

# Multicomponent synthesis of substituted pyridines *via* a catalytic aza-Wittig, Diels–Alder sequence

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## General Experimental Techniques

### Instrumentation

Proton ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and carbon ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) magnetic resonance spectra were recorded using a Bruker DPX 300, a Bruker DRX 500 or a Bruker Advance 500 spectrometer using an internal deuterium lock.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are quoted in ppm downfield of trimethylsilane.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded with broadband proton decoupling at 75 MHz or 125 MHz. Assignments were made on the basis of chemical shift and coupling data, using  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HMQC, DEPT, HMBC and nOe experiments where necessary. Infra-red spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer, with absorption reported in wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker HCT Ultra LCMS instrument or a Bruker MicroTOF spectrometer using electrospray ionisation (ESI). Melting points were determined on a Reichert hot stage apparatus and are uncorrected.

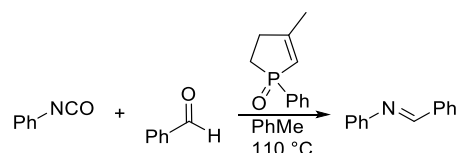
### Experimental Procedures

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen using oven-dried glassware, unless stated. Toluene was dried prior to use using a Pure Solv MD solvent purification system. Benzaldehydes were distilled before use. Diphenylphosphoryl azide was purchased from Apollo Scientific. 3-Methyl-1-phenyl-2-phospholene 1-oxide **4** was purchased from Sigma Aldrich (85% technical grade) and was distilled shortly before use (N.B. **4** is extremely hygroscopic and poorer results are obtained with old/unpurified samples). All other solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and were used without purification. Flash column chromatography was performed using Fischer Matrix silica gel (35-70  $\mu\text{m}$ ) or using pre-packed Biotage or Redisep silica cartridges running using Biotage Isolera or Redisep Flashmaster machines. Thin-layer chromatography was conducted using pre-coated silica plates (Merck silica Kieselgel 60F<sub>254</sub>). Spots were visualised using UV fluorescence ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 254 \text{ nm}$ ) and chemical staining with potassium permanganate, bromocresol green or iodine. All chromatography eluents were BDH GPR grade and used without purification. Petrol refers to light petroleum (b.p. 40-60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Enamines **7a-e** were prepared by the procedure of Pandit *et al.*<sup>1-4</sup> 4-*tert*-Butylcyclohexenyl-1-carboxylic acid was prepared according to the method of Vitnik *et al.*<sup>5</sup>

**CAUTION:** All azides should be treated as potentially explosive and were routinely prepared and handled behind a blast shield.

### Optimisation study of intermolecular aza-Wittig reaction

3-Methyl-1-phenyl-2-phospholene-1-oxide (10 mol%) and the benzaldehyde in toluene (0.2 mL/mmol) were heated under reflux with stirring. A solution of phenyl isocyanate (1.1 equivalents) in toluene (0.80 mL/mmol) was added dropwise by syringe pump over 5 hours. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux until isocyanate consumption was complete (monitored by IR for disappearance of phenyl isocyanate signal at  $2261\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). An aliquot was taken and solvents removed *in vacuo* to determine the ratio of imine to benzaldehyde by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. Spectroscopic data was consistent with literature values.<sup>6</sup>



entry	conc./mol L <sup>-1</sup>	mol% cat.	addition time <sup>a</sup>	% conversion <sup>b</sup>
1	1	0	-	0
2	0.2	10	-	0.5
3	1	10	-	71
4	1	10	5 h	86
5	1	10	- <sup>c</sup>	86 <sup>d</sup>
6	1	1	5 h	>99 <sup>d</sup>
7	1	5	5 h	>99 <sup>d</sup>

a: reactions were carried out for 15 minutes until IR showed disappearance of the isocyanate absorbance ( $2259\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ); b: calculated from the ratio of benzaldehyde to imine in crude  $^1\text{H}$  NMR; c: reaction time 5 hours after phenyl isocyanate addition.; d: benzaldehyde distilled prior to reaction.

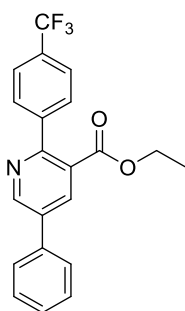
### General Procedure A for the preparation of pyridines

A solution of the cinnamic acid (1.0 mmol), diphenylphosphoryl azide (200  $\mu$ l, 0.9 mmol) and triethylamine (150  $\mu$ l, 1.0 mmol) in toluene (2.0 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes then added to saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (20 ml). The organic phase was diluted with EtOAc (20 ml), the phases separated and the organic phase was washed with water (2  $\times$  20 ml) then brine (20 ml), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated *in vacuo* at room temperature to give the acyl azide which was identified by crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR and IR and used without purification (isolated yields calculated from cinnamic acid since acyl azides were not evaporated to dryness for safety). A solution of the acyl azide in toluene (5.0 ml) was heated under reflux. The reaction was monitored by IR for the disappearance of the azide signal (2142 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and appearance of the isocyanate signal at (2259 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Once formation of the isocyanate was complete (~30 min) the solution was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise over 2 hours to a stirred solution of the aldehyde (1.1 mmol) and 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phospholene-1-oxide (19 mg, 10 mol%) in toluene (1.0 ml) heated under reflux. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the enamine (2.0 mmol), magnesium bromide (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieves added and stirred at room temperature overnight then filtered through cotton wool and saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (20 ml) and EtOAc (20 ml) added. The phases were separated and aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (2  $\times$  20 ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (40 ml), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was subsequently purified by flash silica column chromatography.

### General Procedure B for the preparation of pyridines

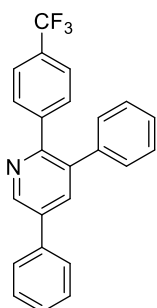
A solution of the cinnamic acid (1.0 mmol), diphenylphosphoryl azide (200  $\mu$ l, 0.9 mmol) and triethylamine (150  $\mu$ l, 1.0 mmol) in toluene (2.0 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes then added to saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (20 ml). The organic phase was diluted with EtOAc (20 ml), the phases separated and the organic phase was washed with water (2  $\times$  20 ml) then brine (20 ml), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated *in vacuo* at room temperature to give the acyl azide which was identified by crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR and IR and used without purification (isolated yields calculated from cinnamic acid since acyl azides were not evaporated to dryness). A solution of the acyl azide in toluene (5.0 ml) was heated under reflux. The reaction was monitored by IR for the disappearance of the azide signal (2142 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and appearance of the isocyanate signal at (2259 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Once formation of the isocyanate was complete (~30 min) the solution was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise over 2 hours to a stirred solution of the aldehyde (1.1 mmol) and 3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phospholene-1-oxide (19 mg, 10 mol%) in toluene (1.0 ml) heated under reflux. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the enamine (2.0 mmol), magnesium bromide (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4 Å molecular sieves added and stirred at room temperature overnight then 5% Pd/C (50 mg) added and the reaction mixture heated under reflux for 6 hours then filtered through celite and washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (50 ml) and EtOAc (100 ml). The phases were separated and aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (2  $\times$  50 ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (100 ml), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was subsequently purified by flash silica column chromatography.

### 5-Phenyl-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)nicotinic acid ethyl ester (8a)



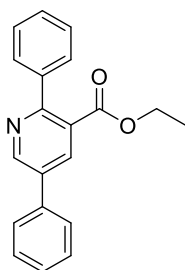
Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (0.15 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate **7** (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-10% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine as yellow needles (0.12 g, 38%). M.p.= 116-120 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.01 (1H, d, *J* 2.3 Hz, pyr-H), 8.36 (1H, d, *J* 2.3 Hz, pyr-H), 7.76-7.68 (4H, m, ArH), 7.68-7.64 (2H, m, ArH), 7.55-7.49 (2H, m, ArH), 7.48-7.43 (1H, m, ArH), 4.20 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.09 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.4 (C=O), 156.1 (ArCH), 149.6 (ArCH), 143.5 (quat.), 136.3 (ArCH), 136.2 (quat.), 135.4 (quat.), 130.6 (quat., q, *J* 32.2 Hz, ArCCF<sub>3</sub>), 129.3 (ArCH), 129.0 (ArCH), 128.7 (ArCH), 127.6 (quat., q, *J* 272.3 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 127.1 (ArCH), 125.0 (q, *J* 3.5 Hz, ArCH), 122.8 (quat.), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 2986, 1722, 1618, 1581, 1549, 1450, 1406, 1368, 1323, 1246, 1160, 1096, 1065, 1033, 1014; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 372.1211 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, found: 372.1212.

### 3,5-Diphenyl-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)pyridine (9; Table 1, entry 1)



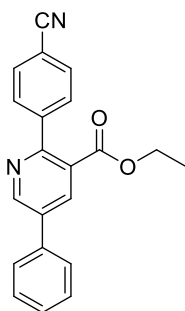
Yellow needles (0.041g, 22%). M.p.= 163-166 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.94 (1H, d, *J* 2.4 Hz, pyr-H), 7.96 (1H, d, *J* 2.4 Hz, pyr-H), 7.68 (2H, d, *J* 6.7 Hz, ArH), 7.56-7.41 (7H, m, ArH) 7.37-7.30 (3H, m, ArH), 7.25-7.20 (2H, m, ArH); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 154.2 (quat.), 146.9 (ArCH), 143.4 (q, *J* 1.1 Hz, quat.), 139.2 (quat.), 137.1 (ArCH), 136.2 (quat.), 135.7 (quat.), 130.2 (ArCH), 129.9 (quat.), 129.5 (ArCH), 129.2 (ArCH), 128.6 (ArCH), 128.4 (ArCH), 127.7 (ArCH), 127.2 (ArCH), 125.9 (quat.), 124.9 (q, *J* 4.4 Hz, ArCH), 124.0 (q, *J* 270.2 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid, diamond); 3030, 2642, 1953, 1814, 1614, 1578, 1541, 1493, 1432, 1325, 1171, 1108, 1010; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 376.1308 for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N, found: 376.1310.

### 2,5-Diphenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8b)



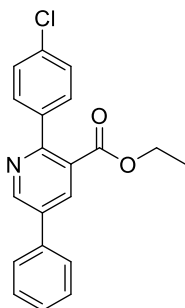
Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol), benzaldehyde (0.12 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-40% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8b** as pale yellow needles (0.034 g, 11%). M.p. = 138-140 °C (EtOH, Lit.<sup>211</sup> 138-139 °C); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.92 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.22 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.62-7.56 (2H, m, ArH), 7.56-7.54 (2H, m, ArH), 7.53-7.49 (2H, m, ArH), 7.40-7.33 (4H, m, ArH), 4.11 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.99 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.2 (C=O), 156.3 (quat.), 148.4 (ArCH), 138.8 (quat.), 135.5 (quat.), 135.0 (ArCH), 133.6 (quat.), 128.2 (ArCH), 127.7 (ArCH), 127.6 (ArCH), 127.5 (ArCH), 127.1 (ArCH), 126.3 (quat.), 126.1 (ArCH), 60.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (thin film); 3060, 2979, 2935, 1709, 1594, 1541, 1443, 1384, 1363, 1325, 1249, 1103, 1060, 1013; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 304.1332 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, found: 304.1342. Spectroscopic data consistent with literature values.<sup>7</sup>

### 2-(4-Cyanophenyl)-5-phenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8d)



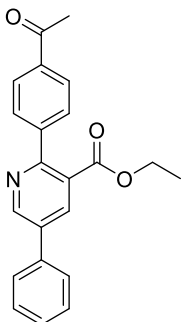
Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) 4-cyanobenzaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-10% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8d** as pale orange needles (0.066 g, 20%). M.p.= 125-128 °C (EtOAc–petrol);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.03 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.41 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.80-7.75 (2H, m, ArH), 7.72-7.66 (4H, m, ArH), 7.58-7.45 (3H, m, ArH), 4.24 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.15 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 155.6 (quat.), 149.8 (ArCH), 144.5 (quat.), 136.6 (ArCH), 136.0 (quat.), 135.8 (quat.) 131.9 (ArCH), 129.5 (ArCH), 129.4 (ArCH), 128.9 (ArCH), 127.2 (ArCH), 127.1 (quat.), 118.7 (quat.), 112.3 (CN), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3004, 2222, 1725, 1449, 1360, 1247, 1095, 1023; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 329.1285 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 329.1276.

### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-phenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8e)



Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (0.15 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-35% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8e** as yellow plates (0.041 g, 12%). M.p.= 90-97 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.01 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.33 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.70-7.64 (2H, d, *J* 7.4 Hz, ArH), 7.58-7.51 (4H, m, ArH), 7.50-7.42 (3H, m, ArH), 4.24 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.16 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.9 (C=O), 156.2 (quat.), 149.6 (ArCH), 138.3 (quat.), 136.4 (quat.), 136.3 (ArCH), 135.0 (quat.) 134.9 (quat.), 130.0 (ArCH), 129.3 (ArCH), 128.7 (ArCH), 128.4 (ArCH), 127.2 (ArCH), 127.1 (quat.), 61.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3057, 2980, 2936, 1915, 1727, 1594, 1541, 1486, 1445, 1402, 1384, 1365, 1323, 1249, 1212, 1095, 1060, 1011; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 338.0942 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>2</sub>, found: 338.0957.

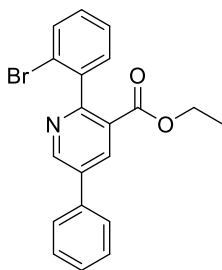
### 2-(4-Acetylphenyl)-5-phenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8f)



Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4-acetylcarboxaldehyde (0.16 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-35% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8f** as yellow needles (0.042 g, 12%). M.p.= 109-112 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.03 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.37 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.05 (2H, d, *J* 8.2 Hz, H<sub>3'</sub>), 7.72-7.64 (4H, m, ArH), 7.56-7.43 (3H, m, ArH), 4.22 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.66 (3H, s, O=CCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.11 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 197.8 (O=C), 167.4 (O=C), 156.2 (quat.), 149.4 (ArCH), 144.2 (quat.), 136.9 (quat.), 136.5 (ArCH), 136.1 (quat.), 135.5 (quat.), 129.3 (ArCH), 129.0 (ArCH), 128.8 (ArCH), 128.2 (ArCH), 127.4 (quat.), 127.1 (ArCH), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2980, 1714, 1682, 1607, 1541, 1510, 1454, 1407, 1365, 1325, 1298, 1247,

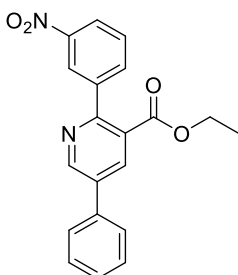
1209, 1103, 1058, 1012; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 346.1438 for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, found: 346.1441.

### 2-(2-Bromophenyl)-5-phenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8g)



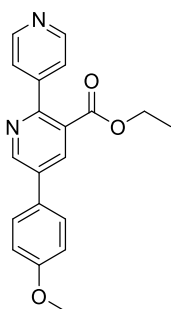
Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) 2-bromobenzaldehyde (0.13 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-50% EtOAc–petrol) gave the pyridine **8g** as yellow crystals (0.12 g, 33%). M.p.= 99-100 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.97 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.46 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 7.63 (2H, m, ArH), 7.56 (1H, m, ArH), 7.49-7.33 (5H, m, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.24-7.21 (1H, m, ArH), 4.10 (2H, q, *J* 7.2 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.97 (3H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.0 (C=O), 157.5 (quat.), 149.9 (ArCH), 141.8 (quat.), 136.5 (ArCH), 136.4 (quat.), 135.7 (quat.), 132.2 (ArCH), 130.1 (ArCH), 129.5 (ArCH), 129.3 (ArCH), 128.7 (ArCH), 127.3 (ArCH), 127.2 (ArCH), 127.0 (quat.), 122.3 (quat.), 61.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 2985, 2939, 1973, 1933, 1885, 1813, 1709, 1595, 1479, 1439, 1363, 1316, 1250, 1207, 1107, 1055, 1013; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 382.0437 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNO<sub>2</sub>, found: 382.0440.

### 2-(3-Nitrophenyl)-5-phenylnicotinic acid ethyl ester (8h)



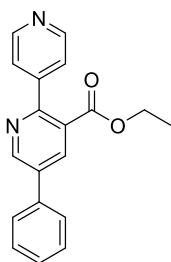
Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-30% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8h** as yellow needles (0.10 g, 26%). M.p.= 74-78 °C (EtOAc–Petrol); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.95 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.40 (1H, dd, *J* 2.2, 1.6 Hz, ArH), 8.34 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.23 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.2, 2.2, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.84 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.2, 1.6, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.63-7.52 (3H, m, ArH), 7.50-7.36 (3H, m, ArH), 4.18 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.08 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 165.9 (C=O), 154.0 (quat.), 148.8 (ArCH), 146.9 (quat.), 140.5 (quat.), 135.6 (ArCH), 135.0 (quat.), 134.8 (quat.), 133.8 (ArCH), 128.3 (ArCH), 128.0 (ArCH), 127.8 (ArCH), 126.1 (ArCH), 125.8 (quat.), 122.9 (quat.), 122.3 (ArCH), 60.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 2990, 1729, 1583, 1526, 1448, 1352, 1241, 1079, 1040; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 349.1183 for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, found: 349.1192.

### 5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-[2,4']bipyridinyl-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (8i)



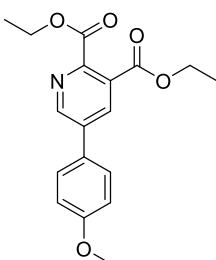
Prepared according to general procedure A using 4-methoxycinnamic acid (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.10 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 30-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8i** as yellow needles (0.16 g, 49%). M.p. = 88-94 °C (EtOAc–petrol);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.99 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.70 (2H, d, *J* 4.4 Hz, pyr-H), 8.34 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.64-7.58 (2H, m, ArH), 7.50 (2H, d, *J* 4.4 Hz, pyr-H), 7.08-7.02 (2H, m, ArH), 4.22 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.12 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 160.4 (quat.), 154.1 (quat.), 149.4 (ArCH), 149.3 (quat.), 147.9 (quat.), 135.8 (ArCH), 135.6 (quat.), 128.4 (ArCH), 128.3 (quat.), 127.1 (ArCH), 123.4 (ArCH), 114.8 (ArCH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2978, 2836, 1714, 1597, 1519, 1441, 1406, 1365, 1322, 1295, 1249, 1184, 1120, 1107, 1061, 1017; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 335.1390 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, found: 335.1400.

### 5-Phenyl-[2,4']bipyridinyl-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (8j)



Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) and 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.10 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-80% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8j** as colourless needles (0.10 g, 34%). M.p.= 113-114 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.03 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.72 (2H, d, *J* 6.0 Hz, pyr-H), 8.39 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.70-7.65 (2H, d, *J* 6.0 Hz, pyr-H), 7.58-7.47 (5H, m, ArH), 4.23 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.12 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 149.9 (ArCH), 149.7 (quat.), 147.7 (quat.), 136.5 (ArCH), 136.1 (quat.), 136.0 (quat.), 130.1 (quat.), 129.4 (ArCH), 129.1 (quat.), 128.9 (ArCH), 127.2 (ArCH), 123.3 (ArCH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2982, 1722, 1600, 1448, 1320, 1254, 1100, 1068, 1028; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 305.1285 for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 305.1270.

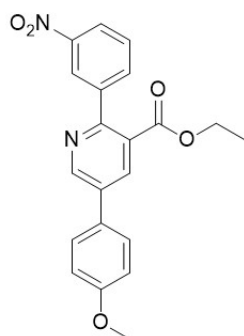
### 5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine-2,3-diethyl carboxylate (8k)



Prepared according to general procedure A using 4-methoxycinnamic acid (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol), ethyl glyoxylate (0.15 ml, 1.5 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.25 g, 1.5 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-80% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8k** as orange oil (0.043 g, 13%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.94 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.25 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.58 (2H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz, ArH), 7.04 (2H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz, ArH), 4.48 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.42 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.44 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.40 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.1 (C=O), 165.9 (C=O), 160.5 (quat.), 149.3 (ArCH), 147.9 (quat.), 137.7 (quat.), 134.8 (ArCH), 128.5 (ArCH), 128.1 (quat.), 127.4 (quat.), 114.8 (ArCH), 62.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.5 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2983, 2938, 1728, 1609, 1518, 1457, 1366, 1303, 1256, 1183, 1143, 1078, 1020; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> requires 330.1336 for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, found: 330.1328.

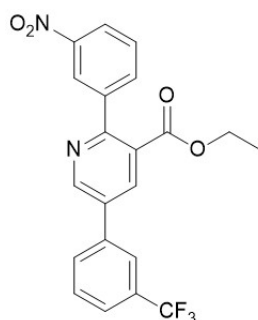


### 5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-nitrophenyl)nicotinic acid ethyl ester (**8l**)



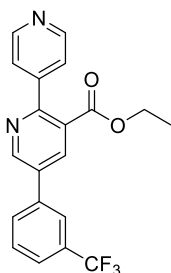
Prepared according to general procedure A using 4-methoxycinnamic acid (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Crude acyl azide (0.18 g, 0.89 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-35% EtOAc in petrol then 10-20% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8l** as yellow needles (0.14 g, 38%). M.p.= 45-46 °C (EtOAc–Petrol); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.99 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.47-8.45 (1H, m, ArH), 8.36 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.29 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.2, 2.2, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.93-7.88 (1H, m, ArH), 7.66-7.59 (3H, m, ArH), 7.08-7.02 (2H, m, ArH), 4.25 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.16 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 160.4 (quat.), 154.3 (quat.), 149.4 (C6), 147.9 (quat.), 141.6 (quat.), 136.0 (ArCH), 135.8 (quat.), 135.4 (ArCH), 134.8 (ArCH), 130.6 (ArCH), 128.3 (ArCH), 126.8 (quat.), 123.9 (ArCH), 123.2 (ArCH), 114.6 (ArCH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.4 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 3419, 3092, 2984, 2939, 2908, 1715, 1634, 1538, 1446, 1348, 1286, 1184, 1101, 1029; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 379.1288 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, found: 379.1285.

### 5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-(3-nitrophenyl)nicotinic acid ethyl ester (**8m**)



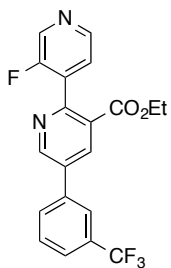
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Crude acyl azide (0.21 g, 0.86 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-35% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8m** as yellow needles (0.12 g, 28%). M.p.= 127-129 °C (EtOAc–Petrol); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.04 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.49 (1H, s, ArH), 8.43 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.33 (1H, dd, *J* 8.2, 1.6 Hz, ArH), 7.94-7.90 (2H, m, ArH), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.77-7.63 (3H, m, ArH), 4.28 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.17 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.7 (C=O), 155.8 (quat.), 149.8 (C6), 148.0 (quat.), 141.3 (quat.), 137.0 (quat.), 136.9 (C4), 134.8 (ArCH), 134.5 (quat.), 132.1 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.5 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 129.1 (ArCH), 127.1 (quat.), 125.6 (ArCH), 124.1 (ArCH), 124.0 (ArCH), 123.5 (ArCH), 122.1 (q, *J* 119.5, CF<sub>3</sub>), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 3439, 3086, 2988, 1959, 1854, 1726, 1615, 1580, 1528, 1482, 1445, 1397, 1300, 1256, 1211, 1166, 1115, 1041; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 417.1057 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, found: 417.1055.

### 5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4']bipyridinyl-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**8n**)



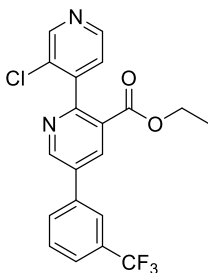
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.10 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 30-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8n** as yellow needles (0.16 g, 49%). M.p. = 80-82 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.96 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.66 (2H, dd, *J* 4.8, 1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 8.32 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.83 (1H, s, ArH), 7.78 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (1H, t, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.42 (2H, dd, *J* 4.4, 1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 4.16 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.05 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.8 (C=O), 154.7 (quat.), 148.7 (ArCH), 148.6 (ArCH), 146.3 (quat.), 135.8 (quat.), 135.6 (ArCH), 133.5 (quat.), 130.6 (quat., q, *J* 32.0 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 129.4 (ArCH), 128.9 (ArCH), 126.4 (quat.), 124.6 (ArCH), 123.1 (q, *J* 263.5 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 123.0 (ArCH), 122.9 (ArCH), 61.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3416, 3073, 3040, 2910, 2446, 1971, 1944, 1712, 1598, 1558, 1538, 1435, 1106, 1035, 1014; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 373.1158 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 373.1157.

### 3'-Fluoro-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4']bipyridinyl-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**8o**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-fluoroisonicotinaldehyde (0.16 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 10-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8k** as yellow oil (0.21 g, 52%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.08 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.59 (1H, br d, *J* 3.8 Hz, pyr-H), 8.56-8.50 (2H, m, pyr-H), 7.92 (1H, s, ArH), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.67-7.58 (1H, m, pyr-H), 4.30 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.19 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 165.5 (C=O), 154.8 (d, *J* 257.6 Hz, CF, quat.), 150.6 (quat.), 150.3 (ArCH), 146.0 (d, *J* 146.0 Hz, pyr-CH), 137.7 (d, *J* 24.9 Hz, pyr-CH), 136.8 (quat.), 136.7 (ArCH), 135.6 (d, *J* 12.7 Hz, quat.), 135.2 (quat.), 131.8 (q, *J* 33.2 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.6 (d, *J* 1.1 Hz, ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 128.0 (d, *J* 1.1 Hz, quat.), 125.7 (q, *J* 3.7 Hz, ArCH), 124.6 (ArCH), 124.1 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 123.2 (q, *J* 273.7 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 62.04 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3047, 2985, 1725, 1611, 1564, 1491, 1438, 1414, 1366, 1340, 1300, 1277, 1250, 1168, 1128, 1078, 1063, 1017; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 391.1064 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 391.1079.

