

## Supplementary information

for

### Air Oxidized Activated Carbon Catalyst for Aerobic Oxidative Aromatizations of N-Heterocycles

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## General remarks

If not described differently, all reactions were performed under air and at RT (18 - 20 °C). Reactions sensitive to water or oxygen were kept under an inert atmosphere of dry argon. They were handled with Schlenck-technique with syringe and septum in absolute and degassed solvents. All HPLC-grade solvents were used without further purification as obtained from the supplier (Honeywell, VWR, Merck, Sigma Aldrich). Distilled water was produced with an Aquatron AS4 (Bibby). All reagents were commercially available and used without further purification as obtained from the supplier. All oxidized active carbon species (oAC) were synthesized in our lab. Oxidized carbon nanotubes (oCNT) were prepared by HNO<sub>3</sub> oxidation.<sup>1</sup> Column chromatography was executed with pressurized air and at RT over silica gel (pore size 40 - 63 μm, VWR). All NMR spectra were measured at a sample temperature of 293 K. The following devices were used: Avance Neo 500 (Bruker, 500 MHz), Avance Neo 400 (Bruker, 400 MHz), Unity Inova 300 (Varian, 300 MHz). The chemical shift  $\delta$  in parts per million (ppm) is relative to the shift of tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0$  ppm) in both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra as well as trichloro-fluoromethane ( $\delta = 0$  ppm) in <sup>19</sup>F spectra. The spectra were calibrated to the residual proton shifts of the corresponding deuterated solvents (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub> 7.26 ppm, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>: 2.50, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub> 77.16 ppm, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>: 39.52). NMR-yields were determined with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard using a pulse-width of  $pw = 3.33 \mu s$  and a delay time of  $d1 = 35 s$ . High-resolution mass spectra were recorded with a microTOF LC (Bruker), the molecules were ionized with an electron spray ionization source in a positive mode coupled to a time of flight detection method (ESI<sup>+</sup>-TOF).

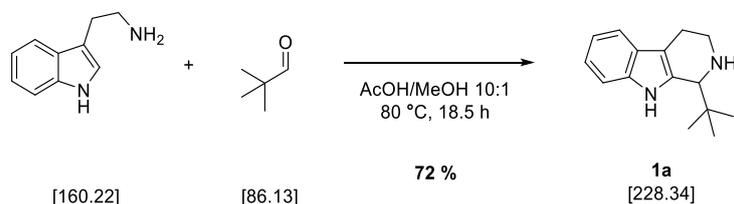
**Table S1 Comparison of dehydrogenation of tetrahydro N-heterocycles with  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$  and  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  catalysts**

Reaction scheme: A tetrahydro N-heterocycle with substituents  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  and a heterocyclic ring (Het) is converted to a dihydro N-heterocycle with the same substituents and Het ring. The reaction uses  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{oAC}^a$  in toluene at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h.

| Entry          | Product   | Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)      |  |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
|                |   | $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$ | $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  |
| 1              |   | 36                          | 67 <sup>c</sup>  |
| 2              |   | 16                          | 38   |
| 3              |   | 9 (15) <sup>d</sup>         | 12 (3) <sup>d</sup>  |
| 4              |   | 11 (13)                     | 7  |
| 5              | <br>2e R = H<br>2f R = OMe<br>2g R = Me<br>2h R = F<br>2i R = Cl<br>2j R = Br<br>2k R = CO <sub>2</sub> Me<br>2l R = CN | 90 (2e)                     | >99 (2e)<br>91 (2f) <sup>f</sup><br>92 (2g) <sup>f</sup><br>97 (2h) <sup>f</sup><br>72 (2i) <sup>f</sup><br>66 (2j) <sup>f</sup><br>96 (2k) <sup>f</sup><br>93 (2l) <sup>f</sup> |
| 6              |   | 56                          | 53   |
| 7 <sup>e</sup> |   | 55                          | 47[54] <sup>g</sup>  |
| 8              |   | 49                          | 67   |
| 9              |   |                             | 30   |
| 10             |   | 37 (36) <sup>e</sup>        | 40 (4) <sup>d</sup> [67] <sup>h</sup>  |
| 11             |   |                             | 77   |

<sup>a</sup> 4 eq., one catalyst eq. = 224 mg · mmol<sup>-1</sup> of SM. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> Reaction time 72 h. <sup>d</sup> 3,4-dihydro intermediate, <sup>e</sup> SM is 6-hydroxy-3,4-dihydroquinolin-2(1H)-one <sup>f</sup> Yield as determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. <sup>g</sup> at 140 °C, 72 h. <sup>h</sup> at 100 °C, 72 h.

### 1-tert-Butyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole (1a)



The reaction was performed according to a modified method of Ye *et al.*<sup>2</sup> Pivaldehyde (1.96 mL, 18.0 mmol, 1.94 eq) was added to a solution of tryptamine (1.50 g, 9.36 mmol, 1.00 eq) in AcOH/MeOH (10:1, 7.50 mL). The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 18.5 h. After cooling to RT, the solution was basified to pH = 10 with NH<sub>3</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O (aq. 25%). Dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 x 40 mL, 3 x 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (30 mL), which was then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 5% → 15%), which gave an orange oil. Upon adding hexane (20 mL) a pale-yellow solid precipitated, which was filtered off and washed with ice-cold hexane (30 mL). The filtrate-solvent was removed under reduced pressure, giving a pale-yellow solid. Both were combined to give **1a** (1.53 g, 6.70 mmol, 72%). Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature value.<sup>3</sup>

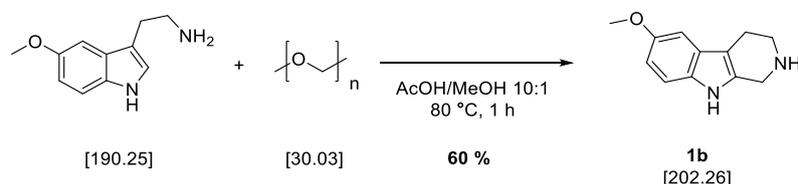
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 10.12 (s, 1H, NH), 7.35 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.00 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.92 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.8 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.71 (s, 1H, CH), 3.18 (dt, <sup>2</sup>J = 11.8 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.3 Hz, 1H, CHH), 2.73 (dt, <sup>2</sup>J = 12.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.3 Hz, 1H, CHH), 2.57-2.58 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.01 (s, 9H, 3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 136.0, 135.0, 127, 120.3, 118.0, 117.1, 111.2, 110.0, 61.3, 42.7, 35.6, 3 x 27.4, 22.7.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 229.1699, found: 229.1692.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.32 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

### 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-6-methoxy-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole (1b)



The reaction was performed according to a method of Ye *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> Paraformaldehyde (52.1 mg, 1.73 mmol, 1.10 eq) was added to a solution of 5-methoxytryptamine (300 mg, 1.58 mmol, 1.00 eq) in AcOH/MeOH (10:1, 1.10 mL). The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h under reflux cooling. After cooling to RT, the solution was basified to a pH of 10 with NH<sub>3</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O (aq. 25%, 1.5 mL). Dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 10 mL/1 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL), which was then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The organic phases were again combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography

(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10% → 17%), which gave **1b** (193 mg, 954 μmol, 60%) as a grey solid. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>2</sup>

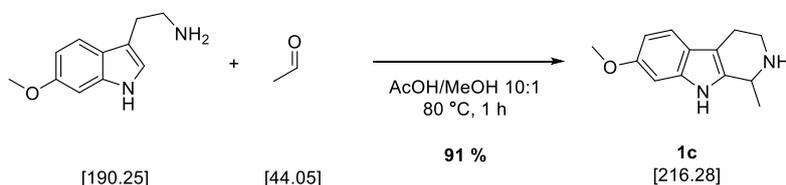
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 10.44 (s, 1H, NH-9), 7.13 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz, 1H, CH-8), 6.84 (d, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, CH-5), 6.62 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH-7), 3.82 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 3.73 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-10), 2.96 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-3), 2.56 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-4).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 152.9 (C-6), 134.9 (C-9a), 130.5 (C-8a), 127.6 (C-4b), 111.3 (CH-8), 109.6 (CH-7), 106.8 (C-4a), 99.6 (CH-5), 55.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>-10), 43.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>-3), 42.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>-1), 22.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>-4).

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 203.1179, found: 203.1184.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.11 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 15 %).

### 2,3,4,9-Tetrahydro-1H-harmine (**1c**)



The reaction was performed according to a modified method of Ye *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> Acetaldehyde (44.6 μL, 789 μmol, 1.50 eq) was added to a solution of 6-methoxytryptamine (100 mg, 526 μmol, 1.00 eq) in AcOH/MeOH (10:1, 1.00 mL). The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h in a sealed tube. After cooling to RT, the solution was basified to a pH of 10 with NH<sub>3</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O (aq. 25%, 1.5 mL). Dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL, 1 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL), which was then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 10 mL). The organic phases were again combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 8% → 18%), which gave **1c** (103 mg, 476 μmol, 91%) as a pale-yellow solid. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>4</sup>

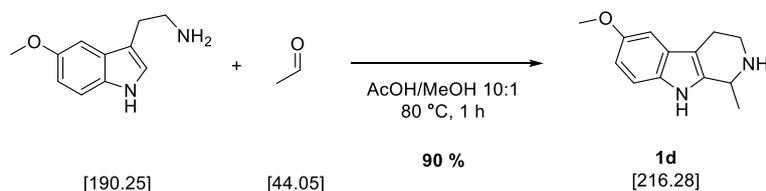
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 10.51 (s, 1H, NH), 7.21 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.79 (d, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.59 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.01 (q, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.74 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.15 (ddd, <sup>2</sup>J = 13.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 3.3 Hz, 1H, CHH), 2.87-2.80 (m, 1H, CHH), 2.62-2.52 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 155.0, 136.5, 136.2, 121.5, 117.9, 107.7, 106.4, 94.6, 55.1, 47.8, 42.1, 22.2, 20.4.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 217.1335, found: 217.1325.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.37 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 15%).

### 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoharmine (**1d**)



The reaction was performed according to a method of Ye *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> Acetaldehyde (98.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.74 mmol, 1.10 eq) was added to a solution of 5-methoxytryptamine (300 mg, 1.58 mmol, 1.00 eq) in AcOH/MeOH (10:1, 1.10 mL). The reaction was stirred at 80  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h under reflux cooling. After cooling to RT, the solution was basified to a pH of 10 with  $\text{NH}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (aq. 25%, 1.5 mL). Dist.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 x 10 mL, 1 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL), which was then extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 x 10 mL). The organic phases were again combined, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  5%  $\rightarrow$  17%), which gave **1d** (308 mg, 1.42 mmol, 90%) as a pale-yellow solid. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>5</sup>

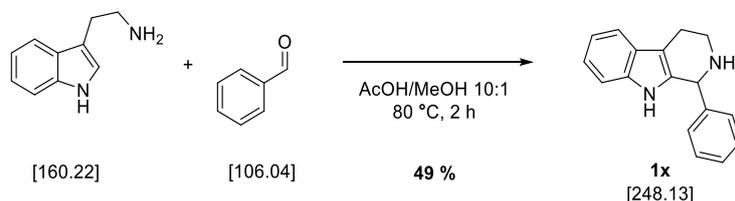
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 10.52 (s, 1H, NH-9), 7.15 (d,  $^3J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H, CH-8), 6.84 (d,  $^4J$  = 2.6 Hz, 1H, CH-5), 6.64 (dd,  $^3J$  = 8.6 Hz,  $^4J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH-7), 4.05-4.00 (m, 1H, CH-1), 3.73 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ -11), 3.27 (s, 1H, NH-2), 3.20-3.14 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3), 2.88-2.82 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ -3), 2.63-2.54 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ -4), 1.35 (d,  $^3J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ -10).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 152.9 (CH-6), 138.6 (C-9a), 130.6 (C-8a), 127.3 (C-4b), 111.4 (CH-8), 109.9 (CH-7), 106.5 (C-4a), 99.8 (CH-5), 55.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -11), 48.0 (CH-1), 42.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ -3), 22.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ -4), 20.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ -10).

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 217.1335, found: 217.1329.

**TLC:**  $R_f$  = 0.11 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  15%).

### 1-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido[3,4-b]indole (**1x**)

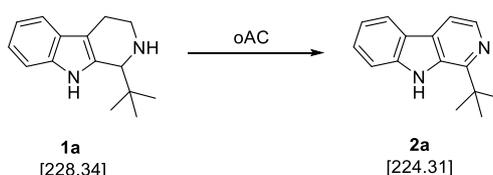


The reaction was performed according to a procedure reported by of Lin *et al.*<sup>6</sup> To a solution of tryptamine (0.5 g, 3.12 mmol, 1.00 eq.) in AcOH:MeOH (10:1, 2 mL) was added benzaldehyde (0.36 g, 3.43 mmol, 1.1 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 1.5 h and then cooled to room temperature. The mixture was then basified to pH 9–10 using  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  (aq.) and extracted with 3x50mL  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with saturated brine, dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. The solvent was evaporated to give the crude product, which was then purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}$  5:1) to give **1x** as a pale yellow solid (348 mg, 49%). Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>7</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.54 (s, 1H, CH), 7.49 (s, 1H, CH), 7.34 (s, 5H, 5 x CH), 7.21 (s, 1H, CH), 7.12 (s, 2H, 2 x CH), 5.17 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.40 (s, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.16 (s, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.94 (s, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.83 (s, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.87 (s, 1H, NH).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 141.80, 135.86, 134.50, 128.86, 128.51, 128.22, 127.43, 121.75, 119.43, 118.26, 110.83, 110.27, 58.19, 42.97, 22.56.

### 1-(*tert*-Butyl)-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole (**2a**)



An example dehydrogenation procedure of **1a** to **2a** according to the general procedure (main body): 1-*tert*-Butyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole (**1a**, 57.1 mg, 250 μmol, 1.00 eq), oAC and a solvent were placed in a reaction tube under an atmosphere of the appropriate gas. It was stirred for *n* hours at *n* °C. The reaction was cooled to rt, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product (**2a**) as a dark-yellow solid.

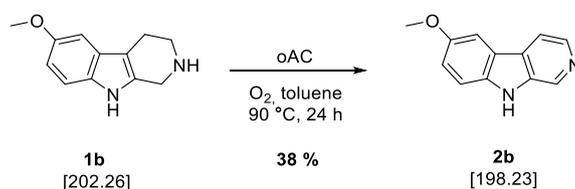
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.14 (s, 1H, NH), 8.24 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.18 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.97 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.2 Hz, <sup>5</sup>*J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.67 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.52 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.21 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 1.55 (s, 3 x CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 151.8, 140.2, 136.5, 132.0, 128.3, 127.7, 121.1, 120.5, 119.1, 113.0, 112.1, 37.5, 3 x 28.9.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 225.1386, found: 225.1380.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.36 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

### 6-Methoxy-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole (**2b**)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-6-methoxy-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole (**1b**, 50.6 mg, 250 μmol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> (*n* = 4.00, 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 3% → 8%), which gave **2b** (8 mg,

40.4  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 16%) as a yellow solid. In a second reaction with  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.50 mL), an NMR-yield of 38 % was obtained.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  data matches recorded literature values.<sup>7</sup>

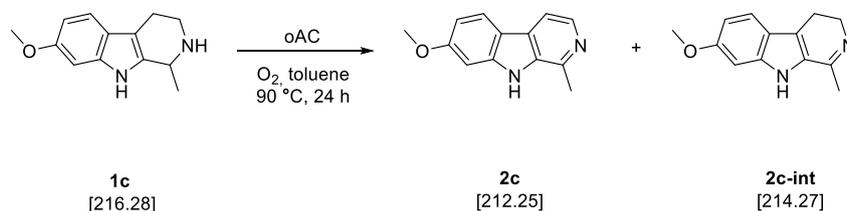
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta = 11.41$  (s, 1H, NH), 8.86 (s, 1H, CH), 8.29 (d,  $^3J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.09 (d,  $^3J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.78 (d,  $^4J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.51 (d,  $^3J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.19 (dd,  $^3J = 8.8$  Hz,  $^4J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.86 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta = 153.3$ , 137.3, 136.5, 135.4, 134.0, 127.4, 120.9, 118.2, 114.7, 112.8, 103.6, 55.6.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 199.0866, found: 199.0861.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.39$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  10%).

### Harmine (2c)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 2,3,4,9-Tetrahydro-1*H*-harmine (53.8 mg, 249  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq),  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  8%  $\rightarrow$  15%), which gave the fully oxidized **2c** (5 mg, 23.6  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 9%) as well as the intermediate **2c-int** (8 mg, 37.3  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 15%), both as colorless solids. In a second reaction with  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.50 mL), NMR-yields of 12 % for **2c** as well as 3 % for **2c-int** were obtained. Spectroscopic data of **2c** matches recorded literature values.<sup>8</sup>

### 2c (fully oxidized)

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta = 11.6$  (s, 1H, NH), 8.17 (d,  $^3J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.08 (d,  $^3J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.87 (d,  $^3J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.02 (d,  $^4J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.86 (dd,  $^3J = 8.6$  Hz,  $^4J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.88 (s, 3 H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.74 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta = 160.3$ , 142.3, 140.8, 136.8, 134.4, 127.7, 122.8, 114.7, 112.1, 109.4, 94.5, 55.3, 19.8.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 213.1022, found: 213.1026.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.47$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  15%).

### 2c-int (intermediate)

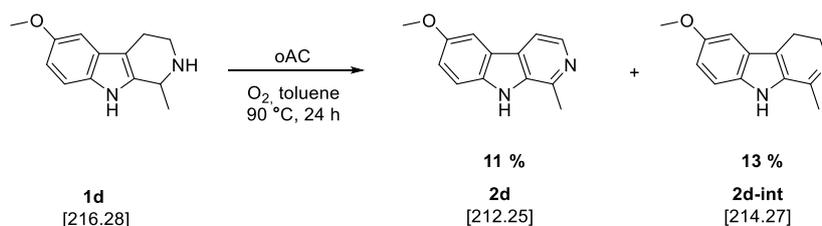
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta = 12.48$  (s, 1H, NH), 7.66 (d,  $^3J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.91 (d,  $^4J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.84 (dd,  $^3J = 8.9$  Hz,  $^4J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.85 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.83 (t,  $^3J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.14 (t,  $^3J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.69 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 165.0, 160.6, 142.4, 125.6, 124.3, 123.0, 118.7, 113.9, 93.7, 55.4, 41.5, 18.9, 18.5.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 215.1179, found: 215.1171.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.41 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 15%).

### Isoharmine (2d)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoharmine (**1d**, 54.0 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> (*n* = 4.00, 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 3%  $\rightarrow$  17%), which gave **2d** (6.1 mg, 28.7  $\mu$ mol, 11%) as well as the intermediate **2d-int** (6.9 mg, 32.2  $\mu$ mol, 13%), both as orange solids. **2d-int** could not be purified. In a second reaction with oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (*n* = 4, 224 mg), an NMR-yield of 7% was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>9</sup>

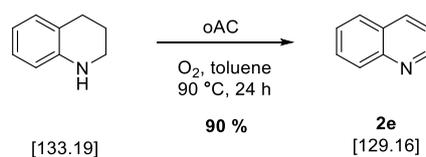
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.42 (s, 1H, NH), 8.26 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.93 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.74 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.51 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.18 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.8 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.85 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.75 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 153.3, 142.0, 136.4, 135.4, 135.0, 126.9, 121.3, 118.1, 2 x 112.8, 103.5, 55.6, 20.1.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 213.1022, found: 213.1018.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

### Quinoline (2e)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (33.3 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> (*n* = 4, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified

via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 0% → 10%), which gave **2e** (29 mg, 225 μmol, 90%) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>10</sup> Additional control tests were run: oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4, 225 mg) in the same conditions gave **2e** (33 mg, 255 μmol, >99%). oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4, 225 mg) and a reaction time of 30 min gave an NMR-yield of 53 % **2e**. The same conditions were used to run a test in presence of TEMPO (1 eq) for 3h, the yield was determined with NMR as 52% **2e**. The same conditions were used as well to run a test for 30 minutes in trifluorotoluene. The yield was determined with NMR as 50% **2e**.

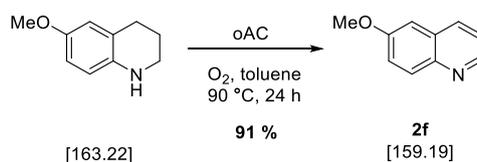
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.93 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.17 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.12 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.82 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.72 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.56 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.40 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.1 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 150.4, 148.3, 136.1, 2 x 129.5, 128.3, 127.8, 126.6, 121.1.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** m/z calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 130.0651, found: 130.0653.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.56 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

### 6-Methoxyquinoline (**2f**)



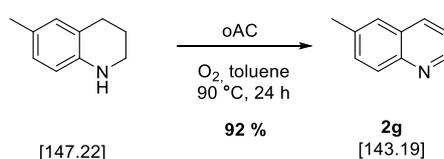
The general procedure (main body) was followed. 6-Methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (40.8 mg, 250 μmol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 0% → 10%), which gave **2f** (33.8 mg, 212 μmol, 85 %) as a yellow oil. In a second reaction, an NMR-yield of 91 % was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>11</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 72 % **2f**.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.77 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.2 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.03 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.00 (d, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.06 (d, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.93 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 157.8, 148.1, 144.6, 134.9, 131.0, 129.4, 122.4, 121.5, 105.2, 55.7.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 5 %).

### 6-Methylquinoline (**2g**)



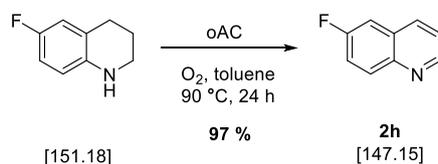
The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6-mehtylquinoline (36.6 mg, 249  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (n = 4, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 1.5 %  $\rightarrow$  2 %), which gave **2g** (32.6 mg, 228  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 92 %) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>11</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 65 % **2g**.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.85 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.3 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.06 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.00 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.57 (s, 1H, CH), 7.54 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.5 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.35 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 4.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.54 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 149.6, 147.0, 136.5, 135.5, 131.9, 129.3, 128.5, 126.7, 121.2, 21.7.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.47 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 5 %).

### 6-Fluoroquinoline (2h)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 6-Fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (37.8 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (n = 4, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 0%  $\rightarrow$  10%), which gave **2h** (18.2 mg, 124  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 50 %) as a yellow oil. In a second reaction, an NMR-yield of 97 % was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>10</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 64 % **2h**.

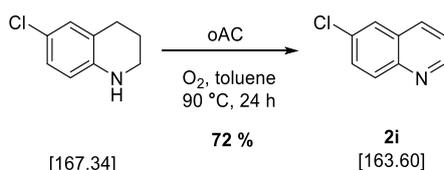
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.90 (dd, J = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.37 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.10 (dd, J = 9.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.80 (dd, J = 9.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.69 (ddd, J = 9.2, 8.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.58 (ddd, J = 8.4, 4.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 248.1 Hz), 149.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 3.3 Hz), 145.5, 135.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.1 Hz), 132.2 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 9.1 Hz), 129.0 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 9.8 Hz), 121.9, 119.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 26.5 Hz), 110.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 22.2 Hz).

**<sup>19</sup>F-NMR:** (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 113.8.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 5 %).

### 6-Chloroquinoline (2i)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 6-Chloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (16.7 mg, 100  $\mu$ mol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (n = 4.00, 89.6 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and a yield of 72 % determined through NMR. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>11</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 60 % **2i**.

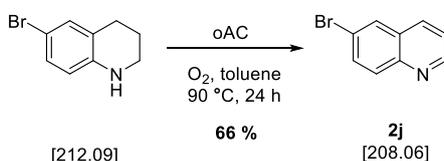
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.93 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.36 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.3 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.13 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.04 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.77 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.59 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 151.1, 146.1, 135.4, 131.1, 130.9, 130.0, 128.7, 126.8, 122.4.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NCl (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 164.0262, found: 164.0262.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.60 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

### 6-Bromoquinoline (2j)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 6-Bromo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (53.7 mg, 253  $\mu$ mol, 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (n = 4, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) which gave impure **2j** (39.5 mg, 190  $\mu$ mol, 75 %) as a yellow oil, which could not be further purified. In a second reaction, an NMR-yield of 66 % was obtained. An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 55 % **2j**.

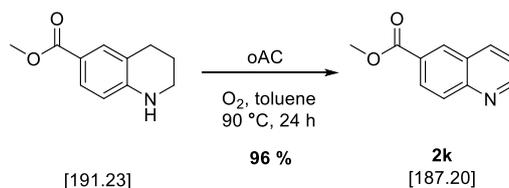
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.93 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.2 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.08 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.99 (s, 1H, CH), 7.98 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.78 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.43 (dd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  = 151.65, 146.75, 135.77, 133.04, 131.62, 130.53, 129.68, 122.85, 119.94.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NBr (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 207.9756, found: 207.9796.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 5%).

### Methyl quinoline-6-carboxylate (2k)



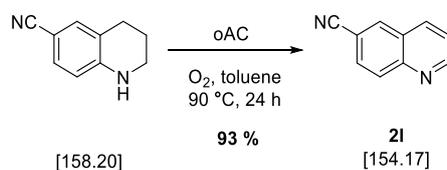
The general procedure (main body) was followed. Methyl 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-6-quinolinecarboxylate (40.5 mg, 212  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC ( $n = 4.7$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), which gave **2k** (32.6 mg, 174  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 82 %) as a beige solid. In a second reaction, an NMR-yield of 96 % was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>12</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 34 % **2k**.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.01$  (dd,  $^3J = 4.3$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.59 (d,  $^4J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.29 (dd,  $^3J = 8.8$  Hz,  $^4J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.26 (dd,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz,  $^3J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.14 (d,  $^3J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.48 (dd,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz,  $^3J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H, CH), 3.99 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 166.7, 152.7, 150.2, 137.5, 131.1, 130.0, 129.1, 128.3, 127.6, 122.0, 52.6$ .

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.49$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  5%).

#### Quinoline-6-carbonitrile (**2l**)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-6-carbonitrile (15.8 mg, 100  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 89.6 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and a yield of 72 % determined through NMR. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>13</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 27 % **2l**.

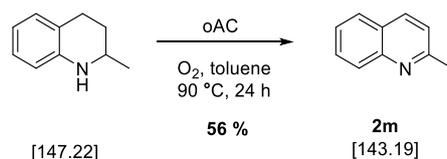
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ):  $\delta = 9.08$  (dd,  $^3J = 4.4$  Hz,  $^3J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.67 (d,  $^4J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.50 (d,  $^3J = 8.6$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.16 (d,  $^3J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.04 (dd,  $^3J = 8.7$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.70 (dd,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz,  $^3J = 4.3$  Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ):  $\delta = 153.7, 148.5, 136.8, 135.0, 130.6, 130.2, 127.3, 123.0, 118.6, 109.1$ .

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 155.0604 found: 155.0606.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.60$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  10%).

#### Quinaldine (**2m**)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline (36.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7 %, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  0%  $\rightarrow$  5%), which gave **2m** (19 mg, 133  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 53%) as a colorless oil. An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 36 % **2m**. In a reaction with oAC<sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.00 mL), a yield of 56 % (20 mg, 140  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>11</sup>

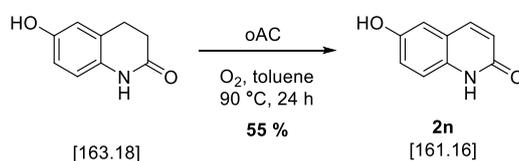
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.05$  (d,  $^3J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 8.02 (d,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.77 (dd,  $^3J = 8.0$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.68 (ddd,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz,  $^3J = 6.9$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.48 (ddd,  $^3J = 8.1$  Hz,  $^3J = 6.9$  Hz,  $^4J = 1.1$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.29 (d,  $^3J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.75 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 158.7, 147.3, 136.0, 129.3, 128.2, 127.7, 126.2, 125.6, 122.1, 24.8$ .

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 144.0808, found: 144.0806.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.56$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  10%).

### 6-Hydroxyquinolin-2(1H)-one (2n)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 6-Hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-2-(1H)-quinolinone (40.8 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq), oAC<sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  3%  $\rightarrow$  15%), which gave **2n** (22 mg, 137  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 55%) as a colorless solid. In a second reaction with oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.00 mL), a yield of 47 % (29 mg, 118  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was obtained. A reaction with oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in anisole (1.50 mL) at 140 °C over 3 d gave an NMR-yield of 47 %. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>14</sup>

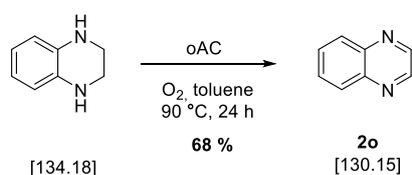
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ):  $\delta = 11.49$  (s, 1H, OH), 10.09 (s, 1H, OH), 7.73 (d,  $^3J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.44 (d,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.68 (d,  $^4J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.62 (dd,  $^3J = 8.5$  Hz,  $^4J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.21 (d,  $^3J = 9.5$  Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ):  $\delta = 162.3, 159.3, 140.8, 140.1, 129.3, 117.5, 112.4, 111.5, 99.8$ .

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 162.0550, found: 162.0559.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.28$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  10%).

## Quinoxaline (2o)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinoline (33.4 mg, 249  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq),  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7%, 400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  0%  $\rightarrow$  3%), which gave **2o** (16 mg, 123  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 49%) as a red oil. In a second reaction with  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.00 mL), a yield of 67 % (22 mg, 169  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) was obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>15</sup>

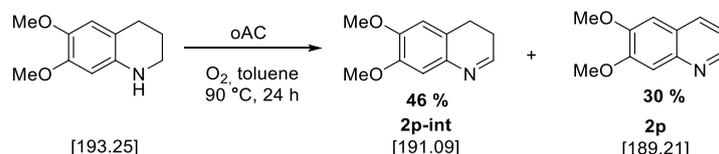
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.87$  (s, 2H, 2 x CH), 8.14-8.12 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.81-7.78 (m, 2H, 2 x CH).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 145.1, 143.2, 130.2, 129.7$ .

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ )<sup>+</sup>: 131.0604, found: 131.0605.

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.31$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  2%).

## 6,7-Dimethoxyquinoline (2p)



The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydro-6,7-dimethoxyquinoline (57.1 mg, 295  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.18 eq),  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (7 %, 200 mL/12 %, 100 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  2 %  $\rightarrow$  5 %  $\rightarrow$  10 %), which gave **2p** (16.8 mg, 88.7  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 30 %) as well as 3,4-dihydro-6,7-dihydroxyquinoline **2p-int** (25.7 mg, 134  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 49 %) both as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data for **2p** matches recorded literature values.<sup>16</sup> An additional control test was run in the same conditions for 30 minutes. The yield was determined with NMR as 61% **2p-int** and 3% **2p**.

**2p (fully oxidized)**

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 9.05$  (s, 1H, CH), 8.31 (d,  $^3J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.64 (d,  $^3J = 5.5$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.47 (s, 1H, CH), 7.33 (s, 1H, CH), 3.92 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.92 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 152.7, 150.0, 149.7, 141.5, 131.9, 124.4, 119.1, 105.5, 104.8$ .

**TLC:**  $R_f = 0.42$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  10 %).

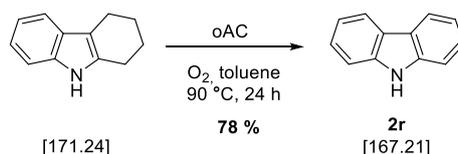


**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 132.0808, found: 132.0817.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.51 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

Due to their close R<sub>f</sub> it was not possible to fully separate product and intermediate via flash chromatography, giving a 15% impurity of **2q** in the spectrum of **2q-int**. This value was included into the total yield of both compounds.

### Carbazole (**2r**)



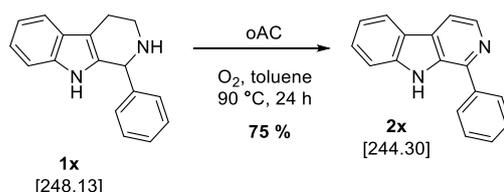
The general procedure (main body) was followed. 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydrocarbazole (43.3 mg, 253 μmol, 1.00 eq), oA-C<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4.00, 224 mg) and toluene (1.50 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (7%, 200 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 9:1 → 6:1 → 4:1), which gave **2r** (32.9 mg, 197 μmol, 78%) as a colorless solid. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>17</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 10.23 (s, 1H, NH), 8.09 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.48 (dt, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 0.8 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.38 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.15 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 0.9 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 139.7, 125.5, 122.3, 120.1, 118.4, 110.8.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.46 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 1-phenyl-1H-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole (**2x**)

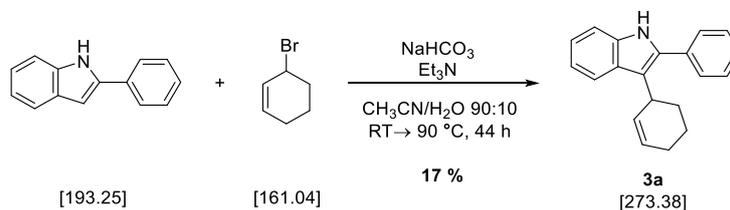


The general procedure (main body) was followed. **1x** (20.2 mg, 80 μmol, 1.00 eq), oA-C<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4.00, 75 mg) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH (10:1, 150 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 10:1), which gave **2x** (15 mg, 60 μmol, 75%) as a pale yellow solid. A second reaction with oA-C<sub>air(Δ)</sub> (n = 4.00, 75 mg) in toluene (1 mL) at 90 °C over 3 d gave an isolated yield of 86% (17 mg, 69 μmol). Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>18</sup>

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.52 (s, 1H, NH), 8.47 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.27 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.13 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 8.04 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.70 – 7.59 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.55 (d, J = 26.1 Hz, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.27 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 142.64, 141.57, 138.87, 138.84, 133.46, 129.64, 129.20, 128.98, 128.85, 128.63, 122.07, 121.30, 119.97, 114.36, 112.90.

### 2-Phenyl-3-(1-cyclohexen-3-yl)-indole (**3a**)



The synthesis was performed according to a modified procedure of WESTERMAIER *et al.*<sup>19</sup> 3-Bromocyclohexene (0.69 mL, 6.00 mmol, 1.20 eq) was added to a suspension of 2-phenylindole (966 mg, 5.00 mmol, 1.00 eq) and sodium bicarbonate (840 mg, 10.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) in acetonitrile/dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1, 25.0 mL). The reaction was stirred at RT and the pH of the reaction solution was monitored. Sodium bicarbonate (840 mg, 10.0 mmol, 2.00 eq) was added after 50 min and trimethylamine (0.69 mL, 5.00 mmol, 1.00 eq) after 4 h. After stirring for 20 h at RT the reaction was refluxed for 1.5 h at 60 °C followed by 22 h at 90 °C. The reaction was then cooled to RT and, sequentially, dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (2.5 mL), HCl aq. (1 M, 5 mL) and dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) were added. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 30 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 60:1 → 30:1) gave **3a** (234 mg, 0.86 mmol, 17%) as pale-yellow solid.

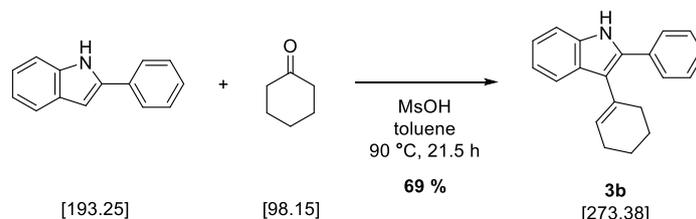
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.11 (s, 1H, NH), 7.60-7.48 (m, 5H, 5 x CH), 7.42-7.33 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.43 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.94 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.86-5.80 (m, 1H, CH<sub>Cy</sub>), 5.67 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 10.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>Cy</sub>), 3.77-3.68 (m, 1H, CH<sub>stereo</sub>), 2.27-1.87 (m, 5H, 2 x CH<sub>2</sub>, 1 x CHH), 1.71-1.56 (m, 1H, 1 x CHH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 136.3, 134.2, 133.0, 132.0, 2 x 128.6, 2 x 128.4, 127.4, 127.2, 126.5, 121.1, 120.0, 118.2, 114.9, 111.3, 33.1, 30.4, 24.5, 22.5.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 274.1590, found: 274.1582.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.47 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-indole (**3b**)



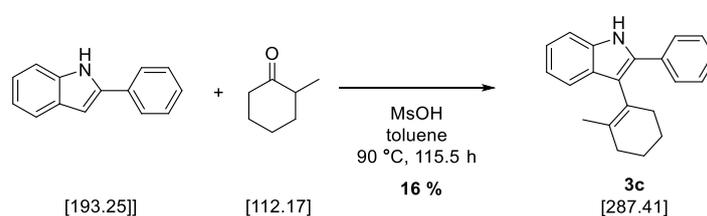
Cyclohexanone (248  $\mu$ L, 2.40 mmol, 1.20 eq) and methanesulfonic acid (2.58  $\mu$ L, 0.04 mmol, 0.02 eq) were added to a solution of 2-phenylindole (386 mg, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 eq) in toluene (4.00 mL). The reaction was stirred at 90 °C for 21.5 h and poured into NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. sat. (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 20 mL), after which the combined organic phases were washed with dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure, giving **3b** (375 mg, 1.37 mmol, 69%) as a pale-yellow solid.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.48-7.44 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.36 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H, CH), 7.10 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.99 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 0.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.78-5.77 (m, 1H, CH<sub>Cy</sub>), 2.29-2.19 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.13-2.09 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.71-1.67 (m, 4H, 2 x CH<sub>2</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 135.9, 133.1, 132.6, 131.8, 128.5 (2 x CH), 128.2, 127.1, 2 x 127.1, 126.7, 121.6, 2 x 119.0, 116.0, 111.1, 29.3, 25.3, 22.9, 21.9.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 274.1590, found: 274.1584.

### 2-Phenyl-3-(2-methyl-cyclohexene-1-yl)-indole (3c)



MsOH (5.03 μL, 77.5 μmol, 0.05 eq) was added into a solution of 2-methylcyclohexanone (227 μL, 1.86 mmol, 1.20 eq) and 2-phenylindole (300 mg, 1.55 mmol, 1.00 eq) in 5.00 mL toluene. The reaction was refluxed at 90 °C for 115.5 h, cooled to RT and poured into NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. sat. (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 x 40 mL, 3 x 30 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1), which gave 3c (70.9 mg, 247 μmol, 16%) as a pale-yellow solid.

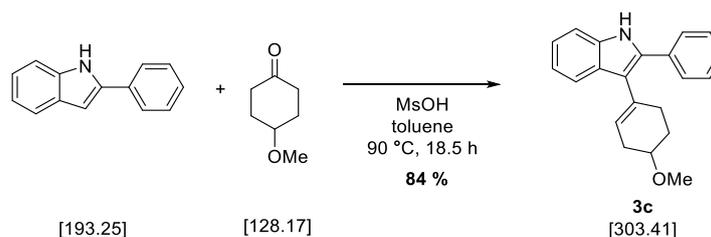
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.14 (s, 1H, NH), 7.66-7.64 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.44-7.37 (m, 4H, 4 x CH), 7.29 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 1.8 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.20 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.11 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.27-2.05 (m, 4H, 2 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81-1.62 (m, 4H, 2 x CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 136.0, 133.6, 132.7, 132.6, 129.1, 2 x 128.9, 127.3, 2 x 126.3, 124.8, 122.4, 120.2, 119.8, 117.3, 110.8, 31.8, 31.0, 24.0, 23.5, 21.0.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 288.1747, found: 288.1747.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.42 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(4-methoxy-cyclohexene-1-yl)-indole (3d)



MsOH (5.03 μL, 77.5 μmol, 0.05 eq) was added to a solution of 4-methoxycyclohexanone (304 μL, 2.33 mmol, 1.50 eq) and 2-phenylindole (300 mg, 1.55 mmol, 1.00 eq) in 5.00 mL toluene. The reaction was refluxed at 90 °C

for 18.5 h, during which the solution turned red. The reaction mixture was cooled to RT and poured into NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. sat. (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 30 mL, 1 x 40 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1 → 5:1), which gave **3d** (396 mg, 1.31 mmol, 84%) as a pale-yellow solid.

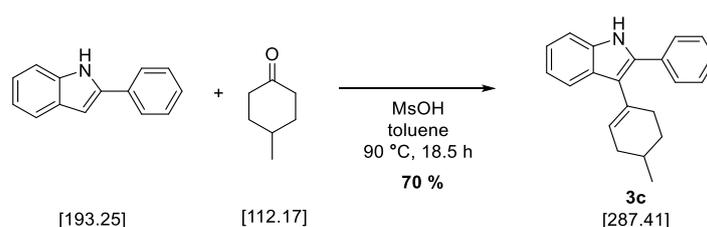
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.31 (s, 1H, NH), 7.70-7.67 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.48-7.43 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.37-7.20 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.10 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.00 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.66 (s, 1H, CH), 3.62-3.56 (m, 1H, CHH), 3.32 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.57-2.51 (m, 1H, CHH), 2.26-2.21 (m, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>, CHH), 1.99-1.91 (m, 1H, CHH), 1.72-1.63 (m, 1H, CHH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 135.9, 132.9, 132.7, 131.7, 2 x 128.5, 128.1, 127.2, 2 x 127.1, 124.0, 121.7, 119.1, 119.0, 115.2, 111.2, 74.5, 55.1, 31.4, 27.5, 27.4.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 304.1696, found: 304.1681.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.33 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(4-methyl-cyclohexene-1-yl)-indole (3e)



MsOH (5.03 μL, 77.5 μmol, 0.05 eq) was added to a solution of 4-methylcyclohexanone (287 μL, 2.33 mmol, 1.50 eq) and 2-phenylindole (300 mg, 1.55 mmol, 1.00 eq) in 5.00 mL toluene. The reaction was refluxed at 90 °C for 18 h, during which the solution turned red. The reaction mixture was cooled to RT and poured into NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aq. sat. (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 30 mL, 1 x 40 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1 → 20:1), which gave **3e** (311 mg, 1.08 mmol, 70%) as a pale-yellow solid.

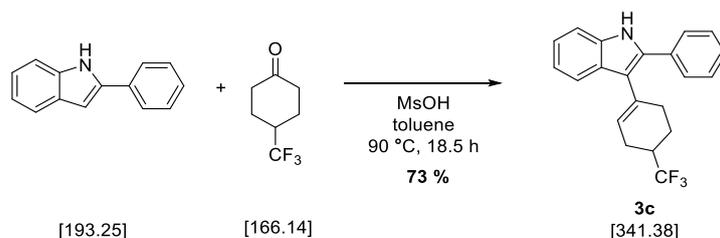
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.28 (s, 1H, NH), 7.69-7.66 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.48-7.43 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.37-7.29 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.09 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.99 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.9 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.74 (s, 1H, CH), 2.33-2.08 (m, 3H), 1.89-1.71 (m, 3H), 1.41-1.31 (m, 1H, CHH), 1.02 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 135.9, 133.1, 132.6, 131.5, 2x 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 2 x 127.1, 126.3, 121.6, 119.0, 118.9, 115.7, 111.1, 33.9, 31.0, 29.1, 27.7, 21.7.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 288.1747, found: 288.1741.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.58 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexene-1-yl)-indole (3f)



MsOH (5.03  $\mu\text{L}$ , 77.5  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.05 eq) was added into a solution of 4-trifluoromethylcyclohexanone (317  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.33 mmol, 1.50 eq) and 2-phenylindole (300 mg, 1.55 mmol, 1.00 eq) in 5.00 mL toluene. The reaction was refluxed at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 17 h, cooled to RT and poured into  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  aq. sat. (30 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (1 x 40 mL, 2 x 30 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 40:1  $\rightarrow$  10:1), which gave **3f** (387 mg, 1.13 mmol, 73%) as a pale-yellow solid.

**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 11.35 (s, 1H, NH), 7.68-7.65 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.52-7.44 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.38-7.31 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.11 (ddd,  $^3J$  = 8.0 Hz,  $^3J$  = 7.0 Hz,  $^4J$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.01 (ddd,  $^3J$  = 7.9 Hz,  $^3J$  = 7.1 Hz,  $^4J$  = 0.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.77 (s, 1H, CH), 2.74-2.60 (m, 1H, CHH), 2.48-2.43 (m, 1H, CHH), 2.34-2.17 (m, 3H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 1H, CHH), 1.68-1.58 (m, 1H, CHH).

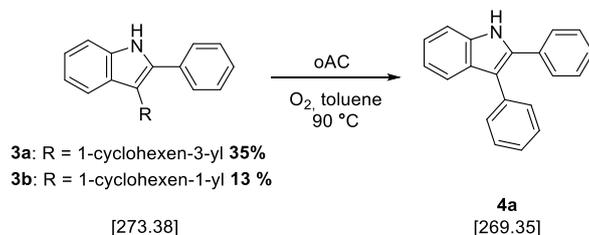
**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 151.8, 140.2, 136.5, 132.0, 128.3, 127.7, 121.1, 120.5, 119.1, 113.0, 112.1, 37.5, 3 x 28.9.

**$^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 71.5.

**HRMS (ESI $^+$ ):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{N}$  (M+H) $^+$ : 324.1464, found: 324.1464.

**TLC:**  $R_f$  = 0.41 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

## 2,3-Diphenylindole (4a)



In two separate reactions, 2-Phenyl-3-(1-cyclohexen-3-yl)-indol (**3a**, 50.0 mg, 180  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq) or 2-Phenyl-3-(1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-indol (**3b**, 68.3 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq),  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$  ( $n = 4$ , 164 mg **3a**, 224 mg **3b**) and toluene (1.00 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under an oxygen atmosphere. The reactions were stirred at 90  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 23 h (**3a**) /73.5 h (**3b**). It was cooled to 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (100 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 100:1  $\rightarrow$  50:1), giving **4a** (9 mg, 33.4  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 13% from **3b**/ 17 mg, 63.1  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 35% from **3a**) as a yellow oil. In a second reaction with with **3a** (68.5 mg, 251 mmol, 1.00 eq, 24 h reaction time) or **3b** (68.0 mg, 249 mmol, 1.00 eq, 72 h reaction time) with  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  ( $n = 4.00$ , 224 mg) in toluene (1.50 mL), NMR-yields of 61% **3a** as well as 49% **3b** were obtained. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>20</sup>

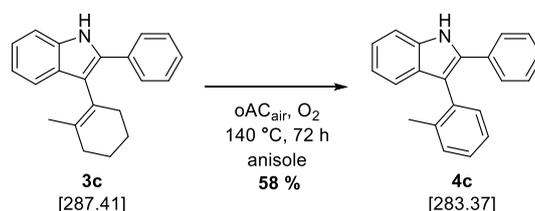
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.24 (s, 1H, NH), 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H, CH), 7.46-7.23 (m, 12H, 12 x CH), 7.16 (ddd,  $^3J$  = 8.1 Hz,  $^3J$  = 6.9 Hz,  $^4J$  = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH).

**$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 136.1, 135.2, 134.2, 132.9, 2 x 130.3, 2 x 128.8, 2 x 128.7, 2 x 128.3, 127.8, 126.4, 124.3, 122.9, 120.6, 119.9, 115.3, 111.0.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 270.1277, found: 270.1279.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.51 (Hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(*o*-tolyl)-indole (**4c**)



The general procedure (main body) was followed with **3c** (64.1 mg, 223  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq) and  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  (200 mg,  $n = 4$ ) in anisole (1.34 mL). The reaction was stirred at 140 °C for 72 h. It was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 12% (400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1), which gave **4c** (36.5 mg, 129  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 58%) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>21</sup>

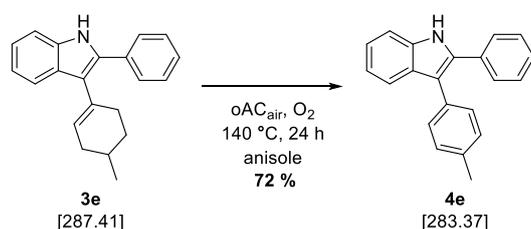
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 11.55$  (s, 1H, NH), 7.46 (d, <sup>3</sup> $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.40-7.37 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.34-7.20 (m, 7H, 7 x CH), 7.15 (ddd, <sup>3</sup> $J = 8.0$  Hz, <sup>3</sup> $J = 6.9$  Hz, <sup>4</sup> $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.09 (d, <sup>3</sup> $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H, CH), 6.98 (ddd, <sup>3</sup> $J = 8.0$  Hz, <sup>3</sup> $J = 6.9$  Hz, <sup>4</sup> $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 1.94 (s, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 136.9, 136.0, 134.9, 133.6, 132.7, 131.2, 130.2, 128.7, 128.5$  (2 x CH), 127.2, 127.1, 126.6 (2 x CH), 126.0, 121.9, 119.4, 118.7, 113.0, 111.4, 19.8.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 284.1434, found: 284.1427.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.42 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(*p*-tolyl)-indole (**4e**)



The general procedure (main body) was followed with **3e** (71.9 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.00 eq) and  $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$  (224 mg,  $n = 4$ ) in anisole (1.50 mL). The reaction was stirred at 140 °C for 24 h. It was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 12% (400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1  $\rightarrow$  40:1), which gave **4e** (51.0 mg, 180  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 72%) as an orange oil. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>21</sup>

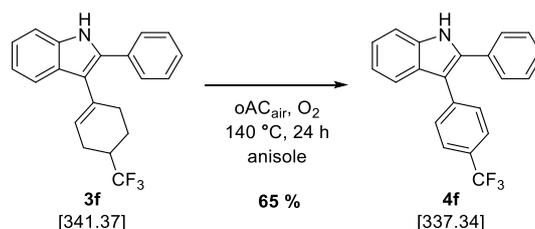
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta = 11.50$  (s, 1H, NH), 7.47-7.42 (m, 4H, 4 x CH), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H, CH), 7.24-7.19 (m, 4H, 4 x CH), 7.15 (ddd, <sup>3</sup> $J = 8.1$  Hz, <sup>3</sup> $J = 7.0$  Hz, <sup>4</sup> $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 7.02 (ddd, <sup>3</sup> $J = 7.9$  Hz, <sup>3</sup> $J = 7.0$  Hz, <sup>4</sup> $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.34 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 136.1, 135.1, 133.8, 132.6, 132.2, 129.6, 129.3, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 121.9, 119.6, 118.6, 113.2, 111.4, 20.8.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 284.1434, found: 284.1421.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.49 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### 2-Phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-indole (4f)



The general procedure (main body) was followed with **3f** (85.2 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol, 1.00 eq) and oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> (224 mg, *n* = 4) in anisole (1.50 mL). The reaction was stirred at 140 °C for 24 h. It was cooled to 0 °C, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 12% (400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 40:1), which gave **4f** (68.8 mg, 204  $\mu$ mol, 65 %) as a white solid. Spectroscopic data matches recorded literature values.<sup>14</sup>

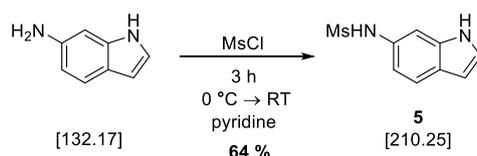
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.73 (s, 1H, NH), 7.74-7.72 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.58-7.54 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.49-7.33 (m, 6H, 6 x CH), 7.20 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 6.9 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.09 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 8.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>*J* = 7.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 140.29, 136.64, 135.77, 132.48, 130.63, 129.21, 128.98, 128.47, 127.86, 126.81, 126.50, 126.34, 126.00, 125.96, 125.92, 125.88, 123.64, 122.77, 120.65, 118.79, 112.20, 112.10.

**<sup>19</sup>F-NMR:** (377 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 60.2.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.35 (hexane/EtOAc 4:1).

### *N*-(1*H*-Indol-6-yl)-methanesulfonamide (5)



A procedure of Yudasaka et al. was followed.<sup>22</sup> MsCl (293  $\mu$ L, 3.78 mmol, 1.00 eq) was added to a stirred solution of 6-aminindole (500 mg, 3.78 mmol, 1.00 eq) in toluene (20.0 mL) at 0 °C. Upon heating to RT, the solution turned red. After stirring at RT for 3 h pyridine was removed under reduced pressure. Dist. H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried

over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography for three times (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 1 → 2%, 1 → 1.5%, 0.5 → 1%), giving **5** (507 mg, 2.41 mmol, 64%) as a pale-yellow solid.

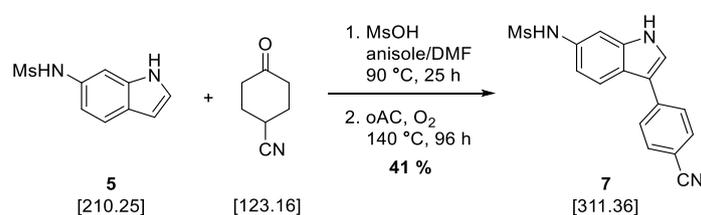
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.05 (s, 1H, NH), 9.38 (s, 1H, NH), 7.47 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.32-7.39 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 6.90 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.4 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.38 (s, 1H, CH), 2.88 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 136.0, 132.0, 125.5, 125.0, 120.4, 114.2, 104.3, 100.9, 38.4.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: 233.0355, found: 233.0365.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.33 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10 %).

