

Transition-metal free cyano 1,3 migration of unsaturated cyanohydrins

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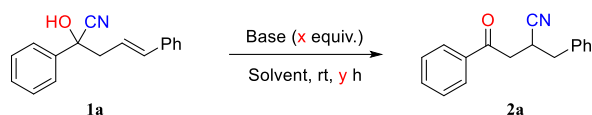
I General information

All reactions were maintained under a nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification. Solvents including: Toluene, TBME, *p*-xylene, *o*-xylene and THF were dried with sodium and degassed via liquid nitrogen. Other dried solvents were directly used from purchased. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 14A04336 (600 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: proton (chloroform δ 7.26), carbon (chloroform δ 77.0) or tetramethylsilane (TMS δ 0.00) was used as a reference. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker 19A01643 Q-TOF LC/MS with Electron Spray Ionization (ESI) resource. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm. Further visualization was achieved by staining with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine, or potassium permanganate solution followed by heating using a heat gun. The starting material unsaturated cyanohydrins were prepared by the addition of TMSCN to ketones according to the reported procedures.^[1,2]

II General Procedure for preparation of product from unsaturated cyanohydrins and the transformation of functional groups of product 2a

Condition a: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added unsaturated cyanohydrins (0.1 mmol), DBU (20 mol%) and *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products.

Condition b: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added unsaturated cyanohydrins (0.1 mmol), DBU (40 mol%) and *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at 65 °C for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products.

Table S1. Table Condition Screening for cyano 1,3-migration^a

entry	temp. (°C)	Base	x	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	120	DBU	1	Toluene	53
2	100	DBU	1	Toluene	60
3	80	DBU	1	Toluene	60
4	60	DBU	1	Toluene	66
5	40	DBU	1	Toluene	62
6	rt	DBU	1	Toluene	60
7	rt	DBU	0.4	Toluene	66
8	rt	DBU	0.2	Toluene	69
9	rt	DBU	0.1	Toluene	24
10	rt	DBU	0.20	DCE	36
12	rt	DBU	0.20	TBME	61
13	rt	DBU	0.20	Hexane	56
14	rt	DBU	0.20	<i>p</i> -Xylene	71
16	rt	DBU	0.20	<i>o</i> -Xylene	81
17	rt	DBU	0.20	DMF	41
18	rt	DBU	0.20	THF	36
19	rt	DMAP	0.20	<i>o</i> -Xylene	0
20	rt	DABCO	0.20	<i>o</i> -Xylene	0
21	120	NaOH	1	Toluene	0
22	120	KOH	1	Toluene	0
23	120	LiOH	1	Toluene	0
24	120	KOt-Bu	1	Toluene	0
25	rt	TEA	0.20	<i>o</i> -Xylene	trace
26	rt	TMG	0.20	<i>o</i> -Xylene	trace

^a The reaction was carried out with 0.1 mmol of 1a and 20 mol% base in 1 mL of solvent at room temperature for 18 h. ^b Isolated yield. DBU = 1,8-Diazabicyclo [5.4.0] undec-7-ene, DMAP = 4-Dim-ethylaminopyridine, DABCO = 1,4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane, TEA = Triethylamine, TMG= 1,1,3,3-Tetramethylguanidine.

The Scale-up reaction c: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added unsaturated cyanohydrins (3.6 mmol), DBU (20 mol%) and *o*-xylene (36 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products.

The general procedure of synthetic transformations of the product

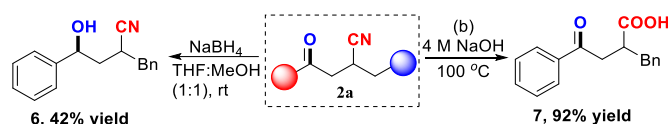
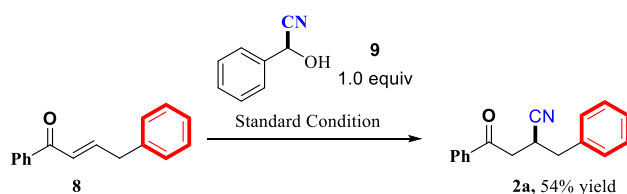


Figure S1 the transformation of functional groups of product **2a**.

the general procedure synthesis of 6^[3]: A 25 mL round bottle flask equipped with a dried stir bar was added **2a** (1 mmol, 250 mg, 1.0 equiv.) and the mixed solvents of THF and CH₃OH (2 mL, 1:1). After **2a** was complete solvent, NaBH₄ (2 mmol, 76 mg) was added at 0 °C. The reaction temperature was allowed to stirring at room temperature. One hour later, the reaction was quenched by saturated NH₄Cl aqueous. The aqueous was extracted with EA (5 mL×2). The organic layer was combined and dried with Na₂SO₄. Then concentrated under reduced pressure and directly purified by silica gel chromatography to give pure products **5o** in 42% yields.

the general procedure synthesis of 7^[4]: A 25 ml round bottle flask equipped with a dried stir bar was added **2a** (1 mmol, 250 mg, 1.0 equiv.), and 5 mL of 4 M NaOH (aq) was added at room temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was refluxed at 100 °C for 4 hours. After the reaction finished, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and acidify with HCl until the pH = 1~2. The product of **5p** was precipitated out, filtered and dried, to give white powder with a yield of 92% yield without further purification.

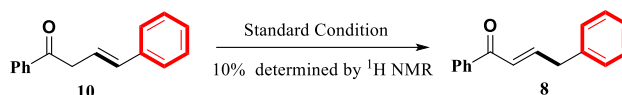
III The mechanism study



The mechanism study of experiment A

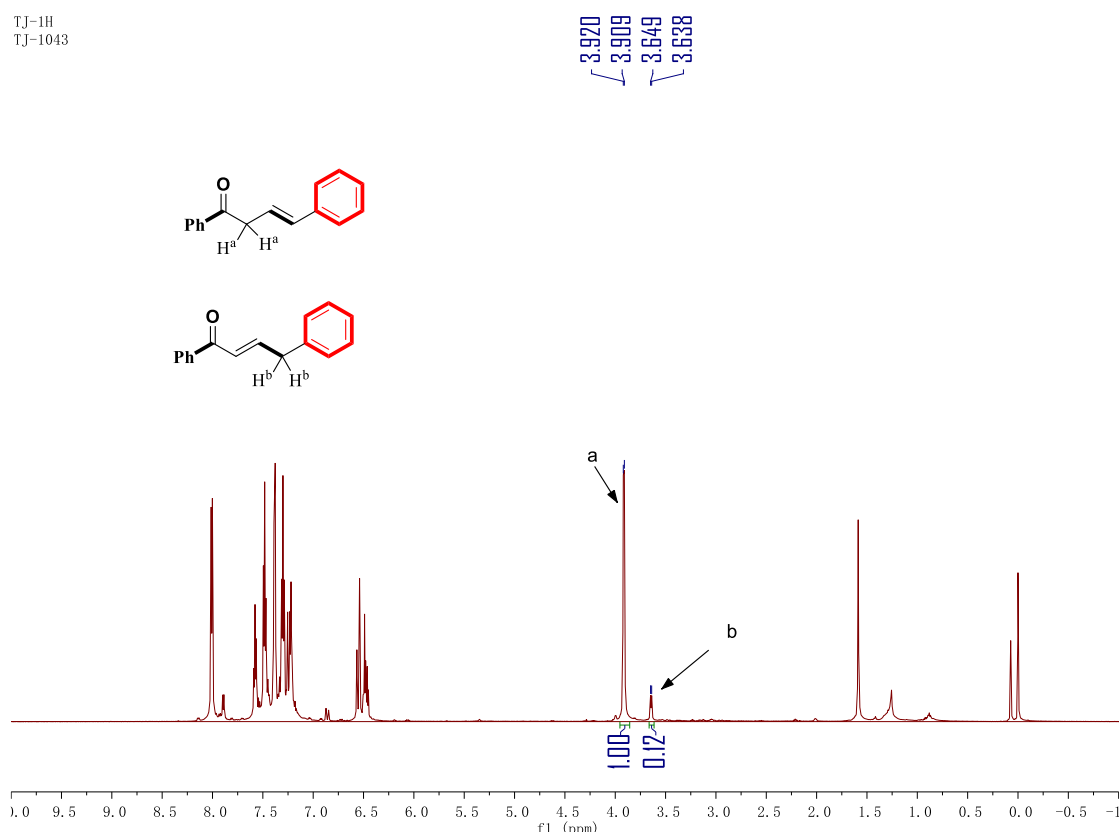
Experimental A: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added α,β -unsaturated ketone (**8**, 0.1 mmol), benzaldehyde cyanohydrin (**9**, 0.1 mmol), DBU (3.2 μ L), anhydrous *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The products of **2a**

was isolated with 54% yields, which shows that α,β -unsaturated ketone **8** was an intermediate for the cyano migration.

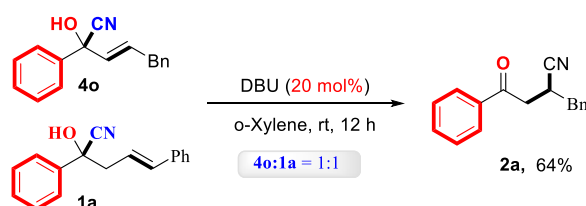


The mechanism study of experiment B

Then experiment **B**: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added β,γ -Unsaturated ketone **10**, DBU (3.2 μL), anhydrous *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and quick filtrate through a short silicagel column. Then the crude products were analysis via ^1H NMR, which shown 10% conversion of β,γ -Unsaturated ketone **10** transformation into α,β -Unsaturated ketone **8**. It is consistent with our hypothesis, and further illustrated α,β -unsaturated ketone **8** was an intermediate in this catalytic system.



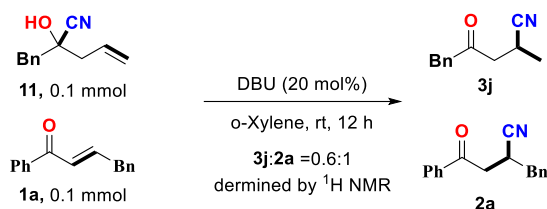
The ^1H NMR of experiment B



The mechanism study of experiment C

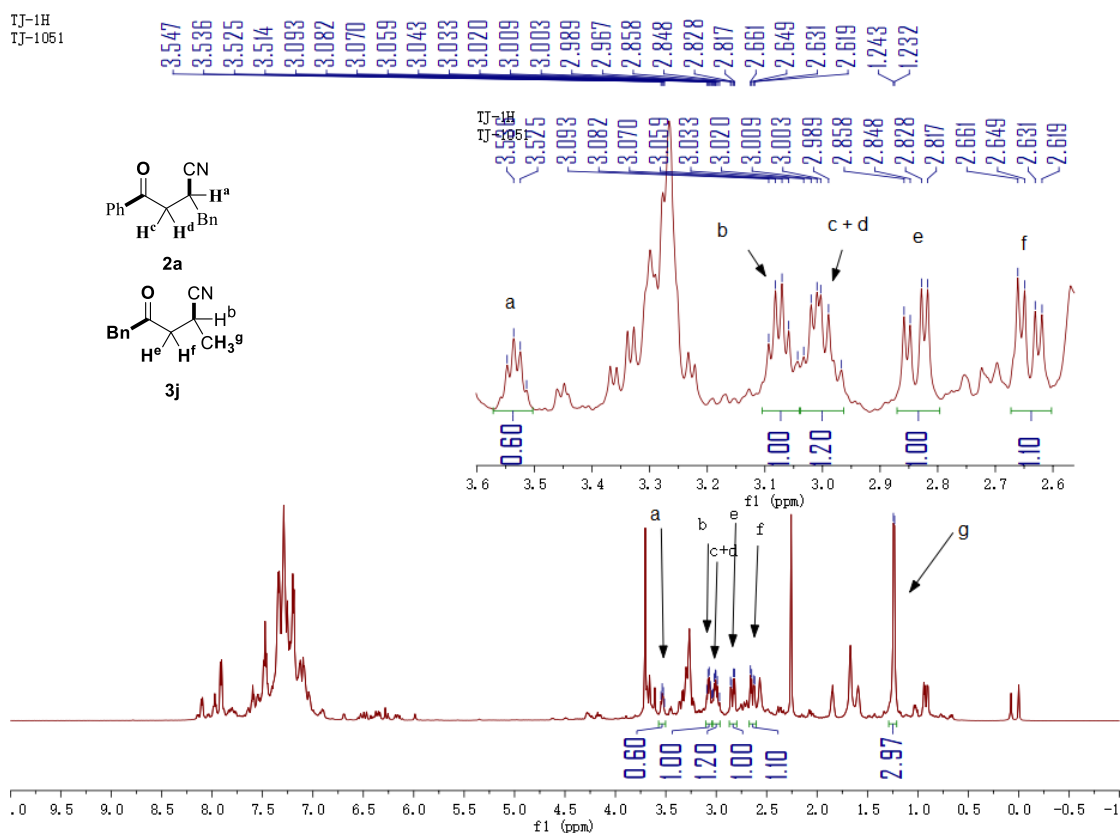
Experimental **C**: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added α,β -unsaturated cyanohydrin (**4o**, 0.1

mmol), β,γ -unsaturated cyanohydrin (**1a**, 0.1 mmol), DBU (3.2 μL), anhydrous *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The total yield of **2a** was obtained in 64%. And the result of this experimental show that DBU played a role as base involved in the reaction, which lead the total yield reduced.



The mechanism study of experiment D

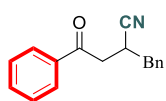
Experimental D: To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added β,γ -unsaturated cyanohydrin (**11**, 0.1 mmol), β,γ -unsaturated cyanohydrin (**1a**, 0.1 mmol), DBU (3.2 μL), anhydrous *o*-xylene (1 mL) in the glovebox. After then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and analysis via ^1H NMR. The corresponding products **3j** and **2a** with the ratio of 0.6:1 were observed in the spectrum, which was demonstrate that the CN^- was free state.



The ^1H NMR of experiment D

IV Characterization of products

2-Benzyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2a)^[5]



The title compound 2a was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 81% yield.

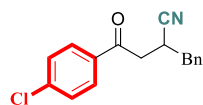
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 3H), 3.56-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.35 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.04-3.97 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.2, 136.4, 135.9, 133.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.0, 127.4, 121.3, 39.7, 37.5, 28.2.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : C₁₇H₁₆NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 250.1265, Found: 250.1226.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2964, 2926, 2245, 1685, 1596, 1450, 1265, 1218, 1076, 1002, 986, 747, 700, 685, 580, 486.

2-Benzyl-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2b)



The title compound 2b was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 81% yield.

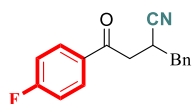
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 3H), 3.55-3.50 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 17.2 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.06-2.95 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.0, 140.4, 136.2, 134.2, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 127.5, 121.2, 39.7, 37.5, 28.1.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : C₁₇H₁₄ClNNaO, [M+Na]⁺, Calcd: 306.0656, Found: 306.0655.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2924, 2241, 1687, 1587, 1453, 1399, 1264, 1216, 1093, 1033, 827, 748, 699, 576.

2-Benzyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2c)



The title compound 2c was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 86% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 2H), 3.54-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.98 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.6, 166.1 (d, J = 256.3 Hz), 136.2, 132.4, 130.7 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 129.1,

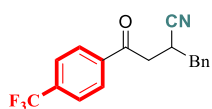
128.8, 127.5, 121.2, 116.1 (d, $J = 22.0$ Hz), 115.9, 39.6, 37.5, 28.1.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -103.53.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 268.1132, Found: 268.1131.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2925, 2245, 1686, 1579, 1505, 1237, 1222, 1156, 834, 635, 485.

2-Benzyl-4-oxo-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butanenitrile (2d)



The title compound **2d** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 76% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 3H), 3.56-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H).

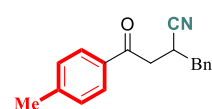
^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.3, 138.5, 136.1, 135.2 (q, $J = 32.9$ Hz), 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.6, 125.9 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 123.4 (q, $J = 272.8$ Hz), 121.0, 40.0, 37.4, 28.0.

^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.24.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 318.1100, Found: 318.1099.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2959, 2247, 1692, 1330, 1109, 845, 832, 742, 701.

2-Benzyl-4-oxo-4-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (2e)



The title compound **2e** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 76% yield.

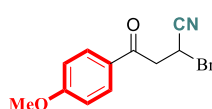
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 5H), 3.56-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.04-2.95 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.8, 144.8, 136.4, 133.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.4, 121.4, 39.6, 37.5, 28.2, 21.6.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 264.1383, Found: 264.1381.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2928, 2240, 1679, 1378, 1323, 1266, 1181, 1106, 816, 700.

2-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2f)



The title compound **2f** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 57% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 3H), 6.95 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.56-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.30 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 18.0$

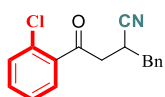
Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.6, 164.1, 136.5, 130.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 127.4, 121.5, 114.0, 55.5, 39.3, 37.5, 28.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 280.1332, Found: 280.1328.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2862, 2242, 1684, 1592, 1453, 1431, 1267, 1043, 787, 766, 622.

2-Benzyl-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2g)



The title compound **2g** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 86% yield.

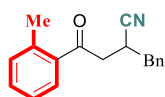
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.51 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 3H), 3.53-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.98 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 137.7, 136.2, 132.6, 131.3, 130.8, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 127.5, 127.1, 121.0, 44.0, 37.5, 28.5.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 284.0837, Found: 284.0835.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2928, 2242, 1700, 1589, 1433, 1213, 1162, 755, 701.

2-Benzyl-4-oxo-4-(o-tolyl)butanenitrile (2h)



The title compound **2h** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 88% yield.

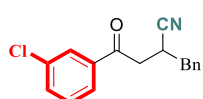
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 5H), 3.46-3.42 (m, 1H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.93-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.5, 138.9, 136.3, 136.3, 132.3, 132.1, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 127.4, 125.8, 121.4, 42.3, 37.6, 28.3, 21.4.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 264.1383, Found: 264.1382.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2926, 2242, 1686, 1409, 1271, 976, 757, 702.

2-Benzyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2i)



The title compound **2i** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 70% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J

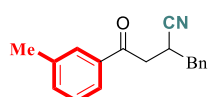
= 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (m, 3H), 3.55-3.50 (m, 1H), 3.35-3.31 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.0, 137.4, 136.1, 135.2, 133.7, 130.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.5, 126.0, 121.1, 39.8, 37.5, 28.1.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 284.0837, Found: 284.0836.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2861, 2219, 1646, 1372, 1160, 1105, 1078, 759, 697.

2-Benzyl-4-oxo-4-(*m*-tolyl)butanenitrile (2j)



The title compound **2j** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 85% yield.

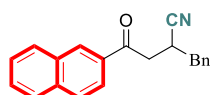
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 5H), 3.55-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 13.8 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 13.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H);

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.8, 144.8, 136.5, 133.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.4, 121.5, 39.6, 37.6, 28.2, 21.7.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 264.1383, Found: 264.1382.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2862, 2241, 1683, 1450, 1270, 1203, 1183, 786, 689.

2-Benzyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2k)



The title compound **2k** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 87% yield.

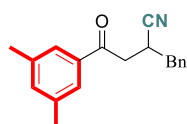
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.91-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 3H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.48 (dd, J = 17.2 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 17.2 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.08-3.00 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.1, 136.4, 135.9, 133.2, 132.4, 129.9, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 127.0, 123.4, 121.4, 39.8, 37.5, 28.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 300.1383, Found: 300.1381.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2924, 2244, 1677, 1451, 1275, 1263, 1184, 1122, 889, 766, 699, 494.

2-Benzyl-4-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-oxobutanenitrile (2l)



The title compound **2l** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 77% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (s, 2H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 3.56-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.30-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.6, 138.5, 136.5, 136.0, 135.4, 129.2, 128.8, 127.4, 125.8, 121.4, 39.8, 37.5, 28.2, 21.2.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₉H₂₀NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 278.1539, Found: 278.1539.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2921, 2241, 1682, 1646, 1603, 1449, 1358, 1301, 1206, 1185, 1159, 852, 754, 689.

2-Benzyl-4-oxopentanenitrile (**2m**)^[6]

The title compound **2m** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 8:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 78% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.3-3.28 (m, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.5, 136.2, 129.1, 128.8, 127.5, 121.1, 44.2, 37.3, 29.9, 27.7.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₂H₁₃NO, [M], Calcd: 188.1070, Found: 188.1070.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3063, 2927, 2241, 1718, 1496, 1366, 1180, 1162, 747, 702.

2-Benzyl-5-methyl-4-oxohexanenitrile (**2n**)

The title compound **2n** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 62% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.35-3.31 (m, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.32-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.7, 136.3, 129.1, 128.8, 127.4, 121.2, 51.8, 44.0, 37.4, 27.7, 24.6, 22.4, 22.4.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₅H₁₉NNaO, [M+Na]⁺ Calcd: 252.1359, Found: 252.1357.

2957, 2243, 1708, 1403, 1371, 1095, 1079, 960, 749, 710, 584.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2957, 2243, 1708, 1403, 1371, 1095, 1079, 960, 749, 710, 584.

2-Benzyl-5,5-dimethyl-4-oxohexanenitrile (**2o**)

The title compound **2o** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (*R_f* = 0.30

in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 58% yield.

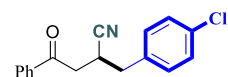
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.37-3.32 (m, 1H), 2.93-2.88 (m, 3H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.2, 136.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.4, 121.4, 44.0, 38.2, 37.4, 28.1, 26.2.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₅H₁₉NNaO, [M+Na]⁺, Calcd: 252.1359, Found: 252.1357.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2976, 2241, 1701, 1477, 1455, 1365, 1099, 1000, 879, 771, 738, 703.484.

2-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2p)



The title compound **2p** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 87% yield.

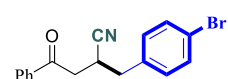
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 3.54-3.50 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.0, 135.8, 134.8, 133.9, 133.5, 130.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 121.1, 39.7, 36.8, 28.2.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₇H₁₅ClNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 284.0837; Found: 284.0834.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2931, 2246, 1686, 1588, 1362, 1092, 829, 699, 699, 577, 484.

2-(4-Bromobenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2q)



The title compound **2q** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 80% yield.

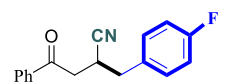
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.563-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.36 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.0, 135.8, 135.4, 133.9, 132.0, 130.9, 128.9, 128.0, 121.5, 121.1, 39.7, 36.9, 28.1.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₇H₁₅BrNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 328.0332, Found: 328.0329.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2933, 2246, 1683, 1594, 1487, 1217, 1180, 1042, 987, 821, 751, 686, 642, 500.

2-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2r)



The title compound **2r** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 75% yield.

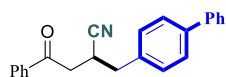
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.54-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H).
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.1, 161.4 (d, *J* = 246.2 Hz), 135.8, 133.9, 132.1, 130.7 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 128.8, 128.0, 121.2, 115.7 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz), 39.7, 36.7, 28.4.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.96.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₇H₁₅FNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 268.1132, Found: 268.1130.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2967, 2245, 1684, 1598, 1508, 1448, 1266, 1222, 1157, 1096, 1037, 1034, 837, 749, 687, 550, 524.

2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2s)



The title compound **2s** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10 :1) resulting in a yellow solid in 82% yield.

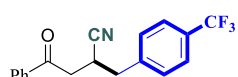
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 5H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 3.60-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09-3.01 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.2, 140.6, 140.4, 135.9, 135.3, 133.8, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 127.0, 121.4, 39.8, 37.2, 28.2.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd. for C₂₃H₁₇NO 326.1539; Found 326.1539.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2925, 2241, 1680, 1646, 1595, 1485, 1477, 1261, 1213, 1107, 1074, 799, 691.

4-Oxo-4-phenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)butanenitrile (2t)



The title compound **2t** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 75% yield.

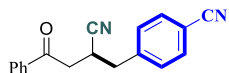
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.59-3.55 (m, 1H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.9, 140.4, 135.7, 134.0, 129.9 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 128.9, 128.0, 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 122.043 (q, *J* = 272.2 Hz), 120.9, 39.8, 37.3, 28.0.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₈H₁₅F₃NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 318.1100; Found: 318.1099.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2933, 2246, 1682, 1648, 1327, 1170, 1124, 850, 831, 687, 644, 571.

4-(2-Cyano-4-oxo-4-phenylbutyl)benzonitrile (2u)



The title compound **2u** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white crystal in 79% yield.

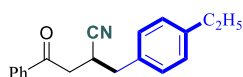
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.59-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.42 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 13.8 Hz, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.00-2.97 (dd, J = 13.8 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.7, 141.9, 135.7, 134.1, 132.6, 130.0, 128.9, 128.0, 120.6, 118.4, 111.7, 39.8, 37.5, 28.0.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 275.1179, Found: 275.1178.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2870, 2243, 1679, 1593, 1447, 1357, 1214, 936, 848, 828, 758, 690, 597, 575.

2-(4-Ethylbenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2v)



The title compound **2v** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 76% yield.

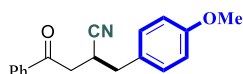
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 3.40 (dd, J = 17.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.54-3.50 (m, 1H), 3.35 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.63 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 143.4, 135.9, 133.8, 133.5, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 121.5, 39.7, 37.1, 28.4, 28.2, 15.4.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 278.1539, Found: 278.1536.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2924, 2235, 1680, 1452, 1376, 1179, 1109, 833, 696.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2w)



The title compound **2w** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 79% yield.

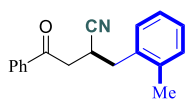
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.51-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.34 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.91 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 159.0, 135.9, 133.8, 130.2, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 121.5, 114.2, 55.2, 39.6, 36.7, 28.4.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 280.1332, Found: 280.1331.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2945, 2212, 1678, 1587, 1359, 1276, 1250, 1185, 1165, 815.

2-(2-Methylbenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2x)



The title compound **2x** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 88% yield.

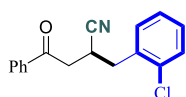
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 41.3 Hz, 4H), 3.54-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.43 (dd, J = 17.8 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.98 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.2, 136.4, 135.9, 134.8, 133.8, 130.8, 130.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.5, 126.3, 121.4, 40.3, 35.1, 27.3, 19.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 264.1383, Found: 264.1382.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2924, 2235, 1680, 1452, 1376, 1179, 1109, 833, 696.

2-(2-Chlorobenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2y)



The title compound **2y** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 68% yield.

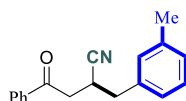
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 3.68-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.44 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22-3.13 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 135.8, 134.2, 133.8, 131.6, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.2, 121.0, 40.1, 35.2, 26.9.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 284.0837, Found: 284.0834.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2984, 2244, 1737, 1689, 1475, 1448, 1372, 1244, 1047, 754, 689.

2-(3-Methylbenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2z)



The title compound **2z** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 86% yield.

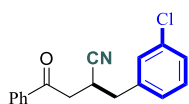
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 3H), 3.55-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.35 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.92 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 138.5, 136.3, 135.9, 133.8, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 128.0, 126.2, 121.4, 39.8, 37.5, 28.1, 21.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 264.1383, Found: 264.1382.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2986, 2240, 1740, 1685, 1473, 1444, 1370, 1248, 1049, 756, 670.

2-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2aa)



The title compound **2aa** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 84% yield.

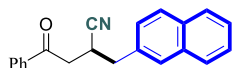
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.19 (m, 1H), 3.56-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 13.8 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, J = 13.8 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.0, 137.4, 136.1, 135.2, 133.7, 130.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.5, 126.0, 121.1, 39.8, 37.5, 28.1.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 284.0837, Found: 284.0835.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2927, 2241, 1685, 1647, 1597, 1448, 1180, 999, 982, 755, 693.

2-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (2ab)



The title compound **2ab** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 93% yield.

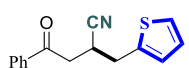
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.66-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, J = 17.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.20-3.12 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 135.9, 133.8, 133.8, 133.5, 132.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 128.0, 127.7, 127.7, 127.0, 126.3, 126.0, 121.4, 39.8, 37.7, 28.1.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 300.1383, Found: 300.1382.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2923, 2243, 1685, 1363, 1215, 747, 688, 477.

4-Oxo-4-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)butanenitrile (2ac)



The title compound **2ac** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil white solid in 80% yield.

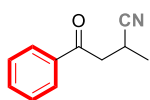
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.20 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.57 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, J = 18.0 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.32-3.28 (m, 1H), 3.27 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.0, 137.8, 135.8, 133.8, 128.8, 128.0, 127.3, 127.0, 125.0, 121.1, 39.4, 31.5, 28.4.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NOS}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 256.0791, Found: 256.0788.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2857, 2153, 1684, 1477, 1362, 1216, 1182, 756, 694.

2-Methyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**3a**)^[7]



The title compound **3a** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 96% yield.

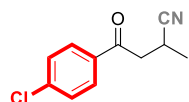
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96-7.84 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.38-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.1, 135.9, 133.8, 128.8, 128.0, 122.5, 42.2, 20.5, 17.9.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₁H₁₂NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 174.0913, Found: 174.0914.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2937, 2241, 1685, 1646, 1407, 1362, 1217, 754, 691.

4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-4-oxobutanenitrile (**3b**)^[7]



The title compound **3b** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 96% yield.

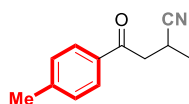
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (dd, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.9, 140.4, 134.2, 129.4, 129.1, 122.3, 42.2, 20.5, 17.8.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₁H₁₁ClNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 208.0524, Found: 208.0523.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3039, 2981, 2243, 1685, 1402, 1217, 1087, 822, 593, 523, 459.

2-Methyl-4-oxo-4-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (**3c**)^[7]



The title compound **3c** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (*R_f* = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 92% yield.

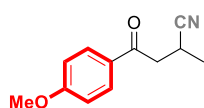
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.42 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 144.7, 133.5, 129.5, 128.1, 122.6, 42.1, 21.6, 20.5, 17.9.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₂H₁₄NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 188.1070, Found: 188.1068.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2921, 2241, 1684, 1603, 1455, 1357, 1277, 1203, 999, 816.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-4-oxobutanenitrile (**3d**)^[7]



The title compound **3d** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a white crystal colorless oil in 83% yield.

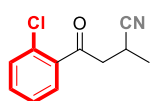
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.18-3.14 (m, 1H), 1.42 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.6, 164.0, 130.3, 129.1, 122.7, 114.0, 55.5, 41.8, 20.6, 17.9.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 204.1019, Found: 204.1016.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2939, 2049, 1677, 1601, 1512, 1263, 1174, 1028, 835, 610, 586.

4-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-4-oxobutanenitrile (**3e**)^[8]



The title compound **3e** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 93% yield.

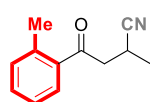
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.40 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.35-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 137.9, 132.5, 131.2, 130.8, 129.3, 127.2, 122.1, 46.4, 20.8, 17.7.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 208.0524, Found: 208.0519.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2937, 2233, 1688, 1603, 1455, 1357, 1277, 1203, 980, 746.

2-Methyl-4-oxo-4-(*o*-tolyl)butanenitrile (**3f**)



The title compound **3f** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 95% yield.

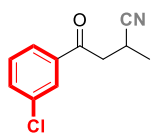
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 2H), 3.41-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.42 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.3, 138.7, 136.0, 134.5, 128.7, 128.5, 125.2, 122.6, 42.3, 21.3, 20.5, 17.9.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 210.0889, Found: 210.0887.

IR (KBr , cm^{-1}) 2939, 2249, 1683, 1512, 1363, 1174, 1028, 835, 740.

4-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-4-oxobutanenitrile (**3g**)^[8]



The title compound **3g** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 87% yield.

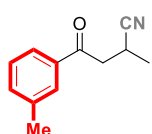
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (dd, J = 17.2 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.36-3.03 (m, 1H), 3.19 (dd, J = 17.2 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.9, 137.4, 135.2, 133.7, 130.1, 128.1, 126.0, 122.3, 42.4, 20.5, 17.8.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 208.0524, Found: 208.0523.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2923, 2242, 1685, 1603, 1587, 1484, 1359, 1276, 1250, 1185, 1165, 785, 690.

2-Methyl-4-oxo-4-(m-tolyl)butanenitrile (3h)



The title compound **3h** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 92% yield.

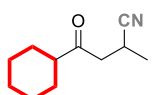
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.65 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.14 (dd, J = 16.2 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.42 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.6, 138.9, 136.3, 132.3, 132.1, 128.5, 125.8, 122.5, 44.7, 21.4, 20.7, 17.8.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 210.0889, Found: 210.0887.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2940, 2051, 1679, 1600, 1514, 1260, 1175, 1028, 610.

4-Cyclohexyl-2-methyl-4-oxobutanenitrile (3i)



The title compound **3i** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (15:1) (R_f = 0.30 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 15:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 89% yield.

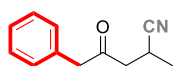
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.16-3.12 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 17.9 Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 17.9 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.35-2.31 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.71-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.27 (m, 7H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.0, 122.5, 50.7, 43.9, 28.2, 28.1, 25.7, 25.4, 25.4, 20.1, 17.7.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 202.1202, Found: 202.1200.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2931, 2856, 2241, 1709, 1451, 1290, 1286, 1148, 1002, 699.

2-Methyl-4-oxo-5-phenylpentanenitrile (3j)^[6]



The title compound **3j** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (20:1) (R_f = 0.20 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 20:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 76% yield.

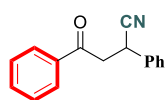
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.11-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.5, 133.1, 129.3, 129.0, 127.4, 122.2, 50.1, 44.9, 20.2, 17.5.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₂H₁₄NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 188.1070, Found: 188.1066.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2939, 2241, 1719, 1496, 1455, 1322, 1090, 1039, 749, 702.

4-Oxo-2,4-diphenylbutanenitrile (**5a**)^[5]



The title compound **5a** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 75% yield.

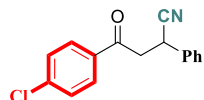
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 135.7, 135.3, 133.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 127.4, 120.5, 44.5, 31.9.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₆H₁₄NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 236.1070, Found: 236.1067.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2916, 2238, 1681, 1594, 1408, 1357, 1307, 1208, 1033, 760, 693, 617.

4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (**5b**)^[5]



The title compound **5b** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 78% yield.

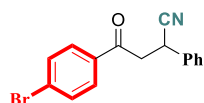
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.4, 140.5, 135.1, 134.0, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.4, 127.4, 120.3, 44.4, 31.9.

HRMS(ESI) *m/z*: C₁₇H₁₆NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 252.1383, Found: 252.1383.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2927, 2241, 1678, 1587, 1400, 1219, 1184, 1001, 993, 829, 754, 601, 532, 455.

4-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (**5c**)^[5]



The title compound **5c** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R_f* = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 73% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.34

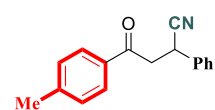
(t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.55-4.53 (m, 1H), 3.68 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.6, 135.1, 134.5, 132.2, 129.5, 129.3, 128.4, 127.4, 120.3, 44.4, 31.9.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 314.0175, Found: 314.0173.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2926, 2247, 1685, 1593, 1446, 1348, 1211, 981, 840, 761, 690, 611.

4-Oxo-2-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)butanenitrile (**5d**)^[5]



The title compound **5d** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 82% yield.

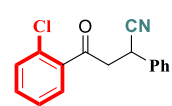
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J = 3$ Hz, 2H), 4.56 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.2, 144.8, 135.4, 133.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 120.6, 44.4, 31.9, 21.6.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 250.1226, Found: 250.1227.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2924, 2243, 1678, 1454, 1259, 1205, 1182, 810, 700.

4-(2-Chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (**5e**)^[5]



The title compound **5e** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 75% yield.

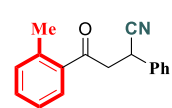
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 6H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 4.54 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.5, 137.6, 134.8, 132.6, 131.3, 130.7, 129.5, 129.2, 128.4, 127.5, 127.1, 120.2, 48.3, 32.2.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 270.0680, Found: 270.0680.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3078, 2927, 2245, 1701, 1587, 1443, 1361, 1435, 1361, 1203, 1072, 756, 696.

4-Oxo-2-phenyl-4-(o-tolyl)butanenitrile (**5f**)^[5]



The title compound **5f** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 70% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 m, 5H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 4.56-4.53 (m, 1H), 3.65 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H),

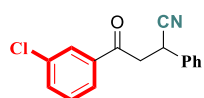
2.50 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 139.1, 136.1, 135.2, 132.3, 132.1, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.5, 125.8, 120.6, 46.8, 32.2, 21.4.

HRMS(ESI) m/z: C₁₇H₁₆ClNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 250.1226, Found: 250.1226.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2929, 2241, 1678, 1598, 1454, 1217, 979, 758, 700, 601.

4-(3-Chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (**5g**)^[5]



The title compound **5g** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 72% yield.

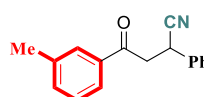
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.4, 137.2, 135.2, 135.0, 133.8, 130.1, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.4, 126.1, 120.3, 44.6, 31.8.

HRMS(ESI) m/z: C₁₆H₁₃ClNO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 270.0680, Found: 270.0677.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3089, 2489, 2240, 1688, 1569, 1542, 1217, 1140, 1027, 917, 787, 716, 696, 623, 454.

4-Oxo-2-phenyl-4-(*m*-tolyl)butanenitrile (**5h**)^[5]



The title compound **5h** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 72% yield.

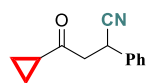
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 4.57 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 138.7, 135.8, 135.4, 134.6, 129.2, 128.6, 128.6, 128.3, 127.4, 125.3, 120.6, 44.5, 31.9, 21.2.

HRMS(ESI) m/z: C₁₇H₁₆NO, [M+H]⁺, Calcd: 250.1226, Found: 250.1224.

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2918, 2241, 1683, 1454, 1261, 1186, 999, 790, 690.

4-Cyclopropyl-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanenitrile (**5i**)^[5]



The title compound **5i** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (R_f = 0.40 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 58% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.32 (m, 5H), 4.38-4.35 (m, 1H), 3.31 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H),

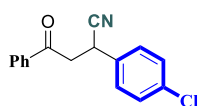
3.09 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.90-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.12-1.10(m, 1H), 1.06-1.05 (m, 1H), 0.98-0.89 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.2, 135.2, 129.2, 128.3, 127.3, 120.4, 48.4, 31.7, 20.7, 11.3, 11.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 250.1270, Found: 200.1067.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2918, 2245, 1701, 1452, 1396, 1170, 1195, 1018, 698.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**5j**)^[5]



The title compound **5j** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a yellow oil in 65% yield.

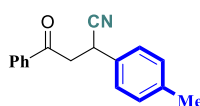
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.36 (m, 4H), 4.57 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.3, 135.6, 134.4, 134.0, 133.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.0, 128.0, 120.2, 44.2, 31.3.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 270.0680, Found: 270.0676.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2933, 2243, 1679, 1489, 1406, 1220, 1095, 817, 750, 688, 597.

4-Oxo-4-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)butanenitrile (**5k**)^[5]



The title compound **5k** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 80% yield.

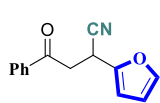
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.54-4.52 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.7, 138.2, 133.8, 132.2, 129.9, 128.8, 128.0, 127.3, 120.7, 44.5, 31.5, 21.0.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 250.1226, Found: 250.1224.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2916, 2239, 1674, 1593, 1448, 1350, 1205, 1110, 999, 821, 761, 690, 597.

2-(Furan-2-yl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**5l**)^[5]



The title compound **5l** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 67% yield.

