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Phosphine-catalysed intermolecular cyclopropanation reaction between benzyl bromides and activated alkenes

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1. General methods and materials

¹H NMR (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 or 151 MHz), ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz) and ³¹P NMR (162 MHz) spectra were recorded on Varian INOVA-400/54, Agilent DD2-600/54 or Bruker AscendTM 400 instruments (Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in CDCl₃ solution, unless otherwise noted). The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = double doublet, td = triple doublet; m = multiplet, and coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2, Agilent G1969-85000 or Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF using a time-of-flight mass spectrometer equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) source. X-ray diffraction experiments were carried out on an Agilent Gemini and the data obtained were deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 2178229). Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC (Agilent Technologies: 1220 Infinity II, 1200 Series, 1260 Infinity) analysis on a chiral column in comparison with an authentic racemate, using a Daicel Chiralpak IA Column (250 × 4.6 mm). UV detection was monitored at 254 nm. The melting point was obtained from WRX-4 Mel-Temp apparatus. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (300-400 mesh) eluting with ethyl acetate (EtOAc)/petroleum ether. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. UV light, I2, and solution of potassium permanganate were used to visualize products or starting materials. All chemicals were used without purification as commercially available unless otherwise noted. Petroleum ether and EtOAc were distilled. Toluene was freshly distilled from CaH2 under an atmosphere of dry argon. Dried solvents and liquid reagents were transferred by oven-dried syringe. All benzyl bromides used were commercially available. The α -cyano- α , β -unsaturated ketones 2, α 2benzylidene-1H-indene-1,3(2H)-dione **4**,² and tert-butyl (Z)-2-oxo-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethylidene)indoline-1-carboxylate 6^3 were prepared according to the literature procedures, and the spectroscopic data were consistent with the literature report.

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2. Preparation and characterization of phosphine catalysts

$$Ph_{2}P + COOH + R^{1}_{(HCI)} R^{2} \xrightarrow{EDCI (1.2 \text{ eq}) \\ Et_{3}N (1.1 \text{ eq}) \\ DMAP (0.2 \text{ eq})} Ph_{2}P + R^{1}_{N} R^{2}$$

$$O$$

$$C$$

To a solution of carboxylic acid (1.0 equiv), amine or amine hydrochloride (1.0 equiv), triethylamine (1.1 equiv) and DMAP (0.2 equiv) in DCM was added EDCI (1.2 equiv). The resultant mixture was stirred at rt overnight. After completion, the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether) to give the phosphine catalyst **C**.

C2: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.63–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.27 (m, 12H), 7.00–6.92 (m, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 2.80 (d, J = 4.8 Hz 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 169.6, 141.4 (d, ² J_{PC} = 25.3 Hz), 136.8 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 10.2 Hz), 136.0 (d, ² J_{PC} = 19.9 Hz), 134.0, 133.9 (d, ² J_{PC} = 20.1 Hz), 130.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 7.1 Hz), 127.9 (d, ⁴ J_{PC} = 4.9 Hz), 26.6; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –9.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NOP⁺ 320.1199; Found 320.1200.

C3: Colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):
$$\delta$$
 (ppm) 7.63–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.26 (m, 12H), 6.98–6.90 (m, 1H), 5.83 (s, 1H), 3.32–3,26 (m, 3H), 1.00 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 168.9, 141.7 (d, ² $J_{PC} = 25.6$ Hz),

136.9 (d, ${}^{1}J_{PC} = 10.7$ Hz), 135.6 (d, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 20.0$ Hz), 134.0, 133.9 (d, ${}^{2}J_{PC} = 20.1$ Hz), 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{PC} = 7.1$ Hz), 128.0 (d, ${}^{4}J_{PC} = 4.9$ Hz), 34.8, 14.4; ${}^{31}P$ NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -10.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NOP⁺ 334.1355; Found 334.1366.

C4: Colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.65–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.23 (m, 15H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.94 (m, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 168.8, 141.3 (d, $^2J_{PC} = 25.9$ Hz), 137.7, 136.8 (d, $^2J_{PC} = 10.7$ Hz), 136.0 (d, $^2J_{PC} = 20.7$ Hz), 134.1, 133.9 (d, $^2J_{PC} = 20.2$ Hz), 130.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7 (d, $^3J_{PC} = 2.7$ Hz), 128.6, 128.1, 128.0 (d, $^3J_{PC} = 5.0$ Hz), 127.5, 44.2; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –10.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₂₃NOP⁺ 396.1512; Found 396.1513.

C5: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.75–7.70 (m, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.21 (m, 15H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 1H), 7.04–6.99 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 167.1, 141.8 (d, ² J_{PC} = 26.2 Hz), 137.5, 136.3 (d, ¹ J_{PC} = 10.2 Hz), 135.7 (d, ² J_{PC} = 20.0 Hz), 134.1, 134.0 (d, ² J_{PC} = 20.1 Hz), 130.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 7.3 Hz), 128.5 (d, ⁴ J_{PC} = 4.8 Hz), 124.4, 119.9; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –10.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₁NOP⁺ 382.1355; Found 382.1362.

C6: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ (ppm) 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.20 (m, 11H), 7.03–6.97 (m, 1H), 3.84 (q, J = 9.4 Hz 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ (ppm) 170.8, 140.4 (d, ² J_{PC} = 24.9 Hz), 137.3 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 11.1 Hz), 137.1 (d, ² J_{PC} = 21.7 Hz), 133.9, 133.6 (d, ² J_{PC} = 20.6 Hz), 130.0, 128.5, 1228.4, 128.1 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 7.1 Hz), 127.1 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 4.8 Hz), 124.0 (q, ¹ J_{FC} = 278.3 Hz), 40.1 (q, ² J_{FC} = 34.7 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CD₃OD): δ (ppm) –73.5 (m); ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CD₃OD): δ (ppm) –9.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈NF₃OP⁺ 388.1073; Found 388.1070.

C7: Colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.39–7.26 (m, 13H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 170.9 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 3.3 Hz), 143.2 (d, ² J_{PC} = 32.9 Hz), 136.5 (d, ¹ J_{PC} = 10.8 Hz), 134.8 (d, ² J_{PC} = 16.3 Hz), 134.2, 133.8 (d, ² J_{PC} = 19.9 Hz), 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 7.0 Hz), 126.3 (d, ³ J_{PC} =

7.4 Hz), 38.8 (d, ${}^{5}J_{PC} = 2.9$ Hz), 34.6; ${}^{31}P$ NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -12.3; HRMS (ESITOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀NOPNa⁺ 356.1175; Found 356.1176.

C8: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.76 (dd, J = 7.2, 2.0 Hz 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz 1H), 7.43–7.26 (m, 12H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 2.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 167.9, 138.3 (d, ¹ J_{PC} = 13.0 Hz), 136.5 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 10.5 Hz), 136.3 (d, ² J_{PC} = 15.7 Hz), 134.9 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 7.2 Hz), 133.8 (d, ² J_{PC} = 19.7 Hz), 131.7 (d, ² J_{PC} = 23.6 Hz), 129.0, 128.9 (d, ⁴ J_{PC} = 5.6 Hz), 128.7 (d, ³ J_{PC} = 6.9 Hz), 127.6, 26.9; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –5.3 (m); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈NOPNa⁺ 342.1018; Found 342.1016.

C9: White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.76–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.26 (m, 12H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 4.8 Hz 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 168.0, 141.9 (d, ¹ $J_{PC} = 13.3$ Hz), 136.4 (d, ¹ $J_{PC} = 10.5$ Hz), 134.6, 133.9 (d, ² $J_{PC} = 19.7$ Hz), 133.5 (d, ² $J_{PC} = 18.8$ Hz), 129.1, 128.7 (d, ³ $J_{PC} = 7.1$ Hz), 126.8 (d, ⁴ $J_{PC} = 6.4$ Hz), 26.9; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –5.6 (m); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈NOPNa⁺ 342.1018; Found 342.1014.

3. Phosphine-catalysed intermolecular cyclopropanation reactions

3.1 General procedure for synthesis of 3

A mixture of benzyl bromide **1** (0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), α -cyano- α , β -unsaturated ketone **2** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the product (EtOAc/petroleum ether).

mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **3a**: 29.7 mg (0.0920 mmol), as a white solid, 92% yield; mp = 146–148 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.96–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.40–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.18 (m, 3H), 4.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.3, 135.8, 133.8, 133.6, 131.4, 129.0, 128.94, 128.86, 128.7, 128.64, 128.61, 128.58, 128.5, 118.5, 43.0, 35.8, 33.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NONa⁺ 346.1202; Found 346.1205.

Synthesis of 3b: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-2-methylbenzene 1b (22.1 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv),

C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **3b**: 30.7 mg (0.0911 mmol), as a white solid, 91% yield; mp = 144–146 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.01–7.91(m, 2H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.36 (m, 7H), 7.25–7.11 (m, 4H), 4.34 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.3, 138.0, 136.1, 133.7, 133.5, 130.4, 129.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.61, 128.59, 128.5, 126.0, 119.0, 43.1, 36.9, 35.3, 20.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₀NO⁺ 338.1539; Found 338.1541.

Synthesis of 3c: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-3-methoxybenzene 1c (24.0 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3c: 30.1 mg (0.0852 mmol), as a colorless oil, 85% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.97–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.41 (m, 6H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.16 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 1H), 6.86–6.82 (m, 1H), 6.77–6.72 (m, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.2, 159.6, 135.8,

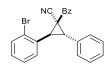
133.8, 133.6, 133.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.9, 128.63, 128.61, 128.5, 121.2, 118.5, 114.5, 114.2, 55.2, 42.9, 35.7, 33.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO₂Na⁺ 376.1308; Found 376.1303.

Synthesis of 3d: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-4-methylbenzene 1d (22.1 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3d: 30.7 mg (0.0911 mmol), as a white solid, 91% yield; mp = 142–144 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.00–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.29 (m, 7H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.5, 138.5, 135.9, 133.72, 133.70, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.74, 128.66, 128.4, 128.3, 118.6, 43.1, 35.9, 33.8, 21.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NONa+ 360.1359; Found 360.1352.

Me NC. Bz

Synthesis of 3e: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-3,5-dimethylbenzene **1e** (23.8 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2a** (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene

(1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **3e**: 30.8 mg (0.0877 mmol), as a white solid, 88% yield; mp = 124-126 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7. 94–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.39–7.32 (m, 1H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.4, 138.2, 135.9, 133.8, 133.7, 131.3, 130.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.7, 118.7, 43.2, 35.8, 33.9, 21.2; HRMS (ESITOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₂NO⁺ 352.1696; Found 352.1691.



Synthesis of 3f: A mixture of 1-bromo-2-(bromomethyl)benzene **1f** (29.7 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2a** (23.3 mg, 0.0999

mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3f**: 30.0 mg (0.0748 mmol), as a white solid, 75% yield; mp = 103–105 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.12–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.36 (m, 7H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 1H), 4.33 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.8, 136.0, 133.6, 133.2, 132.9, 131.2, 130.5, 130.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.72, 128.69, 128.4, 127.4, 126.5, 118.4, 44.6, 37.1, 36.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁷⁹BrNONa⁺ 424.0307; Found 424.0310; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁸¹BrNONa⁺ 426.0287; Found 426.0292.

Synthesis of 3g: A mixture of 1-bromo-3-(bromomethyl)benzene 1g (29.7 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv).

0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3g: 33.3 mg (0.0830 mmol), as a white solid, 83% yield; mp = 162–164 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.98–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.32 (m, 9H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.02 (m, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.0, 135.6, 134.0, 133.8, 133.1, 132.1, 131.7, 130.1, 129.0 (2C), 128.7, 128.62, 128.57, 127.4, 122.7, 118.2, 41.2, 35.8, 34.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁷⁹BrNONa⁺ 424.0307; Found 424.0320; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁸¹BrNONa⁺ 426.0287; Found 426.0304.

Synthesis of 3h: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-4-fluorobenzene 1h (22.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product

CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.98–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.35 (m, 7H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.86 (m, 2H), 4.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.2, 162.3 (d, $^{1}J_{FC}$ = 247.0 Hz), 135.7, 133.9, 133.3, 130.6 (d, $^{3}J_{FC}$ = 8.4 Hz), 129.0 (2C), 128.7, 128.60, 128.56, 127.2 (d, $^{4}J_{FC}$ = 3.4 Hz), 118.4, 115.7 (d, $^{2}J_{FC}$ = 21.8 Hz), 42.2, 35.8, 34.1; 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –112.6 (m); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇FNO⁺ 342.1289; Found 342.1289.

Synthesis of 3i: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-4-chlorobenzene 1i (24.5 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3i: 31.0 mg (0.0868 mmol), as a white solid, 87% yield; mp = 142–144 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.03–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.35 (m, 7H), 7.31–7.18 (m, 4H), 4.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.1, 135.6, 134.6, 134.0, 133.2, 130.2, 130.0, 129.0 (2C), 128.9, 128.7, 128.6 (2C), 118.3, 42.1, 35.8, 34.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁵ClNO+ 358.0993; Found 358.0987; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁷ClNO+ 360.0964; Found 360.0965; [M + Na]+ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆³⁵ClNONa+ 380.0813; Found 380.0808; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆³⁷ClNONa+ 382.0783; Found 382.0786.

Synthesis of 3j: A mixture of 4-(bromomethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl 1j (29.5 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h and stirred at 80 °C for another 24 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3j: 37.6 mg (0.0942 mmol), as a white solid, 94% yield; mp = 165–167 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.35 (m, 15H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 1H), 4.37 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.4, 141.3, 140.1, 135.8, 133.8, 133.6, 130.4,

129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.3, 127.0 (2C), 118.5, 42.9, 36.0, 33.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₂₁NONa⁺ 422.1515; Found 422.1510.

Synthesis of 3k: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene 1k (28.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3k: 32.4 mg (0.0828 mmol), as a white solid, 83% yield; mp = 145–147 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.92 (J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.60–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.34 (m, 9H), 4.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.0, 135.61 (d, ⁴J_{FC} = 1.0 Hz), 135.56, 134.1, 133.0, 130.7 (q, ²J_{FC} = 32.7 Hz), 129.3, 129.05, 128.97, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 125.7 (q, ³J_{FC} = 3.8 Hz), 123.8 (d, ¹J_{FC} = 272.4 Hz), 118.1, 42.0, 35.8, 34.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –62.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₇F₃NO⁺ 392.1257; Found 392.1257.

Synthesis of 3l: A mixture of 1-(bromomethyl)-4-(trifluoromethoxy) benzene 1l (30.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3l: 37.3 mg (0.0916 mmol), as a colorless oil, 92% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.95–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 6H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.13–7.08 (m, 2H), 4.29 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.2, 149.2, 135.7, 134.0, 133.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.4, 129.01, 128.97, 128.7, 128.63, 128.58, 120.9, 118.2, 41.9, 35.8, 34.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) –57.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂4H₁₆F₃NO₂Na⁺ 430.1025; Found 430.1026.

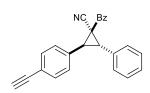
Synthesis of 3m: A mixture of methyl 2-(bromomethyl)benzoate 1m (27.4 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg,

0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **3m**: 15.9 mg (0.0417 mmol), as a white solid, 42% yield; mp = 132–134 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.02–7.96(m, 3H), 7.55–7.33 (m, 11H), 4.56 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 189.3, 167.0, 136.2, 133.7, 133.5, 133.4, 132.5, 131.4, 130.4, 130.0, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 118.9, 52.5, 43.5, 37.5, 36.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₉NO₃Na⁺ 404.1257; Found 404.1259.

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Synthesis of 3n: A mixture of 4-(bromomethyl)benzonitrile **1n** (23.5 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2a** (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv),

C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) to give the product **3n**: 30.2 mg (0.0868 mmol), as a white solid, 87% yield; mp = 152–154 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.94–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.37 (m, 9H), 4.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 187.8, 137.0, 135.4, 134.2, 132.7, 132.4, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8 (2C), 128.5, 118.2, 117.9, 112.5, 41.8, 35.9, 34.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂4H₁₇N₂O⁺ 349.1335; Found 349.1332.



Synthesis of 3o: A mixture of benzyl 1-(bromomethyl)-4-ethynylbenzene **1o** (23.3 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(furan-2-carbonyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2a** (22.3 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0

mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3o**: 24.6 mg (0.0709 mmol), as a white solid, 71% yield; mp = 64–66 °C; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.96–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.35 (m, 10H), 7.34–7.26 (m, 2H), 4.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 1H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.0, 135.6, 134.0, 133.3, 132.4, 132.2, 129.01, 128.98,

128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 122.4, 118.3, 112.6, 82.8, 42.5, 35.9, 33.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₁₇NONa⁺ 370.1202; Found 370.1206.

Synthesis of 3p: A mixture of 2-(bromomethyl)naphthalene 1p (26.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3p: 36.9 mg (0.0989 mmol), as a white solid, 99% yield; mp = 152–154 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.97–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.33 (m, 11H), 4.47 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.2, 135.7, 133.8, 133.6, 133.1, 133.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.53, 128.52, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 126.6 (2C), 126.3, 118.6, 43.3, 36.0, 34.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₁₉NONa⁺ 396.1359; Found 396.1355.

Synthesis of 3q: A mixture of 3-(bromomethyl)thiophene 1q (21.1 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(furan-2-carbonyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (22.3 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h and 80 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3q: 22.2 mg (0.0674 mmol), as a white solid, 67% yield; mp = 130–132 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.95–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 6H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.3, 135.6, 133.9, 133.4, 132.4, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.4, 124.6, 118.3, 38.0, 35.7, 34.6; HRMS (ESITOF) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NOSNa+ 352.0767; Found 352.0763.

Synthesis of 3r: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(o-tolyl)acrylonitrile 2b (24.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10

mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3r: 28.2 mg (0.0836 mmol), as a white solid, 84% yield; mp = 137–139 °C; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.97-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.13 (m, 9H), 4.25 (d, J =8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.4, 138.7, 135.7, 133.8, 132.3, 131.5, 130.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.69, 128.66, 128.63, 128.61, 127.9, 126.3, 118.5, 43.2, 34.8, 32.8, 19.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NONa⁺ 360.1359; Found 360.1363.

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Synthesis of 3s: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile 2c (26.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3s: 27.2 mg (0.0770 mmol), as a white solid, 77% yield; mp = 110–112 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.98–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.3, 159.9, 135.7, 135.1, 133.8, 131.4, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.61, 128.59, 120.8, 118.5, 114.4, 114.1, 55.4, 43.0, 35.8, 33.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]+ Calcd for

NC Bz

C₂₄H₂₀NO₂⁺ 354.1489; Found 354.1485.

Synthesis of 3t: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile 2d (24.7 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3t: 28.6 mg (0.0848 mmol), as a white solid, 85% yield; mp = 153–155 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.96–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.28–7.18 (m, 5H), 4.29 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.4, 138.3, 135.9, 133.7, 131.5, 130.5, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.64, 128.59, 128.53, 128.48, 118.7, 43.1, 35.9, 33.7, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NONa⁺ 360.1359; Found 360.1369.

Synthesis of 3u: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile 2e (26.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3u: 32.5 mg (0.0920 mmol), as a white solid, 92% yield; mp = 81–83 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.91 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.31 (m, 6H), 7.29–7.18 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.5, 159.7, 135.9, 133.7, 131.5, 129.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.63, 128.58, 128.5, 125.5, 118.7, 114.4, 55.3, 43.3, 35.9, 33.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO₂Na+376.1308; Found 376.1308.

Synthesis of 3v: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile 2f (26.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3v: 24.2 mg (0.0678 mmol), as a white solid, 68% yield; mp = 138–140 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.96–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.29 (m, 5H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 3H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 187.9, 135.7, 135.5, 134.8, 133.9, 131.0, 130.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.73 (2C), 128.71, 128.66, 126.8, 118.2, 42.8, 35.7, 33.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁵CINO+ 358.0993; Found 358.0997; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁷CINO+ 360.0964; Found 360.0960.

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Synthesis of 3w: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile 2g (31.2 mg, 0.0999) mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 30 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product 3w: 34.3 mg (0.0855 mmol), as a white solid, 86% yield; mp = 123-125 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.96–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.19 (m, 7H), 4.26 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 187.9, 135.6, 133.9, 132.7, 132.1, 131.0, 130.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.72 (2C), 128.66, 122.6, 118.3, 42.9, 35.7, 33.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁷⁹BrNONa⁺ 424.0307; Found 424.0314; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆⁸¹BrNONa⁺ 426.0287; Found 426.0284.

Synthesis of 3x: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 NC Bz equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile **2h** (28.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3x: 26.6 mg (0.0713 mmol), as a white solid, 71% yield; mp = 201-203 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.37 (m, 9H), 7.32–7.21 (m, 3H), 4.72 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 188.5, 135.5, 134.0, 133.8, 132.8, 131.5, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 128.92, 128.86, 128.8, 128.68, 128.65, 127.2, 126.4, 125.8, 125.2, 123.5, 118.4, 42.7, 35.5, 31.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{27}H_{20}NO^+$ 374.1539; Found 374.1539.

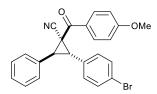
NC Bz

Synthesis of 3y: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-benzoyl-3-(furan-2-yl)acrylonitrile **2i** (22.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3v: 18.1

mg (0.0578 mmol), as a yellow solid, 58% yield; mp = 128–130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.93–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.18 (m, 5H), 6.50 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd, J = 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 187.7, 147.8, 143.2, 135.6, 133.8, 130.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7 (2C), 128.6, 118.4, 111.0, 109.3, 42.2, 35.0, 27.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NO₂Na⁺ 336.0995; Found 336.1003.

