR (neat) 1678, 1658, 1598, 1586, 1559, 1497, 1451, 1399 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{26}\text{F}_4\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2^+$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 641.1823, found: 641.1825.

Mechanistic verification experiments



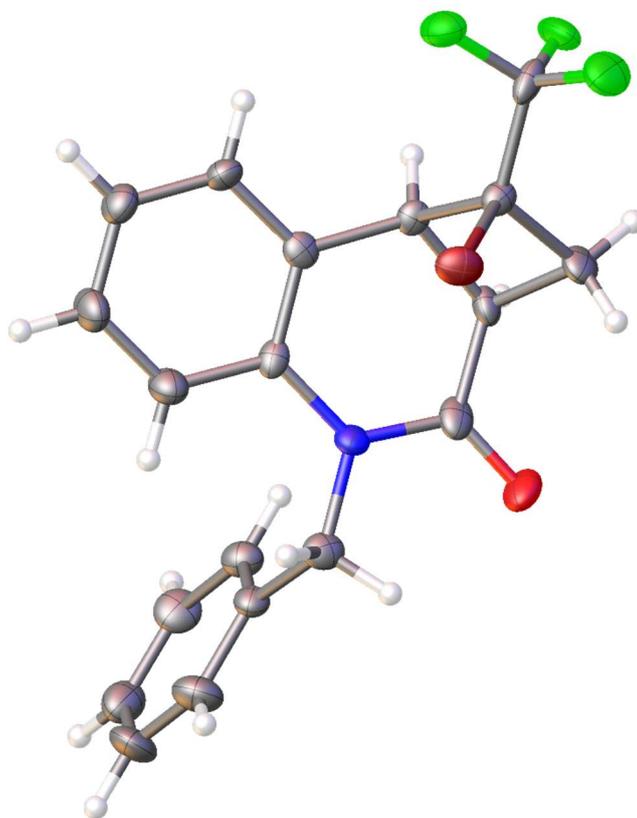
Mechanistic verification experiments were conducted as depicted above. Subjecting **1a** and **2a** to standard photoreaction condition yielded **3a** in an isolated yield of 96%. Treating **3a** under standard elimination Condition A2 afforded **4a** almost quantitatively (99% isolated yield). Meanwhile, treating **3a** under standard elimination Conditions B2 and B3 also afforded **5a** in an isolated yield of 82%. These results indicated that **3a** was the common intermediate of Conditions A and B. Consequently, **4a** was tested under standard elimination Condition B3. **5a** was furnished in an isolated yield of 92%, demonstrating that **4a** was another intermediate of Condition B. The above results are consistent with the initially proposed mechanism.

Procedure for the transformation of **1a** into **3a**



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **1a** (47 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (42 μL , 0.4 mmol), thioxanthone (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (2 mL). The reaction was irradiated by purple LED ($\lambda = 400\text{-}410$ nm) under an argon atmosphere at

room temperature. The reaction was completed after 24 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford **3a** as a white solid (79 mg, 96%). Mp: 103.6-103.9 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.15 (m, 6 H), 7.06-6.95 (m, 2 H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.25 (AB, *J*_{AB} = 16.4 Hz, *J*_{BA} = 67.6 Hz, 2 H), 4.36-4.30 (m, 1 H), 3.62-3.48 (m, 2 H), 3.05-2.93 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 140.3, 136.3, 129.5, 129.4, 128.7, 127.2, 126.4, 124.0 (q, *J* = 279.1 Hz), 123.2, 120.0, 115.9, 61.5 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 46.1, 42.3 (q, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 38.4 (q, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 32.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -76.8; IR (neat) 1667, 1602, 1499, 1462 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrF₃NO⁺ [M+H]⁺: 410.0362, found: 410.0378. Supplementary crystallographic data for **3a** have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center. CCDC: 2076891.

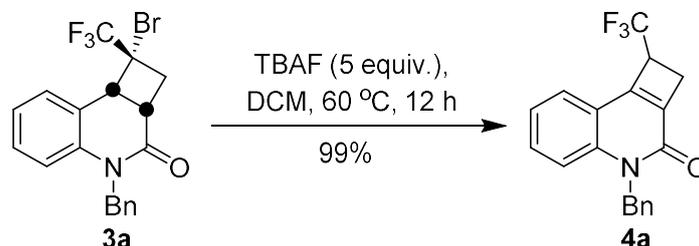


Ortepe drawing with 50% ellipsoids for **3a**

Crystal data: C₁₉H₁₅BrF₃NO, M = 410.23, T = 150(2) K, Crystal system: Monoclinic,

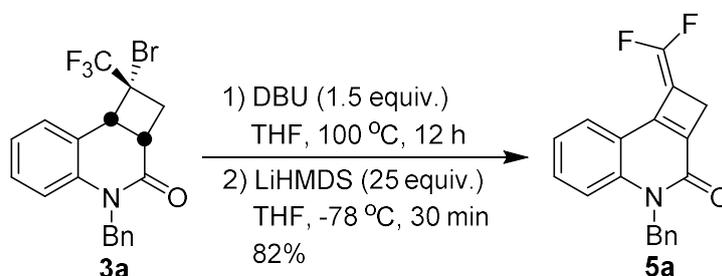
Space group: C2/c, a = 25.323(2) Å, b = 5.9171(4) Å, c = 25.206(2) Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 114.569(2)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, V = 3434.9(5) Å³, Z = 8, R indices: R1 = 0.0950, wR2 = 0.1251.

Procedure for the transformation of **3a** into **4a**



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **3a** (82 mg, 0.2 mmol), TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1 mL, 1.0 mmol), and anhydrous DCM (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was washed with H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) afforded **4a** as a white solid (65 mg, 99%).

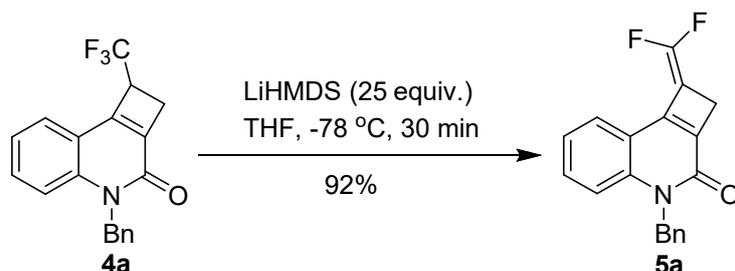
Procedure for the transformation of **3a** into **5a**



To an oven-dried 10 mL of sealed tube were added **3a** (82 mg, 0.2 mmol), DBU (45 μ L, 0.3 mmol), and anhydrous THF (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h as monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1). The mixture was cannulated under argon atmosphere to a 250 mL of Schlenk flask containing anhydrous THF (100 mL). LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol) was added to the solution at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The cooling bath was then removed and the reaction was quenched with H₂O (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for another 30 min until the reaction mixture reached room temperature. Then

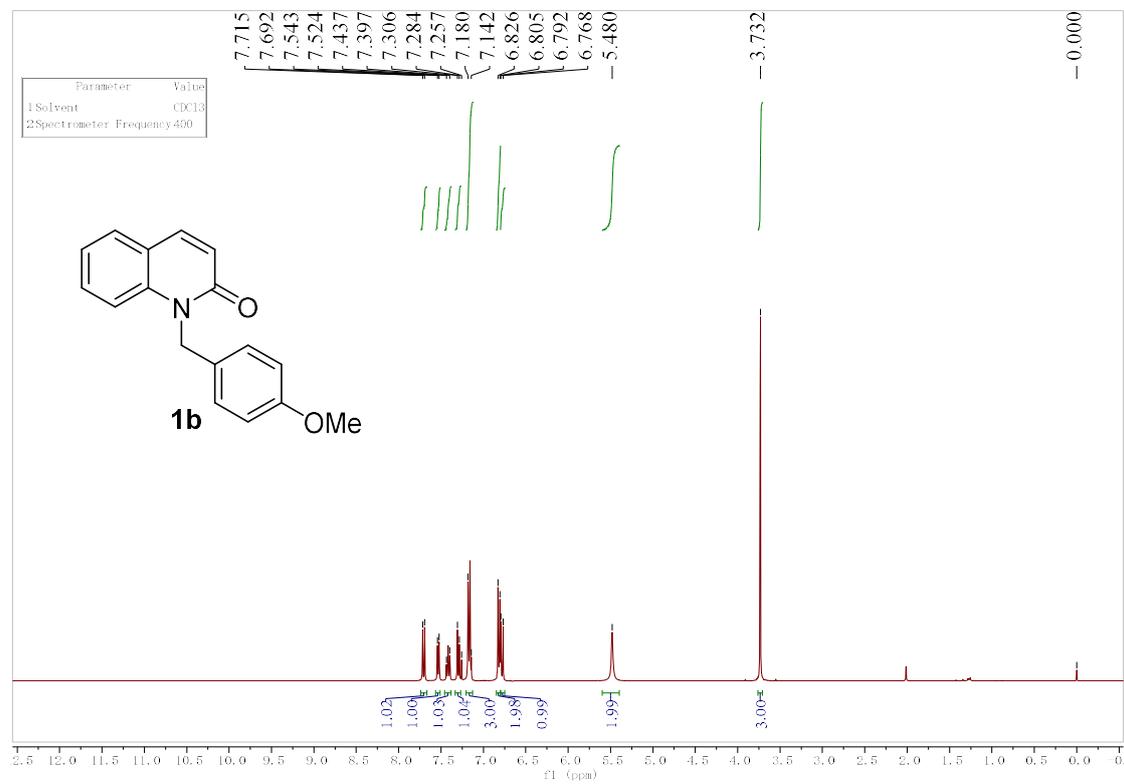
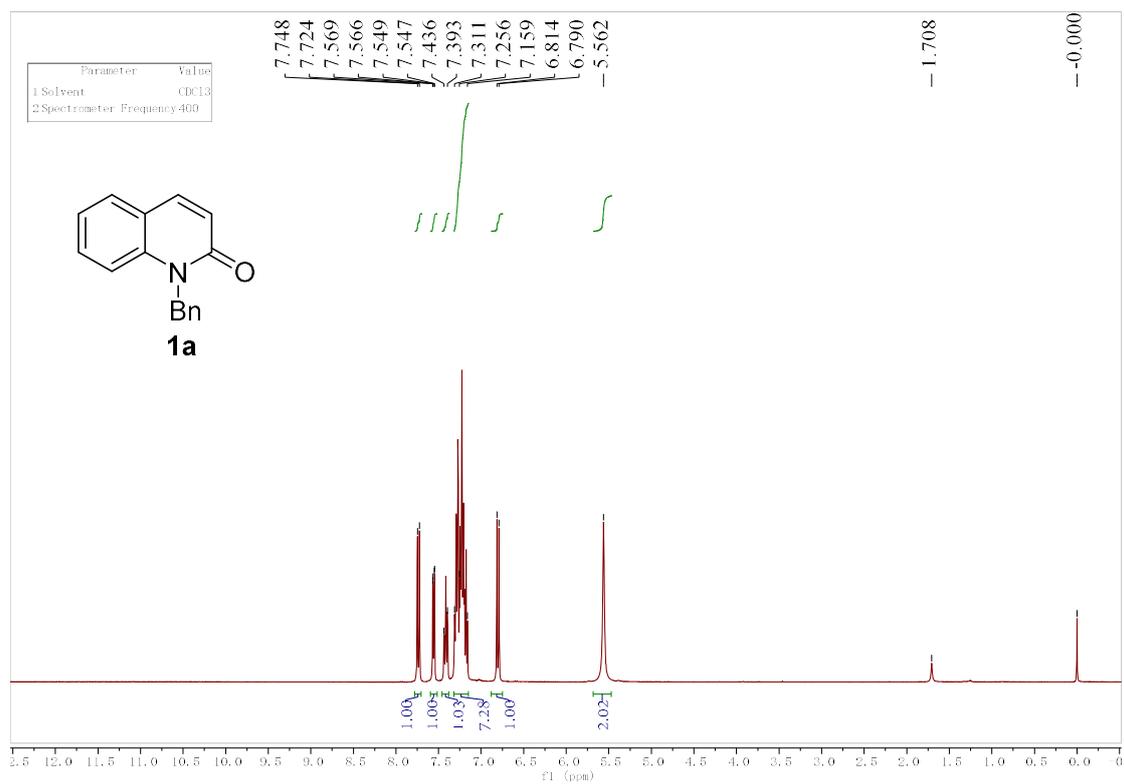
THF was removed by rotary evaporator, the residue was washed with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) afforded **5a** as a white solid (51 mg, 82%).

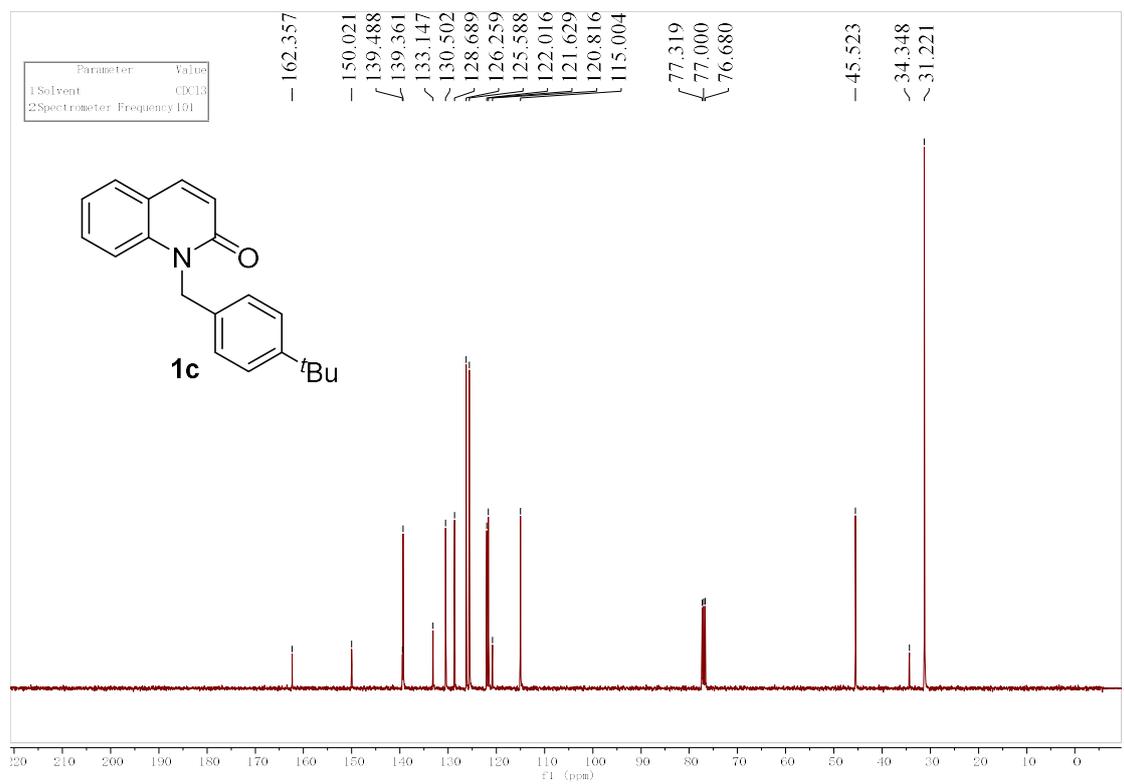
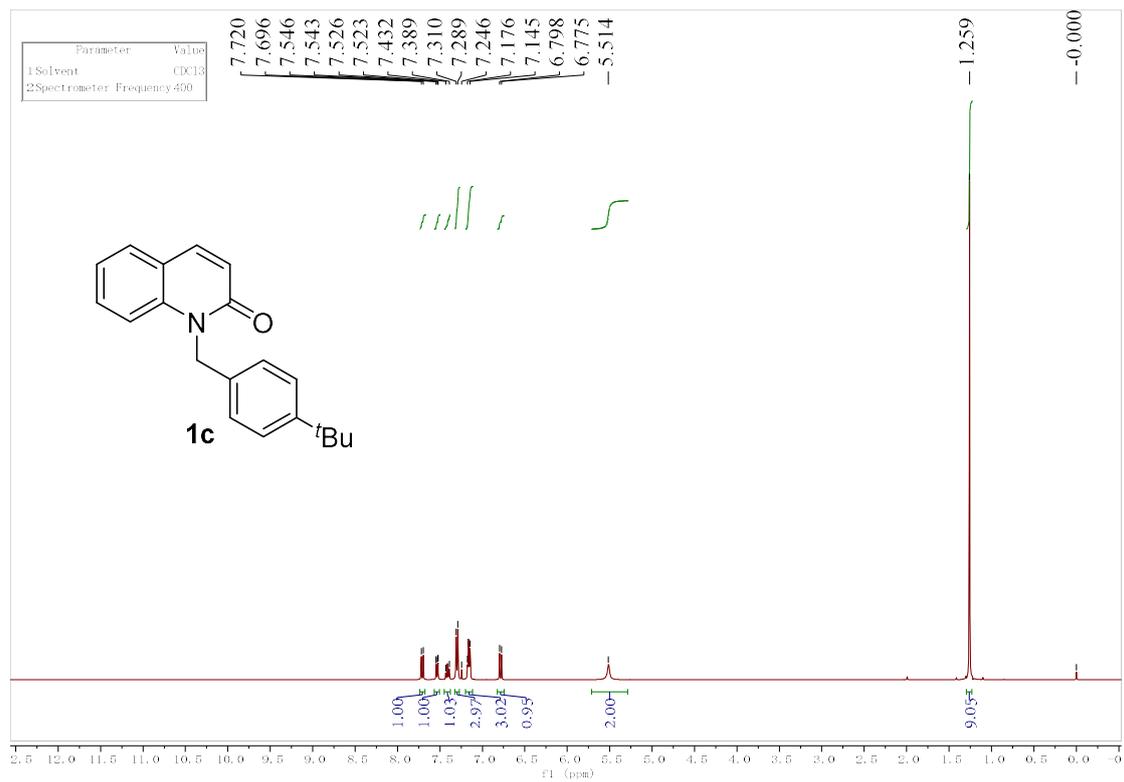
Procedure for the transformation of 4a into 5a

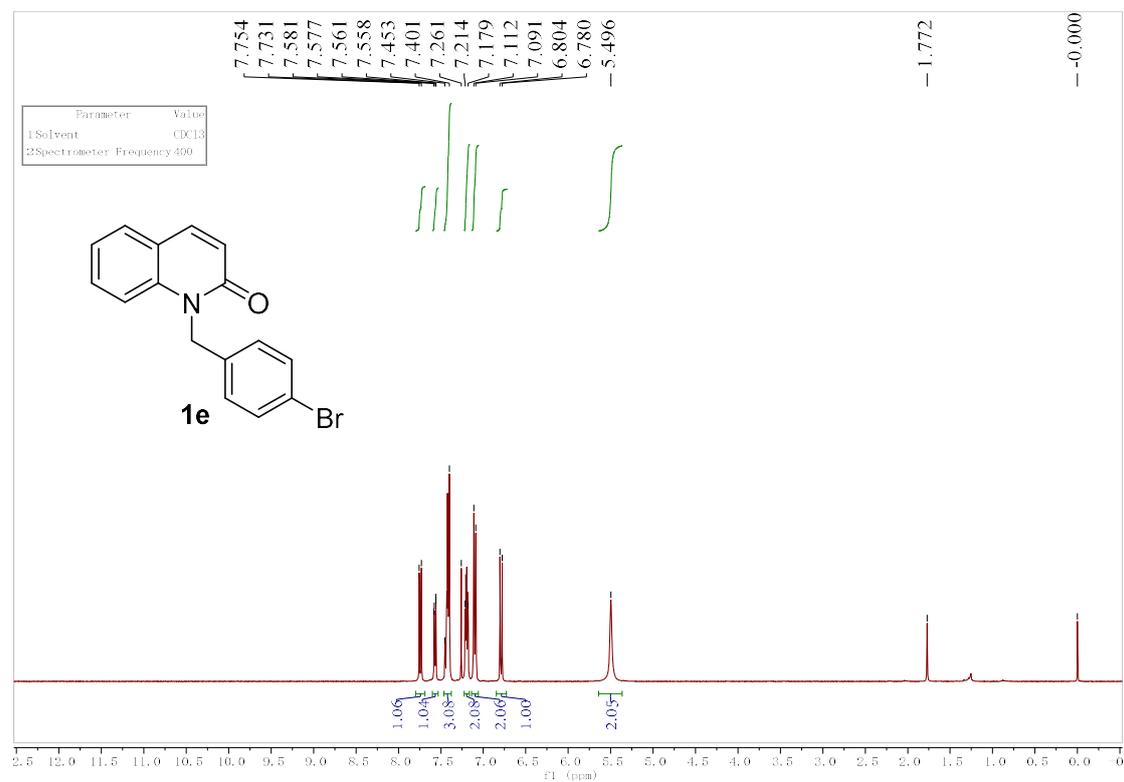
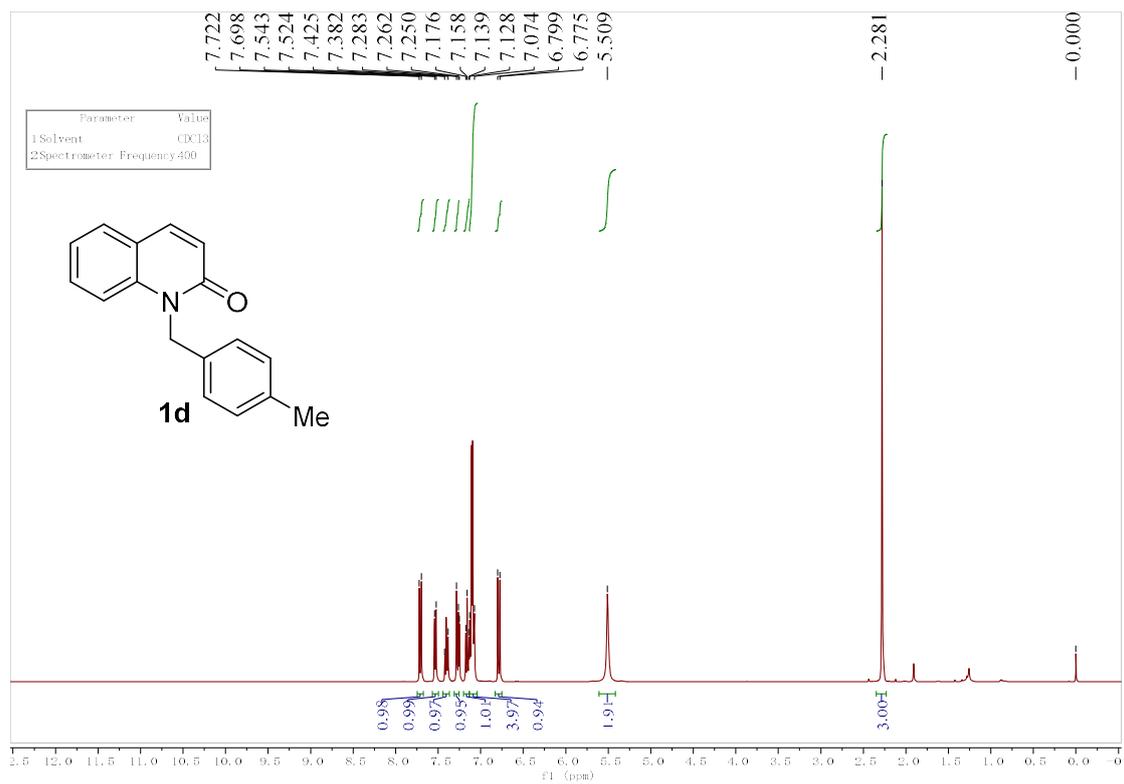


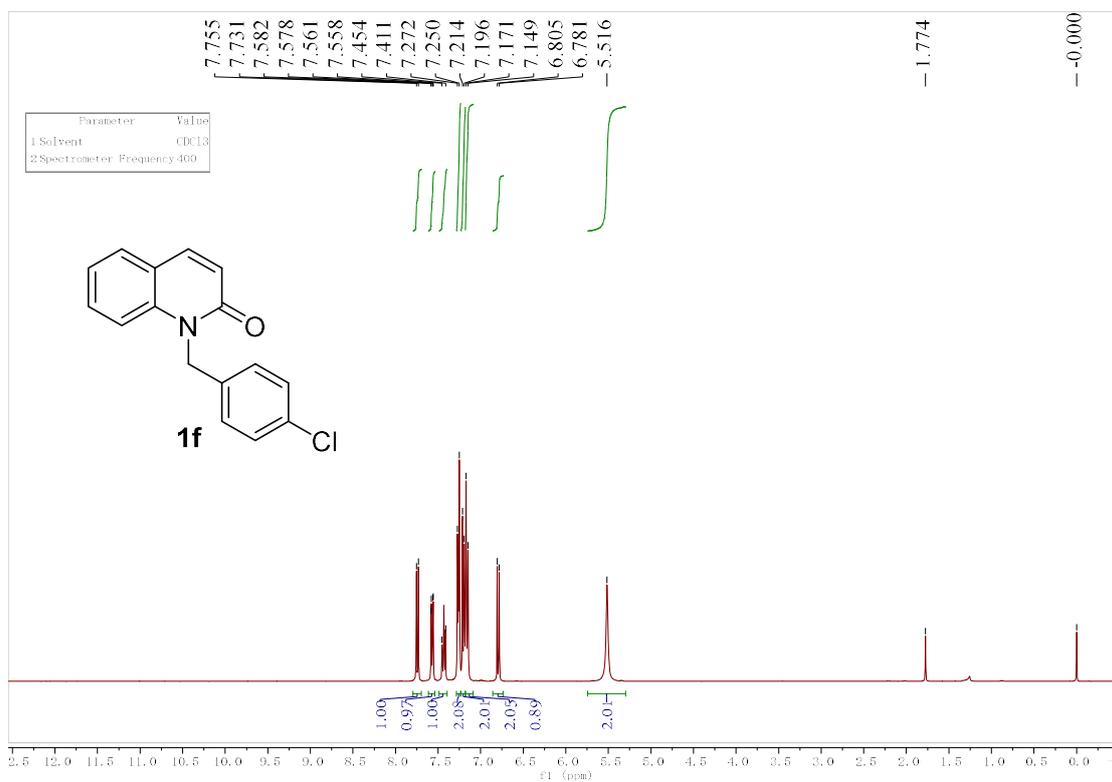
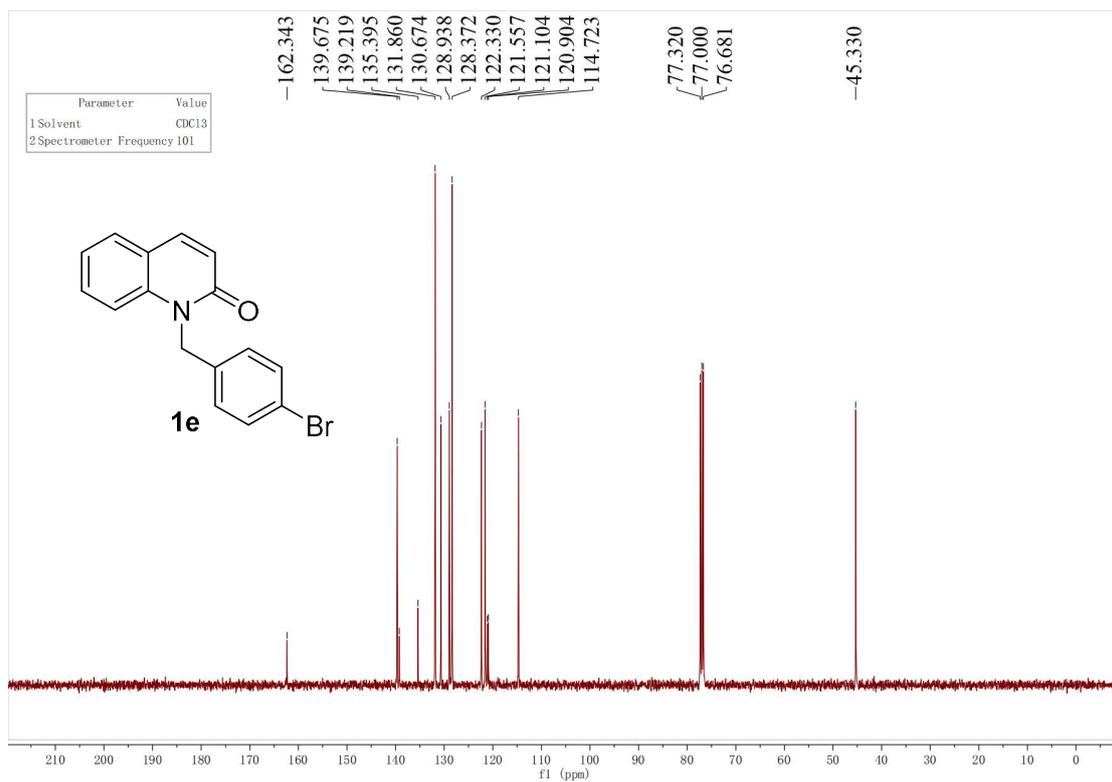
To an oven-dried 250 mL of Schlenk flask were added **4a** (66 mg, 0.2 mmol) and anhydrous THF (100 mL) under argon atmosphere. LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5 mL, 5.0 mmol) was added to the solution at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The cooling bath was then removed and the reaction was quenched with H_2O (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for another 30 min until the reaction mixture reached room temperature. Then THF was removed by rotary evaporator, the residue was washed with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Further purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) afforded **5a** as a white solid (57 mg, 92%).

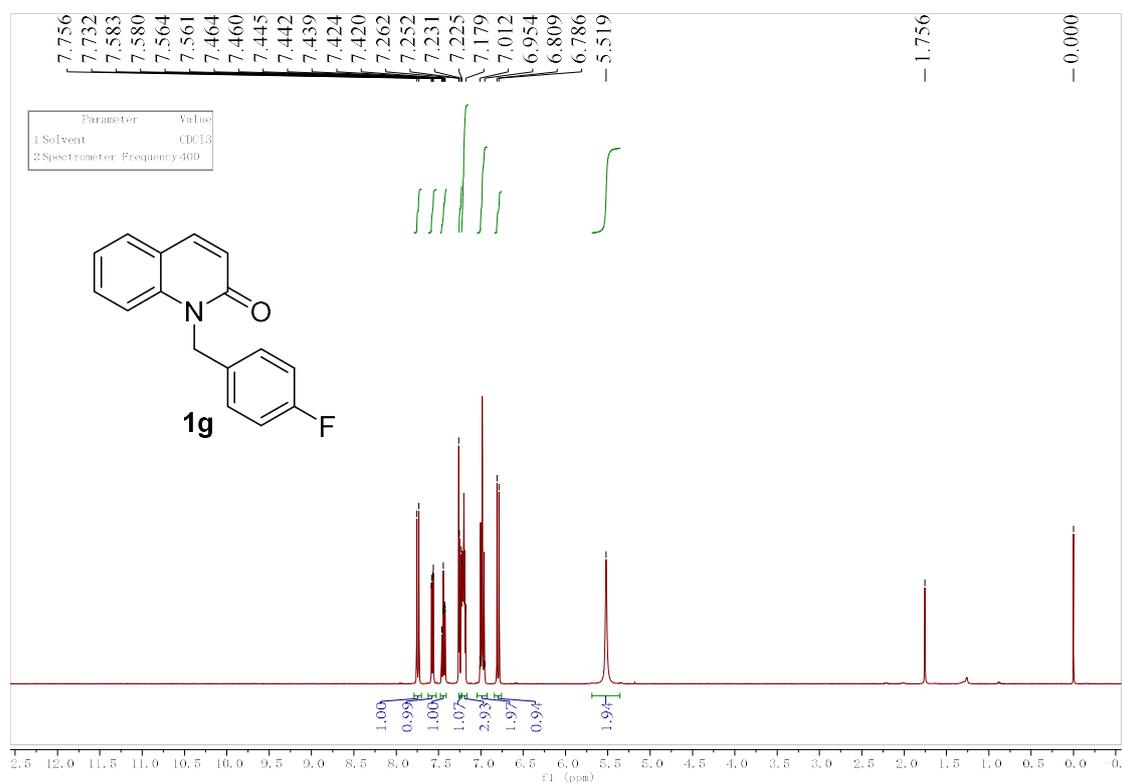
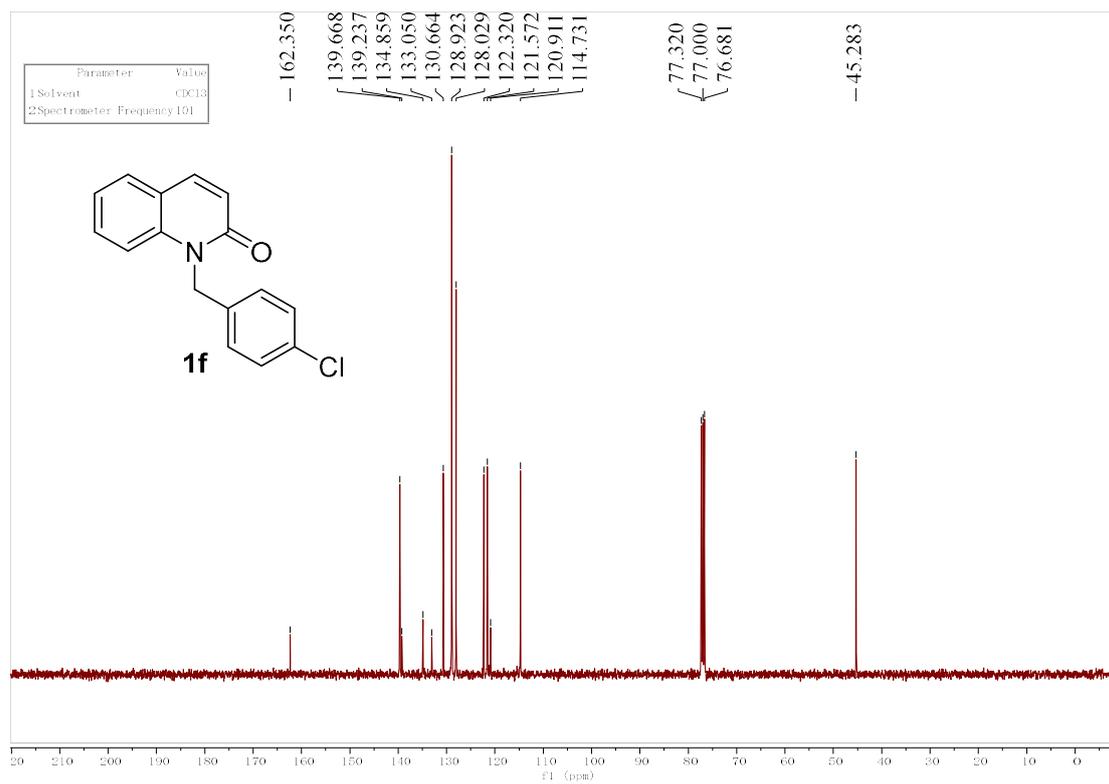
NMR Spectra

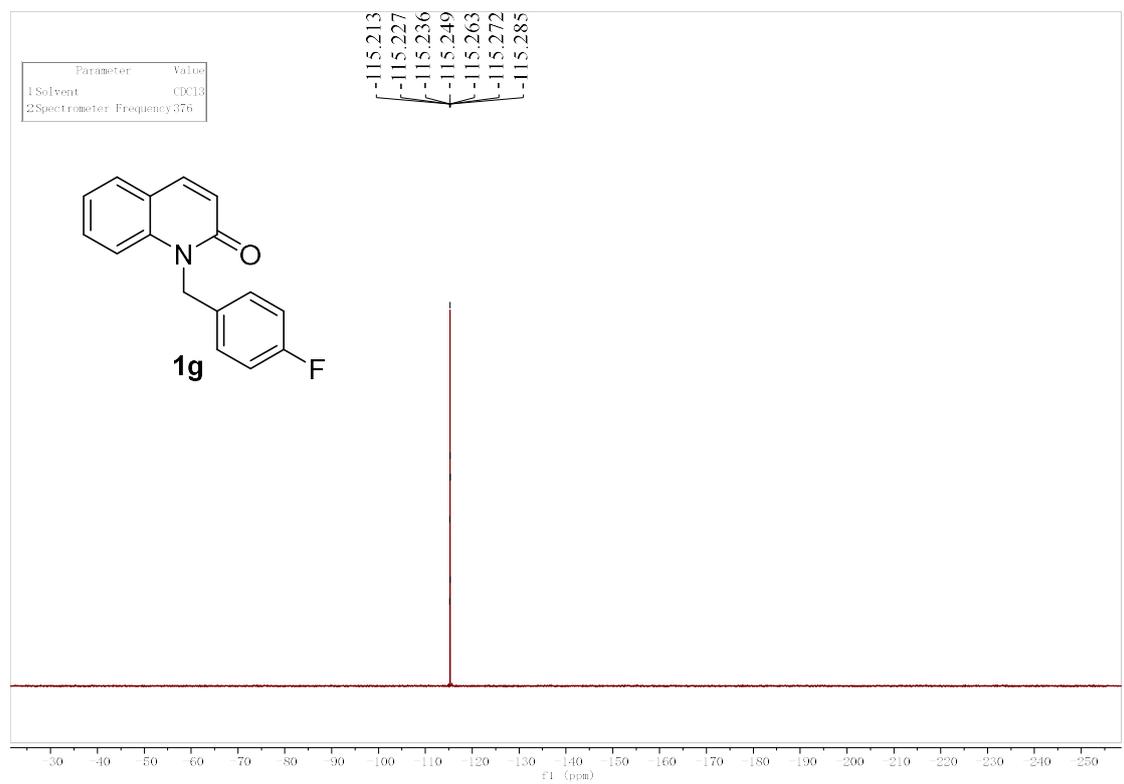
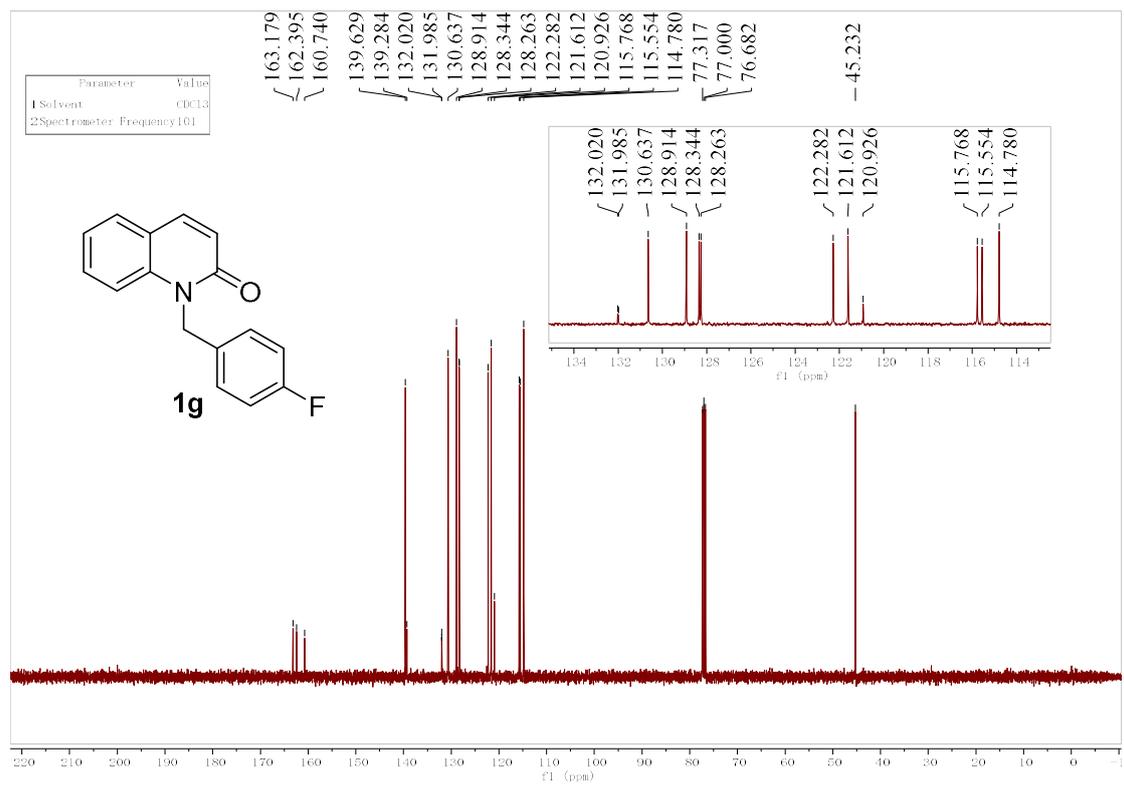


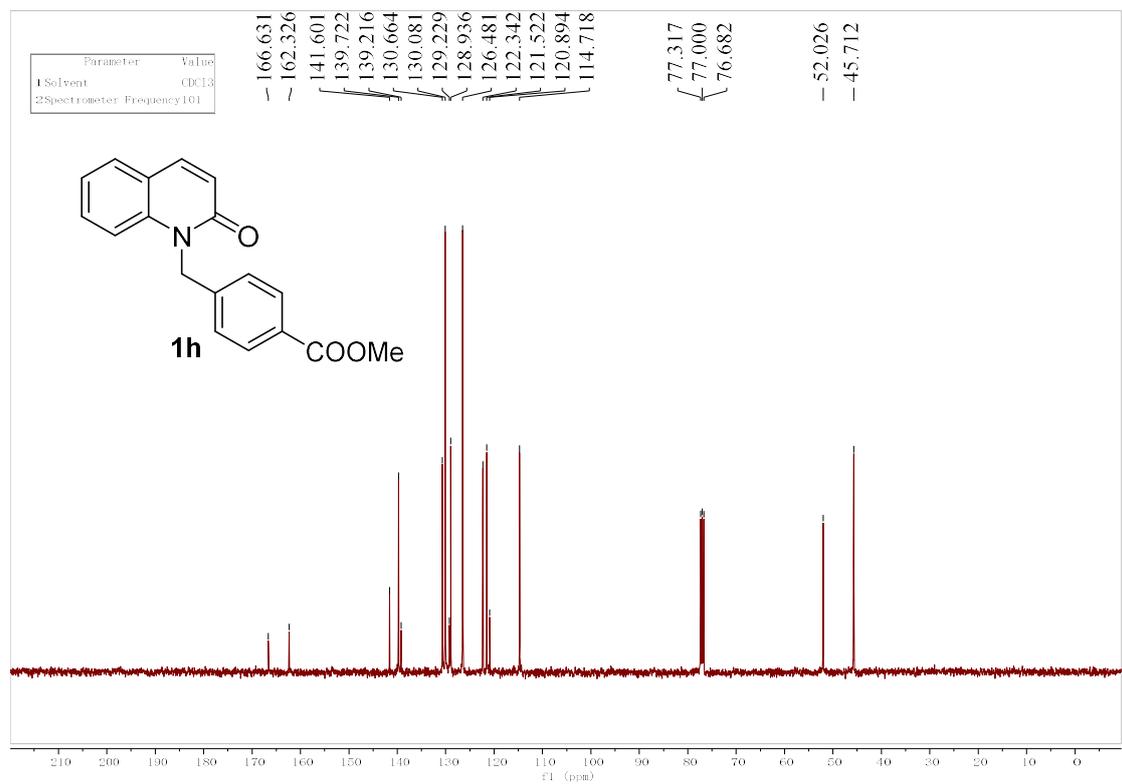
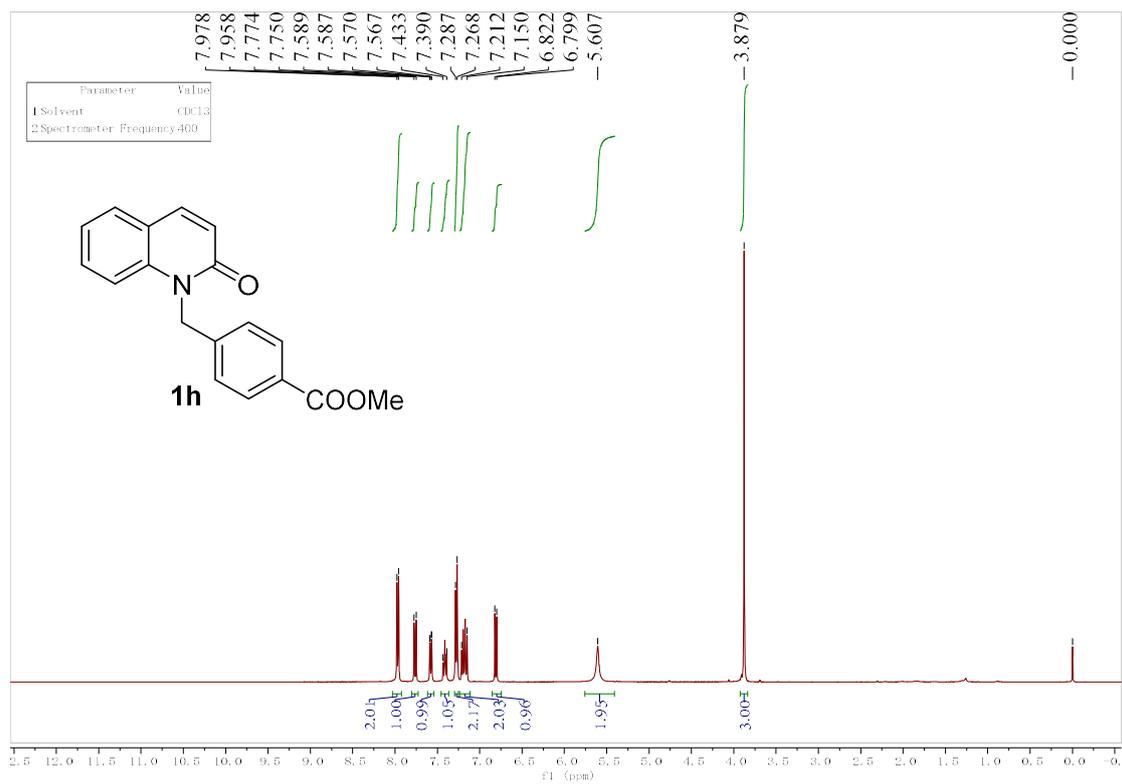


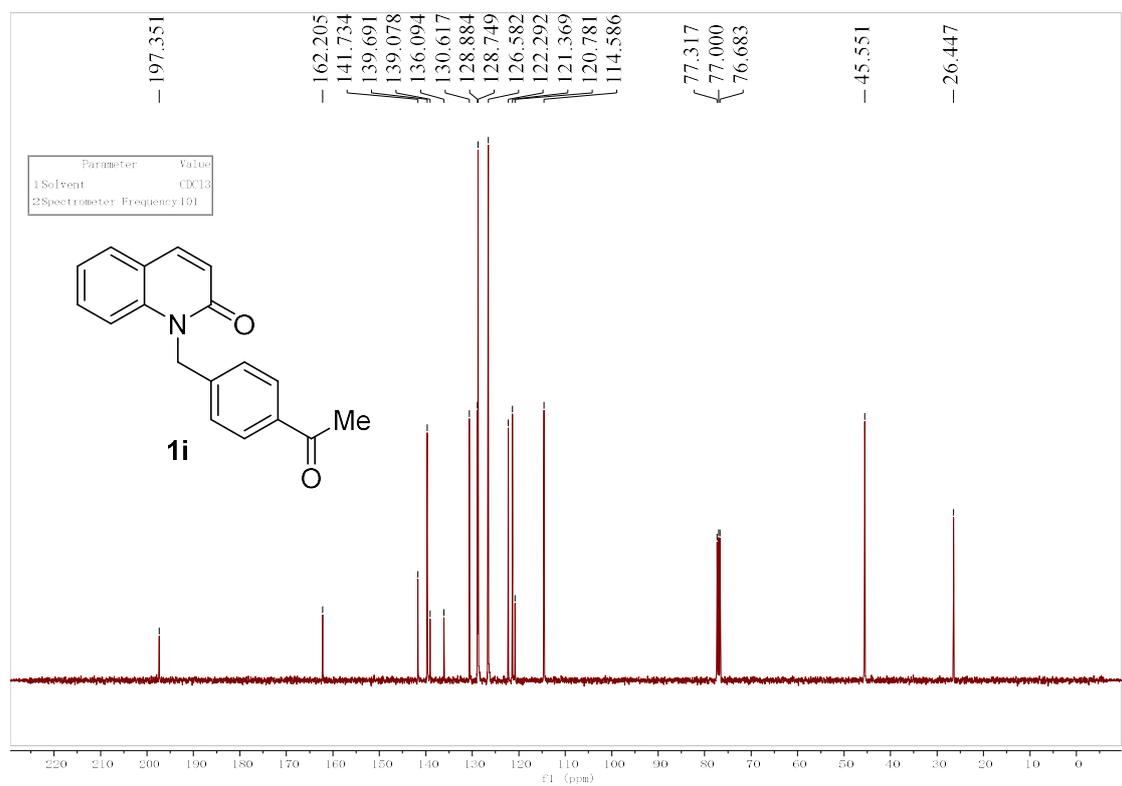
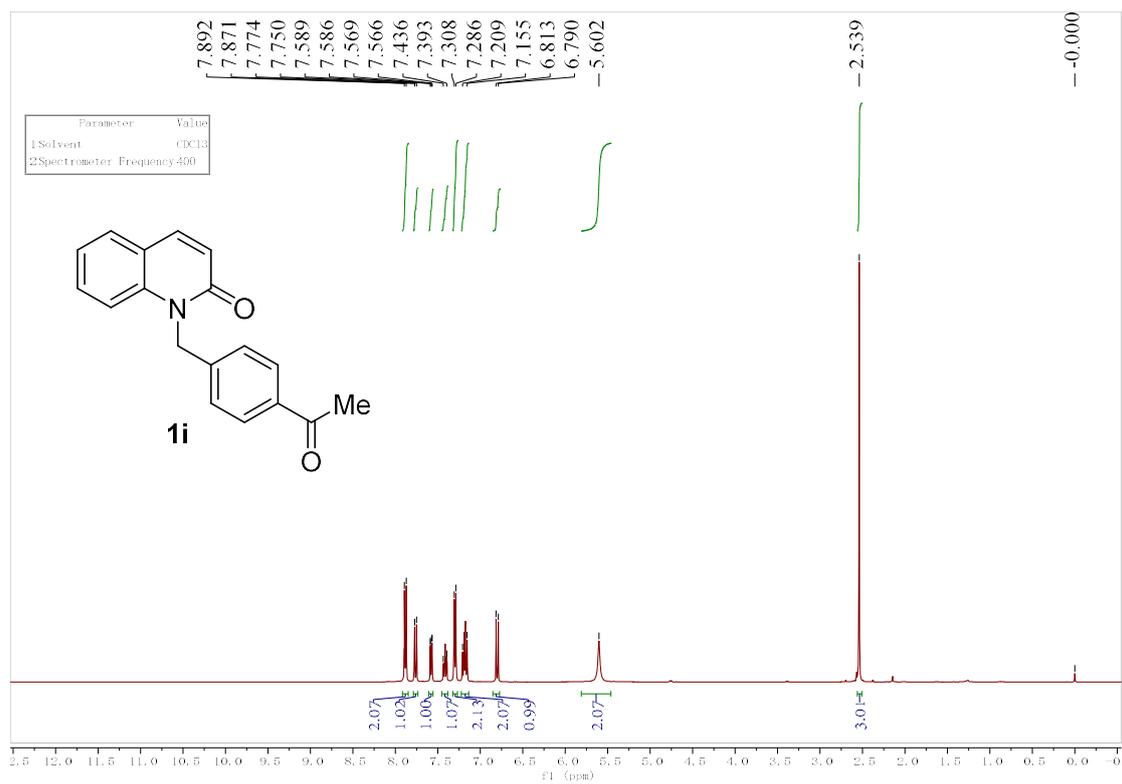