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H),

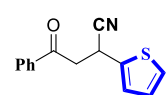
7.39 (s, 1H), 6.38 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.69 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.2, 146.9, 143.1, 135.6, 133.9, 128.8, 128.1, 118.3, 110.8, 108.2, 40.7, 26.0.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 242.0633, Found: 242.0640.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2916, 2239, 1674, 1593, 1448, 1350, 1205, 1110, 999, 821, 761, 690, 597.

4-Oxo-4-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)butanenitrile (**5m**)^[5]



The title compound **5m** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a white solid in 69% yield.

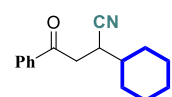
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (t, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.87 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dd, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.2, 137.0, 135.6, 134.0, 128.8, 128.1, 127.1, 126.7, 125.9, 119.7, 44.6, 27.2.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NOSK}$, $[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$, Calcd: 241.0561, Found: 264.0419.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2920, 2247, 1685, 1359, 1448, 1217, 1149, 761, 690.

2-Cyclohexyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**5n**)^[5]



The title compound **5n** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ($R_f = 0.40$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 10:1) resulting in a colorless oil in 79% yield.

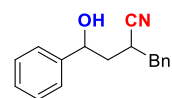
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.35 (m, 1H), 3.27-3.22 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.79 (m, 3H), 1.70-1.68 (m, 1H), 1.29-1.18 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 195.5, 136.0, 133.7, 128.8, 128.0, 120.9, 38.9, 38.4, 32.5, 31.4, 29.1, 25.9, 25.8, 25.8.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 242.1539, Found: 242.1538.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2924, 2235, 1681, 1593, 1448, 1361, 1219, 767, 688, 599.

2-benzyl-4-hydroxy-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**6**)



The title compound **6** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed hexanes and ethyl acetate (8:1) ($R_f = 0.30$ in hexane: ethyl acetate = 5:1) resulting in a colorless crystal in 42% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36-7.23 (m, 10H), 4.96 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.33-3.26 (m, 1H), 2.92 (d,

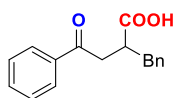
$J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 1H), 2.00-1.84 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.6, 136.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.2, 125.5, 121.5, 71.7, 41.2, 38.51, 30.80.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 252.1383, Found: 252.1383.

IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 2912, 2234, 1595, 1444, 1352, 1205, 1110, 821, 761, 595.

2-benzyl-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoic acid (**7**)^[9]



The title compound **7** was prepared according to the general procedure as described, without further purification resulting in a white crystal in 92% yield.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 3.43-3.35 (m, 2H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 16.0, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.07-2.99 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd, $J = 16$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.0, 143.6, 136.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.2, 125.5, 121.5, 71.7, 41.2, 38.5, 30.8.

HRMS(ESI) m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, Calcd: 269.1172, Found: 269.1171.

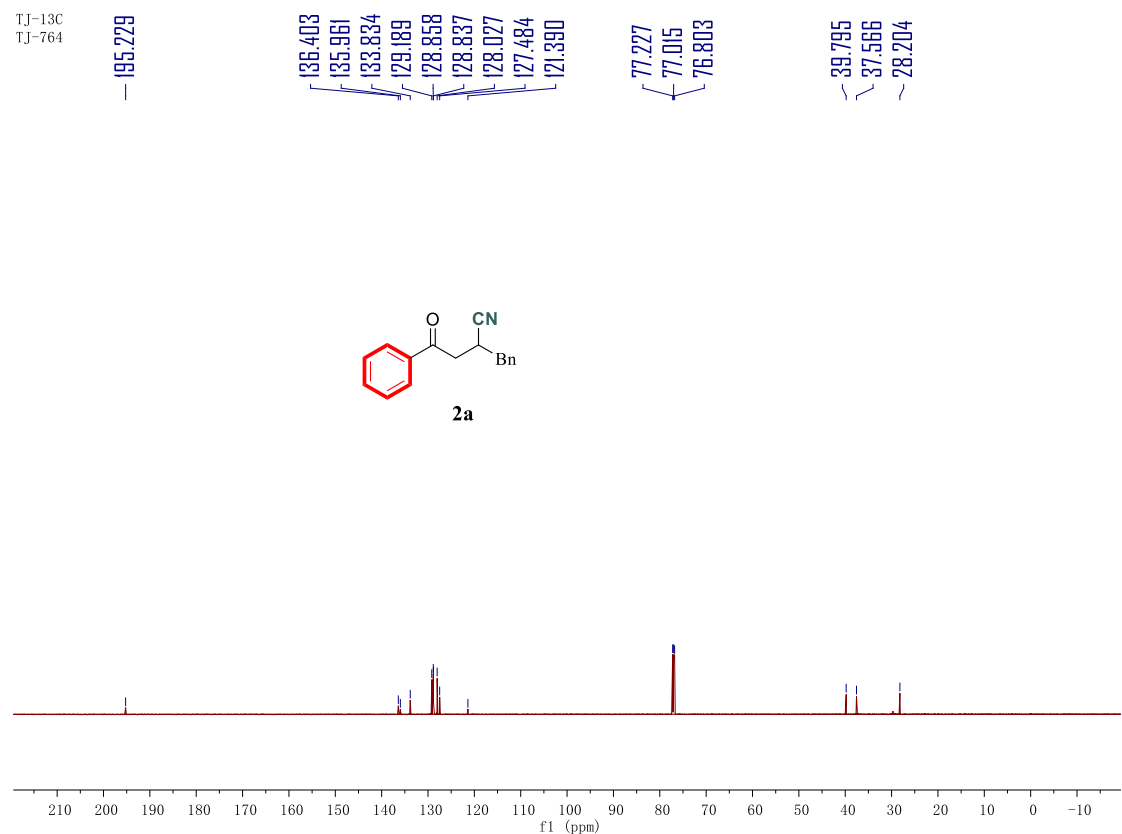
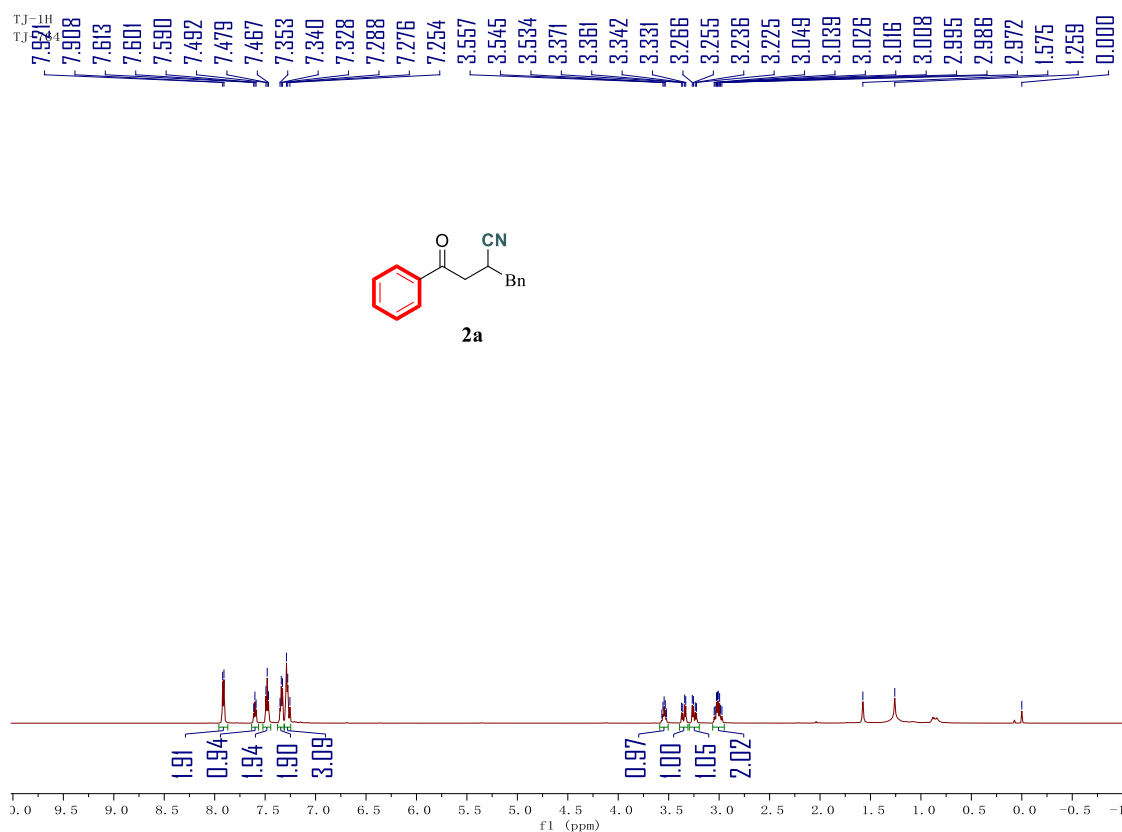
IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) 3125, 2920, 1678, 1592, 1448, 1350, 1205, 1115, 993, 821, 756, 695, 599.

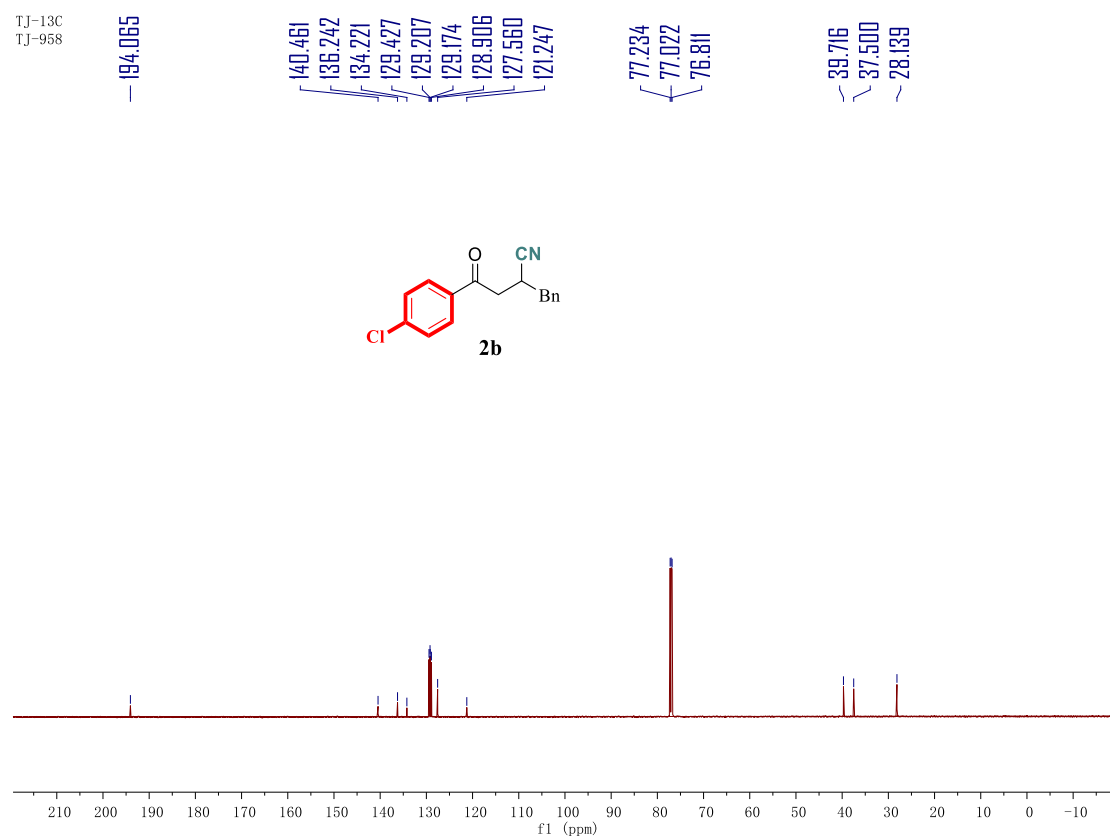
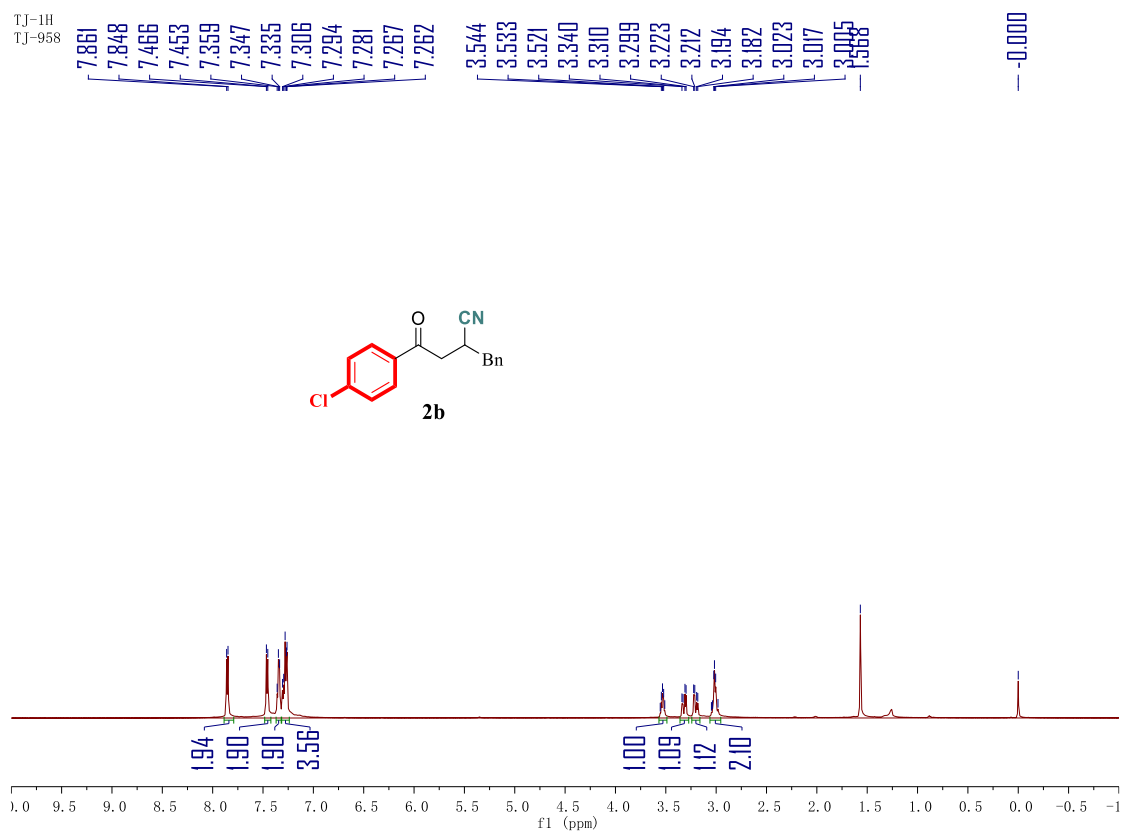
V References

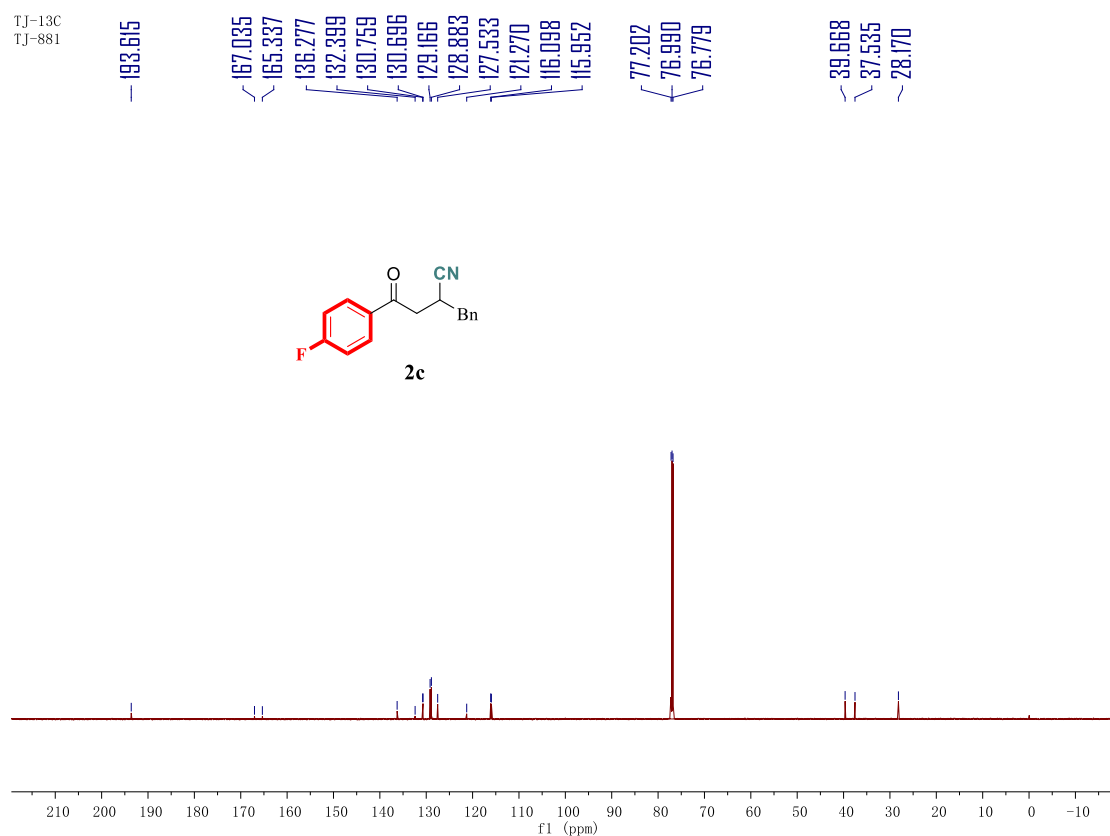
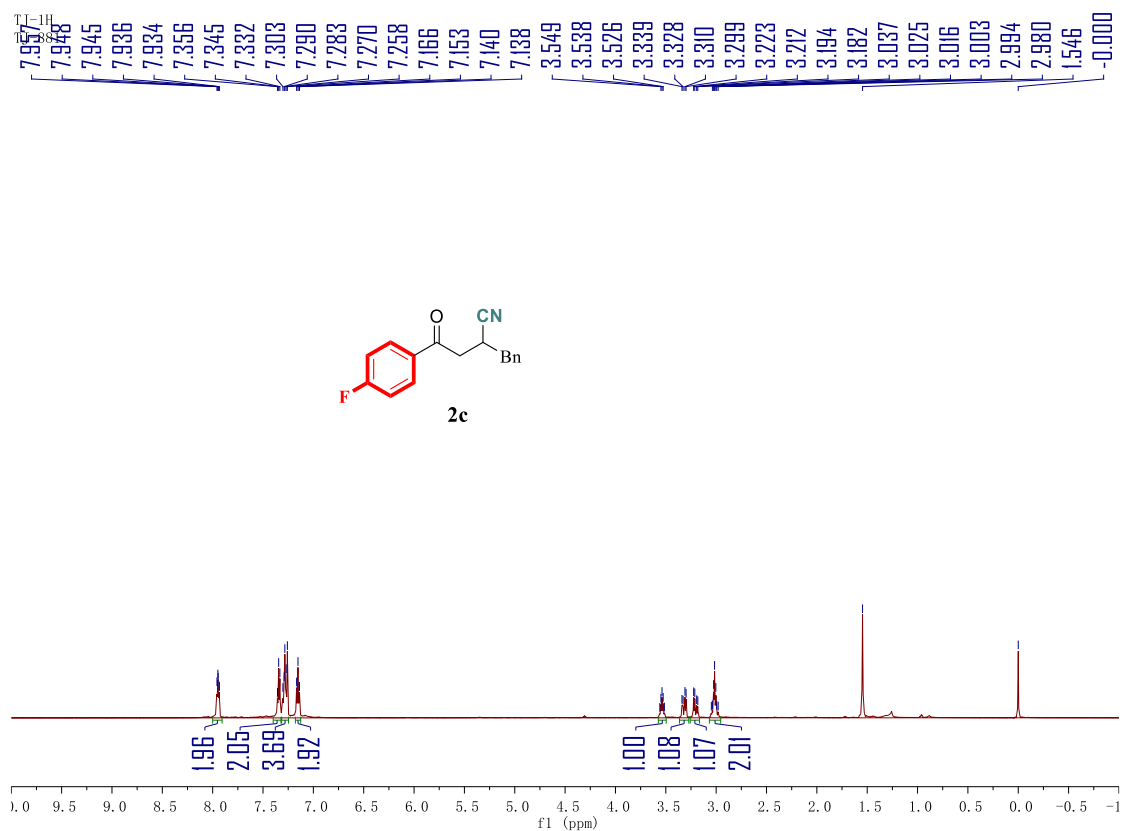
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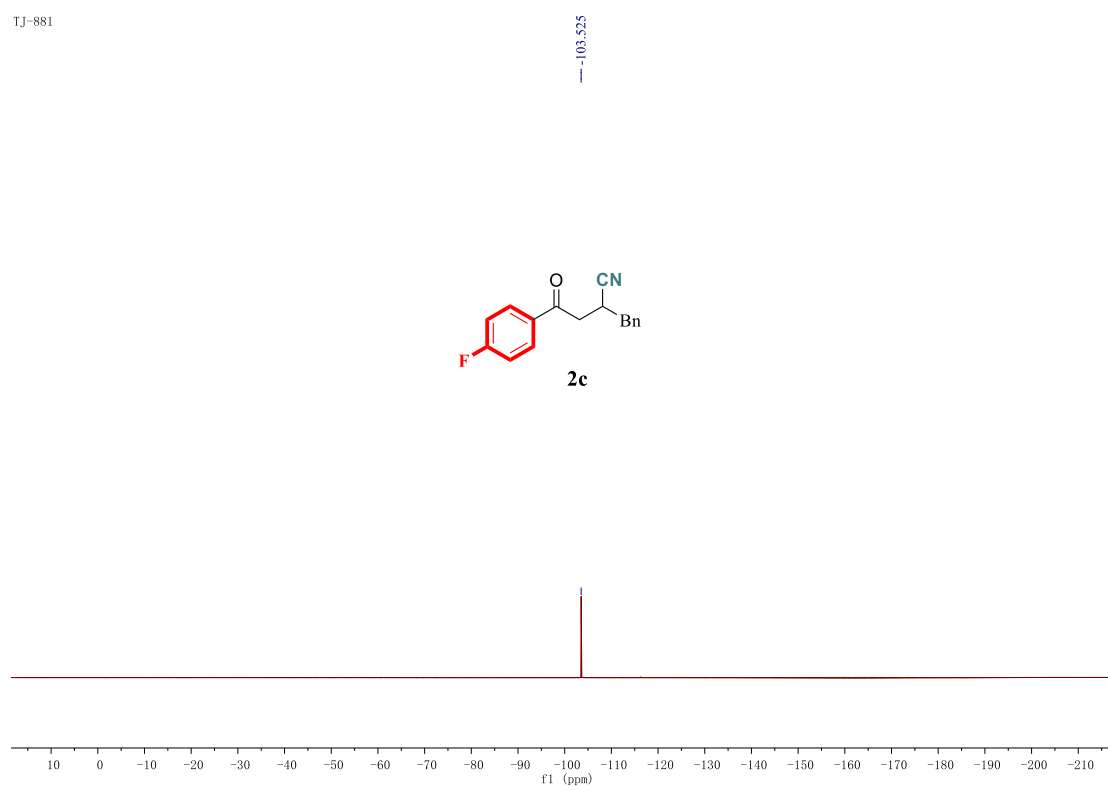
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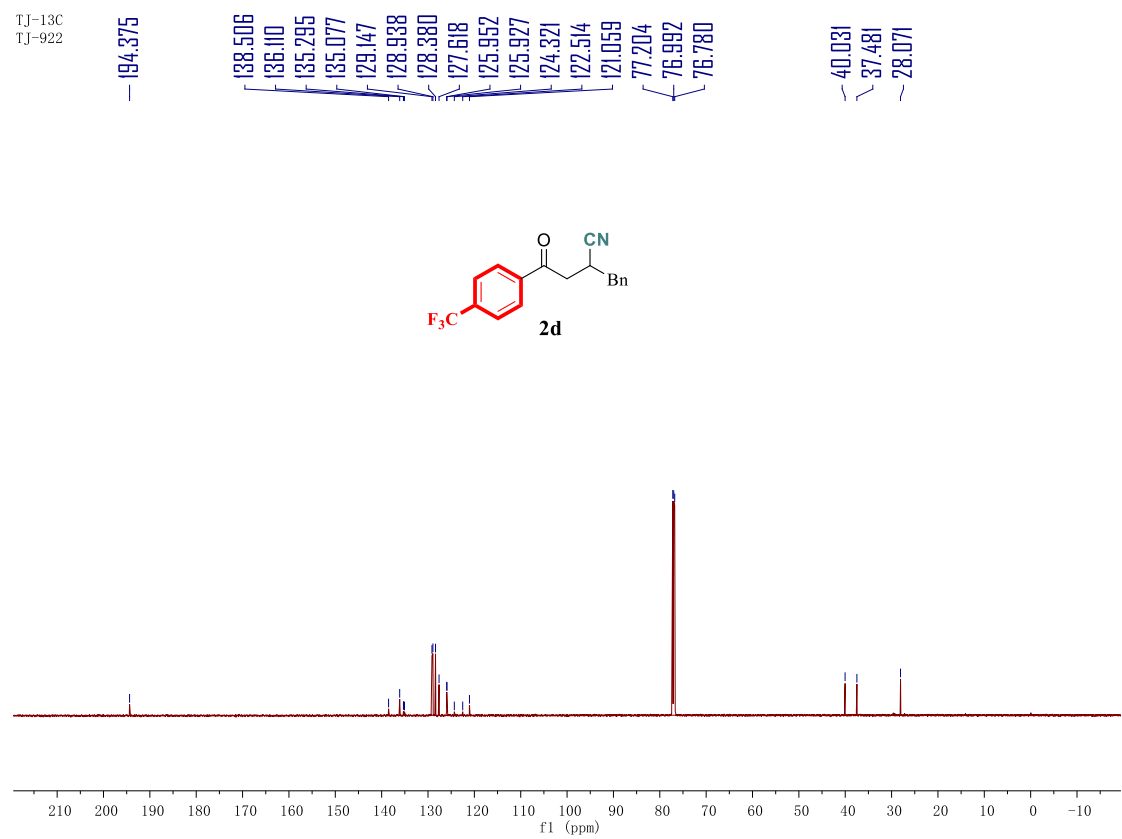
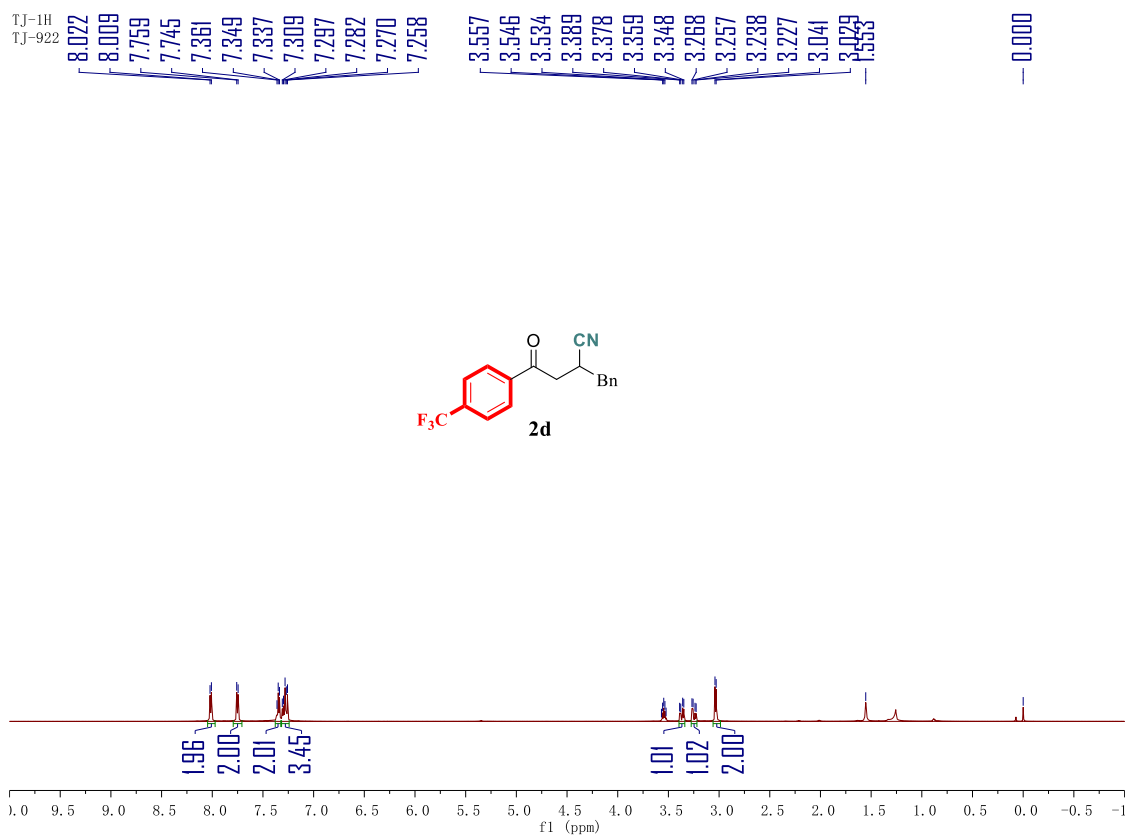
VI NMR spectra of the products

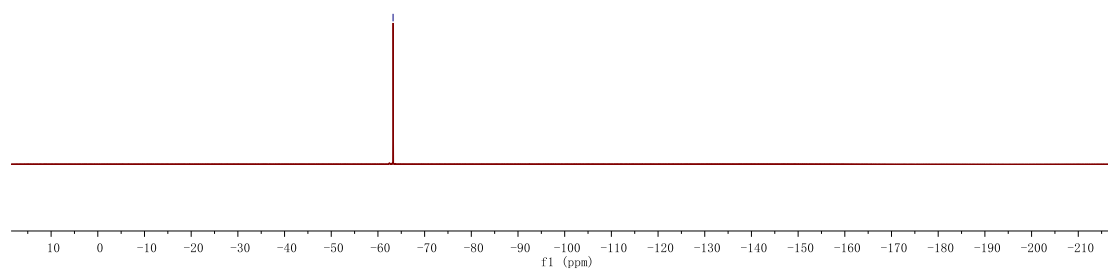
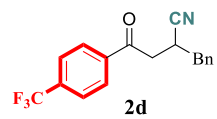


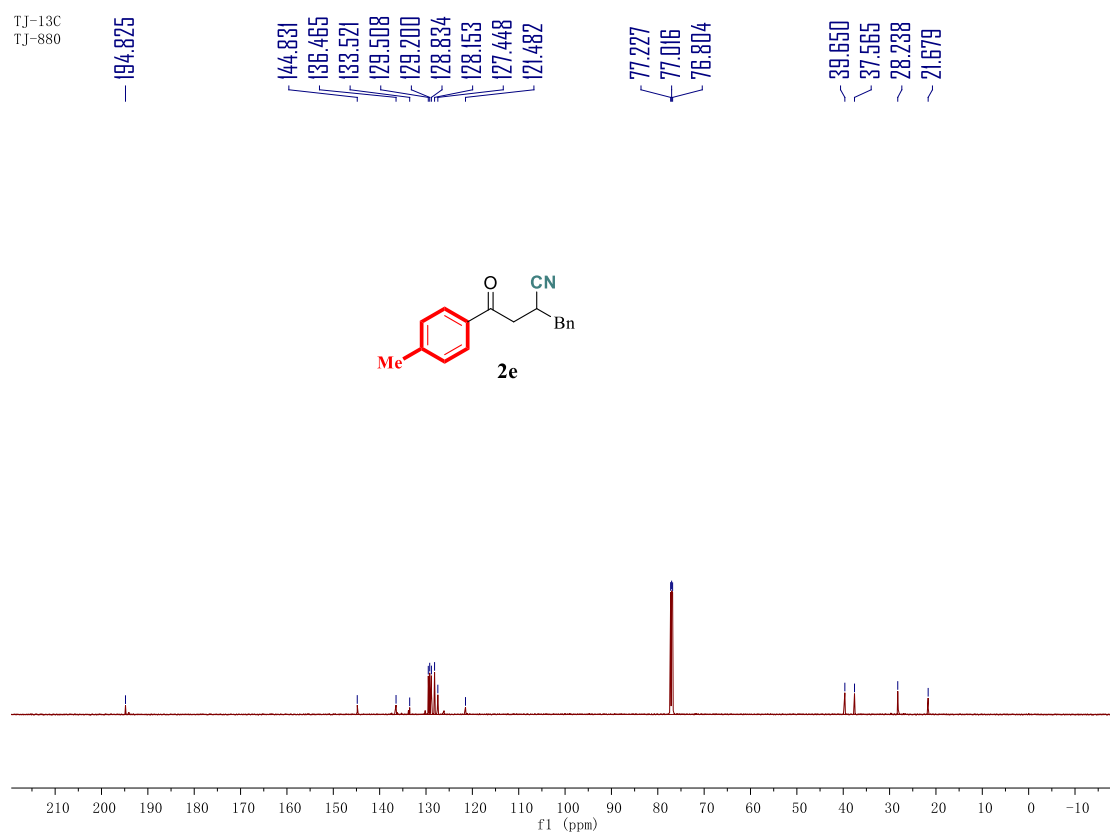
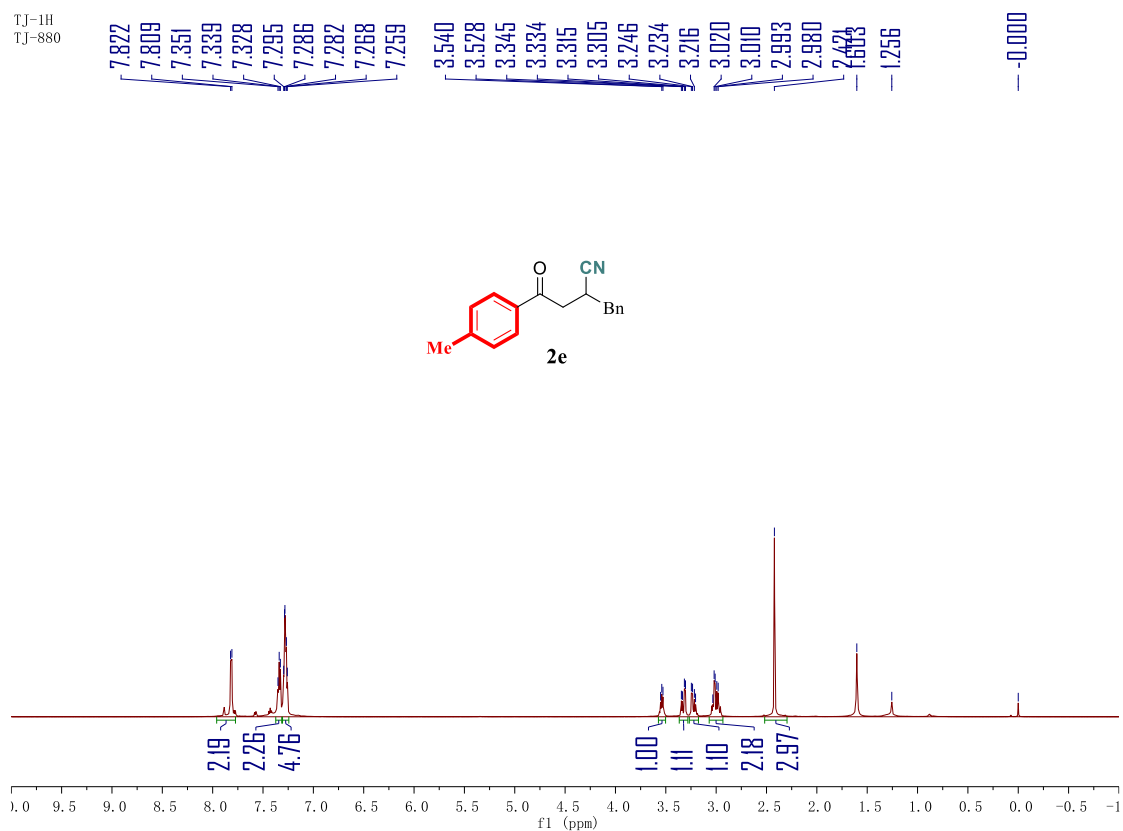


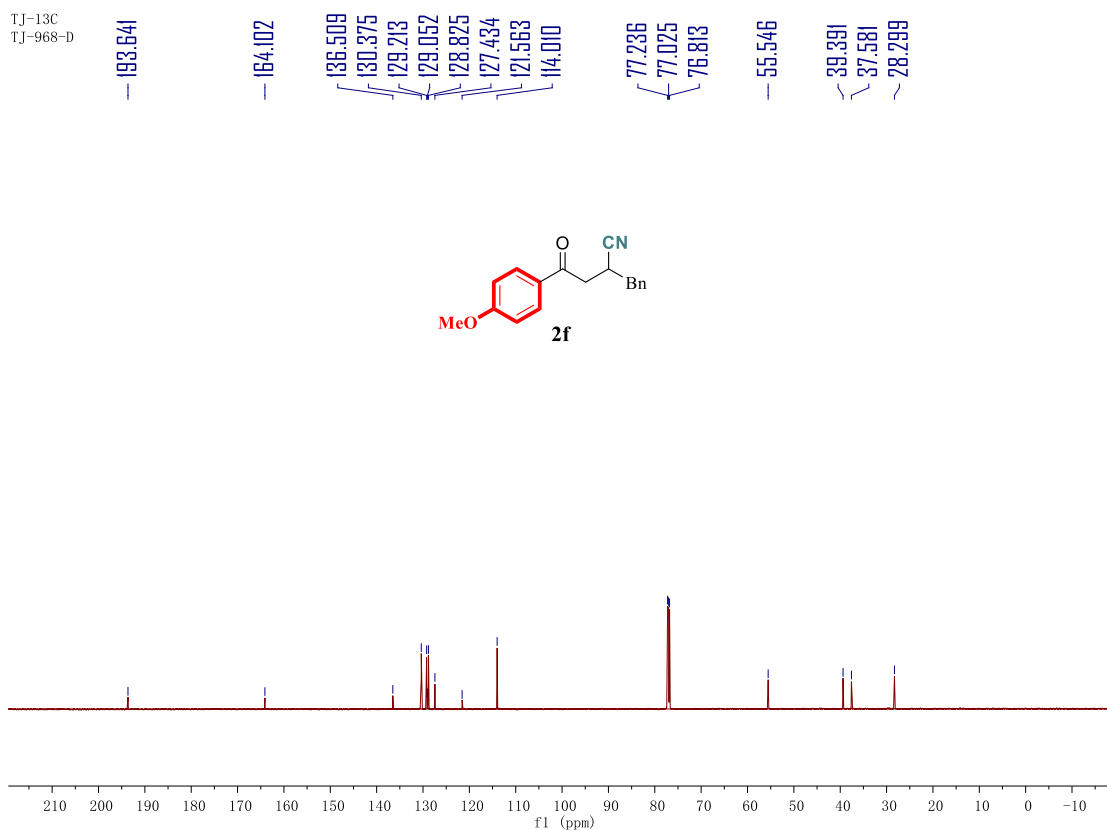
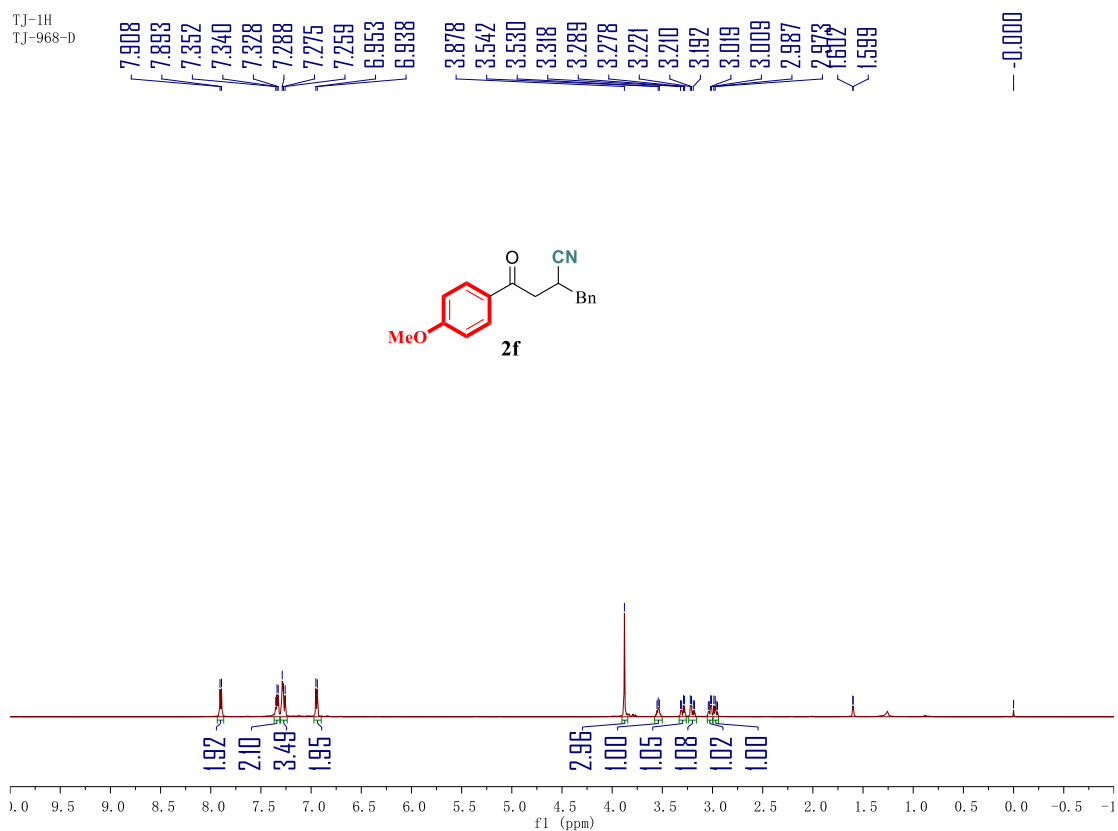