Synthesis of 3z: A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2j** (26.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene

(1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3z: 34.7 mg (0.0983 mmol), as a white solid, 98% yield; mp = 116-118 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.98–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.16 (m, 3H), 6.92–6.86 (m, 2H), 4.29 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 186.2, 164.1, 133.8, 131.7, 131.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.64, 128.61, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 118.8, 113.9, 55.5, 42.2, 35.4, 33.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO₂Na⁺ 376.1308; Found 376.1313.



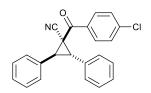
Synthesis of 3aa: A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)acrylonitrile **2k** (34.2 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150

mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3aa**: 36.3 mg (0.0842 mmol), as a white solid, 84% yield; mp = 139–141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29–7.19 (m, 5H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.81 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 185.8, 164.2, 133.0, 132.1, 131.6, 131.3, 130.3, 128.67, 128.66, 128.6, 128.3, 122.5, 118.6, 113.9, 55.6, 42.1, 35.3, 32.5; HRMS (ESI-

TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{24}H_{18}^{79}BrNO_2Na^+454.0413$; Found 454.0421; Calcd for $C_{24}H_{18}^{81}BrNO_2Na^+456.0393$; Found 456.0403.

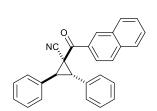
Synthesis of 3ab: A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2l** (25.1 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0

mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3ab**: 27.3 mg (0.0800 mmol), as a white solid, 80% yield; mp = 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.95–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.26 (m, 5H), 7.25–7.11 (m, 5H), 7.06–6.95 (m, 2H), 4.24 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 186.7, 166.0 (d, ¹J_{FC} = 255.1 Hz), 133.5, 132.0 (d, ⁴J_{FC} = 3.0 Hz), 131.8 (d, ³J_{FC} = 9.5 Hz), 131.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.71, 128.67, 128.6, 128.5, 118.4, 115.9 (d, ²J_{FC} = 22.0 Hz), 42.9, 35.6, 33.7; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) –103.1 (m); HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆FNONa⁺ 364.1108; Found 364.1109.



Synthesis of 3ac: A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2m** (26.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv),

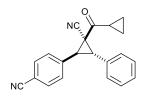
C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3ac: 25.9 mg (0.0725 mmol), as a white solid, 73% yield; mp = 134–136 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.00–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.13 (m, 12H), 4.32 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 187.1, 140.4, 134.0, 133.4, 131.2, 130.4, 129.03, 128.98, 128.8, 128.73, 128.71, 128.6, 128.5, 118.3, 43.1, 35.7, 33.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁵ClNO⁺ 358.0993; Found 358.0986; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇³⁷ClNO⁺ 360.0964; Found 360.0967; [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆³⁵ClNONa⁺ 380.0813; Found 380.0805; Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆³⁷ClNONa⁺ 382.0783; Found 382.0787.



Synthesis of 3ad: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-(1-naphthoyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2n** (28.3 mg, 0.0999) mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was

stirred at 60 °C for 30 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3ad**: 33.0 mg (0.0884 mmol), as a white solid, 88% yield; mp = 127-129 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.20 (m, 13H), 4.46 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 189.9, 133.9, 133.62, 133.57, 133.5, 131.4, 130.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.71, 128.68, 128.64, 128.57, 128.1, 126.7, 125.3, 125.1, 124.2, 118.5, 44.8, 38.2, 35.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for $C_{27}H_{19}NONa^+396.1359$; Found 396.1357.

Synthesis of 3ae: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-(furan-2-carbonyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile 20 (22.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/50 to 1/40) to give the product **3ae**: 28.5 mg (0.0910 mmol), as a white solid, 91% yield; mp = 135–137 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.66-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 5H), 6.54 (dd, J =3.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 174.9, 151.0, 147.8, 133.4, 131.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 120.6, 118.3, 112.6, 42.8, 34.3, 34.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NO₂Na⁺ 336.0995; Found 336.1000.



Synthesis of 3af: A mixture of 4-(bromomethyl)benzonitrile 1a (23.5 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (E)-2-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile **2p** (19.7 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), C2 (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 40 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **3af**: 28.3 mg (0.0907 mmol), as a white solid, 91% yield; mp = 109–111 °C; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.35 (m, 7H), 3.98 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.69–2.61 (m, 1H), 1.14–1.03 (m, 2H), 0.97–0.88 (m, 1H), 0.68–0.60 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 196.6, 137.5, 132.8, 132.2, 130.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 118.3, 118.1, 112.3, 42.4, 37.6, 36.5, 20.5, 13.3, 12.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₂ONa⁺ 335.1155; Found 335.1154.

3.2 Procedure for synthesis of 5

A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 2-benzylidene-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione **4** (23.4 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (3.2 mg, 10 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product **5**: 30.3 mg (0.0935 mmol), as a yellow solid, 94% yield; mp = 176–178 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.84 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46–7.26 (m, 10H), 4.19 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 195.6, 142.1, 134.8, 133.8, 129.3, 128.4, 127.9, 122.6, 48.5, 43.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]+ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆O₂Na+347.1043; Found 347.1047.

3.3 Procedure for synthesis of 7

A mixture of benzyl bromide **1a** (28.9 mg, 0.169 mmol, 1.7 equiv), *tert-butyl* (*Z*)-2-oxo-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethylidene)indoline-1-carboxylate **6** (34.9 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv), **C2** (6.4 mg, 20 mol%) and 4 Å MS (40.0 mg) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 72 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC.

After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give separable diastereomers **7a** and **7b** in 80% total yield.

7a: 22.8 mg (0.0519 mmol), as a white solid, 52% yield, mp = 127–129 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.01–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.22 (m, 7H), 7.10 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 192.5, 170.2, 149.0, 139.7, 136.8, 133.9, 132.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 127.7, 125.2, 124.4, 121.7, 114.7, 84.6, 42.3, 42.1, 41.6, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₈H₂₅NO₄Na⁺ 462.1676; Found 462.1676. **7b**: 12.2 mg (0.0278 mmol), as a white solid, 28% yield; mp = 149–151 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.26 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.88 (td, J = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 191.0, 170.7, 149.2, 140.2, 136.4, 133.5, 133.0, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.04, 127.98, 124.4, 123.9, 120.7, 115.0, 84.5, 42.8, 39.9, 39.6, 28.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₈H₂₅NO₄Na⁺ 462.1676; Found 462.1682.

4. Asymmetric intermolecular cyclopropanation exploration

Asymmetric synthesis of 3a: A mixture of benzyl bromide 1a (20.4 mg, 0.119 mmol, 1.2 equiv), (*E*)-2-benzoyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile 2a (23.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cesium carbonate (48.9 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and (*R*,*R*)-Et-DuPhos C10 (3.6 mg, 9.9 mol%) in distilled toluene (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/40 to 1/30) to give the product 3a: 29.1 mg (0.0900 mmol), as a white solid, 90% yield; 58% ee, determined by HPLC analysis (Daicel chiralpak IA-H, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, 1 = 254 nm) $t_R = 7.22$ min (major), $t_R = 8.12$ min (minor).

5. Transformations of product 3a

Synthesis of 8: A solution of **3a** (32.3 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DABCO (5.6 mg, 0.0499 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in DMSO (1.0 mL) was stirred at 120 °C for 20 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the mixture was quenched with water (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (5 mL x 3), the organic layer was combined, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/60 to 1/50) to give product **8**: 30.7 mg (0.0950 mmol), as a colorless oil, 95% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.21–8.06 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.26 (m, 10H), 5.63 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 166.7, 139.8, 139.7, 131.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.85, 128.83, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 125.4, 117.0, 92.1, 84.4, 59.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NONa⁺ 346.1202; Found 346.1206. *The relative configuration has been assigned by NOE analysis*.

Synthesis of 10: A mixture of **8** (36.0 mg, 0.111 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DDQ (50.6 mg, 0.223 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in 1,4-dixoane (3.0 mL) was stirred at 110 °C for 72 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/90 to 1/70) to give the product **10**: 28.6 mg (0.0891 mmol), as a white solid, 80% yield; mp = 158–160 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.16–8.06 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.39 (m, 10H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

(ppm) 158.4, 148.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.3, 129.2 (2C), 129.1 (2C), 128.73, 128.67, 128.1, 126.3, 125.5, 124.1, 114.7, 95.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₅NONa⁺ 344.1046; Found 344.1055.

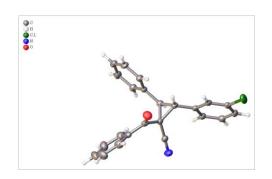
Synthesis of 9: A solution of **3a** (32.3 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), S₈ (38.5 mg, 0.150 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and morpholine (8.7 mg, 0.0999 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (1.0 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 48 h, and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion, the solution was washed by water (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (5 mL x 3), the organic layer was combined, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) to give the product **9**: 24.0 mg (0.0676 mmol), as a yellow solid, 68% yield; mp = 154–156 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.10 (m, 3H), 7.10–6.99 (m, 3H), 6.98–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.79 (m, 5H), 6.57 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 193.9, 164.3, 140.1, 136.1, 135.9, 134.0, 130.7, 130.2, 129.3, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 127.2, 126.8, 126.5, 120.8, 117.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NOSNa⁺ 378.0923; Found 378.0921.

6. More substrate exploration

To further expand the substrate scope, other kinds of activated alkenes and imines were tested. Unfortunately, generally no obvious conversions were observed under standard conditions.

7. Crystal data and structural refinement

Procedure for the recrystallization of 3v: To a 10 mL tube containing **3v** (30 mg) were added isopropanol (5.0 mL) and *n*-hexane (5.0 mL). The mixture was heated until a clear solution was formed, which was kept aside and sealed by a piece of weighing paper with a tiny hole at room temperature to obtain crystals. The crystals were subjected for single crystal XRD to determine the absolute configuration of **3v**. The data were collected by an Agilent Gemini equipped with a Mo radiation source ($K\alpha = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$) at 150.15 K. CCDC 2178229 (**3v**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.



Identification code 3v

Empirical formula C₂₃H₁₆ClNO

Formula weight 357.82

Temperature/K 150.15

Crystal system monoclinic

Space group I2/c

a/Å 17.725(3)

b/Å 6.1239(8)

c/Å 33.492(6)

 $\alpha/^{\circ}$ 90

 $\beta/^{\circ}$ 93.999(9)

γ/° 90

Volume/Å³ 3626.6(10)

Z

 $\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$ 1.311

 μ/mm^{-1} 0.222

F(000) 1488.0

Crystal size/mm³ $0.35 \times 0.21 \times 0.17$

Radiation $MoK\alpha (\lambda = 0.71073)$

2Θ range for data collection/° 4.608 to 55.026

Index ranges $-23 \le h \le 23, -7 \le k \le 7, -43 \le 1$

≤ **4**3

Reflections collected 31596

Independent reflections 4147 [$R_{int} = 0.1463$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0461$

0.0940]

Data/restraints/parameters 4147/0/235

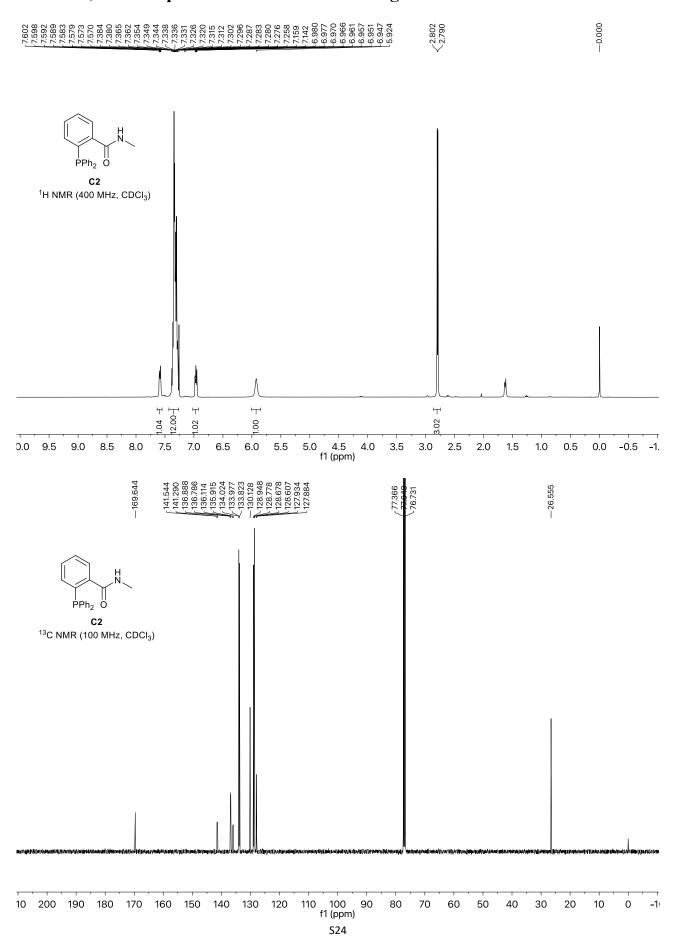
Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.033

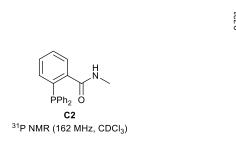
Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)] $R_1 = 0.0762$, $wR_2 = 0.1841$

Final R indexes [all data] $R_1 = 0.0957$, $wR_2 = 0.2005$

Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\mbox{Å}^{-3}$ 0.92/-0.70

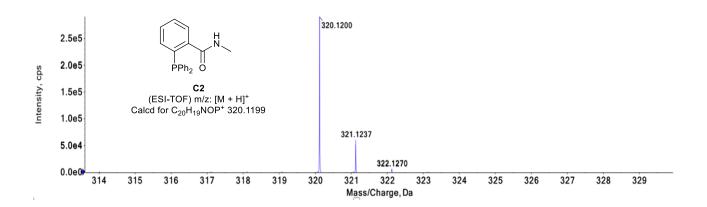
8. NMR, HRMS spectra and HPLC chromatograms

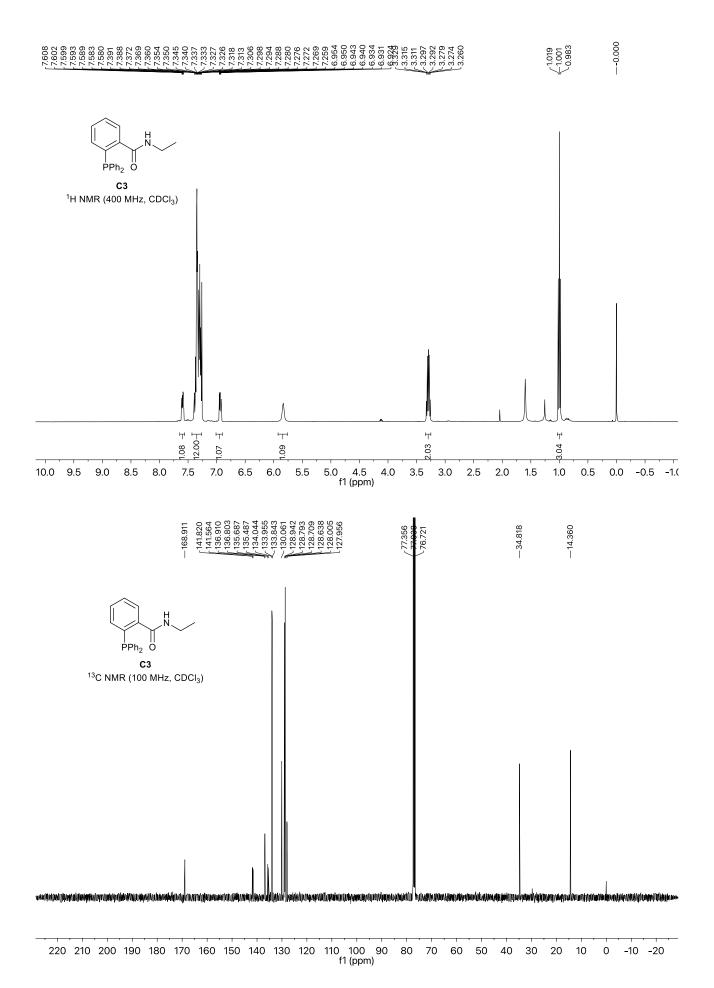


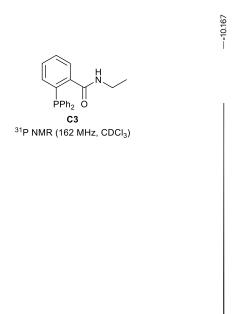




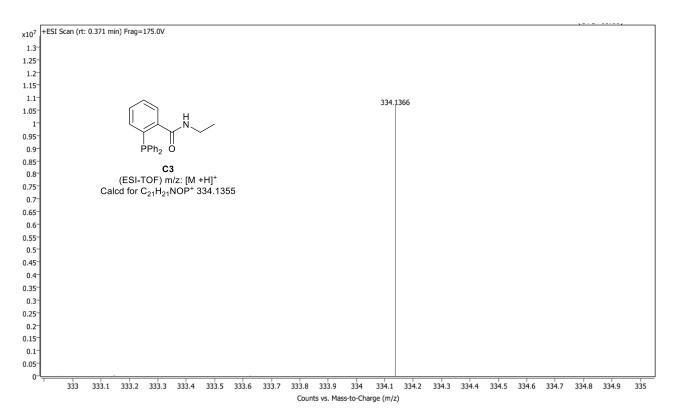
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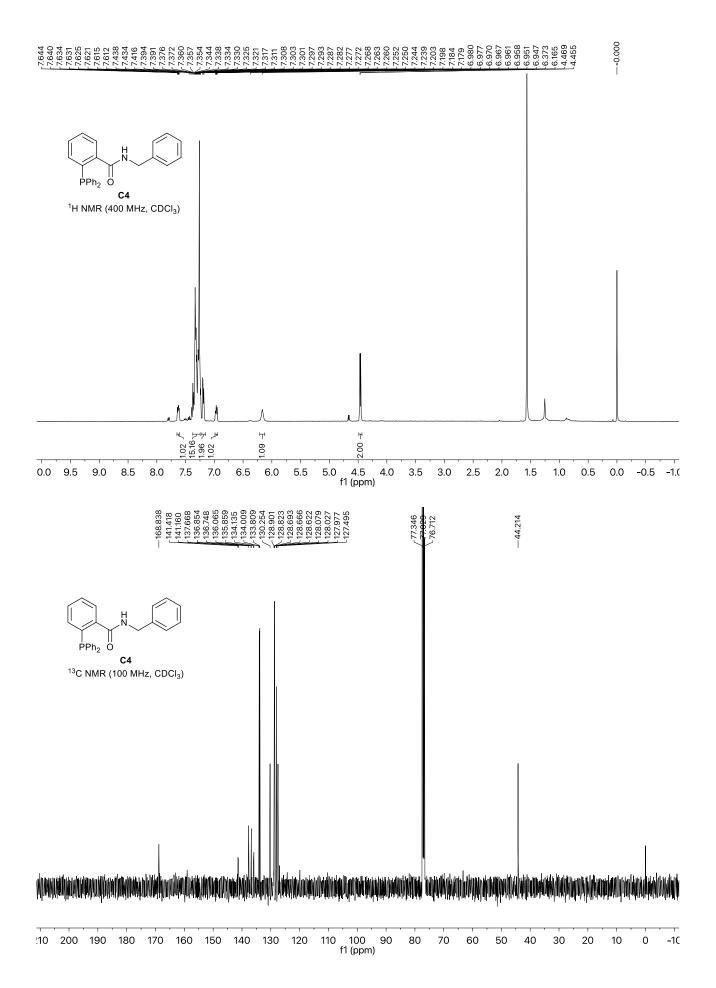






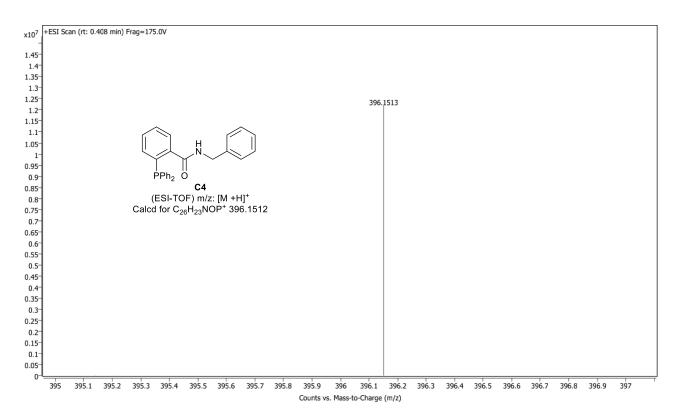
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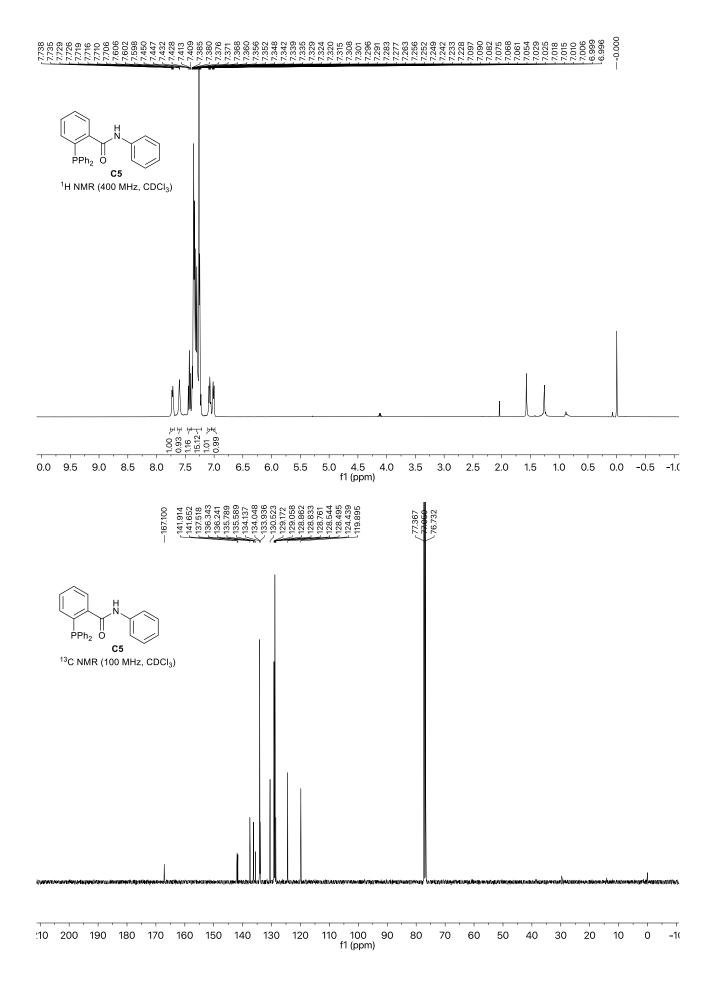