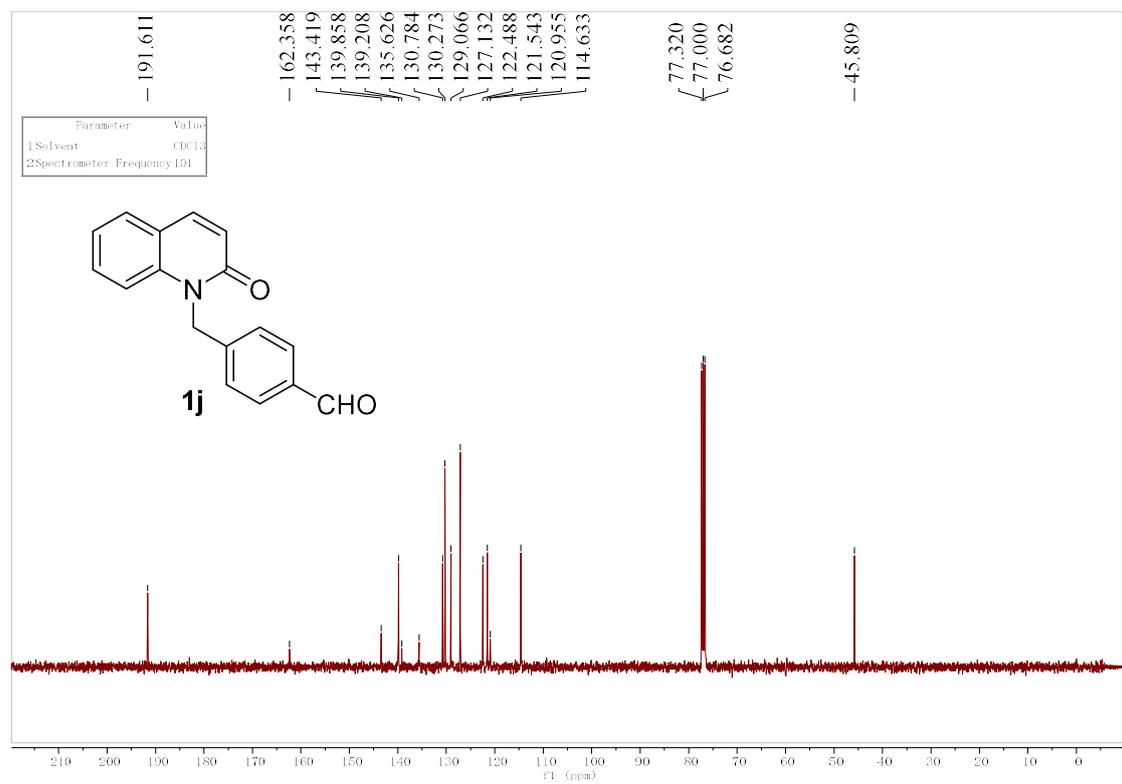
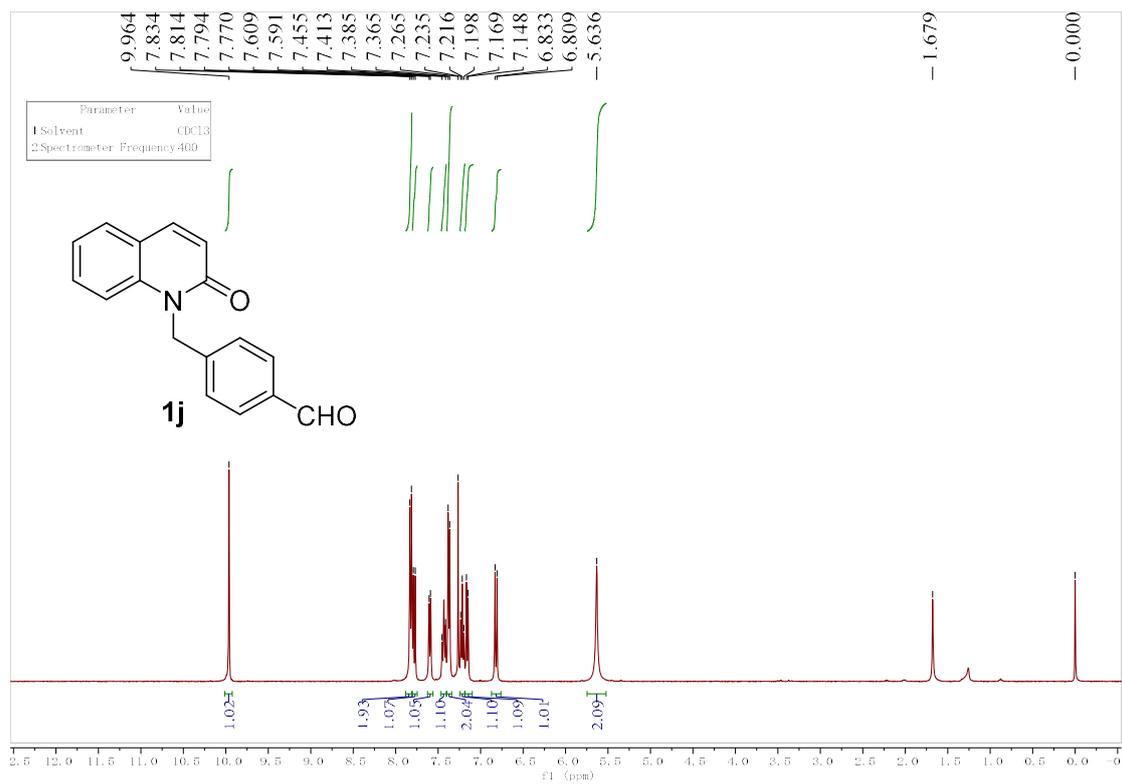


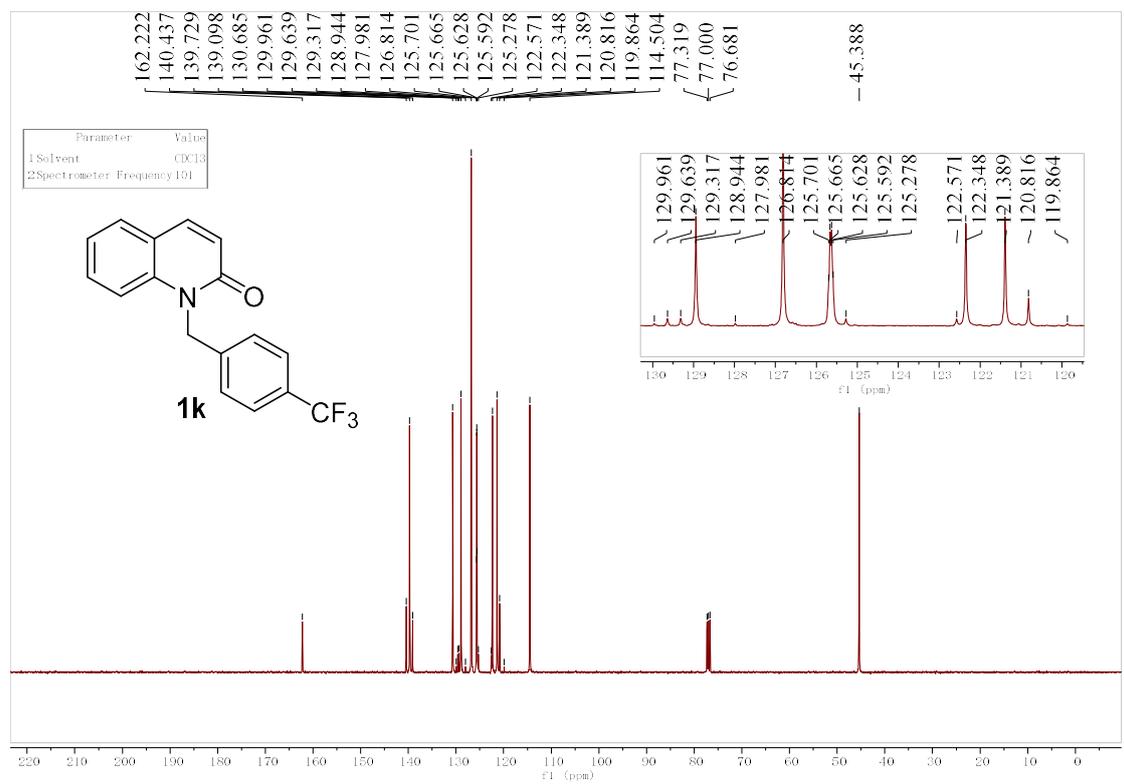
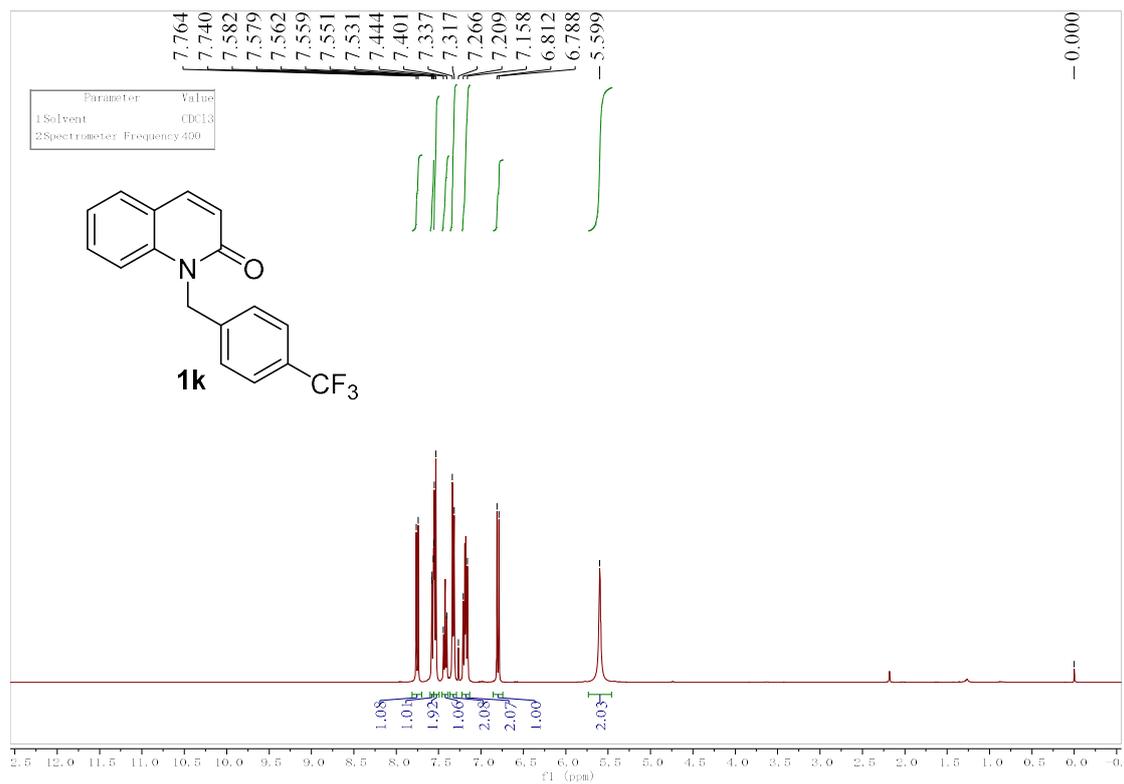


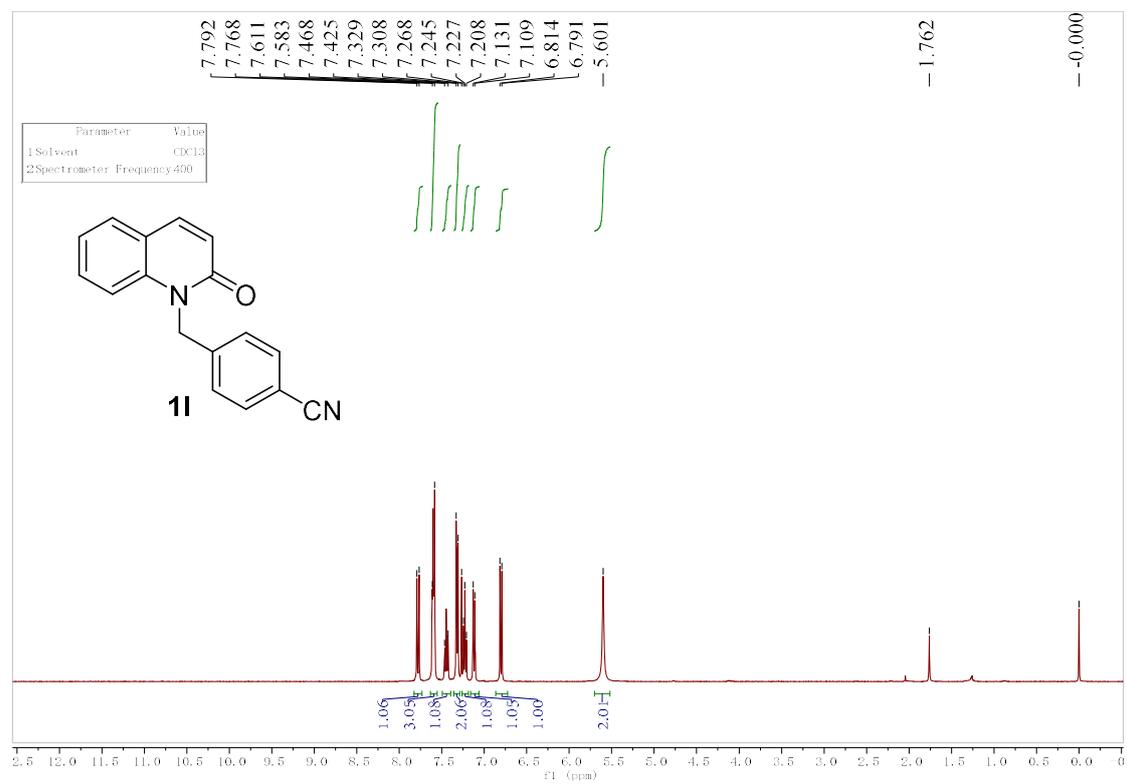
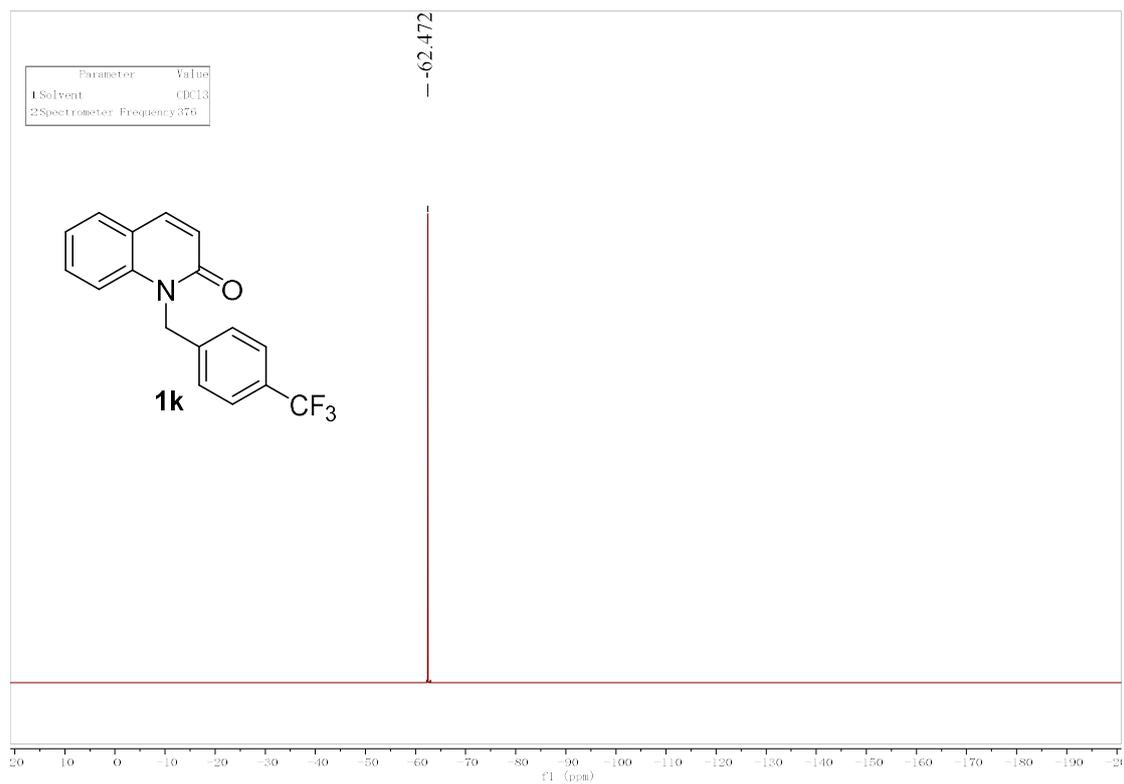


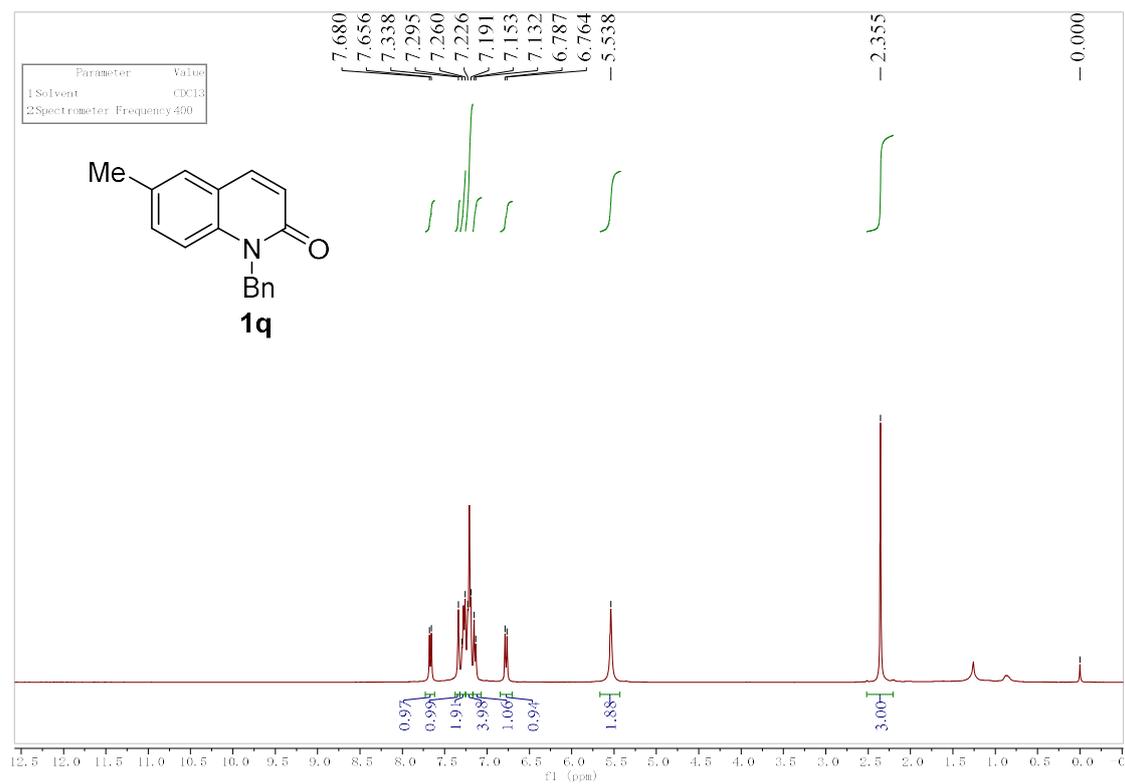
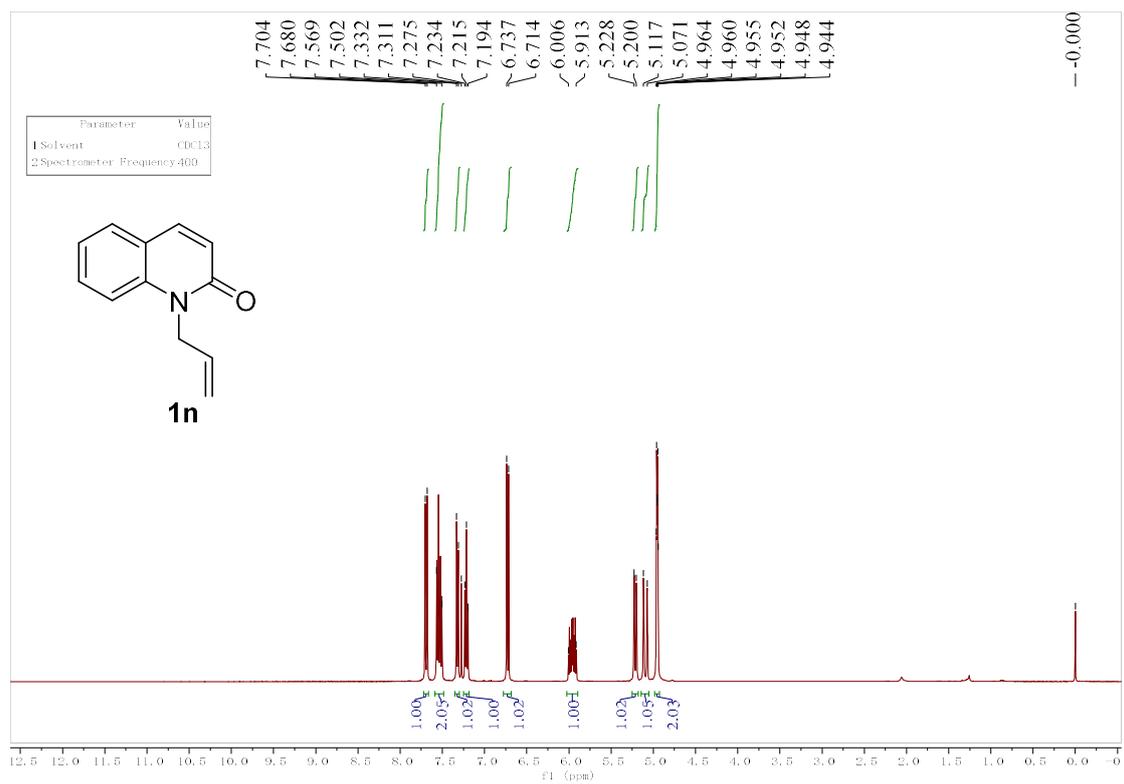


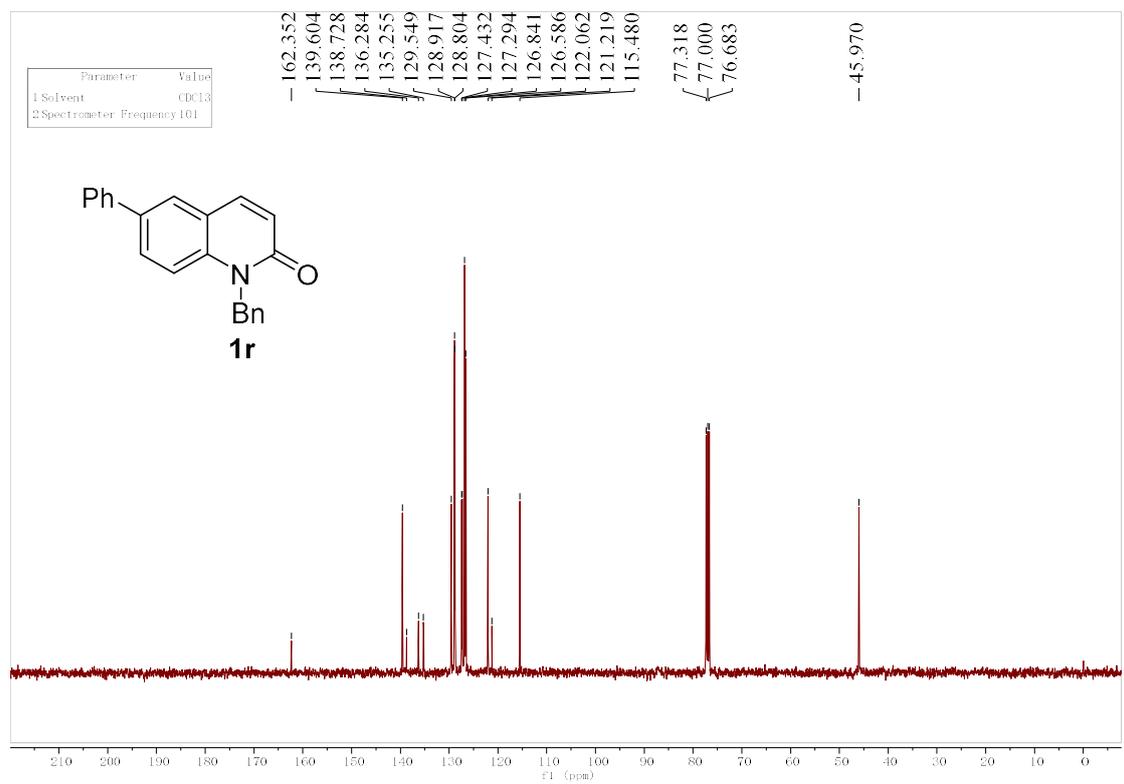
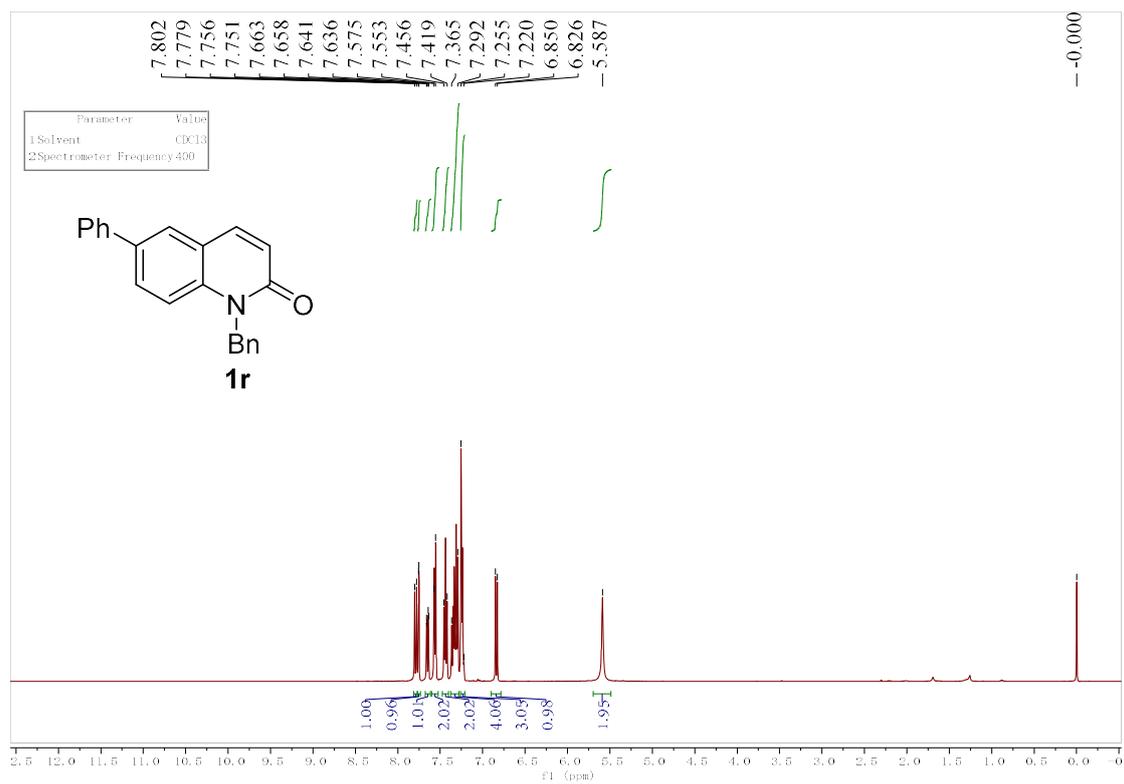


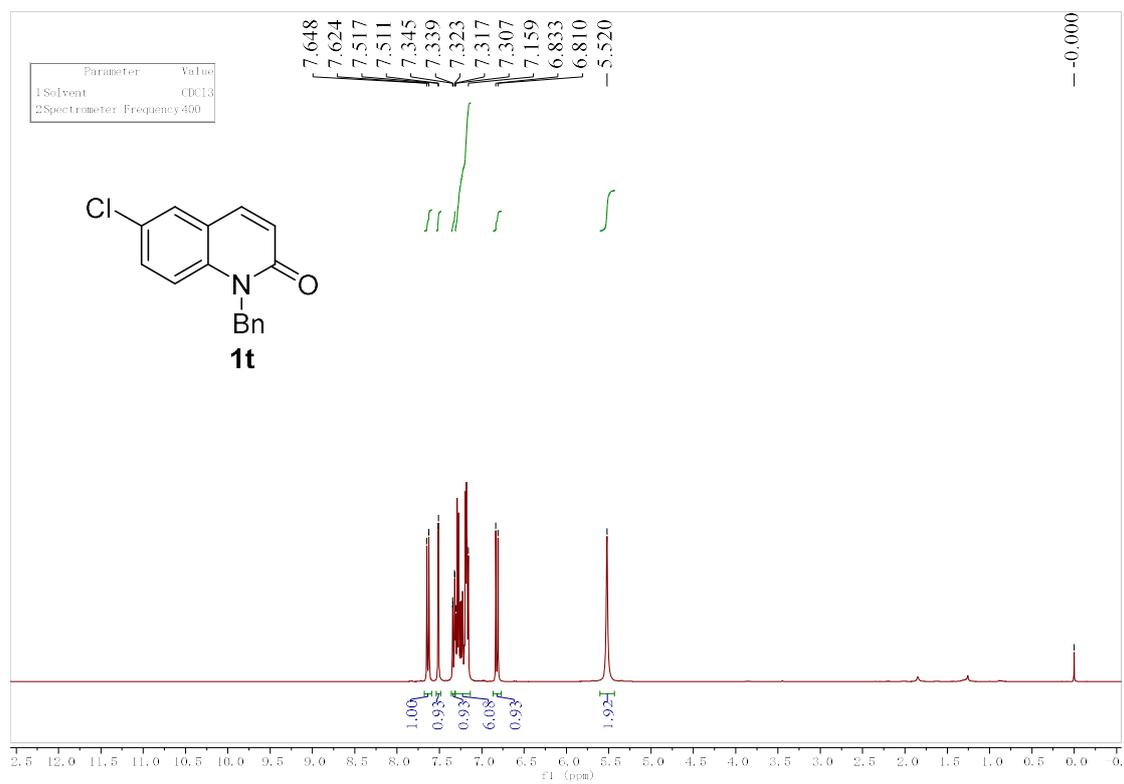
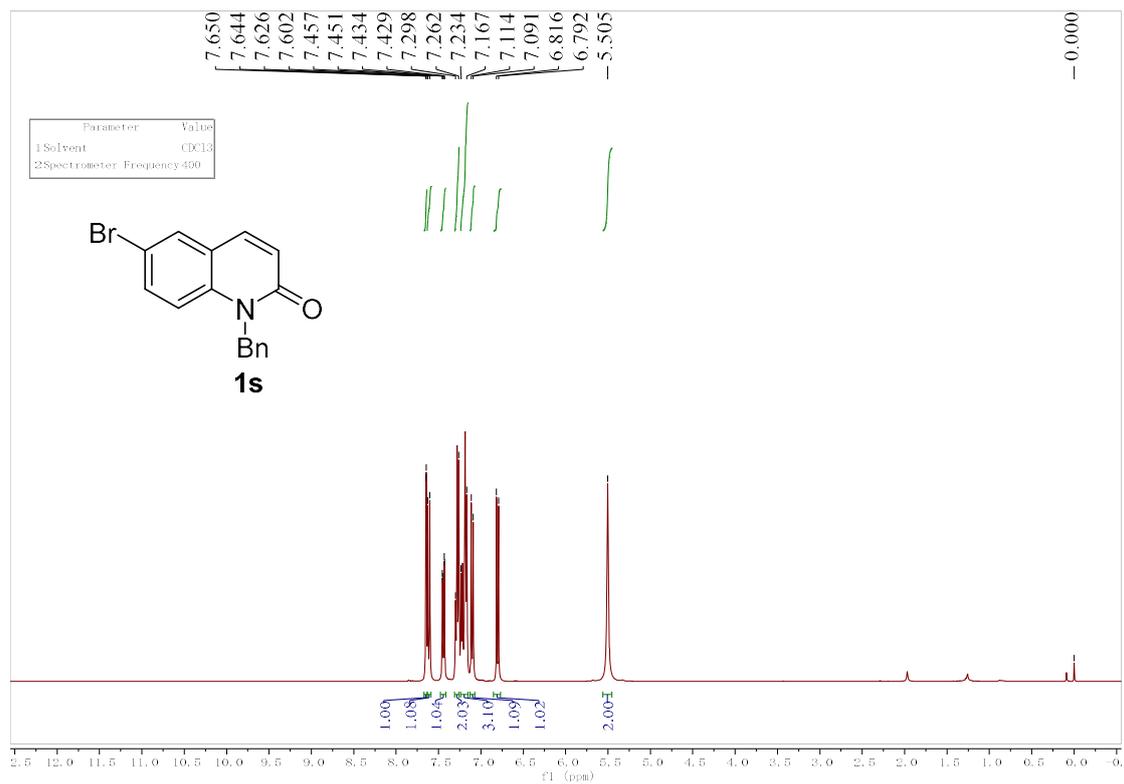


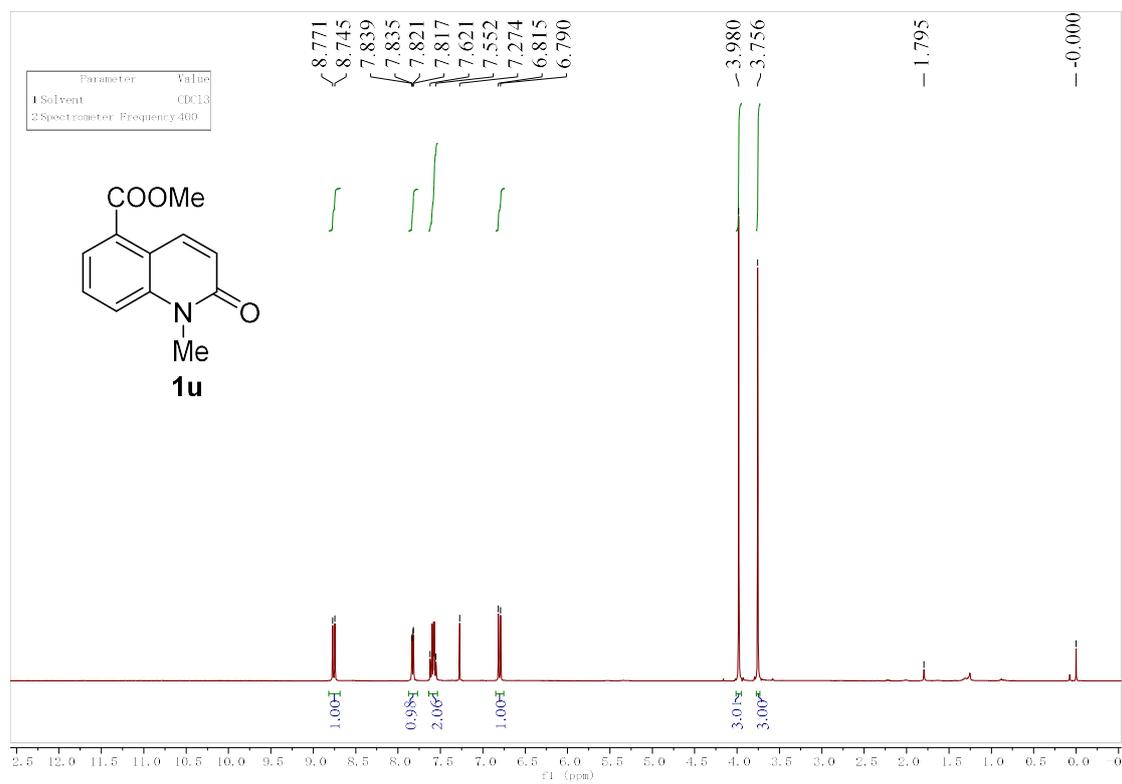
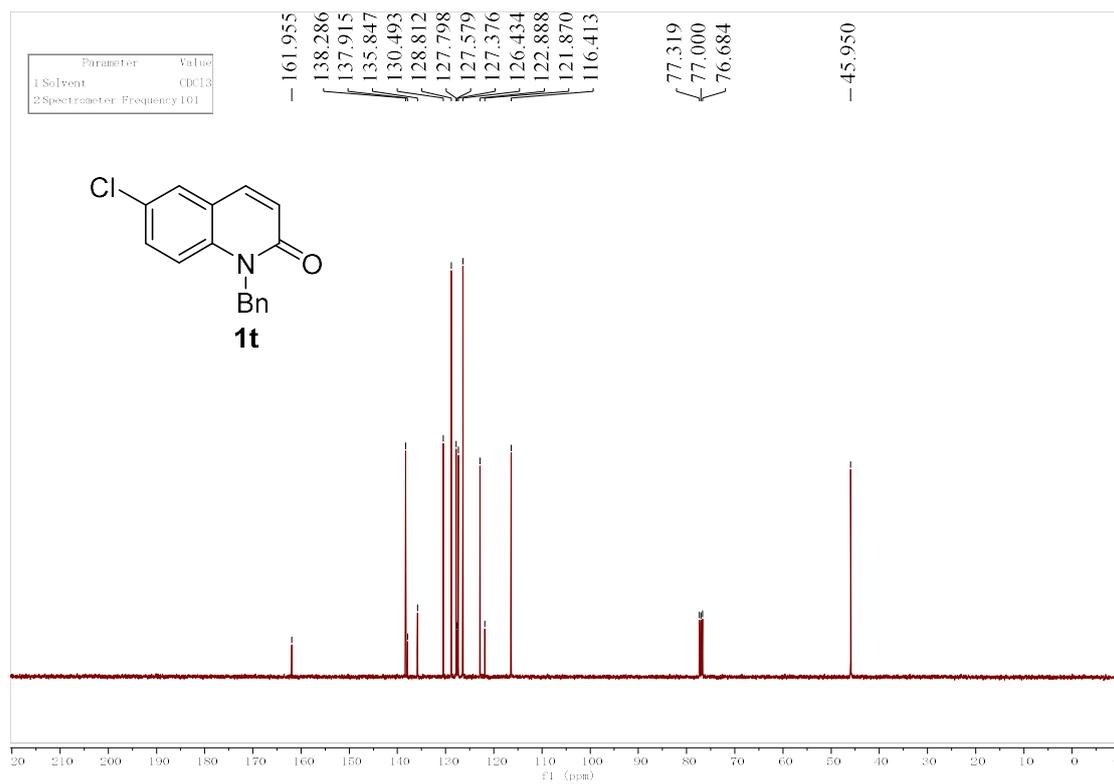


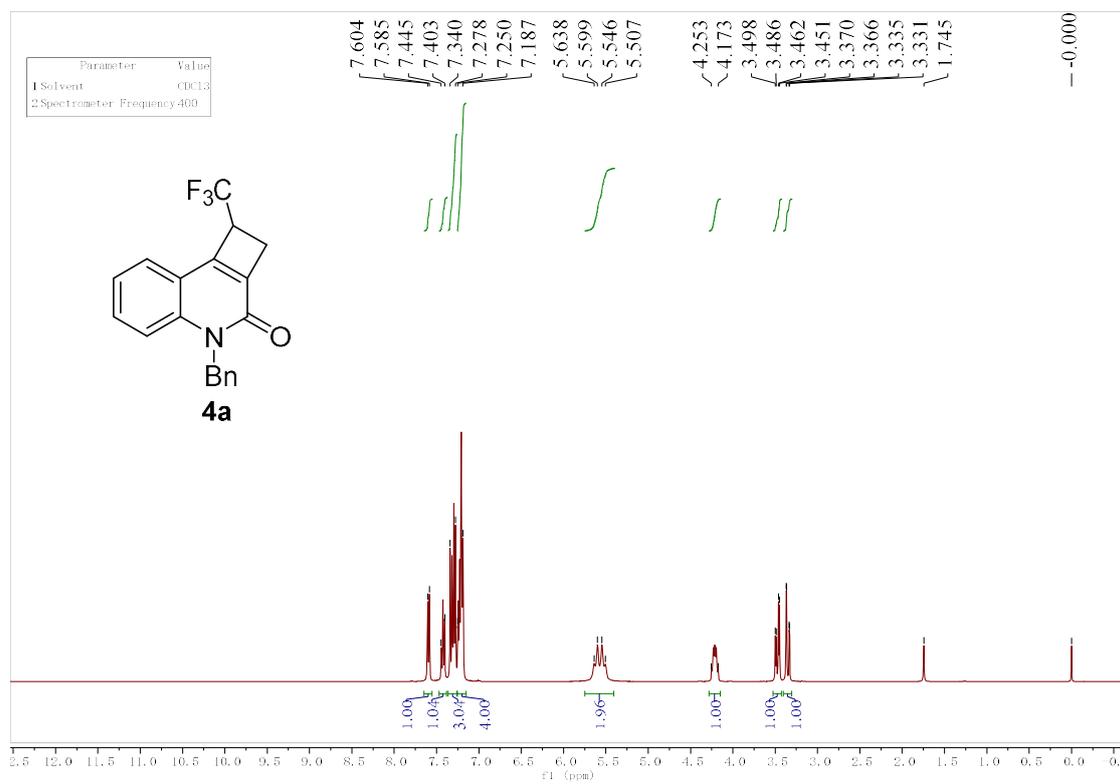
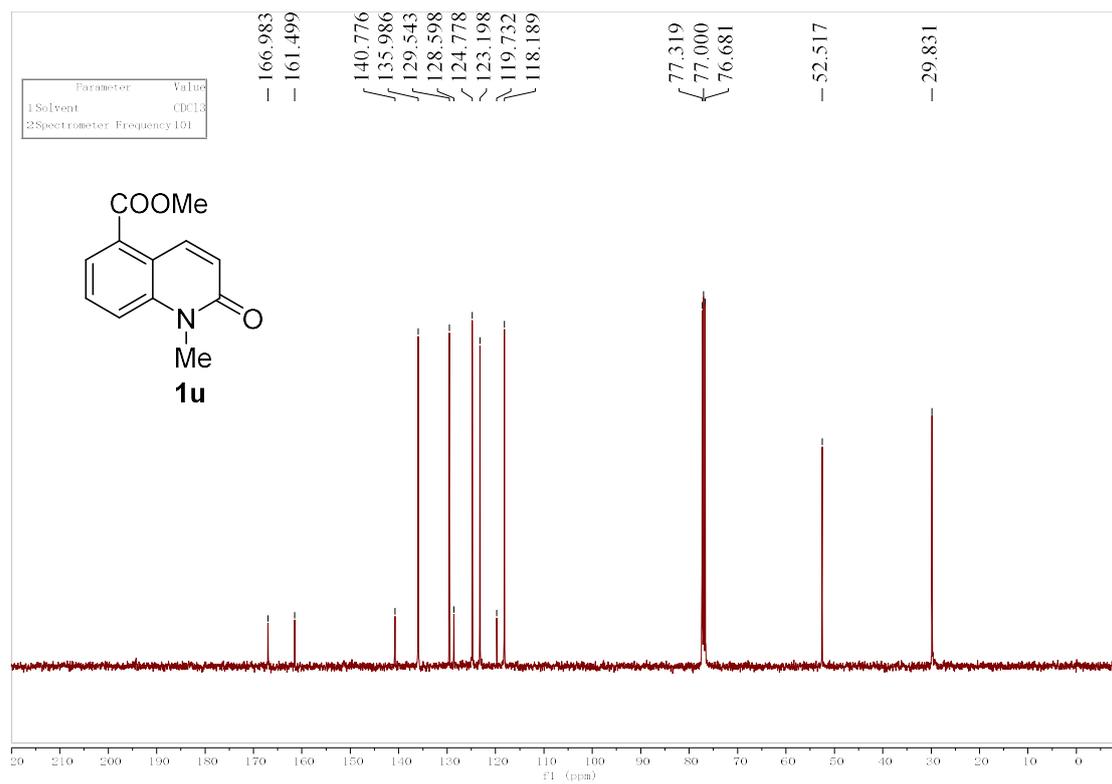


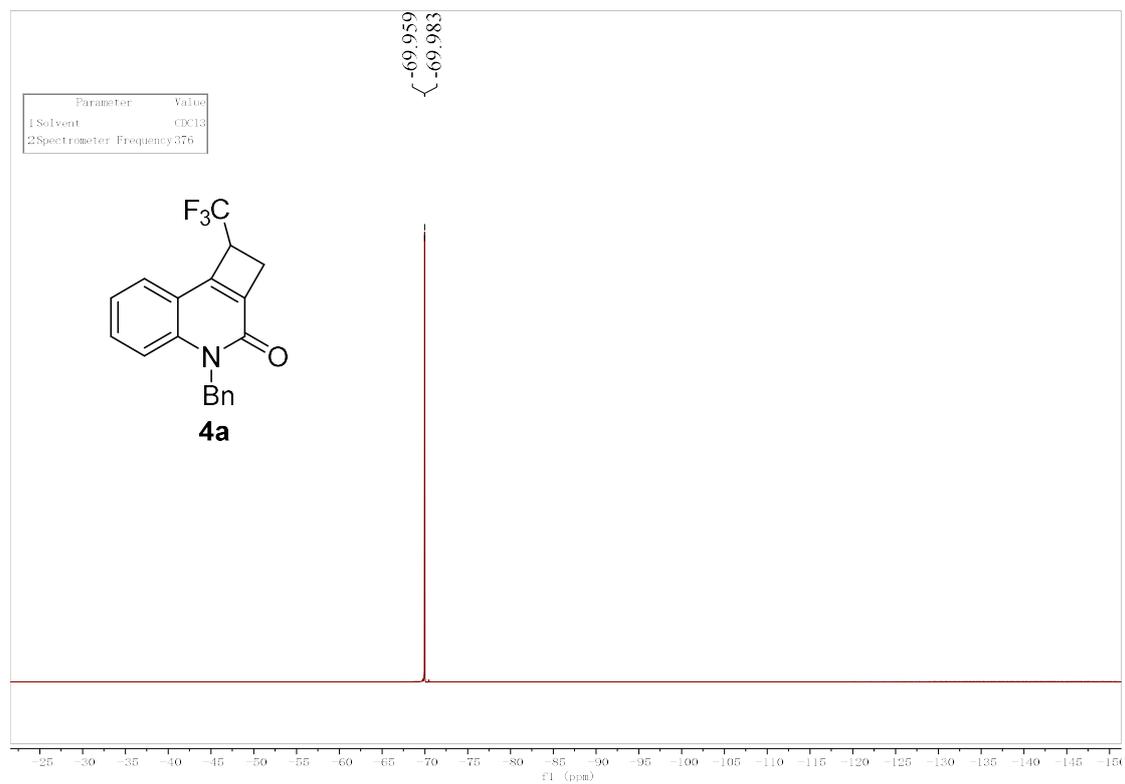
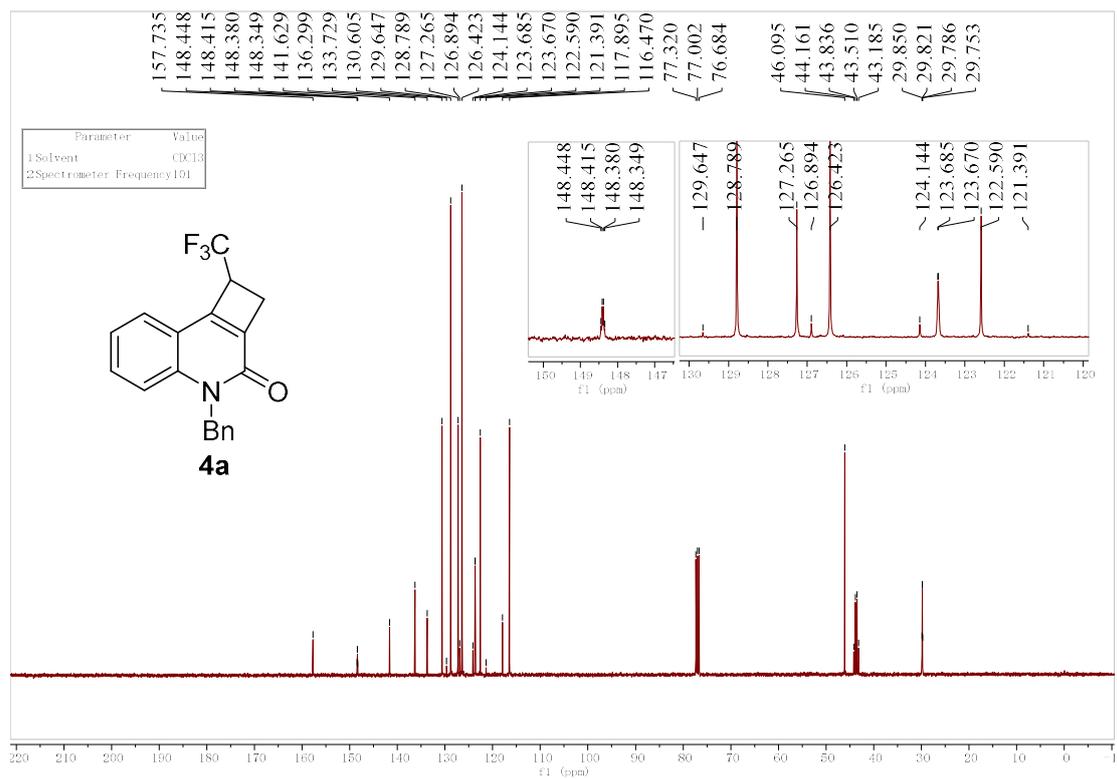


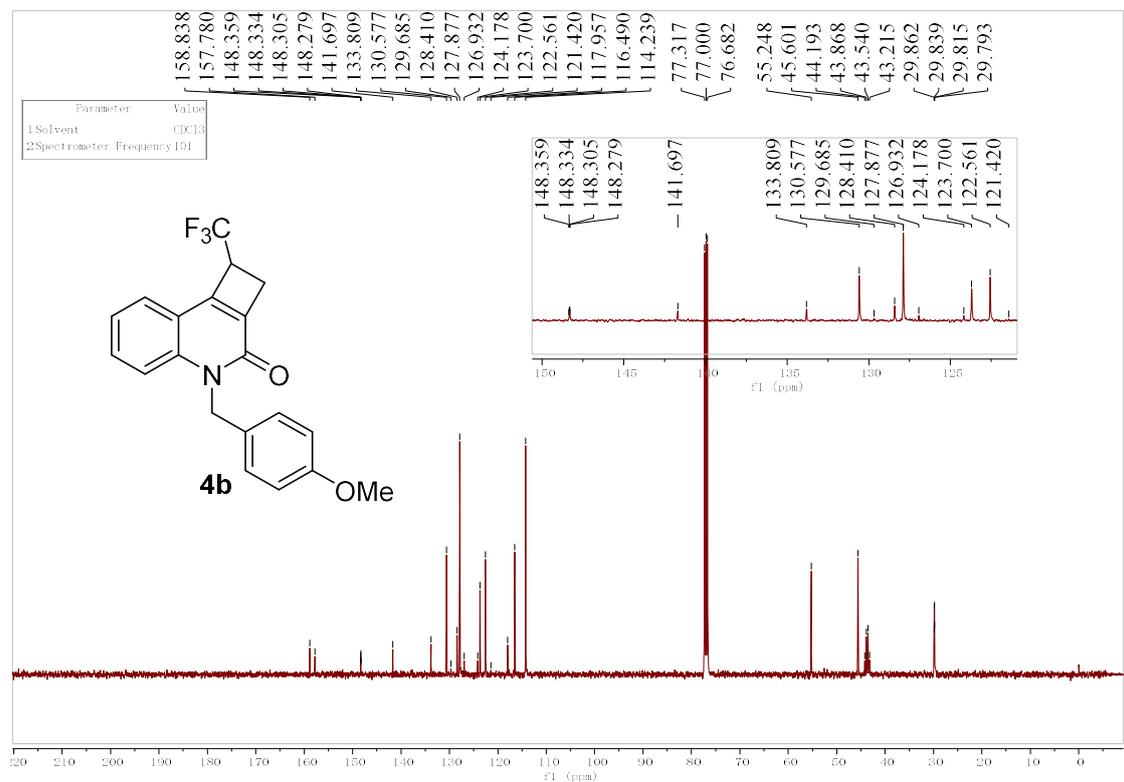
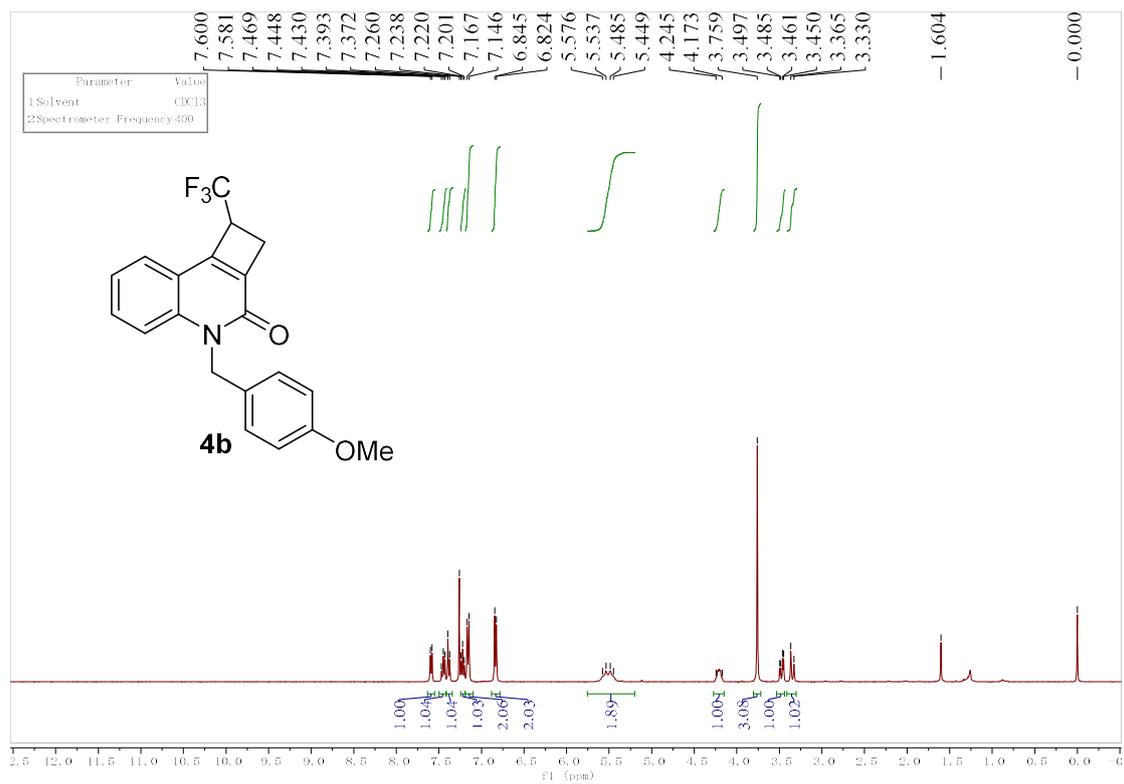


