

## Supporting Information

### **2-Pyridinylmethyl Borrowing: Base-promoted C-Alkylation of (Pyridin-2-yl)methyl Alcohols with Ketones *via* Cleavage of Unstrained C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Bonds**

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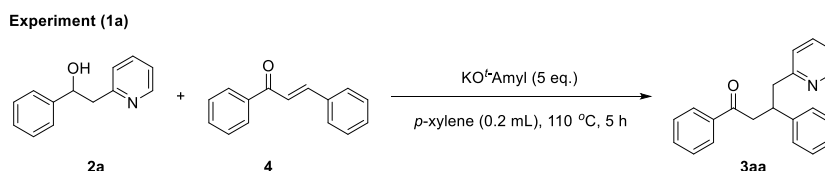
## 1. General Information

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 600 MHz and 400 MHz instruments. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: proton (chloroform  $\delta$  7.26), carbon (chloroform  $\delta$  77.0) or tetramethylsilane (TMS  $\delta$  0.00) was used as a reference. Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), bs (broad singlet). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). All high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Bruker Apex-2. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), Qingdao Haiyang Chemical were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm. Flash chromatography separations were performed on Qingdao Haiyang Chemical 300-400 mesh silica gel. All reactions were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. All commercially available reagents were used as received for the reactions without any purification. The (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohols are commercially available or synthesis via the known procedures.<sup>[1]</sup>

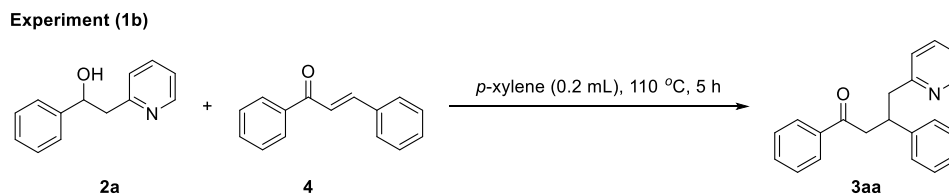
## 2. Experimental Procedures

To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohols (0.2 mmol), ketones (0.1 mmol),  $\text{KO}^t\text{Amyl}$  (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3  $\times$  5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and brine and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products.

## 3. Mechanistic studies



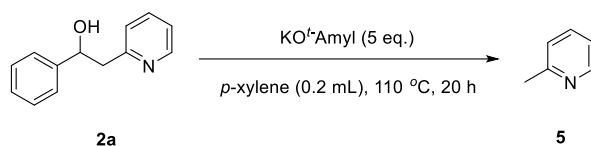
**Experiment (1a):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohol **2a** (0.2 mmol), chalcone **4** (0.1 mmol),  $\text{KO}^t\text{Amyl}$  (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.2 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 5 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3  $\times$  5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and brine and dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products. We got the corresponding product **3aa** with 21% yield, showing that  $\text{KO}^t\text{Amyl}$  improves the cleavage of C-C((pyridin-2-yl)methyl) and the conjugate 1,4-addition of the 2-pyridinylmethyl moiety to chalcone.



**Experiment (1b):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohol **2a** (0.2 mmol), chalcone **4** (0.1 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.2 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the

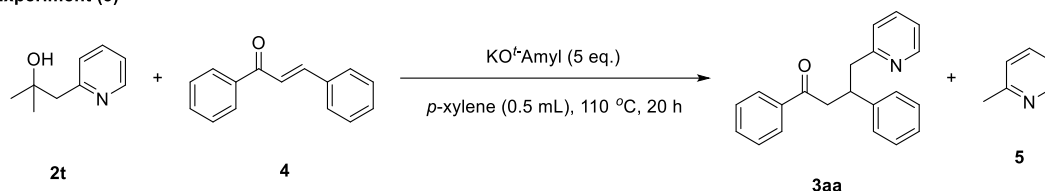
glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 5 hours. No product **3aa** was observed, further demonstrating the conclusion of experiment (1a).

**Experiment (2)**



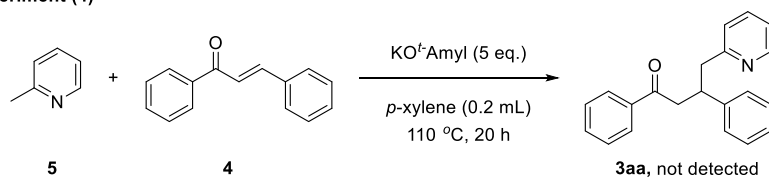
**Experiment (2):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohol **2a** (0.2 mmol), chalcone **4** (0.1 mmol), KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.5 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was given HRMS. We got the 2-methylpyridine **5** (HRMS (m/z): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N found 94.0656), showing that KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl improves the cleavage of C-C((pyridin-2-yl)methyl).

**Experiment (3)**



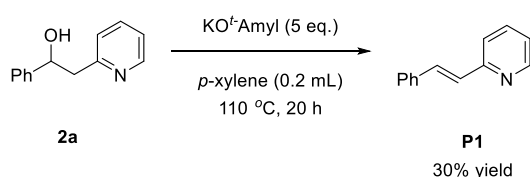
**Experiment (3):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohol **2a** (0.2 mmol), chalcone **4** (0.1 mmol), KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.5 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. The crude reaction mixture was given HRMS. We got the corresponding product **3aa** (HRMS (m/z): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO found 302.1539), and 2-methylpyridine **5** (HRMS (m/z): [M+H]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N found 94.0653), which shows that KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl improves the cleavage of C-C((pyridin-2-yl)methyl) of tertiary alcohol and the conjugate 1,4-addition of the 2-pyridinylmethyl moiety to chalcone.

**Experiment (4)**

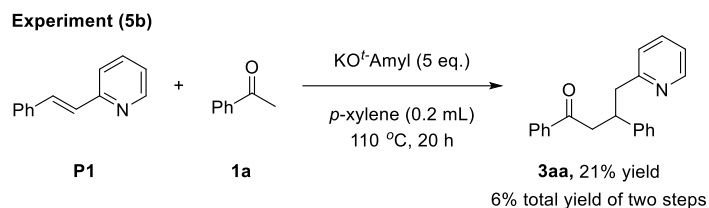


**Experiment (4):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added 2-methylpyridine **5** (0.2 mmol), chalcone **4** (0.1 mmol), KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.2 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. And we did not monitor the corresponding products **3aa** and some of the starting material was recovered, which indicated that KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl cannot take benzyl hydrogen from 2-methylpyridine, which indicated that the β-carbon elimination of 2-pyridinylmethyl secondary alcohol could activate the 2-pyridinylmethyl of the starting material in this transformation.

**Experiment (5a)**

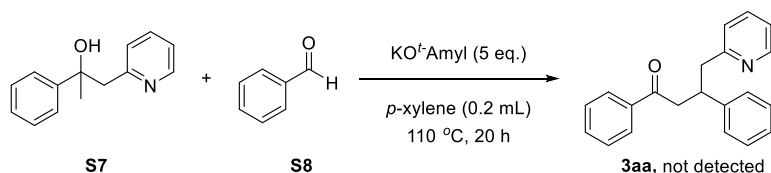


**Experiment (5a):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added (pyridin-2-yl)methyl alcohol **2a** (0.2 mmol), KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.2 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products. We got 2-alkenyl pyridine **P1** with 30% yield.



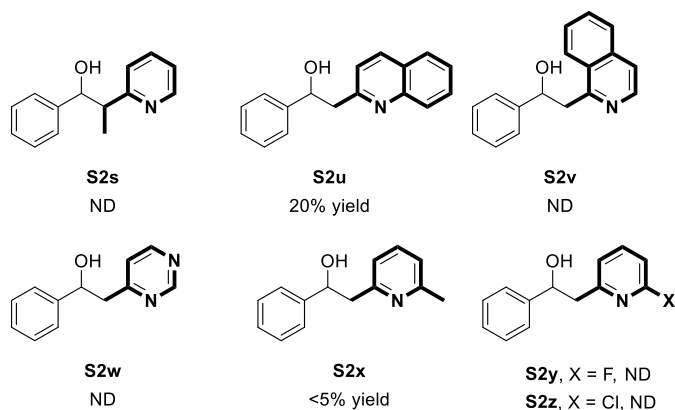
**Experiment (5b):** To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added 2-alkenyl pyridine **P1** (0.2 mmol), acetophenone **1a**, KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.2 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products. We got the **3aa** with 21% yield, and the total yield of the two steps (experiment 5a, 5b) was 6%, which indicated that the mechanism is not the main mechanism for this transformation, including the dehydration of **2a** to give 2-alkenyl pyridine, followed by Michael addition of **1a** to 2-alkenyl pyridine. And the mechanism of 2-pyridinylmethyl borrowing via the C-C bond cleavage occupying a leading position.

**Experiment (6):** 2-pyridinylmethyl tertiary alcohol and benzaldehyde were also examined under the standard reaction conditions as following: To a vacuum reaction tube equipped with a dried stir bar was added 2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)propan-2-ol (0.2 mmol), benzaldehyde (0.1 mmol), KO<sup>t</sup>Amyl (0.5 mmol), *p*-xylene (0.5 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 20 hours. However, the corresponding products was not detected. In this reaction, trace amounts of by-products such as 2-methylpyridine and acetophenone were observed by TLC.



#### Substrate limitations:

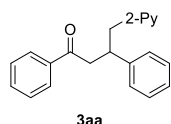
The following substrates were examined under the standard reaction conditions (see section 2 experimental procedures). However, low conversion of the alcohols were noted, as shown below.



ND = Not Determined.

## 4. Characterization data of products

### 1,3-diphenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3aa)<sup>[2]</sup>

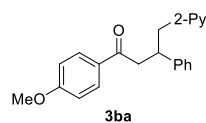


The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.29$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 18.0 mg of colorless solid in 60% yield, melting point 89-90 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.48 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.06 (dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.44-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.24-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.12 (m, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  198.68, 159.89, 149.16, 144.05, 137.20, 136.15, 132.84, 128.46, 128.41, 128.06, 127.58, 126.42, 123.69, 121.25, 45.10, 44.39, 41.71.

### 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ba)



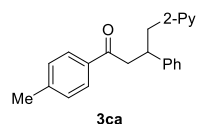
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.15$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 16.9 mg of gray solid in 51% yield, melting point 109-110 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.48 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.93-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.26 (m, 2H), 3.22 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.21, 163.33, 159.98, 149.12, 144.14, 136.12, 130.34, 128.37, 127.59, 126.36, 123.67, 121.20, 113.61, 55.41, 45.09, 44.08, 41.88.

HRMS (ESI): C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated 332.1645, found 332.1643.

### 3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-1-(p-tolyl)butan-1-one (3ca)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.35$  in

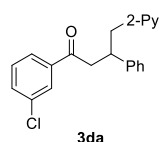
hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 14.2 mg of colorless solid in 45% yield, melting point 114-115 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.48 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.41-3.29 (m, 2H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.31, 159.94, 149.11, 144.10, 143.59, 136.14, 134.74, 129.14, 128.38, 128.19, 127.59, 126.38, 123.68, 121.22, 45.08, 44.29, 41.78, 21.57.

HRMS (ESI): C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated 316.1696, found 316.1694.

### 1-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3da)



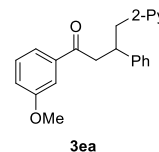
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.40 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 19.8 mg of yellow oil in 59% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.50 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.38-3.29 (m, 2H), 3.24-3.12 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.45, 159.71, 149.20, 143.80, 138.68, 136.23, 134.81, 132.77, 129.79, 128.48, 128.25, 127.53, 126.56, 126.13, 123.75, 121.35, 45.00, 44.43, 41.66.

HRMS (ESI): C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClNO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated 336.1150, found 336.1147.

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ea)



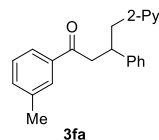
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.43 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 23.9 mg of yellow oil in 72% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.41-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.21 (dd, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.51, 159.87, 159.76, 149.17, 144.02, 138.55, 136.15, 129.44, 128.41, 127.58, 126.43, 123.69, 121.25, 120.72, 119.48, 112.26, 55.40, 45.08, 44.49, 41.75.

HRMS (ESI): C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated 332.1645, found 332.1642.

### 3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-1-(*m*-tolyl)butan-1-one (3fa)



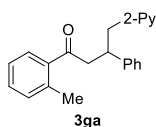
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) (*R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.50 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 20.9 mg of colorless solid in 66% yield, melting point 60-61 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.41-3.30 (m, 2H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.87, 159.95, 149.14, 144.11, 138.21, 137.24, 136.12, 133.59, 128.61, 128.38, 128.33, 127.59, 126.39, 125.26, 123.67, 121.22, 45.07, 44.46, 41.73, 21.29.

HRMS (ESI): C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated 316.1696, found 316.1695.

### 3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-1-(*o*-tolyl)butan-1-one (3ga)



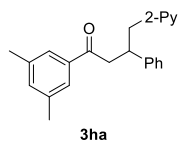
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.43$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 17.1 mg of yellow oil in 54% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.89-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.24 (m, 2H), 3.21-3.05 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  203.24, 159.82, 149.22, 143.70, 138.47, 137.79, 136.12, 131.69, 130.89, 128.39, 128.06, 127.66, 126.45, 125.46, 123.66, 121.26, 47.48, 45.29, 42.04, 20.61.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 316.1696, found 316.1693.

### 1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ha)



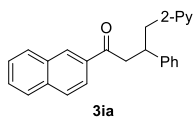
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.50$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 22.8 mg of yellow oil in 69% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 (s, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.02 (m, 2H), 3.94-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.40-3.27 (m, 2H), 3.22 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.03, 160.01, 149.14, 144.17, 138.05, 137.31, 136.12, 134.46, 128.37, 127.61, 126.37, 125.87, 123.67, 121.21, 45.05, 44.52, 41.75, 21.17.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 330.1852, found 330.1850.