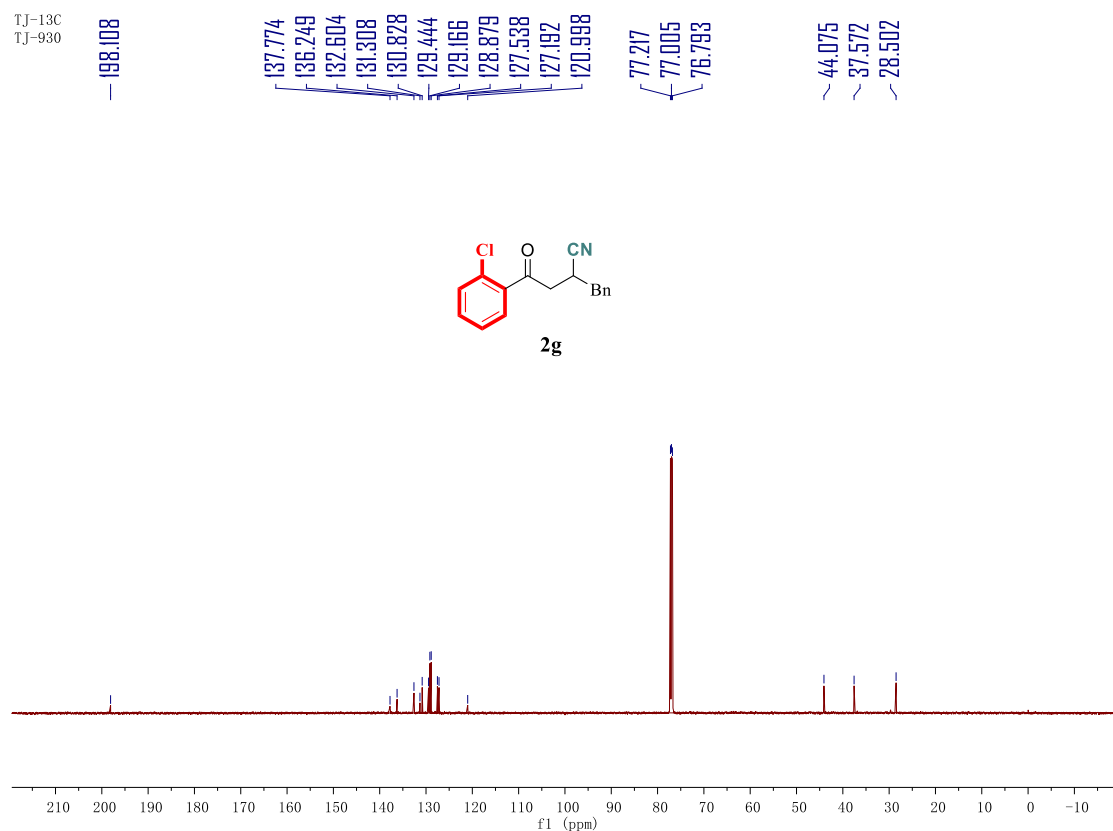
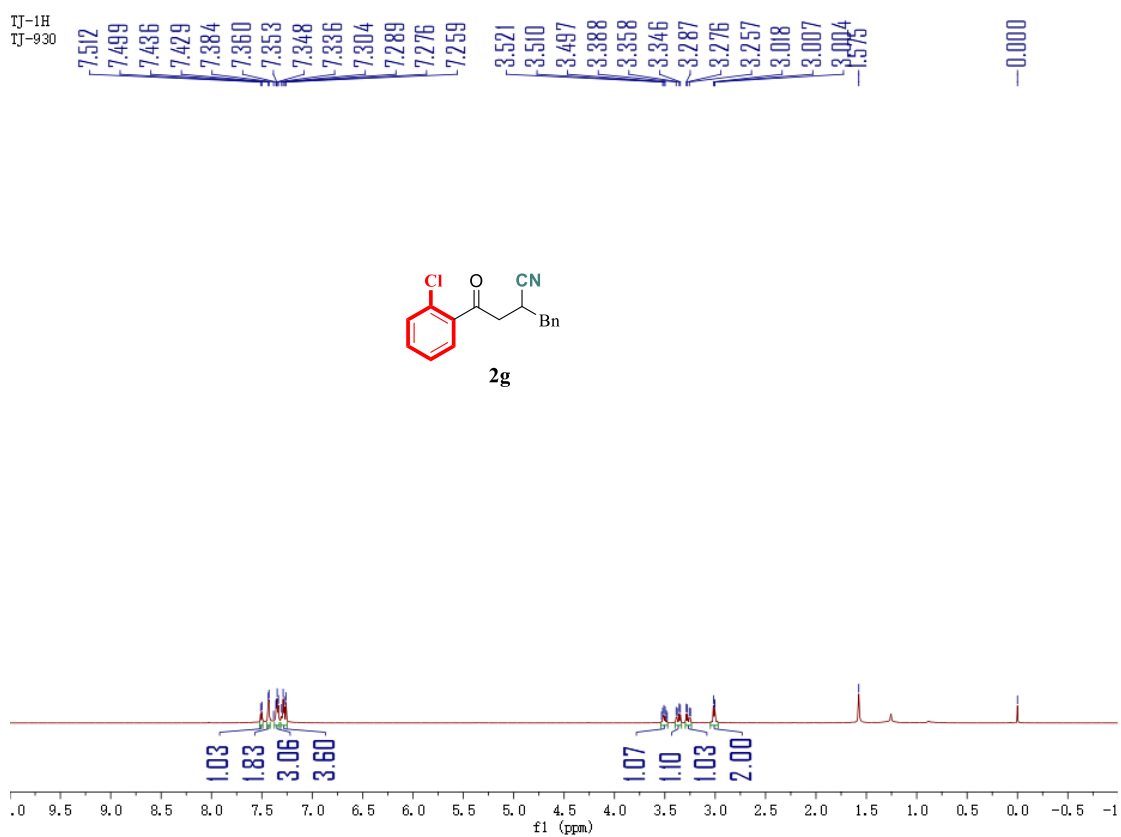


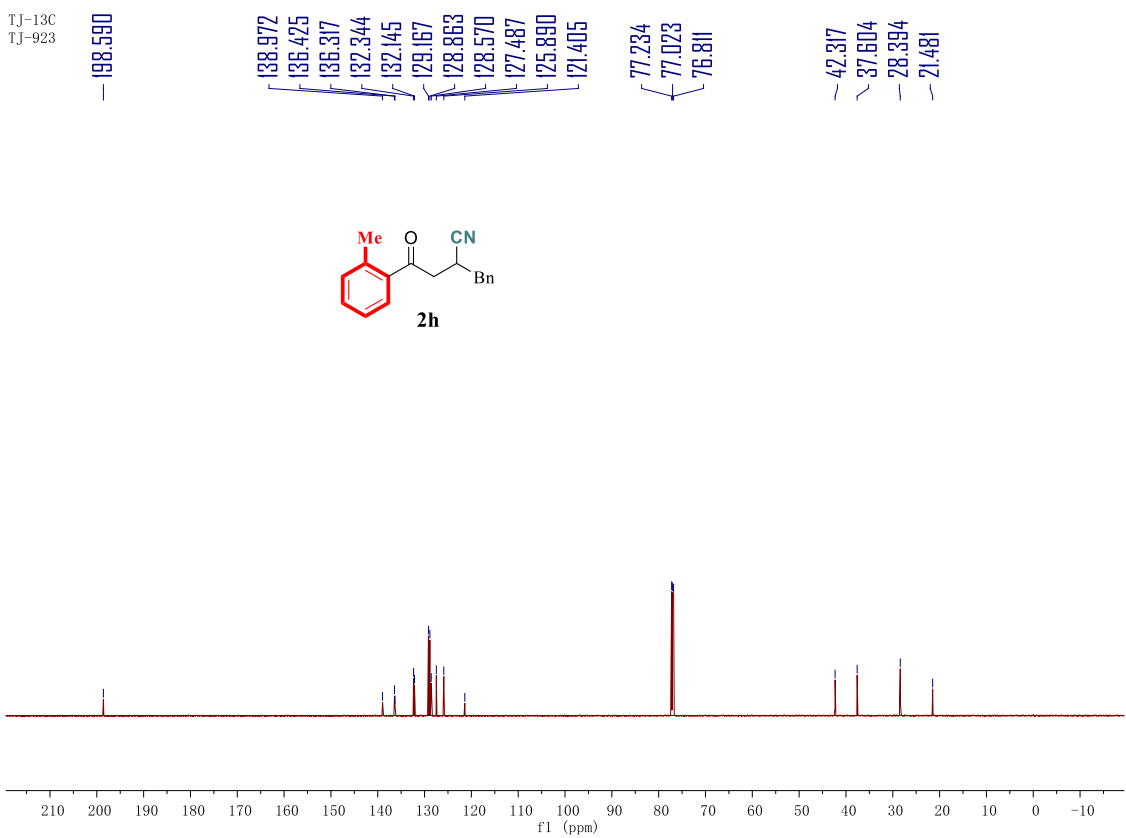
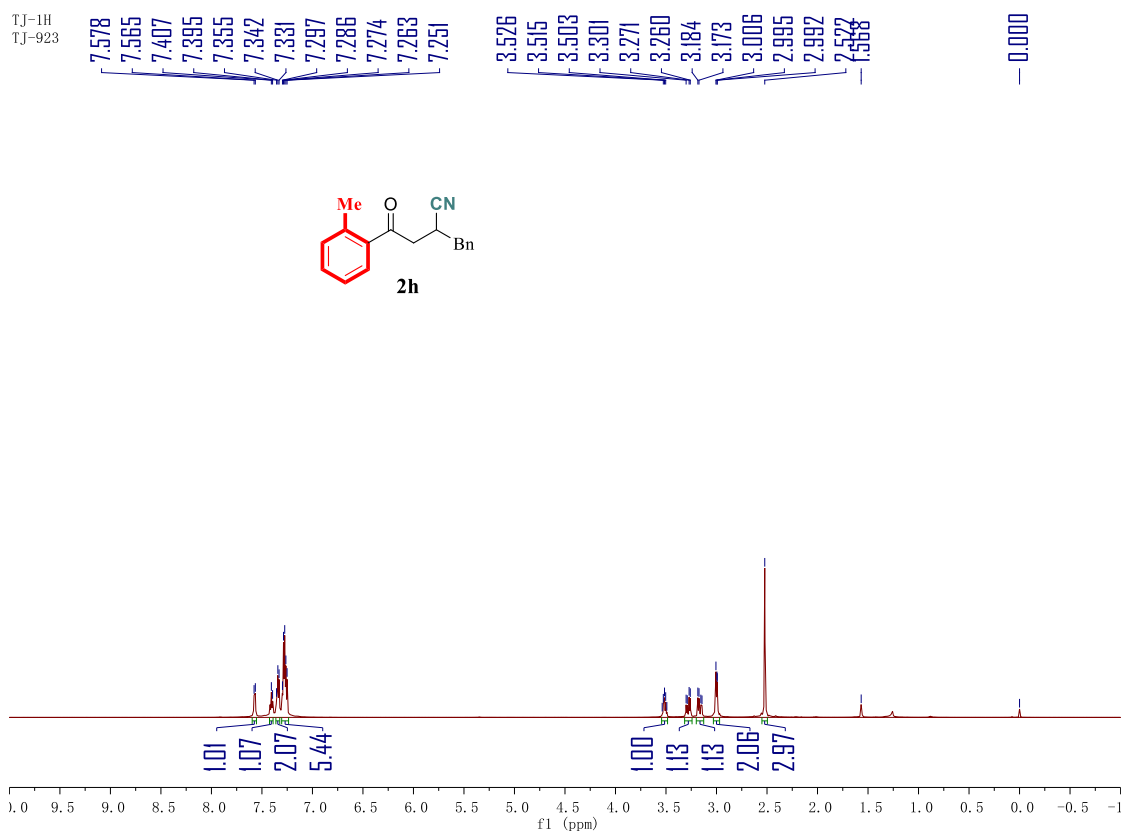


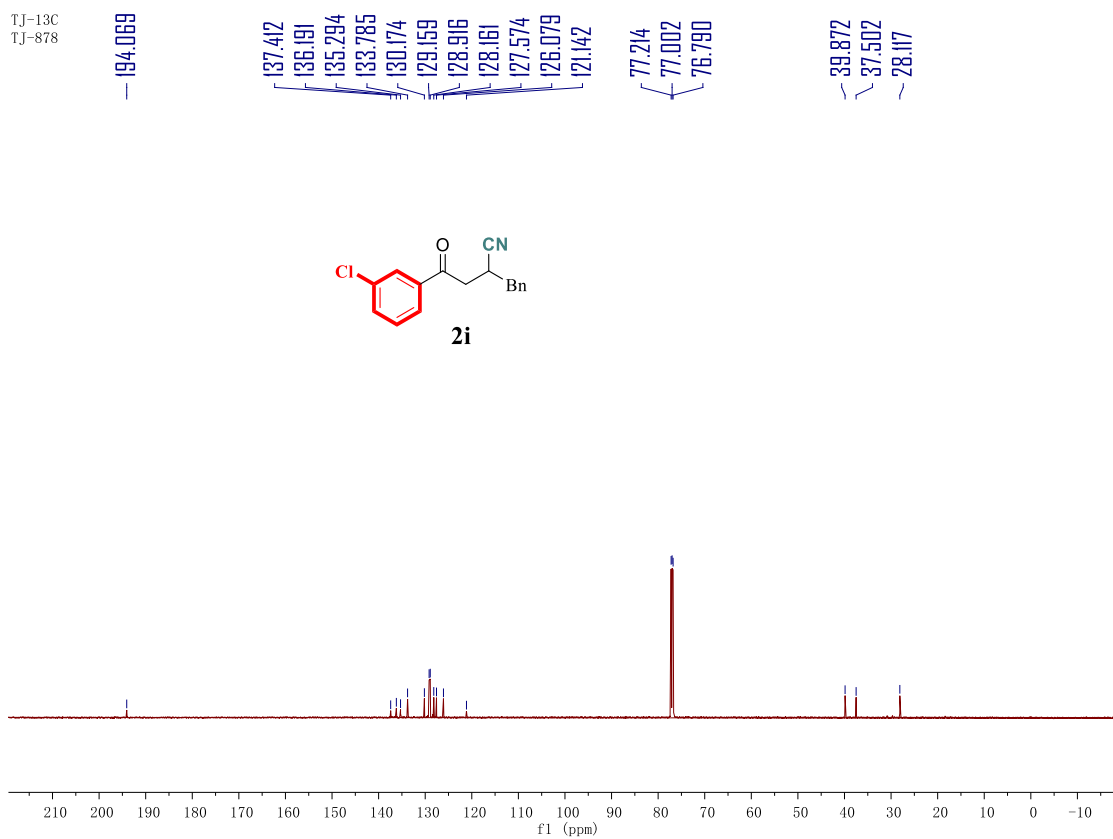
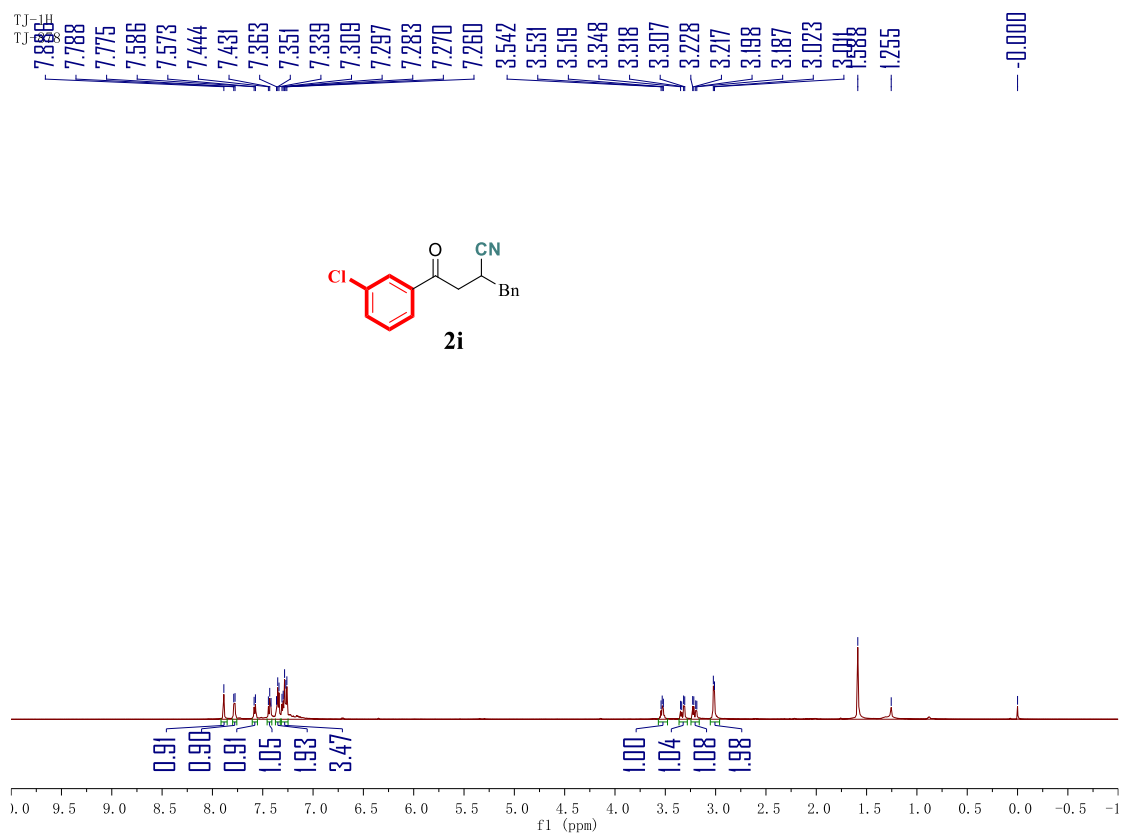




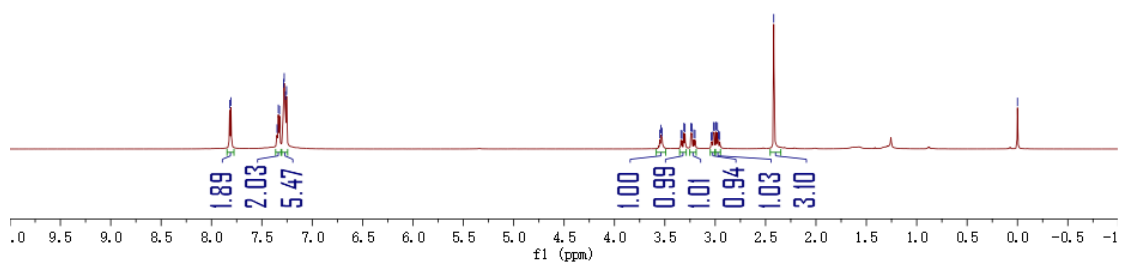
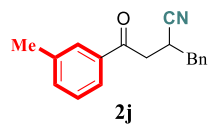




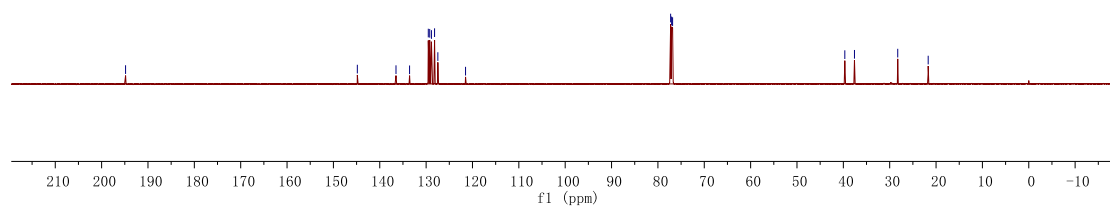
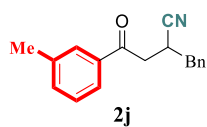


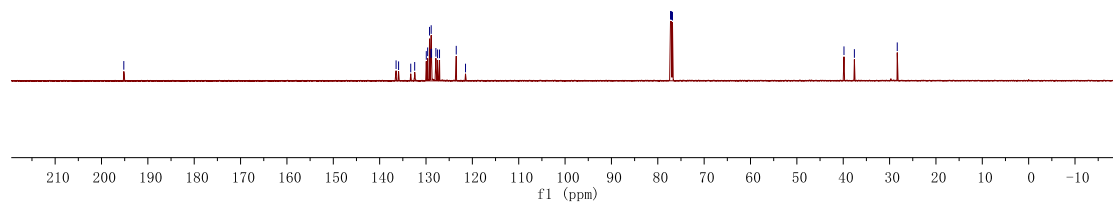
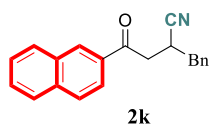
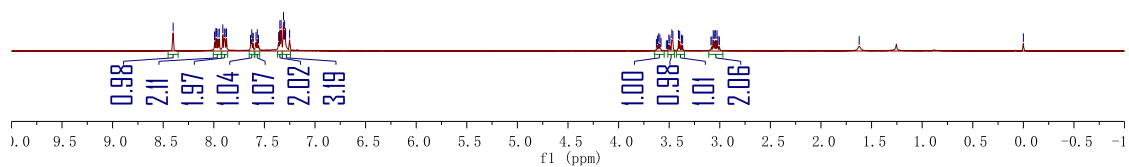
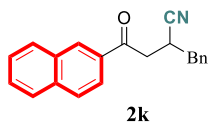


TJ-1H
TJ-879

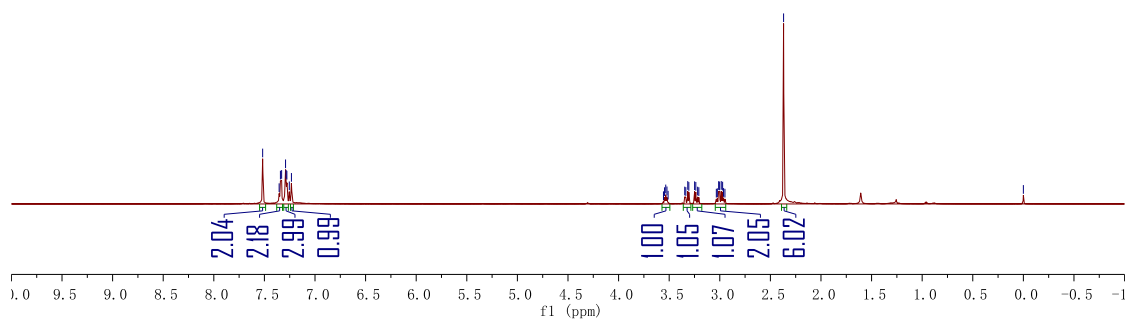
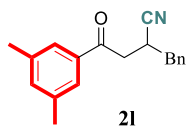


TJ-13C
TJ-879





TJ-1H
TJ-962



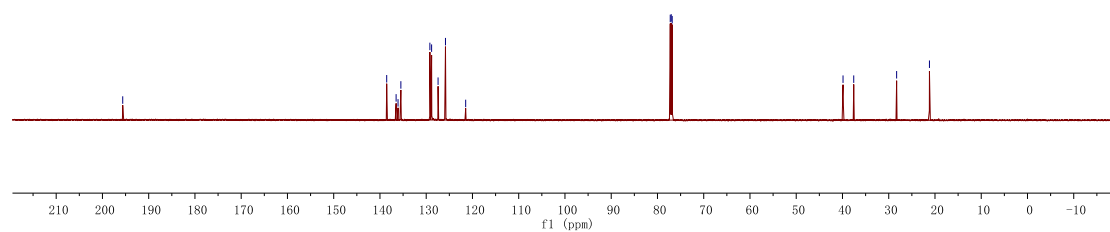
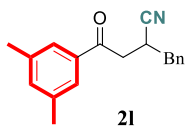
TJ-13C
TJ-962

195.614

138.542
136.506
135.091
135.480
129.207
128.831
127.435
125.835
121.467

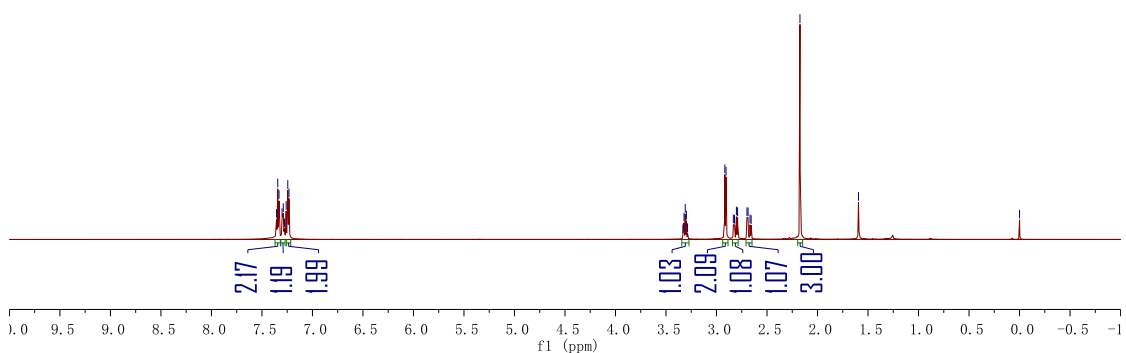
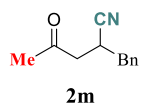
77.238
77.026
76.815

39.881
37.566
28.292
21.196



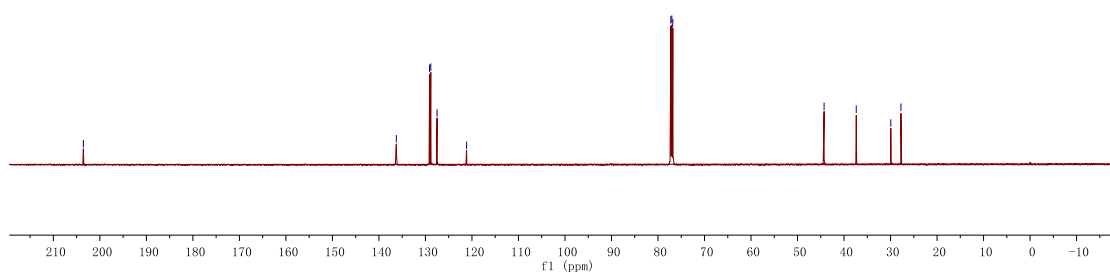
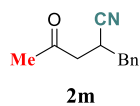
TJ-1H
TJ-989

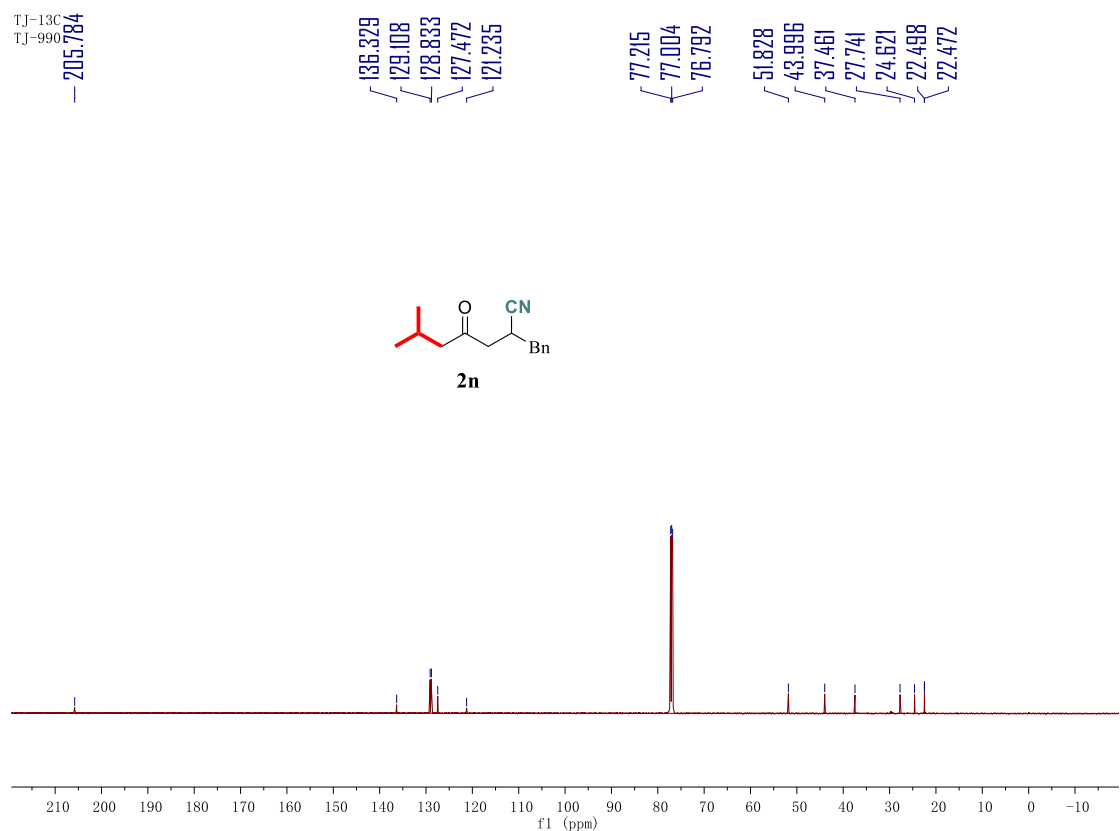
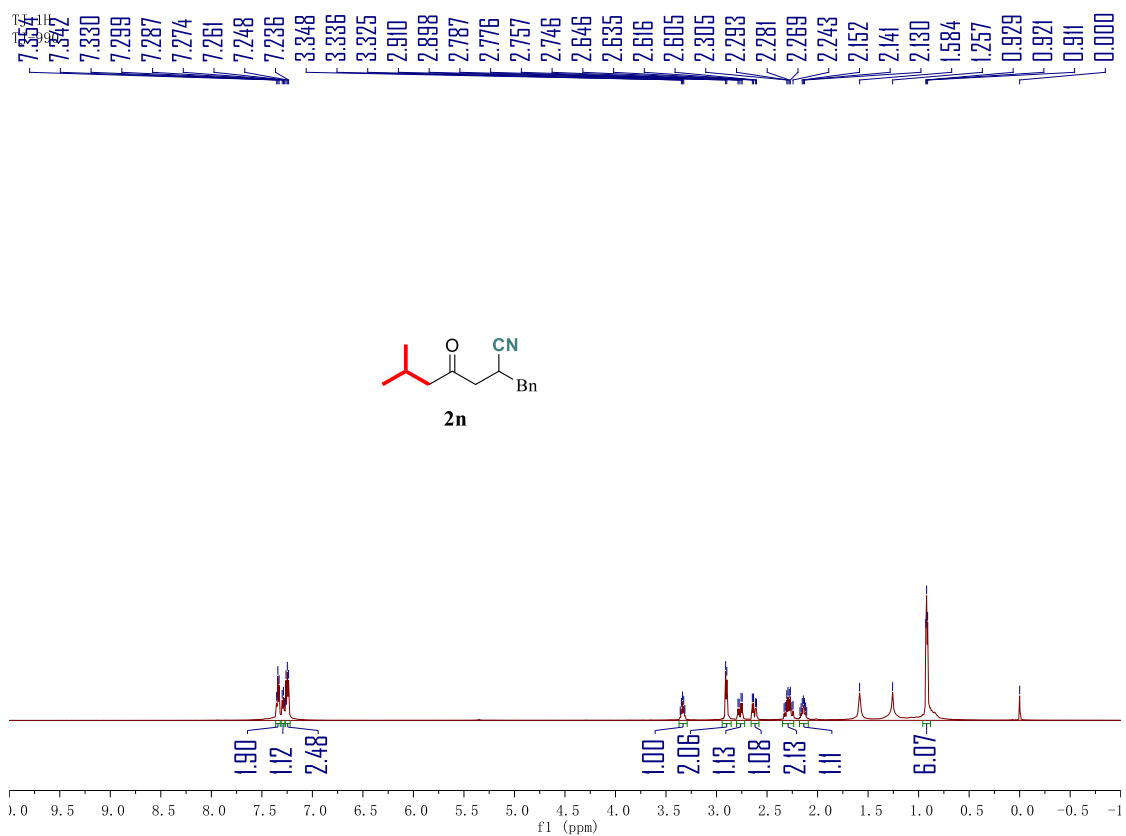
7.355 7.344 7.331 7.301 7.289 7.276 7.260 7.244 7.232 3.333 3.321 3.310 3.298 3.286 2.917 2.906 2.833 2.822 2.803 2.791 2.698 2.687 2.668 2.657 2.174 1.594 0.000

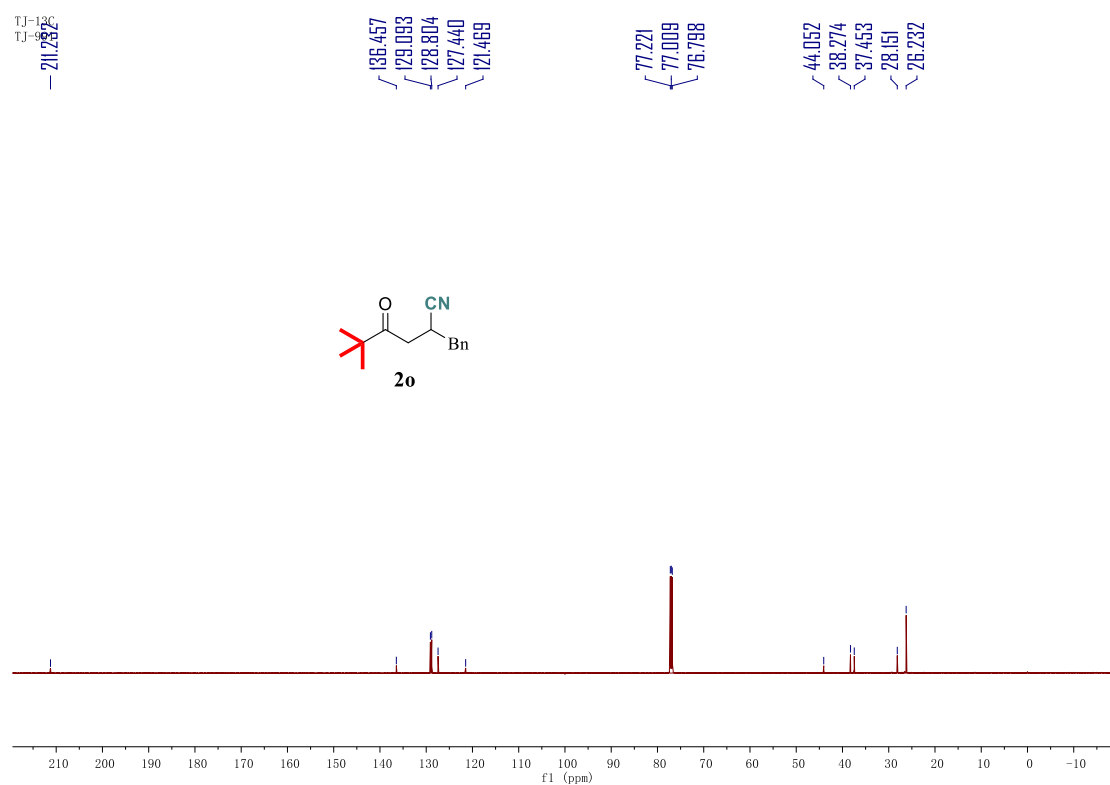
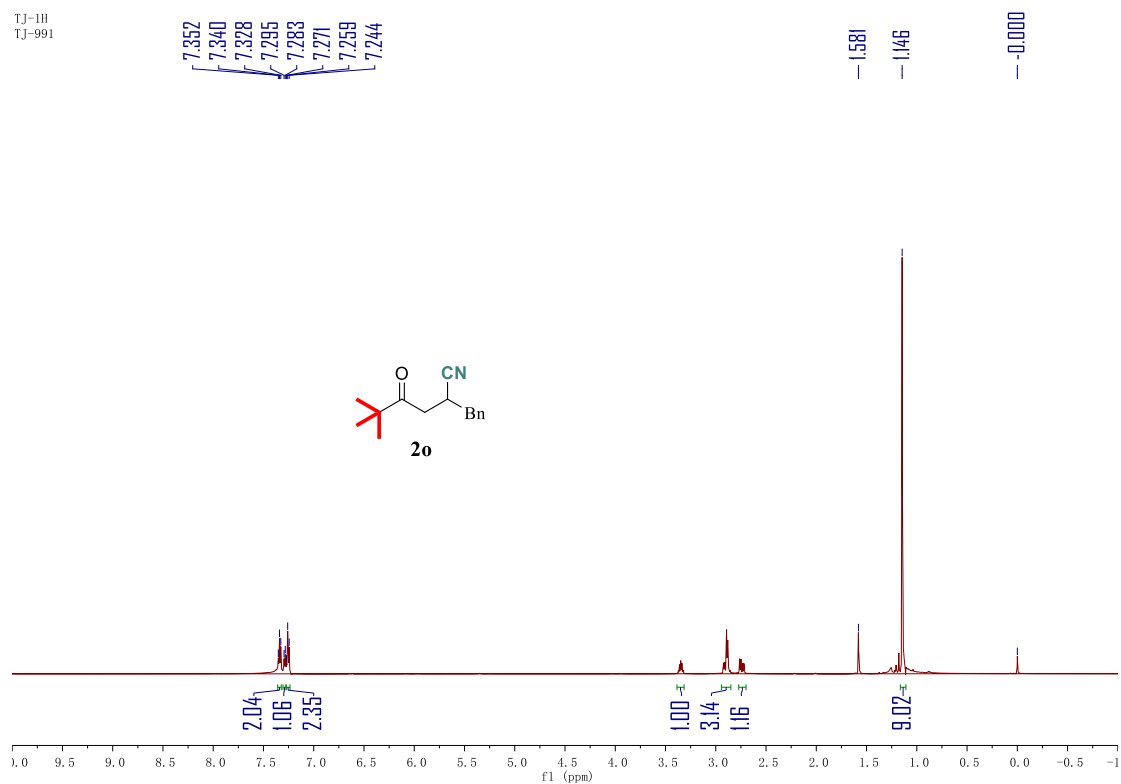


