

Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI)
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Supporting Information for Microfluidic synthesis of pyrrolidin-2-ones via photoinduced organocatalyzed cyclization of styrene, α -bromoalkyl ester and primary amine†

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Contents

1. General Information	2
2. Batch and Microfluidic Reactor Device	3
3. Select Optimization Results.....	4
4. Experiments for Mechanistic Studies.....	11
5. Analytical data for isolated compounds	14
6. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra.....	23

1.General Information

¹H/¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on magnet system 400'54 ascend instrument purchased from Bruker Biospin AG. All chemical shifts are given in parts per million and are measured relative to CDCl₃ as an internal standard. ESI-MS spectra were recorded on Agilent Q-TOF 6520. Products were purified by flash chromatogrgraphy on 200-300 mesh silica gel and visualized using a UV lamp (254 nm or 365 nm). All the solvents were used without further purification, unless otherwise state. the other commercial chemicals were used without further purification. All reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of nitrogend.

General procedure for the synthesis of 4 (4aaa as an example):

An oven-dried 5 mL reaction syringe was charged with styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (1 mmol, 1 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv), PC-B (1 mol %) and Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv). And add 2 mL Dichloroethane (0.5 M) solution. Pass the solutions through a Quartz tubing (id = 0.5 mm, length =1.0 m) to building the pyrrolidin-2-ones during 20 minutes of residence time under the simulated solar lamp (300W, 220V, wavelength 250nm-780nm). The reaction mixture was diluted with HCl (30, 0.3 M) and extracted by ethyl acetate (30 mL) or dichloromethane (30 mL). The separated organic layers

were dried over by anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel using hexane/ethyl acetate or dichloromethane/methanol to afford the desired product 4aaa (90% yield).

2. Batch and Microfluidic Reactor Device

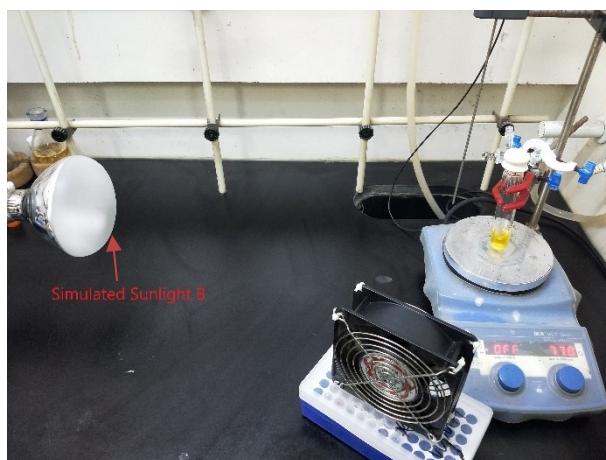


Figure S1. Batch reactor device

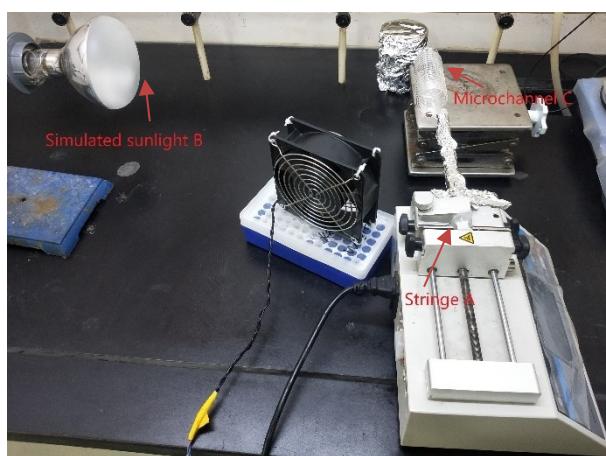


Figure S2. Microfluidic reactor device

Note: The light source is a simulated solar lamp (300W, 220V, wavelength 250nm-780nm).

3. Select Optimization Results

3.1 Table 1. Varying the wavelength of light.^a

Entry	Wavelength of Light	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	360-370 nm	84
2	380-385 nm	73
3	390-398 nm	61
4	420-430 nm	58
5	435-445 nm	45
6 ^c	250-780 nm	81

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC-B (2 % equiv), K₃PO₄ (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 4 mL DCE (0.25 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature. Unless otherwise specified, the model of all lamps used is 10W, 220V, LED.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

^c Simulated Sunlight.

3.2 Table 2. Varying the Catalyst.^a

Visible Light

PC Conditions

1a 2a 3a 4aaa

PC-A PC-B PC-C PC-D

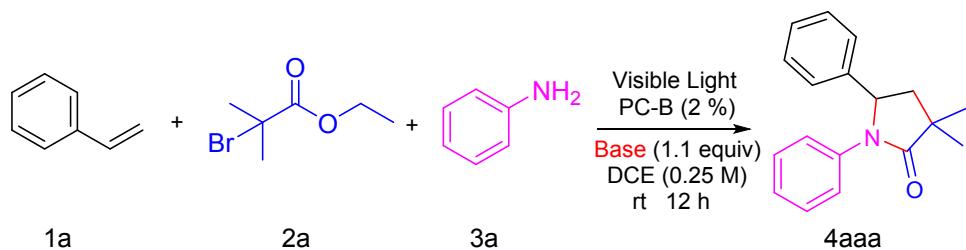
Entry	PC	Base	Solvent	Time	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	PC-A	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	75
2	PC-B	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	81
3	PC-C	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	73
4	PC-D	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	71
5	None	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	None
6 ^c	PC-B	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	None

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), K₃PO₄ (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 4 mL DCE (0.25 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

^c No light

3.3 Table 3. Varying the Base.^a

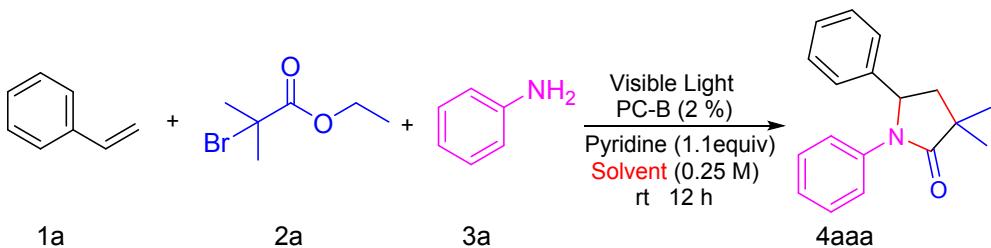


Entry	PC	Base	Solvent	Time	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	PC-B	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	12	81
2	PC-B	K ₂ CO ₃	DCE	12	63
3	PC-B	NaHCO ₃	DCE	12	58
4	PC-B	LiOtBu	DCE	12	67
5	PC-B	Et ₃ N	DCE	12	None
6	PC-B	DMAP	DCE	12	79
7	PC-B	DBU	DCE	12	32
8	PC-B	Pyridine	DCE	12	84
9	PC-B	None	DCE	12	45

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), Base (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 4 mL DCE (0.25 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.4 Table 4. Varying the Solvent.^a

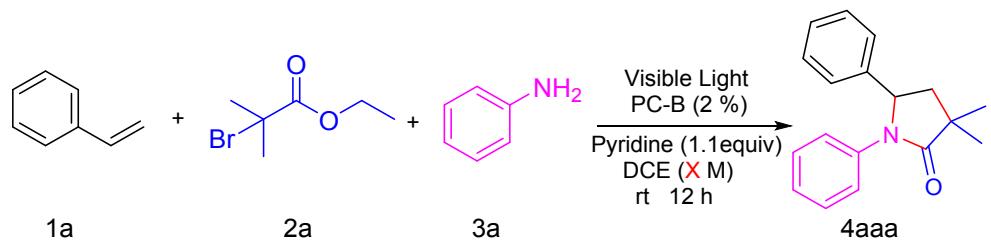


Entry	PC	Base	Solvent	Time	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	PC-B	Pyridine	DCE	12	84
2	PC-B	Pyridine	MeCN	12	51
3	PC-B	Pyridine	THF	12	45
4	PC-B	Pyridine	DMA	12	23
5	PC-B	Pyridine	DMF	12	31

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add X mL (0.25 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.5 Table 5. Concentration.^a

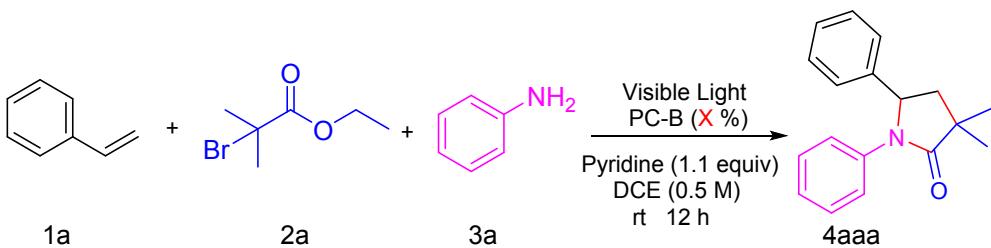


Entry	Concentration	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	1.0 M	81
2	0.5 M	86
3	0.25 M	84
4	0.10 M	73

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add DCE (X M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.6 Table 6. Catalyst concentration.^a

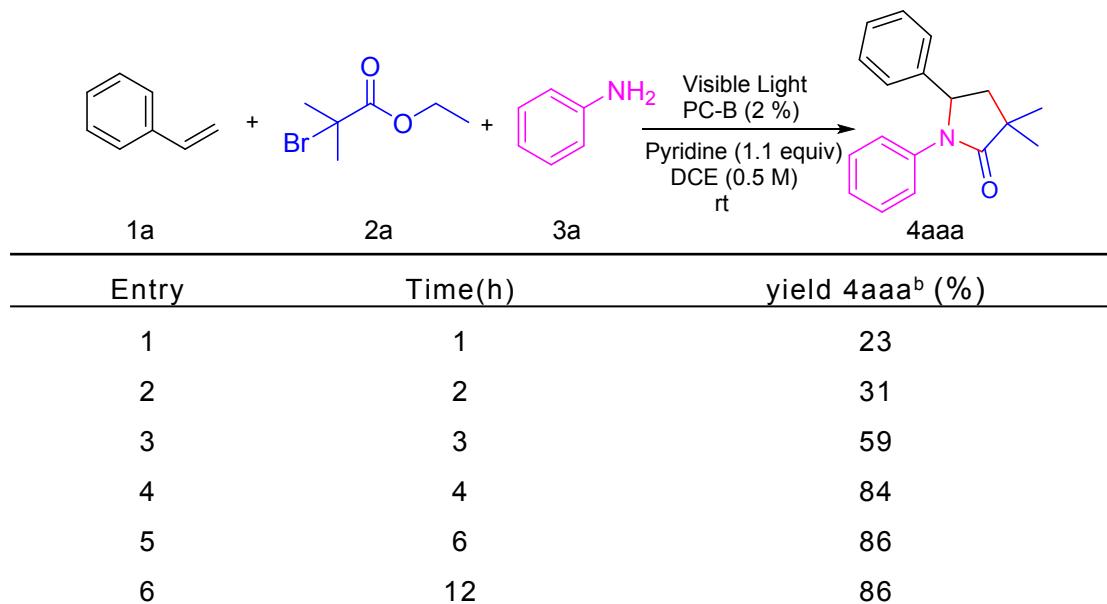


Entry	PC (X mol %)	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	2	86
2	1	71
3	0.5	65
4	0.1	48
5	0.05	29
6	None	None

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (X % equiv), Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 2 mL DCE (0.5 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 12 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.7 Table 7. Residence time.^a



^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 2 mL DCE (0.5 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (2 mmol, 2 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm in room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

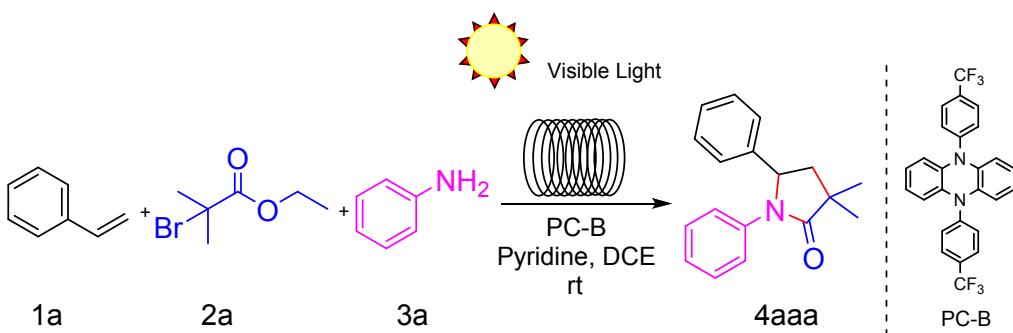
3.8 Table 8. Reagent Loadings.^a

Entry	1a	2a	3a	4aaa	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1		2		1	84
2		2		3	87
3		2		5	89
4		1		1	63
5		3		1	88
6		5		1	87

^a In a nitrogen-filled glovebox an oven-dried 10-mL reaction vial was charged with PC (2 % equiv), Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and a stir bar. Add 2 mL DCE (0.5 M) solution. This was followed by styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (1-5 mmol), aniline (1-5 mmol). Cover with a rubber stopper and stir at 660 rpm for 4 h at room temperature.

^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.9 Table 9. Reagent Loadings.^a

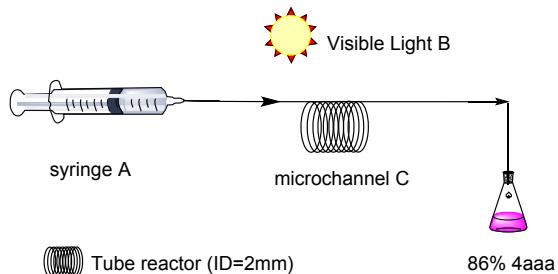


Entry	PC-B (equiv)	Tube diameter (mm)	Tube length (m)	Flow rate (μL / minute)	Residence time(minute)	yield 4aaa ^b (%)
1	2%	2	1	104.7	30	89
2	1%	2	1	104.7	30	87
3	0.5%	2	1	104.7	30	63
4	0.1%	2	1	104.7	30	48
5	1%	1	1	26.2	30	90
6	1%	0.5	1	6.5	30	93
7	1%	0.5	0.5	3.3	30	68
8	1%	0.5	2	13.1	30	91
9	1%	0.5	1	39.3	5	46
10	1%	0.5	1	19.6	10	72
11	1%	0.5	1	9.8	20	93
12	1%	0.5	1	4.9	40	94

^a Reaction conditions: Pyridine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), styrene (1 mmol, 1 equiv), ethyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate (1 mmol, 1 equiv), aniline (1 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2 mL DCE (0.5 M) solution, room temperature.

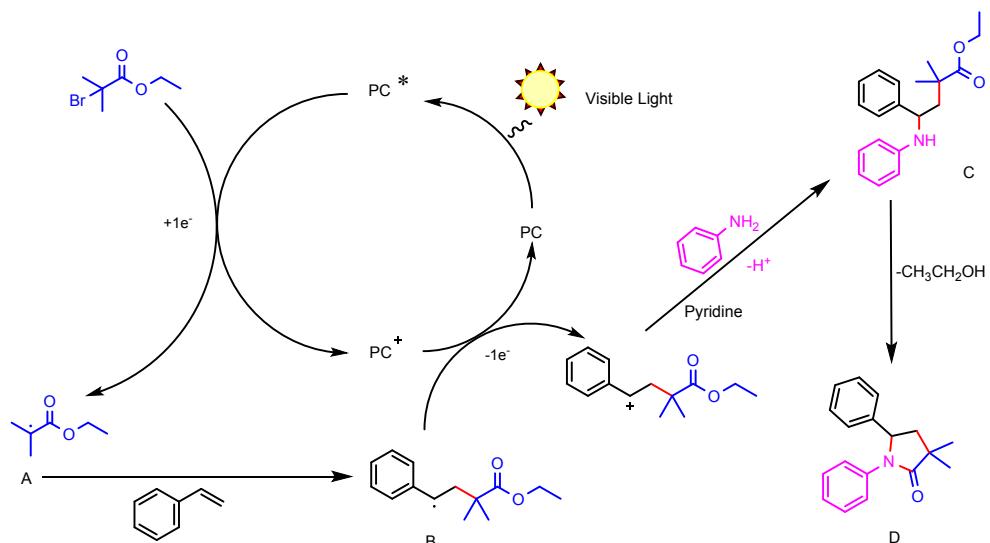
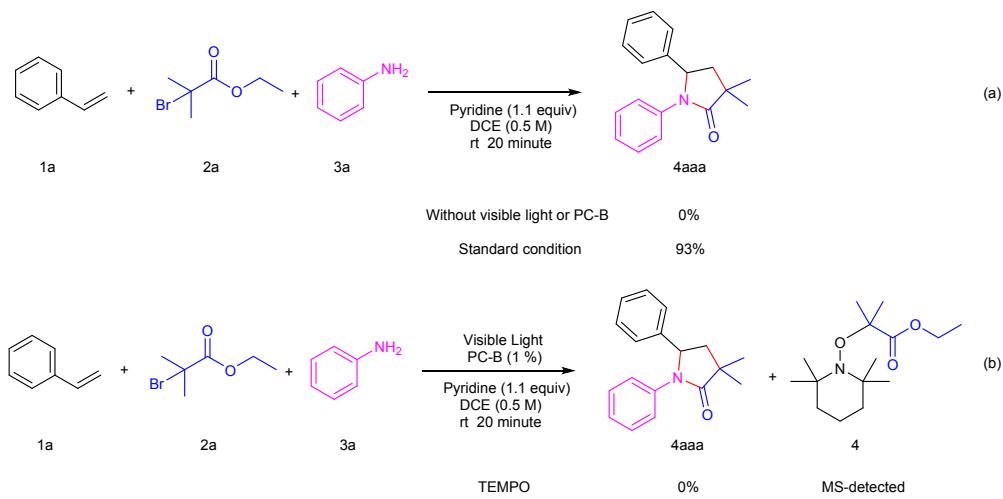
^b In situ yield determined by NMR analysis (Dibromomethane as an internal standard).