### *N*-(1*H*-3-(4-Cyanophenyl)-indol-6-yl)-methanesulfonamide (**7**)



MsOH (2.39 μL, 36.9 μmol, 0.05 eq) was added to a stirred solution of **5** (155 mg, 737 μmol, 1.00 eq) and 4-oxocyclohexanecarbonitrile (172 μL, 1.47 mmol, 2.00 eq) in anisole/DMF (2.50 mL, 4:1). The reaction was stirred at 90 °C for 25 h. oAC (330 mg) was added to the reaction mixture and it was stirred at 140 °C under oxygen atmosphere for another 96 h. It was cooled to RT, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 12% (400 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and crude product was purified via flash chromatography twice (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 0 → 5%, 1%), which gave **7** (94.5 mg, 304 μmol, 41%) as a yellow solid.

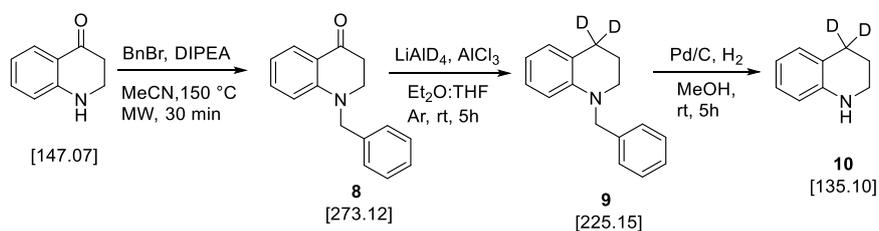
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 11.62 (s, 1H, NH), 9.57 (s, 1H, NH), 7.93 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.91-7.87 (m, 3H, 3 x CH), 7.85-7.82 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 7.40 (d, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.05 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.5 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 2.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.93 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ = 140.8, 137.5, 133.0, 2 x 132.7, 2 x 126.3, 125.9, 121.7, 119.7, 119.4, 115.0, 114.0, 107.0, 104.3, 38.6.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: 334.0621, found: 334.0615.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.49 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 10:1).

### 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-4,4-*d*<sub>2</sub> (**10**)



**8** was prepared following a patented procedure.<sup>23</sup> 2,3-dihydroquinolin-4(1H)-one (882 mg, 6 mmol, 1 eq), benzyl bromide (0.72 mL, 6 mmol, 1 eq) and diisopropylethylamine (2.08 mL, 12 mmol, 2 eq) were put in a MW sealed vial with 8 mL MeCN and heated in a microwave at 150 °C for 30 minutes. EtOAc (100 mL) was added and the organic layer was washed with water (100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, concentrated under pressure and purified via flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane 1:5 → 1:1) to afford compound **8** (1.3 g, 4.7 mmol, 78%). **10** was prepared according to a modified method by Sakami et al.<sup>[25]</sup> LiAlD<sub>4</sub> (80 mg, 1.90 mmol) was suspended in Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and THF (5 mL), and AlCl<sub>3</sub> (240 mg, 18.00 mmol) was added. After 10 min of stirring at room temperature, compound **8** (474 mg, 1.73 mmol), as an Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) solution, was added to the suspension and then AlCl<sub>3</sub> (200 mg, 15.02 mmol) was added at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 5 h, and the reaction mixture was quenched by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL). Saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (40 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) were added, and the organic layer was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated to give **9** (362 mg, 1.60 mmol, 92 %). The benzyl compound obtained above (362 mg) was dissolved in MeOH (40 mL), and Pd on charcoal (5%, 120 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature under H<sub>2</sub> and after 5 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite. The resulting solution was concentrated, and the crude mixture was purified via flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to give the title compound **10** (166 mg, 1.22 mmol, 76 %) as a colorless oil.

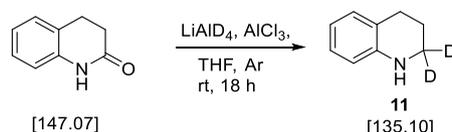
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 6.88 – 6.76 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 6.45 – 6.34 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 5.56 (s, 1H, NH), 3.22 – 3.09 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.83 – 1.70 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 145.86, 129.38, 126.83, 120.17, 115.45, 113.76, 41.22, 26.44, 21.84.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ND<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 136.1090, found: 136.1088.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.78 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).

### 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2,2-d<sub>2</sub> (**11**)



3,4-dihydroquinolin-2(1H)-one (147 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in dry THF (10 mL) under Ar atmosphere, and AlCl<sub>3</sub> (133 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq) was added. The solution is stirred for 10 minutes, then LiAlD<sub>4</sub> (80 mg, 2 mmol, 2 eq) is added slowly. The reaction is stirred at room temperature for 18 h, then quenched with NaOH 1M, then extracted with EtOAc (3x20 mL). The combined organic layers are washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture is purified with flash chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to yield the title compound **11** (80 mg, 0.59 mmol, 59%) as a colorless oil.

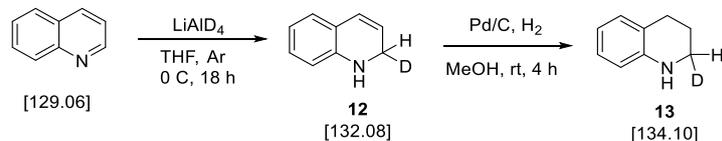
**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 7.01 – 6.94 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 6.65 – 6.59 (m, 1H, CH), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.81 (s, 1H, NH), 2.79 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 144.79, 129.51, 126.73, 121.47, 116.93, 114.19, 41.28, 26.92, 21.96.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):** *m/z* calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ND<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 136.1090, found: 136.1089.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.78 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).

## 1,2,3,4- tetrahydroquinoline-2-d (**12**)



A solution of quinoline (125  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1 mmol, 1 eq) in dry THF (5 mL) was added slowly to a suspension of  $\text{LiAlD}_4$  (80 mg, 2 mmol, 2 eq) in dry THF (10 mL) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  under Ar atmosphere. The reaction was left stirring at room temperature for 18 h, then it was quenched with water, filtered, and the filtrate was extracted with EtOAc (3x20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting white solid was used immediately without purification, and dissolved in 20 mL methanol. 120 mg Pd/C 5% were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature under  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere for 4 h. It was then filtered and the solvent removed. The crude is purified with flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) to yield the title compound **13** (65 mg, 0.48 mmol, 48%) as a colorless oil.

**$^1\text{H NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 7.04 – 6.92 (m, 2H, 2 x CH), 6.63 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.50 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.82 (s, 1H, NH), 3.32 (dd,  $J$  = 13.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H, CHD), 2.79 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.96 (q,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

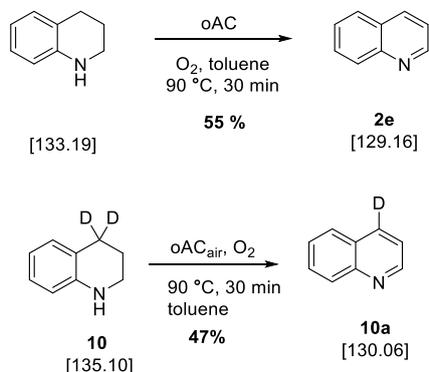
**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ :** (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  144.79, 129.52, 126.73, 121.46, 116.94, 114.19, 41.64, 26.95, 22.09.

**HRMS (ESI $^+$ ):**  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{ND}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 135.1027, found: 135.1028.

**TLC:**  $R_f$  = 0.78 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

## Kinetic isotope effect tests

For the kinetic isotope effect experiments the general procedure (main body) was followed. 0.1 mmol of the appropriate 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline,  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$  ( $n = 4$ , 89 mg) and toluene (1 mL) were placed in a reaction tube under oxygen atmosphere. It was stirred for 30 minutes at  $90^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction was cooled to rt, filtered through a pad of celite and washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (100 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the yield was determined by  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ . The crude product was then purified via flash chromatography ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), to isolate the pure deuterated products **10a** and **11a** as colorless oils.

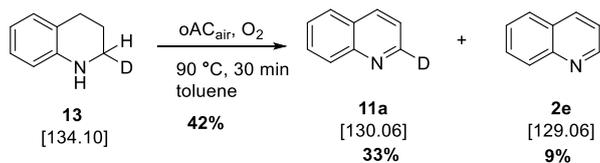
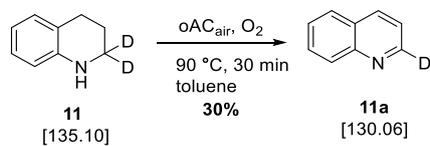


**$^1\text{H NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 8.92 (d,  $J$  = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.78 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.5, 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, 1H).

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ :** (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 151.03, 148.19, 136.15, 129.97, 129.38, 128.52, 128.32, 127.01, 121.82.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ND (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 131.0714, found: 131.0715.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.56 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR:** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR:** (101 MHz, DMSO) δ = 150.67, 148.15, 136.52, 129.98, 129.36, 128.56, 128.40, 127.02, 121.82.

**HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>):**  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ND (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: 131.0714, found: 131.0706.

**TLC:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.56 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 10%).

## Carbon material XPS measurements

The X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) analysis was performed by Thermo Fisher Scientific ESCALAB 250Xi XPS System at the Center of Microscopy and Nanotechnology, University of Oulu (Finland). The monochromatic AlK $\alpha$  radiation (1486.7 eV) operated at 20 mA and 15 kV. The powder samples were put in gold sample holder and O, C, N and Au were measured for all samples. The measurement data were analyzed by Avantage V5 program developed by Thermo Fisher Scientific. Charge compensation was used to determine the presented spectra and the binding energies (BE) were calibrated by the C1s peak position of 284.8 eV. The deconvolution of the peaks was carried out for C1s and O1s with Avantage program utilizing peak BE values for groups as reported for carbon materials by Figueiredo and Pereira.<sup>24</sup>

**Table S2.** Summary of O1s XPS (surface analysis)

| Material  | H <sub>2</sub> O | O-C=O | C-O esters | C-OH  | C=O   | O%    |
|---|------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Peak BE (eV)</b>                                 | 535.9            | 524.2 | 533.3      | 532.3 | 531.1 |       |
| AC (acid washed)                                    | 0.16             | 0.45  | 1.15       | 0.75  | 0.58  | 3.09  |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub>                      | 0.42             | 3     | 4.14       | 4.71  | 2.23  | 14.5  |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> recycled             | 0.34             | 2.09  | 3.27       | 3.91  | 2.53  | 12.14 |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub>(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub> | 0.46             | 0.89  | 3.34       | 1.92  | 1.93  | 8.54  |
| oAC <sub>air</sub>                                  | 0.28             | 1.39  | 2.13       | 1.84  | 1.66  | 7.3   |
| oAC <sub>air(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub>             | 0.74             | 0.95  | 3.09       | 1.98  | 1.71  | 8.47  |
| oAC <sub>air(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub> recycled    | 0.35             | 1.37  | 3.12       | 2.23  | 1.85  | 8.92  |
| oCNT <sub>(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub>               | 0.1              | 0.24  | 0.54       | 0.43  | 0.54  | 1.85  |

**Table S3.** Summary of C1s XPS (surface analysis)

| Material  | Graphitic | Aliphatic | C-OH  | C=O   | O-C=O | C( $\pi$ - $\pi$ *) | C%    |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>Peak BE (eV)</b>                                 | 284.6     | 285.2     | 286.1 | 287.6 | 289.1 | 291.3               |       |
| AC (acid washed)                                    | 49.33     | 20.81     | 8.83  | 4.75  | 2.76  | 7.74                | 93.73 |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub>                      | 38.83     | 20.02     | 8.73  | 4.53  | 6.05  | 5.63                | 84.59 |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub></sub> recycled             | 42.61     | 17.19     | 10.48 | 4.51  | 4.34  | 4.91                | 84.04 |
| oAC <sub>HNO<sub>3</sub>(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub> | 49.46     | 17.34     | 9.51  | 4.72  | 3.09  | 6.53                | 90.56 |
| oAC <sub>air</sub>                                  | 44.55     | 20.81     | 11.22 | 5.3   | 3.04  | 7.44                | 89.32 |
| oAC <sub>air(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub>             | 42.82     | 20.68     | 11.63 | 5.28  | 3.26  | 7.45                | 87.86 |
| oAC <sub>air(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub> recycled    | 42.24     | 23.56     | 8.19  | 5.14  | 3.14  | 7.03                | 89.3  |
| oCNT <sub>(<math>\Delta</math>)</sub>               | 51.53     | 30.38     | 1.7   | 4.45  | 2.16  | 7.63                | 97.85 |

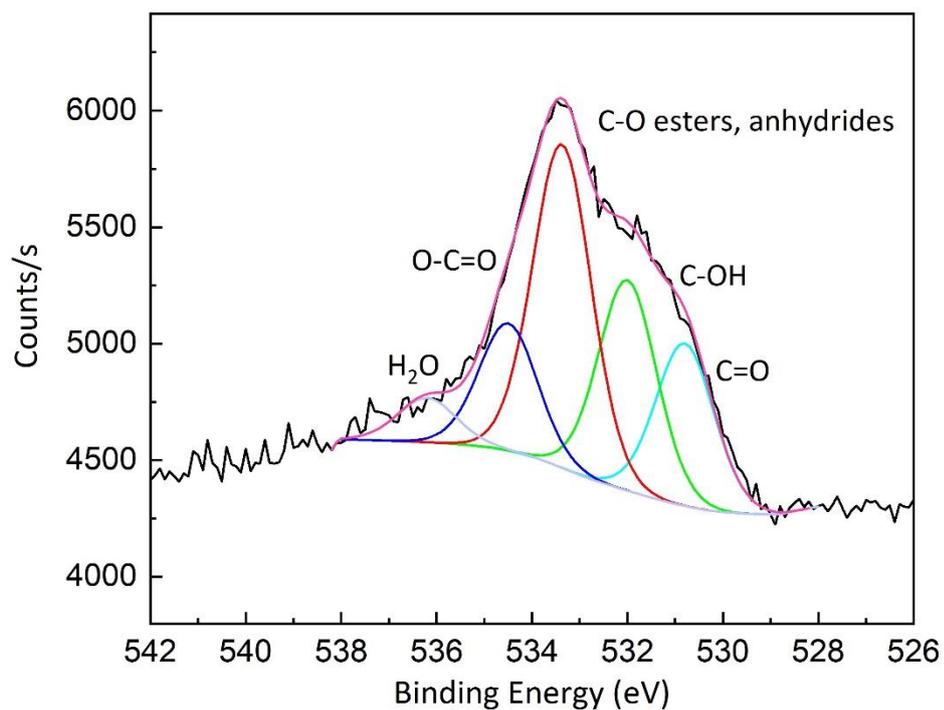


Fig. S1. O1s XPS of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>.

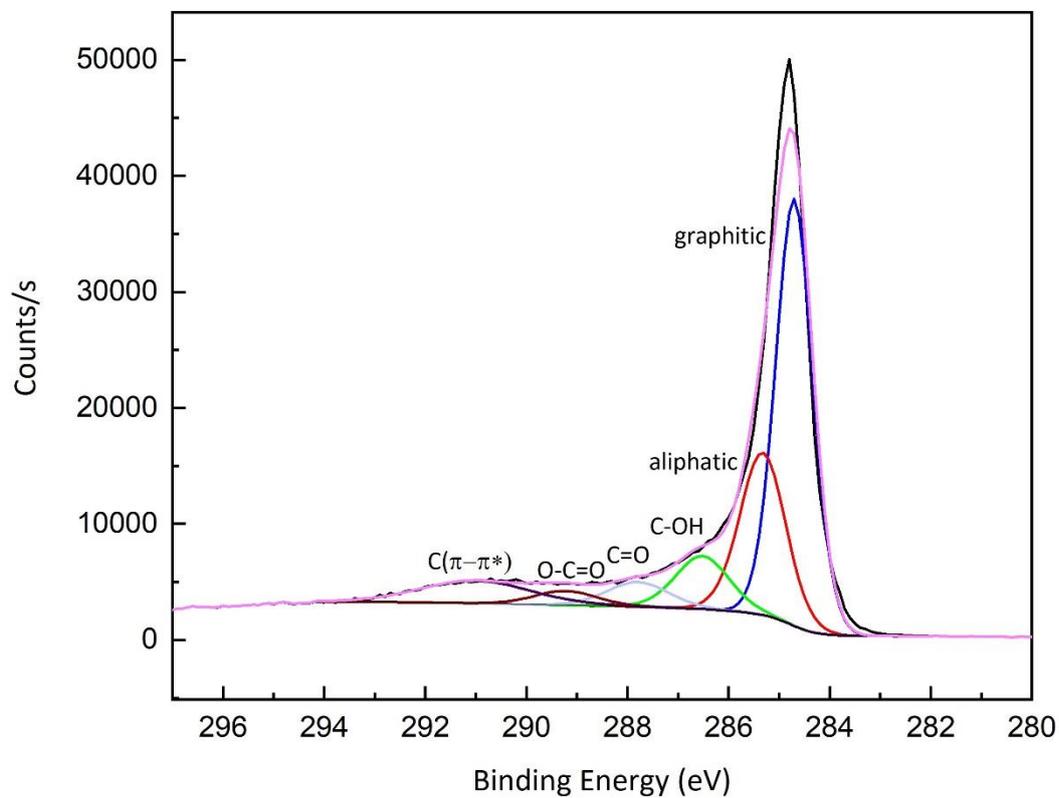


Fig. S2. C1s XPS of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>.

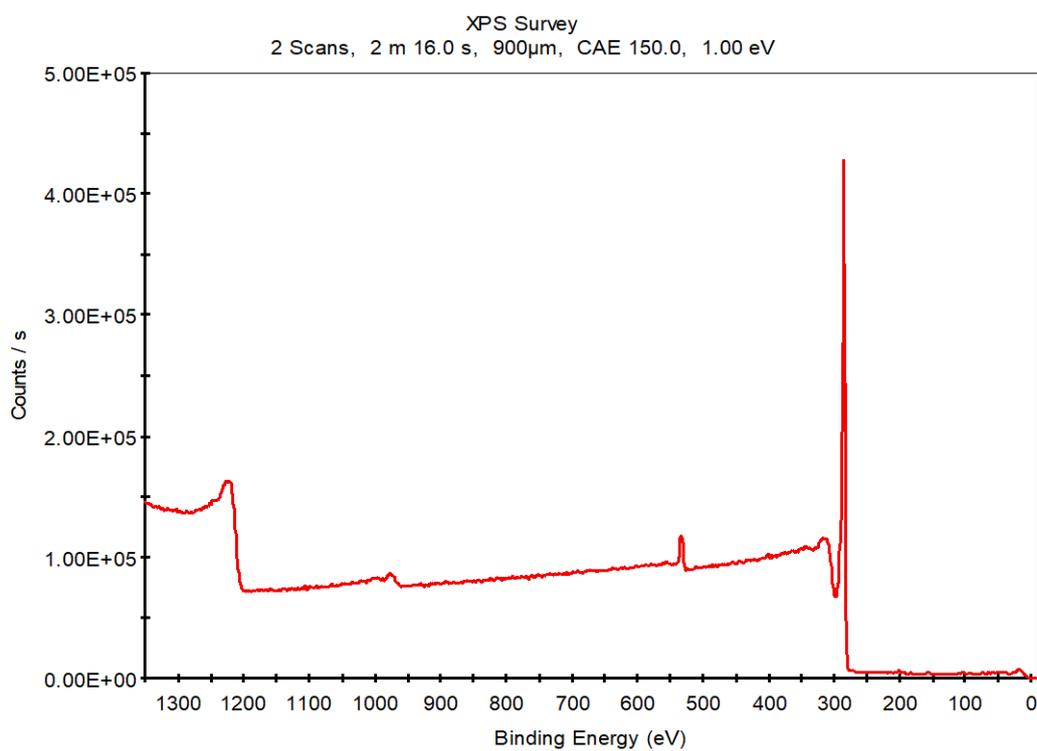


Fig. S3 Survey XPS of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>.

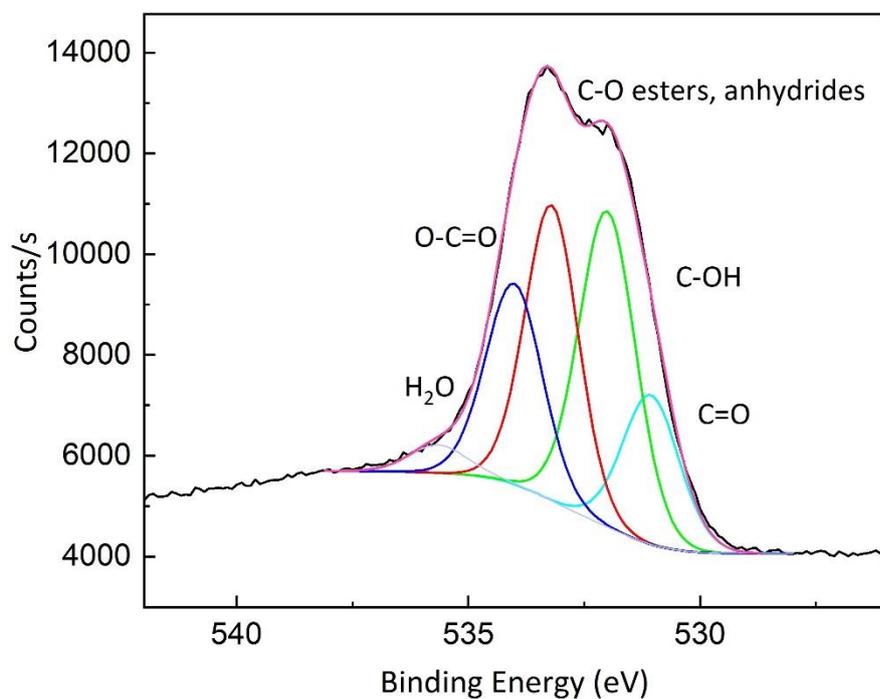


Fig. S4. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>.

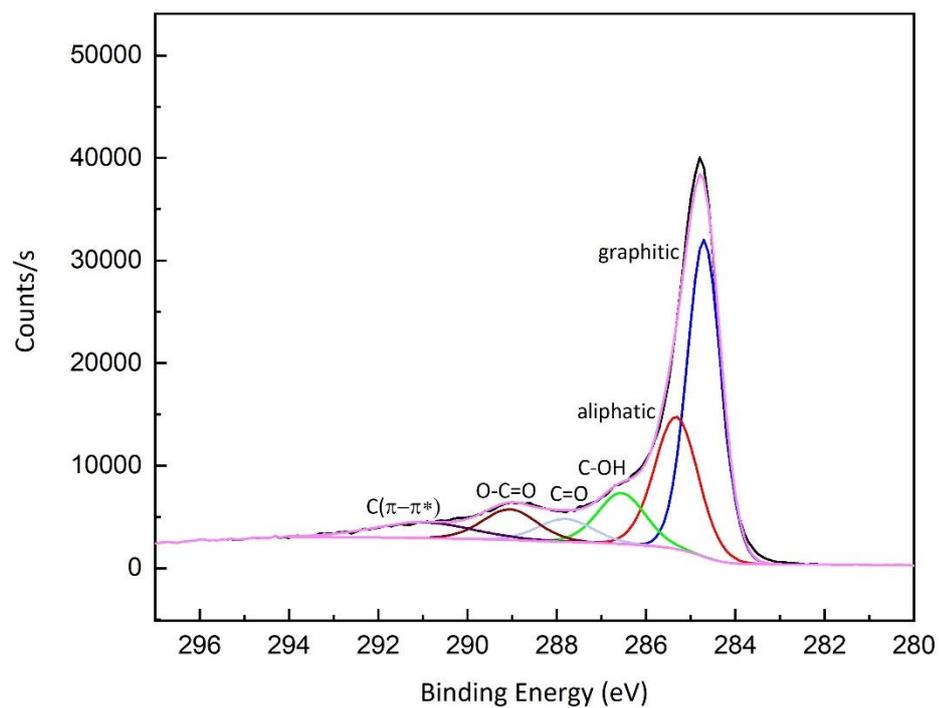


Fig. S5. C1s XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>.

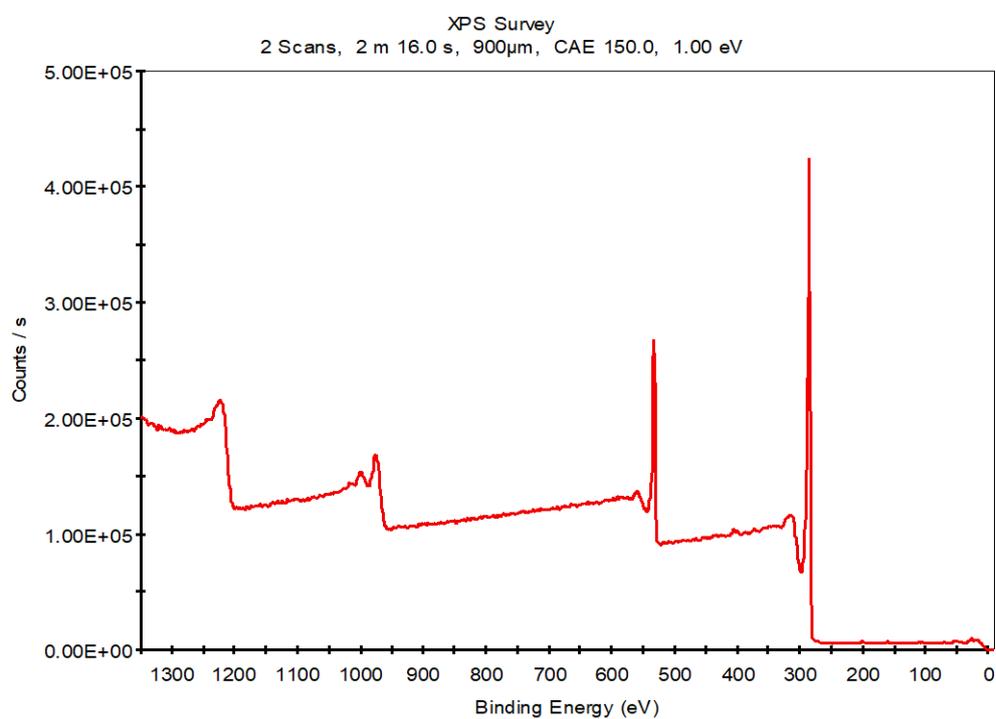


Fig. S6. Survey XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>.

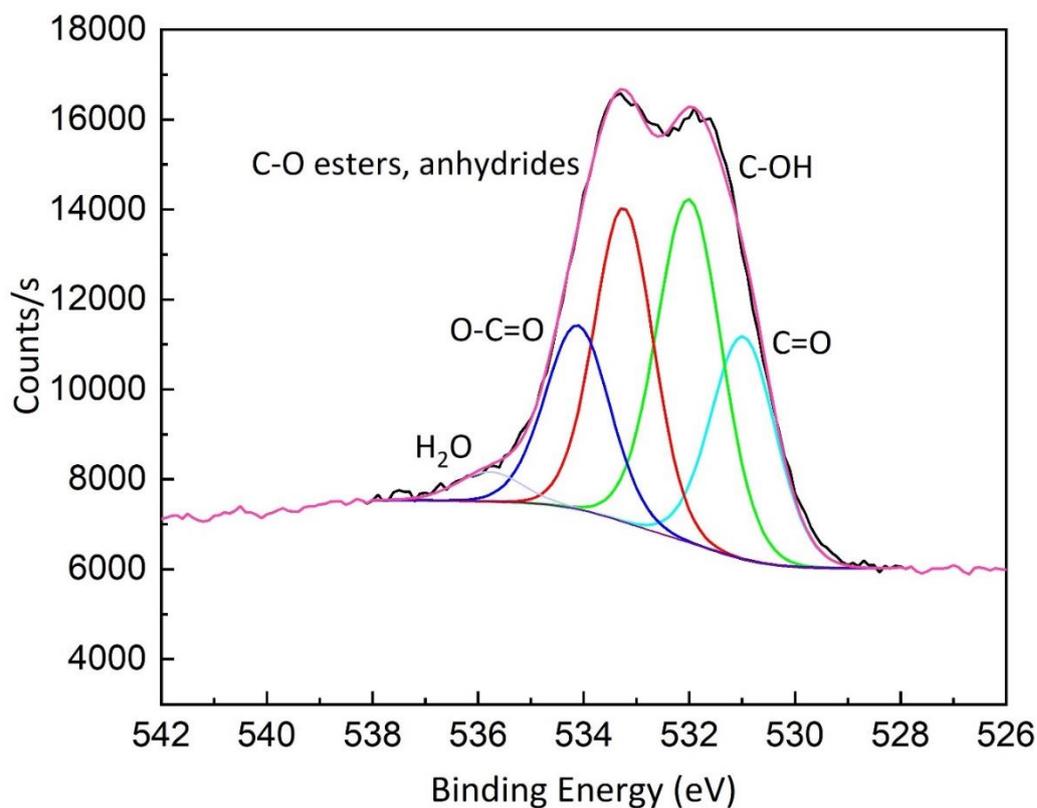


Fig. S7. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub> recycled.

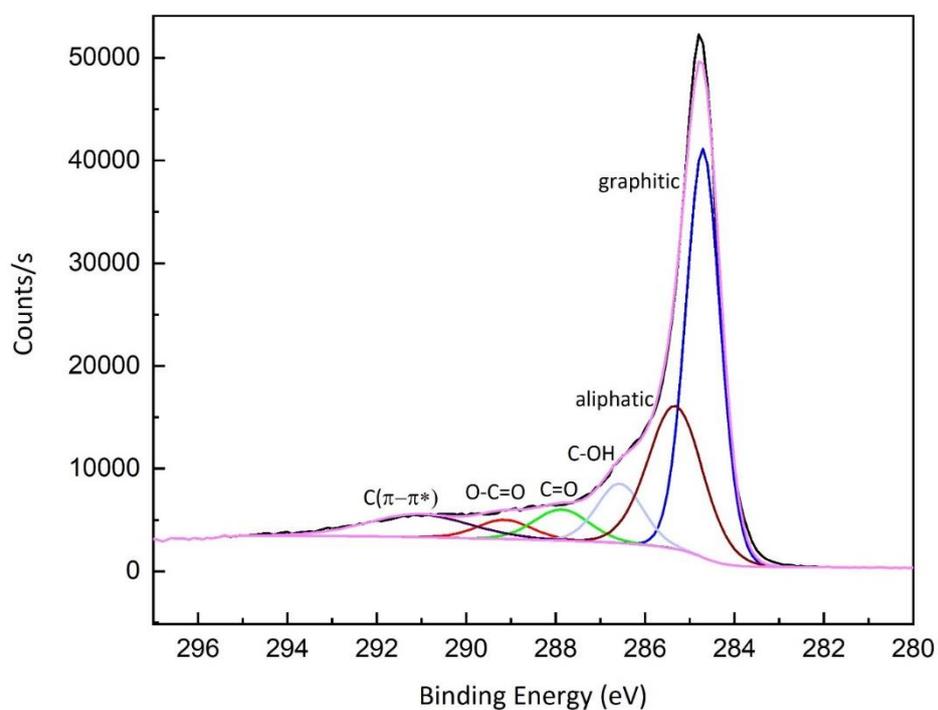
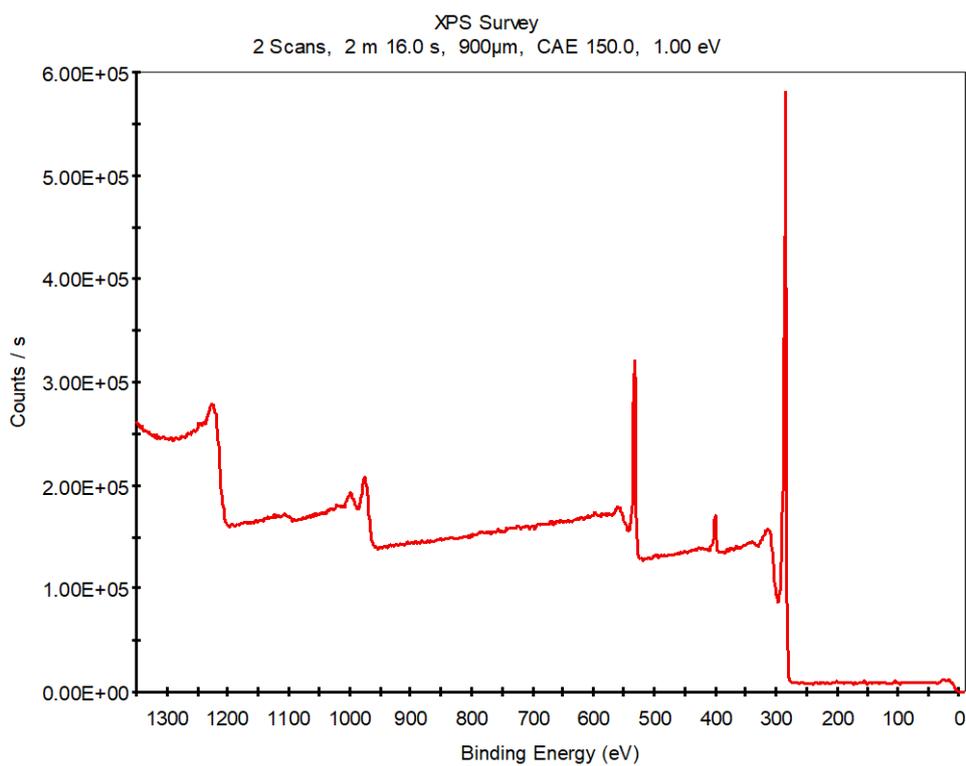
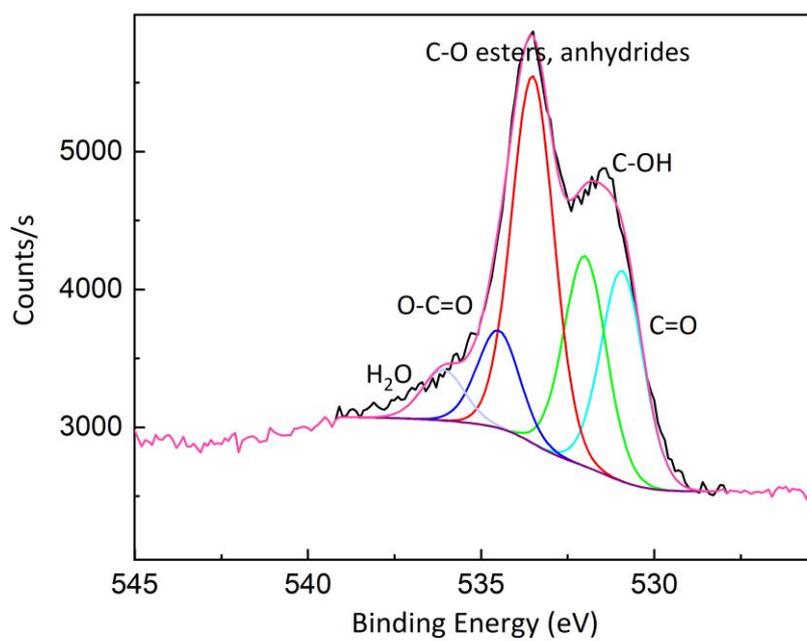


Fig. S8. C1s XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub> recycled.



**Fig. S9. Survey XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub> recycled.**



**Fig. S10. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>HNO3(Δ)</sub>.**

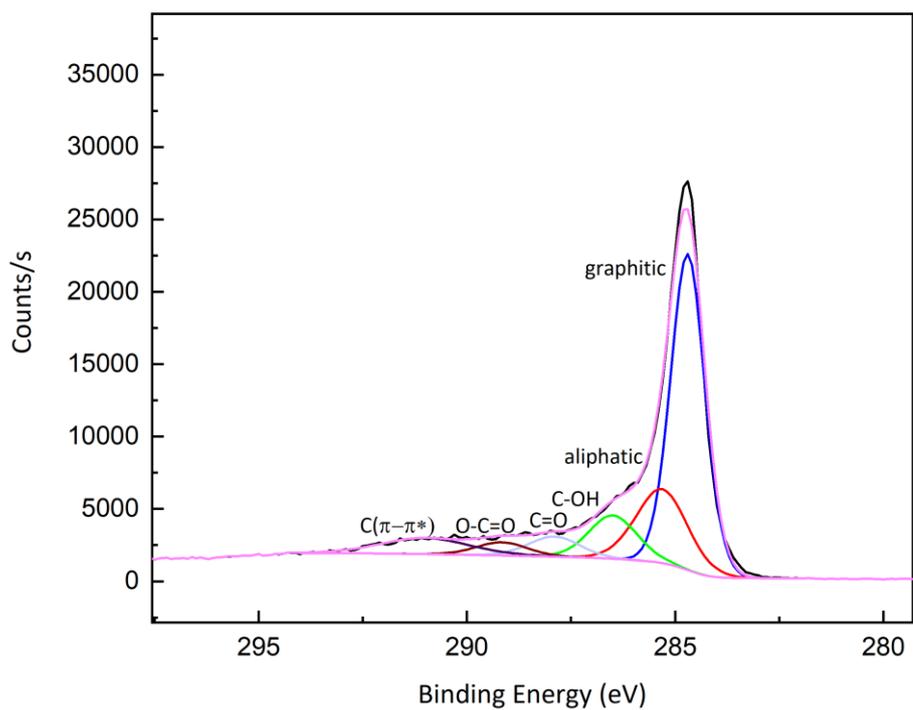


Fig. S11. C1s XPS of  $oAC_{HNO3}(\Delta)$ .

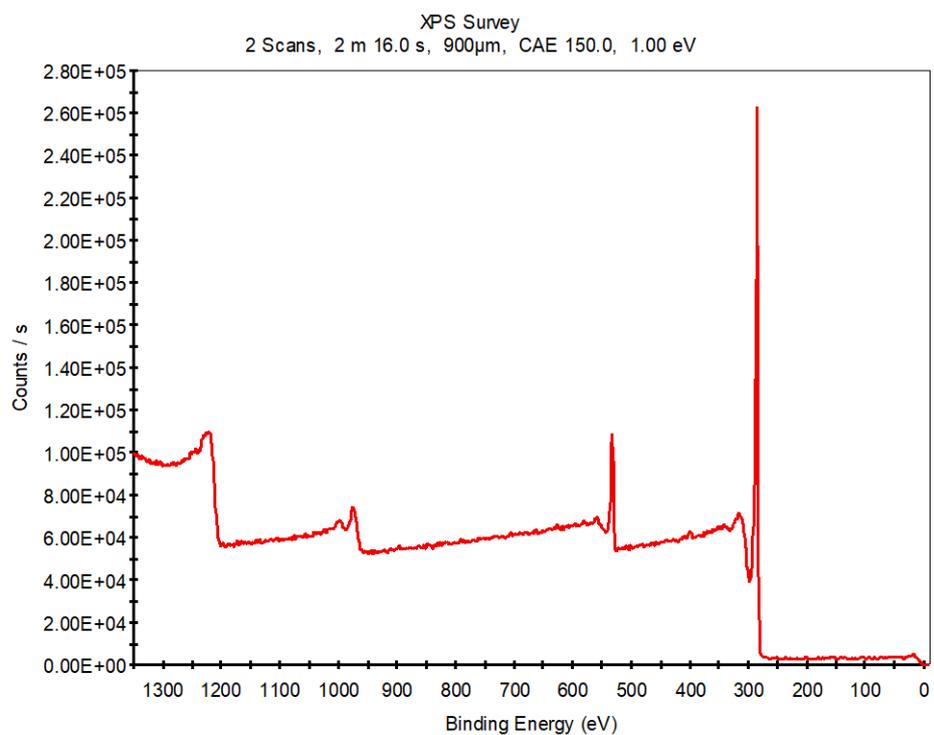


Fig. S12. Survey XPS of  $oAC_{HNO3}(\Delta)$ .

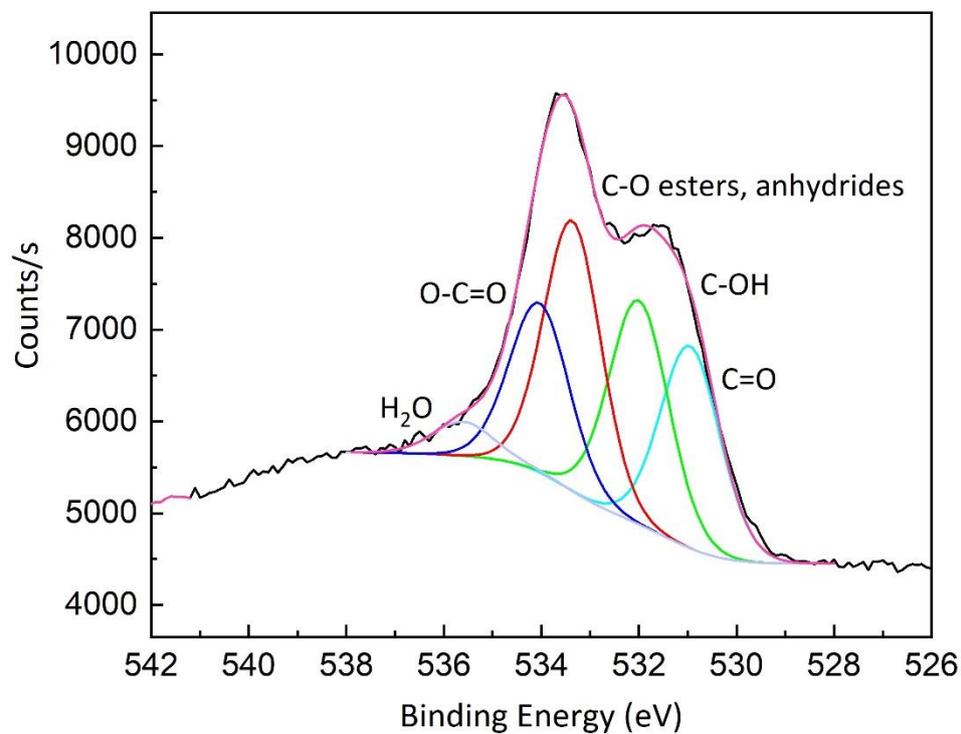


Fig. S13. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>air</sub>.

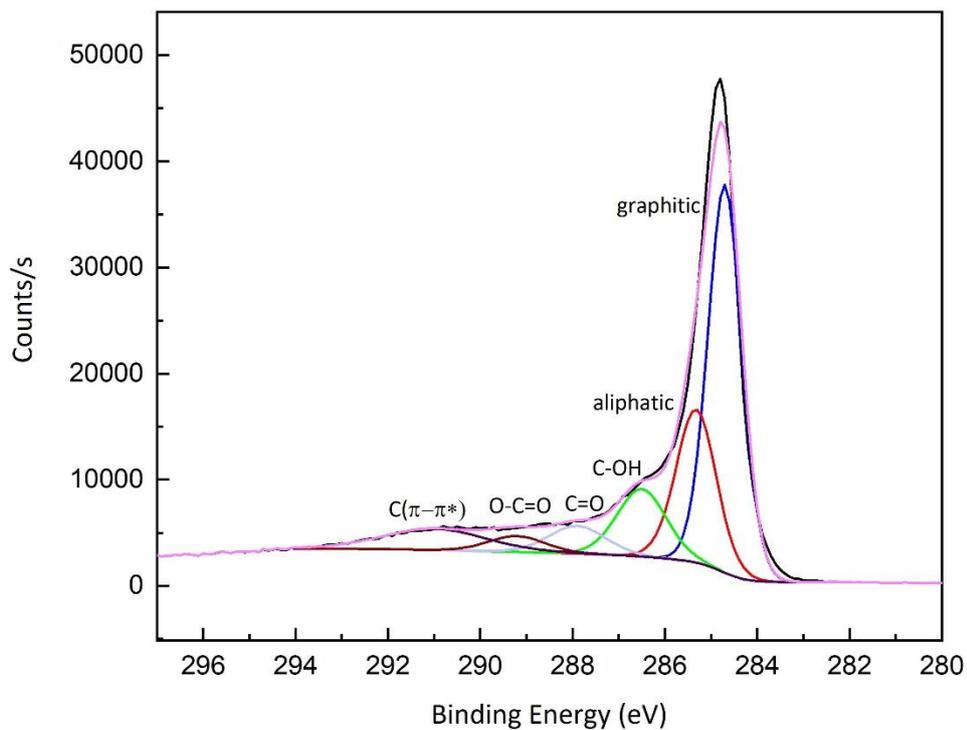


Fig. S14. C1s XPS of oAC<sub>air</sub>.

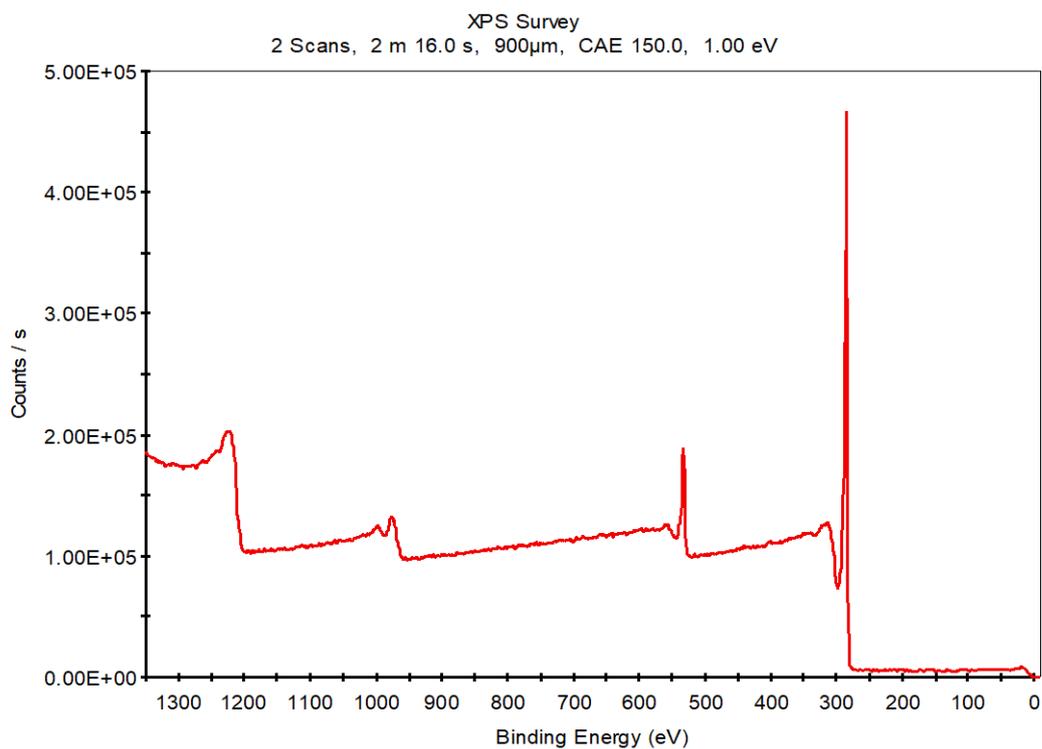


Fig. S15. Survey XPS of oAC<sub>air</sub>.

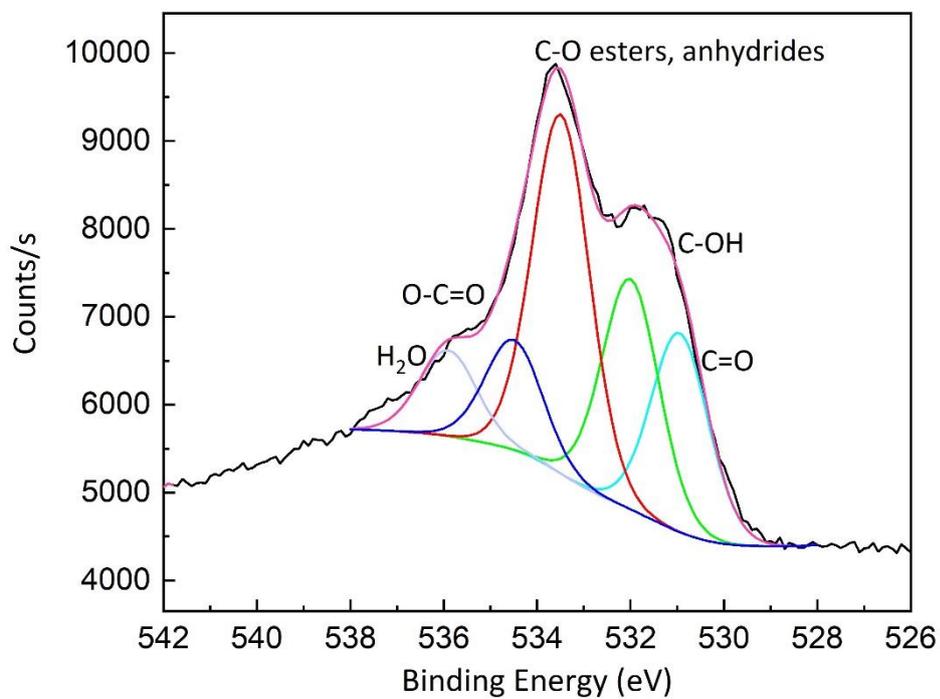


Fig. S16. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>.

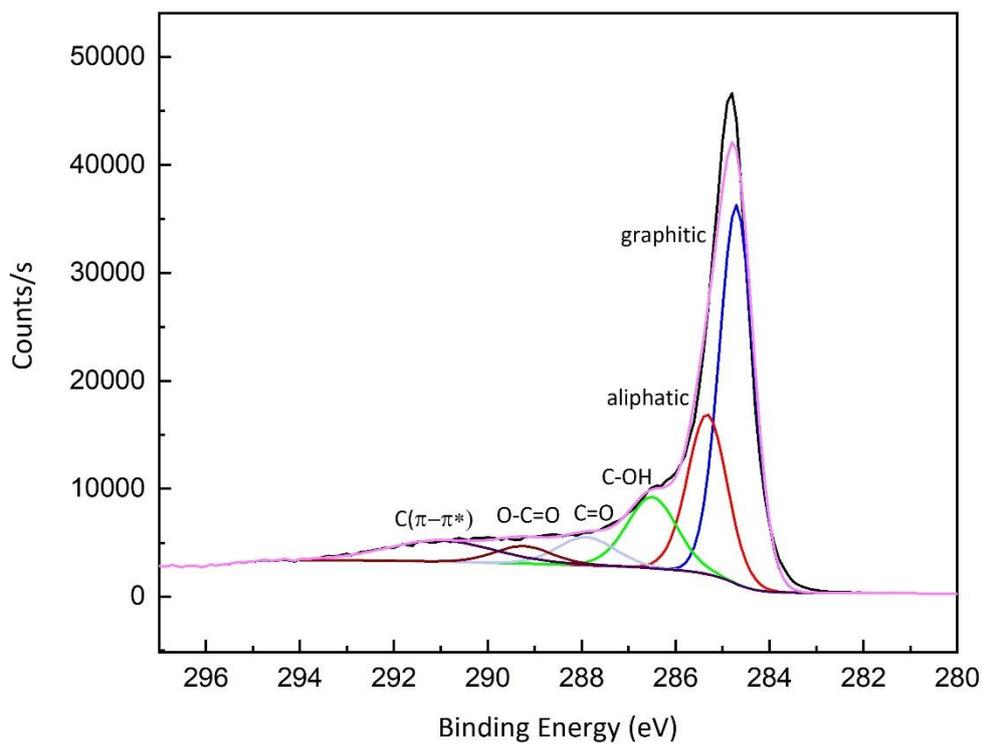


Fig. S17. C1s XPS of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>.

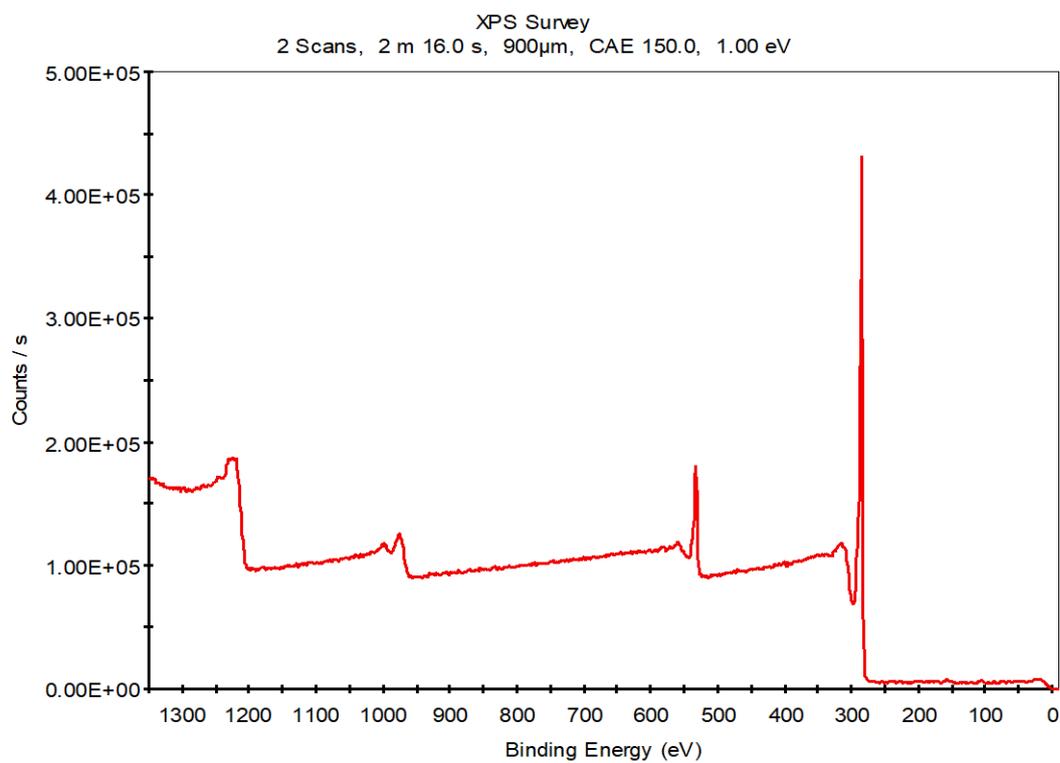


Fig. S18. Survey XPS of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>.

