

Supporting Information

Para-selective Hydroxylation of Alkyl Aryl Ethers

Runqing Zhu,^a Qianqian Sun,^a Jing Li,^a Luohao Li,^a Qinghe Gao,^a Yakun

Wang,^a and Lizhen Fang^{*a}

^aSchool of Pharmacy, Xinxiang Medical University, Xinxiang city, Henan Province 453003,
People's Republic of China

*Email: 2002flz@163.com

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1. General information

All commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa-Aesar, Acros and were used without further purification unless specified. The ligand 1,3-Di-n-butylimidazoliumBromide [bbim]Br was prepared according to the literature¹. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV-400 spectrometers operating respectively at 400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C. The peaks were internally referenced to TMS (0.00 ppm) or residual undeuterated solvent signal. Peak multiplicities are reported as follows: s = singlet, brs = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, hept = heptet, dd = doublet of doublets. The high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) of the new compounds were acquired on a Bruker microTOF-Q III spectrometer. Melting points were determined using X-4 apparatus and not corrected. [Ru-1] = [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂, [Ru-2] = [Ru(phen)(*p*-cymene)]Cl₂, [Ru-3] = [Ru(bipy)(*p*-cymene)]Cl₂, [Ru-4] = [Ru(bpym)(*p*-cymene)]Cl₂, [Ru-5] = Ru-NHC, [Ru-6] = [Ru(*p*-cymene)(O₂CMes)₂].

2. Procedures for the preparation of catalysts

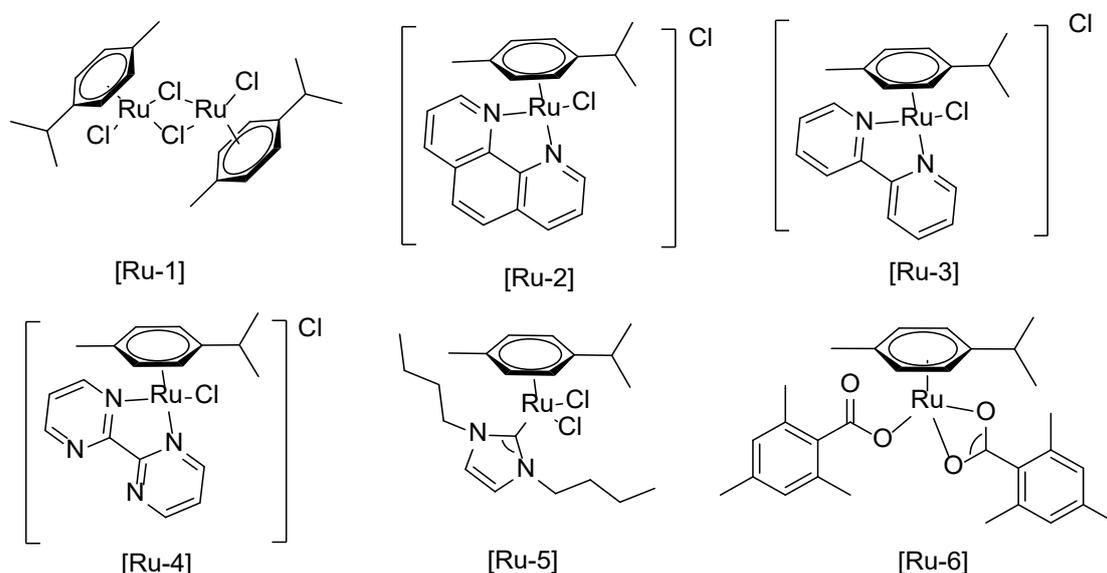


Figure S1. Corresponding structures of the [Ru 1-6] catalysts.

2.1 Preparation of [Ru-1]

A mixture of RuCl_3 (103.7 mg, 0.5 mmol), α -phellandrene (1 mL) in dry methanol (8 mL) was refluxed at 70 °C in oil bath for 12 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the volume of the crude mixture is reduced by half and stored at -20 °C overnight. During this period, separate and dry under vacuum to afford Ru-1 as a deep red solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially². **^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 5.47 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.34 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.92 (hept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.27 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H); **^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 101.2, 96.7, 81.3, 80.5, 30.6, 22.2, 18.9.

2.2 Preparation of [Ru-2]

A mixture of $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (61.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (36 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry methanol (5 mL) was refluxed at 90 °C in oil bath for 4 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the solution was filtered. The methanol was removed in vacuo, then dichloromethane was added to the residue and filtered to afford Ru-2 as a yellow solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially³. **^1H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄)** δ 9.84 (dd, $J = 5.4, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.84

(dd, $J = 8.2, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.21 (s, 2H), 8.11 (dd, $J = 8.4, 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.23 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.00 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.65 (hept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 0.98 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 155.6, 145.7, 138.6, 130.7, 127.3, 126.2, 104.8, 103.4, 86.1, 84.0, 30.9, 20.9, 17.5.

2.3 Preparation of [Ru-3]

A mixture of $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (61.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2,2'-Bipyridine (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry methanol (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the solution was filtered. The methanol was removed in vacuo, then dichloromethane was added to the residue and filtered to afford Ru-3 as a yellow solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially⁴. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 9.48 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.51 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.23 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (ddd, $J = 7.4, 5.8, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.12 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.86 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.63 (hept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 155.5, 154.9, 139.8, 127.5, 123.6, 104.6, 104.4, 86.8, 84.1, 31.0, 20.9, 17.6.

2.4 Preparation of [Ru-4]

A mixture of $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (61.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2,2'-Bipyrimidine (31.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry methanol (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the solution was filtered. The methanol was removed in vacuo, and then dichloromethane was added to the residue and filtered to afford Ru-4 as an orange-brown solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially⁵. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 9.82 (dd, $J = 5.8, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 9.27 (dd, $J = 4.8, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.96 (dd, $J = 5.8, 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.24 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.03 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.80 (hept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.16 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 163.0, 160.2, 160.0, 124.6, 107.1, 103.3, 86.1, 84.8, 31.1, 21.1, 17.4.

2.5 Preparation of [Ru-5]

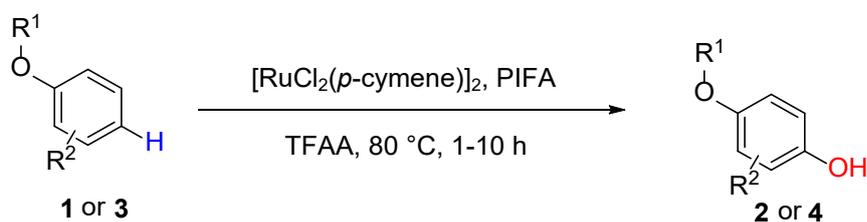
To a solution of [bbim]Br (60 mg, 0.23 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (5 mL) was added Ag_2O (39.3 mg, 0.17 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2

h under nitrogen atmosphere, protected from light. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (61.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added. The reaction solution is stirred at room temperature and protected from light for 20 hours and then concentrated to dryness. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (2% dichloromethane/acetone) to afford Ru-5 as an orange solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially⁶. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 7.06 (s, 2H), 5.38 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.08 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.58 (br, 2H), 3.98 (br, 2H), 2.90 (sept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.95 (br, 2H), 1.67 (br, 2H), 1.42 (br, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 4H), 1.25 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H), 0.96 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 173.1, 121.7, 107.8, 99.3, 85.1, 82.8, 51.3, 33.9, 30.7, 22.6, 20.2, 18.7, 14.0.

2.6 Preparation of [Ru-6]

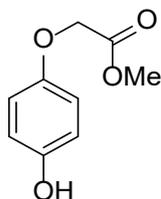
A mixture of $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (61.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2,4,6-Trimethylbenzoic acid (65.7 mg, 0.4 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (138.2 mg, 1 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, the toluene was removed in vacuo, then dichloromethane (10 mL) was added to the residue. The resulting suspension was filtered through Celite and concentrated to obtain Ru-6 as an orange-brown solid. Synthesis process refer to literature partially⁷. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 6.68 (s, 4H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.77 (s, 2H), 2.96 (hept, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 2.16 (s, 12H), 1.42 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 183.1, 137.4, 135.2, 134.5, 127.9, 98.1, 79.0, 78.1, 31.6, 22.7, 21.1, 19.9, 19.0.

3. General procedures for preparation 2 and 4

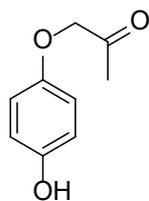


To a solution of substrate **1** or **3** (0.30 mmol) and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (2.75 mg, 1.5 mol %) in TFAA (1.5 mL) was added PIFA (129 mg, 0.30 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 1-10 h in a 10 mL of sealed tube. After completion of the reaction, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (10 mL) was added at ambient temperature, then extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times (3×20 mL). The extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography to afford product **2** or **4**.

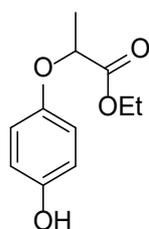
4. Characterization data of products 2 and 4



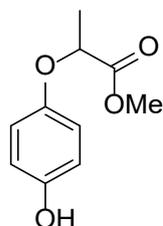
methyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)acetate (2a): The general procedure was followed using methyl 2-phenoxyacetate **1a** (50.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **2a** (32 mg, 60%) as a white solid. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, **Chloroform-d**) δ 6.83 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 5.14 (brs, 1H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, **Chloroform-d**) δ 169.9, 151.9, 150.5, 116.2, 116.0, 66.2, 52.3. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2015**, *23*, 132-140.



1-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propan-2-one (2b): The general procedure was followed using 1-phenoxypropan-2-one **1b** (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **2b** (23.9 mg, 48%) as a white solid. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol-d₄)** δ 6.78 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.72 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Methanol-d₄)** δ 206.5, 151.6, 151.3, 115.5, 115.4, 73.3, 24.9; **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₉H₉O₃: 165.0552; found: 165.0548. Melt point: 104 – 106 °C.

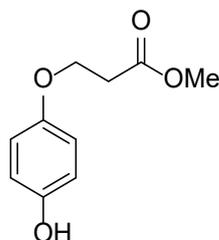


ethyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propanoate (2c): The general procedure was followed using ethyl 2-phenoxypropanoate **1c** (58.2 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **2c** (41.6 mg, 66%) as a pale brown oil. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 6.79 – 6.70 (m, 4H), 4.83 (brs, 1H), 4.64 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 7.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 173.1, 151.4, 150.5, 116.6, 116.1, 73.6, 61.5, 18.6, 14.1; **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₄NaO₄: 233.0790; found: 233.0778.

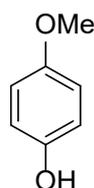


methyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propanoate (2d): The general procedure was followed using methyl 2-phenoxypropanoate **1d** (54.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl

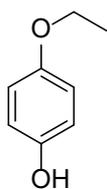
acetate = 3/1) to afford **2d** (37.7 mg, 64%) as a pale brown oil. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 6.81 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 4.67 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.59 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 173.5, 151.4, 150.6, 116.6, 116.2, 73.6, 52.5, 18.7; **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₂NaO₄: 219.0633; found: 219.0626.



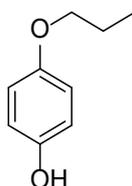
methyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propanoate (2e): The general procedure was followed using methyl 3-phenoxypropanoate **1e** (54.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **2e** (36.5 mg, 62%) as a white solid. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 6.74 (s, 4H), 5.59 (brs, 1H), 4.17 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.78 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 172.2, 152.4, 150.1, 116.1, 115.9, 64.2, 52.1, 34.6; **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₁₁O₄: 195.0657; found: 195.0665. Melt point: 72 – 74°C.



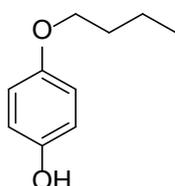
4-methoxyphenol (2f): The general procedure was followed using anisole **1f** (32.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2f** (28.2 mg, 75%) as a white solid. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 6.81 – 6.75 (m, 4H), 4.86 (brs, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 153.7, 149.5, 116.1, 114.9, 55.8. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 7052-7060.



4-ethoxyphenol (2g): The general procedure was followed using ethoxybenzene **1g** (36.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2g** (29.4 mg, 71%) as a beige solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 4H), 4.53 (brs, 1H), 3.98 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.9, 149.5, 116.1, 115.7, 115.7, 64.3, 14.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Org. Lett.* **2018**, *20*, 361-364.

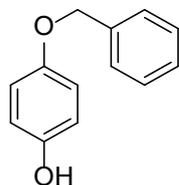


4-propoxyphenol (2h): The general procedure was followed using propoxybenzene **1h** (40.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2h** (32.0 mg, 70%) as a beige solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.81 – 6.74 (m, 4H), 4.71 (brs, 1H), 3.86 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.78 (h, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.2, 149.4, 116.1, 115.7, 70.4, 22.7, 10.5. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2014**, *55*, 86-89.

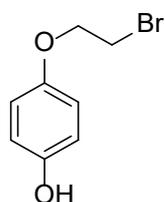


4-butoxyphenol (2i): The general procedure was followed using butoxybenzene **1i** (45 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2i** (42.3 mg, 85%) as a pale brown solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 4.36 (brs, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.47 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* =

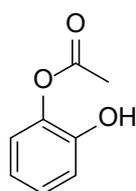
7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.3, 149.4, 116.0, 115.7, 68.5, 31.4, 19.3, 13.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2019**, *141*, 3541-3549.



4-(benzyloxy)phenol (2j): The general procedure was followed using (benzyloxy)benzene **1j** (55.3 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2j** (39.0 mg, 65%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.79 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 4.53 (brs, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.0, 149.7, 137.2, 128.6, 128.0, 127.6, 116.1, 70.8. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Green Chem.* **2021**, *23*, 2308-2316.

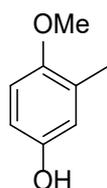


4-(2-bromoethoxy)phenol (2k): The general procedure was followed using (2-bromoethoxy)benzene **1k** (60.3 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **2k** (45.6 mg, 70%) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.85 – 6.73 (m, 4H), 4.67 (brs, 1H), 4.23 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.2, 150.1, 116.3, 116.2, 68.9, 29.4. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2017**, *139*, 3122-3133.

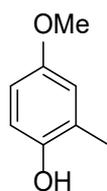


2-hydroxyphenyl acetate (2l): The general procedure was followed using phenyl

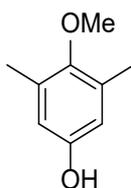
acetate **11** (40.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **21** (19.6 mg, 43%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.14 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (brs, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 169.9, 147.2, 138.5, 127.1, 122.5, 120.9, 117.7, 20.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2017**, *15*, 6909-6912.



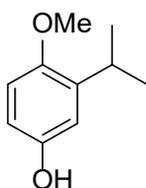
4-methoxy-3-methylphenol (4a): The general procedure was followed using 1-methoxy-2-methylbenzene **3a** (36.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4a** (25.3 mg, 61%) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.0, 149.1, 128.1, 118.0, 112.5, 111.3, 56.0, 16.3. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 429-431.



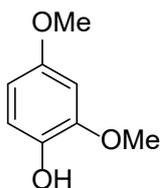
4-methoxy-2-methylphenol (4b): The general procedure was followed using 1-methoxy-3-methylbenzene **3b** (36.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4b** (25.0 mg, 60%) as an off-white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.70 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (brs, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.6, 147.8, 124.9, 116.6, 115.5, 111.8, 55.8, 16.1. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2016**, *14*, 5520-5524.



4-methoxy-3,5-dimethylphenol (4c): The general procedure was followed using 2-methoxy-1,3-dimethylbenzene **3c** (40.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4c** (28.8 mg, 63%) as a white solid. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 6.47 (s, 2H), 4.71 (brs, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 151.3, 150.5, 131.9, 115.1, 60.0, 16.2. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 11056-11059.

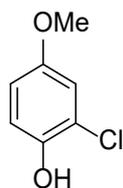


3-isopropyl-4-methoxyphenol (4d): The general procedure was followed using 1-isopropyl-2-methoxybenzene **3d** (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4d** (31.9 mg, 64%) as a pale yellow oil. **¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 6.72 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (brs, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.28 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 151.0, 149.5, 138.7, 113.6, 112.4, 111.9, 56.3, 26.7, 22.7. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Med. Chem.* **2016**, *59*, 4790-4799.

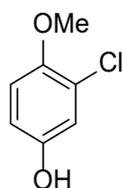


2,4-dimethoxyphenol (4e): The general procedure was followed using 1,3-dimethoxybenzene **3e** (41.4 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to

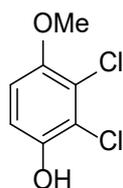
afford **4e** (28.0 mg, 60%) as a colorless oil. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.83 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.5, 147.1, 139.8, 114.1, 104.2, 99.4, 55.9, 55.8. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Org. Chem.* **2020**, *85*, 2040-2047.



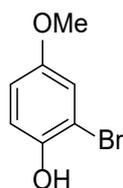
2-chloro-4-methoxyphenol (4f): The general procedure was followed using 1-chloro-3-methoxybenzene **3f** (42.7 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4f** (20.0 mg, 42%) as a white solid. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.94 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.8, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.6, 145.5, 119.9, 116.6, 114.5, 114.1, 55.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *58*, 9547-9550.



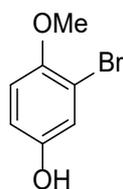
3-chloro-4-methoxyphenol (4g): The general procedure was followed using 1-chloro-2-methoxybenzene **3g** (42.7 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4g** (24.7 mg, 52%) as a yellow oil. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.91 (dd, $J = 3.0, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (brs, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 149.7, 149.4, 122.9, 117.7, 114.3, 113.5, 56.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2020**, *59*, 3184-3189.



2,3-dichloro-4-methoxyphenol (4h): The general procedure was followed using 1,2-dichloro-3-methoxybenzene **3h** (53.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 10 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4h** (23.2 mg, 40%) as a beige solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (brs, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.1, 146.4, 121.4, 120.2, 113.6, 111.5, 57.0. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2014**, *12*, 2854-2858.

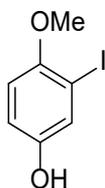


2-bromo-4-methoxyphenol (4i): The general procedure was followed using 1-bromo-3-methoxybenzene **3i** (56.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4i** (33.0 mg, 54%) as a red oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.01 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.8, 146.5, 116.8, 116.3, 115.3, 109.9, 56.0. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60*, 685-689.

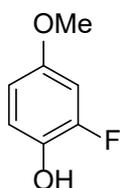


3-bromo-4-methoxyphenol (4j): The general procedure was followed using 1-bromo-2-methoxybenzene **3j** (56.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4j** (34.1 mg, 56%) as a white powder. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.08 (d,

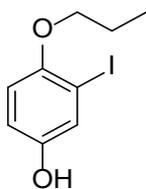
$J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 4.34 (brs, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.2, 150.1, 120.6, 115.1, 113.2, 111.9, 56.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *ChemComm* **2017**, 53, 5291-5293.



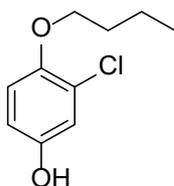
3-iodo-4-methoxyphenol (4k): The general procedure was followed using 1-iodo-2-methoxybenzene **3k** (70.2 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4k** (39.0 mg, 52%) as a yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.30 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, $J = 8.8, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.57 (brs, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.8, 150.1, 126.3, 116.0, 111.8, 86.0, 57.0. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Med. Chem.* **2016**, 59, 4790-4799.



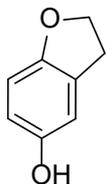
2-fluoro-4-methoxyphenol (4l): The general procedure was followed using 1-fluoro-3-methoxybenzene **3l** (37.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4l** (16.0 mg, 37%) as an orange oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.95 – 6.88 (m, 1H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 12.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.59 (ddd, $J = 8.8, 2.8, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (brs, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.6 (d, 9.2), 151.1 (d, 237.6), 137.3 (d, 14.4), 117.4 (d, 3.2), 109.8 (d, 3.4), 102.3 (d, 21.6), 55.9. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 5294-5303.



3-iodo-4-propoxyphenol (4m): The general procedure was followed using 1-iodo-2-propoxybenzene **3m** (78.6 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4m** (44.2 mg, 53%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.28 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (brs, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.88 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.3, 150.0, 126.1, 116.0, 113.4, 87.0, 71.8, 22.7, 10.8; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₉H₁₀IO₂: 276.9725; found: 276.9726.

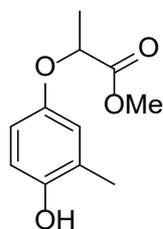


4-butoxy-3-chlorophenol (4n): The general procedure was followed using 1-butoxy-2-chlorobenzene **3n** (55.3 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4n** (33.1 mg, 55%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.89 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 149.7, 148.9, 123.8, 117.5, 115.4, 114.3, 70.1, 31.3, 19.2, 13.9; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₁₂ClO₂: 199.0526; found: 199.0522.

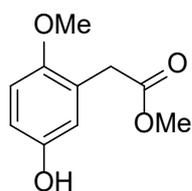


2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-ol (4o): The general procedure was followed using 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran **3o** (36.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8/1) to afford **4o** (14.3 mg, 35%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.72

(d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.18 (brs, 1H), 4.53 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.9, 149.6, 128.2, 114.2, 112.4, 109.3, 71.3, 30.2. Spectra data are consistent with those reported in the literature: *Z NATURFORSCH B* **2008**, *63*, 90-94.



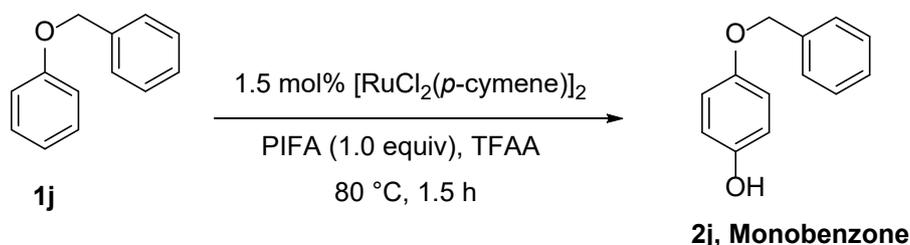
methyl 2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenoxy)propanoate (4p): The general procedure was followed methyl 2-(*m*-tolylloxy)propanoate **3p** (58.2 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **4p** (39.1 mg, 62%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.70 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.58 (dd, $J = 8.6, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (brs, 1H), 4.66 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.58 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 173.4, 151.3, 148.8, 125.3, 118.5, 115.5, 113.4, 73.5, 52.4, 18.7, 16.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_4$: 233.0790; found: 233.0779.



methyl 2-(5-hydroxy-2-methoxyphenyl)acetate (4q): The general procedure was followed methyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)acetate **3q** (54.1 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1.5 h. Isolation by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to afford **4q** (44.1 mg, 75%) as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.75 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 4.96 (brs, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 173.2, 151.5, 149.6, 123.6, 118.2, 114.8, 111.9, 56.1, 52.2, 35.7; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4$: 195.0657; found: 195.0658.

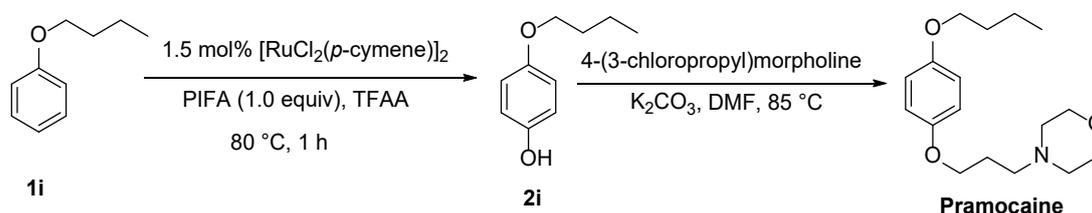
5. Gram-scale up synthesis of medicine Monobenzene and Pramocaine

5.1 Gram-scale up synthesis of medicine Monobenzene



To a solution of substrate **1j** (1.65 g, 9 mmol) and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (82.6 mg, 13.5 mol %) in TFAA (32 mL) was added PIFA (3.87 g, 9 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 1.5 h in a 75 mL of sealed tube. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was transferred to a round bottom flask, TFAA was recovered by distillation at 70°C, and the residue was transferred to a separatory funnel. A saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (60 mL) was added at ambient temperature, and then extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times (3×50 mL). The extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to afford the product **2j** (**Monobenzene**) as a white solid (1.14 g, 63% yield).

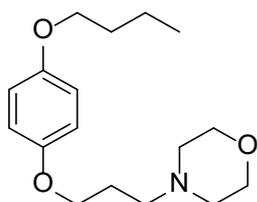
5.2 Gram-scale up synthesis of medicine Pramocaine



To a solution of substrate **1i** (1.5 g, 10 mmol) and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (91.8 mg, 15 mol %) in TFAA (32 mL) was added PIFA (4.3 g, 10 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 1 h in a 75 mL of sealed tube. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was transferred to a round bottom flask, TFAA was recovered by distillation at 70°C, and the residue was transferred to a separatory funnel. A saturated

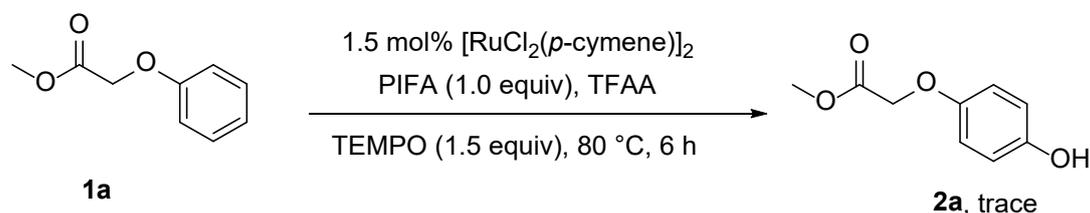
aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (60 mL) was added at ambient temperature, and then extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times (3×50 mL). The extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to afford the product **2i** as a pale brown solid (1.41 g, 85% yield).

A mixture of **2i** (1.66 g, 10 mmol), K₂CO₃ (2.07 g, 15 mmol) and 4-(3-chloropropyl)morpholine (2.45 g, 10 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 10 h. After completion of the reaction, added 50 mL water to the mixture, and then extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times (3×50 mL). The extract was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to afford the product **Pramocaine** as a pale yellow oil (2.11 g, 75% yield).



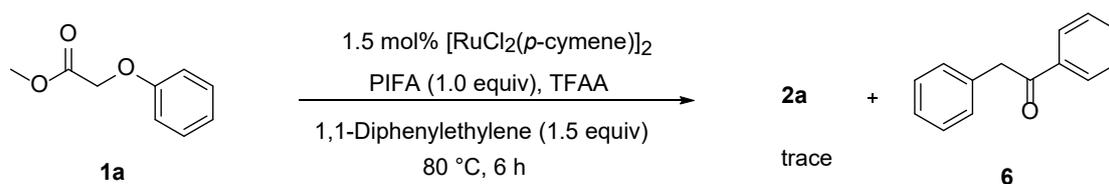
4-(3-(4-butoxyphenoxy)propyl)morpholine (Pramocaine): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.82 (s, 4H), 3.97 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 2.54 – 2.44 (m, 6H), 1.99 – 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.3, 153.0, 115.4, 115.4, 68.3, 67.0, 66.7, 55.6, 53.8, 31.5, 26.6, 19.3, 13.9.

6. General procedures for TEMPO inhibition experiments

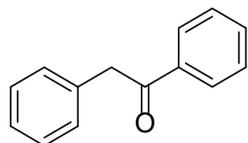


To a solution of substrate **1a** (50.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\textit{p}\text{-cymene})]_2$ (2.75 mg, 1.5 mol %) and TEMPO (70 mg, 0.45 mmol) in TFAA (1.5 mL) was added PIFA (129mg, 0.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 6 h in a 10 mL of sealed tube. The reaction is inhibited.

7. Radical trapping experiments



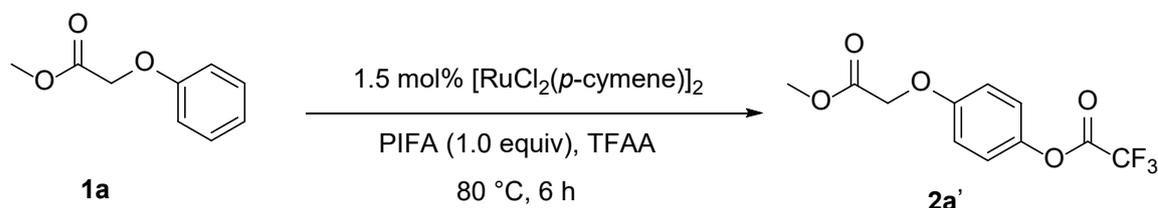
To a solution of substrate **1a** (50.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\textit{p}\text{-cymene})]_2$ (2.75 mg, 1.5 mol %) and 1,1-diphenylethylene (81 mg, 0.45 mmol) in TFAA (1.5 mL) was added PIFA (129 mg, 0.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 6 h in a 10 mL of sealed tube. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through Celite. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =10:1) to afford the product **6**.



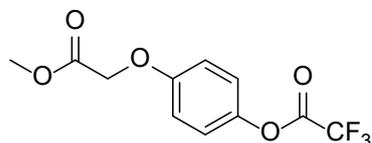
1,2-diphenylethan-1-one (6): Pale yellow solid. Isolated yield: 24mg, 40%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.02 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 4.29 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.7, 136.6, 134.6, 133.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.7, 128.7, 126.9,

45.5; **HRMS (ESI)**: m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{12}NaO$: 219.0780; found: 219.0779.

8. Capture of trifluoroacetate intermediate



To a solution of substrate **1a** (50 mg, 0.3 mmol), $[RuCl_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (2.75 mg, 1.5 mol %) in TFAA (1.5 mL) was added PIFA (129 mg, 0.3 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C in oil bath for 6 h in a 10 mL of sealed tube. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was transferred to a round bottom flask and concentrated. The crude mixture is purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to afford the product **2a'**.