3.10 A Scale-up Continuous Flow Reaction.^a



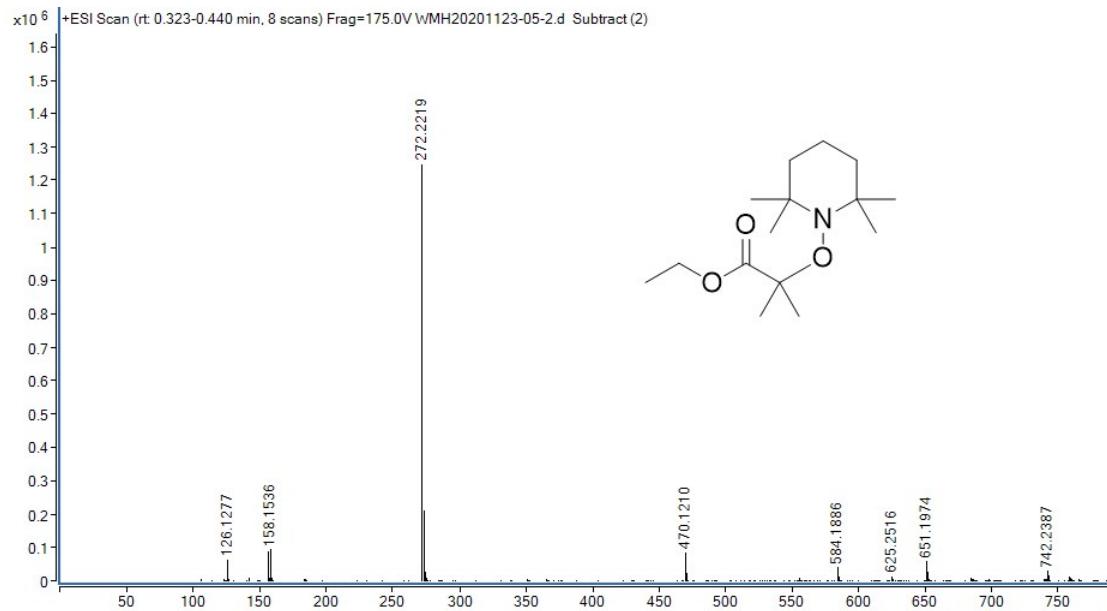
^a Reaction conditions: 1 (10 mmol), 2 (1 equiv), 3 (1 equiv), DCE (20 mL), Pyridine (1.1 equiv), and PC-B (1 % equiv.) at room temperature for 20 minutes. ^b Isolated yield.

4. Experiments for Mechanistic Studies

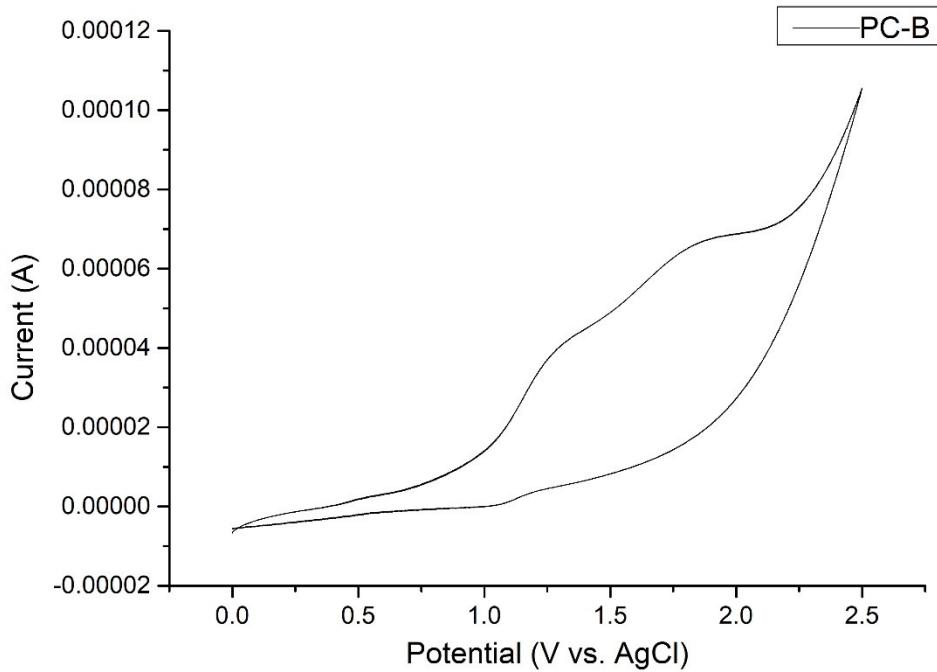


Proposed mechanism.

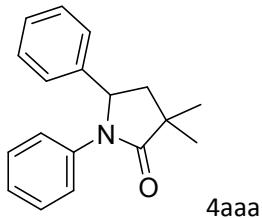
Electrospray Ionization-Time-of-Flight-Mass Spectrometry (ESI-TOF-MS) of some intermediates and byproducts.



Cyclic voltammograms (vs. Ag/AgCl) of catalysts PC-B in DCE.

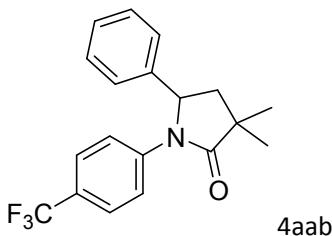


5. Analytical data for isolated compounds



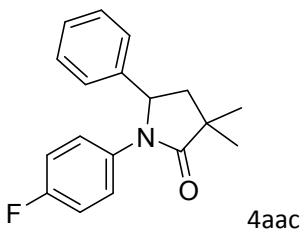
3,3-dimethyl-1,5-diphenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oily (239.5mg, 90% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.25 (m, 7H), 7.24 – 7.01 (m, 3H), 5.42 (dd, J = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 139.20, 127.59, 127.53, 127.08, 124.39, 122.52, 121.71, 79.14, 46.23, 40.83, 28.68, 25.30, 25.18. HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₁₉NO [M+H]⁺ 266.1539 found 266.1508.



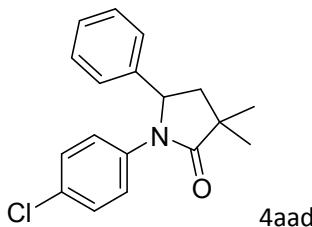
3,3-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oily (177.1mg, 53% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd, J = 8.1, 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.30 (dd, J = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (dd, J = 12.8, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.17, 149.85, 138.79, 127.65, 127.23, 124.94, 124.71 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.35, 121.70, 111.09, 79.38, 45.97, 40.86, 25.16, 25.05. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -61.04. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₈F₃NO [M+H]⁺ 334.1413 found 334.1393



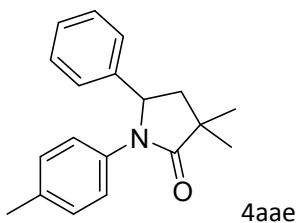
1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil (201.7mg, 71% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.43 – 7.31 (m, 6H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 5.45 (dd, J = 10.4, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (dd, J = 12.7, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.13, 159.39, 156.99, 142.08, 139.08, 127.57, 127.08, 124.34, 123.29 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 114.10, 113.87, 79.02, 45.96, 40.76, 25.25, 25.05. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -120.18. HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₁₈FNO [M+H]⁺ 284.1445 found 284.1446.



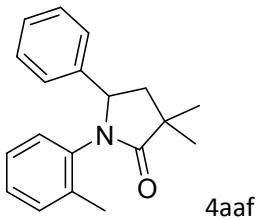
1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oily (186.1mg, 62% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.45 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.12 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.80, 140.01, 128.71, 128.64, 128.59, 128.25, 125.43, 124.28, 80.32, 47.10, 41.96, 26.31, 26.17. ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.80, 145.74, 140.01, 128.71, 128.59, 128.25, 125.43, 124.28, 80.32, 47.10, 41.96, 26.31, 26.17. HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₁₈ClNO [M+H]⁺ 300.1150 found 300.1129.



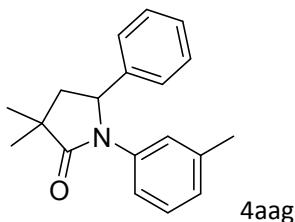
3,3-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown yellow solid (232.5mg, 83% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.15 – 6.97 (m, 4H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.01 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.92, 144.33, 140.39, 132.86, 129.13, 128.72, 128.58, 128.03, 125.41, 125.31, 122.67, 79.95, 77.60, 77.23, 47.31, 41.75, 26.37, 26.22, 20.91. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1696 found 280.1689.



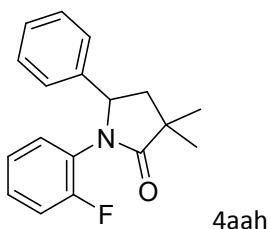
3,3-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1-(o-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oil (226.9mg, 81% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.35 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 6.97 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 5.36 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.06 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.46, 139.21, 128.98, 128.10, 127.51, 127.01, 125.00, 124.42, 122.07, 120.01, 78.75, 46.33, 40.51, 25.38, 25.26, 16.85. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1693 found 280.1663.



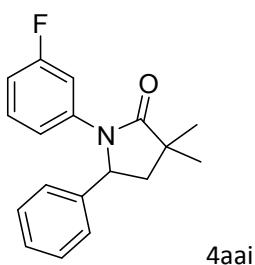
3,3-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1-(m-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oil(221.3mg, 79% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.36 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34 – 2.28 (m, 3H), 2.01 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.87, 147.22, 140.49, 138.21, 128.76, 128.61, 128.38, 128.04, 125.43, 124.23, 123.46, 119.56, 79.85, 47.34, 41.69, 26.39, 26.28, 21.49 .HRMS calcd for C19H21NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1704 found 280.1693.



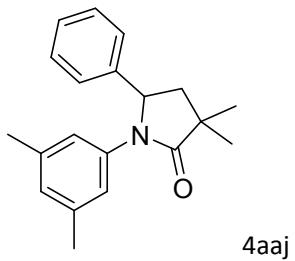
1-(2-fluorophenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil (196.1mg, 69% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.13 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 5.44 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 170.33, 155.36, 152.92, 140.06, 135.55 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz), 128.63, 128.17, 125.51, 124.31 – 124.01 (m), 123.91 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 115.66 (d, *J* = 20.4 Hz), 80.43, 47.68, 41.89, 26.26, 26.15.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -124.80.HRMS calcd for C18H18FNO [M+H]⁺ 284.1445 found 284.1437.



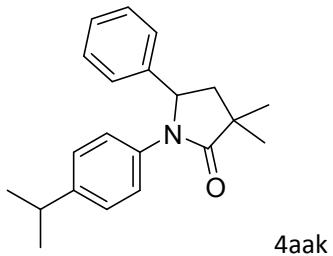
5-(3-fluorophenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil(184.7mg, 65% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.95 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.77 (td, *J* = 8.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.75, 163.17, 160.74, 148.10 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 138.96, 128.45 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 127.62, 127.14, 124.35, 117.61 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 109.01 (dd, *J* = 21.9, 19.5 Hz), 79.23, 46.01, 40.83, 25.22, 25.08.¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -113.62.HRMS calcd for C18H18FNO [M+H]⁺ 284.1445 found 284.1441.



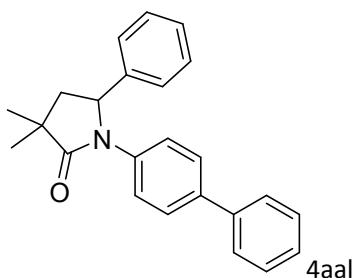
1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil(214.8mg, 73% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 6.75 (s, 2H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 5.36 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 – 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.98 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.71 , 147.24 , 140.64 , 137.99 , 128.62 , 128.04 , 125.45 , 125.22 , 120.39 , 79.81 , 47.37 , 41.67 , 26.46 , 26.33 , 21.46 .HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₃NO [M+H]⁺ 294.1837 found 294.1854.



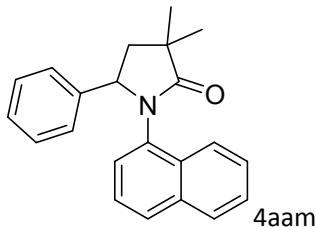
1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil (234.2mg, 76% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 4H), 5.43 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (p, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.68 , 144.53 , 143.99 , 140.47 , 129.32 , 128.64 , 128.09 , 127.93 , 126.51 , 125.52 , 122.89 , 116.21 , 79.99 , 59.86 , 49.51 , 47.39 , 41.82 , 33.60 , 27.70 , 26.43 , 26.27 , 24.21 , 24.16 , 24.13 , 24.00 .HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₅NO [M+H]⁺ 308.2009 found 308.2008.



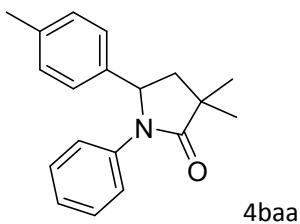
1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown solid(290.9mg, 85% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.54 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.43 – 7.29 (m, 6H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.34 , 146.60 , 141.19 , 140.35 , 136.35 , 128.89 , 128.74 , 128.21 , 127.34 , 126.91 , 126.81 , 125.53 , 123.40 , 80.18 , 47.29 , 41.94 , 26.46 , 26.32 .HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₃NO [M+H]⁺ 342.1852 found 342.1848.



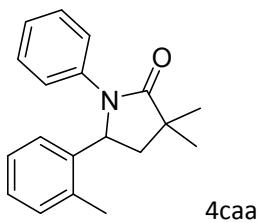
3,3-dimethyl-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown oil (275.1mg, 87% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.15 – 8.08 (m, 1H), 7.86 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22 (td, *J* = 8.0, 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 3H), 5.45 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 140.07, 134.19, 128.58, 128.09, 127.91, 127.87, 125.82, 125.77, 125.36, 125.20, 123.64, 123.54, 116.98, 80.38, 47.41, 42.20, 29.74, 26.57, 26.43 .HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 316.1696 found 316.1682.



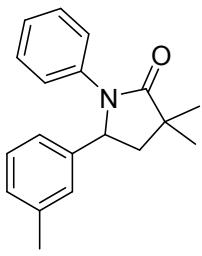
3,3-dimethyl-1-phenyl-5-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Yellow solid (218.5mg, 78% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 6H), 7.01 (tt, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.00 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.22, 147.29, 137.93, 137.29, 129.42, 129.31, 128.56, 125.57, 125.46, 123.45, 122.84, 80.06, 47.28, 41.83, 26.42, 26.26, 21.20 .HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1685 found 280.1696.



3,3-dimethyl-1-phenyl-5-(o-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

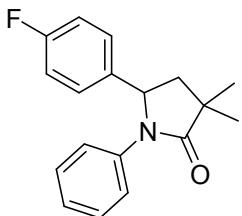
Reddish brown oil (201.7mg, 72% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.00 (m, 6H), 5.62 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.99 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 28.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 181.86, 137.71, 134.20, 130.66, 128.58, 128.06, 126.51, 124.37, 122.72, 75.43, 44.78, 40.64, 25.20, 24.54, 19.10 .HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1696 found 280.1697.



4daa

3,3-dimethyl-1-phenyl-5-(m-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

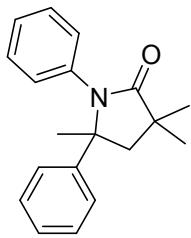
Reddish brown oil (198.9mg, 71% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.00 (m, 6H), 5.41 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.06 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 181.75, 139.40, 138.49, 129.05, 128.85, 128.59, 128.52, 126.16, 125.93, 122.77, 122.51, 122.37, 77.66, 77.25, 47.20, 46.08, 40.76, 26.33, 26.17, 24.94, 24.20, 21.41. HRMS calcd for C19H21NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1696 found 280.1696.



4eaa

5-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

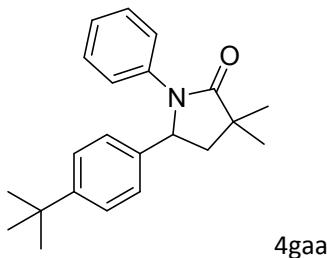
Reddish brown oil (190.4mg, 67% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 3H), 5.32 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.93 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.68, 146.16, 135.00 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 127.51, 126.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 122.42, 121.60, 114.76 – 114.46 (m), 114.35, 78.26, 46.17, 40.67, 25.28, 25.10. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -113.52. HRMS calcd for C20H21NO3 [M+H]⁺ 284.1445 found 284.1448.



4faa

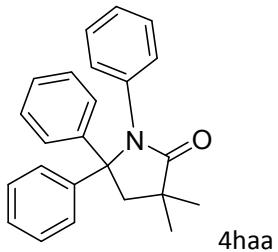
3,3,5-trimethyl-1,5-diphenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oil (238.1mg, 85% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 2.54 – 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.29 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (d, *J* = 27.9 Hz, 3H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 46.3 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 37.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.25, 147.76, 145.95, 129.28, 128.68, 128.63, 128.54, 127.41, 127.10, 124.10, 124.03, 123.35, 122.76, 85.87, 83.50, 51.44, 50.65, 41.89, 40.88, 32.10, 32.01, 28.59, 27.84, 26.75, 25.94. HRMS calcd for C19H21NO [M+H]⁺ 280.1696 found 280.1696.



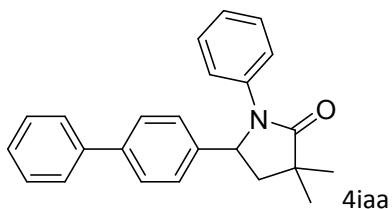
5-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Reddish brown oil (225.6mg, 70% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.01 (m, 6H), 5.43 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.43 (m, 1H), 2.09 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 181.82, 151.49, 136.35, 128.56, 125.66, 125.56, 125.38, 125.24, 122.83, 77.67, 45.95, 40.85, 34.64, 34.01, 31.34, 25.00, 24.24. HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₇NO [M+H]⁺ 322.2165 found 322.2190.



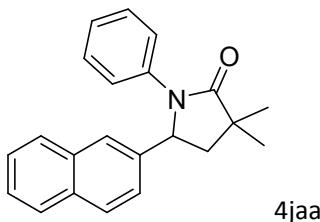
3,3-dimethyl-1,5,5-triphenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown yellow solid (328.5mg, 96% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (s, 2H), 1.22 (s, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.45, 147.56, 145.42, 144.80, 128.72, 128.61, 127.67, 127.38, 125.06, 123.56, 122.80, 88.47, 50.97, 49.97, 41.71, 40.68, 27.75, 25.88. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₃NO [M+H]⁺ 342.1852 found 342.1855.



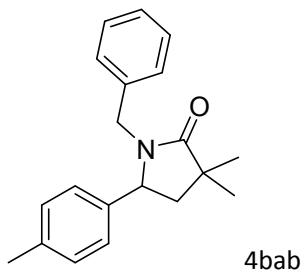
5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown yellow solid (280.6mg, 82% yield);¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.24 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 7.02 (tt, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.94, 147.16, 140.97, 140.49, 139.21, 129.20, 128.77, 128.52, 127.40, 127.28, 127.01, 125.88, 123.43, 122.72, 114.99, 79.72, 47.10, 41.72, 26.33, 26.16. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₃NO [M+H]⁺ 342.1852 found 342.1853.