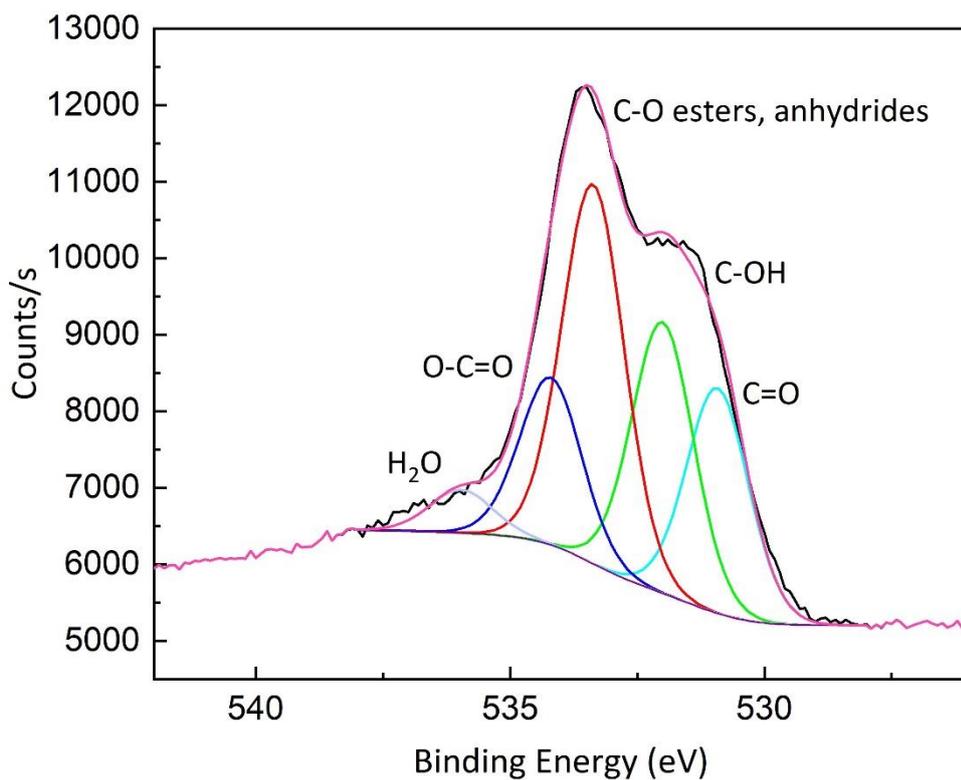


Fig. S19. O1s XPS of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub> recycled.

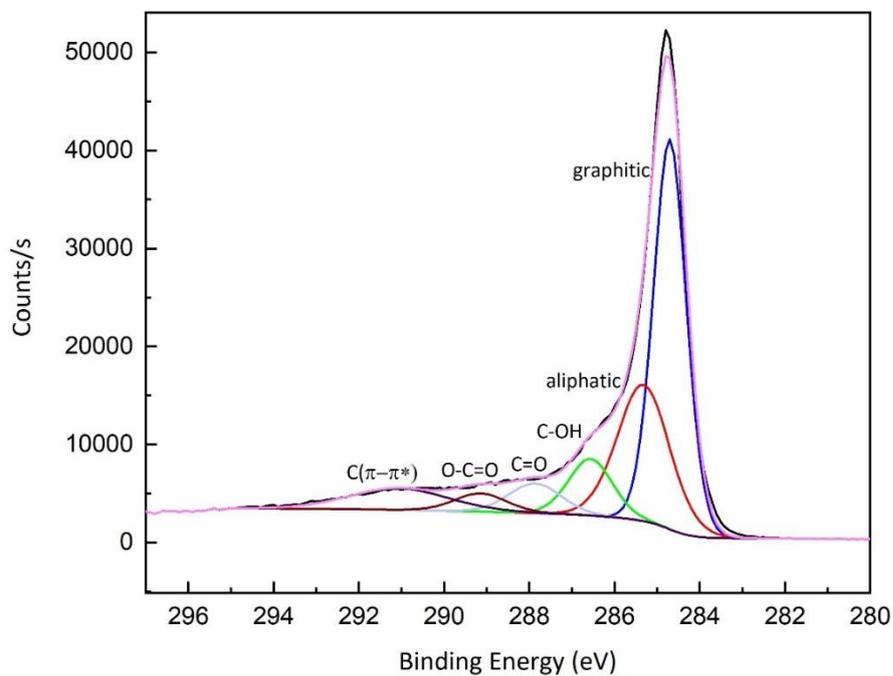


Fig. S20. C1s XPS of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub> recycled.

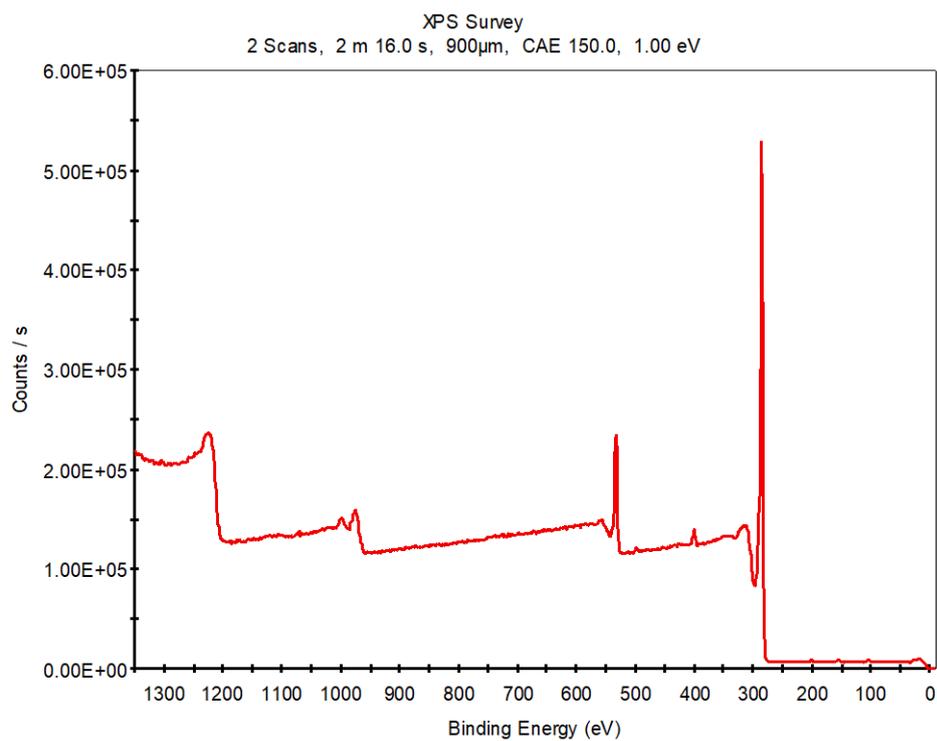


Fig. S21. Survey XPS of oAC<sub>air( $\Delta$ )</sub> recycled.

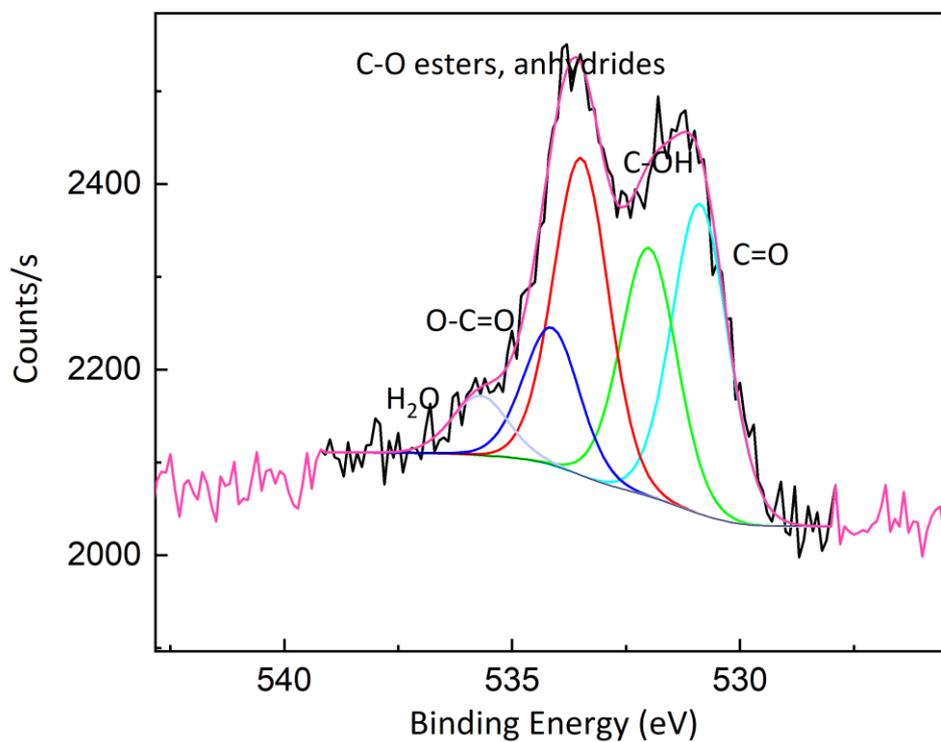


Fig. S22. O1s XPS of oCNT<sub>( $\Delta$ )</sub>.

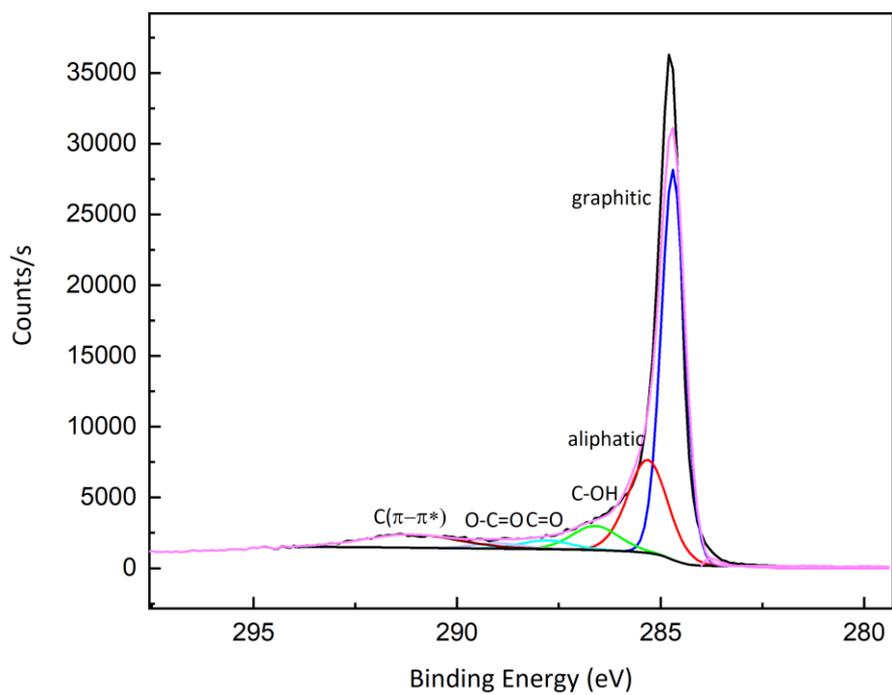


Fig. S23. C1s XPS of oCNT<sub>(Δ)</sub>.

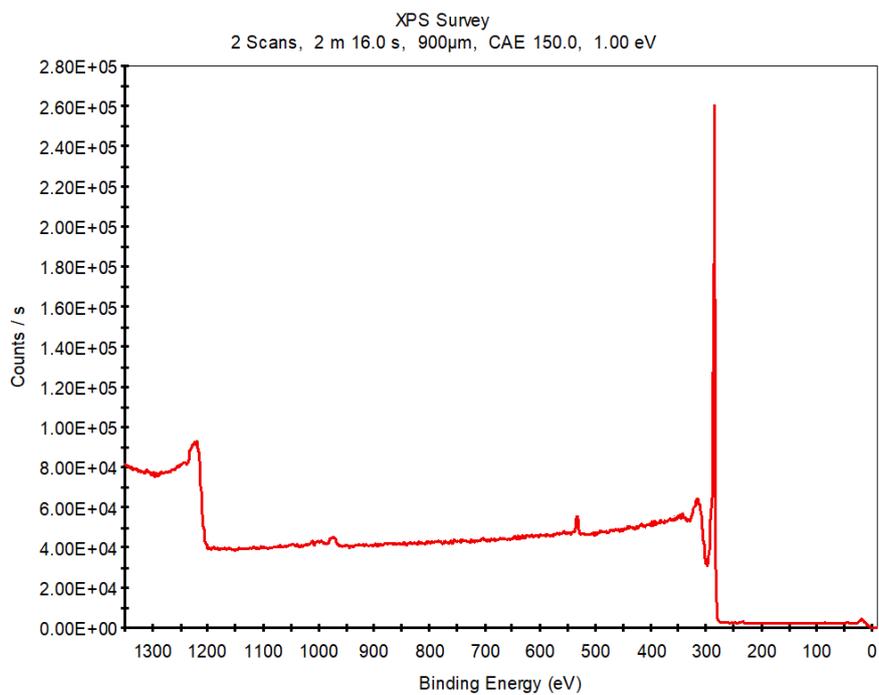


Fig. S24. Survey XPS of oCNT<sub>(Δ)</sub>.

## Carbon material Raman measurements

Raman spectra were recorded on a NT-MDT Ntegra confocal Raman microscope using an excitation wavelength of 532 nm, output power of 22 mW and an ND1 filter. Preparation of the samples was carried out via deposition of the powder onto silicon wafers. For each sample, 3 points were recorded in back scattering mode and averaged.

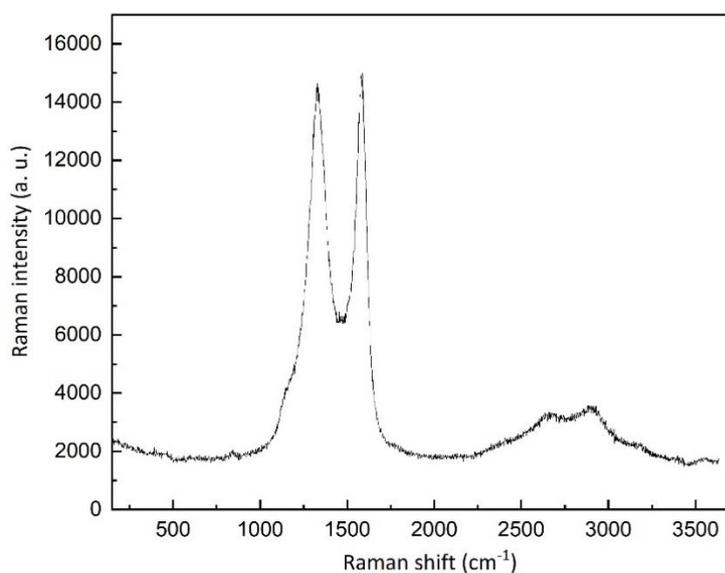


Fig. S25. Raman spectrum of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>.

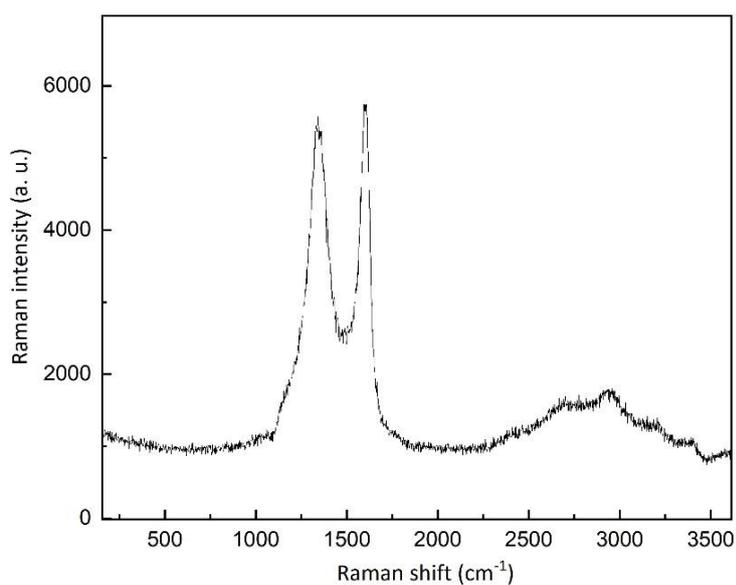
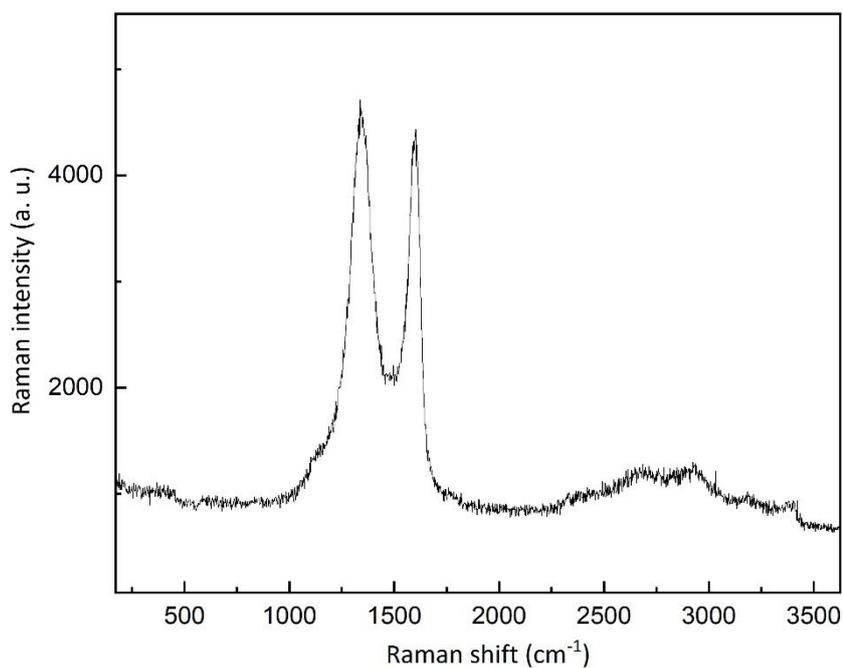


Fig. S26. Raman spectrum of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>



**Fig. S27.** Raman spectrum of  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$ .

## Carbon material ICP-MS measurements

**Table S4.** ICP-MS determination of metal impurities

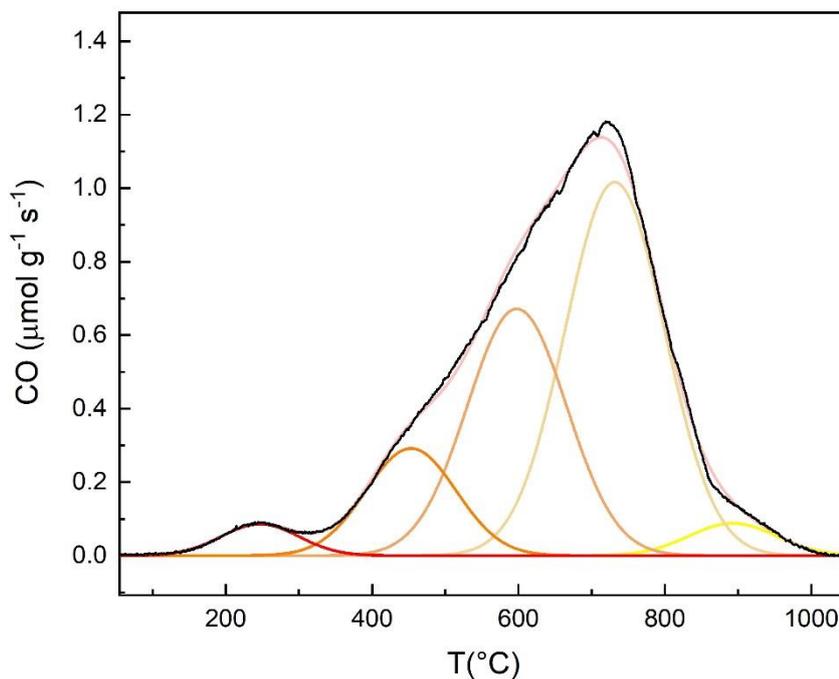
| Sample                            | Fe (mg/g)       | Ni (mg/g) | Mn (mg/g)         | Cu (mg/g)         | Co (mg/g)           | Pd (mg/g)             | Al (mg/g)       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| $\text{AC}_{\text{dm}}$           | $0.48 \pm 0.08$ | < 0.03    | $0.020 \pm 0.003$ | $0.013 \pm 0.002$ | $0.0021 \pm 0.0003$ | < 0.0002              | $0.47 \pm 0.08$ |
| $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$       | $0.36 \pm 0.06$ | < 0.06    | $0.012 \pm 0.002$ | $0.056 \pm 0.009$ | $0.0023 \pm 0.0004$ | $0.00033 \pm 0.00005$ | $0.41 \pm 0.07$ |
| $\text{oAC}_{\text{air}(\Delta)}$ | $0.59 \pm 0.09$ | < 0.03    | $0.040 \pm 0.006$ | $0.020 \pm 0.003$ | $0.0057 \pm 0.0009$ | < 0.0002              | < 0.6           |

## Carbon material Temperature-programmed desorption measurements

The qualitative and quantitative determination of surface groups was performed by temperature programmed desorption – mass spectrometry (TPD-MS). The analyses were carried out in a fully automated AMI-300 equipment (Altamira Instruments) with a quadrupole mass spectrometry detector (Dycor Dymaxion 200, Ametek). The samples (90 mg) were loaded into a U-shaped quartz cell and submitted to a  $5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  heating from room temperature to  $1050\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  under helium flow ( $25\text{ cm}^3\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ). The calibration of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$  was performed at the end of each analysis in order to quantify the amounts of these gases released during the TPD experiments.

**Table S5. Deconvolution peaks of CO TPD curve of  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$ .**

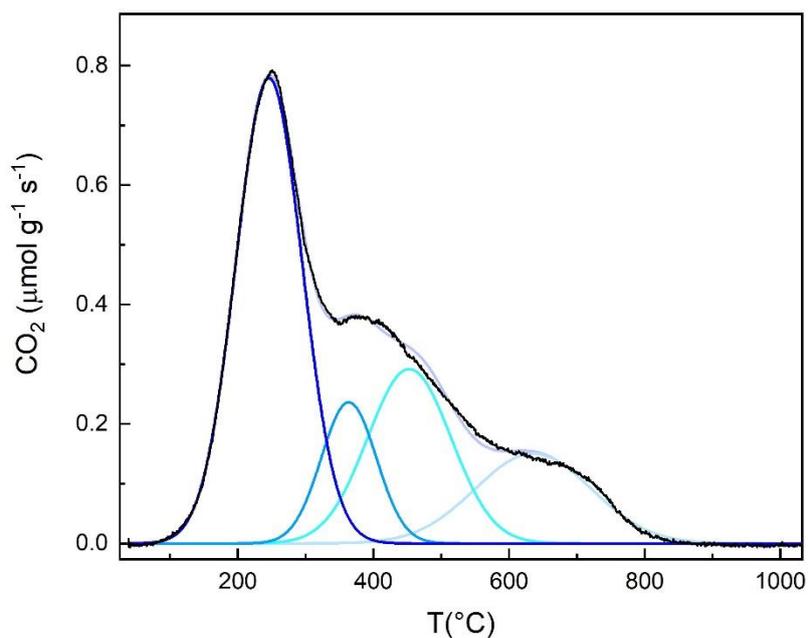
|                          | Peak 0 | Peak 1                | Peak 2  | Peak 3            | Peak 4            |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                          |        | Carboxylic anhydrides | Phenols | Carbonyl/quinones | Pyrones/Chromenes |
| T ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) | 247    | 453                   | 598     | 732               | 893               |
| W ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) | 106    | 123                   | 136     | 136               | 120               |
| A ( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ )  | 138    | 540                   | 1370    | 2074              | 159               |



**Fig. S28. Deconvolution of CO TPD curve of  $\text{oAC}_{\text{HNO}_3}$ .**

**Table S6. Deconvolution peaks of CO<sub>2</sub> TPD curve of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>**

|                   | <b>Peak 1</b>             | <b>Peak 2</b>           | <b>Peak 3</b>         | <b>Peak 4</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                   | Carboxylic acids (strong) | Carboxylic acids (weak) | Carboxylic anhydrides | Lactones      |
| <b>T (°C)</b>     | 246                       | 364                     | 453                   | 636           |
| <b>W (°C)</b>     | 98                        | 81                      | 123                   | 172           |
| <b>A (μmol/g)</b> | 1143                      | 289                     | 540                   | 388           |

**Fig. S29. Deconvolution of CO<sub>2</sub> TPD curve of oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>.****Table S7. Deconvolution peaks of CO TPD curve of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>**

|                   | <b>Peak 1</b>         | <b>Peak 2</b> | <b>Peak 3</b>     | <b>Peak 4</b>     |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                   | Carboxylic anhydrides | Phenols       | Carbonyl/quinones | Pyrones/Chromenes |
| <b>T (°C)</b>     | 563                   | 619           | 731               | 868               |
| <b>W (°C)</b>     | 189                   | 103           | 103               | 106               |
| <b>A (μmol/g)</b> | 648                   | 1360          | 1861              | 619               |

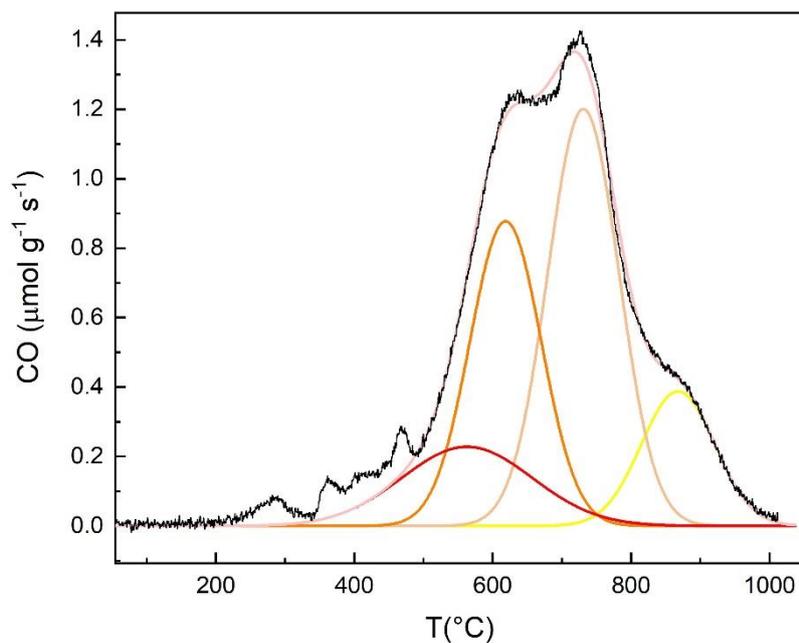


Fig. S30. Deconvolution of CO TPD curve of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>.

Table S8. Deconvolution peaks of CO<sub>2</sub> TPD curve of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>

|                   | Peak 1           | Peak 3                | Peak 4   |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                   | Carboxylic acids | Carboxylic anhydrides | Lactones |
| <b>T (°C)</b>     | 260              | 563                   | 665      |
| <b>W (°C)</b>     | 189              | 189                   | 189      |
| <b>A (μmol/g)</b> | 195              | 648                   | 243      |

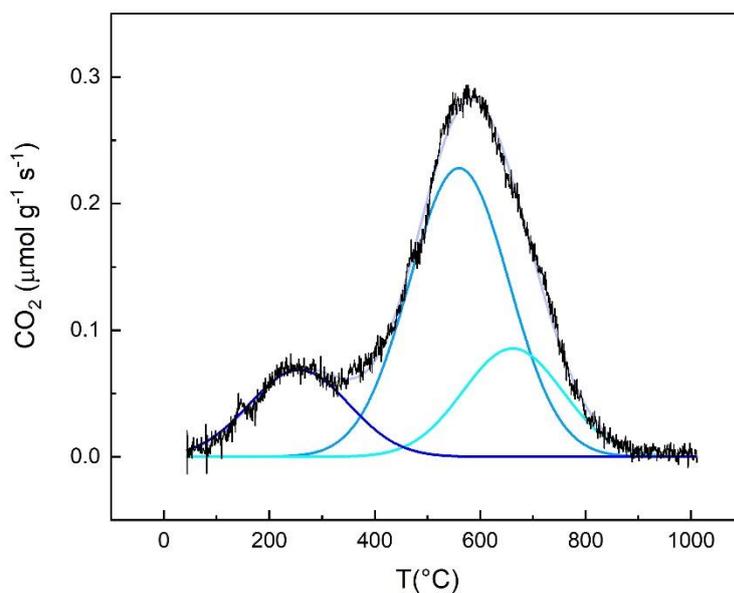
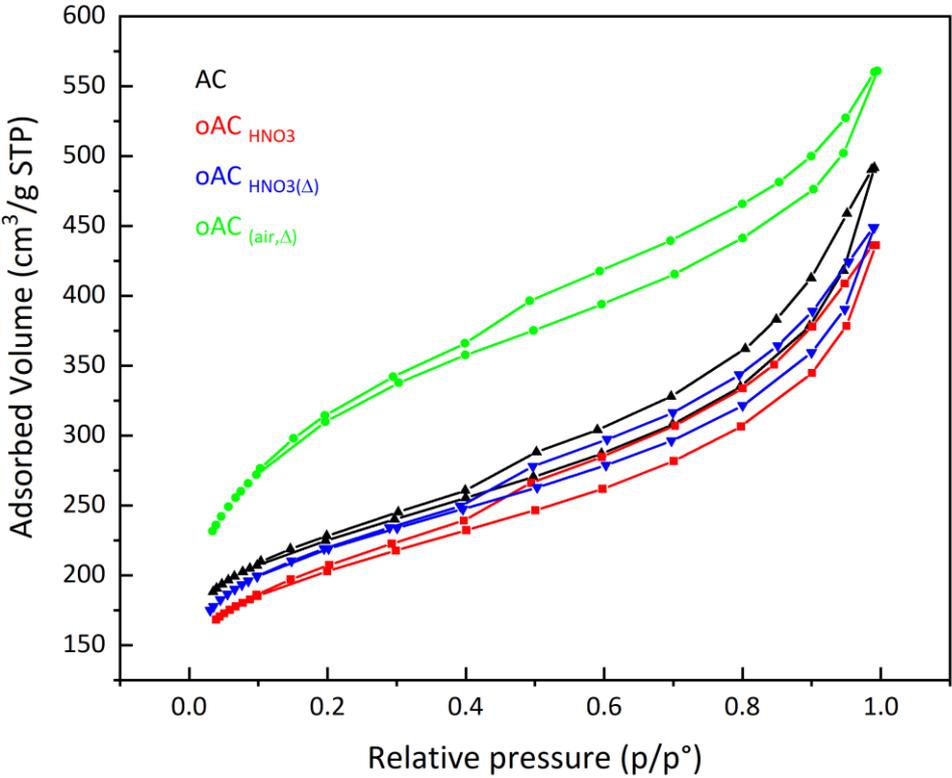


Fig. S31. Deconvolution of CO<sub>2</sub> TPD curve of oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>.

**Carbon material BET analysis**

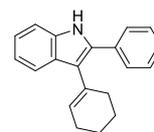
**Table S9. Textural analysis of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>, oAC<sub>HNO3</sub> and oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>**

| Sample                     | $S_{BET}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g) | $S_{\neq\mu\text{pores}}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g) | $V_{\mu\text{pores}}$ (cm <sup>3</sup> /g) | $V^*_p$ (cm <sup>3</sup> /g) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| AC <sub>demetallized</sub> | 822                           | 335   | 0.205                                      | 0.761                        |
| oAC <sub>HNO3</sub>        | 738                           | 316   | 0.179                                      | 0.675                        |
| oAC <sub>air(Δ)</sub>      | 1128                          | 407   | 0.319                                      | 0.868                        |
| oAC <sub>HNO3(Δ)</sub>     | 802                           | 319   | 0.202                                      | 0.695                        |

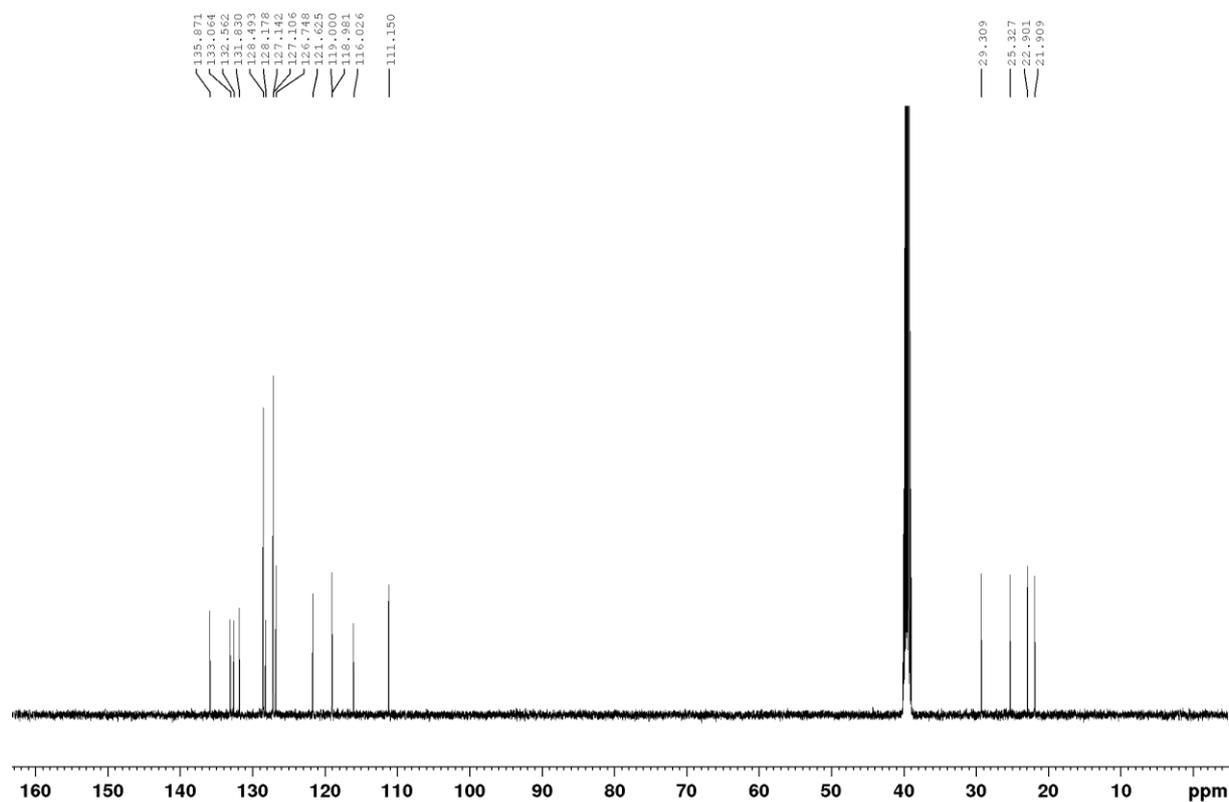
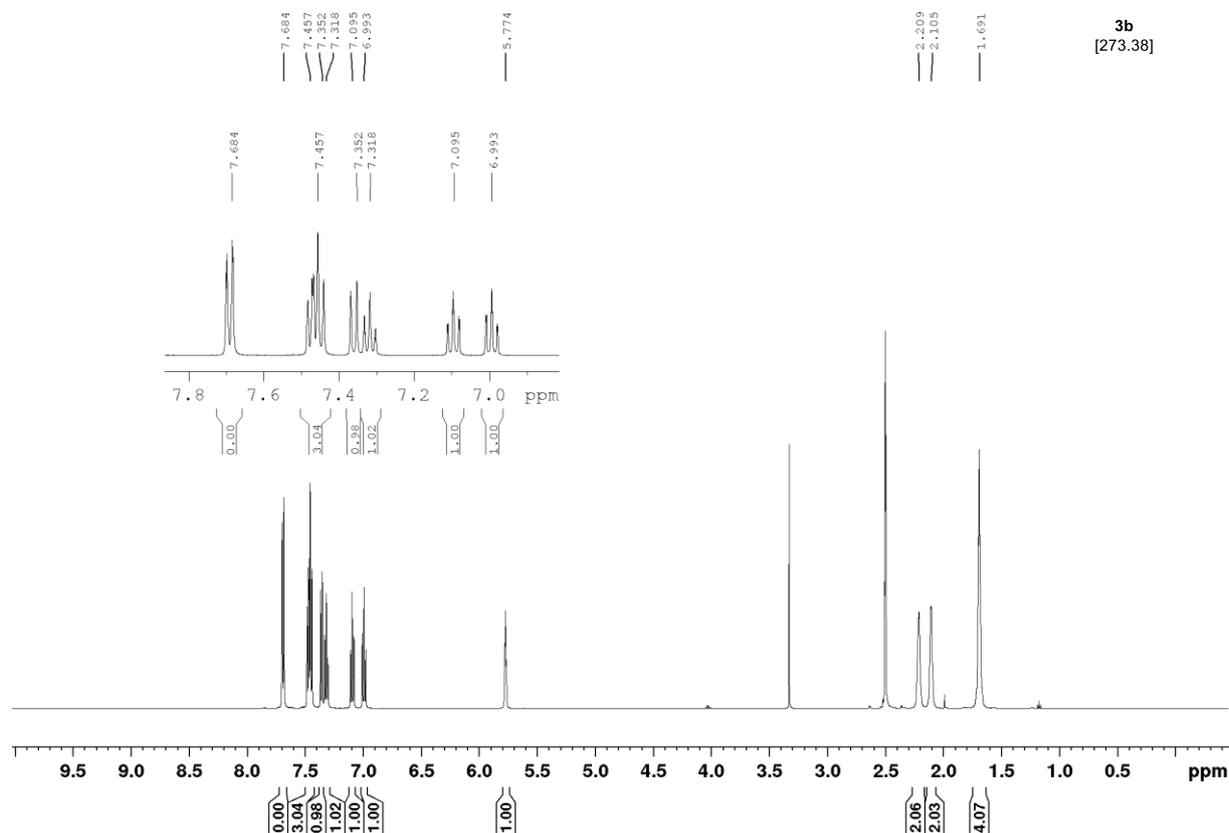


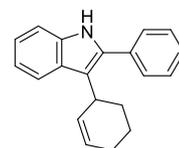
**Fig. S32. N<sub>2</sub> physisorption isotherms of AC<sub>demetallized</sub>, oAC<sub>HNO3</sub>, oAC<sub>HNO3(Δ)</sub> and oAC<sub>air(Δ)</sub>**

# NMR Spectra

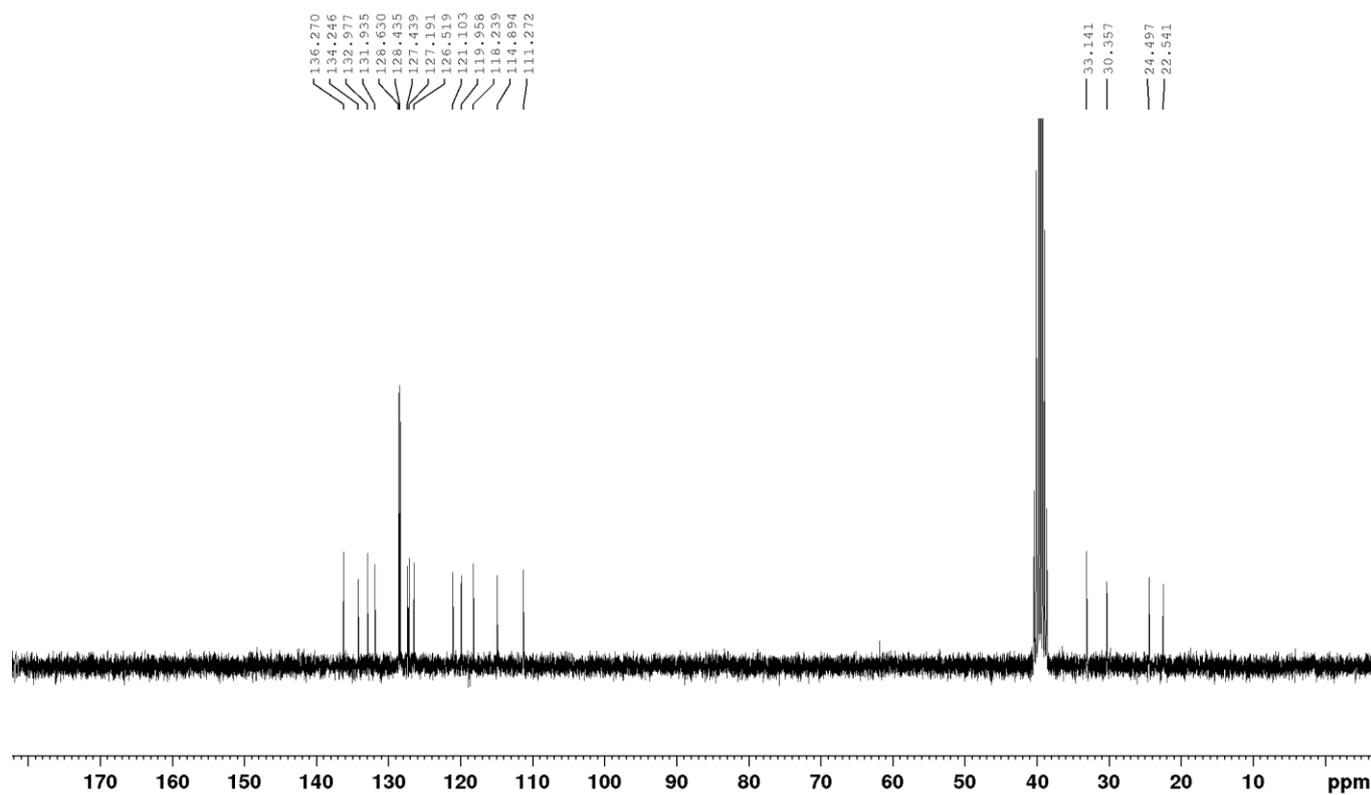
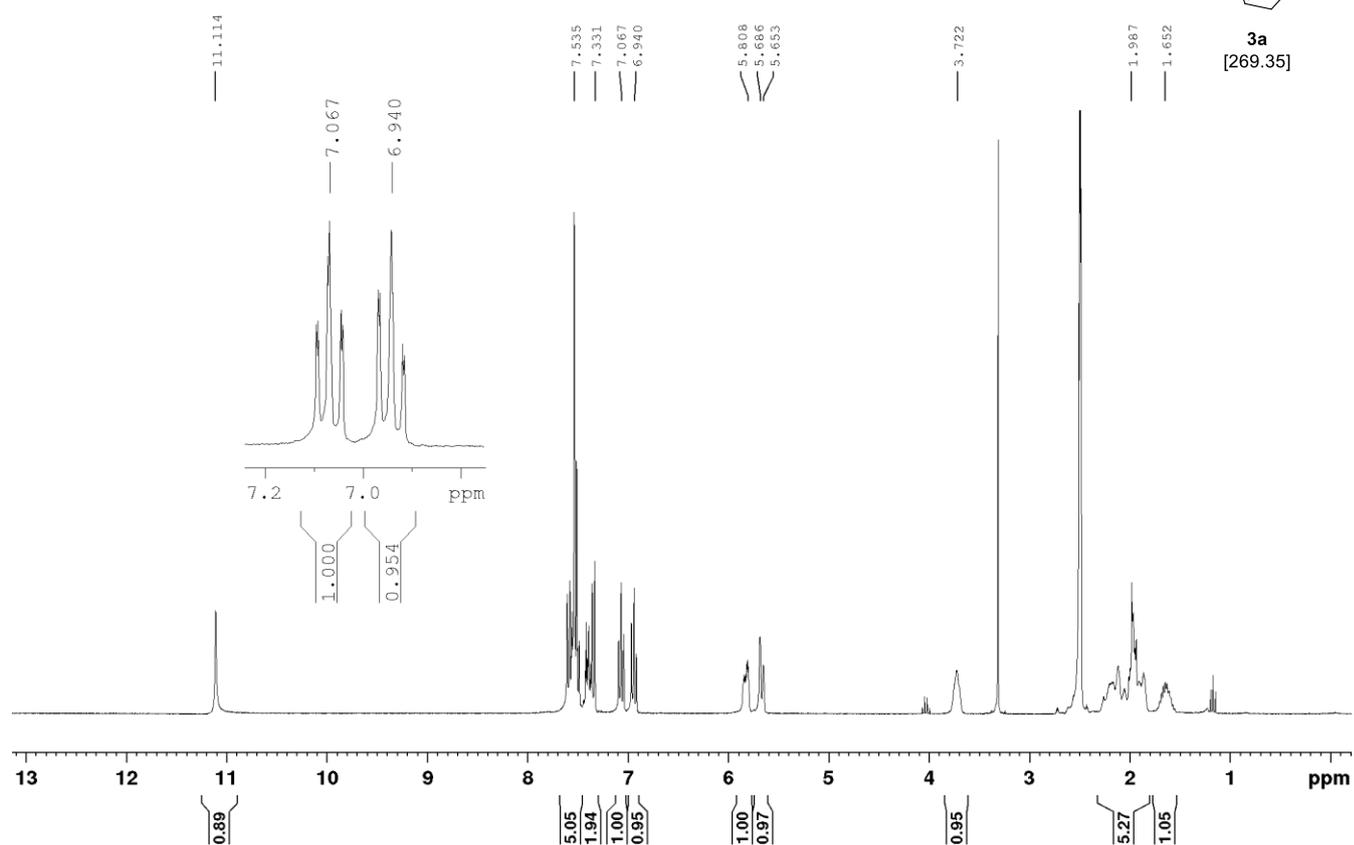


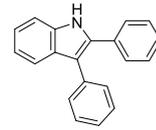
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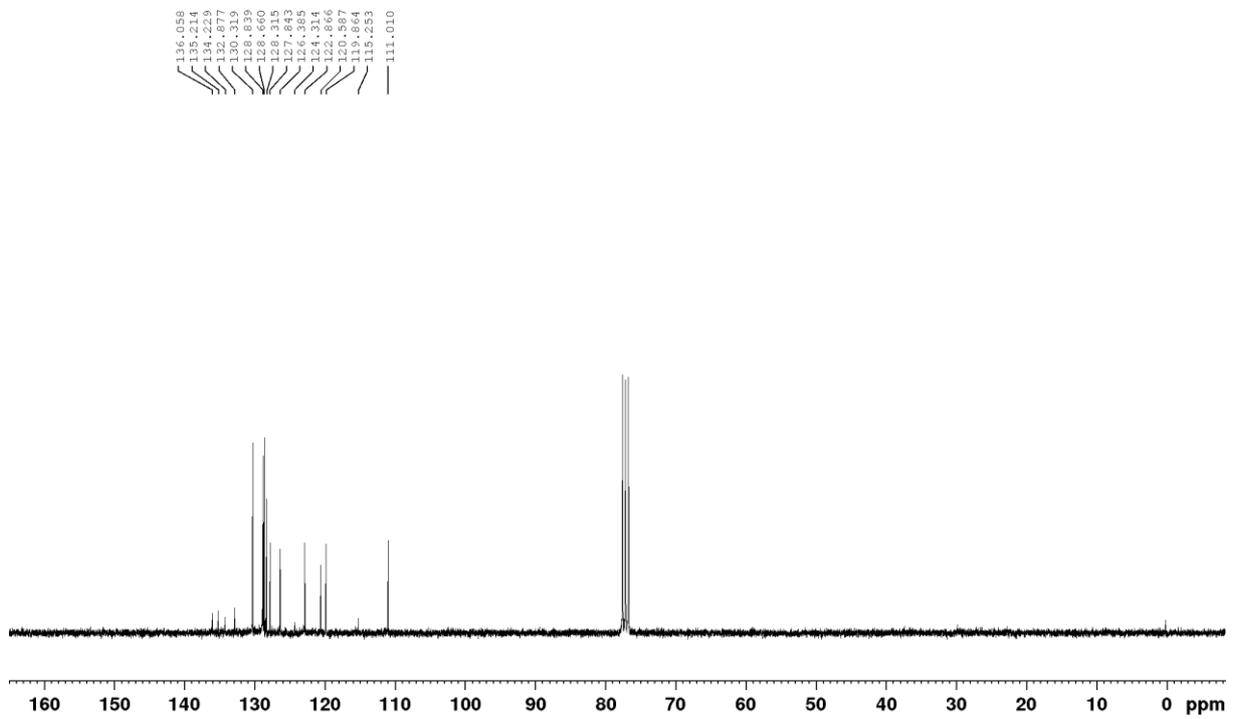
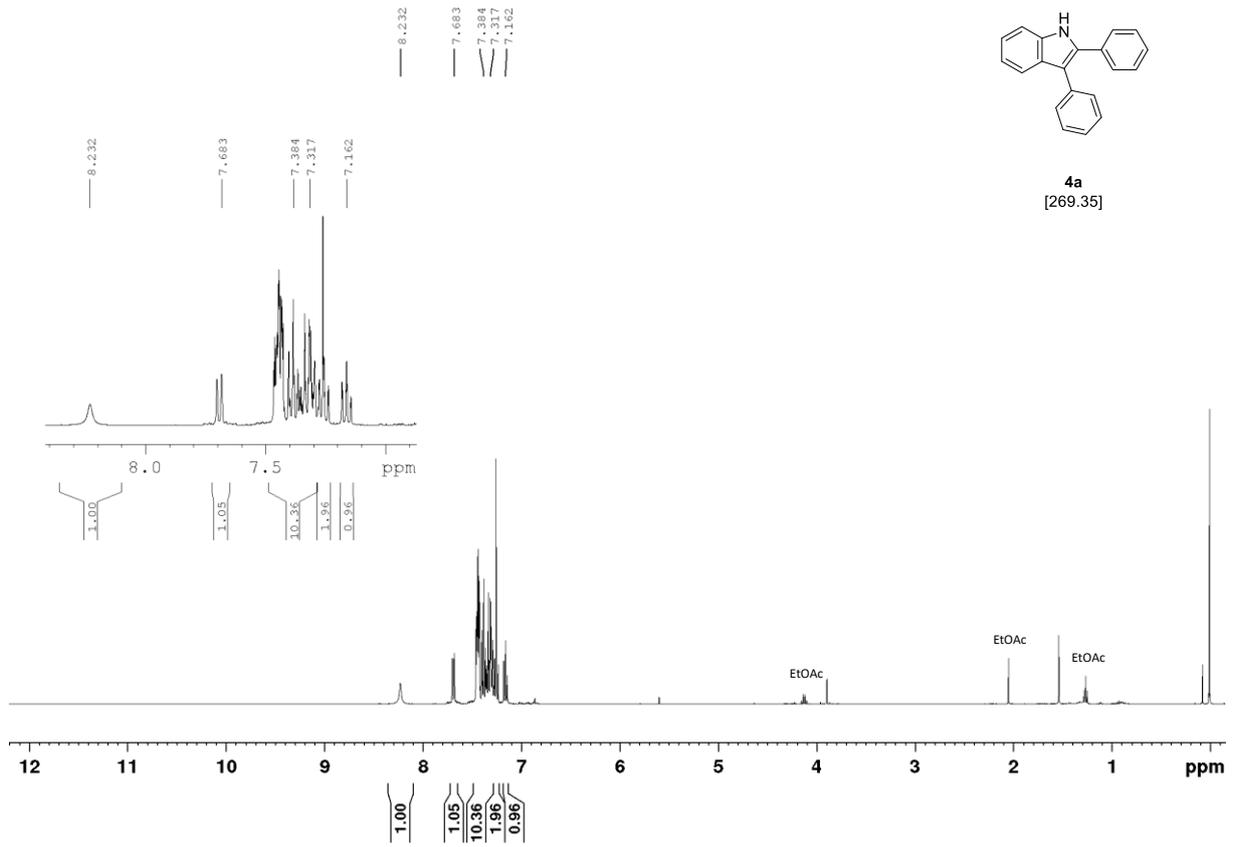