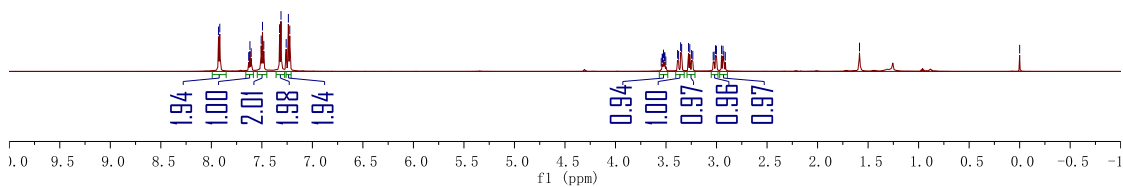
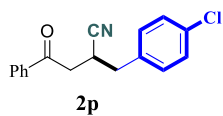
TJ-13C
TJ-989

203.553 136.260 129.116 128.855 127.501 121.152 77.235 77.023 76.811 44.288 37.369 29.942 27.765









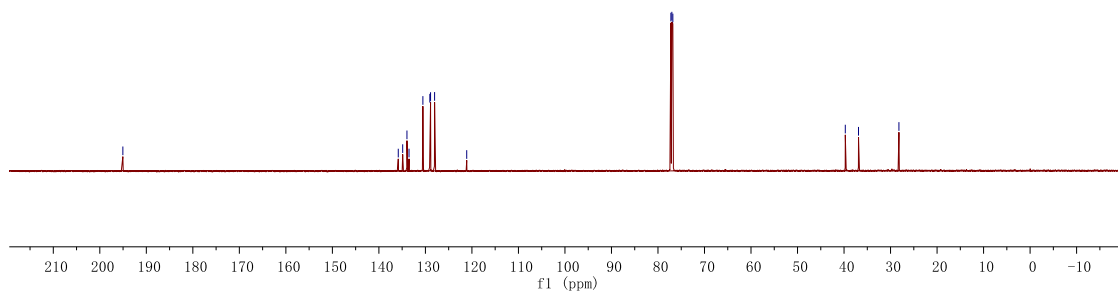
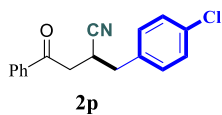
TJ-13C
TJ-985

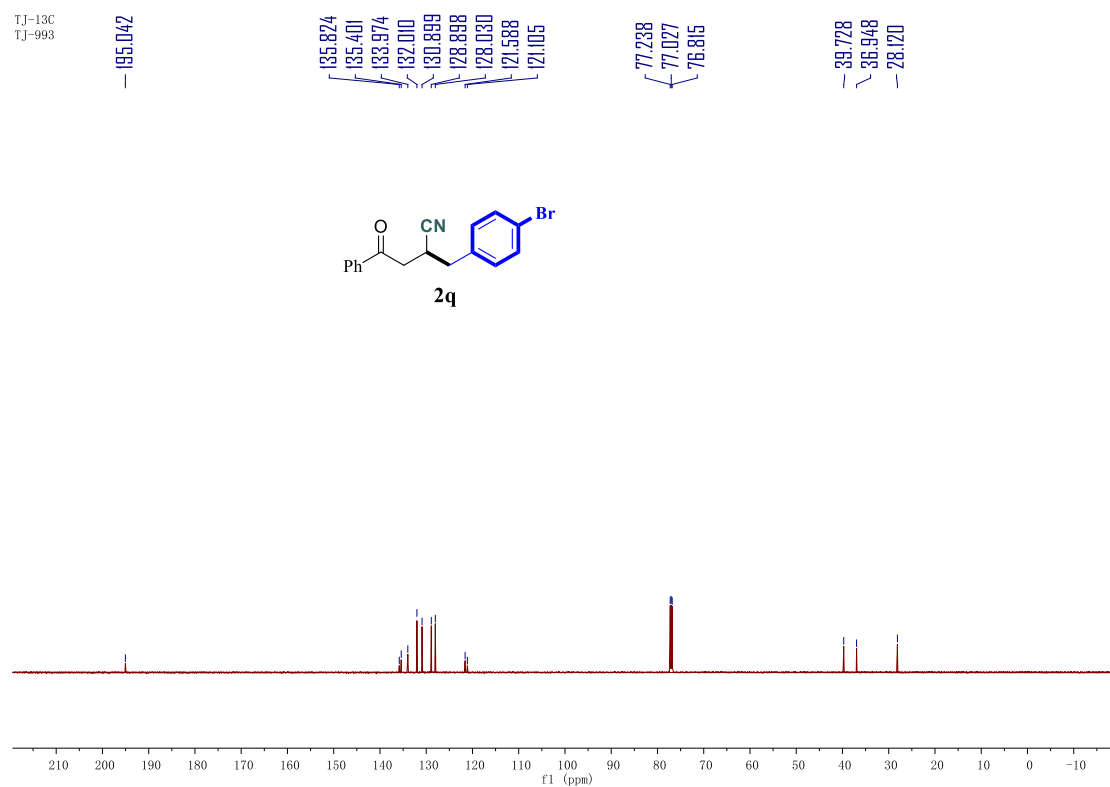
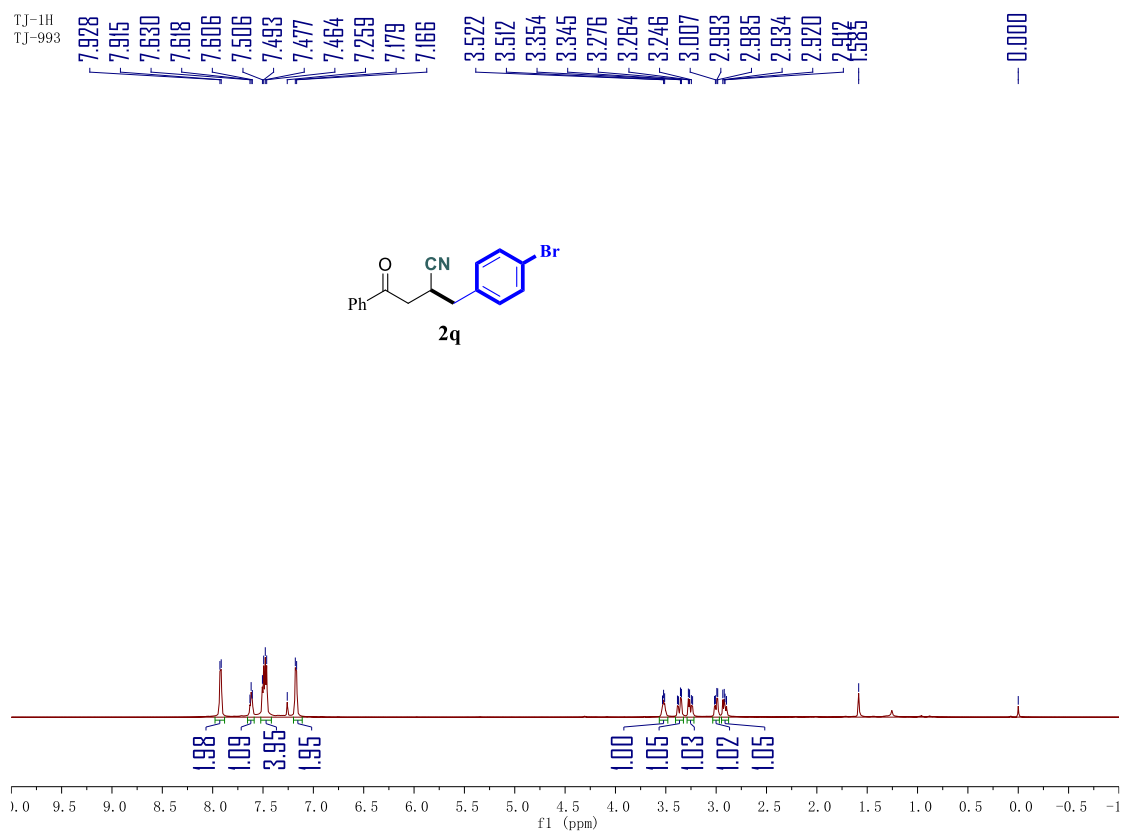
195.045

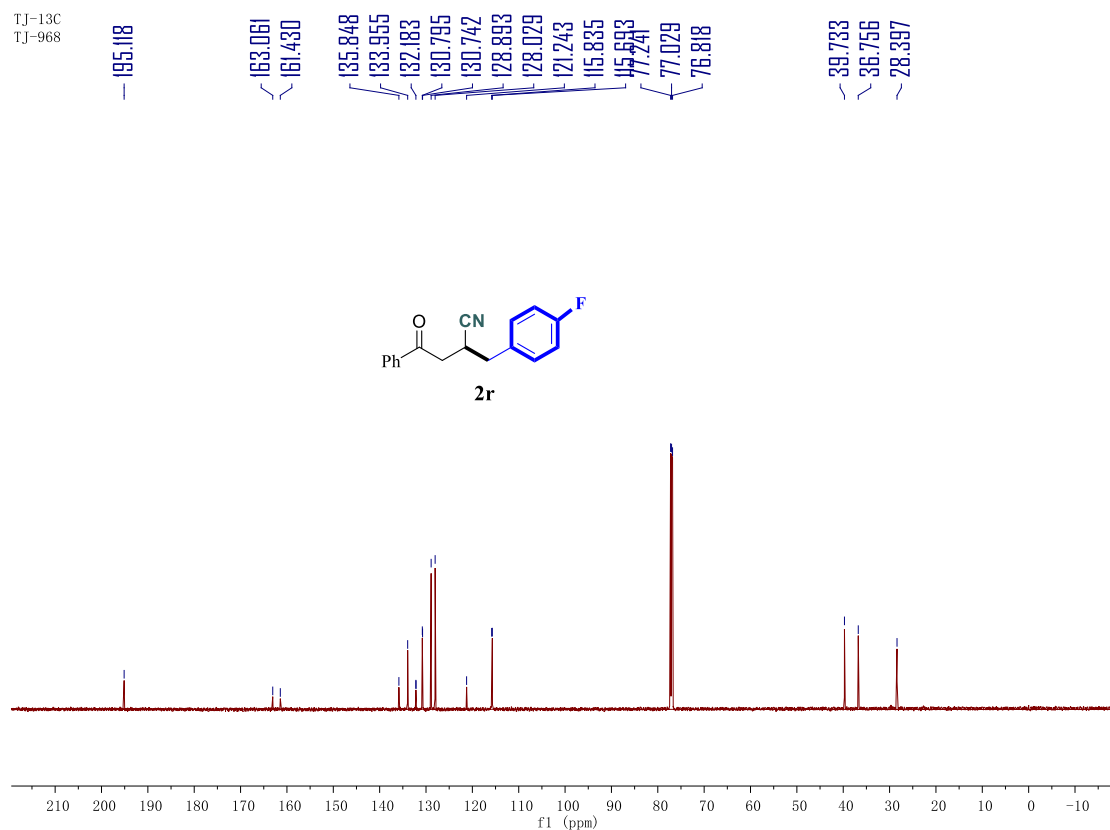
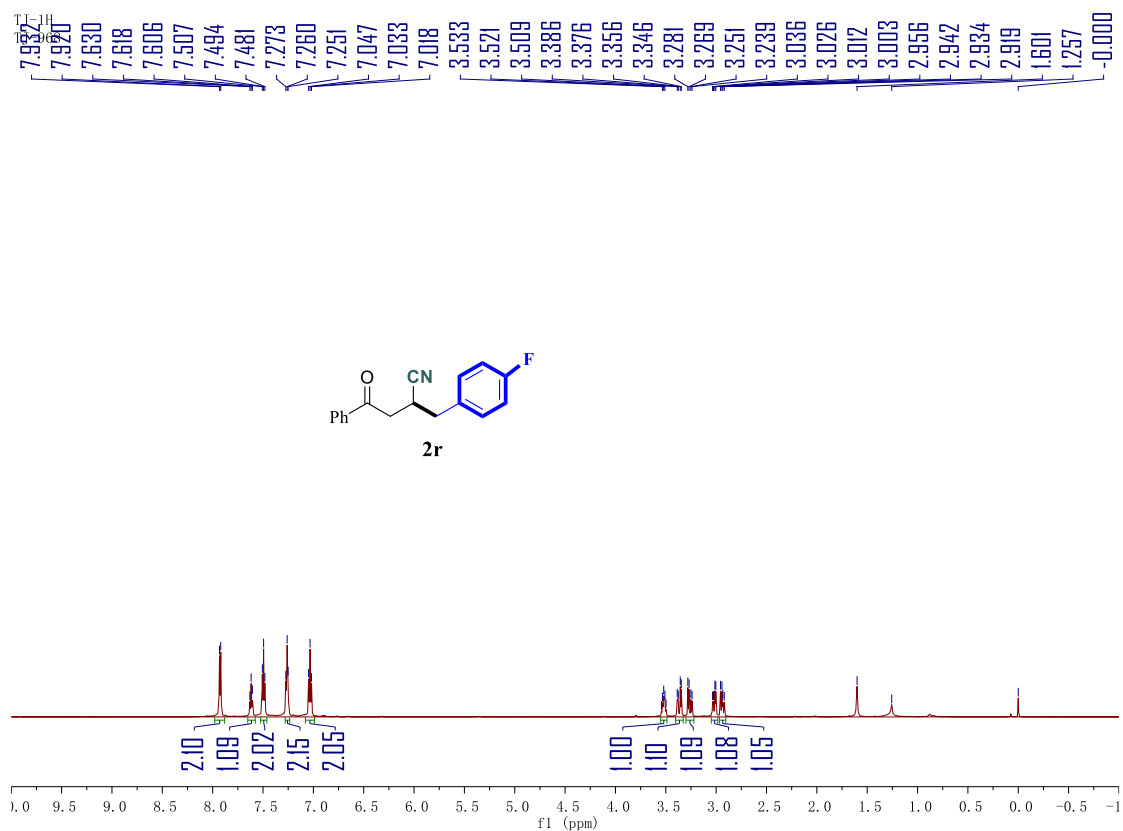
135.833
134.883
133.967
133.523
130.541
129.046
128.895
128.026
121.119

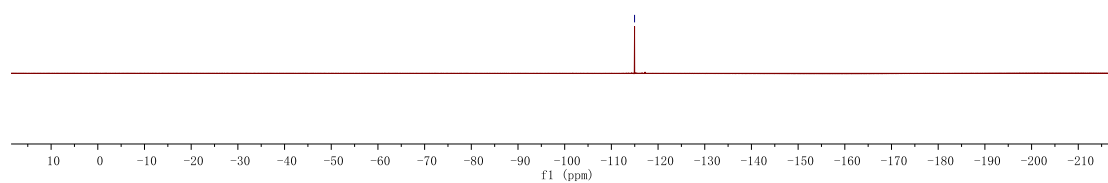
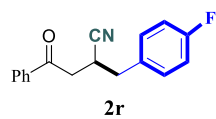
77.227
77.015
76.803

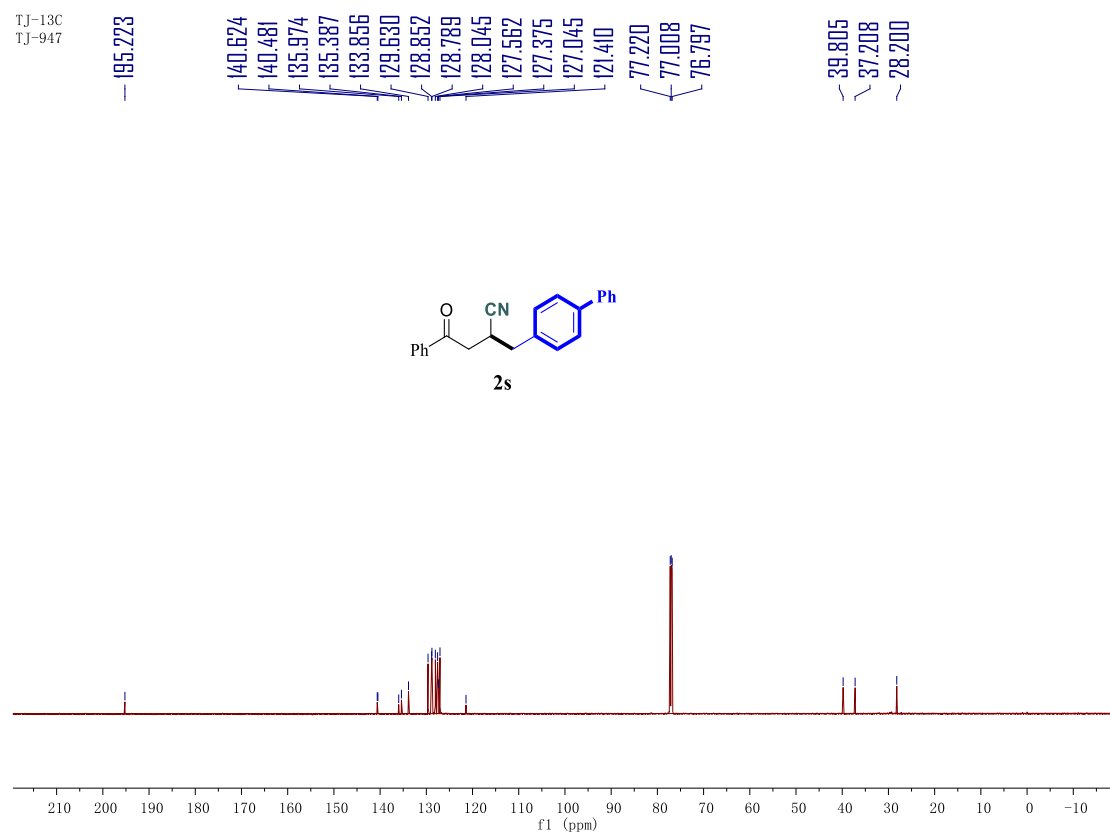
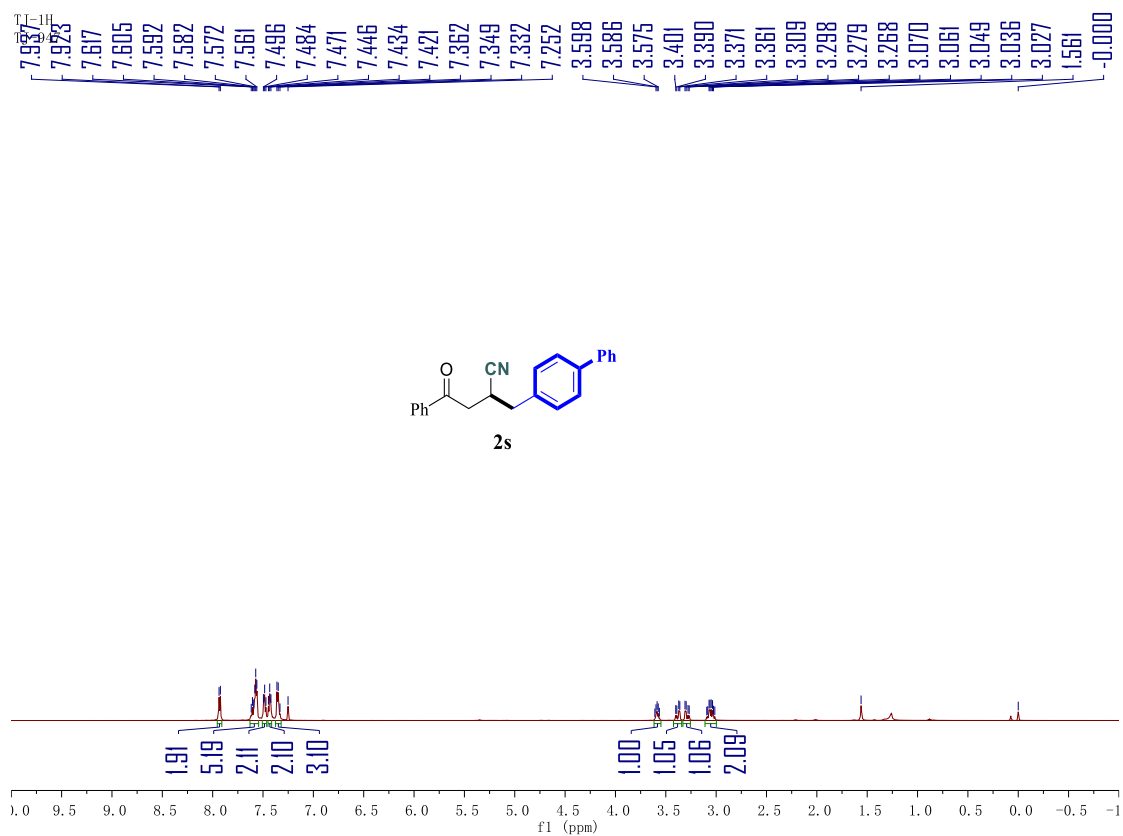
39.729
36.888
28.198

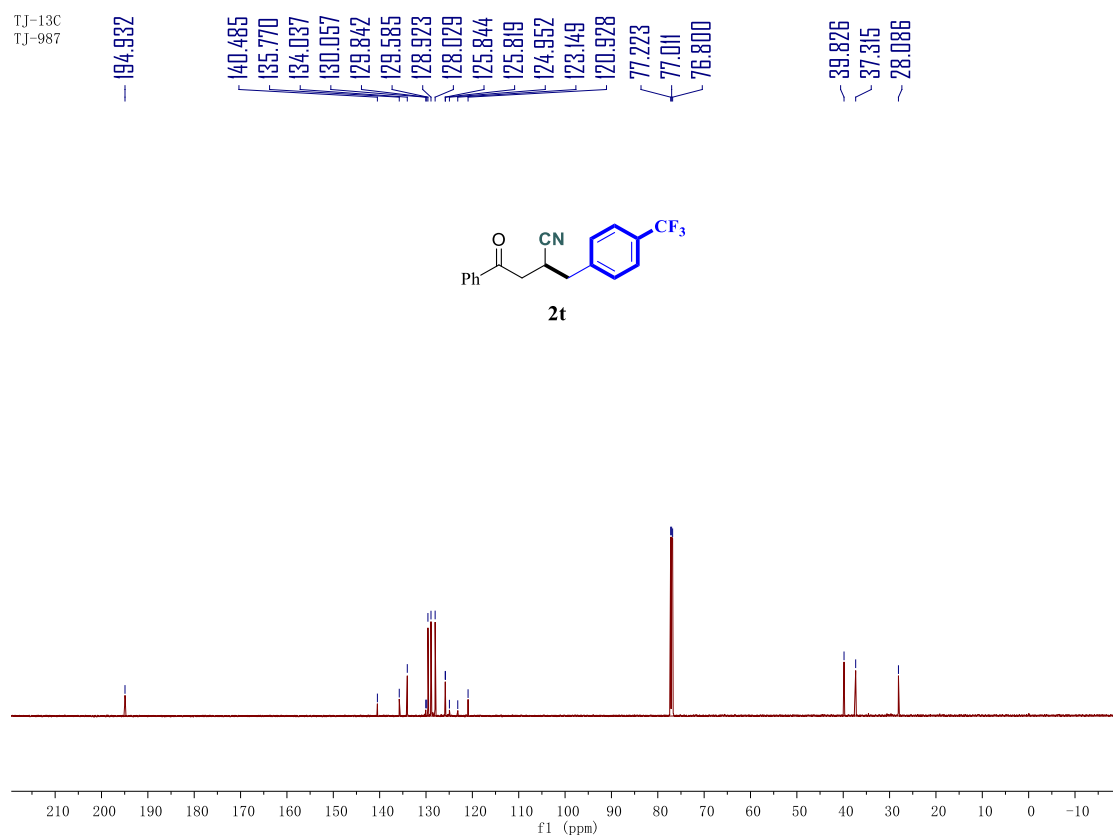
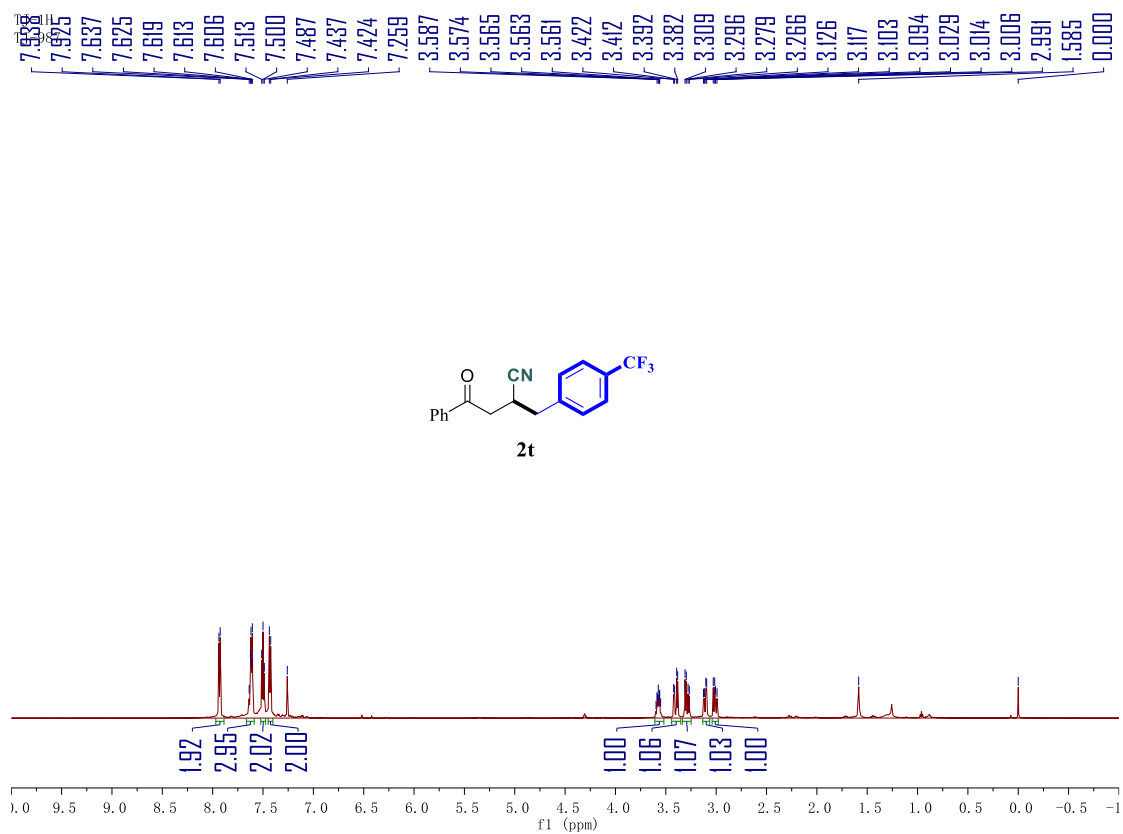


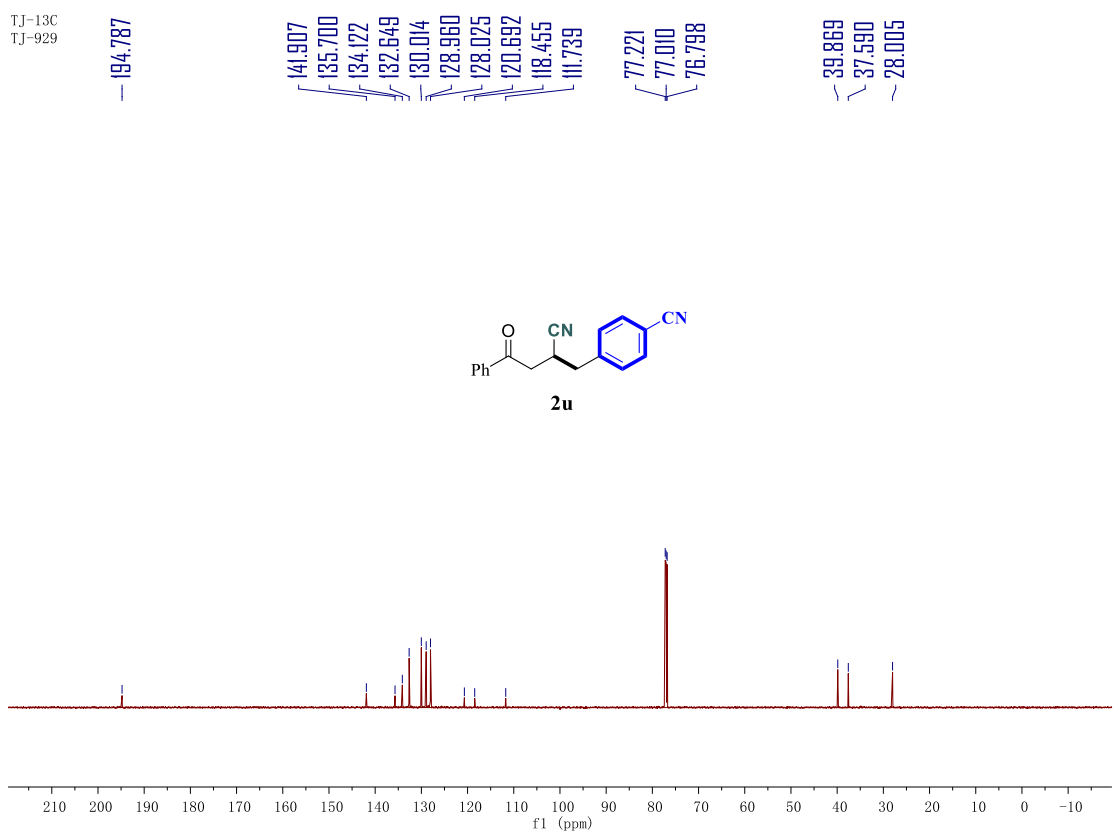
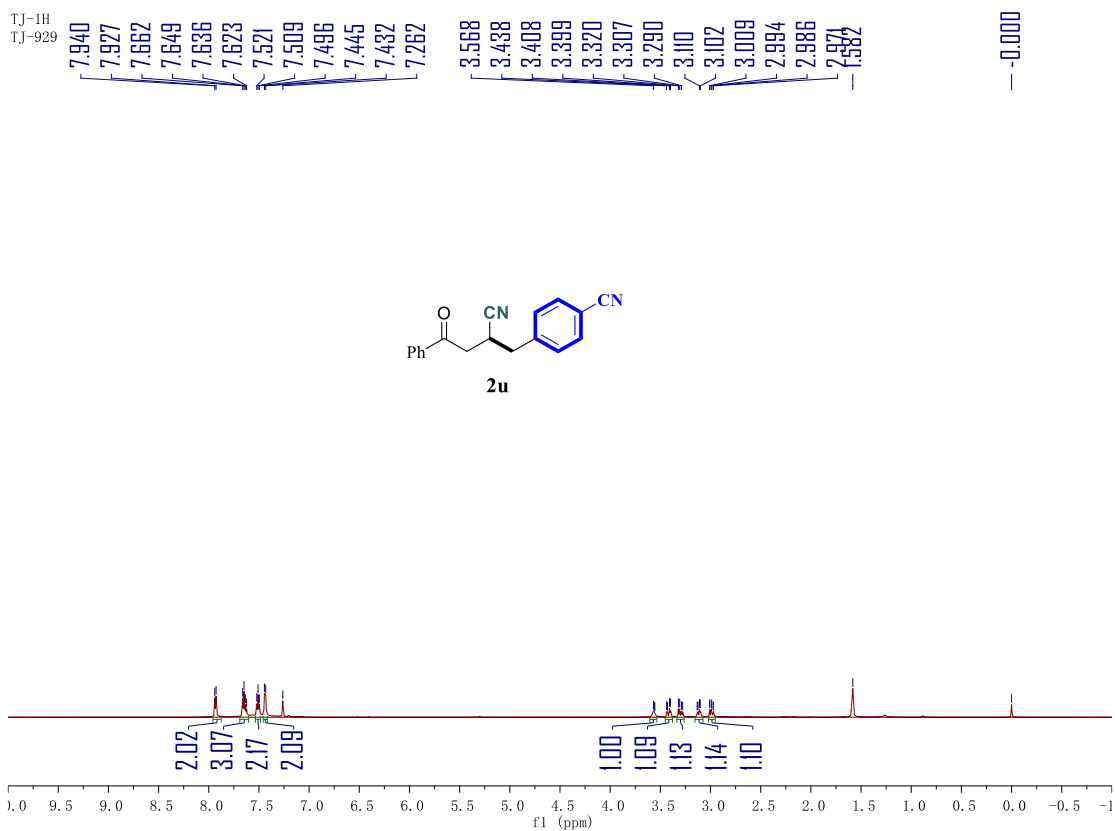


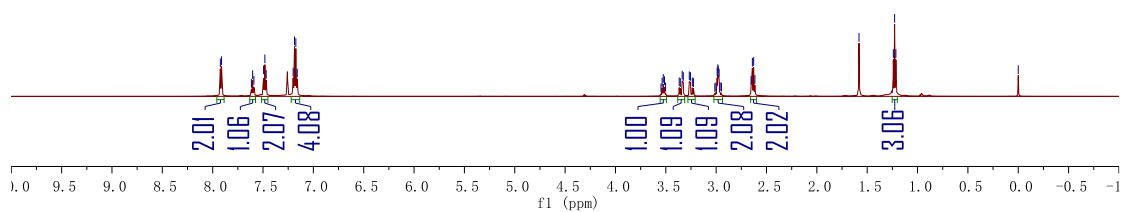
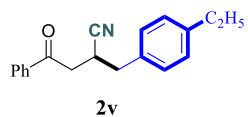




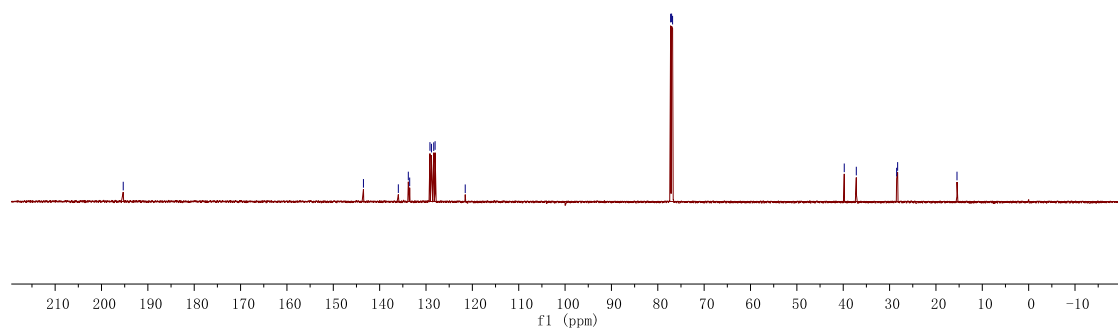
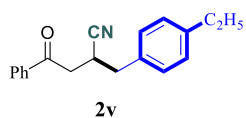


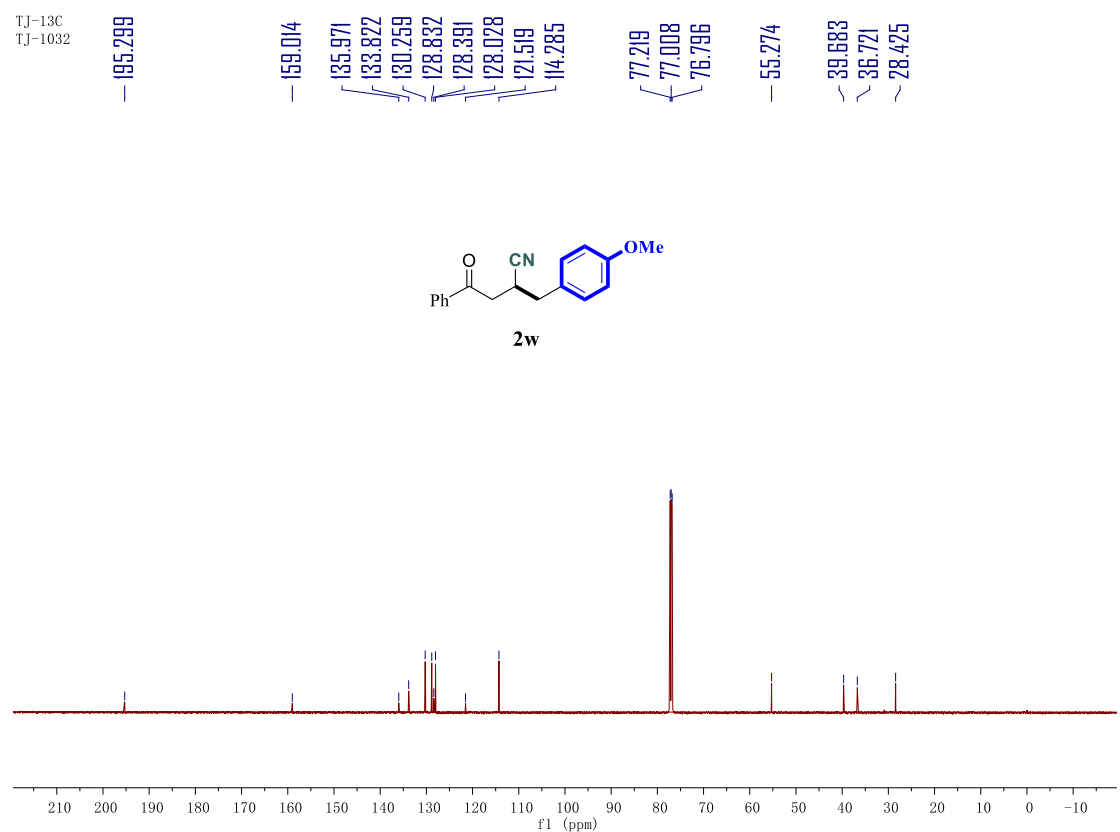
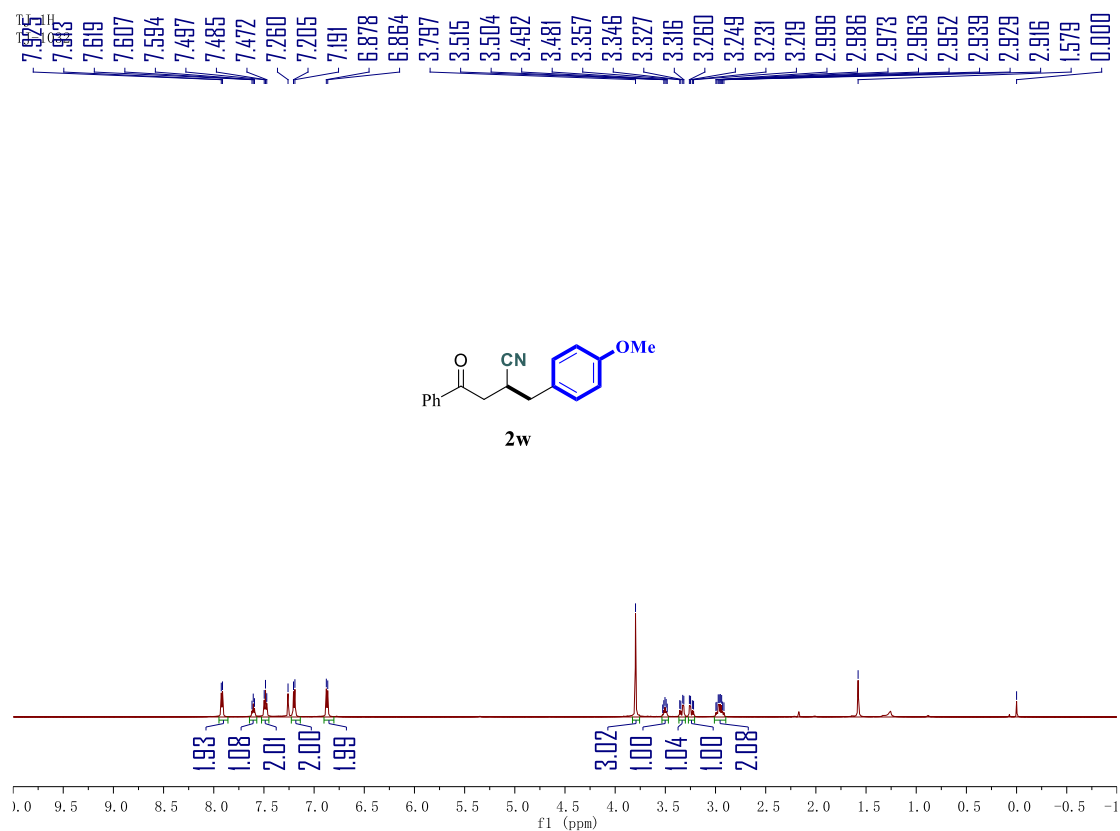