### 1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ia)



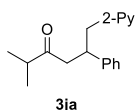
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.30$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 24.3 mg of yellow oil in 69% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.83 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.01-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.27 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.65, 159.96, 149.18, 144.10, 136.18, 135.51, 134.52, 132.51, 129.72, 129.55, 128.44, 128.32, 128.29, 127.72, 127.61, 126.65, 126.46, 123.93, 123.73, 121.28, 45.15, 44.46, 41.95.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 352.1696, found 352.1693.

### 2-methyl-5-phenyl-6-(pyridin-2-yl)hexan-3-one (3ja)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.28$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 13.9 mg of yellow oil in 52% yield.

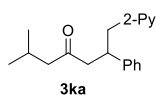
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.77-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.14-3.04 (m, 2H), 2.87 (dd,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd,  $J = 16.8$  Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.39 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  213.09, 159.90, 149.12, 144.05, 136.12, 128.38, 127.54, 126.40, 123.61, 121.22, 46.35, 44.89, 41.43, 41.13, 17.83, 17.79.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 268.1696, found 268.1700.

### 6-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)heptan-4-one (3ka)





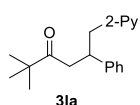
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.51$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 20.3 mg of yellow oil in 72% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50-8.48 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.06 (dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.15-3.01 (m, 2H), 2.87-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.17-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.03-1.93 (m, 1H), 0.77-0.73 (m, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  209.30, 159.81, 149.15, 143.85, 136.10, 128.39, 127.54, 126.43, 123.65, 121.23, 52.38, 48.95, 45.11, 41.50, 24.29, 22.48, 22.38.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 282.1852, found 282.1852

### 2,2-dimethyl-5-phenyl-6-(pyridin-2-yl)hexan-3-one (3la)



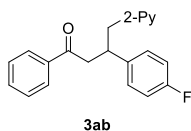
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.50$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 9.3 mg of yellow oil in 33% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.48 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.13 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.78-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.03 (m, 2H), 3.00-2.75 (m, 2H), 0.97 (s, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  213.90, 160.08, 149.06, 144.28, 136.07, 128.28, 127.65, 126.29, 123.47, 121.14, 44.62, 44.06, 42.72, 41.18, 26.04.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 282.1852, found 282.1853

### 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ab)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.33$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 20.2 mg of colorless solid in 63% yield, melting point 104-105 °C.

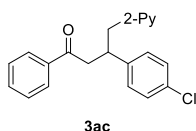
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.35 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.21 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.50, 161.42 (d,  $J = 244.0$  Hz), 159.63, 149.18, 139.60 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz), 137.10, 136.23, 132.94, 129.00 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 128.51, 128.03, 123.69, 121.35, 115.16 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz), 45.15, 44.47, 41.03.

$^{19}\text{F NMR}$  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -116.67.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{FNO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 320.1445, found 320.1443

### 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ac)



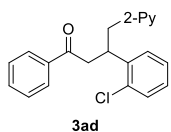
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.25$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 17.1 mg of colorless solid in 51% yield, melting point 108-109 °C.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52-8.47 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.20 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.34, 159.48, 149.26, 142.50, 137.03, 136.24, 133.01, 132.06, 128.98, 128.53, 128.03, 123.66, 121.38, 44.96, 44.26, 41.06.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 336.1150, found 336.1149

### 3-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ad)



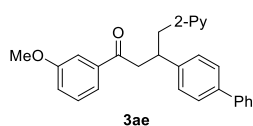
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.36$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 21.5 mg of yellow oil in 64% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.47-8.44 (m, 1H), 7.91-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 4.47-4.38 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.37 (m, 2H), 3.25-3.16 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.26, 159.61, 149.07, 141.13, 137.03, 136.22, 133.97, 132.94, 129.84, 128.49, 128.22, 128.07, 127.53, 126.89, 123.59, 121.34, 43.39, 42.75, 37.98.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClNO}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 336.1150, found 336.1151

### 3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ae)



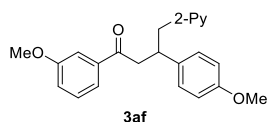
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.34$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 28.6 mg of yellow oil in 70% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53-8.50 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 3H), 4.01-3.95 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.34 (m, 2H), 3.27-3.17 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.50, 159.84, 159.79, 149.22, 143.19, 140.90, 139.24, 138.55, 136.20, 129.46, 128.67, 127.99, 127.11, 127.05, 126.95, 123.72, 121.30, 120.74, 119.50, 112.30, 55.41, 45.08, 44.45, 41.39.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 408.1958, found 408.1957

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3af)



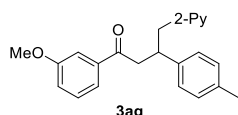
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.23$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 14.1 mg of yellow oil in 39% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.51-8.47 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.89-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.27 (m, 2H), 3.18 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.68, 159.99, 159.76, 158.06, 149.16, 138.59, 136.13, 136.05, 129.43, 128.48, 123.69, 121.21, 120.74, 119.45, 113.81, 112.27, 55.40, 55.16, 45.28, 44.75, 41.03.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 362.1751, found 362.1750

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-3-(p-tolyl)butan-1-one (3ag)



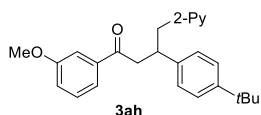
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.42$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 14.9 mg of yellow oil in 43% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 5H), 3.93-3.84 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.38-3.28 (m, 2H), 3.21-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.62, 160.00, 159.74, 149.15, 140.98, 138.57, 136.16, 135.86, 129.42, 129.12, 127.40, 123.70, 121.23, 120.75, 119.47, 112.25, 55.40, 45.16, 44.60, 41.36, 20.99.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 346.1802, found 346.1800

### 3-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ah)



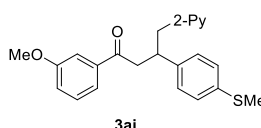
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.40$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 10.9 mg of yellow oil in 28% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.48 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.29 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 3H), 3.92-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.39-3.27 (m, 2H), 3.23-3.12 (m, 2H), 1.27 (s, 9H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.71, 160.10, 159.72, 149.12, 149.11, 141.06, 138.62, 136.16, 129.39, 127.11, 125.29, 123.70, 121.23, 120.73, 119.39, 112.26, 55.39, 45.09, 44.46, 41.17, 34.33, 31.34.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 388.2271, found 388.2274

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ai)



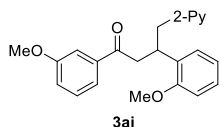
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.34$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 19.7 mg of yellow oil in 52% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52-8.46 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.38-3.28 (m, 2H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.41, 159.78, 159.74, 149.21, 141.06, 138.50, 136.20, 136.03, 129.46, 128.11, 126.94, 123.69, 121.30, 120.70, 119.50, 112.28, 55.41, 45.01, 44.46, 41.22, 16.01.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 378.1522, found 378.1521

### 3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3aj)



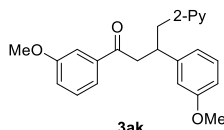
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.33$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 18.8 mg of yellow oil in 52% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49-8.44 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.83 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.14 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.45 (dd,  $J = 16.2$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J = 16.2$  Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.27-3.14 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.06, 160.56, 159.70, 157.26, 148.98, 138.73, 135.98, 131.80, 129.33, 128.46, 127.40, 123.60, 121.04, 120.78, 120.51, 119.27, 112.31, 110.72, 55.39, 55.27, 43.08, 43.02, 36.72.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 362.1751, found 362.1750

### 1,3-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ak)



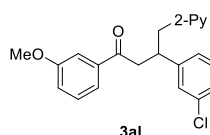
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.19$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 16.7 mg of yellow oil in 46% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52-8.45 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.77-6.73 (m, 1H), 6.70-6.67 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.41-3.28 (m, 2H), 3.22-3.09 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.46, 159.85, 159.77, 159.58, 149.18, 145.75, 138.58, 136.15, 129.43, 129.37, 123.71, 121.25, 120.71, 119.87, 119.46, 113.51, 112.28, 111.77, 55.40, 55.11, 45.04, 44.38, 41.74.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 362.1751, found 362.1751

### 3-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3al)



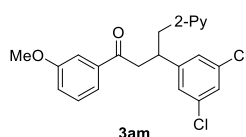
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.32$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 26.4 mg of yellow oil in 72% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.19 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.04, 159.81, 159.37, 149.29, 146.21, 138.38, 136.25, 134.16, 129.64, 129.50, 127.73, 126.65, 125.95, 123.68, 121.41, 120.68, 119.62, 112.25, 55.42, 44.85, 44.17, 41.35.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 366.1255, found 366.1254

### 3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3am)



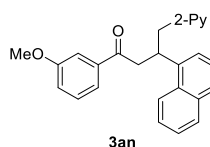
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.48$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 14.4 mg of yellow oil in 36% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.54-8.46 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.07 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.41-3.28 (m, 2H), 3.17 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd,  $J = 13.8$  Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.60, 159.86, 158.91, 149.38, 147.68, 138.21, 136.36, 134.78, 129.56, 126.71, 126.30, 123.67, 121.58, 120.65, 119.74, 112.25, 55.44, 44.58, 43.87, 41.08.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 400.0866, found 400.0865

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3an)



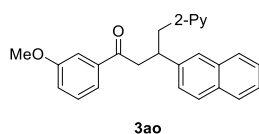
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.32$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 16.8 mg of yellow oil in 44% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.49-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 2H), 4.96-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.38-3.27 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.53, 159.92, 159.76, 149.16, 140.30, 138.57, 136.08, 134.01, 131.60, 129.42, 128.84, 126.97, 126.06, 125.44, 125.33, 123.60, 123.29, 121.23, 120.72, 119.55, 112.22, 55.38, 44.42, 44.20.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 382.1802, found 382.1799

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ao)



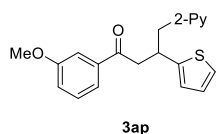
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.36$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 18.0 mg of yellow oil in 47% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53-8.47 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 3H), 4.14-4.08 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.52-3.39 (m, 2H), 3.35-3.21 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.50, 159.84, 159.79, 149.22, 143.19, 140.90, 139.24, 138.55, 136.20, 129.46, 128.67, 127.99, 127.11, 127.05, 126.95, 123.72, 121.30, 120.74, 119.50, 112.30, 55.41, 45.08, 44.45, 41.39.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 382.1802, found 382.1800

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (3ap)



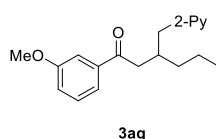
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.30$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 13.5 mg of yellow oil in 40% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.51 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.79-6.76 (m, 1H), 4.32-4.24 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.43-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.28-3.17 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.05, 159.80, 159.41, 149.26, 147.80, 138.45, 136.23, 129.49, 126.54, 124.17, 123.68, 123.10, 121.41, 120.74, 119.60, 112.29, 55.43, 45.83, 45.40, 36.96.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 338.1209, found 338.1208

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)hexan-1-one (3aq)



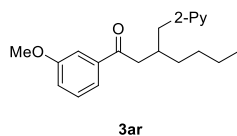
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.63$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 15.5 mg of yellow oil in 52% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52-8.48 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.99-2.90 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.67-2.57 (m, 1H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 4H), 0.95-0.81 (m, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  200.01, 160.94, 159.79, 149.14, 138.76, 136.20, 129.45, 123.68, 121.09, 120.76, 119.35, 112.31, 55.41, 42.93, 42.79, 36.61, 35.35, 19.98, 14.25.

HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 298.1802, found 298.1801

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)heptan-1-one (3ar)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (10:1) ( $R_f = 0.62$  in hexane:ethyl acetate = 3:1) resulting in 16.5 mg of yellow oil in 53% yield.

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.99-2.89 (m, 2H), 2.89-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.64-2.58 (m, 1H), 1.43-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  200.02, 160.94, 159.78, 149.13, 138.77, 136.20, 129.45, 123.69, 121.09, 120.76, 119.35, 112.30, 55.41, 42.92, 42.80, 35.51, 33.95, 29.00, 22.83, 14.00.

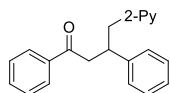
HRMS (ESI):  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated 312.1958, found 312.1956

## 5. References

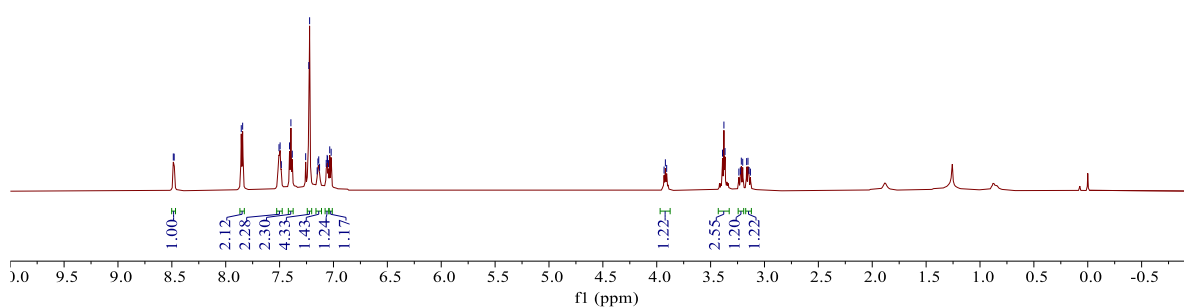
- [1] T. Niwa, H. Yorimitsu and K. Oshima, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2007, **46**, 2643.
- [2] H. Komai, T. Yoshino, S. Matsunaga and M. Kanai, *Org. Lett.* 2011, **13**, 1706.