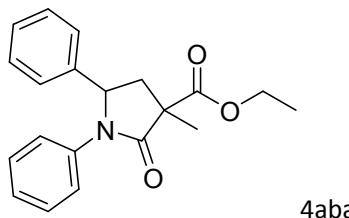
3,3-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one:

Brown yellow solid (271.9mg, 86% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.93 – 7.72 (m, 6H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 5.59 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.16 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 27.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 181.85, 136.84, 133.17, 133.12, 129.00, 128.79, 128.67, 128.06, 127.80, 127.77, 126.61, 126.43, 124.40, 122.95, 122.85, 119.82, 77.80, 46.03, 40.85, 25.39, 25.04, 24.33. HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NO [M+H]⁺ 316.1696 found 316.1695.



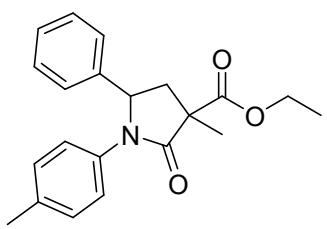
1-benzyl-3,3-dimethyl-5-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one:

Yellow oil (179.5mg, 61% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.32 (dd, *J* = 18.8, 7.1 Hz, 3H), 7.17 (td, *J* = 11.9, 8.2, 2.9 Hz, 6H), 5.31 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.60 – 4.50 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.32 – 2.27 (m, 1H), 1.92 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 169.01, 141.37, 137.89, 137.66, 129.44, 129.33, 128.23, 127.60, 126.25, 125.62, 125.49, 79.20, 77.74, 50.85, 47.82, 41.16, 26.43, 26.27, 21.24. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₃NO [M+H]⁺ 294.1852 found 294.1867.



ethyl 3-methyl-2-oxo-1,5-diphenylpyrrolidine-3-carboxylate:

Reddish brown oil (171.8mg, 53% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 7H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.35 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 172.36, 162.07, 146.65, 139.60, 128.72, 128.57, 128.38, 125.51, 123.87, 122.73, 81.27, 78.98, 77.25, 61.96, 52.73, 44.83, 22.23, 14.23. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 324.1594 found 324.1599.



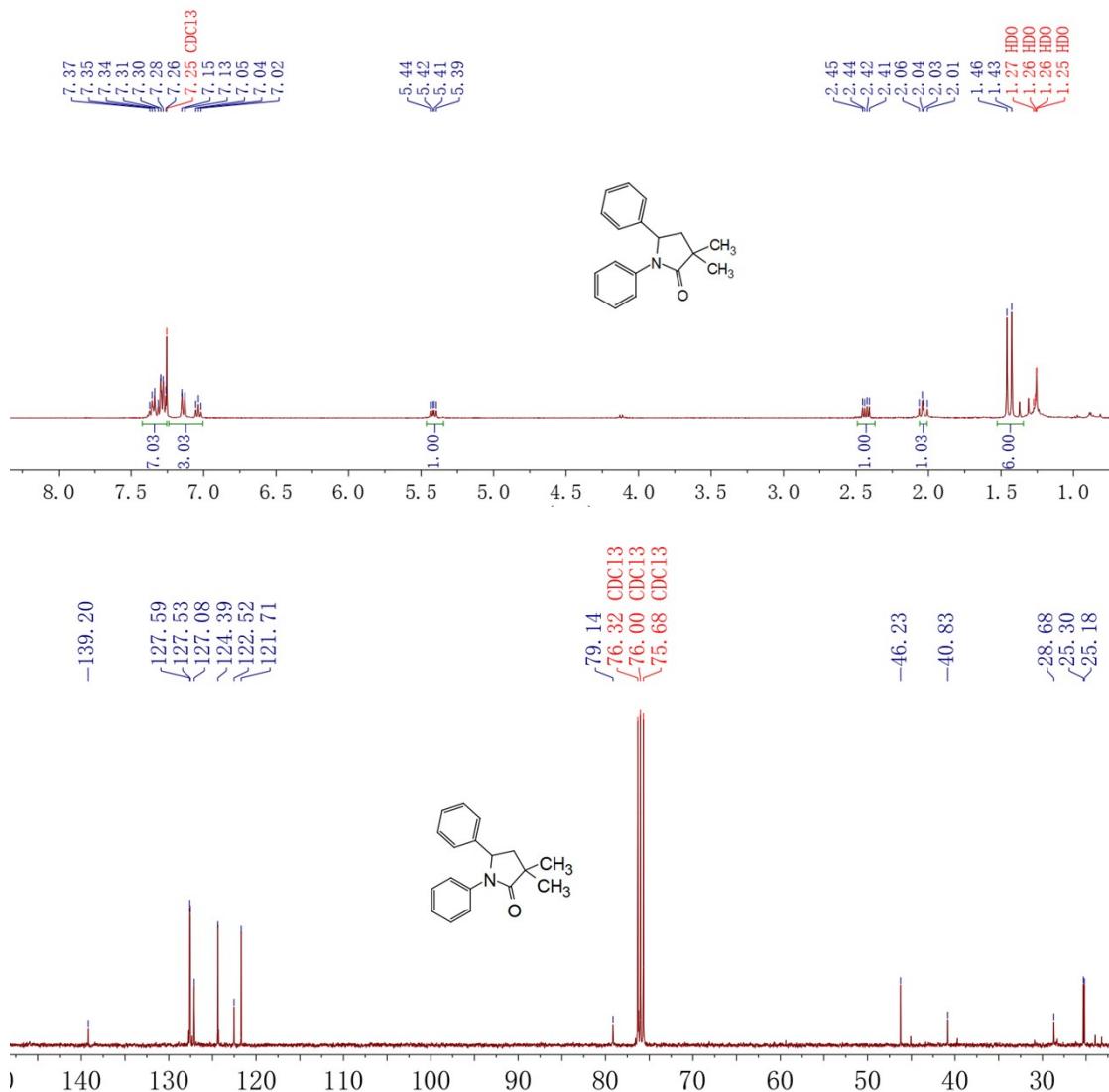
4abb

ethyl 3-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidine-3-carboxylate:

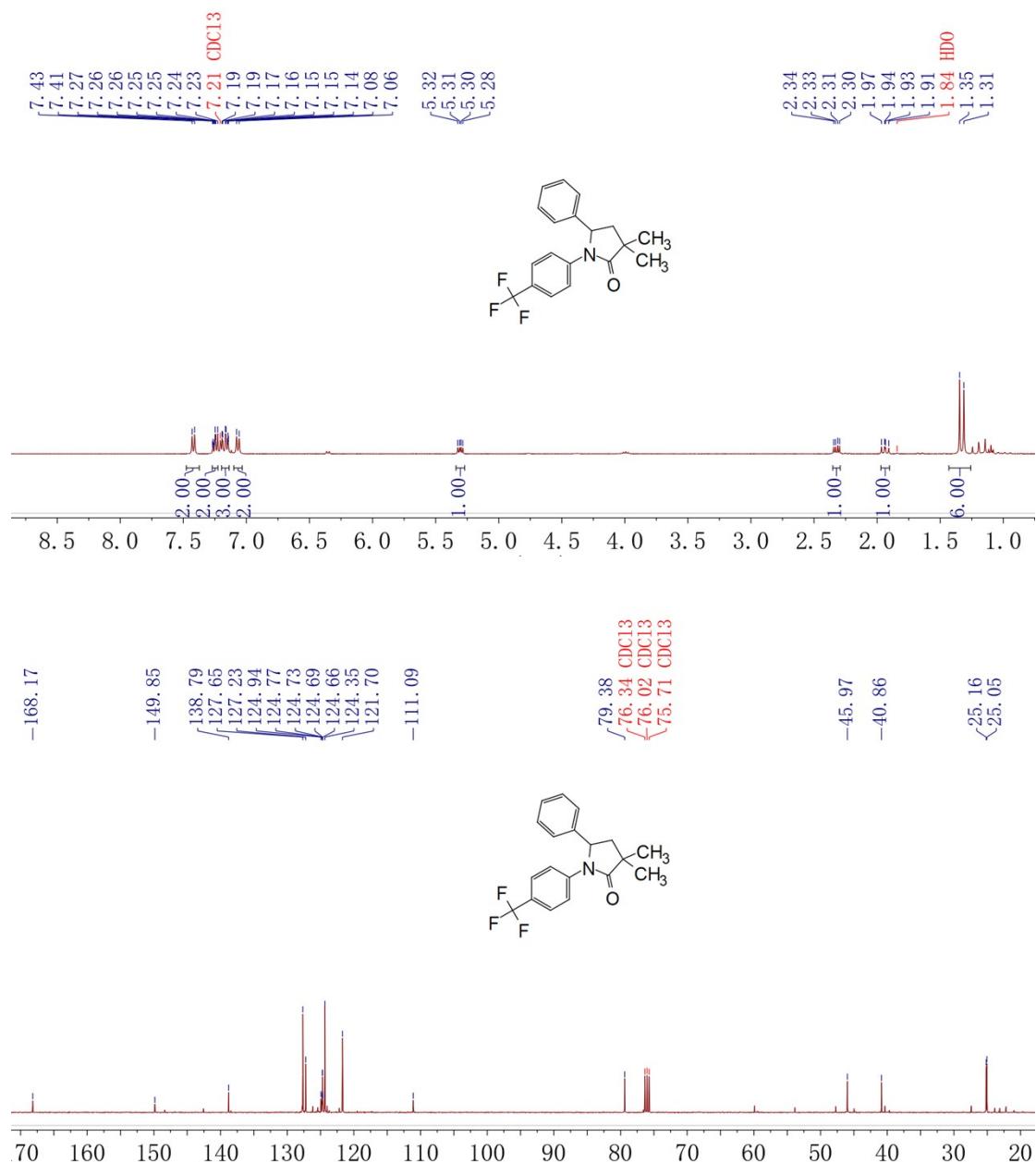
Brown oil (142.1mg, 42% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.24 (m, 6H), 7.09 (s, 3H), 5.56 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.33 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.04 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (d, *J* = 38.0 Hz, 3H), 1.36 – 1.31 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 172.38, 143.82, 139.69, 138.64, 133.40, 129.17, 128.87, 128.71, 128.36, 125.54, 125.44, 122.78, 81.30, 78.98, 61.93, 52.76, 44.86, 43.90, 22.26, 20.97, 14.23. HRMS calcd for C21H23NO3 [M+H]⁺ 338.1751 found 338.1755.

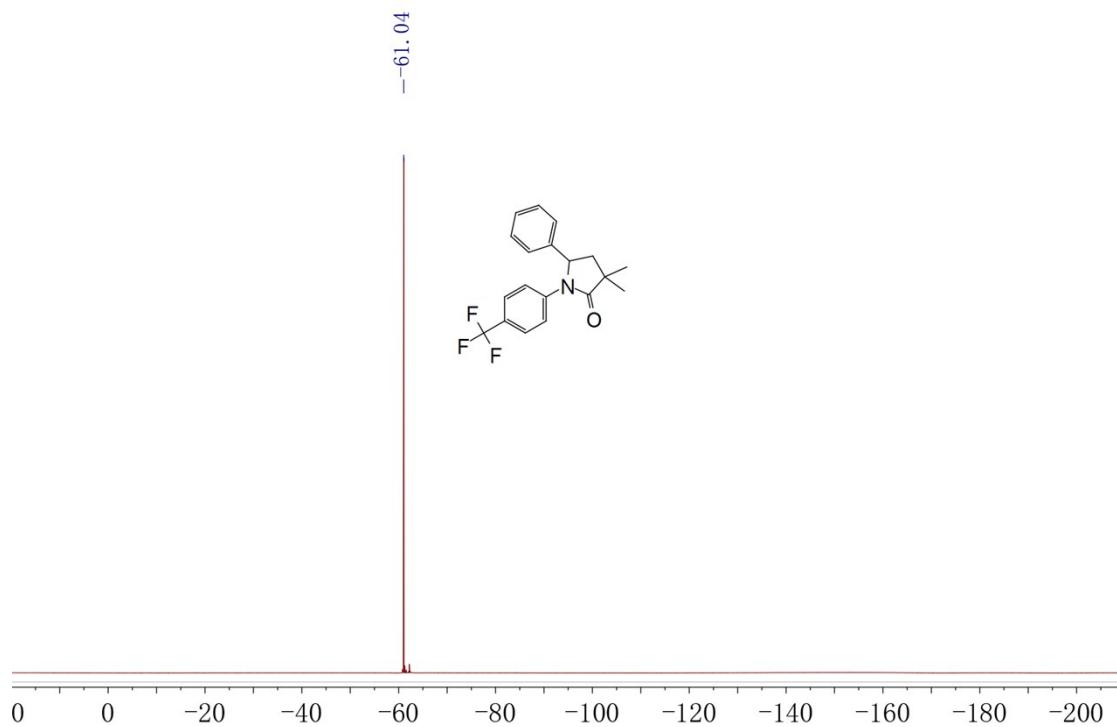
6. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra

