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Supporting Information

Rh(III)-Catalyzed C-H Allylation/Annulative Markovnikov Addition with 5-Methylene-1,3-dioxan-2-one: Formation of Isoquinolilones Containing C3 Quaternary Centre

Yuanfei Zhang,^{*a,b} Xinghua Li,^a Jintong Bai,^a Zhaoyu Huang,^a Minhai Yin,^a Jiarong Sheng,^{*a} and Ying Song^{*a,b}

^aGuangxi Key Laboratory of Natural Polymer Chemistry and Physics, Nanning Normal University, Nanning 530001, China ^bState Key Laboratory of Structural Chemistry, Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fuzhou 350002, China

*E-mail: yfzhang@gxtc.edu.cn, shengjiarong99@163.com, ysong@gxtc.edu.cn

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I. General Information

All reactions were performed under Argon. The reagents used for experiments were purchased from Adamas, Aladdin, Accela, Sigma-Aldrich, Acros Organics, TCI, and Alfa Aesar and used as received unless otherwise noted. CH₃CN, DCM and DMF were distilled from CaH₂ under Argon. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 400 MHz, JNM-ECS 400 MHz and Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to TMS (0.00 ppm). Data were reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration. High resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) was recorded on a TOF MS mass spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (300-400 mesh). *N*-methoxybenzamides^{1.5} and 5-methylene-1,3-dioxan-2-one⁶ were prepared according to the literature procedures.

II. Optimization of the reaction conditions

N ^{OMe} +		Base, Solvent	OMe OH +
1	2	80 °C, 36 h 3a	3aa (OH
Entry	Additive	Solvent	$3a/3aa$, Yield $(\%)^b$
1	-	TFE	30/0
2	-	THF	0/0
3	-	HFIP	13/0
4	-	DCM	23/0
5	-	CH ₃ CN	0/0
6	-	DMF	0/0
10	HOAc	TFE	10/0
11	HOPiv	TFE	20/0
12	LiOAc	TFE	52/0
13	NaOAc	TFE	32/0
14	KOAc	TFE	31/0
15	Li ₂ CO ₃	TFE	87 /0
16	Na ₂ CO ₃	TFE	<10/0
17	K_2CO_3	TFE	<10/0
18	PivONa	TFE	34/0
19^{c}	Li ₂ CO ₃	TFE	0/21
20^d	Li ₂ CO ₃	TFE	0/0
21 ^e	Li ₂ CO ₃	TFE	0/0

Table S1. Optimization of reaction conditions^a

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol), $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), additive (0.2 mmol), 2 mL of solvent, 80 °C, 36 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}2.5 mol% of $[Cp*IrCl_2]_2$ was used instead of $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$. ^{*d*}5 mol% of $[Cp*Co(Co)I_2]$ was used instead of $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$. ^{*e*}In the absence of $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$.

III. General Procedure

Method I

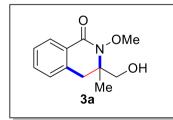
An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 0.0031 g), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%, 0.0069 g), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol, 0.0148 g), *N*-methoxybenzamides (0.2 mmol), 5-methylene-1,3-dioxan-2-one (0.3 mmol, 0.0342 g) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. Then, the septum was replaced by a Teflon screwcap under Argon flow. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product.

(Note: In some cases, the product isolated according to Method I was always accompanied with unidentified byproduct, therefore Method II was applied.)

Method II

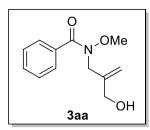
An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 0.0031 g), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%, 0.0069 g), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol, 0.0148 g), *N*-methoxybenzamides (0.2 mmol), 5-methylene-1,3-dioxan-2-one (0.3 mmol, 0.0342 g), TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. Then, the septum was replaced by a Teflon screwcap under Argon flow. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. Then 2M HCl (1 mL) and TFE (1 mL) were added to the crude product. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. Upon completion, the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product.

IV. Characterization data for the annulation products



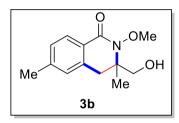
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoquin olin-1(2*H***)-one** (**3a**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (38.4 mg, 87%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 98-100 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz,

1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.77 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.98, 135.79, 132.62, 127.93, 127.79, 127.71, 126.91, 66.23, 65.33, 64.43, 37.97, 20.38. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 222.1130, found 222.1108.



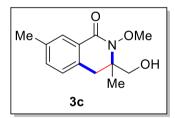
N-(2-(Hydroxymethyl)allyl)-*N*-methoxybenzamide (3aa): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I) using 2.5 mol% of [Cp*IrCl₂]₂ instead of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂. Colorless oil (9.3 mg, 21%; eluent: 10%-30% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz,) δ 7.70 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 5.19 (d, J = 18.4 Hz, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 170.27, 143.71, 133.43, 131.08, 128.38,

128.20, 115.08, 63.88, 62.27, 49.34. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{12}H_{16}NO_3 [M+H]^+$: 222.1130, found 222.1114.



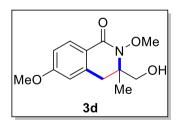
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3,6-dimethyl-3,4-dihydroisoqu inolin-1(*2H***)-one (3b):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (40.4 mg, 86%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 66-68 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz,

1H), 3.65 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.24, 143.26, 135.75, 128.29, 128.03, 127.79, 125.20, 66.30, 65.32, 64.43, 37.95, 21.57, 20.28. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 236.1287, found 236.1283.



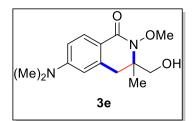
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3,7-dimethyl-3,4-dihydroisoqui nolin-1(*2H*)-one (3c): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (33.9 mg, 72%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 134-136°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H),

3.53-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.37 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 164.12, 136.24, 133.70, 133.55, 128.48, 128.08, 127.64, 65.30, 64.35, 63.96, 36.98, 21.06, 20.46. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 236.1287, found 236.1274.



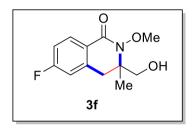
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2,6-dimethoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoqui nolin-1(*2H***)-one (3d):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (40.2 mg, 80%; eluent: 10%-30% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 98-100°C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82-6.80 (m, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 11.1

Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.29, 163.02, 138.10, 130.04, 120.48, 112.61, 112.54, 65.82, 65.28, 64.38, 55.37, 38.05, 20.17. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 252.1236, found 252.1219.



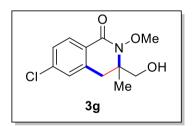
6-(Dimethylamino)-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(*2H*)-one (**3e**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). Yellow solid (24.3 mg, 46%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 84-86 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d,

J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.72 (dd, J = 25.9, 11.2 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (s, 6H), 2.86 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.31, 153.16, 137.42, 129.80, 115.28, 110.15, 109.32, 66.81, 65.16, 64.53, 40.06, 38.69, 19.88. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₂₁N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 265.1552, found 265.1542.



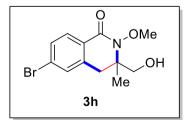
6-Fluoro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydr oisoquinolin-1(2*H***)-one (3f):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (33.5 mg, 70%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 118-120 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s,

3H), 3.79 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.31 (d, J = 253.9 Hz), 164.29, 138.79 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 130.74 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 124.18 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 114.48 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 114.26 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 66.05, 65.26, 64.45, 37.92, 20.44. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -106.55. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 240.1036, found 240.1018.



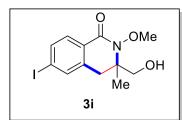
6-Chloro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydr oisoquinolin-1(*2H*)-**one** (**3g**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (32.7 mg, 64%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 95-97°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.79

(d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97-2.92 (m, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.17, 138.73, 137.52, 129.57, 127.64, 127.36, 126.44, 66.31, 65.28, 64.50, 37.80, 20.49. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅ClNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 256.0740, found 256.0723.



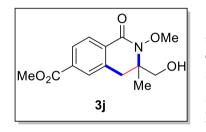
6-Bromo-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydr oisoquinolin-1(*2H***)-one (3h):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (31.2 mg, 52%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 68-70 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H),

3.77 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.65, 164.29, 137.82, 130.61, 130.23, 129.53, 127.32, 126.83, 65.83, 65.35, 64.42, 37.61, 20.54. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C12H15BrNO3 [M+H]⁺: 300.0235, found 300.0220.



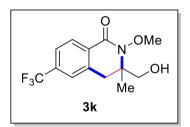
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-6-iodo-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroi soquinolin-1(*2H*)-**one** (**3i**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (56.9 mg, 82%; 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 82-84 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 11.2

Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.41, 137.49, 136.55, 136.34, 129.51, 127.48, 100.05, 66.44, 65.29, 64.52, 37.59, 20.51. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅INO₃ [M+H]⁺: 348.0097, found 348.0086.



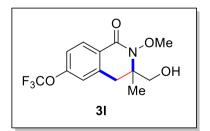
Methyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3 ,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-6-carboxylate (3j): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I) and then recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/ hexane. White solid (34.1 mg, 61%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H),

3.92 (s, 3H), 3.81 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.32, 163.89, 135.96, 133.44, 131.63, 128.88, 128.00, 127.83, 66.09, 65.32, 64.41, 52.44, 37.87, 20.59. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 280.1185, found 280.1171.



3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(*2H*)-one (3k): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (49.2 mg, 85%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 68-70 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.80 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 11.3,

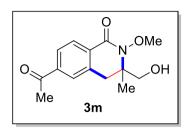
5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.57, 136.58, 134.02 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 131.04, 128.49, 124.58 (q, J = 3.75 Hz), 123.74 (q, J = 3.77 Hz), 123.57 (q, J = 271.6 Hz), 66.24, 65.27, 64.47, 37.97, 20.68. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.07. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₅F₃NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 290.1004, found 290.0996.



3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-(trifluorometh oxy)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(*2H*)-one (**3**l): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). Colorless oil (47.6 mg, 78%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, J = 19.8, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.80 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, J = 11.2 Hz,

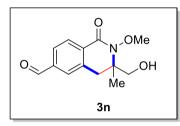
1H), 3.41 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 163.88, 152.20, 138.19, 130.22, 126.33, 120.26 (q, *J* = 259.6 Hz), 119.21, 118.86, 66.34, 65.26, 64.48, 37.98, 20.52. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -57.58. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₅F₃NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 306.0953, found 306.0957.



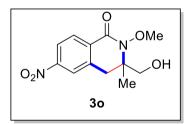
6-Acetyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydr oisoquinolin-1(*2H***)-one (3m):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). Yellow solid (47.4 mg, 90%; eluent: 10%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 89-91 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, *J* =

16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.75, 163.84, 139.89, 136.19, 131.71, 128.31, 127.35, 126.80, 66.33, 65.31, 64.48, 38.06, 26.86, 20.66. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 264.1236, found 264.1234.



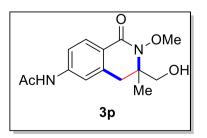
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrah ydroisoquinoline-6-carbaldehyde (3n): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (21.4 mg, 43%; eluent: 10%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 54-56 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.05 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* =

16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.69, 163.61, 138.87, 136.59, 132.91, 128.76, 128.54, 128.18, 66.53, 65.22, 64.53, 38.01, 20.70.HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₆NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 250.1079, found 250.1071.



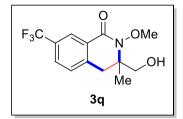
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-6-nitro-3,4-dihydro isoquinolin-1(*2H*)-**one** (**3o**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II).Yellow solid (38.3 mg, 72%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 130-132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.17-8.14 (m, 2H), 8.10 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s,

3H), 3.56 (dd, J = 11.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 9.5, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 162.10, 149.97, 138.93, 133.88, 128.85, 123.30, 121.91, 65.34, 64.89, 64.13, 37.53, 20.98. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺: 267.0981, found 267.0973.



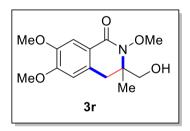
N-(3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-t etrahydroisoquinolin-6-yl)acetamide (3p): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (50.1 mg, 90%; eluent: 1%-5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂). Mp: 176-178 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.20 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s,

3H), 3.51 (dd, J = 10.7, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR NMR (101 MHz,) δ 169.37, 164.05, 143.43, 137.81, 128.64, 122.85, 117.68, 117.24, 100.00, 65.27, 64.02, 31.85, 29.60, 29.58, 29.54, 29.27, 24.70, 22.66, 20.47, 14.52. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₉N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 279.1345, found 279.1343.