## 6. NMR spectra of the products

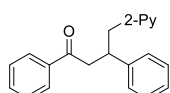
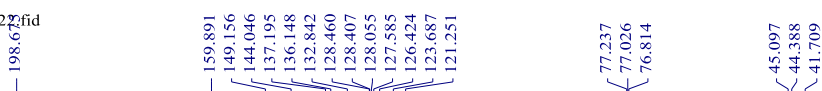
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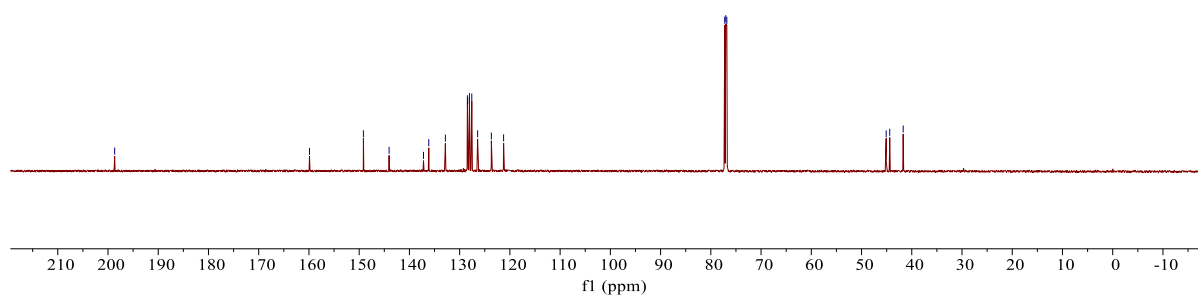
3aa



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 HCM-134

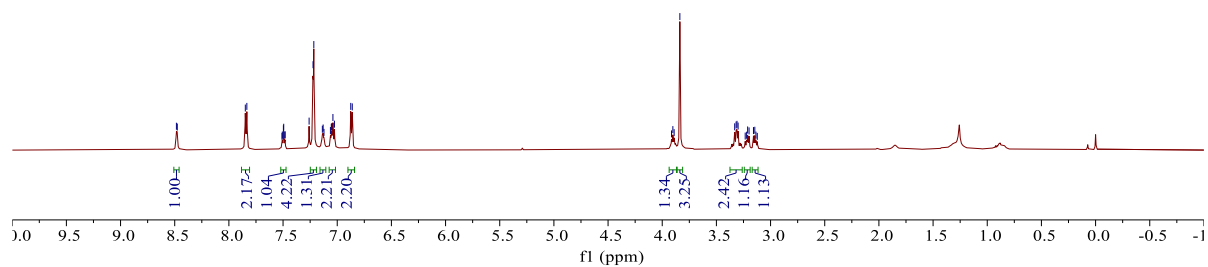
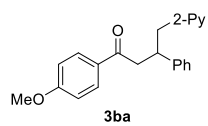


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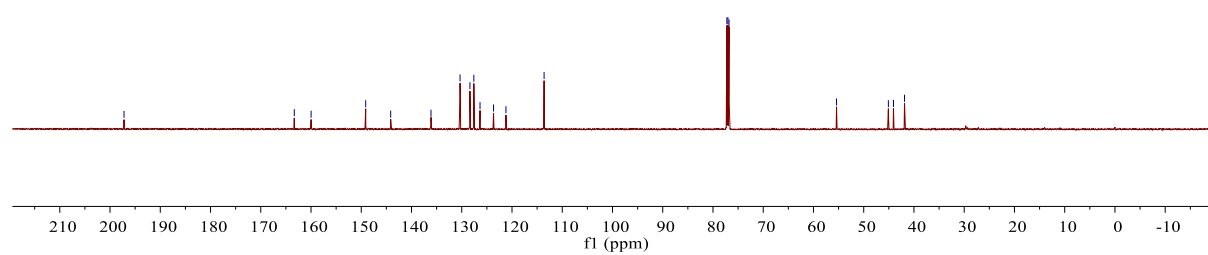
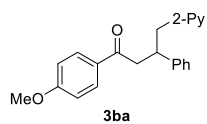
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HCM-187b

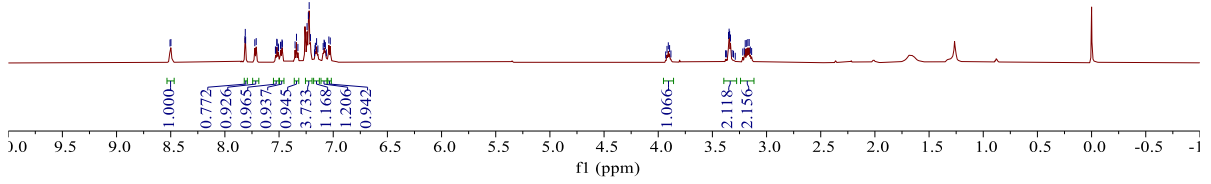
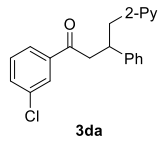
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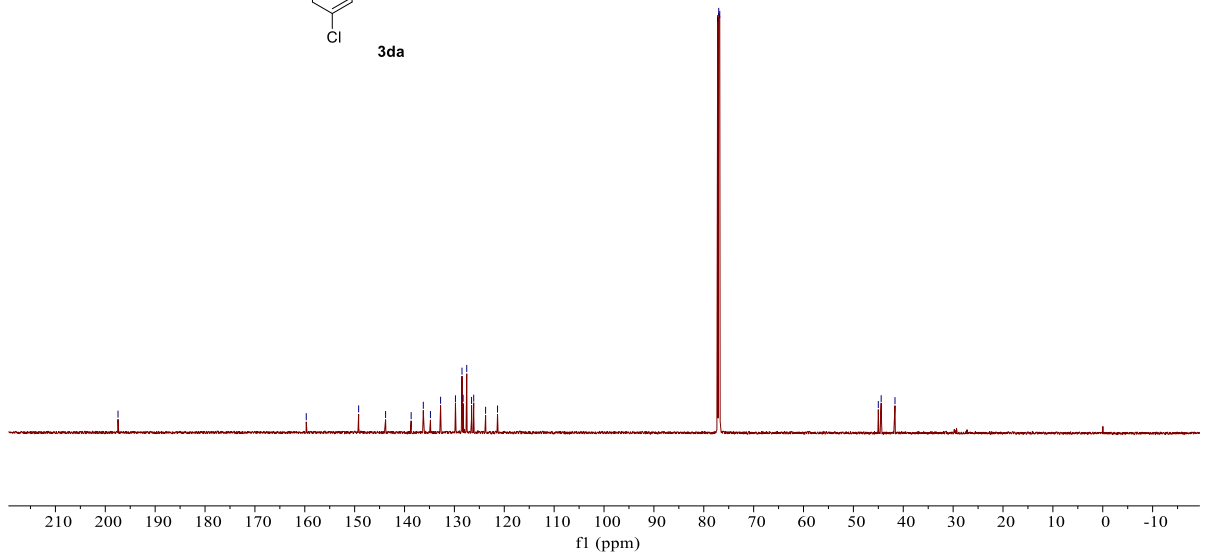
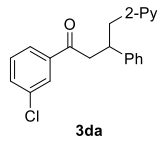




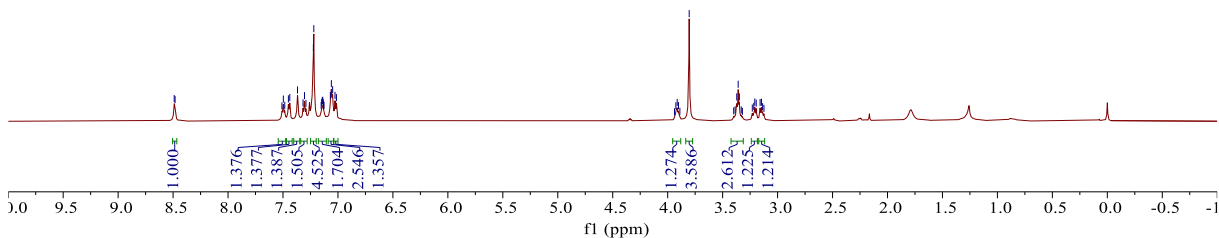
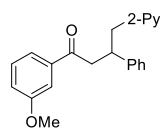
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HCM-196b

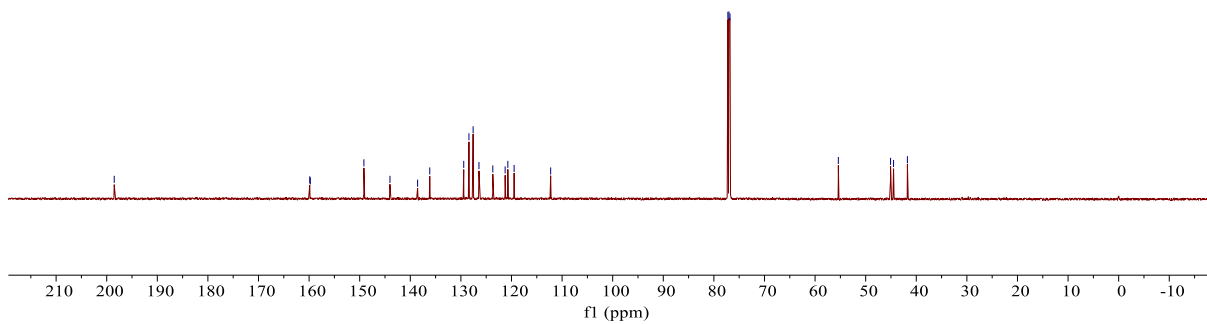
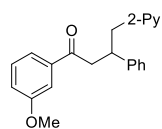


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 HCM-195a

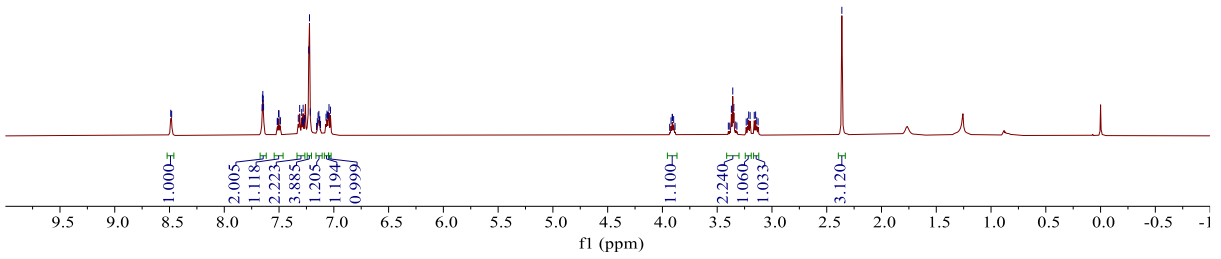
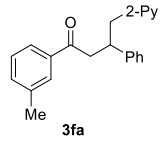


HCM-13C.10  
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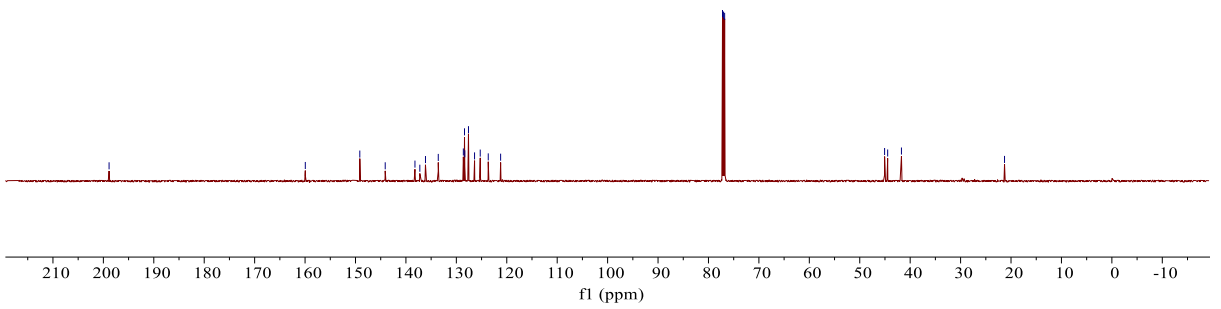
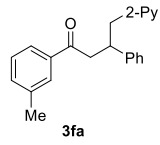
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HCM-1H.3.fid  
HCM-195e

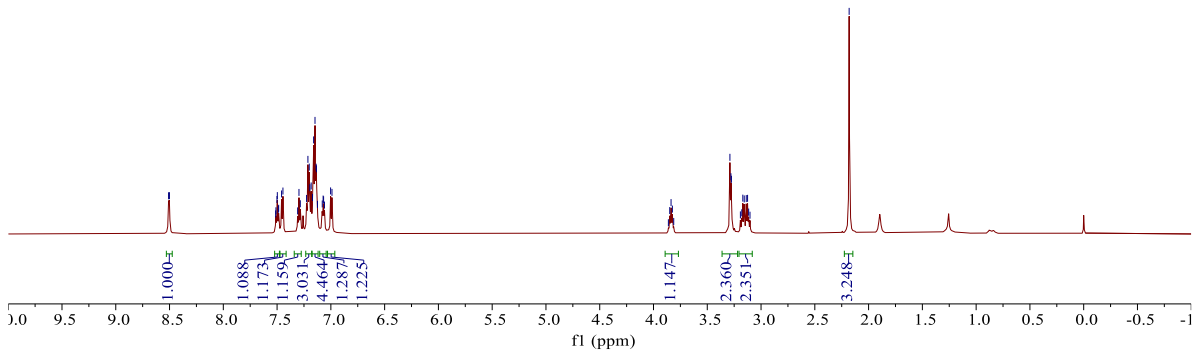
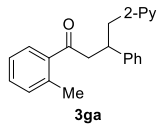