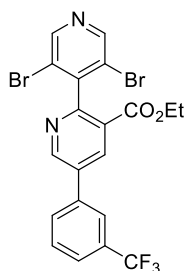
### Ethyl 3'-chloro-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2,4'-bipyridine-3-carboxylate (**8p**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-chloro-4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.16 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-50% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8p** as yellow needles (0.12 g, 29%). M.p.= 101-102 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.98 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.59 (1H, s, pyr-H), 8.55 (1H, d, *J* 4.9 Hz, pyr-H), 8.51 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 7.85 (1H, s, ArH), 7.80 (1H, d, *J* 7.6 Hz, ArH), 7.69-7.58 (2H, m, ArH), 7.33 (1H, d, *J* 4.9 Hz,

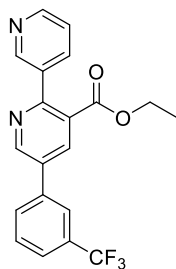
pyr-H), 4.15 (2H, q,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.02 (3H, t,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 165.1 (C=O), 154.2 (quat.), 150.4 (ArCH), 149.0 (ArCH), 147.9 (ArCH), 147.2 (quat.), 136.9 (quat.), 136.8 (ArCH), 135.3 (quat.), 131.8 (q,  $J$  33.2 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.6 (q,  $J$  1.1 Hz, ArCH), 130.3 (quat.), 129.9 (ArCH), 127.2 (quat.), 125.7 (q,  $J$  3.3 Hz, ArCH), 124.3 (ArCH), 124.1 (q,  $J$  3.3 Hz, ArCH), 120.2 (q,  $J$  273.1 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2970, 1738, 1590, 1554, 1365, 1217, 1116, 1025; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 407.0769 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub><sup>35</sup>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 407.0783.

### Ethyl 3',5'-dibromo-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2,4'-bipyridine-3-carboxylate (**8q**)



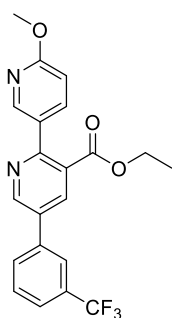
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3,5-dibromo-4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.29 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-30% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8q** as yellow needles (0.17 g, 32%). M.p.= 87-88°C (EtOH);  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.04 (1H, d,  $J$  2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.68 (2H, s, pyr-H), 8.61 (1H, d,  $J$  2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.89 (1H, s, ArH), 7.84 (1H, d,  $J$  7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.70-7.59 (2H, m, ArH), 4.16 (2H, q,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.03 (3H, t,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 164.1 (C=O), 155.5 (quat.), 151.0 (ArCH), 150.0 (ArCH), 149.7 (quat.), 137.3 (ArCH), 136.8 (quat.), 135.6 (quat.), 131.9 (q,  $J$  33.7 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.6 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 125.9 (quat.), 125.7 (ArCH), 124.2 (ArCH), 122.0 (q,  $J$  274.2 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 120.8 (quat.), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3005, 1716, 1425, 1365, 1225, 1093; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 528.9369 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 528.9360.

### 5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4']bipyridinyl-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (**8r**)



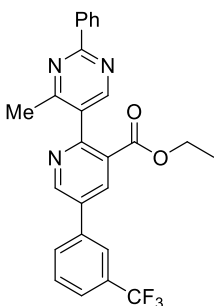
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8r** as yellow needles (0.081 g, 32%). M.p.= 87-88 °C (EtOAc-Petrol);  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.04 (1H, d,  $J$  2.7 Hz, pyr-H), 8.79 (1H, d,  $J$  1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 8.68 (1H, d,  $J$  4.9, 1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 8.42 (1H, d,  $J$  2.7 Hz, pyr-H), 7.96 (1H, dt,  $J$  8.0, 1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 7.91 (1H, s, ArH), 7.86 (1H, d,  $J$  7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.74 (1H, d,  $J$  7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.68 (1H, t,  $J$  7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.43 (1H, ddd,  $J$  7.7, 4.9, 1.6 Hz, pyr-H), 4.25 (2H, q,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.14 (3H, t,  $J$  7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.0 (C=O), 155.4 (quat.), 149.8 (ArCH), 149.6 (ArCH), 149.5 (ArCH), 137.1 (quat.), 136.8 (ArCH), 136.1 (ArCH), 135.6 (quat.), 134.1 (quat.), 131.8 (q,  $J$  32.6 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.5 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 127.4 (q,  $J$  271.5 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 127.2 (quat.), 125.5 (q,  $J$  3.9 Hz, ArCH), 124.0 (q,  $J$  3.9 Hz, ArCH), 123.0 (ArCH), 62.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2981, 1709, 1590, 1445, 1416, 1253, 1174, 1116, 1012; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 373.1158 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 373.1167.

### Ethyl 6'-methoxy-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2,3'-bipyridine-3-carboxylate (**8t**)



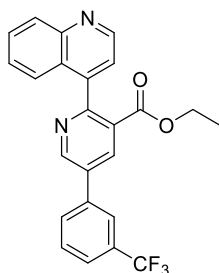
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 6-methoxy-3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.15 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8t** as yellow needles (0.045 g, 12%). M.p.= 112-113°C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.92 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.30 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.26 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 7.82-7.75 (3H, m, pyr-H + ArH), 7.65-7.55 (2H, m, ArH), 6.77 (1H, d, *J* 8.8 Hz, pyr-H), 4.21 (2H, q, *J* 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.13 (3H, t, *J* 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.5 (C=O), 164.4 (quat.), 155.2 (quat.), 149.6 (ArCH), 147.1 (ArCH), 139.1 (ArCH), 137.3 (quat.), 136.7 (ArCH), 133.4 (quat.), 131.8 (q, *J* 32.1 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.4 (q, *J* 1.1 Hz, ArCH), 129.8 (ArCH), 128.6 (quat.), 126.9 (quat.), 125.3 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 124.4 (q, *J* 272.6 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 123.9 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 110.4 (ArCH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.8 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3604, 3415, 2929, 2576, 2441, 2263, 2145, 2000, 1764, 1216, 1092; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 403.1264 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, found: 403.1260.

### 2-(4-Methyl-2-phenylpyrimidin-5-yl)-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)nicotinic acid ethyl ester (**8u**)



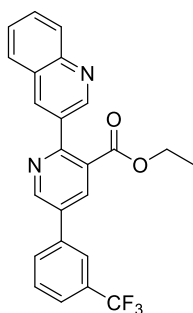
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-methyl-2-phenyl-5-pyrimidylcarboxaldehyde (0.22 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 10-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8u** as yellow needles (0.18 g, 39%). M.p.= 99-100 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.09 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.61 (1H, s, ArH), 8.59 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.54-8.49 (2H, m, ArH), 7.94 (1H, s, ArH), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (1H, t, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.53-7.48 (3H, m, ArH), 4.21 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.48 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.16 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 165.6 (quat.), 164.7 (quat.), 163.7 (quat.), 155.8 (ArCH), 155.0 (quat.), 150.4 (ArCH), 137.6 (quat.), 137.1 (ArCH), 137.0 (quat.), 134.7 (quat.), 131.8 (q, *J* 33.1 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 131.5 (quat.), 130.7 (ArCH), 130.6 (ArCH), 130.0 (ArCH), 128.6 (ArCH), 128.3 (ArCH), 127.4 (quat.), 125.6 (q, *J* 3.3 Hz, ArCH), 124.5 (q, *J* 272.0 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 124.1 (q, *J* 3.3 Hz, ArCH), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2965, 1723, 1572, 1532, 1422, 1338, 1252, 1168, 1120, 1019; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 464.1580 for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 464.1581.

### Ethyl 2-(quinolin-4-yl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxylate (**8v**)



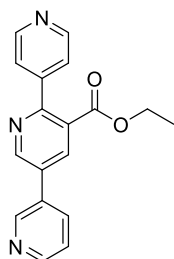
Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-quinolinecarboxaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 10-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8v** as yellow needles (0.16 g, 38%). M.p.= 127-128°C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.14 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 9.04 (1H, d, *J* 4.4 Hz, ArH), 8.61 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.21 (1H, d, *J* 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.98 (1H, s, ArH), 7.92 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.79-7.68 (3H, m, ArH), 7.57-7.47 (2H, m, ArH), 7.43 (1H, d, *J* 4.4 Hz, ArH), 3.90 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.61 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 165.7 (C=O), 155.7 (quat.) 150.3 (ArCH), 149.8 (ArCH), 148.1 (quat.), 146.7 (quat.), 137.0 (quat.), 136.8 (ArCH), 134.9 (quat.), 131.9 (q, *J* 33.2 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.6 (d, *J* 1.7 Hz, ArCH), 130.1 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 129.4 (ArCH), 128.1 (quat.), 127.1 (ArCH), 126.6 (quat.), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 124.8 (ArCH), 124.1 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 123.3 (q, *J* 274.2 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 120.6 (ArCH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 12.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3063, 2984, 1715, 1591, 1509, 1385, 1123, 1018; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 423.1315 for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 423.1332.

### Ethyl 2-(quinolin-3-yl)-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]pyridine-3-carboxylate (**8w**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 3-quinolinecarboxaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20-100% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8w** as yellow needles (0.07 g, 16%). M.p.= 120-121 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 9.09 (2H, m, pyr-H + ArH), 8.47 (2H, m, pyr-H + ArH), 8.18 (1H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.94-7.87 (3H, m, ArH), 7.82-7.59 (4H, m, ArH), 4.25 (2H, q, *J* 7.2 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.07 (3H, t, *J* 7.2 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 155.4 (quat.), 150.4 (ArCH), 150.0 (ArCH), 147.8 (quat.), 137.2 (quat.), 136.9 (ArCH), 135.8 (ArCH), 134.1 (quat.), 132.7 (quat.), 131.6 (q, *J* 33.2 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.5 (q, *J* 1.1 Hz, ArCH), 130.2 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 129.3 (ArCH), 128.4 (ArCH), 127.4 (quat.), 127.3 (quat.), 127.1 (ArCH), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 125.4 (q, *J* 272.6 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 124.0 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2990, 1730, 1569, 1549, 1438, 1341, 1298, 1276, 1235, 1209, 1087; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 423.1315 for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 423.1320.

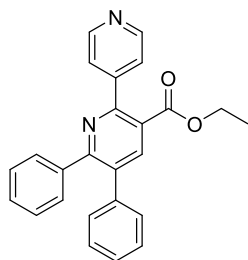
### Ethyl 2,1':5',1''-terpyridine-3-carboxylate (**8x**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using *trans*-3-(3-pyridyl)acrylic acid (0.30 g, 2.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.2 ml, 2.0 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20-75% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8x** as orange needles (0.29 g, 48%). M.p.= 119-120°C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.97 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.88 (1H, br s, pyr-H), 8.68 (3H, br s, pyr-H), 8.34 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz, pyr-H), 7.92 (1H, m, pyr-H), 7.50-7.40 (3H, m, pyr-H), 4.16 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.06 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz,

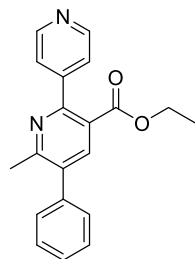
CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.7 (C=O), 155.7 (quat.), 150.1 (quat.), 149.7 (ArCH), 149.2 (ArCH), 148.2 (ArCH), 147.8 (quat.), 136.6 (2xArCH), 134.5 (ArCH), 132.9 (quat.), 127.4 (quat.), 124.0 (ArCH), 123.4 (ArCH), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 2995, 1736, 1422, 1364, 1217, 1101, 1025; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 306.1237 for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 306.1249.

#### Ethyl 5,6-diphenyl-2,4'-bipyridine-3-carboxylate (**8y**)



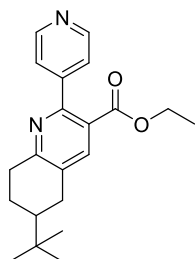
Prepared according to general procedure B using  $\alpha$ -phenylcinnamic acid (0.22 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-40% EtOAc in petrol) gave the pyridine **8y** as yellow needles (0.07 g, 18%). M.p.= 174-175 °C (EtOH);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.65 (2H, br s, pyr-H), 8.17 (1H, s, pyr-H), 7.51 (2H, d, *J* 4.1 Hz, pyr-H), 7.38-7.35 (2H, m, ArH), 7.27-7.15 (8H, m, ArH), 4.16 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.06 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.9 (C=O), 158.8 (quat.), 154.7 (quat.), 149.2 (ArCH), 148.1 (quat.), 140.9 (ArCH), 138.8 (quat.), 138.4 (quat.), 135.3 (quat.), 130.1 (ArCH), 129.4 (ArCH), 128.7 (ArCH), 128.6 (ArCH), 128.0 (ArCH), 127.9 (ArCH), 125.2 (quat.), 123.7 (ArCH), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3004, 2970, 1737, 1436, 1365, 1228, 1217; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 381.1598 for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 381.1594.

#### Ethyl 6-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4'-bipyridine-3-carboxylate (**8z**)



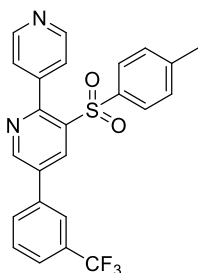
Prepared according to general procedure B using  $\alpha$ -methylcinnamic acid (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 50-100% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8z** as yellow oil (0.088 g, 27%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.64 (2H, d, *J* 5.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.01 (1H, s, pyr-H), 7.46-7.37 (5H, m, ArH), 7.33-7.30 (2H, m, ArH), 4.11 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.54 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.01 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 166.9 (C=O), 159.0 (quat.), 154.7 (quat.), 149.3 (ArCH), 148.2 (quat.), 139.4 (ArCH), 138.2 (quat.), 136.4 (quat.), 129.0 (ArCH), 128.7 (ArCH), 128.1 (ArCH), 124.4 (quat.), 123.5 (ArCH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3032, 2982, 1722, 1599, 1537, 1427, 1388, 1254, 1113, 1057, 1015; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $m/z$ ; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 319.1441 for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 319.1454.

### Ethyl 6-(*tert*-butyl-2-pyridin-4-yl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (**8aa**)



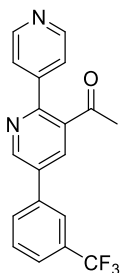
Prepared according to general procedure A using 1-cyclohexenyl carboxylic acid (0.18 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 ml, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-100% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8aa** as yellow plates (0.067 g, 10%). M.p. = 89-90 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>H</sub> (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.58 (2H, d, *J* 4.1 Hz, pyr-H), 7.86 (1H, s, pyr-H), 7.32 (2H, d, *J* 4.1 Hz, pyr-H), 4.07 (2H, q, *J* 7.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.08 (1H, ddd, *J* 17.6, 4.9, 1.6 Hz, CH<sub>eq</sub>), 2.86 (2H, m, CH<sub>eq</sub> + CH<sub>ax</sub>), 2.56 (1H, dd, *J* 16.6, 11.1 Hz, CH<sub>ax</sub>), 2.10-2.05 (1H, m, CH<sub>ax</sub> or CH<sub>eq</sub>), 1.52-1.37 (2H, m, CH + CH<sub>ax</sub> or CH<sub>eq</sub>), 1.00 (3H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.92 (9H, s, <sup>t</sup>Bu); δ<sub>C</sub> (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 167.1 (C=O), 160.7 (quat.), 153.8 (quat.), 149.4 (ArCH), 148.6 (quat.), 139.3 (ArCH), 132.3 (quat.), 138.4 (quat.), 124.0 (quat.), 123.4 (ArCH), 61.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.2 (CH), 33.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 2956, 2866, 1712, 1596, 1543, 1411, 1365, 1291, 1215, 1094, 1068, 1023; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 339.2067 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 339.2080.

### 3-Tosyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,4'-bipyridine (**8ab**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 mL, 1.1 mmol) and 1-(*E*)-2-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]ethenyl pyrrolidine (0.50 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 30-100% EtOAc in hexane then 0-100% EtOAc in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) gave the pyridine **8ab** as brown plates (0.087 g, 19%). M.p. = 145-146 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.98 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.84 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.52 (2H, br s, pyr-H), 7.88 (1H, s, ArH), 7.84 (1H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.73 (1H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.65 (1H, t, *J* 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.17-7.14 (4H, m, SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.03 (2H, d, *J* 8.2 Hz, pyr-H), 2.30 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); δ<sub>C</sub> (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 154.9 (quat.), 150.7 (ArCH), 148.7 (ArCH), 145.9 (quat.), 145.1 (quat.), 138.0 (quat.), 136.2 (d, *J* 4.2 Hz, quat.), 135.4 (quat.), 135.2 (ArCH), 132.2 (q, *J* 33.2 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.7 (ArCH), 130.1 (ArCH), 129.6 (ArCH), 128.0 (ArCH), 126.1 (q, *J* 4.2 Hz, ArCH), 124.5 (ArCH), 124.2 (q, *J* 4.2 Hz, ArCH), 124.0 (q, *J* 274.0 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 122.8 (quat.), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ν<sub>max</sub>/cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 3047, 1596, 1532, 1438, 1320, 1219, 1149, 1116, 1080, 1049; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 455.1040 for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S, found: 455.1036.

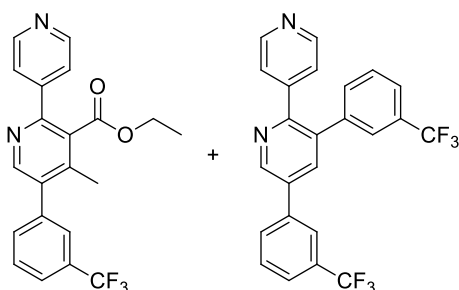
### 1-(5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4'-bipyridin]-3-yl) ethanone (**8ac**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 mL, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl (*E*)-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-propenoate (0.34 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 50-100% EtOAc-hexane) gave the pyridine **8ac** as orange needles (0.14 g, 41%). M.p. = 113-115 °C (EtOH); δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.96 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.70 (2H, d, *J* 5.5 Hz, pyr-H), 8.02 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.82 (1H, s, ArH), 7.77 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (1H, m, ArH), 7.48 (2H, d, *J* 5.5 Hz, pyr-H), 2.21 (3H,

s, CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 201.2 (C=O), 152.7 (quat.), 149.7 (ArCH), 148.3 (ArCH), 145.5 (quat.), 136.0 (quat.), 135.4 (quat.), 133.8 (quat.), 133.7 (ArCH), 131.1 (q, *J* 32.1 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 129.5 (ArCH), 128.9 (ArCH), 124.6 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 123.0 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 122.9 (q, *J* 243.3 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 122.5 (ArCH), 29.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3054, 2961, 1692, 1596, 1533, 1433, 1342, 1296, 1161, 1099, 1076, 1052; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 343.1053 for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O, found: 343.1056.

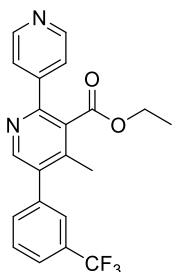
### Ethyl 4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4'-bipyridine]3-carboxylate **159c** and 3,5-di(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)pyridine (**8ad**)



Prepared according to general procedure B using 3-trifluoromethylcinnamic acid (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol), 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.1 mL, 1.1 mmol) and ethyl trans-2-methyl-3-(1-pyrrolidiny)acrylate (0.37 g, 2.0 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20-100% EtOAc in hexane then 0-100% EtOAc in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) gave a 5:1 inseparable mixture of pyridine **8ad** (major) and pyridine **9b** (minor) as yellow oil (0.15 g, 30% yield **8ad**).  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$  (solid); 3036, 2984, 1727, 1598, 1538, 1436,

1379, 1340, 1249, 1167, 1127, 1097, 1071, 1020.

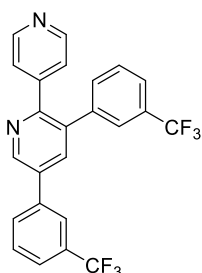
### Ethyl 4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-[2,4'-bipyridine]3-carboxylate (**8ad**)



$\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.66 (2H, d, *J* 4.7 Hz, pyr-H), 8.53 (1H, s, pyr-H), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.58-7.56 (2H, m, ArH), 7.52-7.50 (3H, m, pyr-H + ArH), 4.14 (2H, q, *J* 7.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.25 (3H, s, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.03 (3H, t, *J* 7.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_C$  (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 18 of 19 signals observed; 168.0 (C=O), 153.1 (quat.), 150.4 (ArCH), 150.1 (ArCH), 147.2 (quat.), 143.3 (quat.), 136.8 (quat.), 132.7 (q, *J* 1.7 Hz, quat.), 131.3 (q, *J* 33.5 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 130.4 (quat.), 129.7 (ArCH), 129.4 (ArCH), 126.1 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 125.2 (q, *J* 3.9 Hz, ArCH), 122.8 (ArCH), 62.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 17.3 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)

*m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 387.1315 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, found: 387.1320.

### 3,5-Di(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-(4-pyridyl)pyridine (**9b**)

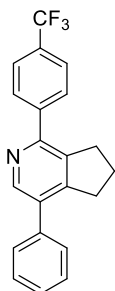


Characteristic signals:  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.93 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 8.49 (2H, d, *J* 5.7 Hz, pyr-H), 7.90 (1H, d, *J* 2.2 Hz, pyr-H), 7.84 (1H, s, ArH), 7.81 (1H, d, *J* 7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.47 (2H, m, ArH), 7.40 (1H, t, *J* 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.30 (1H, d, *J* 7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.24 (2H, d, *J* 5.7 Hz, pyr-H);  $\delta_C$  (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 153.7 (quat.), 149.5 (ArCH), 147.9 (ArCH), 139.3 (quat.), 137.6 (quat.), 137.1 (ArCH), 135.2 (quat.), 133.2 (ArCH), 132.9 (q, *J* 1.7 Hz, ArCH), 131.5 (quat.), 131.0 (quat.), 130.6 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 129.3 (ArCH), 125.5 (q, *J* 3.1 Hz, ArCH), 124.7 (ArCH), 124.1 (q, *J* 3.1 Hz, ArCH); HRMS

(ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 445.1134 for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, found: 445.1143.



#### 4-Phenyl-1-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-[2]pyrindine (**8ae**)

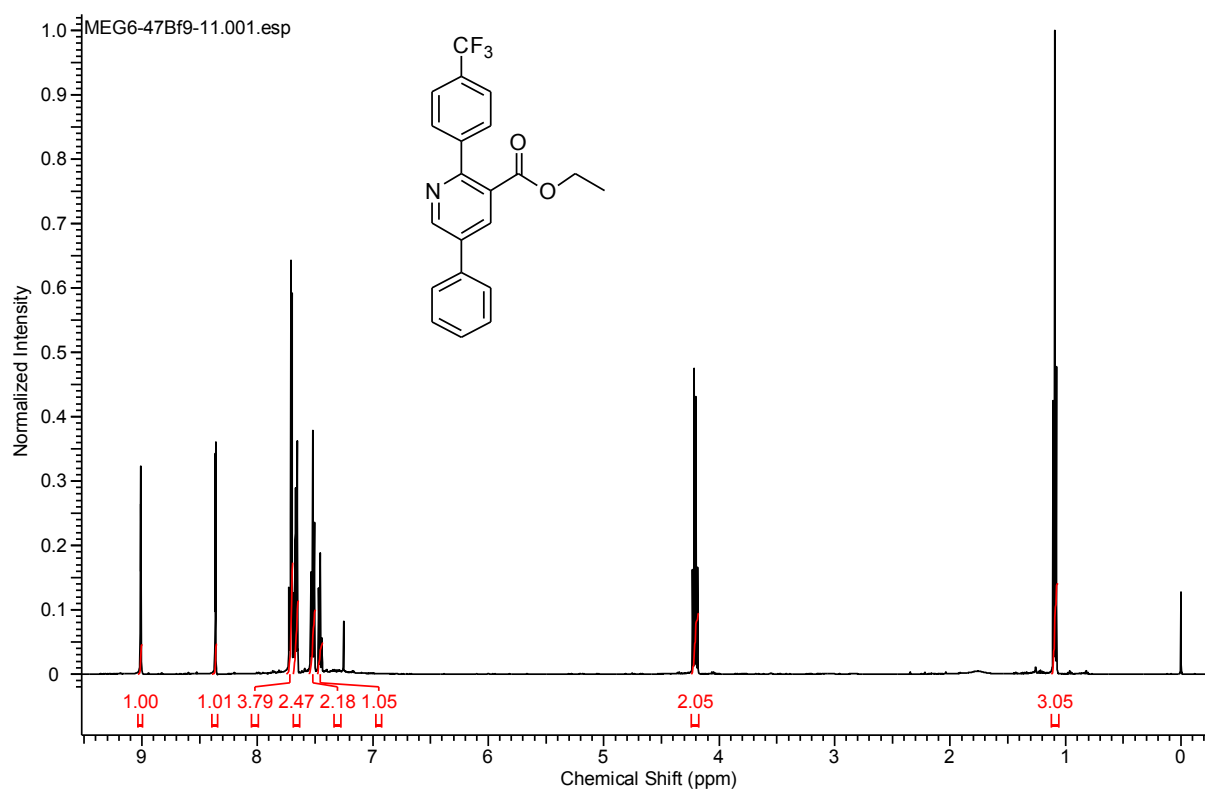


Prepared according to general procedure A using cinnamic acid (0.74 g, 5.0 mmol), DPPA (1.0 mL, 4.5 mmol), triethylamine (0.75 mL, 5.0 mmol), 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (0.67 mL, 4.95 mmol) and 1-cyclopent-1-enylpyrrolidine (3.3 mL, 22.5 mmol). Purification by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-50% EtOAc in hexane then high grade SiO<sub>2</sub> with 0-20% EtOAc in hexane) gave the pyridine **8ad** as yellow needles (0.013 g, 5%).  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 8.58 (1H, s, pyr-H), 7.92 (2H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.73 (2H, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.51-7.48 (4H, m, ArH), 7.43-7.40 (1H, m, ArH), 3.17 (2H, t, *J* 7.3 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.07 (2H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.10 (2H, quin, *J* 7.3 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 152.8 (quat.), 151.3 (quat.), 147.3 (ArCH), 143.4 (quat.), 137.8 (quat.), 137.5 (quat.) 133.2 (quat.), 130.3 (q, *J* 34.9 Hz, CCF<sub>3</sub>), 128.7 (ArCH), 128.6 (ArCH), 128.5 (ArCH), 127.8 (ArCH), 125.7 (q, *J* 271.4 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.2 (q, *J* 4.6 Hz, ArCH), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> (solid); 2950, 1615, 1579, 1497, 1447, 1411, 1373, 1325, 1209, 1165, 1114, 1065, 1014; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*; [M+H]<sup>+</sup> requires 340.1308 for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N, found: 340.1315.

