

Supporting Information

Convenient one-pot synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles and 2,4,6-triarylpyridines using graphene oxide (GO) as a metal-free catalyst: Importance of dual catalytic activity

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Experimental section

1. General experimental procedure

All the chemicals and reagents were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich, Spectrochem, TCI and were used without further purification. The solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used after proper distillation. The progress of the reaction was monitored by Merck TLC plates which are coated with silica gel (60 F₂₅₄) and UV light was used as visualizing agent. NMR spectra of all the synthesized compounds were carried out in CDCl₃/DMSO-d₆ solvent and TMS was used as an internal standard. All the NMR spectroscopic data are recorded in BrukerAvance FT-NMR operating for ¹H at 300/400 MHz. The ¹H NMR data are represented by chemical shift δ (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d= doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), integration, coupling constants (*J* values) in Hertz (Hz). The ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data are also reported in ppm as ¹H NMR spectra.

2. General procedure for the preparation of (GO) catalyst

There are several methods for the preparation of graphene oxide (GO). Herein, Graphene oxide (GO) was synthesized by the Tours method using graphite powder as starting material [1]. At first, 9:1 volume ratio of (180 mL) sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) and (20 mL) phosphoric acid (H₃PO₄) were taken in a 500 ml conical flask, and then 1.5 g of graphite powder was added to it under stirring condition. The temperature of the whole mixture was kept below 10°C using an ice bath and 9g of potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) was added very slowly into it as the addition of KMnO₄ evolves heat. Then the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hrs and after that hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) was added drops wise to eliminate excess KMnO₄. After that, 30-40 mL hydrochloric acid (HCl) (strength 30%) was added to this mixture followed by the addition of 200 mL of deionized water. Then the mixture was centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 20 minutes. After that, the supernatant liquid was decanted away and the residual was dried at 90 °C rotary evaporator to get dry graphene oxide (GO) with pH (4.2 at 0.1 mg/mL).

3. General procedure for the synthesis of 3,5-disubstituted 1,2,4 oxadiazoles

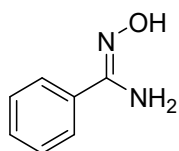
50-mL of RB was charged with benzonitrile (1.5 mmol), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (1.5 mmol), K₂CO₃ (1.5 mmol), and Ethanol-water (5 mL), and then the reaction mixture was stirred

at 80 °C for 8 hrs. After 8 hrs, benzaldehyde (1 mmol) and 25 mg of GO were added to it and the reaction was carried out for another 8 hrs. The progress of the reaction was governed by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated by a rotary evaporator. The reaction mixture was extracted by ethyl acetate and the catalyst was separated by a simple filtration procedure. After workup, ethyl acetate extract was concentrated in a water bath and further purified by column chromatography using silica gel 60-120 mesh.

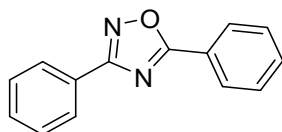
4. General procedure for the synthesis of 2,4,6-triarylpyridines

A mixture of acetophenone (1 mmol), aromatic aldehyde (1 mmol), ammonium acetate (1.5 mmol), and 30 mg of GO was stirred for 2h at 100°C temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC and after completion of the reaction; the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The catalyst was recovered by centrifugation and washed with acetone and water and then dried. The ethyl acetate extracts were further purified by column chromatography using silica gel of 60-120 mesh and the desired product is obtained.

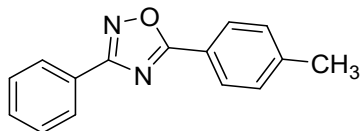
5. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of synthesized compounds



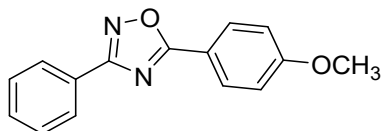
N'-Hydroxybenzenecarboximidamide Yield 185 mg (91%), white solid; MP: 72-74 °C ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 5.07 (bs, 2H), 7.32-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.79 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 126.00, 128.67, 130.01, 132.38, 158.88. [2]



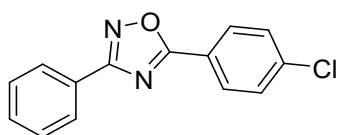
3,5-diphenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3a): Yield 184 mg (83%), white solid; MP: 103-104 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.42-7.51 (m, 6H), 8.15-8.20 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 126.96, 127.52, 128.16, 128.84, 129.09, 131.17, 132.72, 133.90, 168.04, 173.96.[2]



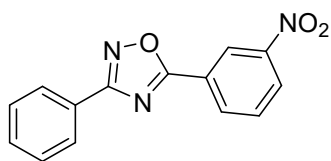
3-phenyl-5-(p-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3b): Yield 191 mg (81%), white solid; MP: 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.06-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.80-7.90 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 54.76, 126.98, 127.55, 128.19, 128.88, 129.13, 131.22, 132.77, 150.49, 168.76, 174.91.[2]



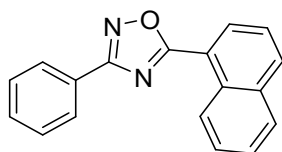
5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3c): Yield 201 mg (80%), white solid: 100-101 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.50-7.52 (t, 3H), 8.15-8.18 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 55.07, 122.80, 126.71, 127.41, 128.09, 129.63, 130.62, 131.90, 133.93, 168.09, 174.91.[2]



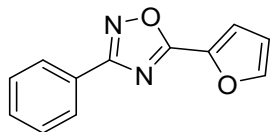
5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3d): Yield 199 mg (78%), white solid: 118-119 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.25 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.52-7.57 (m, 3H), 8.21-8.47 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 120.80, 126.21, 127.10, 127.98, 128.77, 130.58, 130.74, 133.80, 169.05, 175.57.[2]



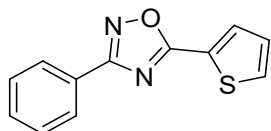
5-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3e): Yield 200 mg (75%), white solid: 140-142 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.75-7.89 (m, 3H), 8.14-8.31 (m, 5H), 8.62 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR δ 123.57, 126.25, 126.71, 127.41, 127.93, 129.34, 130.83, 131.93, 133.90, 149.04, 169.67, 173.91.[3]



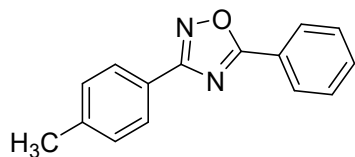
5-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3f): Yield 168 mg (62%), white solid: 99-101 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.63-7.73 (m, 5H), 8.02-8.14 (m, 5H), 8.60 (d, 1H, *J*= 8.4 Hz), 8.93 (d, 1H, *J*=8.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 122.77, 126.77, 127.27, 127.53, 128.89, 129.15, 129.46, 129.53, 129.74, 130.89, 131.31, 131.79, 139.20, 169.06, 174.81.[2]



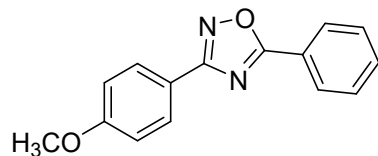
5-(furan-2-yl)-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3g): Yield 152 mg (72%), yellow solid: 100-101 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.25-7.33 (t, 1H), 7.52-8.03 (m, 4H), 8.09 (d, 2H, *J*= 7.2 Hz), 8.18 (d, 2H, *J*= 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 112.853, 116.69, 126.765, 127.916, 129.423, 131.689, 140.433, 147.055, 167.919, 168.997.[2]



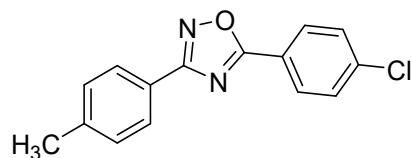
3-phenyl-5-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3h): Yield 159 mg (70%), white solid: 107-108 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.23-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 8.17-8.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 127.587, 128.178, 128.510, 129.114, 131.267, 131.748, 132.888, 168.857, 171.368.[2]



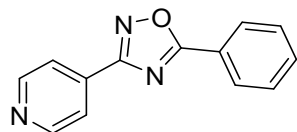
5-phenyl-3-(p-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3i): Yield 189 mg (80%), white solid: 100-102 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.43 (s, 3H), 7.53-7.61 (m, 3H), 8.00 (d, 2H, *J*= 6.9 Hz), 8.12 (d, 2H, *J*= 8.1 Hz), 8.59-8.78 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 21.61, 124.10, 127.95, 128.57, 128.92, 129.07, 129.39, 132.67, 141.50, 168.95, 174.10.[2]



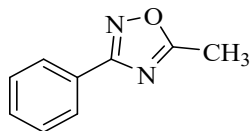
3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3j): Yield 196 mg (78%), white solid: 101-102 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 3.88 (s, 3H), 7.02 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.52-7.63 (m, 3H), 8.10-8.23 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 54.873, 113.759, 118.996, 123.972, 127.640, 128.544, 128.631, 132.091, 161.466, 168.180, 174.942.[2]



5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3k): Yield 234 mg (82%), white solid: 132-134 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.43 (s, 3H), 7.31 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.51-7.54 (t, 2H), 8.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 8.15 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 21.124, 122.329, 123.418, 126.418, 126.943, 128.945, 129.002, 129.105, 138.612, 141.162, 168.552, 174.135.[2]

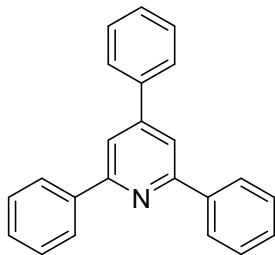


5-phenyl-3-(pyridin-4-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3l): Yield 151 mg (68%), white solid: 145-146 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.47-7.64 (m, 3H), 8.07-8.08 (t, 1H), 8.13-8.20 (m, 2H), 8.21-8.85 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 121.044, 123.294, 127.744, 129.460, 132.399, 134.321, 149.758, 166.834, 176.054.[2]

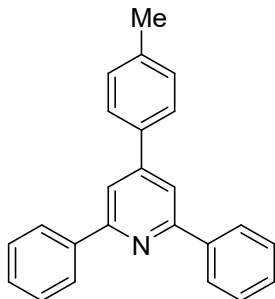


5-methyl-3-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (3 m): Yield 120 mg (75%), colourless liquid: BP > 200 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm: 2.57 (s, 3H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.95-7.98 (m, 2H); ¹³C

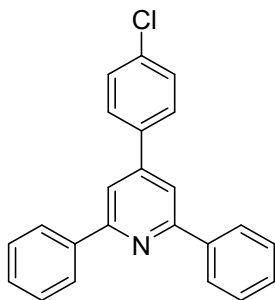
NMR δ 12.36, 126.82, 127.33, 128.84, 131.11, 168.35, 177.28; LCMS (ESI-APCI) $C_9H_8N_2O$ for: $161[M+H]^+$, Anal. Calcd for $C_9H_8N_2O$: C= 67.39, H= 5.09, N= 17.49.[2, 4]



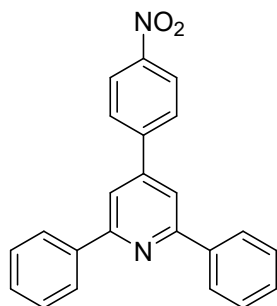
2,4,6-triphenylpyridine (6a): Yield 282 mg (92 %), white solid: MP 132-133 °C; **1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$)** δ ppm: 7.42-7.48 (m, 9H), 7.77 (d, 2H, $J= 7.2$ Hz), 8.136 (s, 2H), 8.28 (d, 4H, $J=7.8$ Hz); **^{13}C NMR** δ 117.16, 127.20, 127.23, 128.08, 128.76, 129.02, 129.10, 129.16, 139.11, 139.65, 150.23, 157.55.[5]



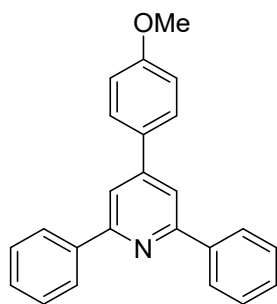
2,6-diphenyl-4-(p-tolyl)pyridine (6b): Yield 276 mg (86%), light yellow solid: MP 118-119 °C; **1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$)** δ ppm: 2.49 (s, 3H), 7.45-7.56 (m, 8H), 7.90 (d, 2H, $J= 7.2$ Hz), 8.11 (s, 2H), 8.23 (d, 4H, $J= 7.8$ Hz); **^{13}C NMR** δ 21.01, 116.36, 126.65, 127.98, 128.08, 128.47, 129.21, 137.92, 139.22, 140.56, 150.42, 157.37.[6]



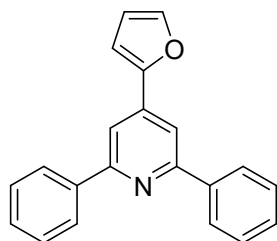
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (6c): Yield 317 mg (93%), white solid: MP 121-123 °C; **1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$)** δ ppm: 7.39-7.48 (m, 8H), 7.80 (d, 2H, $J= 7.2$ Hz), 8.13 (s, 2H), 8.30 (d, 4H, $J= 7.8$ Hz); **^{13}C NMR** δ 116.59, 127.15, 128.07, 128.41, 128.67, 129.04, 129.42, 138.91, 139.77, 148.77, 157.45.[5]



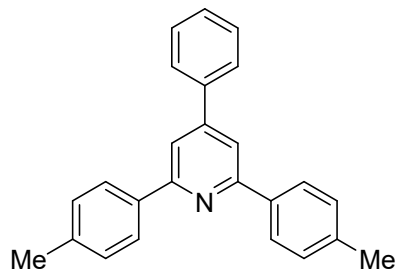
4-(4-nitrophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (6d): Yield 310 mg (88%), off white solid: MP 192-193 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 7.46-7.56 (m, 8H), 7.89 (d, 2H, $J=8.1\text{Hz}$), 8.21 (s, 2H), 8.40 (d, 4H, $J=7.8\text{Hz}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ 116.42, 123.85, 126.64, 127.67, 128.31, 128.93, 133.11, 133.65, 143.53, 147.37, 157.52.[5]



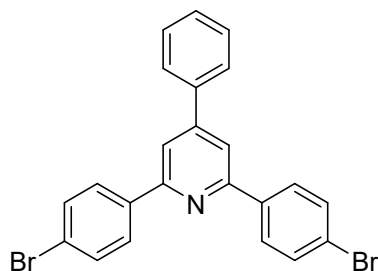
4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (6e): Yield 280 mg (83%), white solid: MP 100-102 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 3.74 (s, 3H), 7.10 (d, 2H, $J=7.8\text{ Hz}$), 7.29-7.51 (m, 8H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.92 (d, 4H, $J=6.9\text{ Hz}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ 54.90, 119.35, 127.16, 127.92, 128.06, 129.73, 132.04, 138.05, 140.37, 144.18, 151.72, 161.22.[5]



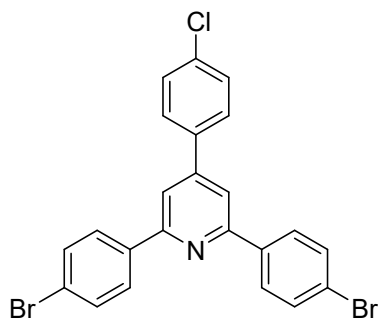
4-(furan-2-yl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (6f): Yield 231 mg (78%), light brown solid: MP 112-113 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 6.56 (d, 1H, $J=1.5\text{Hz}$), 6.96 (d, 1H, $J=3\text{Hz}$), 7.44-7.58 (m, 7H), 7.92 (s, 2H), 8.19 (d, 4H, $J=8.1\text{ Hz}$); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ δ 107.96, 111.61, 112.51, 126.58, 128.18, 128.59, 138.57, 138.99, 143.12, 151.51, 157.03.[5]



4-phenyl-2,6-di-p-tolylpyridine (6g): Yield 291 mg (87%), white solid: MP 152-154 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 2.37 (s, 6H), 7.21 (d, 4H, $J=7.2\text{Hz}$), 7.38-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.61-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.74 (s, 2H), 7.99 (d, 4H, $J=8.1\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR δ 21.40, 116.56, 127.05, 127.23, 128.54, 128.92, 129.12, 136.94, 139.00, 139.30, 150.04, 157.43.[5]