HCM-13C.89d  
HCM-195e



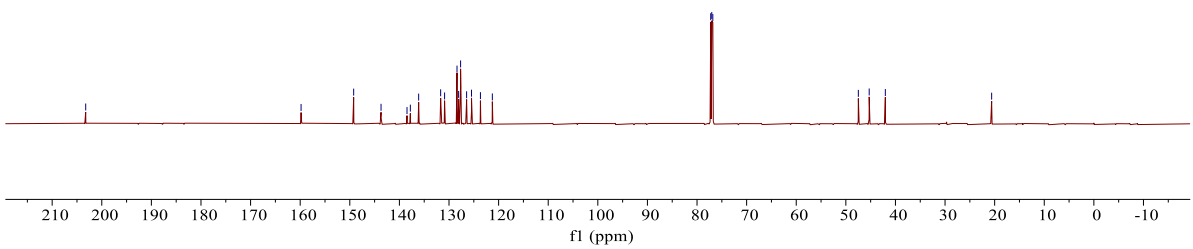
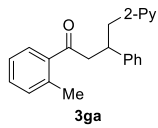
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HCM-195B

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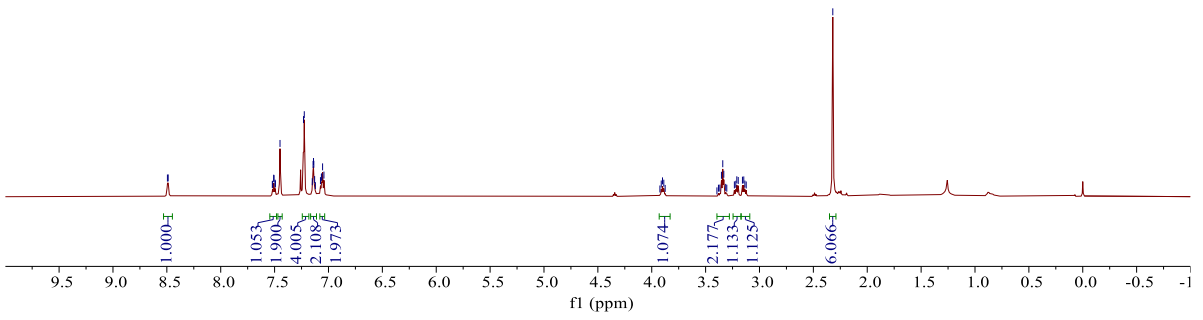
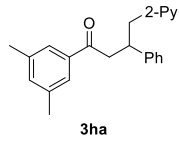
HCM-13C.25.fid  
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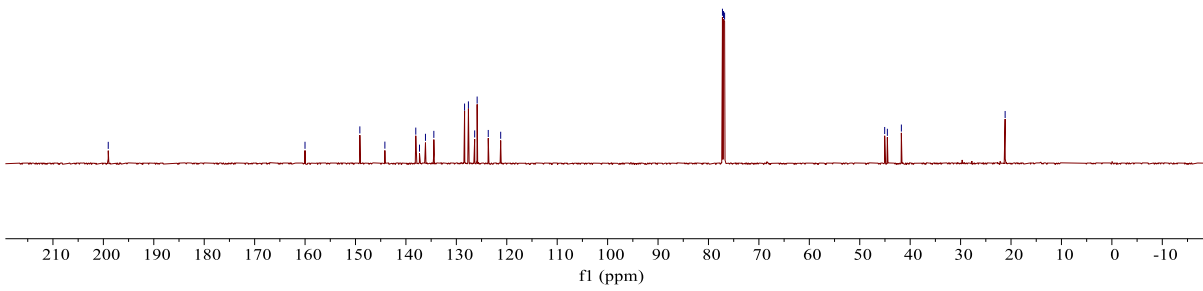
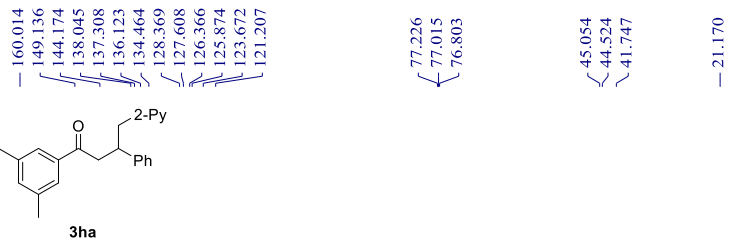


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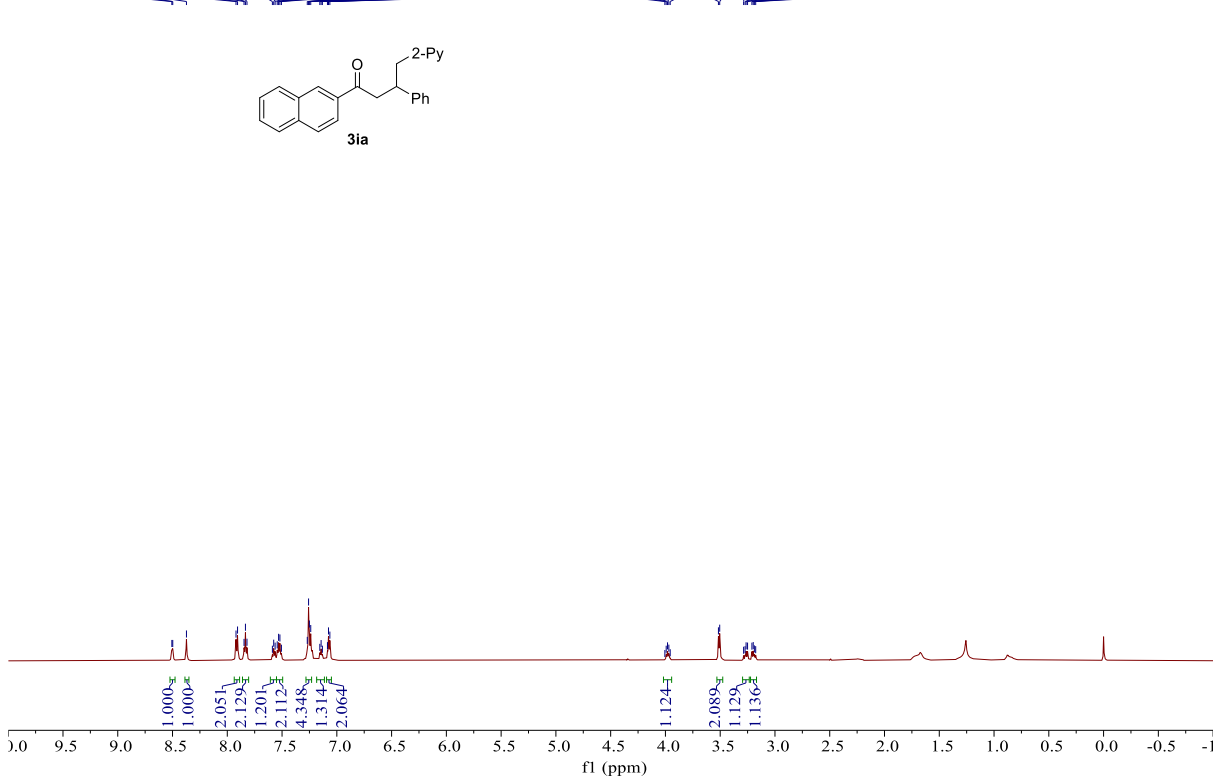
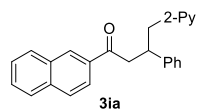
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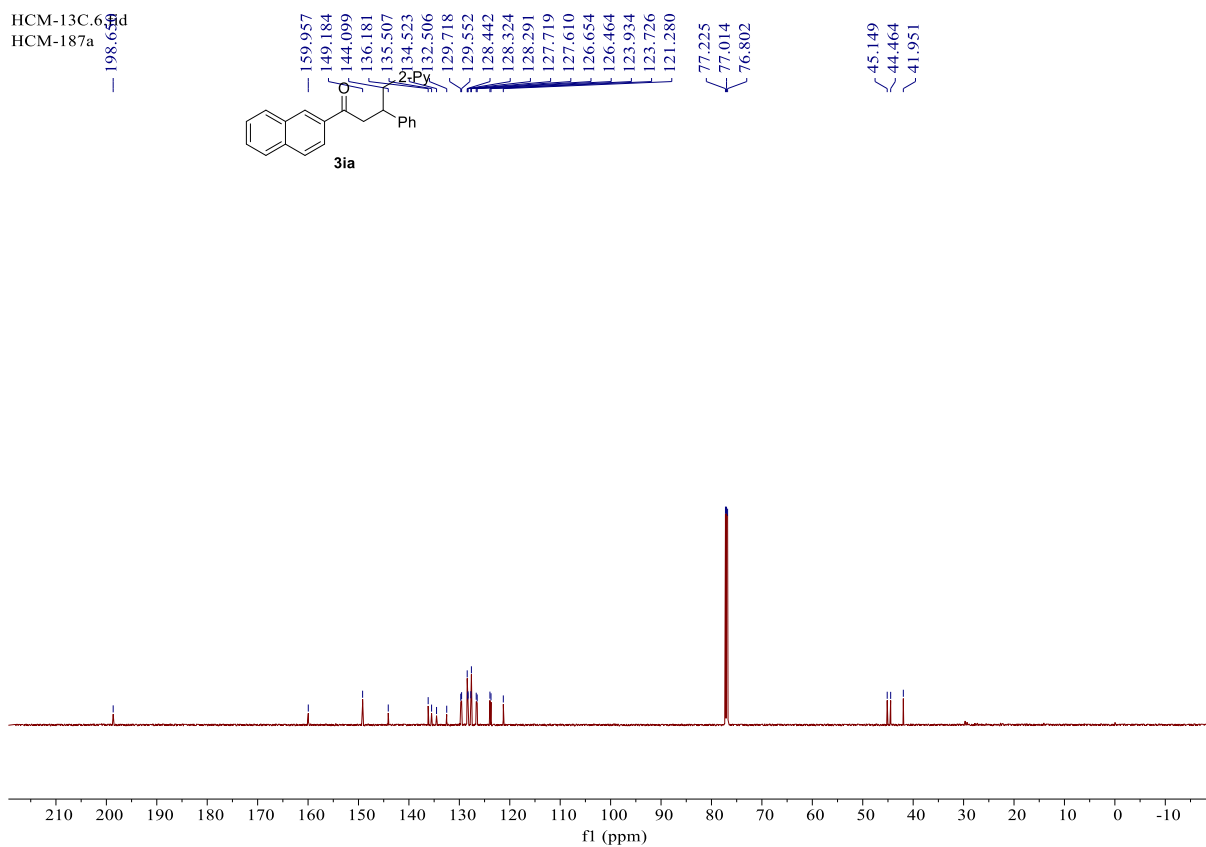
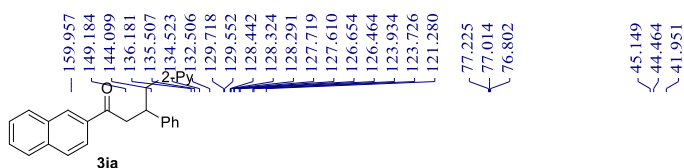
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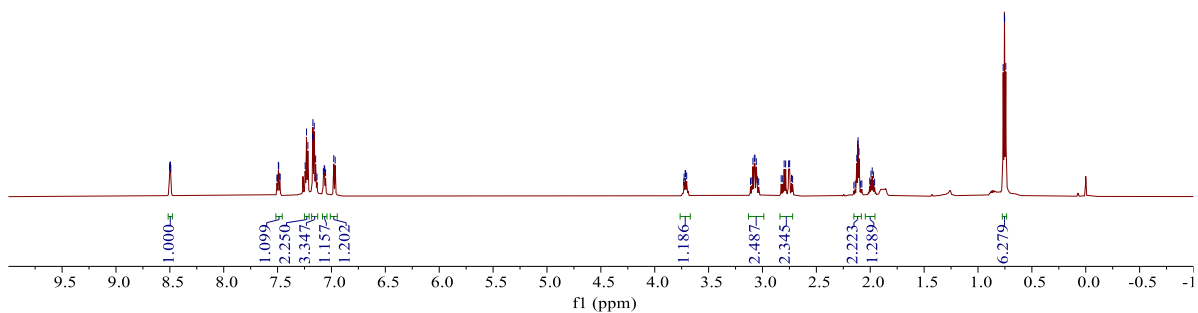
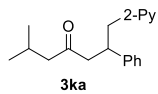
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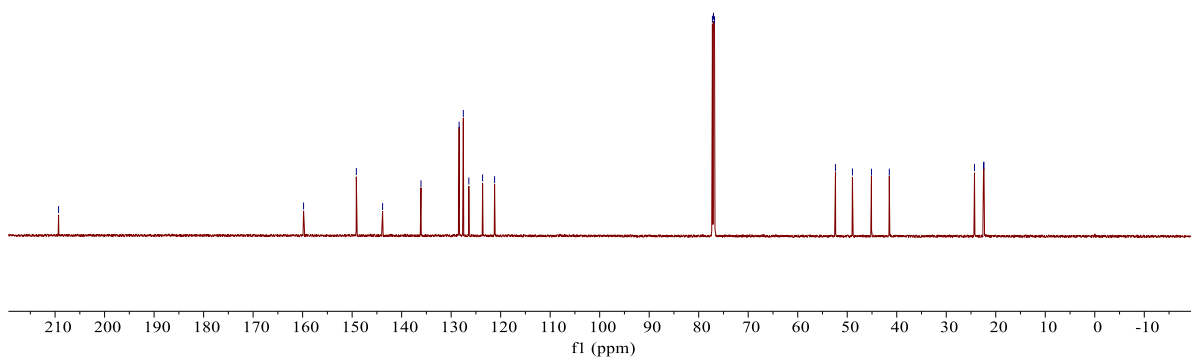
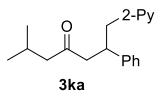