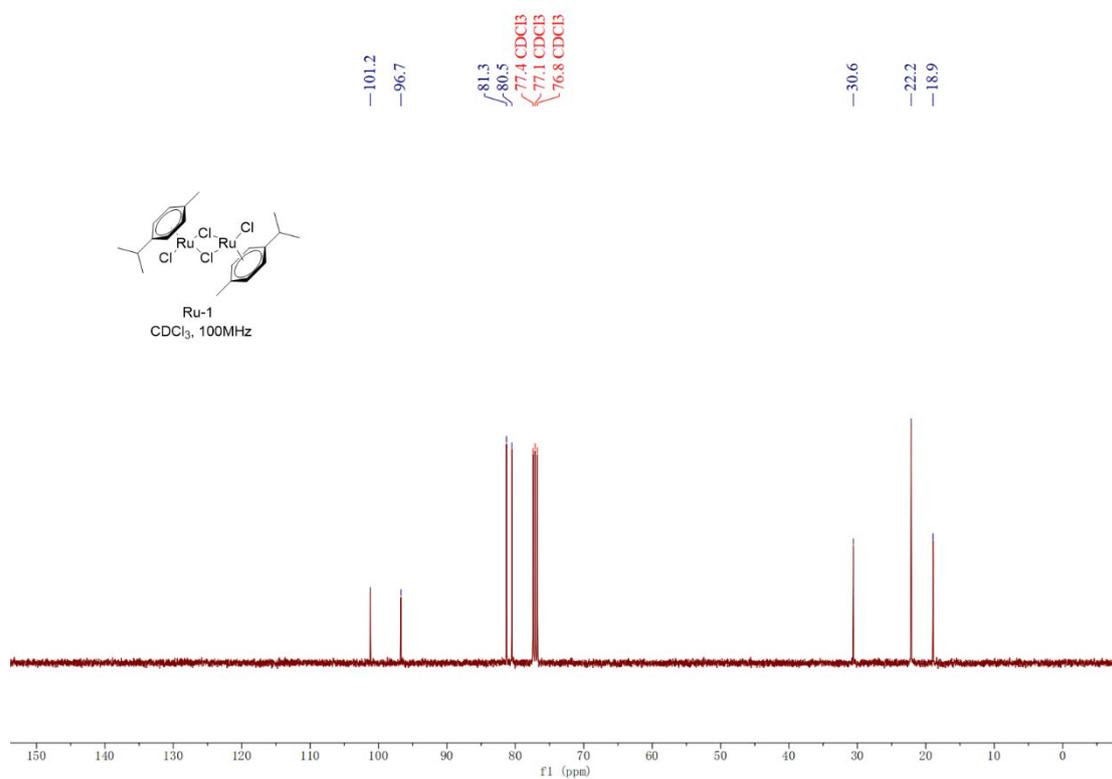
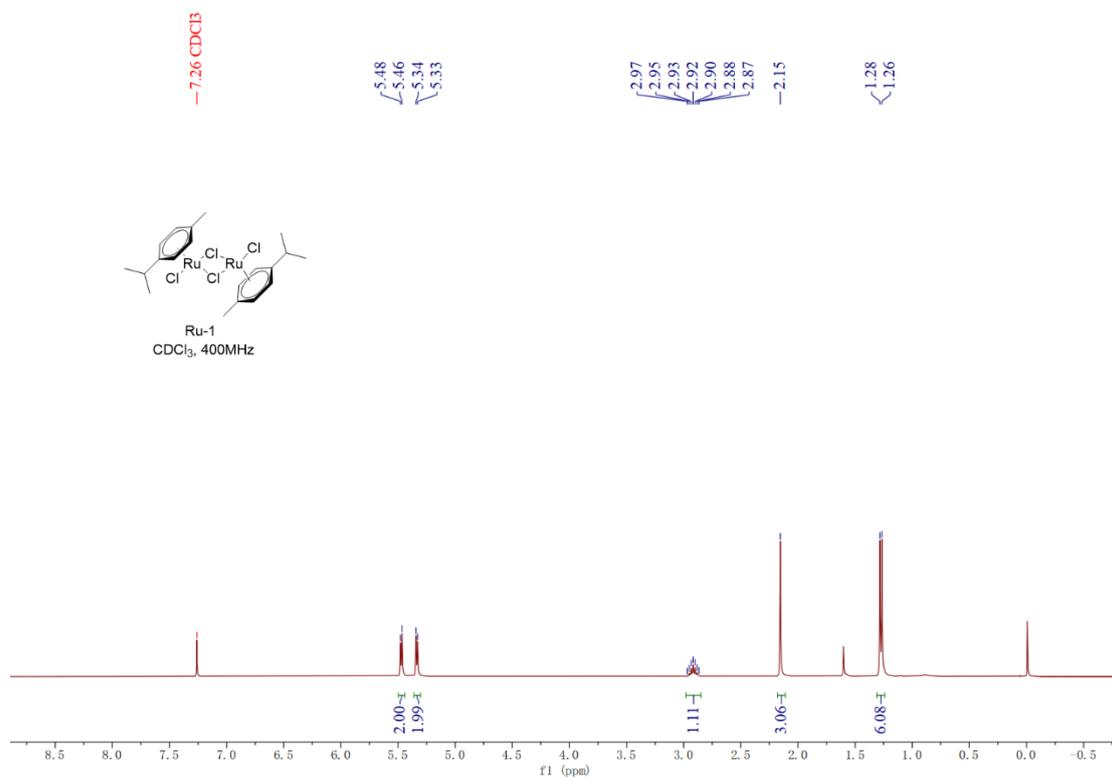
4-(2-methoxy-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate (2a'): off-white solid
Isolated yield: 45.6 mg, 55%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.18 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 169.01, 156.41, 155.98 (d, $J = 43.3$ Hz), 143.57, 121.58, 115.66, 114.58 (d, $J = 285.6$ Hz), 65.54, 52.33; $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -74.83. Melt point: 66 – 68°C.

References

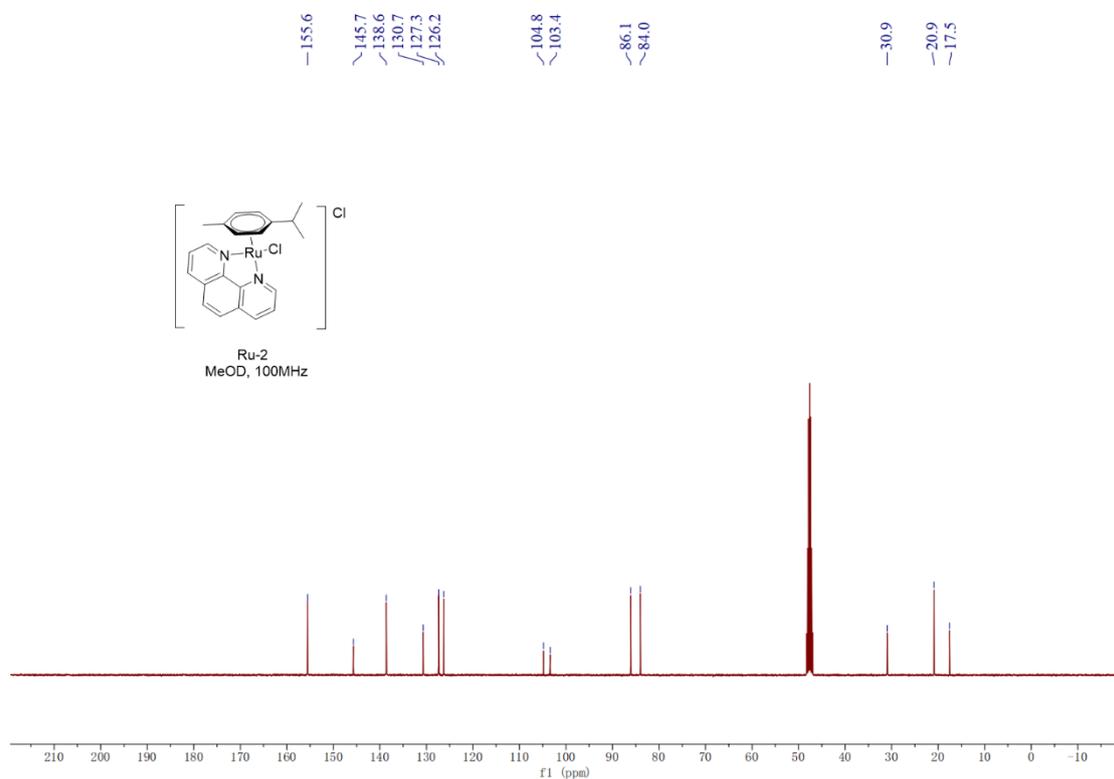
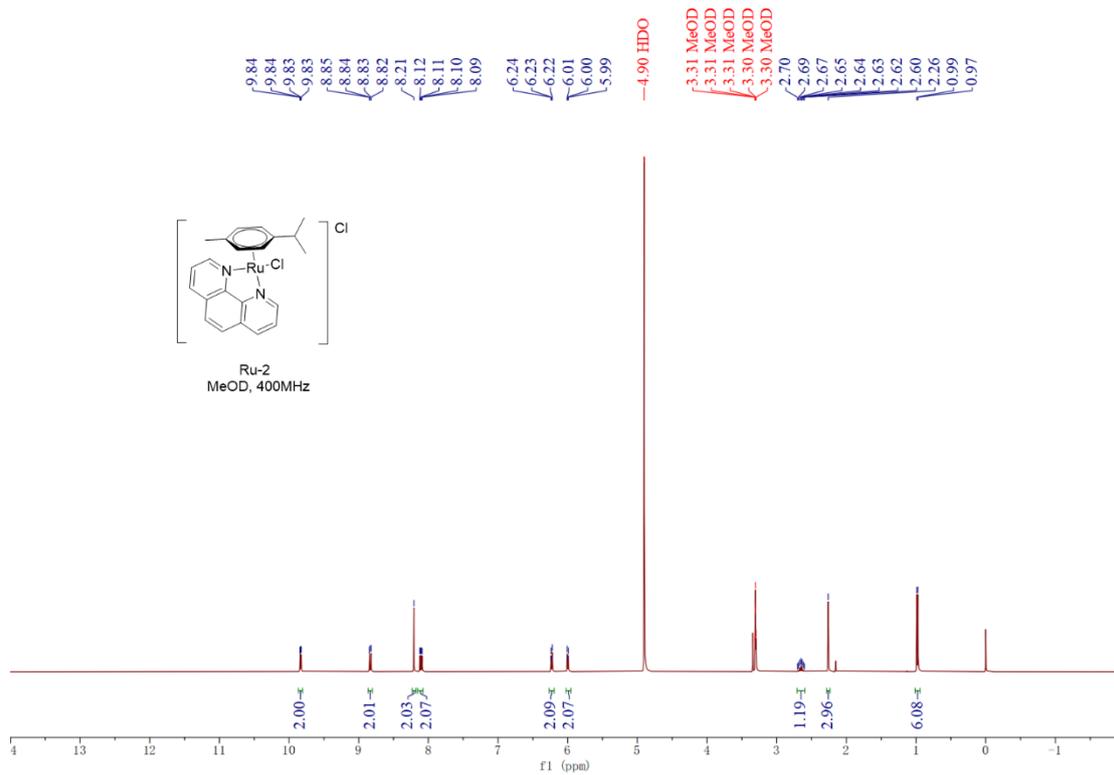
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NMR spectra