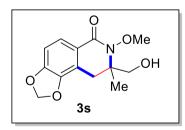
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-7-(trifluoromethyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2*H***)-one (3**q): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (32.4 mg, 56%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 127-129 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz,

1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.83 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.63, 139.75, 129.56 (q, J = 33.2 Hz), 128.93 (q, J = 3.75 Hz), 128.66, 128.26, 124.99 (q, J = 3.62 Hz), 123.77 (q, J = 272.5 Hz), 66.31, 65.24, 64.46, 38.10, 20.72. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.64. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₅F₃NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 290.1004, found 290.1003.



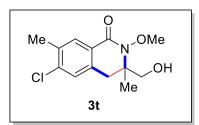
3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2,6,7-trimethoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydrois oquinolin-1(*2H*)**-one** (**3r**)**:** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (34.9 mg, 62%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 117-119 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.54 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (d, *J* =

16.3 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 165.34, 152.60, 147.93, 129.67, 120.11, 109.93, 109.86, 65.90, 65.50, 64.35, 56.04, 55.99, 37.48, 20.16. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₂₀NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 282.1341, found 282.1337.



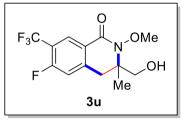
8-(Hydroxymethyl)-7-methoxy-8-methyl-8,9-dihydro-[1,3]dio xolo[4,5-*f*]isoquinolin-6(7*H*)-one (3s): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid 44.0 mg, 83%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (dd, *J* = 4.7, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H),

3.29 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.99, 150.81, 144.39, 123.38, 122.17, 116.82, 106.97, 102.00, 66.12, 65.06, 64.37, 31.43, 20.55. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₆NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 266.1028, found 266.1025.



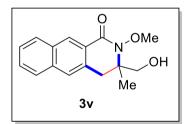
6-Chloro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3,7-dimethyl-3,4dihydroisoquinolin-1(2*H***)-one (3t**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (41.0 mg, 76%; eluent: 10%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 87-89 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.90

(d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.44, 138.84, 134.89, 134.69, 130.22, 128.08, 126.25, 66.03, 65.41, 64.41, 37.25, 20.44, 19.63. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₆ClNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 270.0897, found 270.0899.



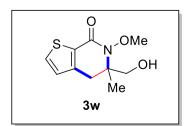
6-Fluoro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-7-(trifluor omethyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(*2H*)-**one** (**3u**): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (47.3 mg, 77%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 127-129 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (dd, J = 21.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 10.1 Hz,

1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.86 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.04, 161.88 (d, J = 263.9 Hz), 143.03 (d, J = 9.4 Hz), 127.87-127.80 (m), 124.60 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 122.19 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 118.14, 117.92-117.04 (m), 115.92 (d, J = 21.6 Hz), 66.31, 65.23, 64.48, 38.19, 20.85. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.38 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), -108.66 (q, J = 12.9 Hz). HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃F₄NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 308.0910, found 308.0904.



3-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydrobenzo[*g*]**isoquinolin-1**(*2H*)**-one** (**3v**)**:** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). White solid (36.3 mg, 67%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 156-158 ^oC. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4

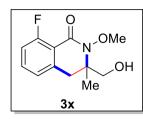
Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 163.11, 134.67, 132.24, 131.14, 129.03, 127.99, 127.87, 126.83, 126.43, 125.95, 125.89, 64.69, 64.11, 63.52, 37.29, 20.17. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 272.1287, found 272.1279.



5-(Hydroxymethyl)-6-methoxy-5-methyl-5,6-dihydrothieno[2,**3-***c*]**pyridin-7(***4H***)-one (3w):** The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I). Yellow oil (19.1 mg, 42%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s,

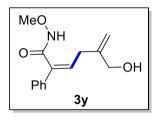
3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 162.83, 141.81, 132.42, 129.54, 127.24, 77.43, 77.11, 76.79,

67.37, 65.79, 64.59, 34.21, 20.15. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{10}H_{14}NO_3S$ [M+H]⁺: 228.0694, found 228.0688.



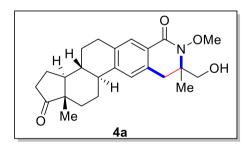
8-Fluoro-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoq uinolin-1(2*H*)-one (3x): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (8.1 mg, 7%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 160-162 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.40 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.83 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 3.5 Hz,

1H), 3.65 (dd, J = 11.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 162.34 (d, J = 262.7 Hz), 161.83 (d, J = 4.2 Hz), 161.03, 138.56, 133.77 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 123.53 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 115.81 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 66.70, 64.69, 64.57, 38.40, 38.37, 20.38. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl3) δ -111.20. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₄FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 240.1036, found 240.1031.



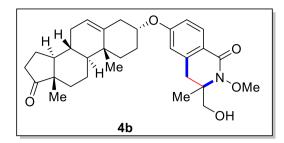
(Z)-5-(hydroxymethyl)-*N*-methoxy-2-phenylhexa-2,5-dienamide (3y): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method I) on 1 mmol scale at rt. Pale yellow oil (152.7 mg, 61%; eluent: 10%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.47 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.00 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.02 (d, *J* =

8.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.55, 145.95, 136.57, 135.75, 131.78, 128.60, 128.07, 126.21, 113.11, 65.46, 64.00, 34.21. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 248.1287, found 248.1281.



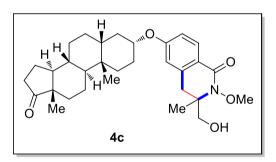
(*3aS*, *3bR*, *9S*, *11bS*, *13aS*)-9-(Hydroxymethyl)-8-meth oxy-9,13a-dimethyl-3,3a,3b,4,5,8,9,10,11b,12,13,13a -dodecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[5,6]naphtho[1,2-g]iso quinoline-1,7(*2H*)-dione (4a): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (62.8 mg, 79%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 230-232 °C. ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.77 (dd, J = 11.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, J = 11.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J = 16.2, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94-2.88 (m, 3H), 2.51 (dd, J = 18.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.43-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.00 (m, 3H), 1.97 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.71-1.40 (m, 7H), 1.38 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.16, 144.89, 135.39, 135.37, 132.82, 128.36, 125.38, 125.35, 124.63, 66.55, 66.47, 65.42, 64.44, 50.54, 47.87, 44.59, 37.93, 37.78, 35.83, 31.54, 28.89, 26.31, 25.64, 25.60, 21.58, 20.36, 20.28, 13.81. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₄H₃₂NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 398.2331, found 398.2315.



6-((((3R,8R,9S,10R,13S,14S)-10,13-Dimethyl-17-oxo-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tet radecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-yl)oxy)-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-m ethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2*H*)-one (4b): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). Mp:

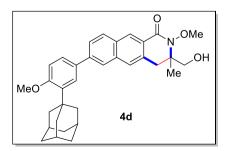
195-197 °C. White solid (37.5 mg, 37%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.77 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (ddd, J = 41.5, 32.8, 15.1 Hz, 4H), 2.17-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.98-1.93 (m, 3H), 1.83 (ddd, J = 16.4, 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 1.77-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.58-1.42 (m, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.31 (dd, J = 12.9, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (s, 1H), 1.19 (dd, J = 11.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.27, 161.35, 138.45, 137.78, 130.15, 121.74, 120.25, 114.76, 114.20, 72.74, 66.57, 65.21, 64.49, 51.79, 49.98, 47.58, 38.19, 37.07, 36.22, 36.20, 35.87, 33.08, 31.43, 30.74, 29.70, 25.76, 25.73, 21.87, 20.14, 20.07, 19.04, 13.56. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₁H₄₂NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 508.3063, found 508.3056.



6-(((*3R*,5*R*,8*R*,9*S*,10*S*,13*S*,14*S*)-10,13-Dimethyl-17-oxohexadecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phena nthren-3-yl)oxy)-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy

-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2*H*)-one (4c): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (55.0 mg, 54%; eluent: 10%-40% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 185-187 °C. ¹H NMR (400

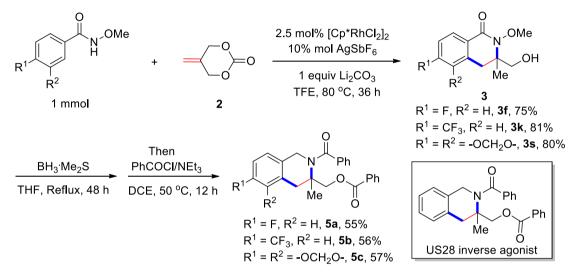
MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 1H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (dd, *J* = 19.2, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.11-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.89 (ddd, *J* = 20.1, 13.1, 9.1 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 2H), 1.71-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.55 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.53-1.44 (m, 3H), 1.34 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 2.9 Hz, 4H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.26-1.18 (m, 4H), 0.99 (qd, *J* = 12.0, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 165.31, 165.29, 161.36, 138.01, 130.13, 120.06, 114.29, 113.86, 72.07, 66.09, 66.07, 65.23, 64.41, 54.23, 51.45, 47.81, 39.60, 38.08, 35.92, 35.84, 35.00, 32.57, 31.52, 30.73, 28.06, 25.62, 25.58, 21.73, 20.15, 20.10, 20.06, 13.82, 11.41. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₁H₄₄NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 510.3219, found 510.3217.



7-(3-((3S,5S,7S)-Adamantan-1-yl)-4-methoxyphenyl)-3 -(hydroxymethyl)-2-methoxy-3-methyl-3,4-dihydroben zo[g]isoquinolin-1(2H)-one (4d): The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure (Method II). White solid (76.6 mg, 77%; eluent: 10%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 225-227 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (t, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.51 (s, 1H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 6H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 6H), 1.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 163.77, 159.02, 140.54, 138.49, 135.79, 133.12, 132.16, 130.53, 130.16, 128.18, 126.76, 126.60, 126.13, 125.71, 125.54, 123.89, 113.16, 65.27, 64.70, 64.11, 55.79, 37.95, 37.06, 37.02, 28.88, 20.71. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₃H₃₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 512.2801, found 512.2781.

V. Synthetic applications

Synthesis of the analogs of US28 inverse agonist⁷⁻⁸:



Step 1:

An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (1 mmol), **1f** or **1k** or **1s** (1 mmol), 5-methylene-1,3-dioxan-2-one (1.5 mmol) and TFE (5 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. Then, the septum was replaced by a Teflon screwcap under Argon flow. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product **3f** or **3k** or **3s**. **Step 2:**

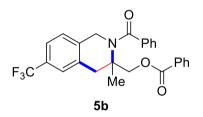
To a solution of **3f** or **3k** or **3s** (0.3 mmol) in dried THF (4 mL) was added $BH_3 \cdot Me_2S$ (2.0 M in THF, 0.9 mL, 1.8 mmol) dropwise in an ice-bath. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2.5 h, then heated to reflux for 48 h. After cooling to 0 °C , 10% HCl was added slowly to quench the reaction, and the resulting solution was refluxed for 1.5 h. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C again, and 12 N NaOH was added until pH > 10. The mixture was extracted with Et_2O for three times, and the combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was used without further purification. The crude product obtained above was dissolved in a mixture of

1,2-dichloroethane (15 mL) and triethylamine (1.2 mmol) under argon atmosphere. The acid chloride (1.2 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. Afterwards, 1,2-dichloroethane was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was acidified to pH 1 with 3M HCl, extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated Na₂CO₃ solution and brine. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product 5**a-c**.



(2-Benzoyl-6-fluoro-3-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-3yl)methyl benzoate (5a): White solid (66.5 mg, 55%; eluent: 5%-20% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 130-132°C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.85 (td, *J* = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 11.0

Hz, 1H), 4.37 (q, J = 14.6 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.44, 166.03, 162.54 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 138.05 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 137.96, 133.10, 130.93 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 130.03, 129.65, 129.49, 128.66, 128.44, 126.57, 126.42 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 114.99 (d, J = 22.0 Hz), 113.40 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 67.55, 59.05, 49.72, 40.75, 21.94. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -113.80. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₅H₂₃FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 404.1662, found 404.1643.



(2-Benzoyl-3-methyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroi soquinolin-3-yl)methyl benzoate (5b): White solid (76.2 mg, 56%; eluent: 5%-20% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 105-109 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.487.35 (m, 8H), 7.10 (d, J =7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 11.1 Hz,

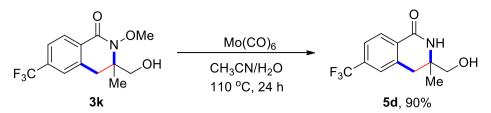
1H), 4.52-4.39 (m, 2H), 3.35 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.50, 165.99, 138.96, 137.87, 136.82, 133.10, 130.51 (q, J = 35.5 Hz), 129.88, 129.77, 129.43, 128.72, 128.42, 126.57, 125.27, 124.41 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.92 (q, J = 269.3 Hz), 123.83 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.82, 67.66, 59.19, 49.94, 40.76, 22.09. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.41. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₆H₂₃F₃NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 454.1630, found 454.1617.