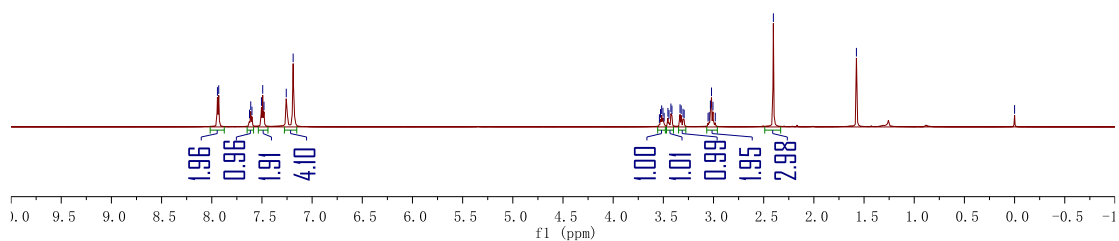
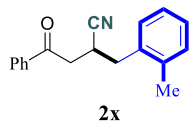


TJ-13C
TJ-948

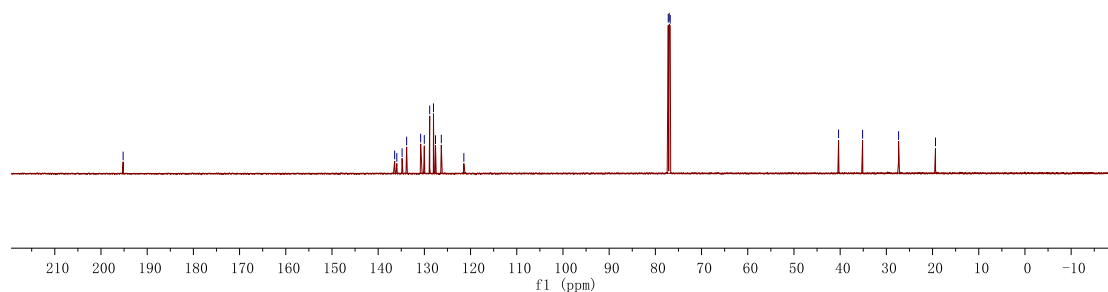
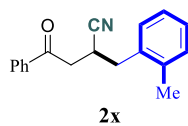


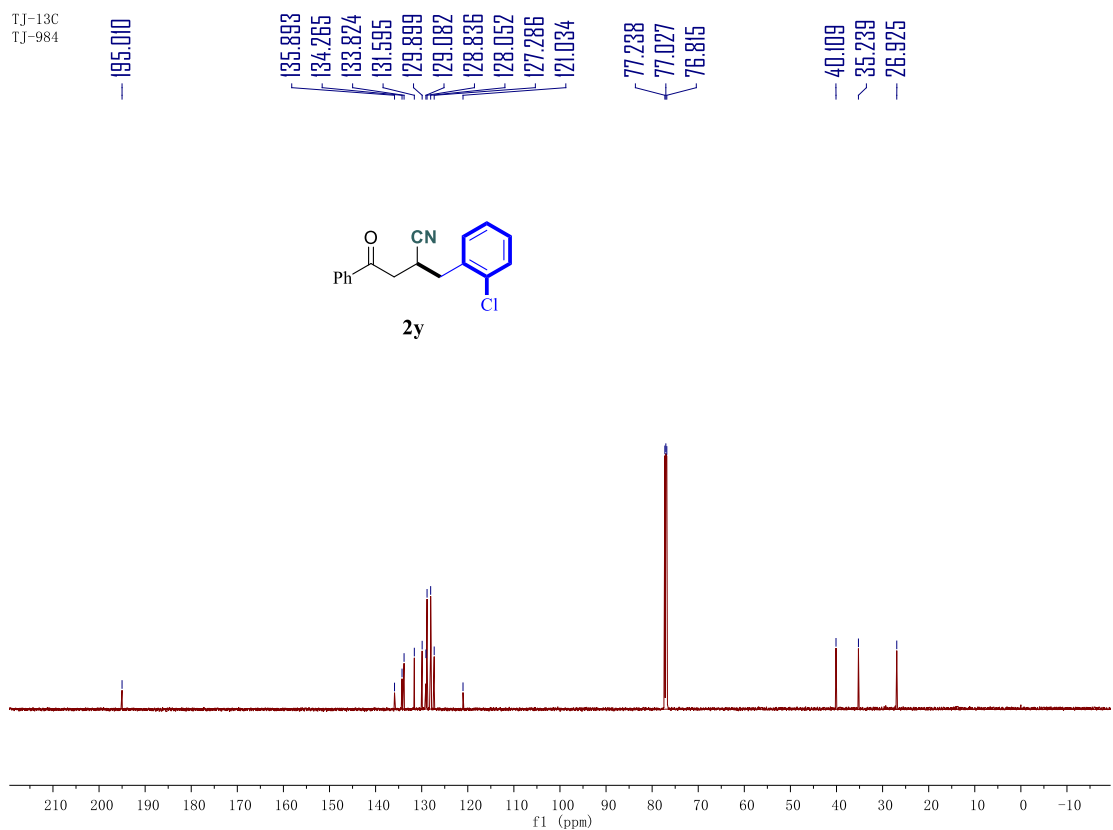
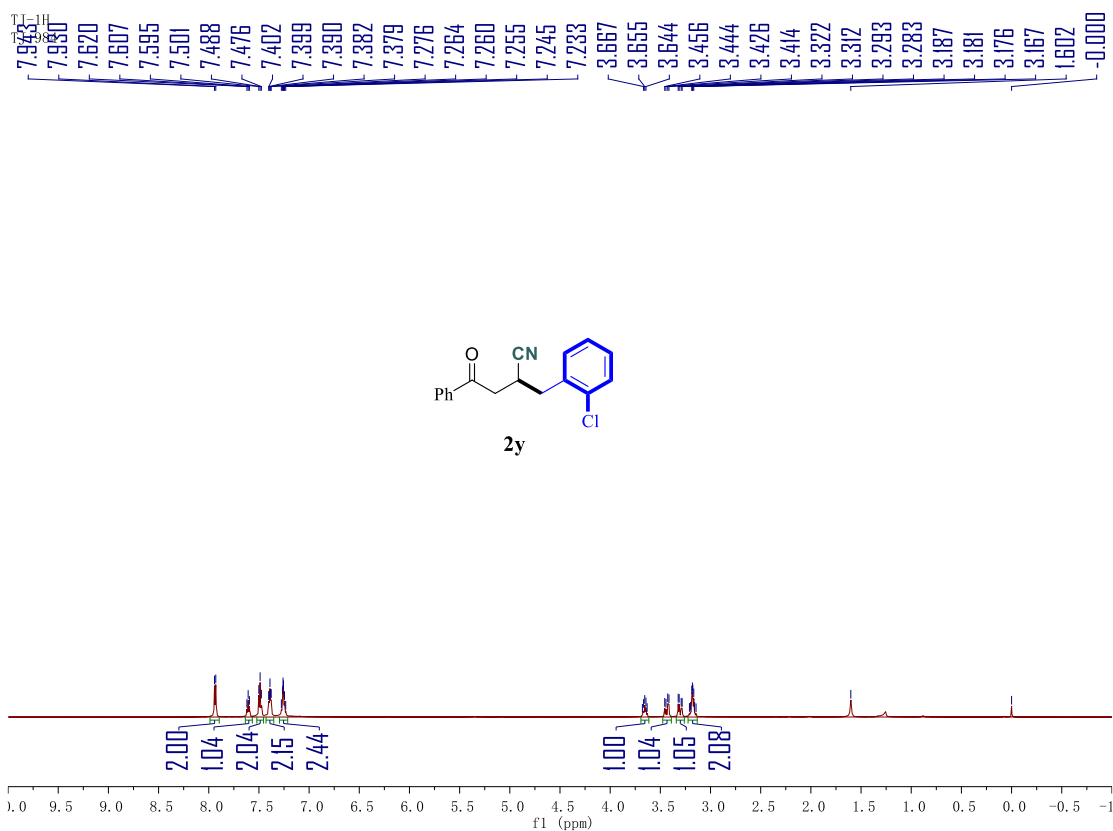


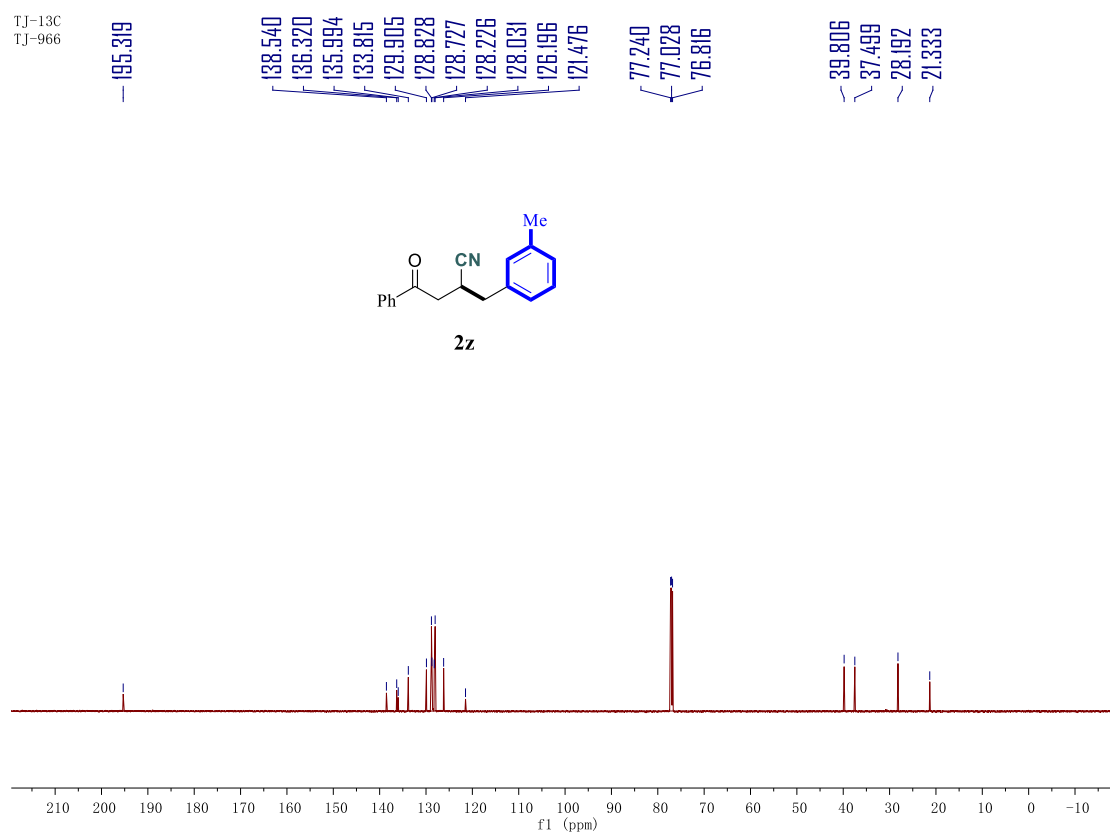
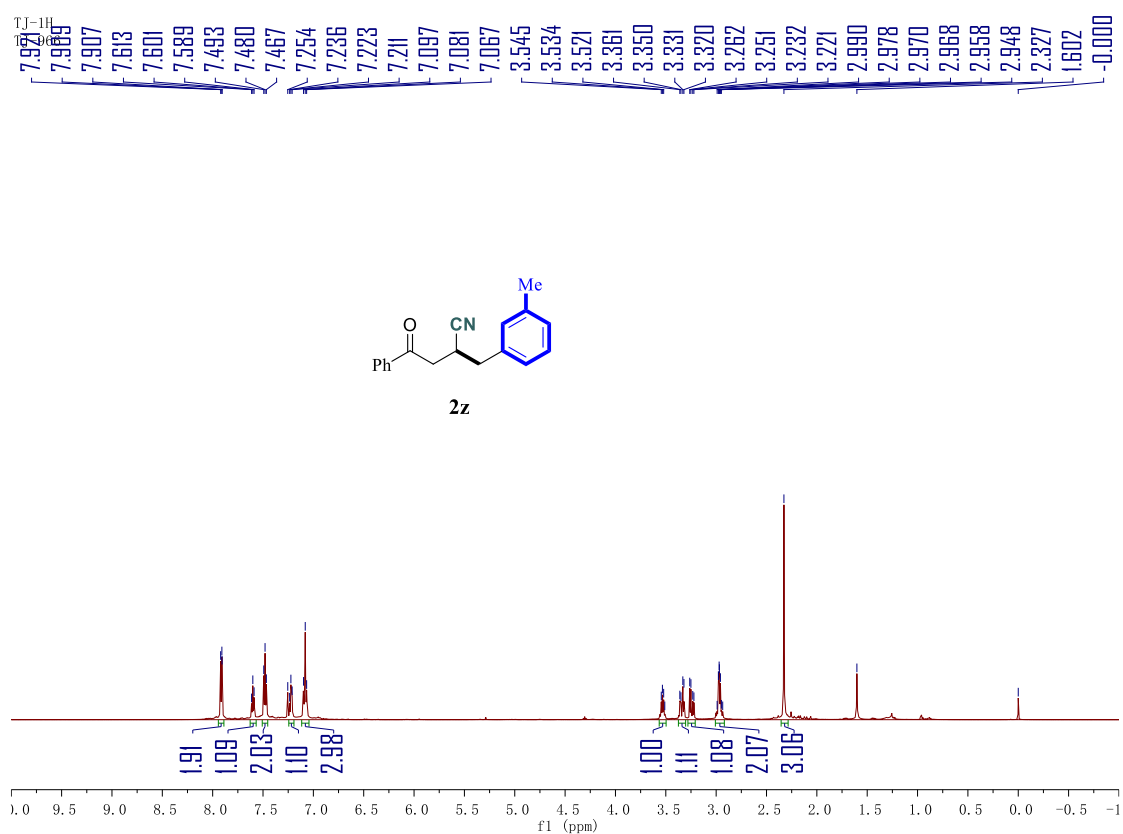
TJ-1H
TJ-927

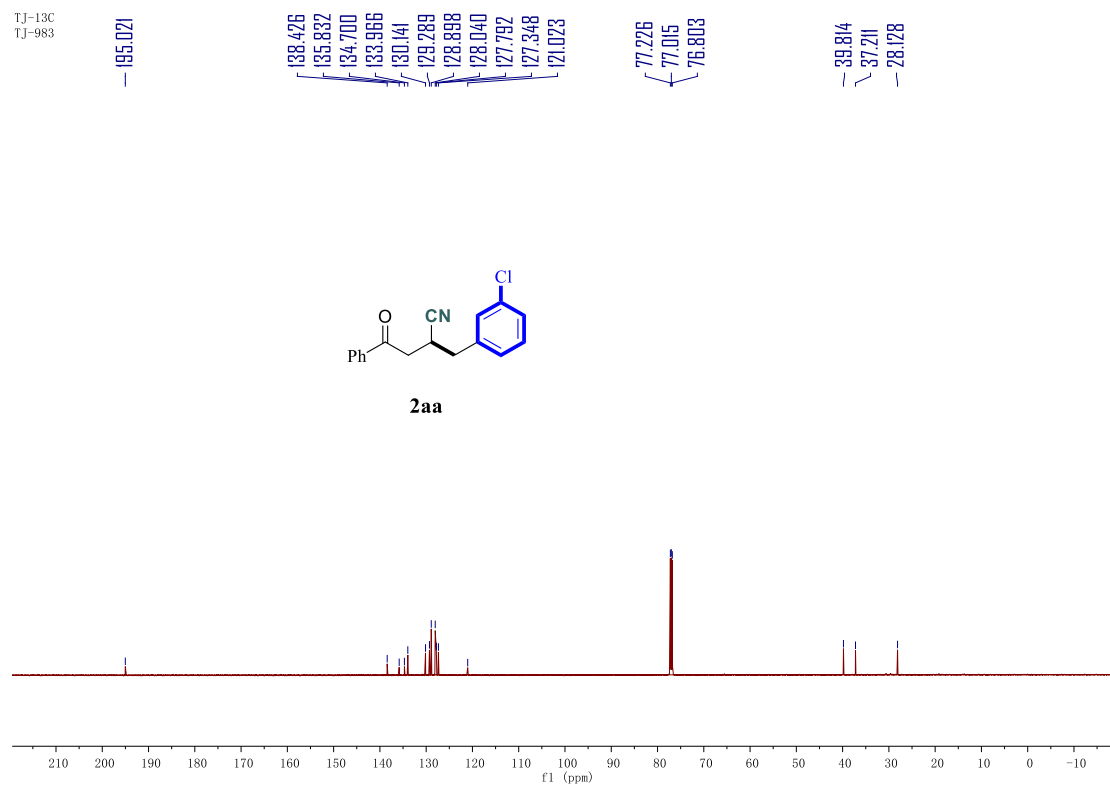
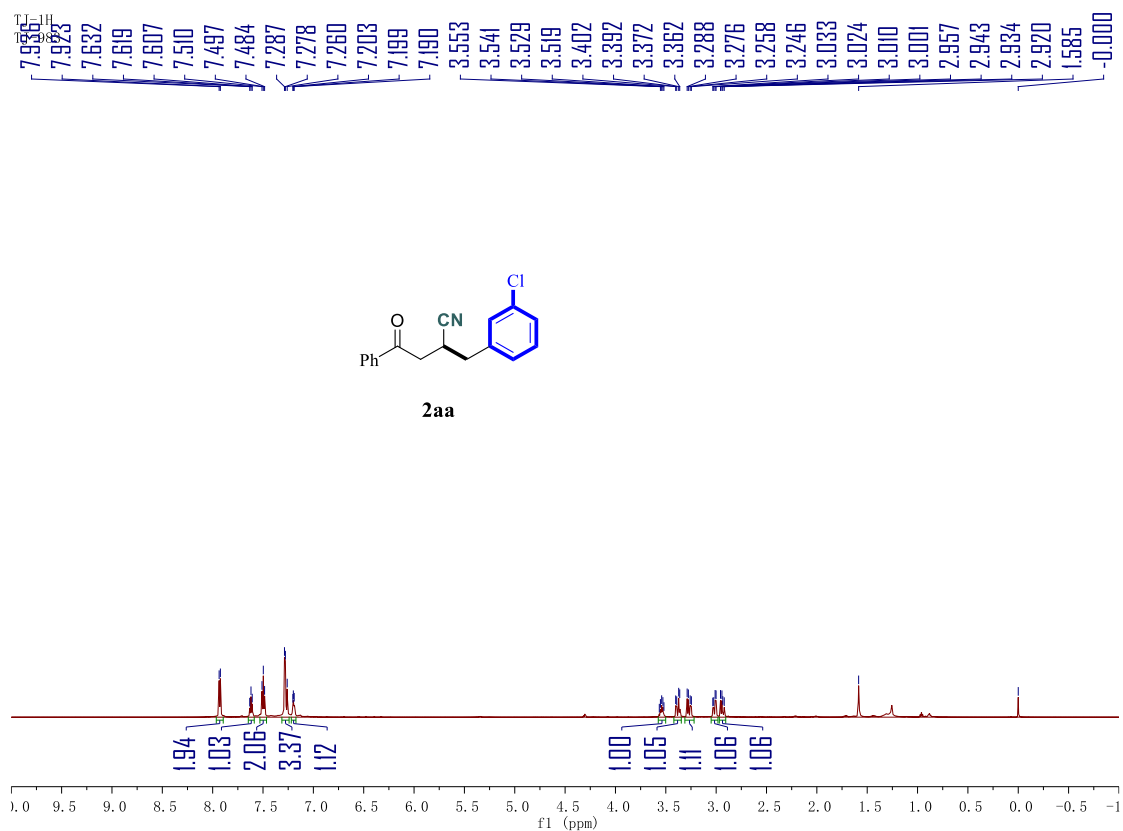


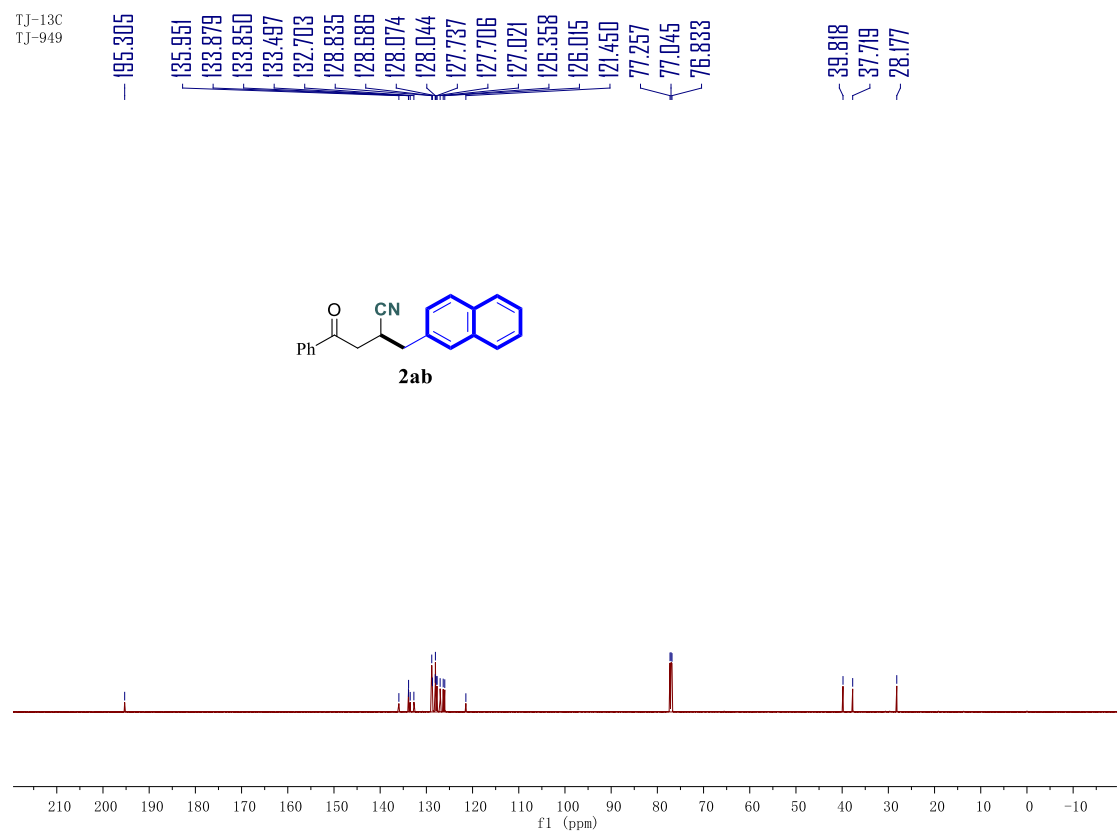
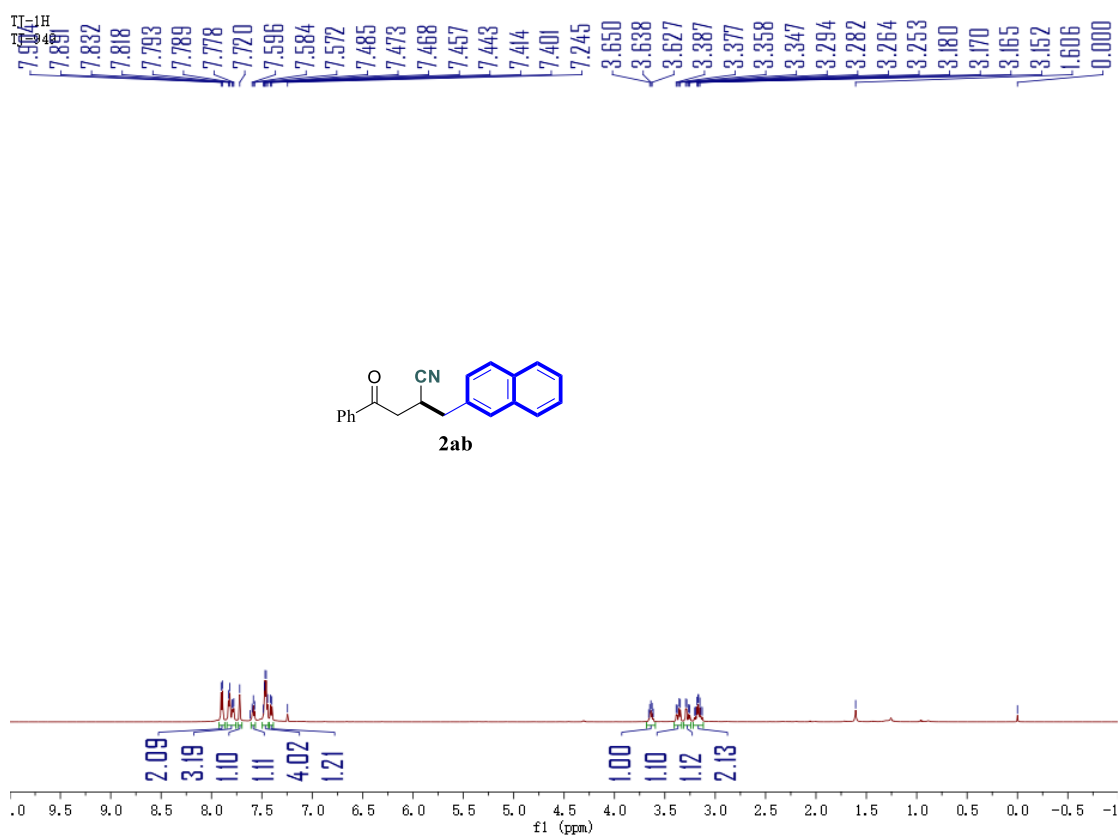
TJ-13C
TJ-927

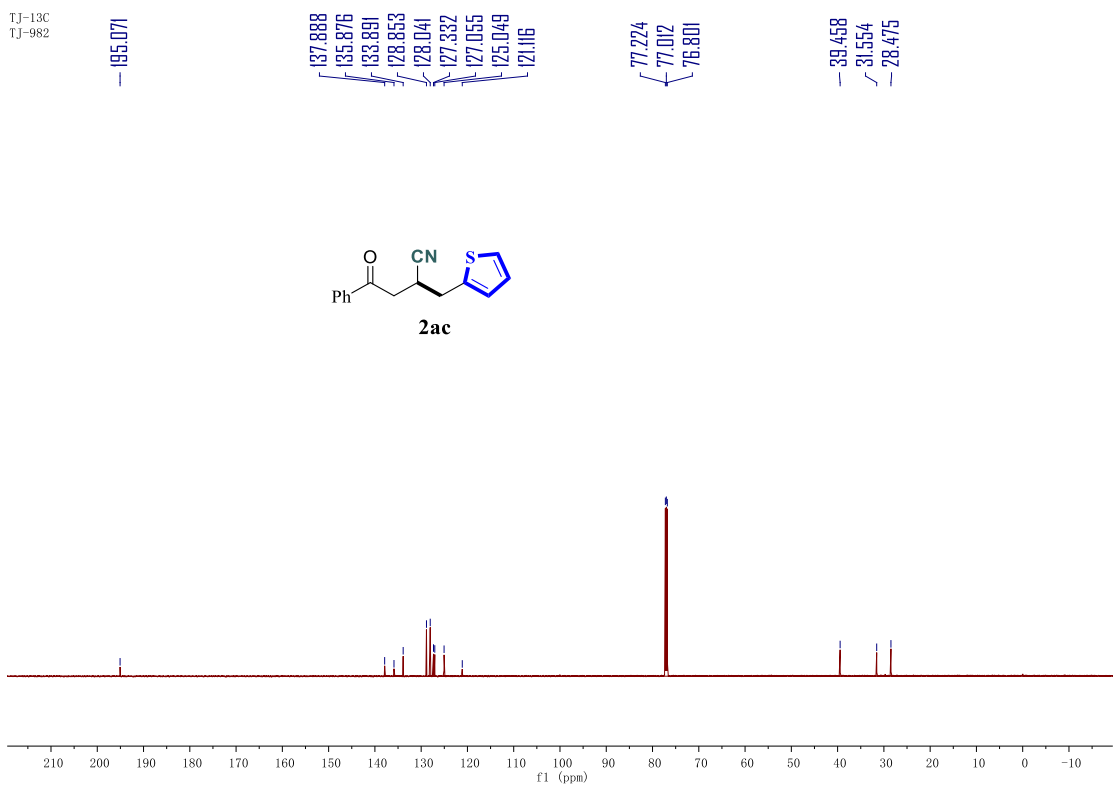
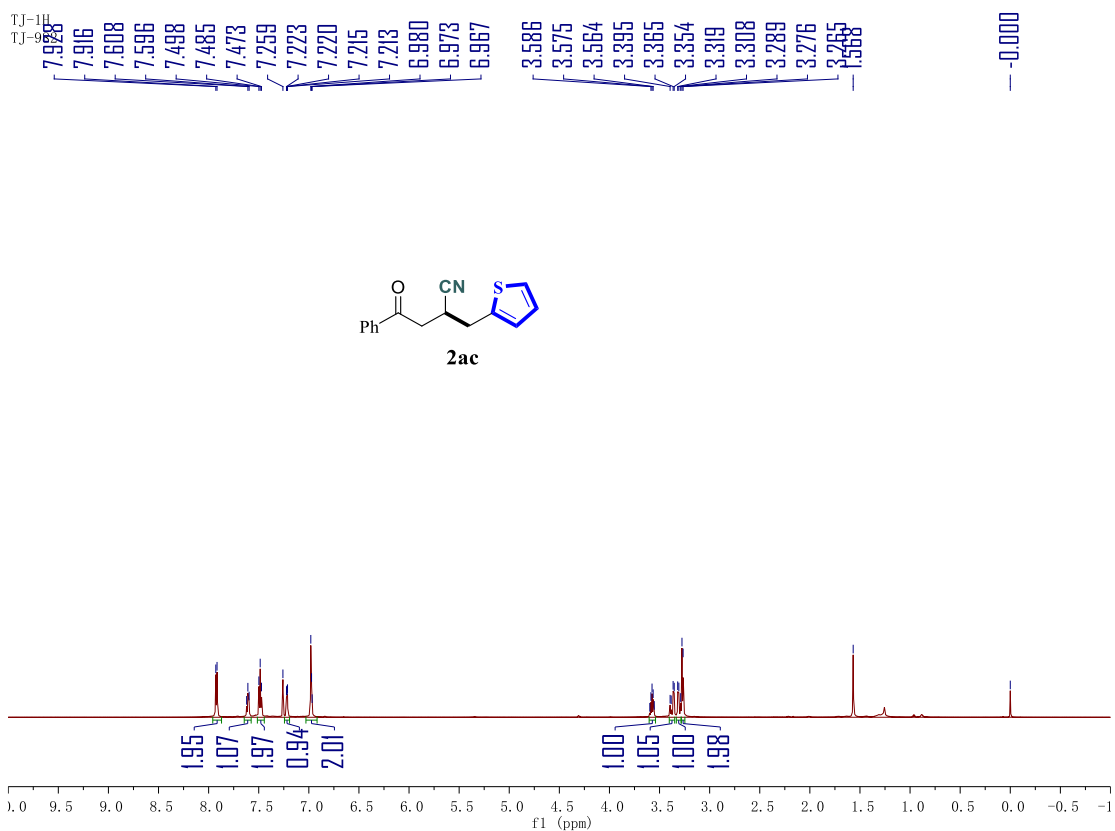


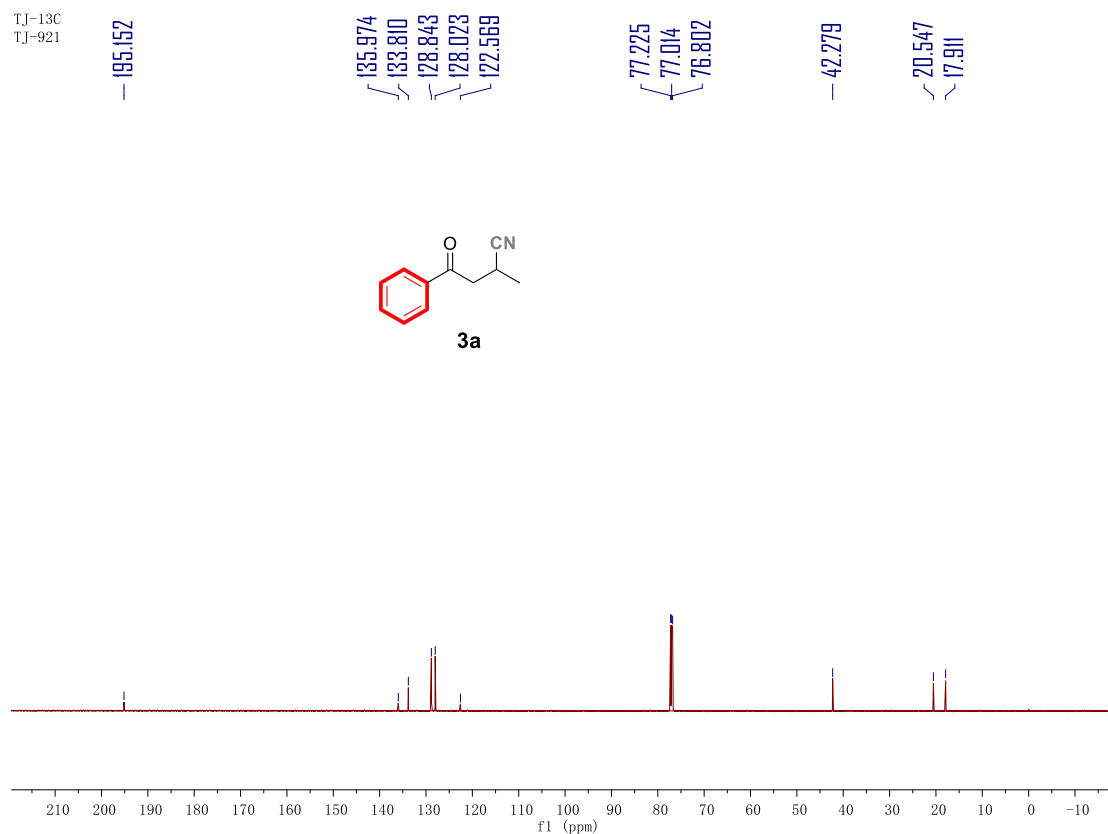
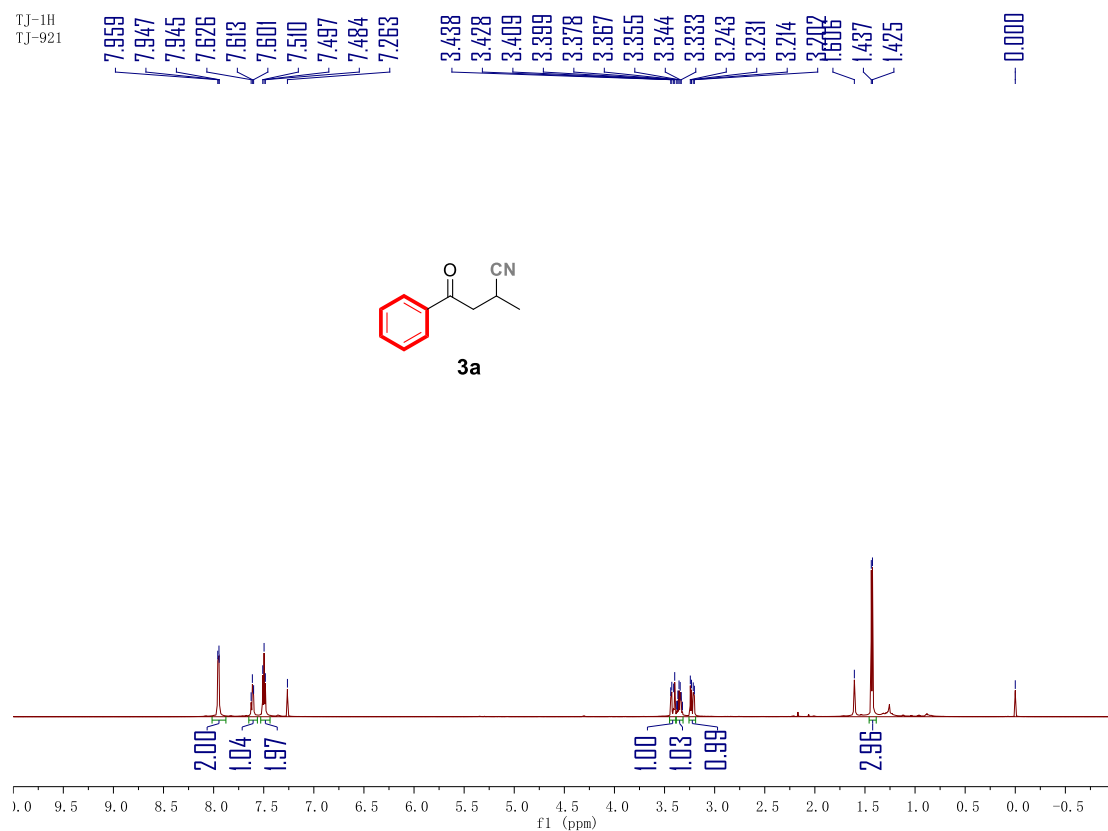