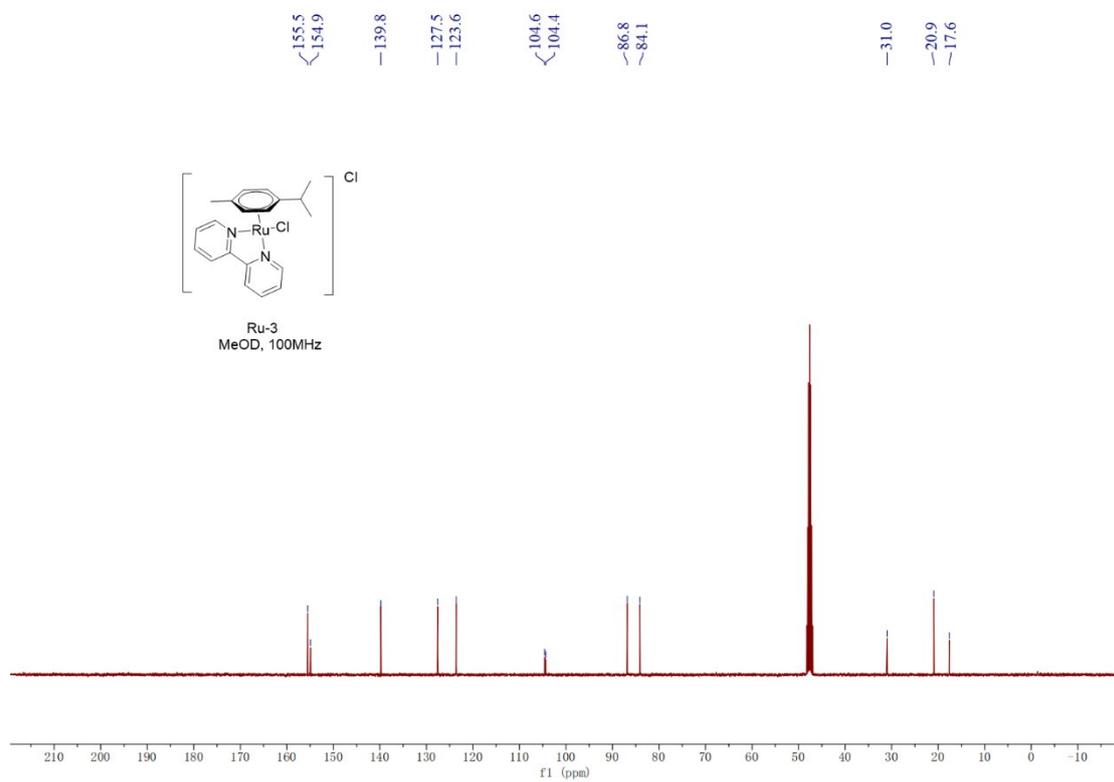
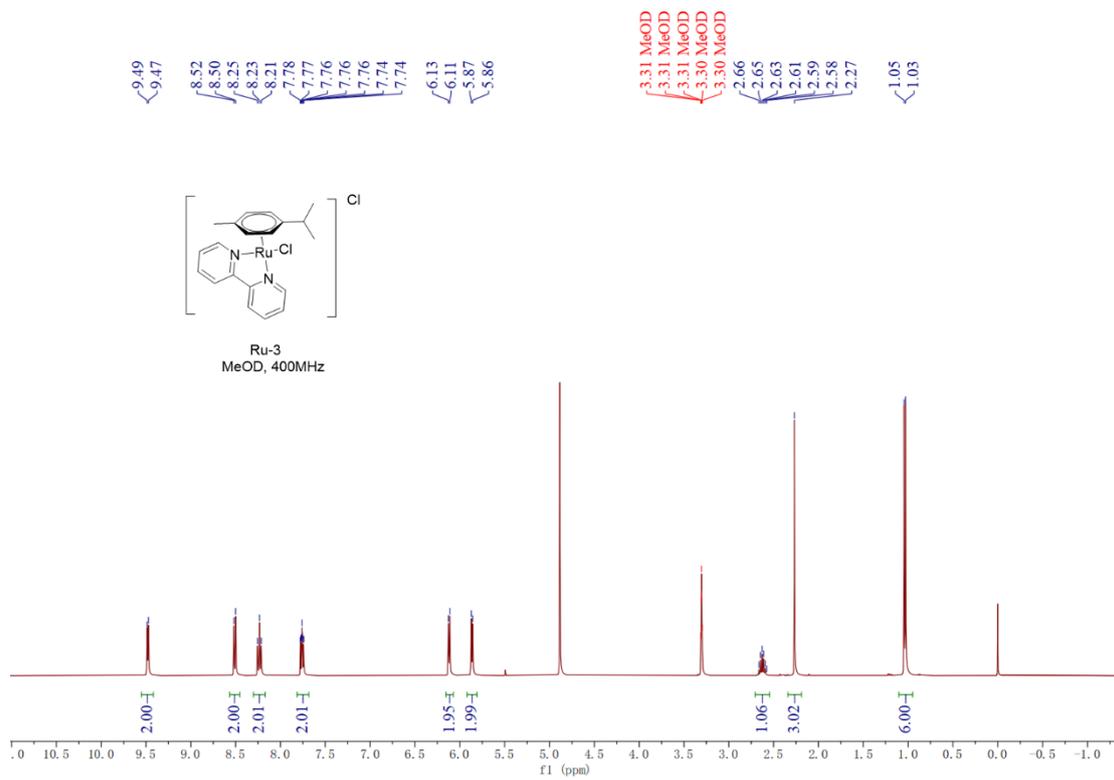
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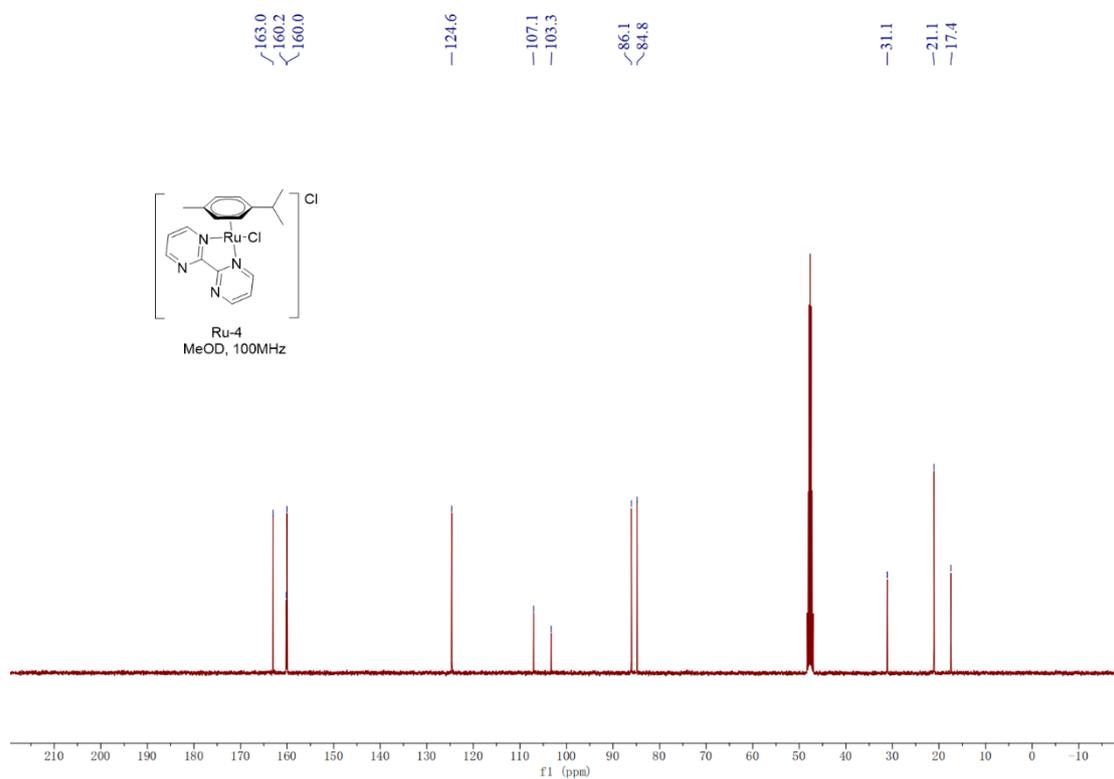
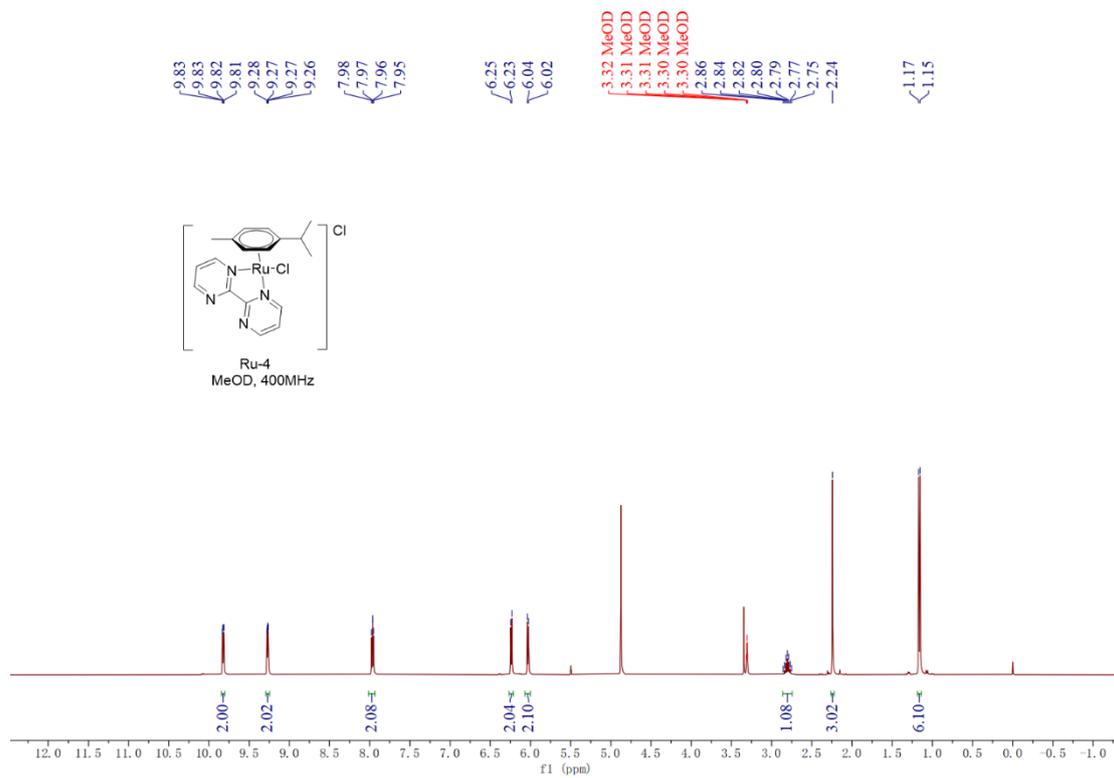
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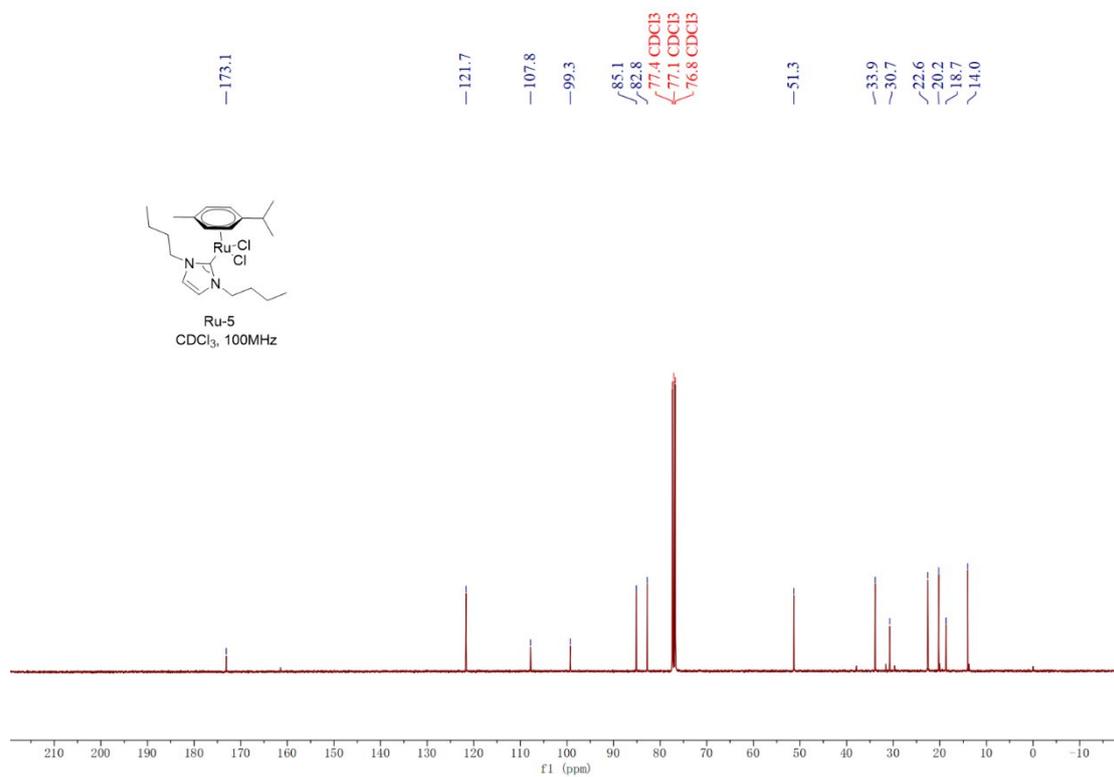
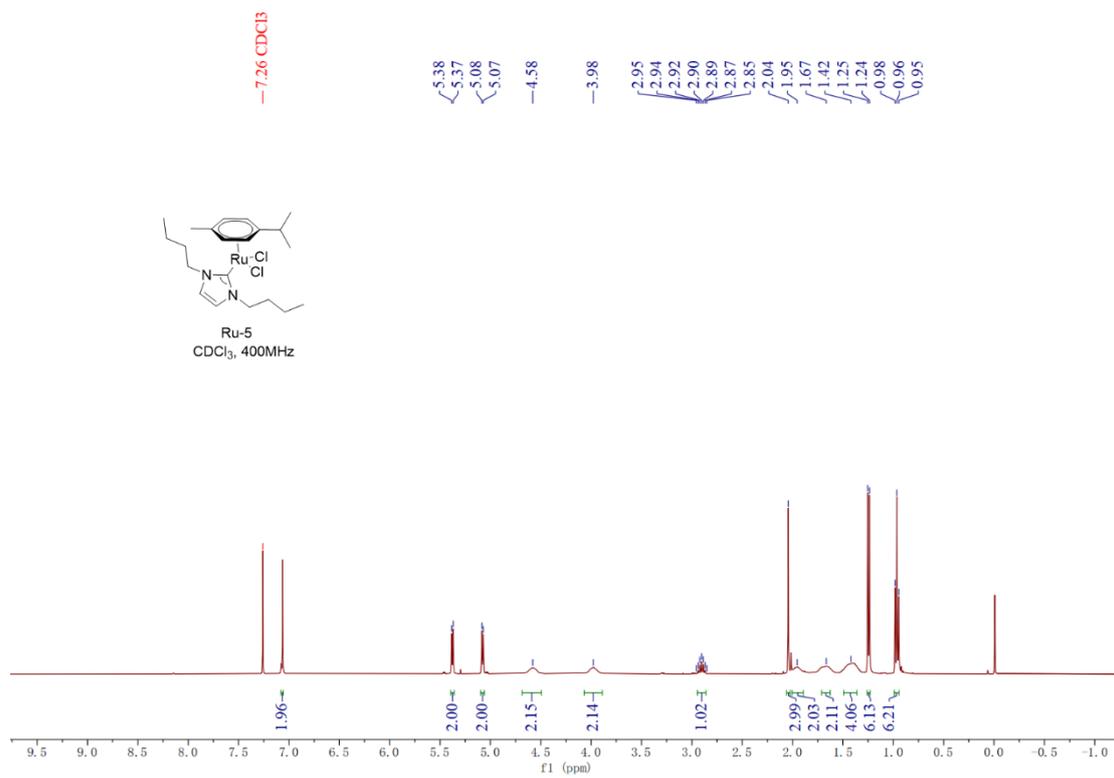
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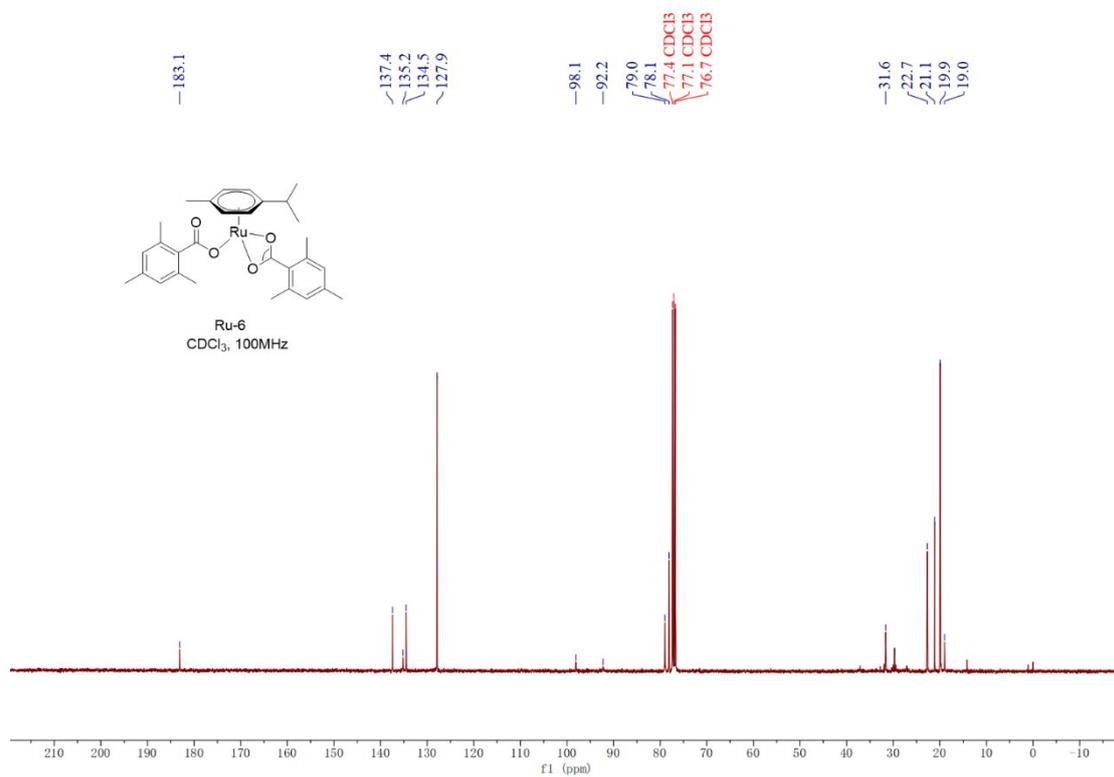
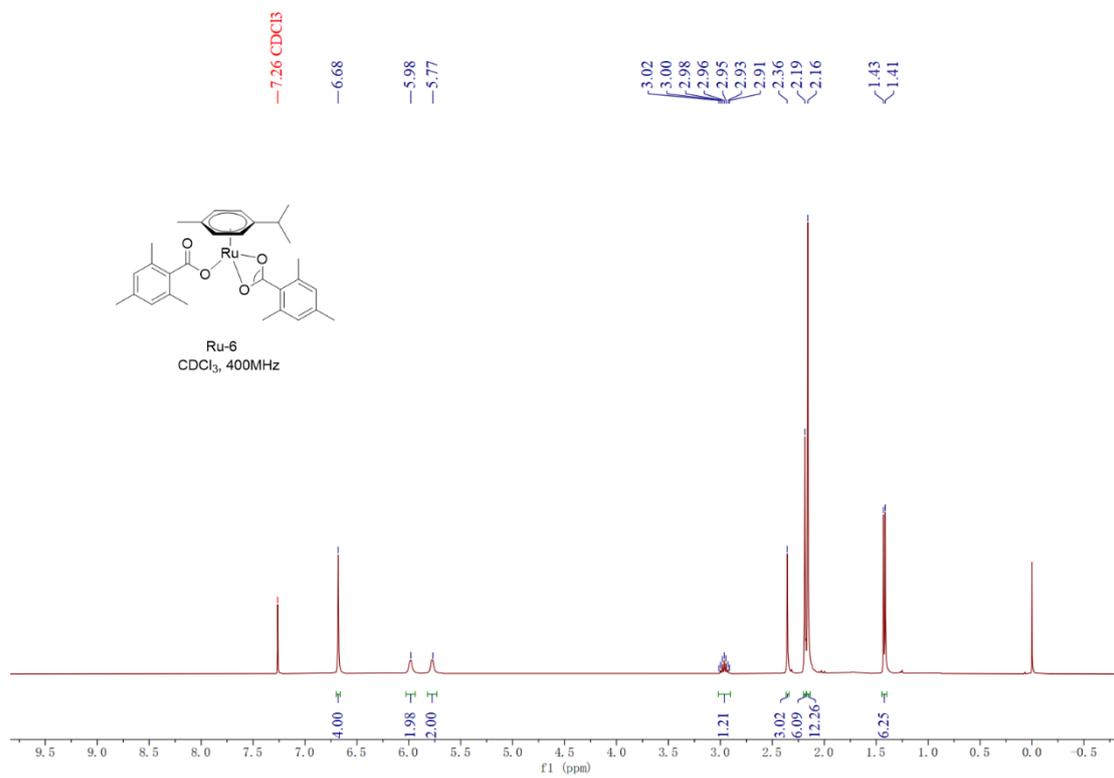
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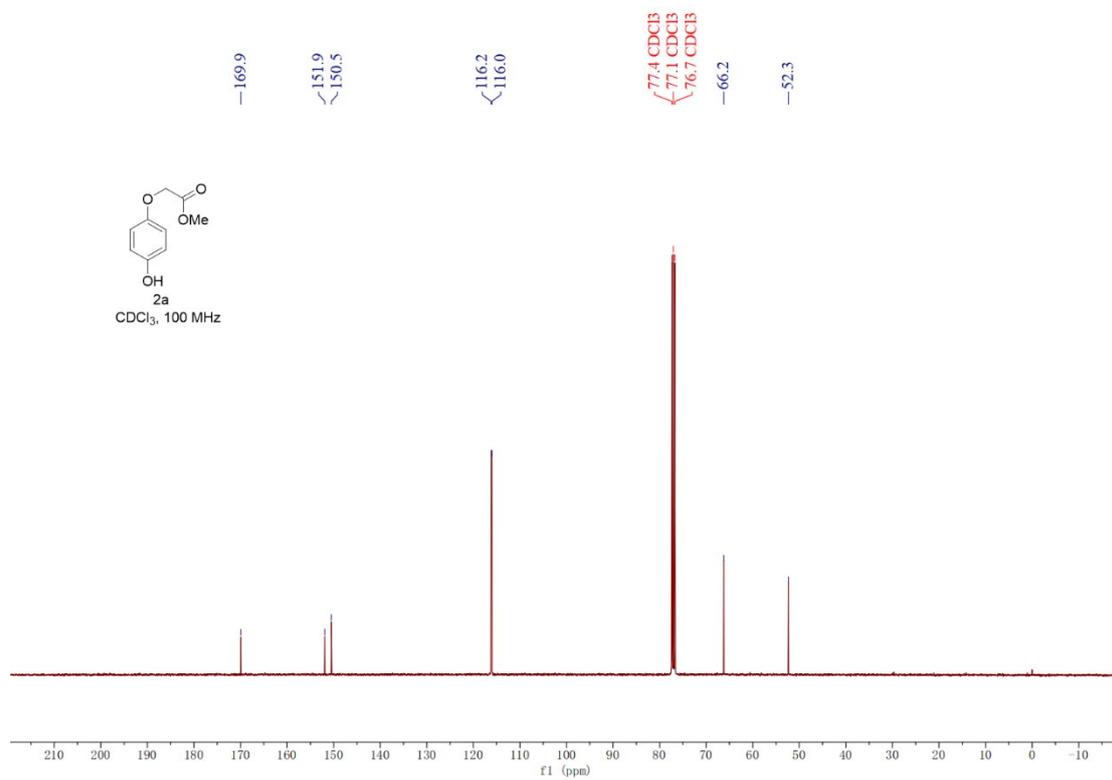
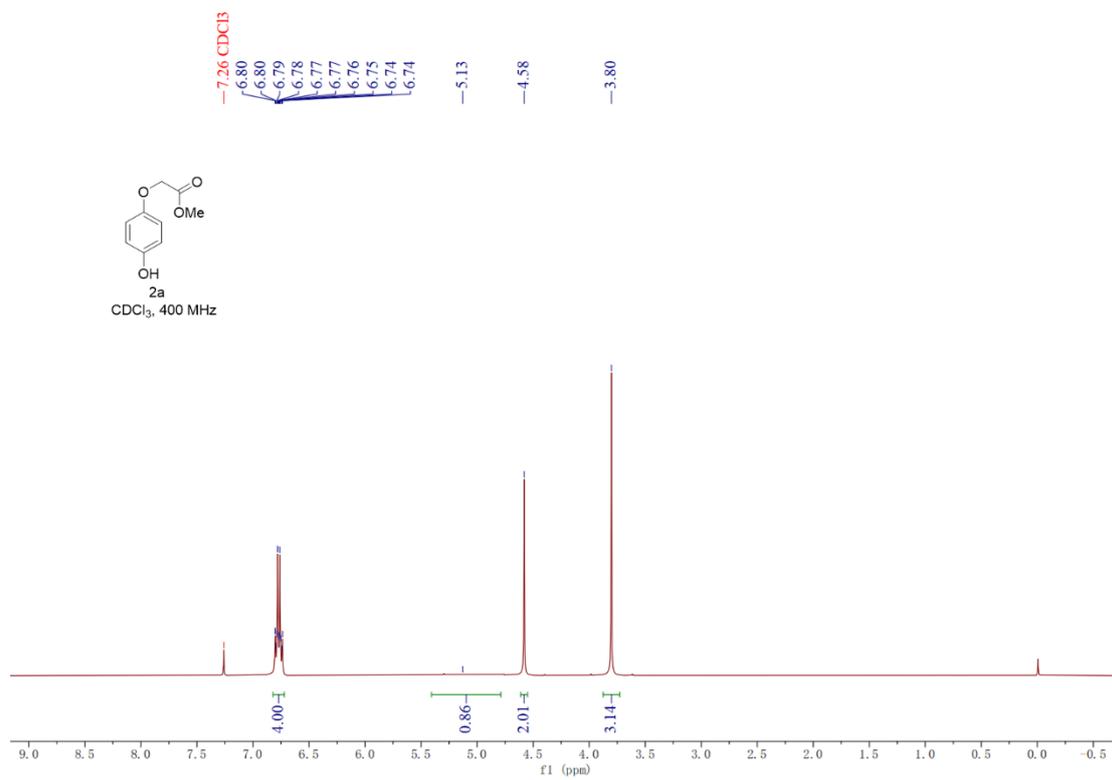
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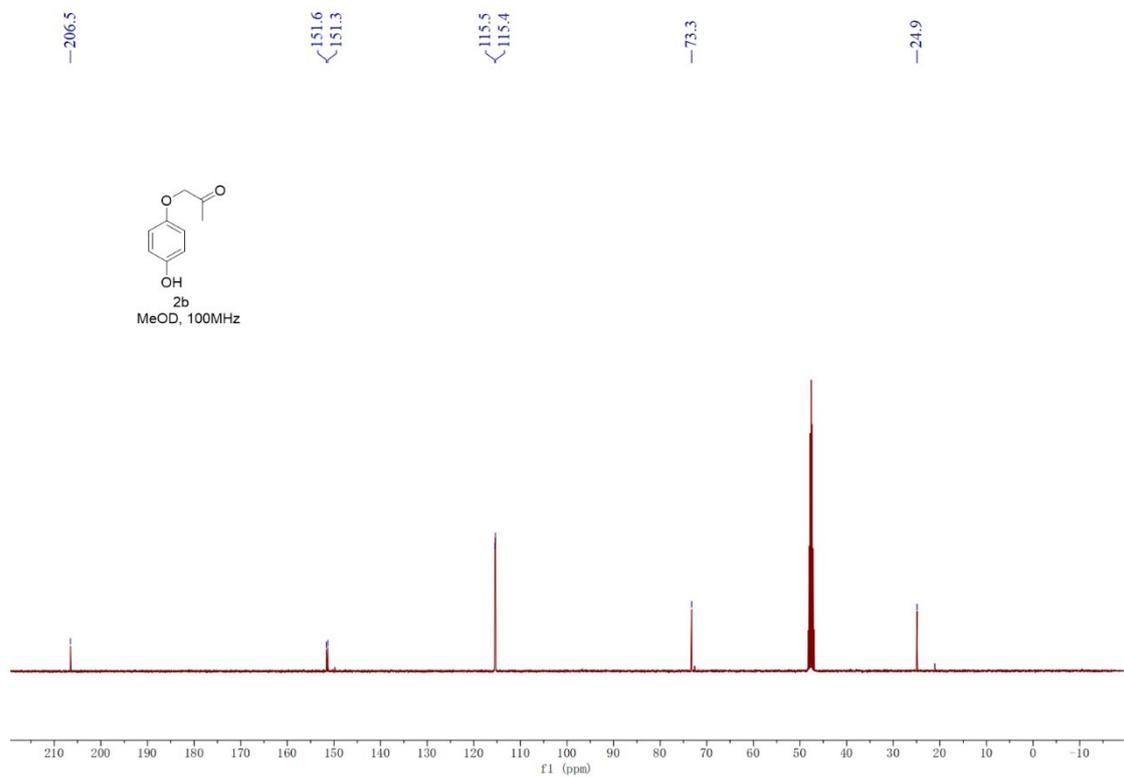
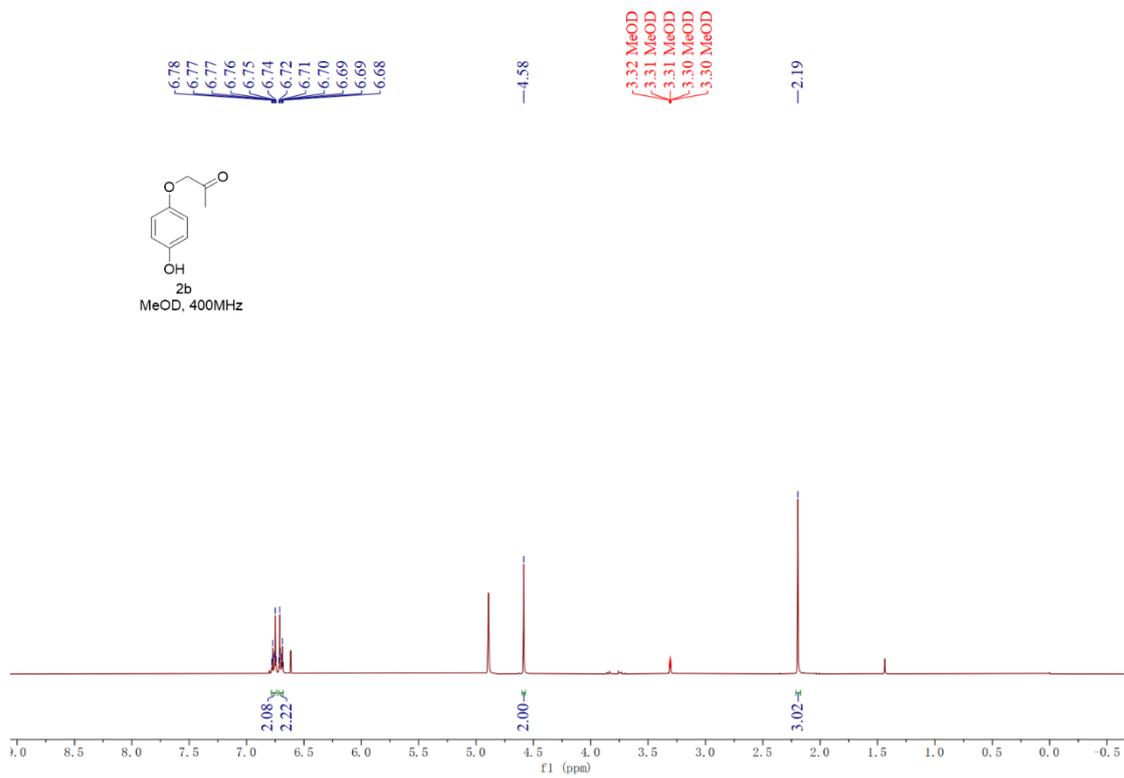
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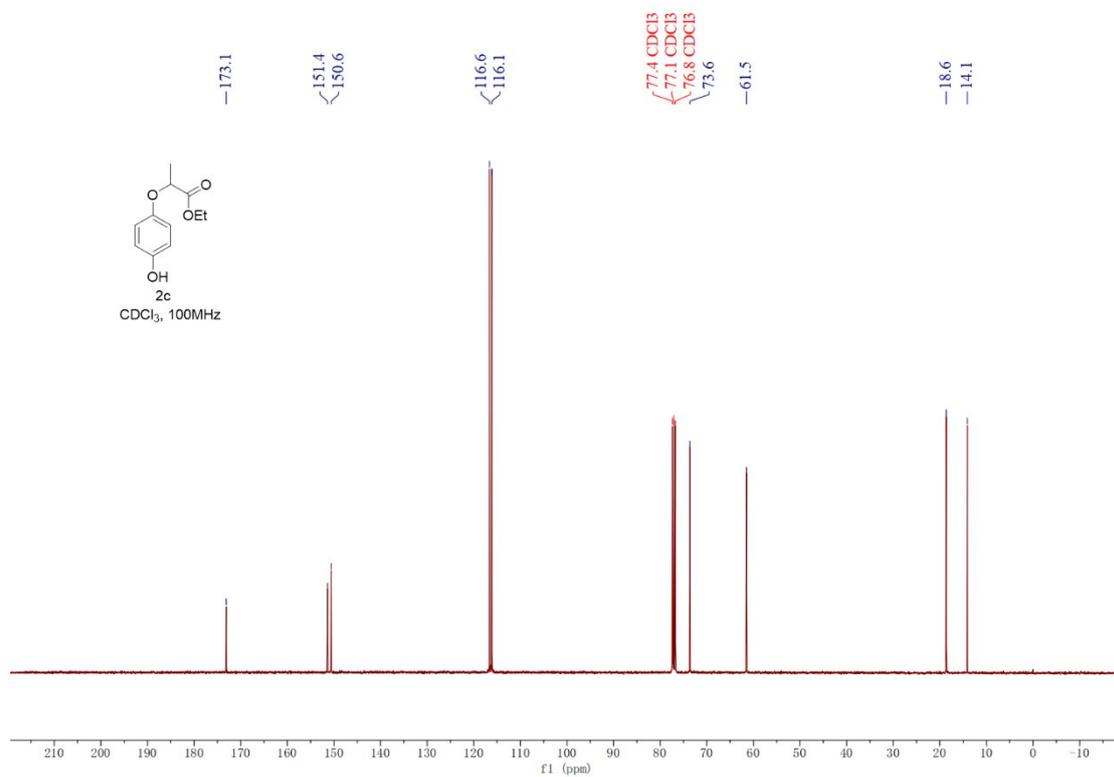
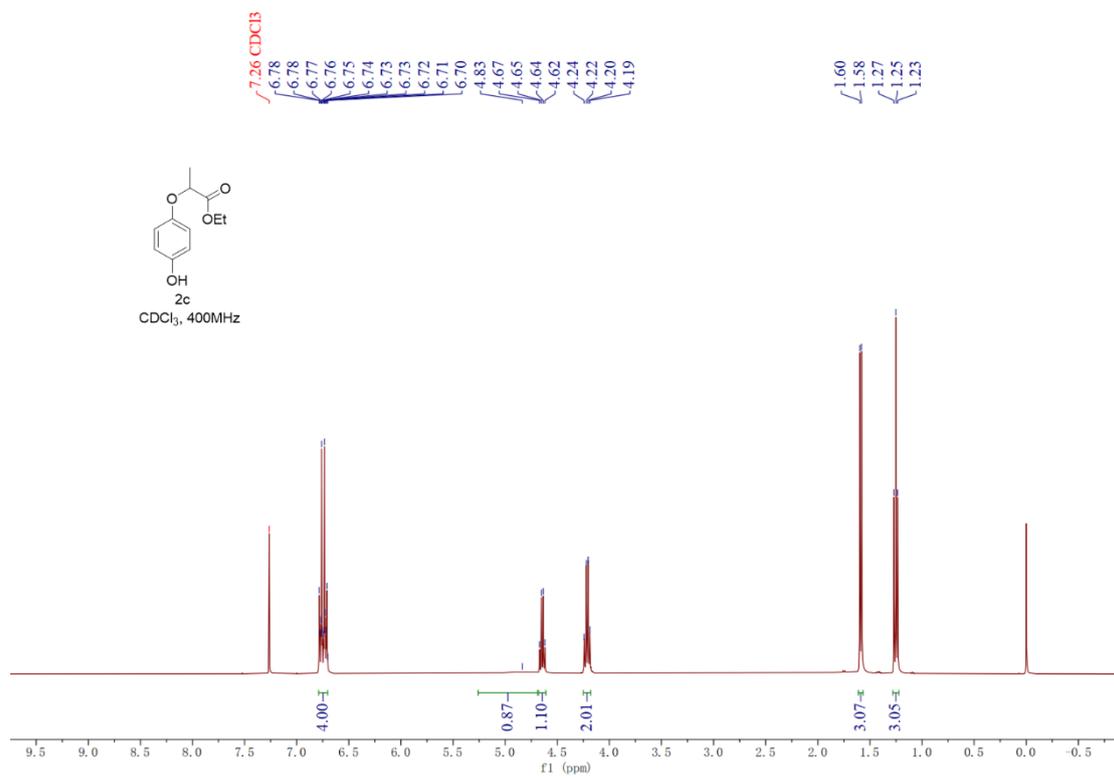
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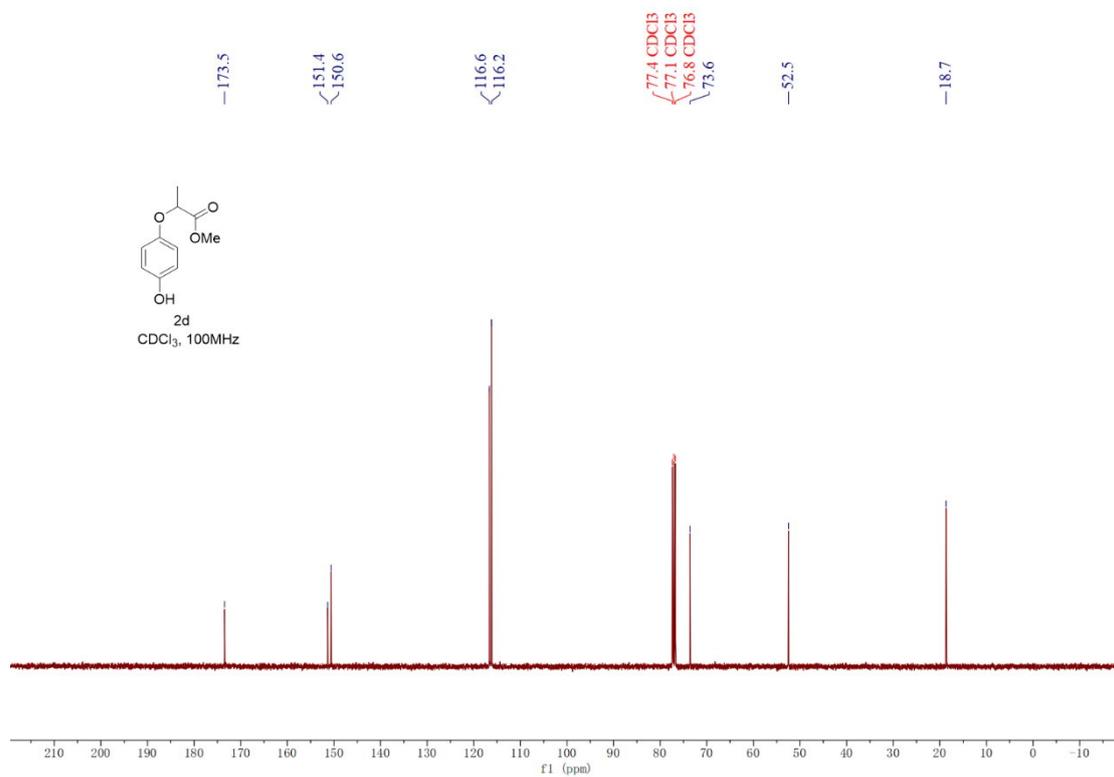
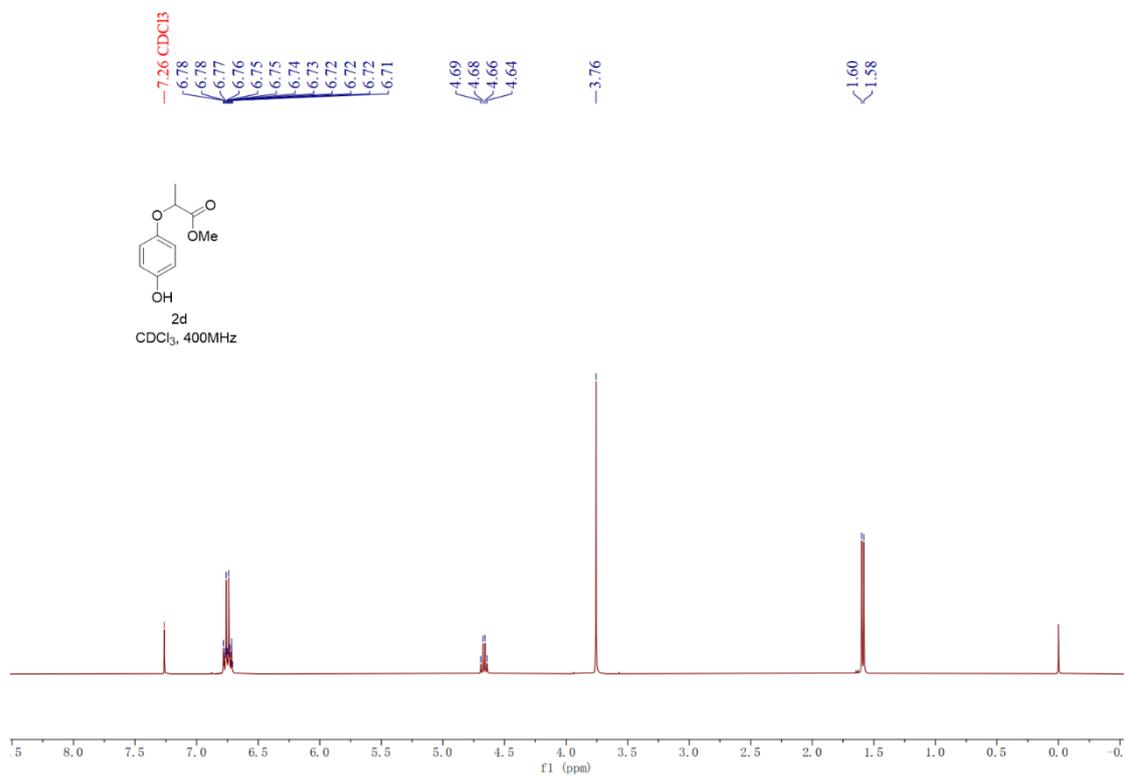
1-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propan-2-one



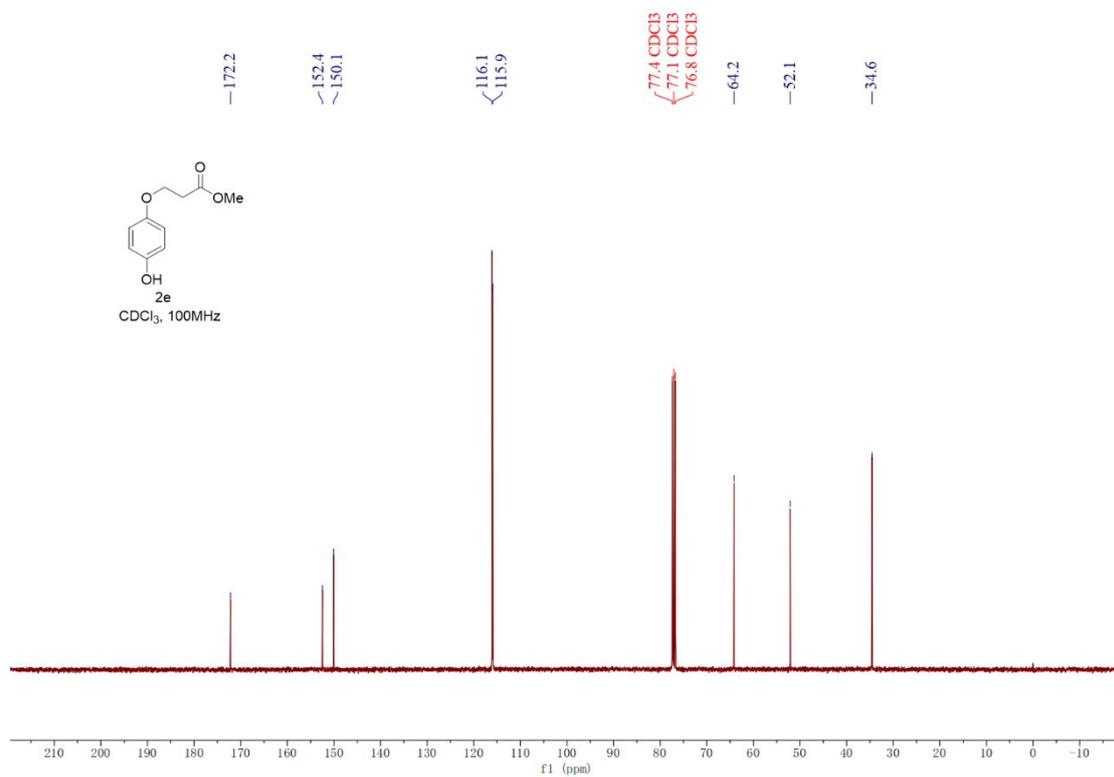
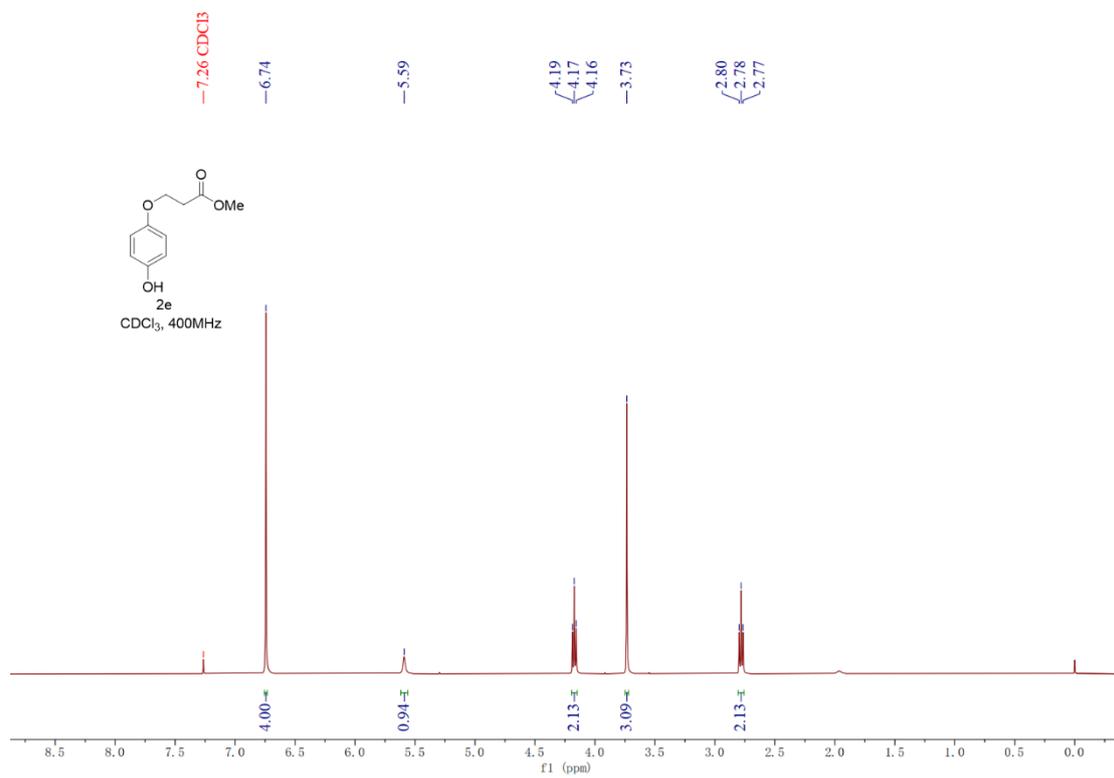
ethyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)propanoate