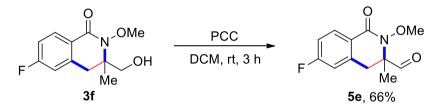
(7-Benzoyl-8-methyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-f]isoq uinolin-8-yl)methyl benzoate (5c): White solid (73.4 mg, 57%; eluent: 5%-20% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 98-100 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 3H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 1.4

Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.22 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.57, 166.02, 147.22, 144.92, 138.07, 133.02, 130.07, 129.62, 129.57, 129.48, 128.60, 128.40, 126.65, 117.61, 116.68, 106.17, 101.23, 67.74, 58.99, 49.79, 33.98, 22.09. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₆H₂₄NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 430.1654, found 430.1634.

Transformations of 3⁹:



Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with **3k** (0.2 mmol), Mo(CO)₆ (0.4 mmol), CH₃CN/H₂O (15:1, 2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 ^oC for 24 h, whereupon the black reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, opened to the atmosphere, and stirred for 24 h. Then, the mixture was concentrated. The residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure and was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford **5d** as white solid (46.6 mg, 90%, eluent: 10-50% ethyl acetate/hexane). Mp: 112-114 ^oC. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,) δ 162.74, 138.77, 131.95, 131.94, 131.53 (q, *J* = 31.4 Hz), 131.38, 127.61, 124.99 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.87 (q, *J* = 271.2 Hz), 123.21 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 66.72, 54.79, 35.06, 23.85. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz,) δ -61.91. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃F₃NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 260.0898, found 260.0883.

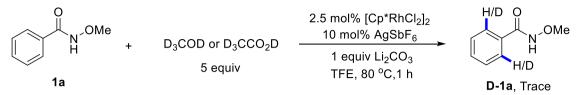


Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was added with PCC (0.4 mmol) and DCM (2 mL). Then, **3f** (0.2 mmol) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product **5e** as light yellow sticky oil (31.2 mg, 66%, eluent: 10%-30% ethyl acetate/hexane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (td, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.52, 165.40 (d, *J* = 253.4 Hz), 164.66, 136.84 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 131.33 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 124.10 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 115.14 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz), 114.45 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 71.39, 64.96, 36.71, 18.08. ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -105.36. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 238.0879, found 238.0864.

Note: 5e was found to be apt to decompose at a temperature higher than 40 °C, all the procedures above were conducted at rt.

VI. Mechanistic studies

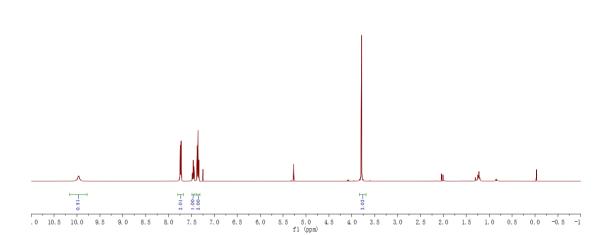
H/D exchange experiment



Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **1a** (0.2 mmol), CD₃OD (1.0 mmol) or CD₃CO₂D (1.0 mmol) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. Then, the septum was replaced by a Teflon screwcap under Argon flow. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel. ¹H NMR showed that D did not incorporate into **1a**.

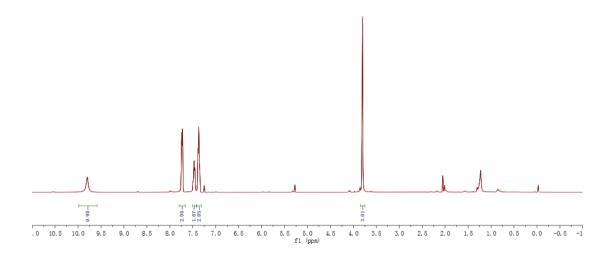
CD₃OD:

ZYF-220 single_pulse

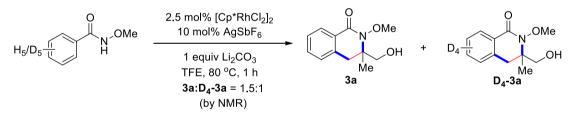


CD₃CO₂D:

ZYF-220-1 single_pulse

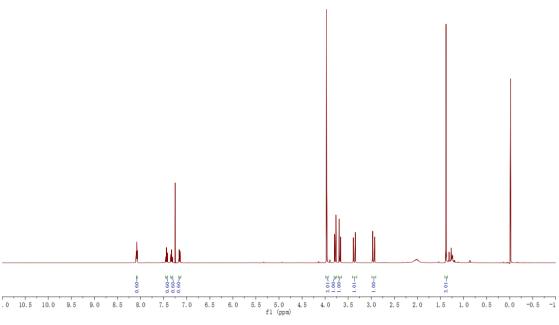


KIE experiment



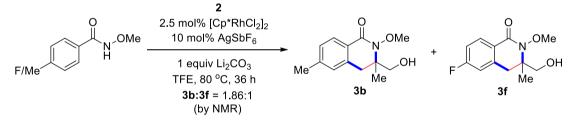
Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **1a** (0.2 mmol), **D₄-1a** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford a mixture of **3a** and **D₄-3a** (26.6 mg). ¹H NMR was measured to determine the ratio of **3a** and **D₄-3a**.

221 single_pulse



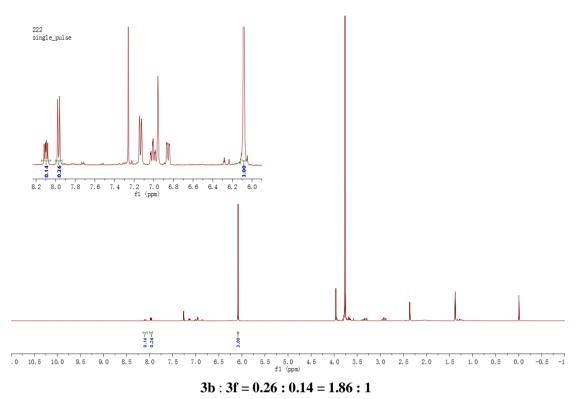
 $3a: D_4-3a = 0.6: 0.4 = 1.5$

Competition experiment between N-methoxybenzamides

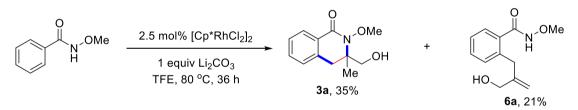


Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **1b** (0.2 mmol), **1f** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.2 mmol), TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel. The crude ¹H NMR was measured to determine the conversions to the products **3b** (26%) and **3f** (14%) using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

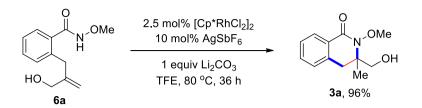




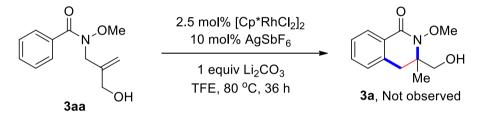
Control experiment



Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80°C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford **3a** (15.5 mg, 35%) and **6a** (9.3 mg, 21%). *N*-(**2**-(hydroxymethyl)allyl)-*N*-methoxybenzamide (**6a**): Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.38 (bs, 1H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.06, 148.01, 137.75, 132.74, 130.83, 130.79, 127.86, 126.57, 113.40, 65.27, 64.52, 36.45. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 222.1130, found 222.1120.

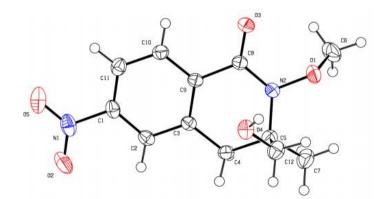


Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **6a** (0.2 mmol) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (30 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford **3a** (42.5 mg, 96%).



Procedure: An oven dried 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was fitted with a rubber septum and cooled under vacuum. After cooling, the tube was charged with $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (10 mol%), Li₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), **3aa** (0.2 mmol) and TFE (2 mL) under Argon, and was evacuated and refilled with Argon for three times. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 36 h. **3a** was not observed by TLC.

VII. X-ray crystallographic analysis of 3o (CCDC: 2103476)

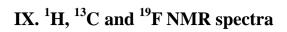


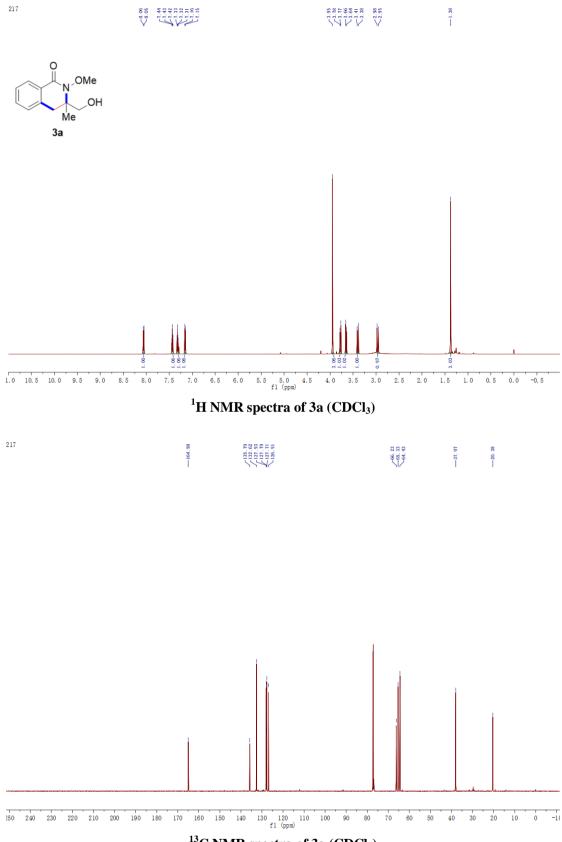
Identification code	30
Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{14}N_2O_5$
Formula Mass	266.25
Temperature / K	150(2)
Wavelength / Å	0.71073

Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	Pbca
a / Å	12.7365(14)
b / Å	7.8148(9)
c / Å	24.702(3)
$V/ m \AA^3$	2458.6(5)
Ζ	8
$\mu \ / \ \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$	0.113
<i>F</i> (000)	1120
Crystal size / mm	0.25 x 0.1 x 0.08
Theta range for data collection / $^{\circ}$	3.168 to 30.821
Index ranges	-18<=h<=17, -11<=k<=10, -33<=l<=35
$ ho_{ m calcd}$ /g cm ⁻³	1.439
Measured refls.	43727
Independent refls.	3855
Completeness to theta = 25.242 $^{\circ}$	99.9%
Absorption correction	None
Ratio of min. to max. transmission	0.8791
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	3855 / 0 / 175
R _{int}	0.0627
^[a] R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)] R_1, wR2$	0.0703, 0.1651
R indices (all data) R_1 , $wR2$	0.0968, 0.1794
GOF	1.116
Largest diff. peak and hole / $e.Å^{-3}$	0.645 and -0.313
CCDC reference numbers	2103476

