

Supporting Information For

Samarium(II)-Electrocatalyzed Chemoselective Reductive Alkoxylation of Phthalimides

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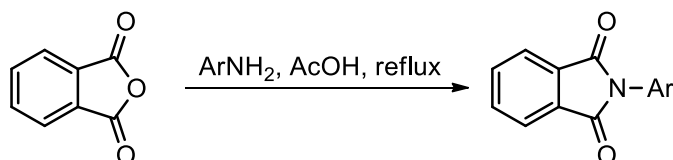
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1. General Experimental Considerations.

THF was distilled from sodium metal/benzophenone before use. All commercially available chemicals were used without purification. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AM 360 (360 MHz), AM 300 (300 MHz), or AM 250 (250 MHz) instrument with samples dissolved in CDCl_3 . ^1H NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent signal; ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the deuterated solvent signal. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift δ (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (J) in Hz and integration. Mass spectra were recorded on a micrOTOF-q Bruker Daltonics spectrometer. Flash chromatography (FC) was performed on 40-63 μm silica gel with mixtures of ethyl acetate (EA) and pentane. TLC plates were visualized by exposure to UV (254 nm) and/or KMnO_4 stain. The gas chromatography (GC) were performed on a spectrometer Varian GC-430 (injection: split/splitless, FID detector, column VF1-MS: 15m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 microns, program: 1 min 50 $^\circ\text{C}$, 10 $^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ to 250 $^\circ\text{C}$, 250 $^\circ\text{C}$ 2 min, 23 min total). Infrared spectra were recorded on a FTIR spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer spectrum one, NaCl pellets or Bruker Vertex 70 ATR Pike Germanium) and are reported in cm^{-1} . Melting points were determined using a Büchi melting point apparatus. Electrolysis were performed with a AUTOLAB potentiostat/galvanostat (model: PGSTAT302N), in an undivided three-electrodes cell containing samarium rod working electrode, a standard glassy carbon counter electrode and a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) as reference. The samarium electrode used is based on a samarium rod of 12.7 mm (0.5 in) diameter and 5 cm length, directly connected to a copper wire to ensure current conductivity. This self-made electrode is stored under inert atmosphere when it is not used. All the samarium rods are purchased from Alfa Aesar (99.9 % metals basis excluding Ta).

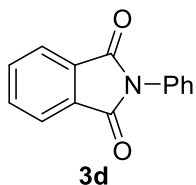
2. Preparation of the substrates

2.1. General procedure for 3d and 3e. ¹



A mixture of aniline (5.0 mmol) and Phthalic anhydride (740 mg, 5.0 mmol) in acetic acid (10 ml) was refluxed overnight with stirring. After cooling to the room temperature, diluted by water (20 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x10 ml). The organic phase was washed by saturated NaHCO₃ (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the product.

2-phenylisoindoline-1,3-dione (3d)



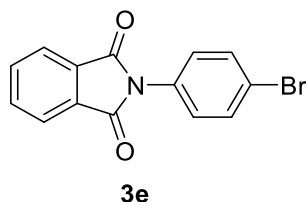
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless solid (1.06 g, 95%) using ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5 as eluent.

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.36 (m, 5H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 134.4, 131.8, 131.7, 129.2, 128.1, 126.6, 123.8.

HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₄H₉NNaO₂⁺ [M+Na]: 246.0525. Found: 246.0534.

2-(4-bromophenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3e)



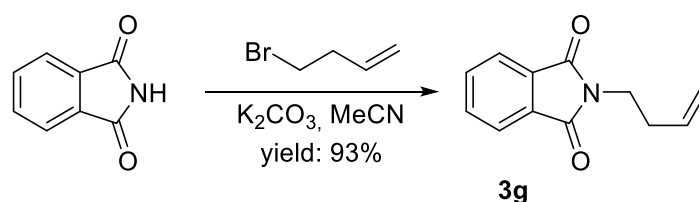
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless solid (1.38 g, 92%) using ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5 as eluent.

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 134.6, 132.3, 131.6, 130.7, 128.0, 123.9, 121.8.

HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₄H₈BrNNaO₂⁺ [*M*+Na]: 323.9631 and 325.9611. Found: 323.9621 and 325.9626.

2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**3g**)²



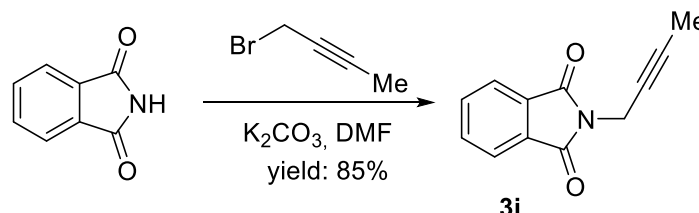
To a solution of K₂CO₃ (2.07 g, 15.0 mmol) and phthalimide (0.89 g, 6.0 mmol) in MeCN (15.0 ml), 4-bromobut-1-ene (0.61 g, 5.0 mmol, 0.43 ml) was added dropwise with stirring at room temperature. The resulting reaction was refluxed for 13 h. Then, cooled to room temperature and quenched by water (50 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by 0.1 mol/L HCl (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5) to afford the product as a colorless solid (1.12g, 93%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 5.78 (ddt, *J* = 17.1, 10.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (ddd, *J* = 14.8, 7.2, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4, 134.5, 134.0, 132.1, 123.3, 117.6, 37.4, 32.9.

HRMS (ESI) [*M*+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₂H₁₁NNaO₂⁺: 224.0682. Found: 224.0679.

2-(but-2-yn-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**3i**)³



To a solution of K₂CO₃ (1.73 g, 12.5 mmol) and phthalimide (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol) in DMF (5.0 ml), 1-bromobut-2-yne (1.06 g, 10.0 mmol, 0.70 ml) was added dropwise with stirring at room temperature overnight. Then, quenched by water (50 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15

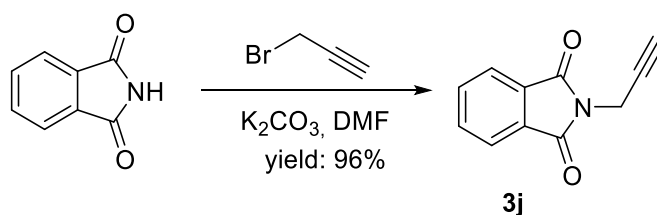
ml). The organic phase was washed by 0.1 mol/L HCl (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5) to afford the product as a yellow solid (0.85g, 85%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 1.78 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 134.1, 132.1, 123.5, 79.3, 72.6, 27.4, 3.5.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₂H₉NNaO₂⁺: 222.0525. Found: 222.0532.

2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3j)⁴



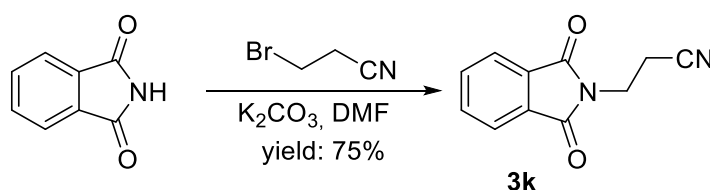
To a solution of K₂CO₃ (1.73 g, 12.5 mmol) and phthalimide (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol) in DMF (5.0 ml), 3-bromoprop-1-yne (1.19 g, 10.0 mmol, 0.86 ml) was added dropwise with stirring at room temperature overnight. Then, quenched by water (50 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by 0.1 mol/L HCl (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5) to afford the product as a colorless solid (0.89g, 96%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.24 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 134.2, 131.9, 123.6, 71.5, 27.0.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₁H₇NNaO₂⁺: 208.0369. Found: 208.0371.

3-(1,3-dioxisoindolin-2-yl)propanenitrile (3k)



To a solution of K₂CO₃ (2.07 g, 15.0 mmol) and phthalimide (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol) in DMF (10.0 ml), 3-bromopropanenitrile (0.80 g, 6.0 mmol, 0.50 ml) was added dropwise with stirring at

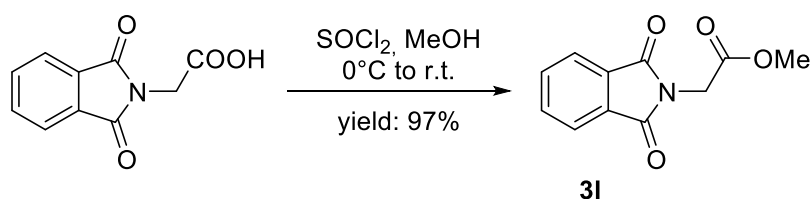
room temperature overnight. Then, quenched by water (50 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by 0.1 mol/L HCl (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5) to afford the product as a yellow oil (0.75g, 75%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 134.6, 131.7, 123.8, 117.0, 33.6, 17.3.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₁H₈N₂NaO₂⁺: 223.0478. Found: 223.0465.

Methyl 2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)acetate (3l)



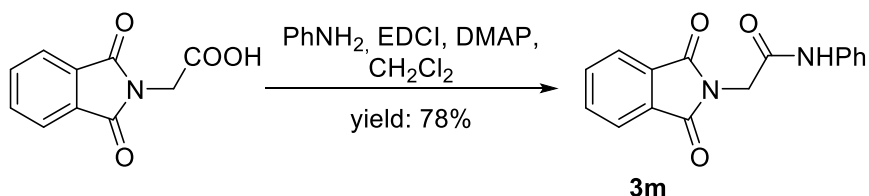
2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)acetic acid (0.62 g, 3.0 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (30 ml), then cooled to 0 °C. SOCl₂ (0.54 g, 4.5 mmol, 0.33 ml) was added into the mixture, warmed up to room temperature and stirred overnight. Quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ (10 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2) to afford the product as a white solid (0.64 g, 97%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 167.4, 134.3, 132.0, 123.6, 52.7, 38.7.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₁H₉NNaO₄⁺: 242.0424. Found: 242.0421.

2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-N-phenylacetamide (3m)



To a solution of 2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)acetic acid (1.03 g, 5.0 mmol) and aniline (0.47 g, 5.0 mmol, 0.46 ml) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 ml), DMAP (61 mg, 0.5 mmol) and EDCI (1.15 g, 6.0 mmol) were added with stirring at room temperature. After 20 hours, concentrated and purified by

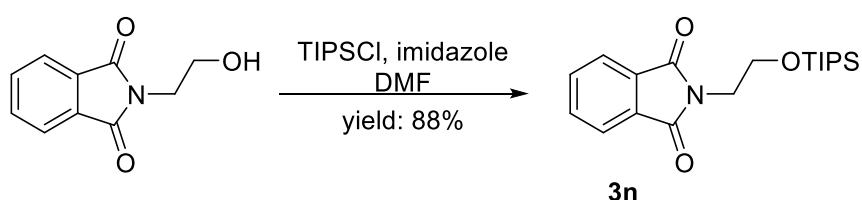
flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:1) to afford the product as a white solid (1.09 g, 78%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 138.9, 134.6, 131.8, 130.0, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 123.9, 61.7.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₆H₁₂N₂NaO₃⁺: 303.0740. Found: 303.0732.

2-(2-((triisopropylsilyloxy)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3n)



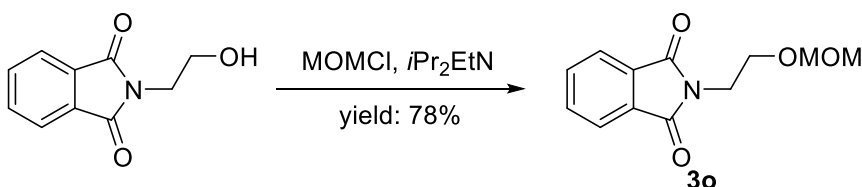
2-(2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (0.96 g, 5.0 mmol) and imidazole (0.85g, 12.5 mmol) were added in DMF (10 ml), stirred at room temperature for 10 min, then TIPSCl (1.93 g, 10.0 mmol, 2.14 ml) was added dropwise into the mixture. After 15 h, the reaction was quenched by saturated NH₄Cl (20 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:20) to afford the product as a colorless solid (1.53 g, 88%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 4.02 – 3.82 (m, 4H), 1.09 – 0.93 (m, 21H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4, 133.9, 132.2, 123.2, 60.3, 40.2, 17.8, 11.9.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₉H₂₉NNaO₃Si⁺: 370.1809. Found: 370.1794.

2-(2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3o)



2-(2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (0.96 g, 5.0 mmol) and Chloromethyl methyl ether (0.81g, 10.0 mmol, 0.76 ml) were added in *i*Pr₂EtN (10 ml), stirred at room temperature overnight. Quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ (20 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2x15 ml). The organic phase was washed by brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by

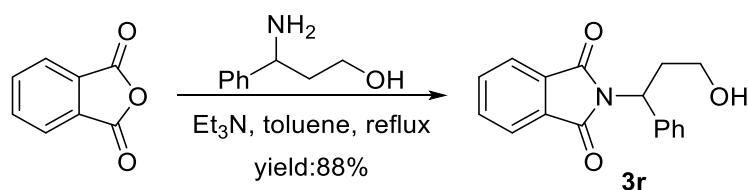
flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5) to afford the product as a yellow solid (0.92 g, 78%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (td, *J* = 5.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 3.85 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.3, 134.0, 132.1, 123.3, 96.2, 64.3, 55.3, 37.7.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₂H₁₃NNaO₄⁺: 258.0737. Found: 258.0744.

2-(3-hydroxy-1-phenylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**3r**)



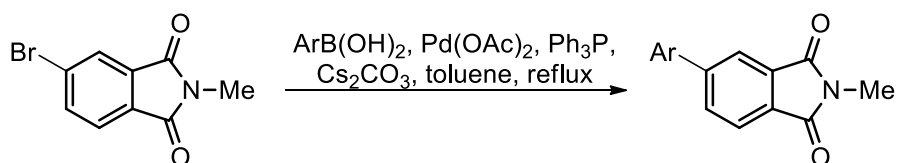
A mixture of 3-amino-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (0.76 g, 5.0 mmol), Phthalic anhydride (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol), trimethylamine (51 mg, 0.5 mmol, 0.06 ml) and toluene (7.5 ml) in a flask fitted with a Dean-Stark tube was heated under reflux for 3 h. Cooled to room temperature, removed the solvent by evaporator. The residue was dissolved with ethyl acetate (20 ml) and washed by 2N HCl (5 ml), sat. NaHCO₃ (5 ml) and brine (5 ml). The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2) to afford the product as a yellow solid (1.24 g, 88%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 5.62 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dt, *J* = 7.4, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.95 – 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.63 – 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.25 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 139.2, 134.0, 131.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 123.3, 59.7, 51.5, 33.6.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₁₅NNaO₃⁺: 304.0944. Found: 304.0947.

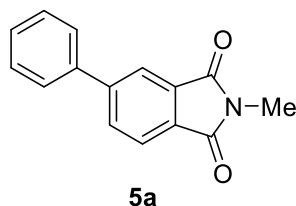
2.2. General procedure for **5a**, **5b** and **5c**.



To a solution of 4-bromo-N-methylphthalimide (0.48 g, 2.0 mmol), organoborane (1.5 eq, 3.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.1 mmol), PPh₃ (105.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (1.3 g, 4.0

mmol) in toluene (10 mL), changed the air into argon, the mixture was refluxed overnight. When the reaction was complete, cooled to room temperature, diluted by distilled water (10 ml) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x 5 ml). The combined organic layers were washed by brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the corresponding ring-substituted *N*-methylphthalimide derivative.

2-methyl-5-phenylisoindoline-1,3-dione (5a)



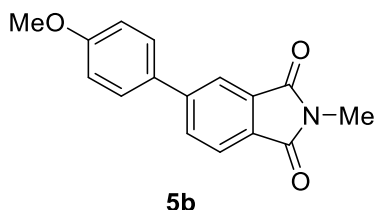
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless solid (418 mg, 88%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.71 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9 Hz, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4 (2xC), 147.3, 139.1, 133.1, 132.4, 130.7, 129.2, 128.8, 127.3, 123.6, 121.8, 24.0.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₅H₁₁NNaO₂⁺: 260.0682. Found: 260.0677.

5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoindoline-1,3-dione (5b)



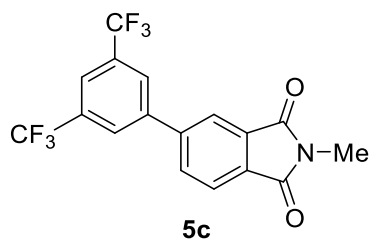
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless solid (284 mg, 53%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.5, 168.4, 160.3, 146.8, 133.1, 131.6, 131.3, 129.9, 128.4, 123.6, 121.1, 114.6, 55.4, 23.9.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₆H₁₃NNaO₃⁺: 290.0788. Found: 290.0784.

5-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2-methylisoindoline-1,3-dione (5c)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless solid (618 mg, 83%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12–8.06 (m, 3H), 8.02 – 7.94 (m, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8 (2C), 144.0, 141.2, 133.5, 132.8, 132.7 (q, *J*= 33.3 Hz), 132.1, 127.5 (d, *J*= 2.7 Hz), 124.1, 122.5 (quint, *J*= 3.6 Hz), 121.9, 121.6, 24.2.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₉F₆NNaO₂⁺: 396.0430. Found: 396.0412.

3. Cyclic voltammetry Experiments

Cyclic voltammetry measurements were realized employing an AUTOLAB potentiostat/galvanostat (model: PGSTAT302N). The working electrode was a glassy carbon electrode ($\varnothing = 2\text{mm}$). The electrode was polished before use. The auxiliary electrode was a platinum wire, and the reference electrode was a saturated calomel electrode (SCE). The scan rate for all the experiments was $100\text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$.

3.1. Cyclic voltammetry Experiment of SmCl_3 in THF

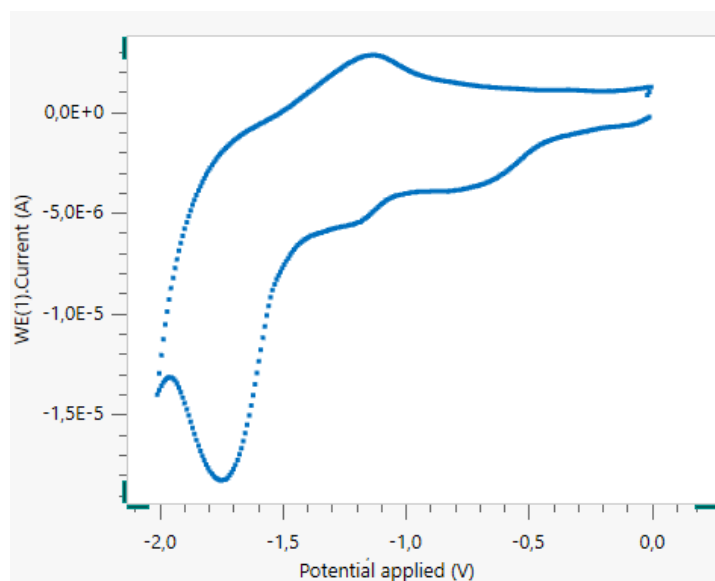


Figure S6: Cyclic voltammogram of SmCl_3 in THF solution with $0.1\text{ M } n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$.

3.2. Cyclic voltammetry Experiment of *N*-methyl phthalimide in THF

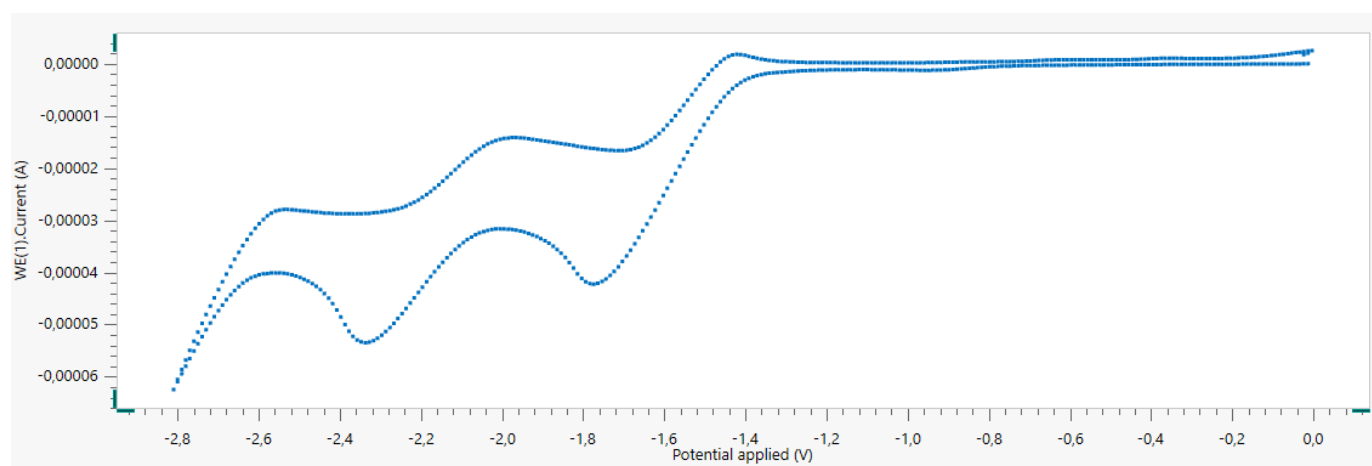


Figure S6: Cyclic voltammogram of *N*-methyl phthalimide in THF / $0.1\text{ M } n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ solution

3.3. Cyclic voltammetry Experiment to demonstrate the existence of catalytic current

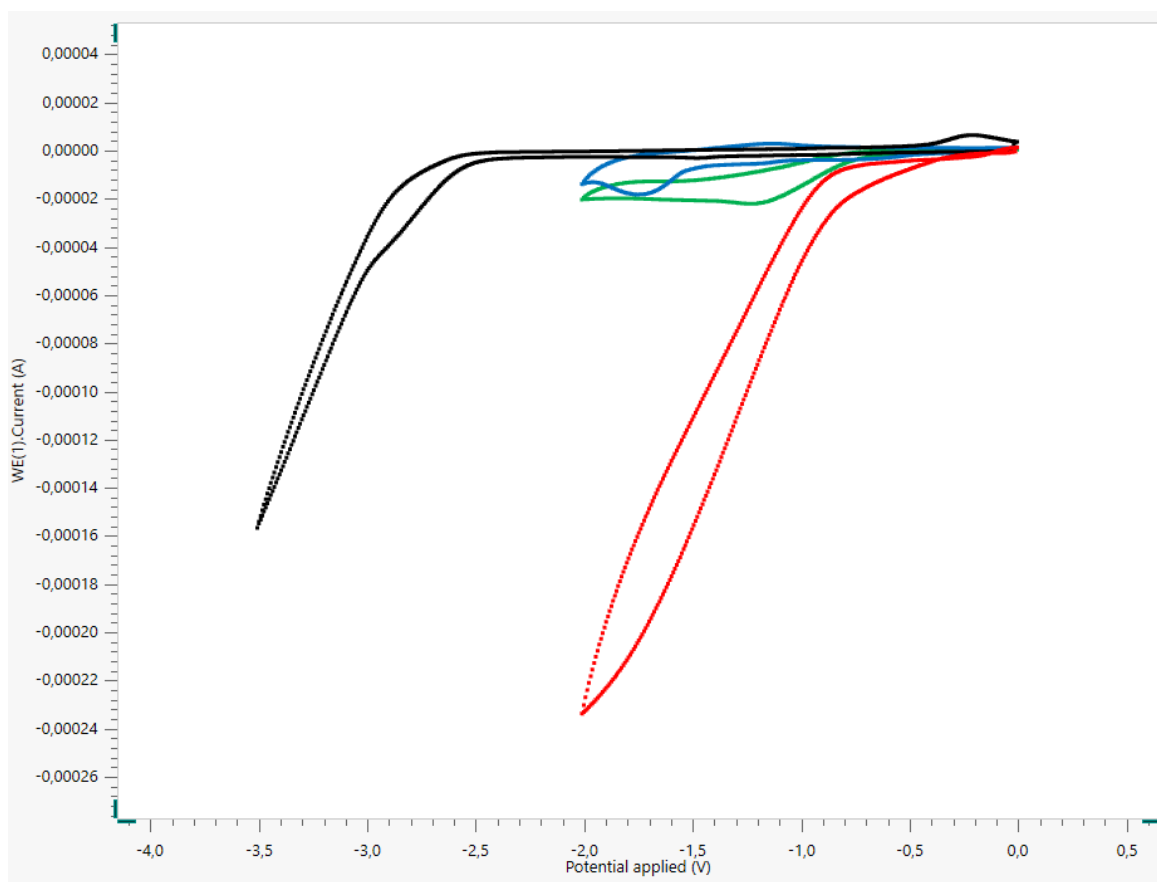


Figure S6: Electrochemical behavior of SmCl_3 in THF / 0.1 M $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ solution

Electrochemical behavior of SmCl_3 with *N*-methyl phthalimide **1**. Cyclic voltammetry performed using a GC electrode (20 mm^2) and a Pt wire as counter electrode with a scanning potential between 0 and -2 V vs. SCE in THF with $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ [0.1 M]. Scan rate: 100 mV/s. Black curve: Blank realized with degassed THF / 0.1 M $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ solution. Blue curve: after introduction of 0.2 M SmCl_3 . Green curve: after introduction of 1 mL of solution containing *N*-methyl phthalimide **1**/TMSCl/MeOH (10/8/1) in THF at 0.02 M concentration according the phthalimide. Red curve: after introduction of 2 mL of *N*-methyl phthalimide **1**/TMSCl/MeOH (10/8/1)

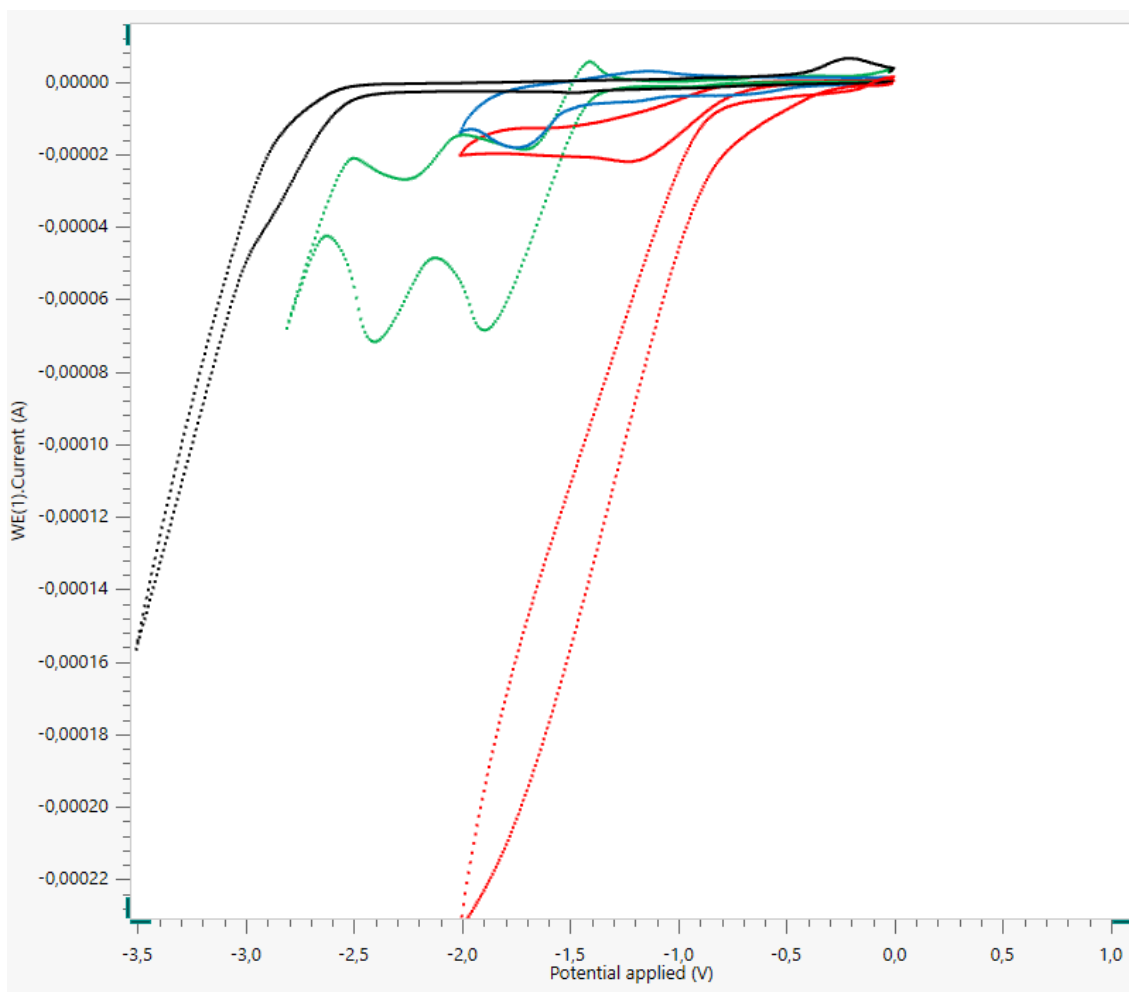
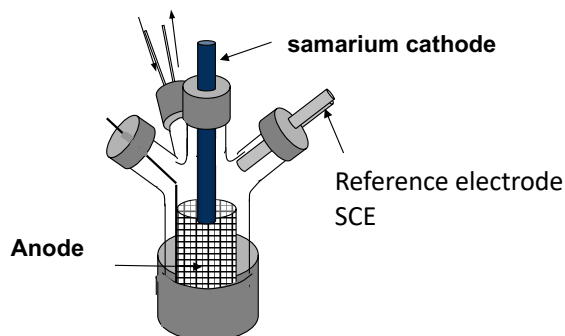


Figure S6: Electrochemical behavior of SmCl_3 in THF / 0.1 M $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ solution. The green curve corresponds to the reduction of phthalimide alone to compare.

3. Electrochemical set-up

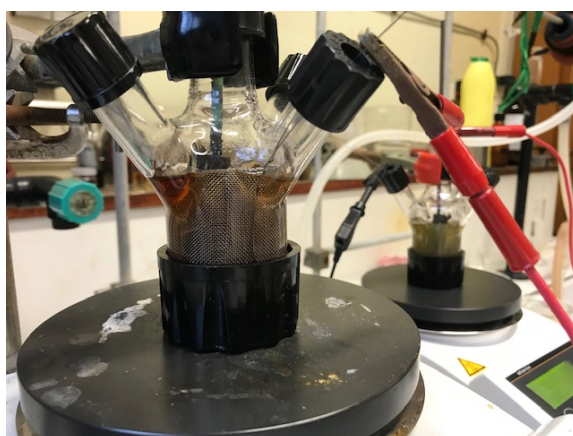
The samarium electrode used is based on a samarium rod of 12.7mm (0.5in) diameter, directly connected to a copper wire to ensure current conductivity. This self-made electrode is stored under inert atmosphere when it is not used. All the samarium rods are purchased from Alfa Aesar (99.9% metals basis excluding Ta).



Samarium electrode

Scheme of the undivided electrochemical cell and picture of the samarium electrode used in this study.

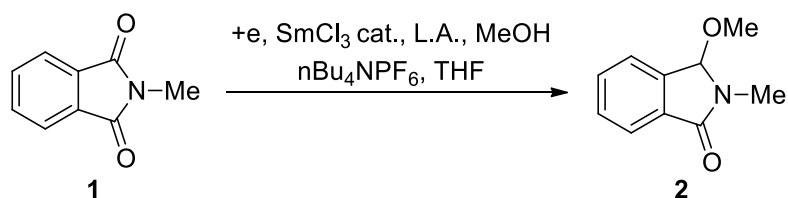
Electrolysis was performed with a AUTOLAB potentiostat/galvanostat (model: PGSTAT302N), in an undivided three-electrodes cell containing samarium rod working electrode, a standard glassy carbon counter electrode and a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) as reference.



Electrolysis using Sm electrode as cathode and SmCl_3 to catalyze alkoxylation of phthalimide.

4. Characterization data of reductive alkoxylation of methyl phthalimide.

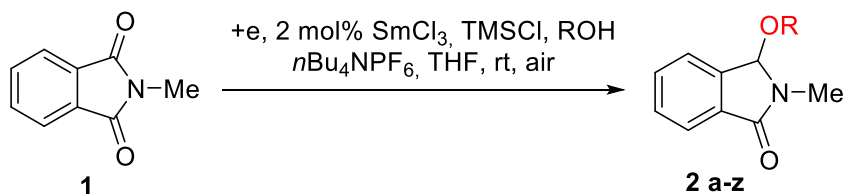
4.1. Optimization of reductive methoxylation of *N*-methyl phthalimide^a



entry	SmCl ₃ eq.	L. A. eq.	MeOH eq.	c mol/L	t h	conv. %	yield % ^f
1	10%	TMSCl 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	66	60
2	10%	TMSOTf 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	47	41
3	10%	Et ₂ O·BF ₃ 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	<10	trace ^e
4	10%	TiCl ₄ 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	>99	0
5	10%	SnCl ₄ 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	>99	0
6	20%	TMSCl 4.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	65	60
7	10%	TMSCl 8.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.0	>99	89
8	10%	TMSCl 8.0	5	0.02 ^b	2.0	45	41
9	10%	TMSCl 8.0	20	0.02 ^b	2.0	>99	79
10	5%	TMSCl 8.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.5	>99	96
11	2%	TMSCl 8.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.5	>99	97
12	1%	TMSCl 8.0	10	0.02 ^b	2.5	91	88
13	2%	TMSCl 1.0	10	0.1 ^c	4.0	10	<5 ^e
14	2%	TMSCl 2.0	10	0.1 ^c	4.0	81	77
15	2%	TMSCl 3.0	10	0.1 ^c	4.0	>99	97
16	2%	TMSCl 2.5	10	0.1 ^c	4.0	>99	97
17	1%	TMSCl 2.5	10	0.1 ^c	4.0	>99	93
18	no	TMSCl 2.5	10	0.1 ^c	24	0	0
19	2%	no	10	0.1 ^c	24	0	0
20 ^d	2%	TMSCl 2.5	10	0.1 ^c	24	0	0

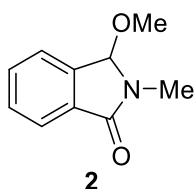
^astandard conditions: 1 (1.0 mmol), SmCl₃ (0-0.1 equiv), MeOH (5-20 equiv), nBu₄NPF₆ (0.04 mol/L in THF) in THF, Sm as the cathode, carbon as the anode, I= 0.05 mA, r.t. in the air. ^breaction in 50 ml THF. ^creaction in 10 ml THF. ^dWithout electricity. ^eAnalyzed by GC. ^fIsolated yields.

4.2. General procedure for the reductive alkoxylation of methyl phthalimide.



Reactions were carried out in a three necked cell containing a magnetic stirring bar, samarium cathode (20 cm² area), glassy carbon anode (20 cm² area) and SCE as reference electrode. nBu₄NPF₆ (156 mg, 0.4 mmol, 0.04 mol/L in THF) as the electrolyte, methyl phthalimide (161 mg, 1.0 mmol), alcohol (10 equivalent, 10 mmol) and SmCl₃ (5.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) were added in anhydrous THF (10 ml), TMSCl (272 mg, 2.5 mmol, 0.32 ml) was added dropwise with stirring, then electrolysis was performed at $i = 50$ mA during 2.5 hours. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was quenched by 0.1 mol/L HCl (10 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed by 10% Na₂S₂O₃ (10 ml) and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

3-methoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (172 mg, 97%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

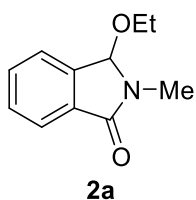
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3082, 3054, 2993, 2933, 2831, 1704, 1617, 1599, 1470, 1431, 1395, 1261, 1204, 1192, 1103, 1076, 1033, 746, 695 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (dd, $J = 6.3, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.87 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8 (C=O), 140.3 (C), 133.2 (C), 132.0 (CH), 130.00 (CH), 123.4 (2xCH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 49.2 (O-CH₃), 26.5 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₀H₁₁NNaO₂⁺: 200.0682. Found: 200.0689.

3-ethoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2a)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (180 mg, 94%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

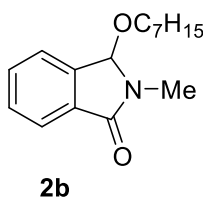
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2975, 2925, 2879, 1705, 1617, 1471, 1431, 1394, 1260, 1204, 1181, 1104, 1073, 1032 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.39 (m, 3H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.18-2.89 (m, 2H), 1.08 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5 (C=O), 141.0 (C), 133.0 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.2 (2xCH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 57.8 (O-CH₂), 26.5 (N-CH₃), 15.1 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 214.0838. Found: 214.0843.

3-(heptyloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2b)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (238 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

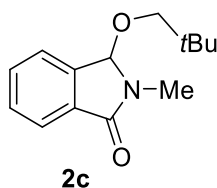
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2925, 2855, 1711, 1617, 1600, 1469, 1430, 1394, 1262, 1203, 1181, 1104, 1078, 1034, 745, 698 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.49 (m, 3H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 3.16-3.06 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.99-2.89 (m, 1H), 1.19-1.55 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 141.0 (C), 133.1 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.3 (2xCH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 62.2 (O-CH₂), 31.8 (CH₂), 29.6 (CH₂), 29.1 (CH₂), 26.6 (CH₃), 26.2 (CH₂), 22.6 (CH₂), 14.1 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 284.1621. Found: 284.1616.

2-methyl-3-(neopentyloxy)isoindolin-1-one (2c)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (219 mg, 94%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

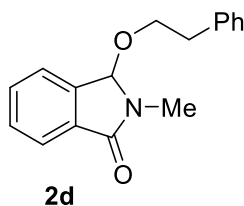
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2956, 2868, 1711, 1470, 1428, 1393, 1261, 1204, 1181, 1104, 1075, 1030, 746 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.42 (m, 3H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.71 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (d, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 0.85 (s, 9H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 141.1 (C), 133.1 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 72.0 (O-CH₂), 31.5 (CH), 26.8 (3xCH₃), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 256.1308. Found: 256.1307.

2-methyl-3-phenethoxyisoindolin-1-one (2d)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (259 mg, 97%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

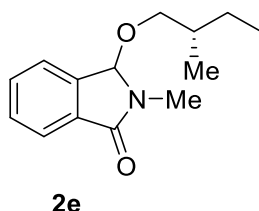
IR (film) ν_{max} : 3085, 3058, 3027, 2922, 2873, 1707, 1616, 1602, 1469, 1453, 1428, 1394, 1261, 1204, 1180, 1105, 1072, 1031, 746, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (dd, $J = 6.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.35 (dd, $J = 6.3, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 2H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 3.30 (dt, $J = 9.4, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dt, $J = 9.4, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 140.7 (C), 138.7 (C), 133.0 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.0 (2xCH), 128.4 (2xCH), 126.4 (CH), 123.3 (2xCH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 63.0 (O-CH₂), 36.2 (CH₂), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 290.1151. Found: 290.1154.

2-methyl-3-((S)-2-methylbutoxy)isoindolin-1-one (2e)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (the mixture of two epimers: 228 mg, 98%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

IR (film) ν_{max} : 3055, 2960, 2925, 2873, 1702, 1617, 1600, 1466, 1430, 1395, 1262, 1203, 1182, 1105, 1070, 1034, 971, 798, 745, 699 cm^{-1} ;

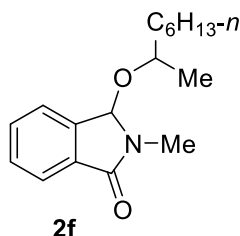
^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.90 (ddd, $J = 24.8, 8.8, 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (ddd, $J = 21.4, 8.8, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.62 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.38 (dt, $J = 12.9, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.15 – 0.98 (m, 1H), 0.94 – 0.74 (m, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 140.9 (C), 133.0 (C), 131.8 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 123.2 (2xCH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 66.9 (O-CH₂), 66.8 (O-CH₂), 34.9 (CH₂), 34.8 (CH₂), 26.5 (N-CH₃), 26.1 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 16.6 (CH₂), 16.6 (CH₂), 11.3 (CH₃), 11.2 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 256.1308. Found: 256.1312.

d. r. = 1:1

2-methyl-3-(octan-2-yloxy)isoindolin-1-one (2f)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (the mixture of two epimers: 258 mg, 94%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

IR (film) ν_{max} : 2960, 2925, 2856, 1703, 1617, 1468, 1430, 1395, 1261, 1203, 1180, 1104, 1061, 1035, 746, 693 cm^{-1} ;

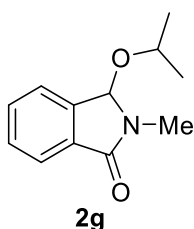
¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 5.72 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 3.64 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.14 – 3.07 (m, 3H), 1.38 – 1.14 (m, 12H), 1.12 – 1.06 (m, 1H), 0.92 – 0.82 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6 (C=O), 167.4 (C=O), 142.4 (C), 141.9 (C), 132.6 (C), 132.5 (C), 131.7 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 123.2 (CH), 88.1 (O-CH-N), 87.9 (O-CH-N), 72.7 (O-CH₂), 72.6 (O-CH₂), 37.6 (CH₂), 31.8 (CH₂), 31.7 (CH₂), 29.4 (CH₂), 29.2 (CH₂), 27.0 (N-CH₃), 25.4 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₂), 22.6 (CH₂), 21.5 (CH₃), 20.9 (CH₃), 14.1 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₂₅NNaO₂⁺: 298.1777. Found: 298.1773.

d. r. = 2:3

3-isopropoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2g)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (191 mg, 93%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

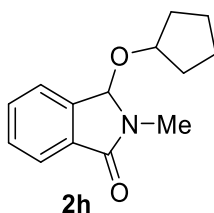
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2969, 2919, 2851, 1681, 1436, 1397, 1258, 1205, 1104, 1063 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.45 (m, 3H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 3.65 (hept, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6 (C=O), 142.1 (C), 132.8 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 88.1 (O-CH-N), 68.3 (O-CH), 27.1 (N-CH₃), 23.9 (2xCH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₂H₁₅NNaO₂⁺: 228.0995. Found: 228.0994.