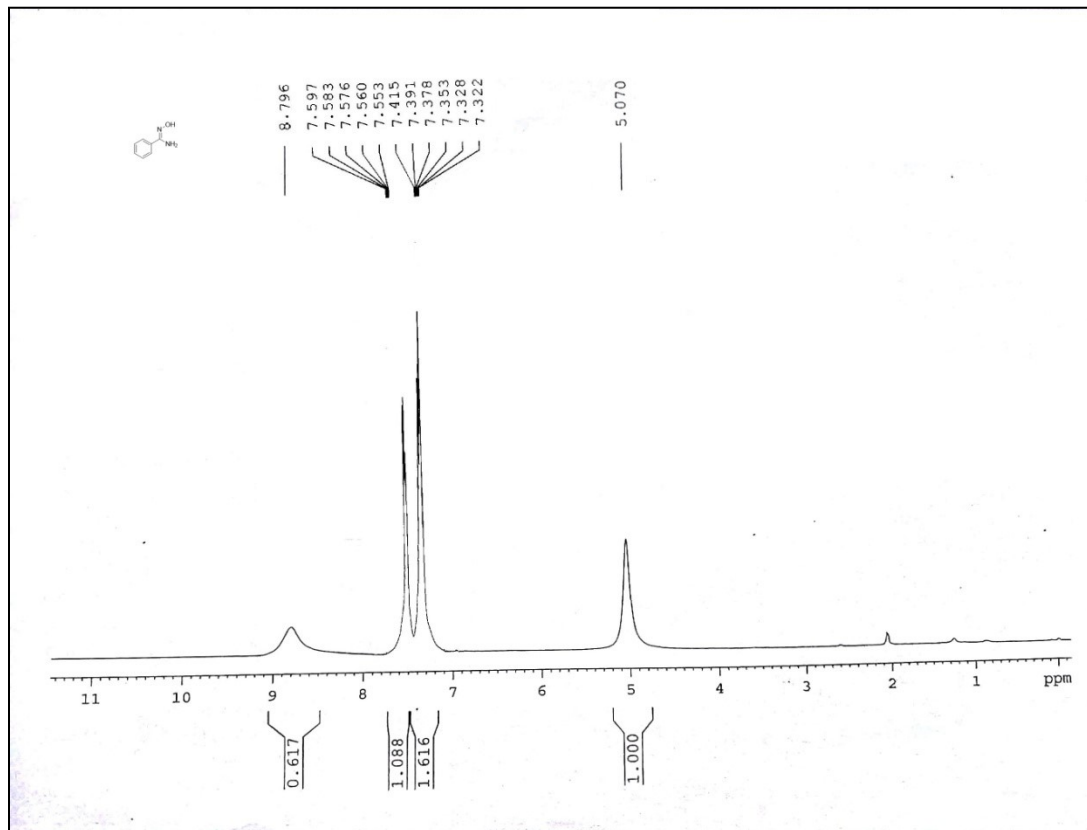


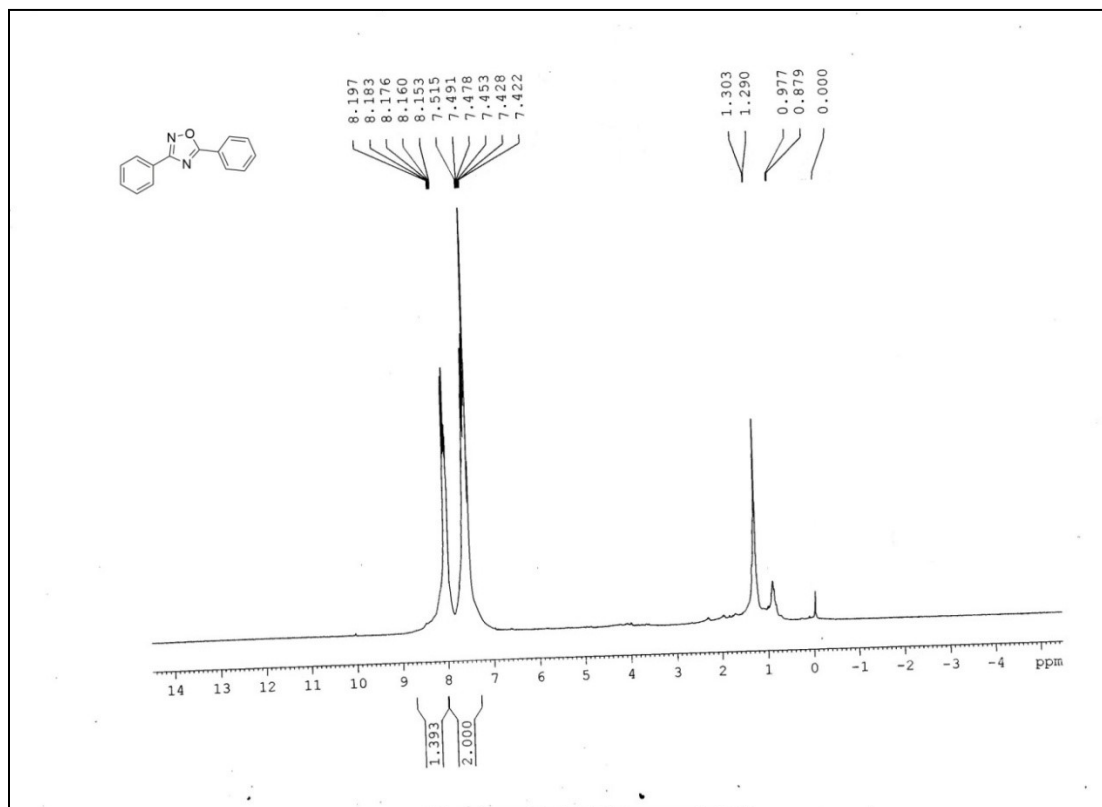
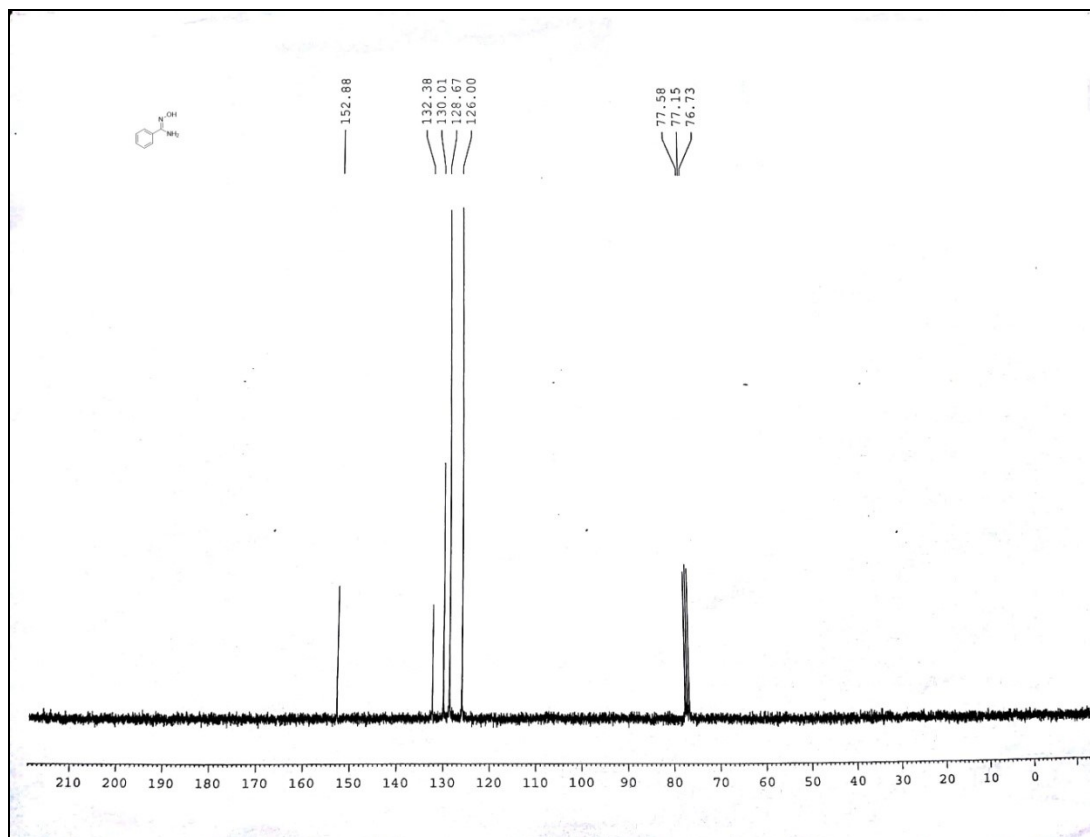
2,6-bis(4-bromophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (6h): Yield 418 mg (90%), white solid: MP 105-106 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 7.09-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.49 (s, 2H), 7.76 (d, 4H, $J=7.8\text{ Hz}$), 8.10 (d, 4H, $J=8.1\text{ Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR δ 116.46, 123.05, 127.05, 128.40, 128.94, 129.49, 132.94, 135.19, 139.60, 149.07, 154.16.[6]

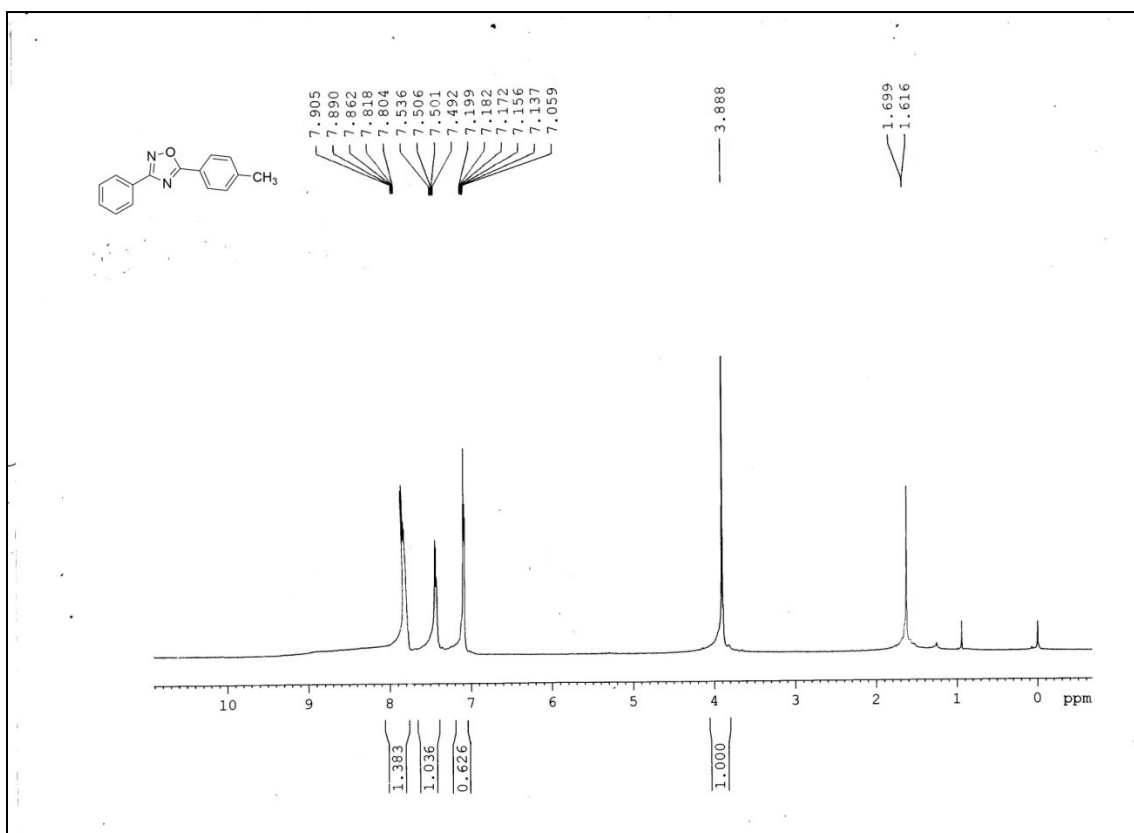
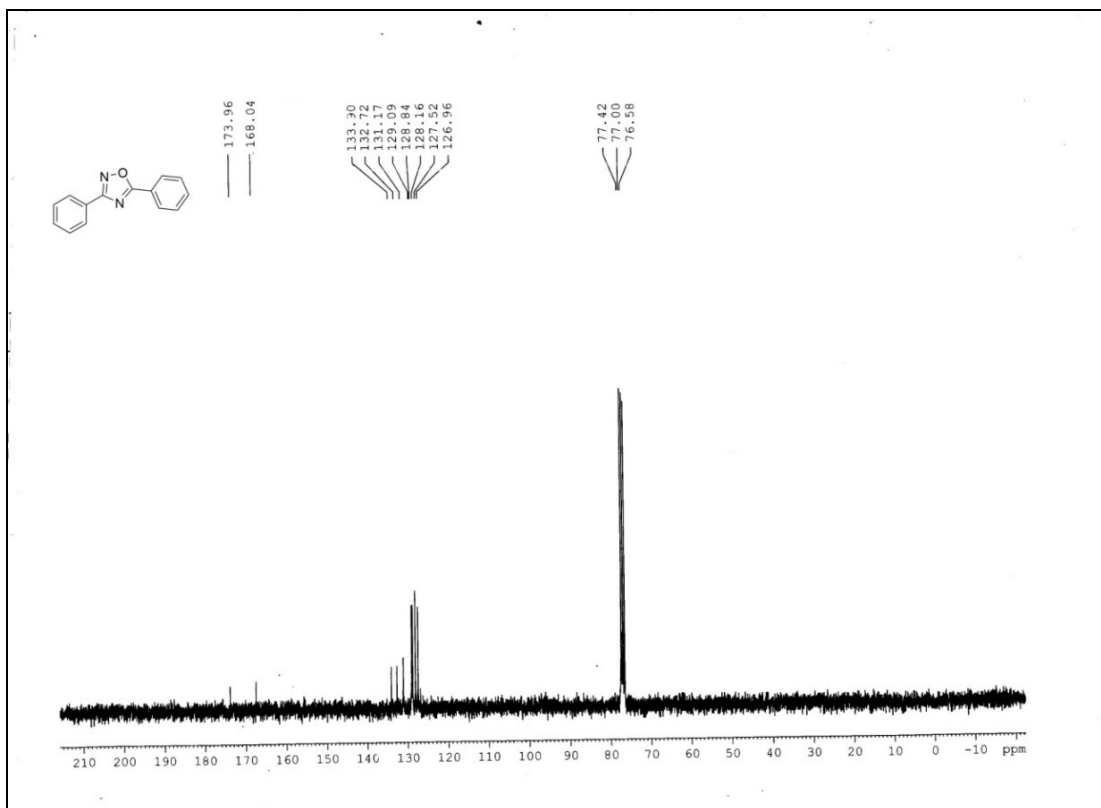


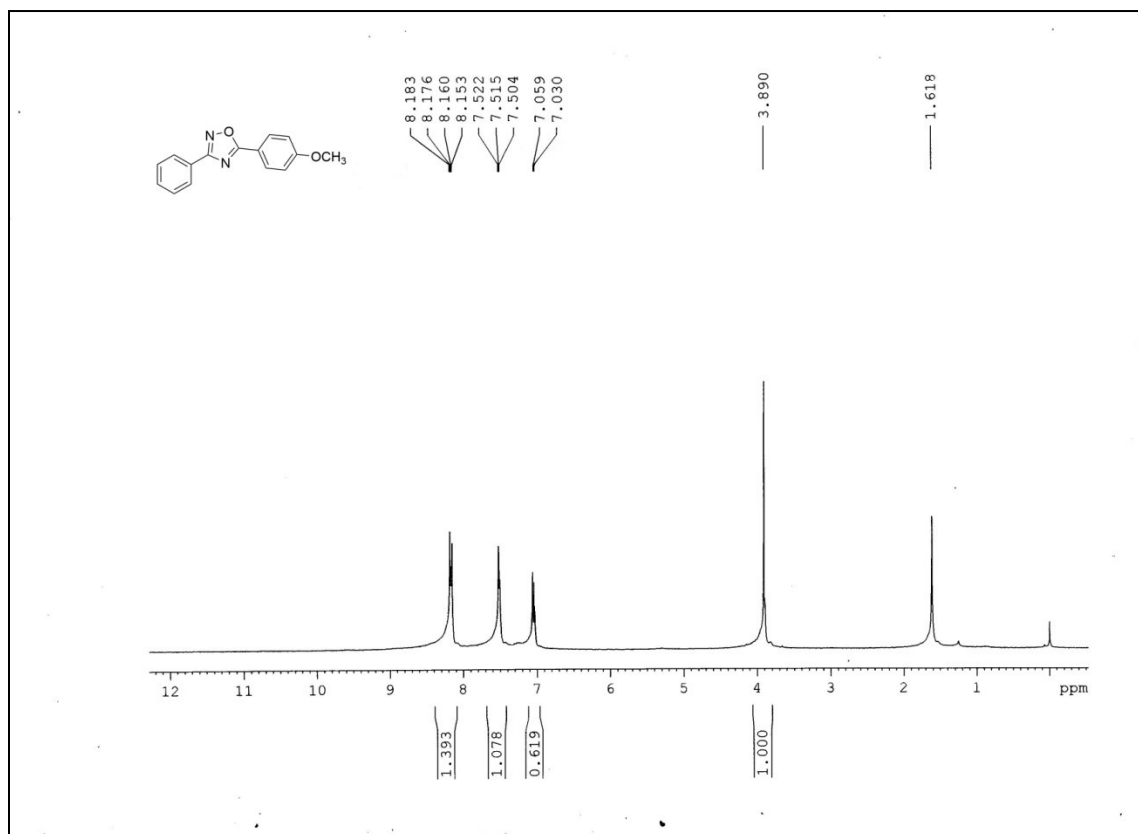
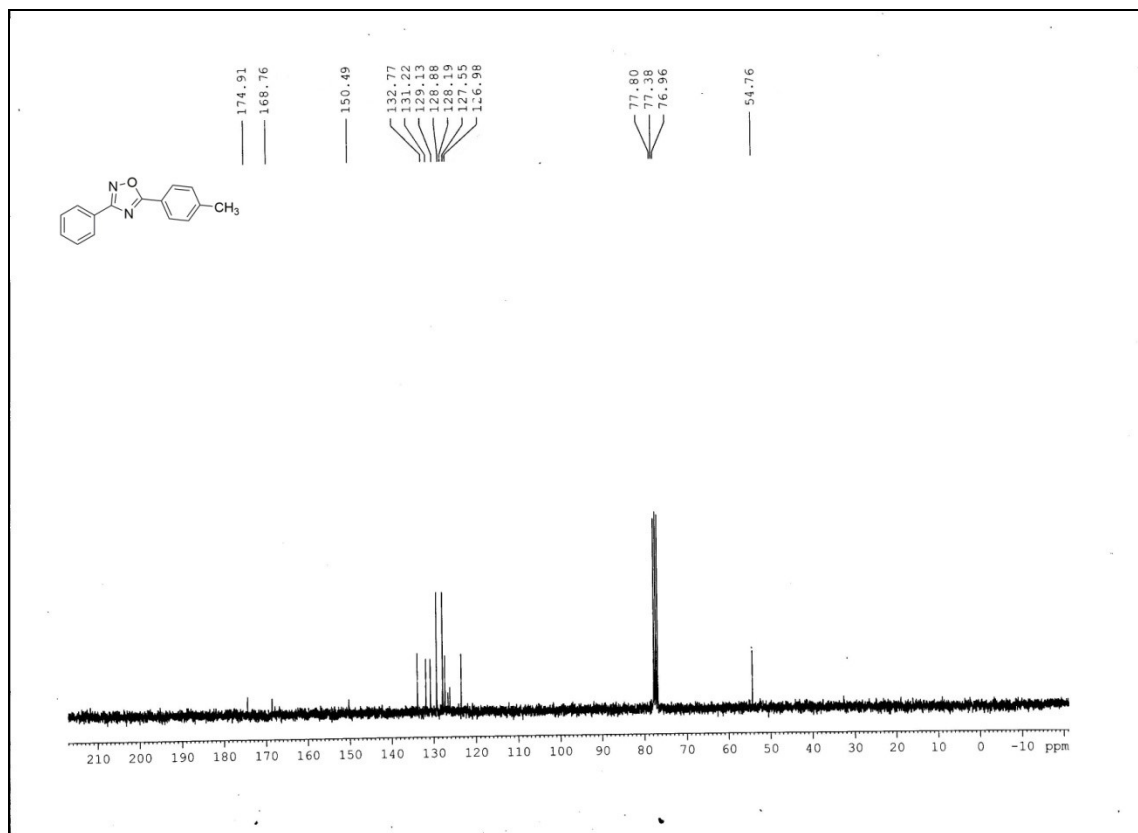
2,6-bis(4-bromophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)pyridine (6i): Yield 469 mg (94%), white solid: MP > 250 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ ppm: 7.02-7.06 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, 2H, $J=7.2\text{ Hz}$), 7.73 (d, 2H, $J=7.5\text{ Hz}$), 7.87 (s, 2H), 8.13 (d, 4H, $J=8.4\text{ Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR δ 116.32, 122.89, 128.68, 128.87, 129.10, 130.59, 137.58, 138.07, 149.38, 156.62.[7]