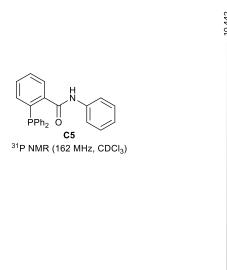




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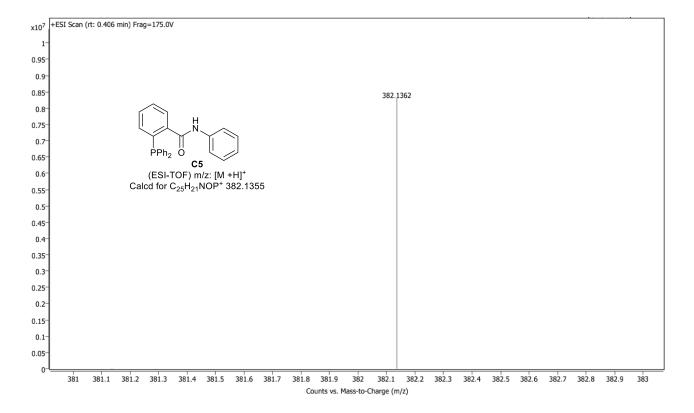


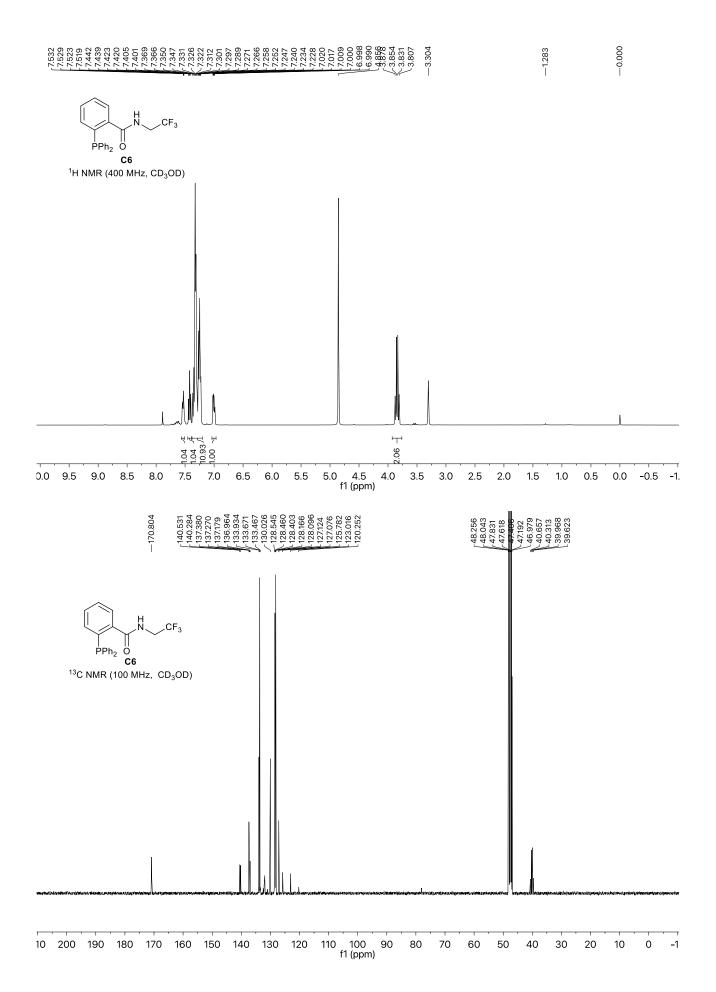




50 130 110 90 70 50 30 10 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 -210 -230 -25 f1 (ppm)

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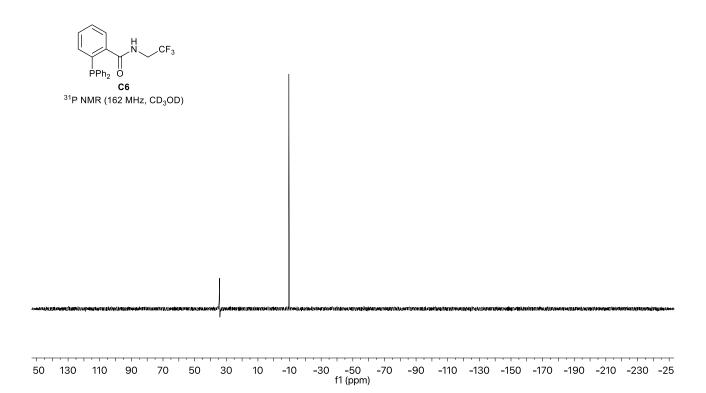


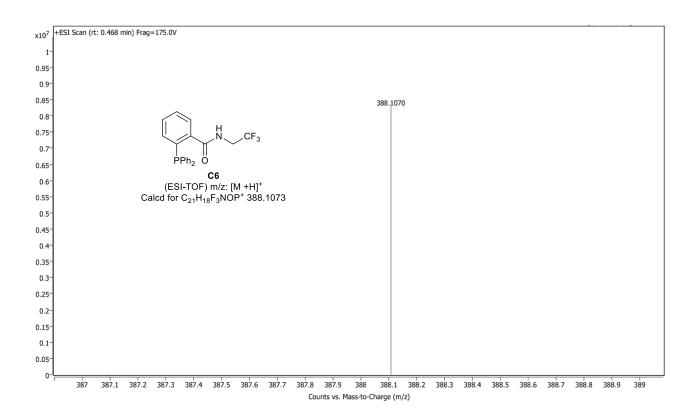


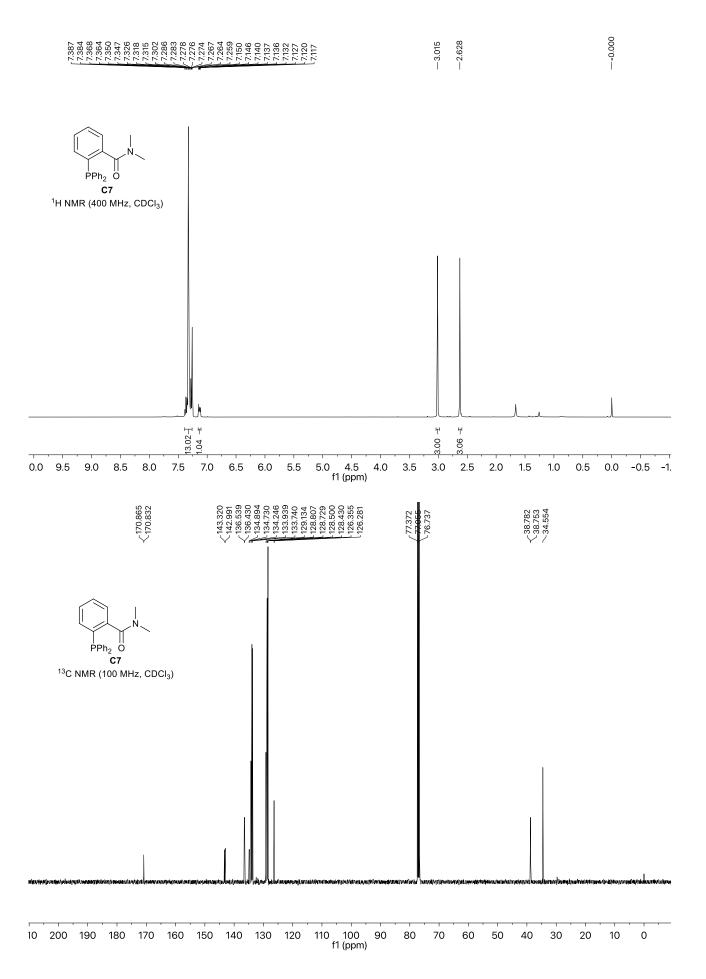


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--9.559

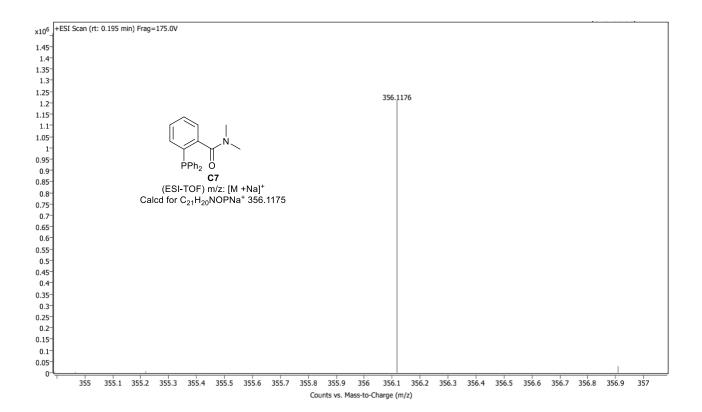


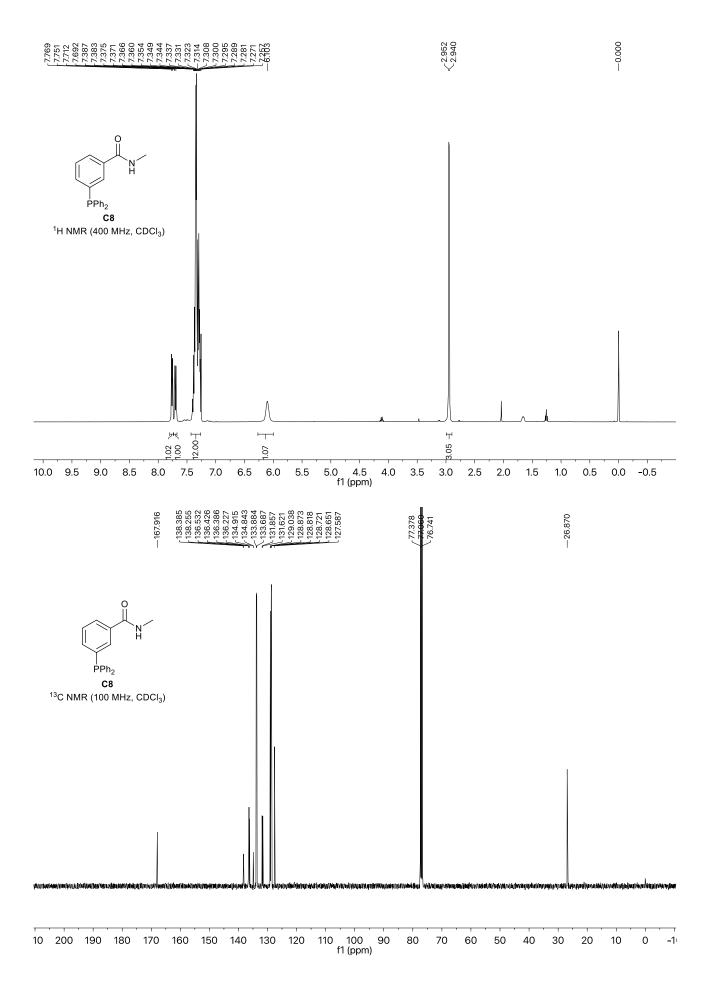




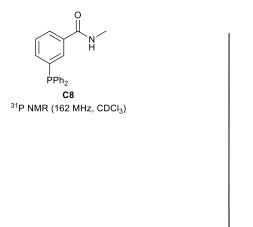


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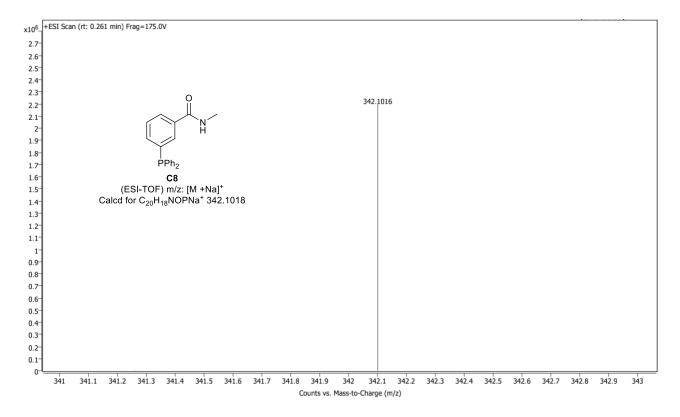


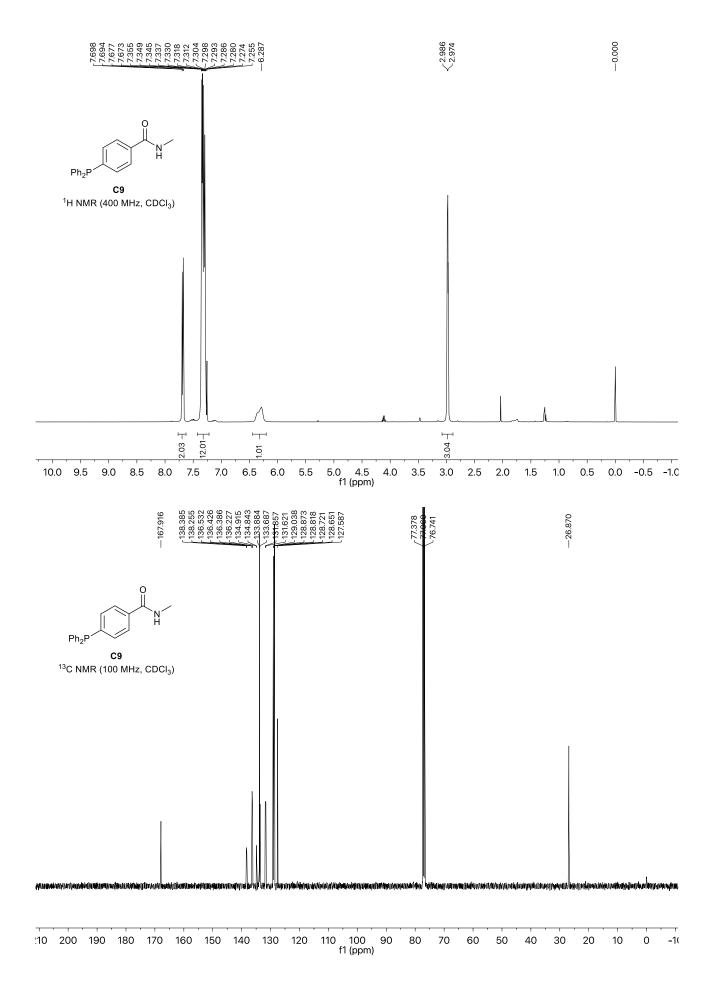






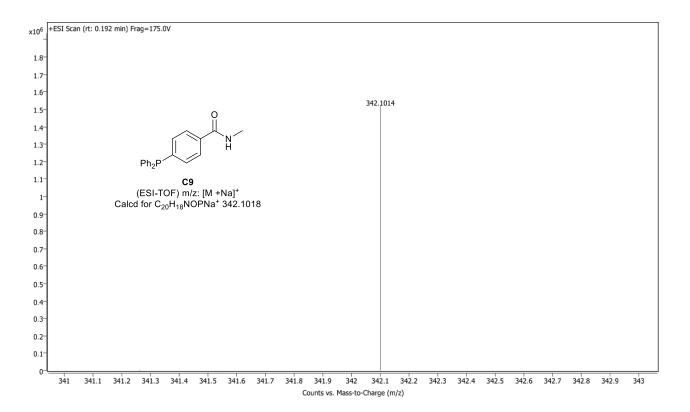
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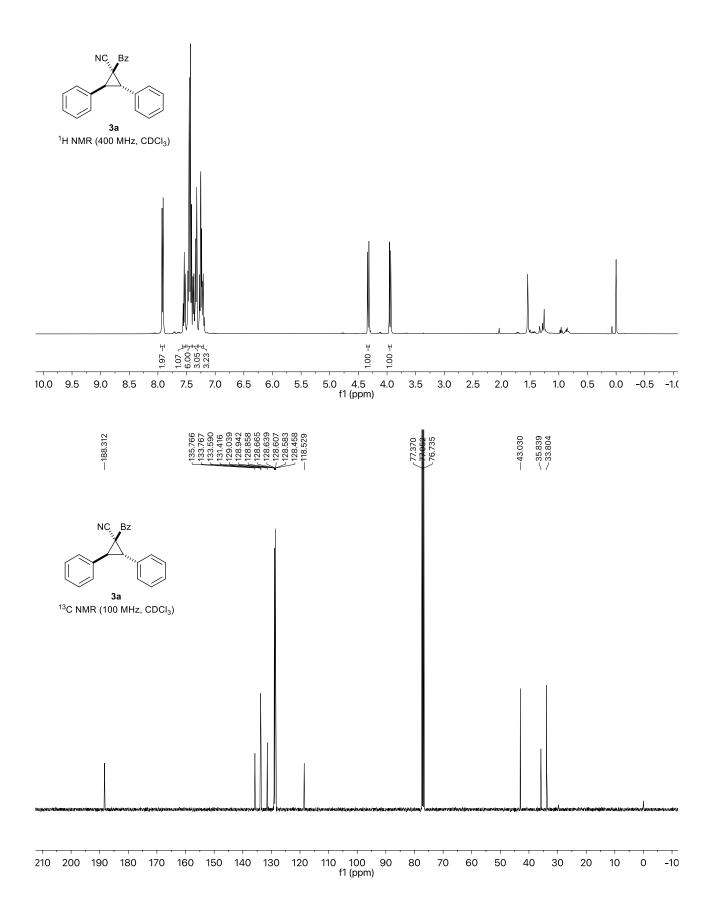


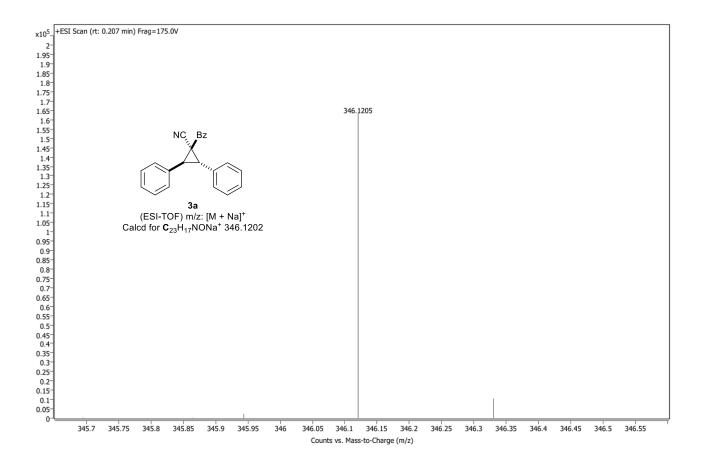


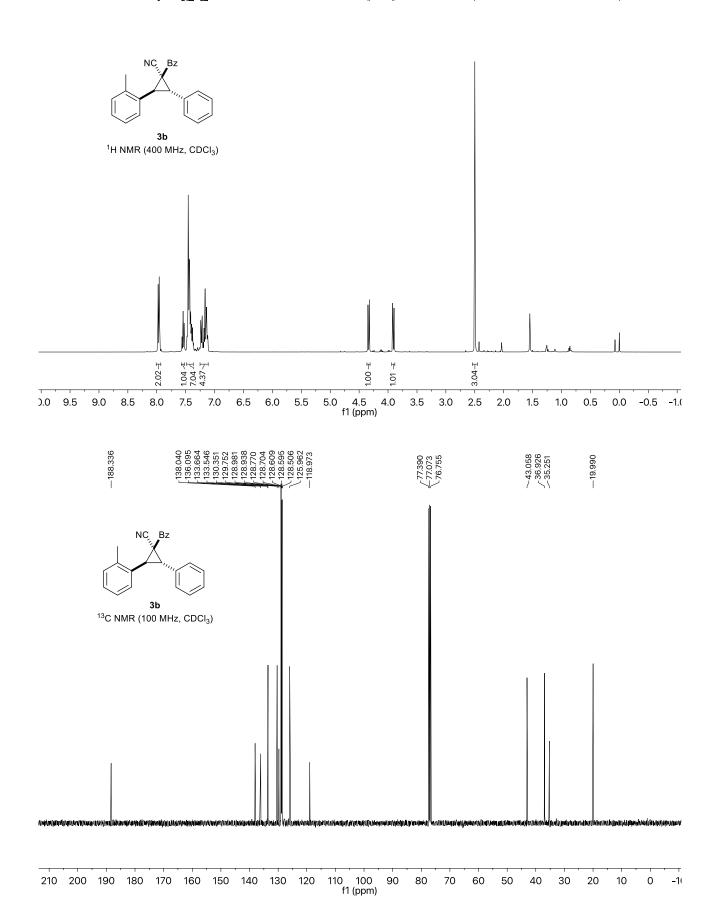


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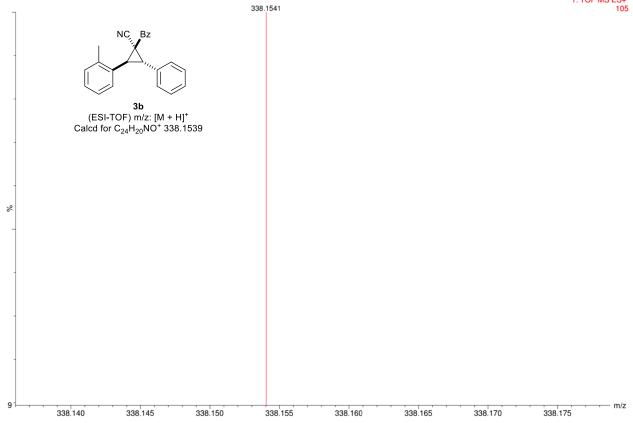