3-(cyclopentyloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2h)



Following the general procedure, under 3 hours electrolysis, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (168 mg, 73%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

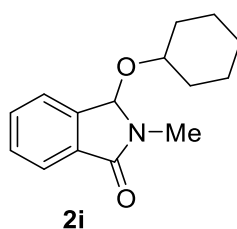
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2958, 2873, 1701, 1617, 1600, 1472, 1433, 1396, 1331, 1258, 1204, 1179, 1104, 1064, 1034, 746, 695 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ7.76 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 3.78 (quint, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 1.76-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.55-1.30 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ167.7 (C=O), 142.1 (C), 132.8 (C), 131.8 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 76.7 (O-CH₂), 33.7(2xCH₂), 26.9 (N-CH₃), 23.4 (CH₂), 23.2 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₄H₁₇NNaO₂⁺: 254.1151. Found: 254.1154.

3-(cyclohexyloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2i)



Following the general procedure, under 3 hours electrolysis, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (178 mg, 73%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

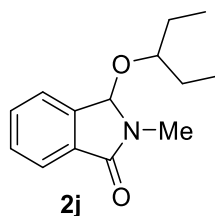
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2932, 2856, 1708, 1617, 1469, 1430, 1395, 1258, 1204, 1180, 1154, 1102, 1068, 1034, 748, 696 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ7.81 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 3.32 (quint, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.54-1.04 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ167.7 (C=O), 142.4 (C), 132.8 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 88.1 (O-CH-N), 74.3 (O-CH₂), 34.0 (CH₂), 33.8 (CH₂), 27.1 (N-CH₃), 25.5 (CH₂), 24.3 (2xCH₂).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₅H₁₉NNaO₂⁺: 268.1308. Found: 268.1310.

2-methyl-3-(pentan-3-yloxy)isoindolin-1-one (2j)



Following the general procedure, under 3 hours electrolysis, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (142 mg, 61%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

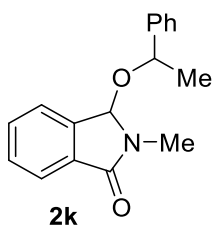
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2962, 2926, 2877, 2852, 1701, 1615, 1467, 1431, 1396, 1258, 1204, 1102, 1062, 1033, 747, 694 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.47 (p, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 1.72 – 1.59 (m, 4H), 0.95 – 0.89 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5 (C=O), 142.3 (C), 132.5 (C), 131.7 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 123.3 (2xCH), 88.2 (O-CH-N), 79.1 (O-CH), 27.2 (N-CH₃), 26.7 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₂), 9.4 (CH₃), 9.0 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₄H₁₉NNaO₂⁺: 256.1308. Found: 256.1306.

2-methyl-3-(1-phenylethoxy)isoindolin-1-one (2k)



Following the general procedure, under 3 hours electrolysis, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (the mixture of two epimers: 216 mg, 81%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

IR (film) ν_{\max} : 2977, 2925, 1694, 1647, 1472, 1430, 1395, 1052, 1034, 947, 797, 745, 701 cm⁻¹;

Major product: **¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.82 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (pd, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5 (C=O), 143.4 (C), 141.5 (C), 132.7 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 128.6 (2xCH), 127.9 (CH), 126.4 (2xCH), 123.2 (2xCH), 88.2 (O-CH-N), 74.4 (O-CH), 27.0 (N-CH₃), 24.3(CH₃);

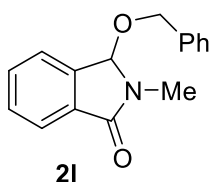
HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NNaO₂⁺: 290.1151. Found: 290.1151. Minor product: **¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.20 (m, 6H), 7.12 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4 (C=O), 143.8 (C), 141.4 (C), 132.3 (C), 132.0 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 128.5 (2xCH), 127.6 (CH), 126.1 (2xCH), 123.0 (2xCH), 87.5 (O-CH-N), 72.8 (O-CH), 26.9 (N-CH₃), 24.5 (CH₃);

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NNaO₂⁺: 290.1151. Found: 290.1151.

d. r. = 1:3

3-(benzyloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2l)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (238 mg, 94%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

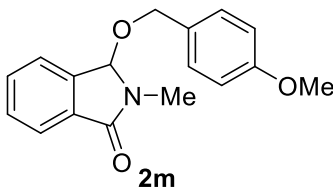
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3061, 3032, 2913, 1705, 1616, 1601, 1497, 1470, 1454, 1429, 1394, 1261, 1204, 1180, 1102, 1063, 1029, 749, 699 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.21 (m, 5H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 140.6 (C), 137.2 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.0 (CH), 130.0 (CH), 128.5 (2xCH), 127.9 (CH), 127.8 (2xCH), 123.4 (2xCH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 64.4 (O-CH₂), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 276.0995. Found: 276.1002.

3-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2m)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a white solid (268 mg, 95%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

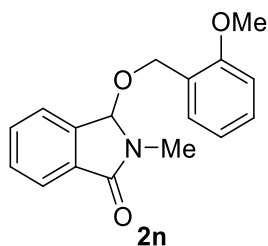
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3038, 3000, 2953, 2933, 2913, 2871, 2836, 1704, 1613, 1586, 1514, 1470, 1428, 1393, 1302, 1250, 1204, 1177, 1102, 1063, 1032, 821, 747, 695 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 4.04 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 159.4 (C), 140.8 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.0 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.5 (2xCH), 129.3 (C), 123.4 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 113.9 (2xCH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 64.3 (O-CH₂), 55.3 (OCH₃), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_3^+$: 306.1101. Found: 306.1108.

3-((2-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2n)



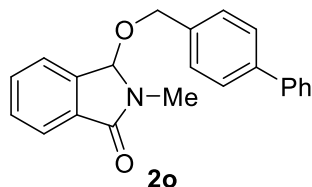
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (259 mg, 92%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3082, 3047, 3033, 3007, 2948, 2938, 2923, 2902, 2884, 2832, 2347, 1698, 1604, 1494, 1467, 1430, 1393, 1342, 1289, 1249, 1201, 1177, 1122, 1101, 1059, 1033, 753, 697 cm^{-1} ;
 ^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.22 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.89 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 4.25 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 157.2 (C), 140.9 (C), 133.1 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 125.6 (C), 123.5 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 120.5 (CH), 110.2 (CH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 59.9 (O-CH₂), 55.2 (OCH₃), 26.6 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_3^+$: 306.1101. Found: 306.1105.

3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethoxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2o)



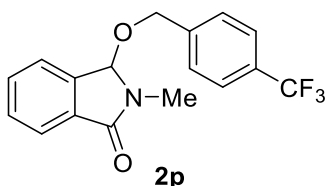
Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a white solid (303 mg, 96%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3052, 3030, 2914, 2894, 2872, 2860, 1703, 1470, 1426, 1393, 1201, 1103, 1075, 1035, 825, 755, 694 cm^{-1} ;
 ^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.91 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.52 (m, 7H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 4.20 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.8 (C=O), 141.0 (C), 140.8 (C), 140.7 (C), 136.3 (C), 133.1 (C), 132.2 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 128.9 (2xCH), 128.4 (2xCH), 127.5 (CH), 127.3 (2xCH), 127.2 (2xCH), 123.5 (2xCH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 64.2 (O-CH₂), 26.8 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 352.1308. Found: 352.1300.

2-methyl-3-((4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)oxy)isoindolin-1-one (2p)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (268 mg, 87%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

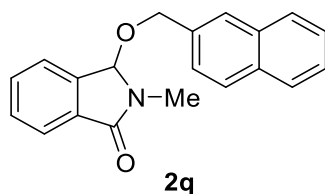
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3053, 2923, 2868, 1709, 1619, 1471, 1427, 1395, 1325, 1263, 1204, 1164, 1123, 1066, 1034, 1018, 824, 747, 698 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.57 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 4.19 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.04 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 141.4 (C), 140.2(C), 132.9(C), 132.2 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.9 (q, $J = 32.4$ Hz) (C), 127.6 (2xCH), 125.3 (q, $J = 4.5$ Hz) (2xCH), 124.1 (q, $J = 270.0$ Hz) (CF_3), 123.4 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz) (2xCH), 87.8(O-CH-N), 63.2 (O- CH_2), 26.7(N- CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 344.0869. Found: 344.0868.

2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-ylmethoxy)isoindolin-1-one (2q)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a white solid (283 mg, 93%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

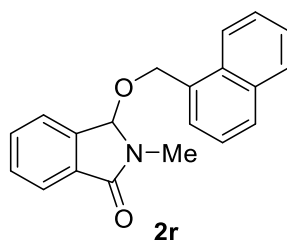
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3053, 2921, 2857, 1706, 1617, 1601, 1508, 1469, 1428, 1393, 1262, 1203, 1179, 1102, 1066, 1033, 894, 854, 819, 746, 694 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.79 (m, 3H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 4.32 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, $J = 11.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.9 (C=O), 140.8 (C), 134.8 (C), 133.4 (C), 133.2 (C), 133.1(C), 132.2 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 126.7 (C), 126.4 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 123.6 (2xCH), 88.1 (O-CH-N), 64.7 (O- CH_2), 26.9 (N- CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 326.1151. Found: 326.1161.

2-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-ylmethoxy)isoindolin-1-one (2)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a white solid (278 mg, 92%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

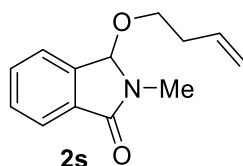
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3051, 2920, 2885, 1946, 1704, 1617, 1598, 1511, 1471, 1428, 1394, 1354, 1263, 1203, 1179, 1102, 1032, 800, 778, 747, 695 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.46-7.32 (m, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.8 (C=O), 140.8 (C), 133.8 (C), 133.1 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.1 (CH), 131.6 (C), 130.2 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 126.6 (C), 126.5 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 63.0 (O-CH₂), 26.9 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 326.1151. Found: 326.1152.

3-(but-3-en-1-yloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2s)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (198 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

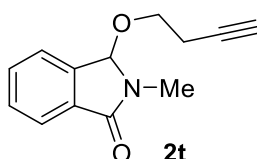
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3077, 2920, 2873, 1708, 1641, 1617, 1469, 1430, 1394, 1261, 1204, 1181, 1103, 1074, 1032, 746 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.48 (m, 3H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 5.75 (ddt, $J = 17.3, 10.4, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.07 (dd, $J = 17.3, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, $J = 10.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dt, $J = 9.0, 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.00 (dt, $J = 9.0, 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.27 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.8 (C=O), 140.9 (C), 135.0 (=CH), 133.1 (C), 132.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.51 (CH), 123.48 (CH), 117.0 (=CH₂), 87.9 (O-CH-N), 61.4 (O-CH₂), 34.1 (CH₂), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[M+Na^+]$ calculated for $C_{13}H_{15}NNaO_2^+$: 240.0995. Found: 240.1005.

3-(but-3-yn-1-yloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2t)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as colorless oil (201 mg, 93%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

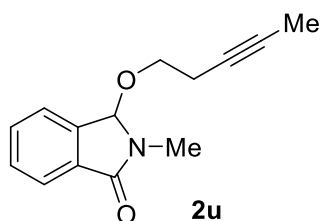
IR (film) ν_{max} : 3054, 2926, 2883, 2119, 1704, 1694, 1682, 1617, 1600, 1471, 1434, 1395, 1261, 1204, 1181, 1107, 1063, 1033, 1015, 746, 696 cm^{-1} ;

1H NMR (360 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.46 (m, 3H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.23-3.00 (m, 2H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.42-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.97 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.6 (C=O), 140.4 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.4 (2xCH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 81.1 (C \equiv), 69.7 (HC \equiv), 60.3 (O-CH $_2$), 26.7 (N-CH $_3$), 19.8 (CH $_2$).

HRMS (ESI) $[M+Na^+]$ calculated for $C_{13}H_{13}NNaO_2^+$: 238.0838. Found: 238.0840.

2-methyl-3-(pent-3-yn-1-yloxy)isoindolin-1-one (2u)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (208 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

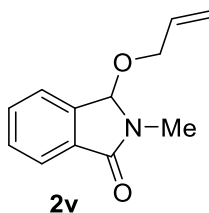
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2920, 2885, 2851, 1706, 1616, 1470, 1432, 1395, 1261, 1204, 1181, 1107, 1076, 1032, 845, 807, 746 cm^{-1} ;

1H NMR (360 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.15 (dt, $J = 8.6, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.01 (dt, $J = 8.6, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.41-2.24 (m, 2H), 1.75 (t, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.7 (C=O), 140.7 (C), 133.1 (C), 132.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.5 (2xCH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 77.1 (C \equiv), 75.7 (C \equiv), 61.0 (O-CH $_2$), 26.7 (N-CH $_3$), 20.2 (CH $_2$), 3.60 (CH $_3$).

HRMS (ESI) $[M+Na^+]$ calculated for $C_{14}H_{15}NNaO_2^+$: 252.0995. Found: 252.1001.

3-(allyloxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2v)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (188 mg, 93%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

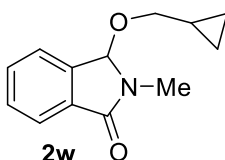
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3081, 3055, 3021, 2918, 2867, 1711, 1647, 1617, 1600, 1470, 1428, 1394, 1262, 1204, 1181, 1104, 1064, 1034, 1014, 747, 698 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.46 (m, 3H), 5.88-5.72 (m, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 5.21 (dd, $J = 17.3, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.12 (dd, $J = 10.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, $J = 12.2, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (d, $J = 12.2, 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 140.7 (C), 133.8 (=CH), 133.1 (C), 132.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 117.3 (=CH₂), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 63.4 (O-CH₂), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 226.0838. Found: 226.0839.

3-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2w)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (208 mg, 96%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

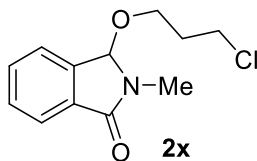
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 2923, 1682, 1618, 1600, 1472, 1437, 1397, 1312, 1257, 1205, 1179, 1104, 1062, 1036, 746, 695 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.43 (m, 3H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.88 (dd, $J = 10.2, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, $J = 10.2, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.02-0.87 (m, 1H), 0.54-0.41 (m, 1H), 0.11-0.00 (m, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 141.0 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.0 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 67.2 (O-CH₂), 26.6 (N-CH₃), 10.6 (CH), 3.3 (CH₂), 3.1 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 240.0995. Found: 240.0999.

3-(3-chloropropoxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2x)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (218 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

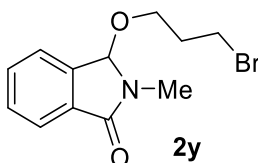
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3054, 2960, 2927, 2882, 1705, 1617, 1470, 1429, 1394, 1299, 1262, 1204, 1181, 1107, 1070, 1032, 745 cm^{-1} ;

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.46 (m, 3H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 3.63 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dt, $J = 9.4, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.06 (dt, $J = 9.4, 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.94 (quint, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 140.6 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 58.3 (O-CH₂), 41.6 (CH₂Cl), 32.3 (CH₂), 26.7 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNNaO}_2^+$: 262.0605. Found: 262.0605.

3-(3-bromopropoxy)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (2y)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (248 mg, 88%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2);

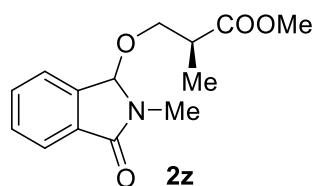
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3081, 3055, 3026, 2926, 2876, 1707, 1616, 1596, 1469, 1429, 1394, 1261, 1204, 1180, 1105, 1069, 1031, 743, 697 cm^{-1} ;

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (dd, $J = 7.2, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 3.51 (td, $J = 6.5, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.30 – 3.23 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 3.07 – 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.99 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.6 (C=O), 140.5 (C), 132.9 (C), 132.0 (CH), 130.0 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 59.2 (O-CH₂), 32.3 (Br-CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 26.6 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNNaO}_2^+$: 306.0100 and 308.0081. Found: 306.0098 and 308.0078.

(2S)-methyl 2-methyl-3-((2-methyl-3-oxoisindolin-1-yl)oxy)propanoate (2z)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (251 mg, 95%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2);

IR (film) ν_{max} : 2976, 2950, 2881, 1701, 1617, 1601, 1471, 1436, 1394, 1261, 1207, 1181, 1155, 1103, 1067, 1032, 749, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.29 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H). 2.72 – 2.57 (m, 1H), 1.07 (m, 3H).

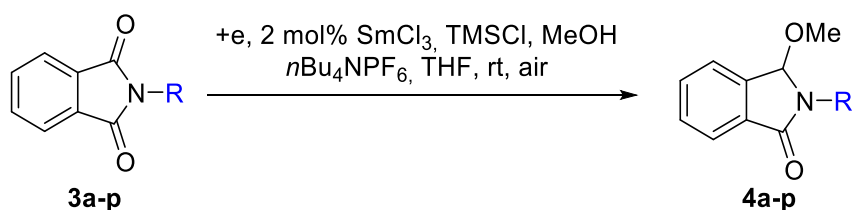
^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.8(C=O), 174.7(C=O), 167.6(C=O), 167.5(C=O), 140.3 (C), 132.9 (C), 132.8 (C), 132.0 (CH), 131.9 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.3 (2xCH), 87.6 (O-CH-N), 87.5 (O-CH-N), 63.7 (O- CH_2), 63.6 (O- CH_2), 51.8 (O- CH_3), 39.7 (CH), 39.7 (CH), 26.5 (N- CH_3), 13.9 (CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_4^+$: 286.1050. Found:286.1051.

d. r. = 1:1

5. Characterization data of reductive methoxylation of *N*-substituted phthalimides

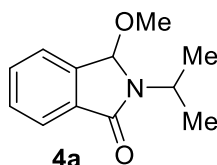
5.1. General procedure for the reductive methoxylation of *N*-substituted phthalimides:



Reactions were carried out in a three necked cell containing a magnetic stirring bar, samarium cathode (20 cm^2 area), glassy carbon anode (20 cm^2 area) and SCE as reference electrode. $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ (156 mg, 0.4 mmol, 0.04 mol/L in THF) as the electrolyte, *N*-substituted phthalimide (1.0 mmol), methanol (320 mg, 10 mmol, 0.4 ml) and SmCl_3 (5.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) were added in anhydrous THF (10 ml), TMSCl (272 mg, 2.5 mmol, 0.32 ml) was added dropwise with

stirring, then electrolysis was performed at $i = 50$ mA during 2 hours. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was quenched by 0.1 mol/L HCl (10 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed by 10% Na₂S₂O₃ (10 ml) and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

2-isopropyl-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4a)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (199 mg, 97%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

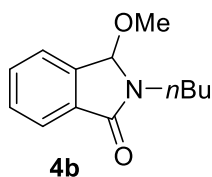
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2977, 2934, 2829, 1692, 1615, 1467, 1403, 1365, 1225, 1191, 1076, 750, 697 cm^{-1} ;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (dd, $J = 4.5, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 4.40 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 1.39 (dd, $J = 9.0, 6.9$ Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6(C=O), 140.4(C), 133.3 (C), 131.9 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.3(CH), 123.2 (CH), 85.6 (O-CH-N), 48.8 (O-CH₃), 43.8 (N-CH), 21.0 (CH₃), 20.1 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₂H₁₅NNaO₂⁺: 228.0995. Found: 228.1002.

2-butyl-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4b)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (198 mg, 90%). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

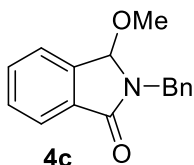
IR (film) ν_{max} : 3056, 2959, 2933, 2872, 2828, 1709, 1616, 1602, 1467, 1412, 1375, 1323, 1206, 1190, 1103, 1067, 937, 749, 696 cm^{-1} ;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.73 (dt, $J = 13.8, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.15 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 7.9, 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 1.68 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.31 (dd, $J = 14.9, 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5(C=O), 140.3 (C), 133.2 (C), 131.8(CH), 129.8(CH), 123.3 (2xCH), 86.1 (O-CH-N), 49.0 (O-CH₃), 39.1 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 20.2 (CH₂), 13.7 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 242.1151. Found: 242.1147.

2-benzyl-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4c)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (245 mg, 97%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

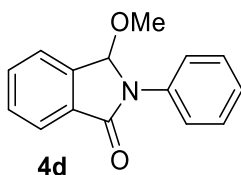
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2924, 2829, 1703, 1647, 1616, 1493, 1465, 1406, 1356, 1200, 1102, 1068 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (dd, $J = 6.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.21 (d, $J = 14.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, $J = 14.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.90 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5(C=O), 140.4 (C), 136.8 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.1(CH), 130.0 (CH), 128.7(2xCH), 128.6 (2xCH), 127.7 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.5(CH), 85.6 (O-CH-N), 49.3(O-CH₃), 43.1 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 276.0995. Found: 276.0996.

3-methoxy-2-phenylisoindolin-1-one (4d)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (203 mg, 85%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

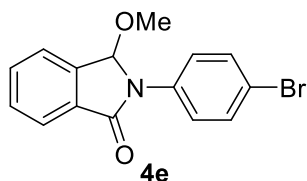
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3079, 3059, 3043, 3024, 2950, 2929, 1686, 1596, 1500, 1390, 1306, 1152, 751, 732 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.47 (ddd, $J = 10.1, 4.5, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.7(C=O), 139.7 (C), 137.3(C), 132.9 (C), 132.8 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 129.1 (2xCH), 125.3 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 121.7 (2xCH), 87.3(O-CH-N), 49.1(O-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 262.0838. Found: 262.0847.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4e)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (298 mg, 94%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

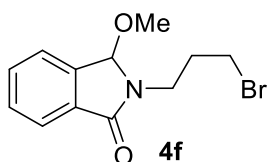
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3061, 2997, 2954, 2931, 2854, 2829, 1783, 1714, 1589, 1493, 1467, 1413, 1376, 1296, 1218, 1129, 1109, 1075, 1058 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (dd, $J = 7.3, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.6(C=O), 139.5(C), 136.6(C), 133.0(CH), 132.7 (C), 132.1(2xCH), 130.5 (CH), 124.0(CH), 123.5 (CH), 122.7(2xCH), 118.2 (C), 87.2 (O-CH-N), 49.0(O- CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNNaO}_2^+$: 339.9944 and 341.9924. Found: 339.9941 and 341.9920.

2-(3-bromopropyl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4f)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (249 mg, 88%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

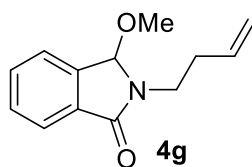
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2929, 2857, 2313, 1672, 1641, 1468, 1418, 1107, 1051 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 3.94 – 3.73 (m, 1H), 3.58 – 3.37 (m, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.43 – 2.13 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.9(C=O), 140.4 (C), 132.8(C), 132.2 (CH), 130.0(CH), 123.5 (2xCH), 86.8 (O-CH-N), 49.5 (O- CH_3), 38.5 (N- CH_2), 31.3 (Br- CH_2), 30.4 (CH_2).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNNaO}_2^+$: 306.0100 and 308.0081. Found: 306.0091 and 308.0074.

2-(but-3-en-1-yl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4g)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (191 mg, 88%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2);

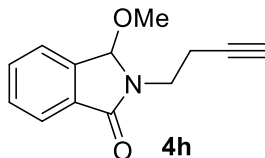
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3078, 2933, 2829, 1698, 1642, 1617, 1601, 1469, 1439, 1412, 1366, 1331, 1296, 1206, 1103, 1070, 918, 747, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (qdd, $J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.2$ Hz, 3H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 5.94 – 5.81 (m, 1H), 5.27 – 4.95 (m, 2H), 3.94 (dt, $J = 14.1, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (ddd, $J = 13.8, 7.7, 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.58 – 2.40 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 140.3 (C), 135.2 (=CH), 133.1 (C), 132.0 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 117.1 (=CH₂), 86.3 (O-CH-N), 49.1 (O-CH₃), 38.7 (N-CH₂), 32.6 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 240.0995. Found: 240.0997.

2-(but-3-yn-1-yl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4h)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (193 mg, 90%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3);

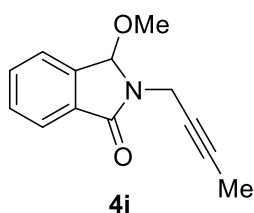
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3083, 3056, 2934, 2829, 2118, 1701, 1616, 1601, 1470, 1412, 1367, 1333, 1297, 1207, 1130, 1104, 1076, 1025, 962, 802, 745, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 3.92 (ddd, $J = 13.4, 7.2, 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 – 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.71 – 2.48 (m, 2H), 1.98 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7 (C=O), 140.4 (C), 132.8 (C), 132.1 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 86.8 (O-CH-N), 81.4 (C \equiv), 70.1 (HC \equiv), 49.3 (O-CH₃), 38.2 (N-CH₂), 18.2 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 238.0838. Found: 238.0840.

2-(but-2-yn-1-yl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4i)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (200 mg, 93%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

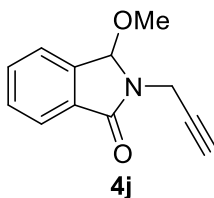
IR (film) ν_{max} : 3024, 2956, 2926, 2858, 2829, 1771, 1708, 1616, 1468, 1407, 1353, 1293, 1204, 1190, 1152, 1103, 1072, 945, 747 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.69 (dd, $J = 17.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 1.82 (dd, $J = 3.1, 1.8$ Hz, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.9(C=O), 140.5 (C), 132.8 (C), 132.2 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 85.9 (O-CH-N), 79.7(C \equiv), 73.2(C \equiv), 49.8 (O-CH₃), 29.4 (CH₂), 3.5 (CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 240.0995. Found: 240.0998.

3-methoxy-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)isoindolin-1-one (4j)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (177 mg, 88%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4);

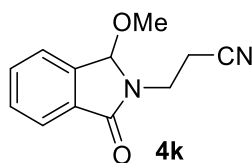
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2929, 2829, 2117, 1697, 1683, 1613, 1465, 1420, 1401, 1351, 1289, 1202, 1135, 1104, 1076, 1065, 934, 797, 752 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, $J = 10.5, 7.2, 5.3$ Hz, 3H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 4.70 (dd, $J = 17.5, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (dd, $J = 17.5, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.9(C=O), 140.5 (C), 132.4 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 86.0 (O-CH-N), 77.9(C \equiv), 72.0 (C \equiv), 49.9 (O-CH₃), 29.0 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 224.0682. Found: 224.0681.

3-(1-methoxy-3-oxoisindolin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4k)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (197 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2);

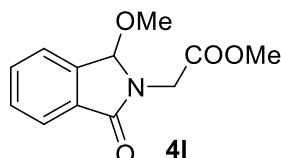
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 2934, 2835, 2248, 1702, 1616, 1470, 1412, 1368, 1333, 1207, 1133, 1104, 1076, 749, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.52 (m, 3H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 3.98 (ddd, $J = 13.9, 6.9, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 (ddd, $J = 14.2, 8.0, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.94 – 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.76 (ddd, $J = 16.8, 6.4, 5.5$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.0 (C=O), 140.3(C), 132.7 (CH), 132.2 (C), 130.3 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 123.7(CH), 117.9(CN), 87.0 (O-CH-N), 49.8(O- CH_3), 35.9 (N- CH_2), 17.1 (CH_2).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2^+$: 239.0791. Found: 239.0790.

methyl 2-(1-methoxy-3-oxoisindolin-2-yl)acetate (4l)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a yellow oil (202 mg, 86%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:2);

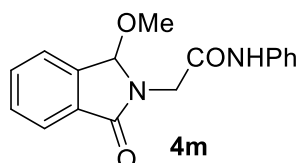
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 2954, 2849, 1749, 1713, 1617, 1469, 1422, 1210, 1078, 946, 750 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (dd, $J = 7.3, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.62 (d, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, $J = 17.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.91 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.3(C=O), 167.8 (C=O), 140.6(C), 132.4(CH), 132.3 (C), 130.0(CH), 123.8(CH), 123.6(CH), 86.7 (O-CH-N), 52.3 (O- CH_3), 49.6 (O- CH_3), 40.5 (CH_2).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_4^+$: 258.0737. Found: 258.0746.

2-(1-methoxy-3-oxoisindolin-2-yl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (4m)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (246 mg, 83%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:1);

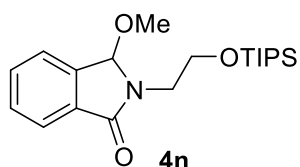
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2920, 2885, 2851, 2341, 1706, 1616, 1552, 1469, 1300, 1253, 1194, 946, 750 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.89 (s, 1H), 7.94 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, $J = 17.3, 11.4, 6.7$ Hz, 5H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H);

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.7(C=O), 166.5(C), 141.0(C), 137.7 (C), 132.7 (CH), 131.9(C), 130.2 (CH), 128.9 (2xCH), 124.3(CH), 123.7(2xCH), 119.9(2xCH), 87.9(O-CH-N), 50.6 (O- CH_3), 44.5 (N- CH_2).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_3^+$: 319.1053. Found: 319.1053.

3-methoxy-2-(2-((triisopropylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4n)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (338 mg, 93%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:5);

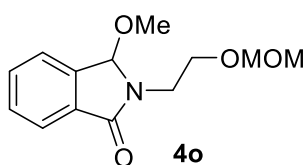
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2935, 2862, 2722, 1706, 1616, 1465, 1404, 1311, 1202, 1104, 1071, 995, 923, 881, 744 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 3.99 (td, $J = 8.6, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 3.46 – 3.29 (m, 1H), 2.87 (s, 3H), 1.15 – 0.92 (m, 21H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7(C=O), 140.8(C), 133.1 (C), 131.9(CH), 129.8 (CH), 123.3(2xCH), 87.6(O-CH-N), 61.7(SiO- CH_2), 49.2 (O- CH_3), 41.7 (N- CH_2), 17.9 (6x CH_3), 11.8 (3xCH).

HRMS (ESI) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{33}\text{NNaO}_3\text{Si}^+$: 386.2122. Found: 386.2124.

3-methoxy-2-(2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4o)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (228 mg, 91%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:1);

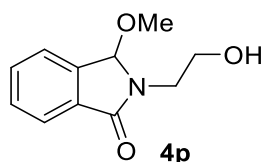
IR (film) ν_{\max} : 2935, 2885, 2823, 2773, 1703, 1613, 1465, 1409, 1144, 1110, 1071, 917, 749 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (dd, $J = 7.3, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 3.99 (dt, $J = 14.3, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (dd, $J = 6.0, 5.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.42 (dt, $J = 14.3, 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.86 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7(C=O), 140.6(C), 132.9(C), 132.0(CH), 129.9 (CH), 123.4(2xCH), 96.3 (OCH₂O), 87.1 (O-CH-N), 65.6 (O-CH₂), 55.3 (OMO-CH₃), 49.2 (O-CH₃), 39.1 (N-CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_4^+$: 274.1050. Found: 274.1051.

2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-methoxyisoindolin-1-one (4p)



Following the general procedure, the product was obtained as a colorless oil (190 mg, 92%).
(eluent: ethyl acetate/methanol: 5:1);

IR (film) ν_{\max} : 3419, 2936, 2832, 2120, 1682, 1617, 1601, 1470, 1416, 1365, 1206, 1105, 1076, 748, 697 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.90 (dd, $J = 5.4, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 – 3.72 (m, 1H), 3.65 (ddd, $J = 14.5, 5.8, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.41 (brs, 1H), 2.95 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.0 (C=O), 140.4(C), 132.6(C), 132.3(CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.6(CH), 123.5 (CH), 87.7 (O-CH-N), 61.7(HO-CH₂), 49.6 (O-CH₃), 43.6 (N-CH₂).

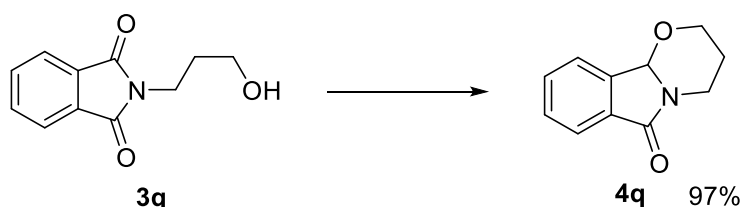
HRMS (ESI) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{NNaO}_3^+$: 230.0788. Found: 230.0790.

3,4-dihydro-2H-[1,3]oxazino[2,3-a]isoindol-6(10bH)-one (4q)

Reaction was carried out in a three necked cell containing a magnetic stirring bar, samarium cathode (20 cm^2 area), glassy carbon anode (20 cm^2 area) and SCE as reference electrode; $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ (156 mg, 0.4 mmol, 0.04 mol/L in THF) as the electrolyte, 2-(3-hydroxypropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (205 mg, 1.0 mmol) and SmCl_3 (5.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) were

added in anhydrous THF (10 ml), TMSCl (272 mg, 2.5 mmol, 0.32 ml) was added dropwise with stirring, then electrolysis was performed at $i = 50$ mA during 3 hours.

After the reaction was complete, the mixture was quenched by 0.1 mol/L HCl (10 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed by 10% Na₂S₂O₃ (10 ml) and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.



The product was obtained as a colorless oil (183 mg, 97%) Using eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:1.

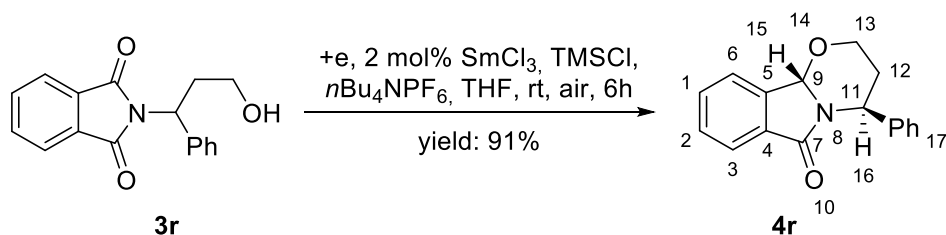
IR (film) ν_{max} : 2957, 2862, 1703, 1426, 1281, 1057 cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (dd, $J = 7.0, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 4.59 – 4.35 (m, 1H), 4.31 – 4.09 (m, 1H), 3.96 (td, $J = 12.2, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.37 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.66 (dtd, $J = 13.6, 3.6, 1.7$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9(C=O), 141.2 (C), 132.8 (C), 131.9 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 123.1 (CH), 85.1(O-CH-N), 67.3(O-CH₃), 37.8 (N-CH₂), 24.6 (CH₂).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₁H₁₁NNaO₂⁺: 212.0682. Found: 212.0683.

4-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-[1,3]oxazino[2,3-a]isoindol-6(10bH)-one (4r)



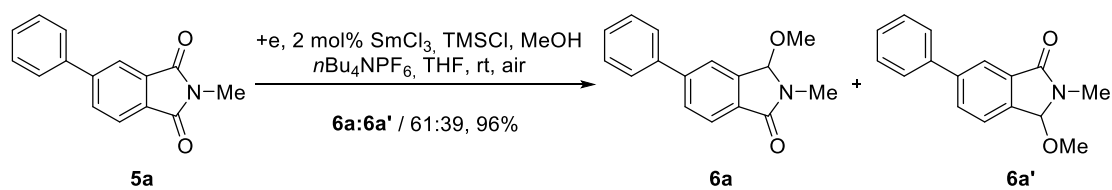
nBu₄NPF₆ (156 mg, 0.4 mmol, 0.04 mol/L in THF) as the electrolyte, 2-(3-hydroxy-1-phenylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (281 mg, 1.0 mmol) and SmCl₃ (5.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) were added in anhydrous THF (10 ml), TMSCl (272 mg, 2.5 mmol, 0.32 ml) was added dropwise with stirring, then electrolysis was performed at $i = 50$ mA during 3 hours. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was quenched by 0.1 mol/L HCl (10 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed by 10% Na₂S₂O₃ (10 ml) and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was

purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3) to afford the product as a colorless oil (241 mg, 91%). The relative stereochemistry of H15 and H16 was determined by NOESY experiment.

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 5.81 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 4.13 (ddd, *J* = 6.6, 3.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (ddd, *J* = 11.3, 7.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.38 – 2.26 (m, 2H).

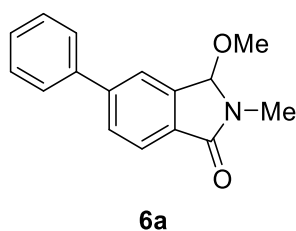
¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9 (C=O), 141.5 (C), 138.9 (C), 132.3 (C), 132.2 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 128.9 (2xCH), 127.3 (CH), 126.7 (2xCH), 123.9 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 82.7(O-CH-N), 64.0 (O-CH₂), 48.6 (N-CH), 28.1 (CH₂).

6. Regioselectivity of reductive methoxylation of aryl-ring-substituted *N*-methylphthalimides



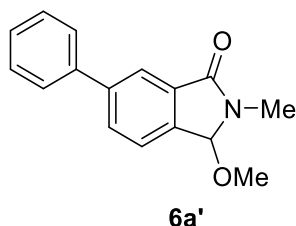
Following the general procedure, the mixture of 5.6a and 5.6a' was obtained in 96% yield (243 mg). (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:4).

3-methoxy-2-methyl-5-phenylisoindolin-1-one (6a)



¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.35 (m, 3H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H).

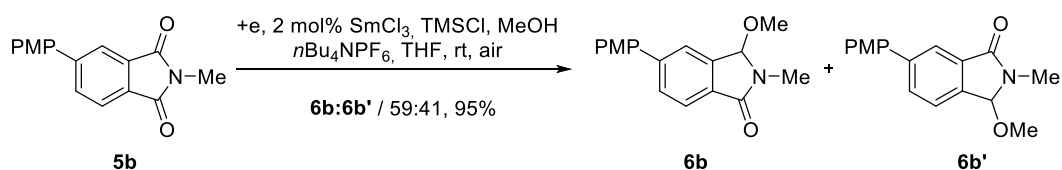
3-methoxy-2-methyl-6-phenylisoindolin-1-one (6a')



¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz 1H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.35 (m, 3H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H).

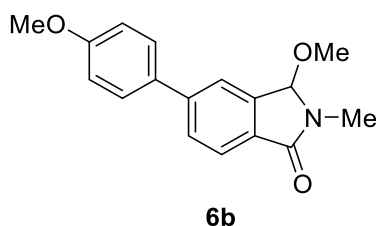
21a and 21a': **¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 167.8, 167.7, 145.4, 143.4, 141.1, 140.1, 140.0, 139.1, 134.0, 132.1, 130.9, 129.1, 128.3, 128.1, 127.5, 127.3, 123.8, 122.0, 121.9, 88.1, 88.0, 49.4, 26.6

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₆H₁₅NNaO₂⁺: 276.0995. Found: 276.0997.



Following the general procedure, the mixture of 5.6b and 5.6b' was obtained in 95% yield (269 mg). (eluent: ethyl acetate/petane: 1:4).

3-methoxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6b)



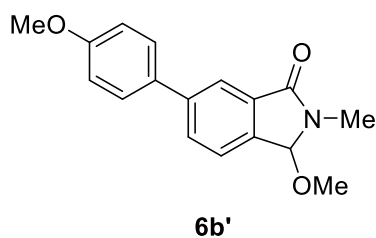
White solid. **IR (film)** ν_{max} : 3039, 2996, 2934, 2835, 2532, 2043, 1703, 1607, 1520, 1448, 1361, 1254, 1185, 1120, 1080, 1037, 960, 825, 779, cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8(C=O), 159.9 (C), 144.9 (C), 141.1 (C), 132.4 (C), 131.4 (CH), 128.5 (2xCH), 123.7 (CH), 121.4(CH), 114.5 (2xCH), 88.0 (O-CH-N), 55.4 (ArO-CH₃), 49.2 (O-CH₃), 26.5 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₇H₁₇NNaO₃⁺: 306.1101. Found: 306.1111.

3-methoxy-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6b')

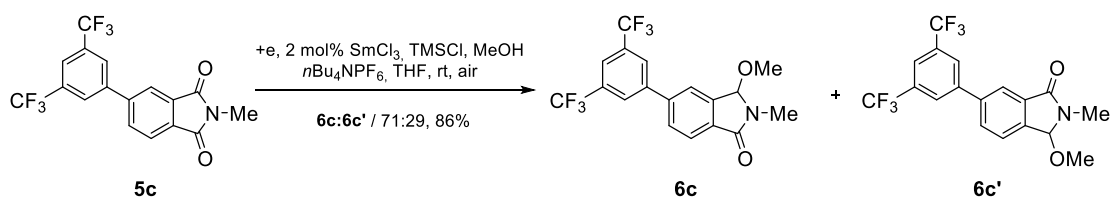


White solid. **IR (film)** ν_{max} : 3039, 2996, 2934, 2835, 2532, 2043, 1703, 1607, 1520, 1448, 1359, 1255, 1183, 1122, 1079, 1035, 959, 825, 779, 700 cm^{-1} ;

^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.07 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H).