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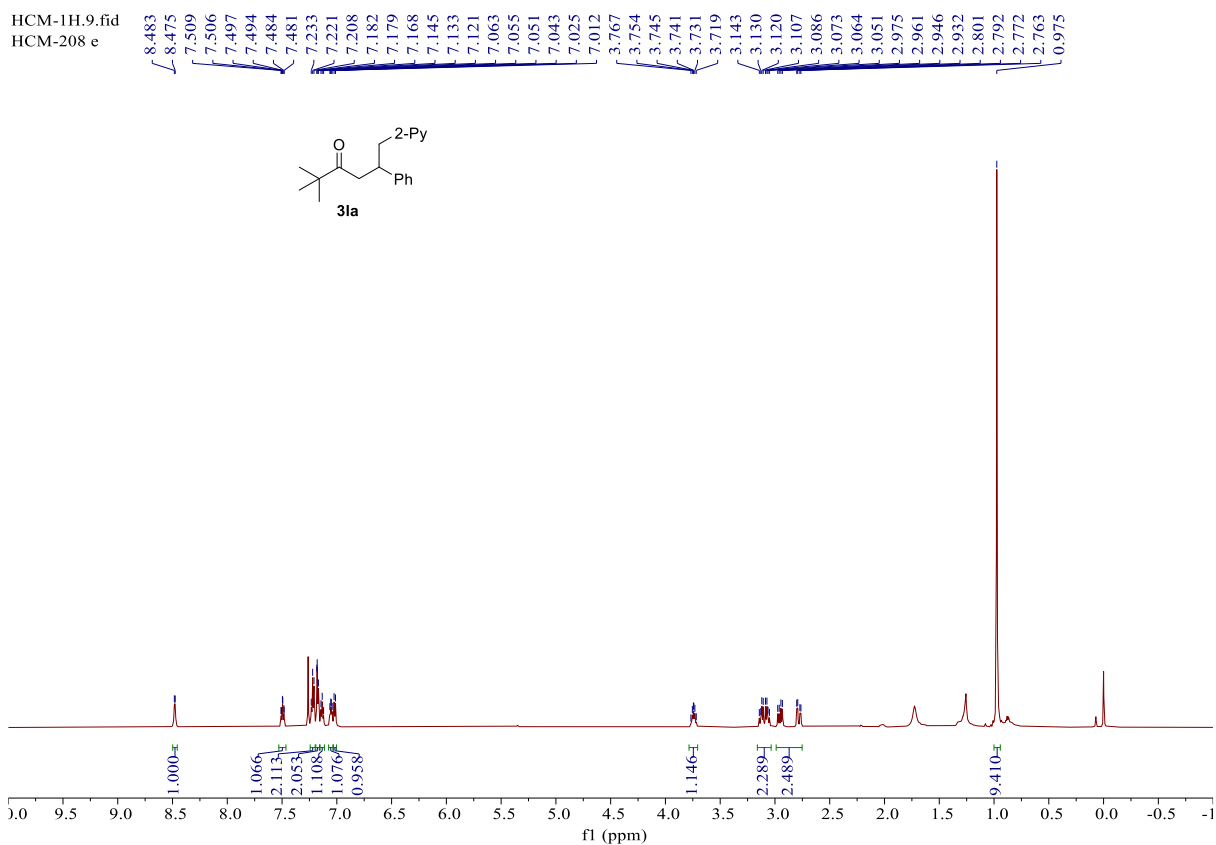


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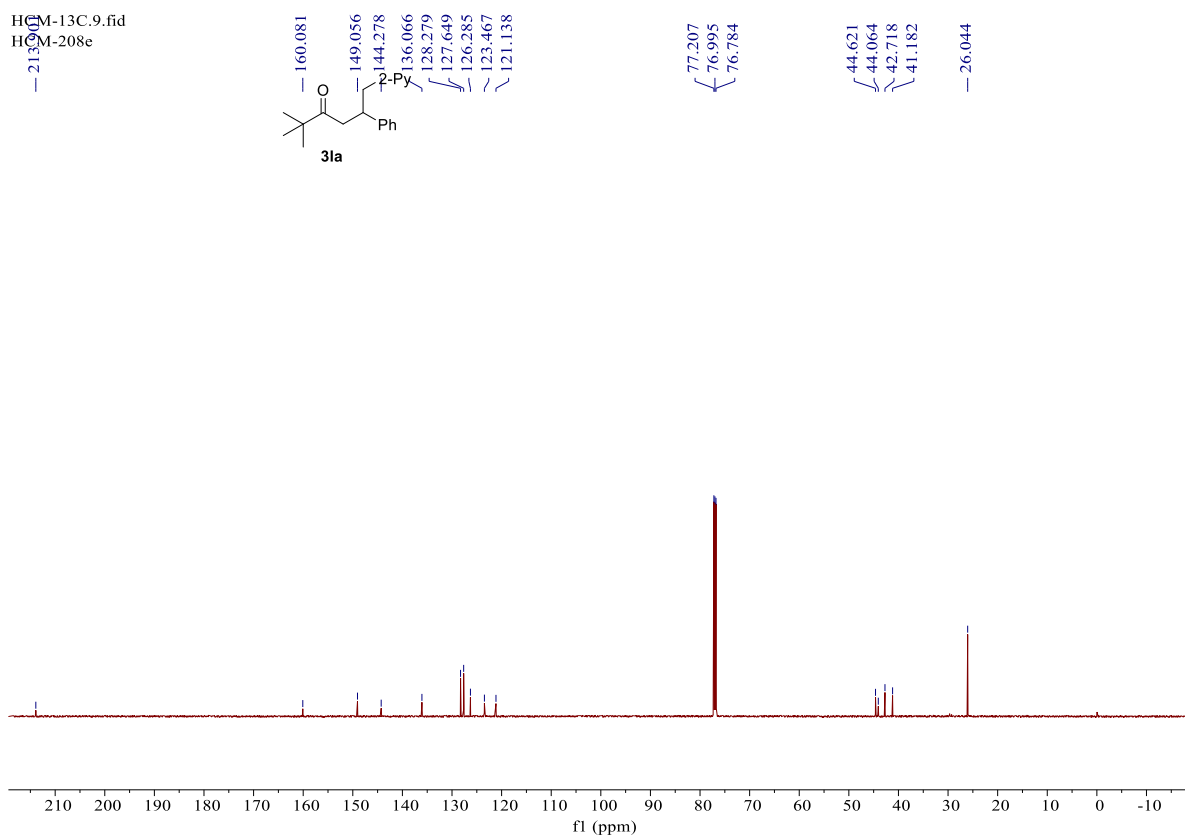
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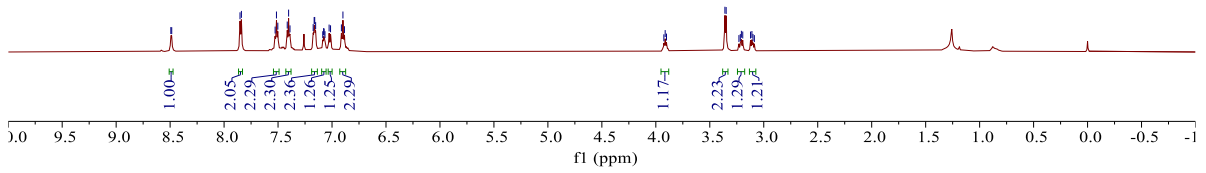
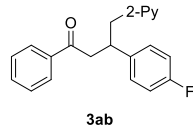
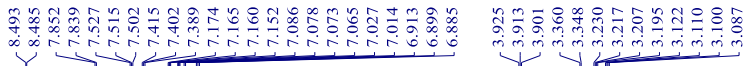
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HCM-208 e



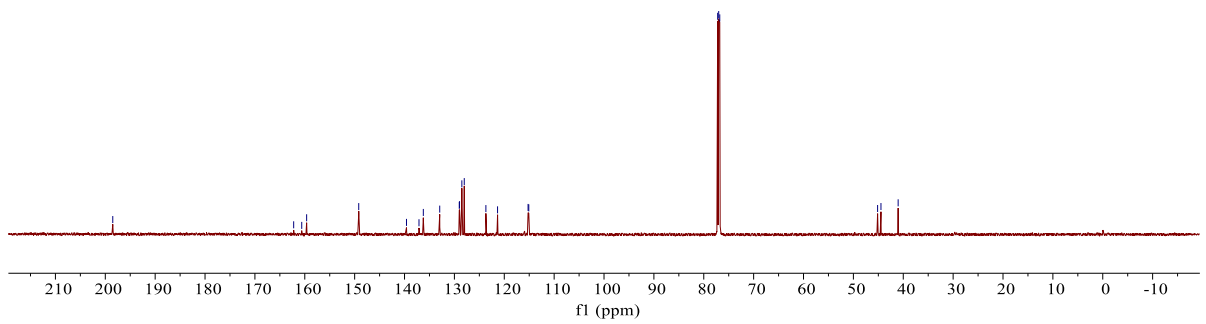
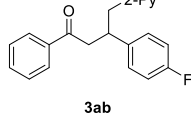
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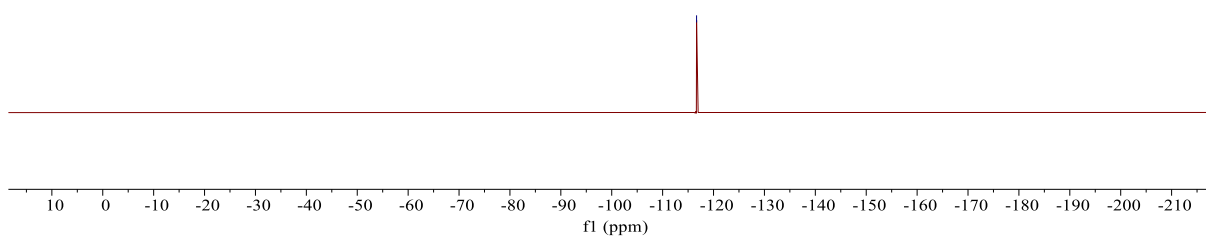
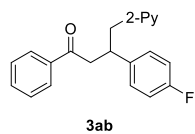


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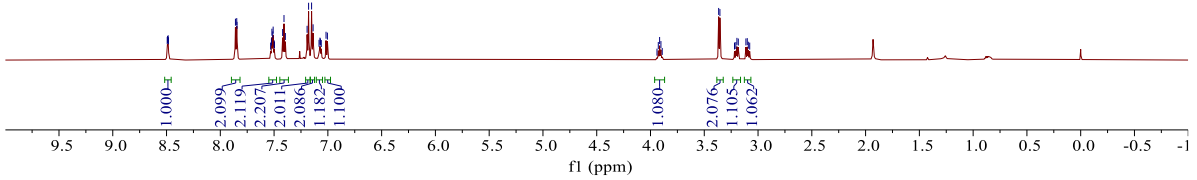
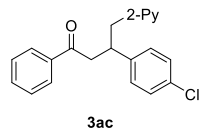