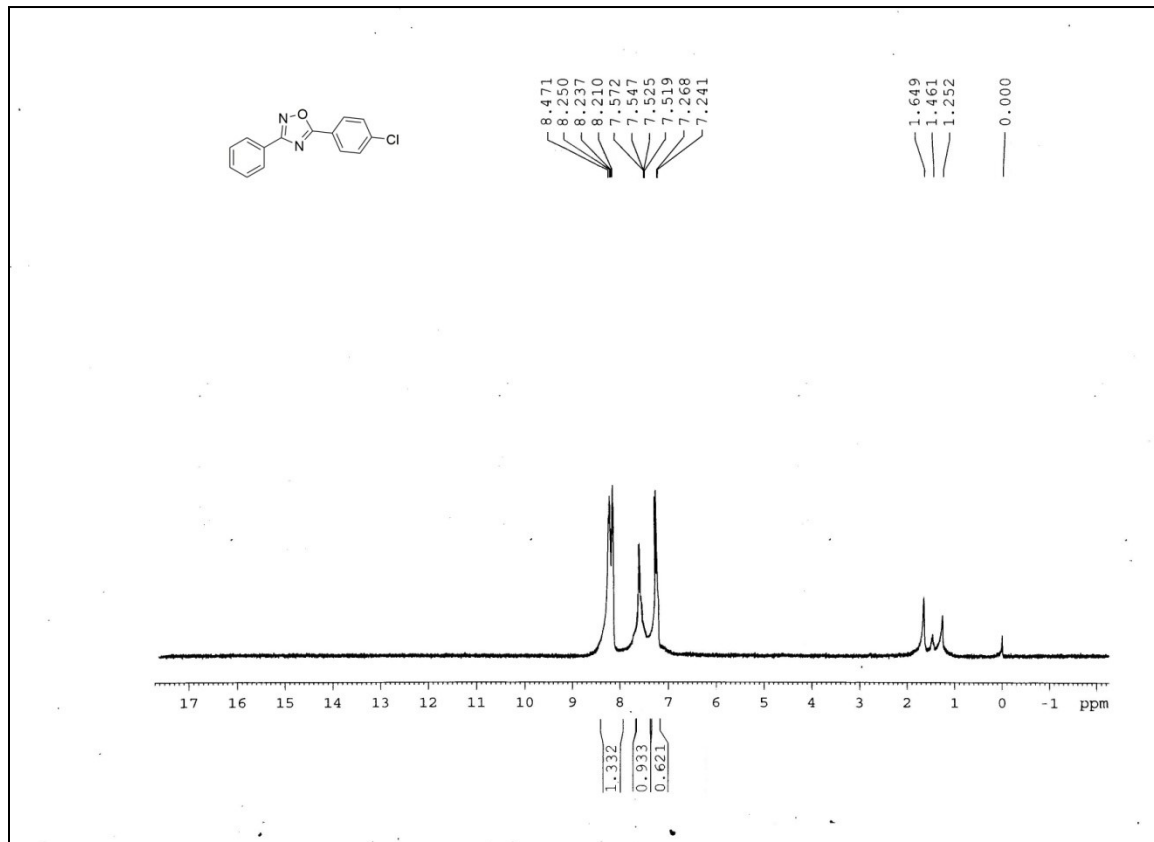
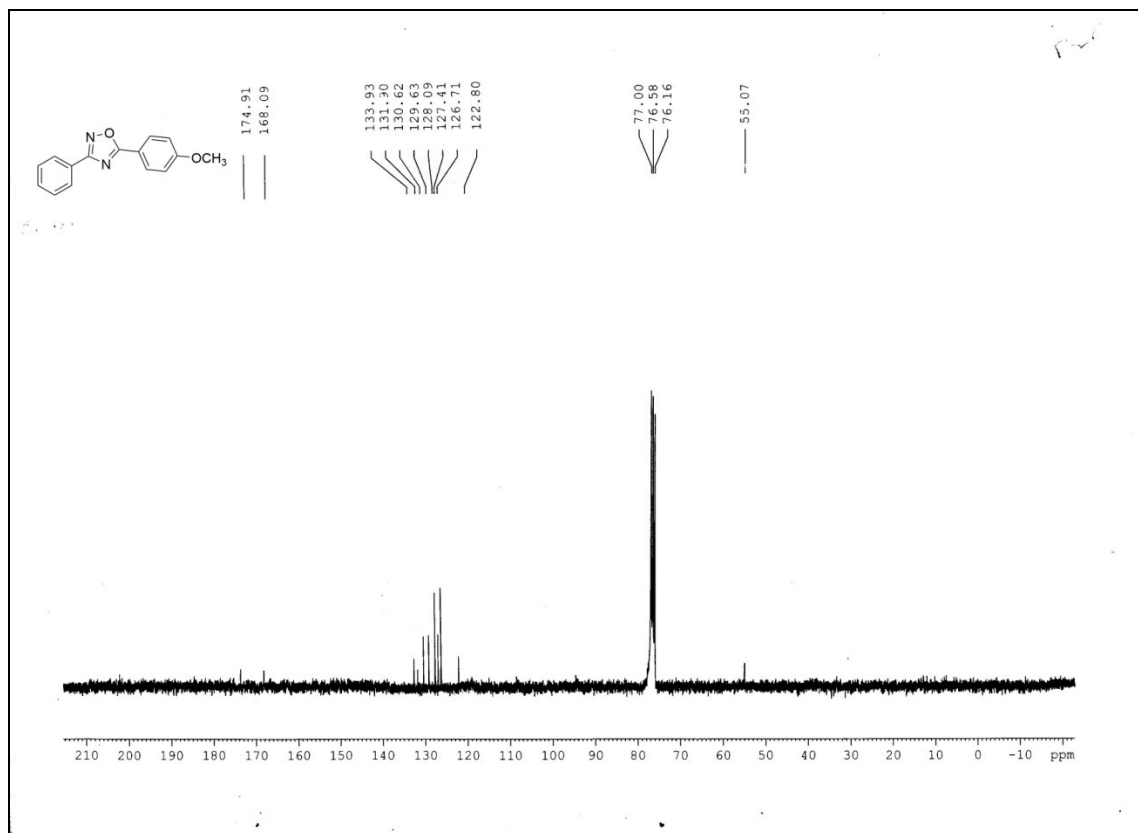
6. Scanned copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of synthesized compounds

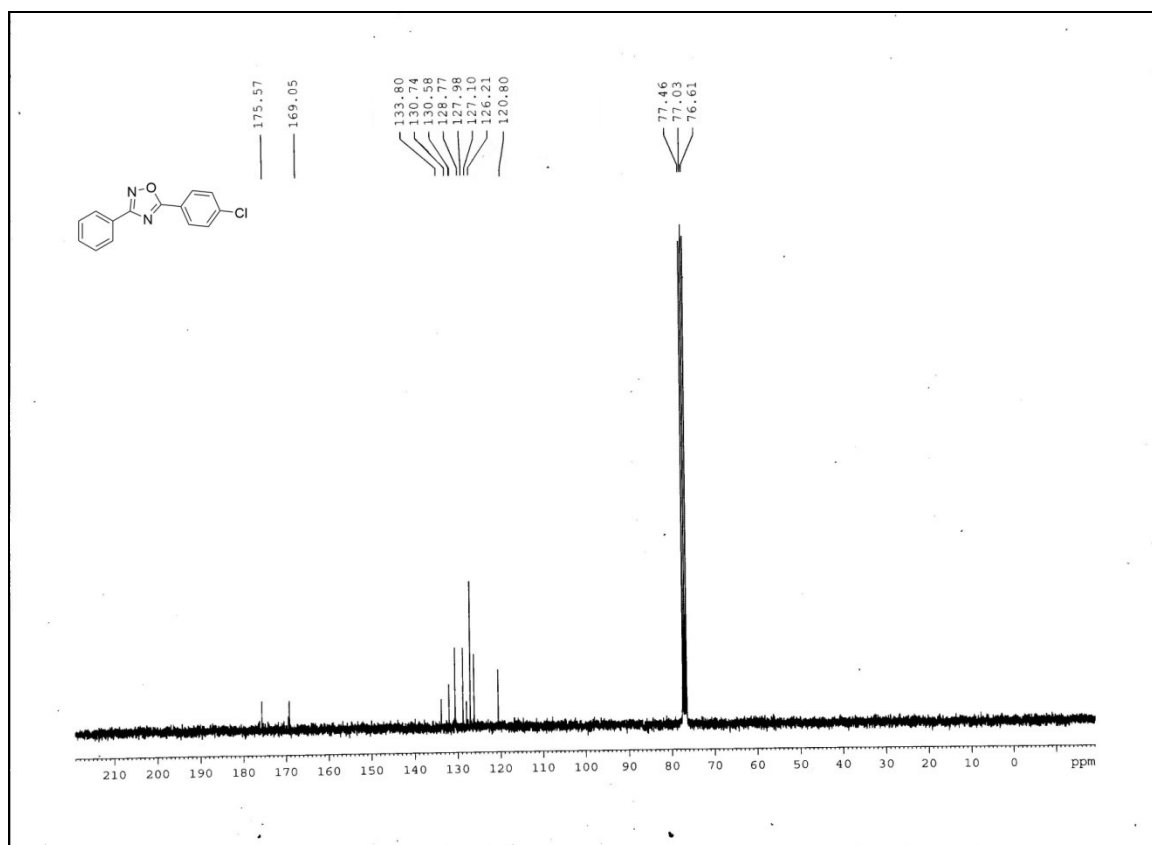


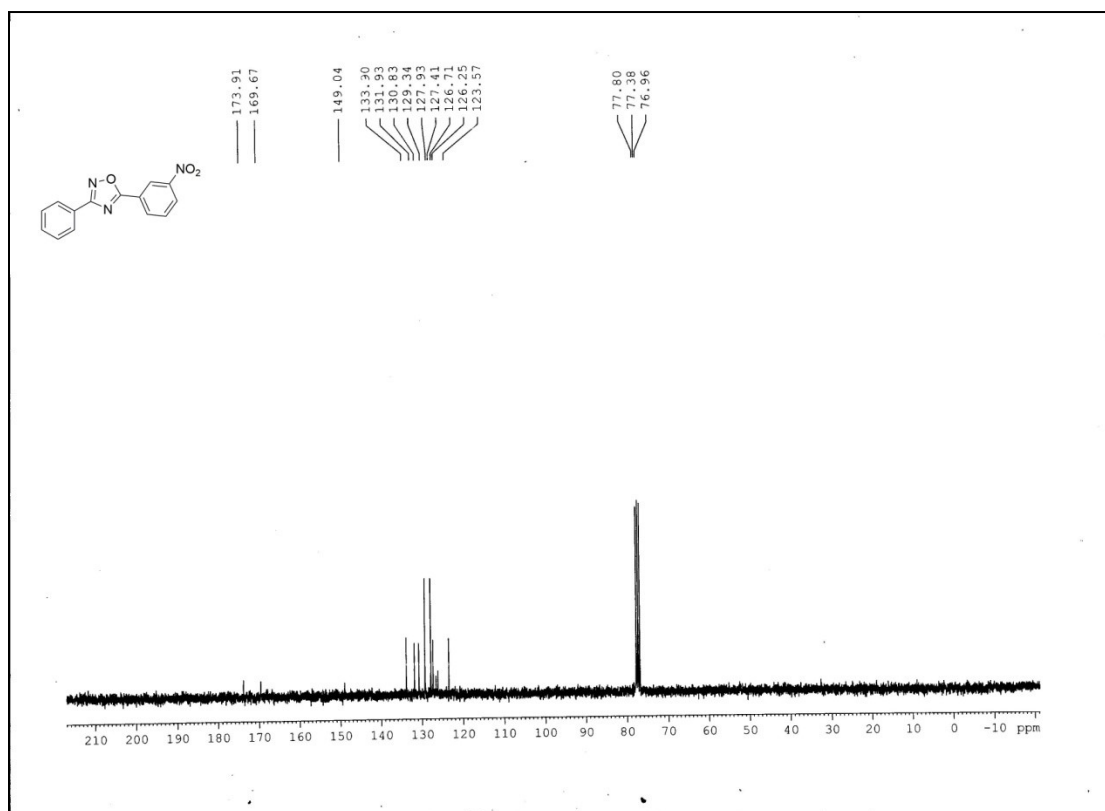
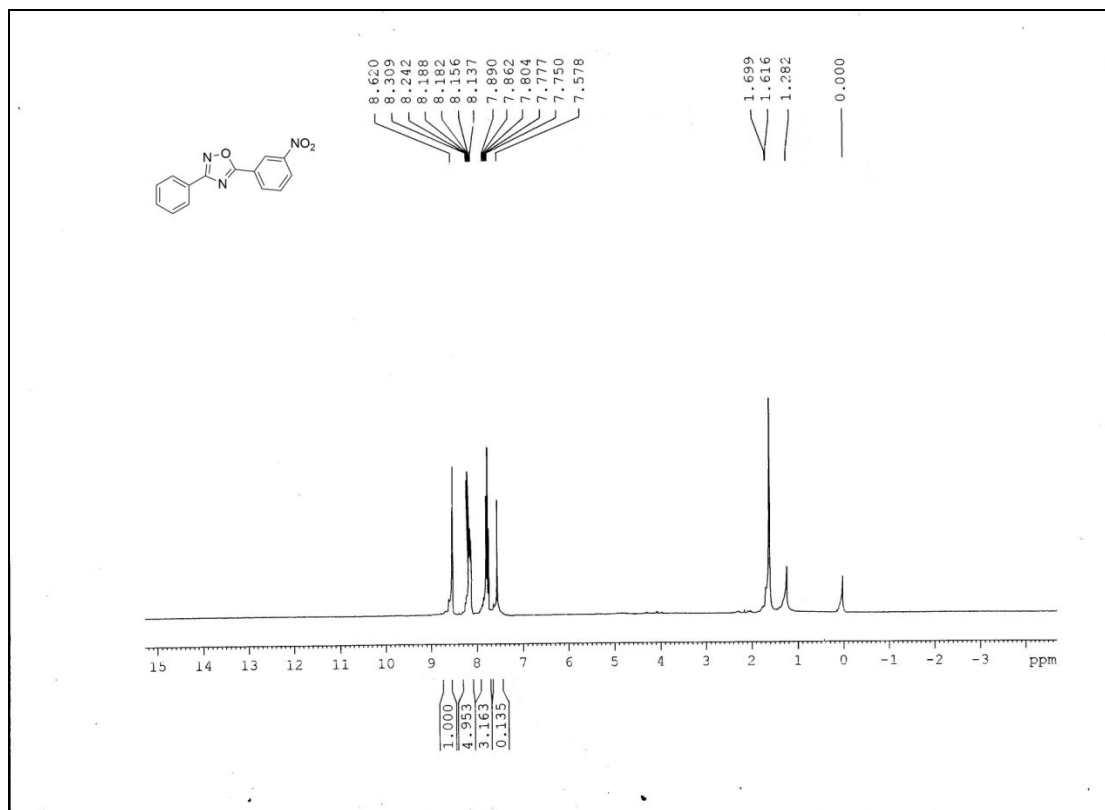