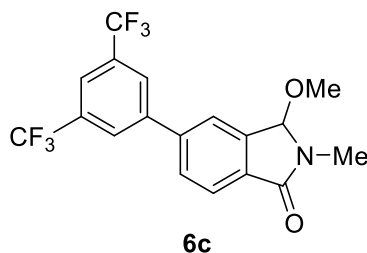
^{13}C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.8 (C=O), 159.7 (C), 142.9(C), 138.3 (C), 133.9 (C), 132.3(C), 130.4 (CH), 128.3 (2xCH), 123.7 (CH), 121.3(CH), 114.4 (2xCH), 87.9(O-CH-N), 55.4 (ArO- CH_3), 49.2 (O- CH_3), 26.5(N- CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_3^+$: 306.1101. Found: 306.1111.



Following the general procedure, the mixture of 5.6c and 5.6c' was obtained in 86% yield (335 mg). (eluent: ethyl acetate/petane: 1:4).

5-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3-methoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6c)

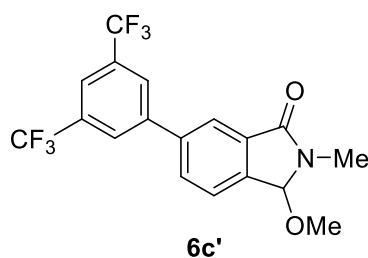


^1H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (s, 2H), 8.03 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.85 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.0 (C=O), 142.2 (C), 142.1 (C), 141.6 (C), 133.5 (C), 132.5 (q, $J = 33.0$ Hz, C), 129.3 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 124.3 (CH), 123.2 (q, $J = 270.8$ Hz, C), 122.2 (CH), 121.8 (cinq, $J = 3.8$ Hz, CH), 87.9 (O-CH-N), 49.5 (O- CH_3), 26.6 (N- CH_3).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_6\text{NNaO}_2^+$: 412.0743. Found: 412.0715.

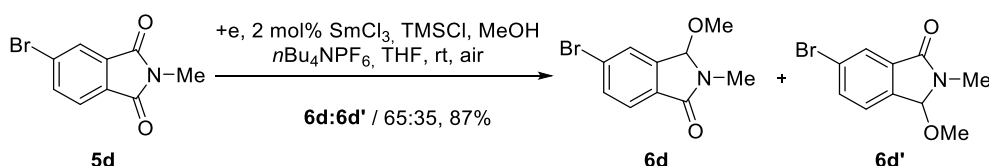
6-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3-methoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6c')



¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (s, 3H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H).

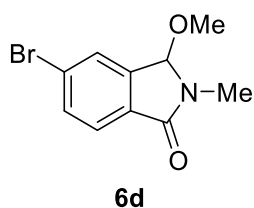
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0 (C=O), 142.0 (C), 140.7 (C), 140.3 (C), 134.5 (C), 132.5 (q, *J* = 33.0 Hz, C), 130.9 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 124.3 (CH), 123.2 (q, *J* = 270.8 Hz, C), 122.1 (CH), 121.7 (cinq, *J* = 3.8 Hz, CH), 87.9 (O-CH-N), 49.4(O-CH₃), 26.6 (N-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₈H₁₃F₆NNaO₂⁺: 412.0743. Found: 412.0715.



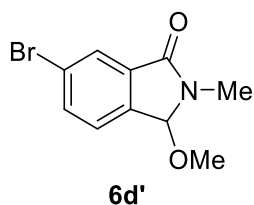
Following the general procedure, the mixture of 5.6d and 5.6d' was obtained in 87% yield (222 mg). (eluent: ethyl acetate/petane: 1:4).

5-bromo-3-methoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6d)



¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67-7.62 (m, 3H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.90 (s, 3H).

6-bromo-3-methoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (6d')

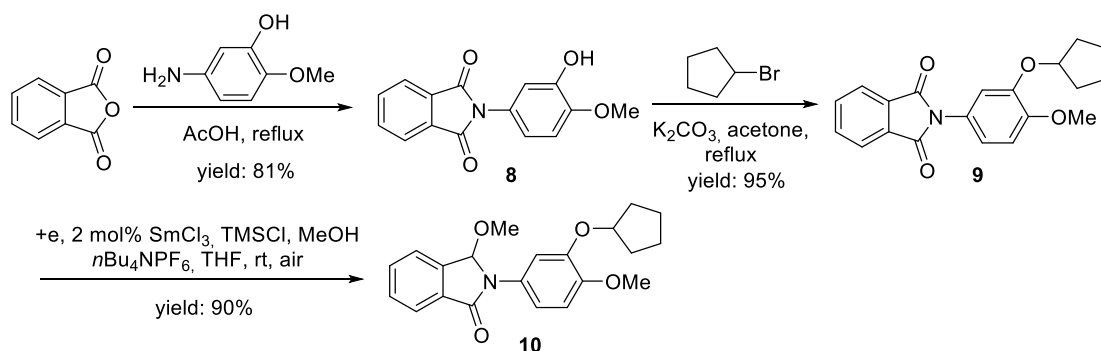


¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 1.8, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.88 (s, 3H).

21d and 21d': ¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 166.3, 142.3, 139.0, 135.2, 135.0, 133.4, 132.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 125.0, 124.9, 124.3, 87.7, 87.5, 49.53 (O-CH₃, **2o'**), 49.3, 26.6, 26.6.

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₀H₁₀BrNNaO₂⁺: 277.9787. Found: 277.9781.

7. Synthesis of 3-methoxy-2-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-isoindolinone (10)



2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (8)

a mixture of 5-amino-2-methoxyphenol (1.39 g, 10.0 mmol) and Phthalic anhydride (1.48 g, 10.0 mmol) in acetic acid (20 ml) was refluxed overnight with stirring. After cooling to the room temperature, diluted by water (20 ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x10 ml). The organic phase was washed by saturated NaHCO₃ (5 ml) and brine (5 ml), dried over MgSO₄, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 2:1) to afford the product as a white solid (2.18 g, 81%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (ddd, *J* = 10.8, 7.4, 2.3 Hz, 3H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5 (C=O), 146.5 (C), 146.0 (C), 134.3 (2xCH), 131.8 (CH), 124.8 (C), 123.7 (2xCH), 118.7 (CH), 113.5 (CH), 110.7 (CH), 56.1 (O-CH₃).

HRMS (ESI) [M+Na⁺] calculated for C₁₅H₁₁NNaO₄⁺: 292.0580. Found: 292.0579.

2-(3-(cyclopentyloxy)-4-methoxyphenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (9)

To a mixture of **5.8** (2.15 g, 8.0 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (5.52 g, 40 mmol) in acetone (40 ml), bromocyclopentane (5.92 g, 4.3 ml, 40 mmol) was added with stirring, then refluxed overnight. Cooled to room temperature, diluted by ethyl acetate (50 ml), filtered the turbid liquid to remove the salt, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:1) to afford the product as a white solid (2.56 g, 95%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H), 6.95 (s, 3H), 4.76 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.97 – 1.46 (m, 8H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6 (C=O), 149.7 (C), 147.9 (C), 134.3 (2xCH), 131.8 (CH), 124.2 (C), 123.6 (2xCH), 118.8 (CH), 113.3 (CH), 111.7 (CH), 80.6 (O-CH), 56.2 (O-CH₃), 32.7 (2xCH₂), 24.0 (2xCH₂).

HRMS (ESI) [M+H⁺] calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NNaO₄⁺: 360.1206. Found: 360.1199.

3-methoxy-2-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-isoindolinone (10)

Reactions were carried out in a three necked cell containing a magnetic stirring bar, samarium cathode (20 cm² area), glassy carbon anode (20 cm² area) and SCE as reference electrode. nBu₄NPF₆ (312 mg, 0.8 mmol, 0.04 mol/L in THF) as the electrolyte, **24** (1.69 g, 5.0 mmol), methanol (1.60 g, 50 mmol, 2.0 ml) and SmCl₃ (25.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added in anhydrous THF (20 ml), TMSCl (1.36 g, 12.5 mmol, 1.6 ml) was added dropwise with stirring, then electrolysis was performed at i = 50 mA during 3 hours. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was quenched by 0.1 mol/L HCl (50 ml), extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed by 10% Na₂S₂O₃ (20 ml) and brine, dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: ethyl acetate/pentane: 1:3) to afford the product as a colorless oil (1.59 g, 90%).

¹H NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, *J* = 21.1, 10.1, 4.2 Hz, 4H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 4.82 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 1.99 – 1.80 (m, 6H), 1.64 – 1.54 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (90 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7 (C=O), 147.8 (C), 147.6 (C), 139.7 (C), 133.0 (C), 132.6 (CH), 130.5 (C), 130.3 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 113.9 (CH), 112.0 (CH), 109.7 (CH), 87.8 (O-CH-N), 80.5 (O-CH), 56.2 (O-CH₃), 49.3 (O-CH₃), 32.8 (2xCH₂), 24.1 (2xCH₂).

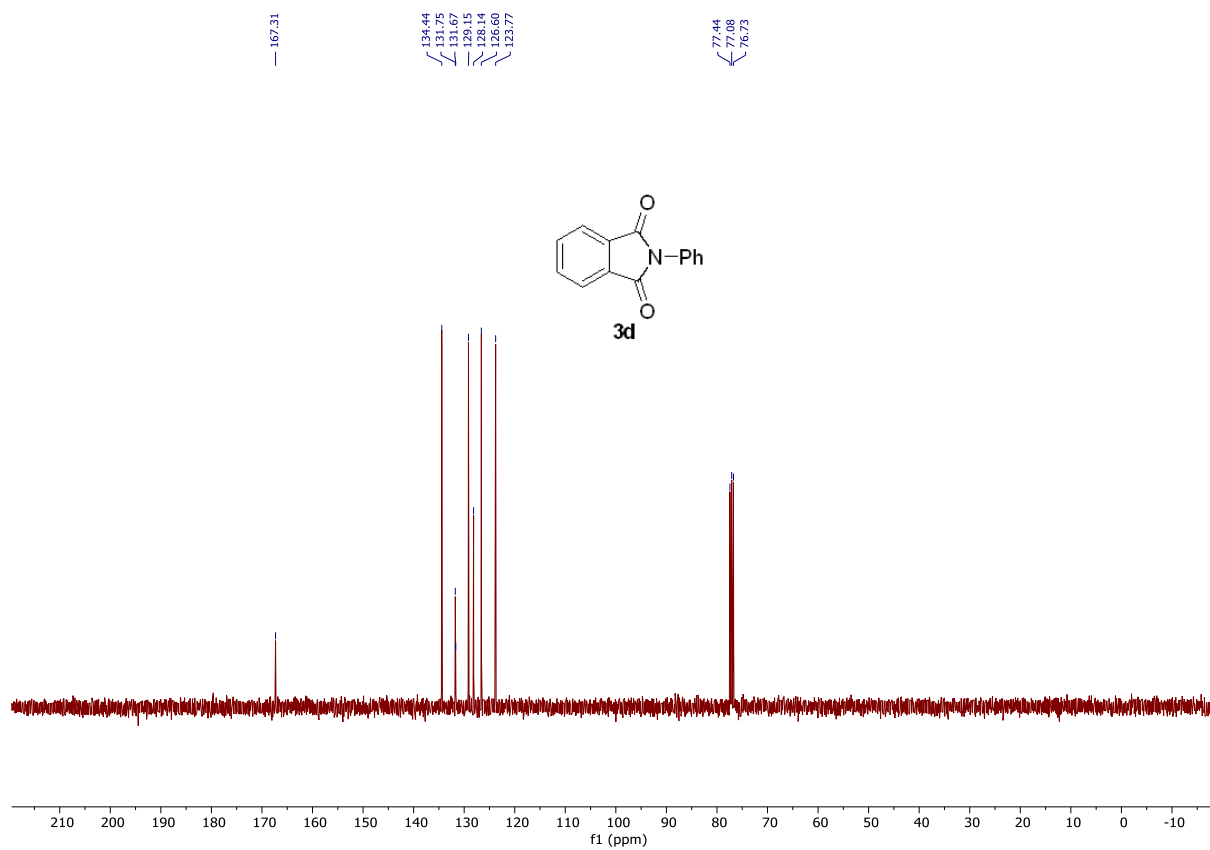
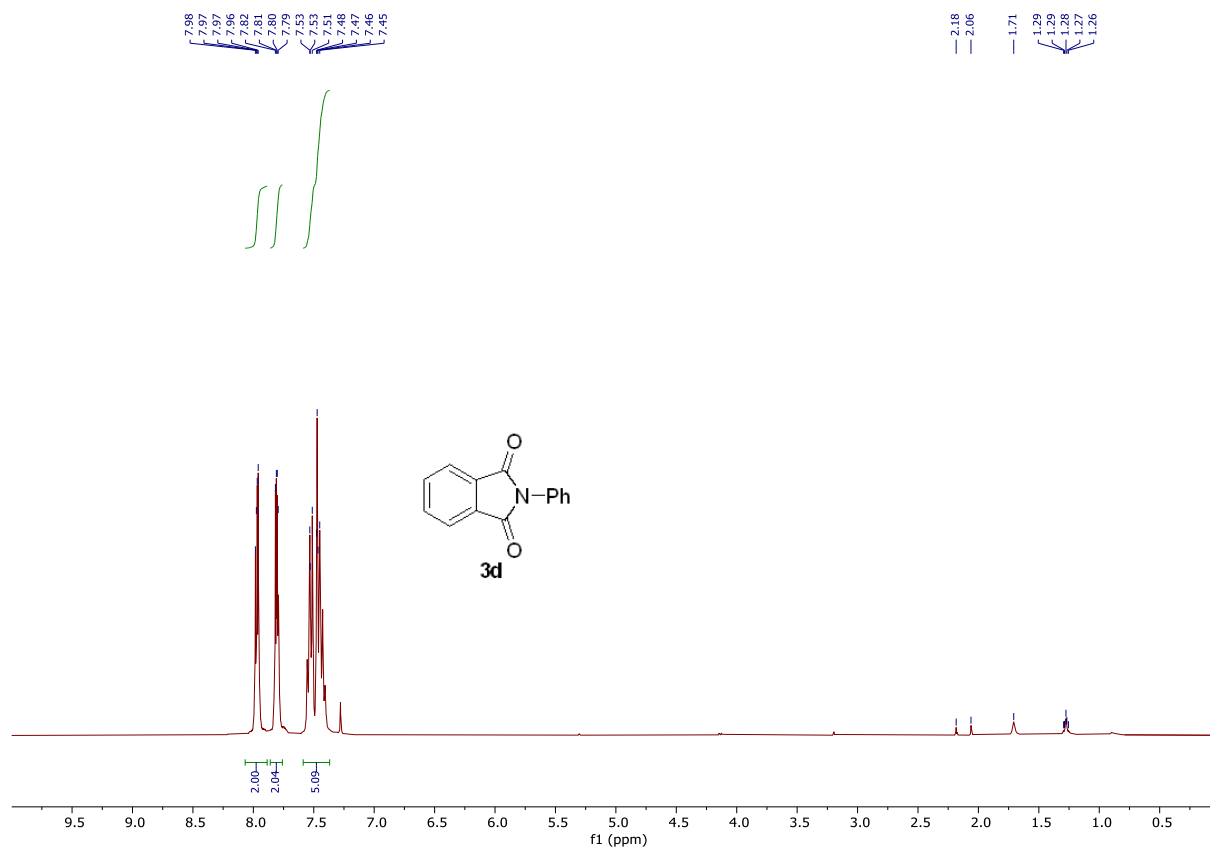
HRMS (ESI) [M+H⁺] calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NNaO₄⁺: 360.1206. Found: 360.1199.

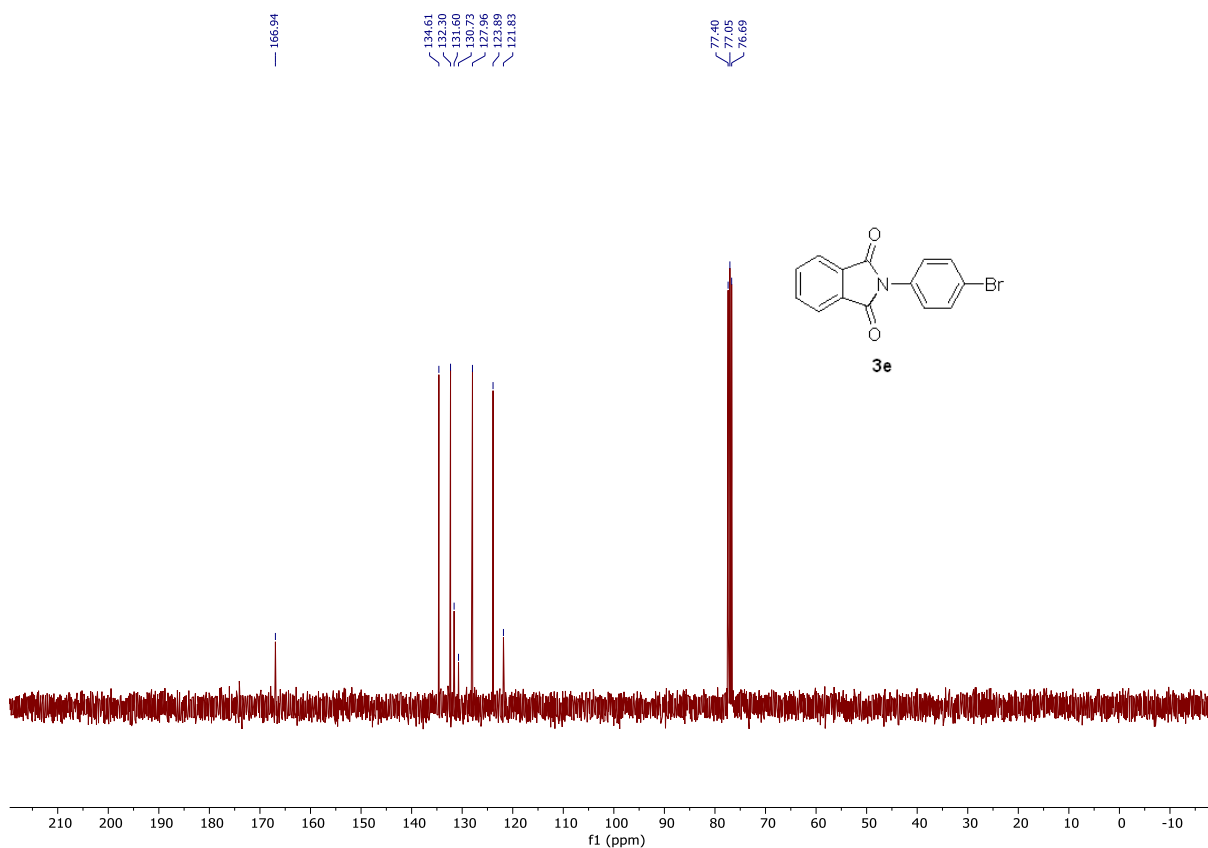
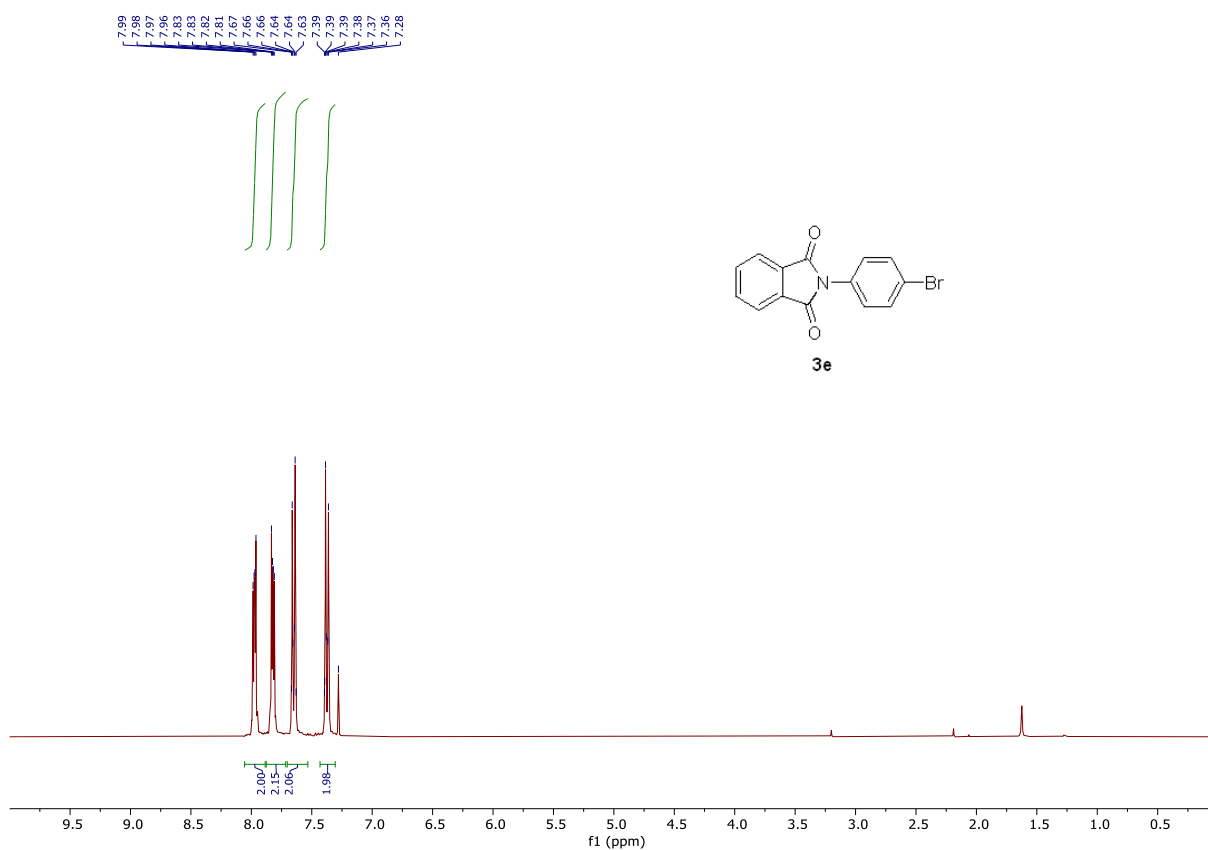
8. References

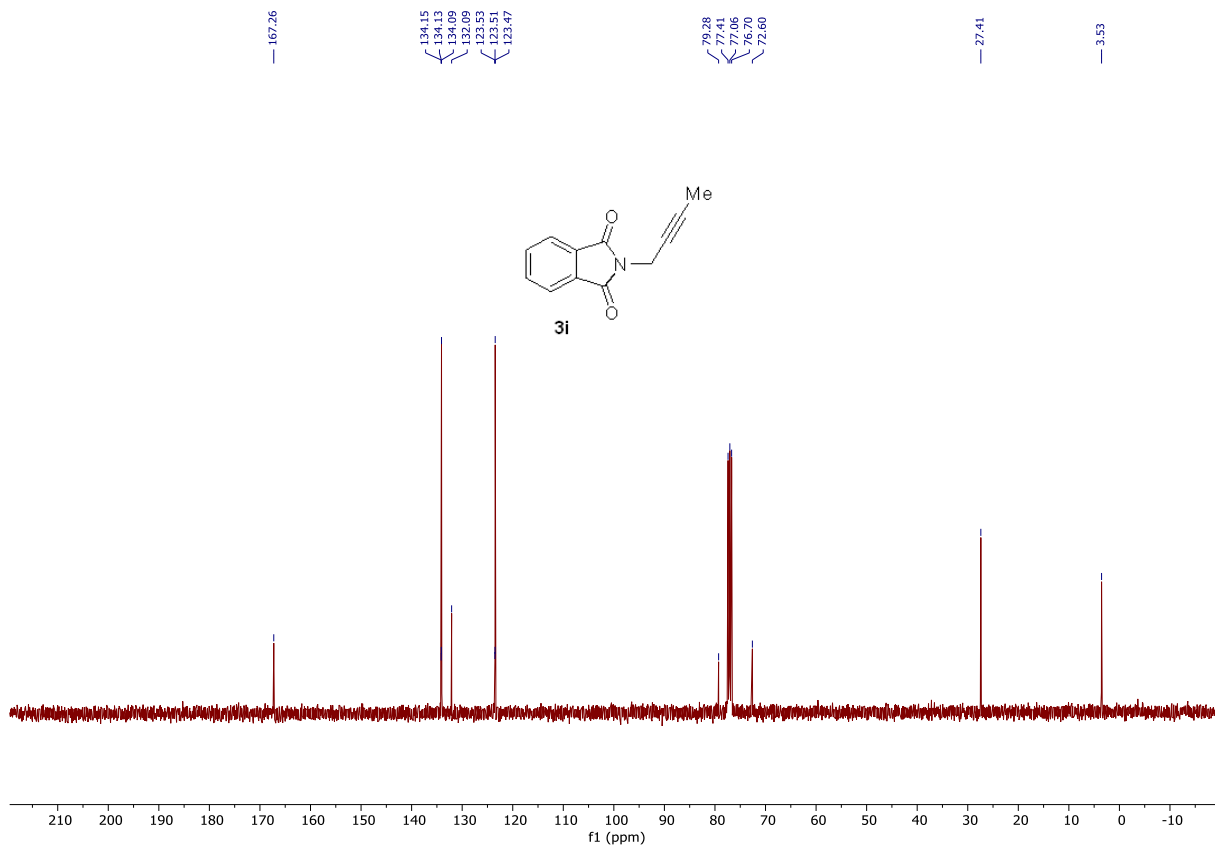
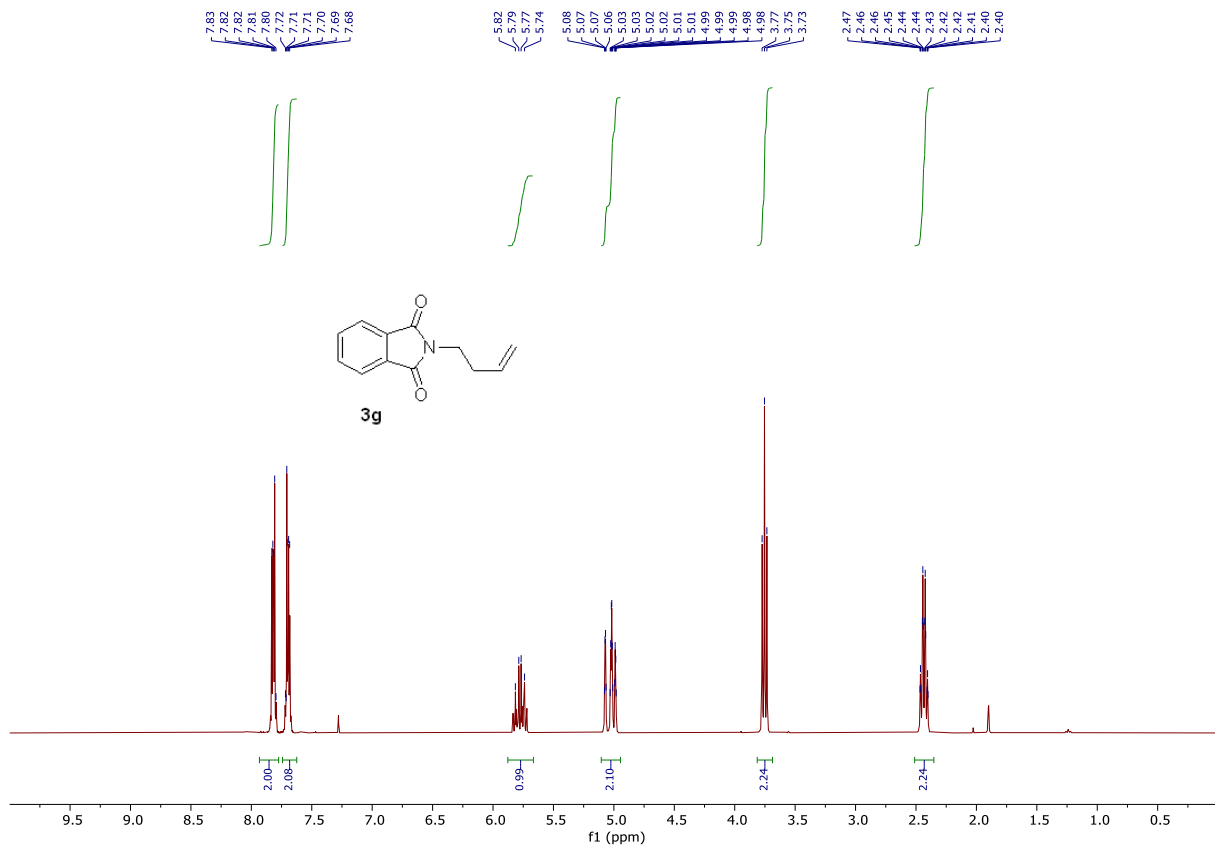
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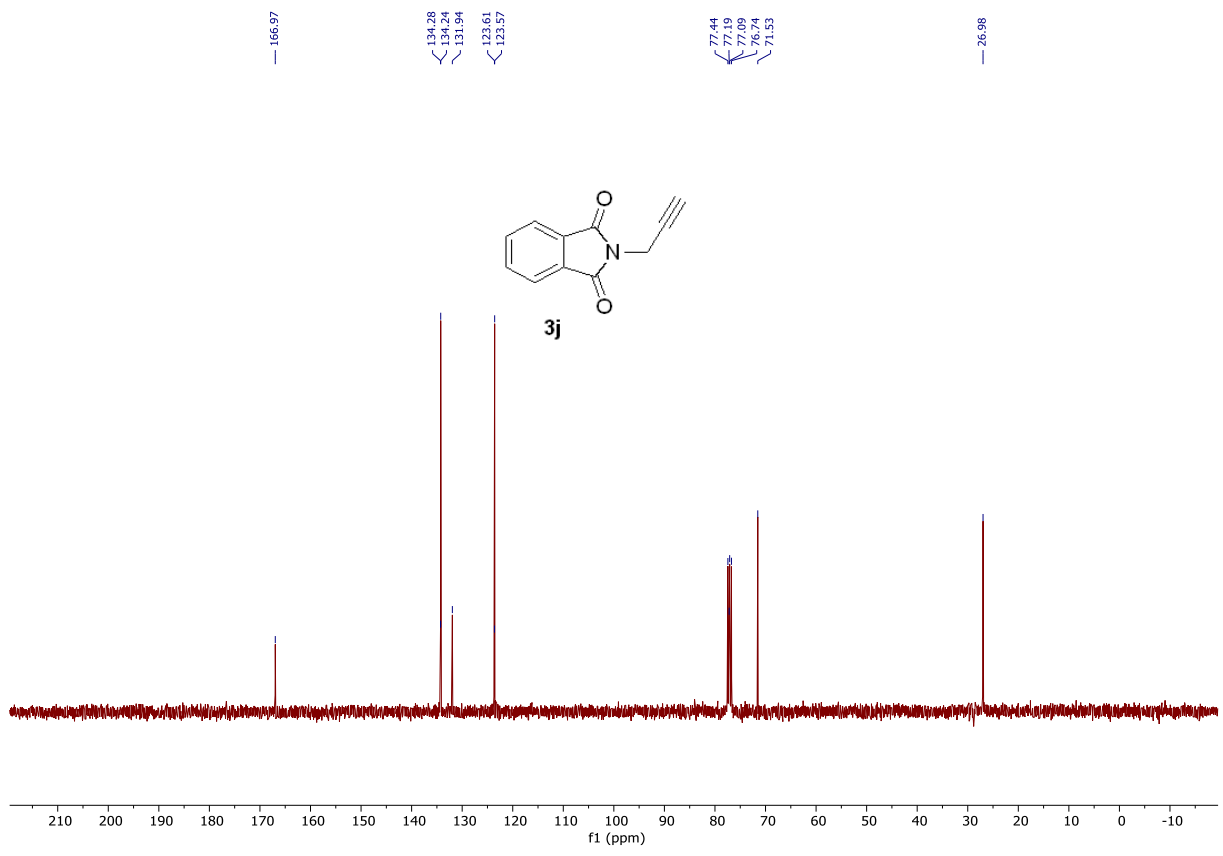
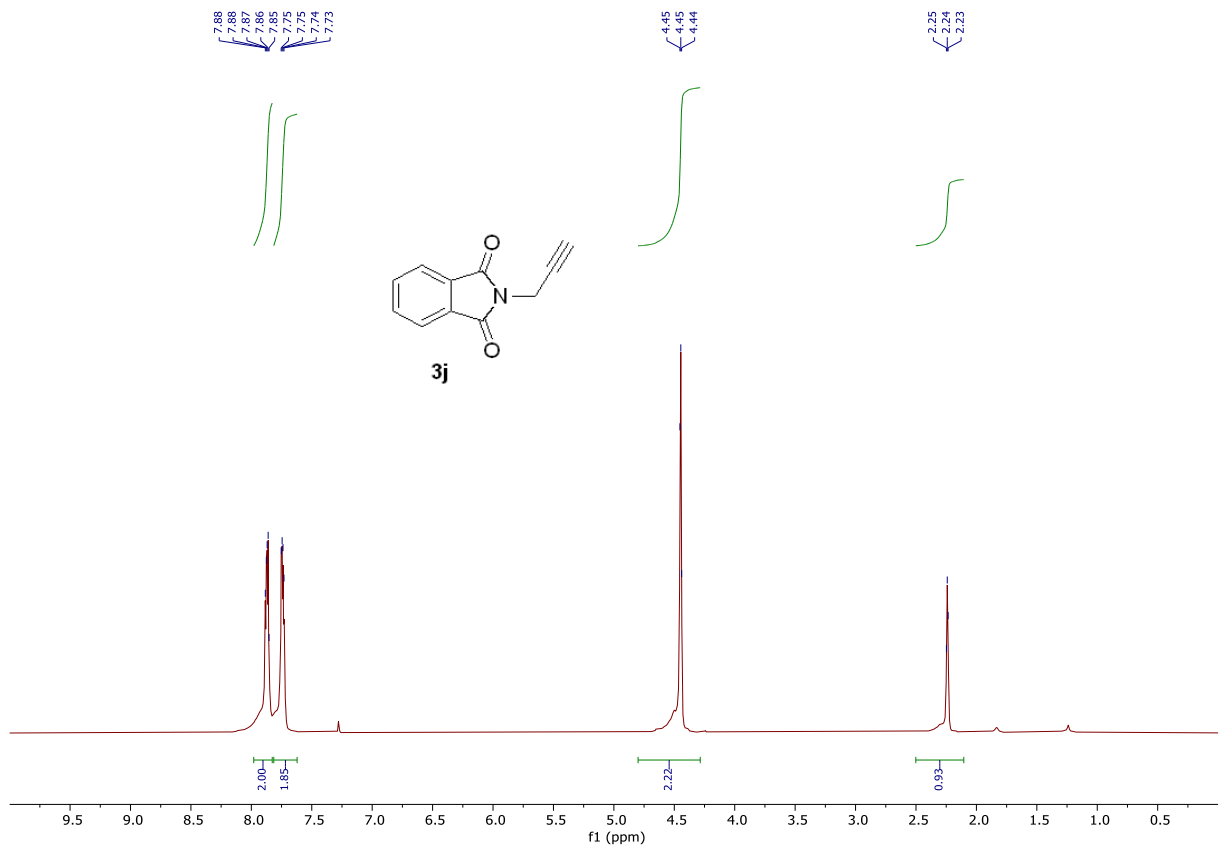
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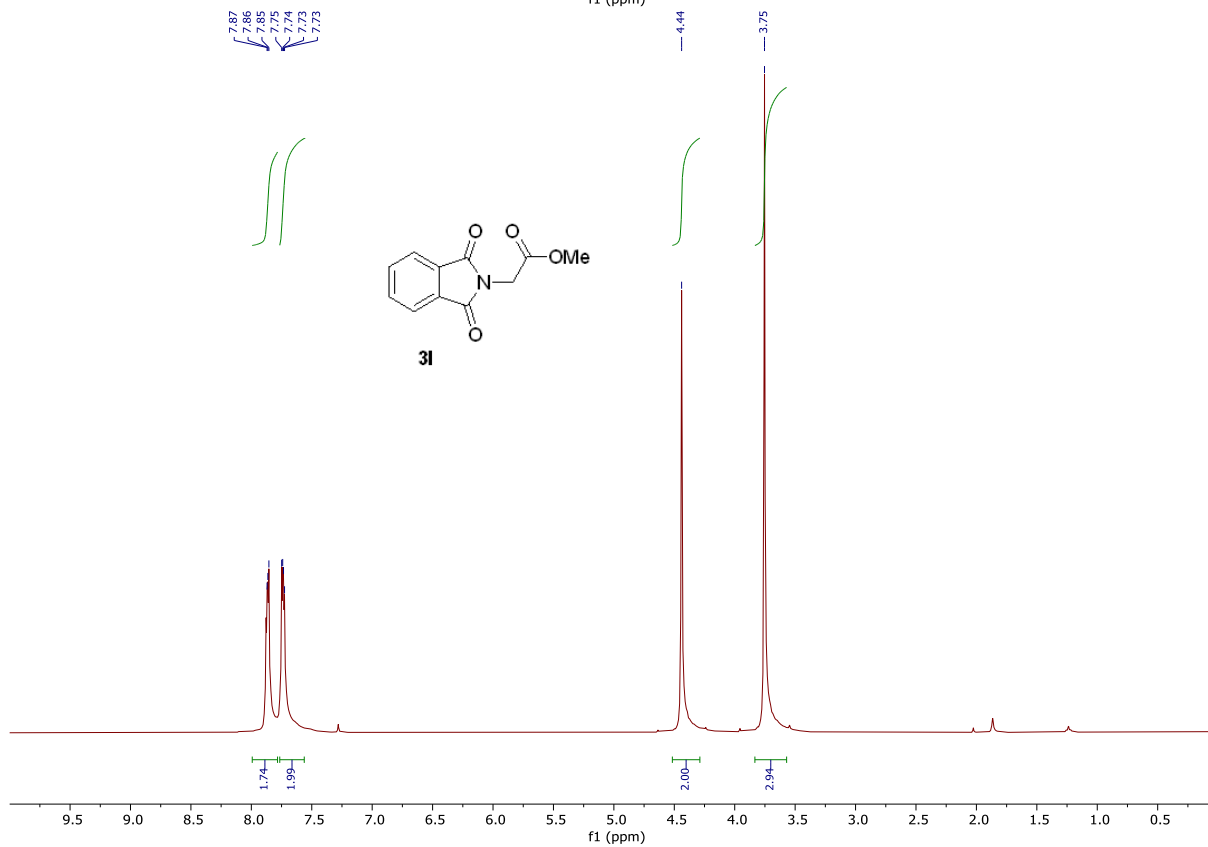
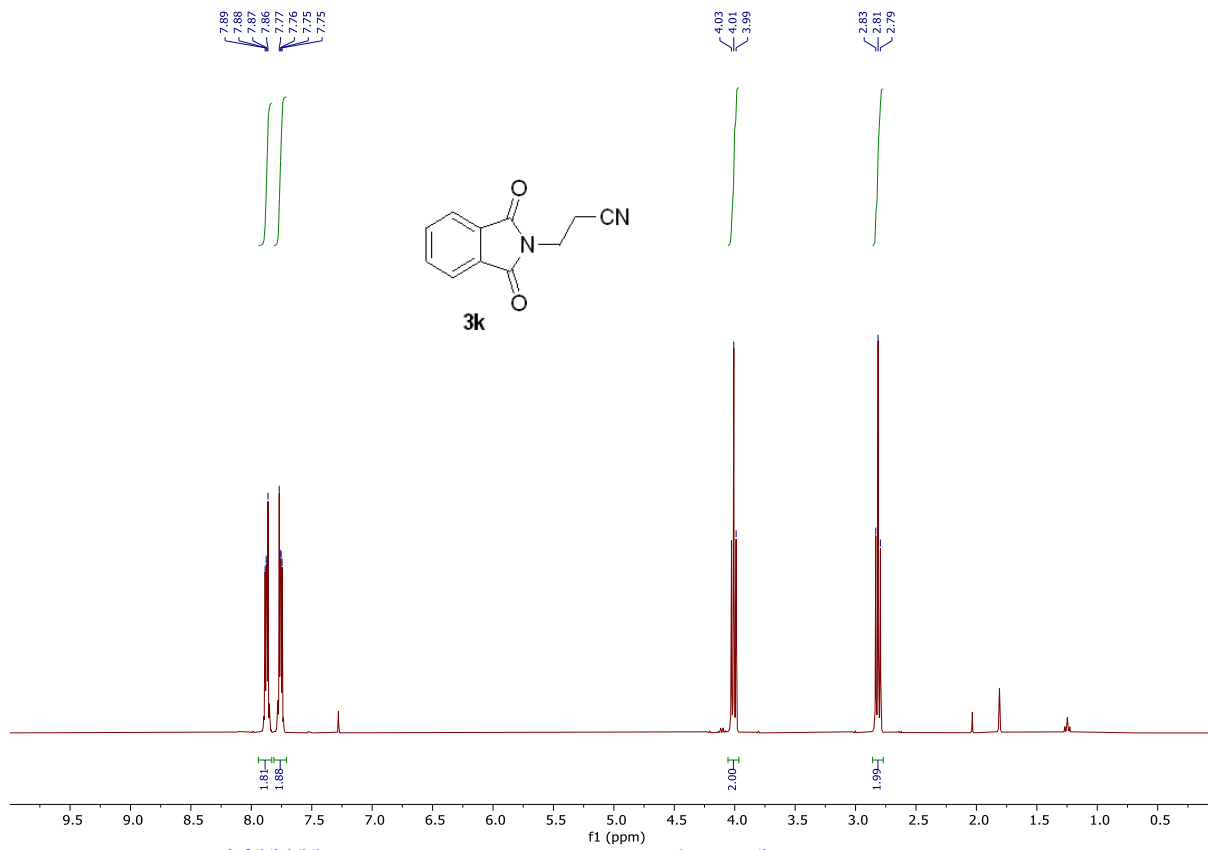
9. NMR Spectra