4aaa

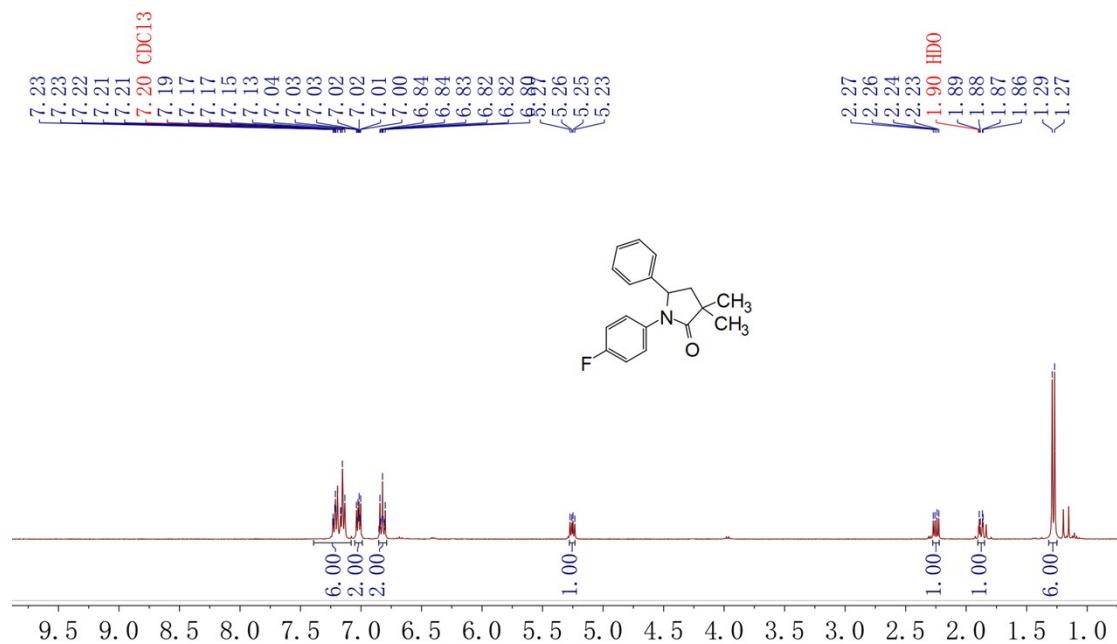


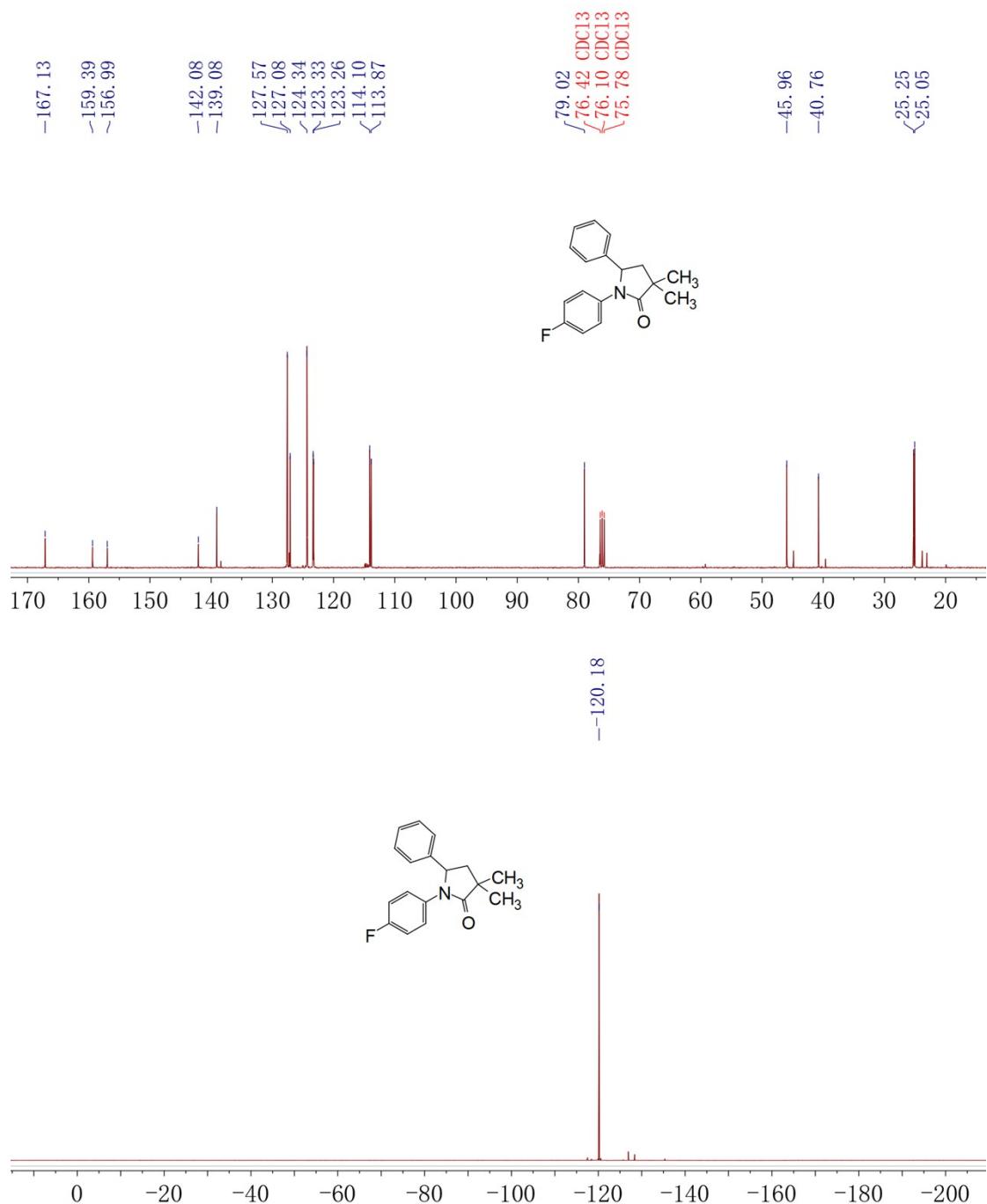
4aab



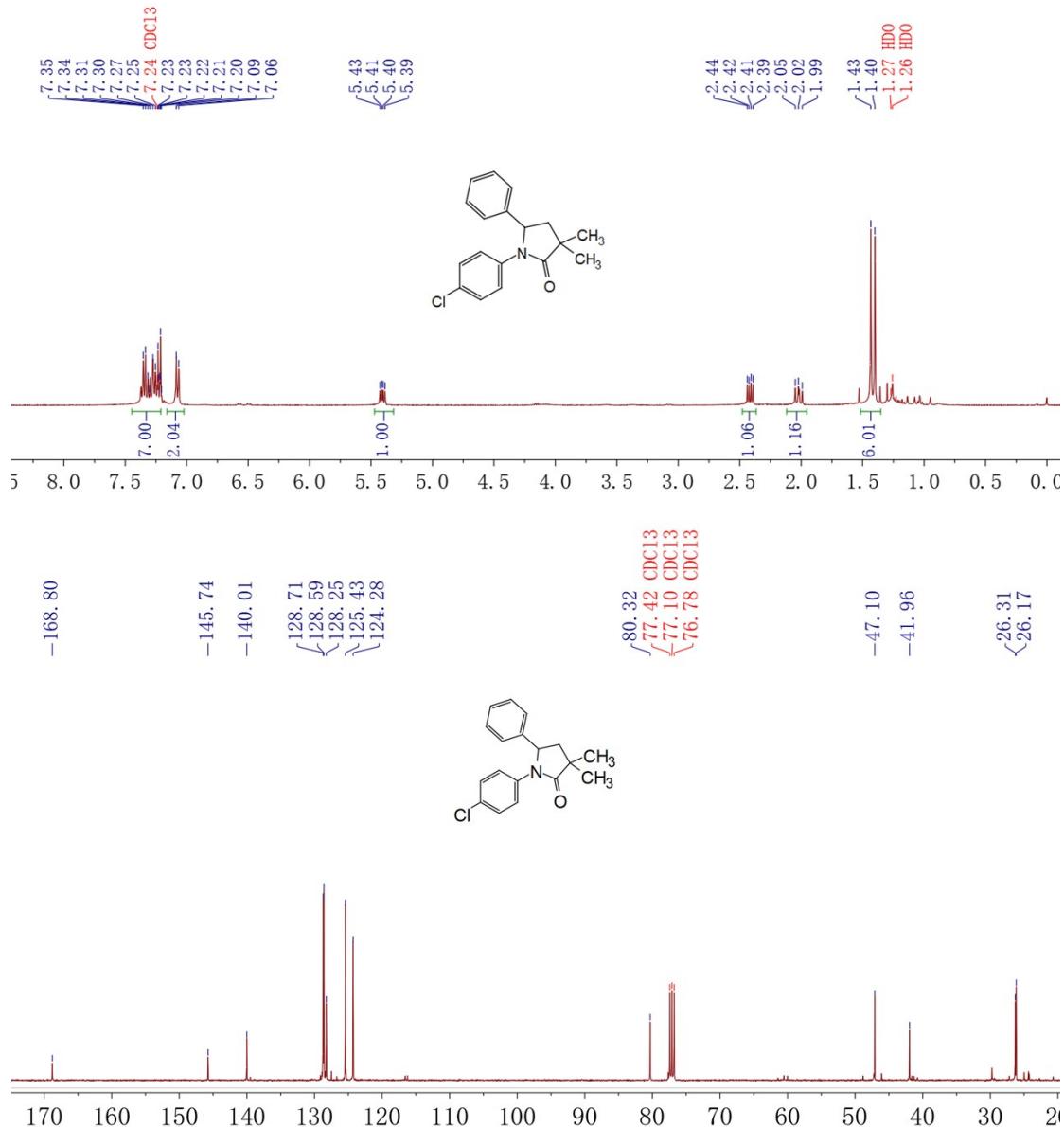


4aac

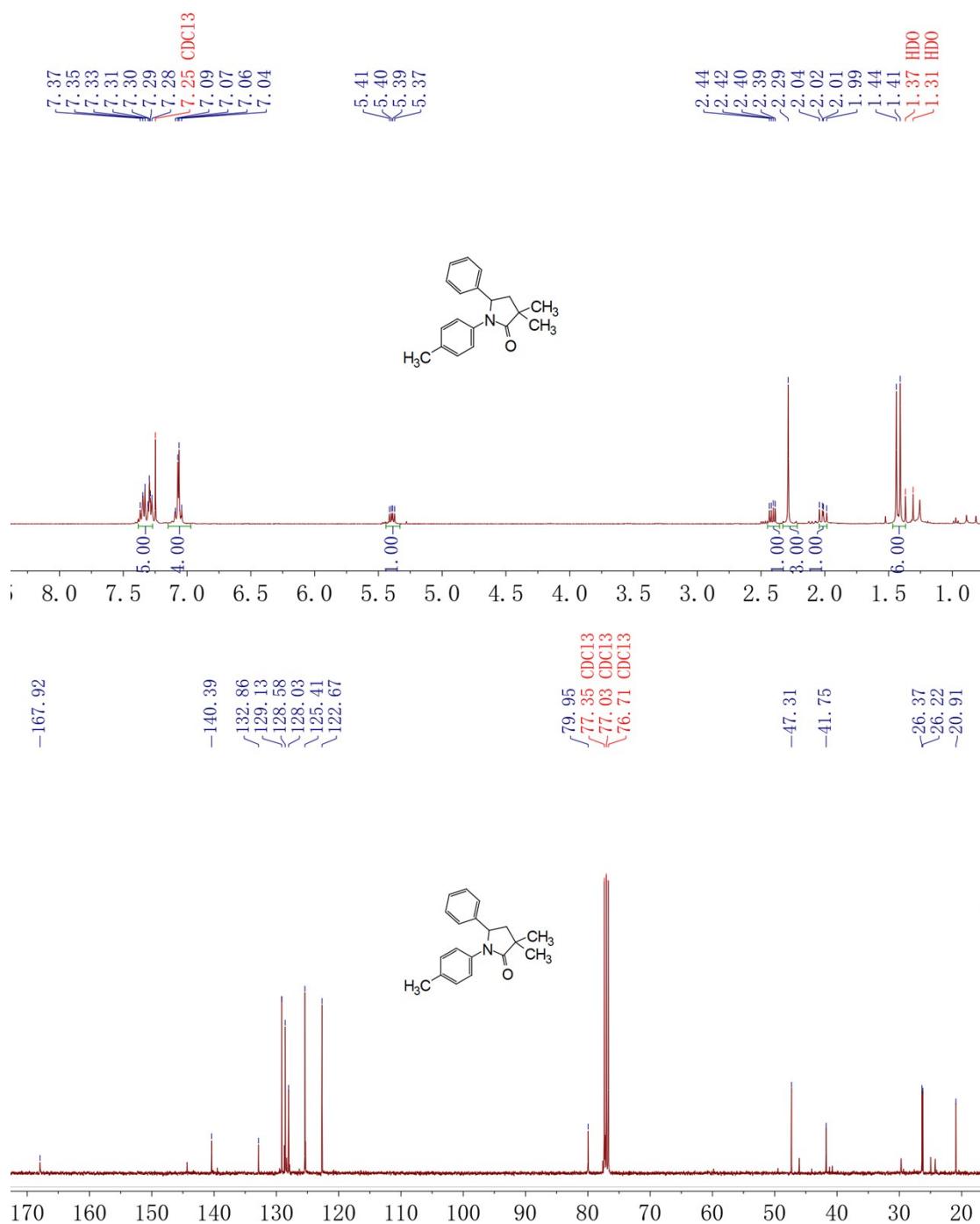


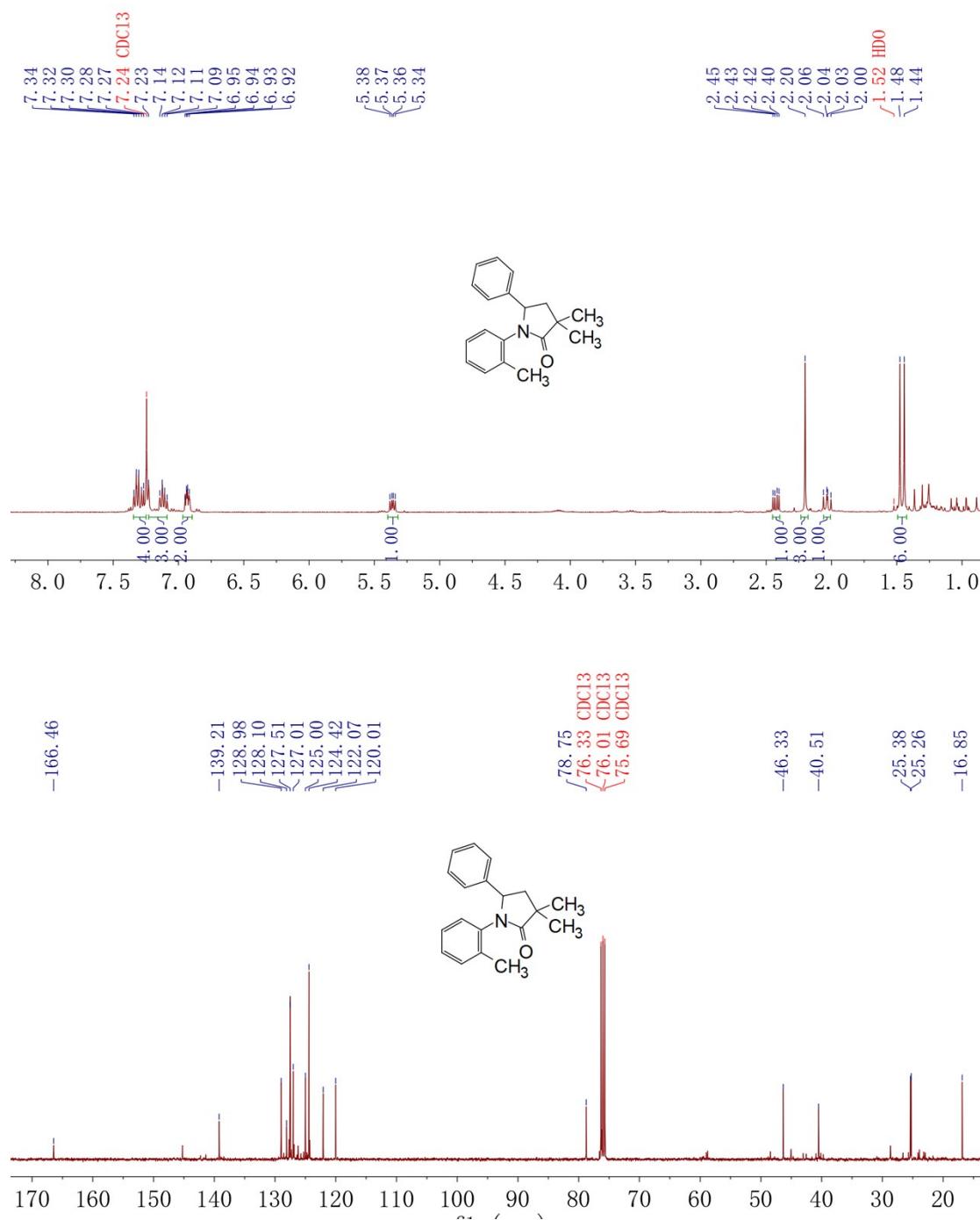


4aad

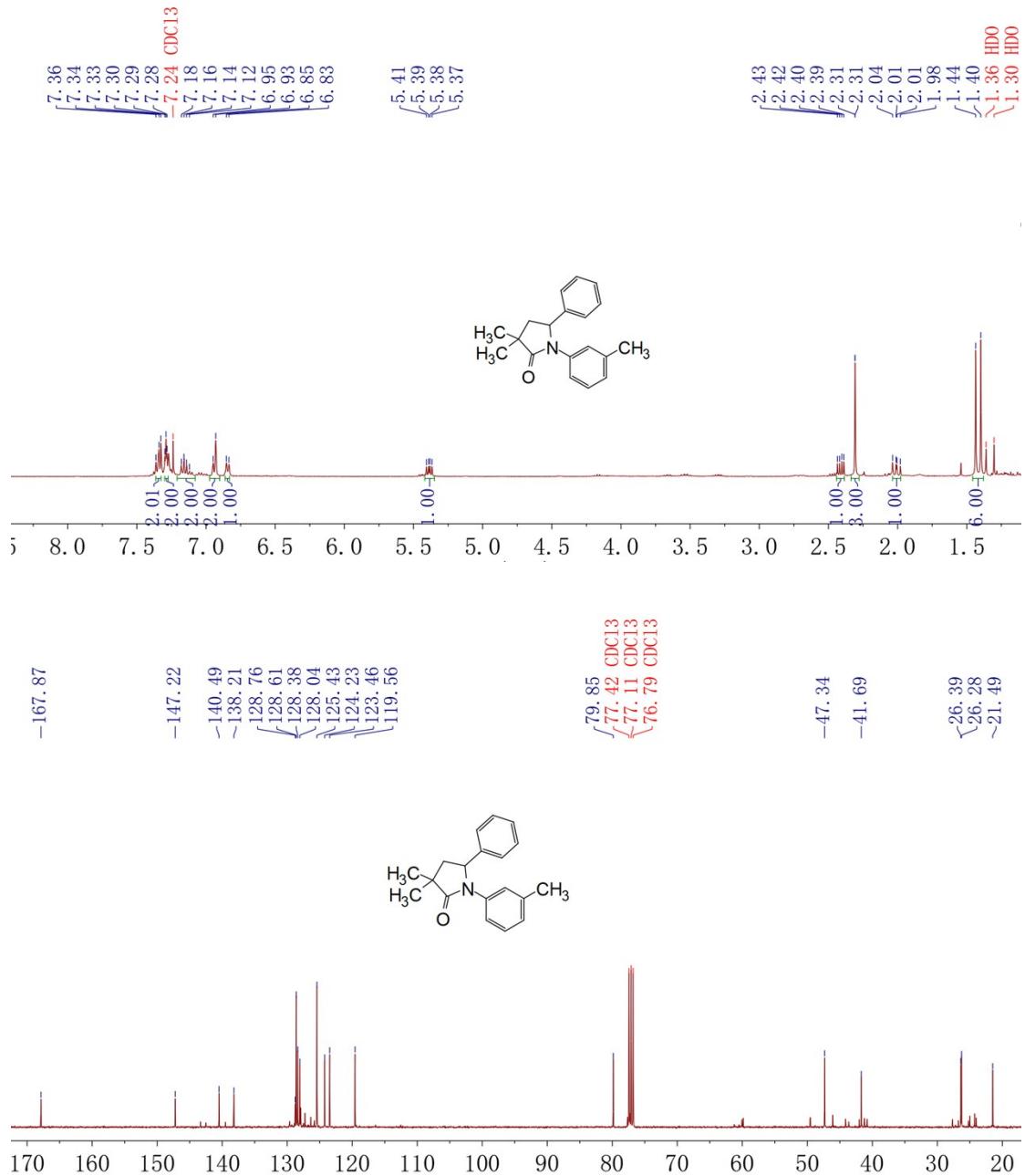


4aae

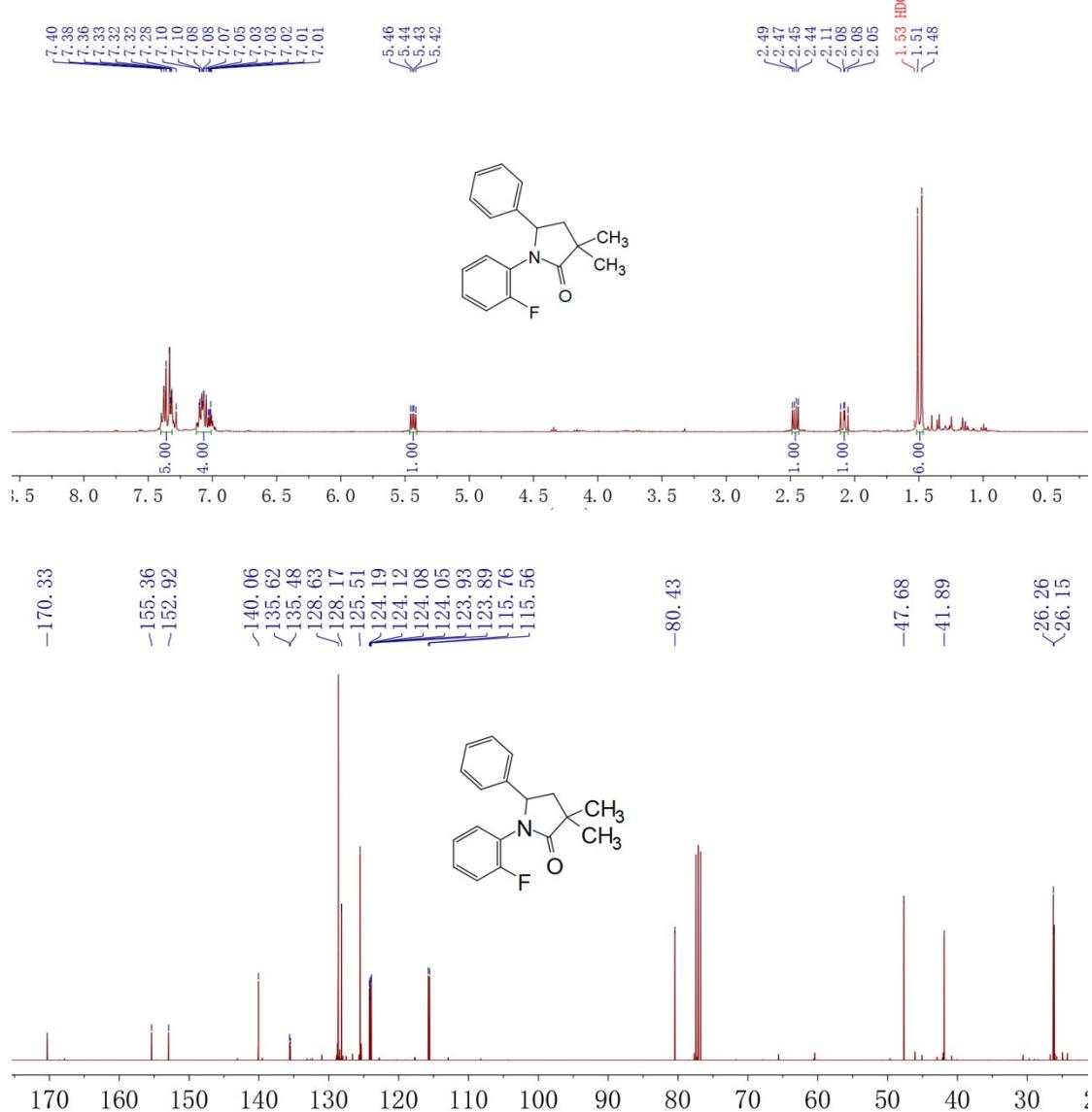