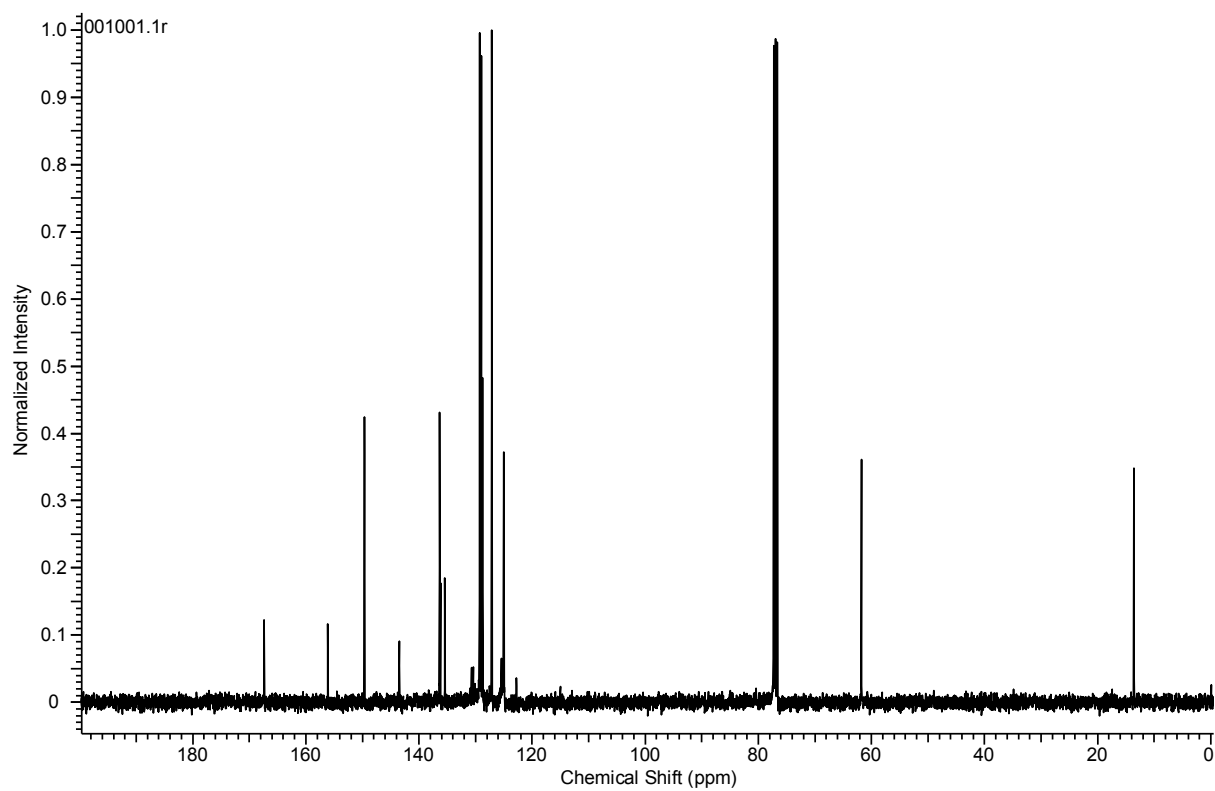
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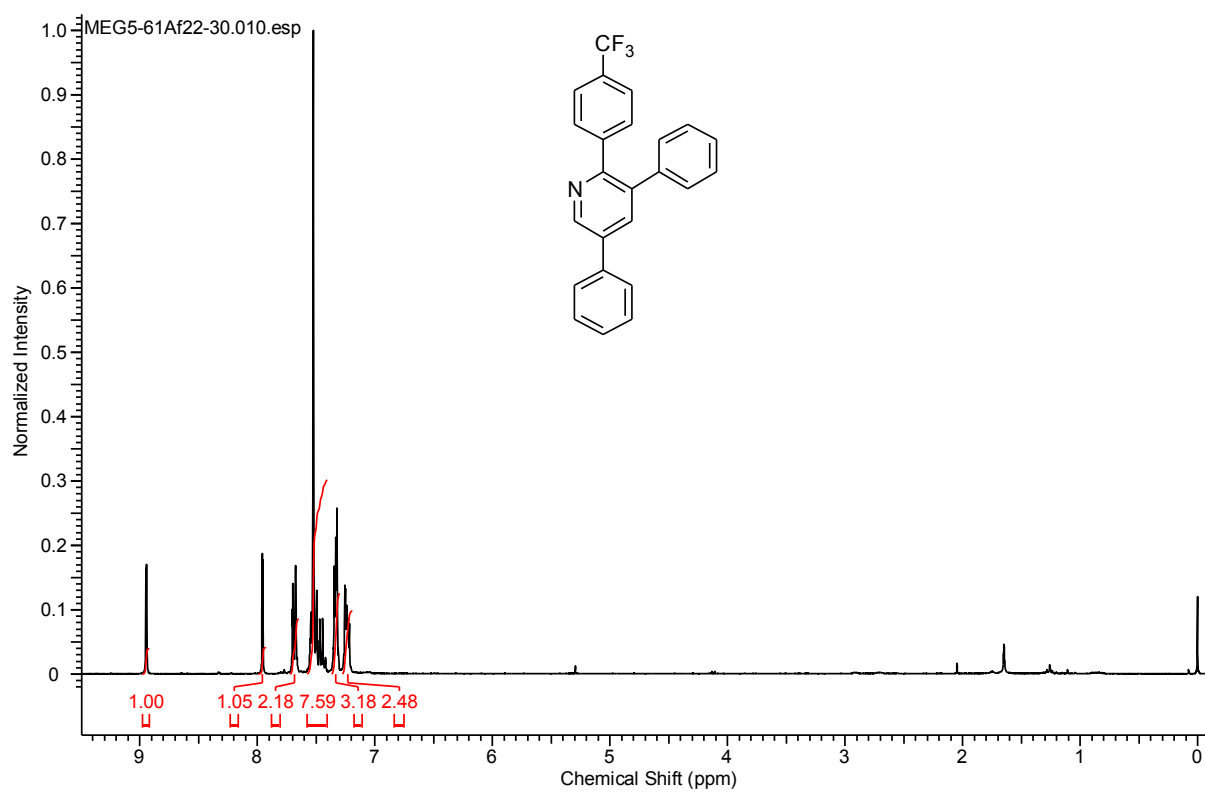
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8a** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



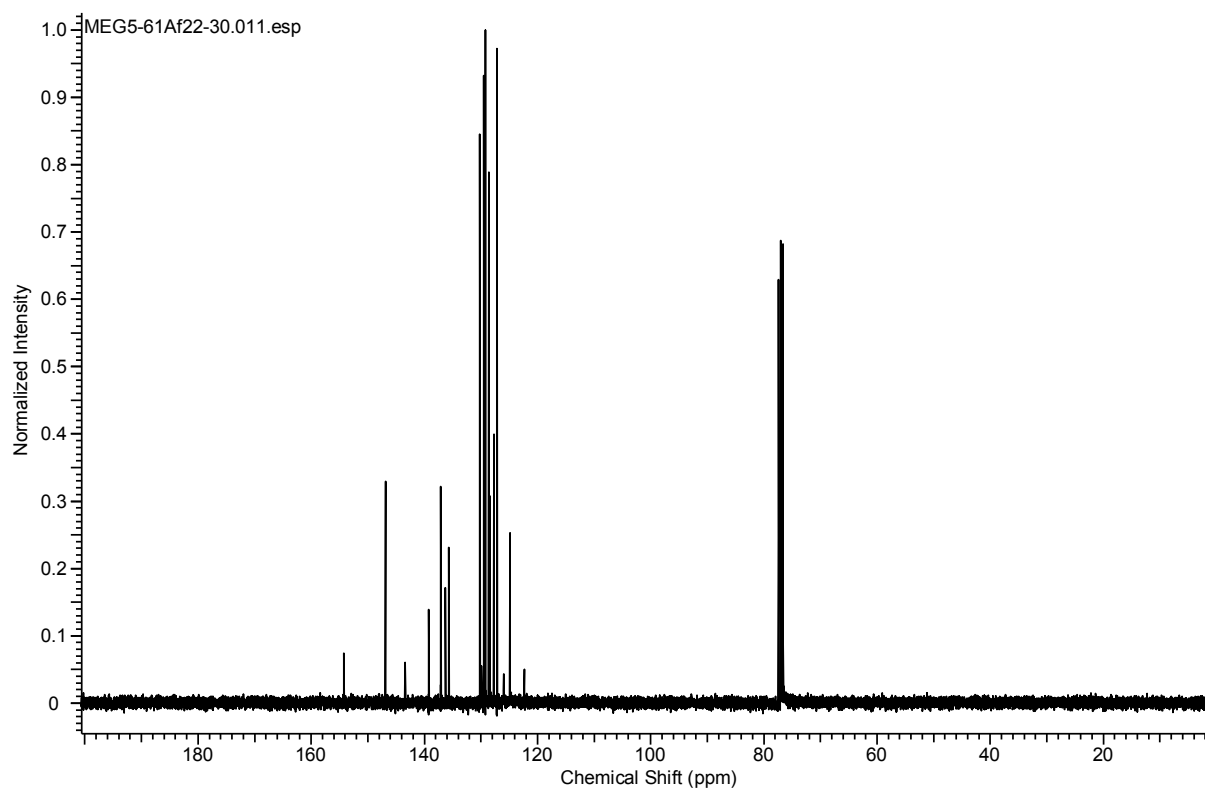
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8a** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



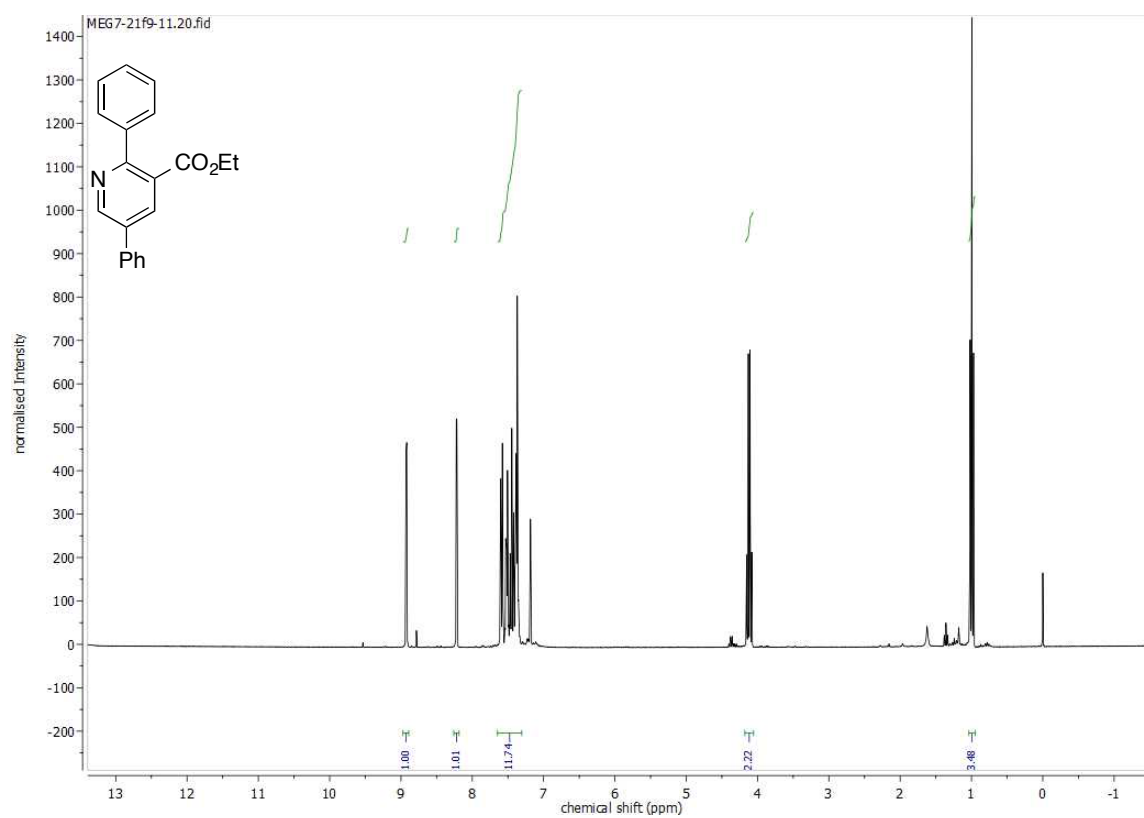
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **9** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



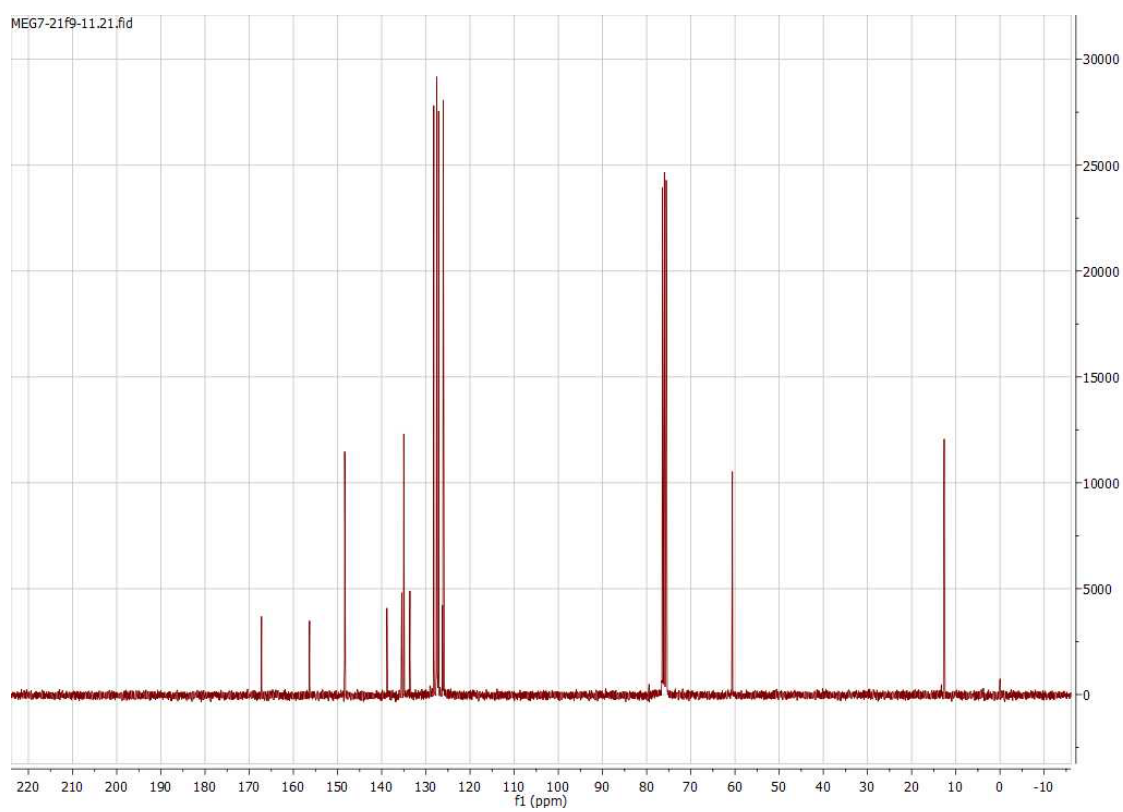
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **9** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



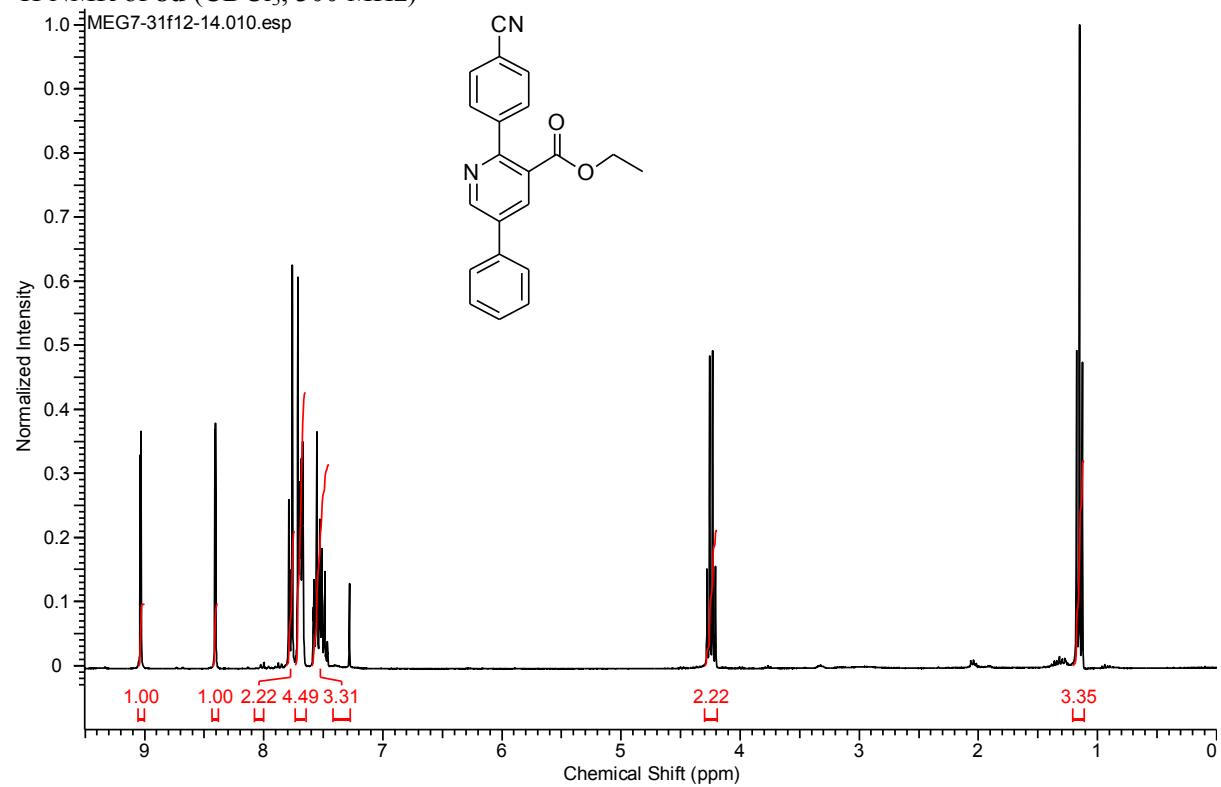
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8b** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



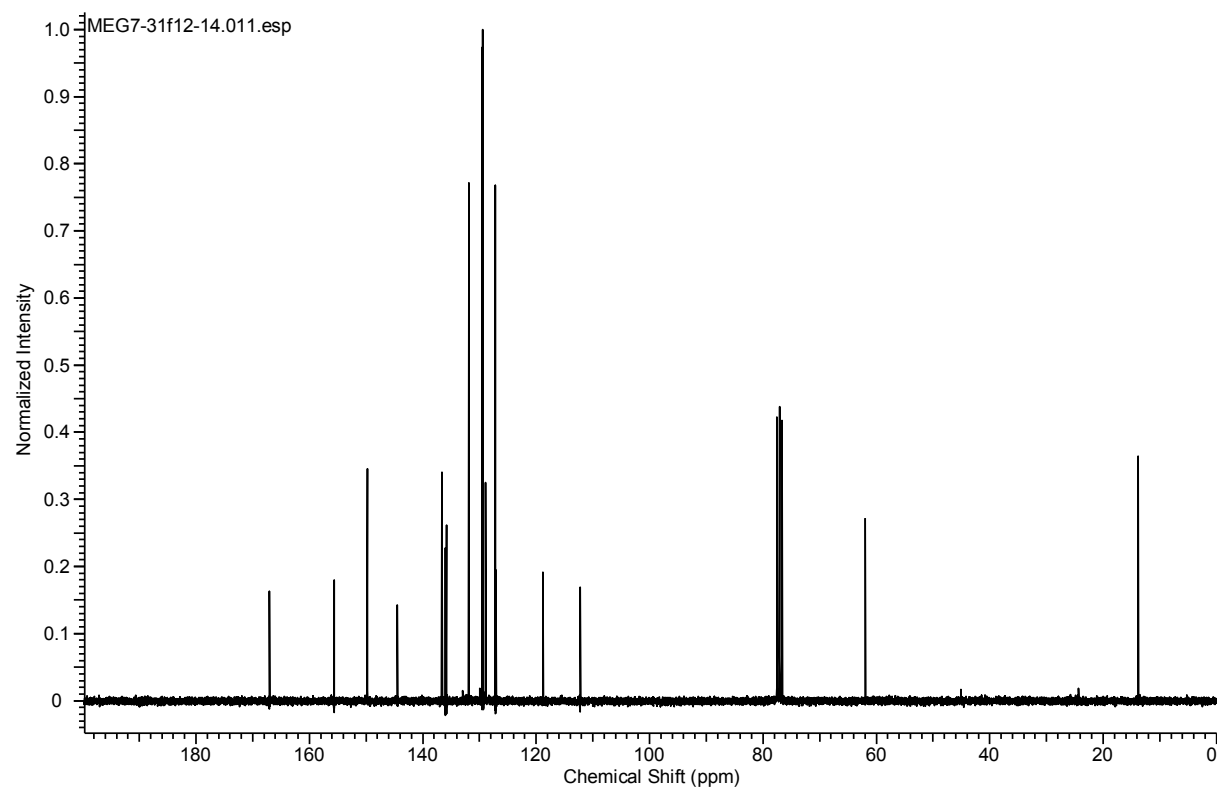
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8b** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



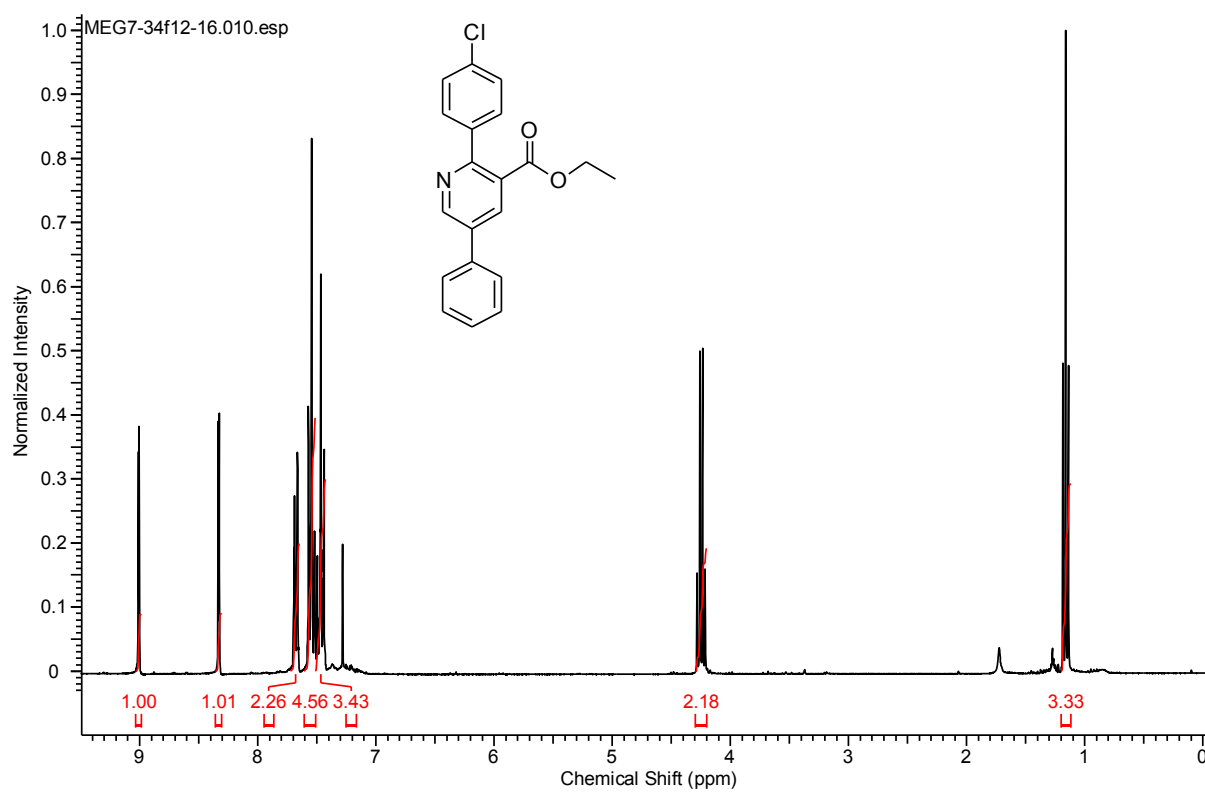
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8d** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