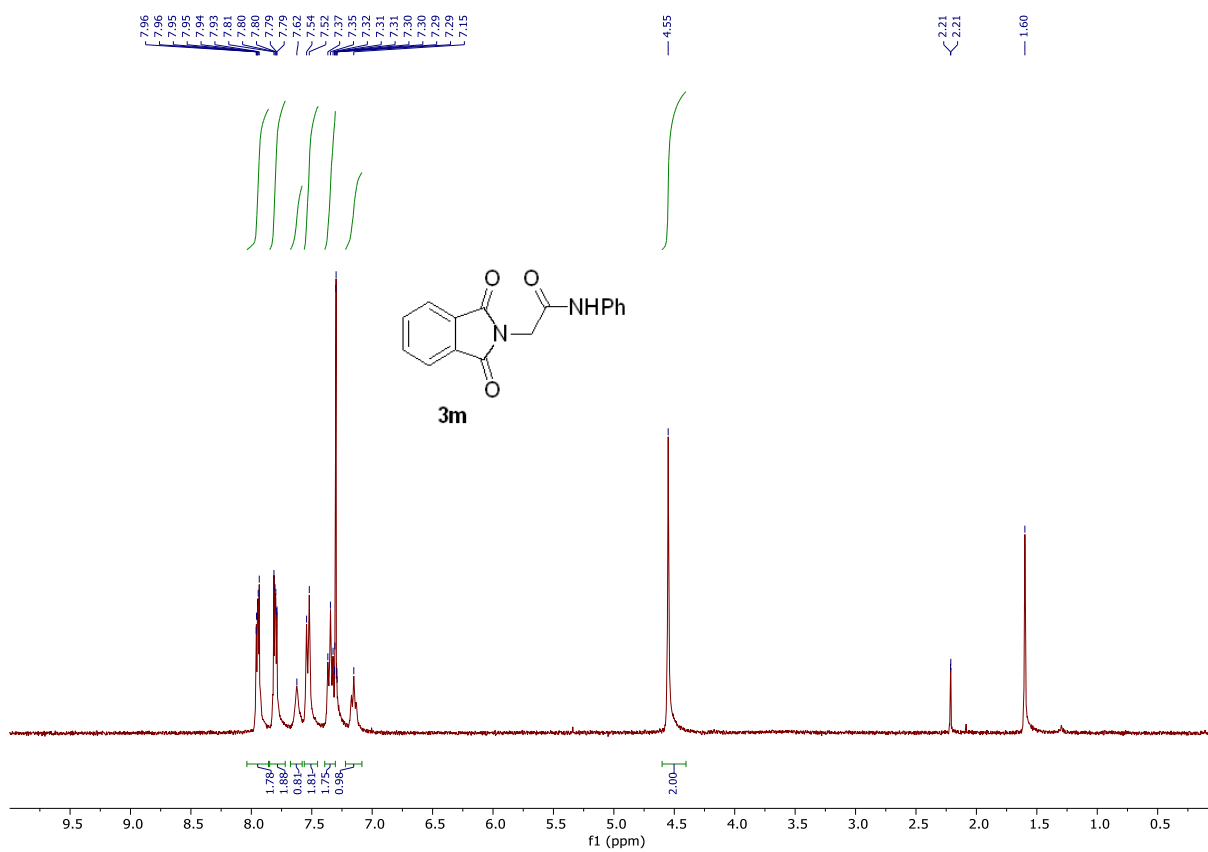
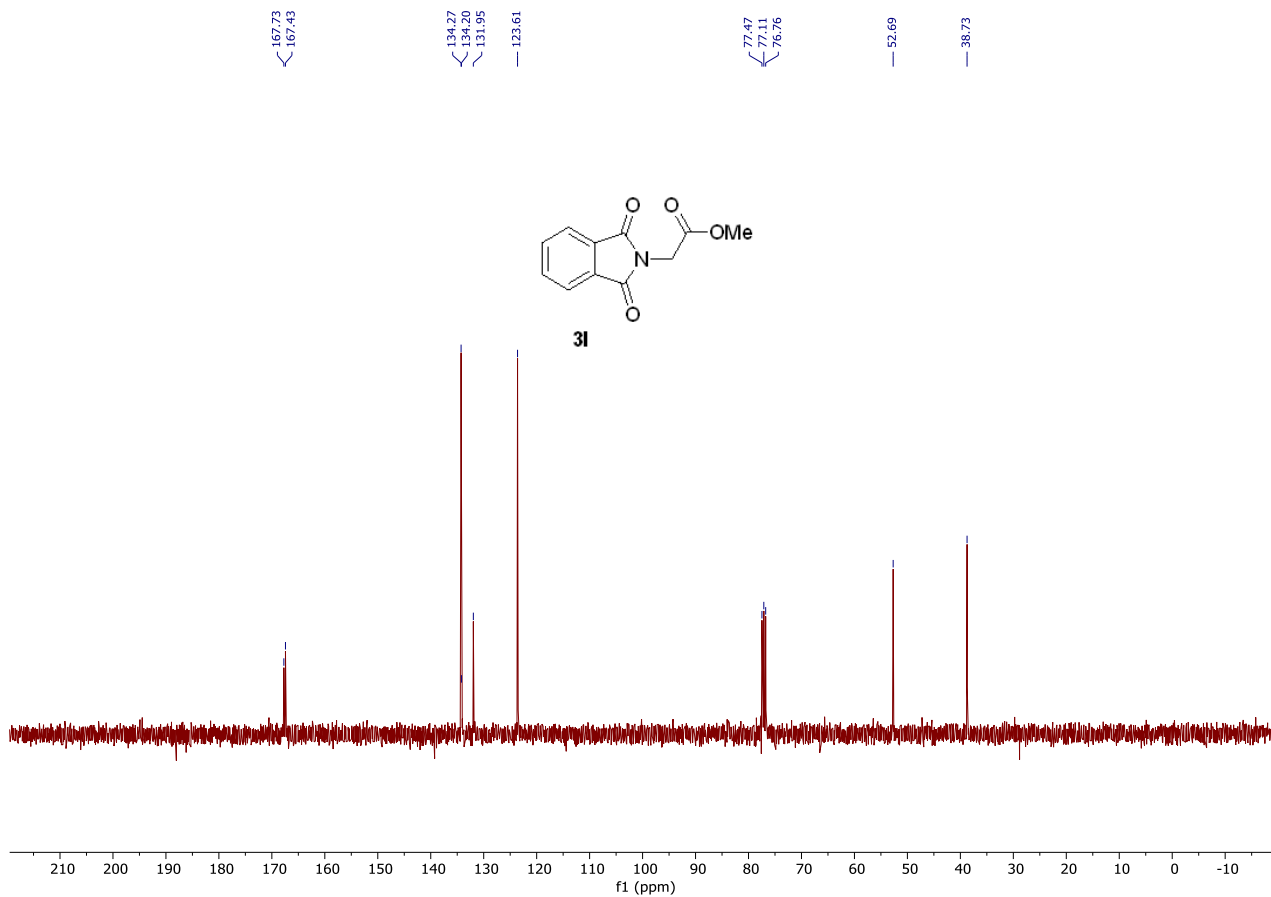


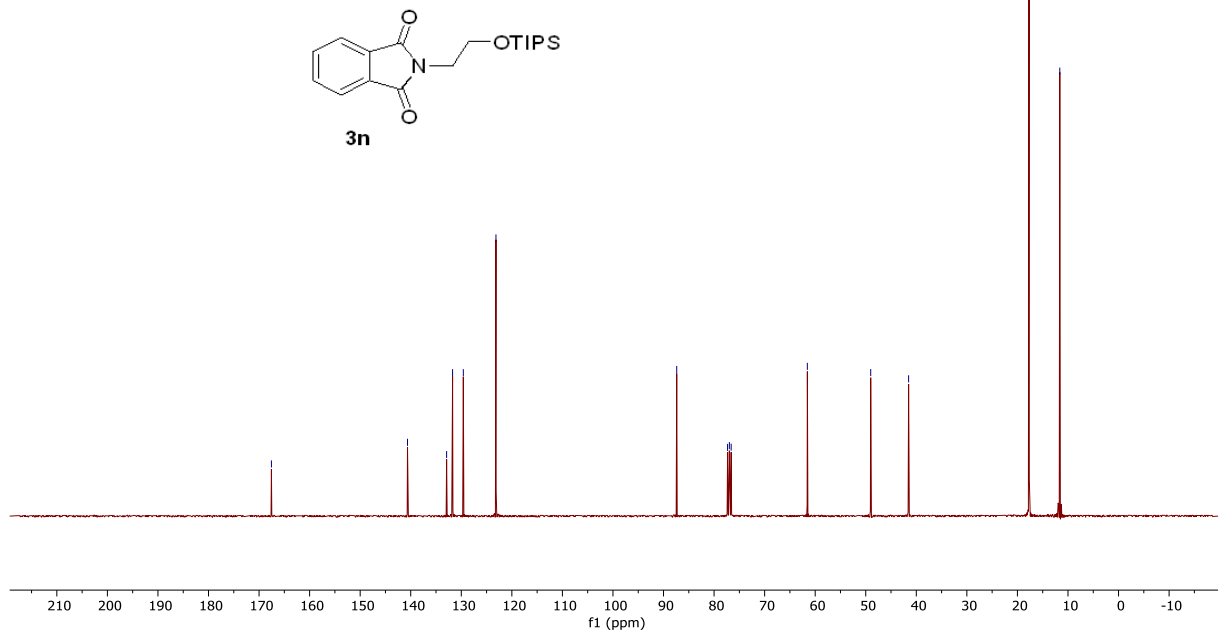
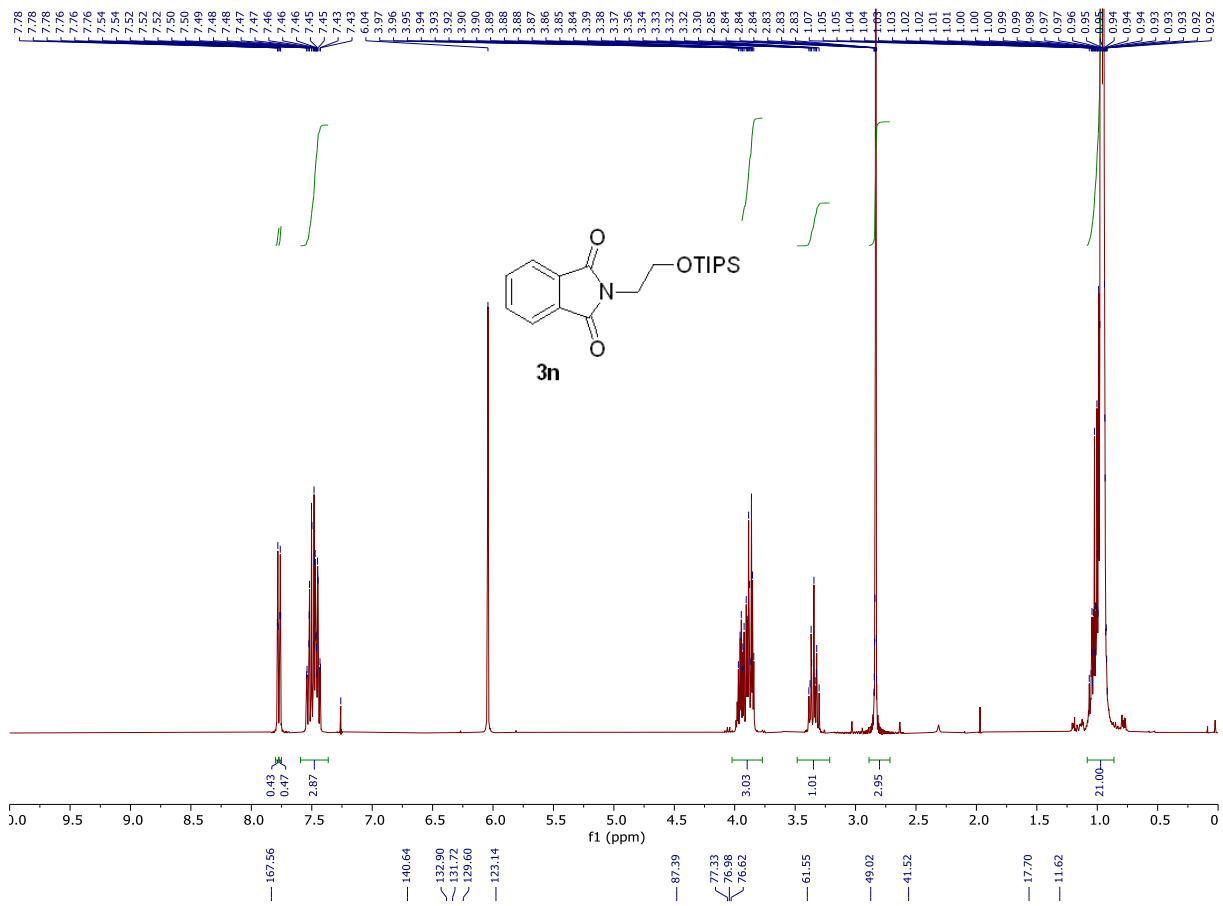


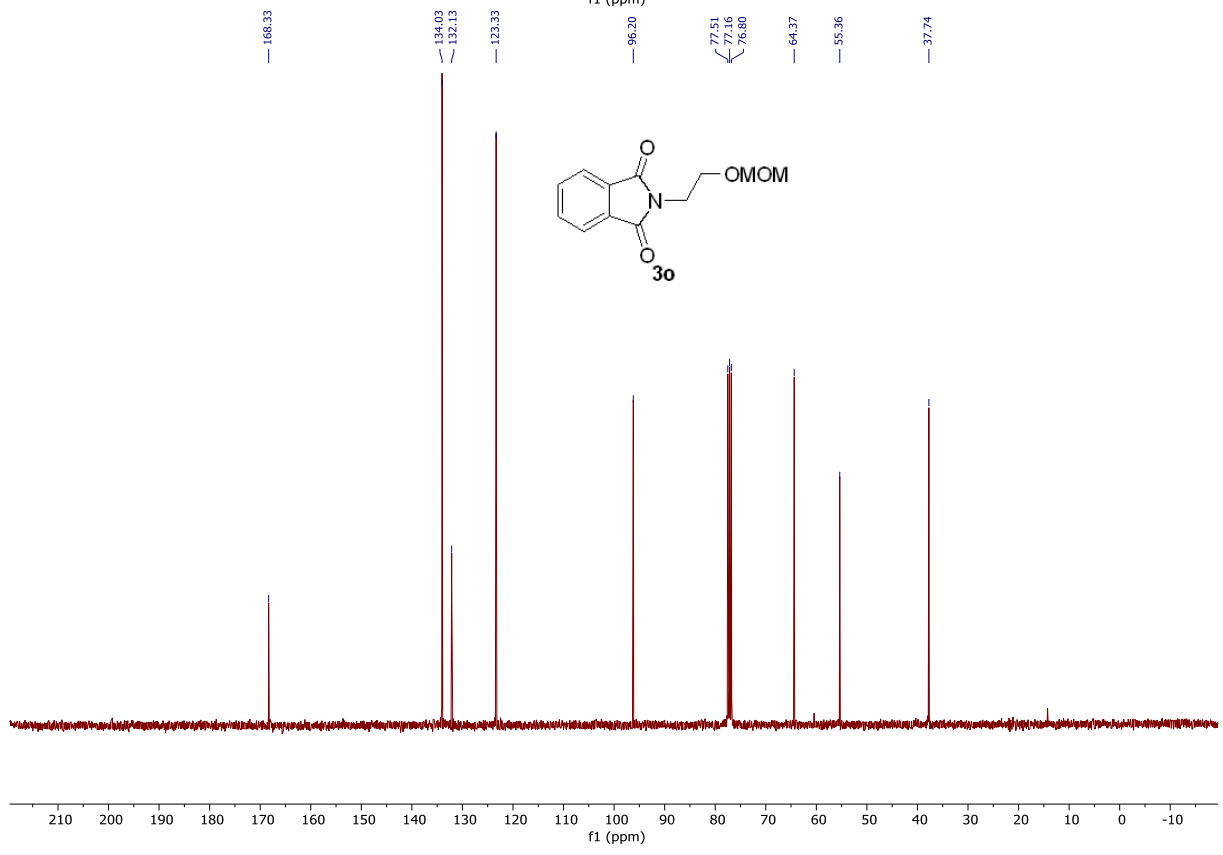
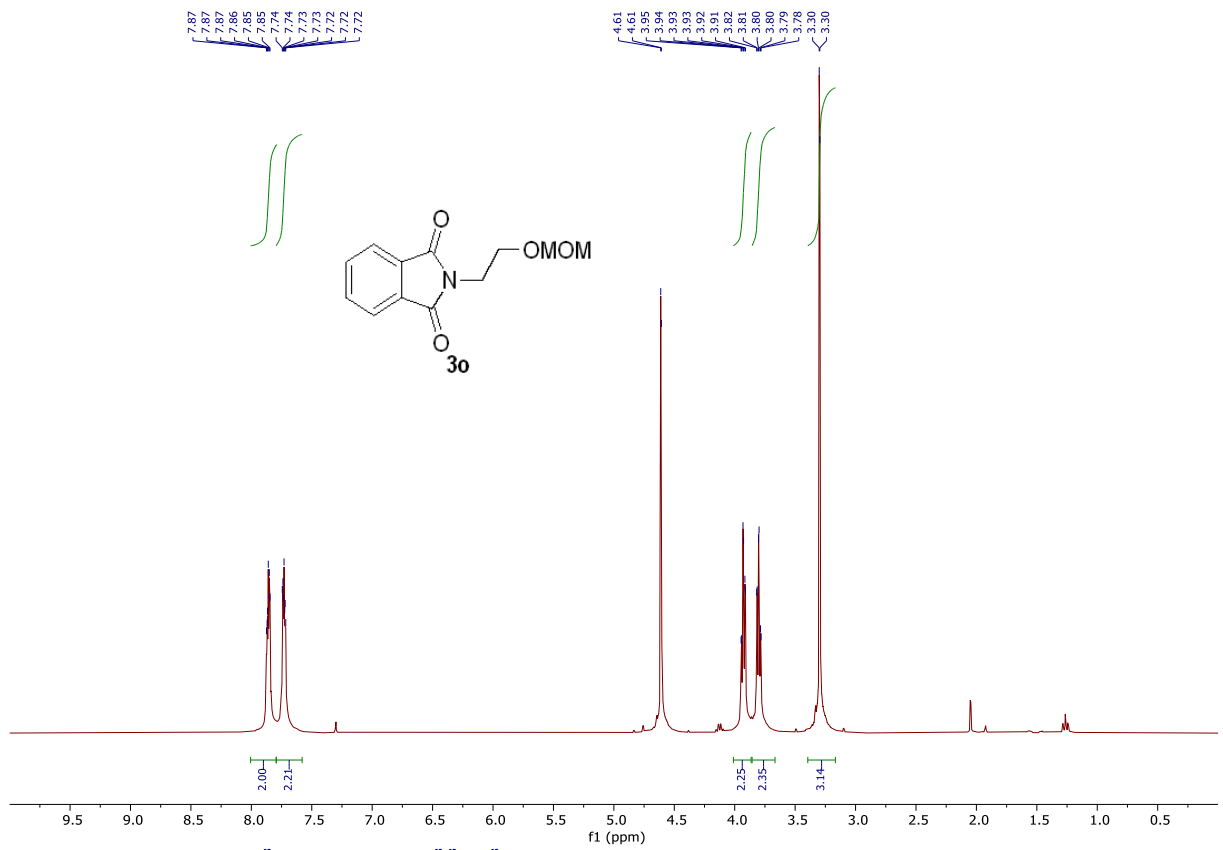


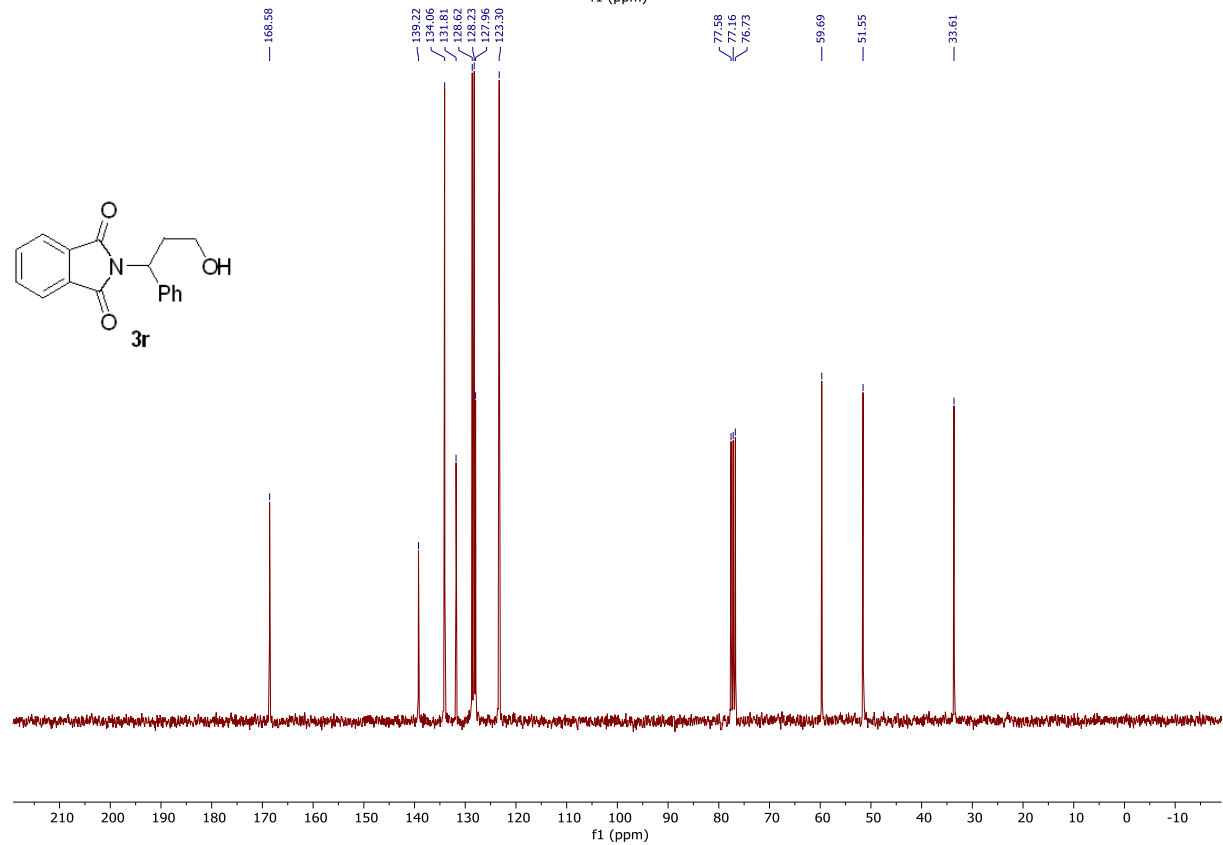
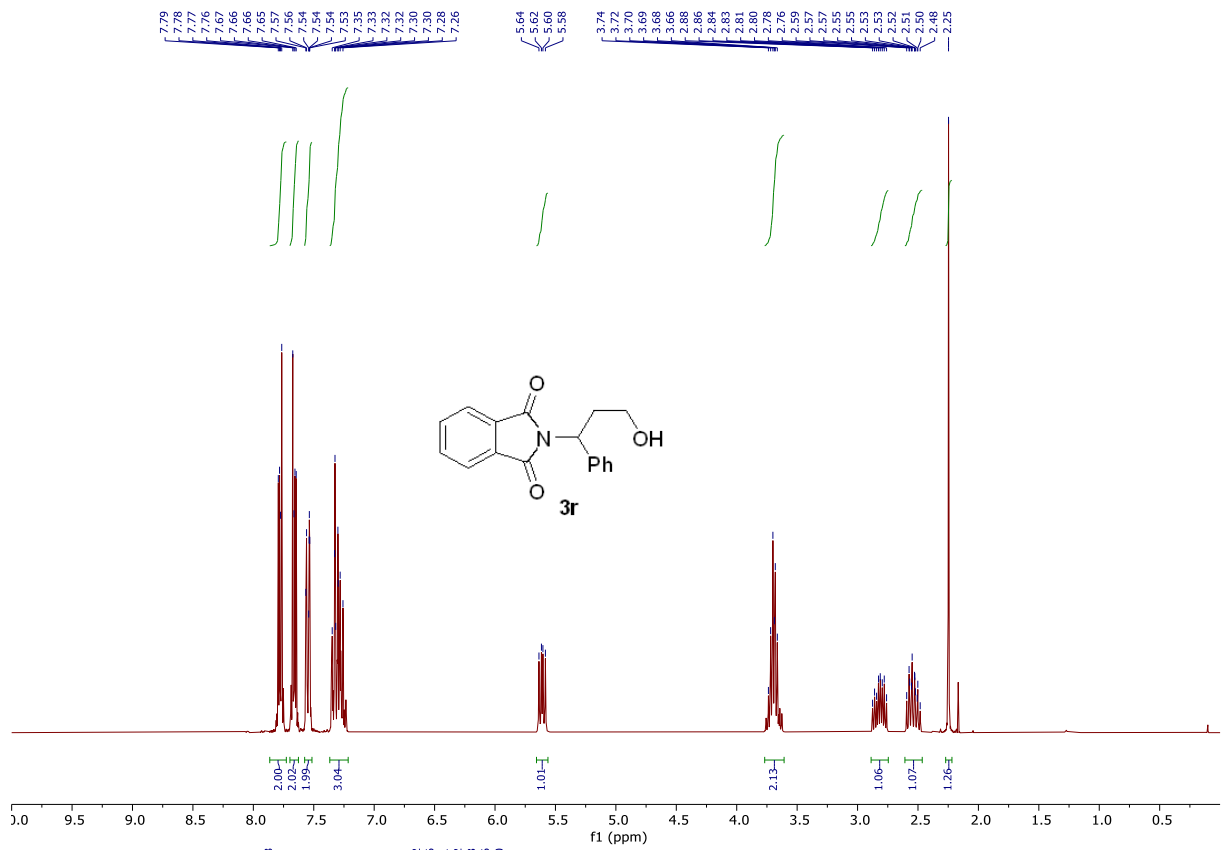


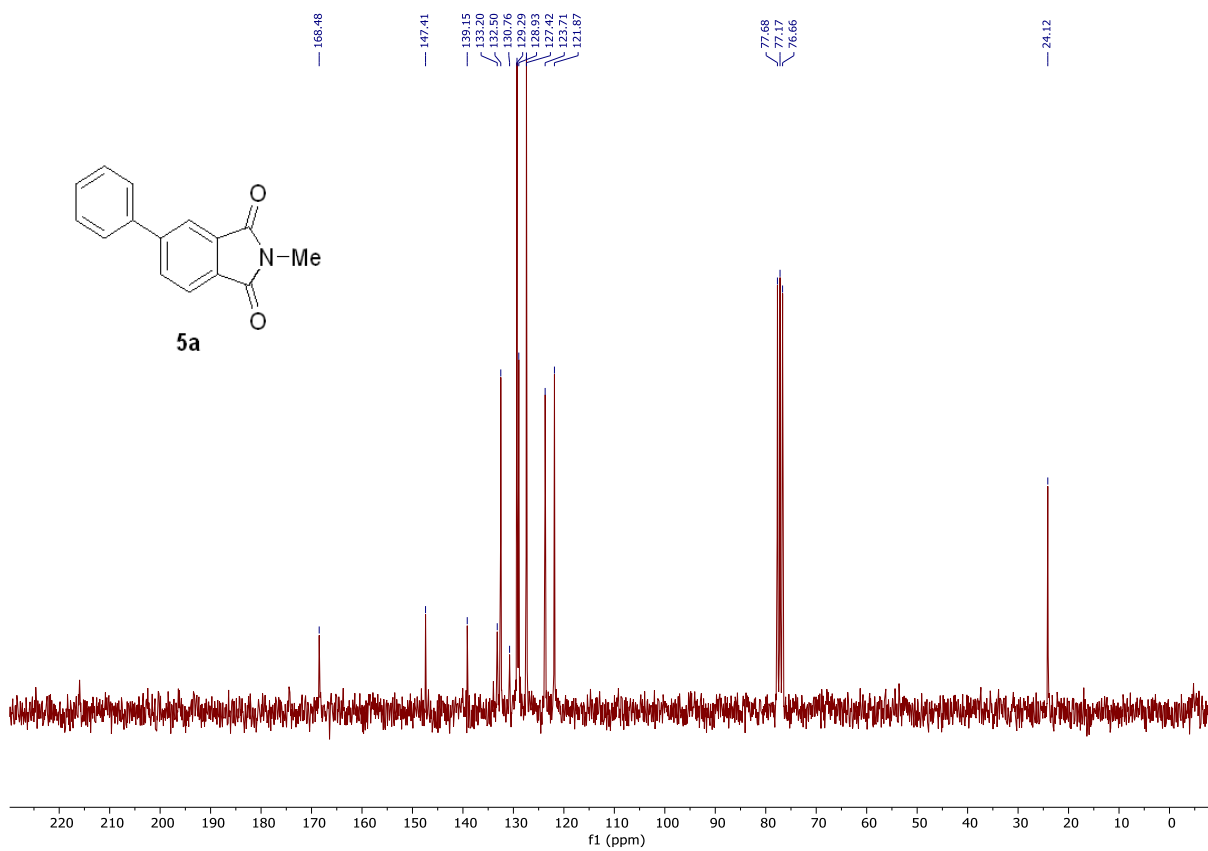
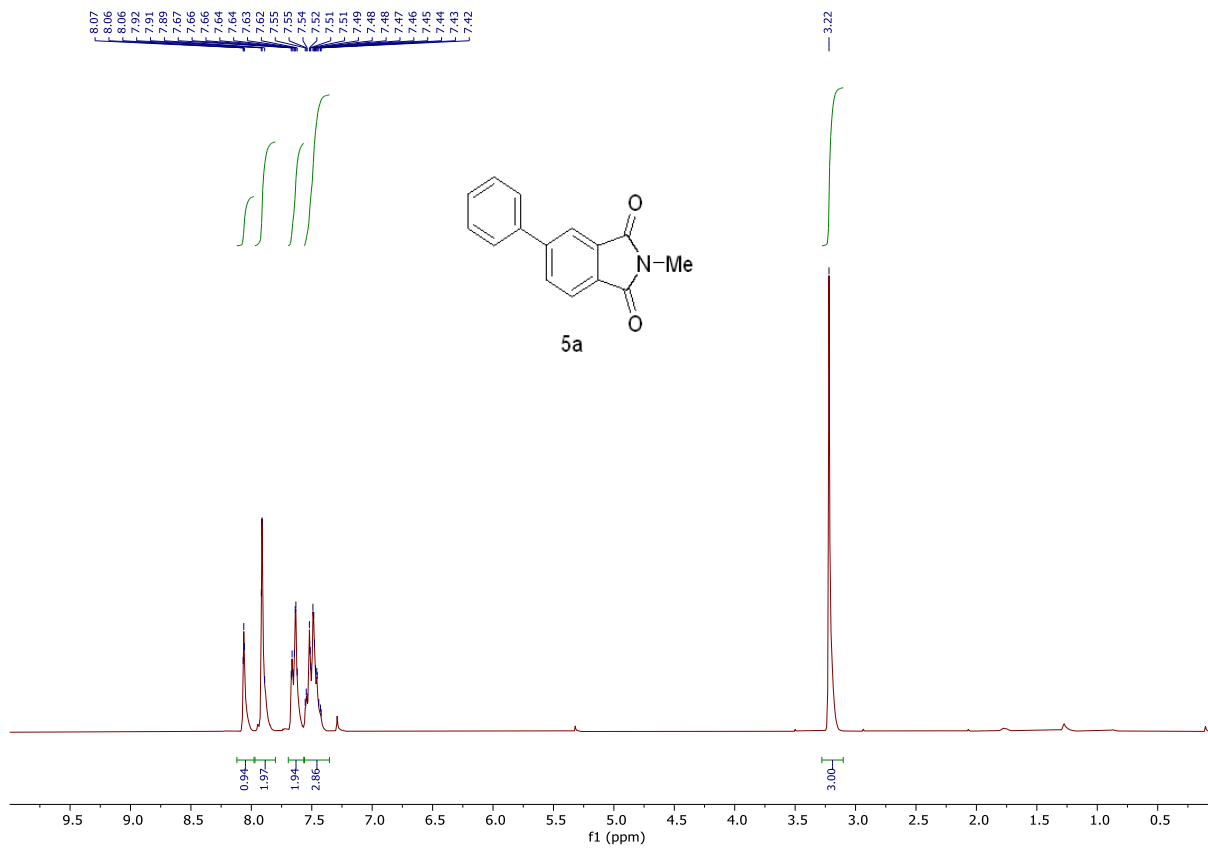


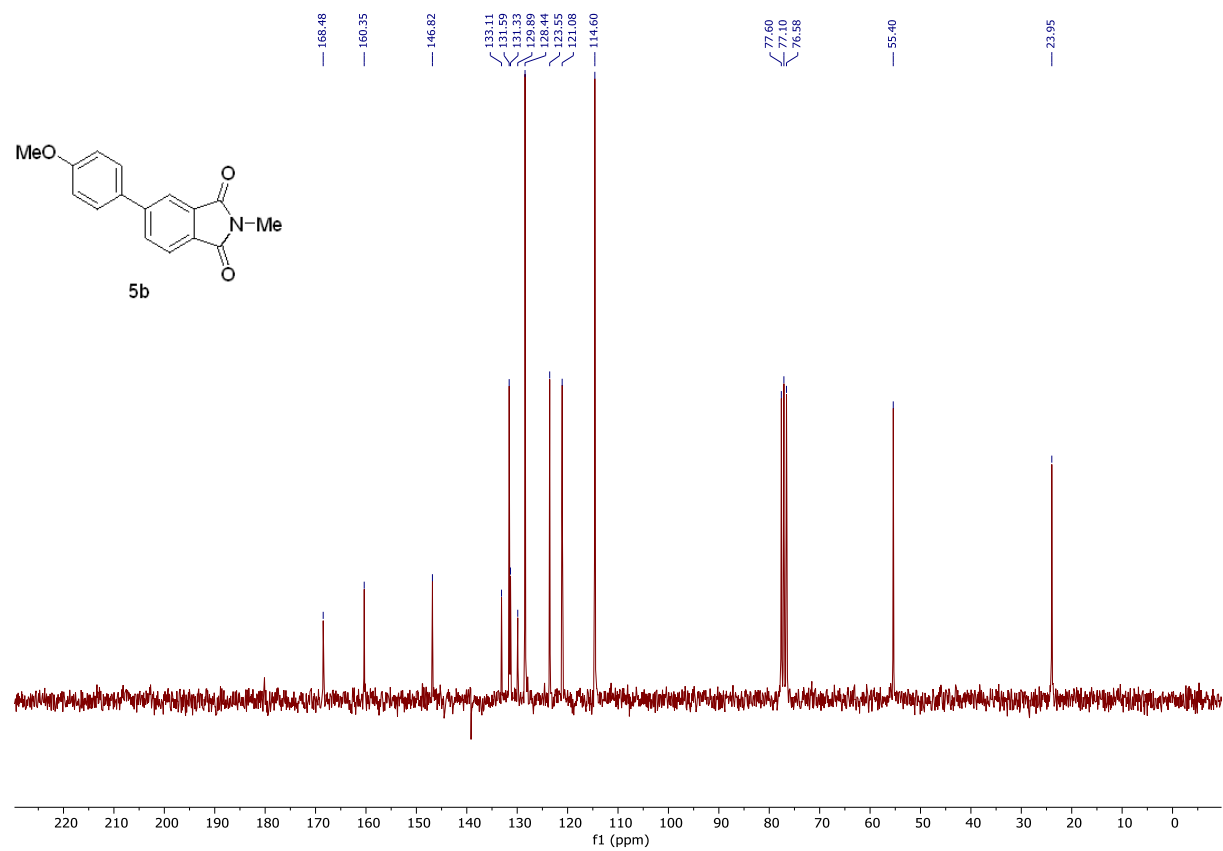
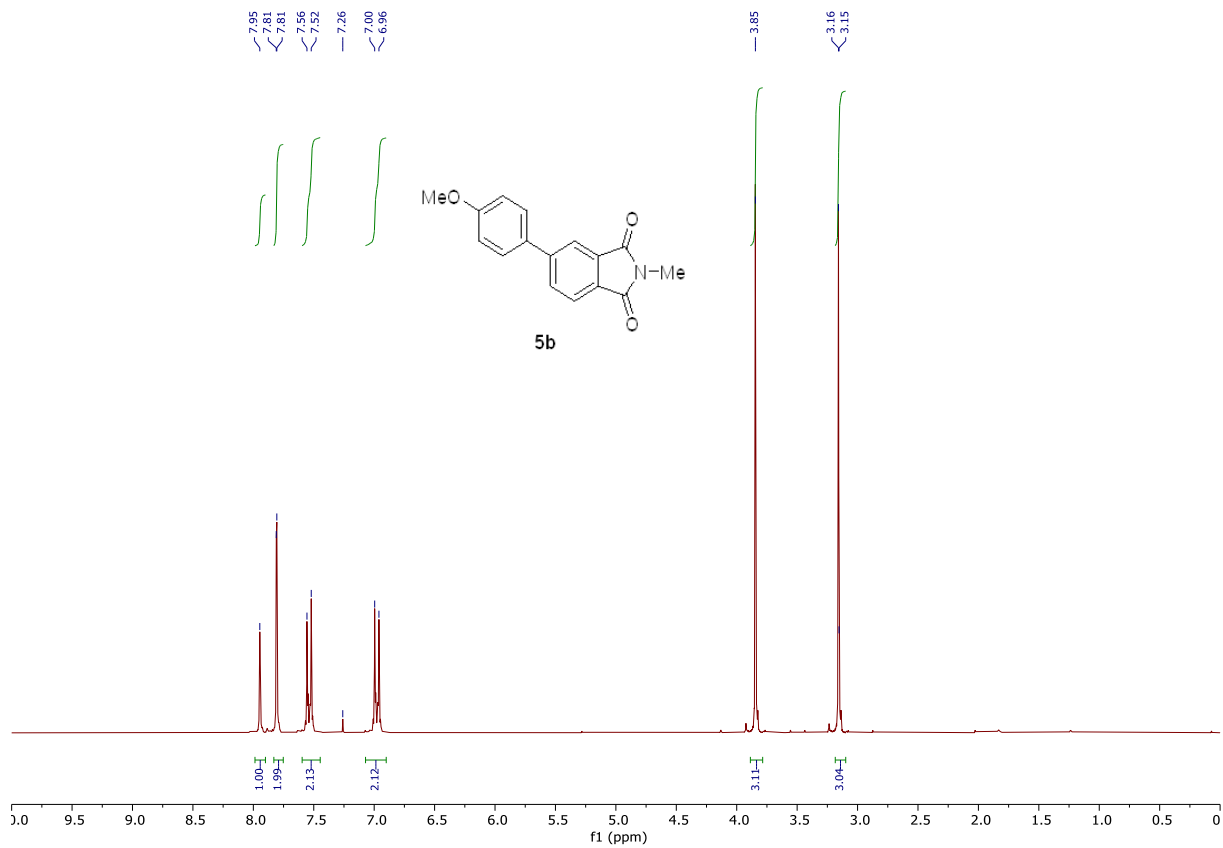


