

Decyanation–(Hetero)arylation of Malononitriles to access α –(Hetero)arylnitriles

L. Reginald Mills, Purvish Patel, and Sophie A. L. Rousseaux*

Davenport Research Laboratories, Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto
80 St. George St., Toronto, ON, M5S 3H6

*sophie.rousseaux@utoronto.ca

Supporting Information: Experimental Data, Characterization, and NMR Spectra

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A. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were set up on benchtop and run under Ar or N₂ using flame-dried glassware and anhydrous solvents. PhMe and THF were purchased as HPLC-grade (inhibitor-free) from Caledon or Sigma–Aldrich and were dried using a PureSolv MD 5 solvent purification system. MeMgBr and PhMgBr were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich and were titrated using I₂ before use.¹ All other commercial reagents and starting materials were used as received. Compounds were purified by flash column chromatography using SiliCycle SilicaFlash P60 silica gel. The 8- and 16-mL culture tubes used for reactions were purchased from Fisher Scientific (catalogue nos. 14-957-76A and 14-959-35A) and were sealed using size 19 rubber septa and electrical tape.

GC-MS data was obtained on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 SE; yields represent peak areas calibrated against each compound's response factor relative to *n*-dodecane as internal standard. NMR spectra were recorded on Agilent DD2 500 MHz, Varian MercuryPlus 400 MHz or Bruker Avance III 400 MHz spectrometers. TLC samples were run on EMD Millipore TLC Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates and were visualized by UV or by staining with KMnO₄, phosphomolybdic acid (PMA), or *p*-anisaldehyde stains. Melting points were obtained on a Fisher-Johns Melting Point Apparatus. IR spectra were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 100 instrument equipped with a single-bounce diamond/ZnSe ATR accessory as solids or thin films. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a JEOL AccuTOF JMS-T1000LV mass spectrometer equipped with a Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) ion source.

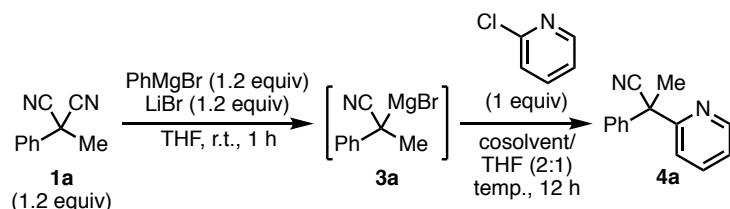
B. Optimization and Mechanistic Details

Table S1. Evaluation of Grignard reagents for transnitration²

 1a (1 equiv)	RMgBr (1 equiv) THF temp., 1 h		R-CN	
Entry	RMgBr•LiX	temp. (°C)	Conv. 1a (%) ^a	Yield (%) ^a
1	PhMgBr•LiBr	23	92	73
2		70	99	96
3	MeMgBr + LiBr (1 equiv)	23	100	81
4	<i>n</i> -BuMgBr•LiBr	23	98	84
5		70	100	79
6	CyMgBr•LiBr	23	30	16
7		70	95	71
8	<i>i</i> -PrMgCl•LiCl	23	58	43
9		70	98	79

^aDetermined by GC-MS using *n*-dodecane as internal standard.

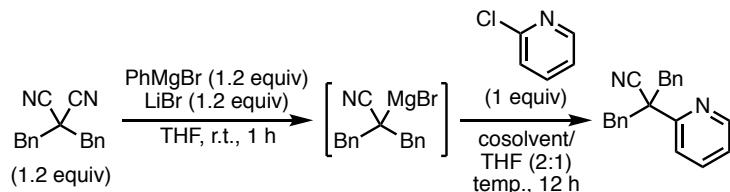
Table S2. Evaluation of decyanation–arylation conditions using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile



Entry	Cosolvent	Temp. (°C)	Yield 4a (%)
1	THF	23	0
2	PhMe	23	7
3	DMF	23	18
4	MeCN	23	0
5	DMSO	23	39
6	DMSO	50	82

Yields determined by GC-MS using *n*-dodecane as internal standard.

Table S3. Evaluation of decyanation–arylation conditions using 2,2-dibenzylmalononitrile



Reaction	Cosolvent	Temp. (°C)	Remaining 2-PyCl (%)	Yield (%)
1	none	23	28	9
2	PhMe	23	20	53
3	DMF	23	32	8
4	MeCN	23	34	0
5	DMSO	23	33	0
6	PhMe	50	20	80
7	PhMe	80	17	77
8	PhMe	110	11	87

Yields determined by GC-MS using *n*-dodecane as internal standard.

Table S4. Attempted decyanation–lithiation with α -arylnitrile substrates (unoptimized) (yields <20%)

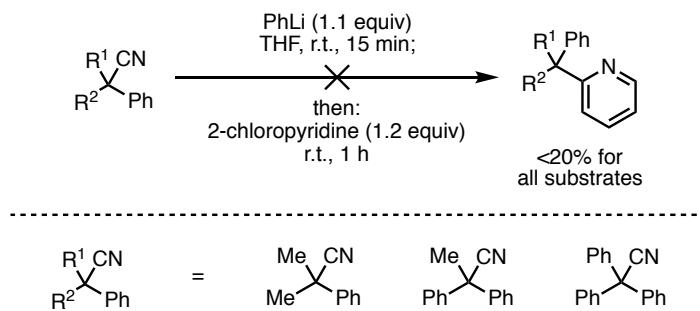
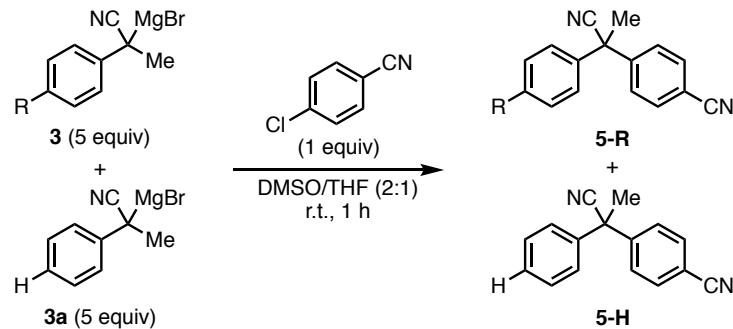


Table S5. Yields for same-pot competition experiment



Entry	R	GC-MS RAP 5-R (%)	GC-MS RAP 5-H (%)
1	OMe	77	23
2	t-Bu	69	31
3	F	51	49
4	Cl	36	64

Yields determined by GC-MS using *n*-dodecane as internal standard; RAP = relative area percent.

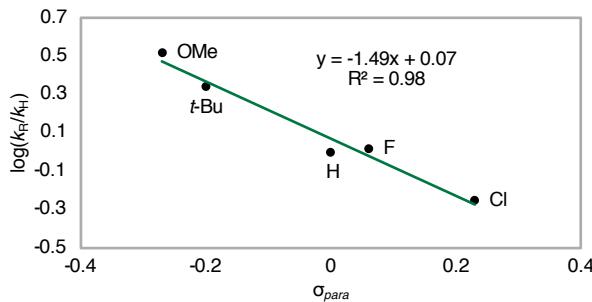
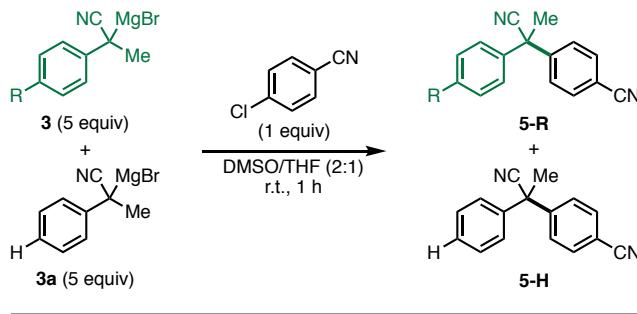
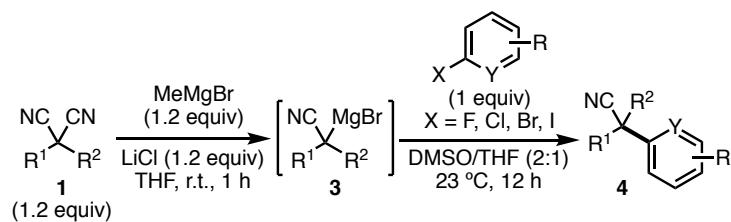


Figure S1. Hammett trend for same-pot competition experiment

C. Preparation of α -(Hetero)Arylnitrile Products

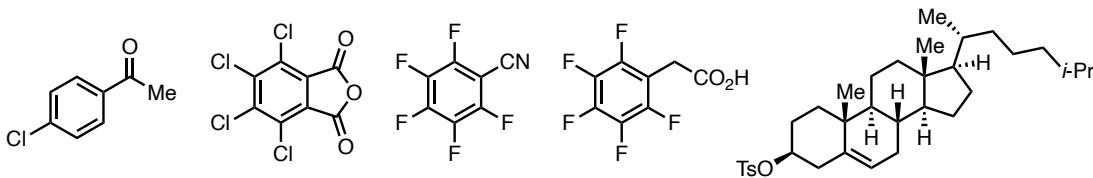


General Procedure A: Decyanation–Metalation and Arylation. An 8-mL threaded culture tube sealed with a size 19 septum was flame-dried under vacuum and cooled under N_2 . To the tube was added malononitrile (**1**) (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the tube was resealed and evacuated and backfilled with N_2 ($\times 3$). A stock solution of LiCl in THF (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol LiCl, 1.2 equiv) was added, followed by methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et_2O , 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 1 h. Then, the reaction was diluted with DMSO (1.2 mL, total reaction volume = 1.8 mL of a 2:1 DMSO/THF mixture), and aryl electrophile was added (if liquid) (0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv) (if the aryl electrophile was a solid, it was added as a stock solution in DMSO). The reaction was stirred at 23 °C until completion, as judged by TLC. The reaction was quenched with half-saturated NH_4Cl and extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$). The organic fractions were combined, filtered over a plug of $\text{MgSO}_4/\text{Celite}$ (1:1), and the filtrate was concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the desired α -(hetero)arylnitrile.

LiCl Solution (0.60 M in THF). To a 25-mL round-bottom flask with a stir bar was added LiCl (0.25 g, 6.0 mmol) and the flask was flame-dried and cooled under vacuum. Once cool, THF (10 mL, 0.60 M) was added, and the solution was stirred for 15 min to yield a 0.60 M solution of LiCl in THF.

Table S6. Additional incompatible substrates (yield <10%)

Electrophiles



Malononitriles

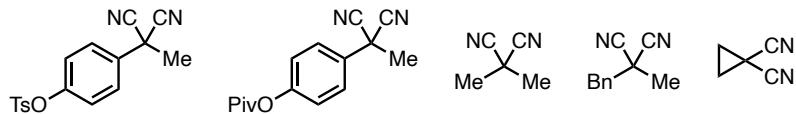
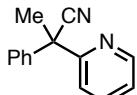
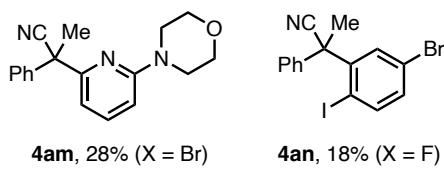
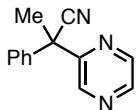


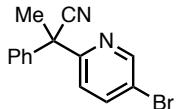
Table S7. Lower yielding substrates



2-Phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4a**):** Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.30-mmol scale with the modification that the reaction was heated at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyridine (28 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (51 mg, 0.245 mmol, 82%). Analytical data:³ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.63 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 159.3, 149.5, 140.5, 137.3, 129.1, 128.1, 126.5, 123.2, 122.9, 121.8, 48.9, 27.0 ppm.

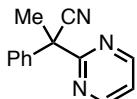


2-Phenyl-2-(pyrazin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4b**):** Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.30-mmol scale using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-iodopyrazine (30 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 20–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (62 mg, 0.297 mmol, 99%). Analytical data:⁴ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.72 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 155.1, 144.0, 143.9, 143.5, 139.1, 129.3, 128.6, 126.4, 122.0, 47.1, 26.7 ppm.



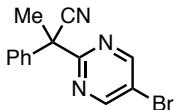
2-(5-Bromopyridin-2-yl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4c**):** Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 5-bromo-2-fluoropyridine (31 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes)

to yield the product as a colourless oil (85 mg, 0.296 mmol, 99%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.67 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.29 (m, 4H), 2.16 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 157.8, 150.6, 139.9, 129.2, 128.3, 126.4, 123.2, 122.7, 120.3, 48.5, 26.9 ppm (one peak is overlapping); **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₄H₁₂N₂Br (M+H): 287.0178; found: 287.0173; **IR** (neat): 2918, 2850, 2242, 1612, 1565, 1452, 1242, 1086, 785, 743, 697 cm⁻¹.

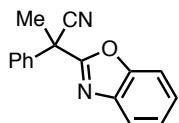


2-Phenyl-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4d): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 20–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (55 mg, 0.263 mmol, 88%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29 (tt, *J* = 6.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.2, 157.8, 139.5, 129.0, 128.3, 126.3, 122.4, 120.1, 51.0, 26.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₂N₃ (M+H): 210.1026; found: 210.1026; **IR** (neat): 2961, 2853, 2237, 1716, 1584, 1564, 1496, 1455, 1411, 1183, 800, 755, 718, 695 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 80–81 °C.

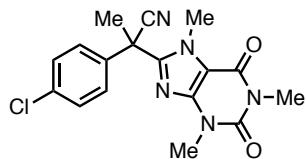
2-Phenyl-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4d) (gram-scale): Prepared on 7.1-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (1.3 g, 8.5 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (2.8 mL a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 8.5 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (14 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 8.5 mmol, equiv), DMSO (28 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (0.81 g, 7.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 20–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (1.1 g, 5.2 mmol, 74%). The analytical data was identical to the product prepared on 0.30-mmol scale.



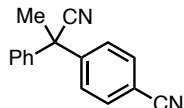
2-(5-Bromopyrimidin-2-yl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4e): Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.20-mmol scale. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (37 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL) and 5-bromo-2-chloropyrimidine (39 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (54 mg, 0.188 mmol, 94%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.79 (s, 2H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.24 (m, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 166.3, 158.5, 139.0, 129.1, 128.5, 126.2, 121.9, 119.6, 50.5, 26.4 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₃Br (M+H): 288.0131; found: 288.0124; **IR** (neat): 2963, 2873, 2230, 1732, 1542, 1496, 1412, 1366, 1121, 1018, 764, 737, 699 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 93–95 °C.



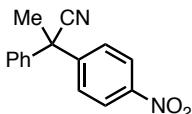
2-(Benzoxazol-2-yl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4f): Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.20-mmol scale. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (37 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL) and iodobenzoxazole (49 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (34 mg, 0.137 mmol, 69%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.82–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.34 (m, 5H), 2.31 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 162.6, 151.4, 140.7, 137.0, 129.5, 129.1, 127.8, 125.9, 125.1, 120.8, 119.4, 111.3, 43.7, 26.8 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂O (M+H): 249.1022; found: 249.1028; **IR** (neat): 2918, 2851, 2242, 1613, 1566, 1453, 1242, 1086, 785, 743, 697 cm⁻¹.



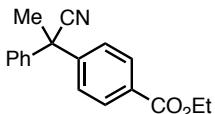
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3,7-trimethyl-2,6-dioxo-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-purin-8-yl)propanenitrile (4g): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (69 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and bromocaffeine (82 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a white solid (58 mg, 0.162 mmol, 54%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 155.4, 151.5, 147.8, 146.8, 136.2, 135.1, 129.9, 126.6, 118.5, 109.4, 41.8, 33.1, 29.8, 29.5, 28.0 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₅O₂Cl (M+H) 358.1065; found: 318.1063.



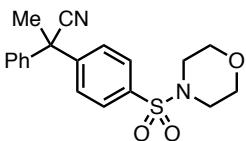
4-(1-Cyano-1-phenylethyl)benzonitrile (4h): Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.20-mmol scale. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (37 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL) and 4-chlorobenzonitrile (28 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (46 mg, 0.198 mmol, 99%). Analytical data:⁵ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.70–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 5H), 2.11 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 146.7, 139.9, 132.9, 129.4, 128.7, 127.6, 126.7, 122.5, 118.3, 112.3, 46.4, 27.9 ppm.



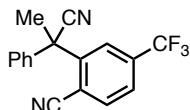
2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4i): Prepared according to General Procedure A on 0.20-mmol scale. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (37 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL) and 1-chloro-4-nitrobenzene (32 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (10–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (31 mg, 0.123 mmol, 62%). Analytical data:⁵ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.26–8.19 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.33 (m, 5H), 2.14 (s, 3H) ppm.



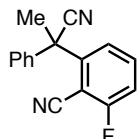
Ethyl 4-(1-cyano-1-phenylethyl)benzoate (4j): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and ethyl 4-fluorobenzoate (44 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (32 mg, 0.115 mmol, 38%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.06–8.01 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 5H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 166.0, 146.1, 140.6, 130.3, 129.2, 128.4, 126.8, 126.7, 123.0, 61.3, 46.3, 28.1, 14.4 ppm (one peak is overlapping); **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₂ (M+H): 280.1332; found: 280.1333; **IR** (neat): 2984, 2239, 1715, 1611, 1410, 1273, 1104, 1018, 756, 696 cm⁻¹.



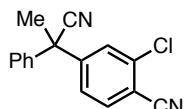
2-(4-(Morpholinosulfonyl)phenyl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4k): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 4-((4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)morpholine (74 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 30–80% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless wax (63 mg, 0.177 mmol, 59%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.77–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 5H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 4.5 Hz, 4H), 3.04–2.97 (m, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 146.8, 139.9, 135.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.6, 127.6, 126.7, 122.6, 66.2, 46.3, 46.0, 28.0 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₃S (M+H): 357.1267; found: 357.1261; **IR** (neat): 2918, 2851, 2241, 2210, 1613, 1566, 1452, 1242, 1086, 743, 697 cm⁻¹.



2-(1-Cyano-1-phenylethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (4l): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (42 µL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (67 mg, 0.223 mmol, 74%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.11–8.08 (m, 1H), 7.86–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.79–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 144.8, 138.5, 136.6, 135.0 (q, *J* = 33.8 Hz), 129.4, 129.1, 127.2, 126.0 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.6 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J* = 274.2 Hz), 120.8, 116.0 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 115.4, 46.1, 27.4 ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_F -63.3 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅N₃F₃ (M+NH₄): 318.1213; found: 318.1206; **IR** (neat): 2960, 2247, 2229, 1739, 1487, 1326, 1179, 1140, 1074, 848, 693 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 123–124 °C.

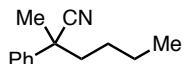


2-(1-Cyano-1-phenylethyl)-6-fluorobenzonitrile (4m): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (42 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (26 mg, 0.104 mmol, 35%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.73–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.32 (m, 5H), 7.29–7.22 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 165.3 (d, *J* = 261.6 Hz), 145.4, 138.5, 134.8 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 129.3, 128.9, 127.3, 123.4 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 121.2, 116.6 (d, *J* = 20.5 Hz), 111.3 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz), 101.4 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz), 46.2, 27.1 ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_F -102.7 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₃F (M+NH₄): 268.1244; found: 268.1256

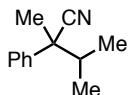


2-Chloro-4-(1-cyano-1-phenylethyl)benzonitrile (4n): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2,4-dichlorobenzonitrile (52 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (36 mg, 0.135 mmol, 45%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44–7.33 (m, 6H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 148.3, 139.1, 137.8, 134.6, 129.6, 129.0,

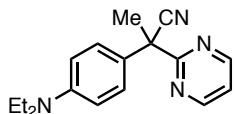
128.4, 126.7, 125.7, 122.0, 115.5, 113.3, 46.3, 27.8 ppm; **HRMS** *m/z* (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₂Cl (M+H): 267.0683; found: 267.0692



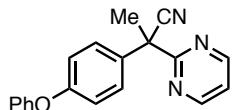
2-Methyl-2-phenylhexanenitrile (4o): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 1-iodobutane (34 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–15% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (32 mg, 0.171 mmol, 57%). Analytical data:⁶ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 1H), 1.94–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.48–1.39 (m, 1H), 1.36–1.16 (m, 3H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 140.6, 129.0, 127.8, 125.6, 123.8, 42.7, 42.1, 27.9, 27.7, 22.7, 13.9 ppm.



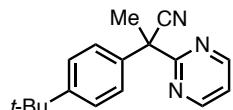
2,3-Dimethyl-2-phenylbutanenitrile (4p): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-iodopropane (20 μL, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–15% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (18 mg, 0.104 mmol, 35%). Analytical data:⁷ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.44–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 2.10 (app sept, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 140.6, 128.8, 127.7, 126.0, 122.5, 48.0, 38.3, 25.1, 19.1, 18.3 ppm.



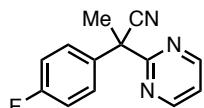
2-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4q): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-(diethylamino)phenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (82 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an orange solid (47 mg, 0.168 mmol, 56%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.74 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.63–6.57 (m, 2H), 3.31 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 169.0, 157.7, 147.5, 127.3, 125.6, 123.0, 119.7, 111.6, 50.0, 44.4, 26.2, 12.7 ppm; **HRMS** *m/z* (DART): calcd for C₁₇H₂₁N₄ (M+H): 281.1761; found: 281.1759; **IR** (neat): 2973, 2934, 2238, 2203, 1742, 1614, 1562, 1522, 1411, 1198, 818, 810, 792 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 78–79 °C.



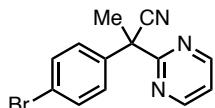
2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4r): Prepared on 0.20-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed 2-methyl-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)malononitrile (89 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL), and 2-chloropyridine (19 μL, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (45 mg, 0.149 mmol, 75%).
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.98–6.94 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.3, 157.9, 157.5, 156.6, 134.0, 130.0, 127.8, 123.9, 122.5, 120.1, 119.5, 118.8, 50.4, 26.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₃O (M+H): 302.1288; found: 302.1293; **IR** (neat): 3073, 2989, 2242, 1741, 1589, 1567, 1505, 1489, 1409, 1254, 1171, 851, 821, 749 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 68–69 °C.



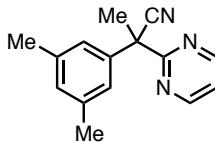
2-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4s): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (76 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a colourless oil (52 mg, 0.196 mmol, 65% yield). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 9H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.2, 157.6, 151.0, 136.3, 125.8, 125.8, 122.4, 119.8, 50.4, 34.4, 31.2, 26.3 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₃ (M+H): 266.1652; found: 266.1648.



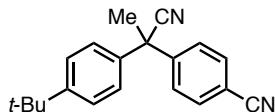
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4t): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (63 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as an off-white solid (45 mg, 0.198 mmol, 66%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08–7.01 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.1, 162.5 (d, *J* = 248.8 Hz), 157.9, 153.3 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 128.2 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 122.2, 120.2, 115.9 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 50.4, 26.6 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₃F (M+H): 228.0932; found: 228.0929; **IR** (neat): 2973, 2241, 1741, 1565, 1509, 1410, 1230, 1169, 834, 816 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 84–85 °C.



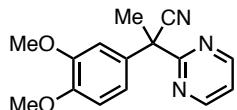
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4u): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (85 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a pale yellow oil (52 mg, 0.180 mmol, 60%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 167.8, 157.9, 138.6, 132.2, 128.1, 122.6, 121.9, 120.2, 50.6, 26.4 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₃Br (M+H): 288.0131; found: 288.0131; **IR** (neat): 2990, 2246, 1563, 1489, 1410, 1076, 1009, 818, 795 cm⁻¹.



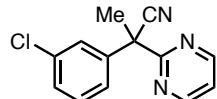
2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4v): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (66 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (25 mg, 0.105 mmol, 35%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.90 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.4, 157.8, 139.4, 138.7, 130.0, 124.0, 122.6, 120.0, 50.8, 26.4, 21.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₅H₁₆N₃ (M+H): 238.1339; found: 238.1338



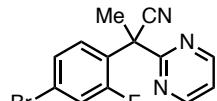
4-(1-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-1-cyanoethylbenzonitrile (4w): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale with the modification that the second step was performed at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (76 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 4-chlorobenzonitrile (41 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a colourless oil (68 mg, 0.240 mmol, 80%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.69–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 151.8, 146.9, 136.7, 132.8, 127.6, 126.4, 126.3, 122.7, 118.3, 112.2, 46.1, 34.7, 31.4, 27.9 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₃ (M+NH₄): 306.1965; found: 306.1961; **IR** (neat): 2964, 2906, 2231, 1607, 1505, 1407, 1016, 822 cm⁻¹.



2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4x): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (78 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an orange wax (47 mg, 0.175 mmol, 58%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (obsured dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (obsc d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.4, 157.8, 149.2, 149.0, 131.8, 122.6, 120.0, 118.5, 111.2, 109.7, 56.1, 56.0, 50.5, 26.4 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₅H₁₆N₃O₂ (M+H): 270.1237; found: 270.1235; **IR** (neat): 3349, 2963, 2867, 2241, 2209, 1609, 1567, 1551, 1515, 1412, 1242, 1173, 815, 801 cm⁻¹.

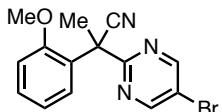


2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4y): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (69 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (59 mg, 0.242 mmol, 81%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.77 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (app td, *J* = 1.9, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (app dt, *J* = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26 (obsc t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 167.7, 158.0, 141.4, 135.0, 130.3, 128.6, 126.7, 124.7, 121.8, 120.3, 50.7, 26.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₁N₃Cl (M+H): 244.0636; found: 244.0642; **IR** (neat): 2992, 2246, 1595, 1563, 1408, 811, 784, 700, 686 cm⁻¹.

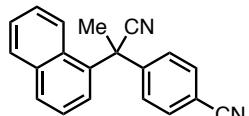


2-(4-Bromo-2-fluorophenyl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4z): Prepared on 0.20-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed 2-(4-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (61 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL), and 2-chloropyridine (19 μL, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (38 mg, 0.124 mmol, 62%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 167.6, 160.0 (d, *J* = 255.4 Hz), 158.0, 129.4 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 128.0 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 126.2 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz), 123.3 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 120.6, 120.4, 120.3, 120.2 (the peaks between 120.6–120.2 represent two indistinguishable doublets), 47.6,

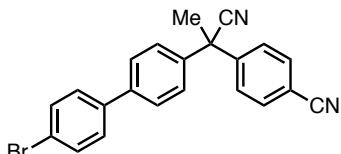
25.3 ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_F -108.0 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N₃FBr (M+H): 306.0037; found: 306.0031; **IR** (neat): 2939, 2241, 2209, 1996, 1741, 1562, 1486, 1412, 1090, 887, 817 cm⁻¹; **m.p.**: 91–92 °C.



2-(5-Bromopyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanenitrile (4aa): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (67 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 5-bromo-2-chloropyrimidine (58 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (40 mg, 0.126 mmol, 42%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.74 (s, 2H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.1, 158.0, 156.5, 130.2, 127.1, 126.9, 121.4, 121.0, 118.4, 111.8, 55.5, 47.2, 25.3 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₄H₁₃BrN₃O (M+H): 318.0236; found: 318.0243.

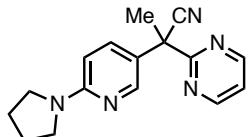


4-(1-Cyano-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethyl)benzonitrile (4ab): Prepared on 0.10-mmol scale with the modification that the second step was heated at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)malononitrile (25 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.040 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.20 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.40 mL), and 4-chlorobenzonitrile (14 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (19 mg, 0.067 mmol, 67%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.96 (app dt, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (app dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.48–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 148.1, 134.9, 133.2, 132.9, 130.9, 130.0, 129.5, 126.9, 126.7, 126.2, 125.3, 125.2, 125.0, 122.2, 118.3, 112.1, 45.2, 30.6 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₃ (M+NH₄): 300.1495; found: 300.1496; **IR** (neat): 2962, 2866, 2203, 1741, 1606, 1568, 1511, 1412, 1174, 815, 800 cm⁻¹; **m.p.**: 57–59 °C.

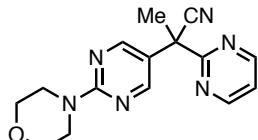


4-(1-(4'-Bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1-cyanoethyl)benzonitrile (4ac): Prepared on 0.10-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-(4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-methylmalononitrile (37 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.040 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.20 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.40 mL), and 4-chlorobenzonitrile (14 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography

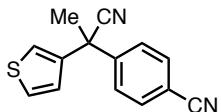
(gradient of 5–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white foam (36 mg, 0.093 mmol, 93%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.71–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.52 (m, 6H), 7.45–7.40 (m, 4H), 2.14 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 146.4, 140.4, 139.2, 138.8, 132.9, 132.2, 128.8, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 122.3, 122.3, 118.2, 112.4, 46.2, 27.9 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₃Br (M+NH₄): 404.0757; found: 404.0755; **IR** (neat): 2295, 2230, 1626, 1568, 1409, 1070, 1002, 894, 811 cm⁻¹.



2-(Pyrimidin-2-yl)-2-(6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)propanenitrile (4ad): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-(6-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)malononitrile (81 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a pale orange solid (50 mg, 0.179 mmol, 60%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.74 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.46–3.38 (m, 4H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.02–1.94 (m, 4H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 168.5, 157.8, 156.8, 146.2, 135.3, 122.3, 122.1, 119.9, 106.4, 48.6, 46.8, 26.1, 25.7 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₅ (M+H): 280.1557; found: 280.1553; **IR** (neat): 3348, 2961, 2863, 2242, 2204, 1743, 1608, 1568, 1550, 1511, 1413, 1312, 1173, 816, 801 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 177–179 °C.

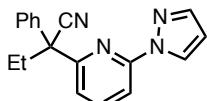


2-(2-Morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)propanenitrile (4ae): Prepared on 0.20-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed 2-methyl-2-(2-morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)malononitrile (58 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.080 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.40 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (0.80 mL), and 2-chloropyridine (19 μL, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (41 mg, 0.138 mmol, 69%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 8.51 (s, 2H), 7.25 (obsc t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82–3.77 (m, 4H), 3.76–3.71 (m, 4H), 2.21 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 167.7, 161.2, 158.0, 156.2, 121.2, 121.2, 120.3, 66.9, 47.0, 44.3, 26.1 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₅H₁₇N₆O (M+H): 297.1465; found: 297.1461; **IR** (neat): 3352, 2963, 2856, 2242, 2211, 1604, 1568, 1511, 1412, 810 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 189–190 °C.

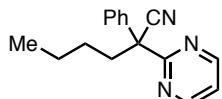


4-(1-Cyano-1-(thiophen-3-yl)ethyl)benzonitrile (4af): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A with the modification that step 2 was heated at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)malononitrile (58 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv),

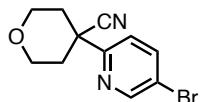
methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 4-chlorobenzonitrile (41 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (19 mg, 0.080 mmol, 27%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.70–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 2.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 146.1, 140.3, 132.9, 128.0, 127.2, 126.4, 122.9, 122.0, 118.2, 112.4, 43.4, 28.3 ppm.



2-(6-(1*H*-Pyrazol-1-yl)pyridin-2-yl)-2-phenylbutanenitrile (4ag): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-ethyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (61 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-bromo-6-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)pyridine (67 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (26 mg, 0.090 mmol, 30%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.58 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.32 (m, 3H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dq, *J* = 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dq, *J* = 14.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 156.9, 150.9, 142.4, 140.0, 138.6, 128.9, 128.1, 127.1, 126.6, 121.4, 119.5, 111.2, 108.0, 55.0, 32.4, 10.1 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₈H₁₇N₄ (M+H): 289.1448; found: 289.1451.

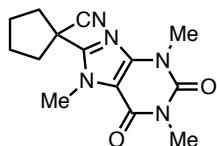


2-Phenyl-2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)hexanenitrile (4ah): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-butyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (71 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 2-chloropyrimidine (34 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The product was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (24 mg, 0.095 mmol, 32%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.61–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74–2.65 (m, 1H), 2.53–2.44 (m, 1H), 1.51–1.29 (m, 4H), 0.90 (app t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 167.7, 157.6, 138.3, 128.8, 128.0, 126.4, 121.2, 119.8, 56.7, 38.7, 27.7, 22.6, 13.8 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₃ (M+H): 252.1495; found: 252.1496; **IR** (neat): 2953, 2931, 2873, 2229, 1567, 1411, 1002, 810, 694 cm⁻¹.

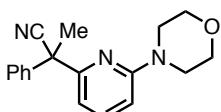


4-(5-Bromopyridin-2-yl)tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-carbonitrile (4aj): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale with the modification that step 2 was performed using PhMe as cosolvent at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using tetrahydro-4*H*-pyran-4,4-dicarbonitrile (49 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol,

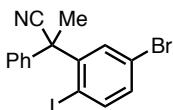
1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 5-bromo-2-fluoropyridine (31 μ L, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The product was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a colourless oil (80 mg, 0.299 mmol, 99%). **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{H} 8.66 (dd, $J = 2.4, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, $J = 8.4, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.11–4.02 (m, 2H), 3.85 (td, $J = 12.4, 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.31 (ddd, $J = 13.8, 12.3, 4.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.00 (dq, $J = 13.6, 2.3$ Hz, 2H) ppm; **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{C} 156.5, 150.9, 139.9, 121.8, 121.1, 120.3, 64.7, 43.7, 35.1 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{OBr} (\text{M}+\text{H})$: 267.0128; found: 267.0127.



1-(1,3,7-Trimethyl-2,6-dioxo-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-purin-8-yl)cyclopentane-1-carbonitrile (4ak): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A with the modification that step 2 was performed using PhMe as cosolvent at 50 °C. The reaction was performed using cyclopentane-1,1-dicarbonitrile (42 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et_2O , 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and bromocaffeine (82 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the product as a white solid (42 mg, 0.146 mmol, 49%). **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{H} 4.17 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.53 (ddd, $J = 7.7, 5.3, 1.8$ Hz, 4H), 2.06–1.86 (m, 4H) ppm; **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{C} 155.4, 151.7, 149.1, 146.7, 120.8, 109.2, 41.2, 38.3, 33.3, 29.7, 28.0, 24.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_5\text{O}_2 (\text{M}+\text{H})$: 288.1455; found: 288.1458.



2-(6-Morpholinopyridin-2-yl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4am): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a 3.0 M solution in Et_2O , 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 4-(6-bromopyridin-2-yl)morpholine (73 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–50% $\text{EtOAc}/\text{hexanes}$) to yield the product as an off-white solid (25 mg, 0.085 mmol, 28%). **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{H} 7.50–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 8.5, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.70 (dd, $J = 7.4, 0.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, $J = 8.5, 0.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.84–3.80 (m, 4H), 3.55–3.51 (m, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H) ppm; **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298 K): δ_{C} 158.8, 157.4, 140.7, 138.7, 128.8, 127.9, 126.5, 123.4, 110.8, 105.7, 66.8, 49.0, 45.4, 26.9 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O} (\text{M}+\text{H})$: 294.1601; found: 294.1608.



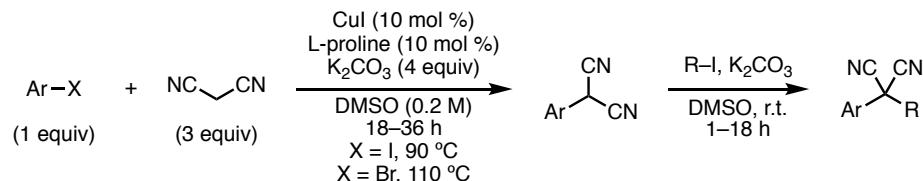
2-(5-Bromo-2-iodophenyl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4an): Prepared on 0.30-mmol scale according to General Procedure A. The reaction was performed using 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (56 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methylmagnesium bromide (0.12 mL of a

3.0 M solution in Et₂O, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), LiCl solution (0.60 mL of a 0.60 M solution in THF, 0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv), DMSO (1.2 mL), and 4-bromo-2-fluoro-1-iodobenzene (90 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (22 mg, 0.053 mmol, 18%). **¹H NMR** 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 144.5, 142.3, 140.5, 133.3, 131.8, 129.1, 128.0, 127.0, 123.1, 121.1, 97.1, 49.3, 30.8 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₂BrI (M+NH₄): 428.9458; found: 428.9466.

D. Preparation of Malononitrile Starting Materials

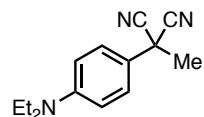
The following malononitriles were prepared as previously described by us:² 2-phenylmalononitrile, 2-methyl-2-phenylmalononitrile, 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile, 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile, 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile, and 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile. 2,2-Dibenzylmalononitrile was prepared using a previously reported method.⁸ Tetrahydro-4*H*-pyran-4,4-dicarbonitrile⁹ and cyclopentane-1,1-dicarbonitrile¹⁰ were prepared using known procedures.

General Procedure B: Preparation of malononitrile starting materials²



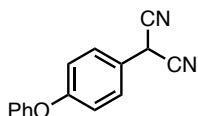
Step 1: An appropriate-sized round-bottom flask with a stir bar was flame-dried and cooled under vacuum. To the flask were added potassium carbonate (4.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (10 mol %), L-proline (10 mol %), malononitrile (3.0 equiv), and aryl halide (if a solid) (1.0 equiv). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ ($\times 3$) and DMSO (0.20 M) was added. The flask was again evacuated and backfilled with N₂ ($\times 3$), sealed, and put under a balloon of N₂. Aryl halide (if an oil) was added (1.0 equiv). The reaction was stirred at the appropriate temperature (90 °C for aryl iodides, 110 °C for aryl bromides) until full conversion of aryl halide was achieved, as determined by TLC (18–36 h). The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and opened to air, and 1.0 M HCl was added to bring the solution to pH 2–3. The solution was extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$), and the organic fractions were combined, washed with H₂O ($\times 3$) and brine ($\times 3$), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography to yield the desired arylmalononitrile.

Step 2: To an appropriate-sized round-bottom flask with a stir bar were added 2-arylmalononitrile (1.0 equiv), potassium carbonate (1.2–1.5 equiv), DMSO (1.0 M), and alkyl iodide (1.1–1.5 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at r.t. until full conversion was achieved, as determined by TLC (1–18 h). The reaction was quenched with H₂O and extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$), and the organic fractions were combined, washed with brine ($\times 3$), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the disubstituted malononitrile.

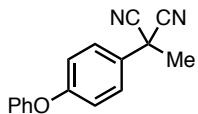


2-(4-(Diethylamino)phenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S1): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(4-(diethylamino)phenyl)malononitrile (1.07 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.34 mL, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.83 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.50 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a pale pink solid (1.0 g, 4.4 mmol, 88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 6.73–6.65 (m, 2H), 3.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (126

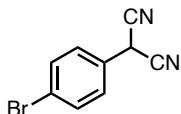
MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 148.6, 126.6, 118.4, 116.5, 111.9, 44.5, 35.7, 29.1, 12.5 ppm; **HRMS** *m/z* (DART): calcd for C₁₄H₁₈N₃ (M+H): 228.1495; found: 228.1491; **IR** (neat): 3347, 2945, 2867, 2242, 2204, 1610, 1568, 1514, 1551, 1485, 1412, 1312, 1175, 1003, 815 cm⁻¹; **m.p.**: 49–50 °C.



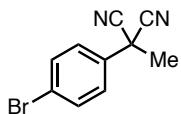
2-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)malononitrile (S2): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 1-bromo-4-phenoxybenzene (1.2 mL, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (1.6 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.15 g, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (92 mg, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (4.4 g, 32 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.94 g, 4.0 mmol, 50%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.10–7.03 (m, 4H), 5.04 (s, 1H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 159.6, 155.8, 130.2, 129.0, 124.7, 120.1, 120.0, 119.4, 112.0, 27.6 ppm.



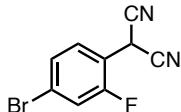
2-Methyl-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)malononitrile (S3): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)malononitrile (S2) (0.70 g, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.22 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.50 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (5.0 mL, 0.60 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.54 g, 2.1 mmol, 70%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.02 (m, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 159.2, 155.9, 130.2, 127.2, 127.1, 124.6, 119.9, 119.2, 115.9, 36.0, 29.4 ppm; **HRMS** *m/z* (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₃O (M+NH₄): 266.1288; found: 266.1284; **IR** (neat): 3000, 2230, 1588, 1506, 1488, 1240, 1201, 1174, 833, 753, 692 cm⁻¹; **m.p.**: 78–79 °C.



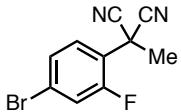
2-(4-Bromophenyl)malononitrile (S4): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene (2.3 g, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (1.6 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.15 g, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (92 mg, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (4.4 g, 32 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 90 °C for 18 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.43 g, 1.95 mmol, 24%). The analytical data was consistent with literature:¹¹ **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.67–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 1H) ppm.



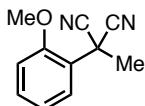
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S5): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(4-bromophenyl)malononitrile (**S4**) (0.41 g, 1.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.22 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.7 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.50 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.9 equiv), and DMSO (5.0 mL, 0.38 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.37 g, 1.6 mmol, 84%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.68–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 139.1, 133.2, 127.1, 124.6, 115.3, 36.2, 29.4 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₀H₁₁N₃Br (M+NH₄): 252.0131; found: 252.0131; **IR** (neat): 3352, 2962, 2867, 2242, 2209, 1611, 1568, 1551, 1513, 1485, 1412, 1312, 1175, 815, 801 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 66–67 °C.



2-(4-Bromo-2-fluorophenyl)malononitrile (S6): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 4-bromo-2-fluoro-1-iodobenzene (2.4 g, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (1.6 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.15 g, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (92 mg, 0.80 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (4.4 g, 32 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 90 °C for 18 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.56 g, 2.3 mmol, 29%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.53–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.40 (m, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 159.3 (d, *J* = 257.2 Hz), 130.1, 129.3 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 126.1 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 120.6 (d, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 113.6 (d, *J* = 14.2 Hz), 110.4, 22.4 ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_F -112.7 ppm.

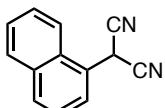


2-(4-Bromo-2-fluorophenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S7): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(4-bromo-2-fluorophenyl)malononitrile (0.48 g, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.33 g, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv), iodomethane (0.15 mL, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (5.0 mL, 0.40 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (0.40 g, 1.6 mmol, 80%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.54–7.39 (m, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 159.5 (d, *J* = 257.8 Hz), 128.8 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 128.6 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 125.6 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz), 121.2 (d, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 119.4 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 114.1, 33.0, 26.4 ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_F -108.7 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₃FBr (M+NH₄): 270.0037; found: 270.0045; **IR** (neat): 3338, 2961, 2867, 2241, 2209, 1607, 1568, 1513, 1484, 1412, 1312, 815, 801 cm⁻¹.

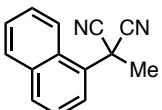


2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S8): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (0.86 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.34 mL, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.83 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.50 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.88 g, 4.7 mmol, 94%). **¹H NMR**

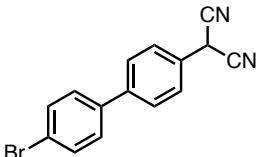
NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 7.51 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (ddd, J = 9.1, 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{C} 156.7, 131.9, 126.7, 121.4, 120.2, 115.8, 112.5, 56.1, 33.5, 25.4 ppm.



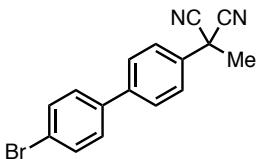
2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)malononitrile (S9): Prepared from 1-bromonaphthalene (1.7 mL, 12 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (2.4 g, 36 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.23 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (0.14 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (6.6 g, 48 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (50 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.33 g, 1.7 mmol, 21%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 8.03–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.91 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.72 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (s, 1H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{C} 134.2, 131.8, 129.7, 129.4, 128.4, 127.3, 127.1, 125.6, 121.8, 121.7, 111.8, 26.5 ppm.



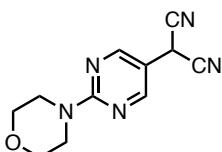
2-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)malononitrile (S10): Prepared from 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)malononitrile (S9) (0.33 g, 1.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.12 mL, 2.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.36 g, 2.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and DMSO (5.0 mL, 0.34 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a pale pink solid (0.24 g, 1.2 mmol, 71%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 8.37 (app dq, J = 8.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.01–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.79 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{C} 134.8, 131.9, 130.0, 128.9, 127.9, 126.9, 126.8, 125.1, 124.8, 123.1, 116.0, 34.8, 26.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₂ (M): 206.0839; found: 206.0833; **IR** (neat): 3340, 2965, 2866, 2203, 1740, 1604, 1568, 1511, 1486, 1412, 1168, 800, 775 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 123–124 °C.



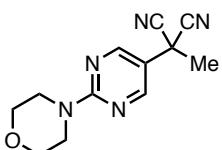
2-(4'-Bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)malononitrile (S11): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 4,4'-dibromobiphenyl (3.7 g, 12 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (2.4 g, 36 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.23 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (0.14 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (6.6 g, 48 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–40% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (1.3 g, 4.4 mmol, 55%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 7.70–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.54 (m, 4H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H), 5.12 (s, 1H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{C} 142.4, 138.4, 132.3, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 125.5, 122.8, 111.8, 28.0 ppm.



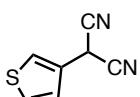
2-(4'-Bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S12): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)malononitrile (1.2 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.30 mL, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.83 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.40 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (0.27 g, 0.87 mmol, 22%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.69–7.64 (m, 4H), 7.62–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 2H), 2.15 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 142.1, 138.4, 132.5, 132.3, 128.9, 128.4, 126.1, 122.8, 115.7, 36.3, 29.5 ppm; **IR** (neat): 2965, 2867, 2210, 1741, 1607, 1568, 1511, 1483, 1412, 1177, 1095, 1003, 814 cm⁻¹ **m.p.:** 113–114 °C; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₆H₁₁N₂Br (M⁺): 310.0100; found: 310.0097.



2-(2-Morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)malononitrile (S13): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 4-(5-bromopyrimidin-2-yl)morpholine (2.9 g, 12 mmol, 1.0 equiv), malononitrile (2.4 g, 36 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.23 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), L-proline (0.14 g, 1.2 mmol, 0.10 equiv), potassium carbonate (6.6 g, 48 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.30 M), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h. The organic extracts were concentrated and washed with Et₂O to yield an off-white solid (1.5 g, ca. 6.5 mmol, 54% crude yield) that corresponded to the desired compound as determined by **¹H NMR**, which material was used without further purification.

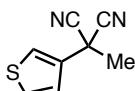


2-Methyl-2-(2-morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)malononitrile (S14): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(2-morpholinopyrimidin-5-yl)malononitrile (0.69 g, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.20 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.62 g, 4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.30 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 25–70% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.42 g, 1.7 mmol, 57%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 8.49 (s, 2H), 3.89–3.84 (m, 4H), 3.79–3.74 (m, 4H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 161.8, 155.3, 115.0, 114.9, 66.8, 44.4, 32.3, 28.6 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₅O (M⁺H): 244.1193; found: 244.1198; **IR** (neat): 3348, 2964, 2866, 2210, 1741, 1608, 1568, 1551, 1513, 1483, 1412, 1176, 815 cm⁻¹; **m.p.:** 157–158 °C.

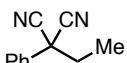


2-(Thiophen-3-yl)malononitrile (S15): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using malononitrile (3.0 g, 45 mmol, 3.0 equiv), potassium carbonate (8.3 g, 60 mmol, 4.0

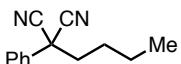
equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.44 g, 2.3 mmol, 15 mol %), L-proline (0.26 g, 2.3 mmol, 15 mol %), DMSO (75 mL, 0.20 M), and 3-bromothiophene (1.4 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 16 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol, 33%). Analytical data: **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.58–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 129.3, 125.7, 125.6, 125.3, 111.5, 23.9 ppm; **R_f** (7:3 hexanes/EtOAc; UV/KMnO₄): 0.47.



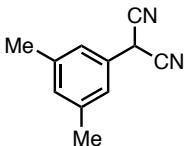
2-Methyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)malononitrile (S16): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(thiophen-3-yl)malononitrile (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMSO (20 mL, 0.5 M), iodomethane (0.34 mL, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and potassium carbonate (0.83 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (0.72 g, 4.4 mmol, 88%). Analytical data: **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 133.1, 129.2, 124.7, 123.9, 115.6, 32.5, 28.3 ppm; **R_f** (8:2 hexanes/EtOAc; UV/KMnO₄): 0.47.



2-Ethyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (S17): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-phenylmalononitrile (0.71 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodoethane (0.44 mL, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.83 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.50 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (0.80 g, 4.7 mmol, 94%). Analytical data:¹² **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.59–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.44 (m, 3H), 2.29 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 132.1, 130.0, 129.8, 125.9, 115.1, 43.3, 36.7, 10.1 ppm.

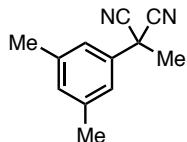


2-Butyl-2-phenylmalononitrile (S18): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-phenylmalononitrile (4.3 g, 30 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium carbonate (8.3 g, 60 mmol, 2.0 equiv), DMSO (75 mL, 0.40 M), and 1-iodobutane (6.8 mL, 60 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (5.5 g, 28 mmol, 93%). Analytical data:¹² **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.64–7.45 (m, 5H), 2.30–2.20 (m, 2H), 1.71–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.43 (h, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 132.3, 129.8, 129.7, 125.7, 115.1, 42.5, 42.4, 27.6, 21.9, 13.6 ppm; **R_f** (9:1 hexanes/EtOAc; UV): 0.61.

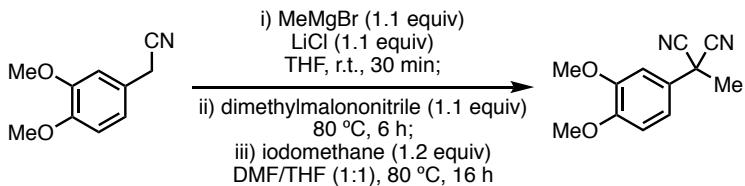


2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)malononitrile (S19): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 1 using 1-bromo-3,5-dimethylbenzene (1.1 mL, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) malononitrile (1.6 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv), copper(I) iodide (0.30 g, 1.6 mmol, 0.20 equiv), L-proline (0.18 g, 1.6 mmol,

0.20 equiv), potassium carbonate (4.4 g, 32 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and DMSO (40 mL, 0.20 M), and the reaction was stirred at 110 °C for 36 h. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 5–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (0.65 g, 3.8 mmol, 48%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.09 (app s, 3H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 2.37 (overlapping s, 3H), 2.37 (overlapping s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 140.2, 132.1, 126.0, 125.0, 112.1, 28.1, 21.4 ppm.

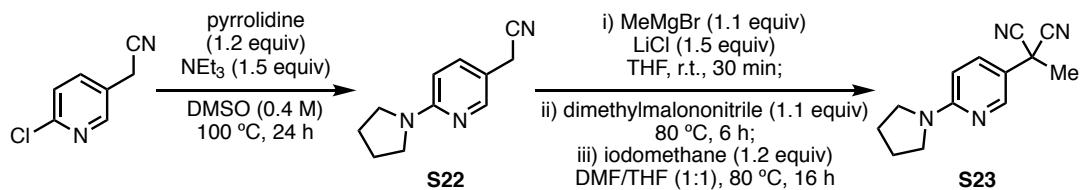


2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S20): Prepared according to General Procedure B – Step 2 using 2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)malononitrile (0.51 g, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), iodomethane (0.28 mL, 4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), potassium carbonate (0.50 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and DMSO (10 mL, 0.30 M). The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a colourless oil (0.50 g, 2.7 mmol, 90%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.19–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.06 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 6H), 2.09 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 139.9, 133.0, 131.7, 123.1, 116.0, 36.4, 29.6, 29.6, 21.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃N₂ (M+H): 185.1073; found: 185.1073.



2-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-methylmalononitrile (S21):⁸ To a 16-mL threaded culture tube with a stir bar was added lithium chloride (0.18 g, 4.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The tube was fitted with a size 19 septum and was flame-dried under vacuum and cooled under N₂. To the tube was added 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetonitrile (0.71 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and the tube was sealed and evacuated and backfilled with N₂ (×3) and fitted with a balloon of N₂. THF (4.0 mL, 1.0 M) was added, followed by MeMgBr (1.5 mL of a 4.0 M solution in Et₂O, 4.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at r.t. for 30 min. The reaction was briefly opened to air and dimethylmalononitrile (0.41 g, 4.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added at once, and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., and DMF (4.0 mL) was added, followed by iodomethane (0.30 mL, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl, and extracted with EtOAc (×3). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine (×1), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 20–60% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white semisolid (0.54 g, 2.5 mmol, 63%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_H 7.13 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_C 150.4, 150.0, 125.2, 118.0, 116.0, 111.7, 108.4, 56.3, 56.2, 36.2, 29.5 ppm; **HRMS m/z** (DART): calcd for C₁₂H₁₆N₃O₂ (M+NH₄): 234.1237; found: 234.1237; **IR** (neat): 3001, 2965, 2940, 2836, 2229, 1598, 1519, 1462, 1417, 1261, 1243, 1149, 1022, 856, 806 cm⁻¹.

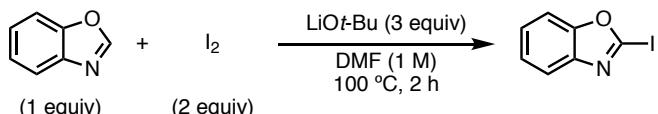


2-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile (S22): To a 100-mL flask with a stir bar were sequentially added 2-(6-chloropyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile (1.2 g, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMSO (20 mL, 0.40 M), pyrrolidine (0.80 mL, 9.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and triethylamine (1.7 mL, 12 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., quenched with H₂O, and extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$), and the organic fractions were combined, washed with brine ($\times 1$), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 40–70% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the desired product as an off-white solid (0.59 g, 3.2 mmol, 40%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ _H 8.06–8.01 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 1H), 6.36 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 3.48–3.40 (m, 4H), 2.05–1.98 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ _C 157.1, 147.5, 136.7, 118.3, 112.3, 106.9, 46.9, 25.6, 20.5 ppm.