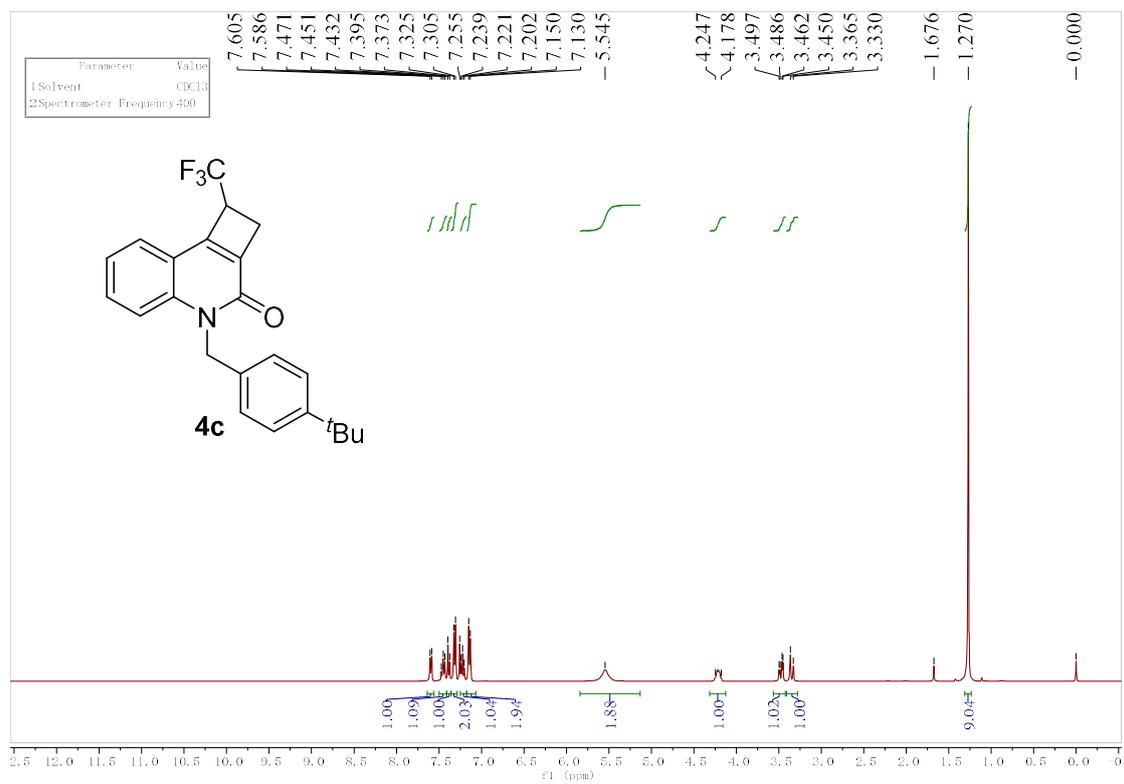
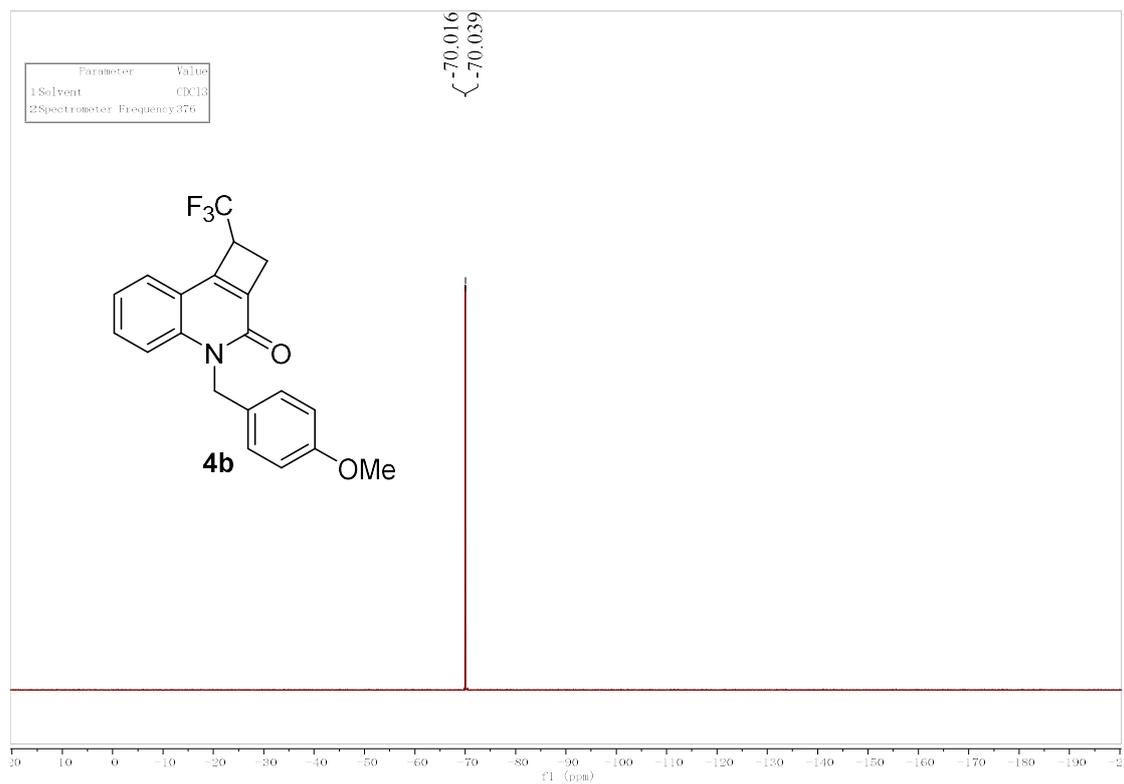


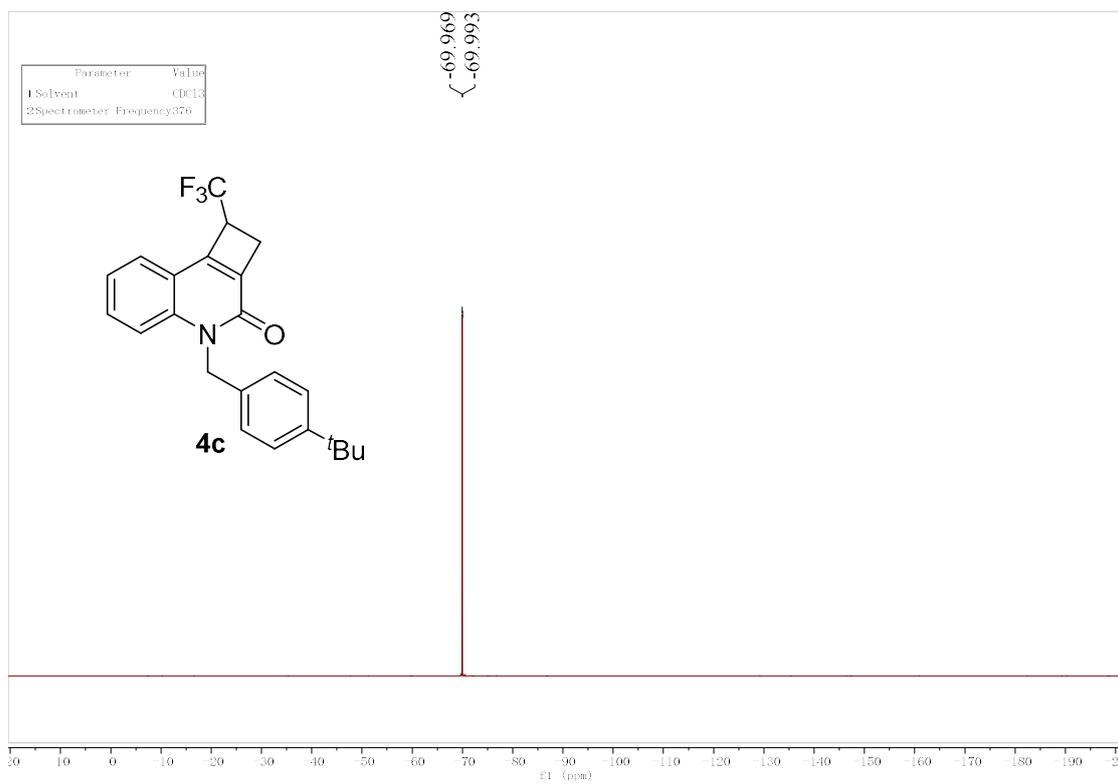
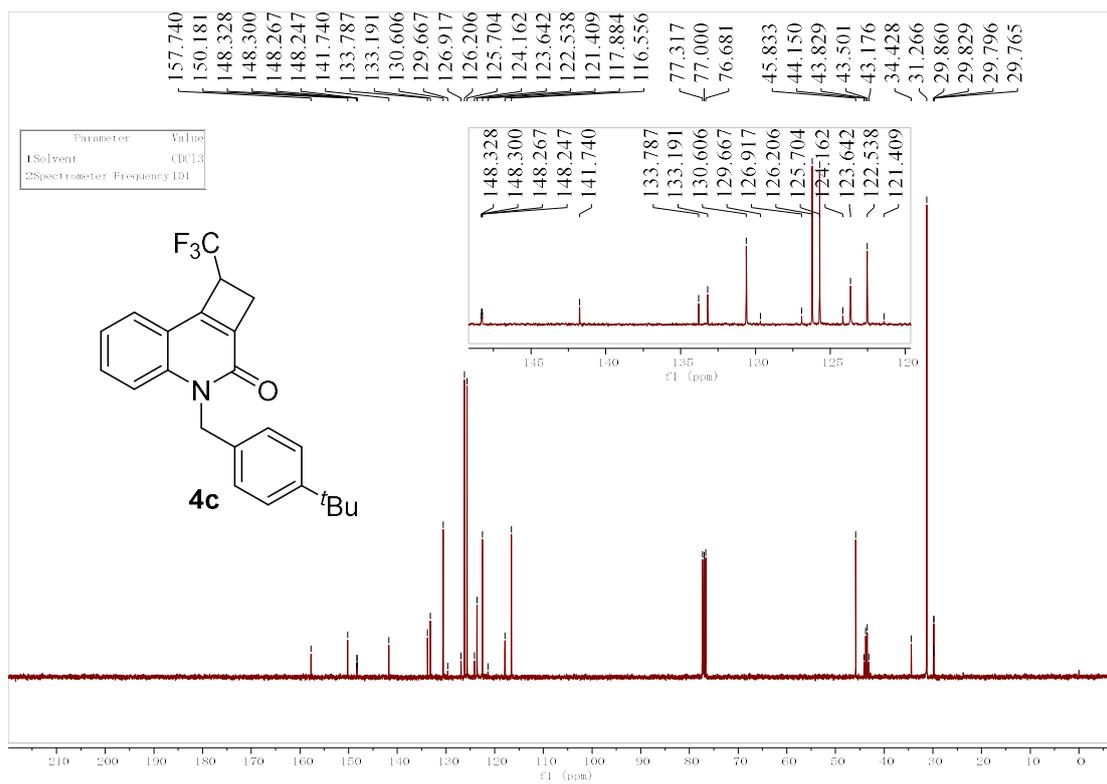


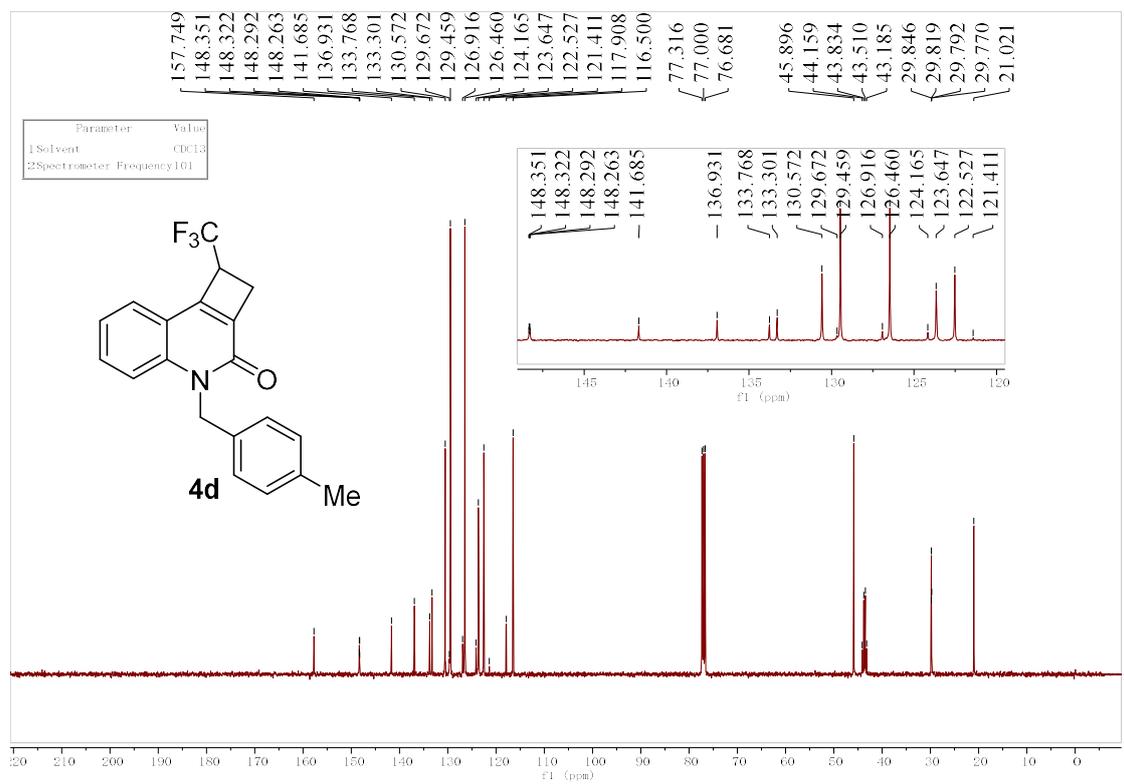
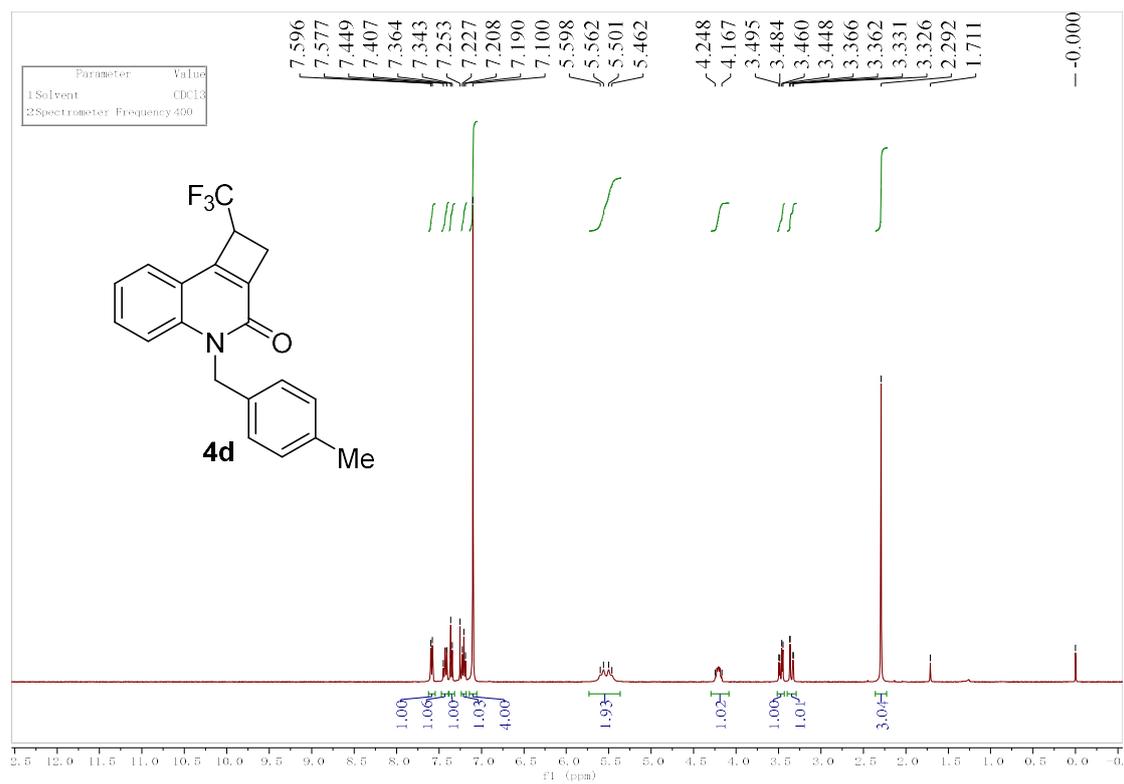


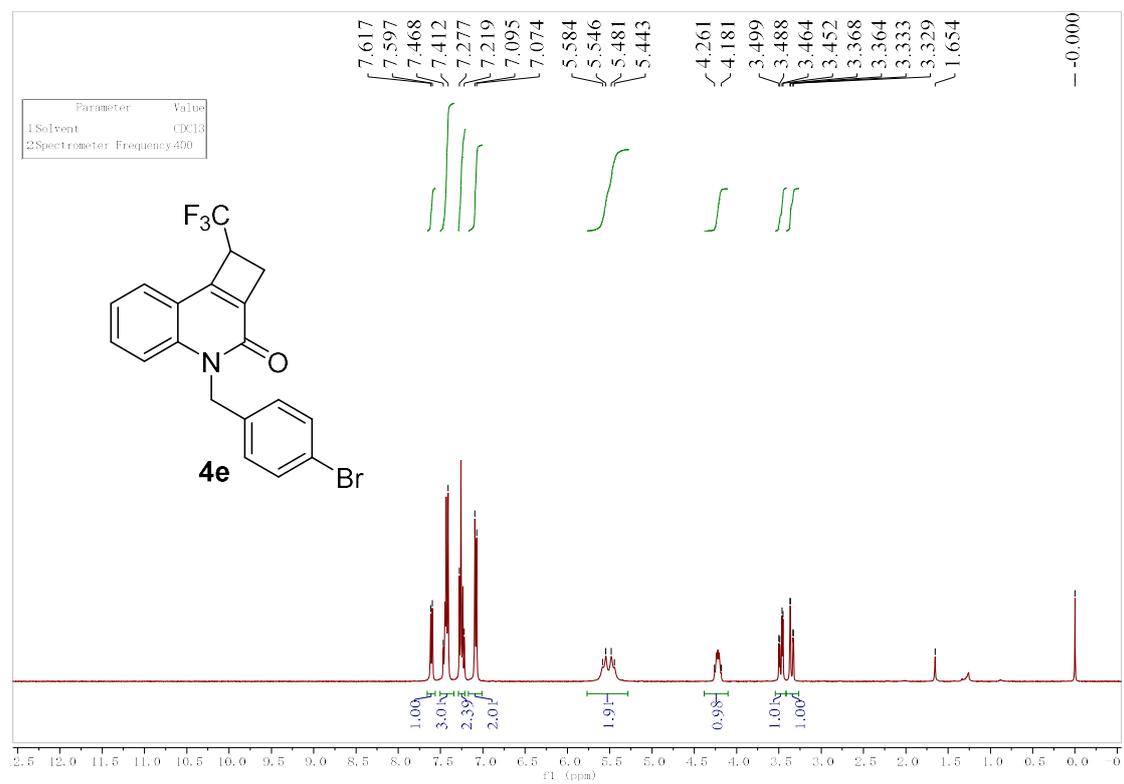
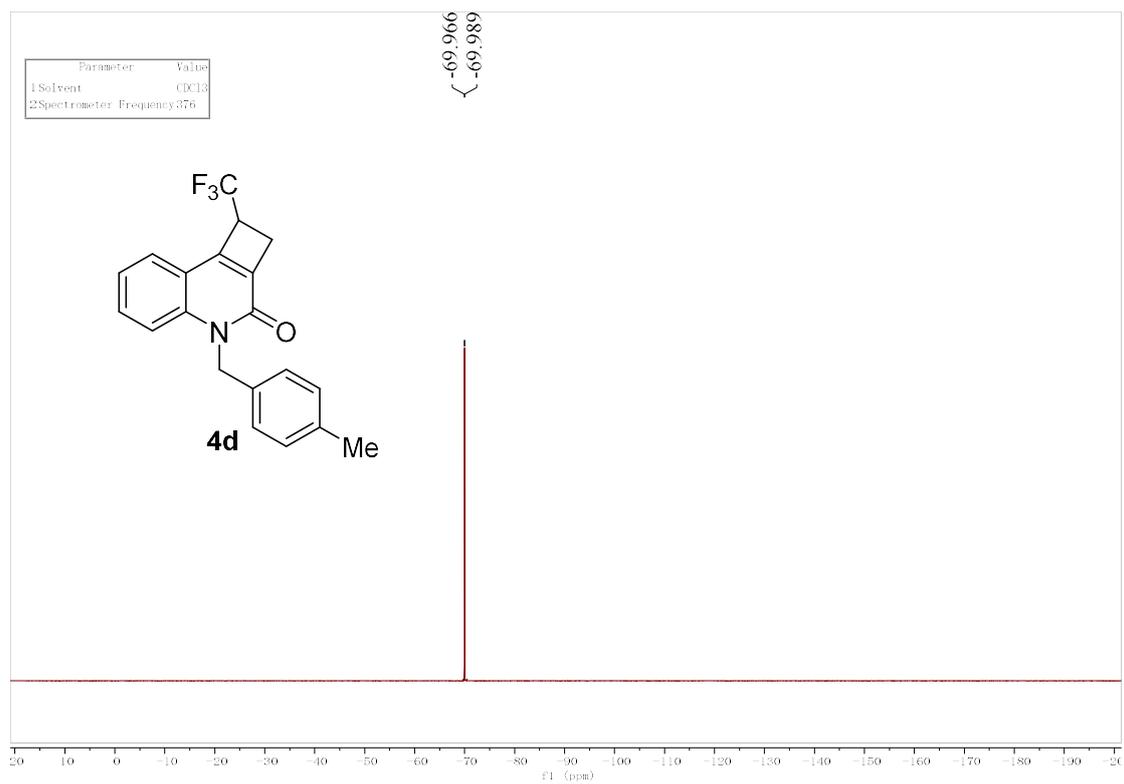


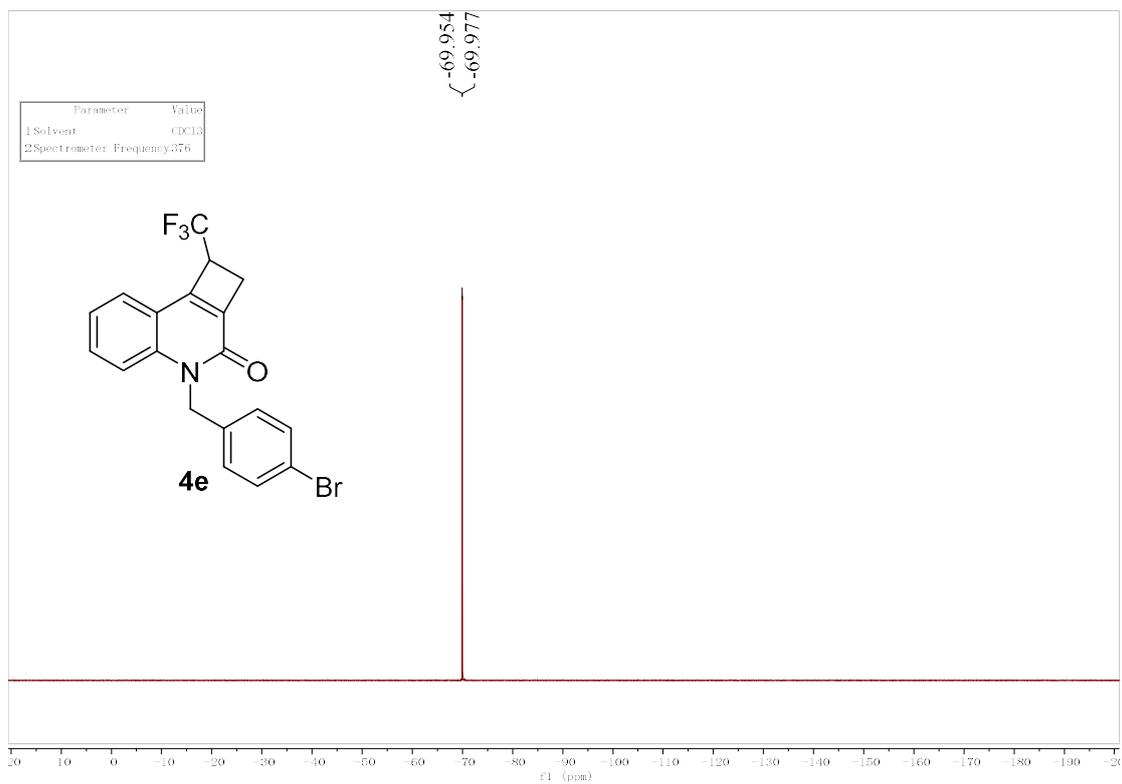
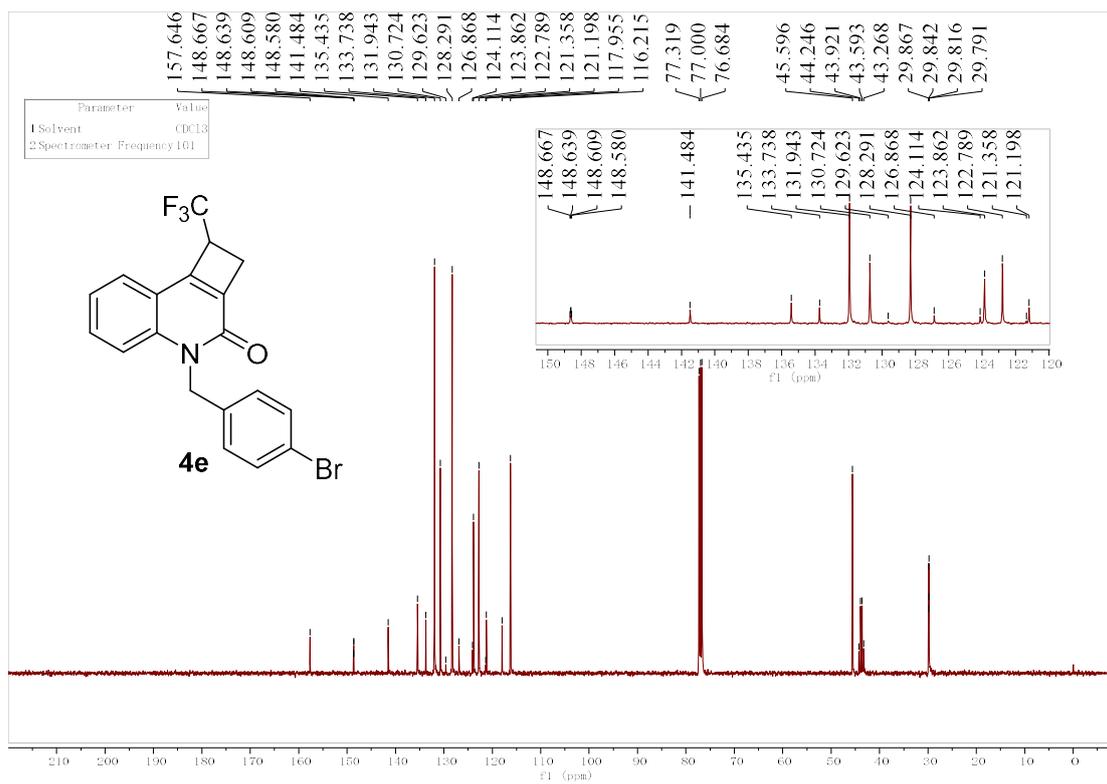


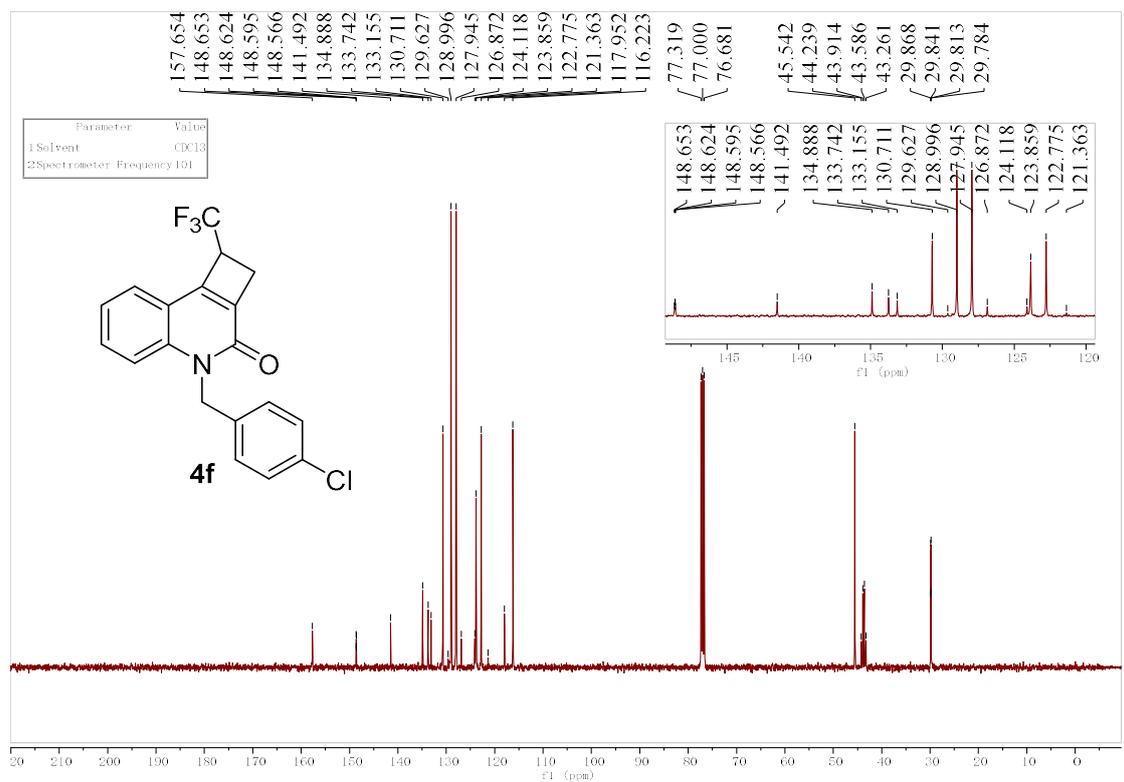
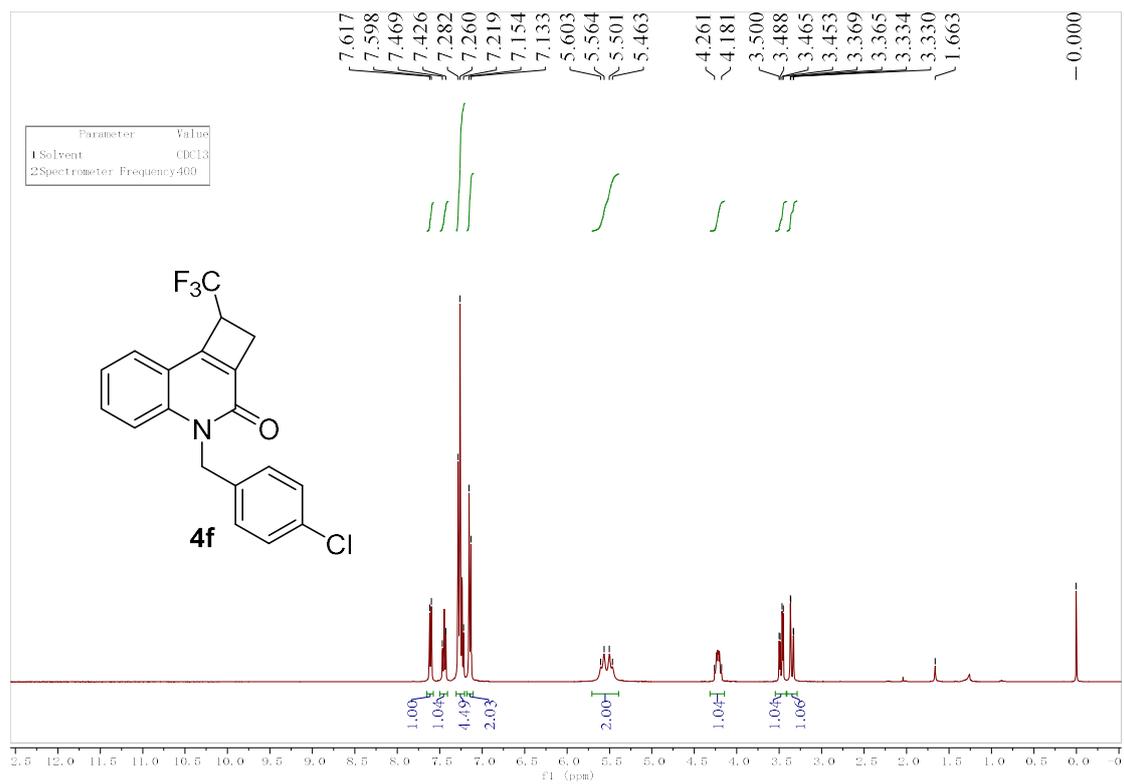


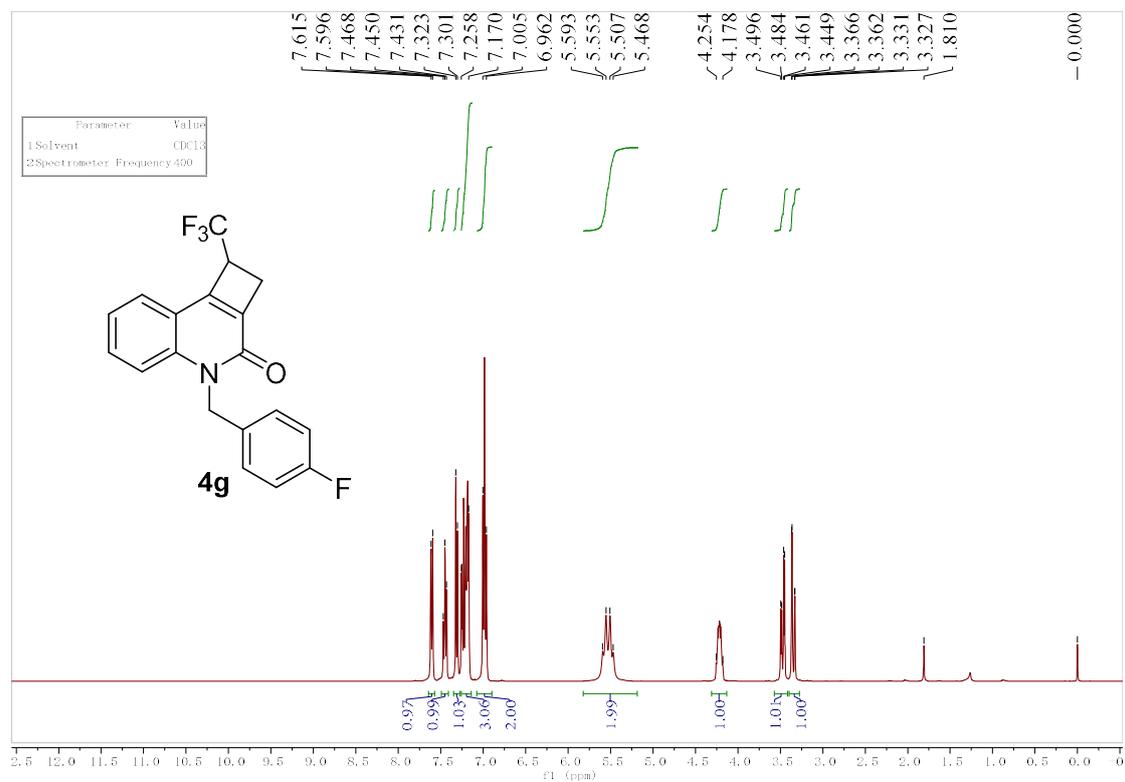
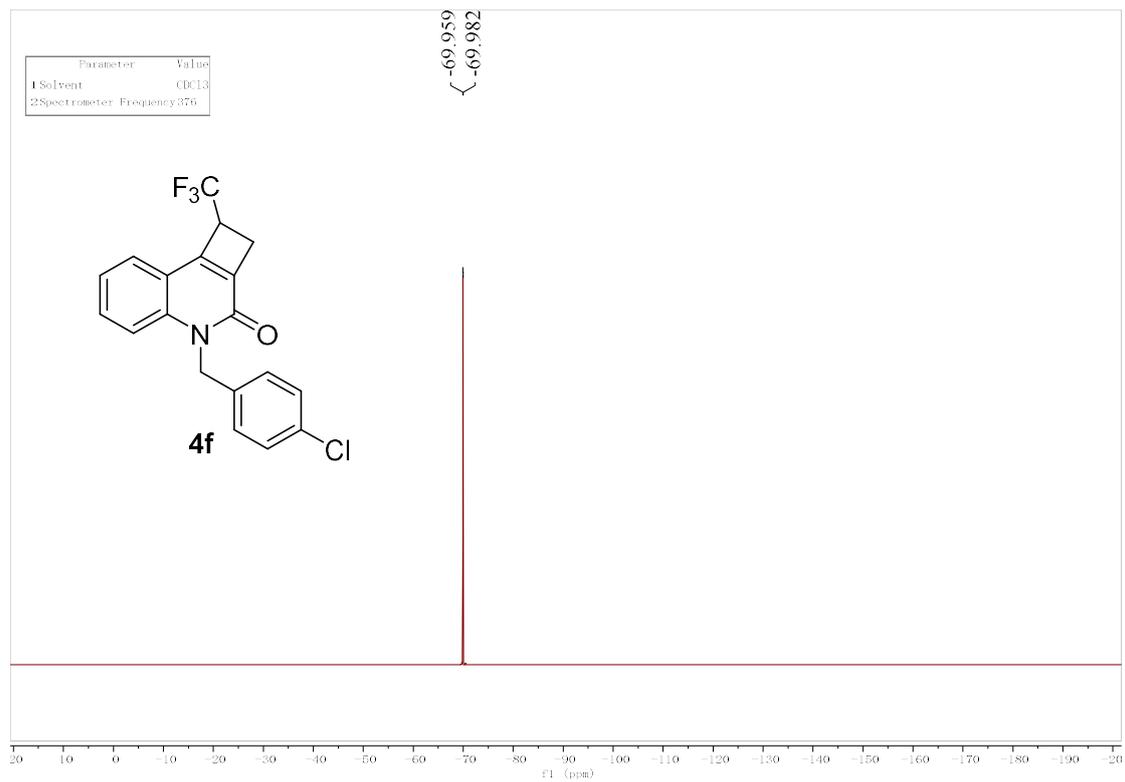


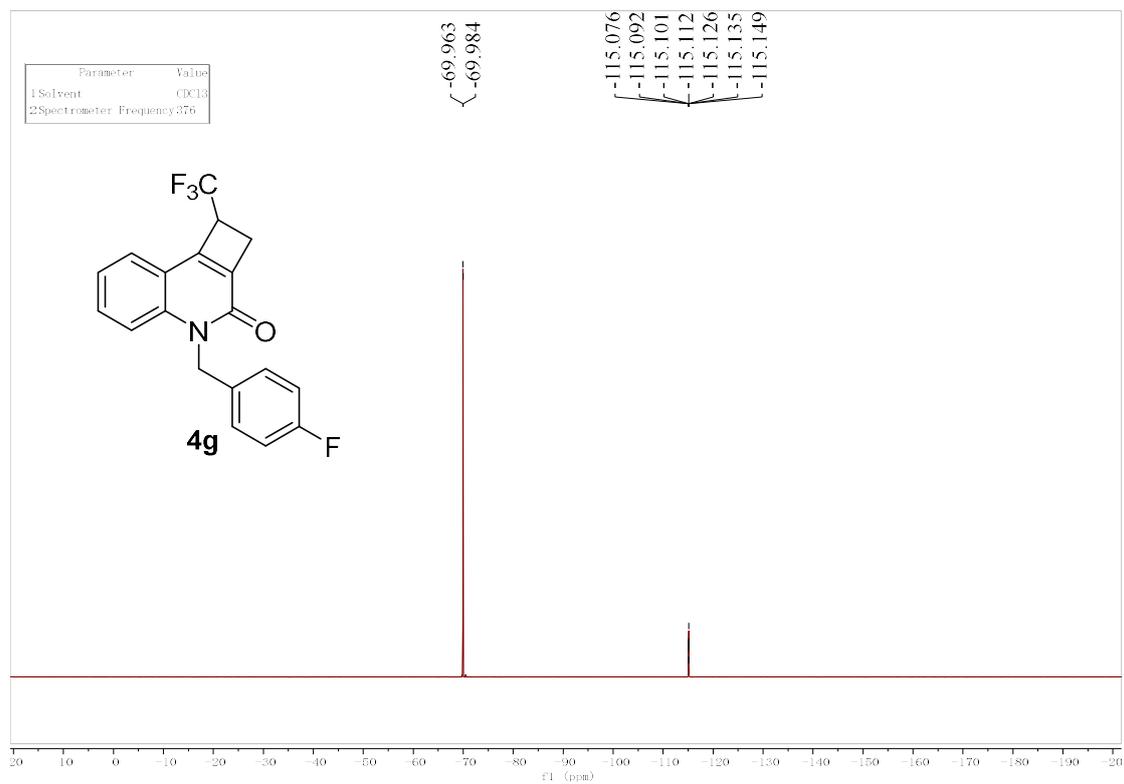
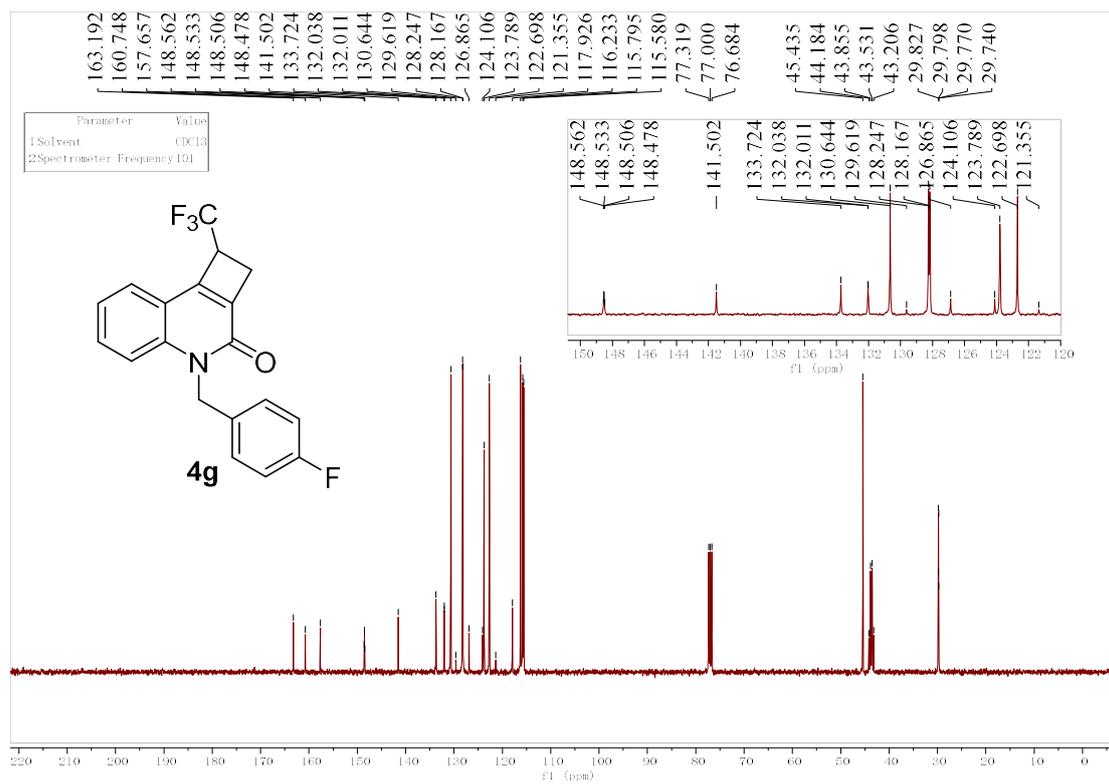


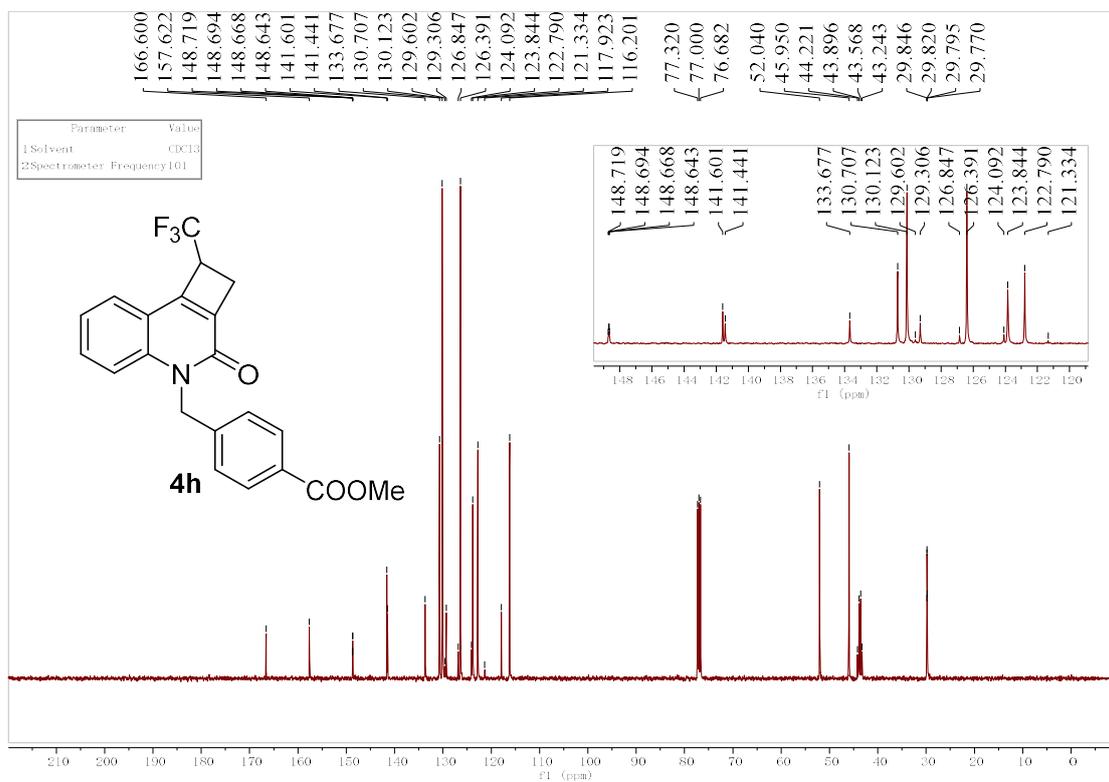
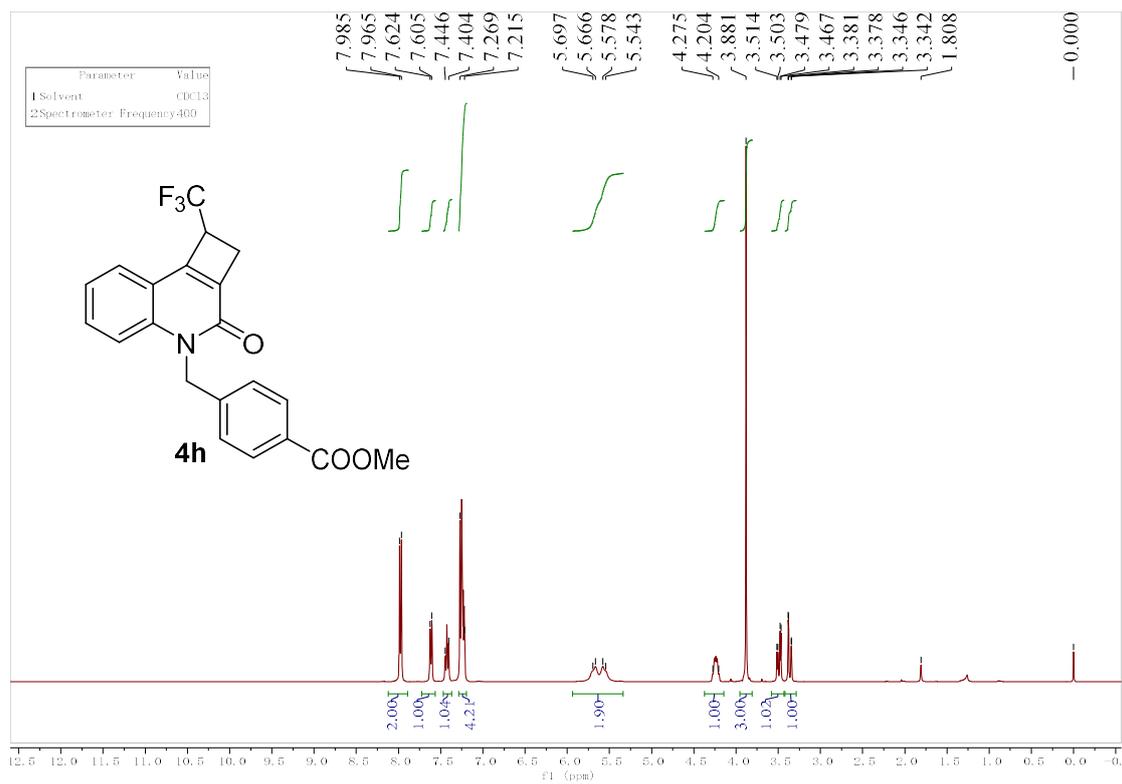