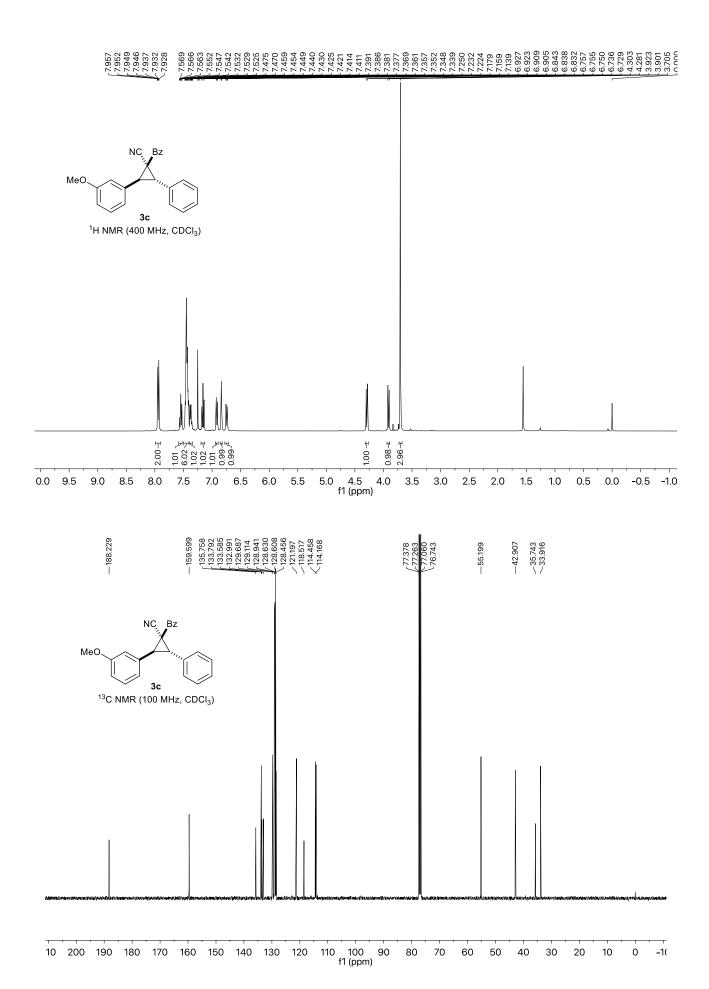


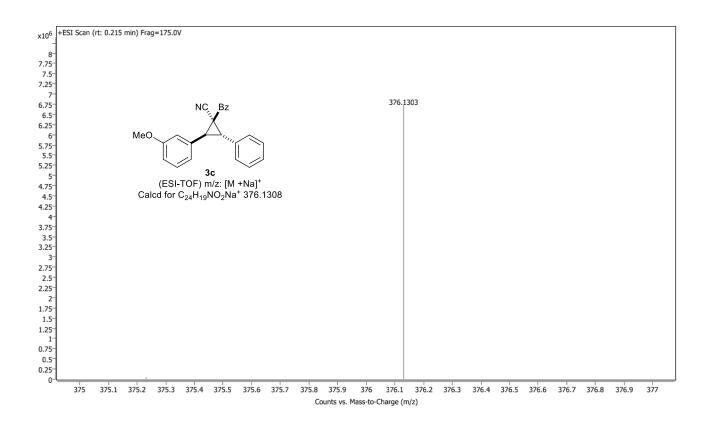


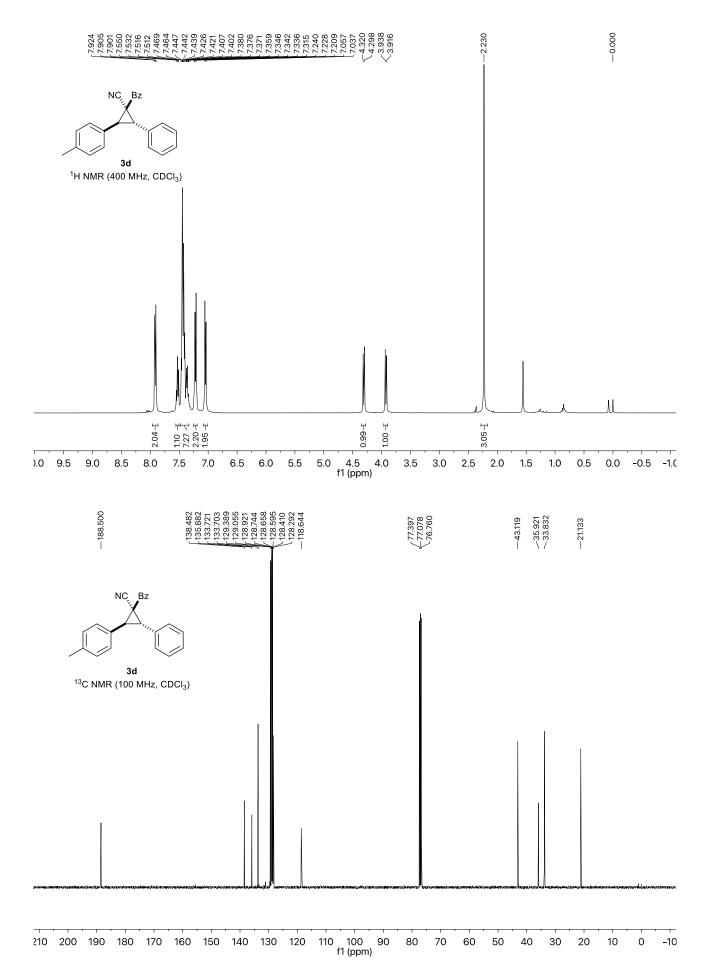


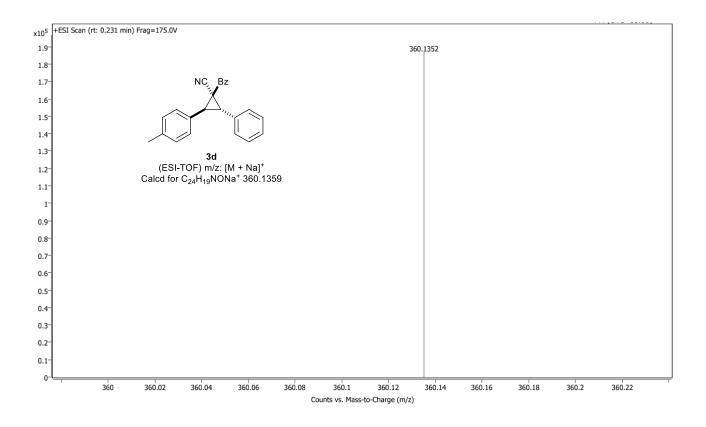


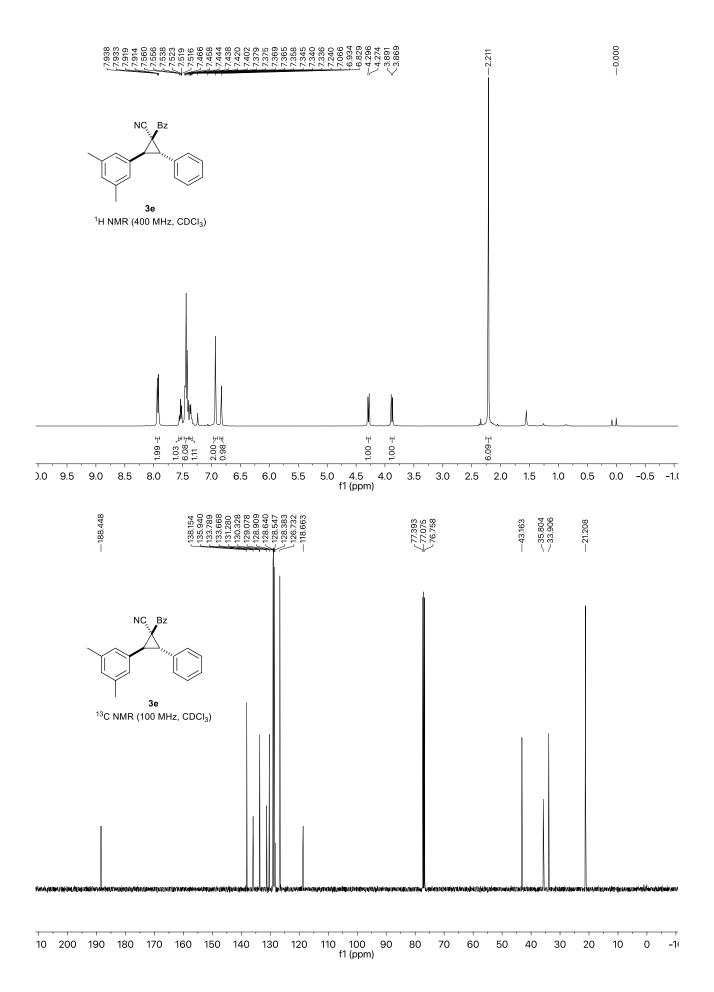


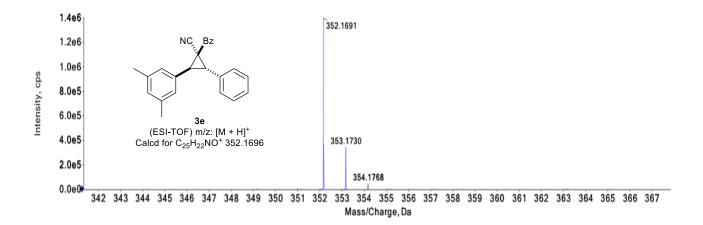


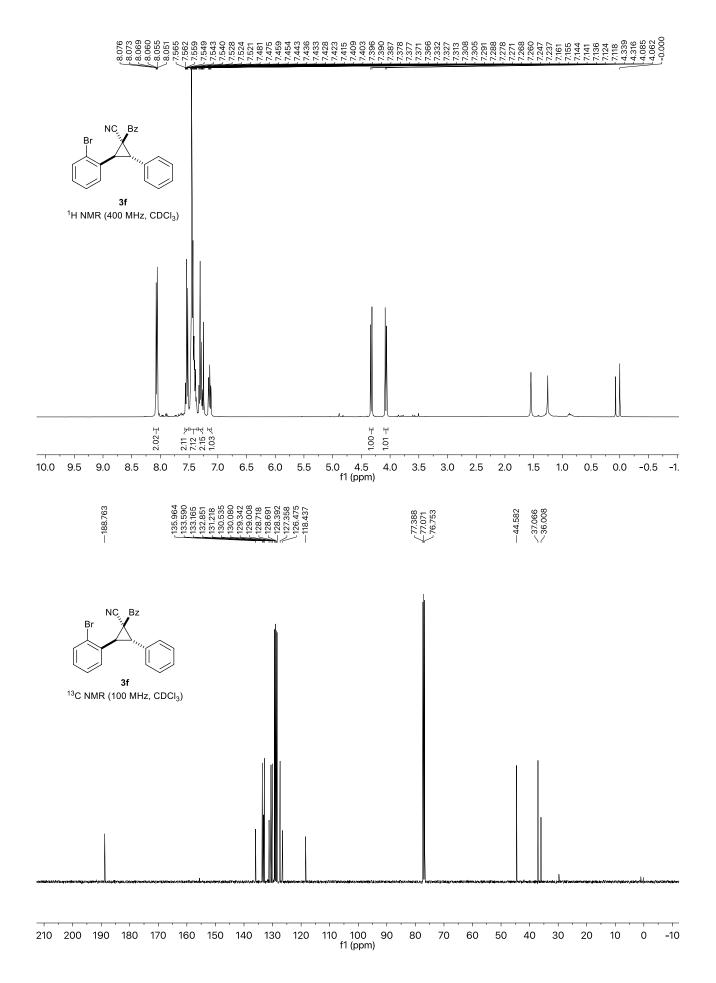


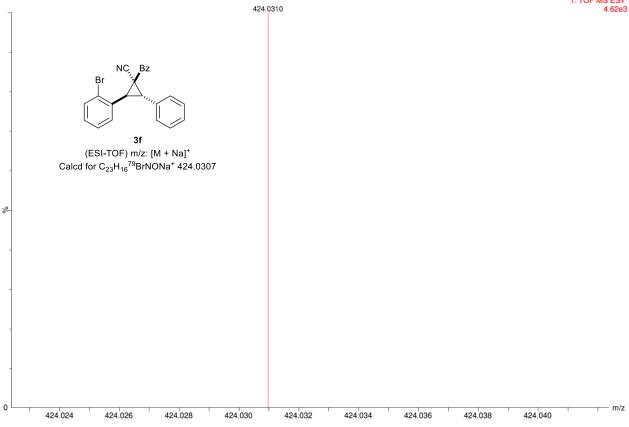


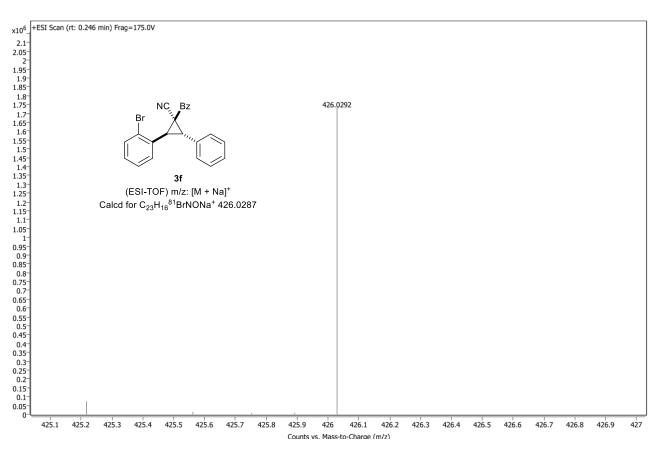


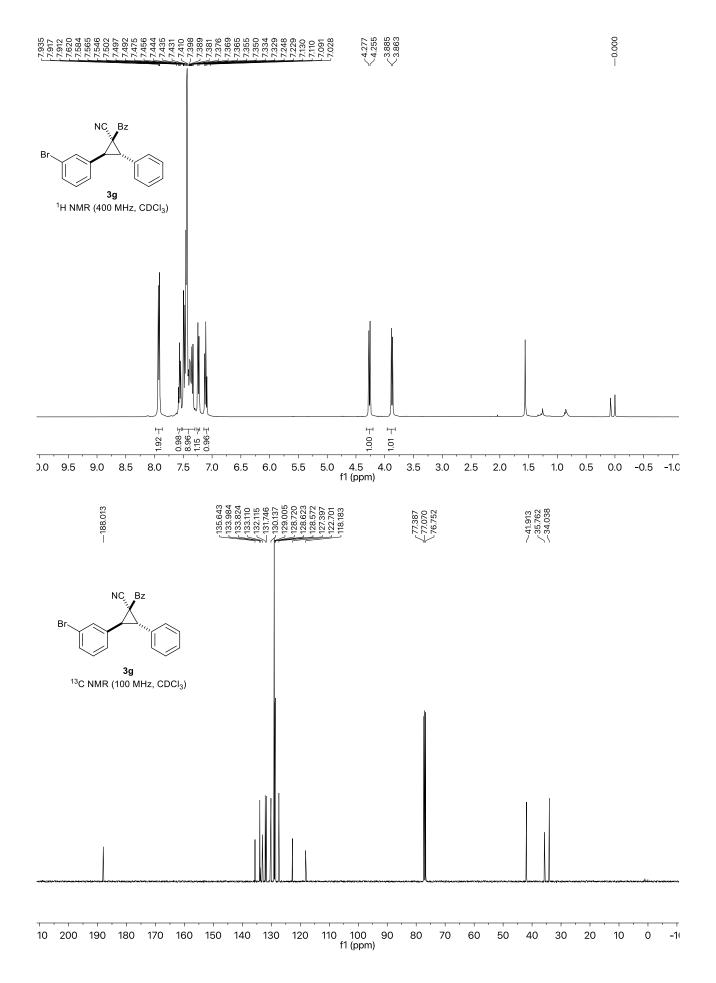


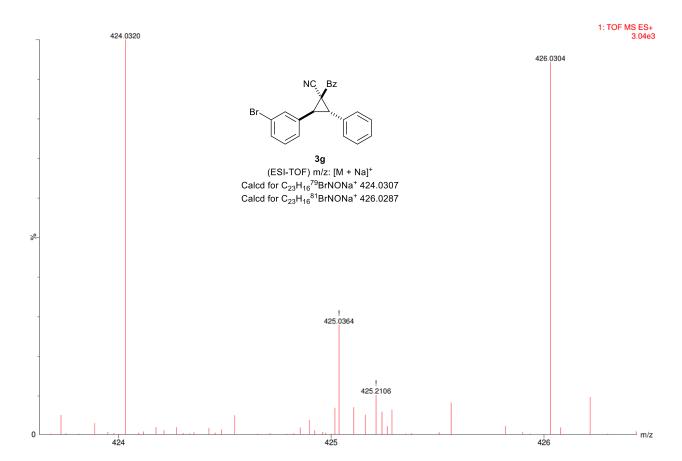


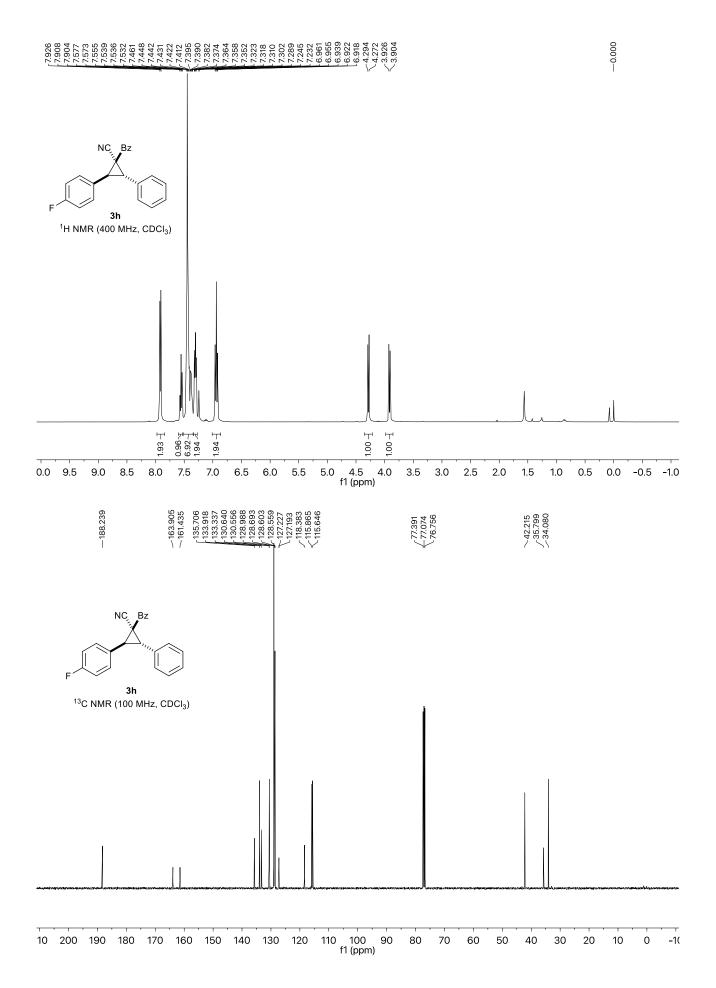






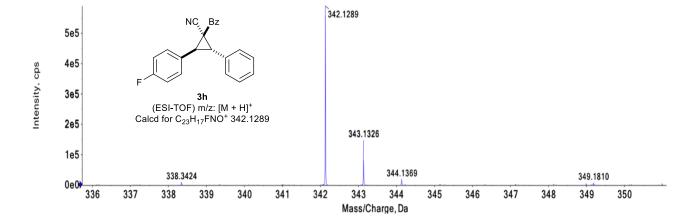


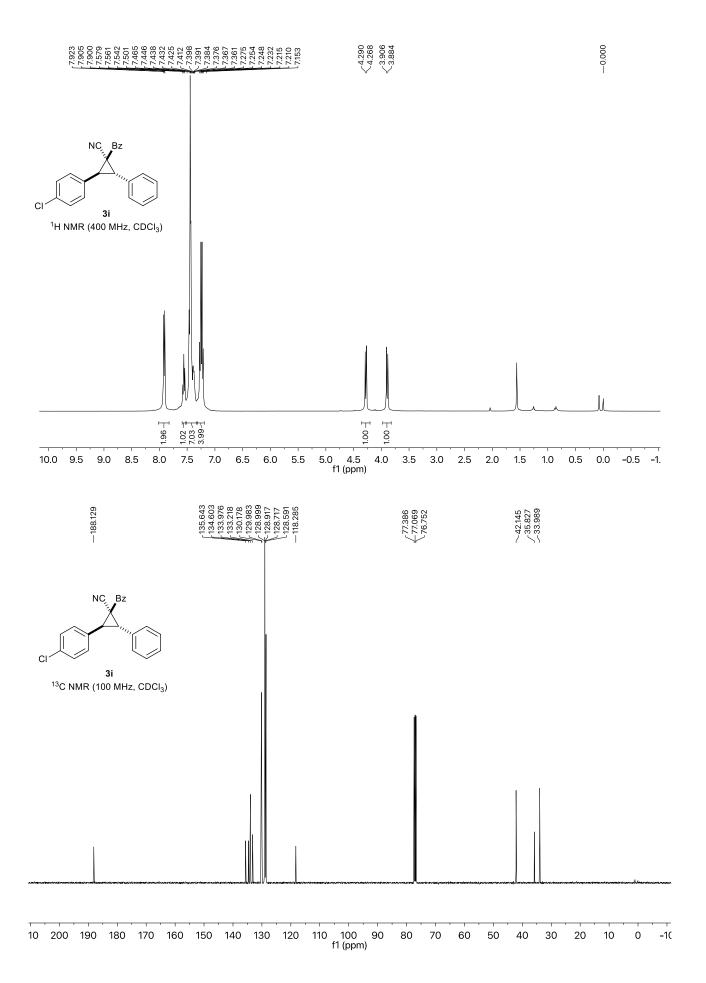


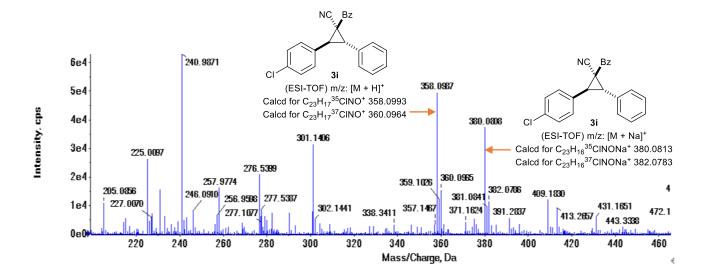