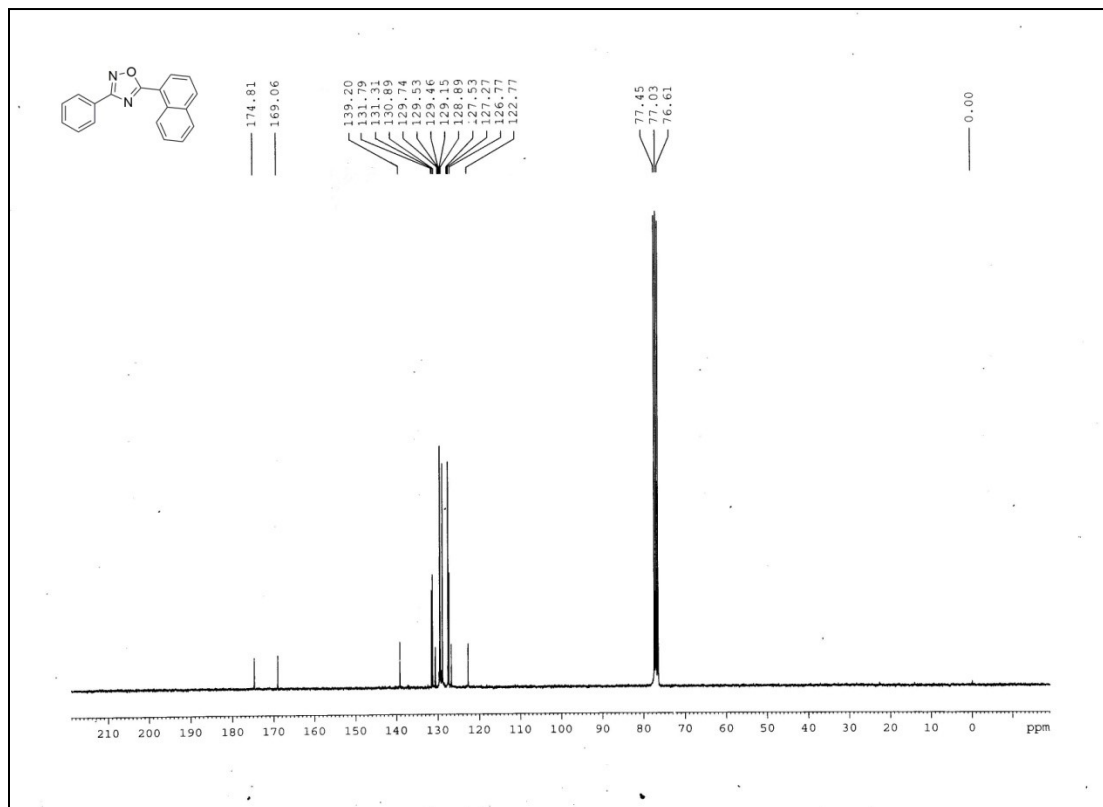
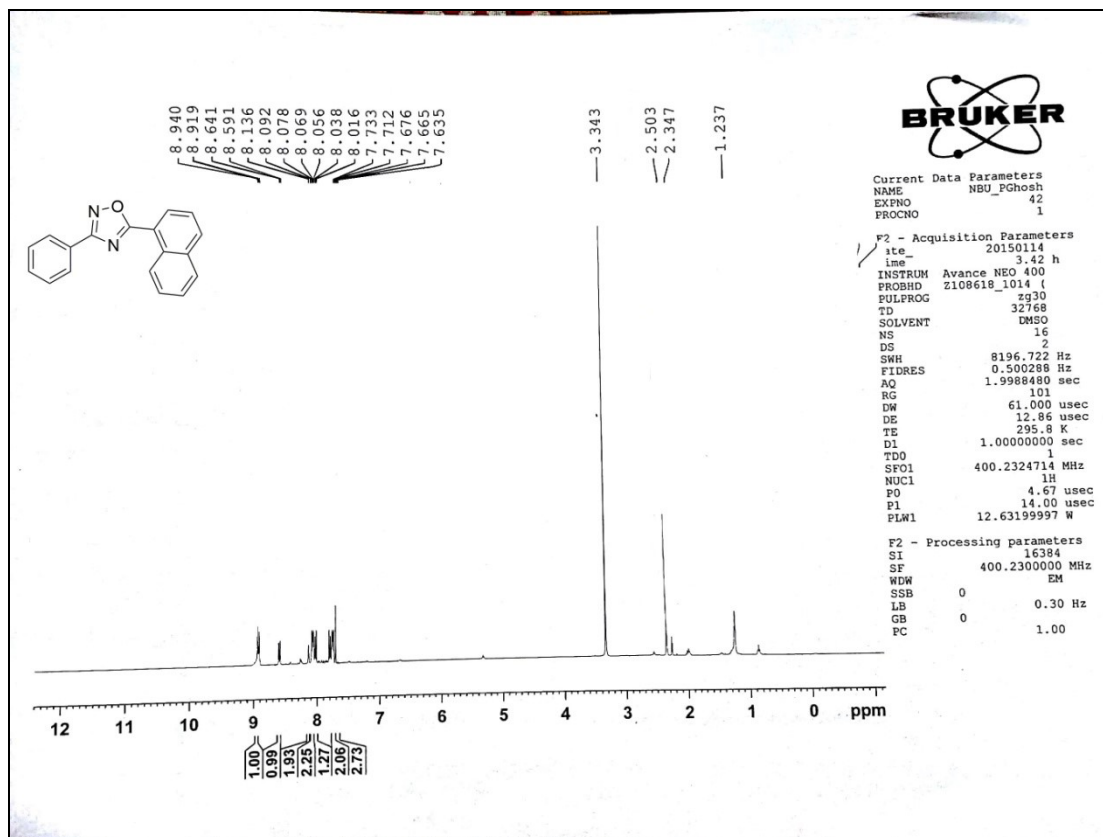


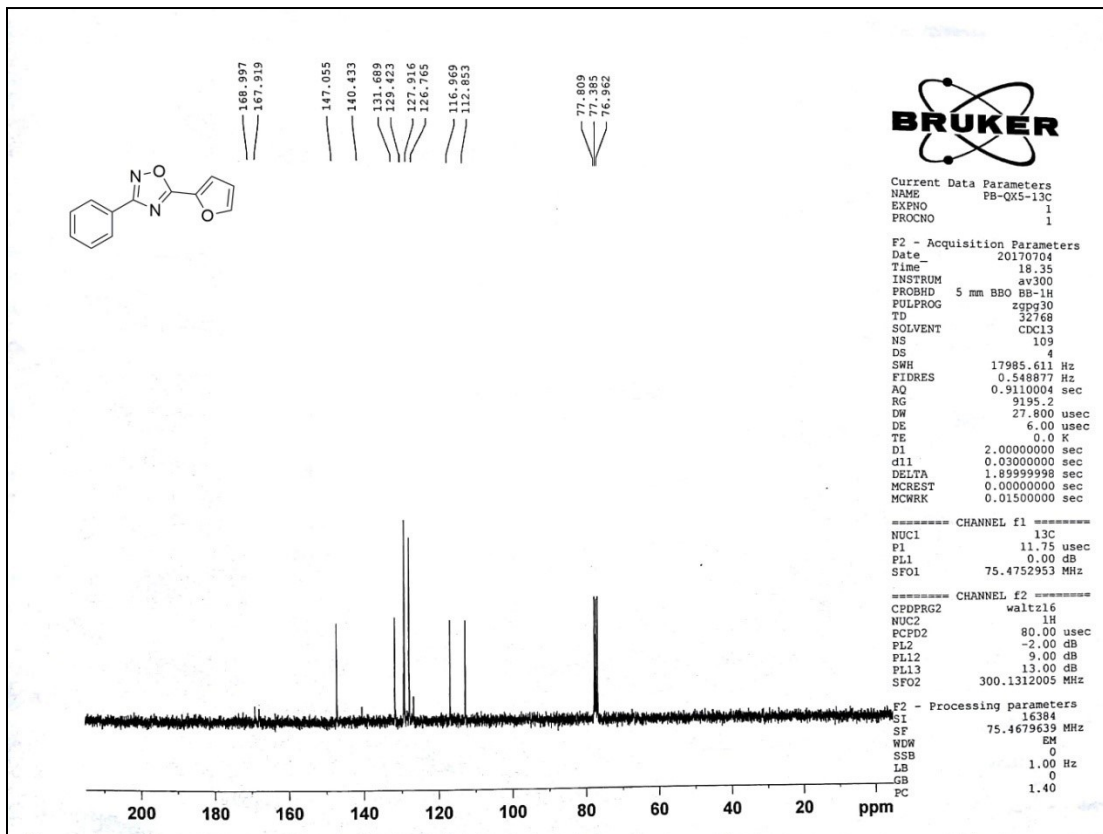
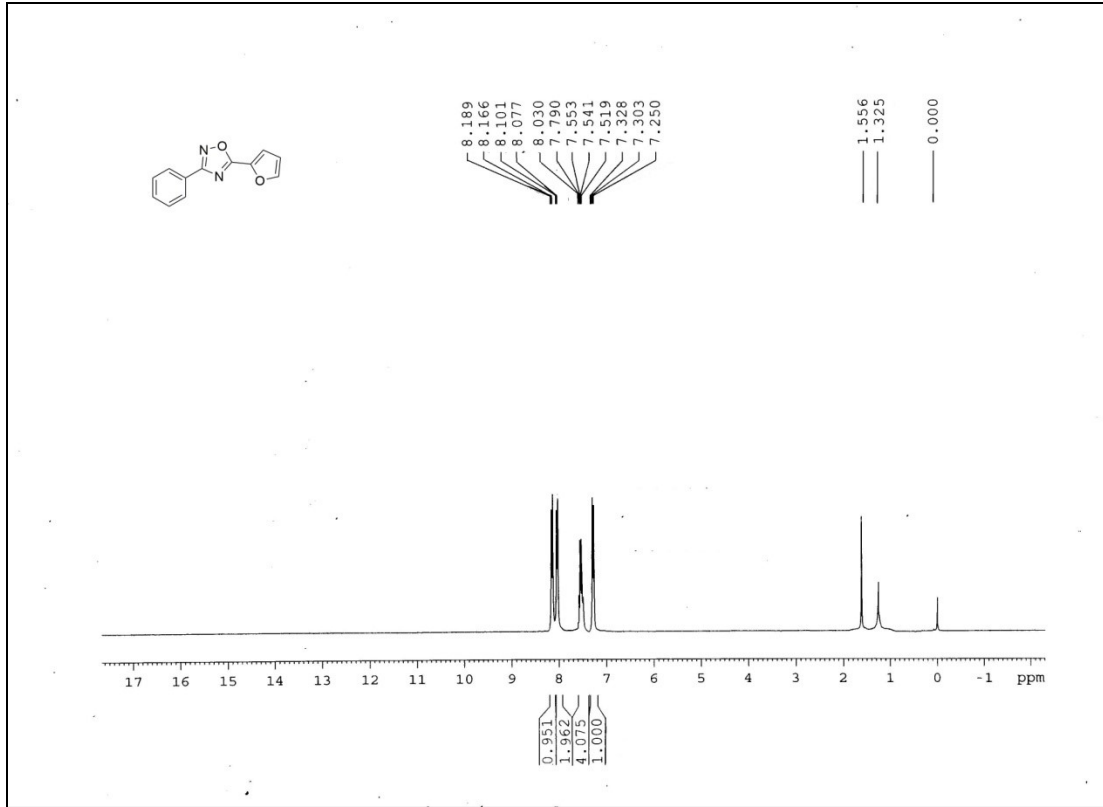


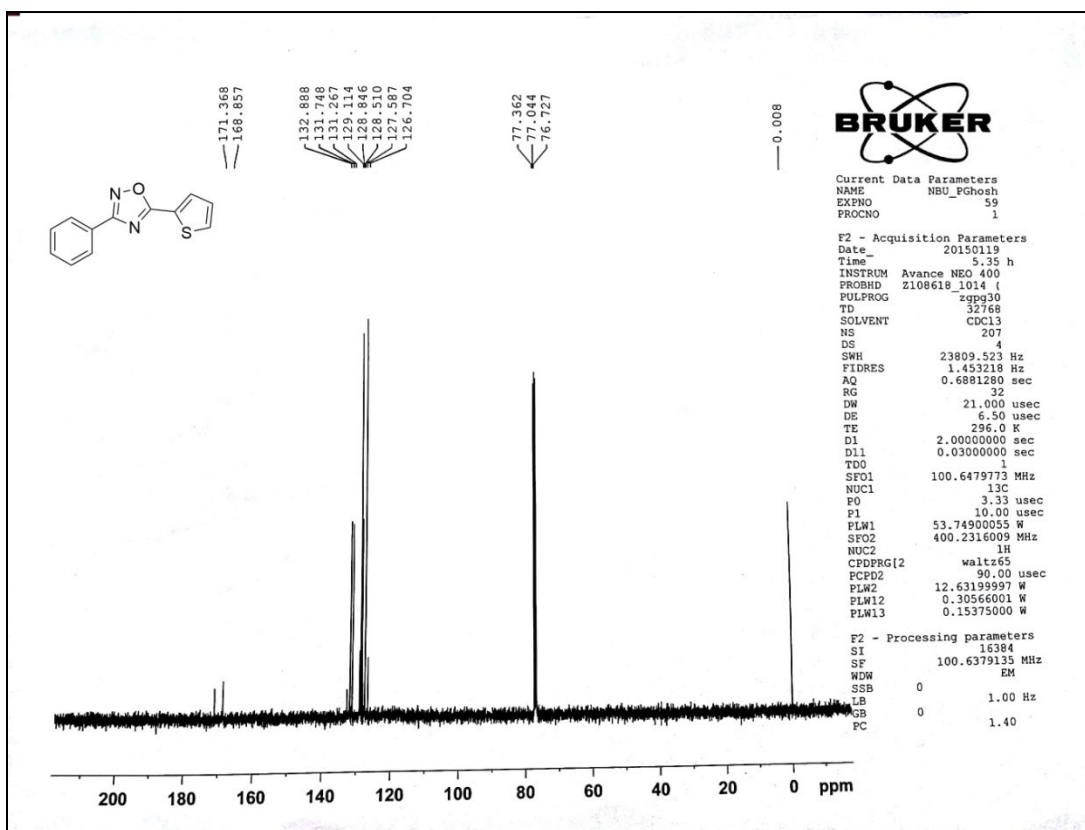
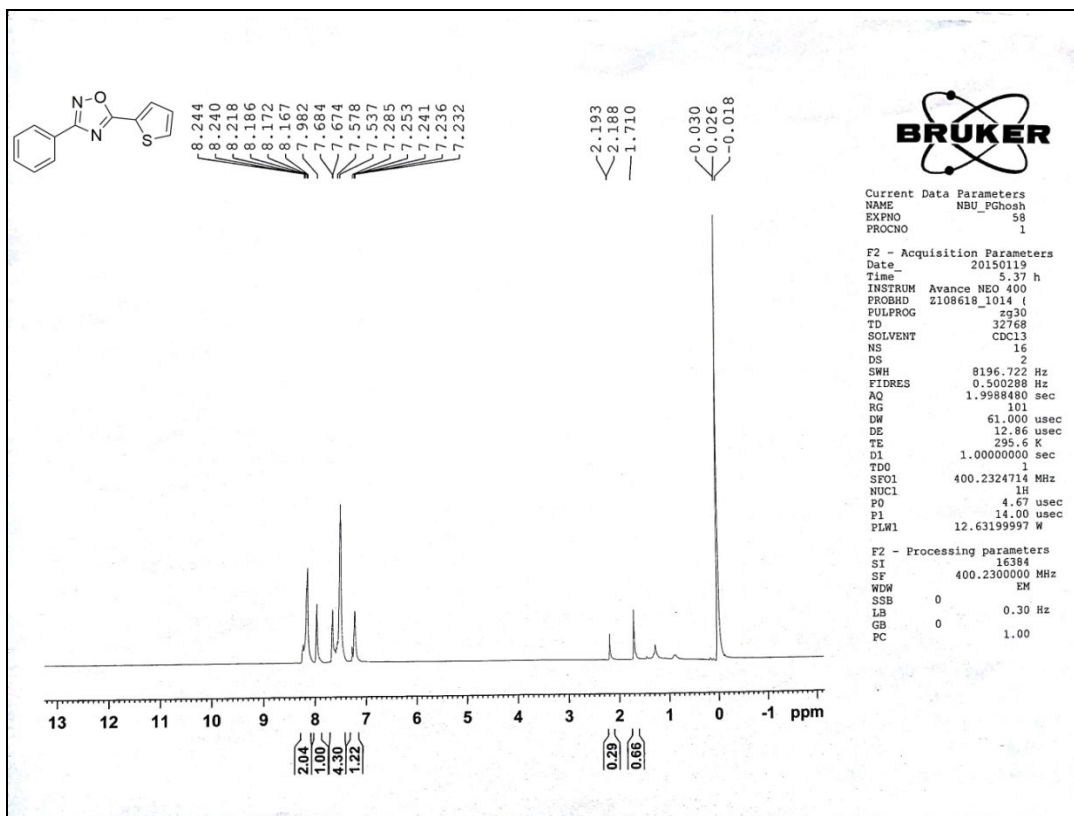


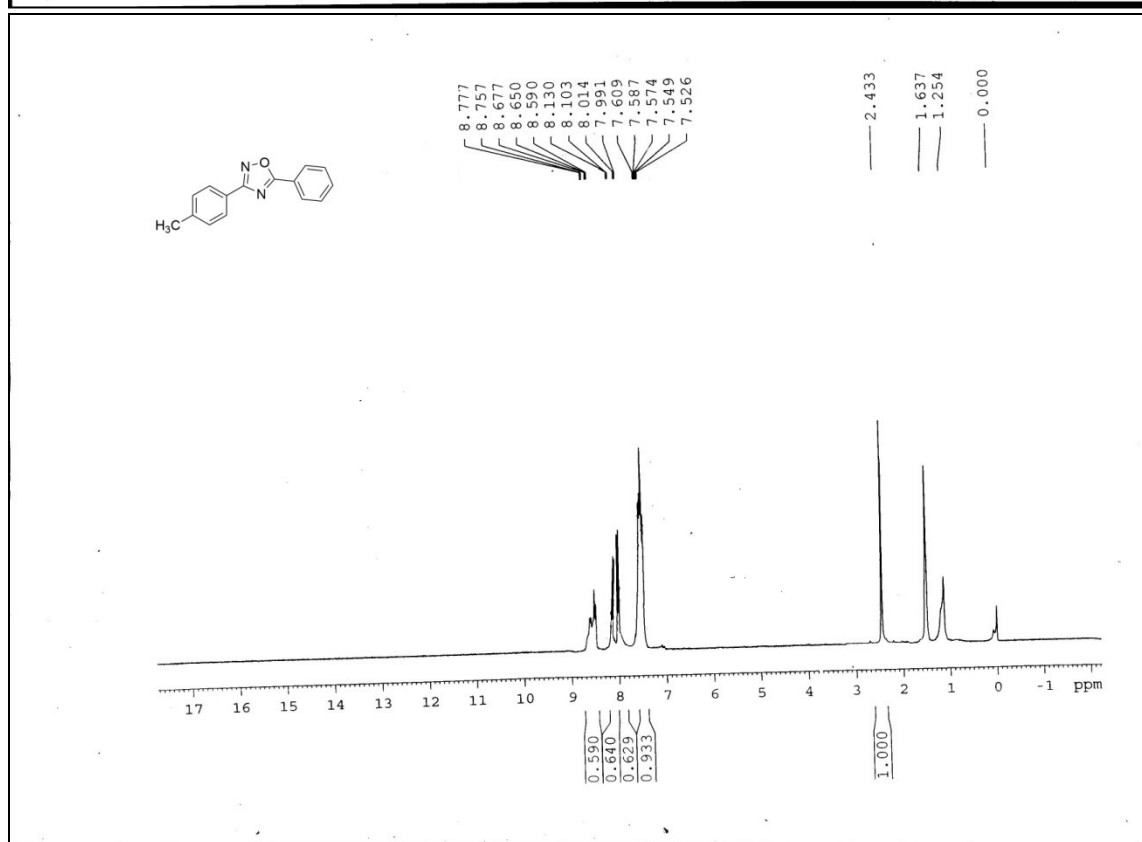
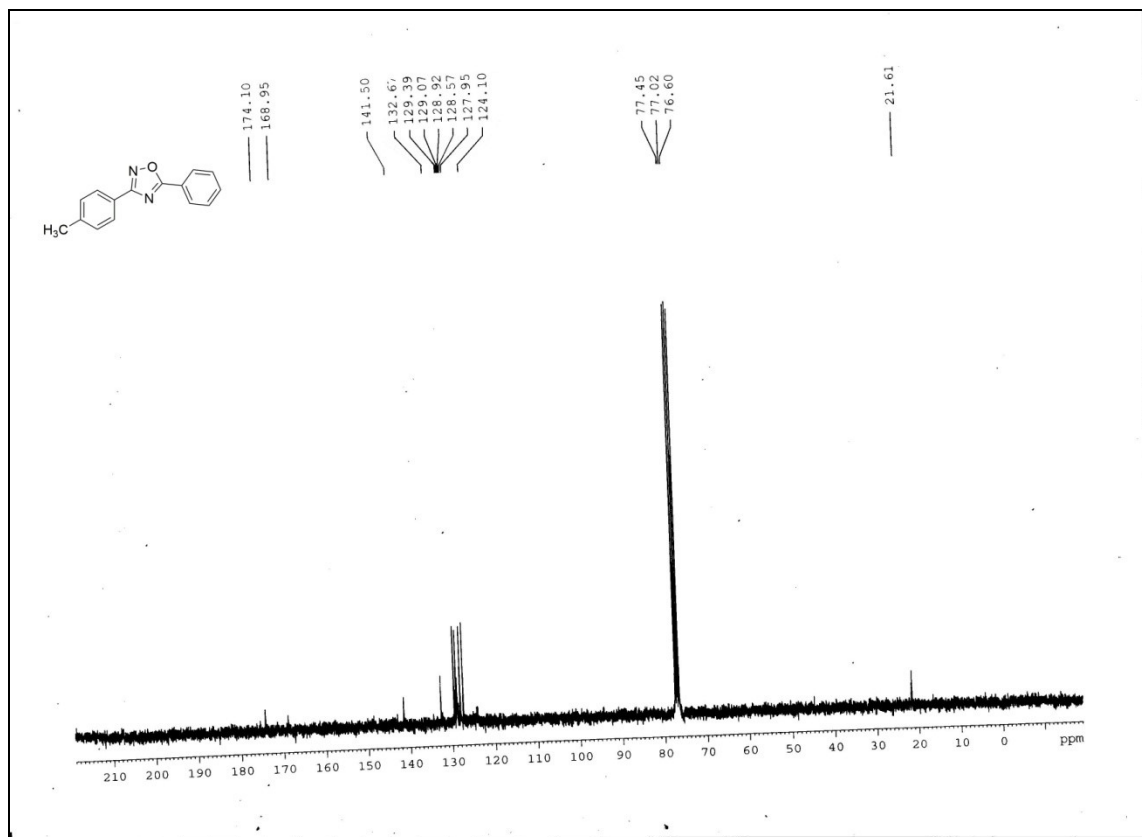