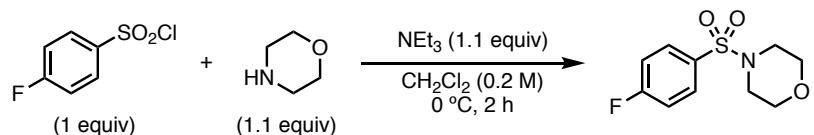
2-Methyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)malononitrile (S23):⁸ To a 16-mL threaded culture tube with a stir bar was added lithium chloride (0.18 g, 4.4 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The tube was fitted with a size 19 septum and was flame-dried under vacuum and cooled under N₂. To the tube was added 2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile (0.56 g, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and the tube was sealed and evacuated and backfilled with N₂ ($\times 3$) and fitted with a balloon of N₂. THF (4.0 mL, 0.75 M) was added, followed by MeMgBr (1.1 mL of a 4.0 M solution in Et₂O, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at r.t. for 30 min. The reaction was briefly opened to air and dimethylmalononitrile (0.31 g, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added at once, and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., and DMF (4.0 mL) was added, followed by iodomethane (0.22 mL, 3.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl, and extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$). The organic extracts were combined, washed with brine ($\times 1$), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 20–60% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as an off-white solid (0.44 g, 1.9 mmol, 63%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ _H 8.35–8.31 (m, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.54–3.40 (m, 4H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.05–2.01 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ _C 157.6, 145.5, 134.1, 115.8, 115.3, 107.0, 47.0, 34.0, 28.7, 25.6 ppm; HRMS *m/z* (DART): calcd for C₁₃H₁₅N₄ (M+H): 227.1291; found: 227.1290; IR (neat): 3349, 2965, 2866, 2242, 2209, 1741, 1608, 1568, 1550, 1514, 1484, 1413, 1311, 1174, 815 cm⁻¹; m.p.: 56–57 °C.

E. Preparation of (Hetero)Aryl Electrophile Starting Materials

8-Bromocaffeine was prepared from caffeine and NBS according to a literature procedure.¹³

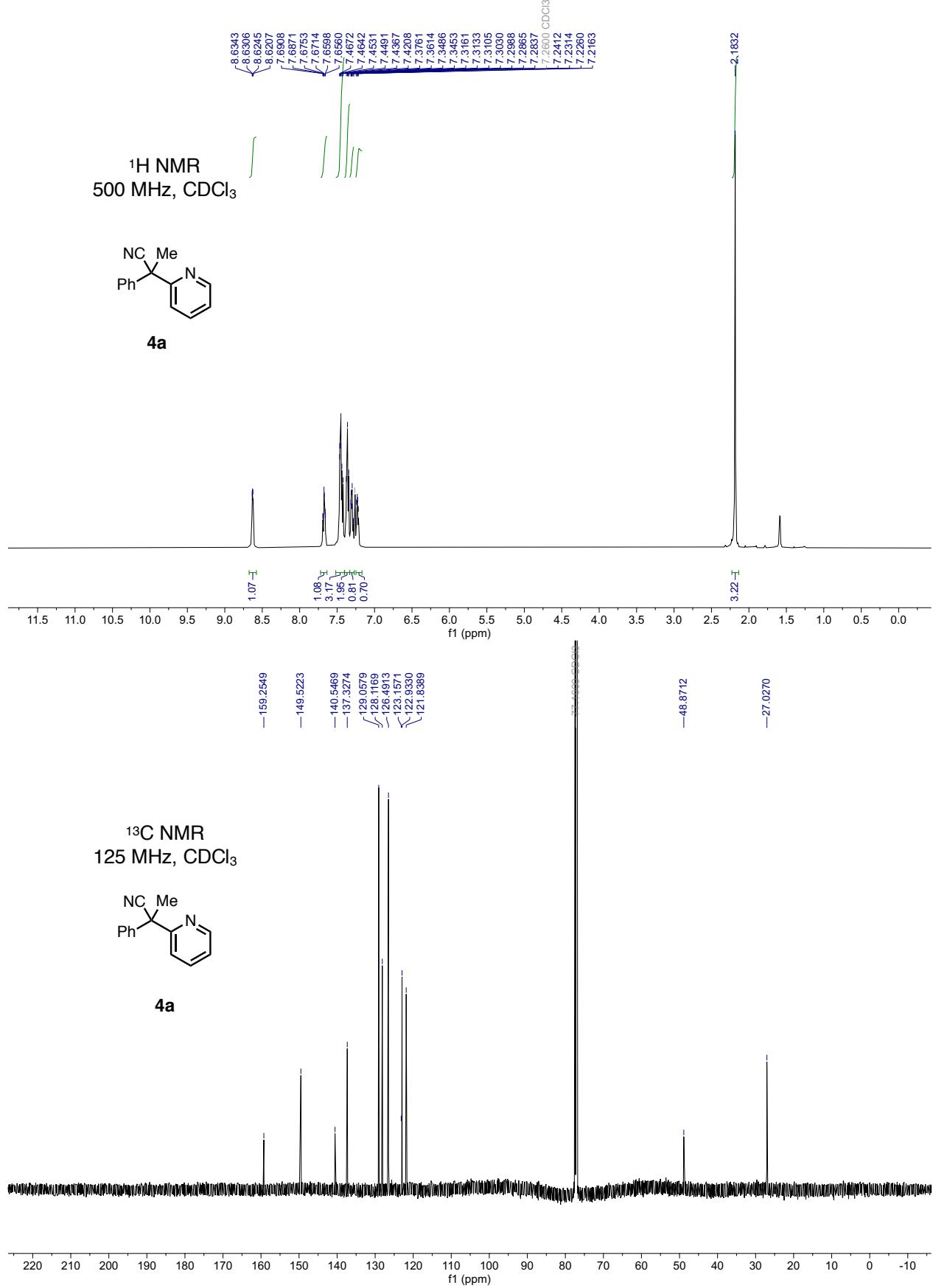


2-Iodobenzoxazole (S24):¹⁴ To a flame-dried 25-mL flask with stir bar was added benzoxazole (0.48 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The flask was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ ($\times 3$) and DMF (4.0 mL, 1.0 M) was added. The flask was briefly opened to air and iodine (2.0 g, 8.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added. The reaction flask was briefly opened to air and anhydrous lithium *tert*-butoxide (0.96 g, 12 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added at once. Under a balloon of N₂, the reaction was heated to 100 °C for 2 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl, and extracted with EtOAc ($\times 3$). The organic fractions were combined, washed with sat. aq. Na₂S₂O₃ ($\times 1$), H₂O ($\times 1$), and brine ($\times 1$), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 0–20% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield 2-iodobenzoxazole as a white solid (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol, 25%). The analytical data was consistent with literature:¹⁵ **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 7.75–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 2H) ppm; **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{C} 154.3, 142.9, 125.5, 124.9, 119.5, 110.3, 108.1 ppm; **R_f** (8:2 hexanes/EtOAc; UV): 0.62.

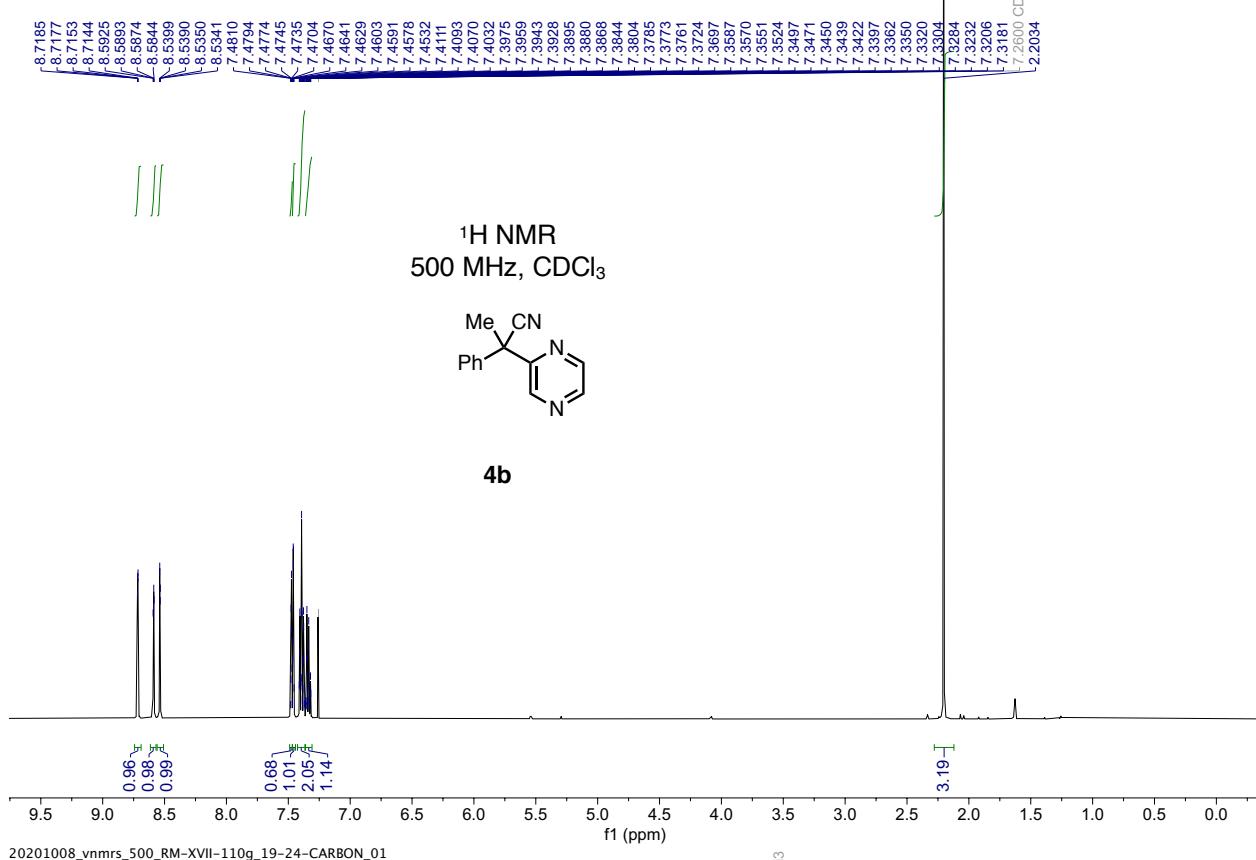


4-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonylmorpholine (S25): To a 50-mL flask with a stir bar were added 4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (0.58 g, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and dichloromethane (15 mL, 0.20 M), and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. To the flask were sequentially added morpholine (0.29 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and triethylamine (0.46 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction was concentrated and the concentrate was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of 10–30% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield the product as a white solid (0.70 g, 2.9 mmol, 97%). The analytical data was consistent with literature:¹⁶ **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{H} 7.84–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 2H), 3.78–3.72 (m, 4H), 3.03–2.97 (m, 4H) ppm; **¹⁹F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ_{F} –104.5 ppm.

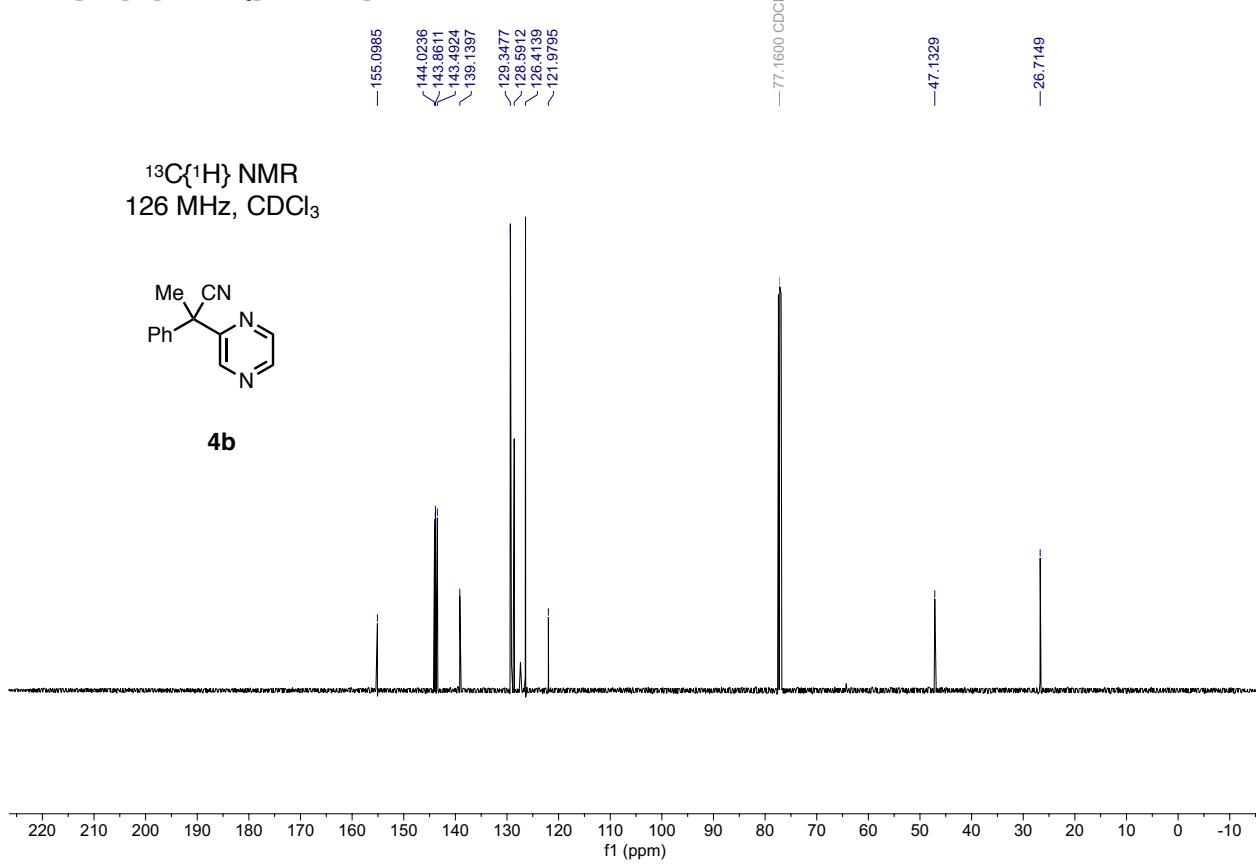
F. NMR Spectra



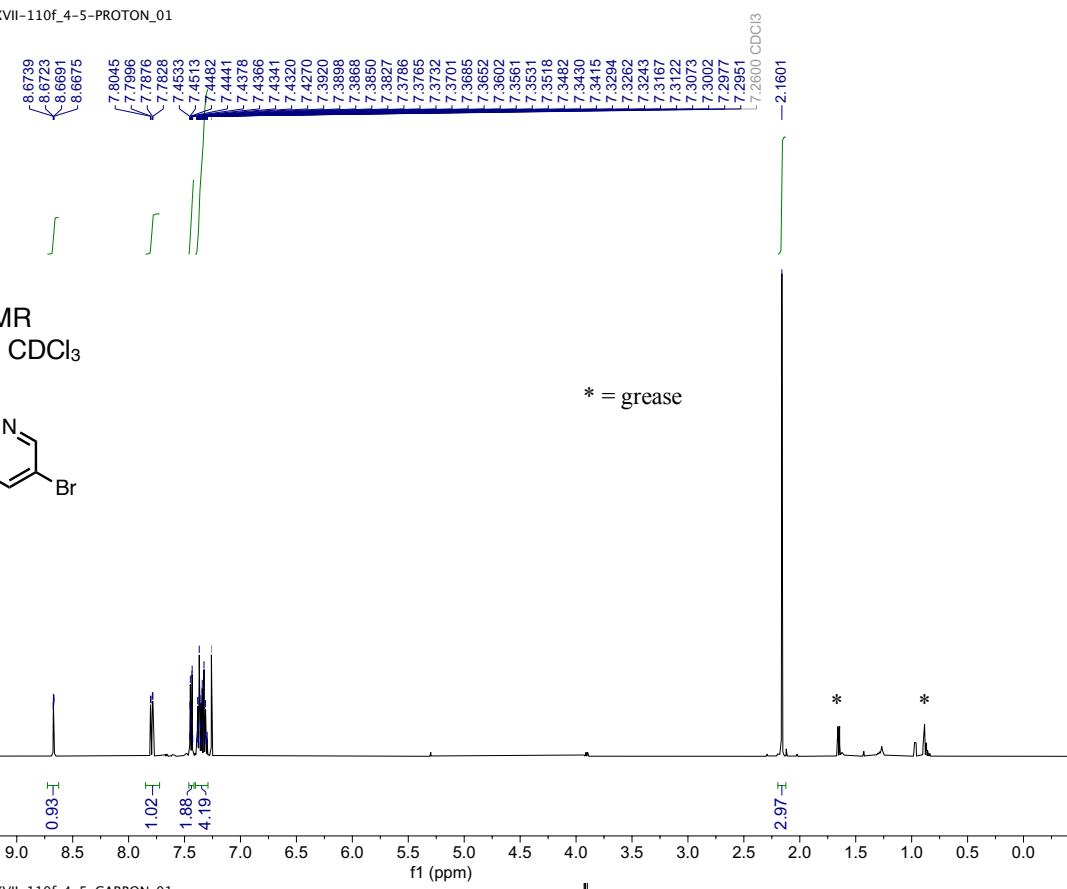
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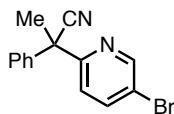
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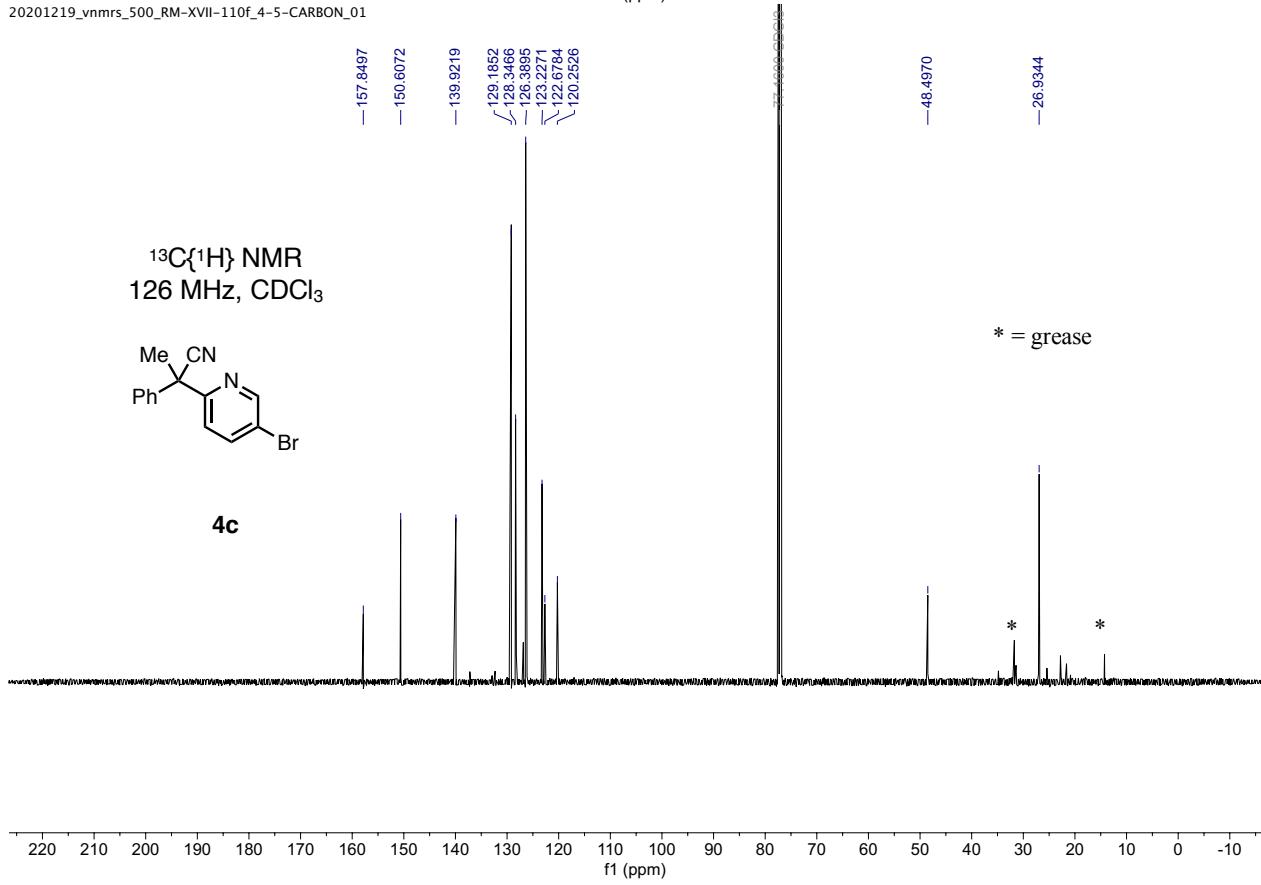
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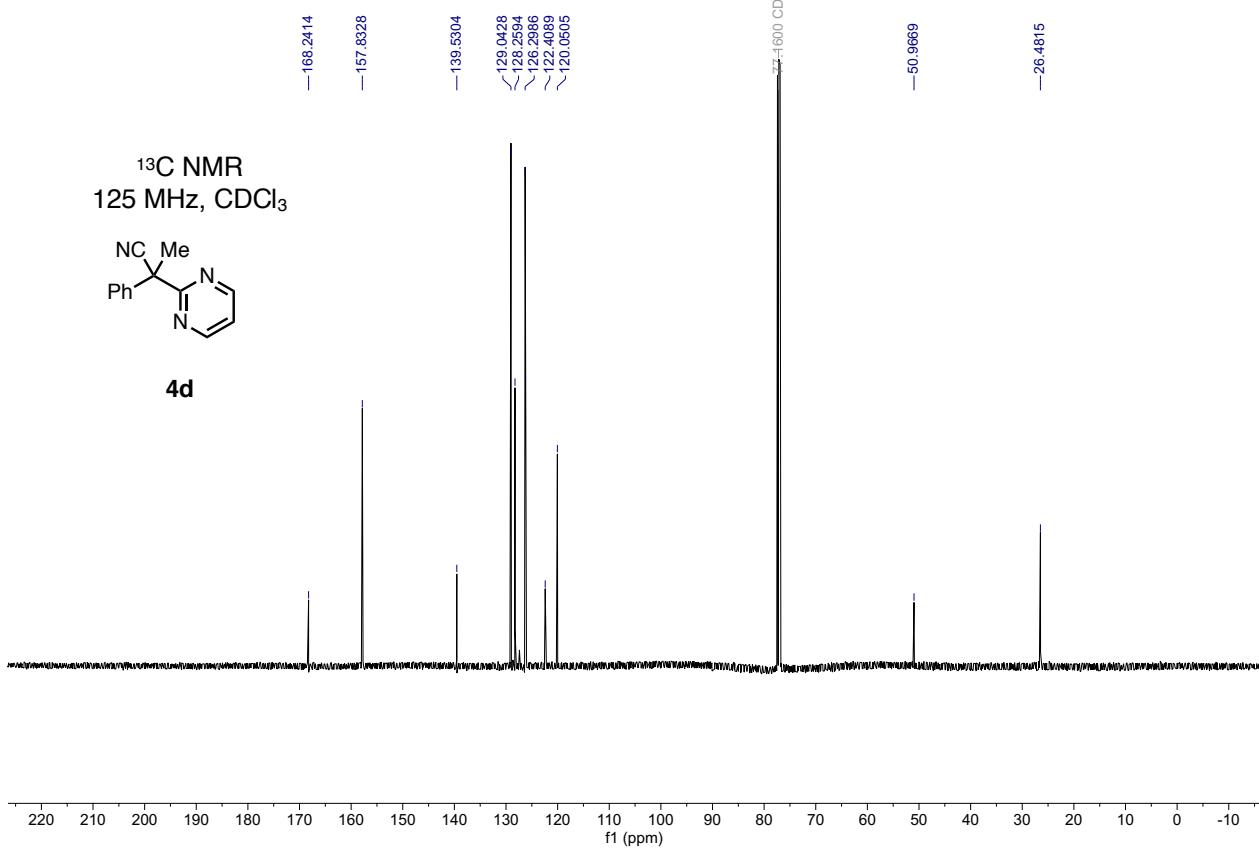
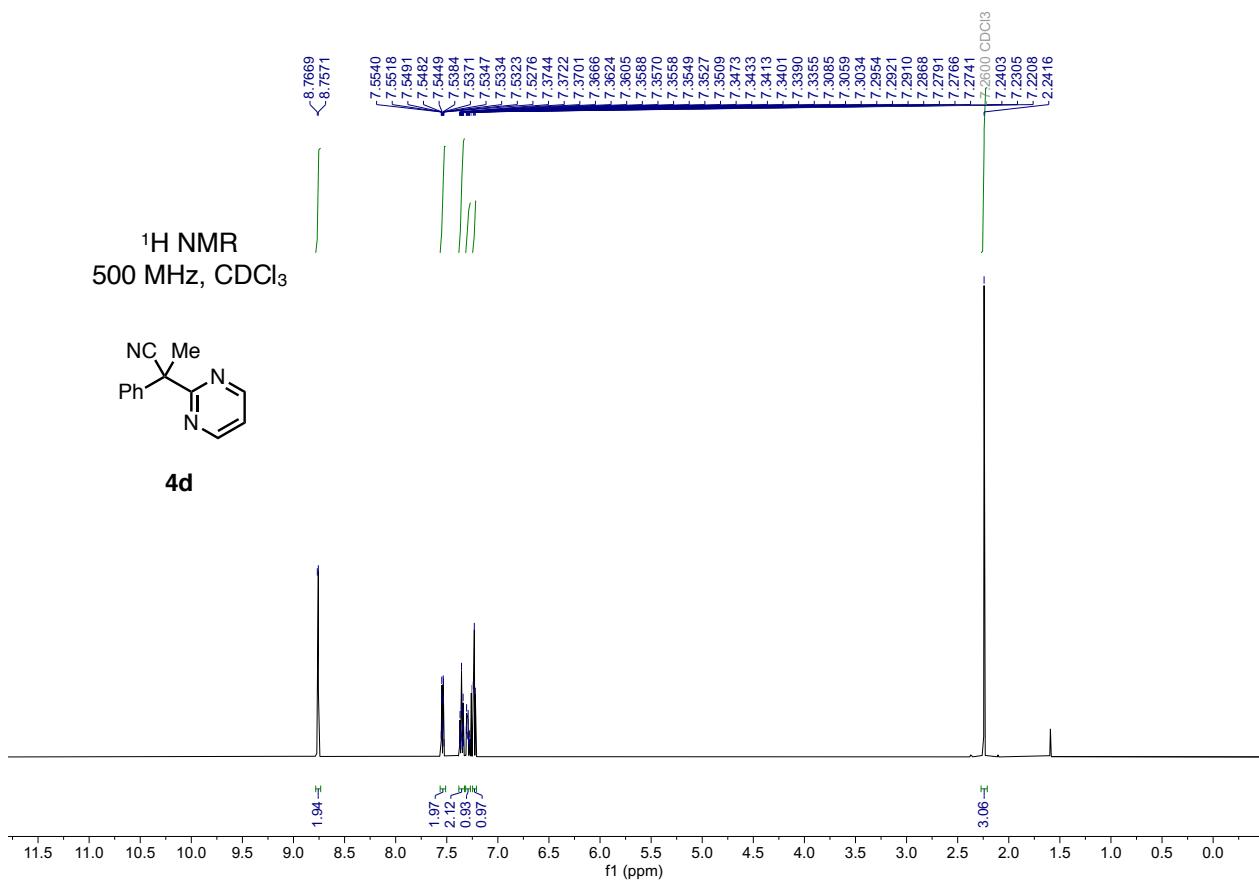


¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl₃

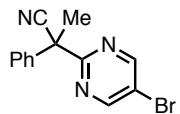


4c

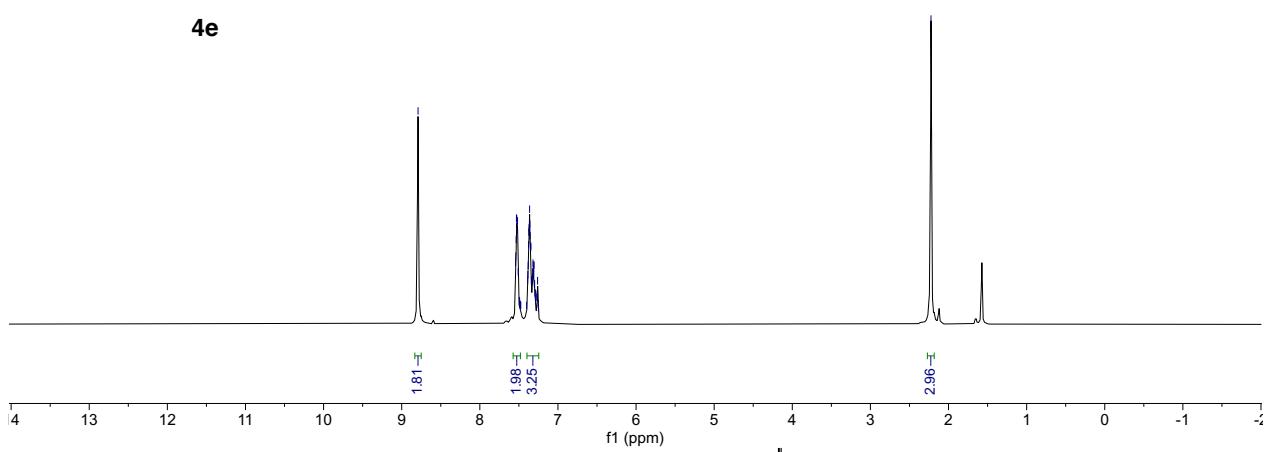




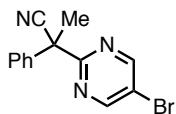
¹H NMR
500 MHz, CDCl₃



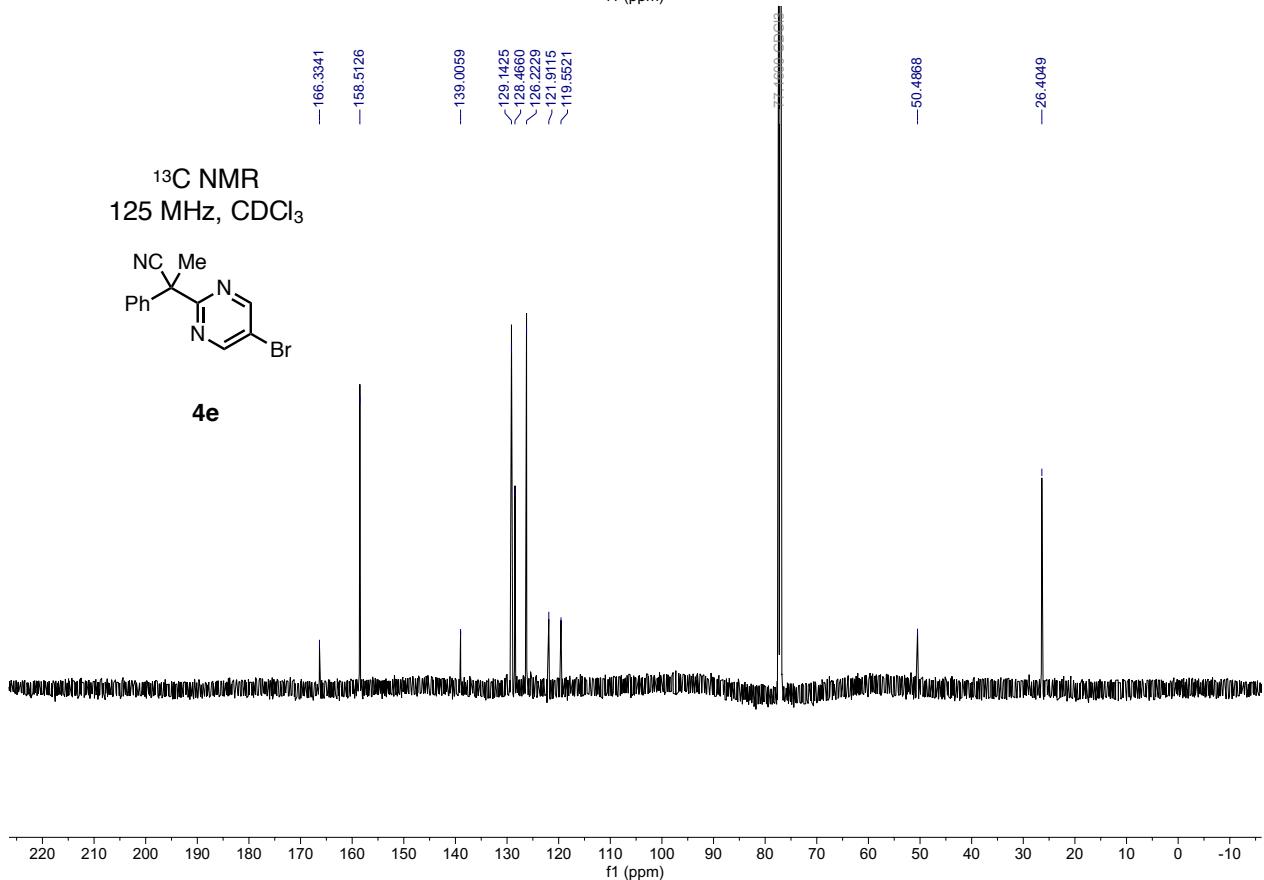
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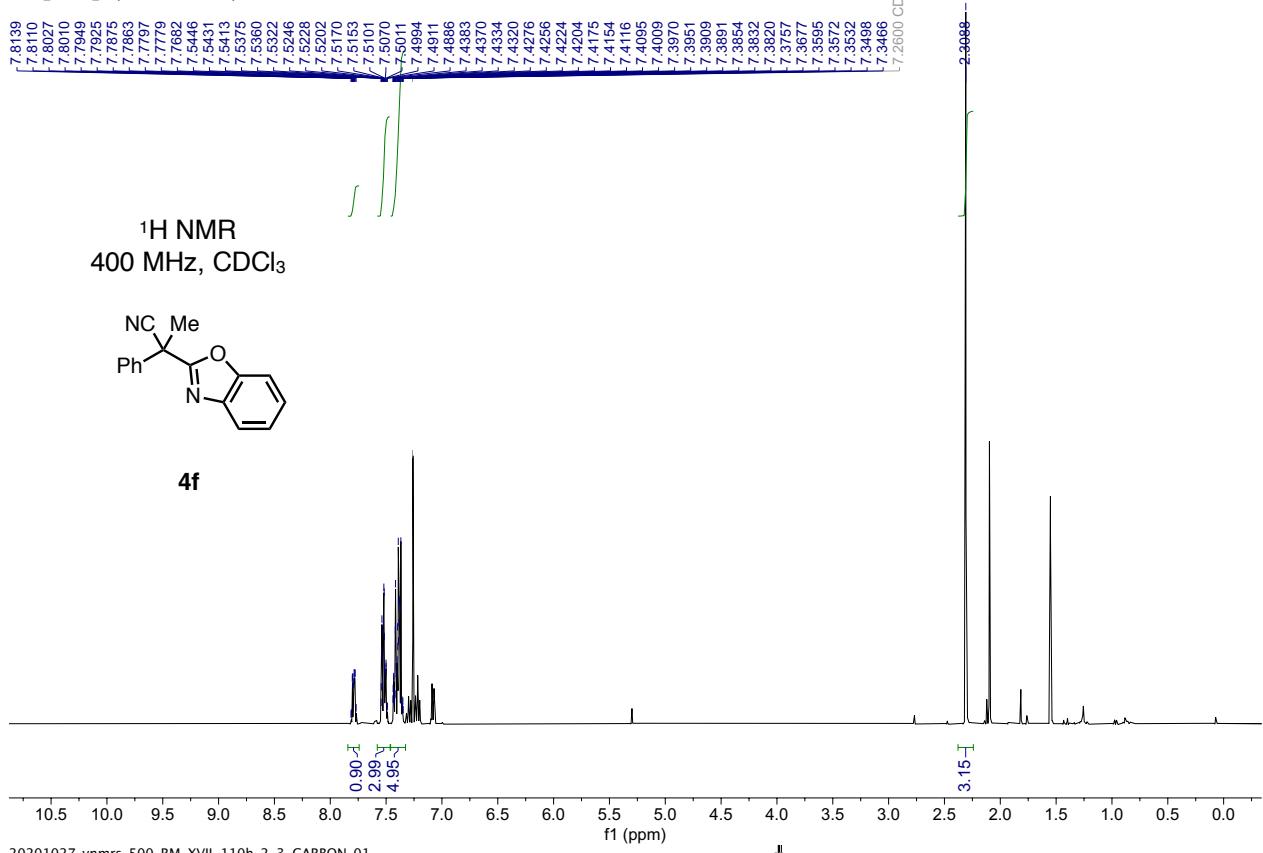
¹³C NMR
125 MHz, CDCl₃



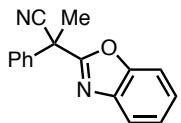
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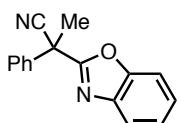
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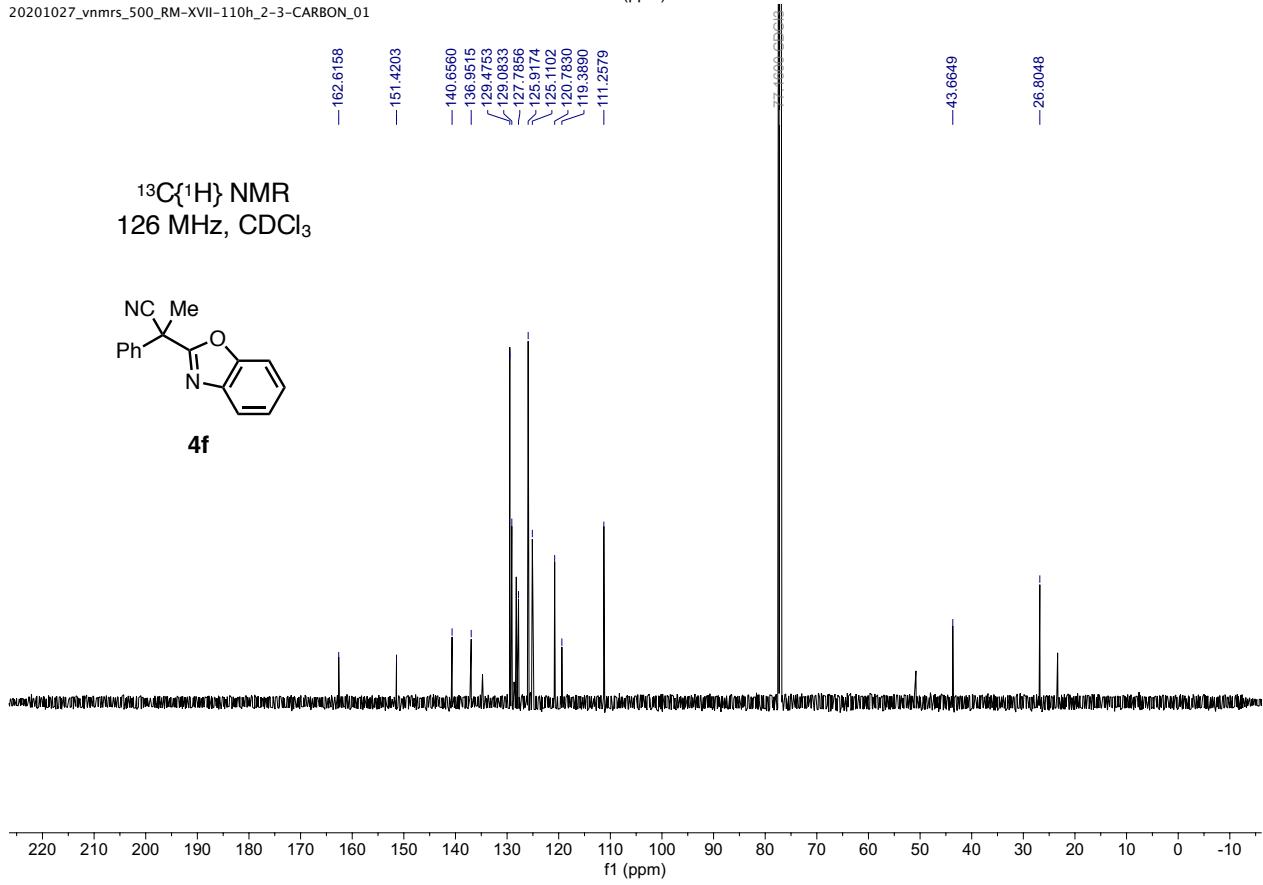
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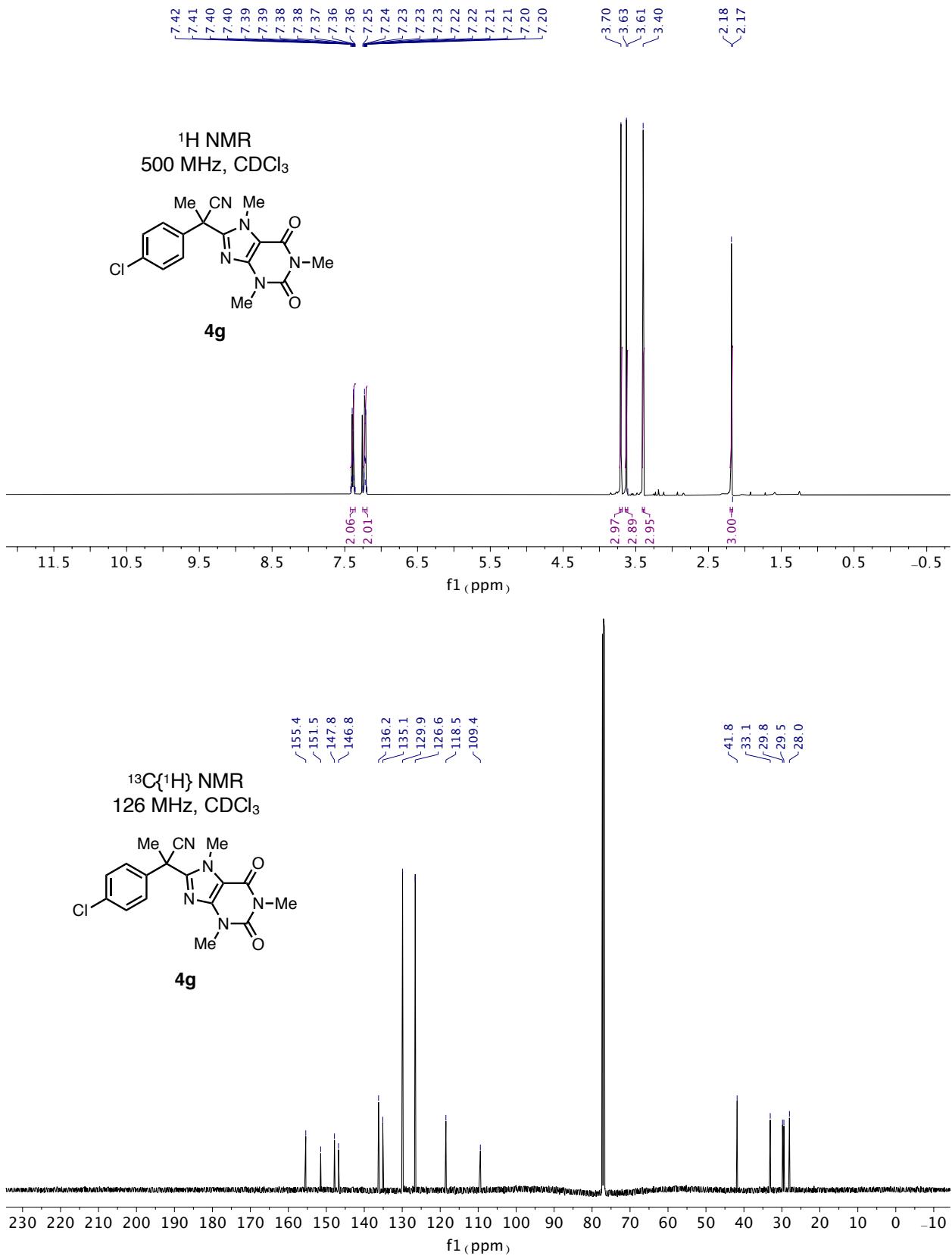


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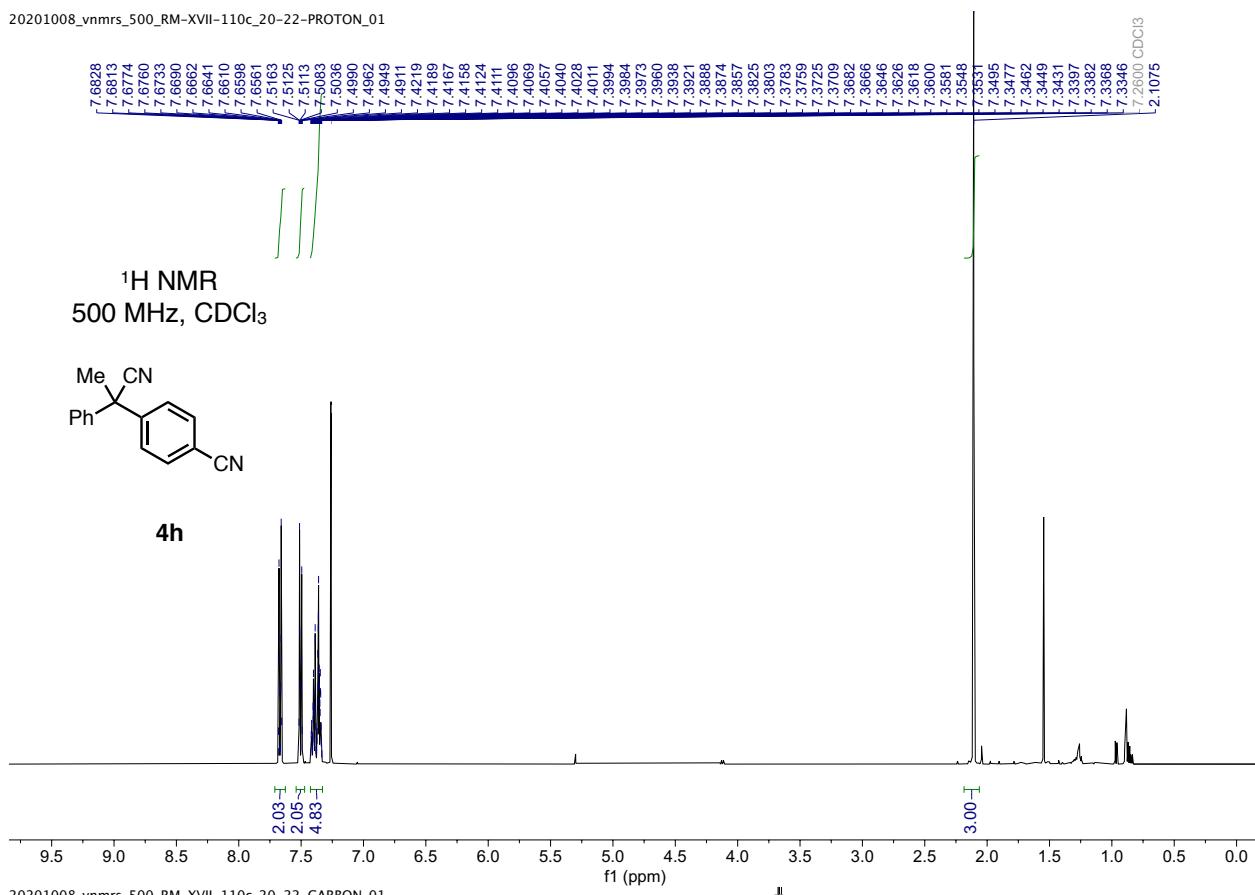


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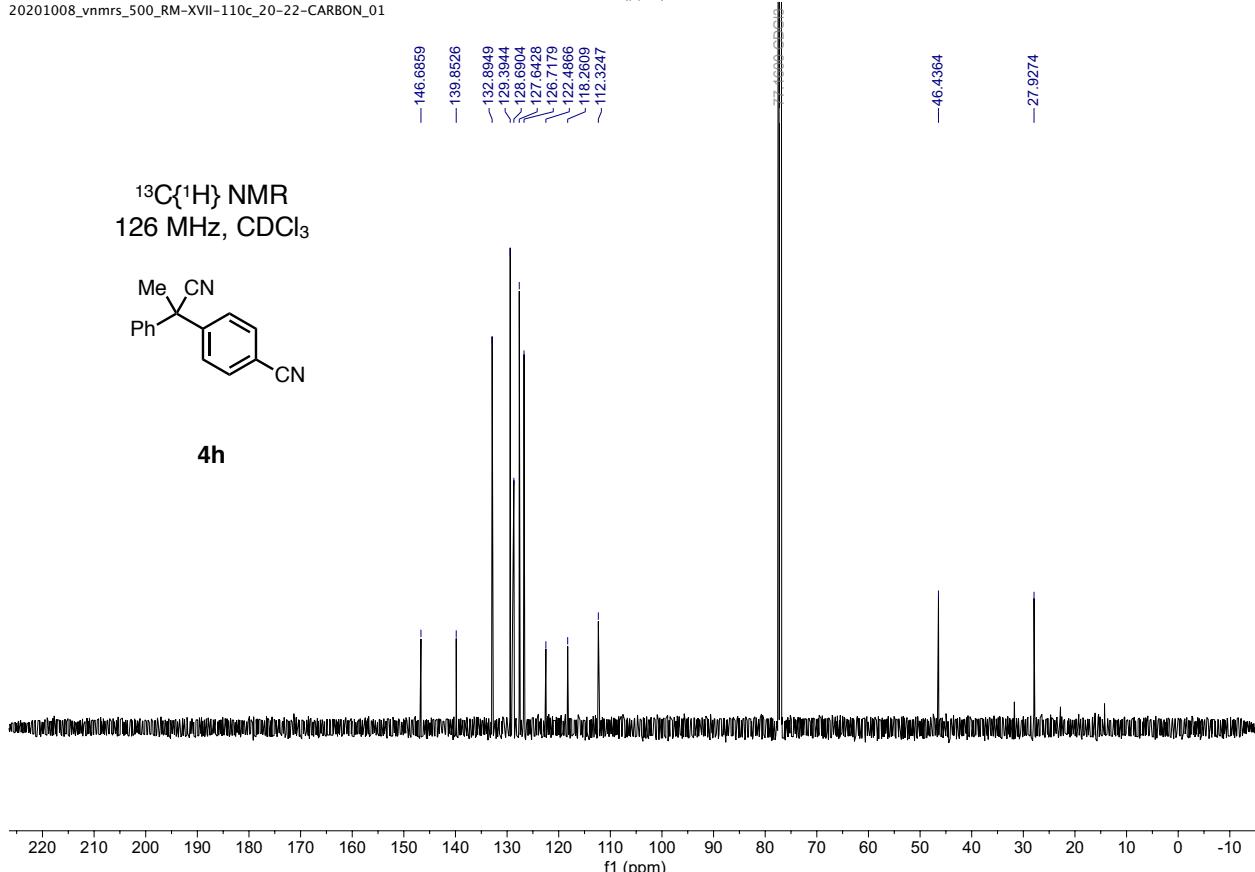


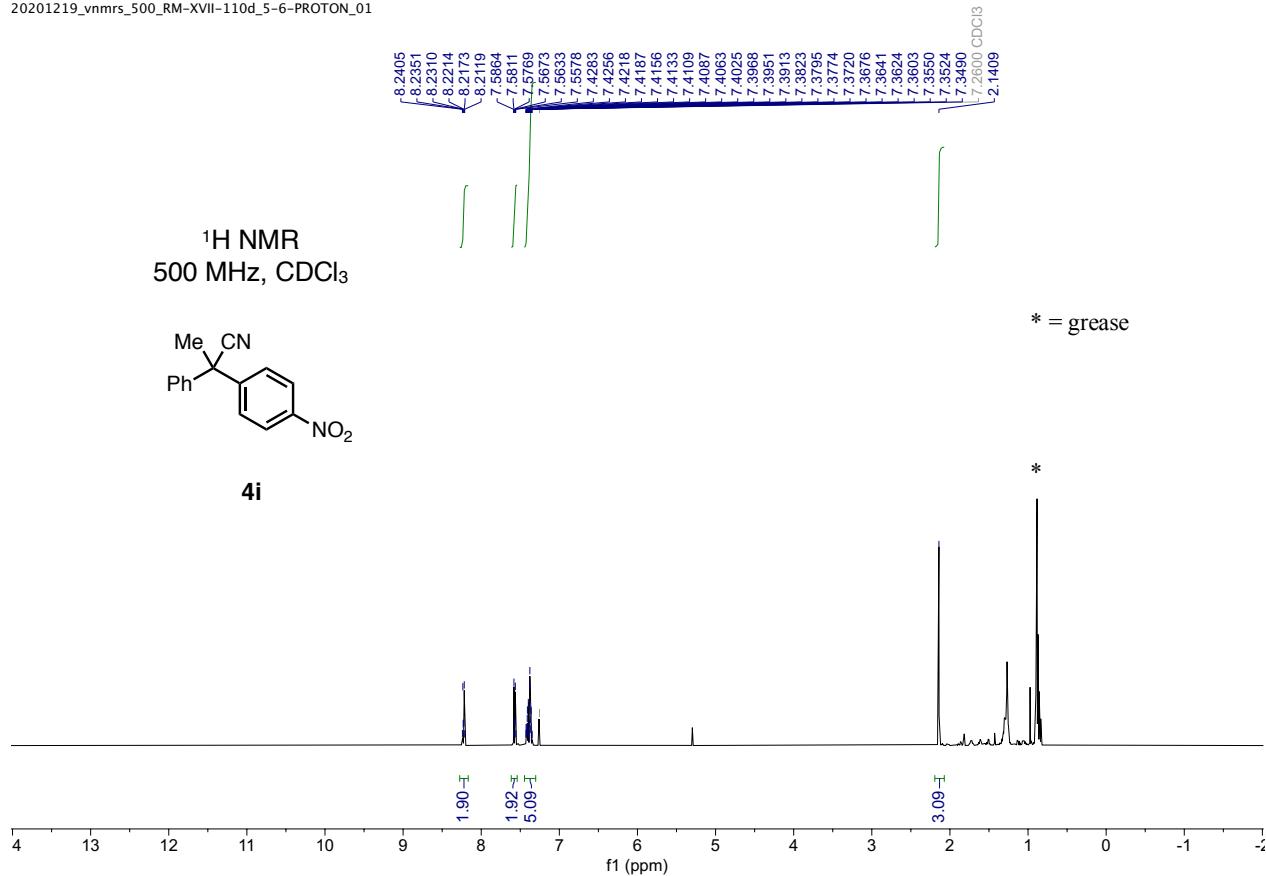


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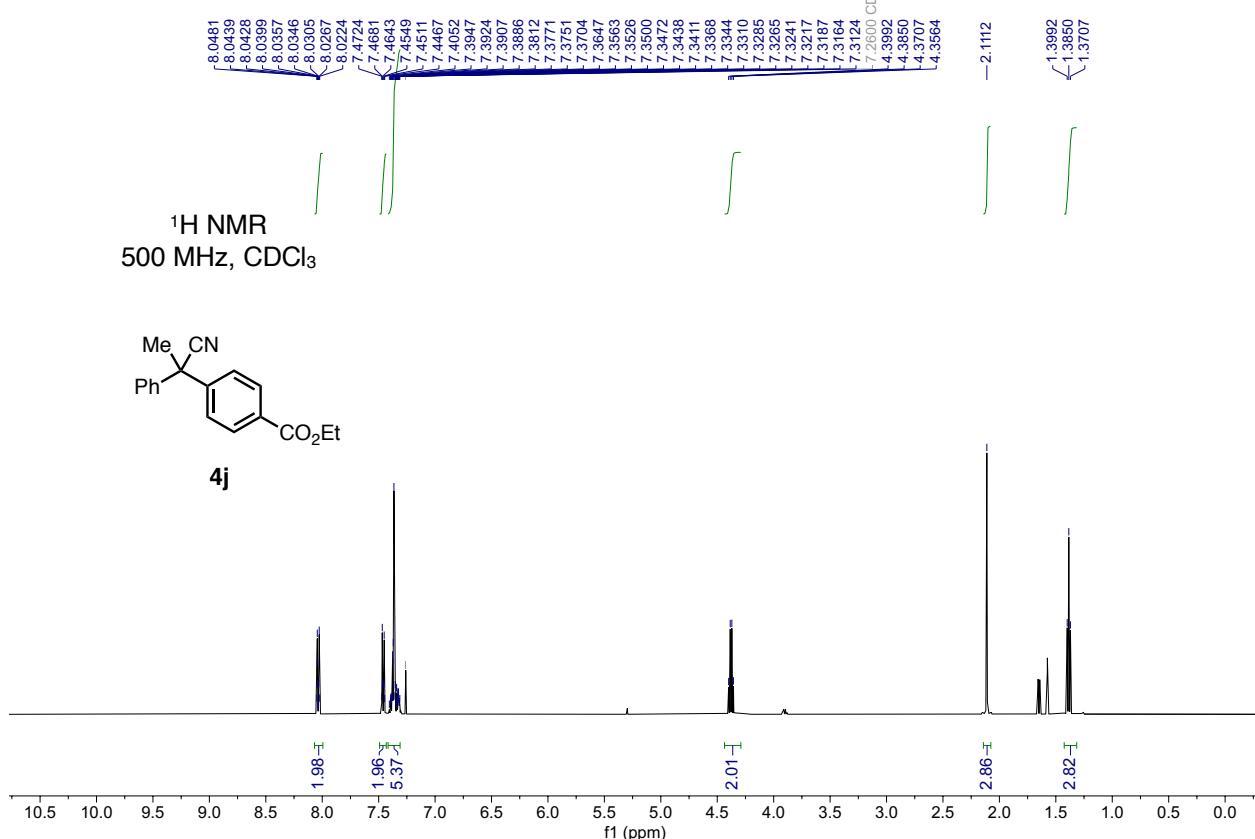