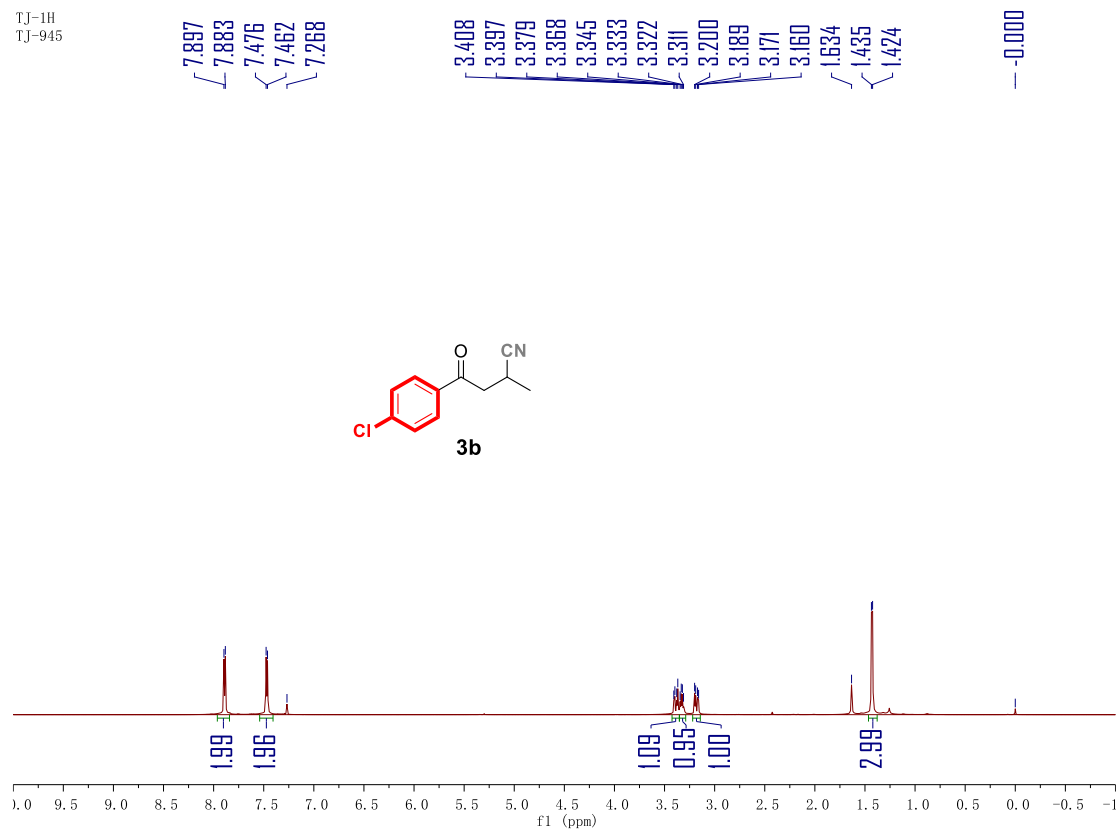




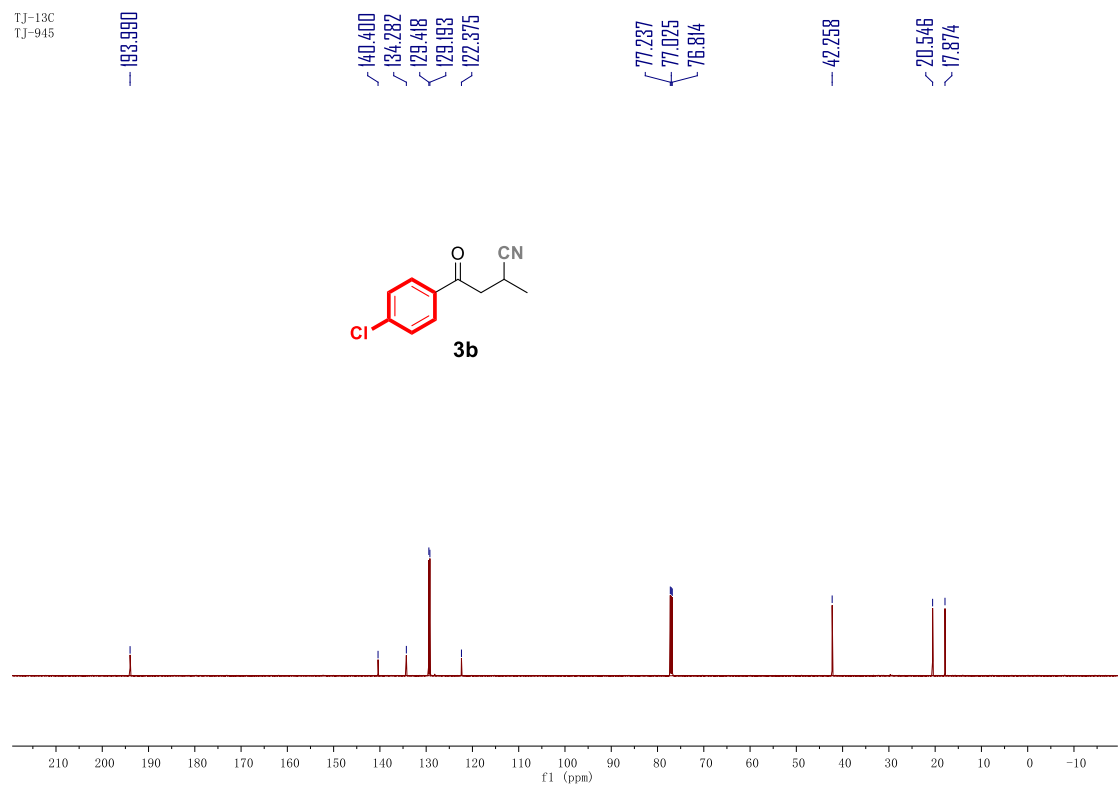




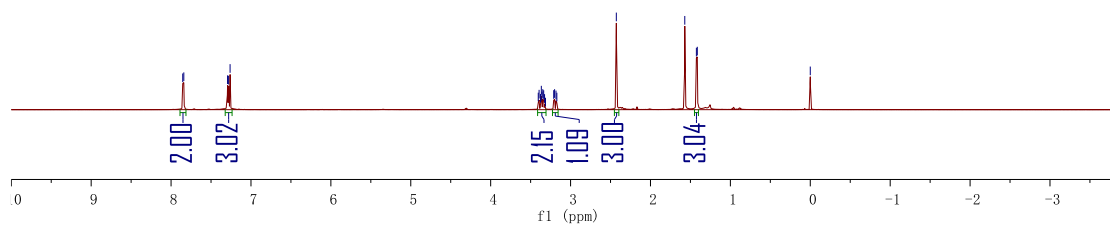
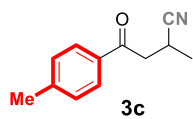
TJ-1H
TJ-945



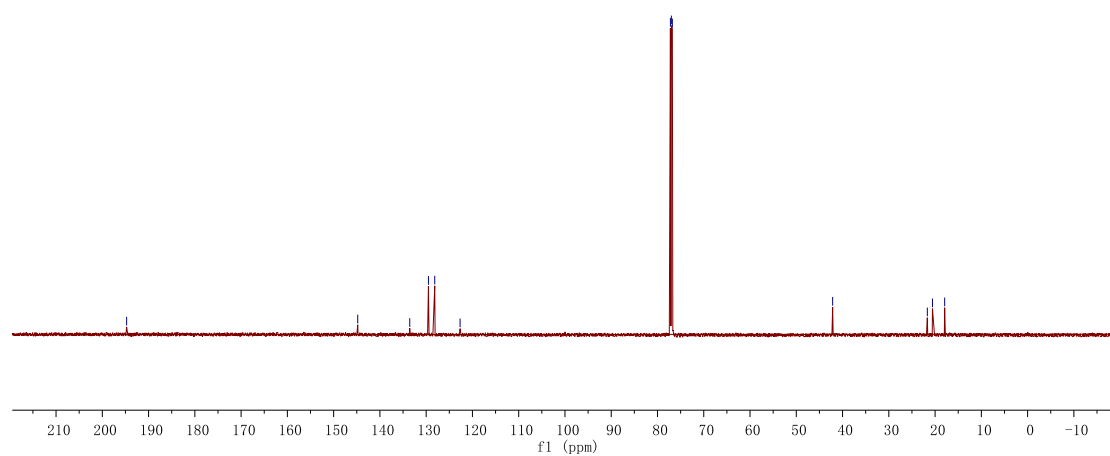
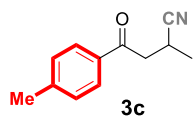
TJ-13C
TJ-945



TJ-1H
TJ-959



TJ-13C
TJ-959



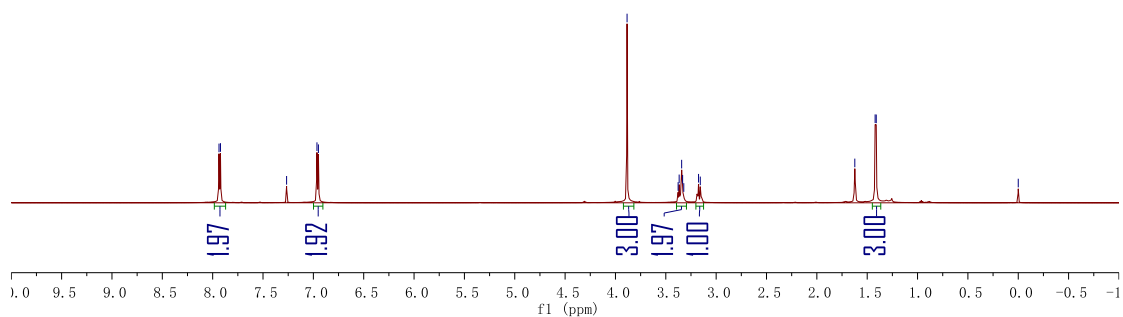
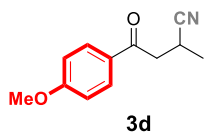
TJ-1H
TJ-951

7.937
7.923
7.266
6.984
6.950

3.885
3.378
3.367
3.343
3.333
3.322
3.175
3.158

1.623
1.421
1.410

-0.000



TJ-13C
TJ-951

193.597

164.075

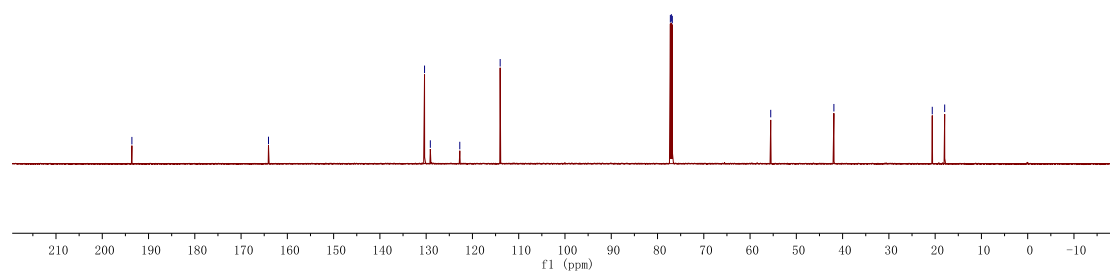
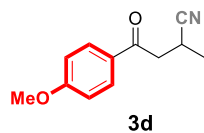
130.352
129.103
122.734
114.008

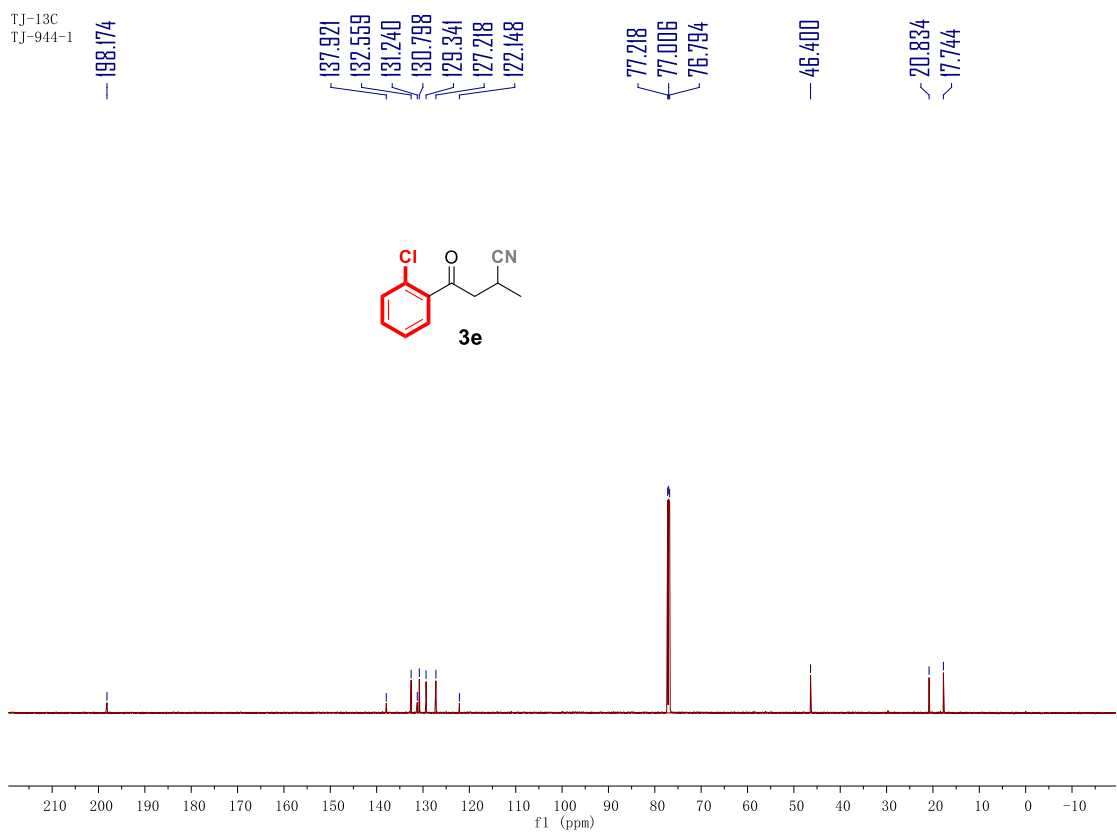
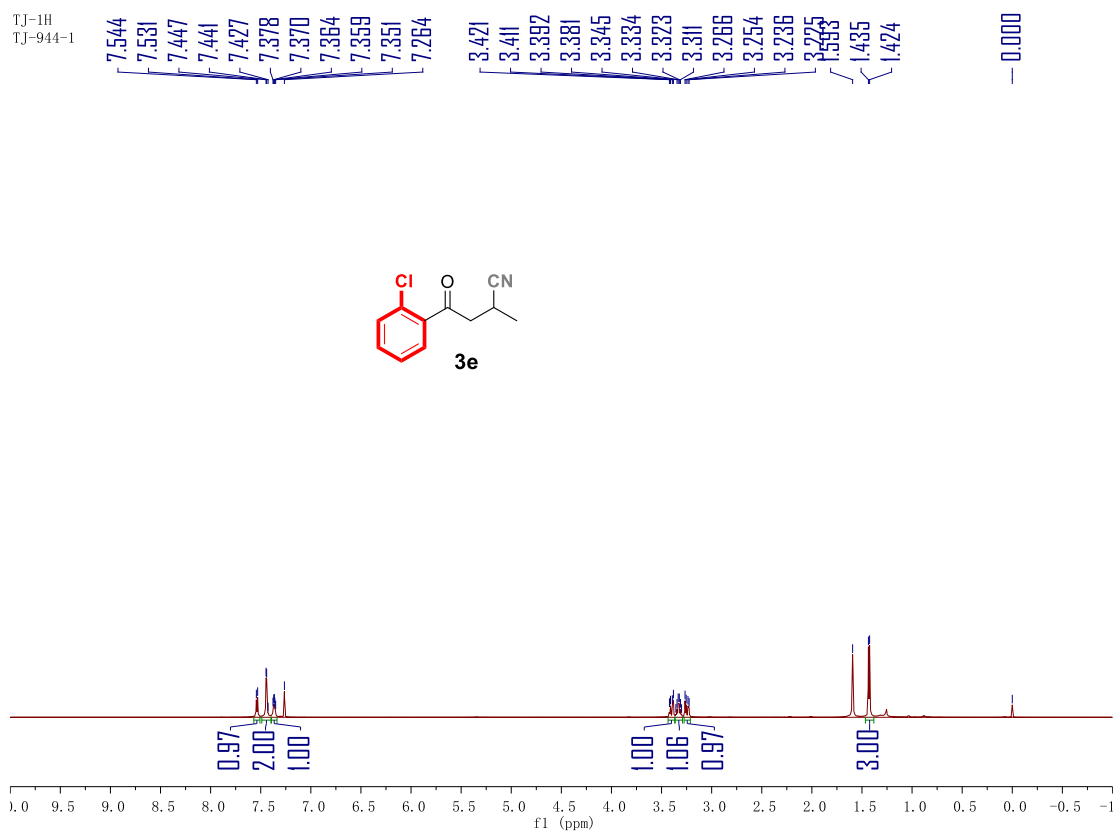
77.226
77.015
76.803

55.535

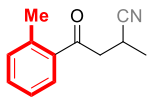
41.885

20.625
17.941

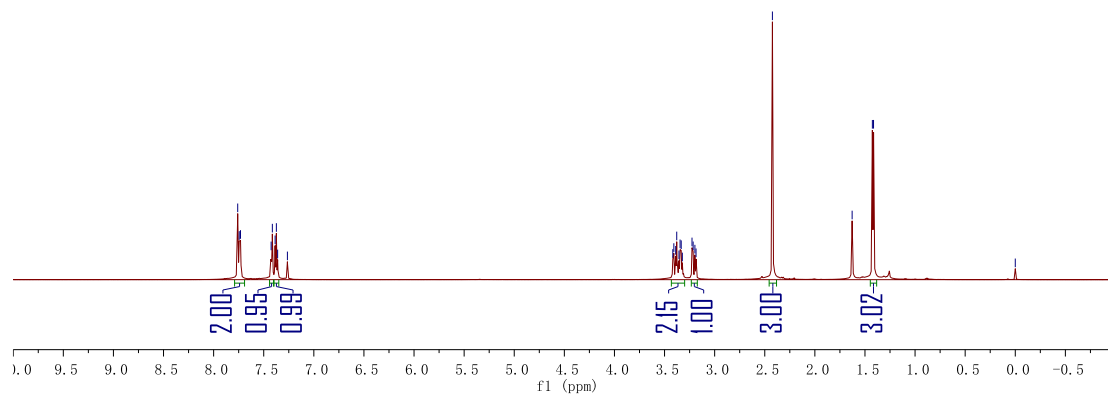




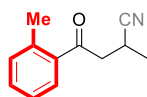
TJ-1H
TJ-943



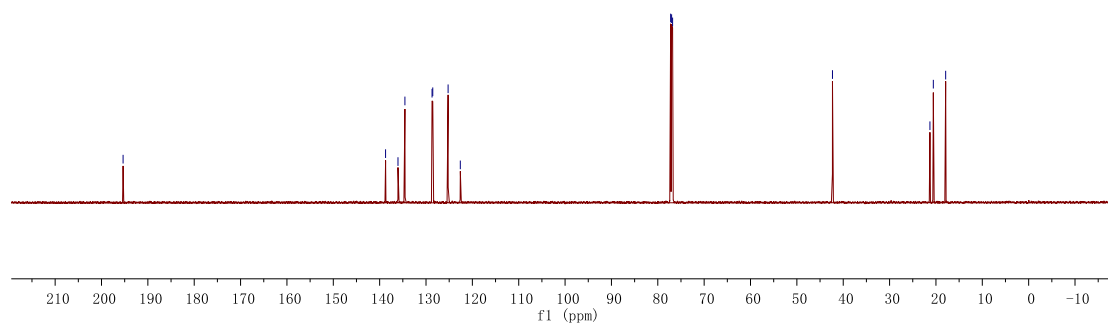
3f

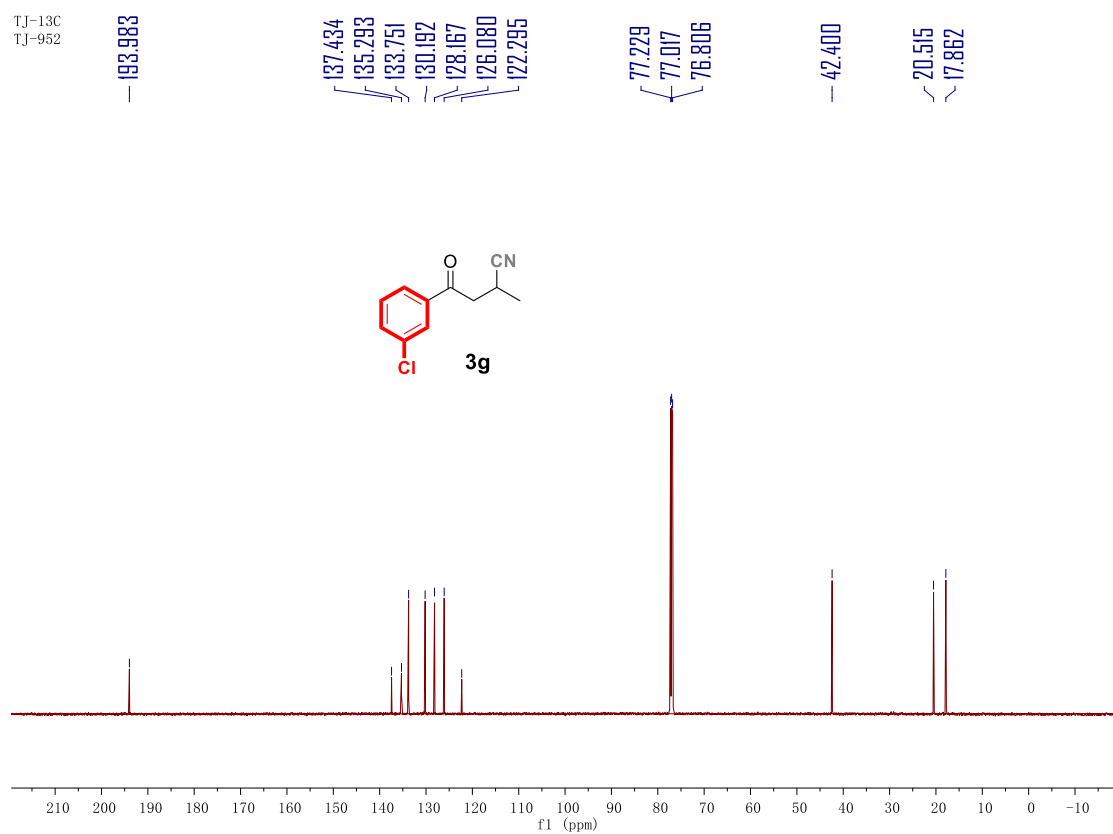
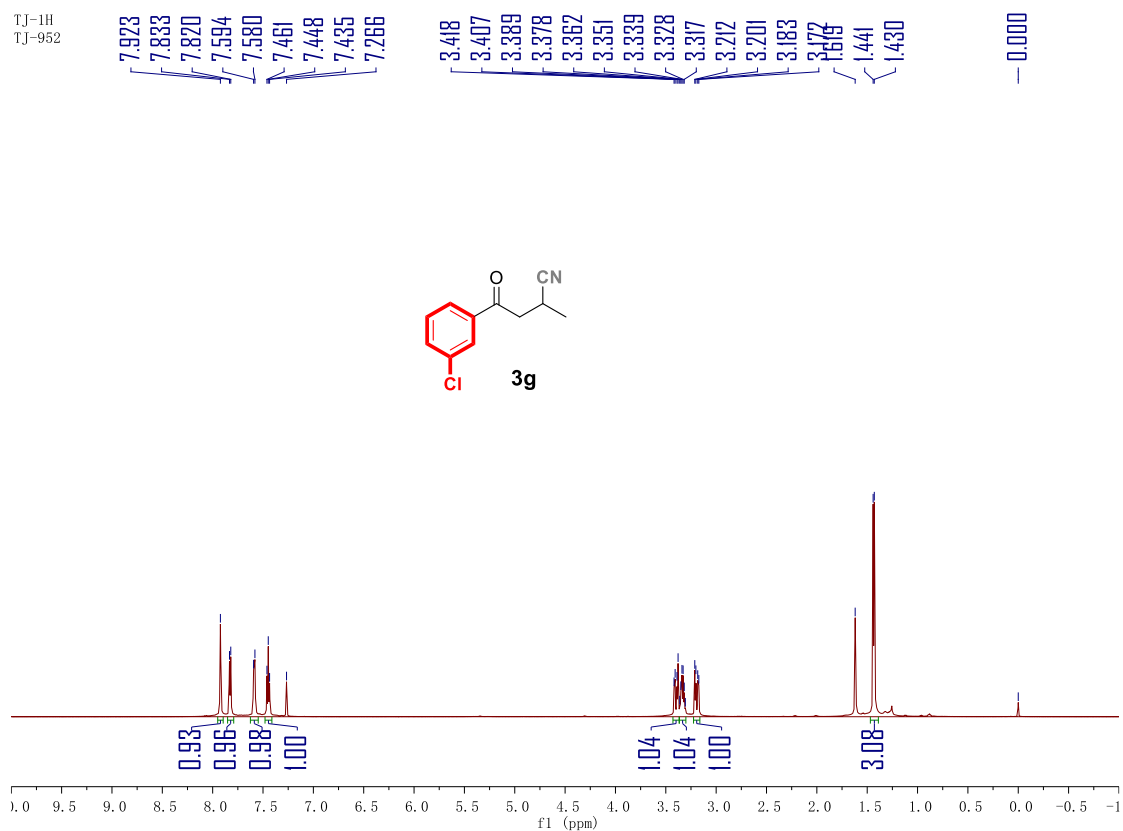


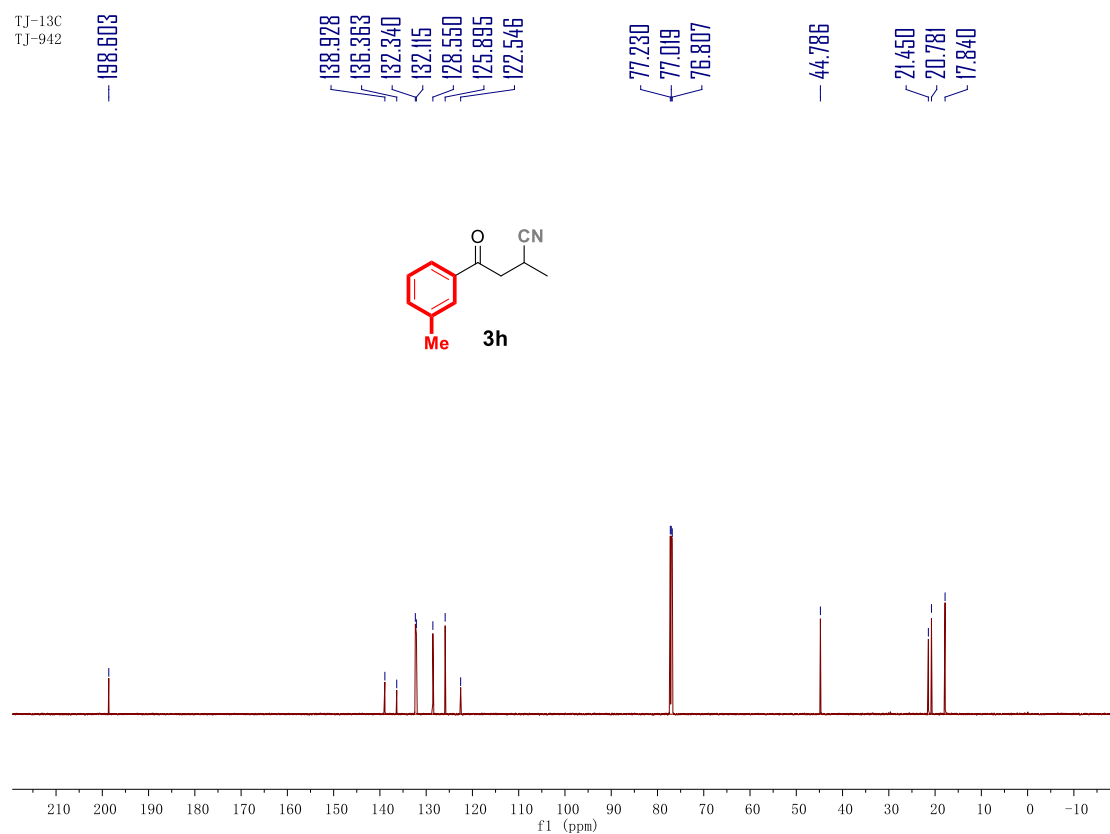
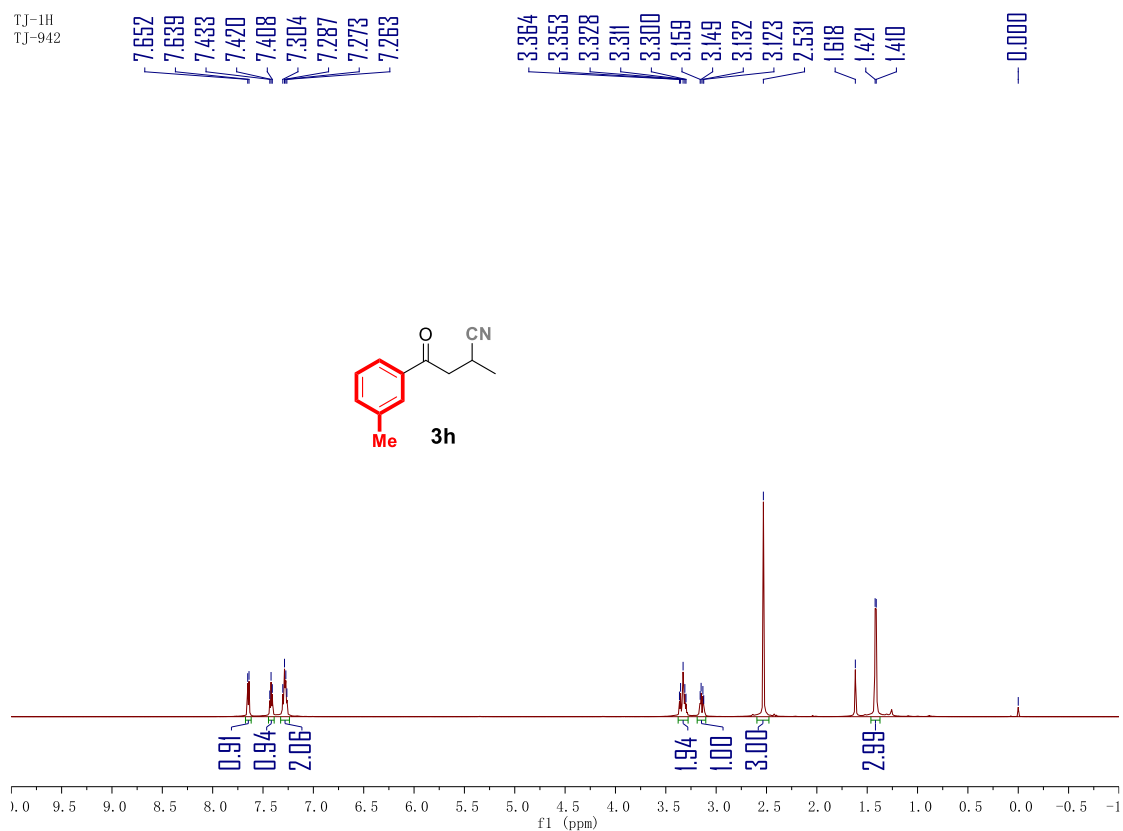
TJ-13C
TJ-943



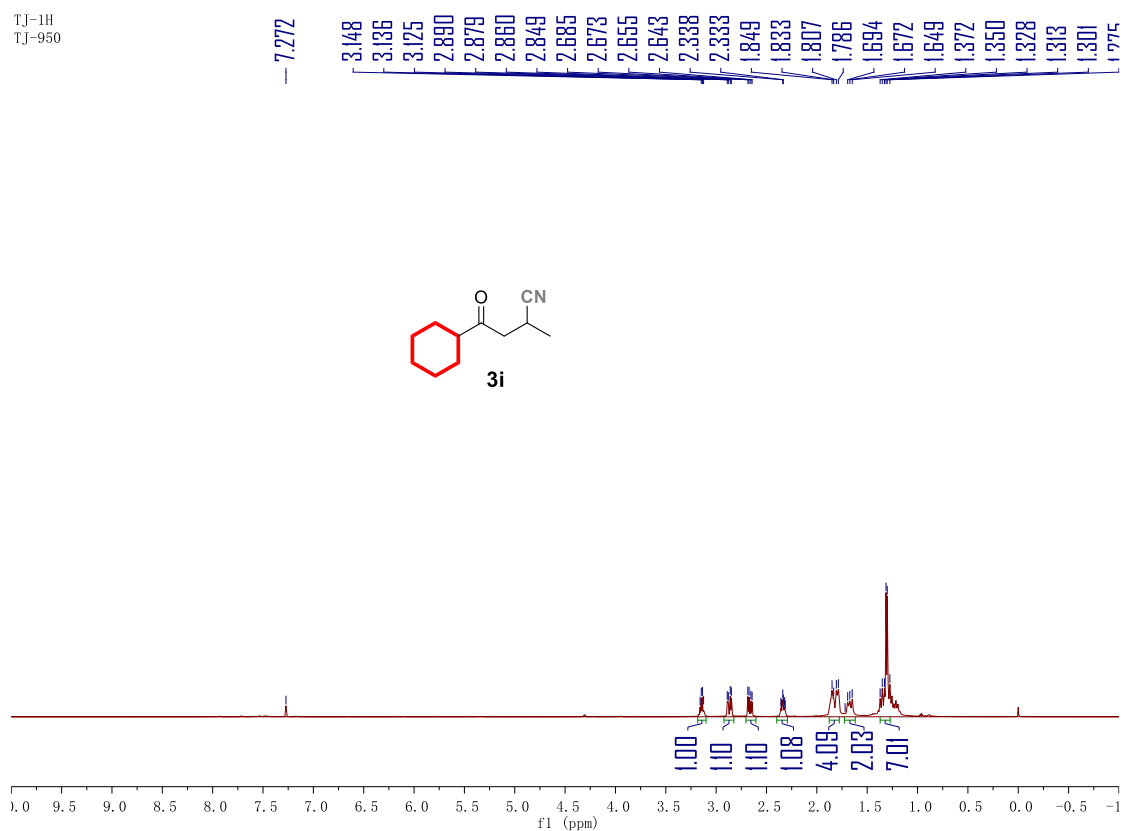
3f



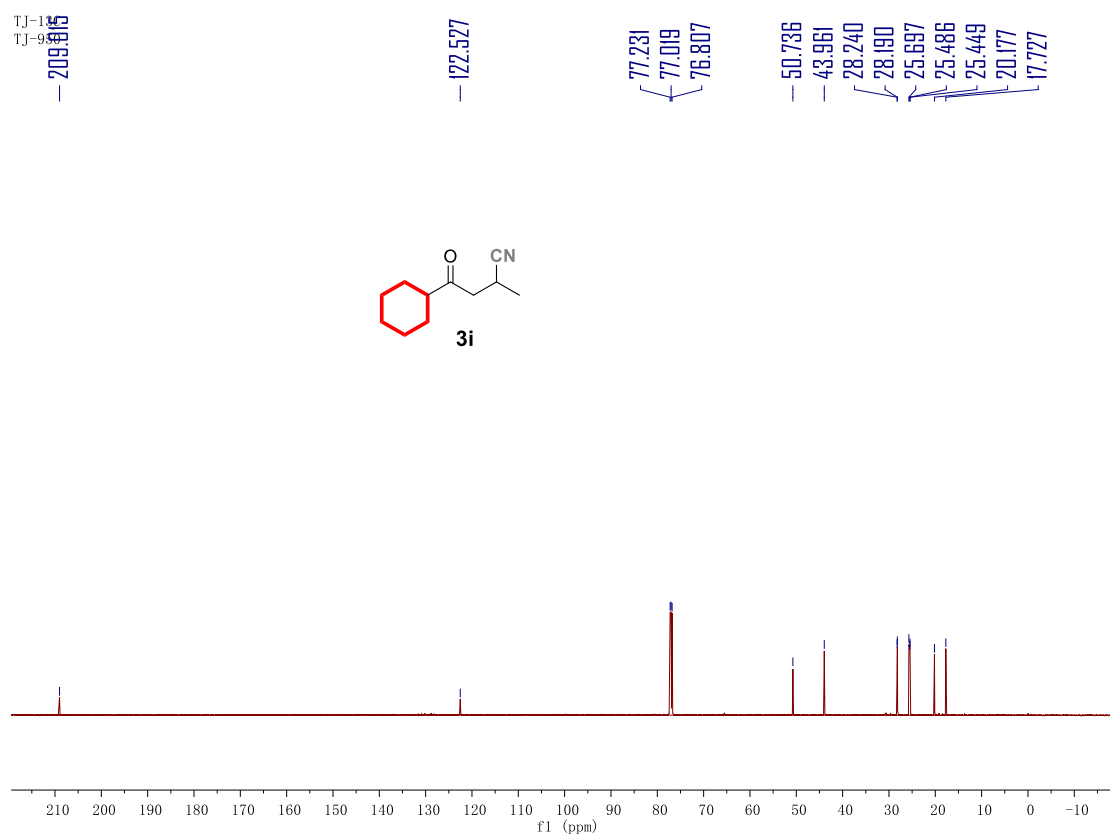




TJ-1H
TJ-950

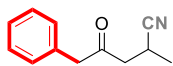


TJ-13C
TJ-950

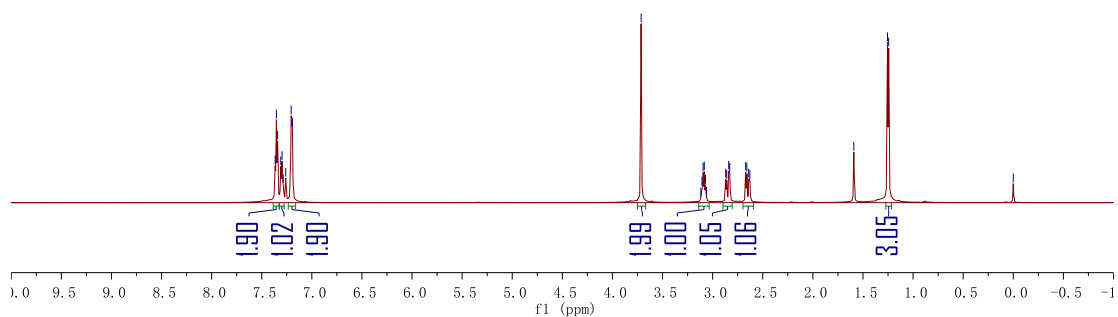


TJ-1H
TJ-994

7.366 7.354 7.341 7.310 7.298 7.286 7.260 7.206 7.194 3.714 3.107 3.095 3.084 3.072 2.870 2.860 2.840 2.829 2.671 2.659 2.640 2.628 1.591 1.255 1.243 -0.000