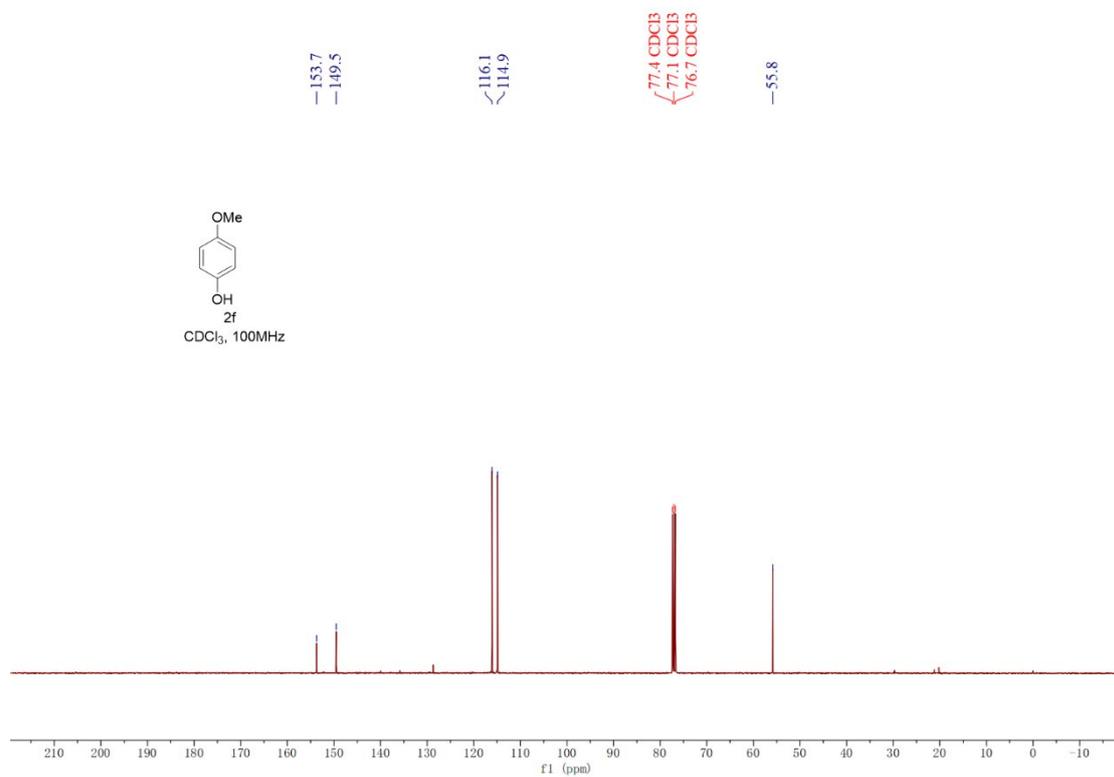
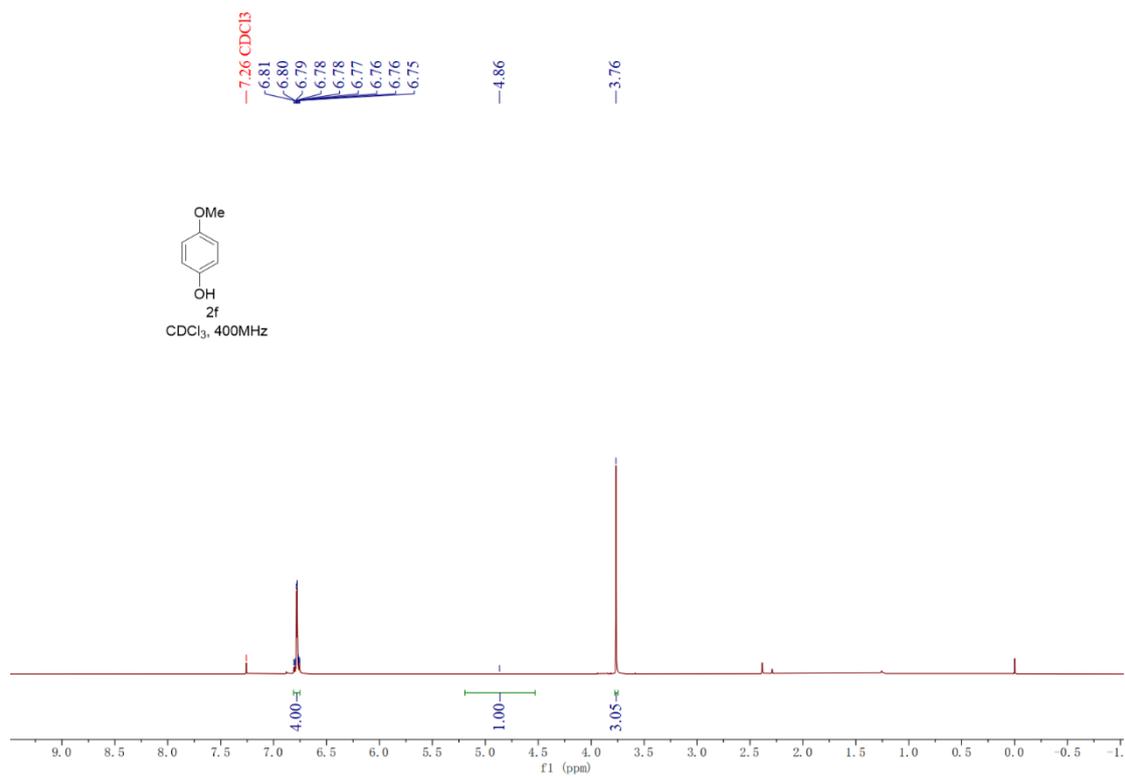
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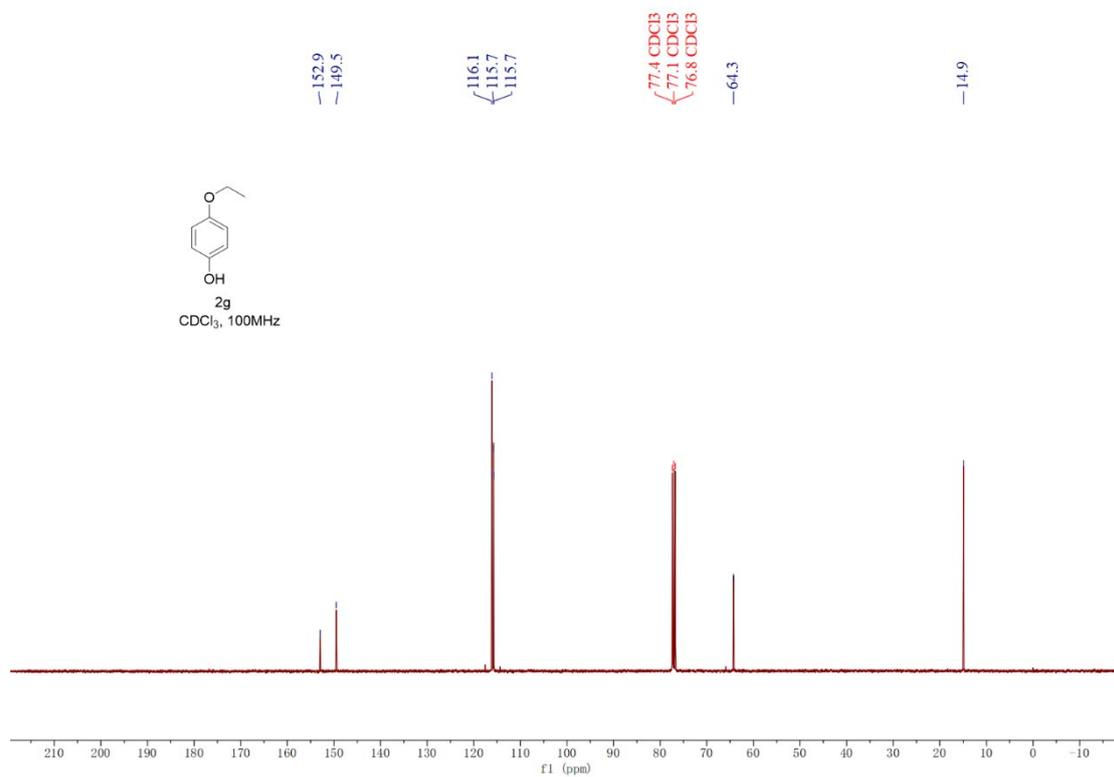
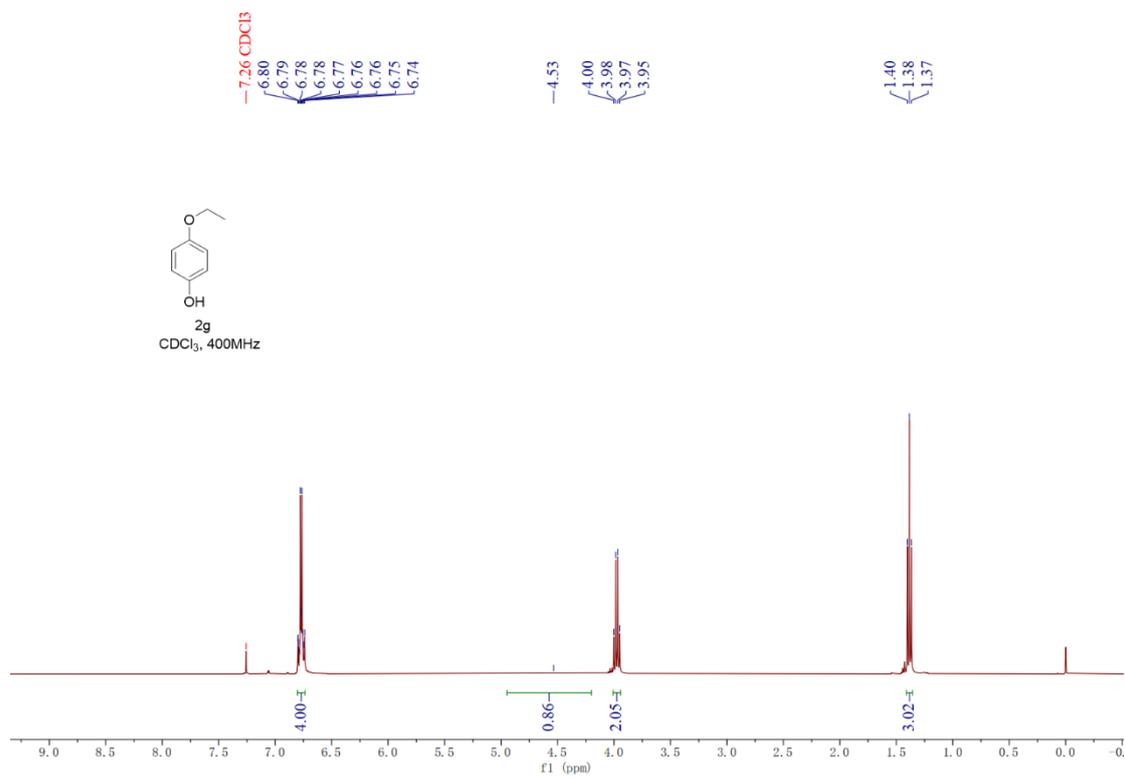
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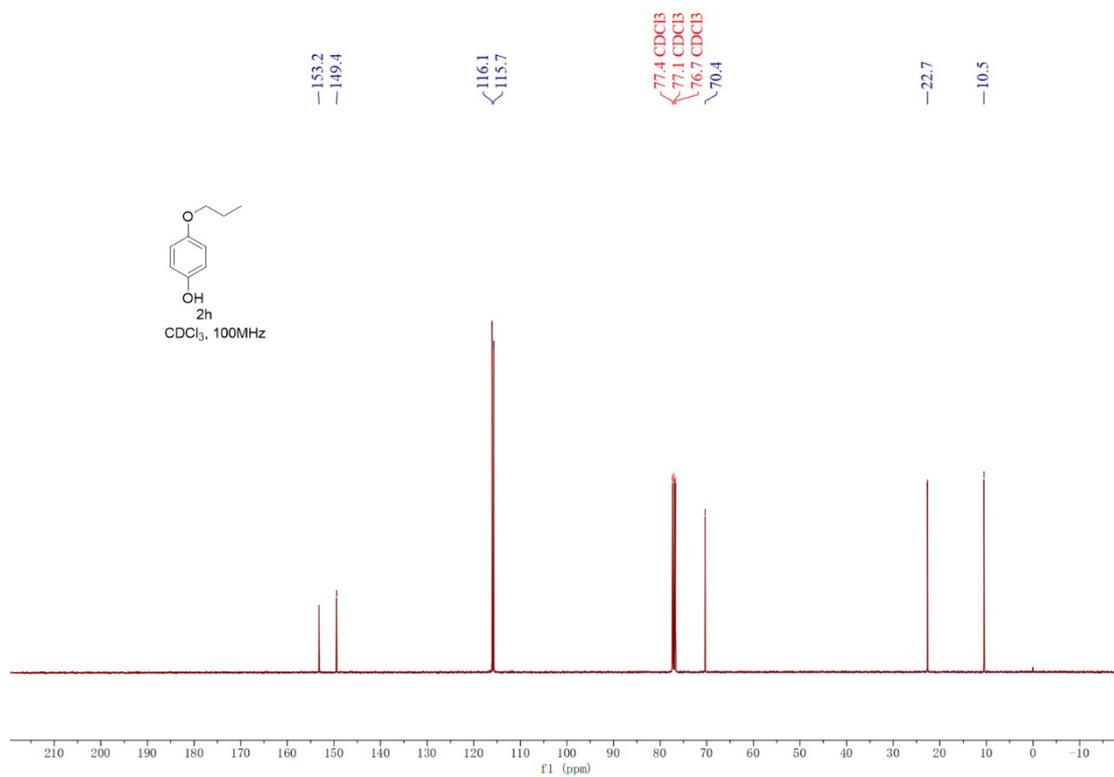
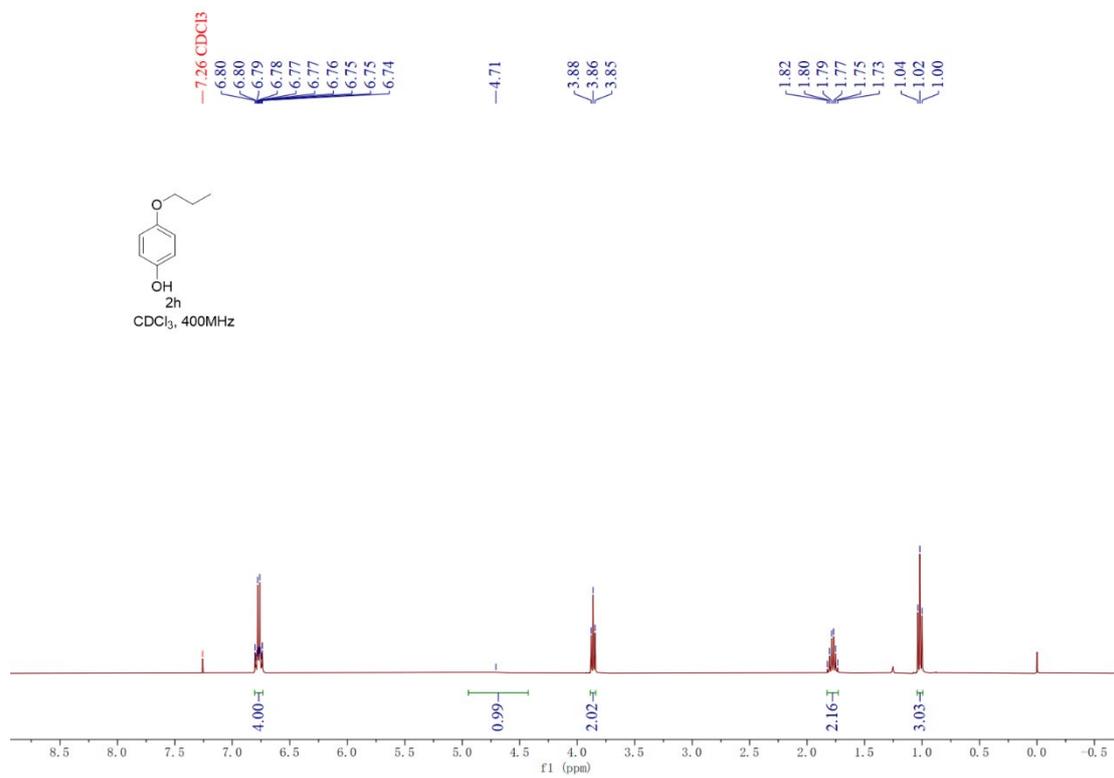
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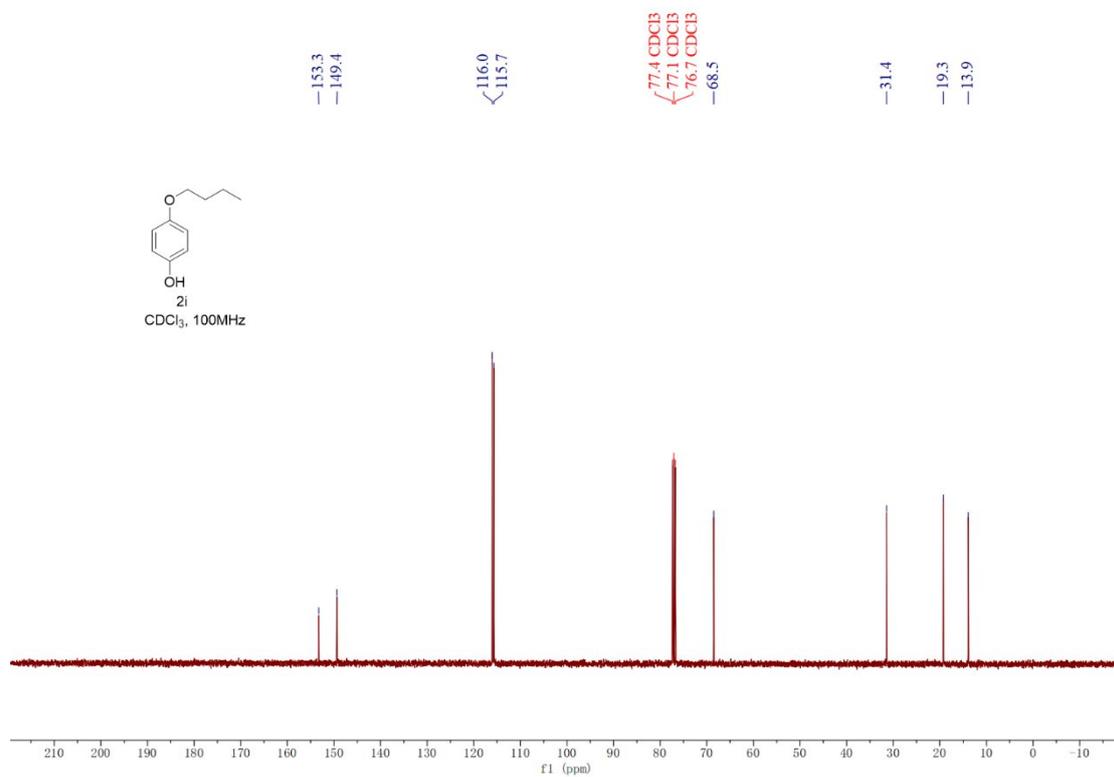
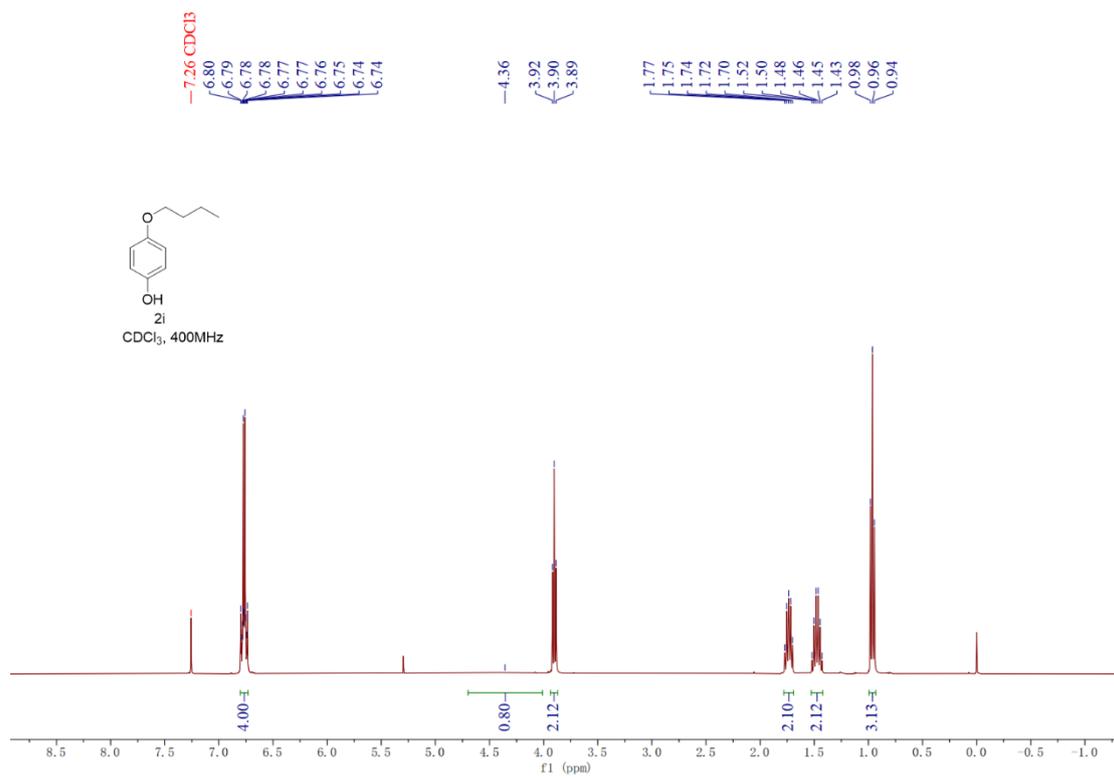
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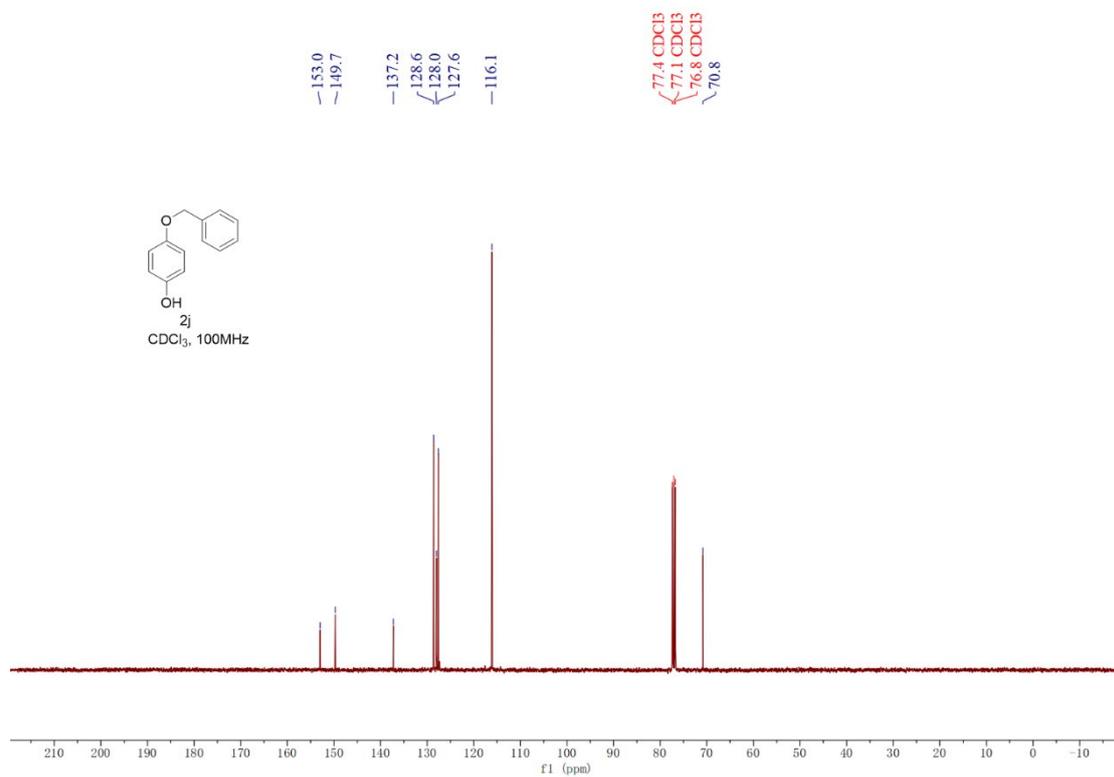
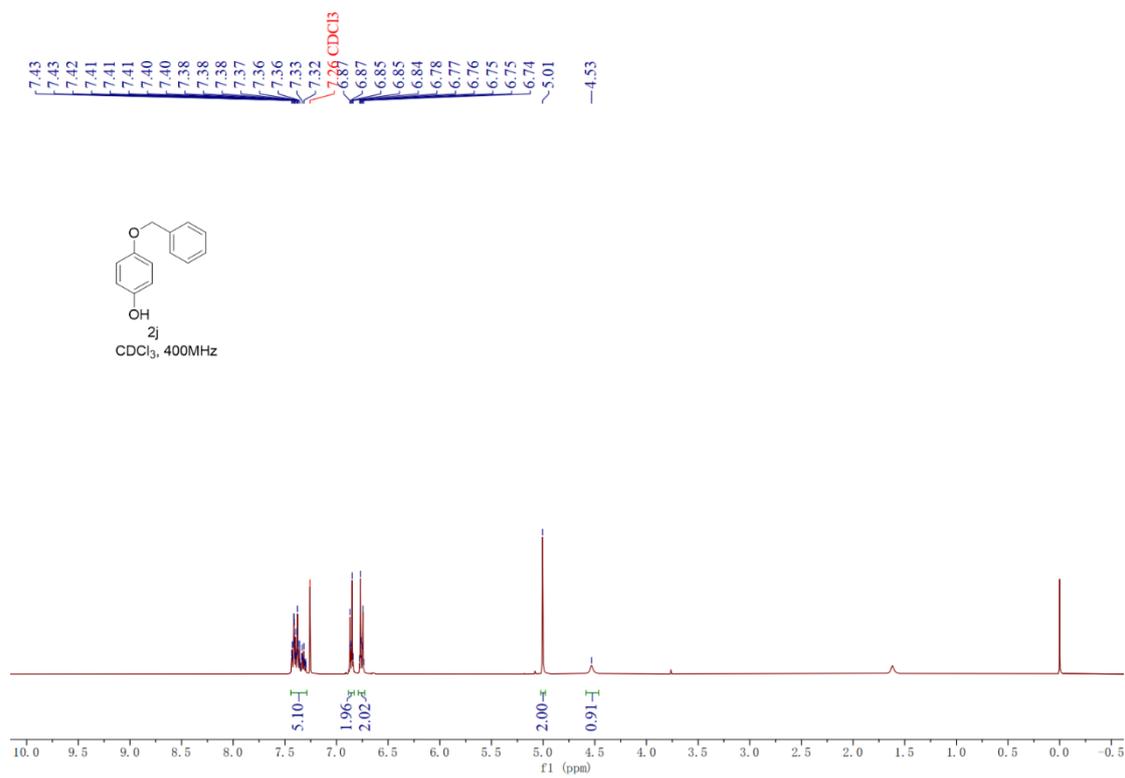
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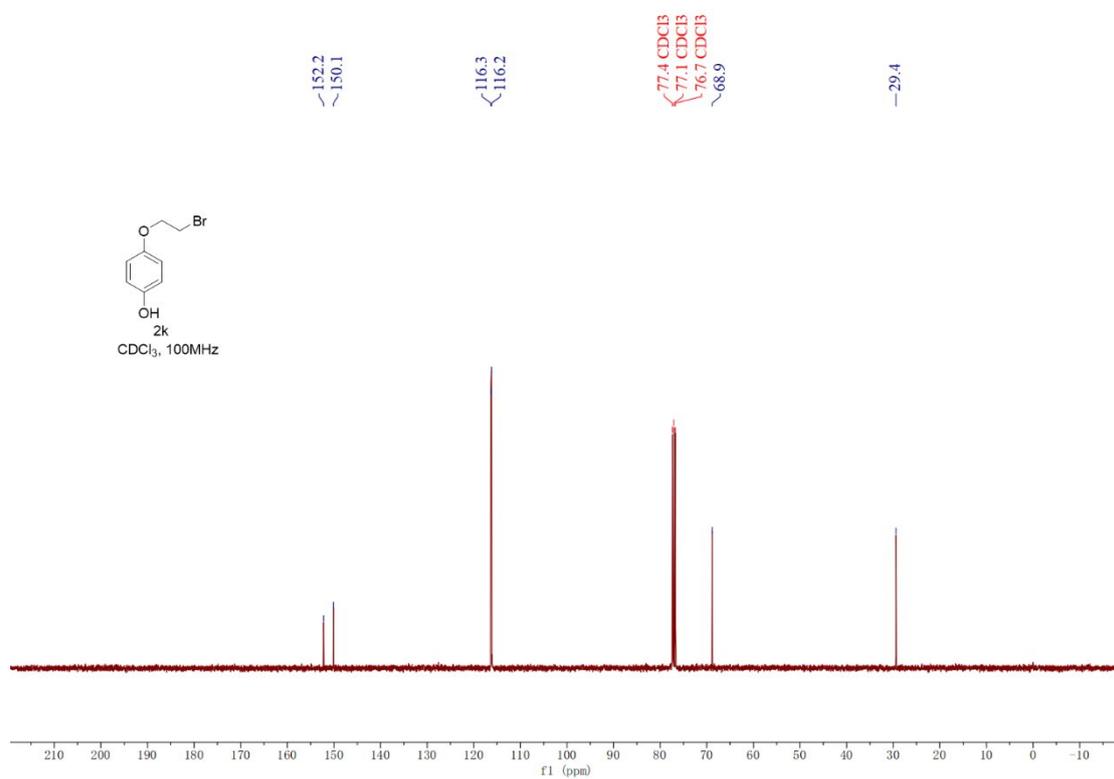
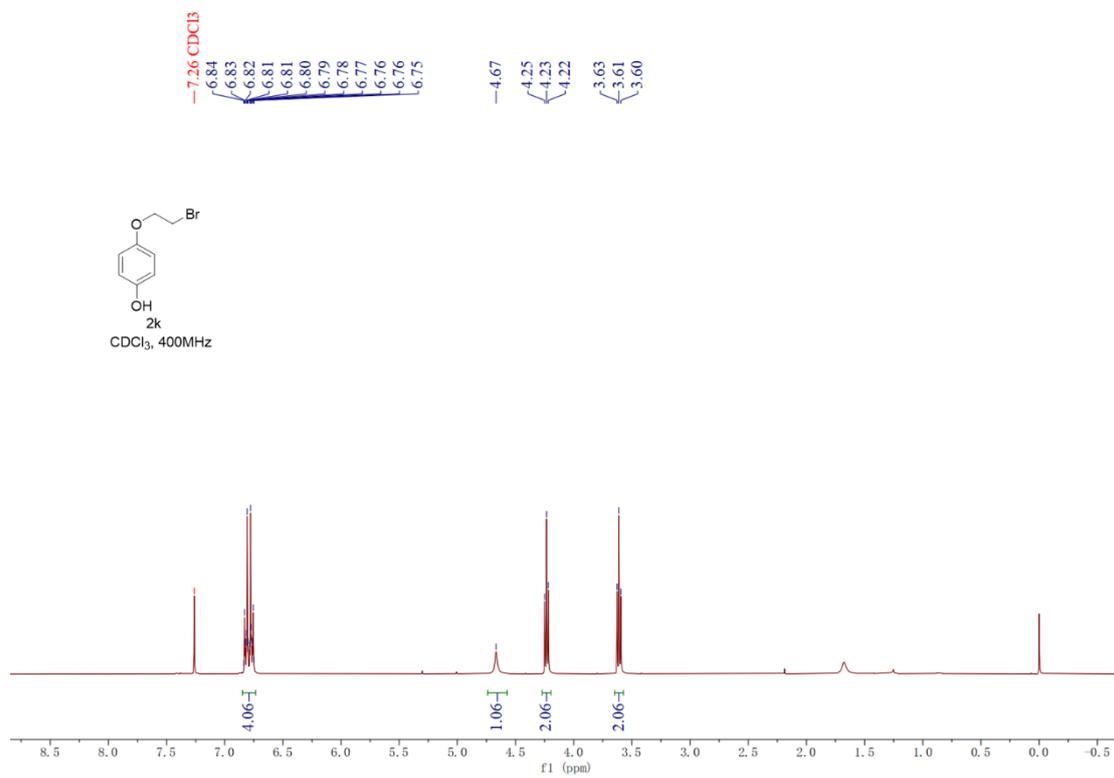