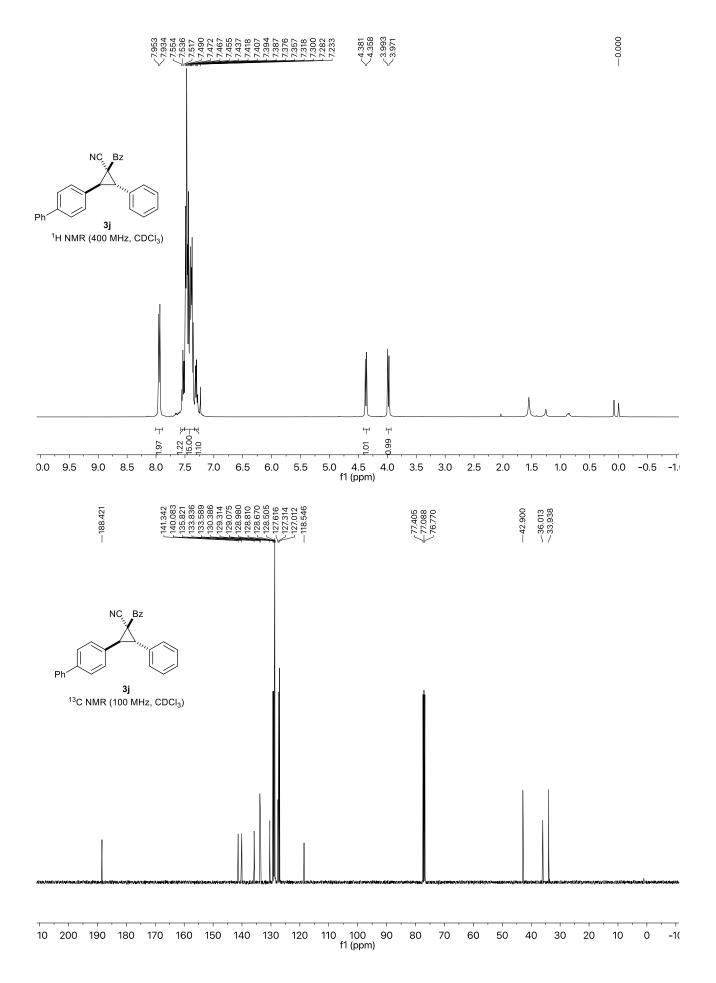


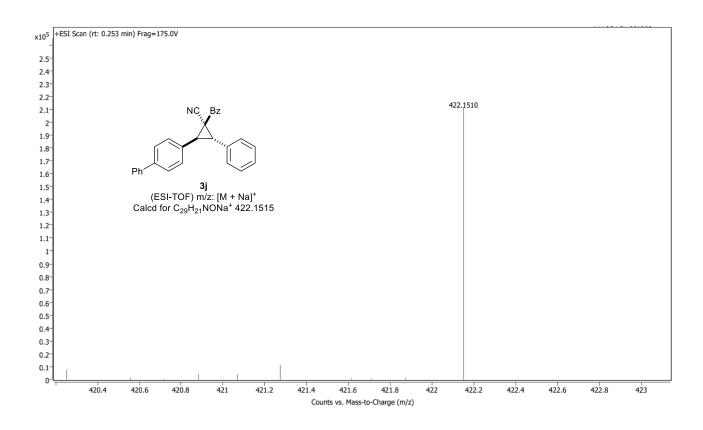
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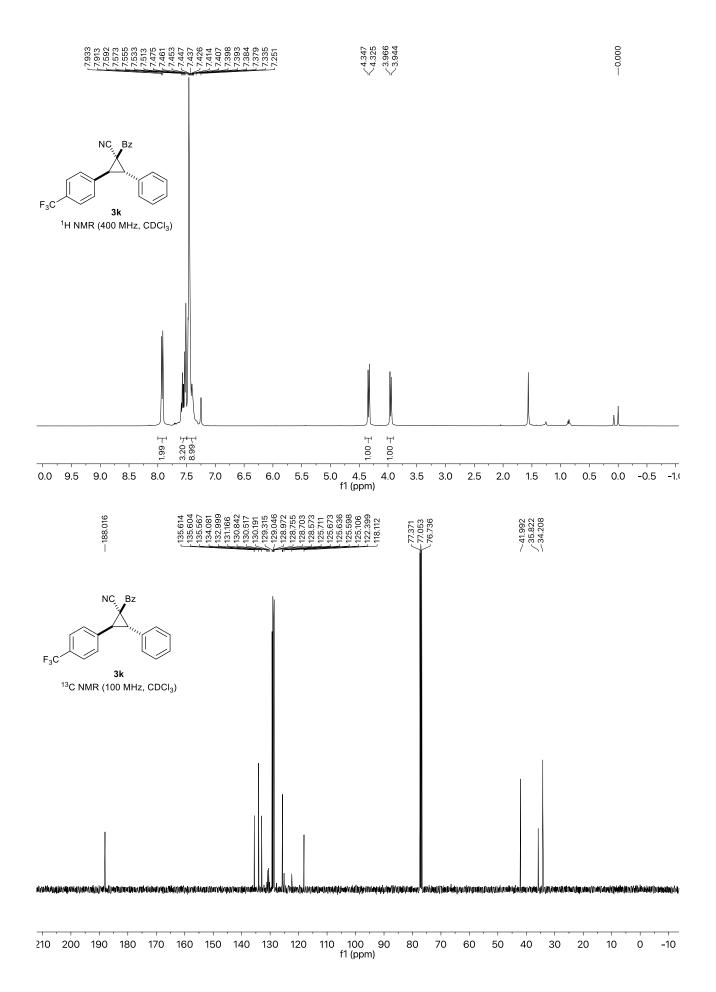






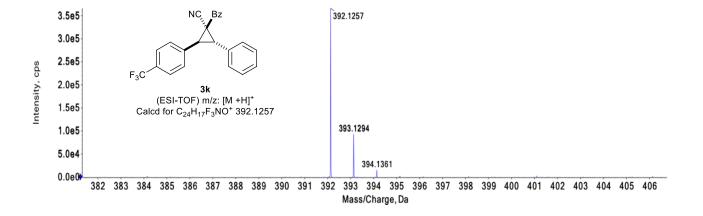


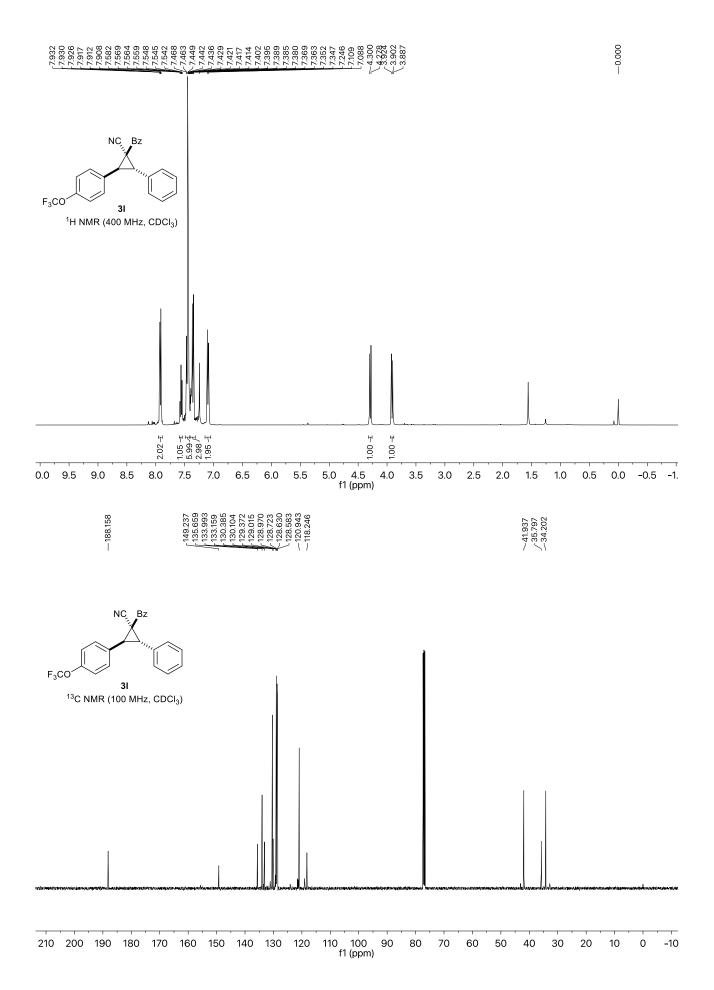






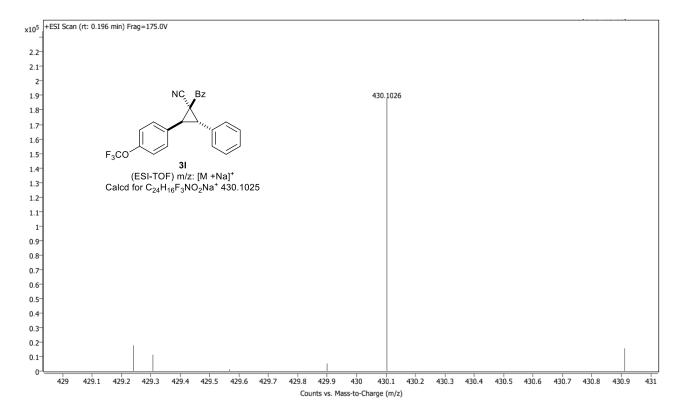
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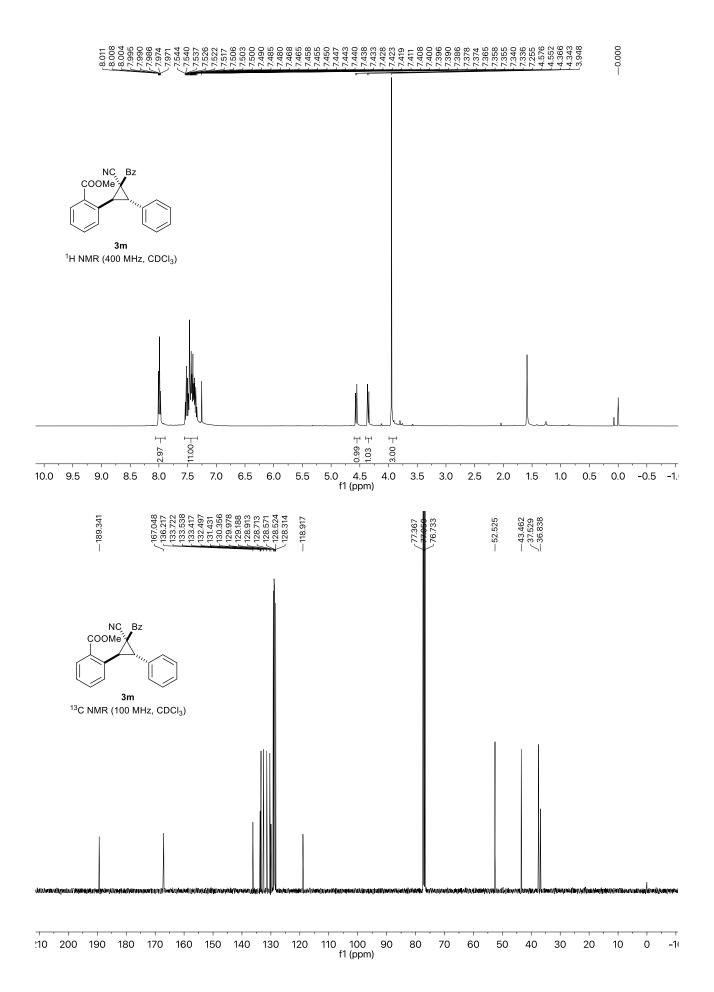


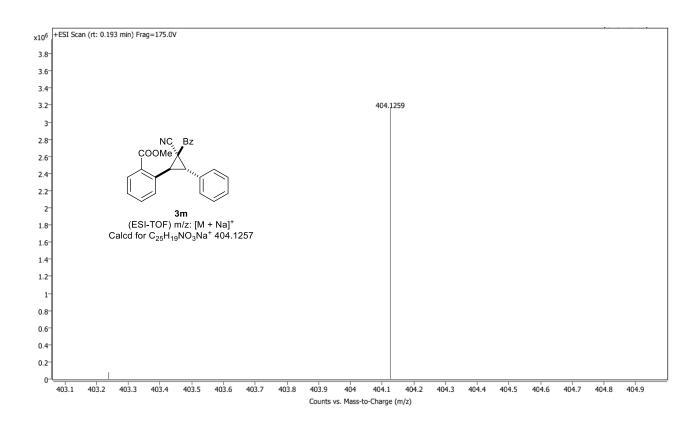


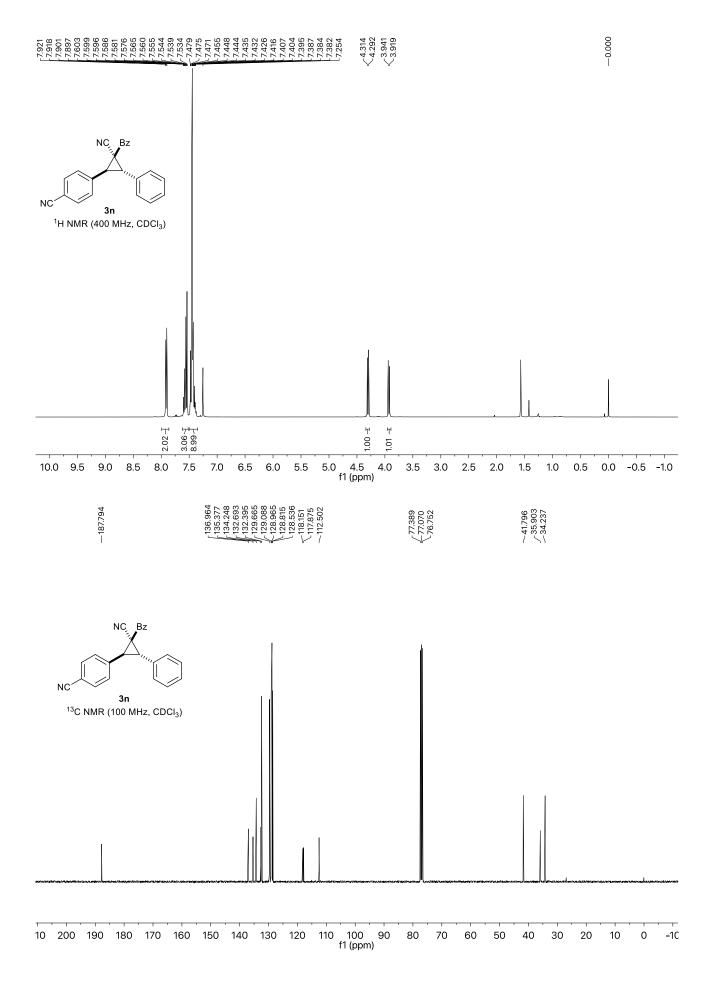


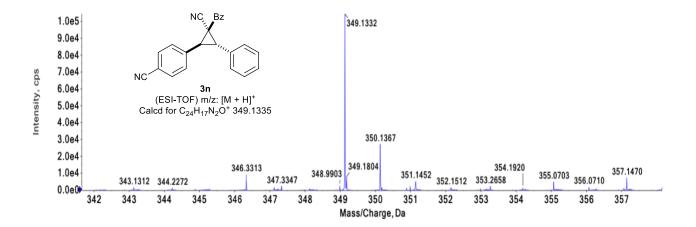
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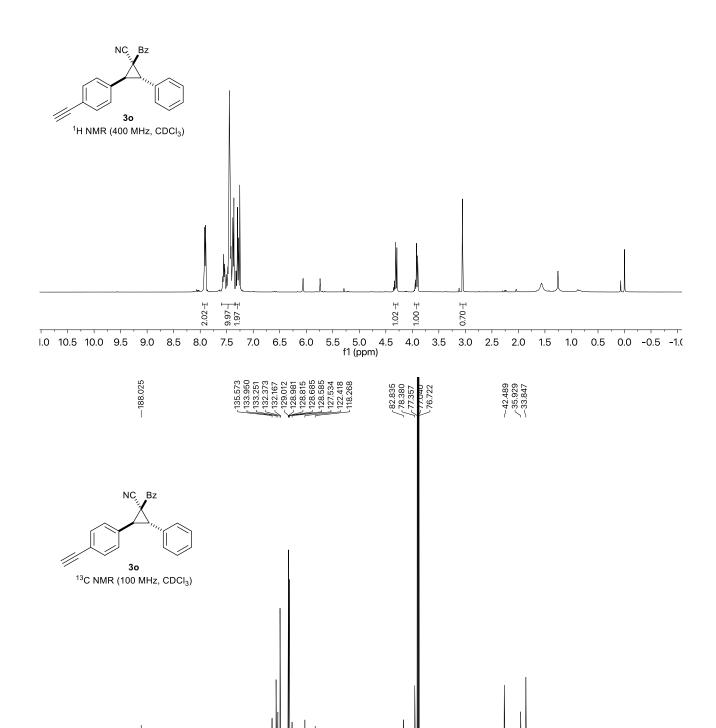