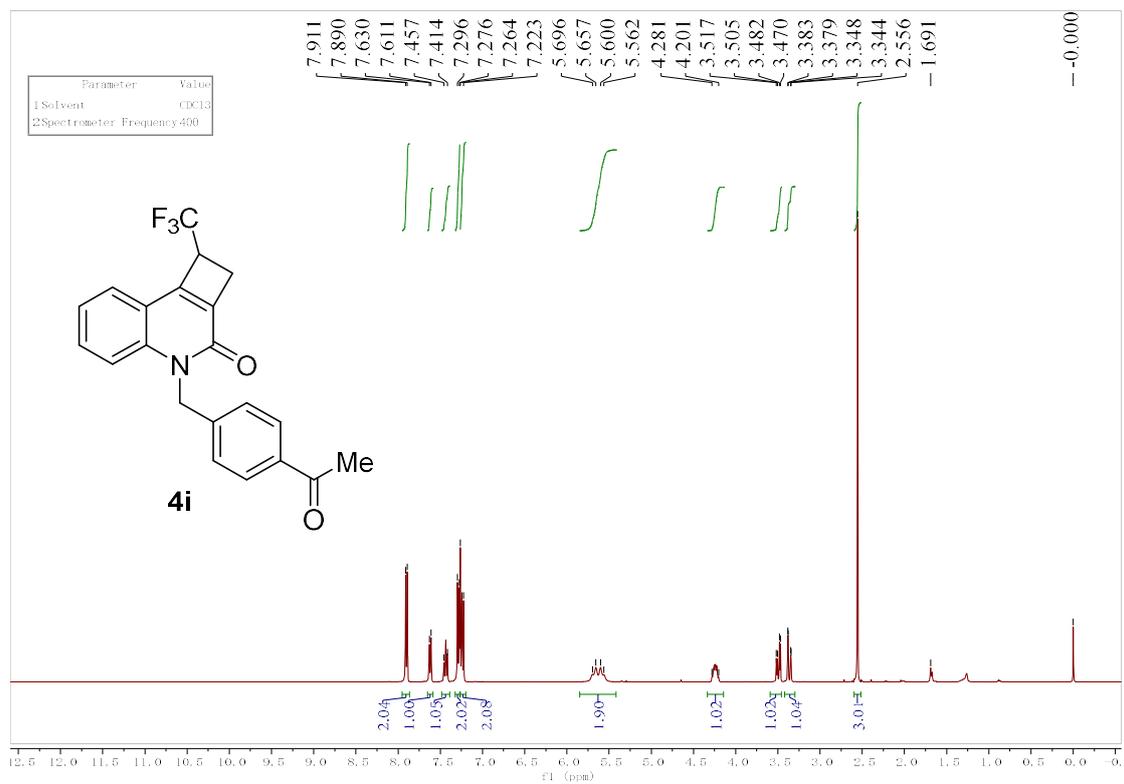
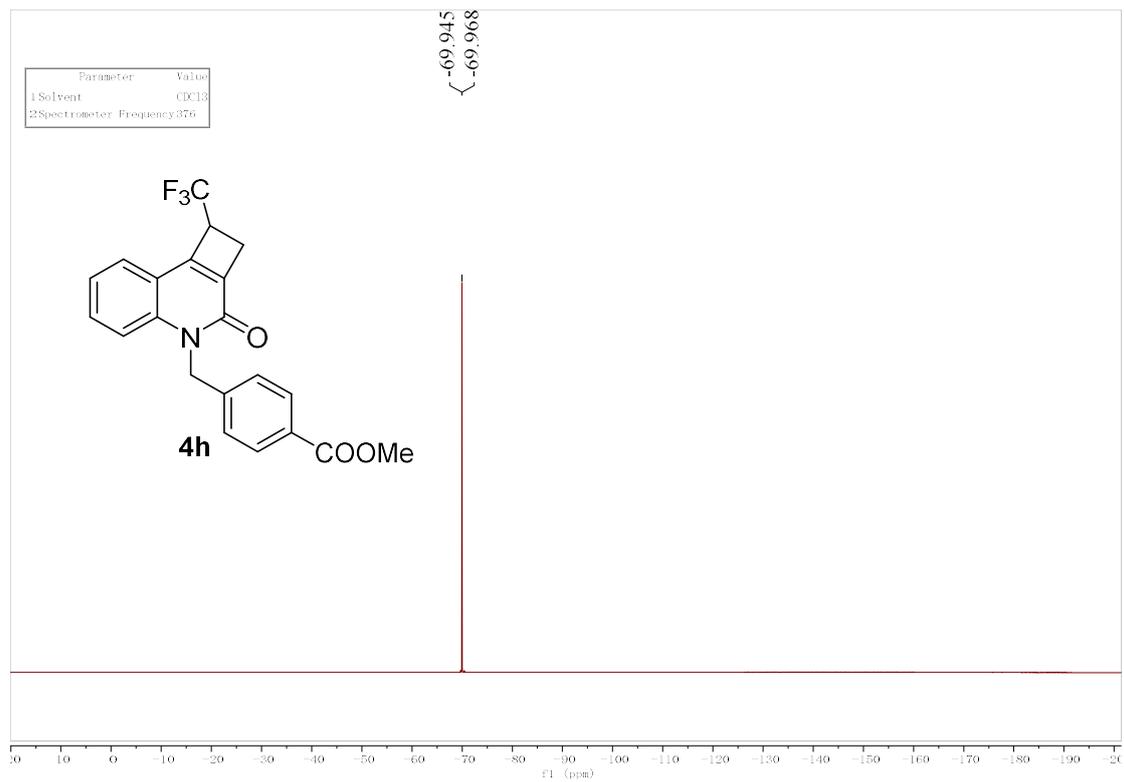


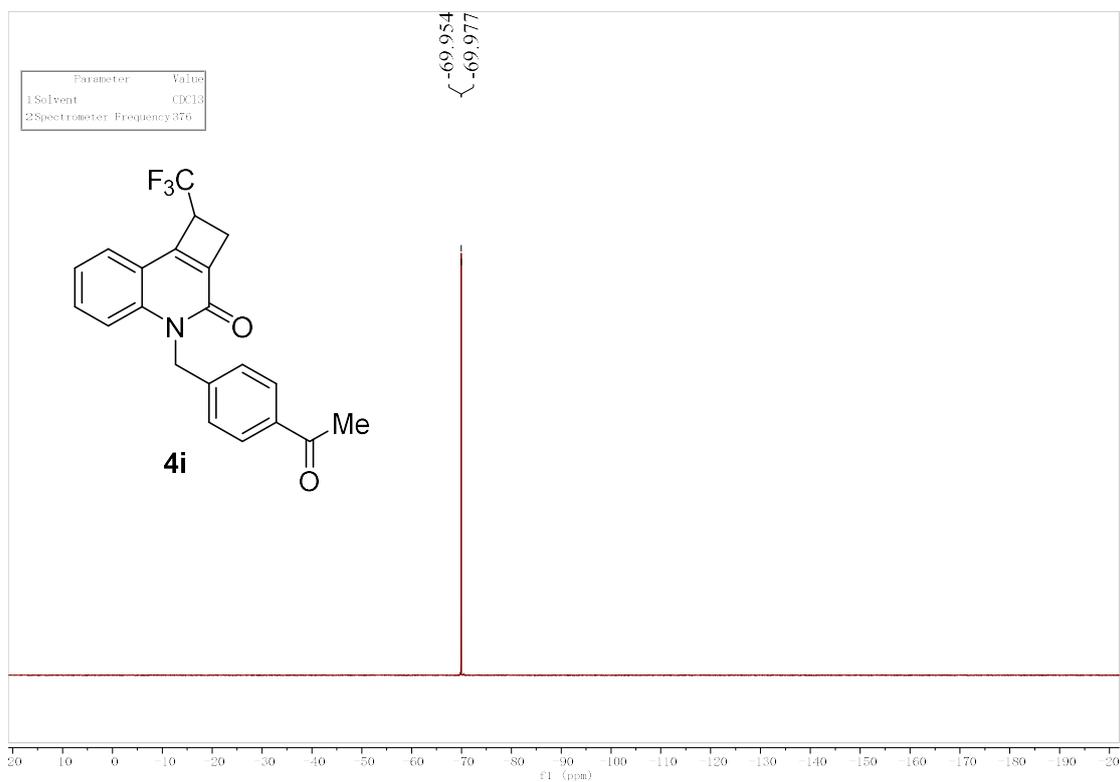
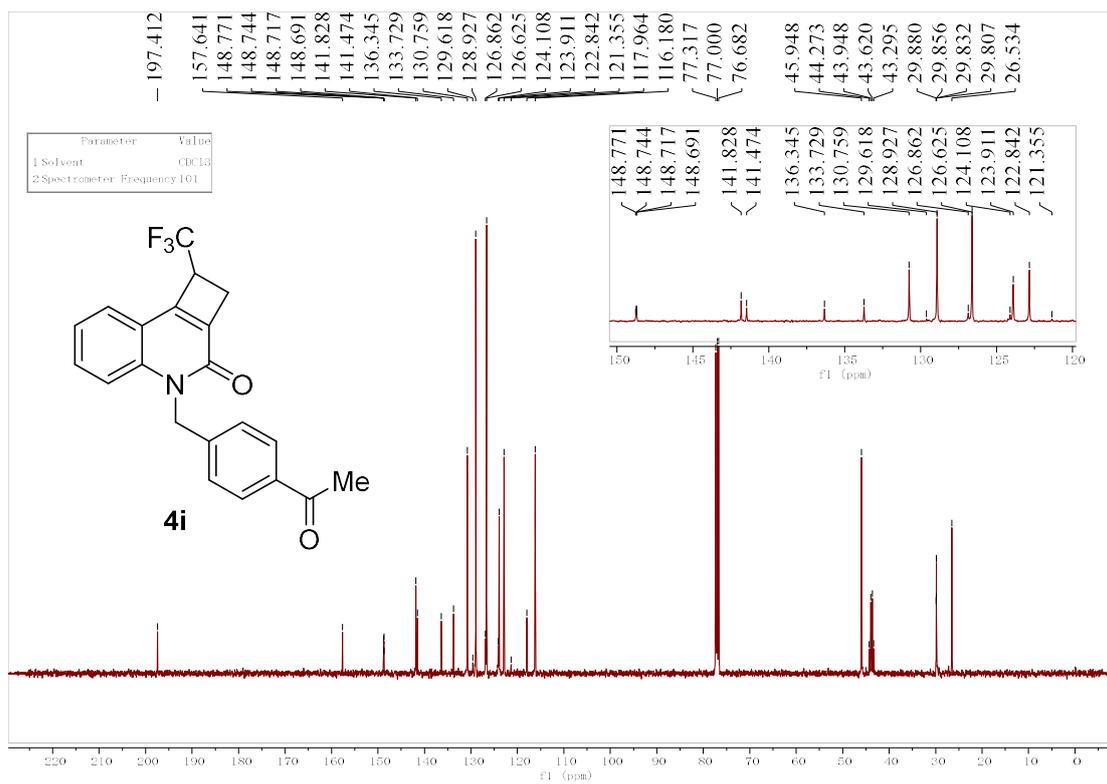


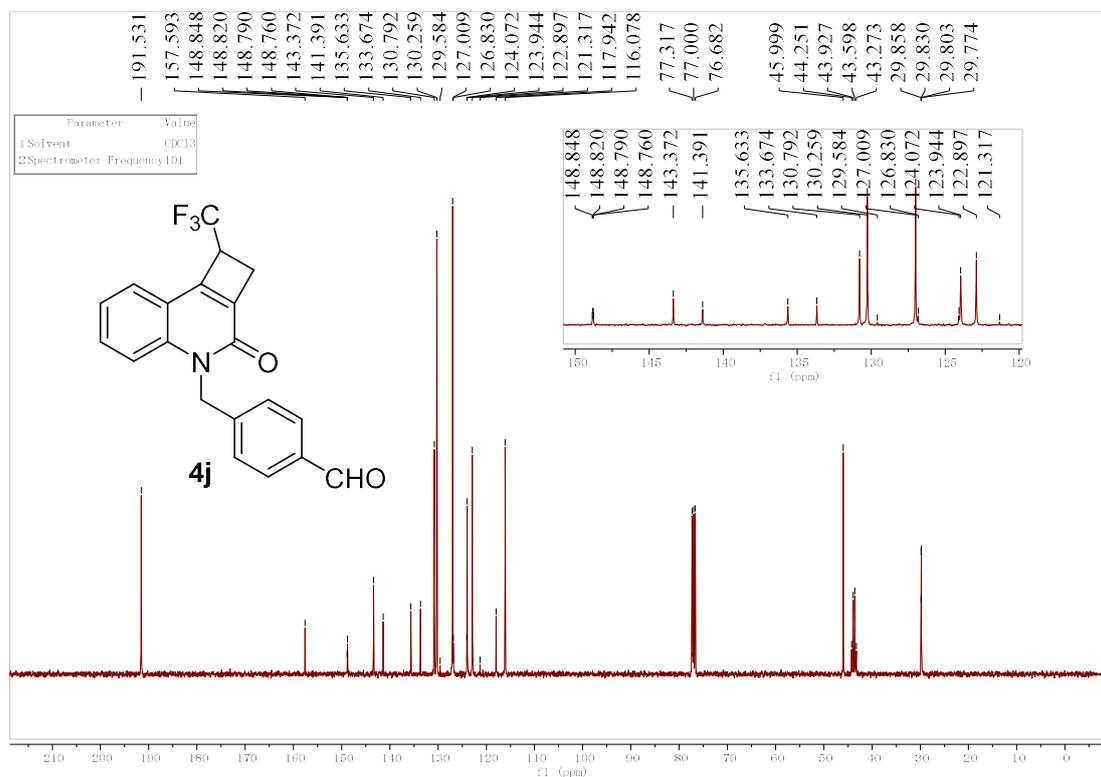
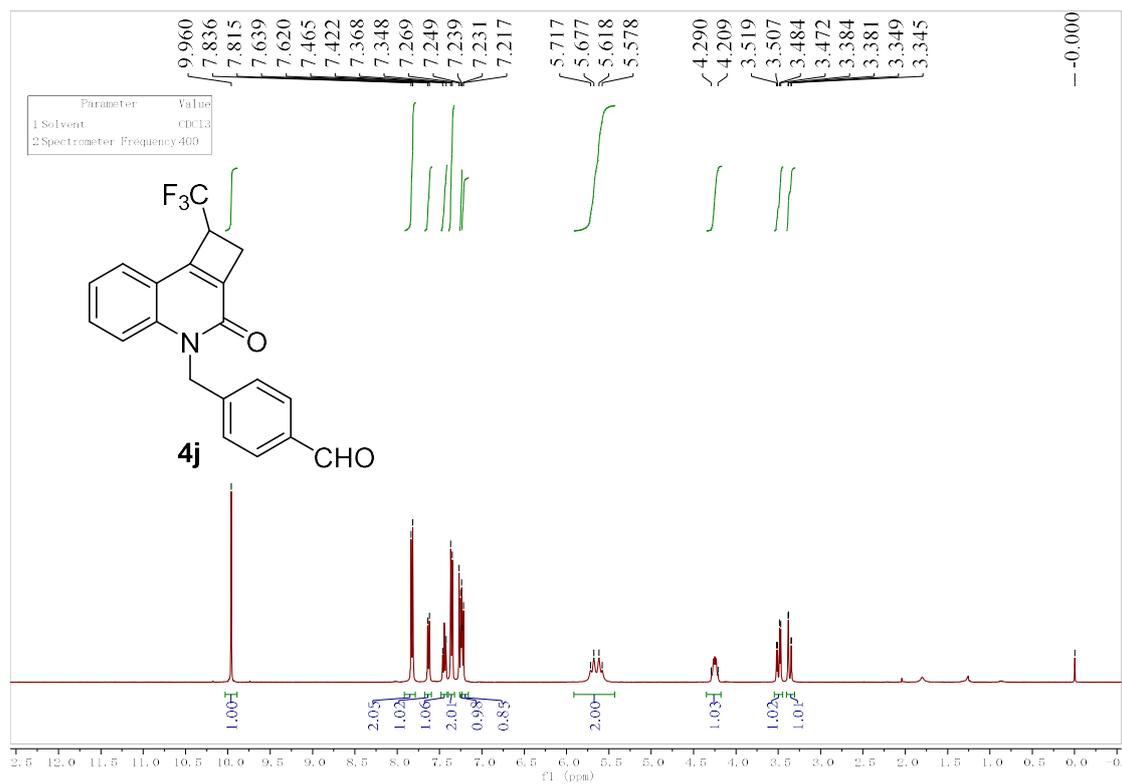


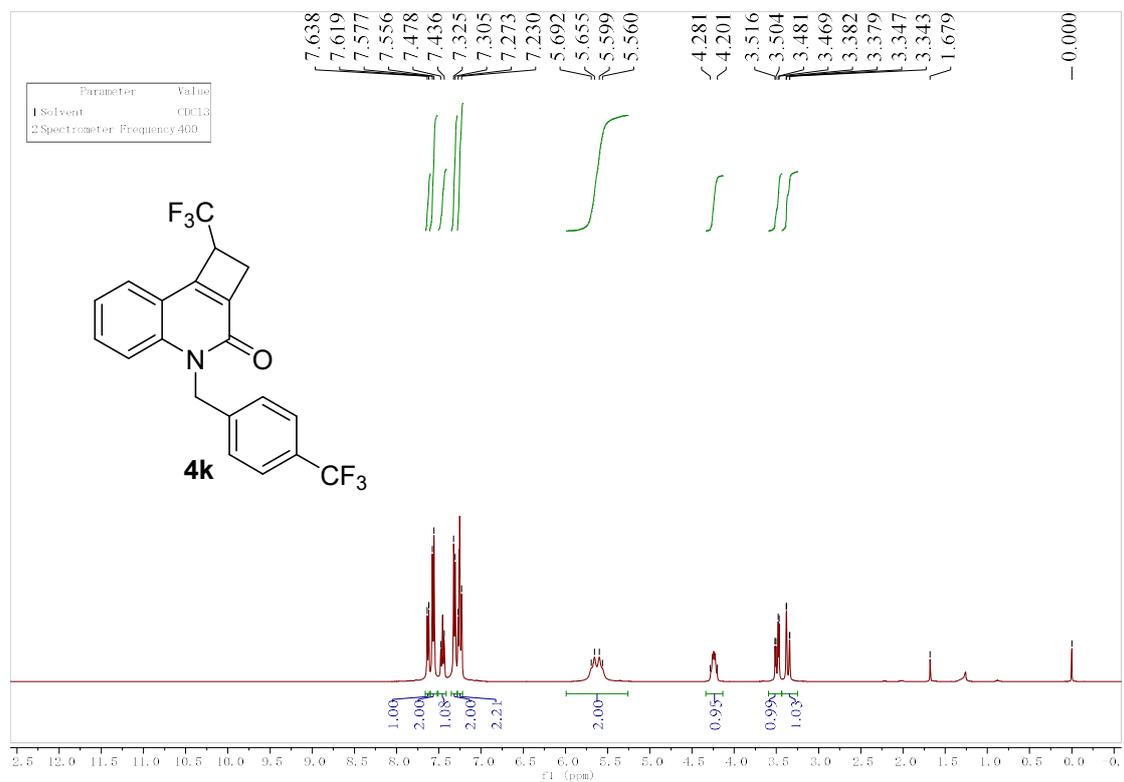
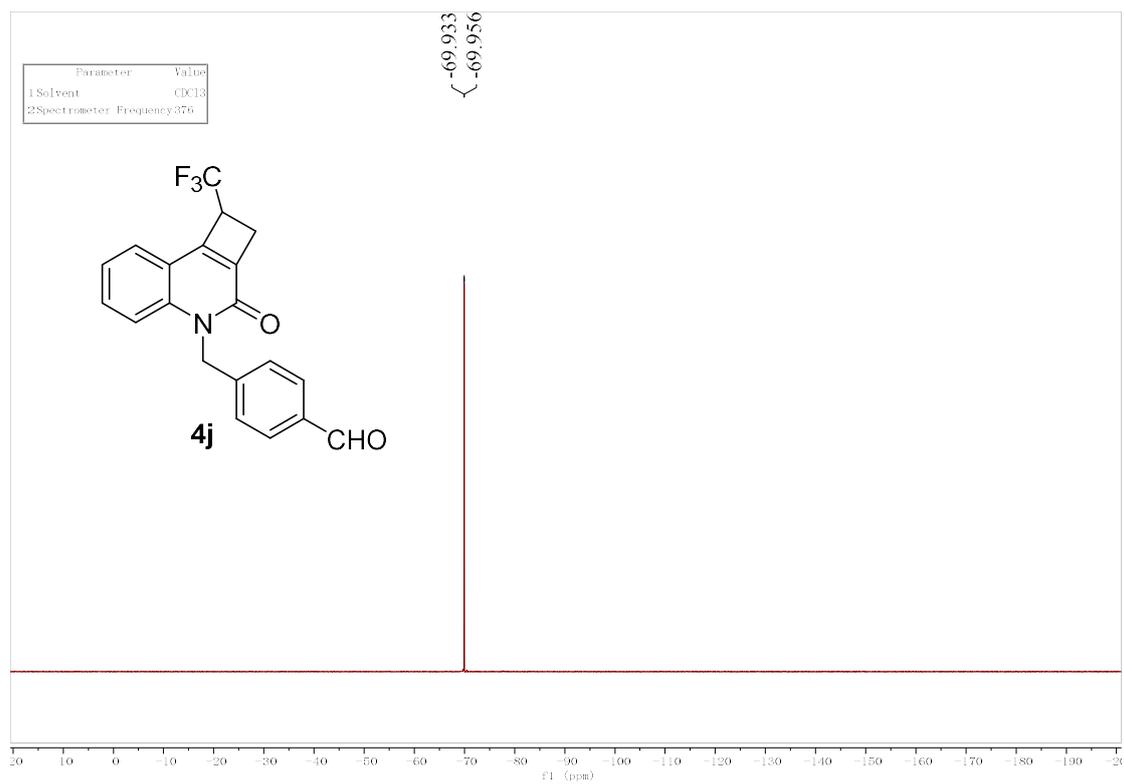


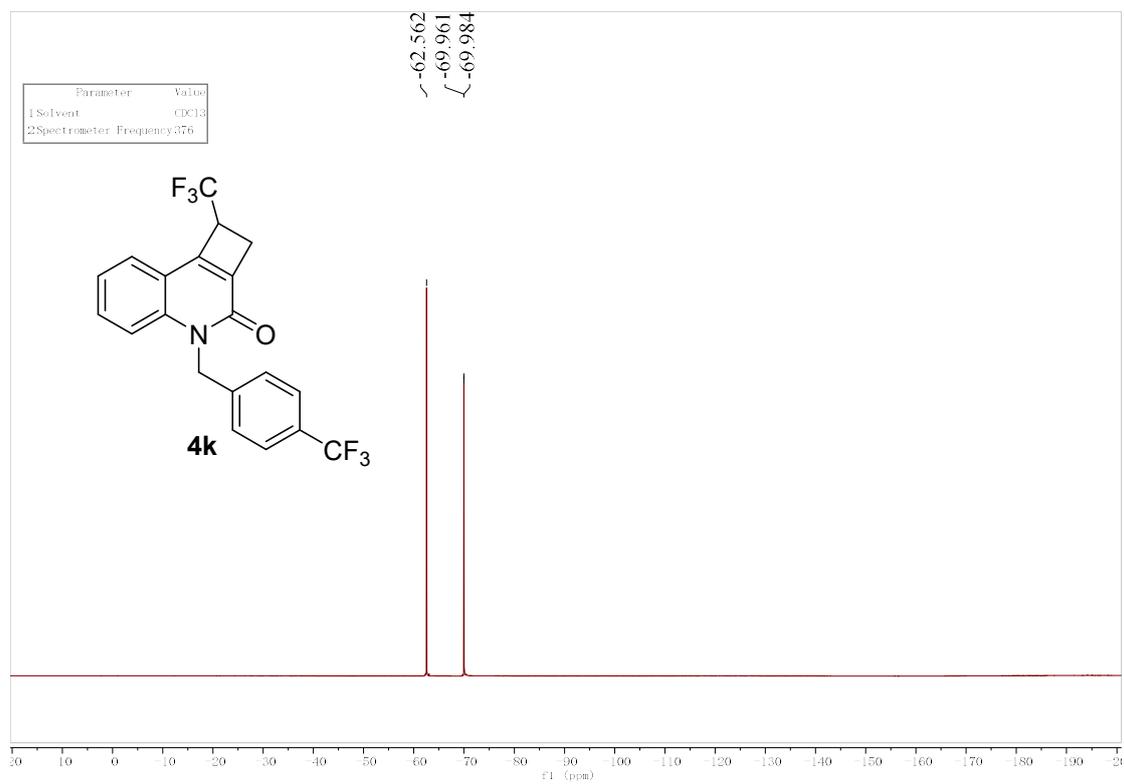
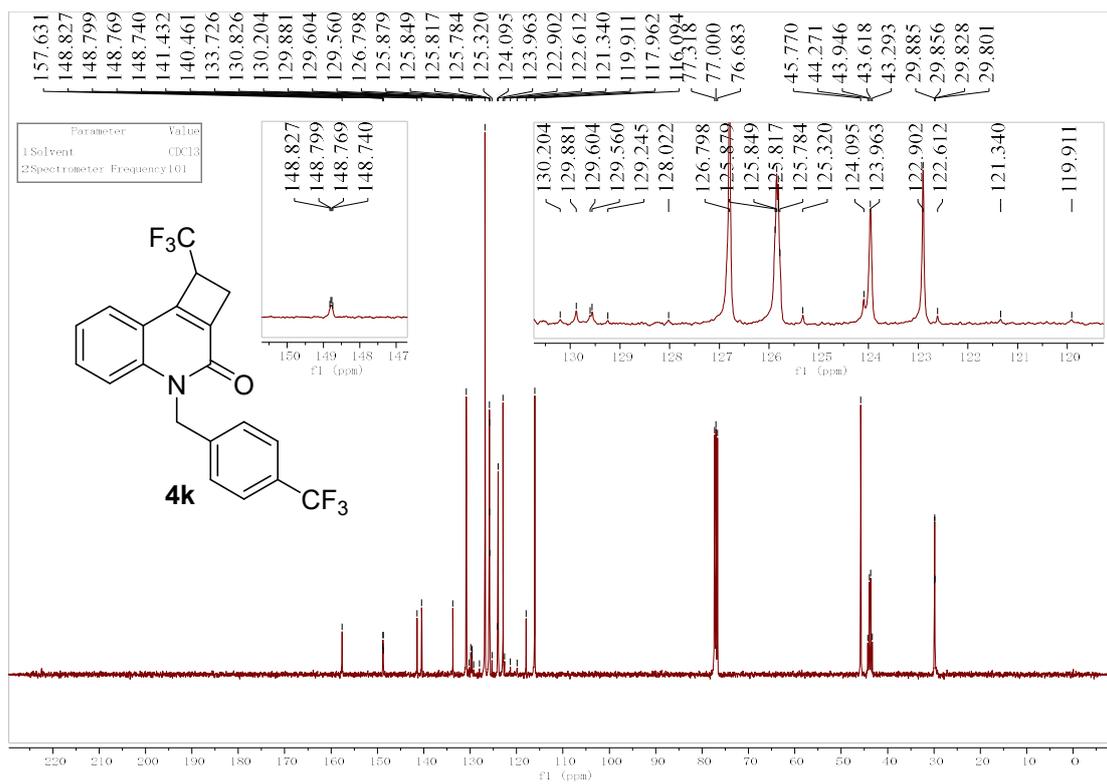


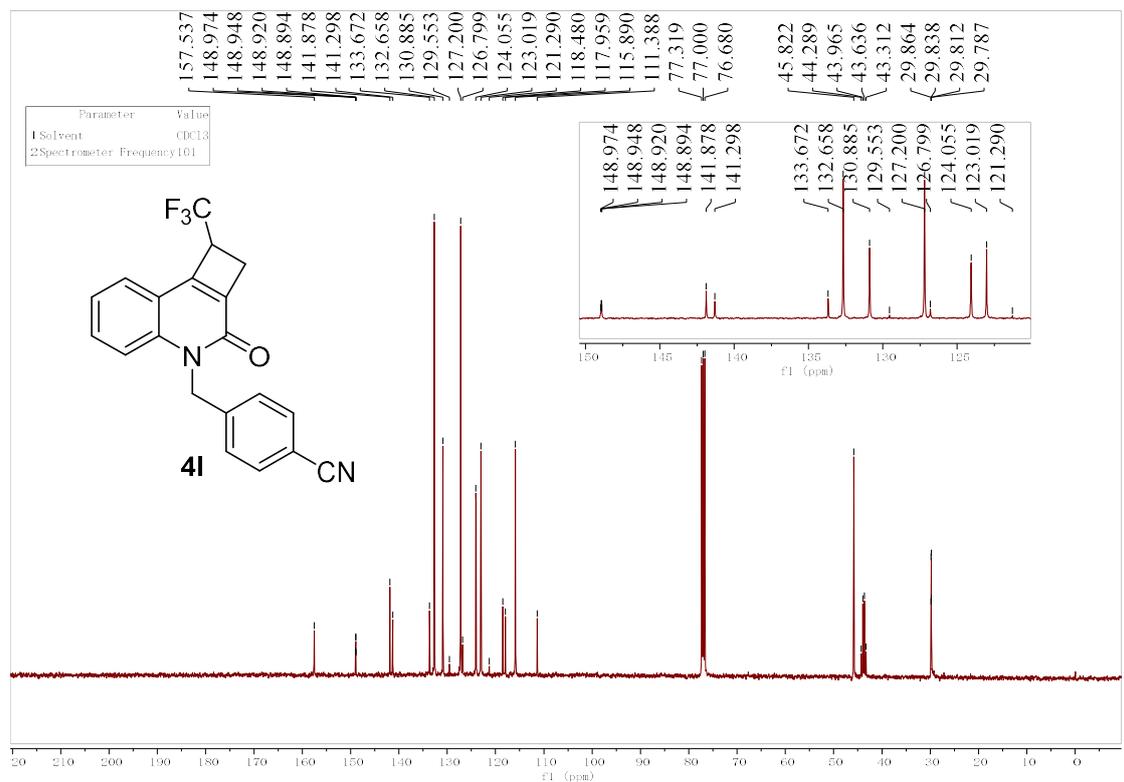
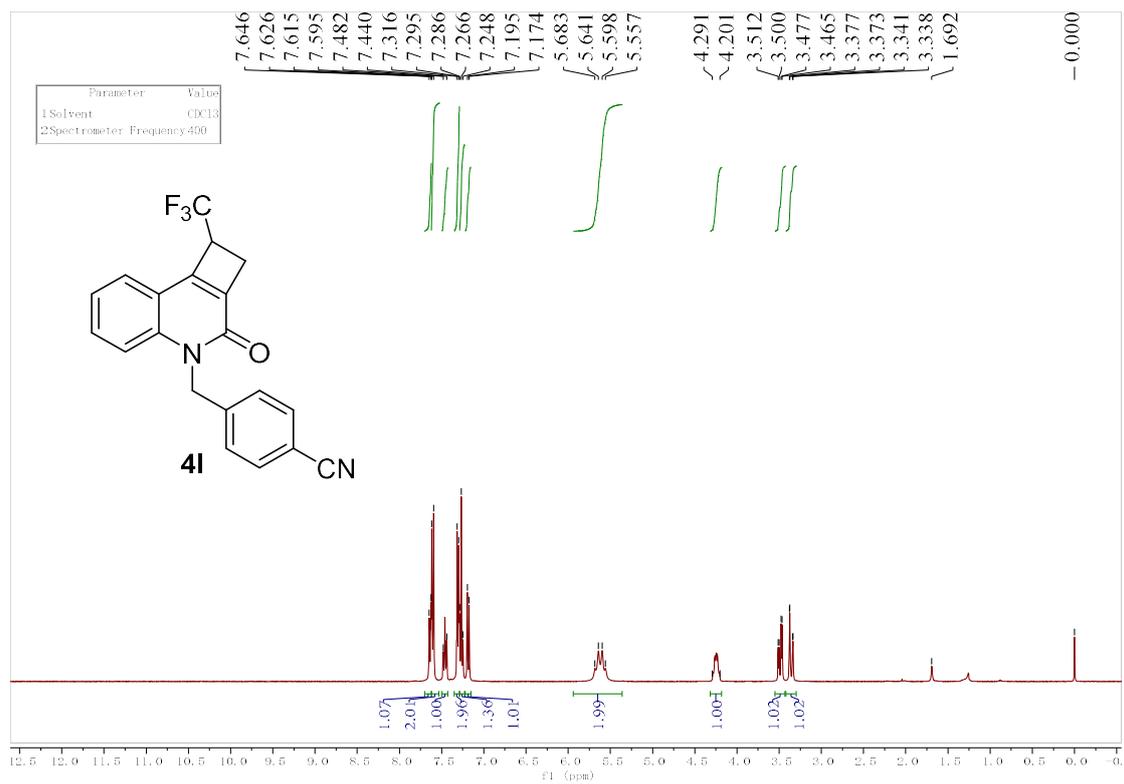


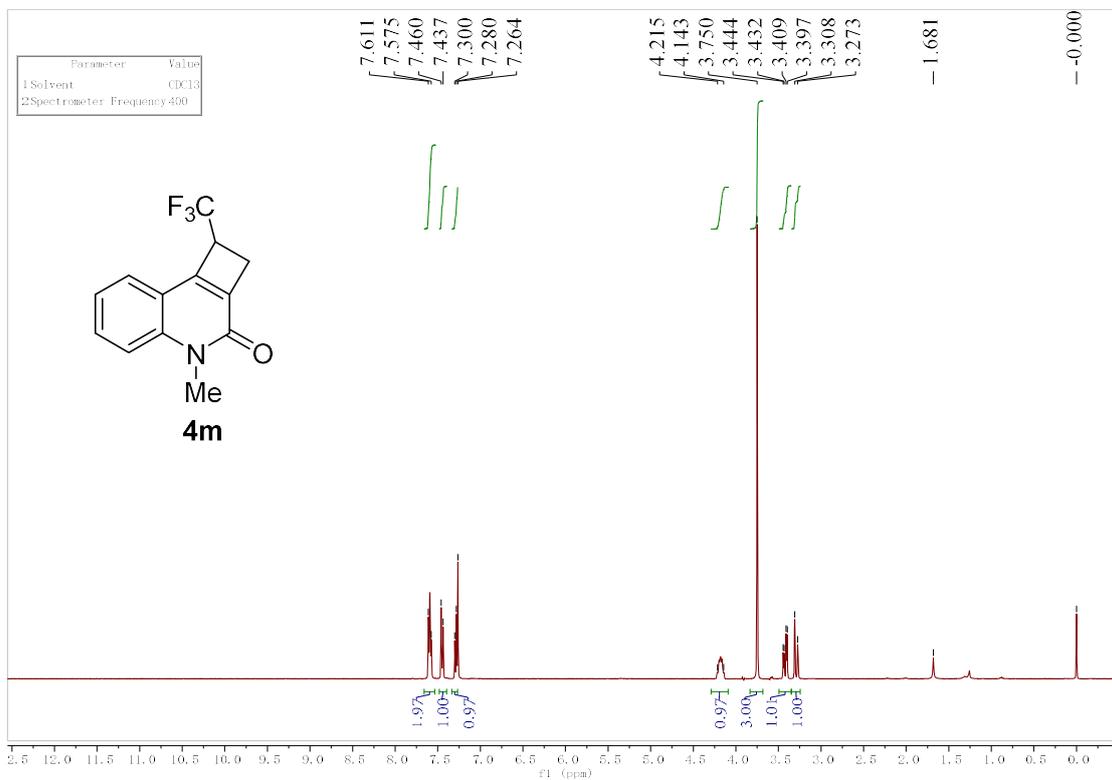
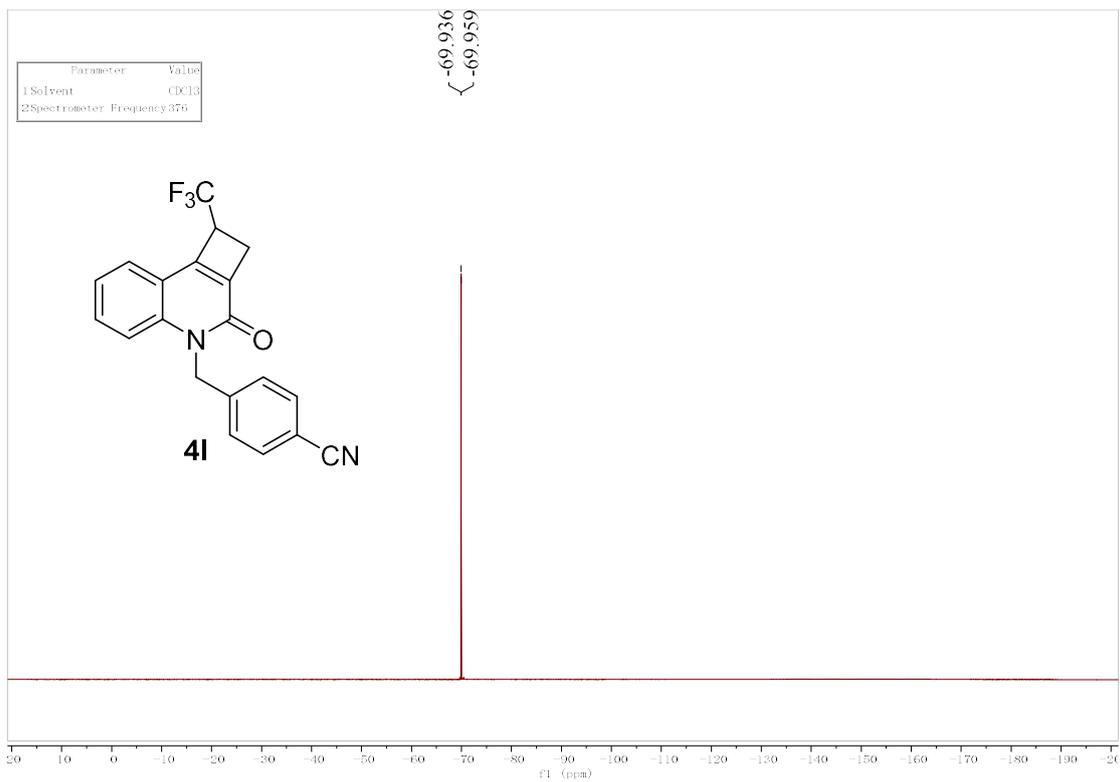


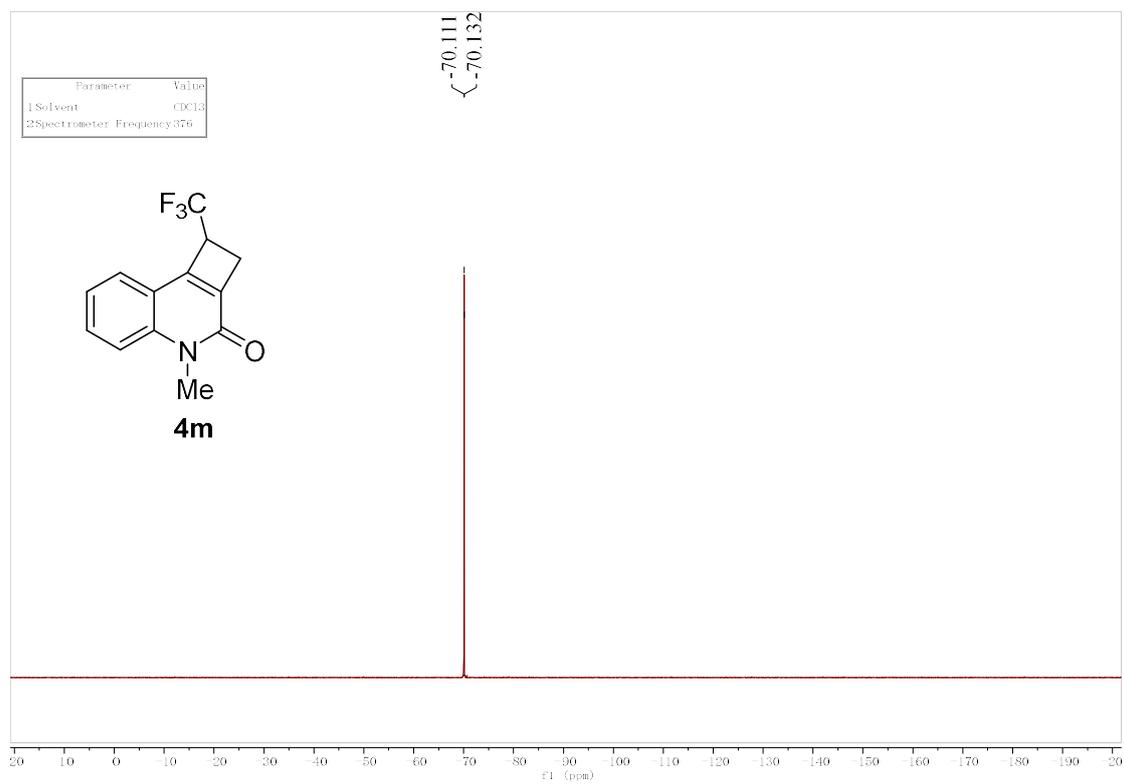
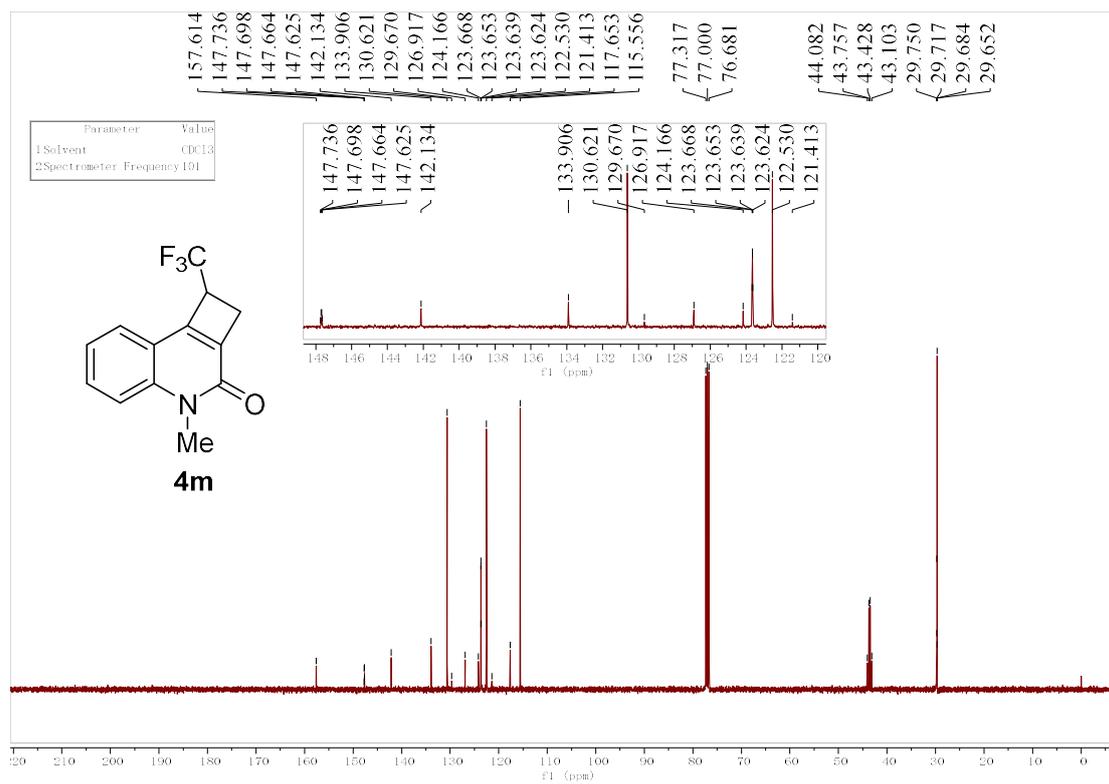


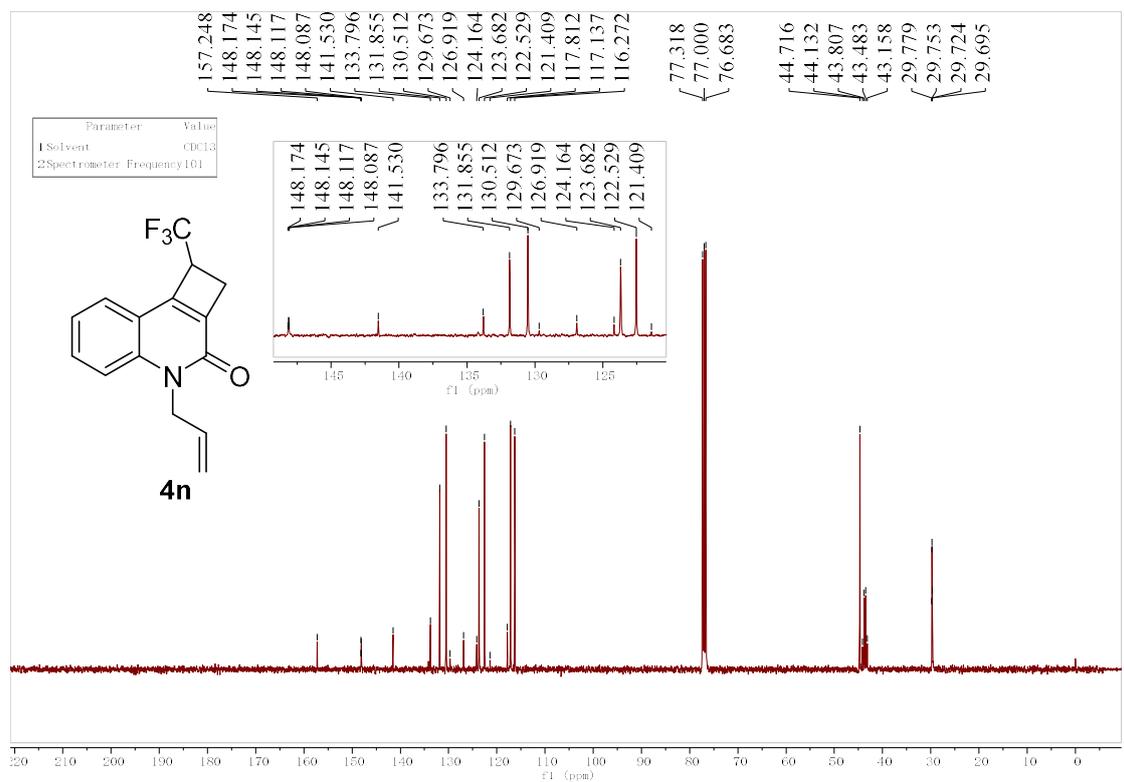
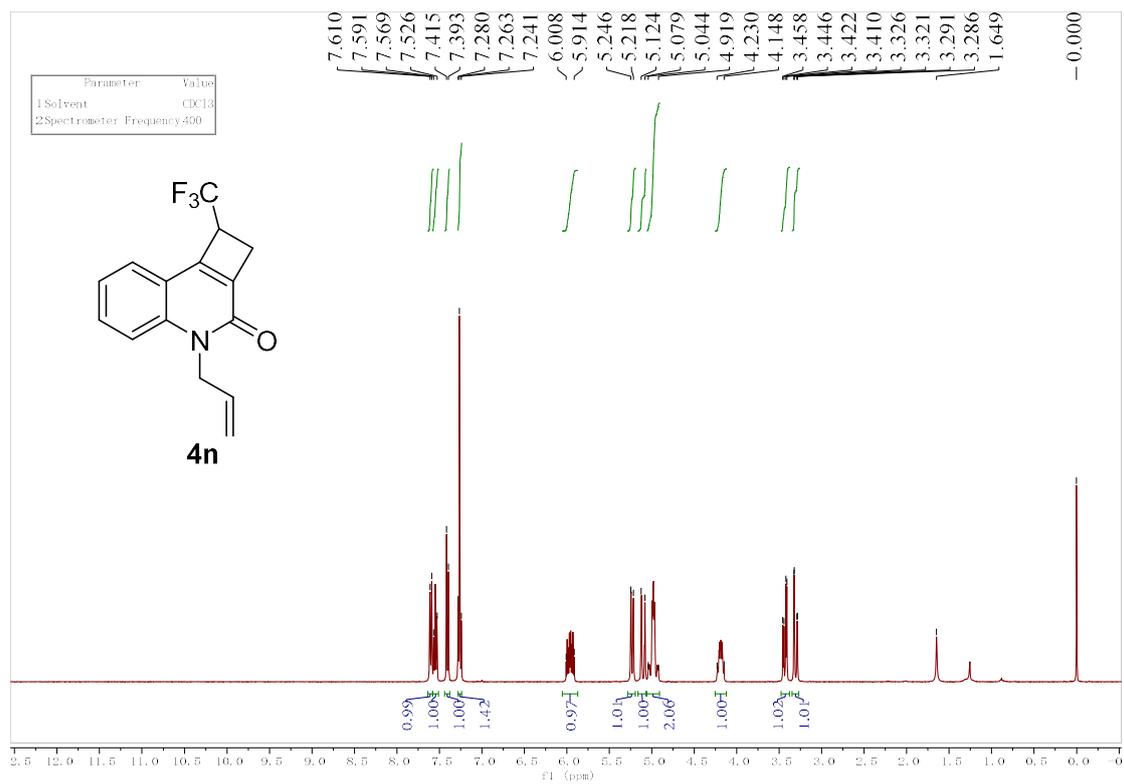


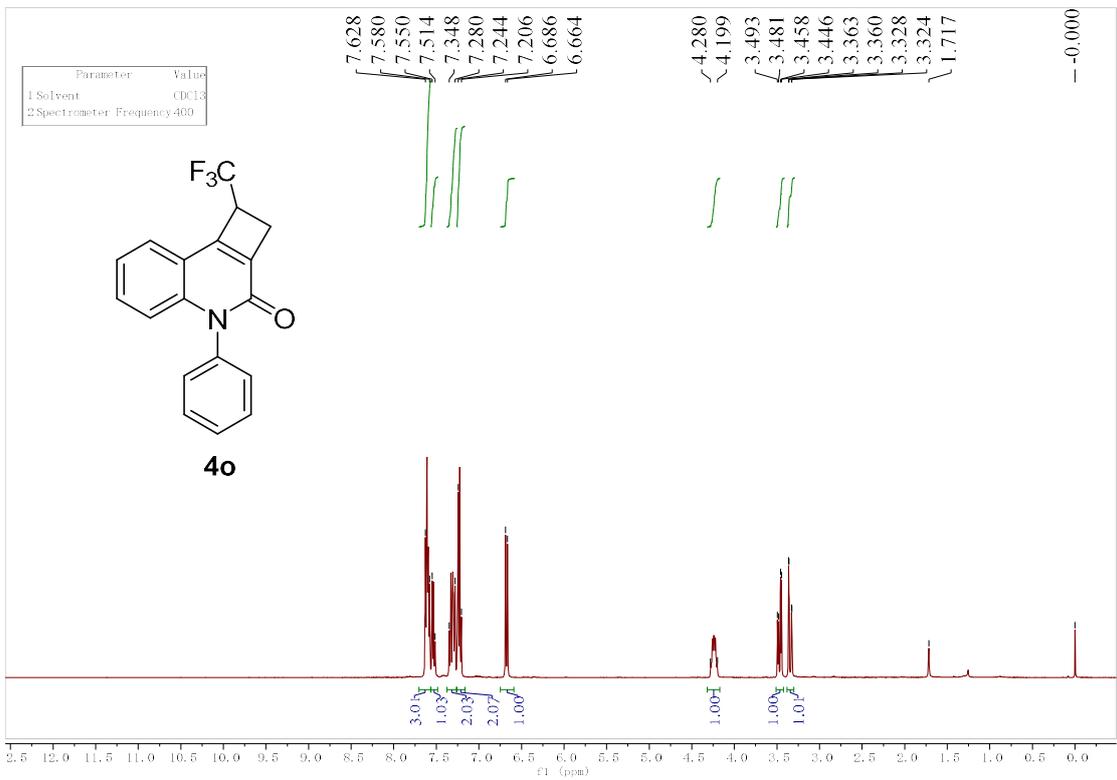
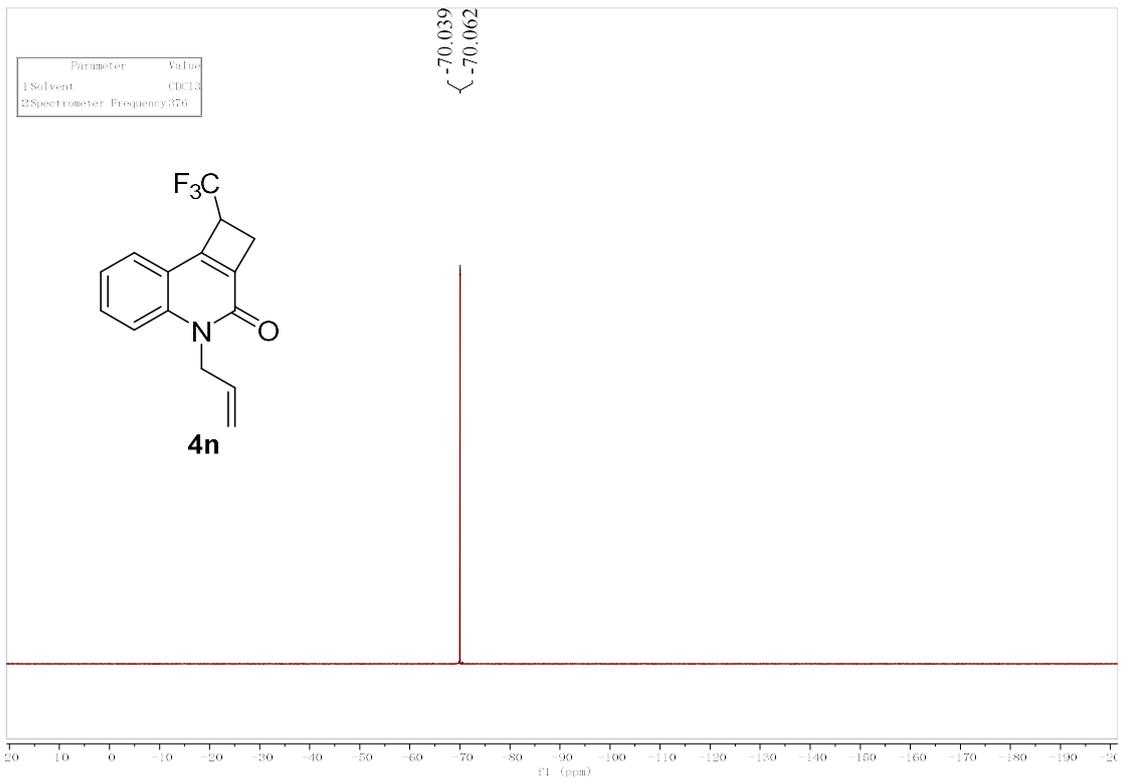