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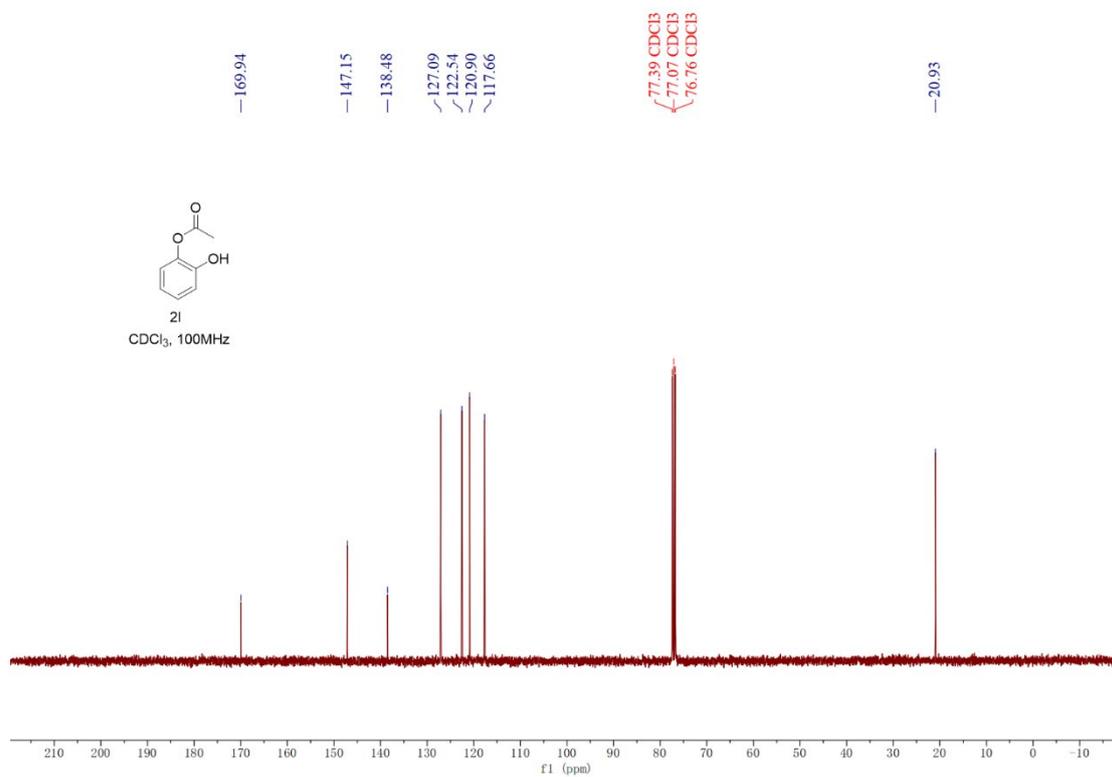
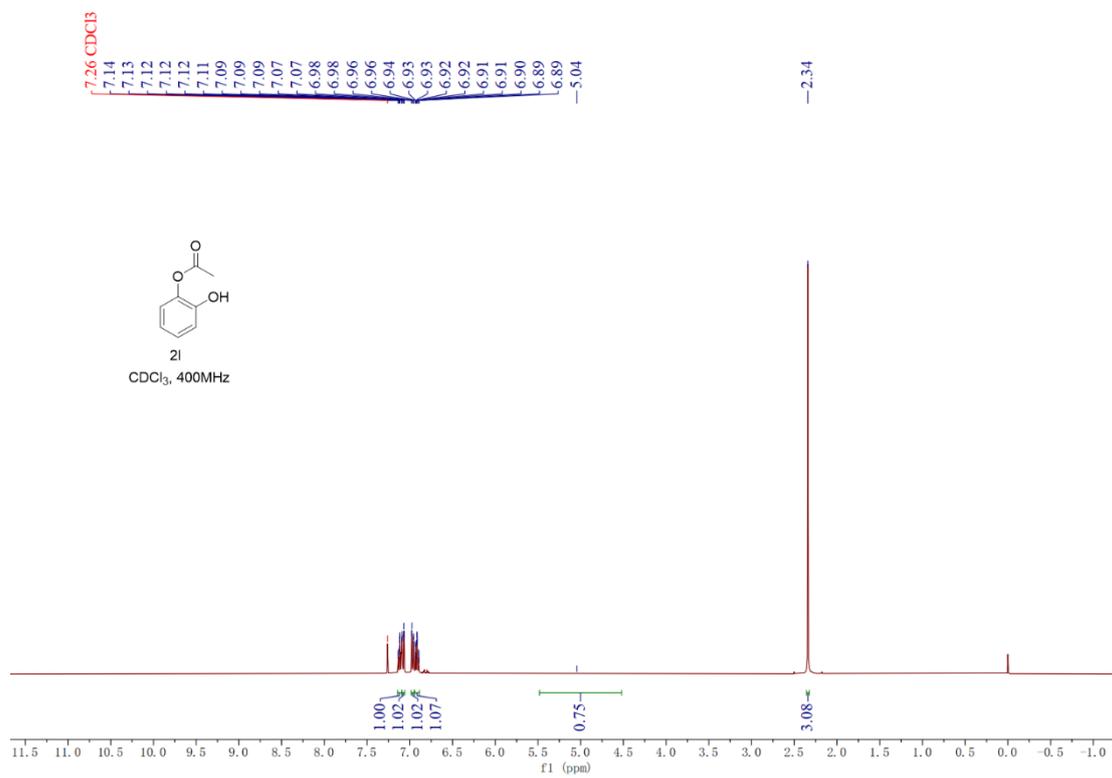
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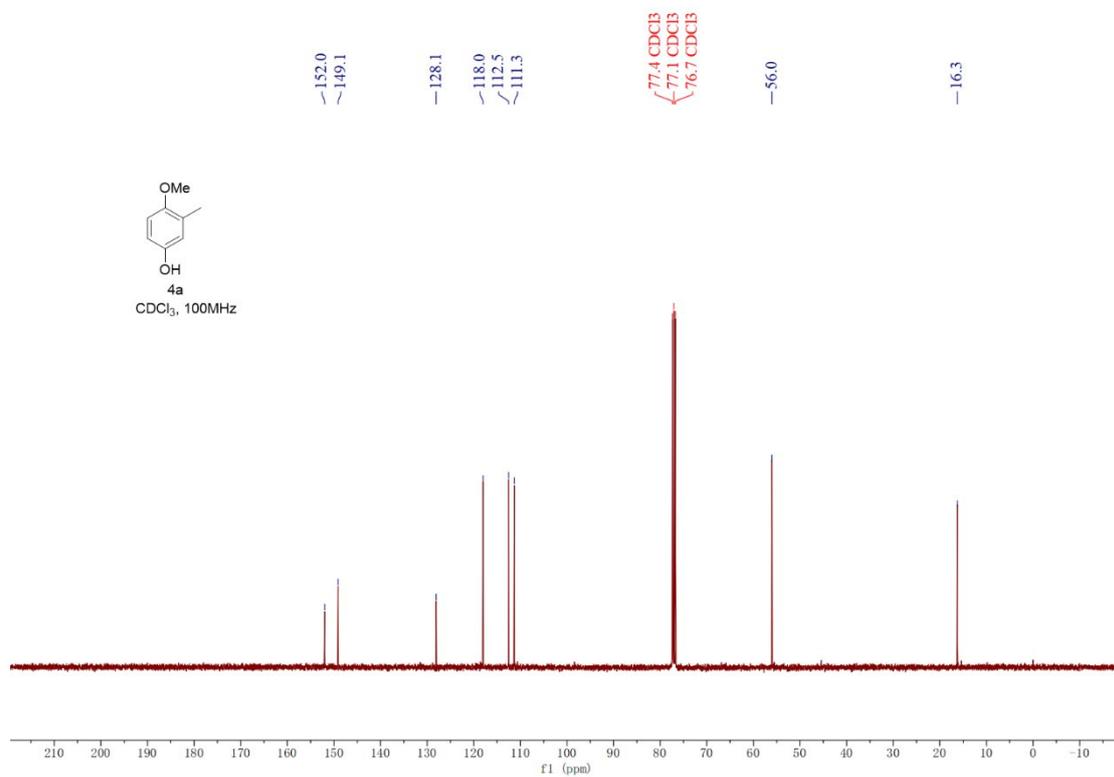
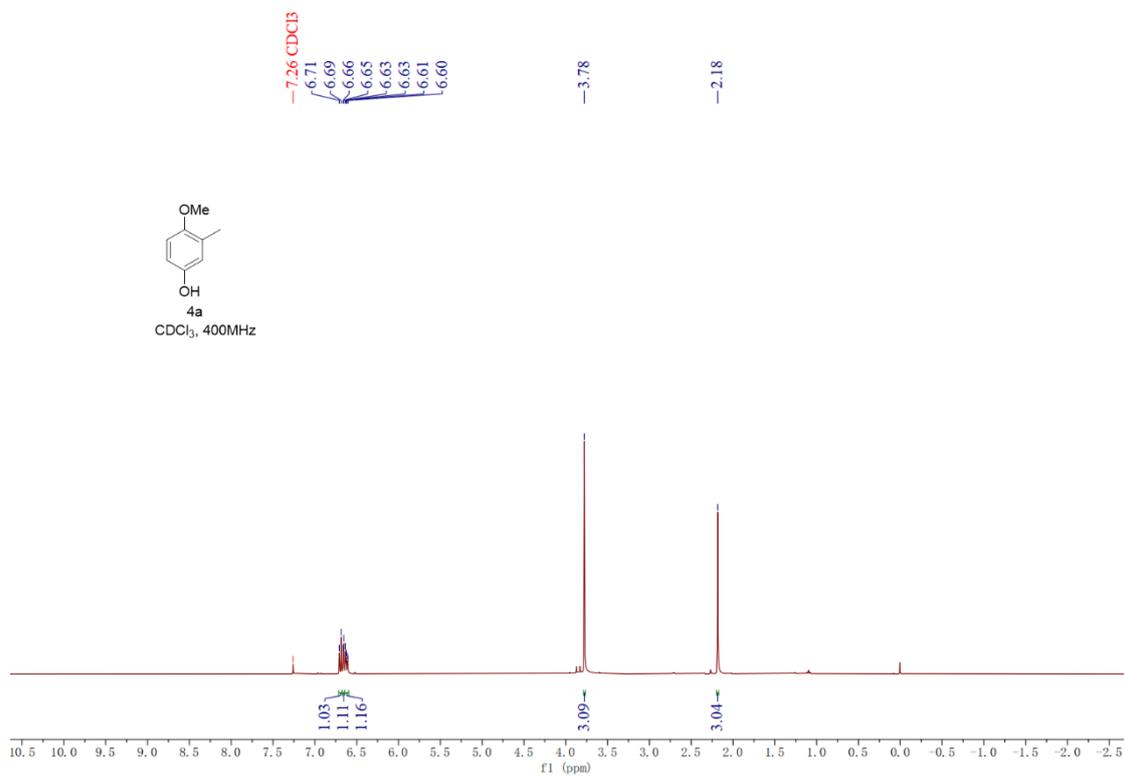
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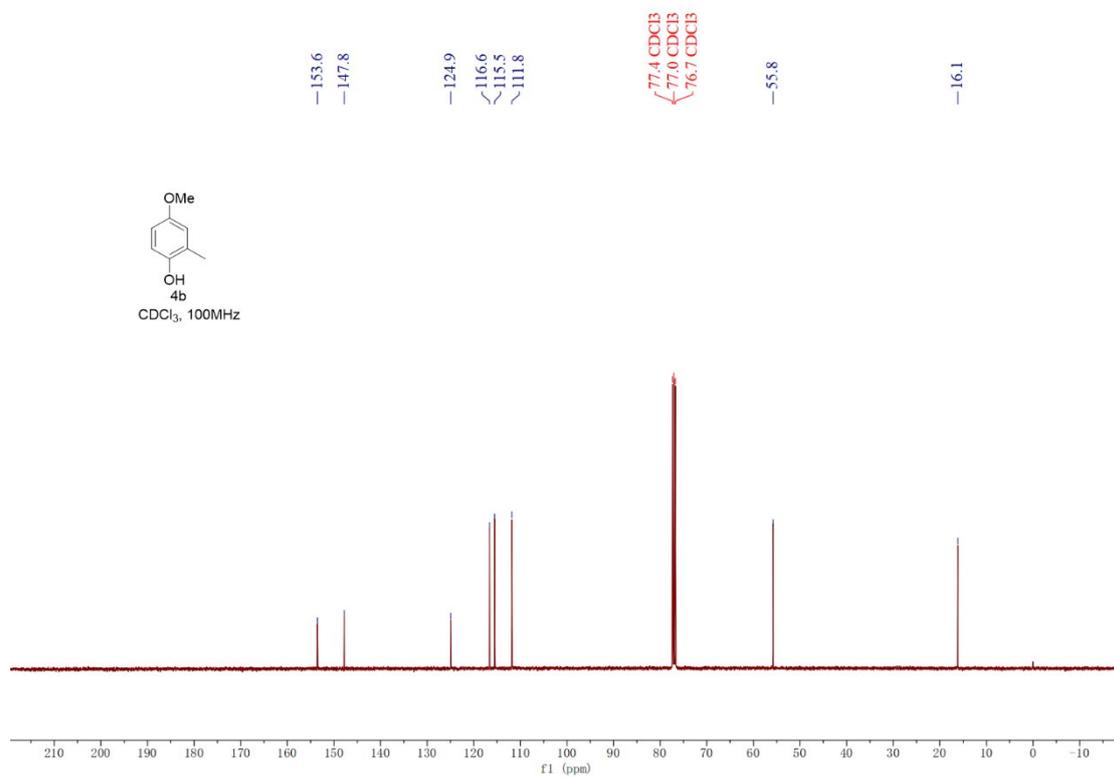
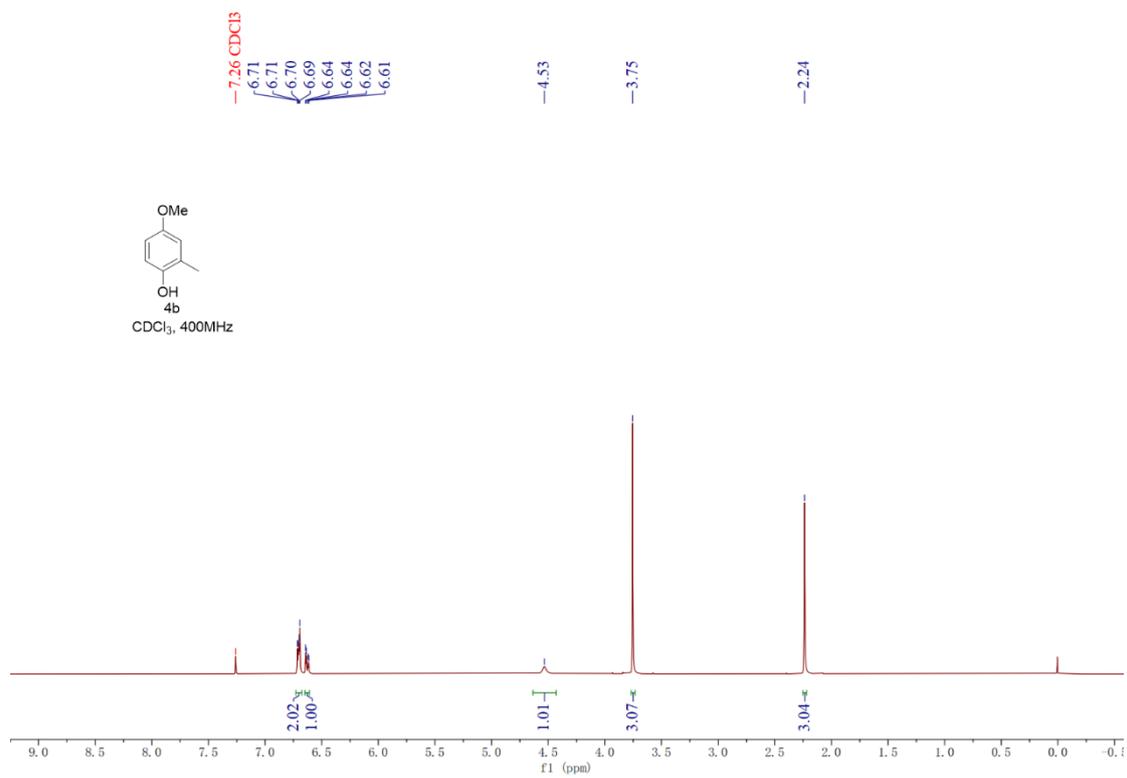
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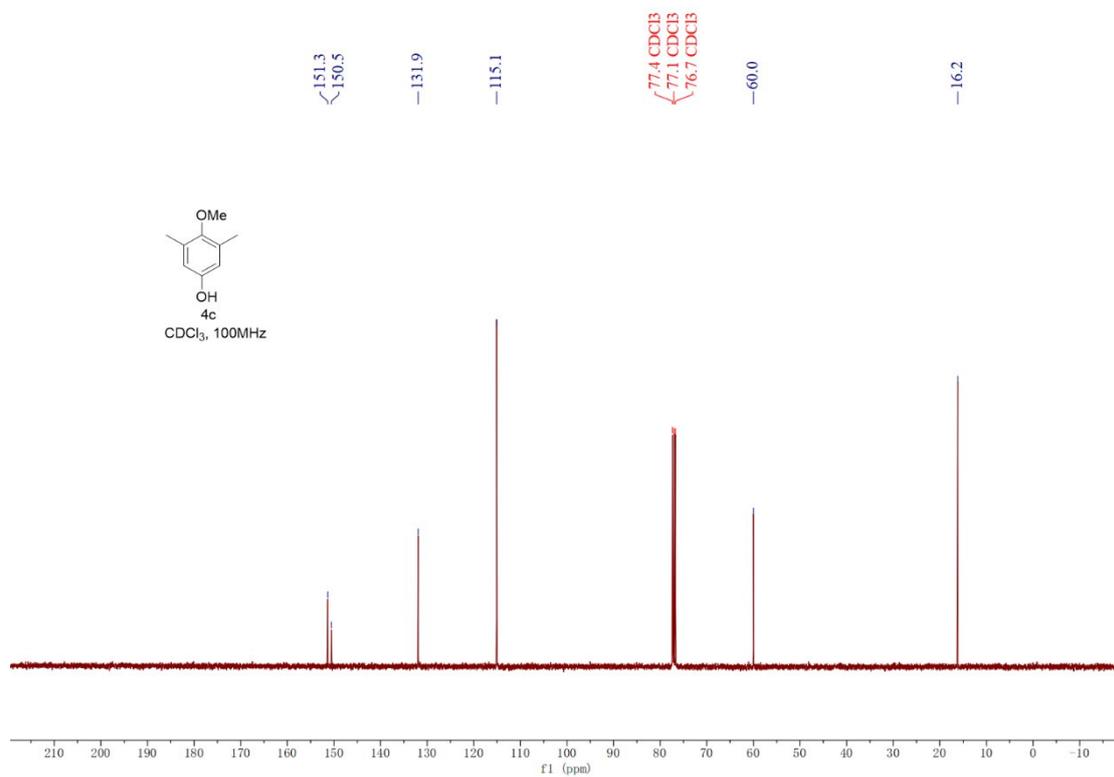
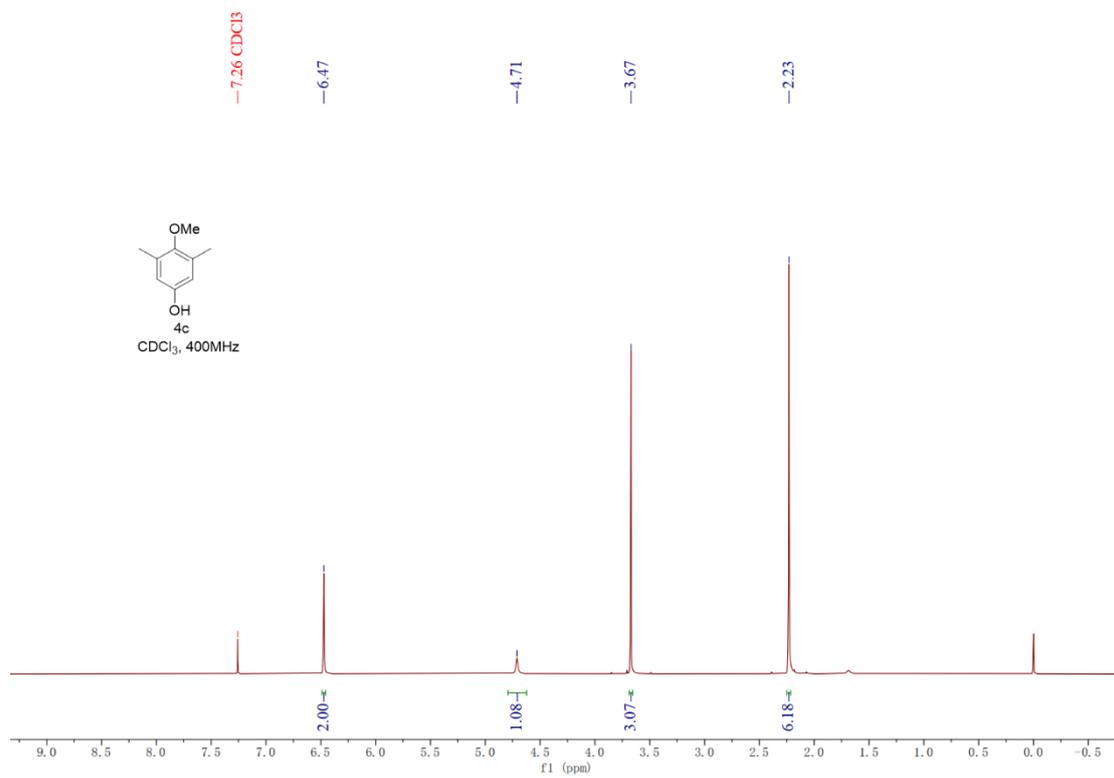
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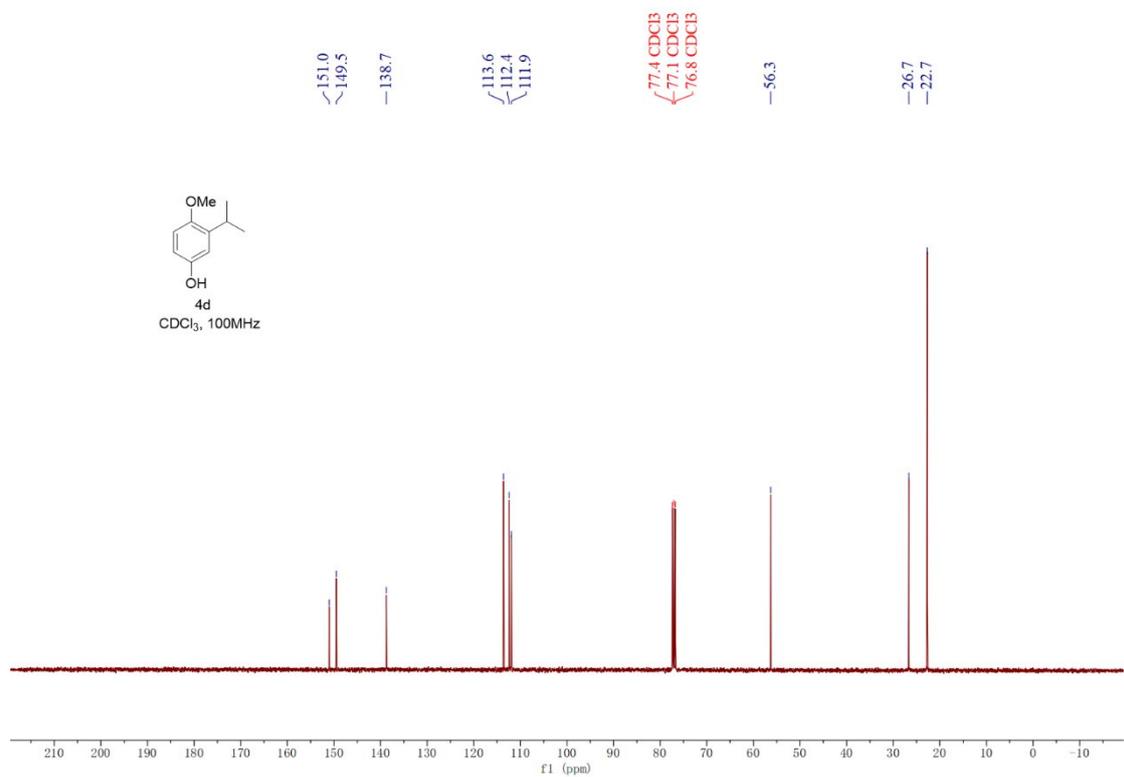
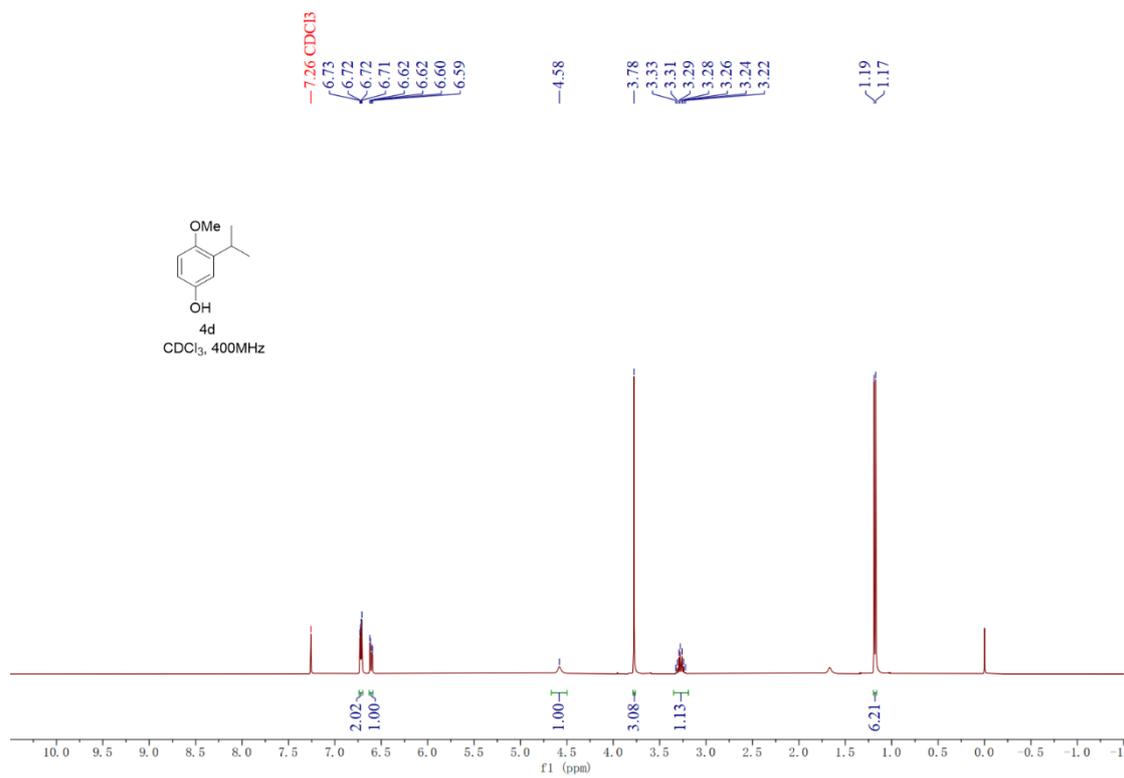
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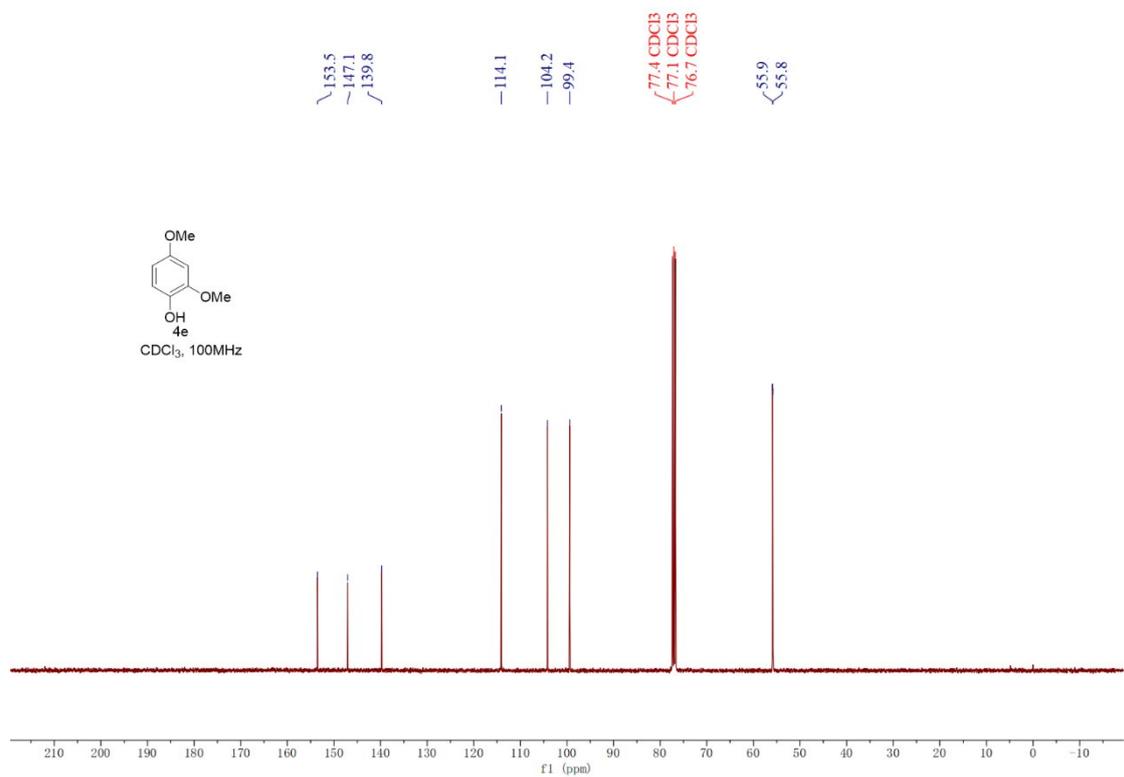
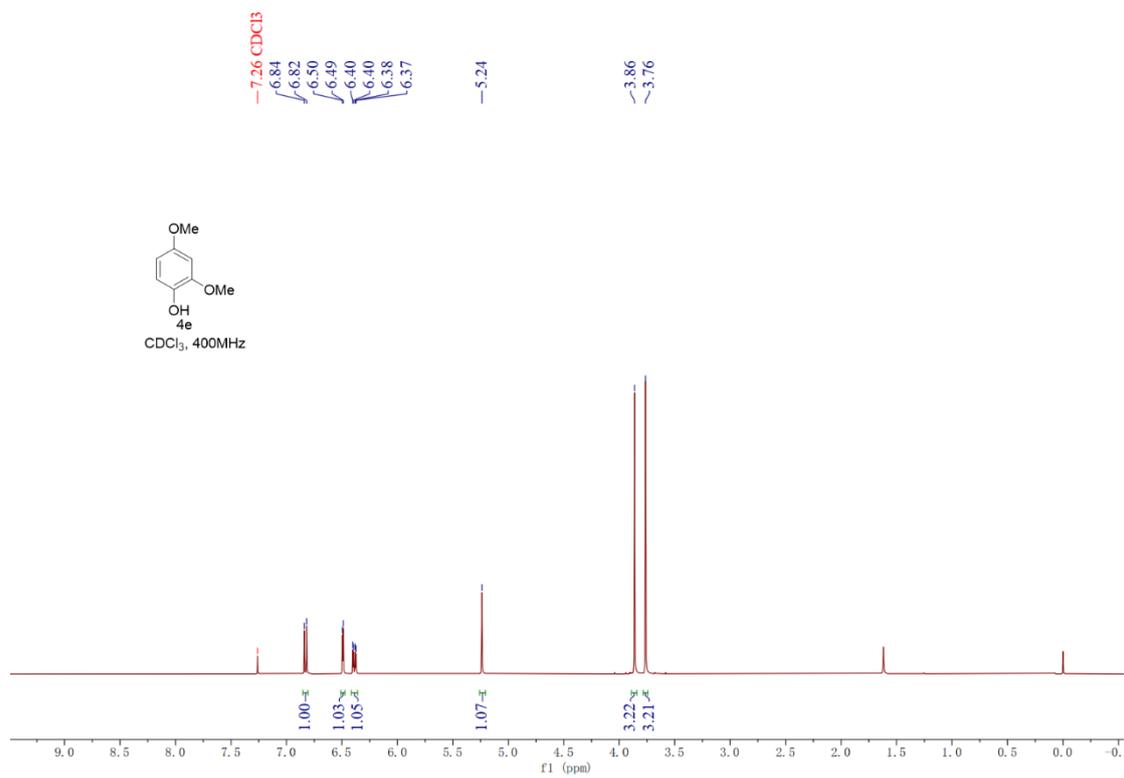