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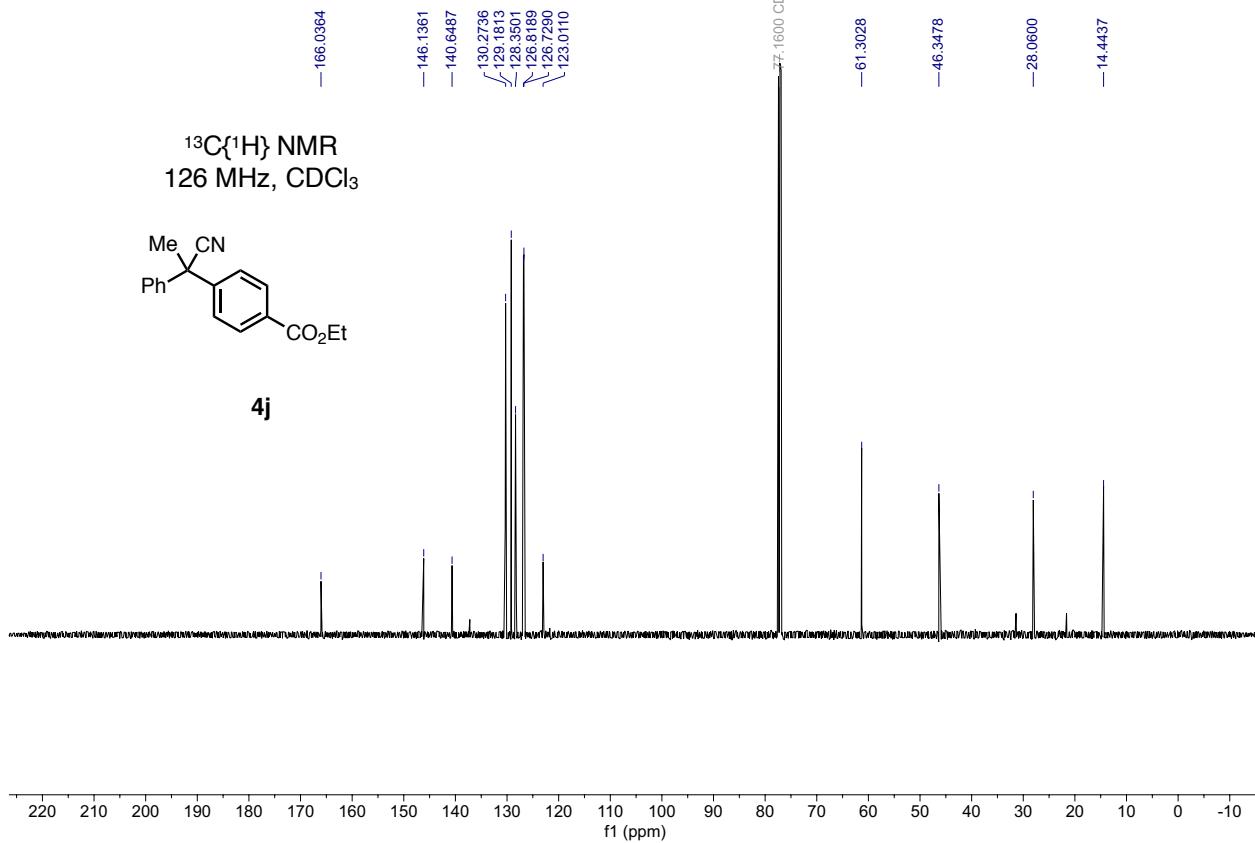




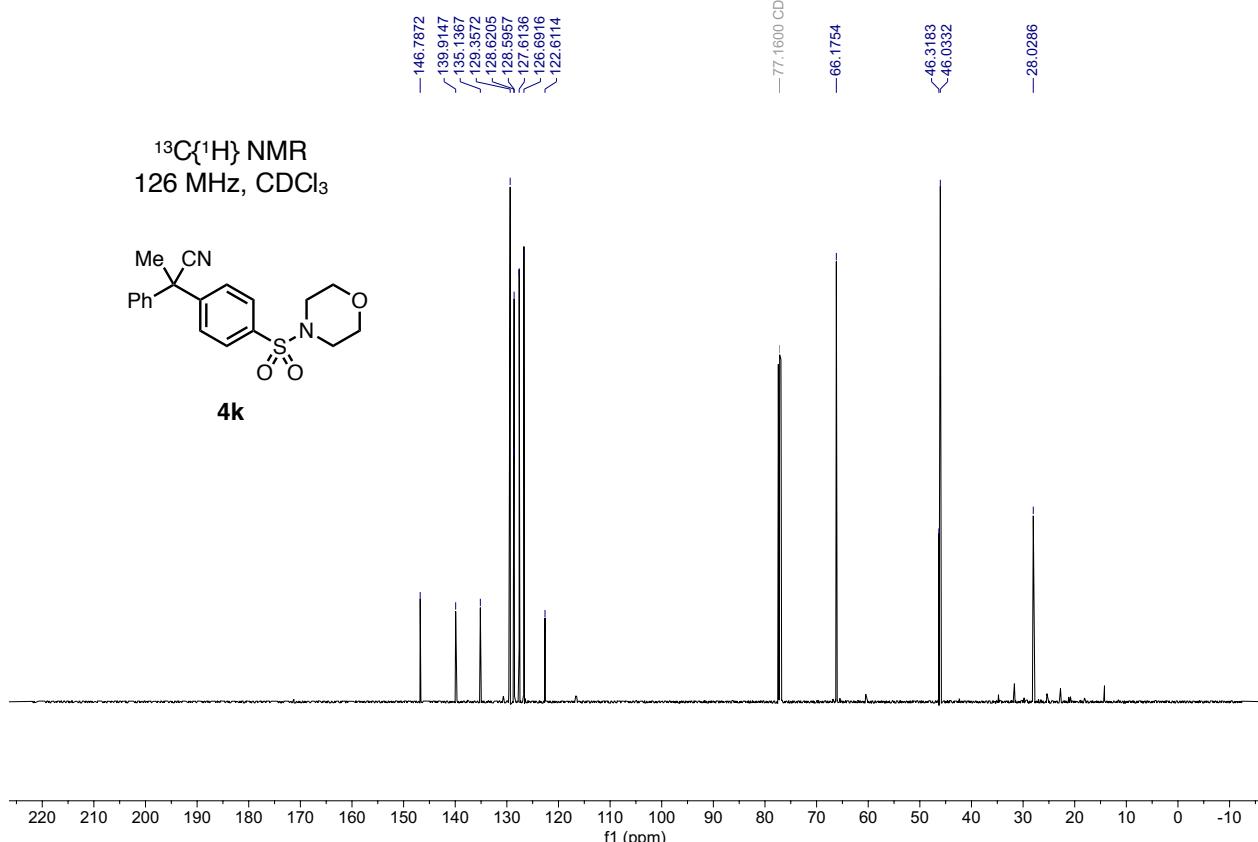
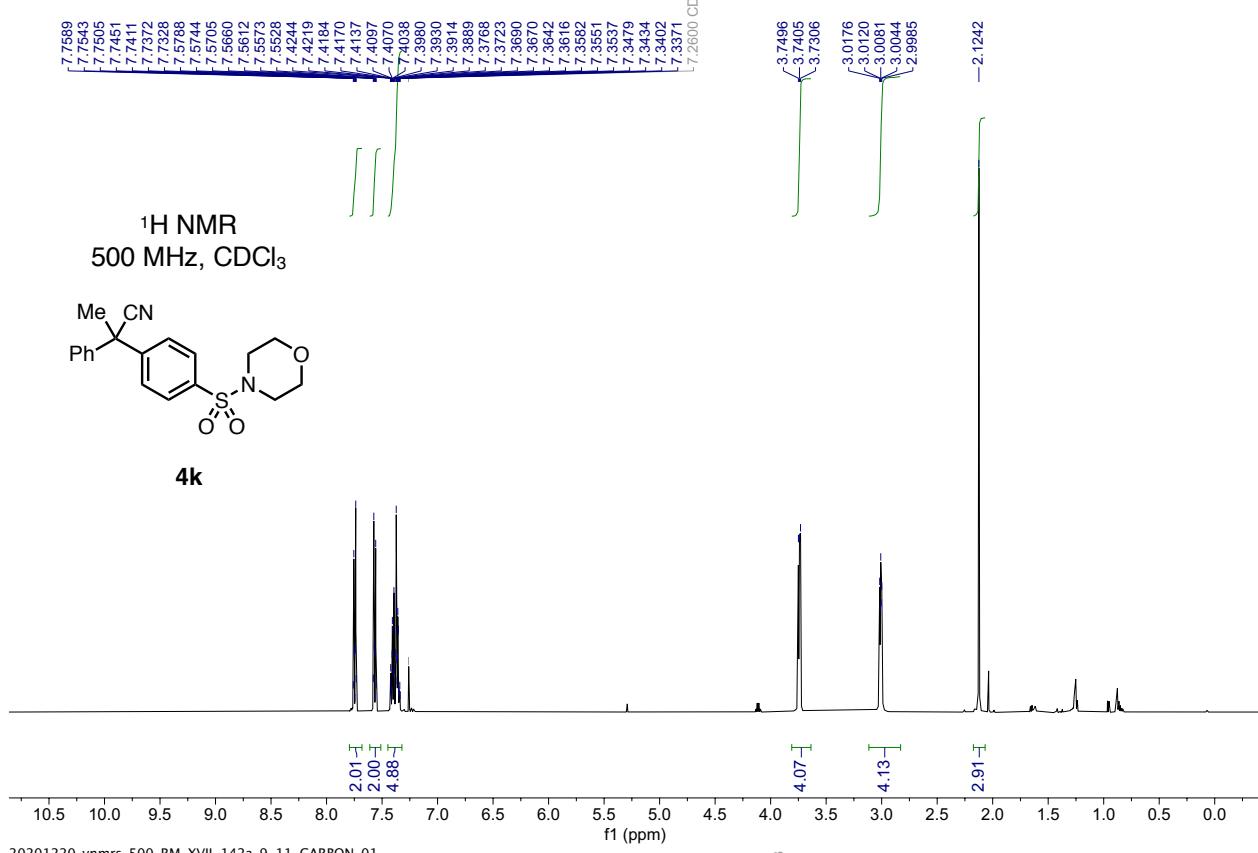
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RM_XVII_142d_6_13



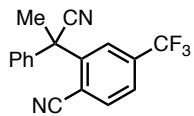
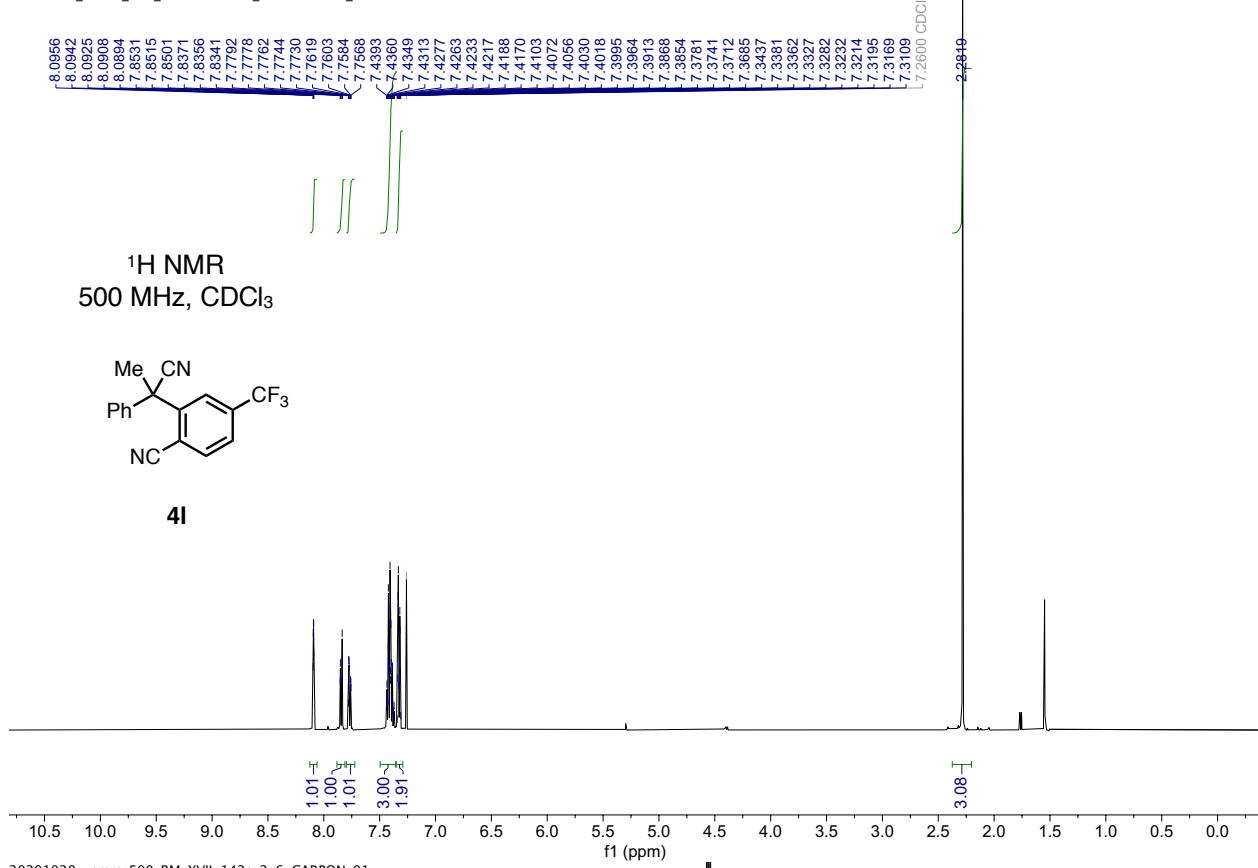
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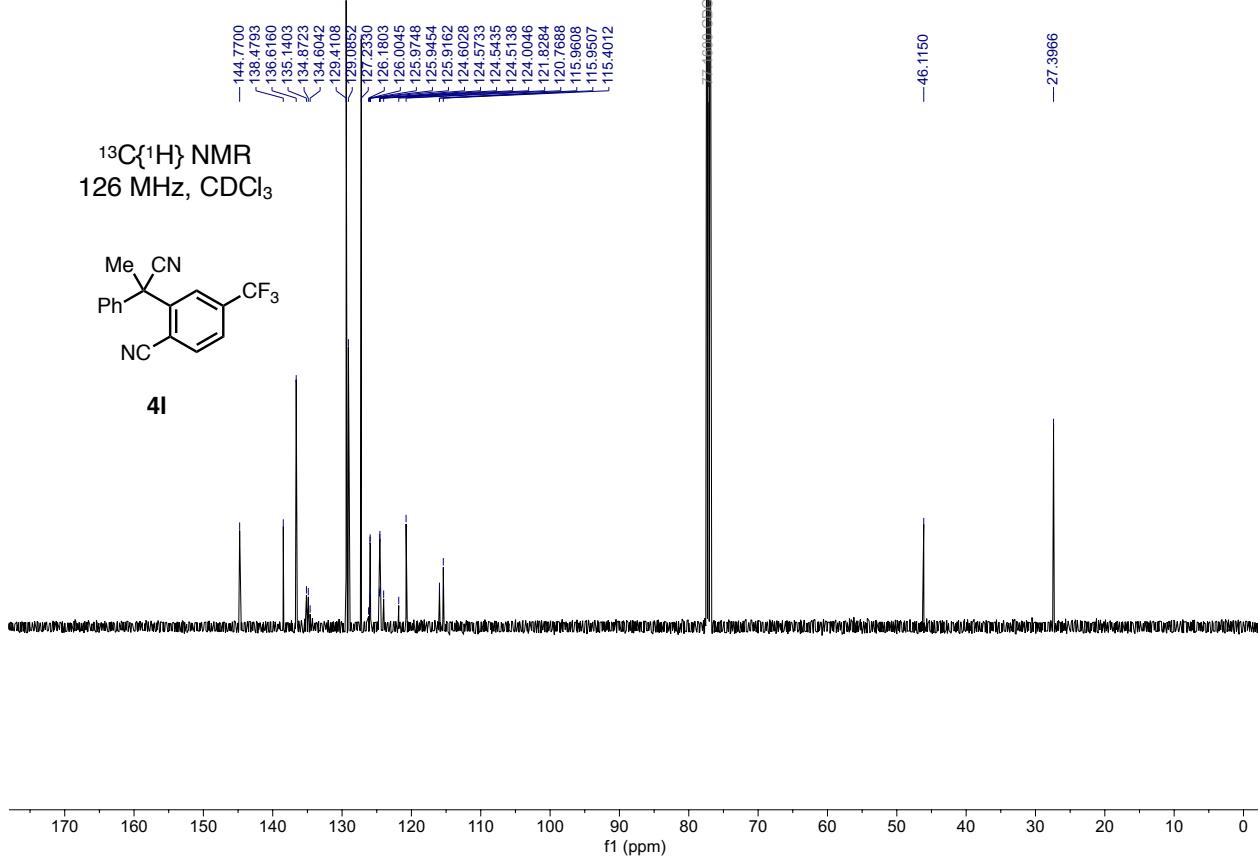


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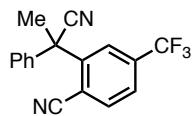
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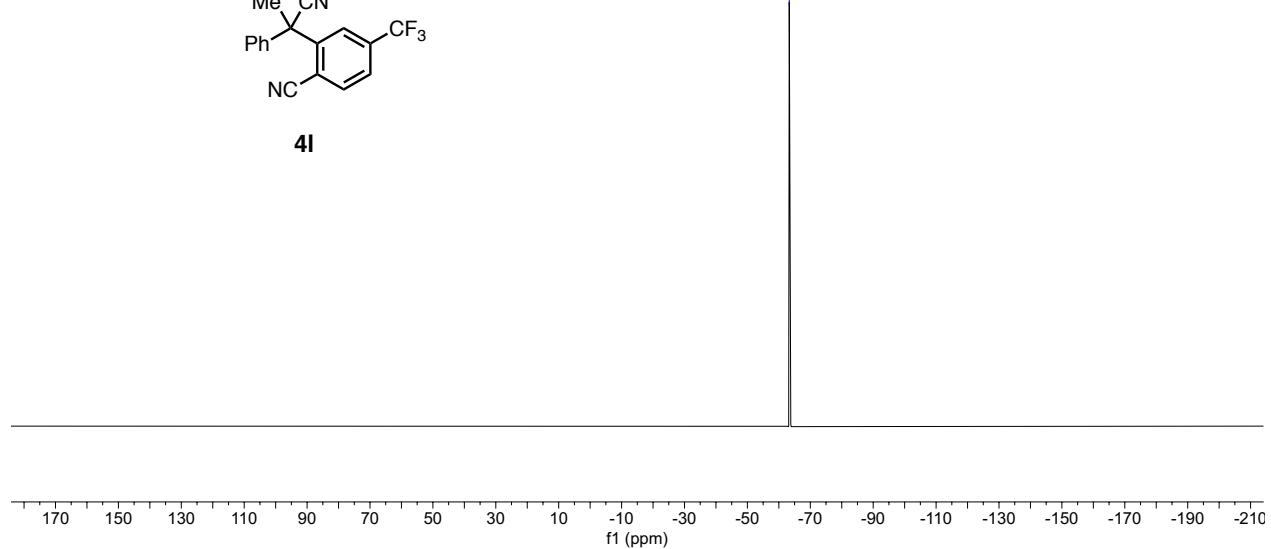


—63.3069

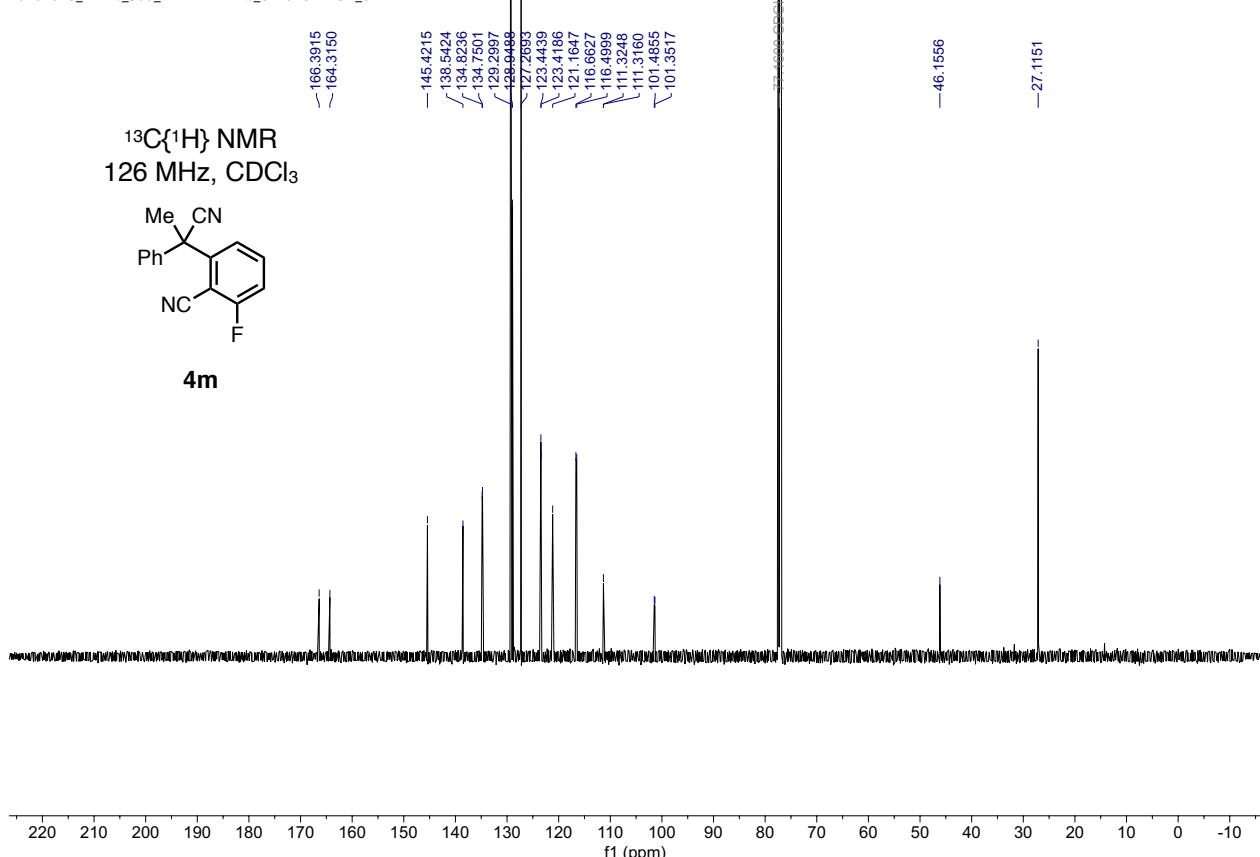
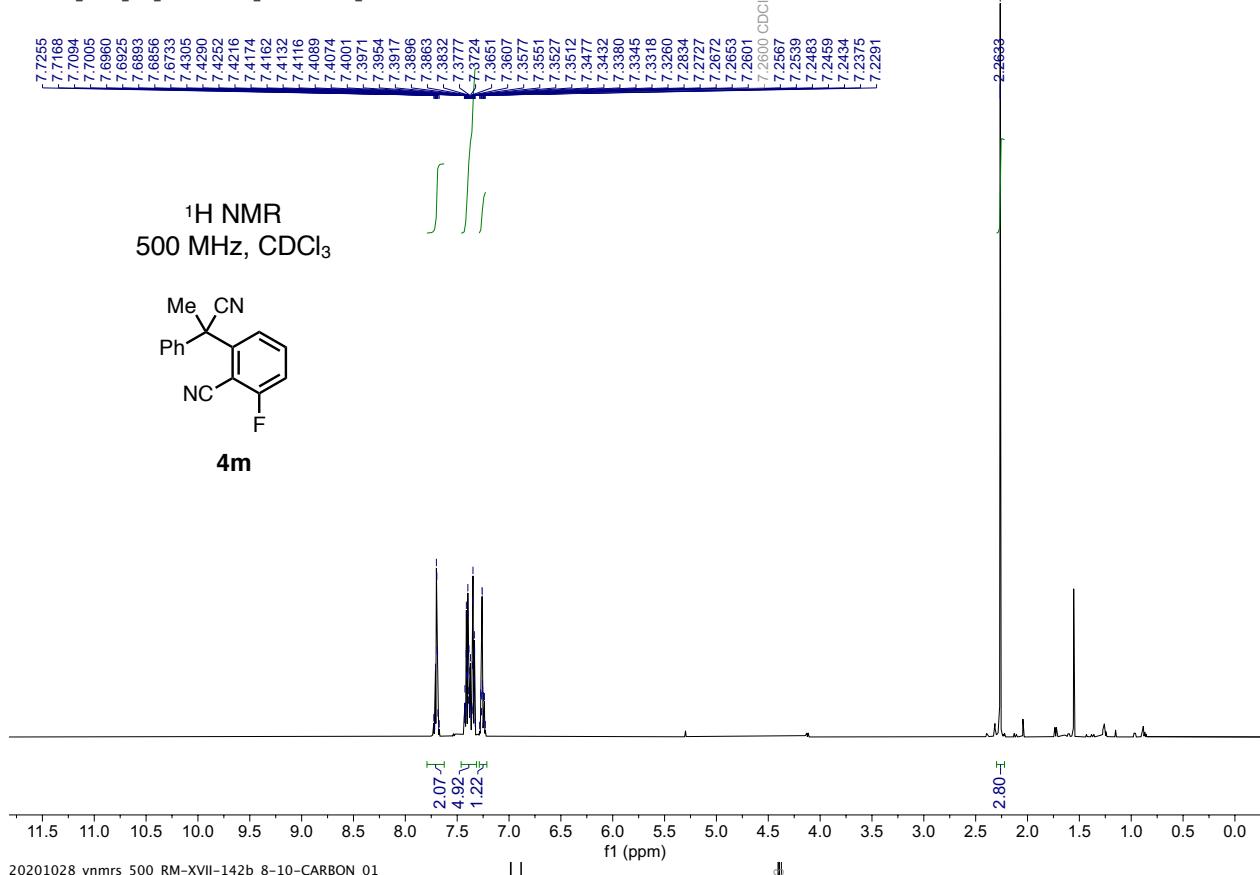
¹⁹F NMR
376 MHz, CDCl₃



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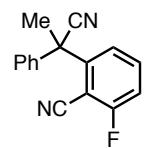


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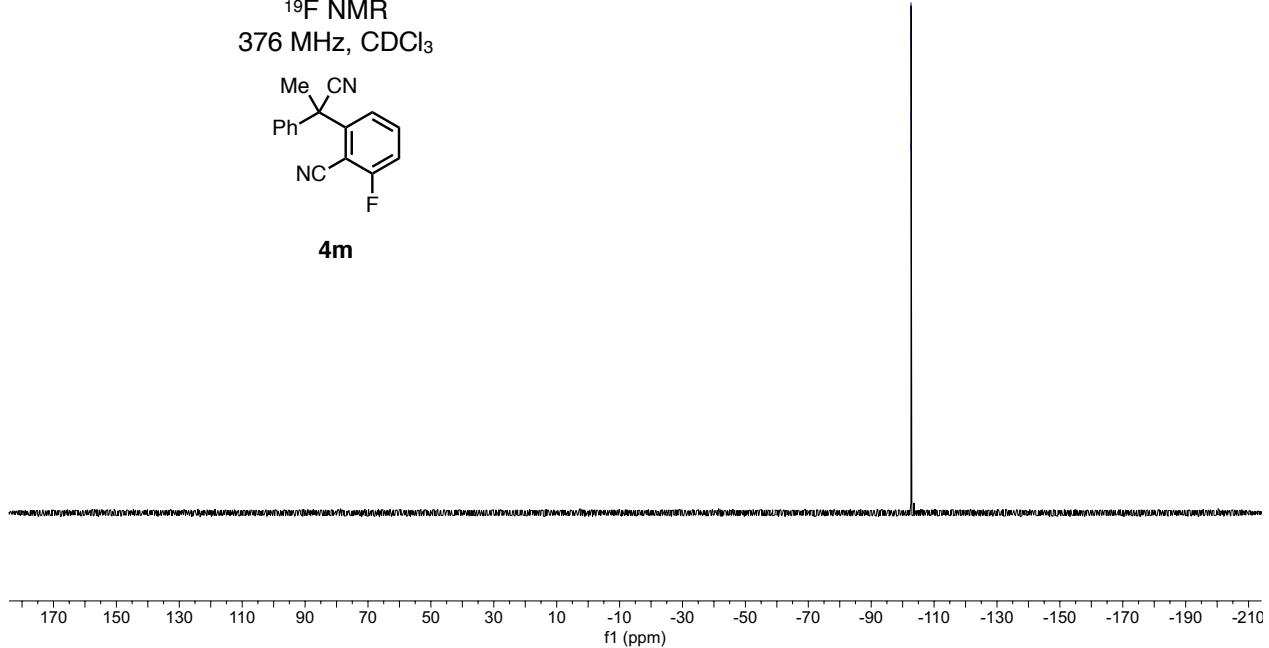


-102.6642
-102.6750
-102.6883
-102.6973

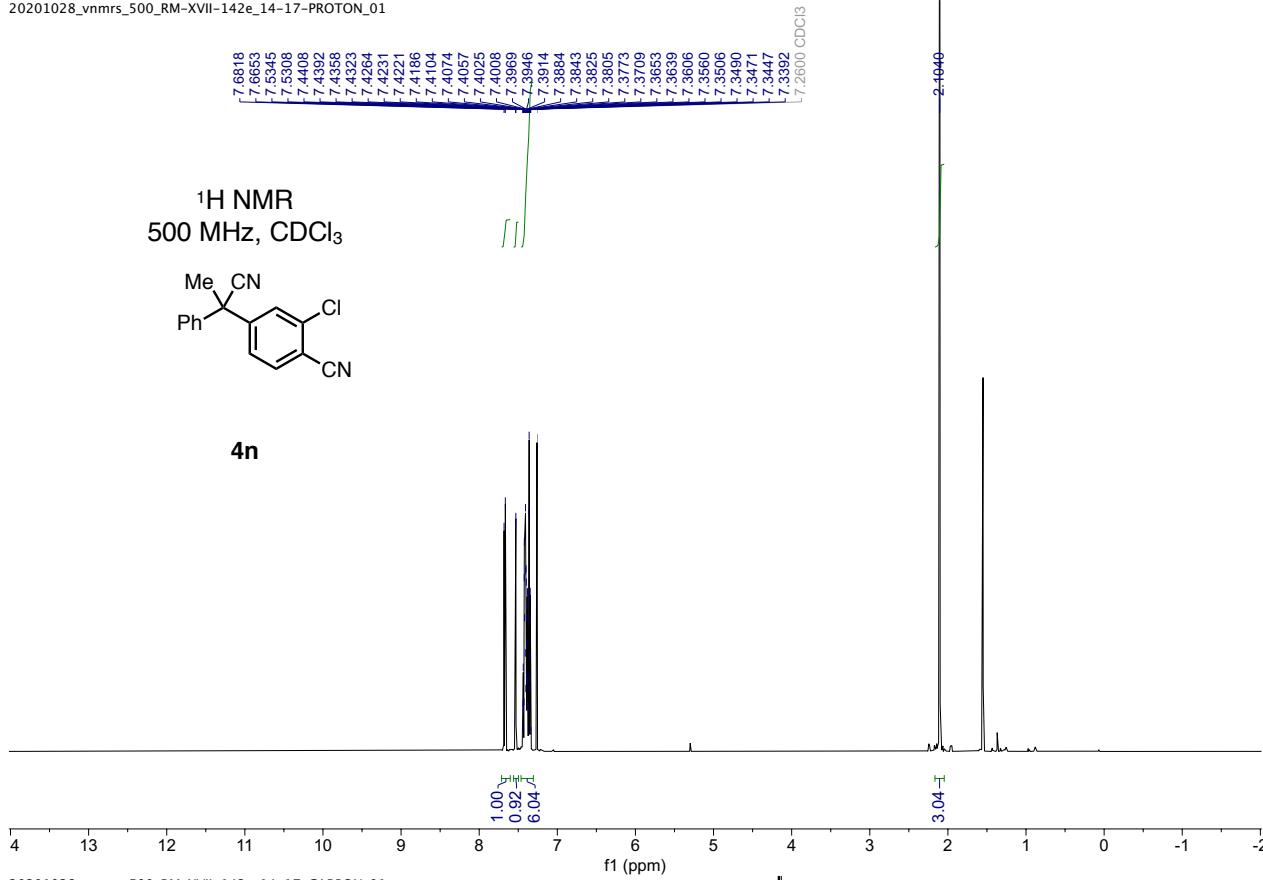
¹⁹F NMR
376 MHz, CDCl₃



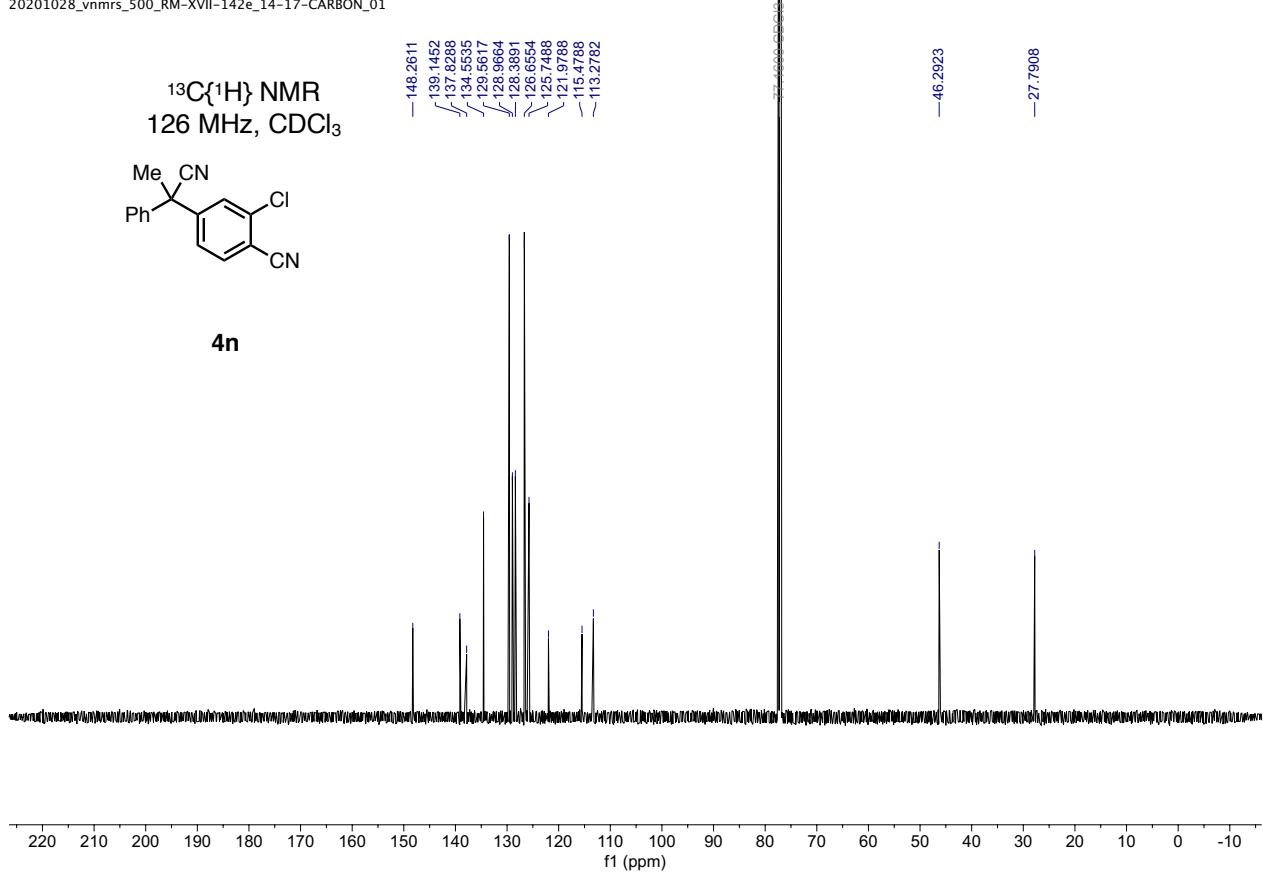
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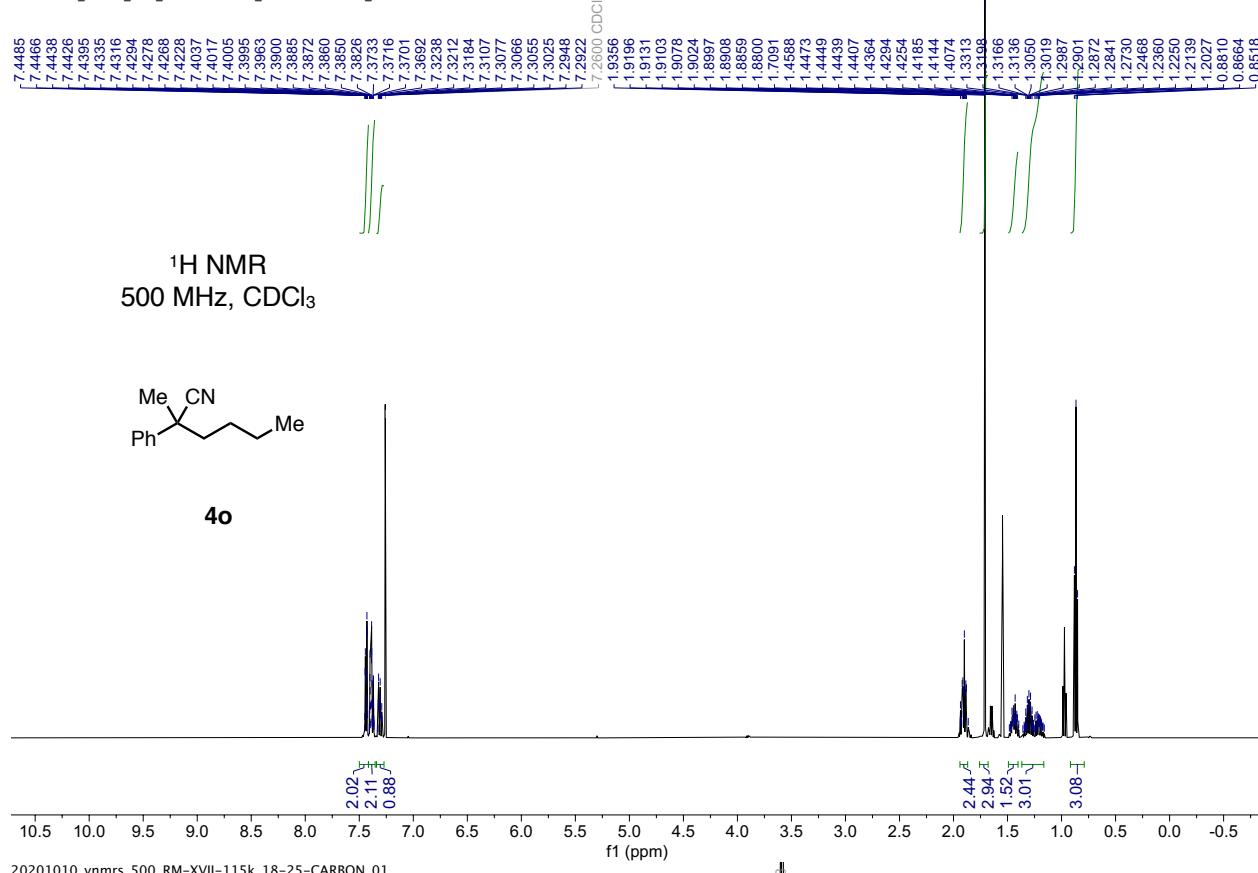
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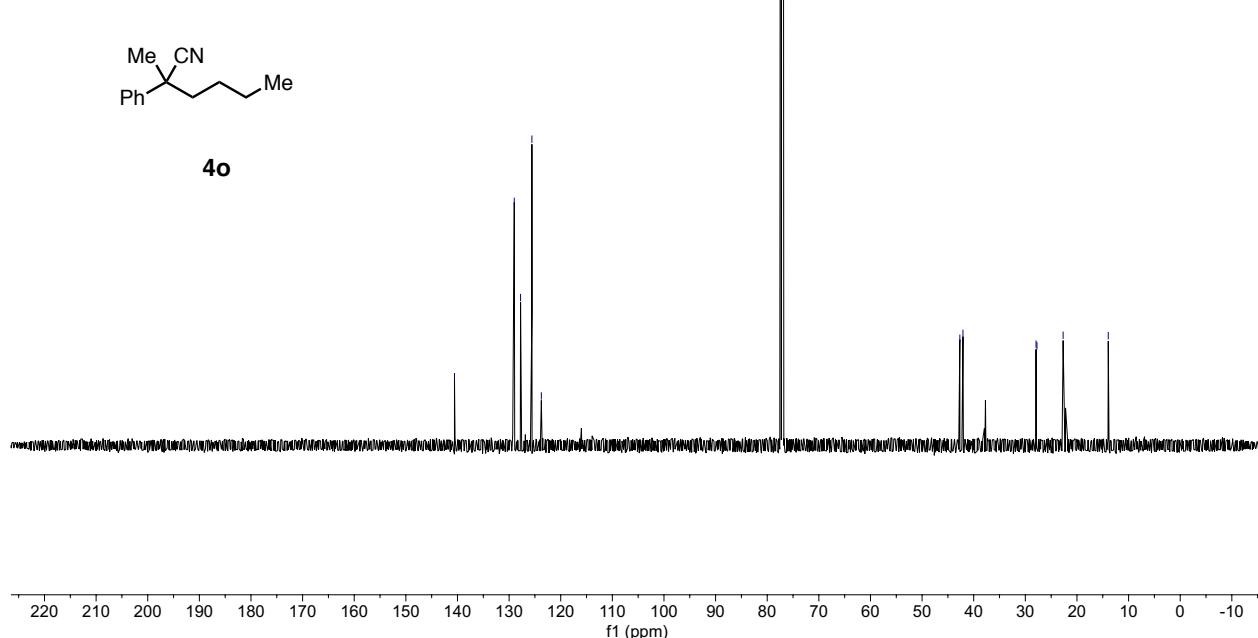
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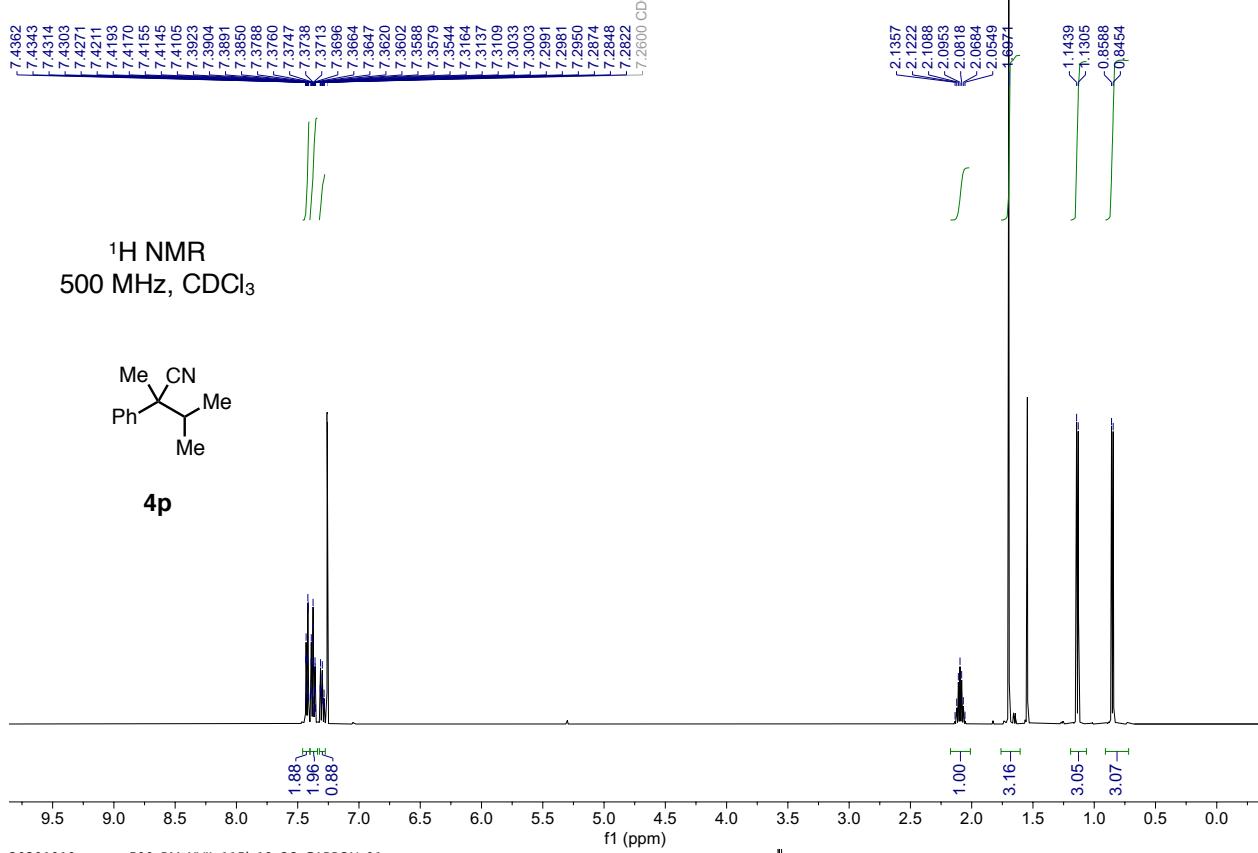
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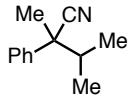
¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl₃



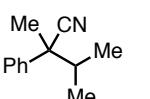
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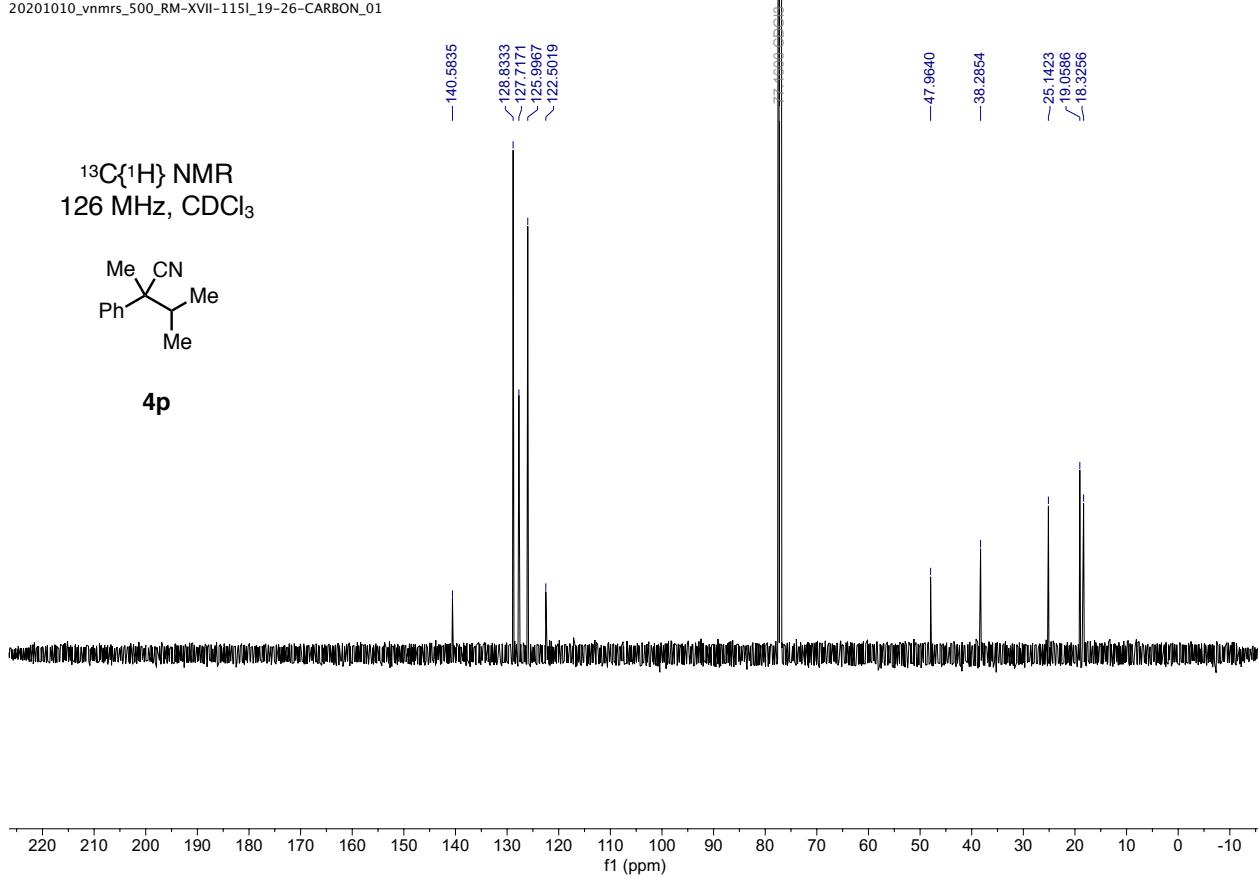
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4p



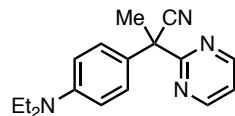
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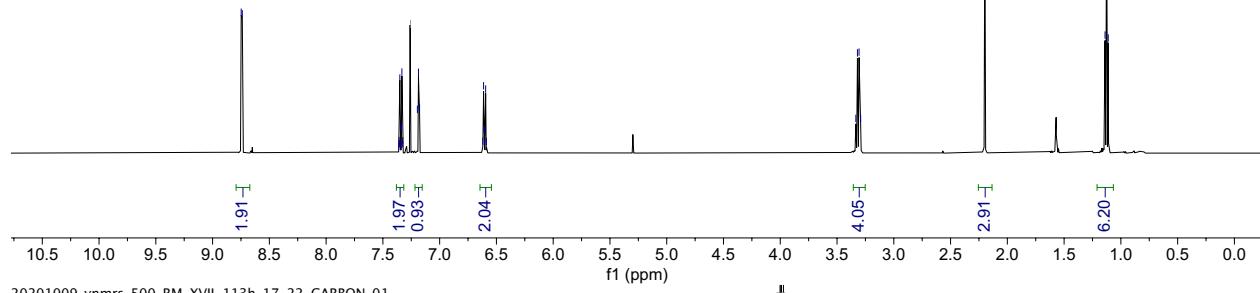
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¹H NMR
500 MHz, CDCl_3

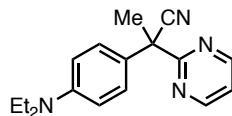


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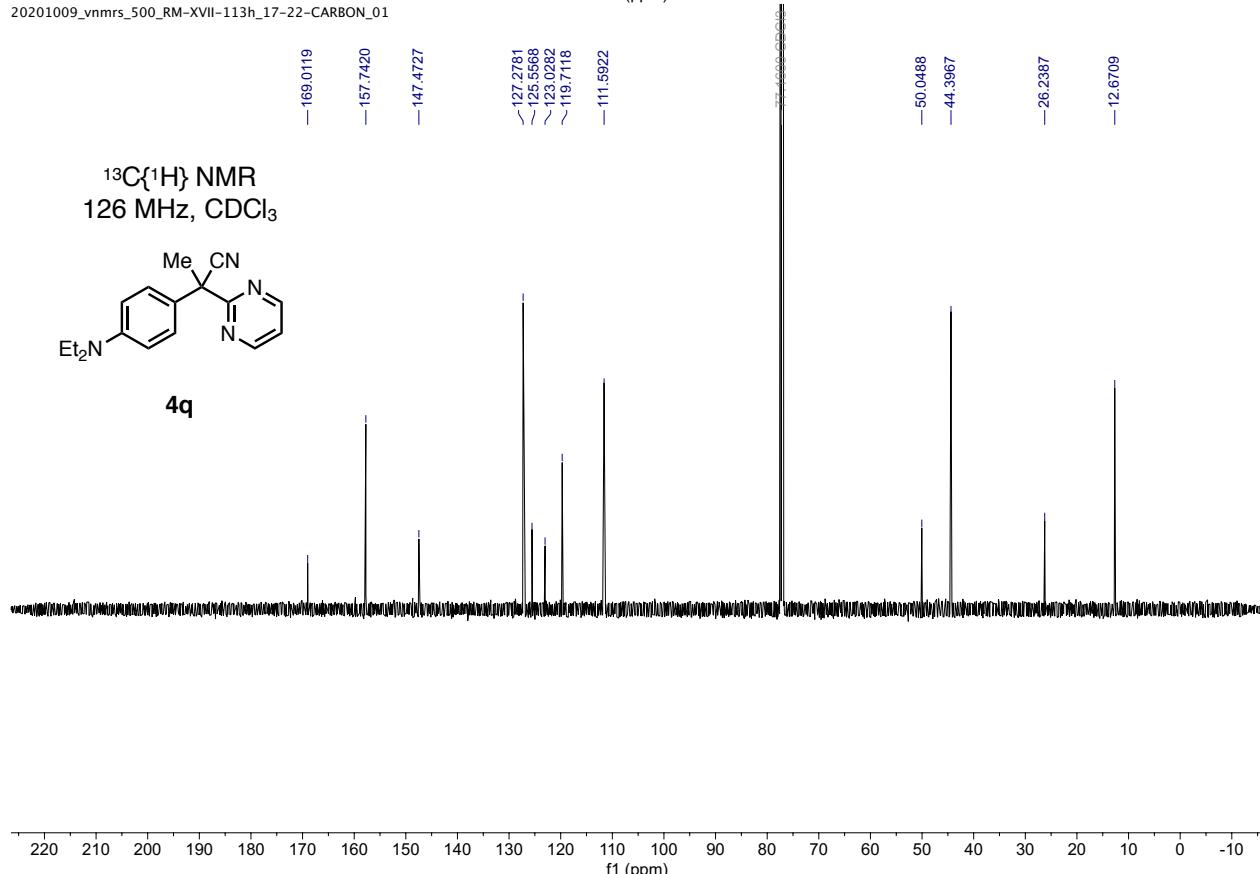