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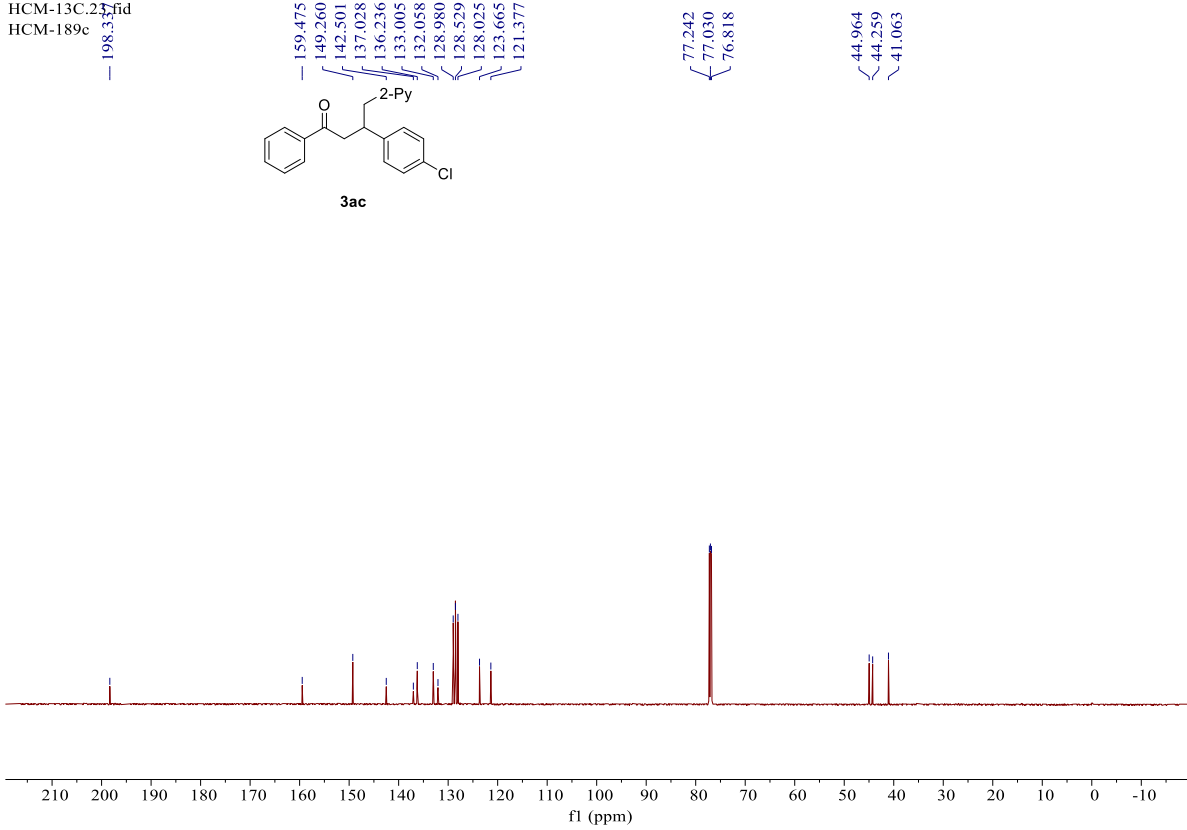
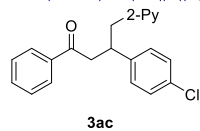
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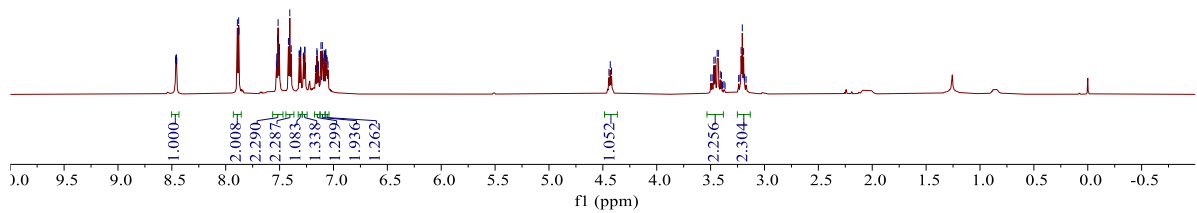
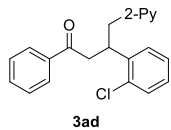
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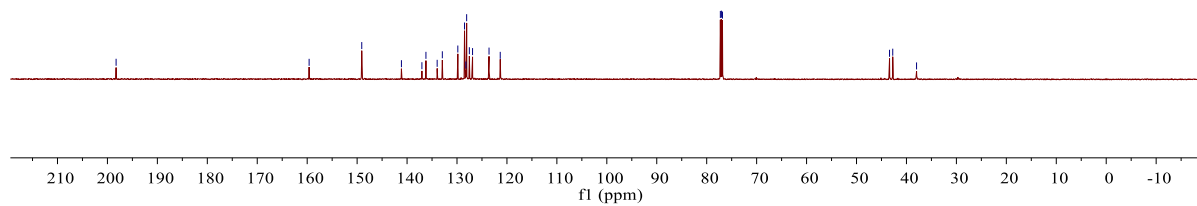
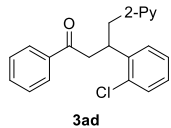


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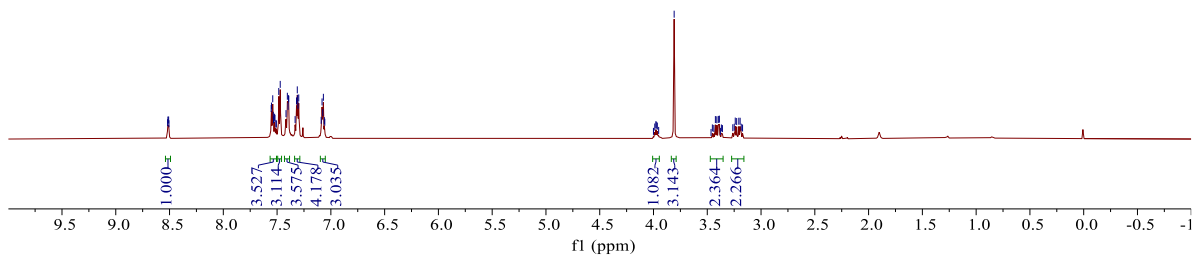
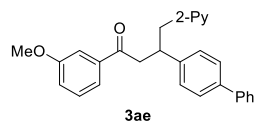
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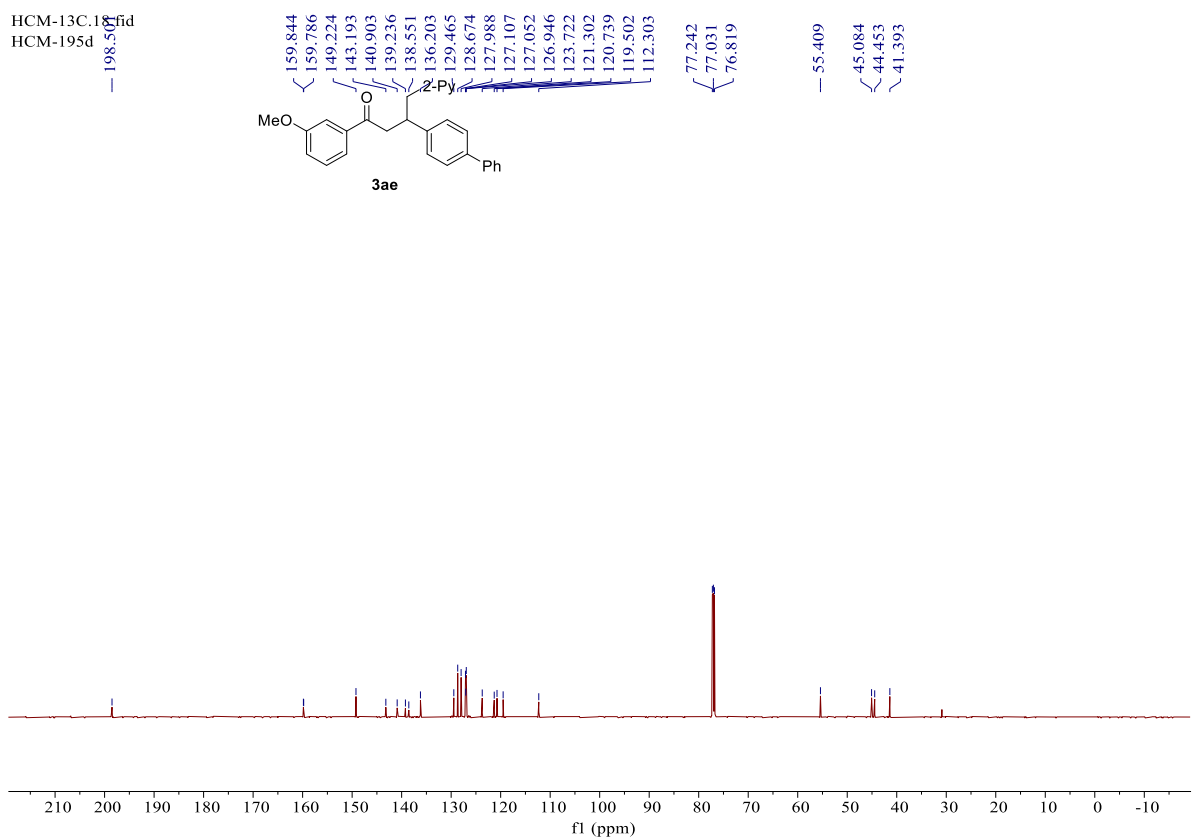
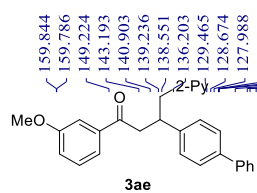
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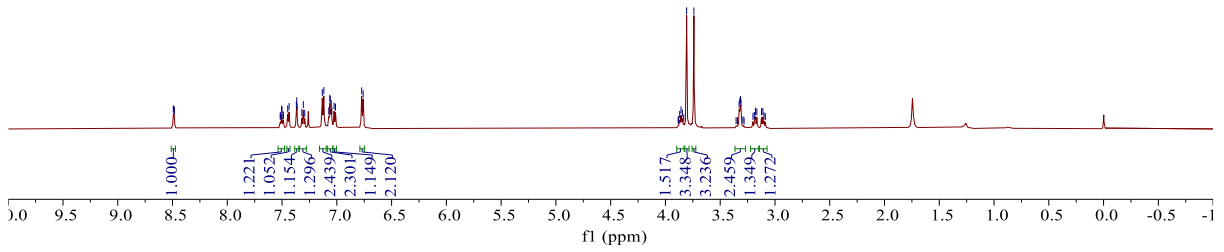
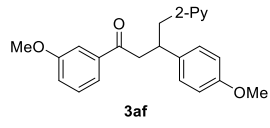


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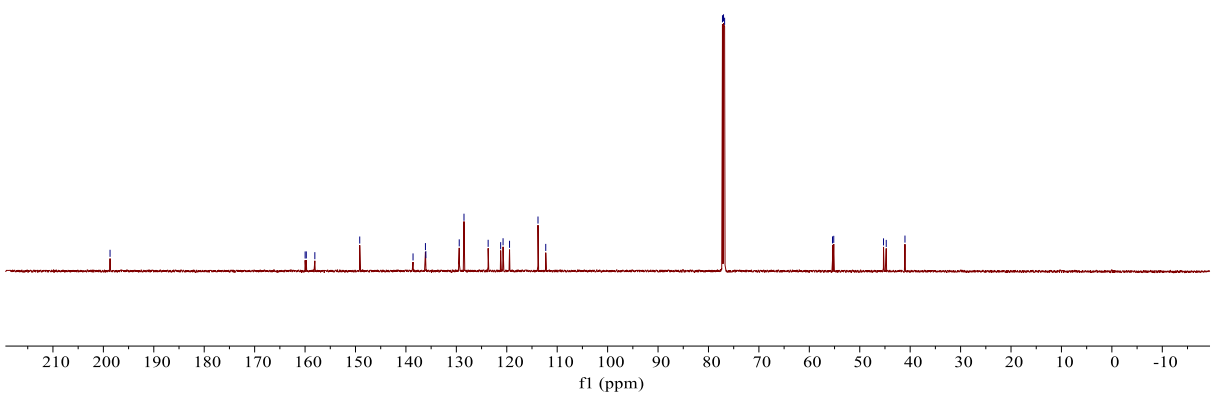


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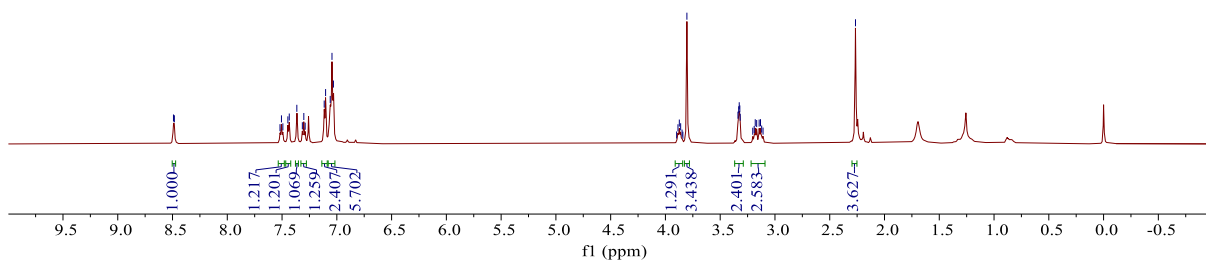
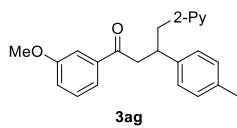
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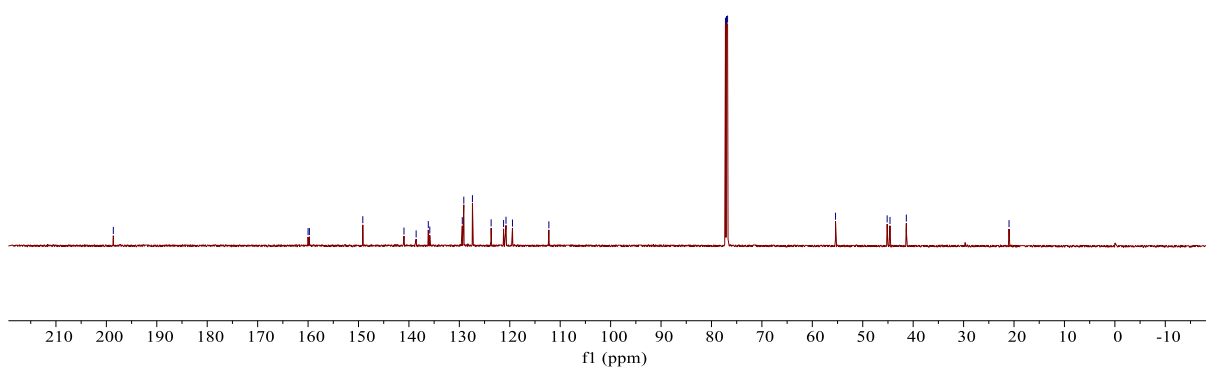
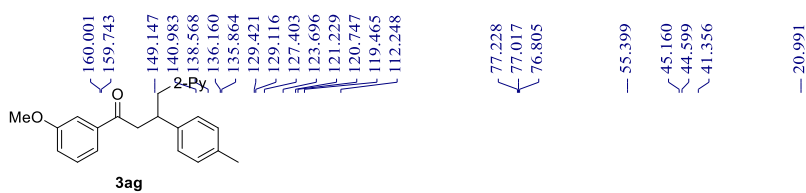