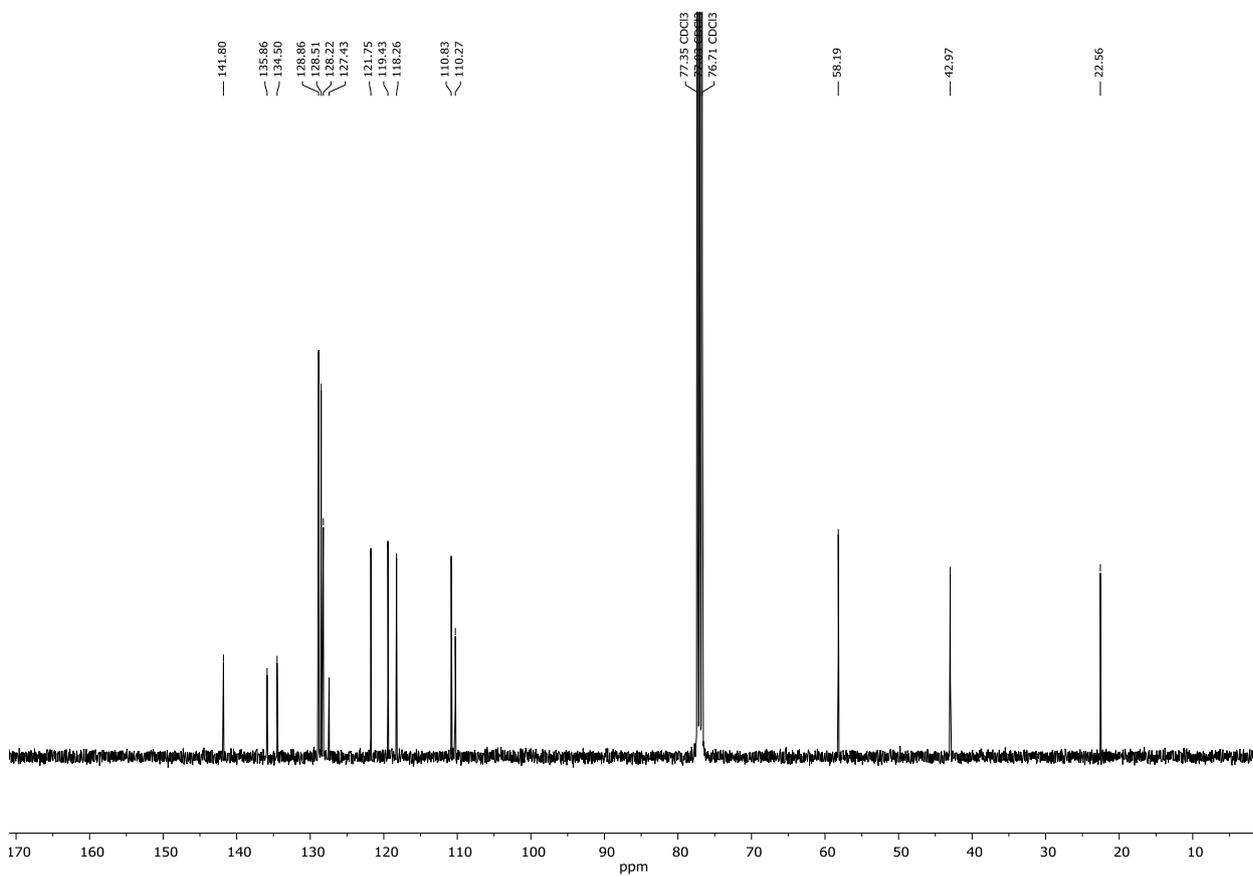
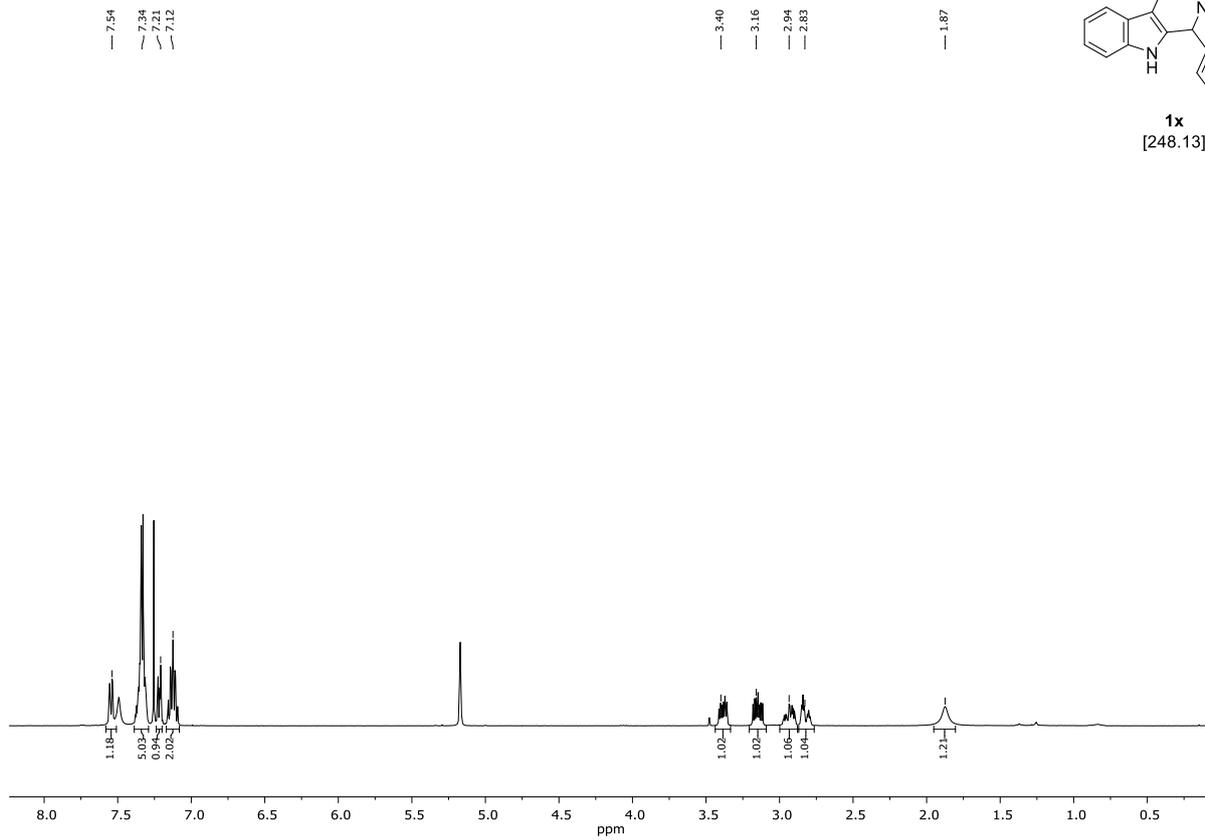
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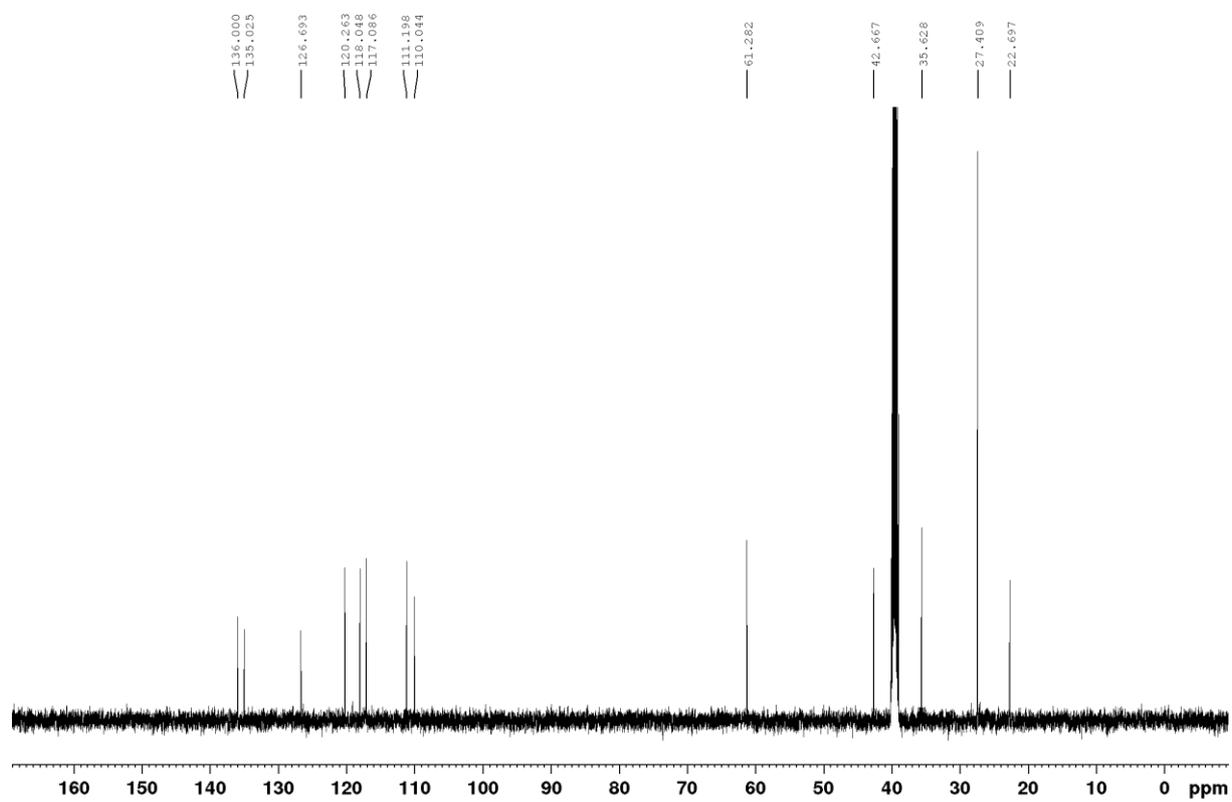
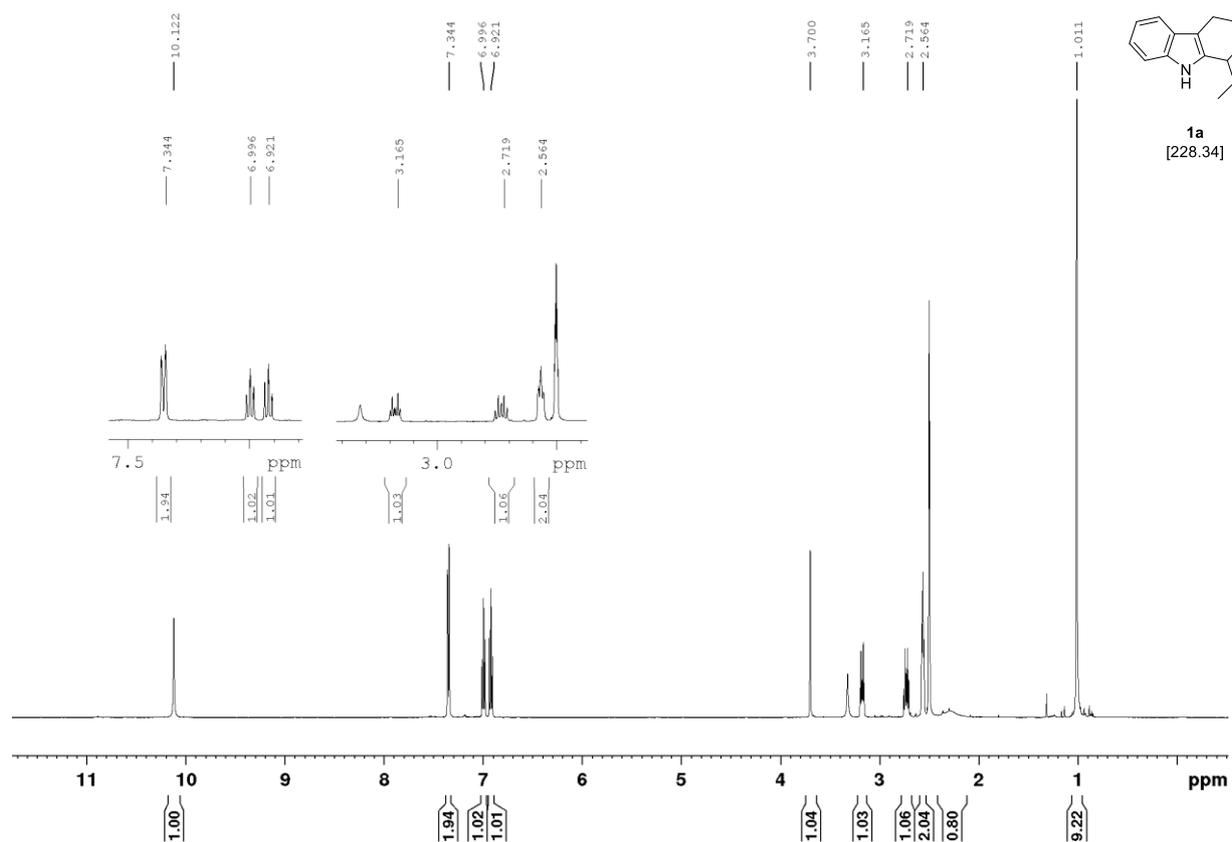


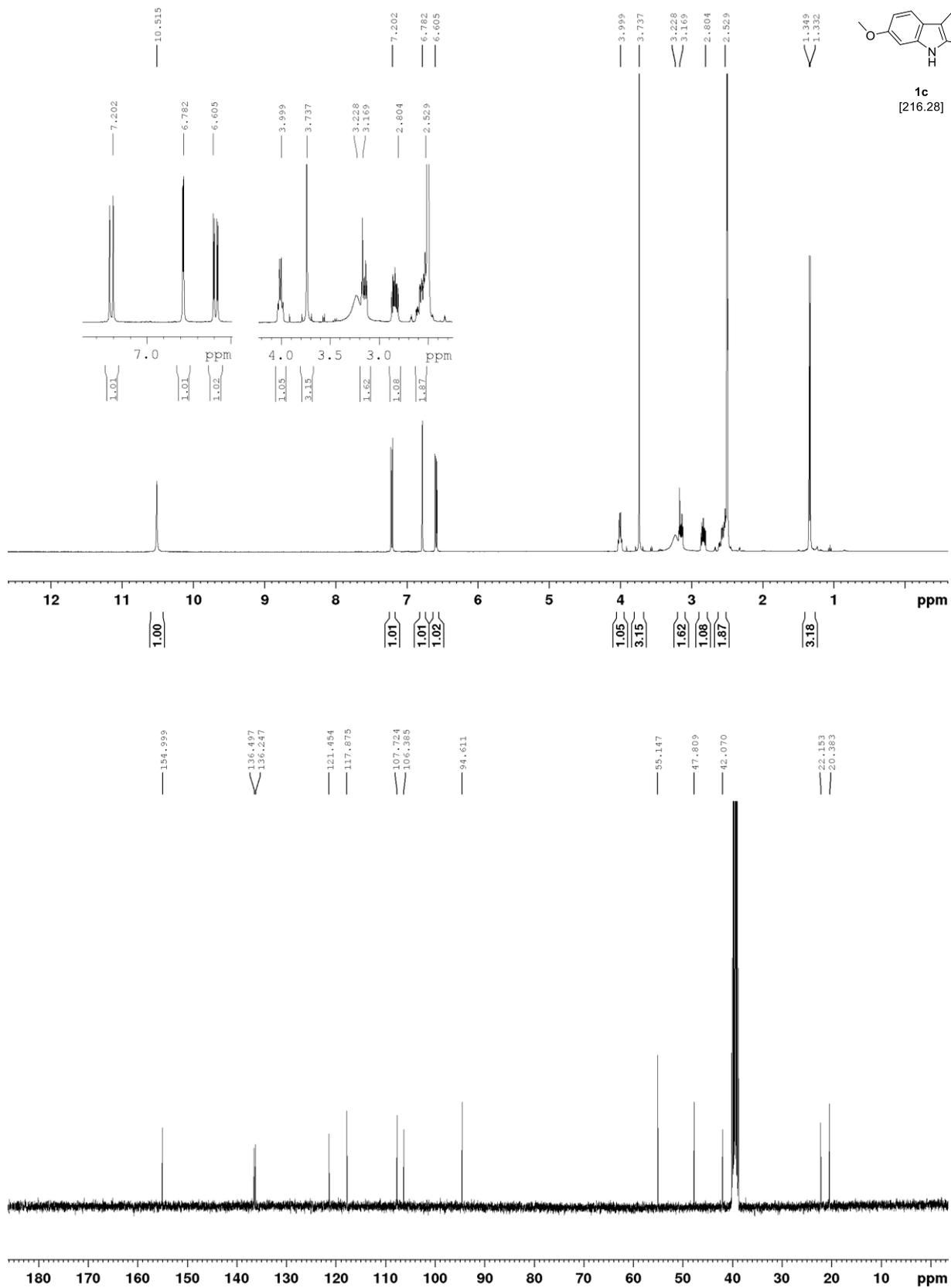


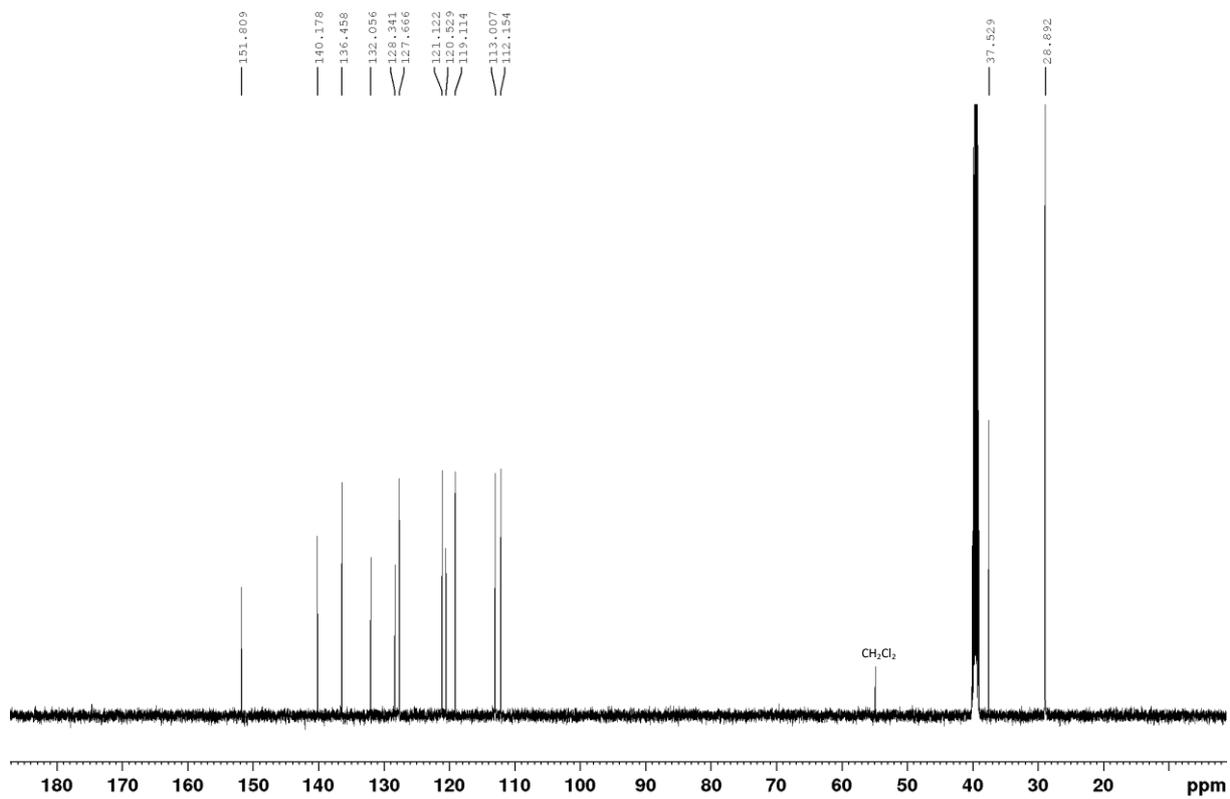
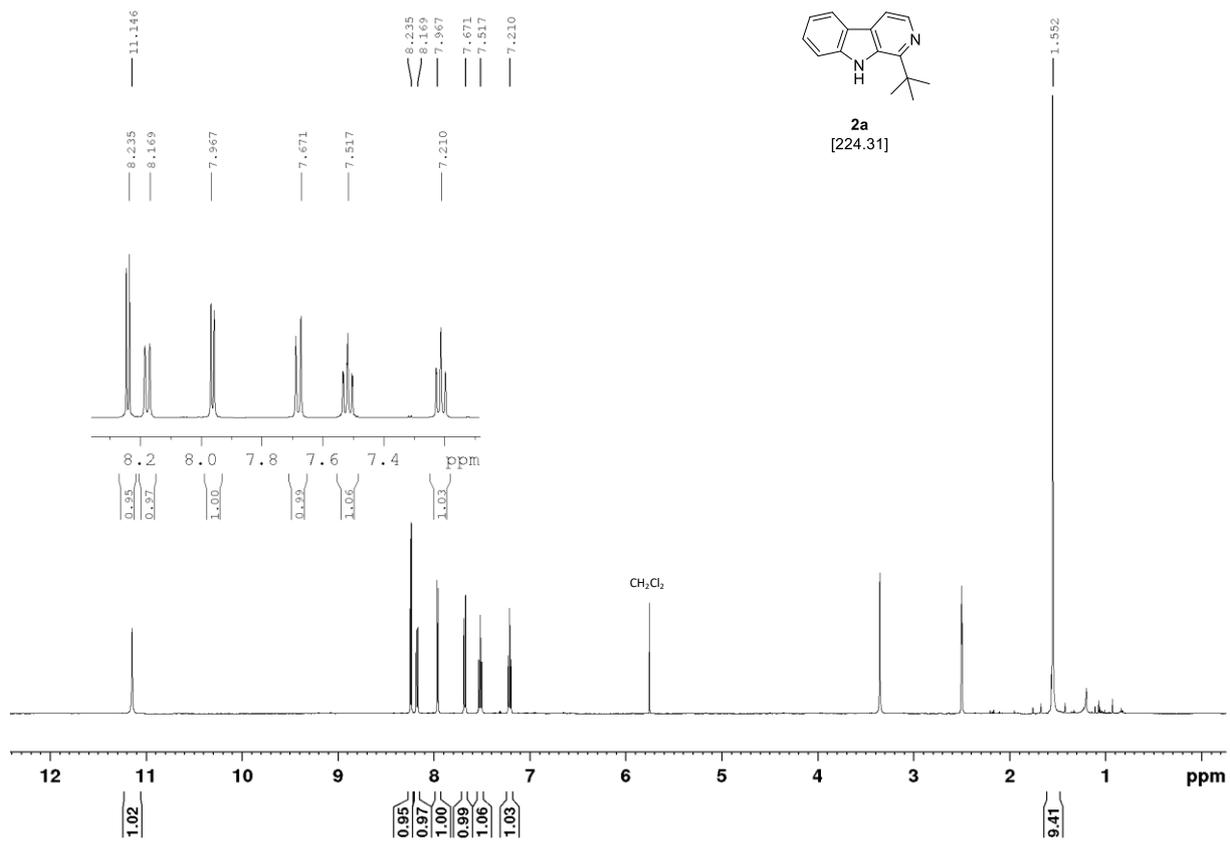
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[269.35]





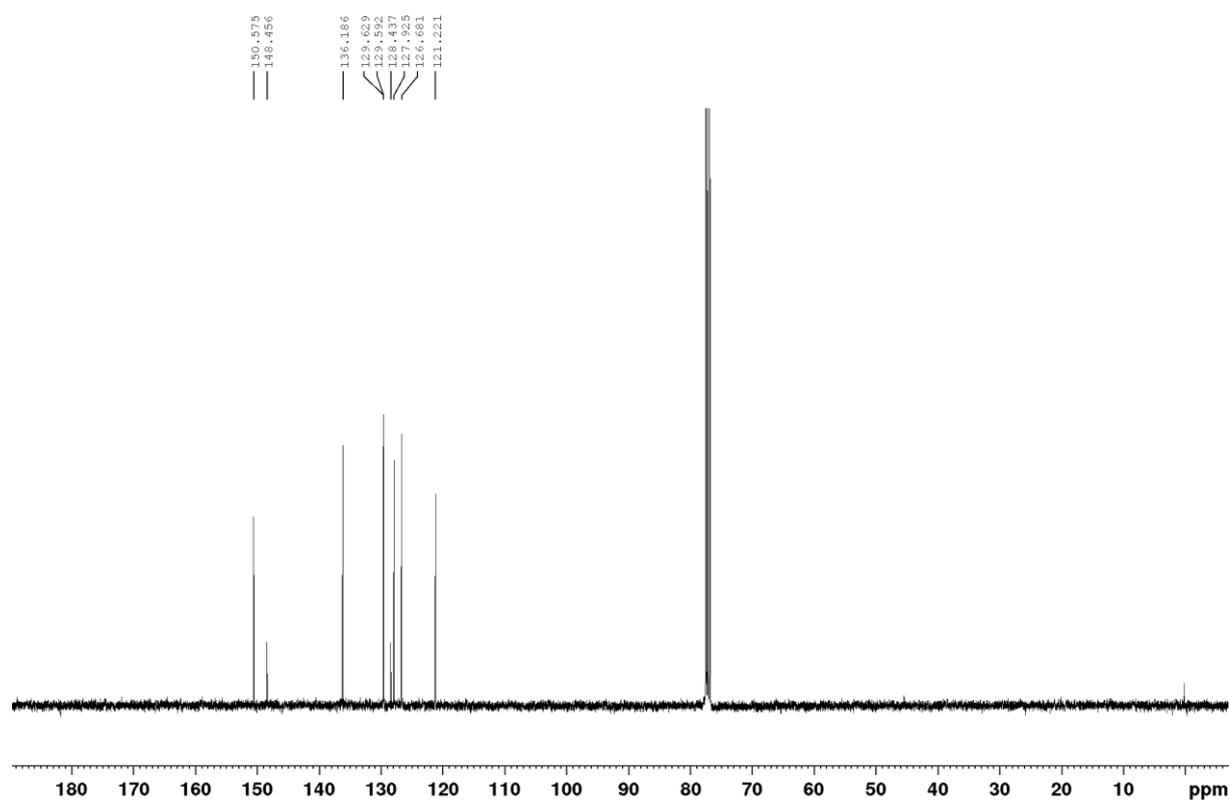
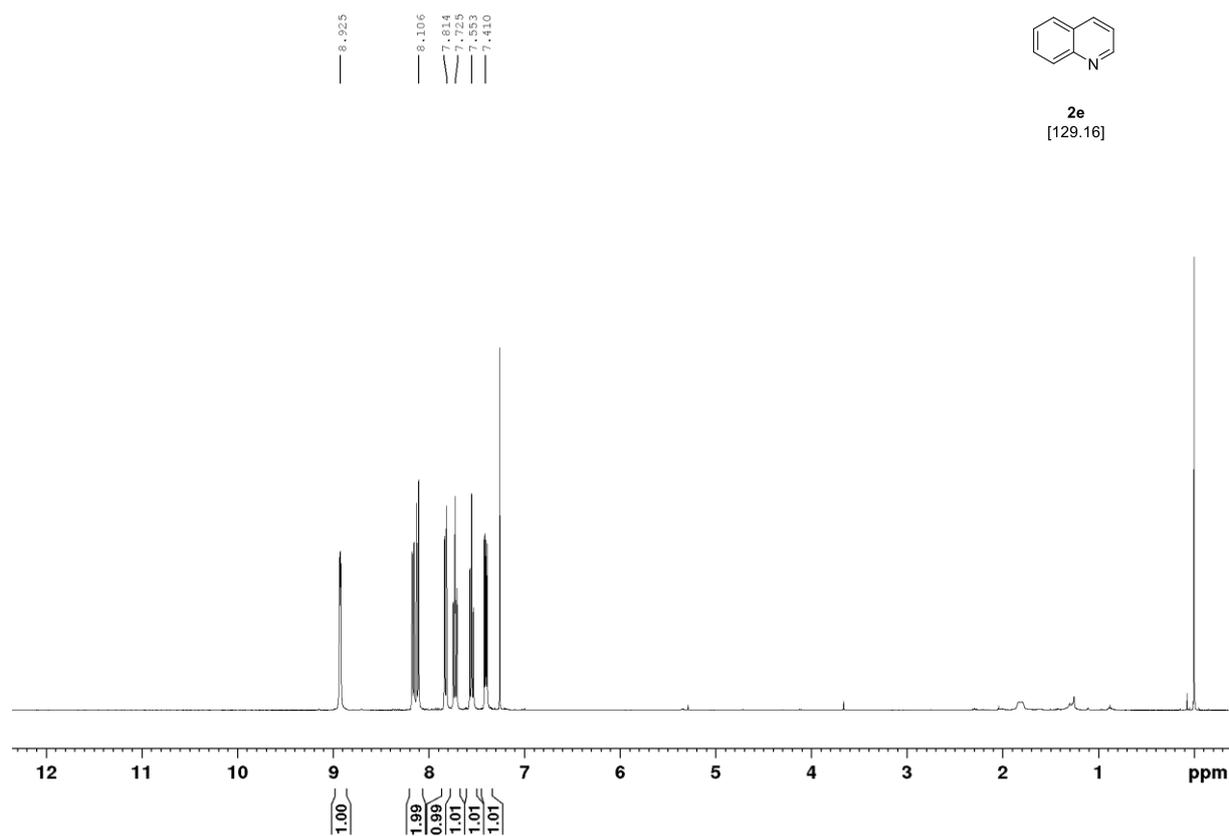


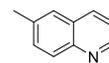




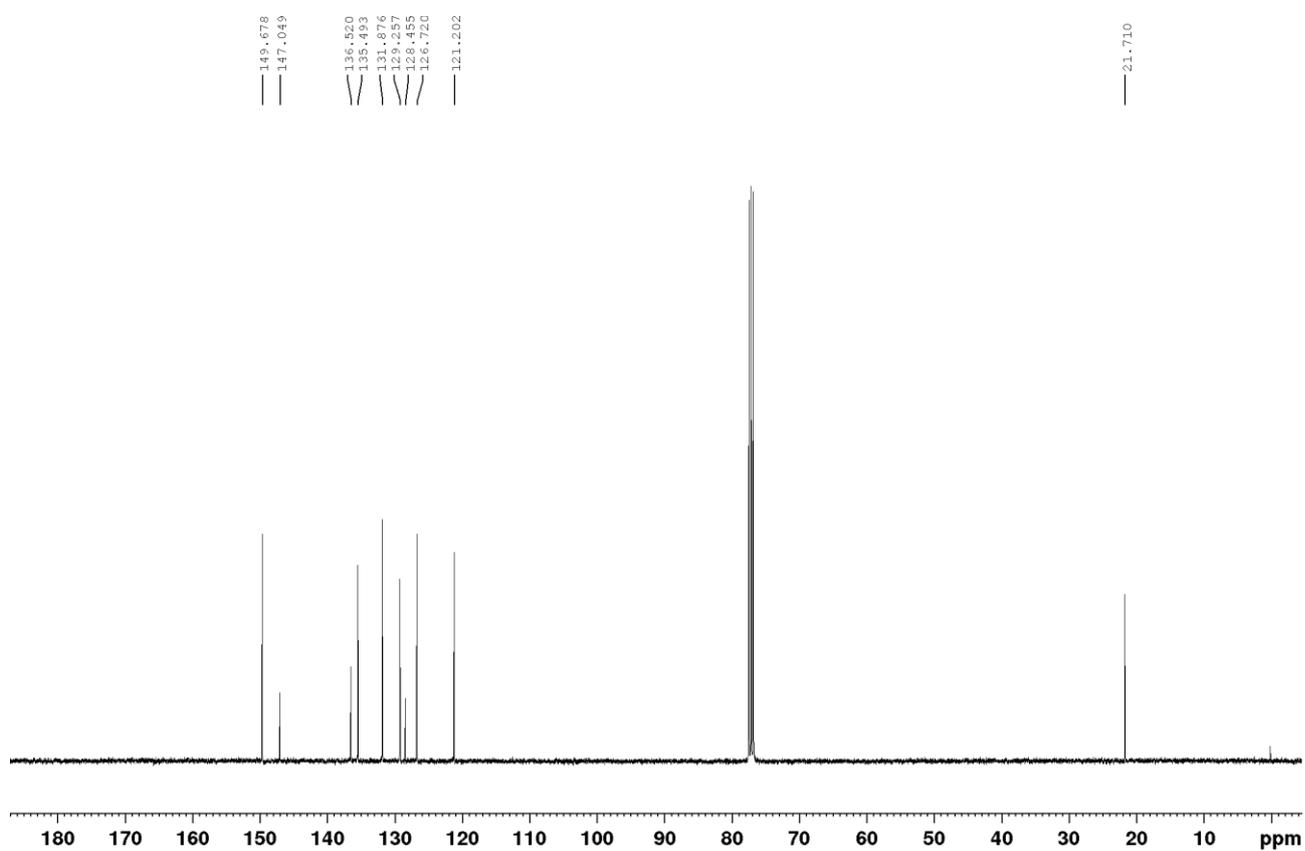
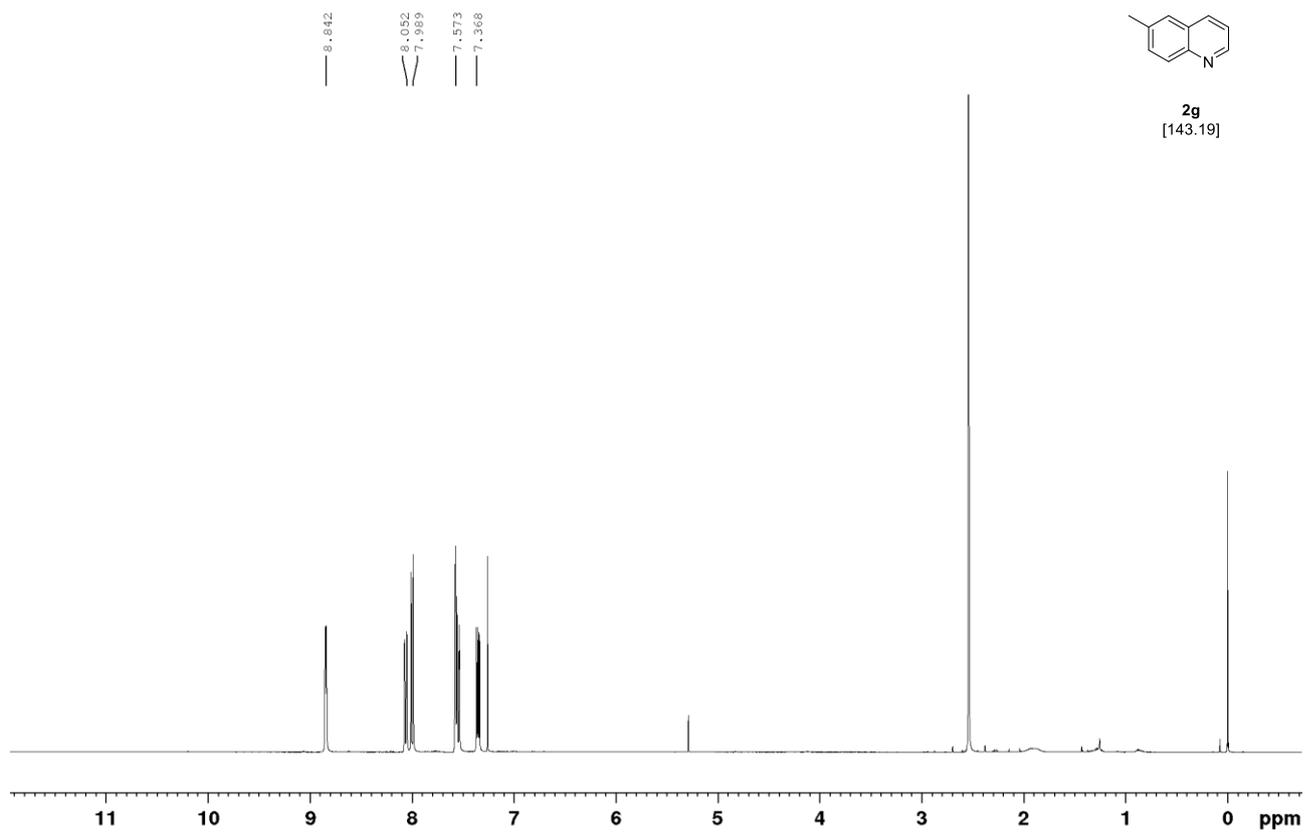


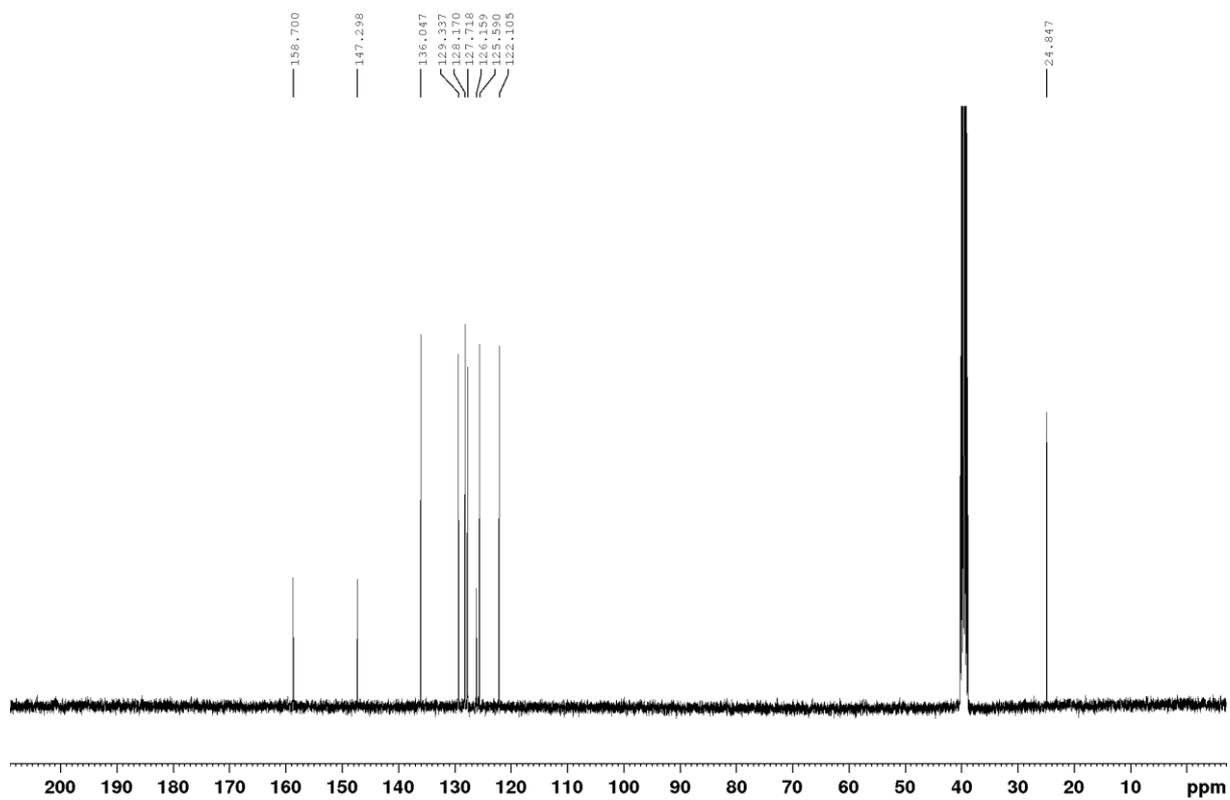
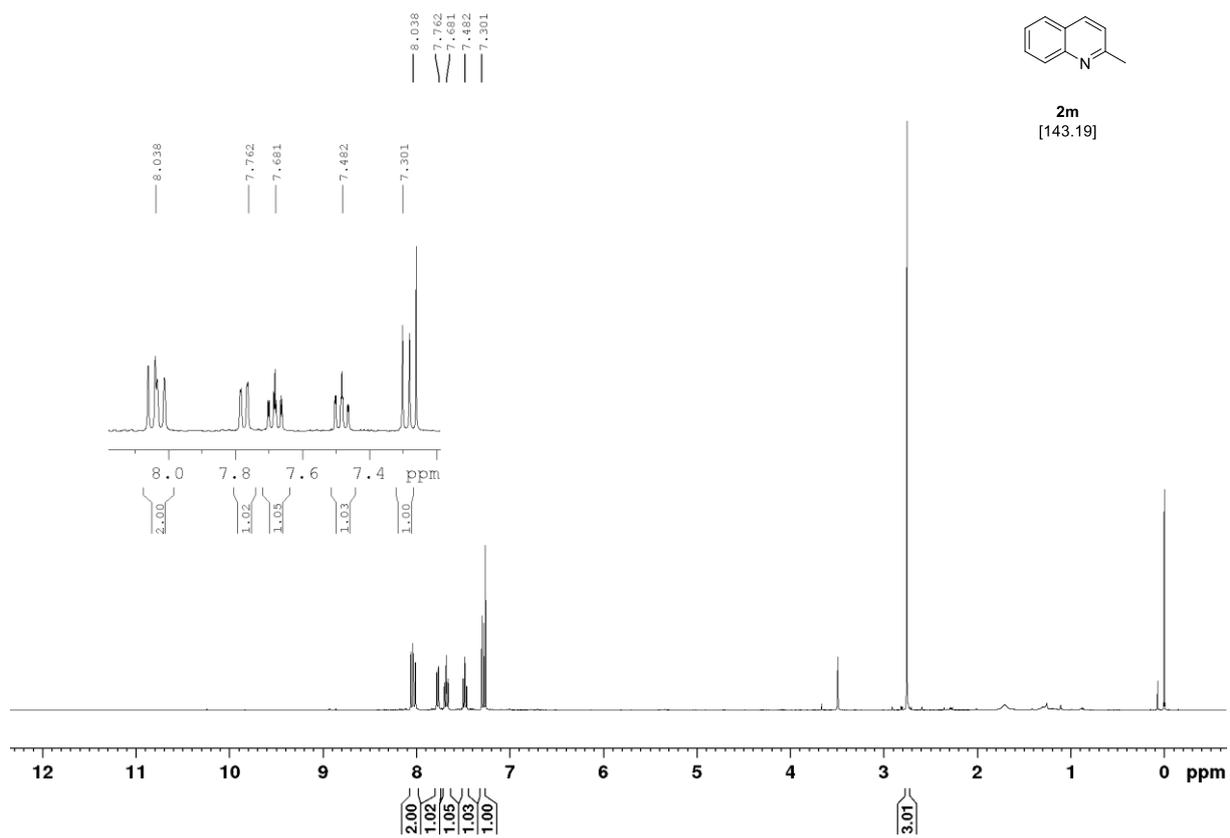
2a  
[129.16]

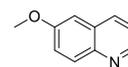




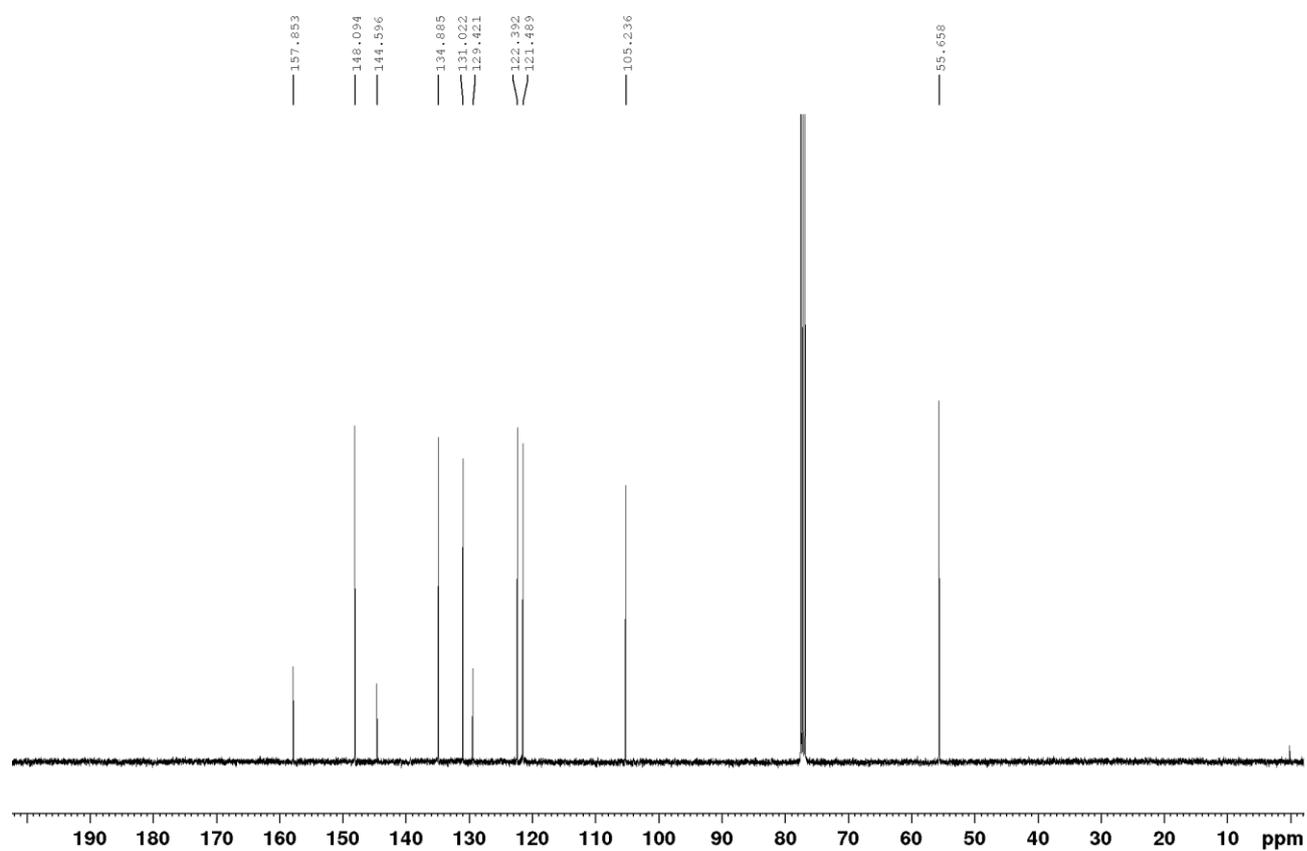
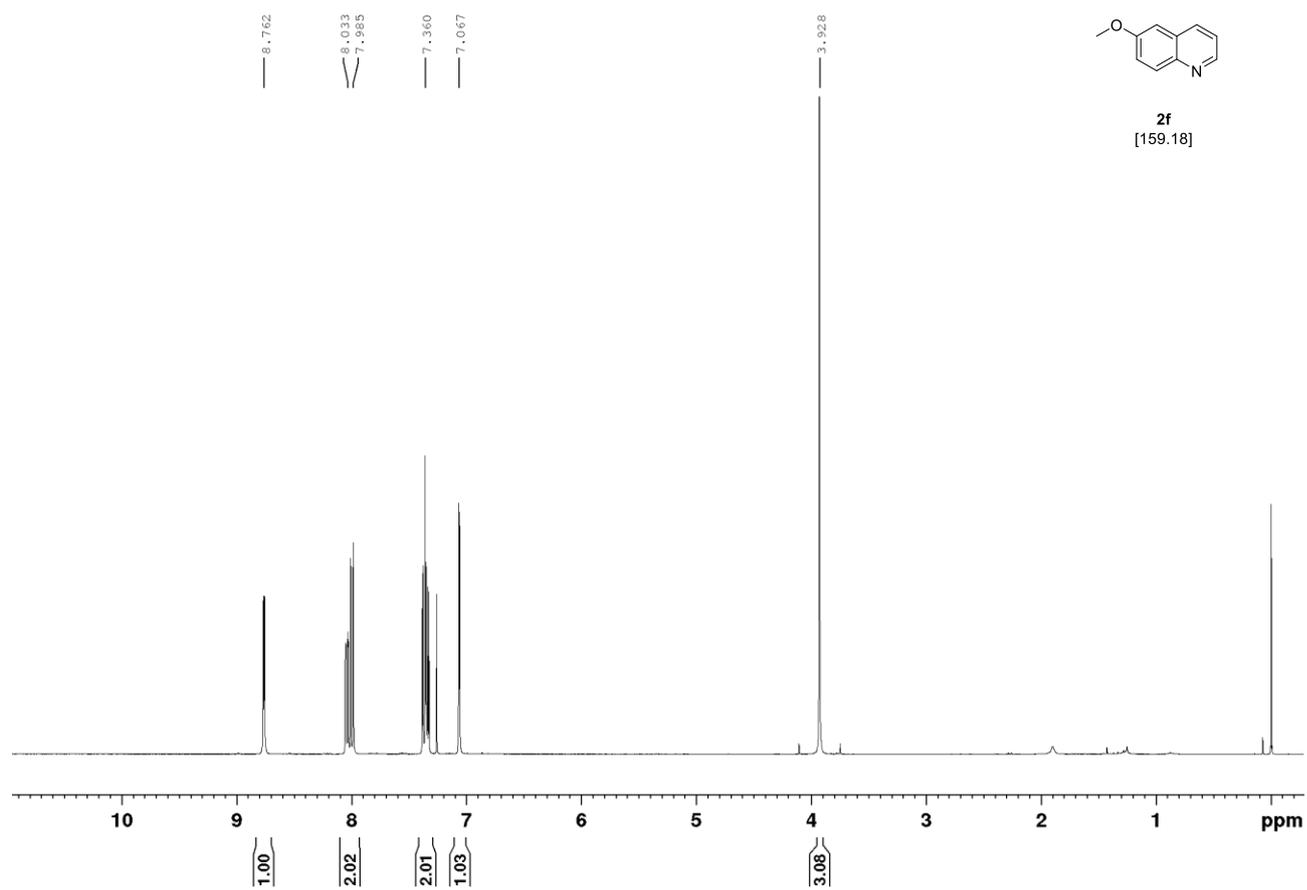
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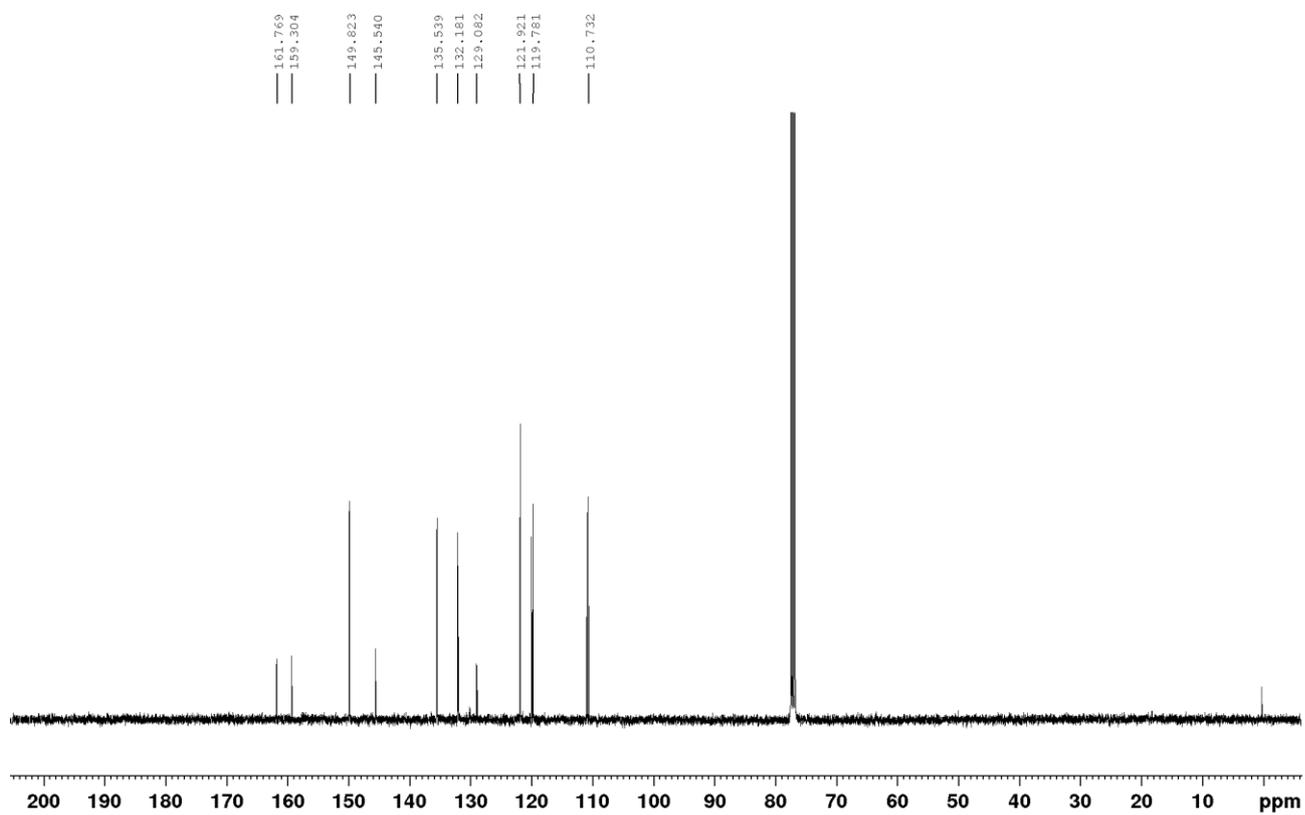
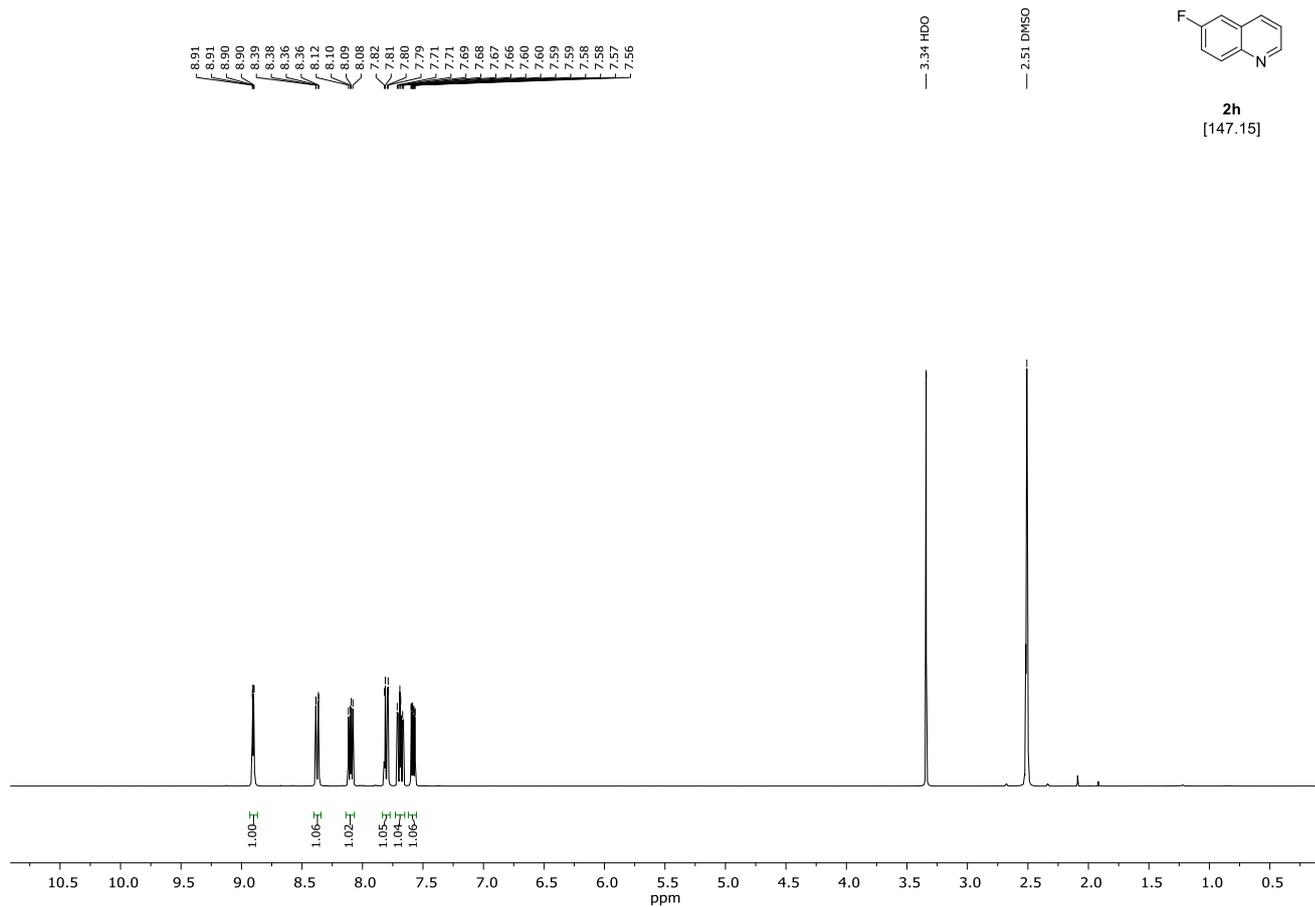