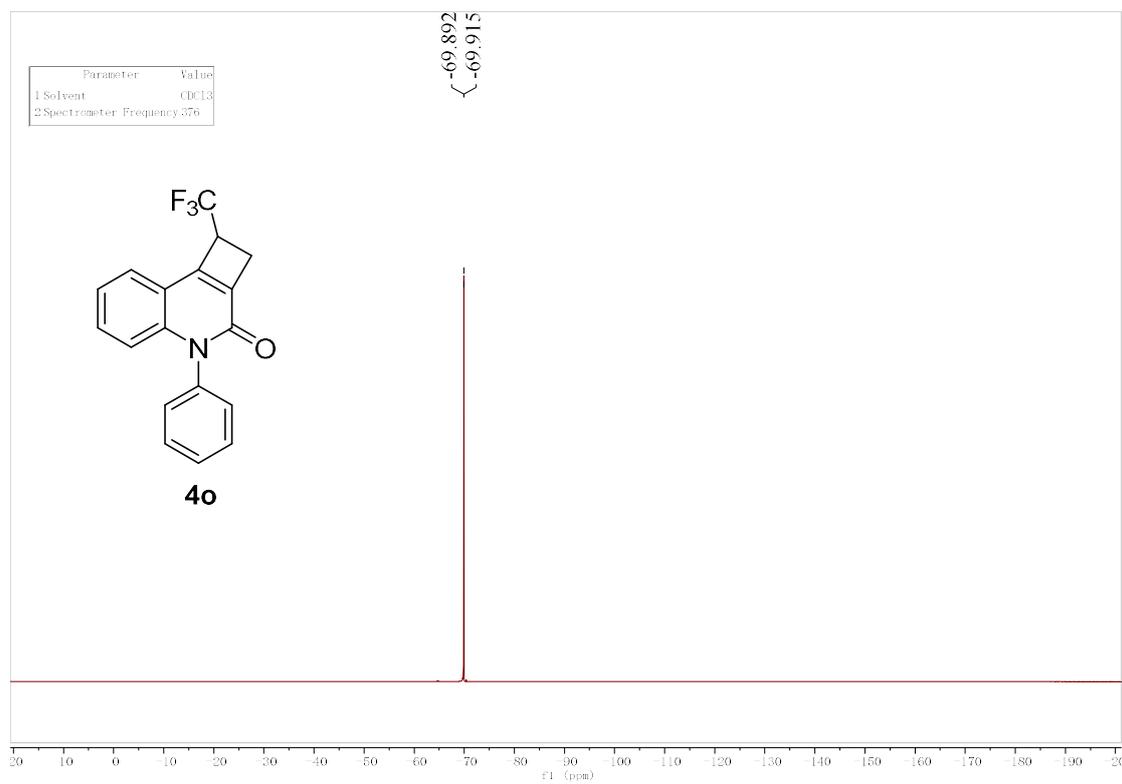
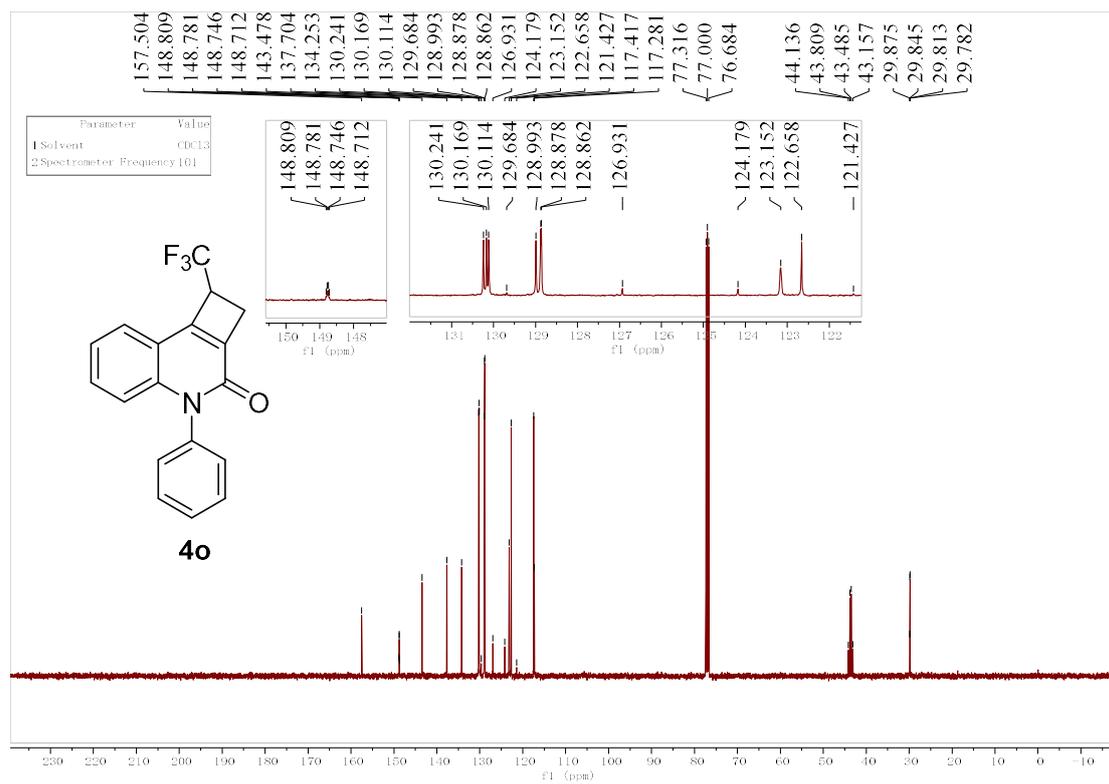


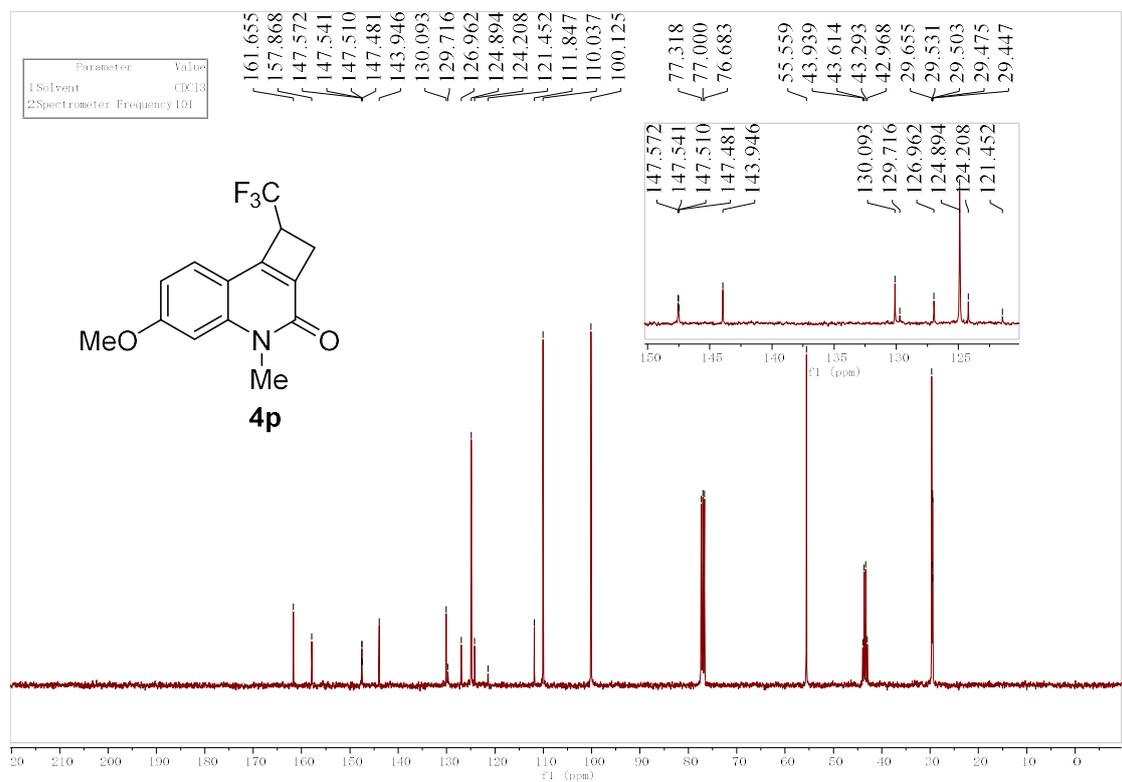
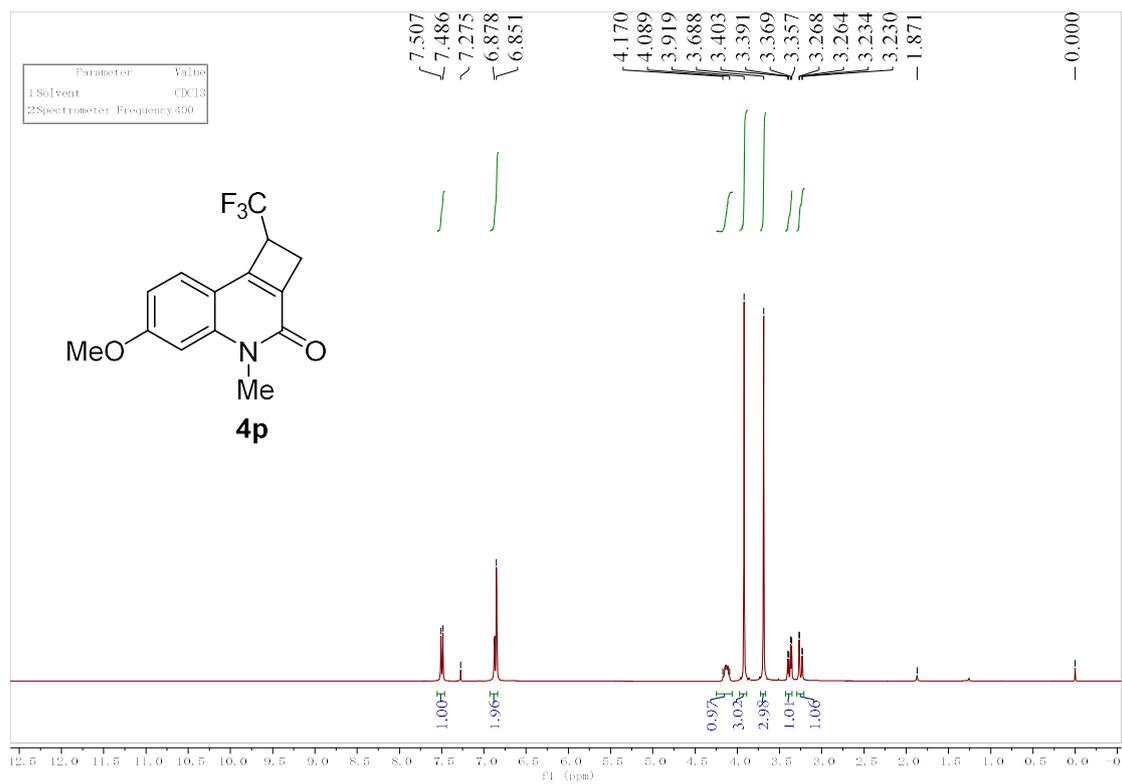


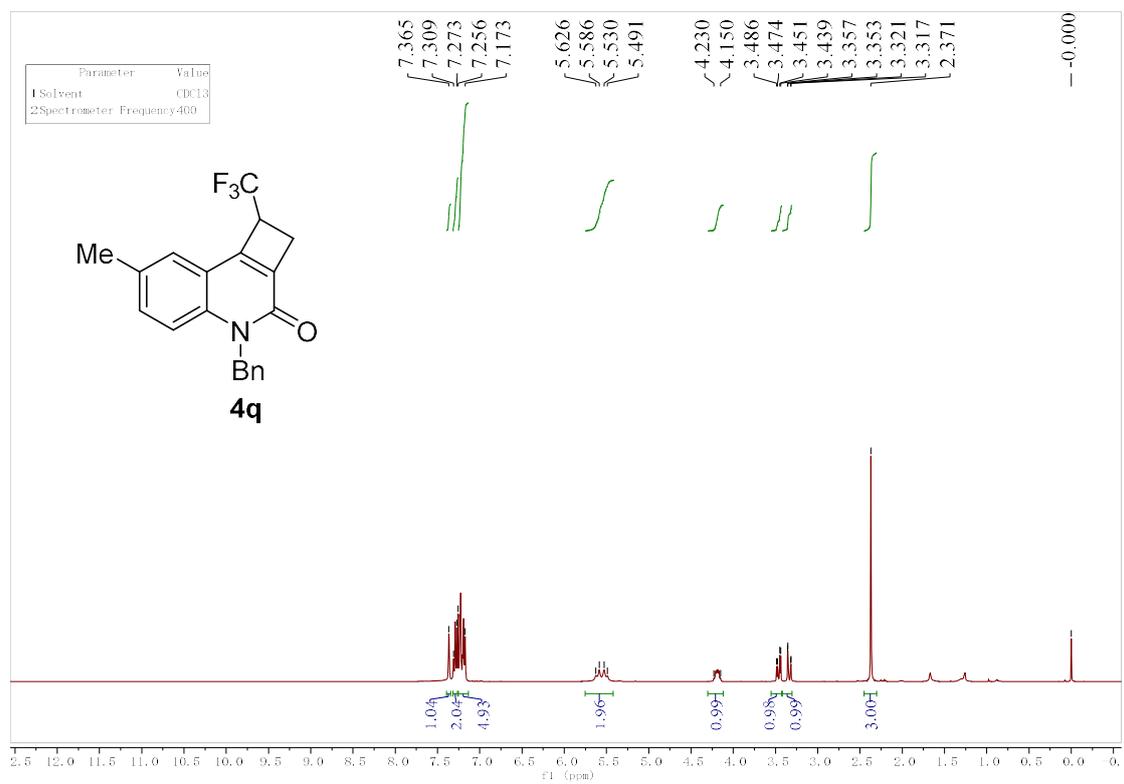
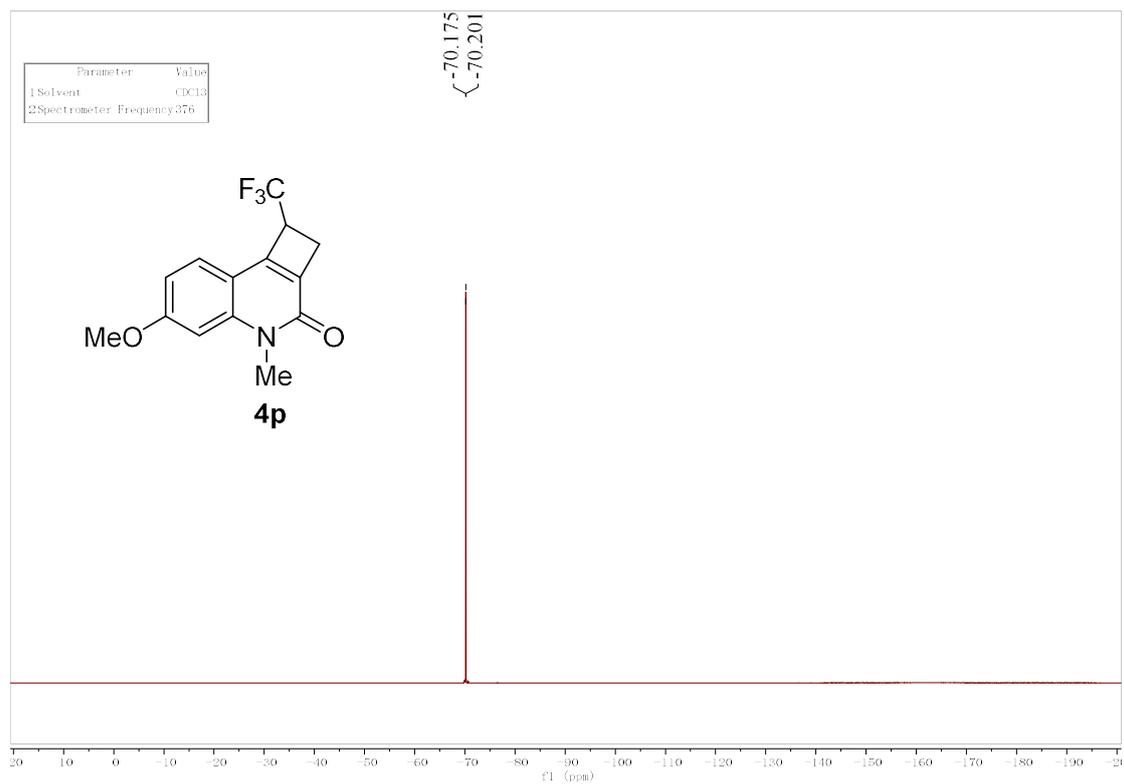


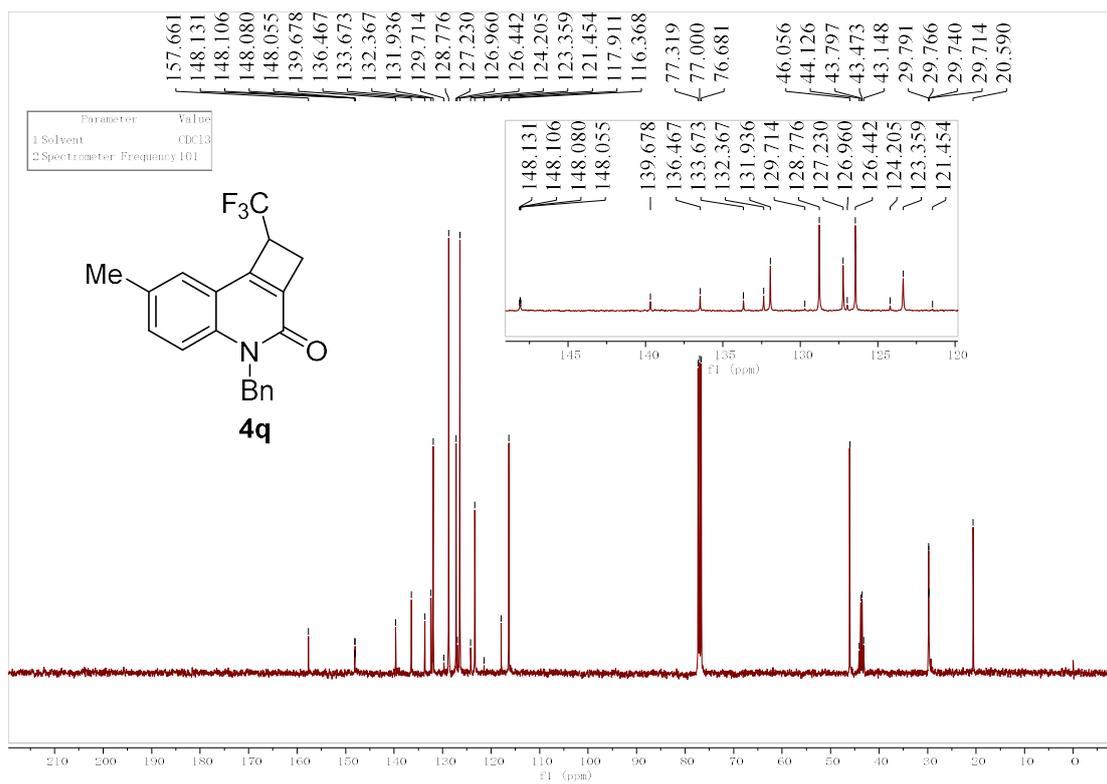


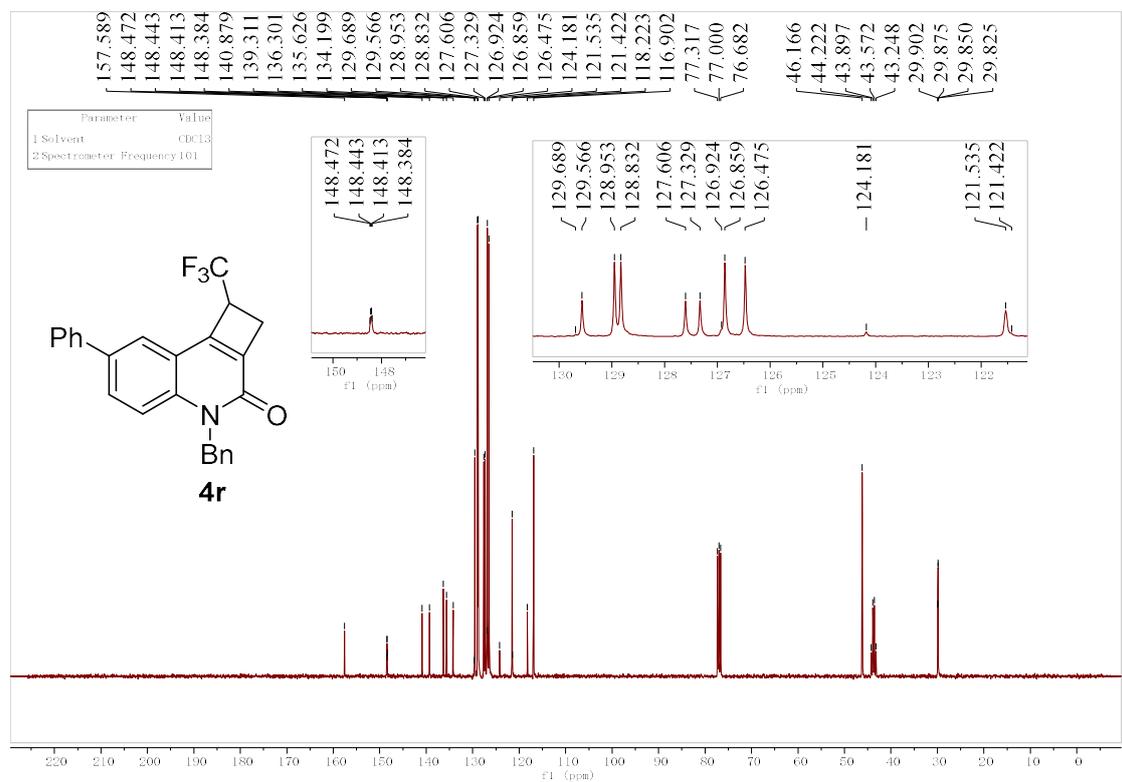
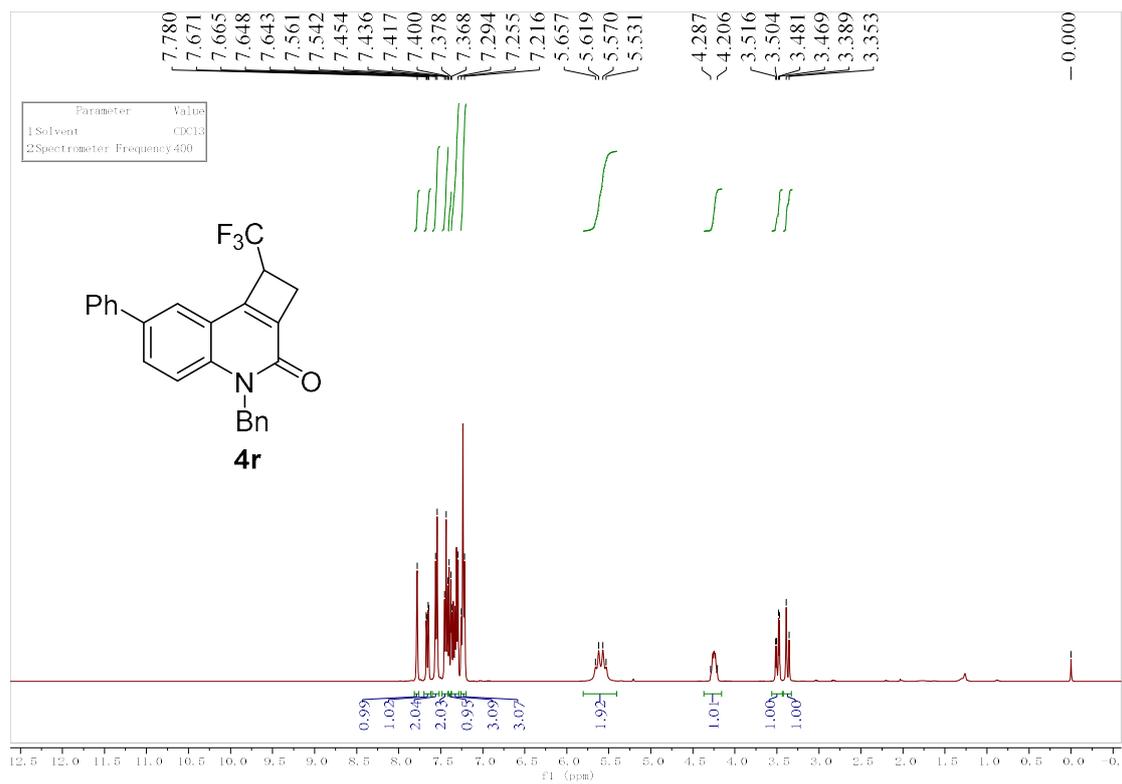


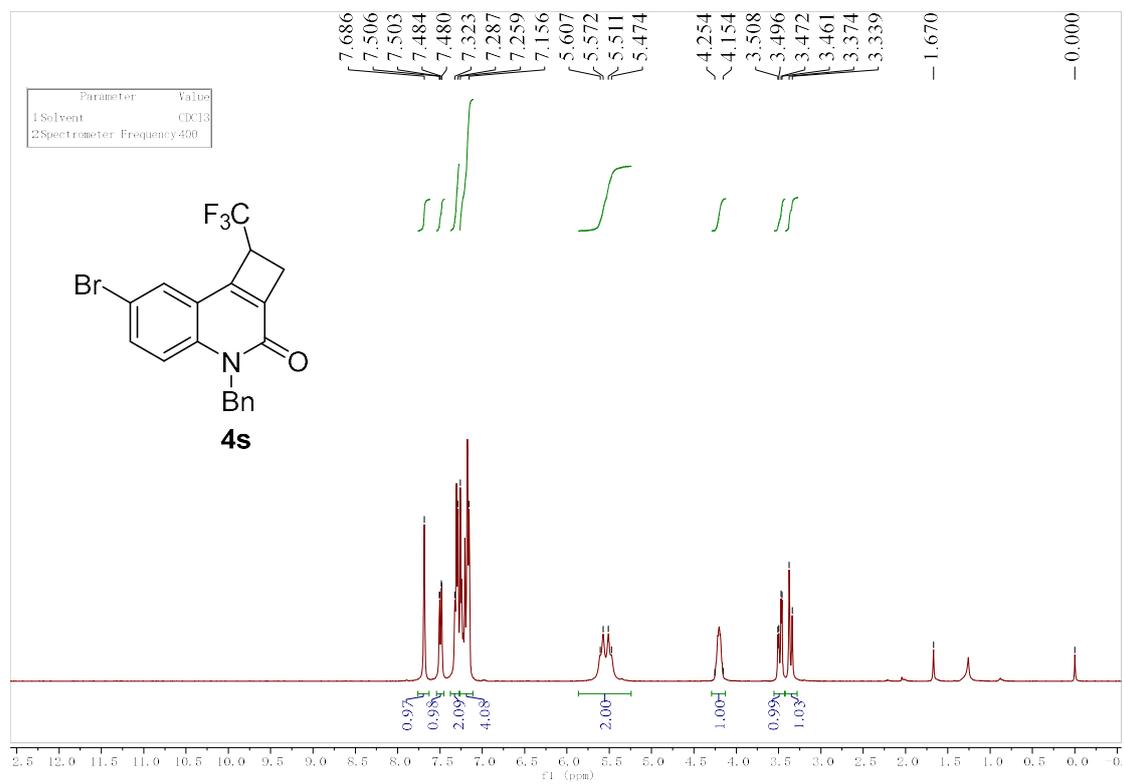
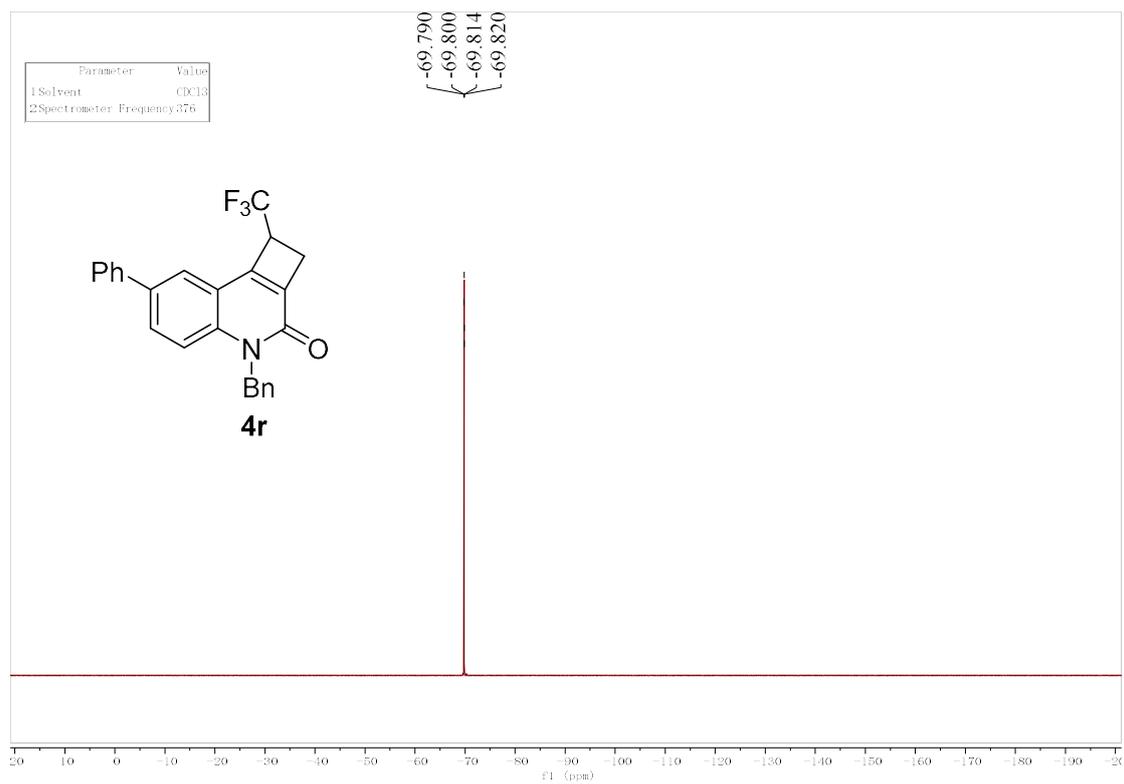


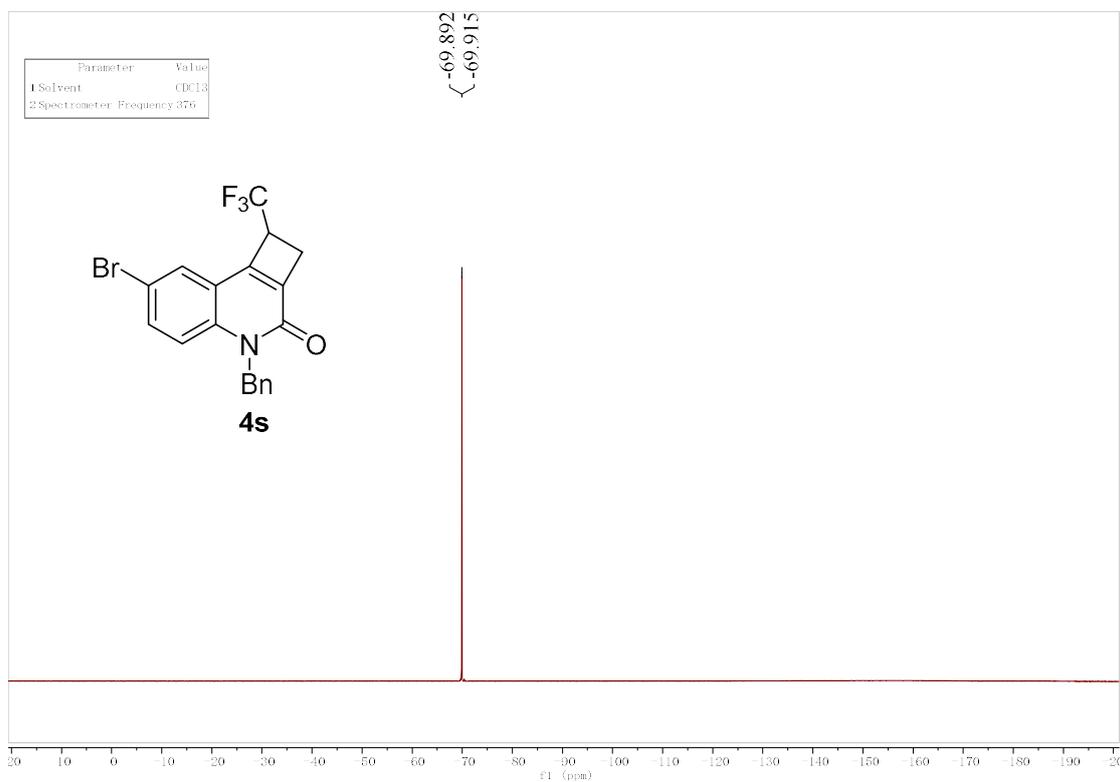
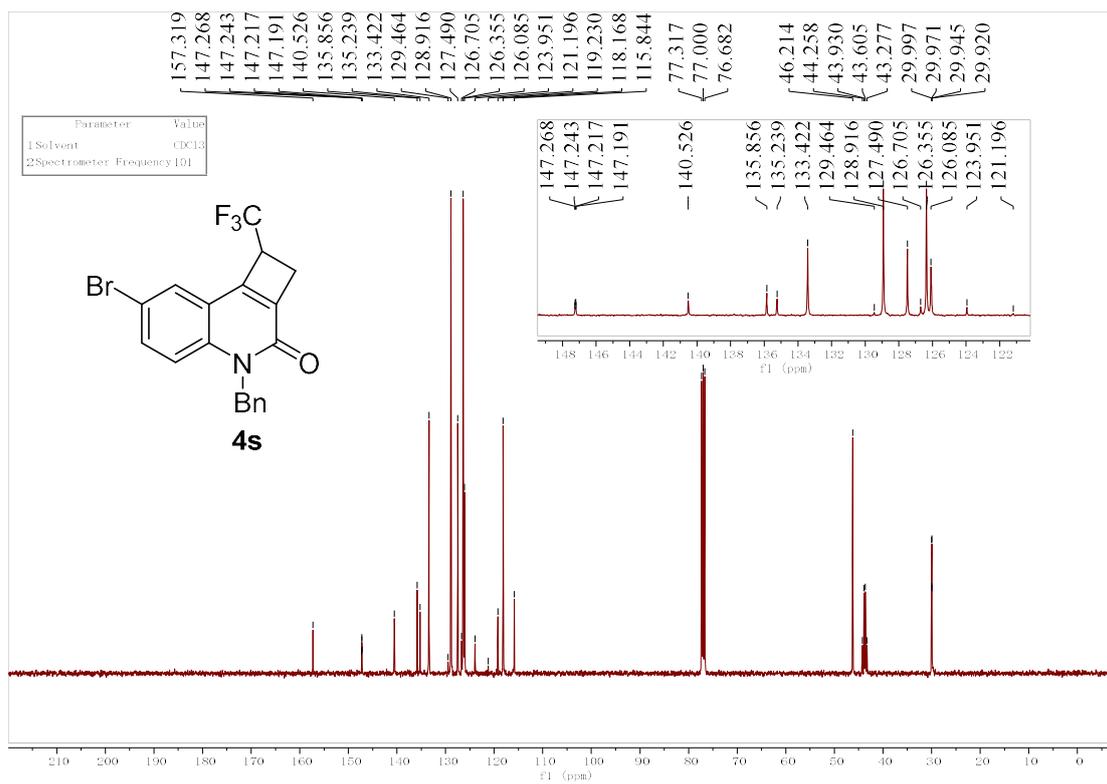


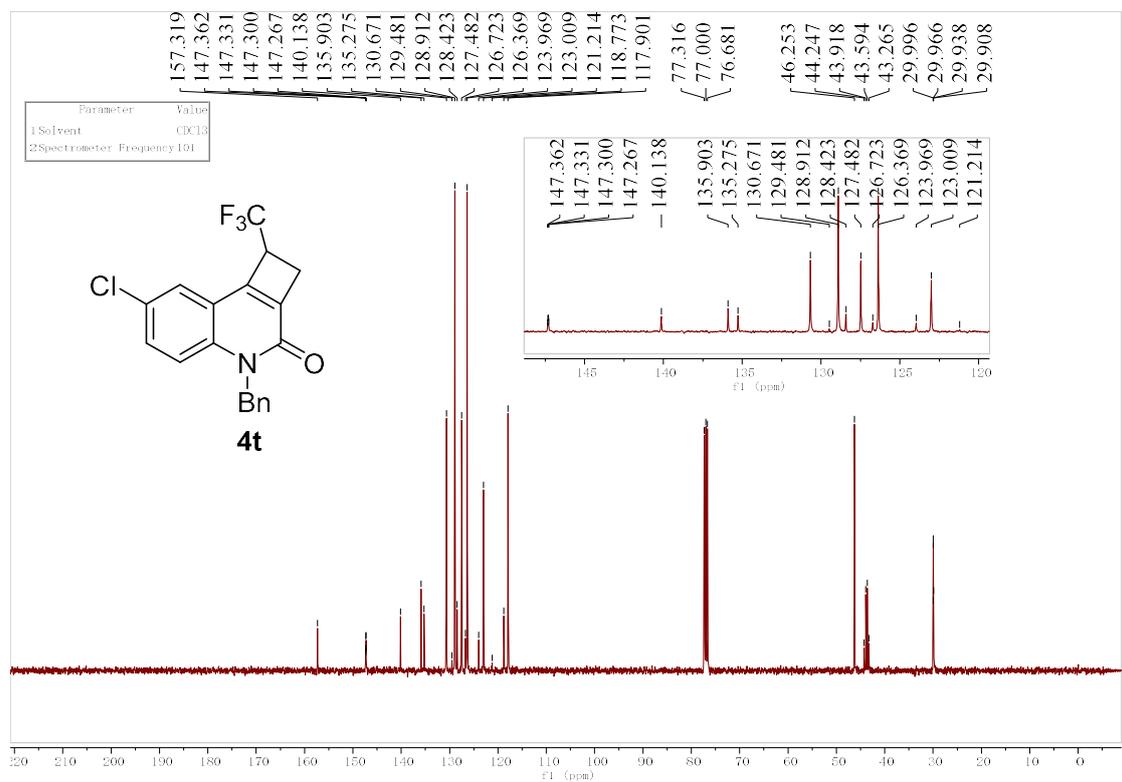
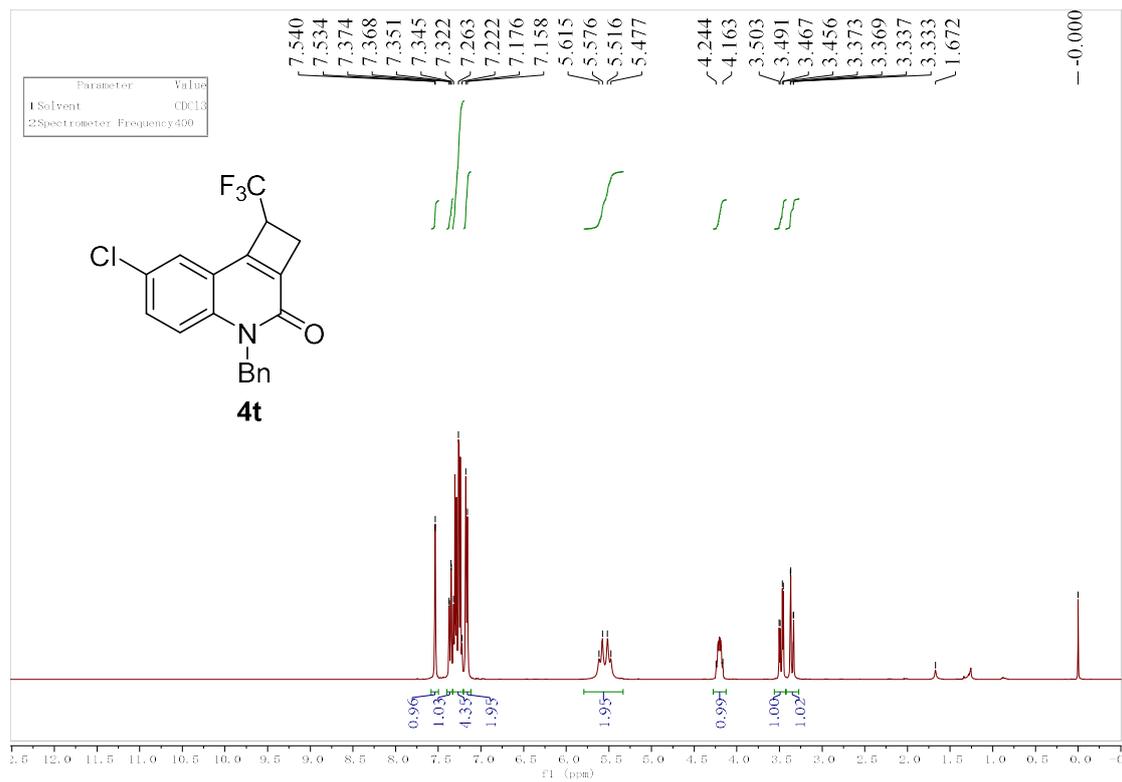


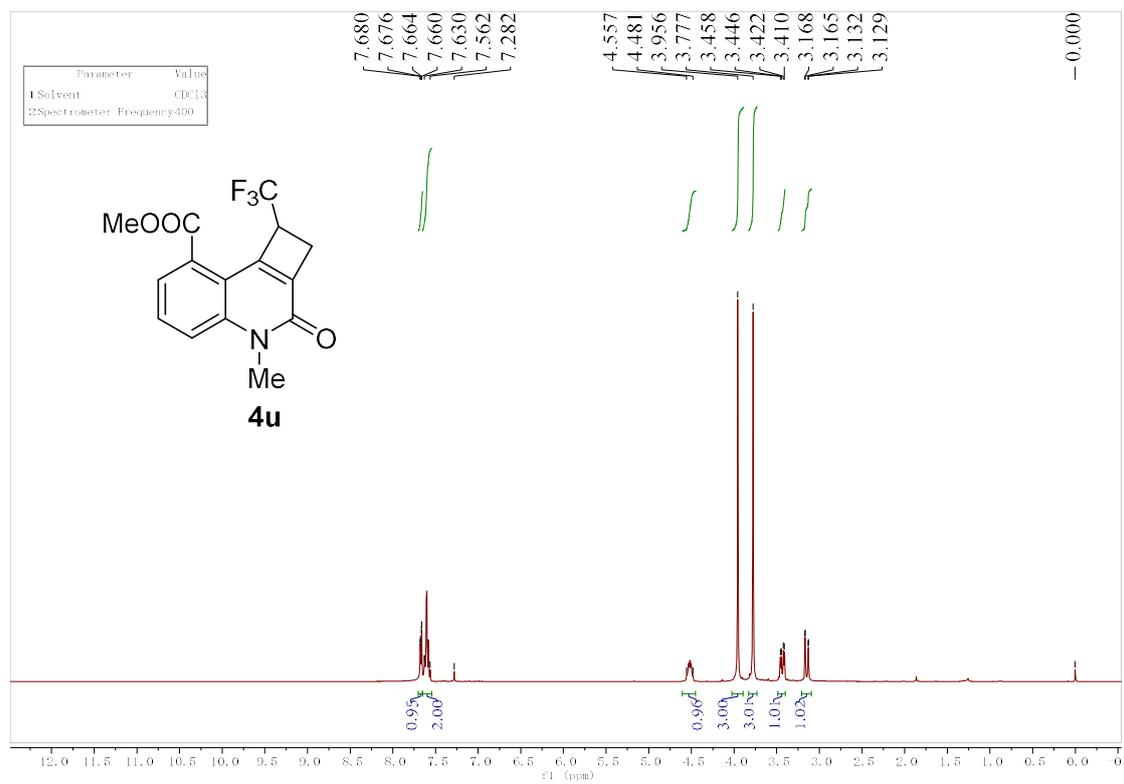
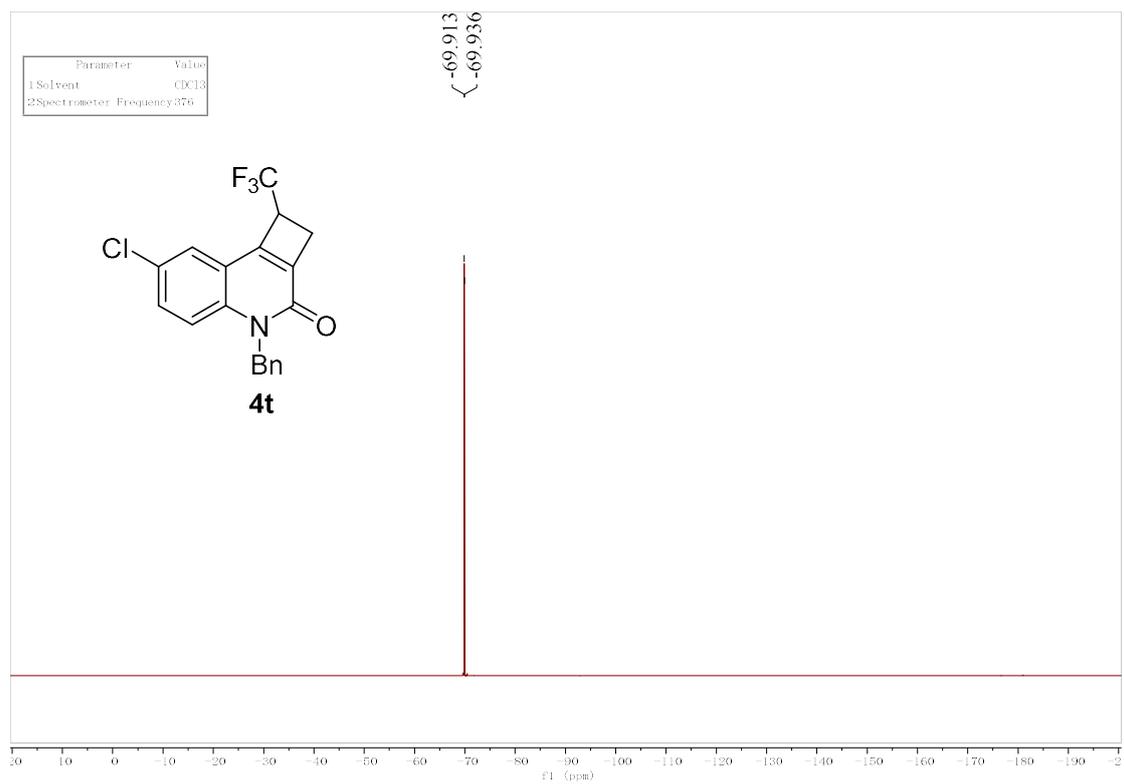


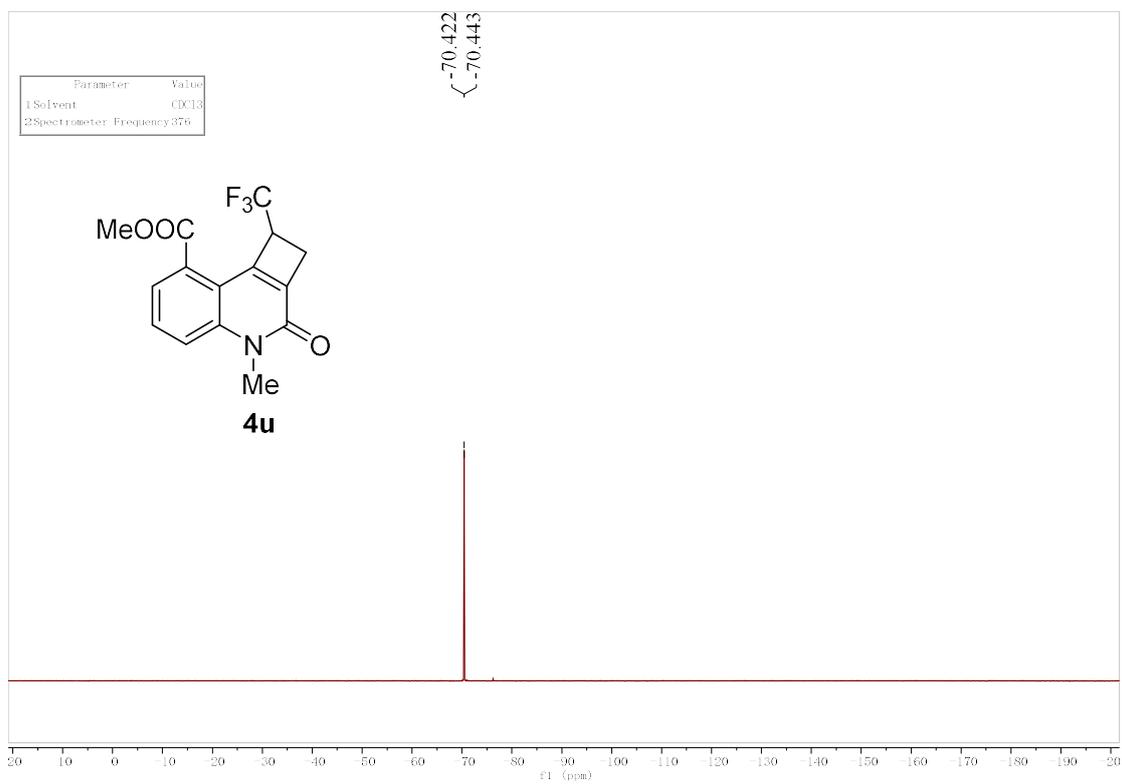
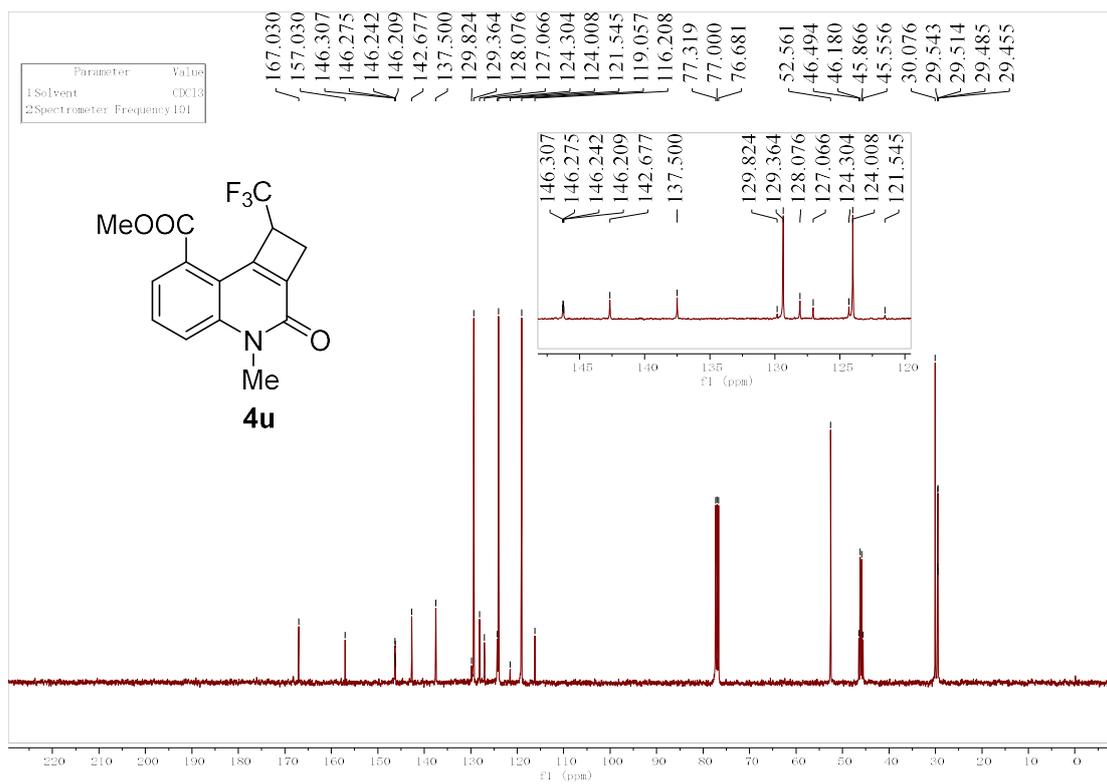