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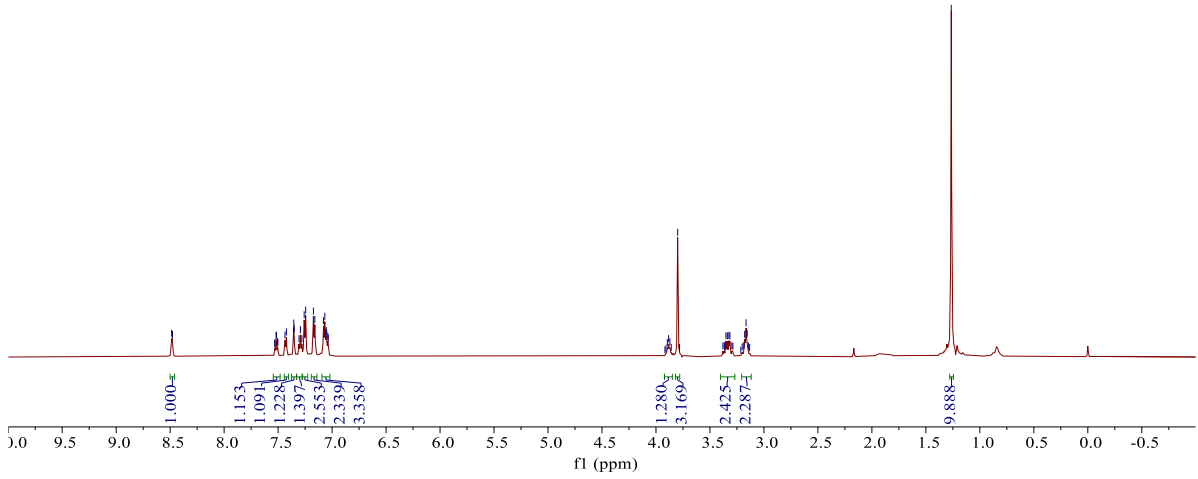
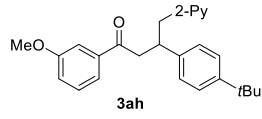
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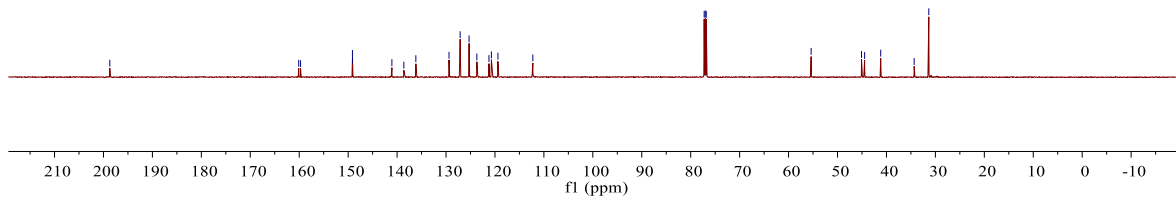
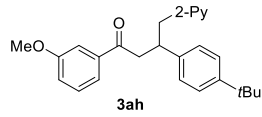
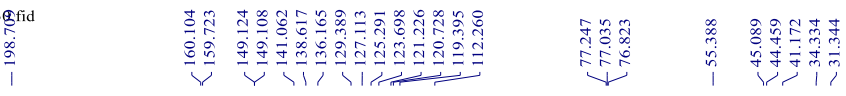
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HCM-214c



HCM-1H.65.fid  
HCM-219c

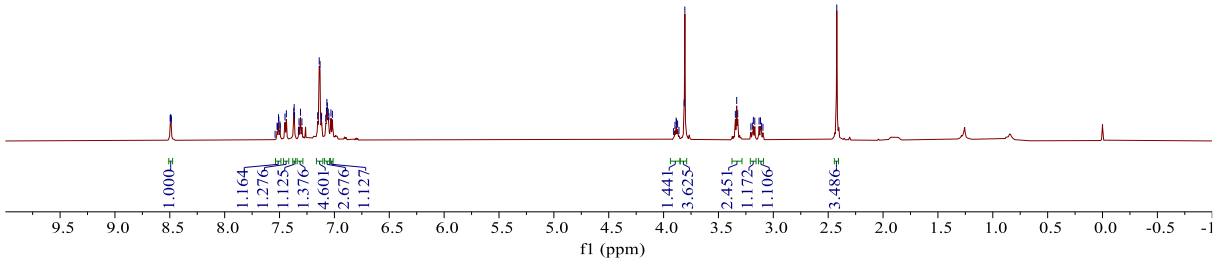
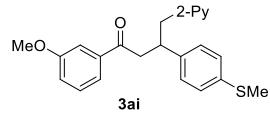


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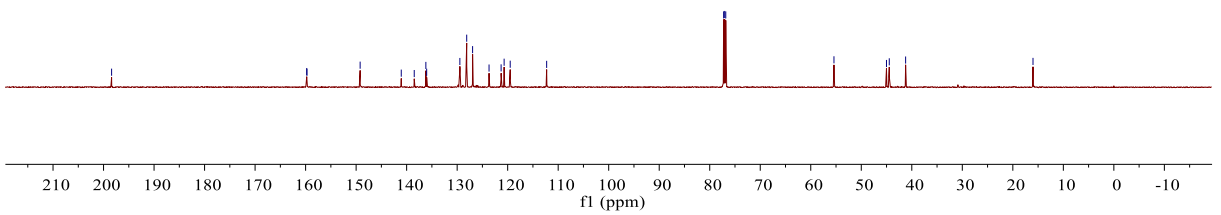
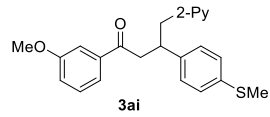
HCM-1H.75.fid  
HCM-224b

8.497  
8.494  
8.489  
8.486  
7.541  
7.522  
7.519  
7.509  
7.506  
7.497  
7.494  
7.450  
7.438  
7.370  
7.367  
7.363  
7.328  
7.323  
7.309  
7.296  
7.153  
7.138  
7.131  
7.120  
7.117  
7.079  
7.073  
7.069  
7.064  
7.056  
7.050  
7.031  
7.018  
3.909  
3.896  
3.886  
3.883  
3.873  
3.860  
3.812  
3.806  
3.346  
3.334  
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3.191  
3.182  
3.169  
3.130  
3.117  
3.107  
3.095  
2.422

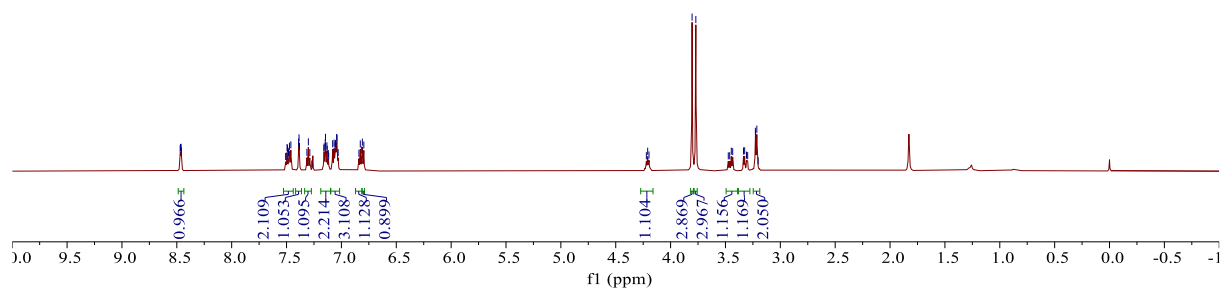
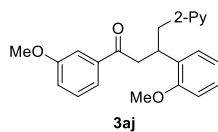


HCM-13C.34.fid  
HCM-224b

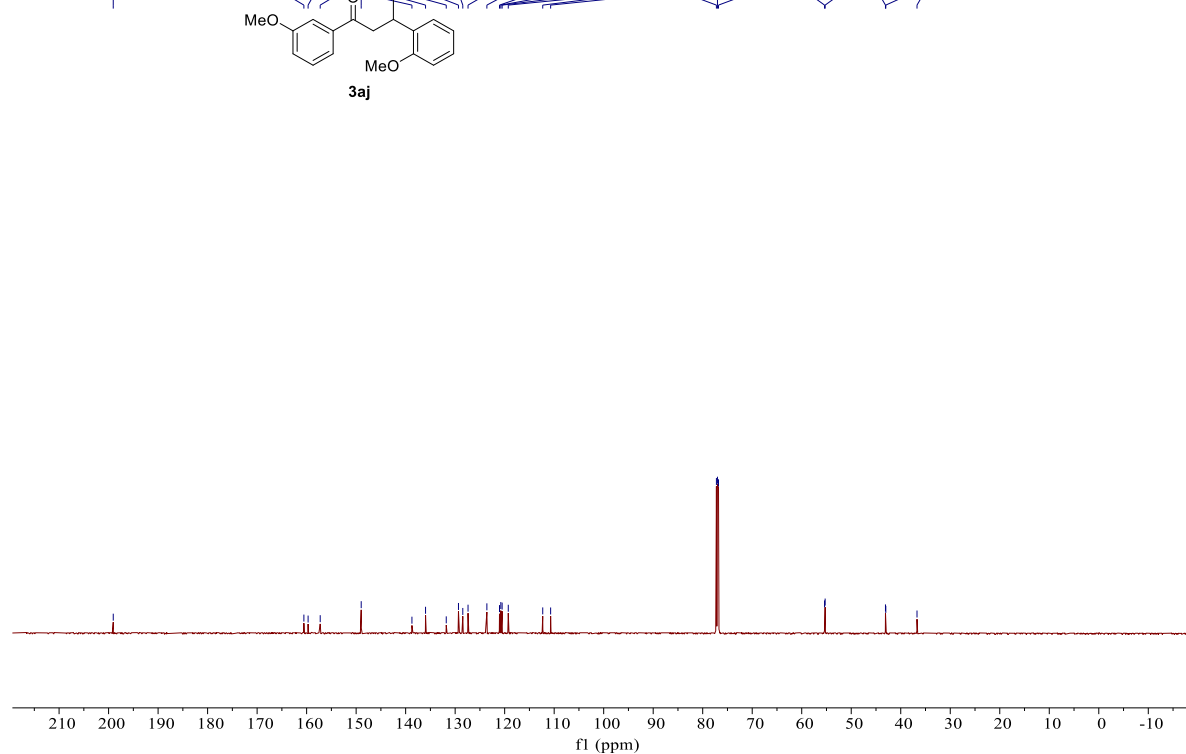
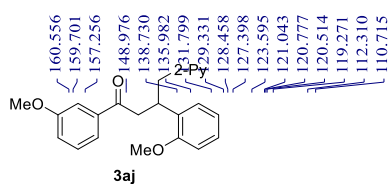
198.406  
159.778  
159.737  
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141.065  
138.496  
136.196  
136.035  
129.462  
128.109  
126.941  
123.688  
121.298  
120.701  
119.497  
112.284  
77.250  
77.039  
76.827  
55.405  
45.012  
44.457  
41.222  
16.006



HCM-1H.31.fid  
 HCM-214e

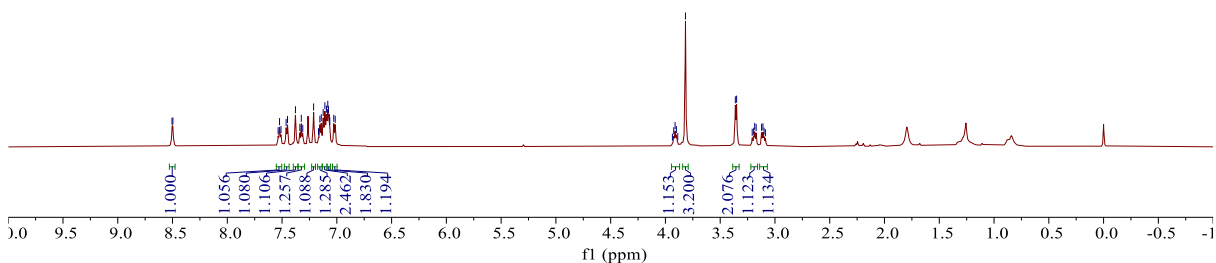
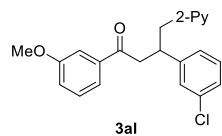


HCM-13C.19.fid  
 HCM-214e

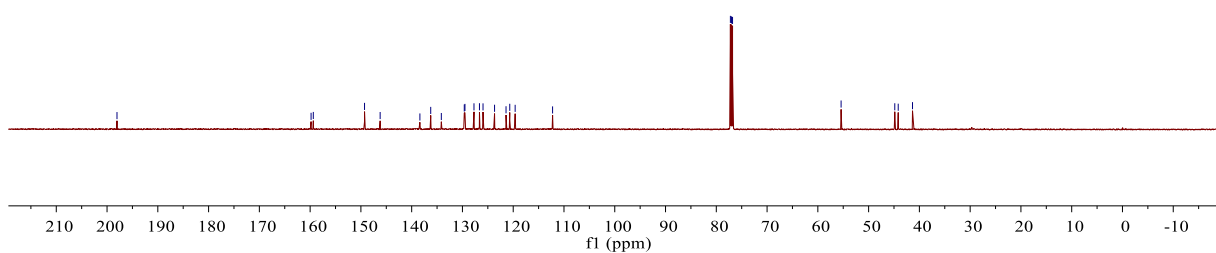
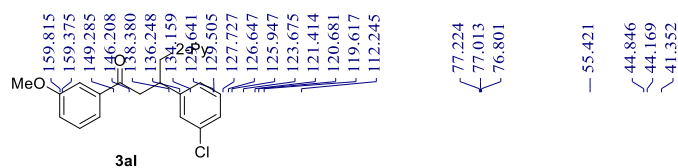