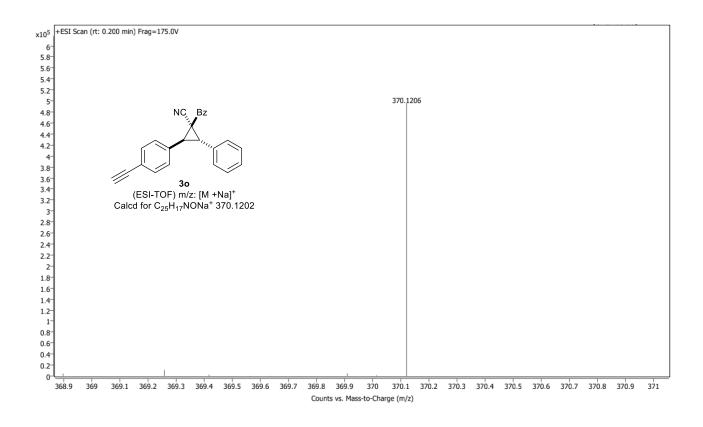


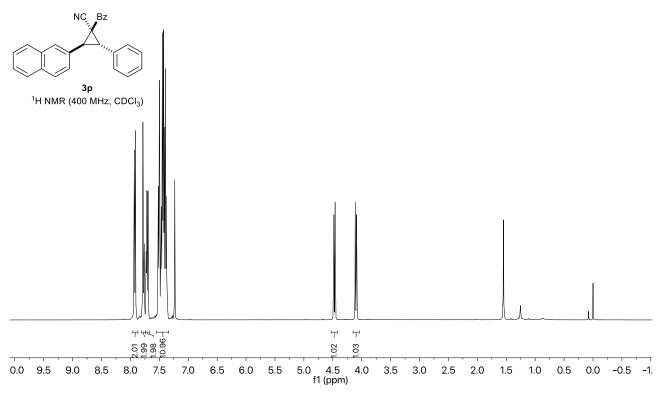


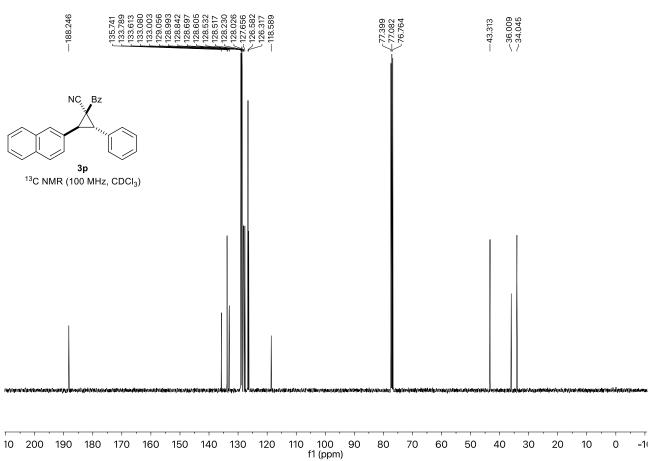
-10 -20

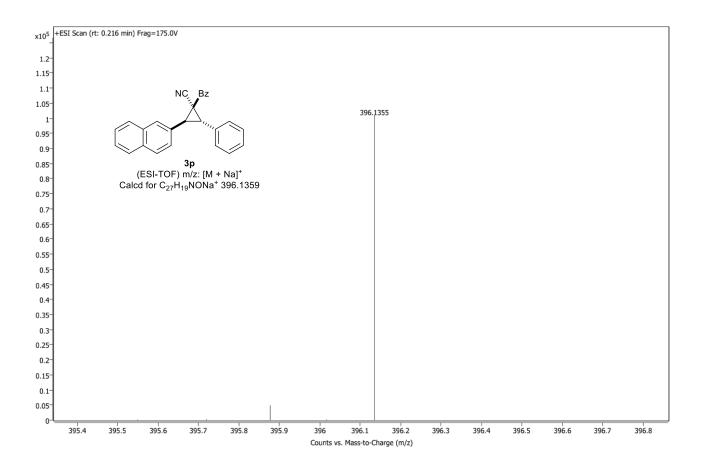


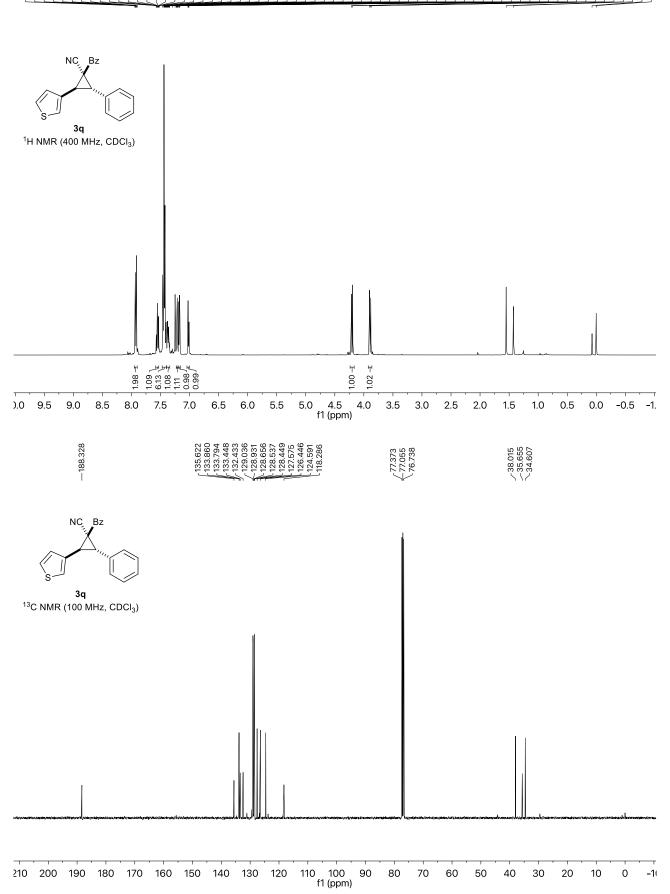
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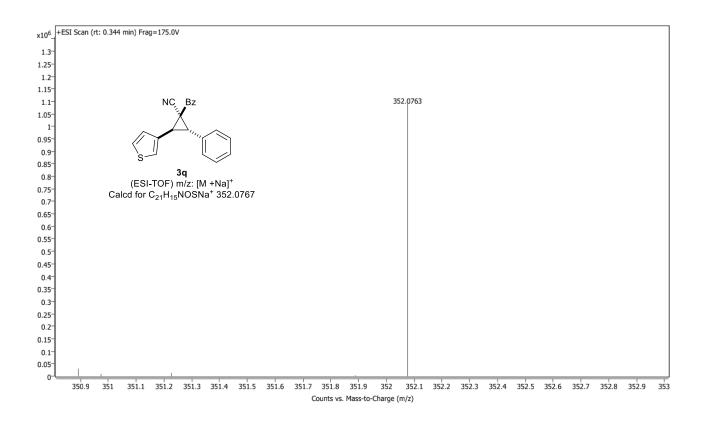


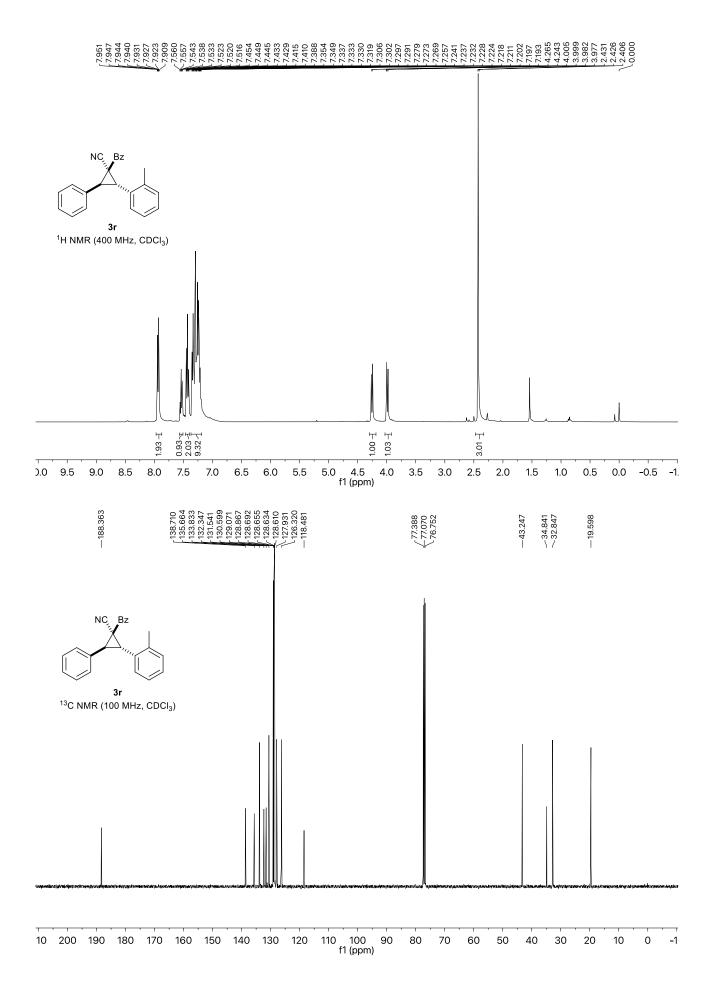


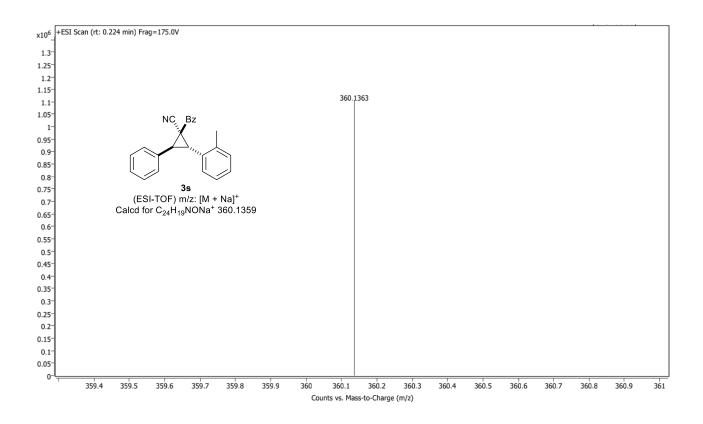


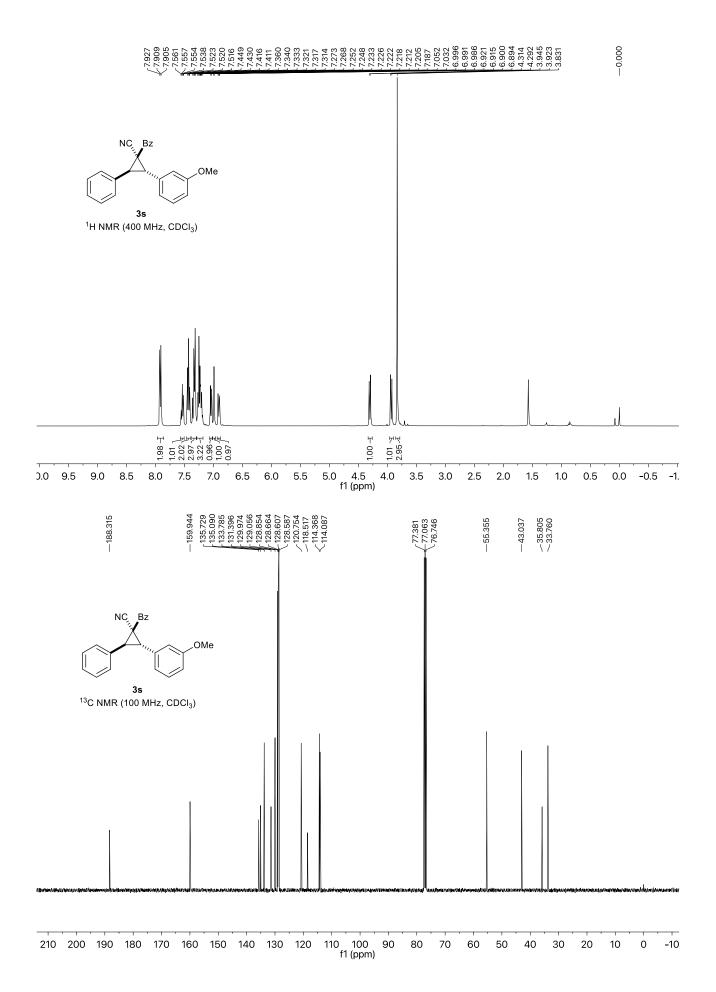


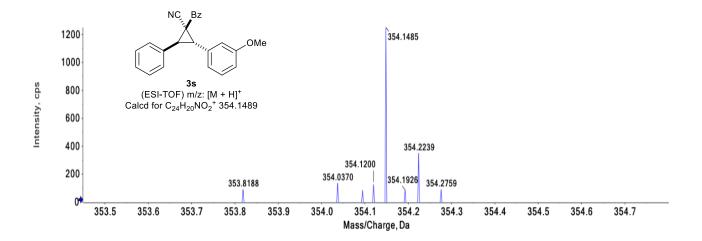


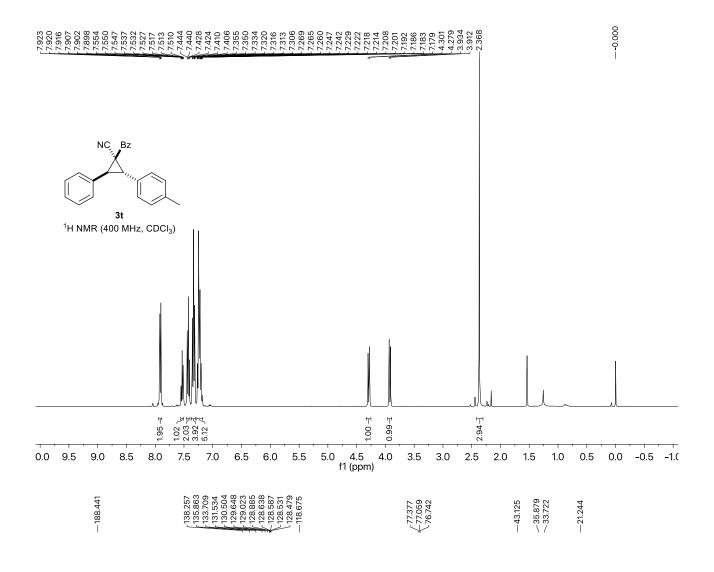


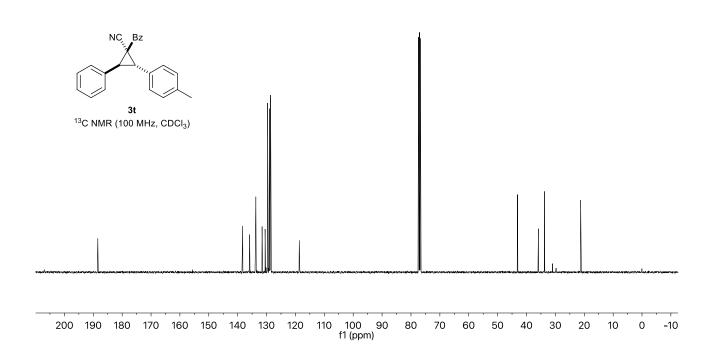


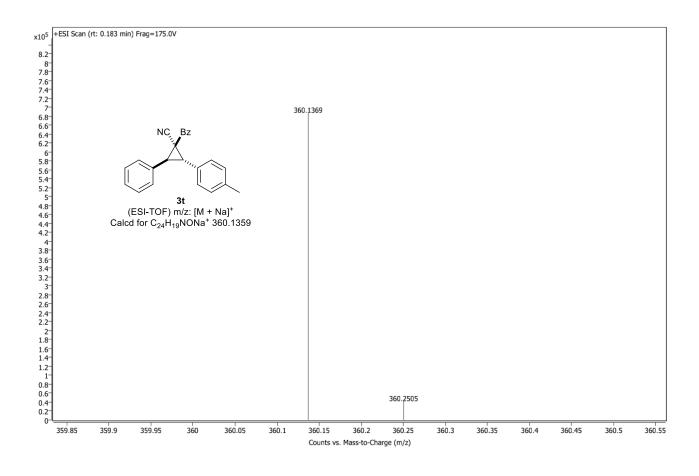


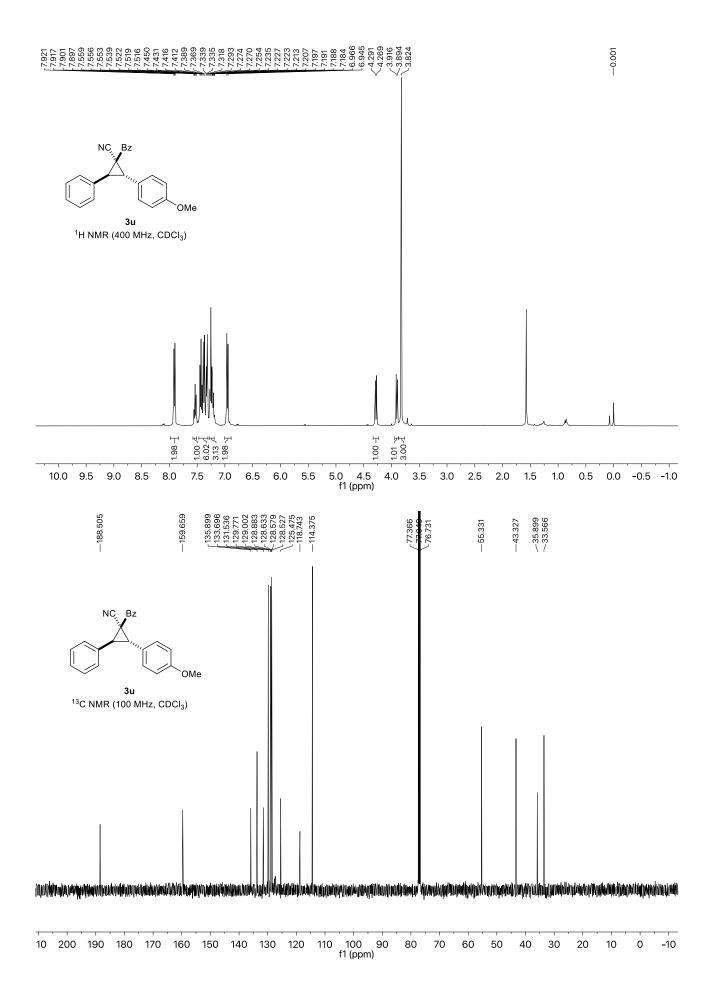


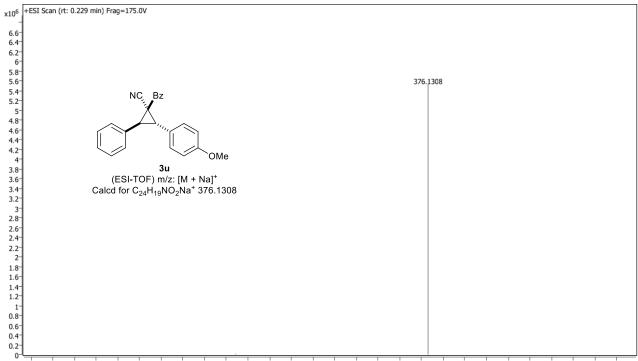






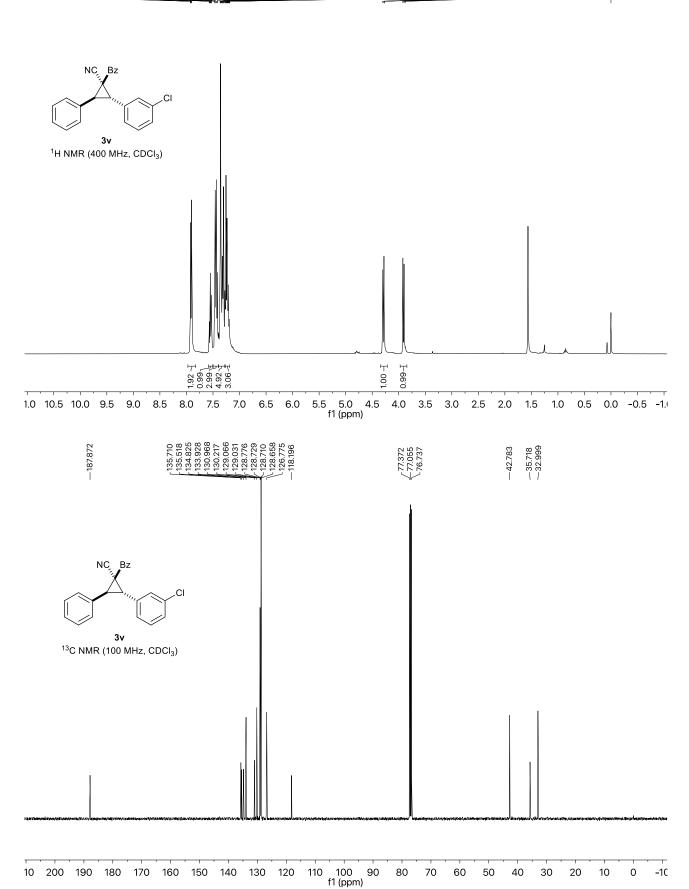


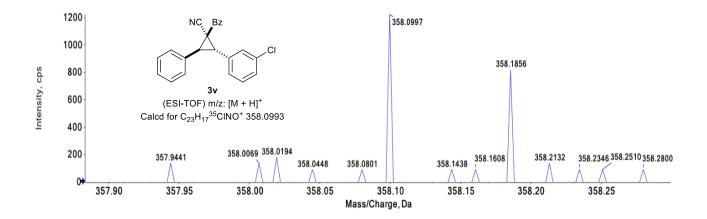


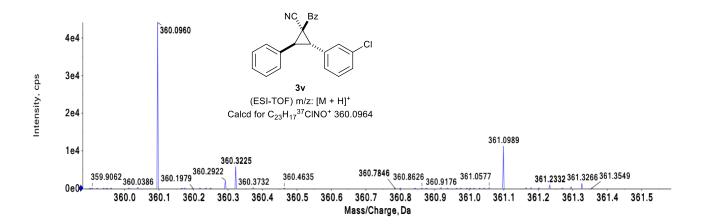


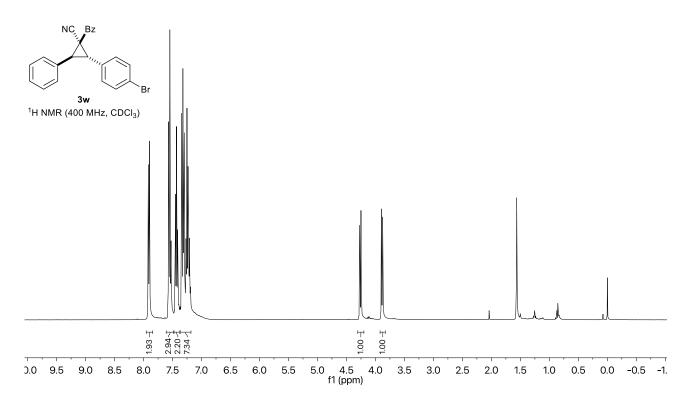
374.4 374.5 374.6 374.7 374.8 374.9 375 375.1 375.2 375.3 375.4 375.5 375.6 375.7 375.8 375.9 376 376.1 376.2 376.3 376.4 376.5 376.6 376.7 376.8 376.9 377

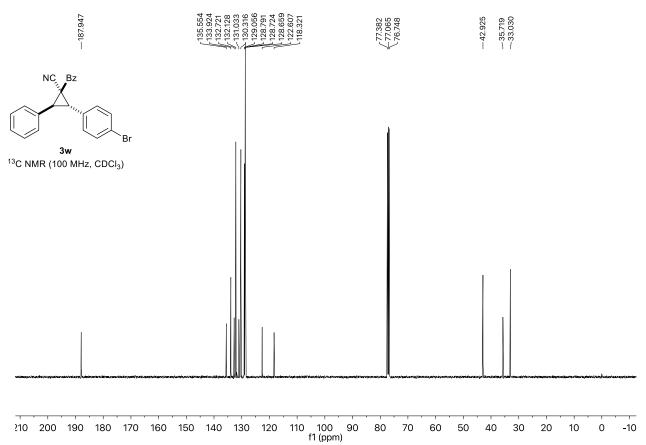
Counts vs. Mass-to-Charge (m/z)