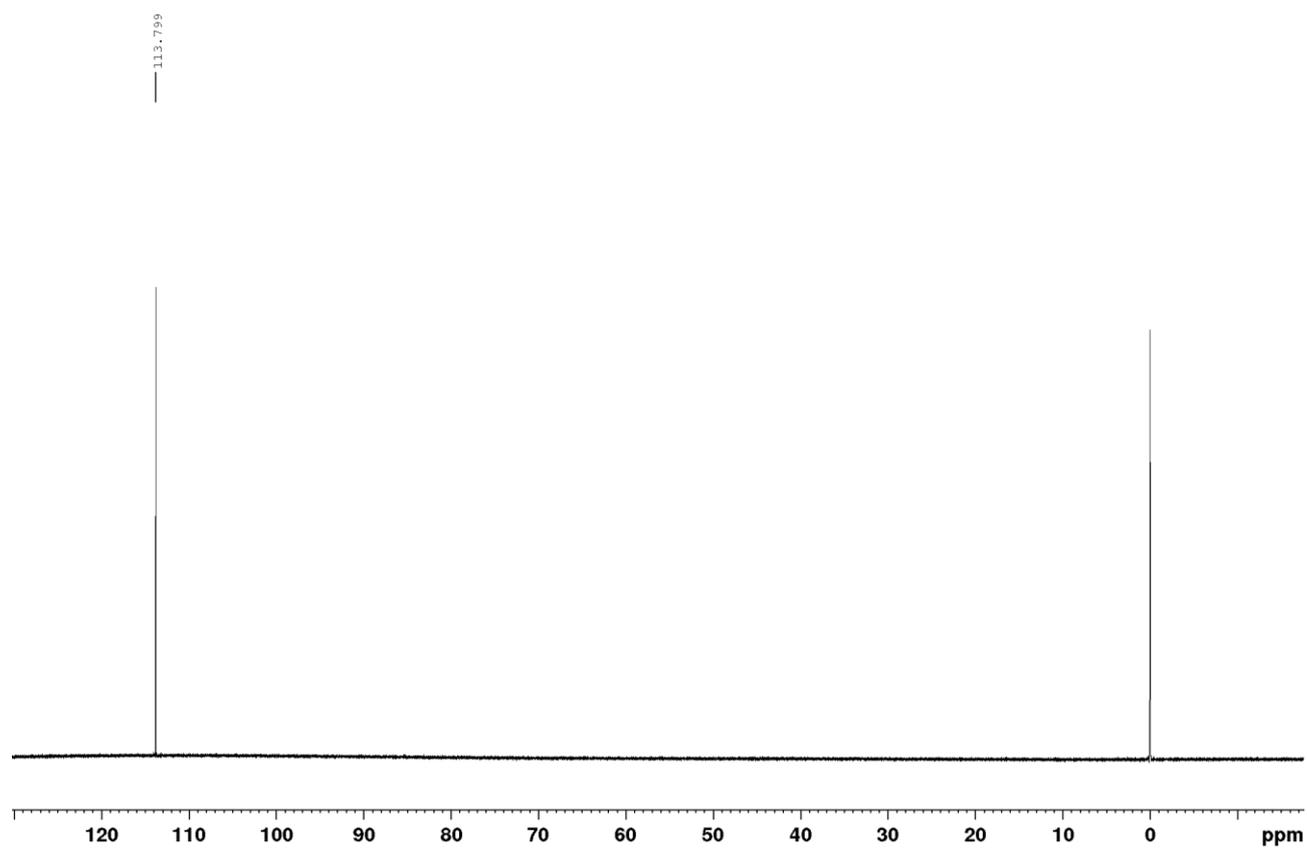


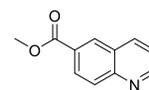


**2f**  
[159.18]

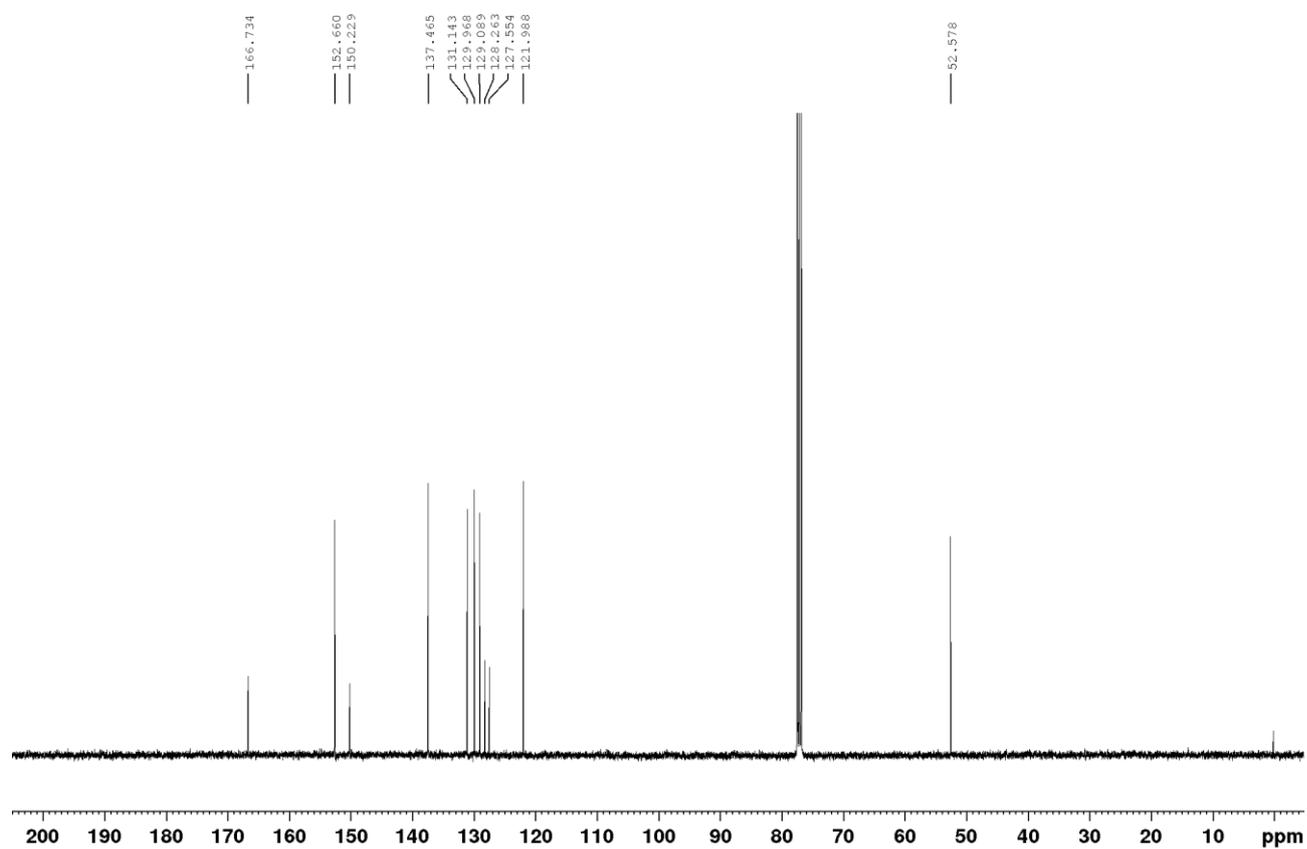
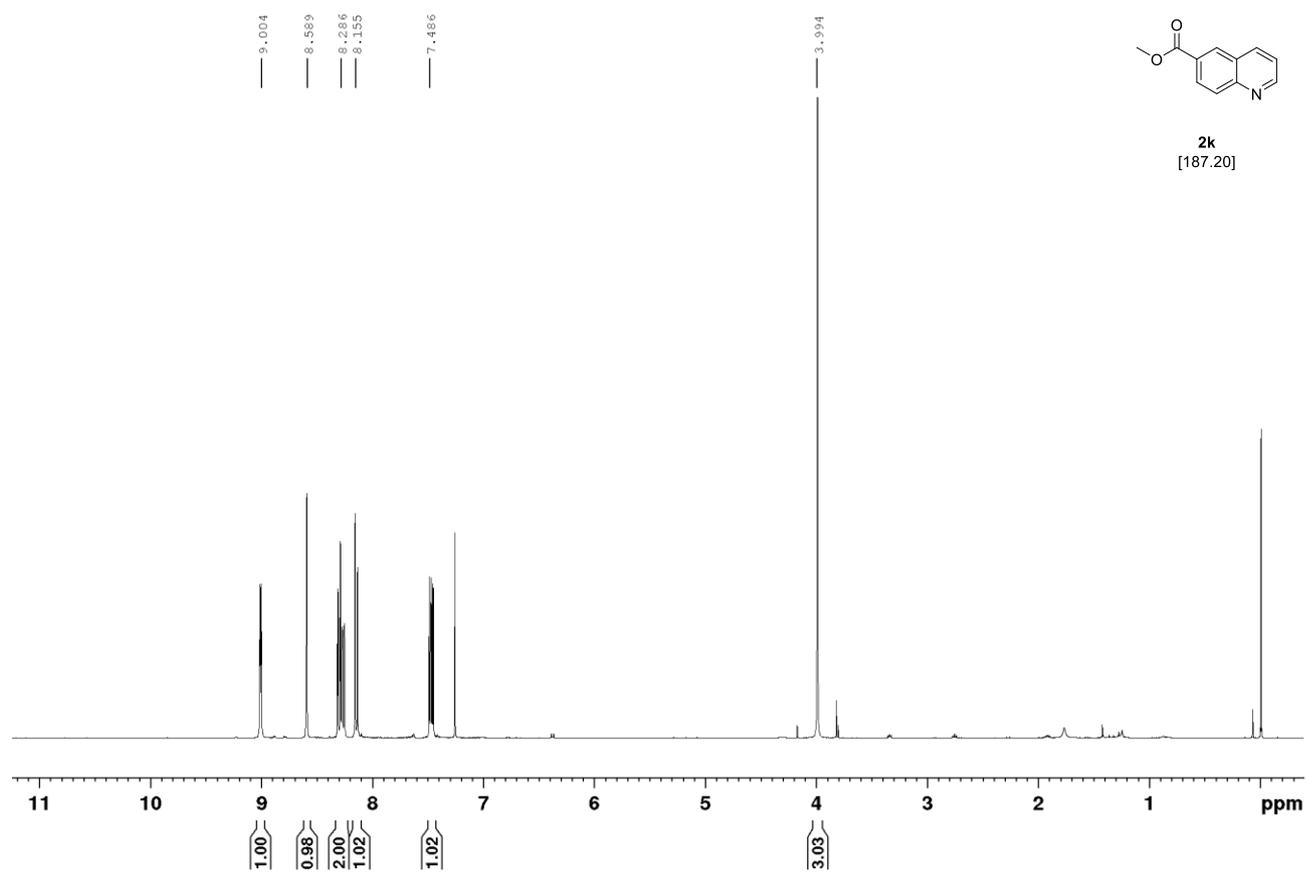


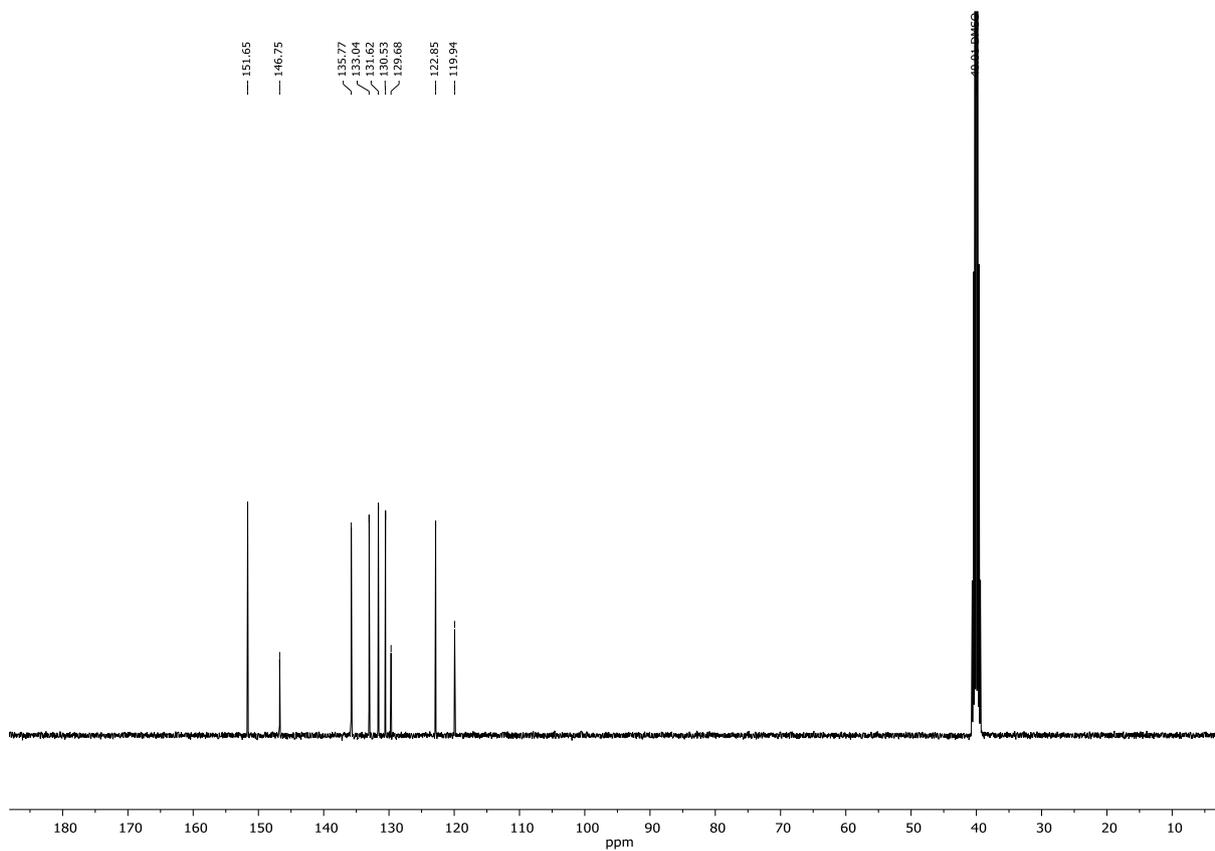
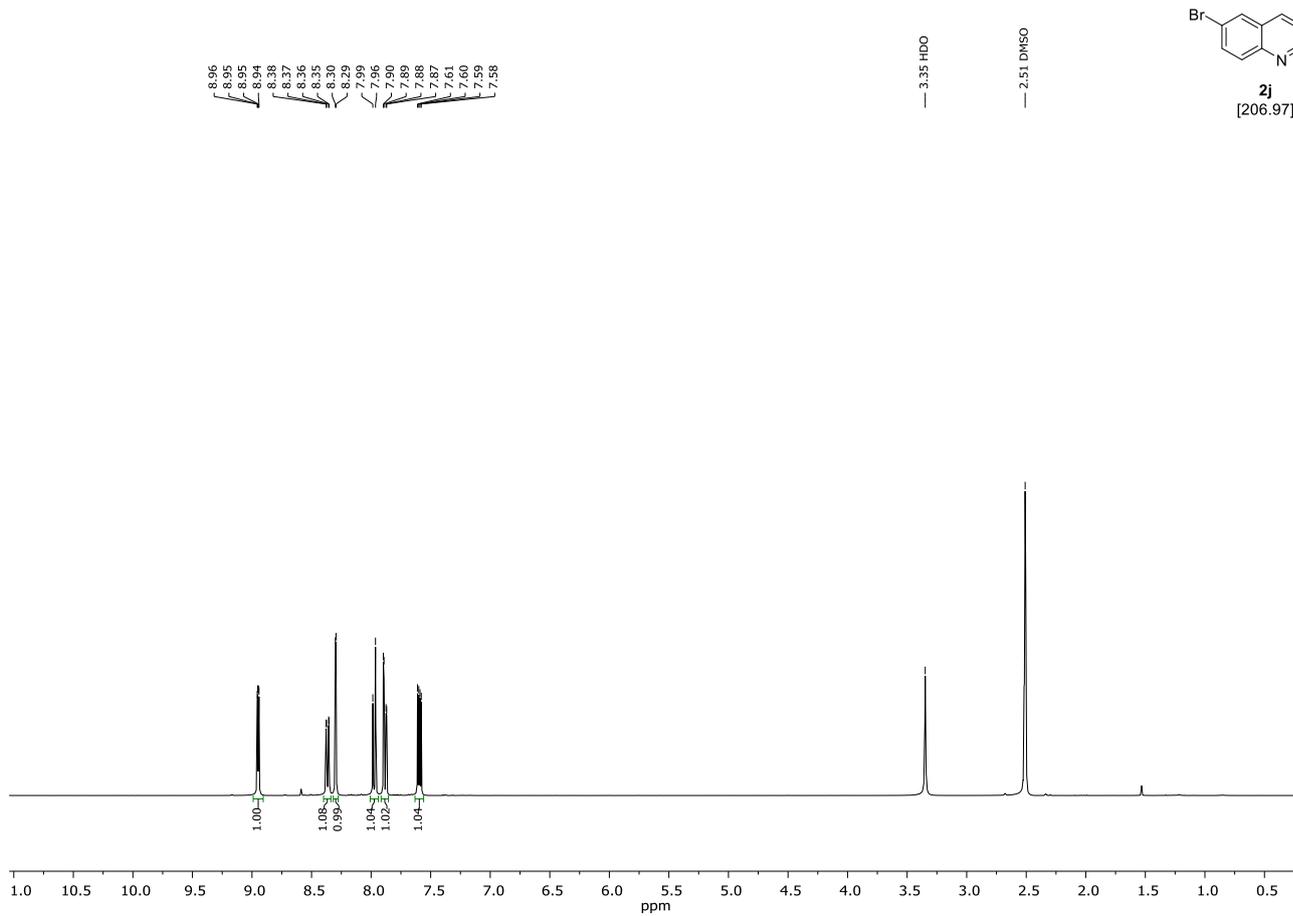


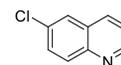




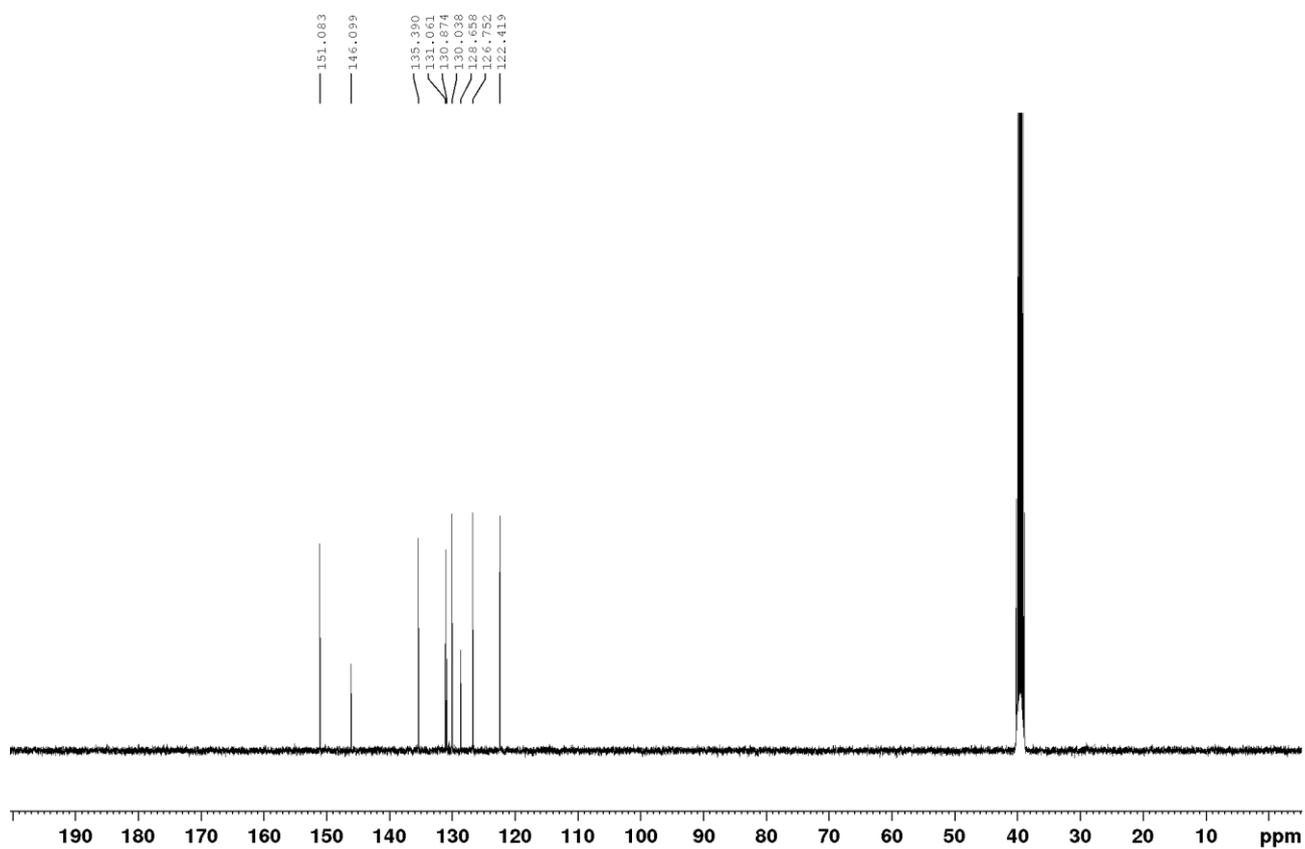
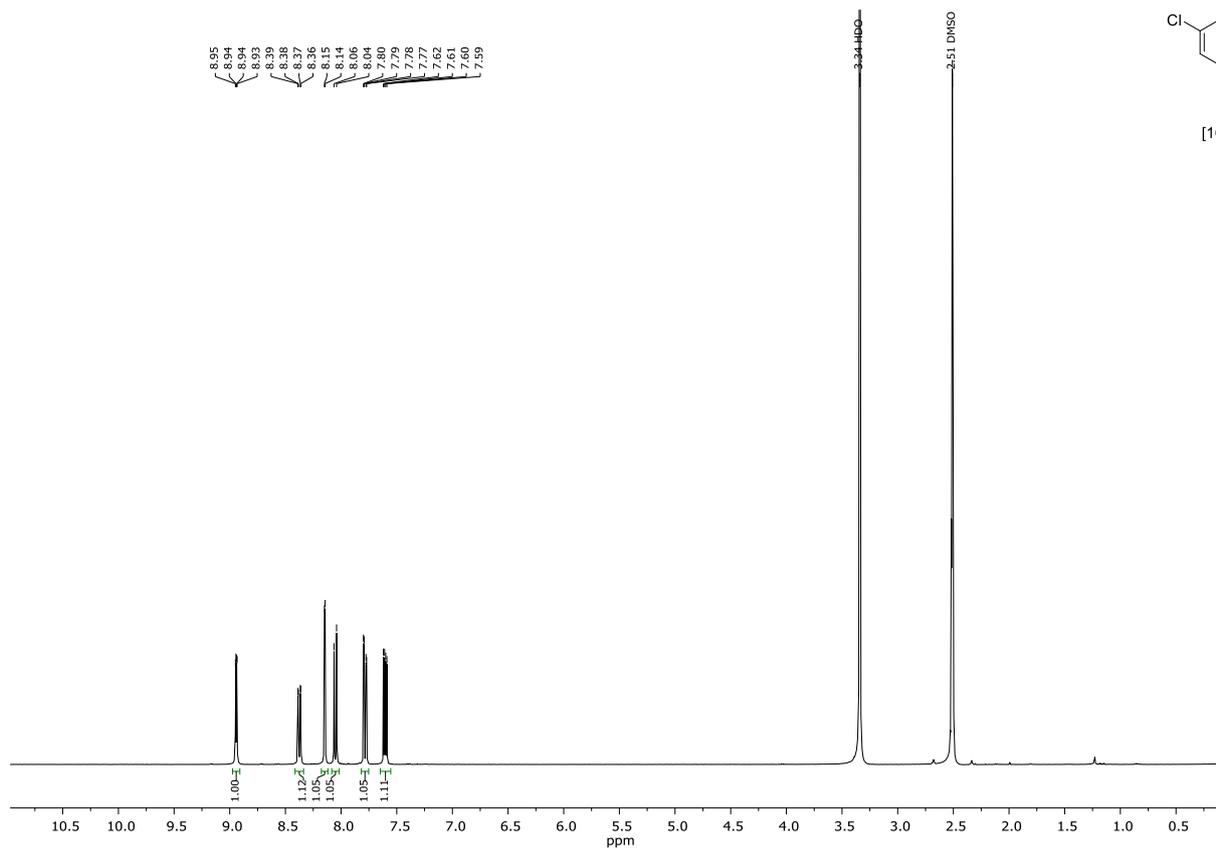
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[187.20]

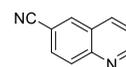




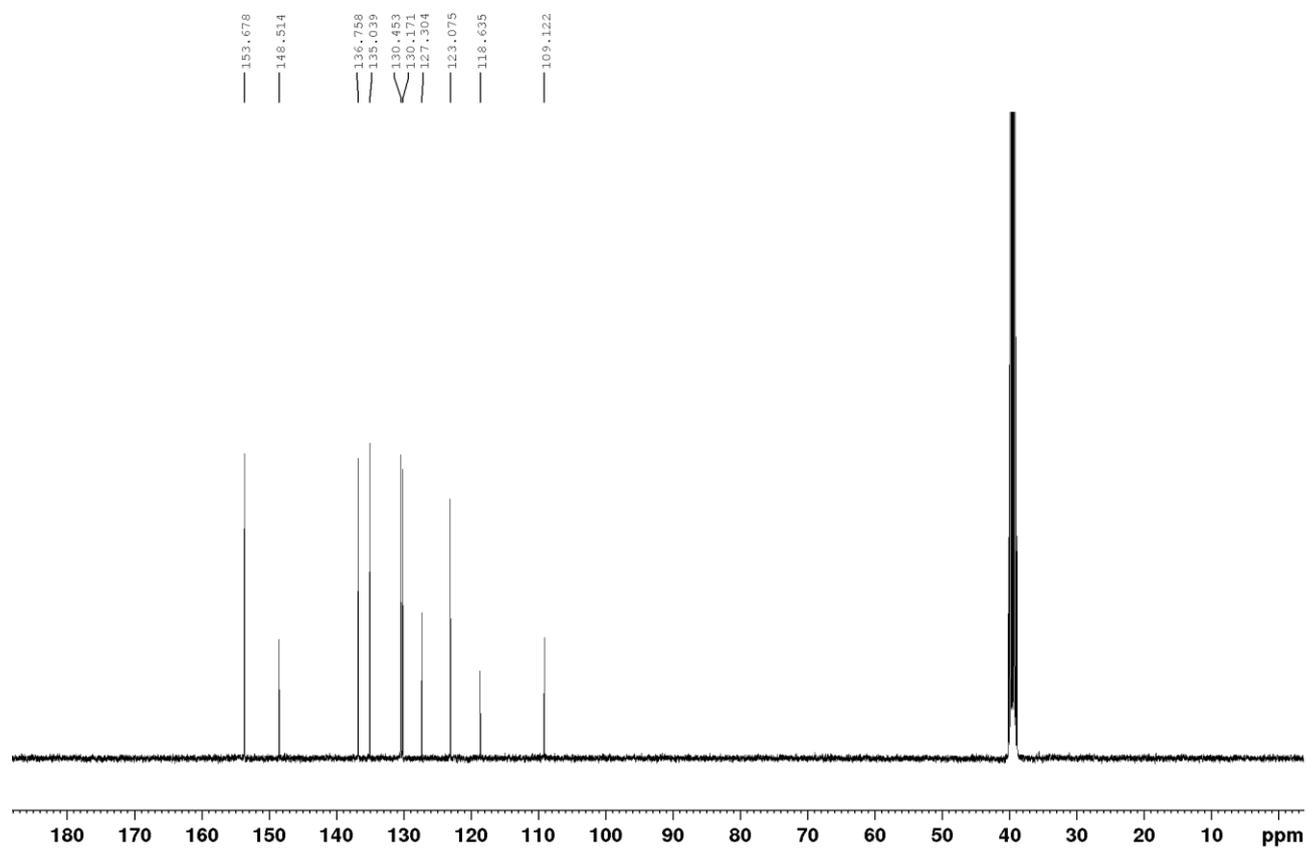
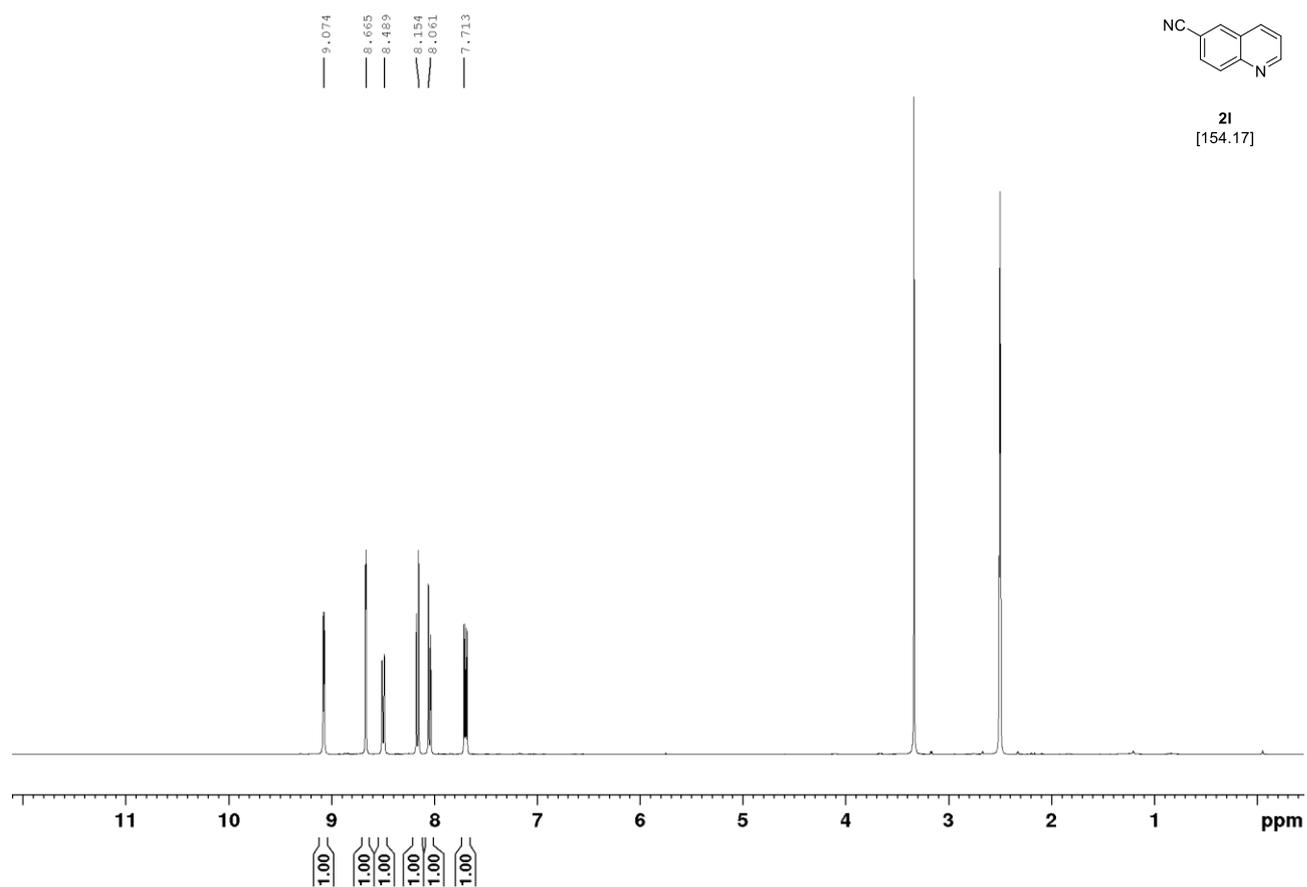


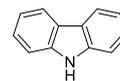
**21**  
[163.60]



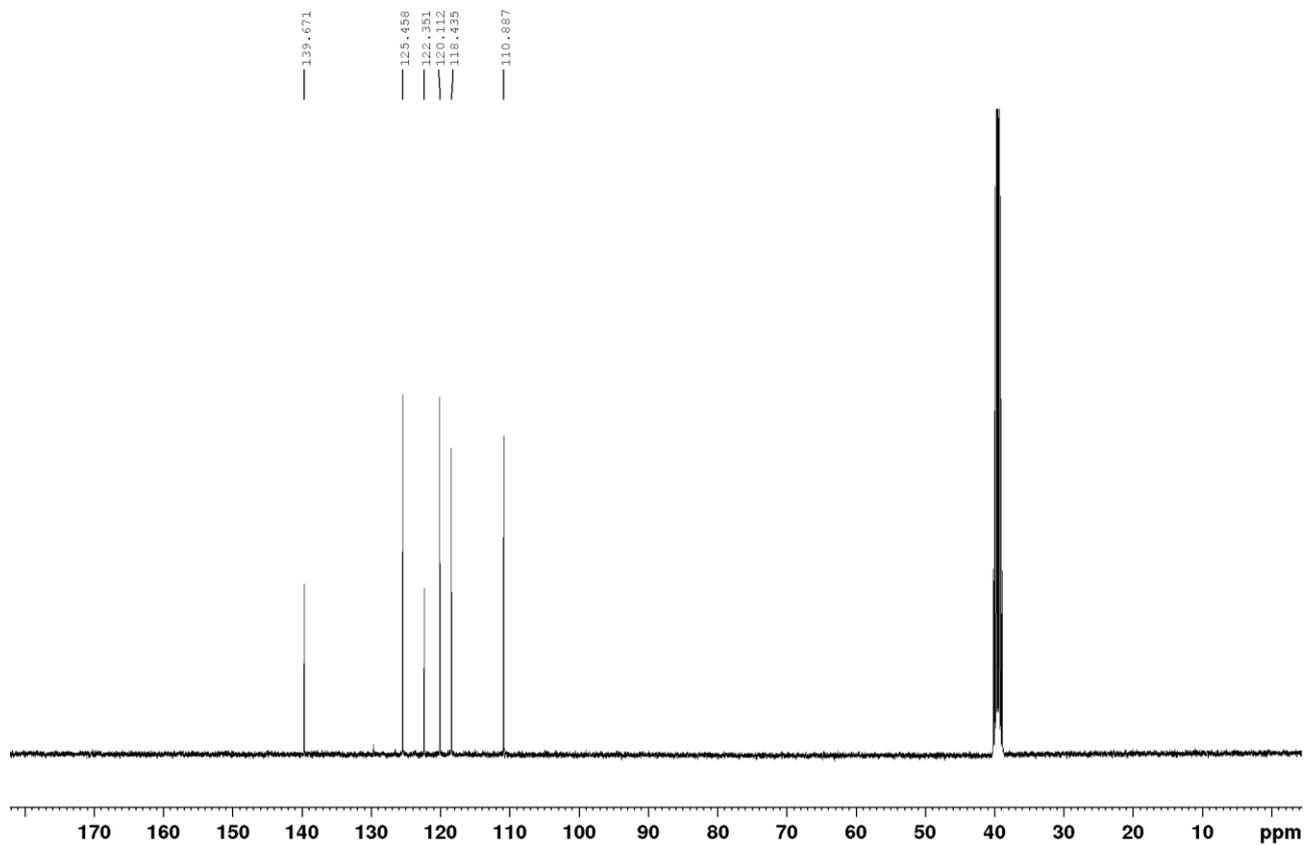
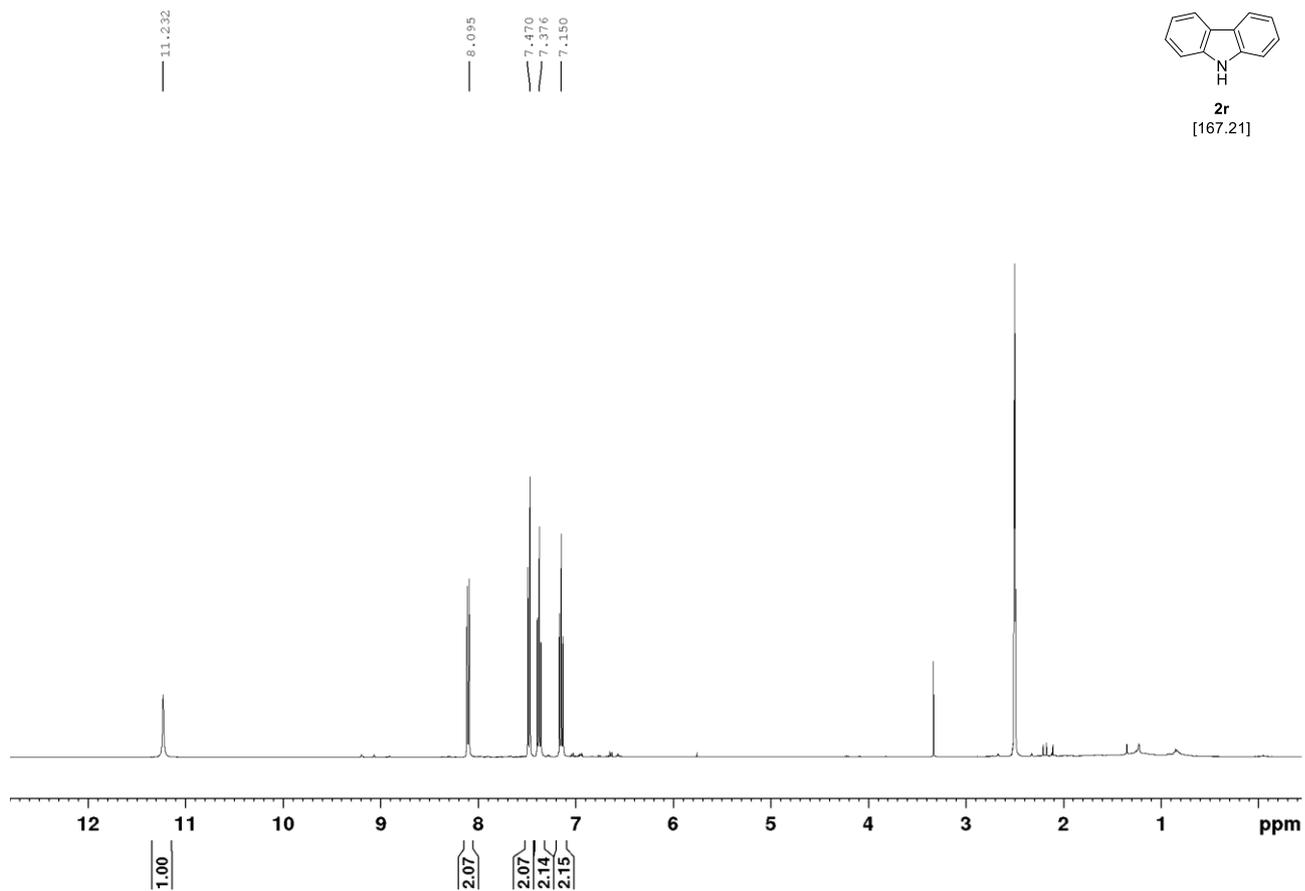


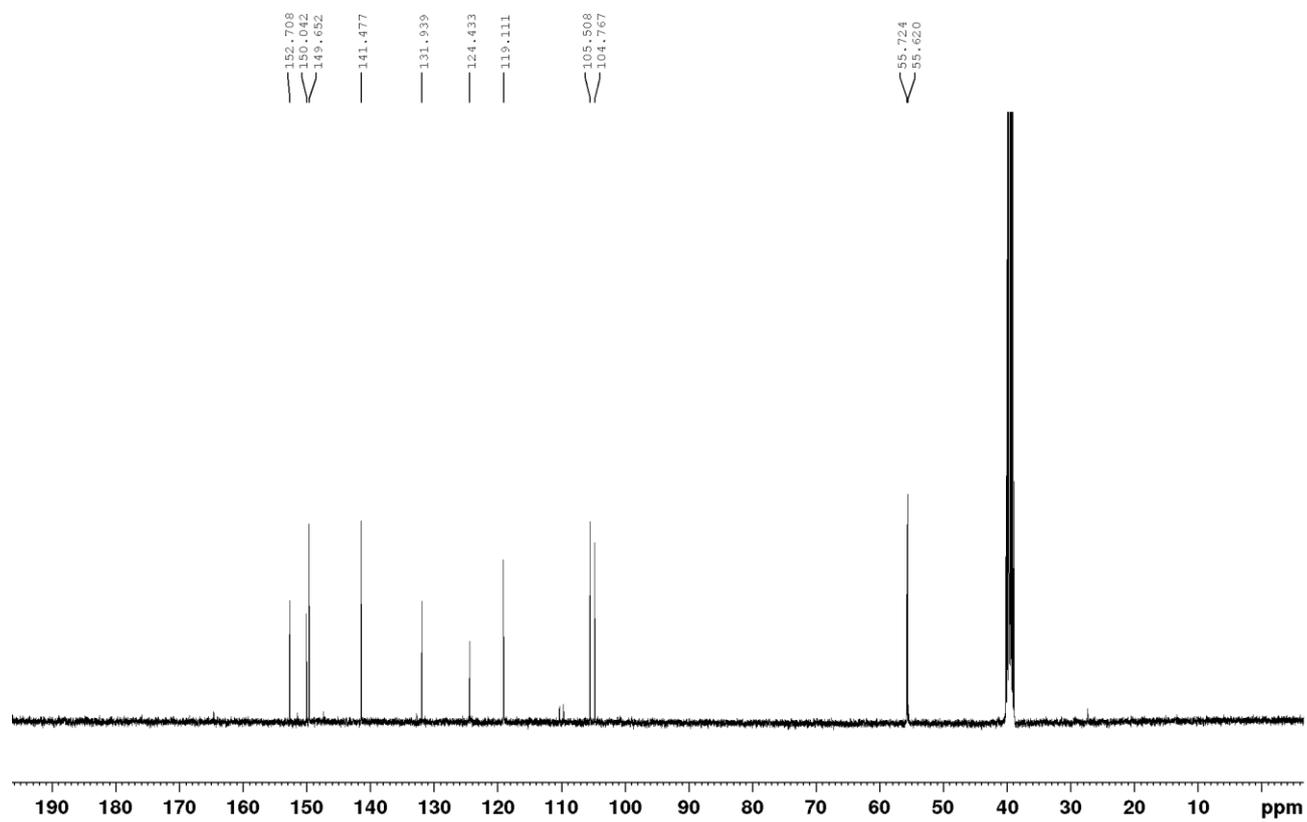
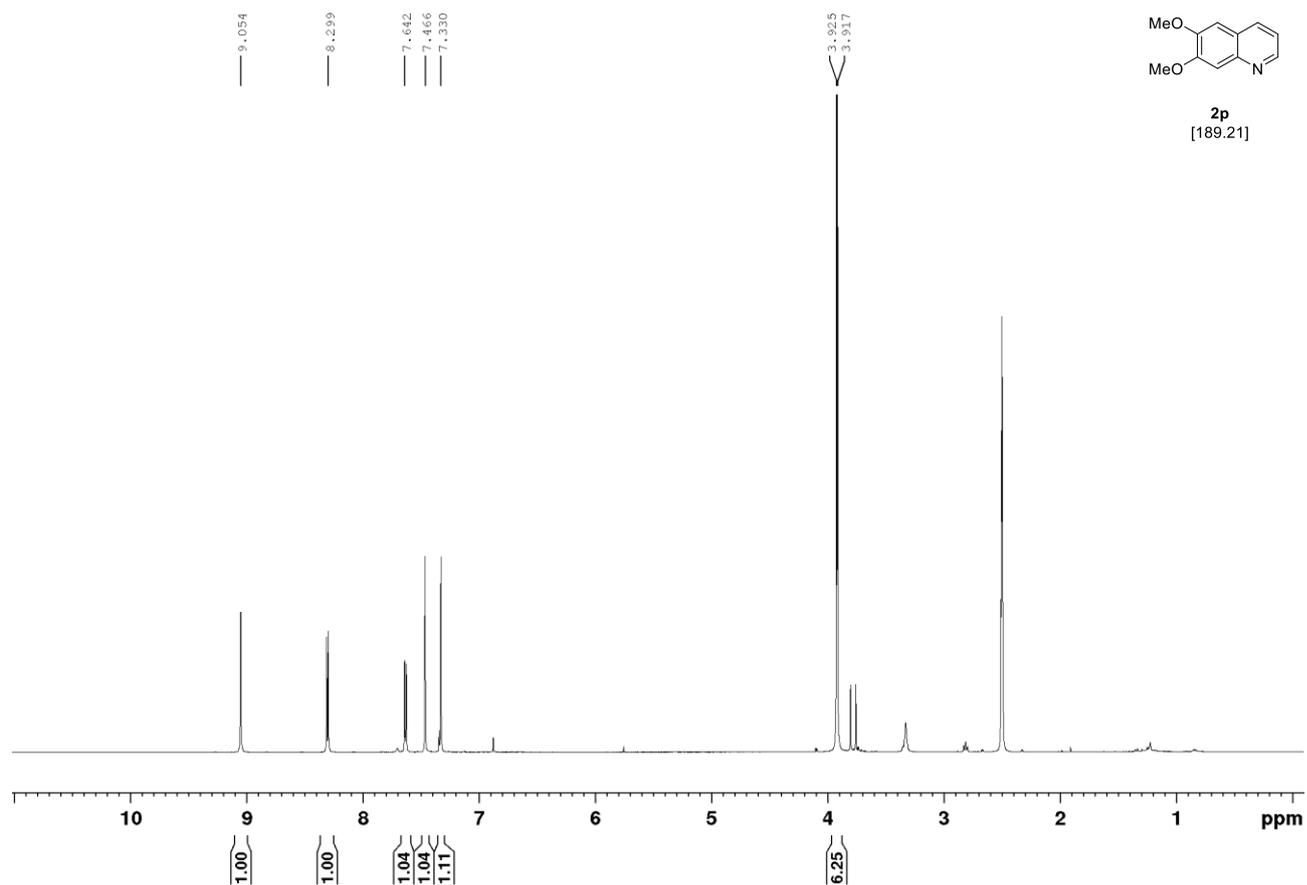
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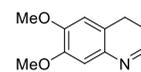