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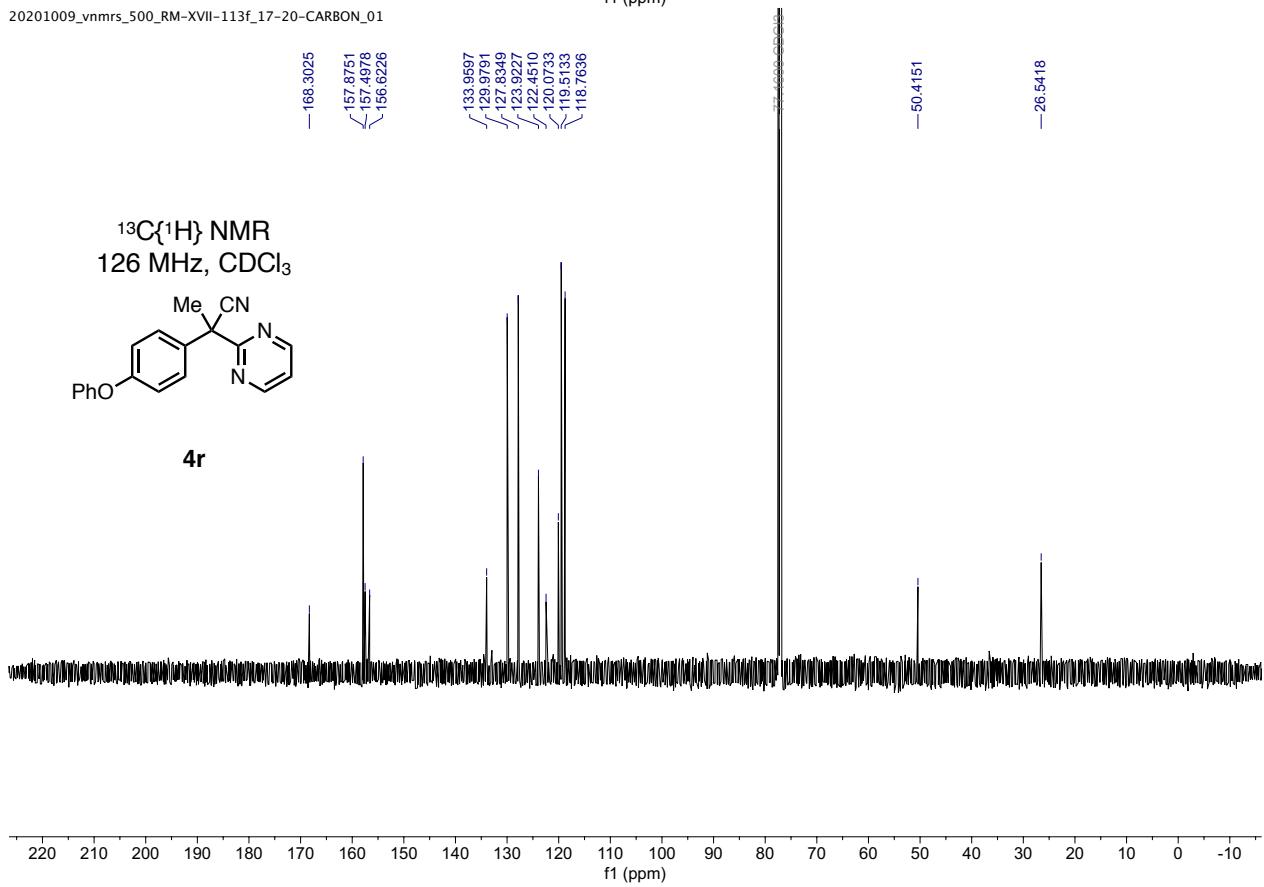
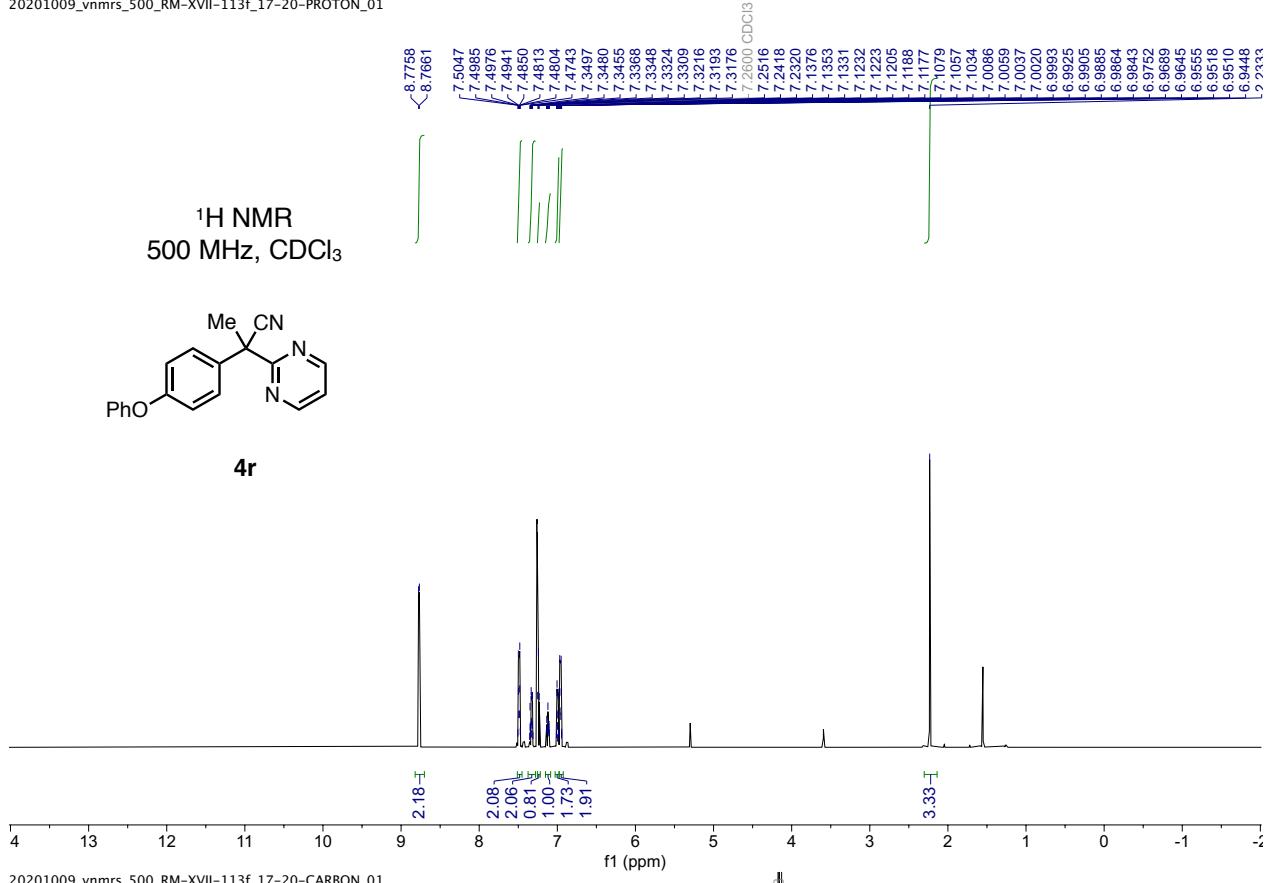
¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl_3

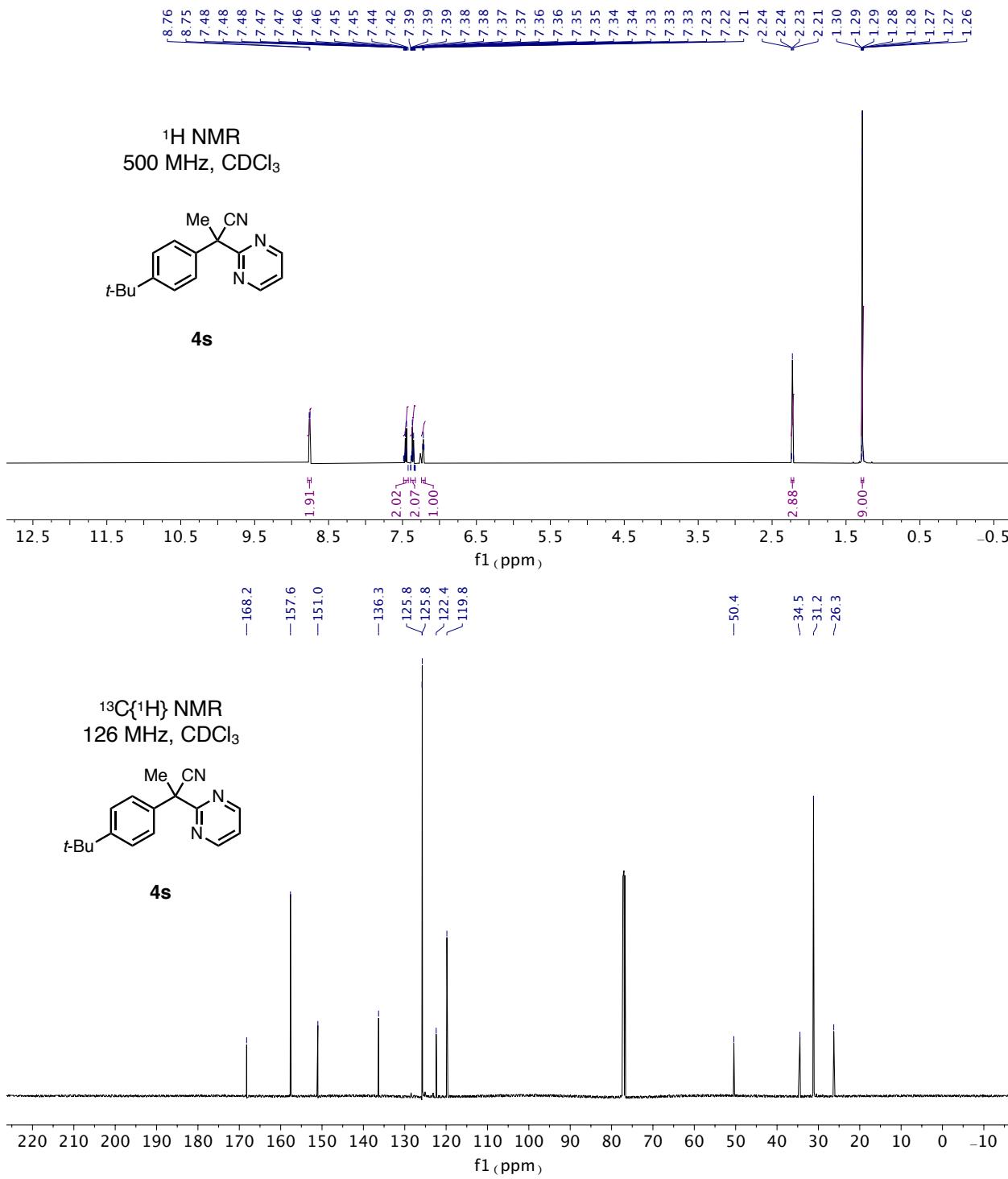


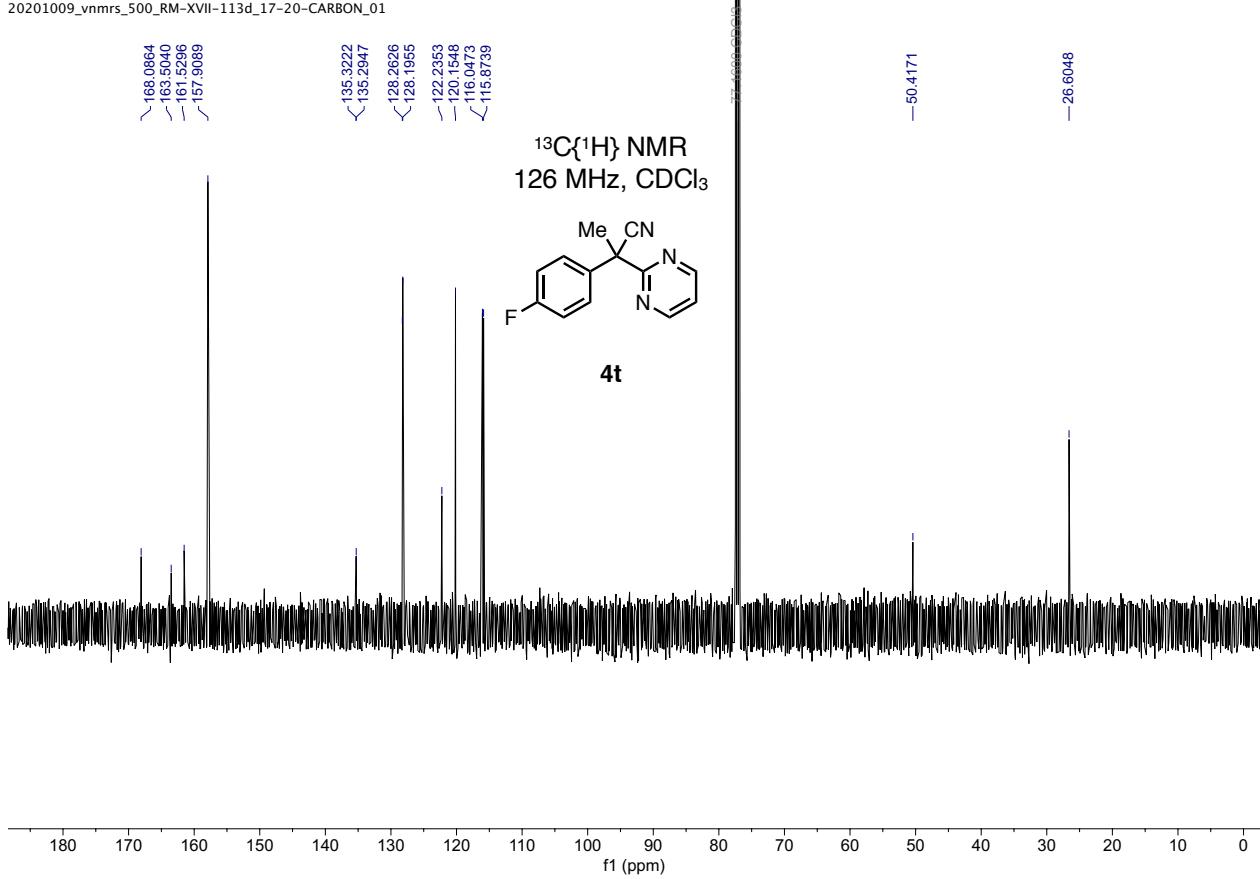
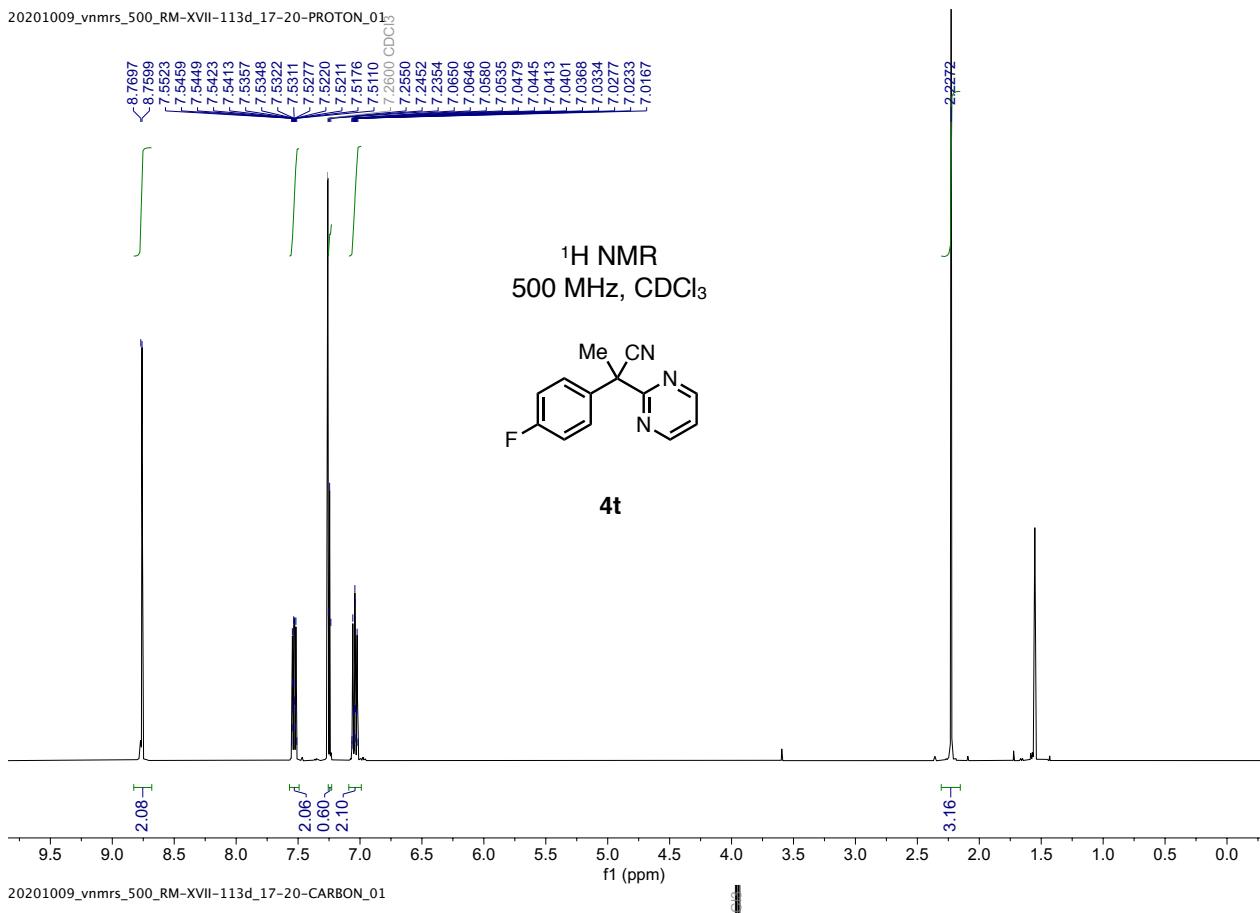
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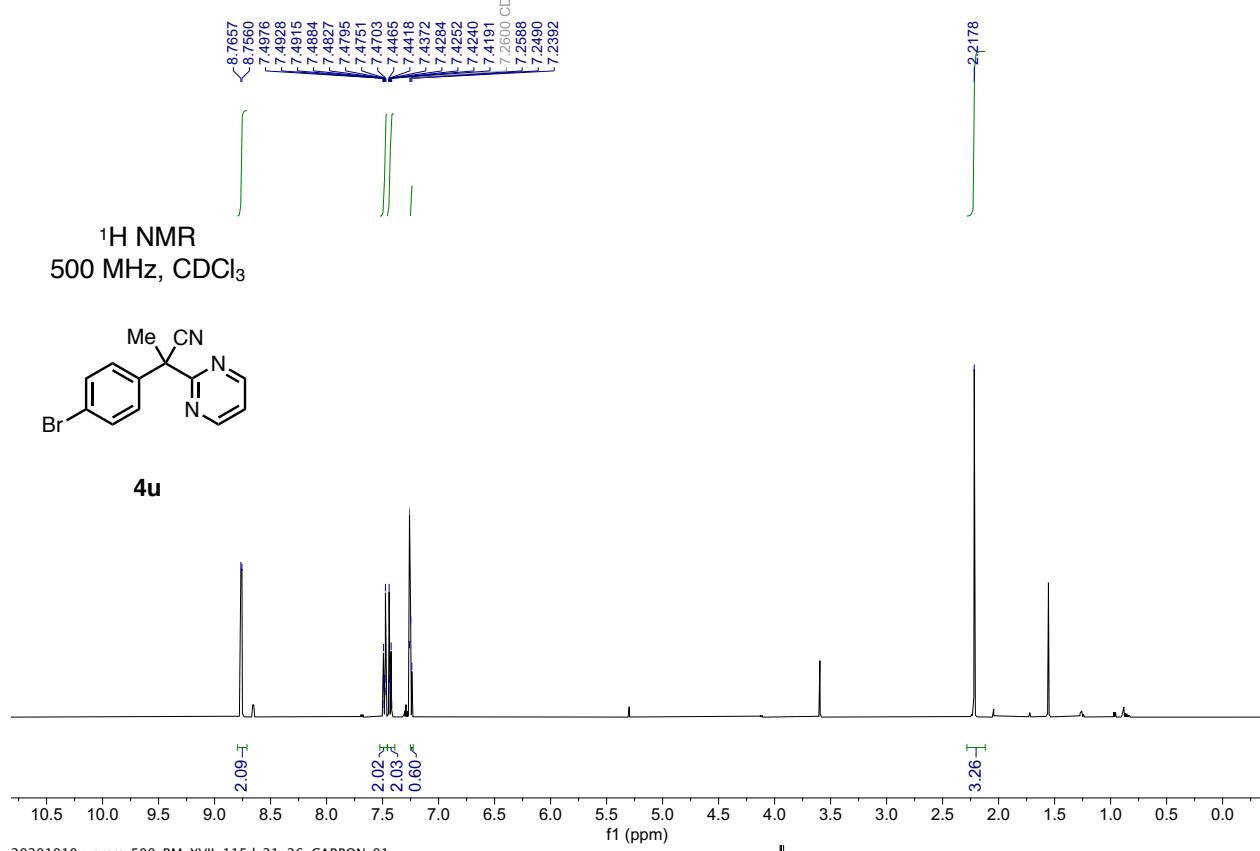
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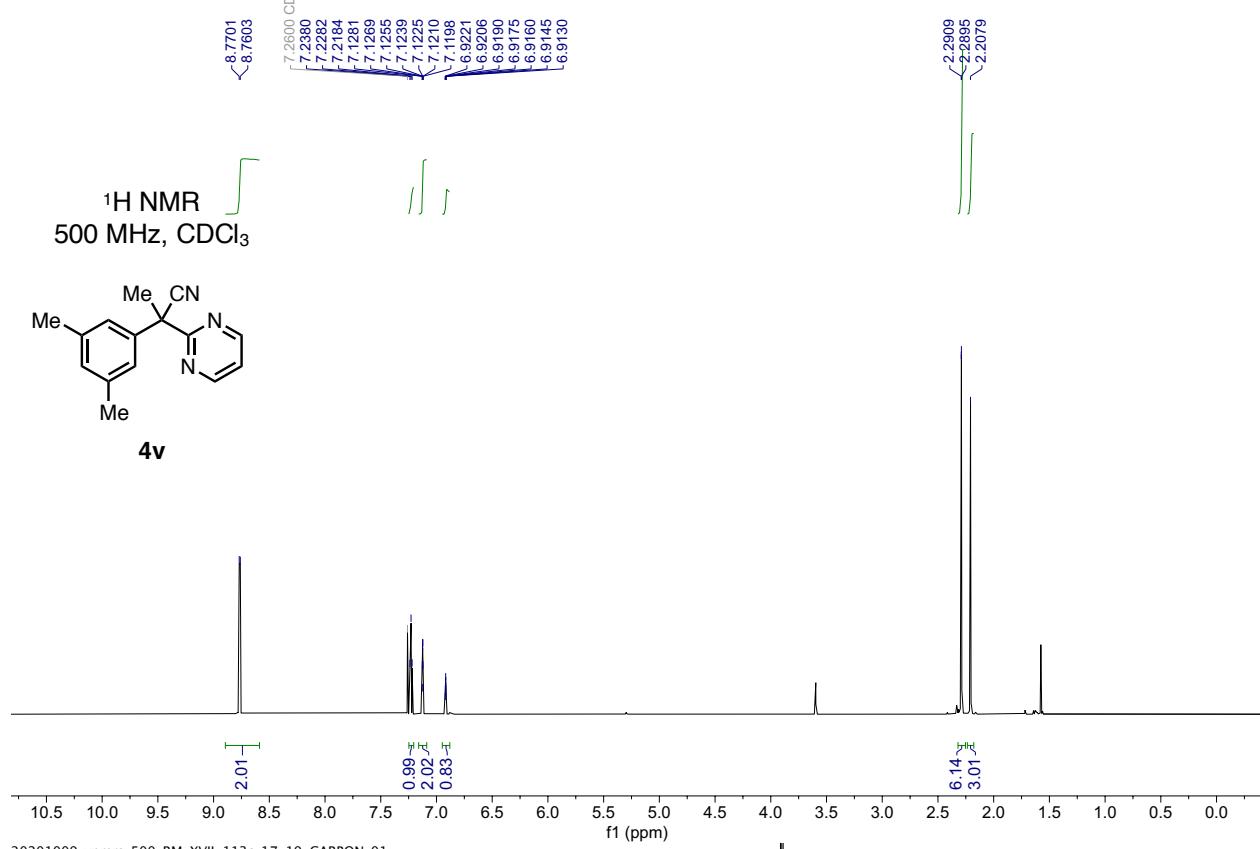




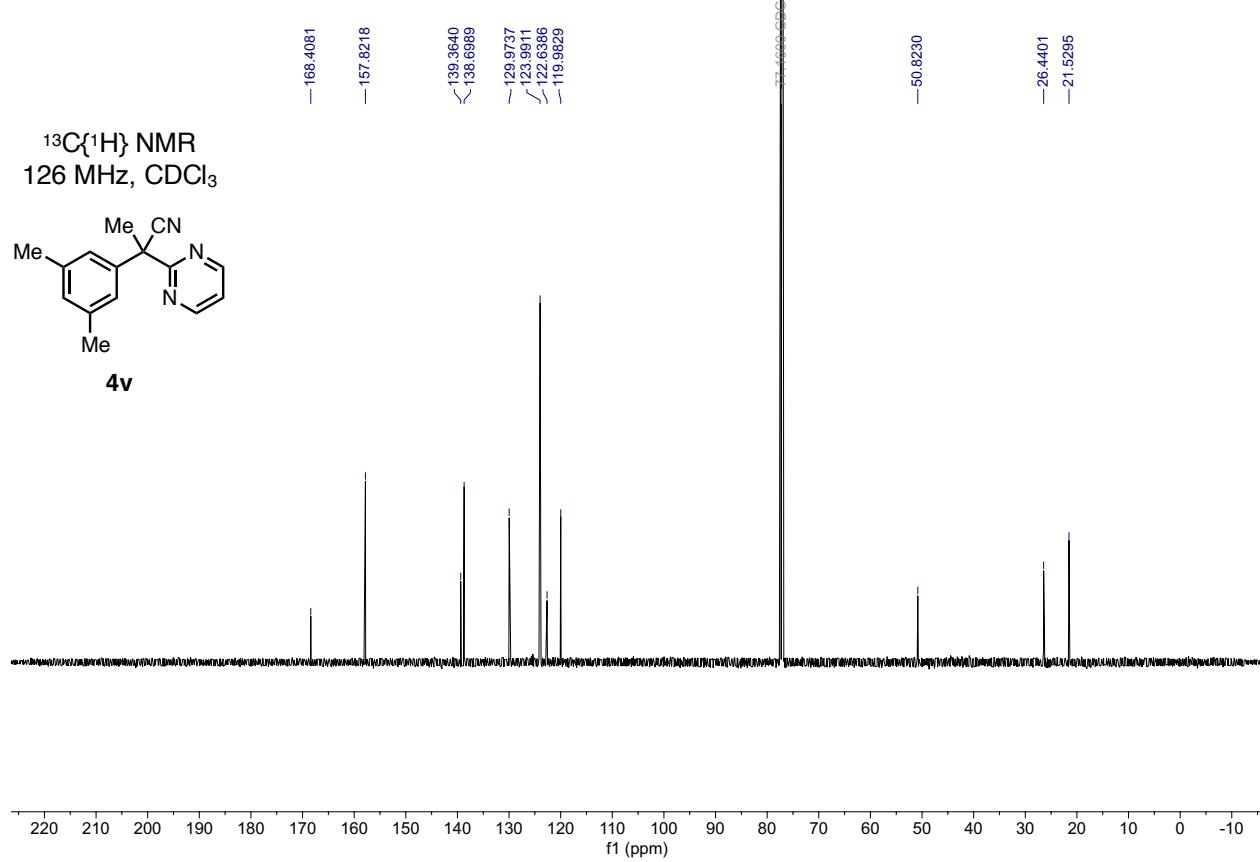
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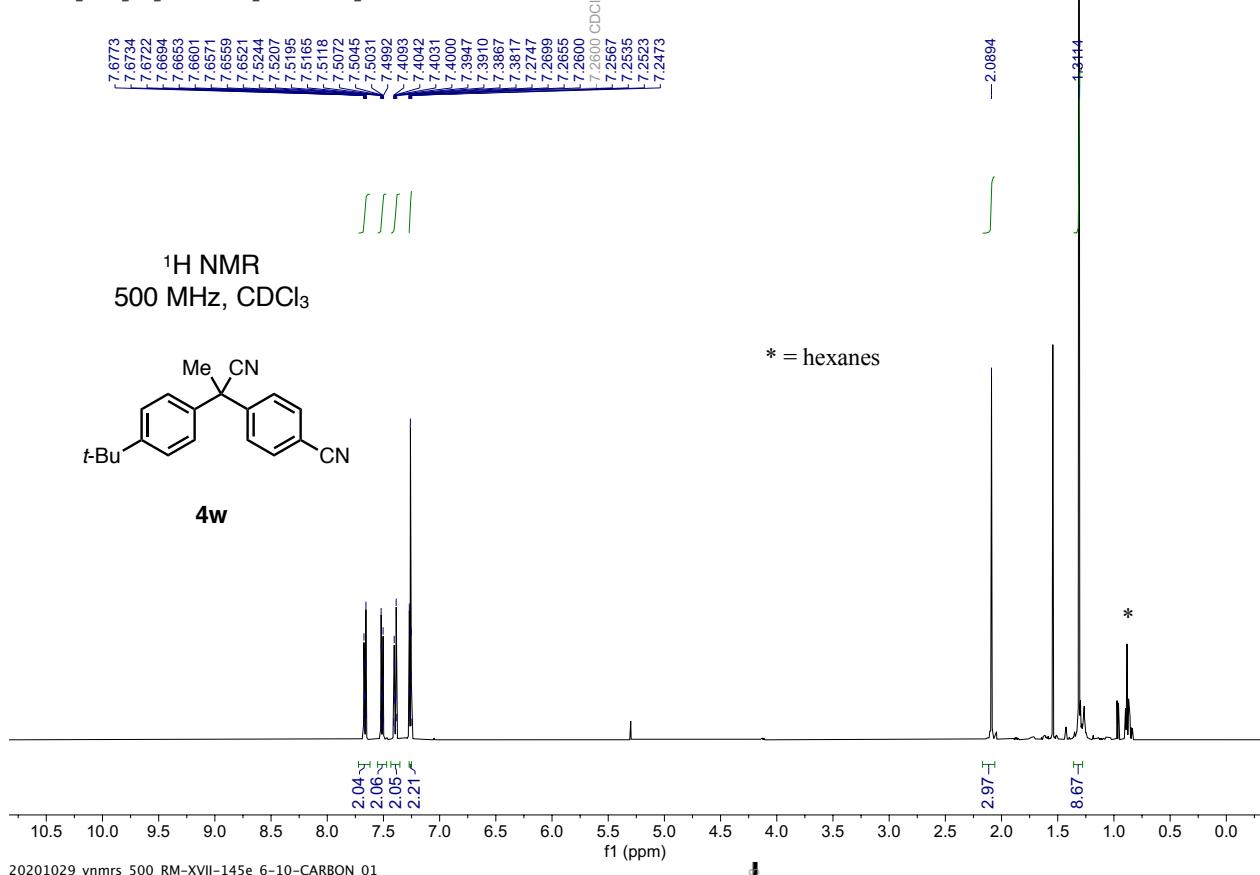
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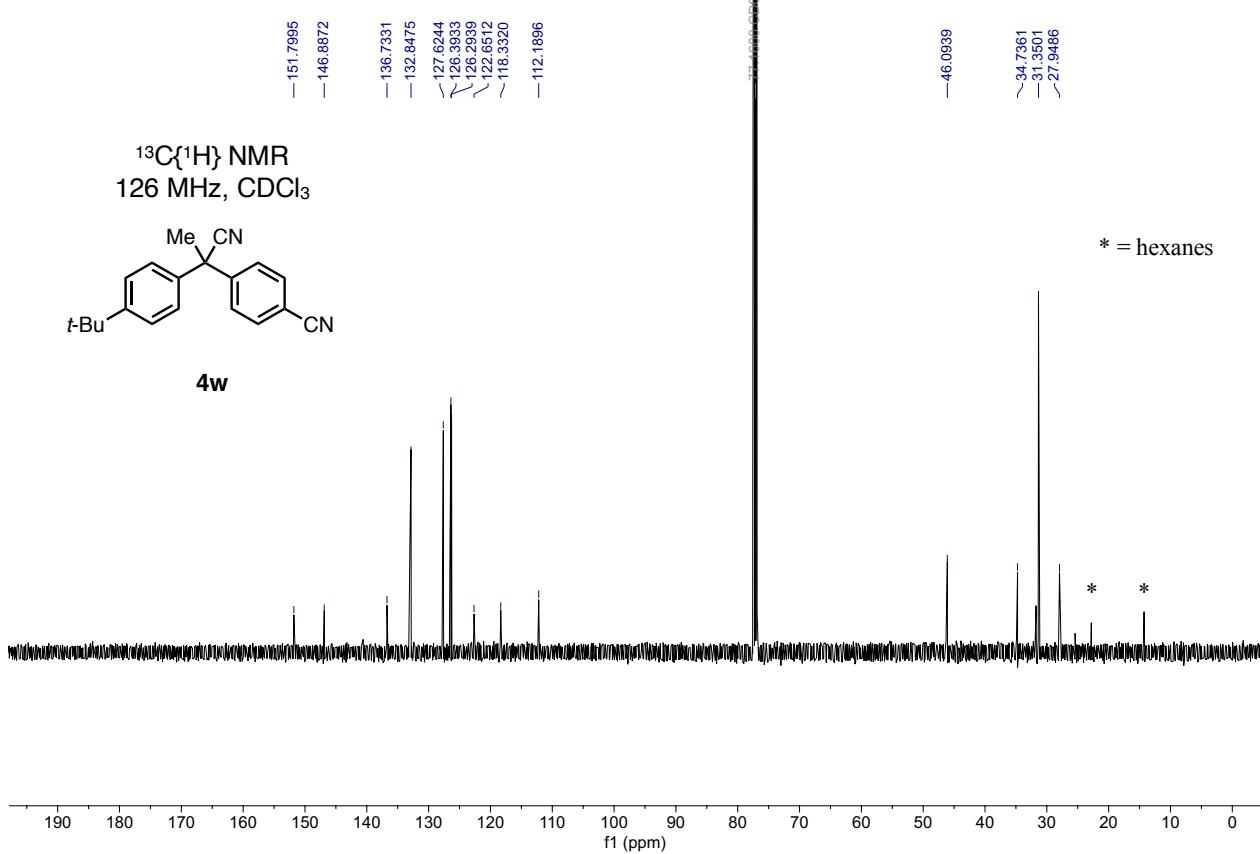
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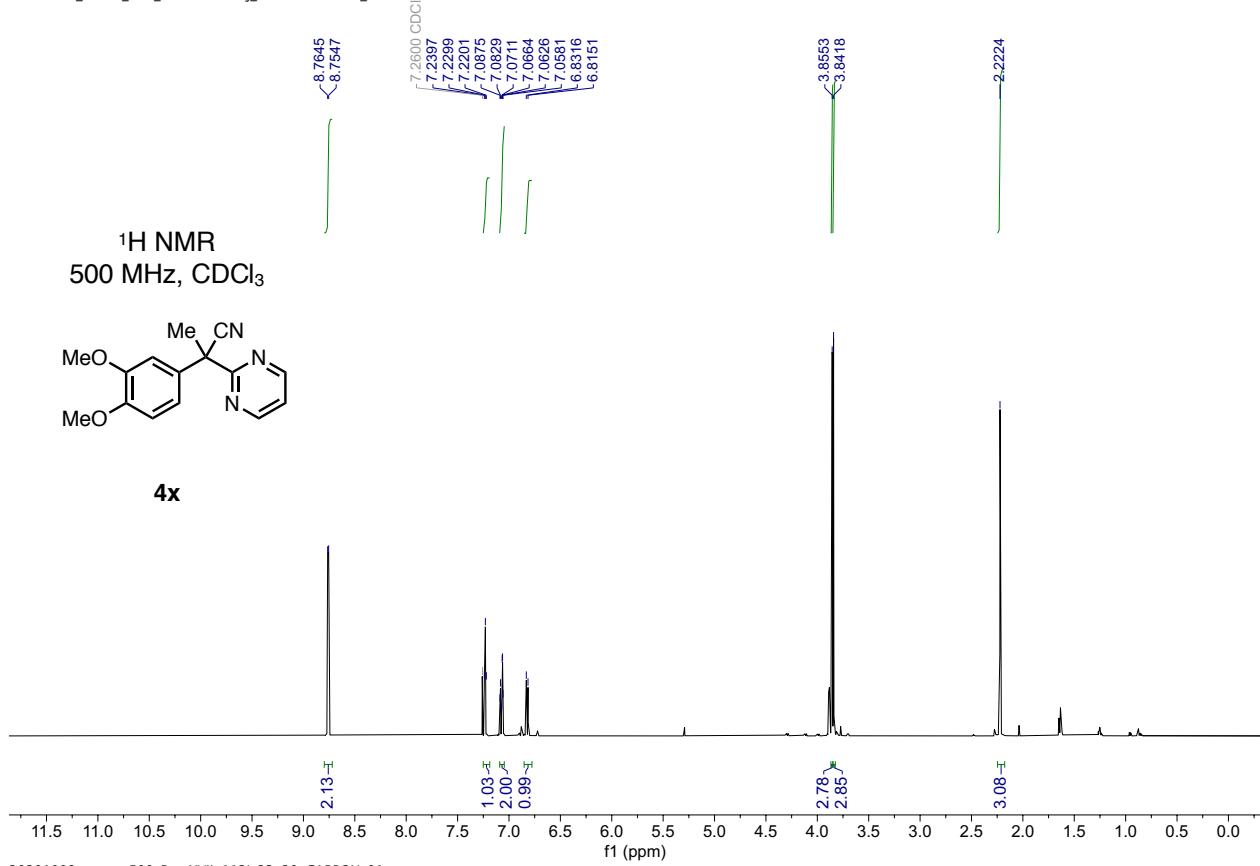
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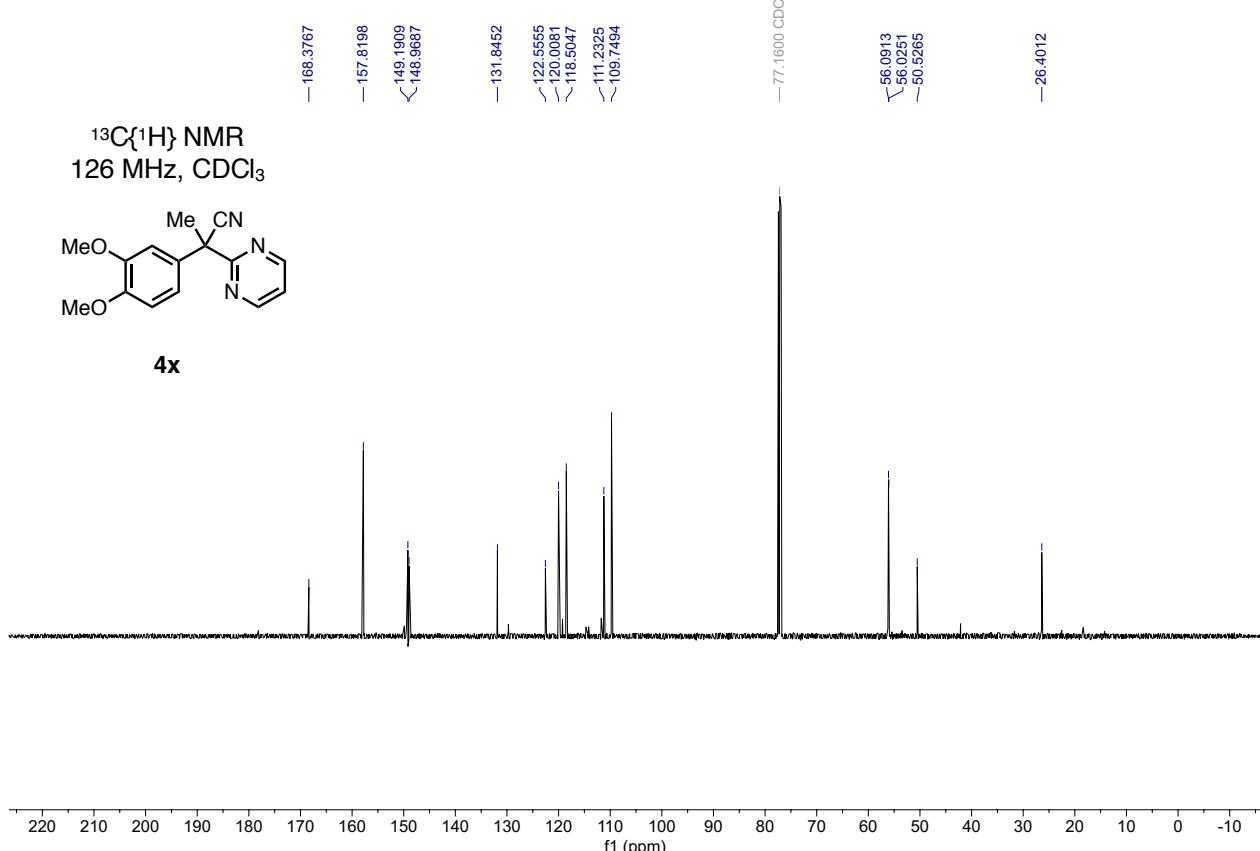
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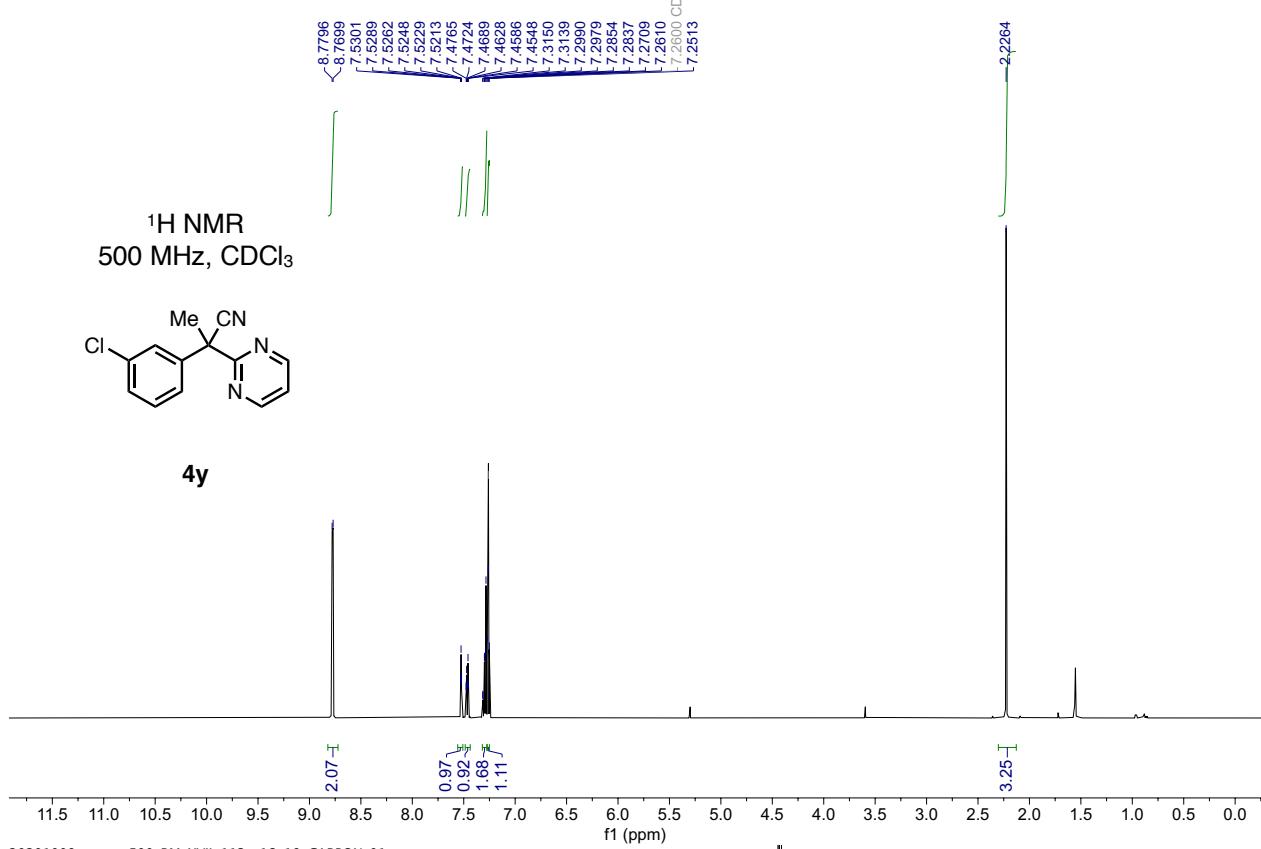
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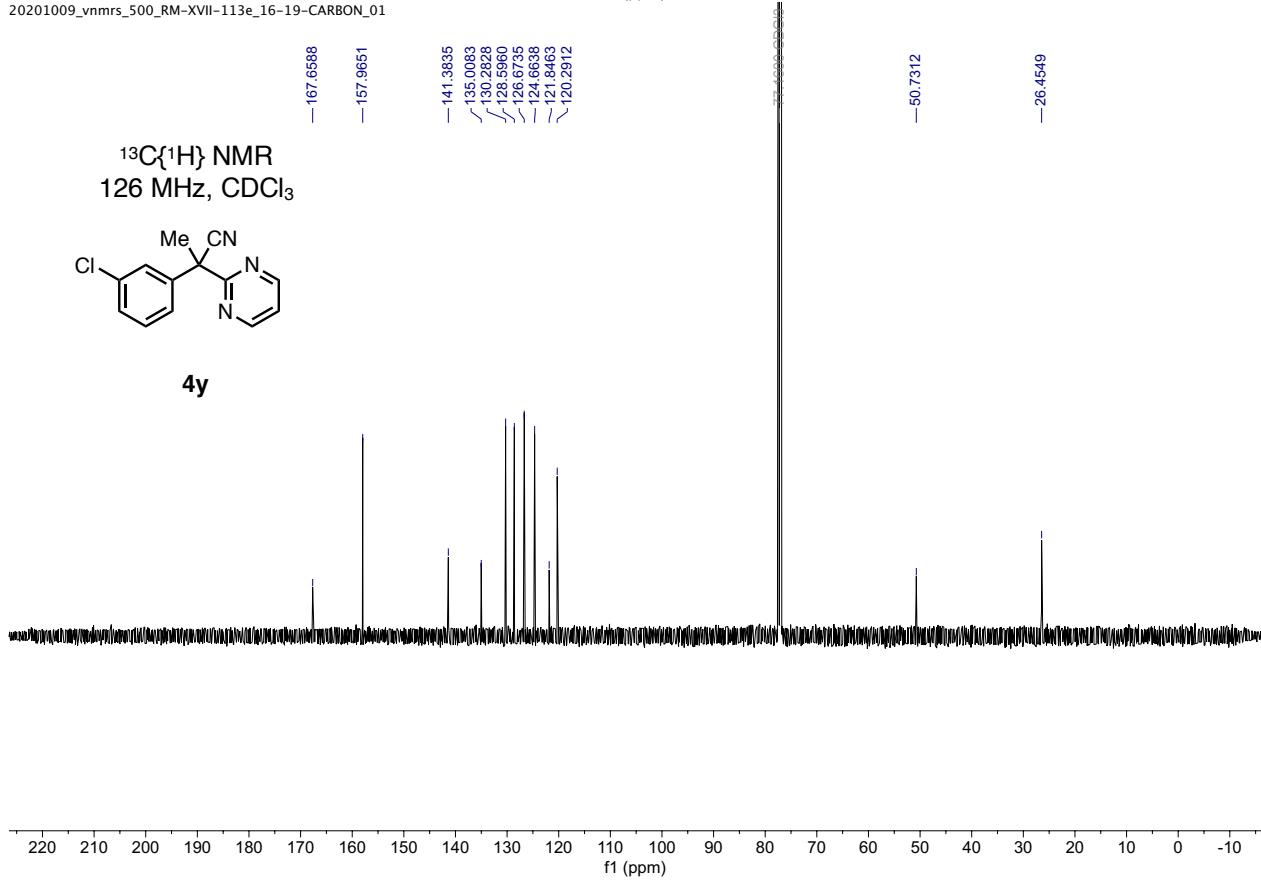
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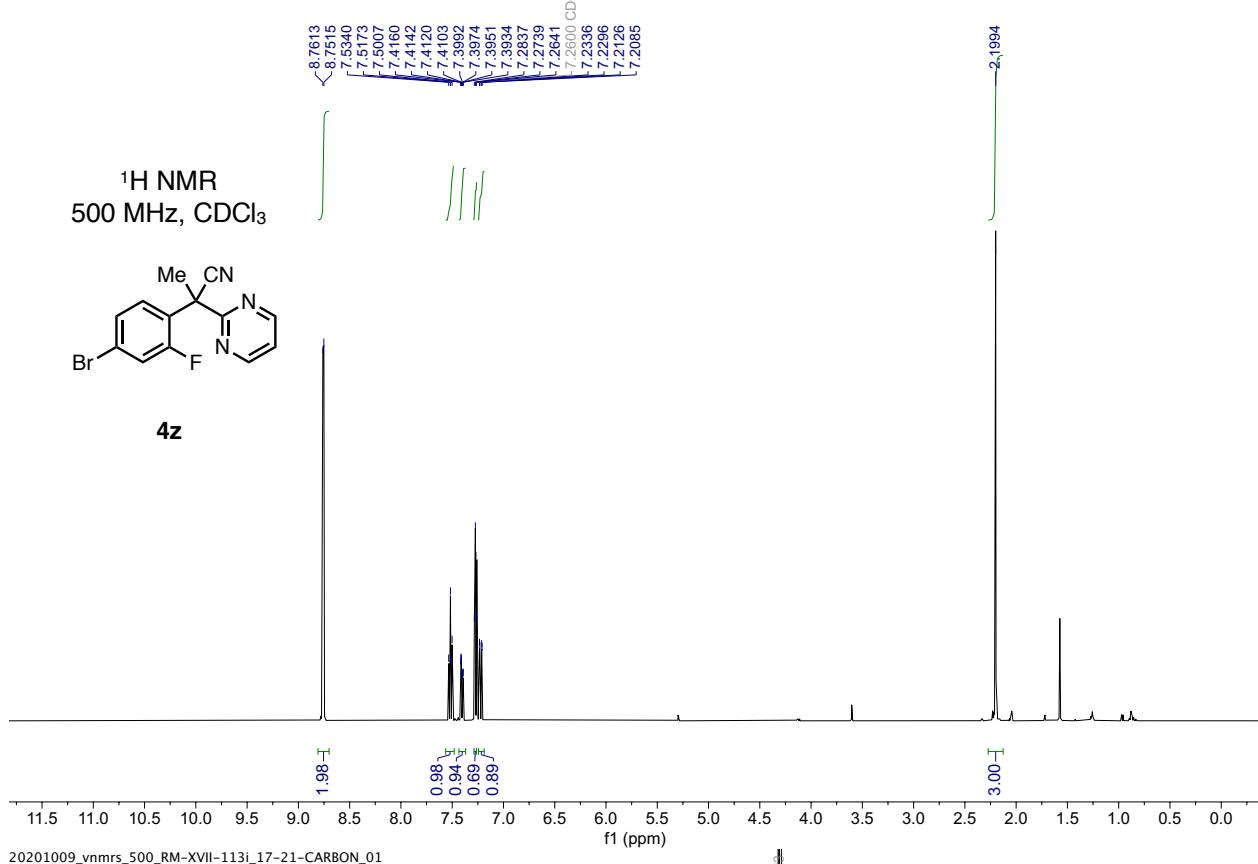
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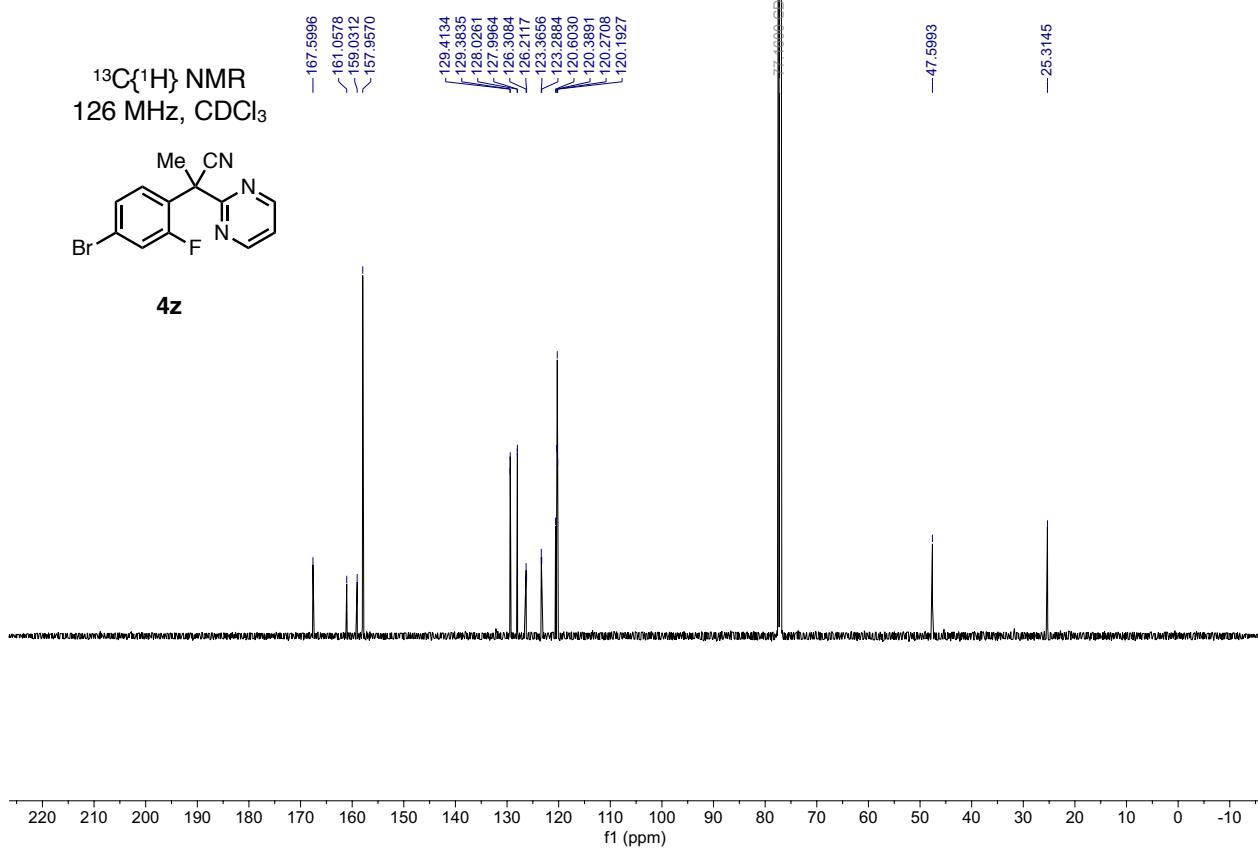
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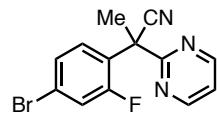