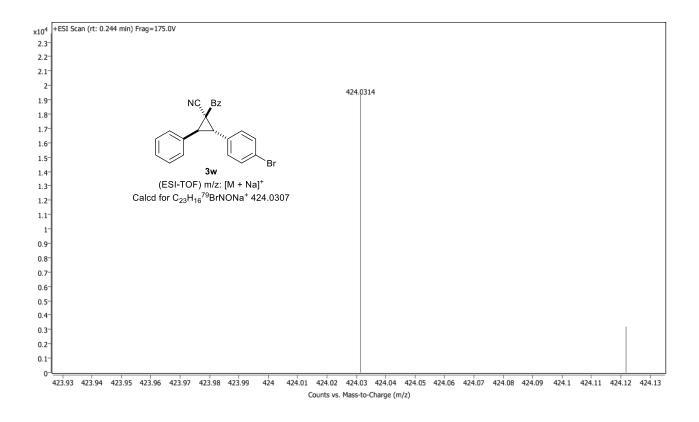


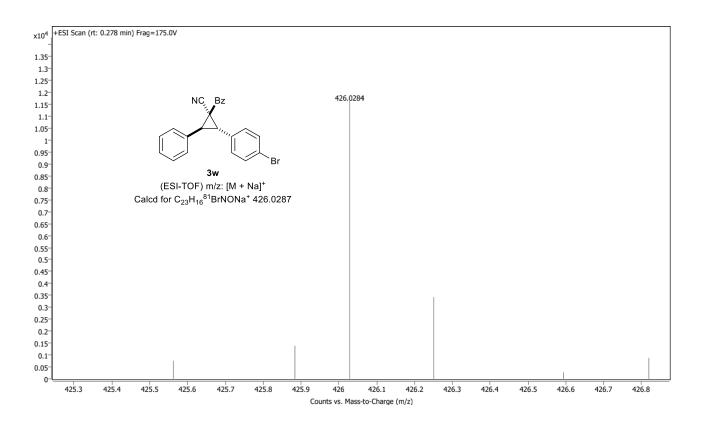


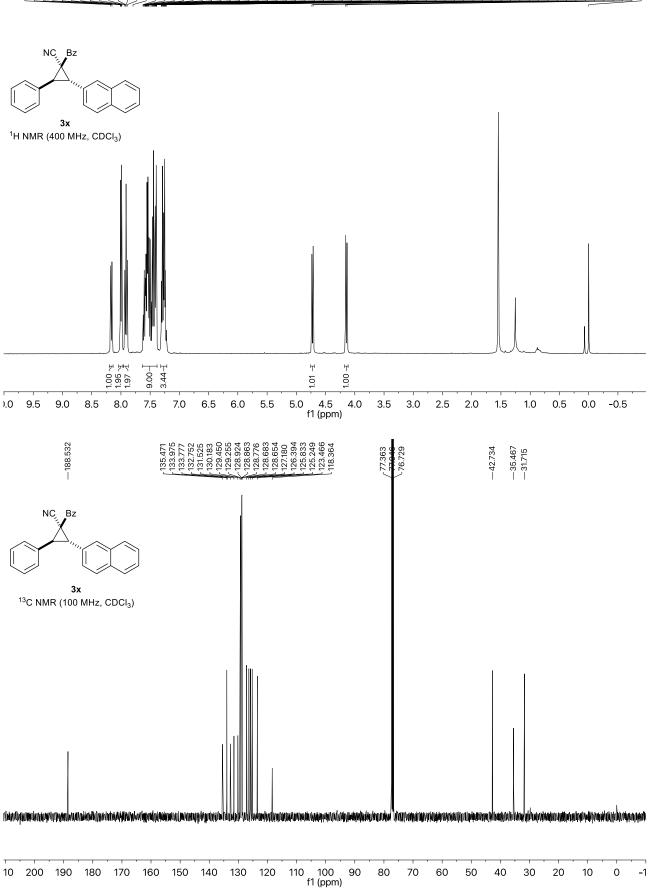


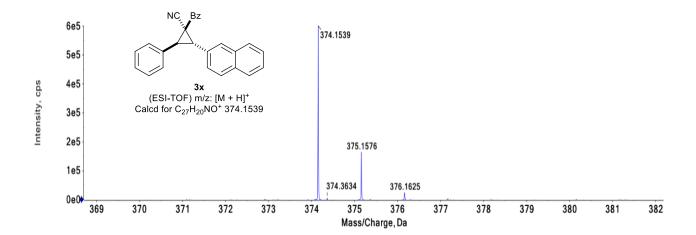




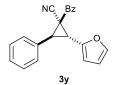




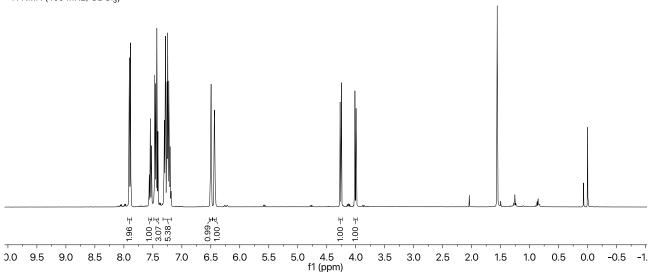


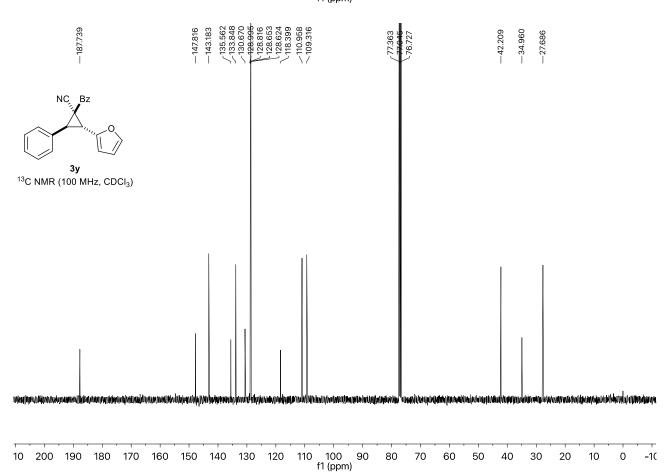


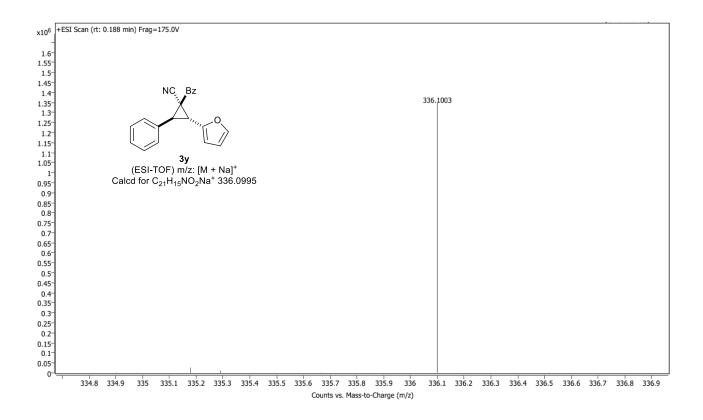


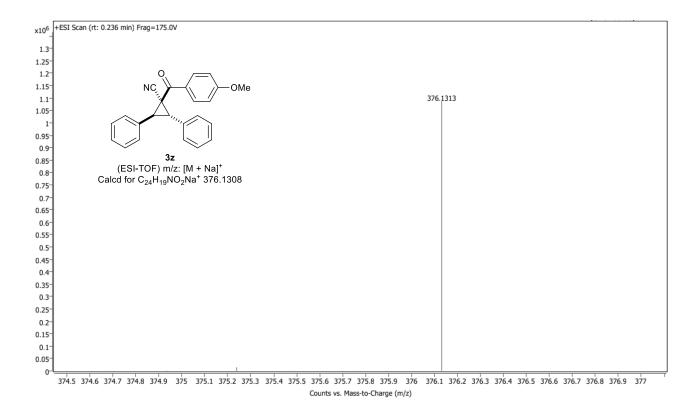


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

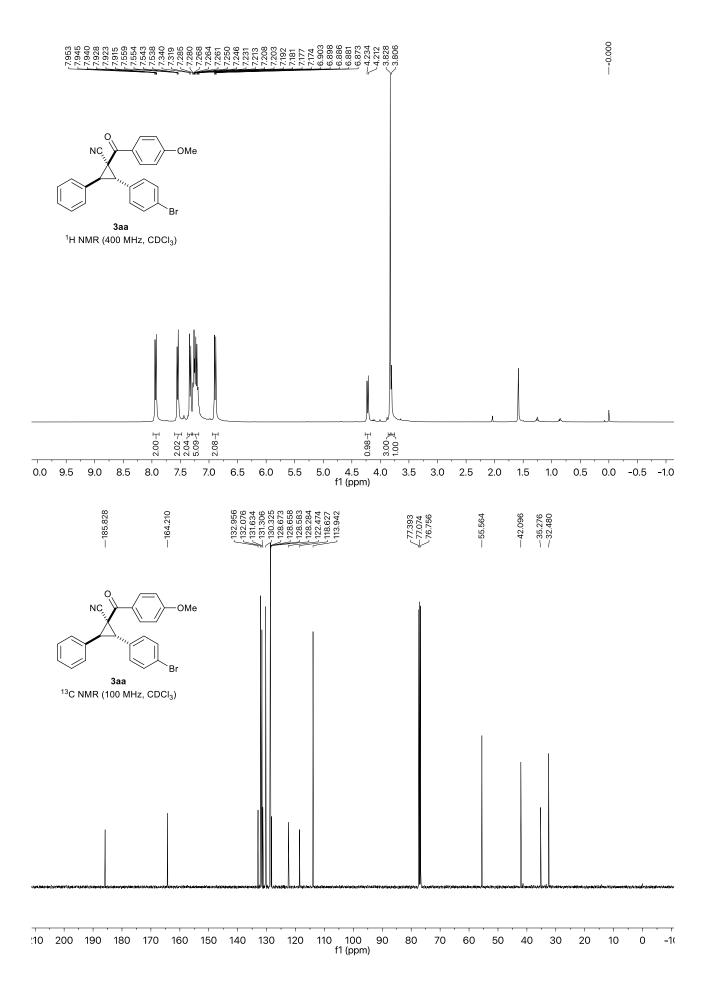


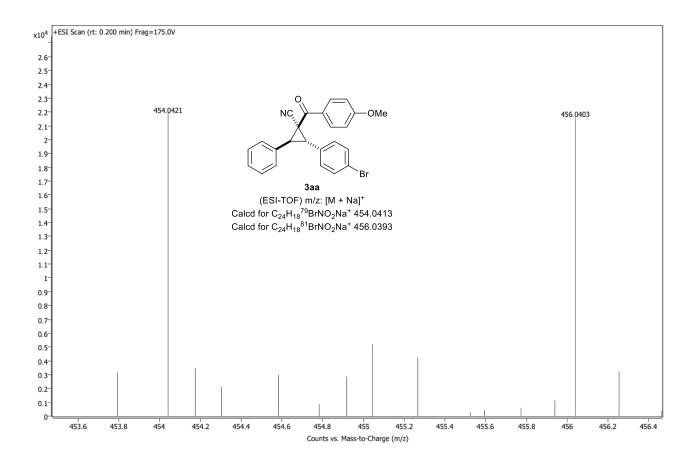


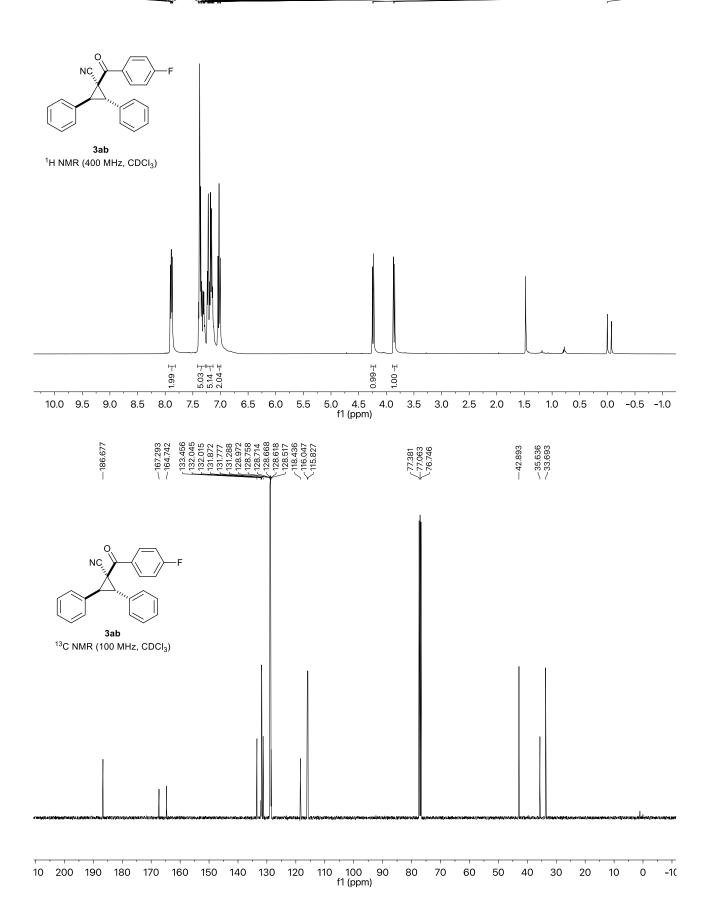




S92



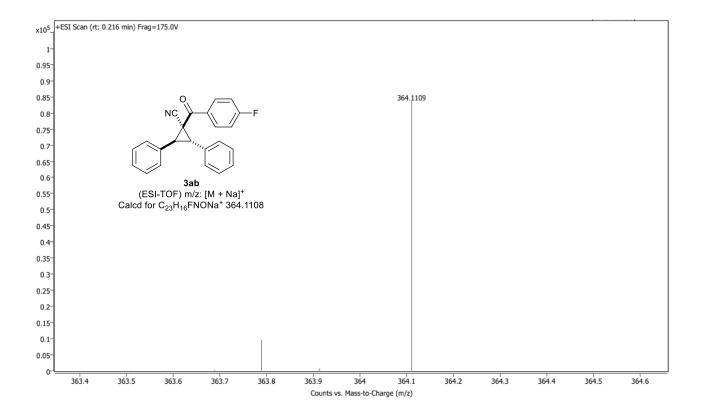


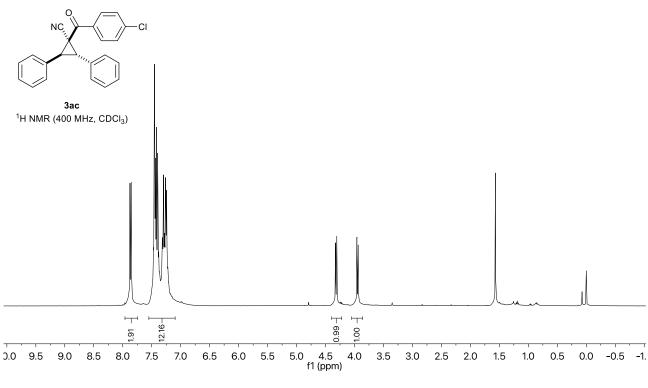


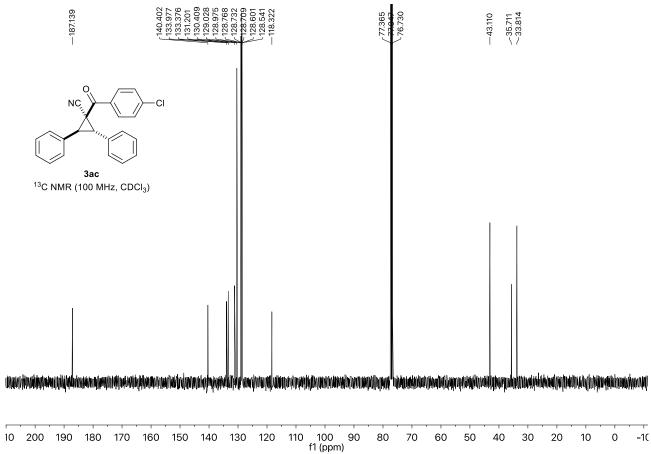


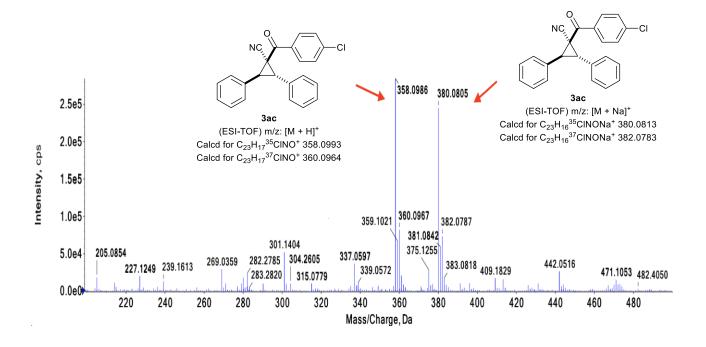
 $^{19}\mathrm{F}\ \mathrm{NMR}\ (376\ \mathrm{MHz},\ \mathrm{CDCl_3})$

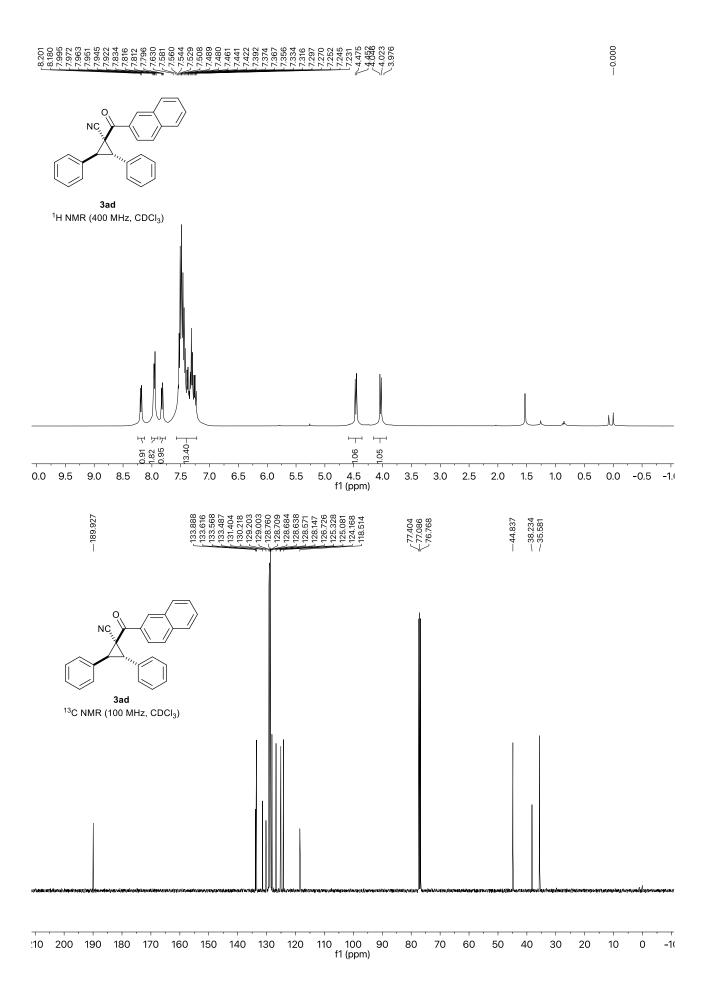
20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -22 f1 (ppm)