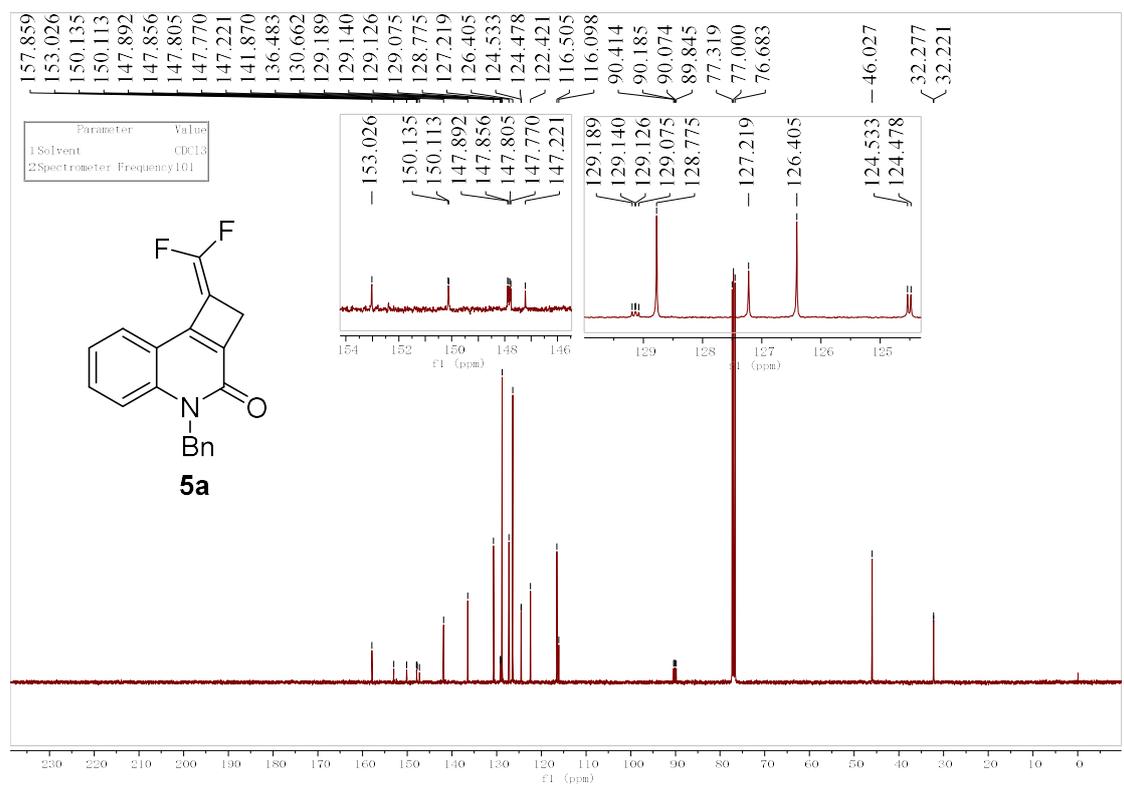
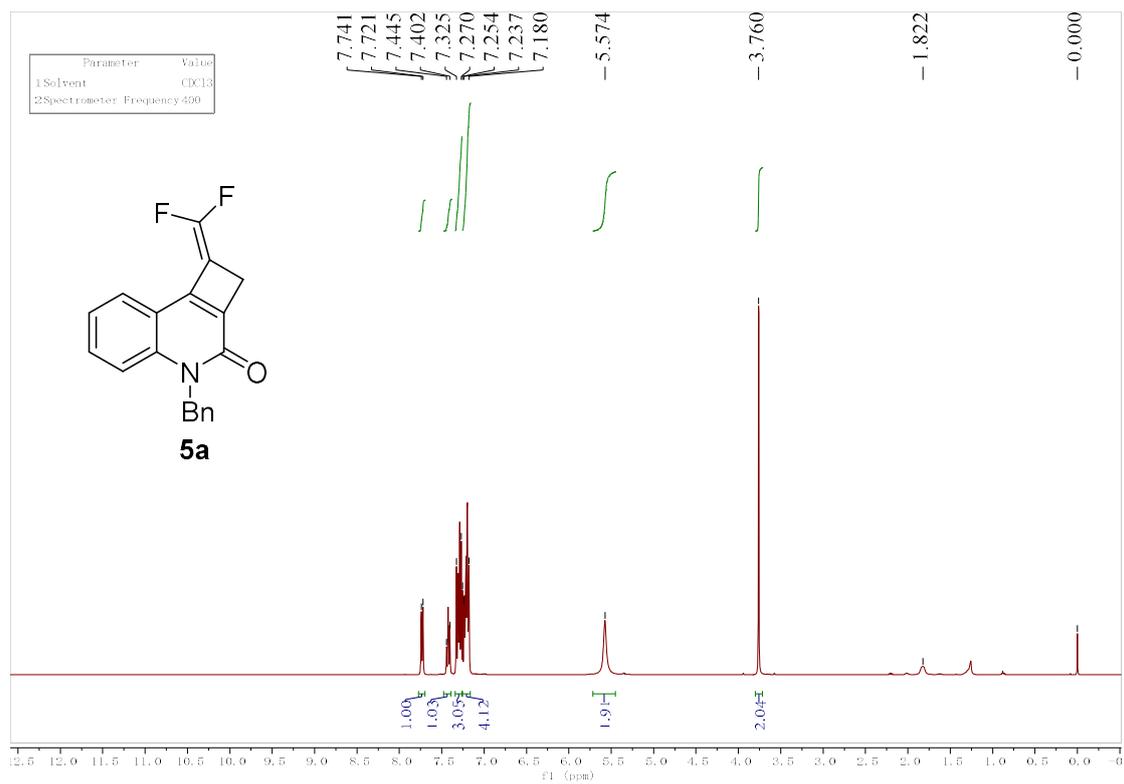


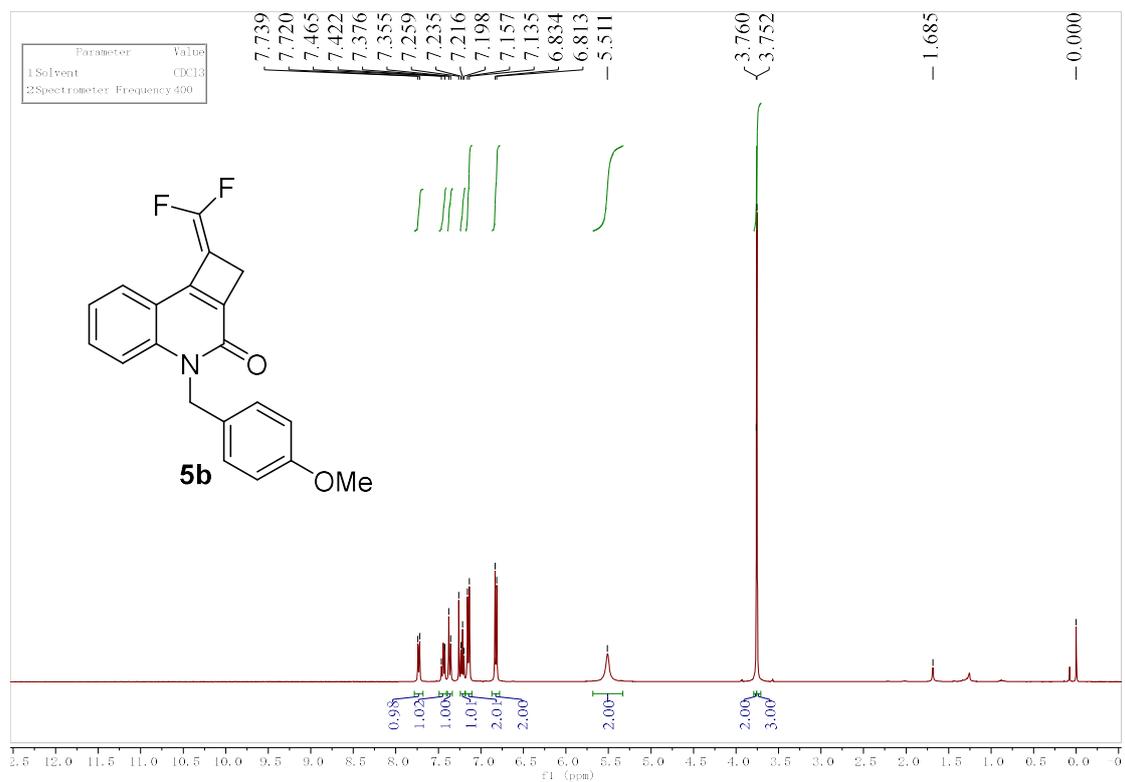
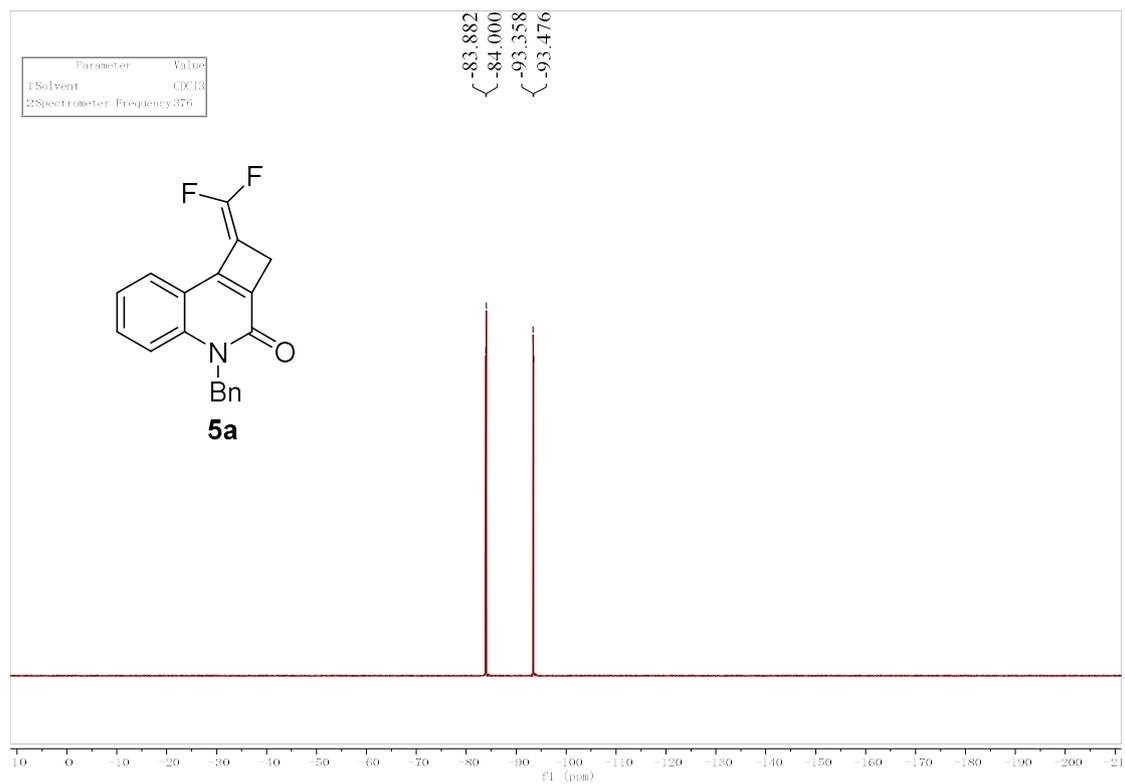


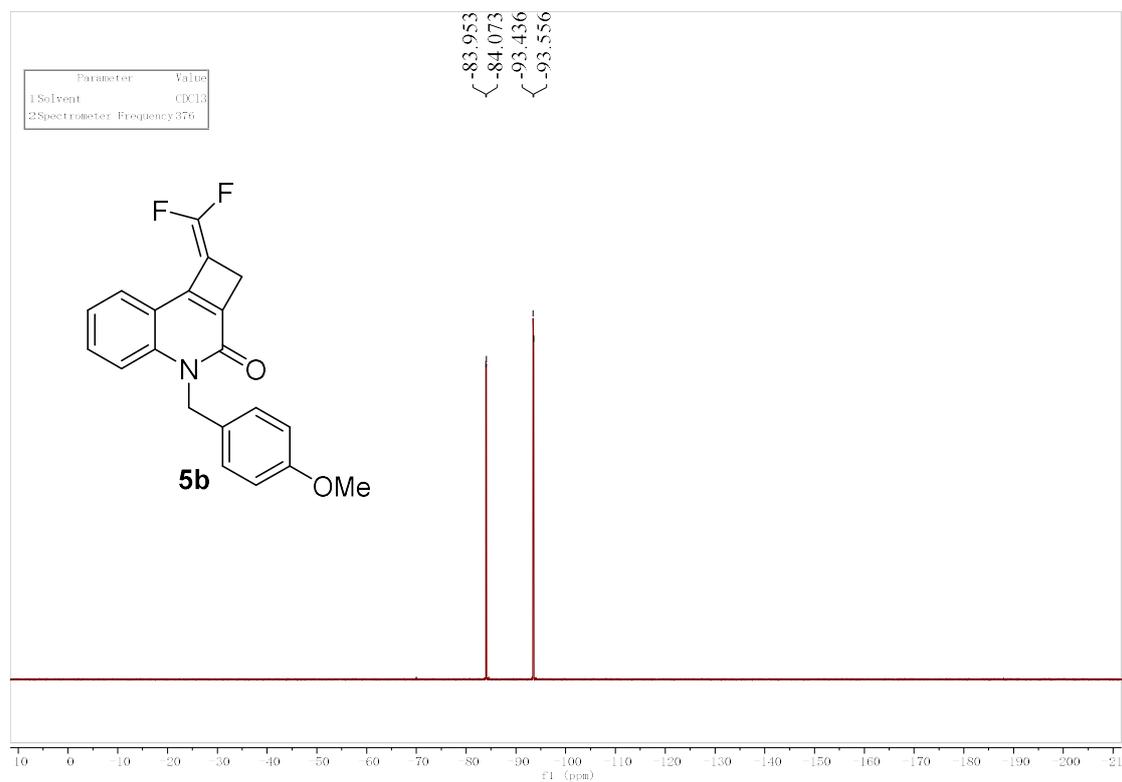
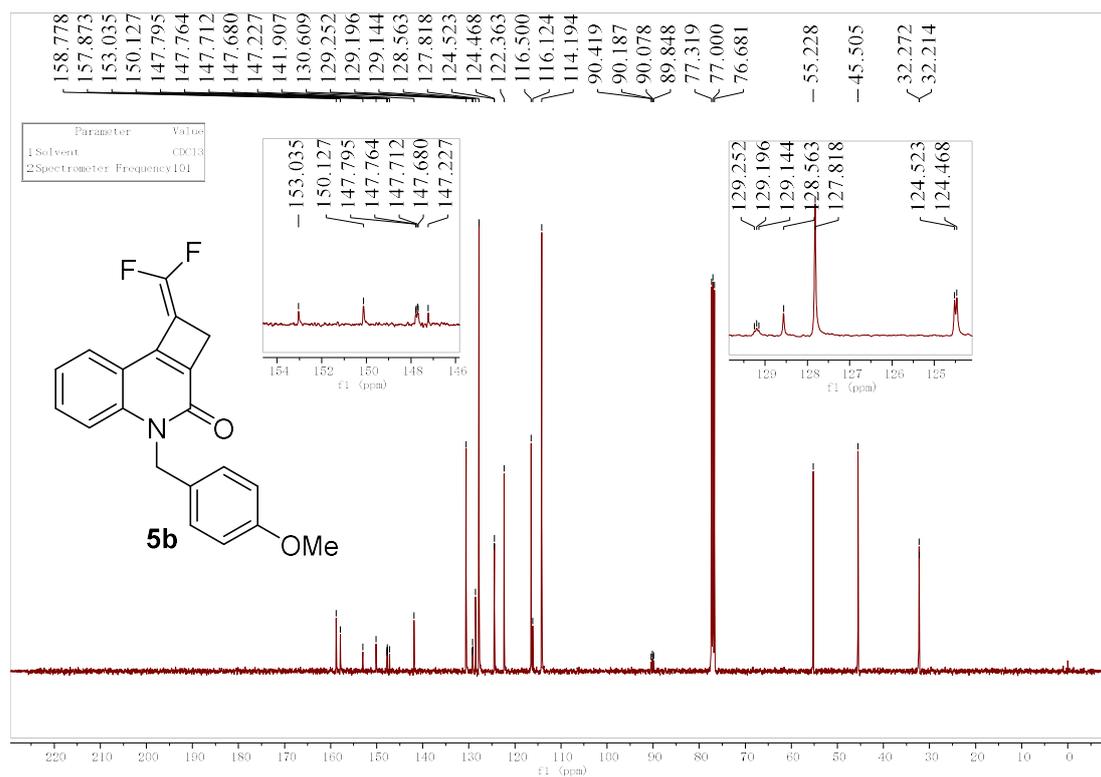


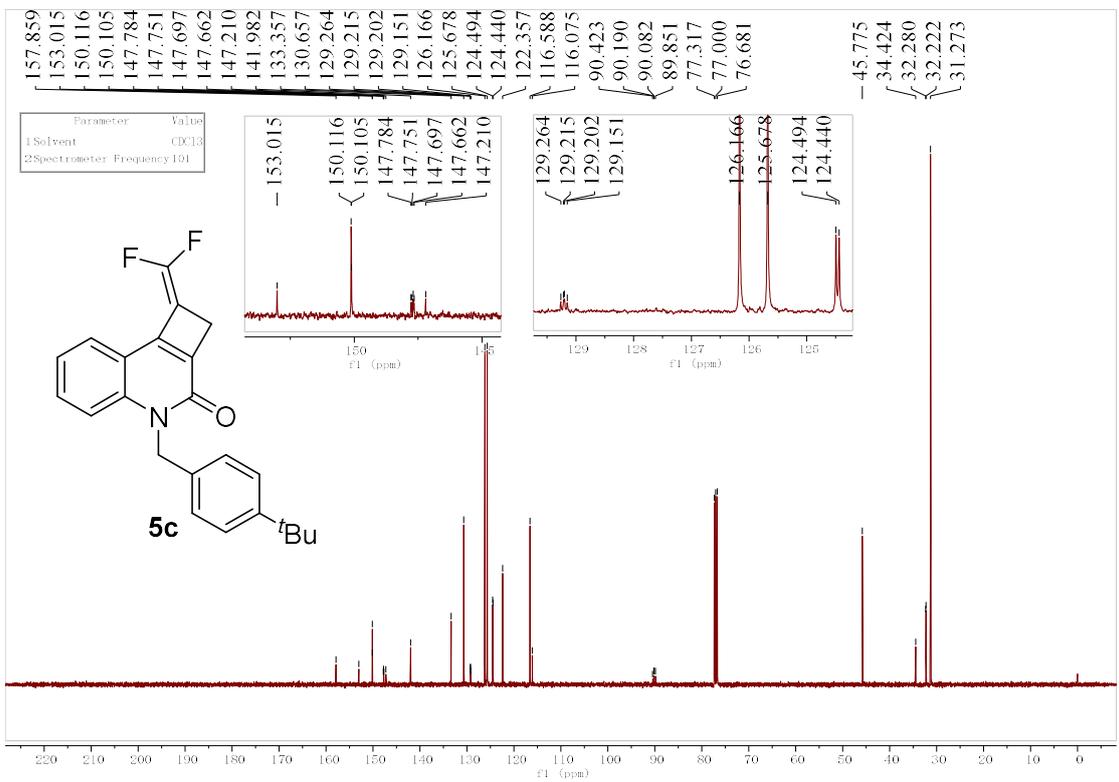
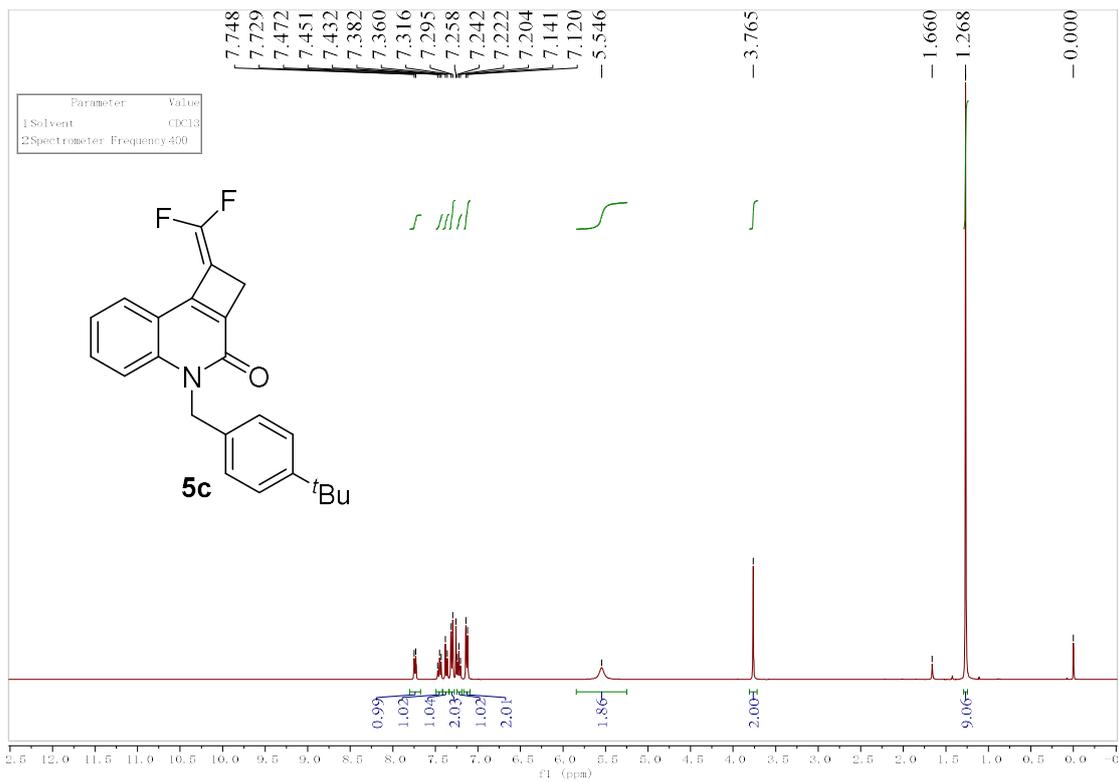


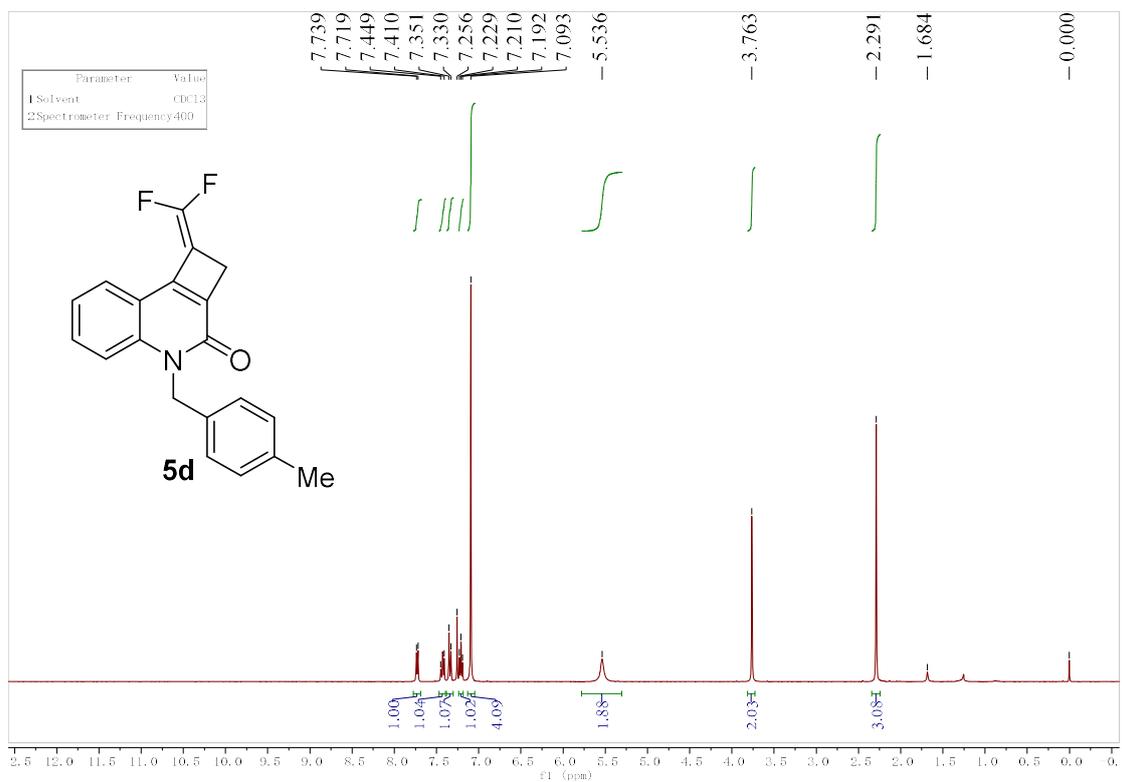
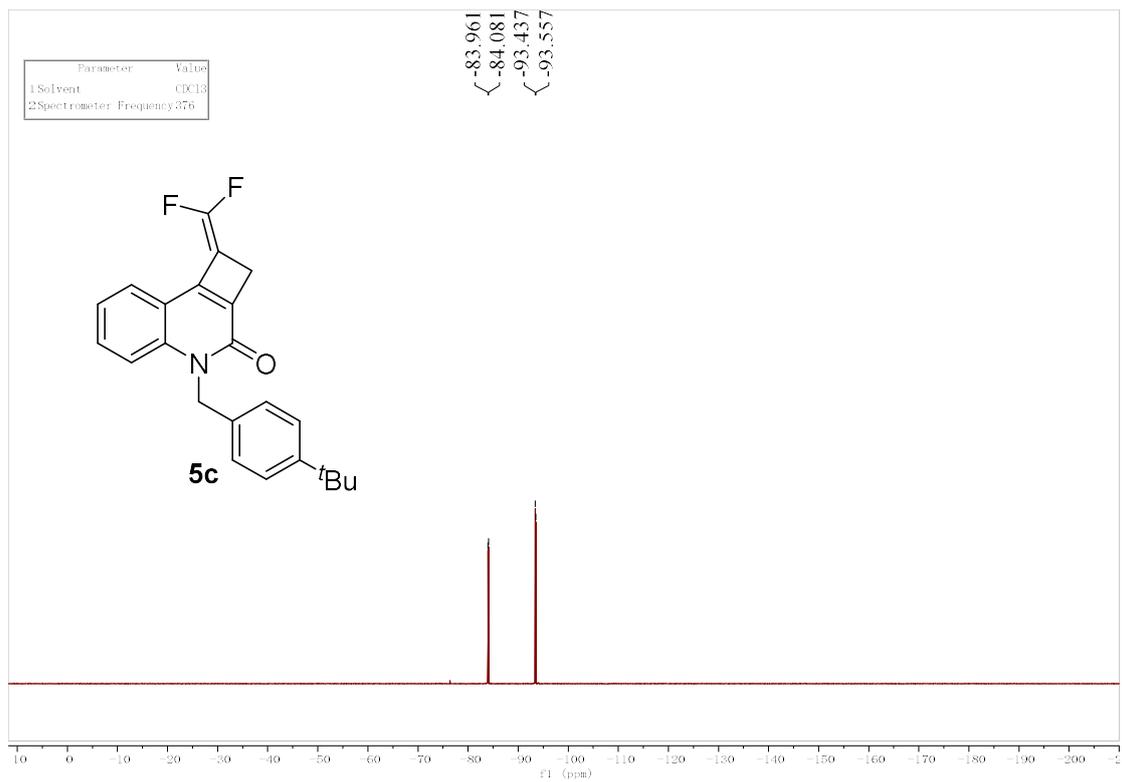


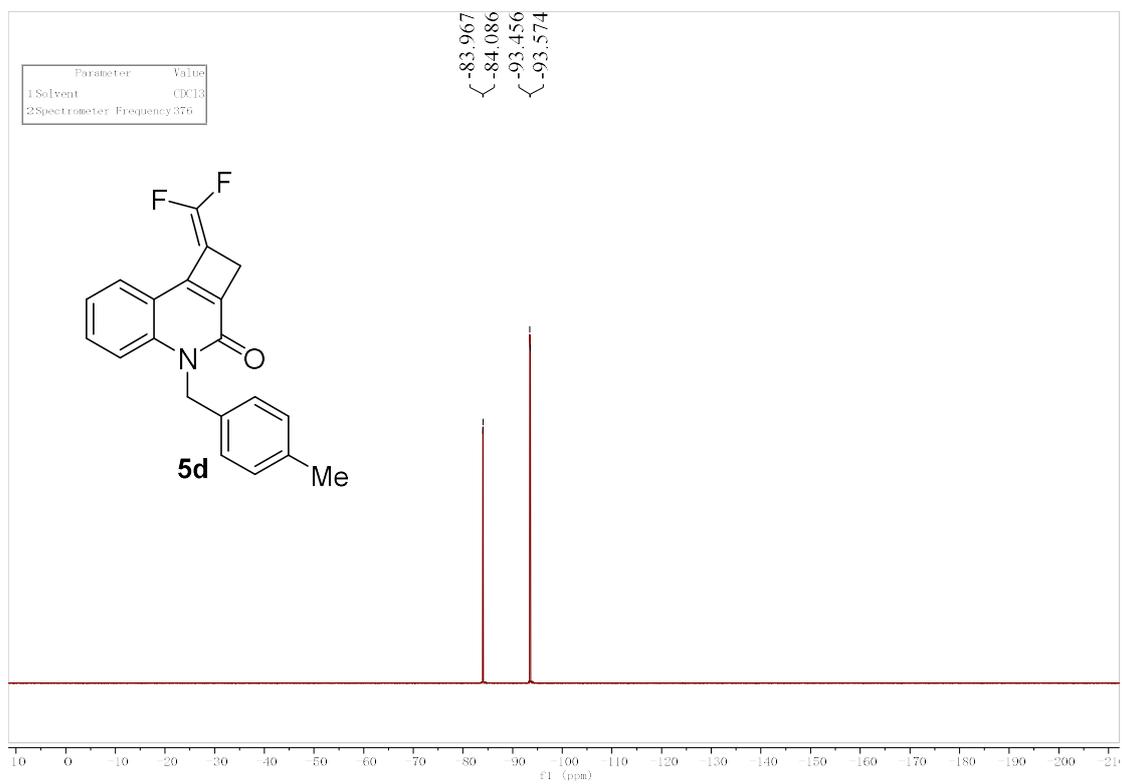
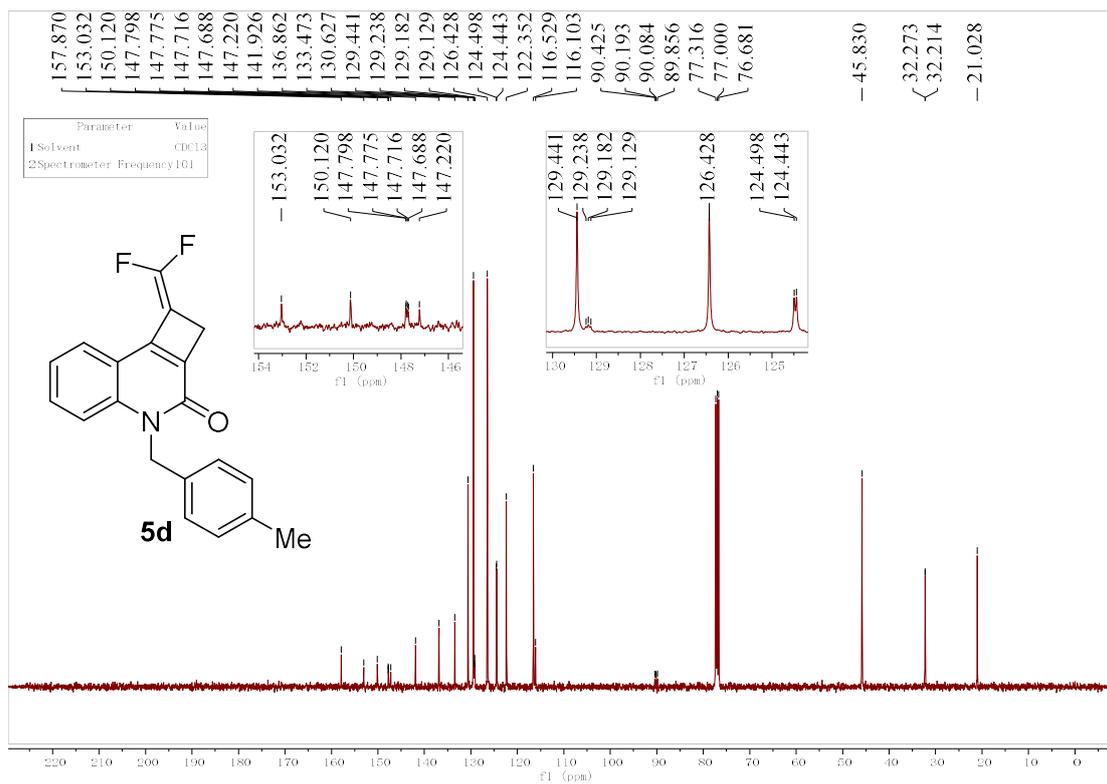


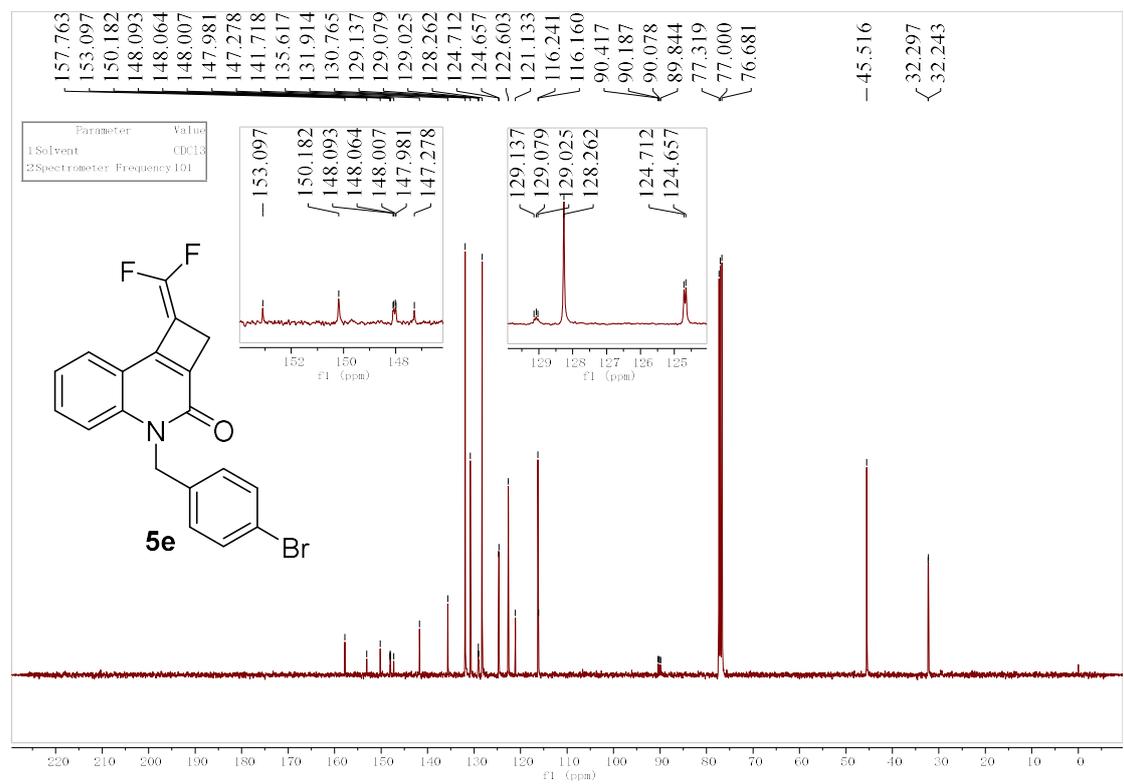
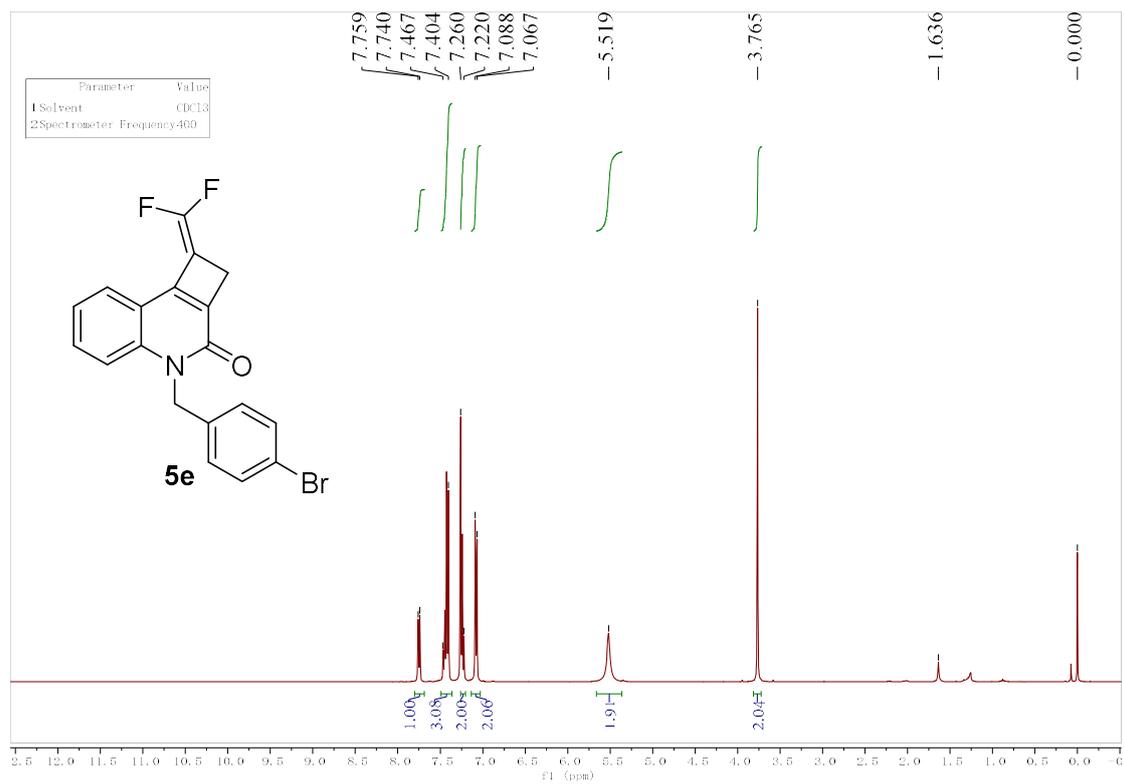


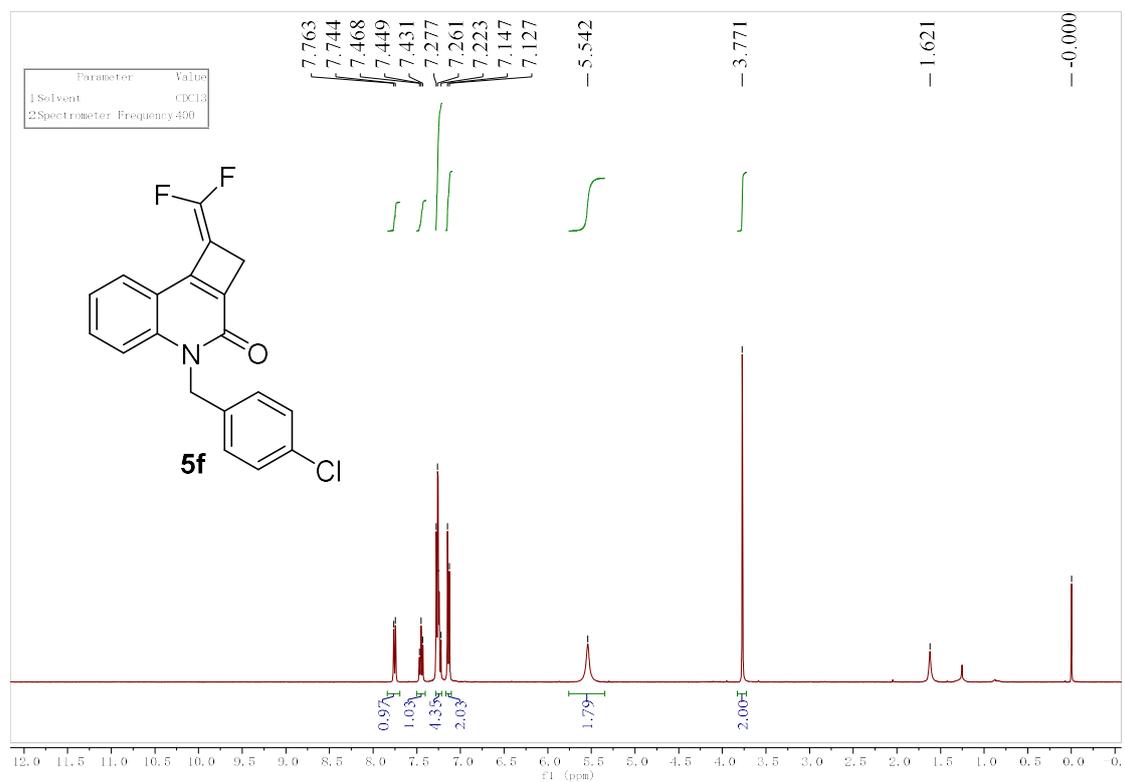
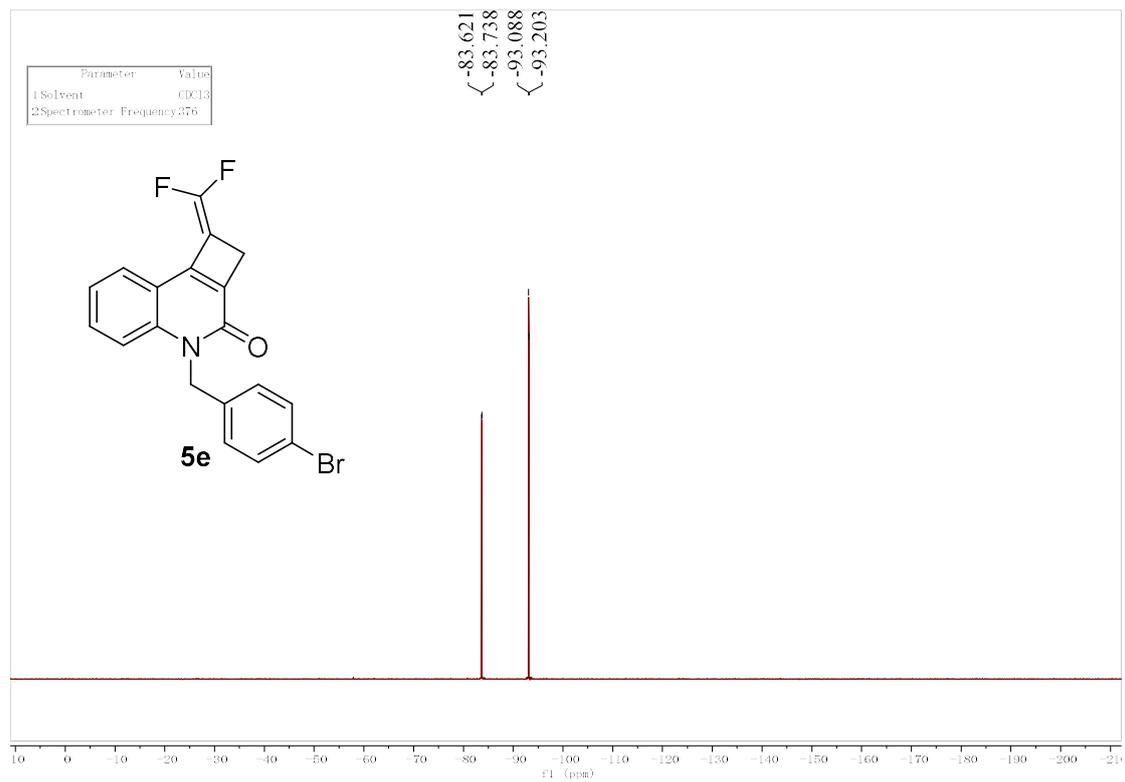


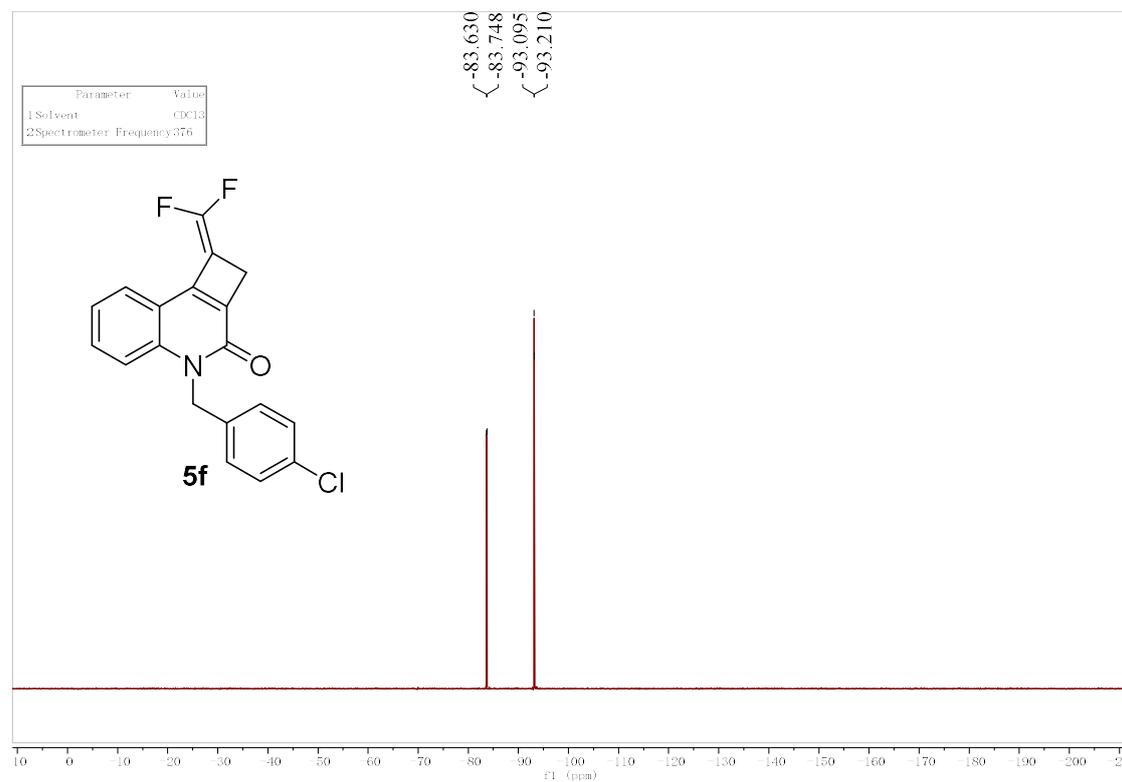
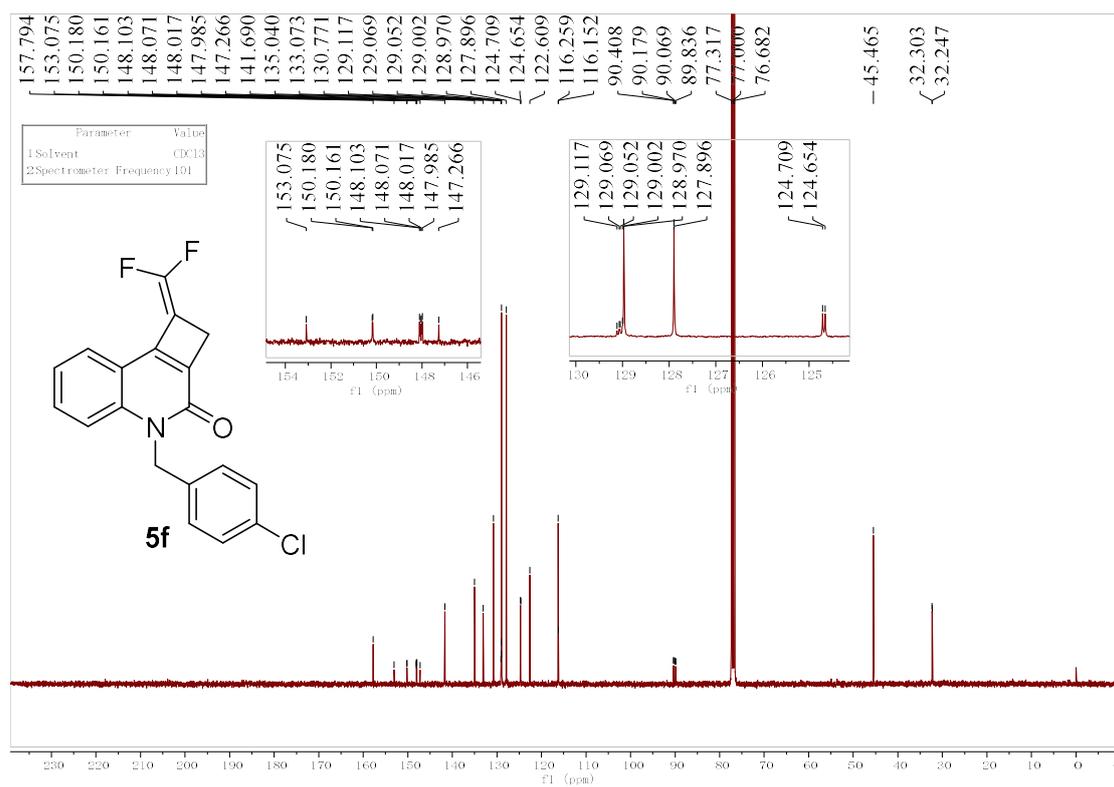


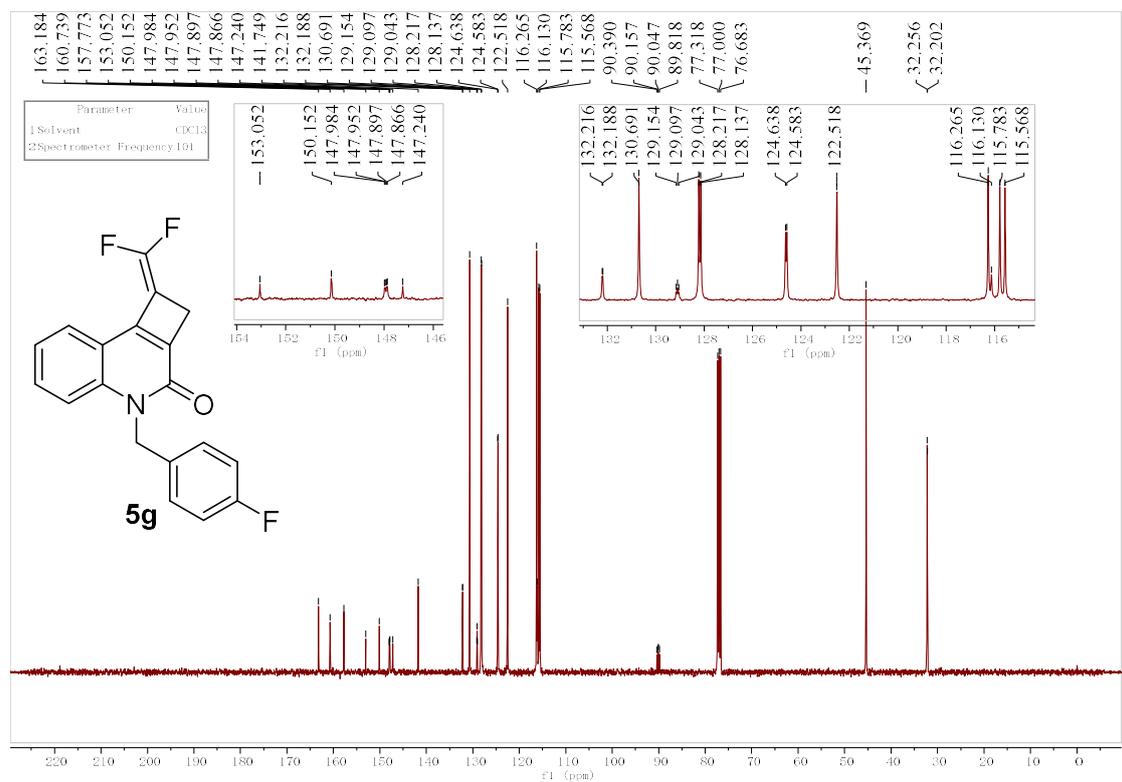
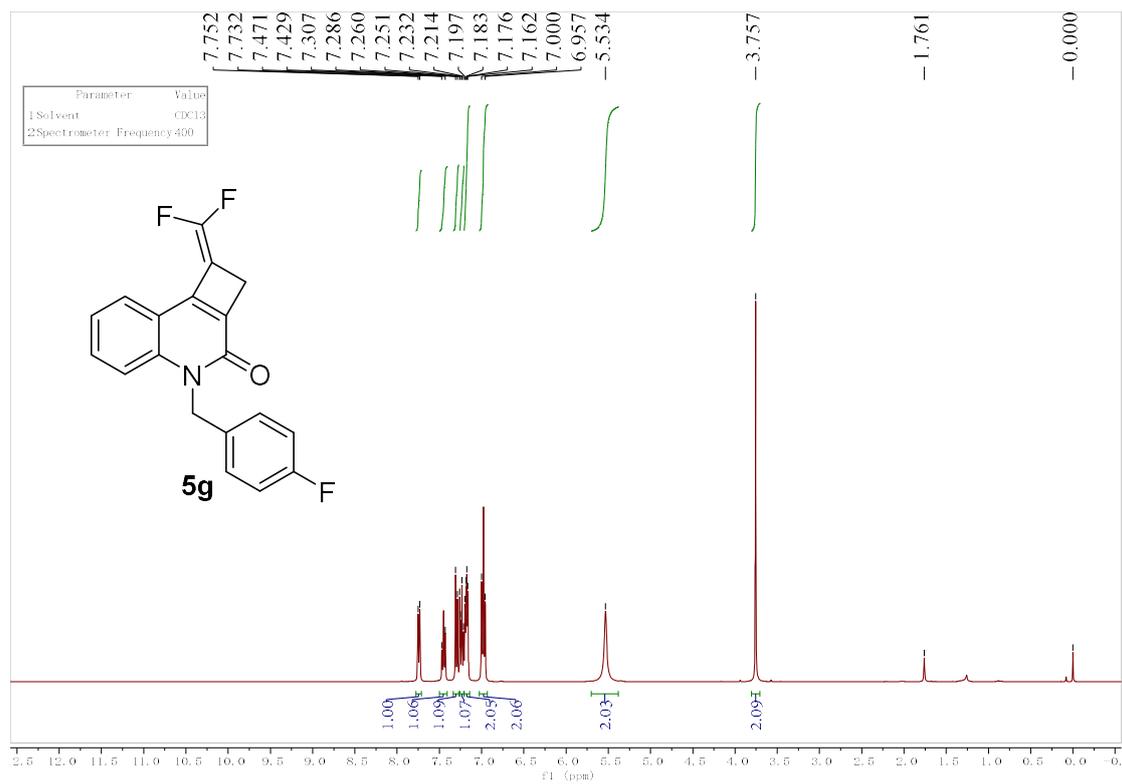