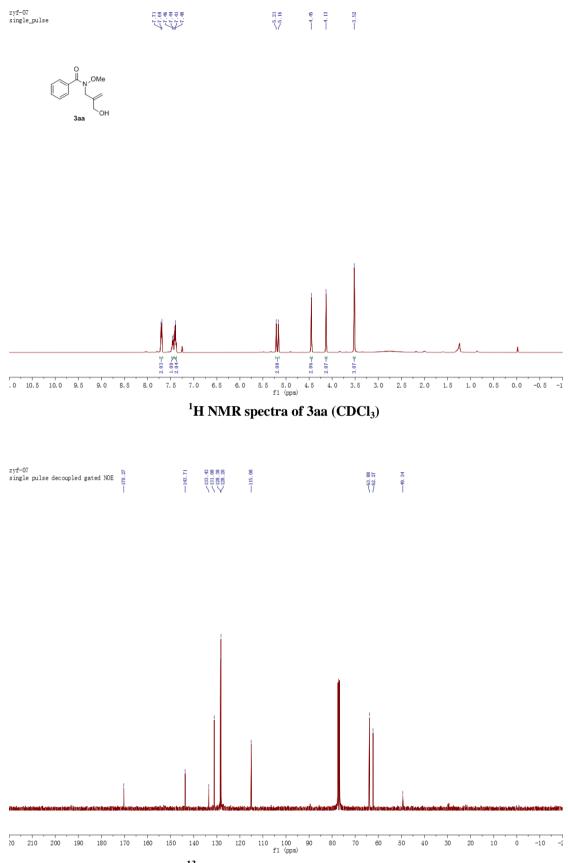
VIII. References

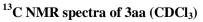
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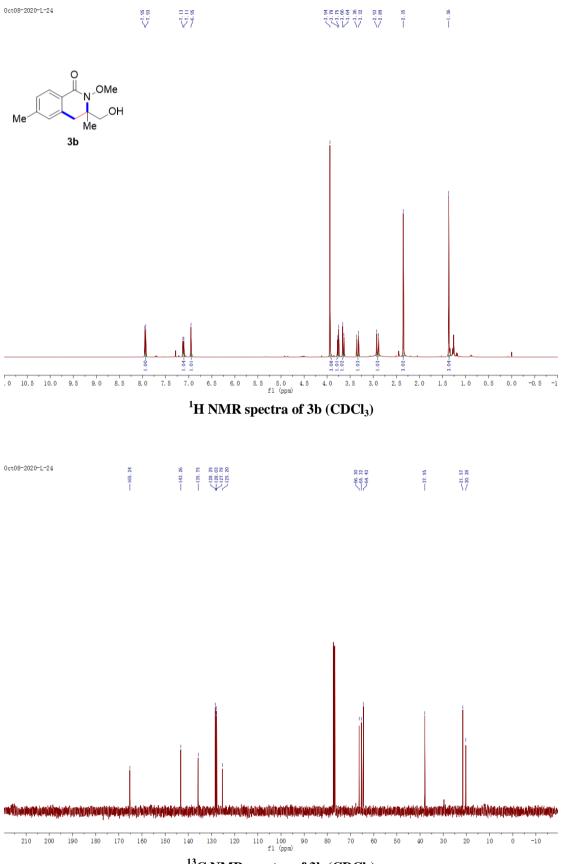




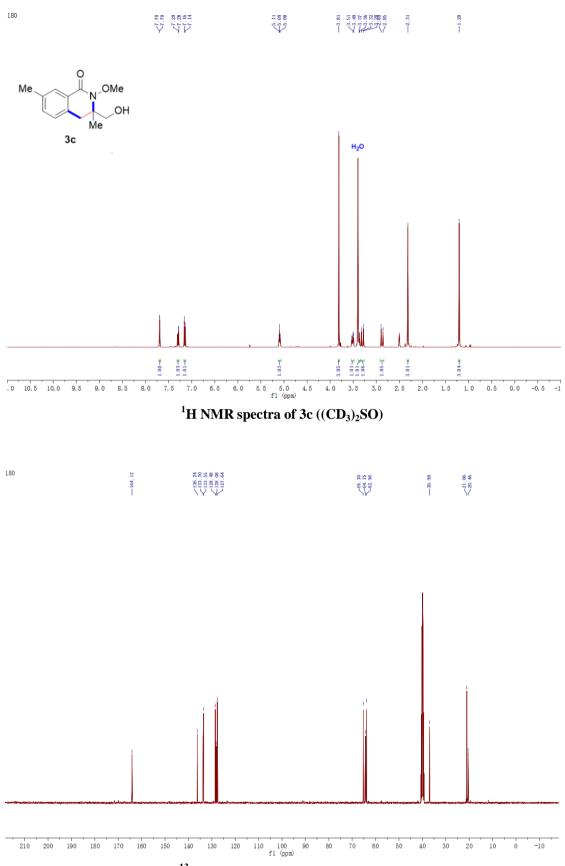
¹³C NMR spectra of 3a (CDCl₃)



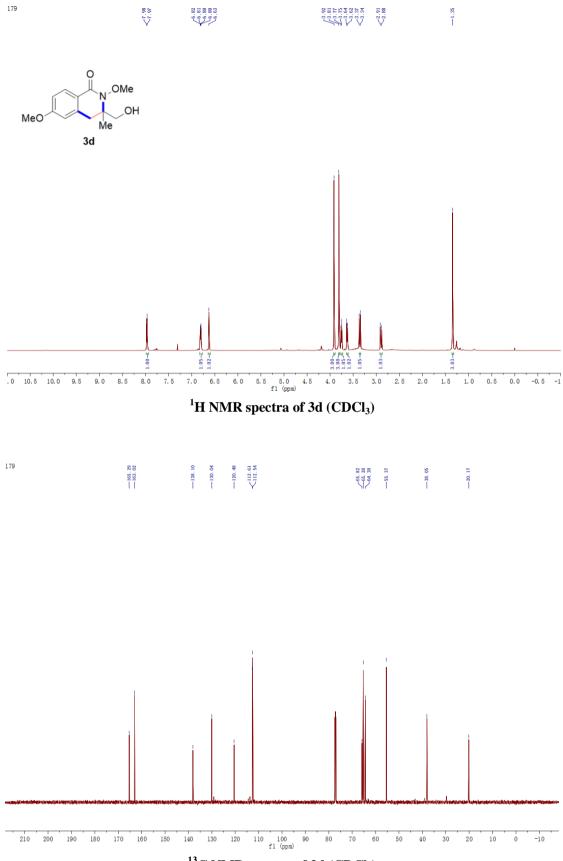


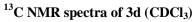


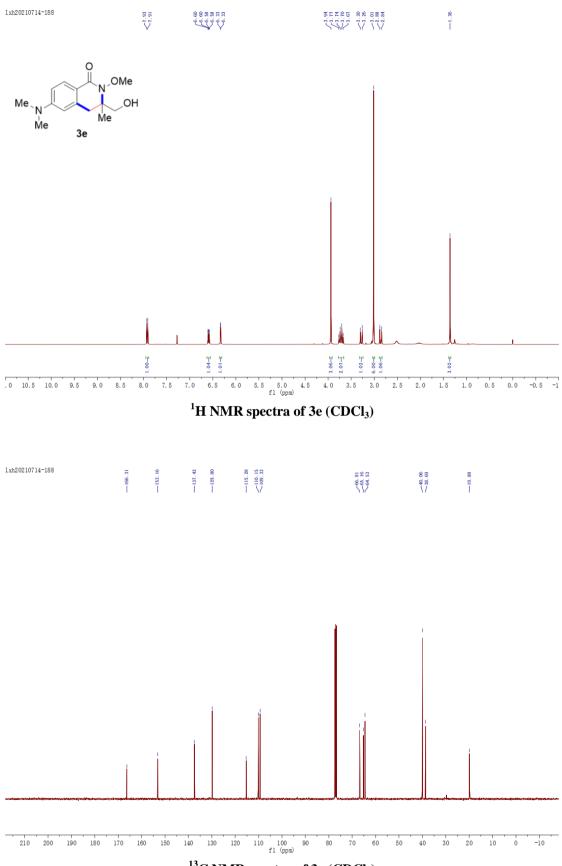
¹³C NMR spectra of 3b (CDCl₃)



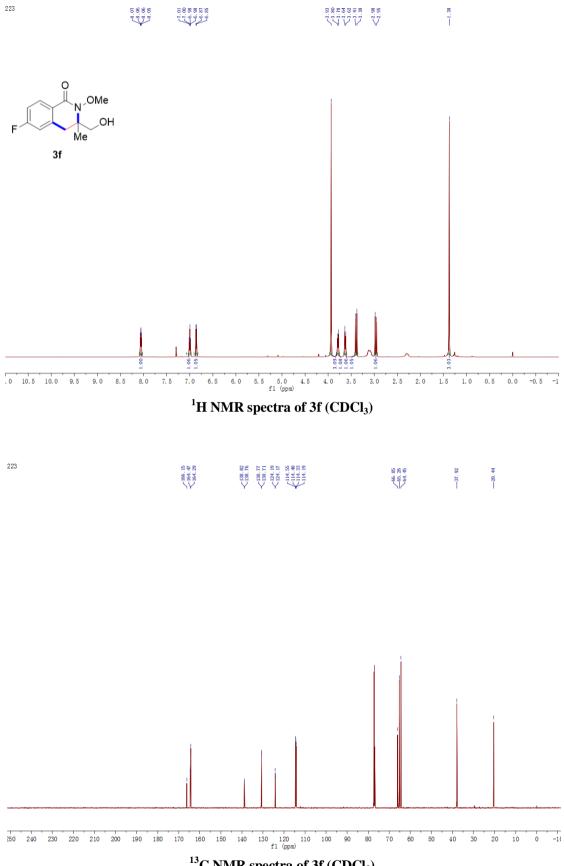
¹³C NMR spectra of 3c ((CD₃)₂SO)

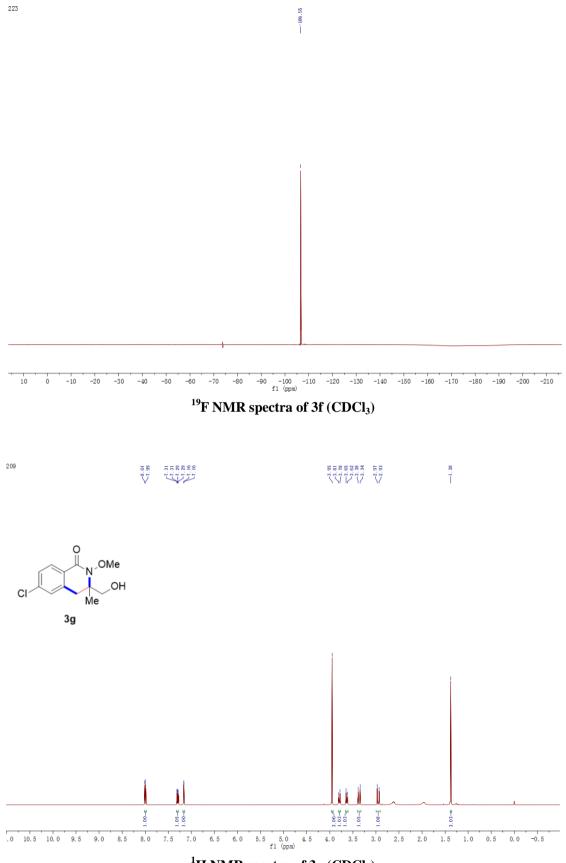


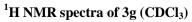


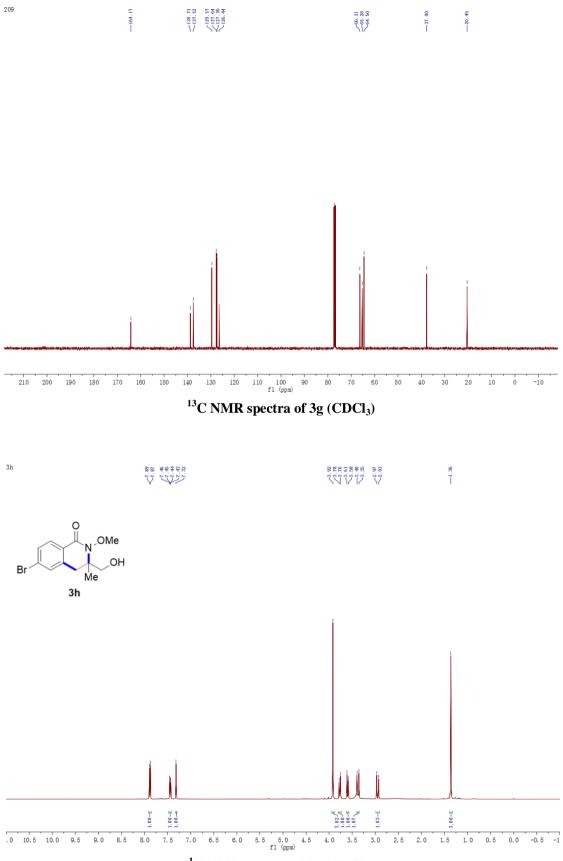


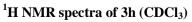
¹³C NMR spectra of 3e (CDCl₃)

