

Electrochemical strategies for *N*-cyanation of secondary amines and α *C*-cyanation of tertiary amines under transition metal-free conditions

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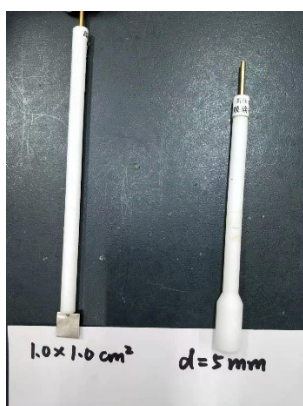
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General considerations

The substrates of **7a-8a** and **11a** were brought from commercial suppliers as hydrochloride and were simply disposed with base before adding into reactions,¹ the compounds of **1n-19n**,² **22n**² and **17-18n**³ were prepared following literature procedures,^{2,3} all other reagents were commercially available and were used as received unless otherwise noted. The instrument for electrolysis is Adjustable DC Power Supply (DP3005B) (made in China). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 300-400 mesh. The yields reported are the isolated yields and the average of two runs. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of all compounds were recorded at 400 and 100 MHz with CDCl₃ as solvent respectively. All coupling constants (J values) were reported in Hertz (Hz). HRMS (**10-11ap**, **13np**, **18np** and **22np**) were performed by Analysis and Testing Center of Nanchang University, HRMS (**2ap**, **4ap**, **5-6ap**, **8-9ap**, **29ap**, **6np**, **12np** and **17np**) were performed by Analysis and Testing Center of Nanjing University. Cyclic voltammograms were obtained on a IVIUMSTAT potentiostat. The amount of electrocatalytic hydrogen evolution was measured on a gas chromatography (Kexiao, GC-1690 China) (TCD detector, 13X molecular sieve column, N₂ gas carrier).

2. Experimental procedures

General procedure for metal-free electrocatalytic N-cyanation of secondary amines (procedure A): secondary amine (0.2 mmol), TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), TBAB (161 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), KF (46.5 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4 equiv) and CH₃CN (10 mL) were combined and added into oven-dried three-necked flask (25 mL) with a stir bar. The flask was equipped with glassy carbon (d = 5 mm) as the anode and platinum electrodes (1.0 \times 1.0 cm²) as the cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed under room temperature at a constant current of 5 mA under aerobic conditions for 3 h. When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixtures were diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short plug of silica gel that was then washed with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to provide corresponding product.



General procedure for metal-free electrocatalytic α -C-cyanation of aromatic tertiary amines (procedure B): tertiary amine (0.2 mmol), TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), TBAB (161 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), KF (46.5 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4 equiv) and CH₃CN (10 mL) were combined and added into oven-dried three-necked flask (25 mL) with a stir bar. The flask was equipped with graphite felts (15 \times 15 \times 0.4 mm³) as the anode and platinum electrodes (1.0 \times 1.0 cm²) as the cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed under room temperature at a constant current of 5 mA under N₂ atmosphere for 3 h. When the reaction was finished, the reaction mixtures were diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short plug of silica gel that was then washed with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to provide corresponding product.



3,4-Dihydro-2(1H)-isoquinolinecarbonitrile (1ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (26.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 27.2 mg (86%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21 - 7.19 (m, 2 H), 7.15 - 7.13 (m, 1 H), 7.06 - 7.02 (m, 1 H), 4.40 (s, 2 H), 3.48 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.95 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 132.6, 130.8, 129.2, 127.2, 126.7, 126.0, 118.0, 50.0, 46.8, 27.7.

6-Methoxy-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (2ap)

Procedure A was followed using 6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (32.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 30.3 mg (80%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.76 (dd, J = 2.8, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.65 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.34 (s, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.45 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.91 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.6, 133.9, 127.1, 122.9, 118.2, 113.9, 113.1, 55.4, 49.7, 46.7, 28.0. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃ON₂: 189.10224; found: 189.10182.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (3ap)

Procedure A was followed using 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (38.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (80:20, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 32.9 mg (75%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.59 (s, 1 H), 6.49 (s, 1 H), 4.31 (s, 2 H), 3.82 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 6 H), 3.43 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.85 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.2, 148.0, 124.6, 122.6, 118.1, 111.8, 108.6, 56.0, 56.0, 49.8, 46.9, 27.2.

6-Bromo-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (4ap)

Procedure A was followed using 6-bromo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (42.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 38.9 mg (82%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 - 7.29 (m, 2 H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.34 (s, 2 H), 3.45 (td, J = 1.8, 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.92 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 134.9, 132.1, 129.9, 129.8, 127.7, 120.9, 117.7, 49.8, 46.5, 27.5. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀BrN₂: 237.00219; found: 237.00165.

7-Bromo-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (5ap)

Procedure A was followed using 7-bromo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (42.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 39.8 mg (84%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 (dd, J = 1.9, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (s, 1 H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 3.45 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.89 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 132.9, 131.6, 130.9, 130.4, 128.9, 120.3, 117.6, 49.6, 46.6, 27.2. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀BrN₂: 237.00219; found: 237.00186.

6-Chloro-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (6ap)

Procedure A was followed using 6-chloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (33.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 29.6 mg (77%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.17 - 7.11 (m, 2 H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 3.44 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.91 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 134.5, 132.8, 129.2, 129.0, 127.4, 126.9, 117.7, 49.6, 46.4, 27.5. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀ClN₂: 193.05270; found: 193.05264.

6-Fluoro-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (7ap)

Procedure A was followed using 6-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (30.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified

by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 27.8 mg (79%) of the product as a yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.99 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (td, *J* = 2.7, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.6 (d, *J* = 245 Hz), 134.8 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 127.6 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 126.5 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 117.8, 115.6 (d, *J* = 21 Hz), 114.0 (d, *J* = 22 Hz), 49.6, 46.4, 27.7 (d, *J* = 1 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -115.0.

5-(Trifluoromethyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (8ap)

Procedure A was followed using 5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 36.4 mg (80%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 2.05 (s, 2 H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2 H), 3.09 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 132.6, 131.5 (q, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 129.9 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 129.0 (q, *J* = 30 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 272 Hz), 126.5, 125.0 (q, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 117.4, 50.1, 46.1, 24.4 (q, *J* = 2 Hz). HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀F₃N₂: 227.07906; found: 227.07866.

3,4-Dihydro-1-methyl-2(1H)-isoquinolinecarbonitrile (9ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 28.6 mg (83%) of the product as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24 - 7.19 (m, 2 H), 7.13 - 7.09 (m, 2 H), 4.54 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.59 - 3.53 (m, 1 H), 3.48 - 3.42 (m, 1 H), 2.95 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.63 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 136.1, 132.4, 129.2, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 117.5, 54.4, 44.7, 28.2, 21.4. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₃N₂: 173.10732; found: 173.10707.

1-Phenyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1H)-carbonitrile (10ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (41.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 17.5 mg (37%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 - 7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.24 - 7.20 (m, 4 H), 7.18 - 7.11 (m, 1 H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1 H), 5.49 (s, 1 H), 3.59 - 3.43 (m, 2 H), 3.07 - 3.01 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.0, 133.8, 133.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 127.6, 126.8, 117.5, 63.2, 44.8, 28.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅N₂: 235.1230; found: 235.1238.

7,8-Dihydro-1,6-naphthyridine-6(5H)-carbonitrile (11ap)

Procedure A was followed using 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1,6-naphthyridine (26.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (50:50, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 14.9 mg (47%) of the product as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.48 (d,

$J = 4.8$ Hz, 1 H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (dd, $J = 4.8, 7.8$ Hz, 1 H), 4.44 (s, 2 H), 3.60 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.15 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.7, 148.6, 134.2, 126.7, 122.1, 117.6, 49.6, 47.1, 30.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3$: 160.0869; found: 160.0873.

Pyrrolidine-1-carbonitrile (12ap)

Procedure A was followed using pyrrolidine (14.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (60:40, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 11.7 mg (61%) of the product as a light brown oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.36 - 3.33 (m, 4 H), 1.88 - 1.85 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 117.9, 50.5, 25.7.

2-Phenylpyrrolidine-1-carbonitrile (13ap)

Procedure A was followed using 2-phenylpyrrolidine (29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (70:30, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 27.9 mg (82%) of the product as a orange oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.36 - 7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.29 - 7.26 (m, 3 H), 4.62 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1 H), 3.69 - 3.63 (m, 1 H), 3.56 - 3.50 (m, 1 H), 2.32 - 2.24 (m, 1 H), 2.02 - 1.90 (m, 2 H), 1.86 - 1.77 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.7, 128.7, 128.1, 126.3, 116.9, 65.8, 51.4, 35.5, 24.7.

2-(Pyridin-3-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carbonitrile (14ap)

Procedure A was followed using 3-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)pyridine (29.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc) to afford 31.4 mg (91%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.57 (s, 2 H), 7.66 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.35 - 7.31 (m, 1 H), 4.69 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1 H), 3.77 - 3.69 (m, 1 H), 3.65 - 3.57 (m, 1 H), 2.39 (dq, $J = 8.4, 16.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.10 - 2.01 (m, 2 H), 1.93 - 1.81 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.5, 148.1, 135.2, 133.8, 123.6, 116.3, 63.5, 51.4, 35.3, 24.7.

Piperidine-1-carbonitrile (15ap)

Procedure A was followed using piperidine (17.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (70:30, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 14.1 mg (64%) of the product as a colorless liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.15 - 3.12 (m, 4 H), 1.63 - 1.58 (m, 4 H), 1.59 - 1.51 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 118.6, 50.2, 24.6, 23.0.

4-Methylpiperidine-1-carbonitrile (16ap)

Procedure A was followed using 4-methylpiperidine (19.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL , 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column

chromatography on silica gel (60:40, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 17.0 mg (69%) of the product as a colorless liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.32 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 2 H), 2.93 (td, J = 2.8, 12.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.59 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.49 - 1.36 (m, 1 H), 1.24 (qd, J = 4.4, 12.4 Hz, 2 H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 118.5, 49.6, 32.7, 29.6, 21.7.

1,4-Dioxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]decane-8-carbonitrile (17ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1,4-dioxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]decane (28.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 24.7 mg (74%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.92 (s, 4 H), 3.30 - 3.27 (m, 4 H), 1.76 - 1.73 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 118.0, 105.4, 64.6, 48.0, 34.1.

Ethyl 1-cyanopiperidine-4-carboxylate (18ap)

Procedure A was followed using ethyl piperidine-4-carboxylate (31.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 36.0 mg (99%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.43 - 3.37 (m, 2 H), 3.07 - 3.01 (m, 2 H), 2.43 - 2.36 (m, 2 H), 1.97 - 1.90 (m, 2 H), 1.84 - 1.75 (m, 2 H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.5, 118.0, 60.9, 48.7, 39.5, 26.8, 14.2.

4-Phenylpiperidine-1-carbonitrile (19ap)

Procedure A was followed using 4-phenylpiperidine (32.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 34.2 mg (92%) of the product as a off-white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 - 7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.24 - 7.17 (m, 3 H), 3.53 - 3.48 (m, 2 H), 3.16 - 3.09 (m, 2 H), 2.62 - 2.55 (m, 1 H), 1.85 - 1.80 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.6, 128.7, 126.8, 126.6, 50.1, 41.3, 32.0.

4-Benzylpiperidine-1-carbonitrile (20ap)

Procedure A was followed using 4-benzylpiperidine (35.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 31.6 mg (79%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.19 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.37 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.97 - 2.88 (m, 2 H), 2.54 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 1.67 - 1.54 (m, 3 H), 1.41 - 1.25 (m, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.3, 129.0, 128.4, 126.2, 118.5, 49.7, 42.8, 36.8, 30.7.

Morpholine-4-carbonitrile (21ap)

Procedure A was followed using morpholine (17.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (60:40, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 13.5 mg (60%) of the product as a light brown oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.71 - 3.68 (m, 4 H), 3.21 - 3.19 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 117.2, 65.6, 48.8.

Thiomorpholine-4-carbonitrile (22ap)

Procedure A was followed using thiomorpholine (20.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 19.8 mg (77%) of the product as a off-white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.45 - 3.43 (m, 4 H), 2.69 - 2.67 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 117.4, 50.9, 26.2.

1-(Pyridin-4-yl)piperazine-1-carbonitrile (23ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1-(pyridin-4-yl)piperazine (32.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (20:10:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc: triethylamine) to afford 30.5 mg (81%) of the product as a yellowish solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁷ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.26 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.62 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.40 - 3.30 (m, 8 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.4, 150.5, 117.0, 109.0, 48.4, 45.4.

***N,N*-diallylcyanamide (24ap)**

Procedure A was followed using diallylamine (19.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 17.1 mg (81%) of the product as a colorless liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 5.89 - 5.78 (m, 2 H), 5.34 - 5.29 (m, 4 H), 3.63 - 3.60 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 131.0, 120.7, 117.7, 53.5.

Benzylmethylcyanamide (25ap)

Procedure A was followed using *N*-methylbenzylamine (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 21.2 mg (72%) of the product as a colorless liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.40 - 7.31 (m, 5 H), 4.15 (s, 2 H), 2.77 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 134.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 118.9, 57.2, 37.9.

***N*-methyl-*N*-phenethylcyanamide (26ap)**

Procedure A was followed using *N*-methyl-phenethylamine (27.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 27.9 mg (87%) of the product as a colorless liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 - 7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.25 - 7.20 (m, 3 H), 3.21 - 3.17 (m, 2 H), 2.94 - 2.90 (m, 2 H), 2.78 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.4, 128.6, 126.8, 118.2, 54.2, 39.1, 33.8.

***N,N*-Dibutylcyanamide (27ap)**

Procedure A was followed using dibutylamine (25.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (80:20, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 19.7 mg (64%) of the product as a red oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.93 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4 H), 1.61 - 1.54 (m, 4 H), 1.33 (dq, *J* = 7.2, 15.2 Hz, 4 H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 117.9, 51.2, 29.7, 19.7, 13.6.

2-Cyano-1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (28ap)

Procedure A was followed using 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (23.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (20:10:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc:triethylamine) to afford 20.2 mg (72%) of the product as a yellow liquid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.94 (s, 12 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.3, 117.8, 40.1.

2-Phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (1np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (41.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 38.4 mg (82%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28 - 7.24 (m, 2 H), 7.21 - 7.11 (m, 4 H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.41 (s, 1 H), 3.69 - 3.63 (m, 1 H), 3.37 (ddd, *J* = 4.1, 10.7, 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.08 - 3.00 (m, 1 H), 2.85 (dt, *J* = 3.6, 16.3 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 134.6, 129.6, 129.4, 128.8, 127.1, 126.9, 121.9, 117.8, 117.6, 53.2, 44.2, 28.5.

2-(*p*-Tolyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (2np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(*p*-tolyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (44.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 38.8 mg (78%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 - 7.20 (m, 4 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 - 6.97 (m, 2 H), 5.44 (s, 1 H), 3.71 - 3.66 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (ddd, *J* = 4.1, 11.0, 12.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.18 - 3.10 (m, 1 H), 2.93 (dt, *J* = 3.4, 16.4 Hz, 1 H),

2.30 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.4, 134.6, 131.9, 130.2, 129.7, 129.5, 128.8, 127.2, 126.9, 118.4, 117.8, 54.2, 44.5, 28.7, 20.7.

2-(*o*-Tolyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (3np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(*o*-tolyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (44.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 31.2 mg (63%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 - 7.22 (m, 7 H), 7.14 - 7.10 (m, 1 H), 5.06 (s, 1 H), 3.61 (td, *J* = 3.9, 11.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.34 (ddt, *J* = 1.7, 6.2, 12.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.22 - 3.13 (m, 1 H), 2.91 (ddd, *J* = 1.8, 3.9, 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.0, 134.6, 133.4, 131.3, 130.1, 129.8, 128.7, 127.3, 127.1, 126.7, 125.5, 122.1, 117.7, 55.1, 46.1, 29.1, 17.7.

2-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (4np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (47.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 44.6 mg (85%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹⁰ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39 - 7.33 (m, 1 H), 7.31 - 7.26 (m, 4 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 2 H), 5.10 (s, 1 H), 3.65 (td, *J* = 3.9, 11.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (ddt, *J* = 1.7, 6.2, 12.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.27 - 3.19 (m, 1 H), 2.96 (ddd, *J* = 1.8, 3.9, 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.5, 134.9, 134.5, 133.2, 131.9, 130.1, 129.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.0, 126.5, 121.8, 117.8, 55.2, 46.1, 29.1, 20.9, 17.5.

2-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (5np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (53.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (99:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 43.2 mg (74%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 - 7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 5.50 (s, 1 H), 3.77 - 3.72 (m, 1 H), 3.46 (ddd, *J* = 4.0, 10.8, 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.19 - 3.10 (m, 1 H), 2.94 (dt, *J* = 3.4, 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.33 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.0, 144.8, 134.6, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 127.1, 126.8, 126.4, 117.9, 117.6, 53.6, 44.3, 34.2, 31.5, 28.6.

2-(4-(Benzyloxy)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (6np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (63.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 31.6 mg (46%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 - 7.29 (m, 4 H), 7.26 - 7.13 (m, 5 H), 7.00 - 6.97 (m, 2 H), 6.93 - 6.89 (m, 2 H), 5.28 (s, 1 H), 4.96 (s, 2 H), 3.53 - 3.47 (m, 1 H), 3.53 - 3.47 (m,

1 H), 3.11 - 3.02 (m, 1 H), 2.86 - 2.81 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.9, 142.8, 137.1, 134.4, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 127.2, 126.8, 120.9, 117.7, 115.9, 70.5, 55.4, 44.9, 28.7. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₁ON₂: 341.16484; found: 341.16394.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (7np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-bromophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (57.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 54.1 mg (78%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43 - 7.41 (m, 2 H), 7.29 - 7.20 (m, 4 H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 5.43 (s, 1 H), 3.71 - 3.66 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (td, *J* = 4.1, 11.6, 12.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.15 - 3.07 (m, 1 H), 2.94 (dt, *J* = 3.8, 16.3 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.5, 134.5, 132.5, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 127.1, 127.1, 119.1, 117.6, 114.4, 52.9, 44.3, 28.5.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (8np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (48.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 44.1 mg (82%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31 - 7.21 (m, 5 H), 7.23 - 7.21 (m, 1 H), 7.00 - 6.97 (m, 2 H), 5.44 (s, 1 H), 3.71 - 3.66 (m, 1 H), 3.47 - 3.40 (m, 1 H), 3.17 - 3.08 (m, 1 H), 2.95 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 16.3 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.1, 134.5, 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 127.1, 127.09, 127.07, 118.9, 117.6, 53.2, 44.4, 28.5.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (9np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (45.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 39.8 mg (79%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33 - 7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.24 - 7.22 (m, 2 H), 7.07 - 7.05 (m, 4 H), 5.40 (s, 1 H), 3.65 - 3.59 (m, 1 H), 3.48 - 3.41 (m, 1 H), 3.20 - 3.11 (m, 1 H), 2.97 - 2.91 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.8 (d, *J* = 241 Hz), 145.2, 134.4, 129.6, 129.5, 128.9, 127.2, 127.0, 120.6 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 117.5, 116.3 (d, *J* = 23 Hz), 54.9, 44.9, 28.7. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -120.7 - -120.8 (m).

2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (10np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (45.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μL, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 36.1 mg (71%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data

in accordance with previous report.¹² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26 - 7.16 (m, 4 H), 7.14 - 7.09 (m, 2 H), 7.07 - 7.02 (m, 2 H), 5.41 (s, 1 H), 3.53 - 3.42 (m, 2 H), 3.19 - 3.10 (m, 1 H), 2.88 - 2.82 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.1 (d, J = 245 Hz), 136.9, 136.8, 134.0, 129.6, 129.3, 128.7, 127.1, 126.8, 125.1 (t, J = 3.5 Hz), 121.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 117.5, 116.5 (d, J = 22 Hz), 53.9 (d, J = 5 Hz), 44.8, 28.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -122.5 - -122.6 (m).

2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (11np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (45.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 40.5 mg (80%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.22 - 7.10 (m, 5 H), 6.71 - 6.53 (m, 3 H), 5.38 (s, 1 H), 3.65 - 3.59 (m, 1 H), 3.37 - 3.30 (m, 1 H), 3.03 - 2.95 (m, 1 H), 2.87 - 2.81 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8 (d, J = 243 Hz), 149.8 (d, J = 9 Hz), 134.6, 130.8, 130.7, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 127.1 (d, J = 2 Hz), 117.7, 112.1 (t, J = 2 Hz), 107.9 (d, J = 18 Hz), 104.0 (d, J = 25 Hz), 52.1, 44.0, 28.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -111.1 - -111.2 (m).

2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (12np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (49.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 34.0 mg (63%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24 - 7.19 (m, 1 H), 7.17 - 7.08 (m, 4 H), 6.85 - 6.77 (m, 2 H), 5.28 (s, 1 H), 3.46 - 3.34 (m, 2 H), 3.15 - 3.06 (m, 1 H), 2.85 - 2.79 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.5 (dd, J = 12 Hz), 156.3 (dd, J = 12 Hz), 133.9, 133.4 (dd, J = 3 Hz), 129.1, 128.4 (d, J = 251 Hz), 127.8 (d, J = 200 Hz), 122.7 (dd, J = 6 Hz), 117.4, 111.7 (dd, J = 4 Hz), 105.1 (dd, J = 24 Hz), 54.3 (d, J = 5 Hz), 45.1, 28.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -114.9 - -115.0 (m), -118.1 - -118.2 (m). HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃F₂N₂: 271.10413; found: 271.10349.

2-(2-Fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile(13np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(2-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (48.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 34 mg (64%) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32 - 7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.14 - 7.09 (m, 1 H), 6.99 - 6.92 (m, 2 H), 5.44 (s, 1 H), 3.53 - 3.50 (m, 2 H), 3.25 - 3.16 (m, 1 H), 2.93 - 2.88 (m, 1 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.2 (d, J = 245 Hz), 135.6 (d, J = 8 Hz), 134.3 (J = 10 Hz), 134.1, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 127.2, 126.8, 125.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 121.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 117.6, 117.1 (d, J = 20 Hz), 54.2 (d, J = 5 Hz), 44.9 (d, J = 1 Hz), 28.7, 20.8 (d, J = 2 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -128.4 (t, J = 10.9 Hz). HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆FN₂: 267.1292; found: 267.1304.

2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (14np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (55.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). With stirring, the reaction mixture was performed for 6 h instead of 3 h. The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 30.6 mg (51%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2 H), 7.37 - 7.25 (m, 4 H), 7.08 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2 H), 5.57 (s, 1 H), 3.88 - 3.82 (m, 1 H), 3.60 - 3.53 (m, 1 H), 3.20 - 3.12 (m, 1 H), 3.08 - 3.01 (m, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.5, 134.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0 (q, J = 3.5 Hz), 122.67 (q, J = 34 Hz), 117.6, 115.5, 51.4, 44.1, 28.5.

2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (15np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (51.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (99:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 42.0 mg (70%) of the product as a white solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹⁰ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 - 7.78 (m, 3 H), 7.51 - 7.46 (m, 1 H), 7.42 - 7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.36 - 7.25 (m, 5 H), 5.66 (s, 1 H), 3.95 - 3.90 (m, 1 H), 3.61 - 3.54 (m, 1 H), 3.25 - 3.17 (m, 1 H), 3.00 (dt, J = 3.4, 16.4 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.0, 134.6, 134.4, 129.6, 129.55, 129.52, 129.5, 128.9, 127.6, 127.23, 127.18, 127.0, 126.7, 124.5, 119.4, 117.8, 112.9, 53.3, 44.5, 28.6.

6,7-Dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (16np)

Procedure B was followed using 6,7-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (53.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (80:20, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 48.2 mg (82%) of the product as a slightly yellow solid. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 - 7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.76 (s, 1 H), 6.68 (s, 1 H), 5.46 (s, 1 H), 3.87 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 6 H), 3.80 - 3.74 (m, 1 H), 3.43 (td, J = 4.0, 11.8, 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.11 - 3.03 (m, 1 H), 2.84 (dt, J = 3.4, 16.1 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.4, 148.4, 148.1, 129.5, 126.9, 121.9, 121.1, 117.9, 117.7, 111.5, 109.4, 56.1, 56.0, 53.0, 44.2, 28.1.

2-Methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (17np)

Procedure B was followed using 2-Methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (29.5 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 13.4 mg (39 %) of the product as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 - 7.14 (m, 4 H), 4.72 (s, 1 H), 3.09 - 3.00 (m, 1 H), 2.91 - 2.87 (m, 1 H), 2.83 - 2.76 (m, 2 H), 2.59 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.9, 129.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.2,

126.6, 116.6, 56.9, 48.4, 43.8, 28.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{11}H_{12}N_2$: 173.10732; found: 173.10686.

2-Allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (18np)

Procedure B was followed using 1-Allyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (95:5, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 16 mg (40 %) of the product as a colorless oil. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.27 - 7.22 (m, 1 H), 7.20 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.91 - 5.81 (m, 1 H), 5.42 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.29 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1 H), 4.83 (s, 1 H), 3.35 (qd, $J = 13.2, 5.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.07 - 3.01 (m, 2 H), 2.83 - 2.76 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 134.4, 133.6, 129.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.4, 126.6, 119.9, 116.60, 58.8, 54.5, 46.6, 28.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd. for $C_{13}H_{14}N_2$: 199.1235; found: 199.1230.

1-Phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-2-carbonitrile (19np)

Procedure B was followed using 1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (41.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (99:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 10.7 mg (23%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹³ 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.49 - 7.45 (m, 2 H), 7.37 - 7.34 (m, 2 H), 7.33 - 7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.97 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (td, $J = 8$ Hz, 1 H), 6.52 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 1 H), 4.68 - 4.66 (m, 1 H), 3.33 - 3.24 (m, 1 H), 2.94 (dt, $J = 16$ Hz, 1 H), 2.40 - 2.34 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 145.5, 142.1, 130.3, 129.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.7, 121.7, 119.7, 119.1, 115.6, 52.0, 25.7, 24.4.

1-Phenylpyrrolidine-2-carbonitrile (20np)

Procedure B was followed using 1-phenylpyrrolidine (29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 18.8 mg (55%) of the product as a brown oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 2 H), 6.86 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2 H), 4.45 - 4.43 (m, 1 H), 3.49 - 3.34 (m, 2 H), 2.45 - 2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.32 - 2.28 (m, 1 H), 2.27 - 2.15 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 145.3, 129.5, 119.4, 118.3, 112.8, 49.1, 47.5, 31.6, 24.0.

1-Phenylpiperidine-2-carbonitrile (21np)

Procedure B was followed using 1-phenylpiperidine (32.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (99:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 23.9 mg (64%) of the product as a brown oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.34 - 7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.02 - 6.98 (m, 3 H), 4.63 (t, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1 H), 3.45 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1 H), 3.04 (td, $J = 2.6, 11.8$ Hz, 1 H), 2.04 - 2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.87 - 1.85 (m, 2 H), 1.74 - 1.67 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 149.8, 129.4, 122.2, 118.4, 117.3, 52.1, 46.7, 29.3, 25.2, 20.3.

4-Methyl-1-phenylpiperidine-2-carbonitrile (22np)

Procedure B was followed using 4-methyl-1-phenylpiperidine (35.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 16.4 mg (41%) of the product as a yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.33 - 7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.02 - 6.97 (m, 3 H), 4.66 - 4.64 (m, 1 H), 3.50 - 3.45 (m, 1 H), 3.07 (td, $J = 4, 12$ Hz, 1 H), 2.05 - 2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.91 - 1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.71 - 1.63 (m, 1 H), 1.43 - 1.32 (m, 1 H), 1.04 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.5, 129.5, 122.2, 118.4, 117.5, 52.0, 46.4, 37.2, 33.8, 27.1, 21.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$: 201.1386; found: 201.1399.

2-(Methyl(phenyl)amino)acetonitrile (23np)

Procedure B was followed using *N,N*-dimethylaniline (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 15.5 mg (53%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.⁸ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.32 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2 H), 6.93 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 4.18 (s, 2 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 147.9, 129.6, 120.4, 115.6, 115.0, 42.5, 39.4.

2-(Methyl(*p*-tolyl)amino)acetonitrile (24np)

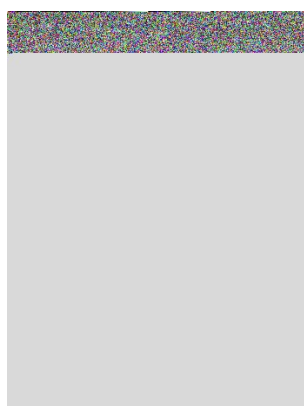
Procedure B was followed using *N,N*-dimethyl-*p*-toluidine (27.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). With stirring, the reaction mixture was performed for 6 h instead of 3 h. The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 15.1 mg (47%) of the product as a yellow oil. Exhibited spectral data in accordance with previous report.¹¹ ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.14 - 7.10 (m, 2 H), 6.82 - 6.78 (m, 2 H), 4.14 (s, 2 H), 2.97 (s, 3 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 145.8, 130.1, 130.1, 115.6, 43.0, 39.6, 20.5.

3. Synthesis of cathepsin K inhibitor 29ap

Procedure A was followed using *tert*-butyl pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (34.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TMSCN (54 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (75:25, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 36.0 mg (92%) of the product **29ap** as a colorless liquid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.99 (q, $J = 4$ Hz, 1 H), 3.51 - 3.45 (m, 1 H), 3.41 - 3.35 (m, 1 H), 2.15 - 2.06 (m, 1 H), 1.99 - 1.91 (m, 1 H), 1.88 - 1.81 (m, 2 H), 1.39 (s, 9 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 117.1, 80.0, 55.8, 50.5, 48.6, 31.6, 28.3. HRMS (ESI-Orbitrap MS) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2\text{N}_2$: 197.12845; found: 197.12810.

4. Scale-up synthesis of 3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-2(1*H*)-carbonitrile (**1ap**)

1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisoquinoline (4 mmol), TMSCN (8 mmol, 2 equiv), TBAB (10 mmol, 2.5 equiv), KF (16 mmol, 4 equiv) and CH₃CN (200 mL) were combined and added into an oven-dried undivided three-necked bottle (500 mL) equipped with a stir bar. The bottle was equipped with glassy carbon (d = 5 mm) as the anode and platinum electrodes (1.0×1.0 cm²) as the cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed under room temperature at a constant current of 5 mA (The dual display potentiostat was operating in constant current mode) under aerobic conditions for 36 h. When the reaction was finished, the solution was filtered and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was removed with a rotary evaporator. The pure product was obtained by flash column chromatography on silica gel (9:1, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 0.484 g (76%) of the **1ap**.



Scale-up synthesis of 2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (**1np**)

2-Phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (4 mmol), TMSCN (8 mmol, 2 equiv), TBAB (10 mmol, 2.5 equiv), KF (16 mmol, 4 equiv) and CH₃CN (200 mL) were combined and added into an oven-dried undivided three-necked bottle (500 mL) equipped with a stir bar. The bottle was equipped with graphite felts (15×15×0.4 mm³) as the anode and platinum electrodes (1.0×1.0 cm²) as the cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed under room temperature at a constant current of 5 mA (The dual display potentiostat was operating in constant current mode) under N₂ atmosphere for 36 h. When the reaction was finished, the solution was filtered and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was removed with a rotary evaporator. The pure product was obtained by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2, petroleum ether: EtOAc) to afford 0.655 g (70%) of the **1np**.



5. General procedure for cyclic voltammetry (CV)

Cyclic voltammetry was performed in a three-electrode cell connected to a schlenk line under room temperature. Glassy carbon electrode was used as working electrode, and platinum wire was employed as counter electrode. Ag/AgCl reference electrode was submerged in saturated aqueous KCl solution and separated from reaction by a salt bridge. The mixture of acetonitrile (10 mL) containing 0.1 M LiClO₄ was poured into the electrochemical cell in all experiments. The scan rate was 100 mV/s ranging from 0 to 3.0 V.

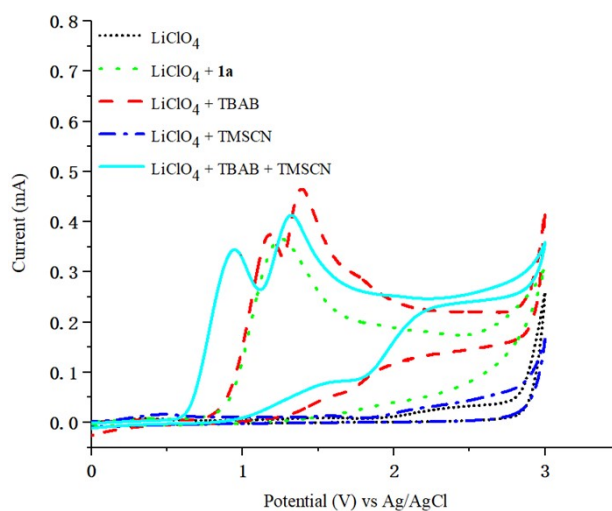


Figure 1. Cyclic voltammograms of reactants and the mixtures in 0.1 M LiClO₄/CH₃CN using a glassy carbon as working electrode, Pt wire as counter, Ag/AgCl as reference electrode, at 100 mV/s scan rate: background (LiClO₄ 0.1 M in MeCN); TBAB (0.03 M); tetrahydroisoquinoline **1a** (0.05 M); TMSCN (0.05 M); TBAB (0.03 M) + TMSCN (0.05 M).

6. Hydrogen detection experiment

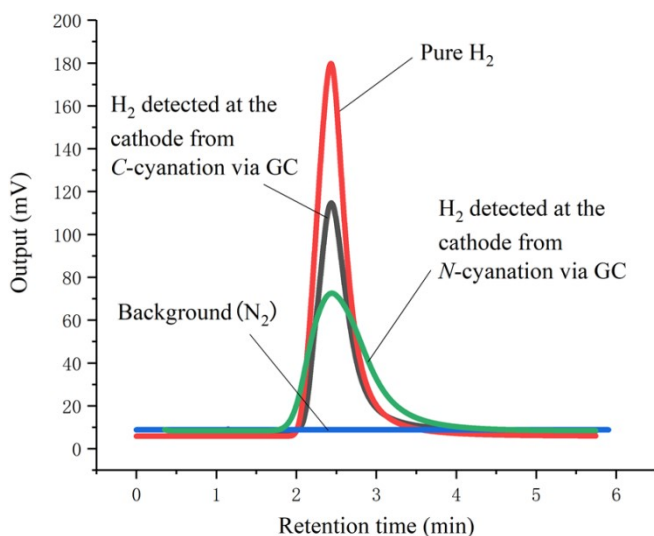
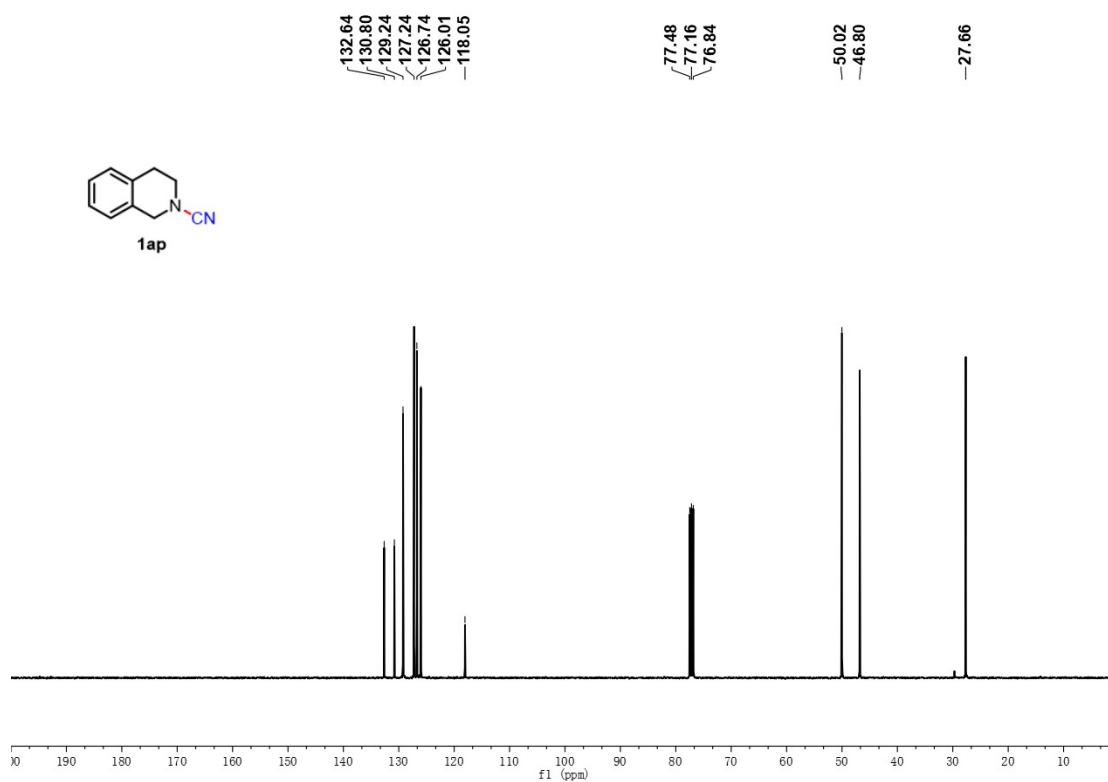
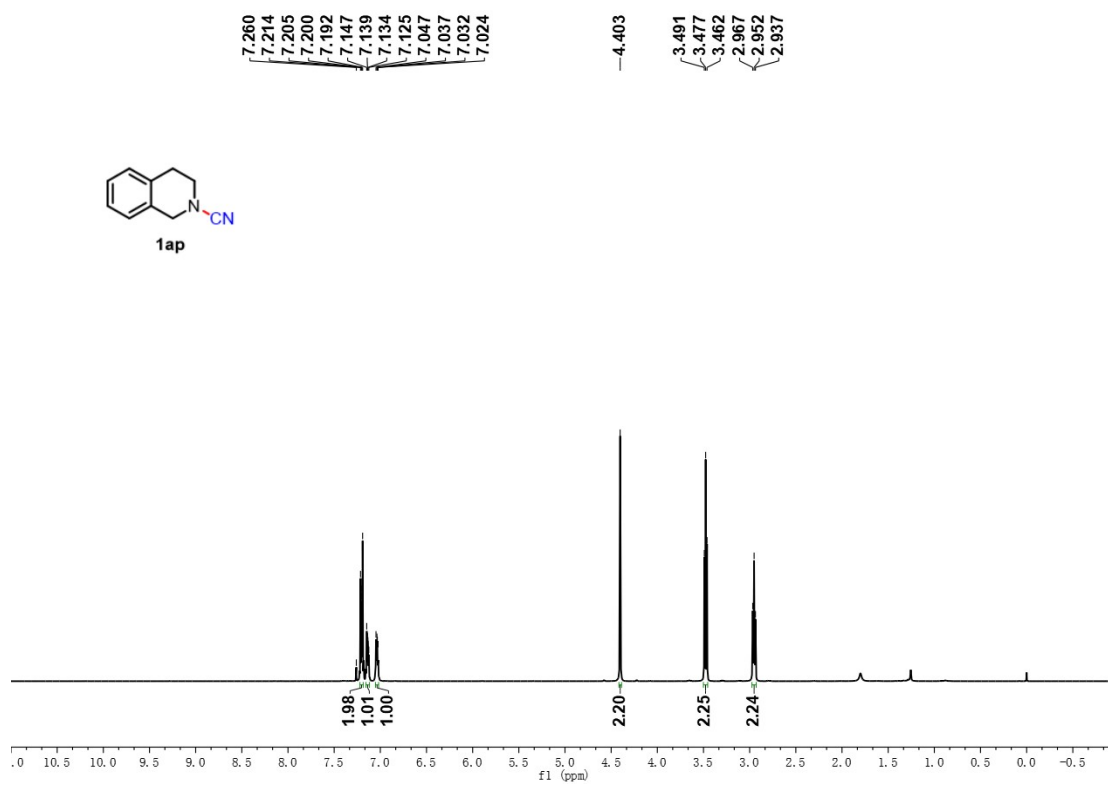


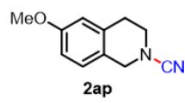
Figure 2. The observation of H₂ gas liberation on cathode was confirmed via GC (KeXiao GC1690) during electrolysis.

