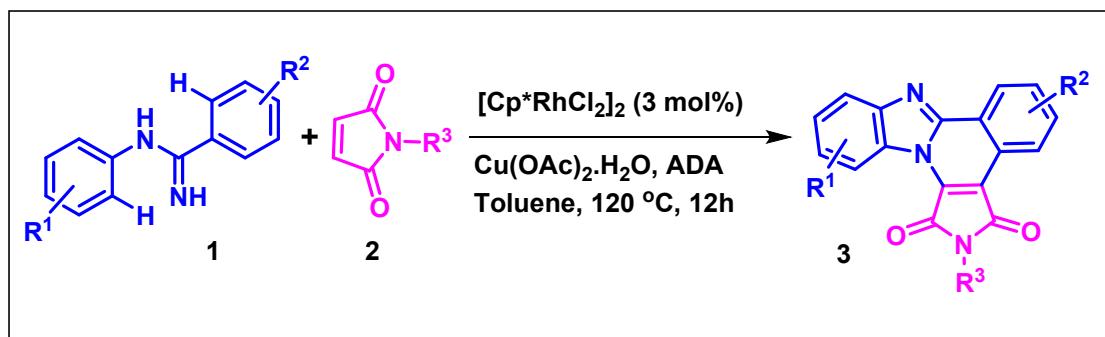


*Supporting Information for*

**Rhodium(III)-catalyzed oxidative annulation of N-arylbenzamidines with maleimides *via* dual C-H bondactivation**

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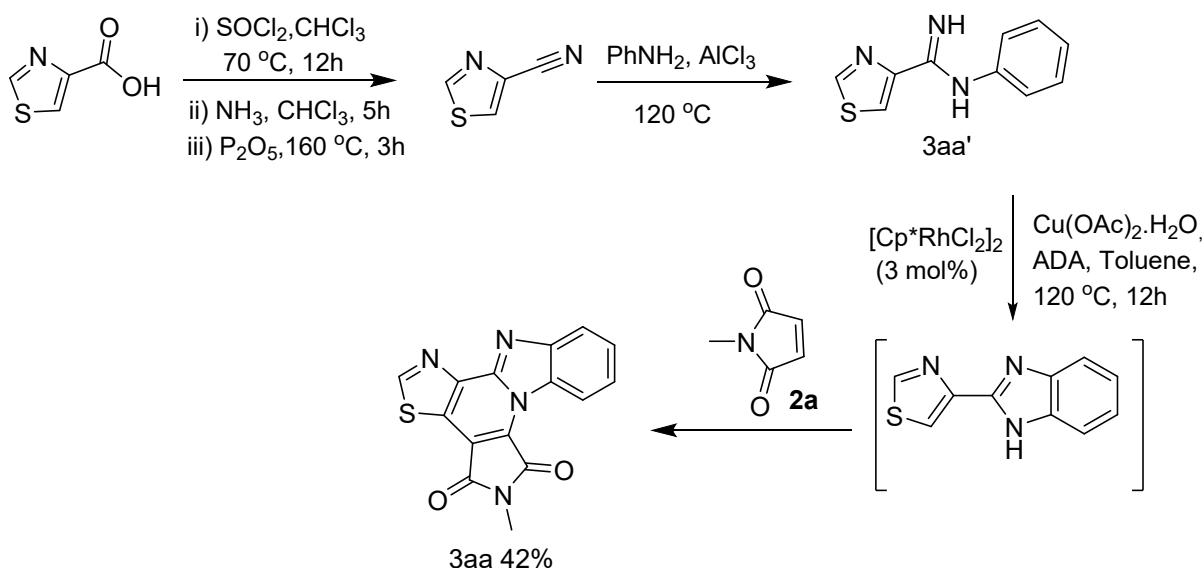
## 1. Experimental Section

All solvents were dried by a standard literature procedure. Crude products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel of 60–120 or 100–200 mesh. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light at 254 nm, and by exposure to iodine vapors and/or by exposure to methanolic acidic solution of *p*-anisaldehyde followed by heating (<1 min) on a hot plate (~250°C). Organic solvents were concentrated on rotary evaporator at 35–40 °C. Melting points (**m.p.**) were measured on Buchi B-540. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (proton-decoupled) spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent on 300, 400 or 500 MHz, NMR spectrometer. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported in parts per million (ppm) with respect to TMS as an internal standard. Coupling constants ( $J$ ) are quoted in hertz (Hz). Mass spectra and HRMS were recorded on mass spectrometer by Electrospray ionization (ESI) or Atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) technique.

### General procedure for the synthesis of 3a-jj:

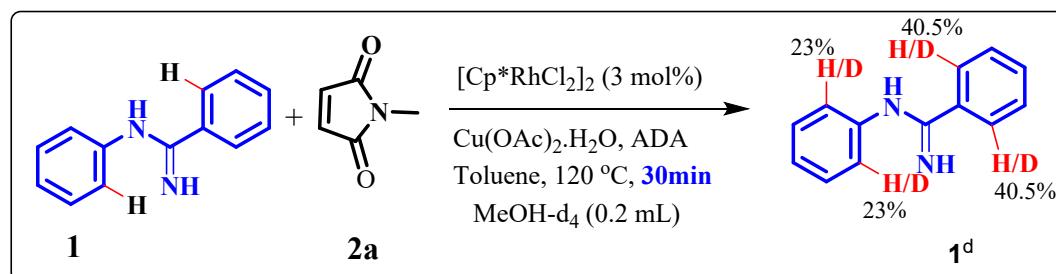
To an oven dried sealed tube was equipped with a stir bar were charged with *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 1.0 equiv), *N*-methylmaleimide (**2a**, 1.3 equiv) in 3mL of toluene, followed by addition of [RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (3 mol%) and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.0 equiv) and ADA(Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid) as an additive (1.0 equiv) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 12h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/hexane) to afford the pure product **3a**.

### Application of present protocol for the synthesis of biologically active tiabendazole and its further annulation:



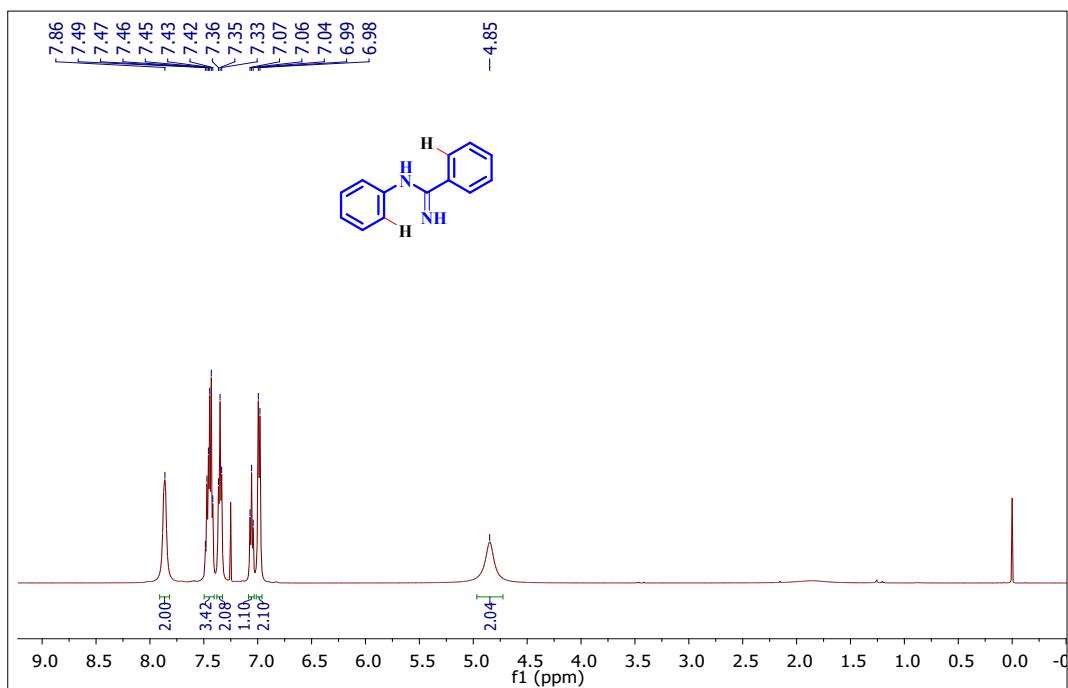
To a round bottom flask containing thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (1.0g, 7.75 mmol) in 15 mL CHCl<sub>3</sub> was added SOCl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) drop wise under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at room temperature. Then the mixture was heated to reflux for 10h. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and then NH<sub>3</sub> solution (2 mL) was added drop wise at 0 °C. After addition, the mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 5h. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to get the product as a white solid (0.5 g, 1 equiv), which was then treated with P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (1.55g, 1.2 equiv) at 160 °C for 3h. The mixture was quenched with water, extracted with ethyl acetate and concentrated under vacuo to get the nitrile. To a stirred mixture of nitrile and aniline (200 mg, 1 equiv) was added AlCl<sub>3</sub> (290 mg, 1 equiv) portion wise. The resulting mixture was heated to 120 °C. After completion of the reaction, ice cold water was added and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuo. The imidine (**3aa'**) was purified by column chromatography (87% yield). Further reaction was performed between imidine **3aa'** and *N*-methylmaleimide **2a** under present reaction conditions. The corresponding polycyclic compound **3aa** was obtained in 42% yield.

#### DEUTERIUM EXCHANGE EXPERIMENT:

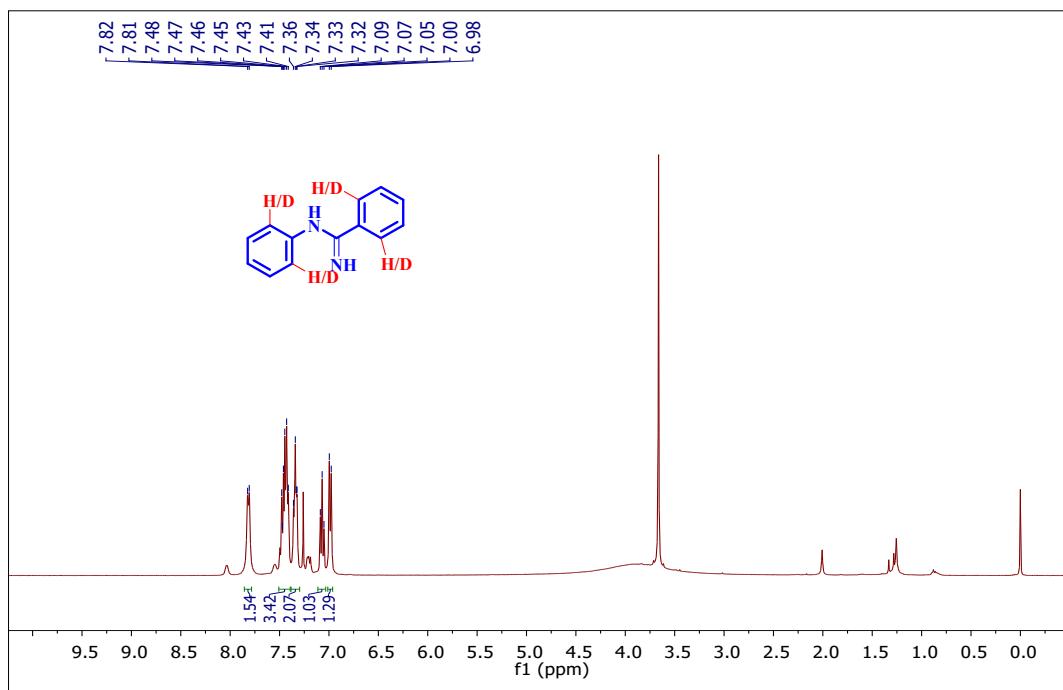


To an oven dried sealed tube were charged with *N*-phenylbenzimidamide (**1a**, 1.0 equiv), *N*-methylmaleimide (**2a**, 1.3 equiv) in 3mL of toluene and 0.2mL MeOH, followed by addition of [RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>(3 mol%) and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2.0 equiv) and ADA(Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid) (1.0 equiv) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at 120°C for 30 min and then concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude sample was submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The H/D exchanges were found to be 23% and 40.5%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR of compound **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>:

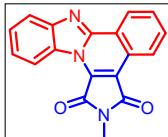


<sup>1</sup>H NMR of deuterated compound **1d** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>:



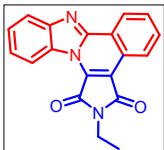
## 2. Characterization data of the products:

### 2-Methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3a):



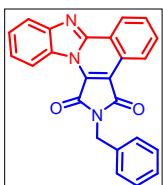
Yellow semi-solid (0.118 g, 77%), m.p. 207-208 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.11 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (s, 1H), 8.68 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 163.7, 147.8, 143.4, 132.0, 131.5, 130.7, 129.6, 126.6, 126.0, 125.1, 124.7, 124.5, 123.9, 119.6, 116.2, 115.2, 24.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 302.0924 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 302.0911.

### 2-Ethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3b):



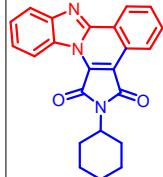
Yellow semi-solid (0.130 g, 81%), mp 215-216 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.90 – 8.85 (m, 1H), 8.83 – 8.78 (m, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 163.7, 148.2, 144.1, 132.2, 131.2, 130.5, 129.8, 126.3, 125.8, 125.0, 124.8, 123.7, 119.8, 116.2, 114.8, 33.3, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 316.1081 [M+H], found: 316.1065.

### 2-Benzyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3c):



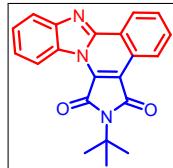
Yellow semi-solid (0.140 g, 73%), mp 220-222 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.88 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 8.82 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.3, 163.5, 144.2, 136.0, 132.2, 131.3, 130.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 126.8, 126.4, 125.8, 125.72, 125.5, 125.2, 123.7, 119.9, 116.3, 41.9. HRMS calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 378.1237 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 378.1218.

### 2-Cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3d):



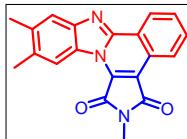
Yellow semi-solid (0.143 g, 76%), mp 215-216 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.15 – 4.08 (m, 1H), 2.21– 2.15 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.79 (m, 4H), 1.69 – 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.34 – 1.28 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.7, 163.9, 148.3, 144.2, 132.1, 131.2, 130.4, 129.8, 126.2, 125.7, 124.9, 124.9, 124.8, 123.6, 119.8, 116.3, 114.4, 51.4, 30.2, 26.1, 25.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 370.1550 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 370.1530.

**2-(tert-Butyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3e):**



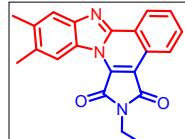
Yellow semi-solid (0.138 g, 79%), mp 218-219 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.95 – 8.89 (m, 1H), 8.88 – 8.83 (m, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.9, 164.9, 148.3, 144.2, 131.8, 131.1, 130.2, 129.7, 126.1, 125.7, 125.0, 124.7, 123.5, 120.2, 119.7, 116.5, 114.2, 58.7, 29.3. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 344.1394 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 344.1375.

**2,10,11-Trimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3f):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.119 g, 71%), mp 235-236 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.83 (s, 2H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.71 – 7.68 (m, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 163.5, 136.8, 134.1, 131.6, 131.0, 128.5, 127.6, 126.2, 124.8, 123.7, 118.7, 116.0, 115.5, 29.7, 24.3, 20.7, 20.6. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 330.1237 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 330.1221.

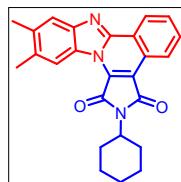
**2-Ethyl-10,11-dimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3g):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.130g, 74%), mp 240-241 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.88 (s, 1H), 8.79 (s, 1H), 8.72 – 8.66 (m, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 3.78 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.0,

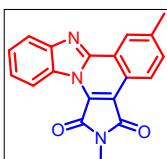
163.4, 137.2, 134.3, 132.0, 131.5, 131.1, 127.5, 126.8, 125.0, 123.4, 118.5, 116.2, 33.5, 29.7, 20.9, 20.6, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 344.1394 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 344.1376.

**2-Cyclohexyl-10,11-dimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3h):**



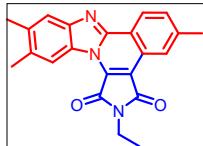
Yellow semi-solid (0.140 g, 69%), mp 243-244 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 4.15 – 4.09 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.25 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.69 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.32 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 163.5, 146.3, 139.0, 137.2, 134.4, 132.2, 131.4, 127.6, 126.8, 125.2, 123.6, 118.5, 116.5, 115.7, 51.6, 30.6, 29.7, 26.1, 25.2, 21.0, 20.7. HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 398.1863 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 398.1841.

**2,6-Dimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3i):**



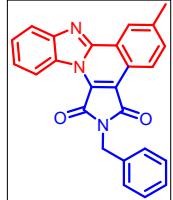
Yellow semi-solid (0.113g, 70%), mp 230-231°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.13 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6, 163.9, 142.2, 133.9, 132.1, 130.9, 130.4, 129.8, 127.9, 125.6, 125.3, 124.9, 124.5, 119.3, 115.7, 115.6, 114.7, 24.1, 22.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 316.1081[M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 316.1065.

**2-Ethyl-5,10,11-trimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3j):**



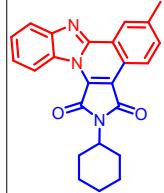
Yellow semi-solid (0.142g, 78%), mp 288-289 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 – 3.80 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 6H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6, 163.8, 147.7, 142.8, 141.4, 135.5, 132.7, 131.7, 128.1, 125.4, 124.6, 124.4, 122.5, 119.4, 115.7, 113.9, 33.1, 22.0, 20.7, 20.6, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 358.2376 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 358.2361.

**2-Benzyl-6-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3k):**



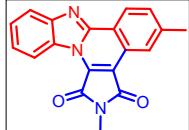
Yellow semi-solid (0.136 g, 68%), mp 245-246 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.21 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.72 – 8.62 (m, 2H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.3, 163.6, 147.8, 141.9, 136.0, 133.2, 131.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.1, 126.5, 125.8, 124.9, 124.5, 123.8, 122.5, 119.6, 116.3, 115.6, 41.9, 29.7, 22.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 392.1394[M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 392.1376.

**2-Cyclohexyl-6-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3l):**



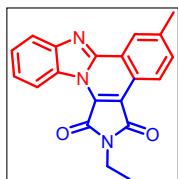
Yellow semi-solid (0.115 g, 71%), mp 240-241 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.21 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.31 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.86 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.39 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 163.8, 142.1, 134.8, 133.6, 130.9, 129.6, 126.8, 126.1, 125.0, 124.1, 122.8, 119.2, 116.6, 51.5, 30.2, 26.1, 25.2, 22.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 384.1706 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 384.1688.

**2,5-Dimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3m):**



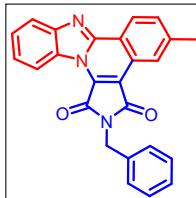
Yellow semi-solid (0.113 g, 70%), mp 240-241 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 163.6, 147.7, 142.7, 132.5, 131.9, 129.5, 126.6, 125.9, 124.9, 124.7, 123.8, 121.8, 119.3, 116.3, 115.2, 29.7, 24.2, 22.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 316.1080 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 316.1065.

**2-Ethyl-6-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3n):**



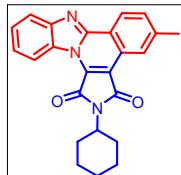
Yellow semi-solid (0.119 g, 71%), mp 235-236 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.24 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (s, 1H), 8.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 163.7, 142.9, 142.0, 133.4, 131.1, 129.7, 126.7, 126.0, 125.0, 124.5, 123.9, 122.7, 119.6, 116.4, 115.8, 33.4, 22.3, 14.3. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 330.1237 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 330.1223.

**2-Benzyl-5-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3o):**



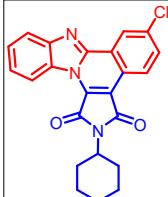
Yellow semi-solid (0.140g, 70%), mp 256-257 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.19 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 3H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.3, 163.4, 147.9, 142.6, 135.9, 132.5, 131.9, 129.5, 128.8, 128.2, 126.6, 125.9, 125.2 – 125.0, 124.9, 123.8, 122.1, 119.4, 116.3, 115.1, 41.9, 22.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: 392.1393 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 392.1371.

**2-Cyclohexyl-5-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3p):**



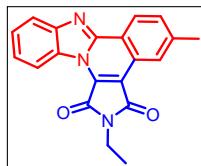
Yellow semi-solid (0.141 g, 72%), mp 248-250 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.32 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.85 (m, 6H), 1.42-1.36 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 163.7, 143.5, 132.9, 131.8, 129.4, 127.0, 126.6, 125.4, 124.9, 124.2, 121.6, 118.9, 116.7, 115.6, 51.6, 30.3, 29.7, 26.1, 25.2, 22.3 HRMS calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 384.1706 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 384.1686.

**6-Chloro-2-cyclohexyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)dione (3q):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.125 g, 61%), mp 266-267 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.16 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.87 (s, 1H), 8.82-8.80 (m, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.87 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.25 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.21(m, 2H), 1.96-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.48-1.36 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.4, 163.9, 132.2, 131.9 – 130.6, 130.63 – 130.6, 128.3, 126.1, 125.2, 125.19 – 124.52, 124.2, 123.5, 119.3, 117.4, 115.1, 51.5, 30.3, 26.1, 25.2. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{Cl}$ : 404.1160 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 404.1138.

**2-Ethyl-5-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3r):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.126 g, 75%), mp 243-244 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.16 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.71 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.5, 163.7, 148.2, 143.7, 142.4, 132.2, 129.7, 126.4, 125.8, 124.9, 124.6, 123.6, 122.3, 119.5, 116.2, 114.8, 33.3, 22.0, 14.1. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3$ : 330.1237 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 330.1221.

**5-Fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3s):**



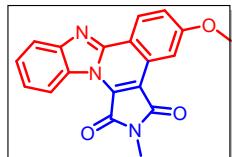
Yellow semi-solid (0.106 g, 65%), mp 269-270 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.83 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.41 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 164.1 (d,  ${}^1J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 251.7$  Hz, A-F), 163.4, 147.7, 144.1, 133.1, 129.5, 128.4 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz), 126.5, 126.3 (d,  $J = 10.7$  Hz), 123.8, 121.2, 119.8, 119.2 (d,  $J = 23.9$  Hz), 116.13, 113.8, 110.6 (d,  ${}^2J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 24.2$  Hz, A-F), 24.2(s). HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{F}$ : 320.0829 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 322.0823.

**5-Bromo-2-ethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3t):**



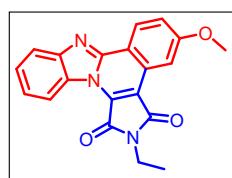
Yellow semi-solid (0.134 g, 67%), mp 196-198 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.20 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.9, 163.2, 133.9, 133.1, 129.6, 127.5, 127.3, 126.8, 126.5, 125.9, 124.2, 123.1, 119.7, 116.3, 113.7, 33.4, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Br: 394.0185 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 394.0173.

**5-Methoxy-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3u):**



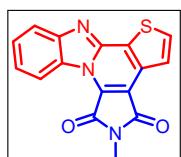
Yellow semi-solid (0.115 g, 68%), mp 242-244 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.04 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.82-8.76 (m, 2H), 7.82 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.7, 164.0, 158.8, 148.7, 145.7, 131.7, 131.1, 130.4, 125.6, 124.9, 124.5, 124.5, 124.2, 116.8, 114.3, 113.8, 101.0, 55.7, 24.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 332.1081 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 332.1074.

**5-Diethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3v):**



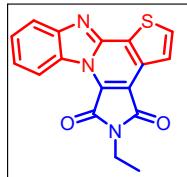
Yellow semi-solid (0.123 g, 70%), mp 251-253 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.97 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.79 – 8.68 (m, 2H), 7.78 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.82 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 163.5, 159.1, 147.9, 144.1, 131.4, 131.3, 130.6, 125.8, 124.9, 124.7, 123.7, 116.9, 114.8, 114.3, 100.3, 55.7, 33.3, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 346.1186 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 346.1175.

**5-Methyl-4H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrrolo[3,4-e]thieno[2,3-c]pyridine-4,6(5H)-dione (3w):**



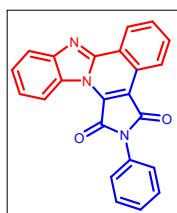
Yellow semi-solid (0.111 g, 71%), mp 269-270 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.7, 164.0, 145.6, 144.8, 132.4, 131.7, 131.3, 131.1, 129.2, 126.9, 123.3, 122.9, 119.8, 116.4, 24.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>S: 308.1160 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 308.1138

**5-Ethyl-4H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrrolo[3,4-e]thieno[2,3-c]pyridine-4,6(5H)-dione (3x):**



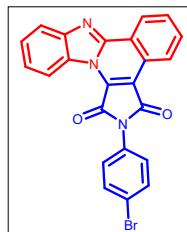
Yellow semi-solid (0.122g, 75%), mp 273-274 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.21 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 163.8, 145.6, 144.8, 132.4, 131.7, 131.3, 131.2, 129.2, 126.8, 123.3, 122.9, 119.8, 116.4, 114.5, 33.4, 14.1. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ : 322.0644 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 322.0631.

**2-Phenyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3y):**



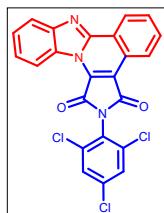
Yellow semi-solid (0.135g, 70%), mp 259-261 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.25 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.98 – 8.92 (m, 1H), 8.88 (dd,  $J$  = 6.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (dd,  $J$  = 6.1, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.48 (m, 7H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 162.9, 144.3, 143.5, 132.1, 131.4, 130.9, 129.9, 129.3, 128.5, 127.9, 126.8, 126.5, 125.9, 125.3, 125.2, 124.7, 123.9, 120.0, 116.3, 114.7. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3$ : 364.1080 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 364.1068.

**2-(4-Bromophenyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3z):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.133g, 59%), mp 270-272 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.25 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.88 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.1, 162.6, 148.2, 133.1, 132.6, 132.1, 131.8, 131.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.2, 126.8, 126.2, 125.4, 124.8, 124.2, 122.3, 119.9, 117.6, 116.4, 114.0, 29.8. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{Br}$ : 443.1028 [M+H] $^+$ , found: 443.1022.

**2-(2,4,6-trichlorophenyl)-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3bb):**



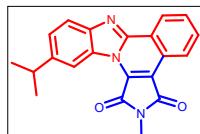
Yellow semi-solid (0.185g, 78%), mp216-218°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.20 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.99 – 8.95 (m, 1H), 8.89 – 8.85 (m, 1H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.58 (s, 2H), 7.52 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.1$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.7, 161.3, 148.3, 144.3, 137.1, 136.6, 132.1, 131.5, 131.2, 129.9, 128.9, 126.6, 126.1, 126.0, 125.5, 125.3, 124.6, 124.0, 120.1, 116.3, 115.4. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{Cl}_3$ : 467.1141  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found: 467.1137.

**2,7-Dimethyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3cc):**



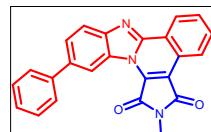
Yellow semi-solid (0.120g, 72%), mp220-222 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.28 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.77 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.7, 162.8, 147.6, 143.2, 138.5, 132.3, 129.2, 127.8, 125.0, 124.8, 122.6, 121.7, 119.1, 114.9, 114.0, 110.6, 32.2, 23.9, 13.1. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3$ : 330.1221  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found: 330.1216.

**11-Isopropyl-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3dd):**



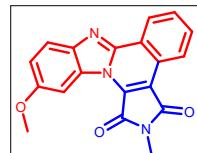
Yellow semi-solid (0.122g, 70%), mp261-263 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.11 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.59 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.16 (m, 1H), 1.40 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.7, 163.8, 152.8, 148.3, 144.2, 132.0, 129.7, 126.2, 125.8, 124.9, 123.4, 122.8, 122.2, 119.6, 116.0, 114.9, 34.5, 24.0, 23.7. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3$ : 344.1041  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found: 344.1039.

**2-Methyl-11-phenyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3ee):**



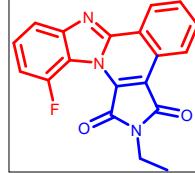
Yellow semi-solid (0.153g, 80%), mp 180-183 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.23 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.92 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6, 163.8, 148.1, 145.9, 144.3, 144.0, 139.3, 129.8, 129.5, 129.1, 128.5, 127.52, 126.3, 126.2, 125.2, 123.7, 123.6, 122.8, 119.8, 116.1, 114.8, 24.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 378.1137 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 378.1134.

**11-Methoxy-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3ff):**



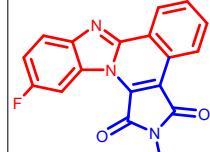
Yellow semi-solid (0.106g, 63%), mp 245-246 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6, 163.9, 161.4, 147.5, 143.9, 129.8, 129.1, 127.8, 126.7, 126.6, 126.1, 125.4, 123.5, 121.8, 119.6, 118.4, 116.2, 115.4, 114.3, 113.9, 106.1, 55.9, 23.9. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: 332.1029 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 332.1018.

**2-Ethyl-12-fluoro-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3gg):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.100g, 59%), mp 240-242 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.84 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 3.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.1, 165.4 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub>=230.2 Hz, A-F) 163.3, 147.8, 144.2, 133.2, 129.6, 128.4 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 9.6 Hz, A-F), 126.5, 123.7, 121.3, 119.8, 119.3, 119.1, 116.2, 113.7, 110.6 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 23.5 Hz, A-F), 33.4, 14.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>F: 334.1057 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 334.1049.

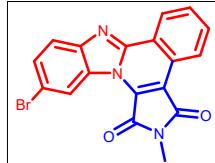
**11-Fluoro-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3hh):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.101g, 62%), mp 252-254 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.81 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 3.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 164.2 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 253.7 Hz, A-F), 163.5, 147.7, 144.1, 133.1, 129.5,

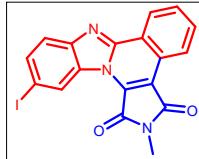
128.5 (d,  $^2J_{C-F} = 9.4$  Hz, A-F), 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 123.8, 121.2, 119.8, (d,  $^1J_{C-F} = 23.9$  Hz, A-F), 116.1, 113.8, 110.6(d,  $J_{C-F} = 24.1$  Hz, A-F), 108.3, 24.2. HRMS calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>F: 320.0830 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 320.0829.

**11-Bromo-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3ii):**



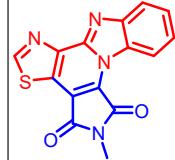
Yellow semi-solid (0.105g, 54%), mp 196-198 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.43 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.86 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.81 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.85 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 161.2, 143.2, 131.6, 131.3, 130.9, 130.6, 129.7, 129.3, 129.2, 126.4, 125.9, 125.2, 124.8, 123.8, 121.1, 119.1, 116.7, 116.2, 24.22. HRMS calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Br: 381.0662 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 381.0658.

**11-Iodo-2-methyl-1H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]isoquinoline-1,3(2H)-dione (3jj):**



Yellow semi-solid (0.156g, 72%), mp 201-203°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.10 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.69 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 3.0, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.56 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 7.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 163.7, 147.9, 144.1, 135.2, 131.2, 130.4, 129.6, 126.3, 125.7, 124.9, 124.5, 123.7, 121.3, 119.8, 116.0, 114.7, 86.9, 24.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>I: 427.9890 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 427.9873.

**5-Methyl-4H-benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-a]pyrrolo[3,4-e]thiazolo[4,5-c]pyridine-4,6(5H)-dione (3aa):**



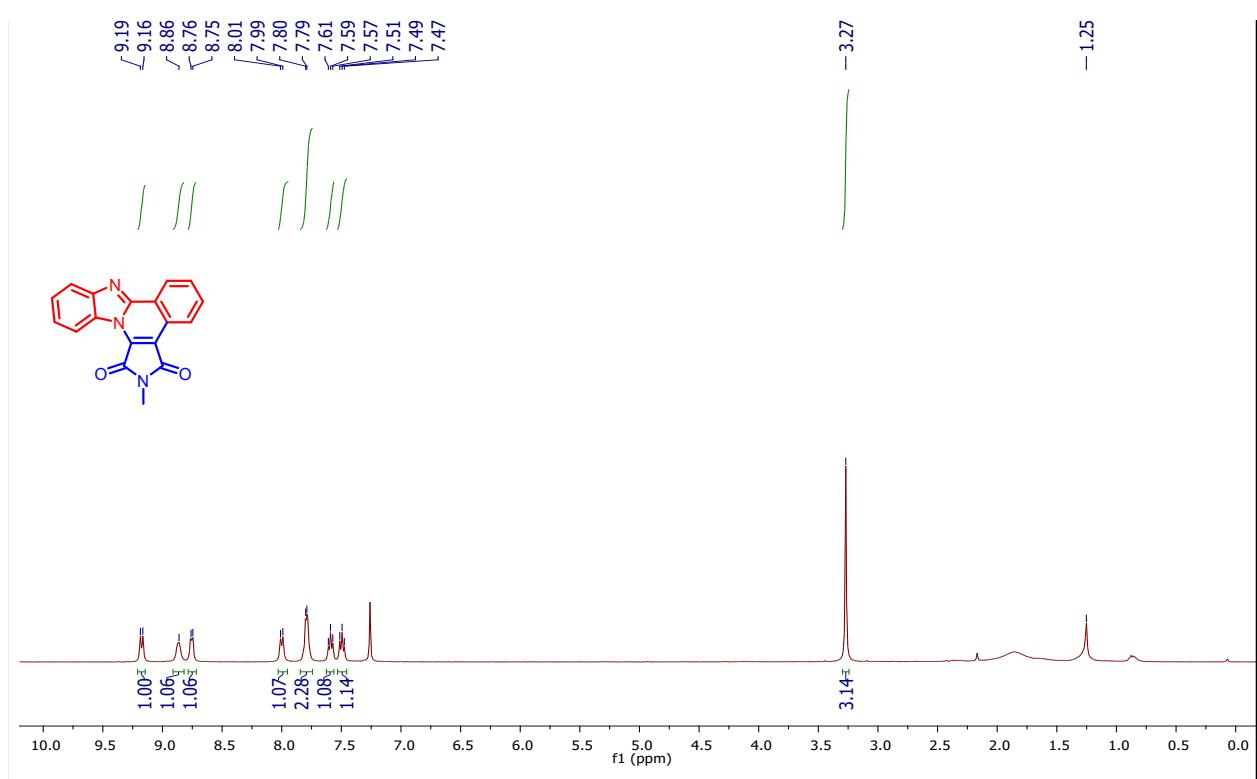
Yellow semi-solid (0.066g, 42%), mp 274-276 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.79 (s, 1H), 9.21 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.17 – 3.15 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 166.4, 163.9, 161.5, 145.2, 144.6, 144.5, 132.4, 129.3, 127.3, 123.5, 122.3, 120.4, 116.6, 24.7. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>S: 309.0441 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 309.0433.