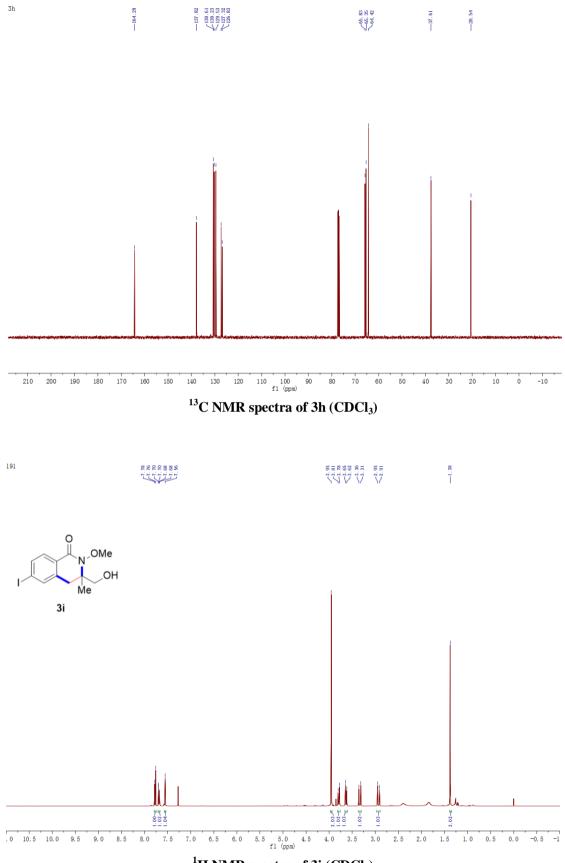


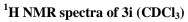


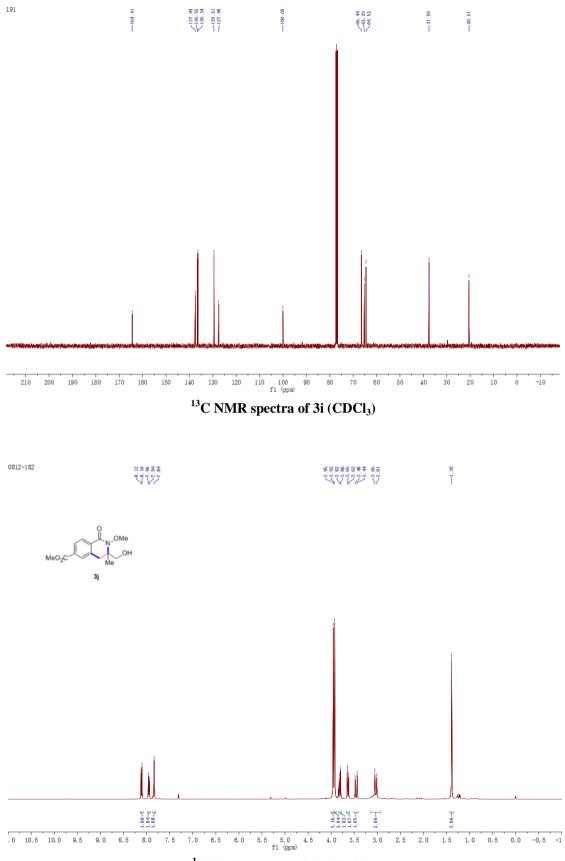


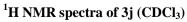


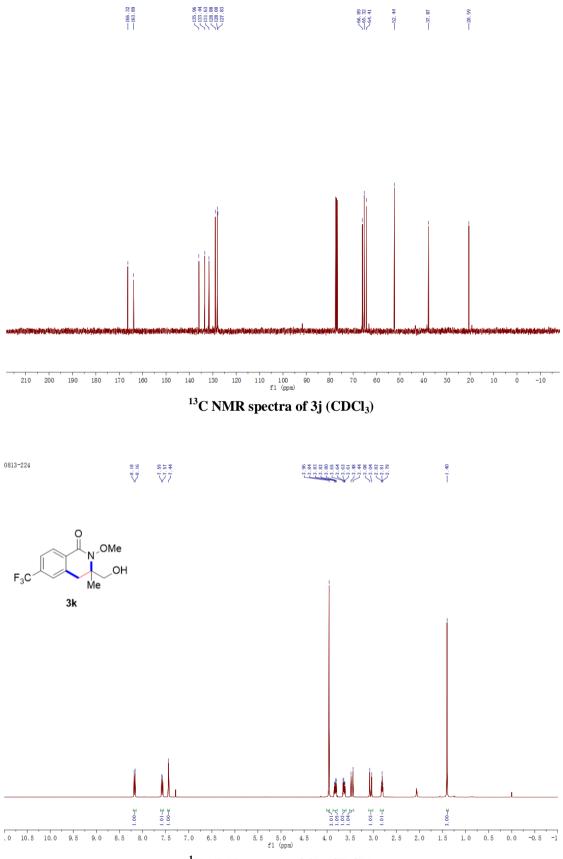


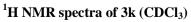


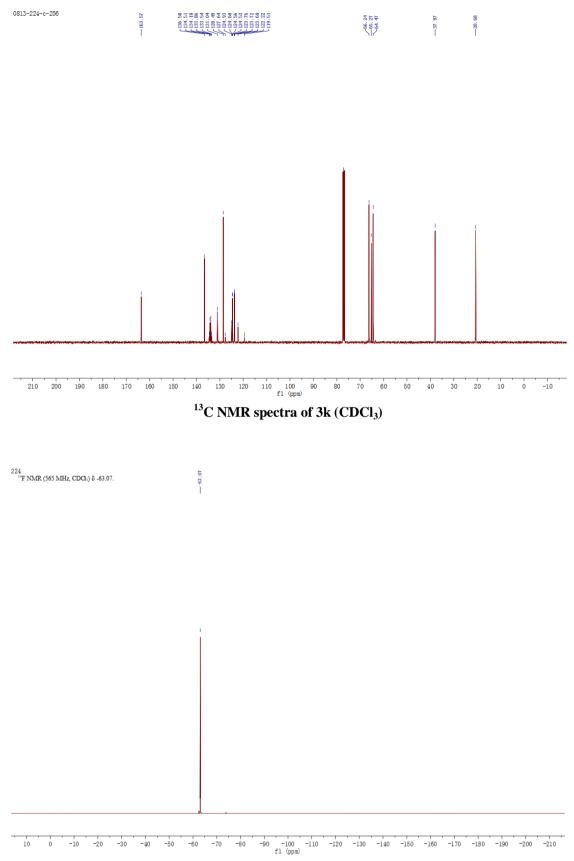




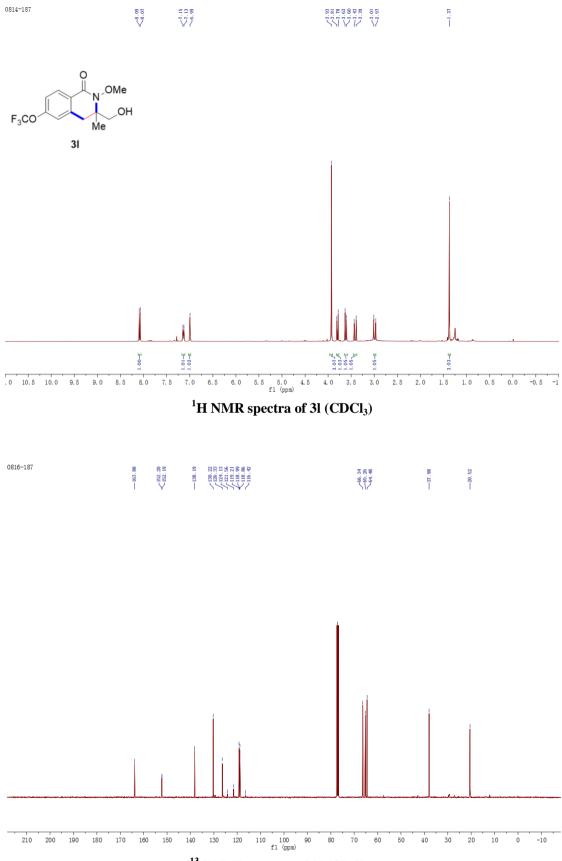


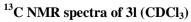


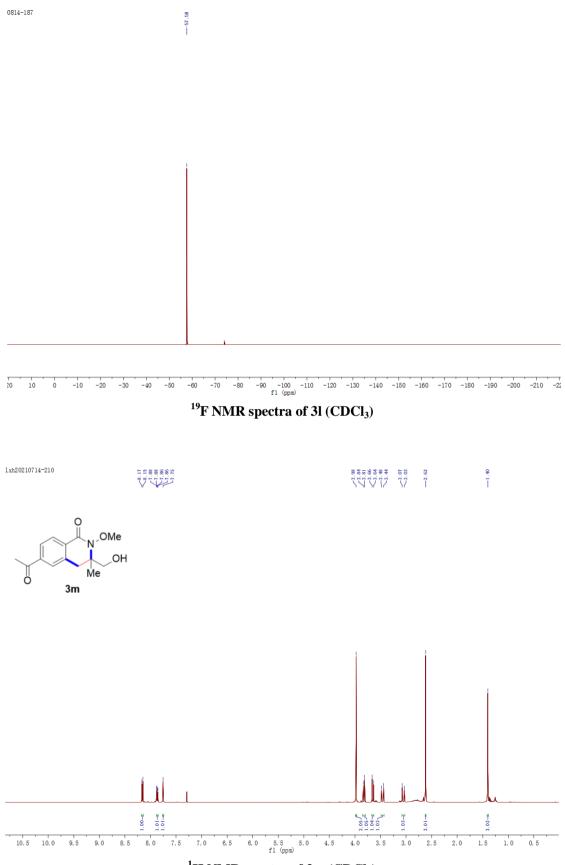


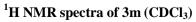


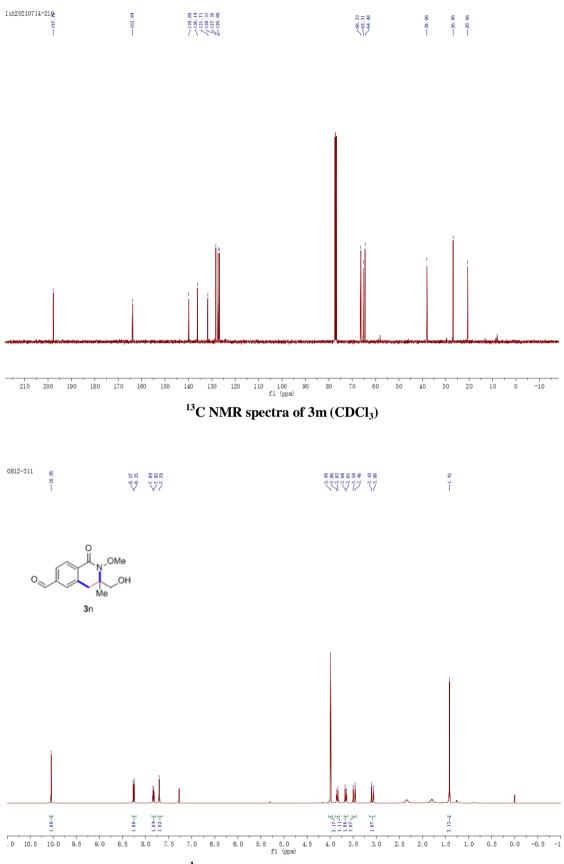
¹⁹F NMR spectra of 3k (CDCl₃)