7. References

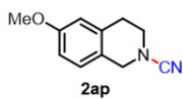
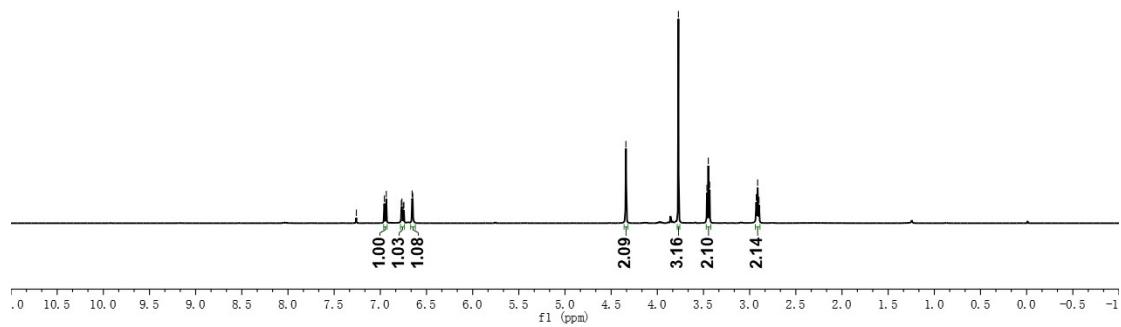
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8. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F spectra

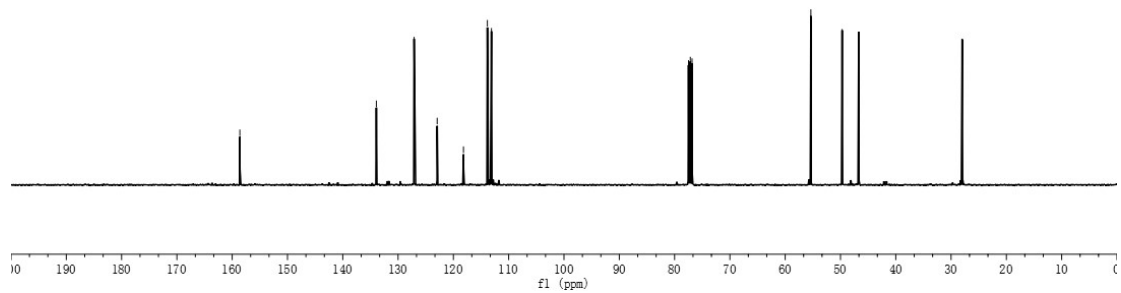


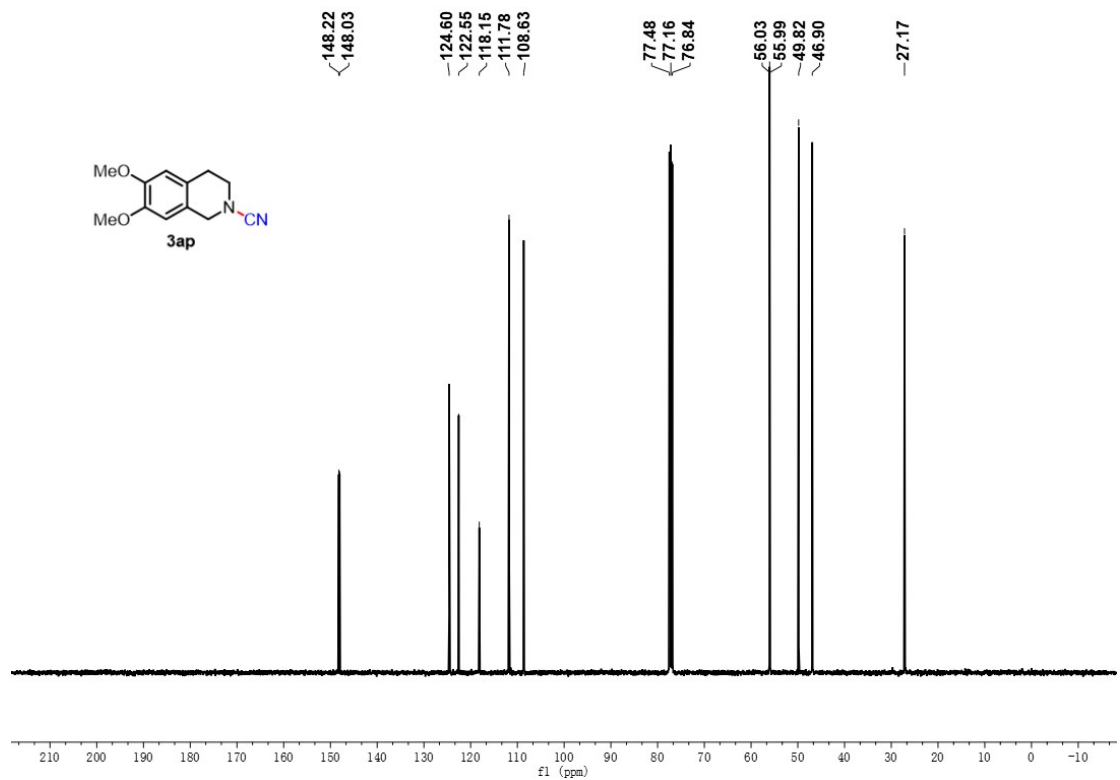
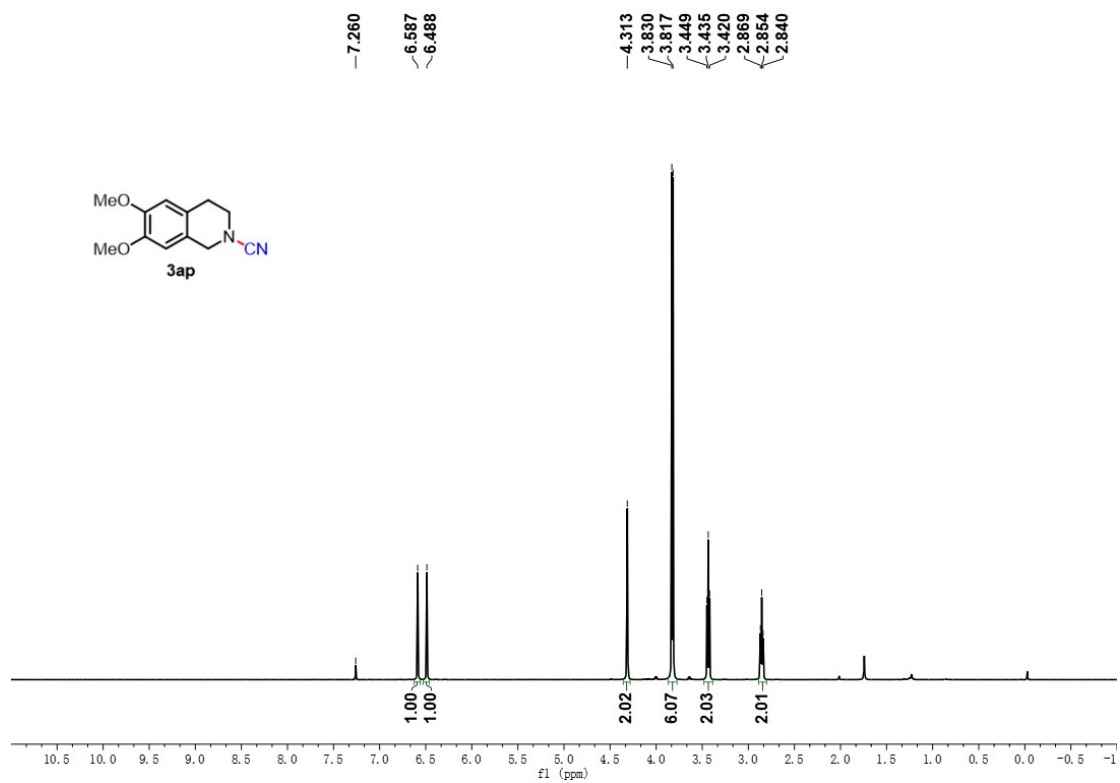


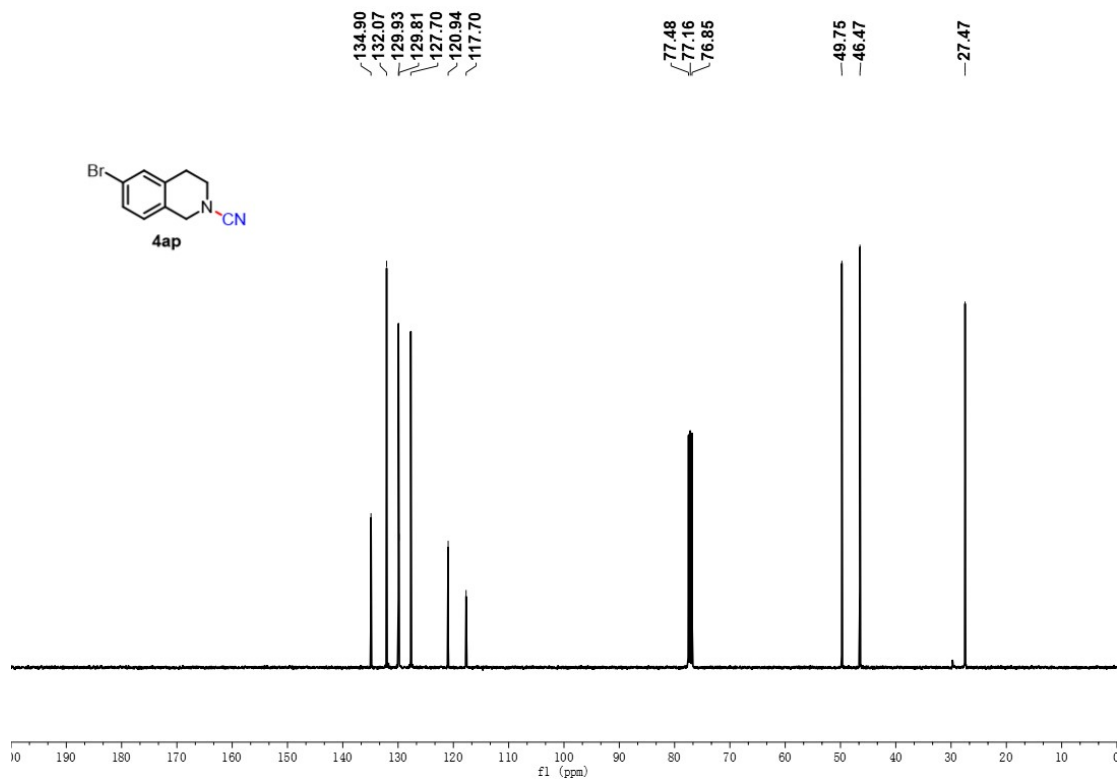
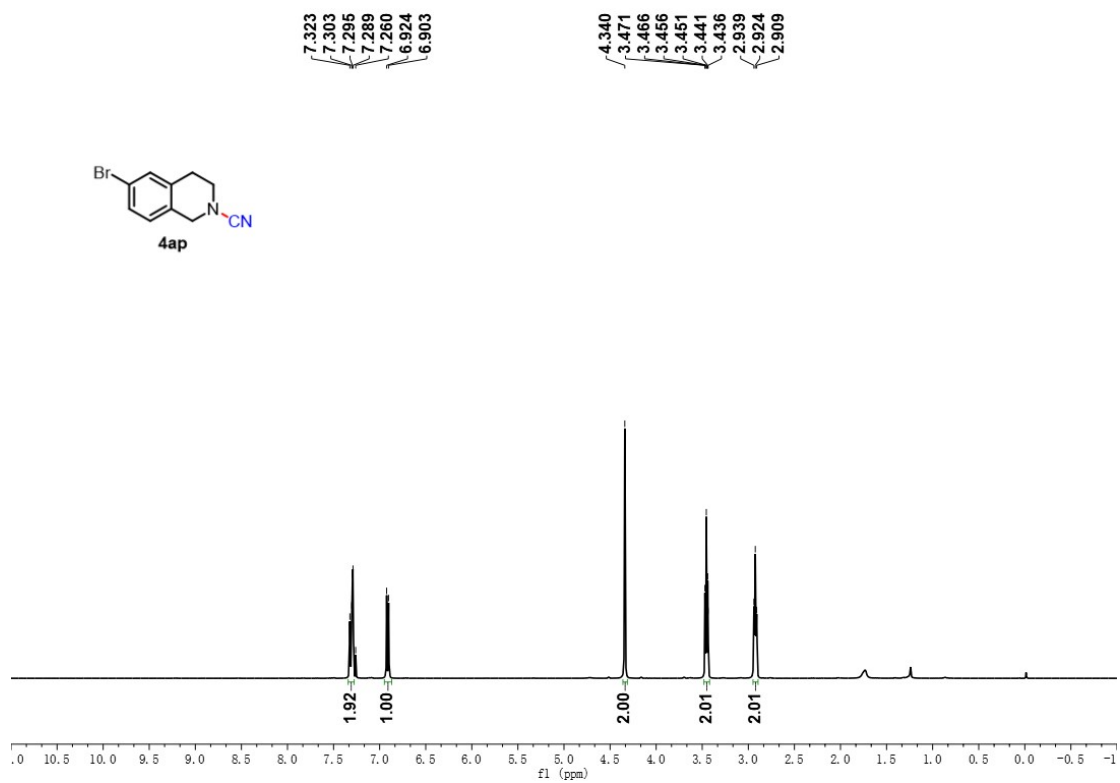
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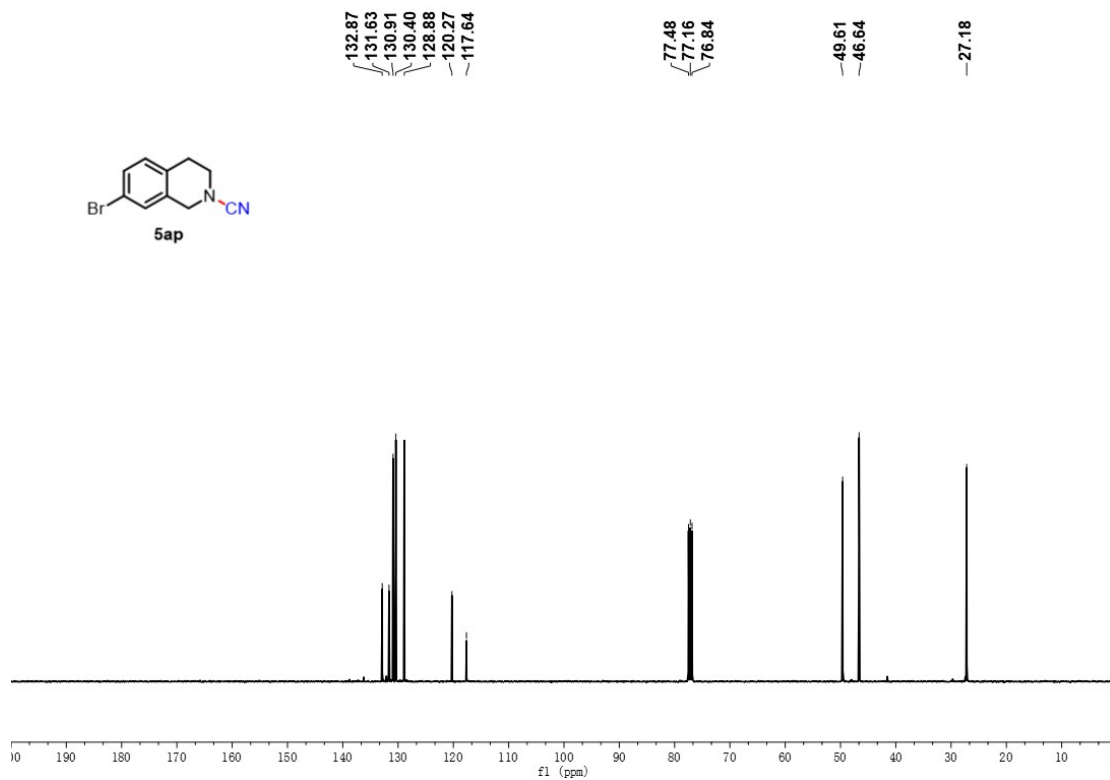
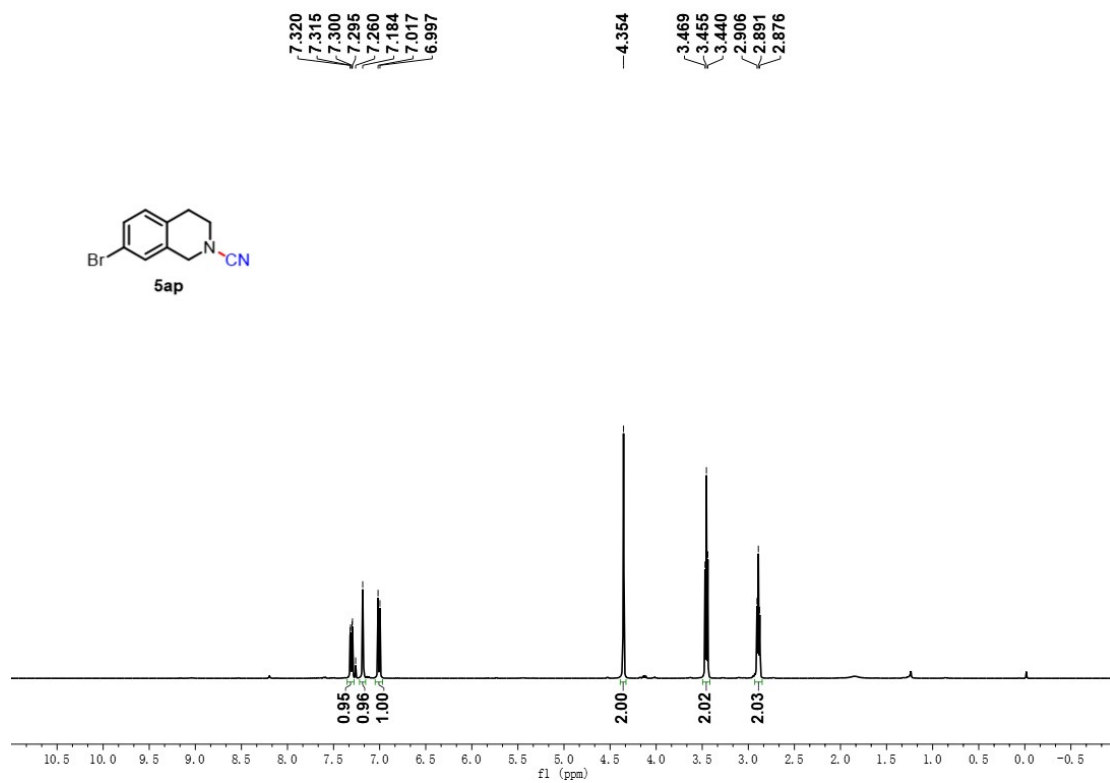


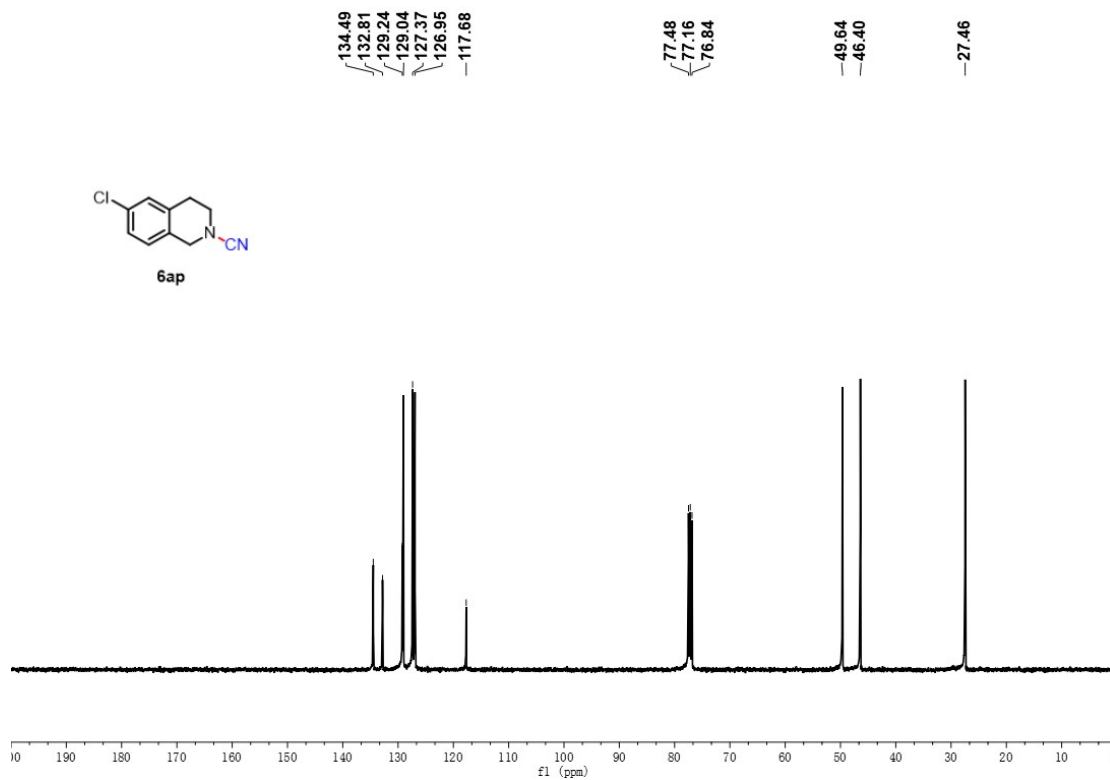
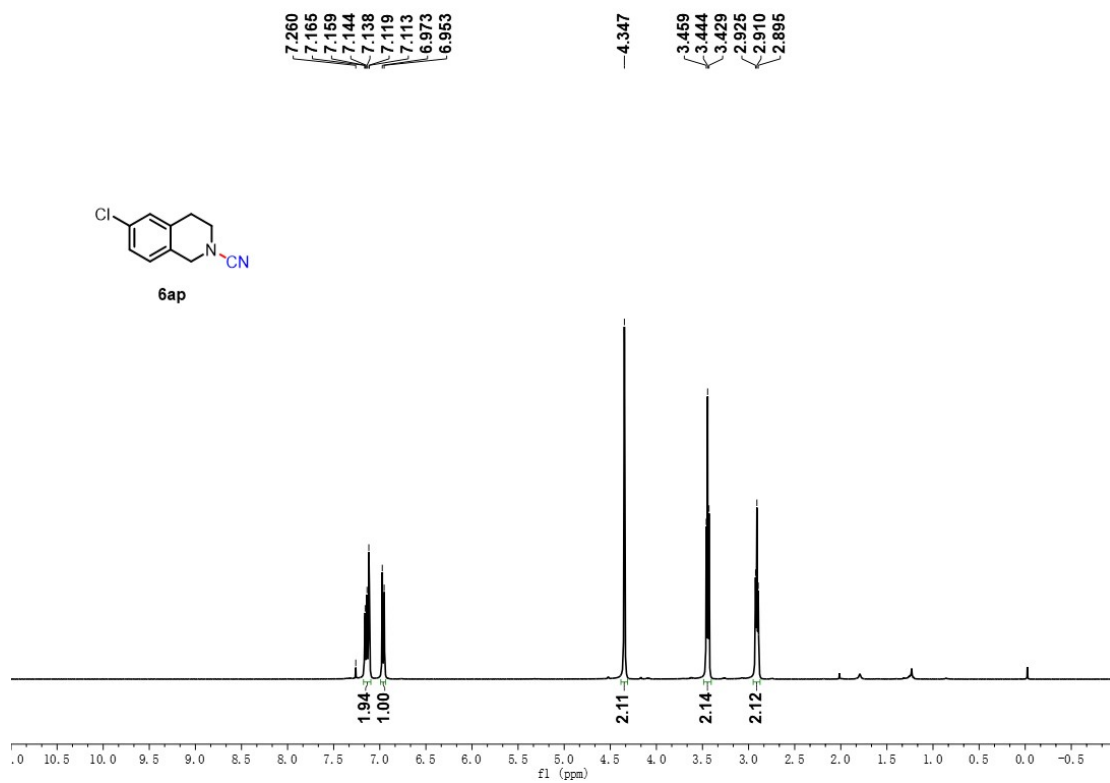
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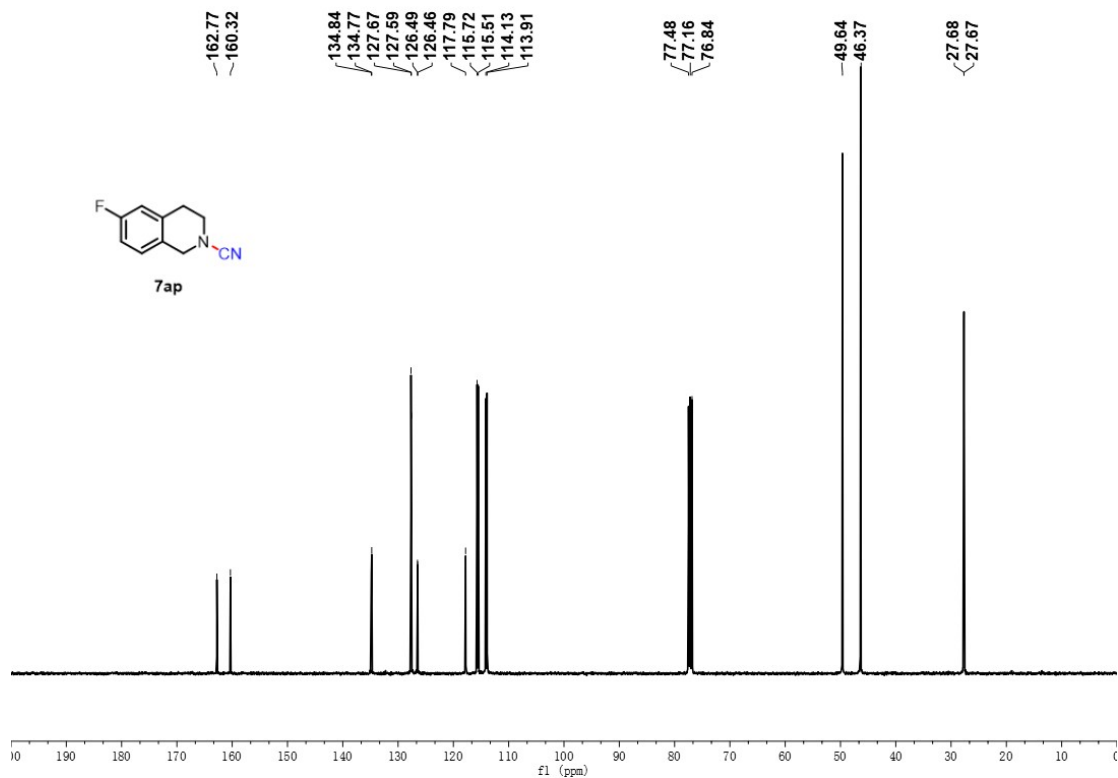
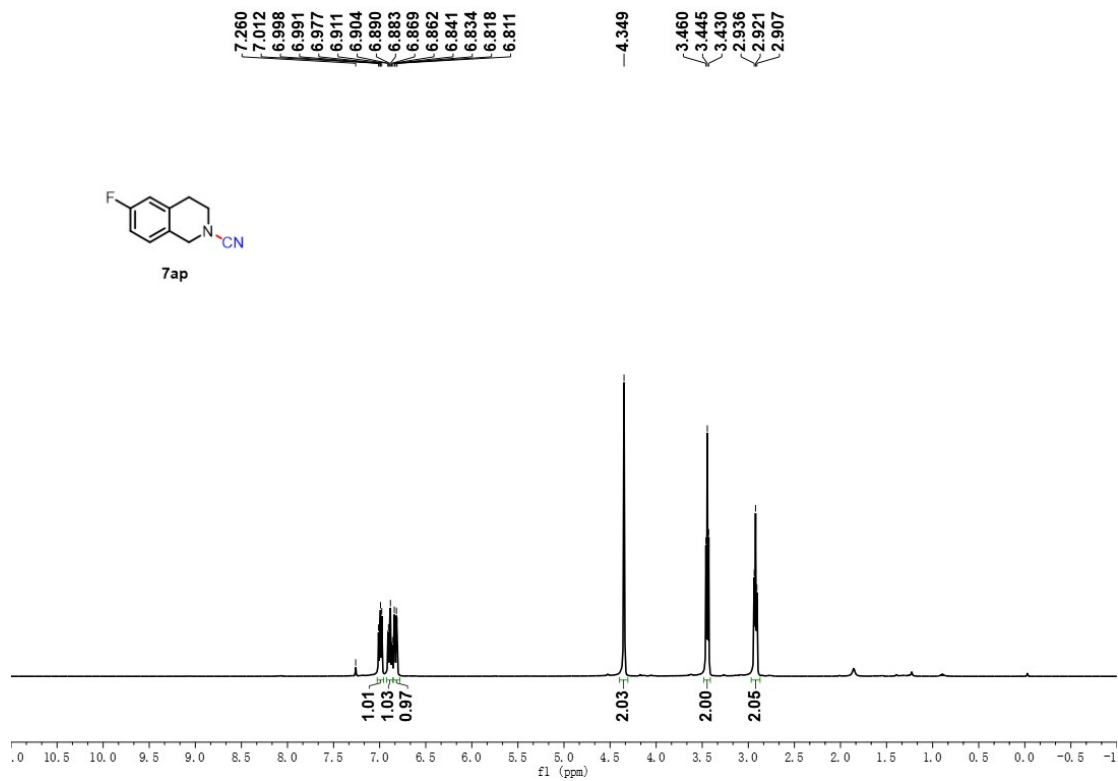
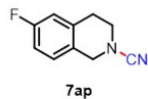


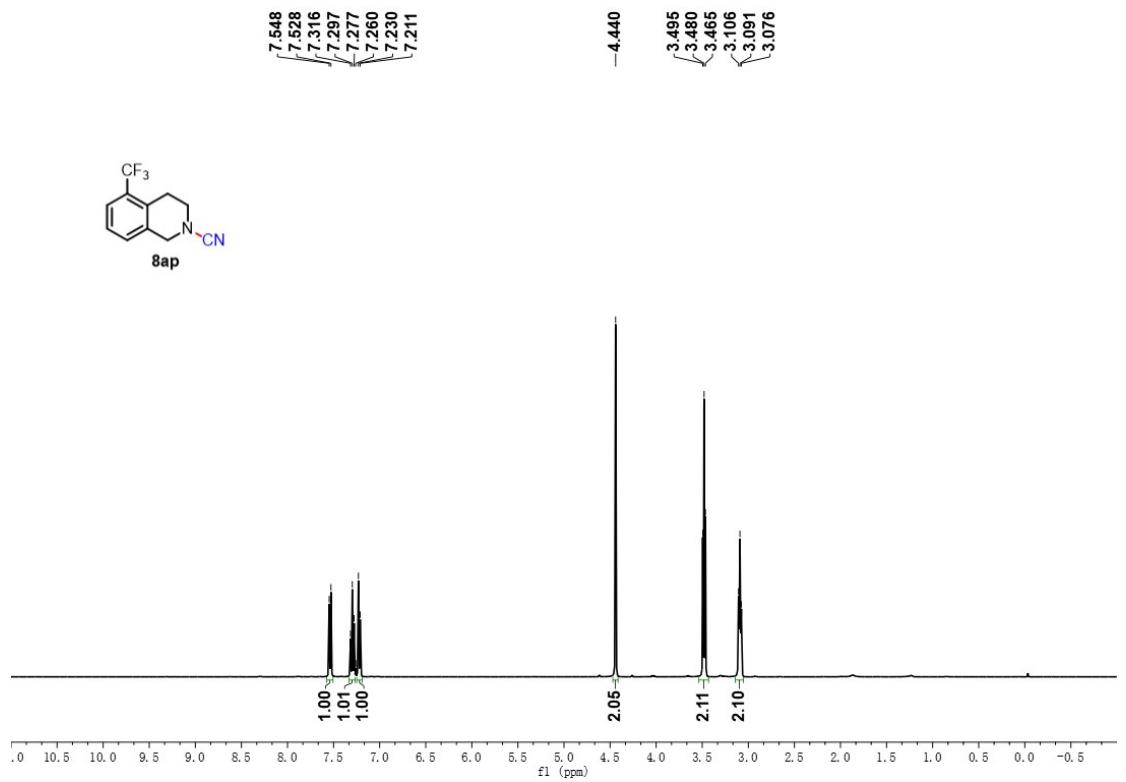
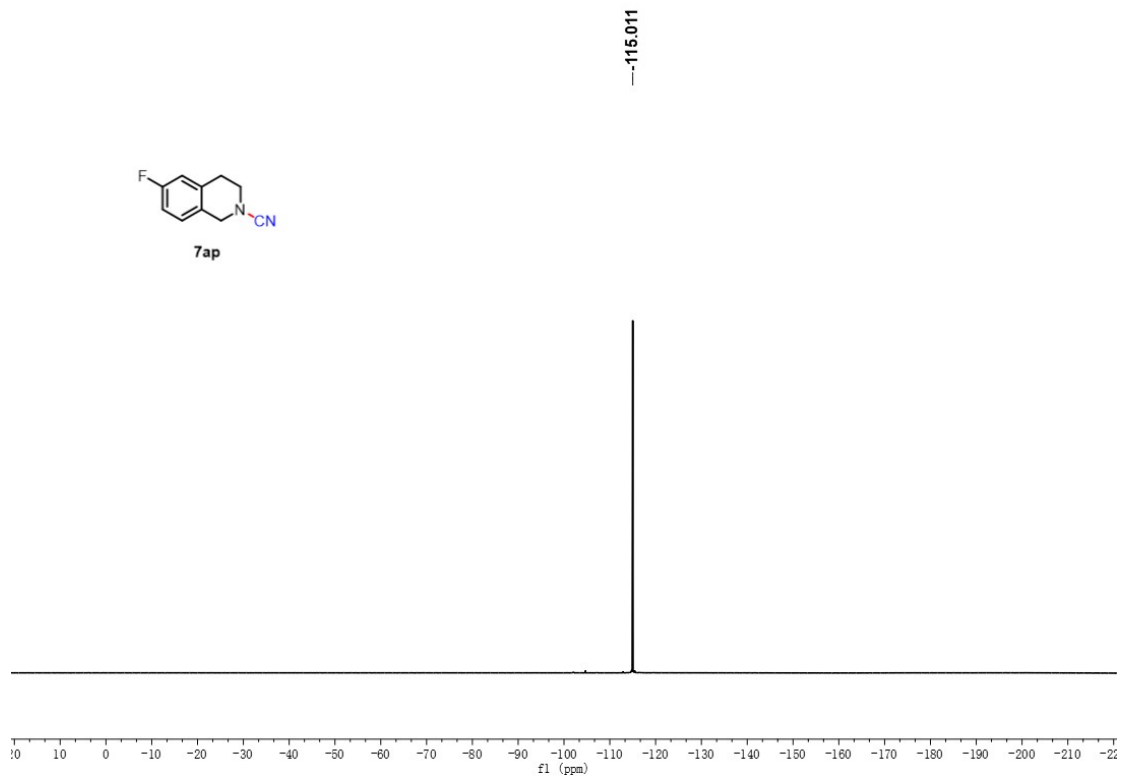


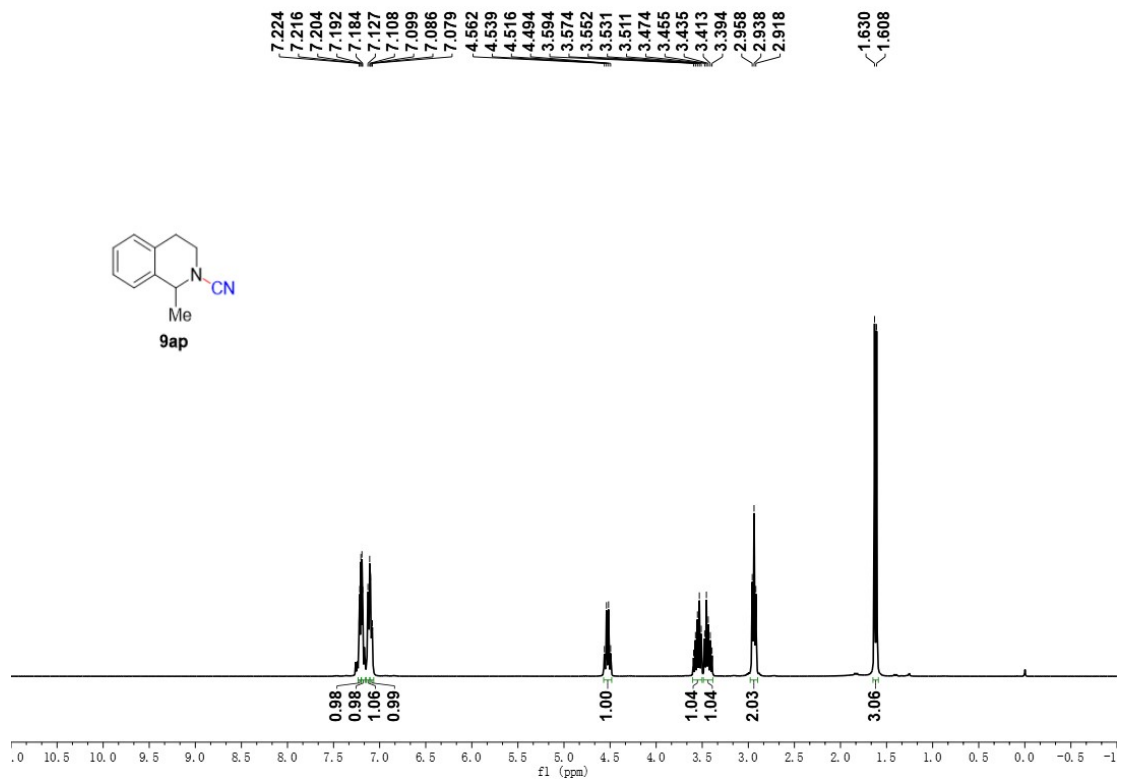
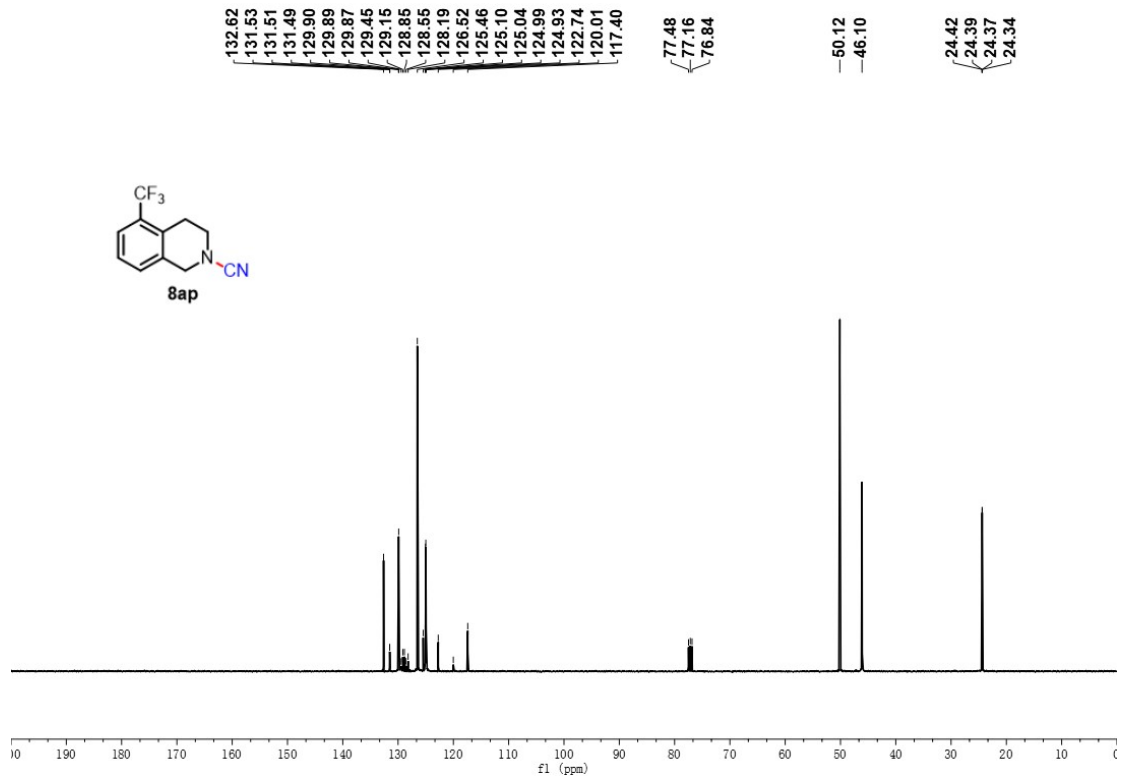