3j



TJ-13C
TJ-994

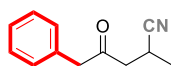
203.528

133.157 129.343 129.018 127.490 122.230

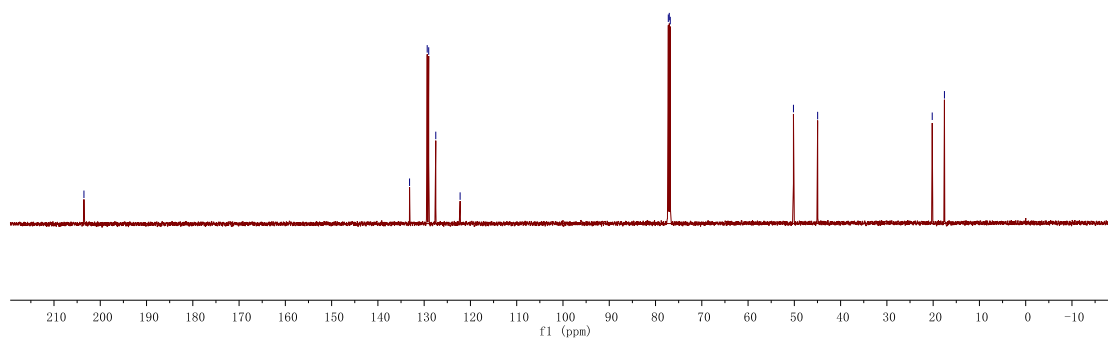
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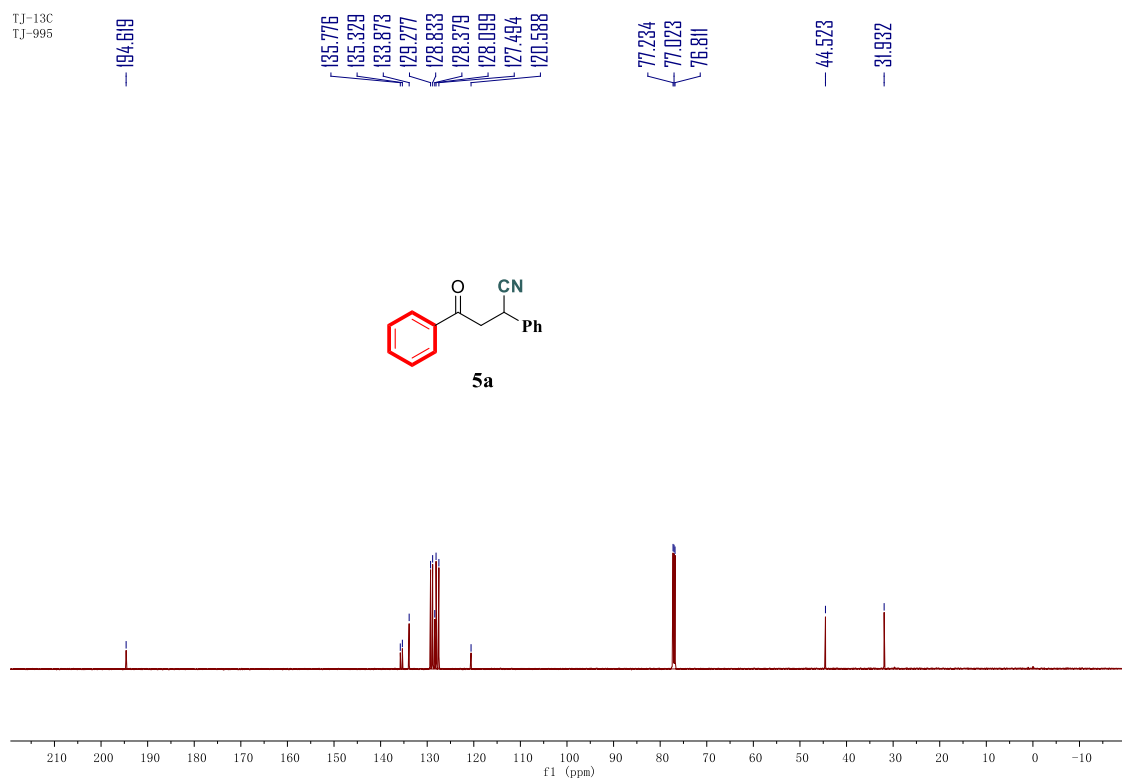
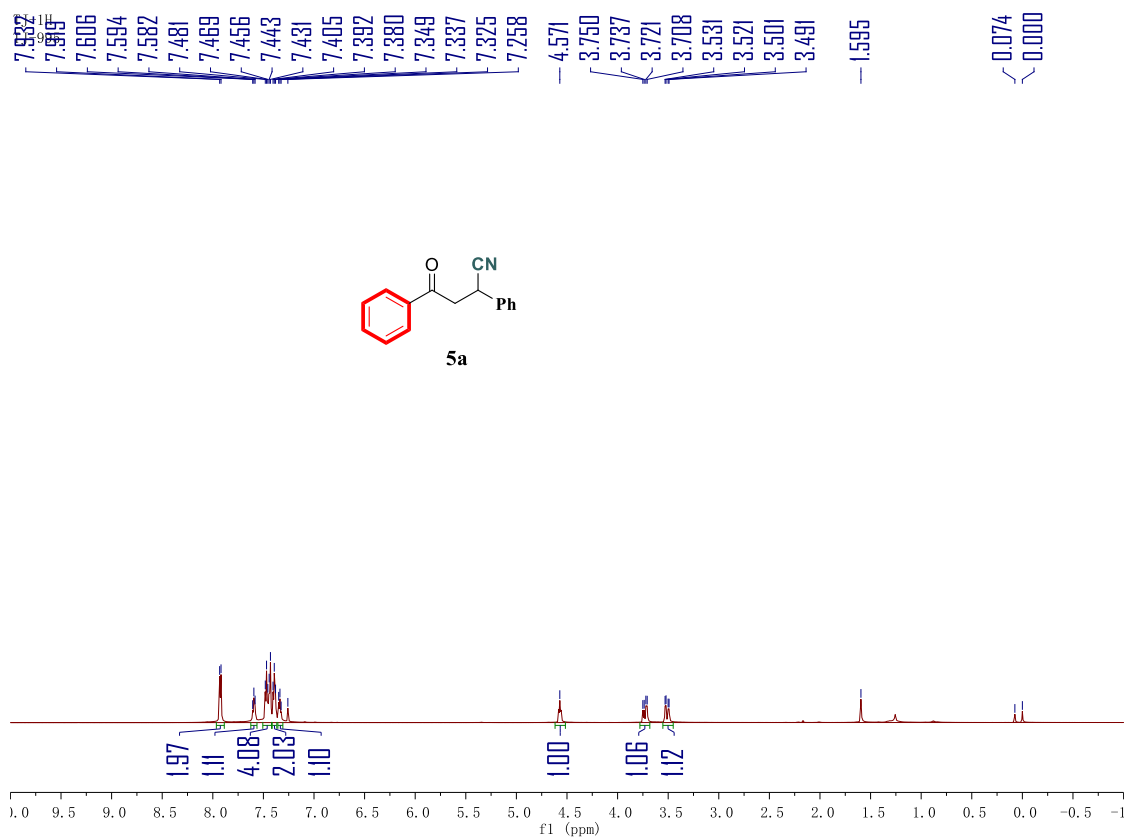
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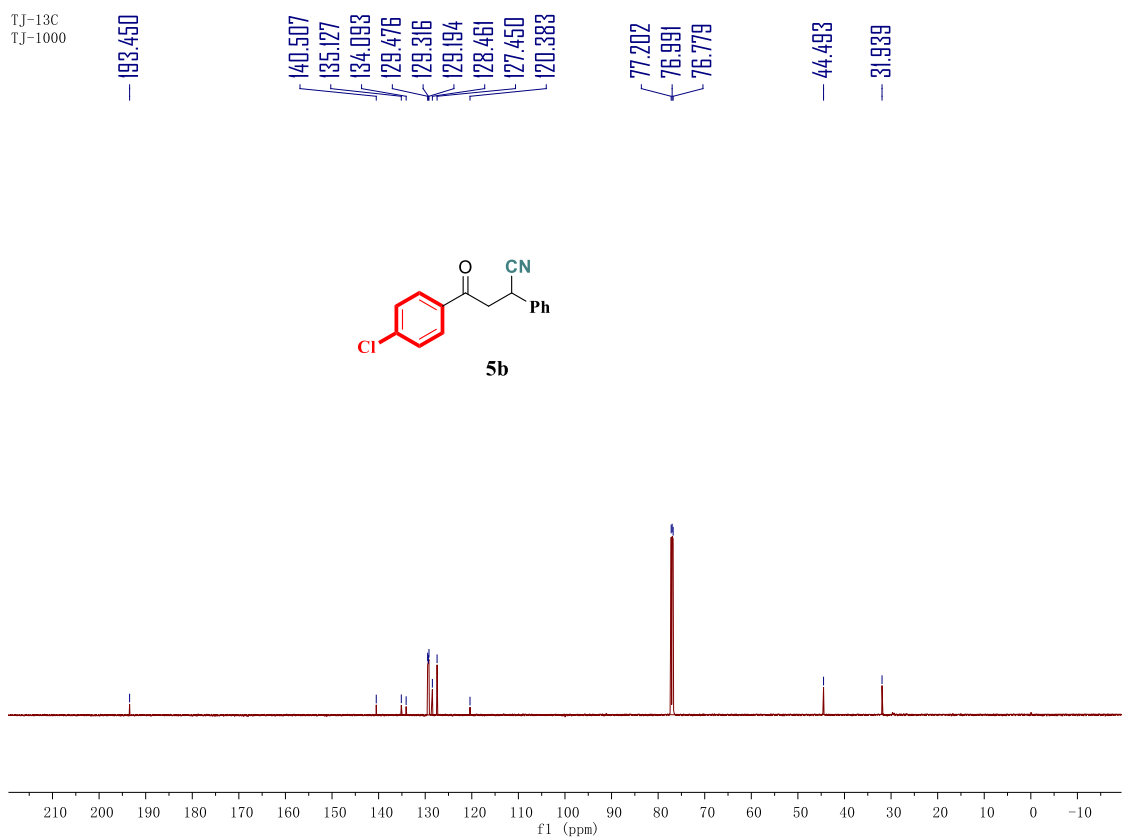
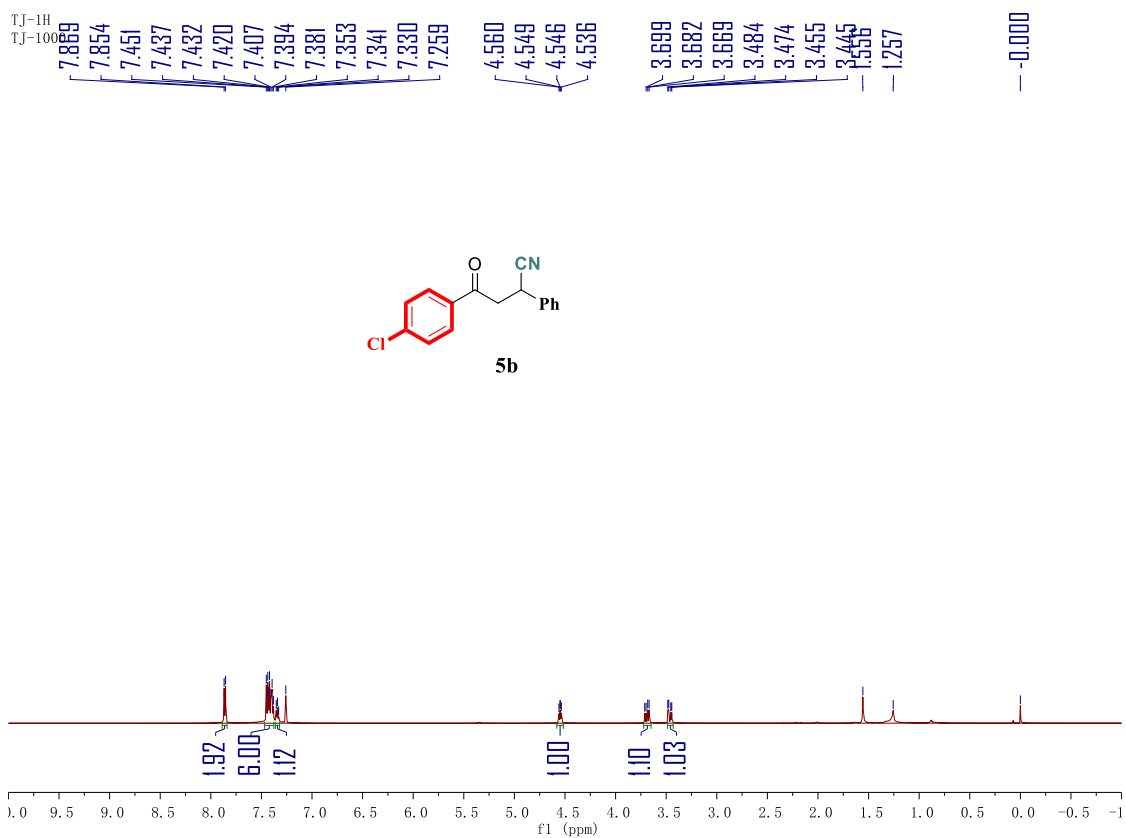
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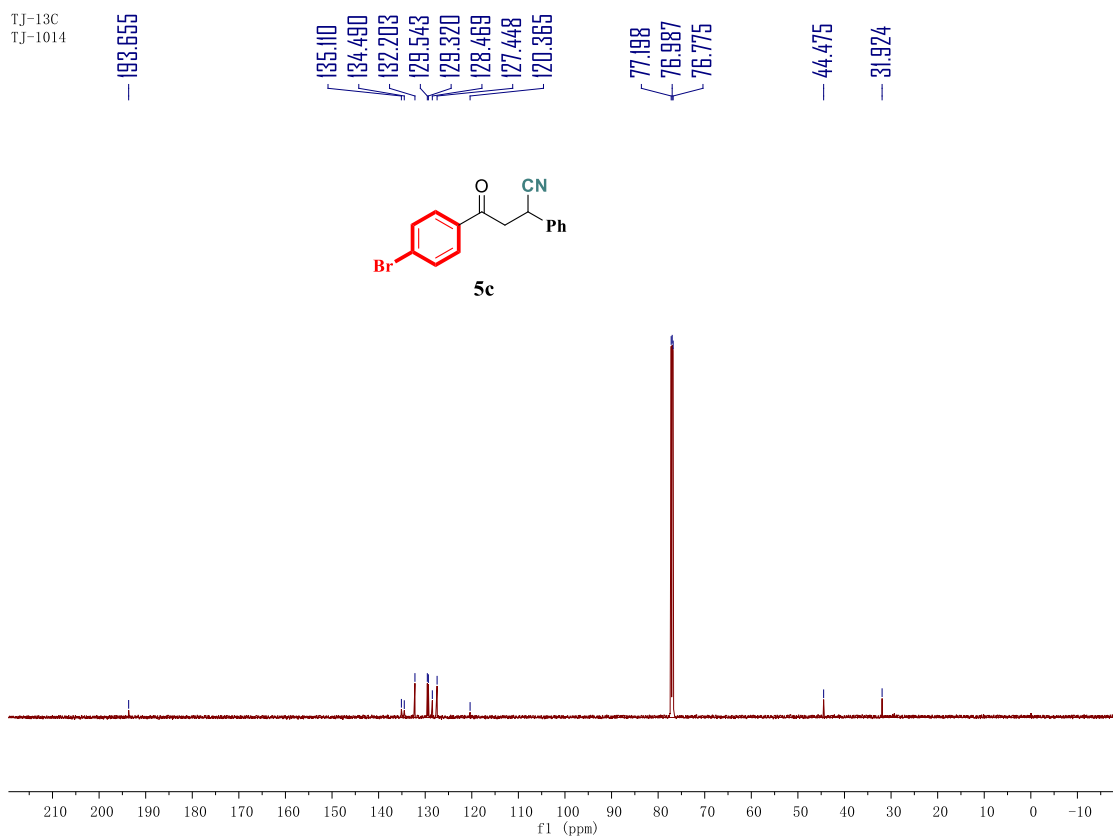
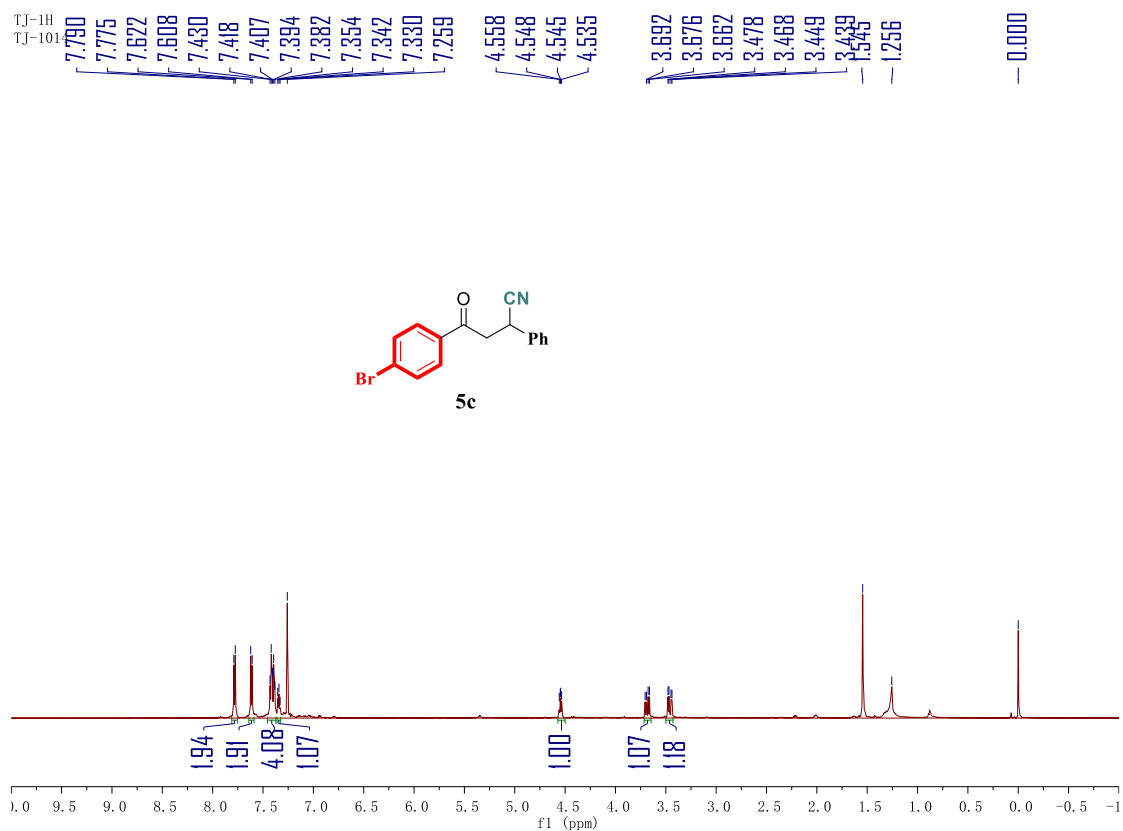


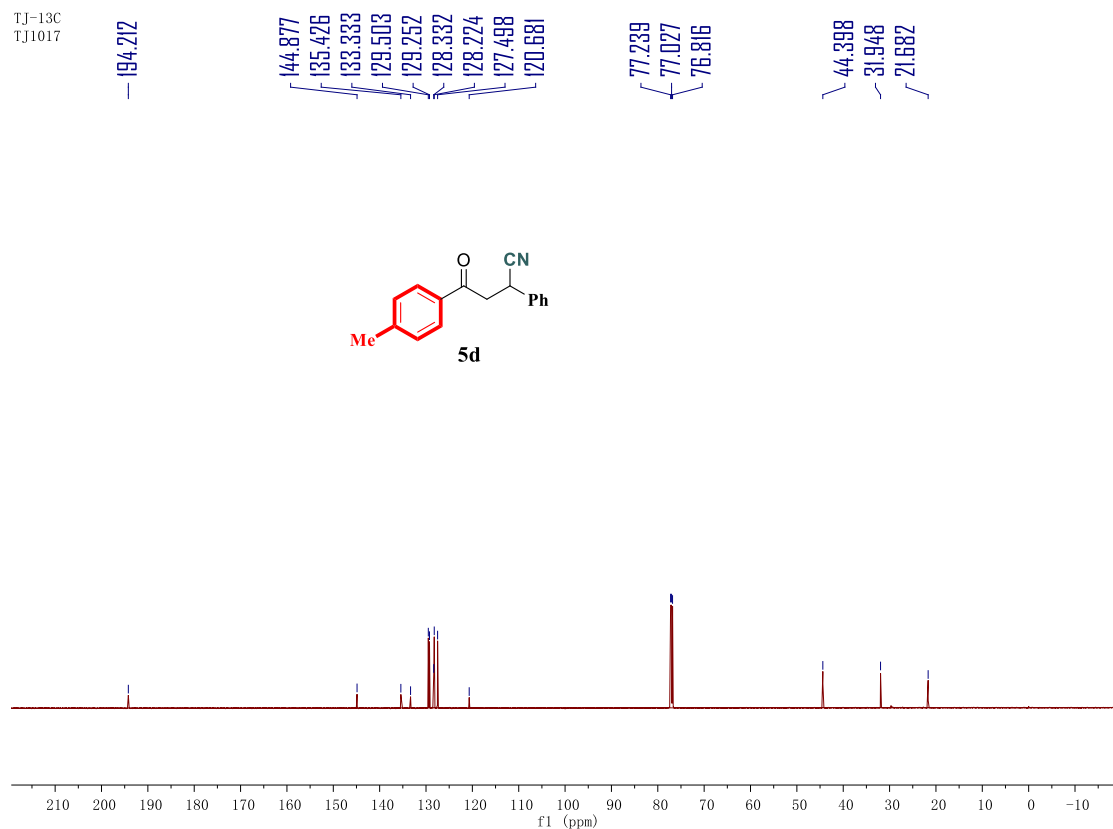
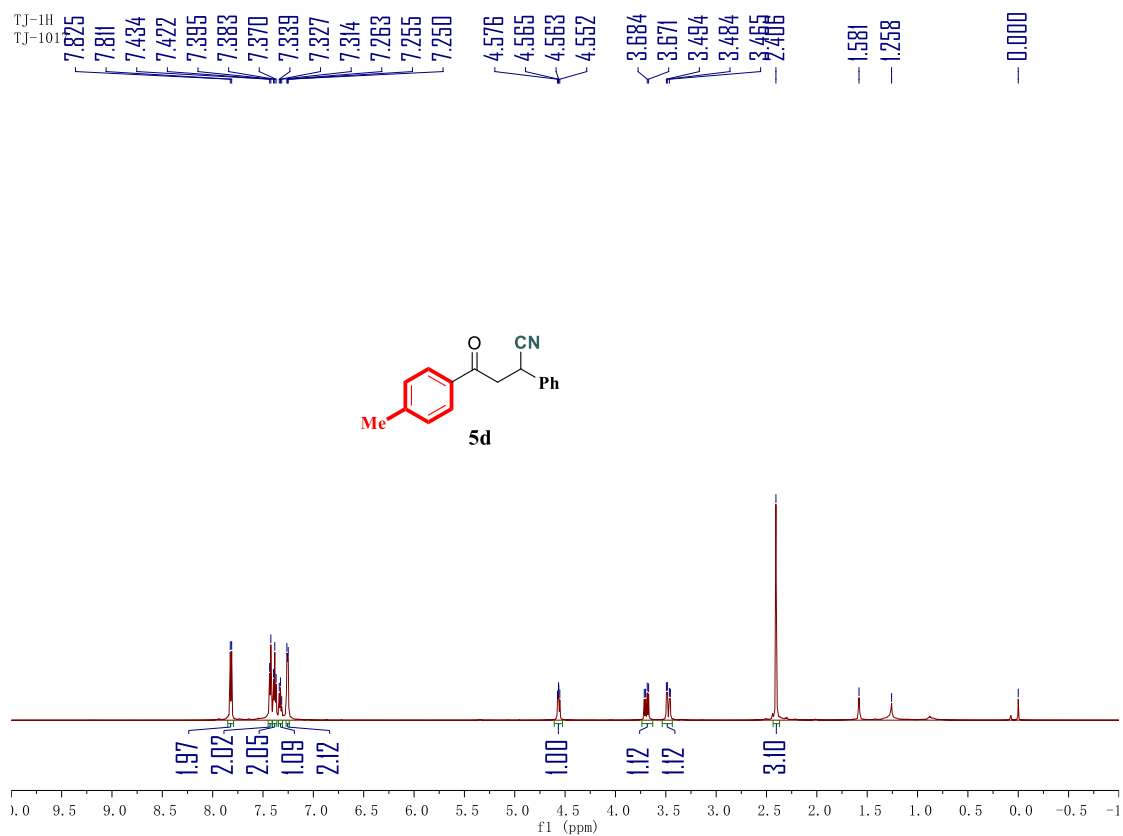
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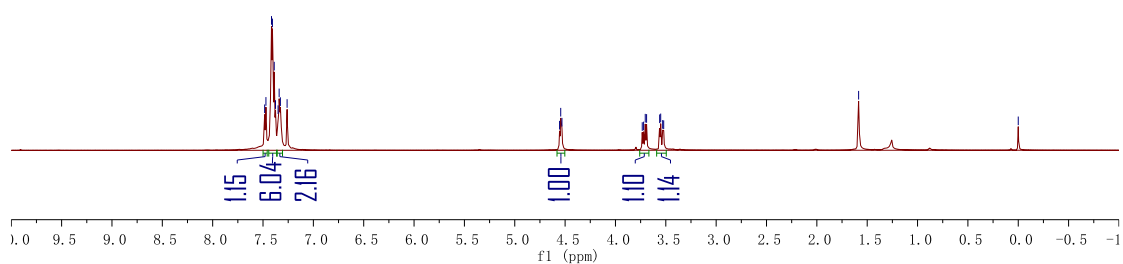
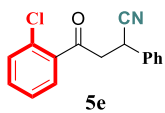




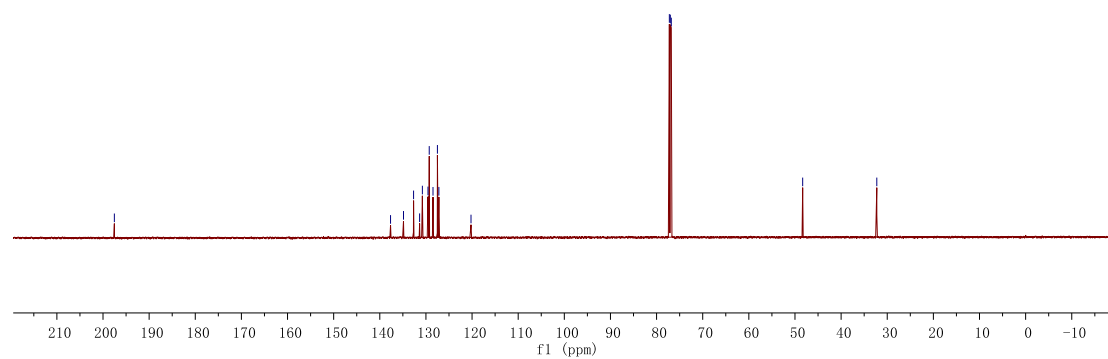
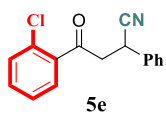


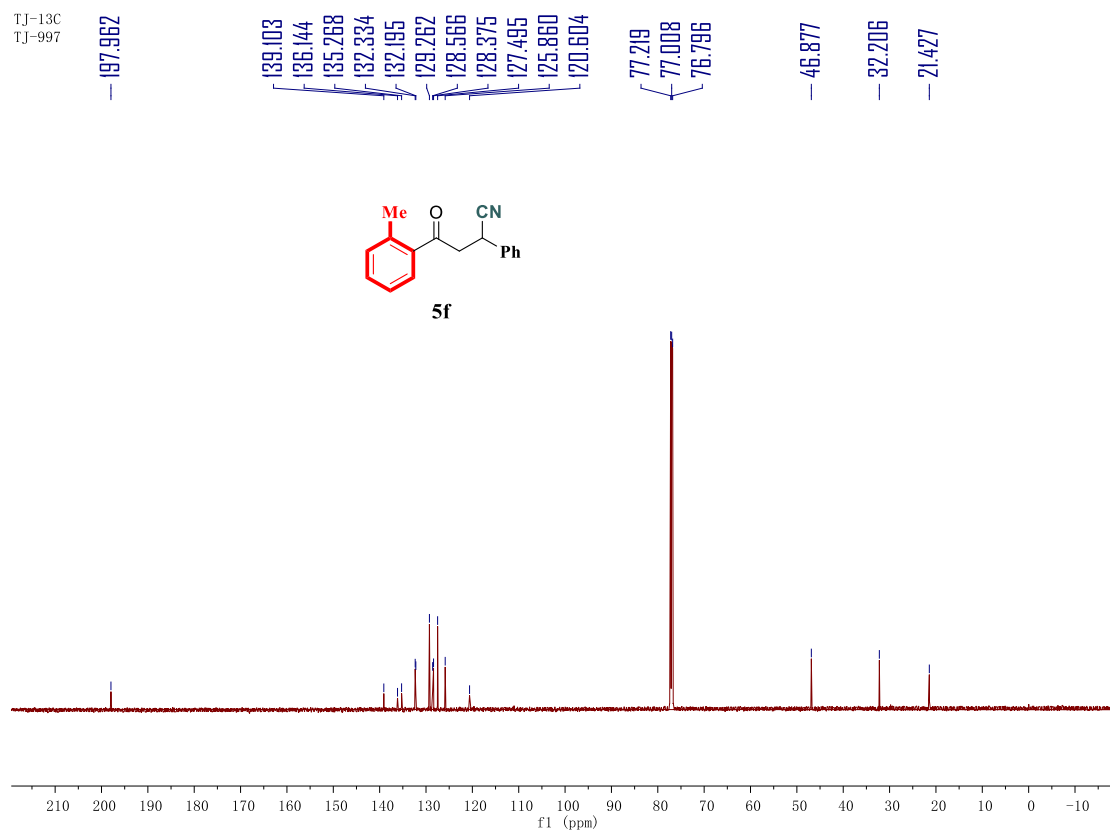
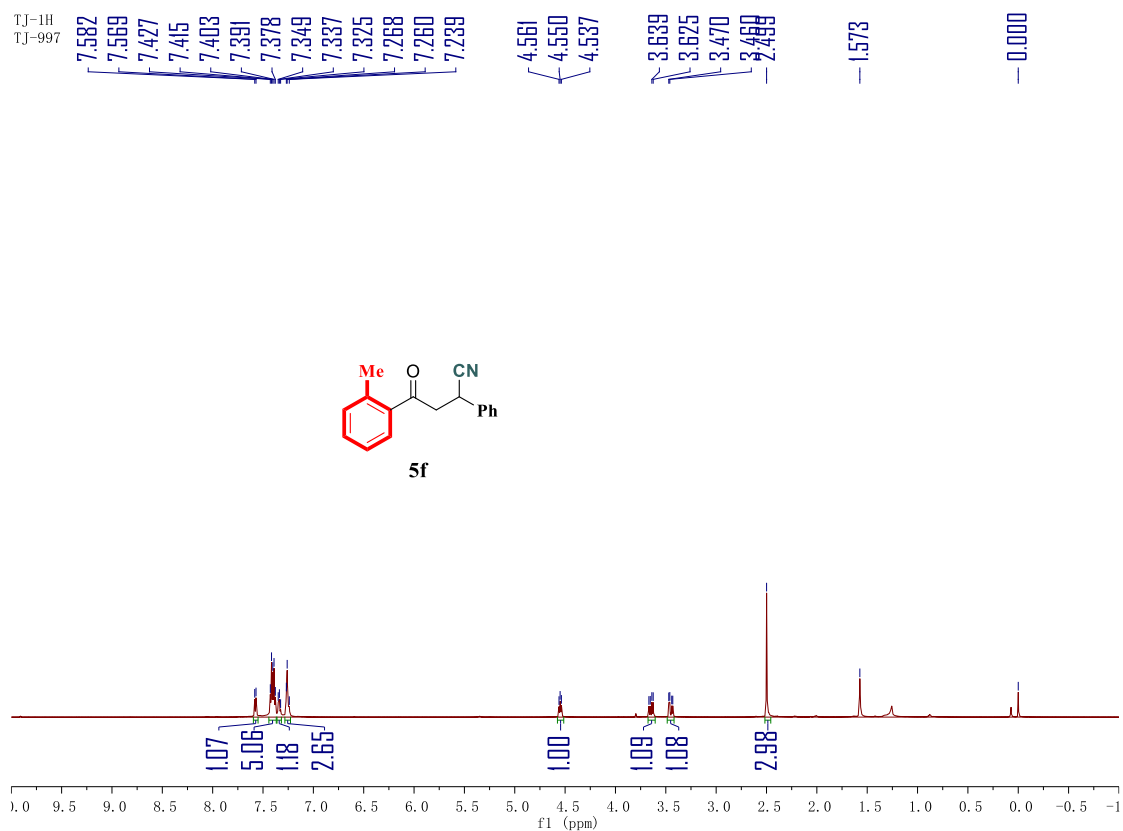


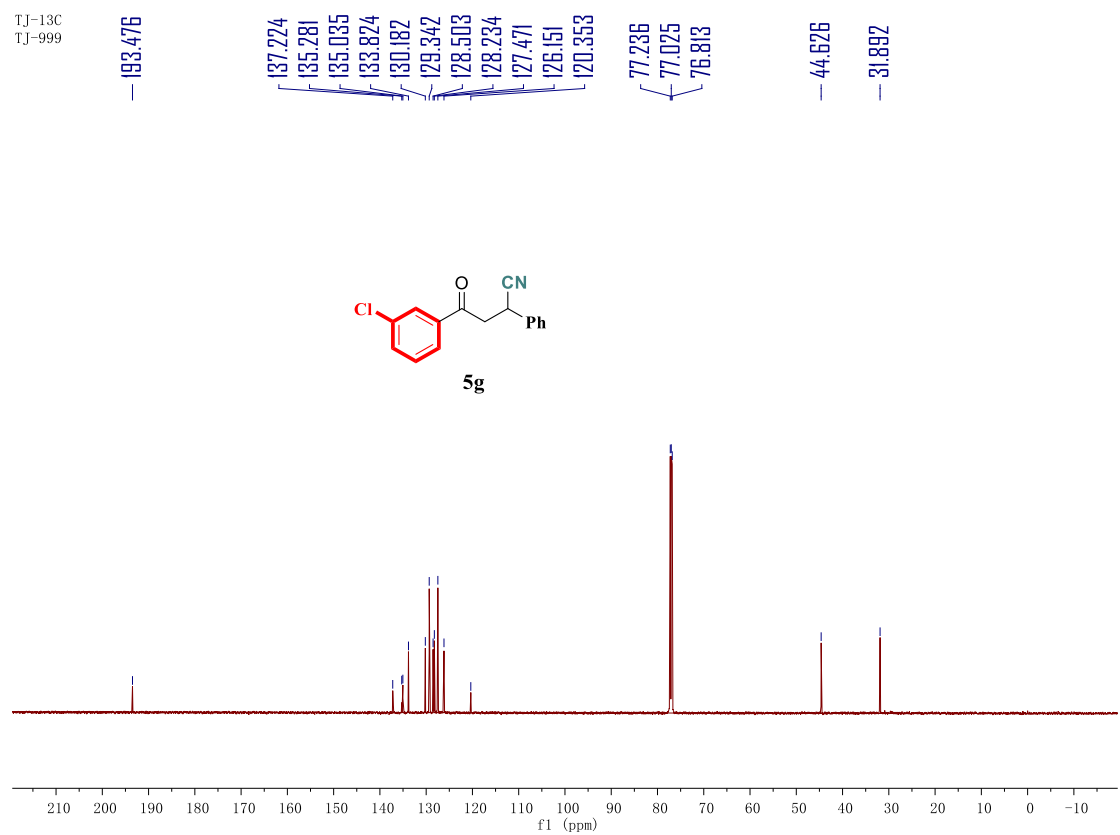
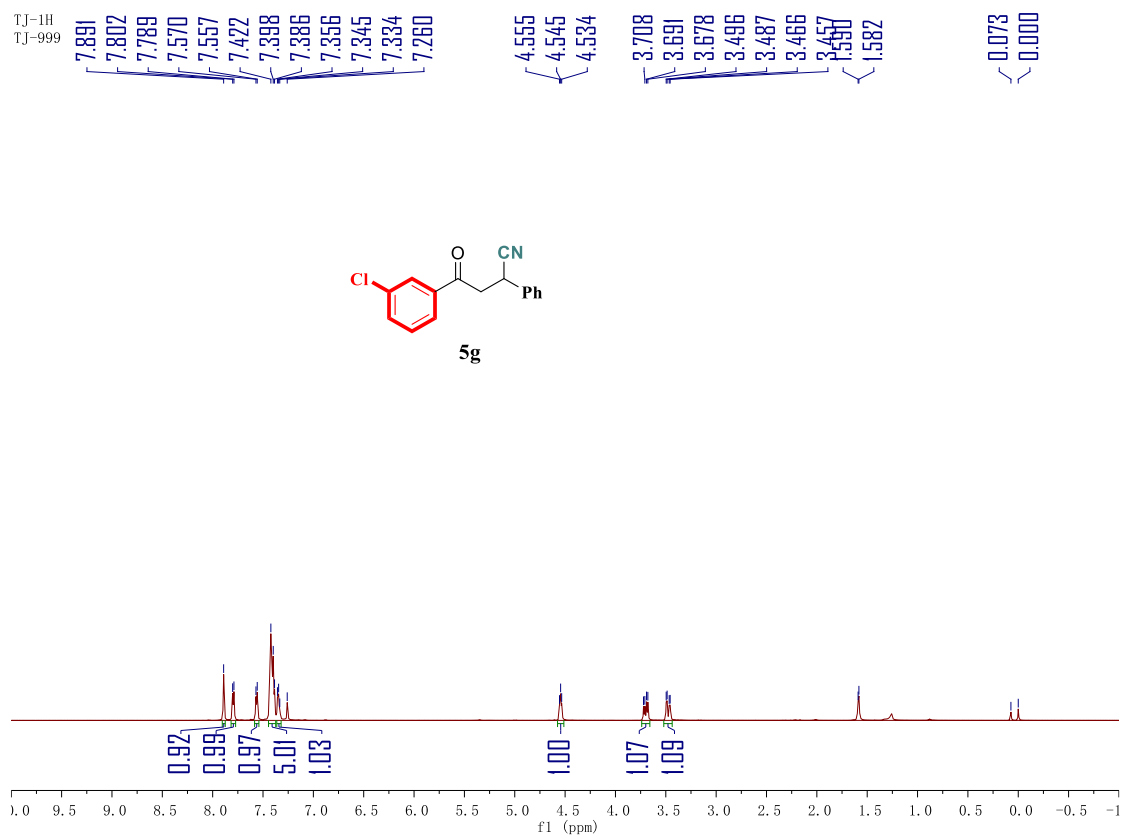
TJ-1H
TJ-1022