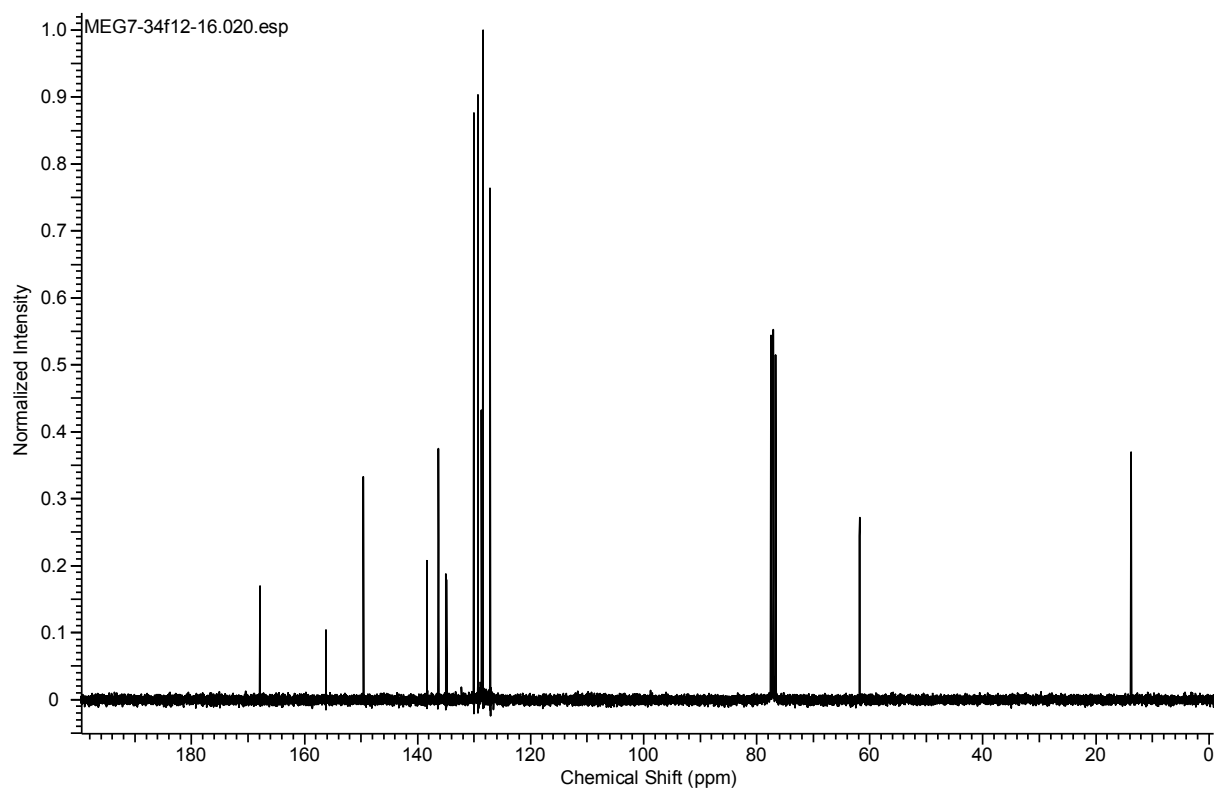
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8d** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



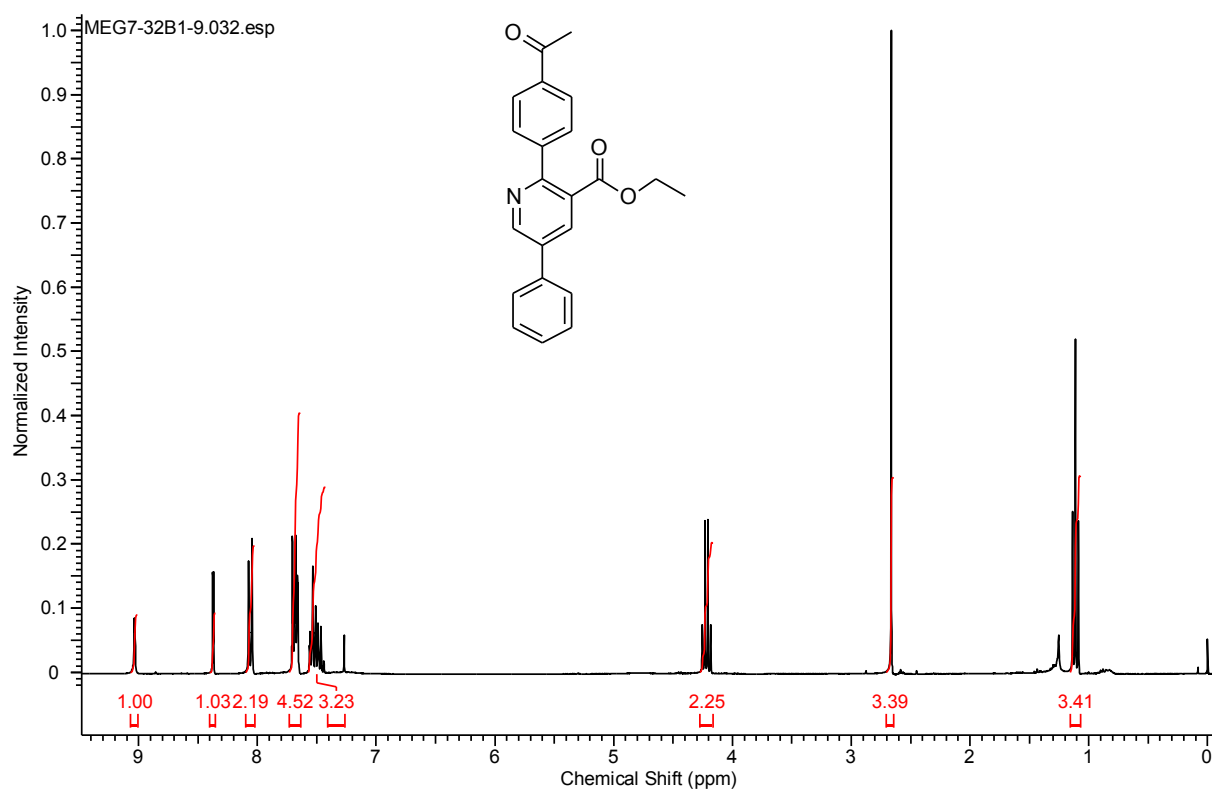
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8e** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



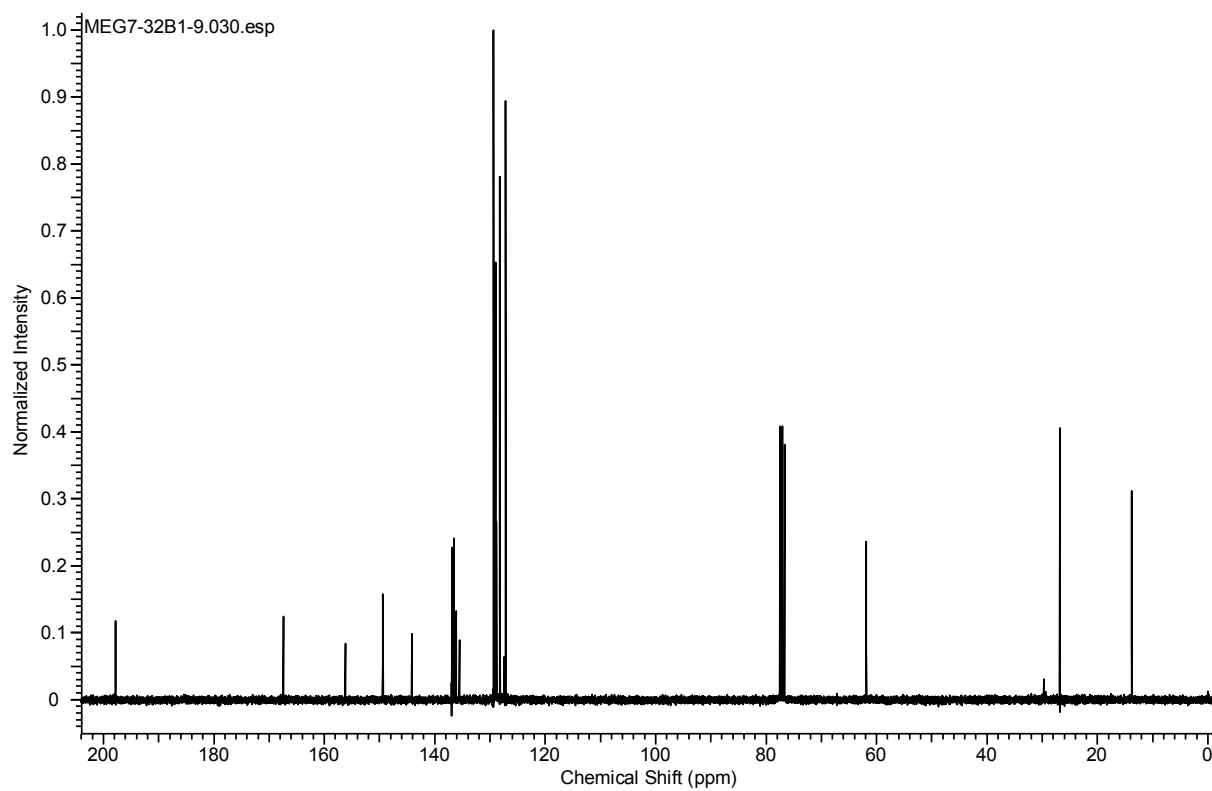
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8e** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



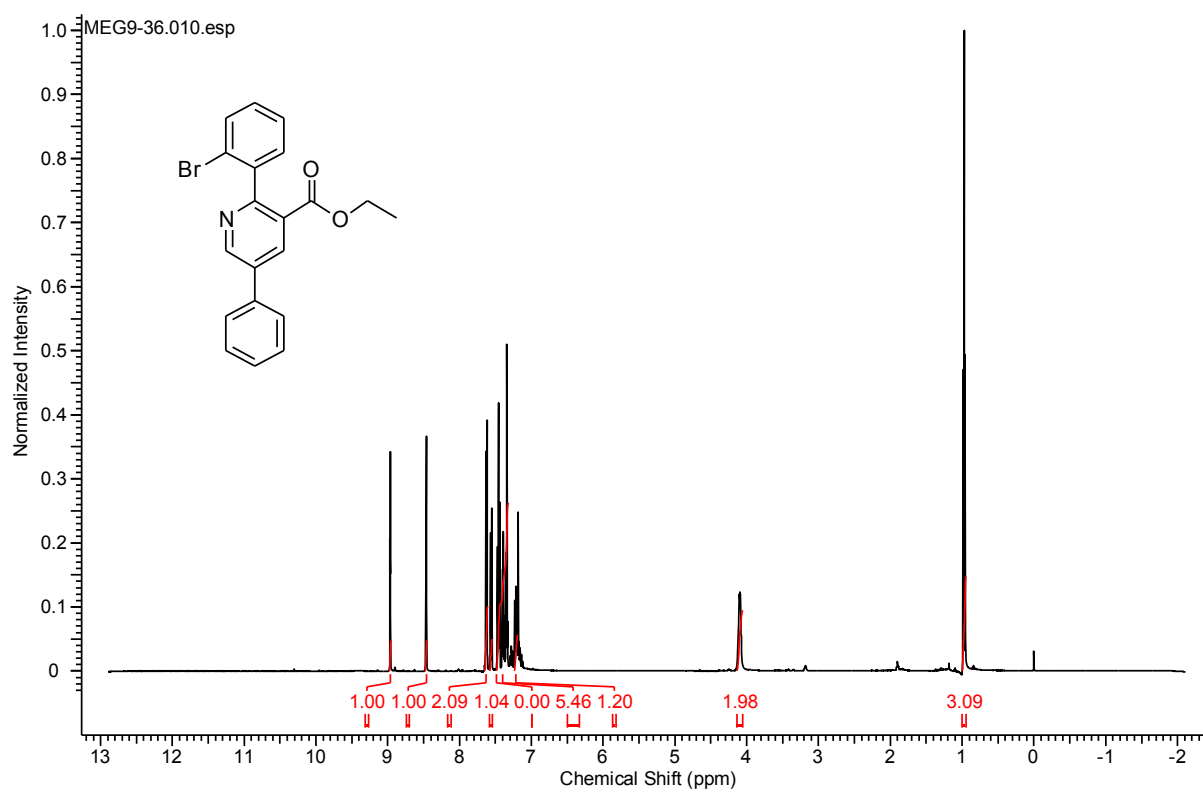
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8f** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



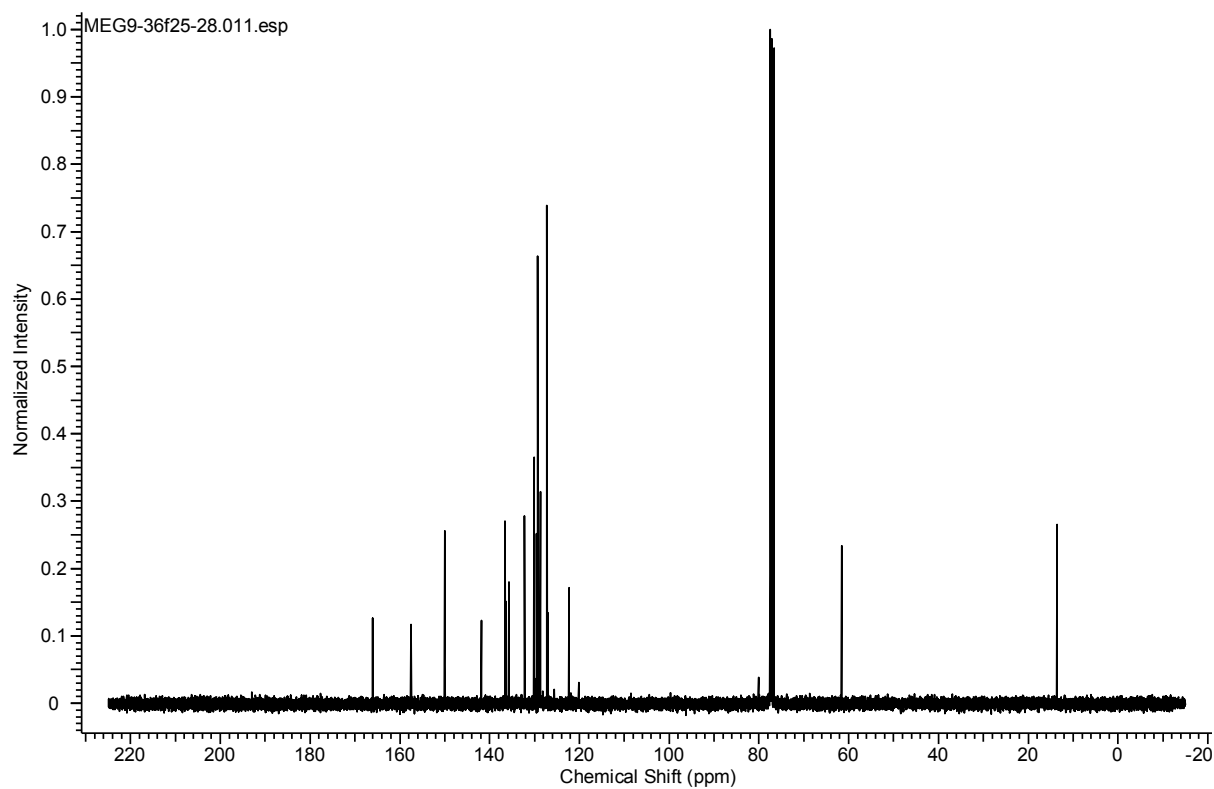
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8f** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8g** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)

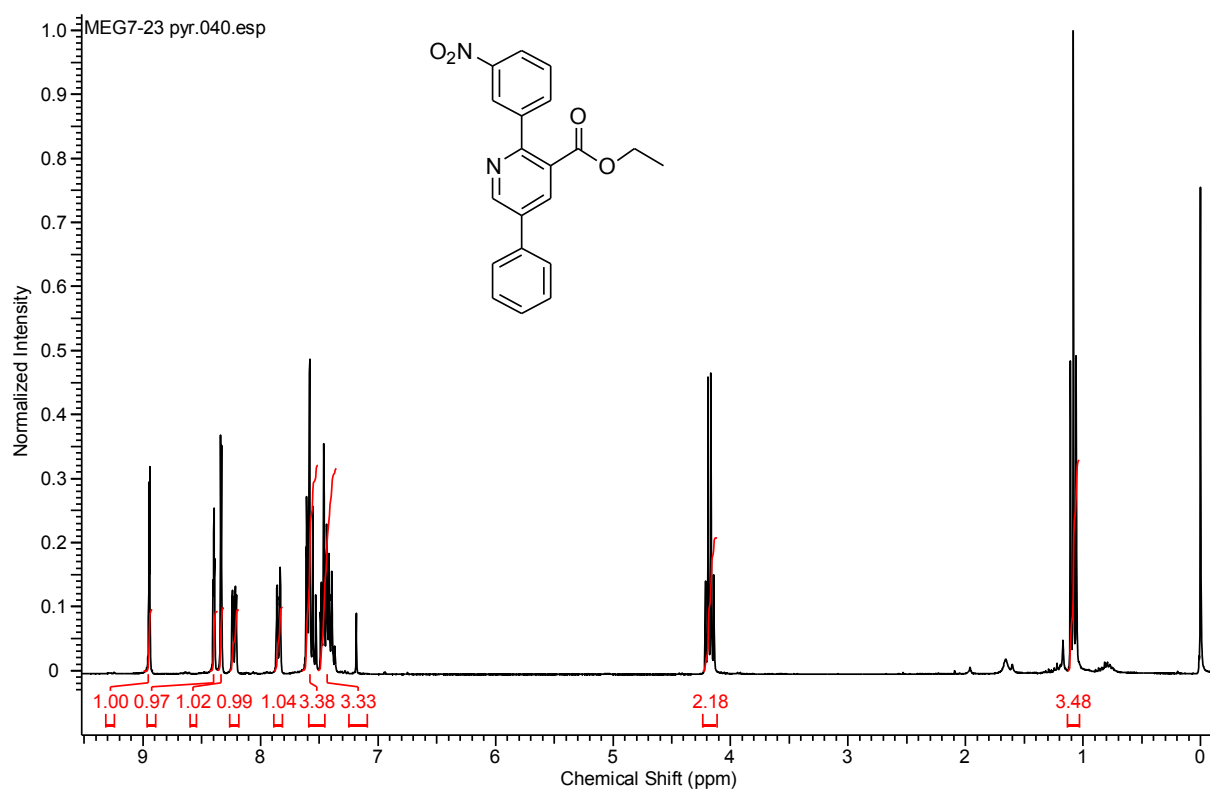


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8g** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)

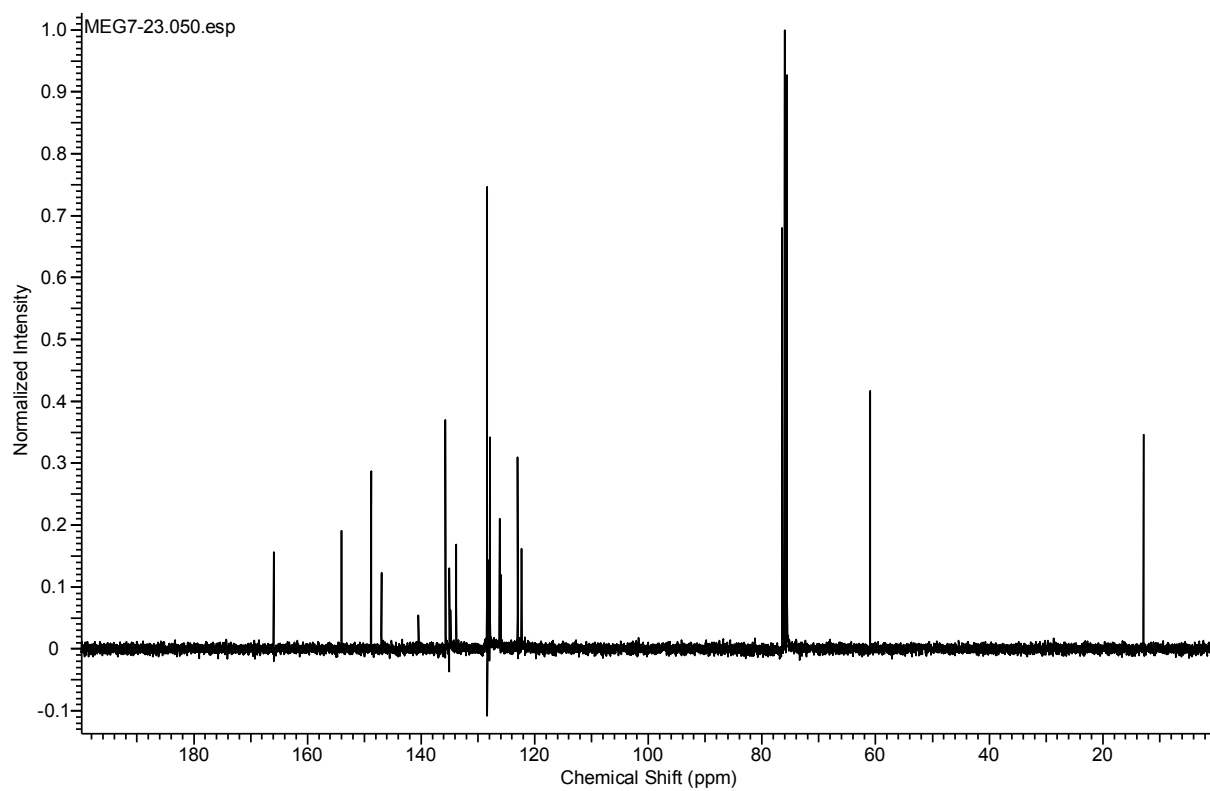




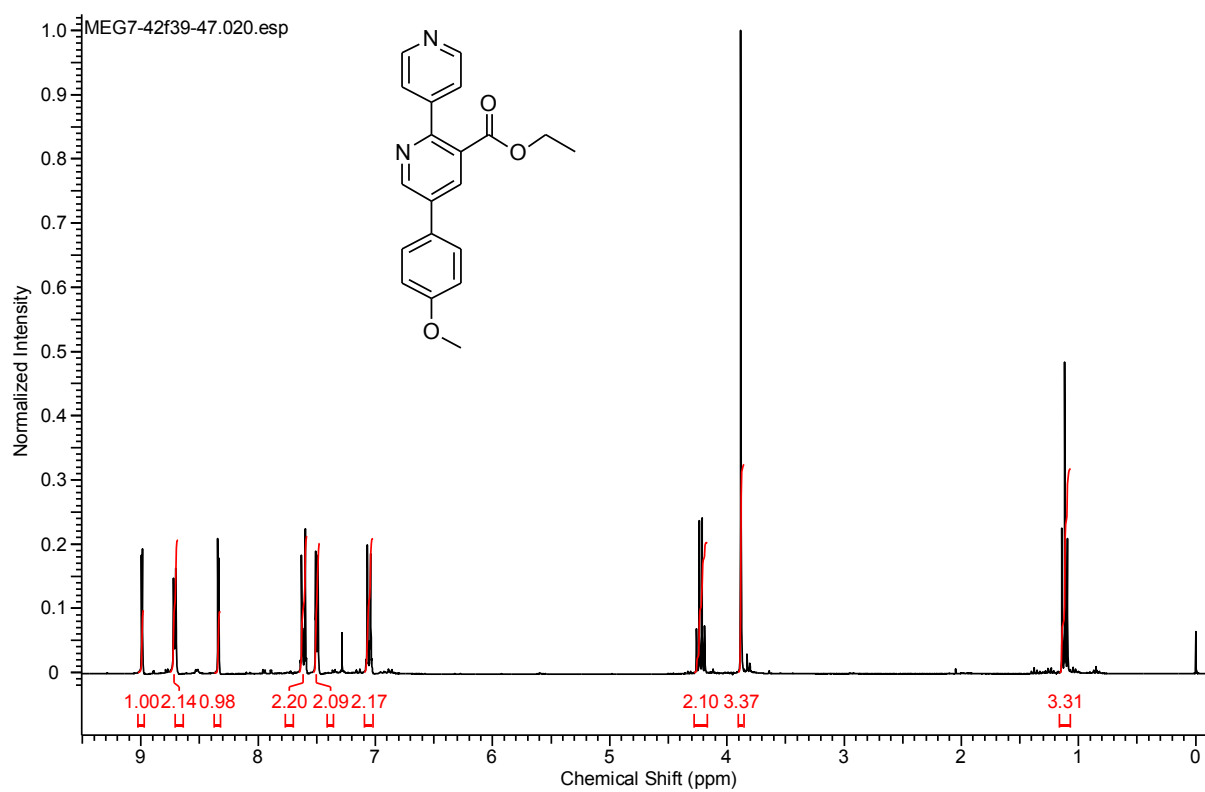
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8h** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



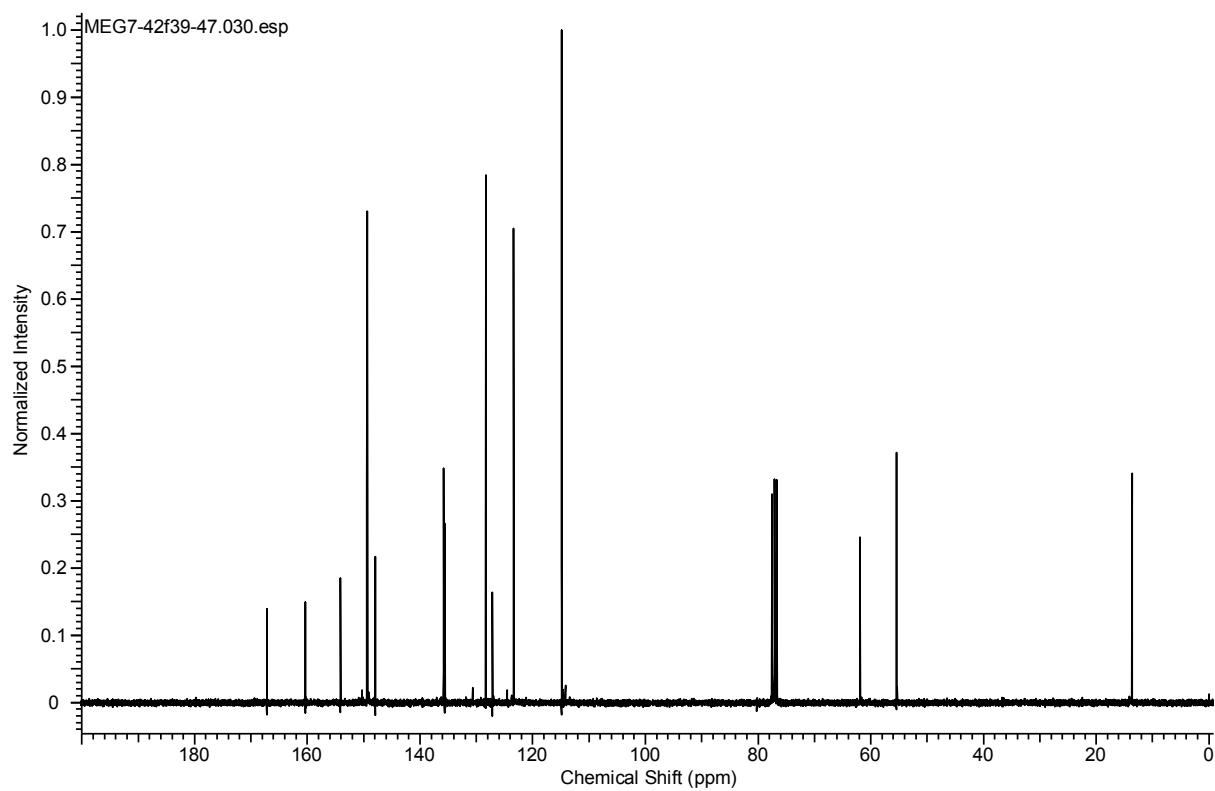
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8h** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