***N*-Phenylthiazole-4-carboximidamide (3aa'):**

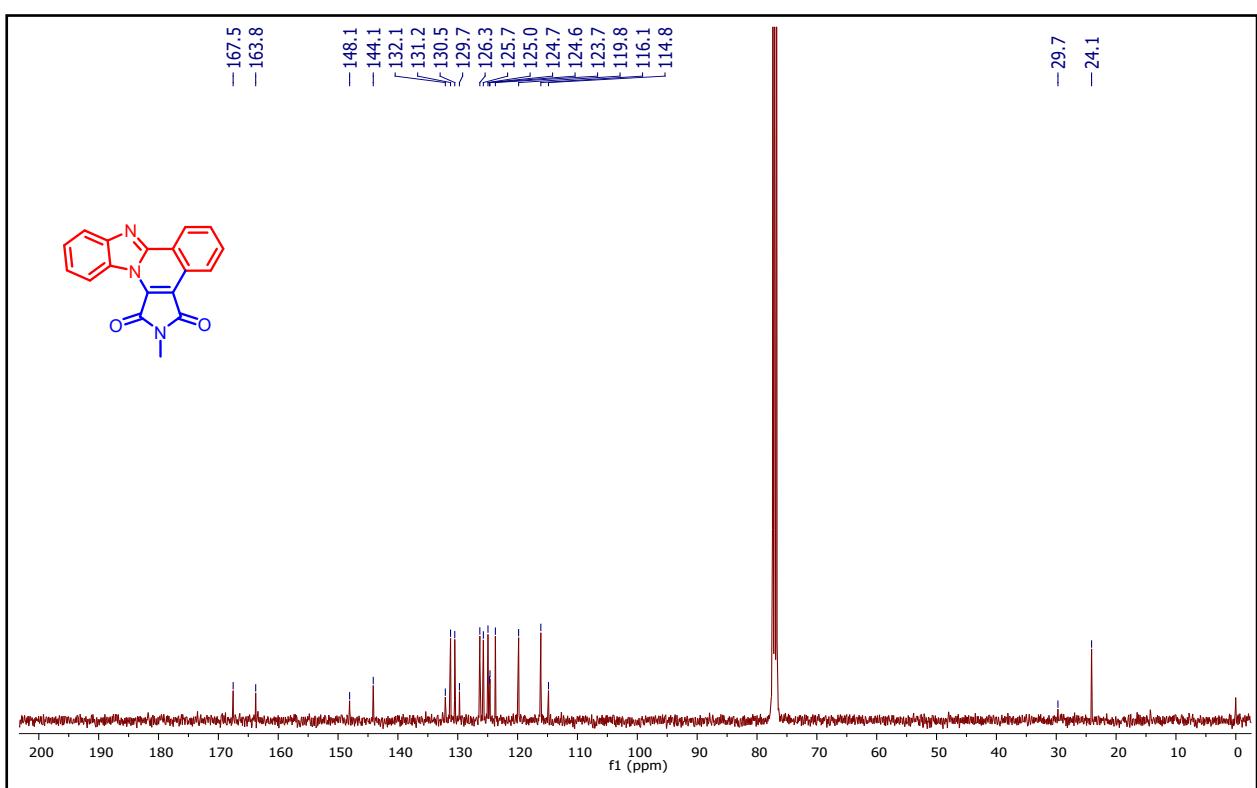


Browne semi-solid (0.130g, 87%),  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.79 (s, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.2, 151.7, 149.6, 148.4, 129.6, 127.8, 123.5, 122.0, 120.4, HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_3\text{S} = 202.0433$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found: 202.0429.

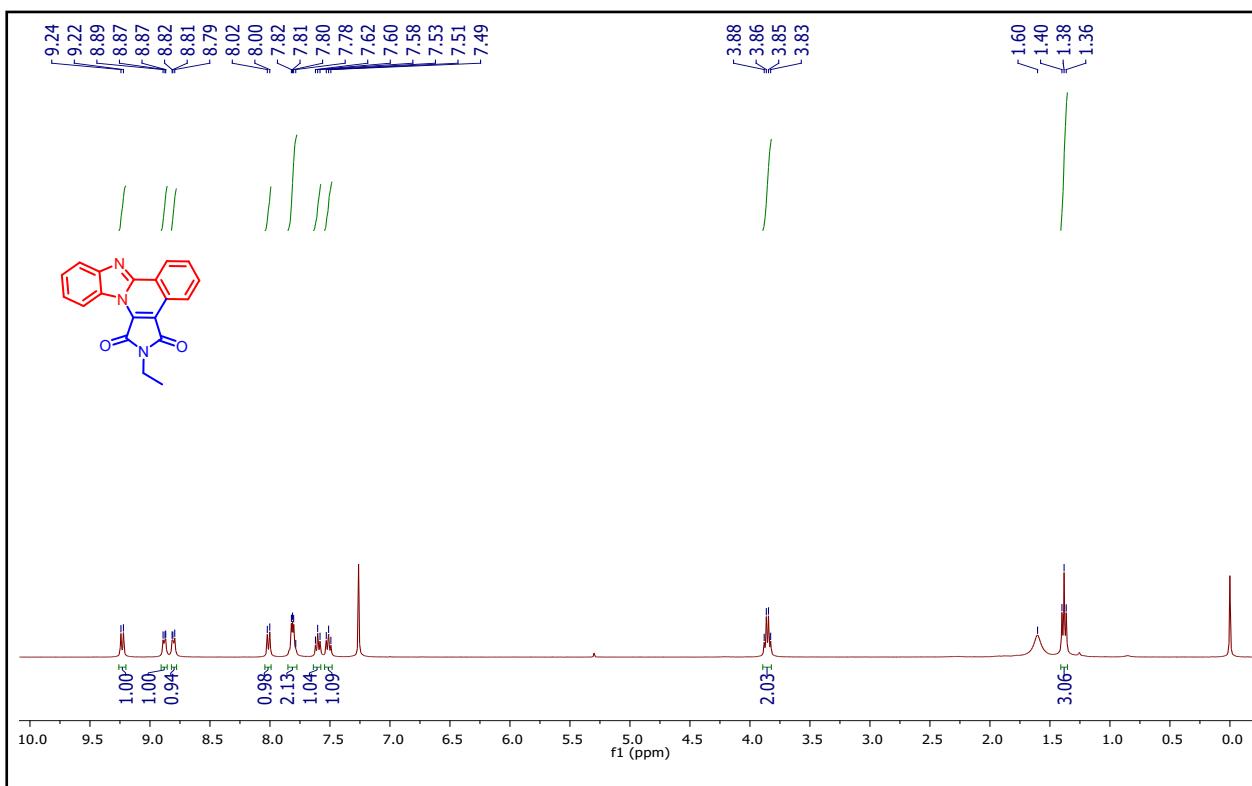
**3. NMR spectra of the products:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of **3a**:



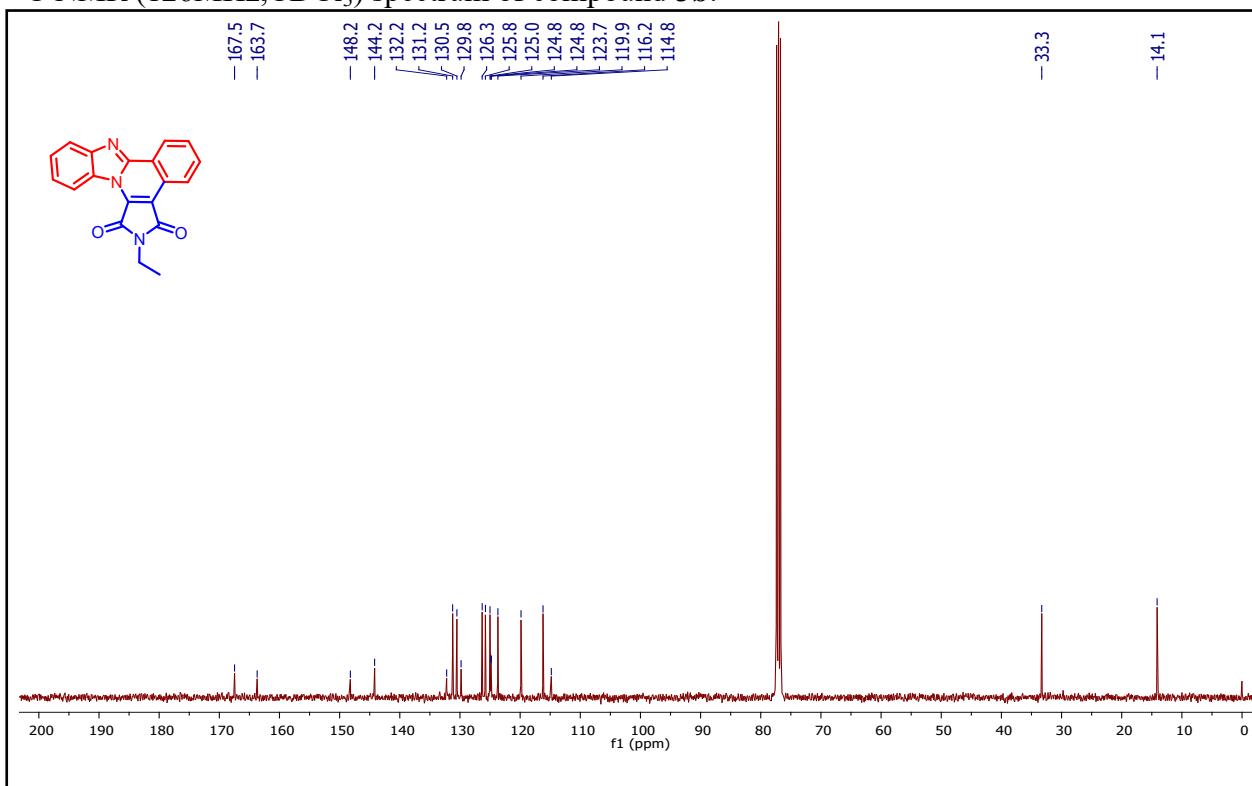
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR(101 MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3a**:



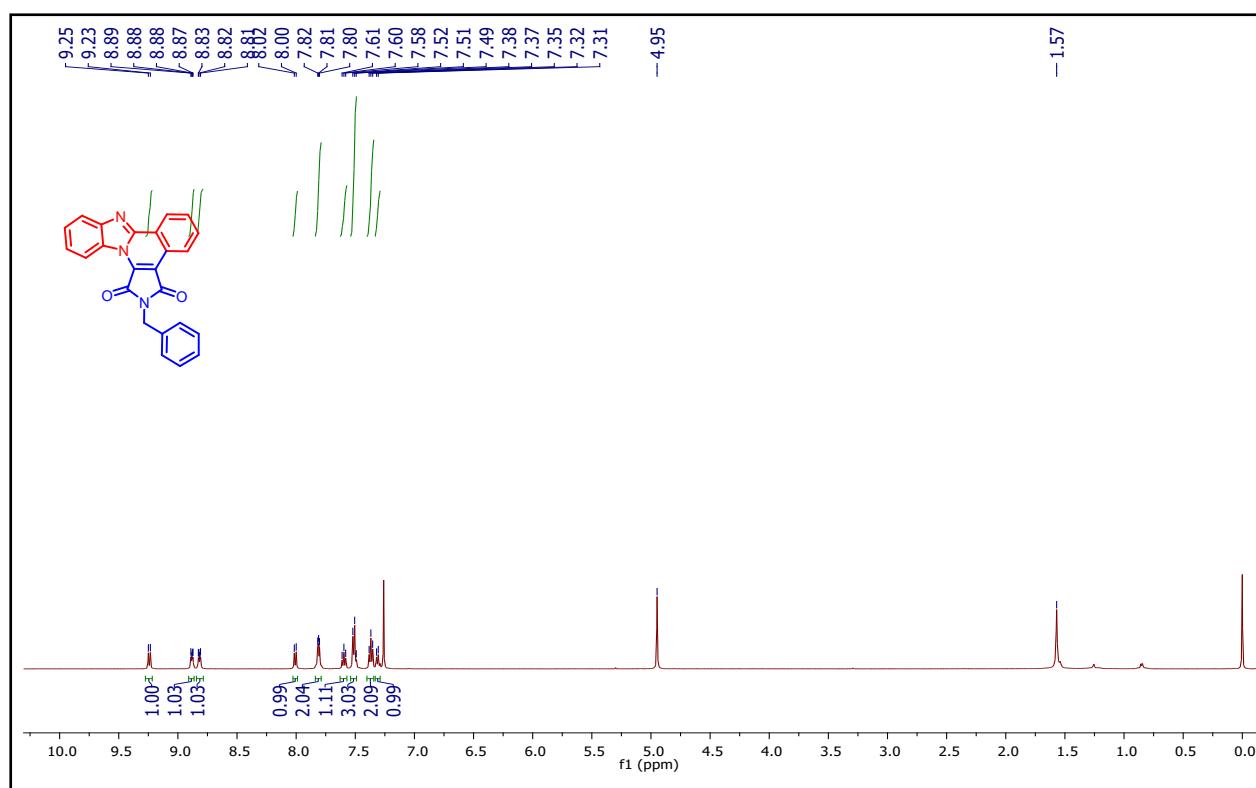
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3b:



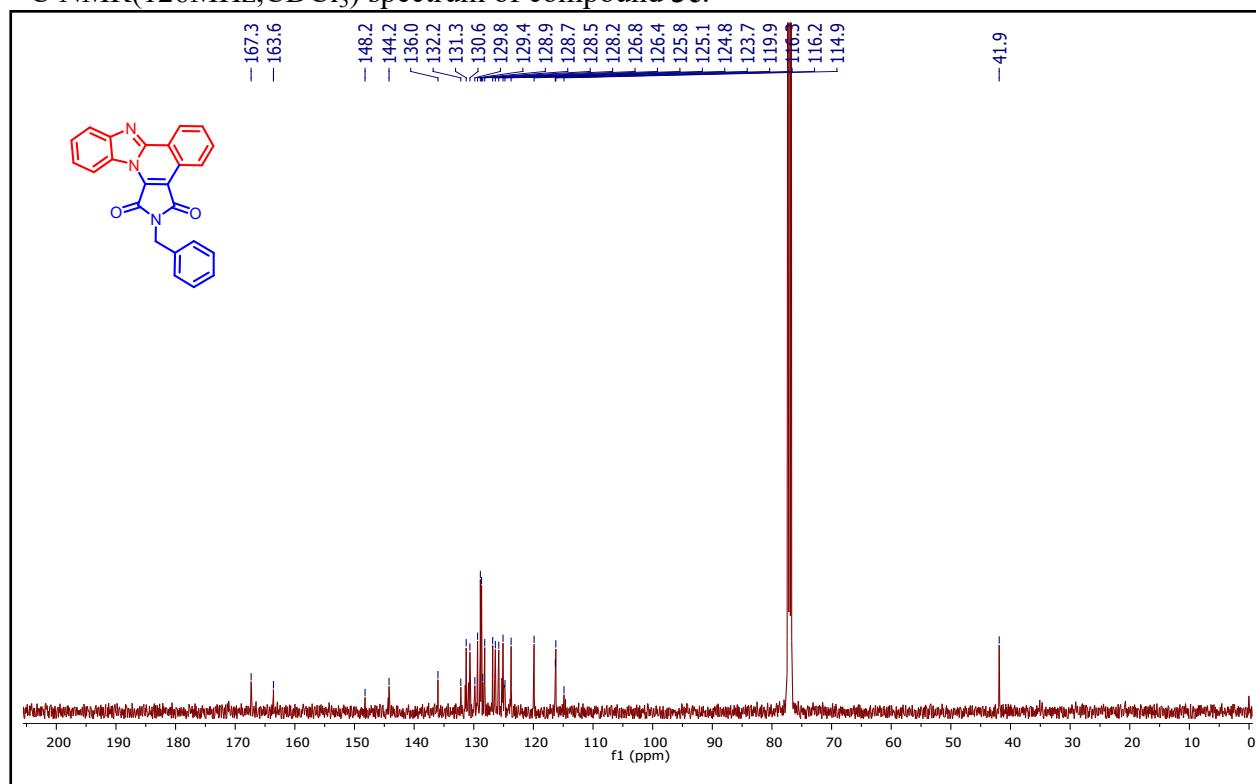
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3b:



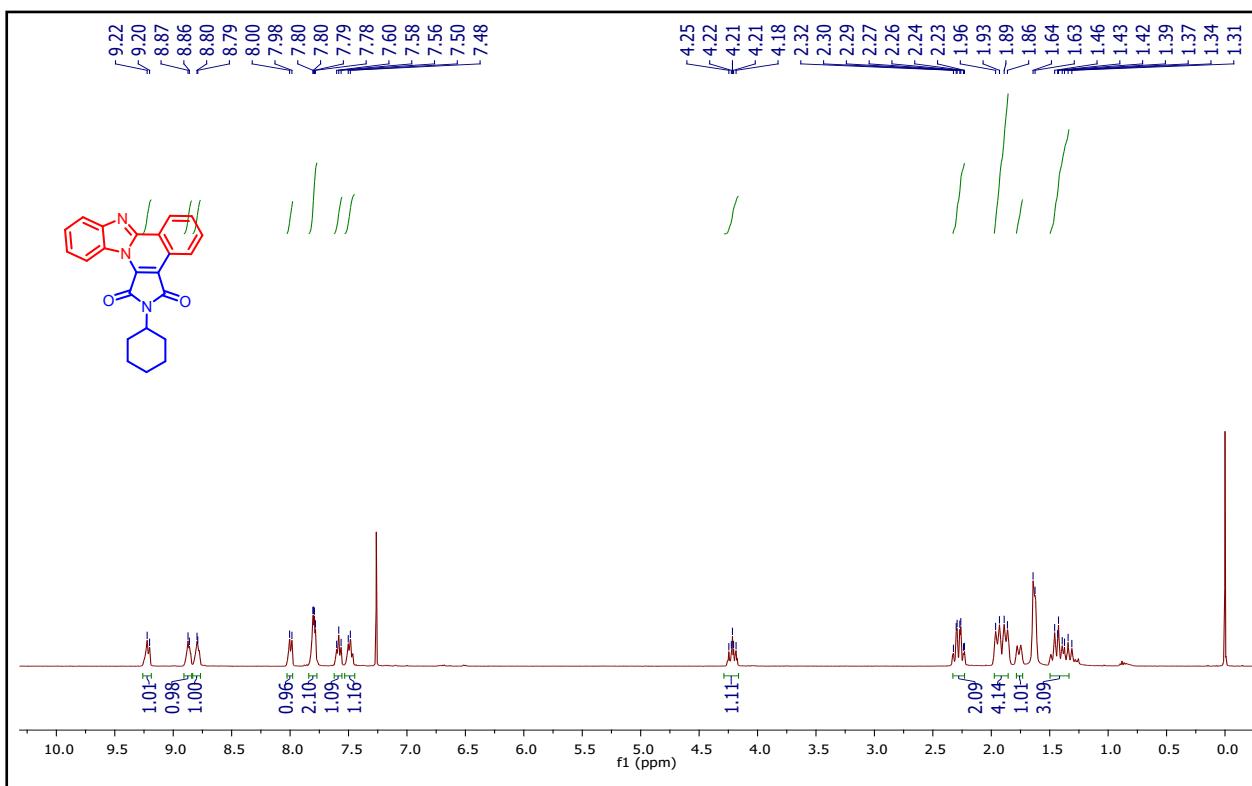
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3c:



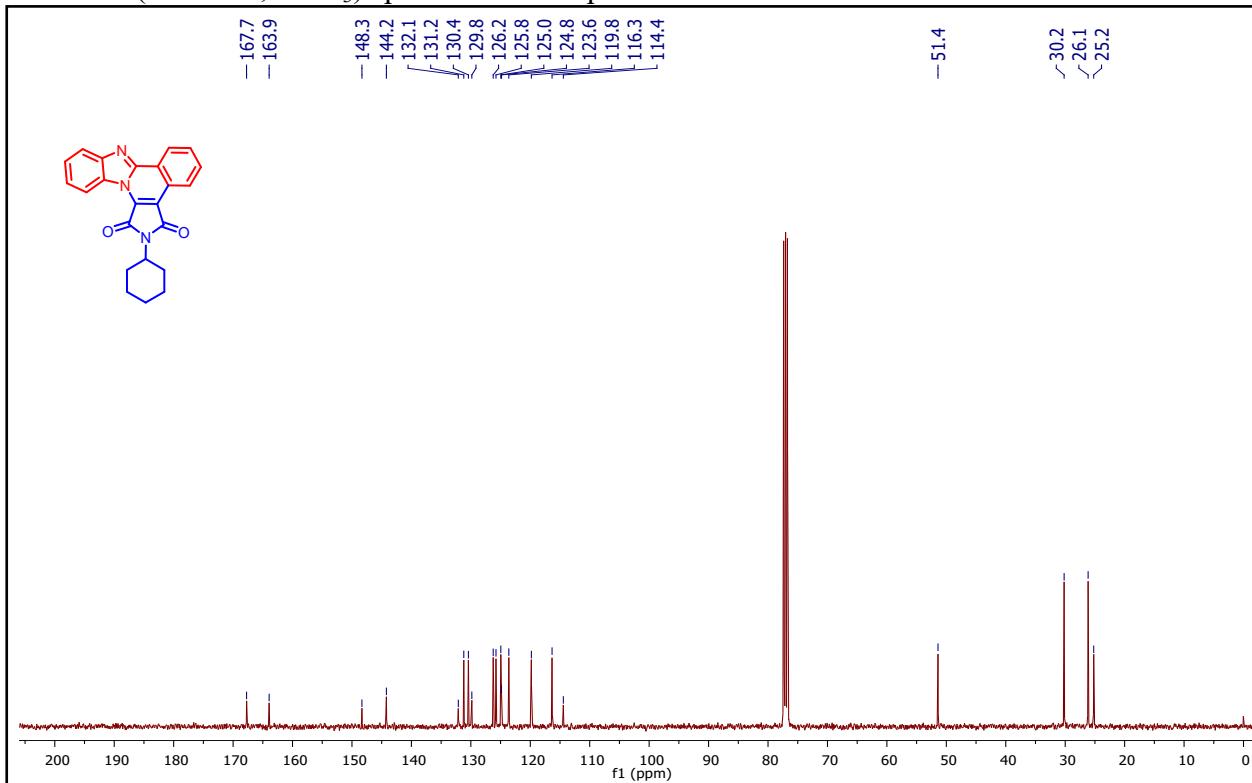
<sup>13</sup>C NMR(126MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3c:



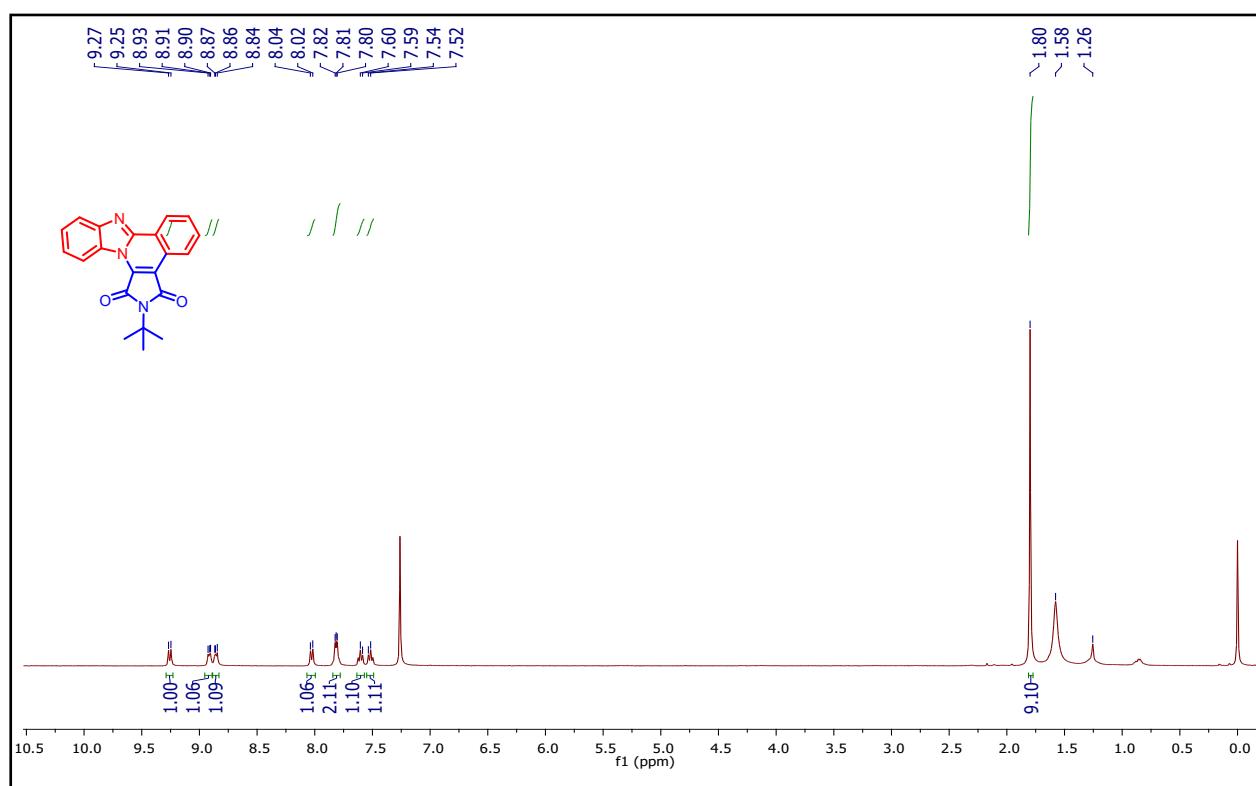
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3d:



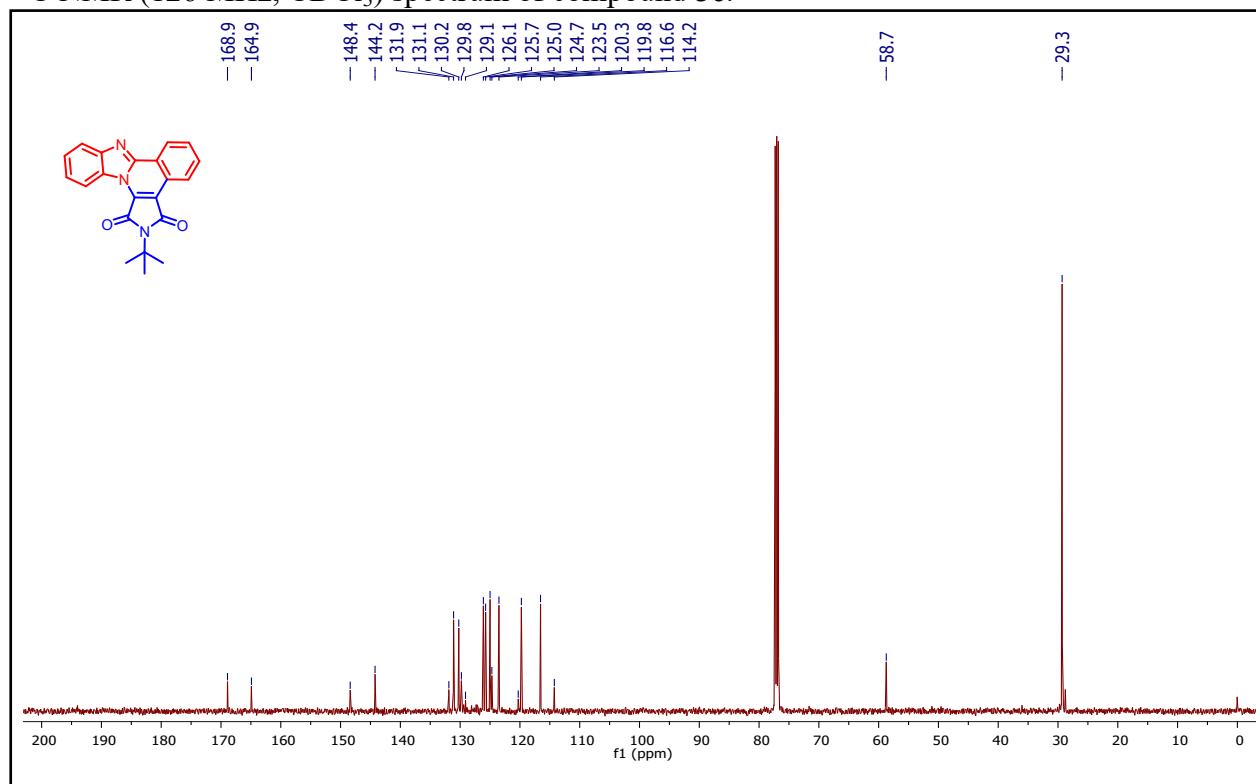
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3d:



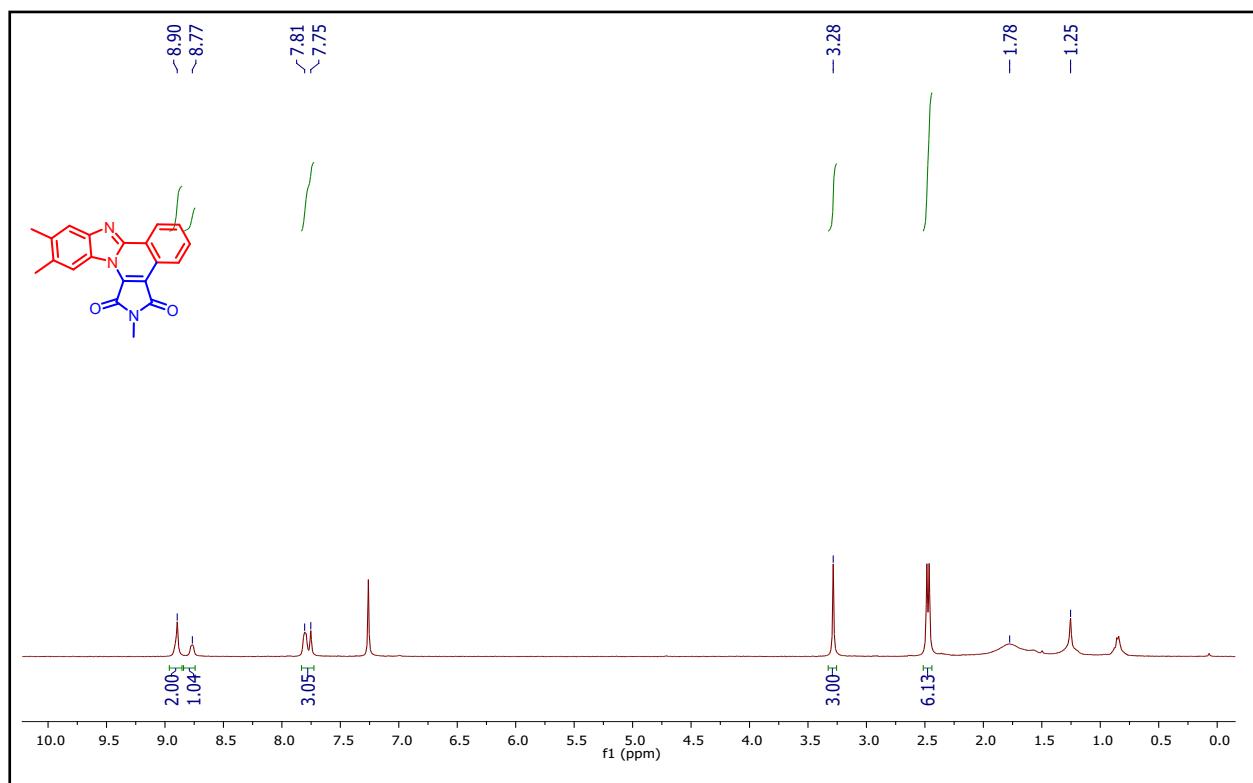
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3e:



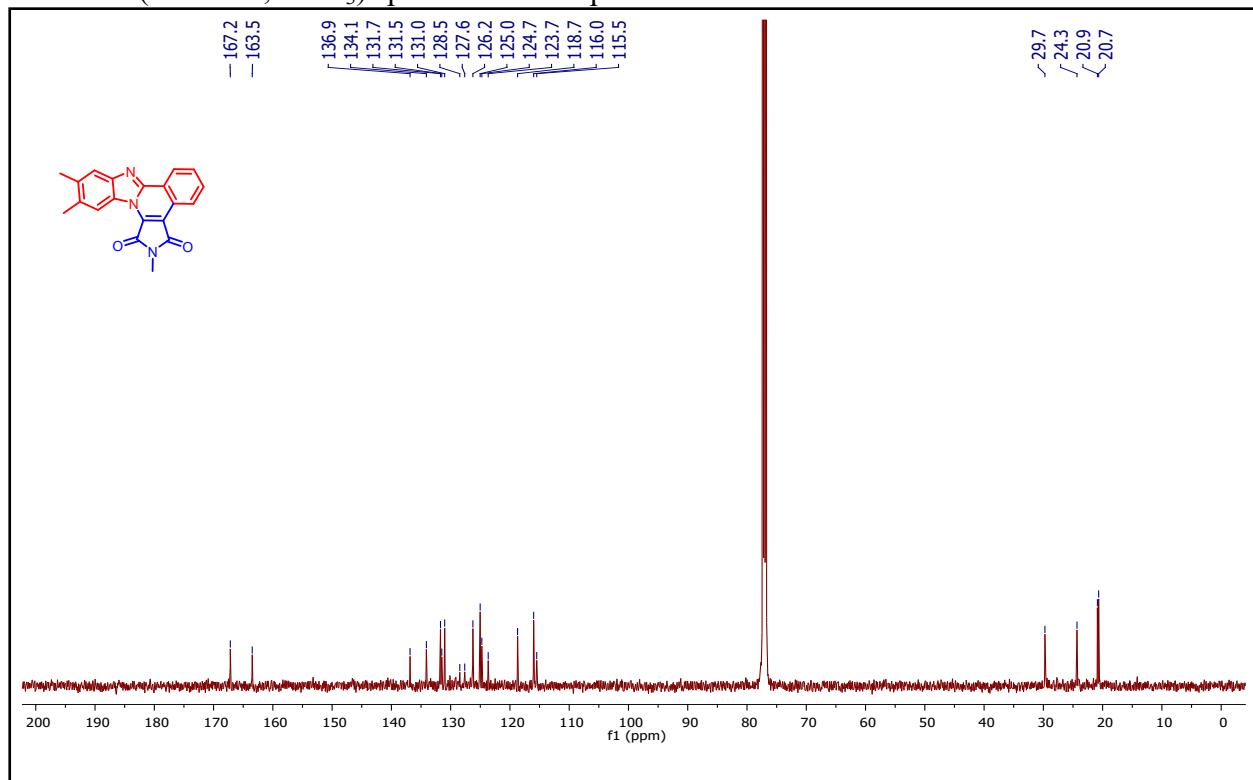
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3e:



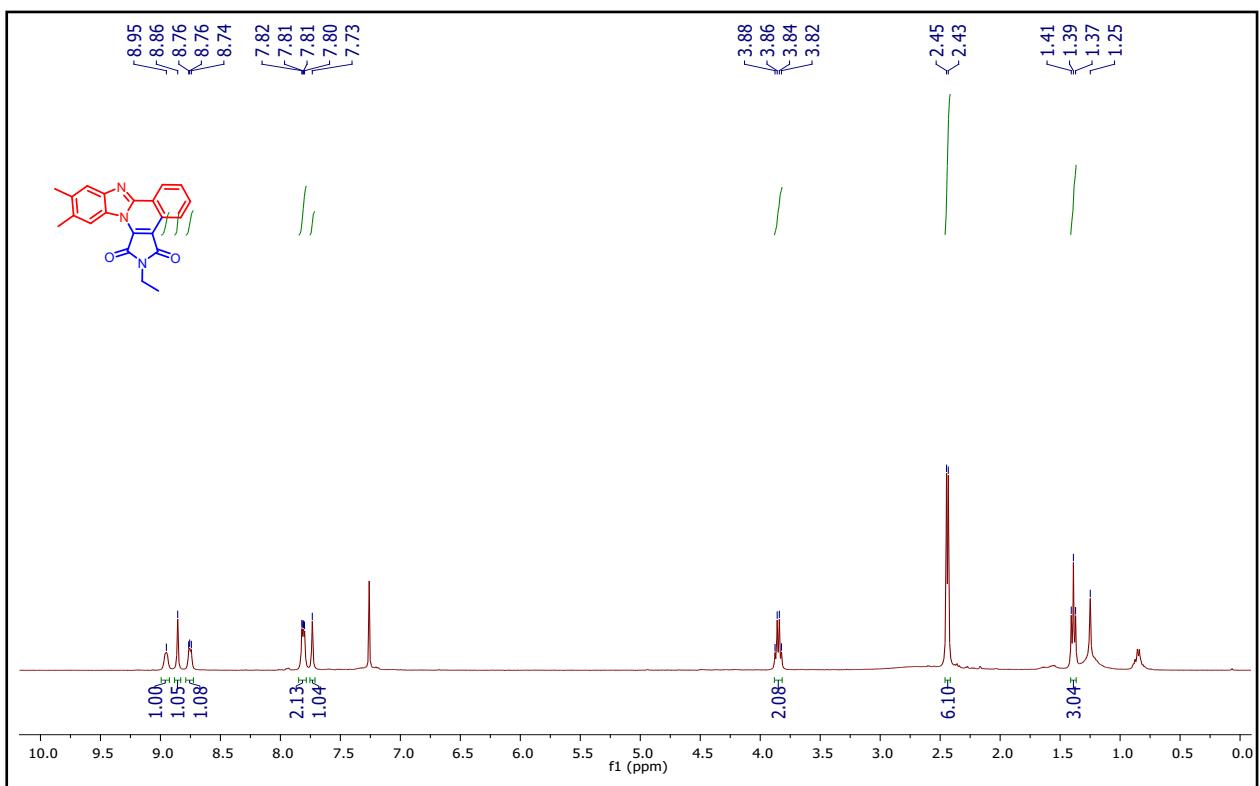
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3f:



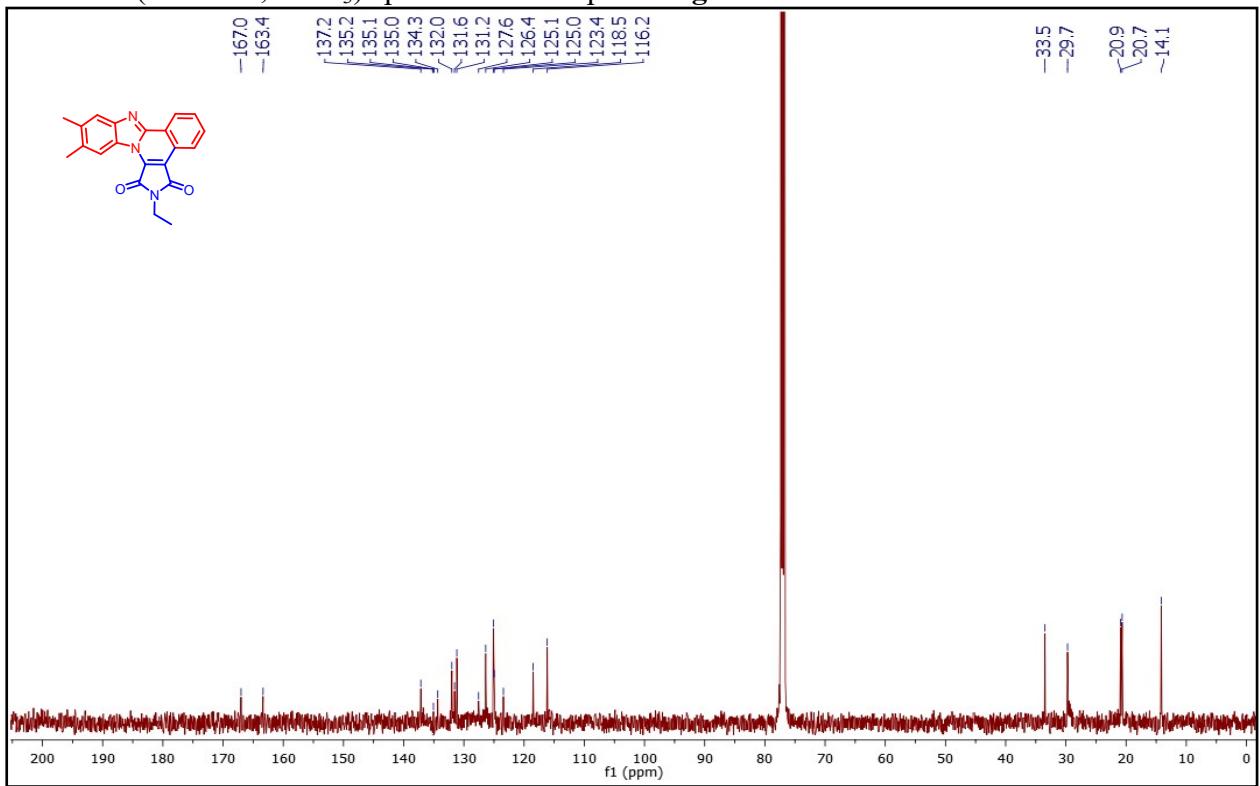
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3f:



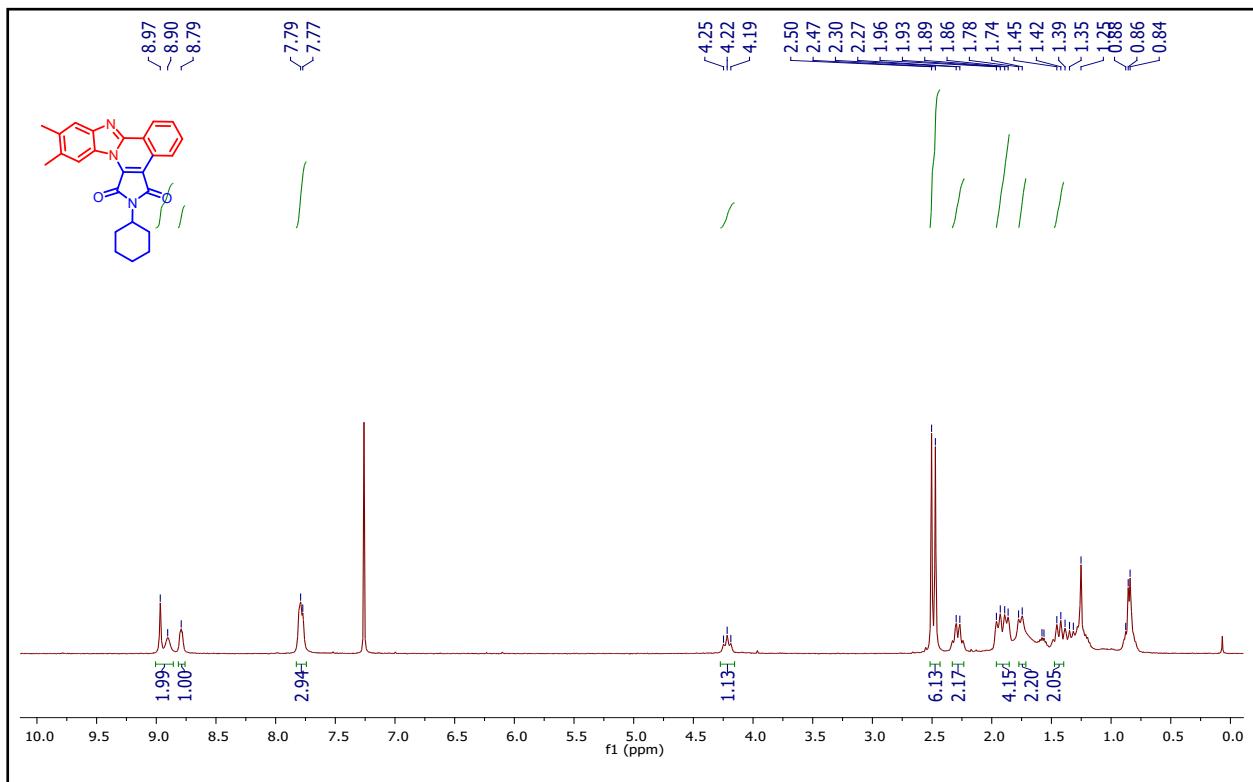
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3g:



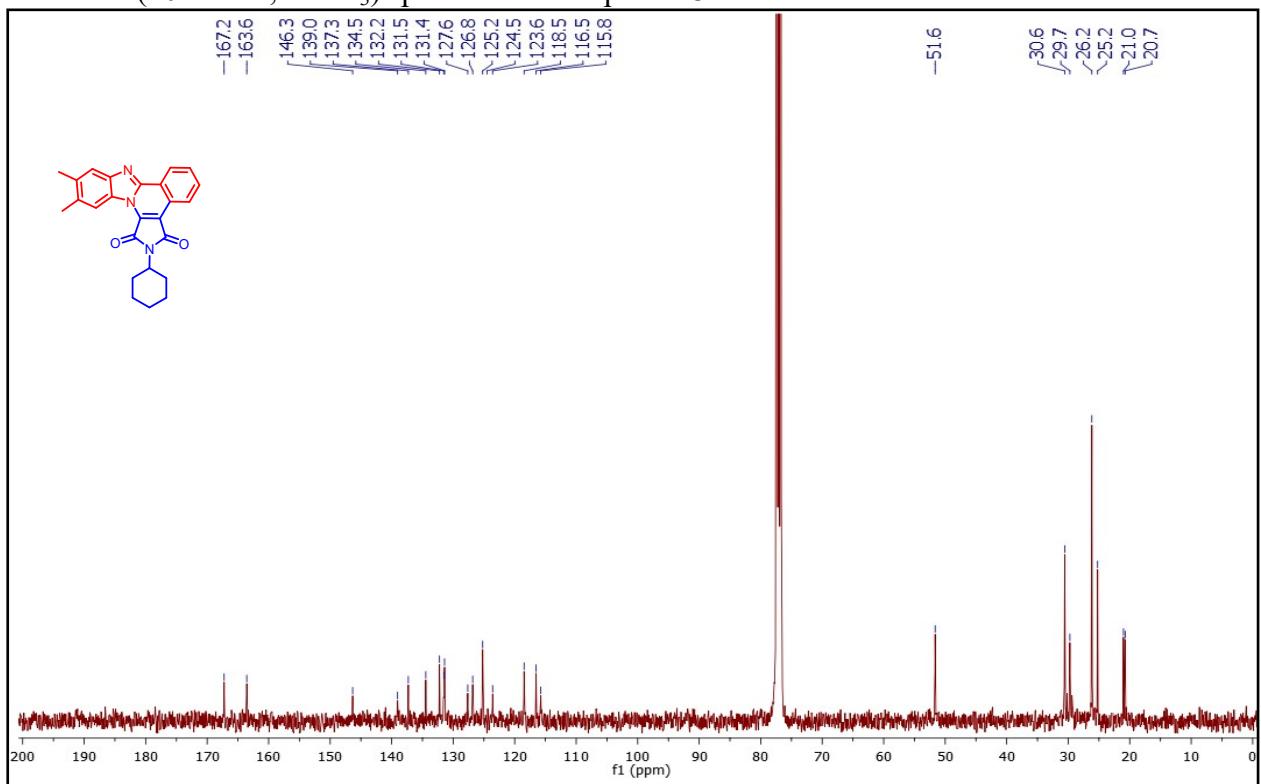
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3g:



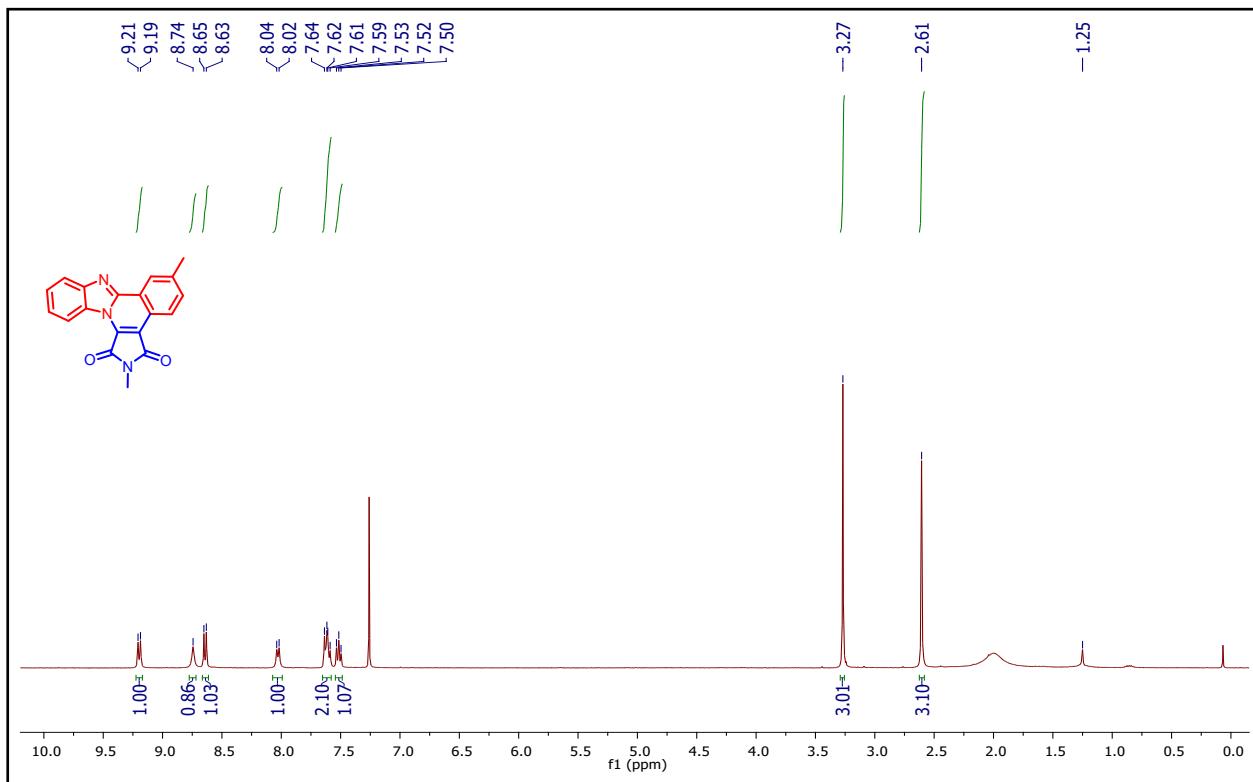
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3h:



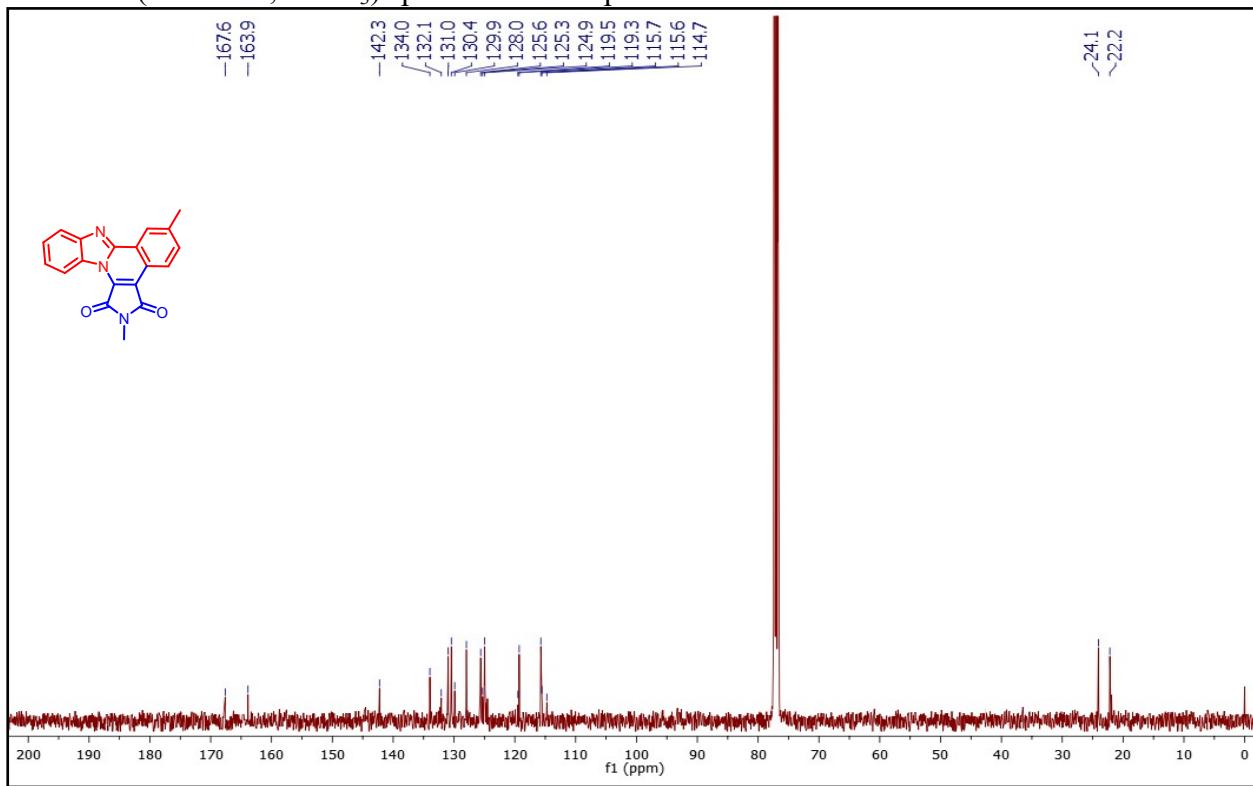
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3h:



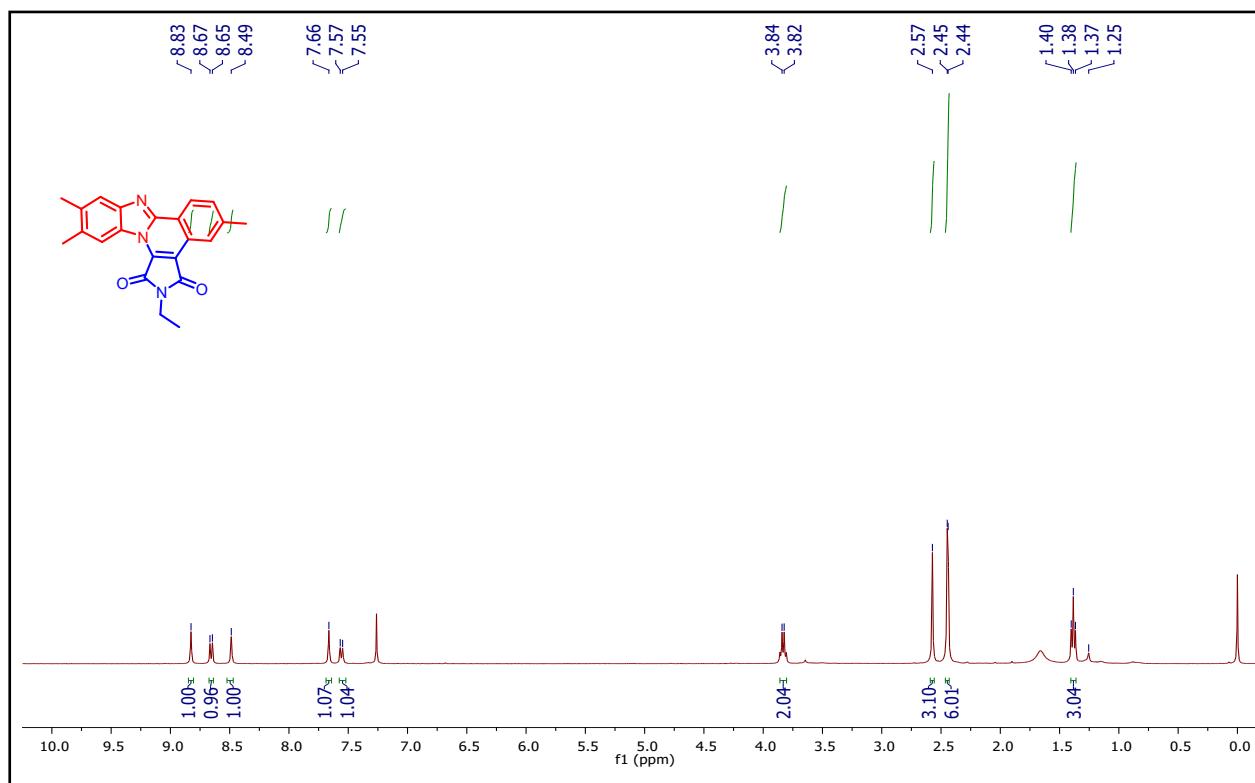
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3i:



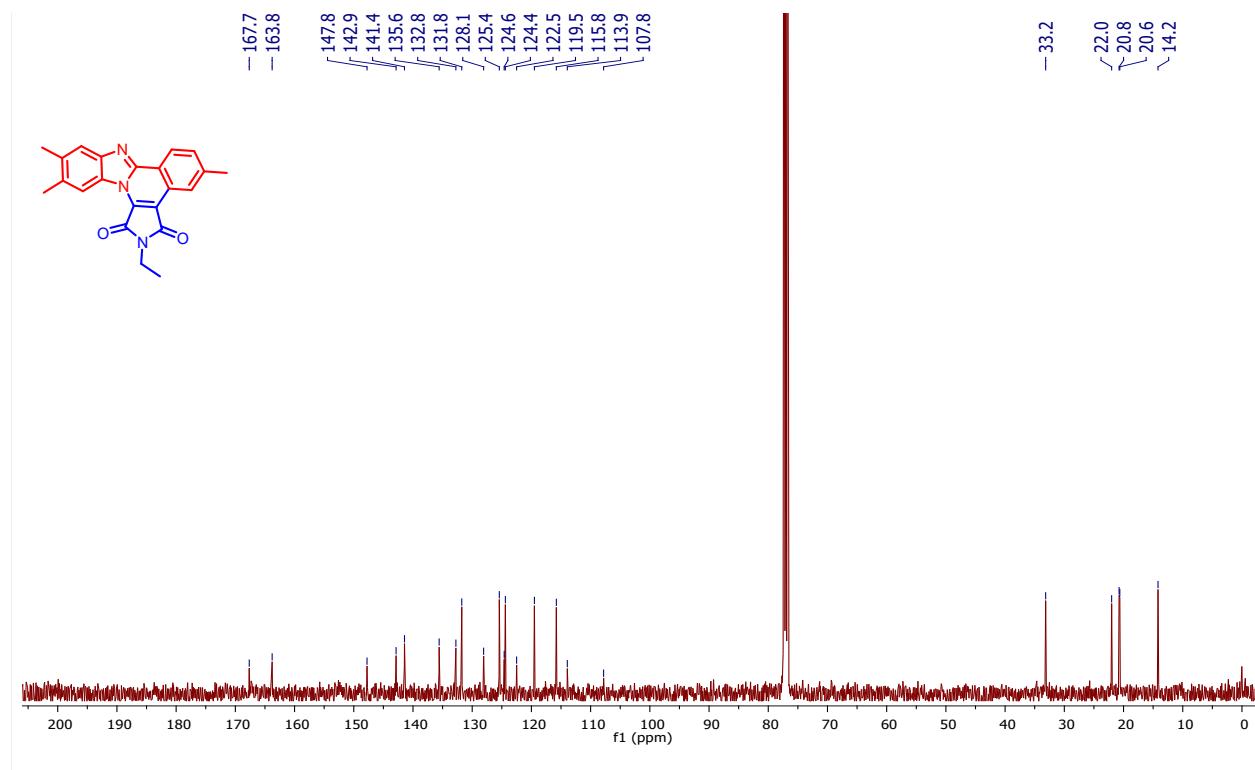
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3i:



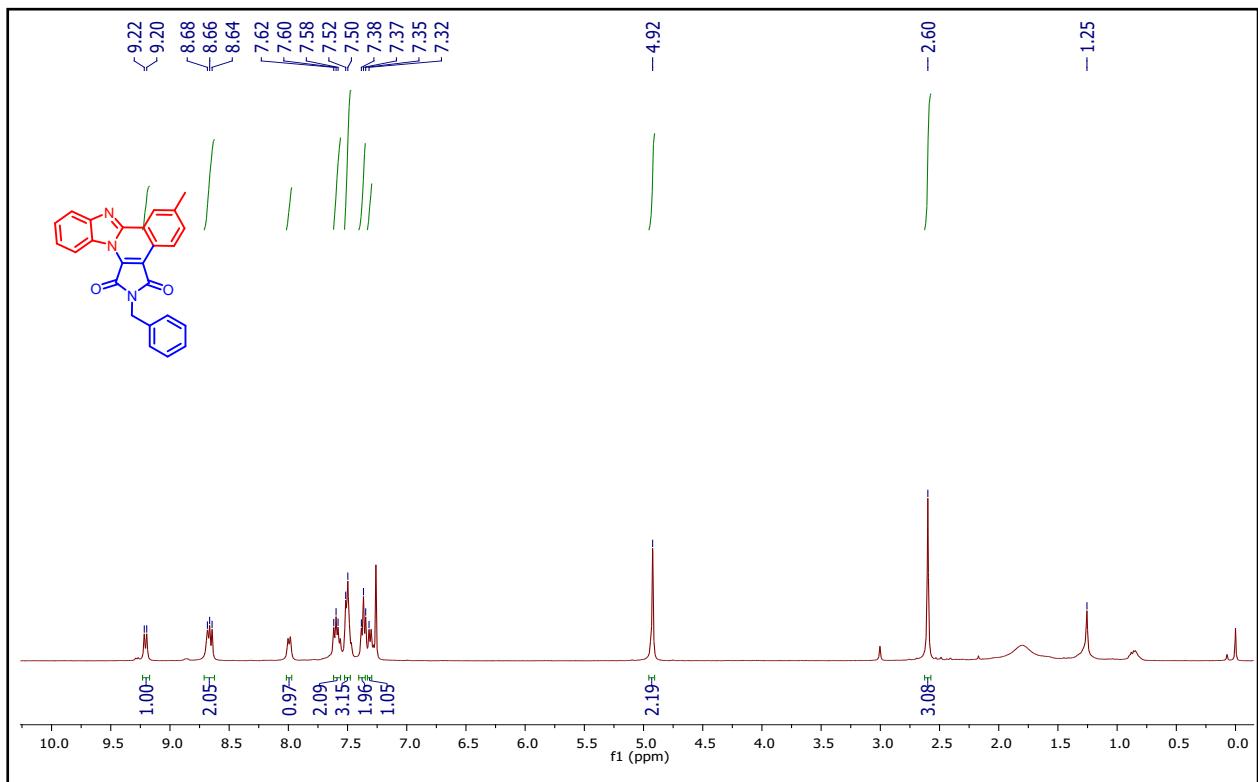
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3j:



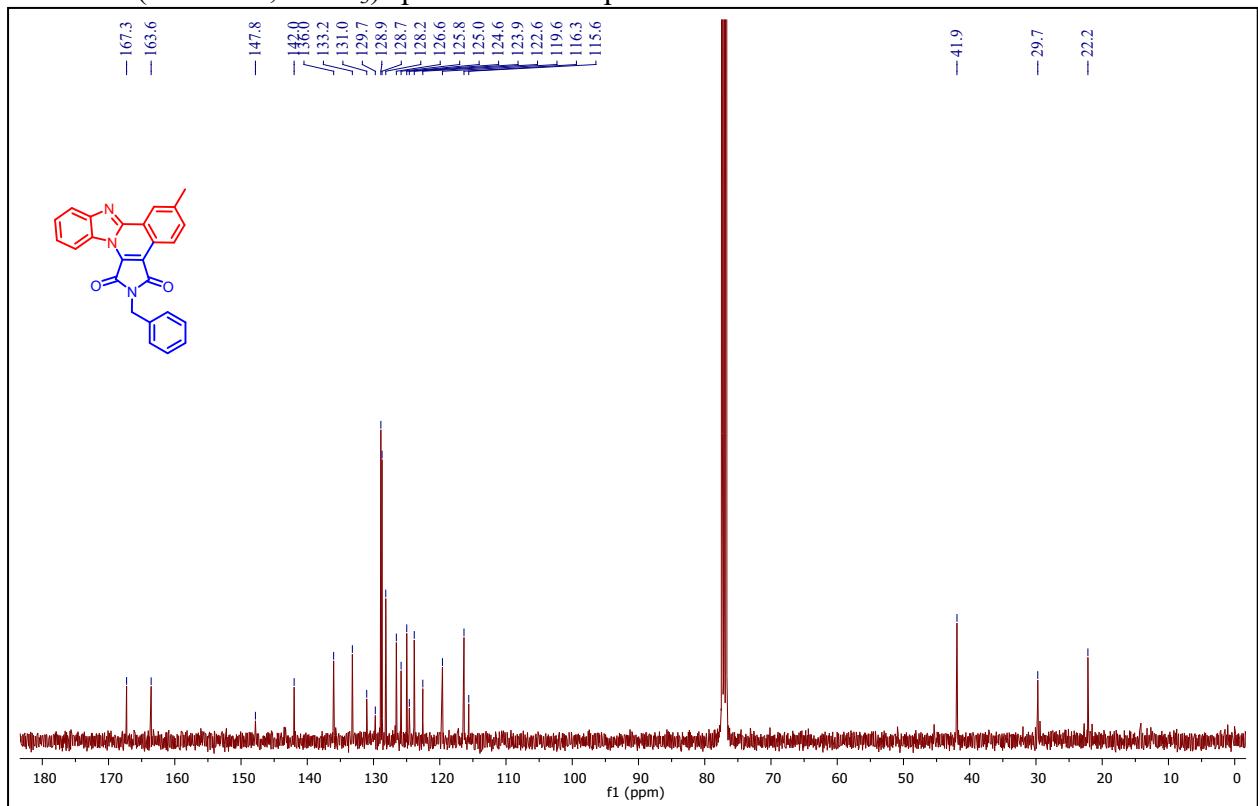
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3j:



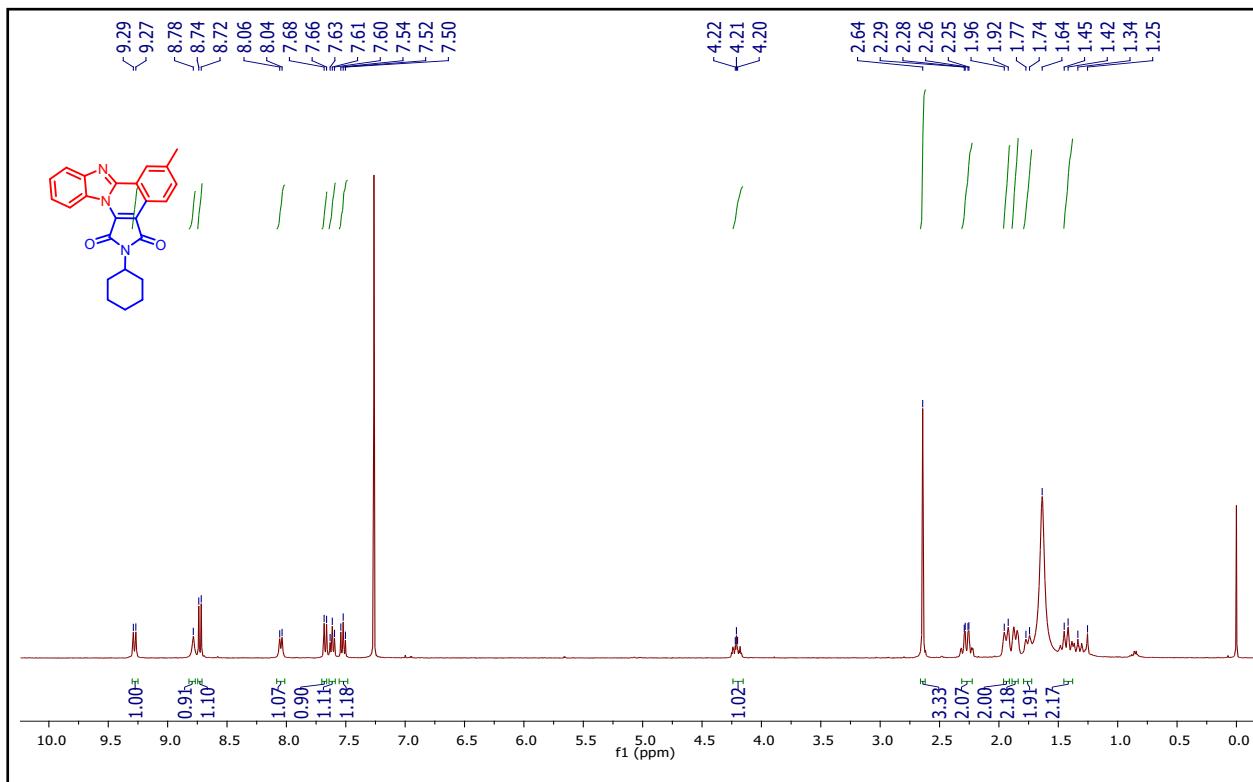
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3k



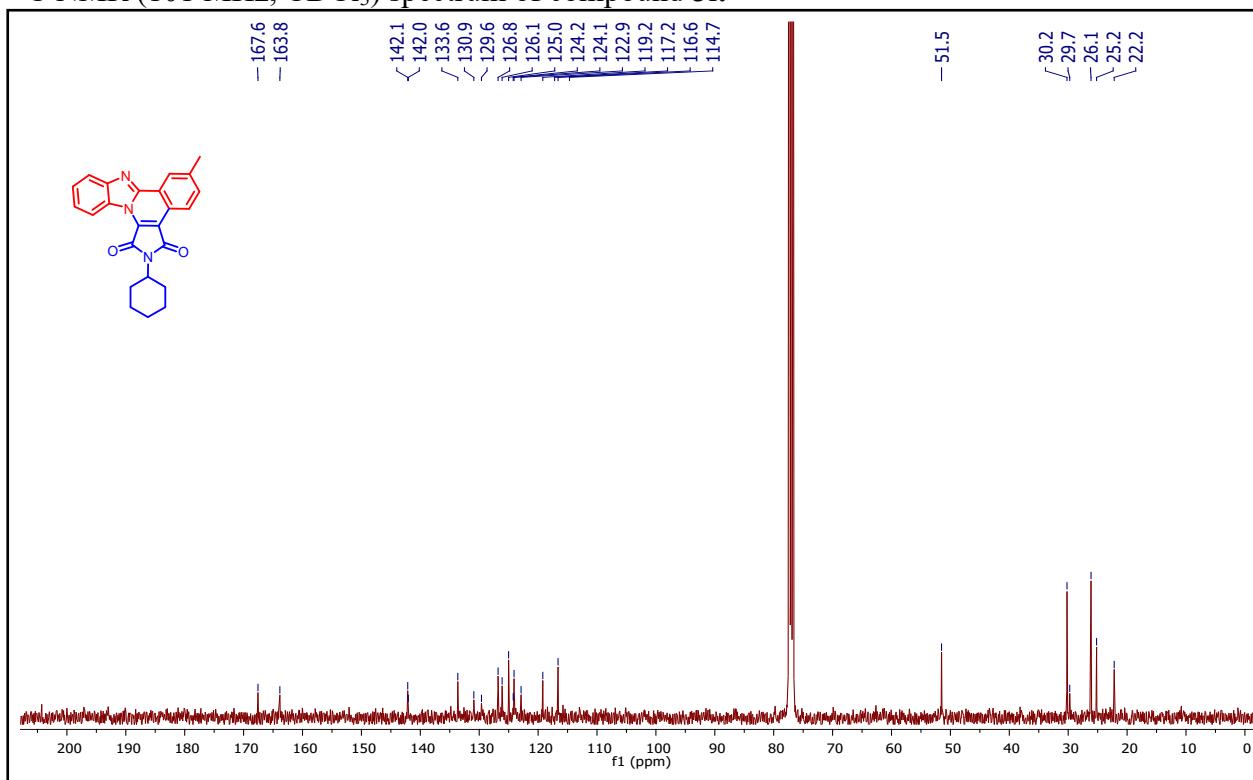
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3k:



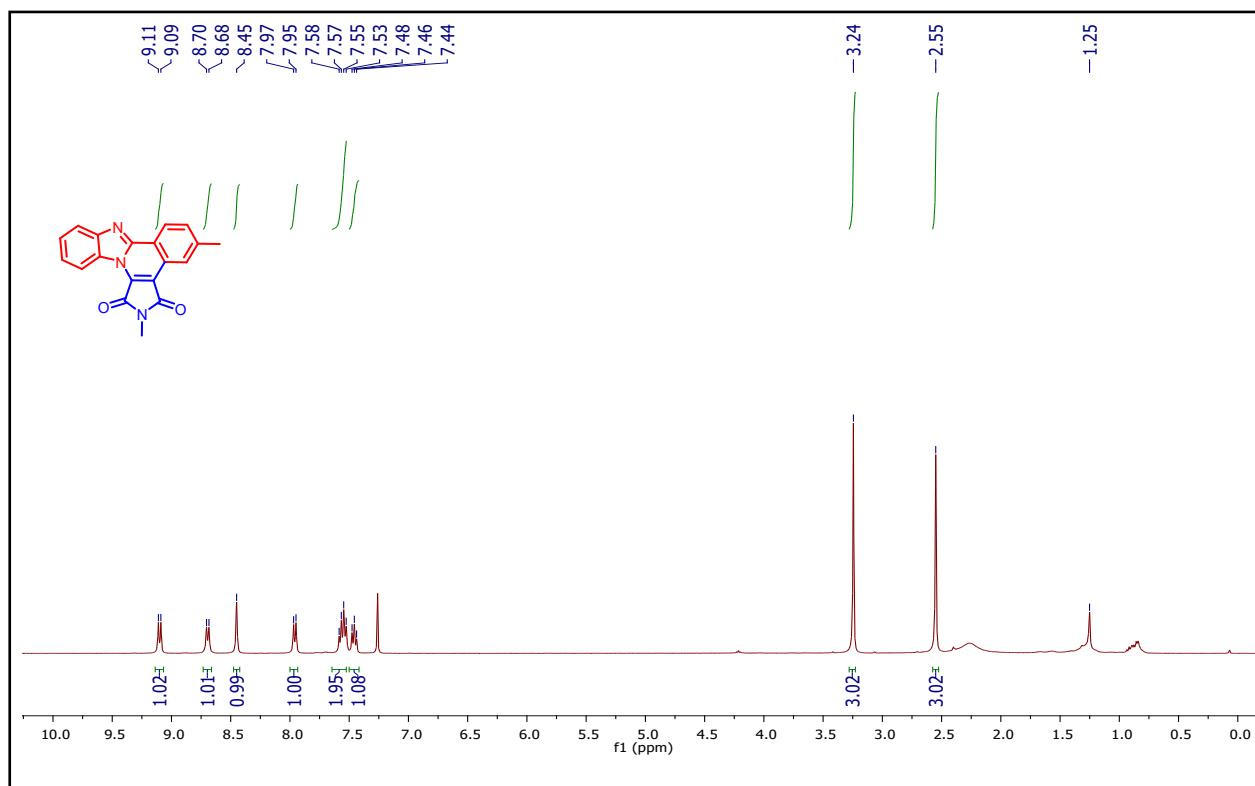
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3l:



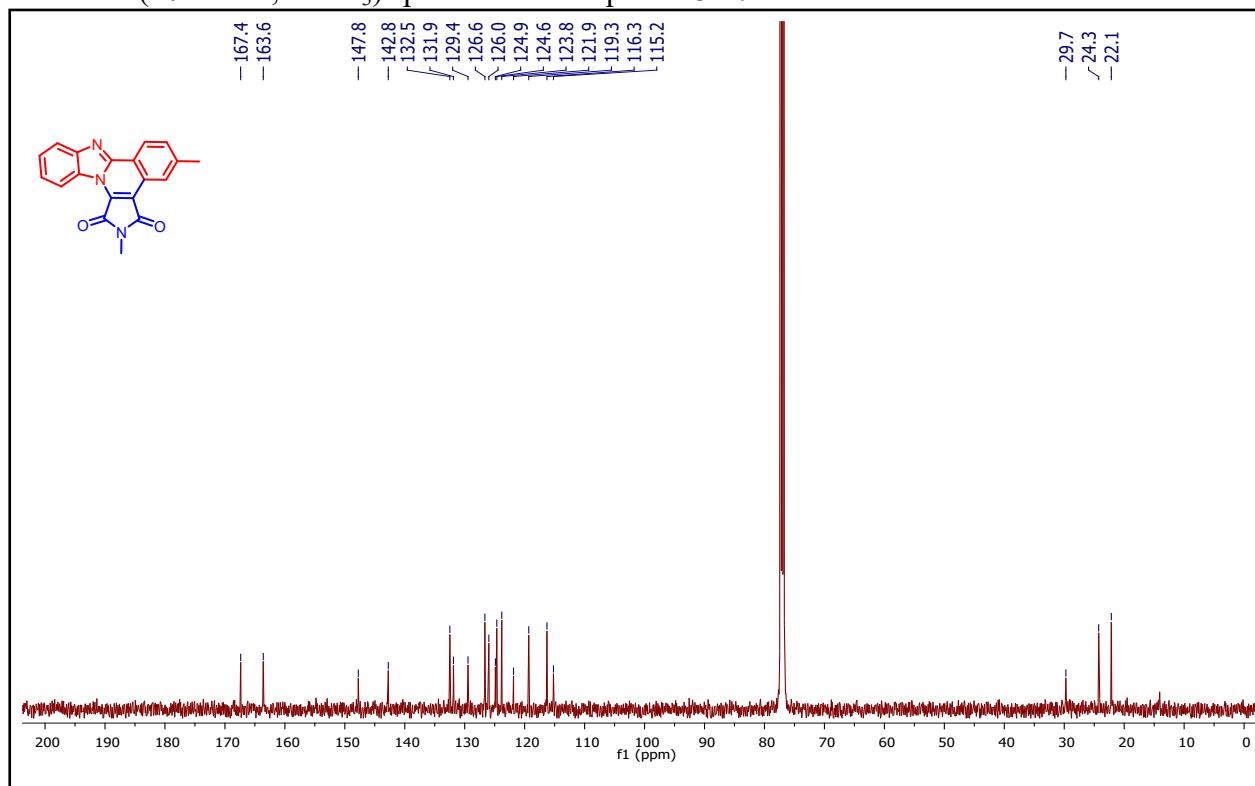
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3l:



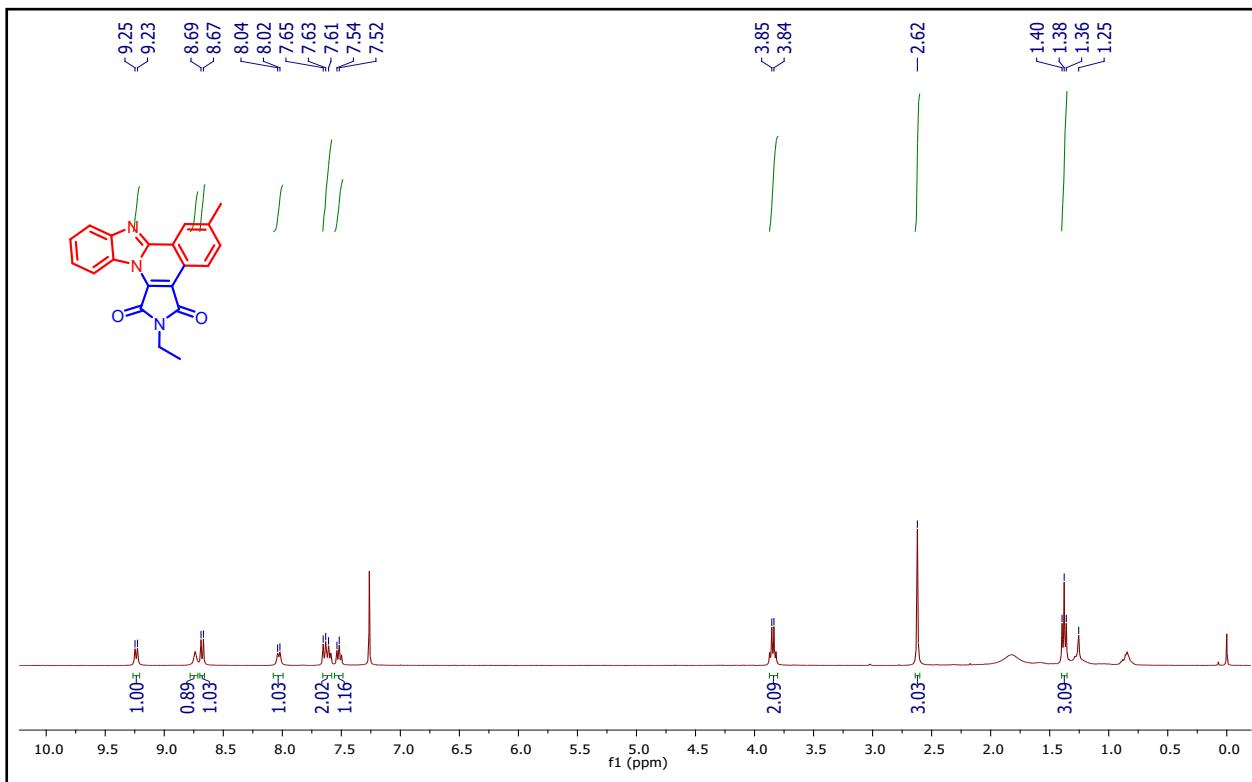
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3m:



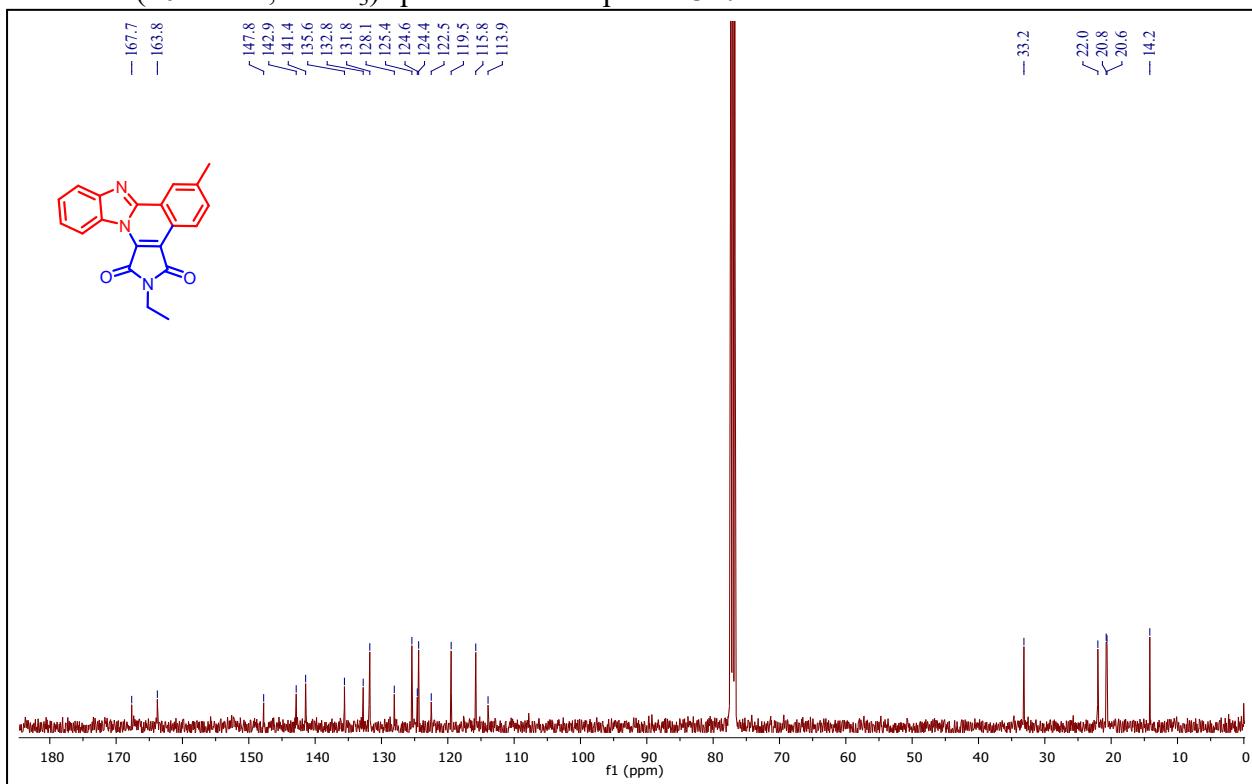
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3m:



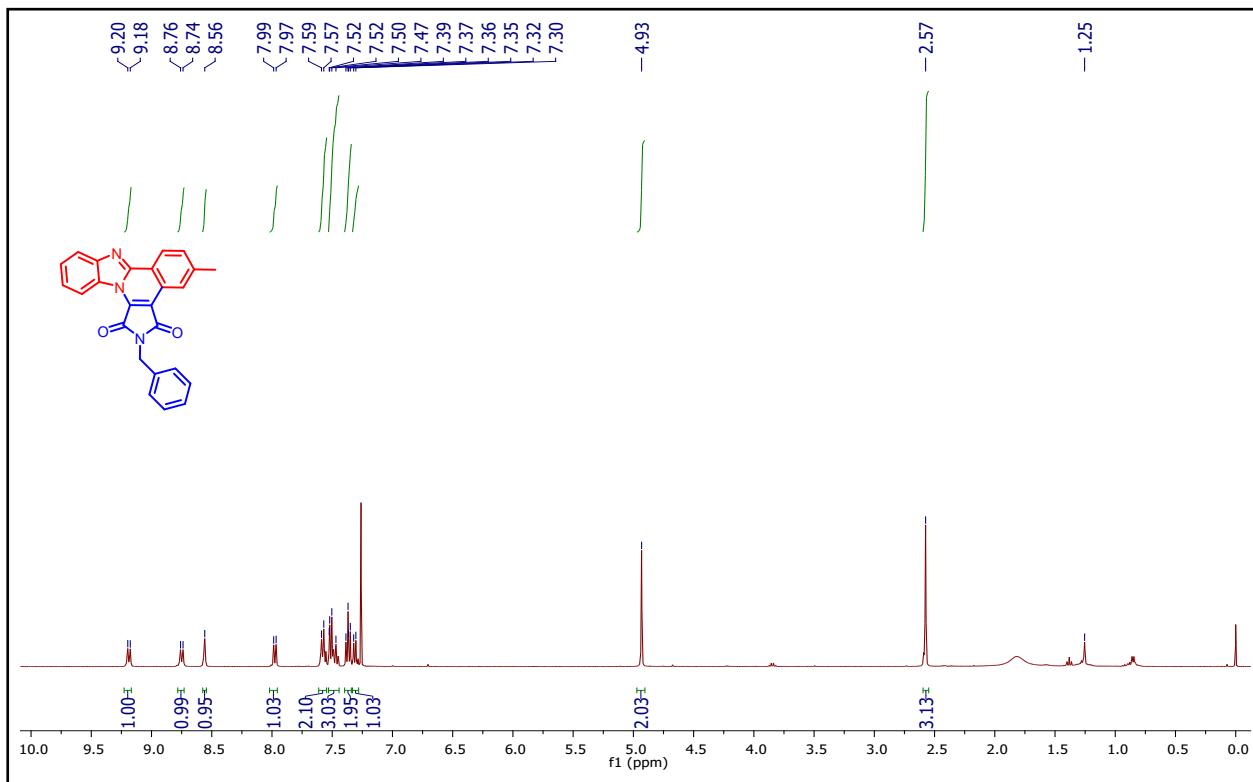
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3n:



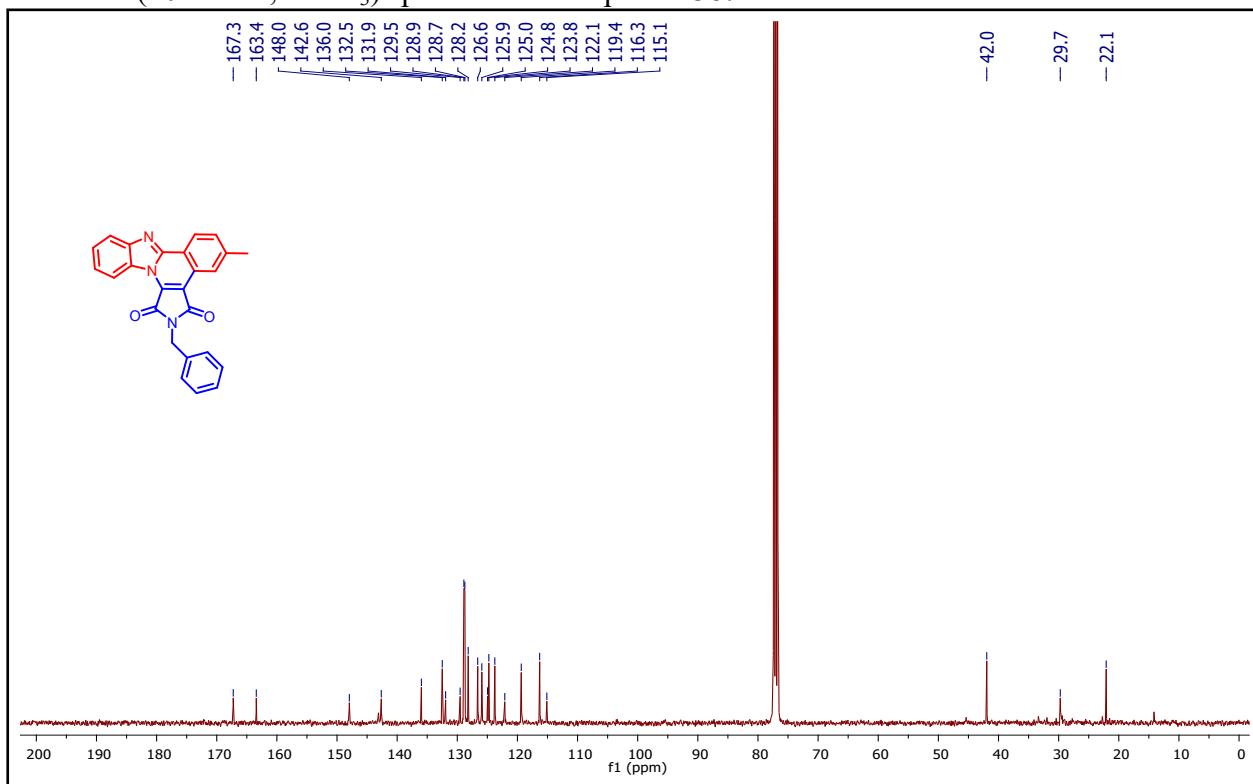
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3n:



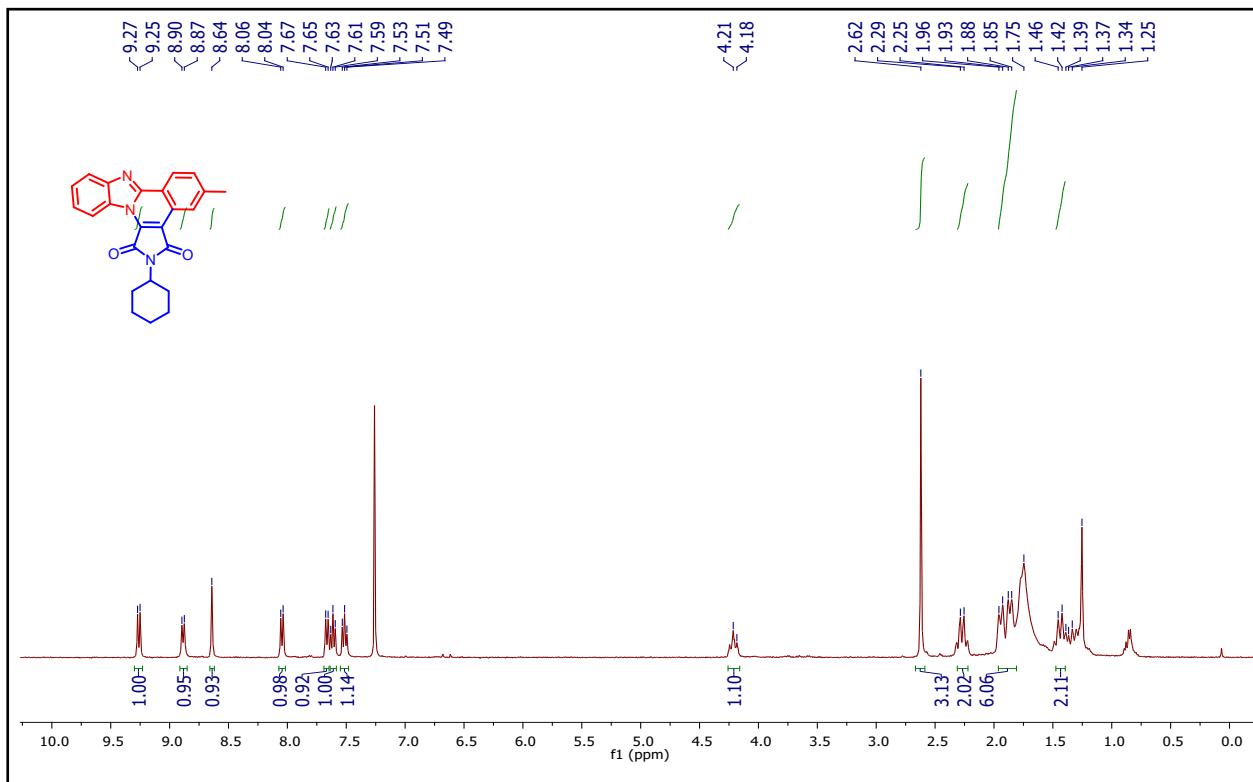
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3o:



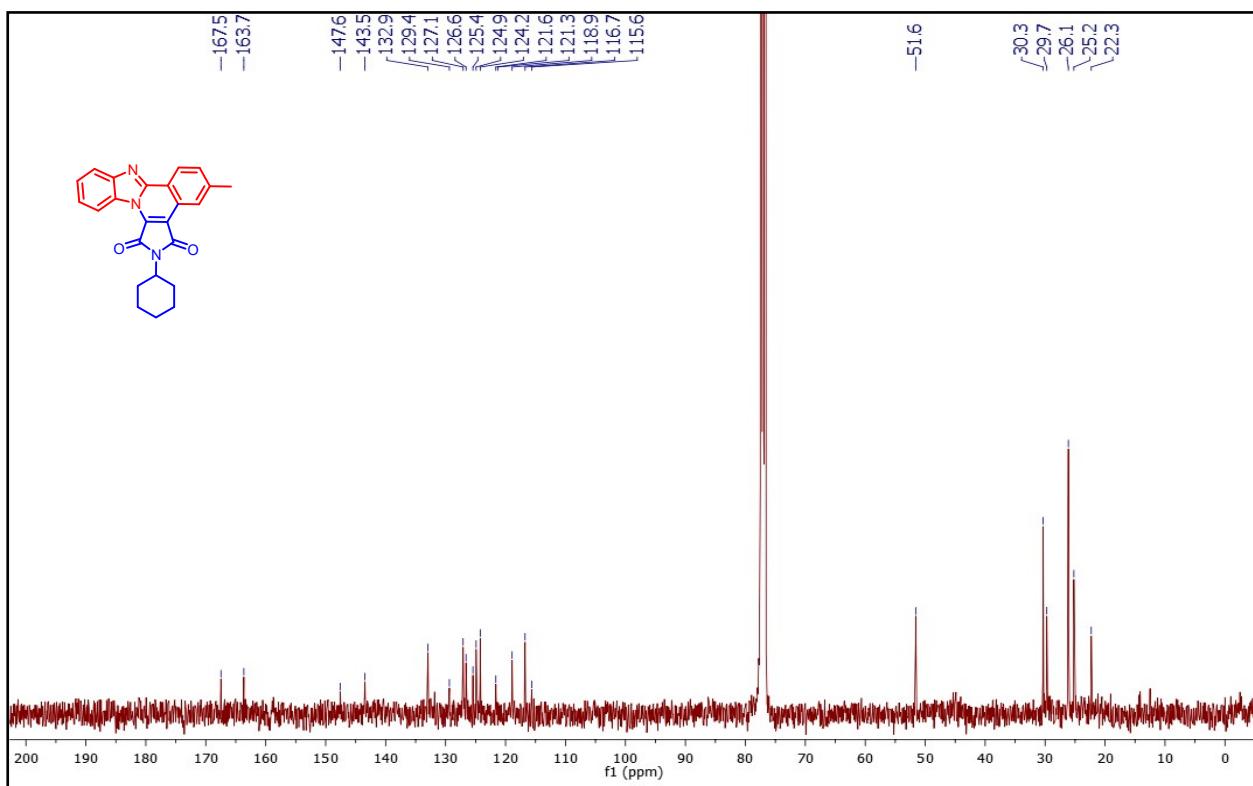
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3o:



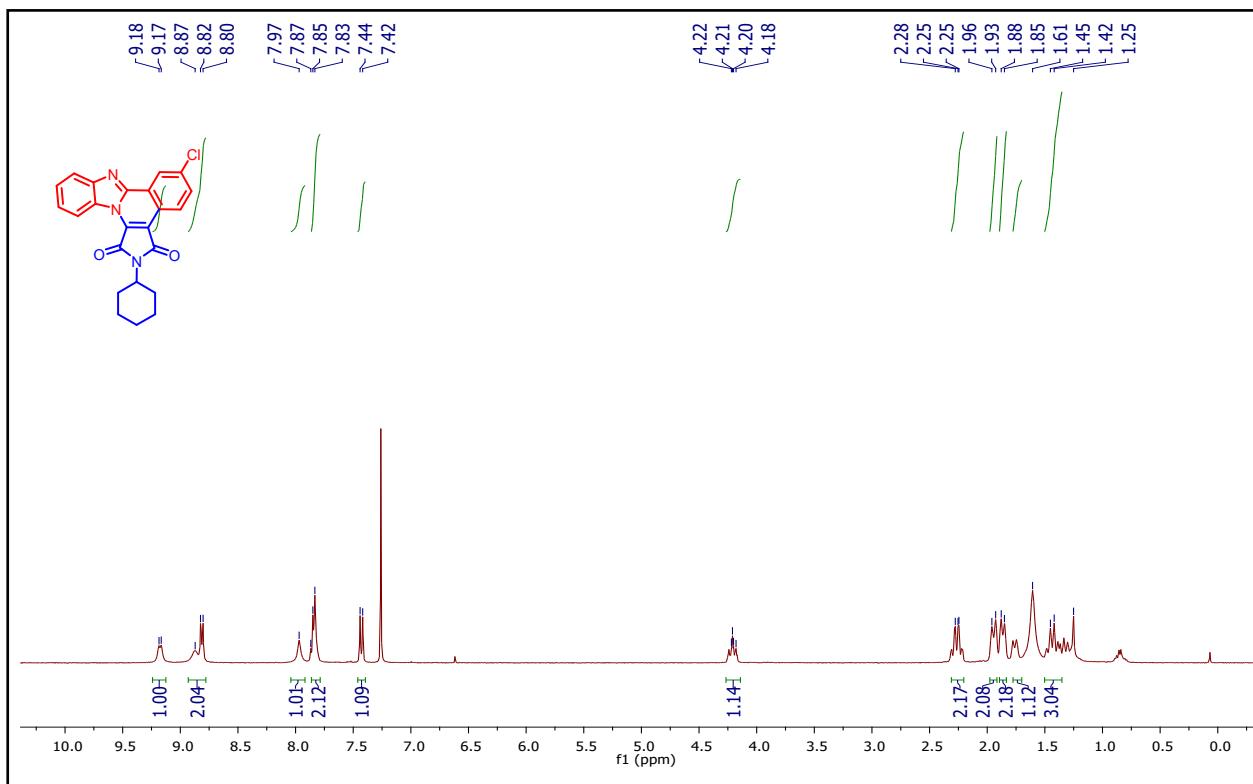
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3p:



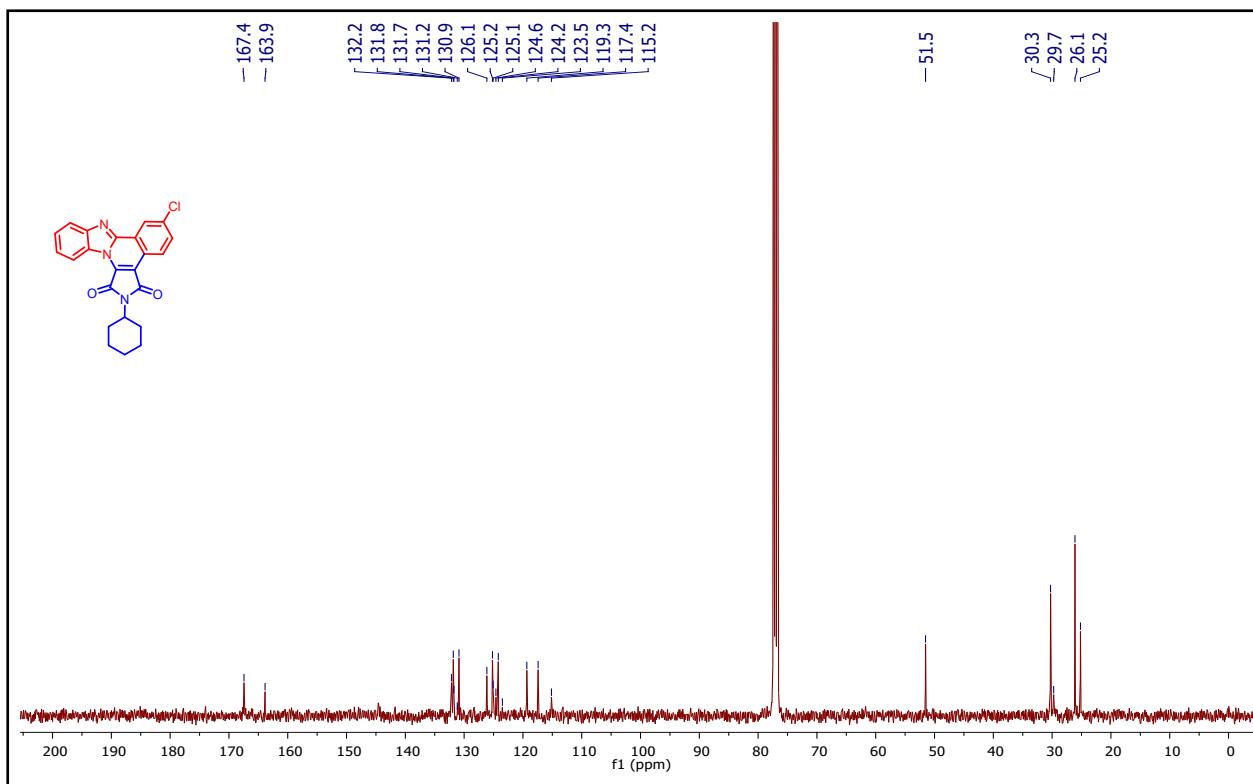
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3p:



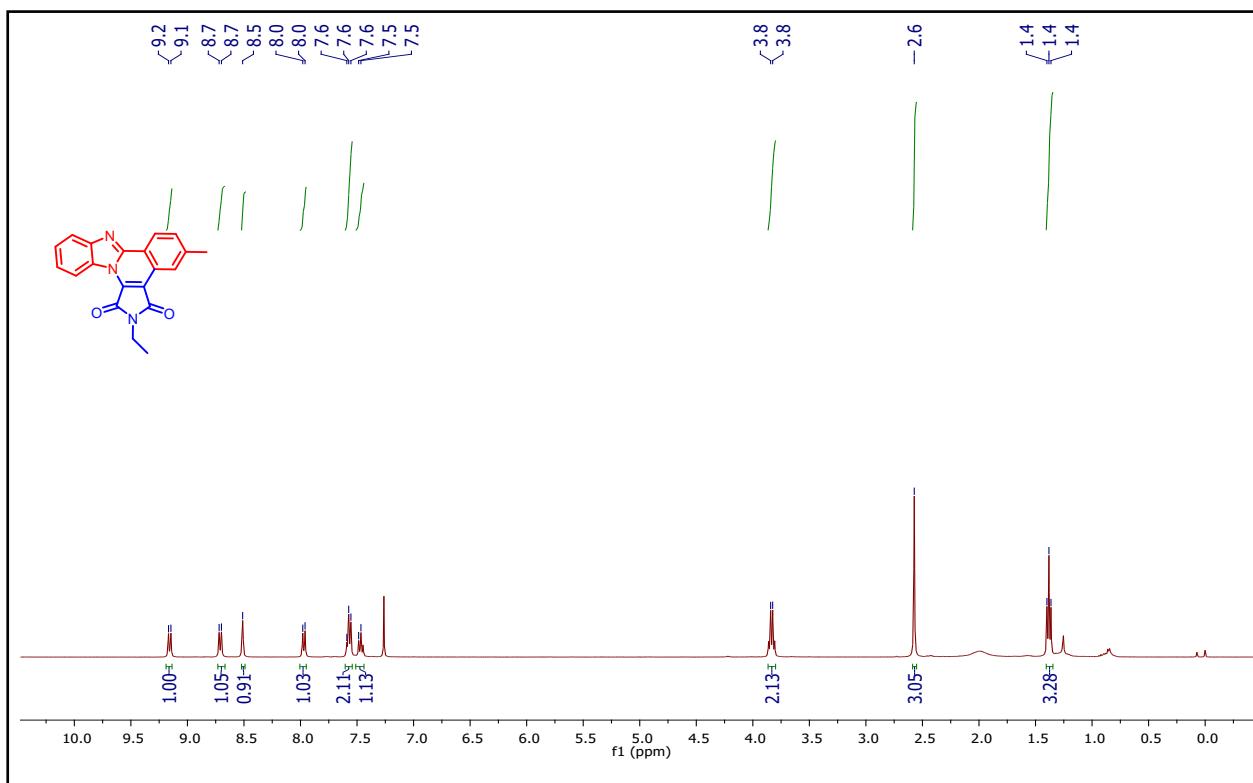
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3q**:



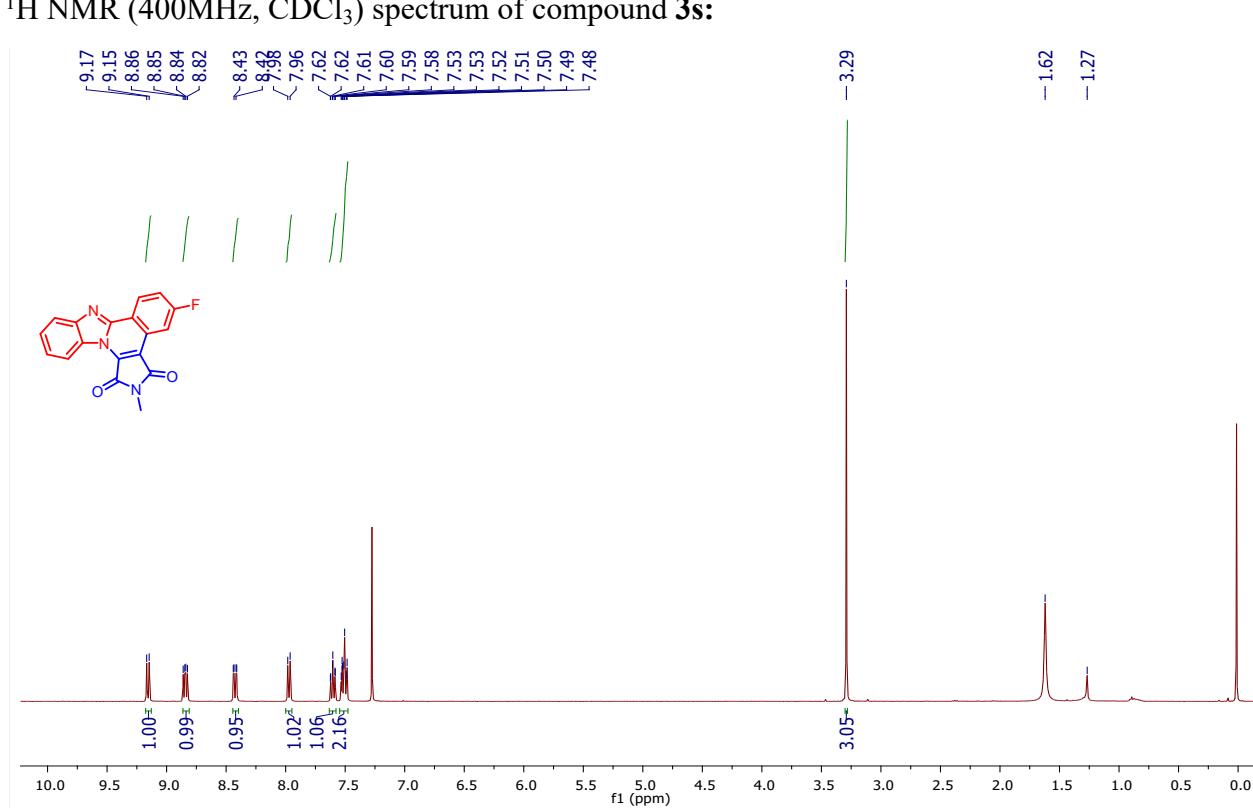
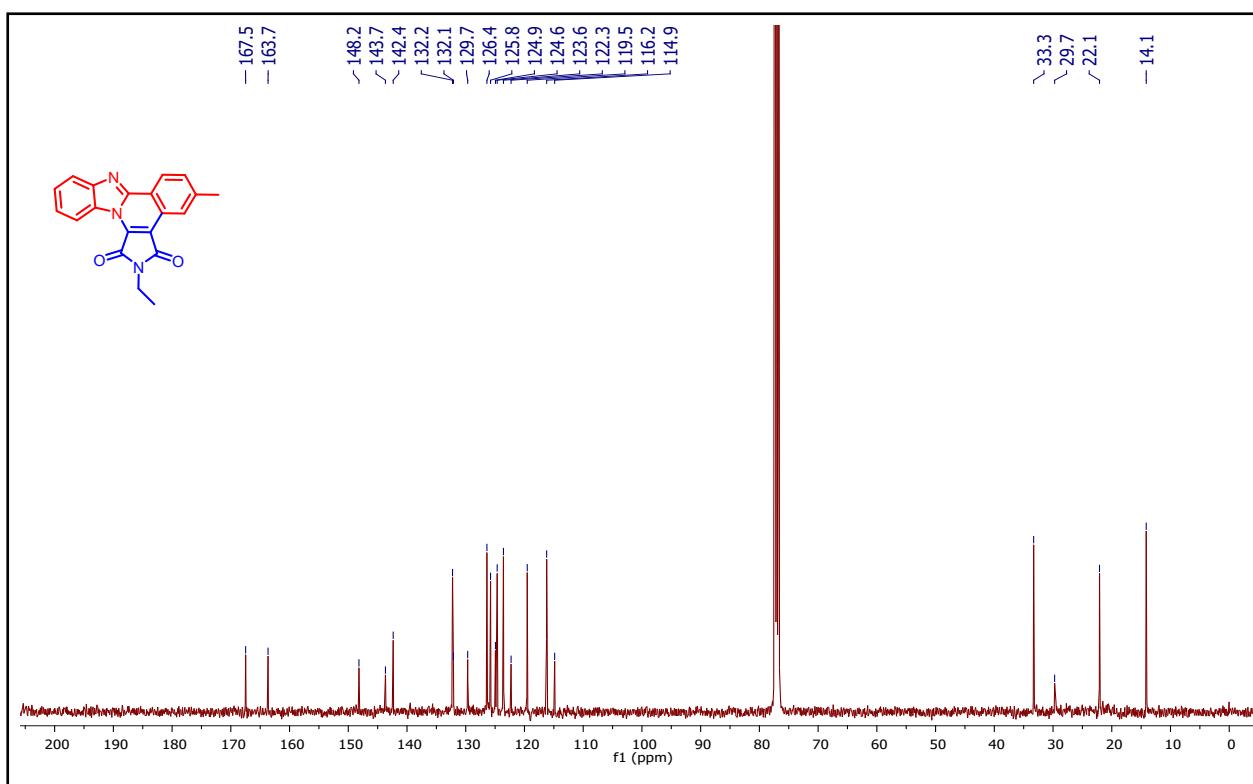
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3q**:



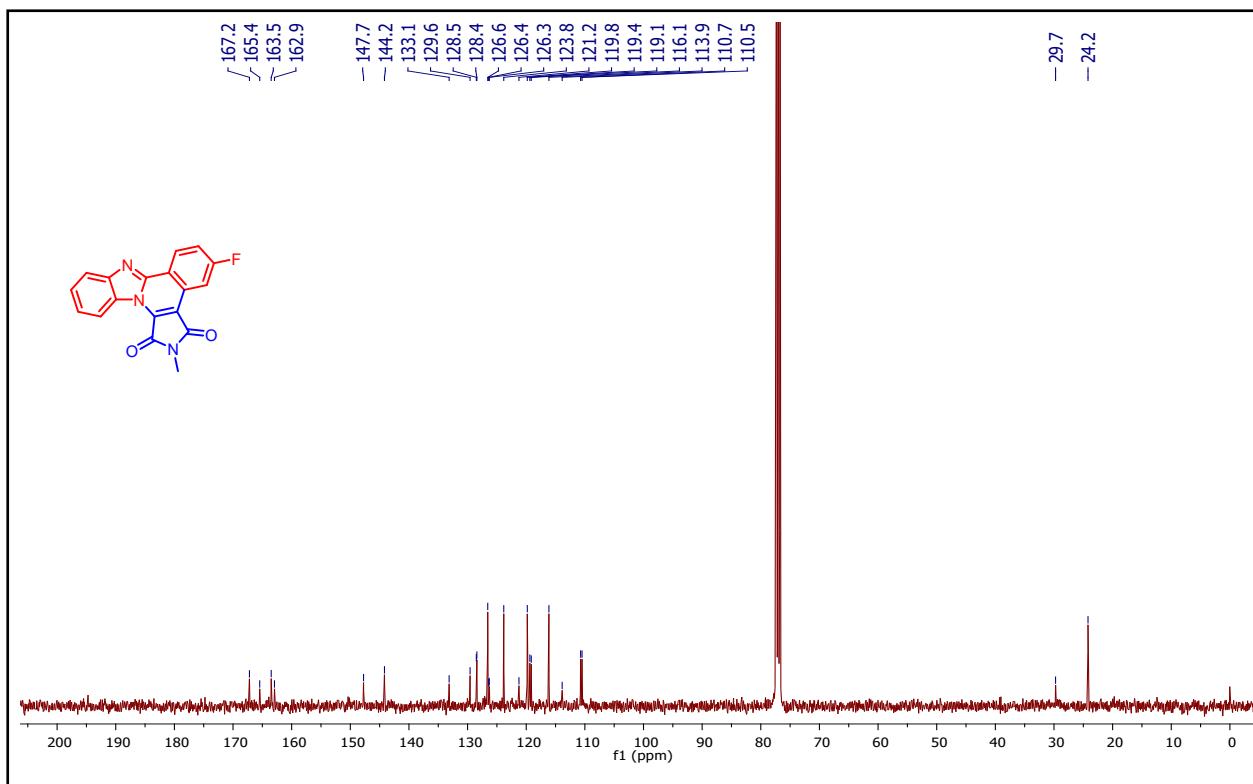
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3r:



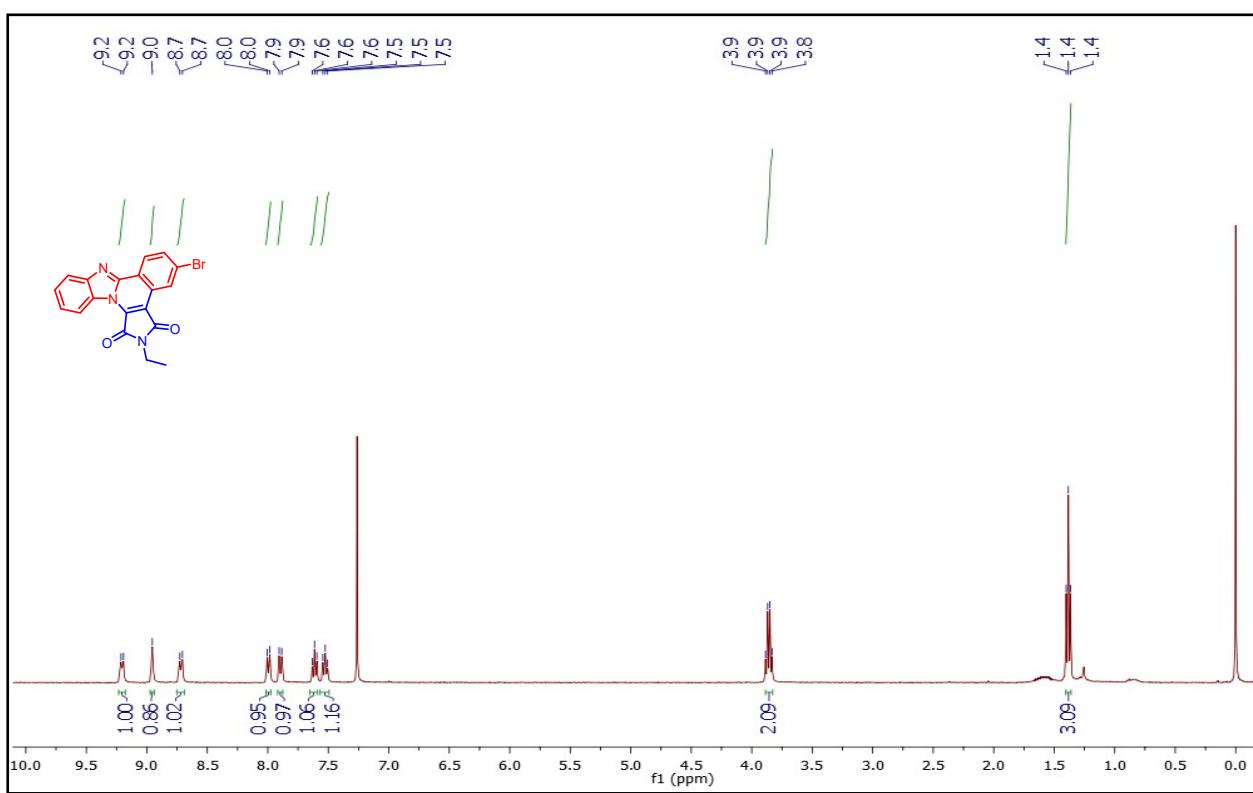
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3r:



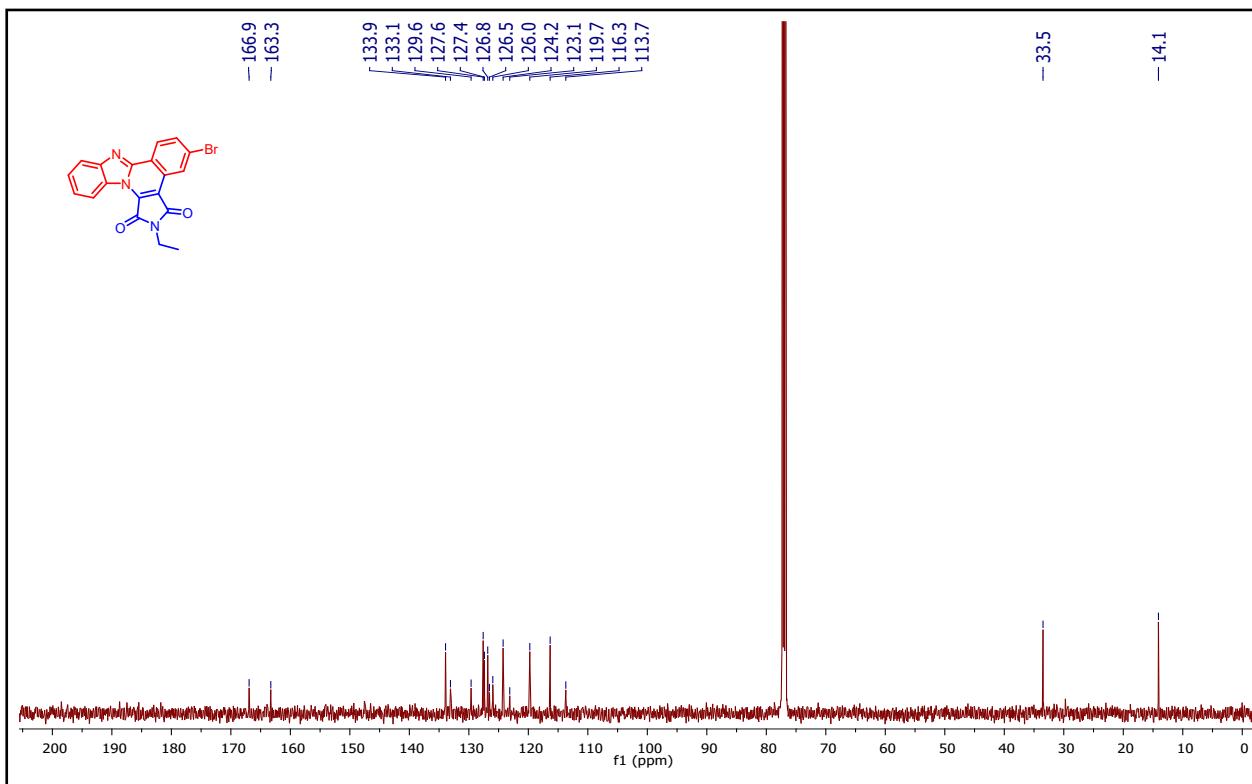
<sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $101\text{ MHz}$ ,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound 3s:



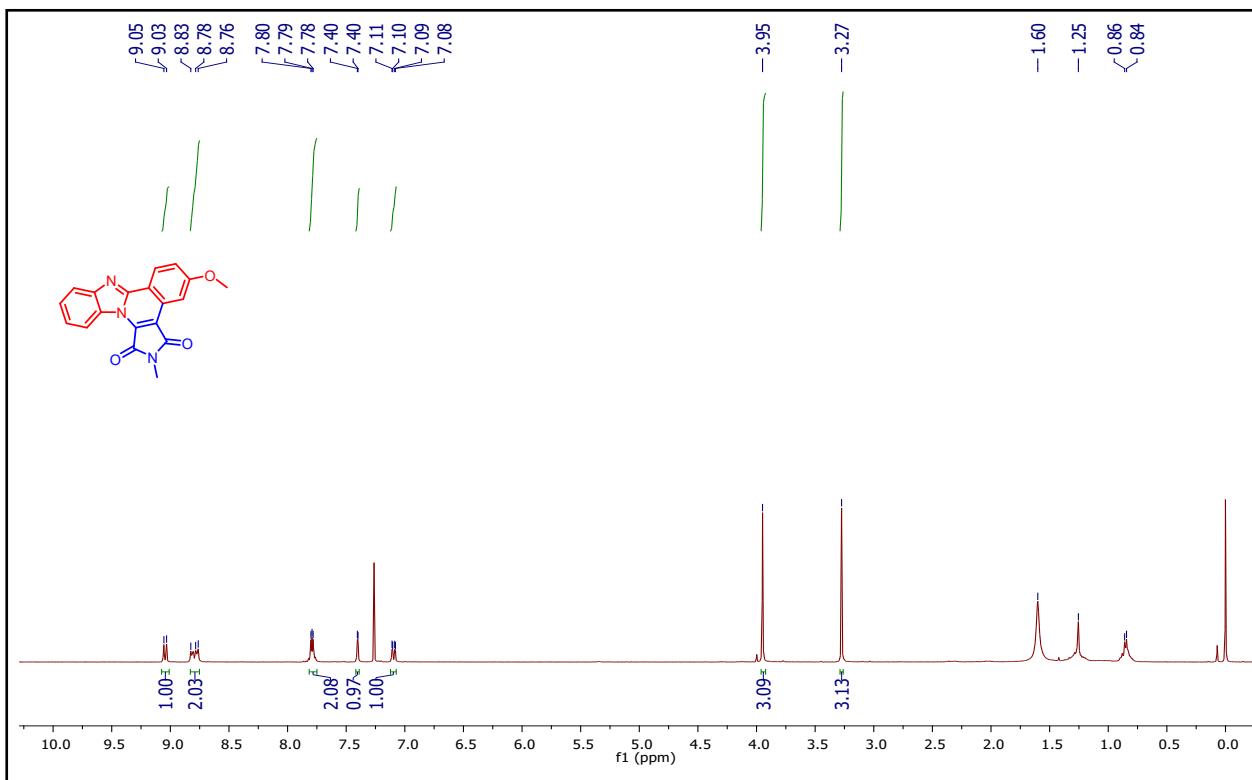
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3t:



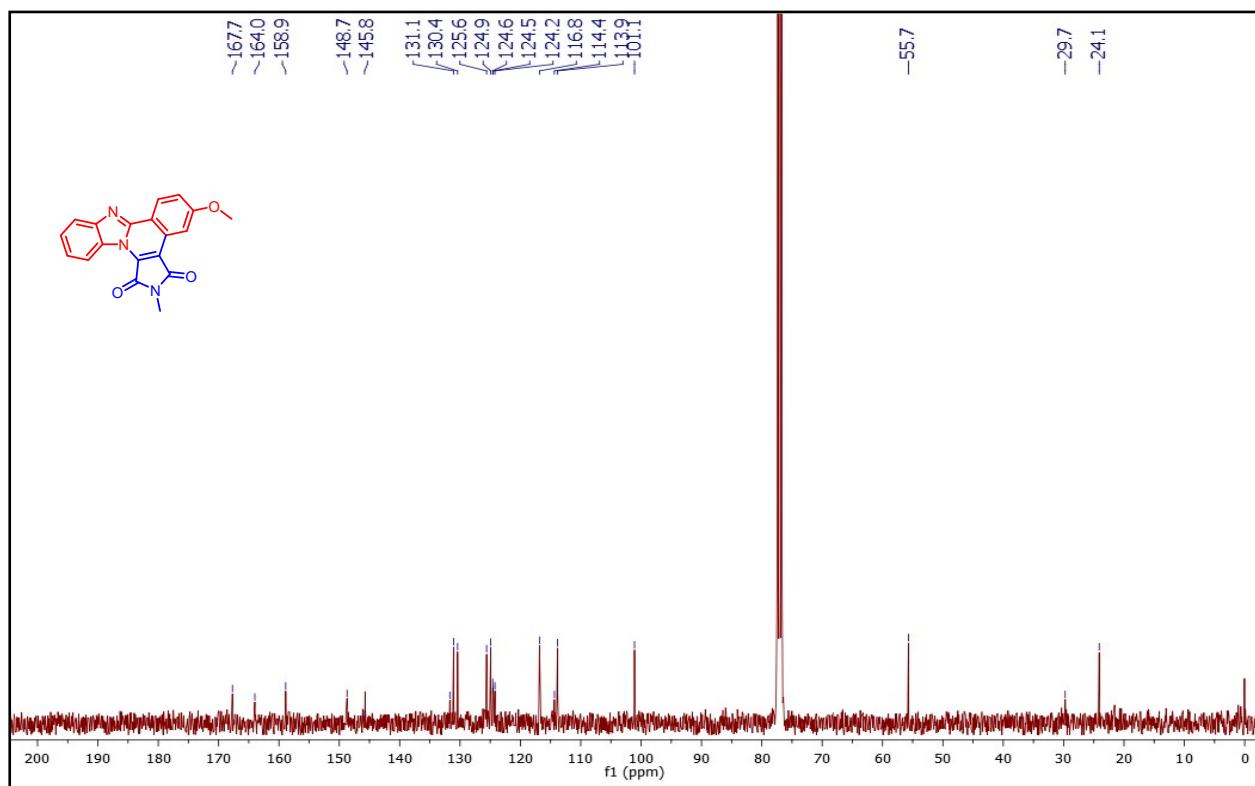
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3t:



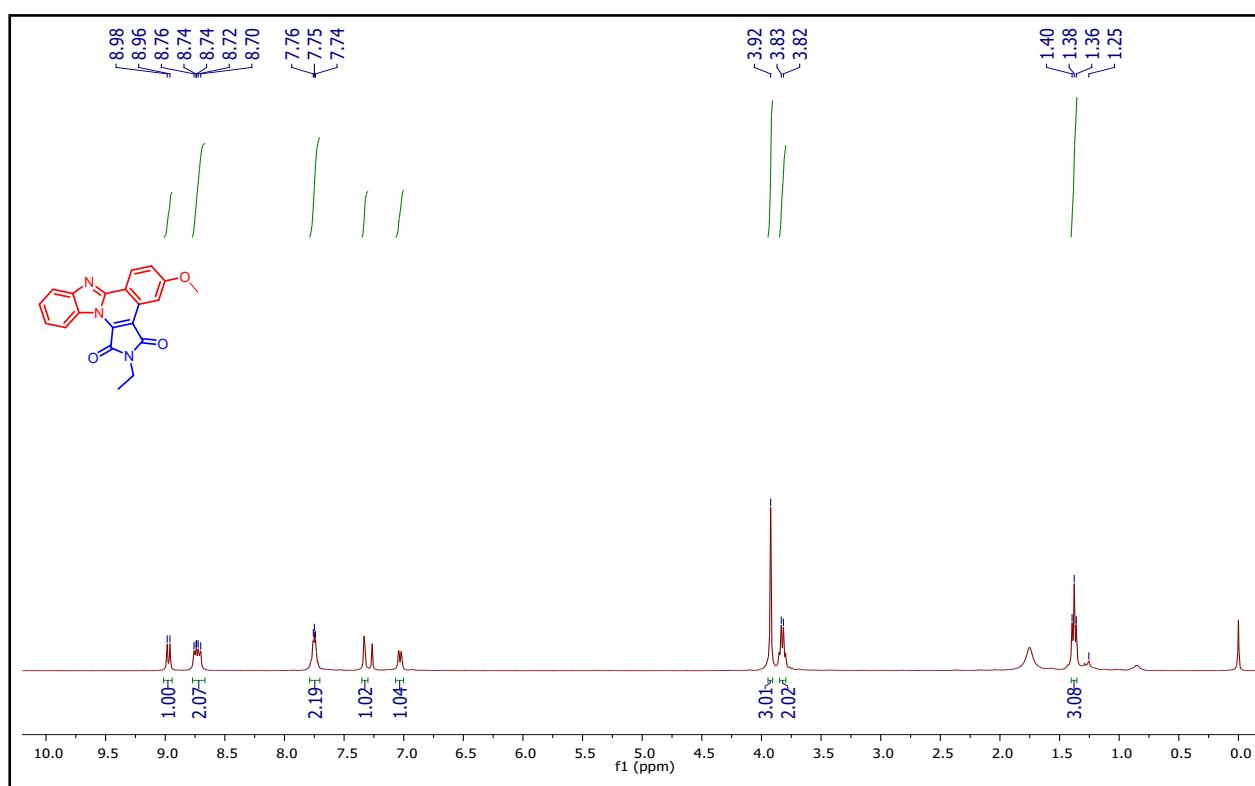
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3u:



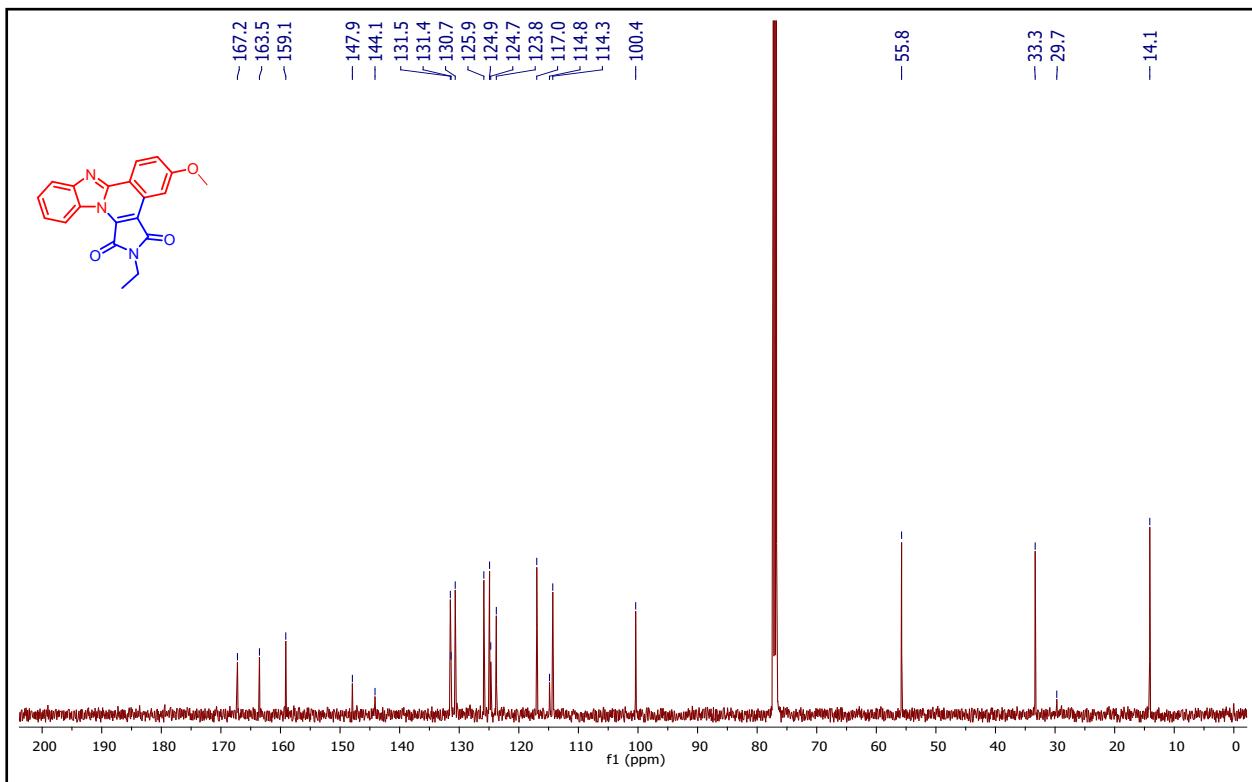
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3u**:



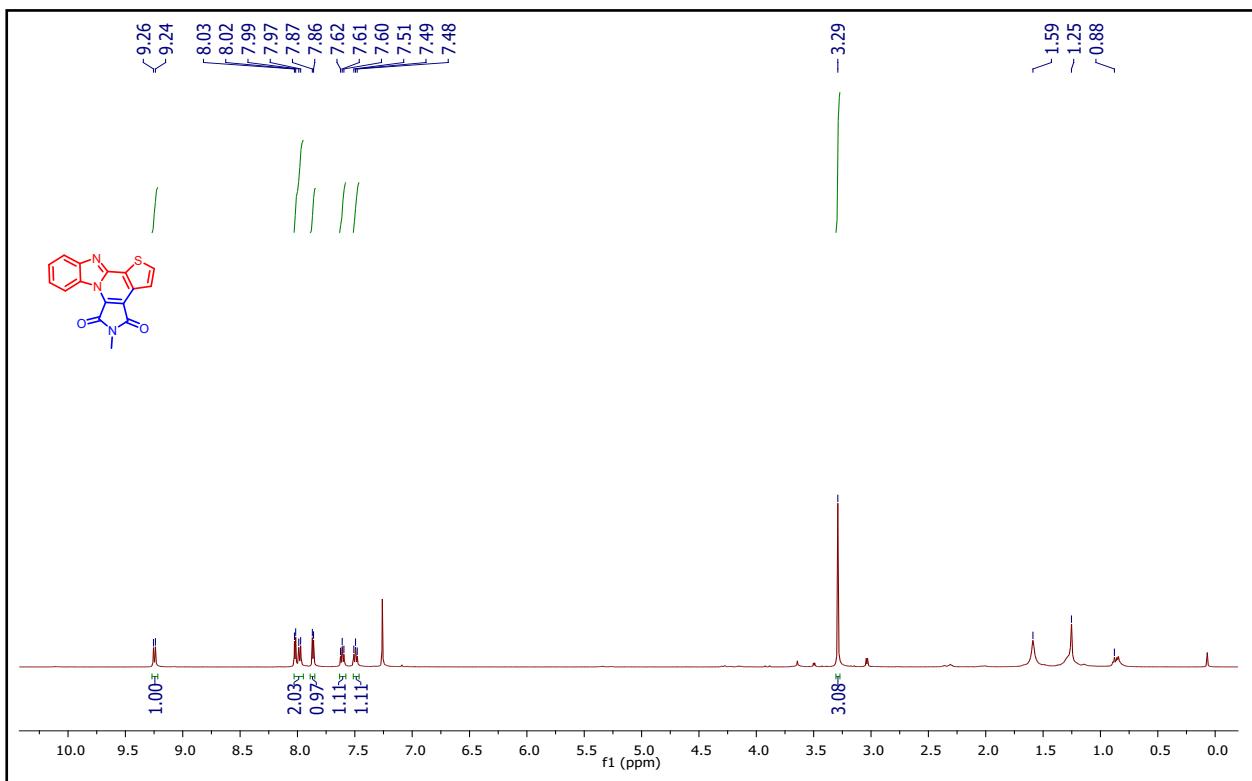
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3v**:



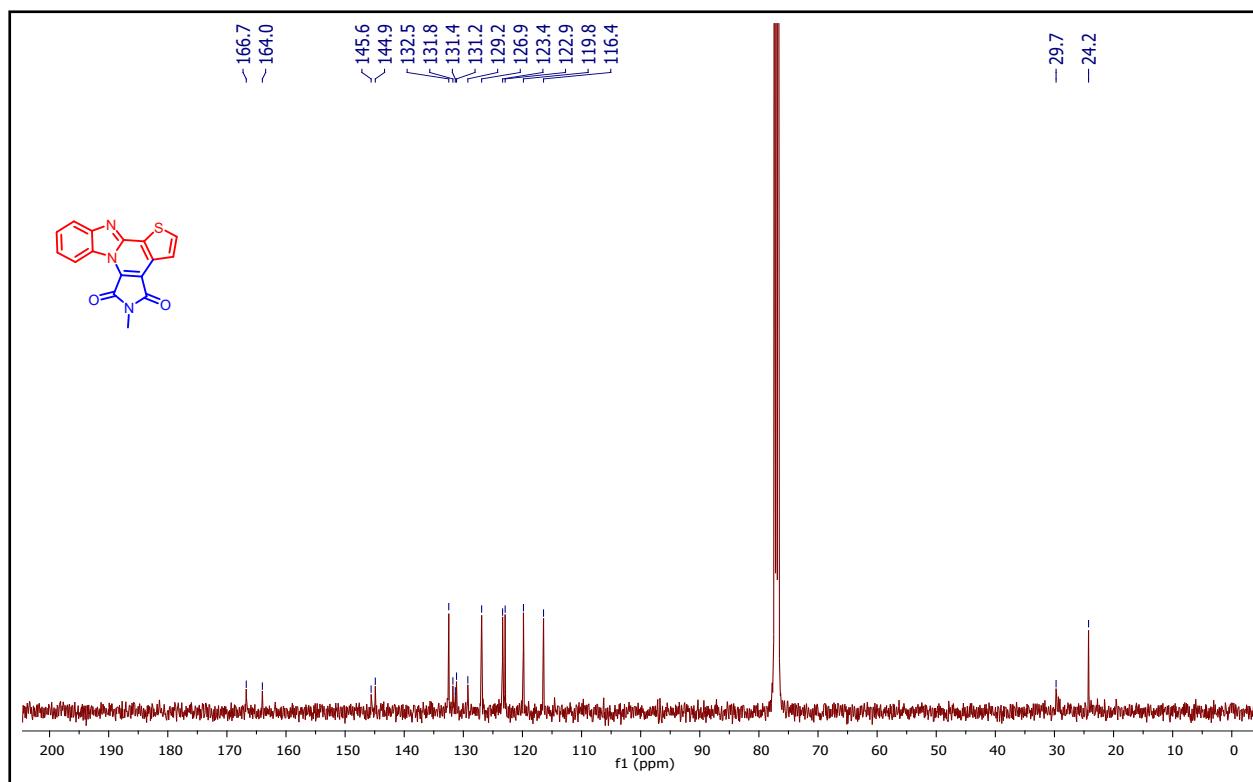
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3v**:



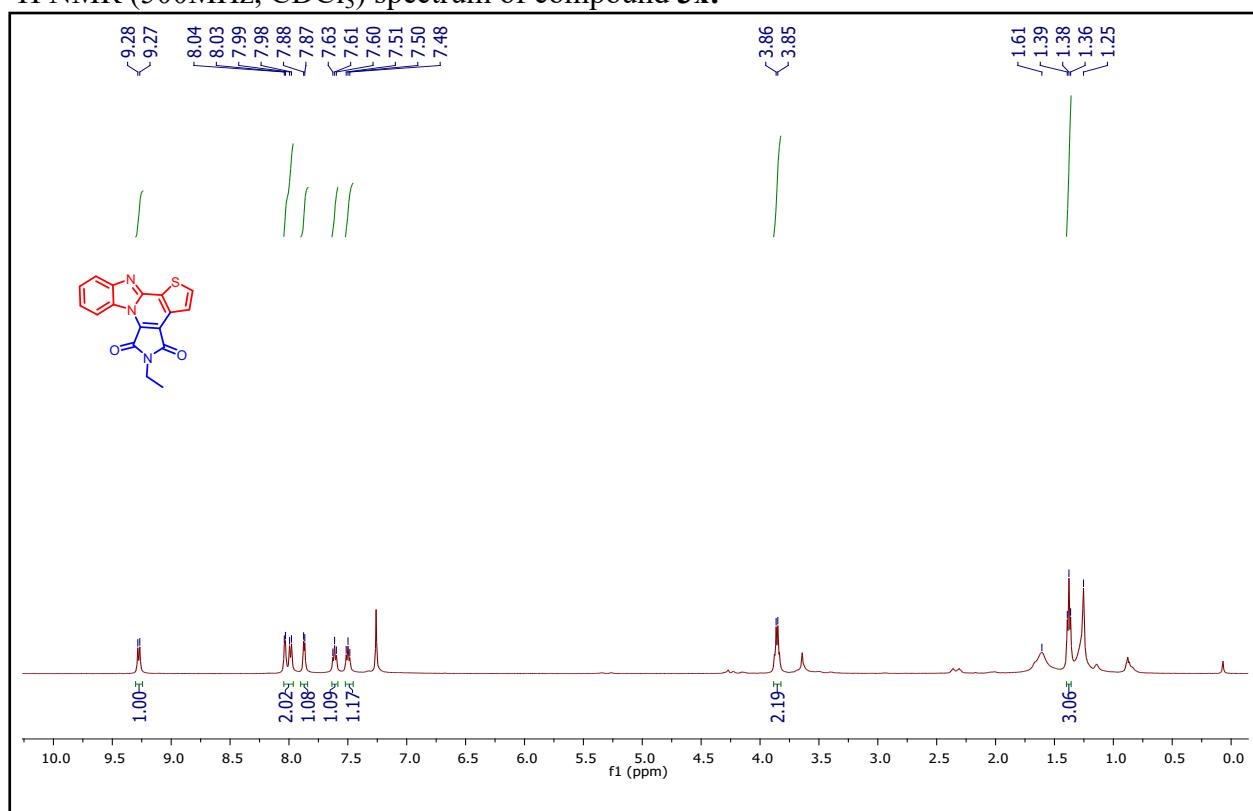
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3w**:



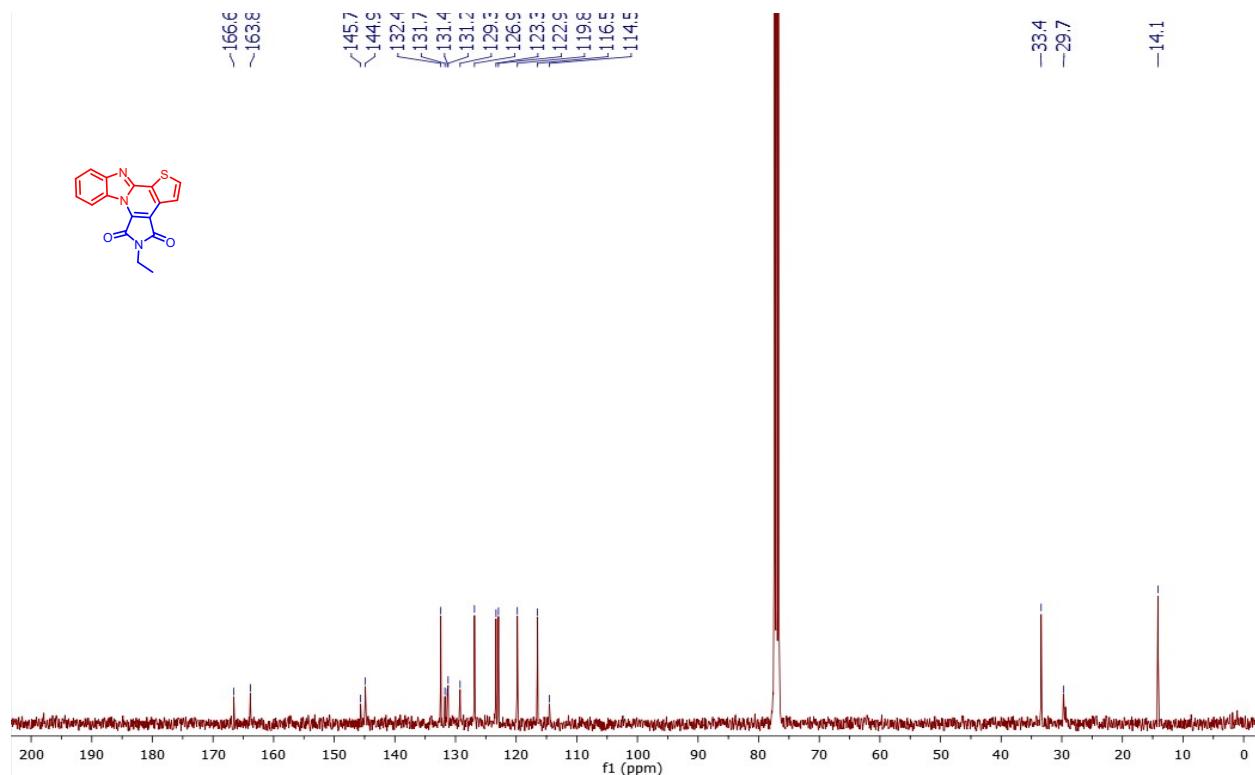
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3w:



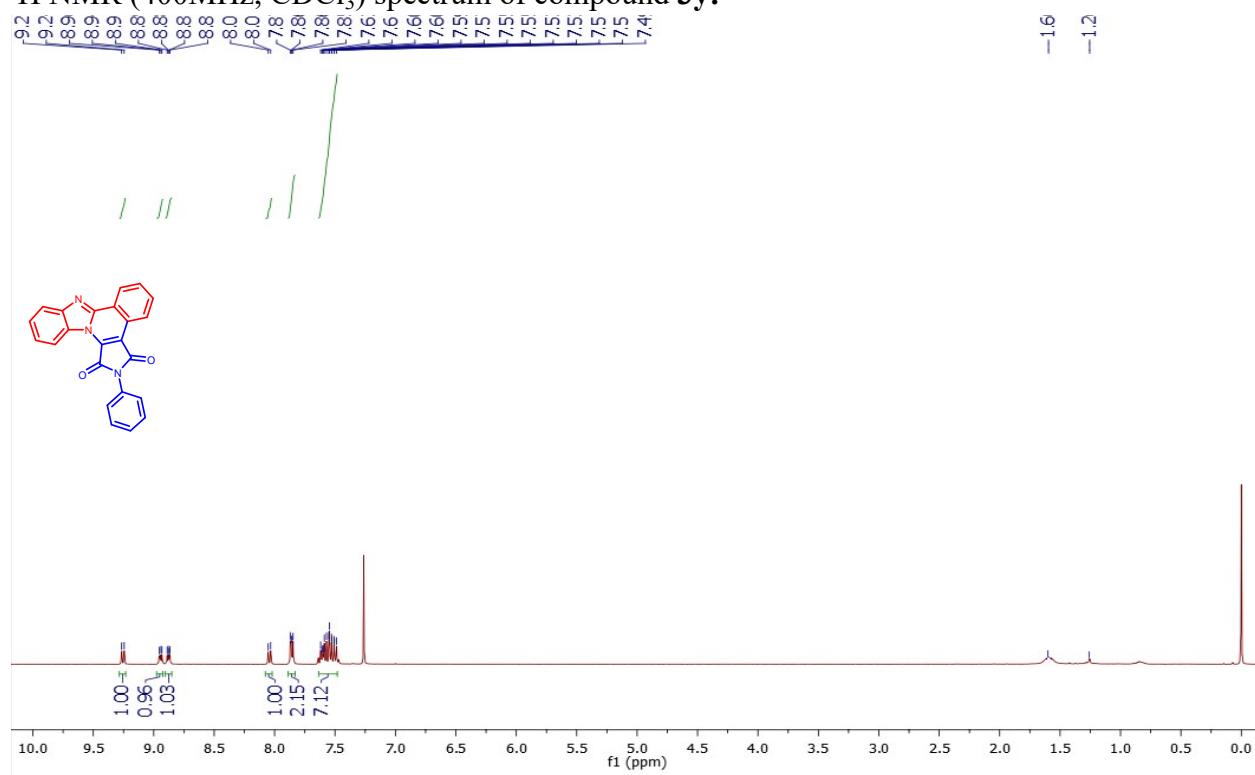
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3x:



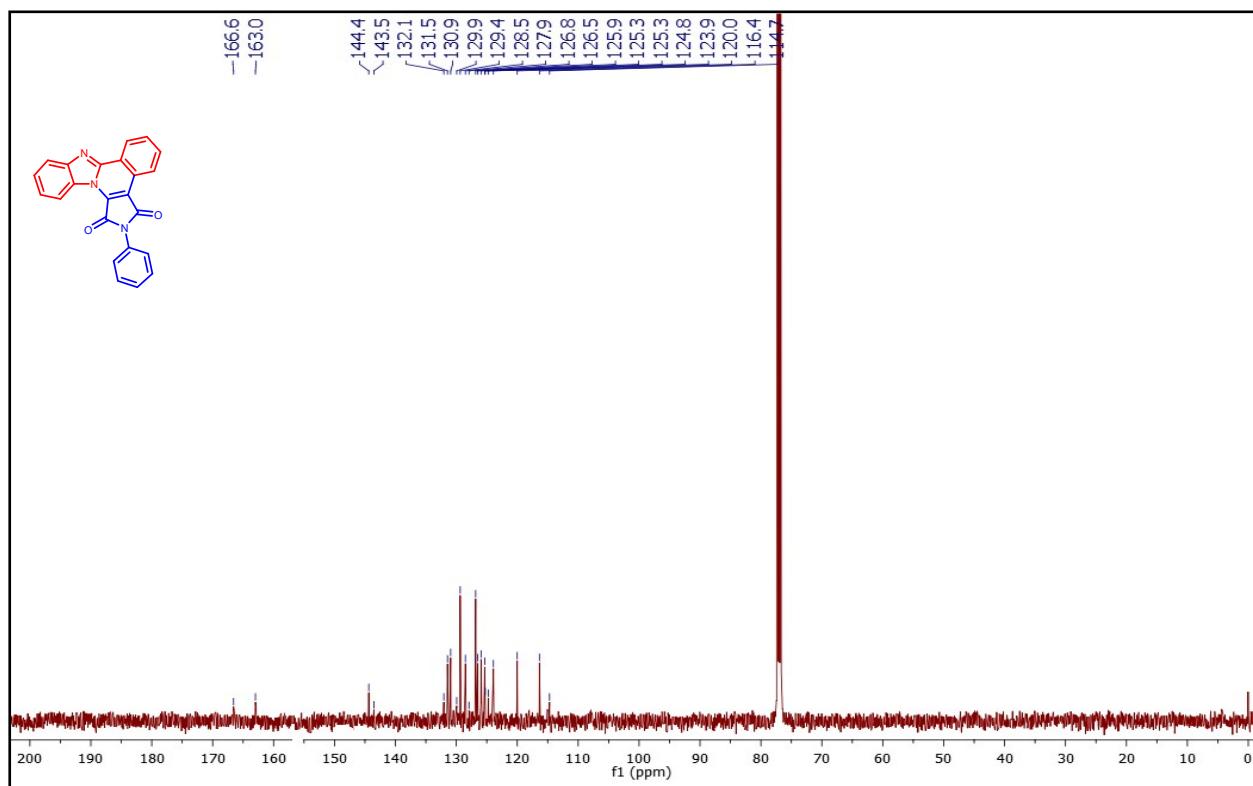
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound 3x:



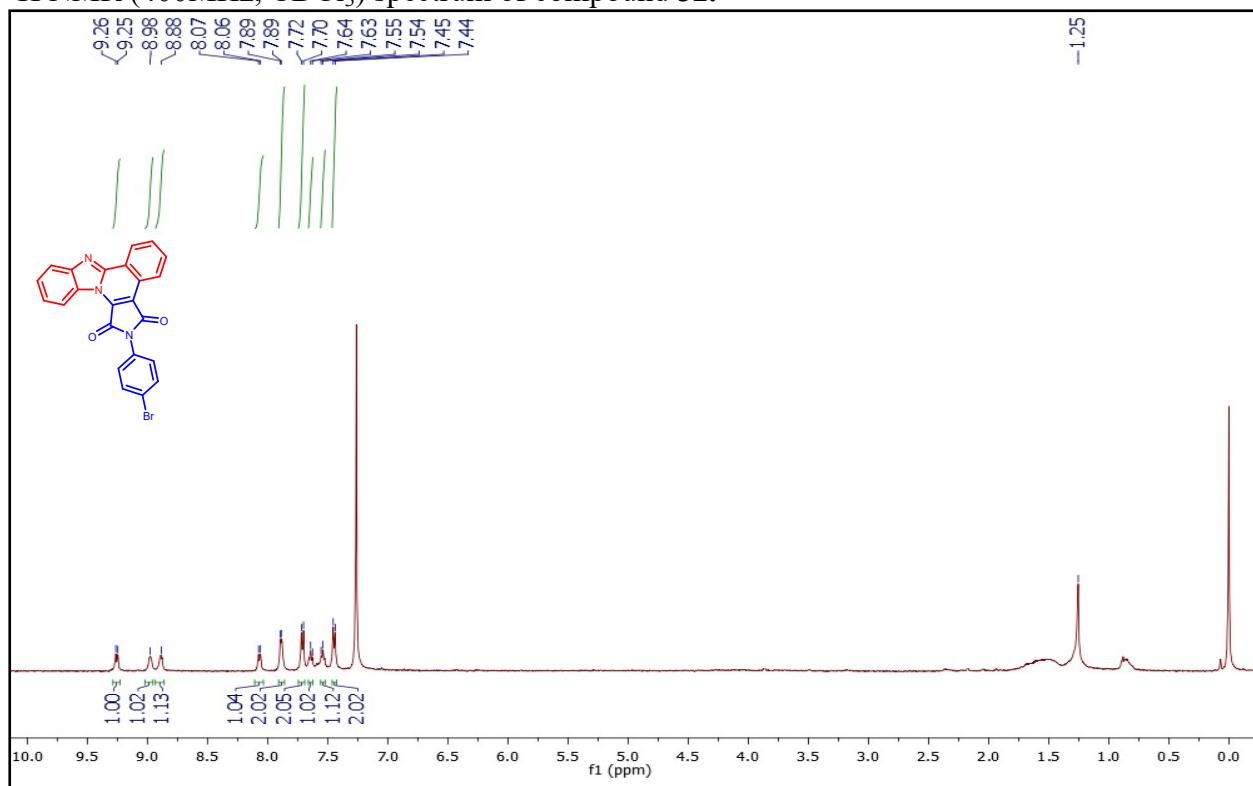
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound 3y:



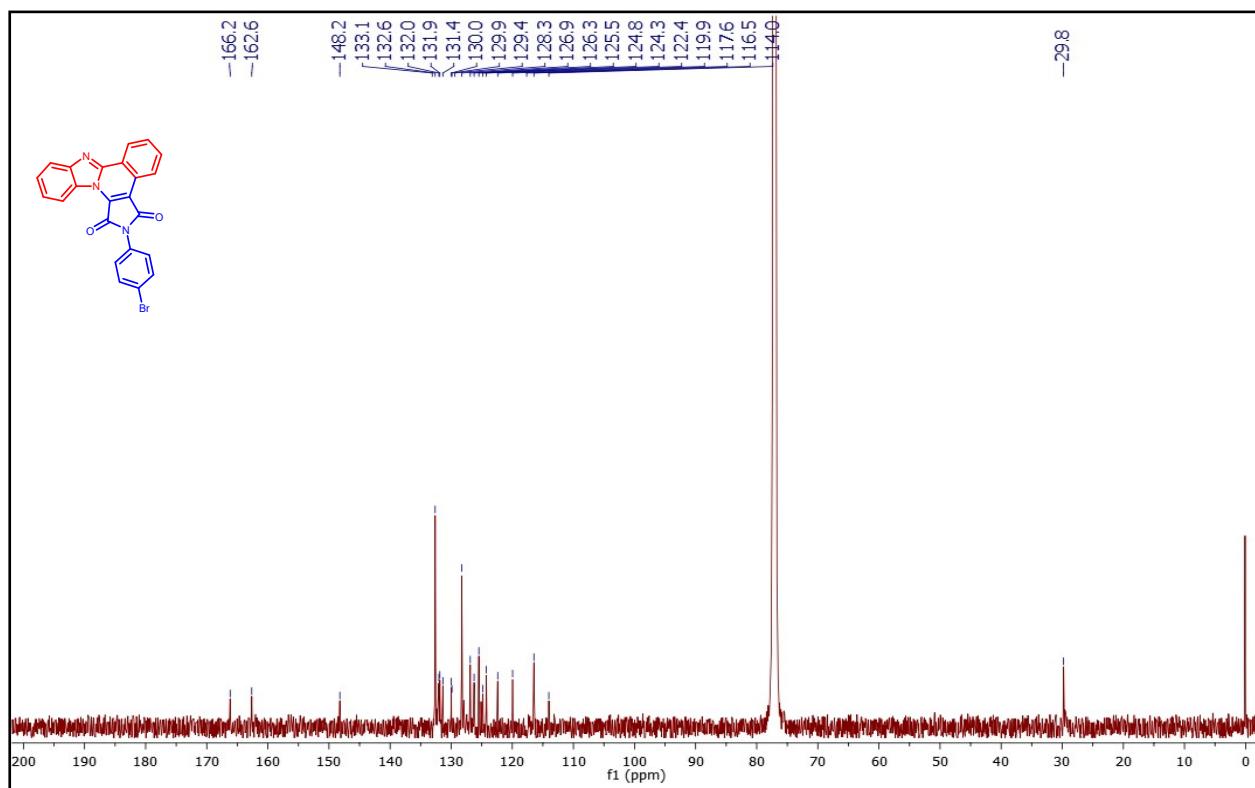
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3y:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3z:

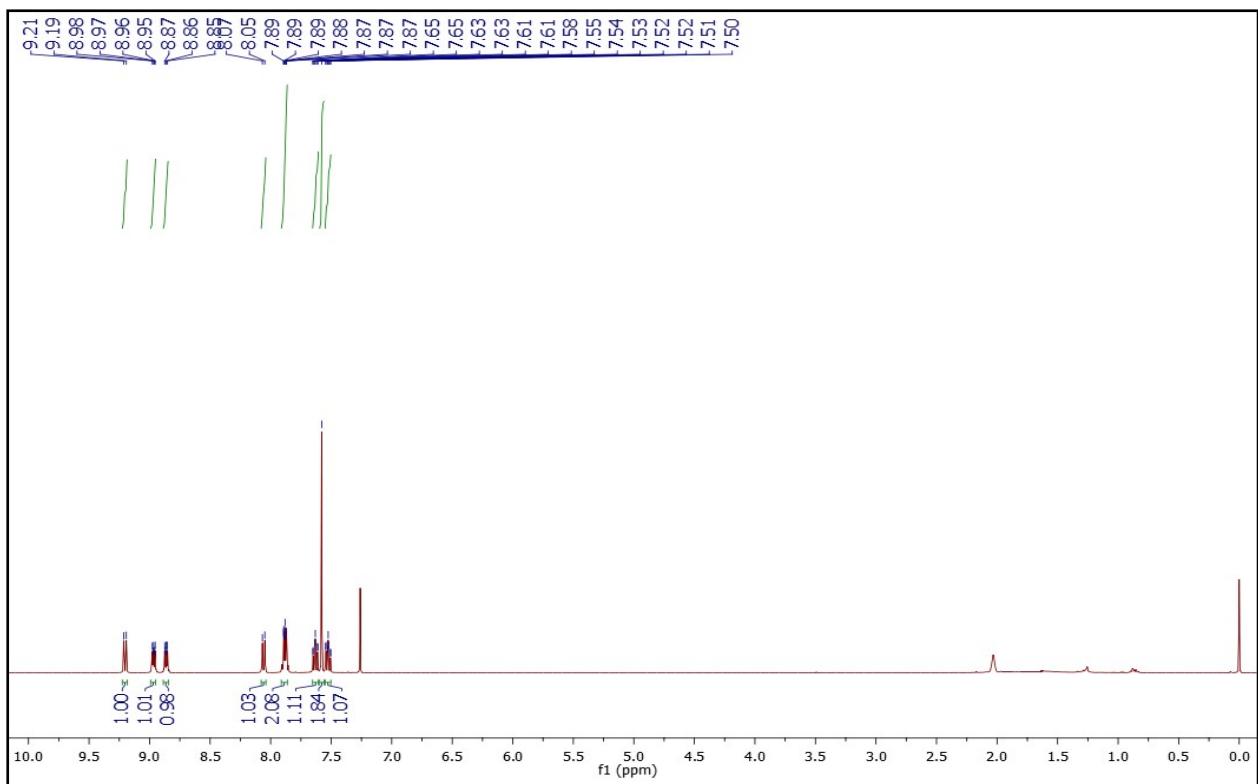


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (154 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3z**:

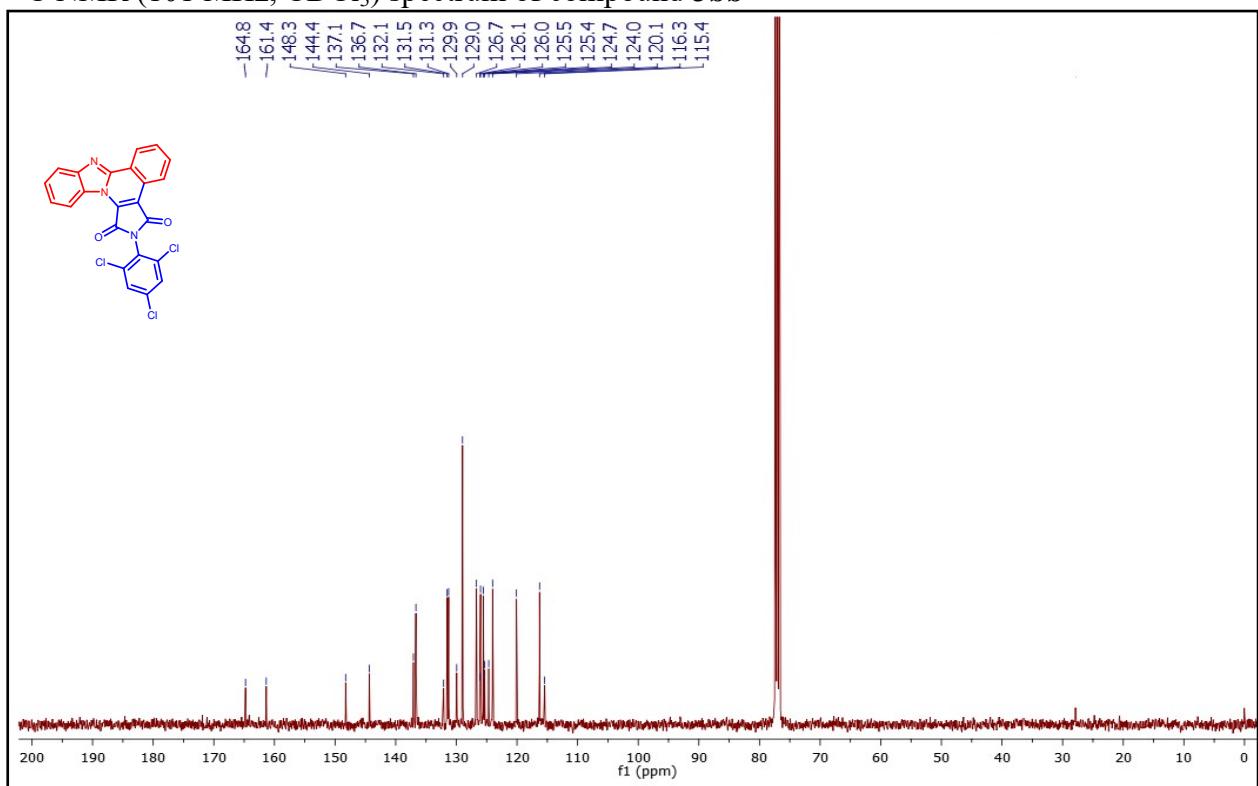


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3bb**

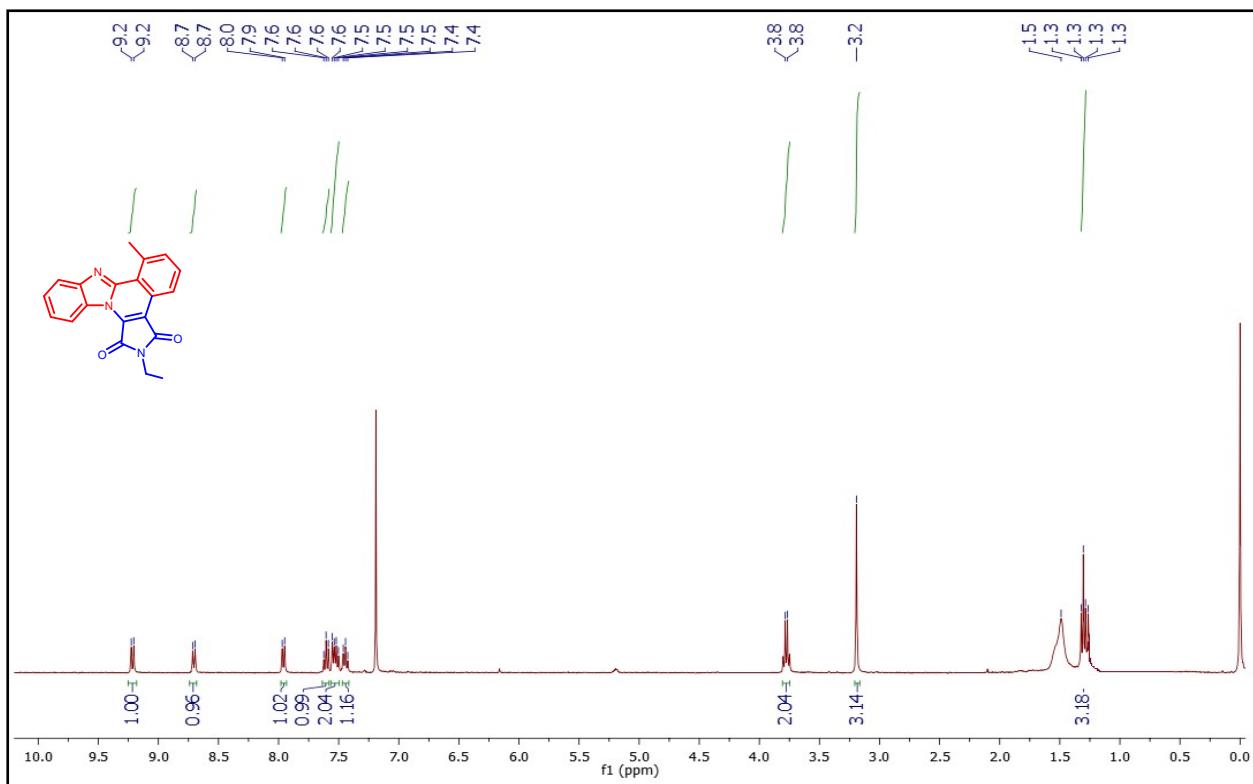




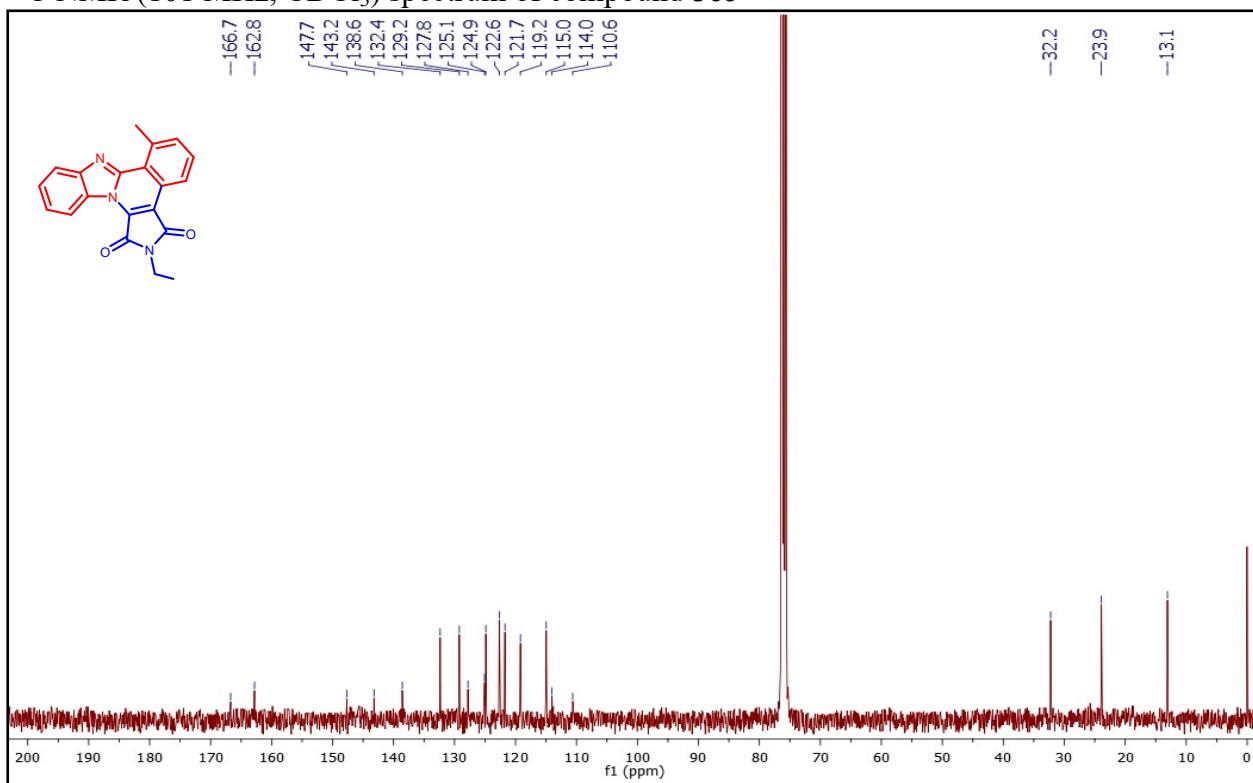
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3bb**



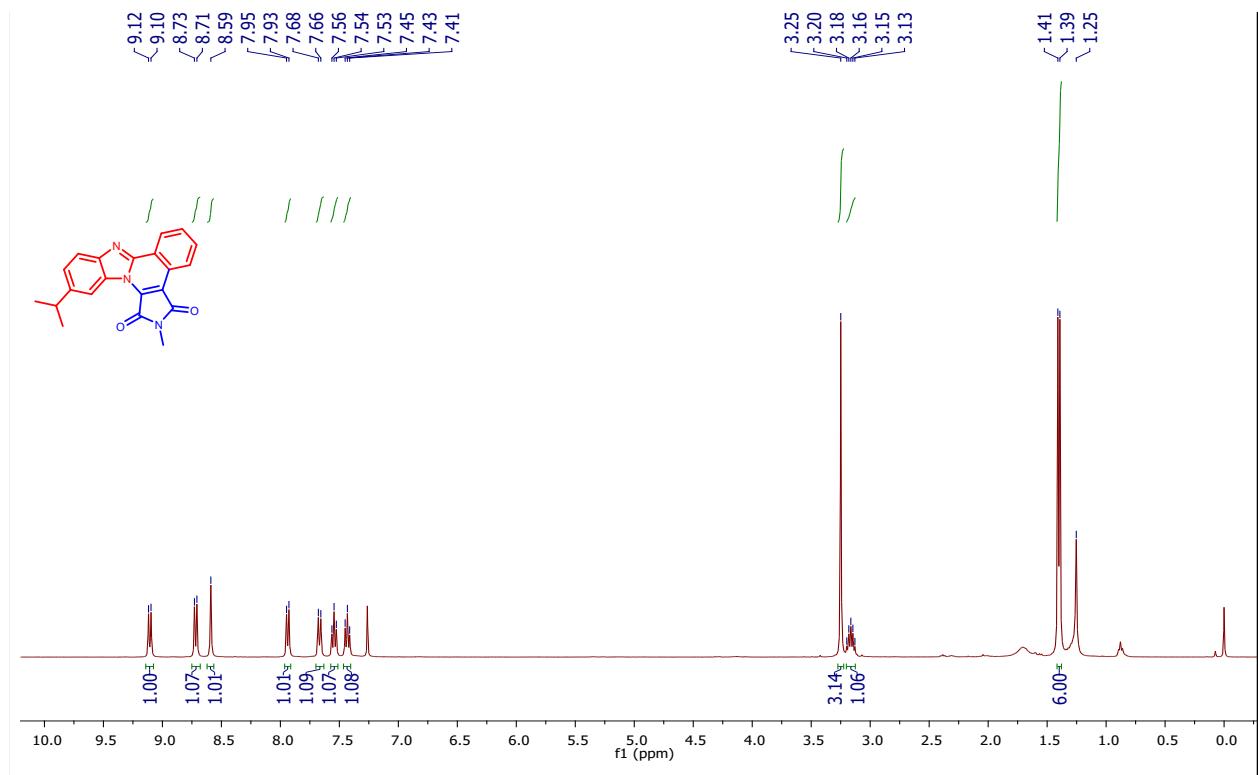
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3cc**



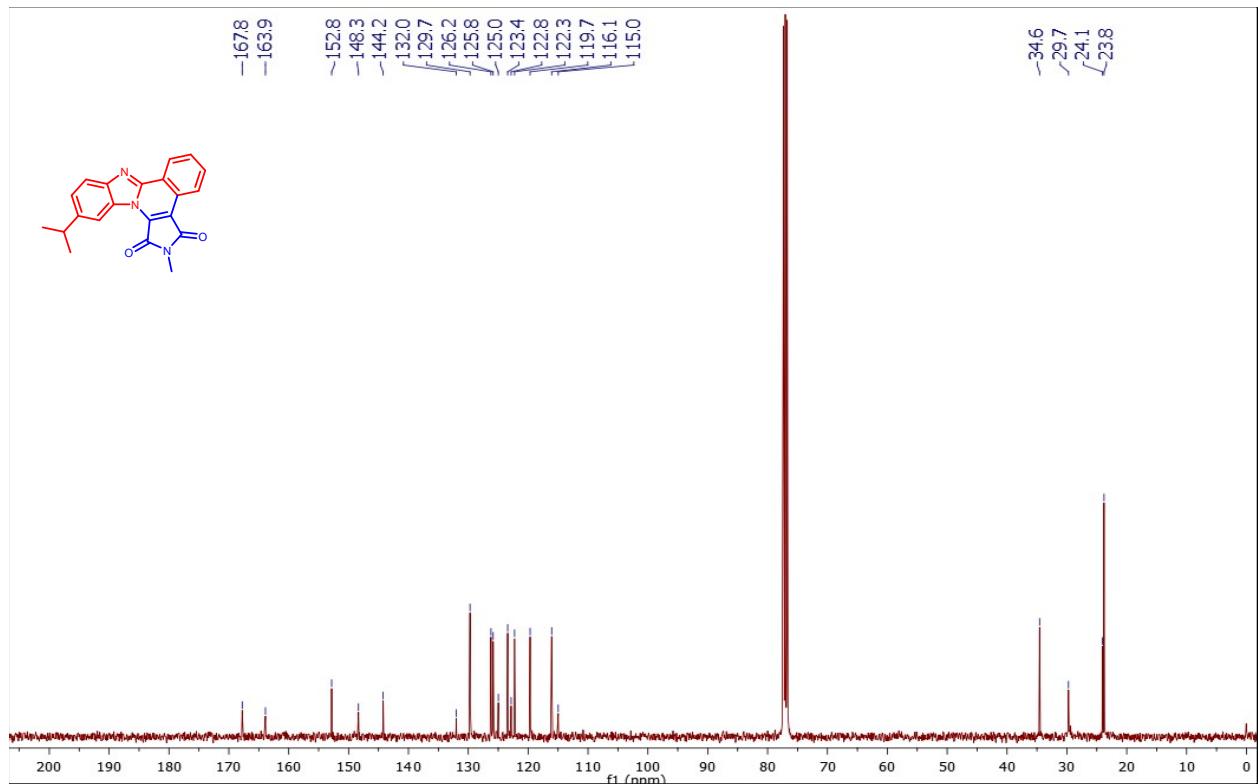
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3cc



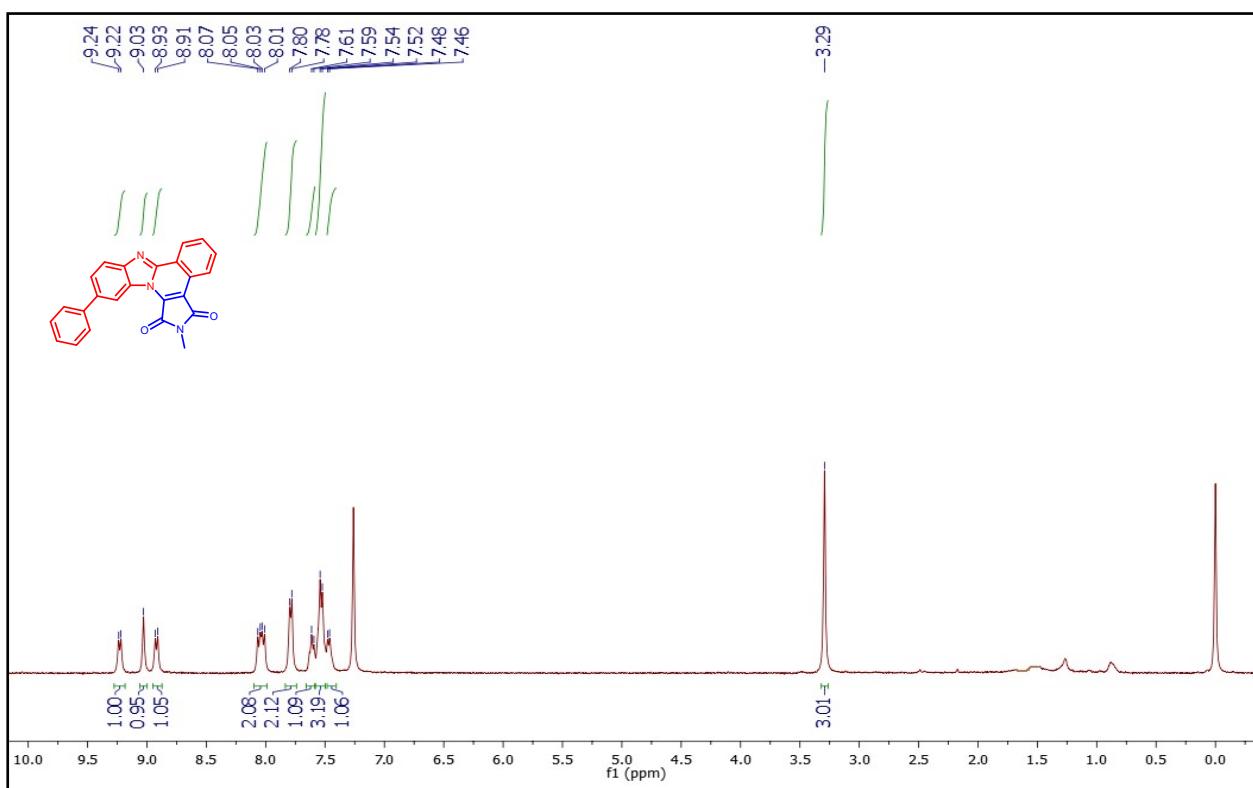
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3dd



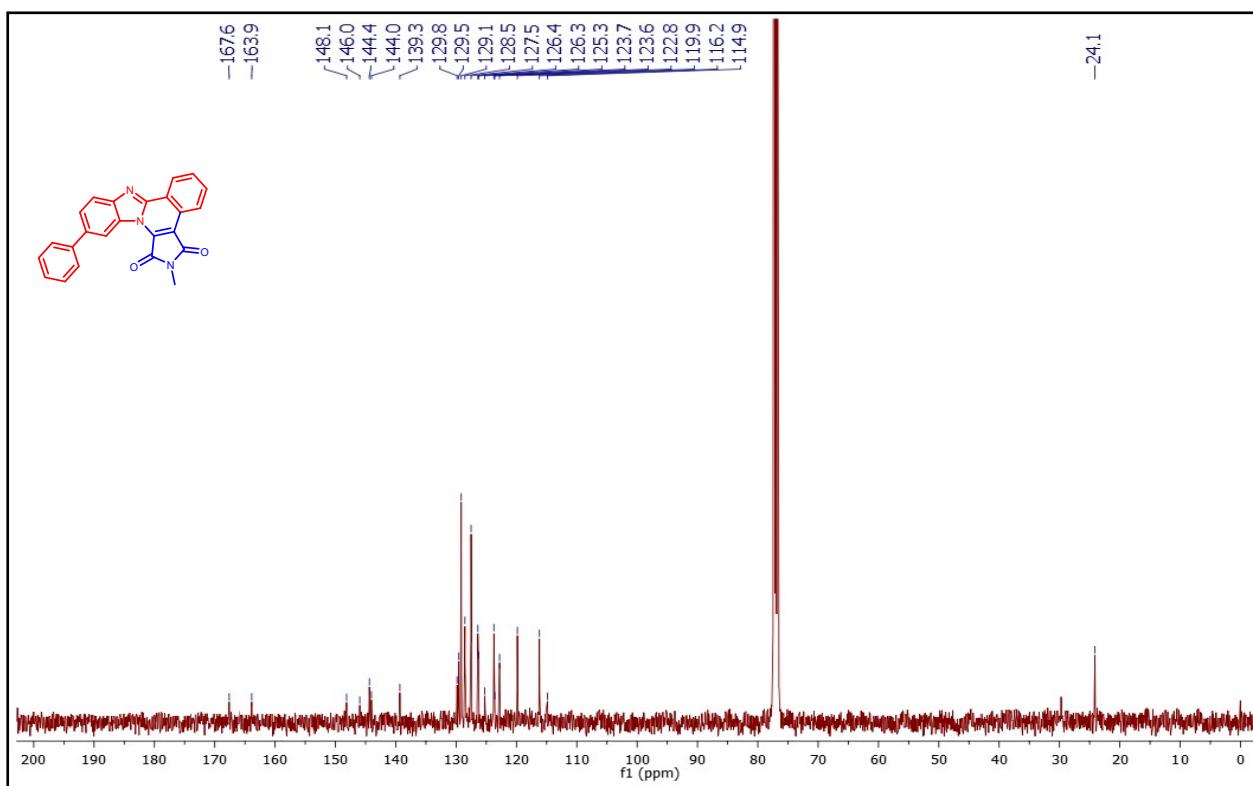
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3dd



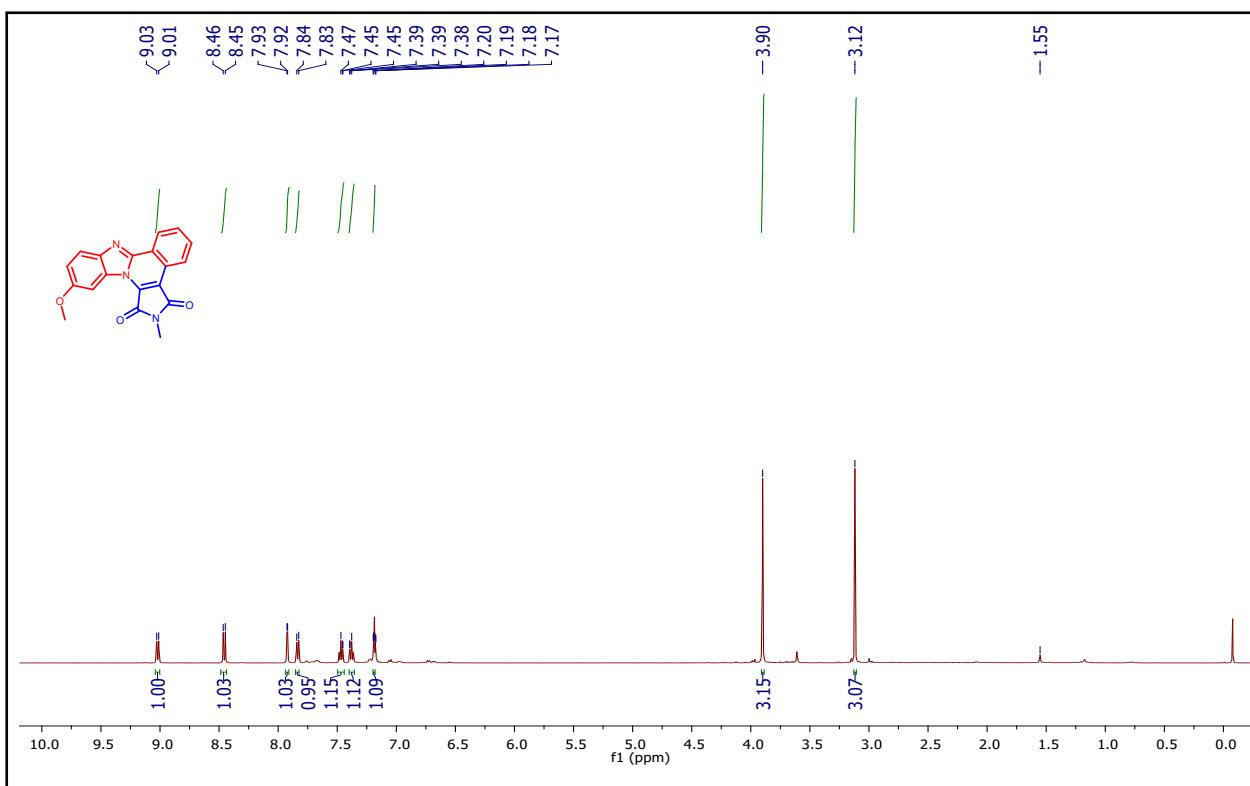
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3ee



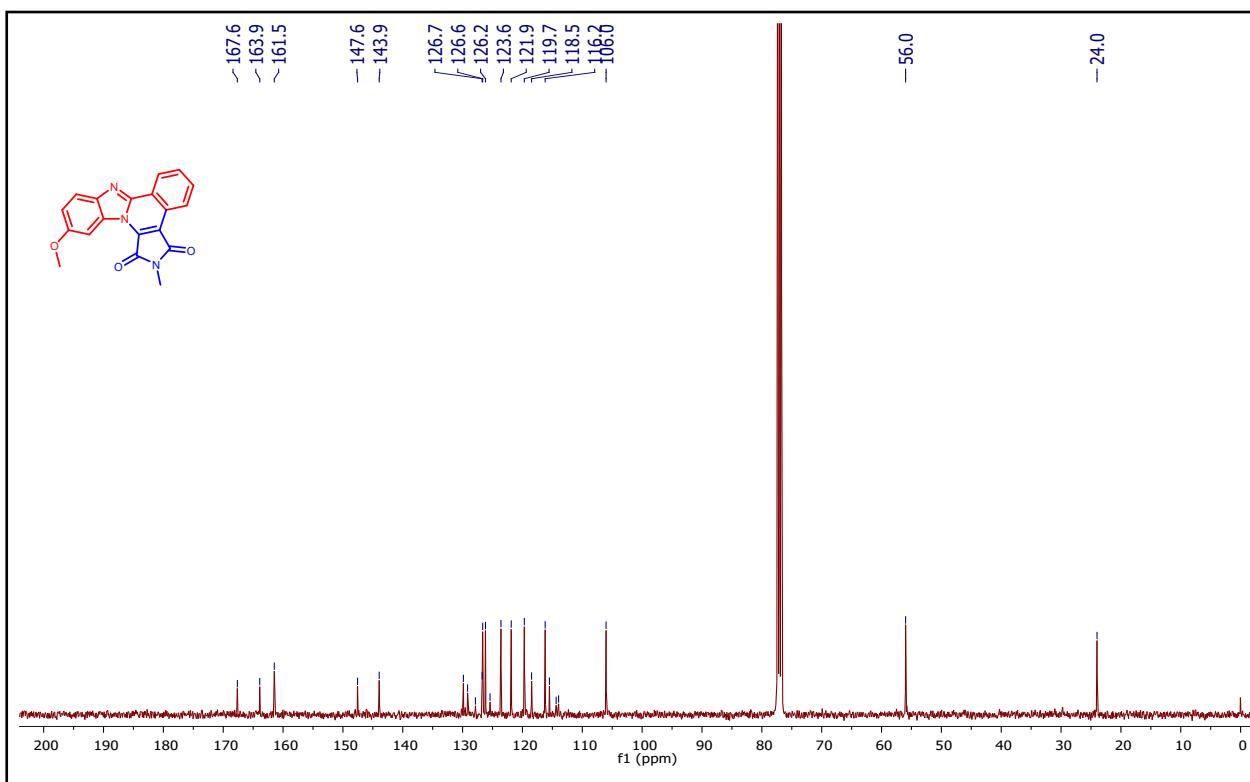
<sup>1</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3ee



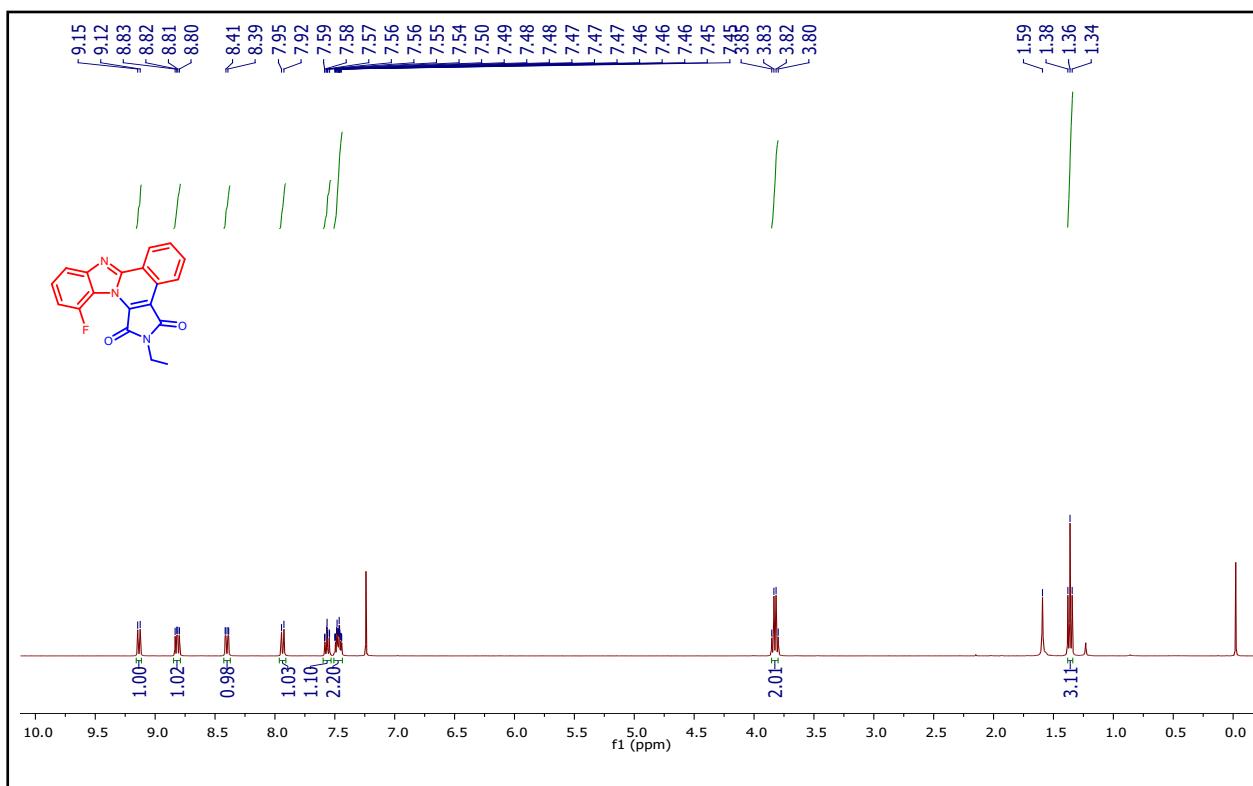
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3ff



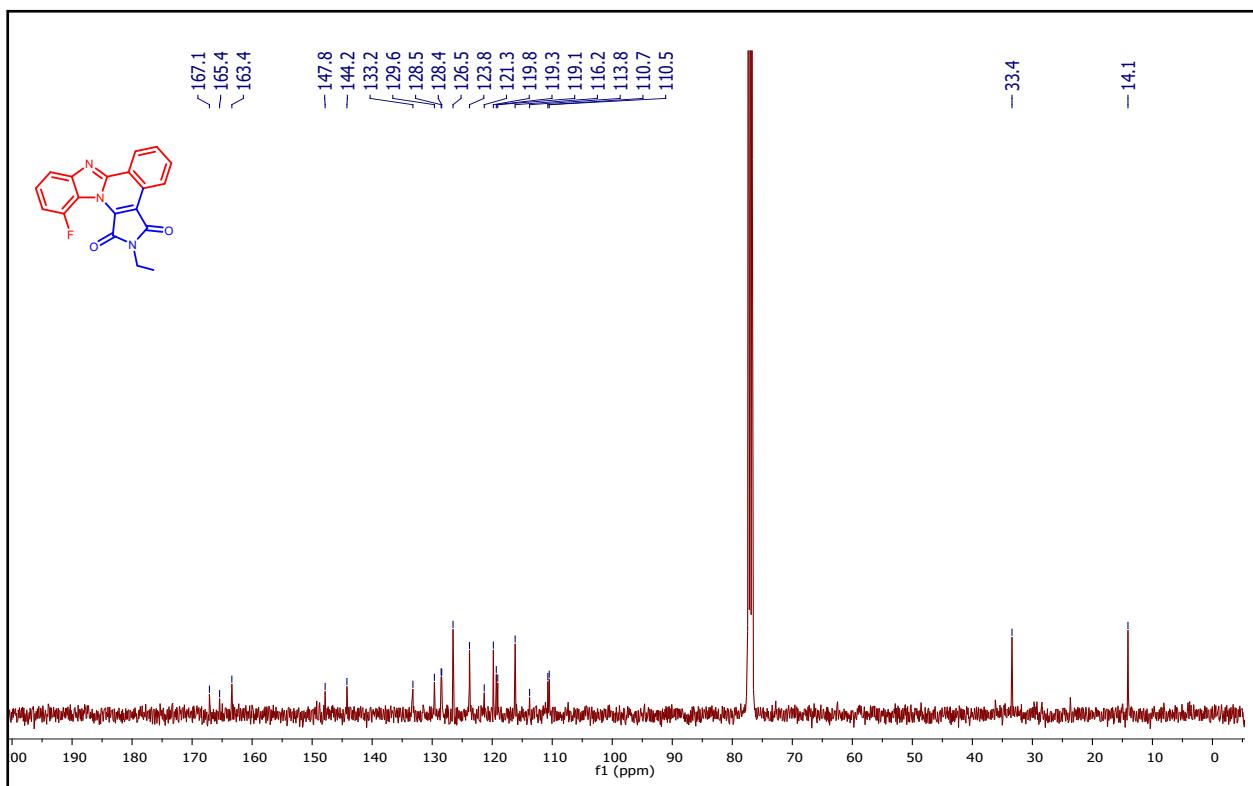
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3ff