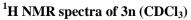


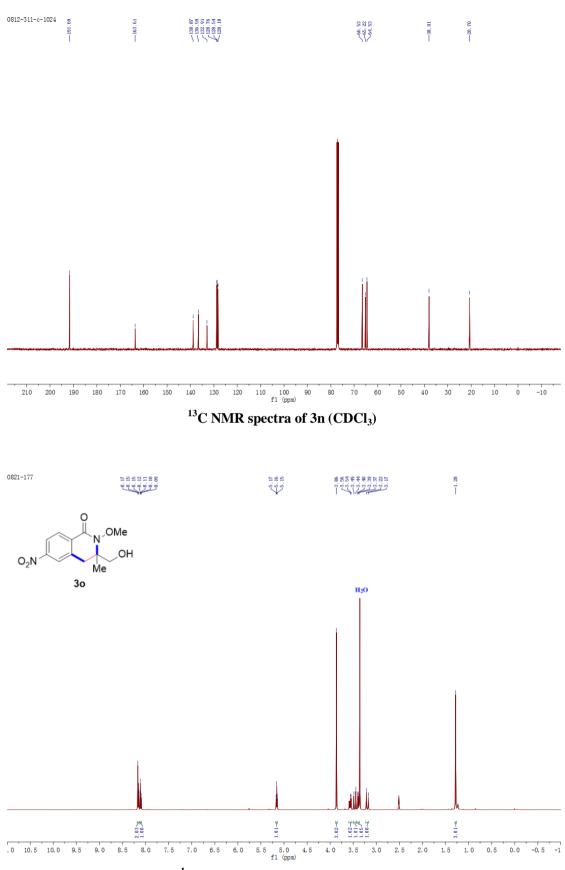




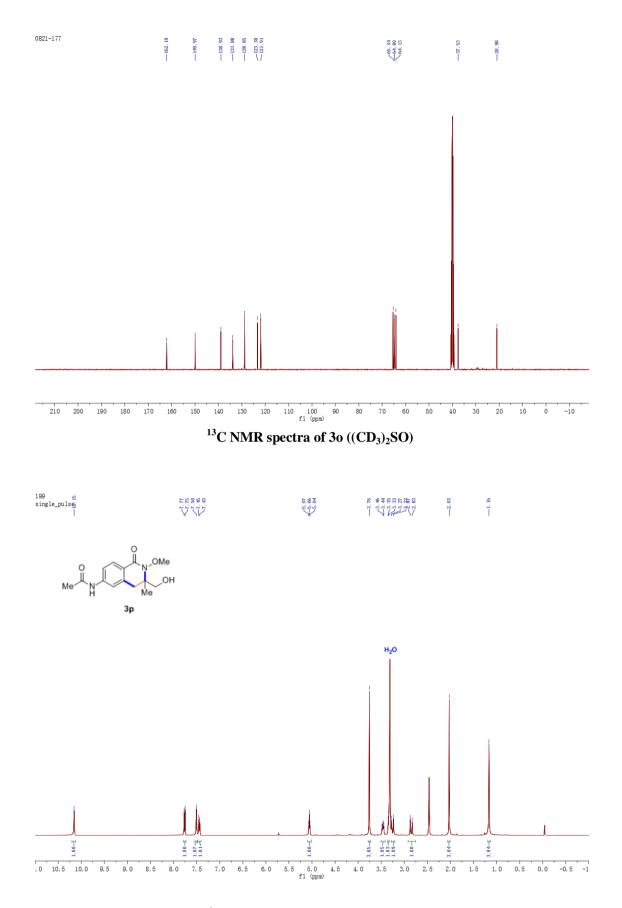




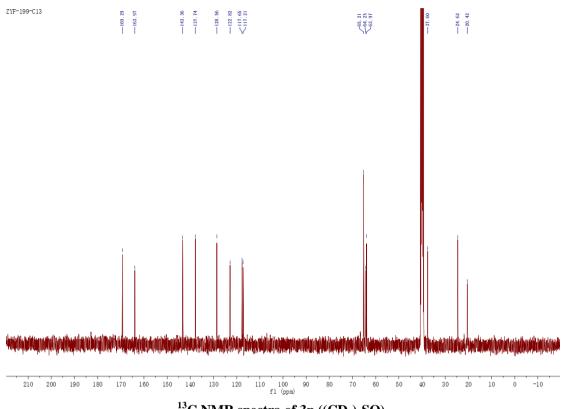




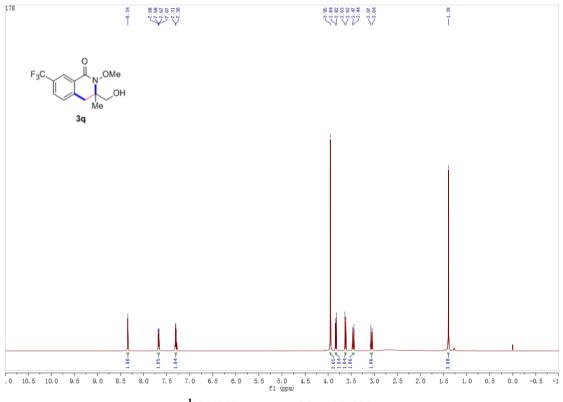
¹H NMR spectra of 30 ((CD₃)₂SO)



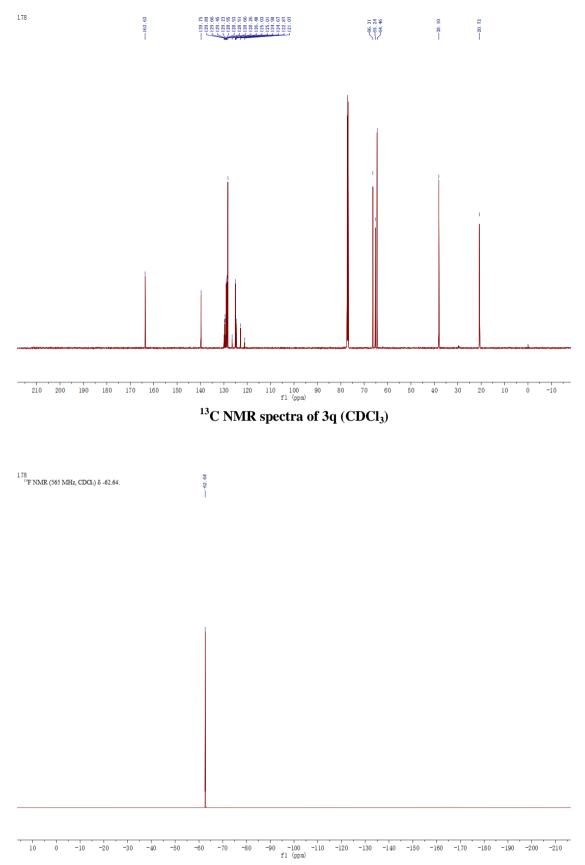
 1H NMR spectra of 3p ((CD_3)_2SO)



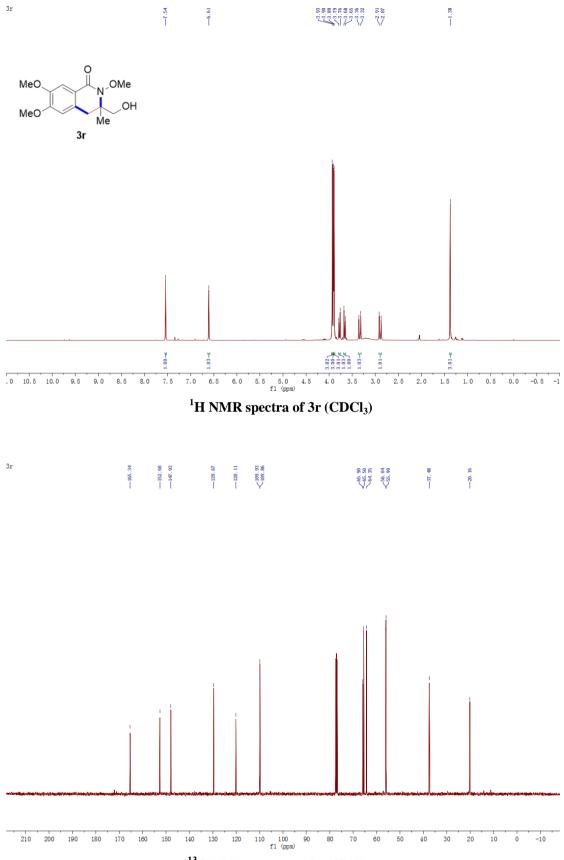
¹³C NMR spectra of 3p ((CD₃)₂SO)

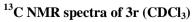


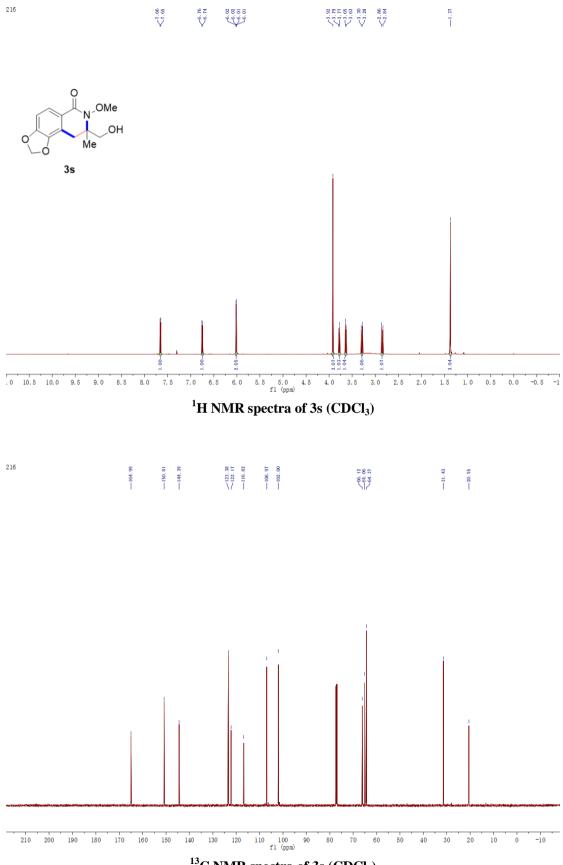
¹H NMR spectra of 3q (CDCl₃)

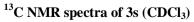


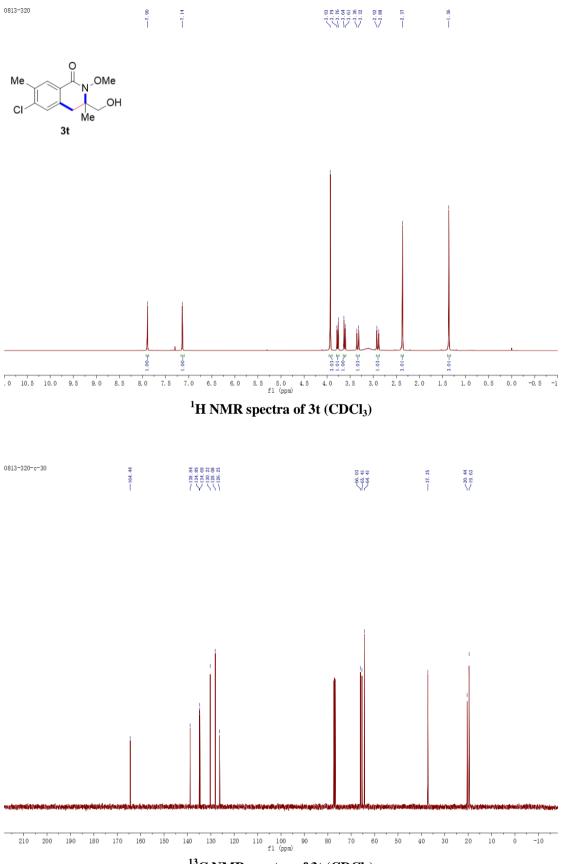
¹⁹F NMR spectra of 3q (CDCl₃)