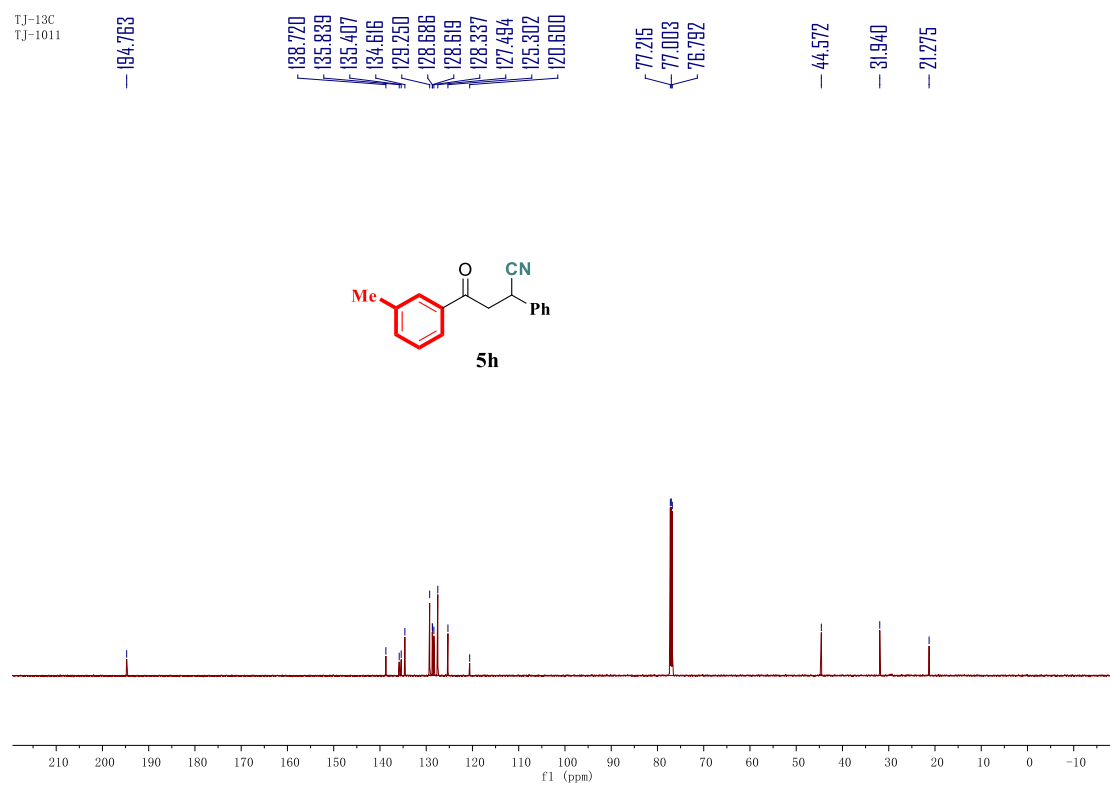
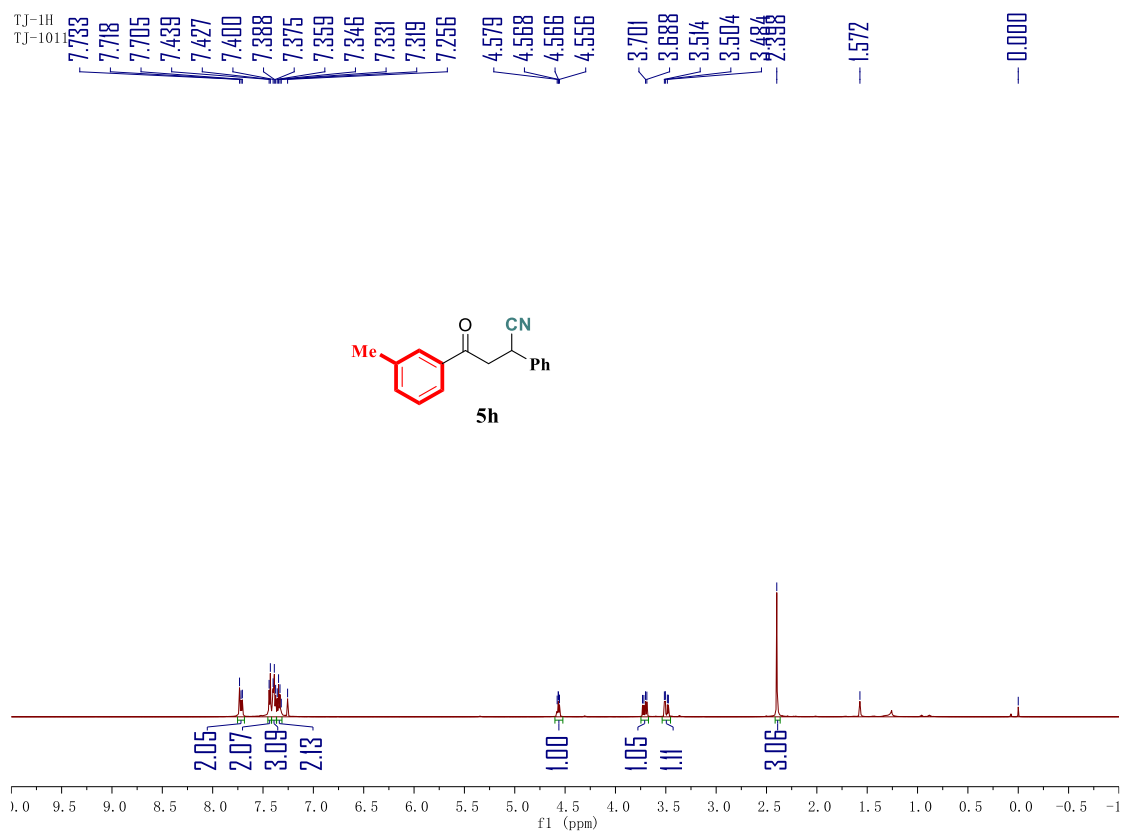


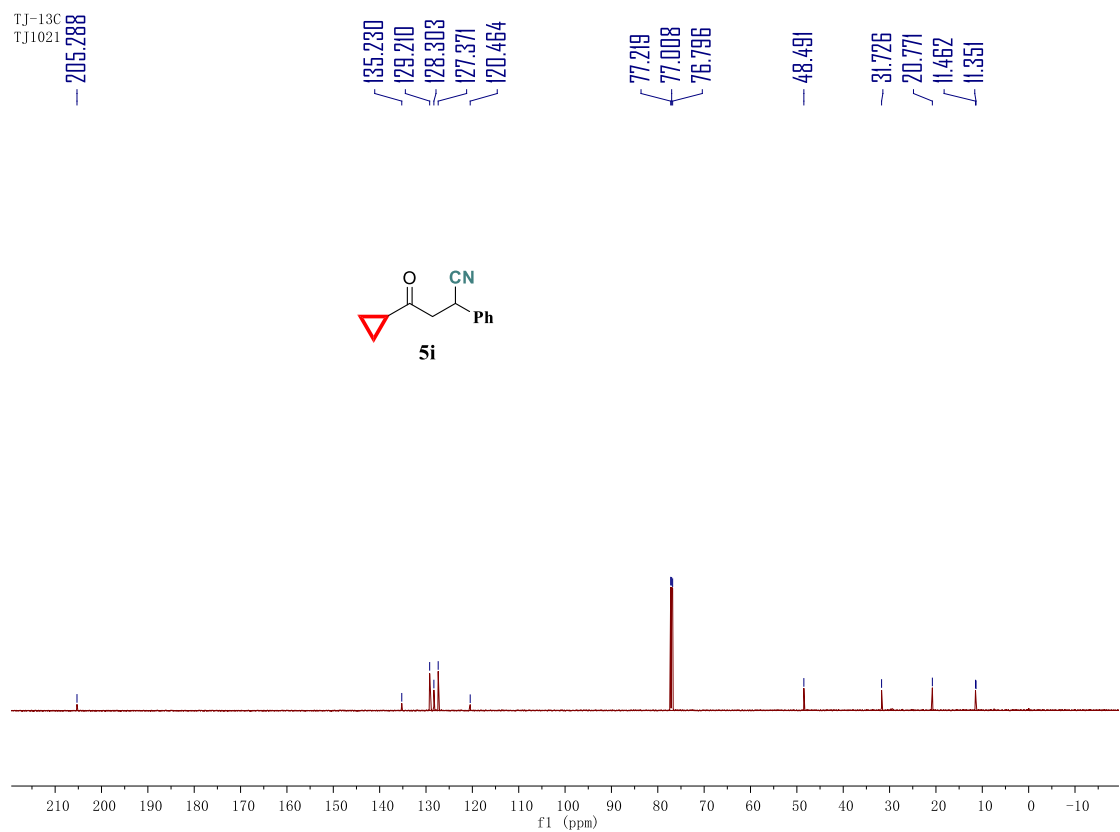
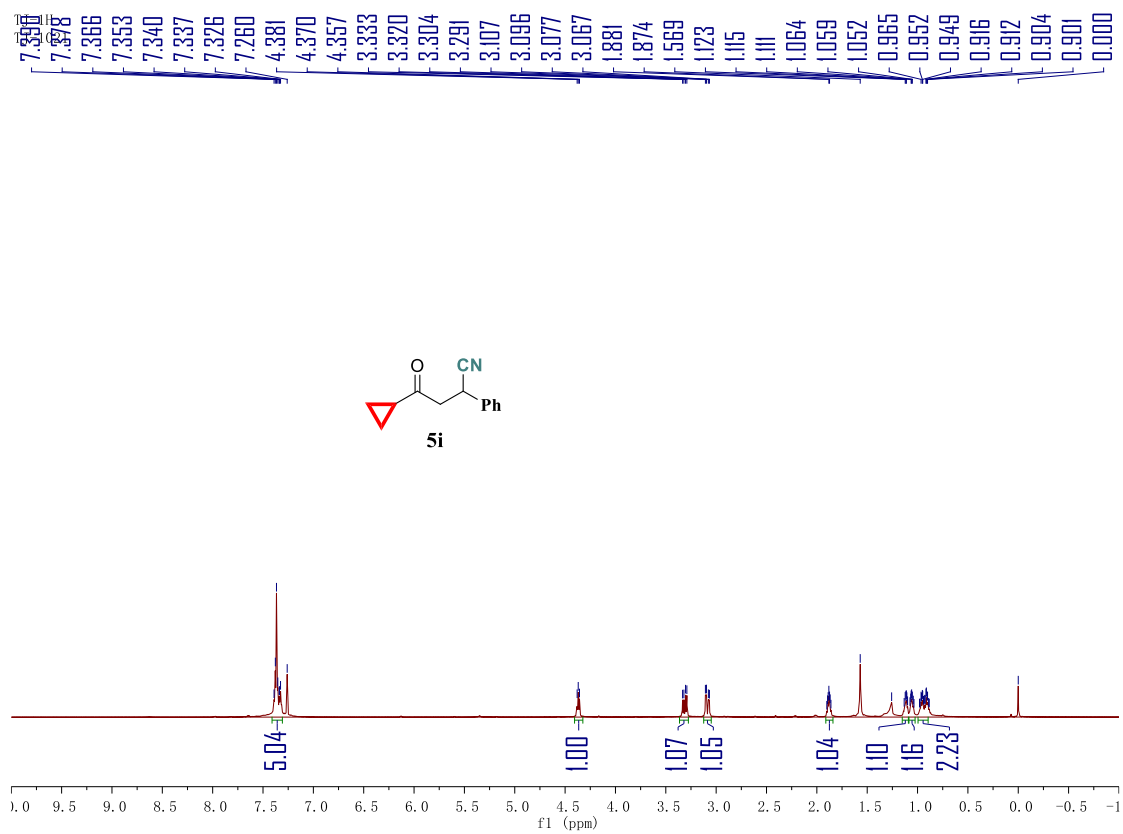
TJ-13C
TJ-1022

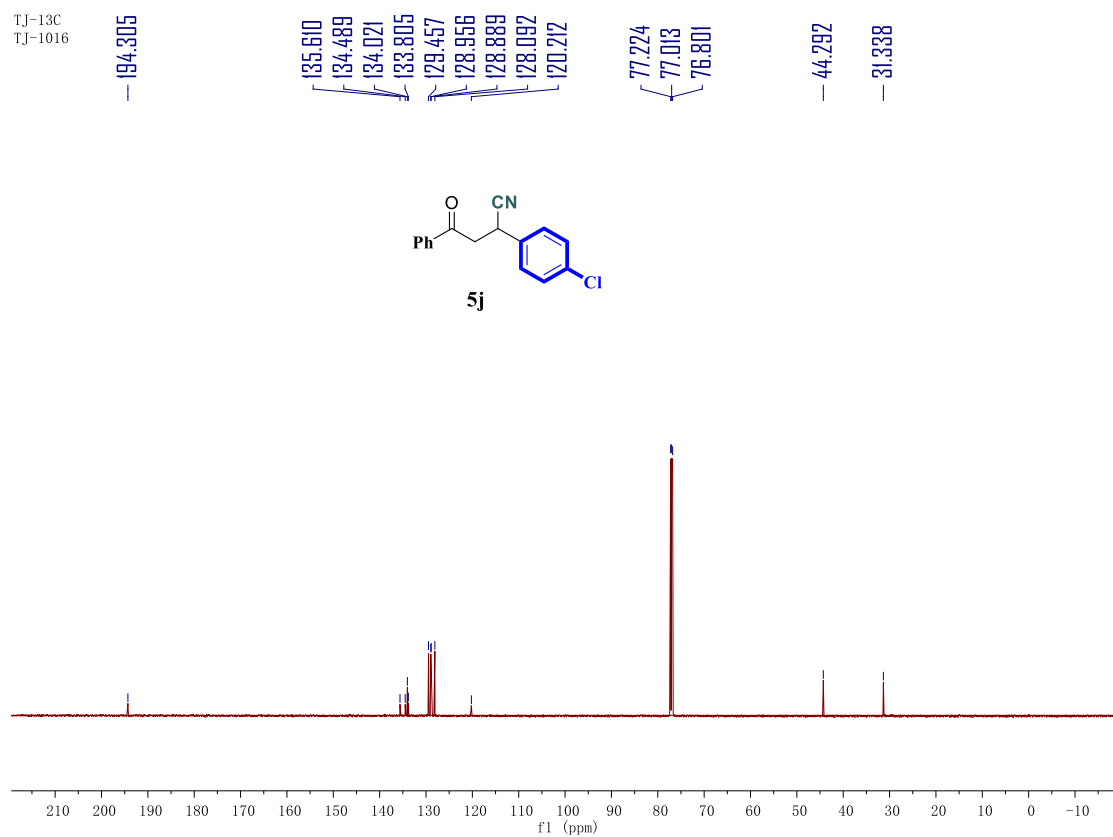
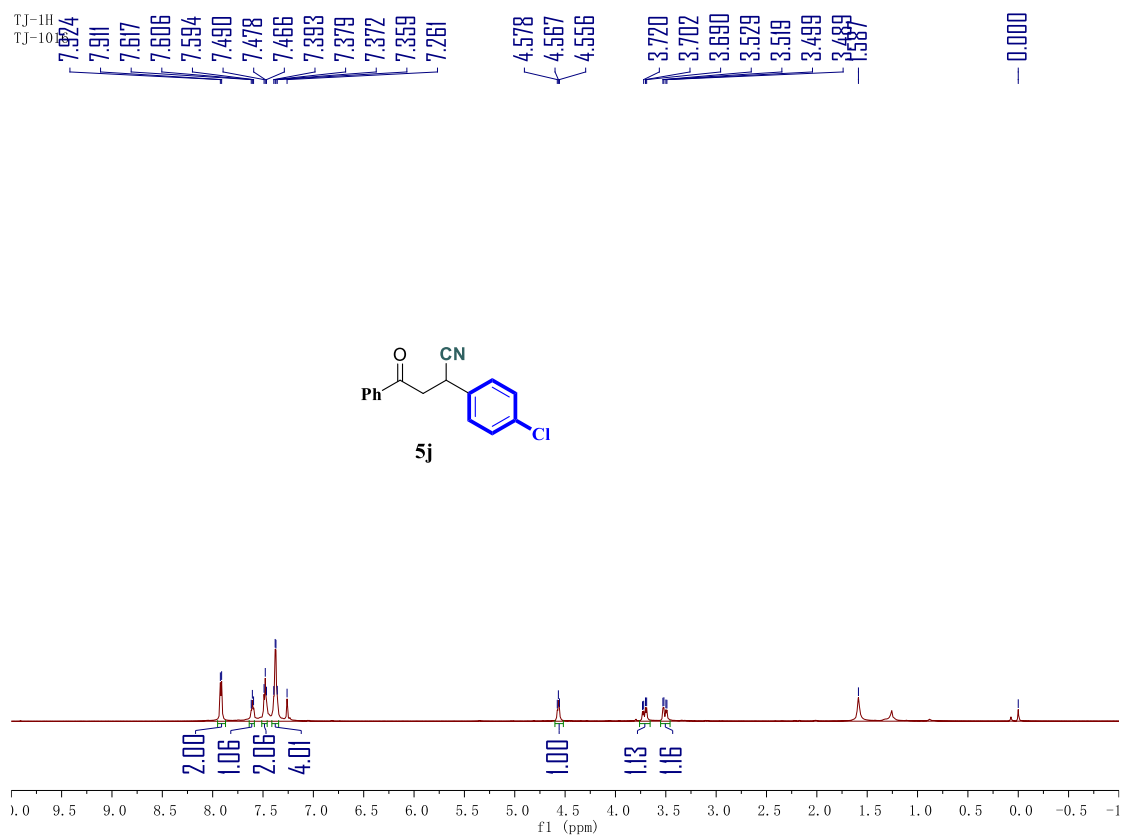


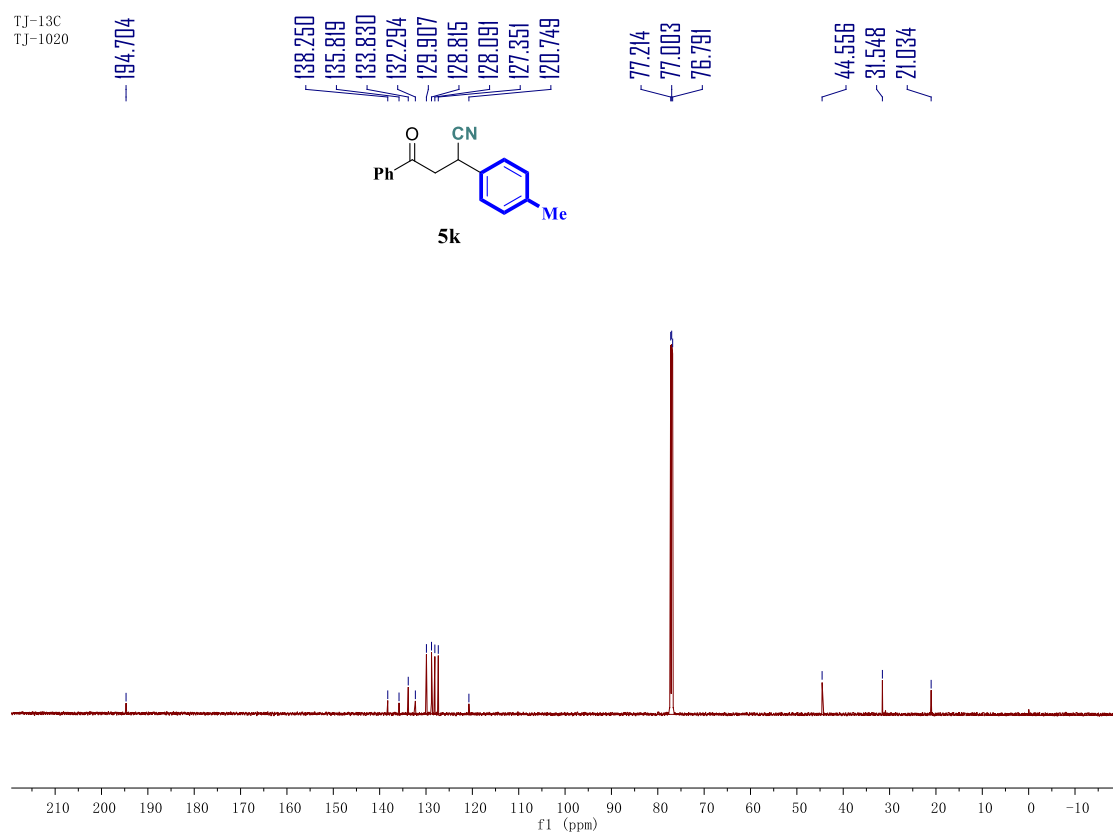
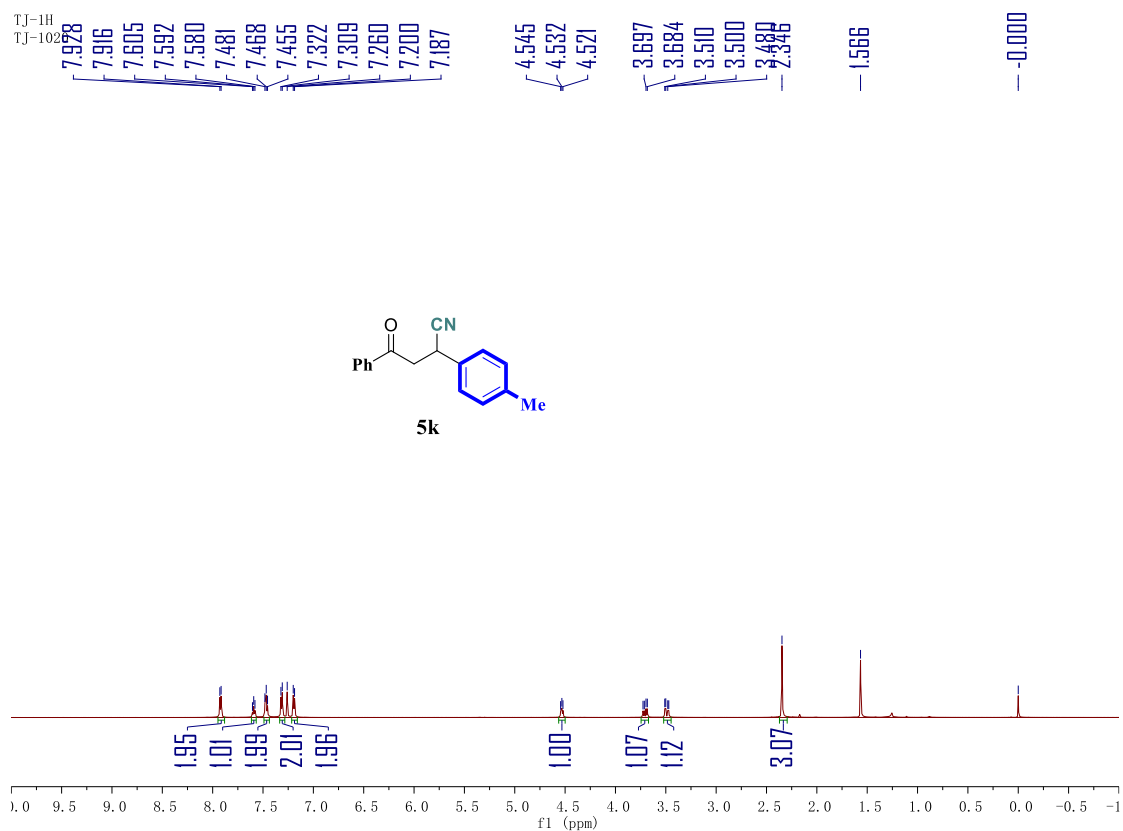


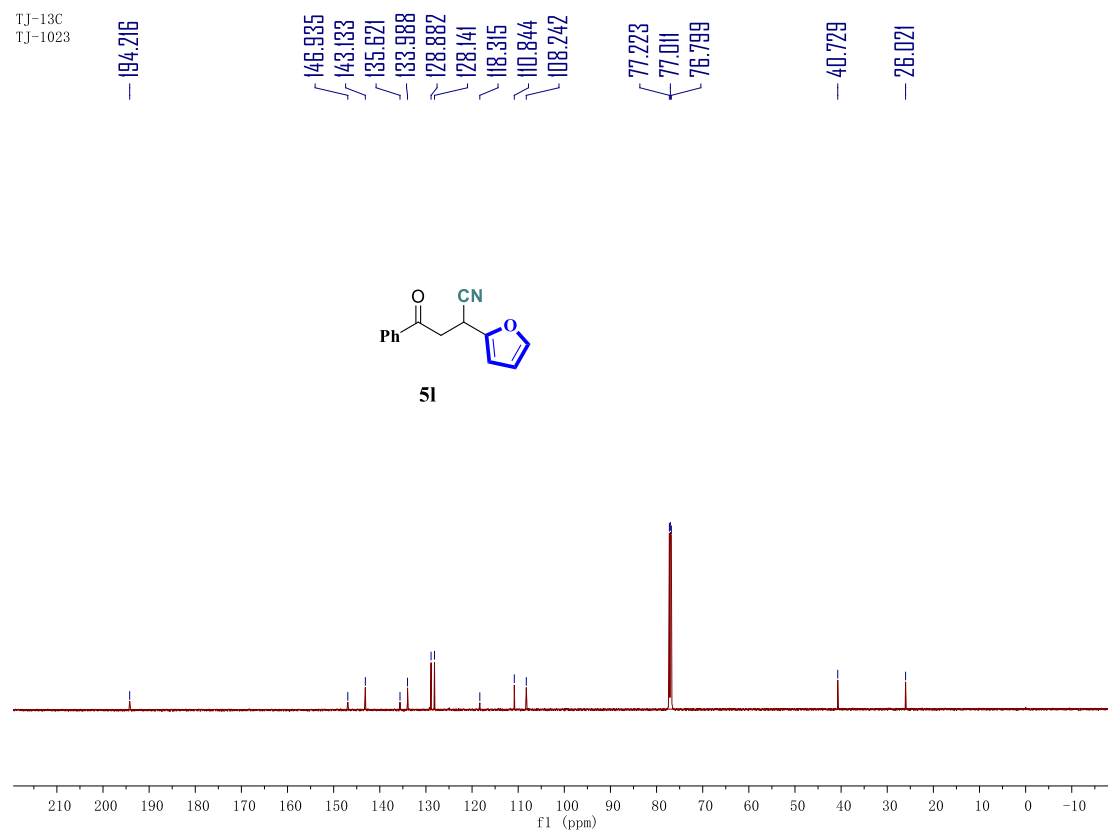
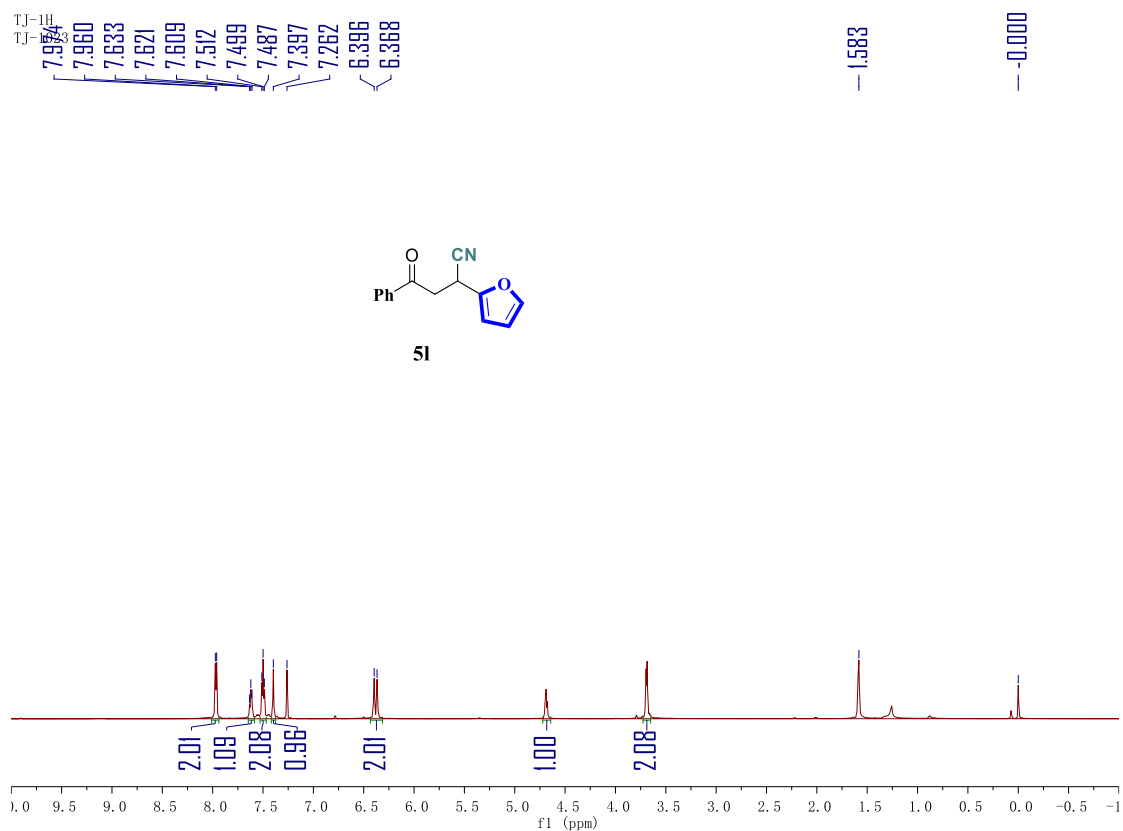


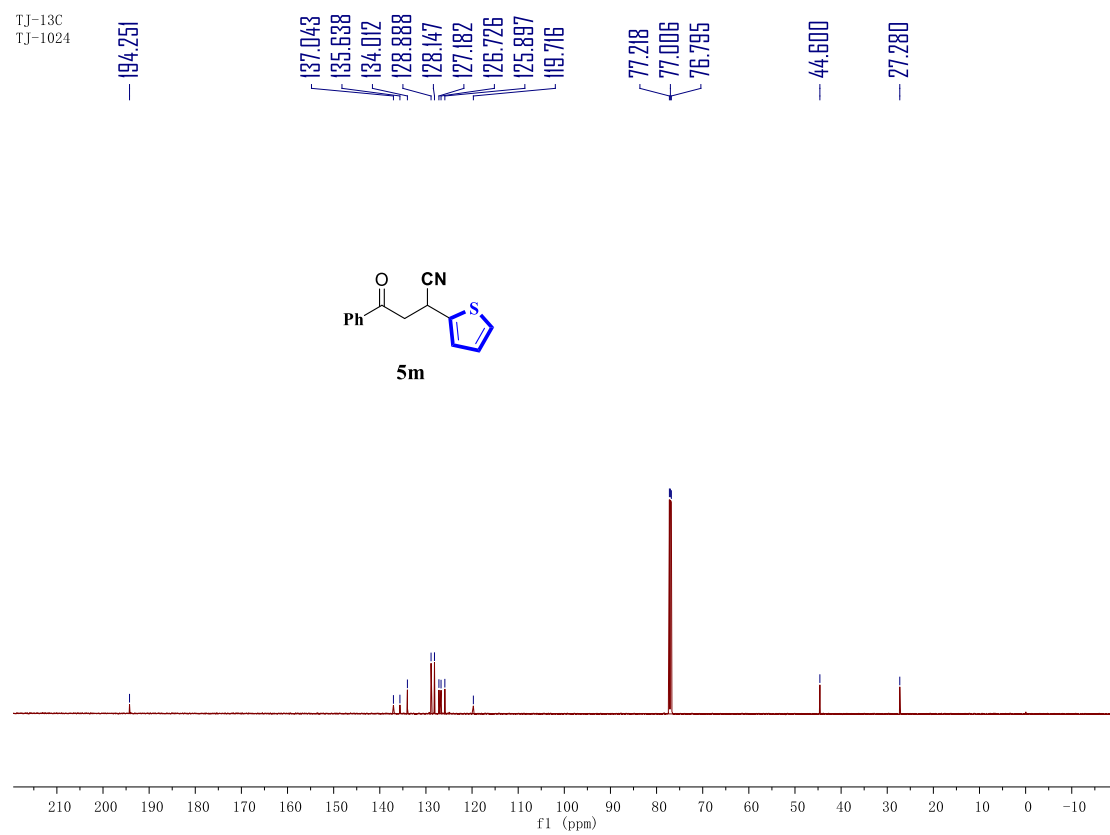
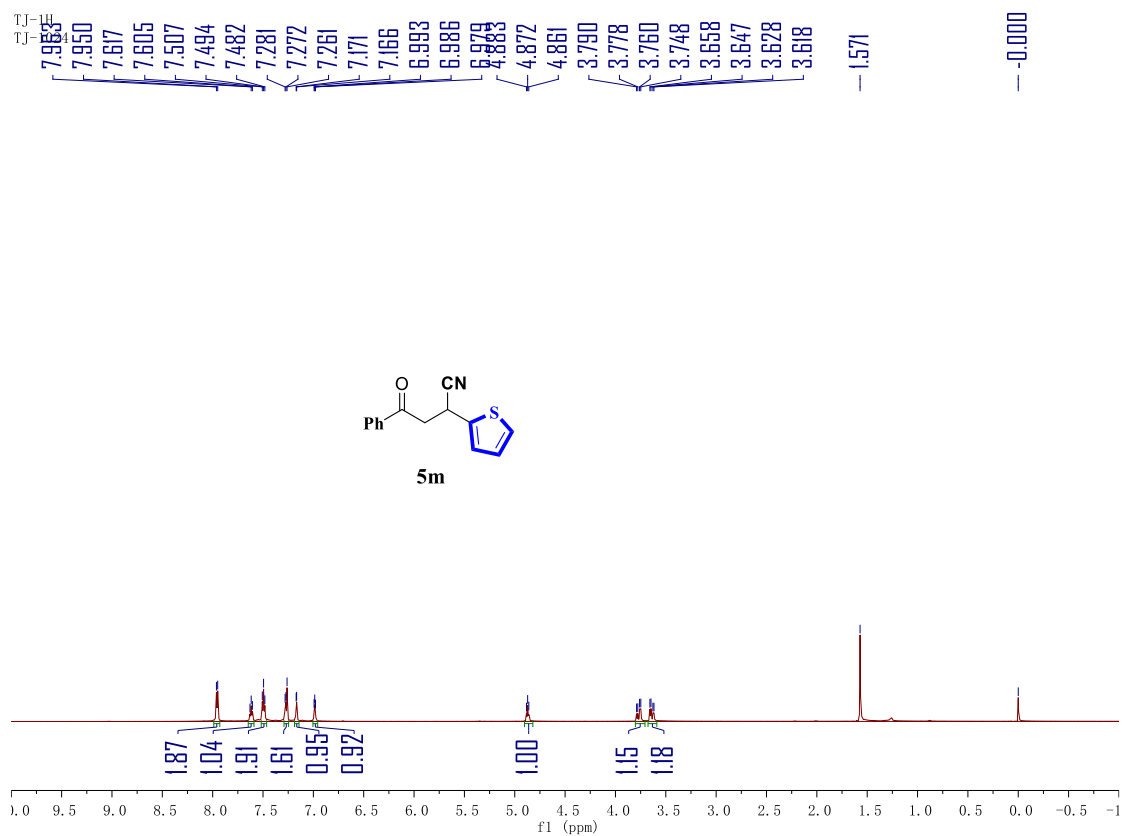


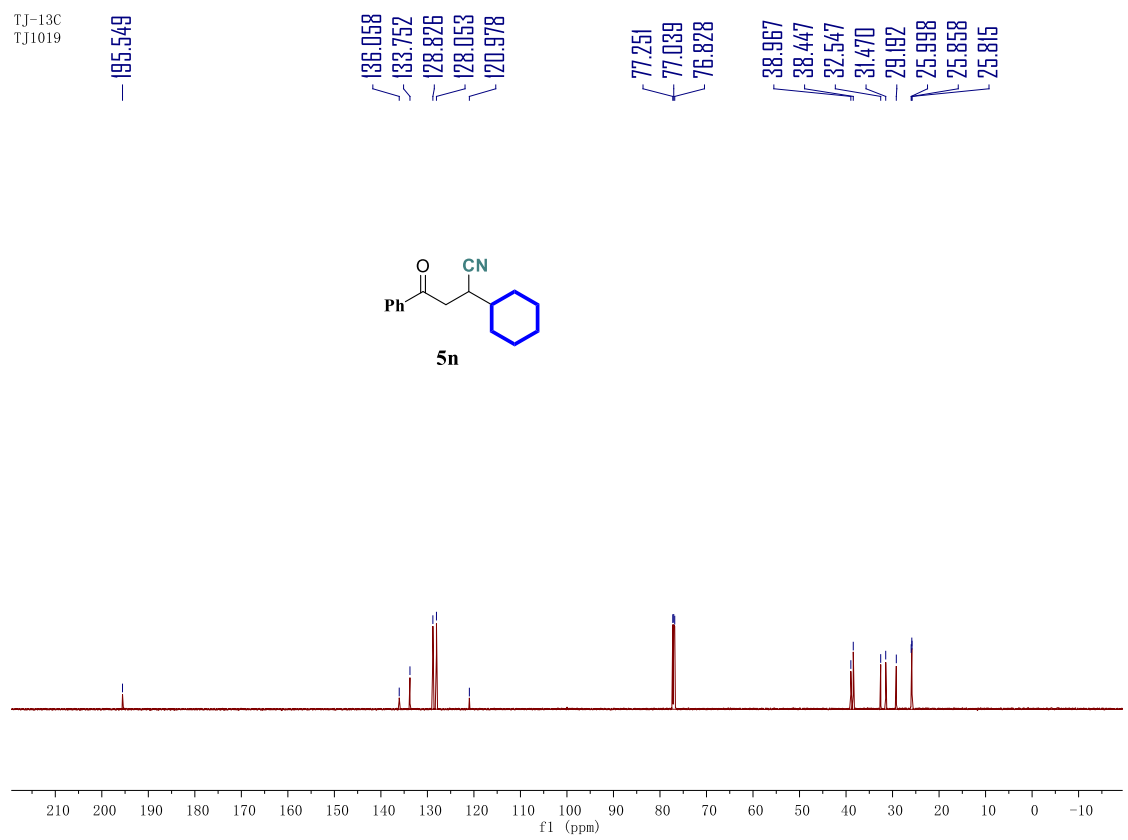
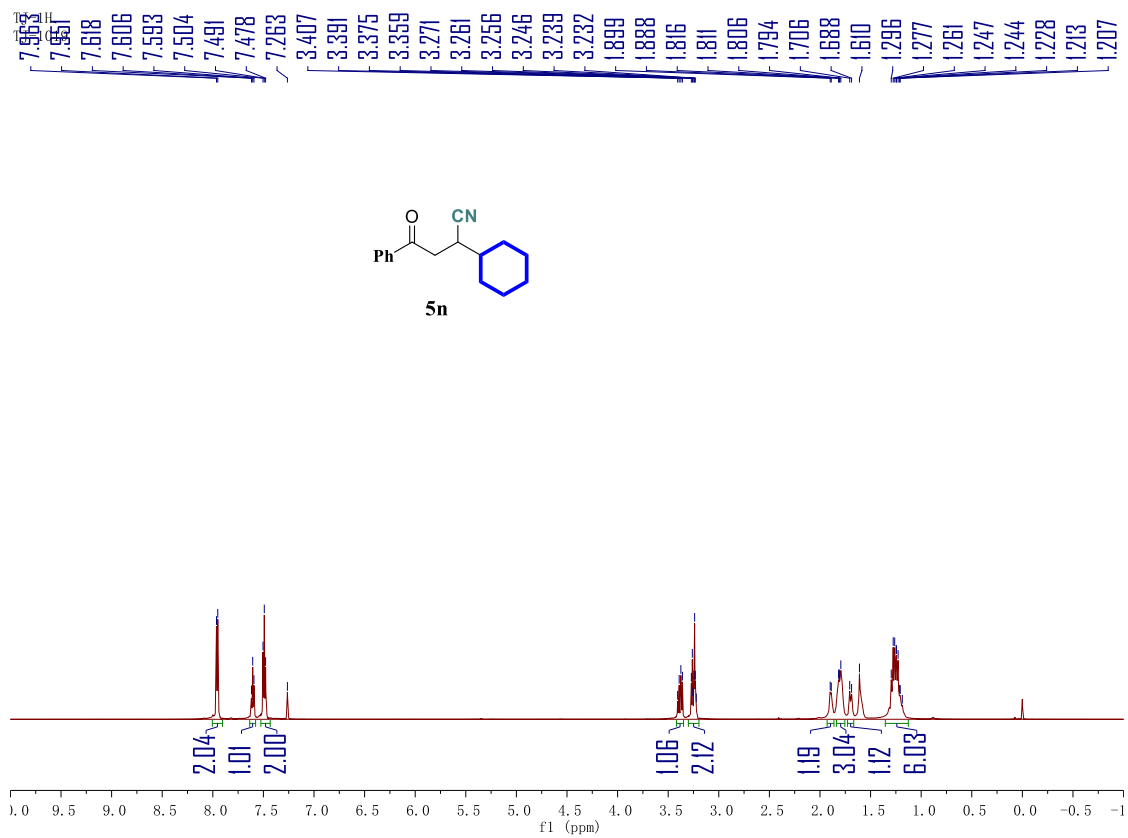




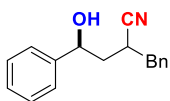




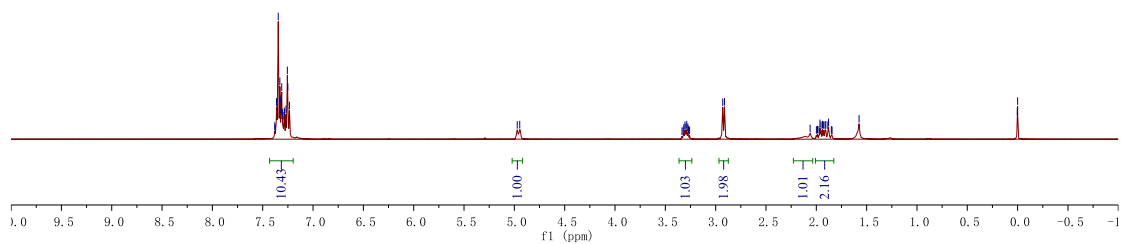




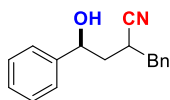
TJ-1060



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TJ-1060



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