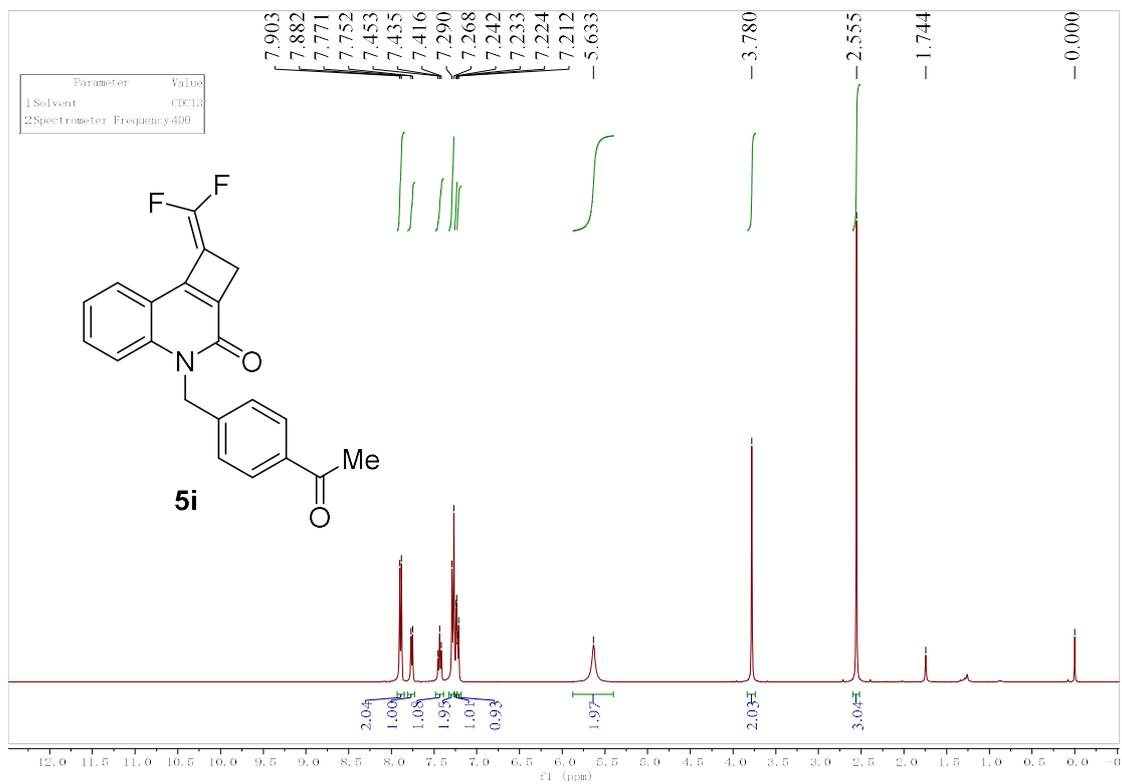
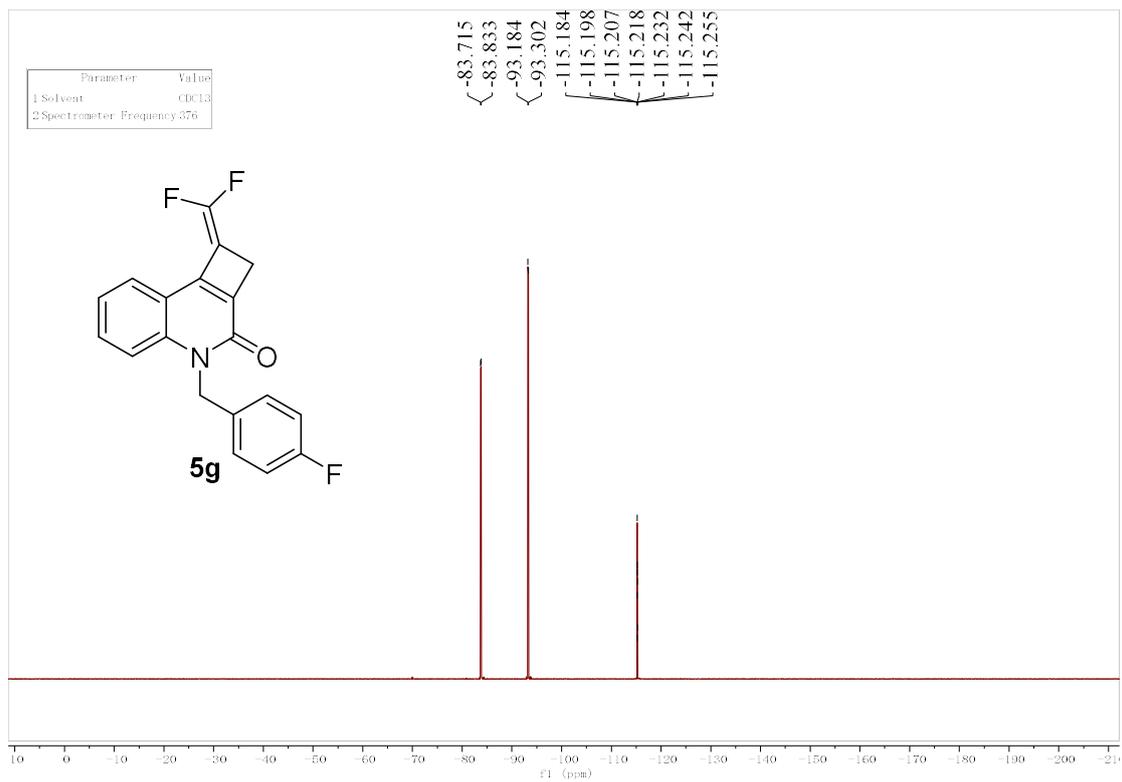


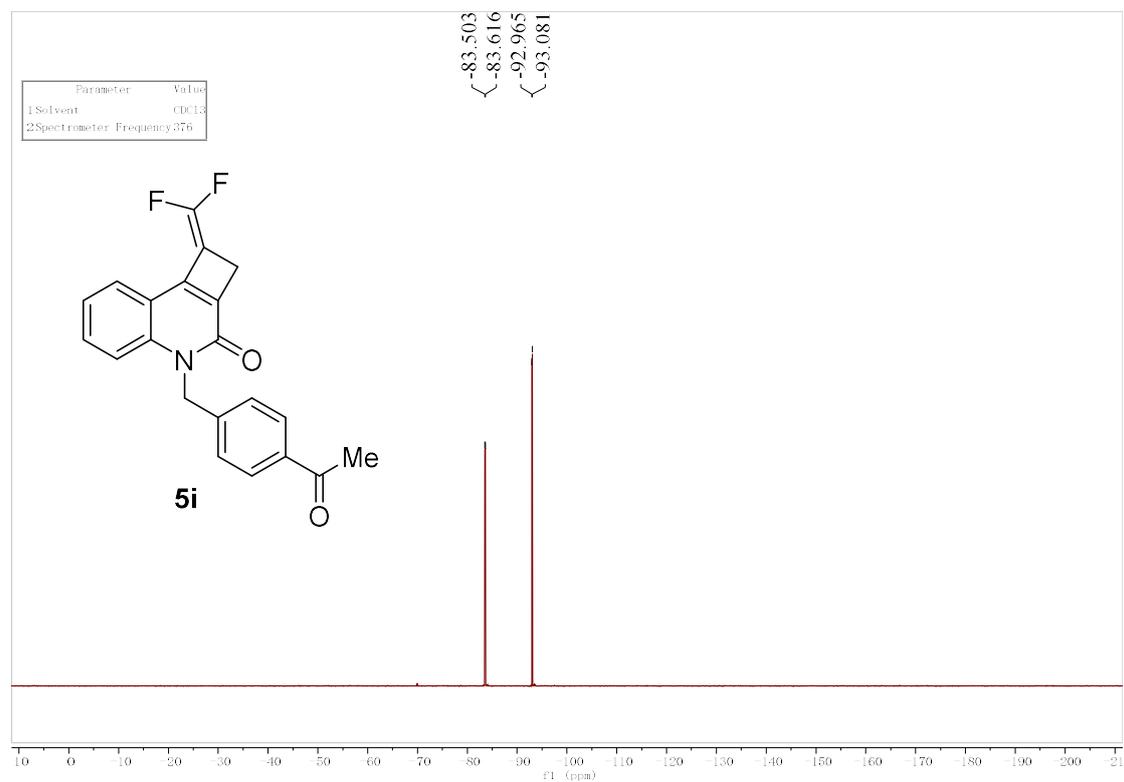
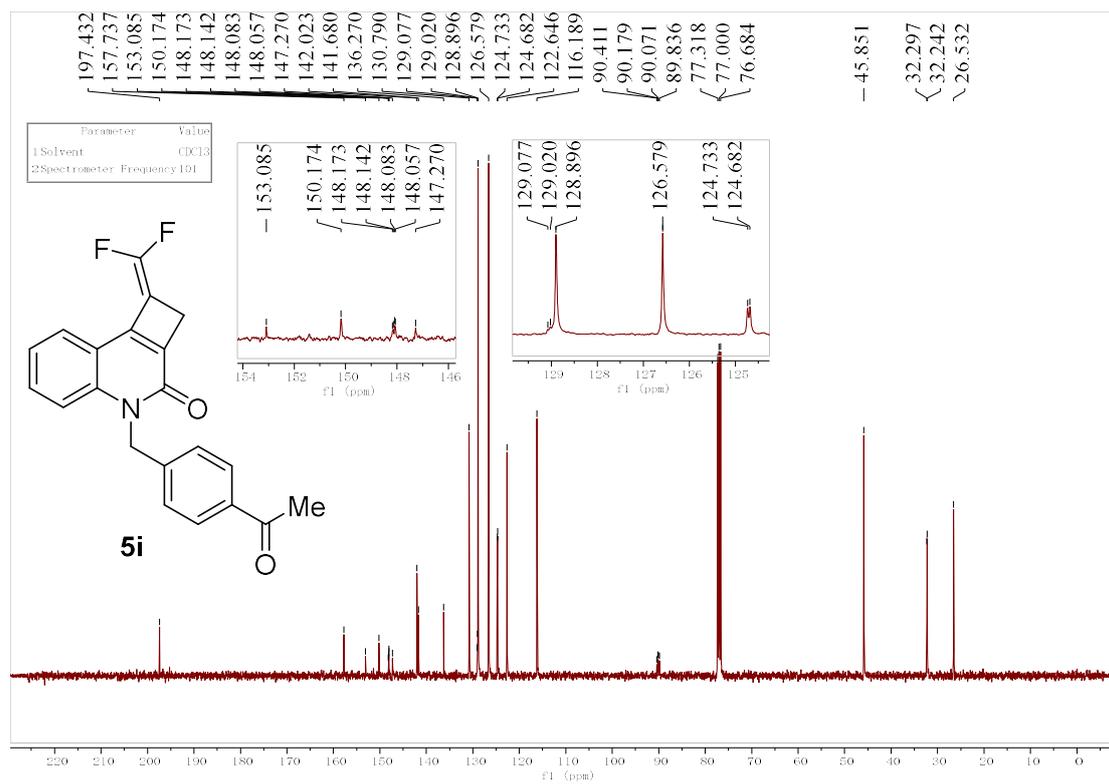


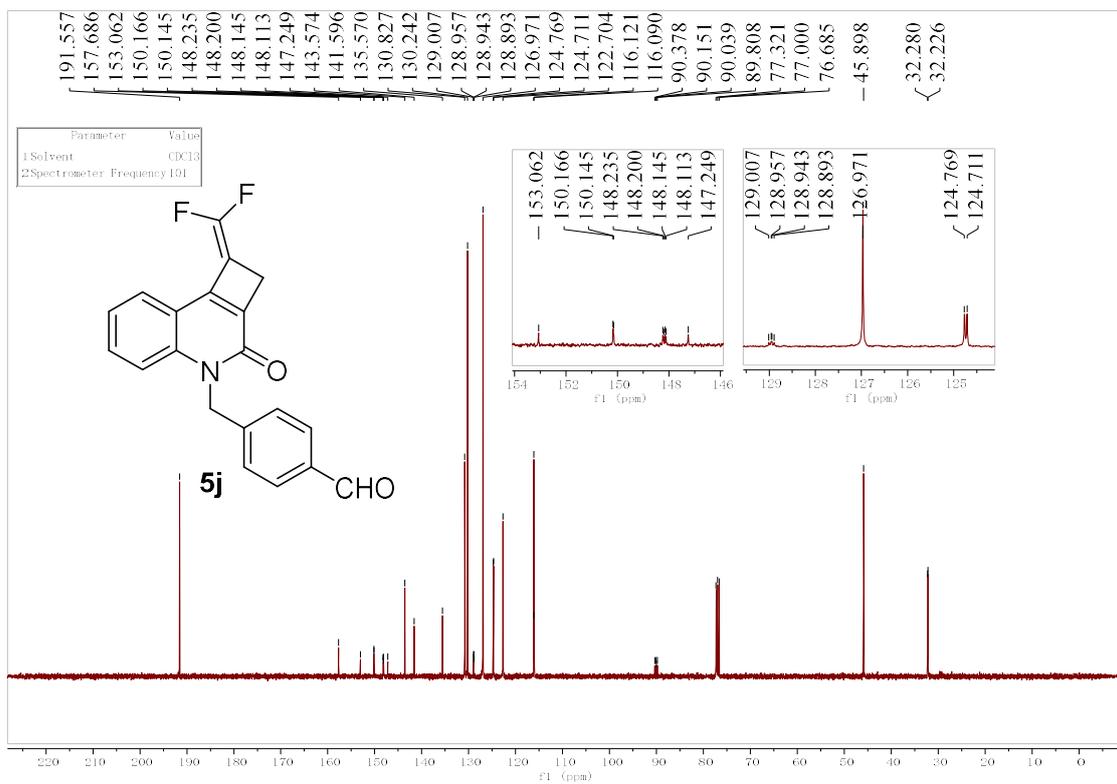
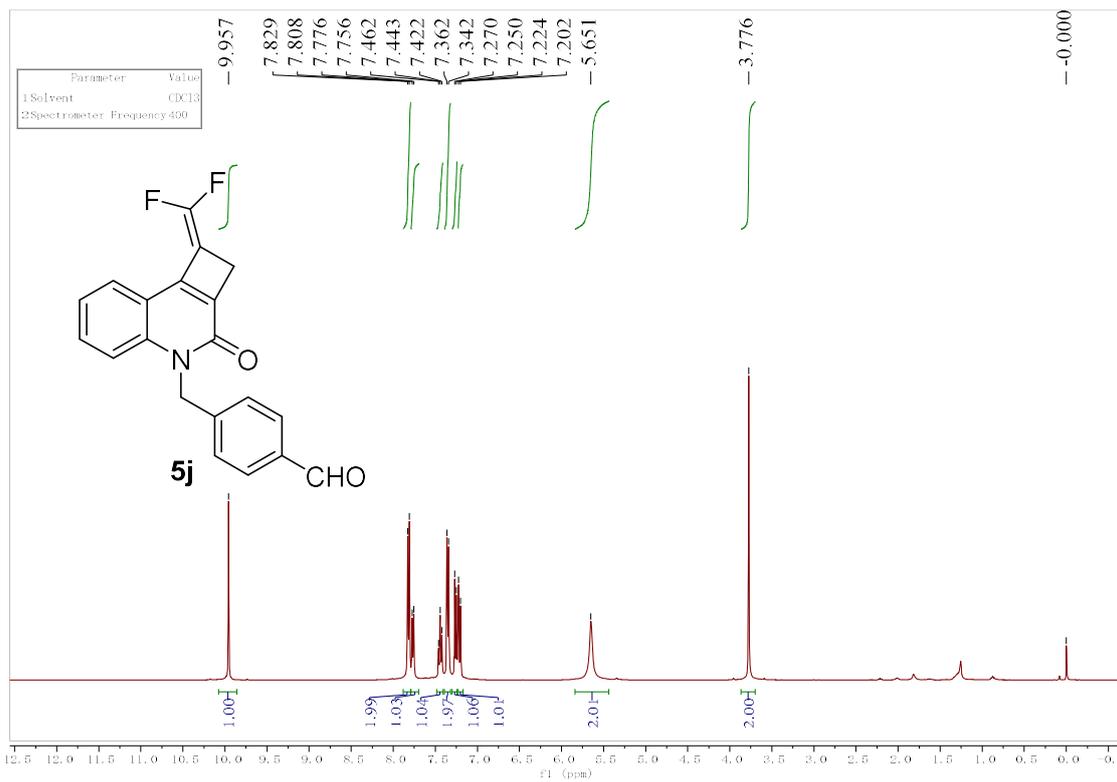


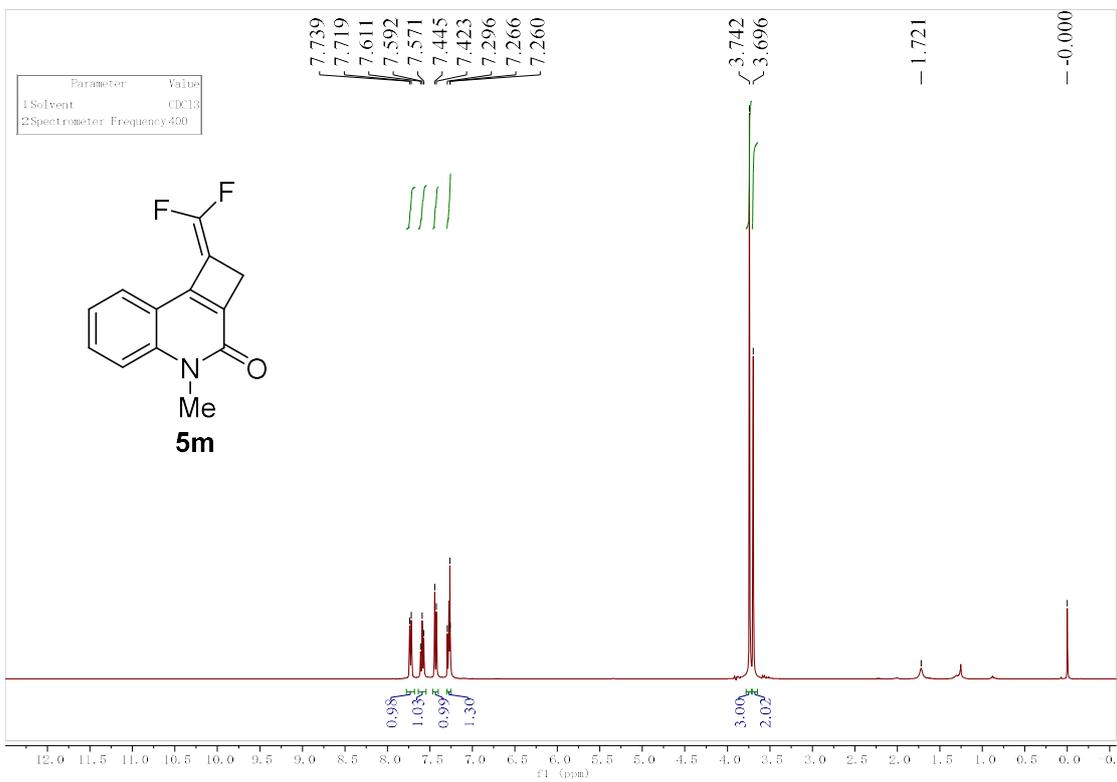
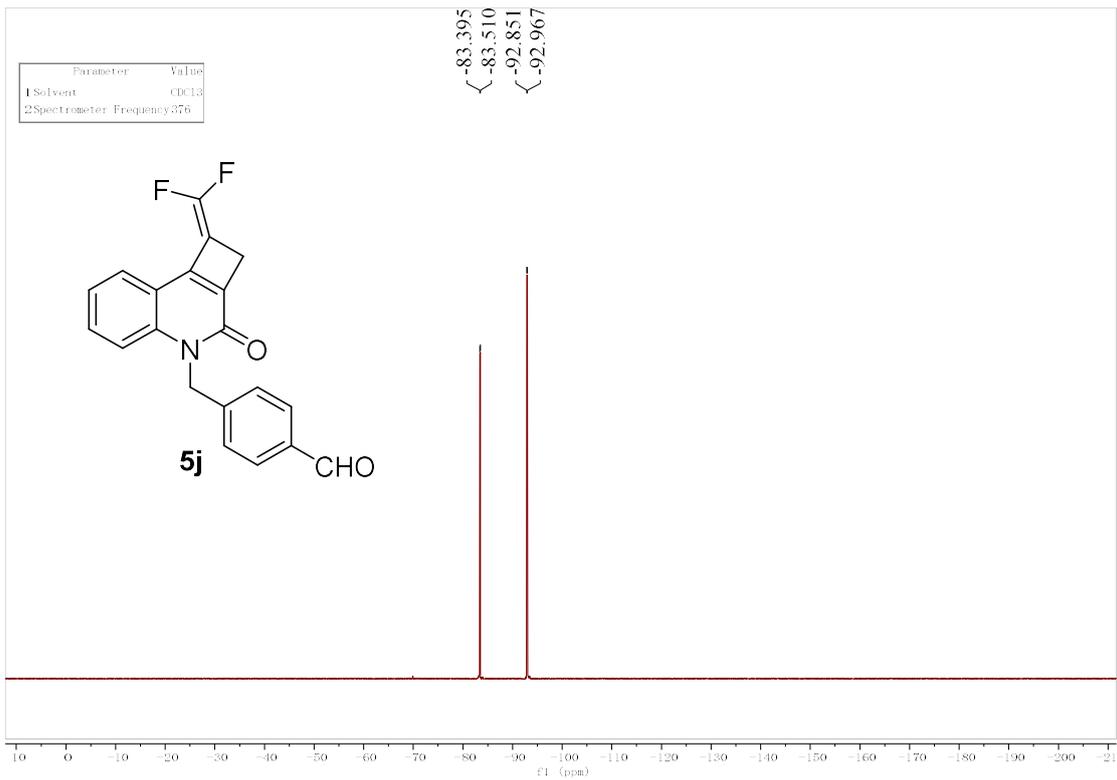


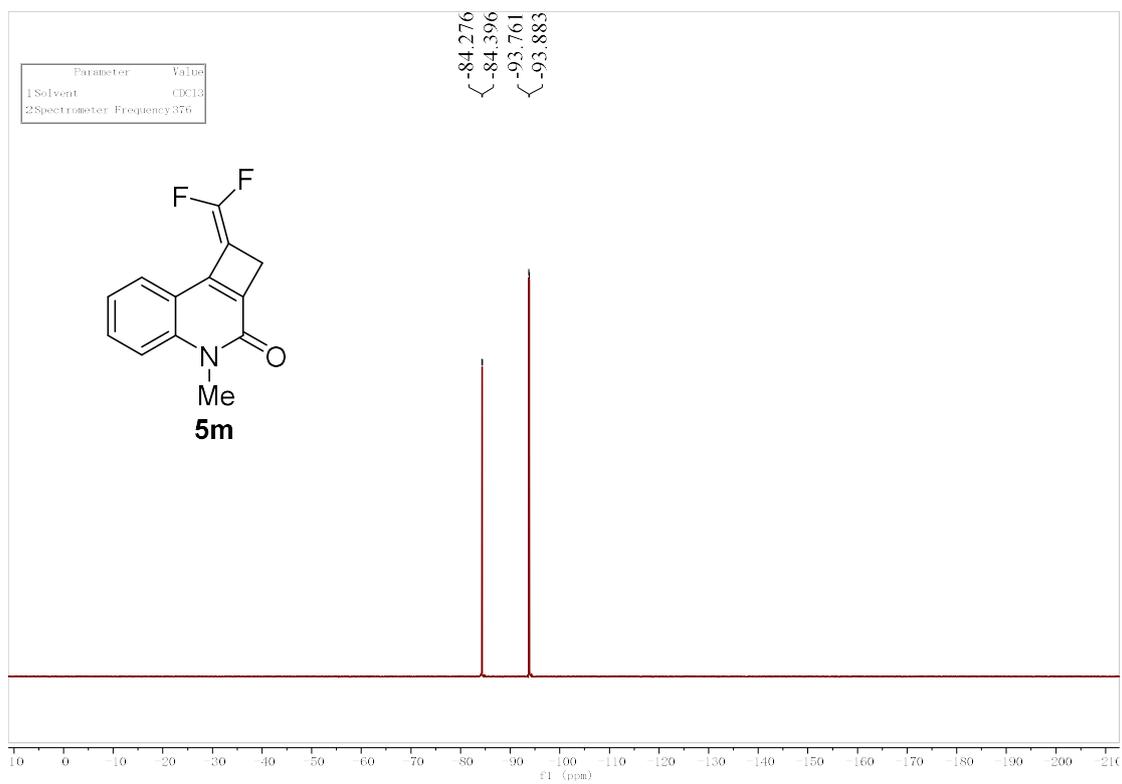
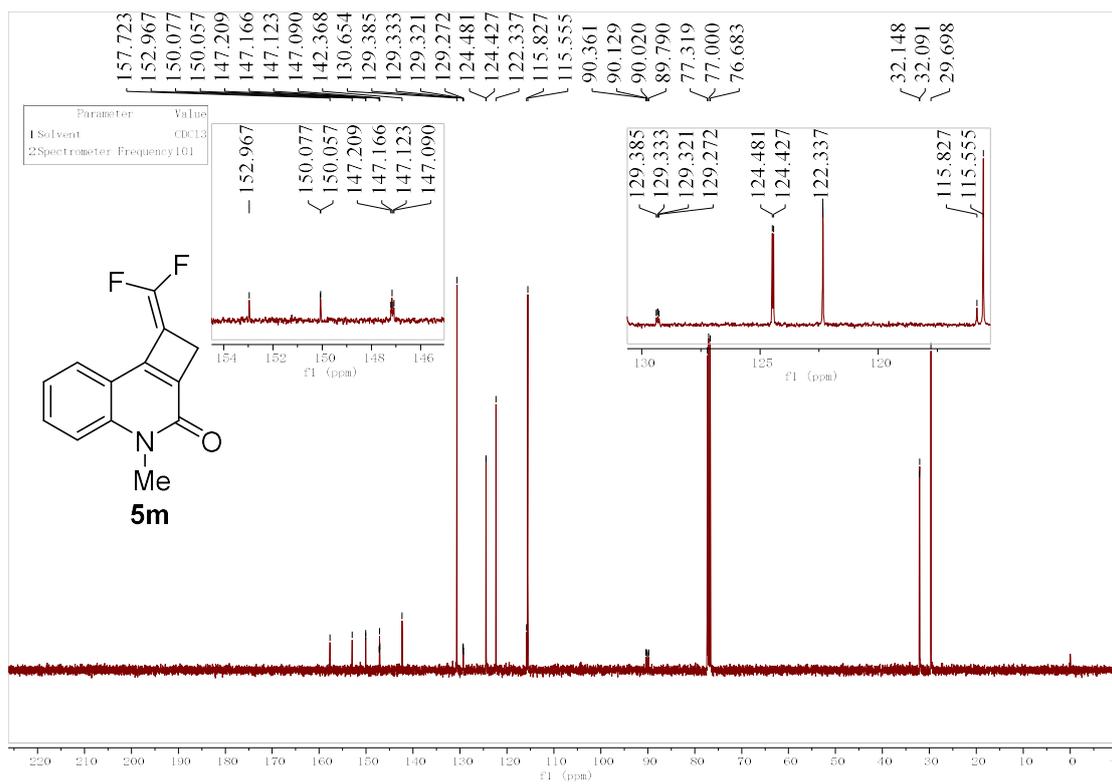


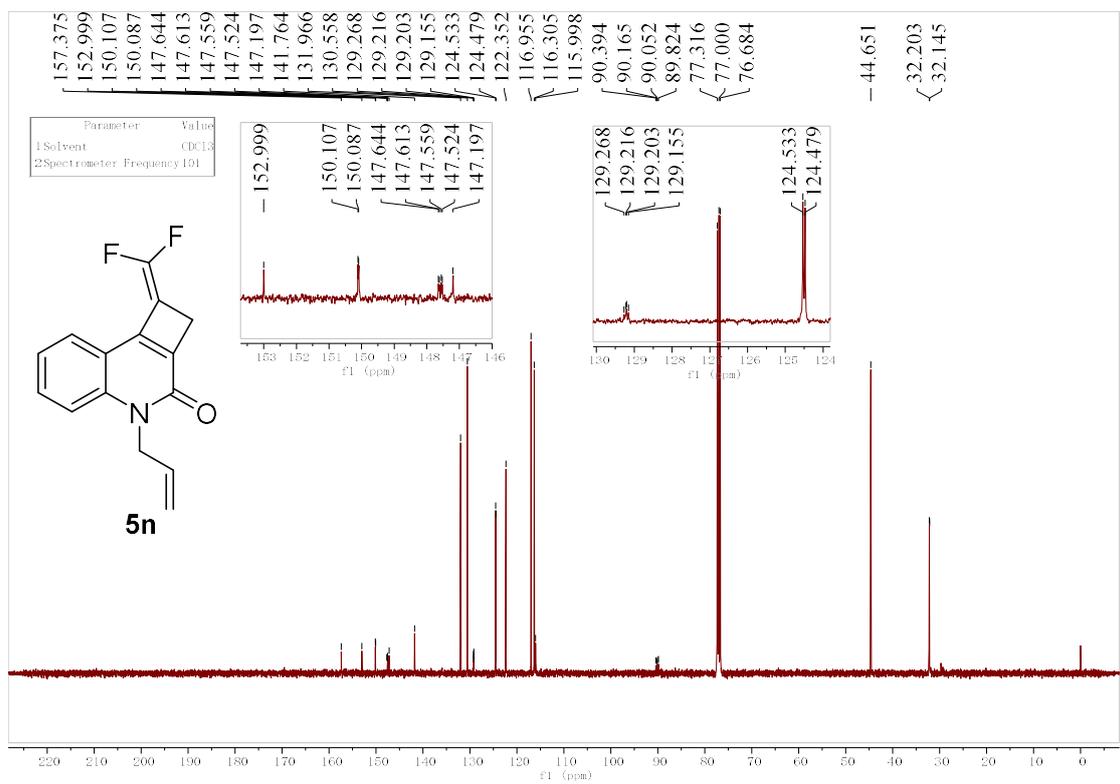
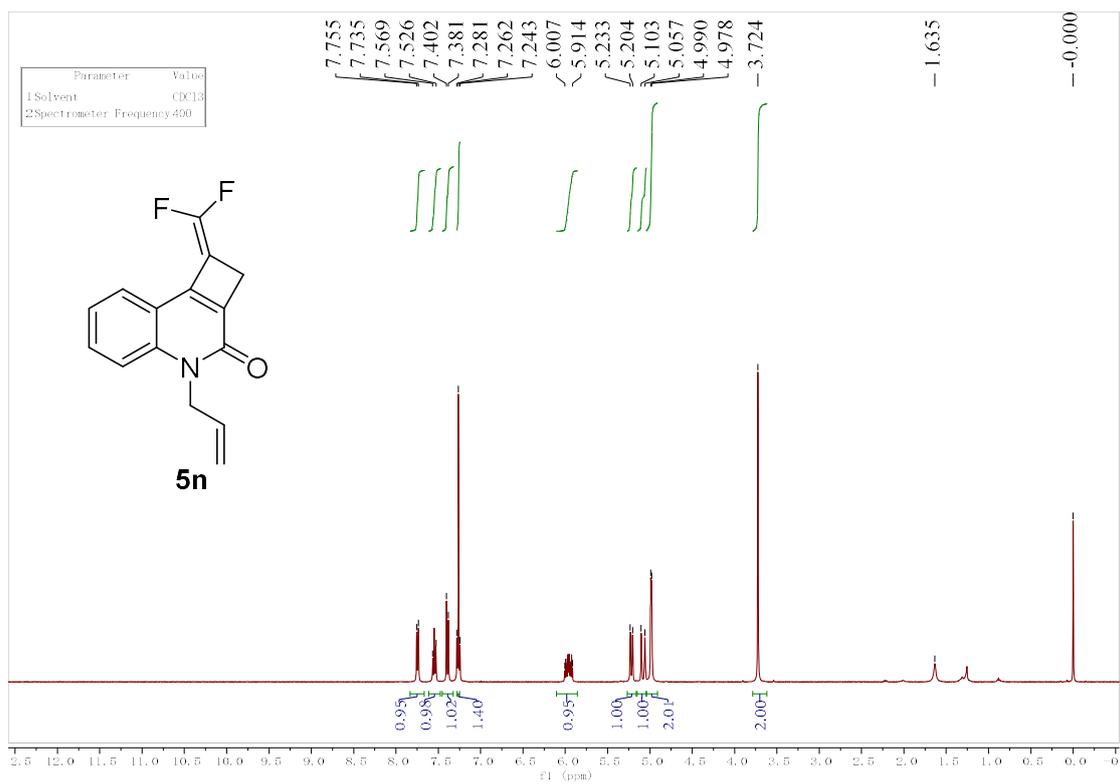


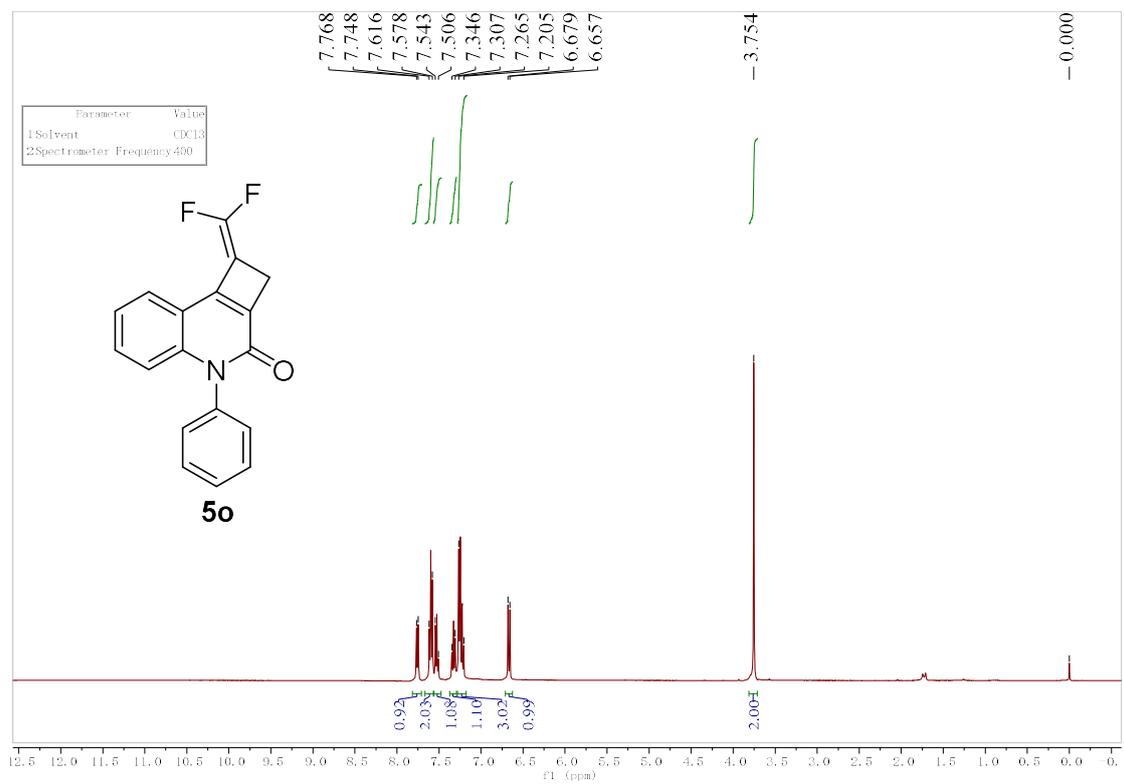
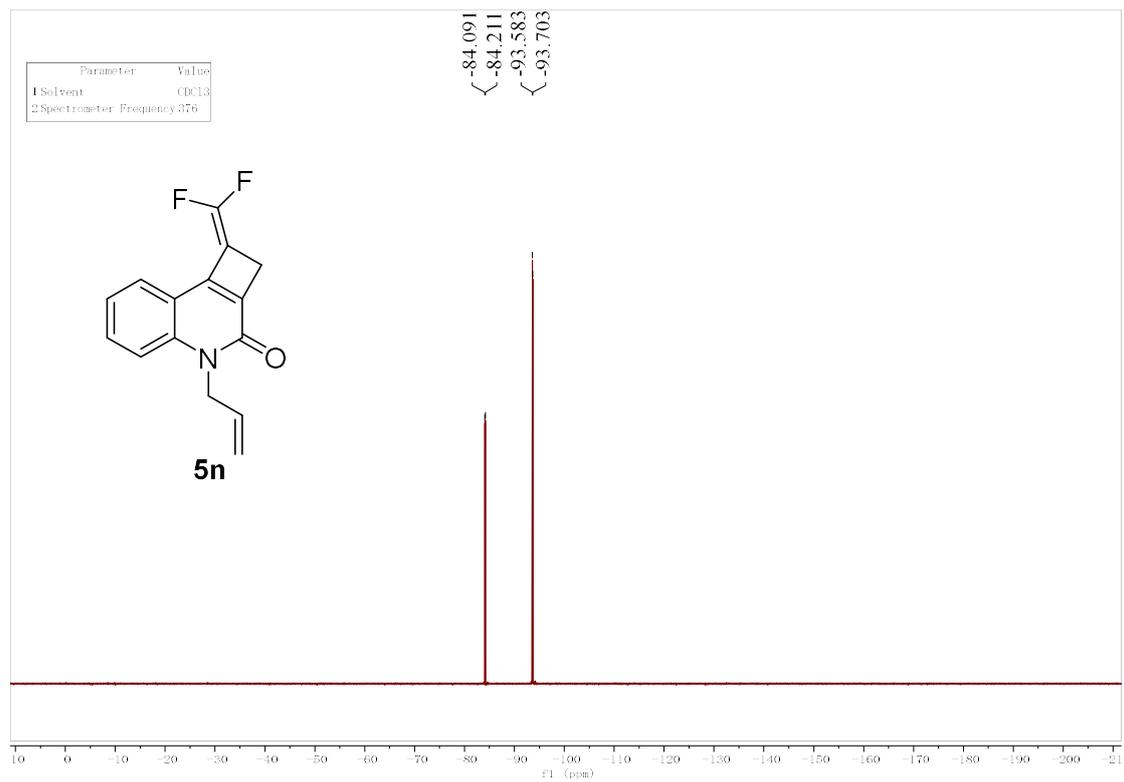


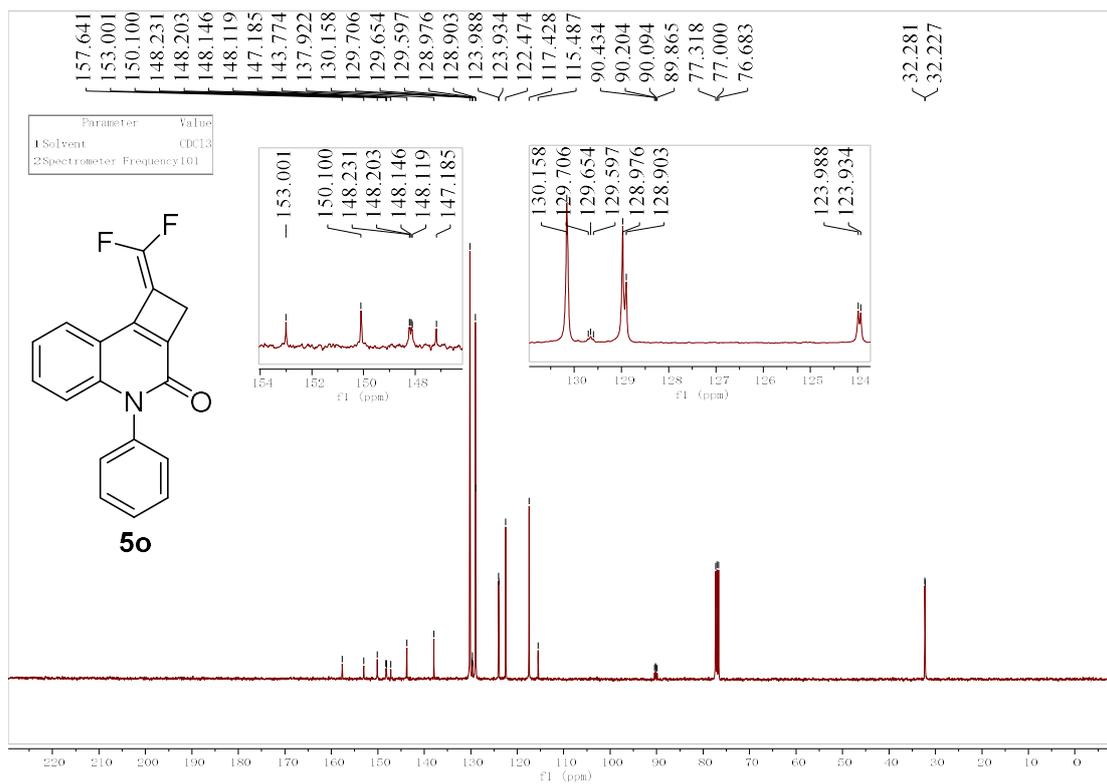


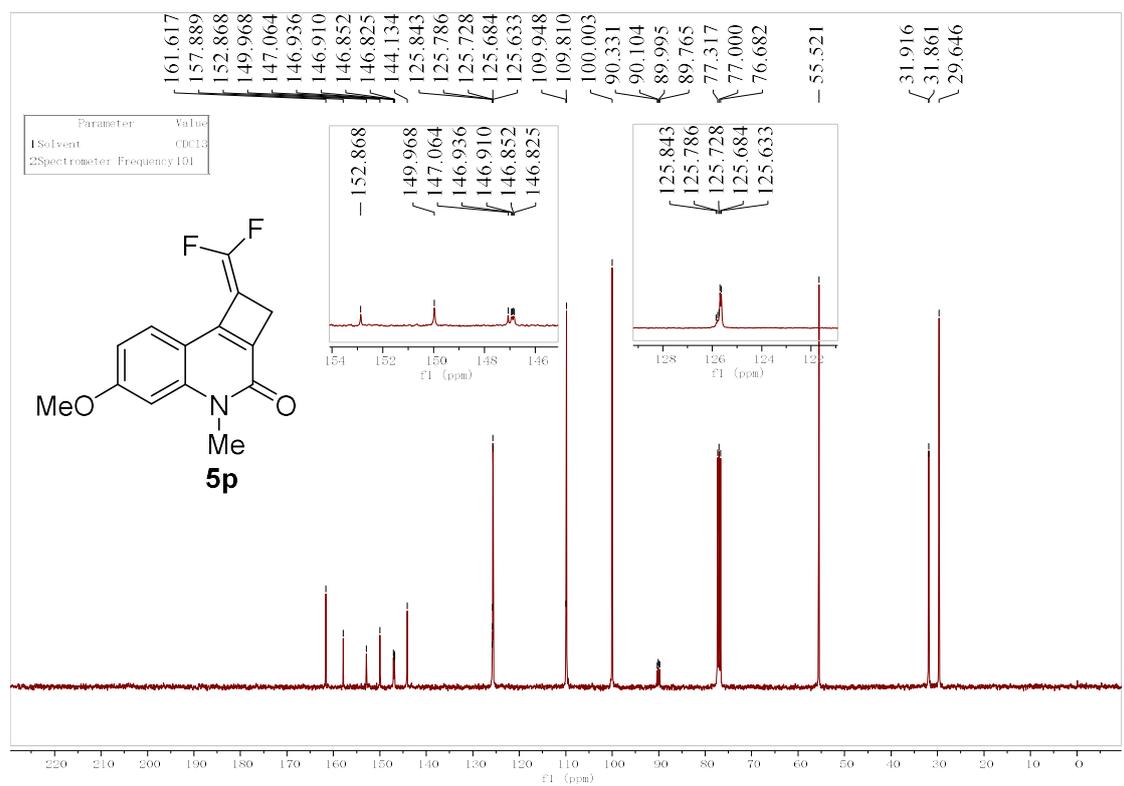
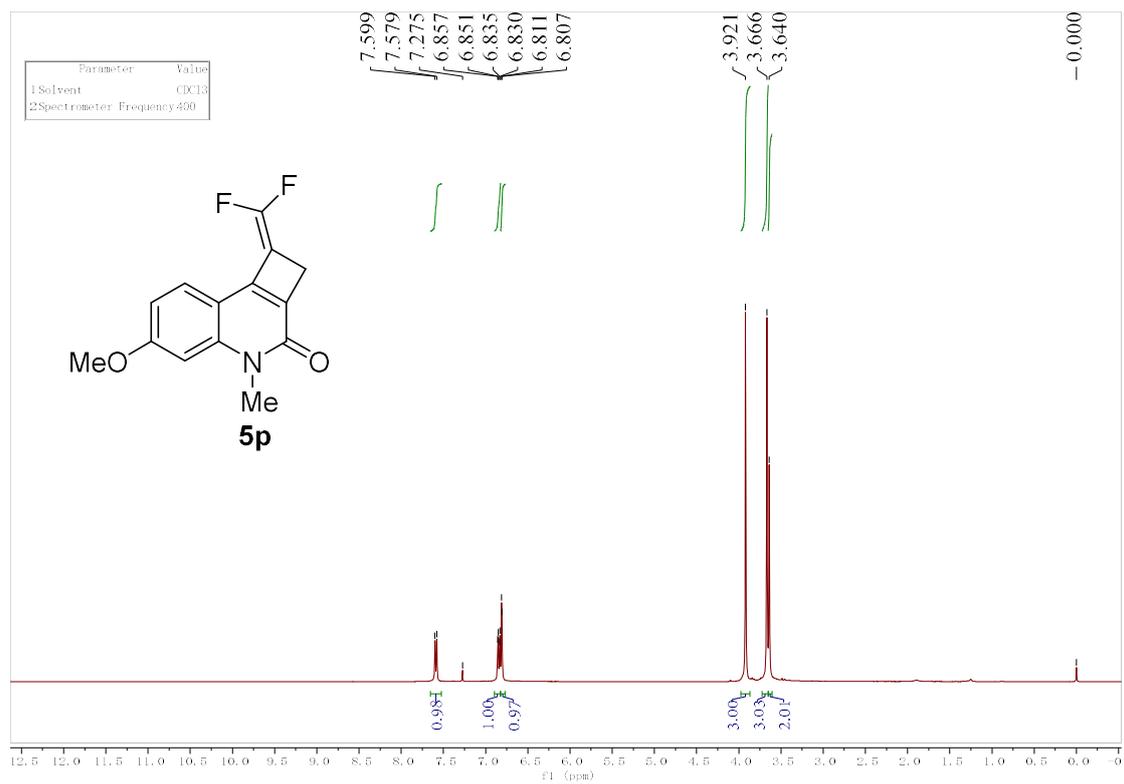


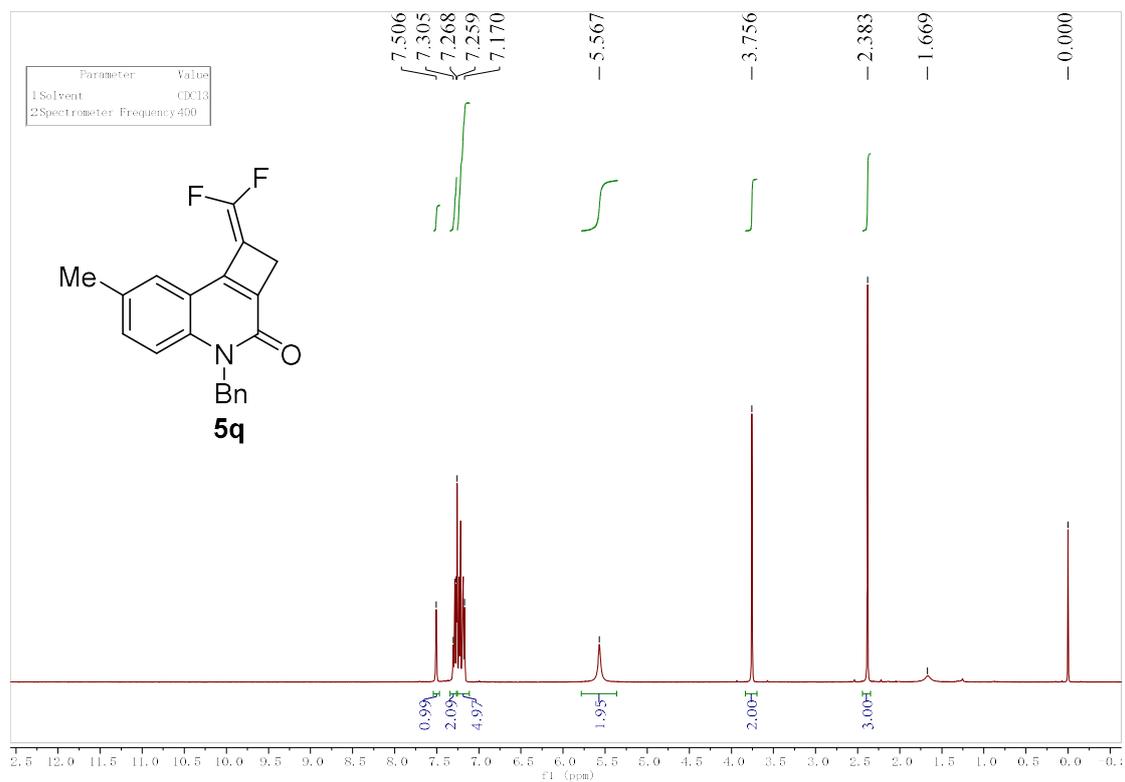
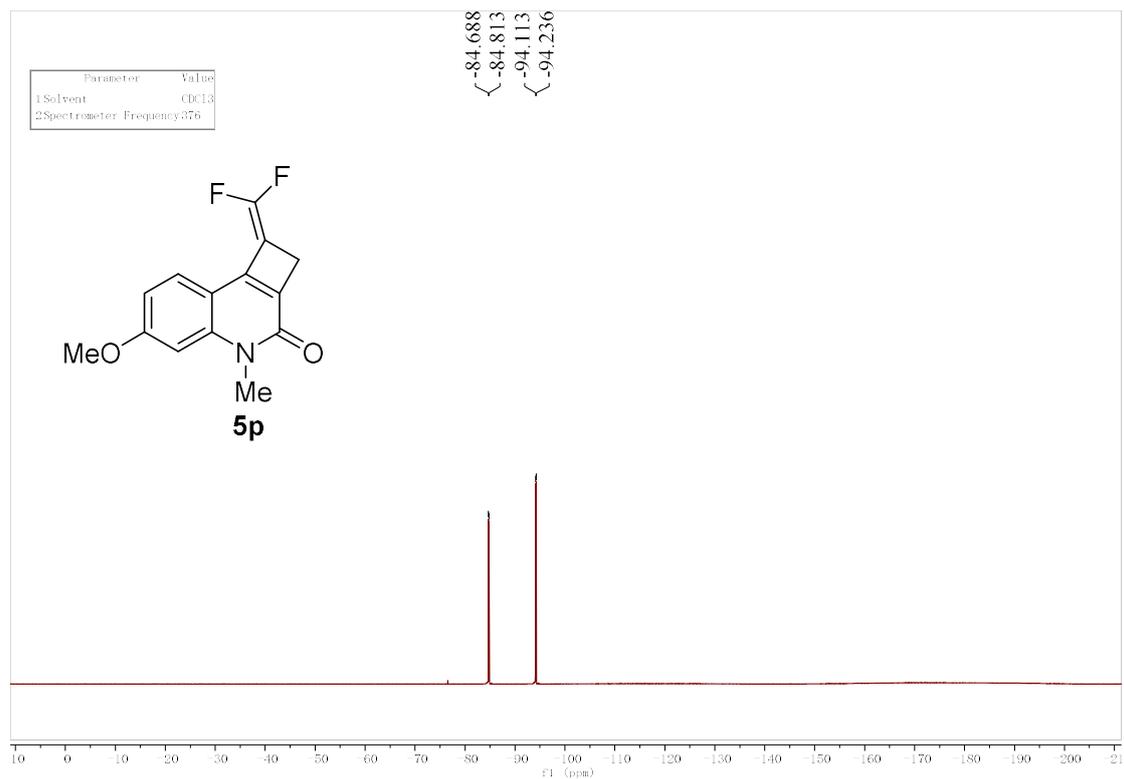