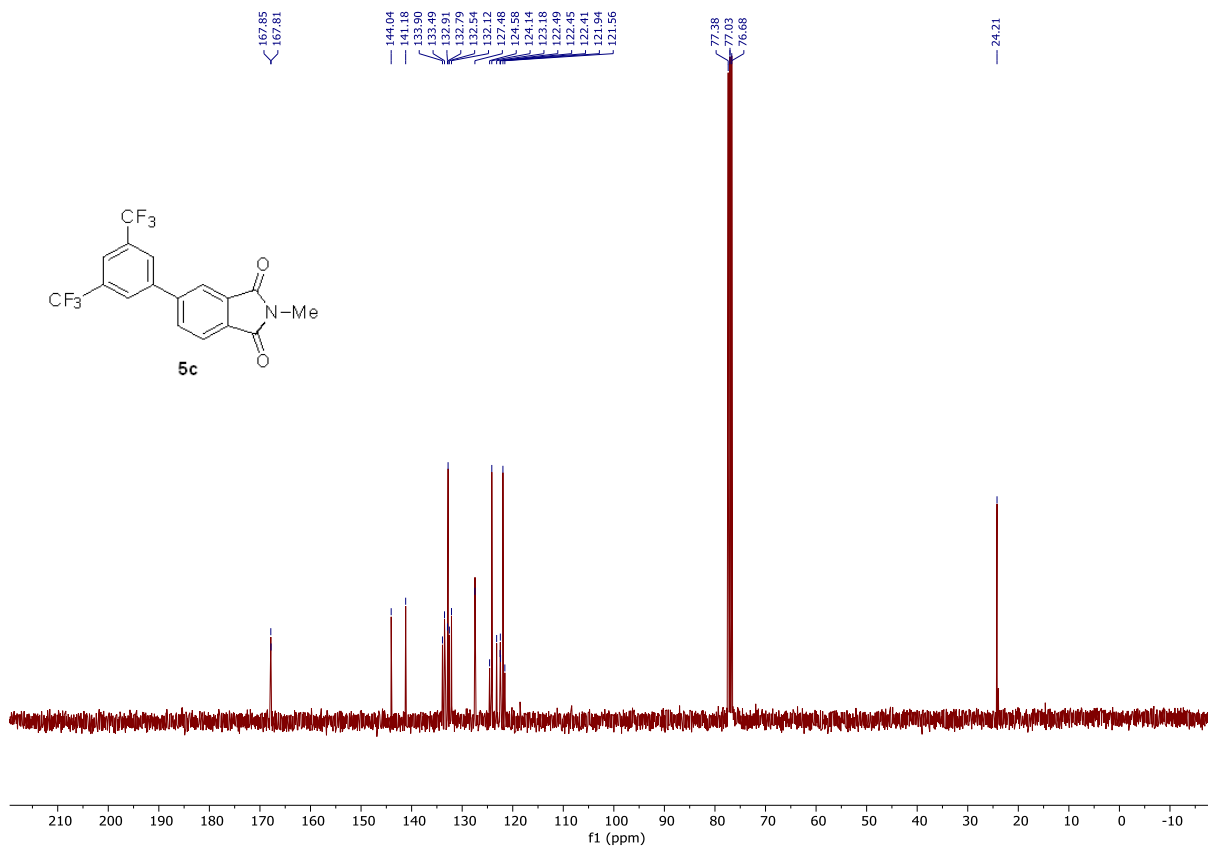
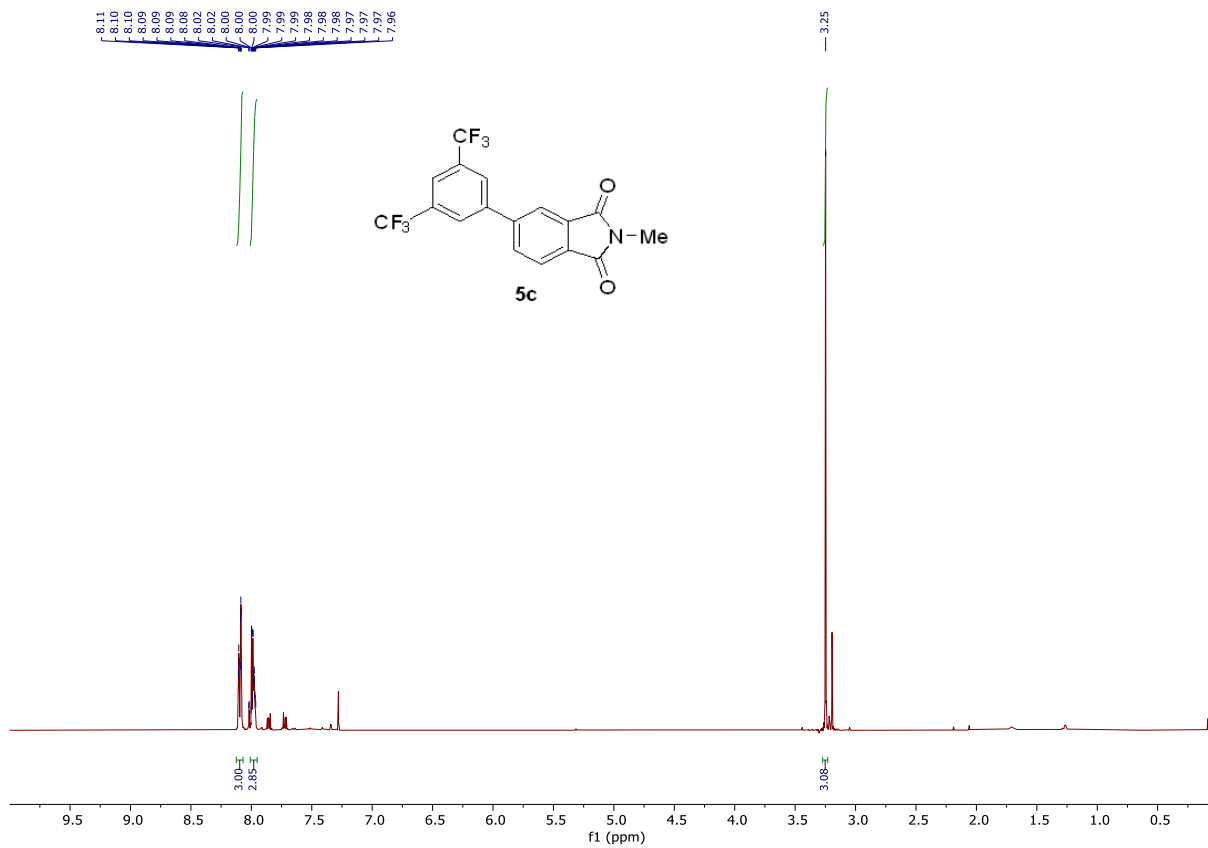


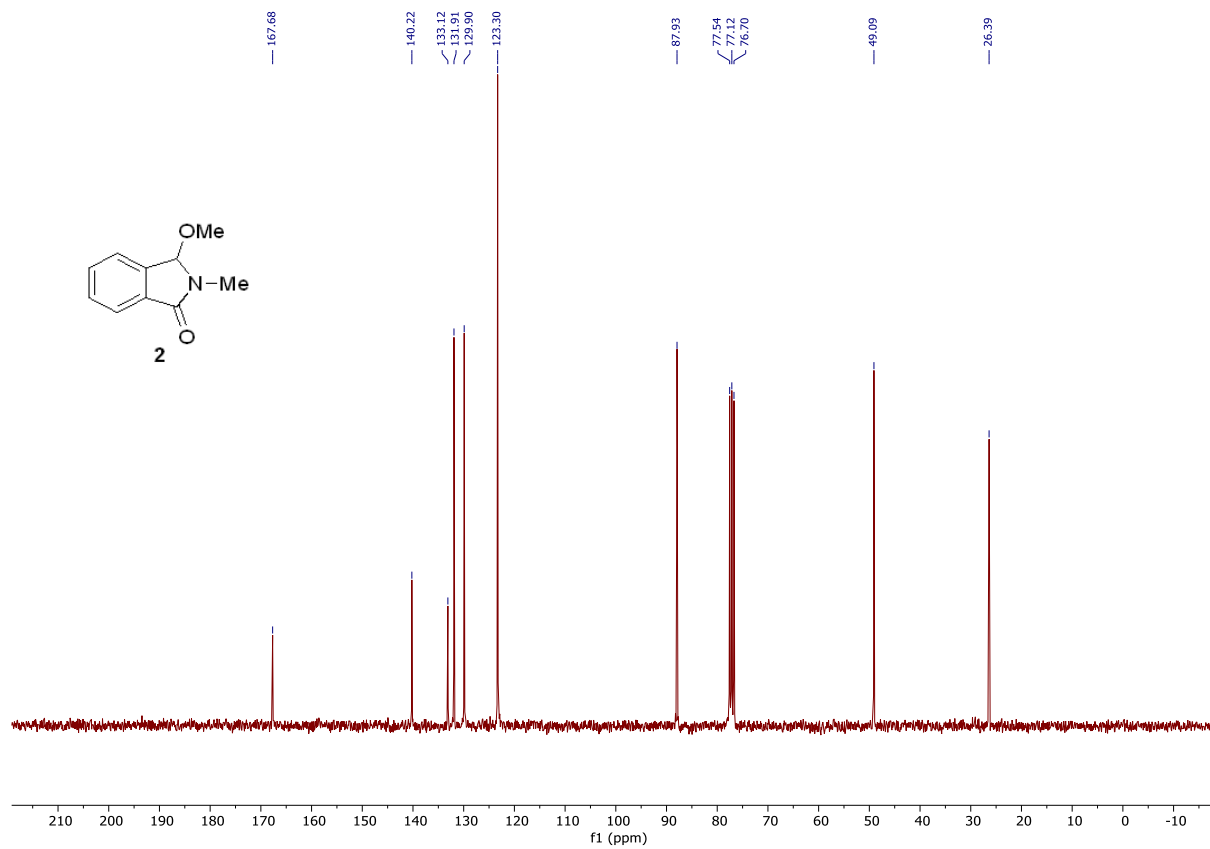
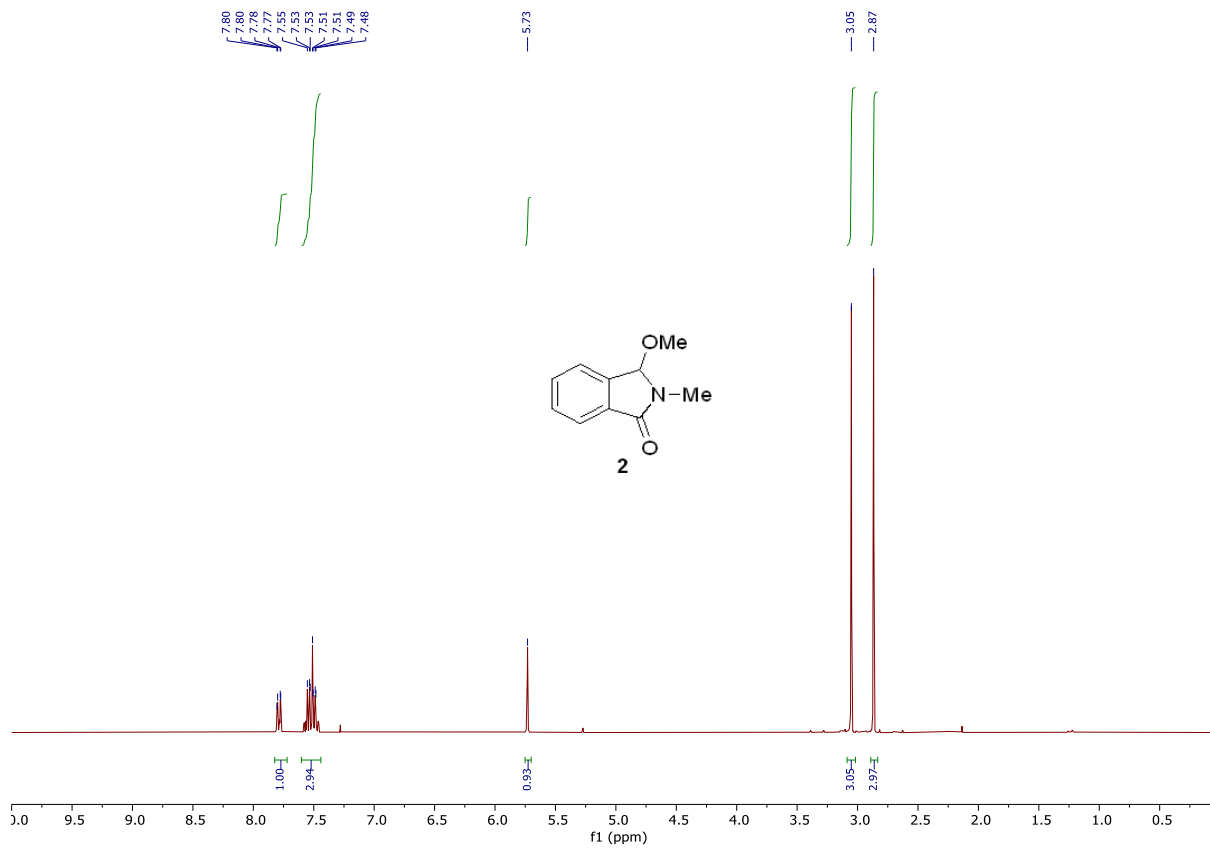


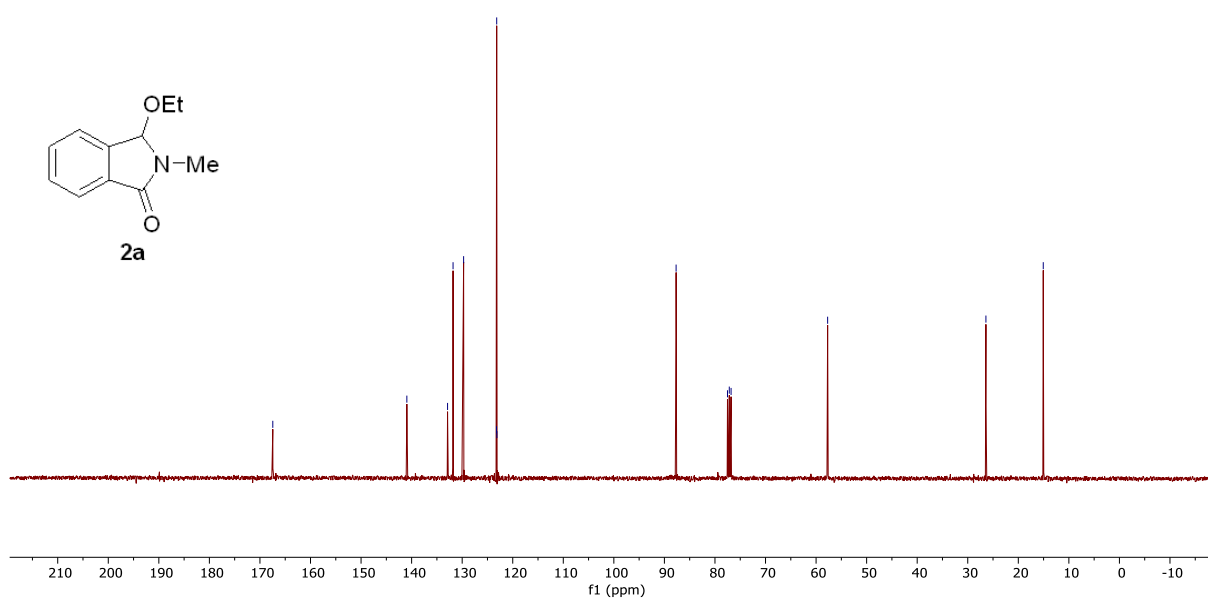
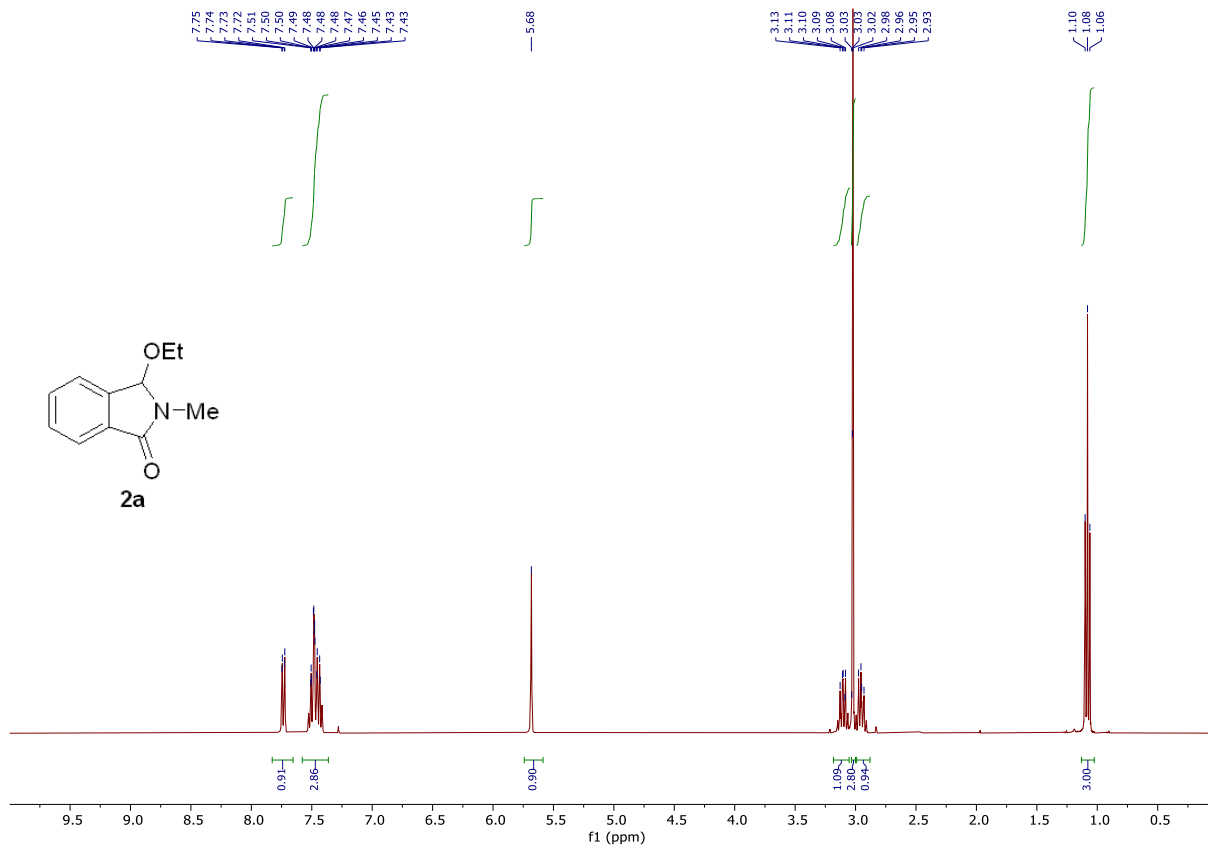


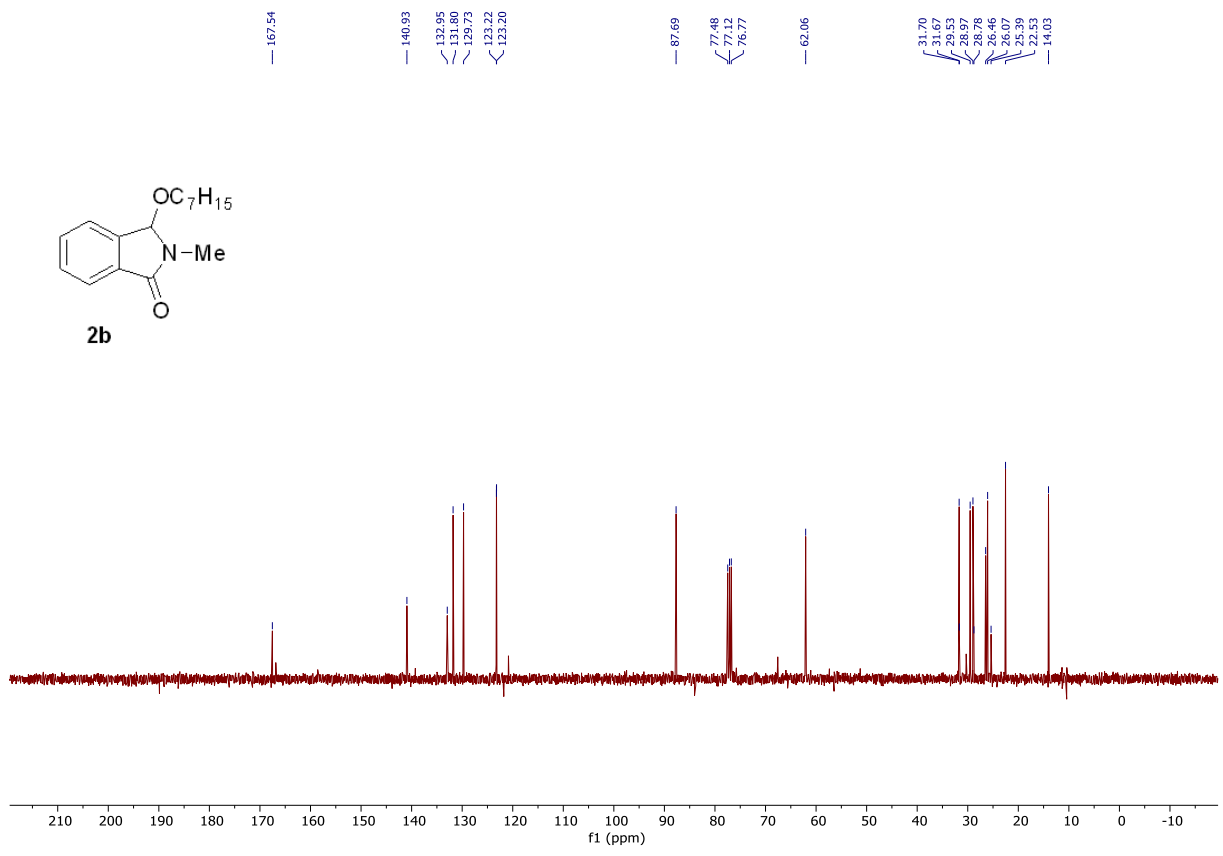
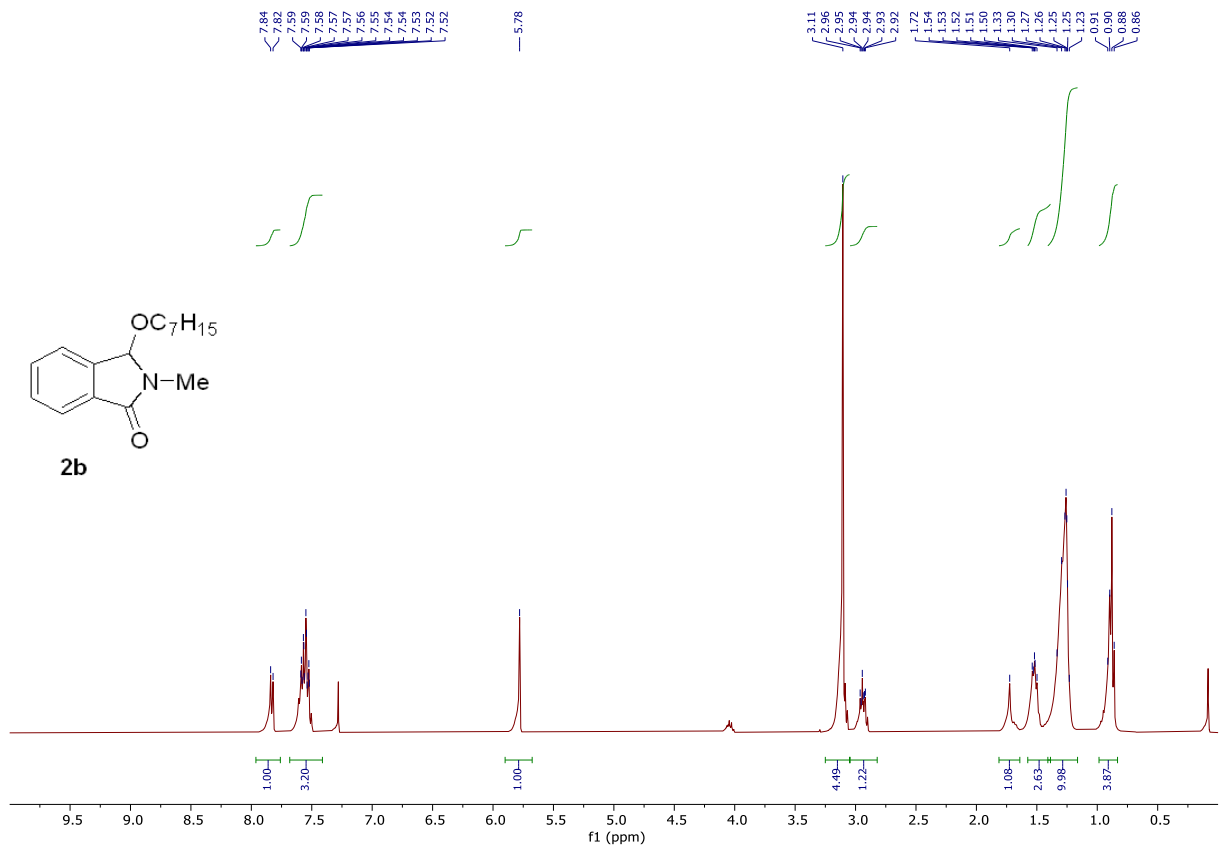


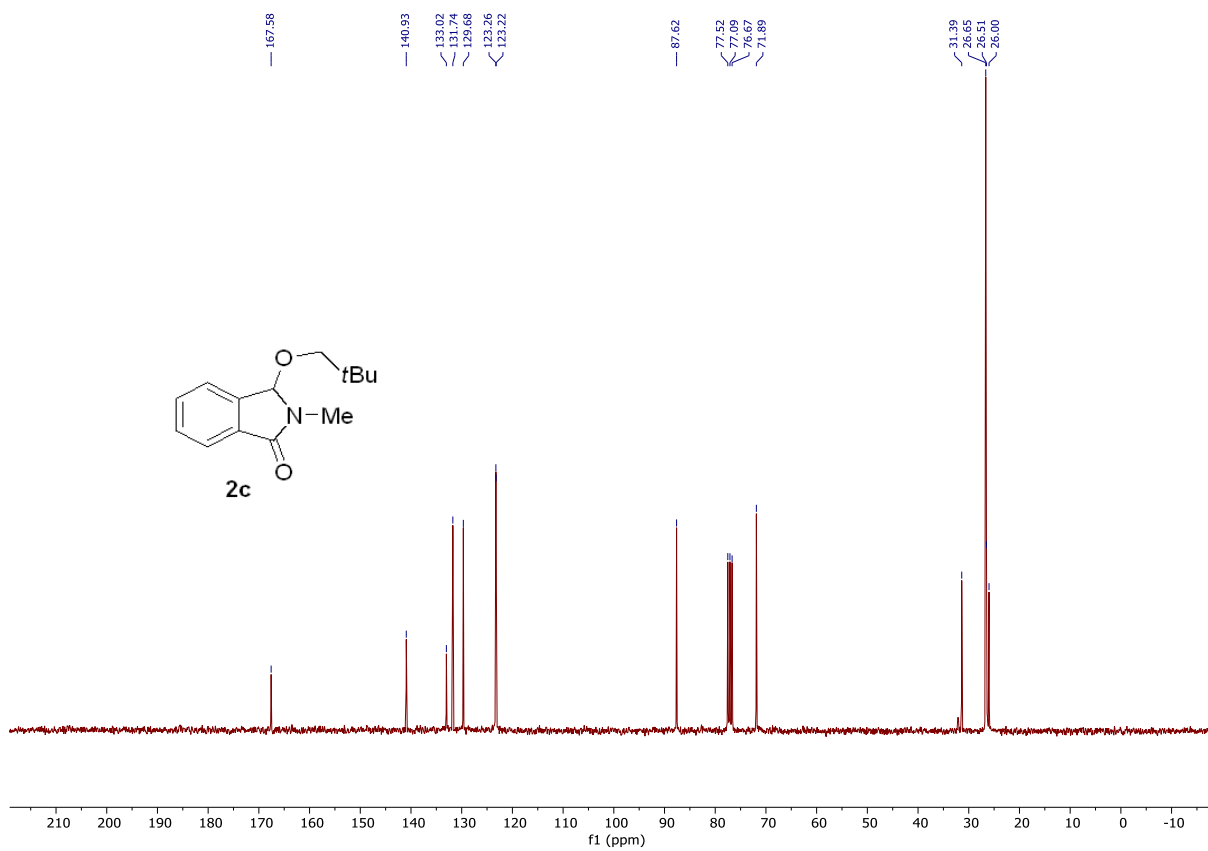
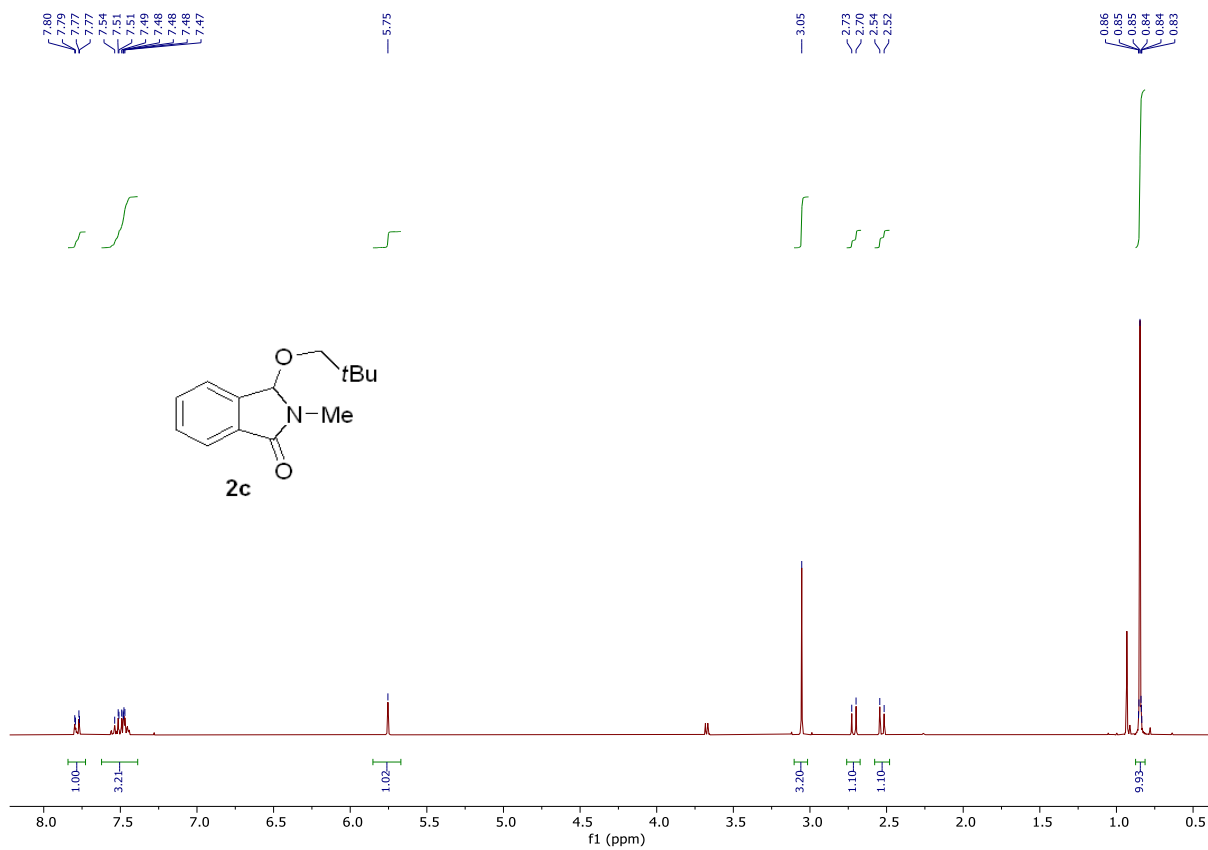


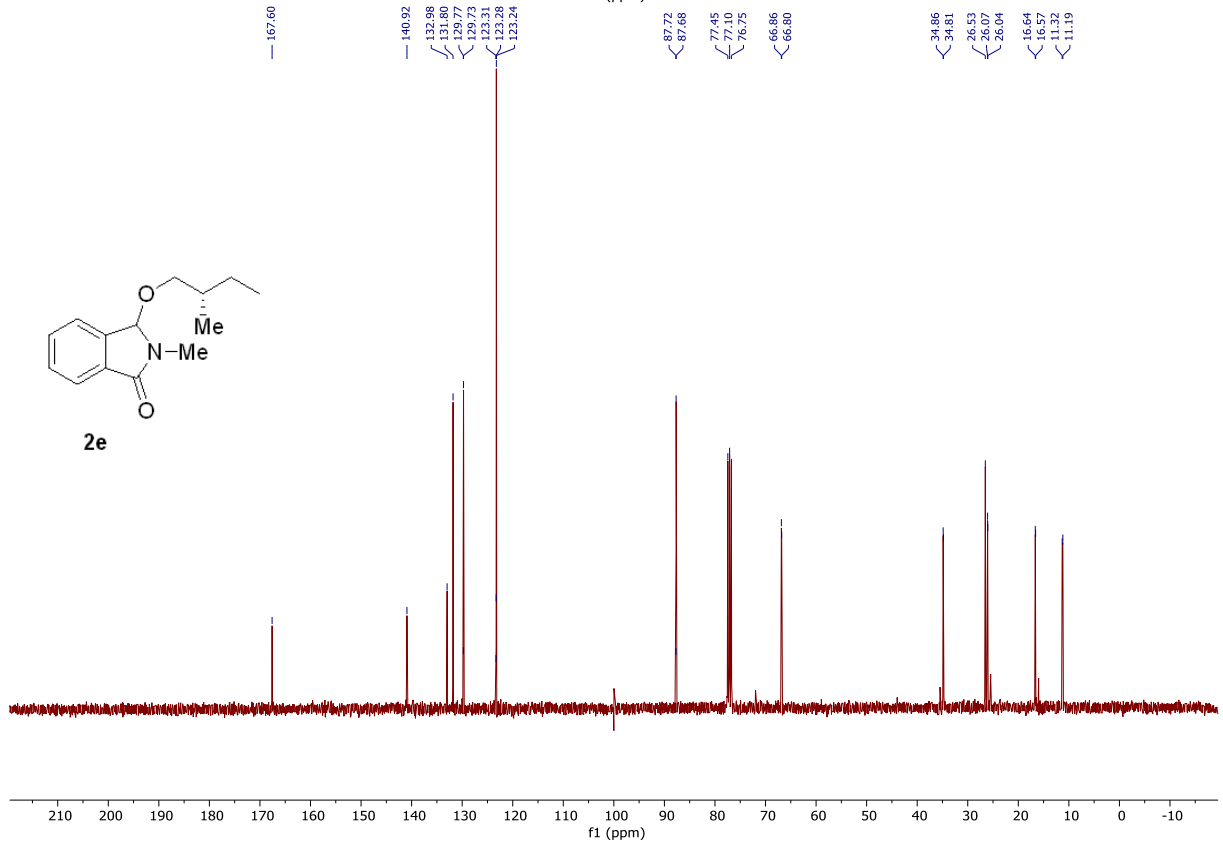
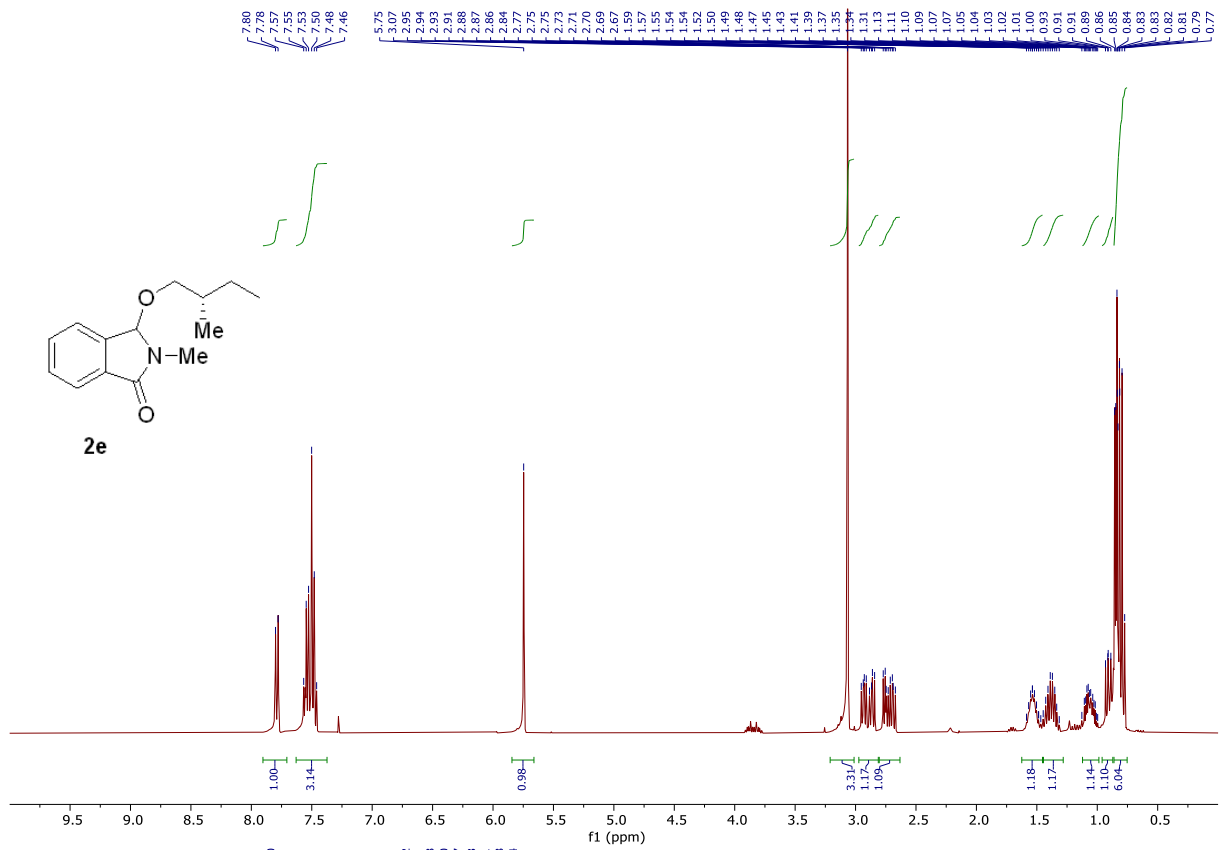


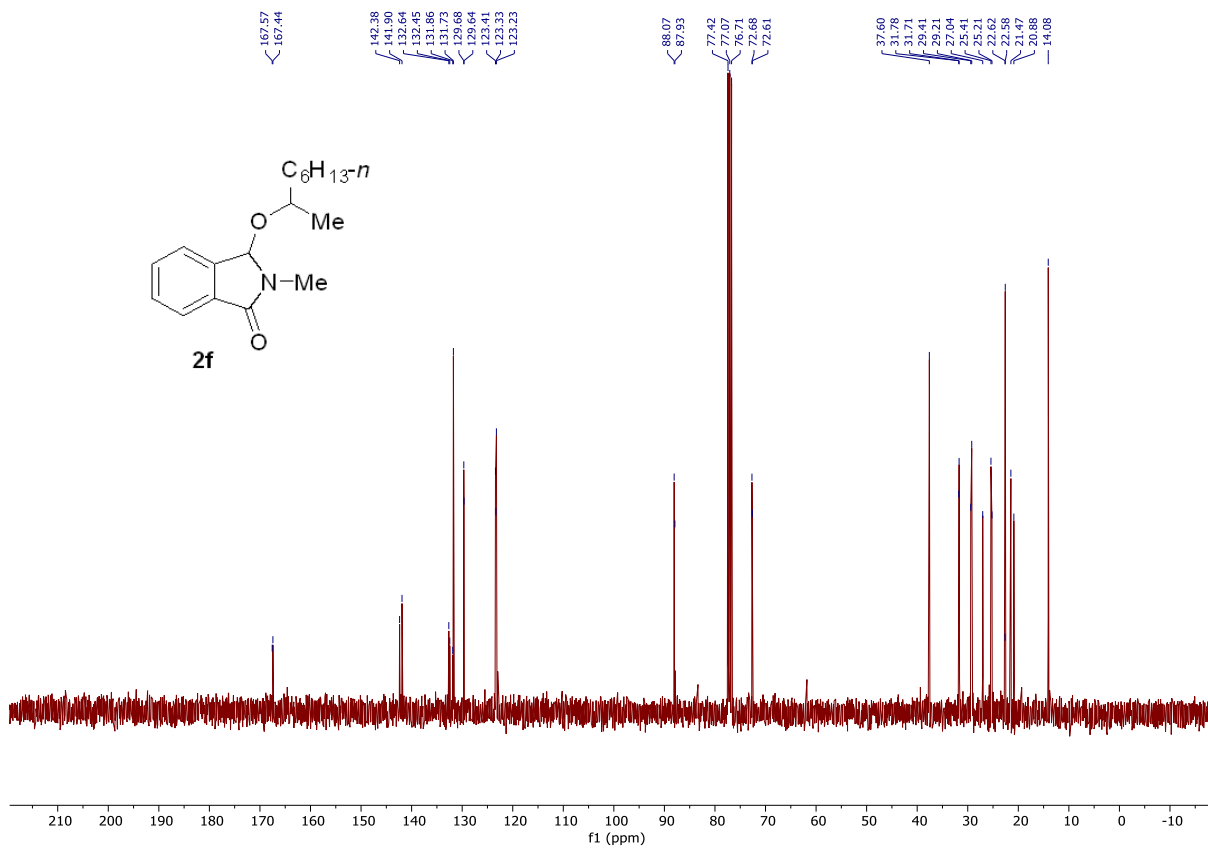
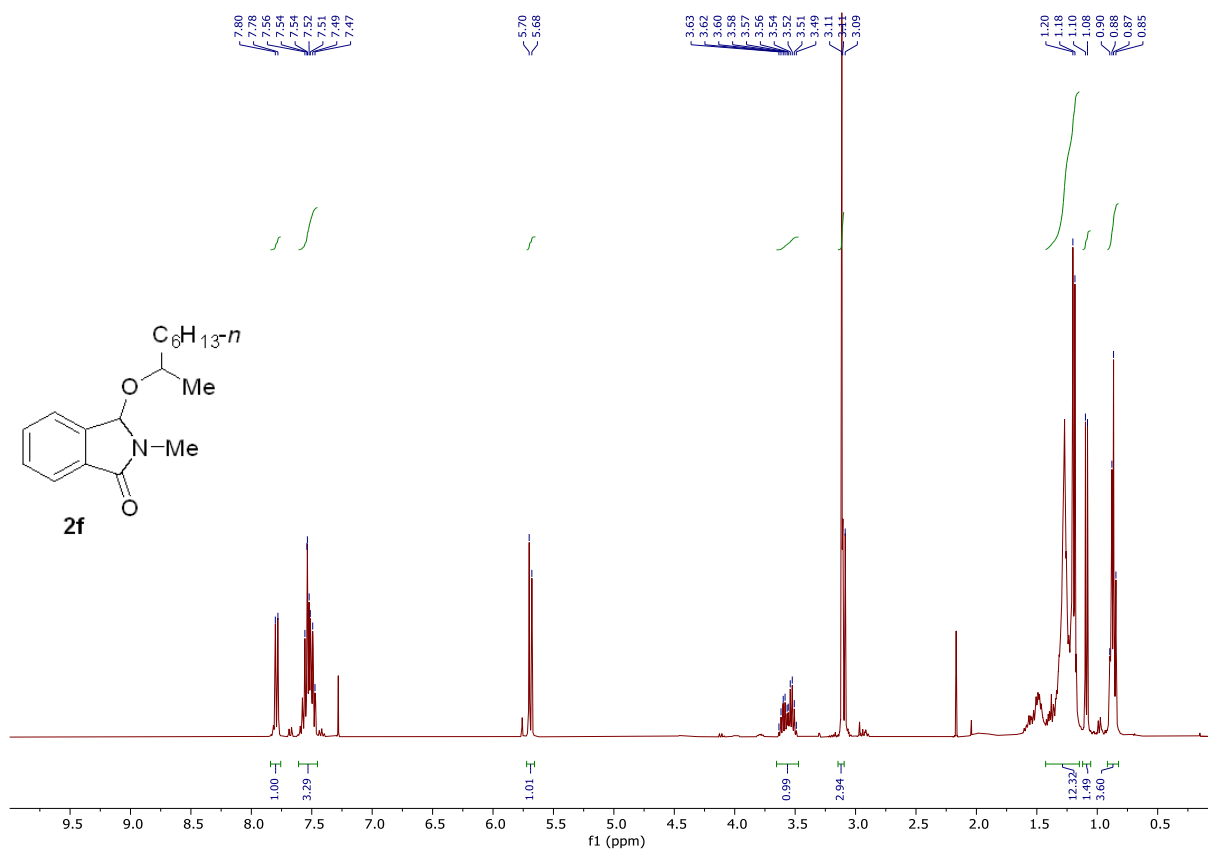