HCM-1H.214h  
 HCM-214h

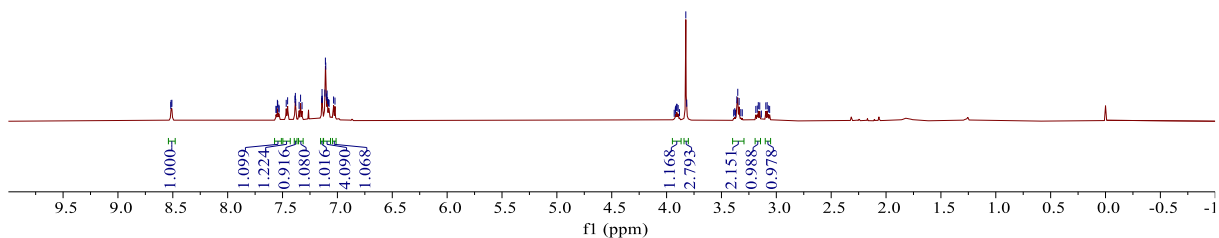
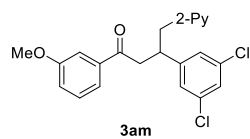


HCM-13C.1214h  
 HCM-214h



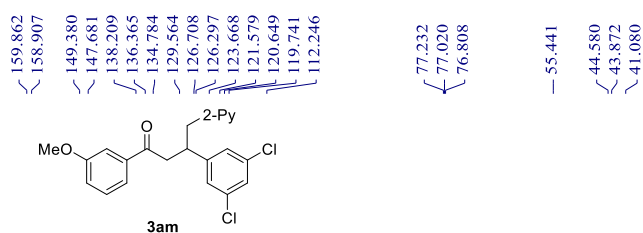
HCM-1H.77.fid  
 HCM-219a

8.518  
 8.516  
 8.508  
 7.560  
 7.557  
 7.547  
 7.544  
 7.534  
 7.531  
 7.466  
 7.454  
 7.387  
 7.383  
 7.380  
 7.349  
 7.336  
 7.322  
 7.143  
 7.140  
 7.137  
 7.114  
 7.109  
 7.106  
 7.101  
 7.094  
 7.089  
 7.081  
 7.076  
 7.035  
 7.022  
 3.921  
 3.918  
 3.908  
 3.905  
 3.895  
 3.882  
 3.825  
 3.816  
 3.389  
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 3.339  
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 3.061

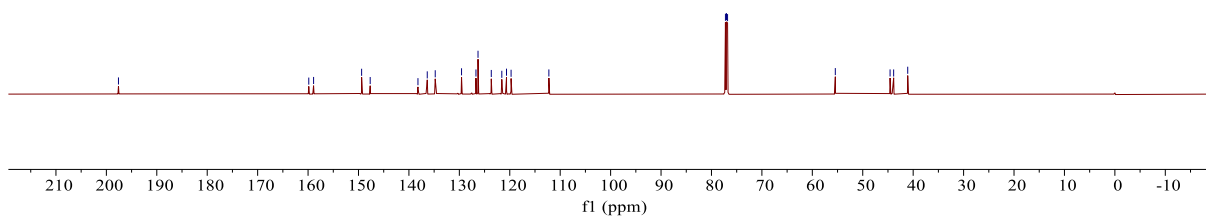


HCM-13C.36.fid  
 HCM-219a

197.66±



159.862  
 158.907  
 149.380  
 147.681  
 138.209  
 136.365  
 134.784  
 129.564  
 126.708  
 126.297  
 123.668  
 121.579  
 120.649  
 119.741  
 112.246  
 77.232  
 77.020  
 76.808  
 55.441  
 44.580  
 43.872  
 41.080



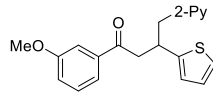




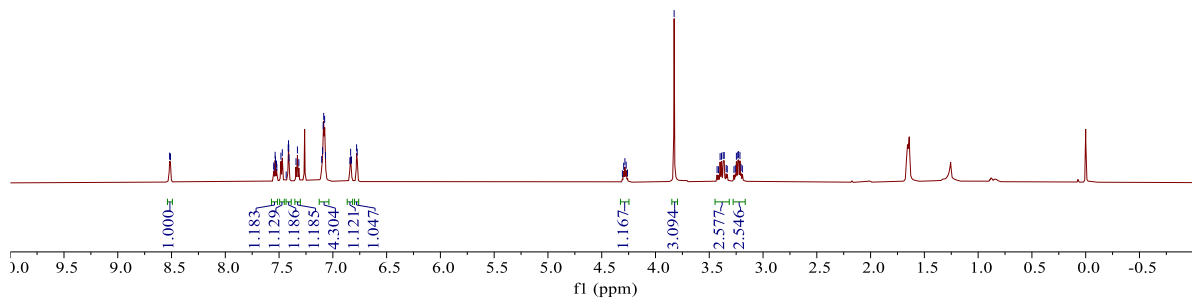


HCM-1H.55.fid  
HCM-214o

8.518  
8.510  
7.549  
7.547  
7.537  
7.534  
7.524  
7.521  
7.483  
7.470  
7.434  
7.415  
7.412  
7.410  
7.408  
7.343  
7.329  
7.316  
7.104  
7.095  
7.090  
7.085  
7.076  
7.069  
6.841  
6.835  
6.832  
6.827  
6.779  
6.774  
4.308  
4.296  
4.284  
4.273  
4.260  
3.827  
3.428  
3.415  
3.399  
3.386  
3.371  
3.361  
3.343  
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3.227  
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3.205  
3.192

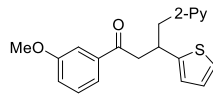


3ap

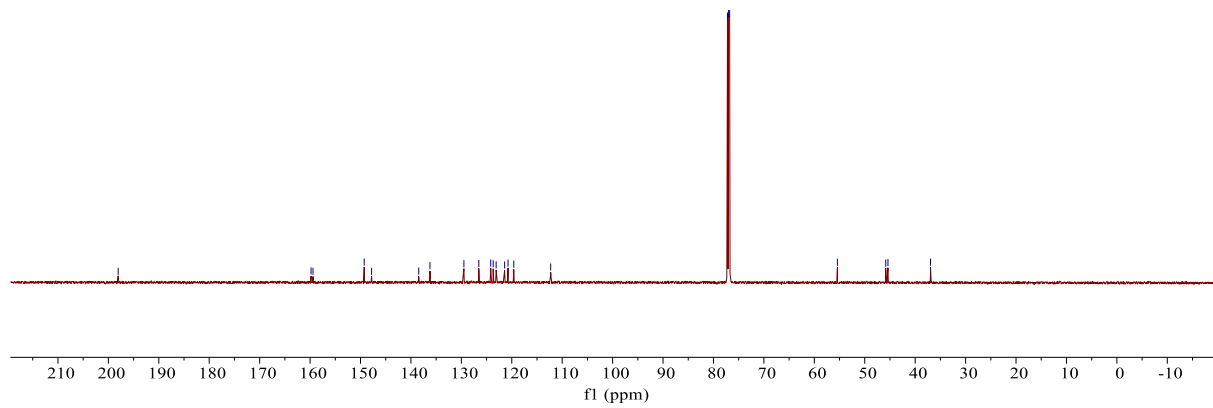


HCM-13C.207.fid  
HCM-214o

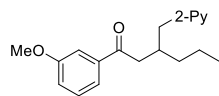
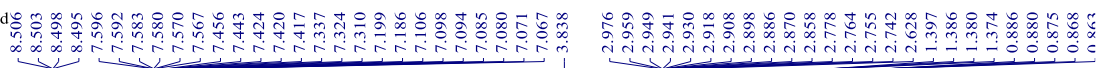
198.06  
159.800  
159.414  
149.264  
147.796  
138.452  
136.225  
129.492  
126.538  
124.171  
123.683  
123.102  
121.415  
120.741  
119.603  
112.286  
77.218  
77.006  
76.794  
55.427  
45.833  
45.398  
36.956



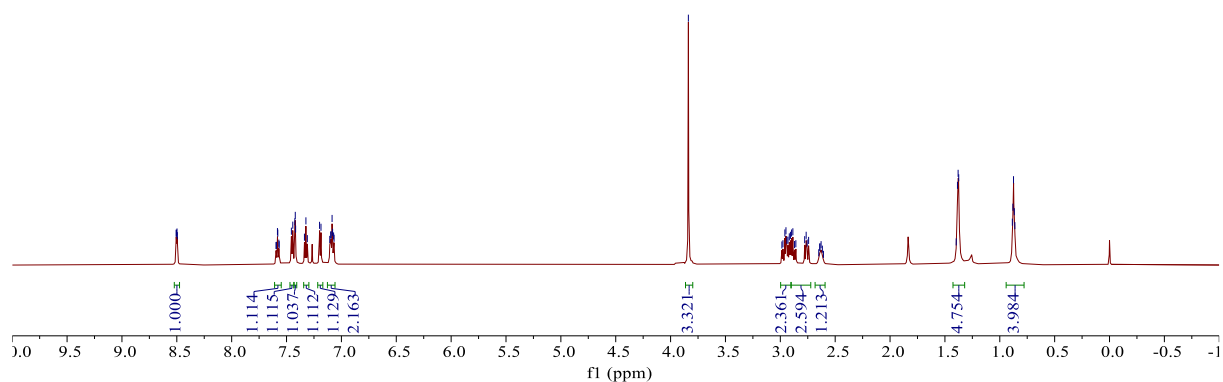
3ap



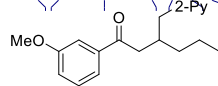
HCM-1H.56.fid  
 HCM-214v



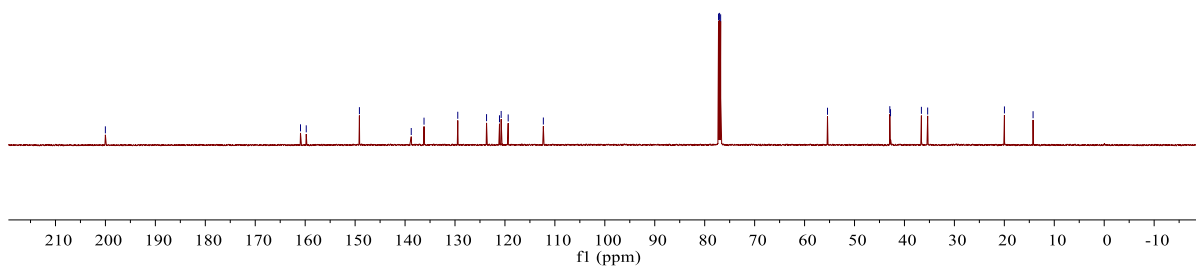
3aq



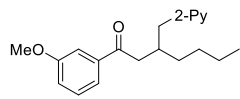
HCM-13C.27.fid  
 HCM-214V



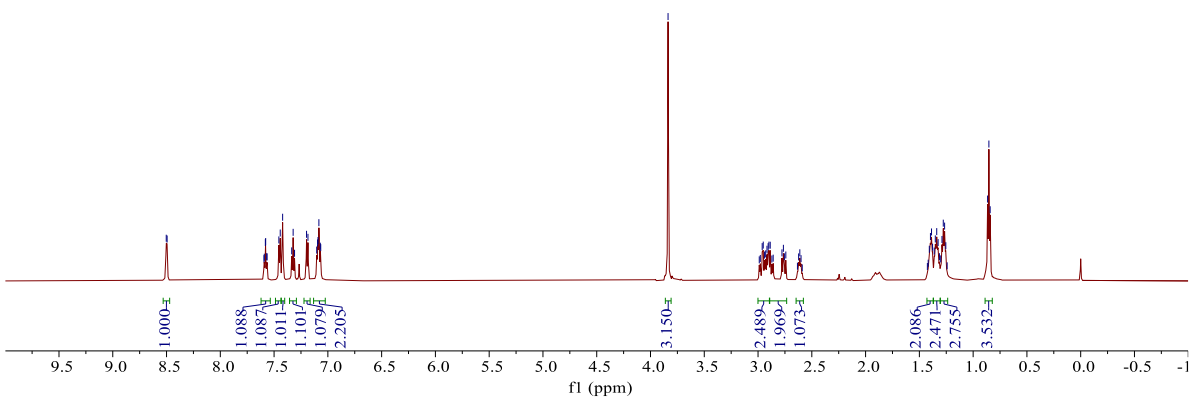
3aq



<sup>1</sup>H NMR peaks (ppm): 8.019, 8.014, 7.588, 7.578, 7.569, 7.566, 7.456, 7.443, 7.421, 7.336, 7.323, 7.310, 7.198, 7.185, 7.104, 7.096, 7.092, 7.083, 7.070, 7.066, 3.837, 2.989, 2.979, 2.961, 2.952, 2.939, 2.929, 2.917, 2.906, 2.899, 2.887, 2.871, 2.859, 2.778, 2.764, 2.755, 2.742, 2.623, 2.612, 2.600, 1.407, 1.397, 1.387, 1.377, 1.362, 1.352, 1.339, 1.326, 1.313, 1.301, 1.290, 1.278, 1.265, 1.254, 0.866, 0.854, 0.842.

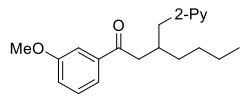


**3ar**



HCM-13C-21.fid  
 HCM-214W  
 200.031

160.945  
 159.782  
 149.133  
 138.767  
 136.203  
 129.446  
 123.686  
 121.092  
 120.758  
 119.347  
 112.302



**3ar**