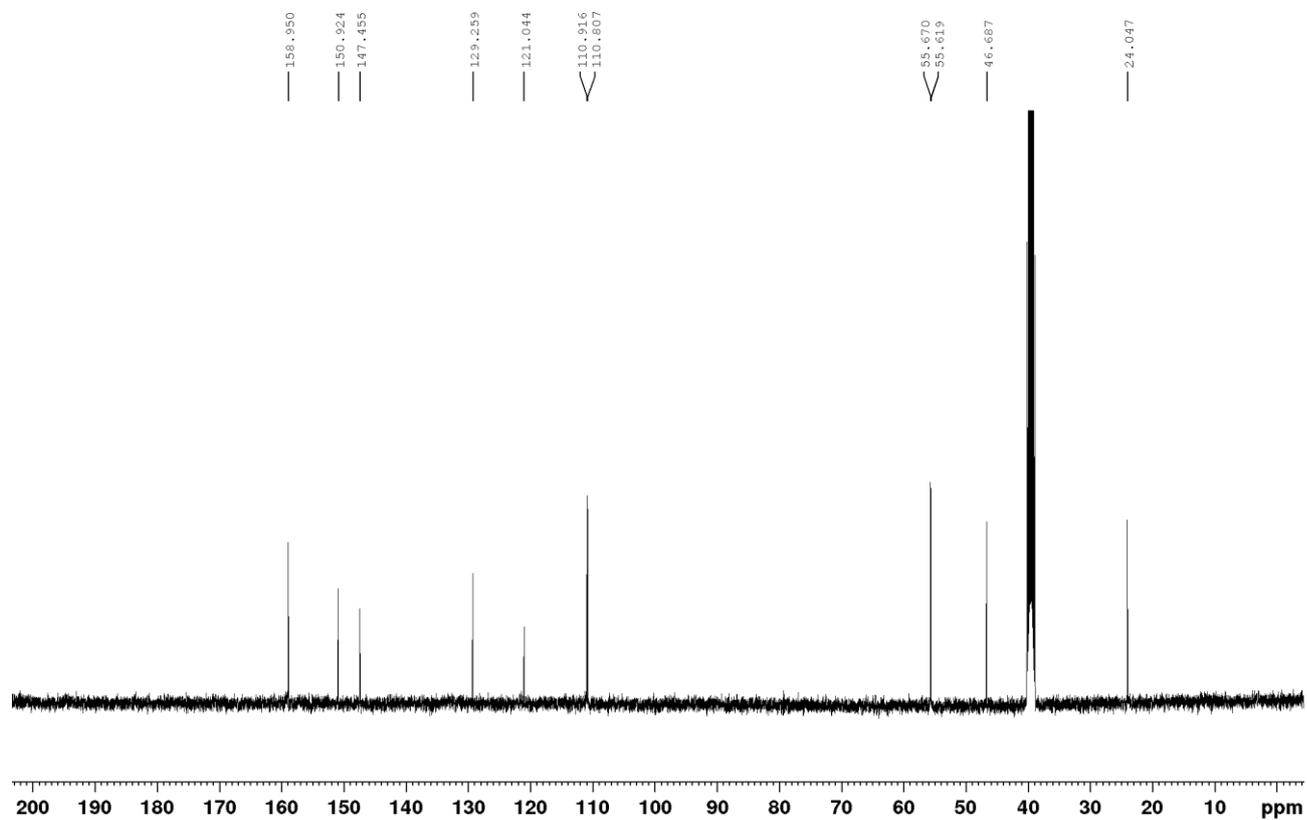
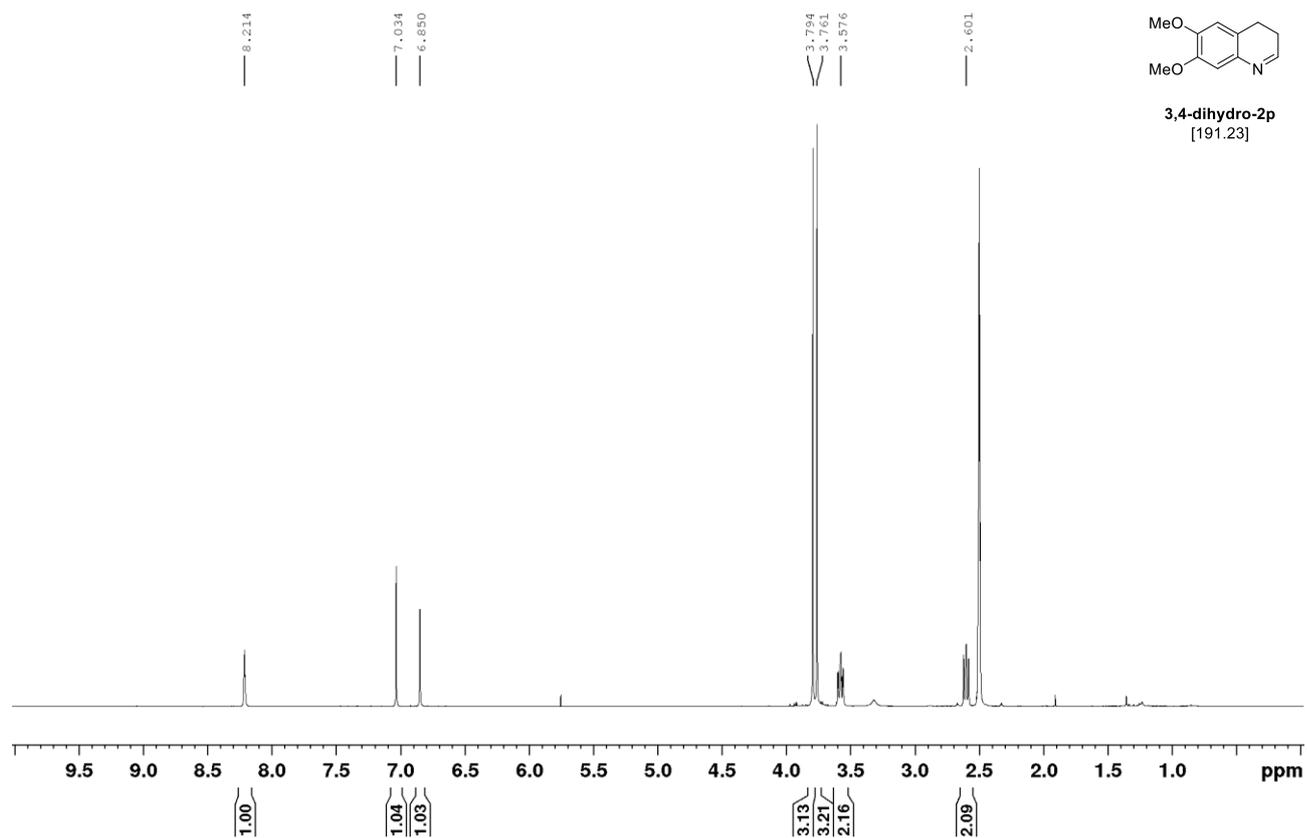
**2r**  
[167.21]

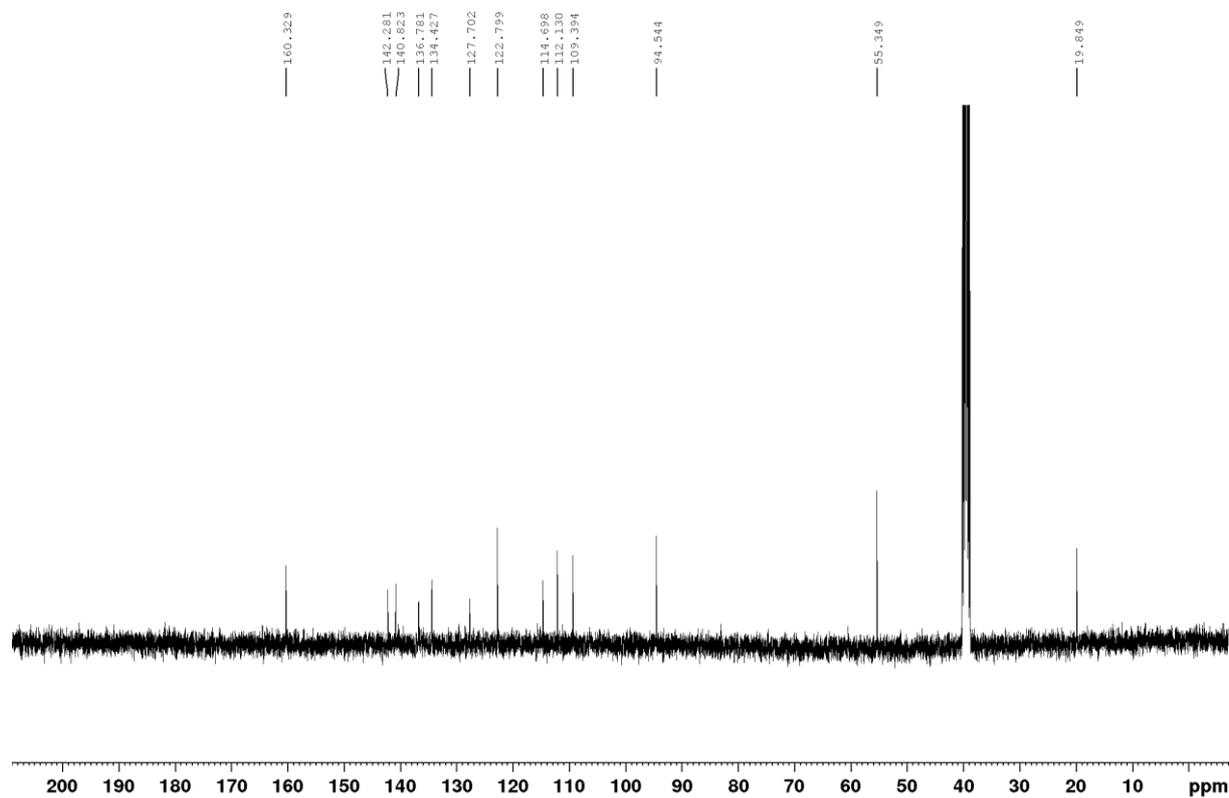
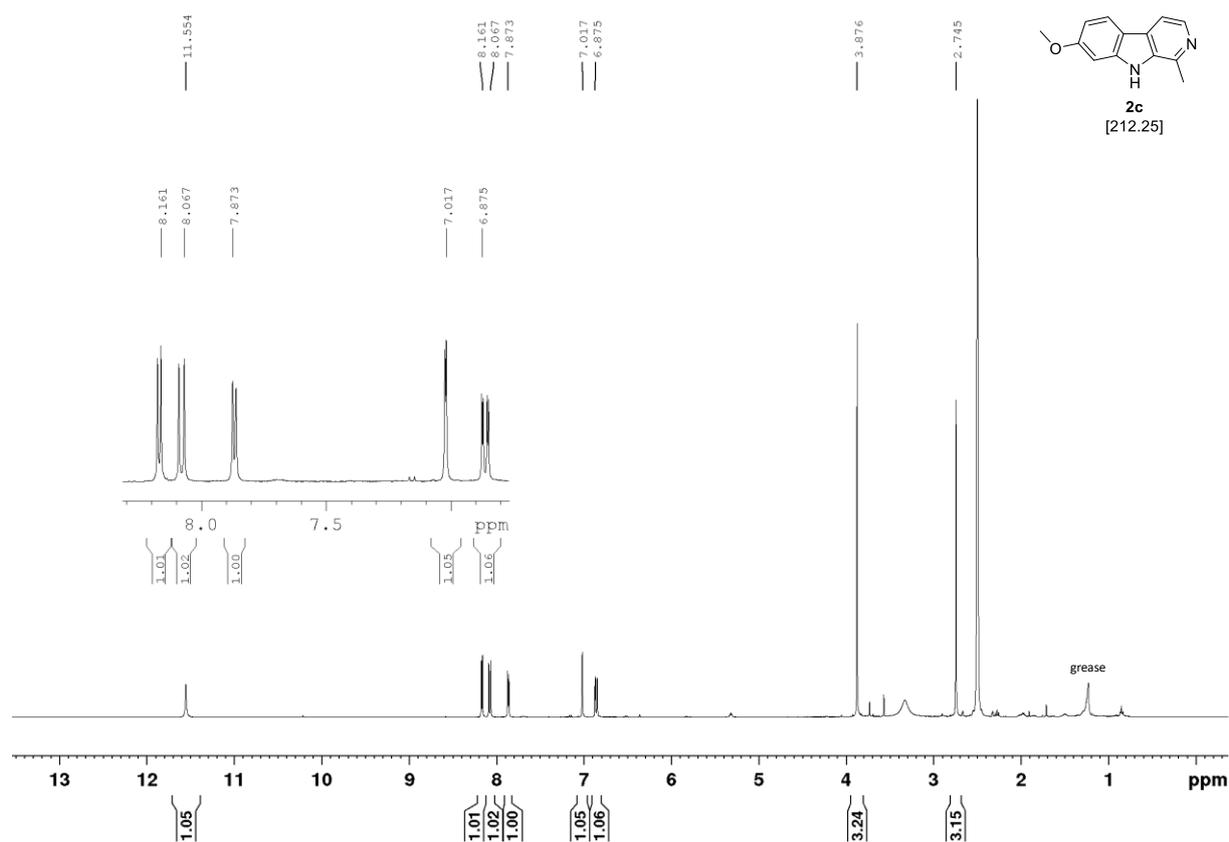


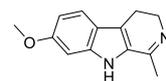




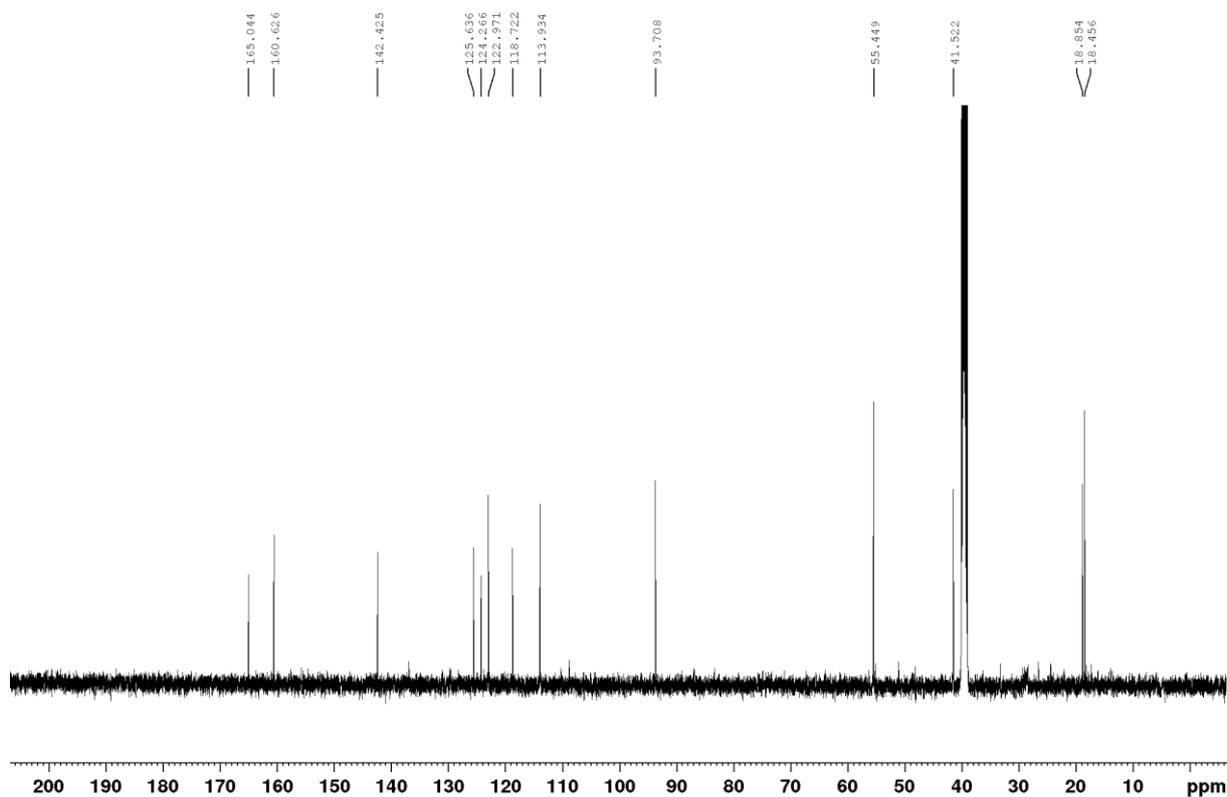
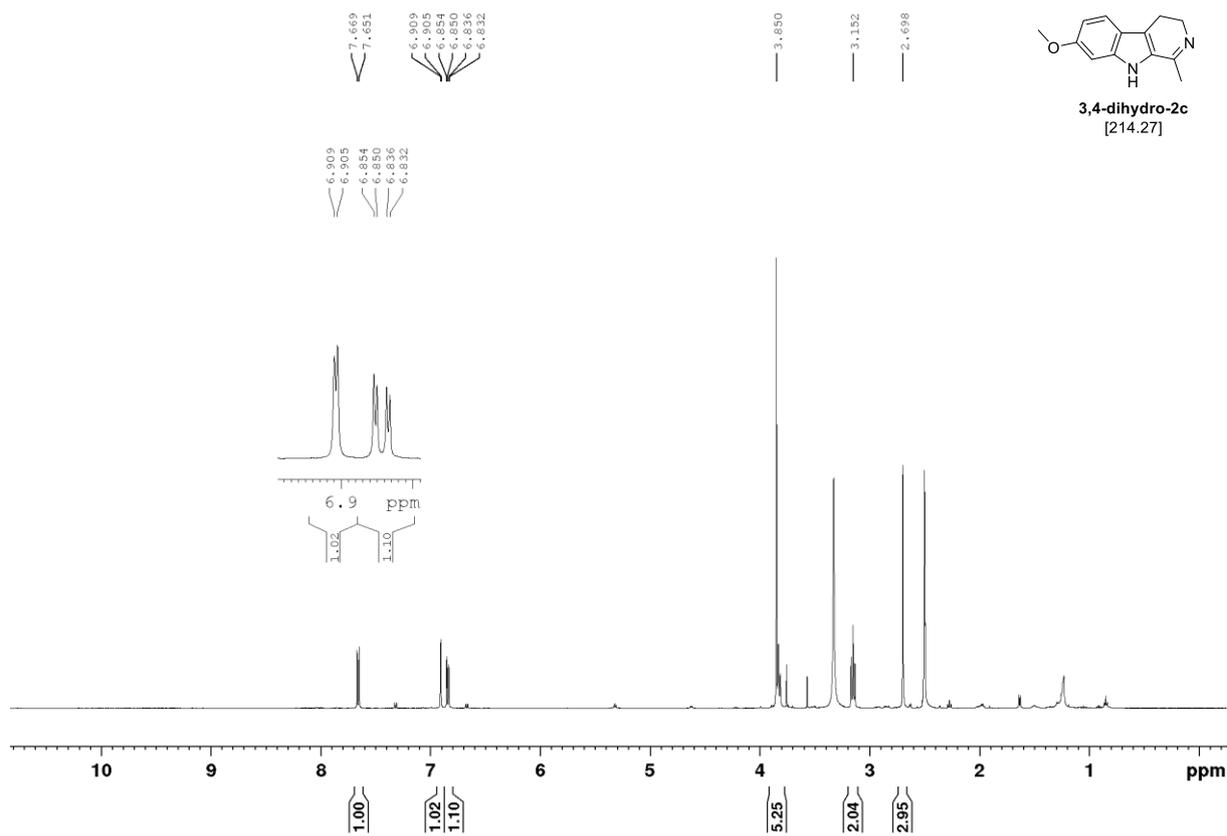
3,4-dihydro-2p  
[191.23]





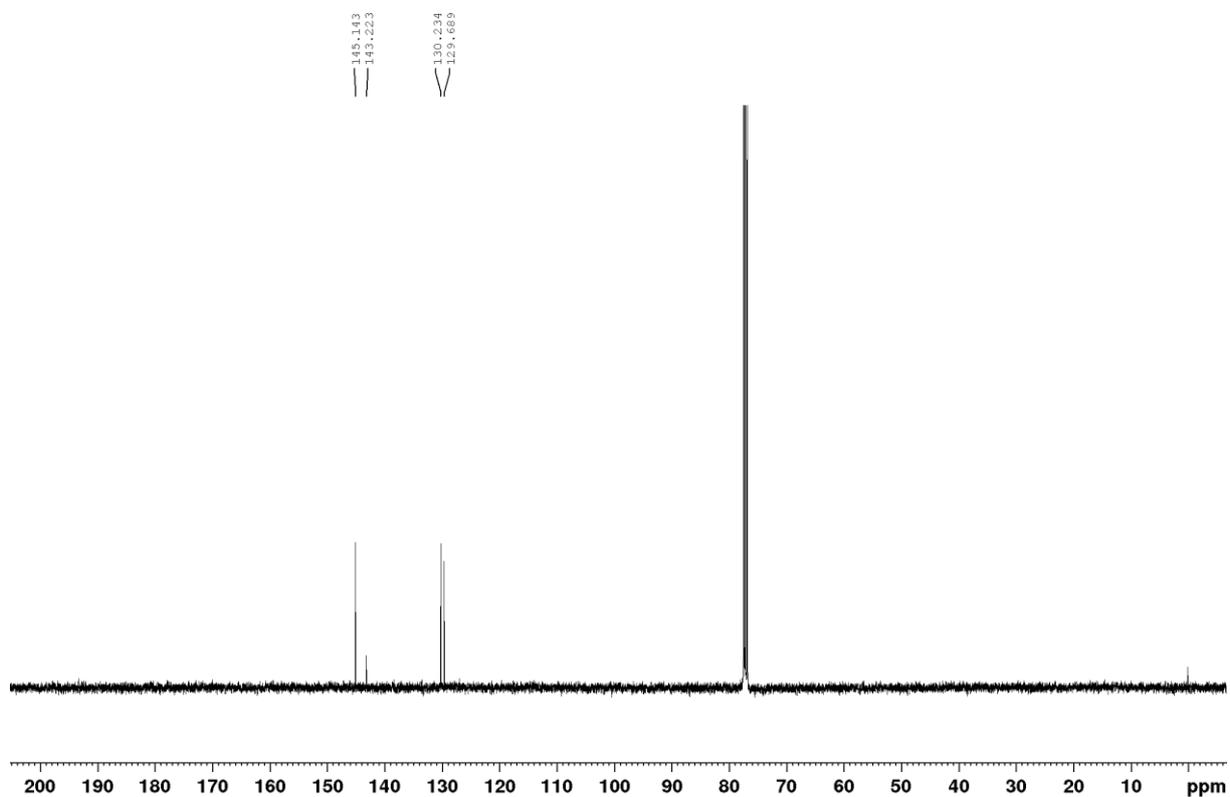
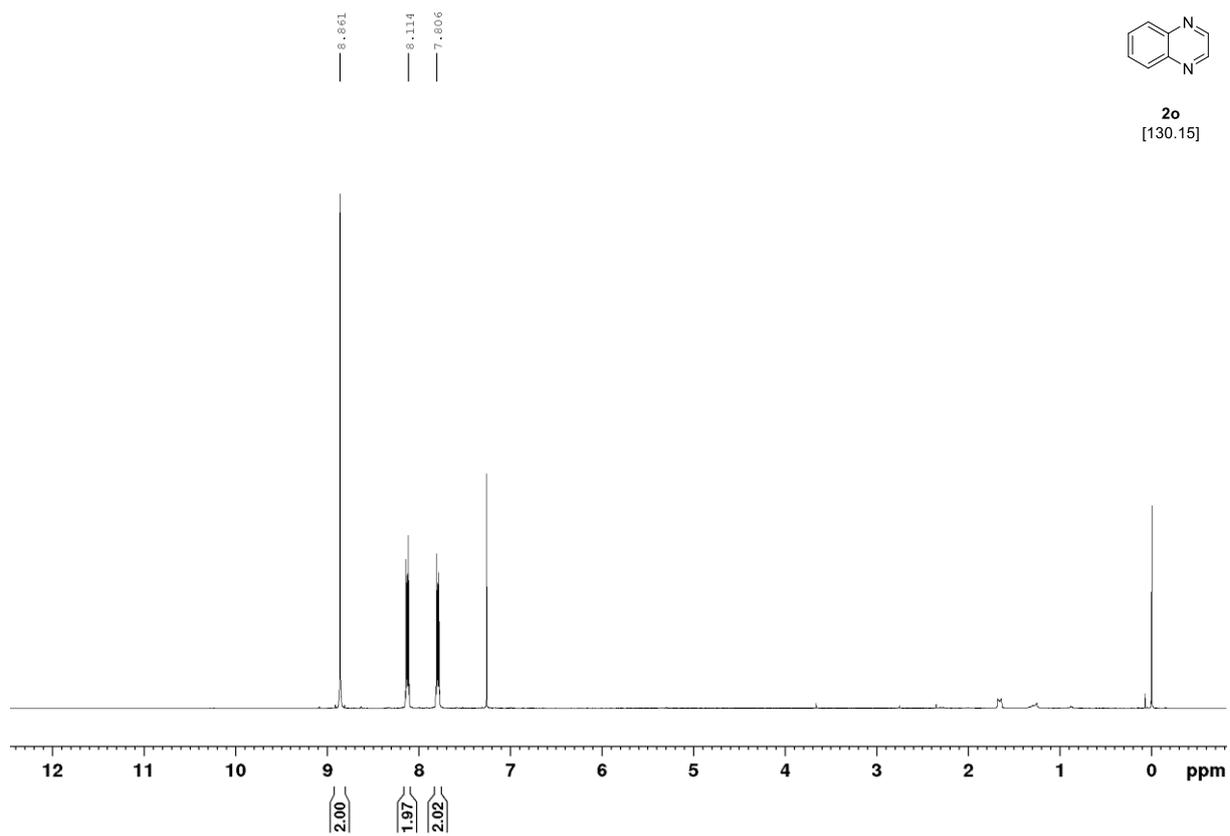


**3,4-dihydro-2c**  
[214.27]





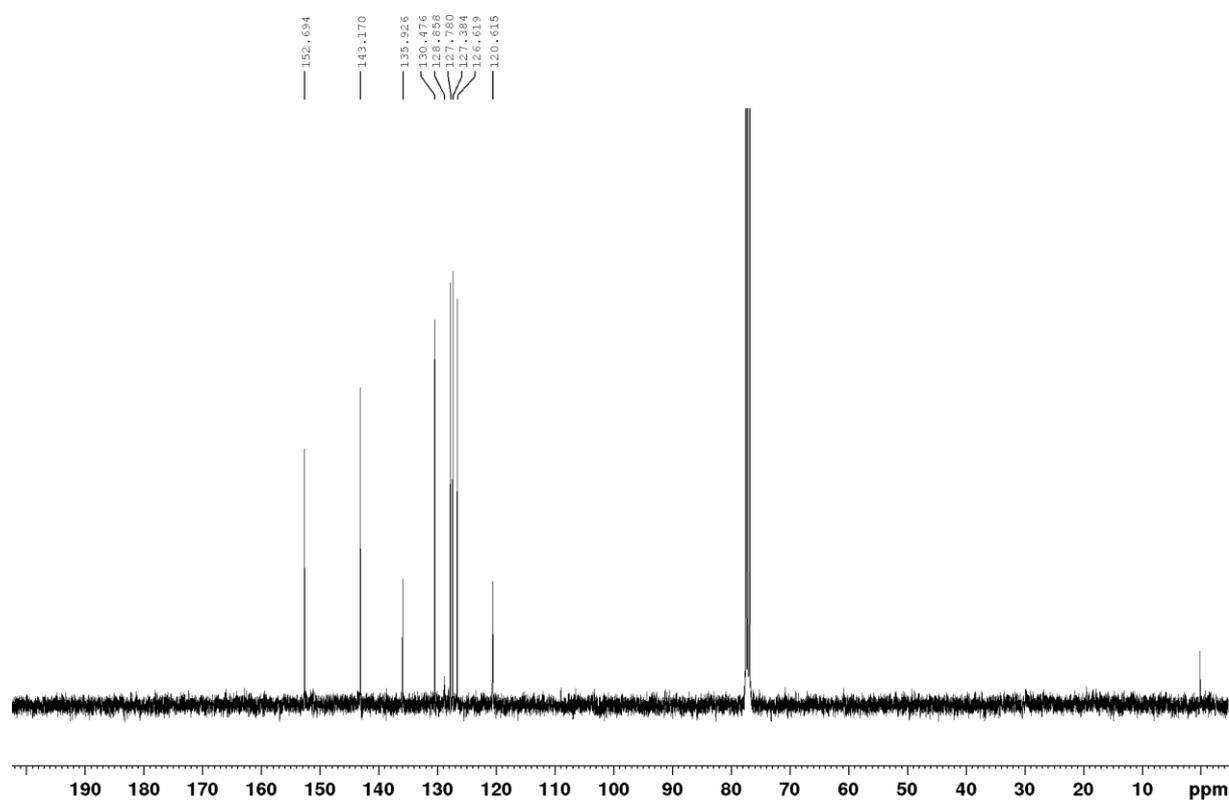
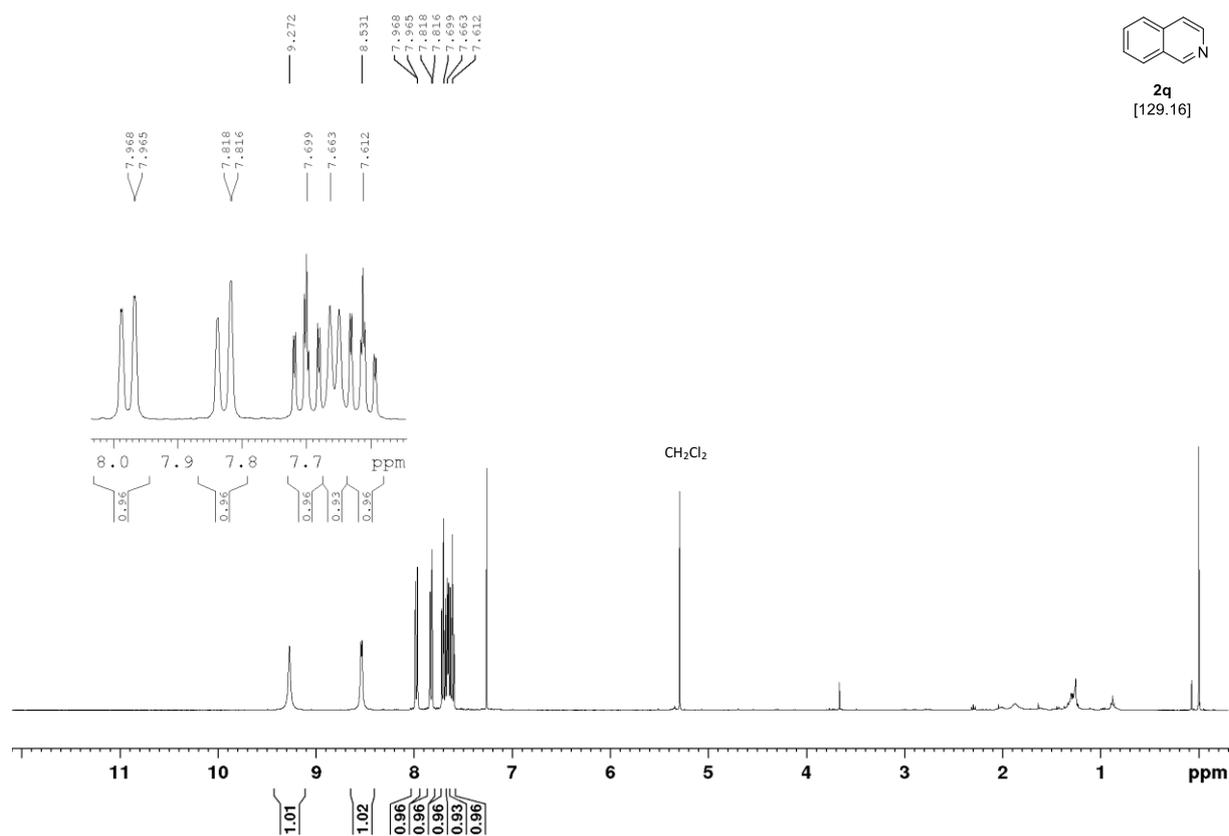
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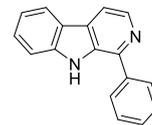




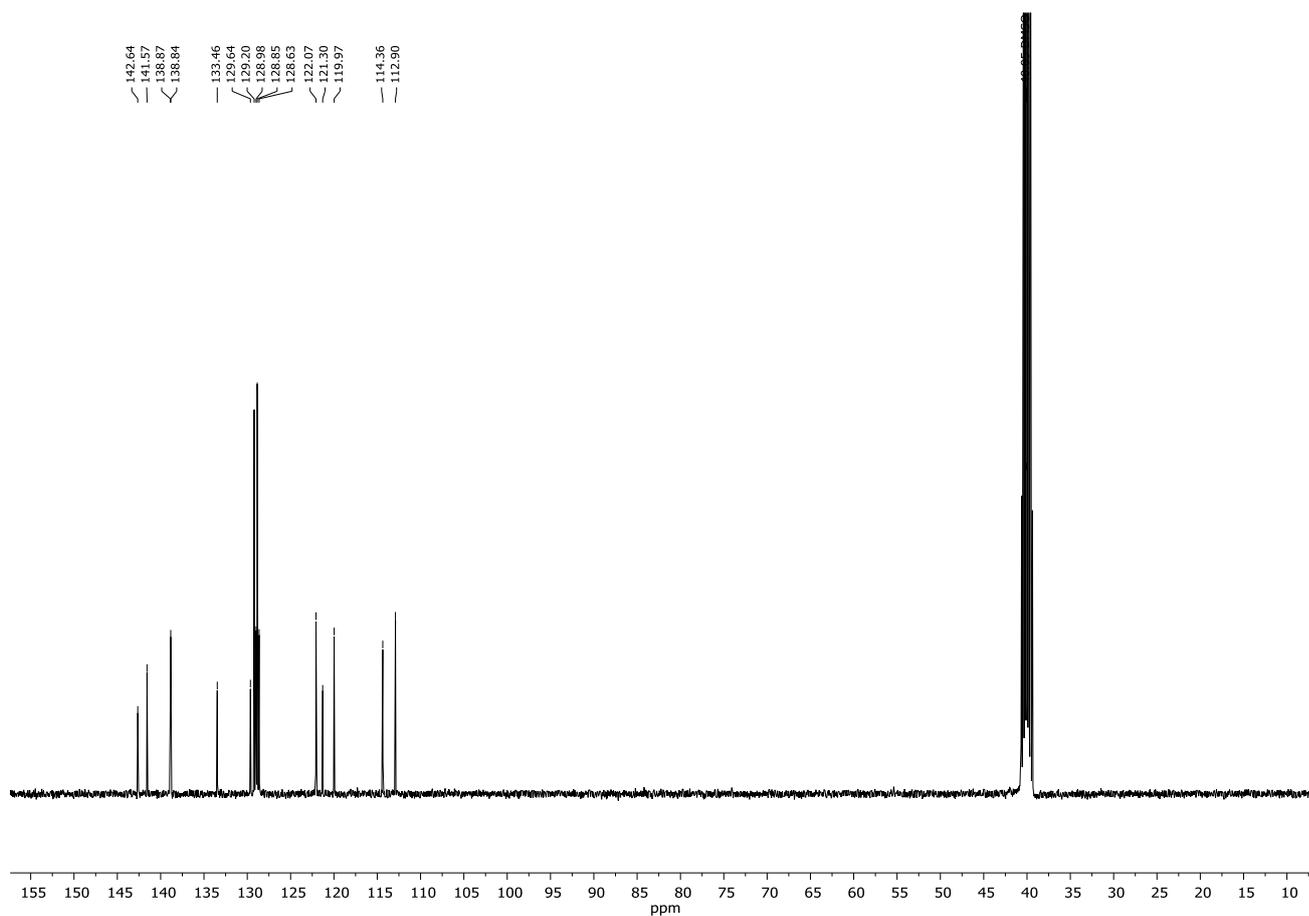
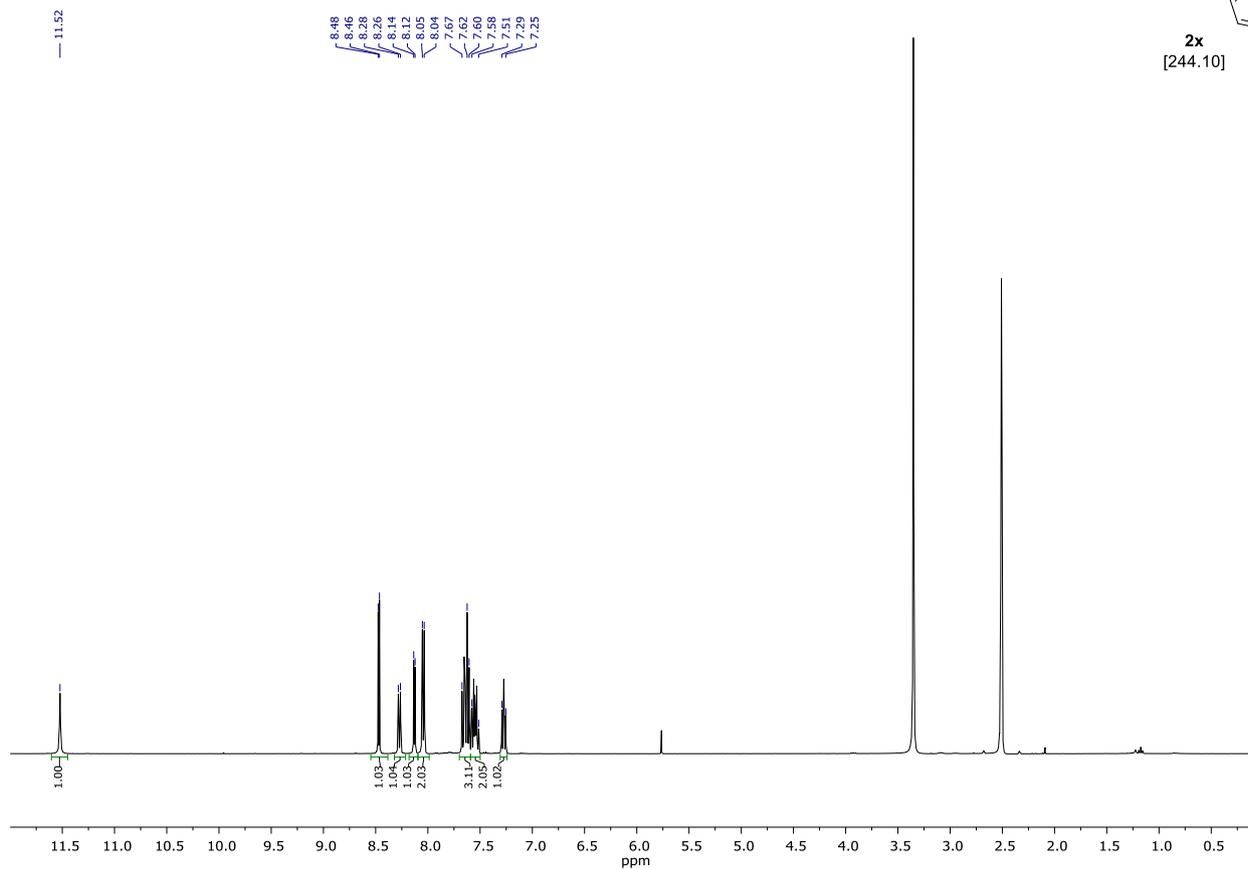


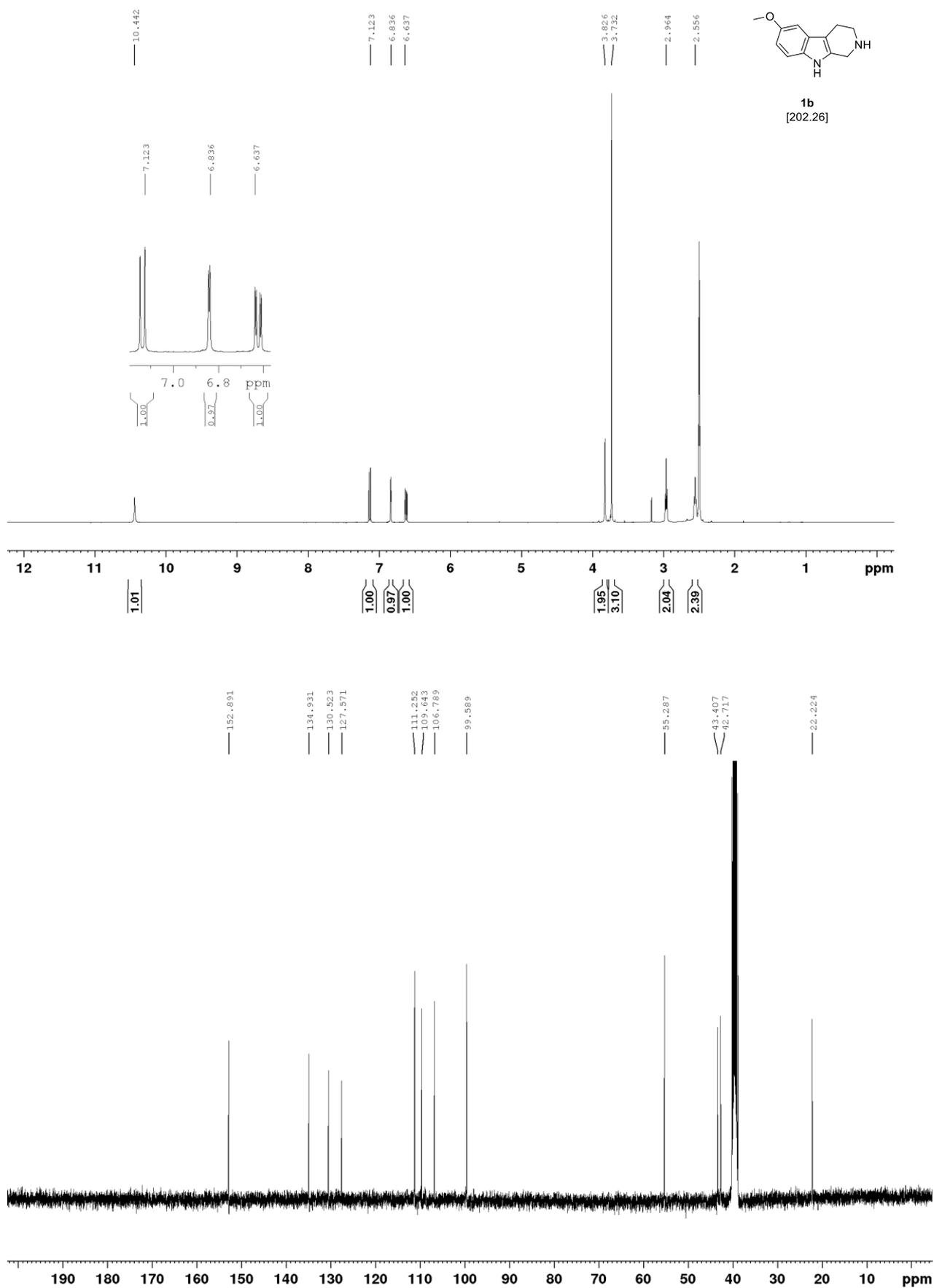
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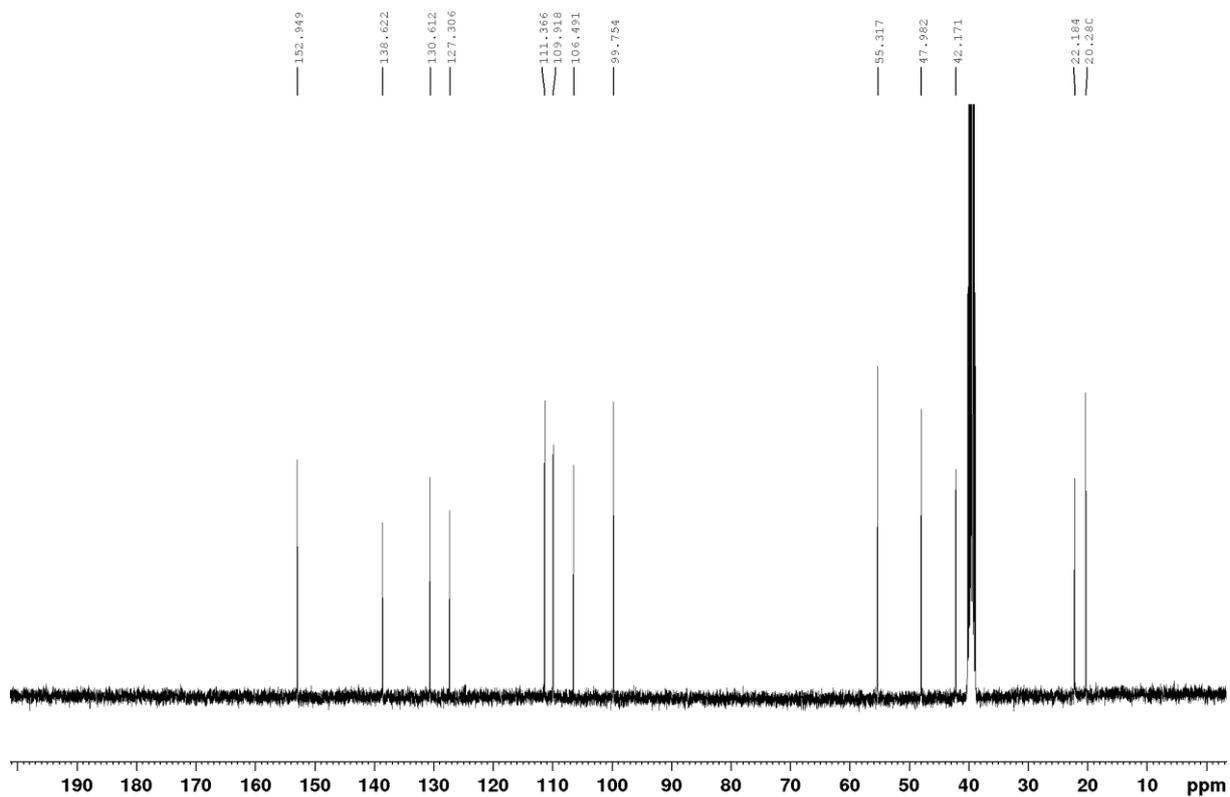
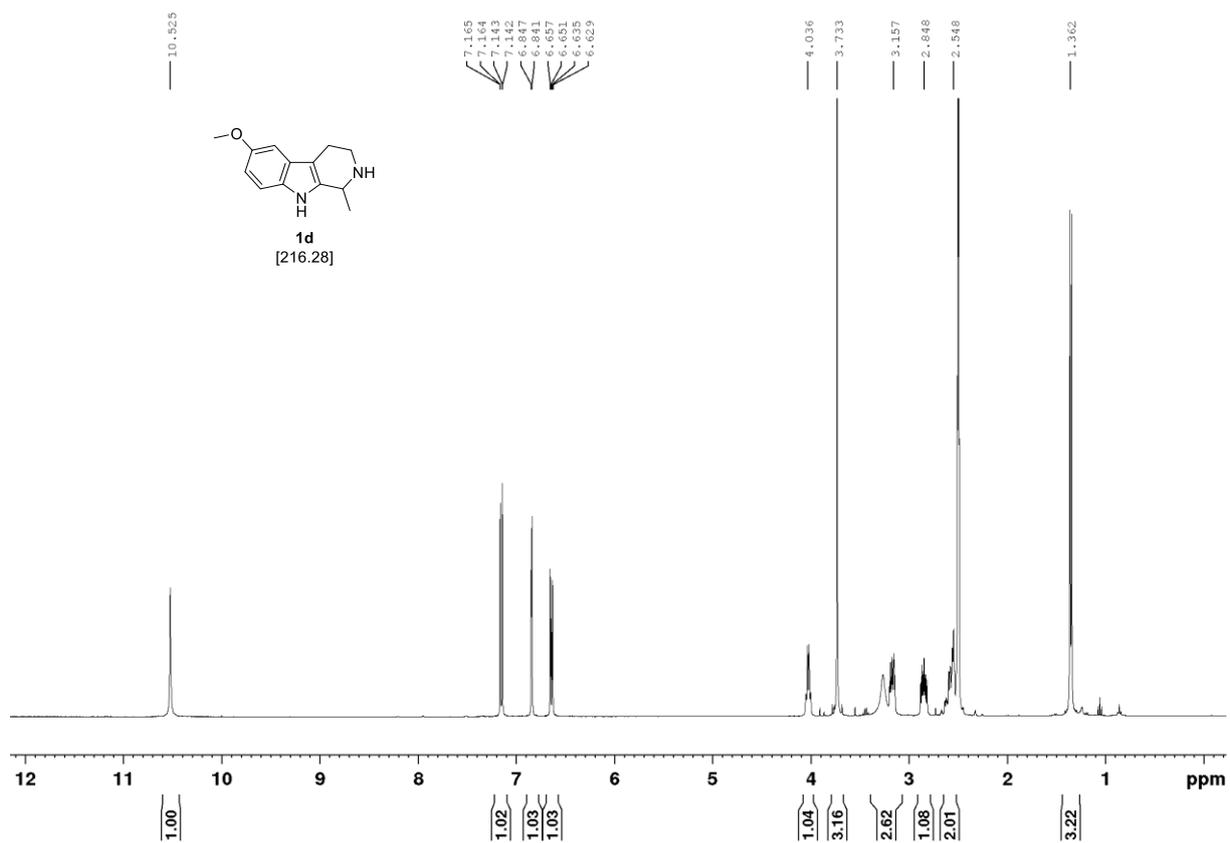


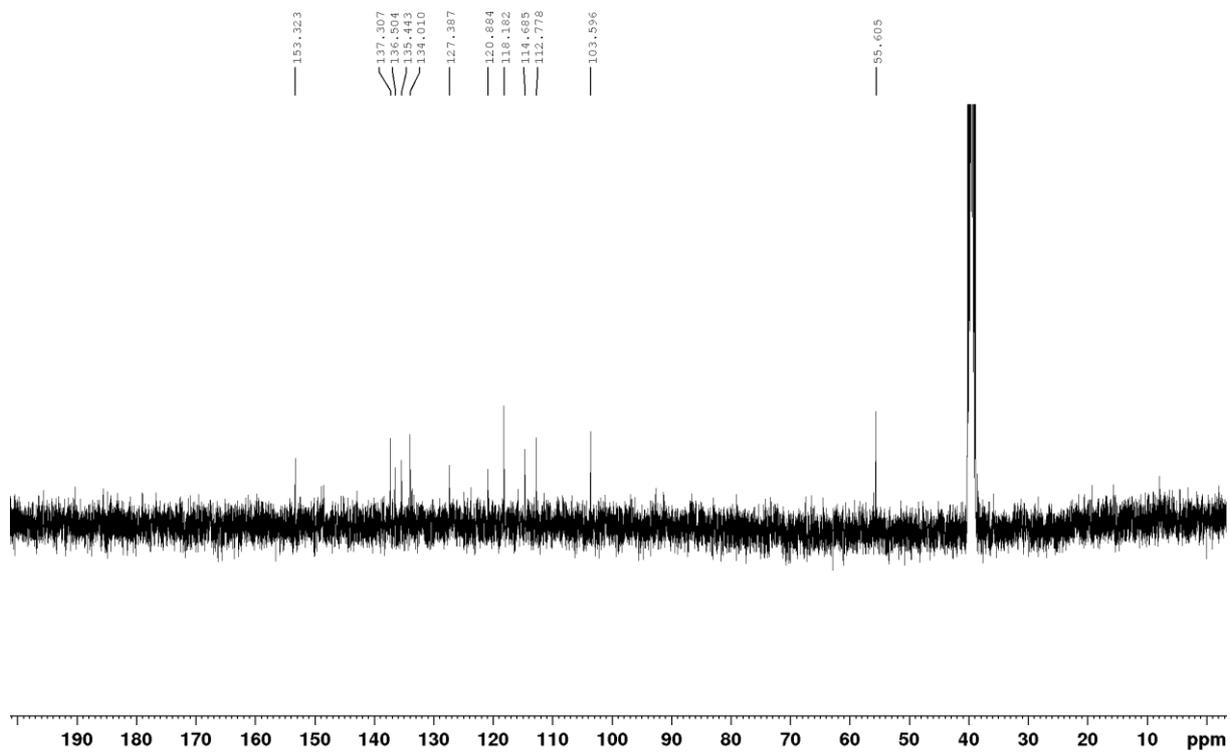
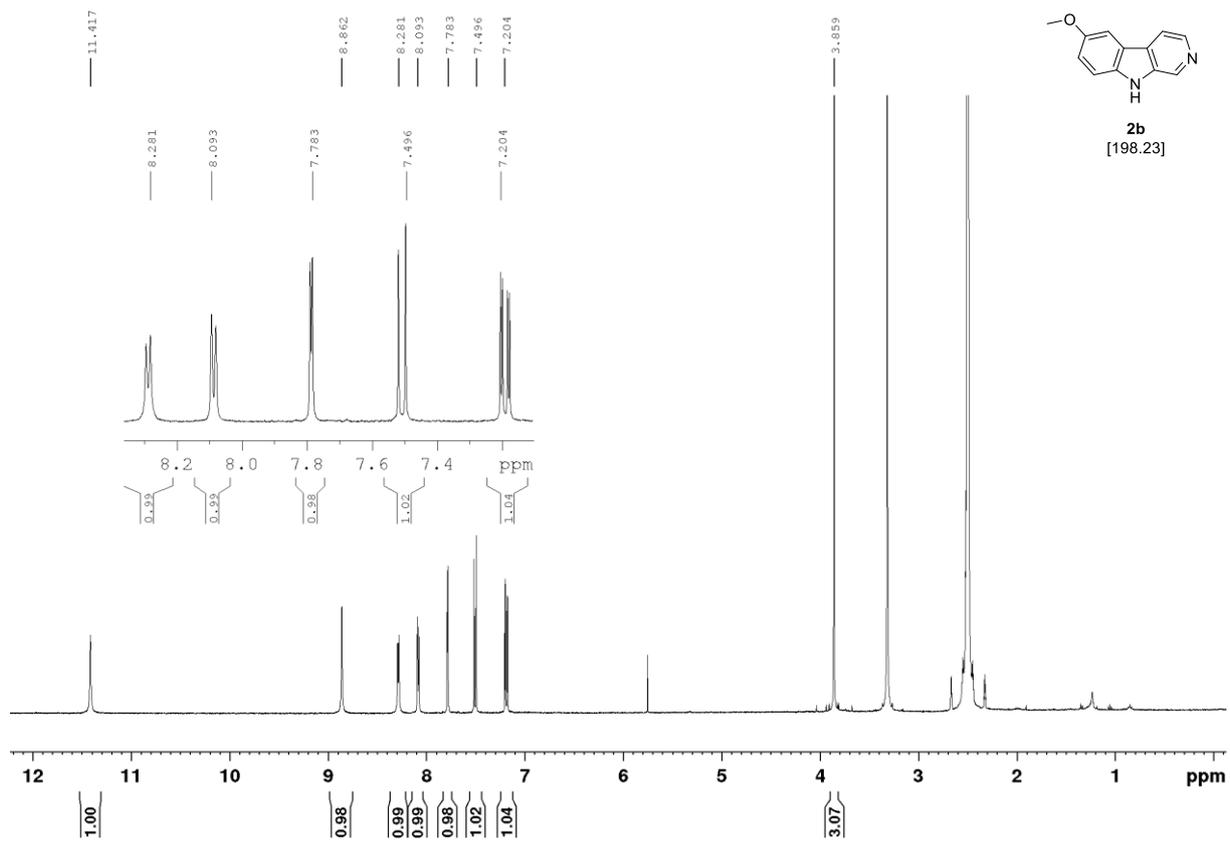