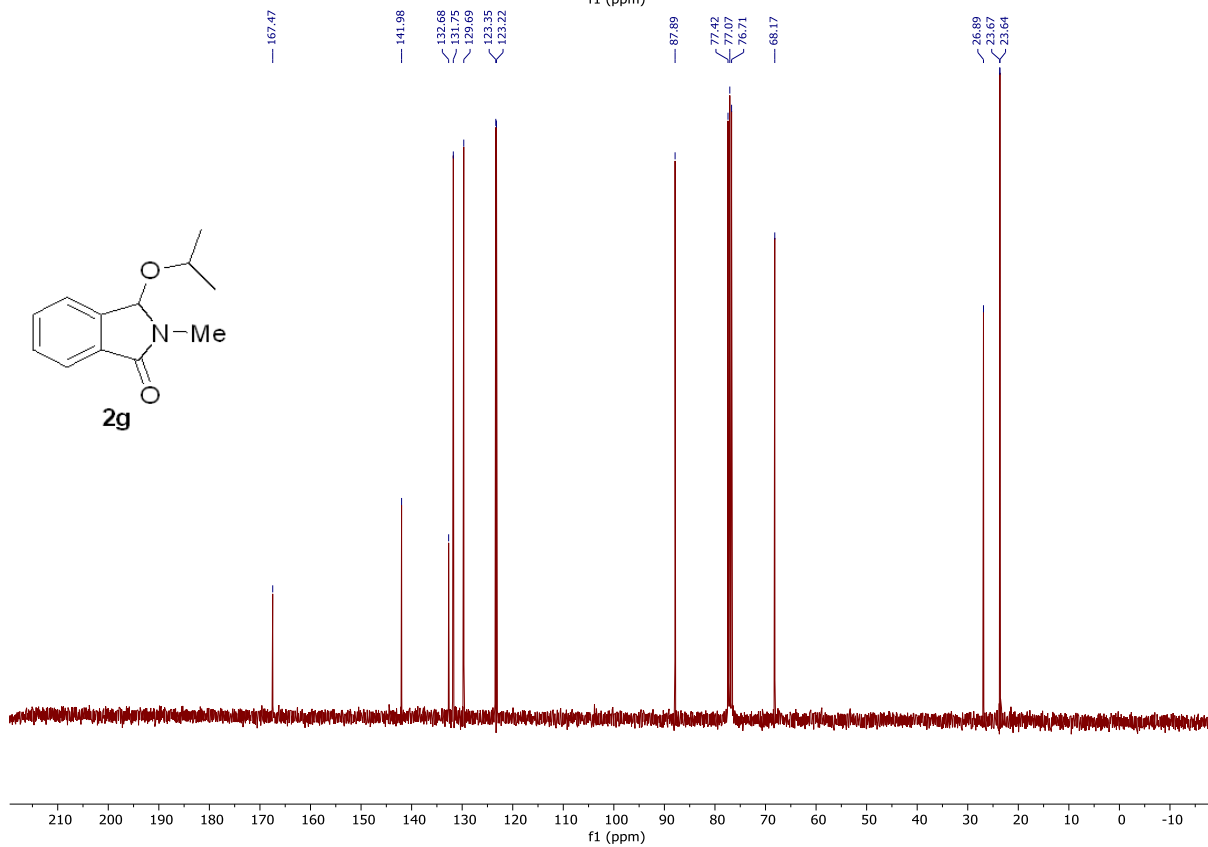
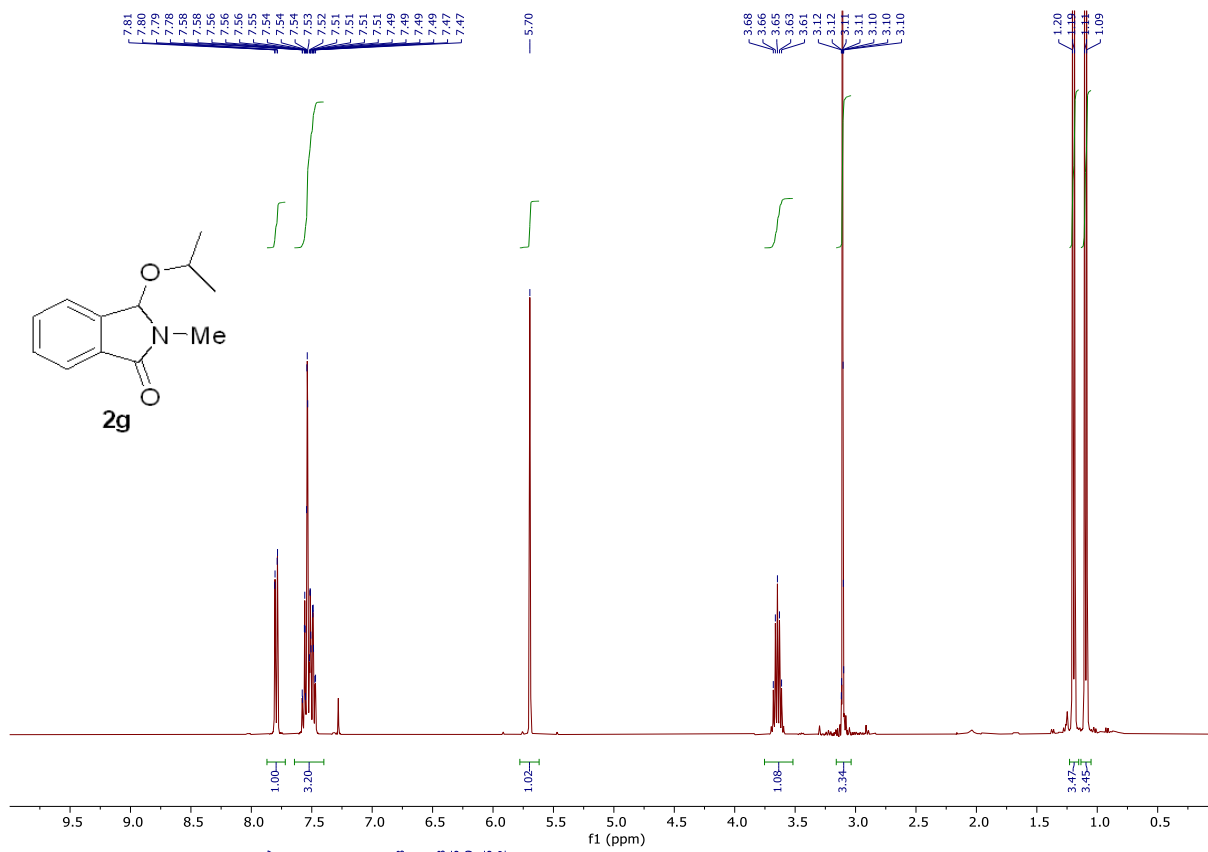


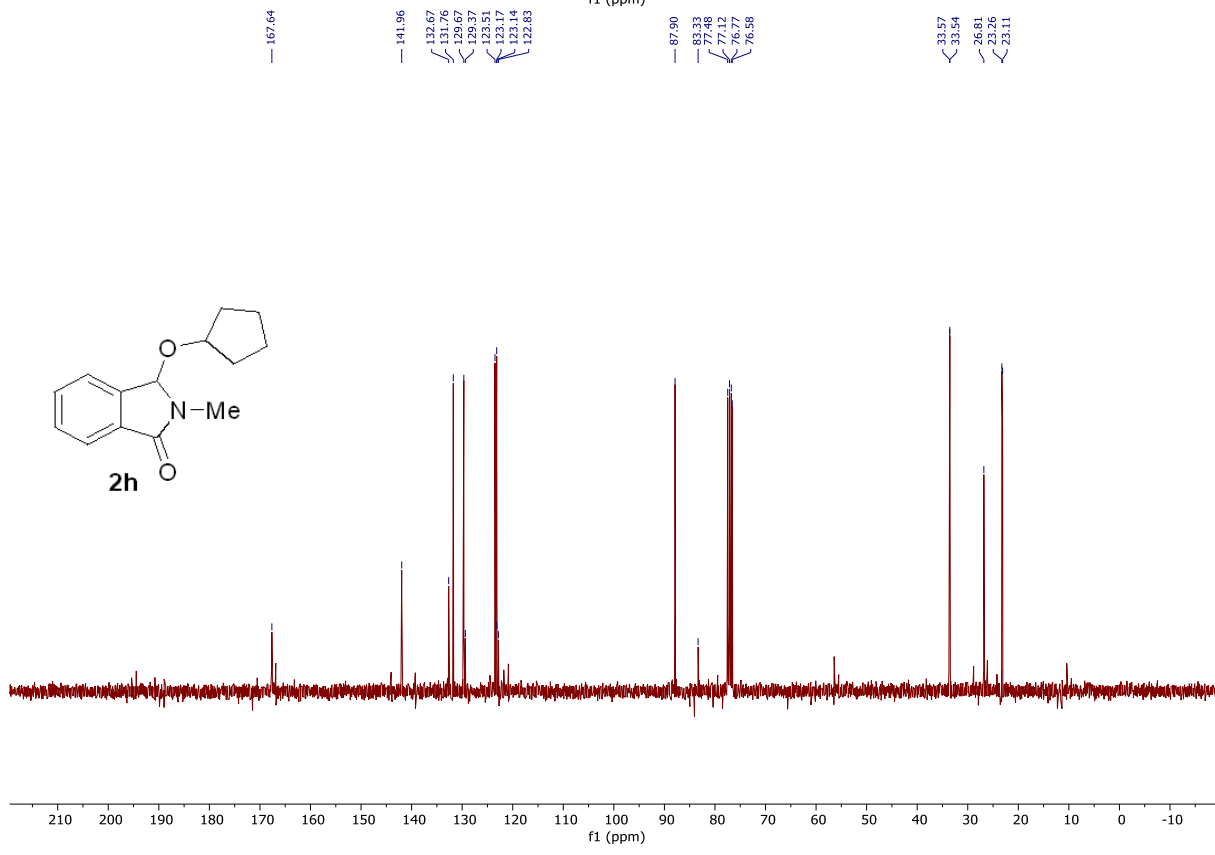
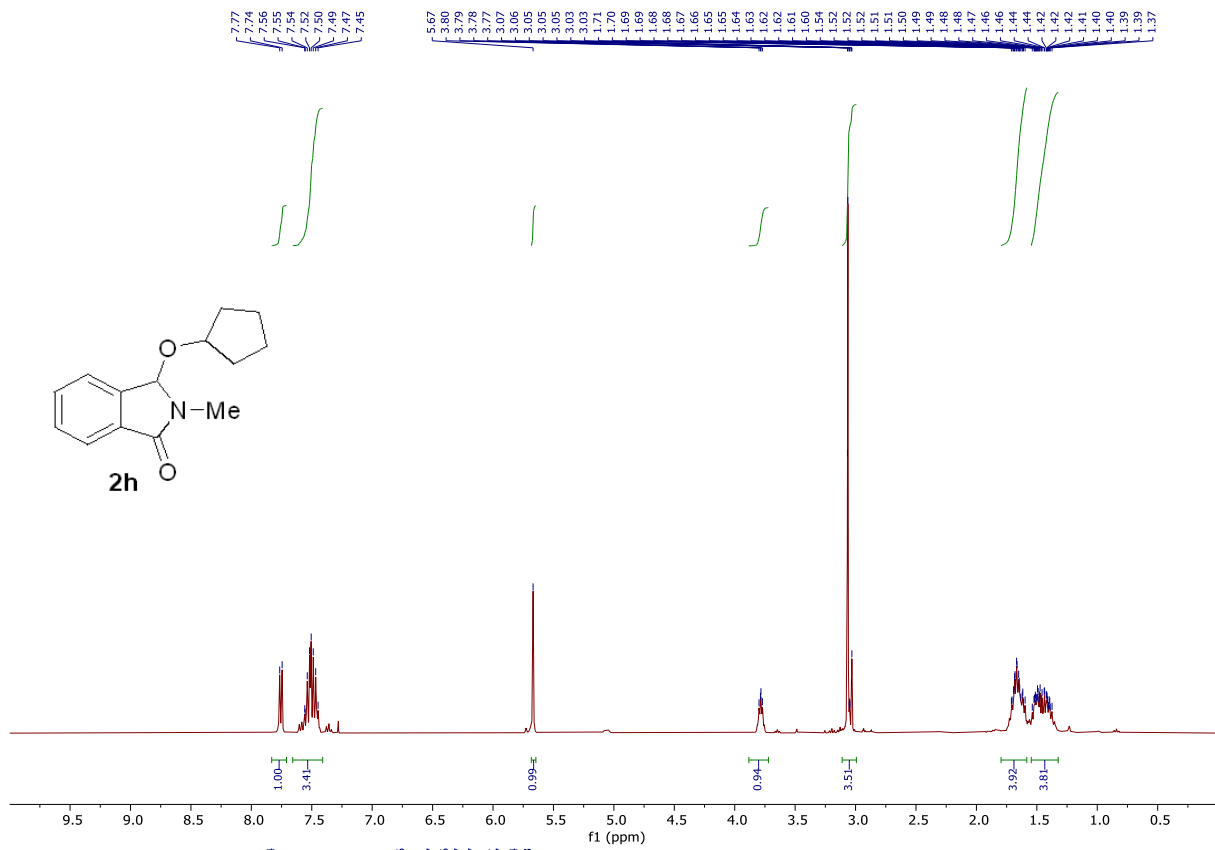


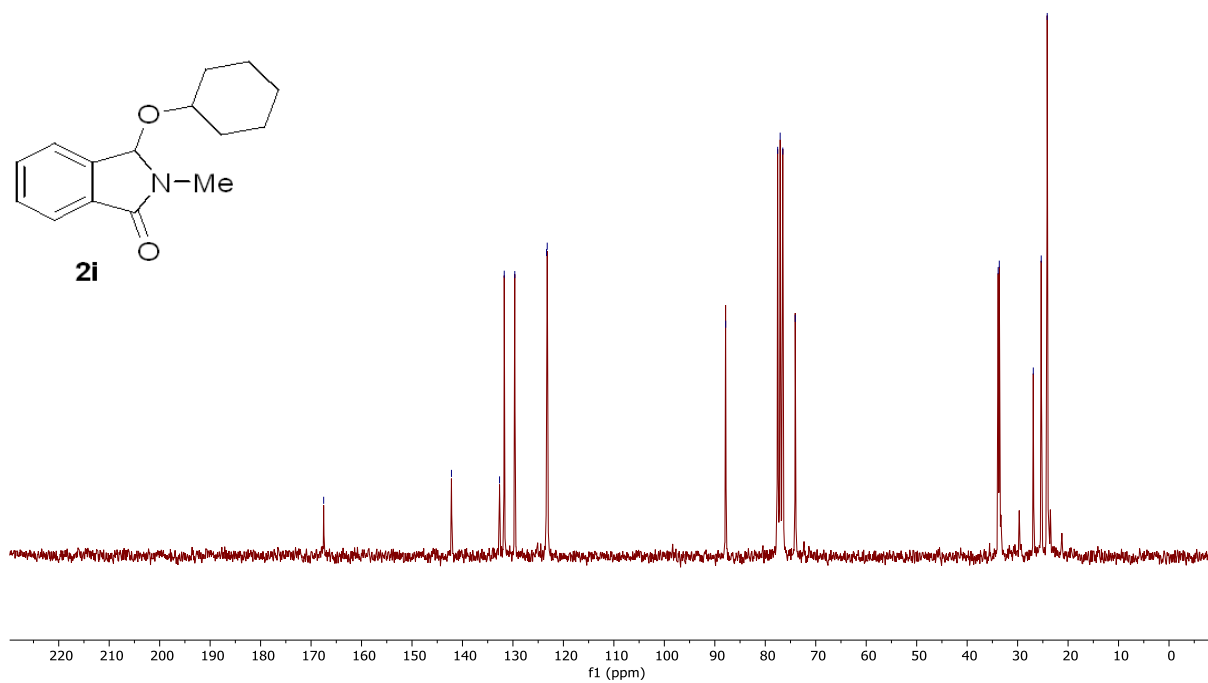
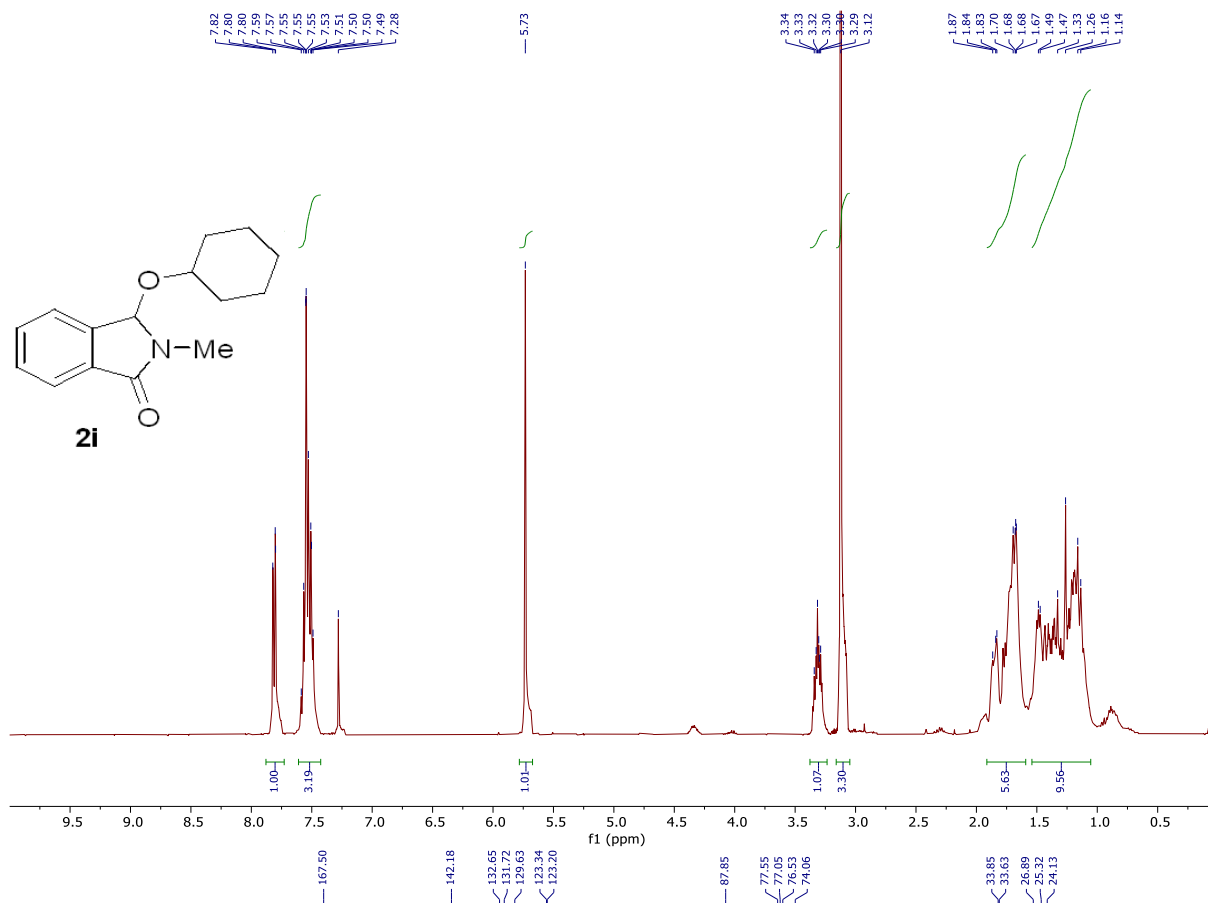


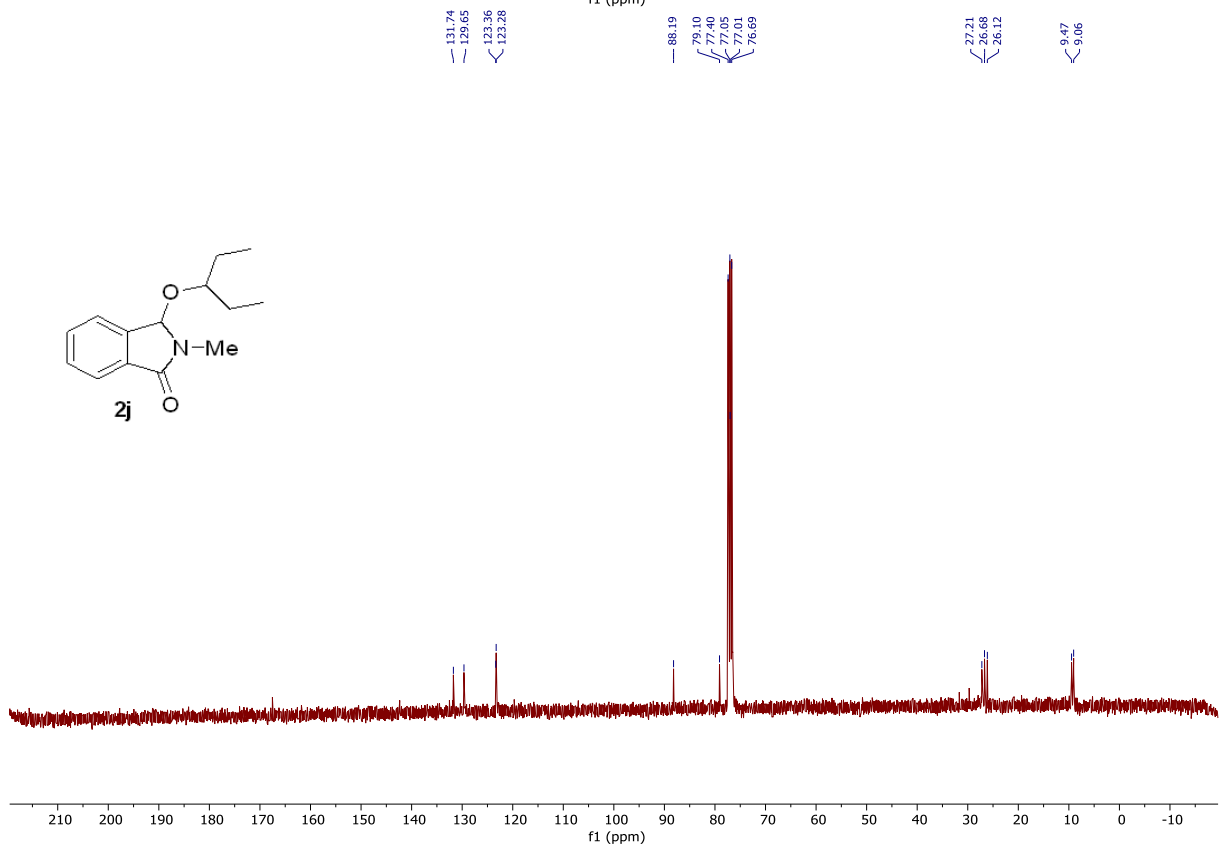
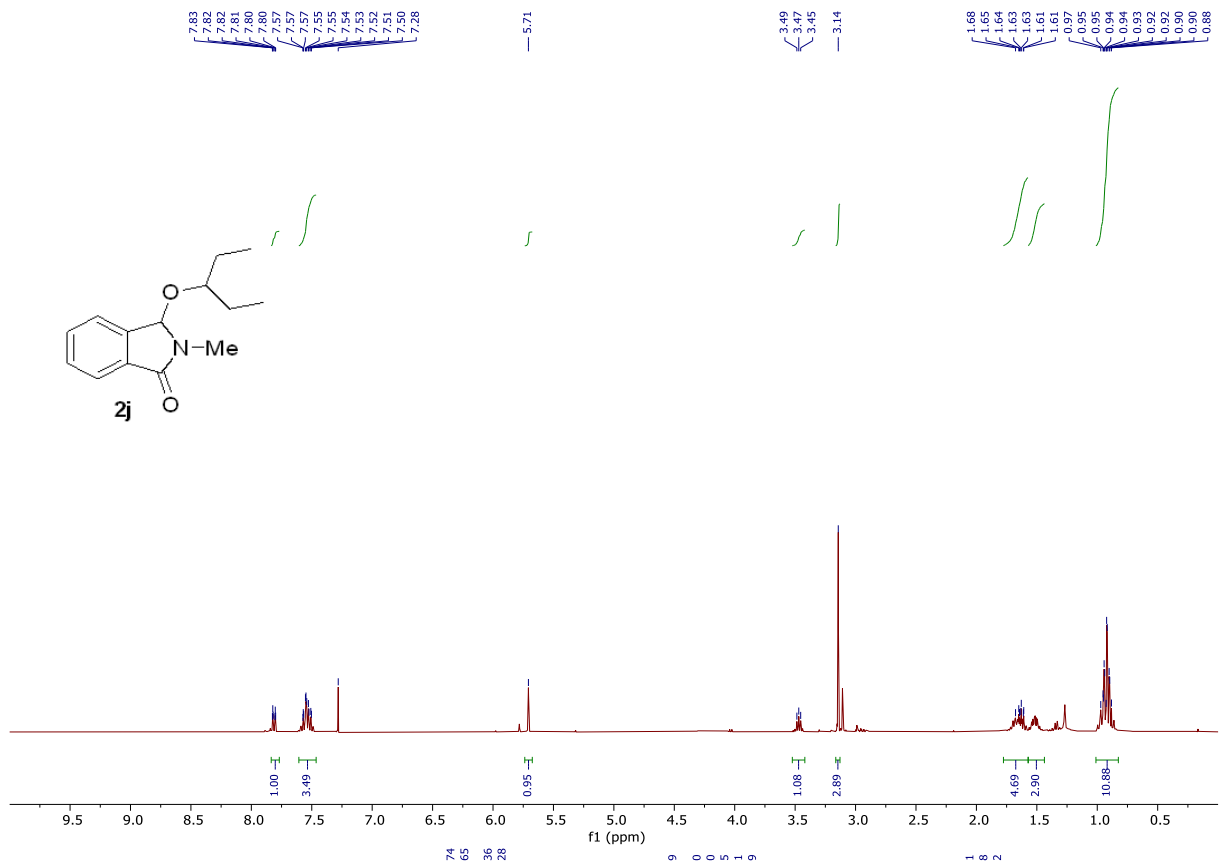


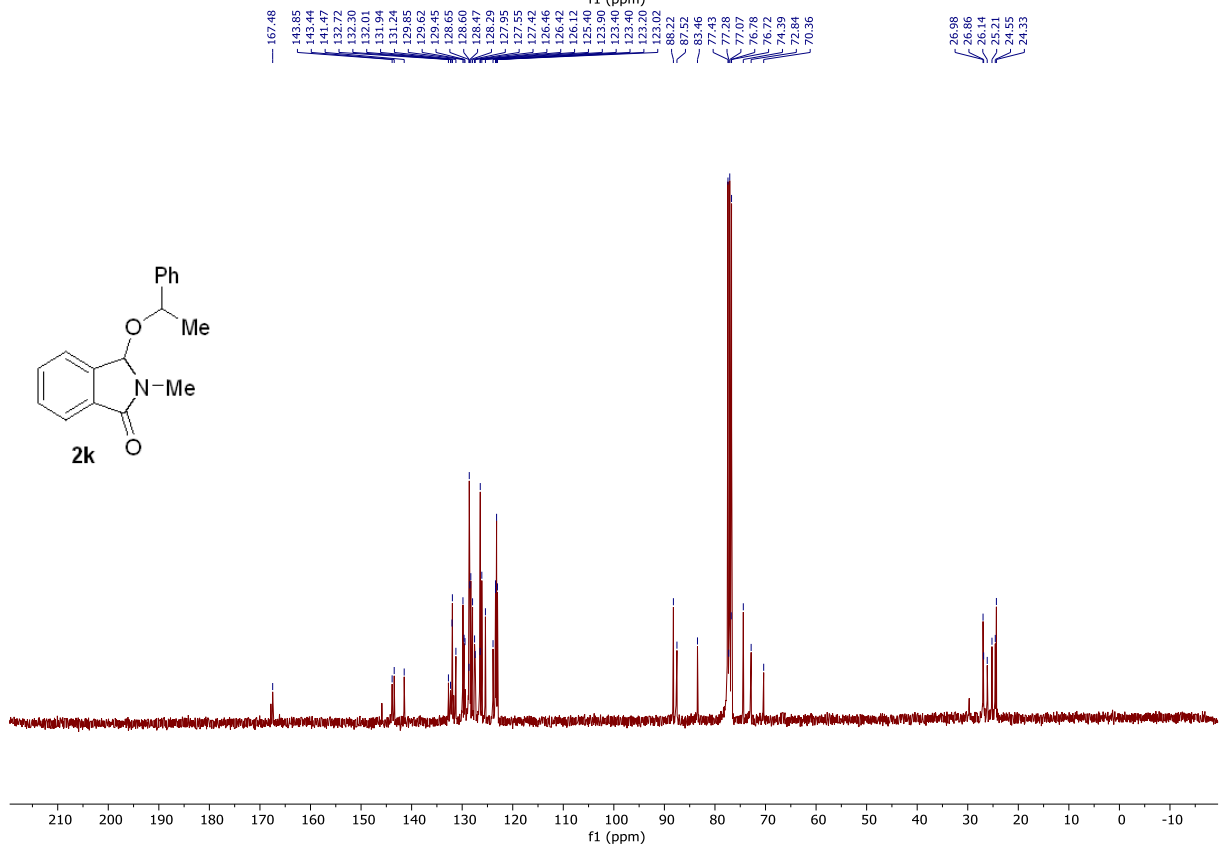
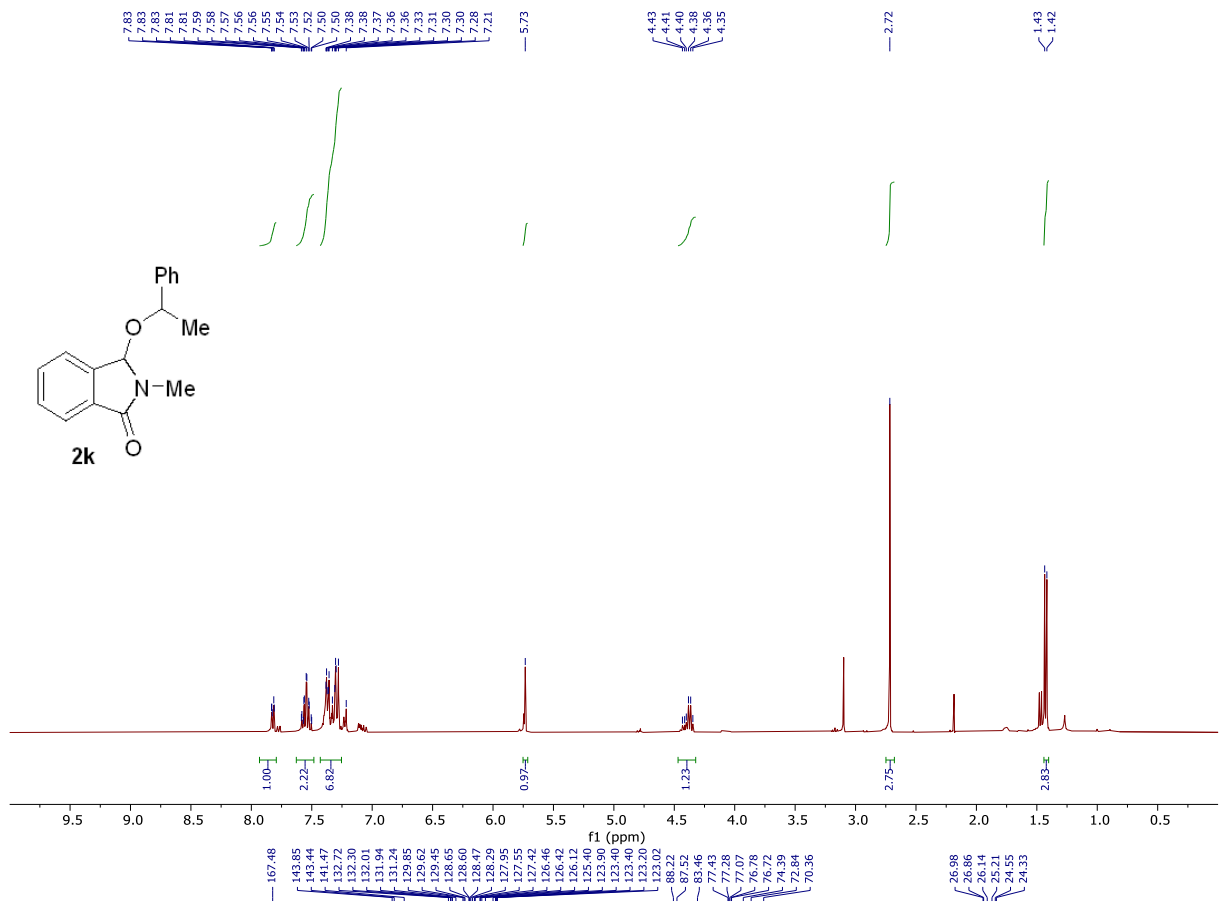


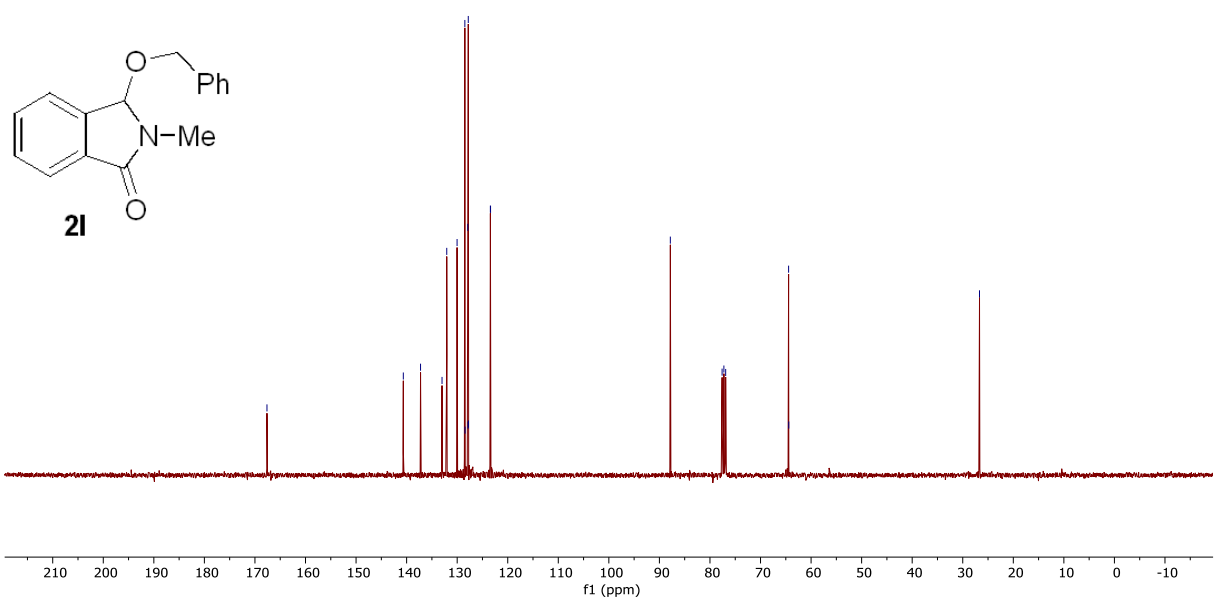
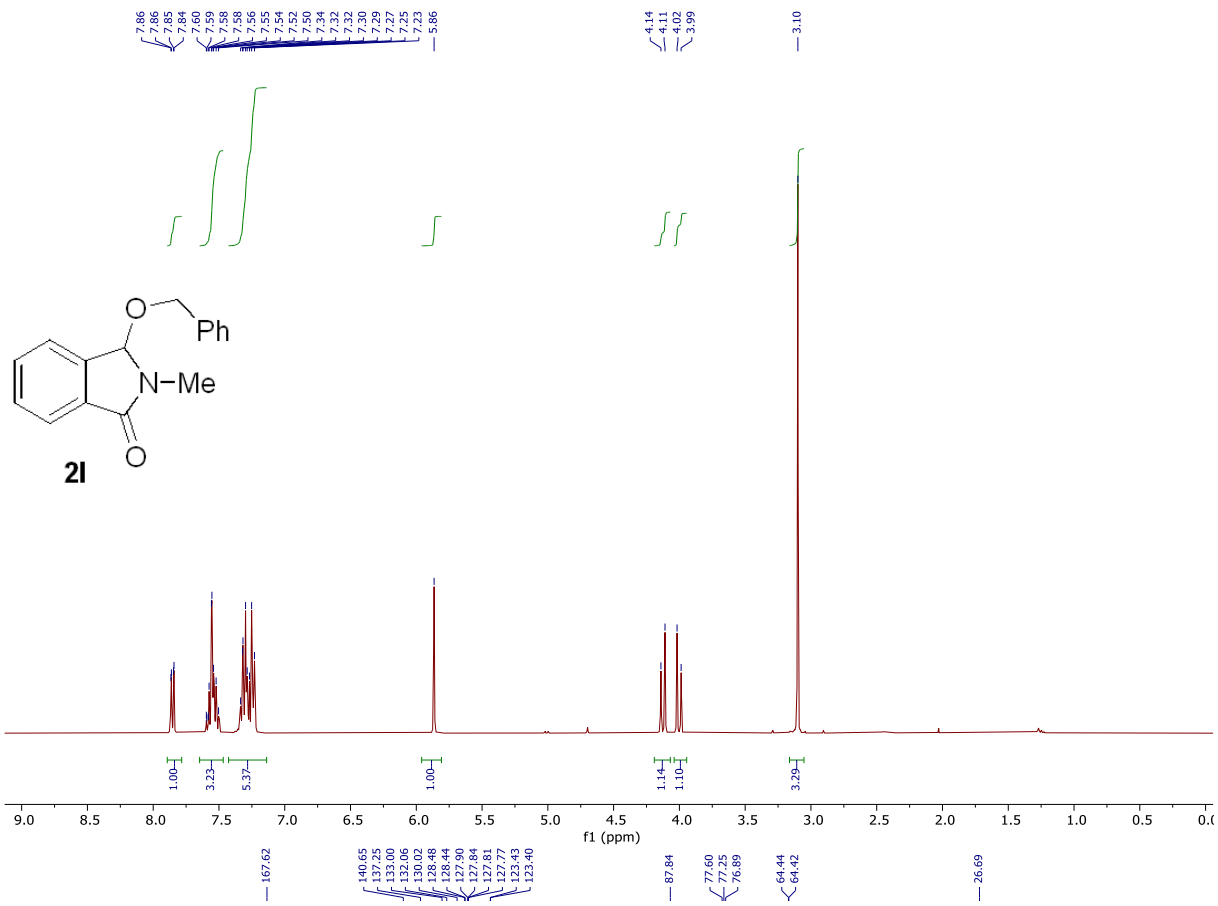