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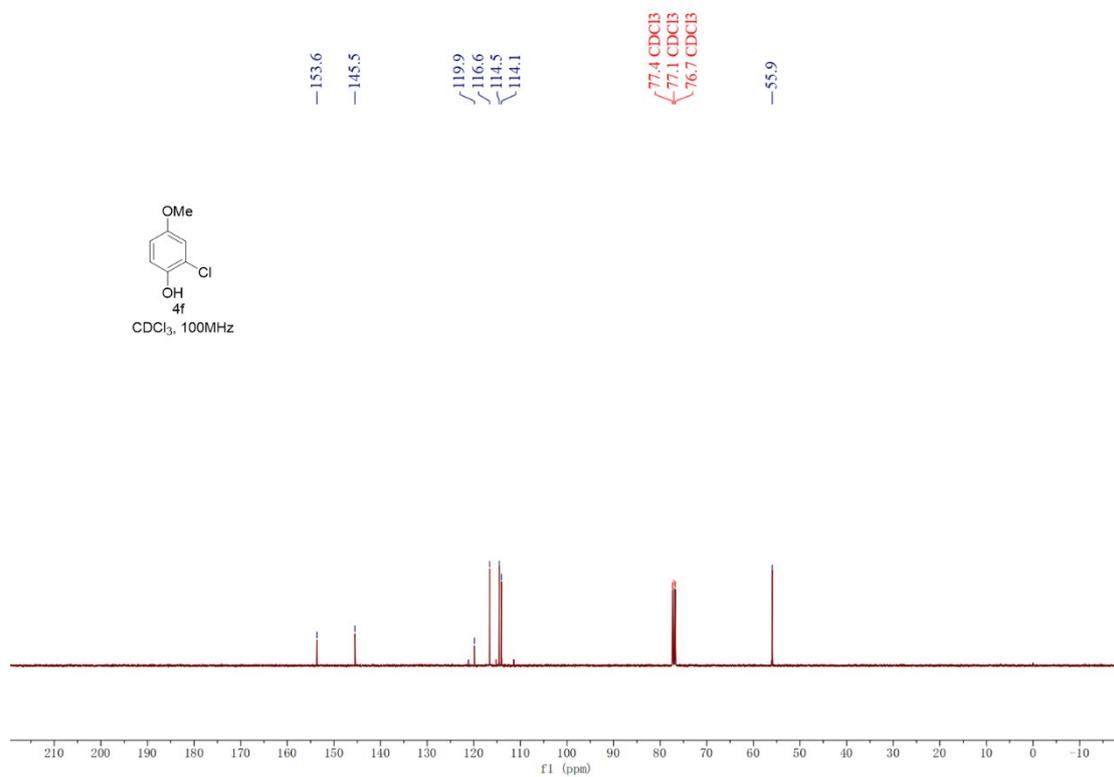
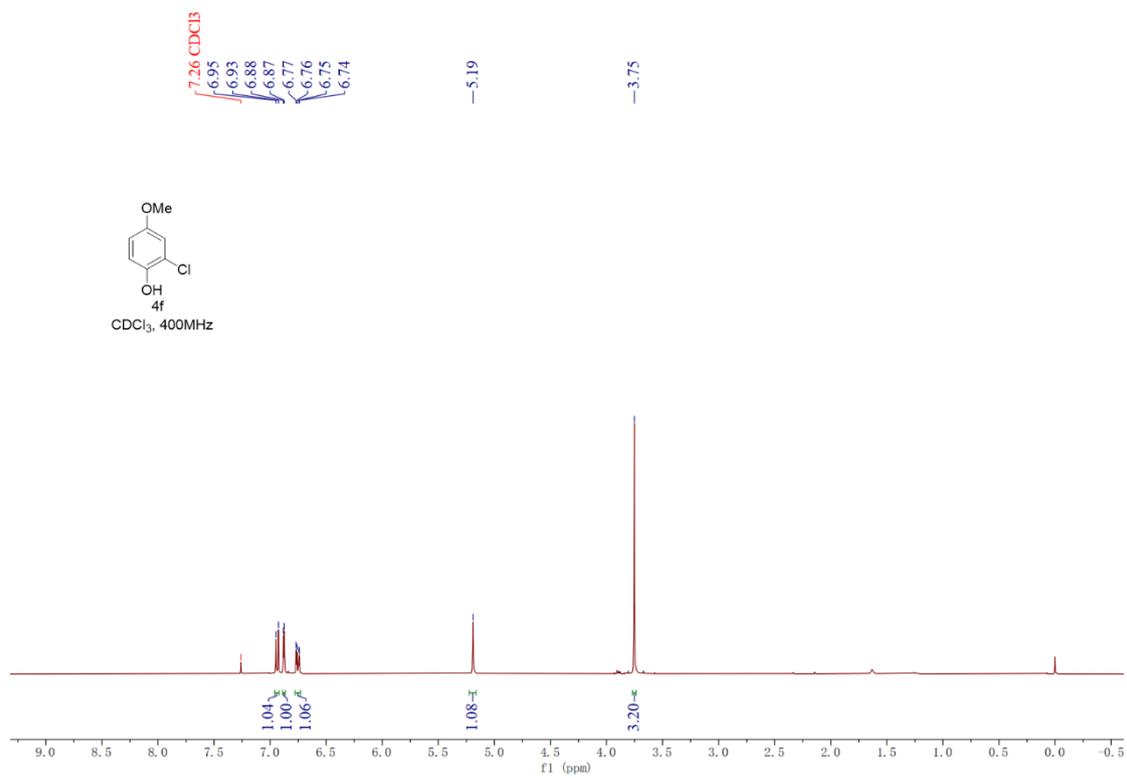
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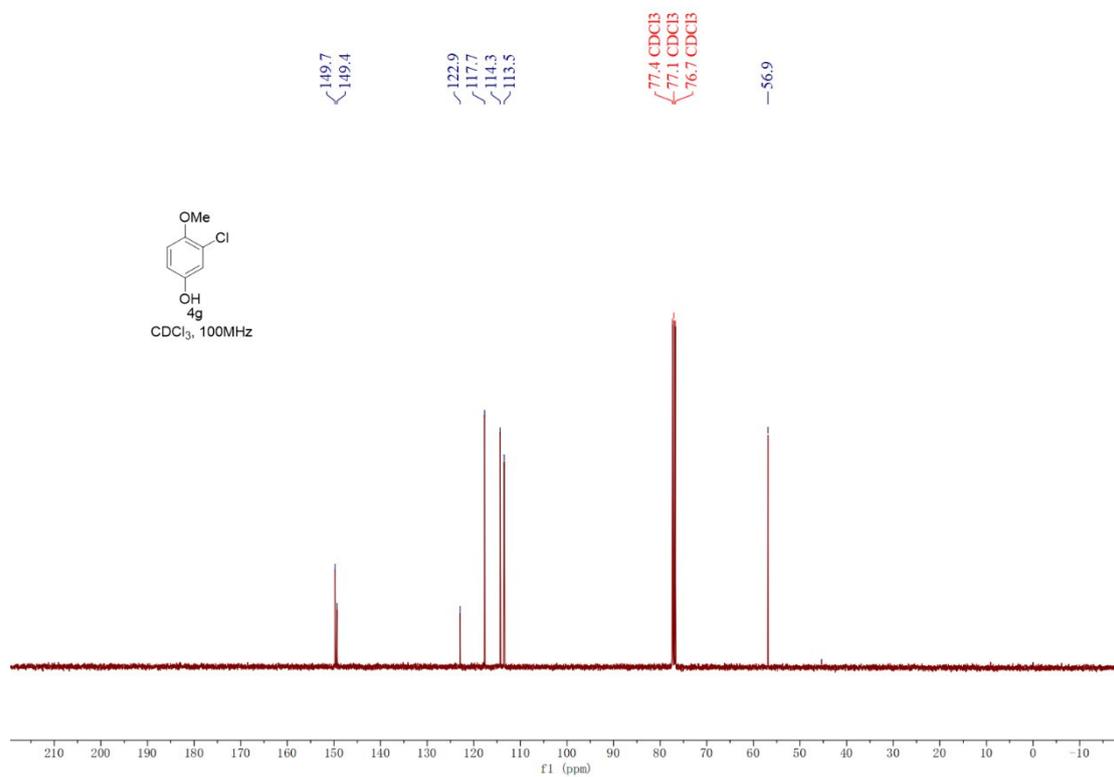
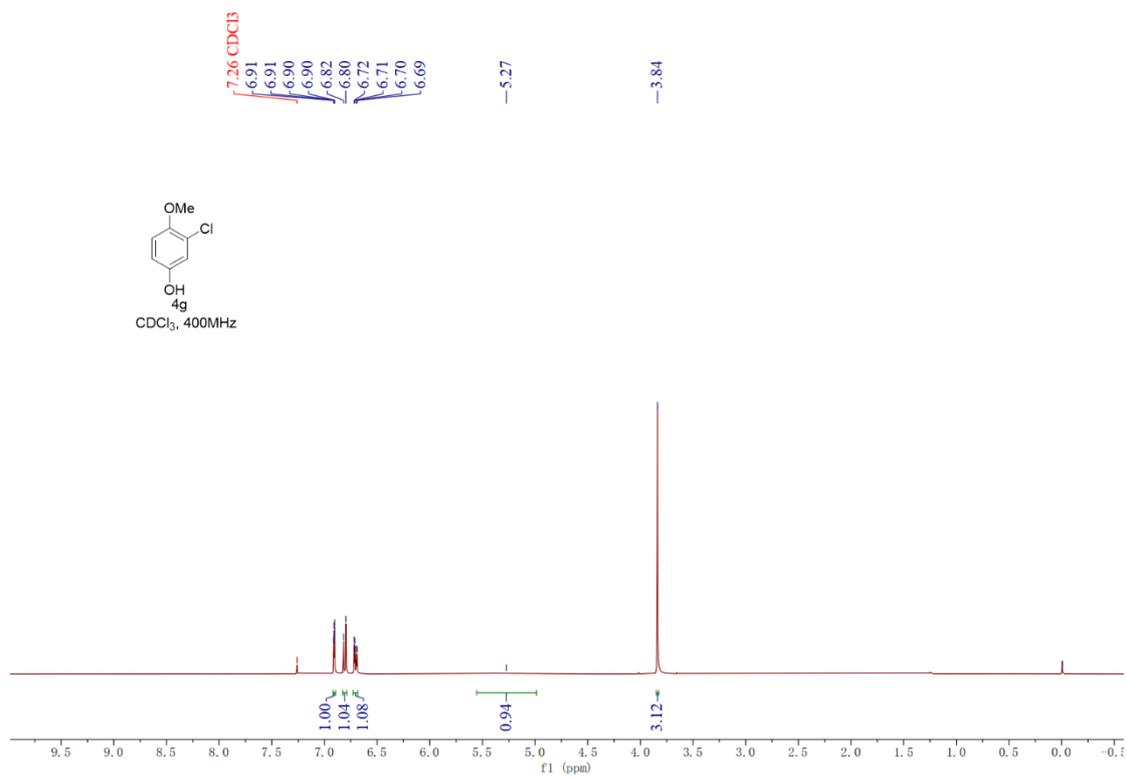
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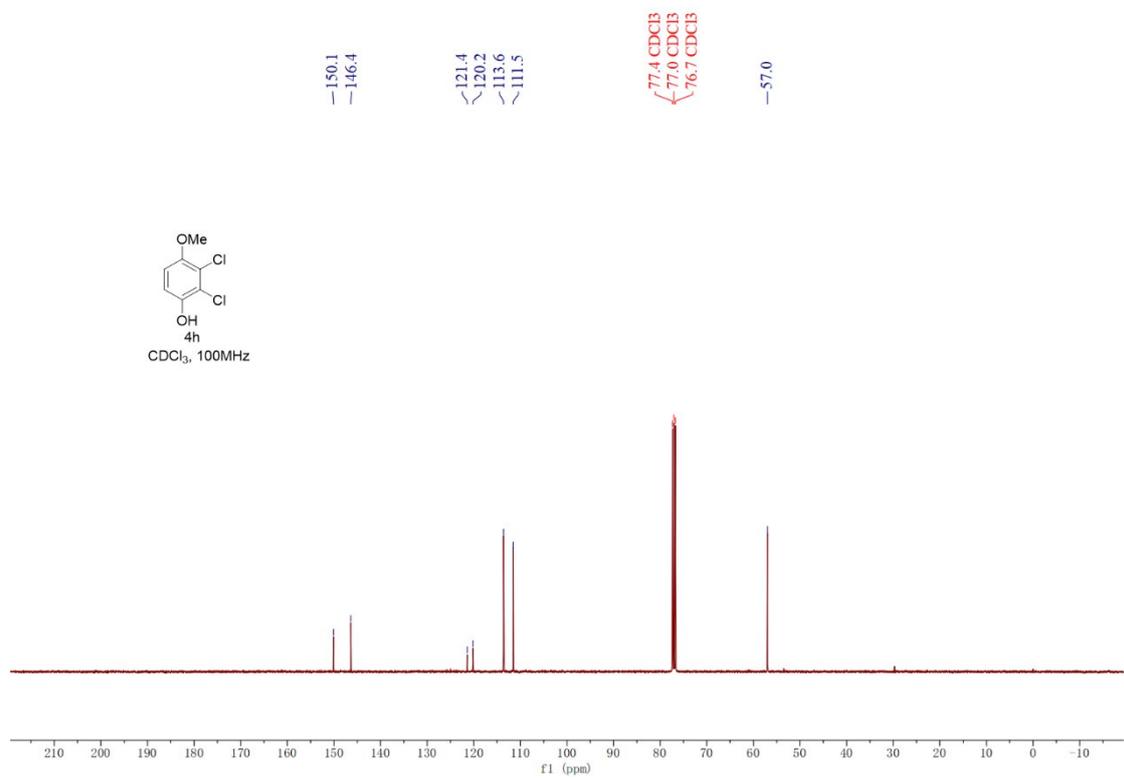
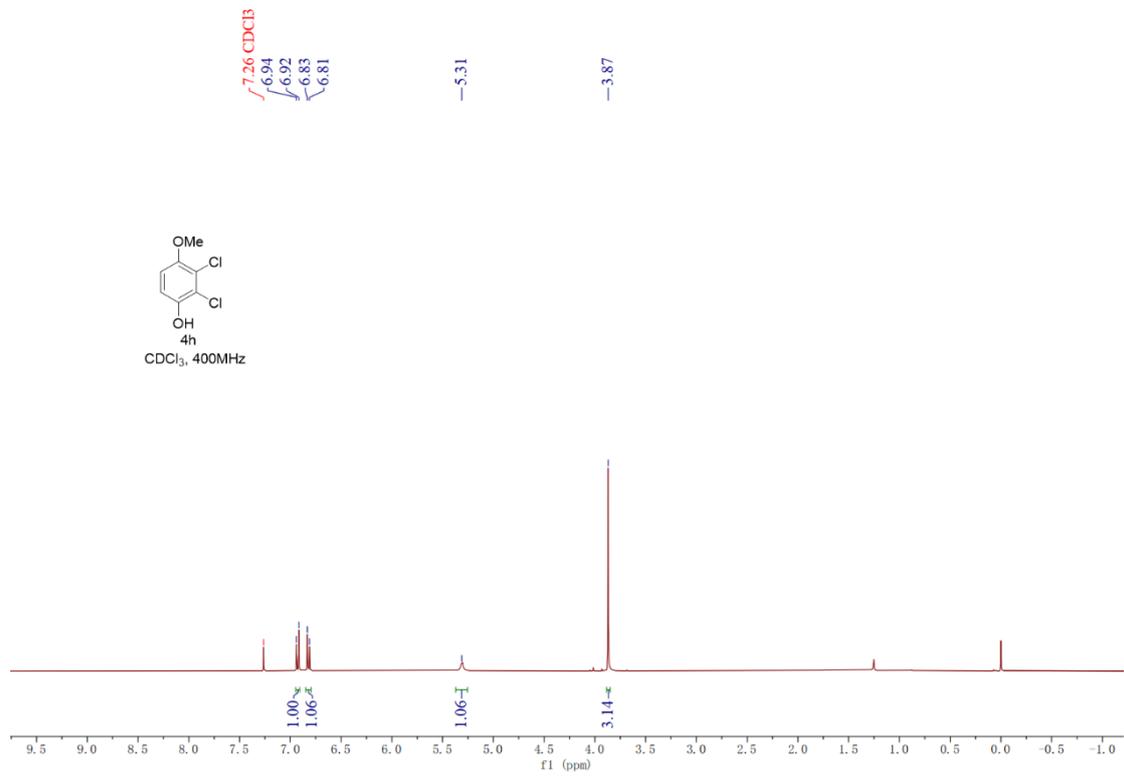
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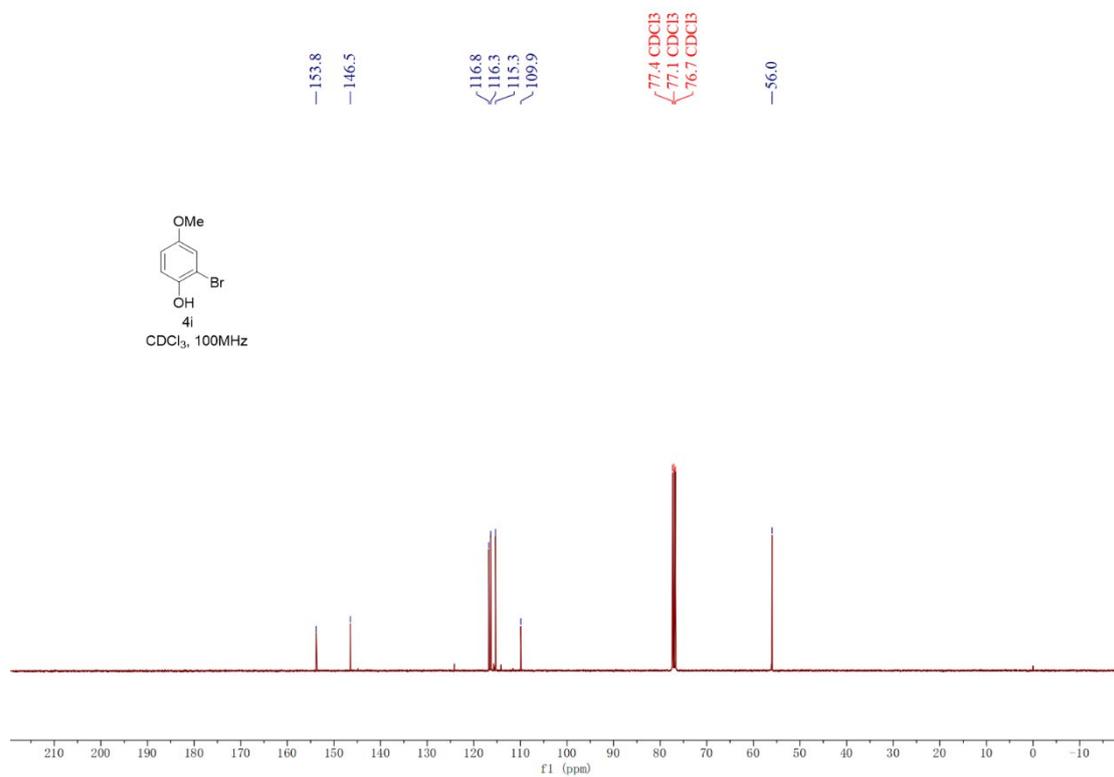
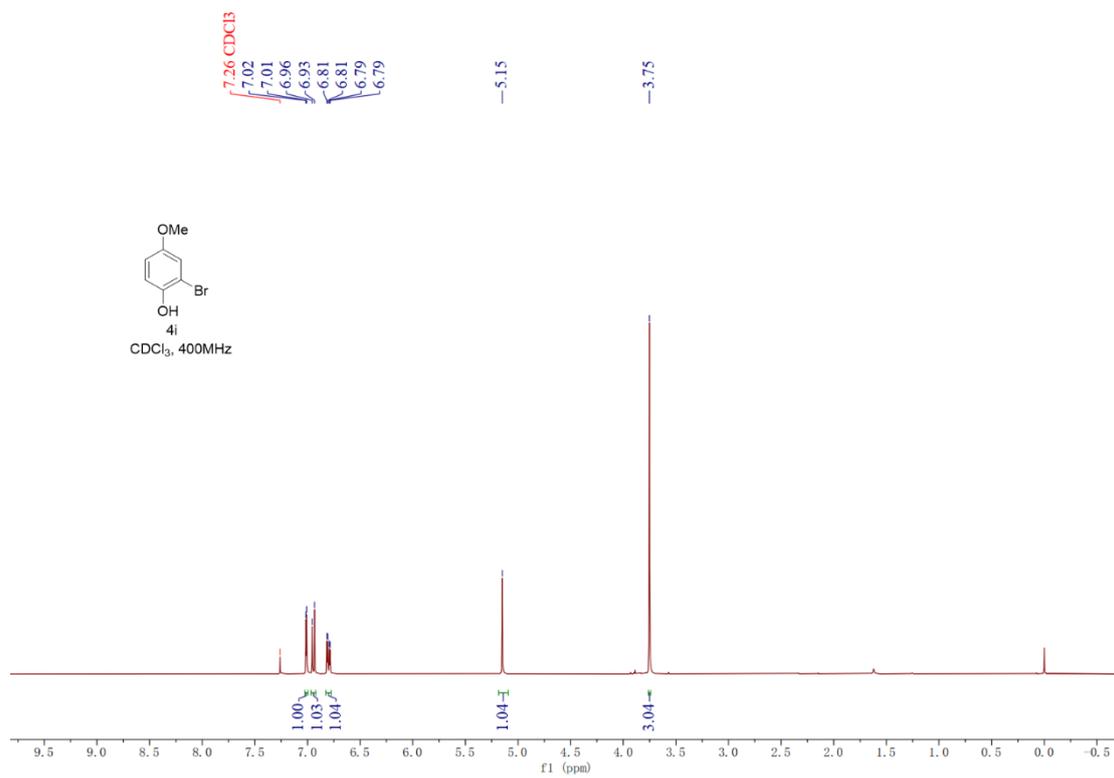
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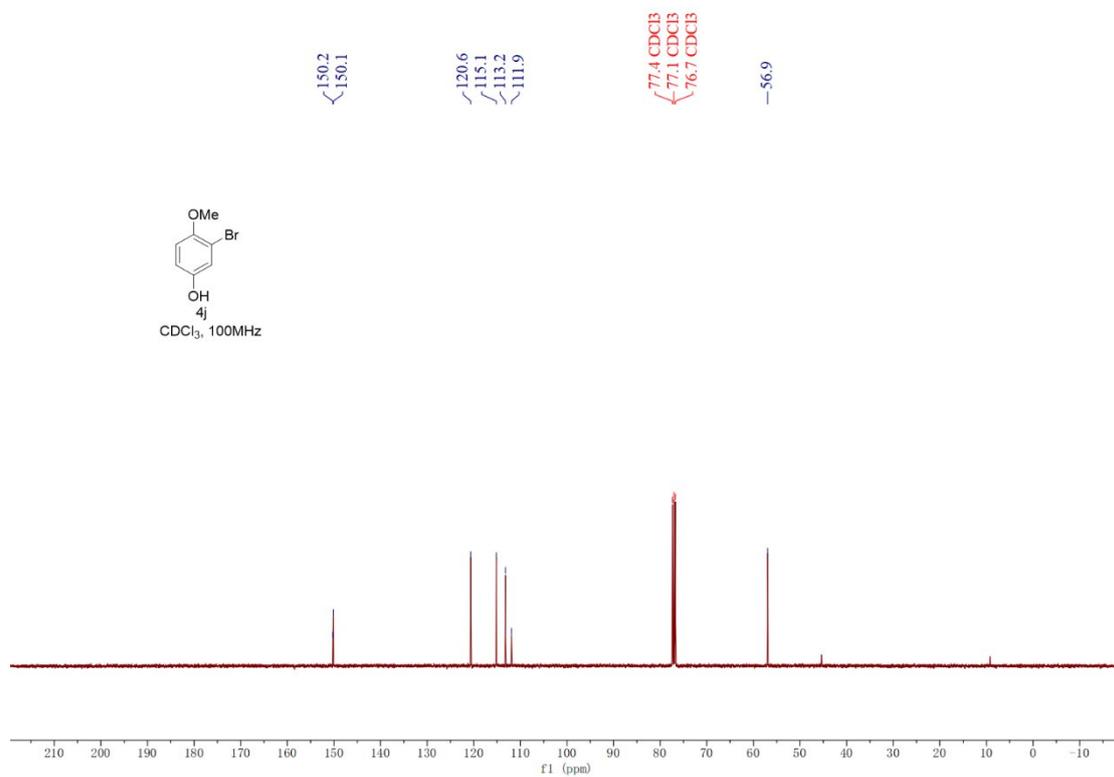
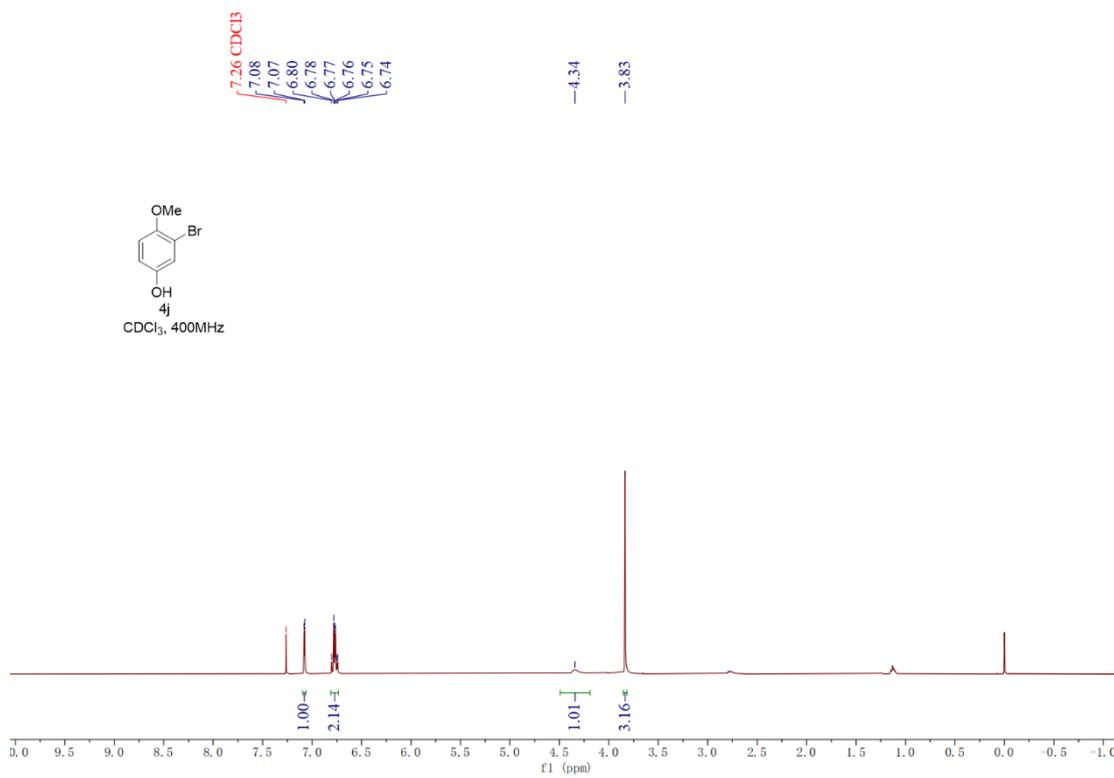
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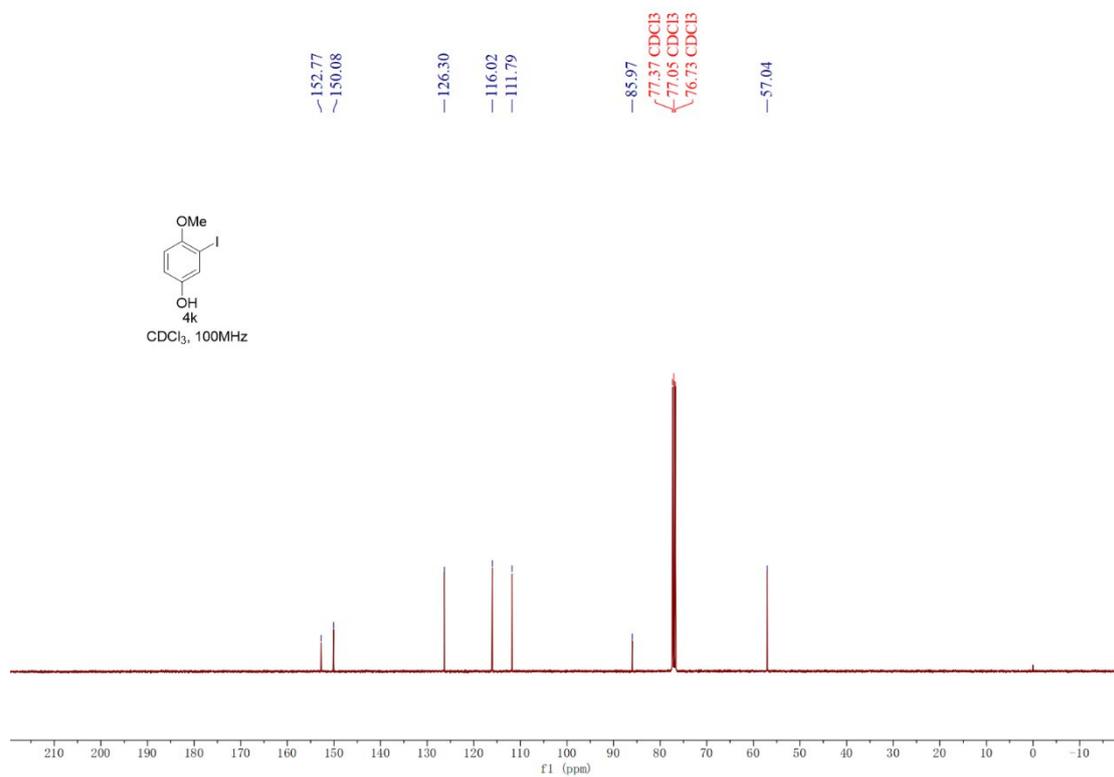