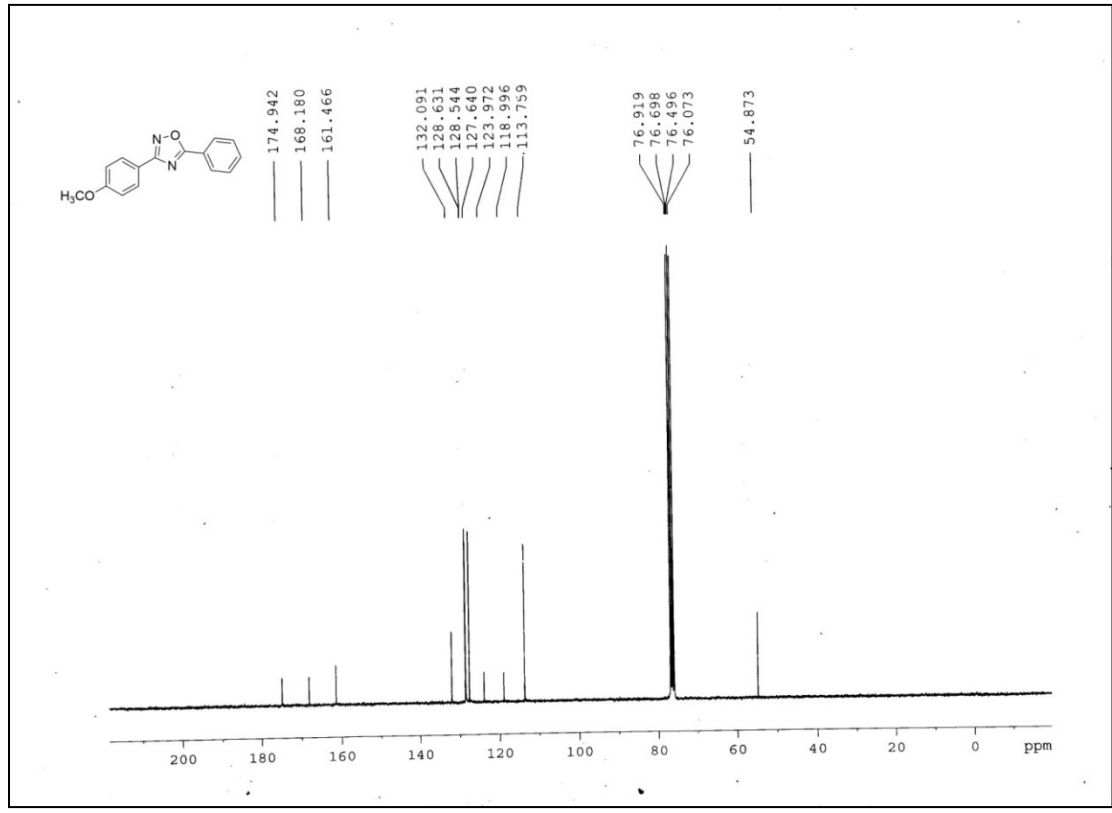
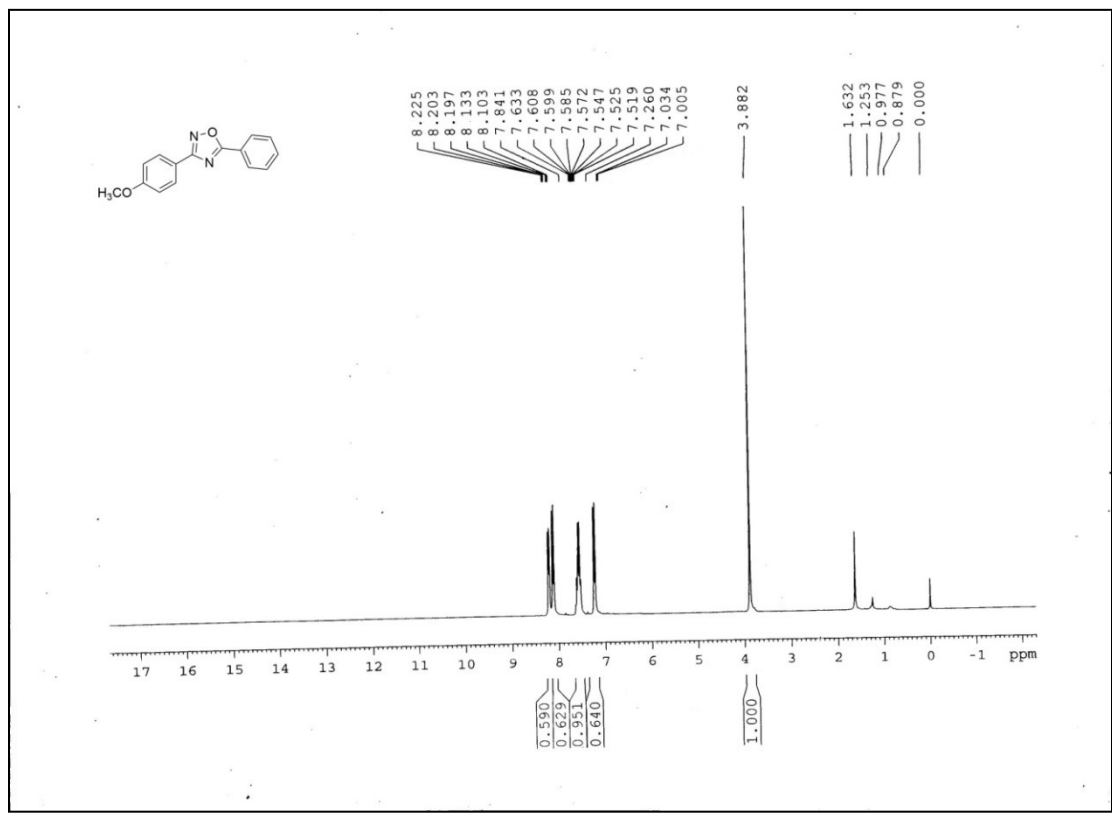


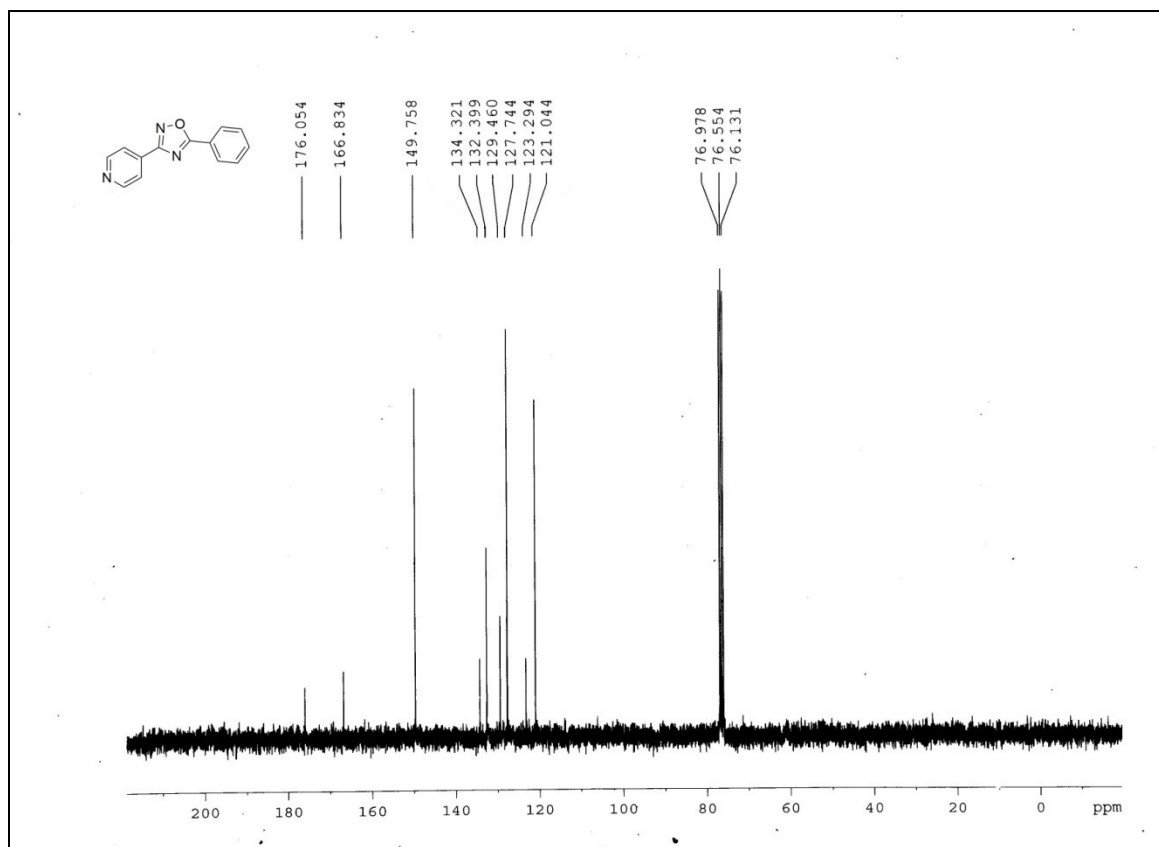
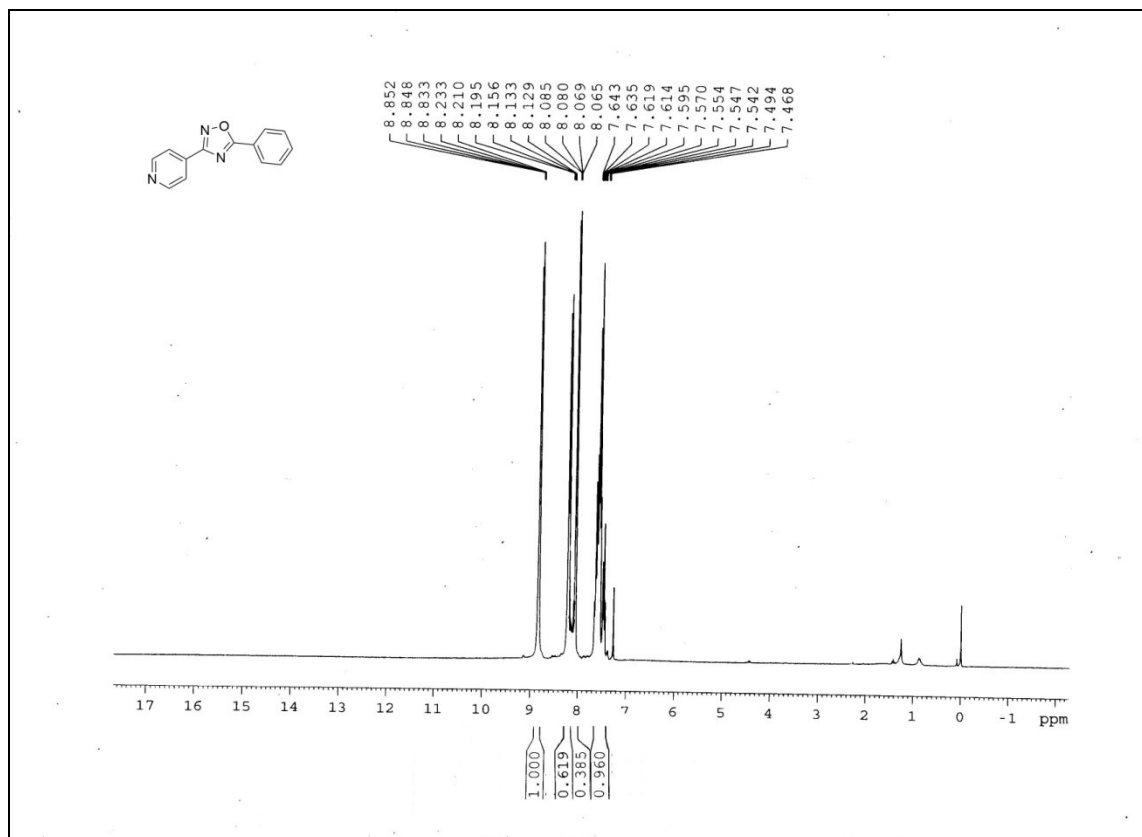


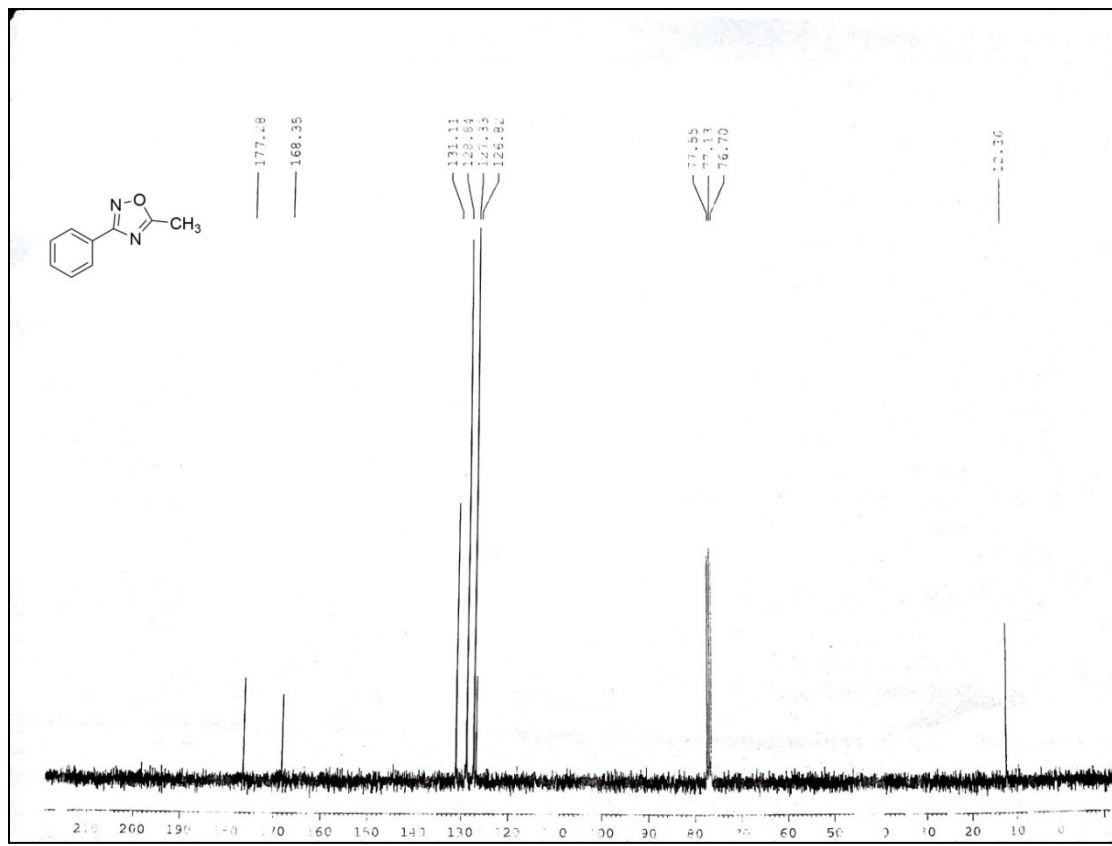
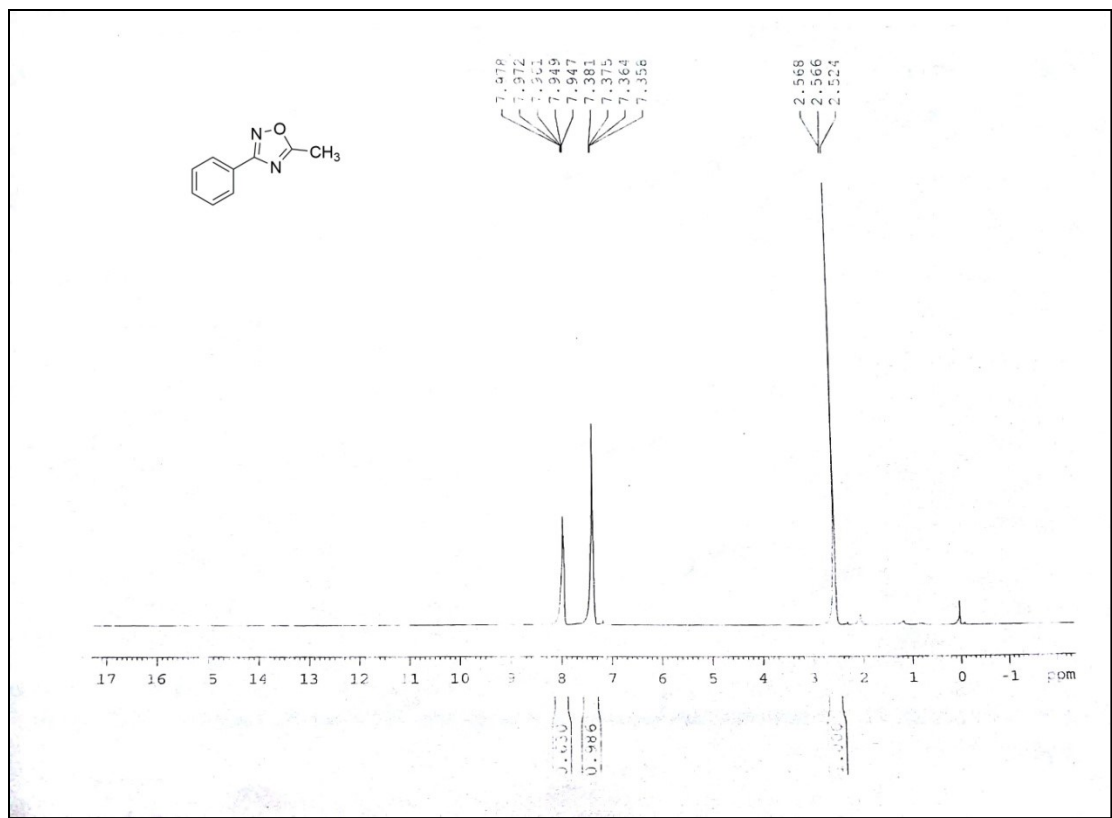