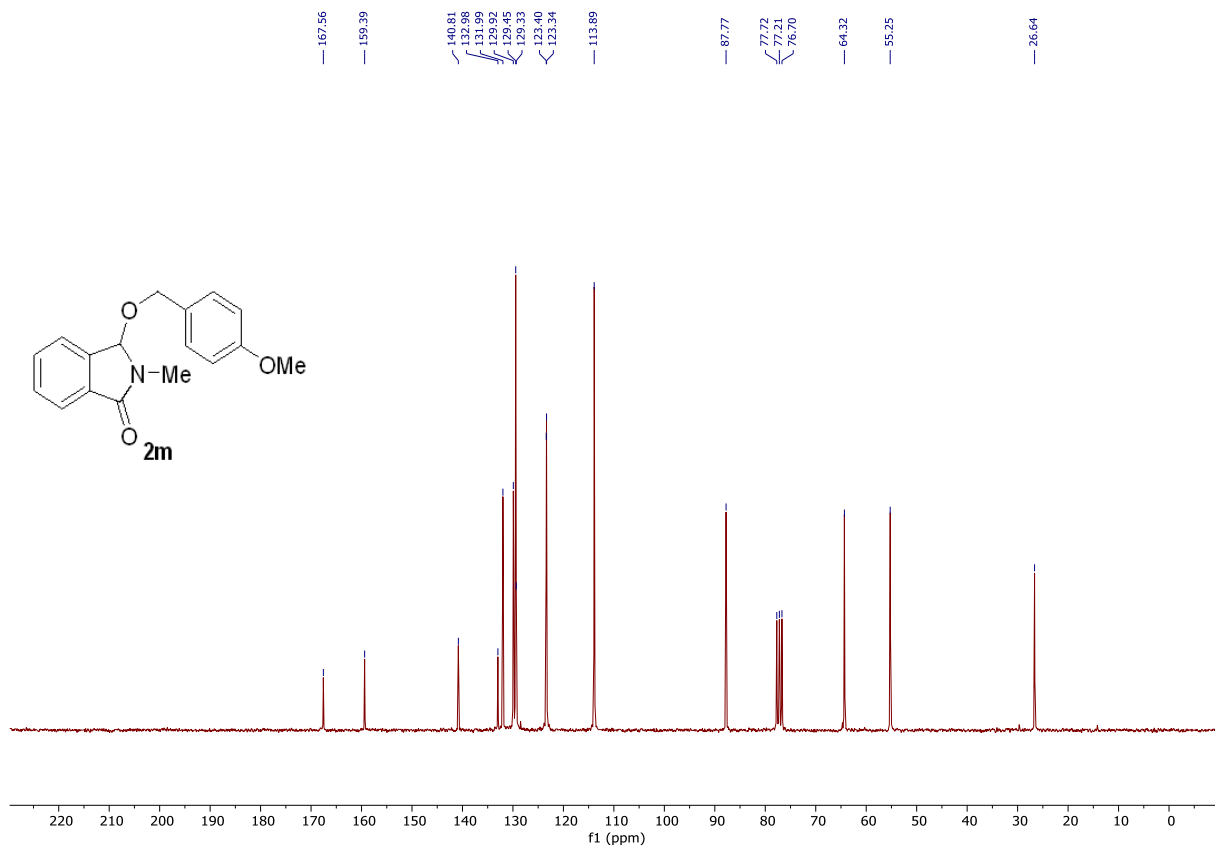
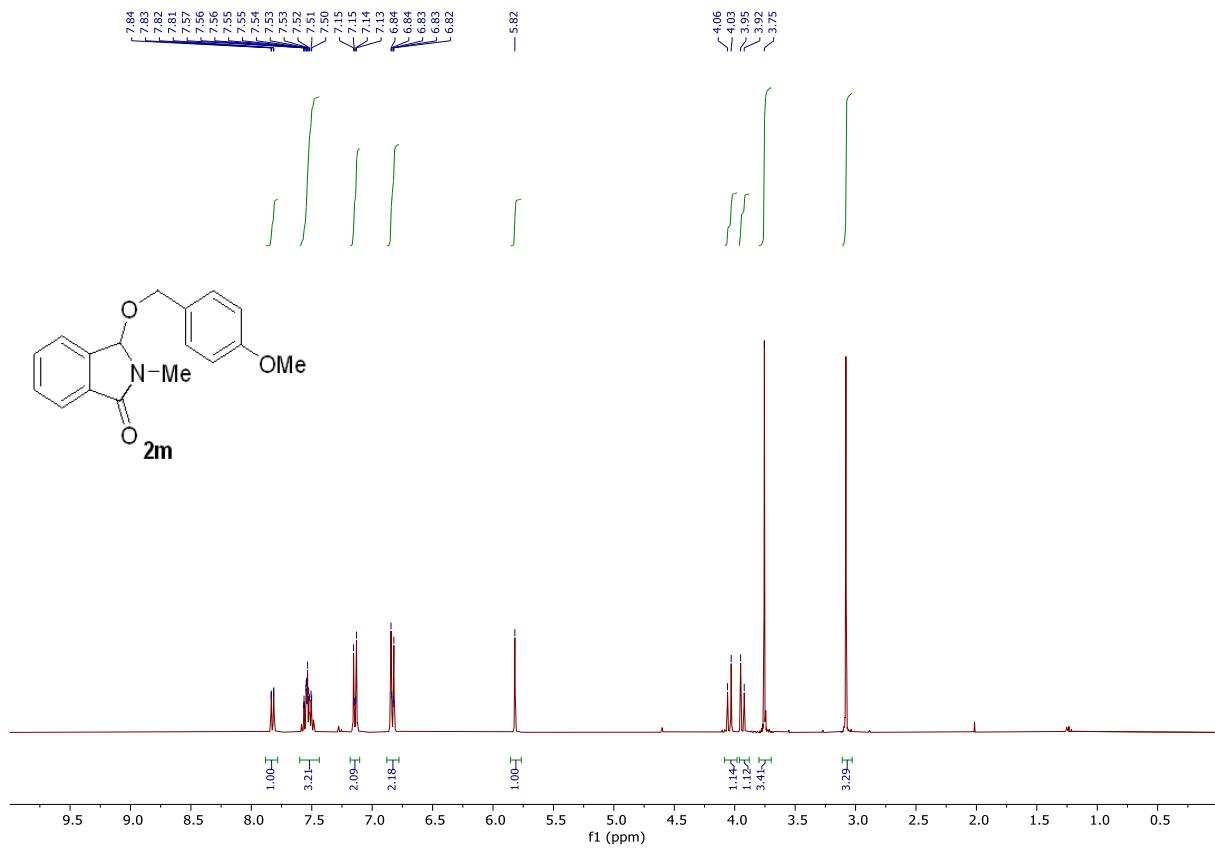


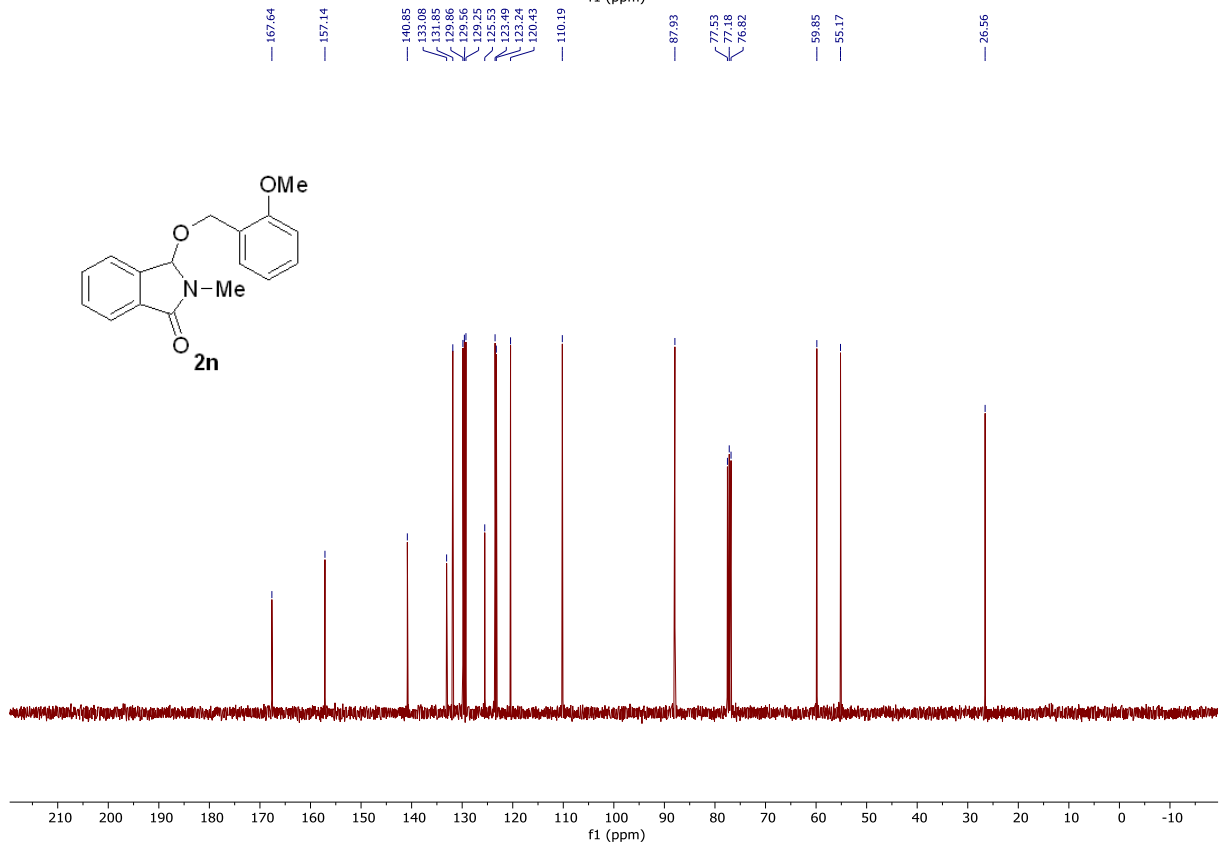
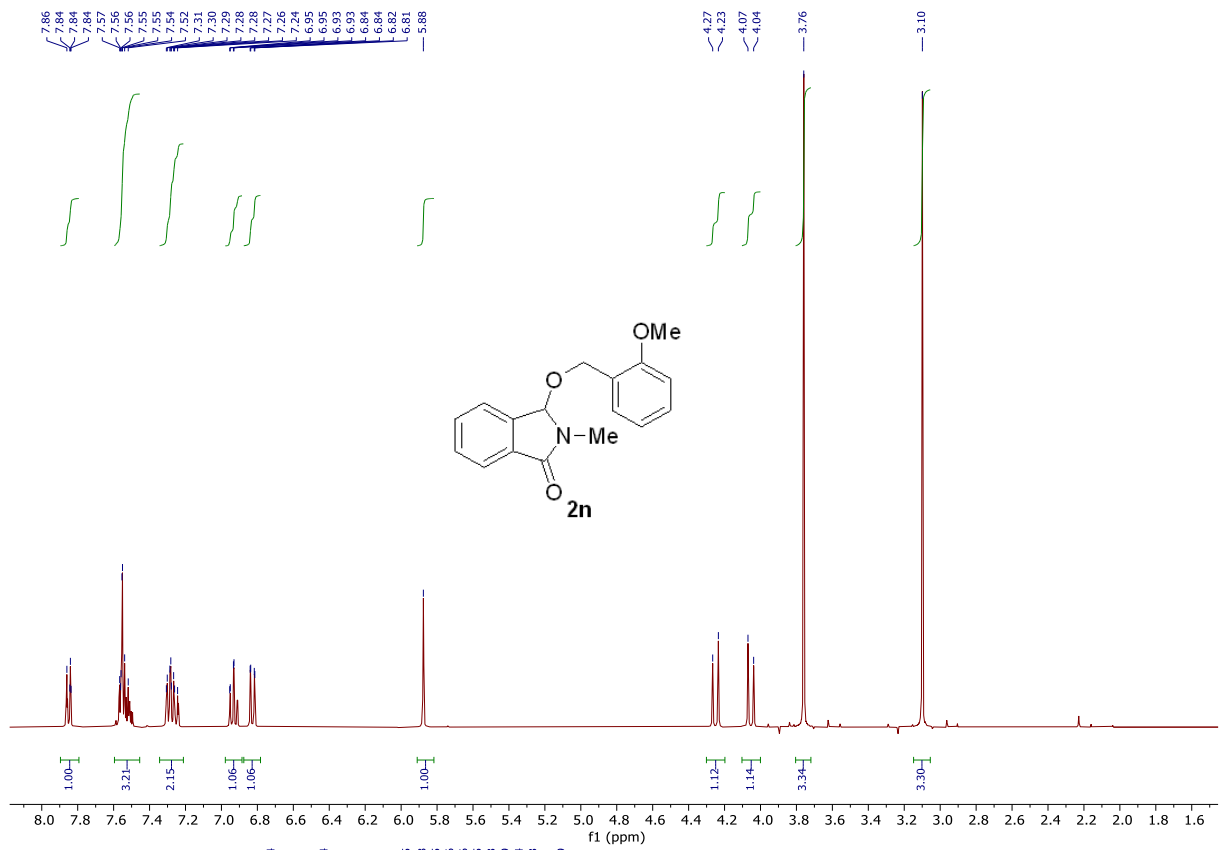


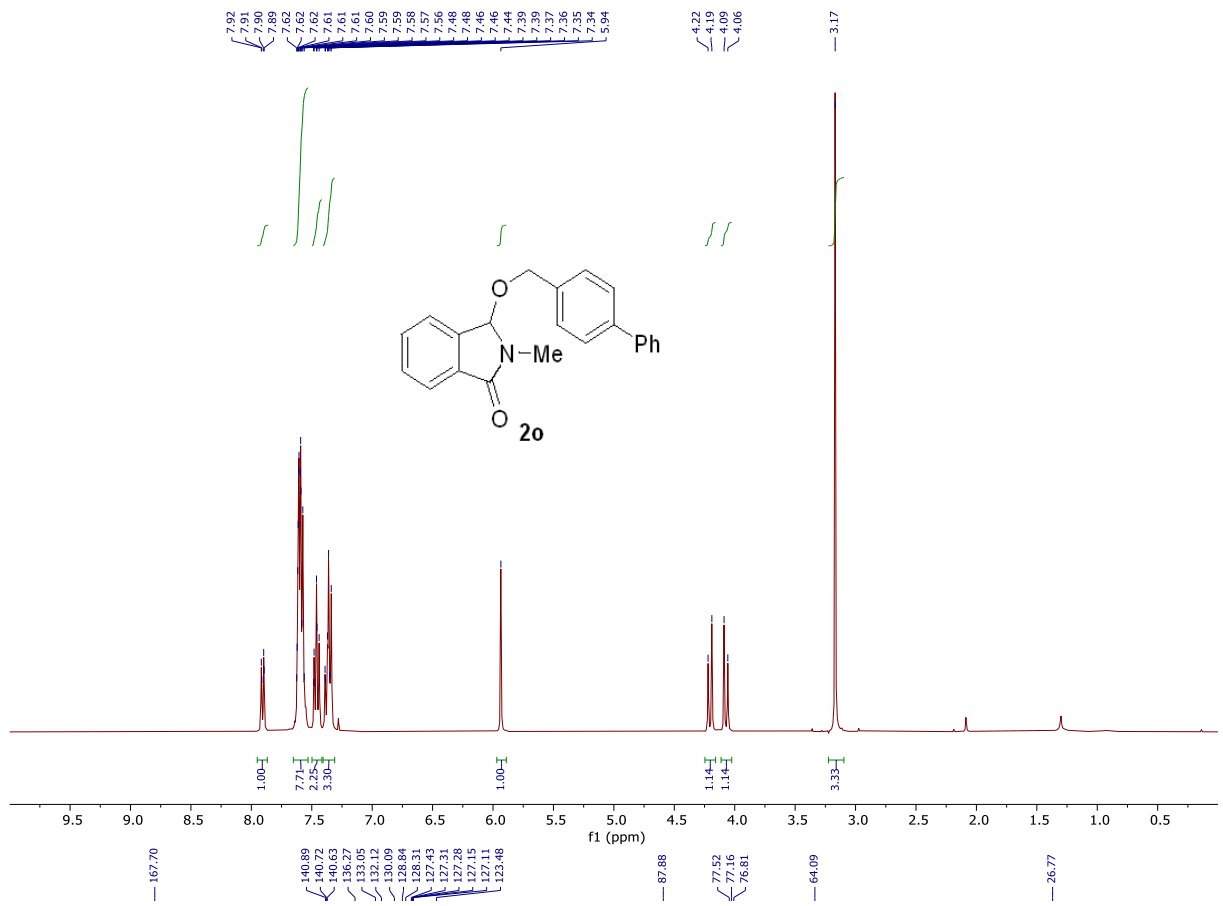


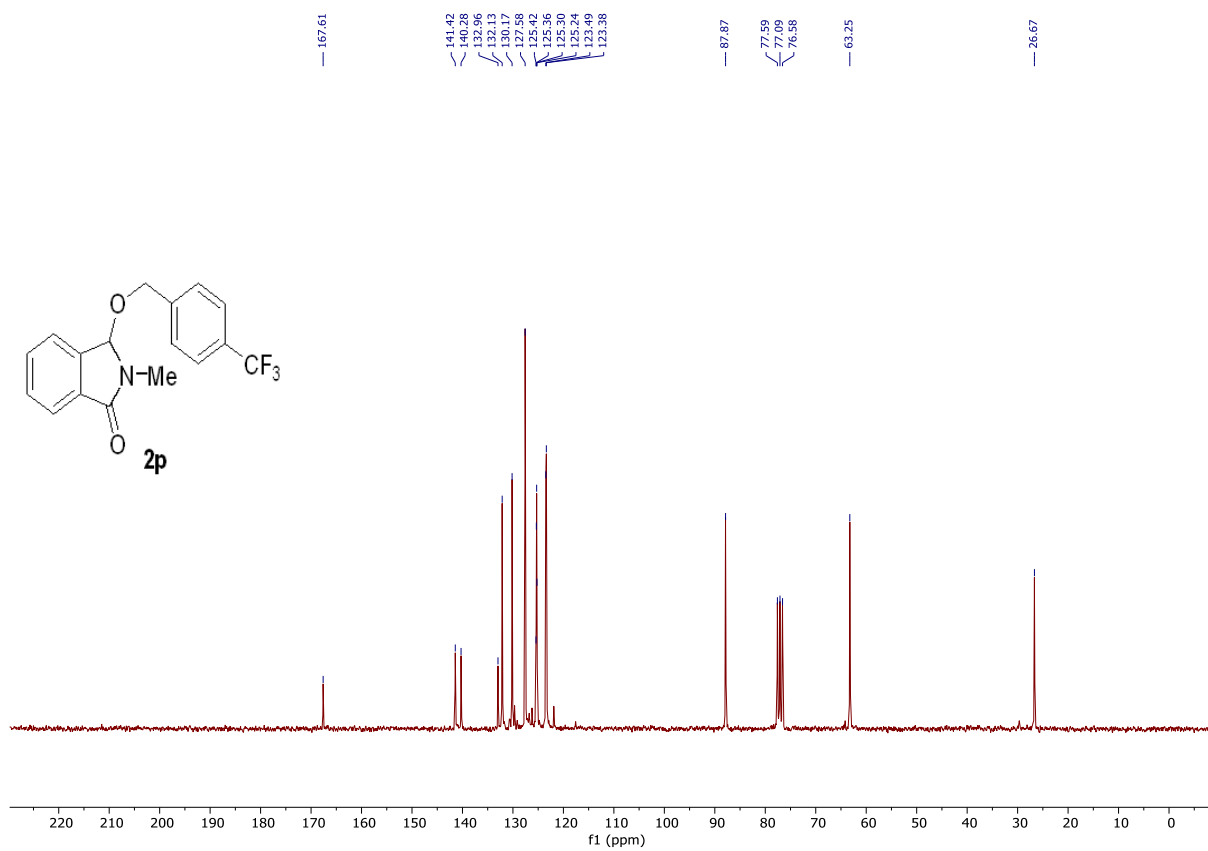
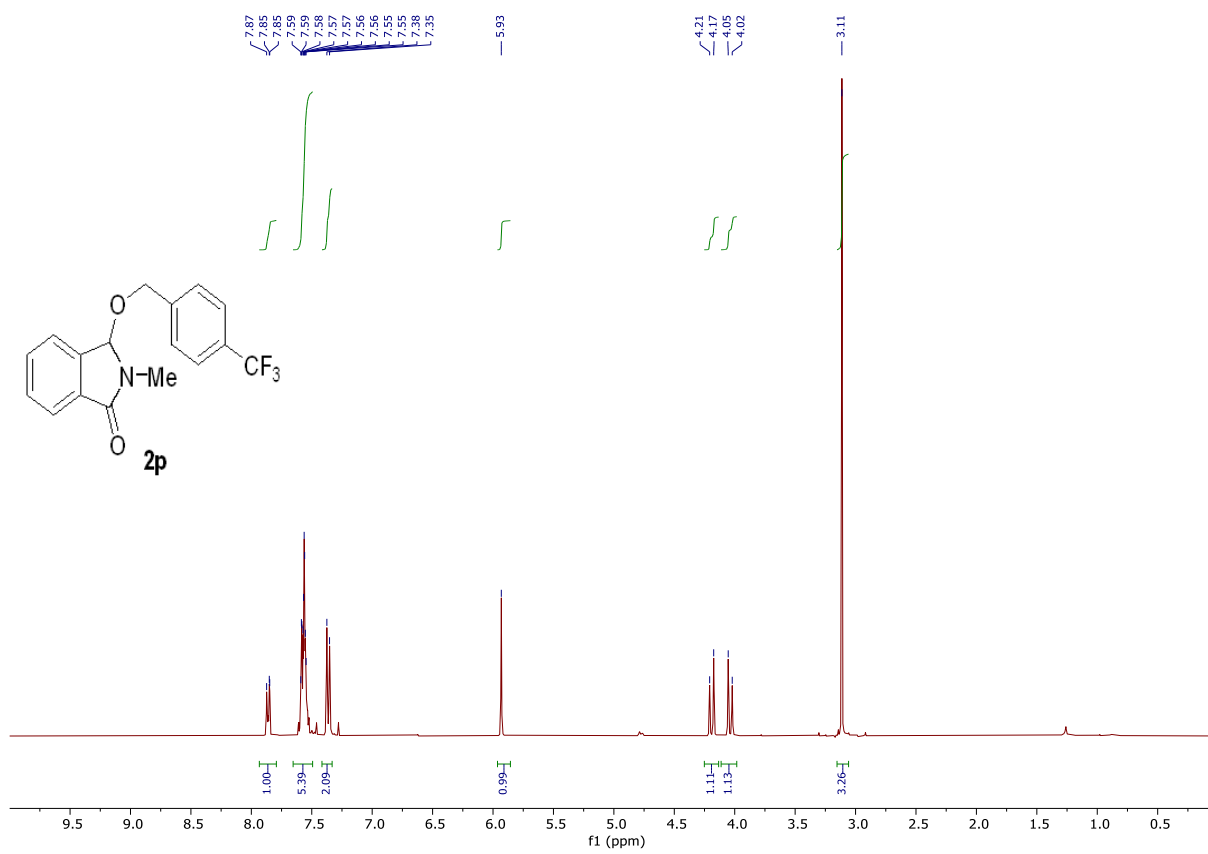


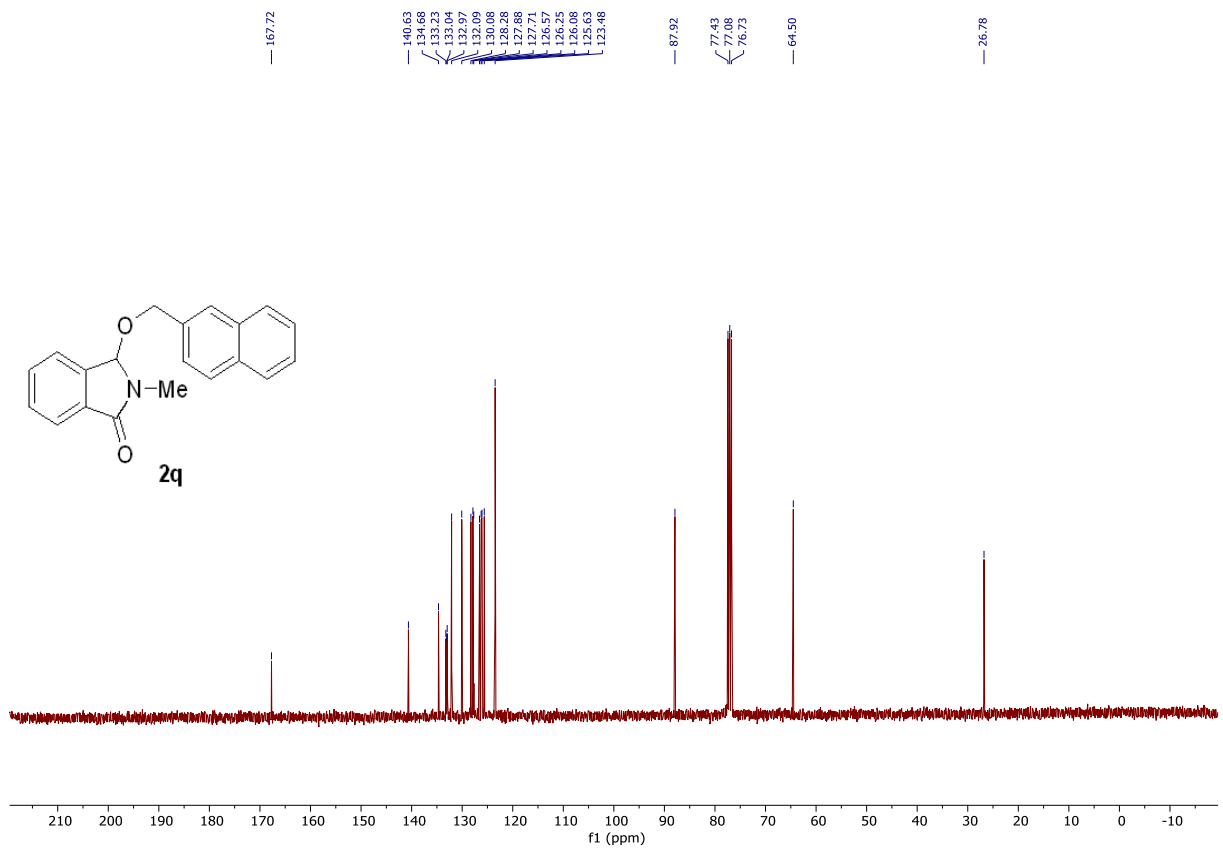
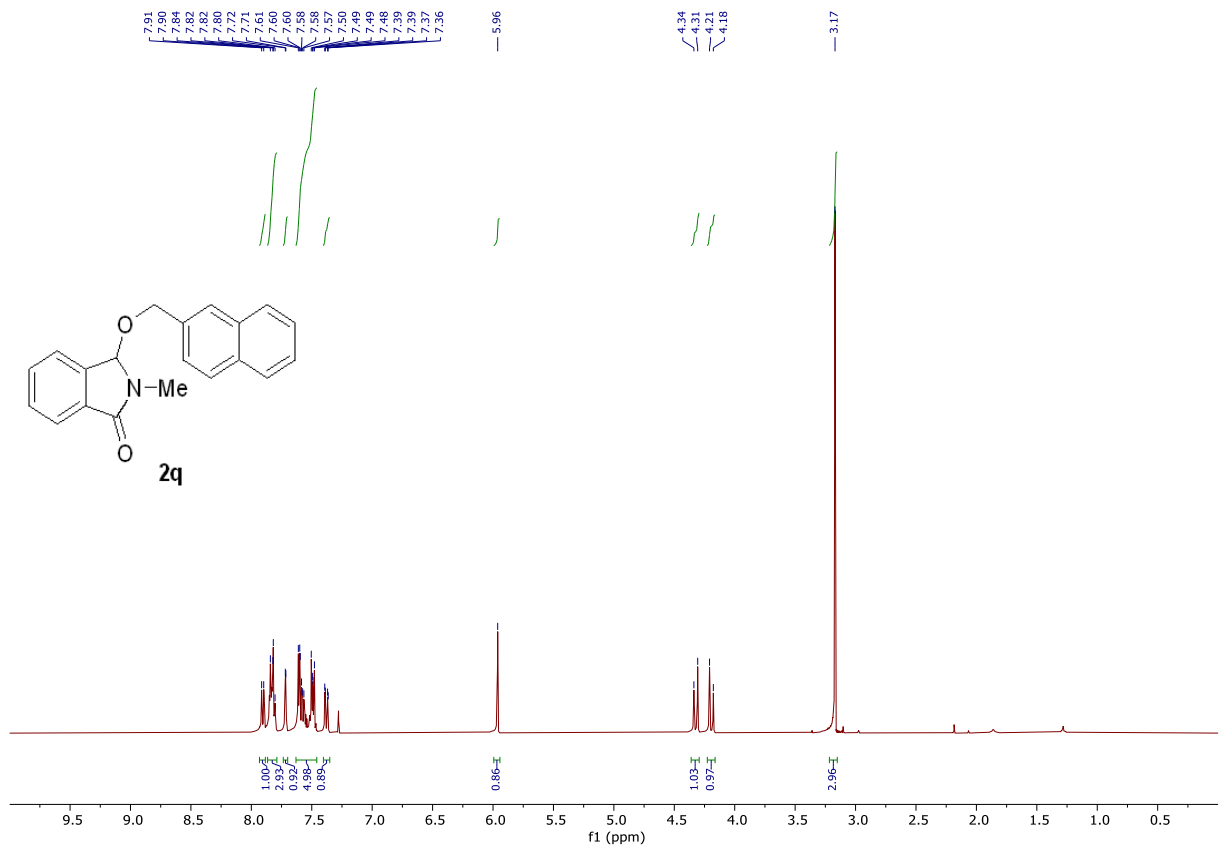


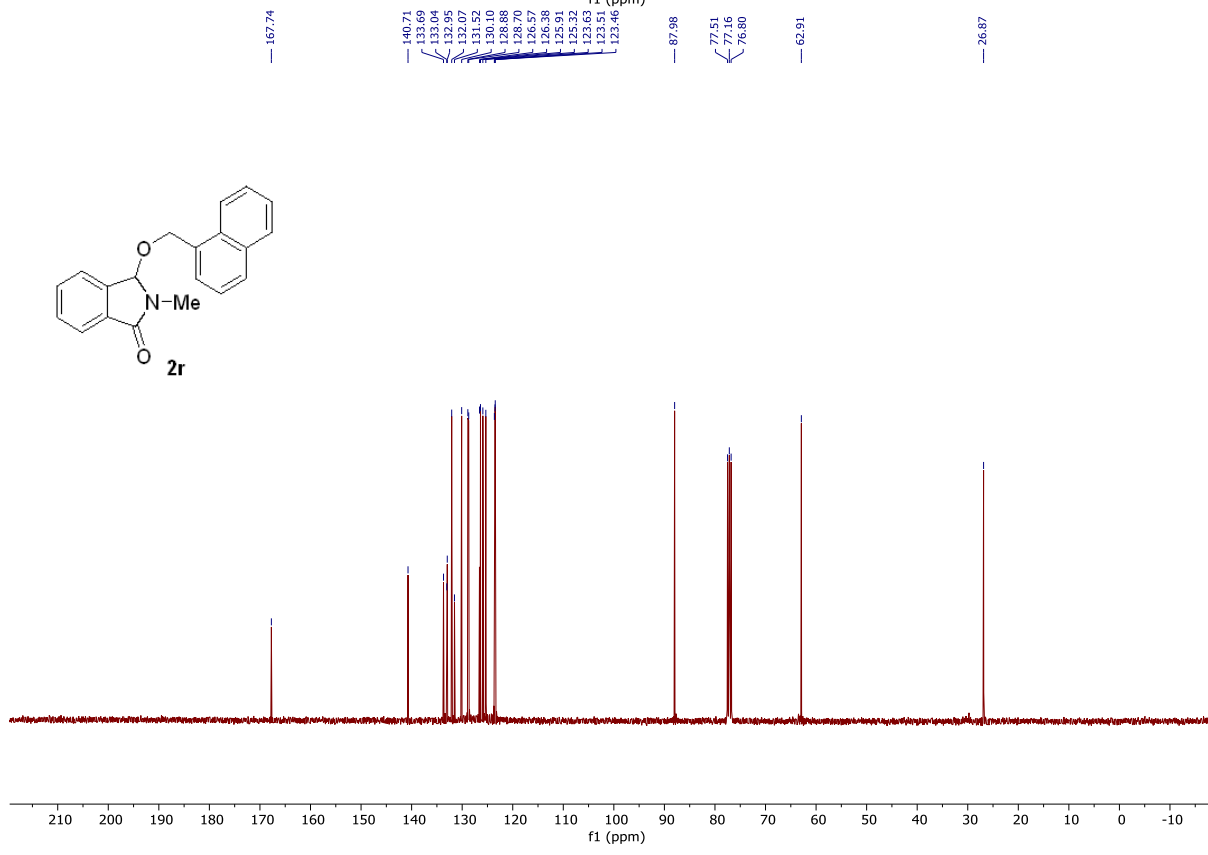
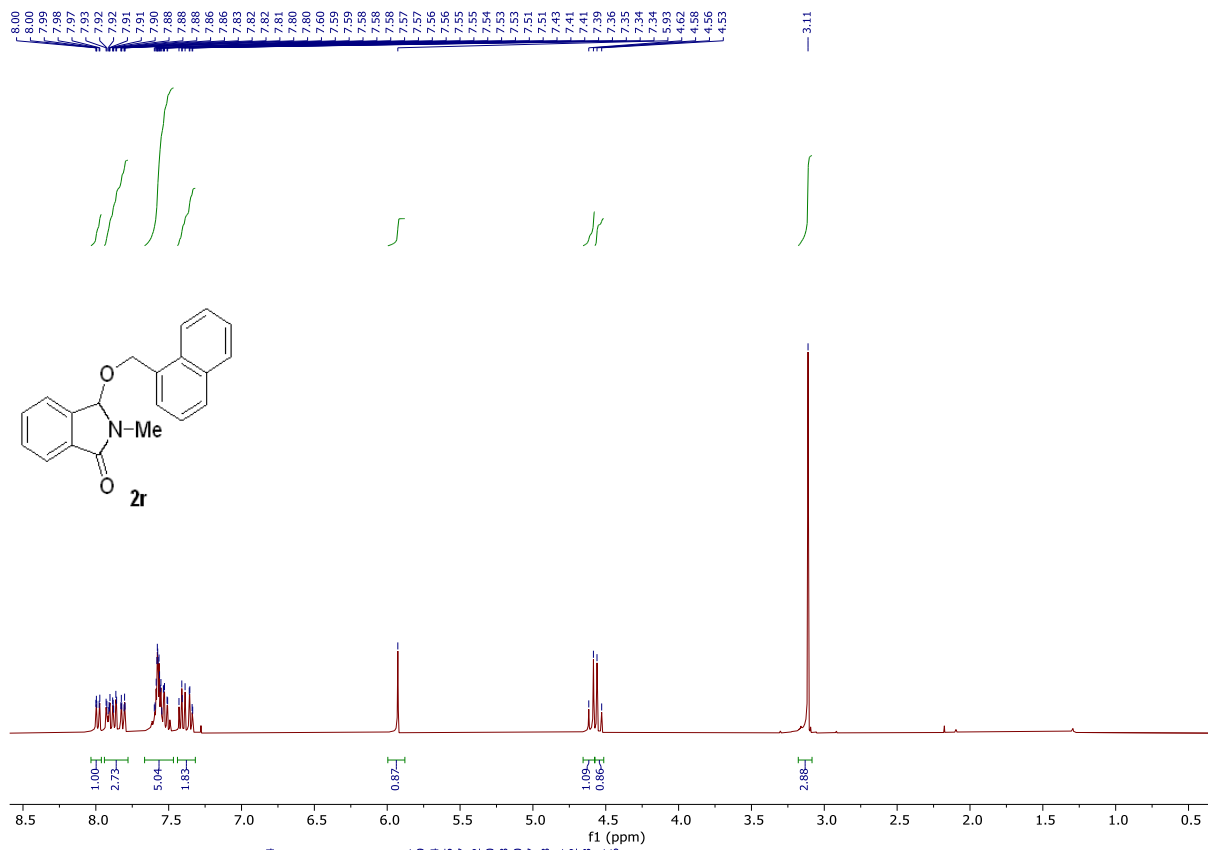


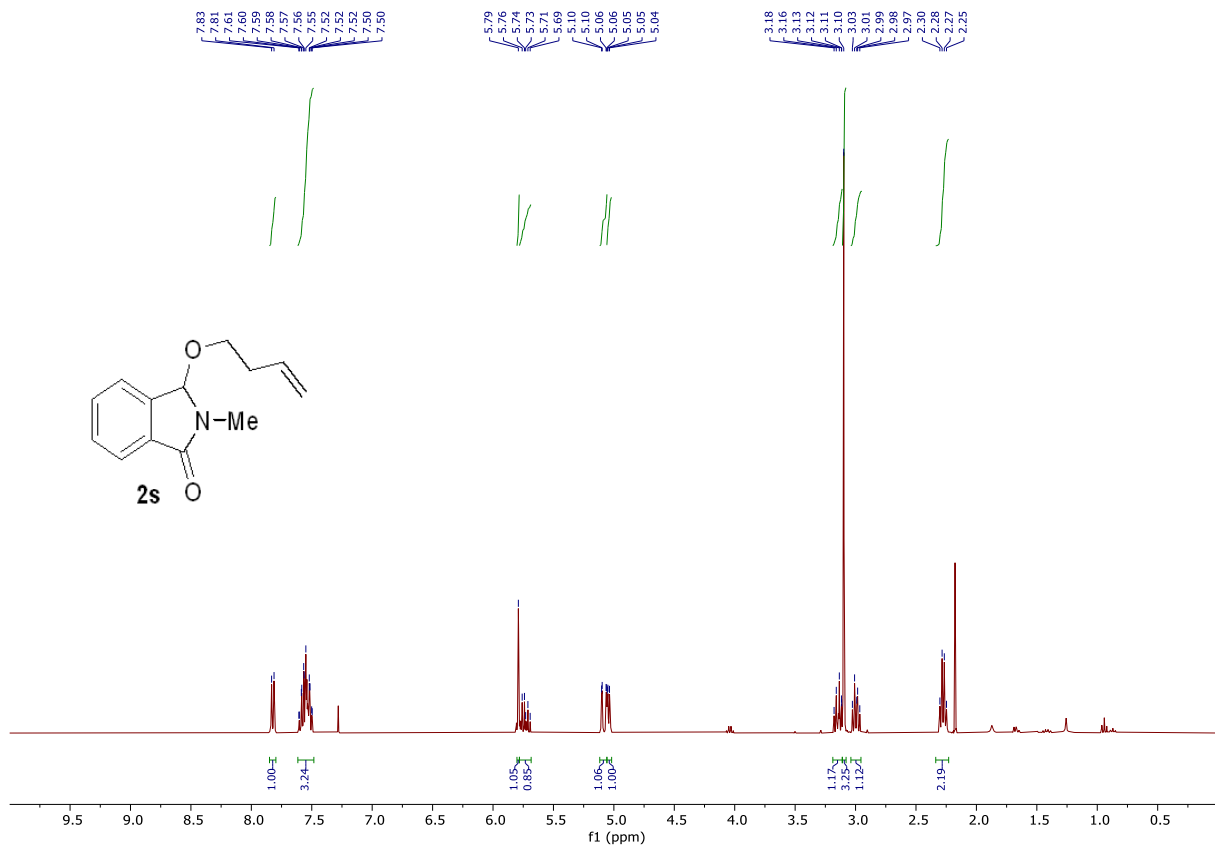


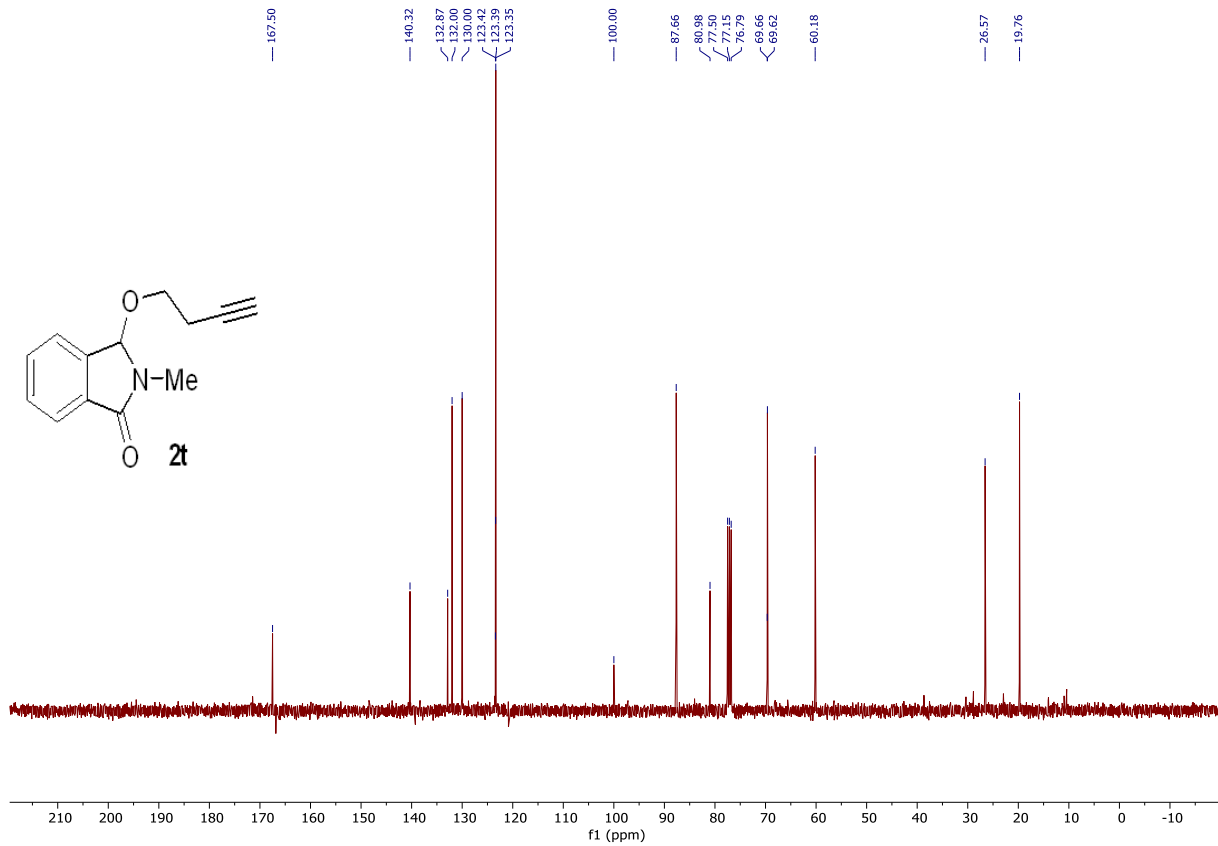
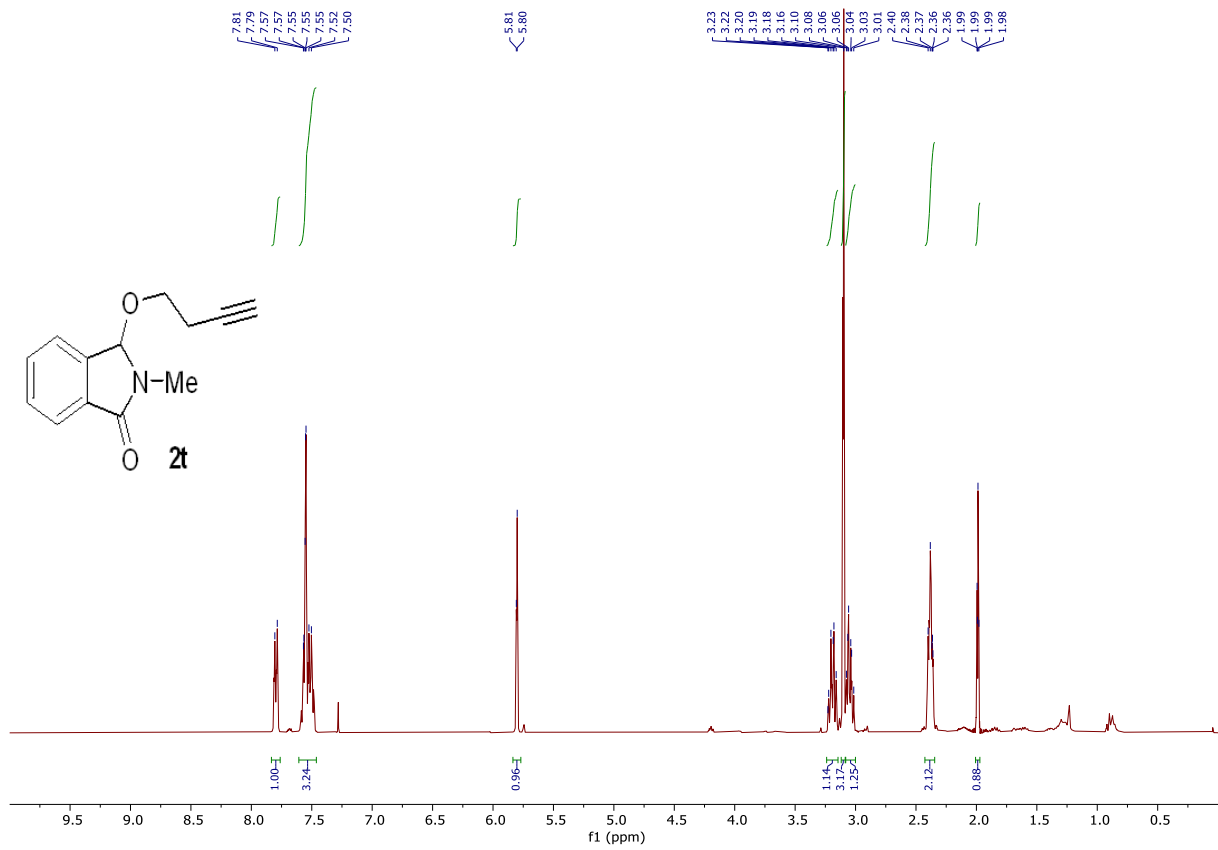