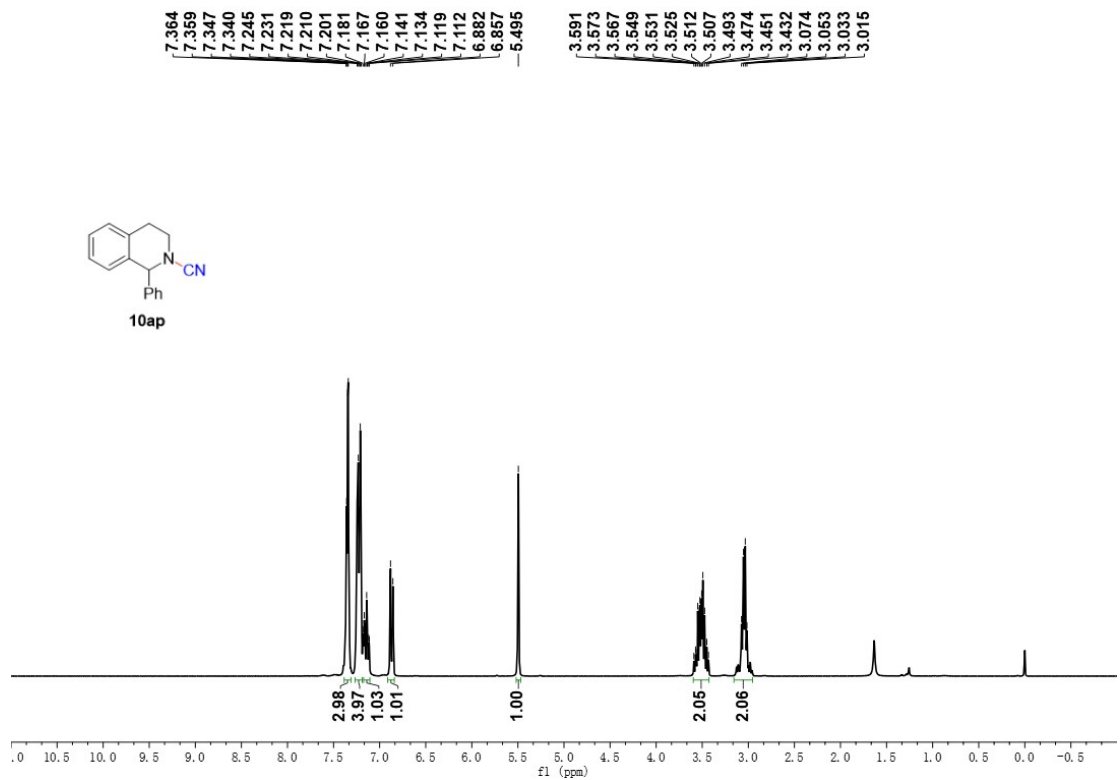
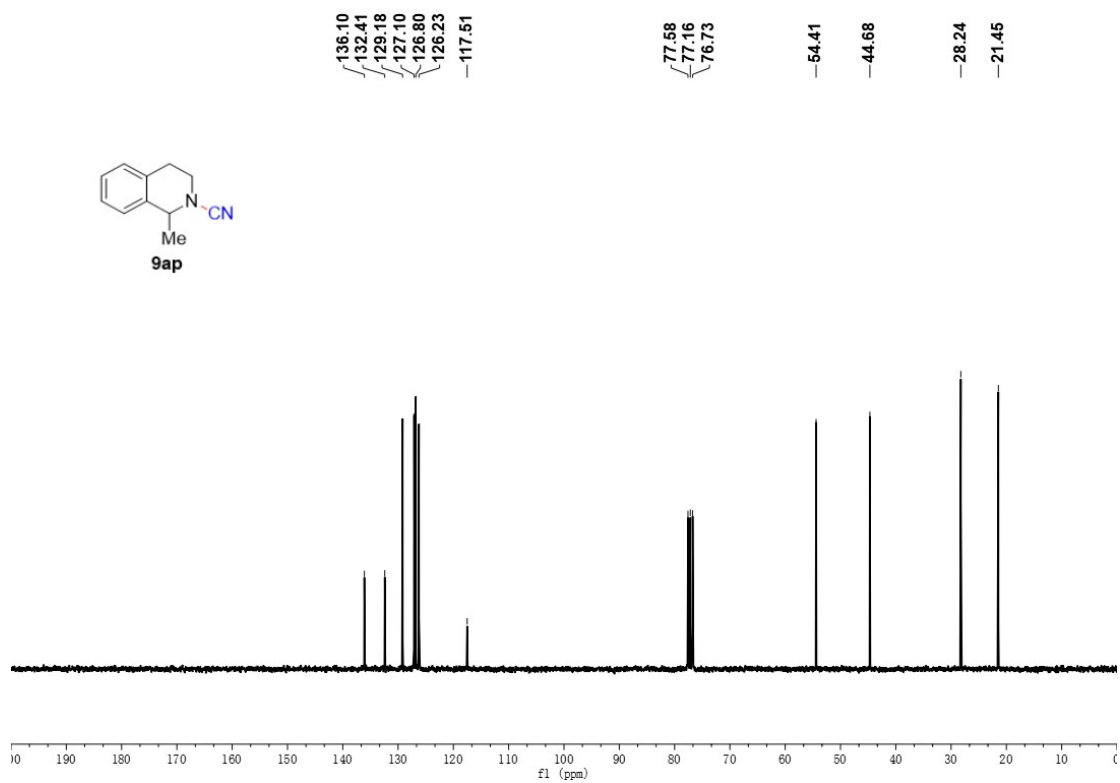


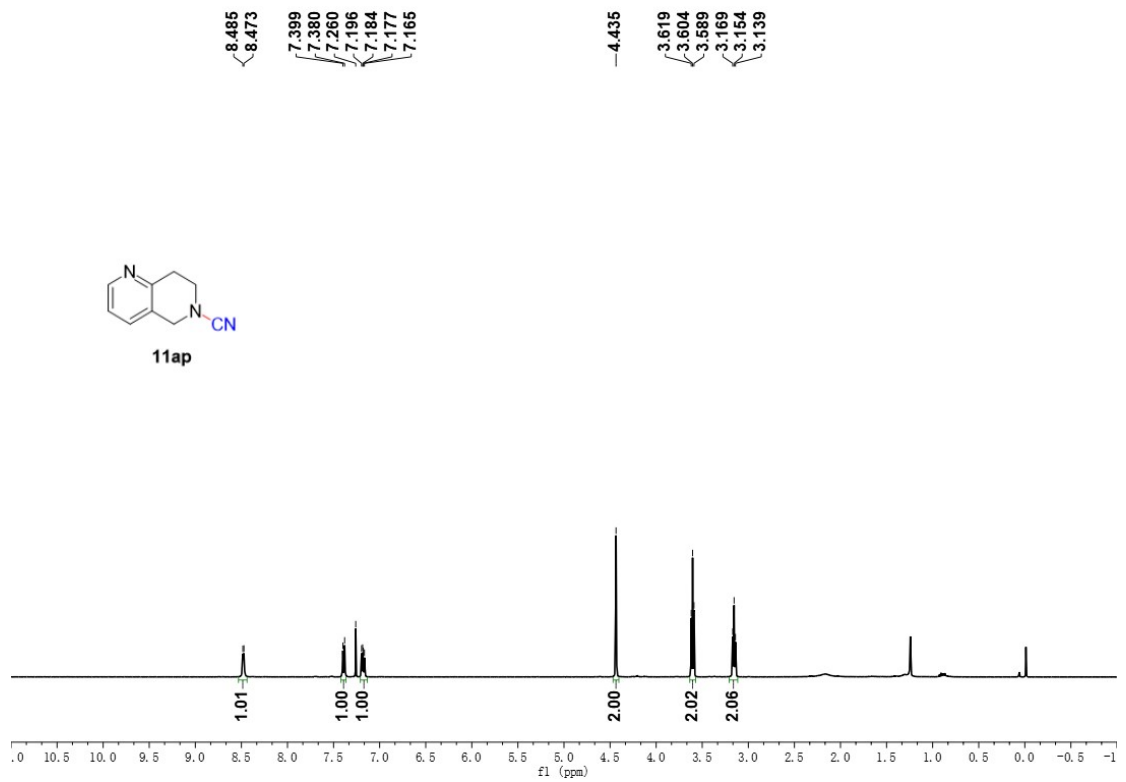
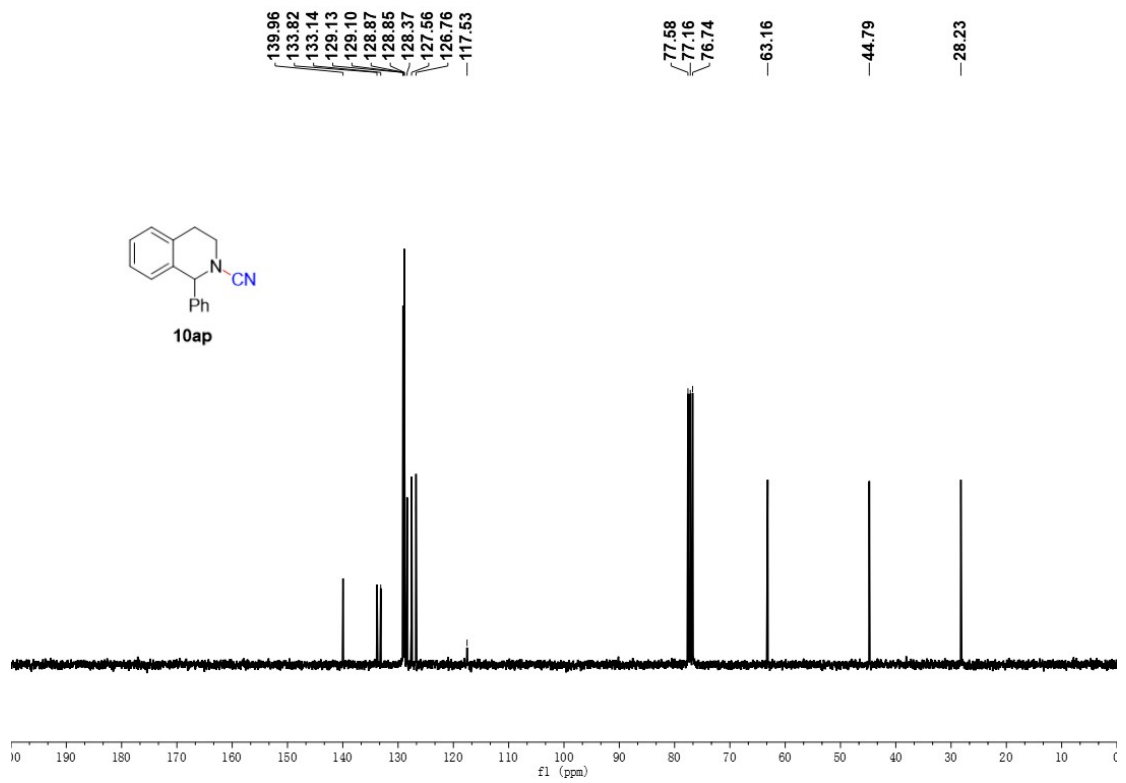


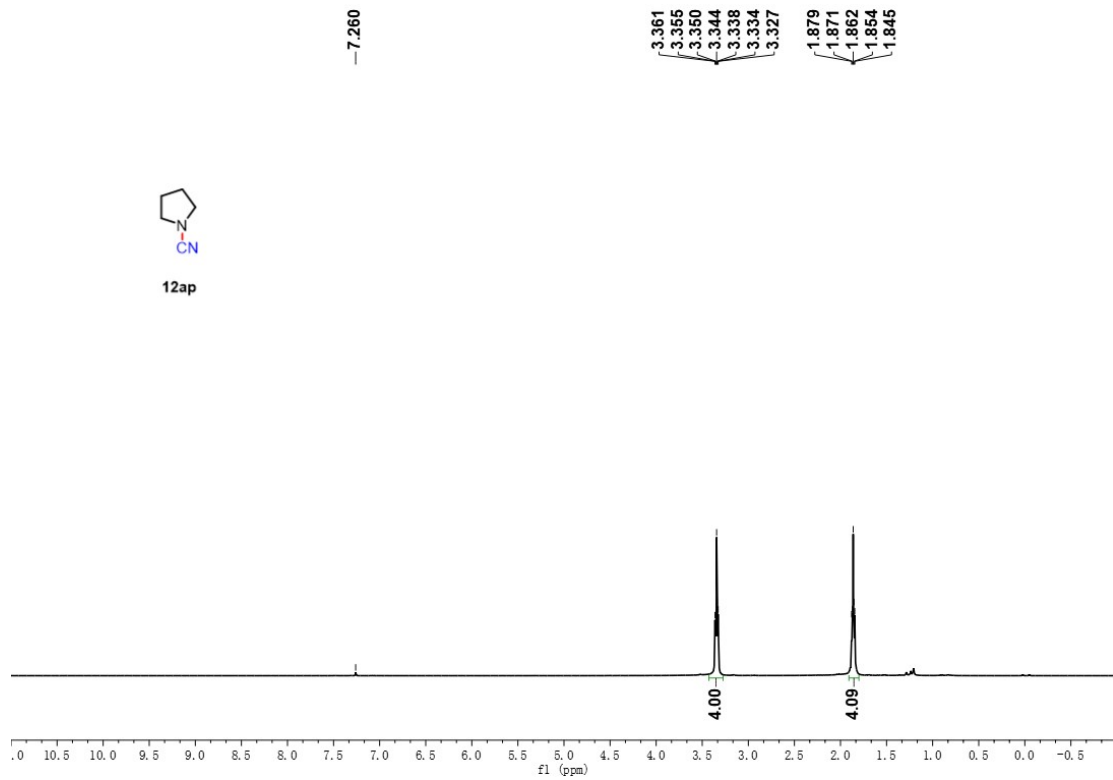
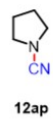
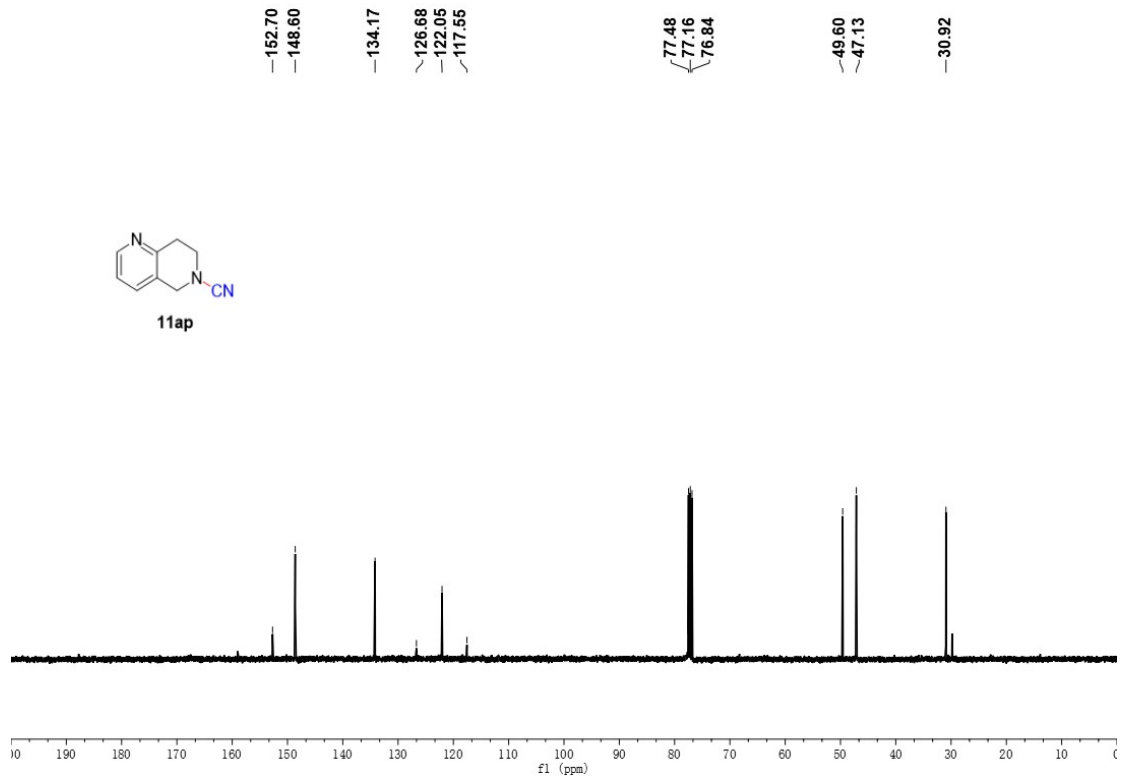
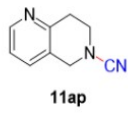


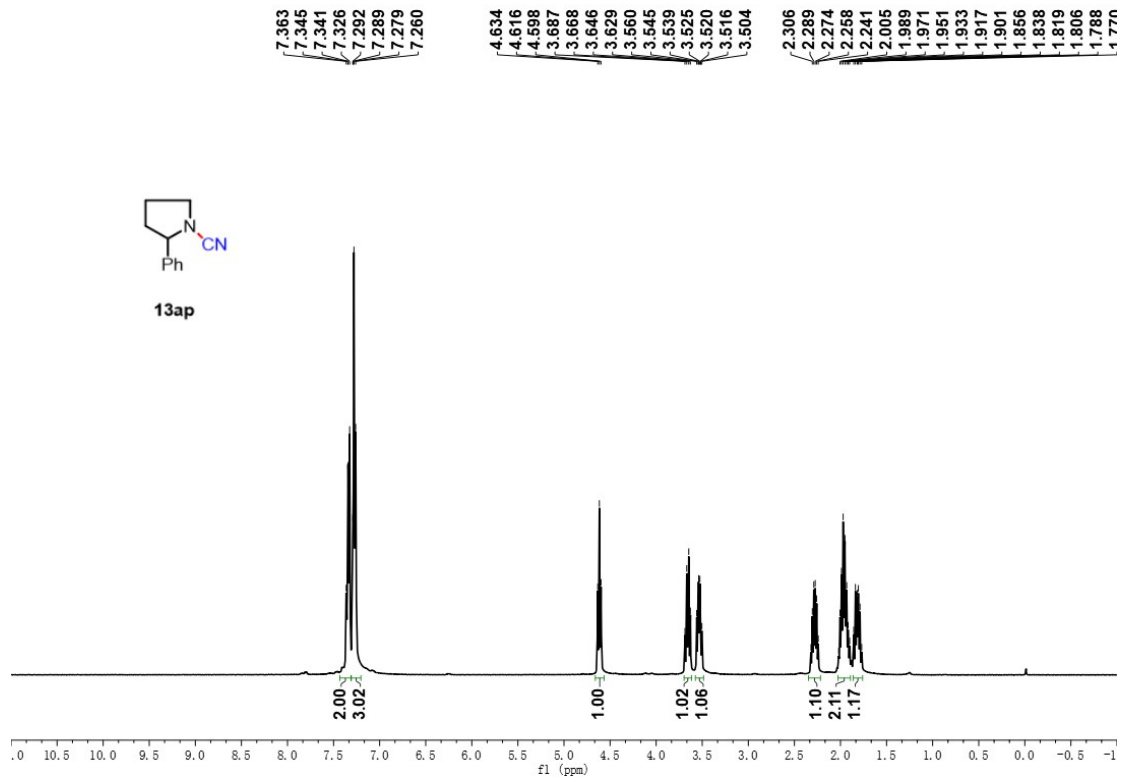
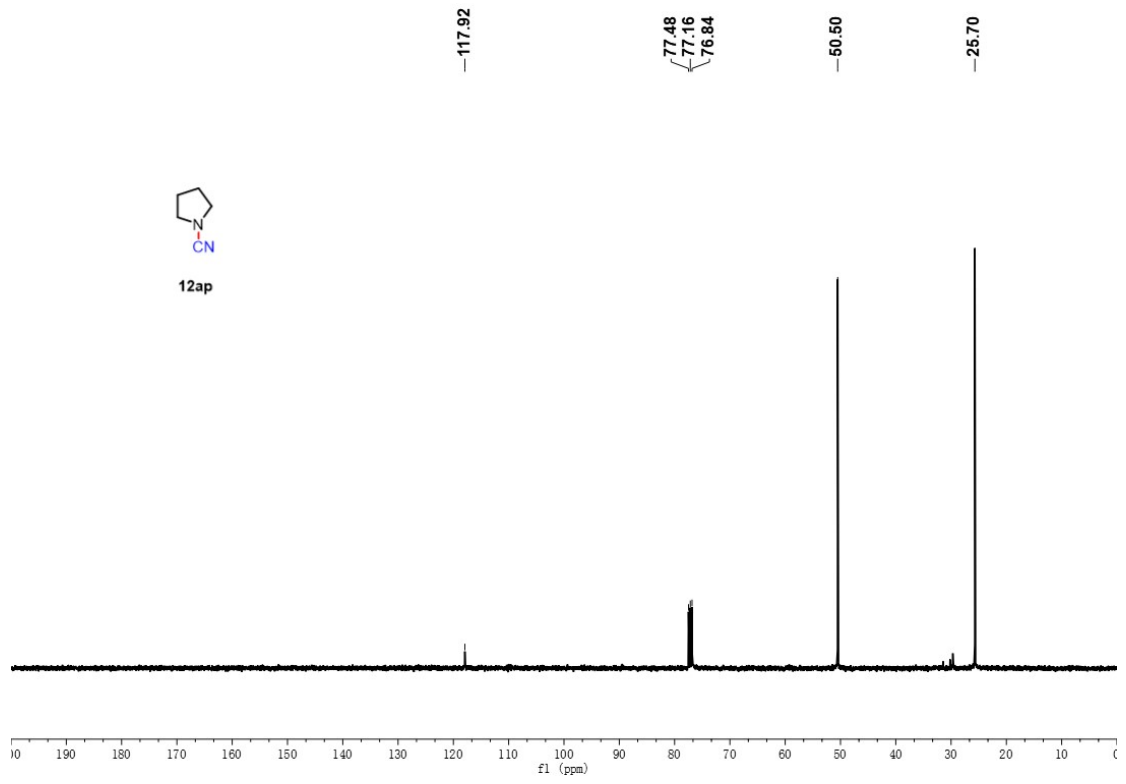


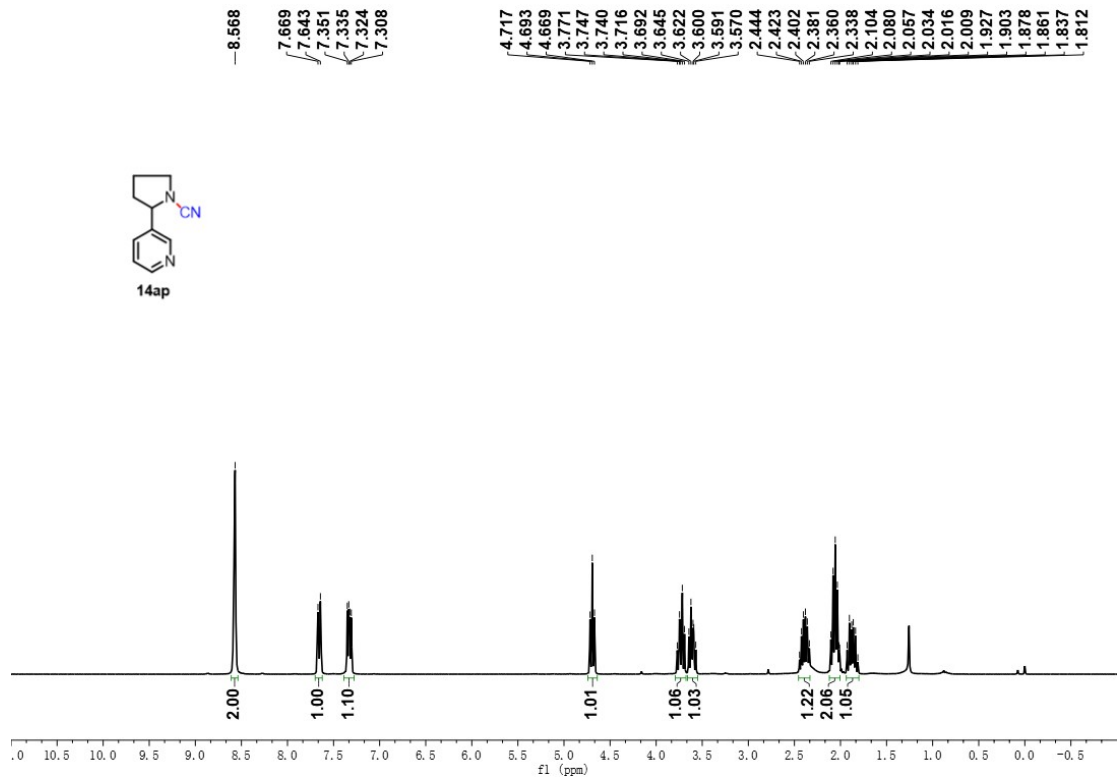
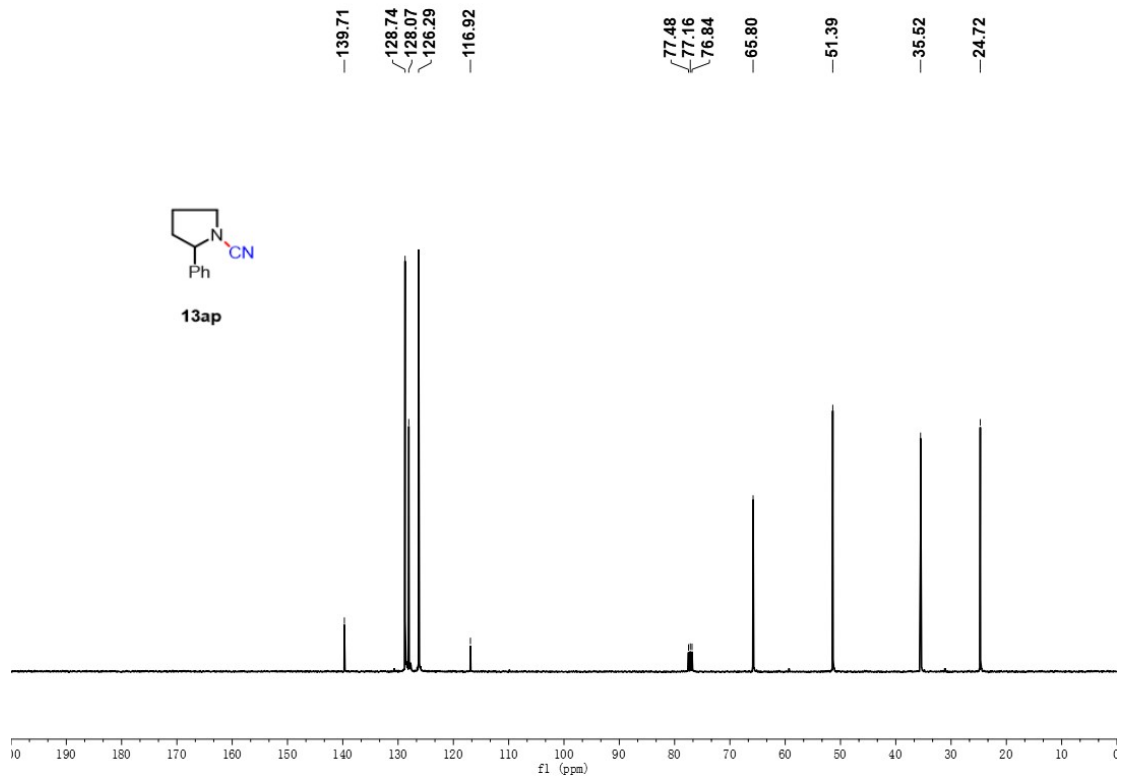


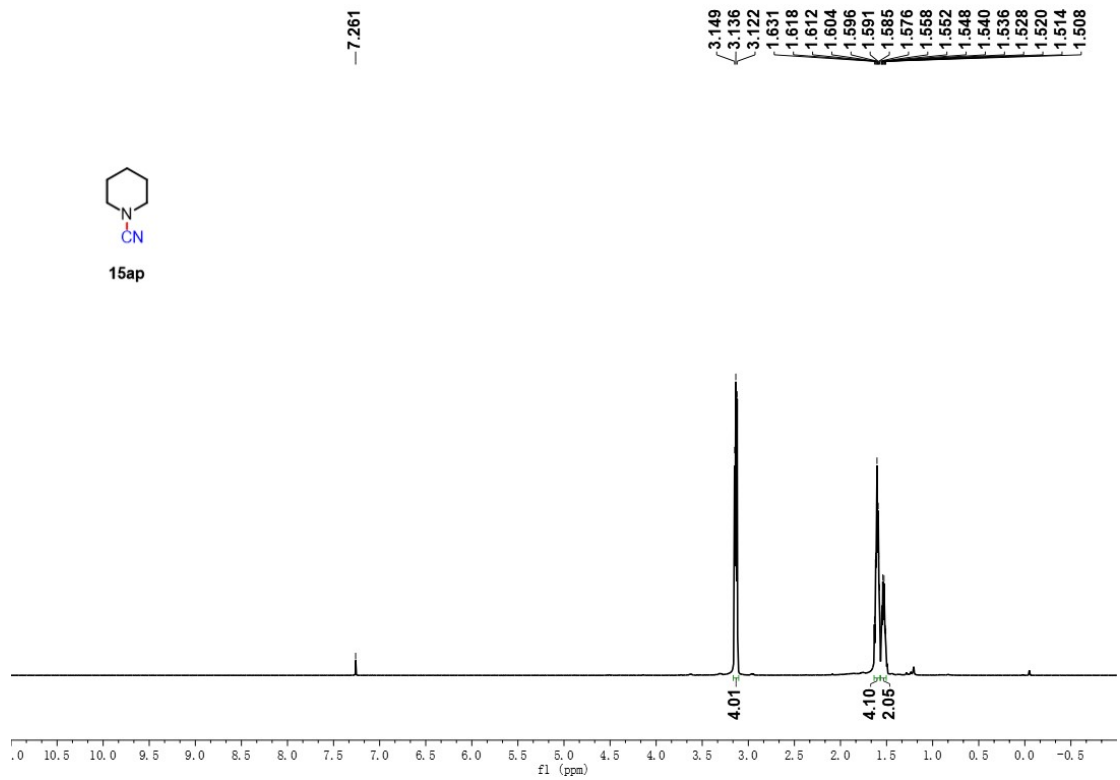
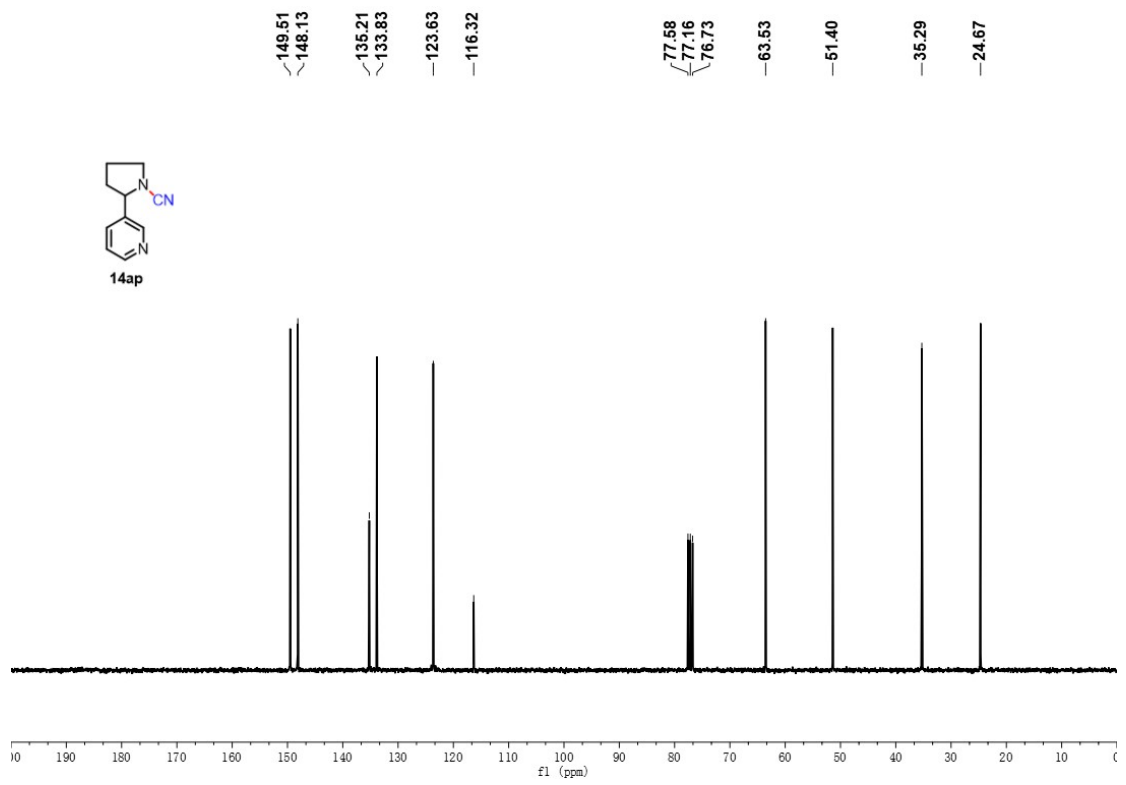


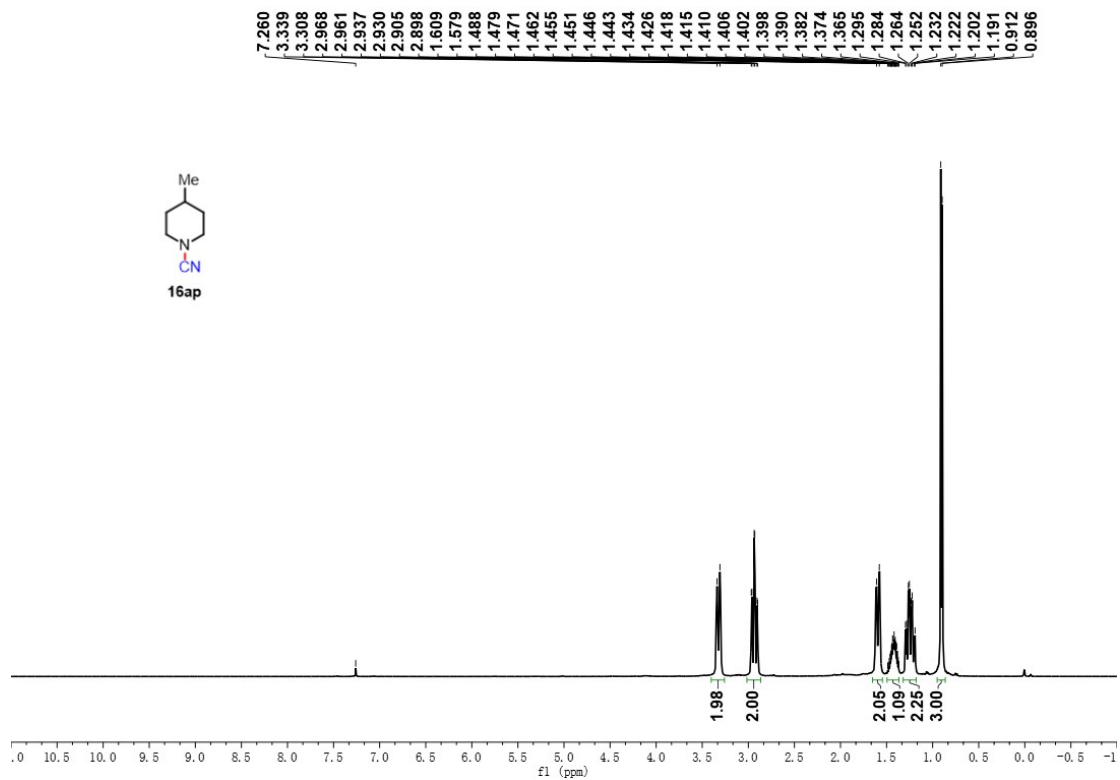
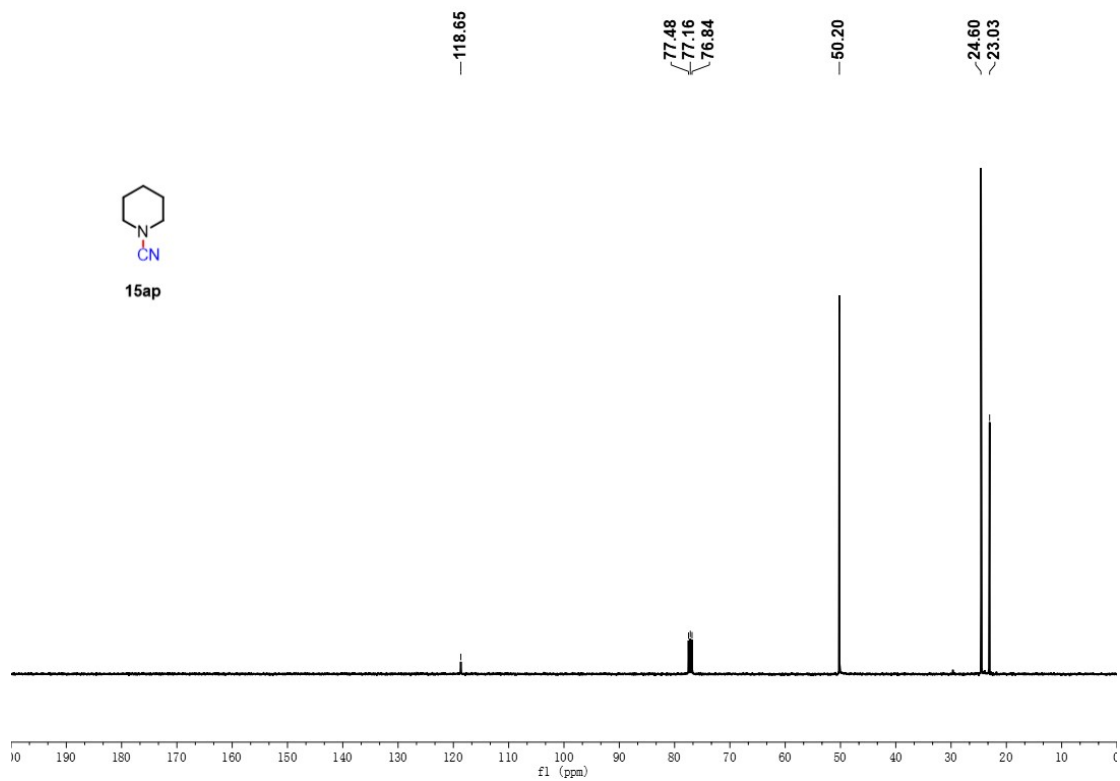