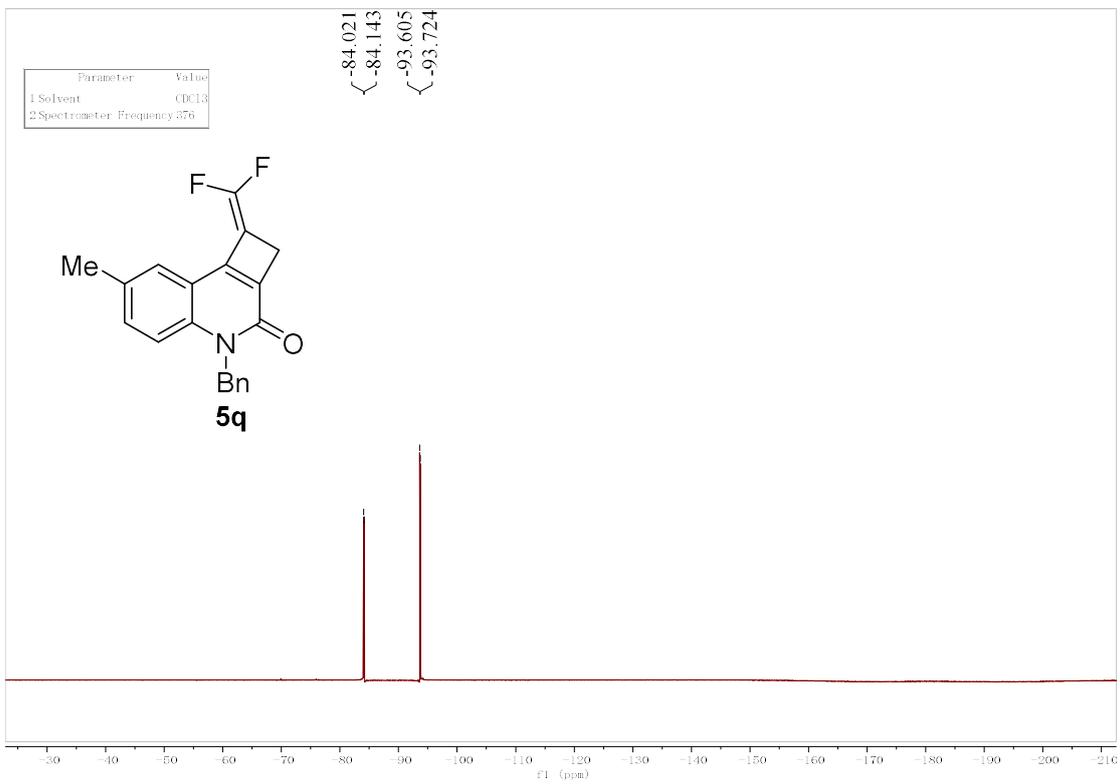
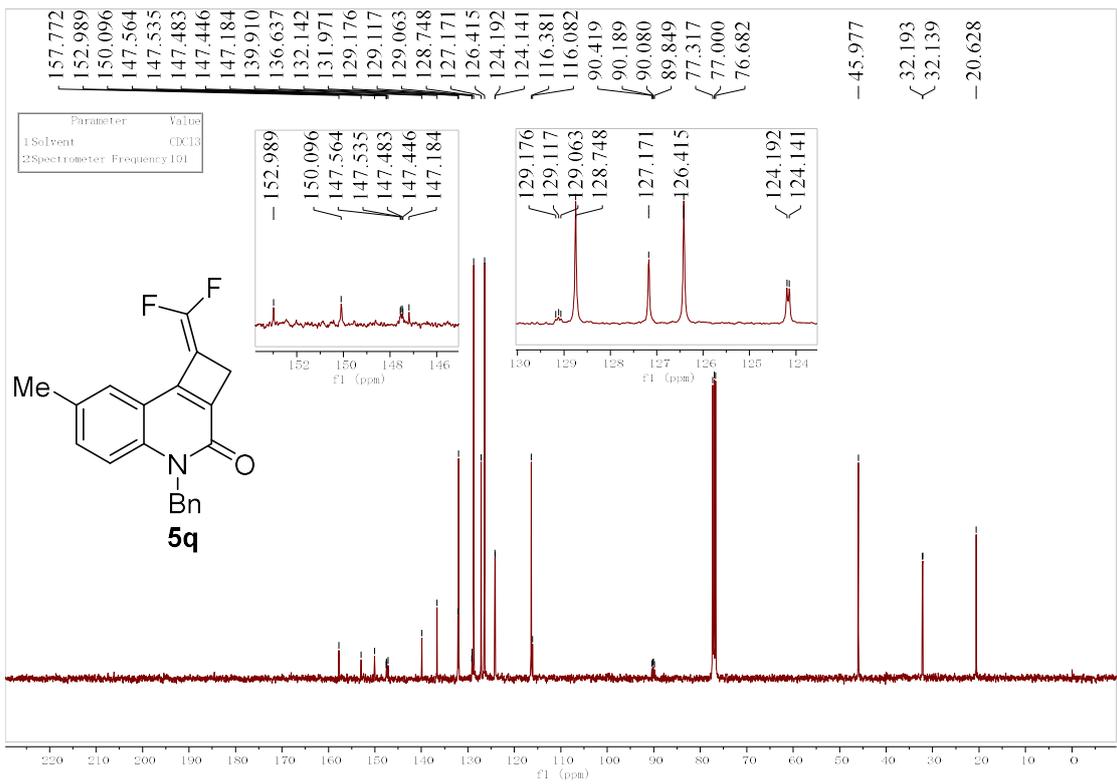


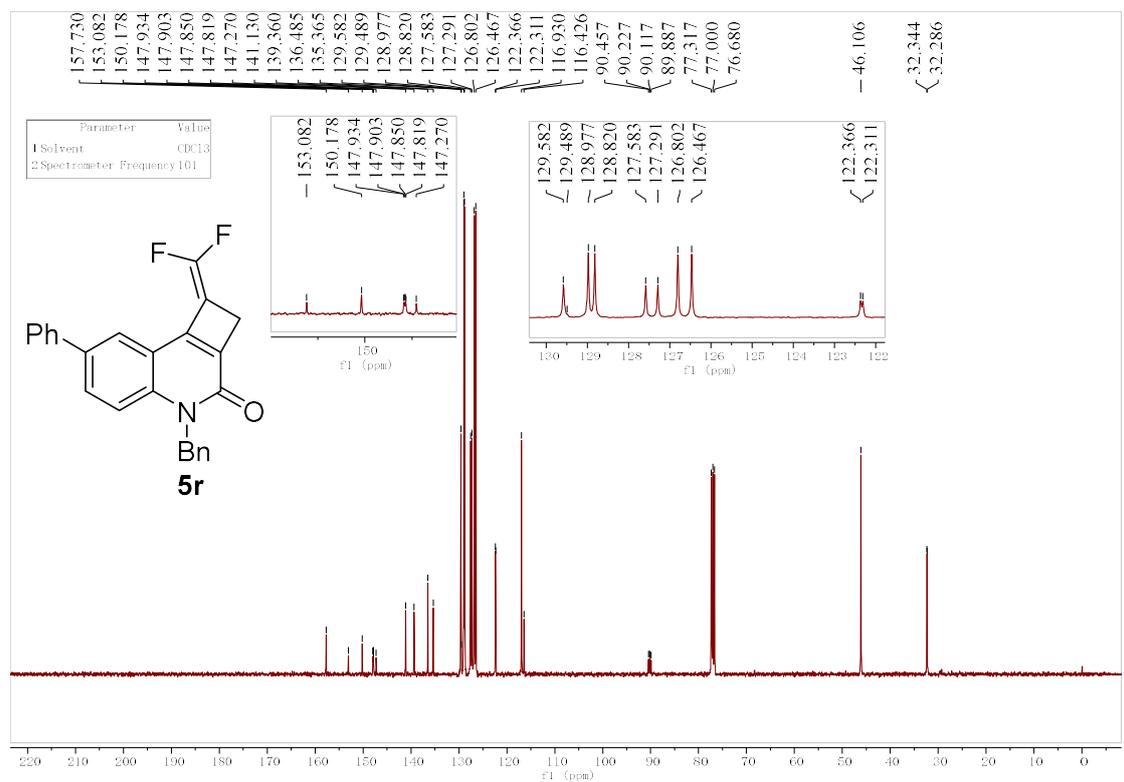
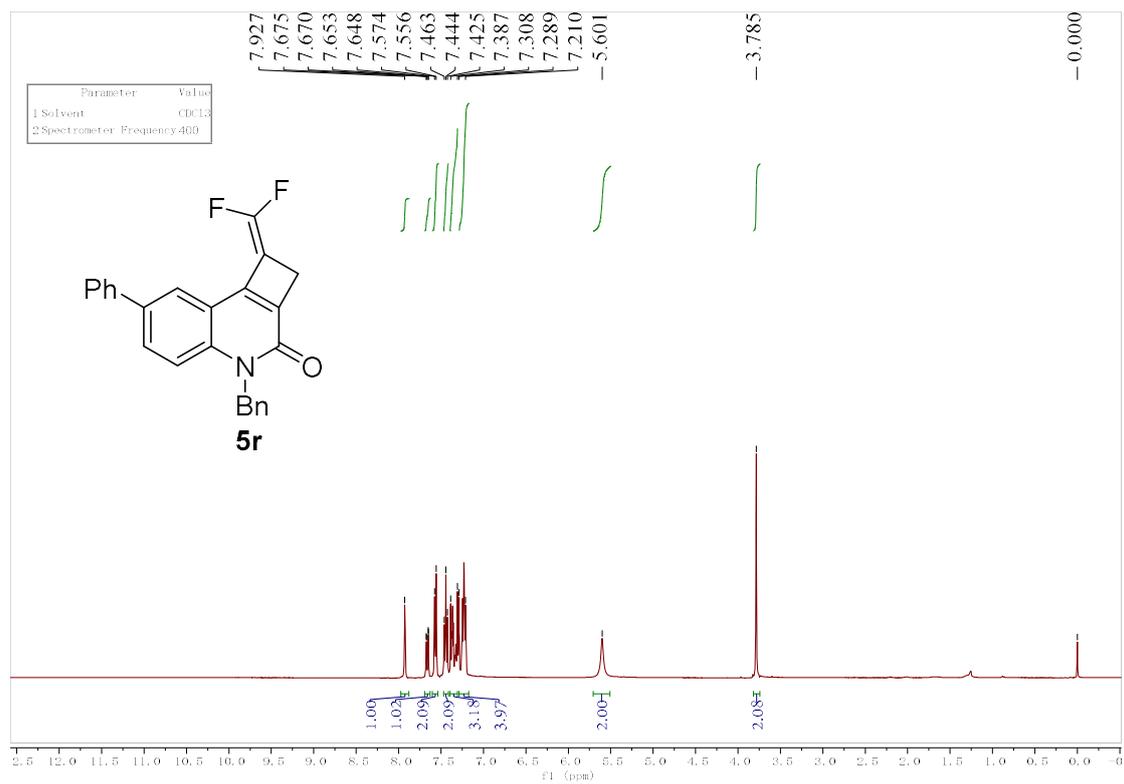


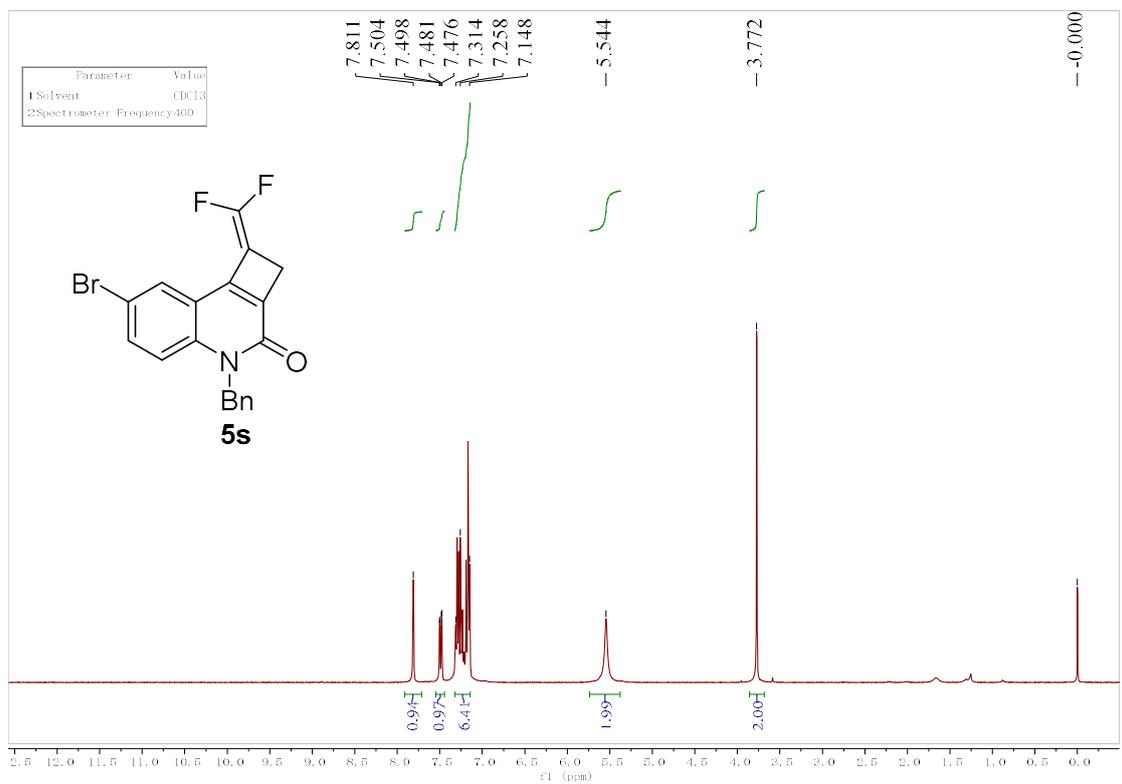


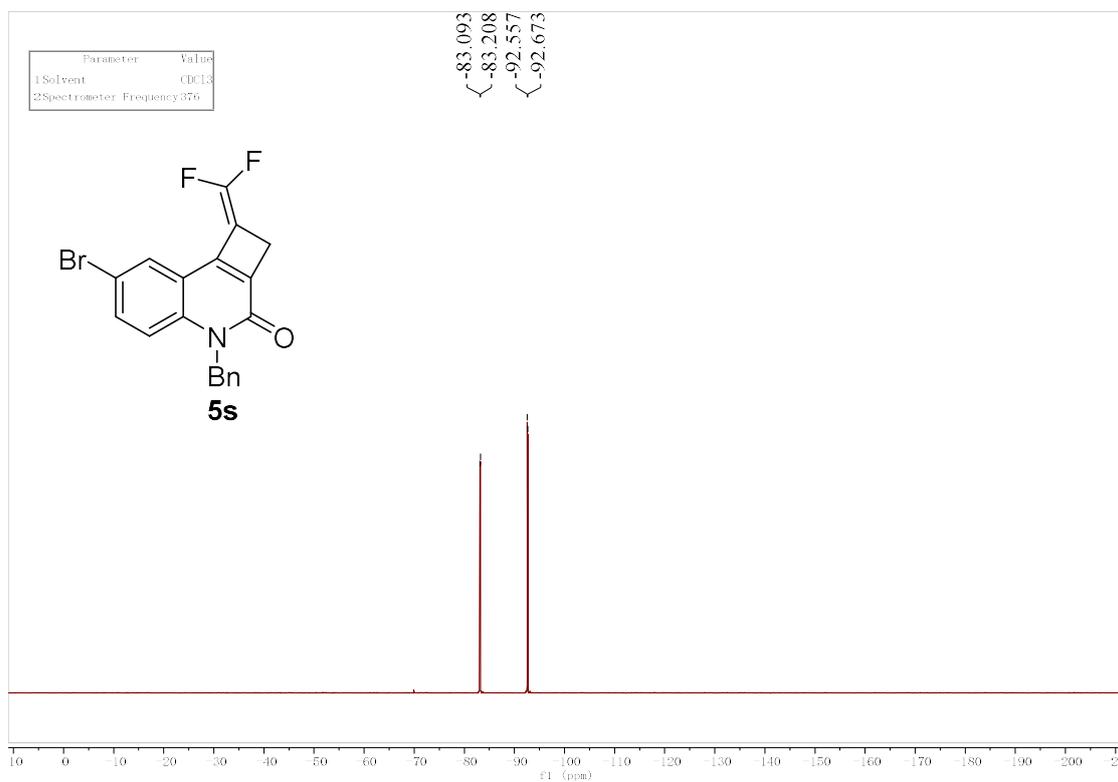
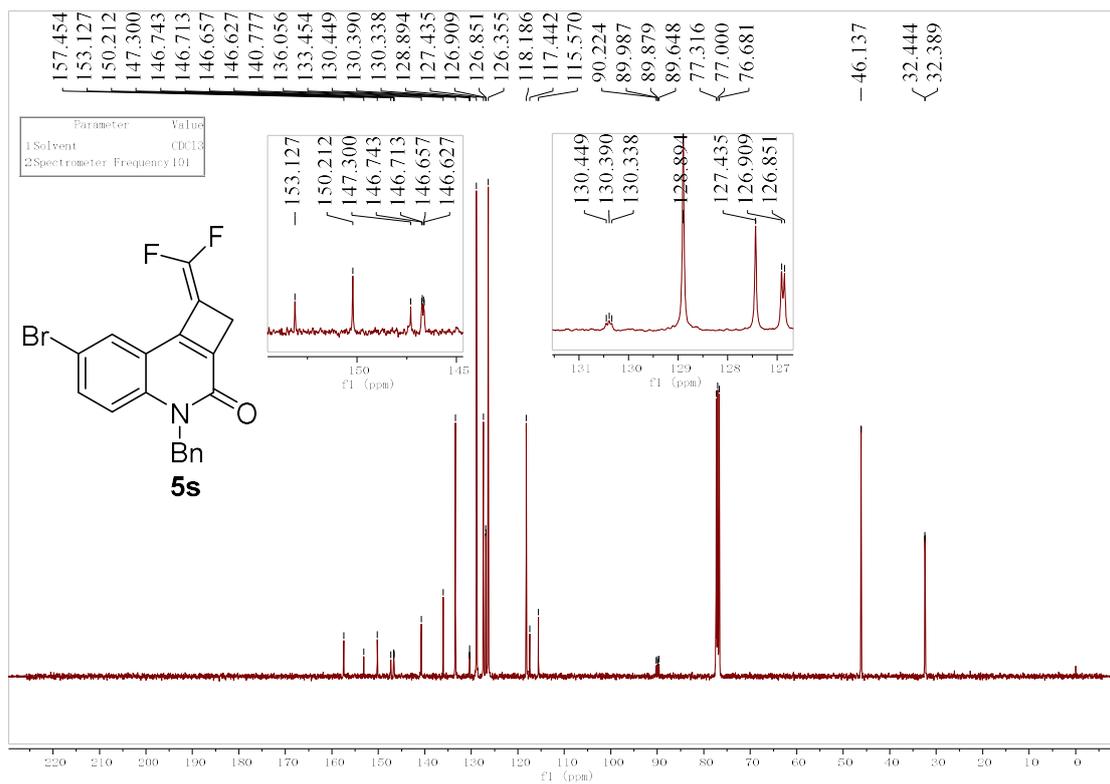


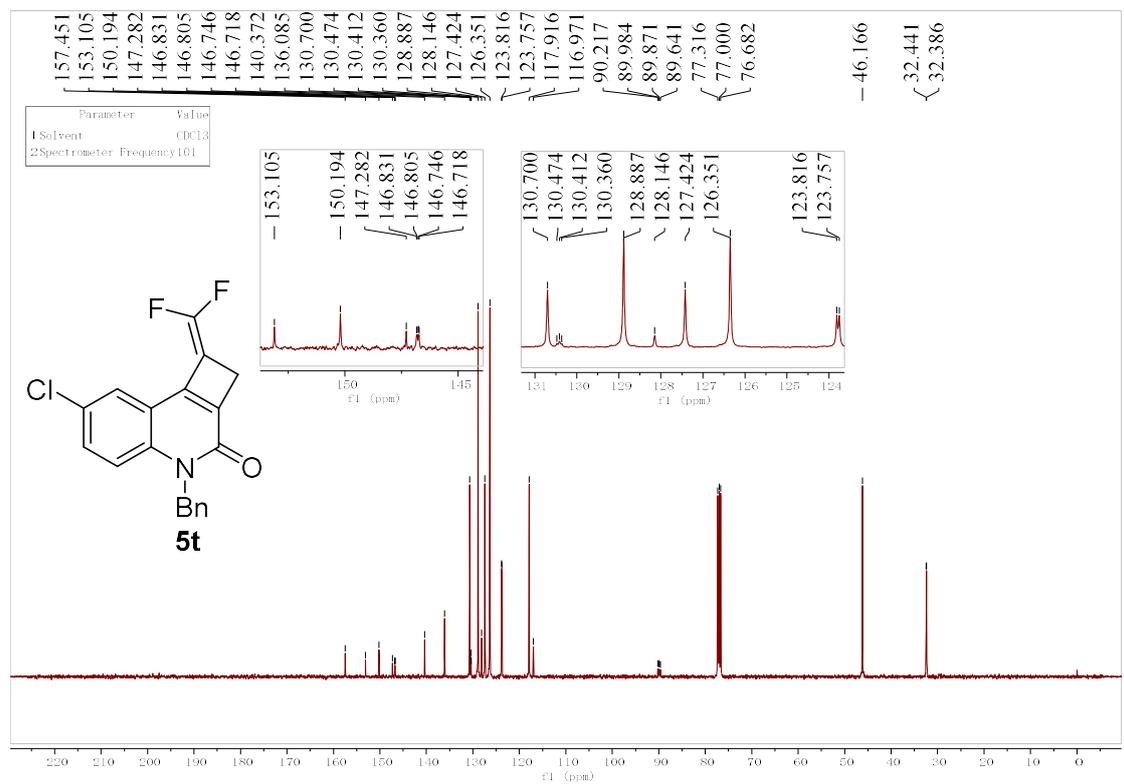
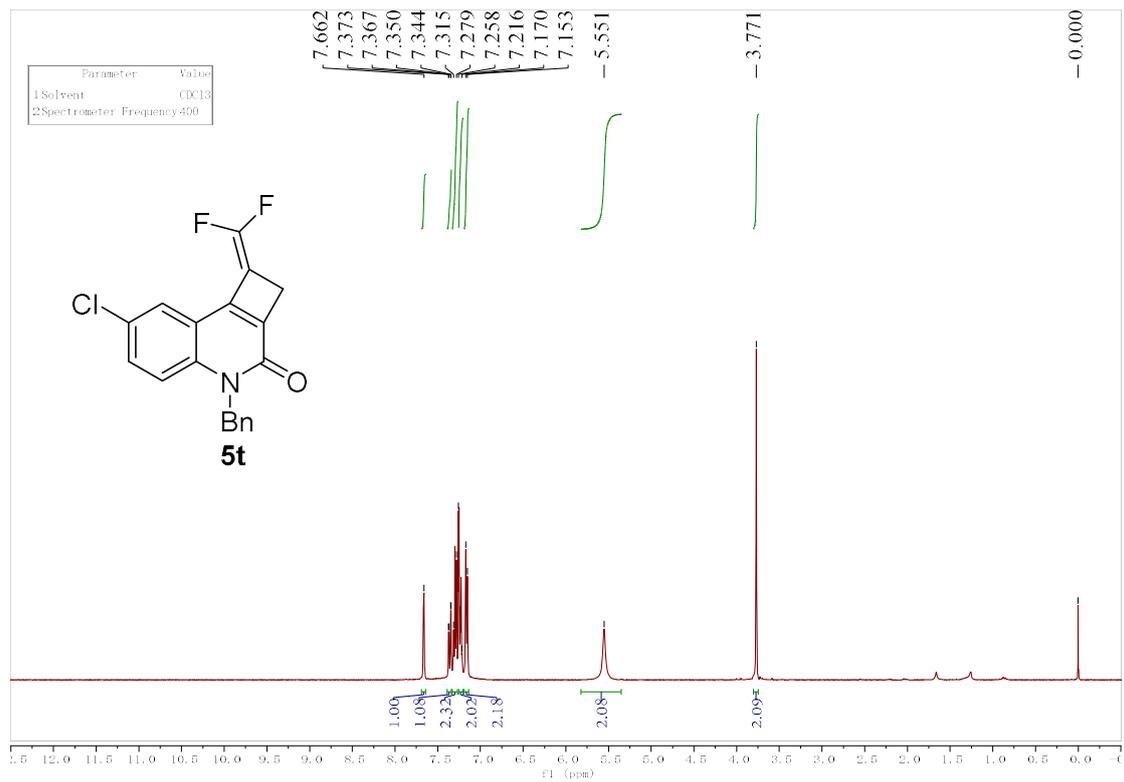


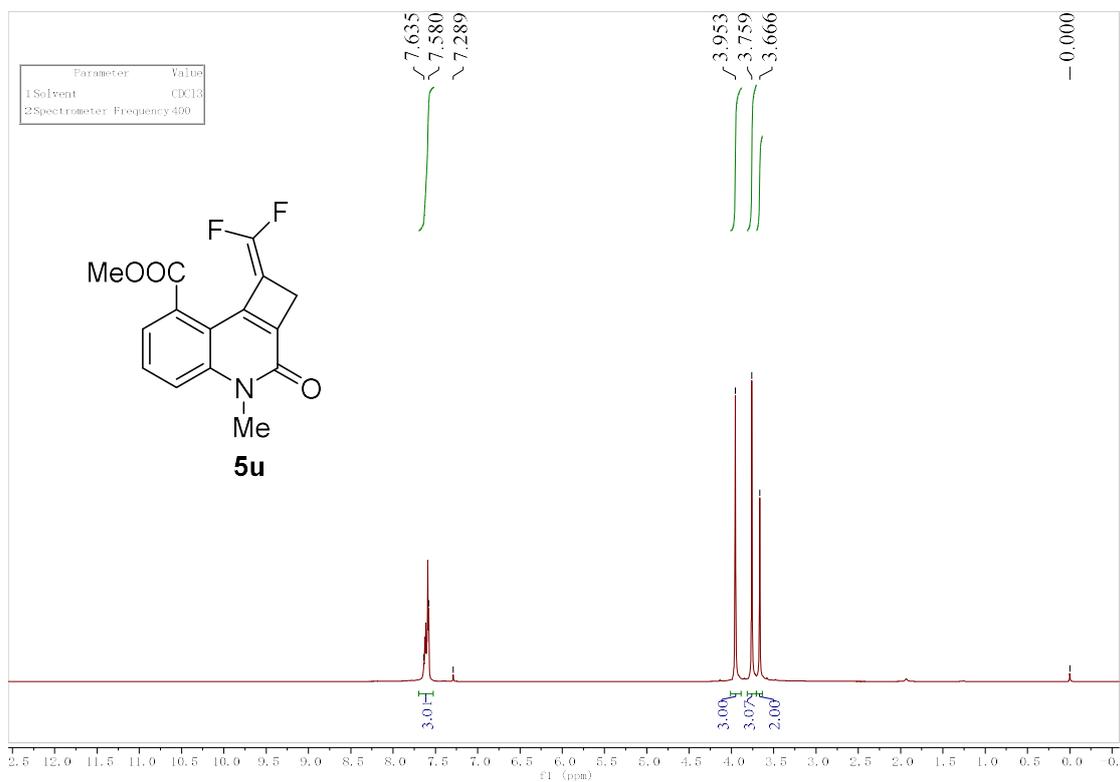
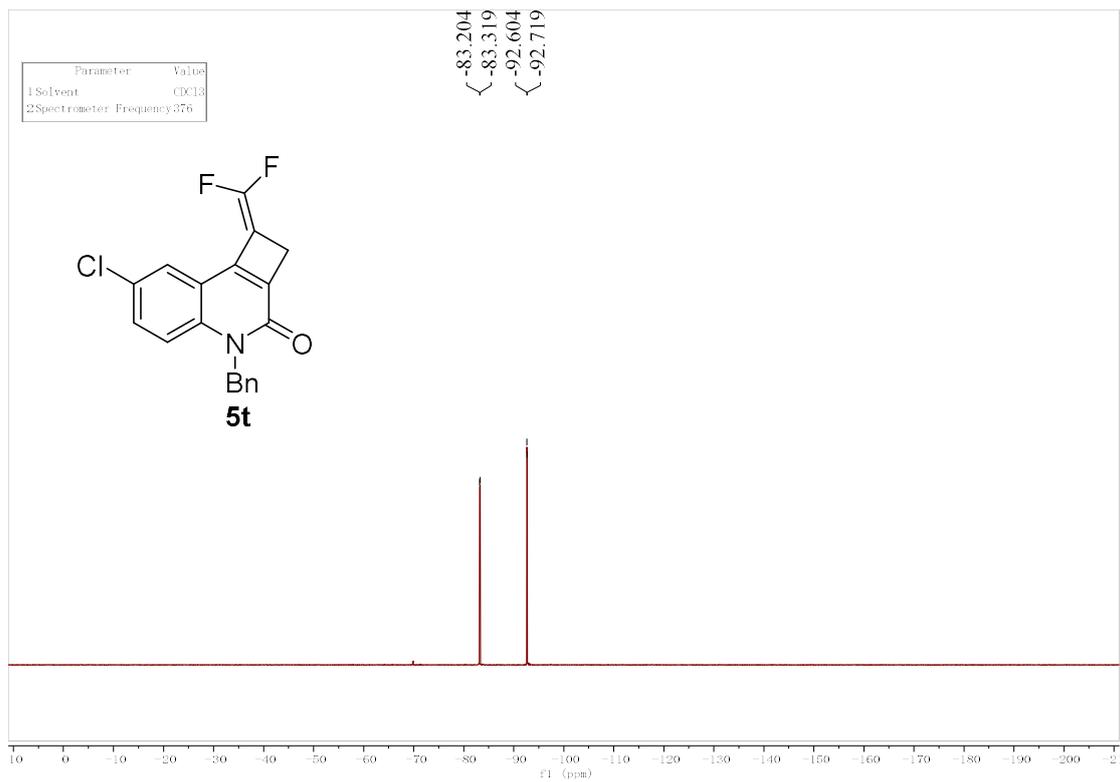


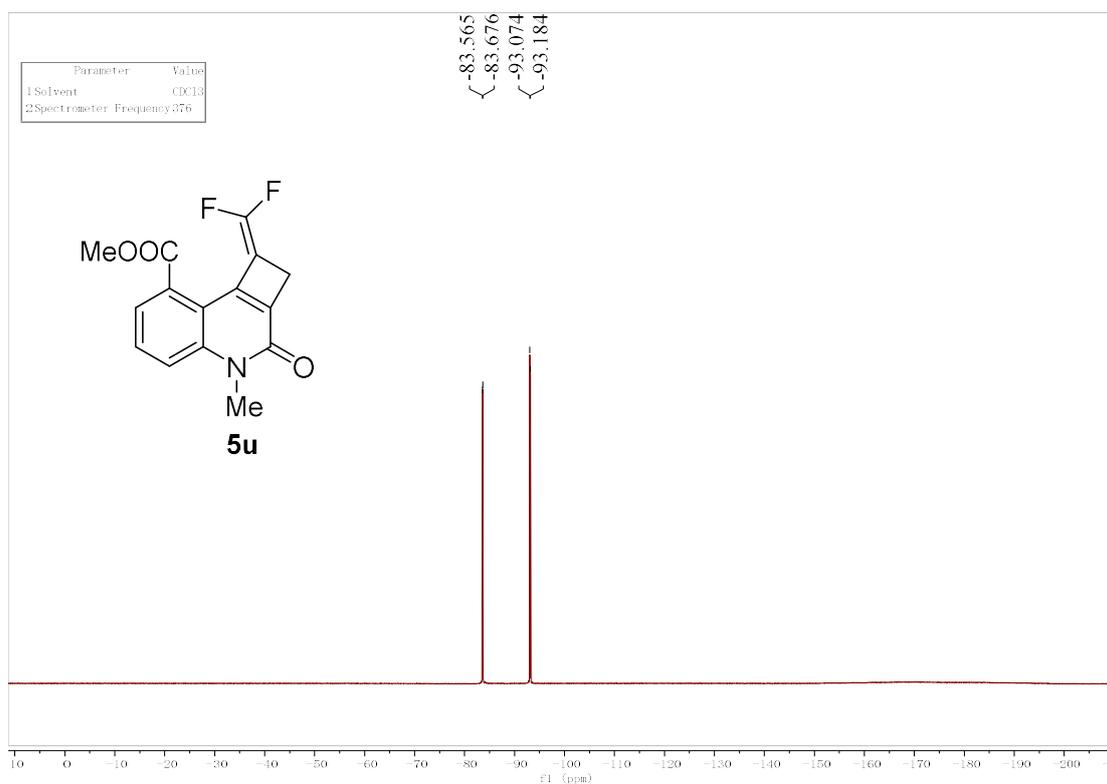
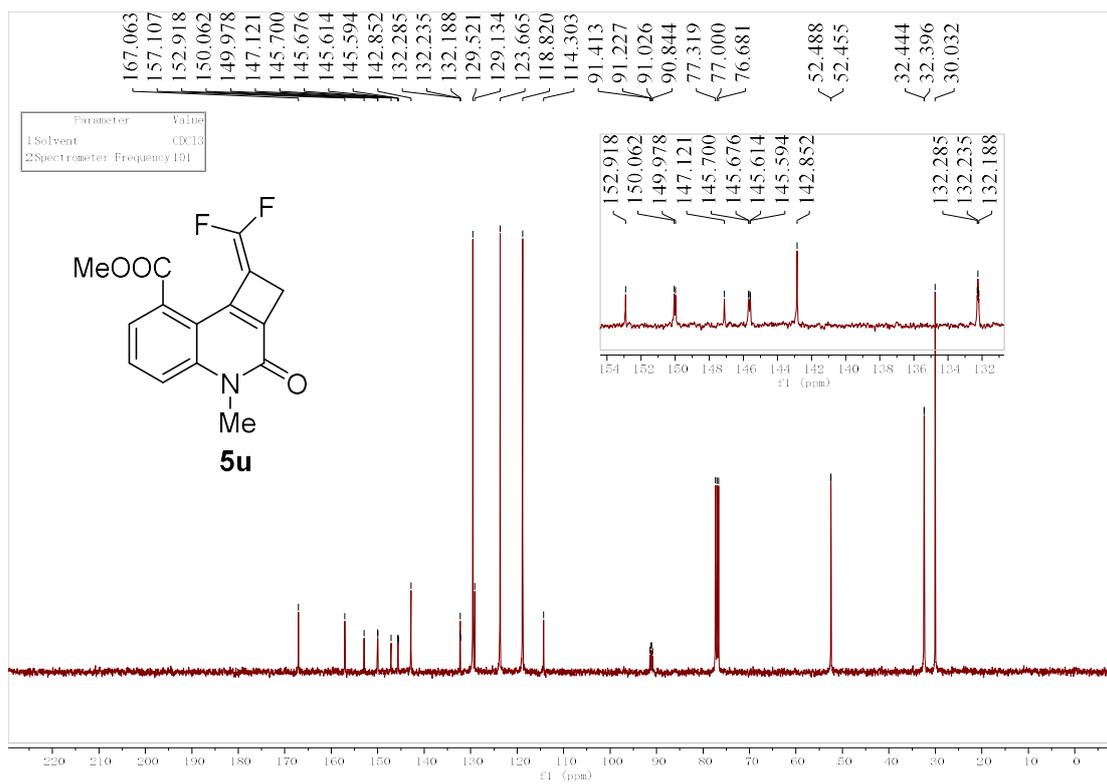


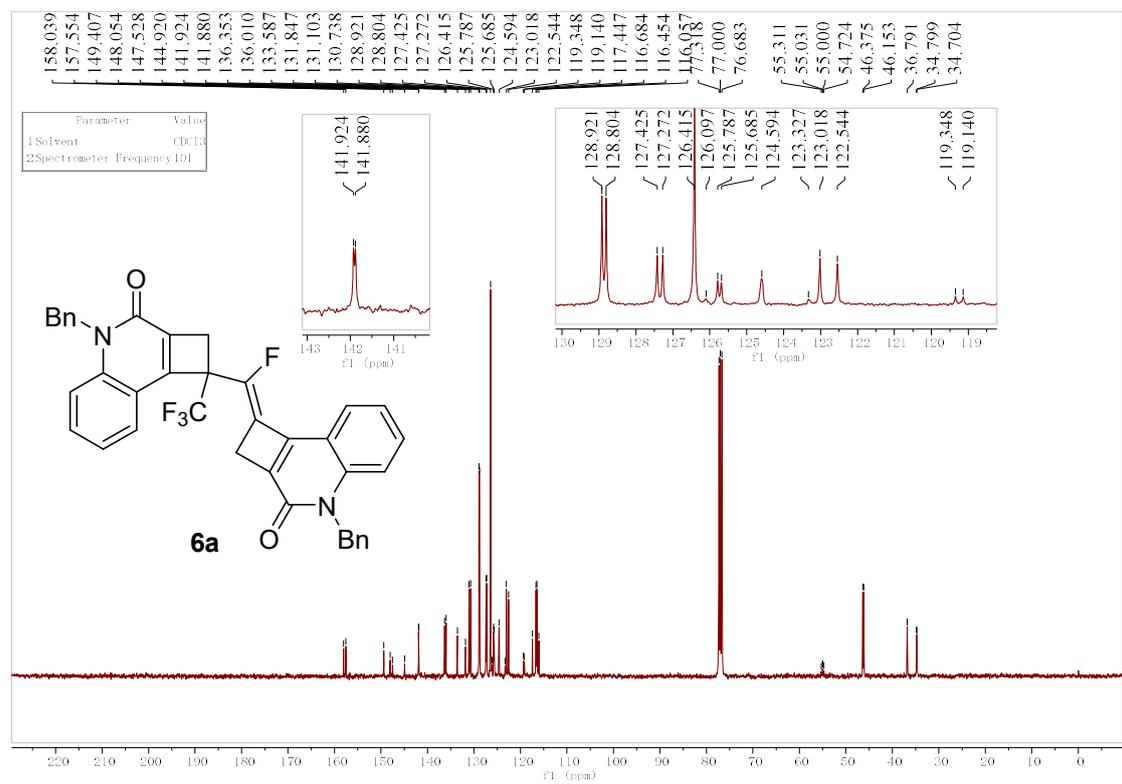
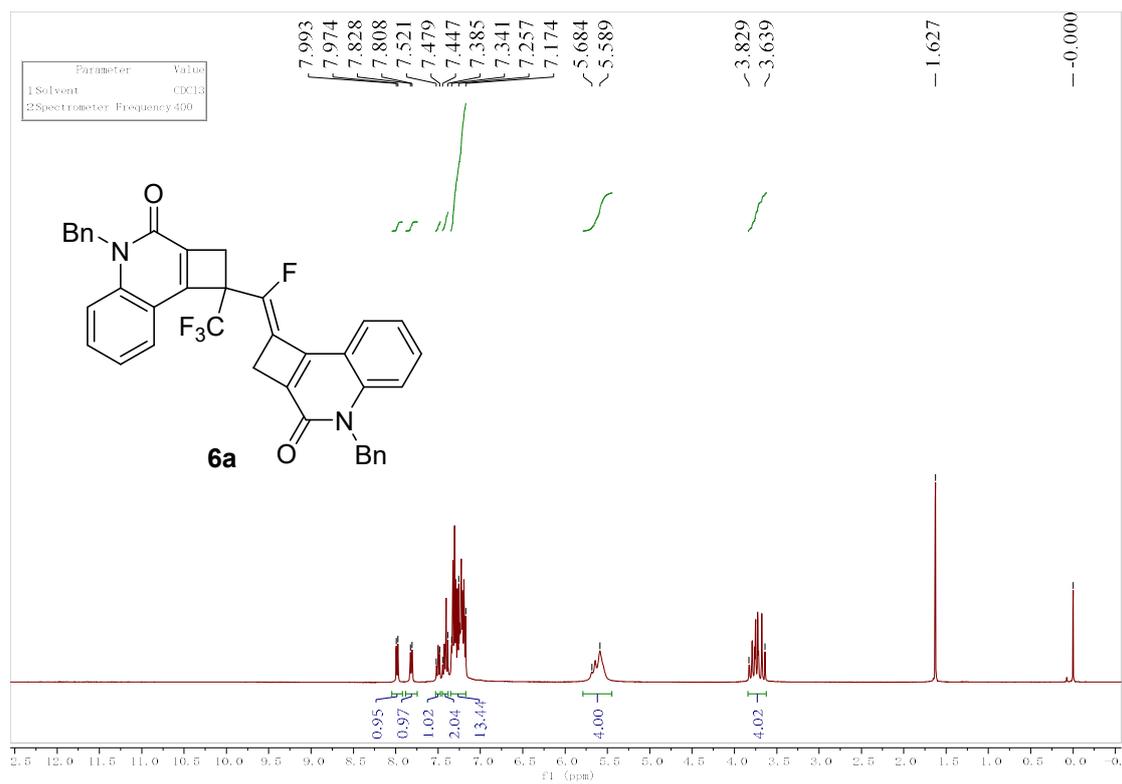


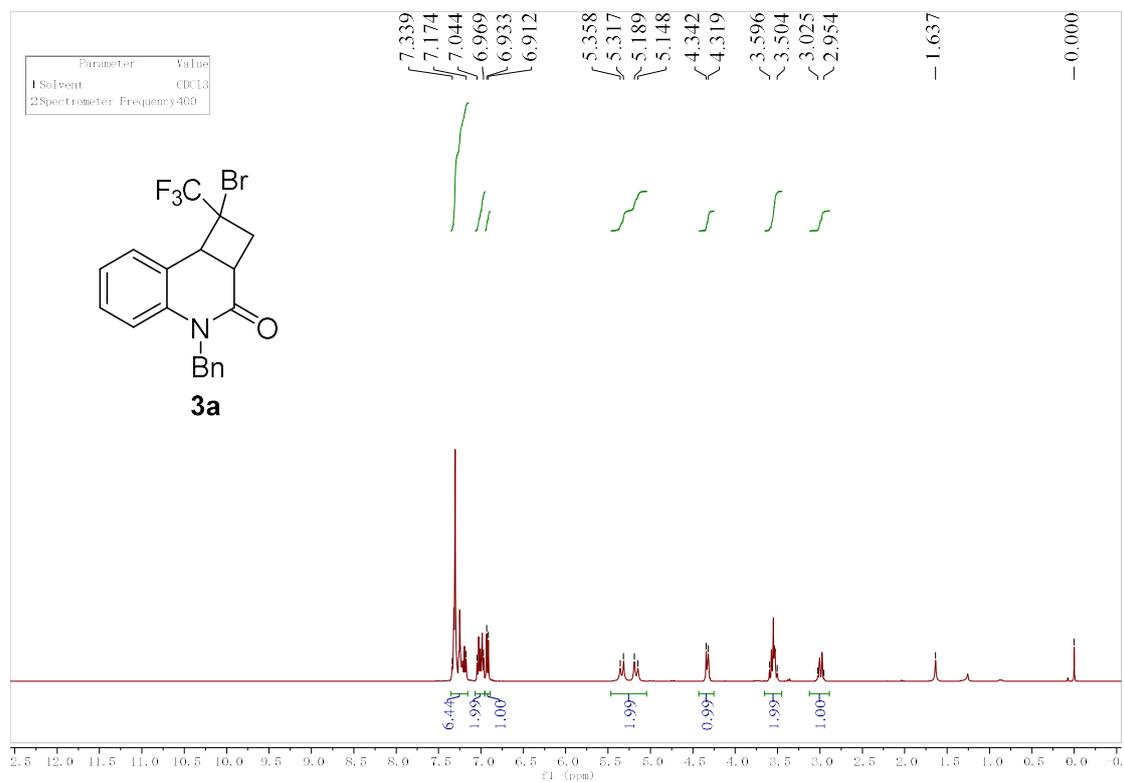
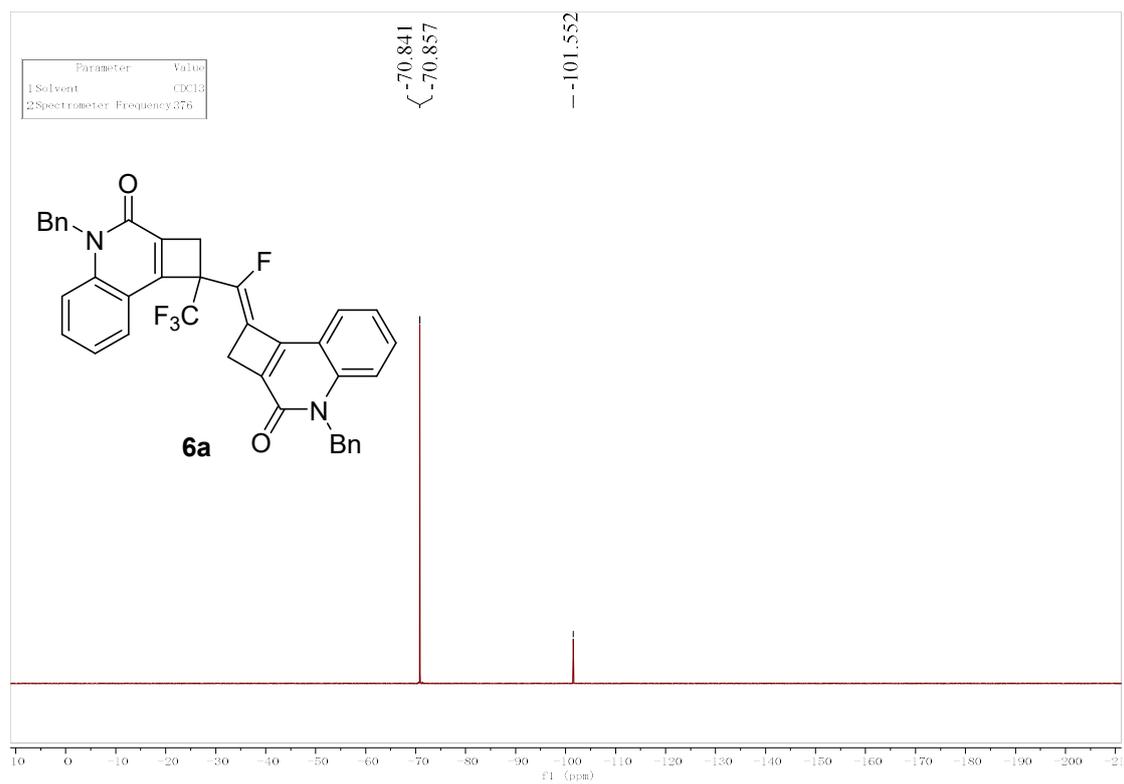


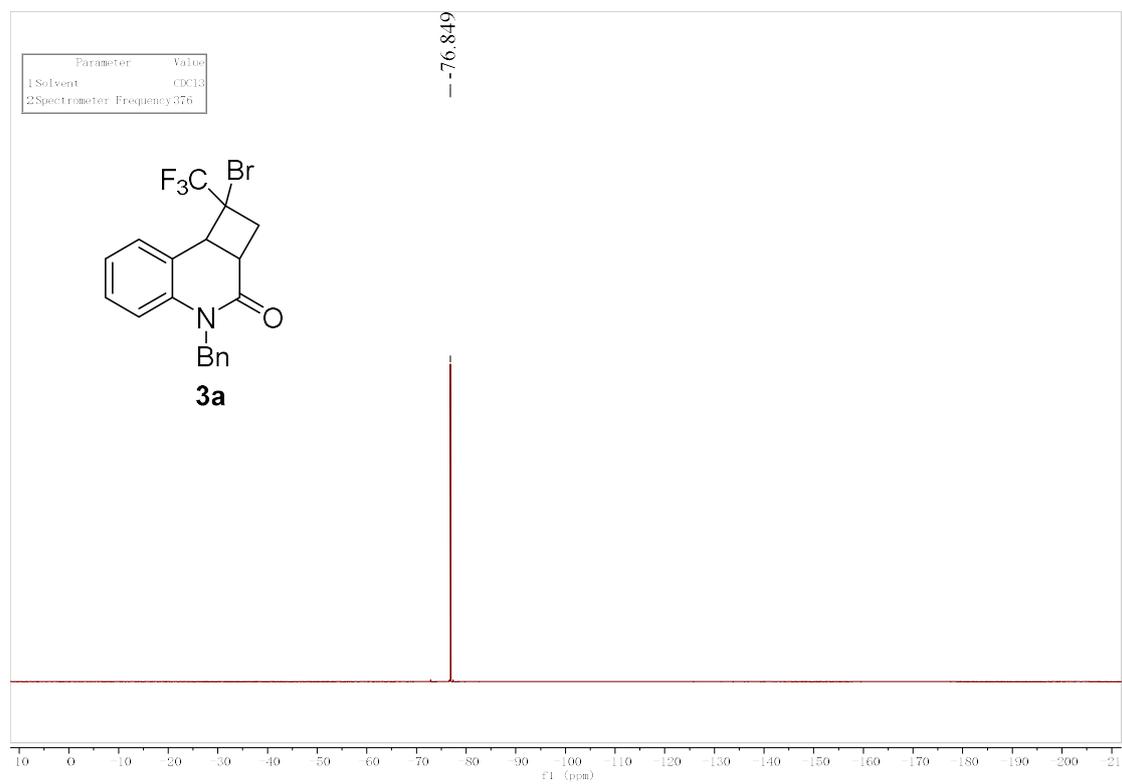
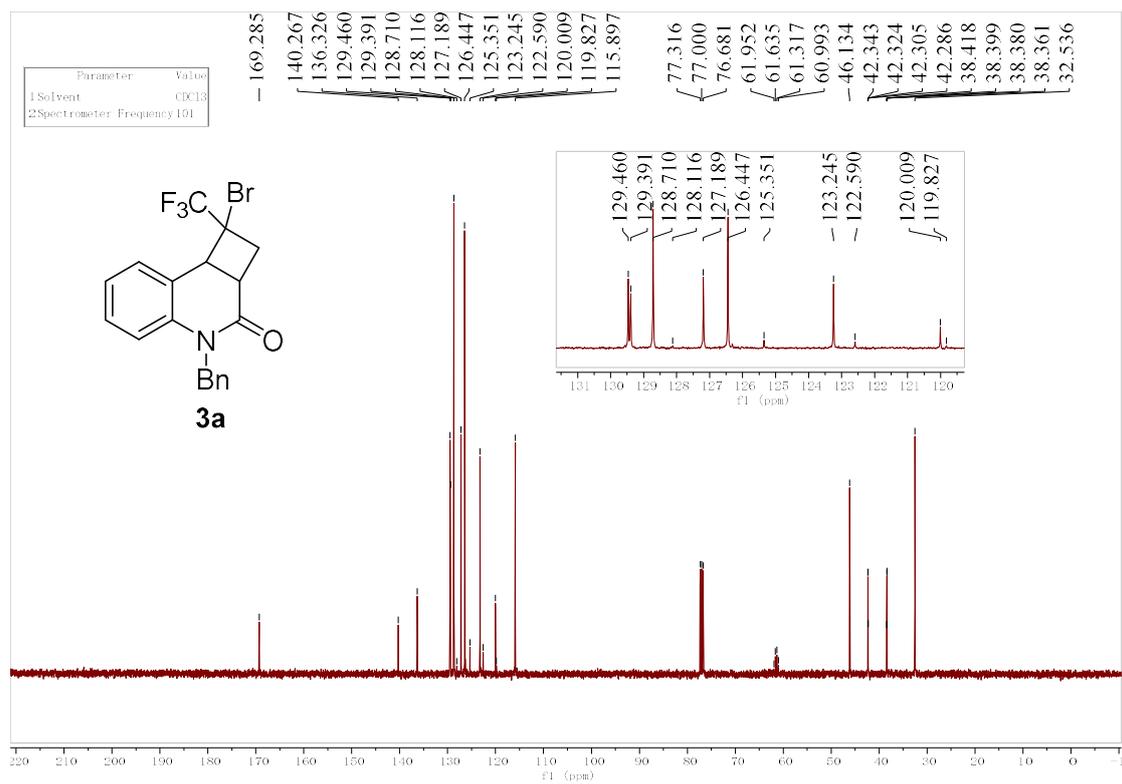












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