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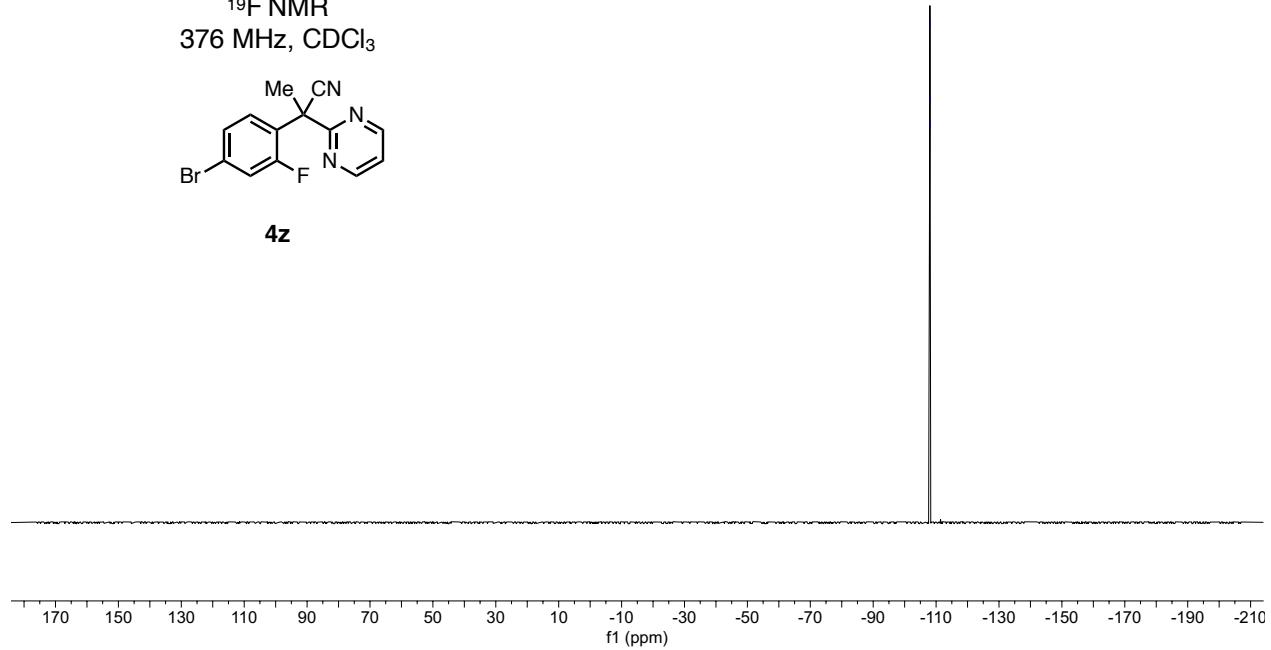


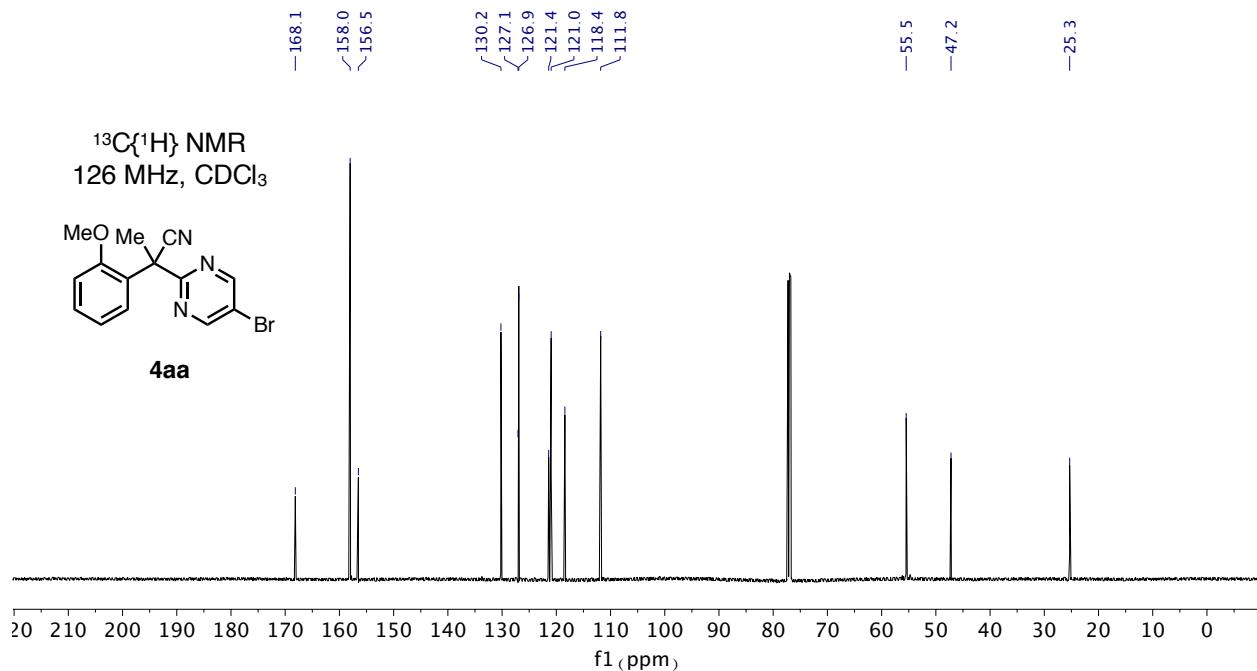
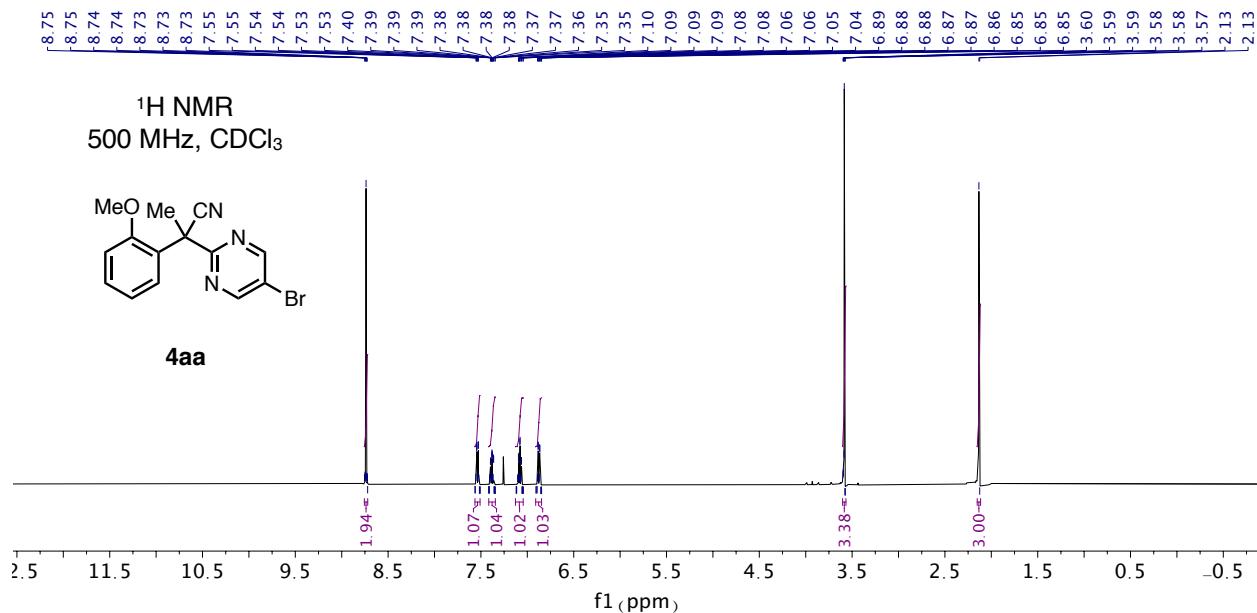
-108.0036
-108.0281
-108.0527

¹⁹F NMR
376 MHz, CDCl₃

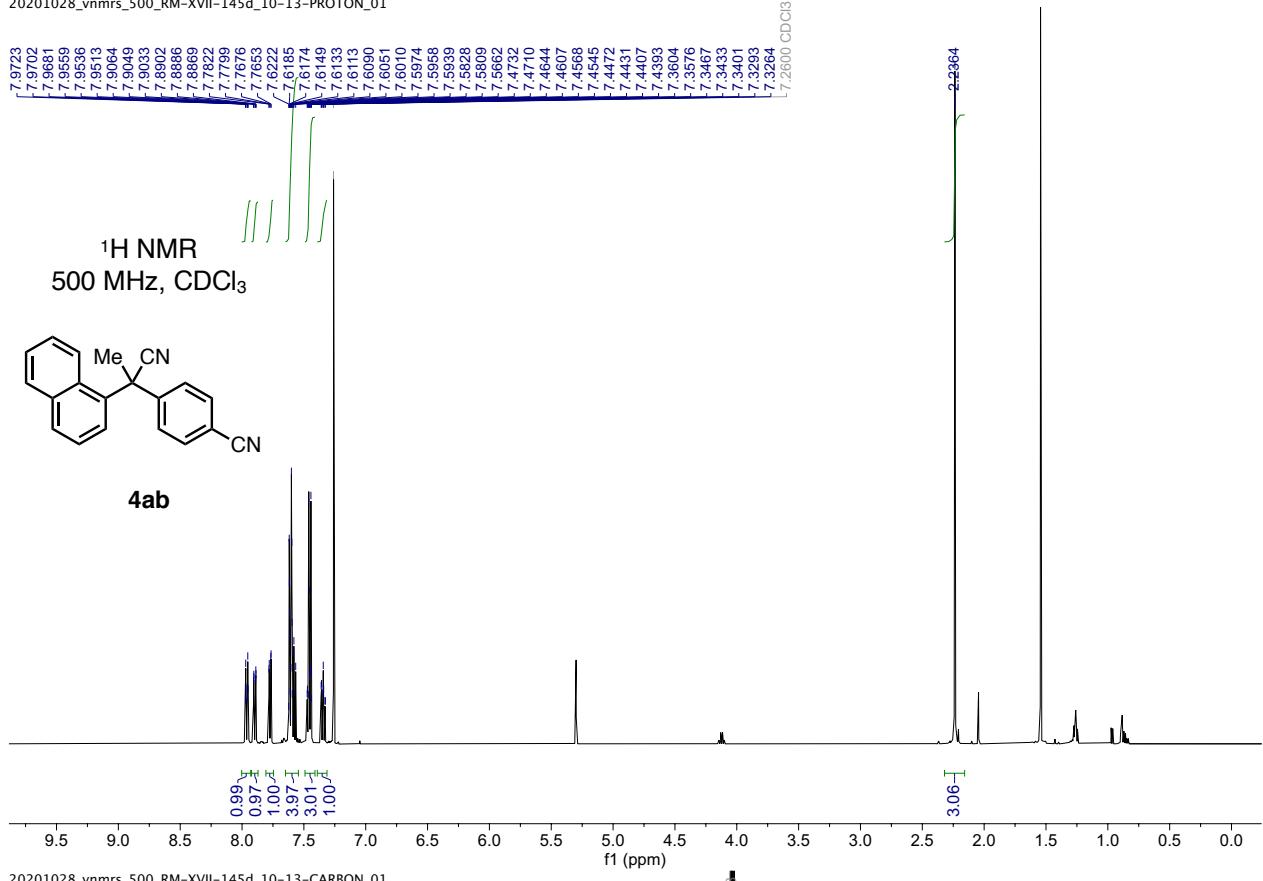


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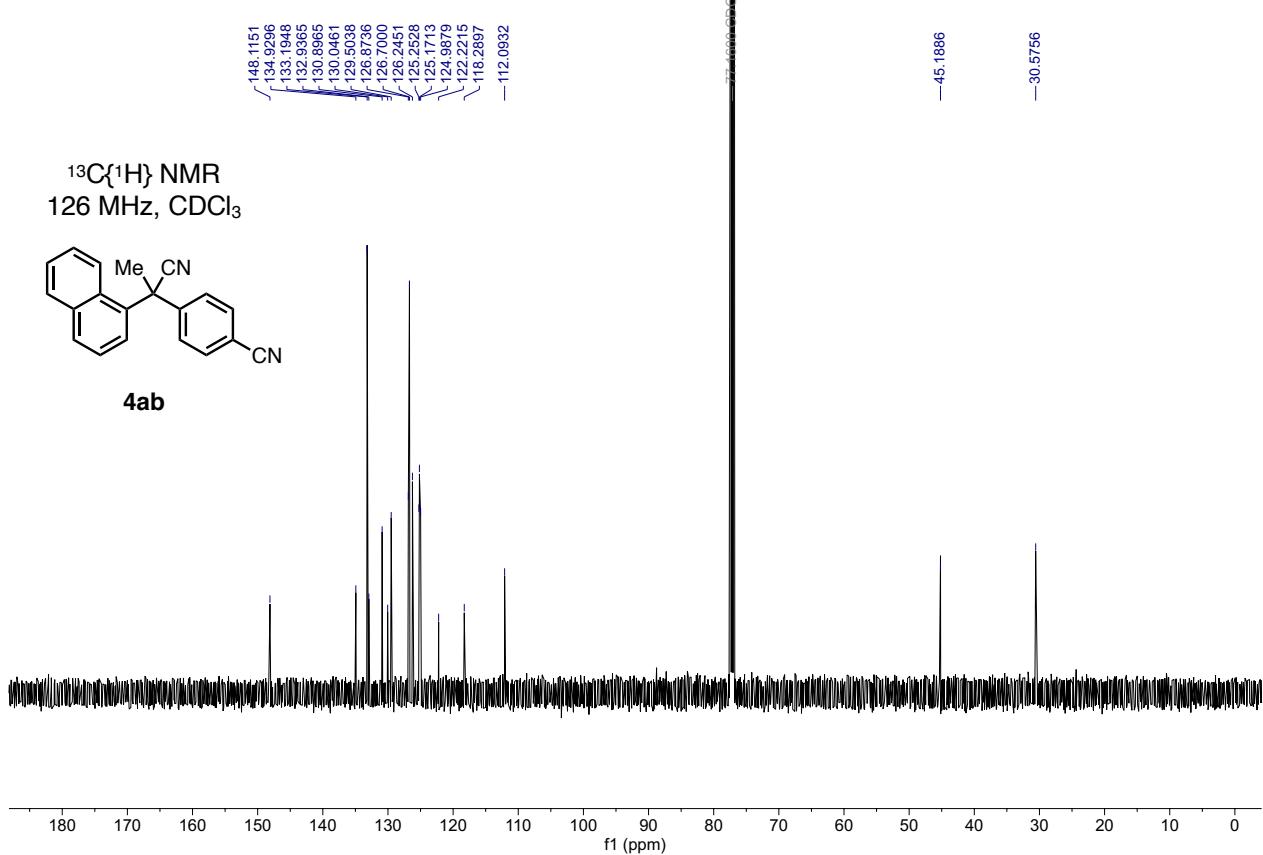




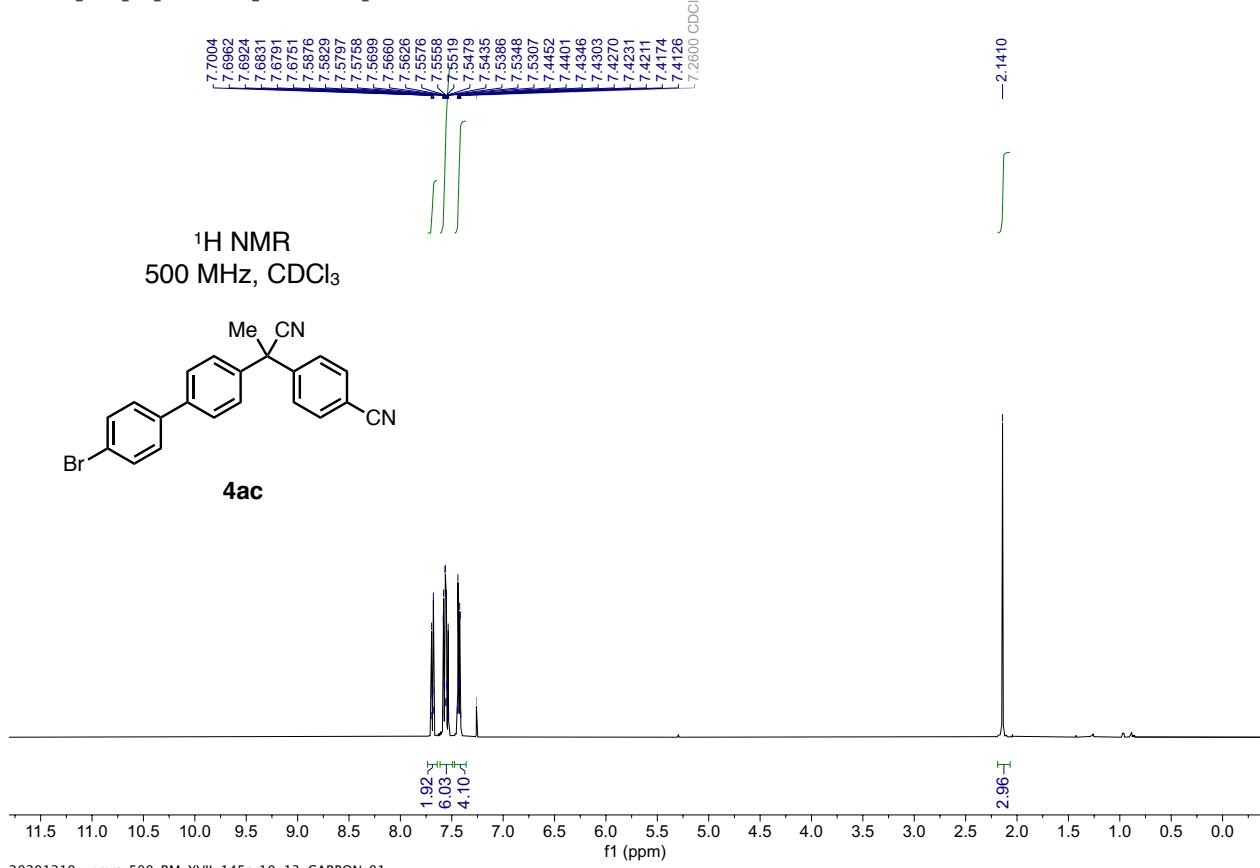
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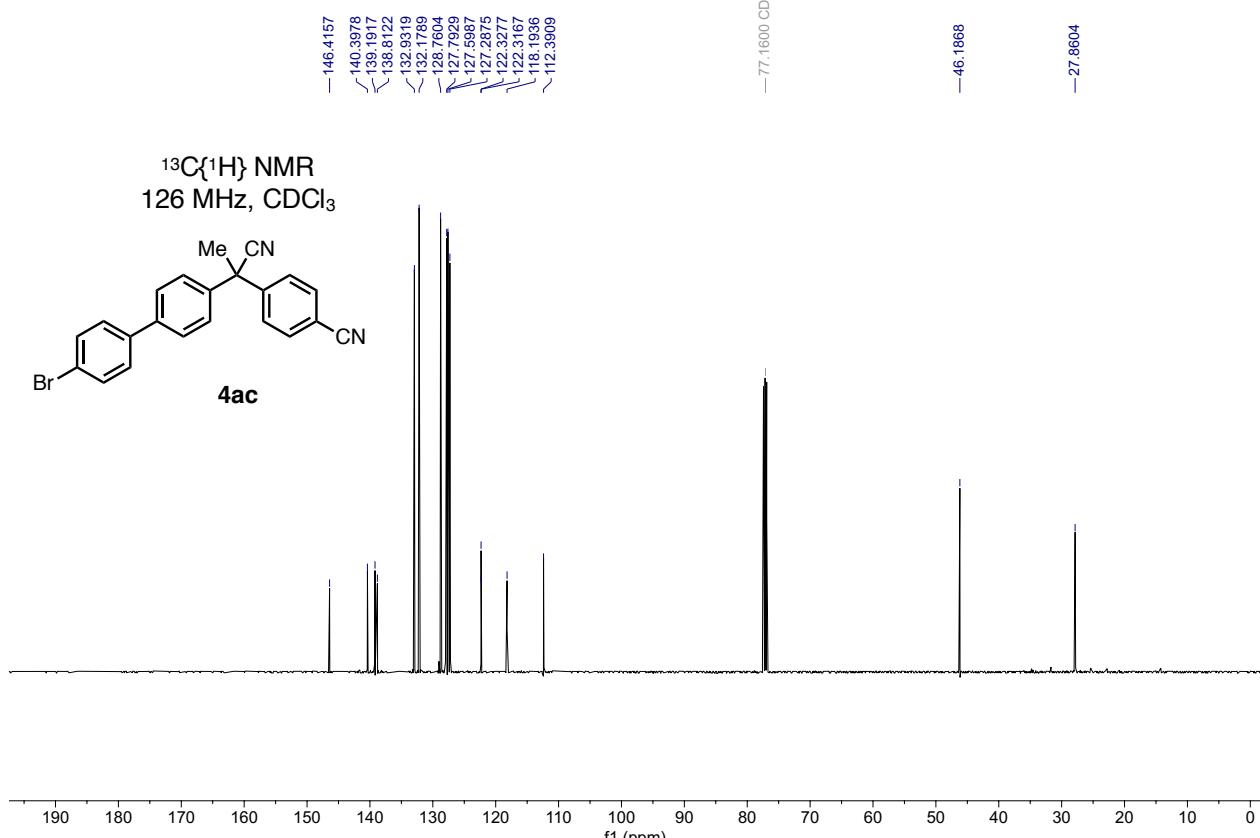
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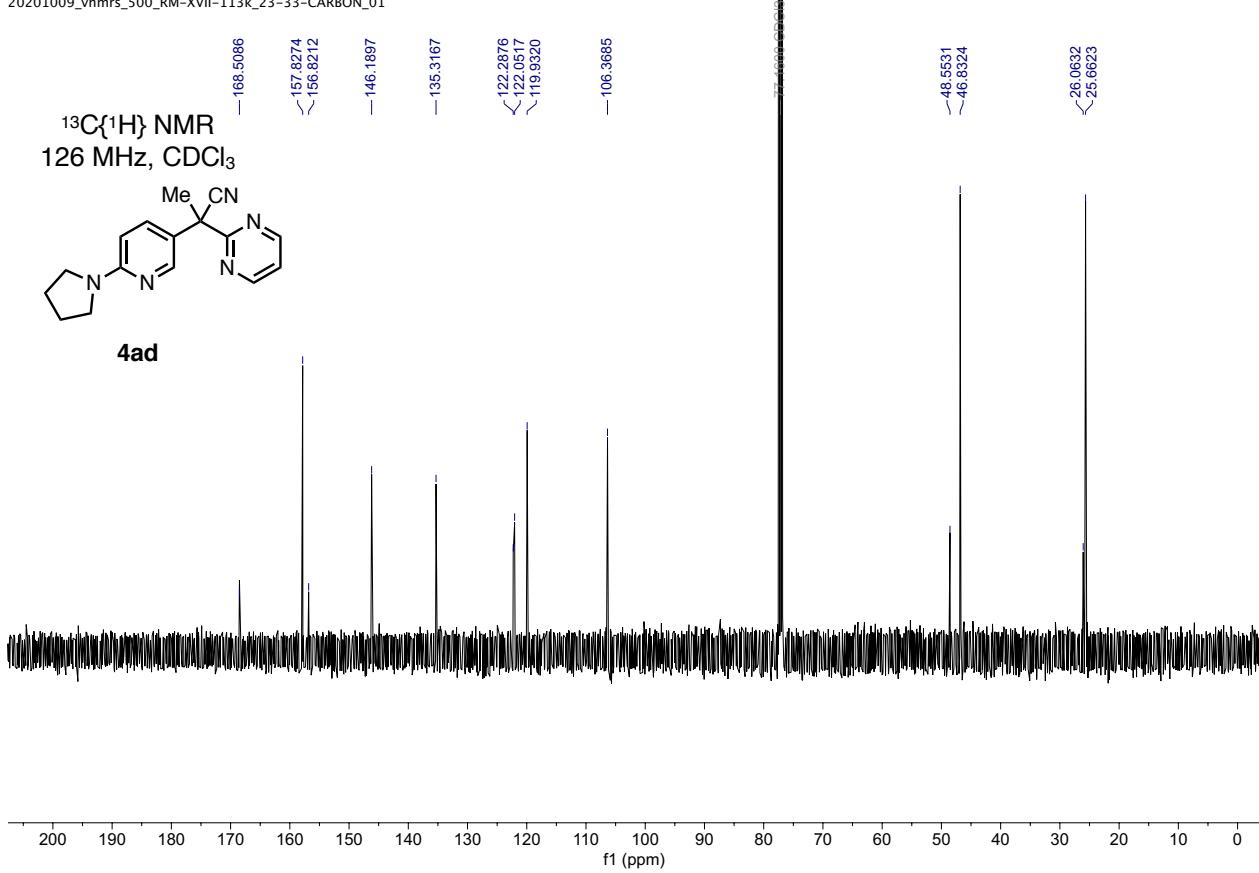
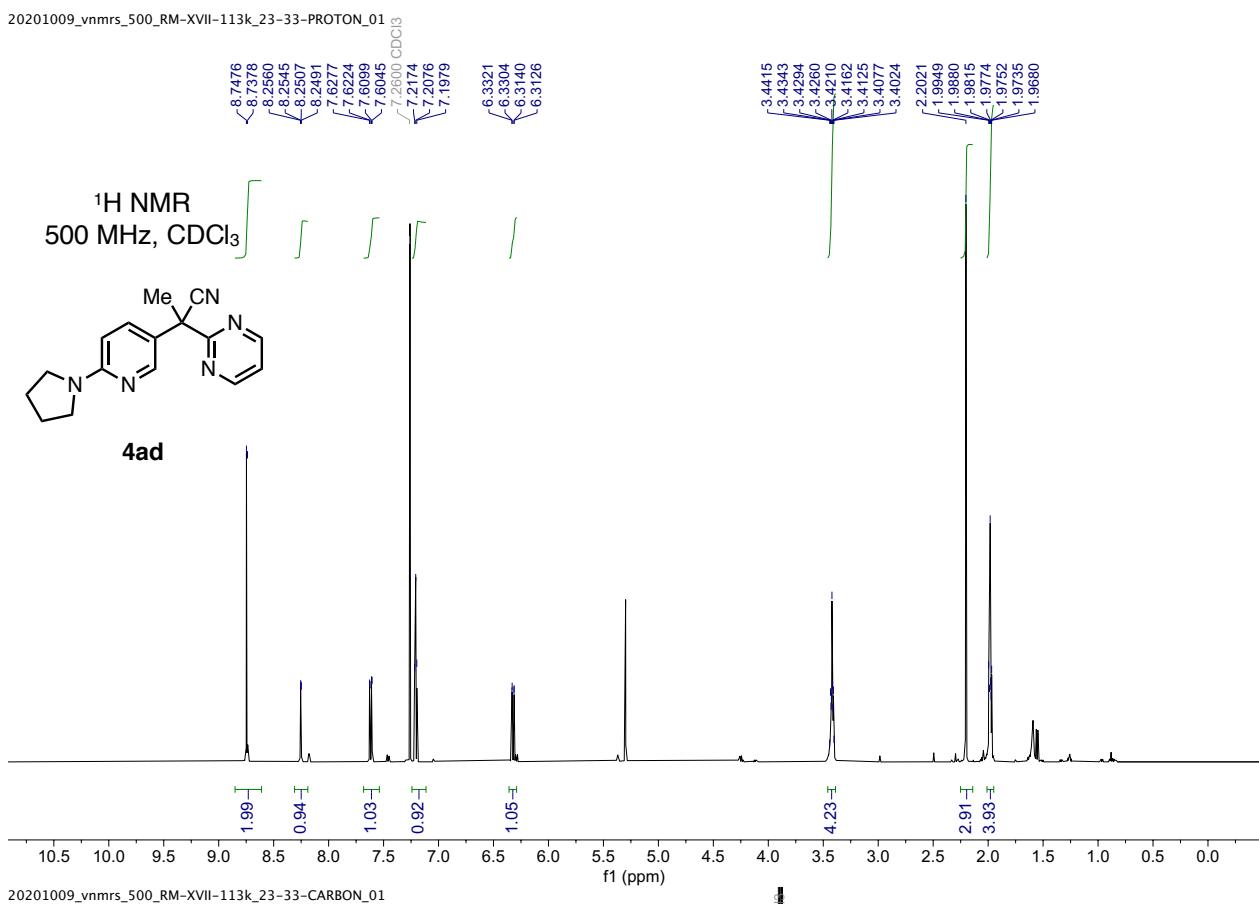


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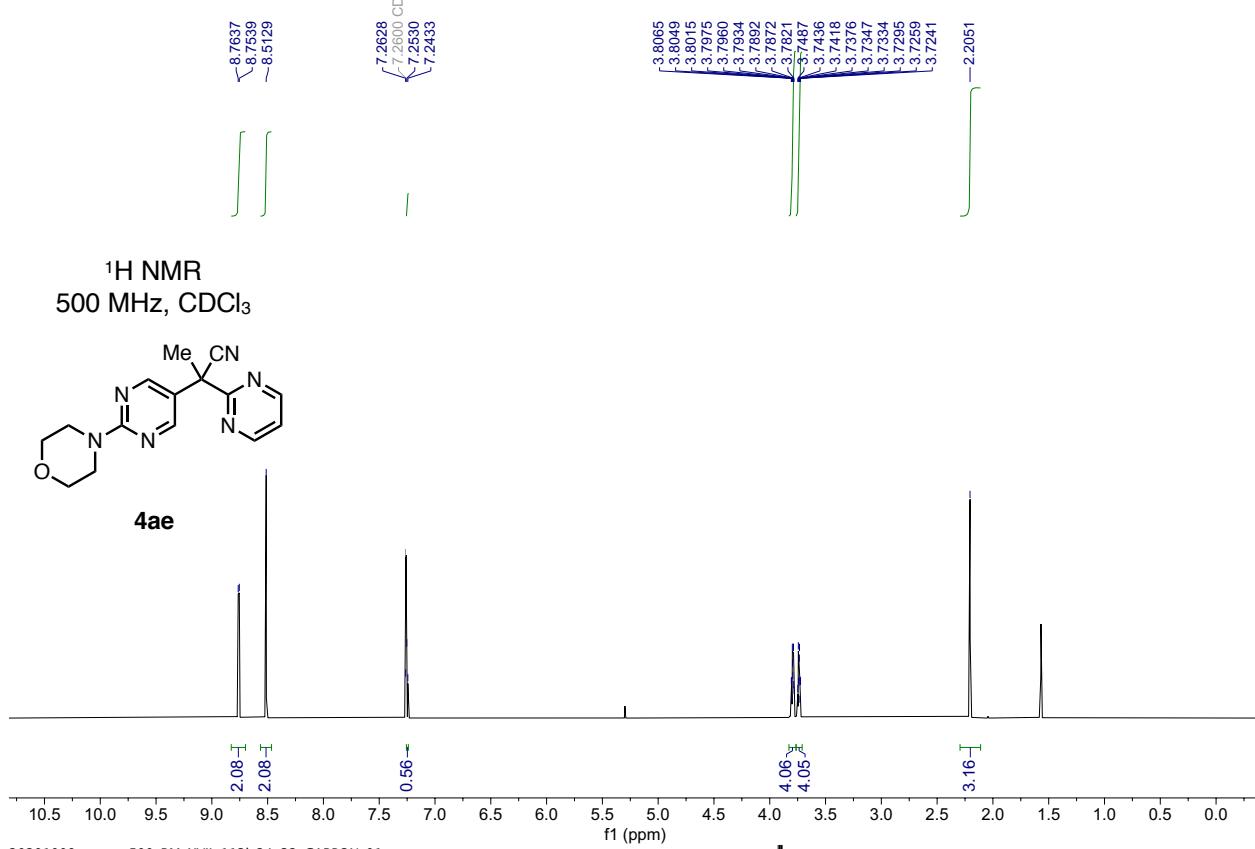


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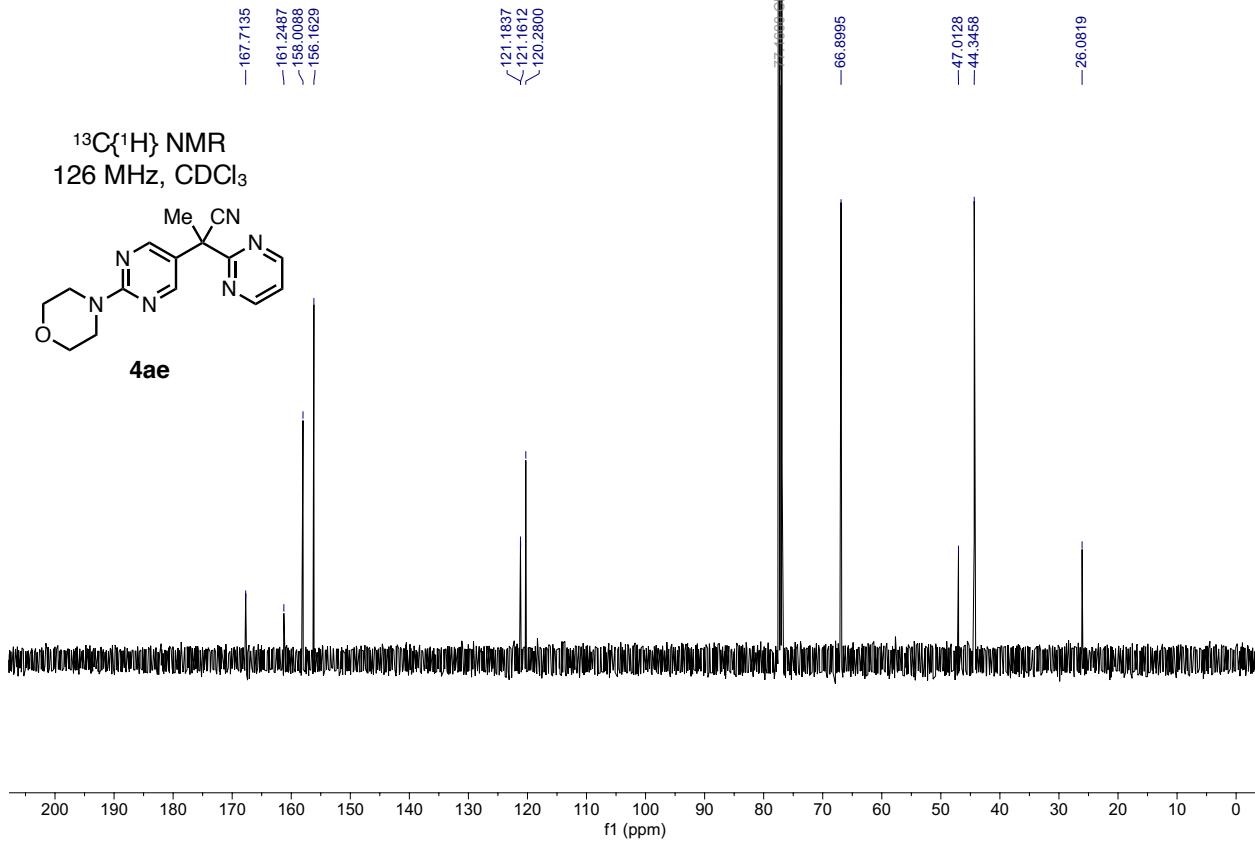




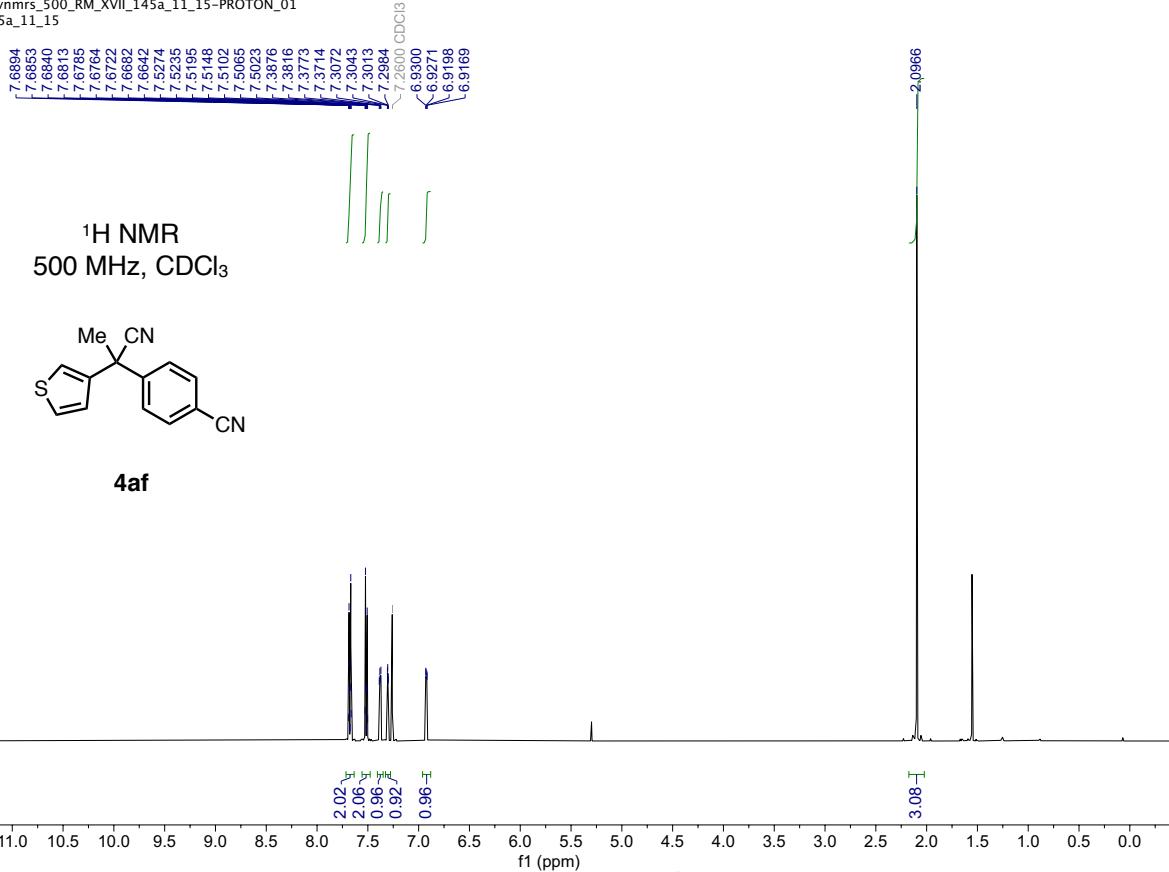
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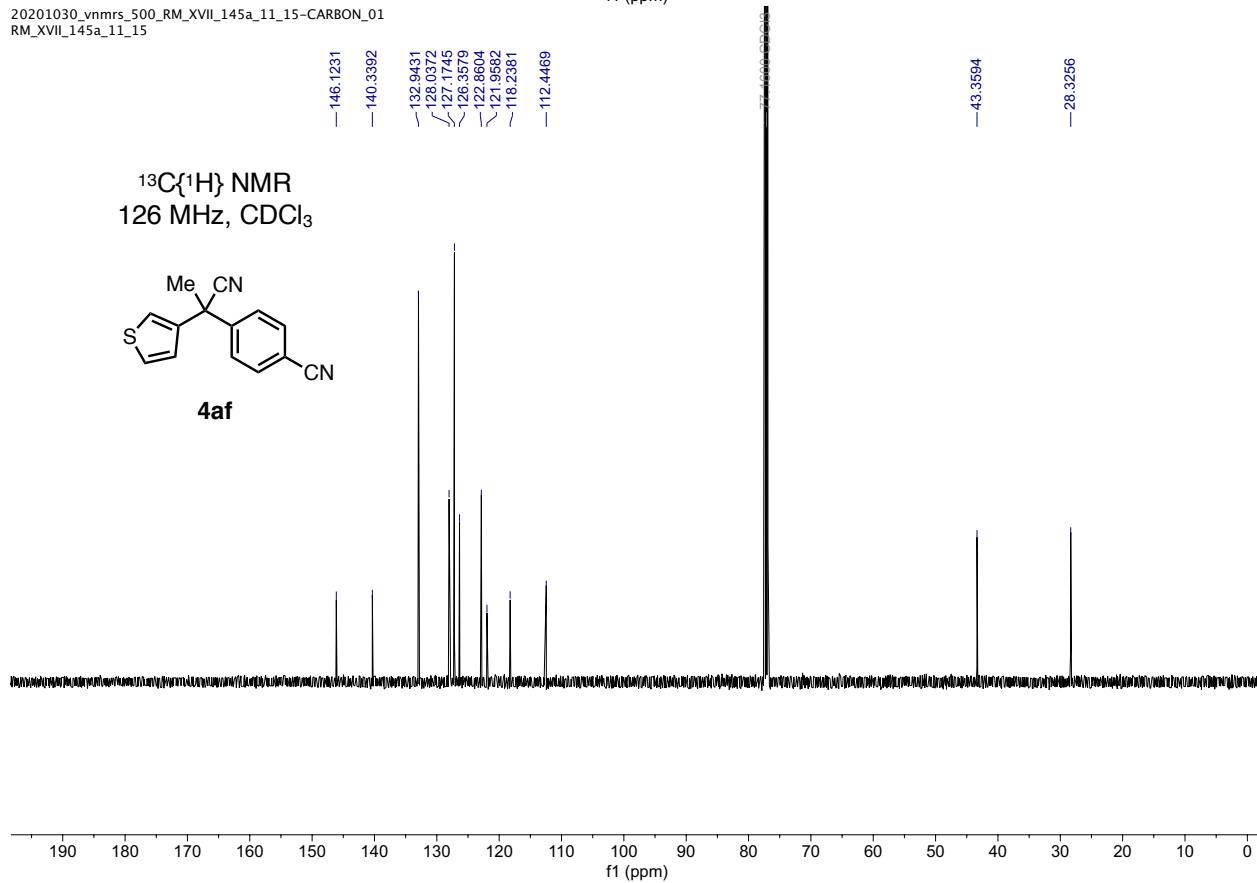
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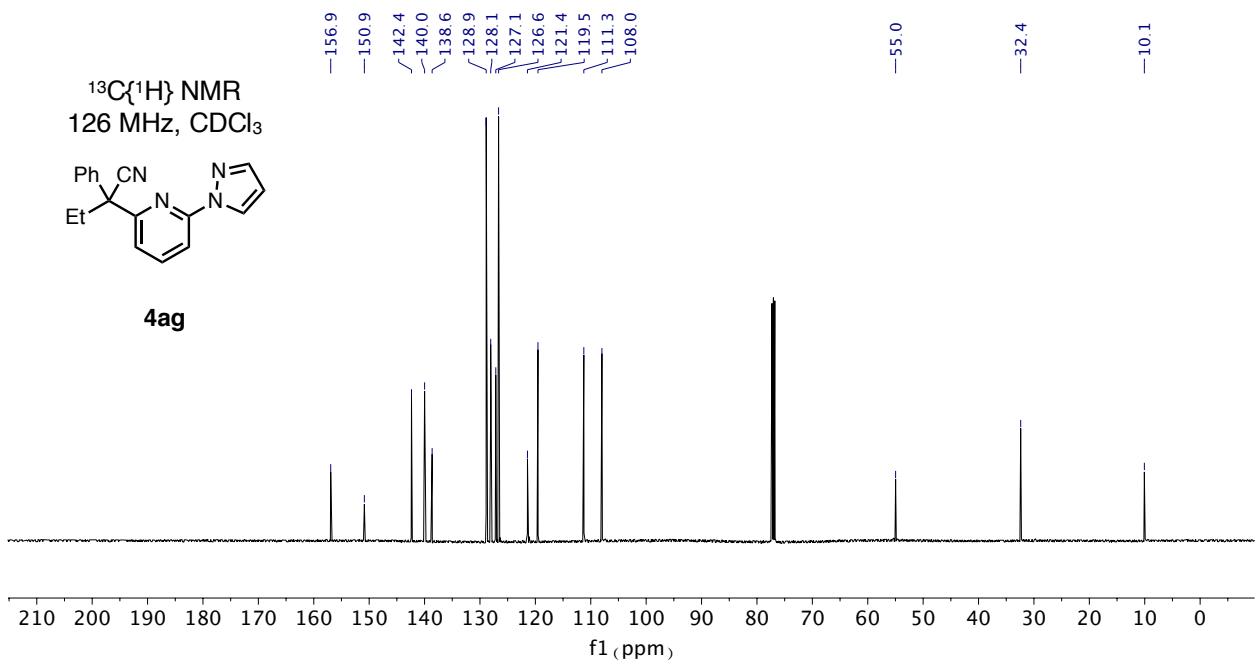
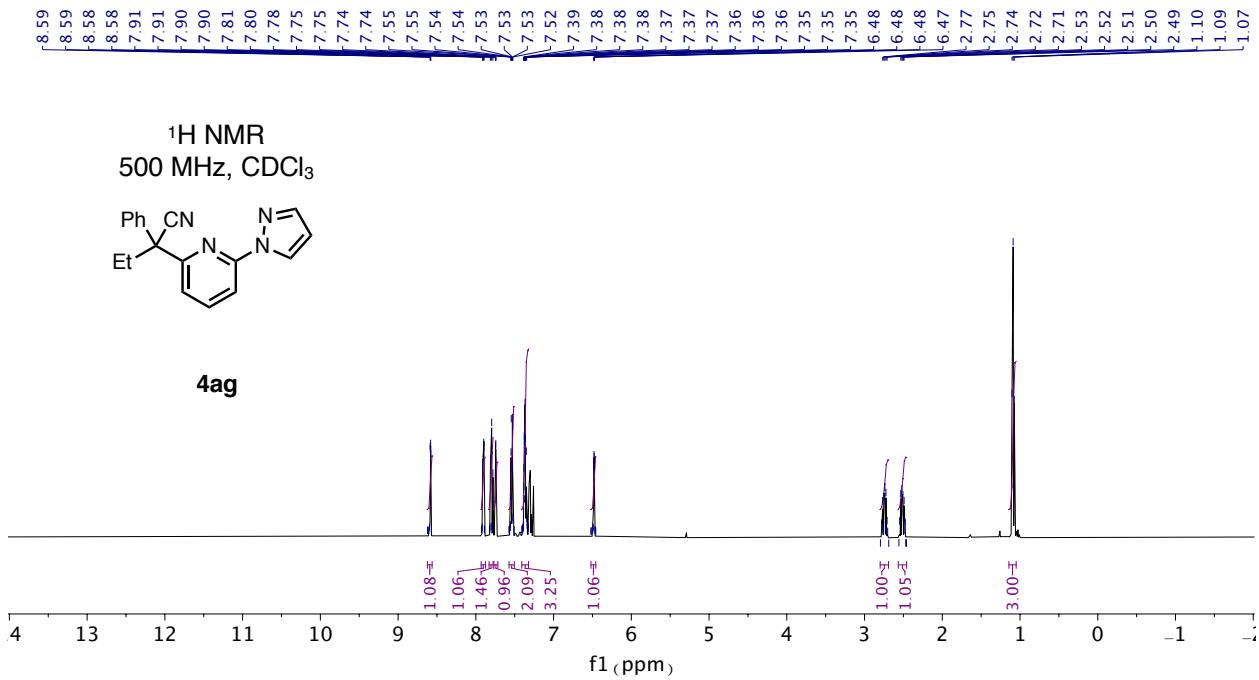


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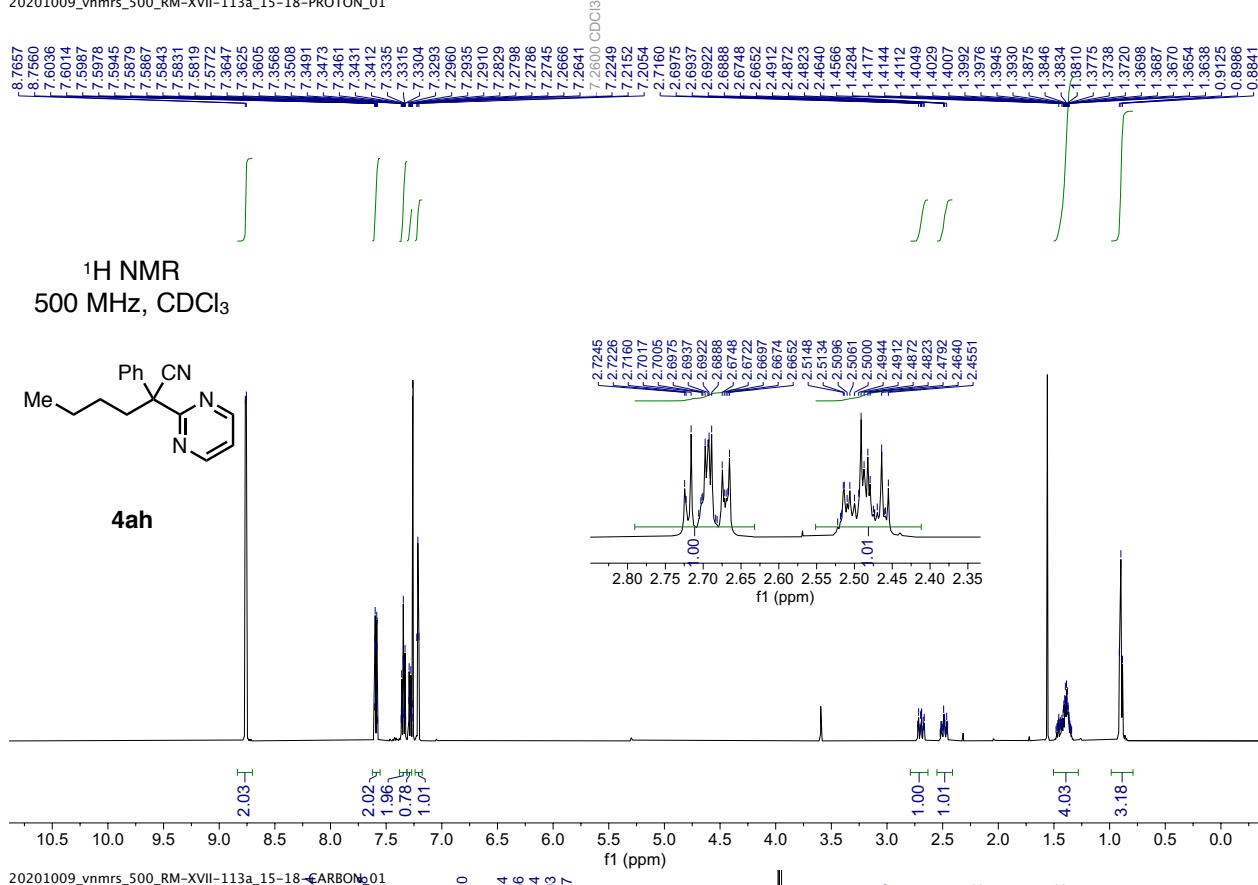


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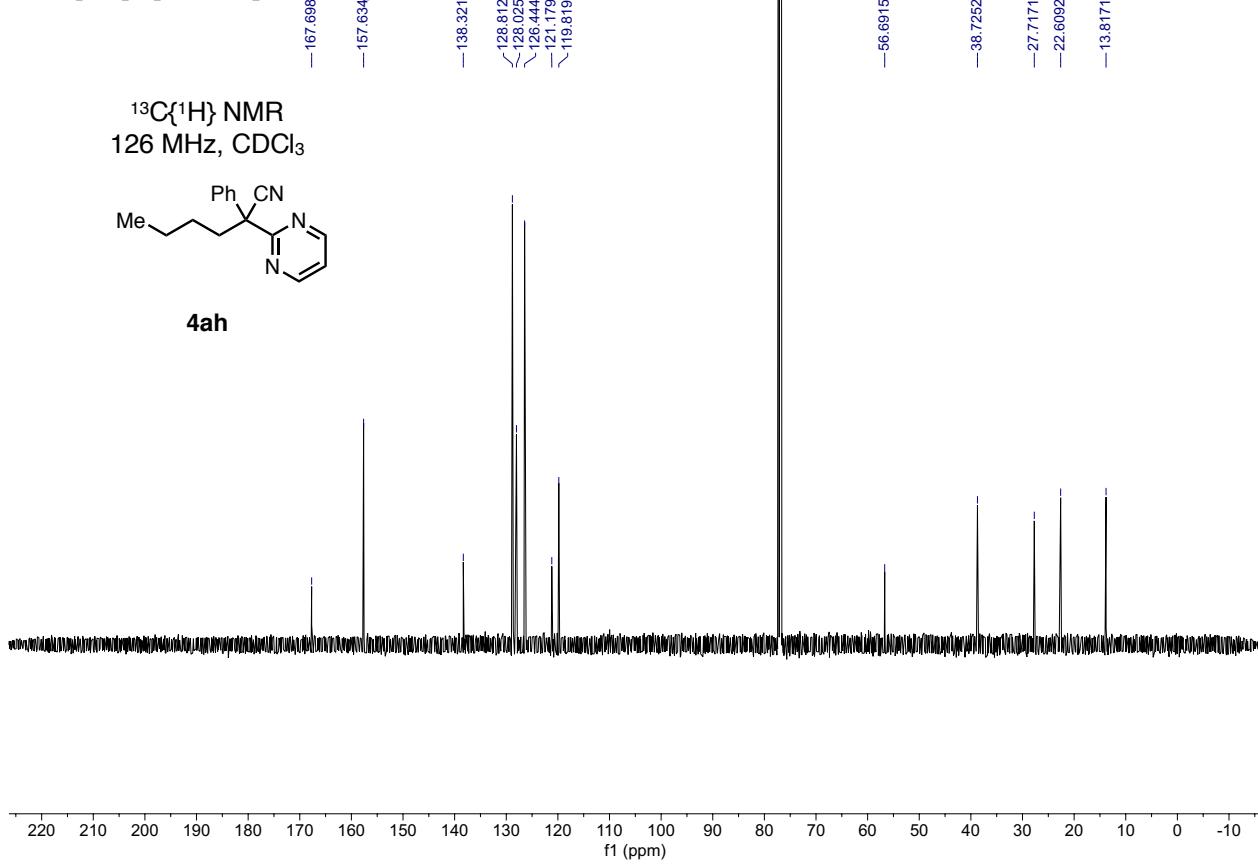