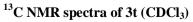


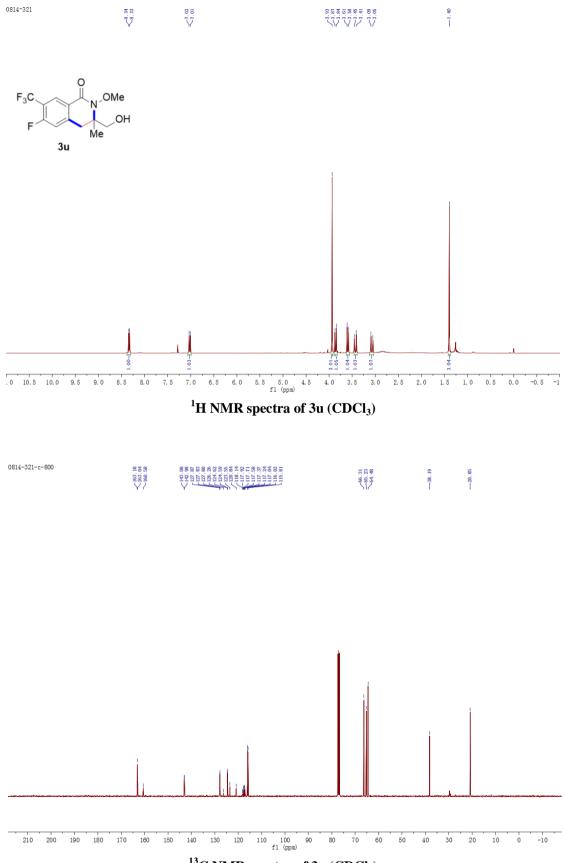


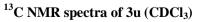


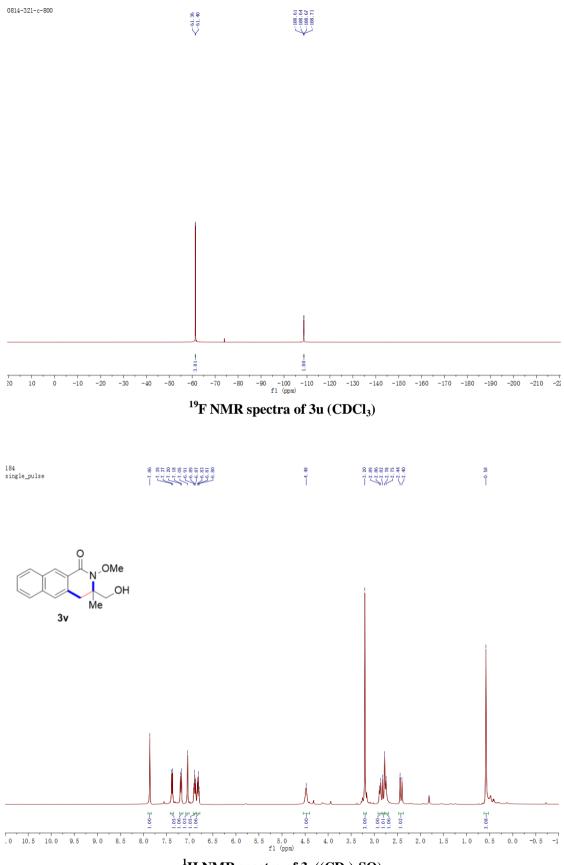




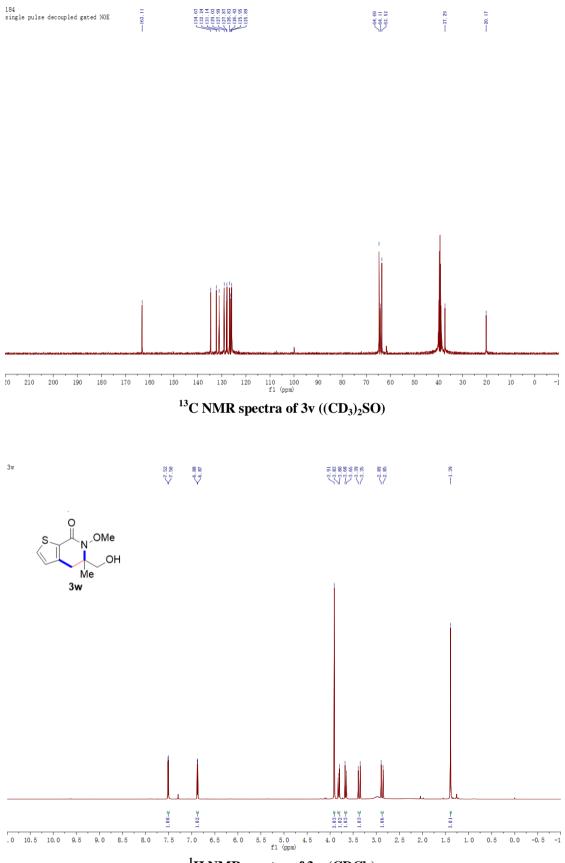


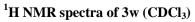


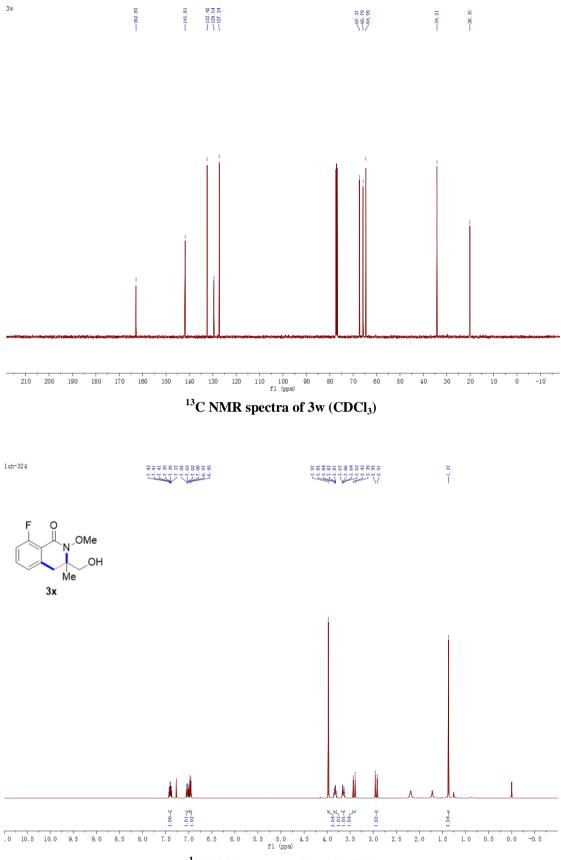


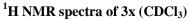


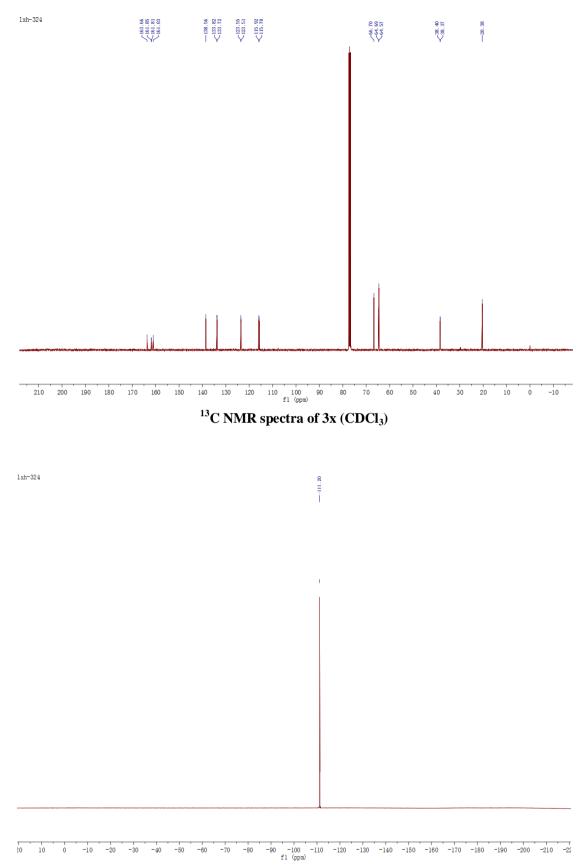
¹H NMR spectra of 3v((CD₃)₂SO)



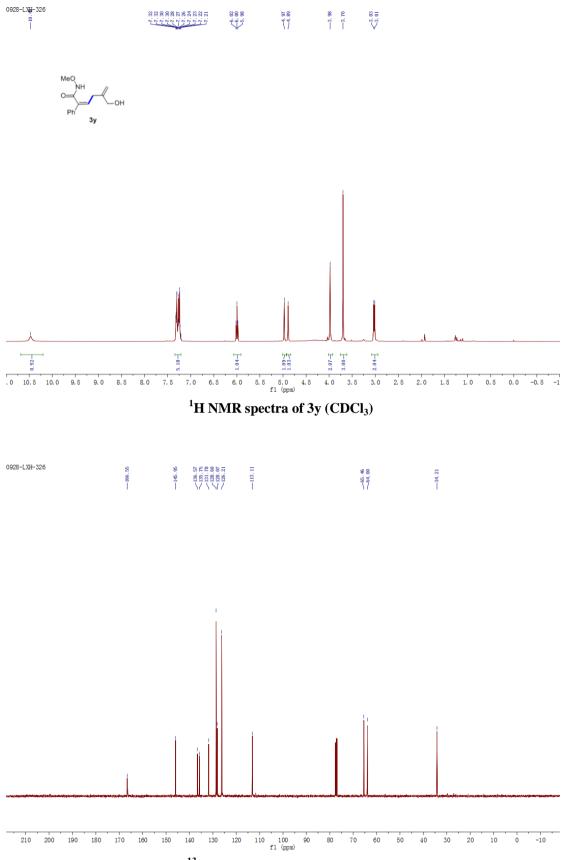




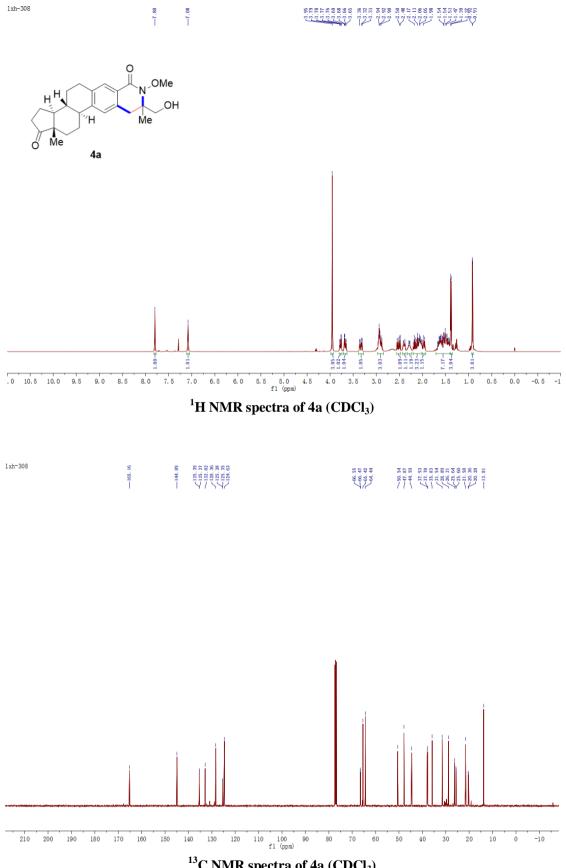


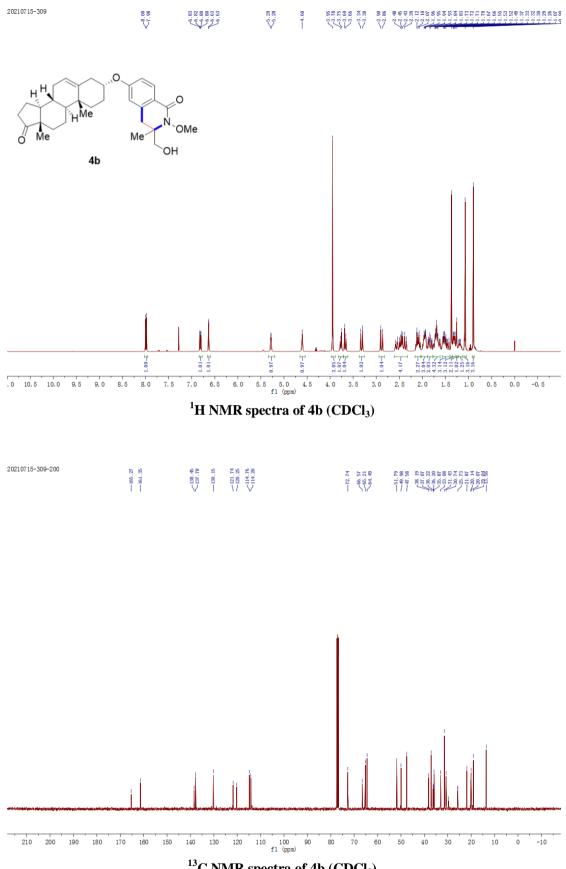


¹⁹F NMR spectra of 3x (CDCl₃)

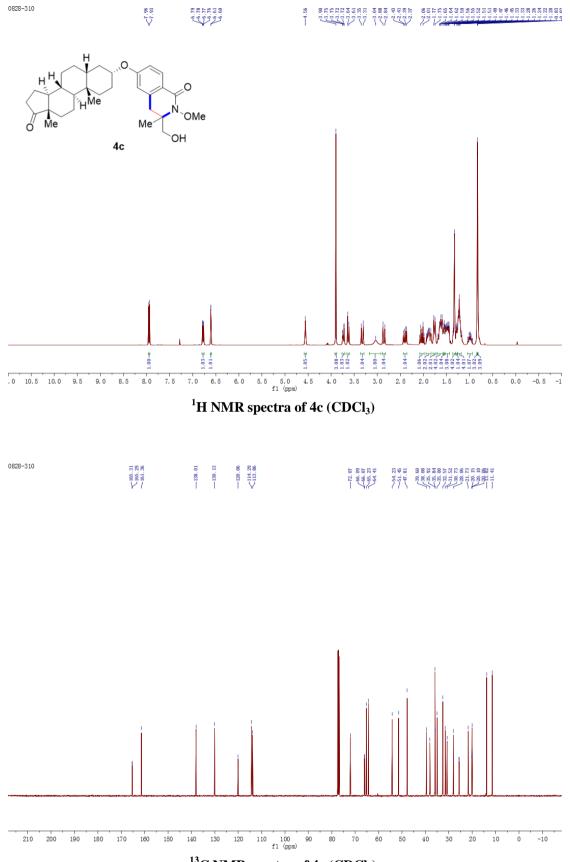


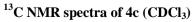
¹³C NMR spectra of 3x (CDCl₃)