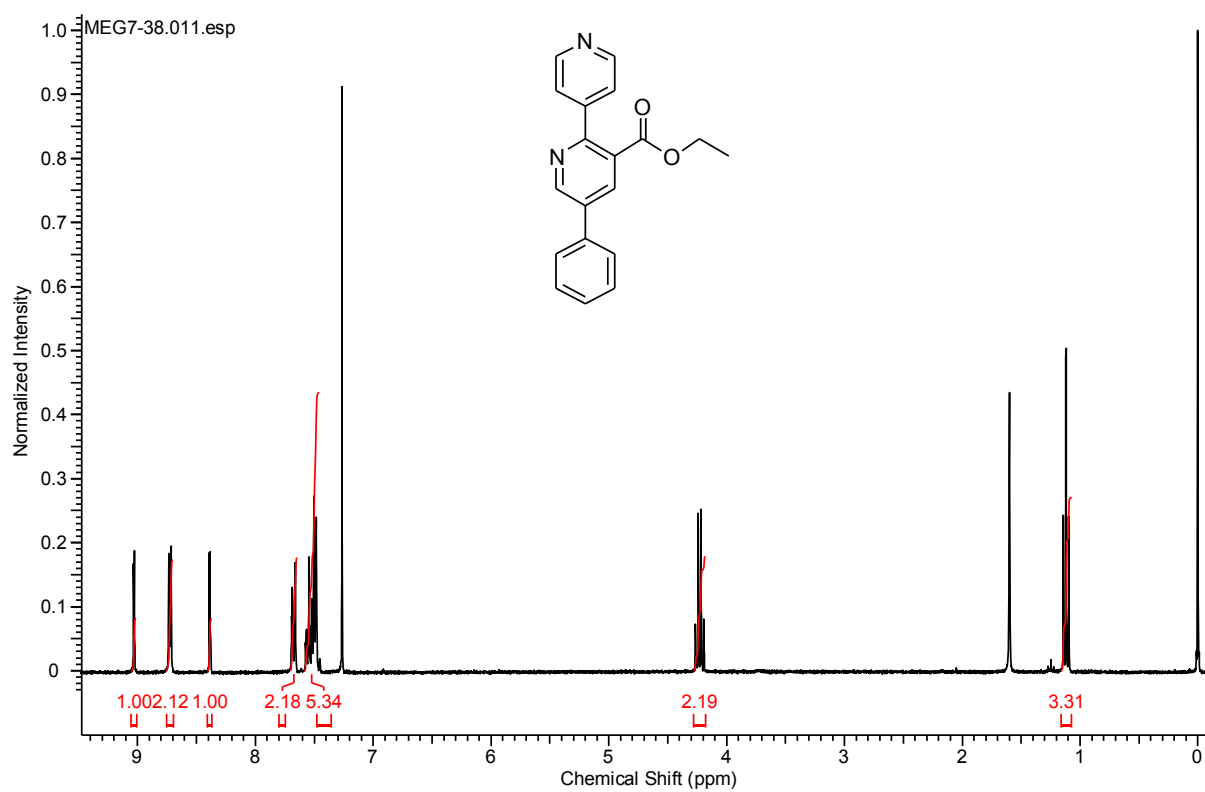
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8i** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



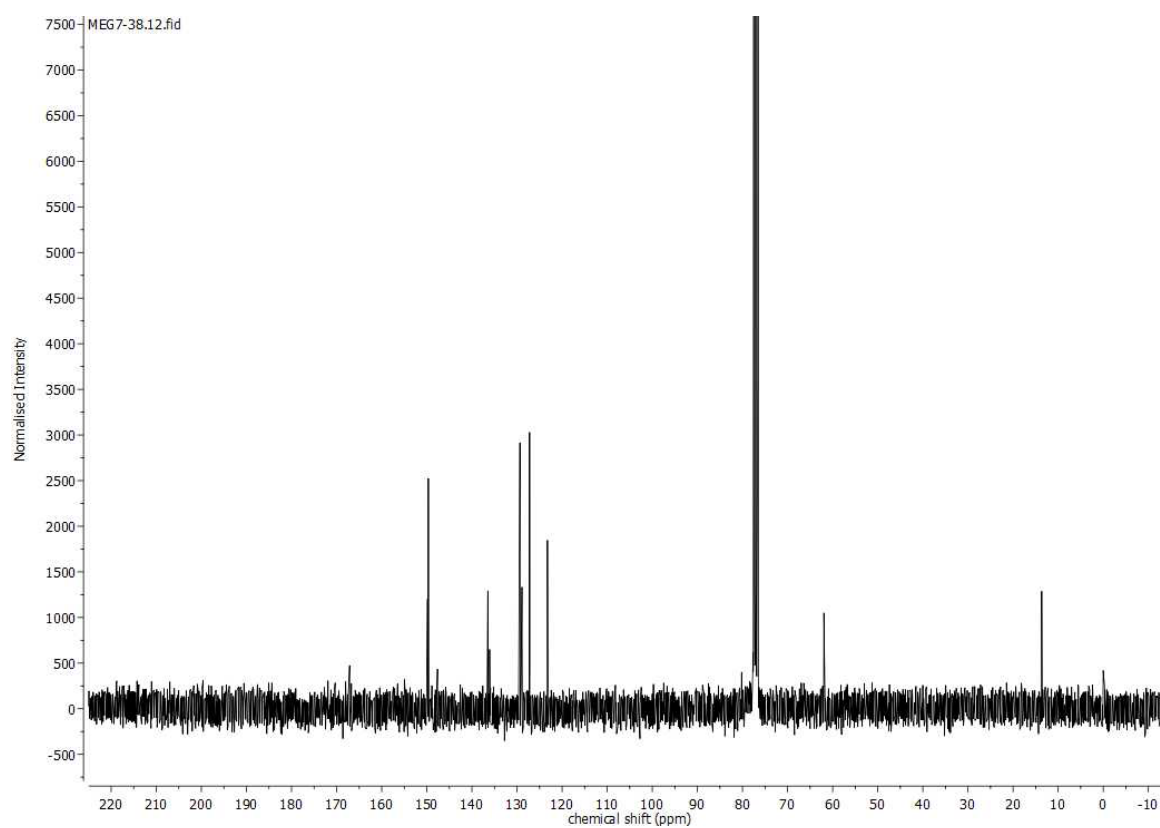
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8i** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



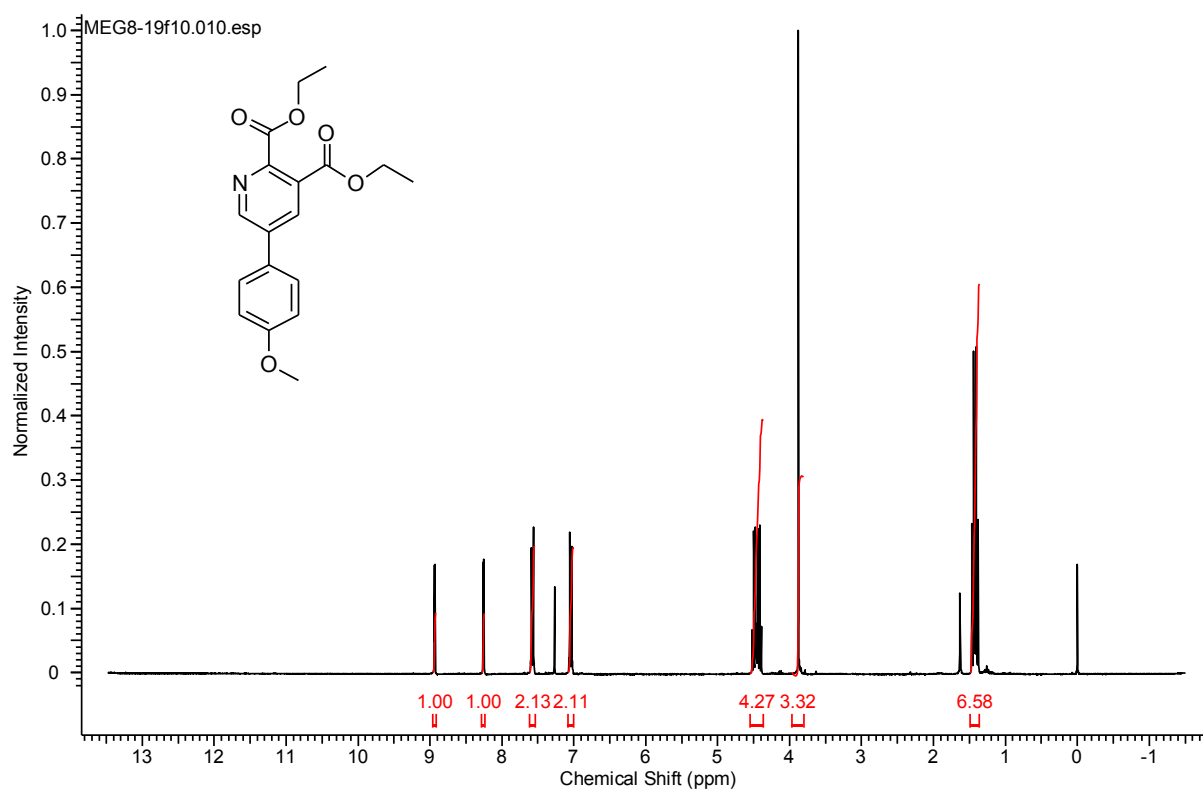
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8j** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



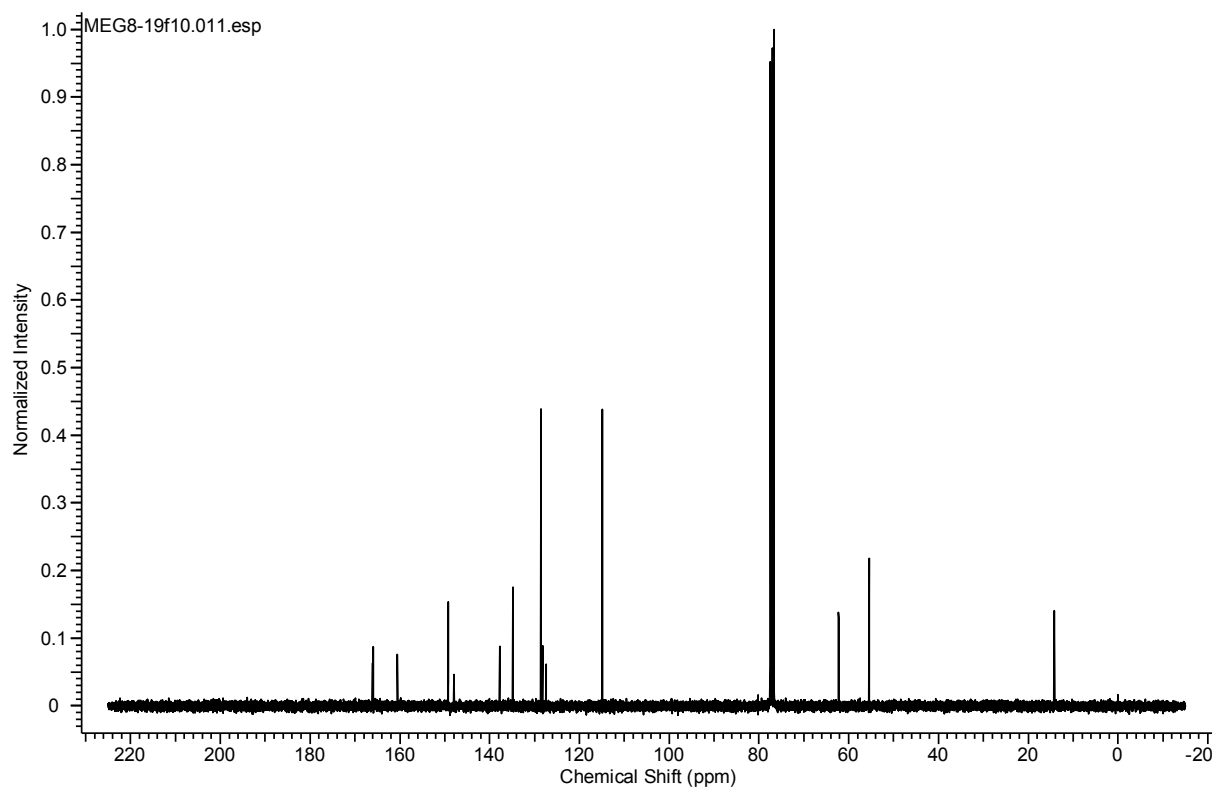
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8j** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



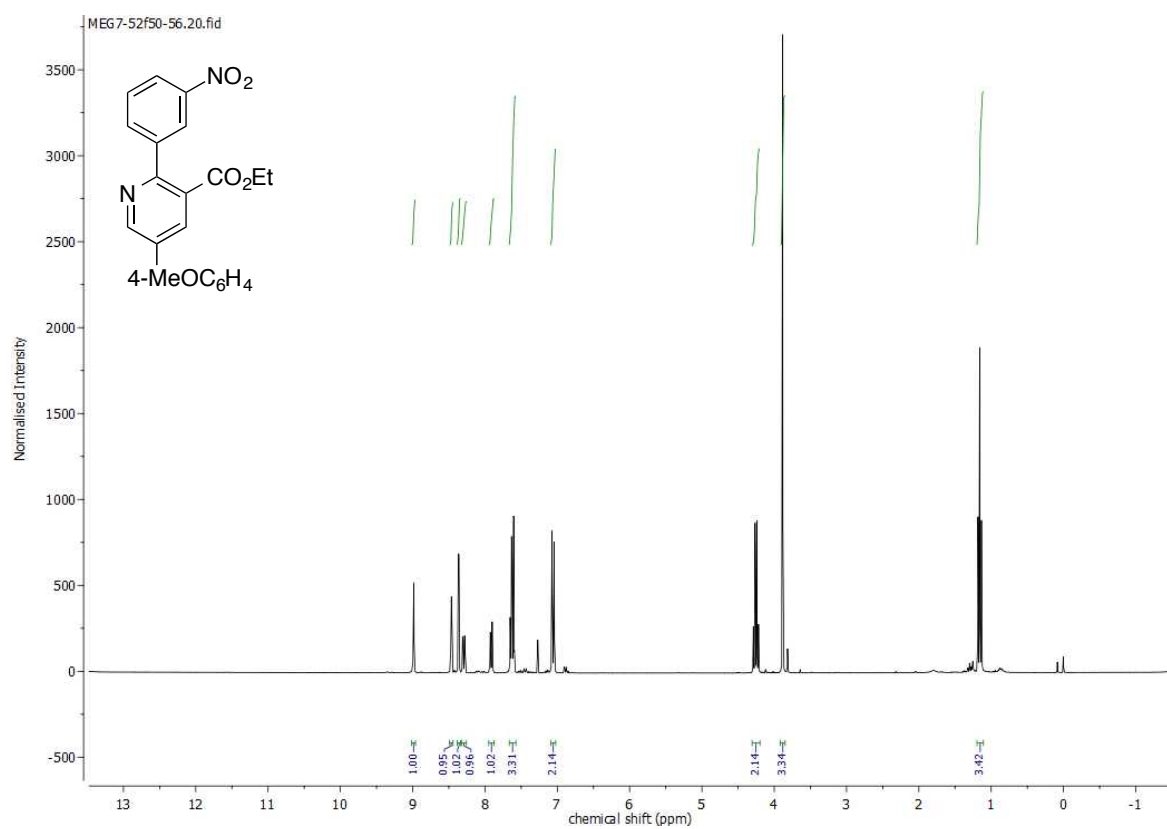
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8k** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



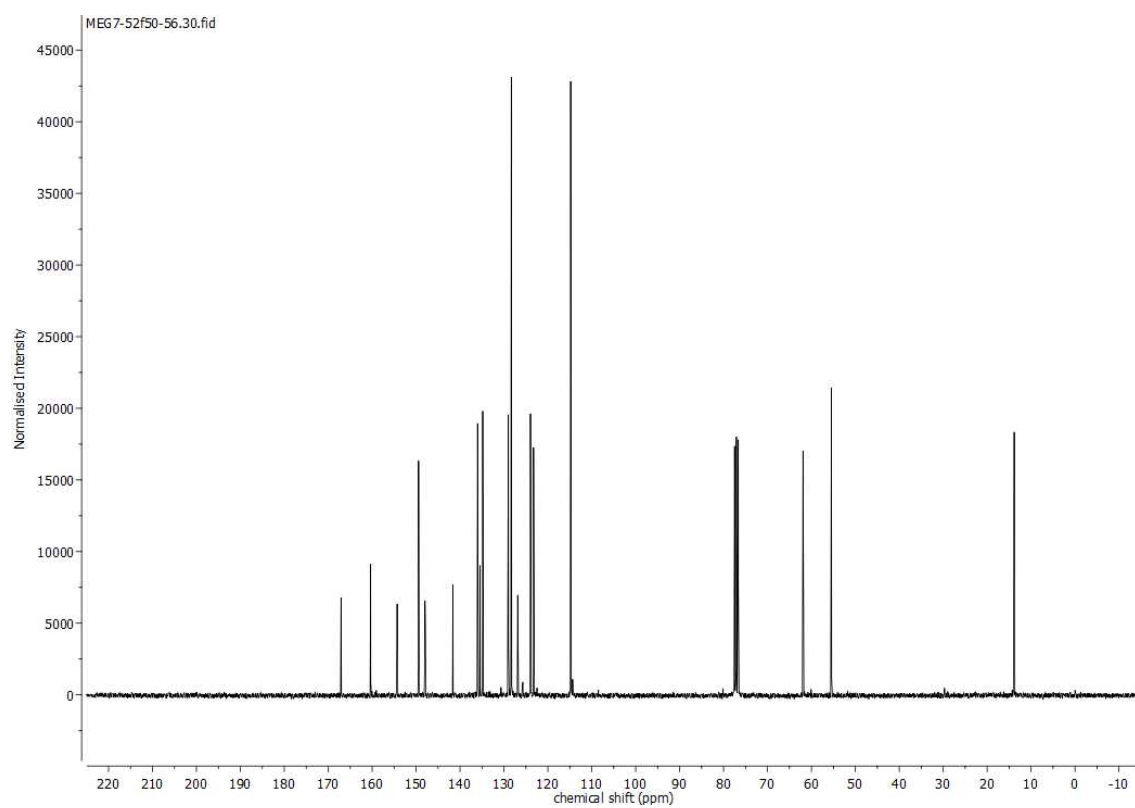
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8k** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



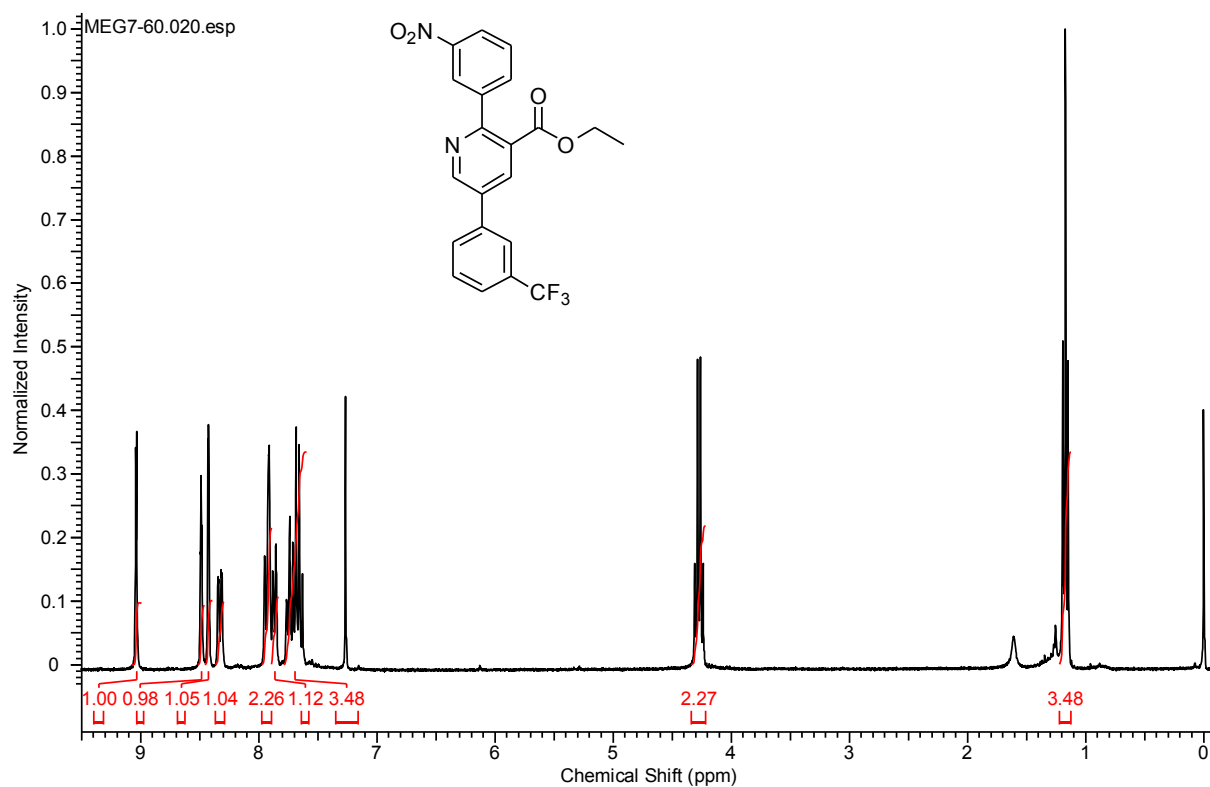
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **81** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



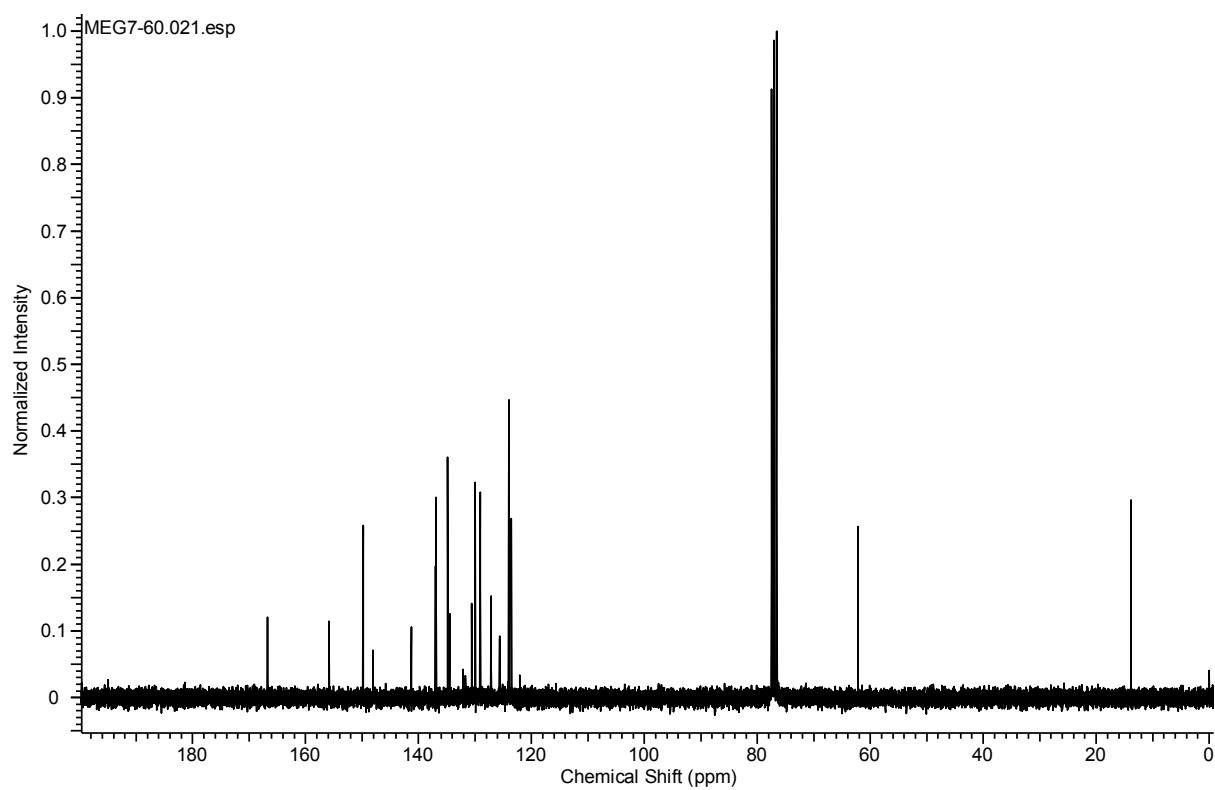
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **81** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