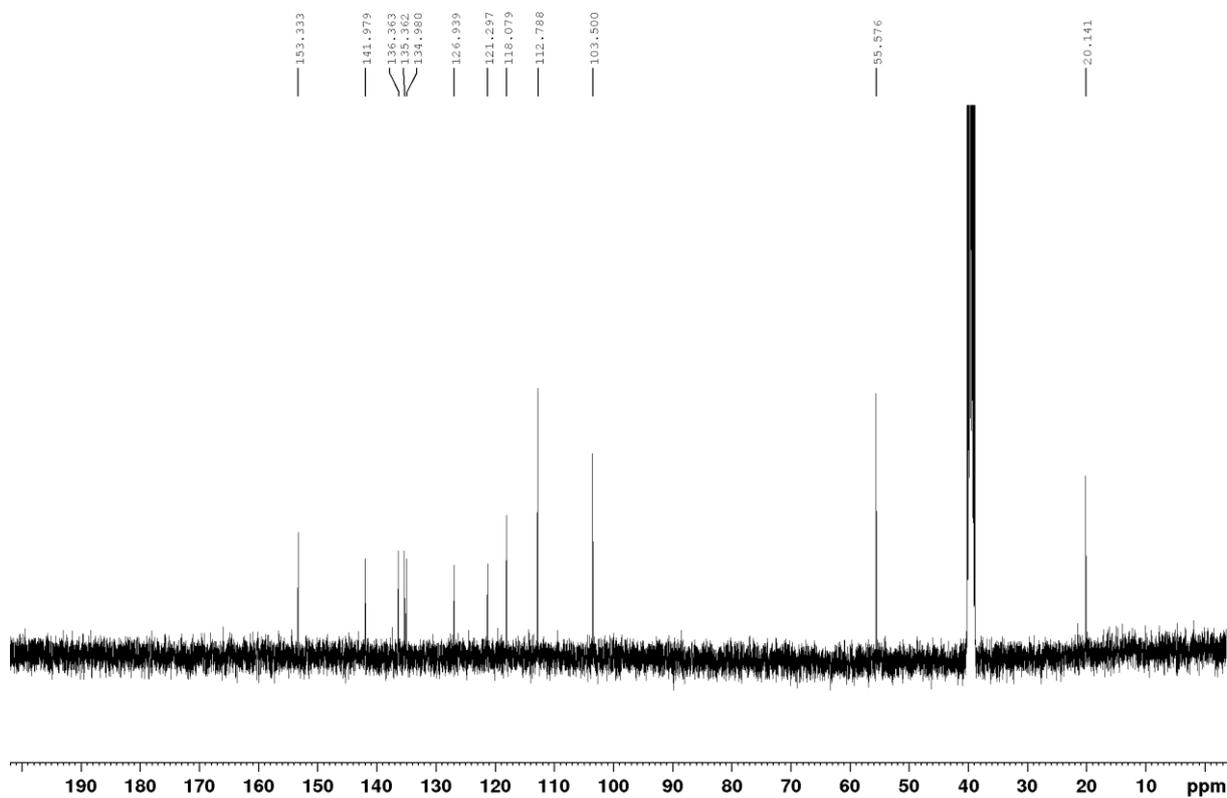
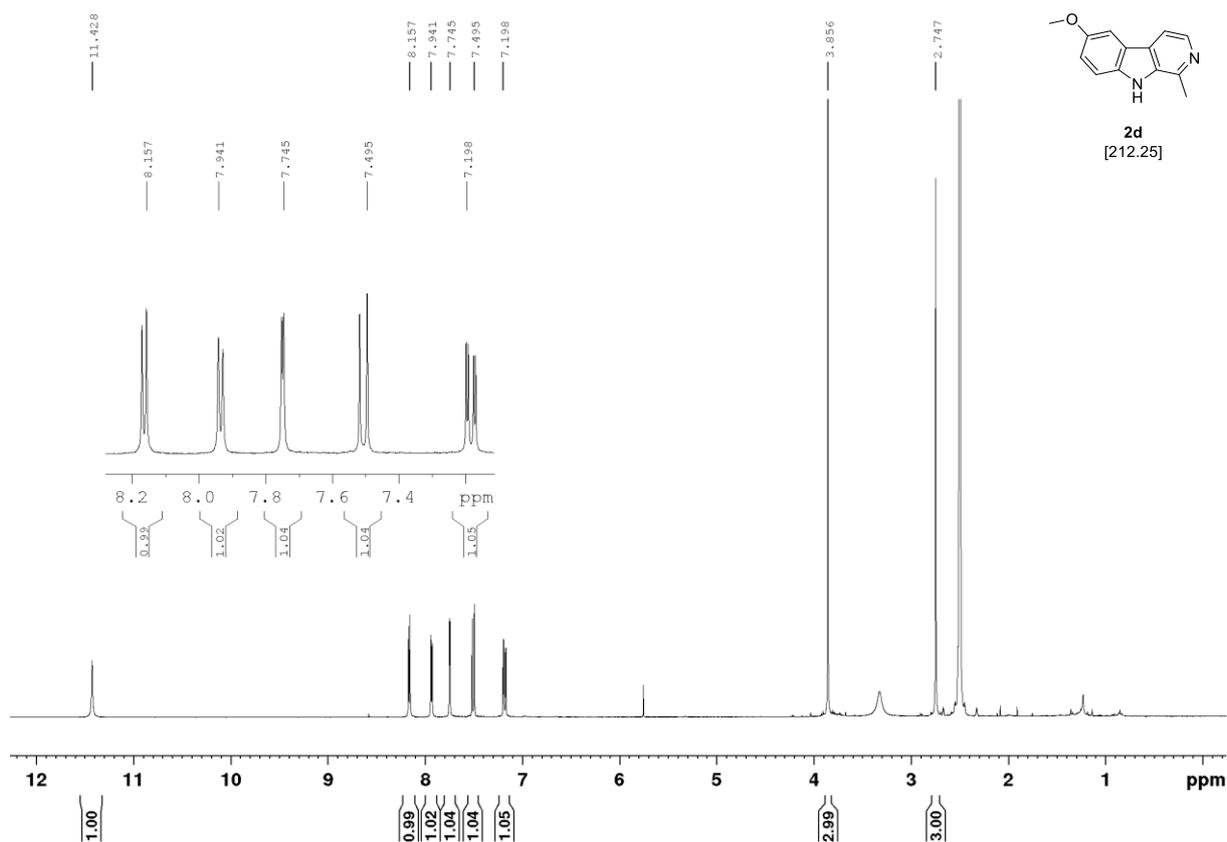
**2x**  
[244.10]

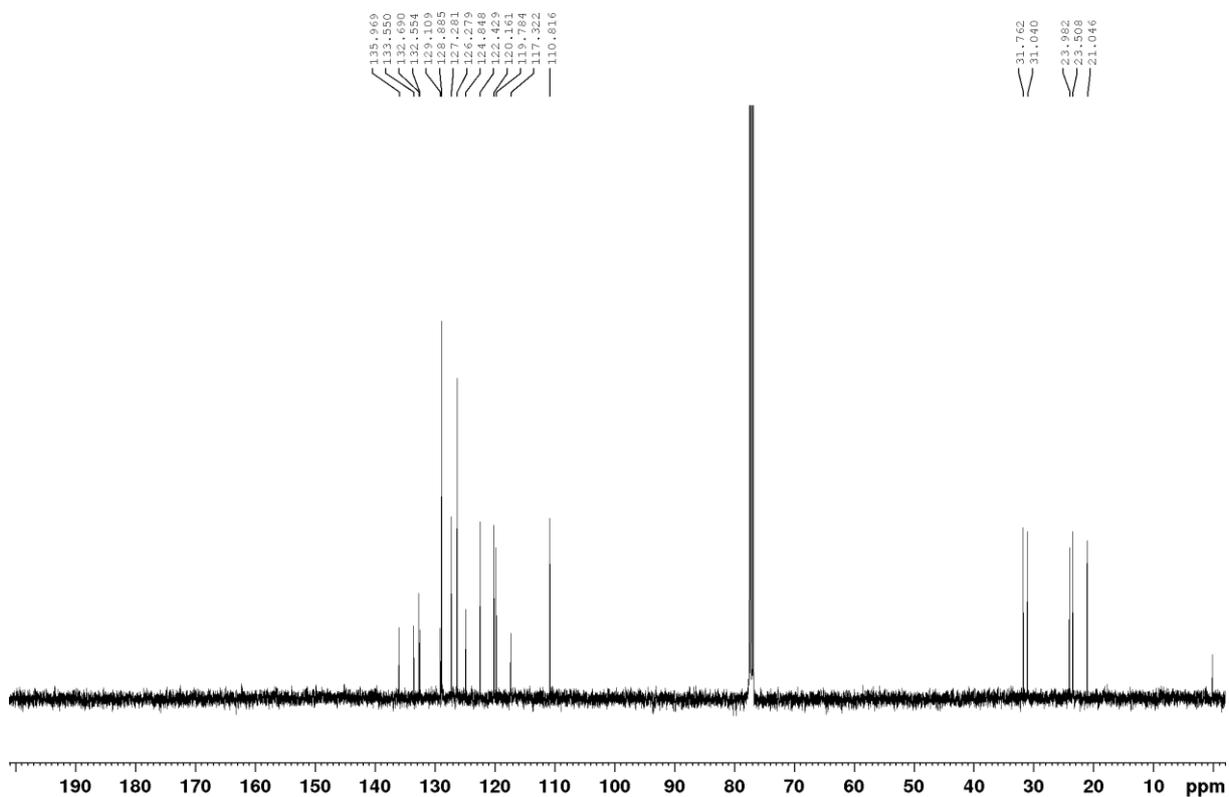
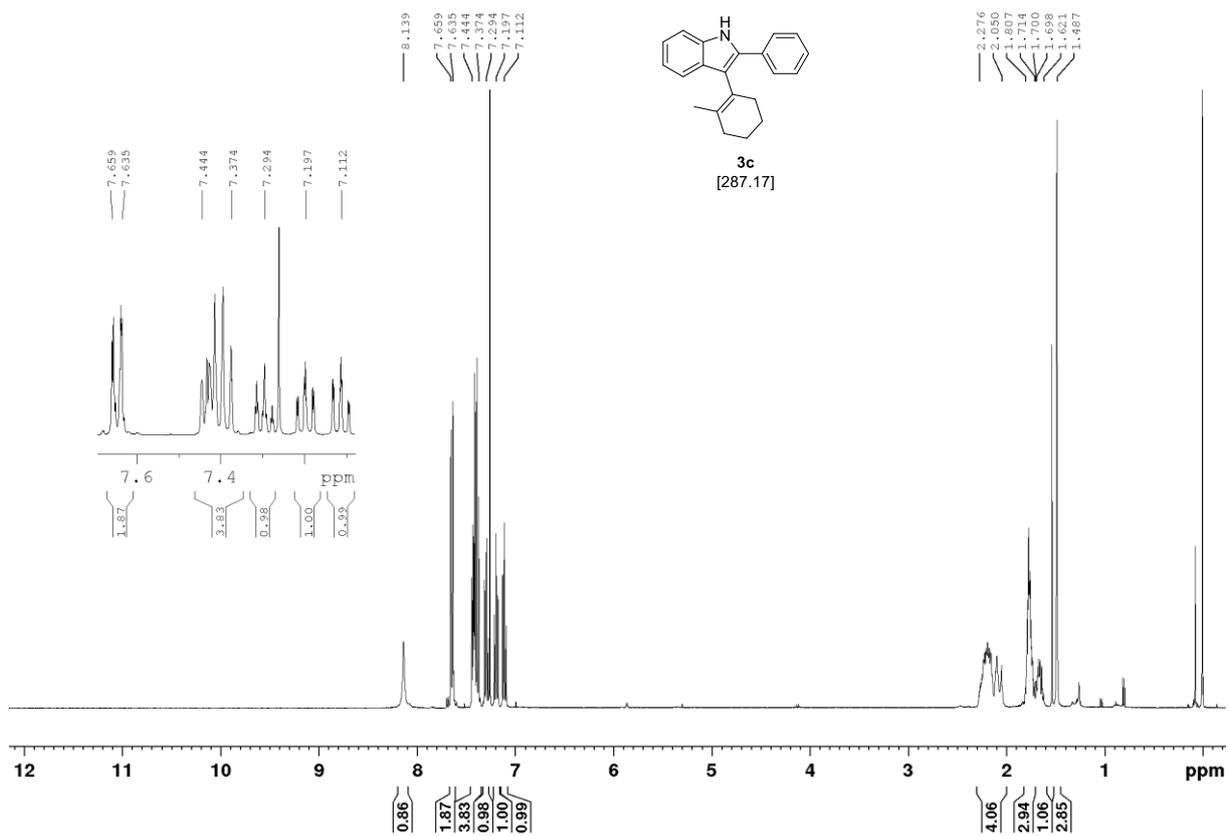


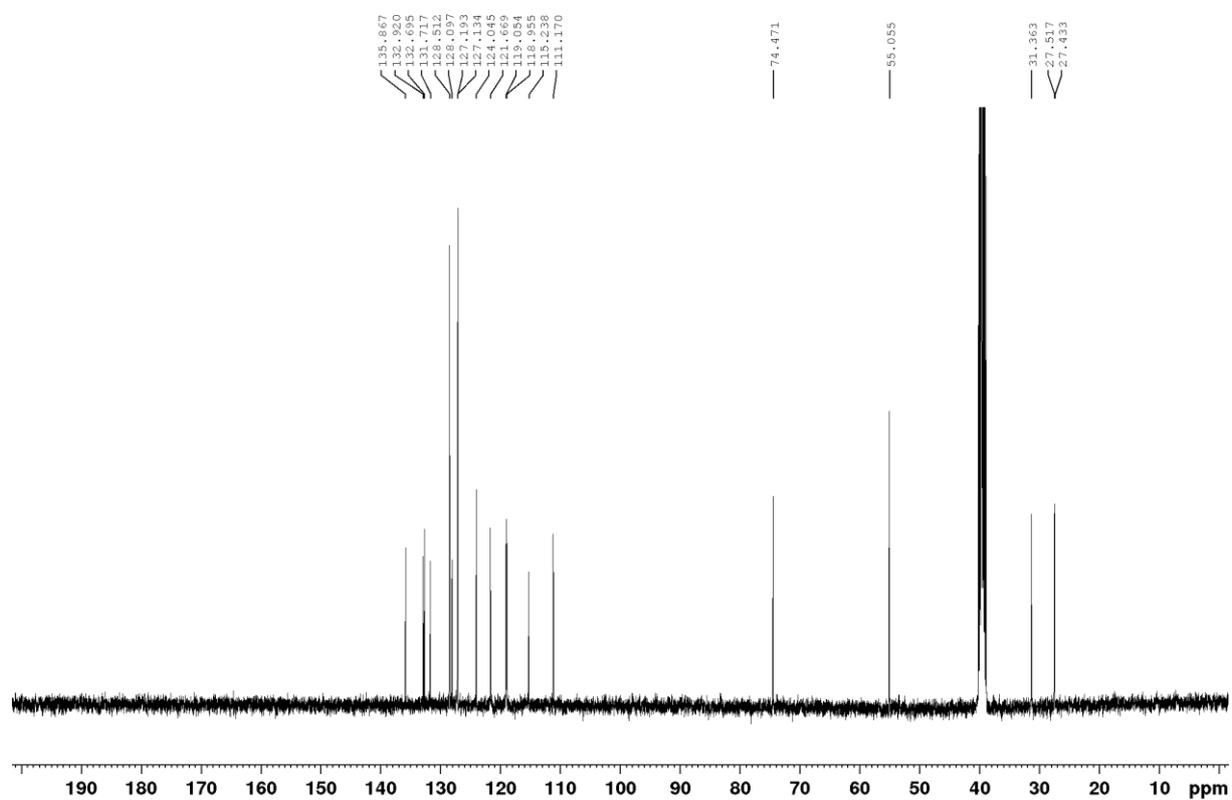
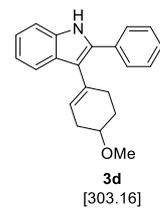
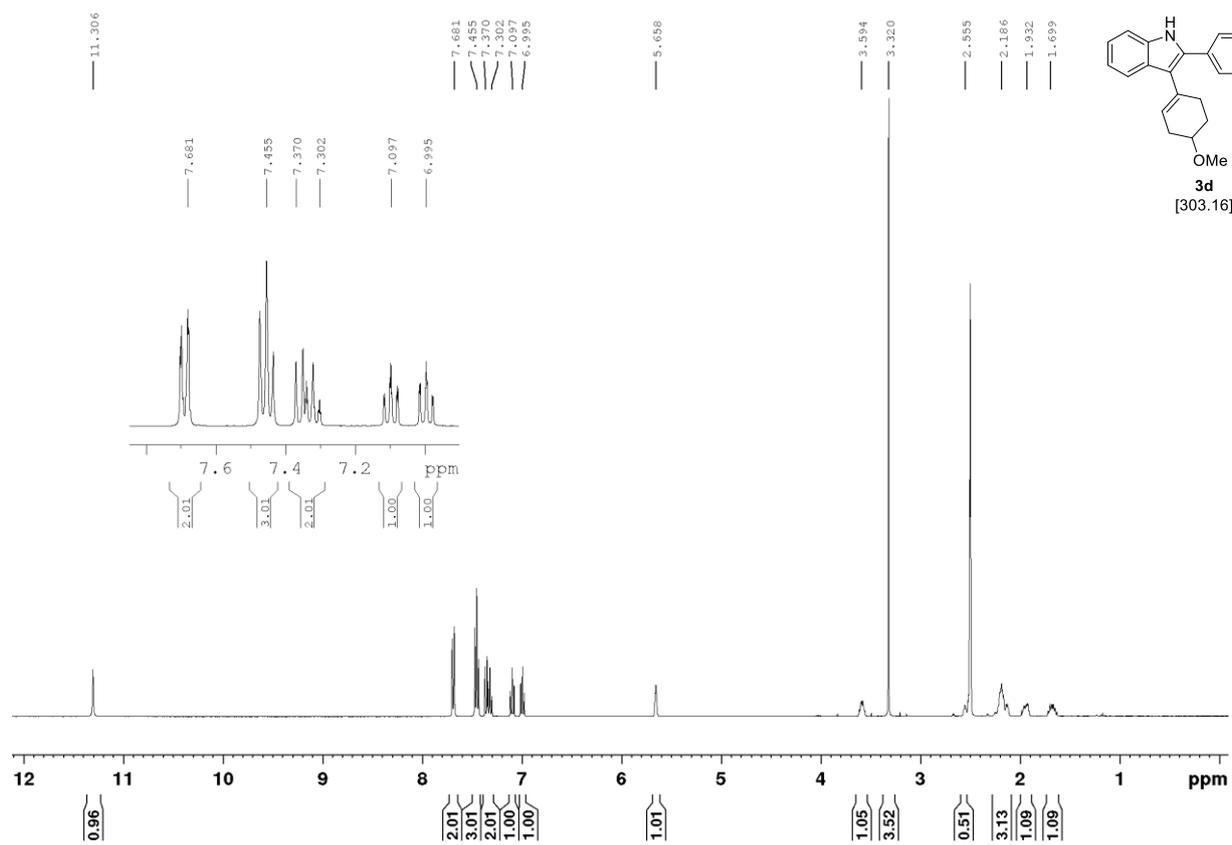


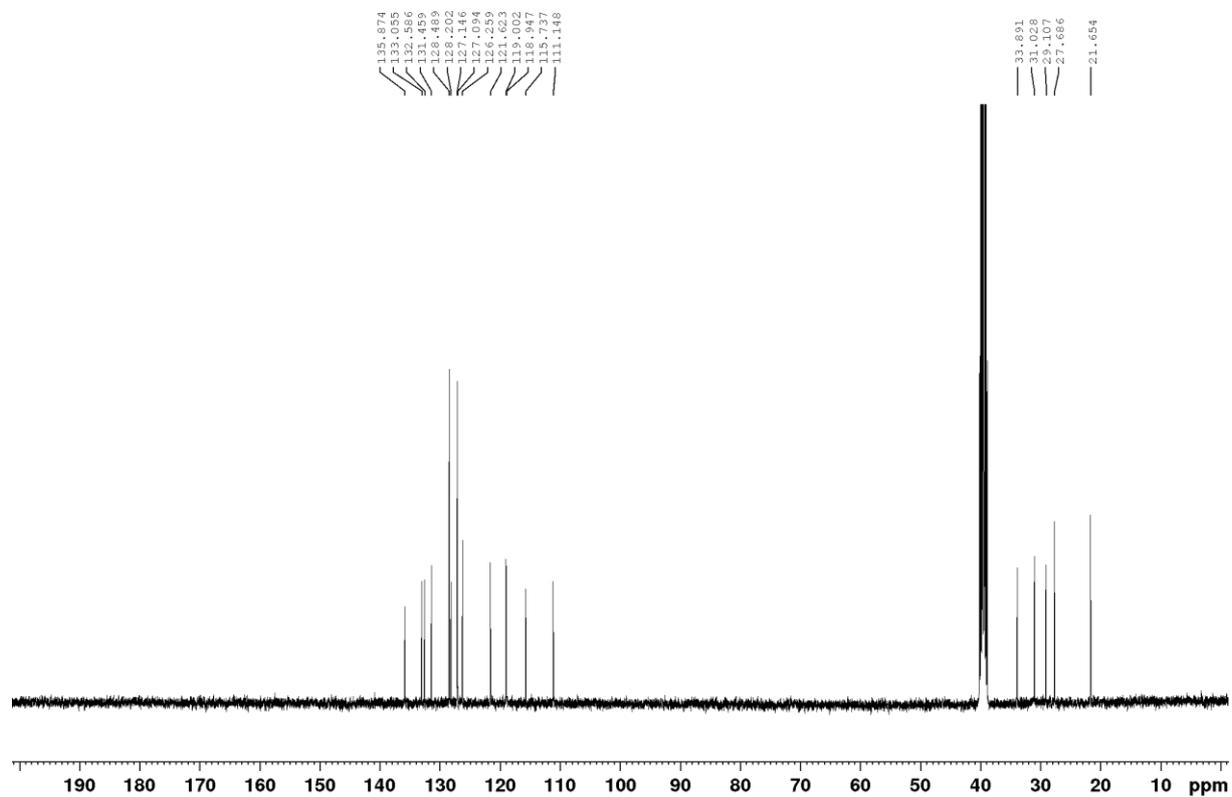
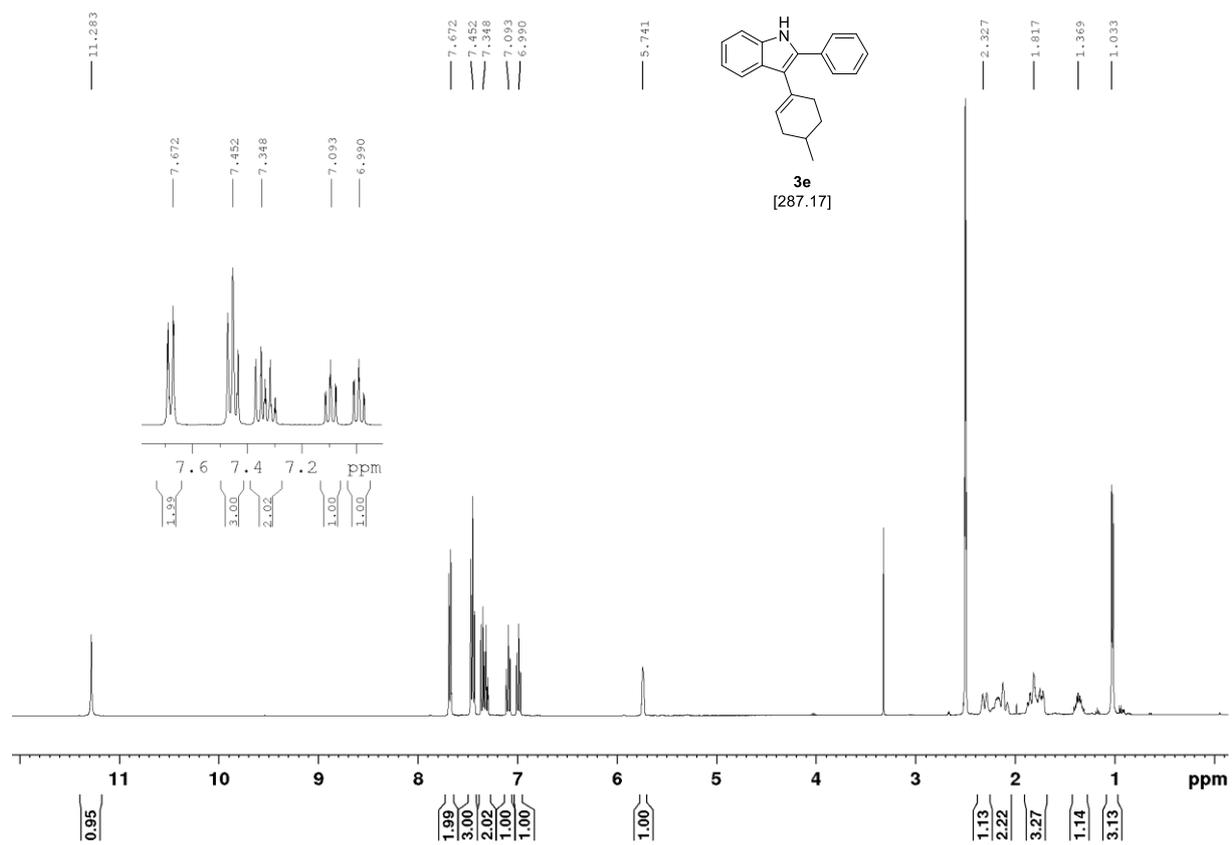


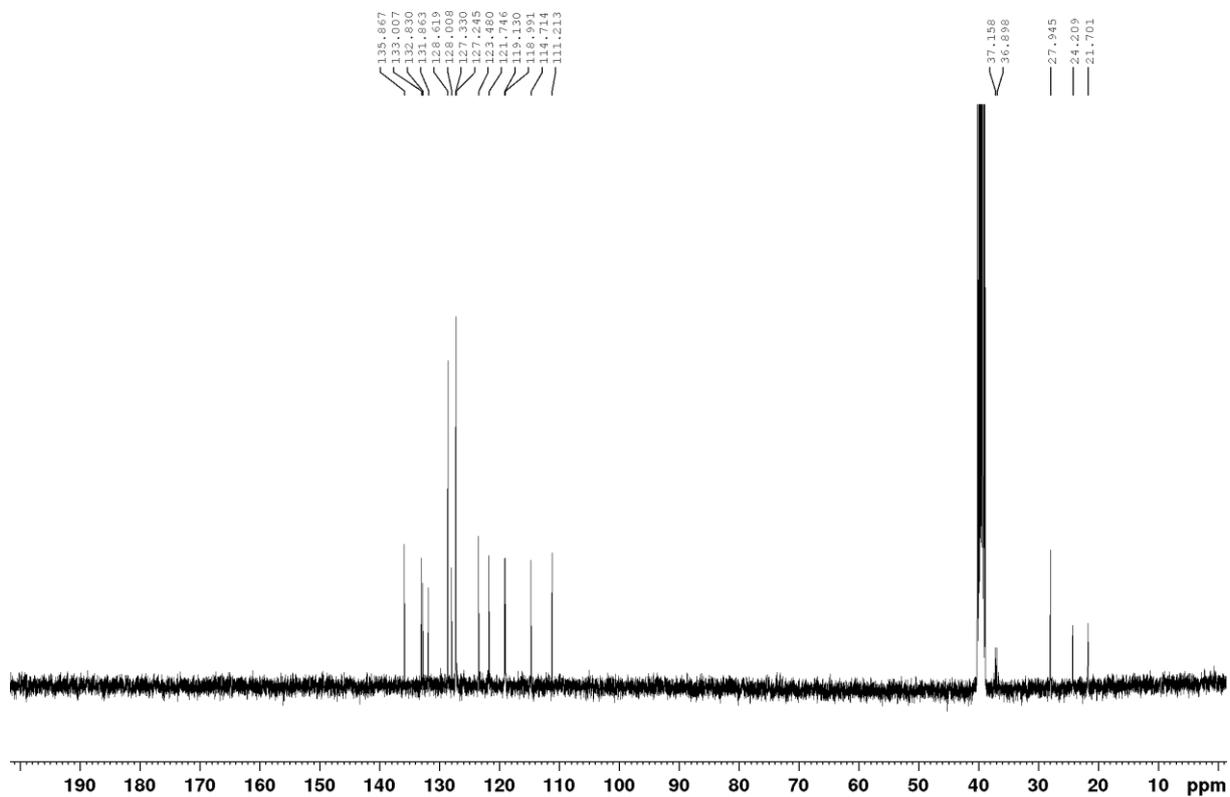
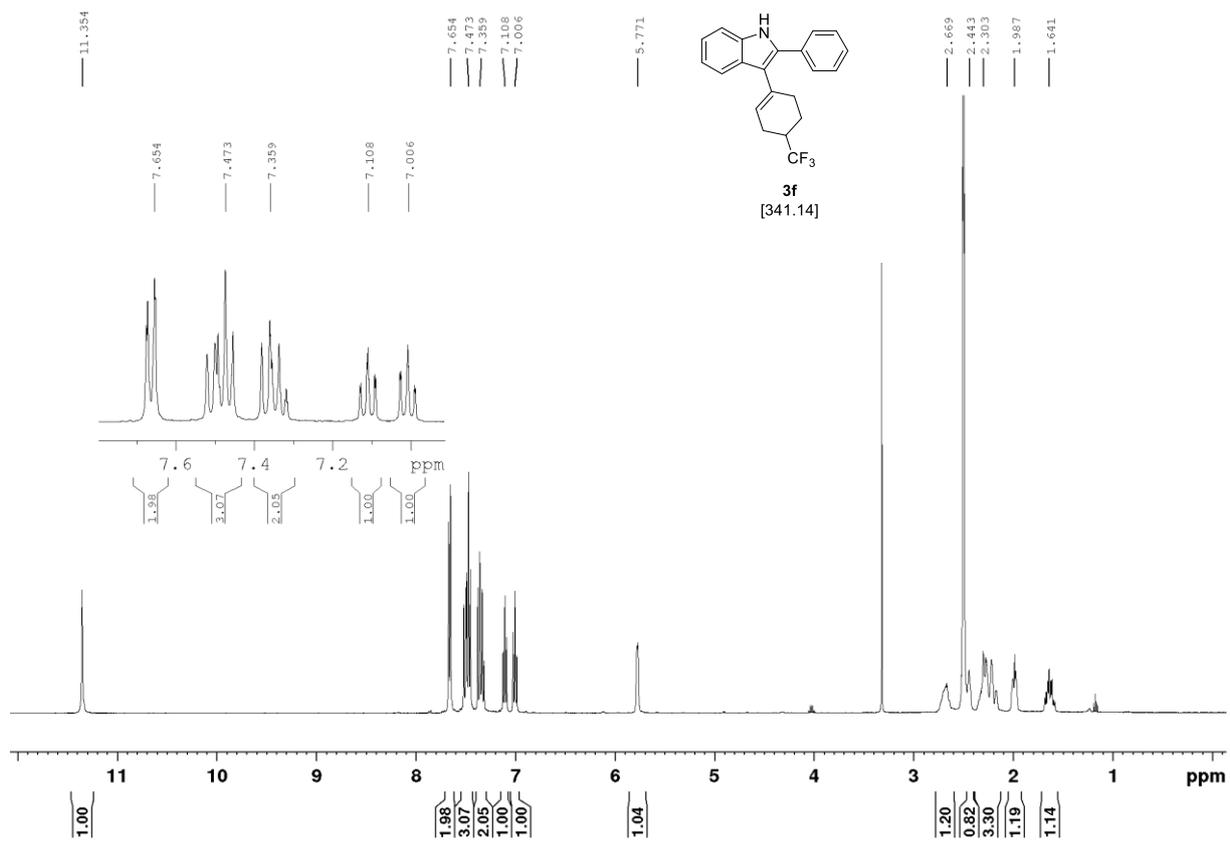


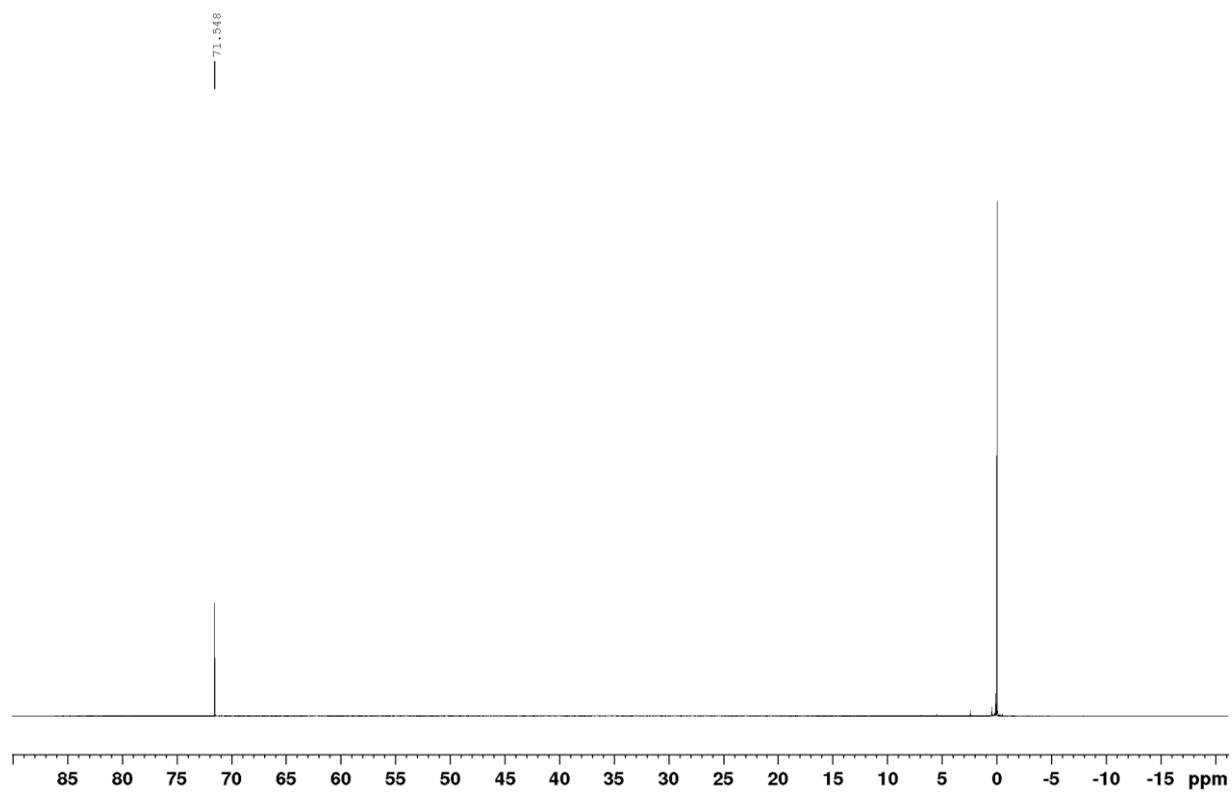


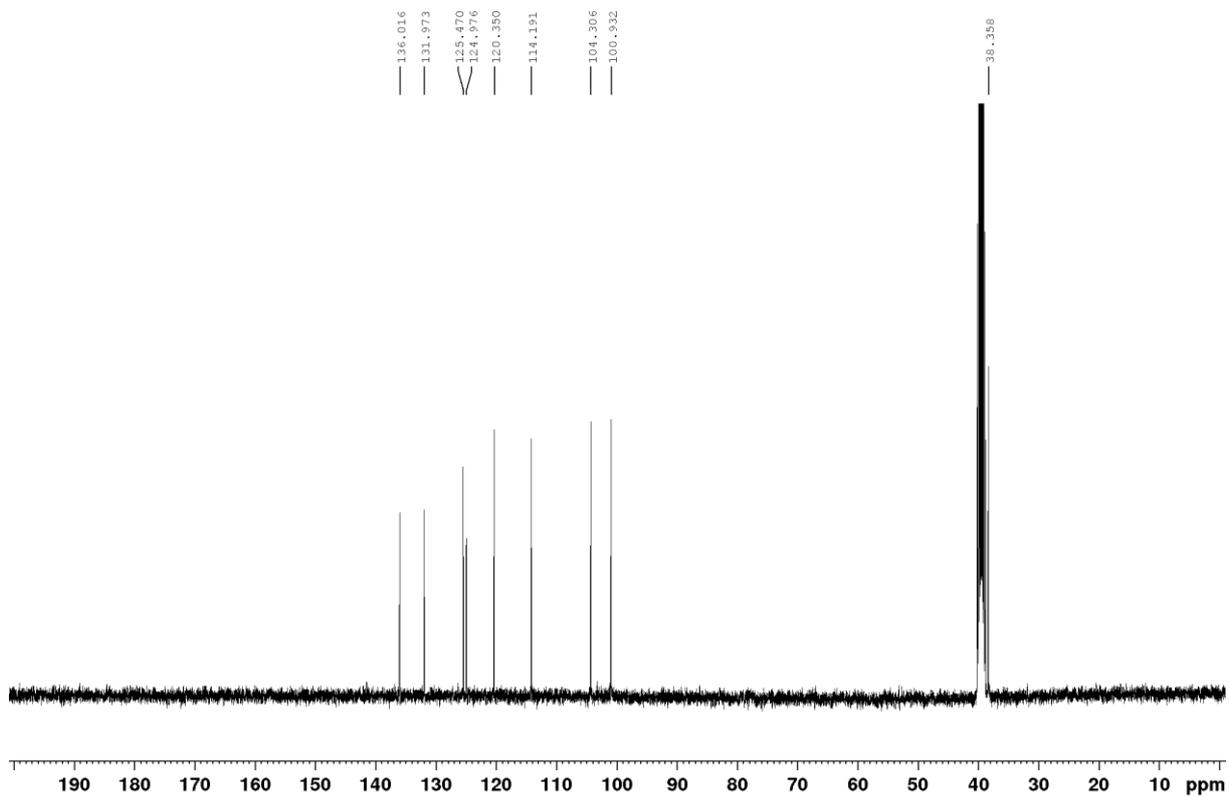
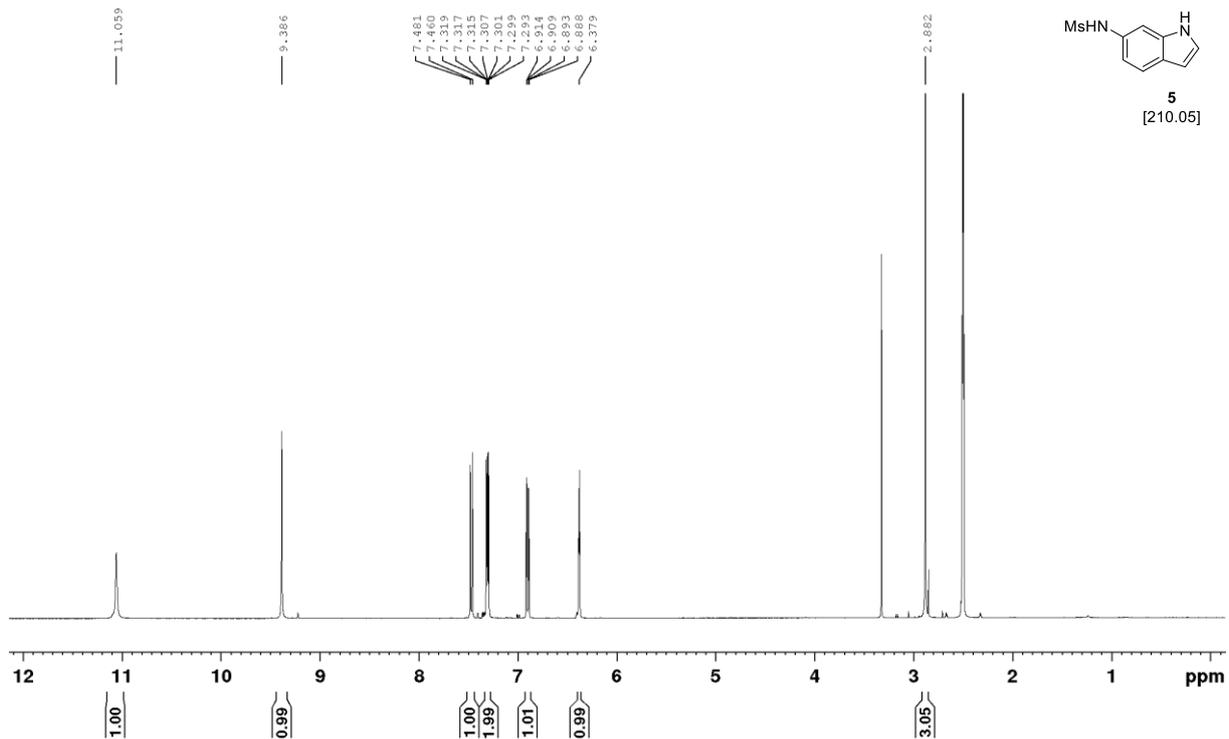


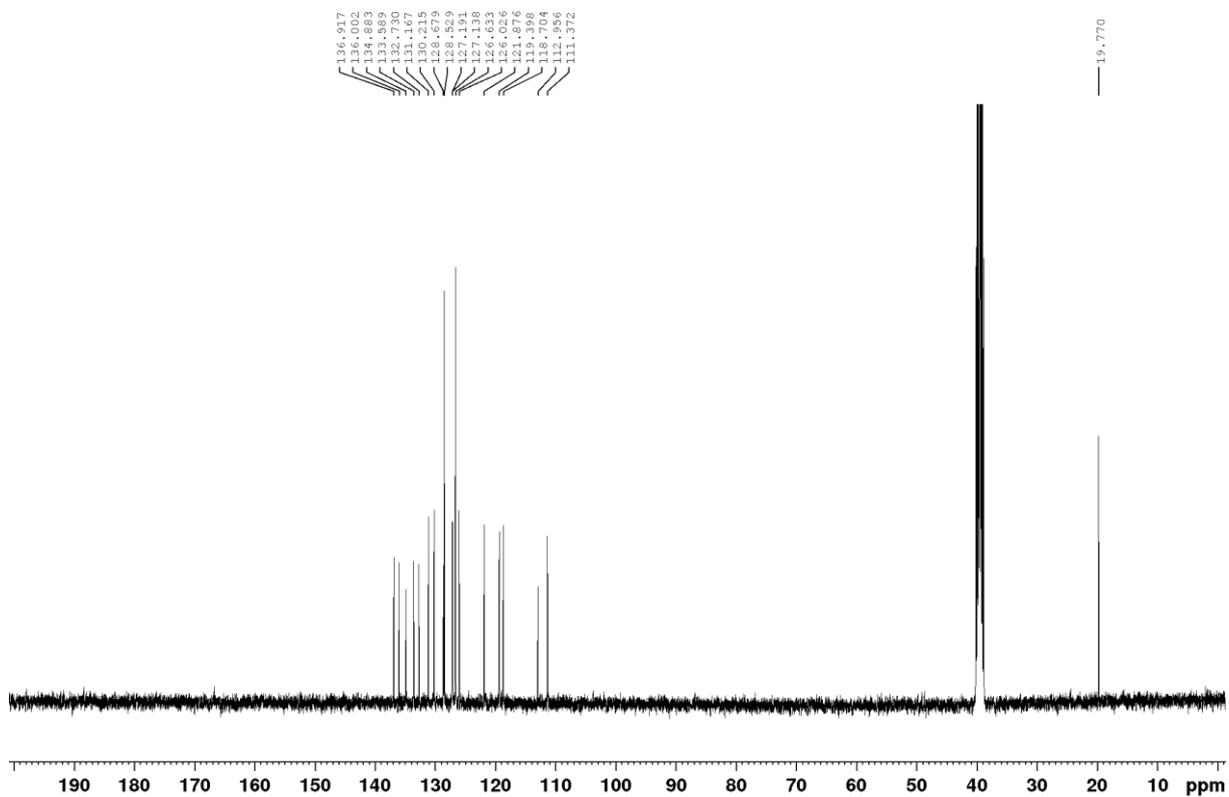
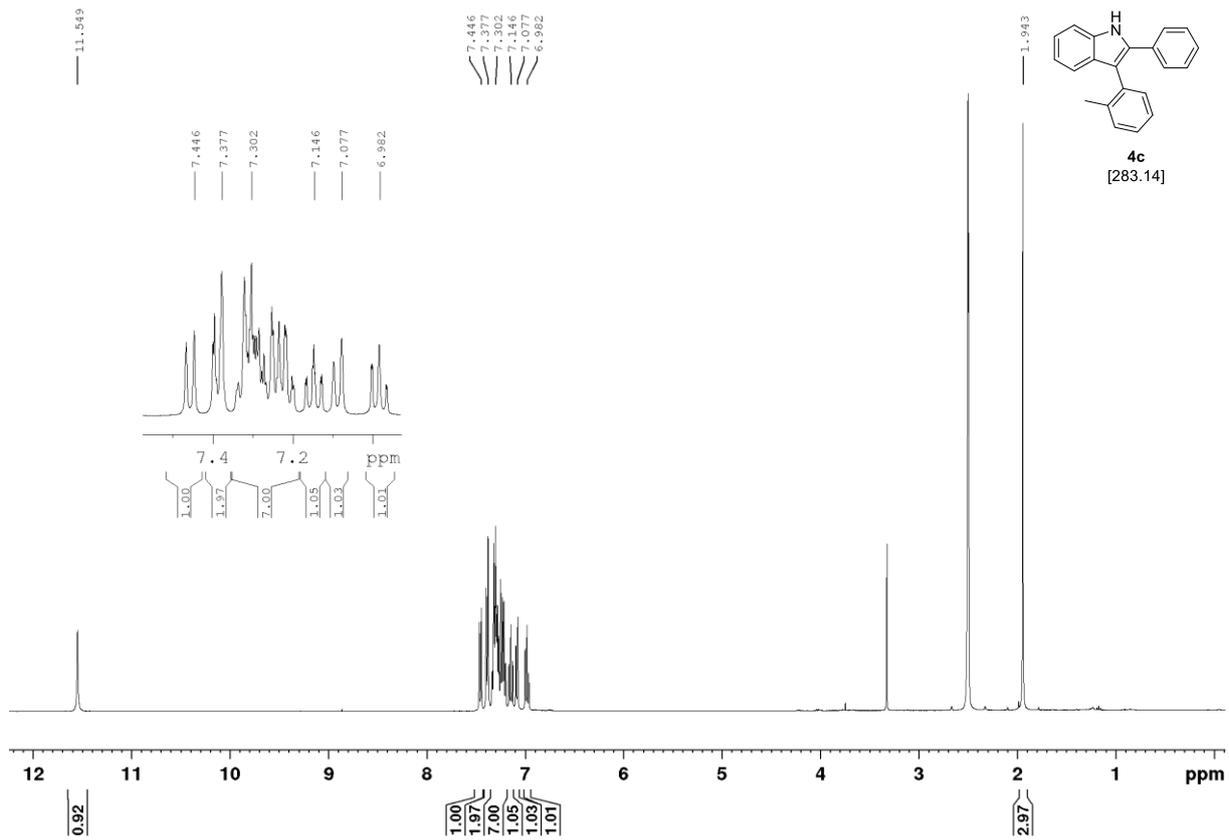


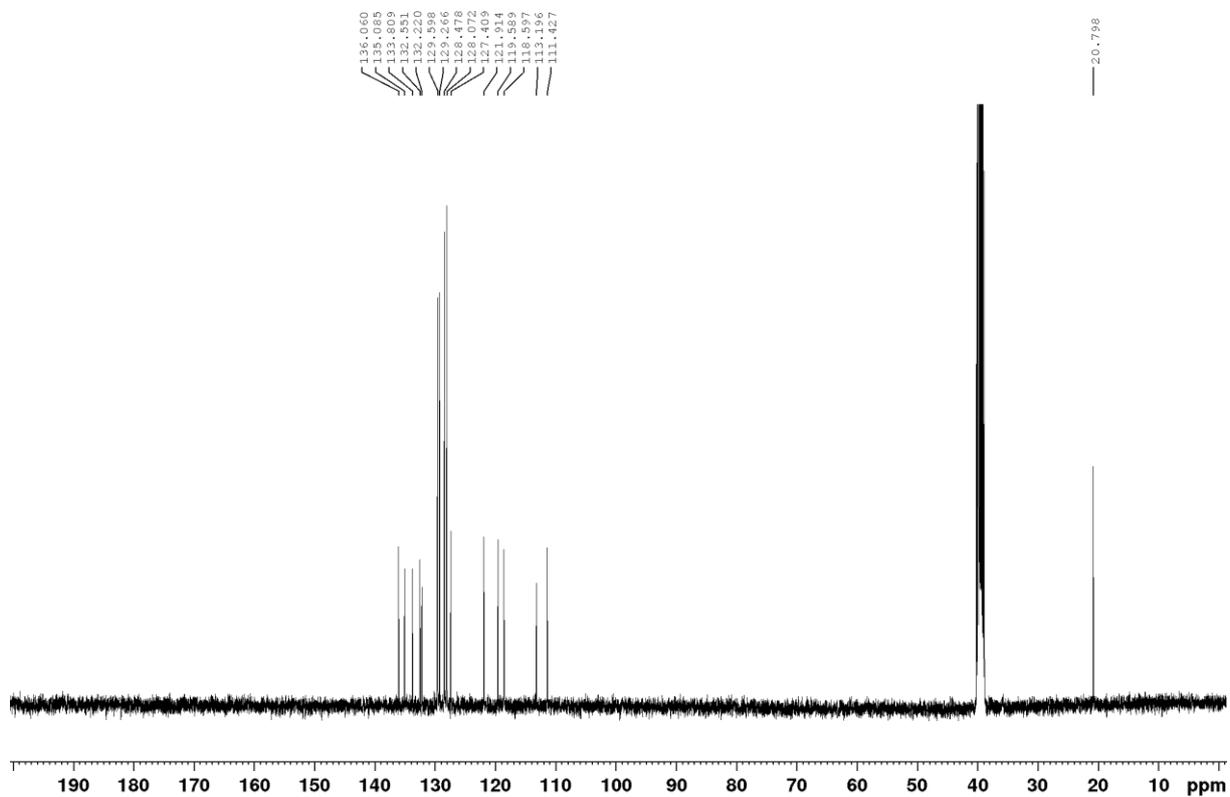
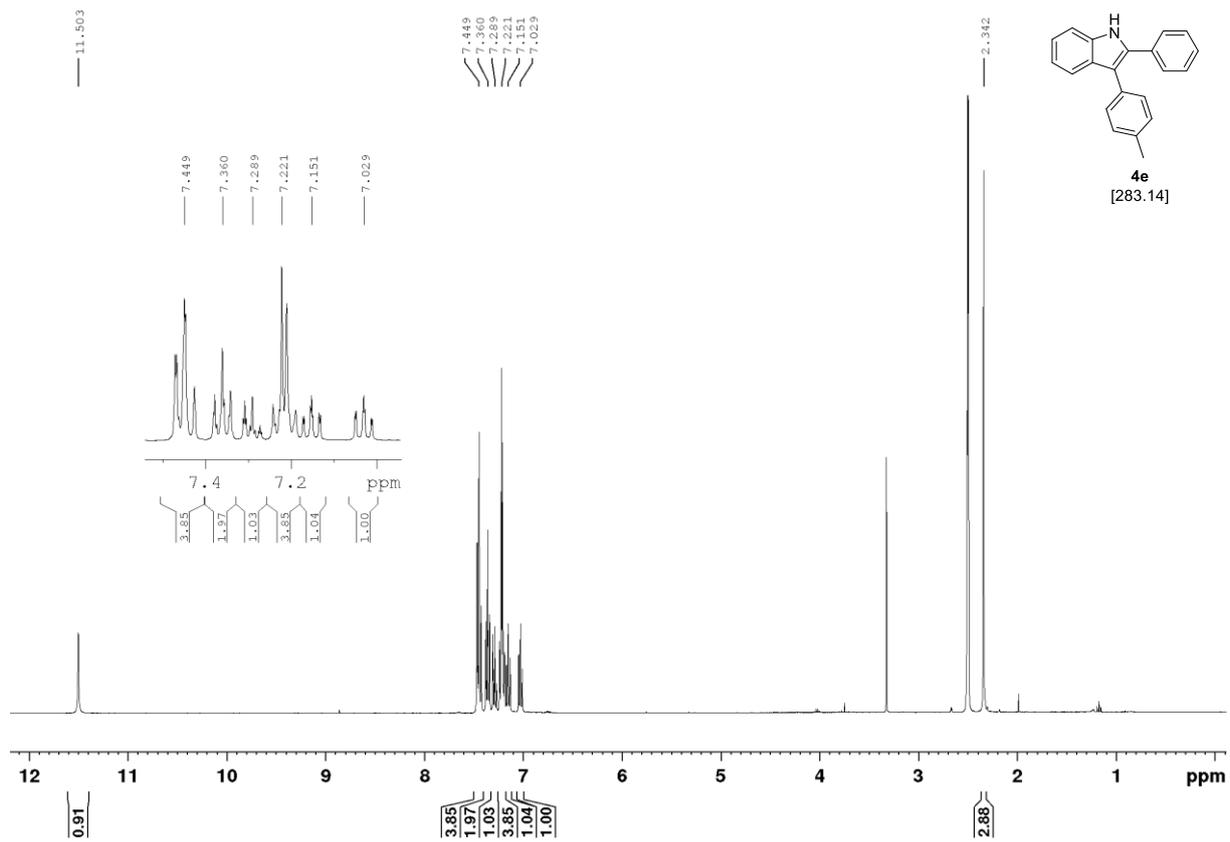