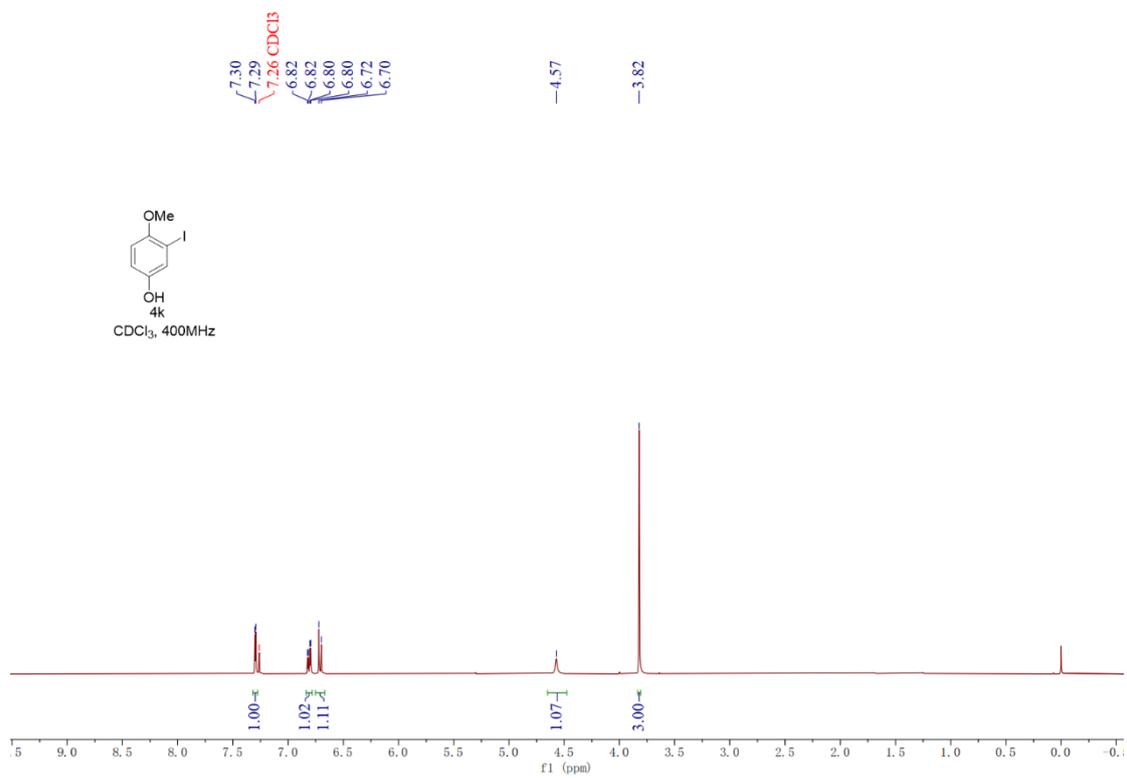
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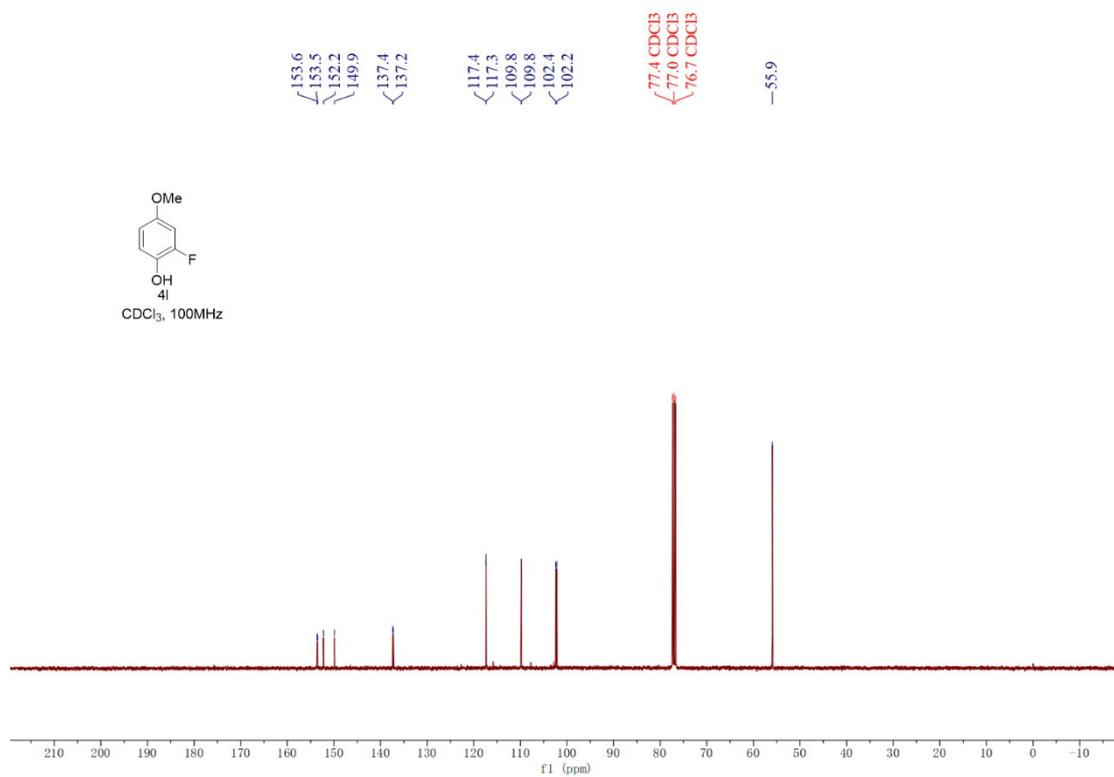
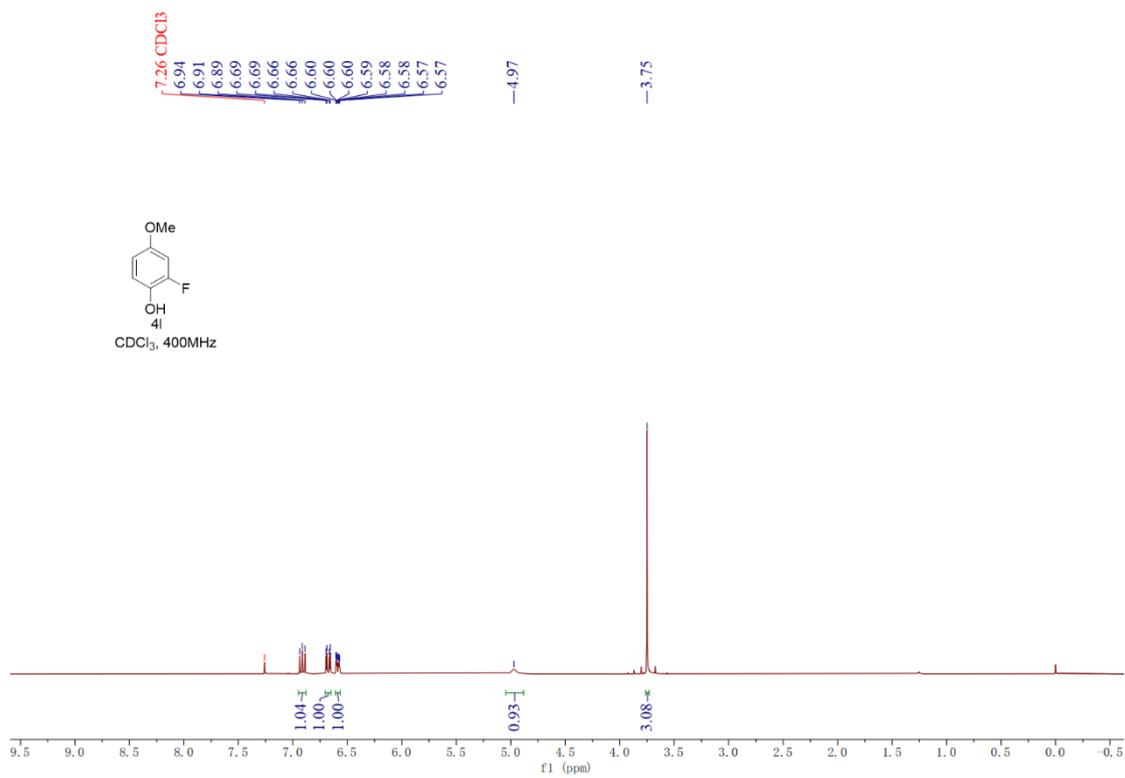
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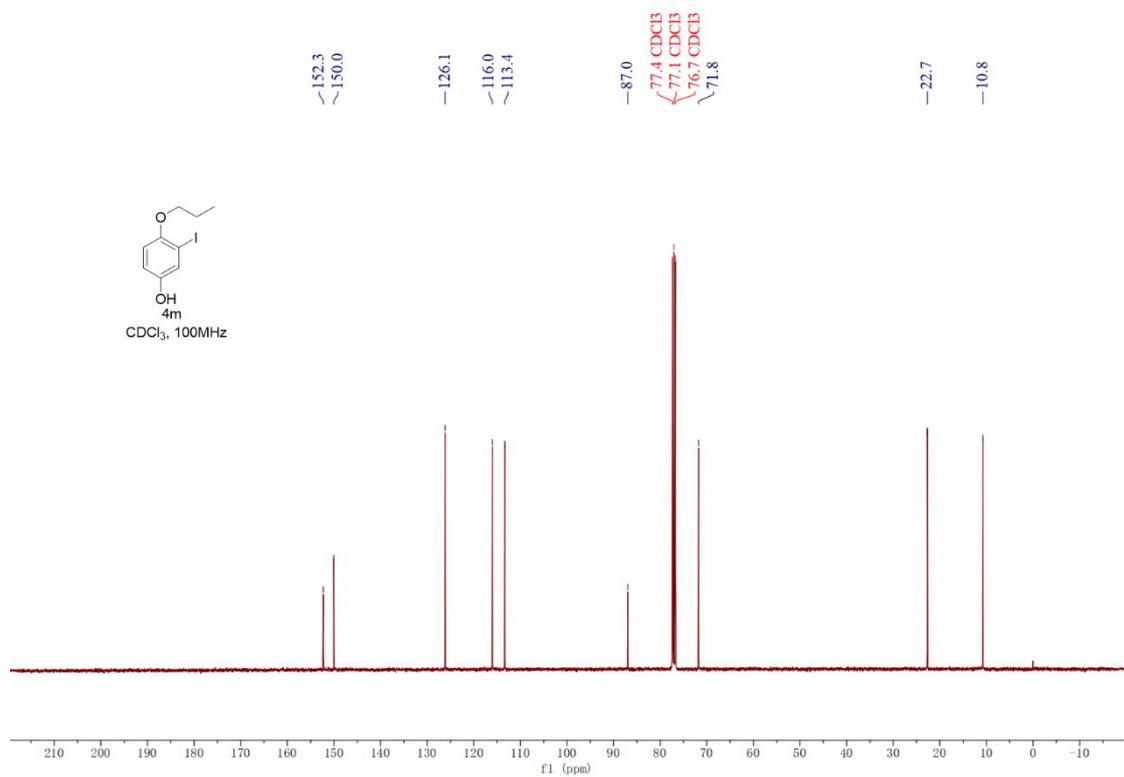
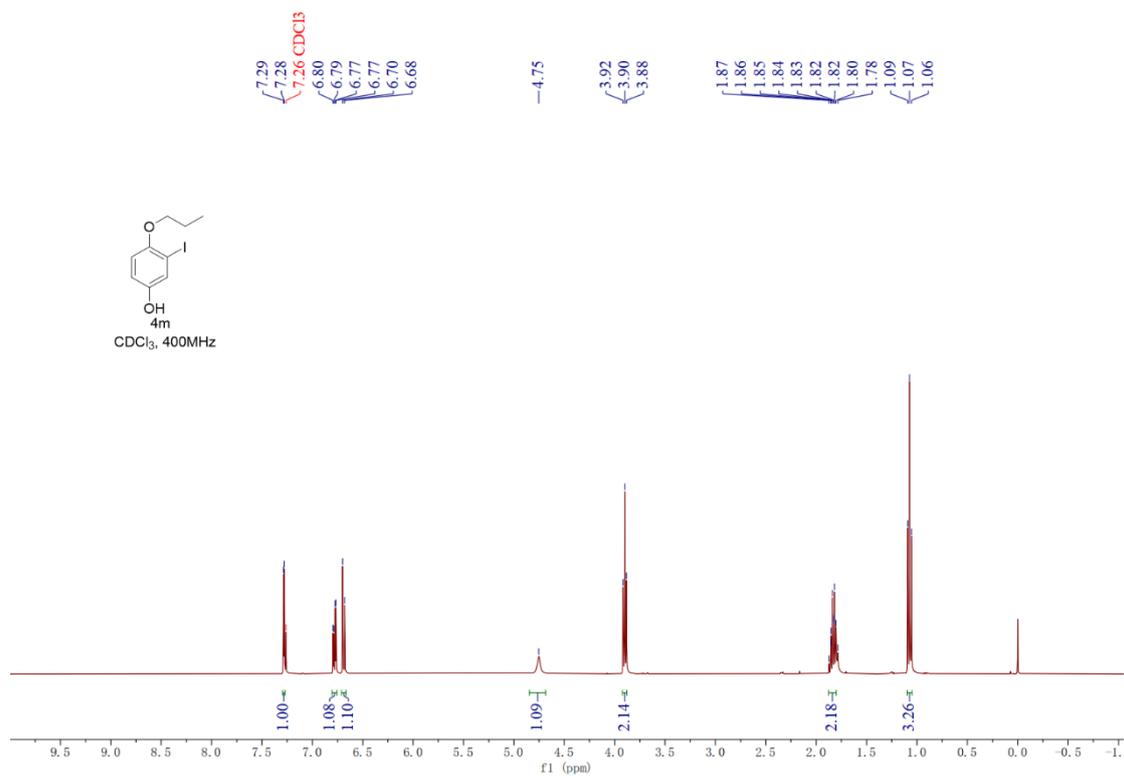
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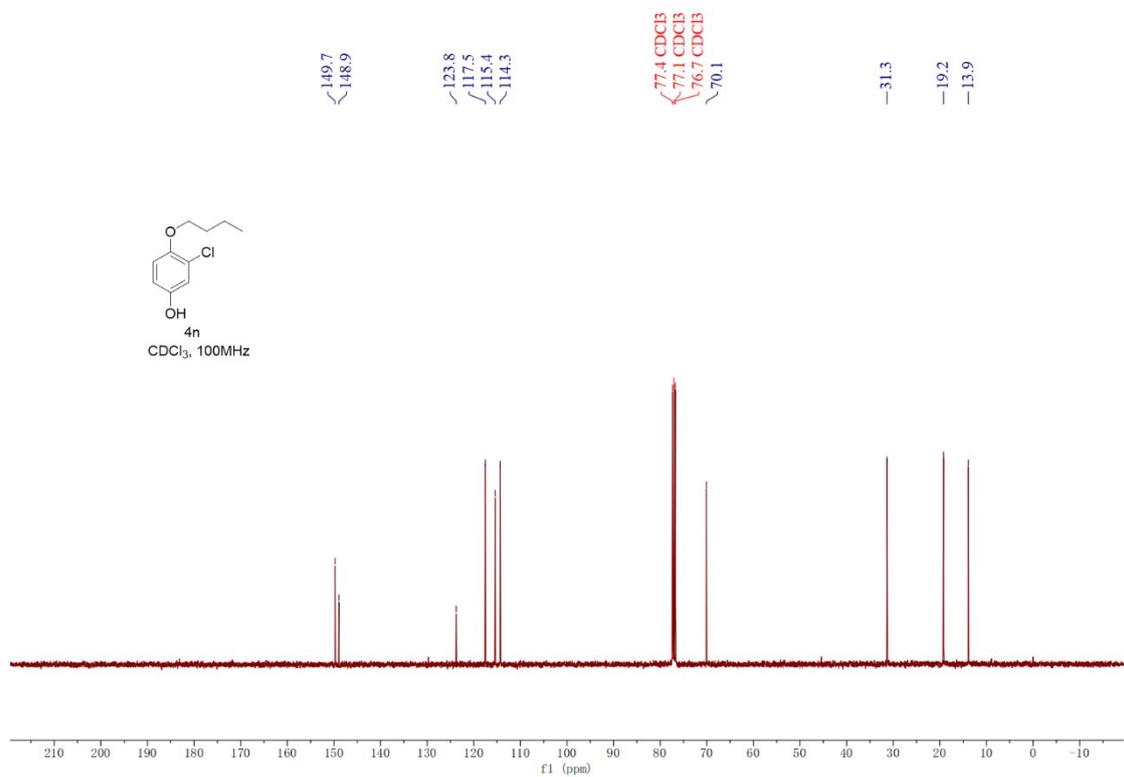
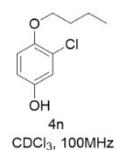
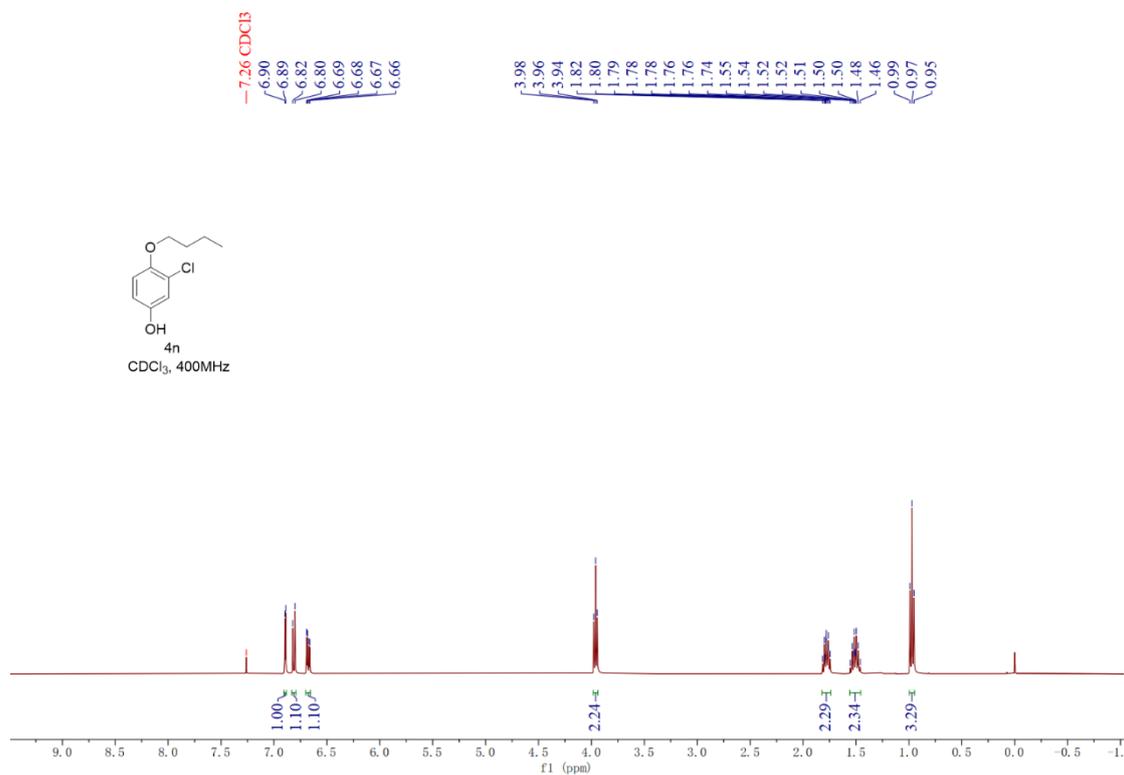
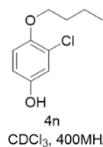
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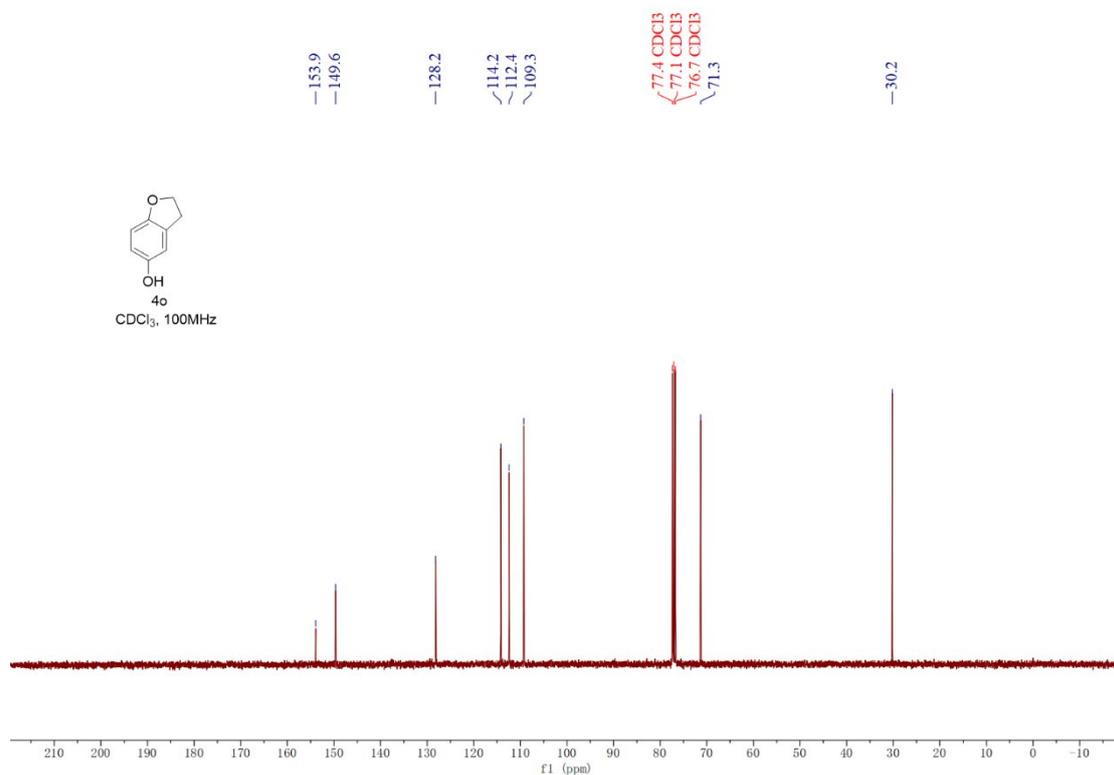
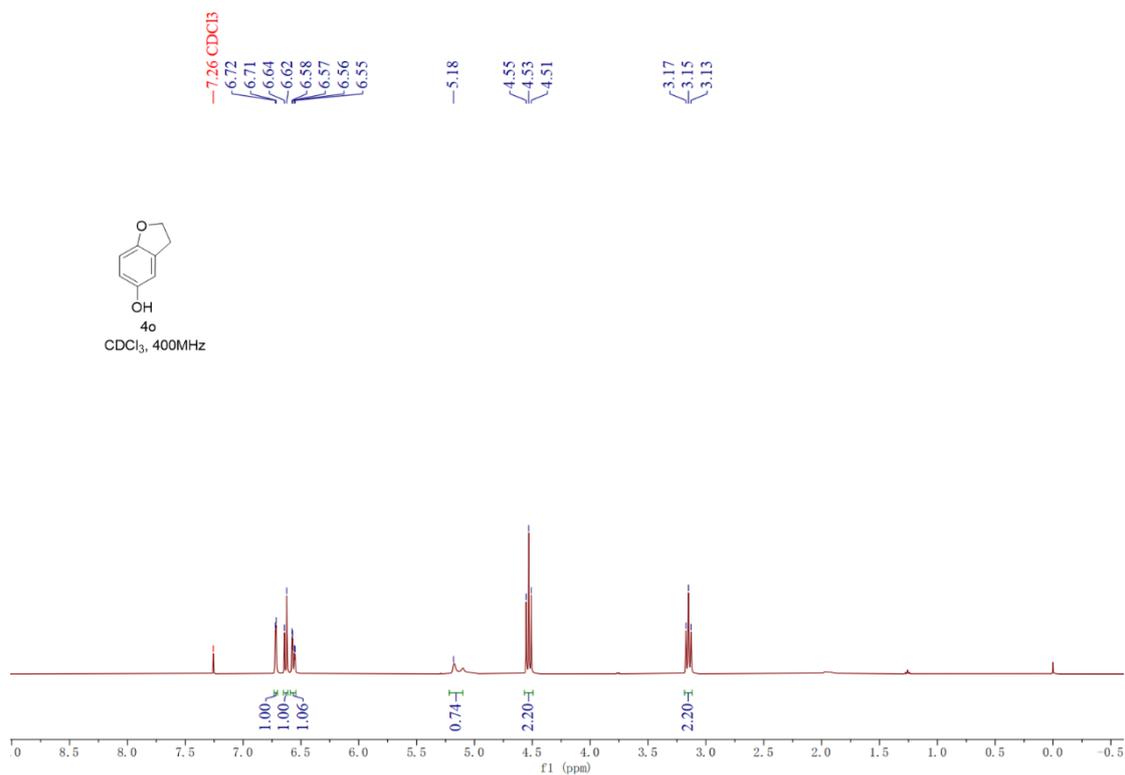
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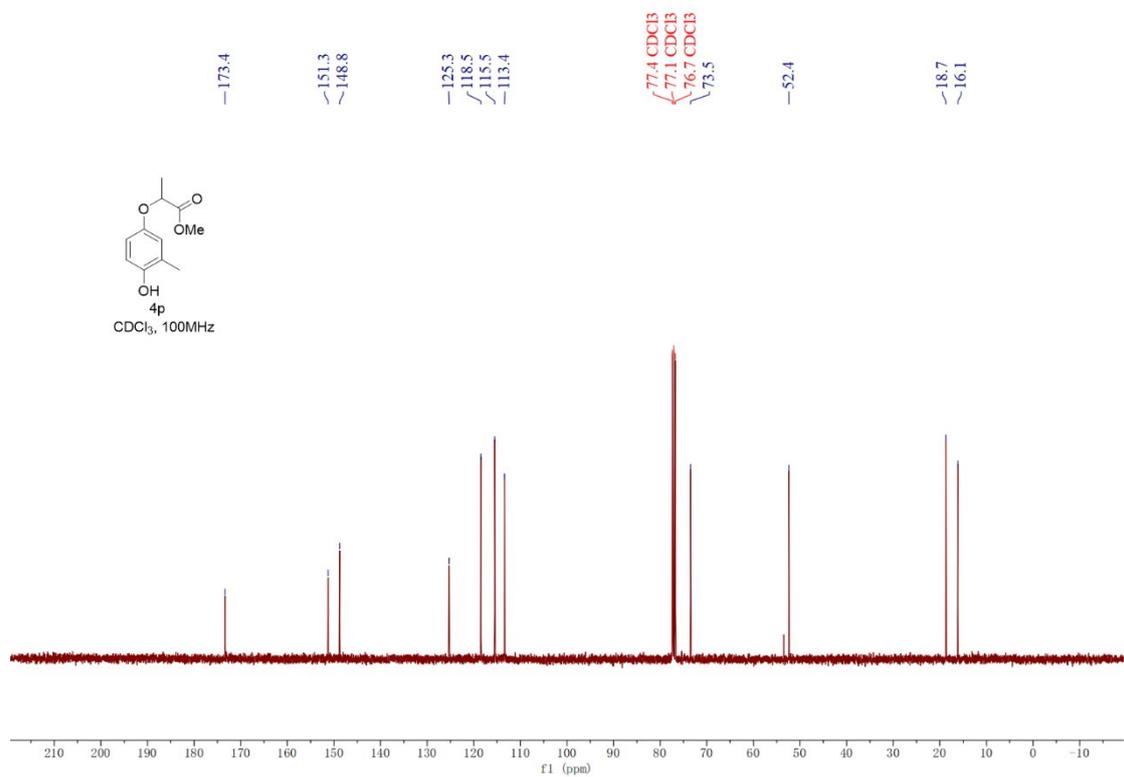