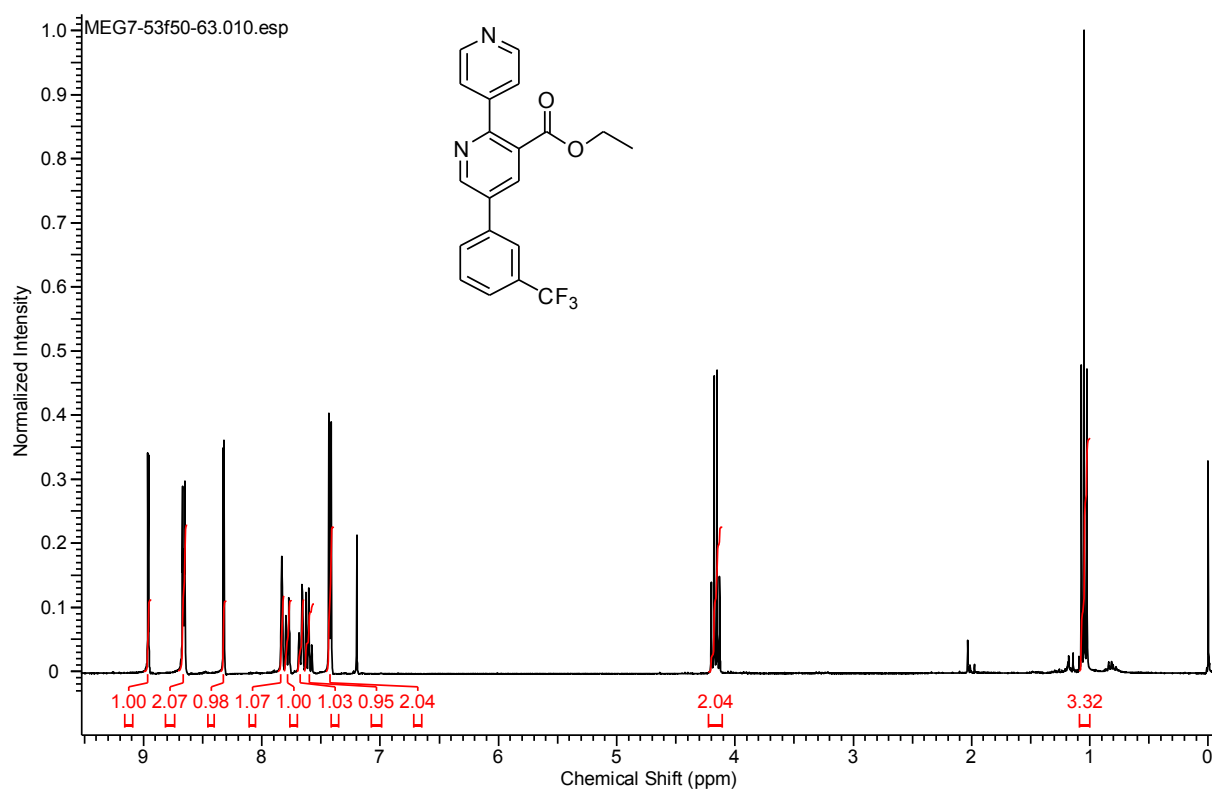
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8m** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



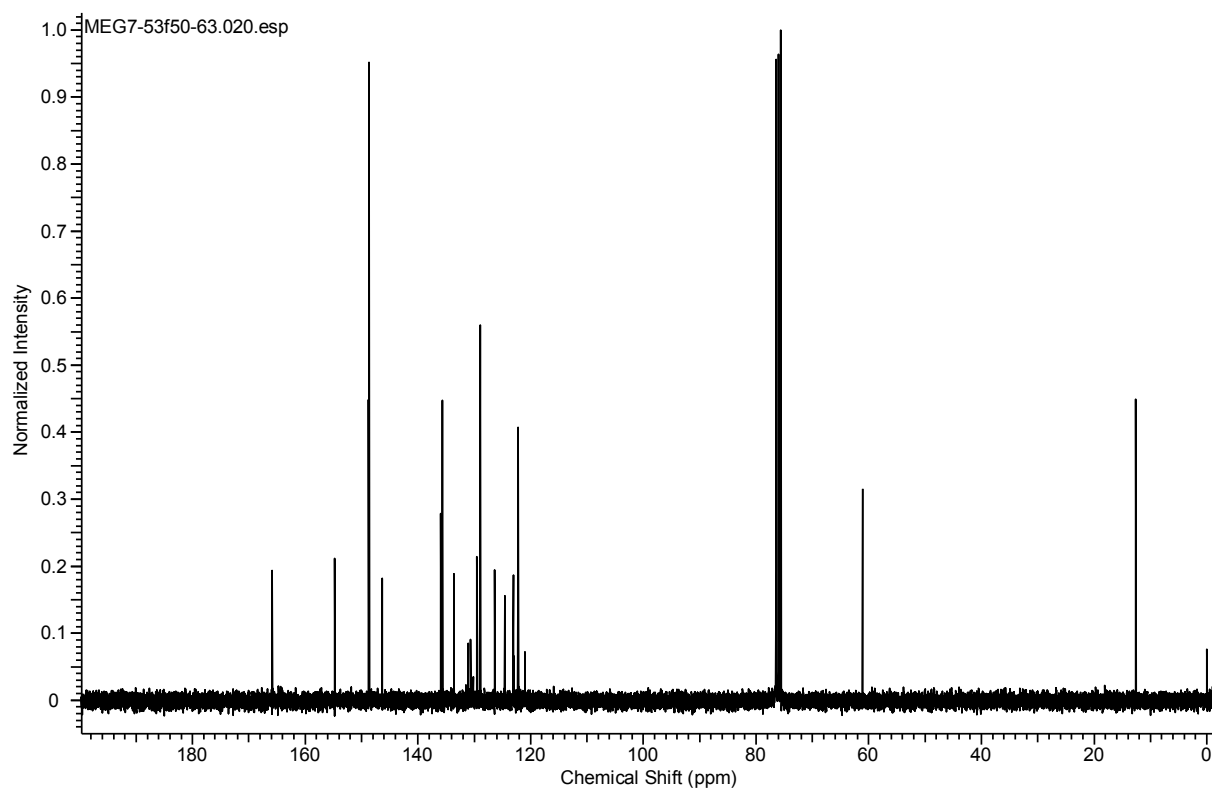
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8m** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



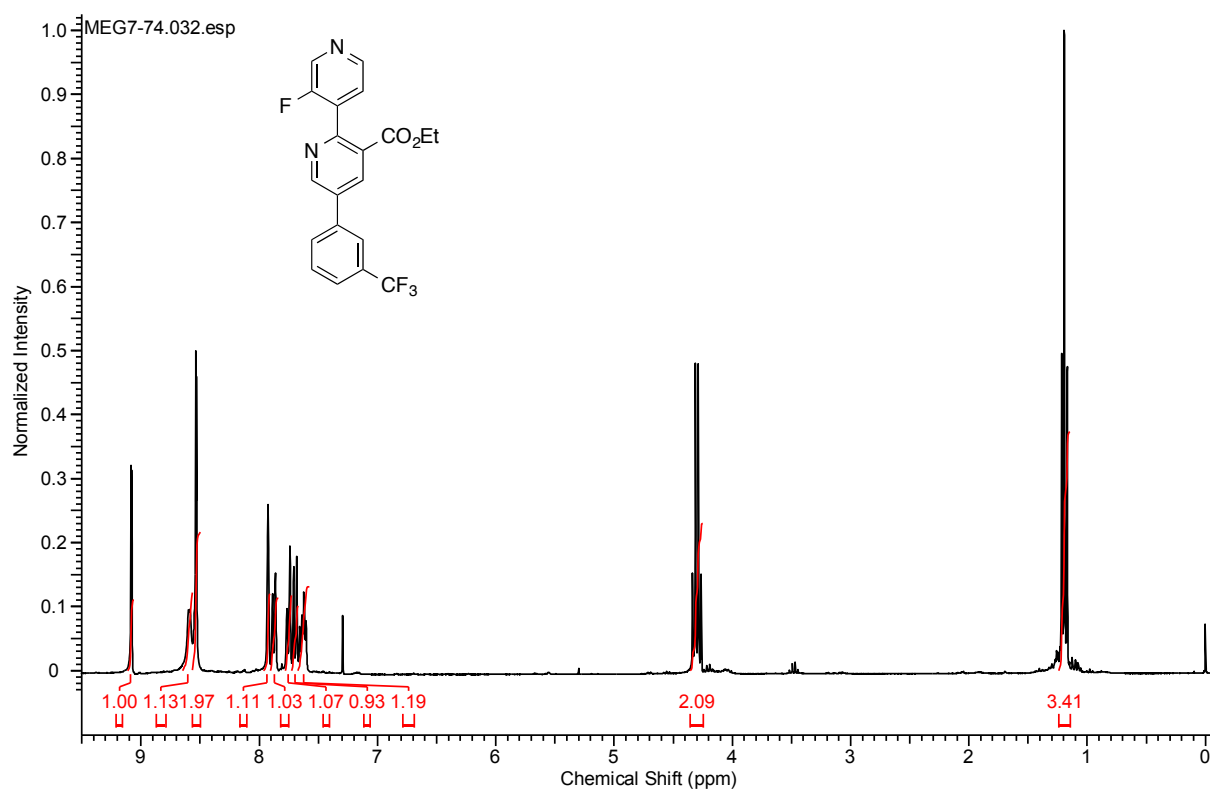
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8n** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



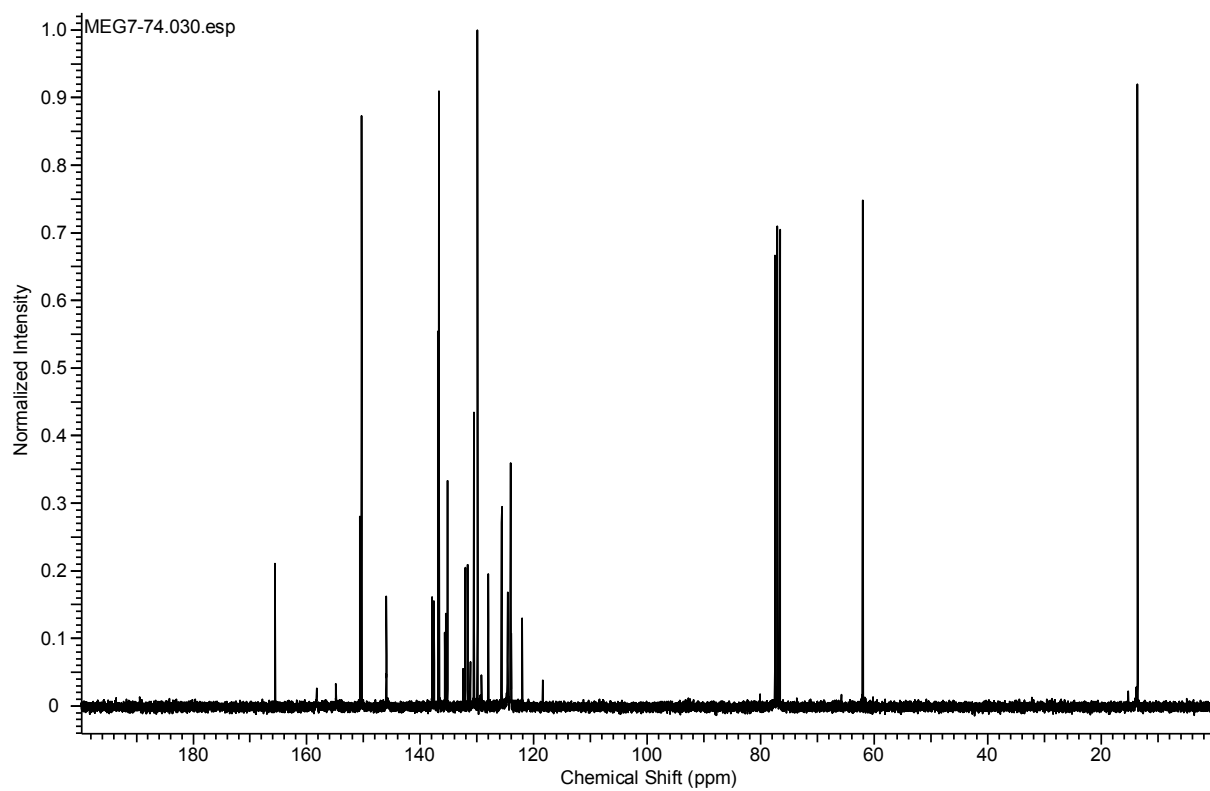
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8n** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8o** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)

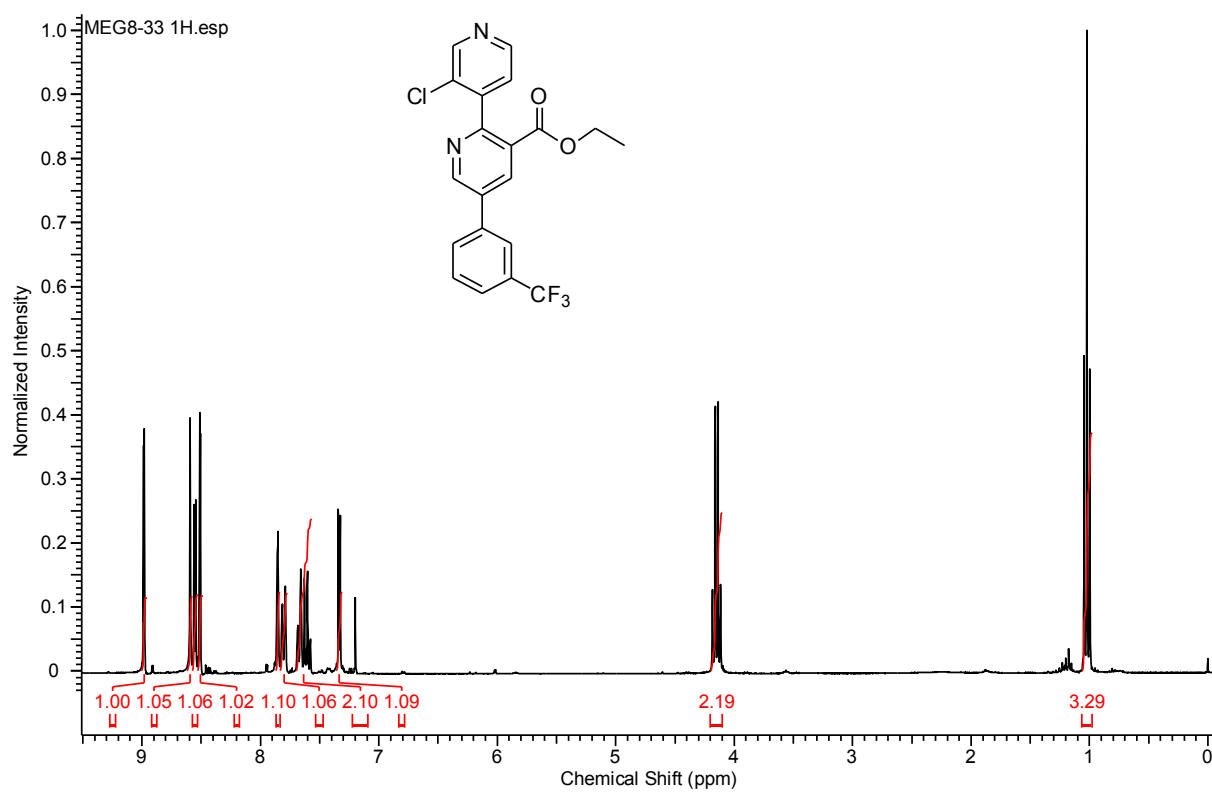


<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8o** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)

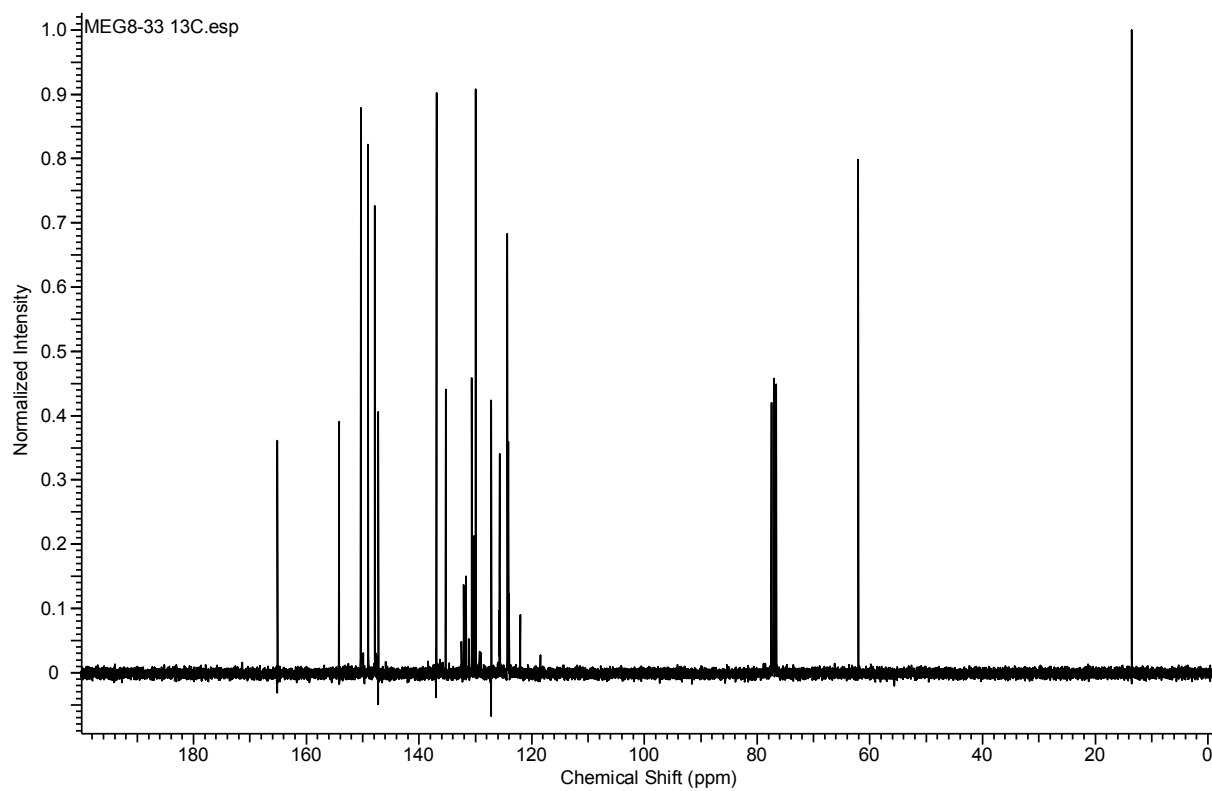




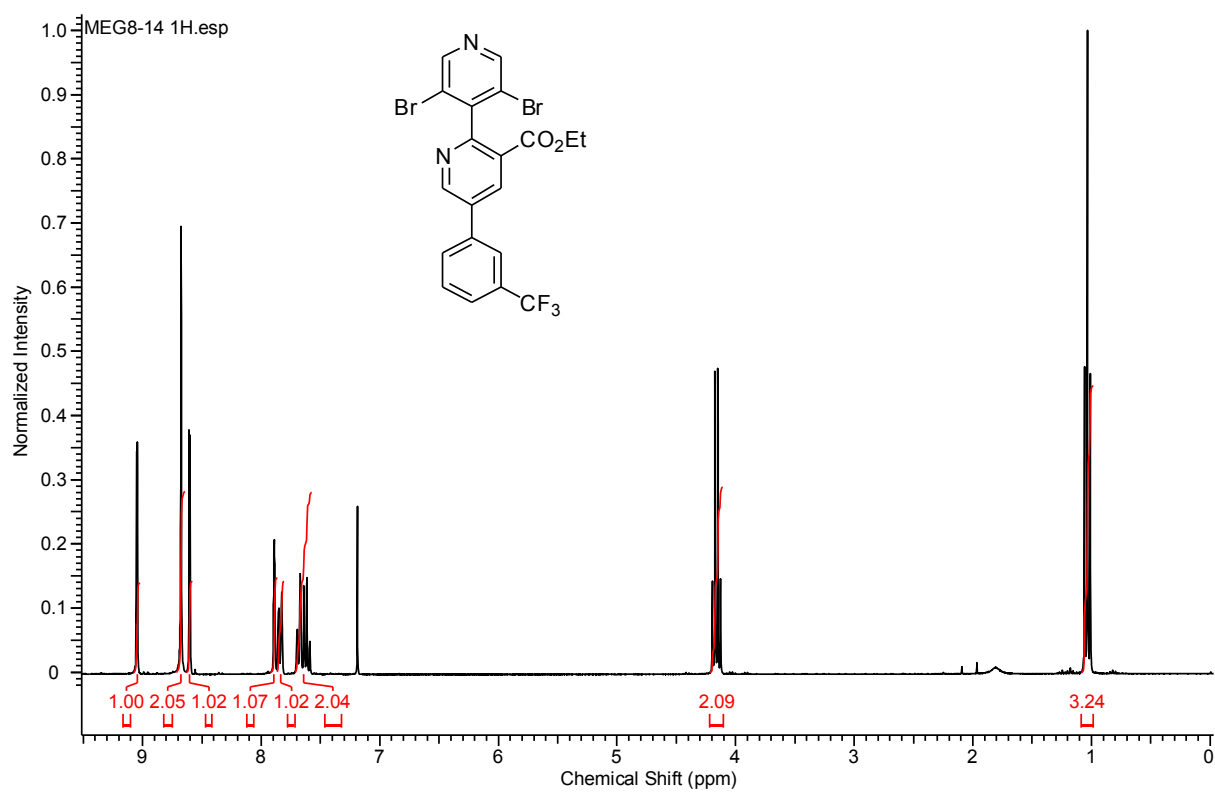
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8p** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



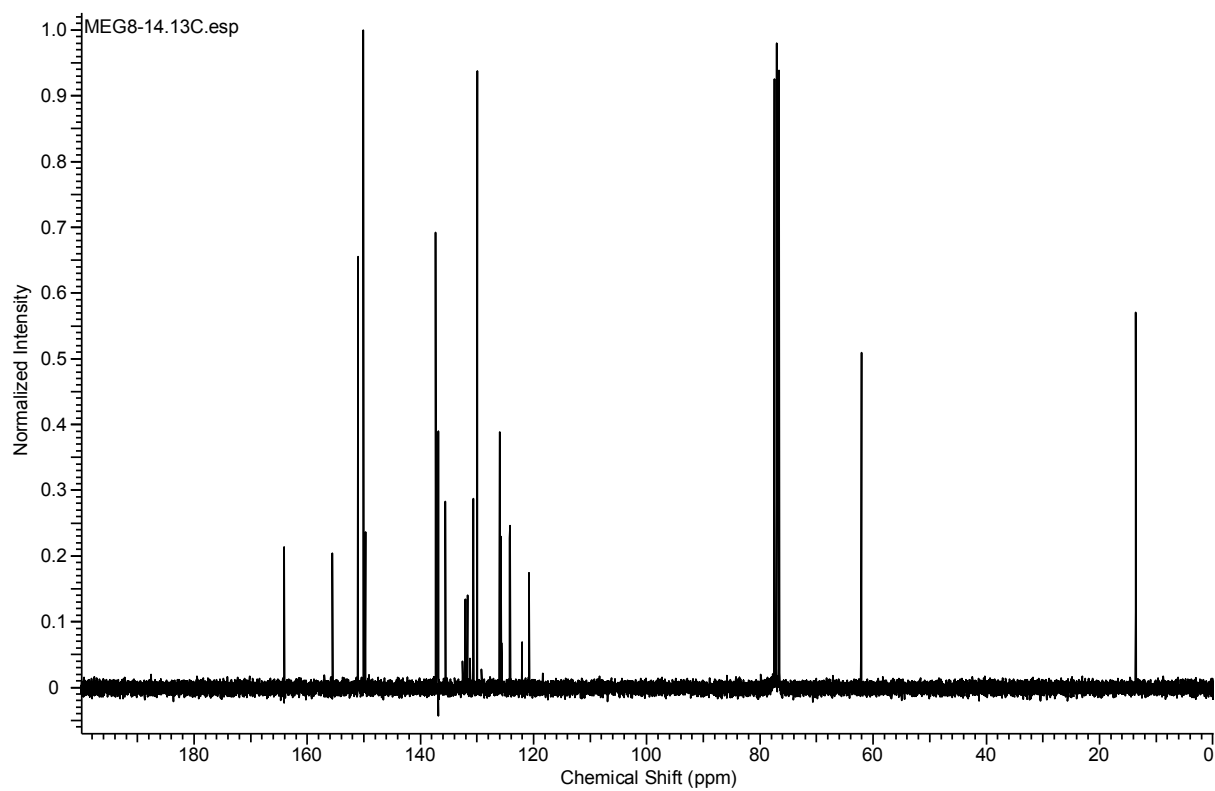
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8p** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