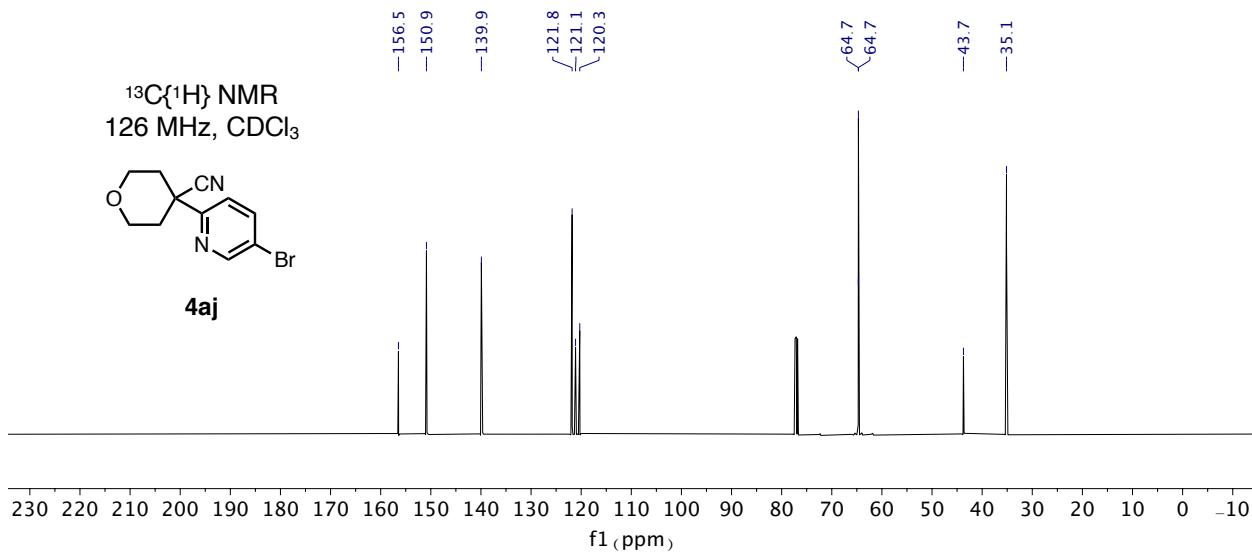
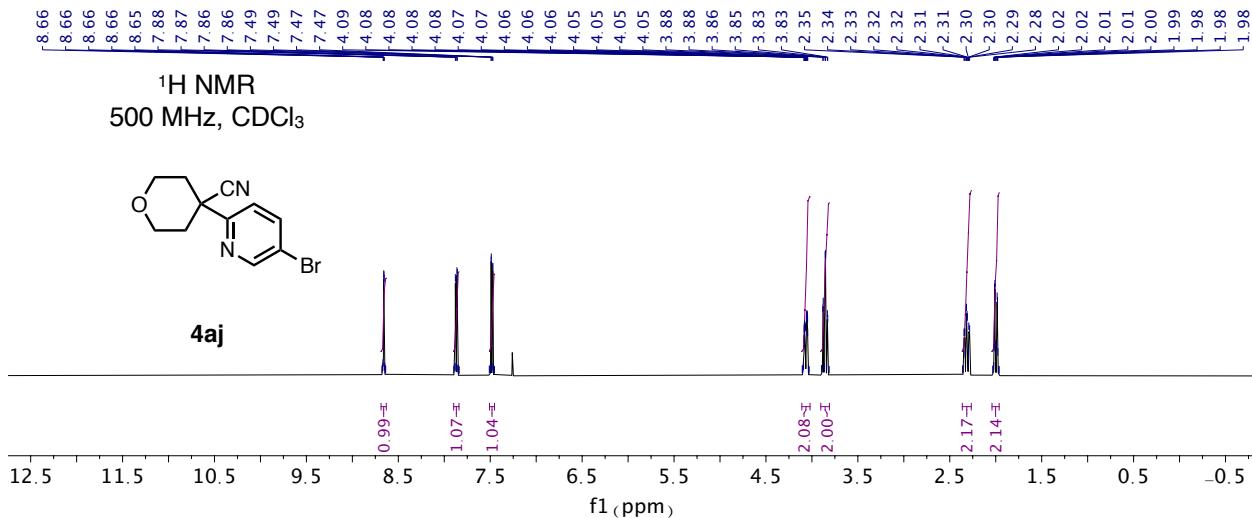


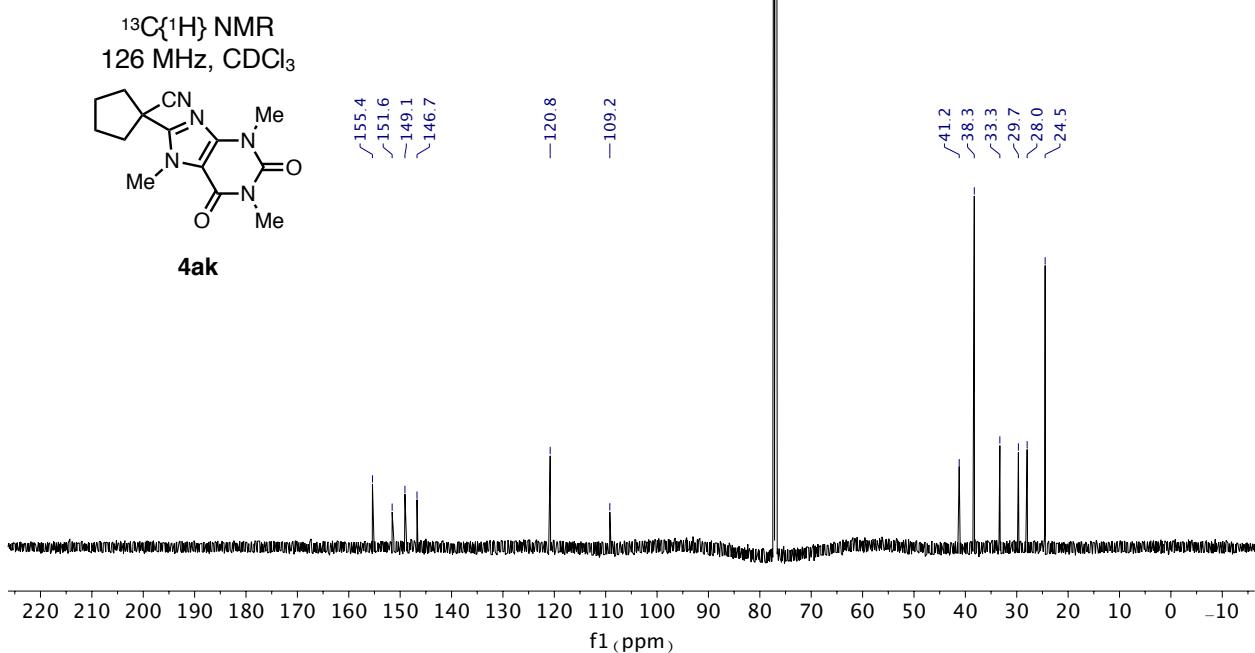
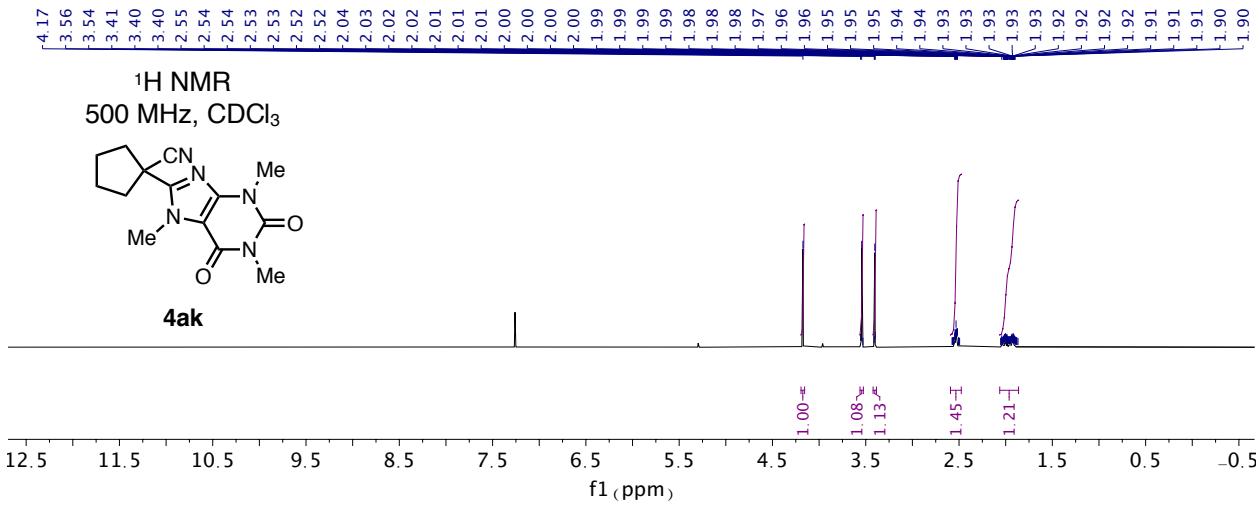
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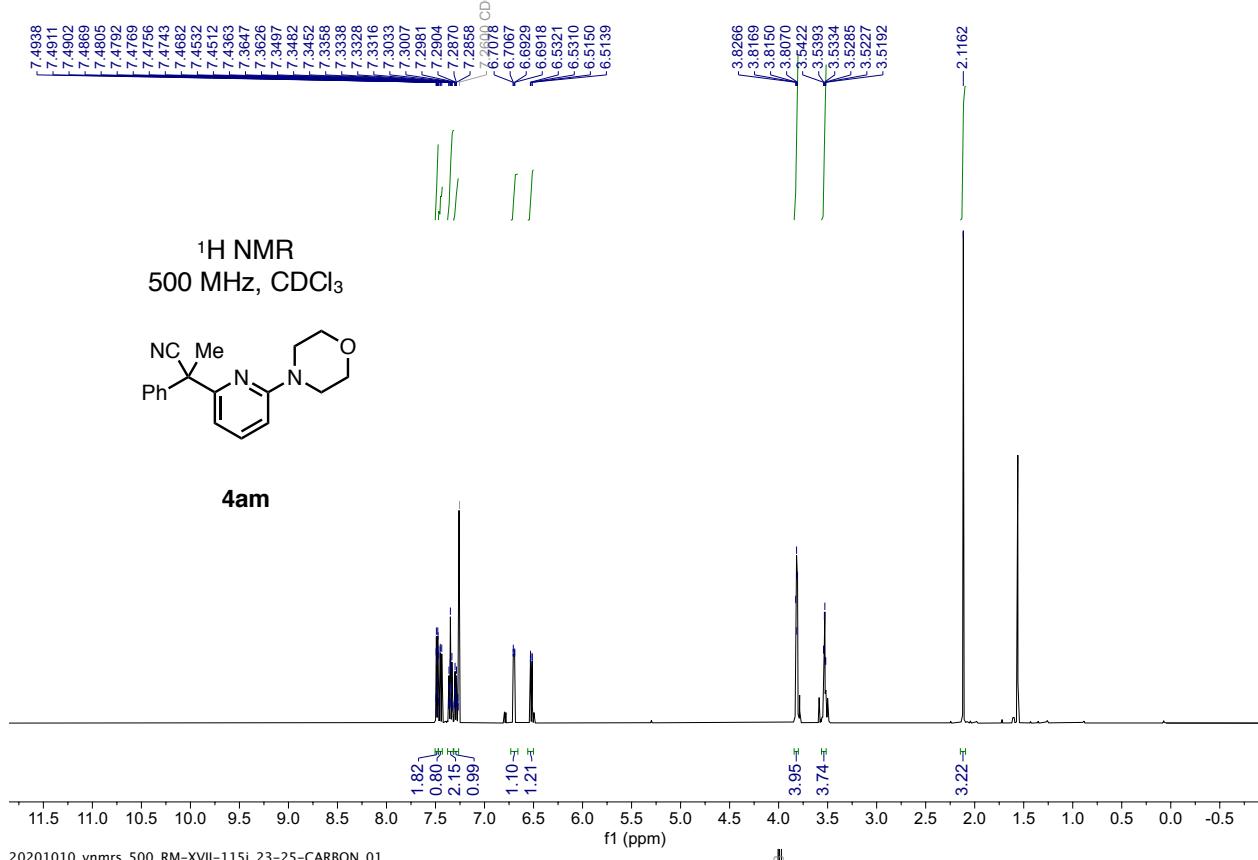
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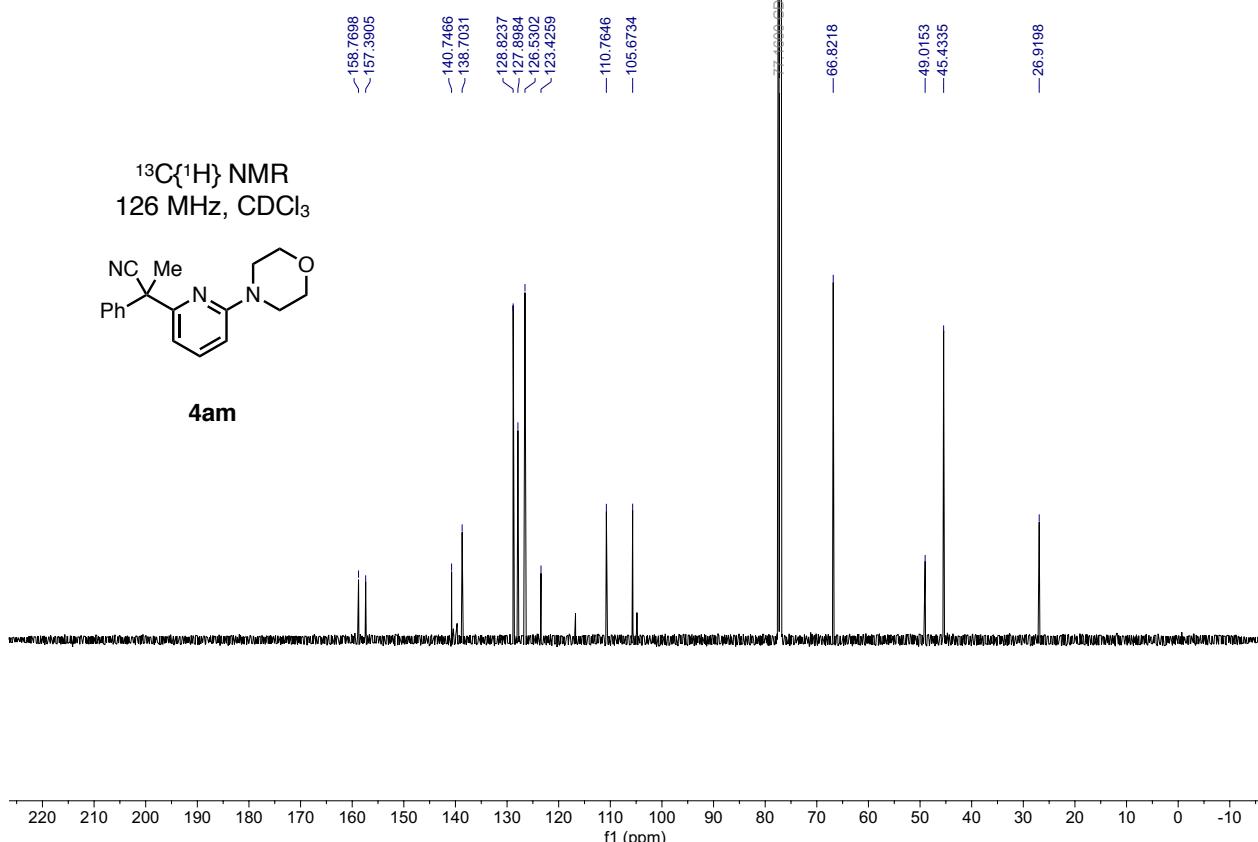




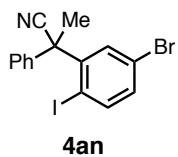
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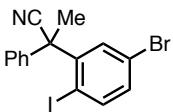


¹H NMR
500 MHz, CDCl₃

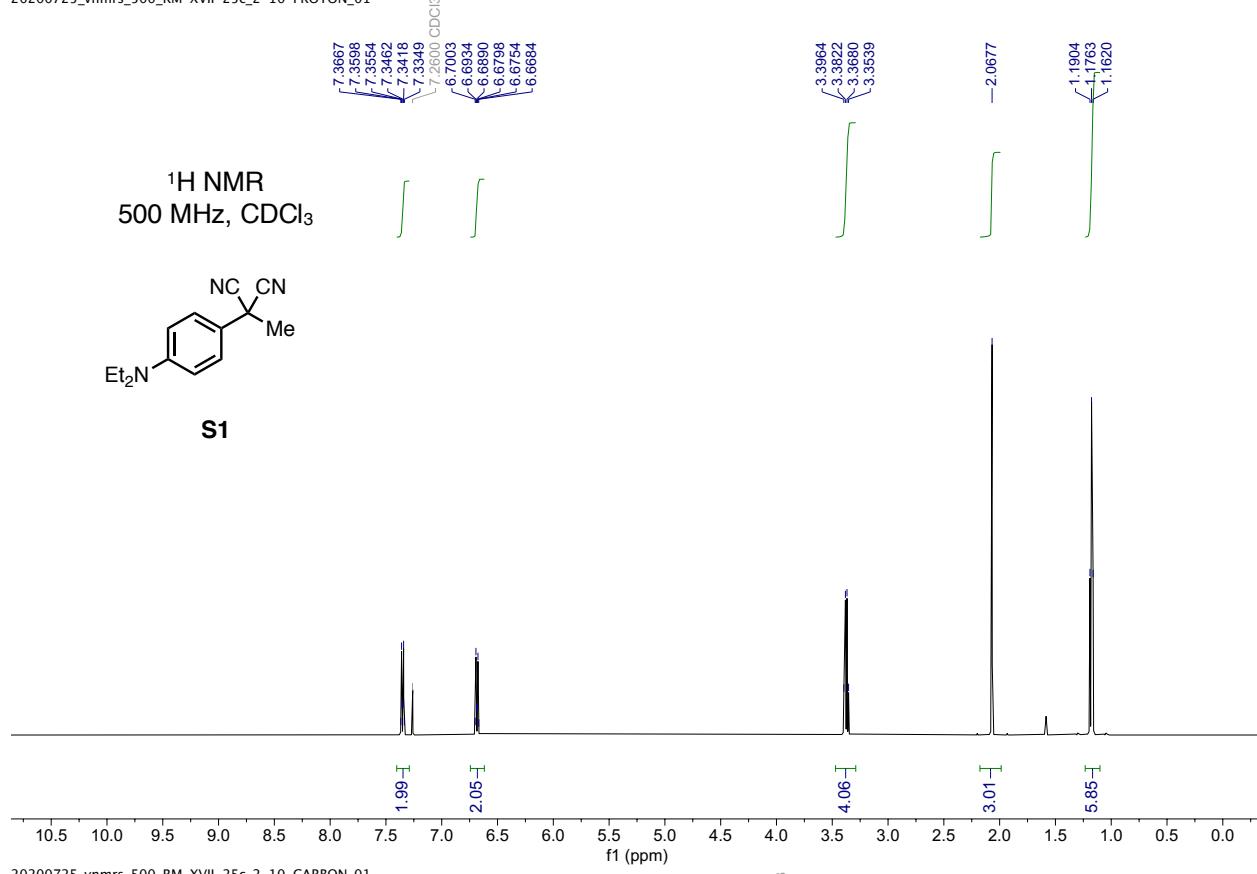


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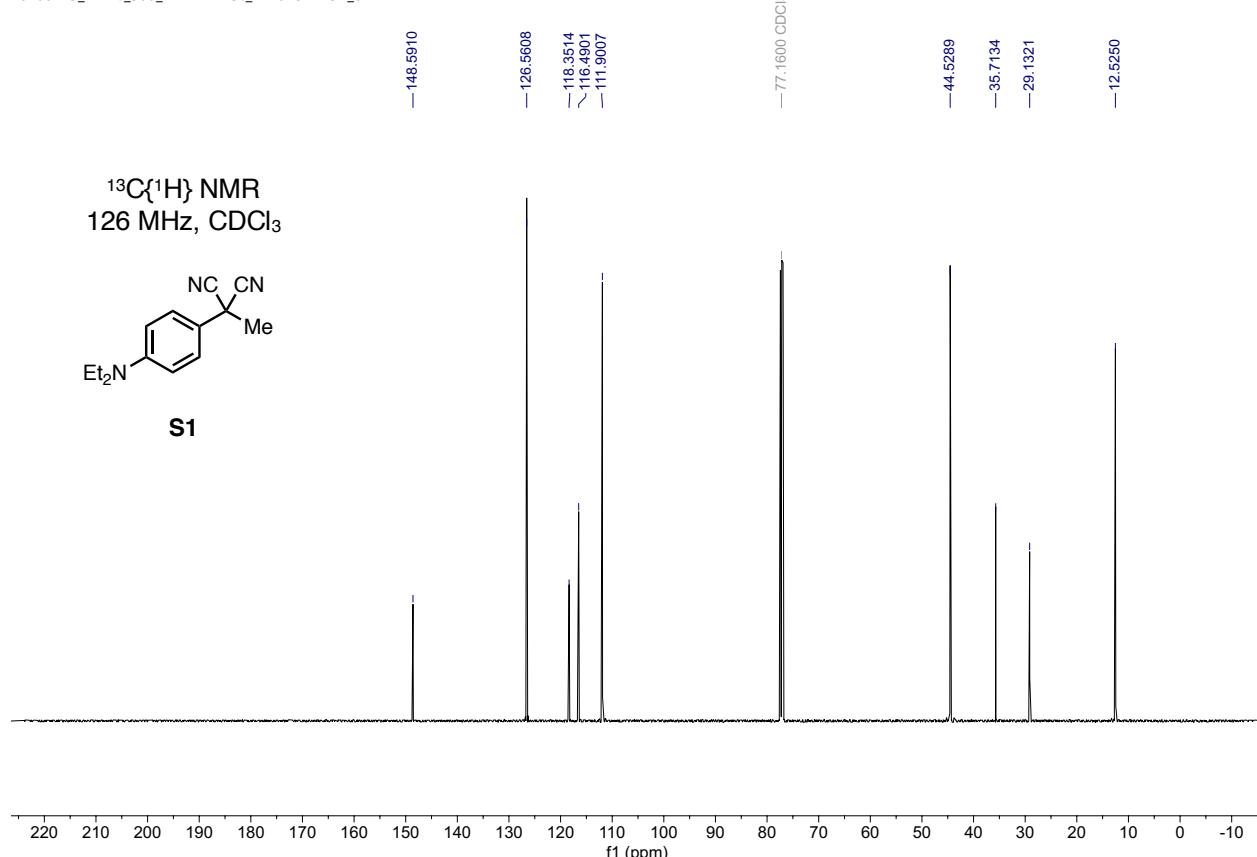
¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl₃



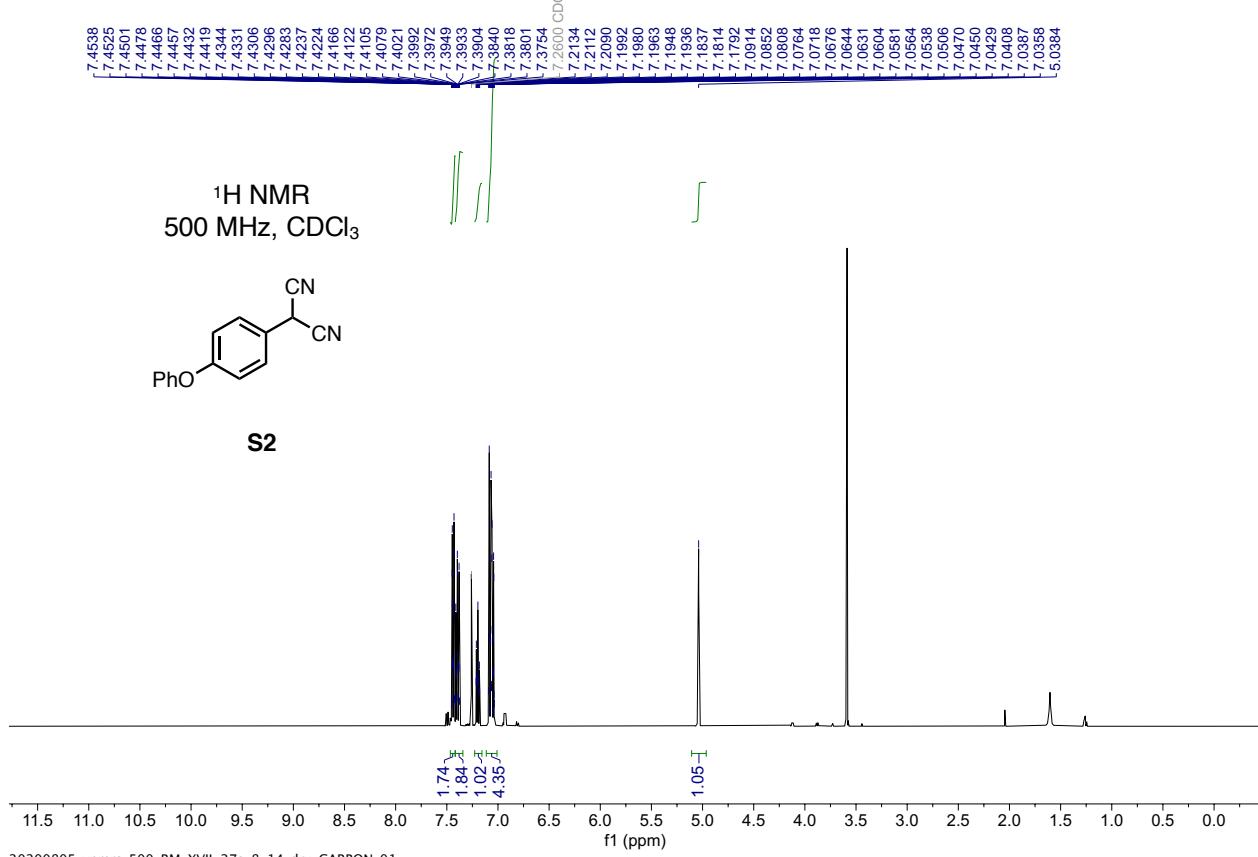
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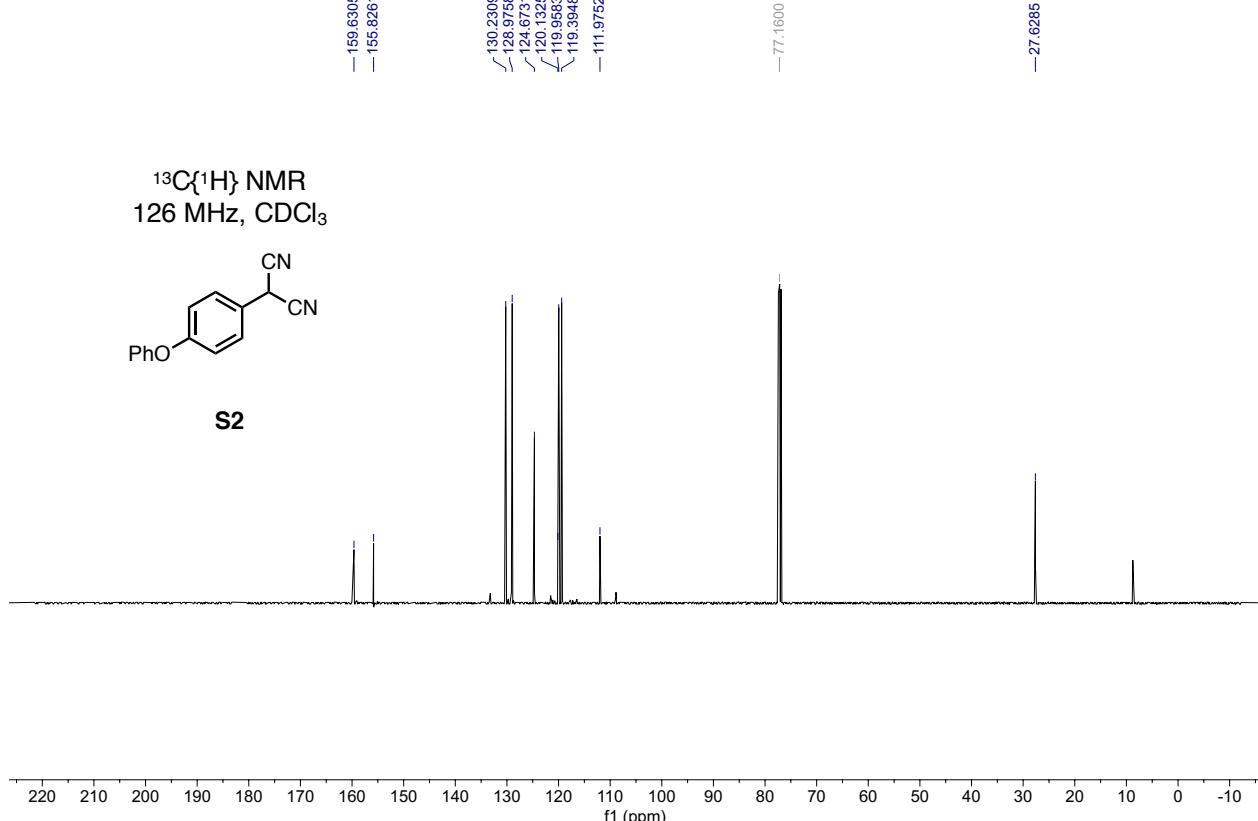
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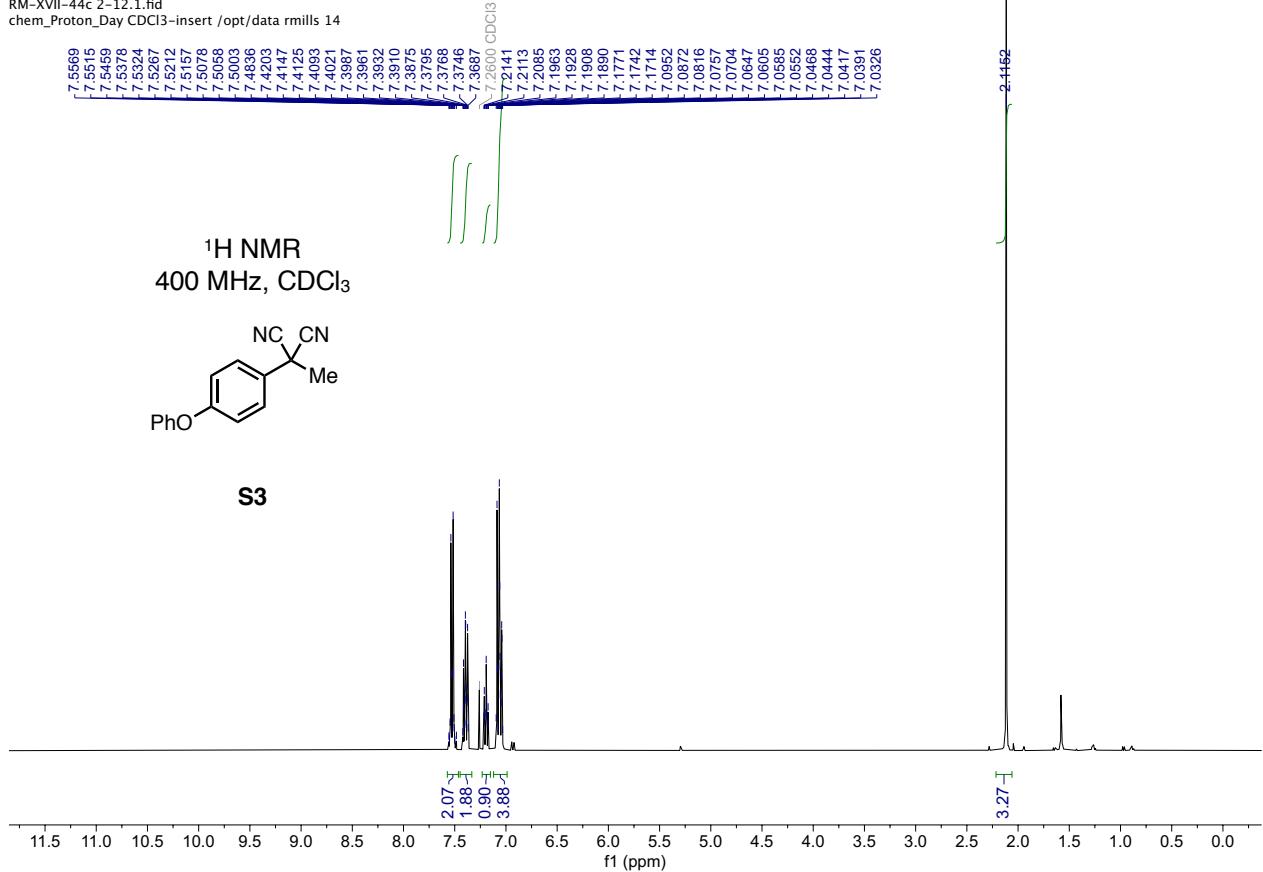
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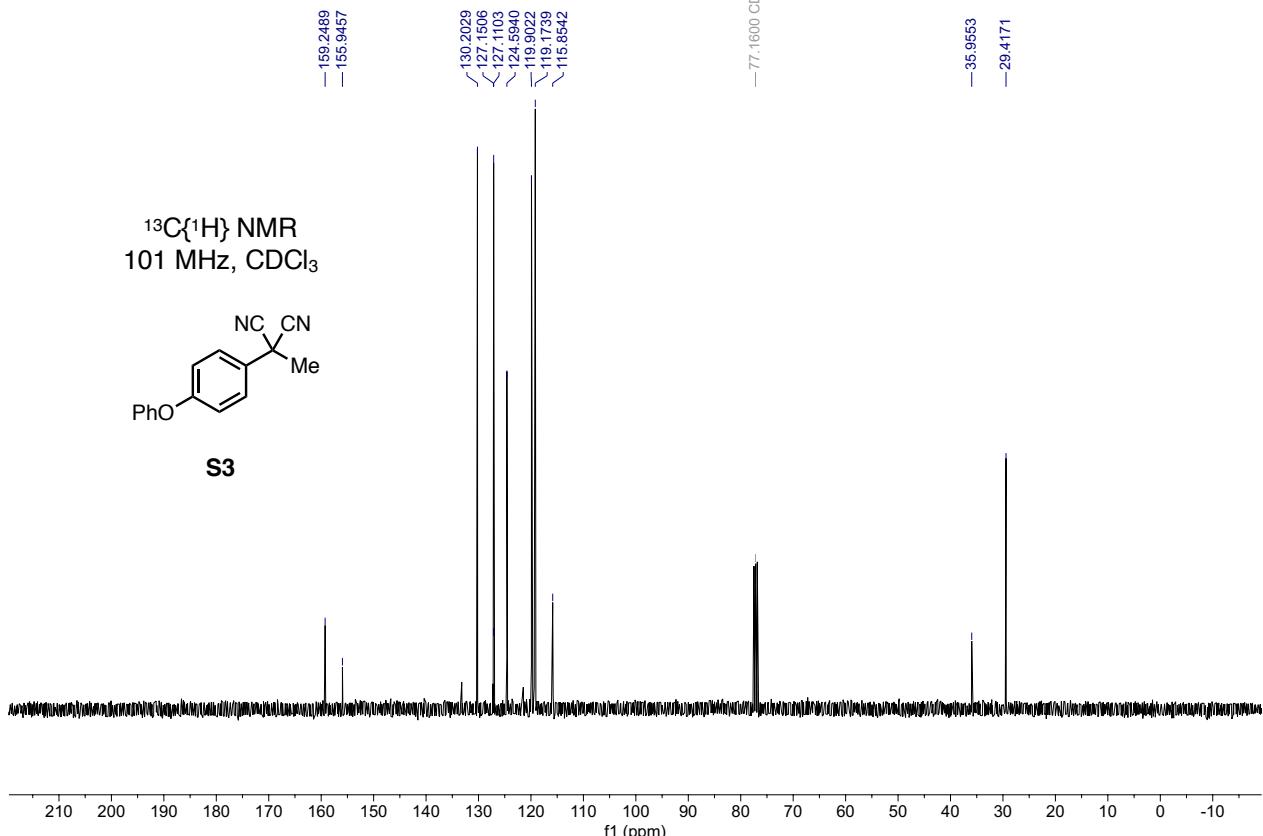
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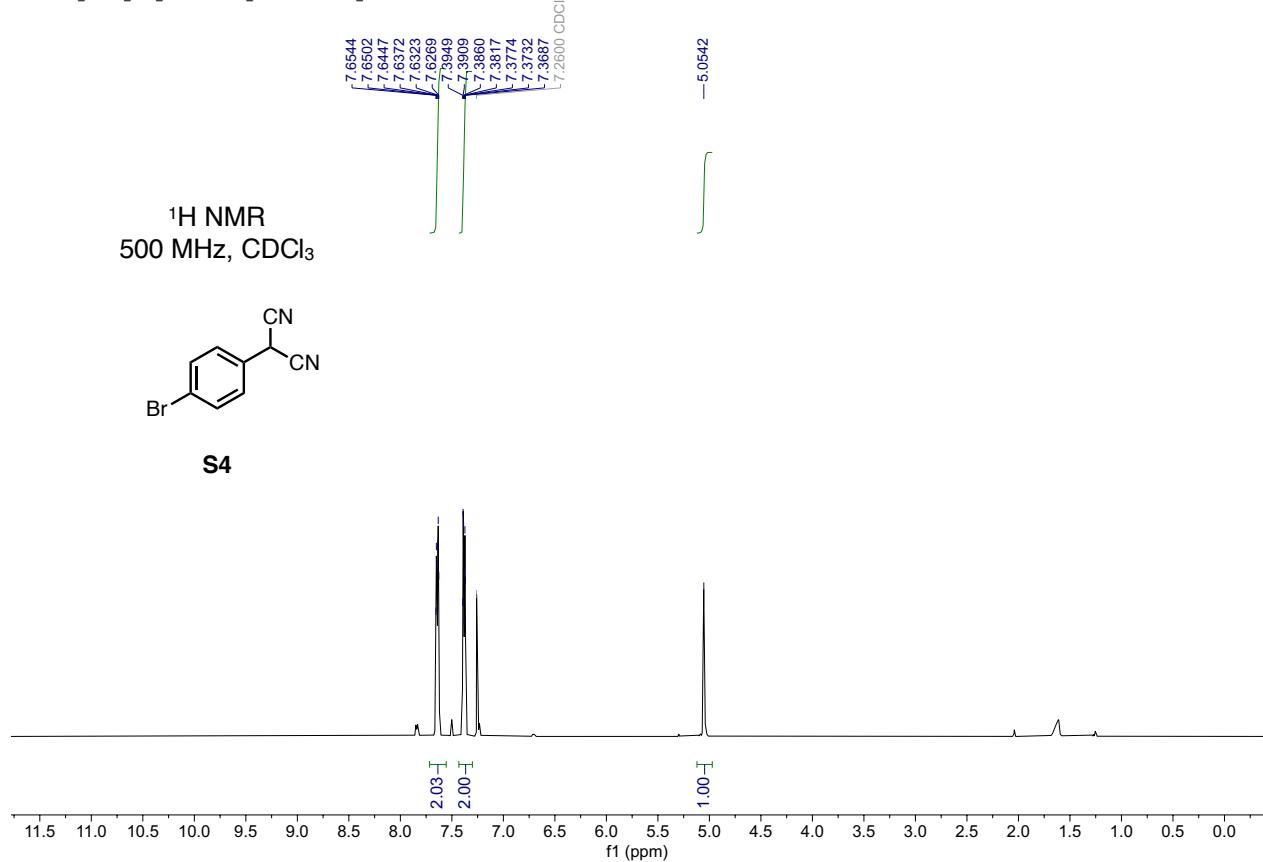


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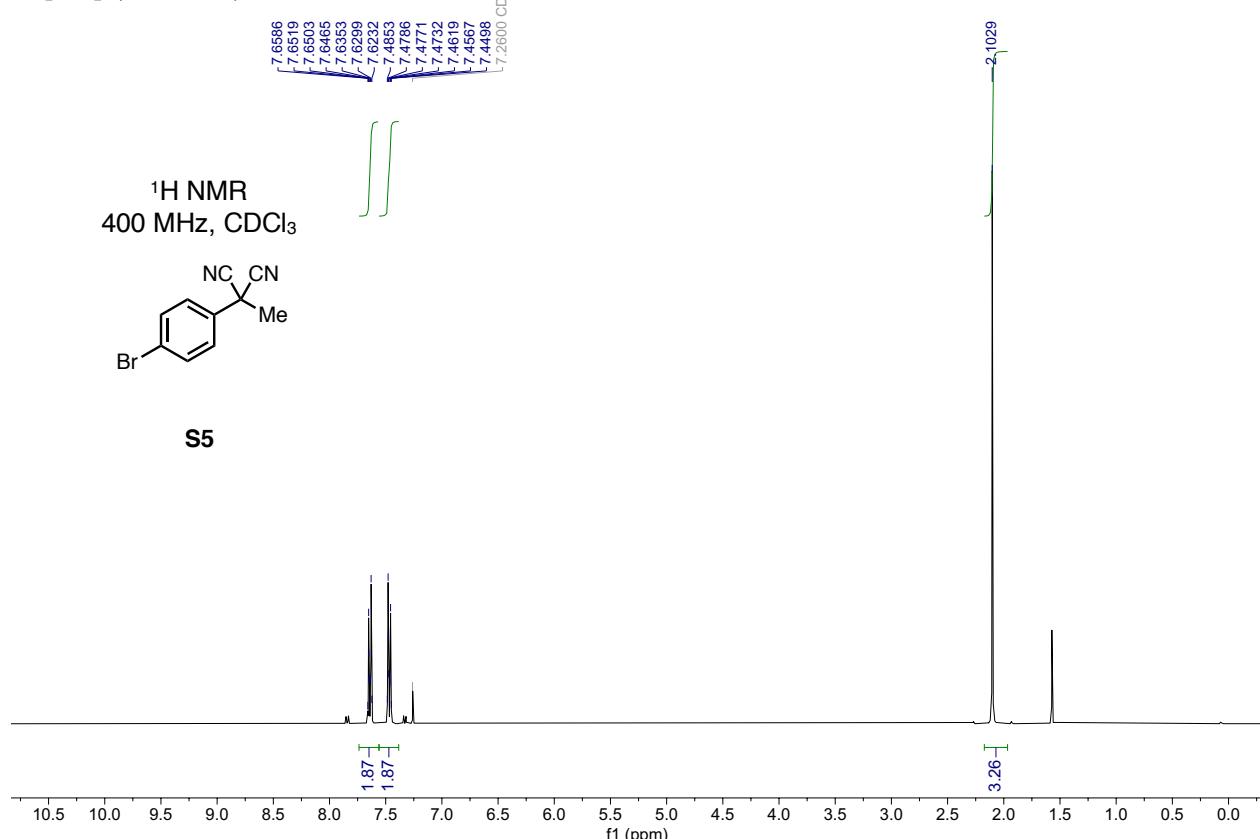


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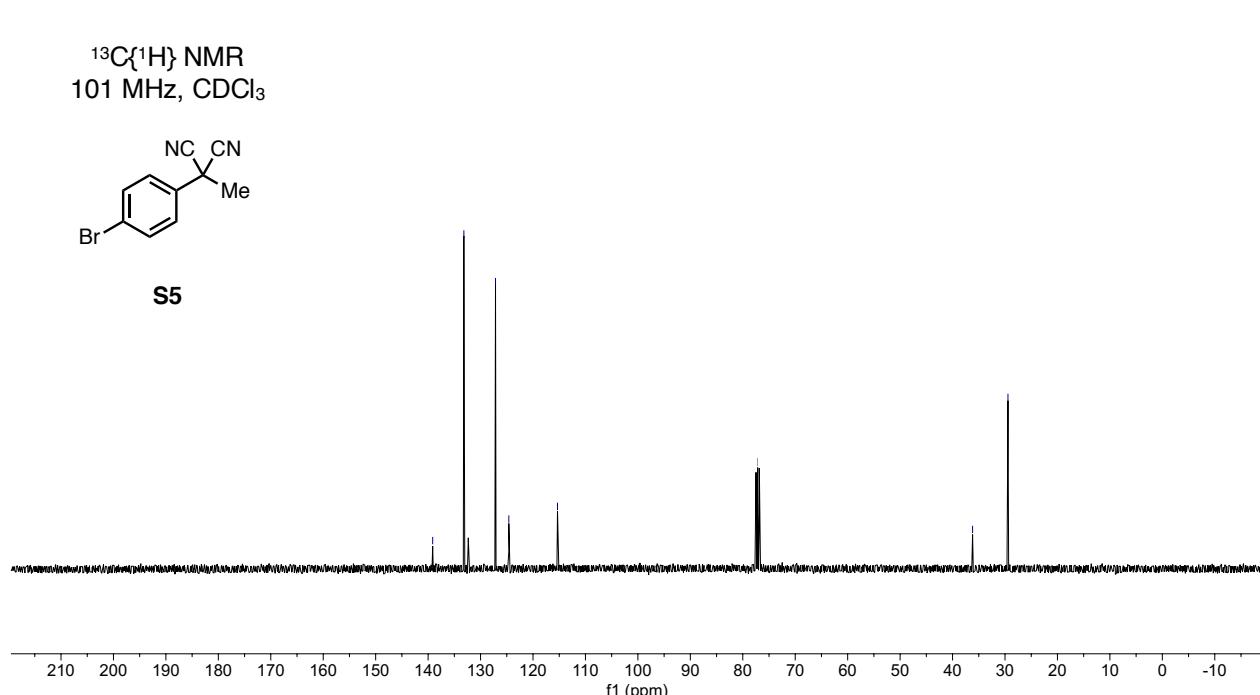




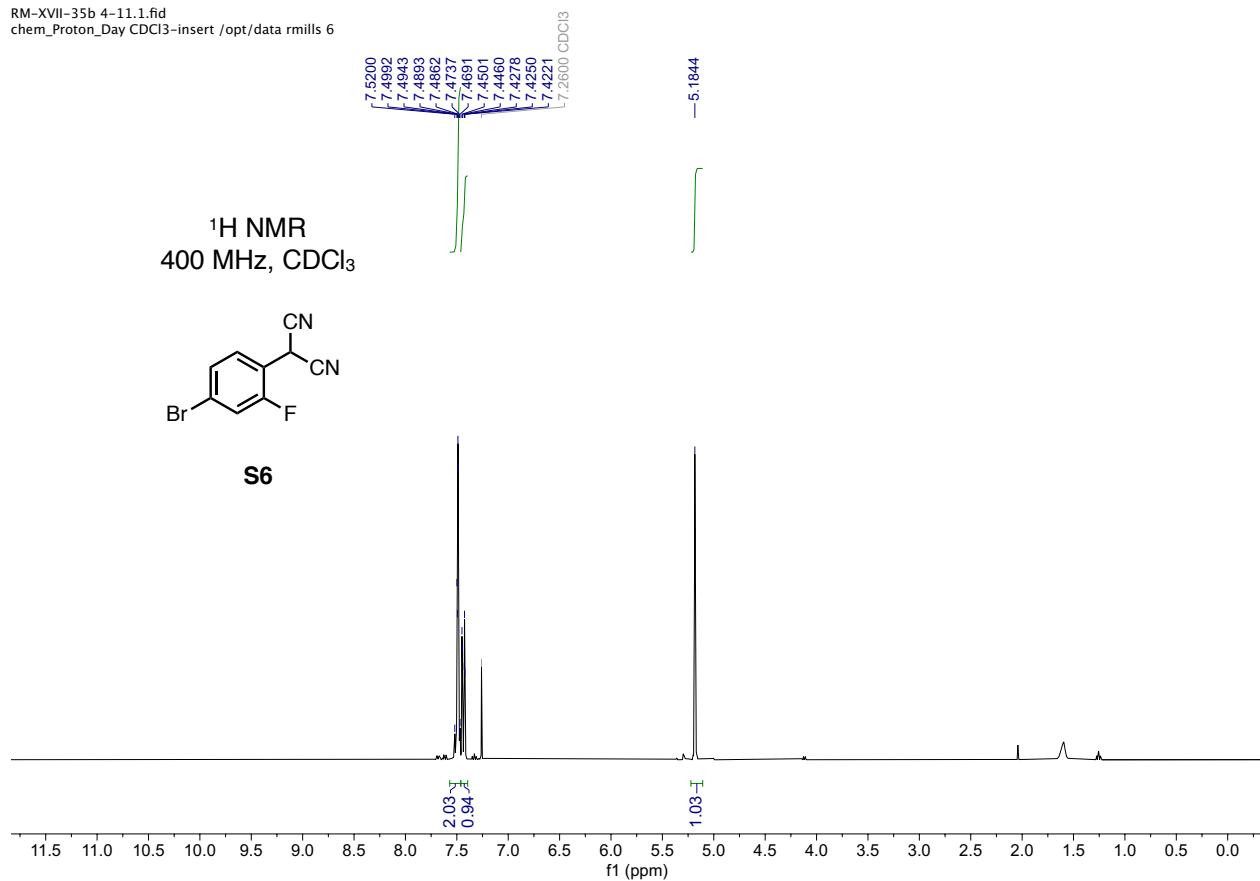
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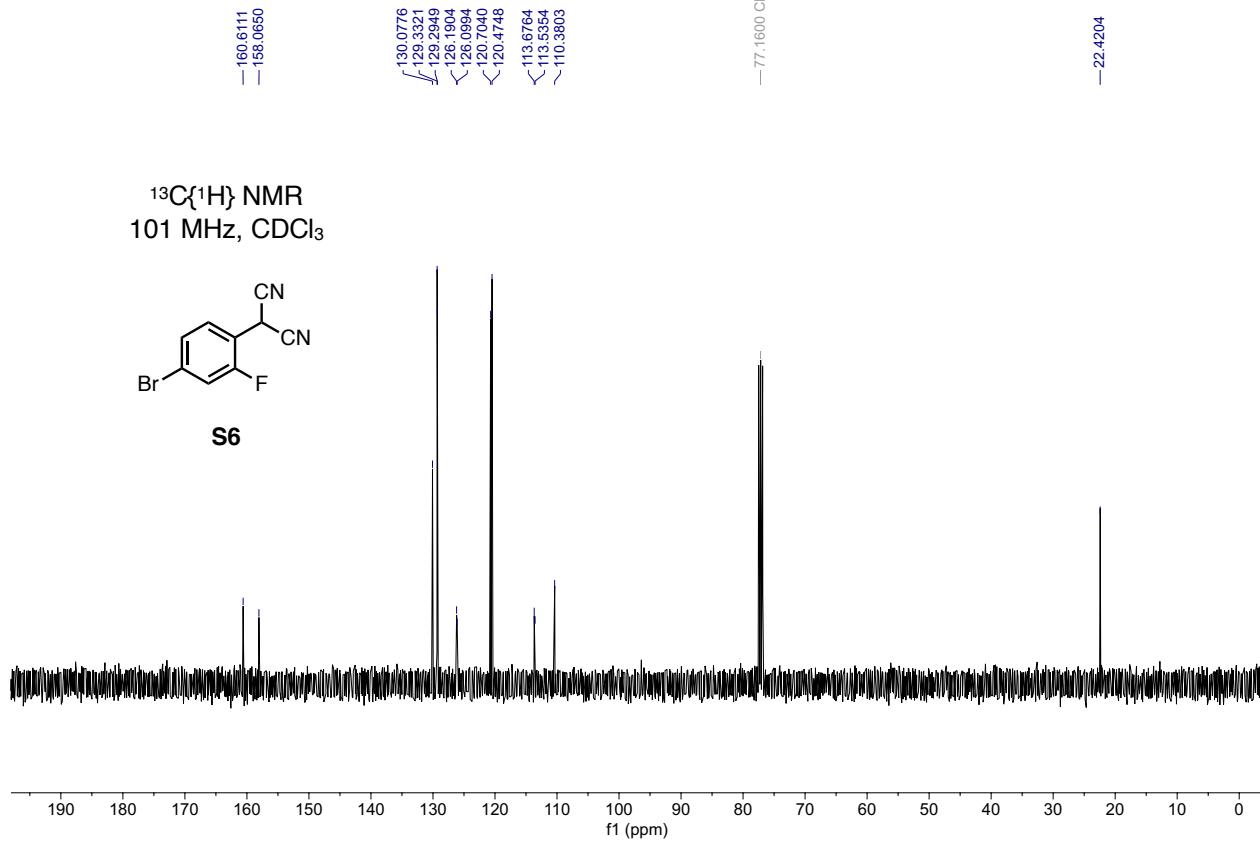
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chem_Carbon_Night CDCl₃-insert /opt/data rmills 15