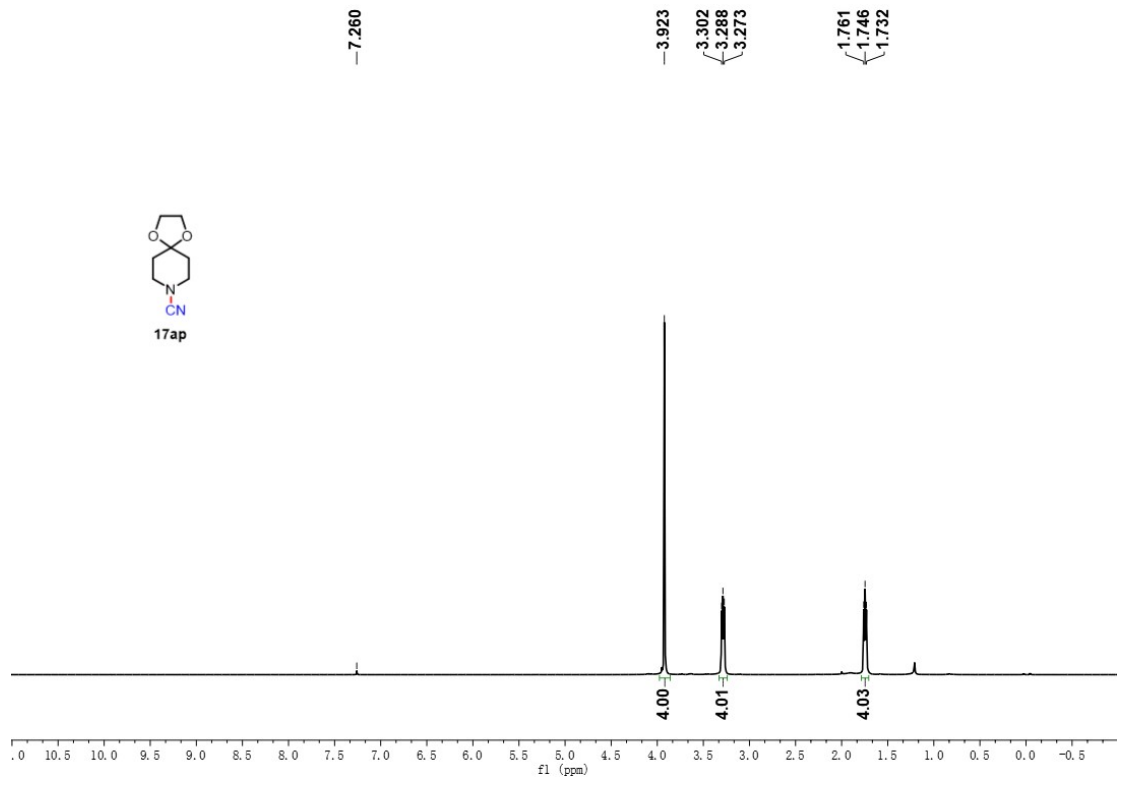
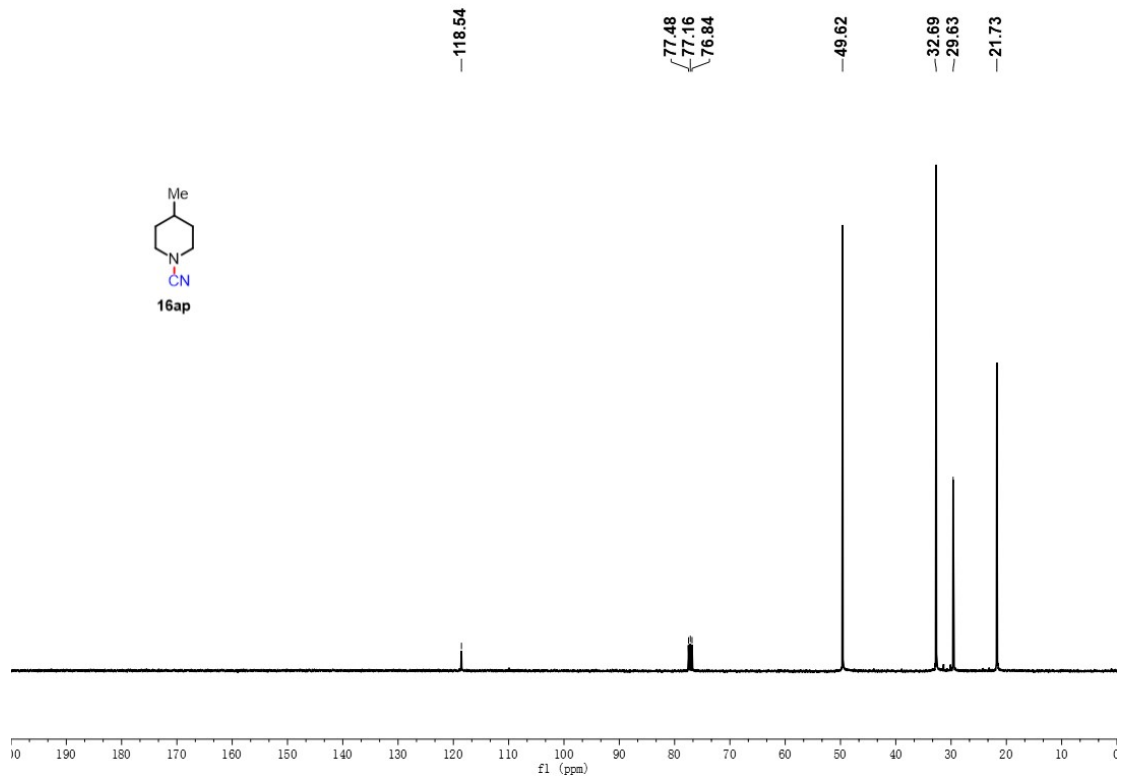


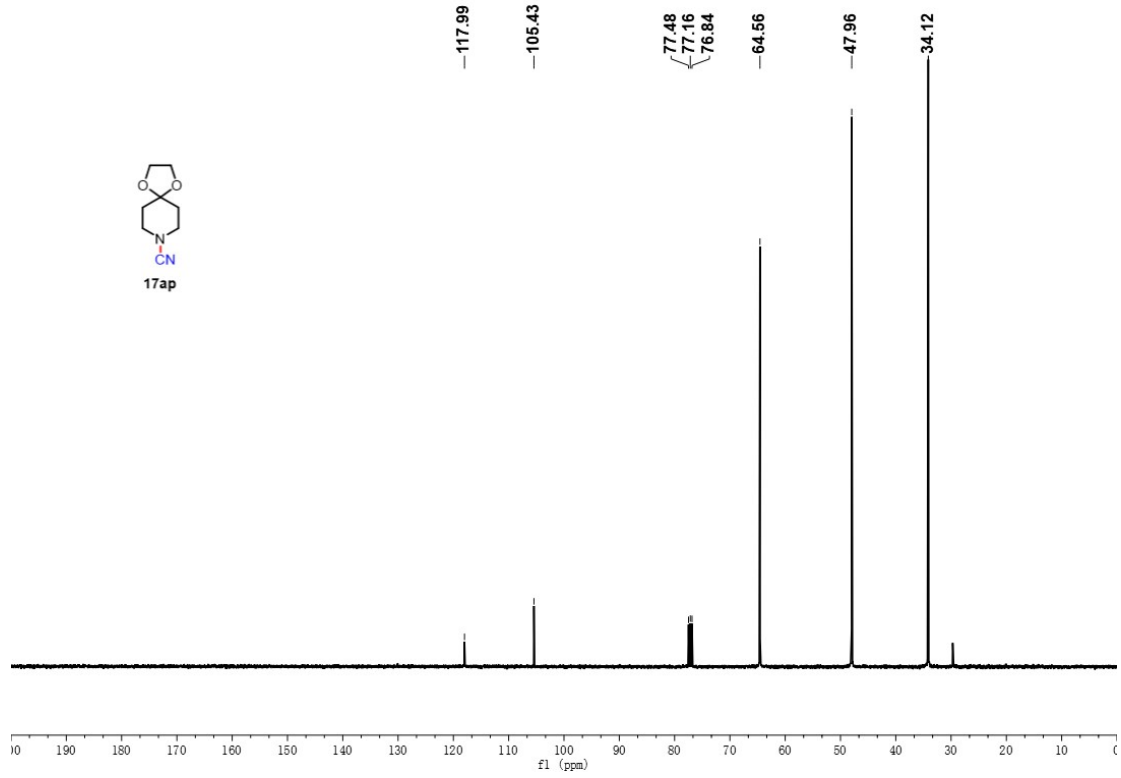
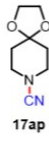




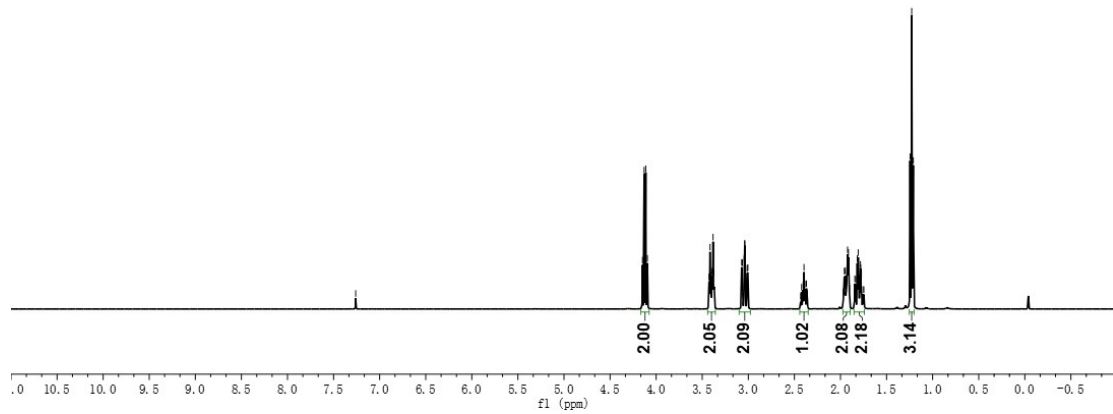
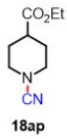


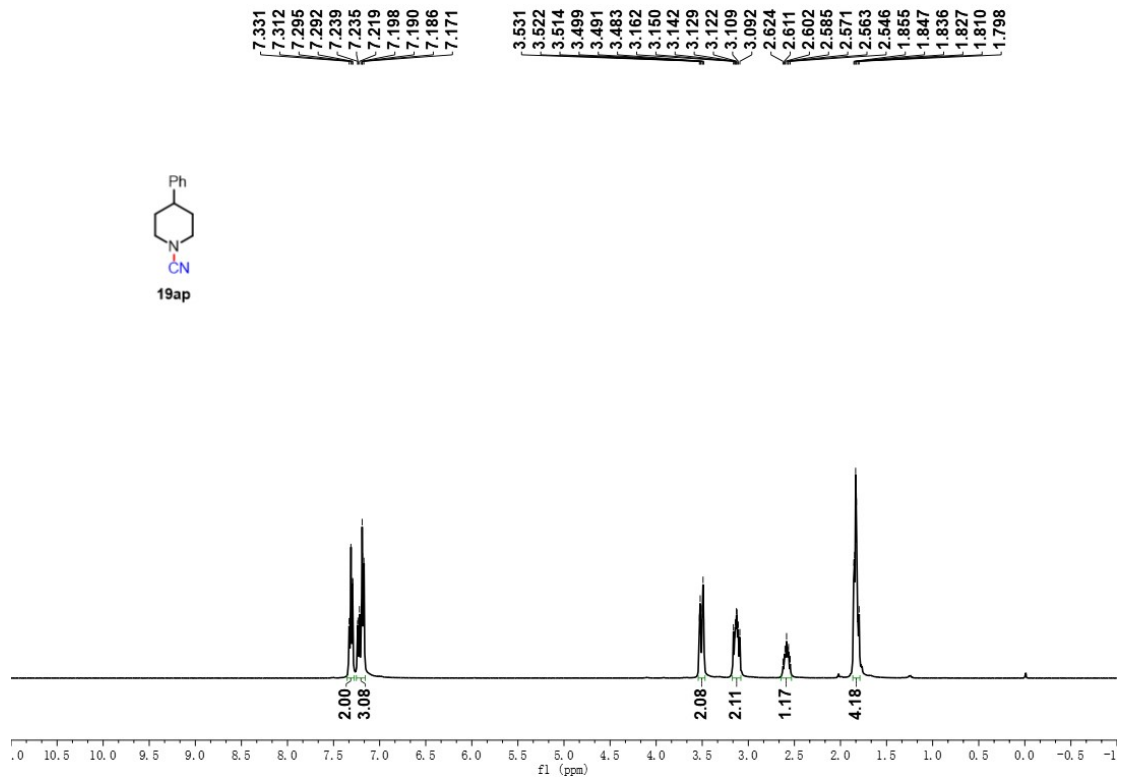
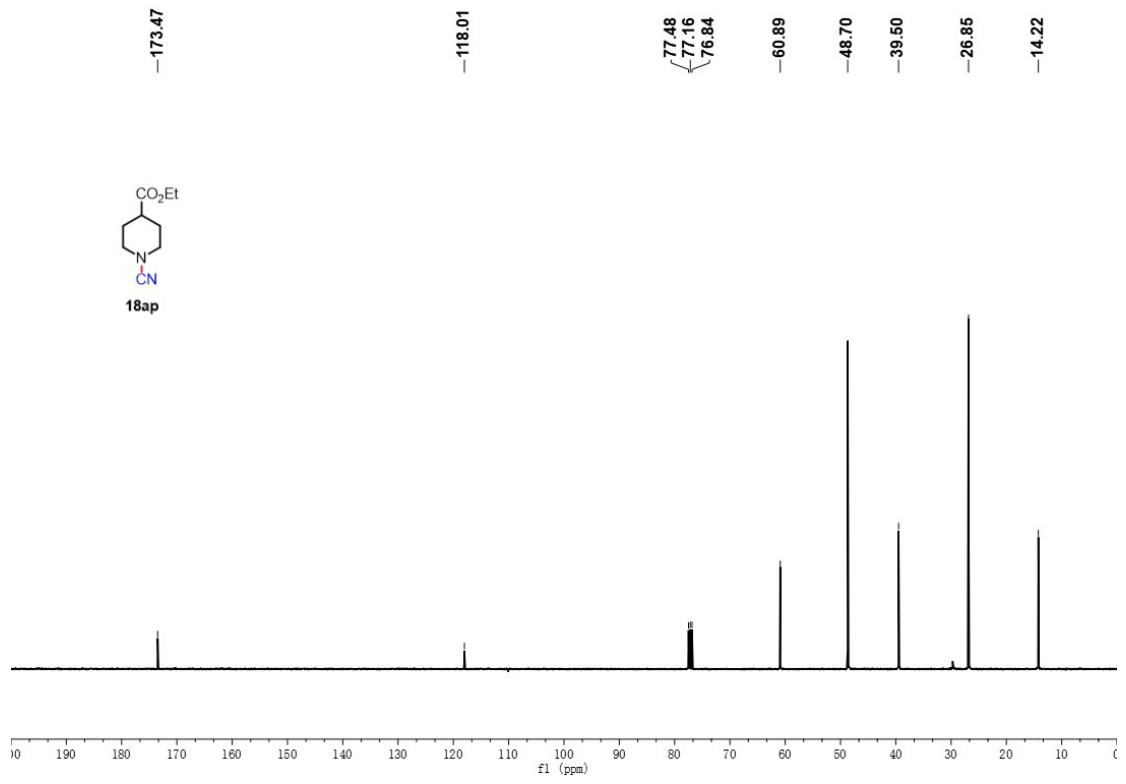


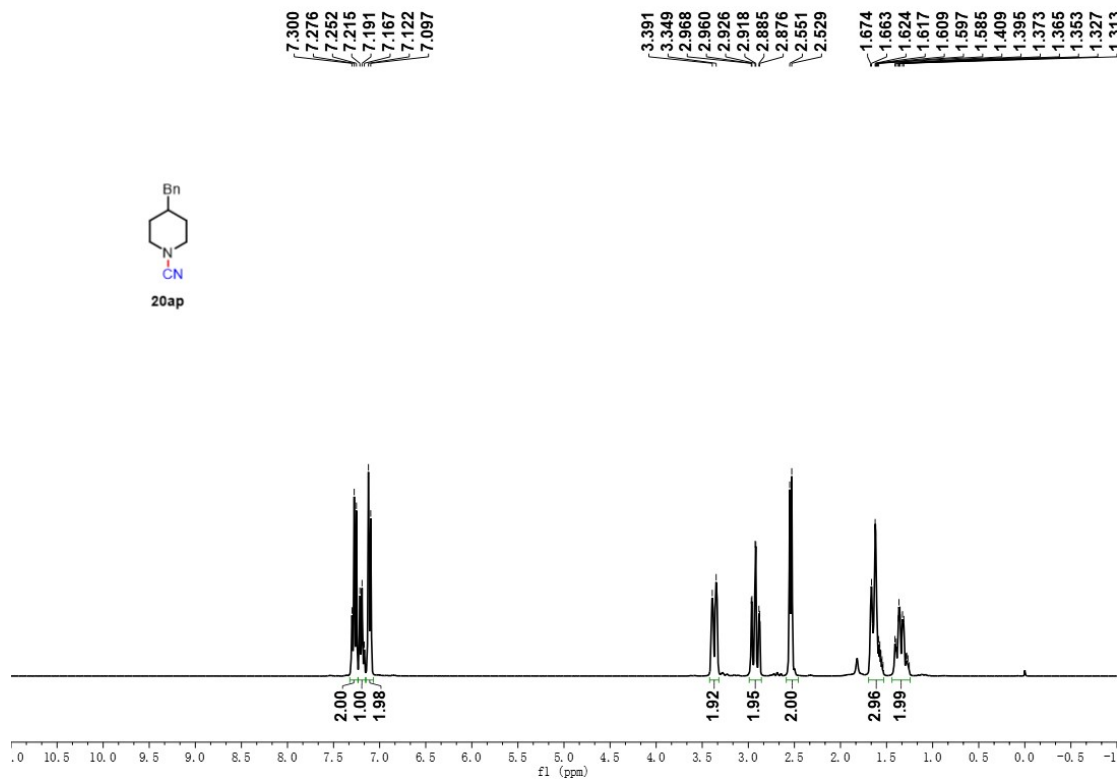
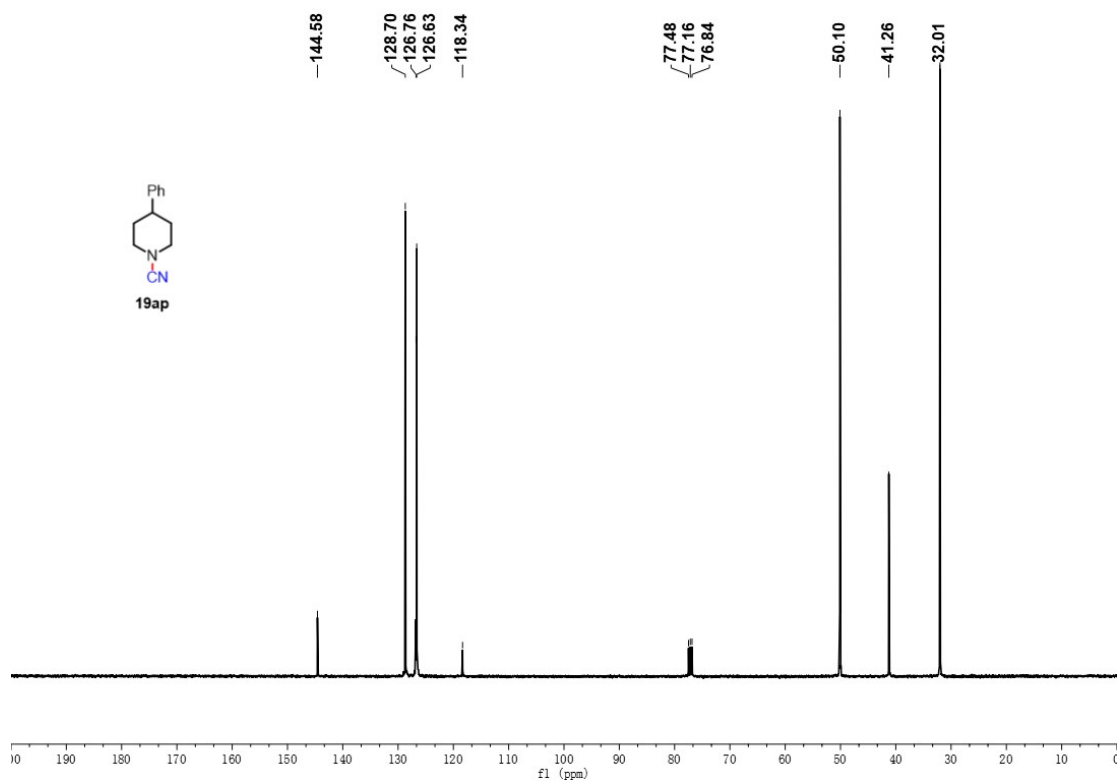


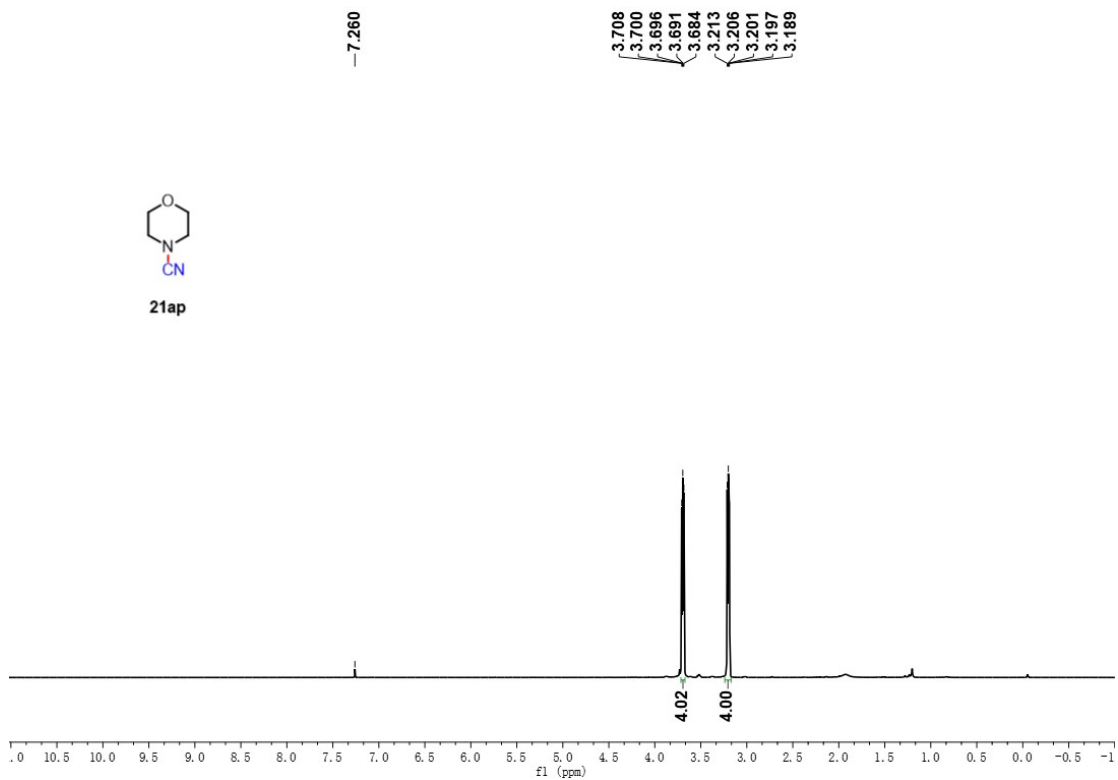
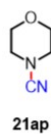
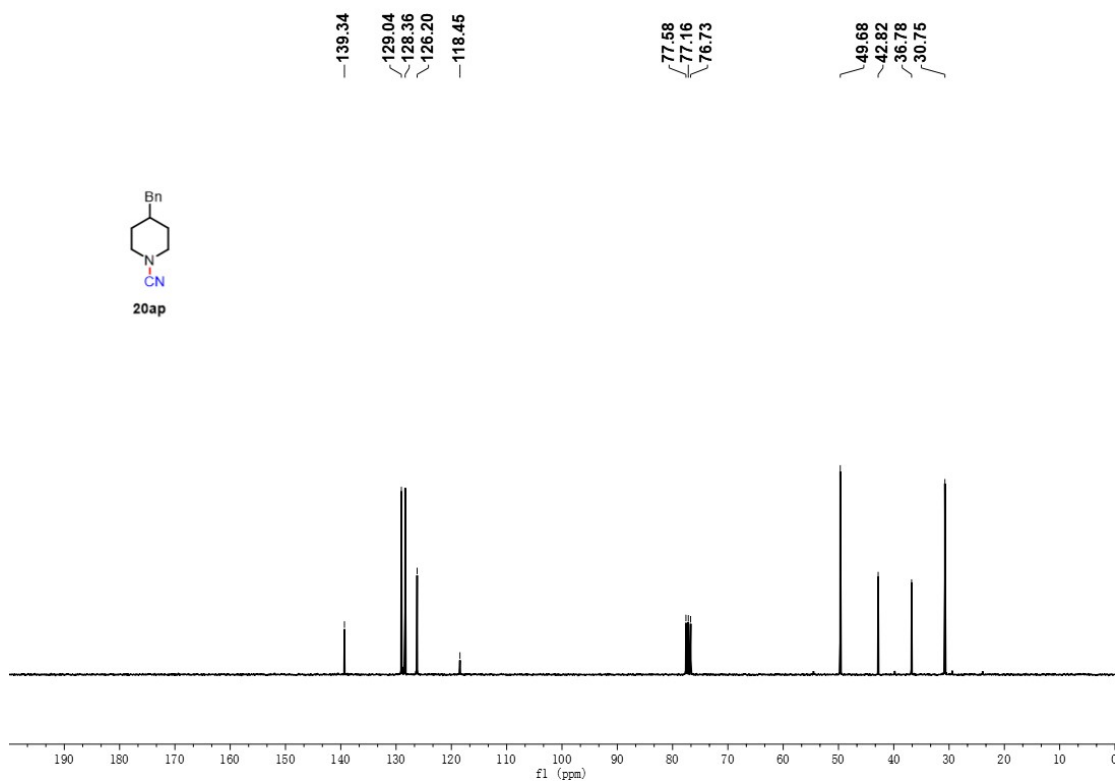
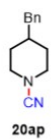


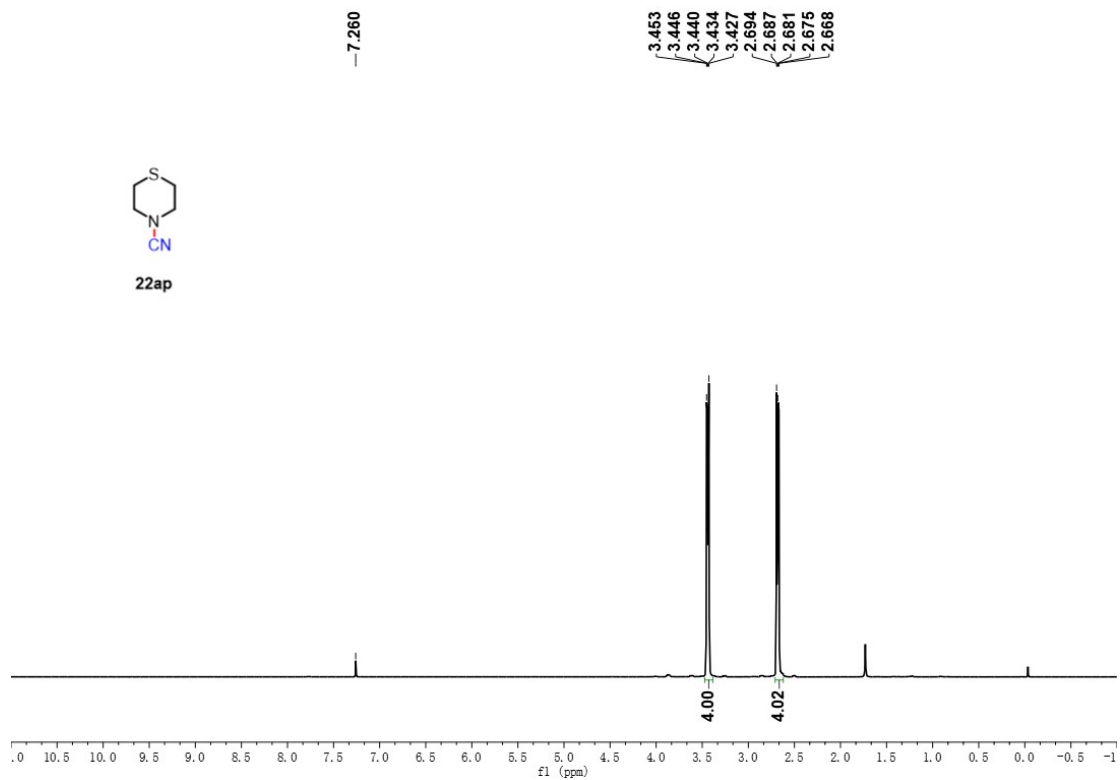
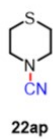
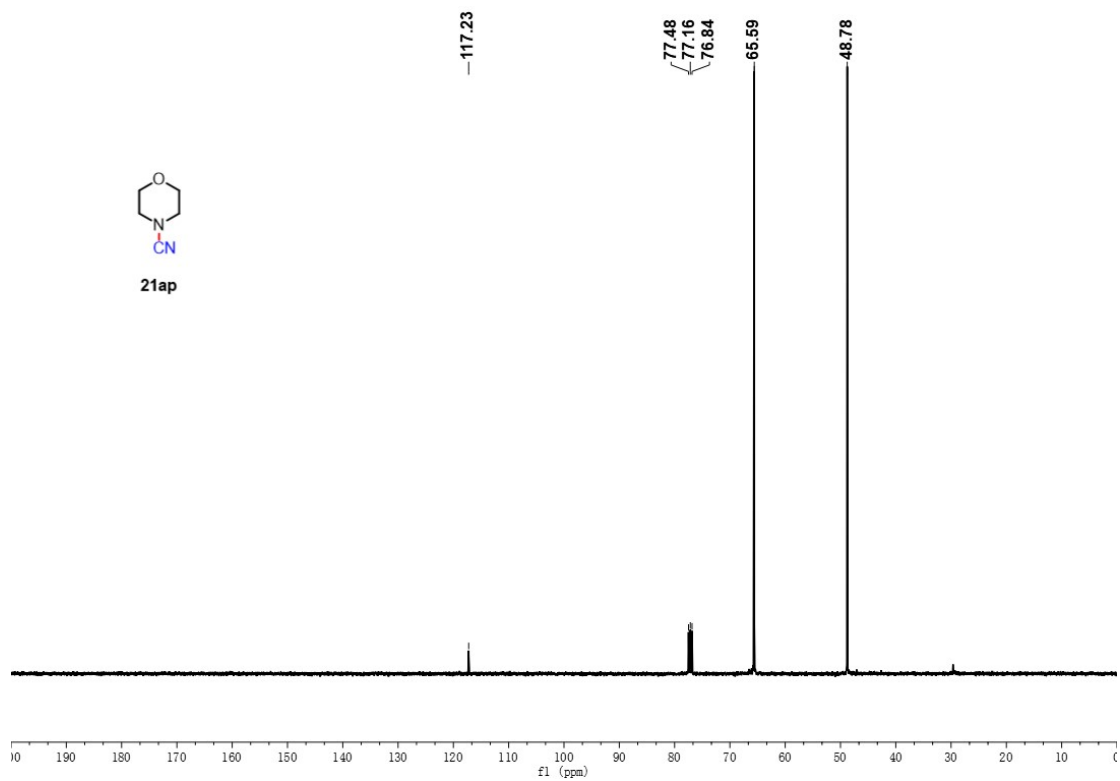
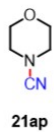
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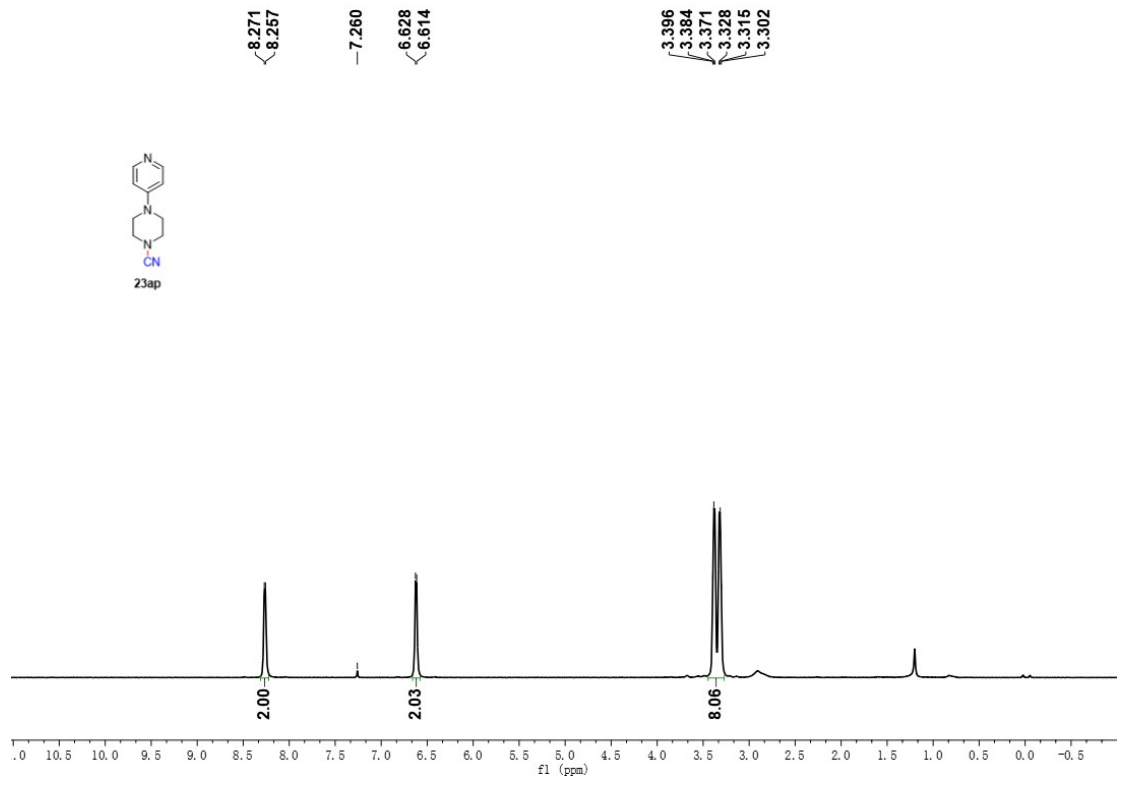
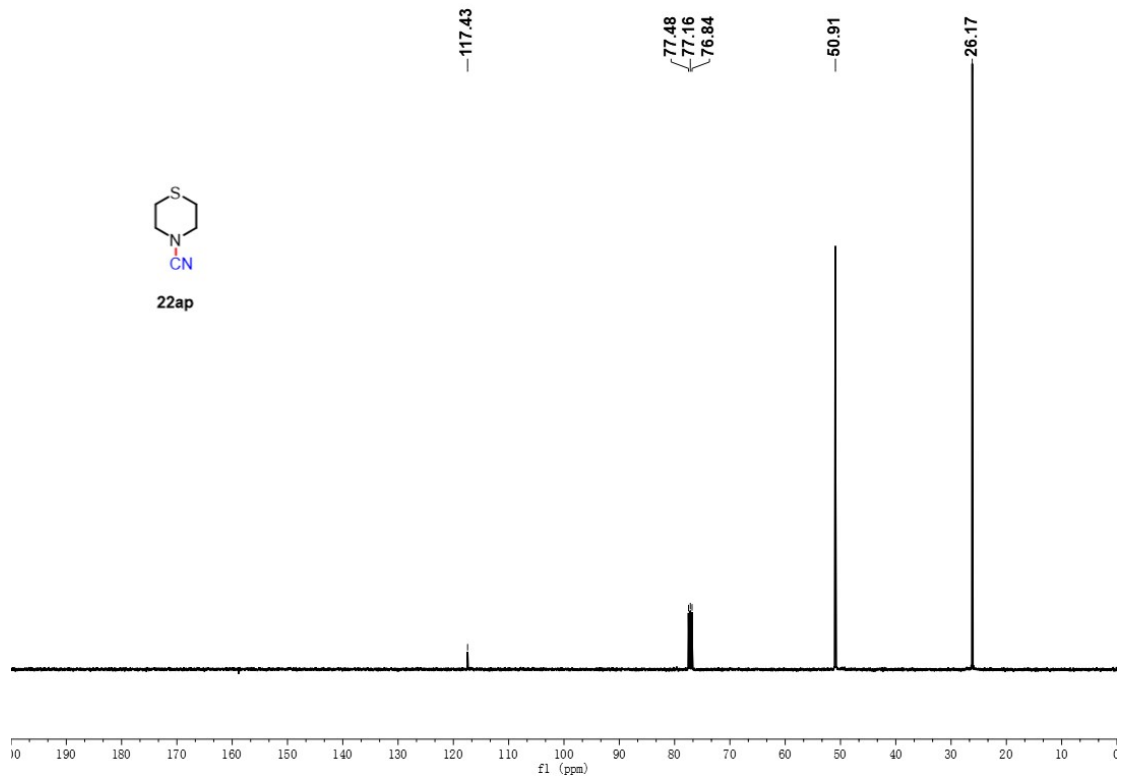


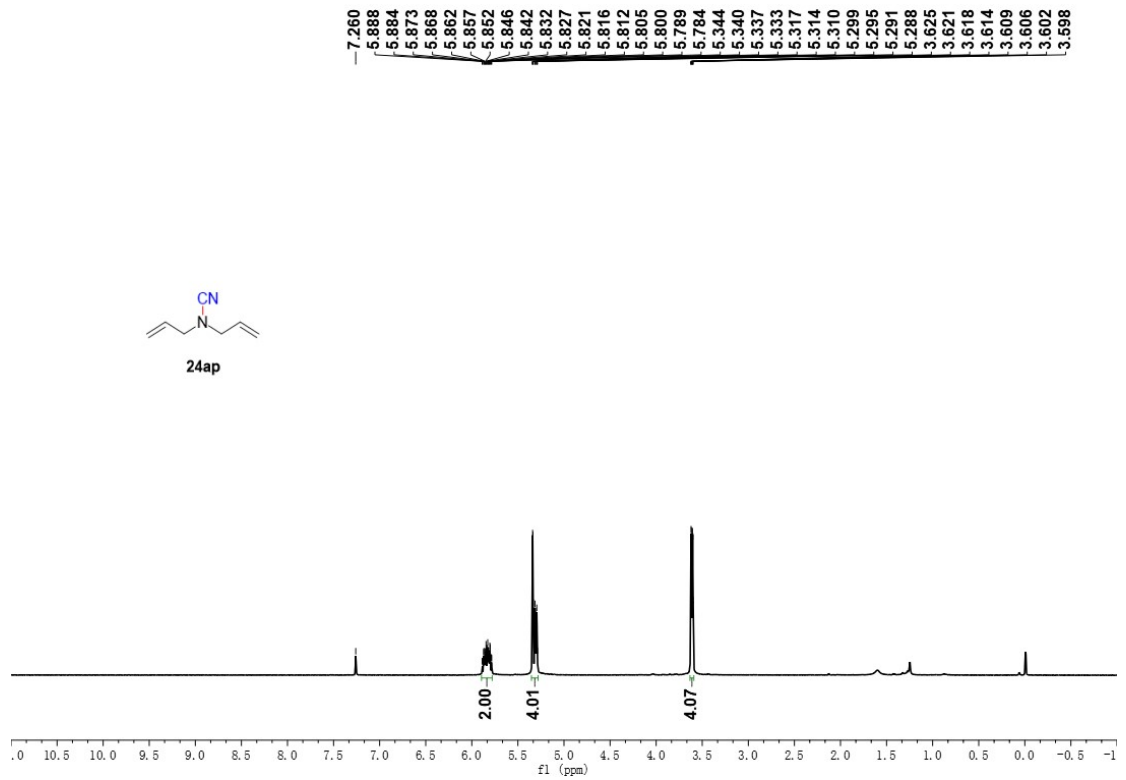
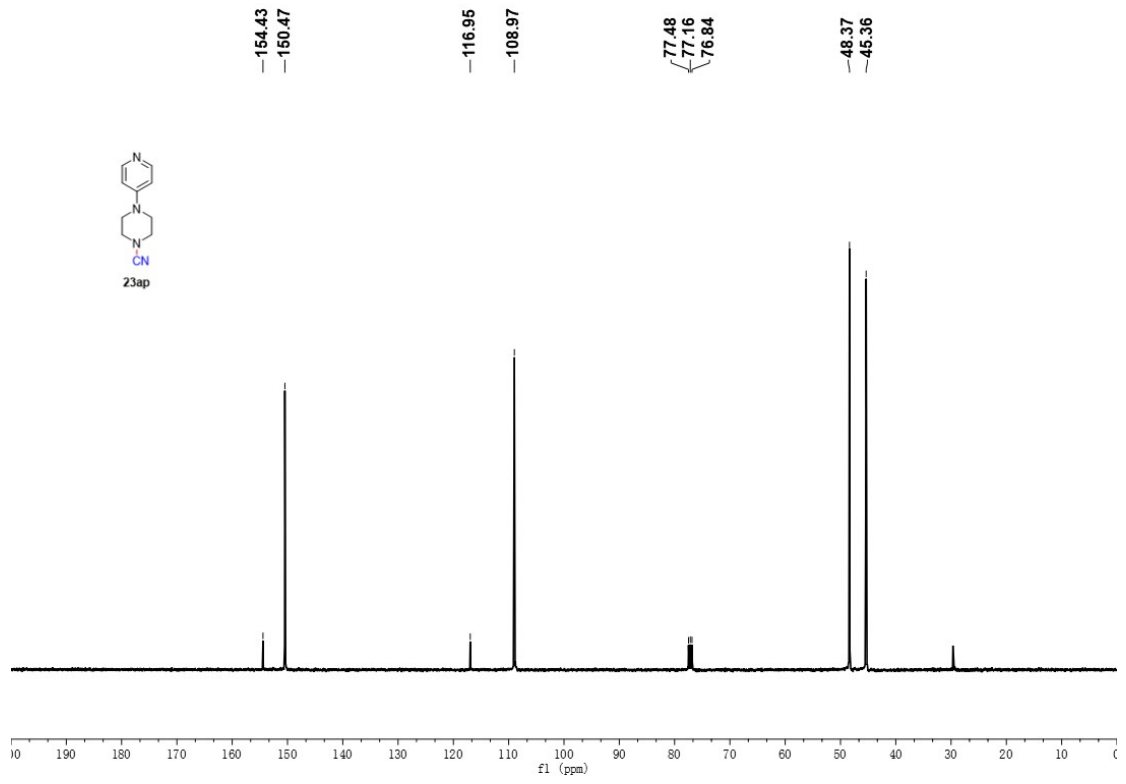