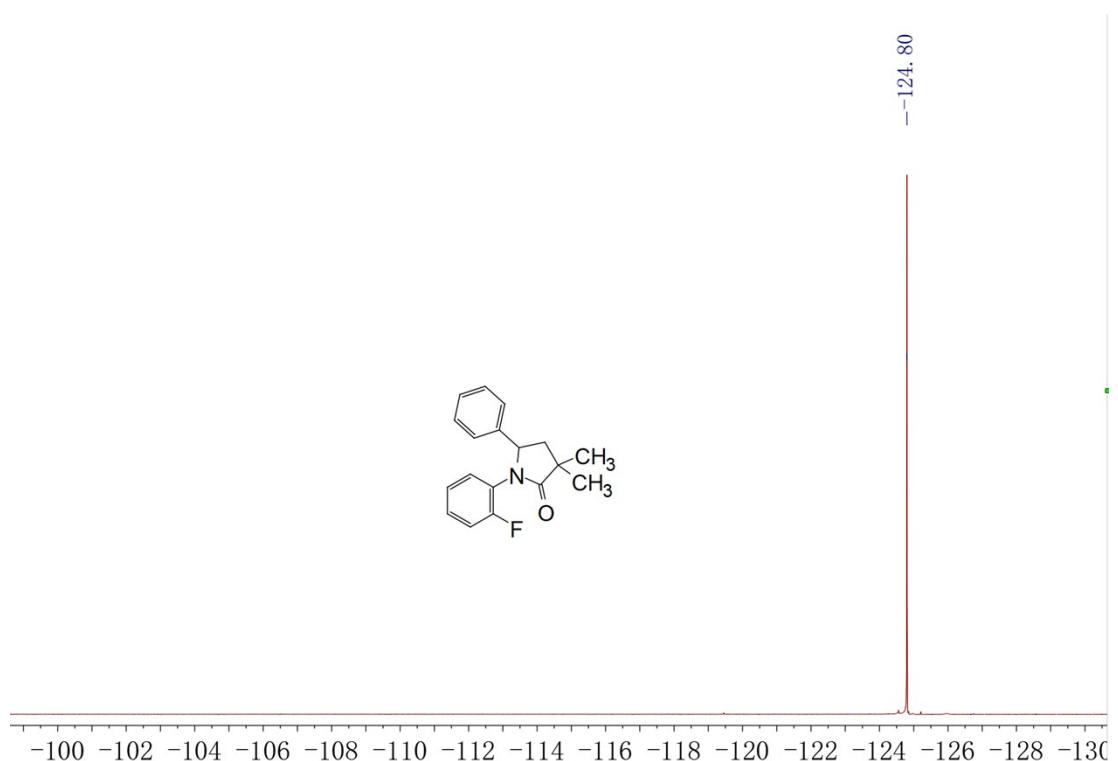
4aa^f

4aag

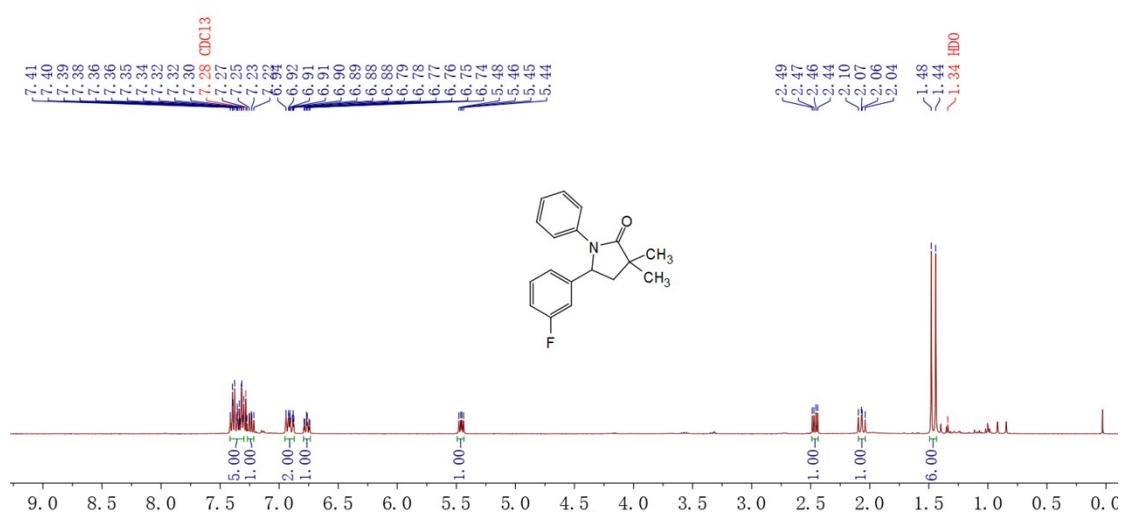


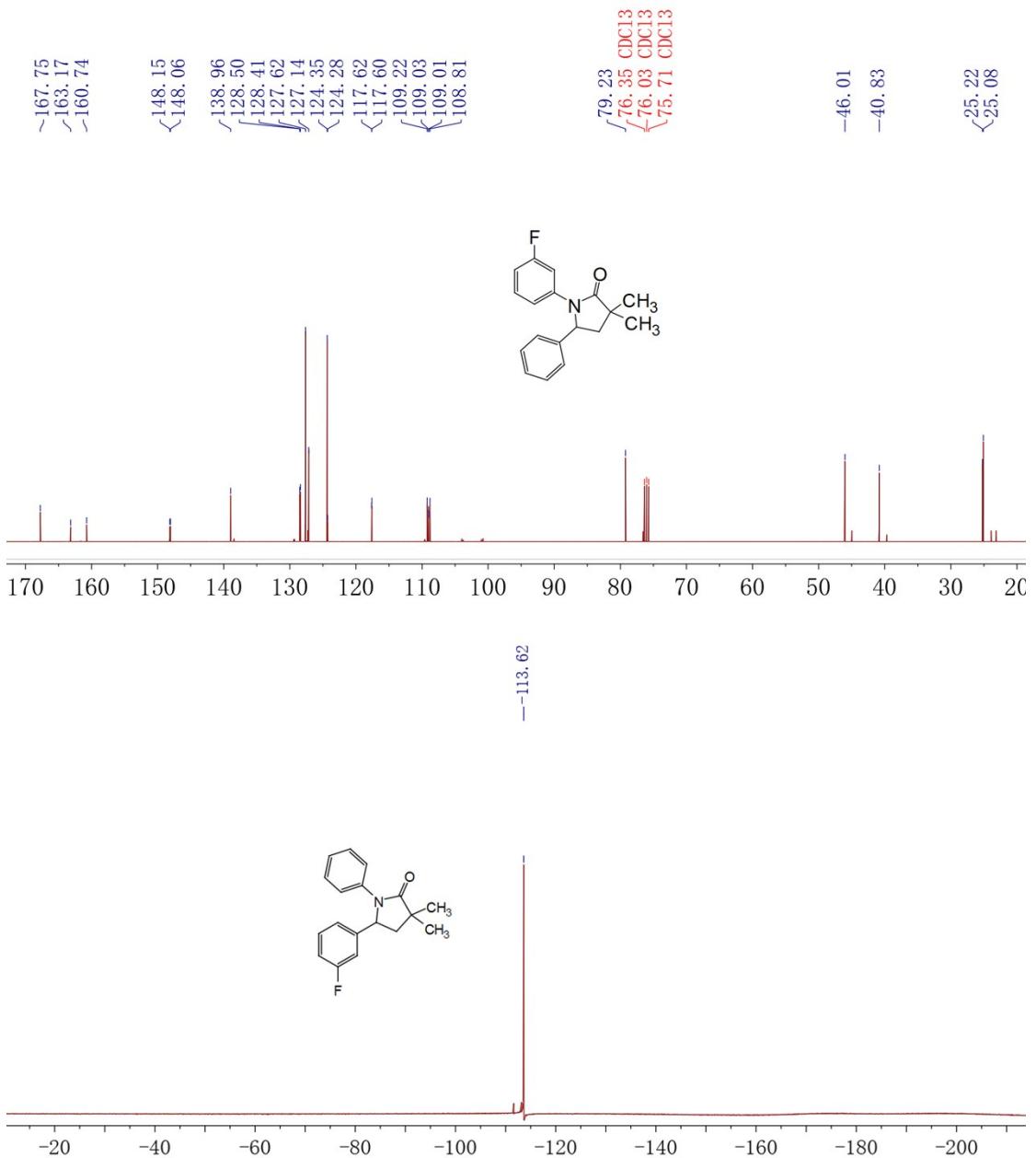
4aah



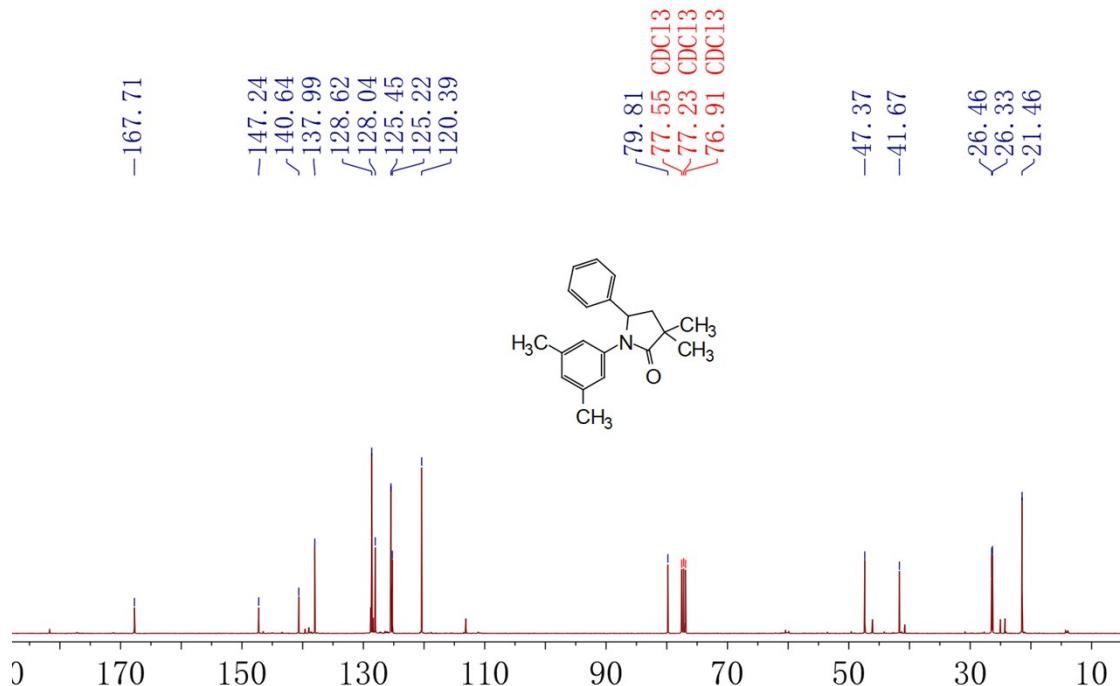
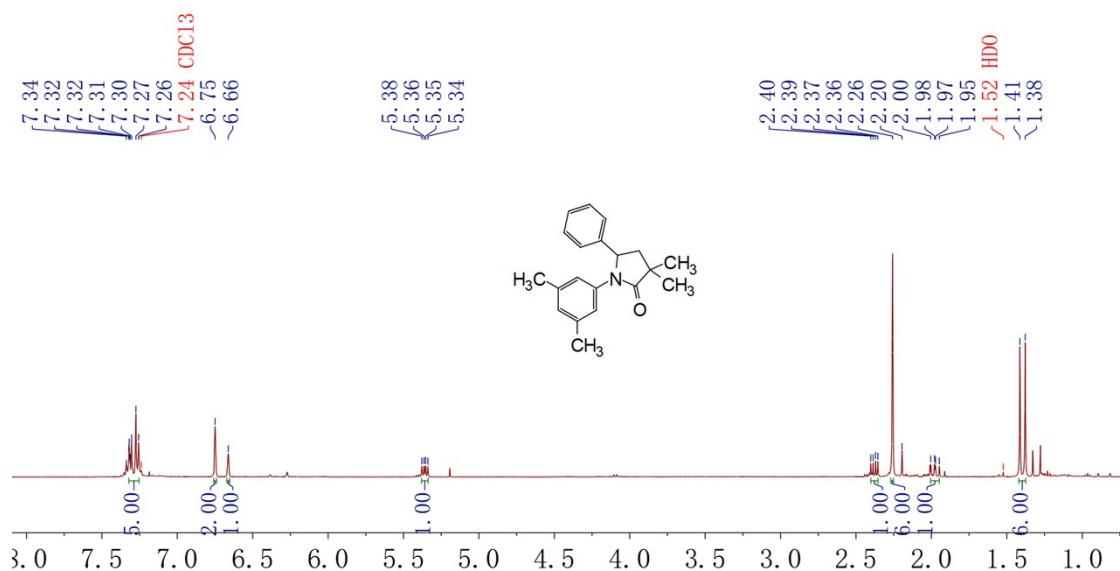


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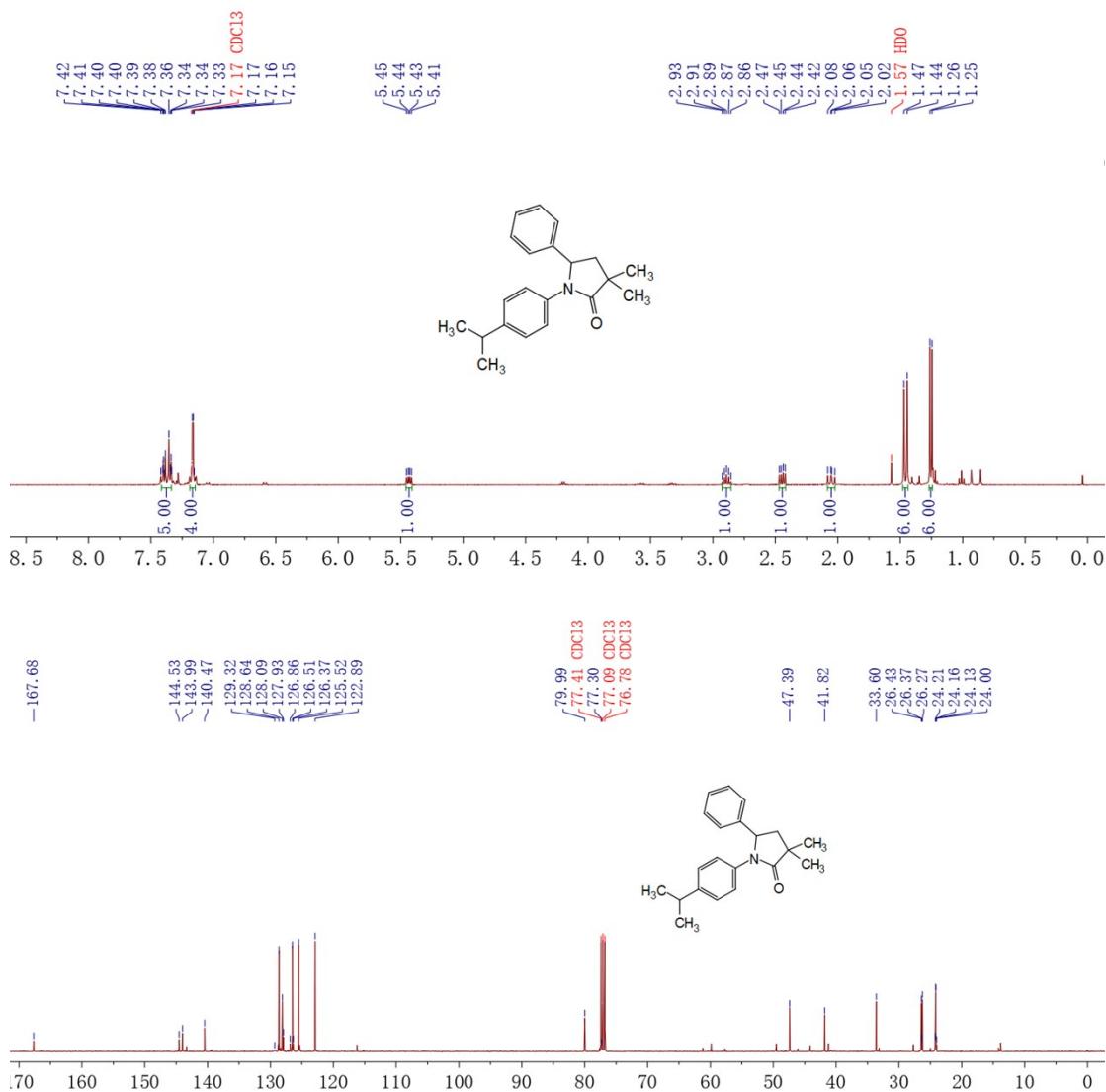