RM-XVII-35b 4-11.1.fid
chem_Proton_Day CDCl₃-insert /opt/data rmills 6



RM-XVII-35b 4-11.3.fid
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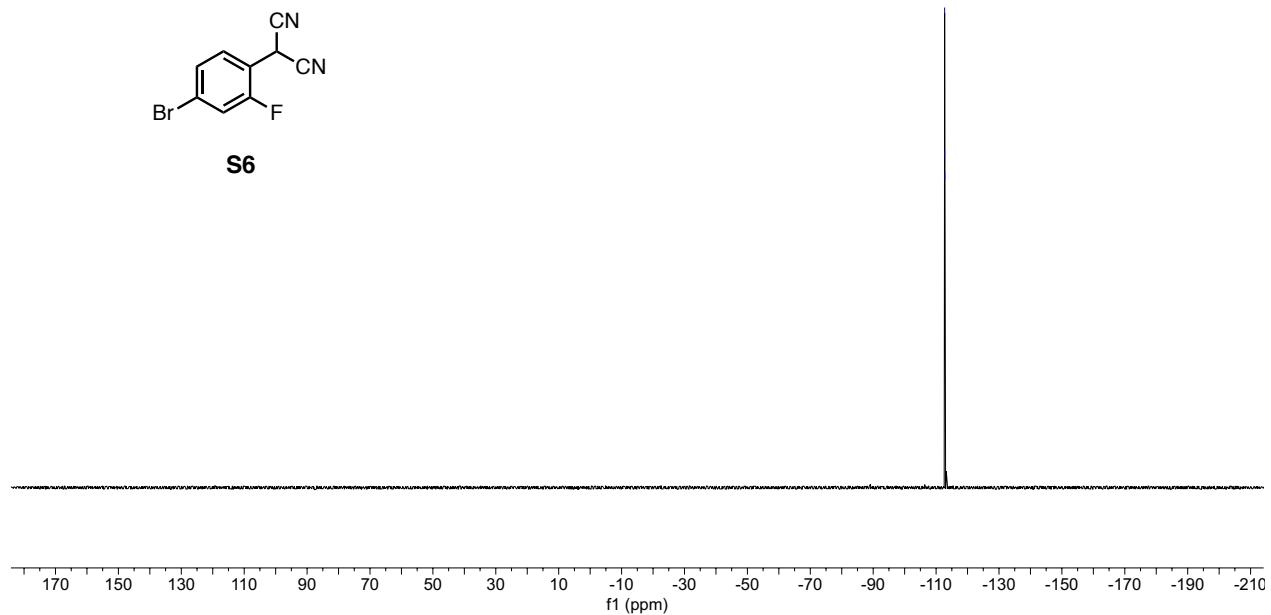


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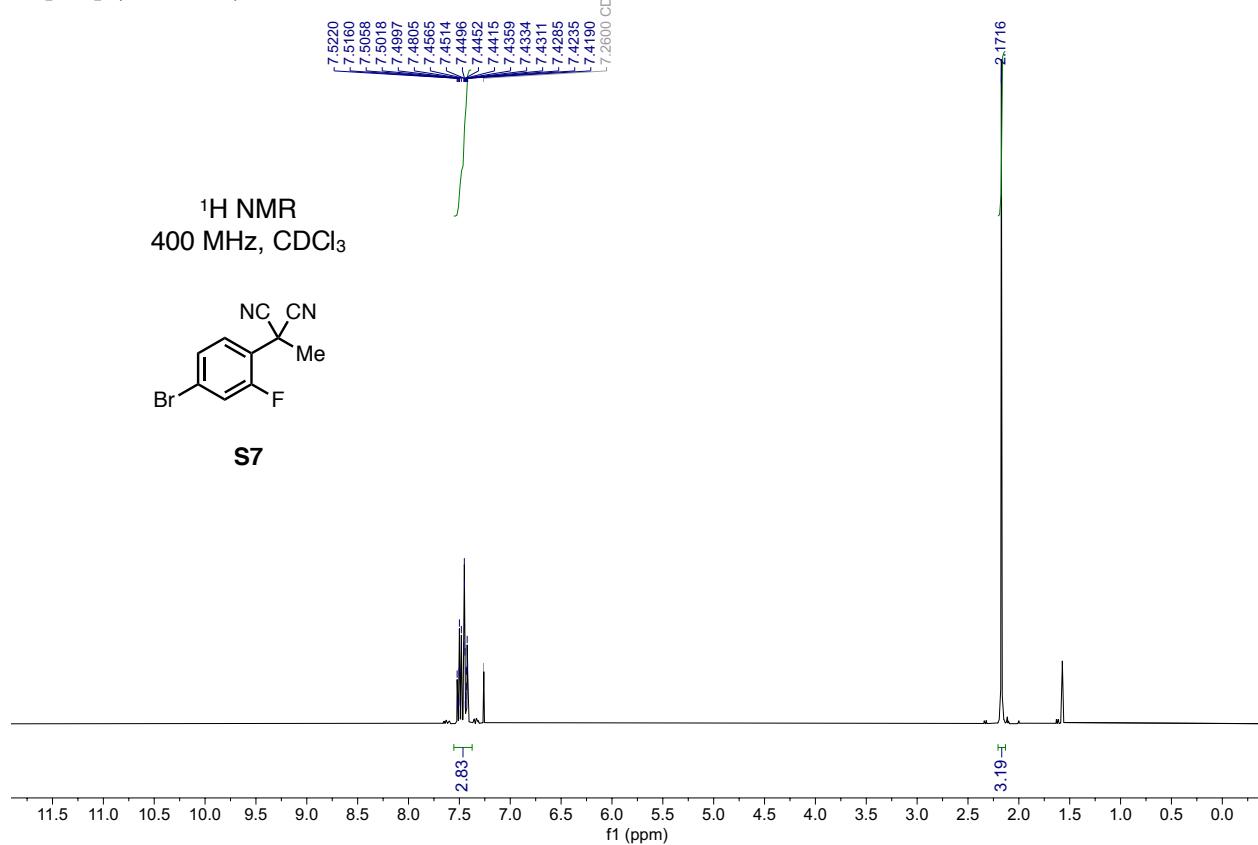
¹⁹F NMR
376 MHz, CDCl₃



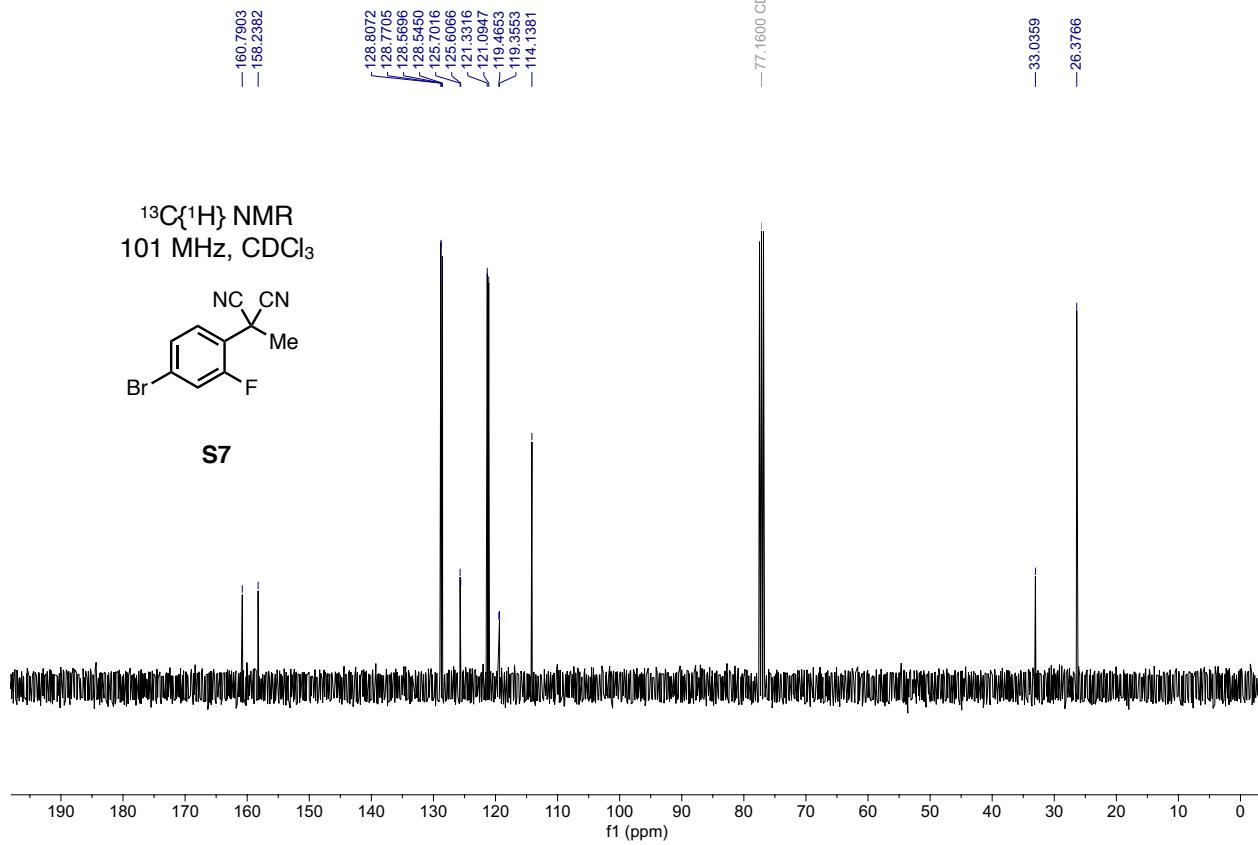
S6



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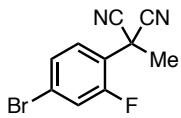
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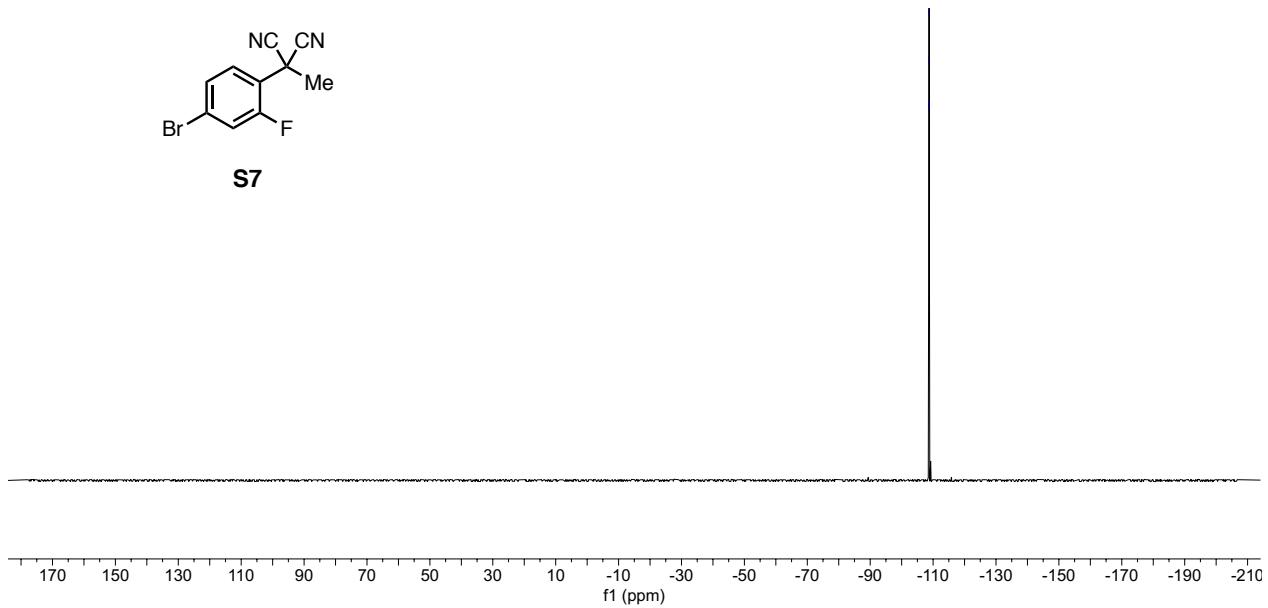
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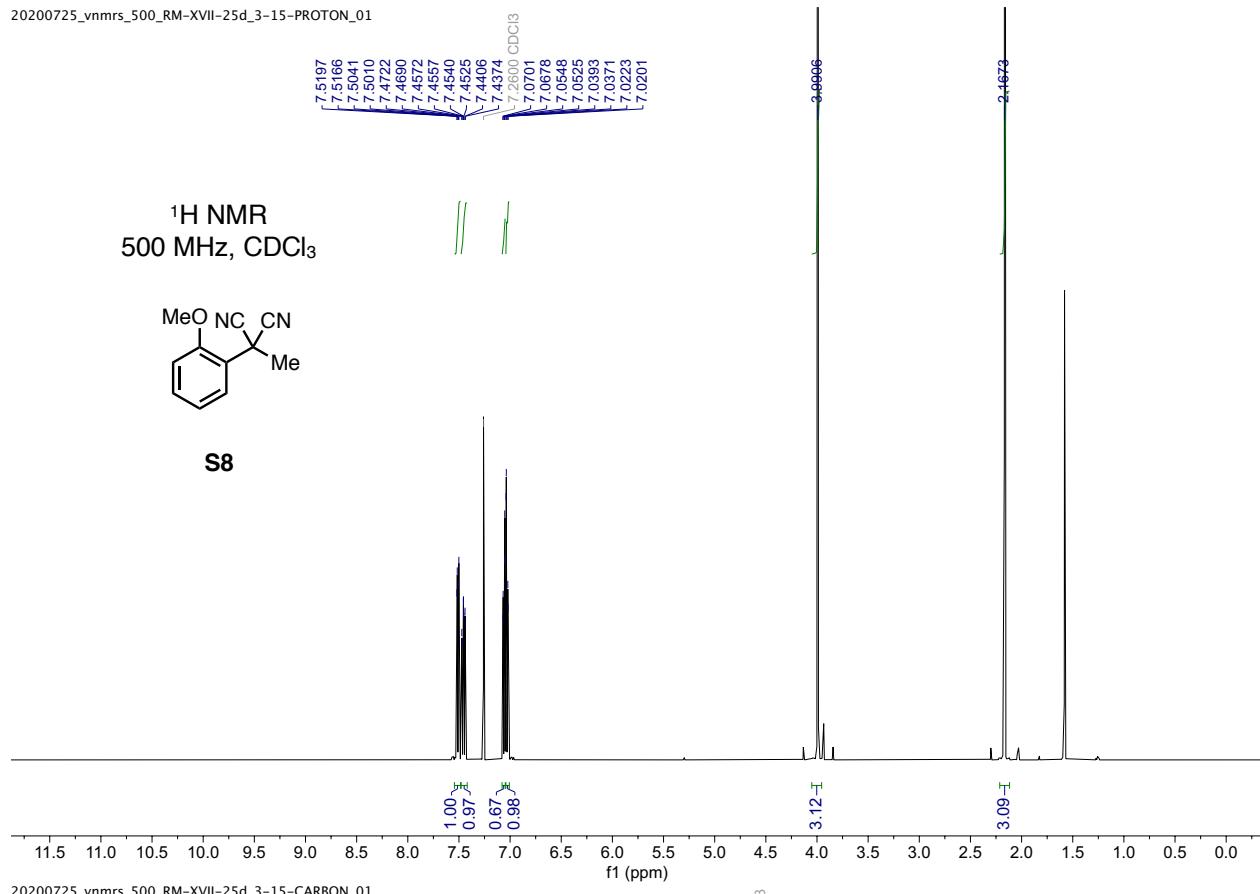
¹⁹F NMR
376 MHz, CDCl₃



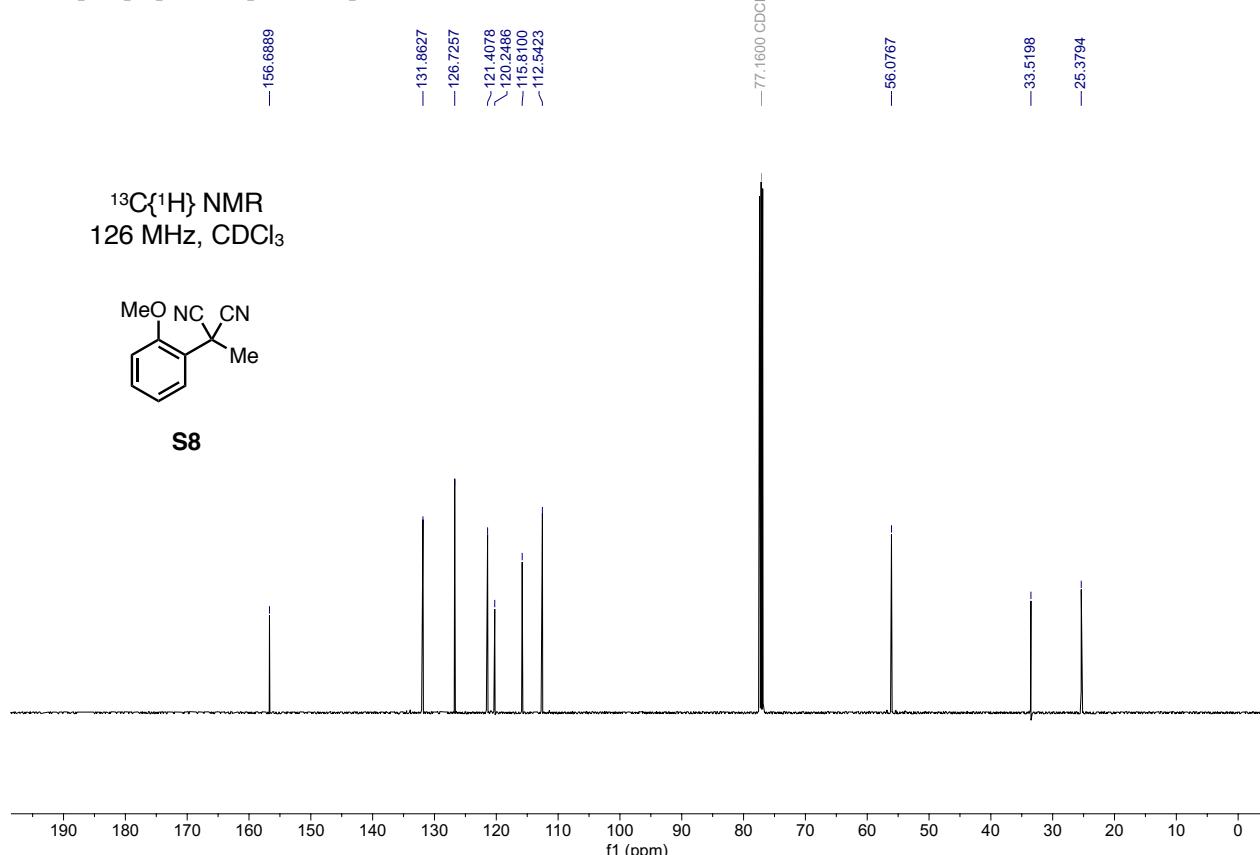
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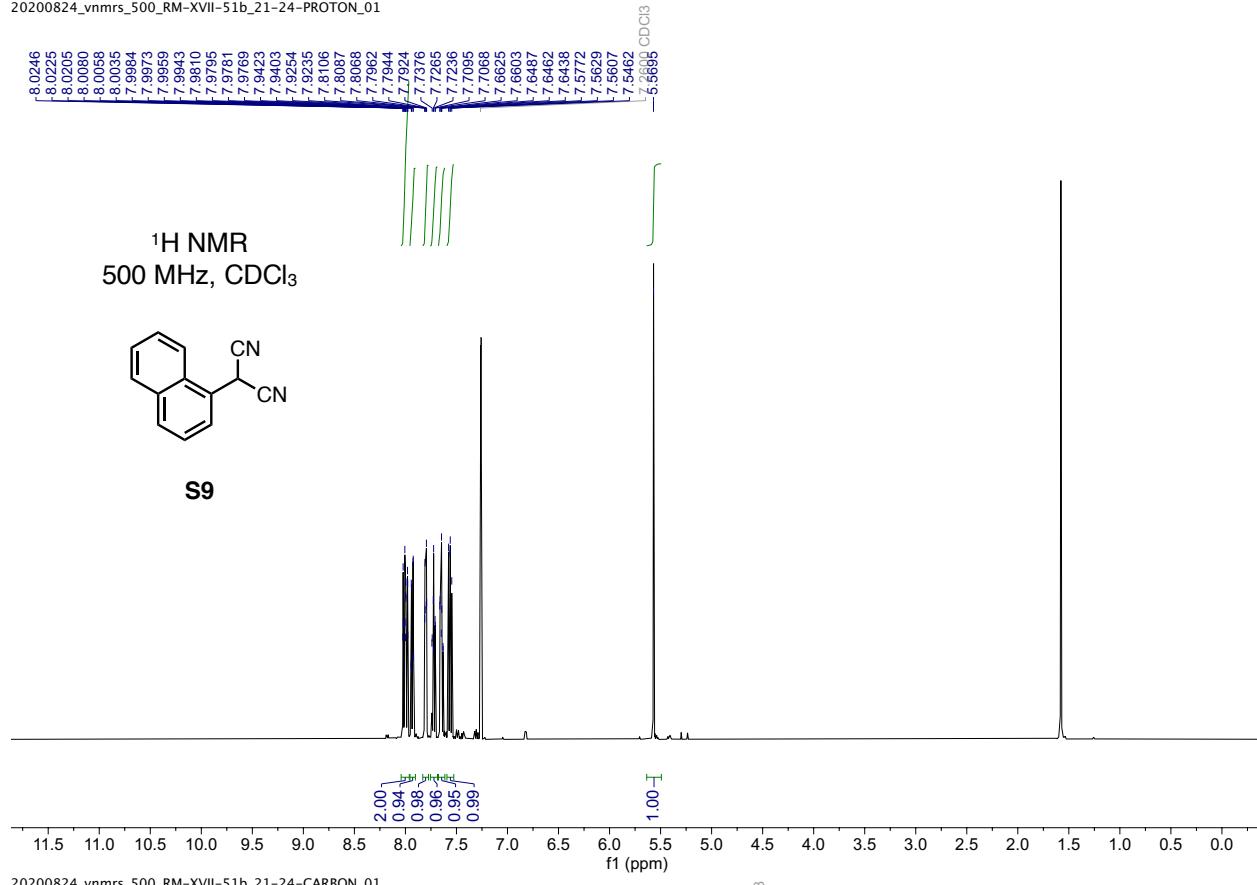
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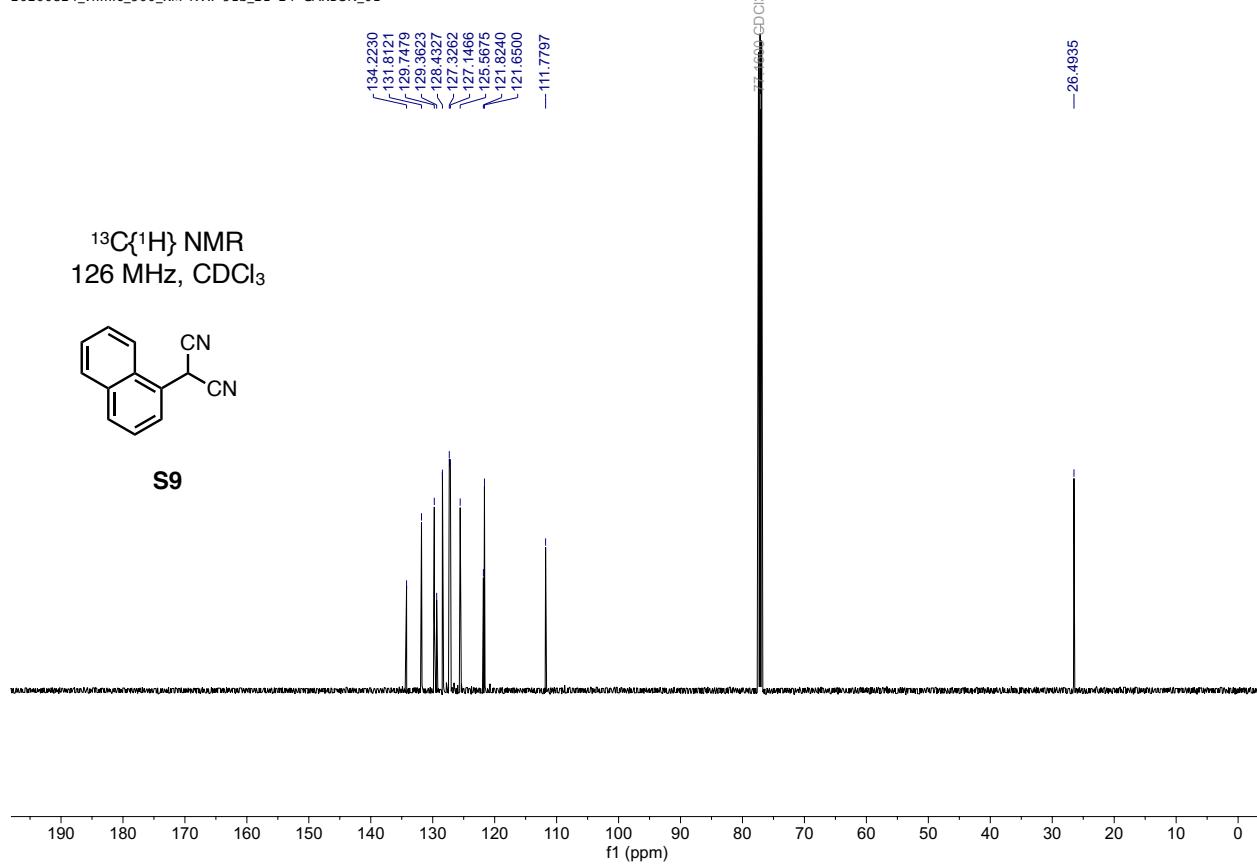
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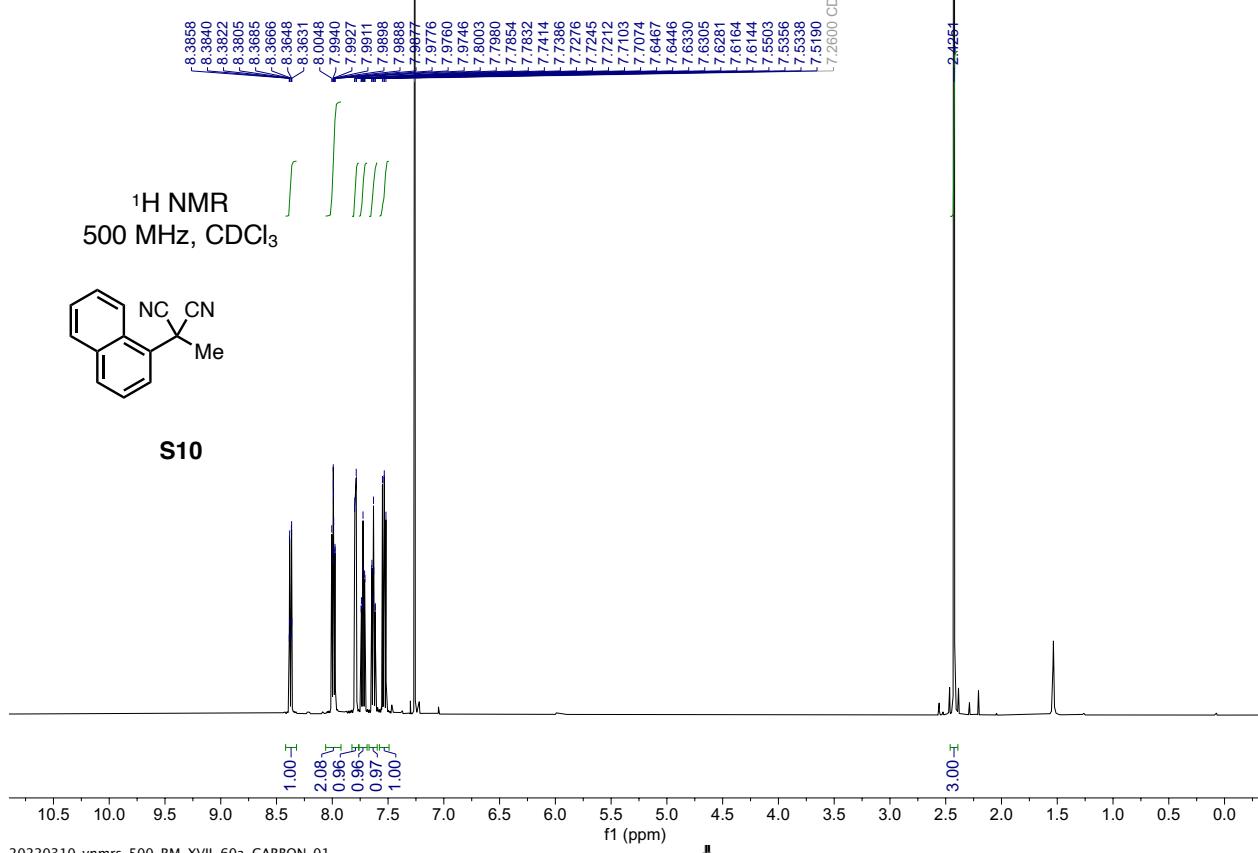
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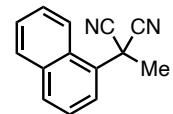
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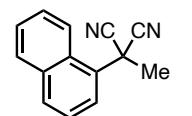
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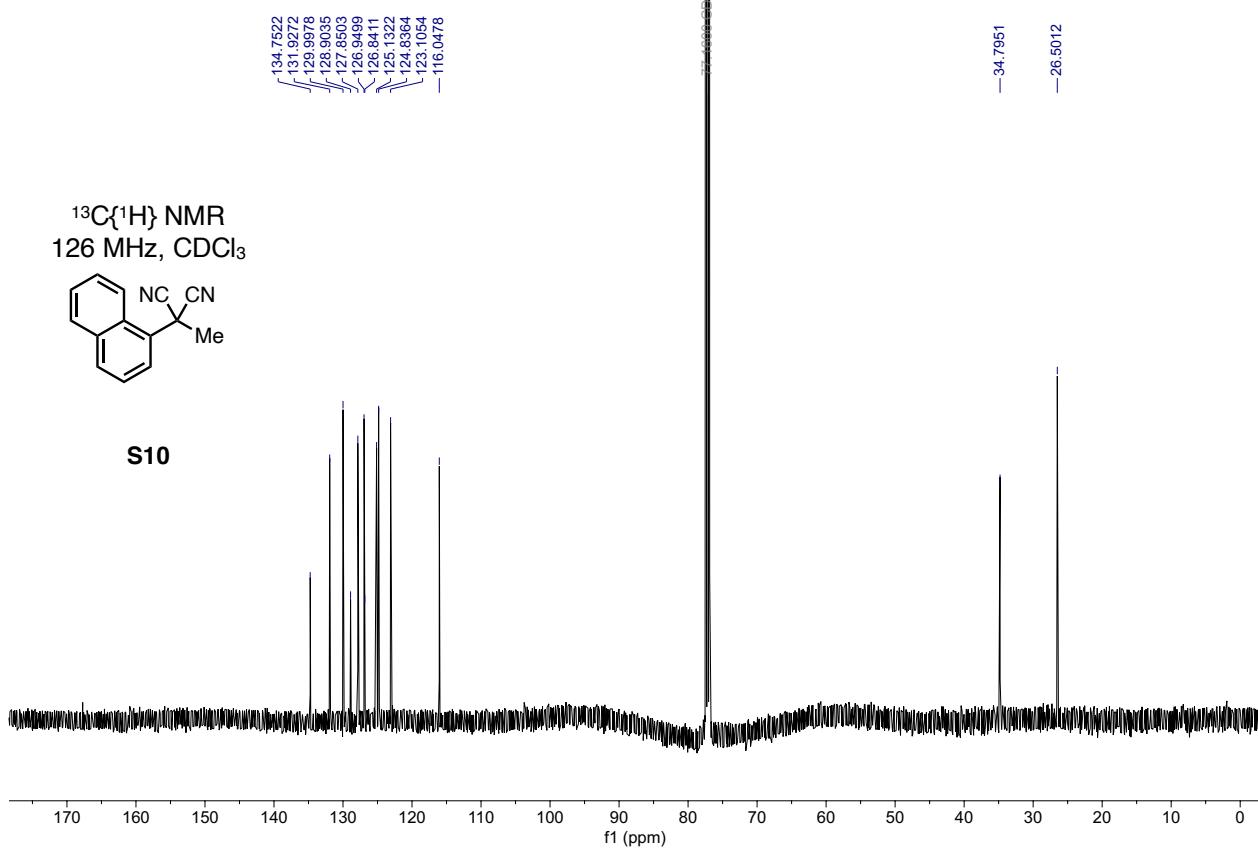
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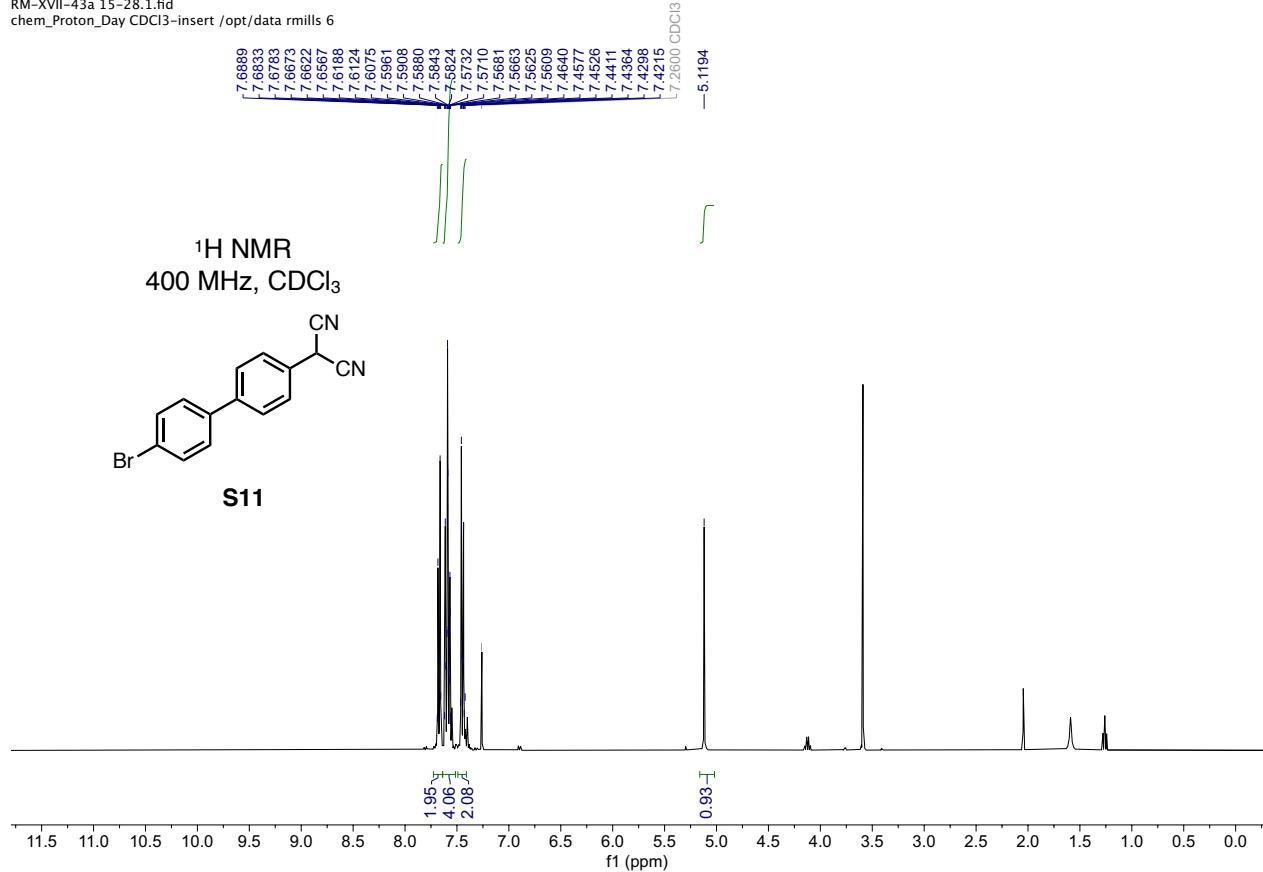
S10



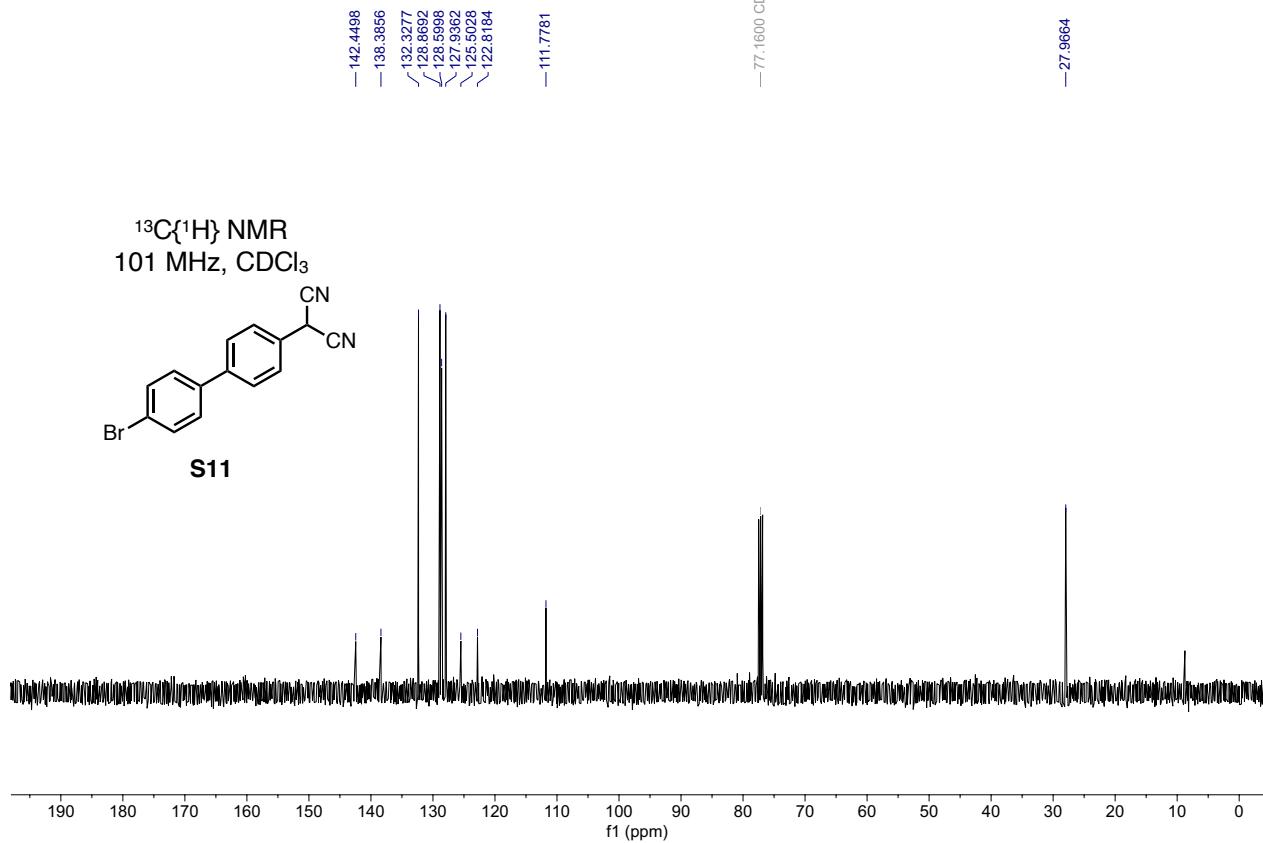
S10



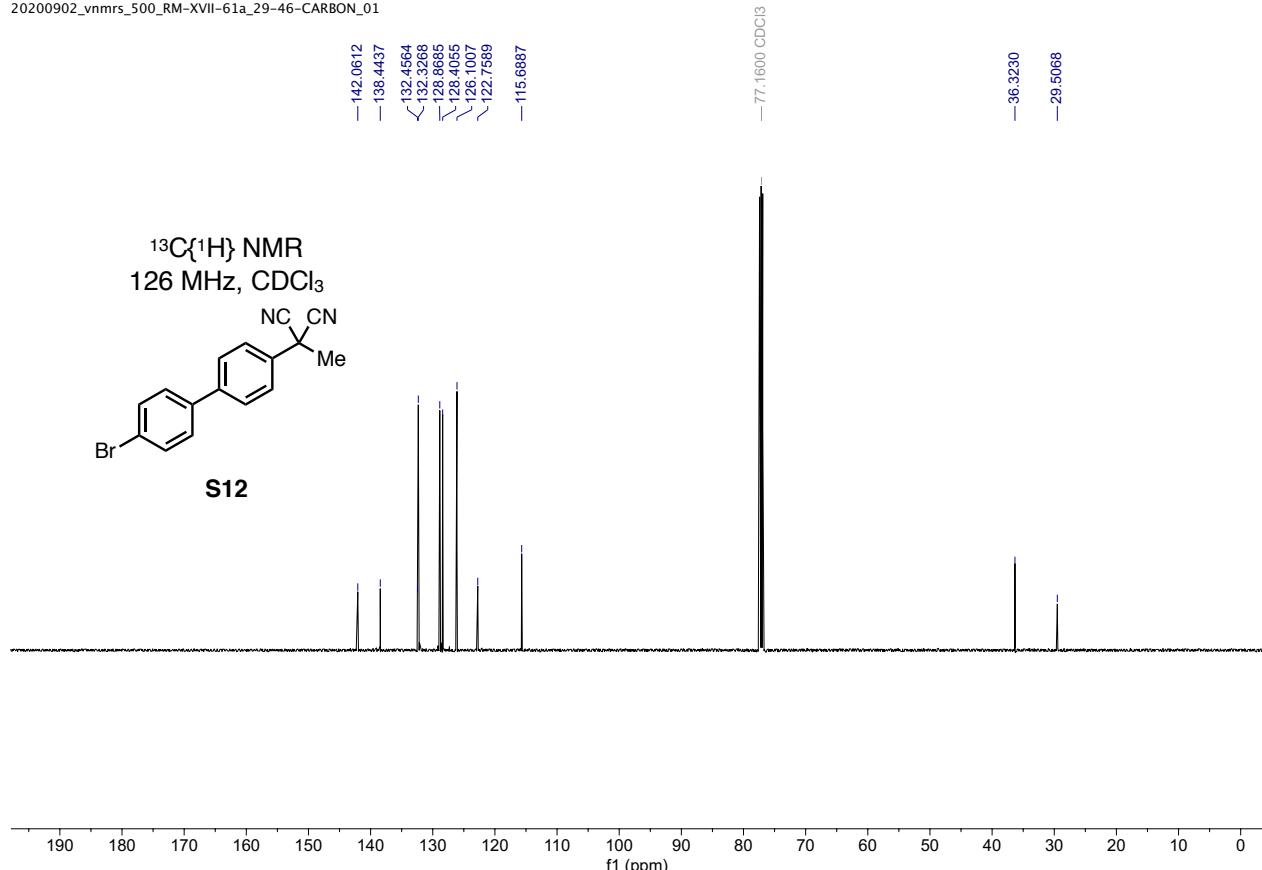
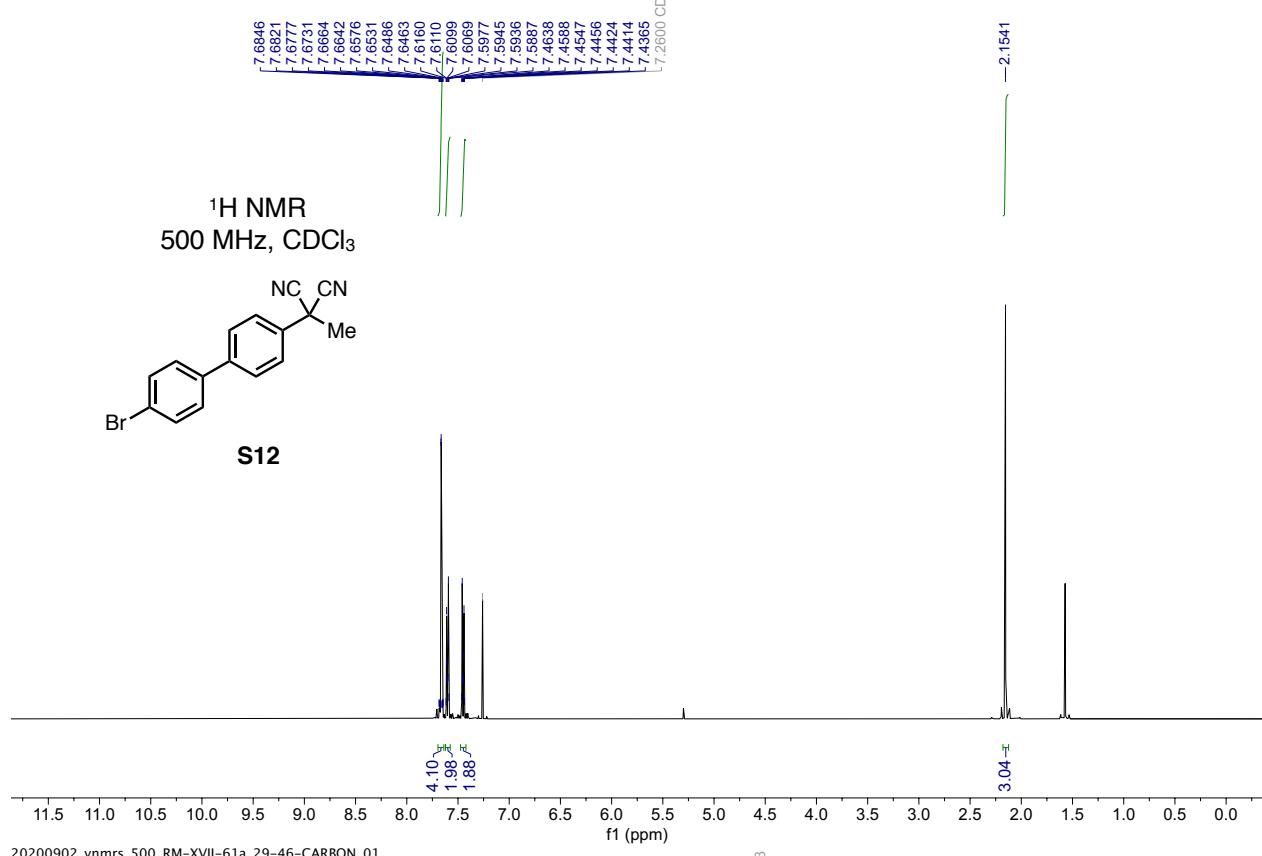
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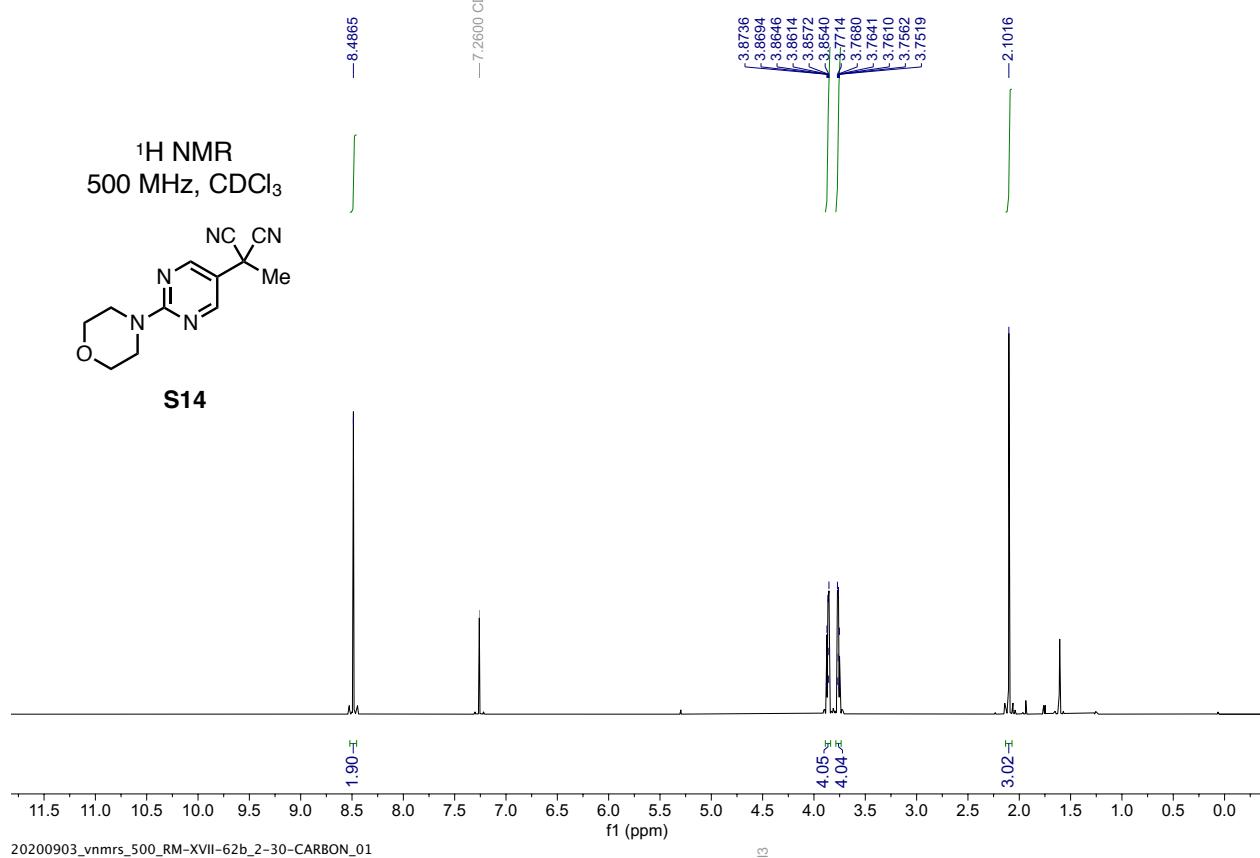
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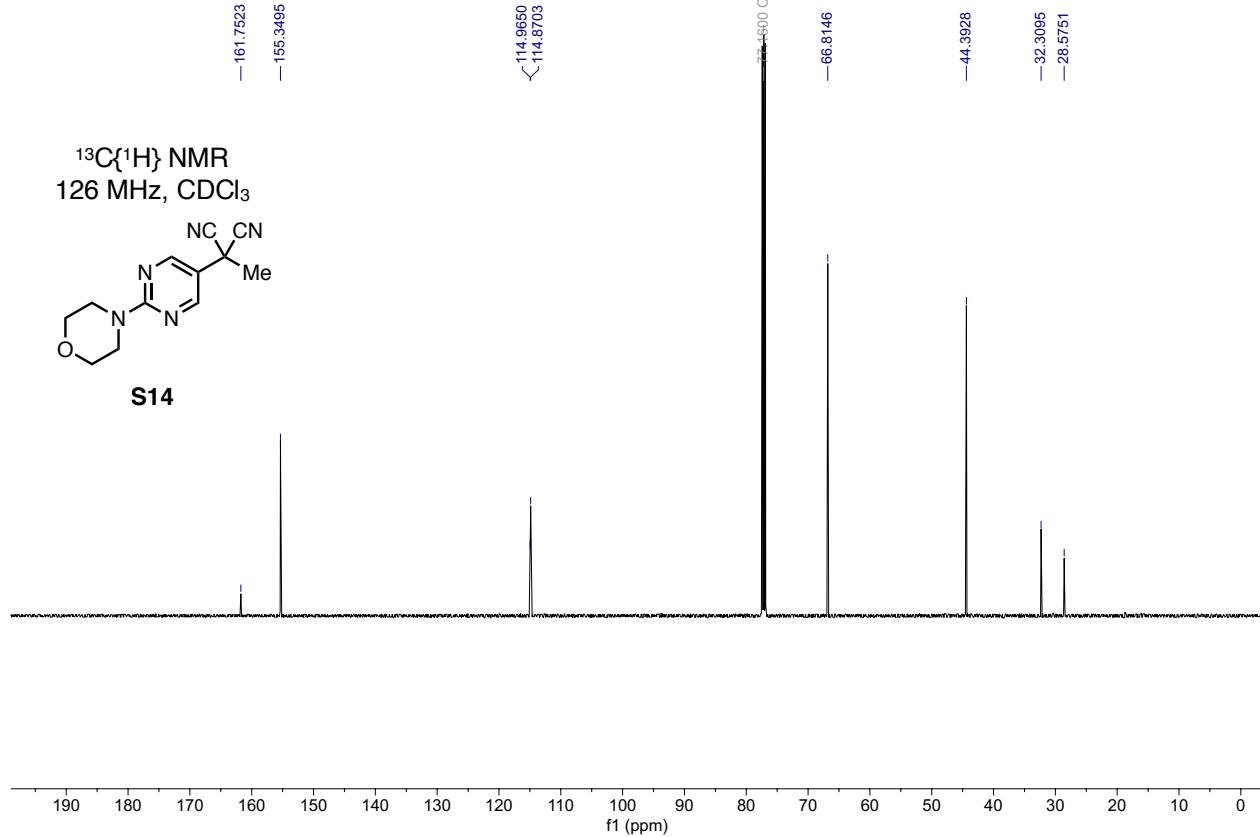
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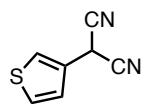
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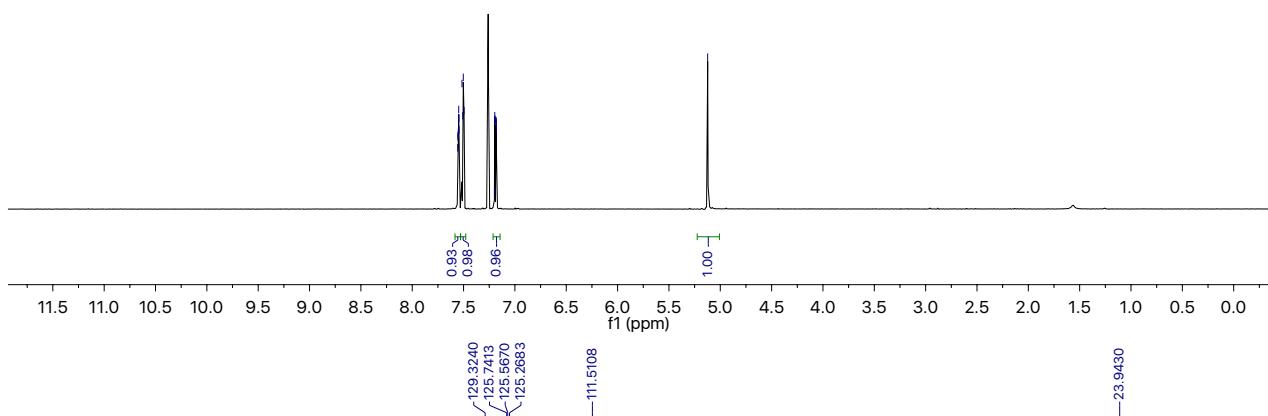
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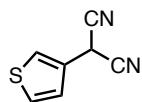
¹H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl₃