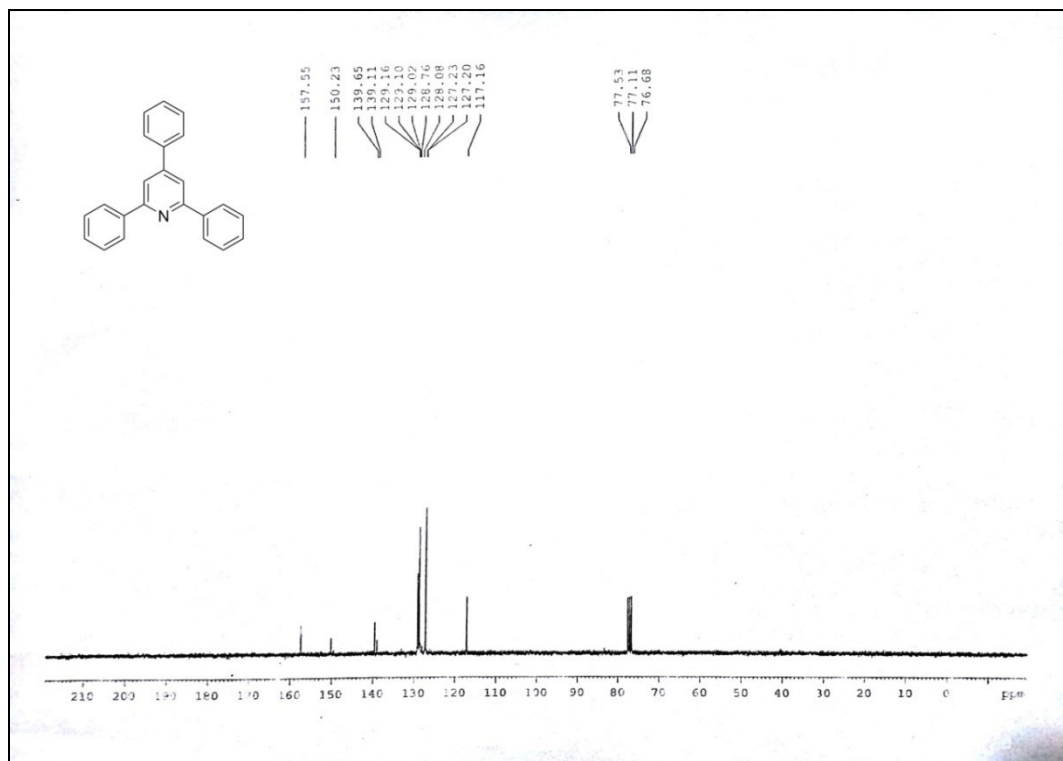
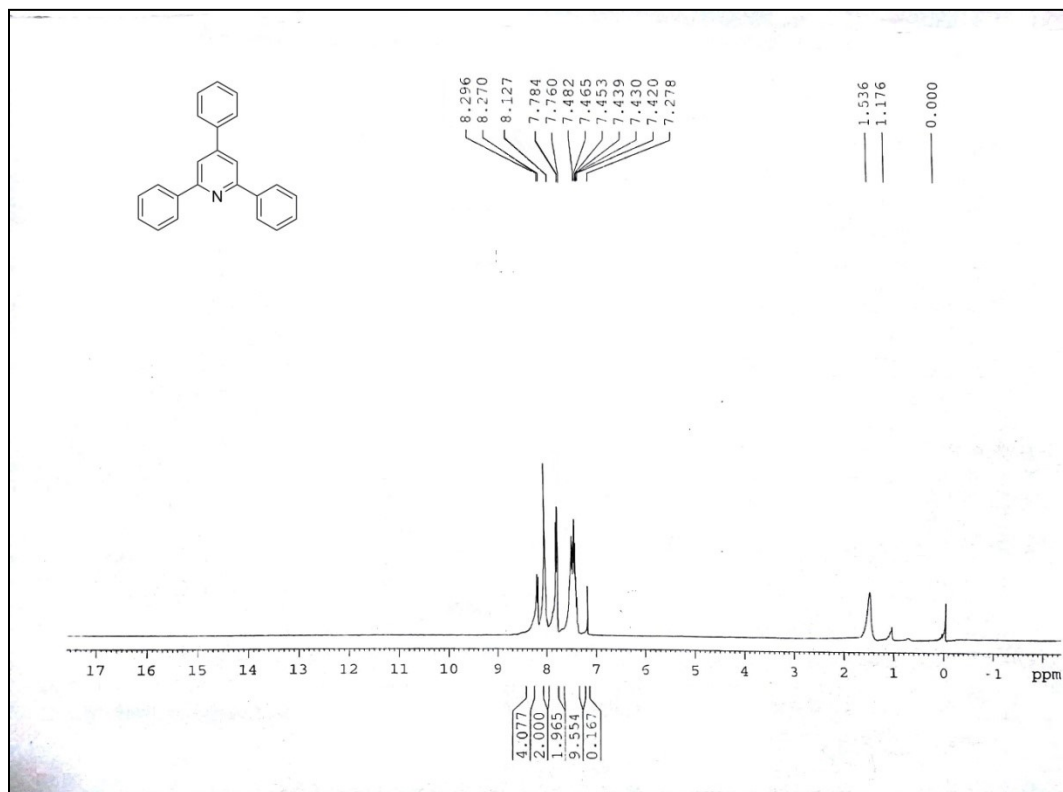


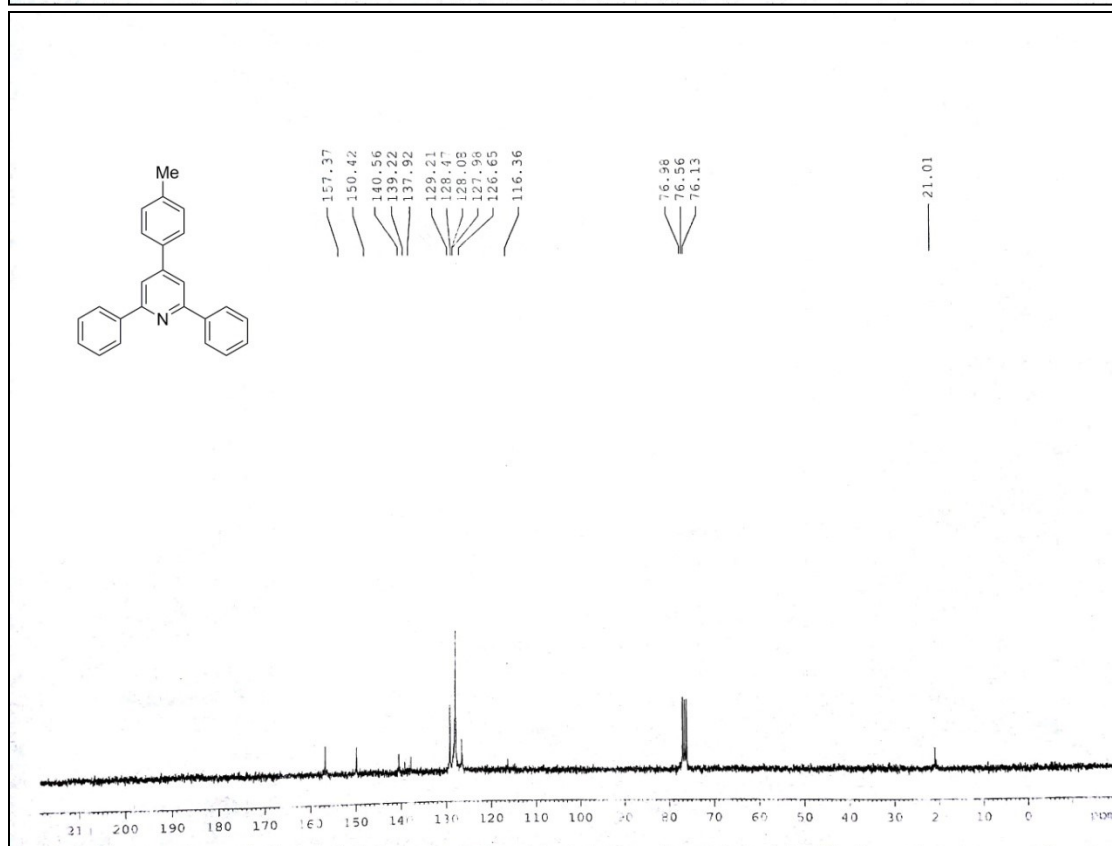
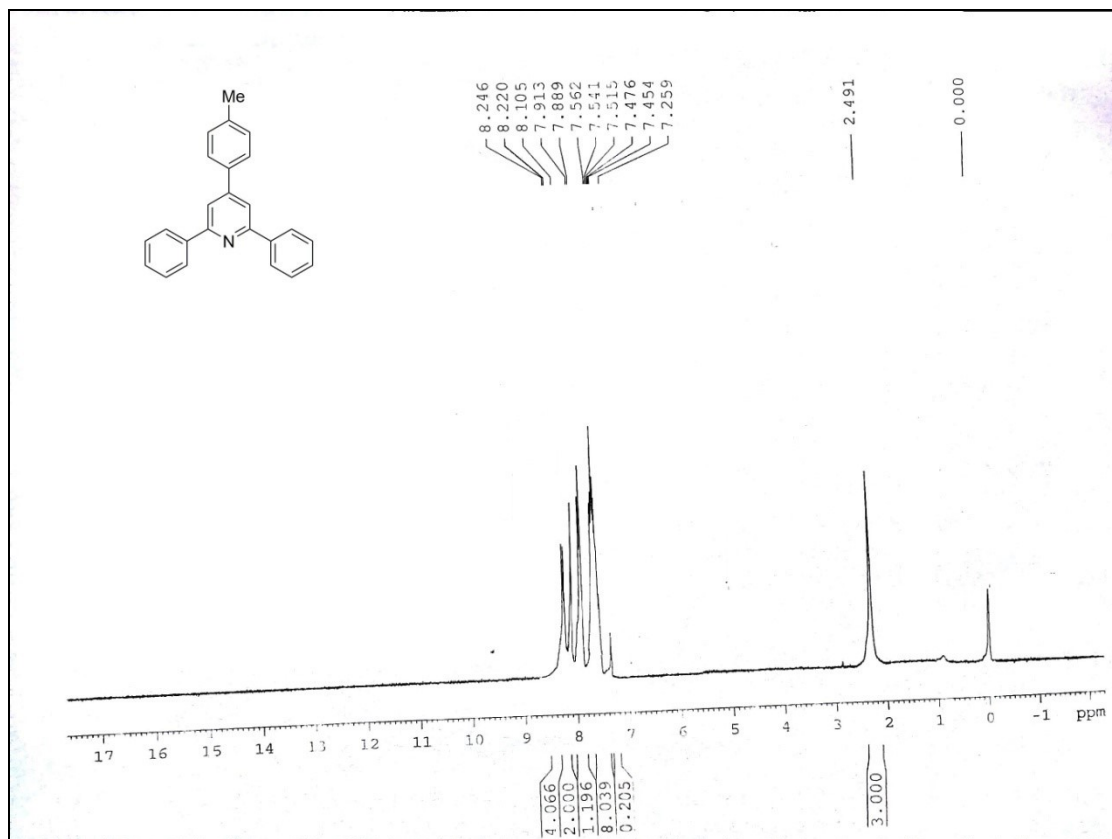


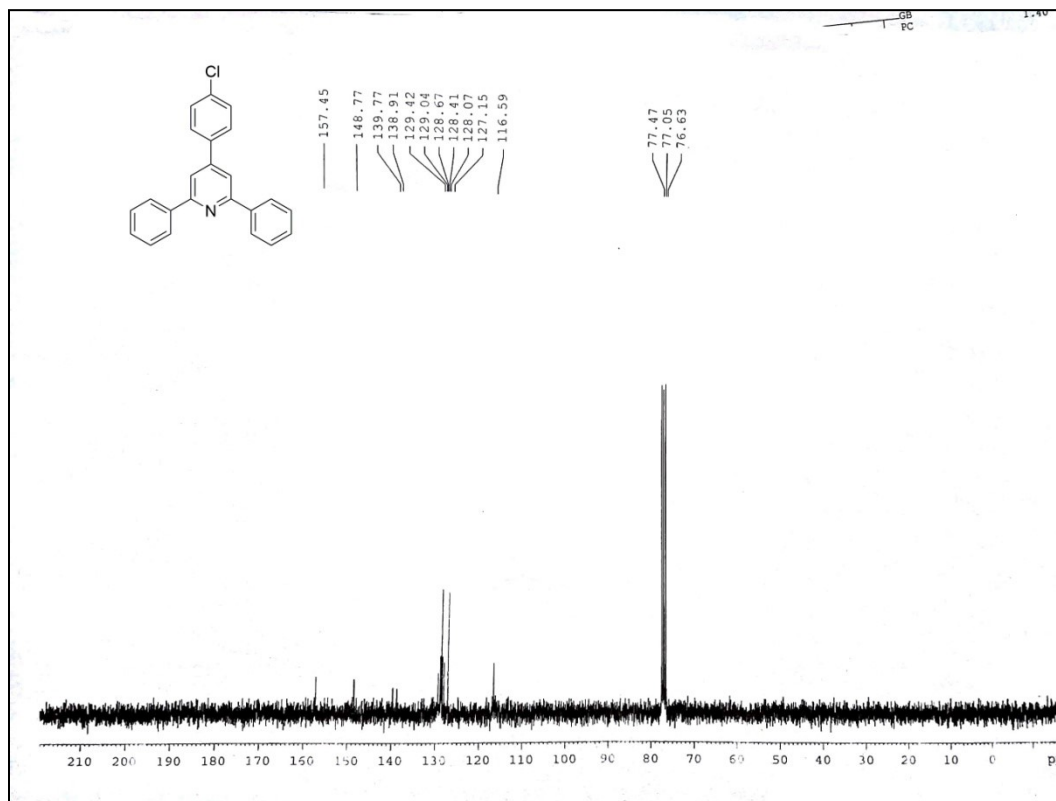
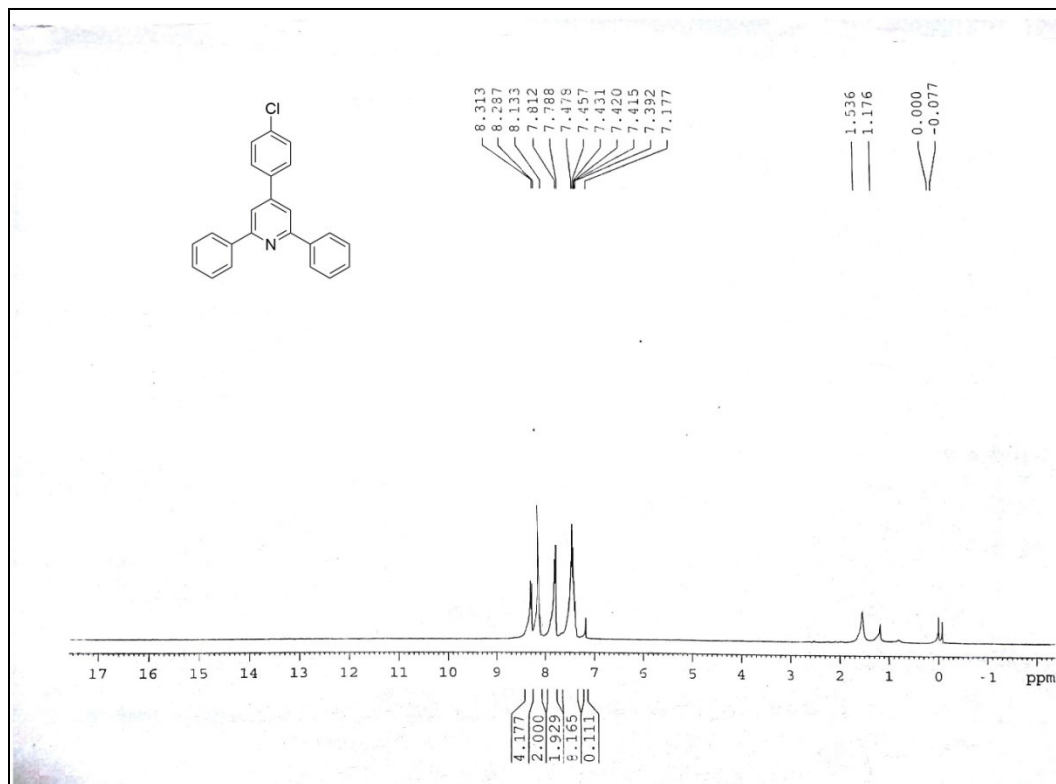