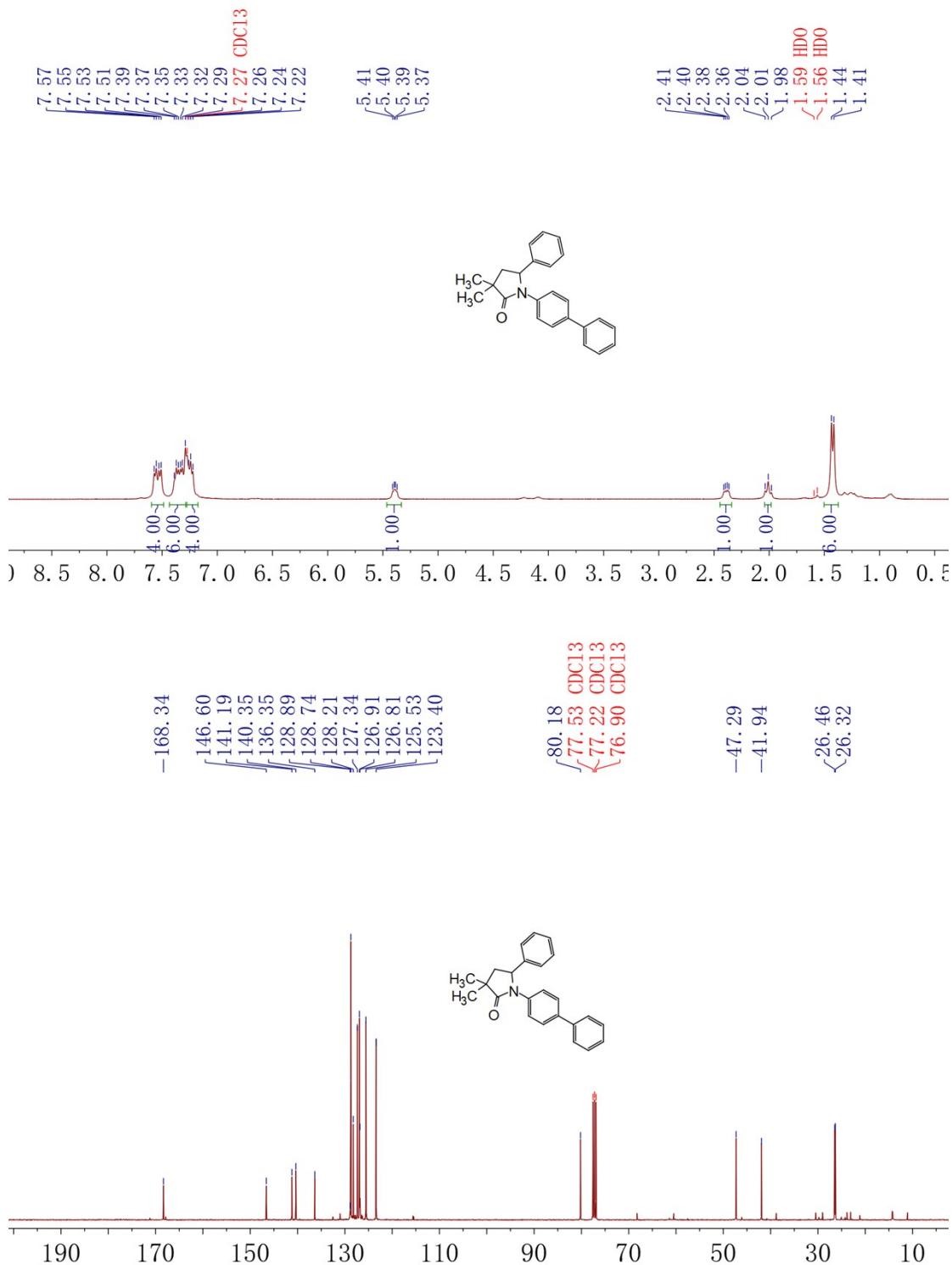
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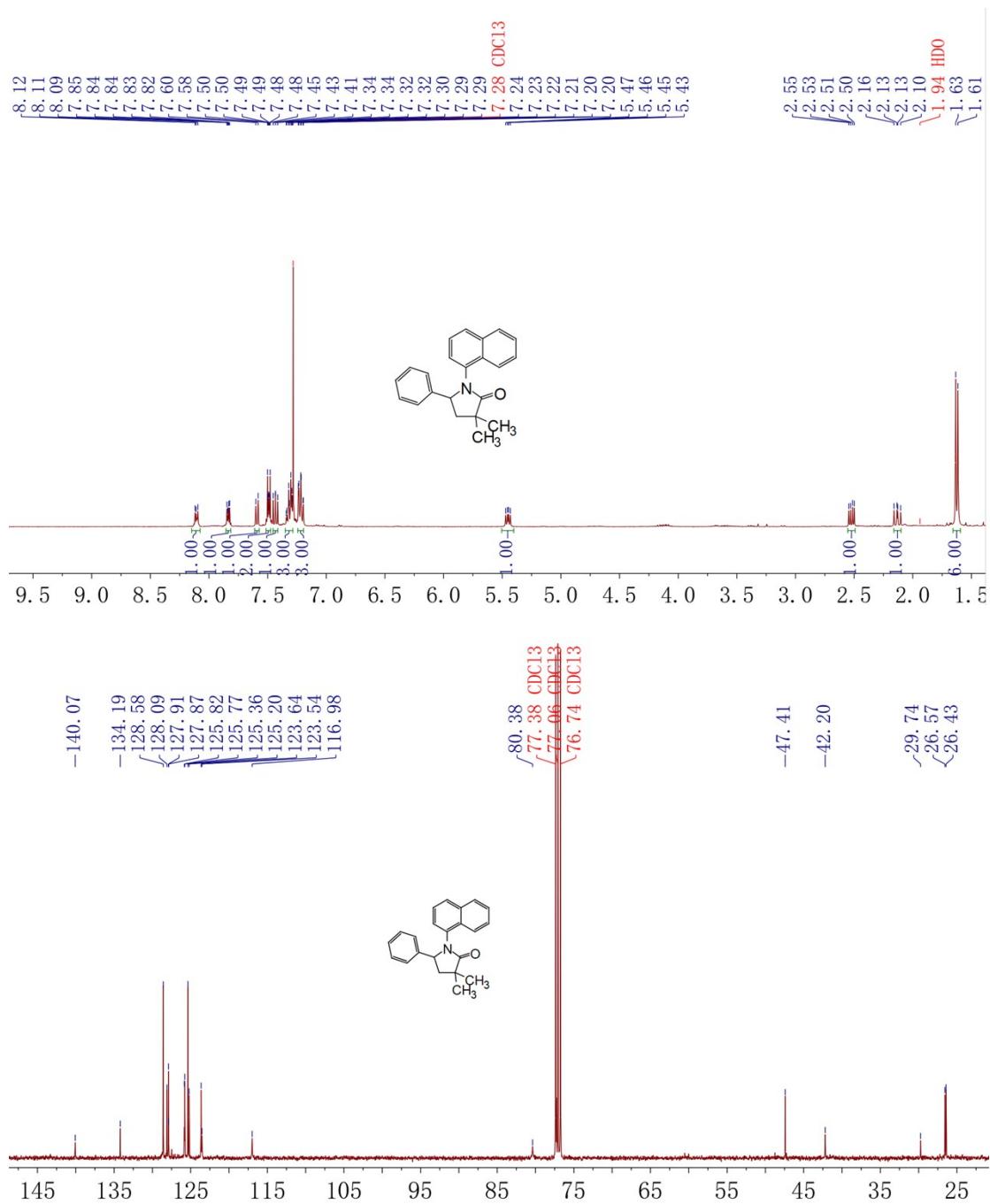
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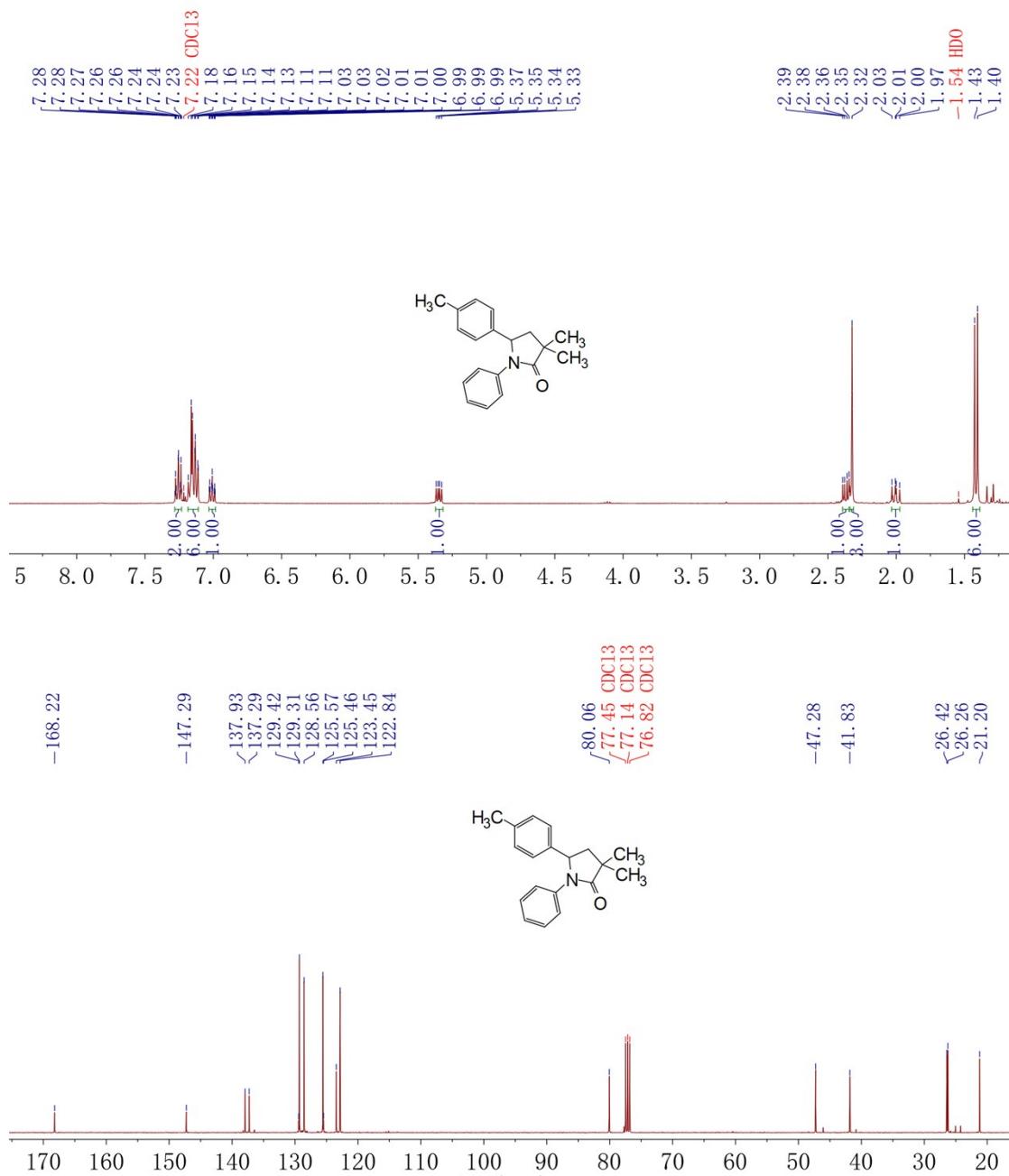
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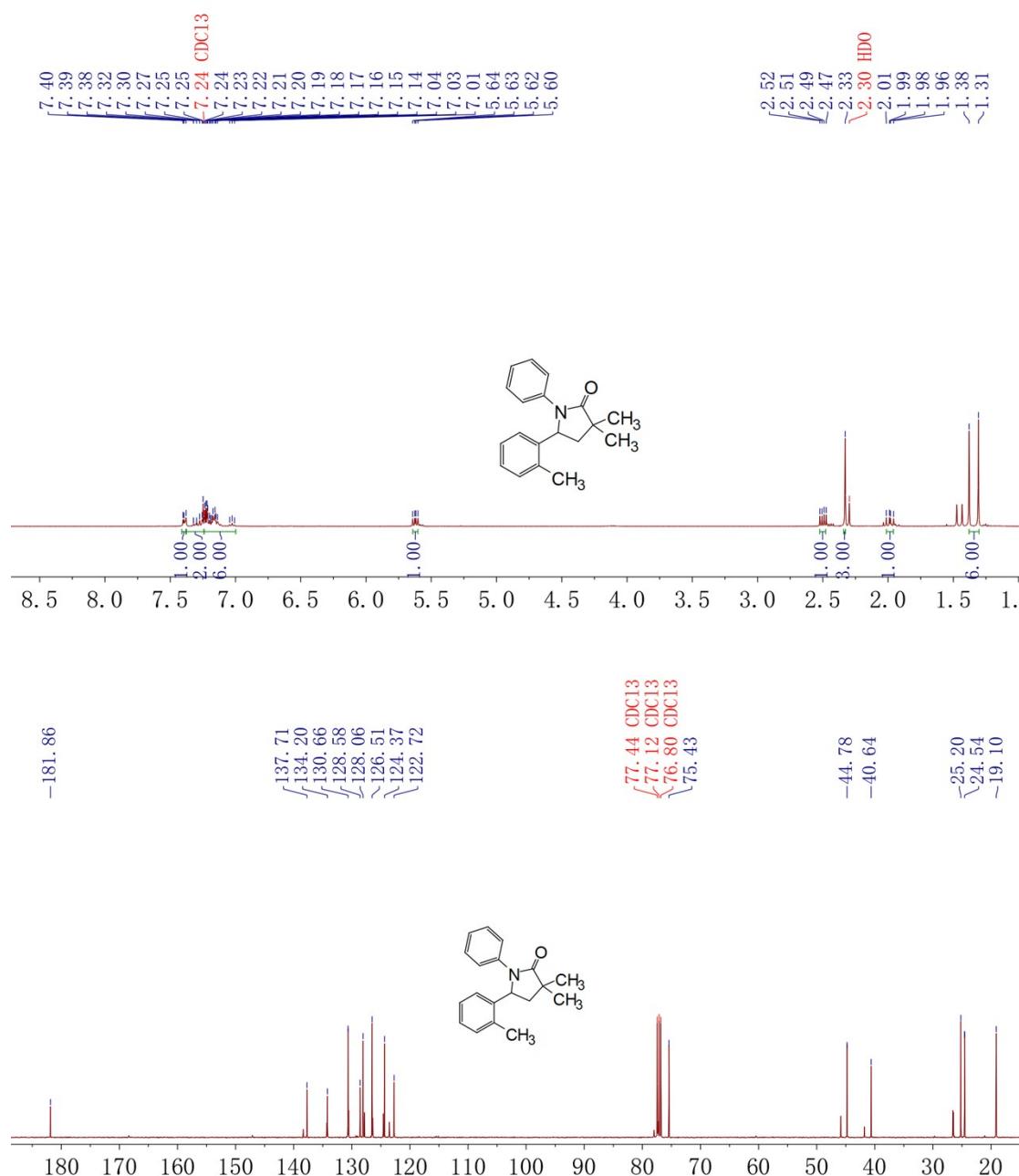
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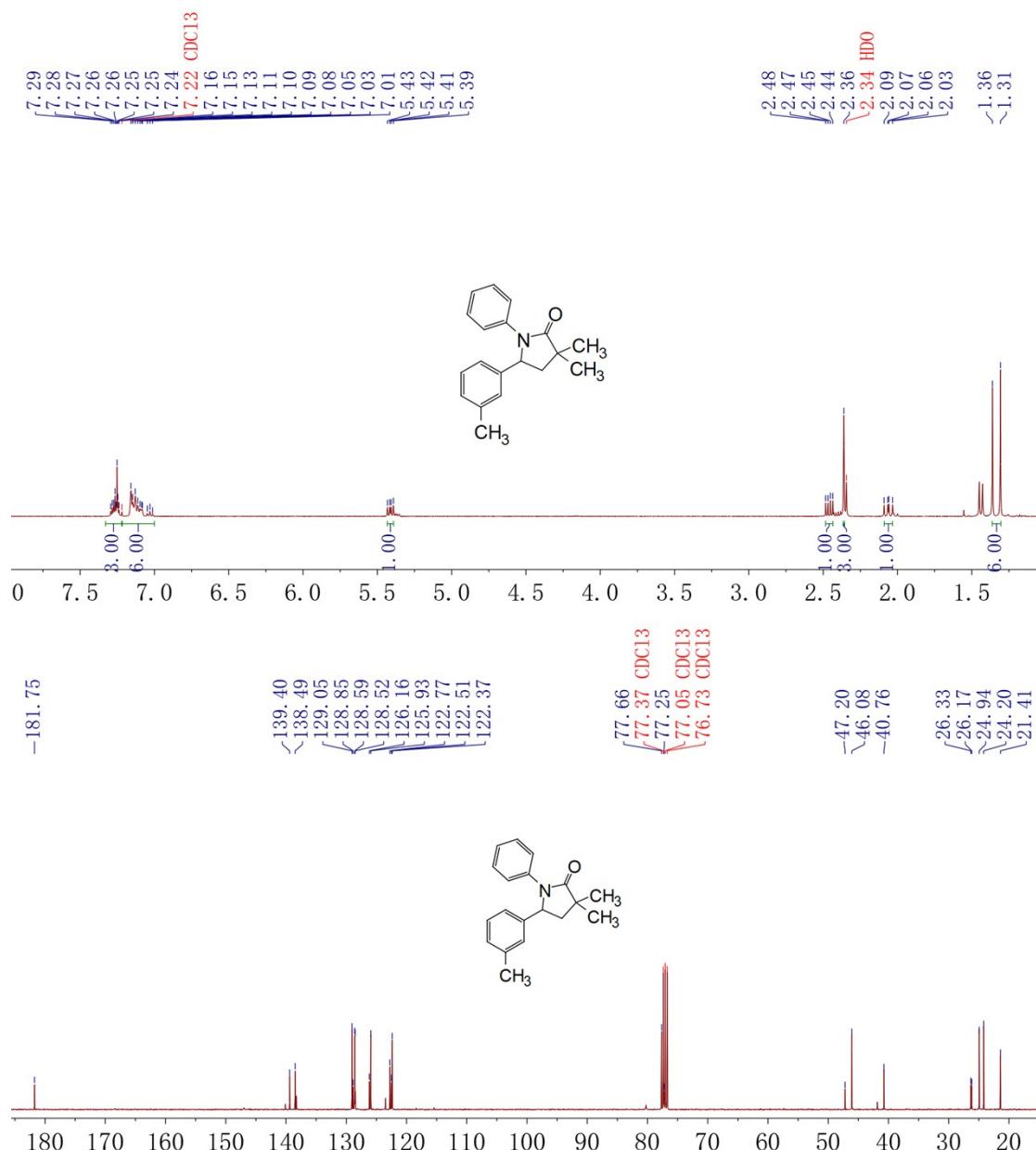
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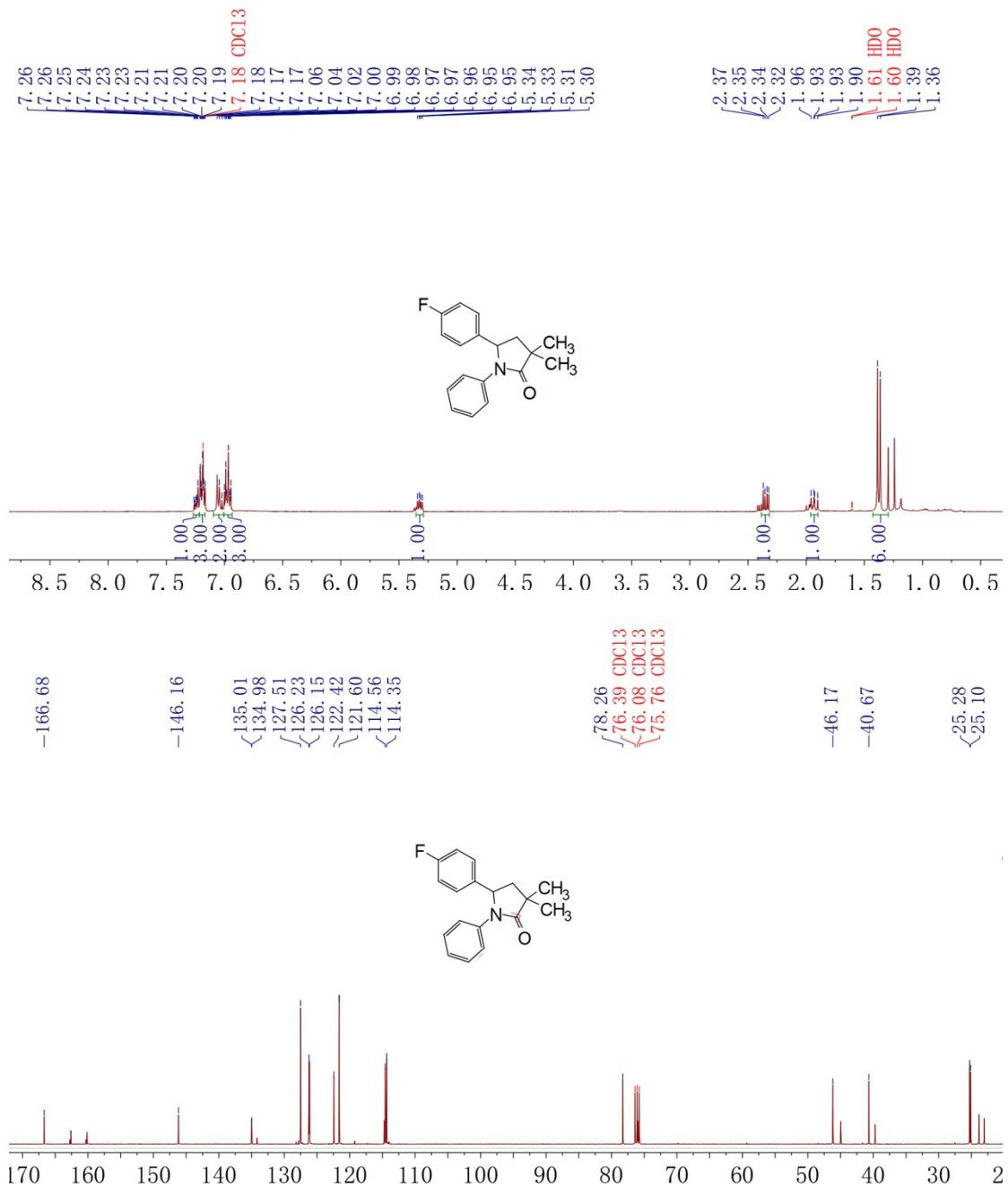
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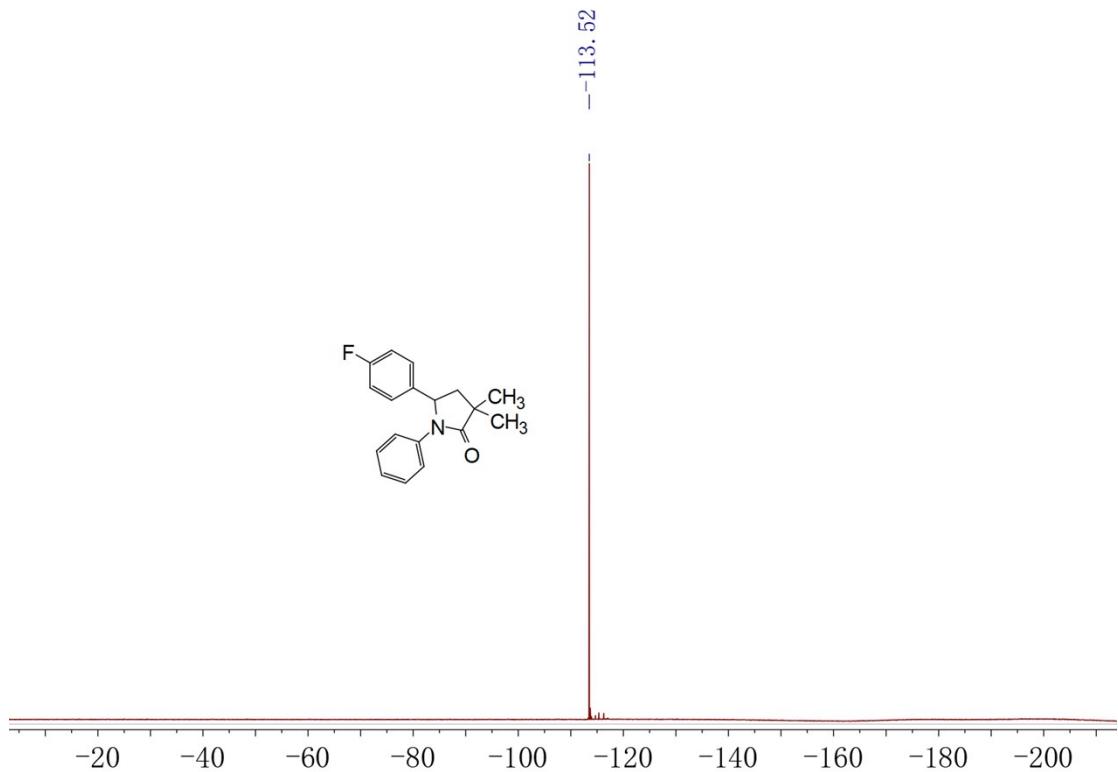