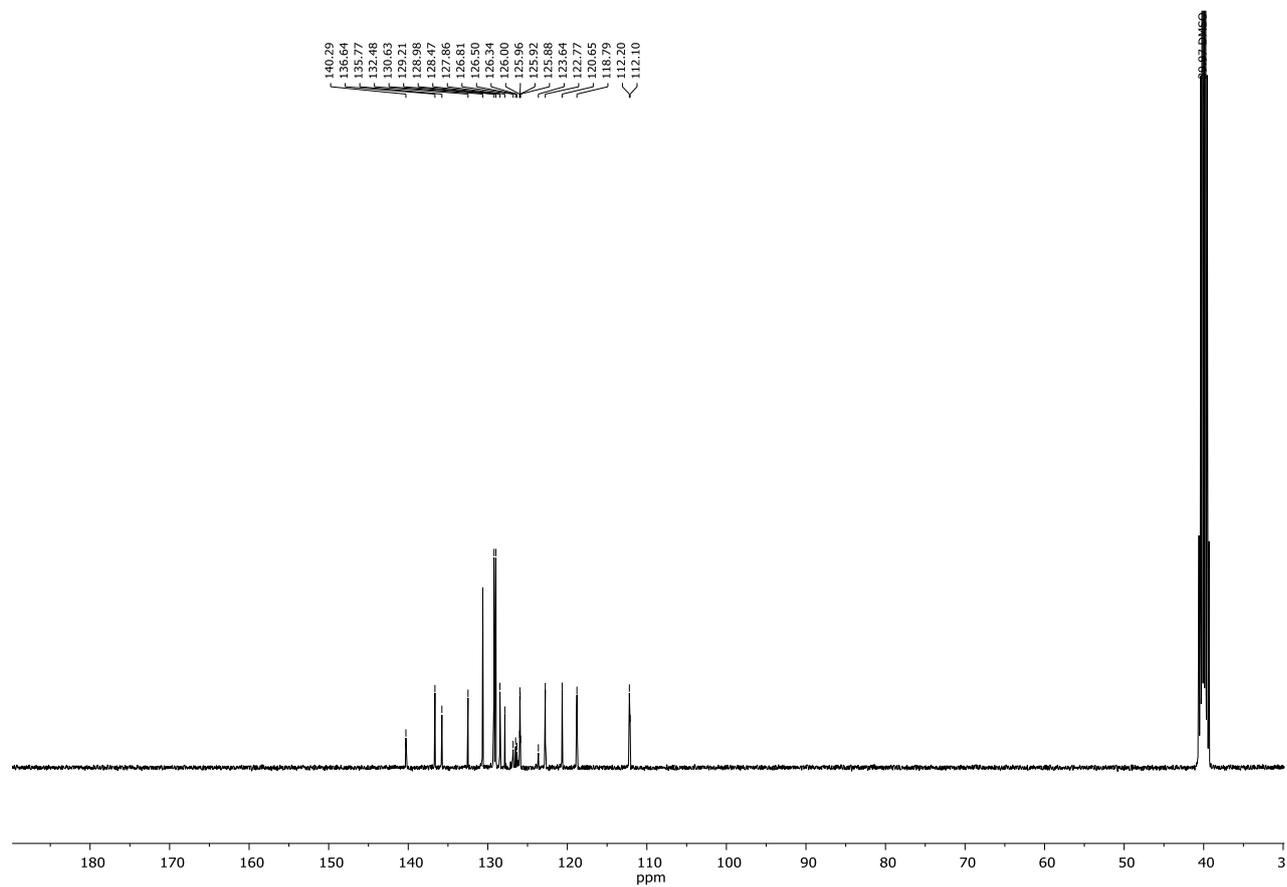
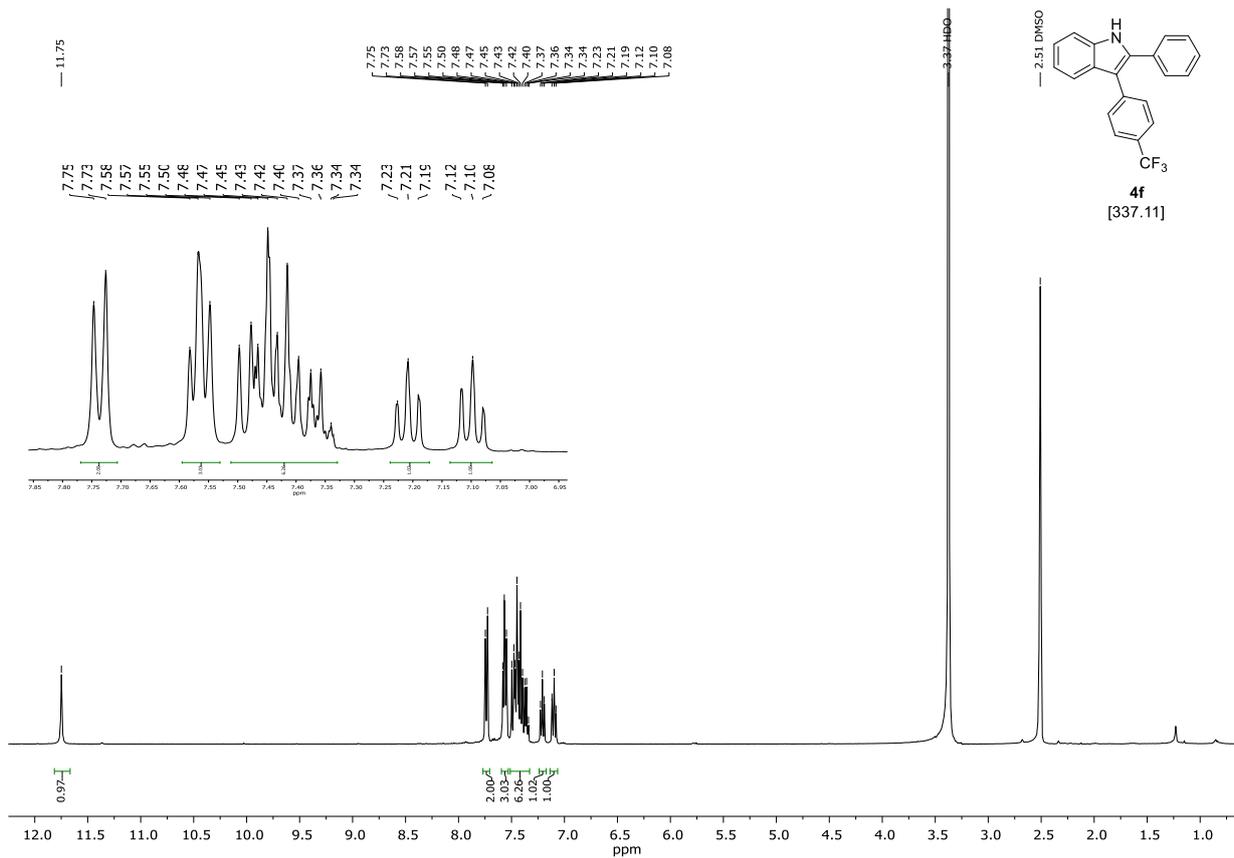


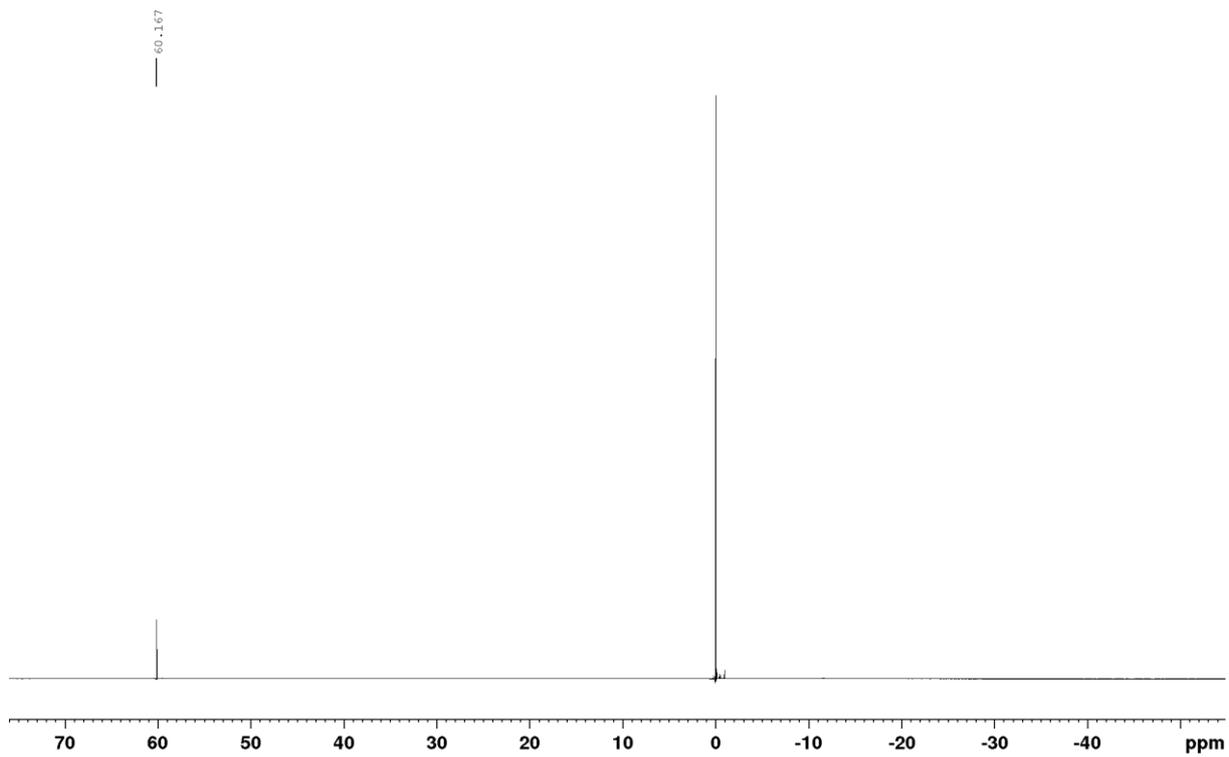


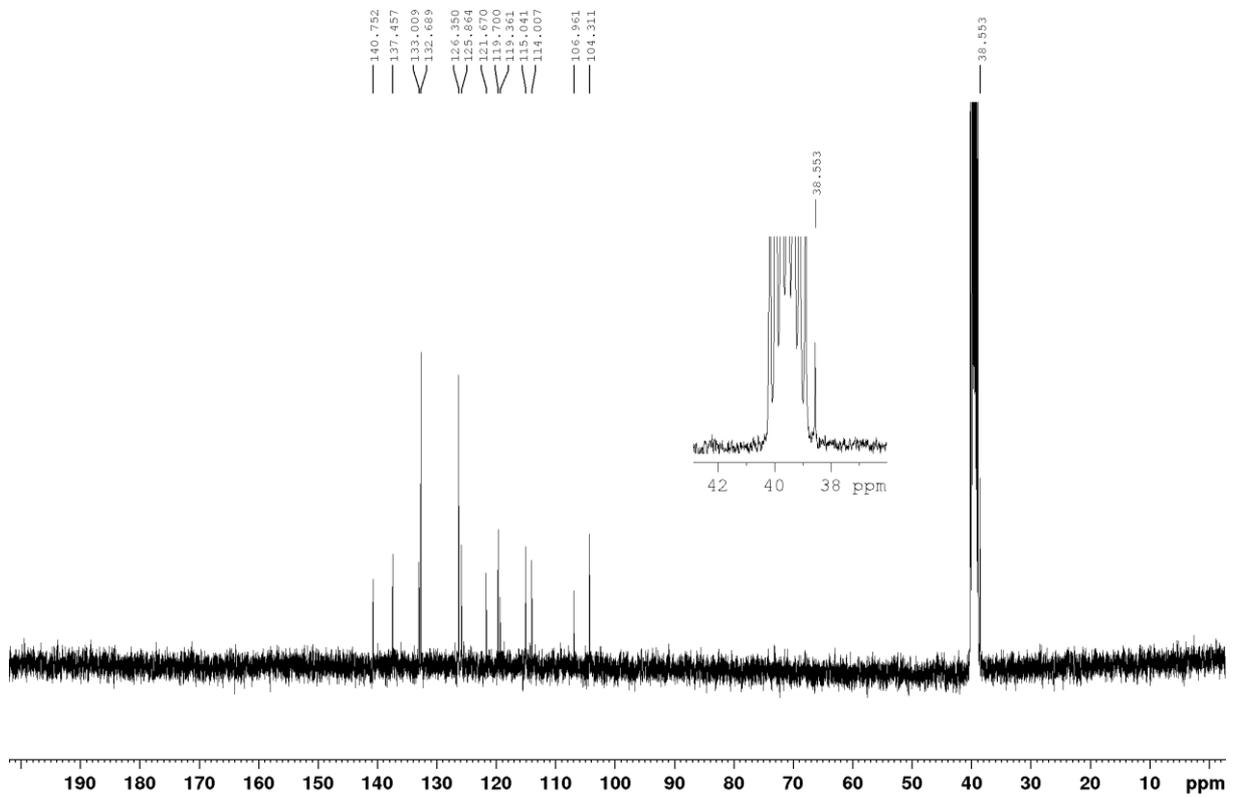
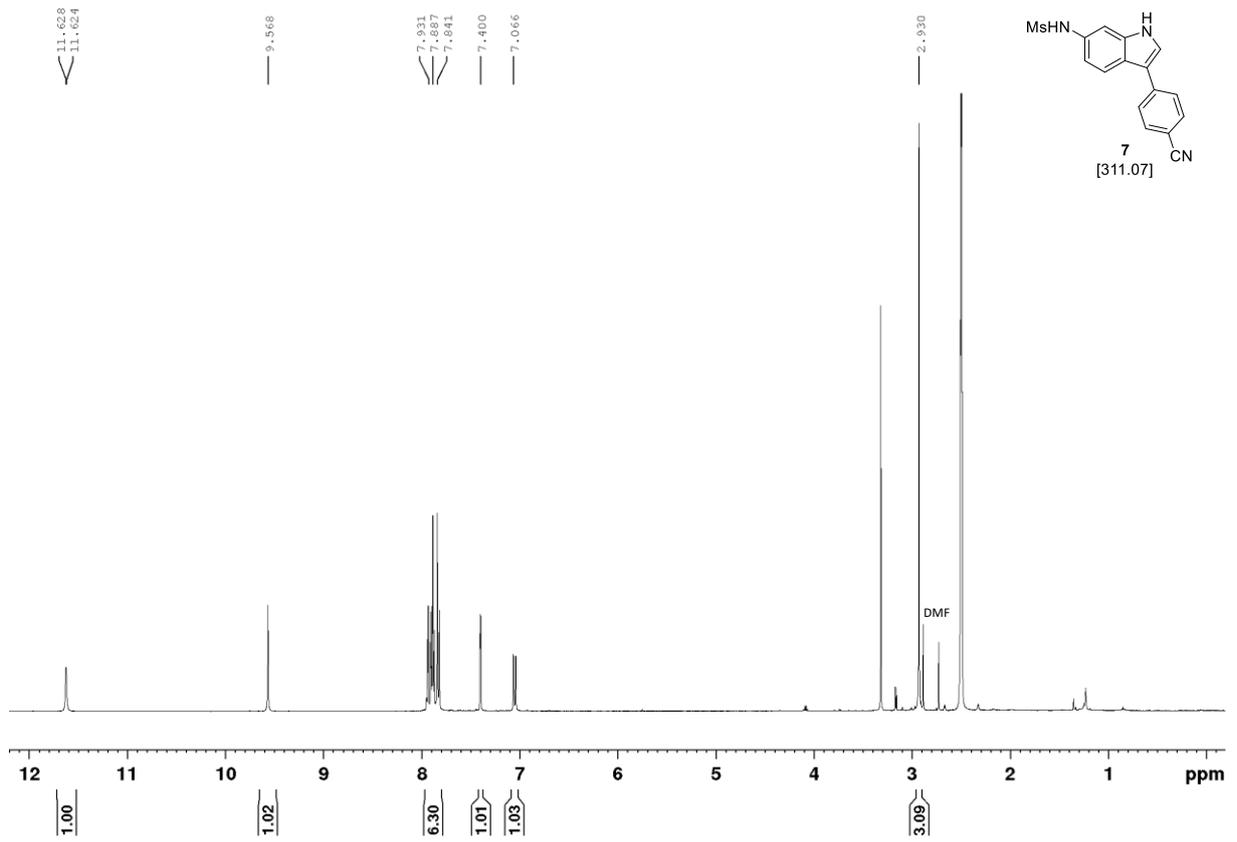






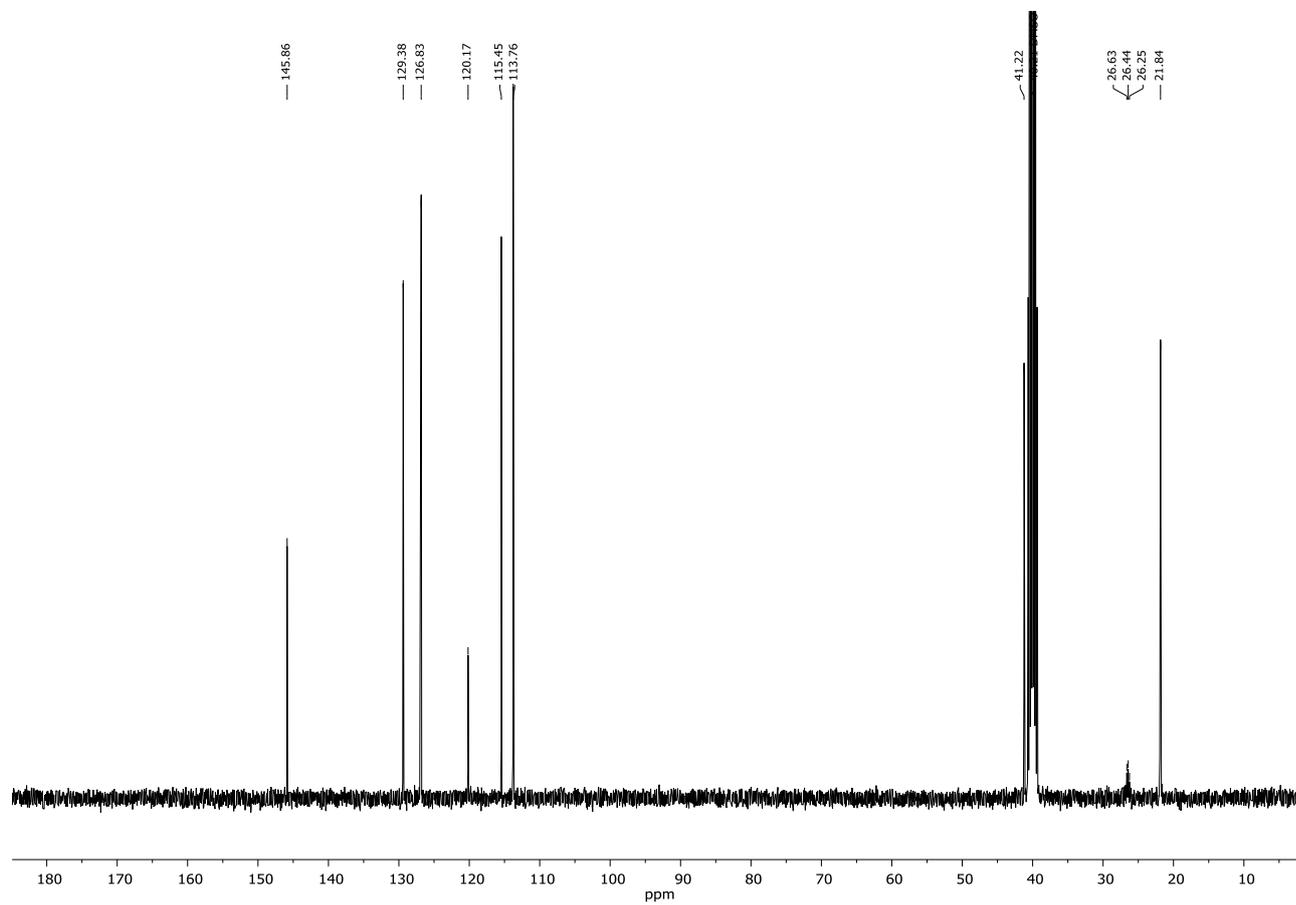
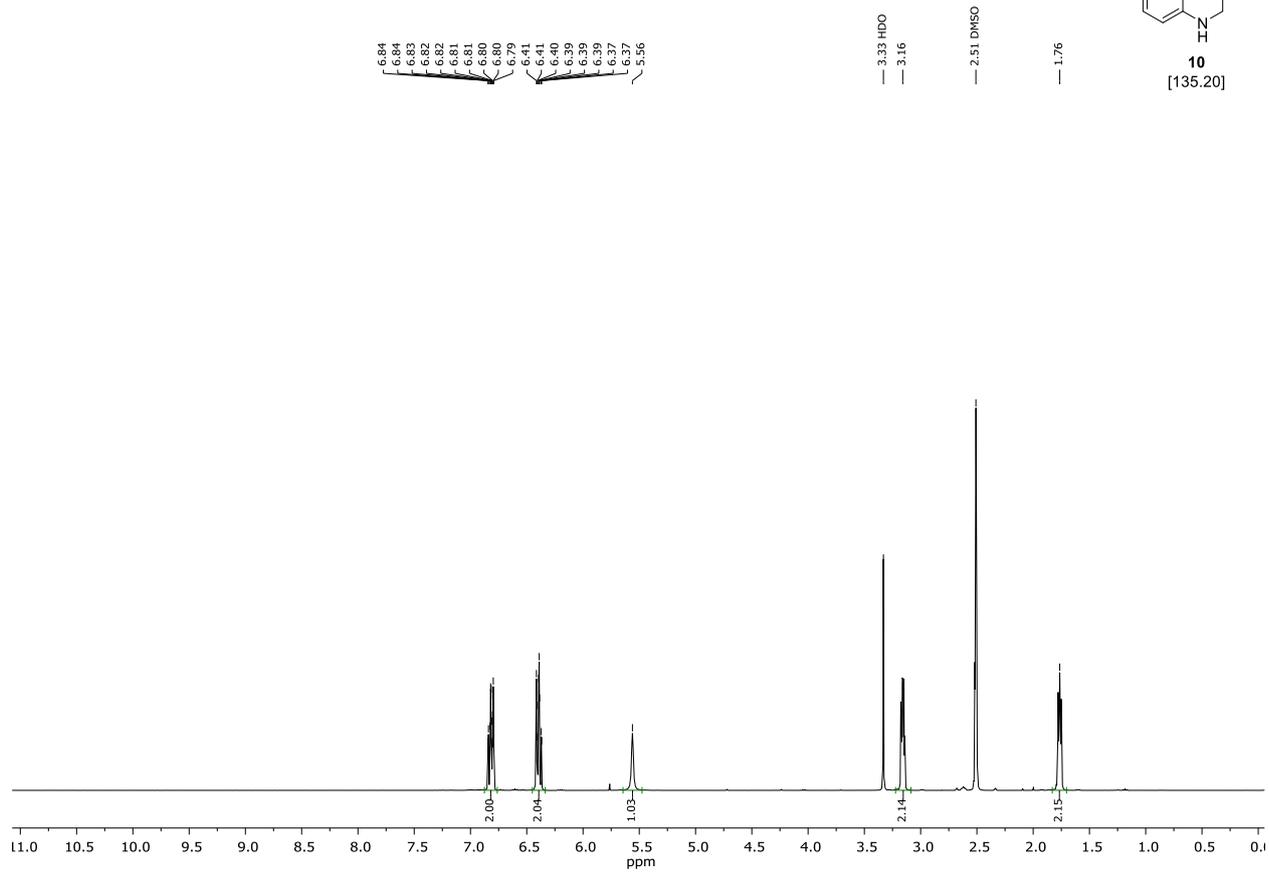


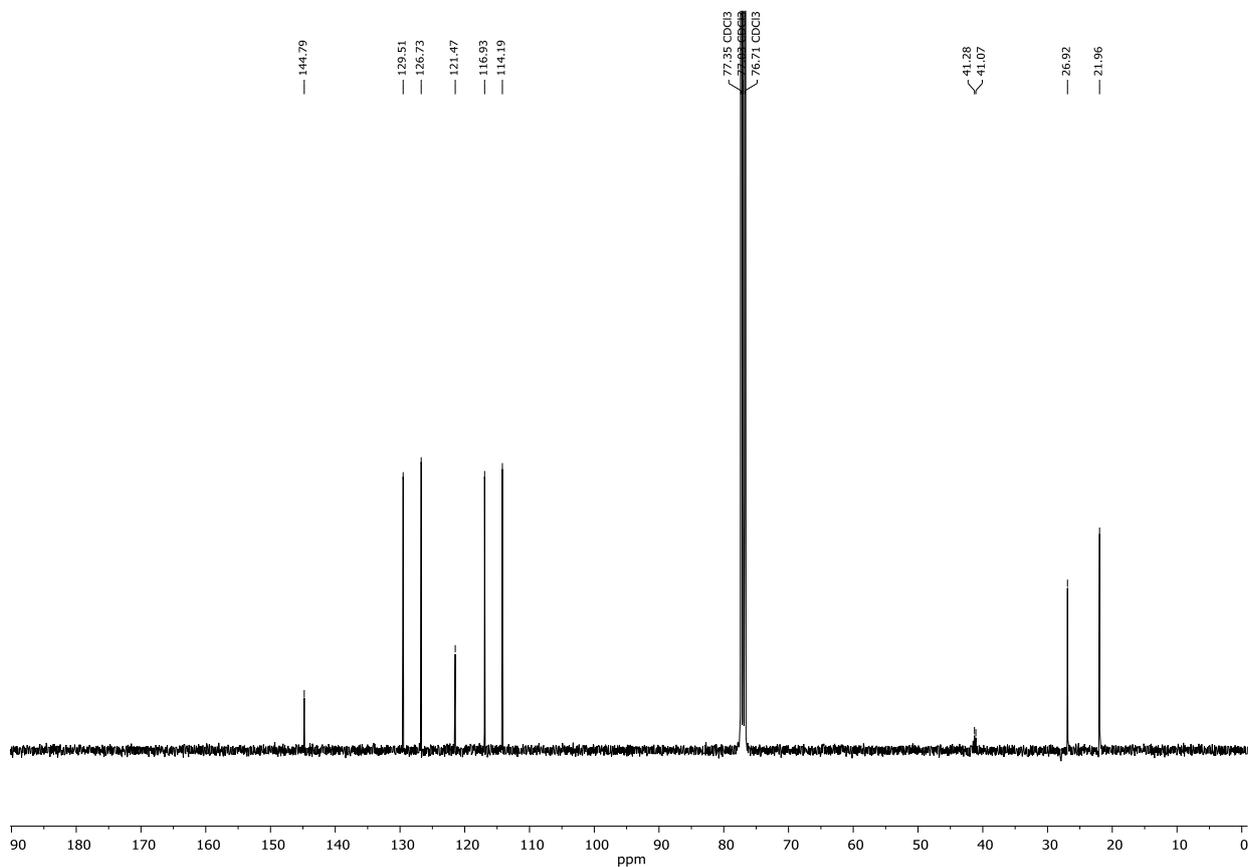
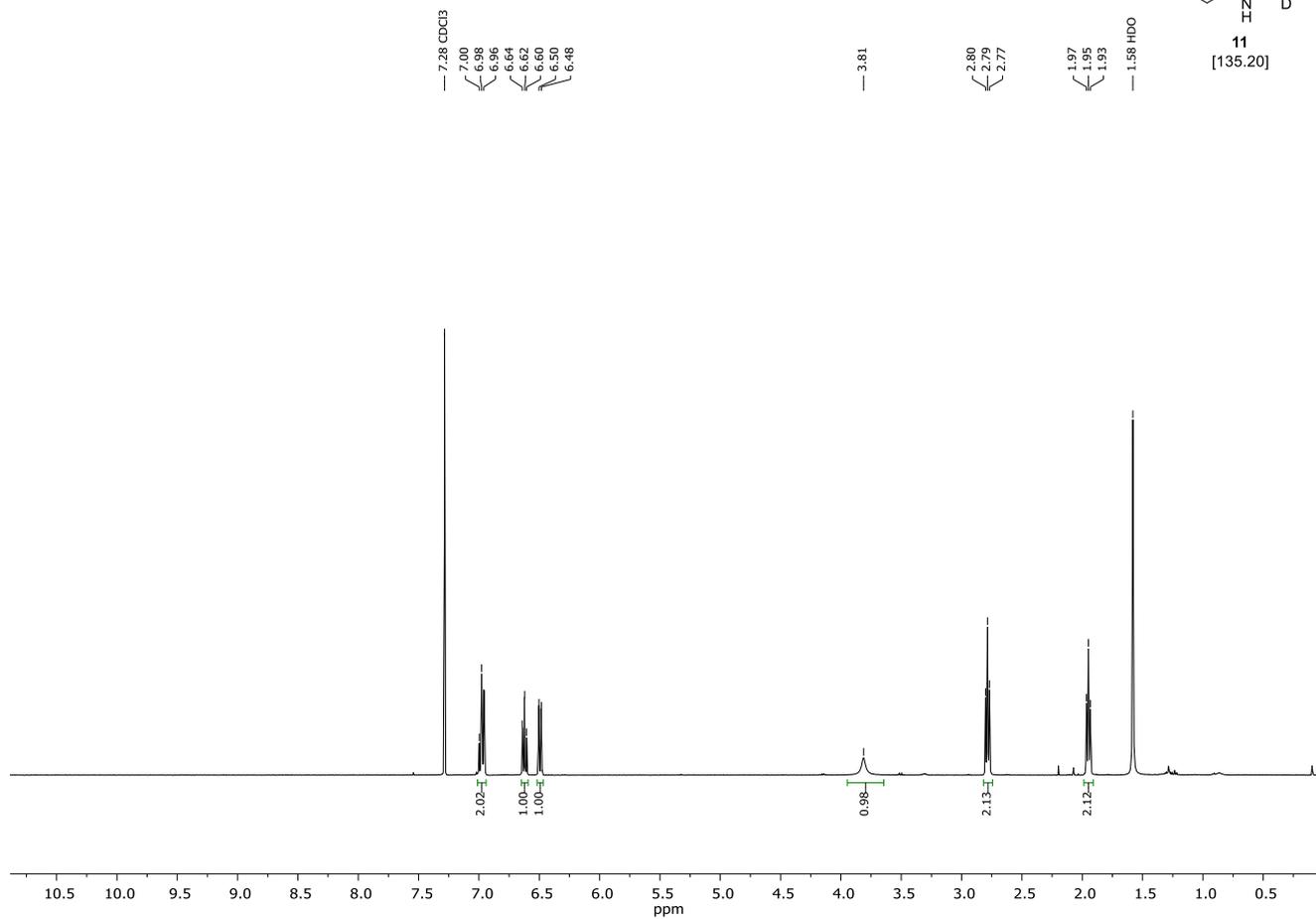
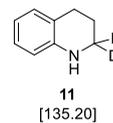


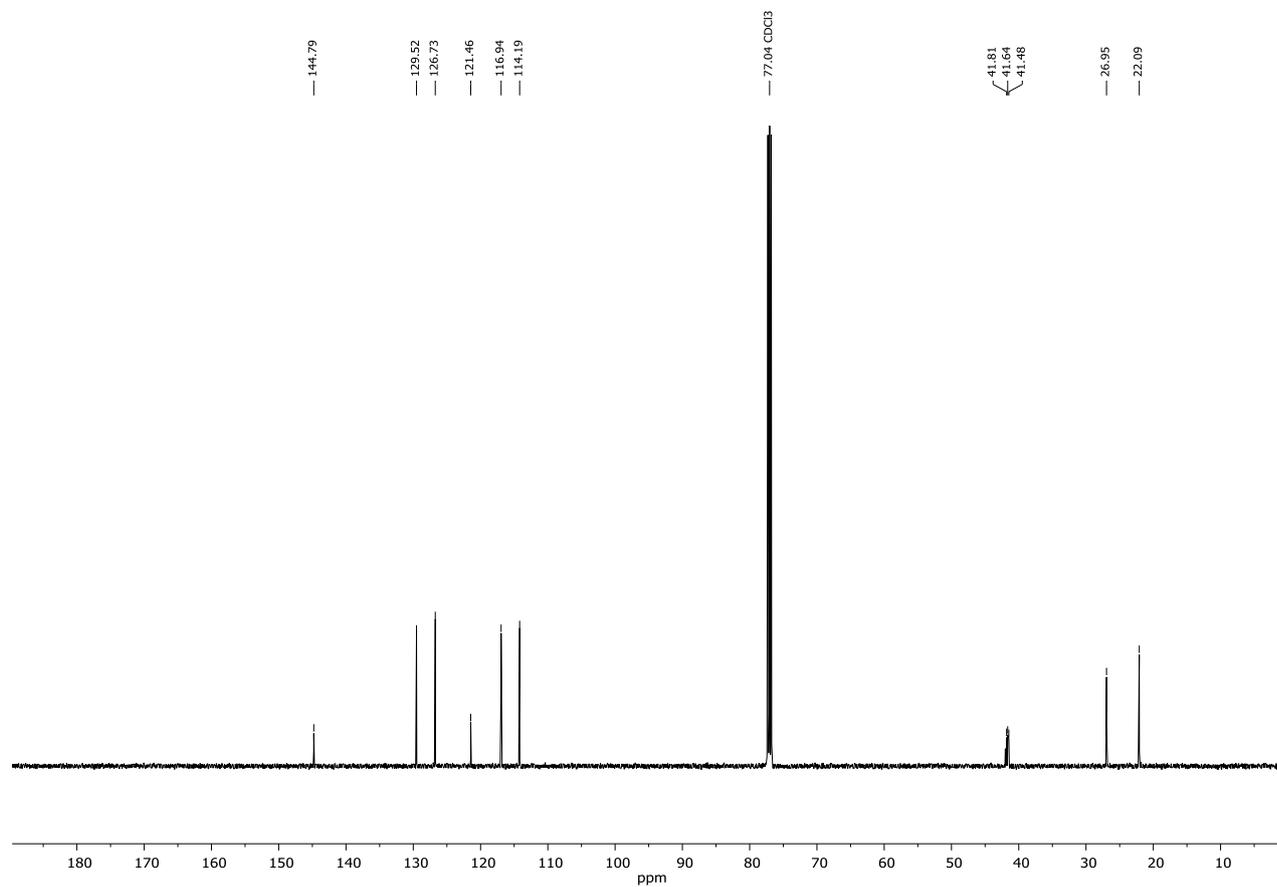
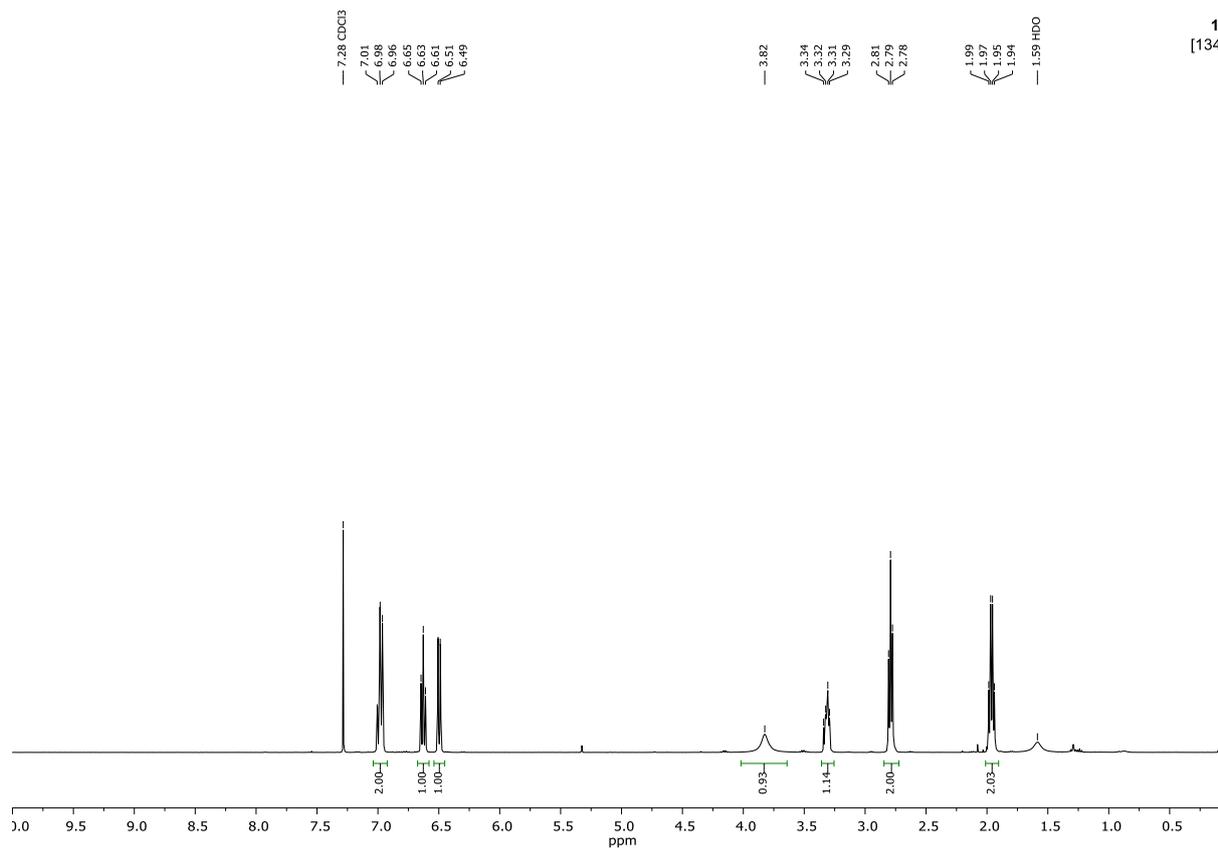
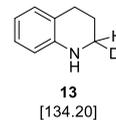




**10**  
[135.20]

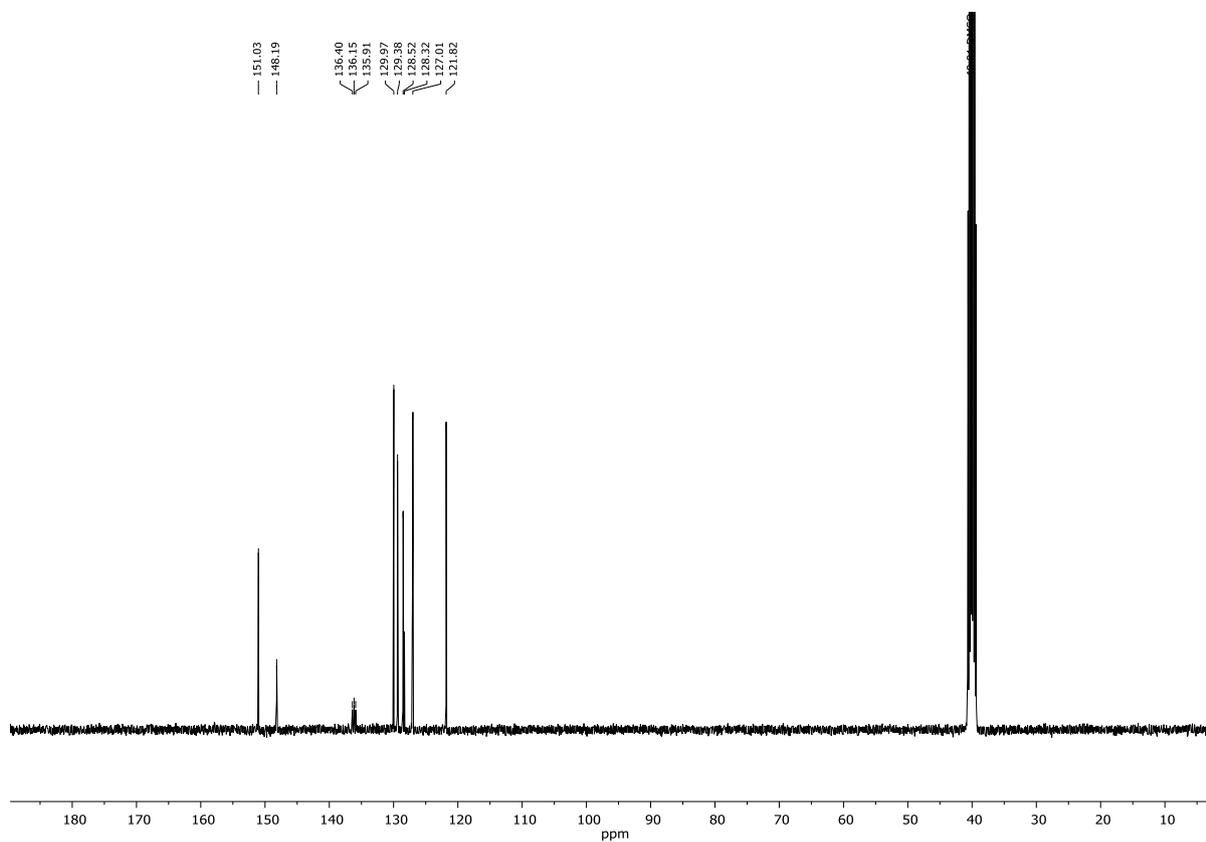
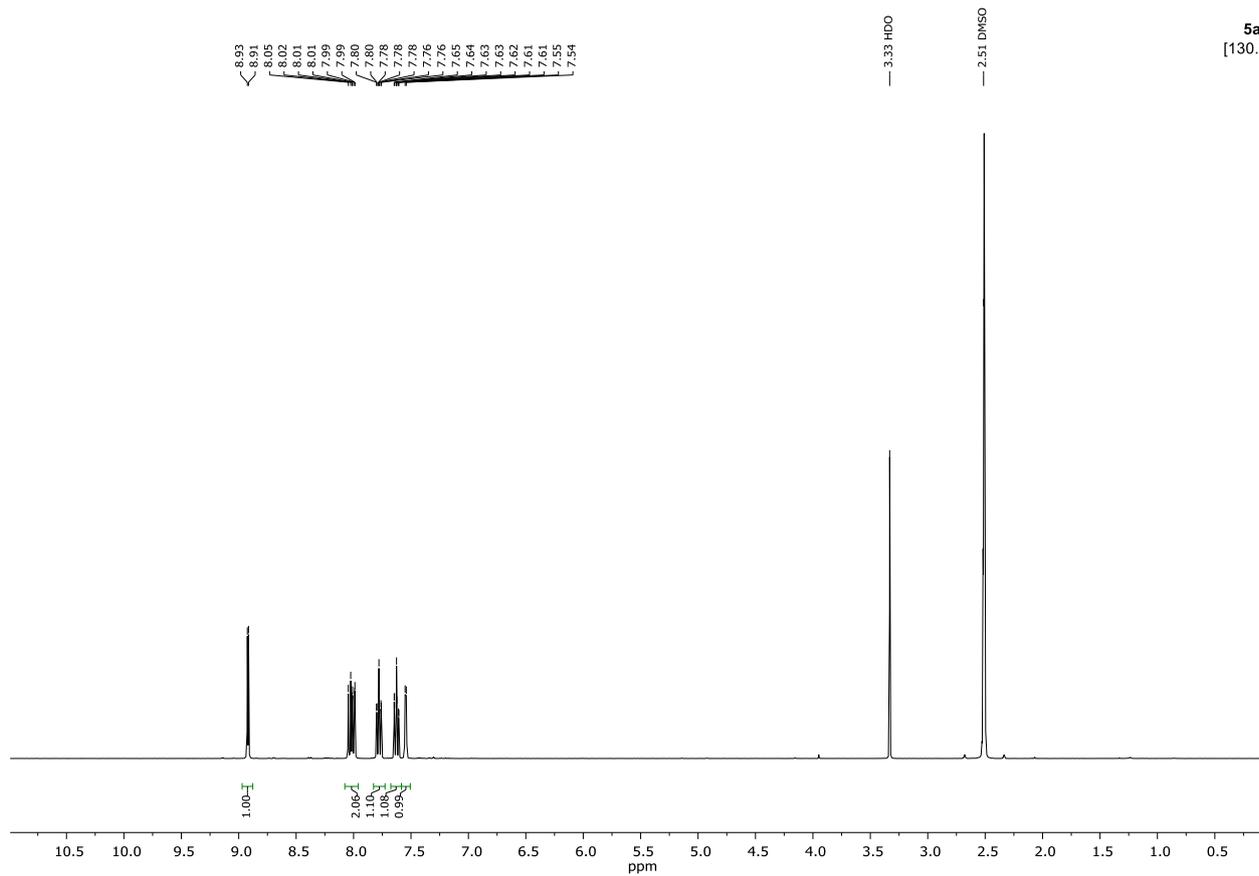


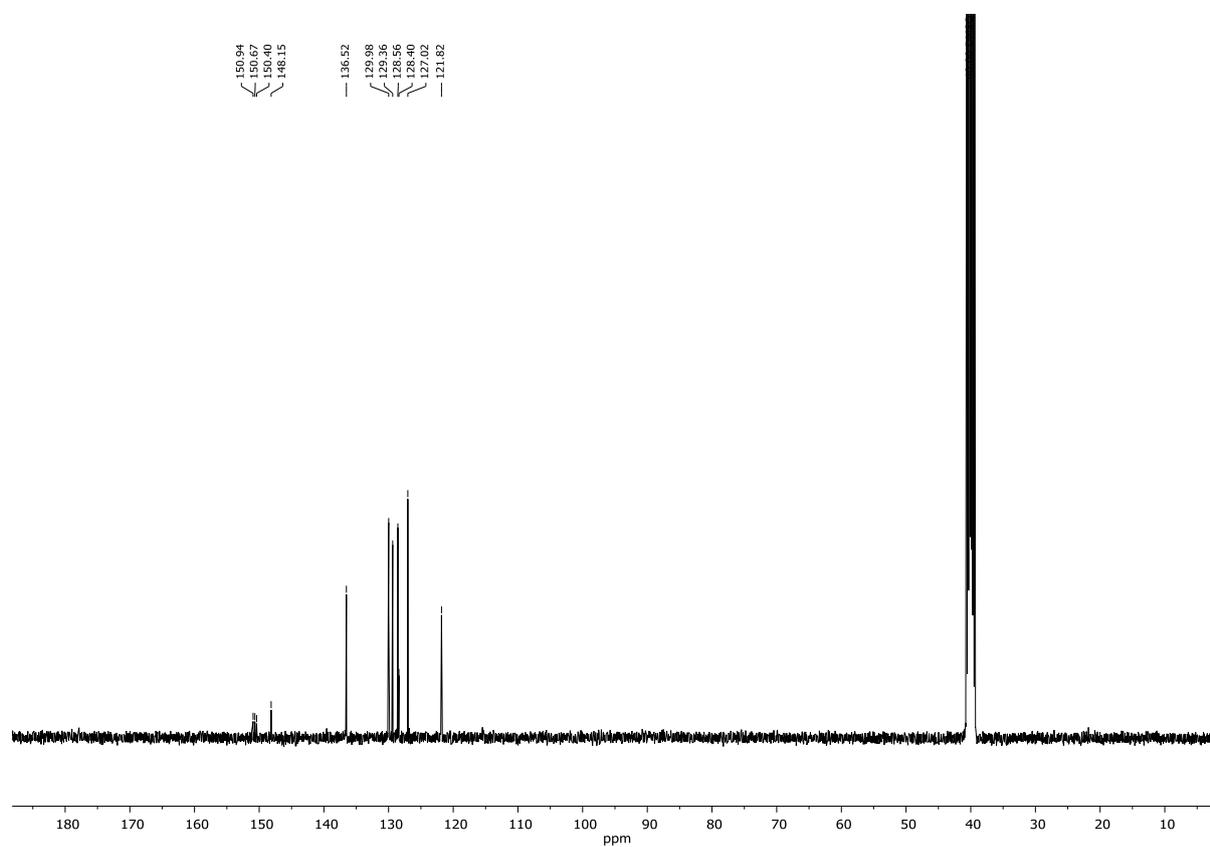
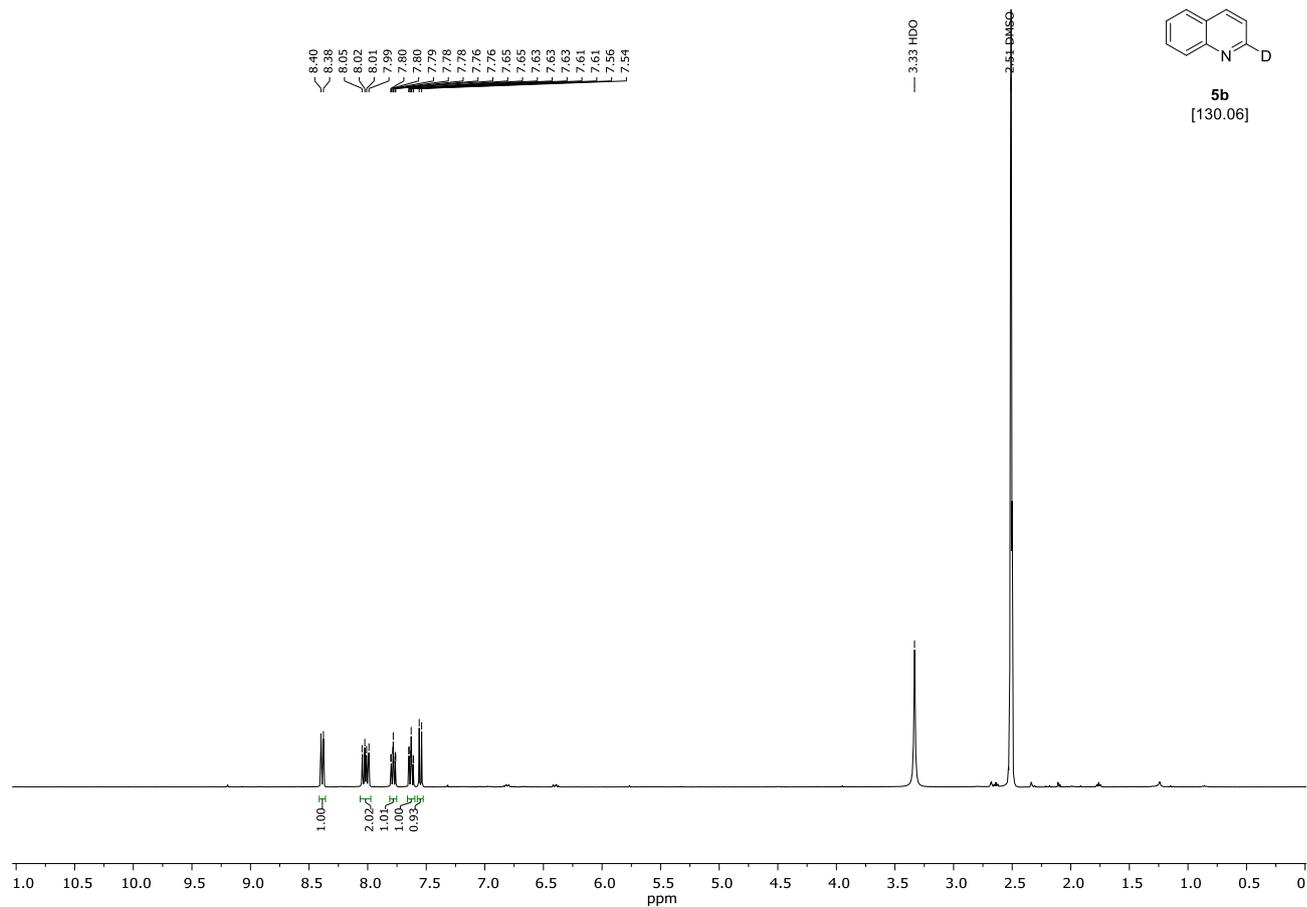






**5a**  
[130.06]





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