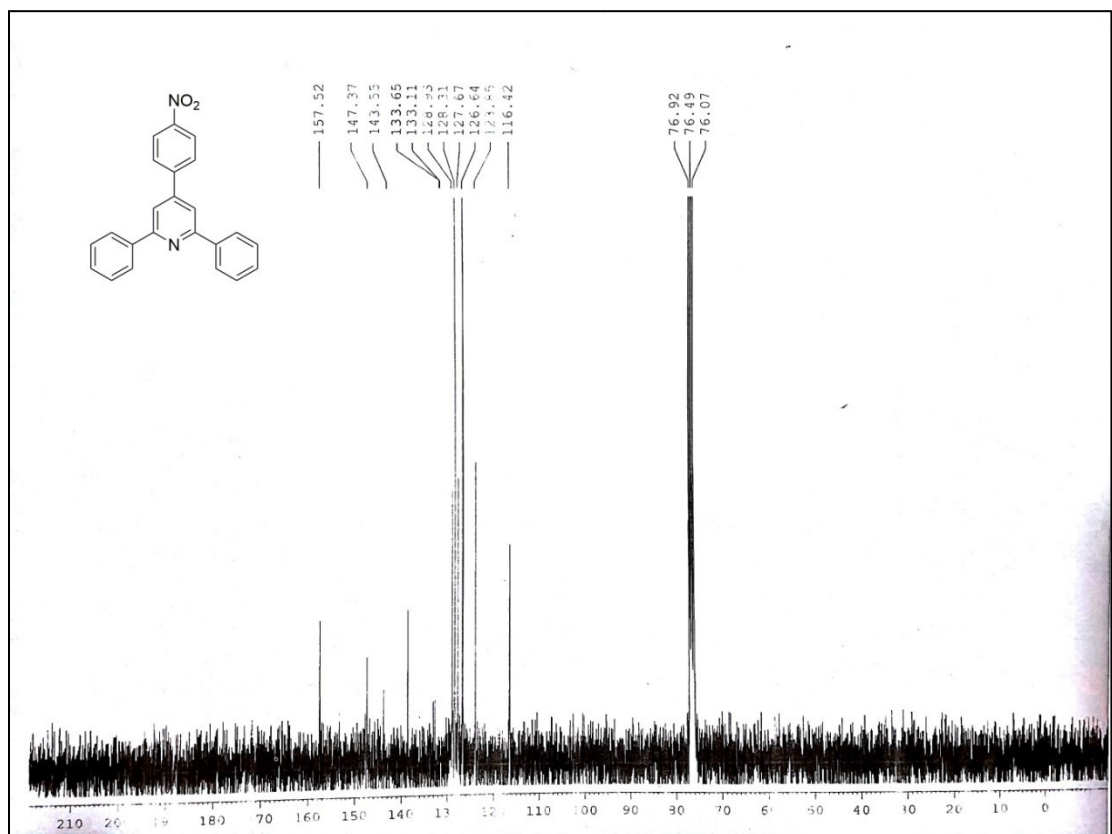
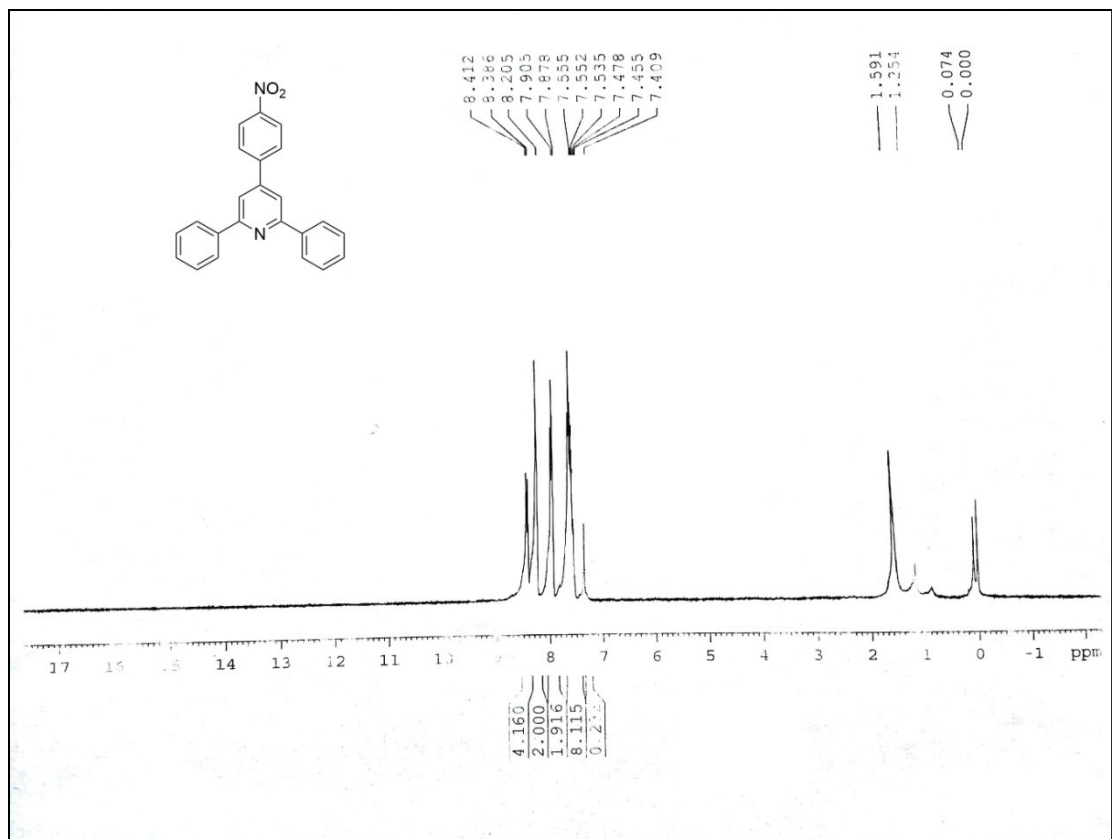


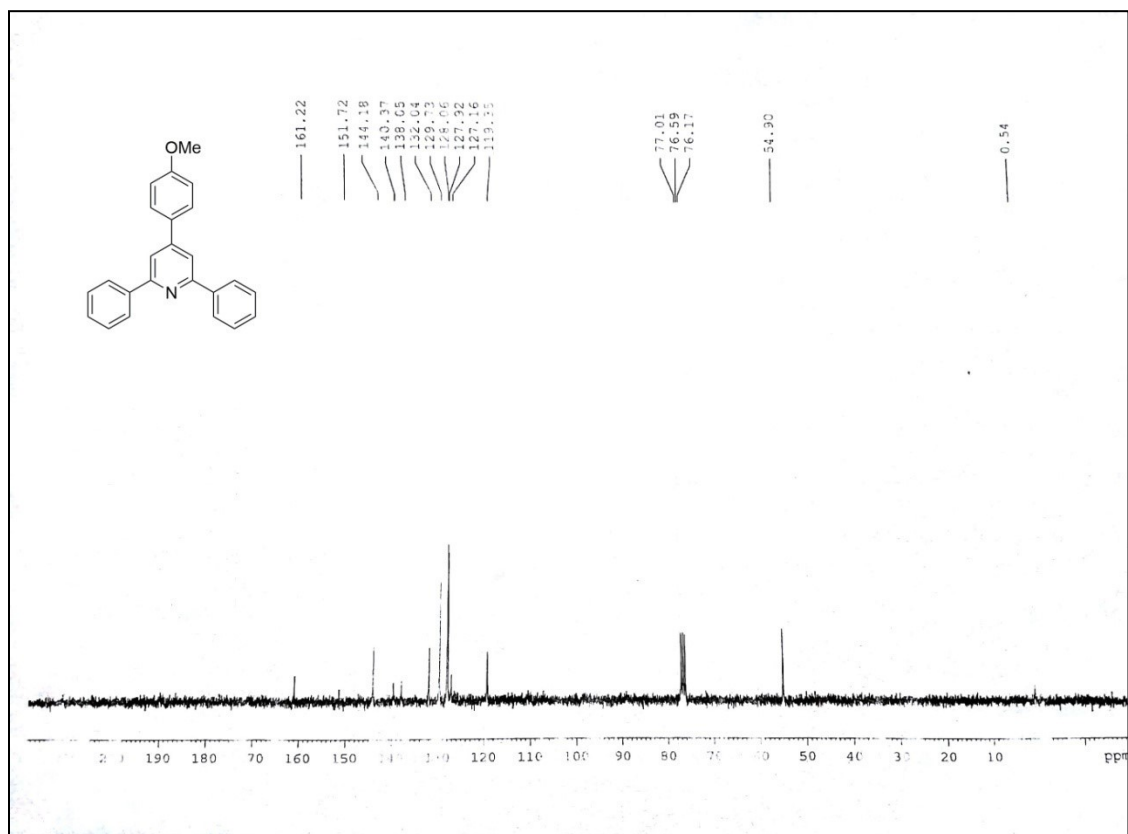
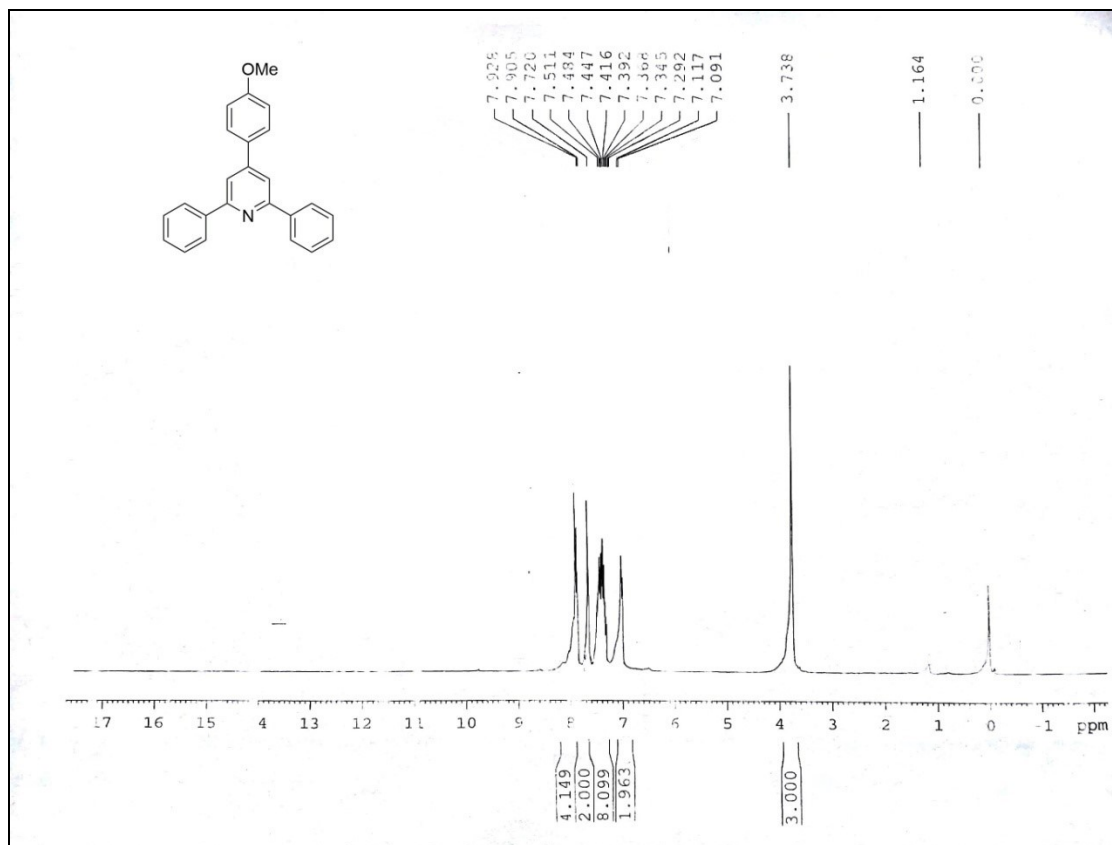


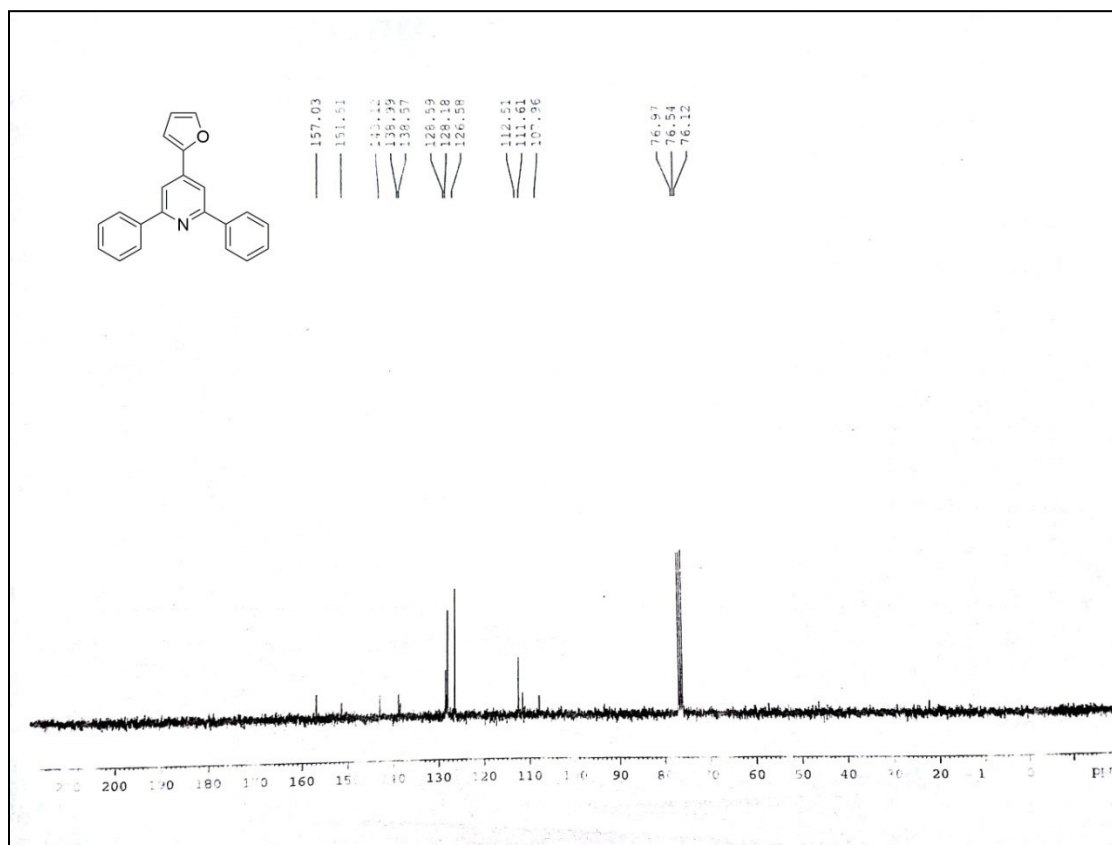
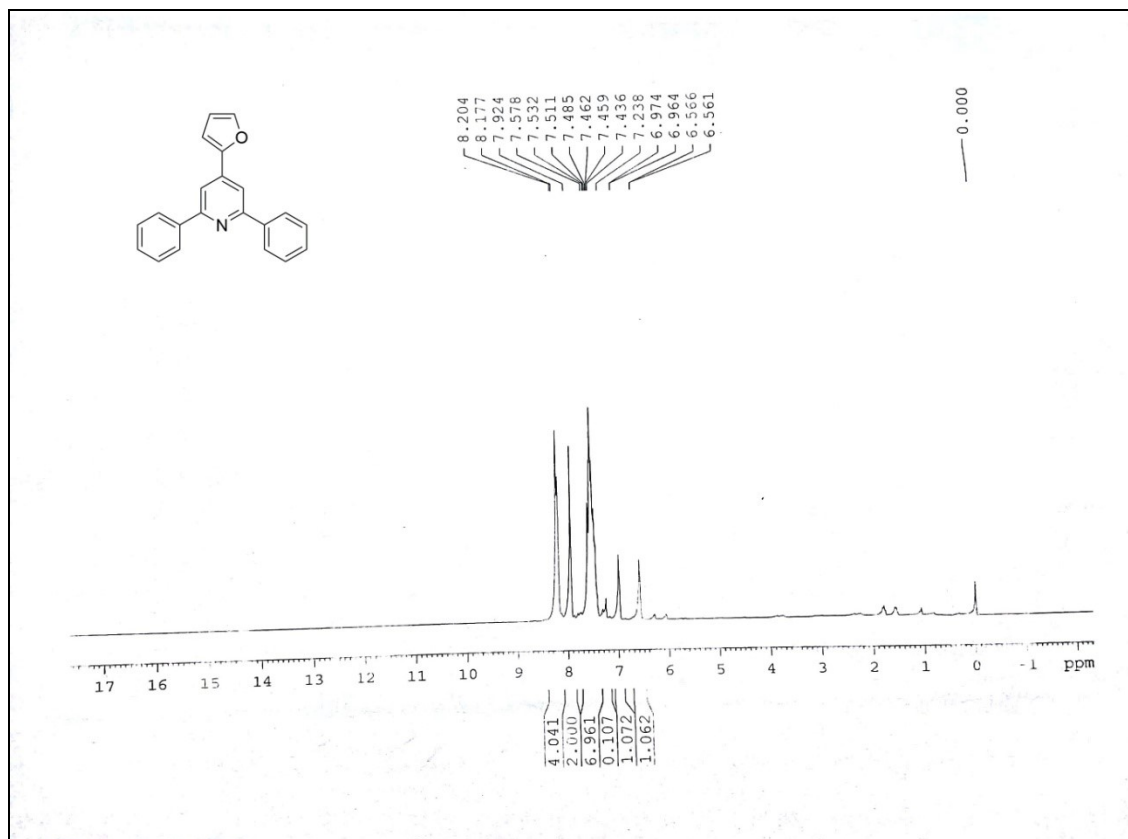