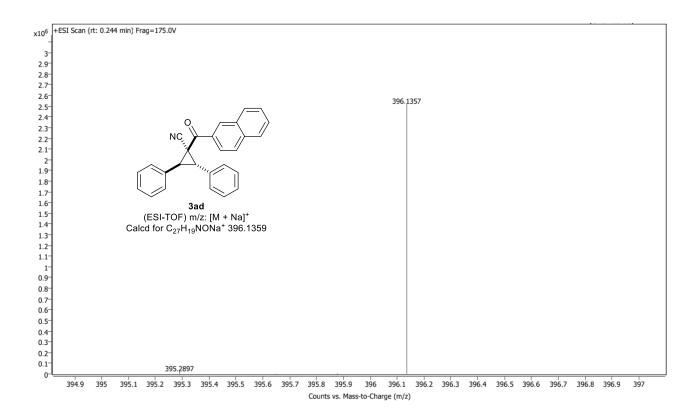


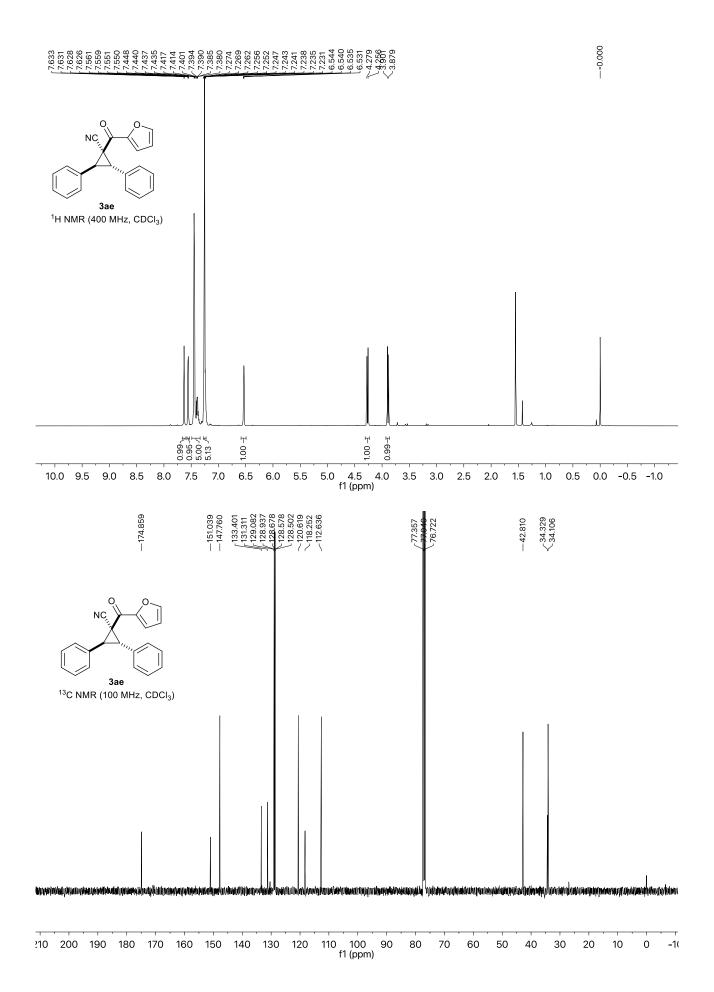


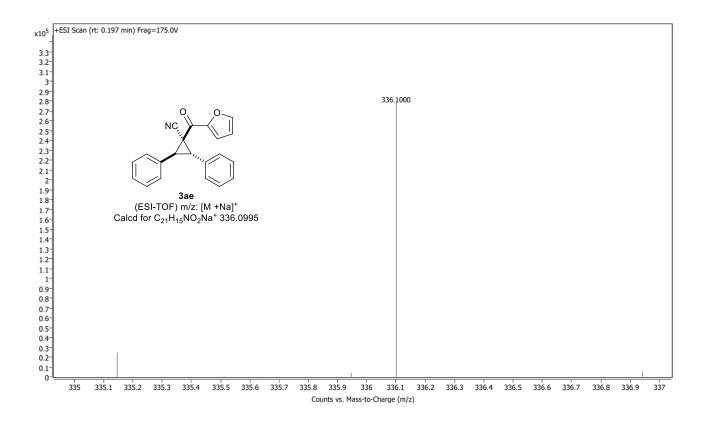


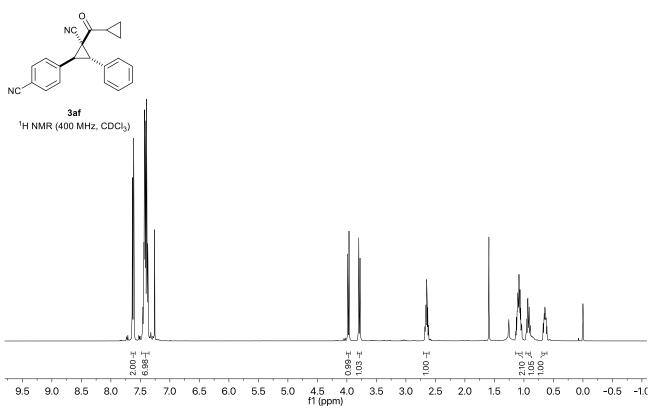


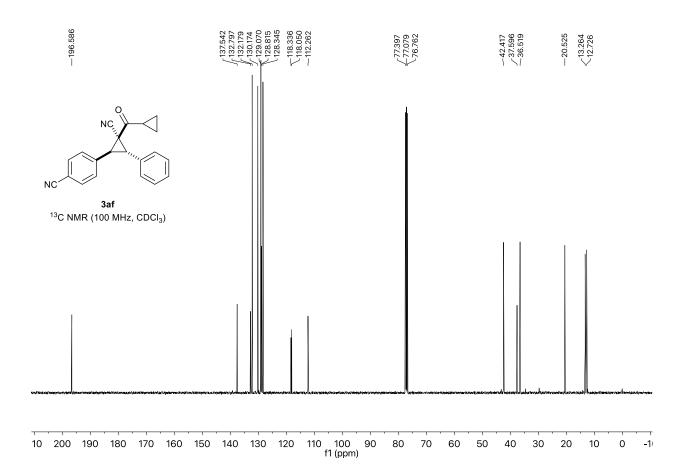


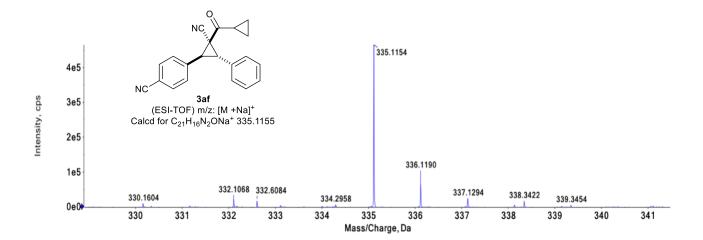


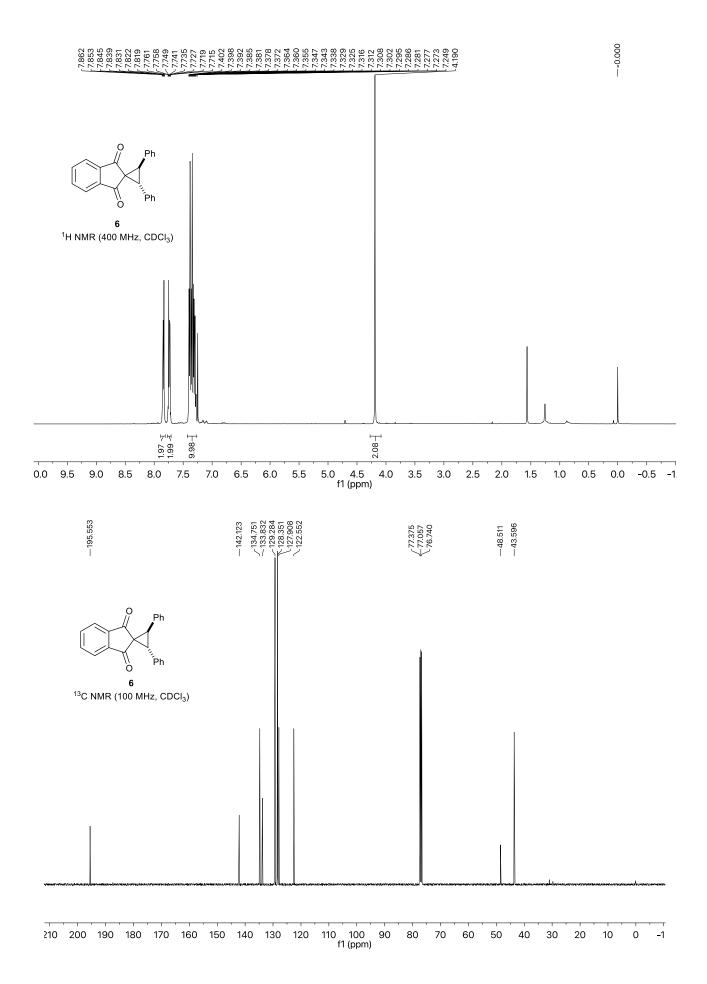


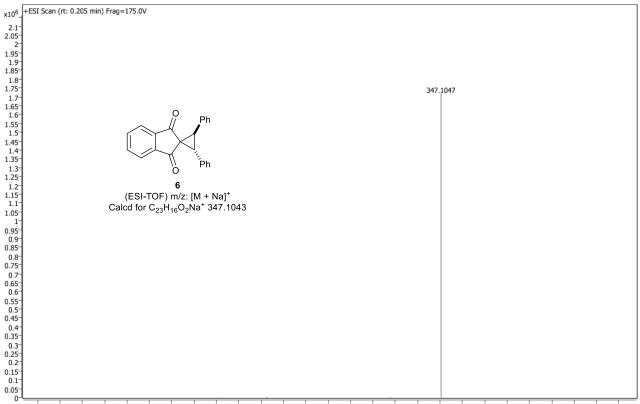




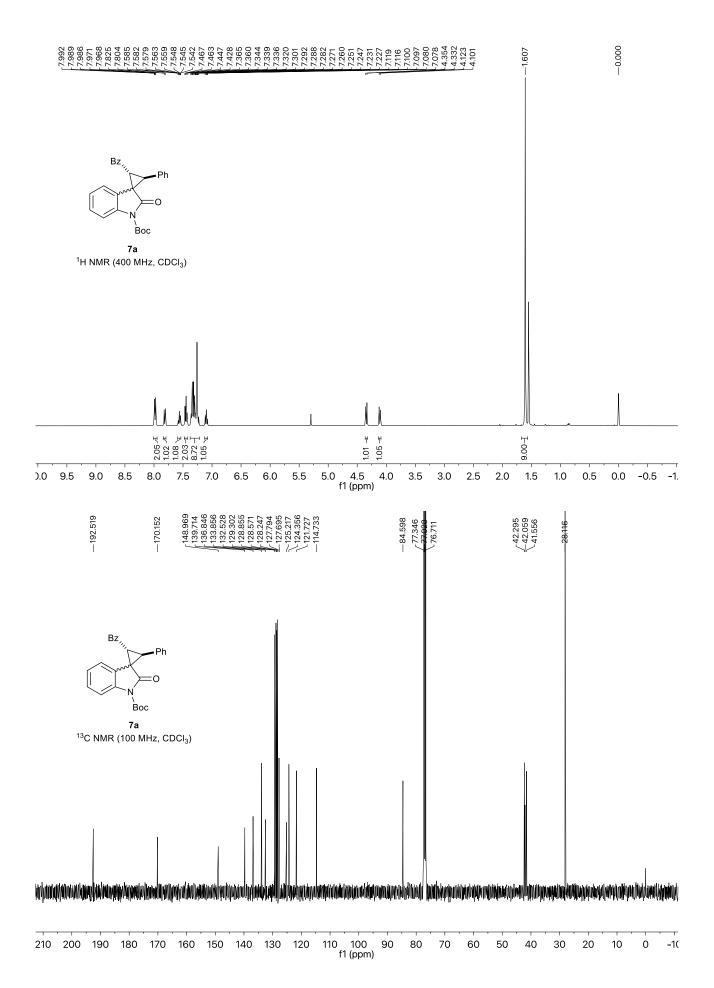




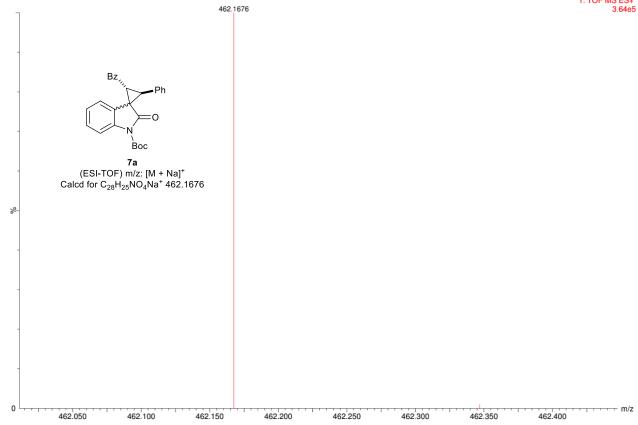


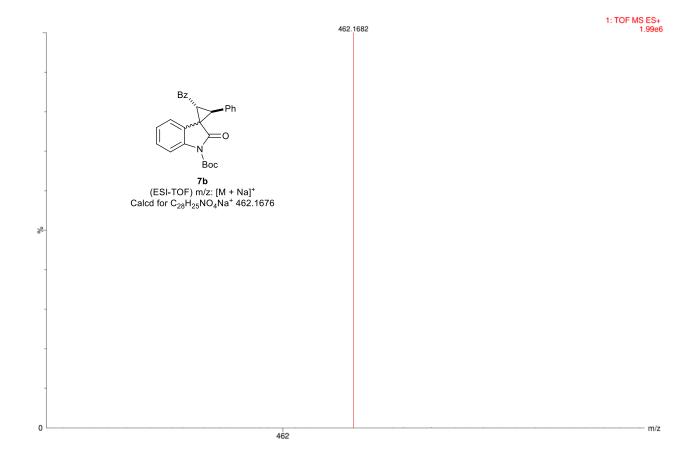


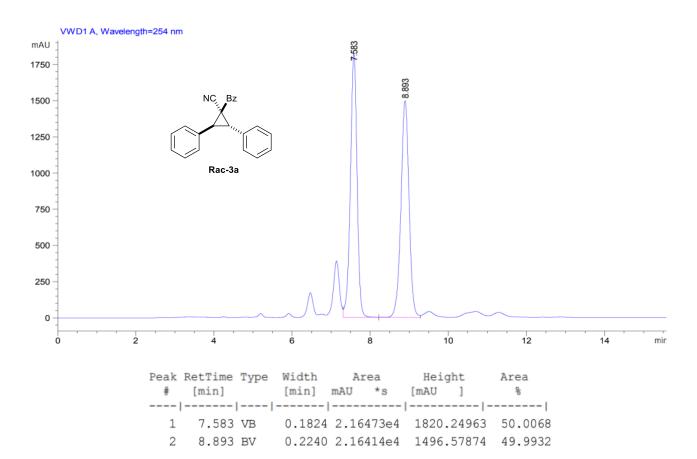
345.3 345.4 345.5 345.6 345.7 345.8 345.9 346 346.1 346.2 346.3 346.4 346.5 346.6 346.7 346.8 346.9 347 347.1 347.2 347.3 347.4 347.5 347.6 347.7 347.8 347.9 Counts vs. Mass-to-Charge (m/z)

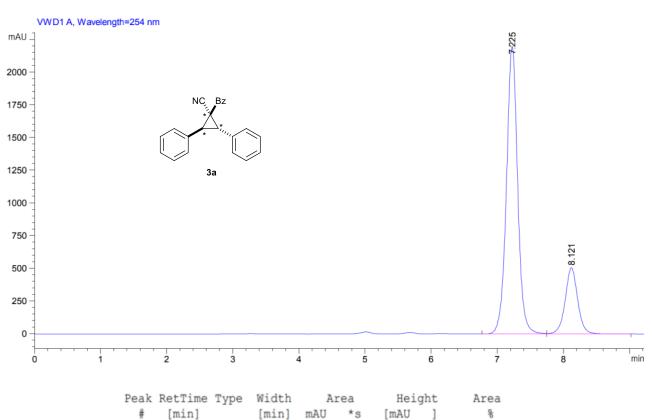












8.121 VBA 0.1999 6649.12598 506.10809 20.4173

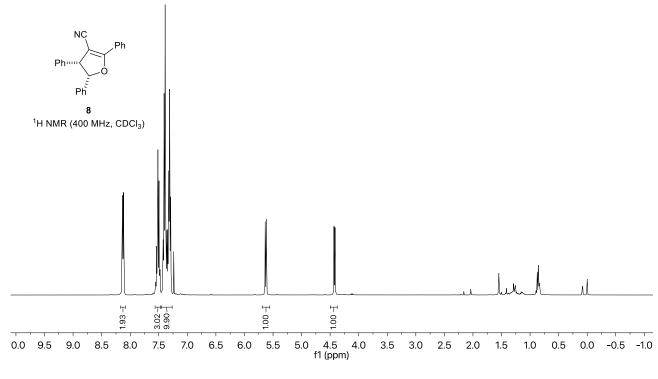
0.1798 2.59170e4 2198.23340 79.5827

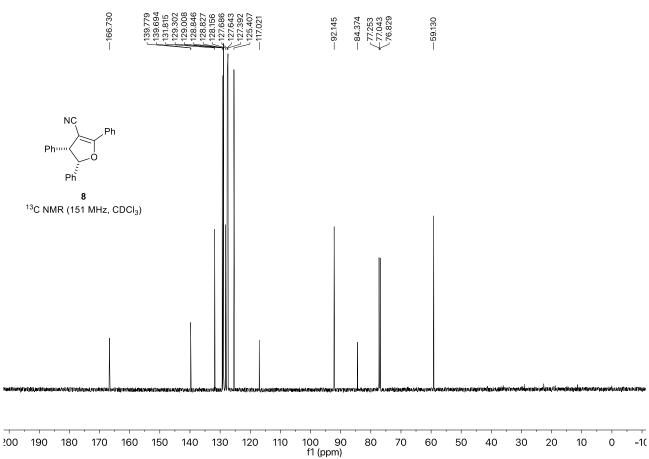
1 7.225 BV

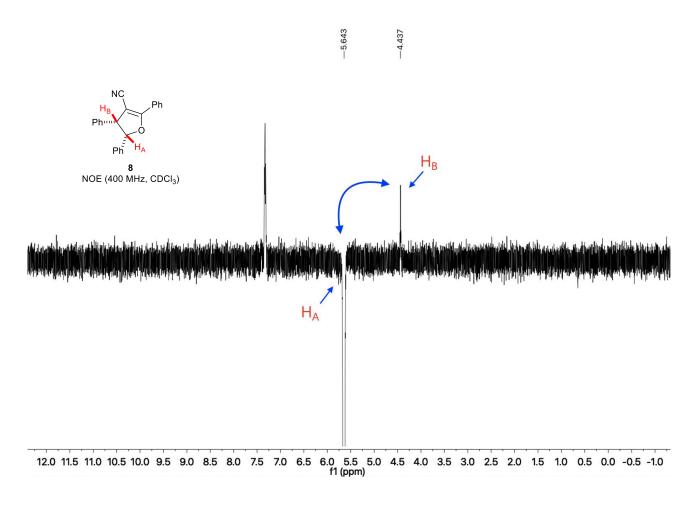
2

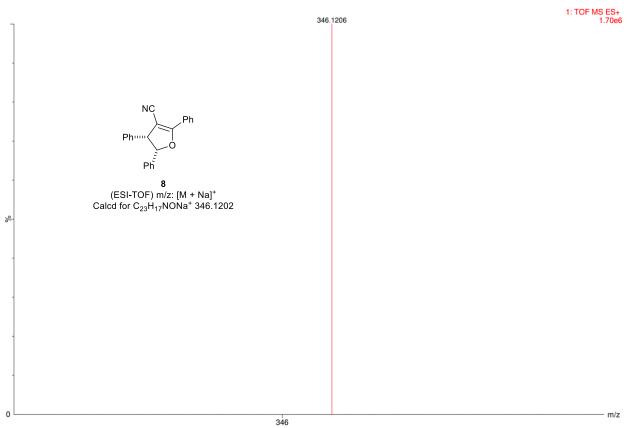


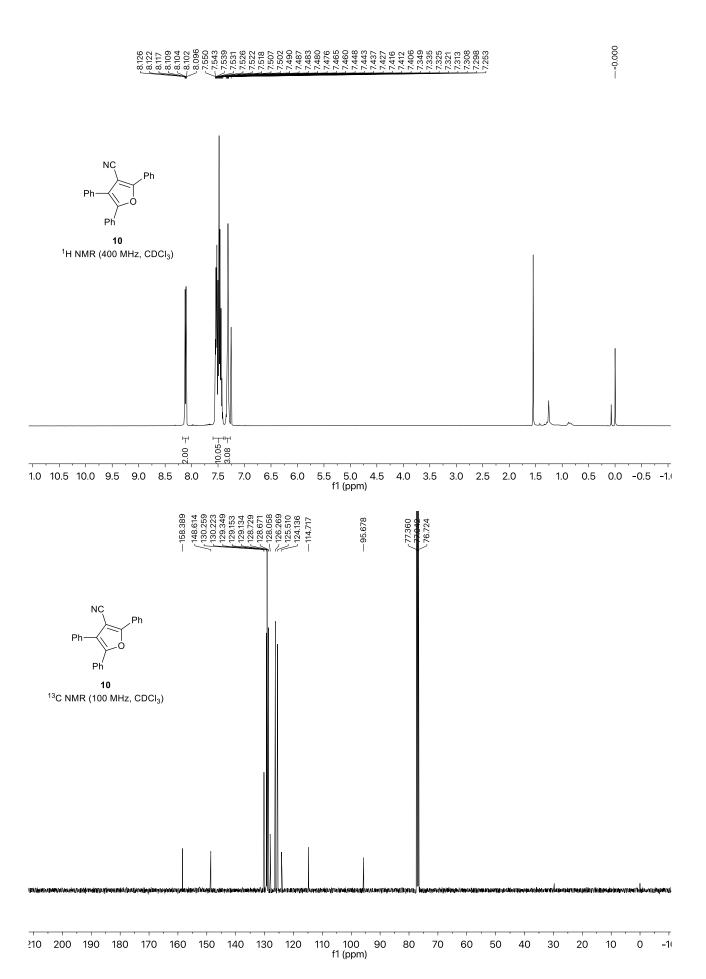


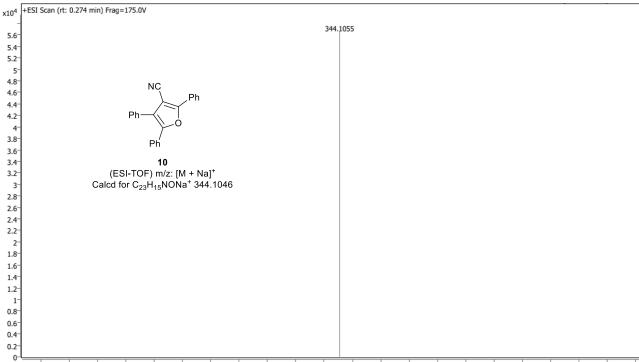












344 344.01 344.02 344.03 344.04 344.05 344.06 344.07 344.08 344.09 344.1 344.11 344.12 344.13 344.14 344.15 344.16 344.17 344.18 344.19 344.2 Counts vs. Mass-to-Charge (m/z)