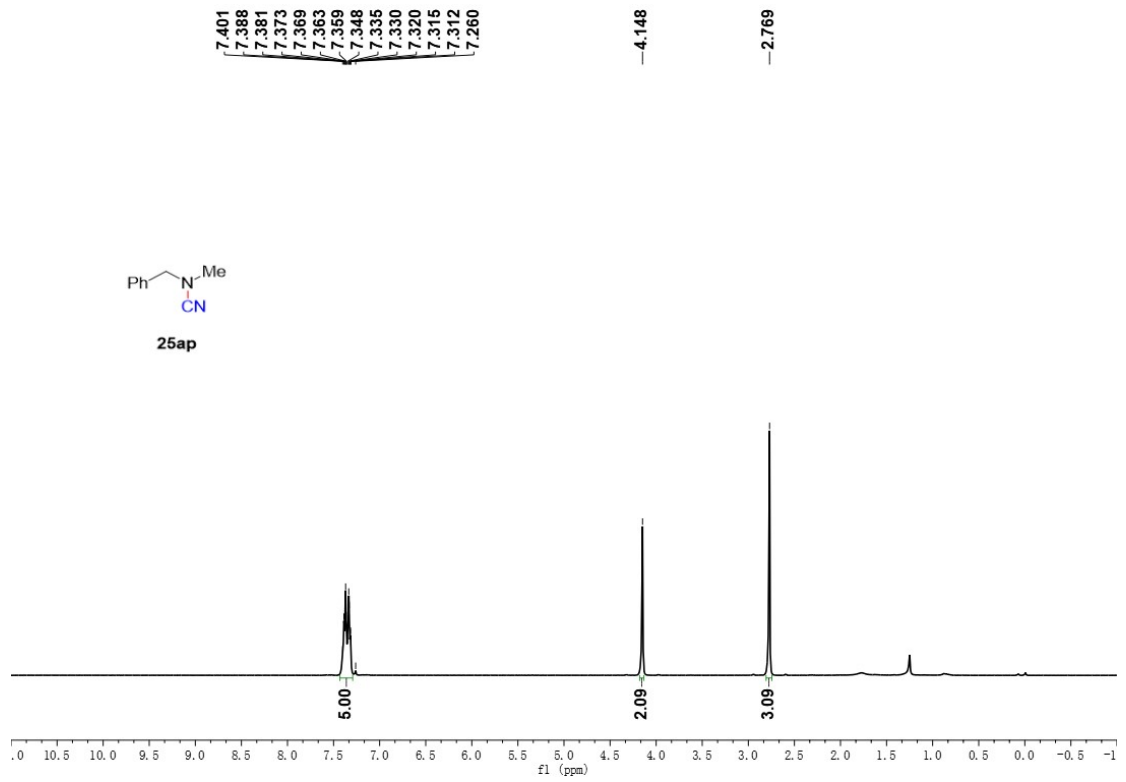
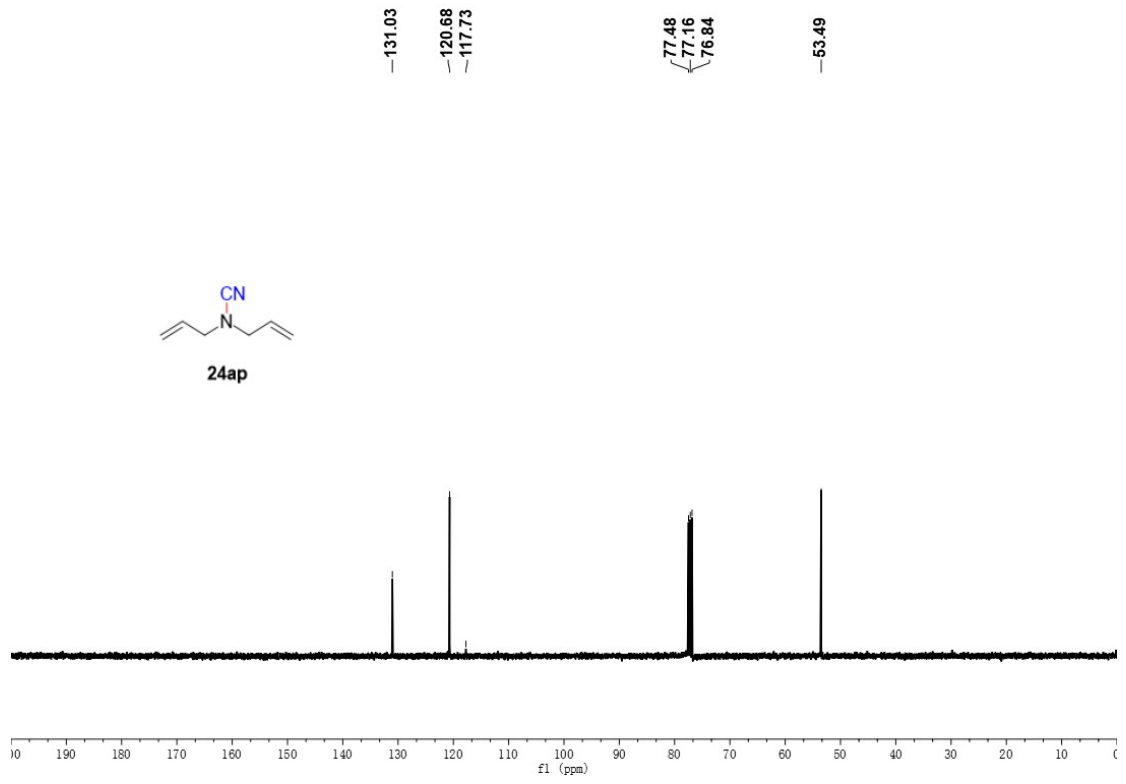


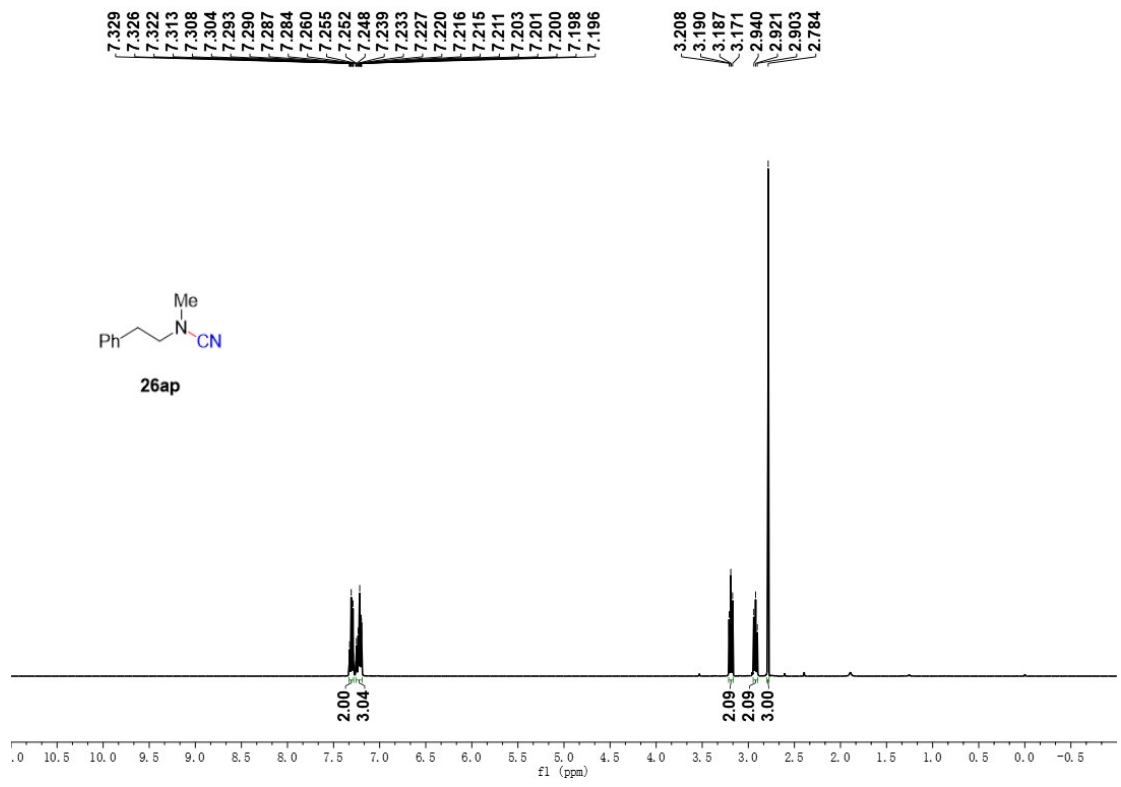
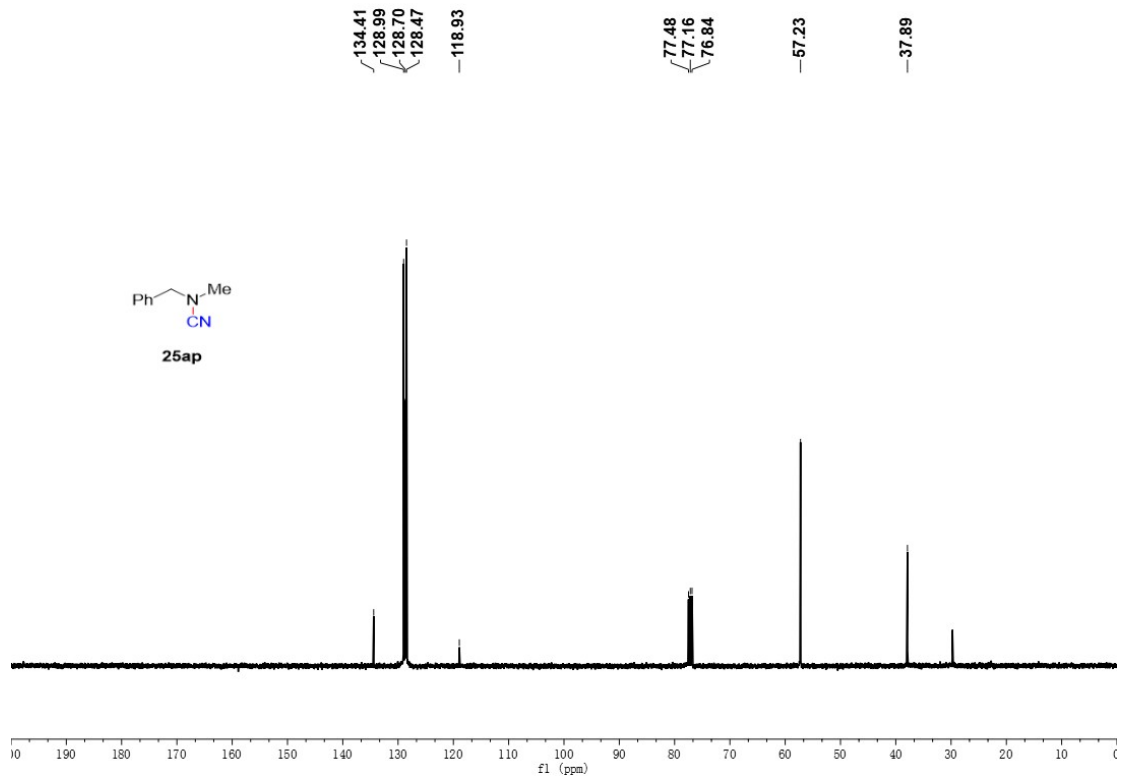


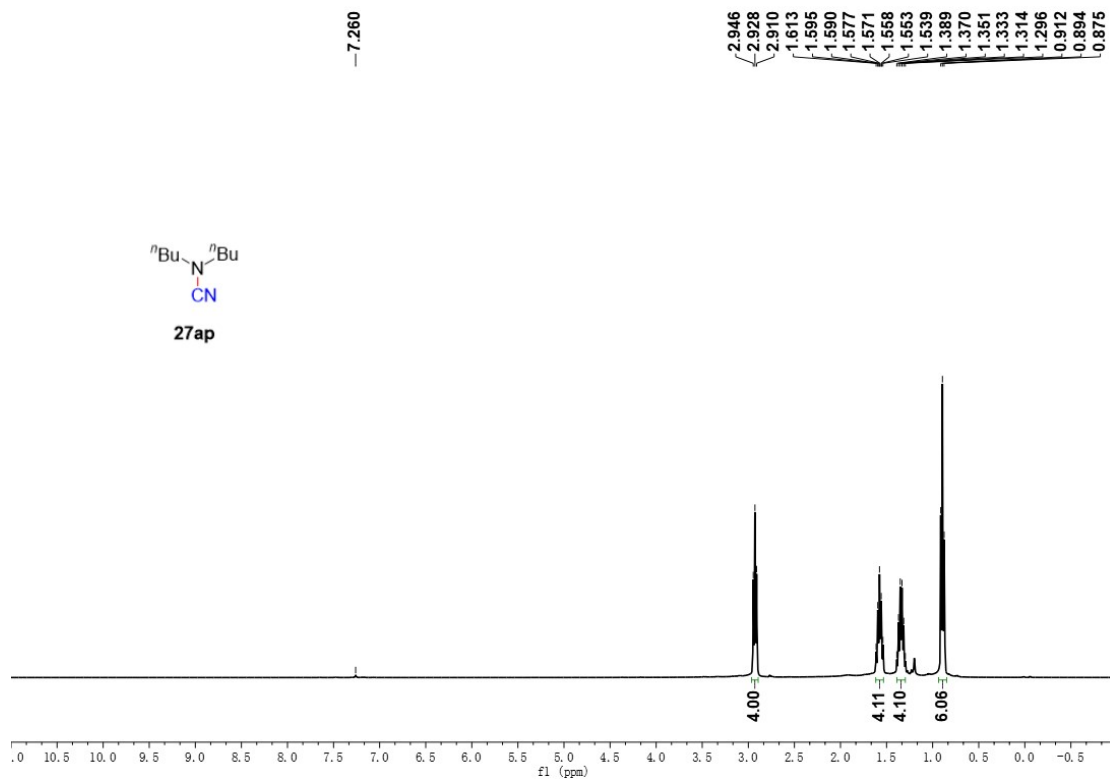
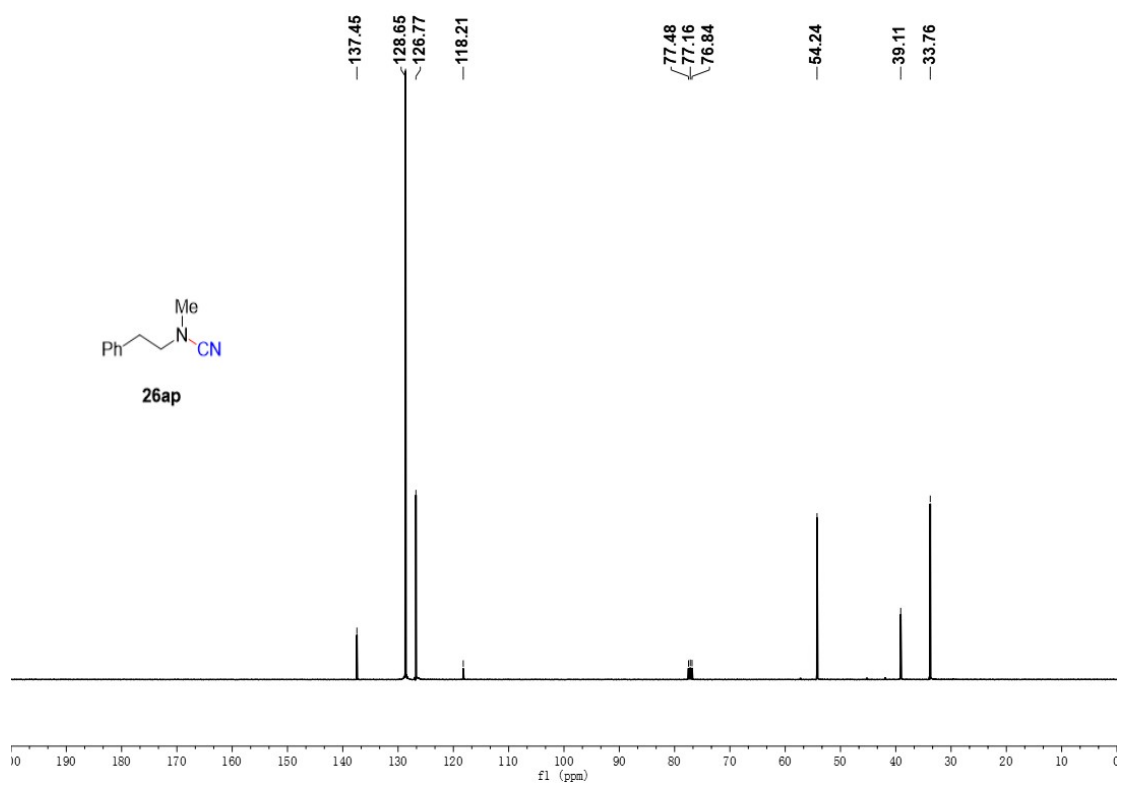


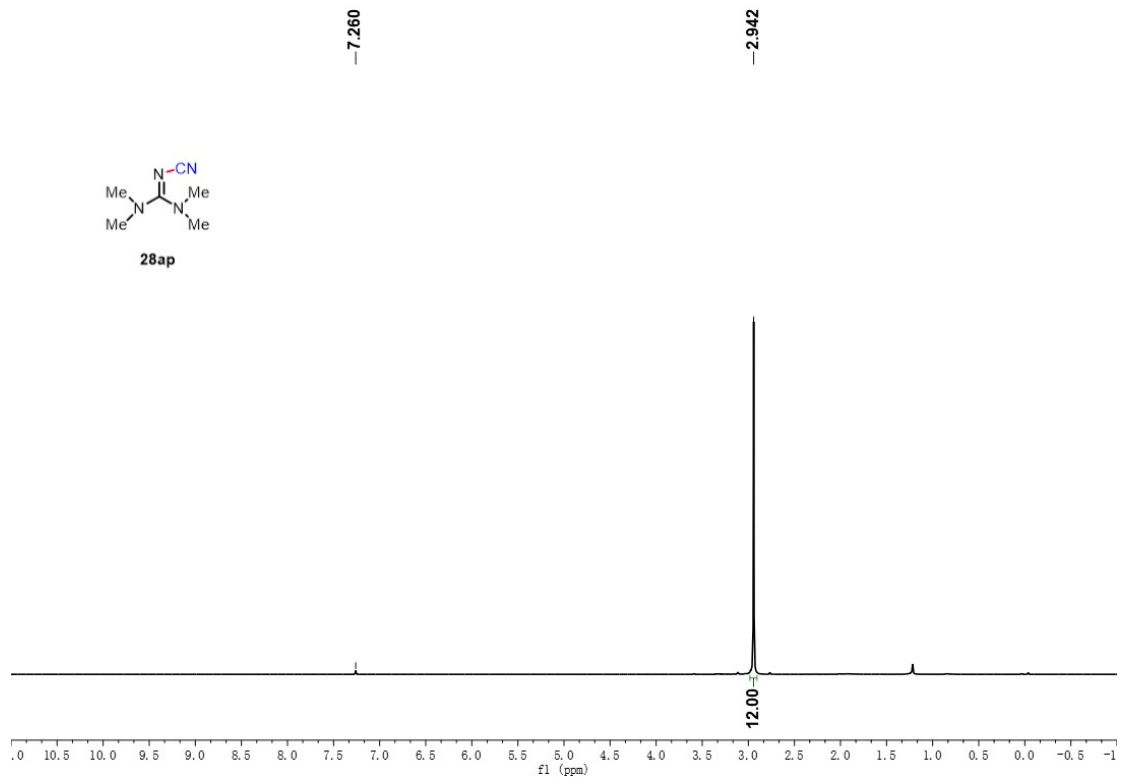
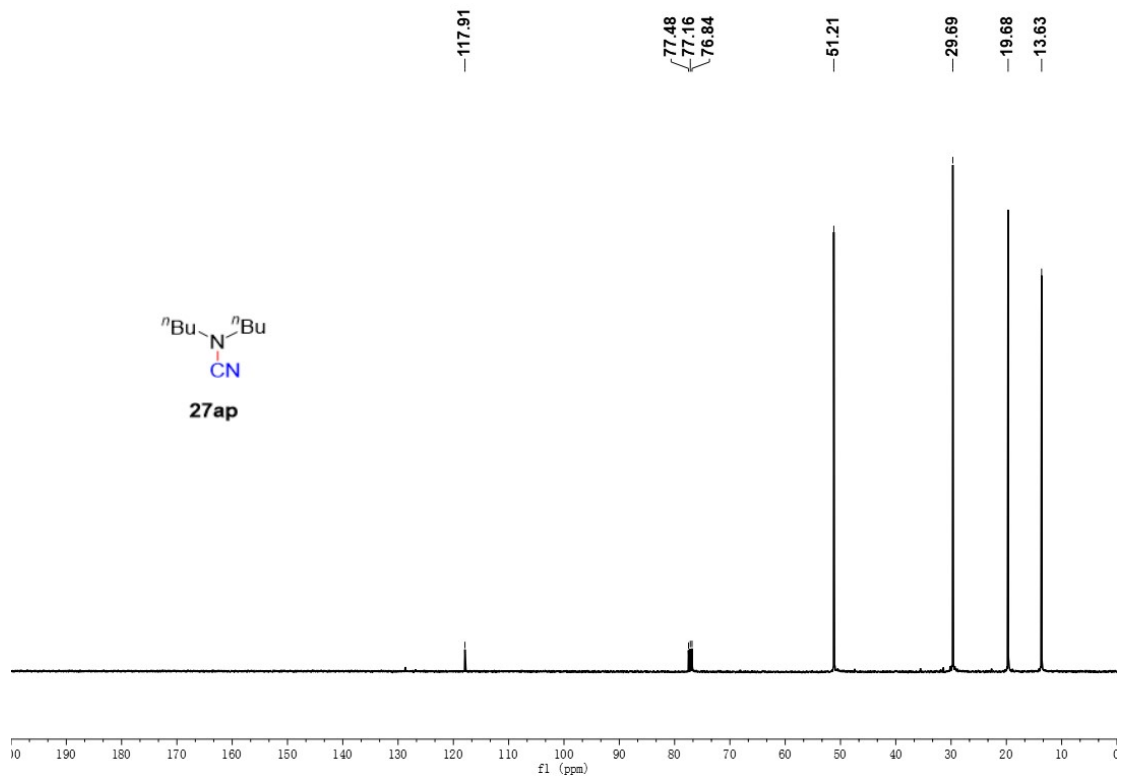


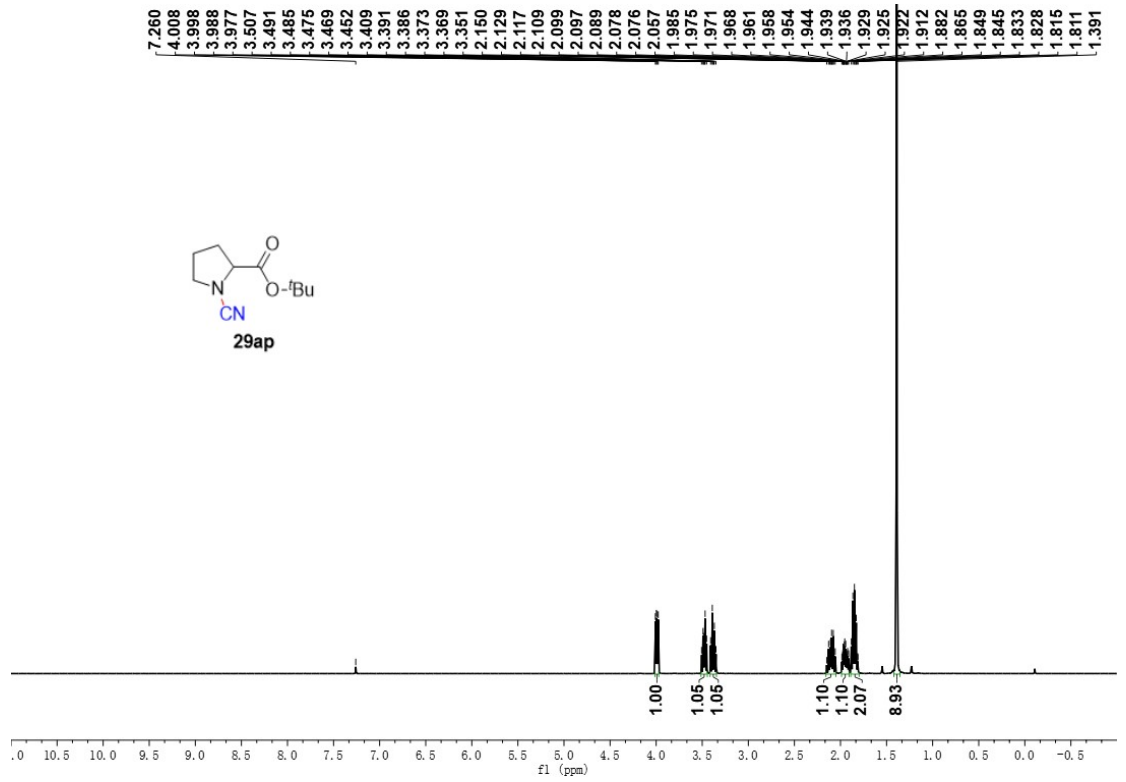
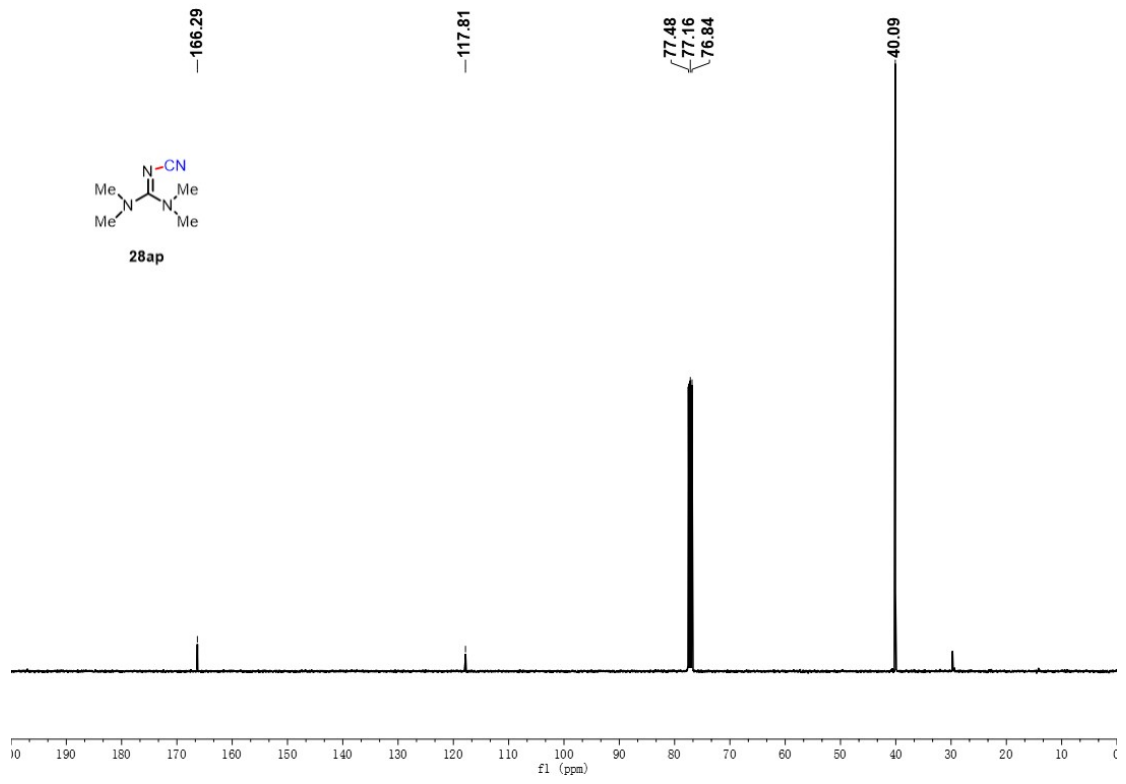


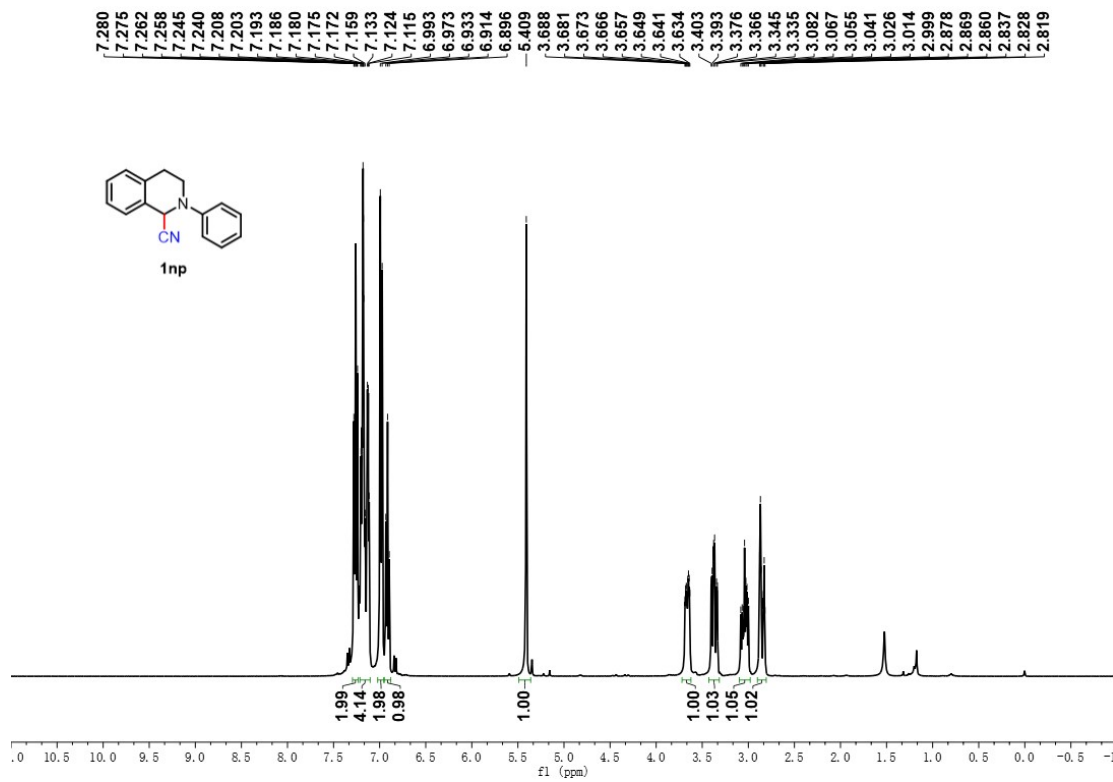
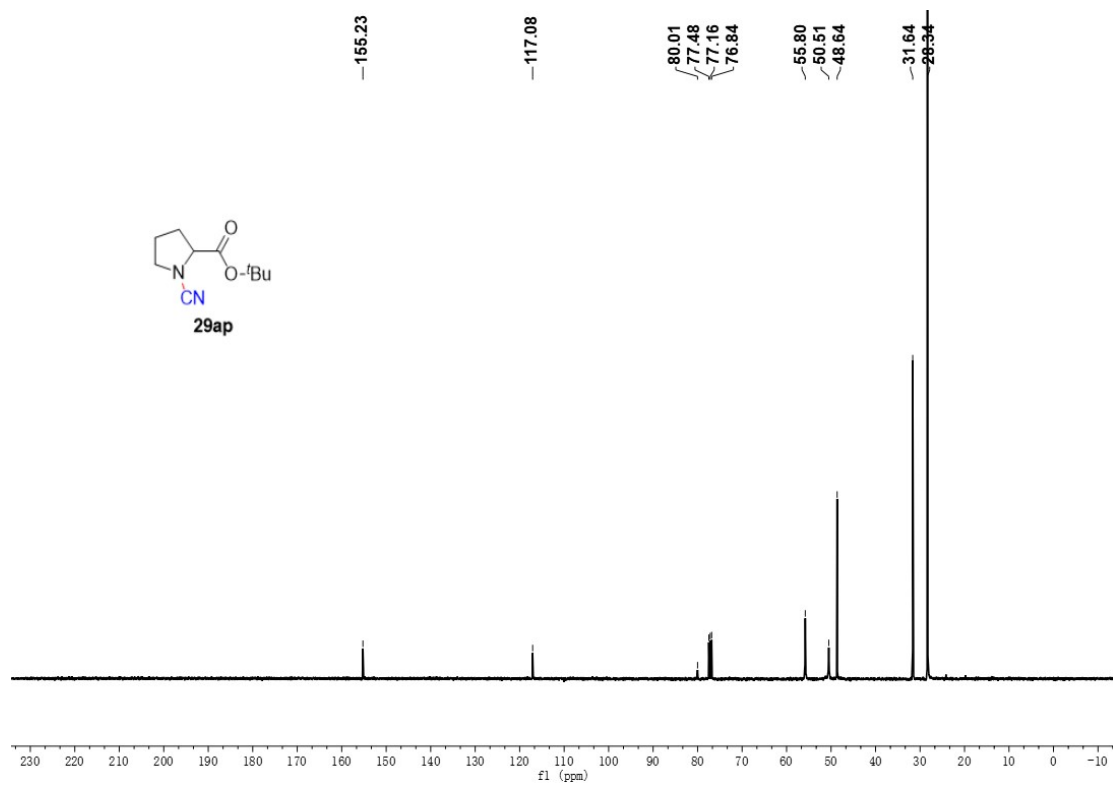


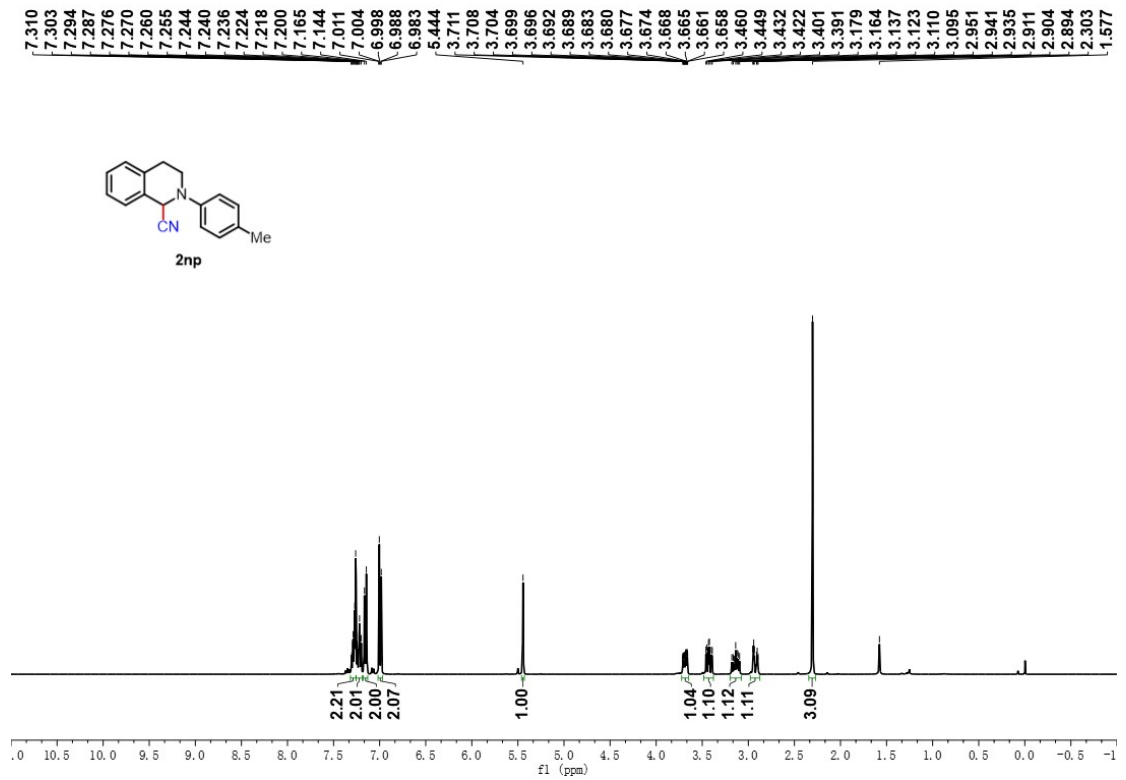
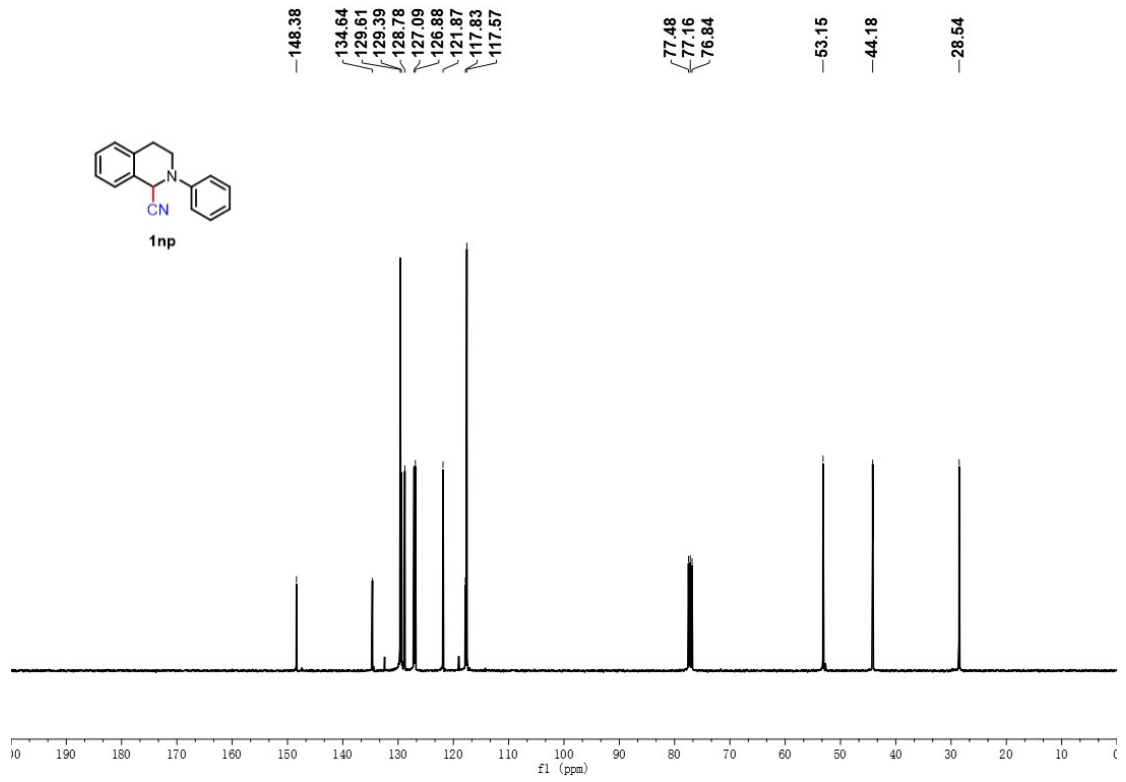