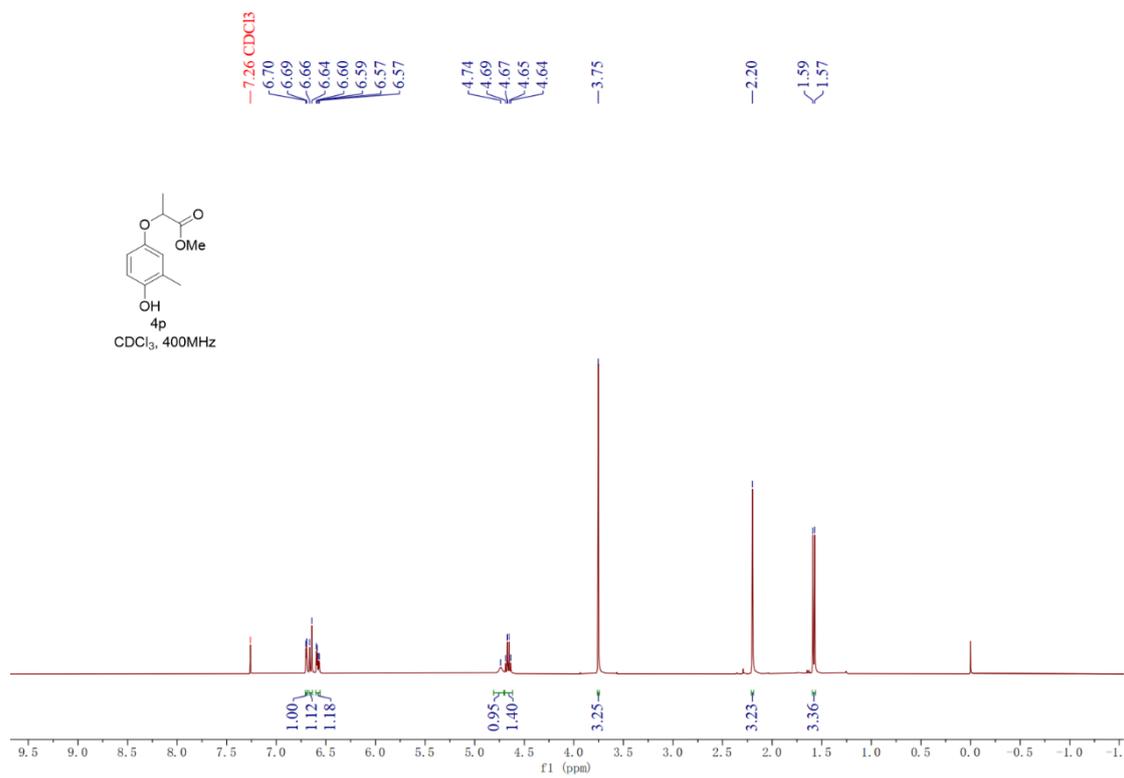
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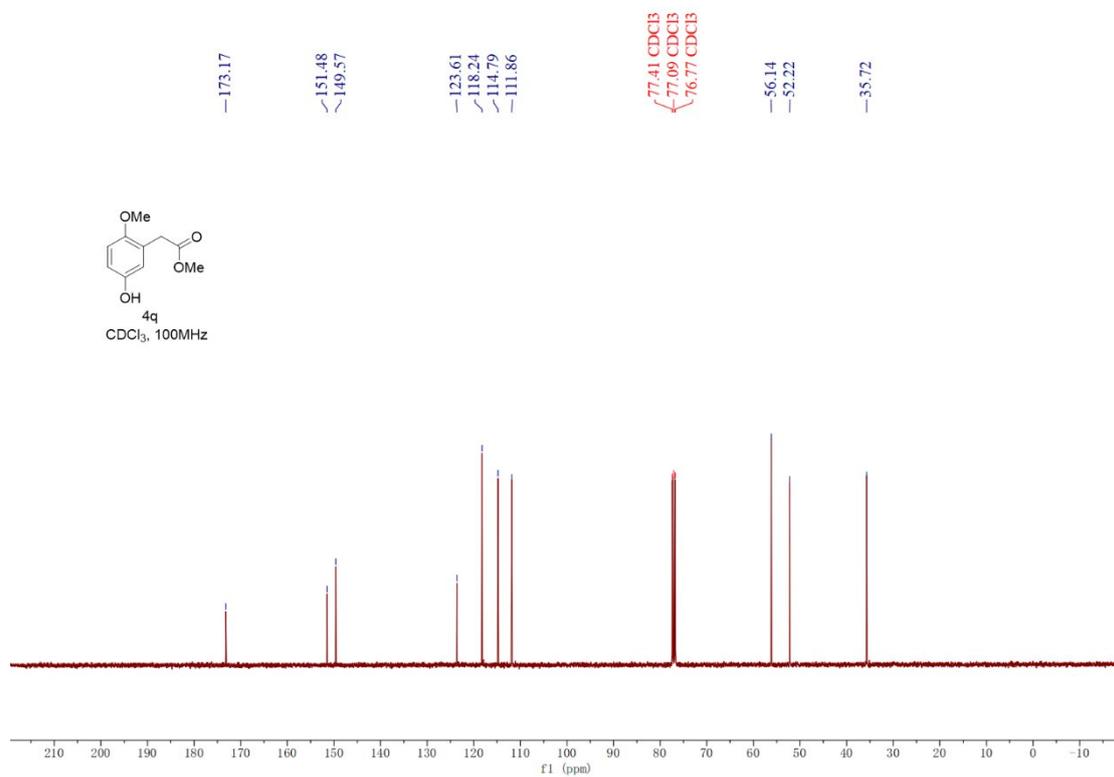
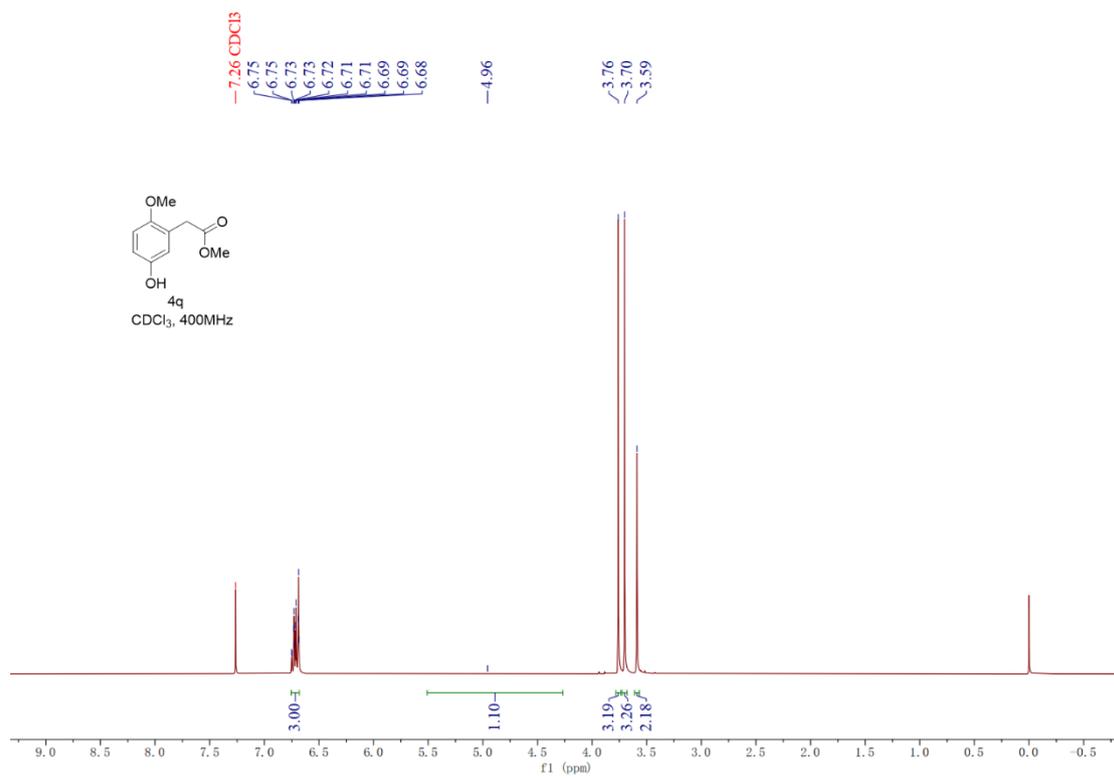
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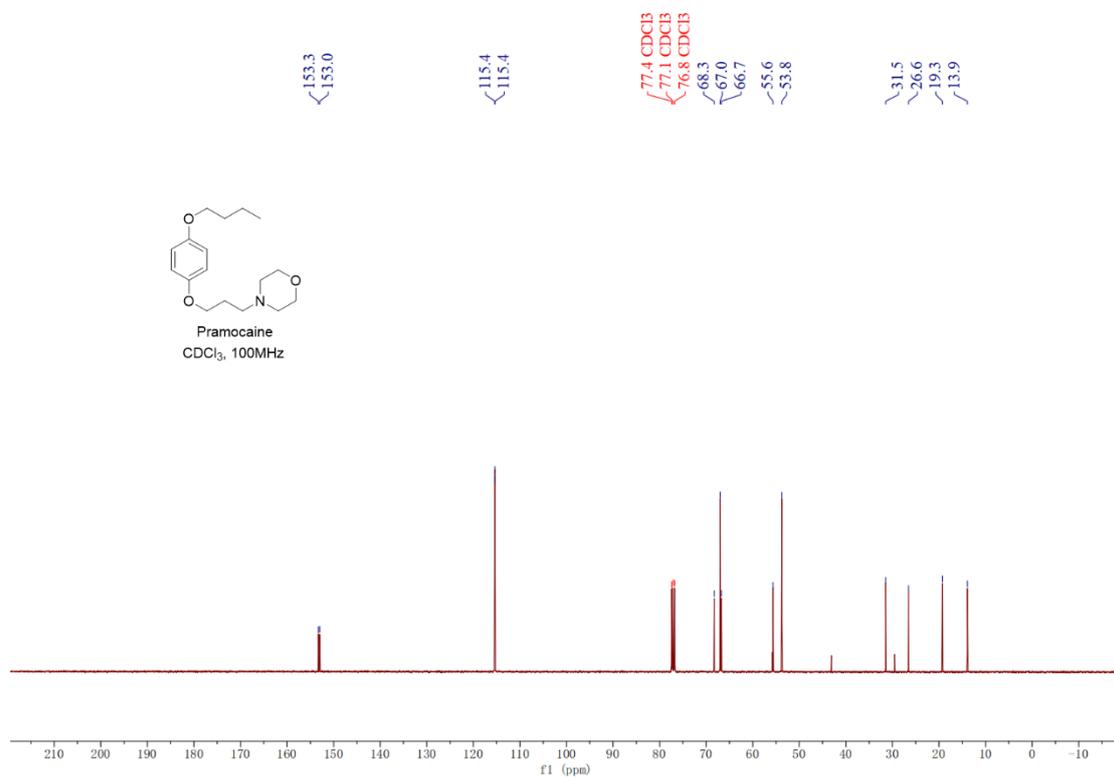
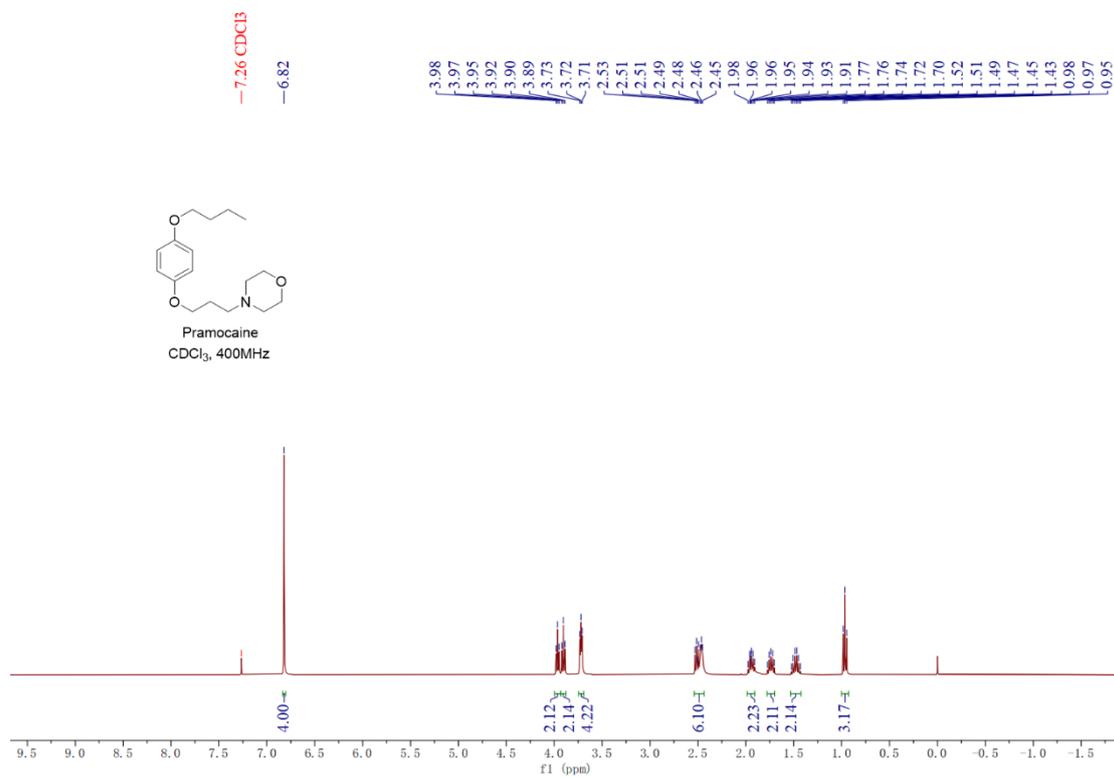
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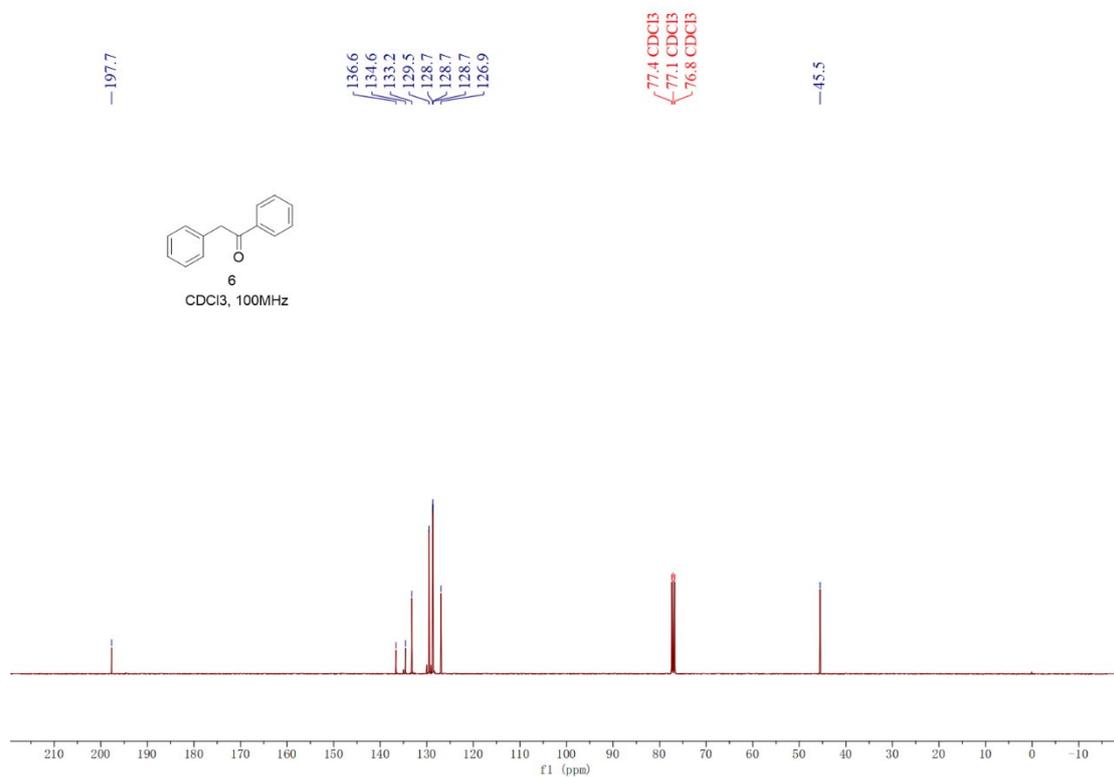
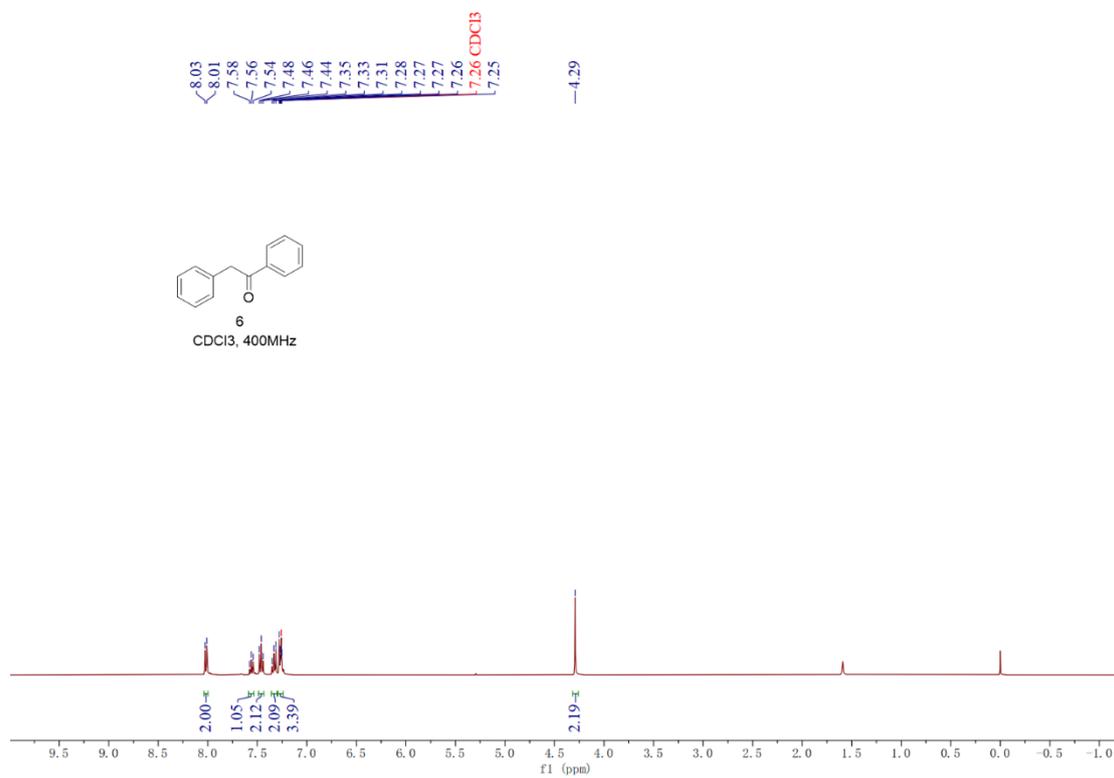
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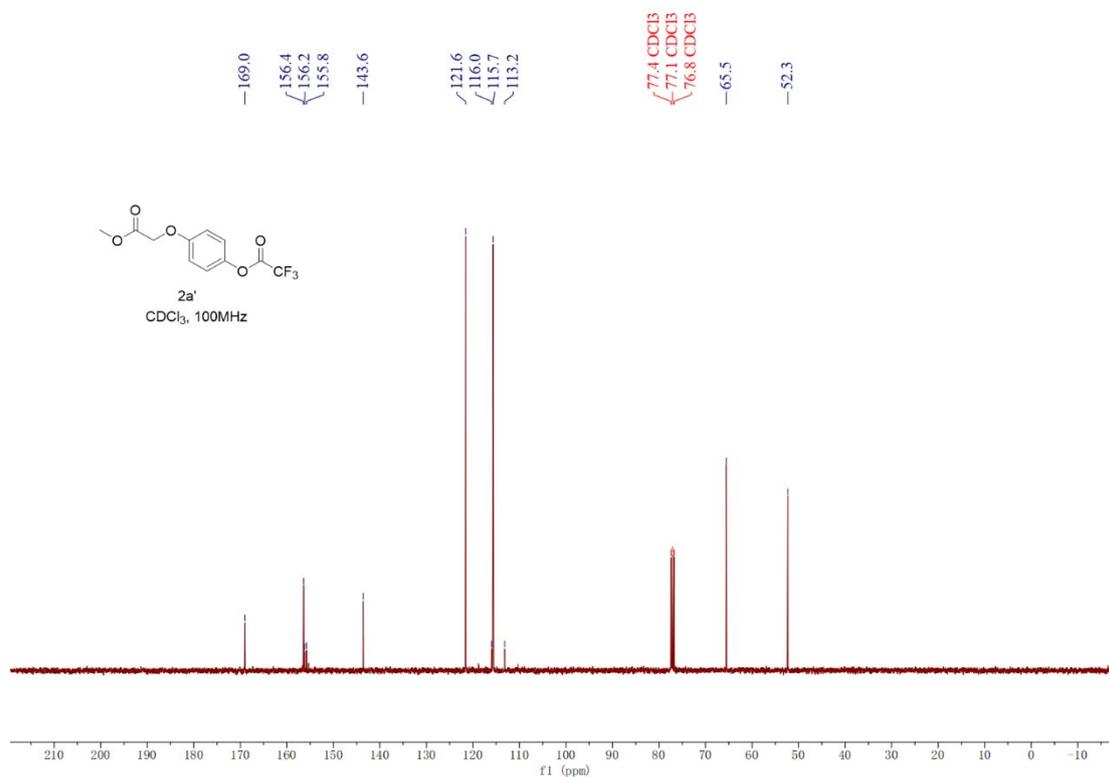
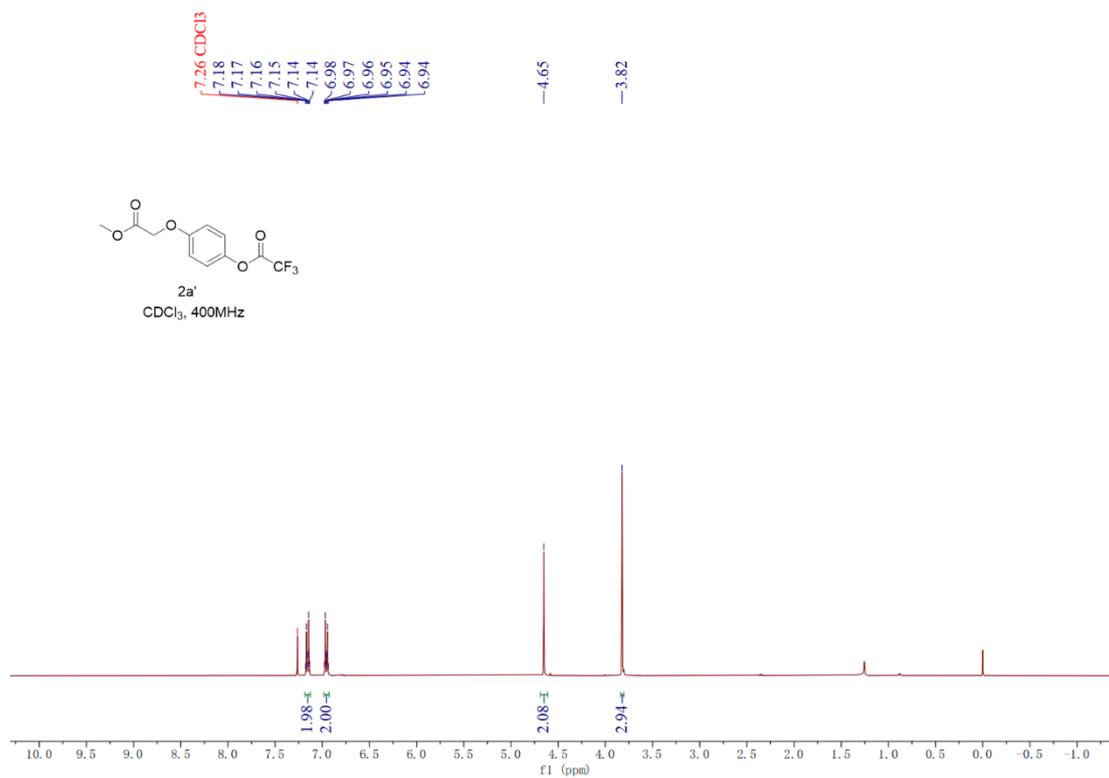
Pramocaine



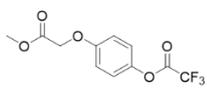
1,2-diphenylethan-1-one



4-(2-methoxy-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl 2,2,2-trifluoroacetate



--74.83



2a'
CDCl₃, 376MHz