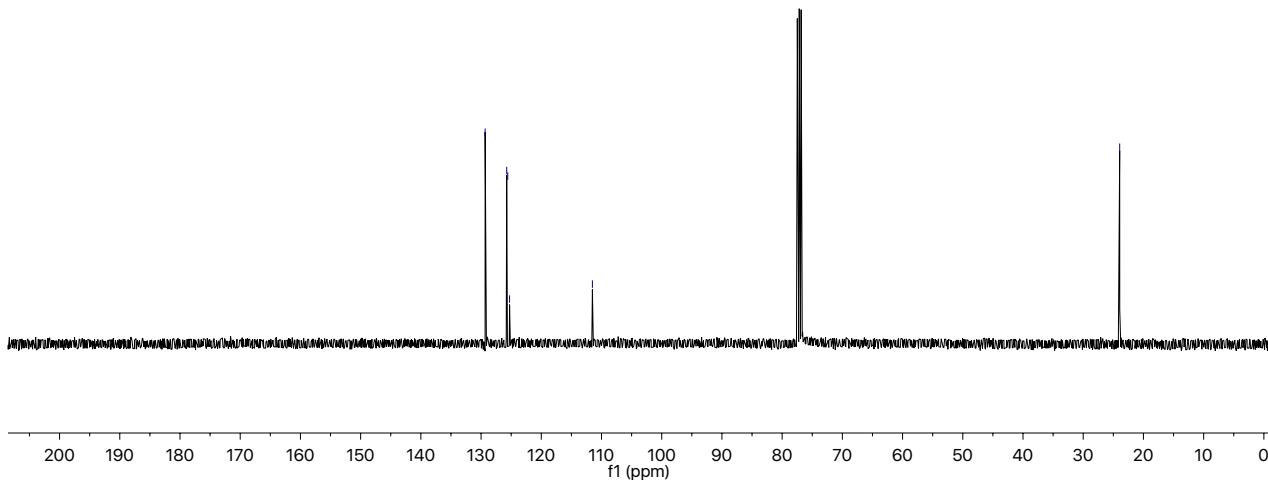
S15



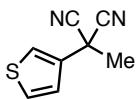
¹³C{¹H} NMR
100 MHz, CDCl₃



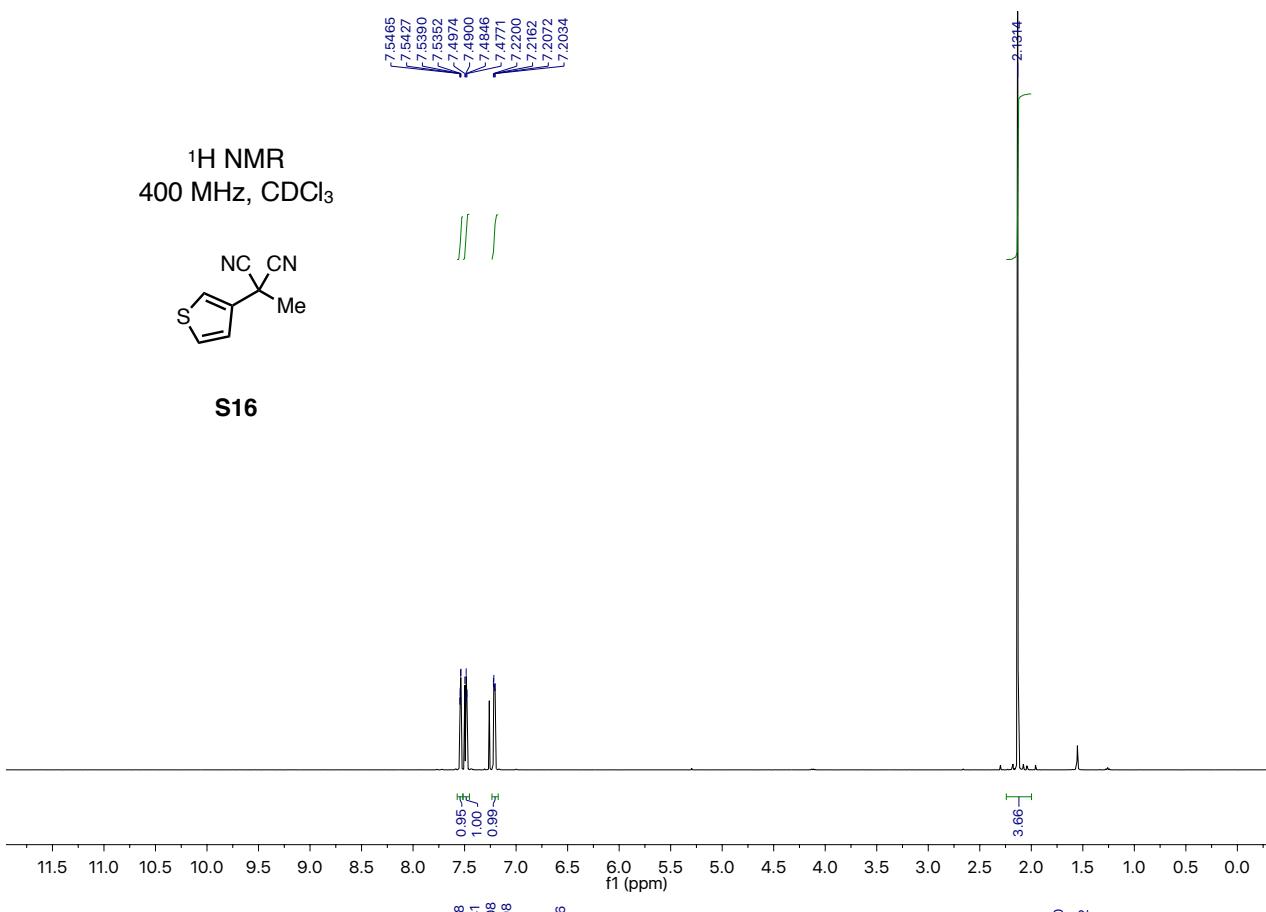
S15



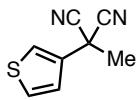
^1H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl_3



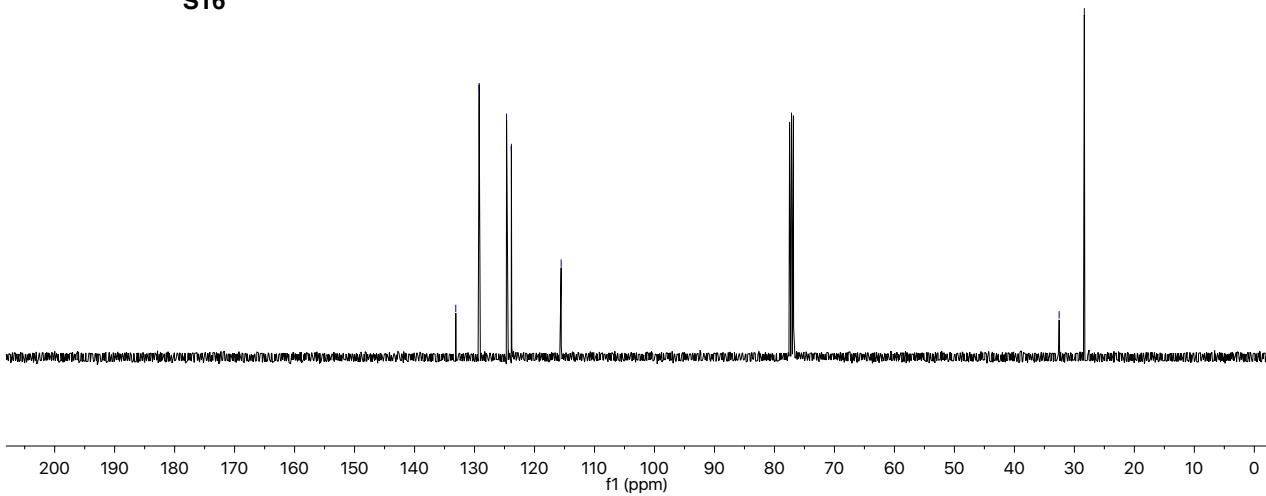
S16



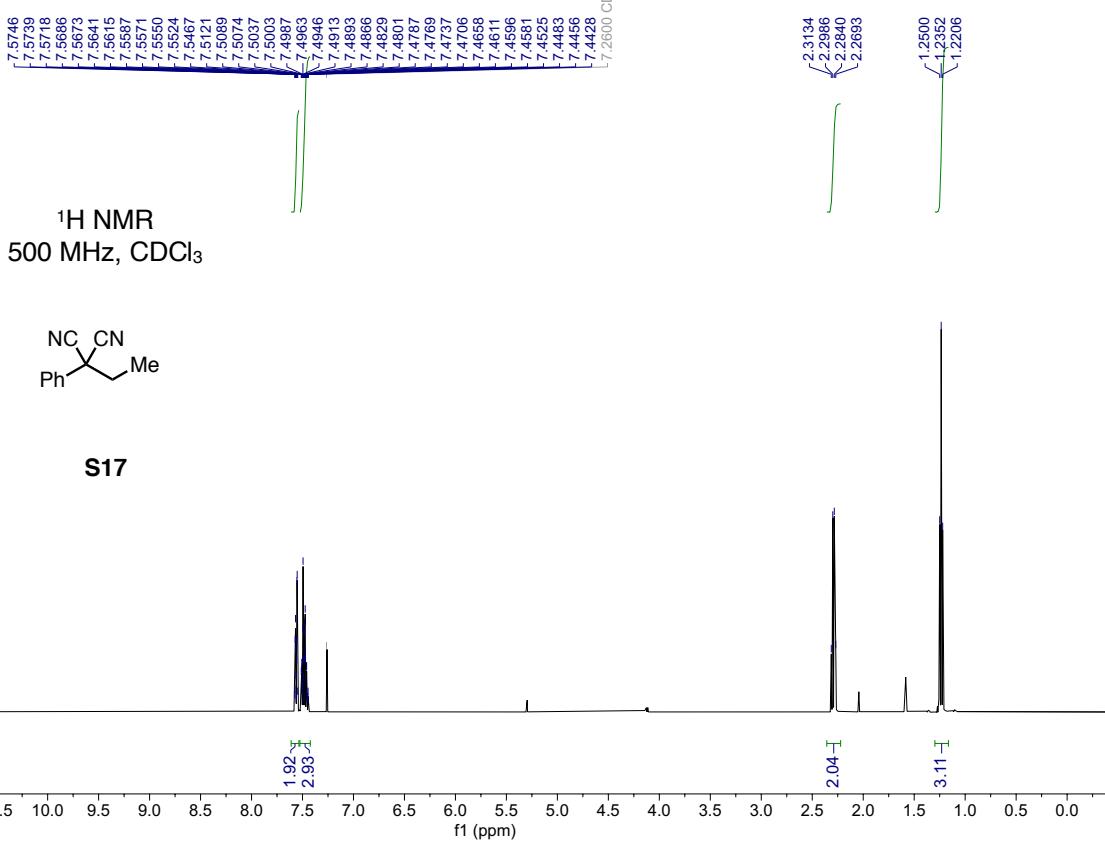
$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR
100 MHz, CDCl_3



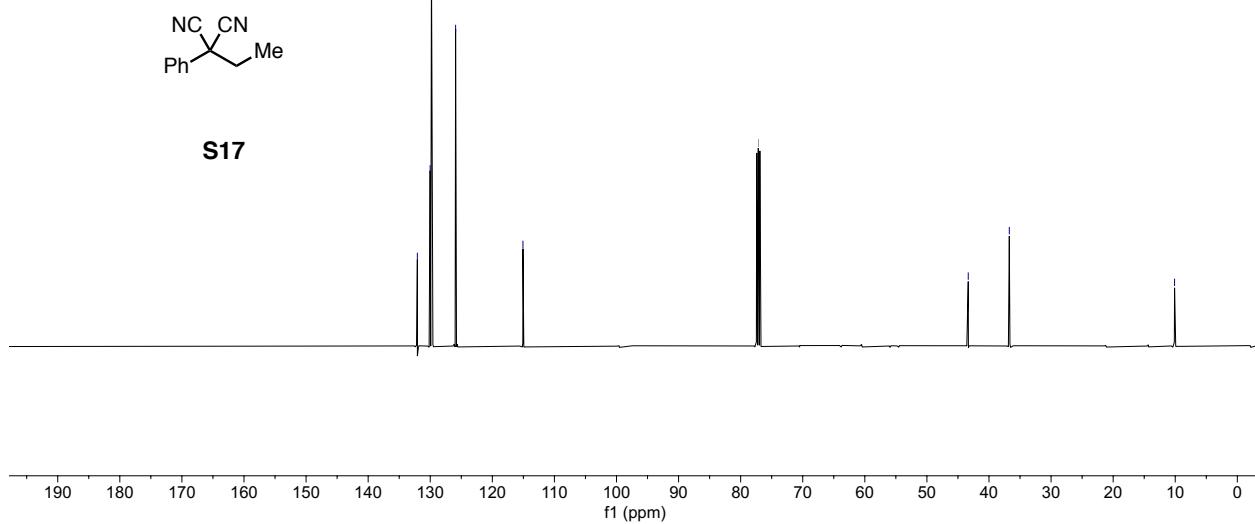
S16

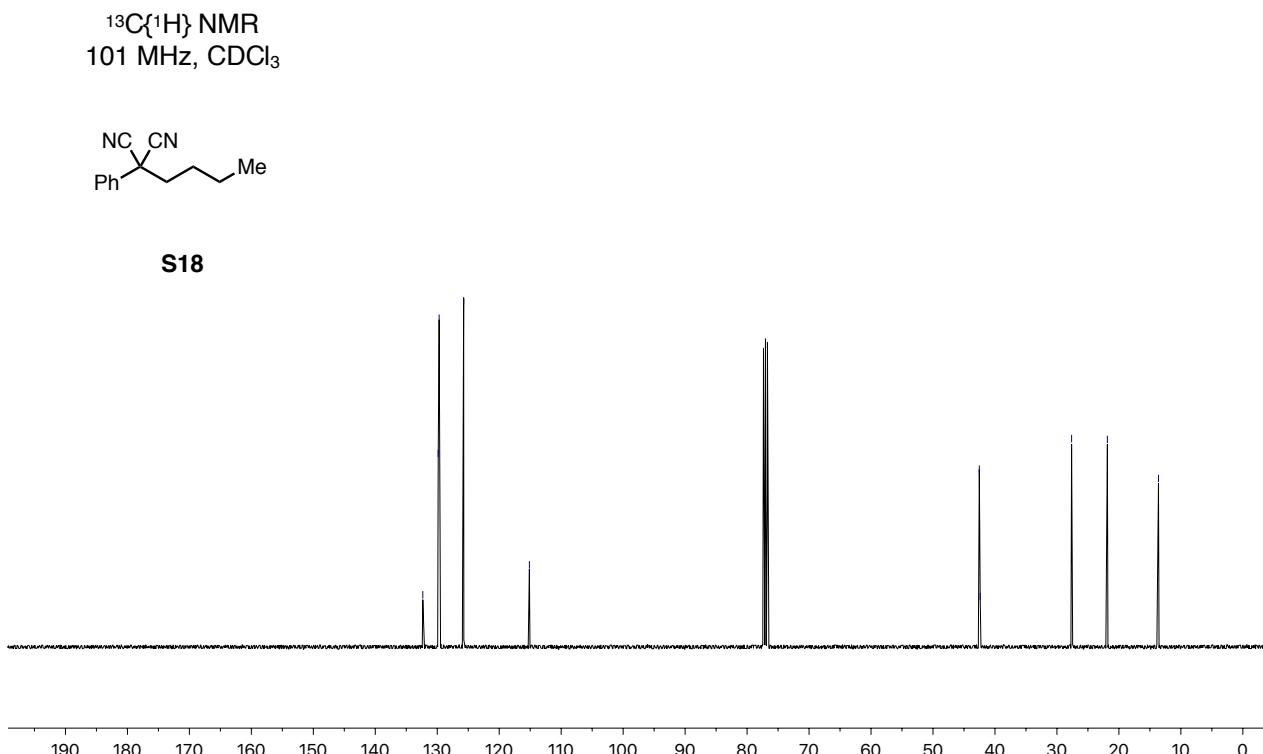
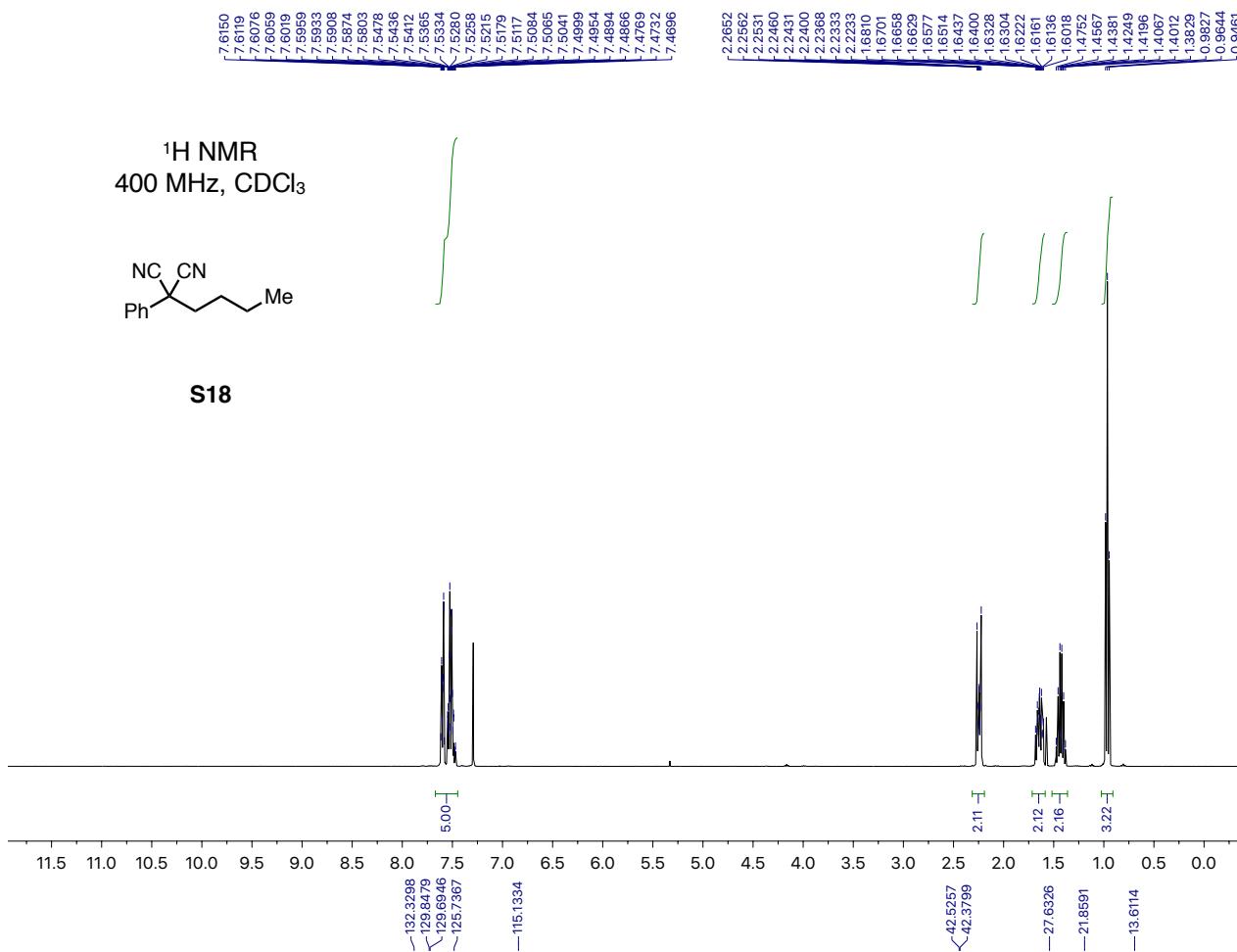


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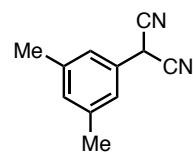
¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl₃



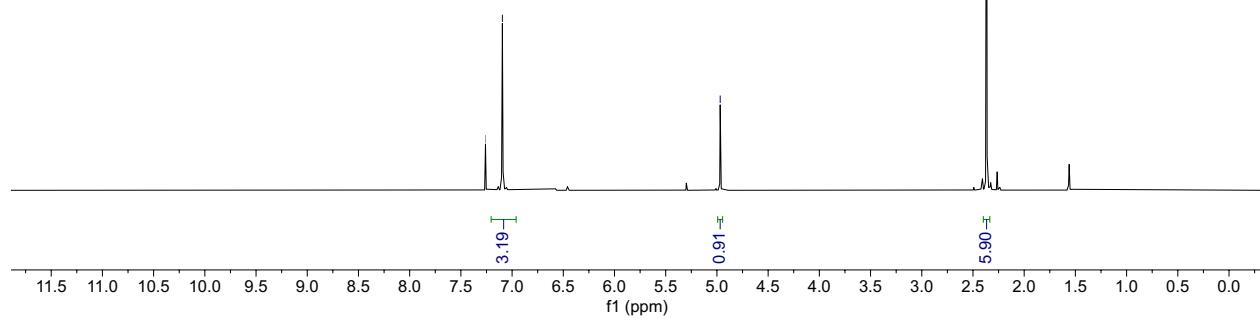


20200908_vnmrs_500_RM_XVII_68b_5_12-PROTON_01
RM_XVII_68b_5_12

¹H NMR
400 MHz, CDCl₃

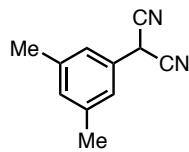


S19

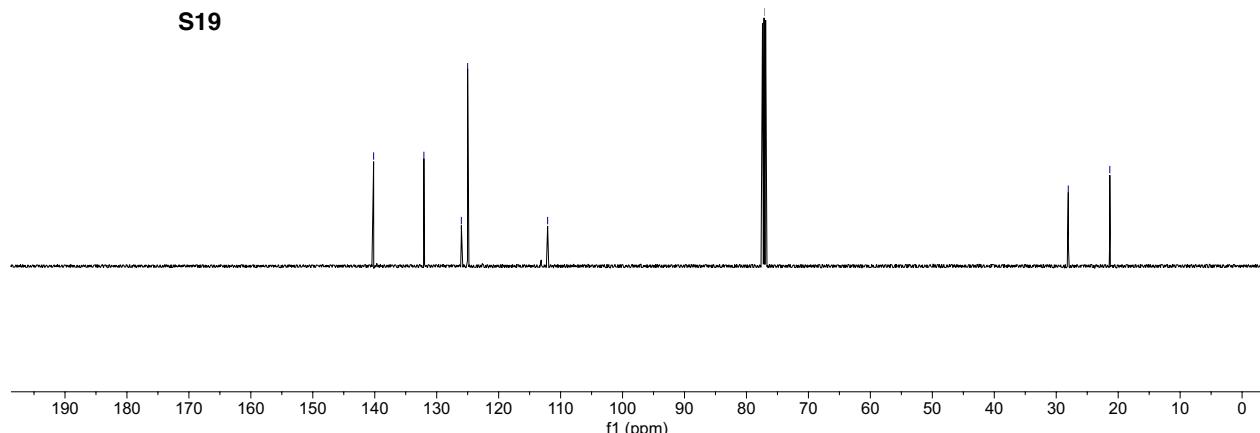


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RM_XVII_68b_5_12

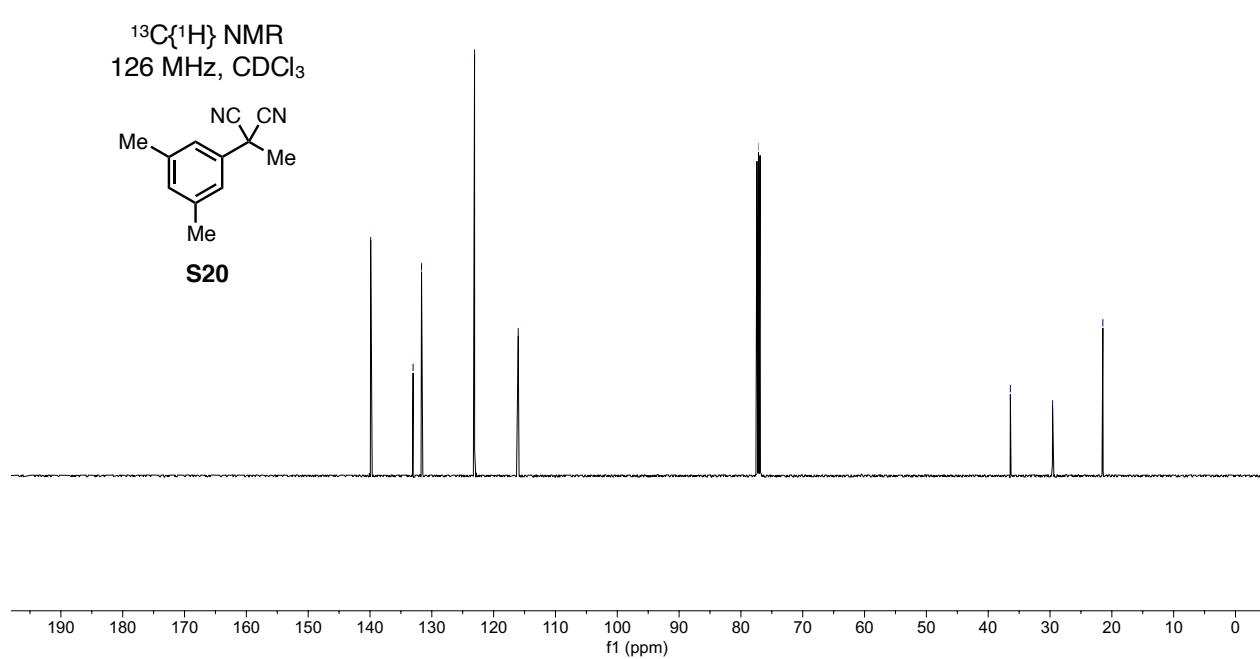
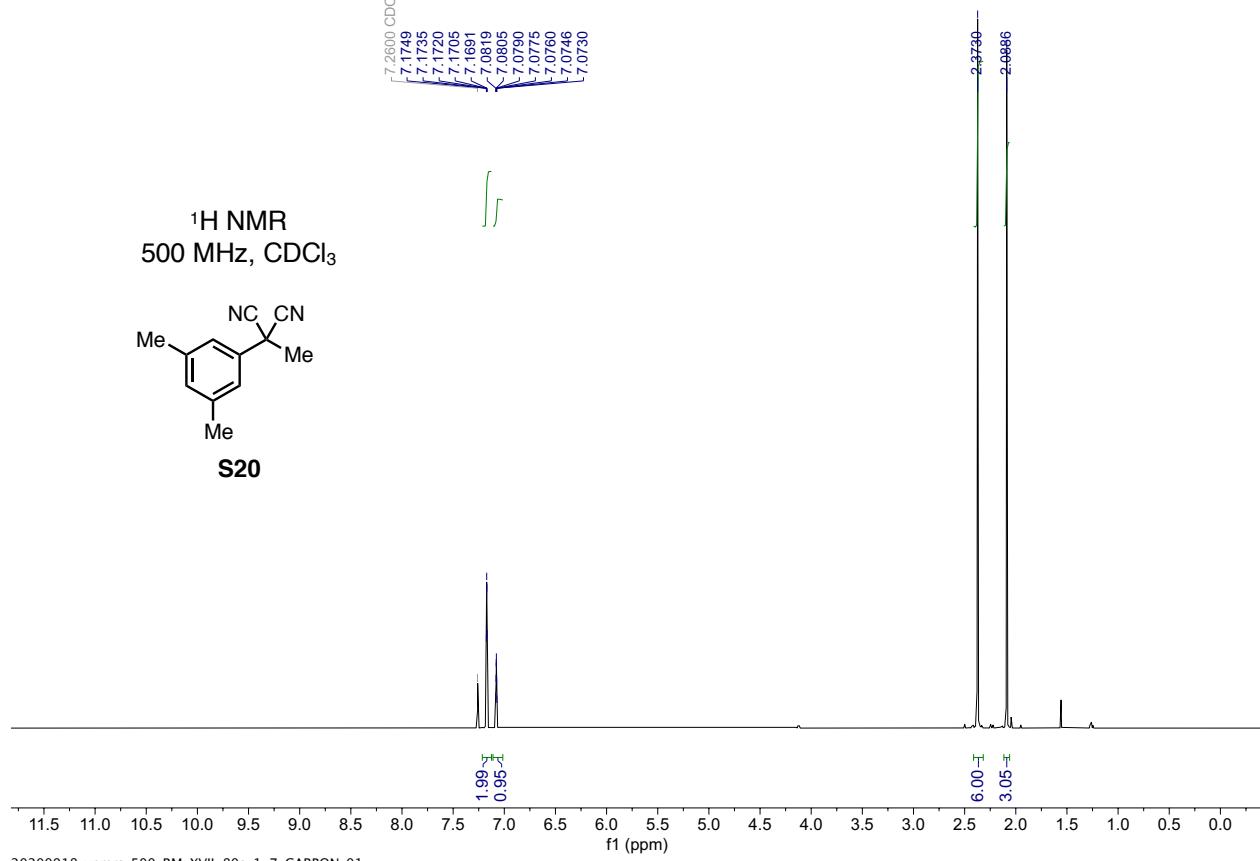
¹³C{¹H} NMR
101 MHz, CDCl₃



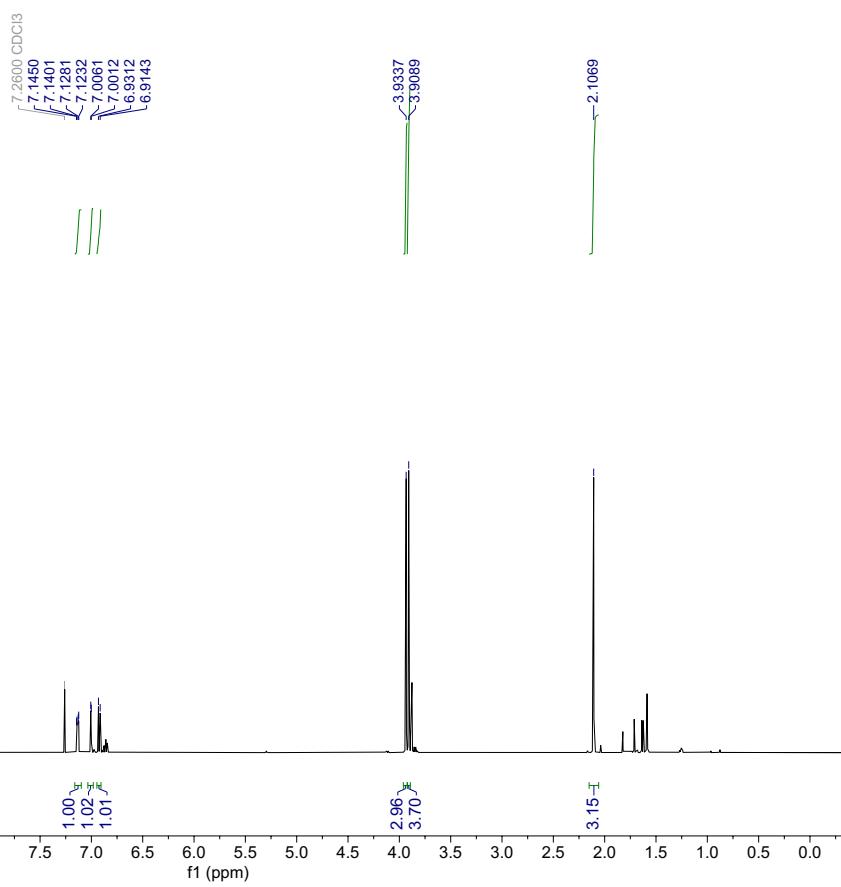
S19



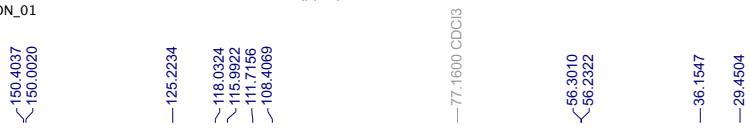
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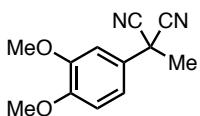
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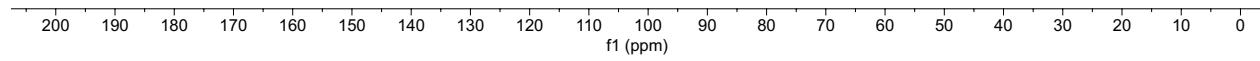
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¹³C{¹H} NMR
126 MHz, CDCl₃

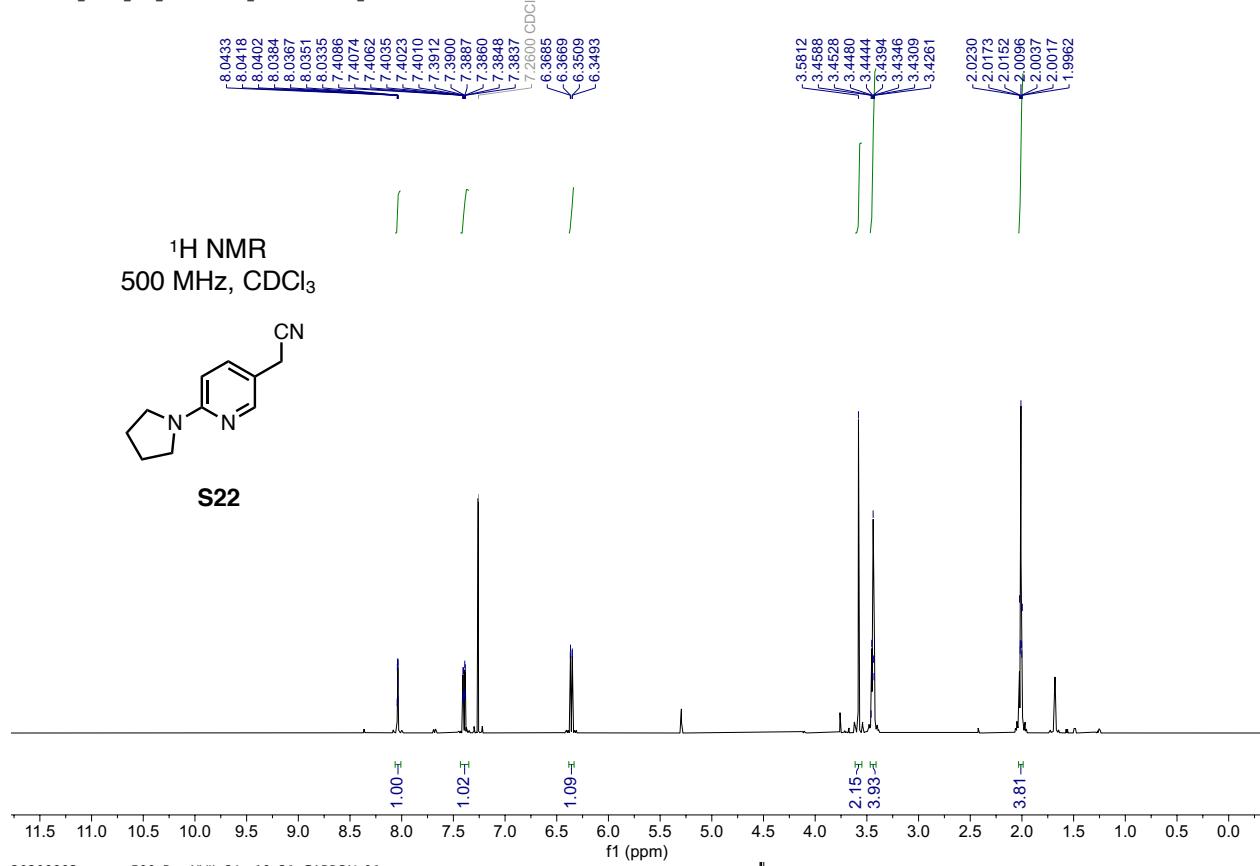


S21

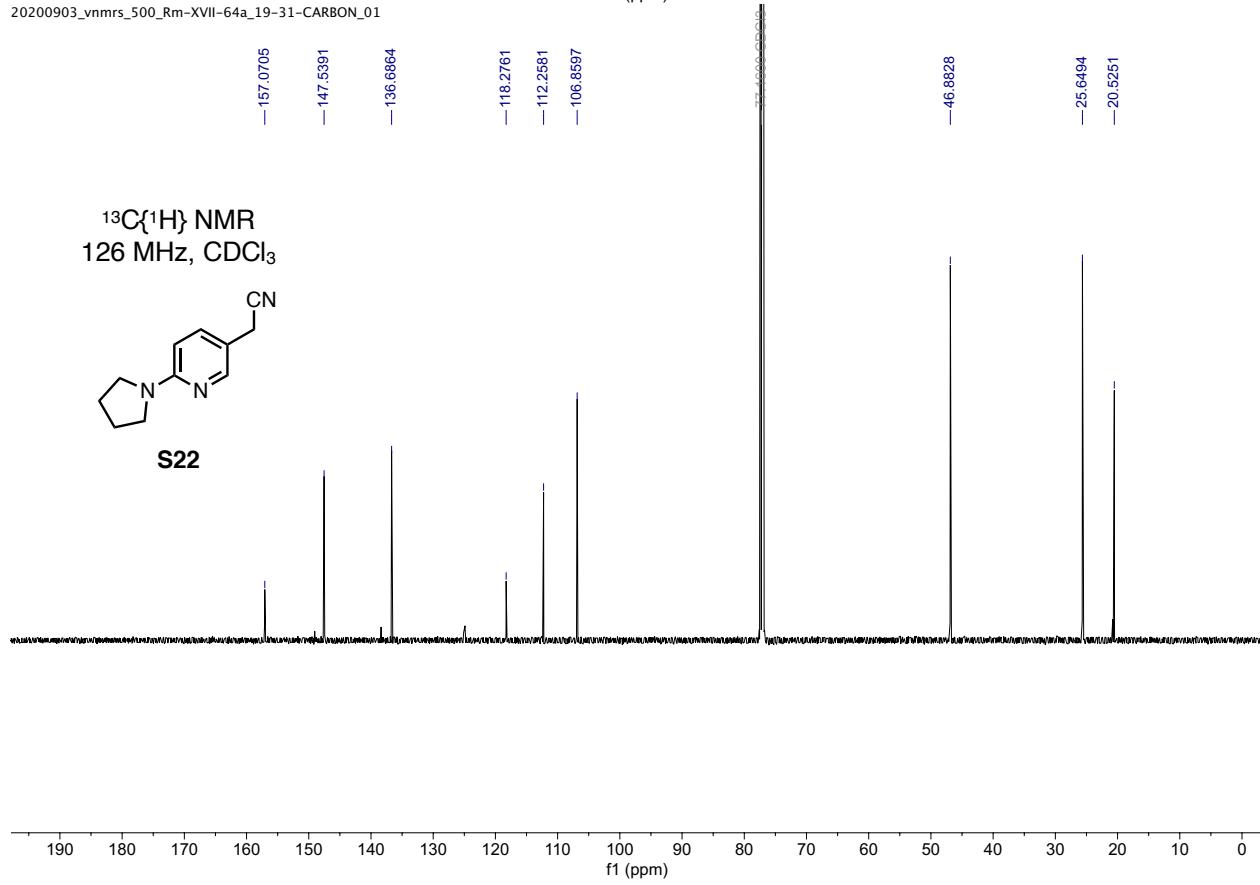


S92

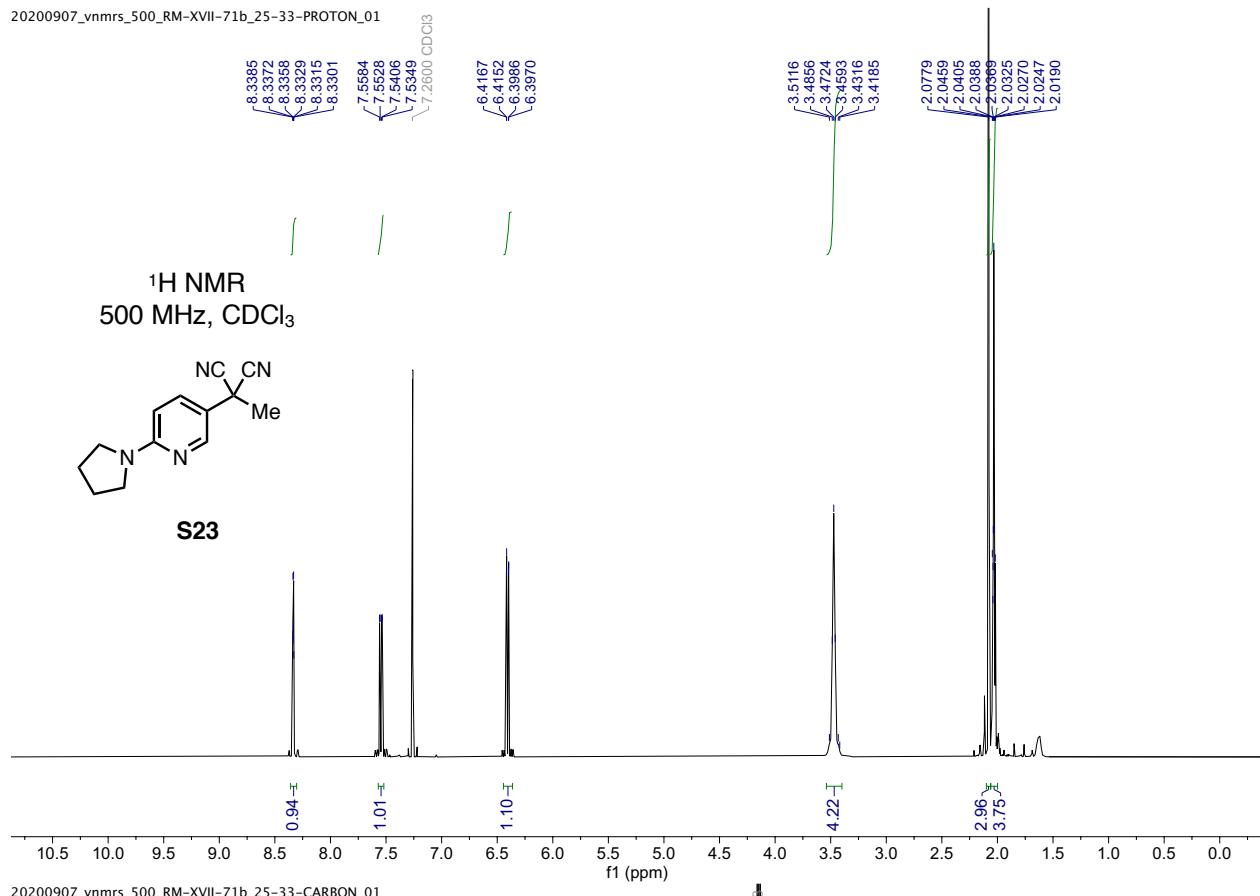
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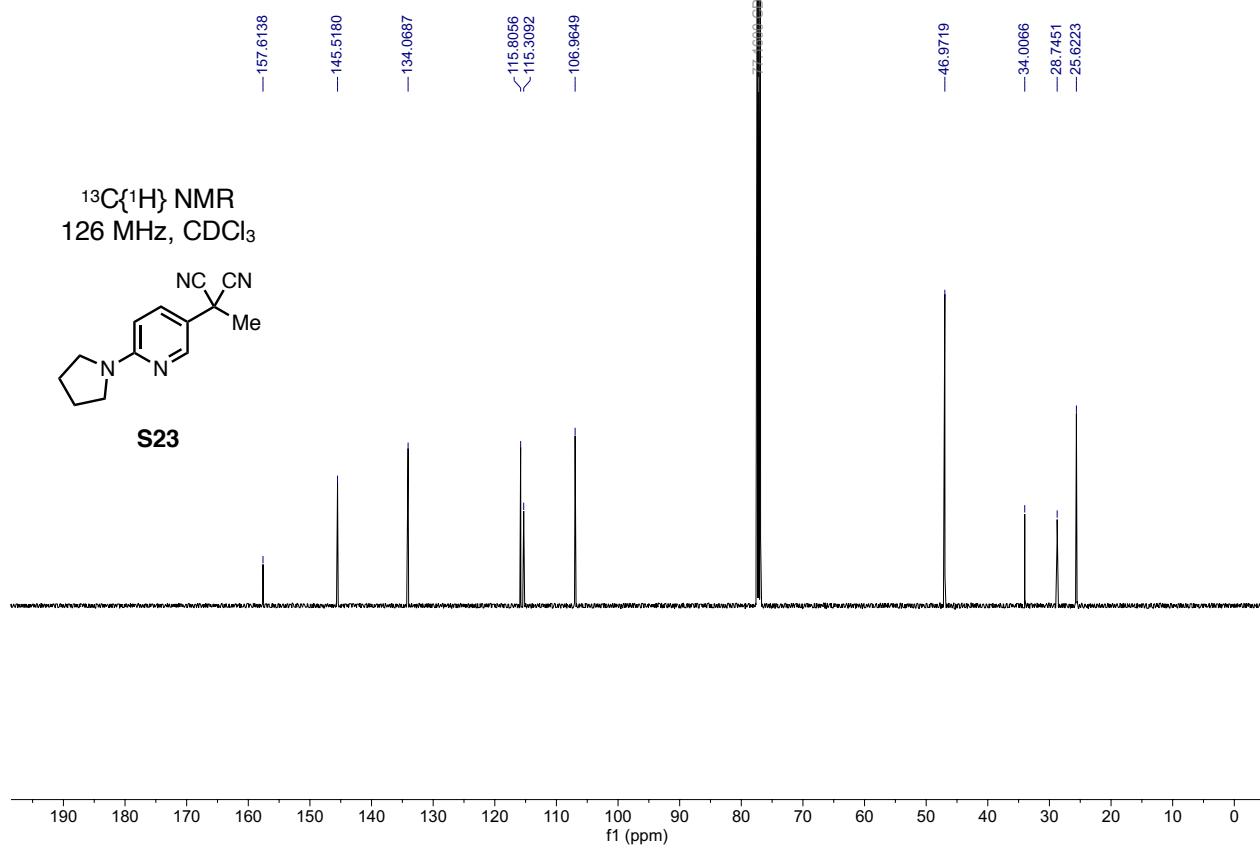
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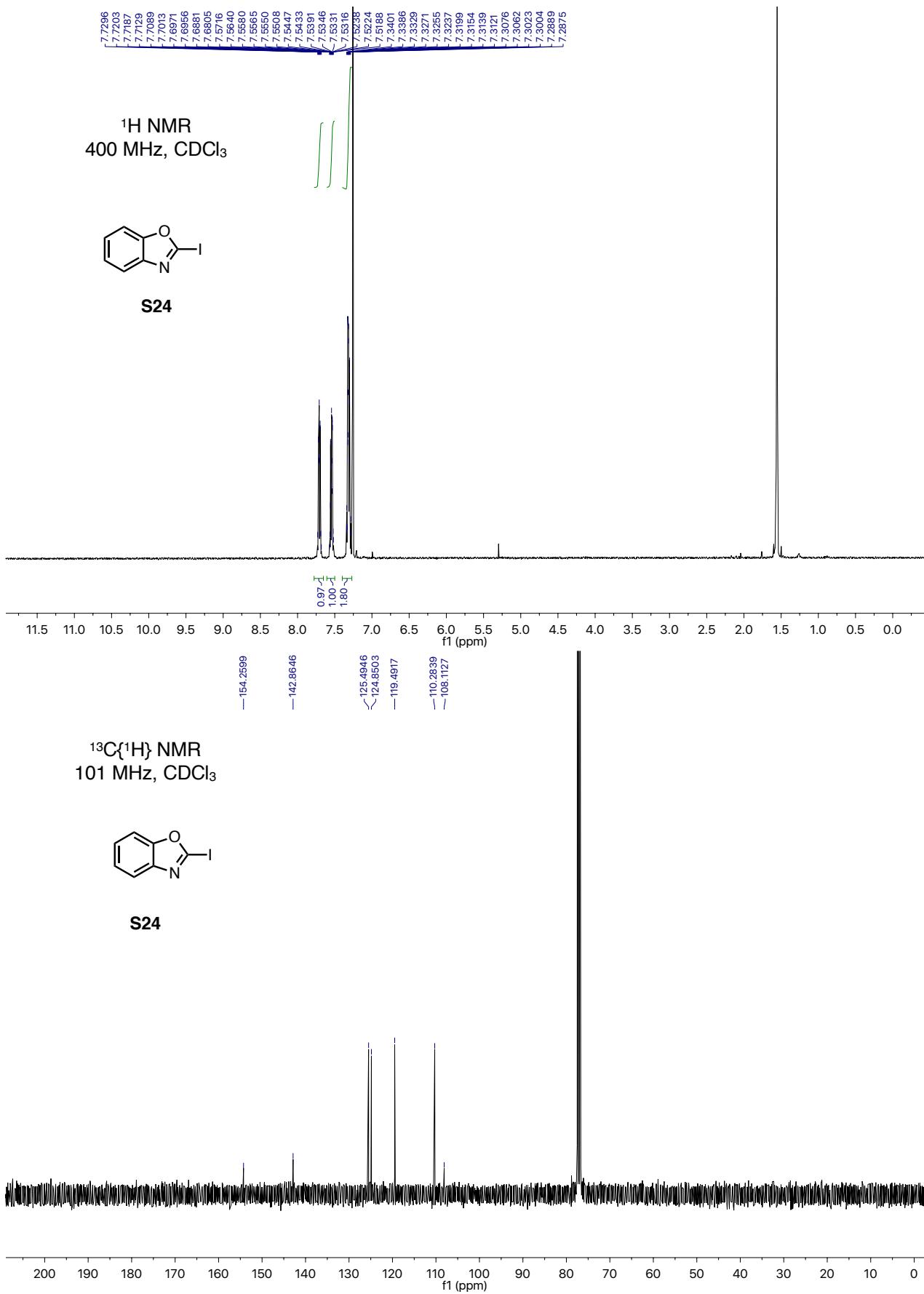


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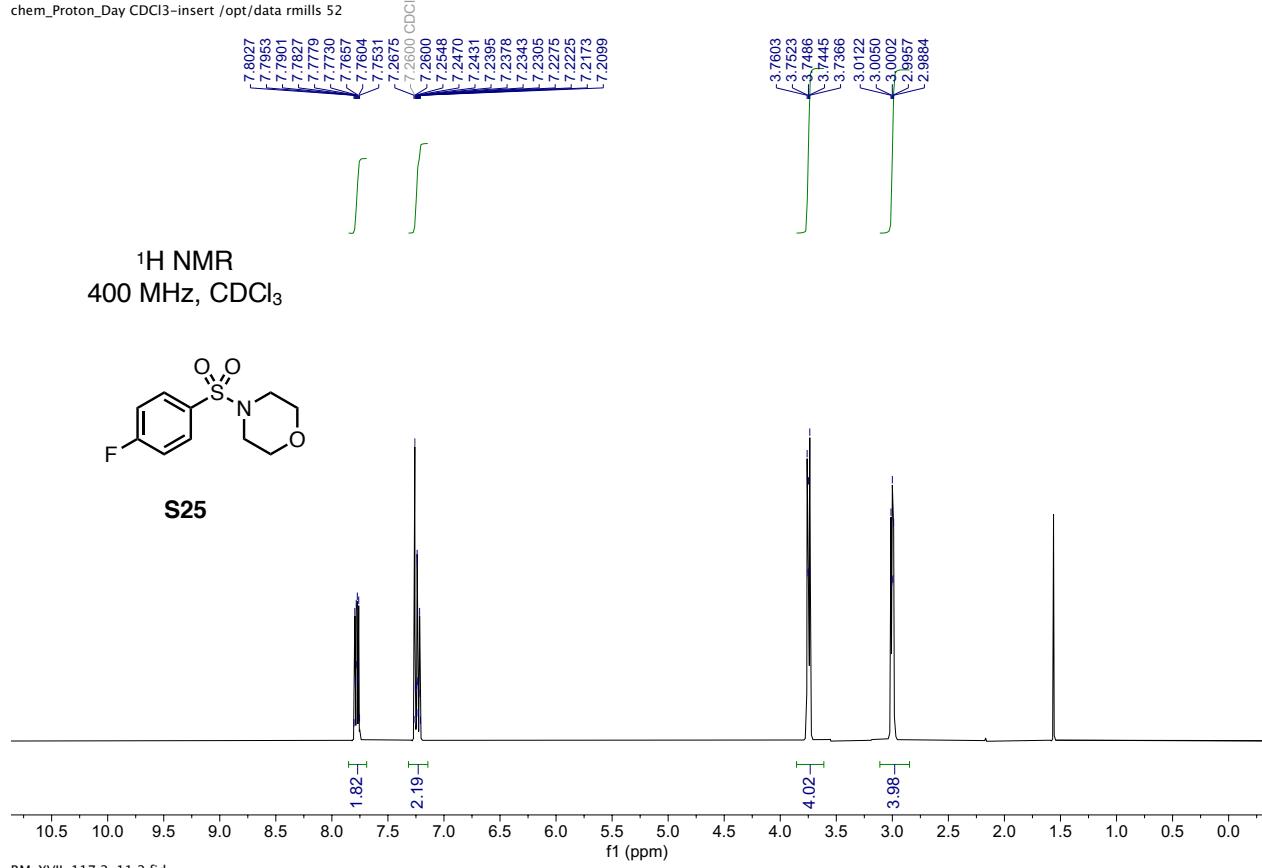


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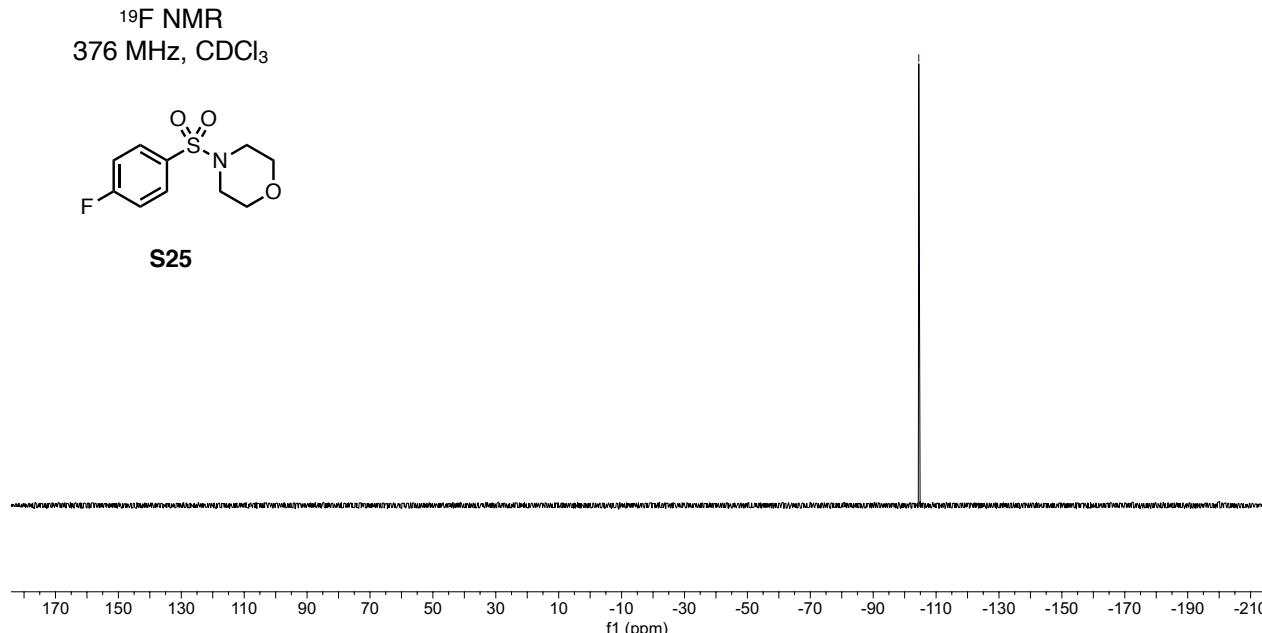




RM-XVII-117 2-11.1.fid
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RM-XVII-117 2-11.2.fid
chem_Fluorine CDCl₃-insert /opt/data rmills 52



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