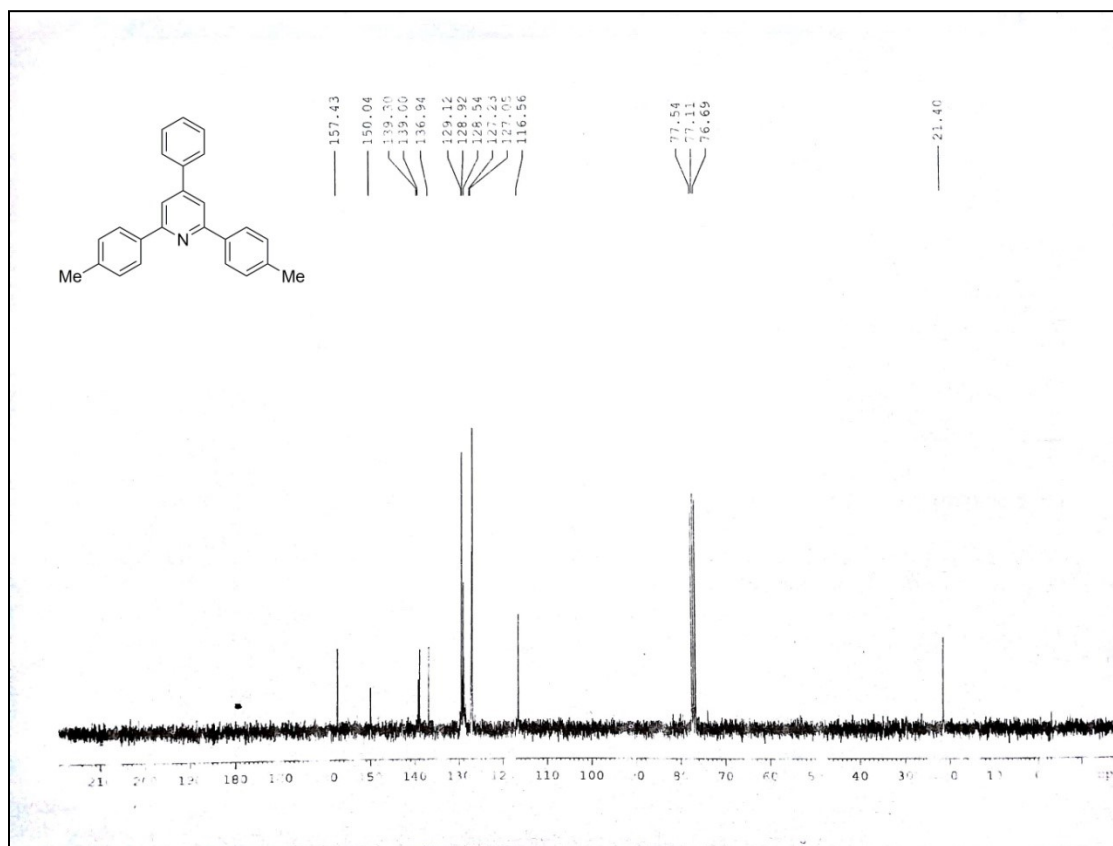
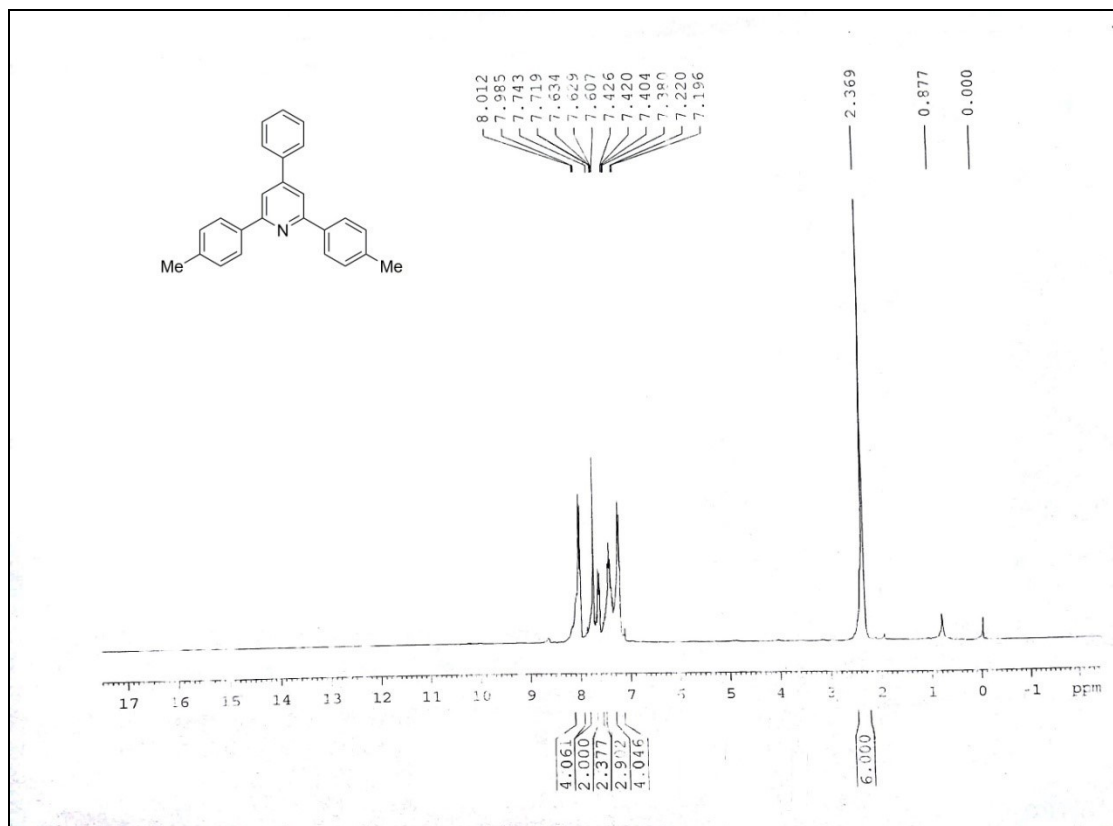


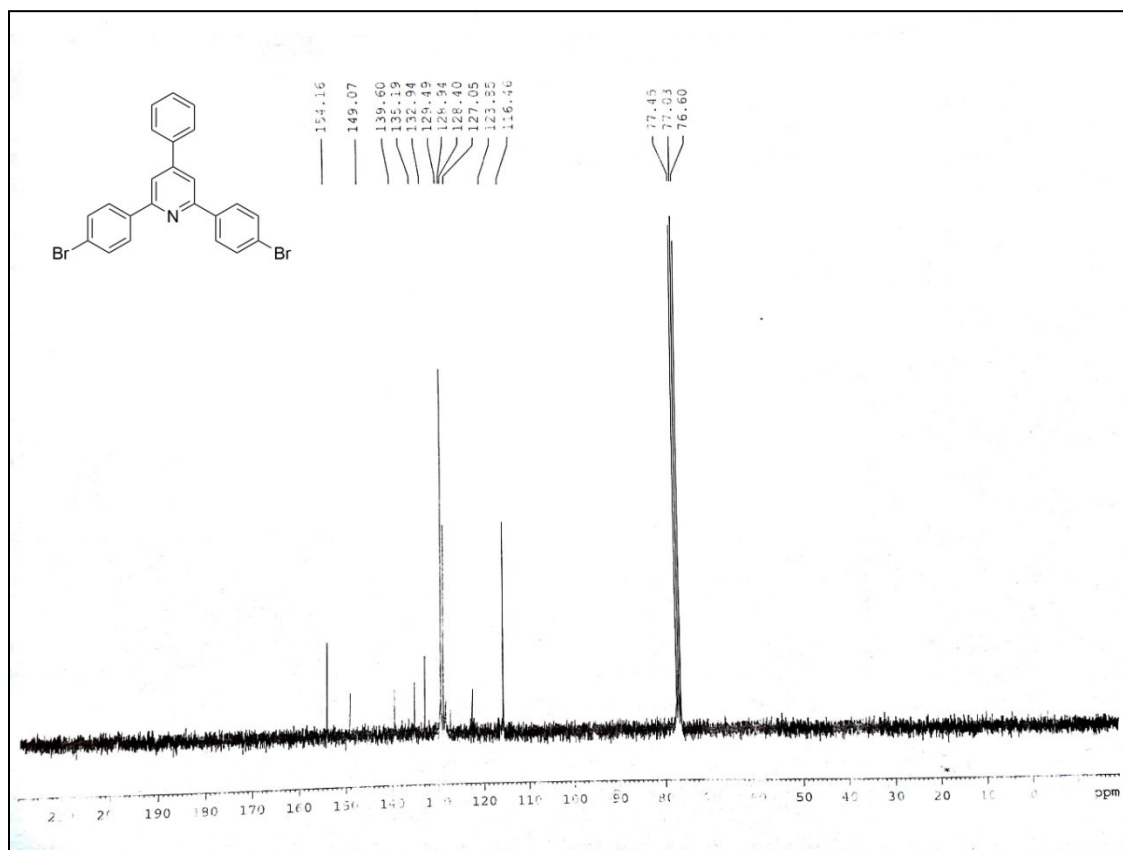
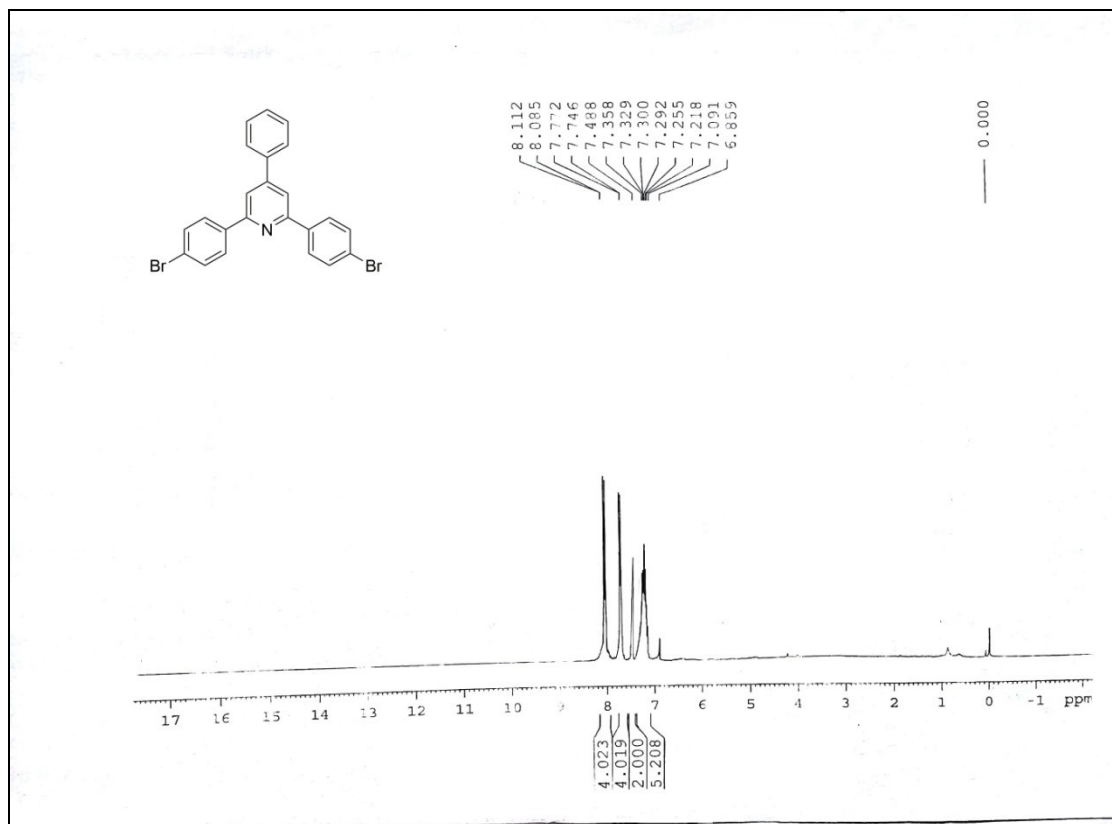


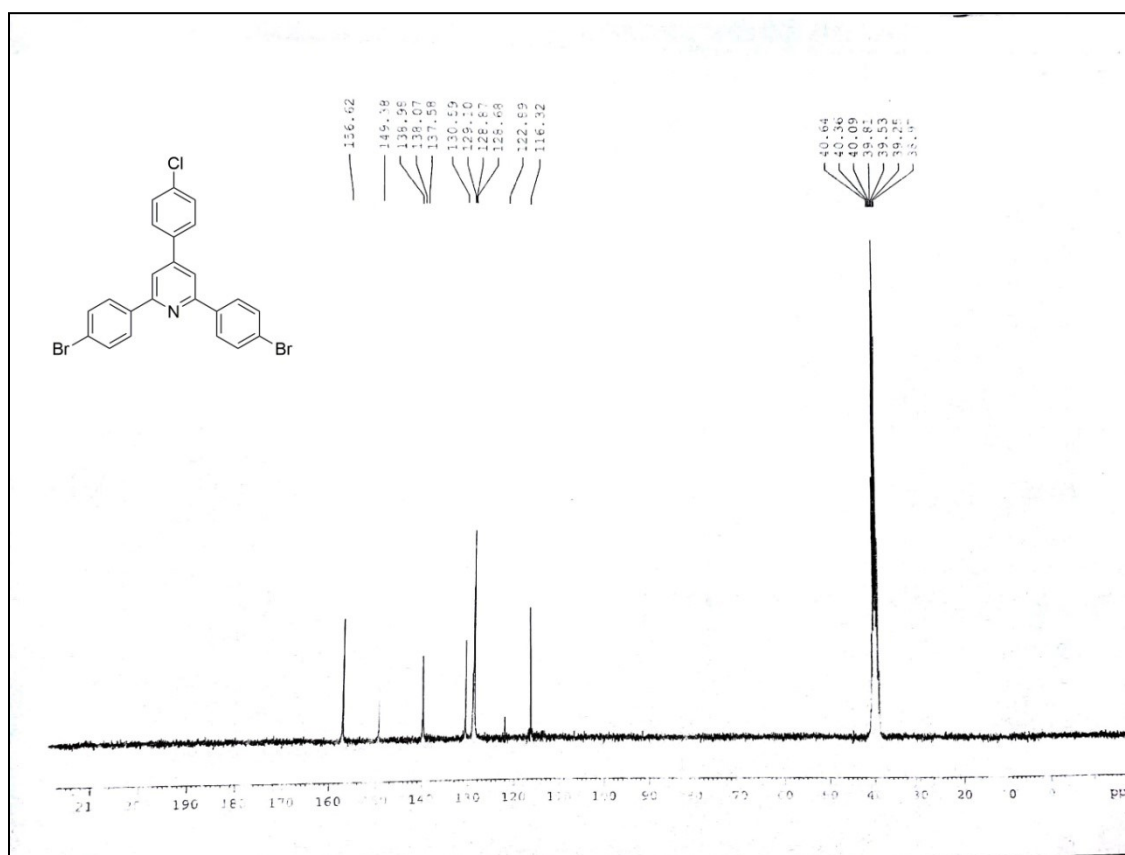
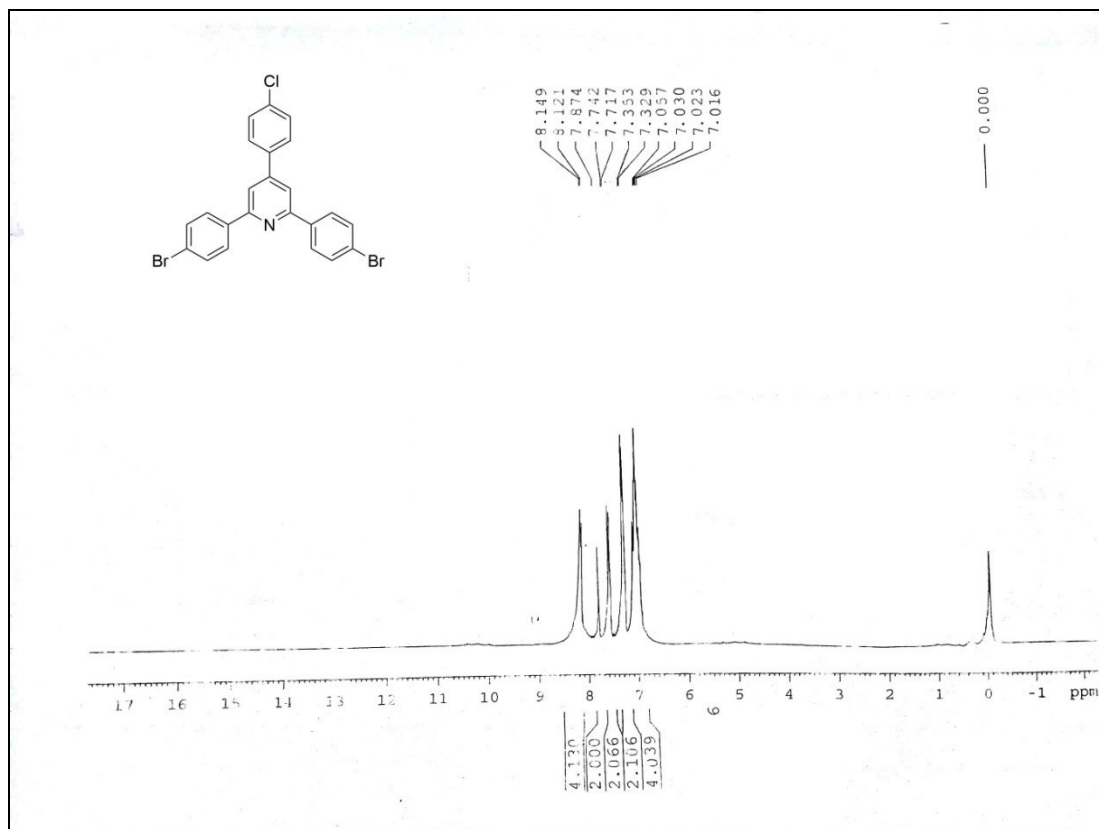












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