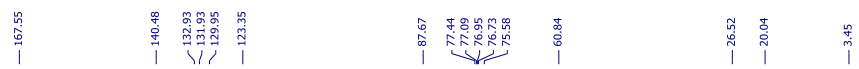
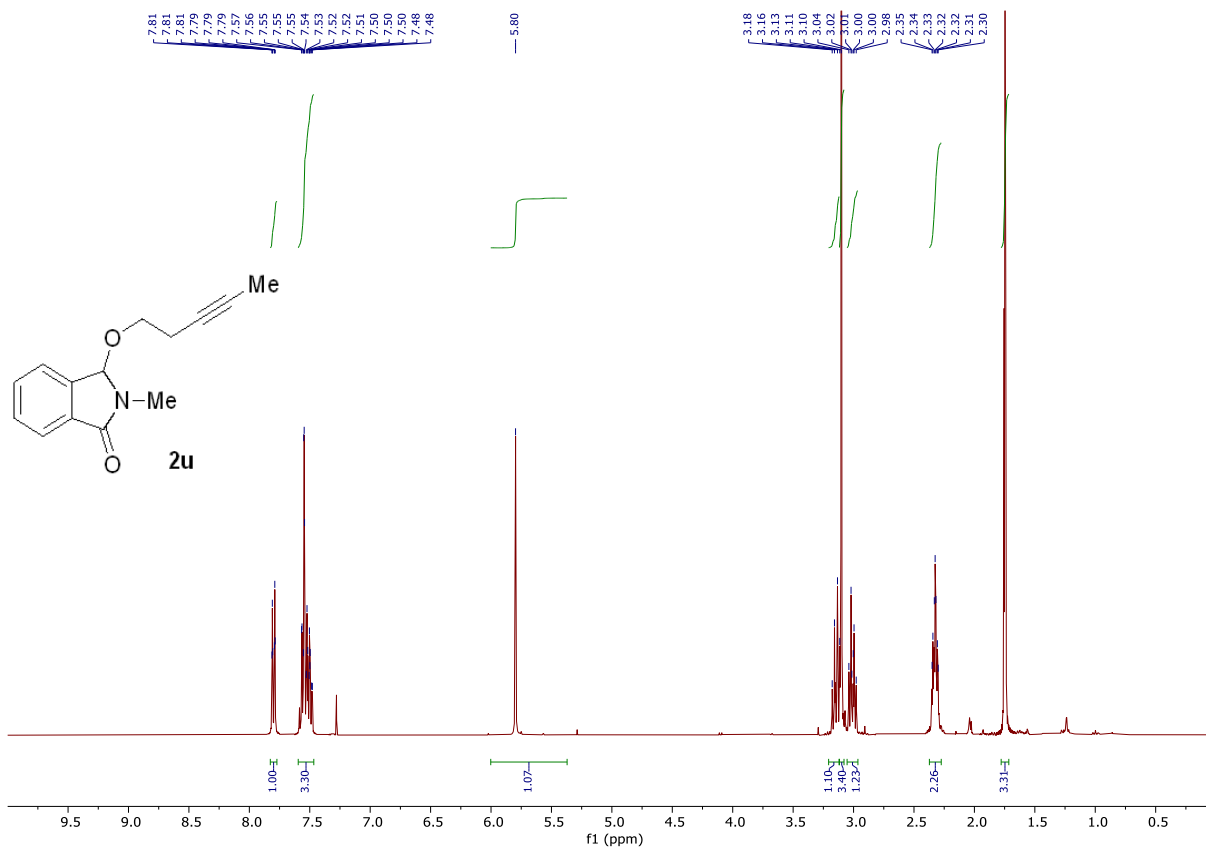


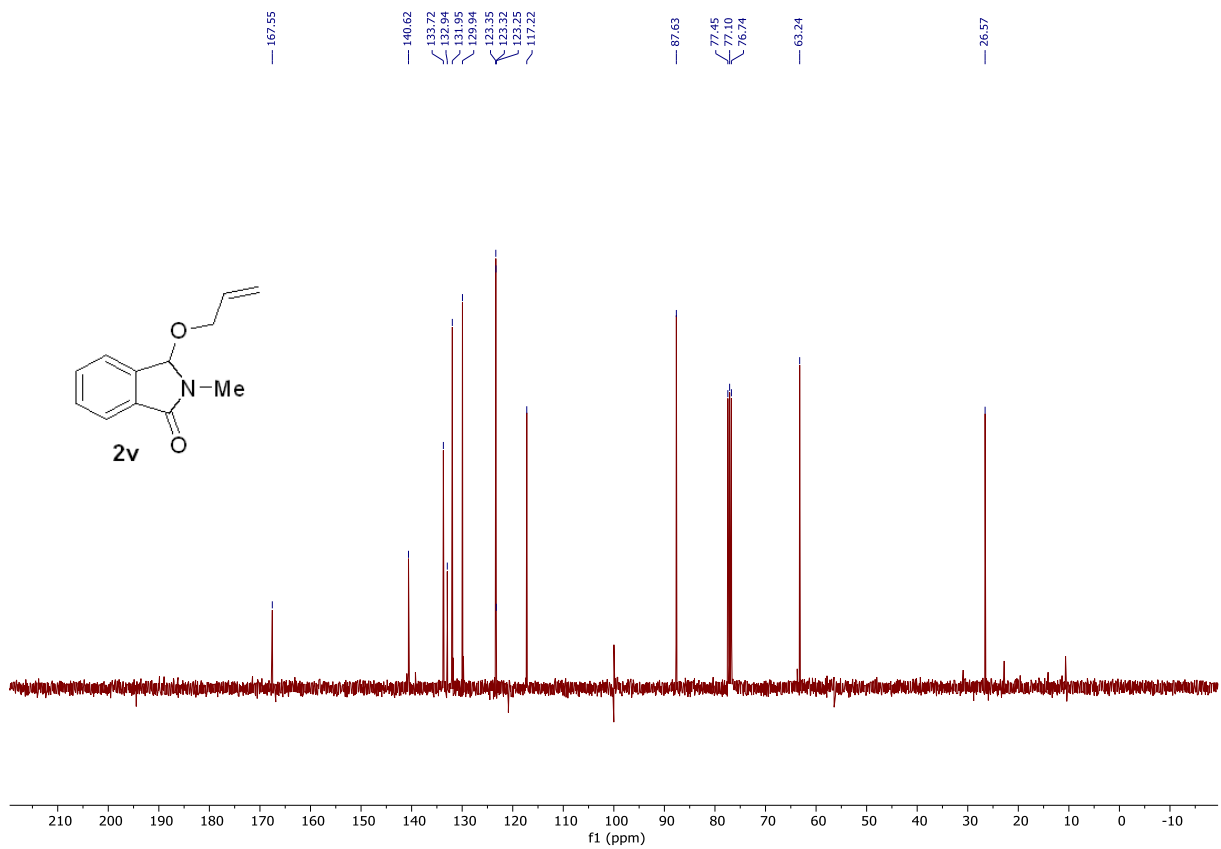
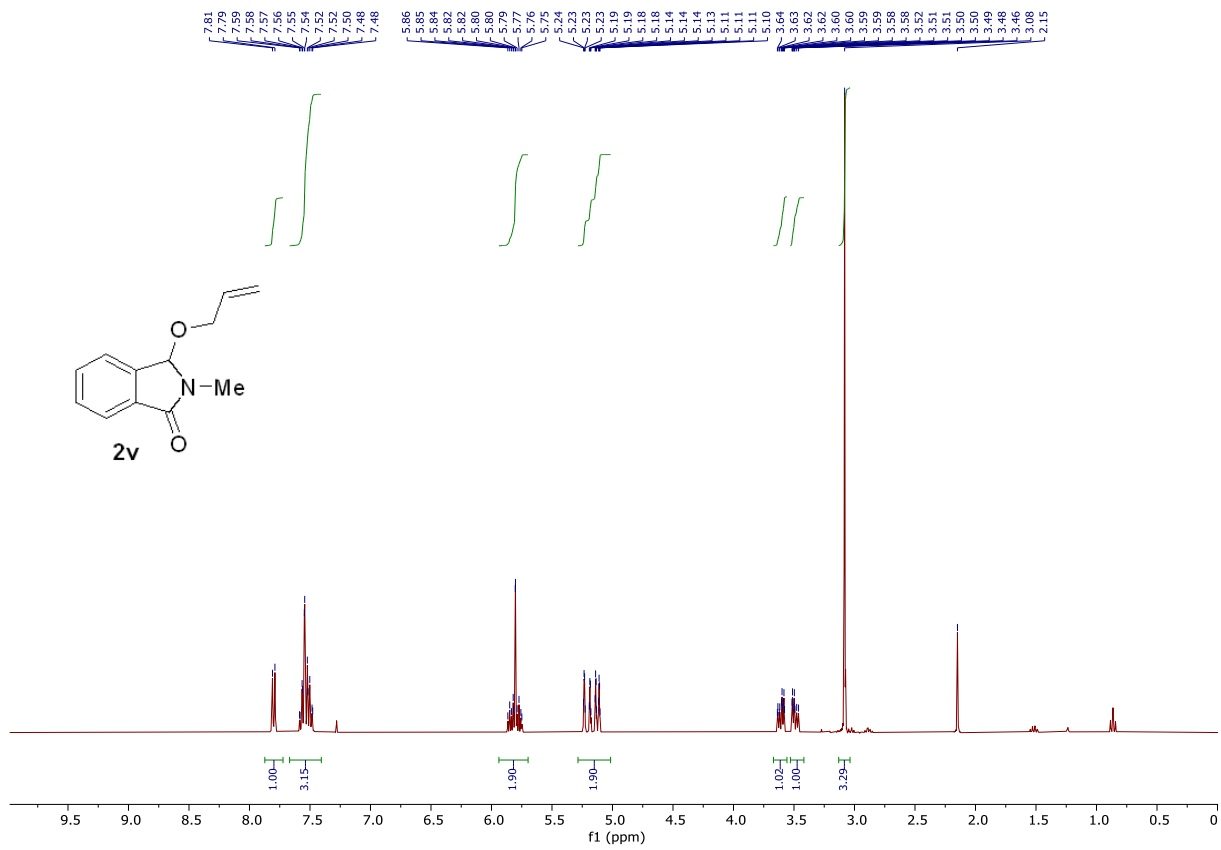


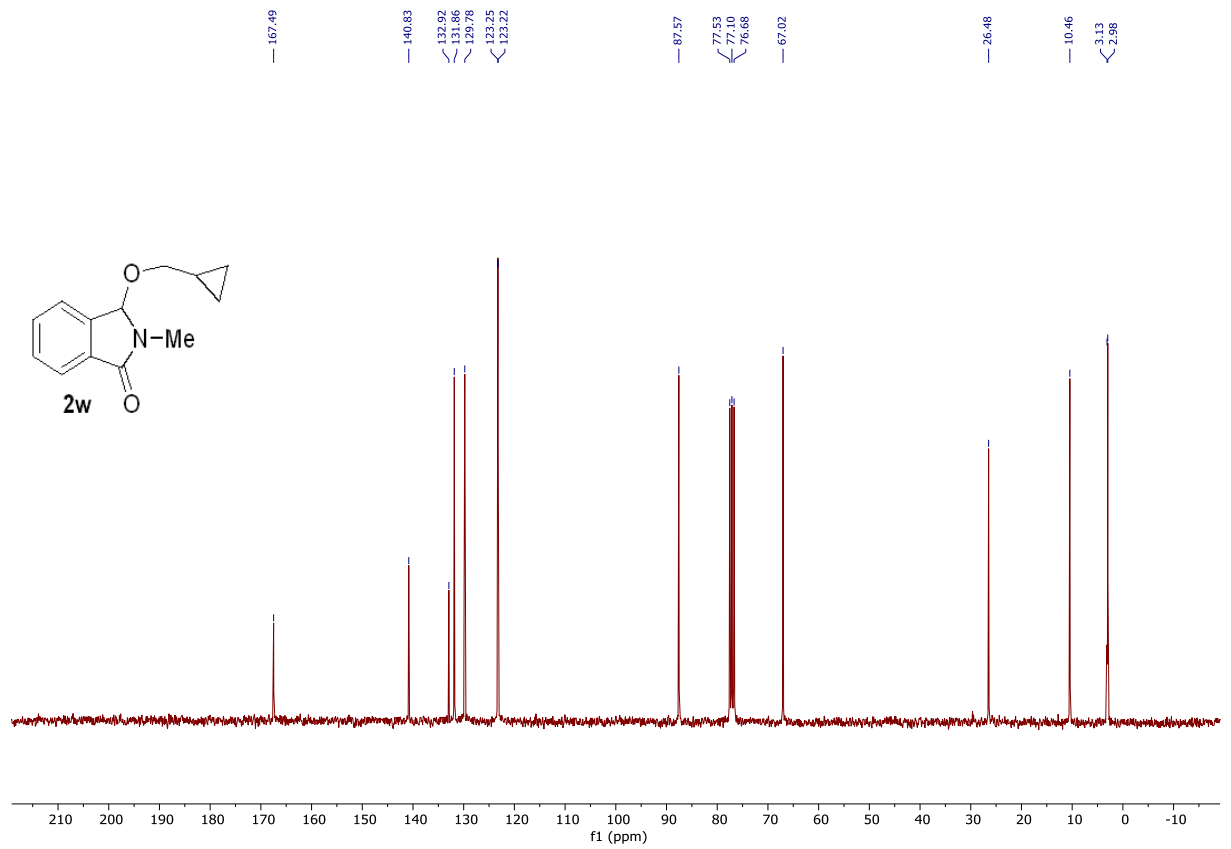
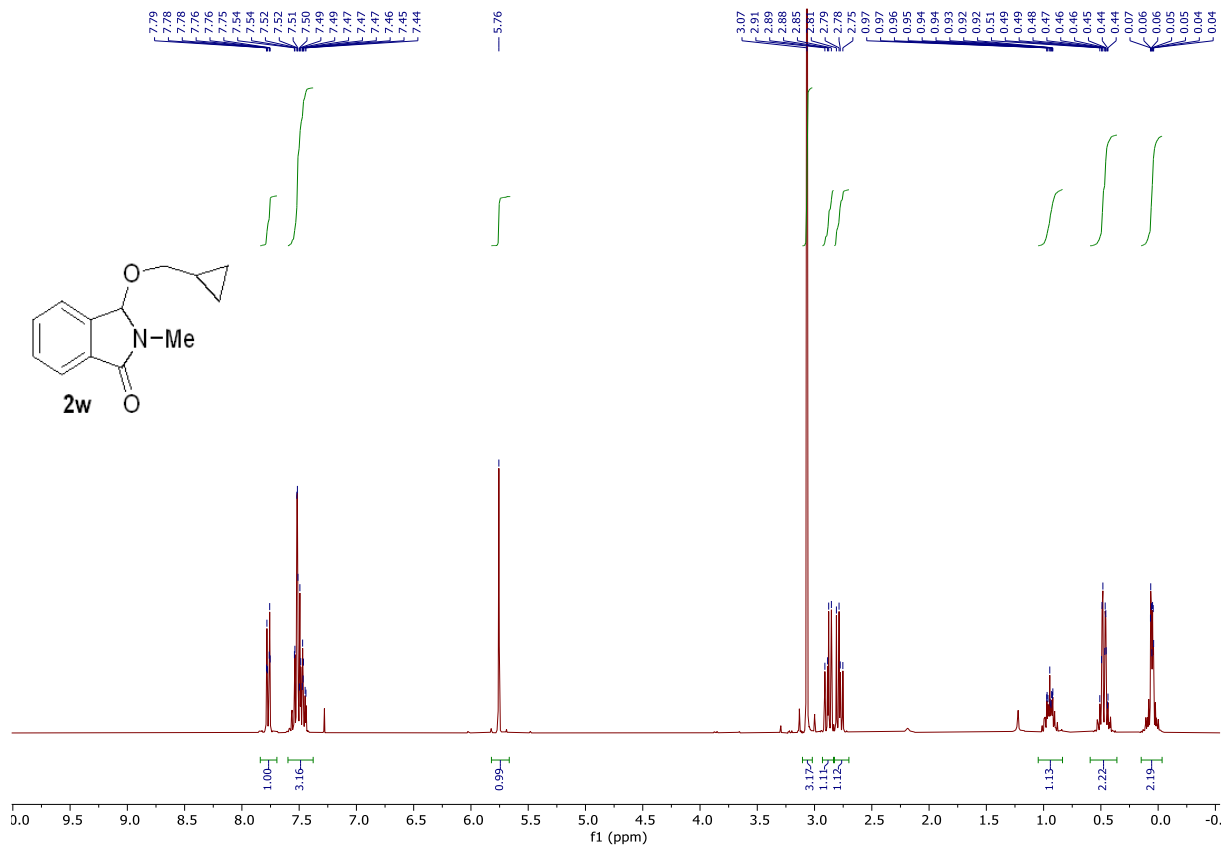


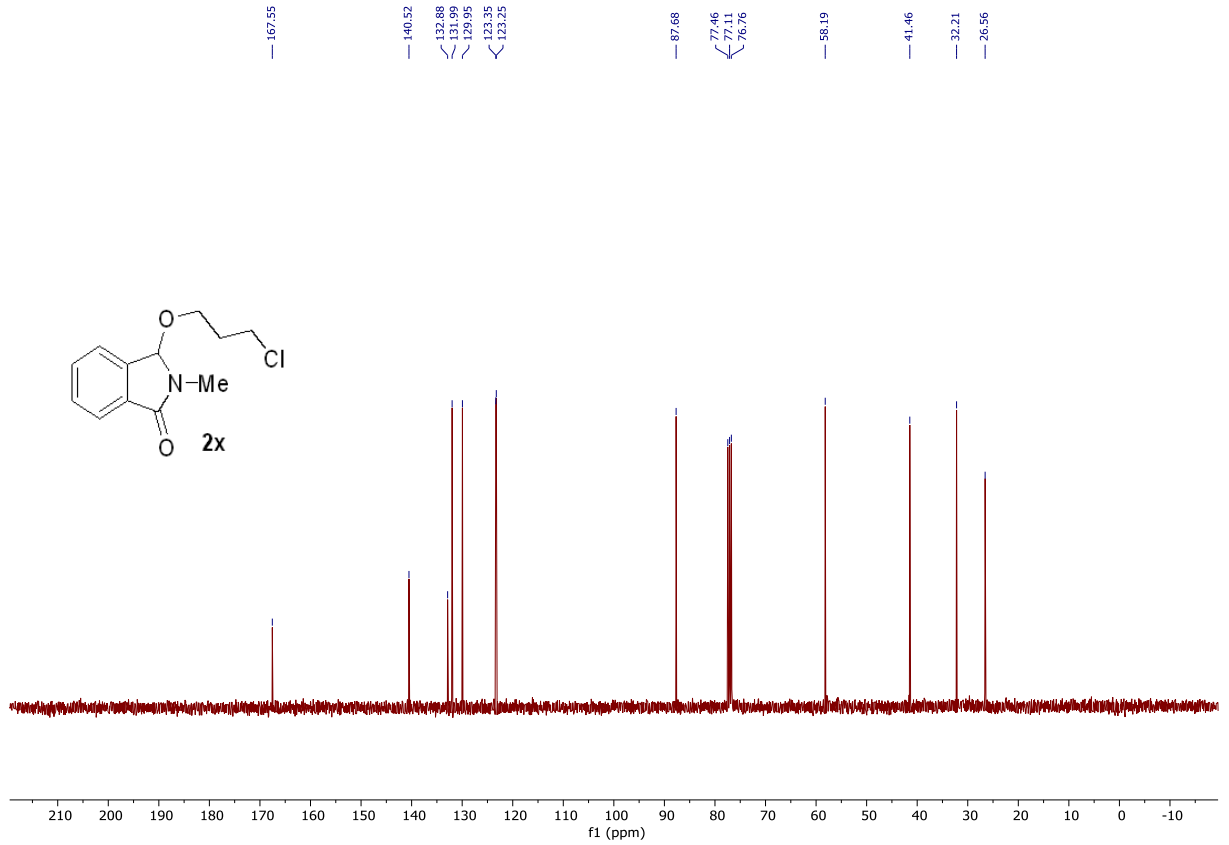
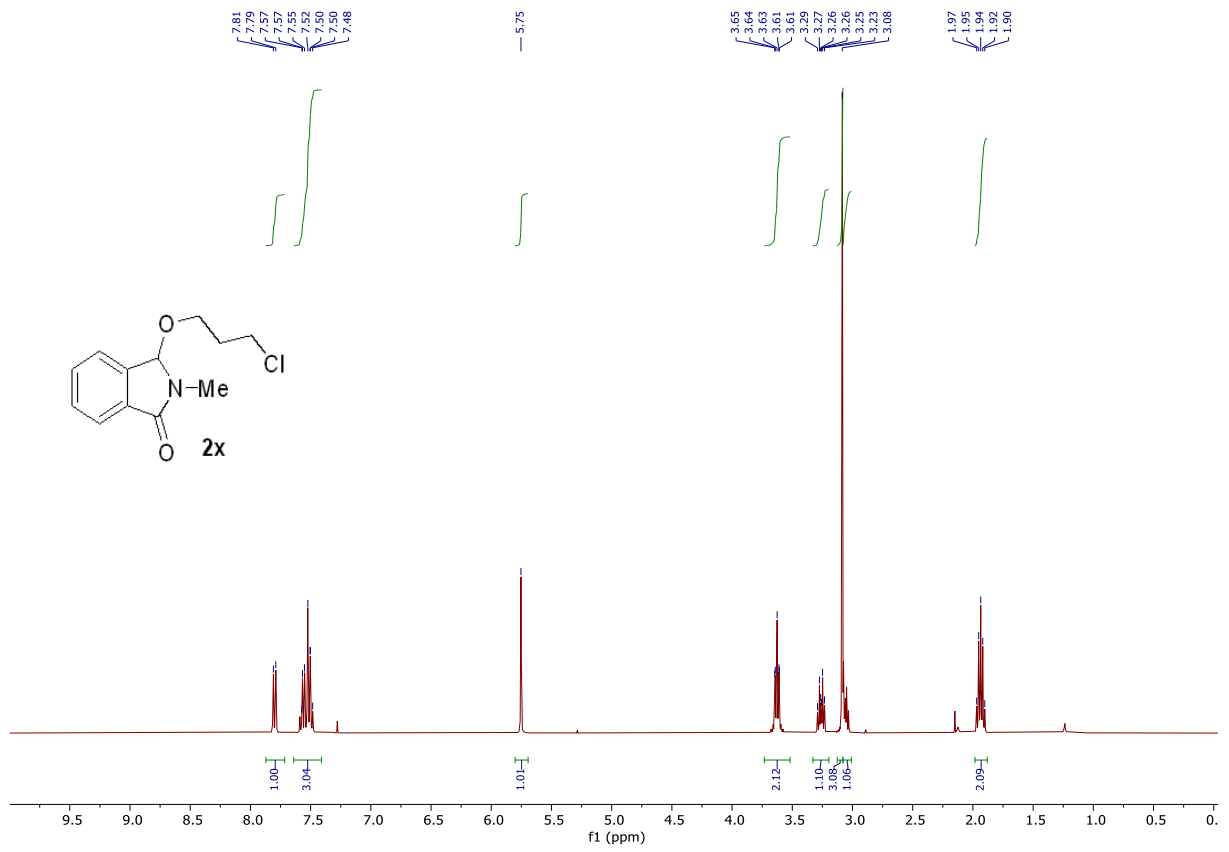


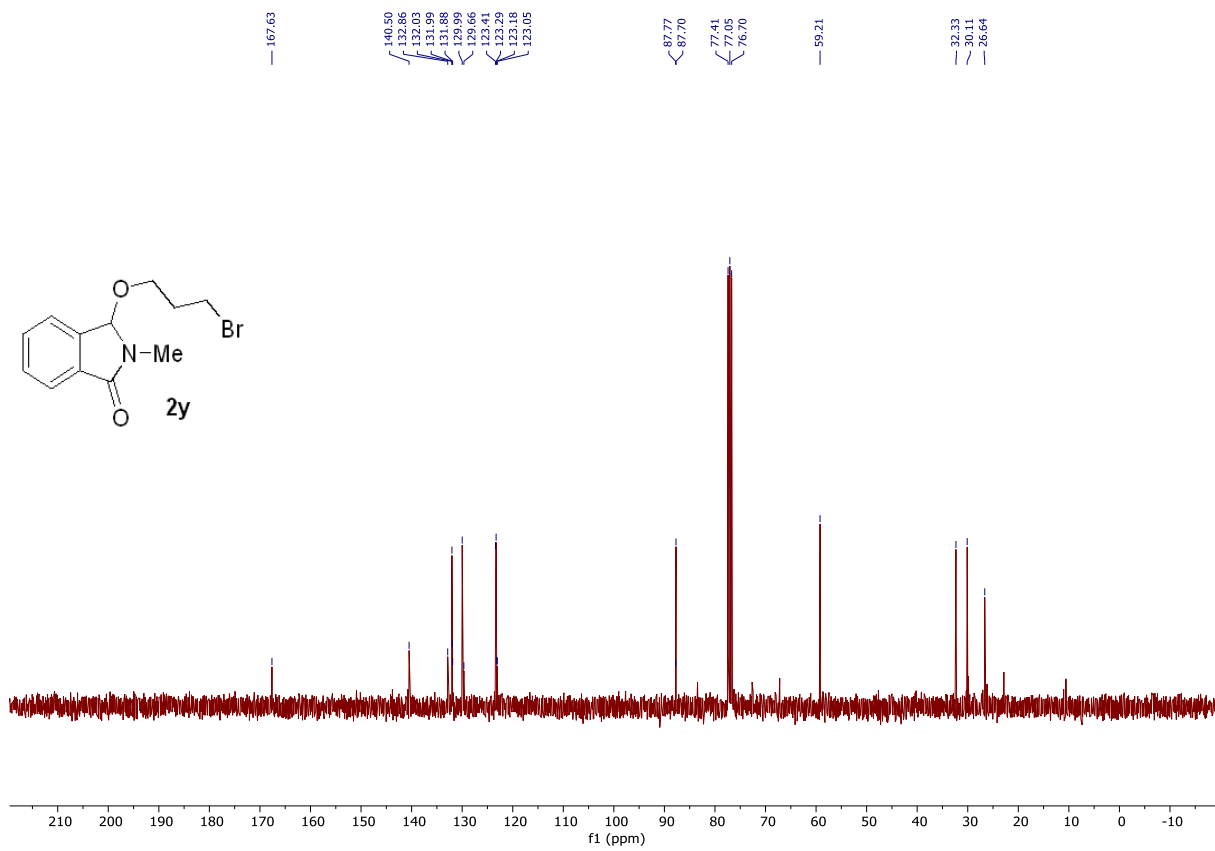
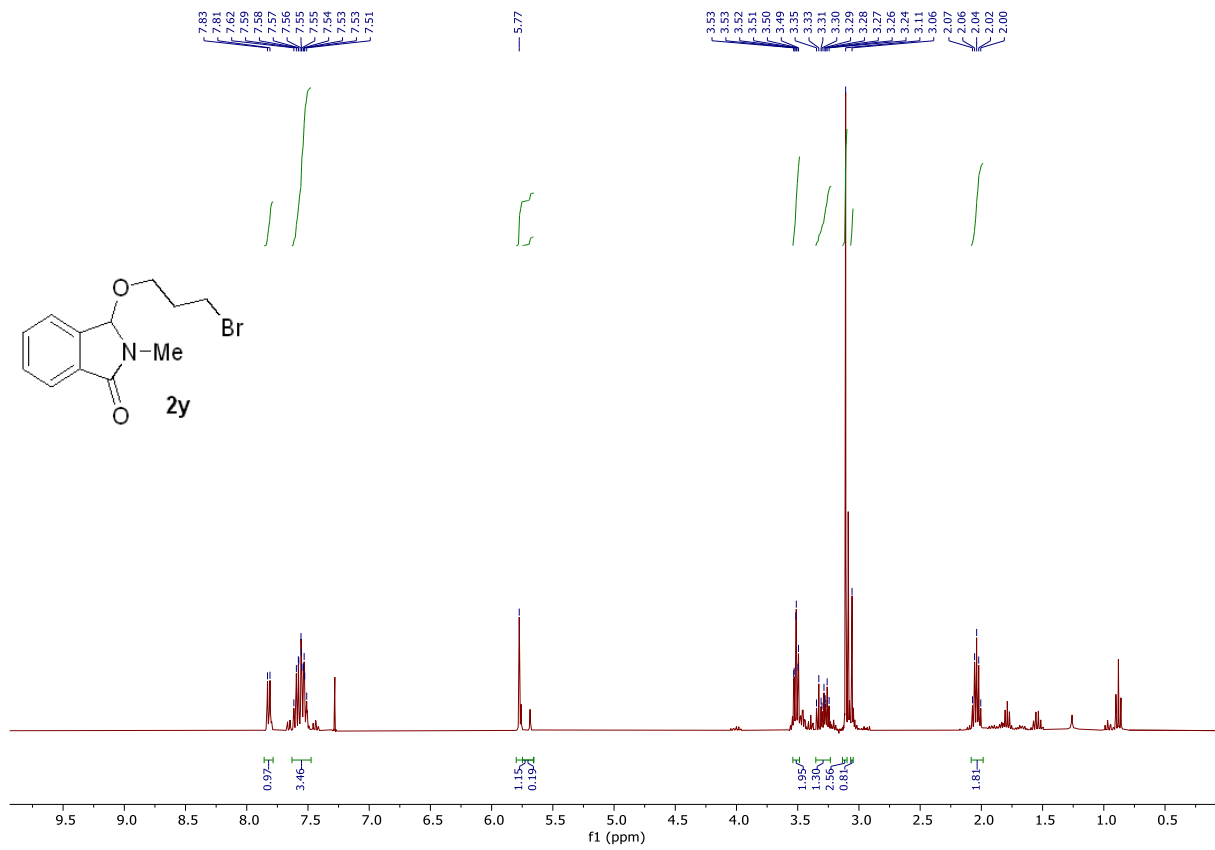


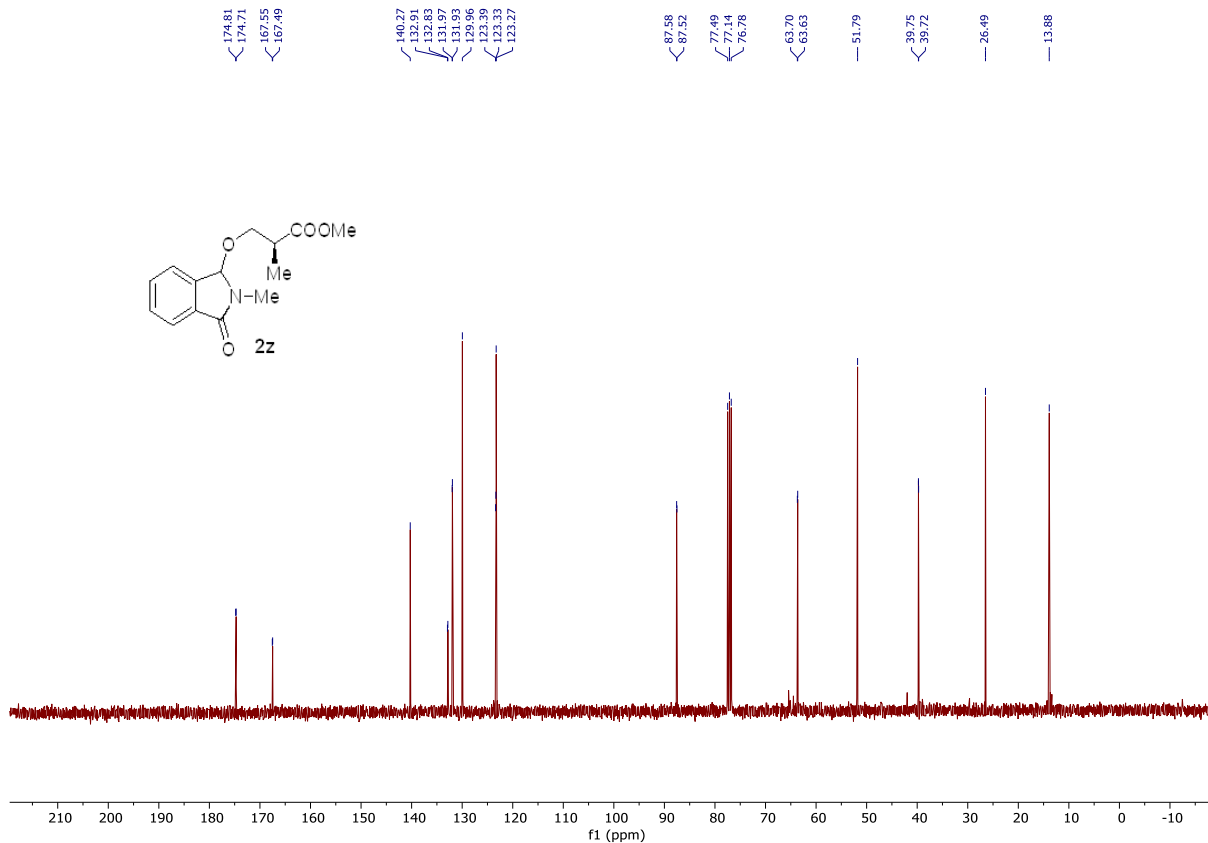
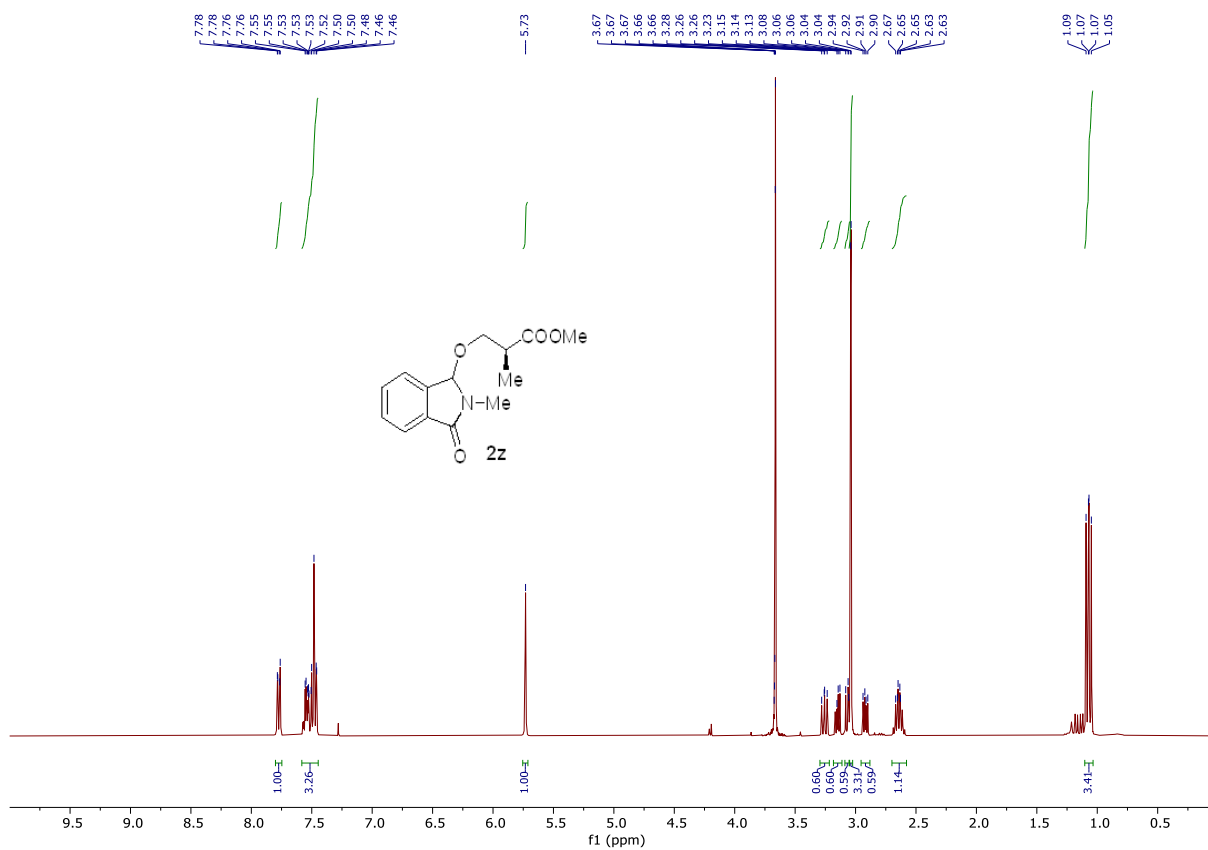












Characterization data of reductive methoxylation of *N*-substituted phthalimides