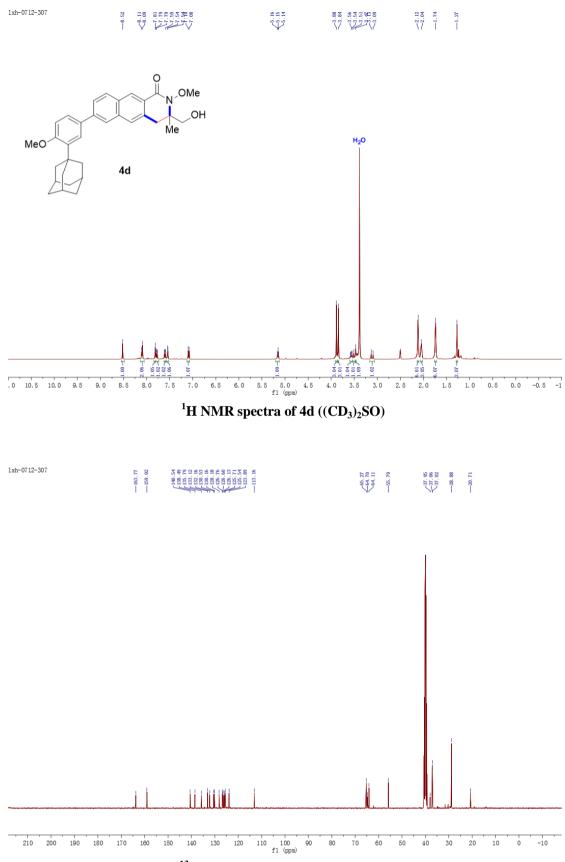


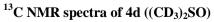


¹³C NMR spectra of 4b (CDCl₃)

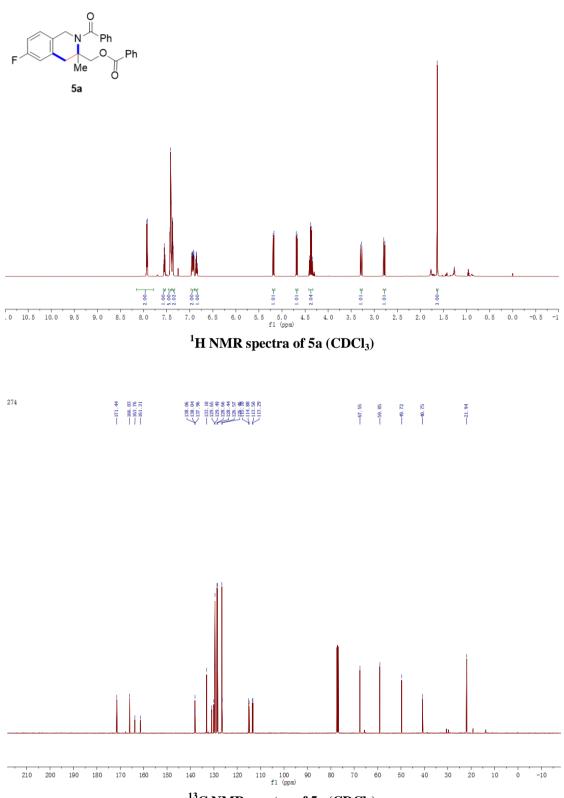




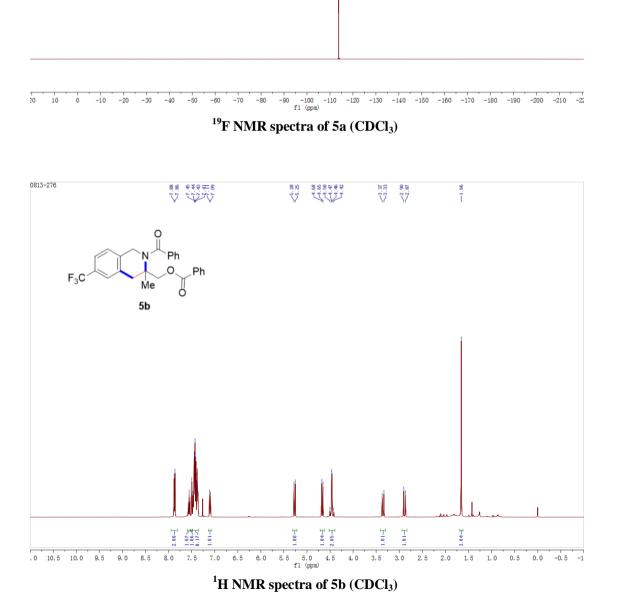




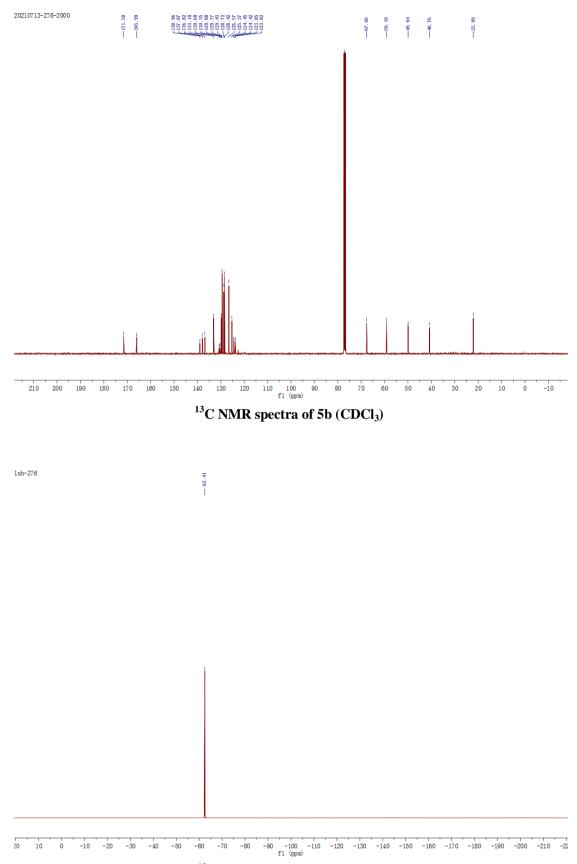
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¹³C NMR spectra of 5a (CDCl₃)

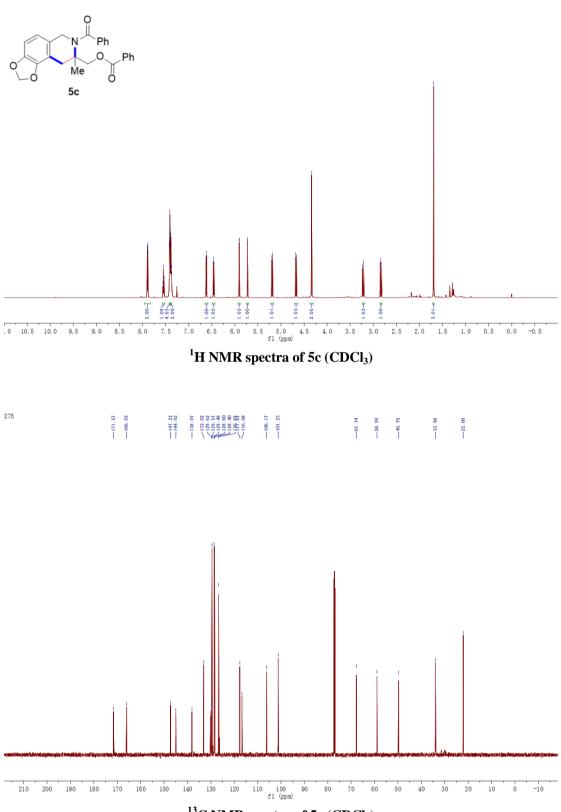




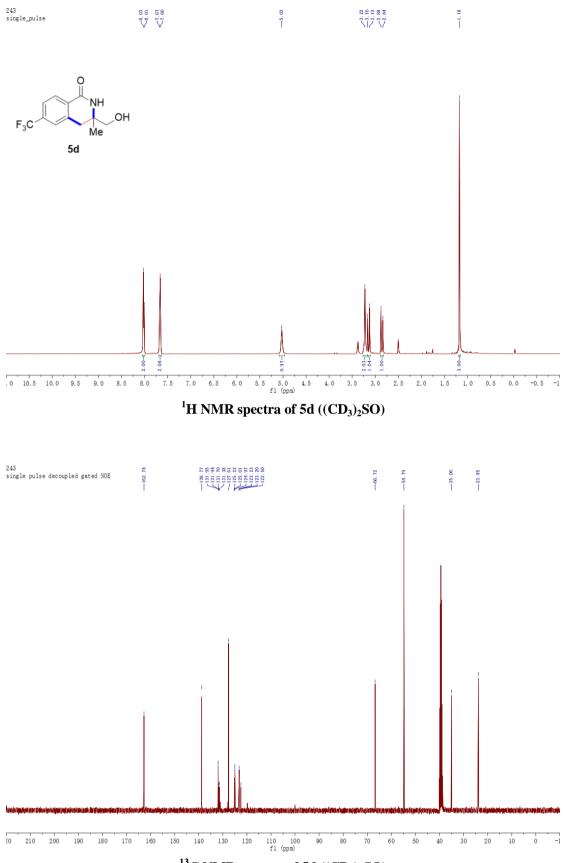


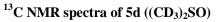
¹⁹F NMR spectra of 5b(CDCl₃)

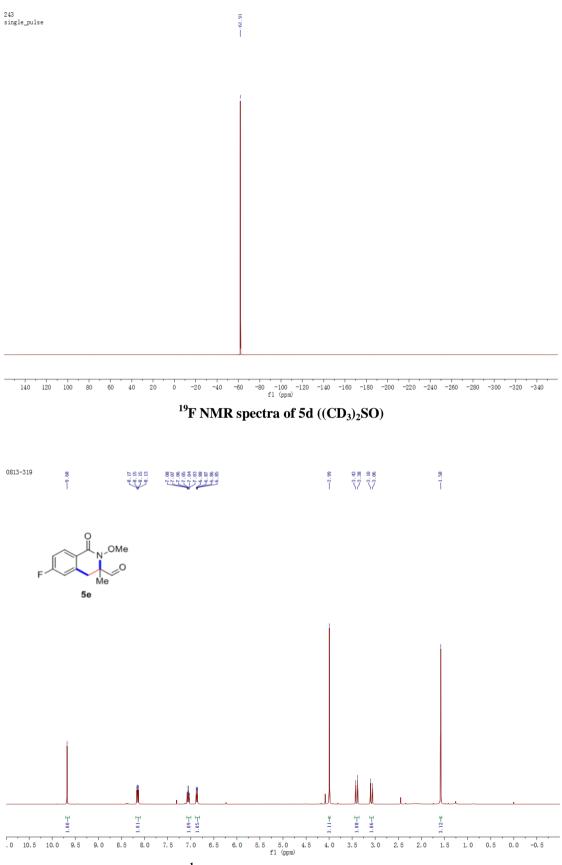
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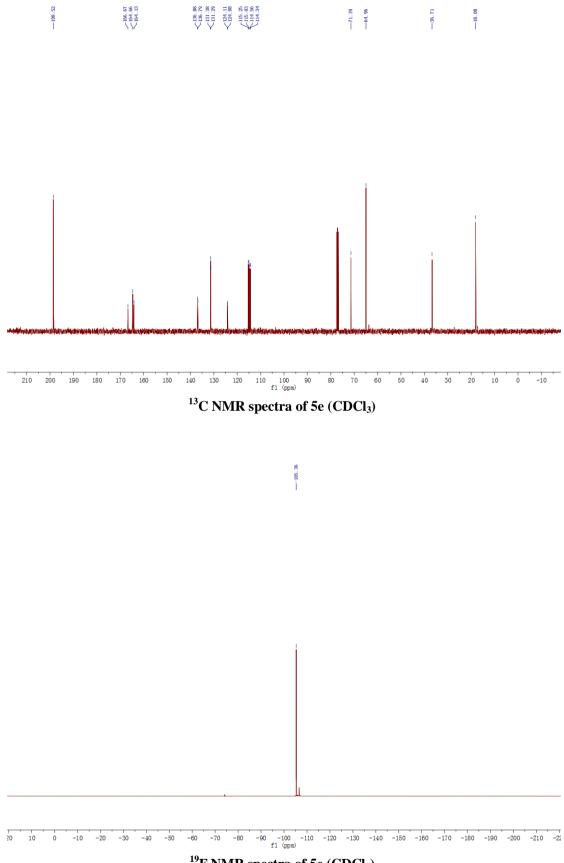
¹³C NMR spectra of 5c (CDCl₃)







¹H NMR spectra of 5e (CDCl₃)



¹⁹F NMR spectra of 5e (CDCl₃)