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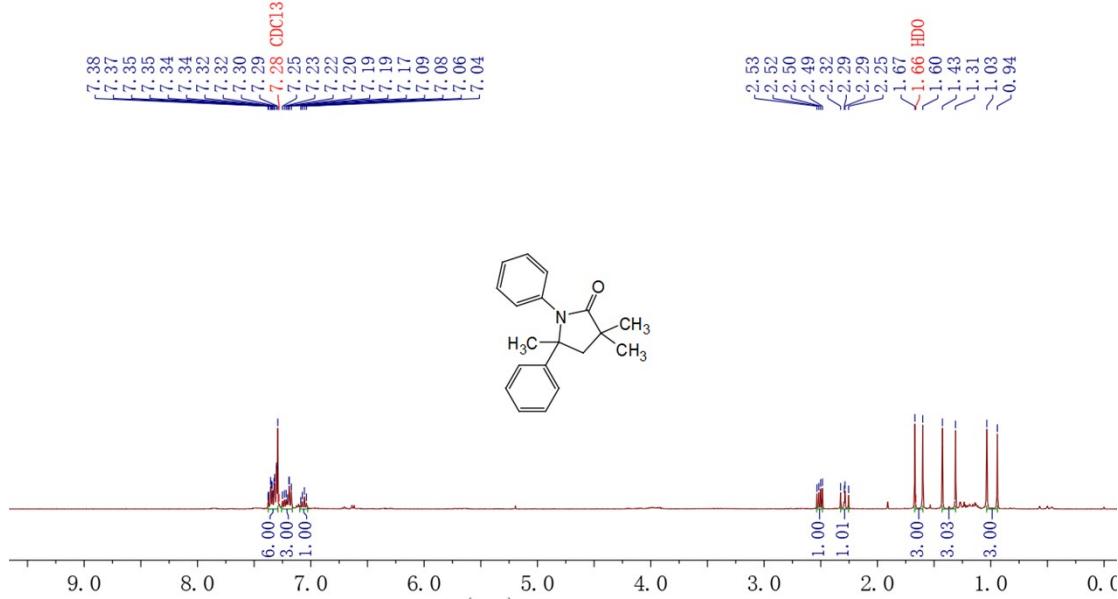


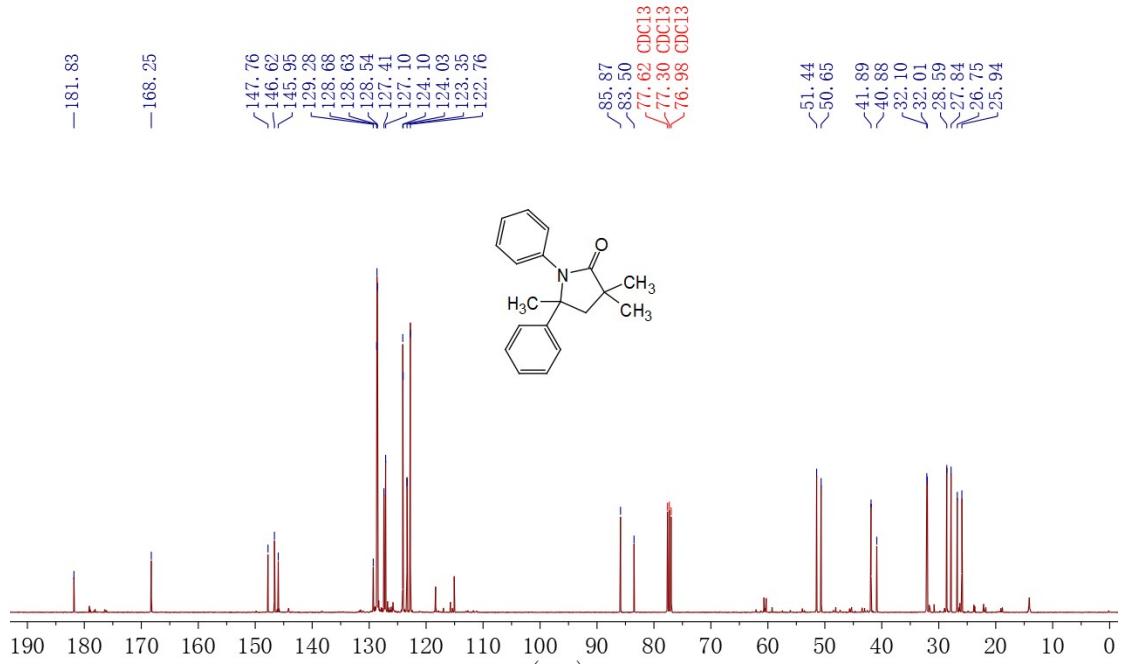
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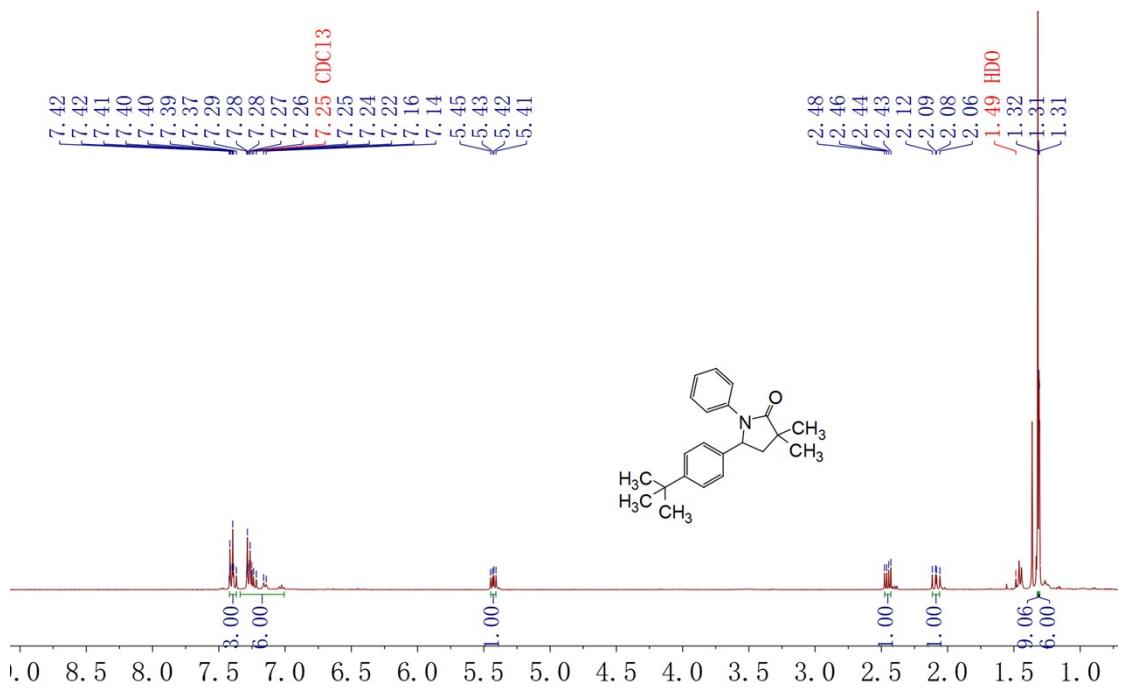


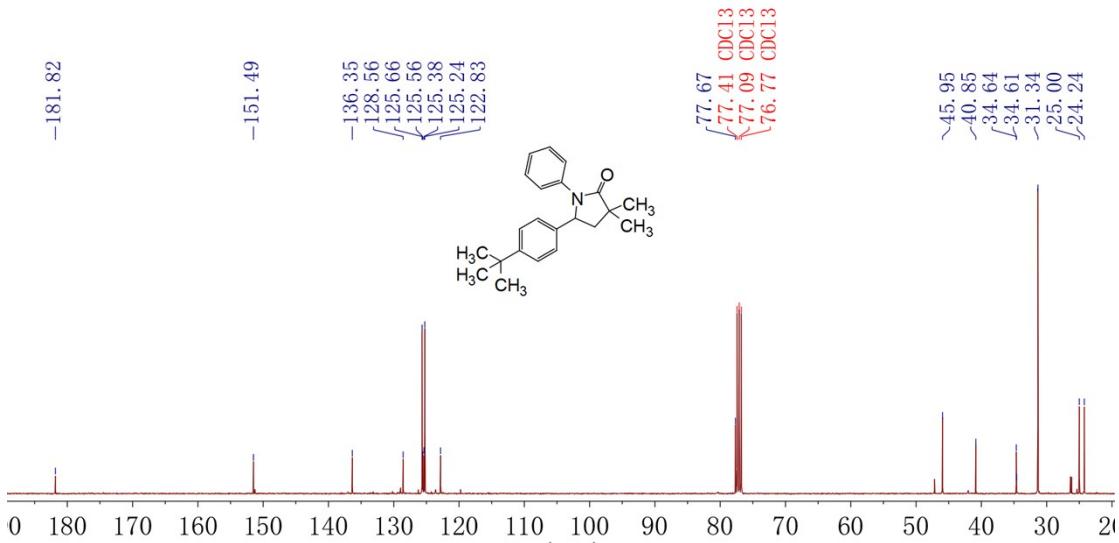
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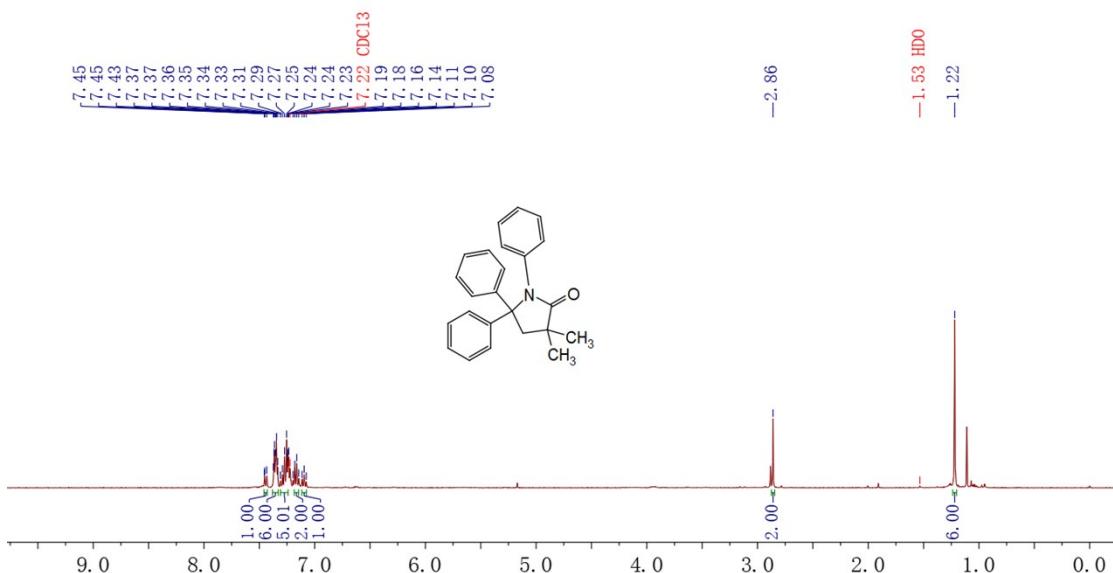