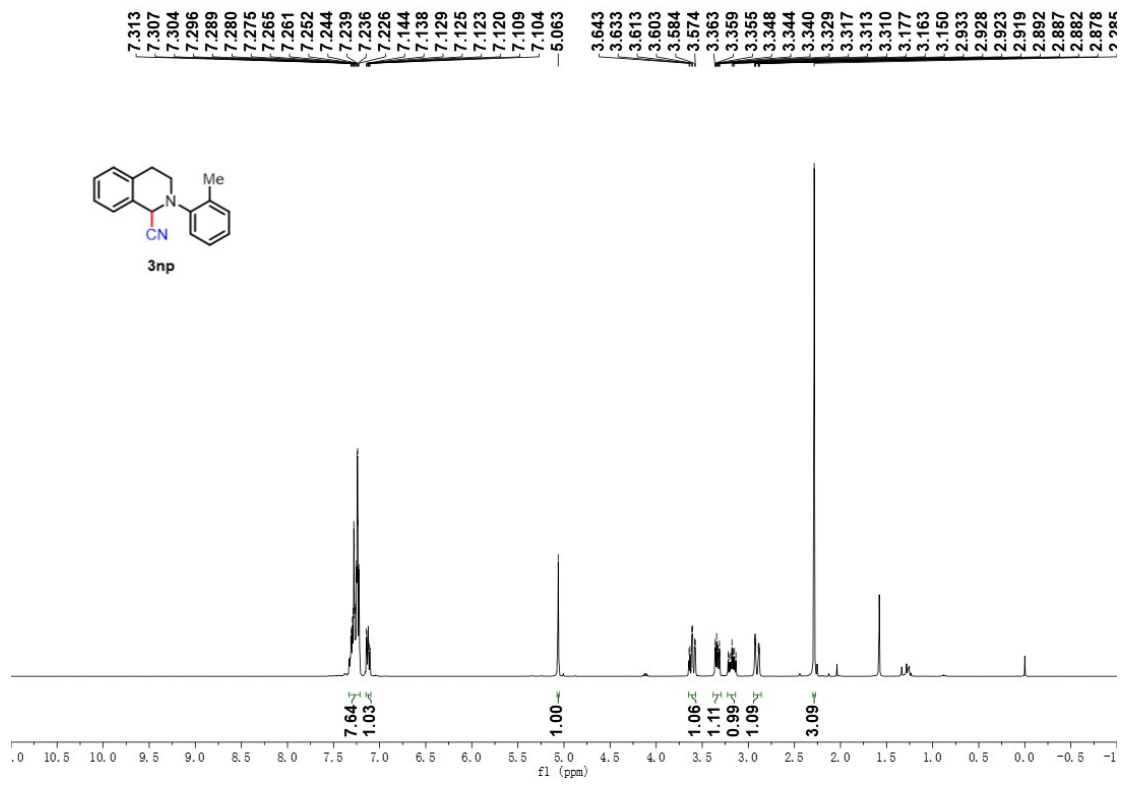
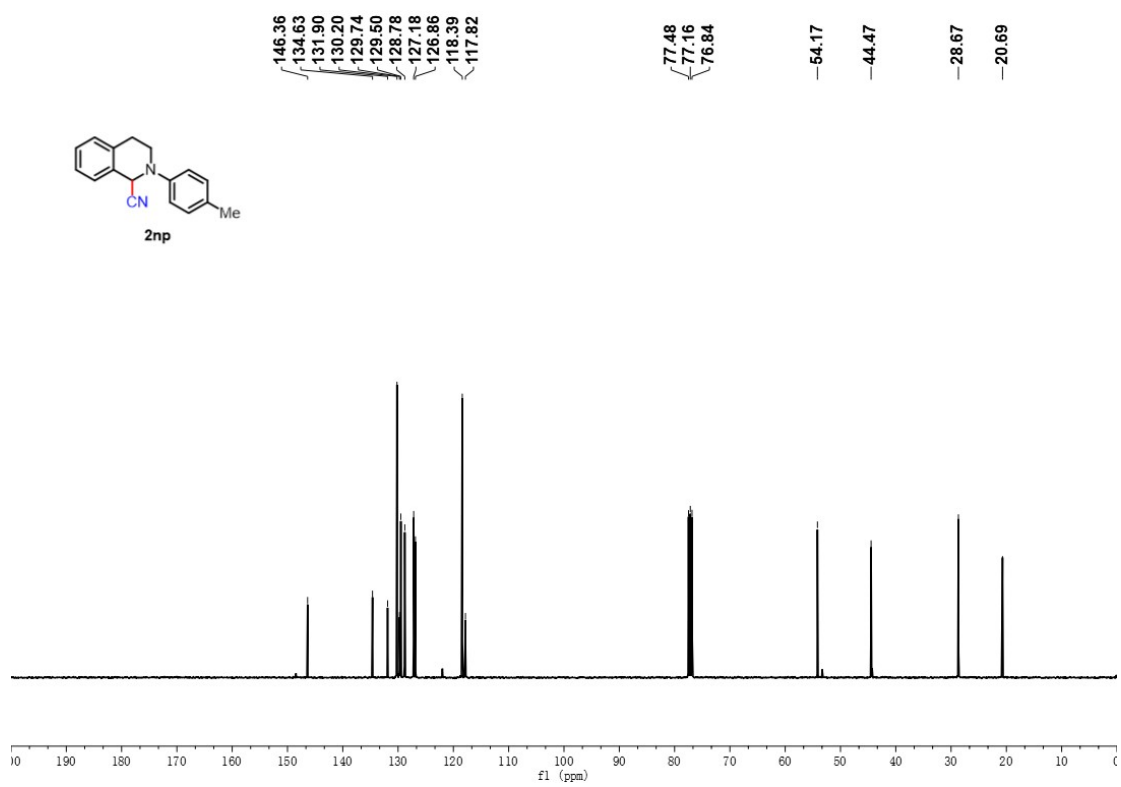


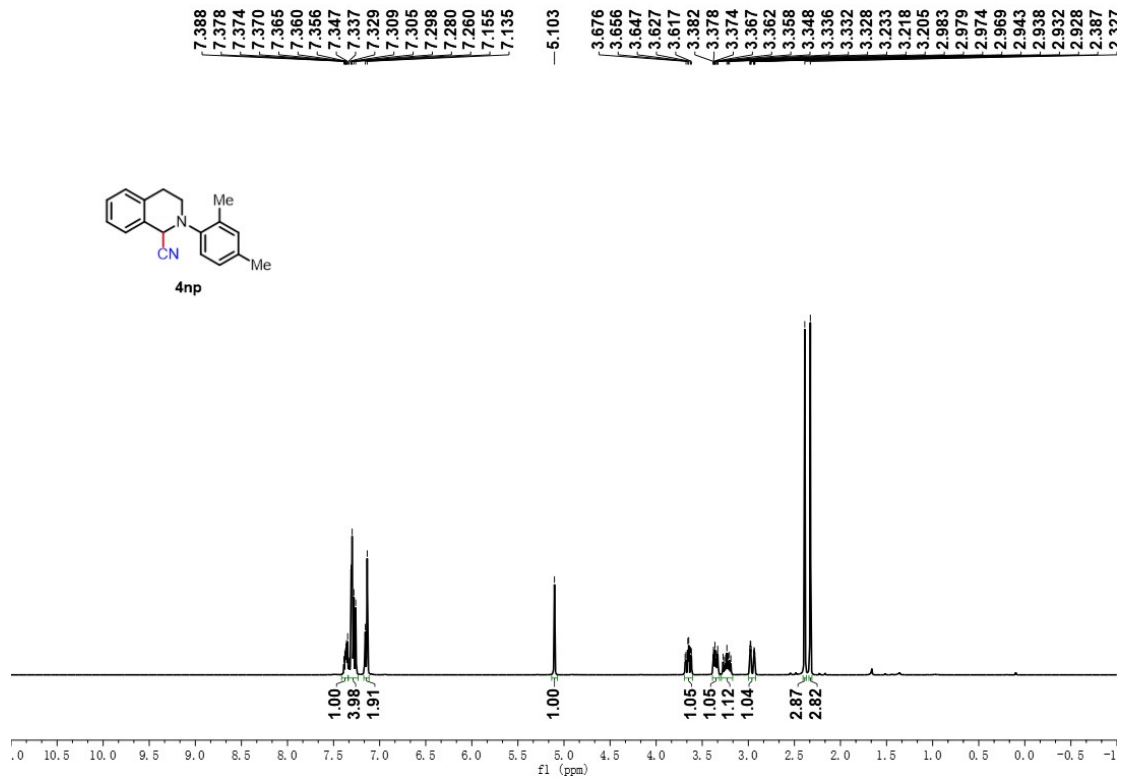
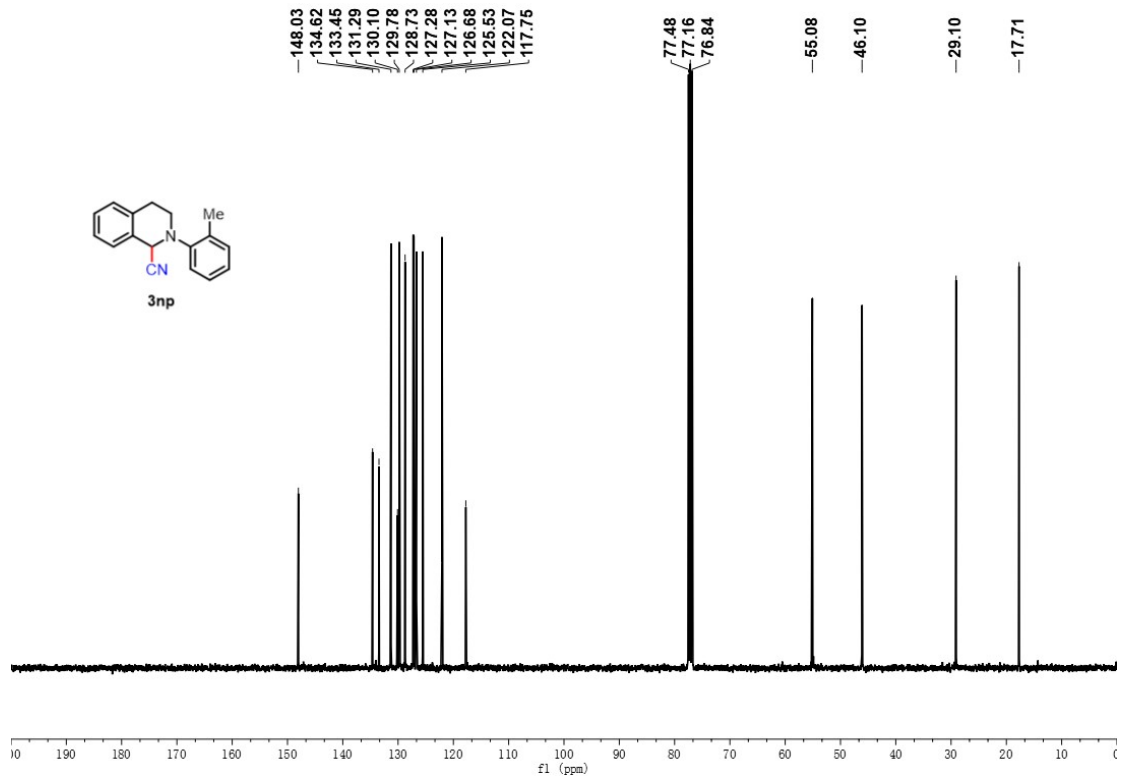


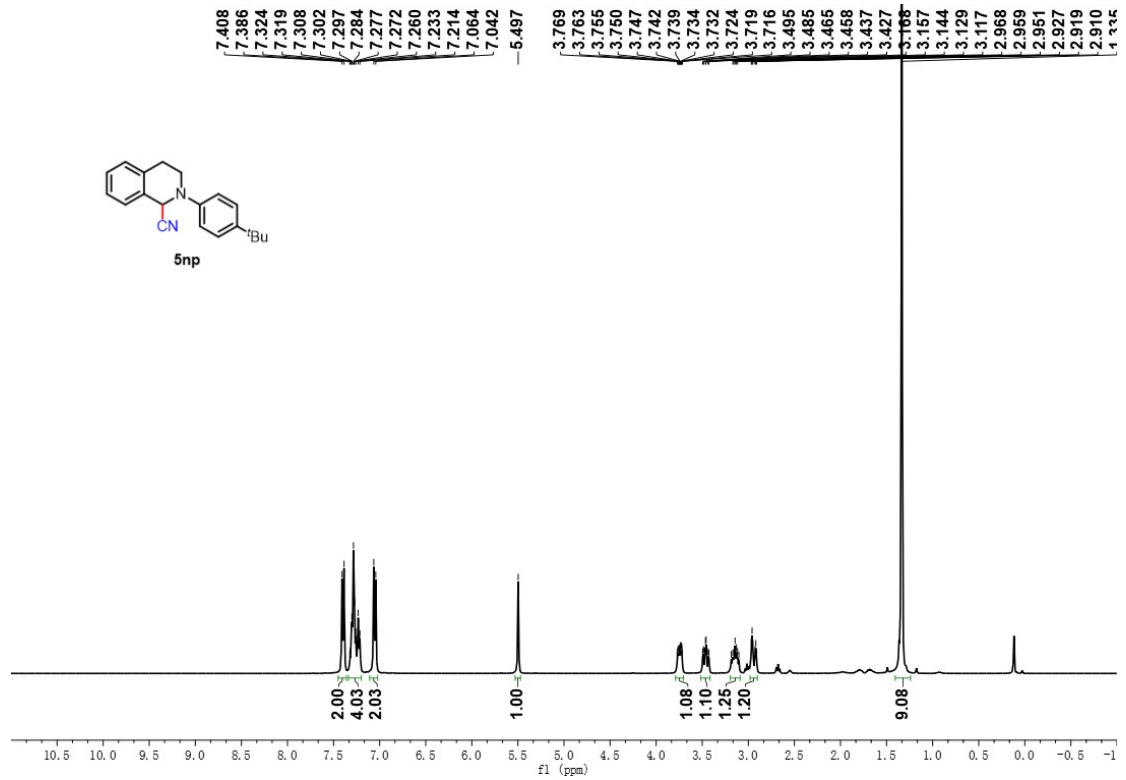
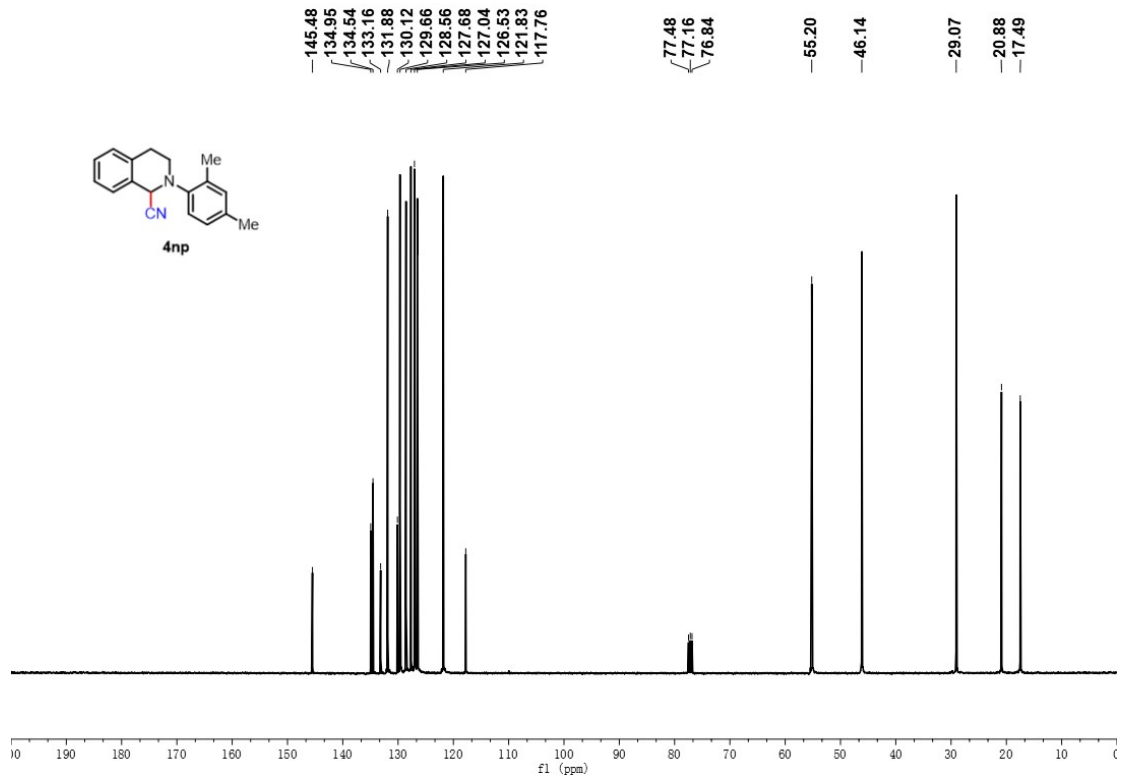


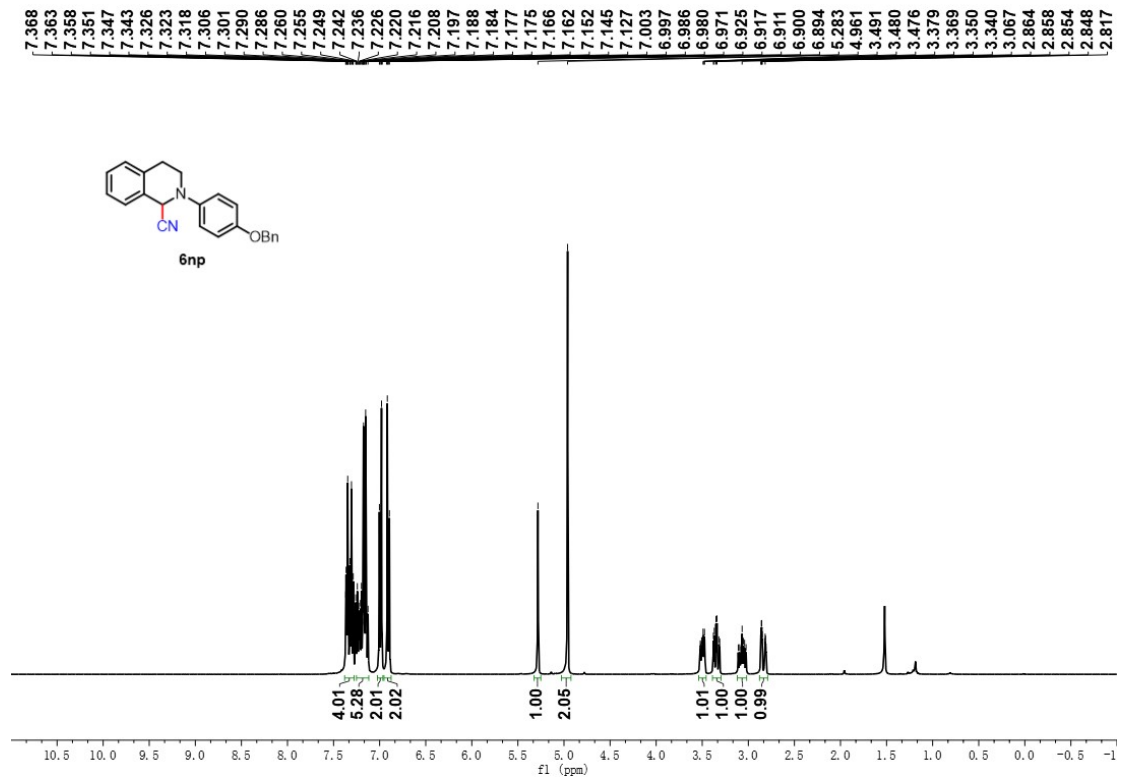
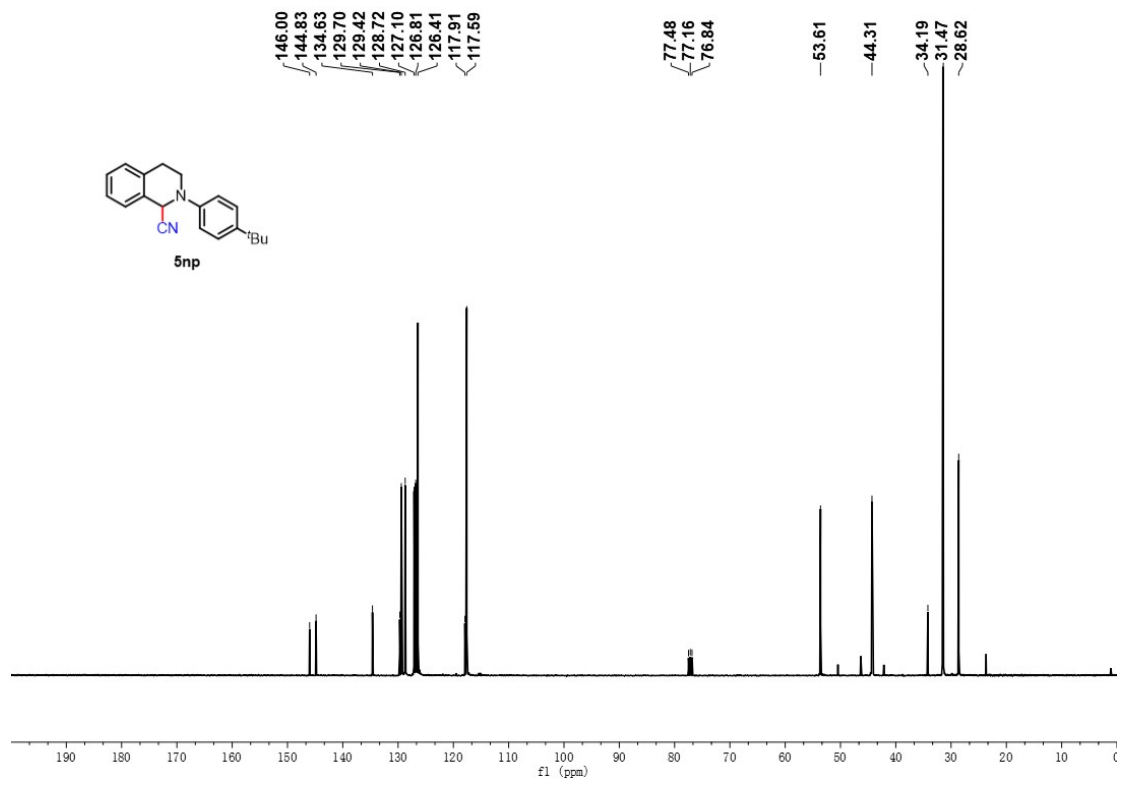


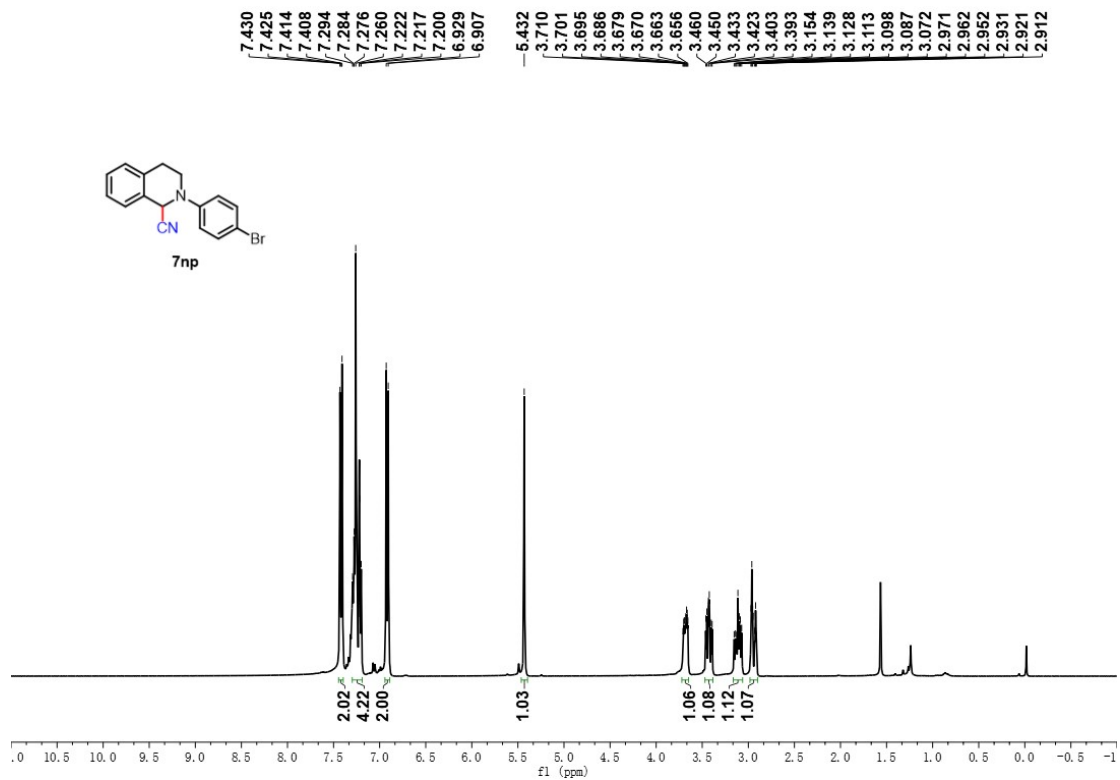
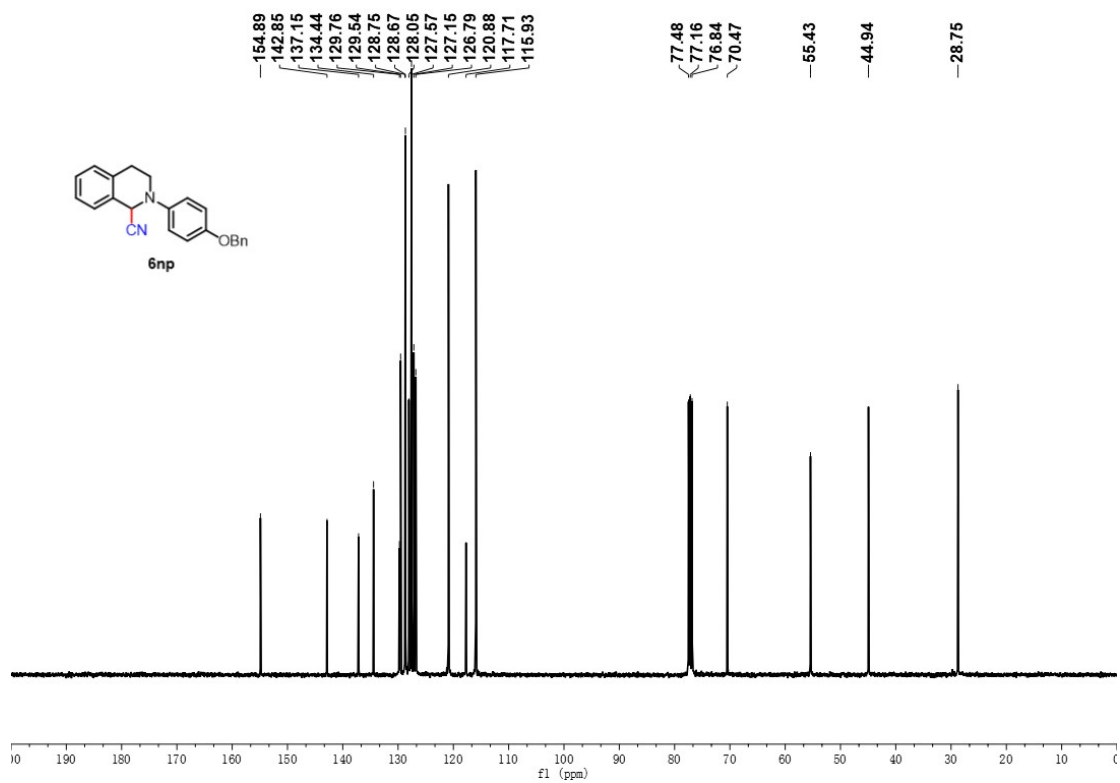


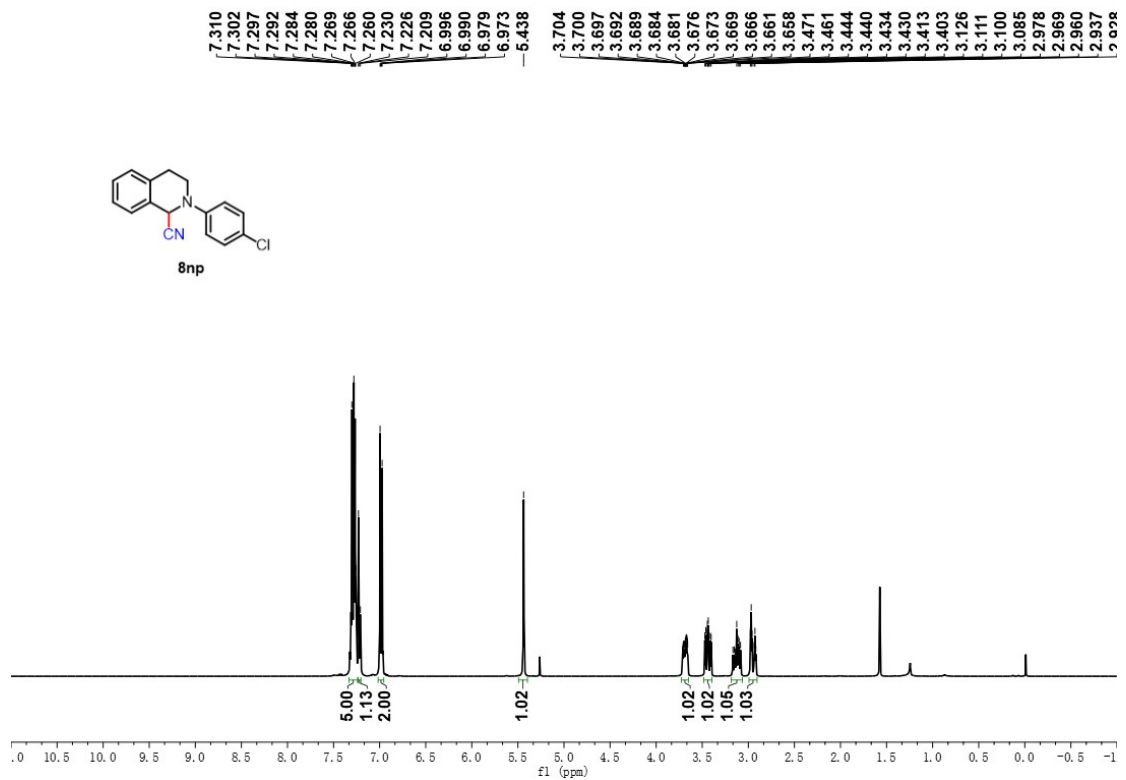
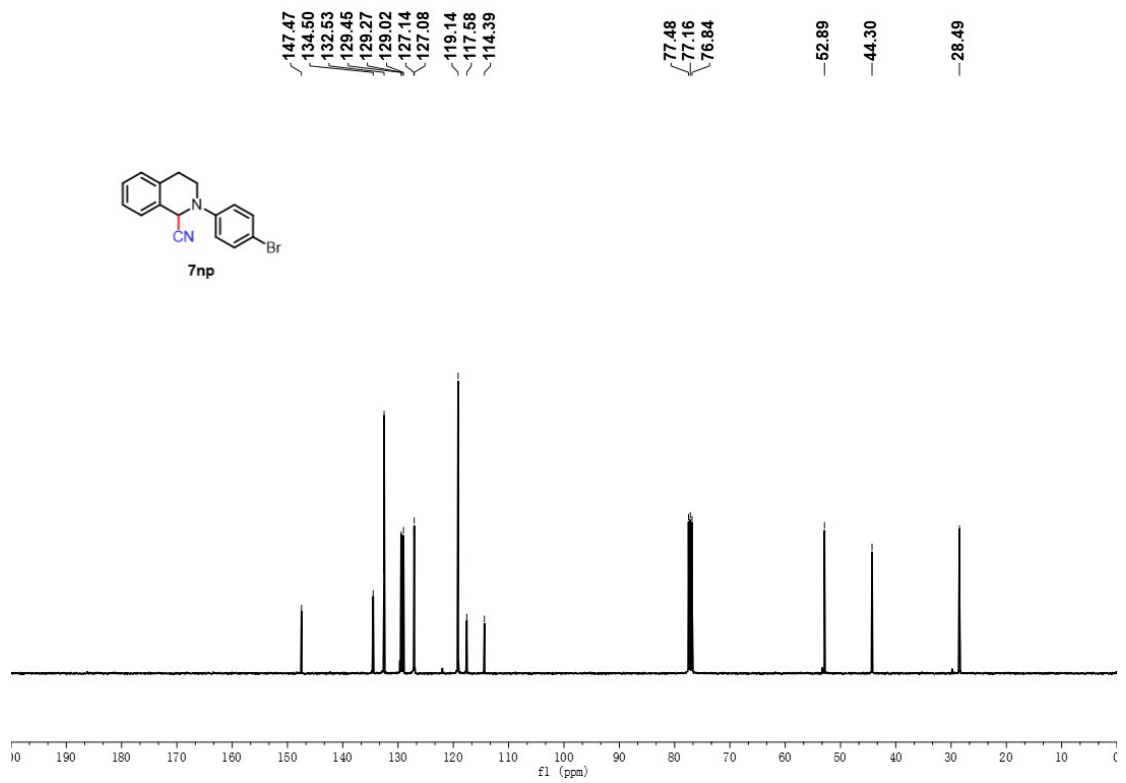


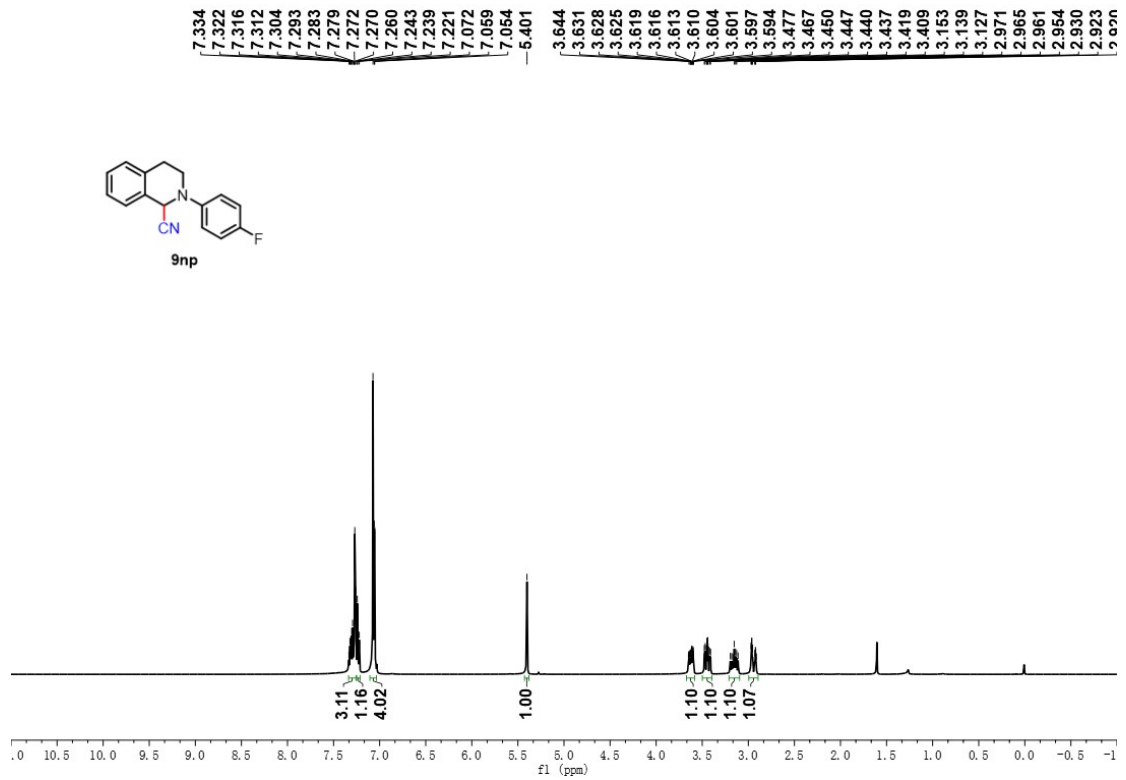
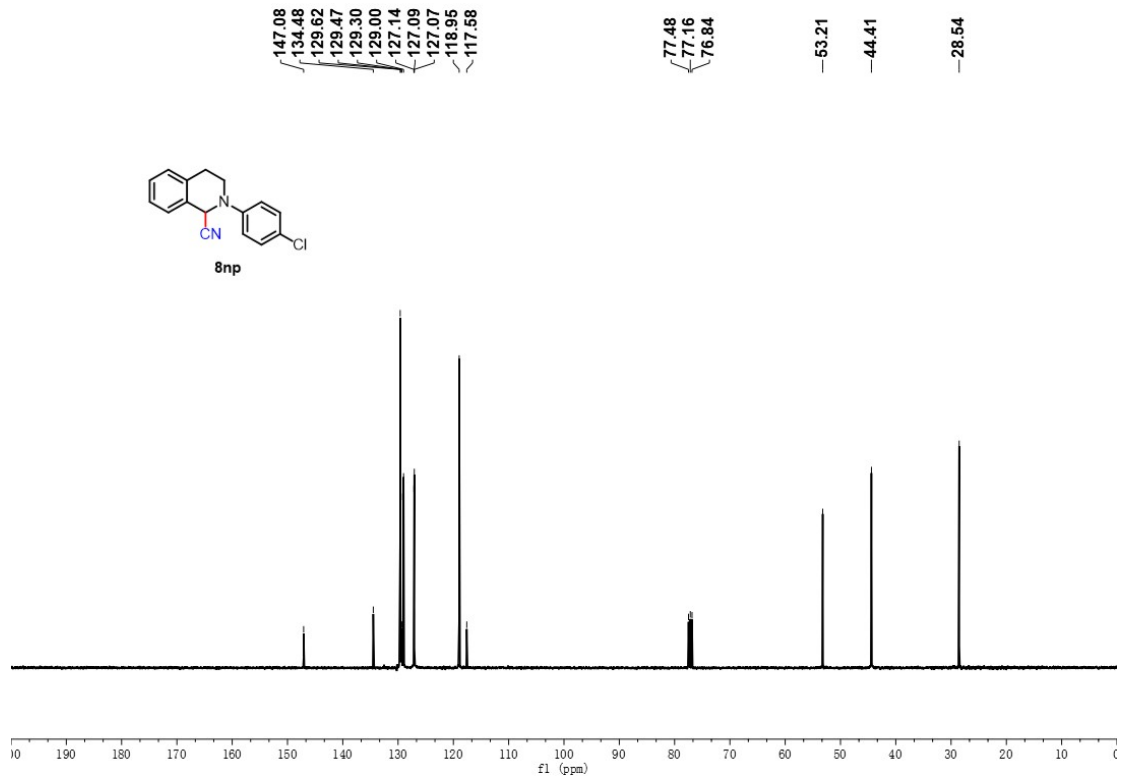


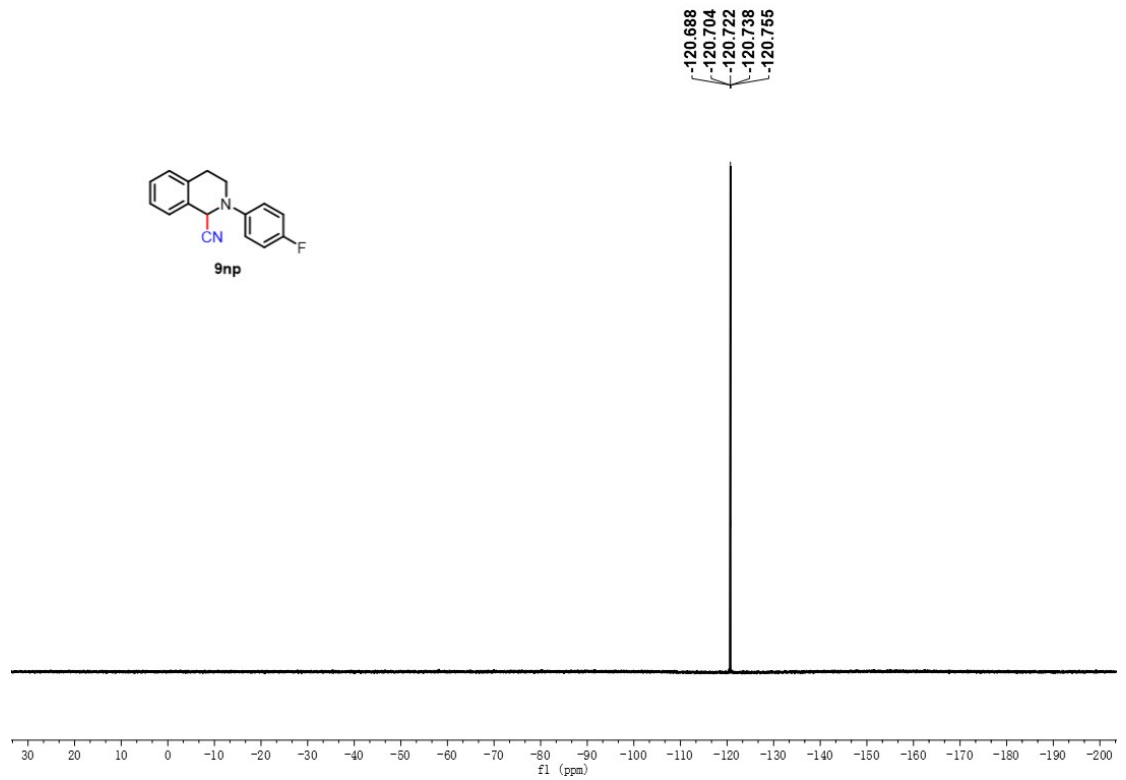
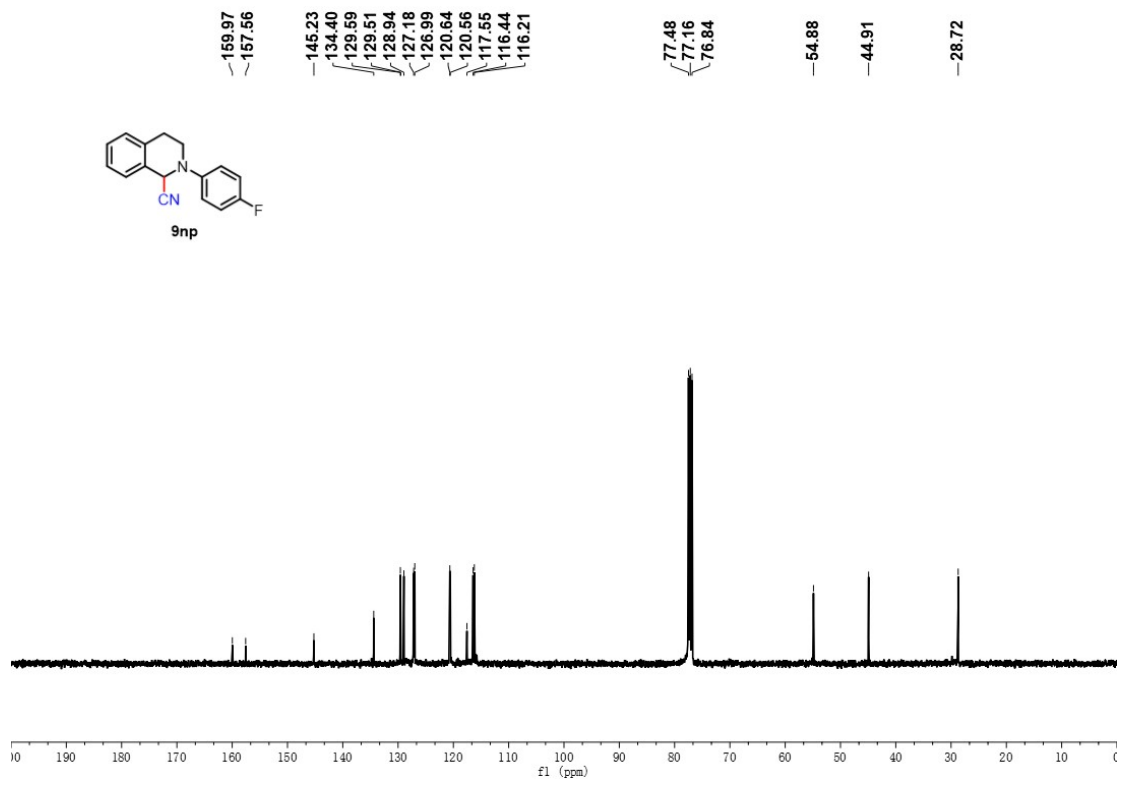