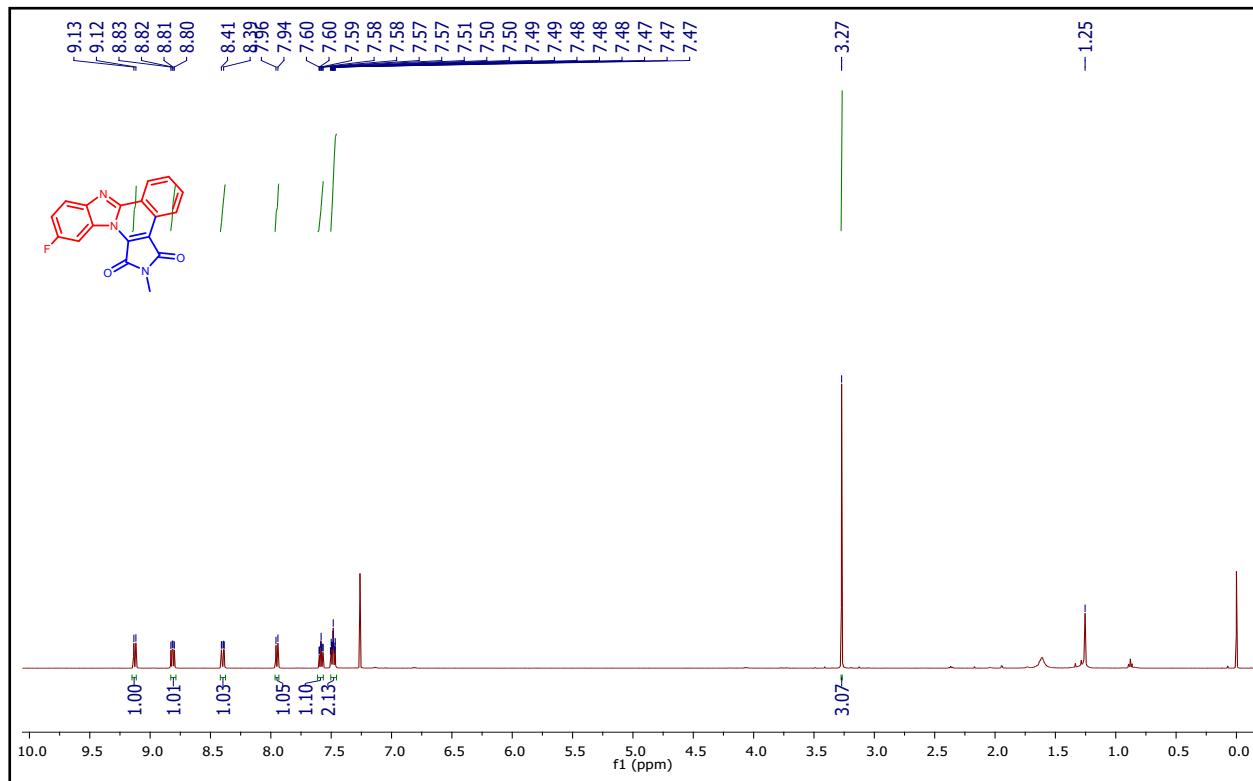
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3gg



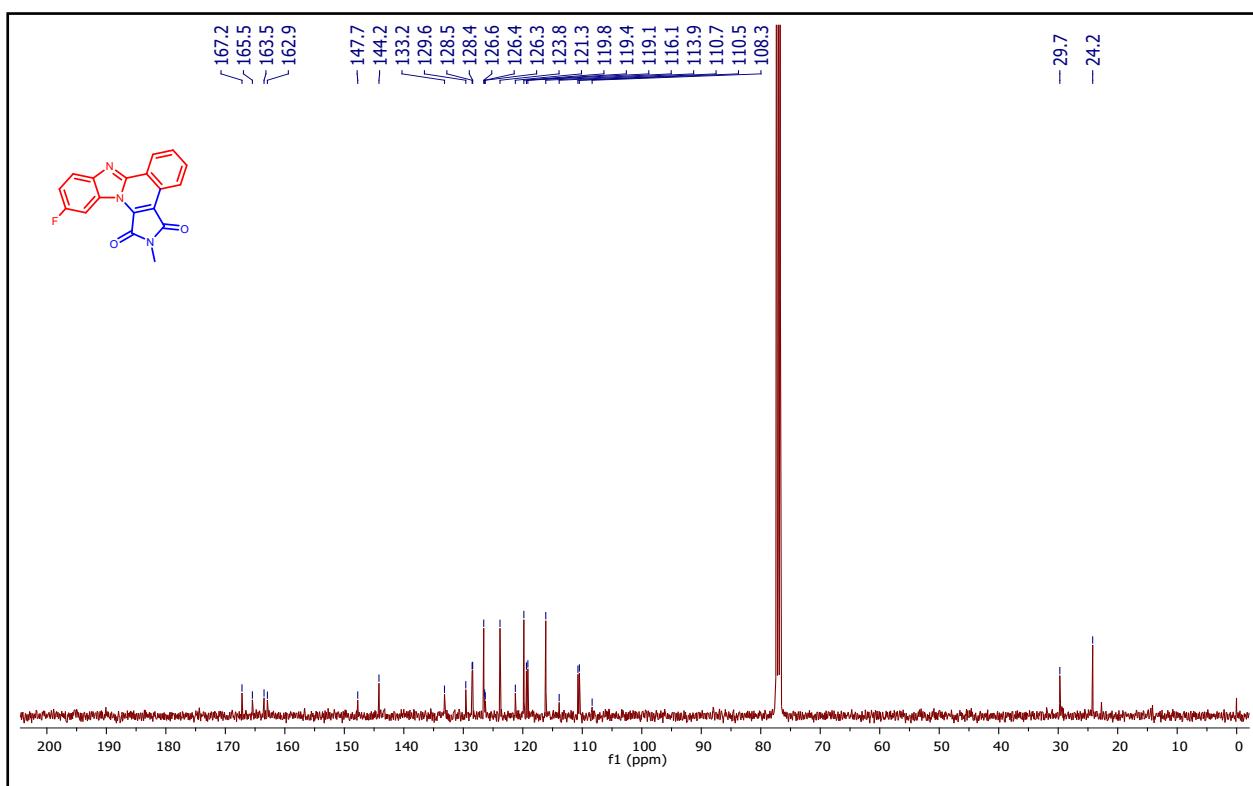
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3gg**



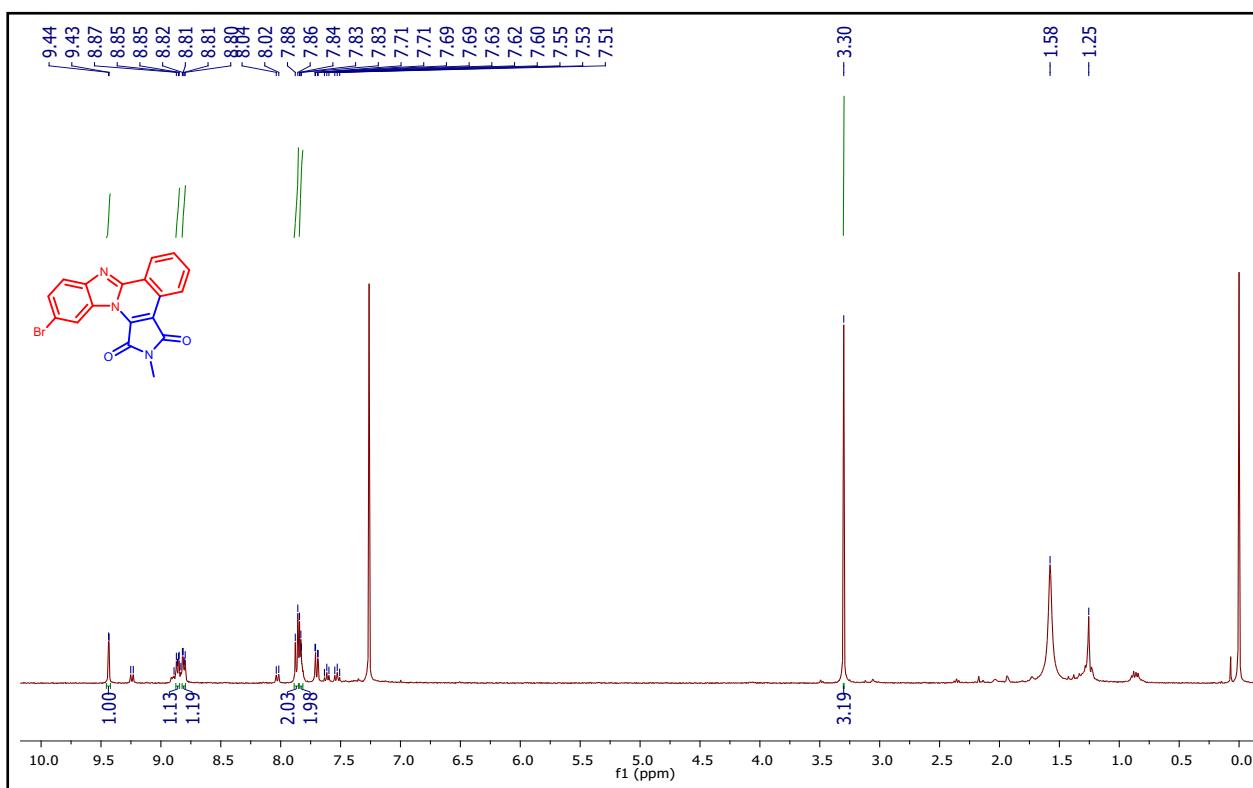
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3hh**



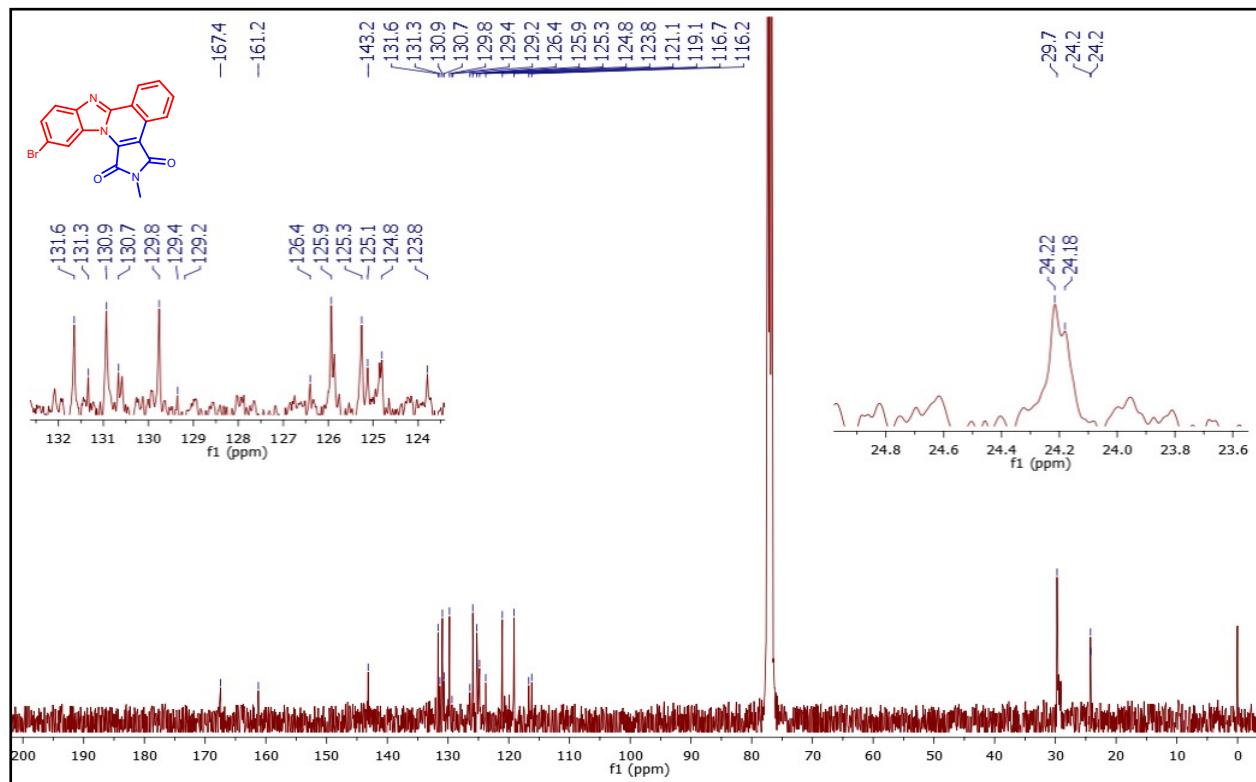
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound **3hh**



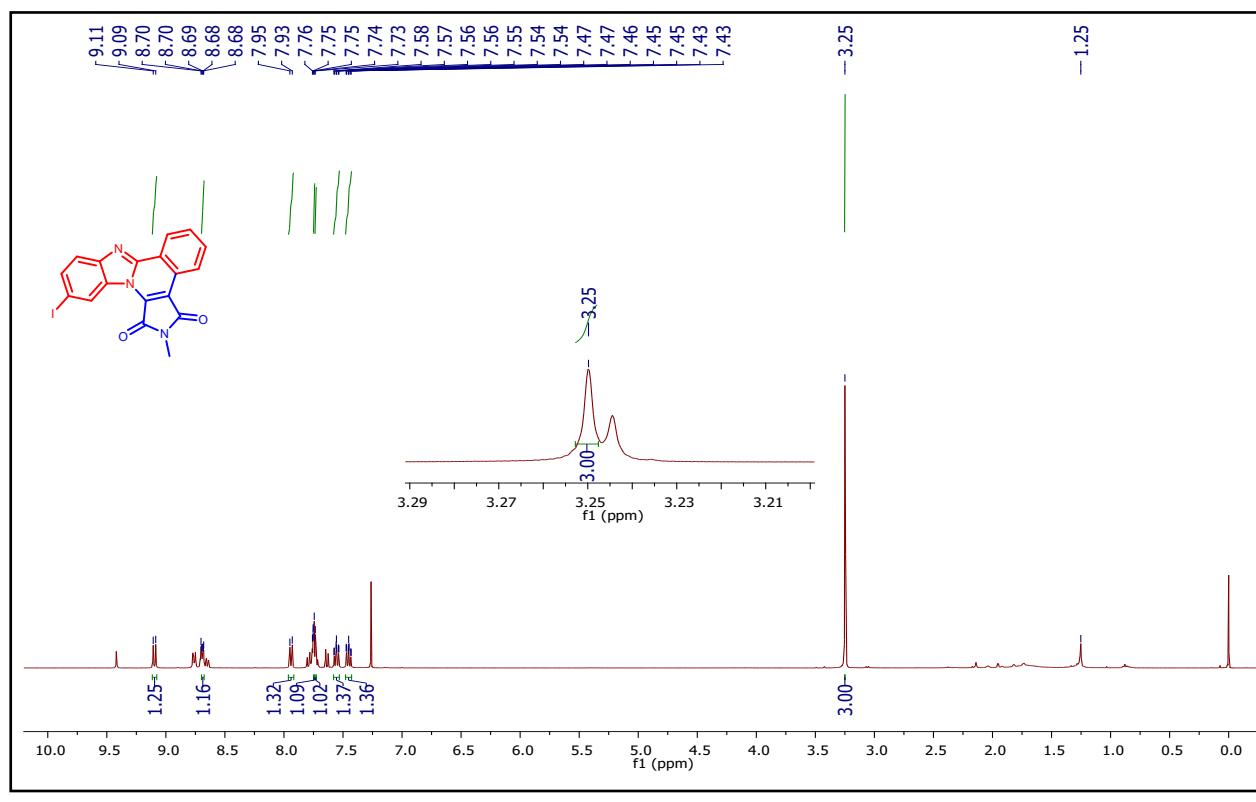
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound 3ii



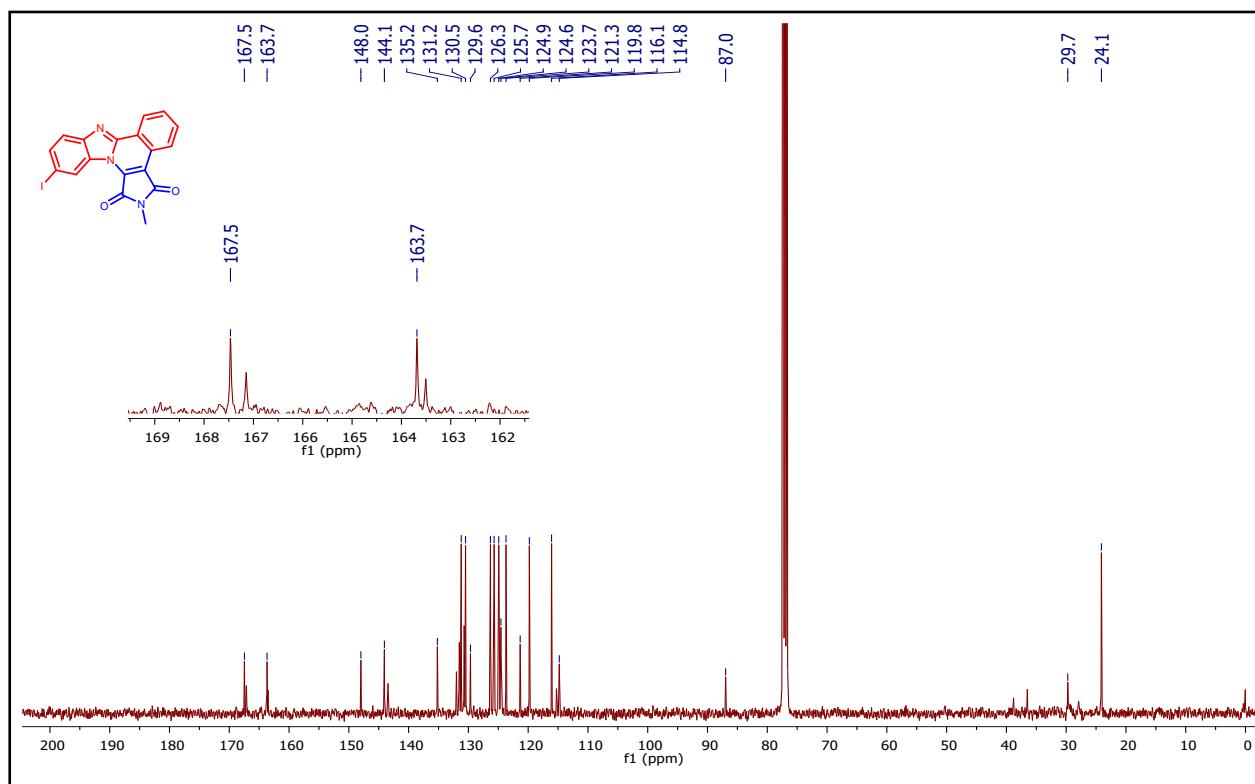
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3ii**



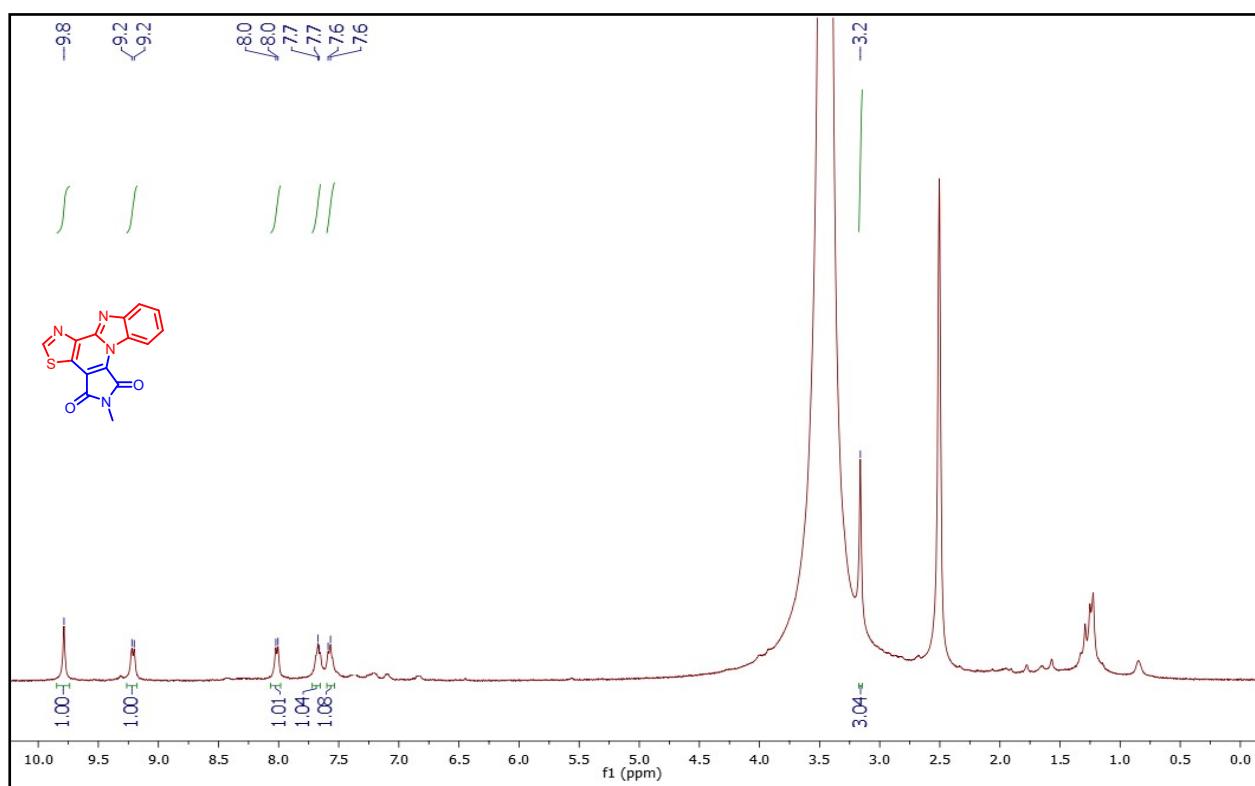
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3jj**



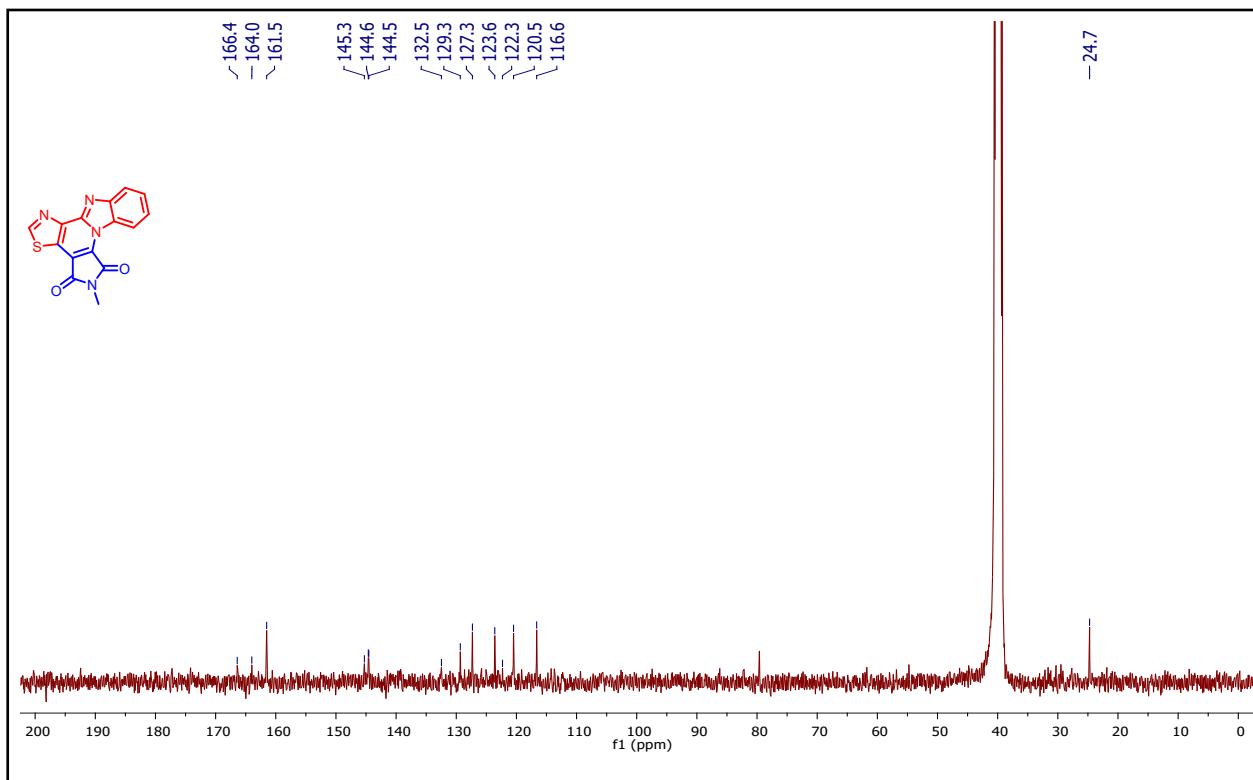
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 3jj



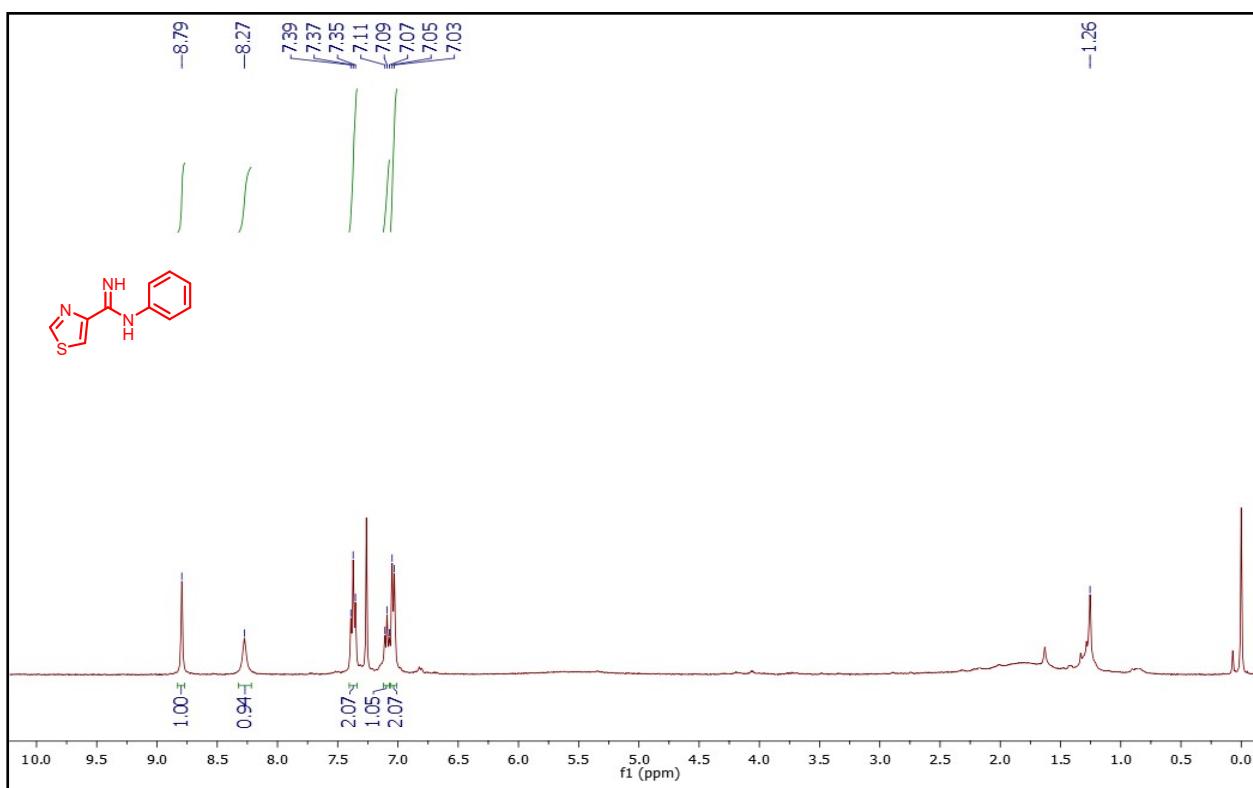
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, DMSO) spectrum of compound 3aa



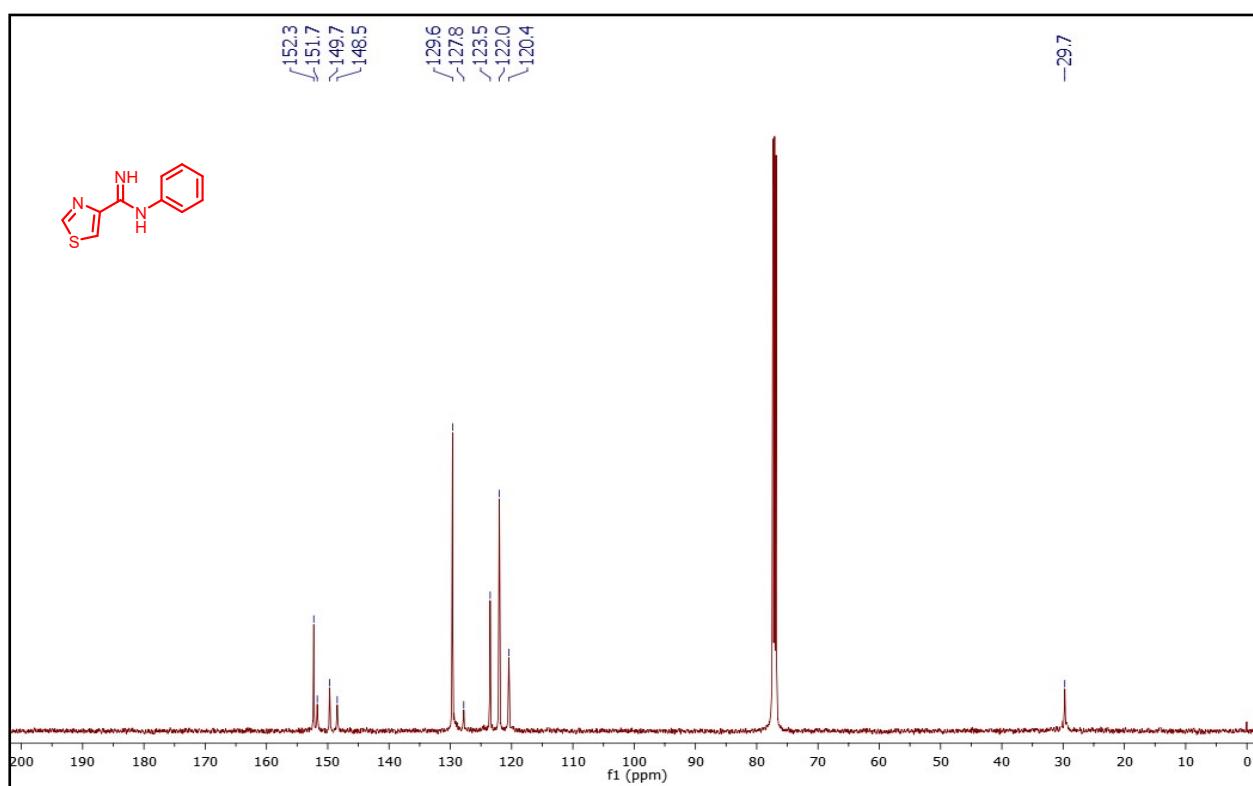
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) spectrum of compound 3aa



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound 3aa'



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of compound **3aa'**



### 3. X-ray Crystallography.

X-ray data for the compounds **3a** and **3n** were collected at room temperature on a Bruker D8 QUEST instrument with an I $\mu$ S Mo microsource ( $\lambda = 0.7107 \text{ \AA}$ ) and a PHOTON-100 detector. The raw data frames were reduced and corrected for absorption effects using the Bruker Apex 3 software suite programs [1]. The structure was solved using intrinsic phasing method [2] and further refined with the SHELXL [2] program and expanded using Fourier techniques. Anisotropic displacement parameters were included for all non-hydrogen atoms. All C bound H atoms were positioned geometrically and treated as riding on their parent C atoms [ $\text{C-H} = 0.93\text{-}0.97 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  for methyl H or  $1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$  for other H atoms].

#### Crystal structure determination of **3a**

**Crystal Data** for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$  ( $M = 329.35 \text{ g/mol}$ ): monoclinic, space group  $\text{P}2_1/c$  (no. 14),  $a = 7.6673(18) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 10.263(2) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 20.044(4) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 95.911(5)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1568.9(6) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 294.15 \text{ K}$ ,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.093 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.394 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , 28297 reflections measured ( $5.342^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 60.95^\circ$ ), 4559 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0681$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0456$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was

0.0494 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1420 (all data). CCDC 2213298 contains supplementary Crystallographic data for the structure.

### Crystal structure determination of 3n

**Crystal Data** for  $C_{18}H_{11}N_3O_2$  ( $M = 301.30$  g/mol): monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (no. 14),  $a = 18.464(2)$  Å,  $b = 7.3813(9)$  Å,  $c = 21.180(2)$  Å,  $\beta = 110.522(5)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2703.4(6)$  Å $^3$ ,  $Z = 8$ ,  $T = 294.15$  K,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.100$  mm $^{-1}$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.481$  g/cm $^3$ , 48117 reflections measured ( $5.774^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 61.036^\circ$ ), 8237 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0402$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0366$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0598 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1732 (all data). CCDC 2213299 contains supplementary Crystallographic data for the structure. These data can be obtained free of charge at [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html) [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44(0) 1223 336 033; email: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)].

1. Bruker (2016). APEX3, SAINT and SADABS. Bruker AXS, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
2. Sheldrick G. M. (2015) *Acta Crystallogr C* 71:3-8.