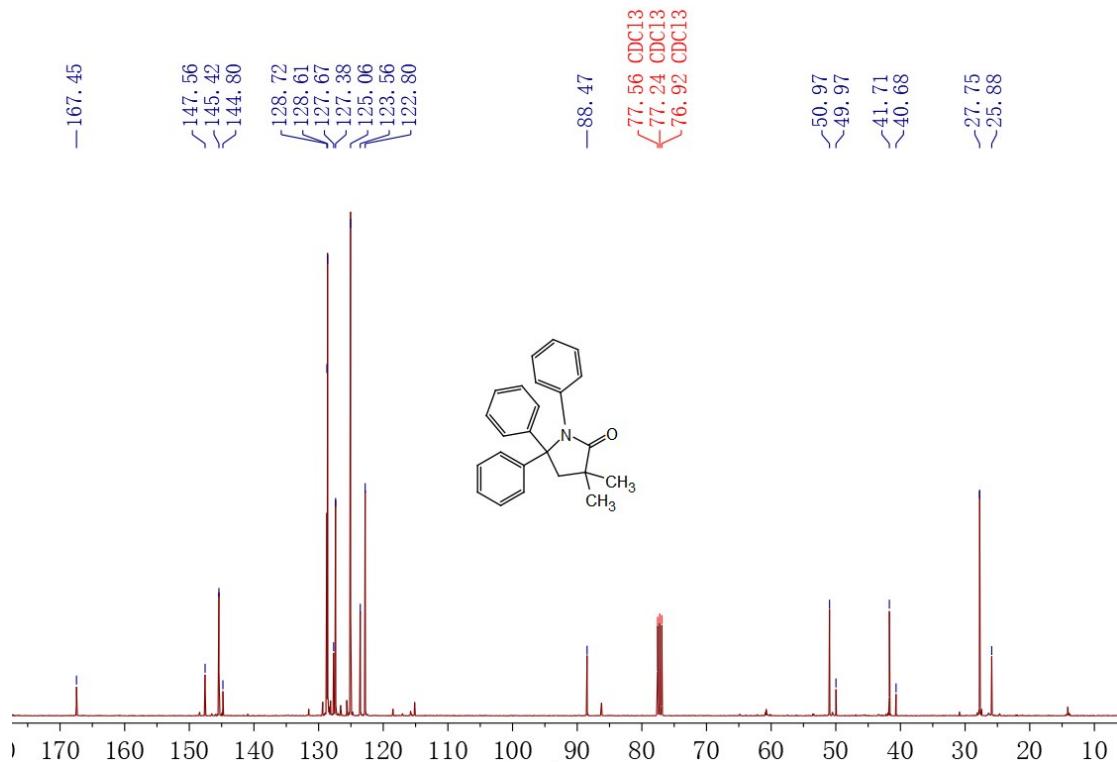
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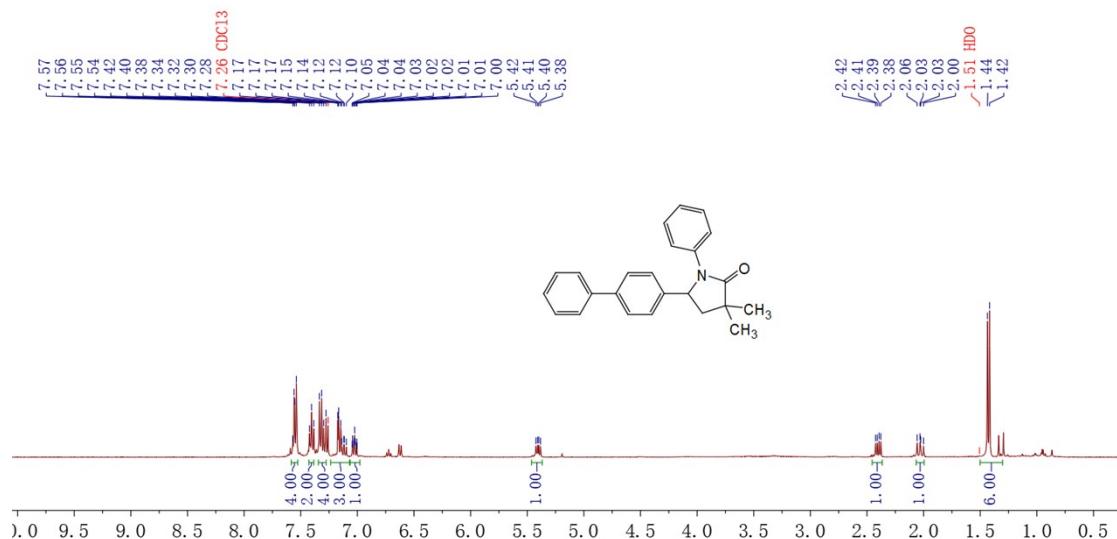


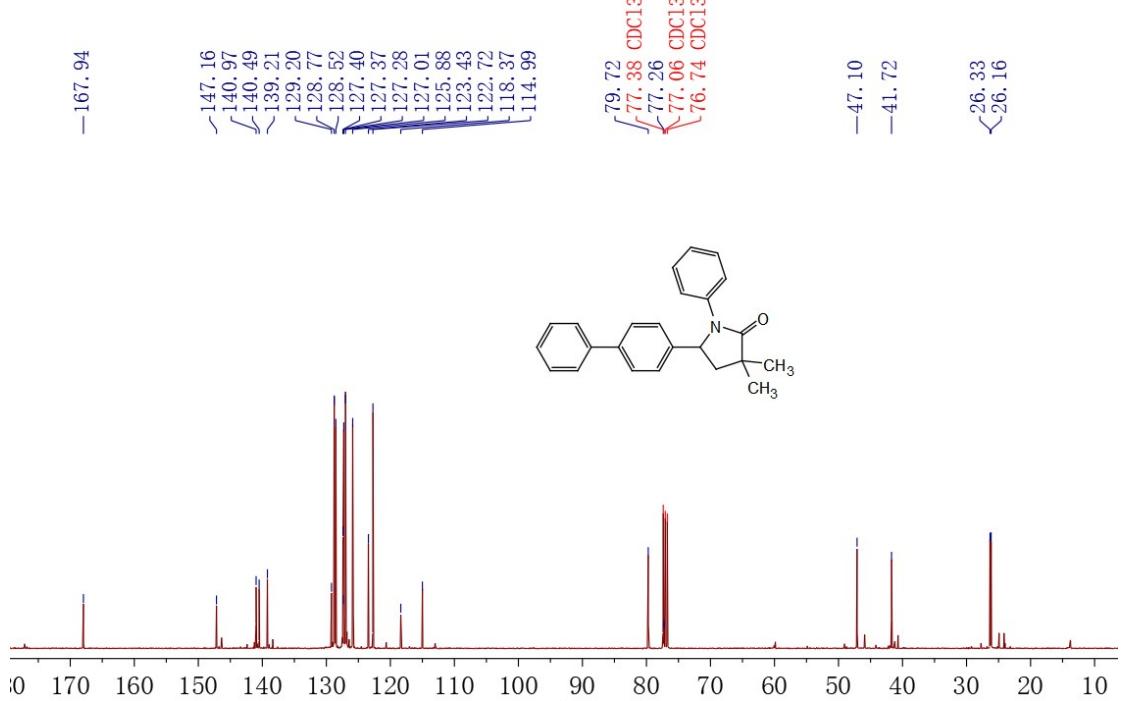
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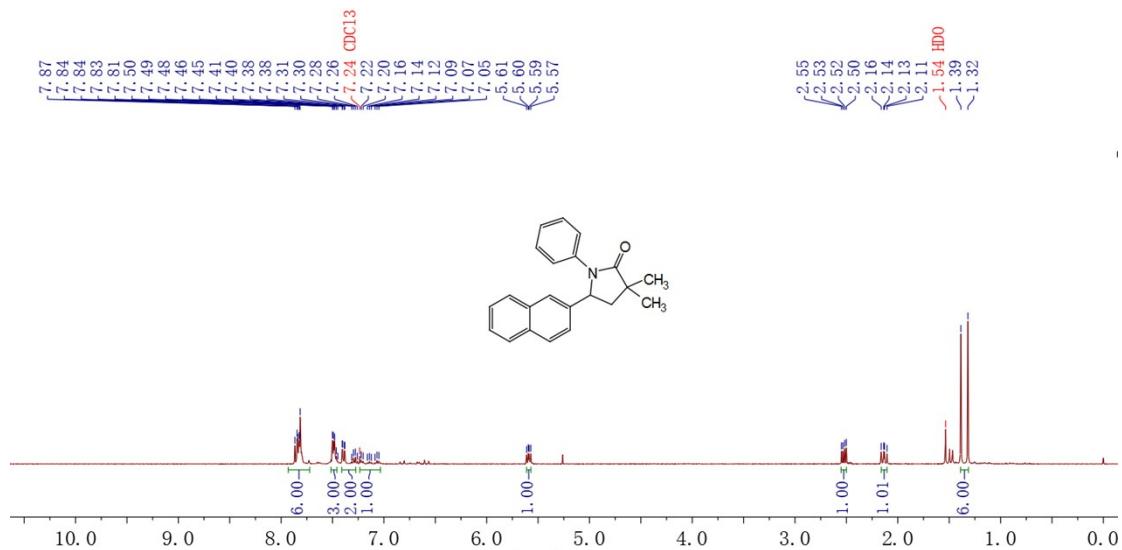


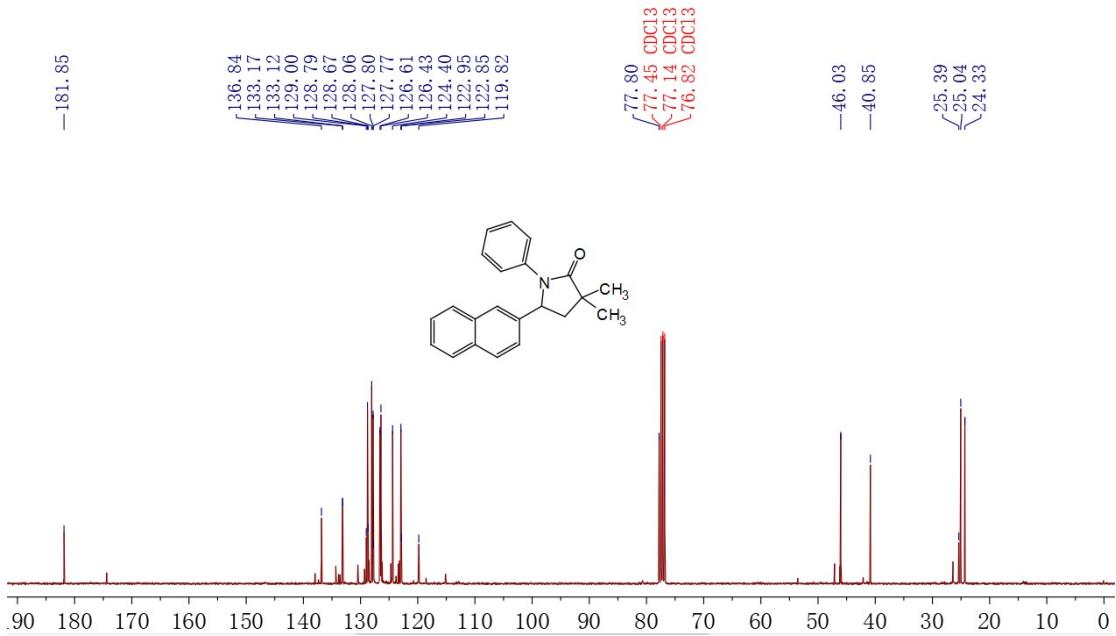
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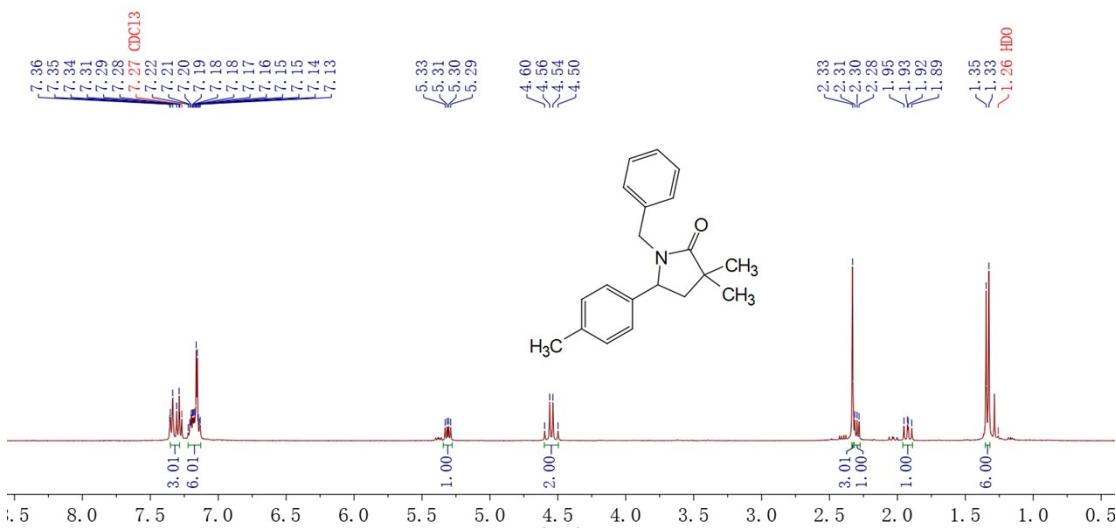


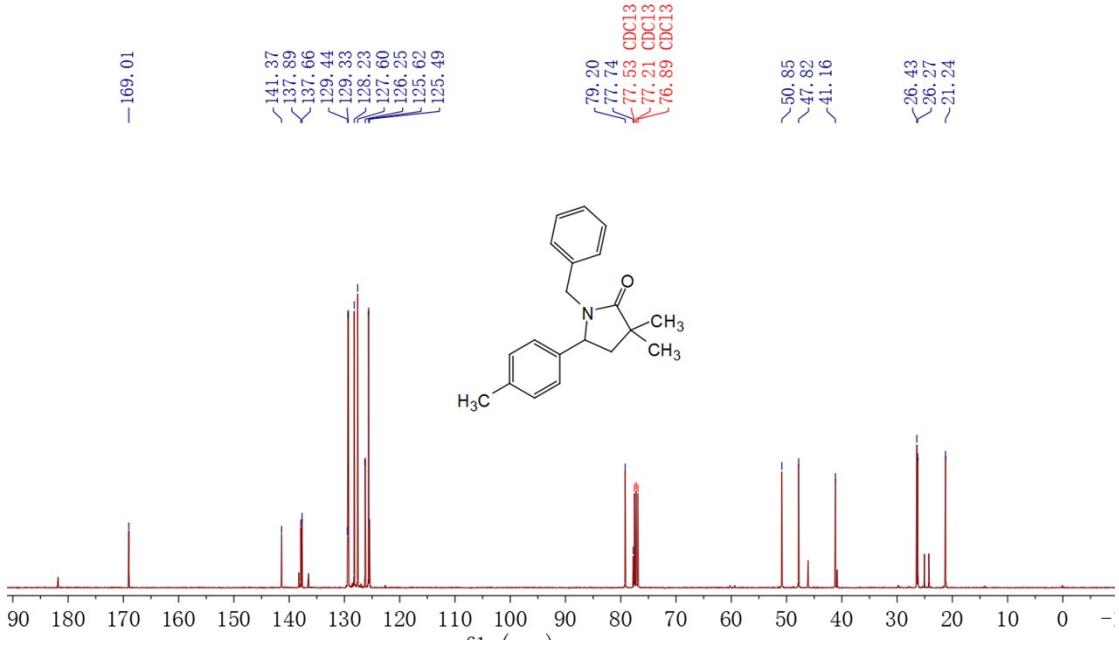
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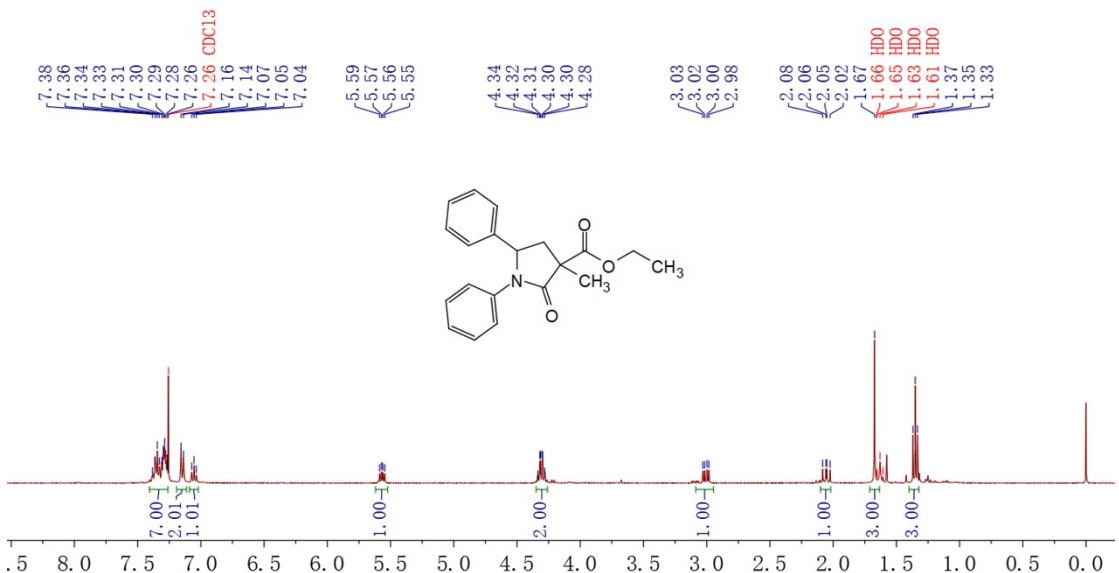


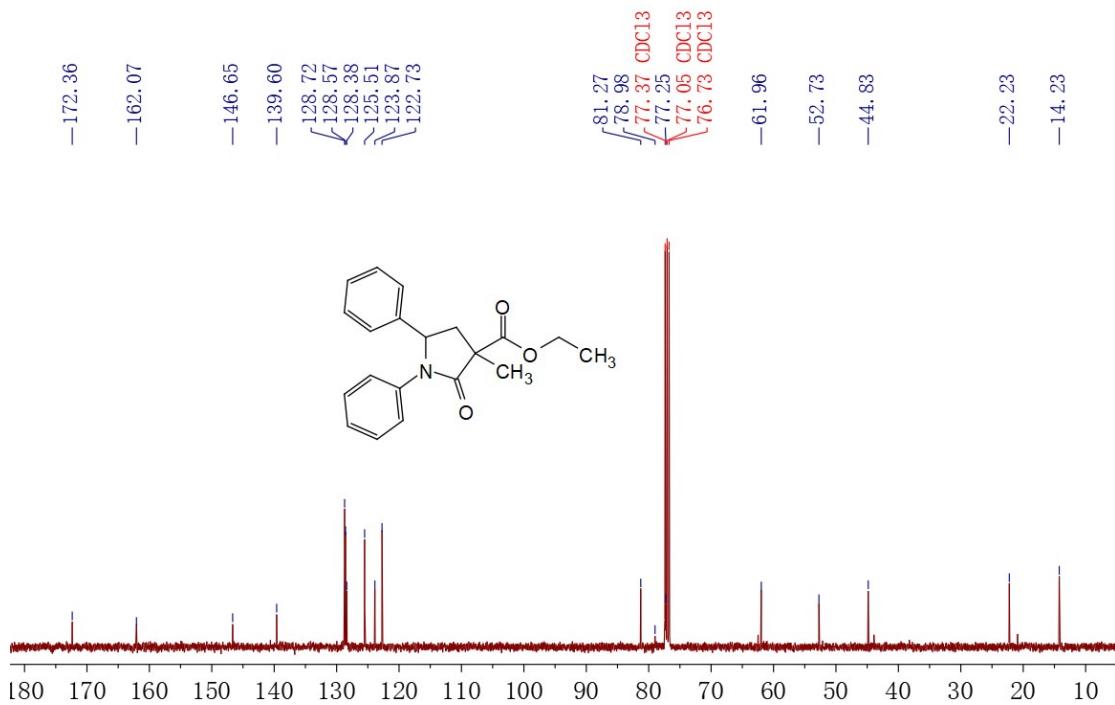
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4aba





4abb