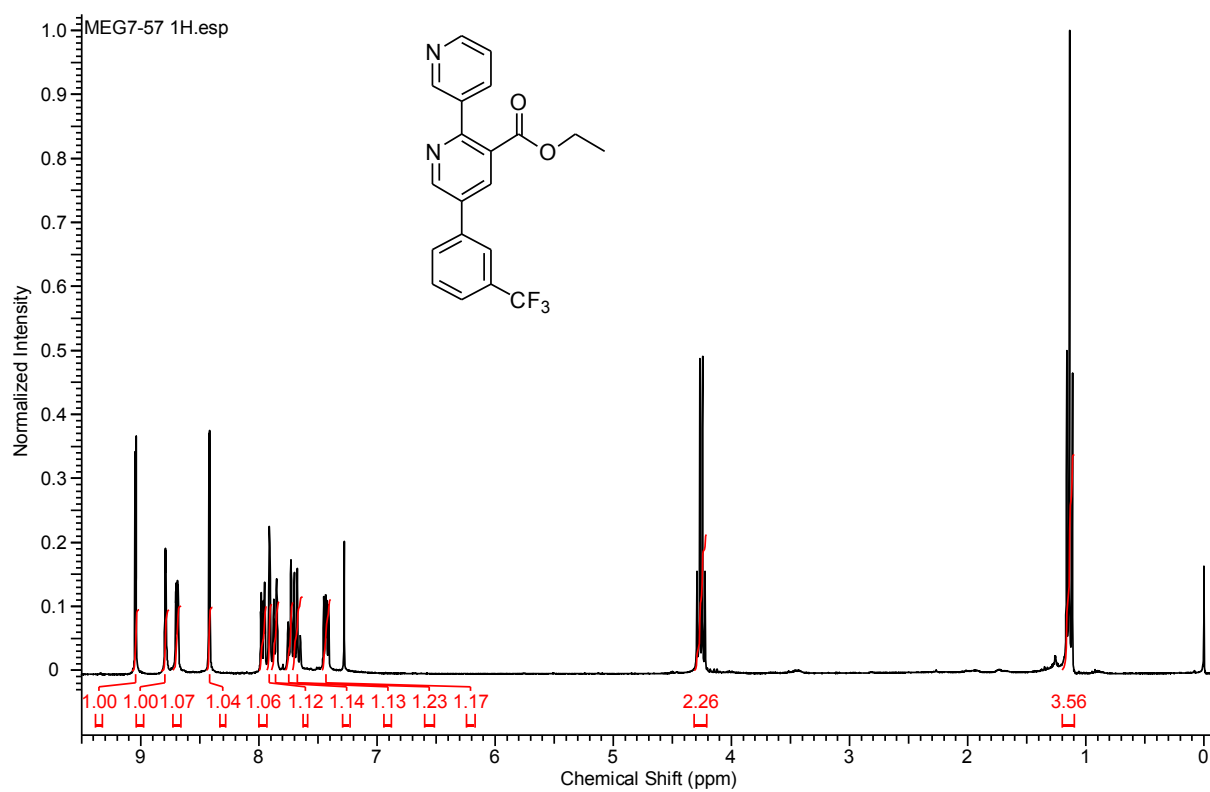
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8q** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



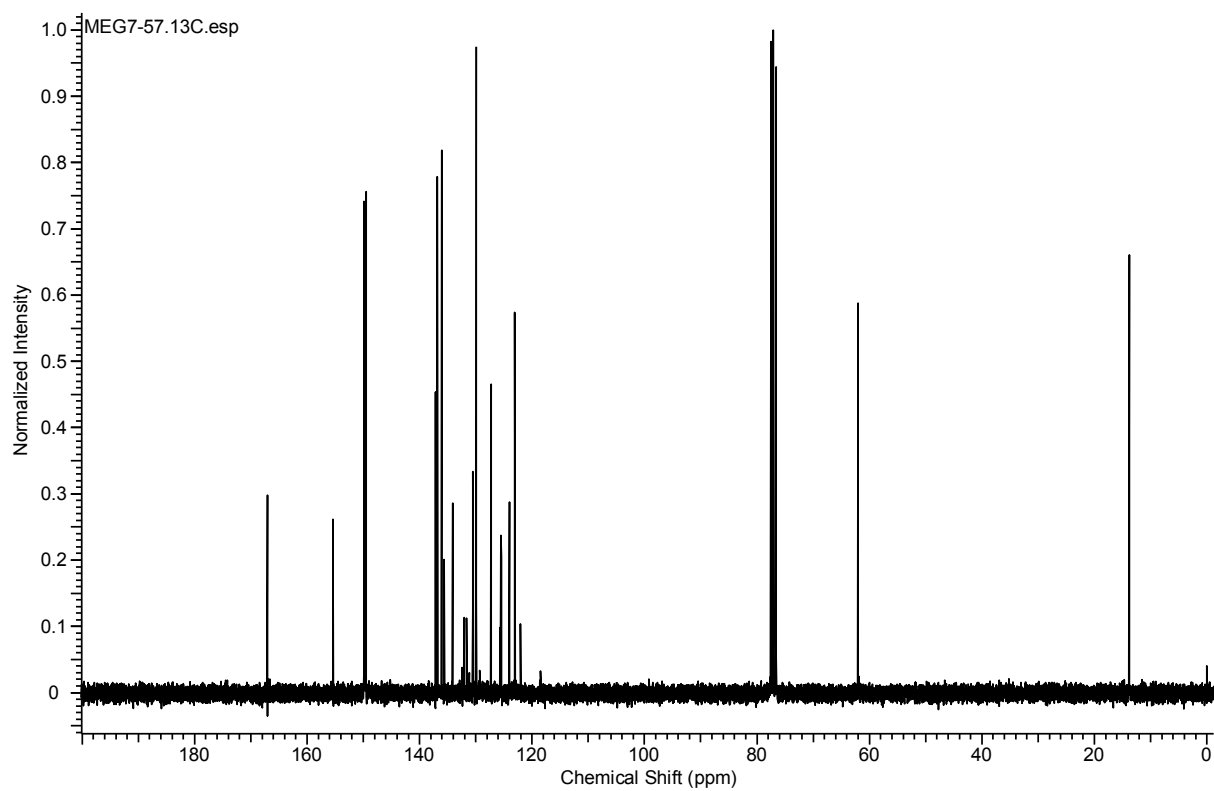
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8q** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



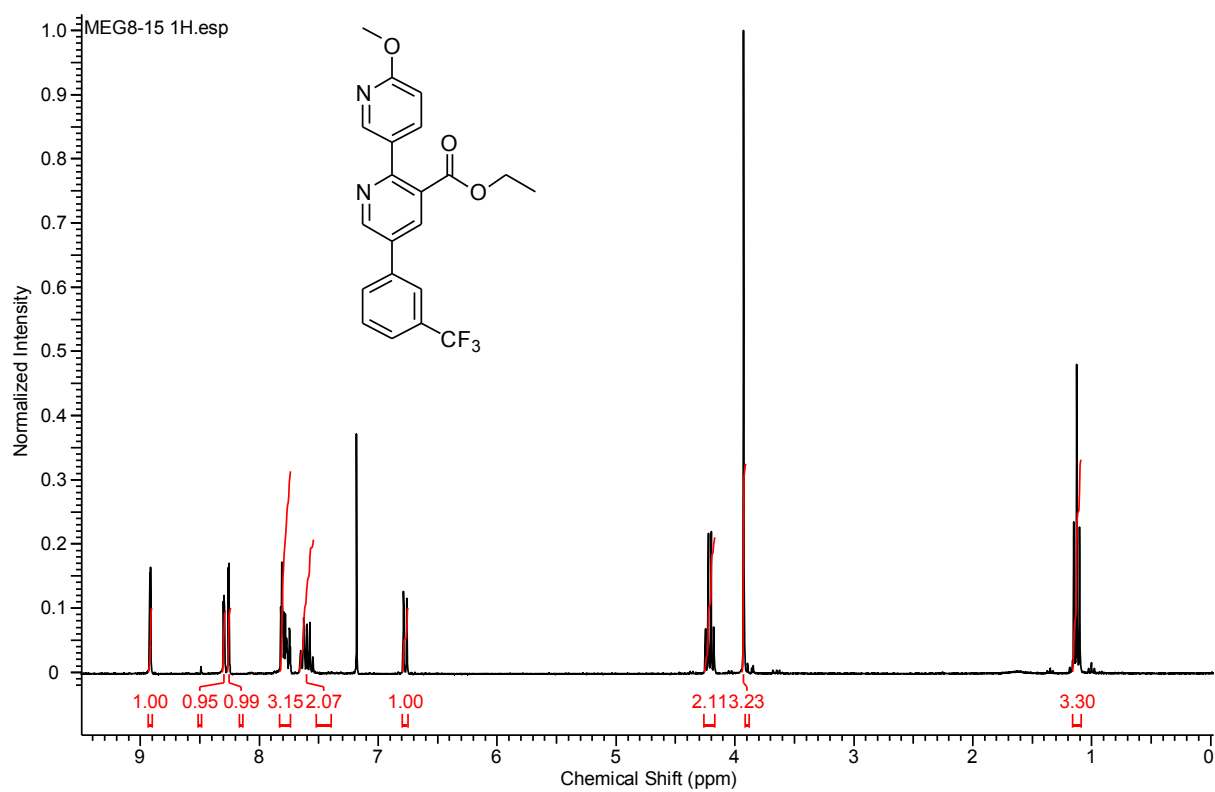
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8r** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



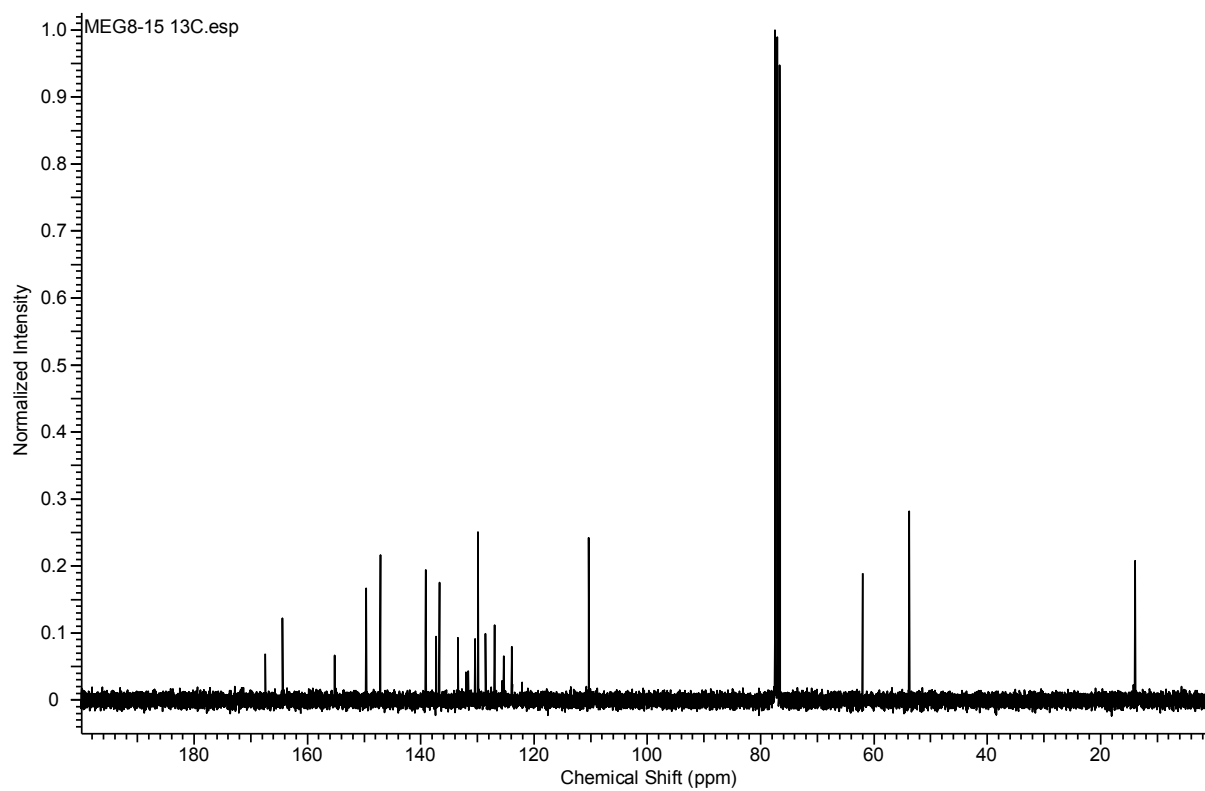
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8r** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



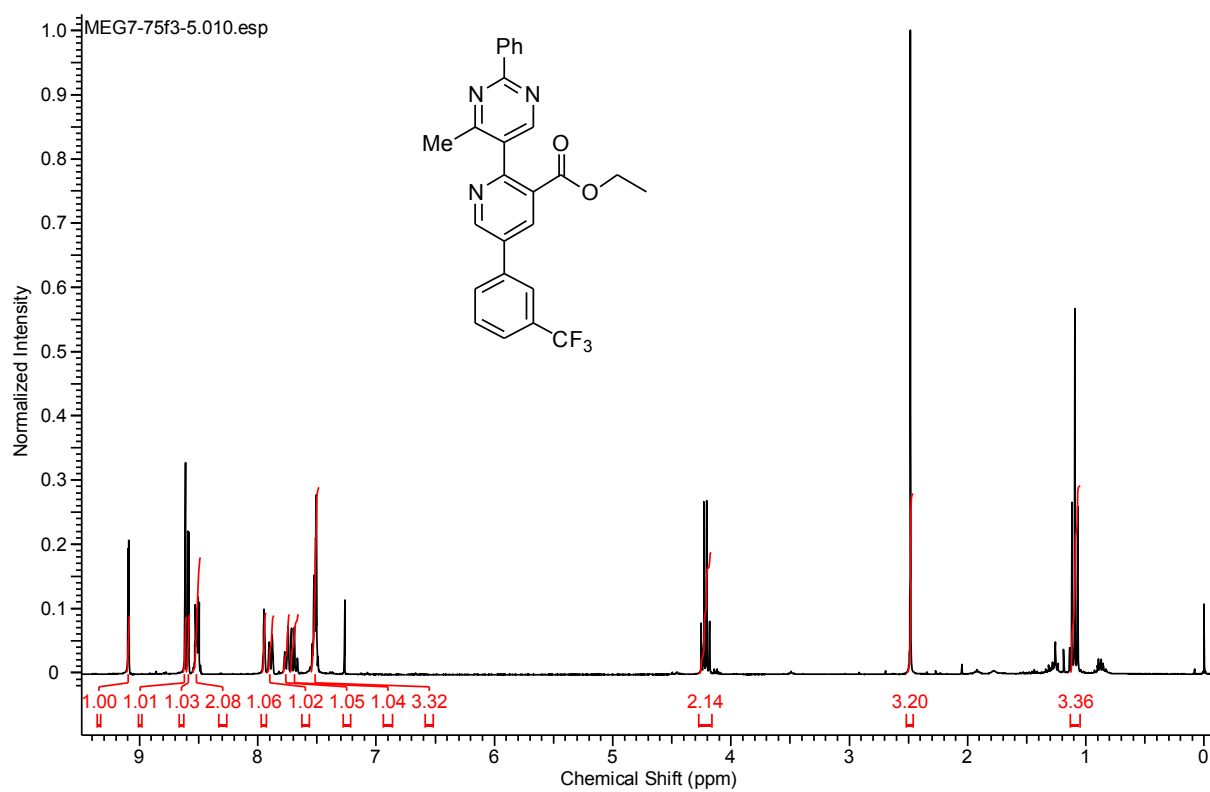
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8t** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



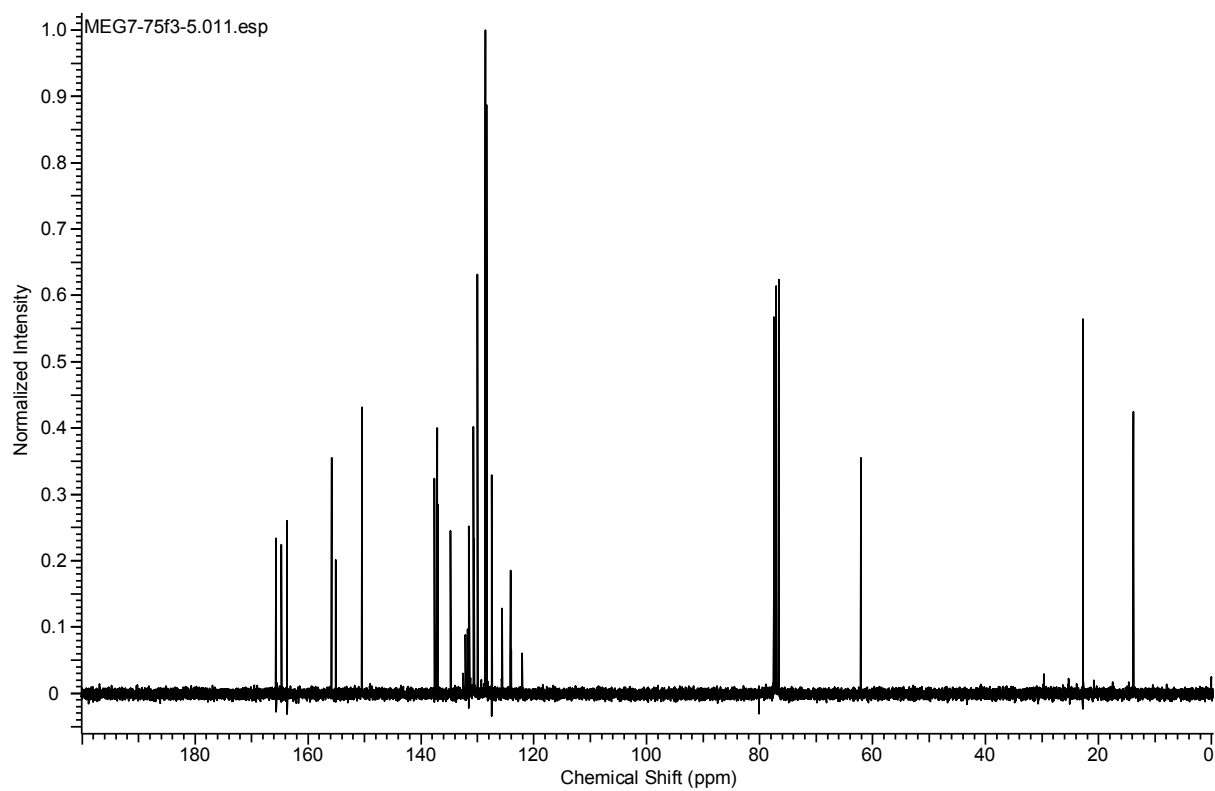
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8t** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



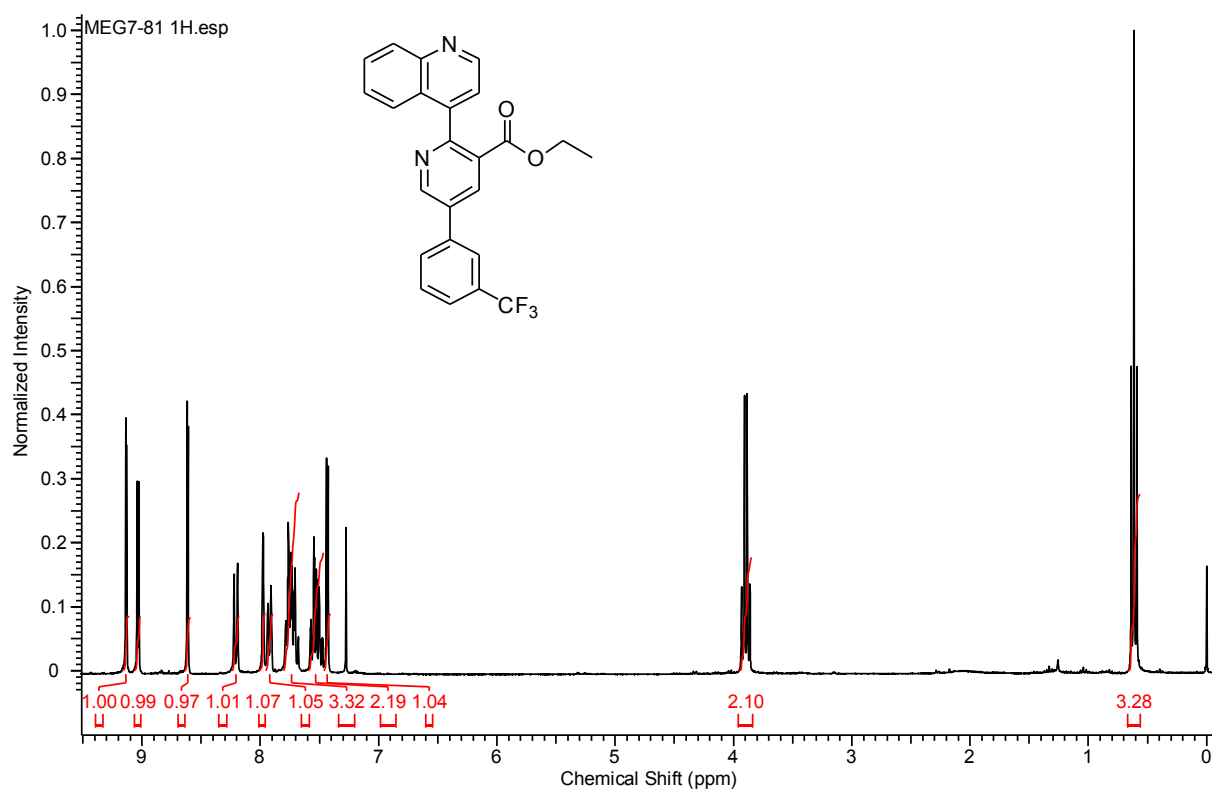
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8u** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



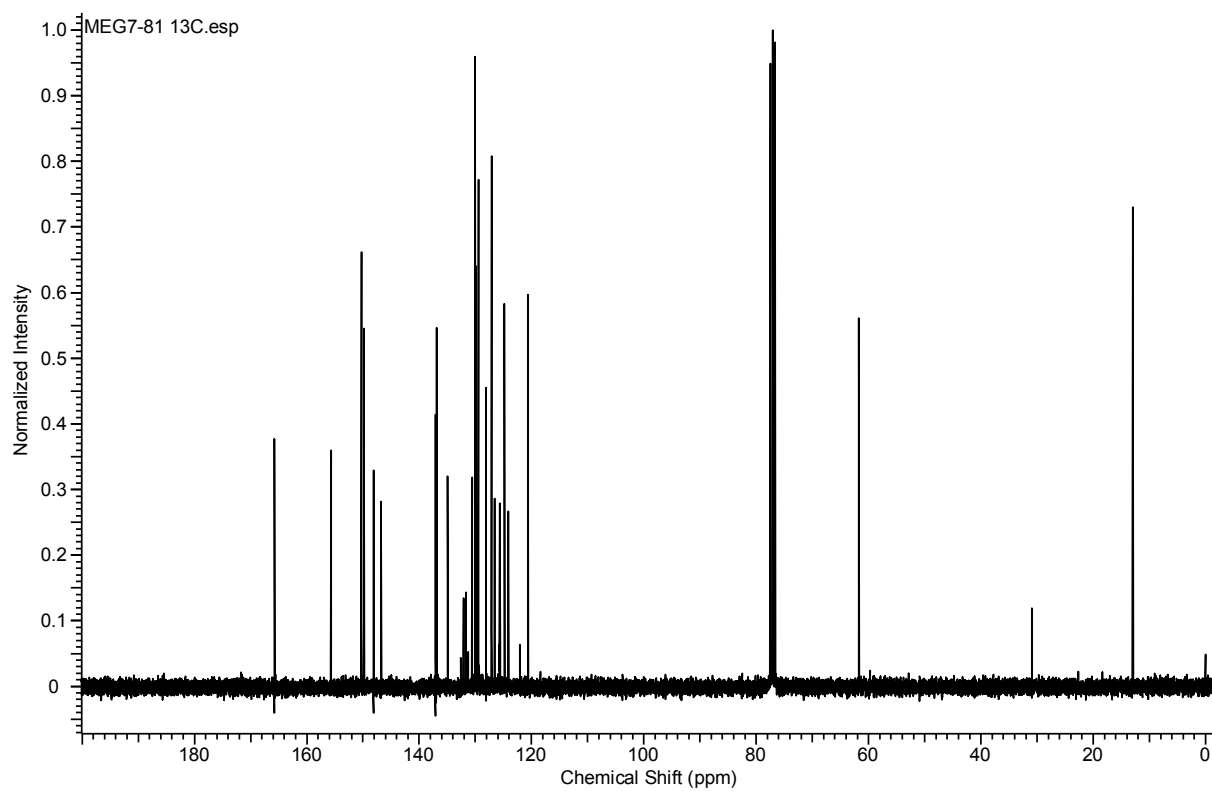
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8u** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



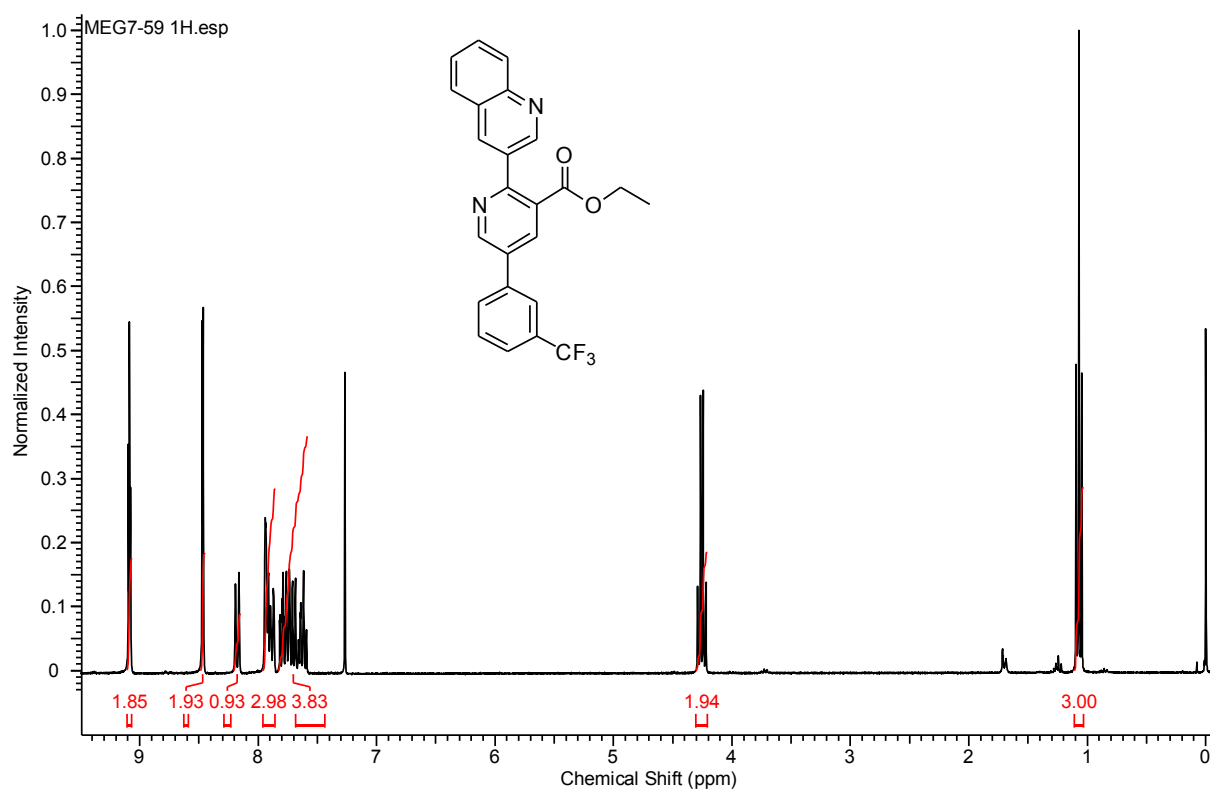
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8v** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