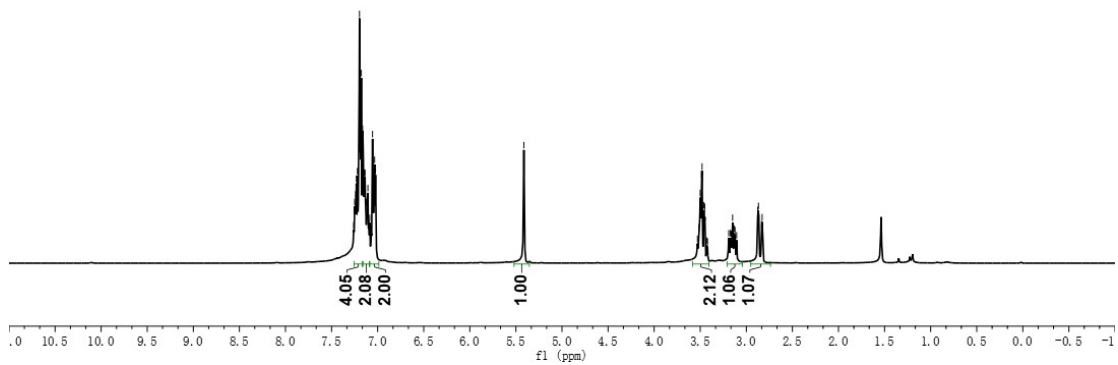
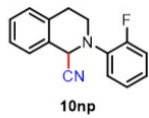




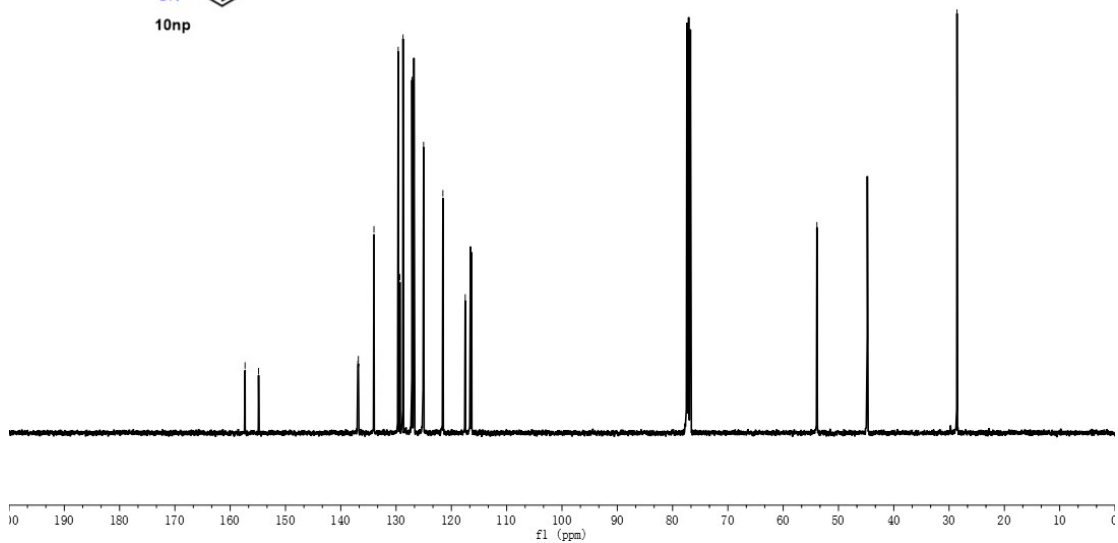


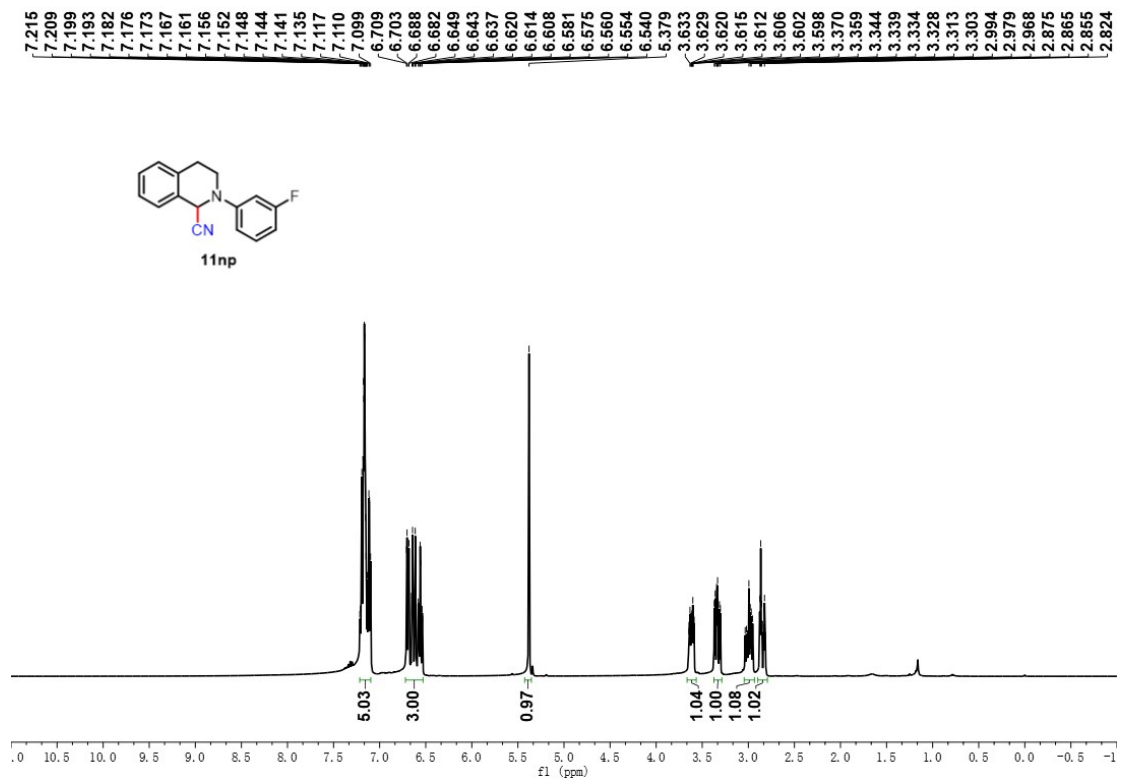
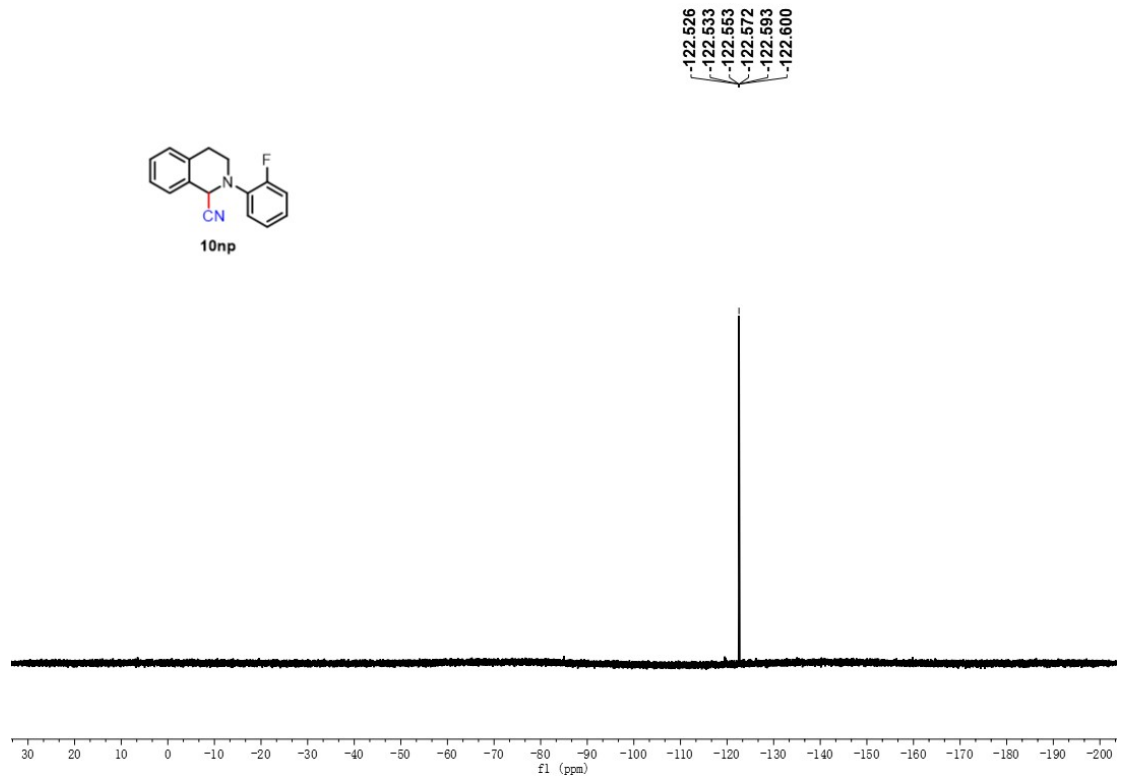


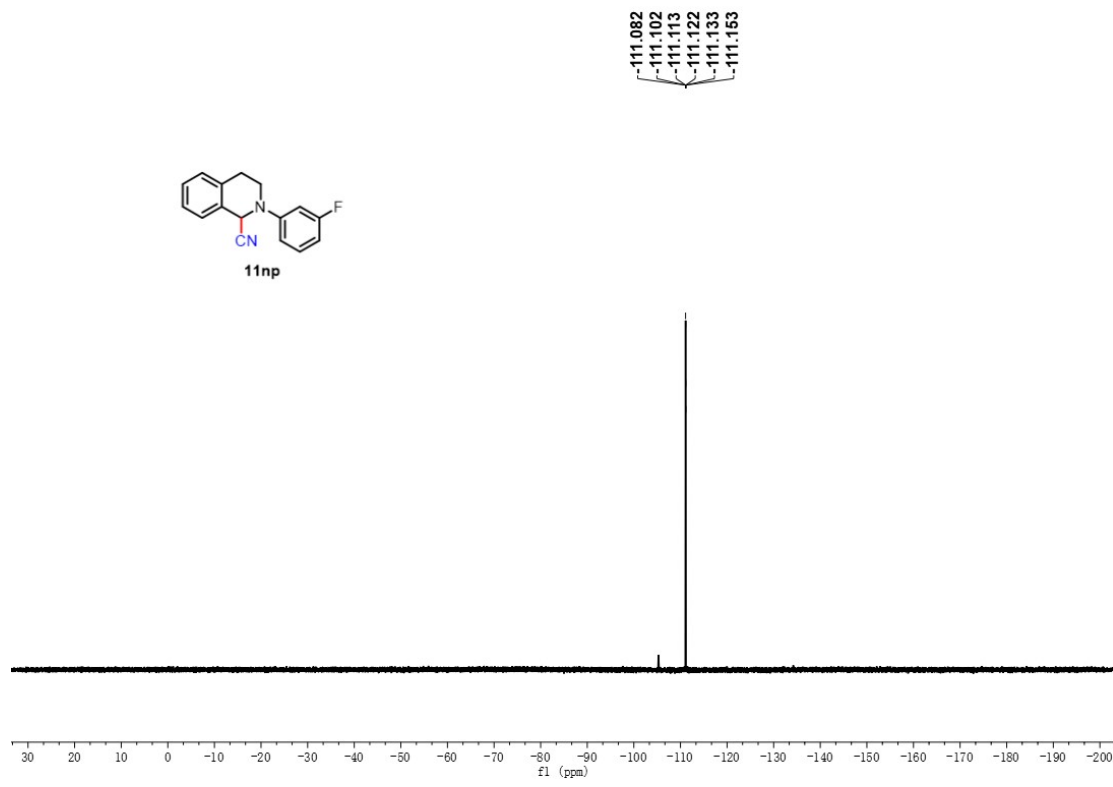
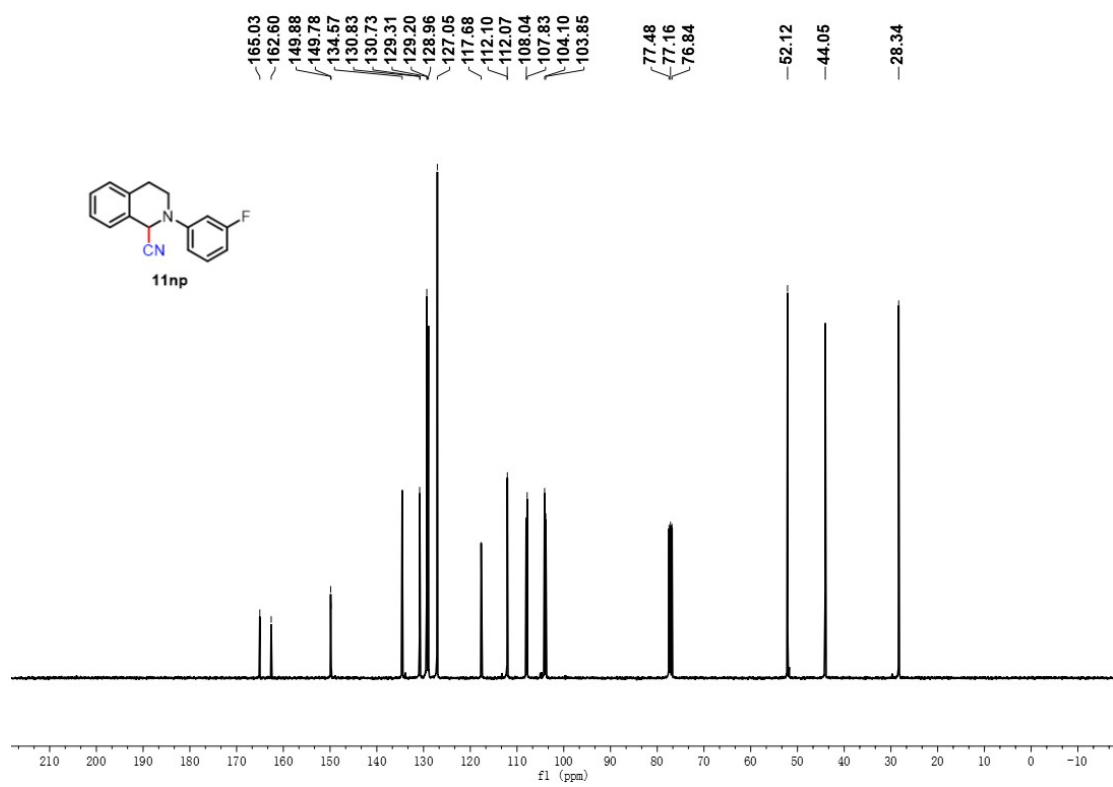
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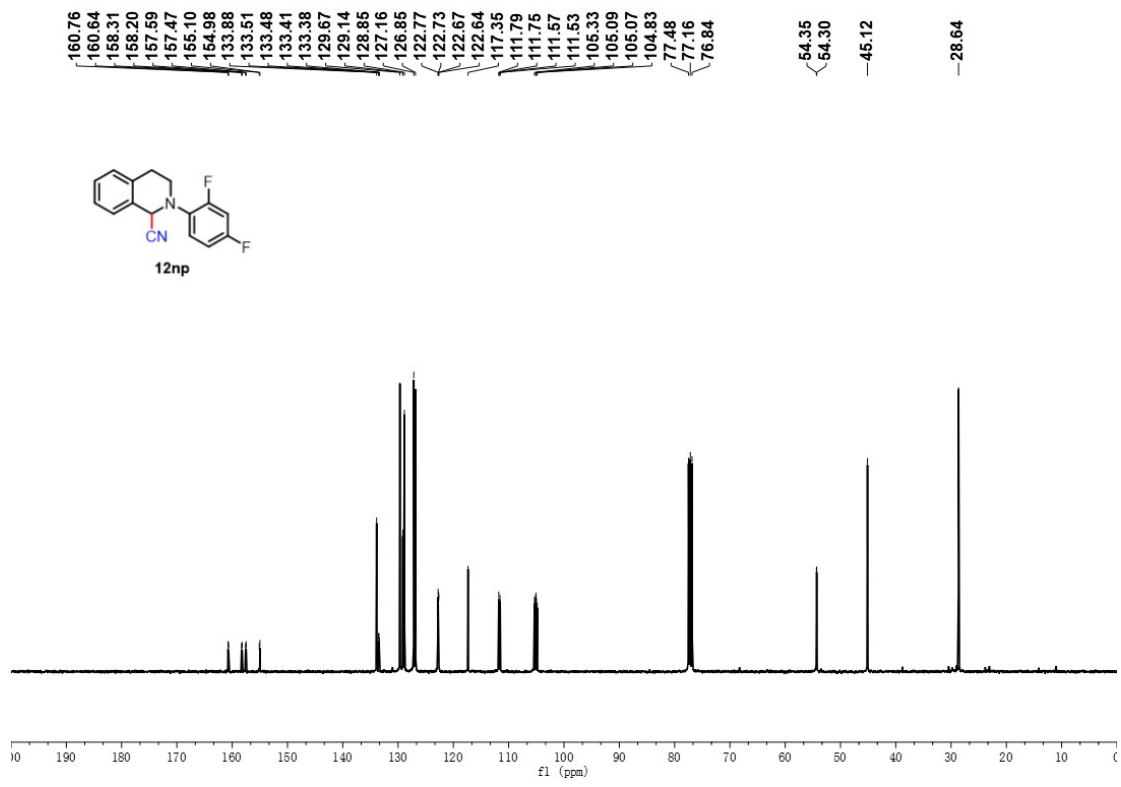
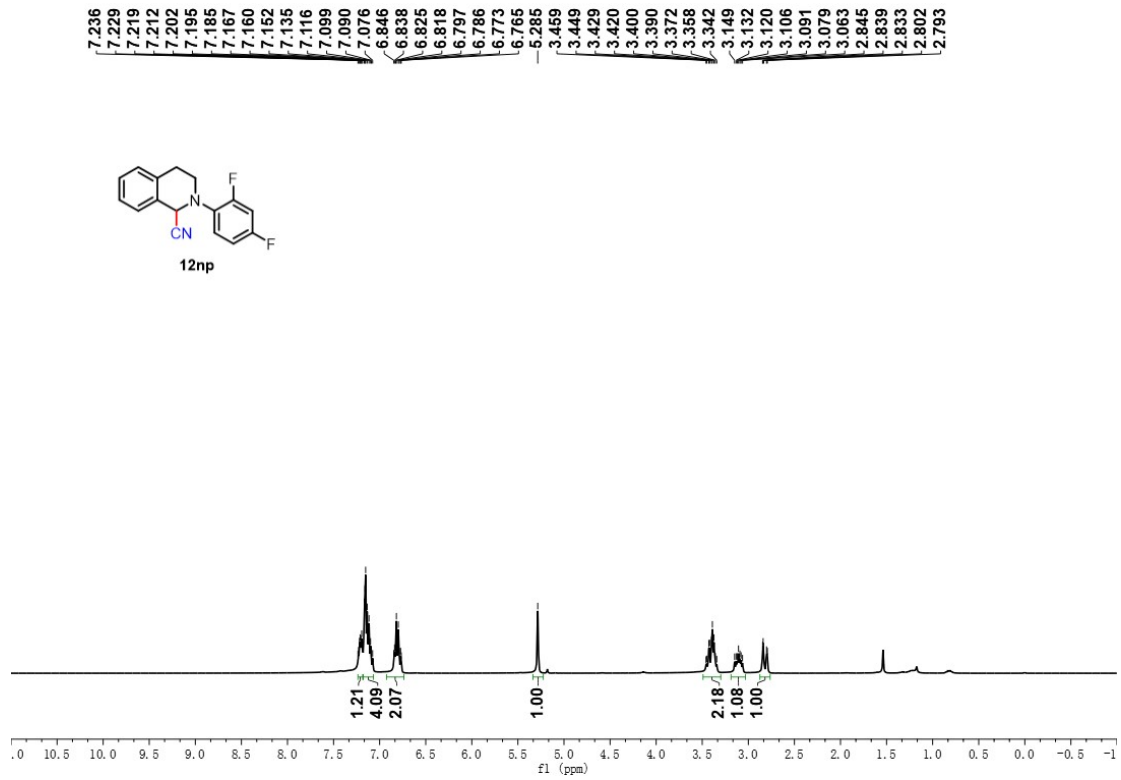


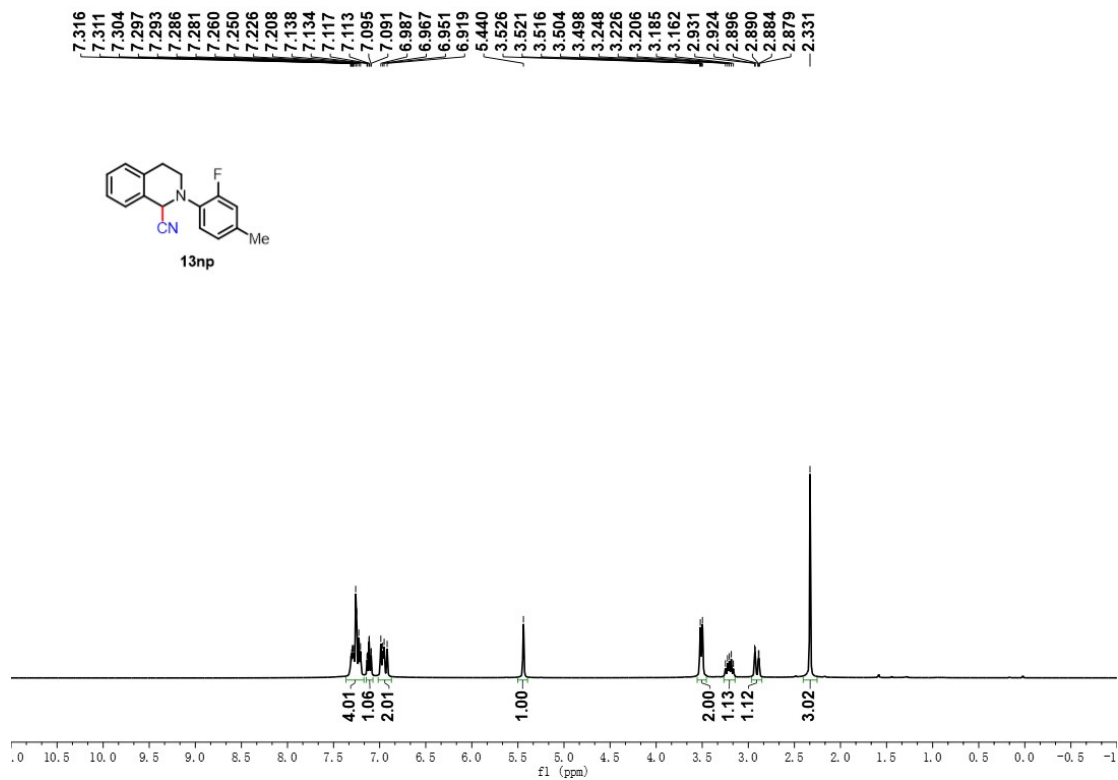
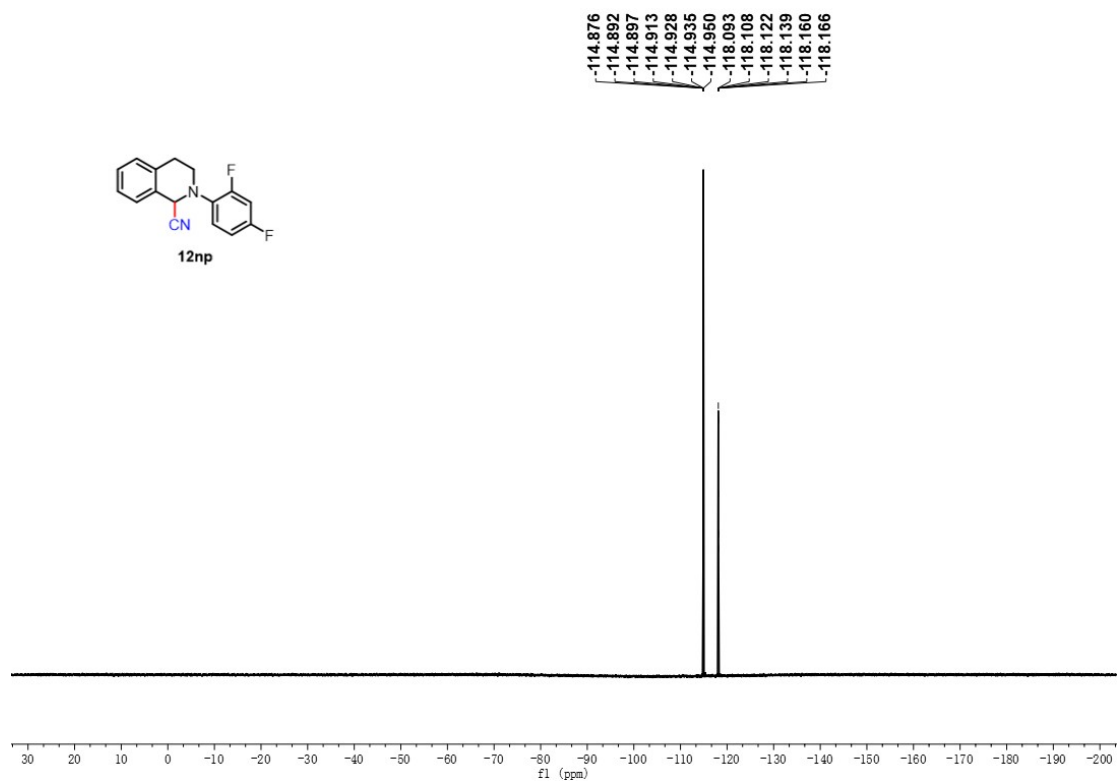
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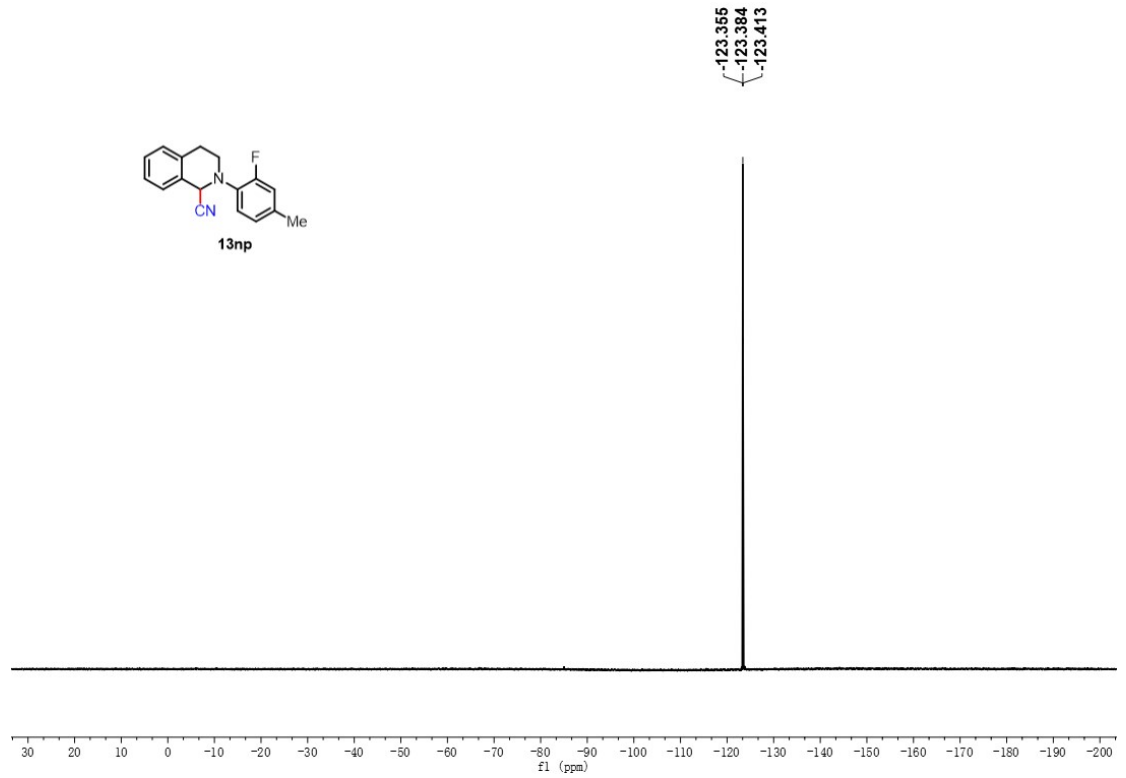
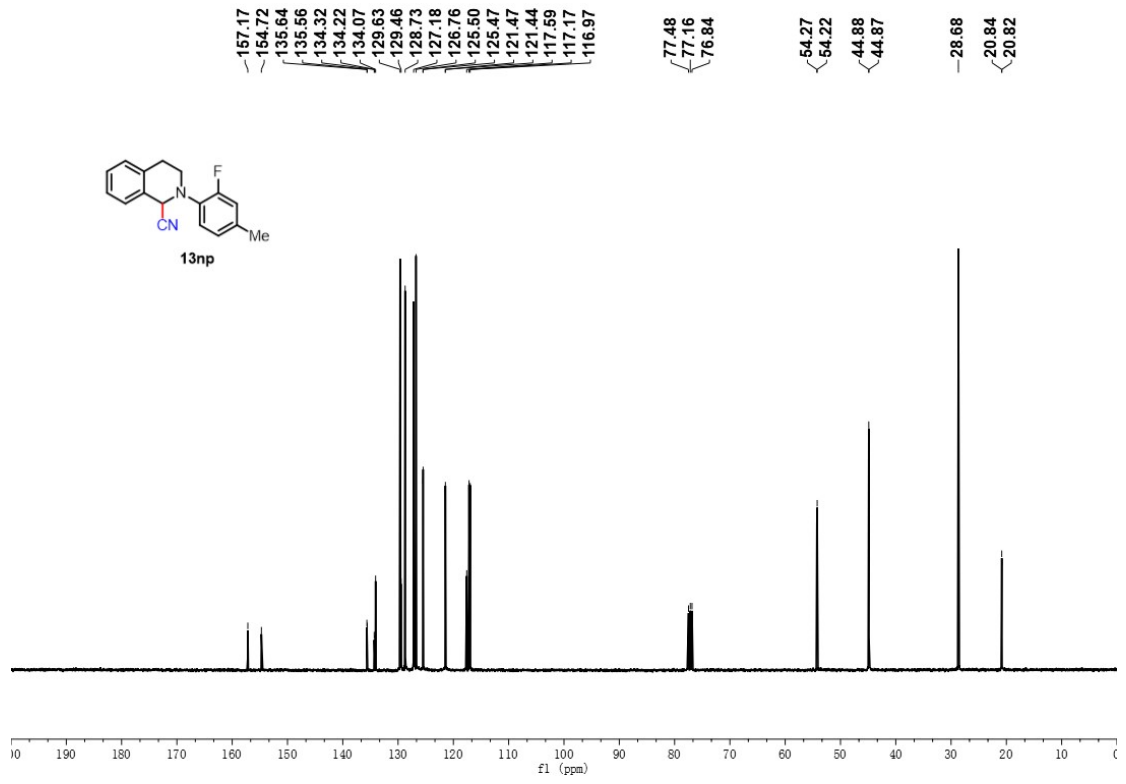


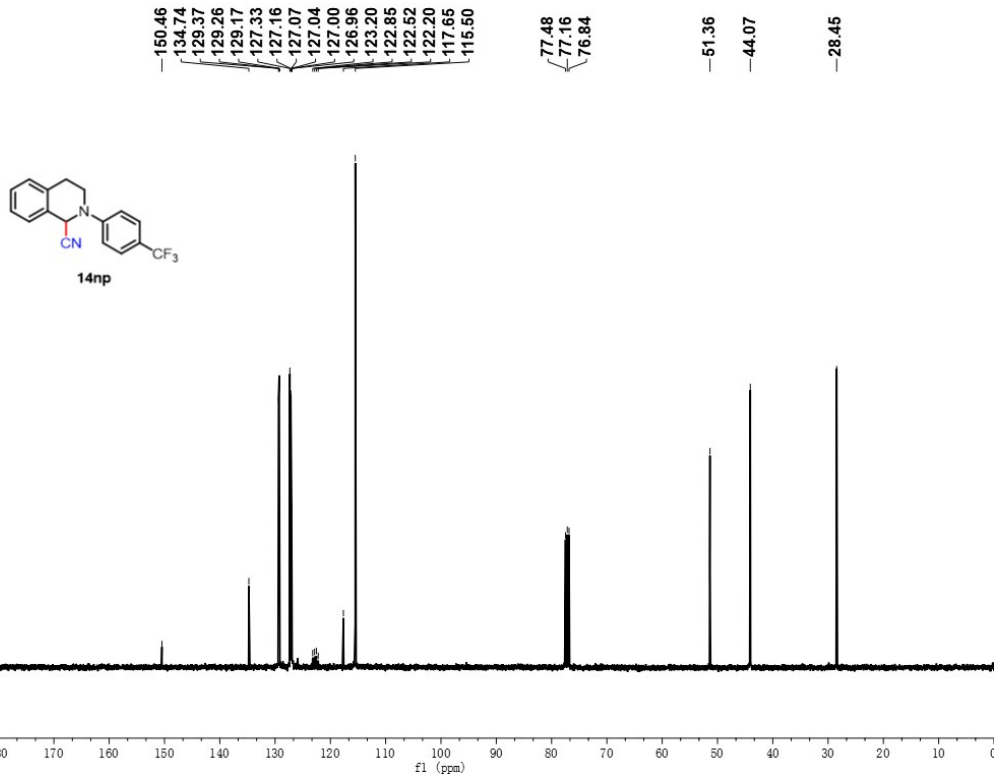
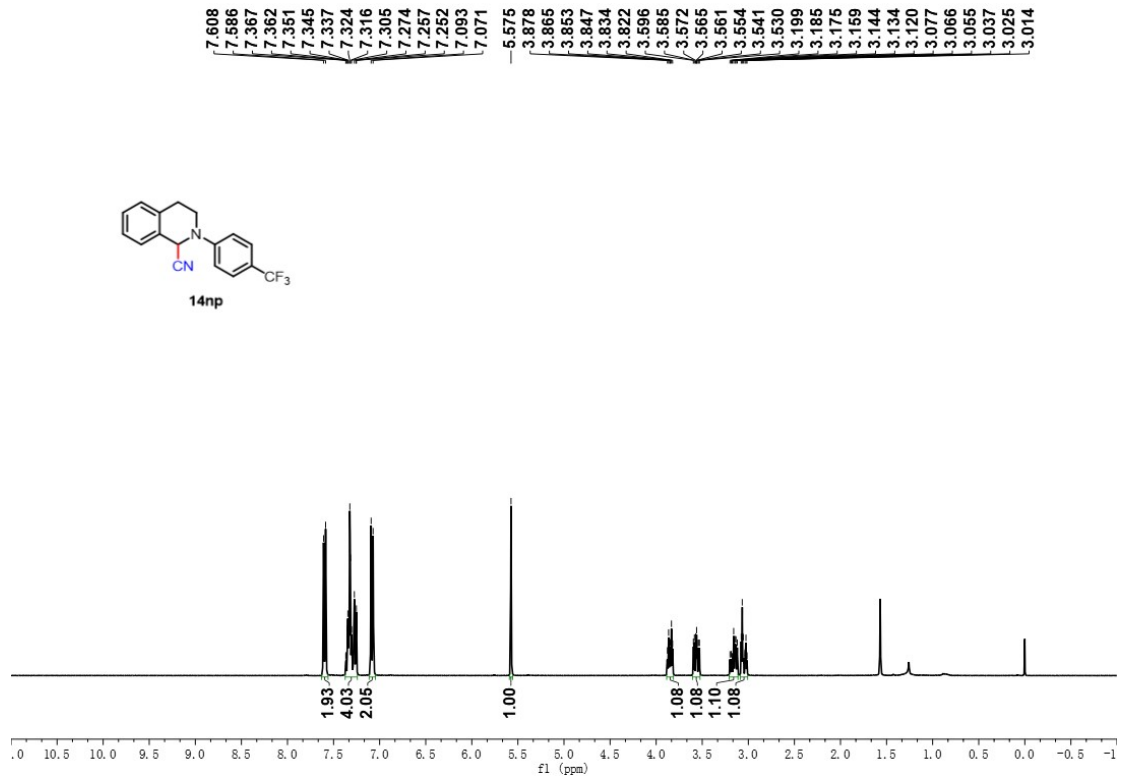




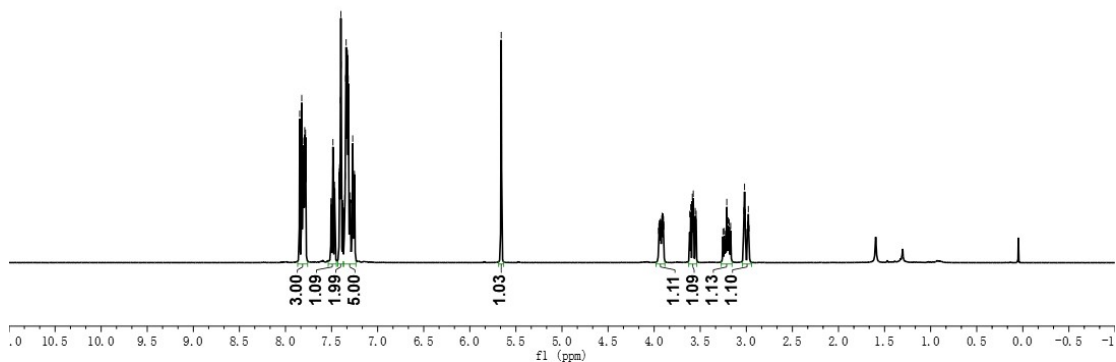
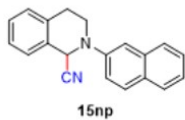




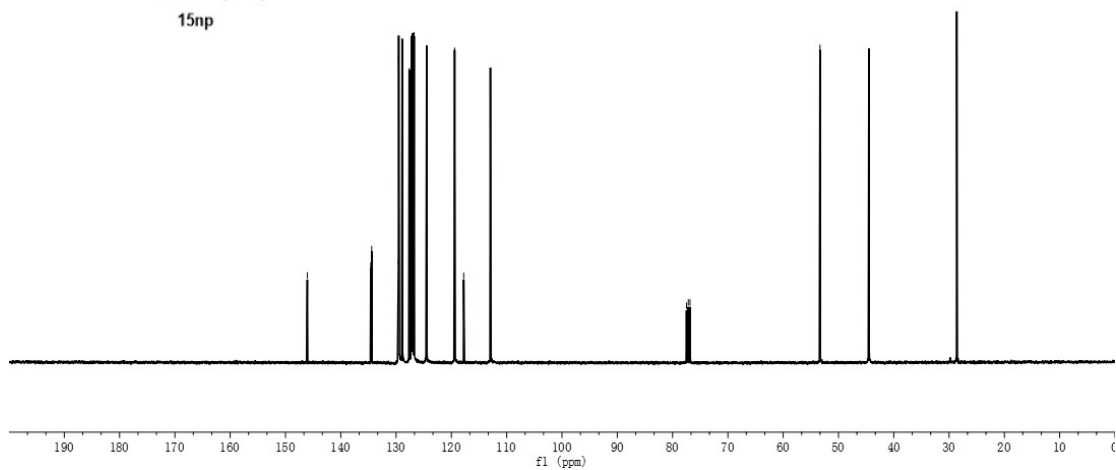


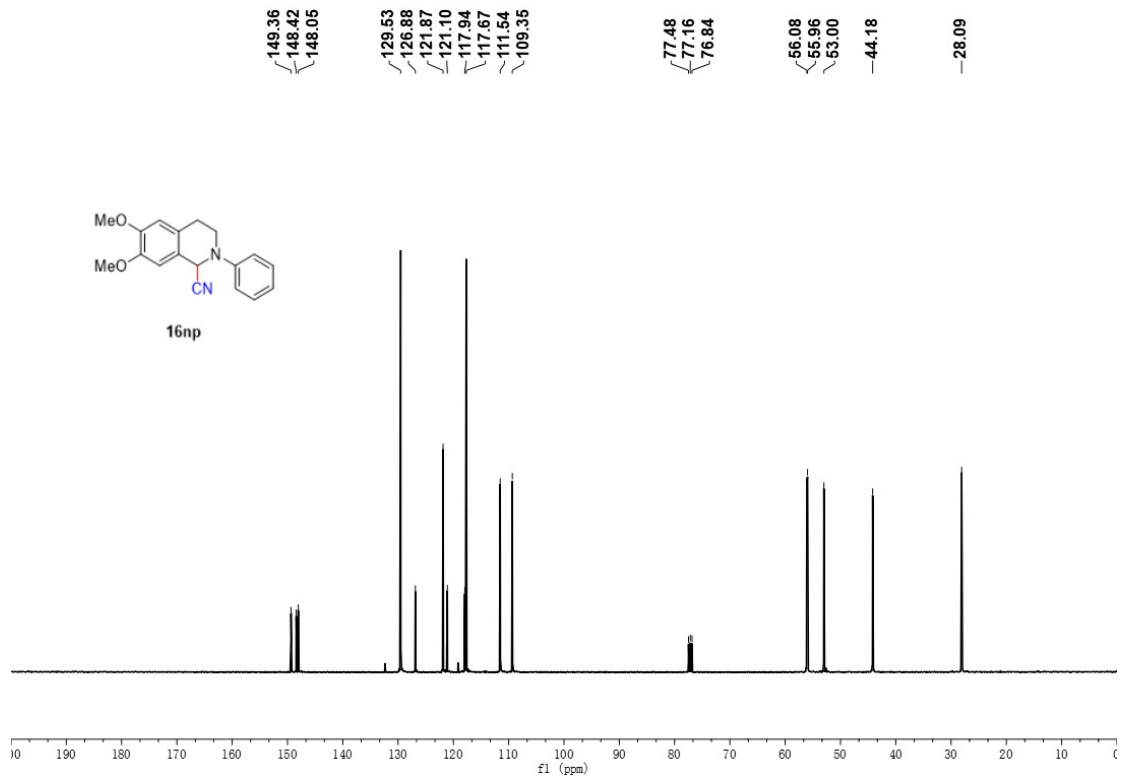
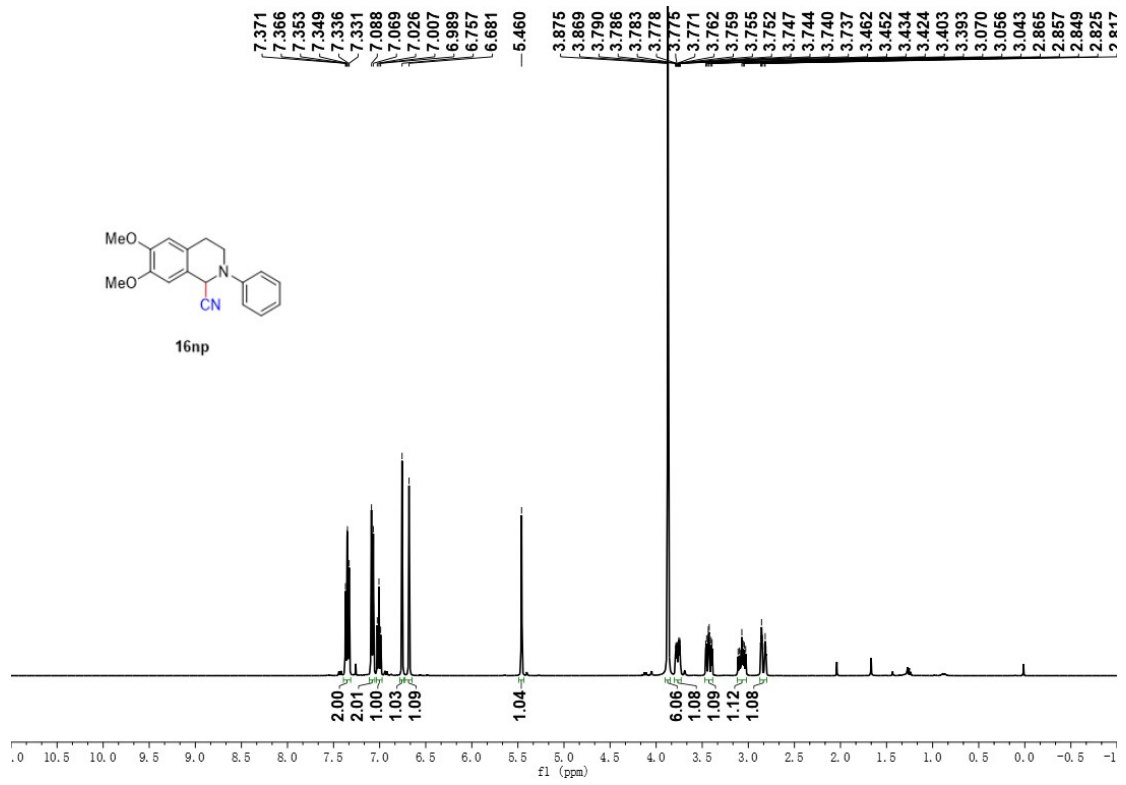


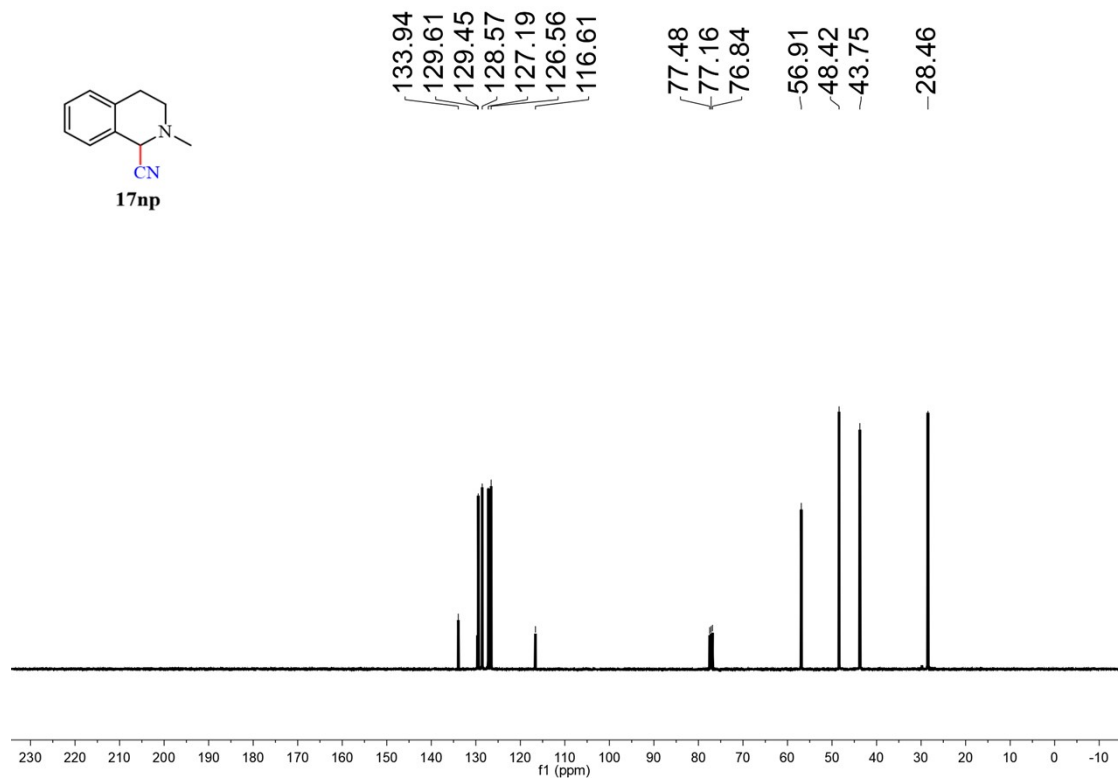
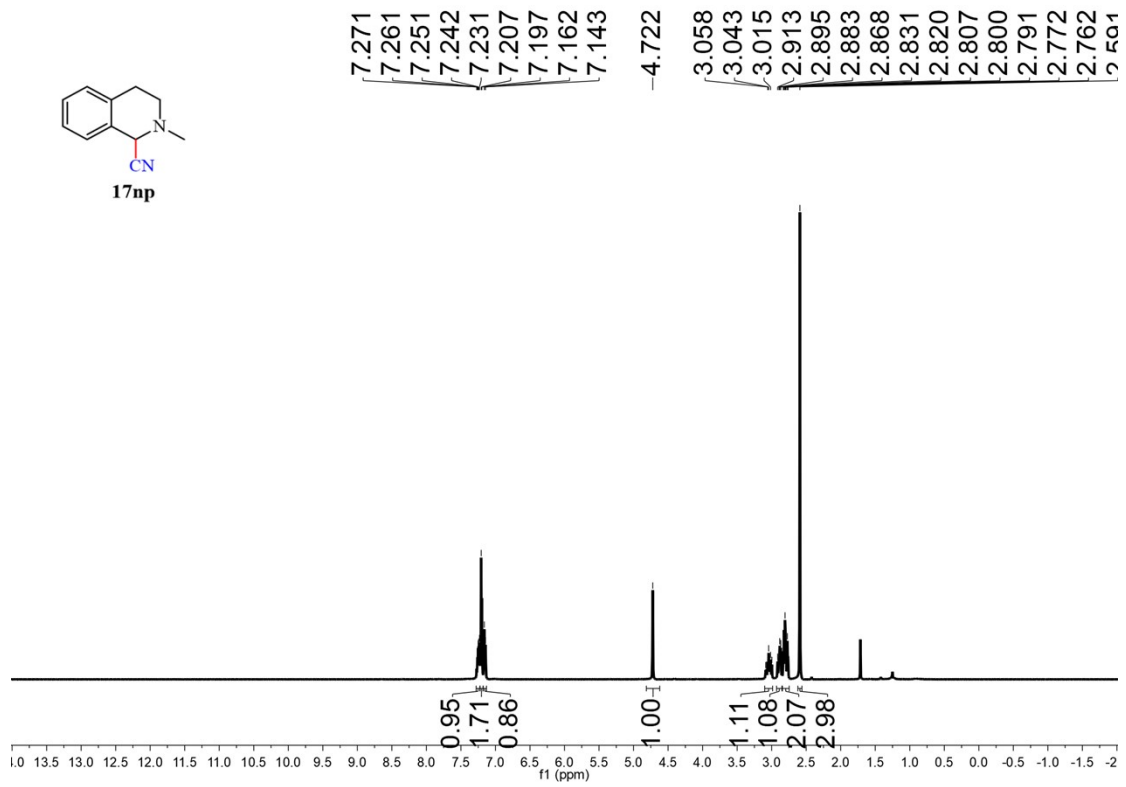
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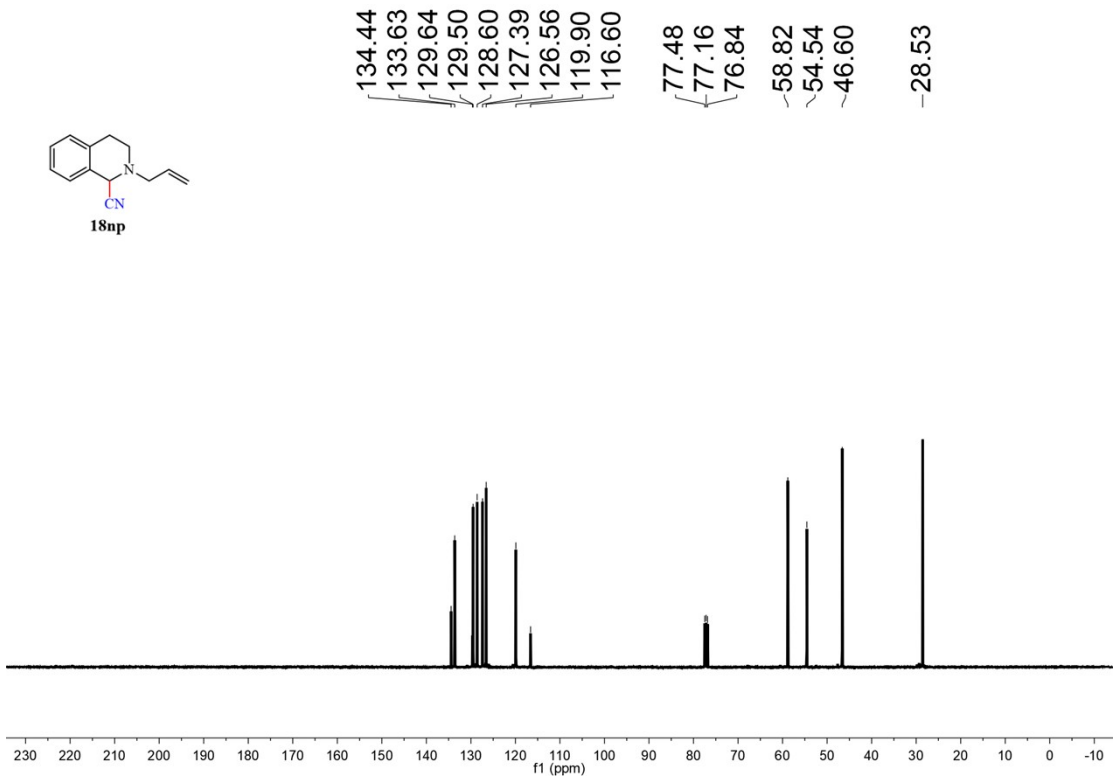
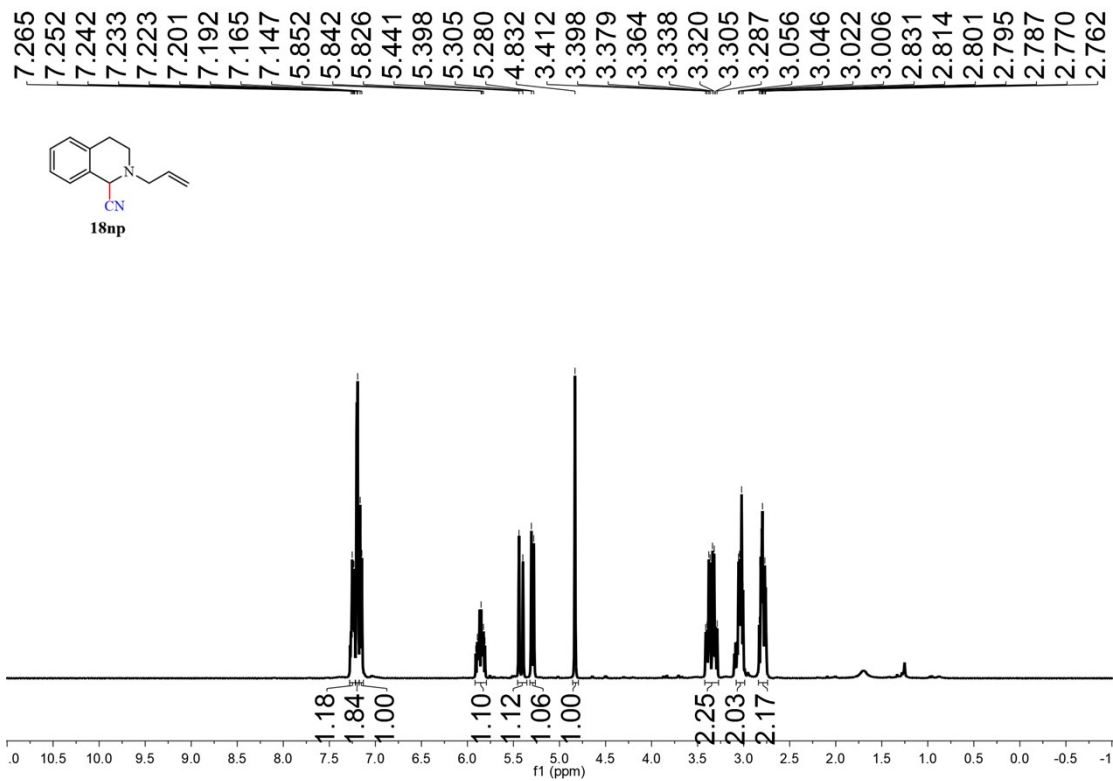


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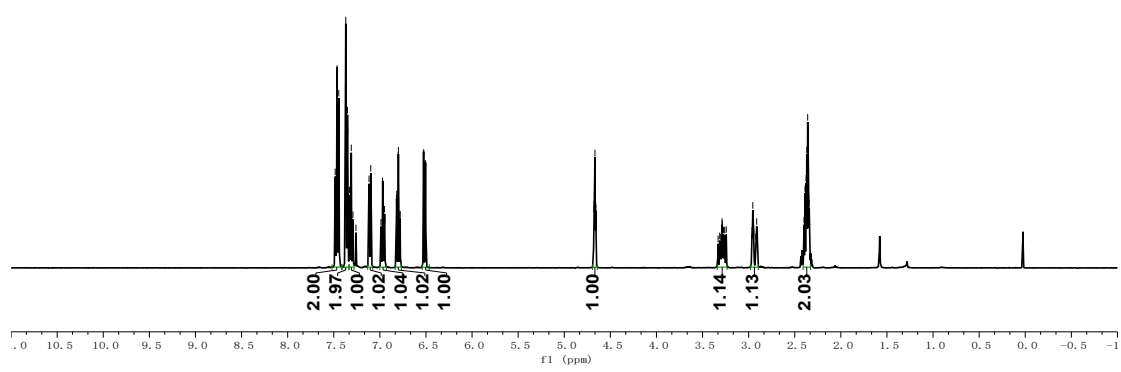
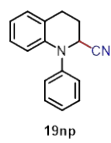




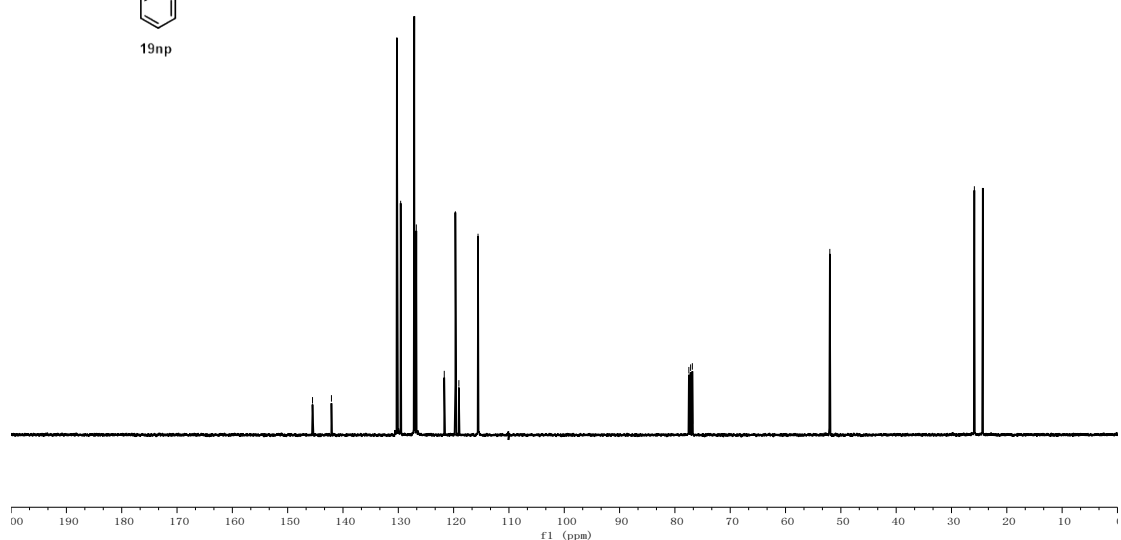
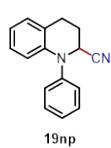


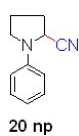
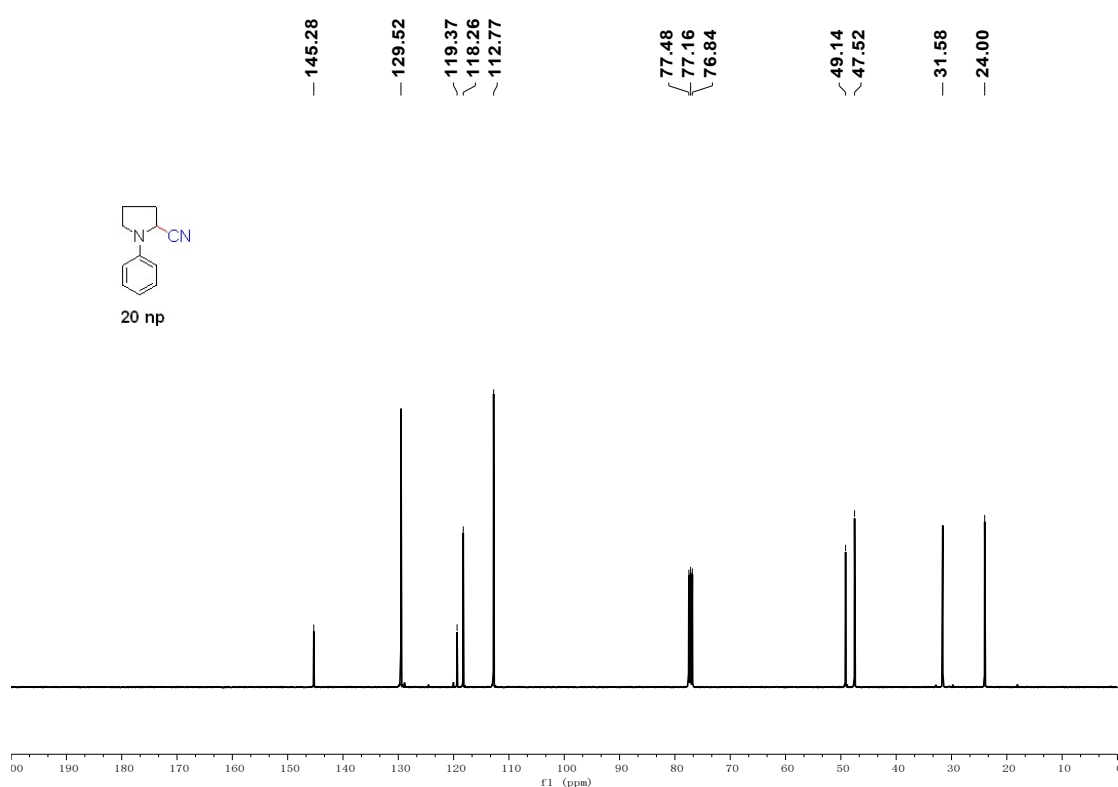
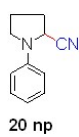
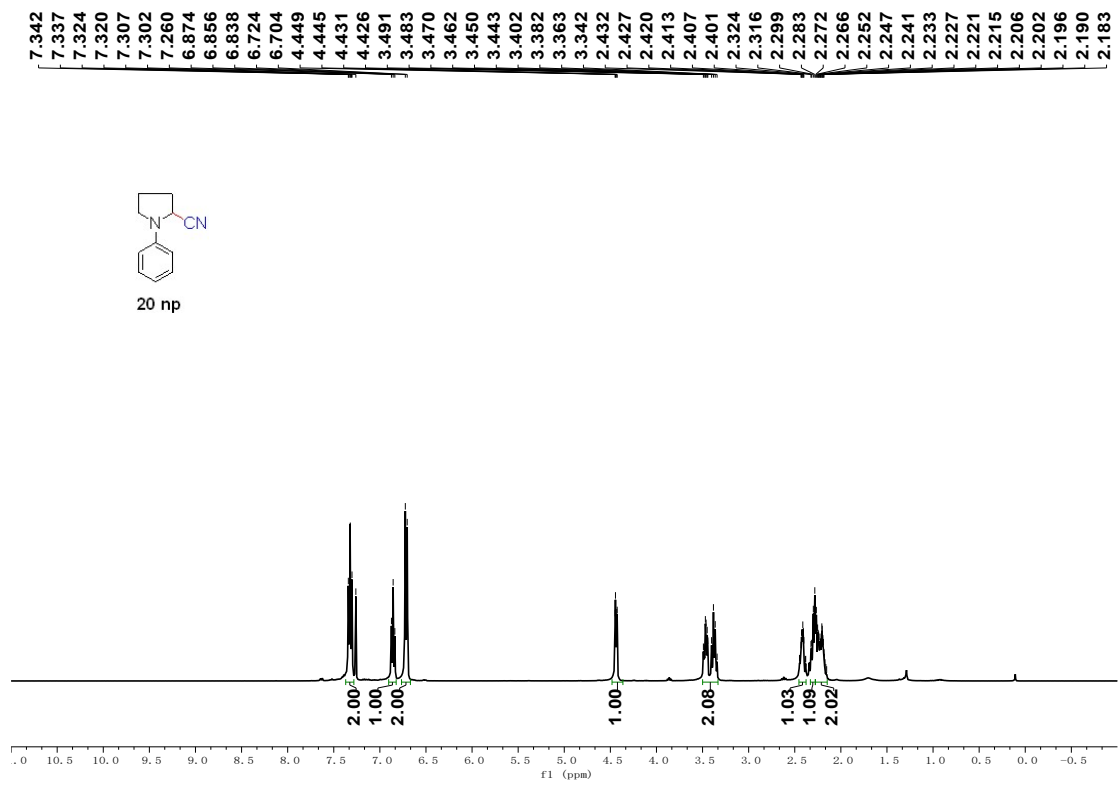


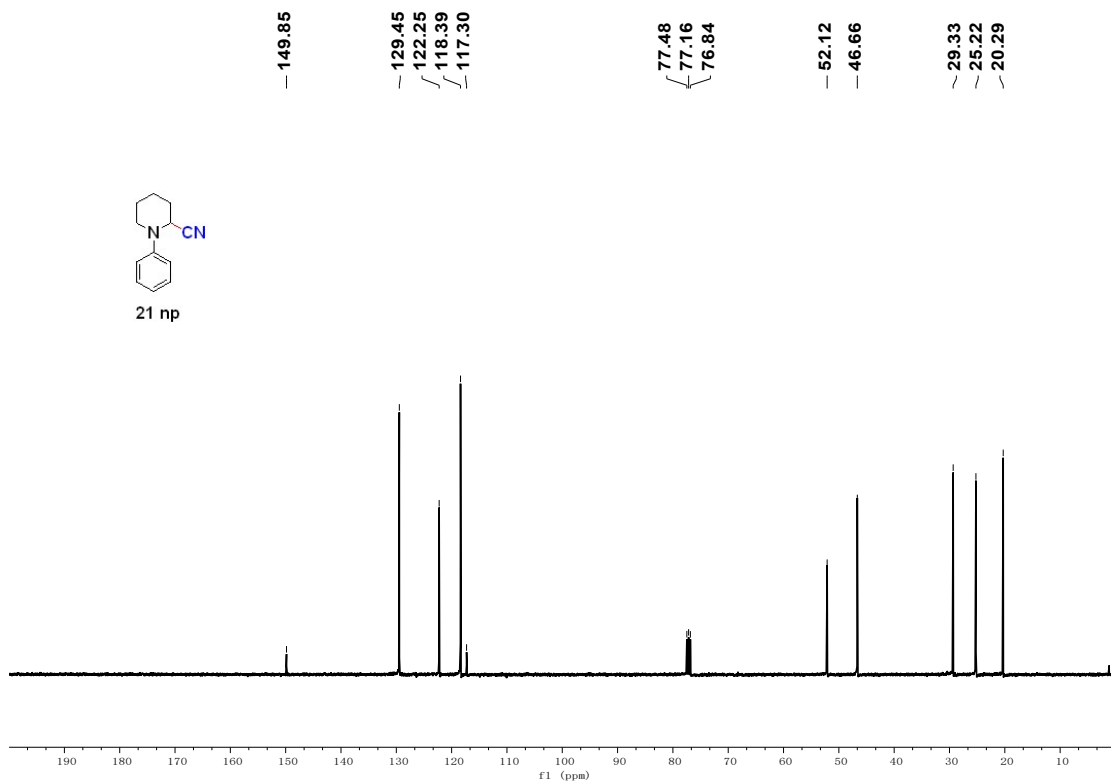
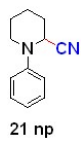
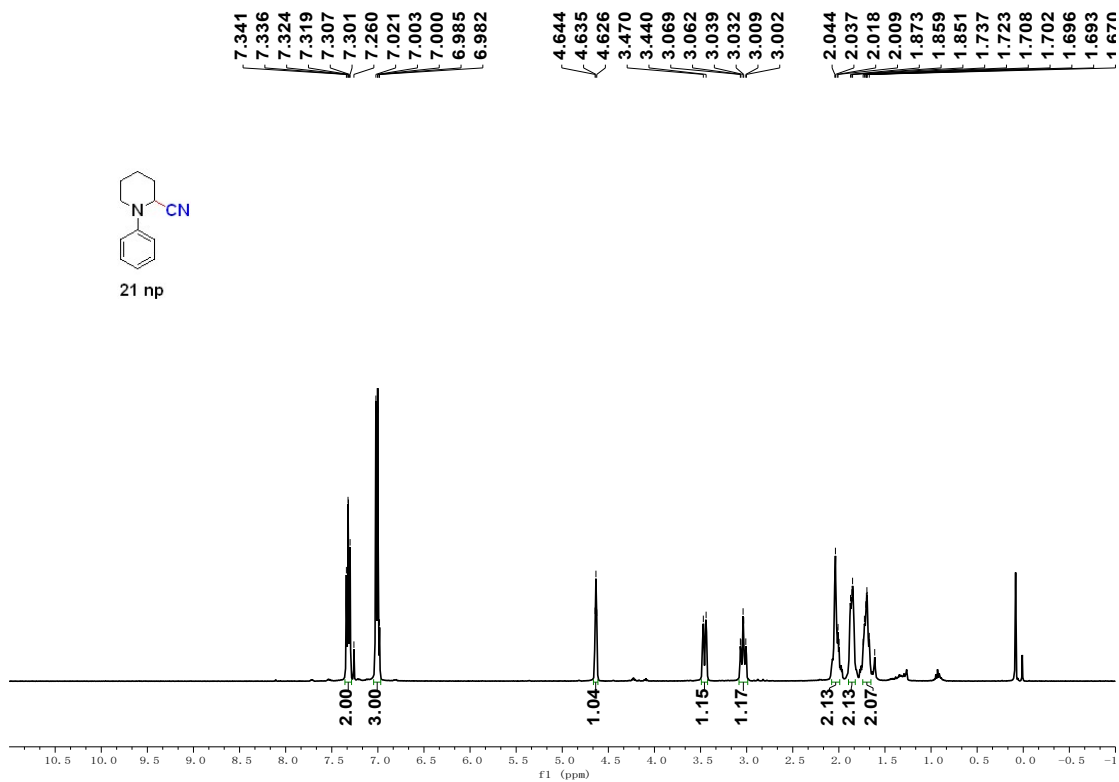
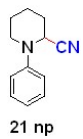
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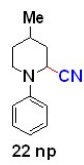
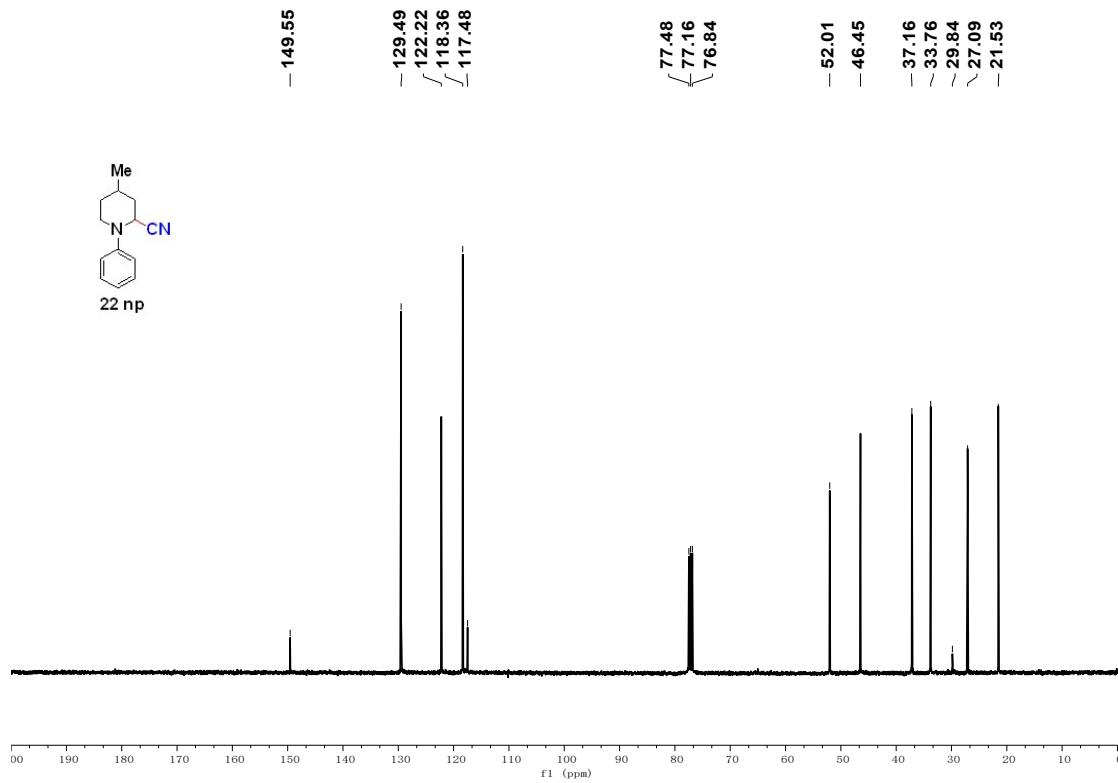
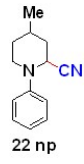
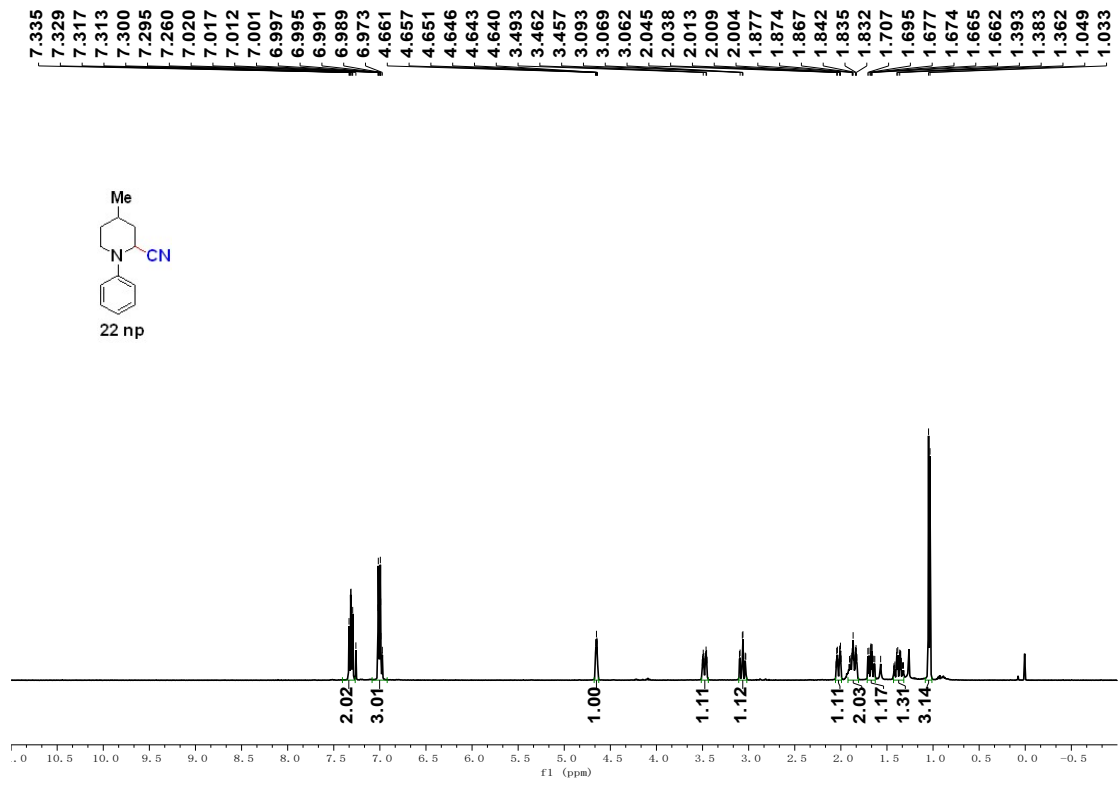


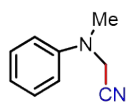
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142.09
130.27
129.58
127.17
127.15
127.11
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115.59
77.48
77.16
76.84
51.99
25.86
24.35



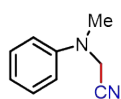
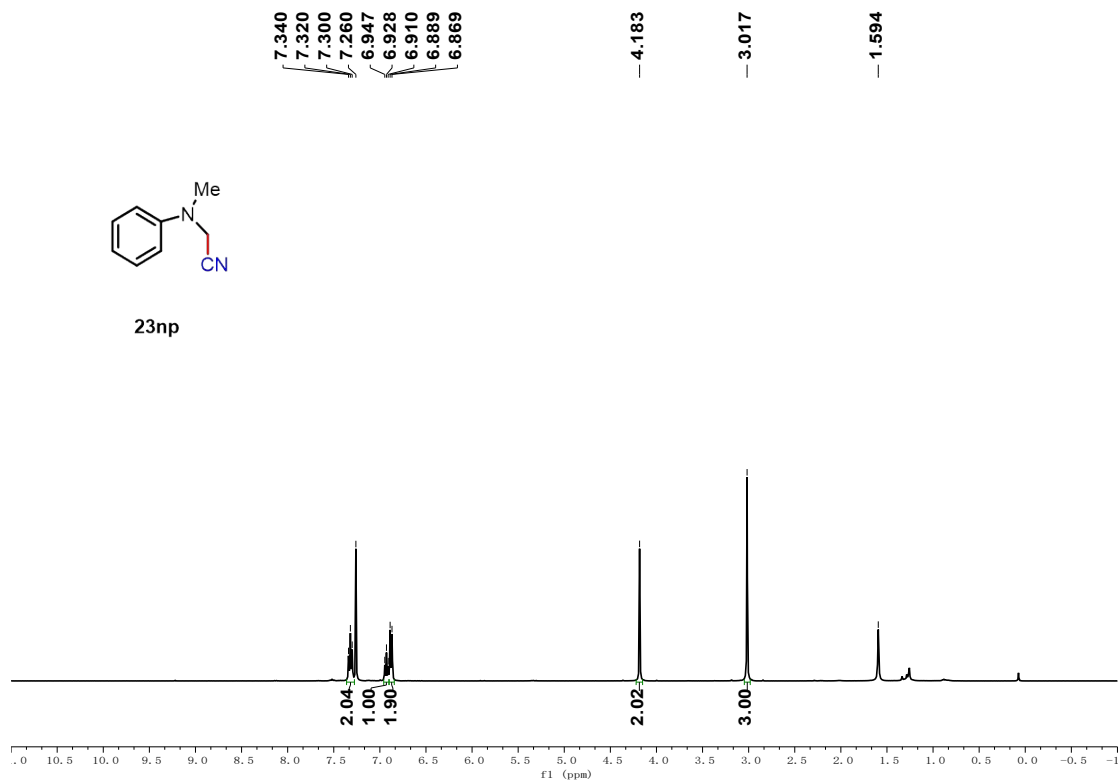








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