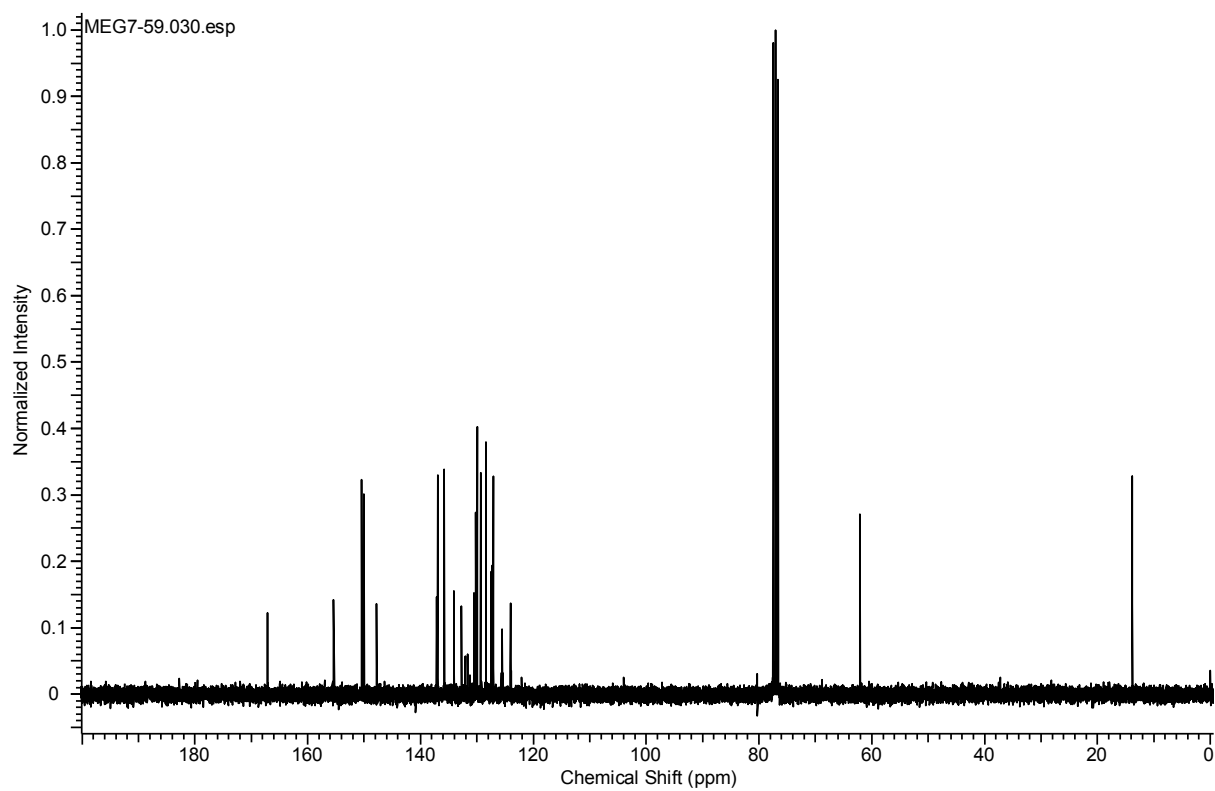
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8v** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



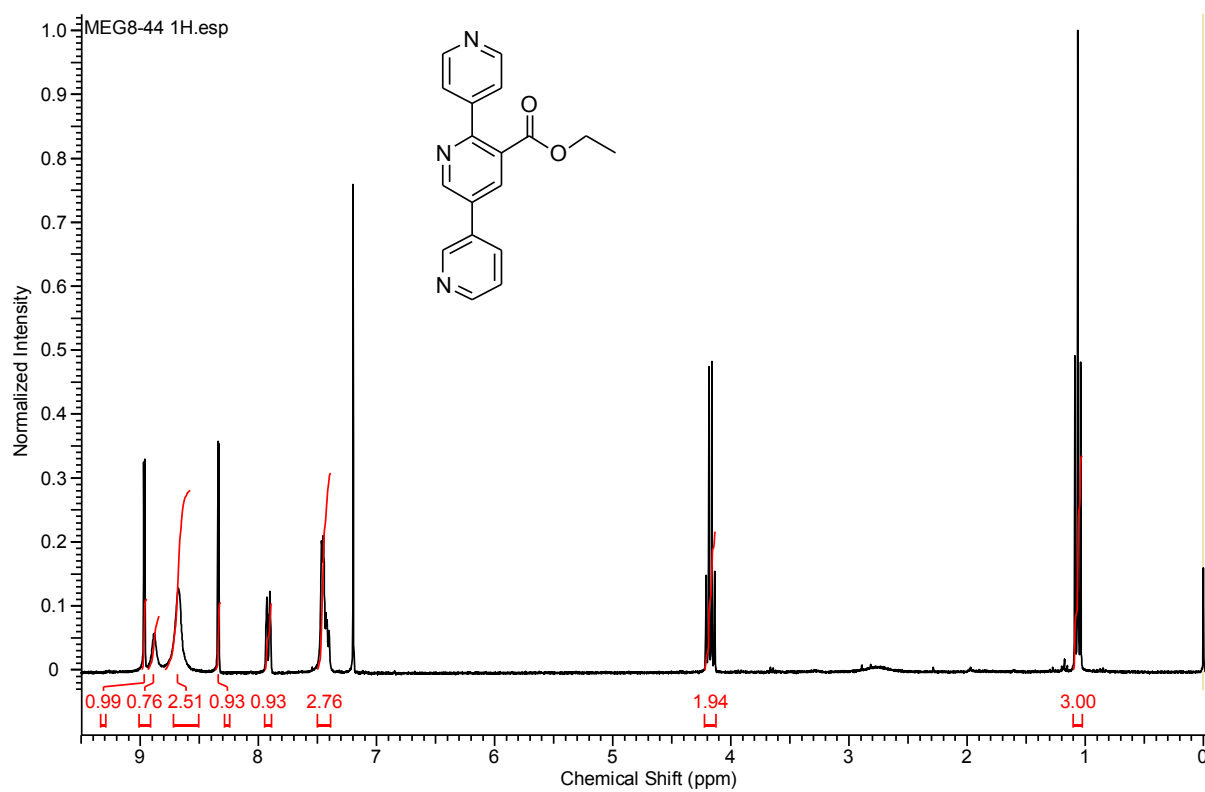
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8w** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



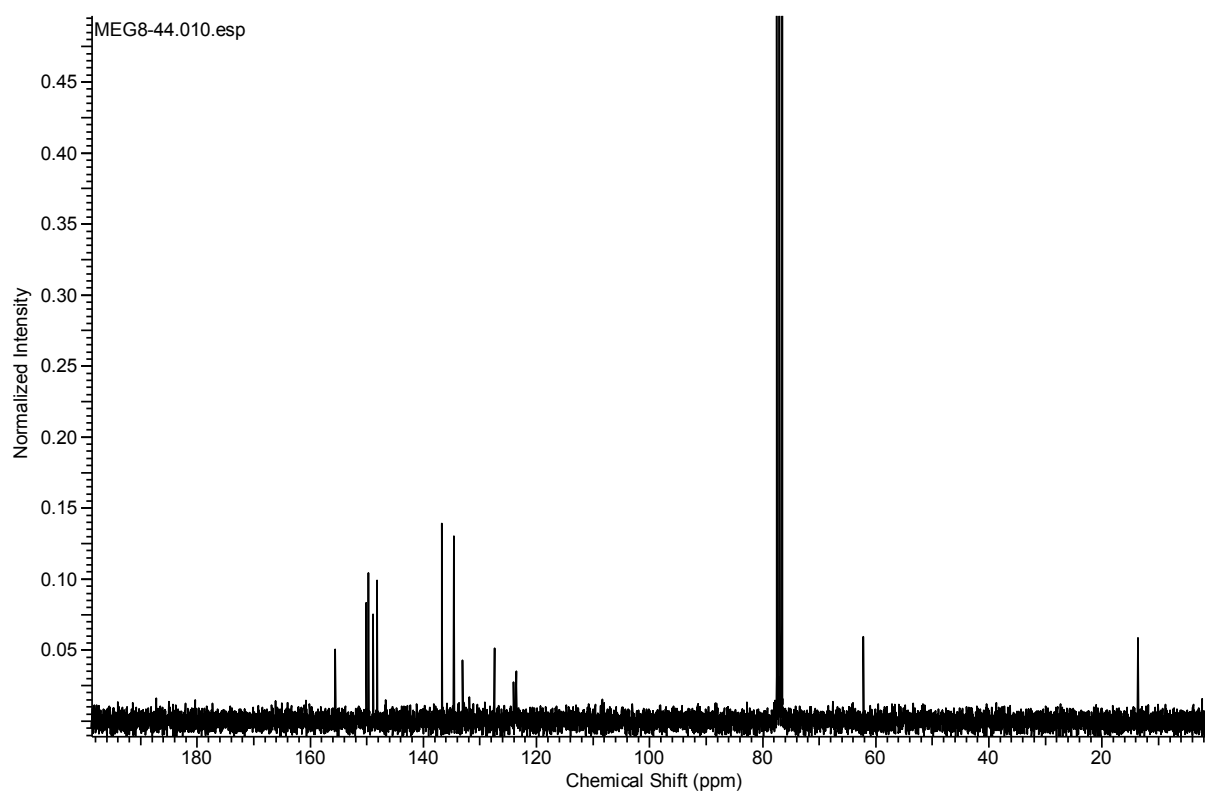
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8w** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8x** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)

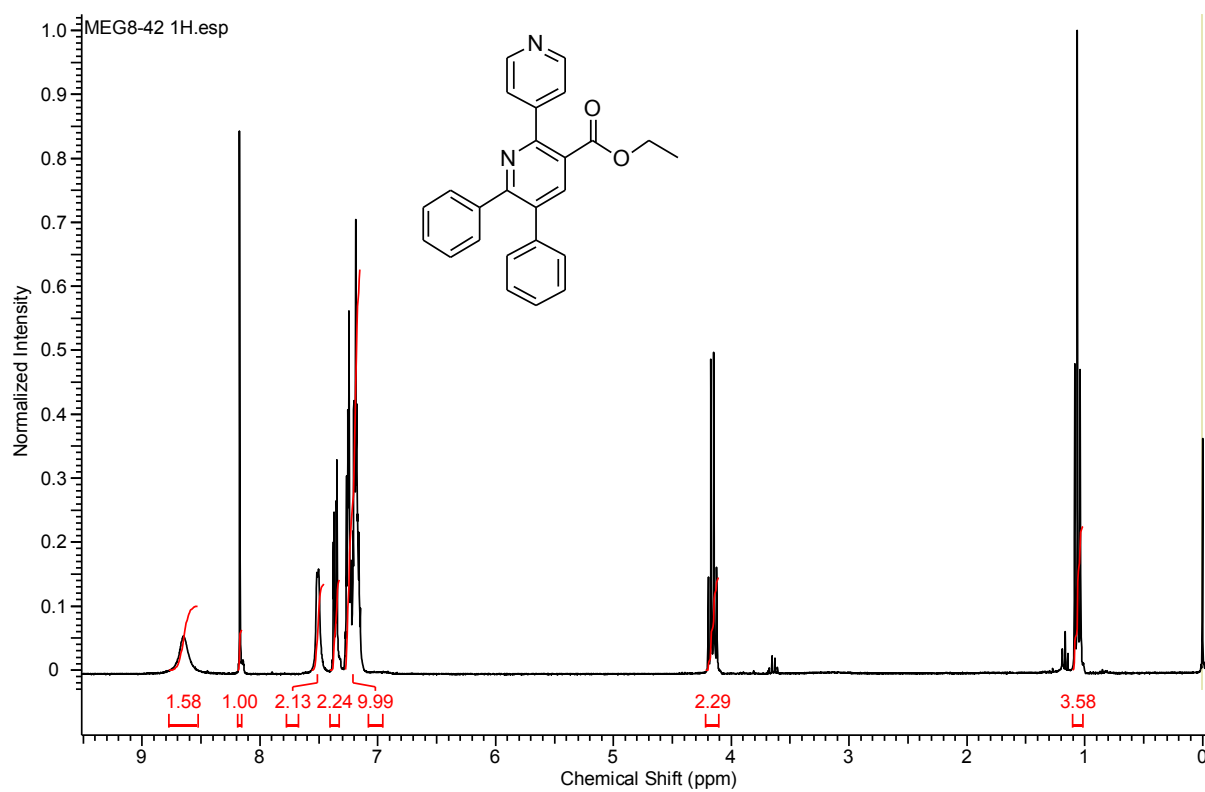


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8x** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)

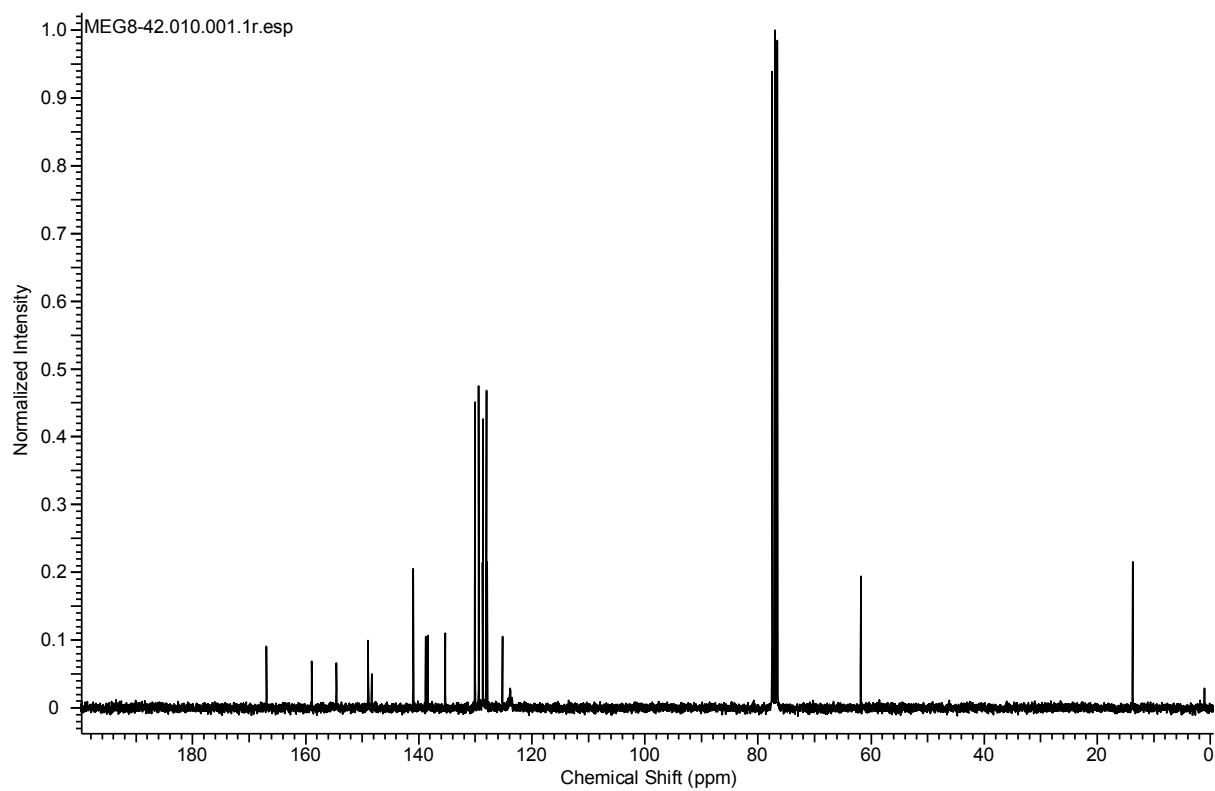




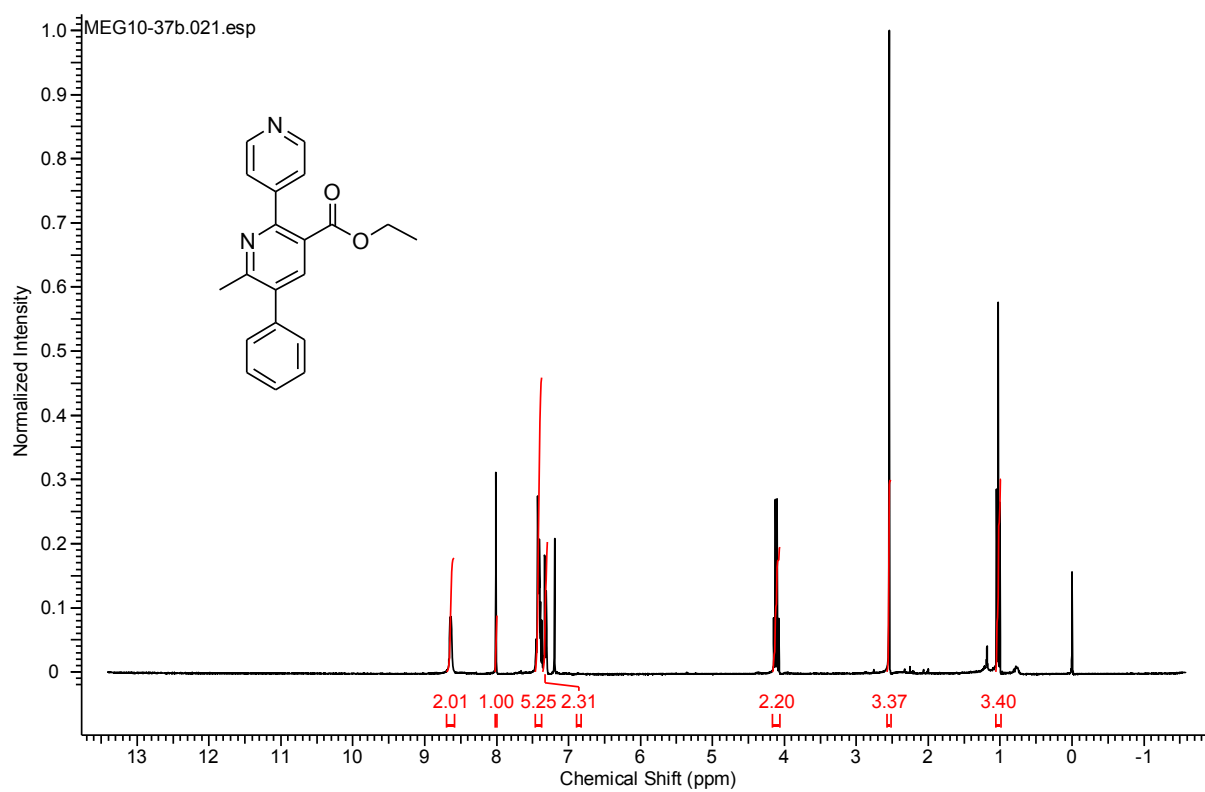
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8y** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



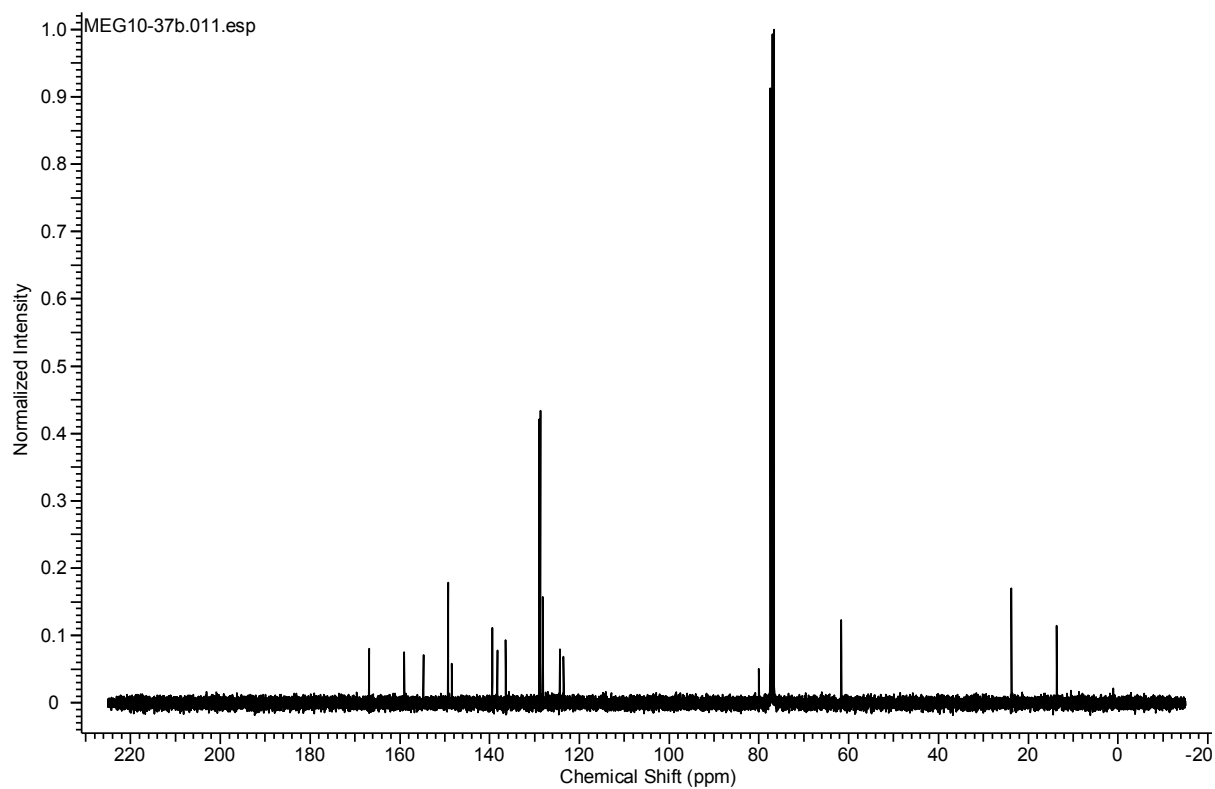
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8y** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



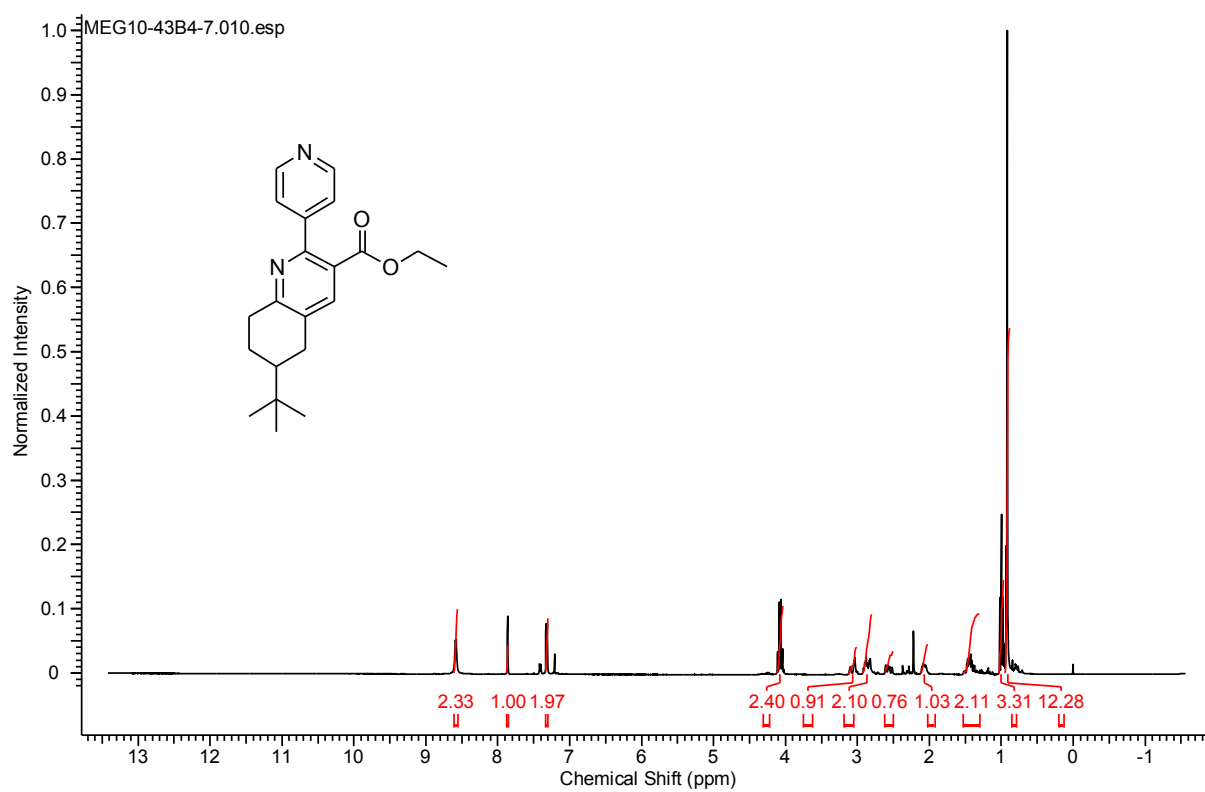
$^1\text{H}$  NMR of **8z** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)



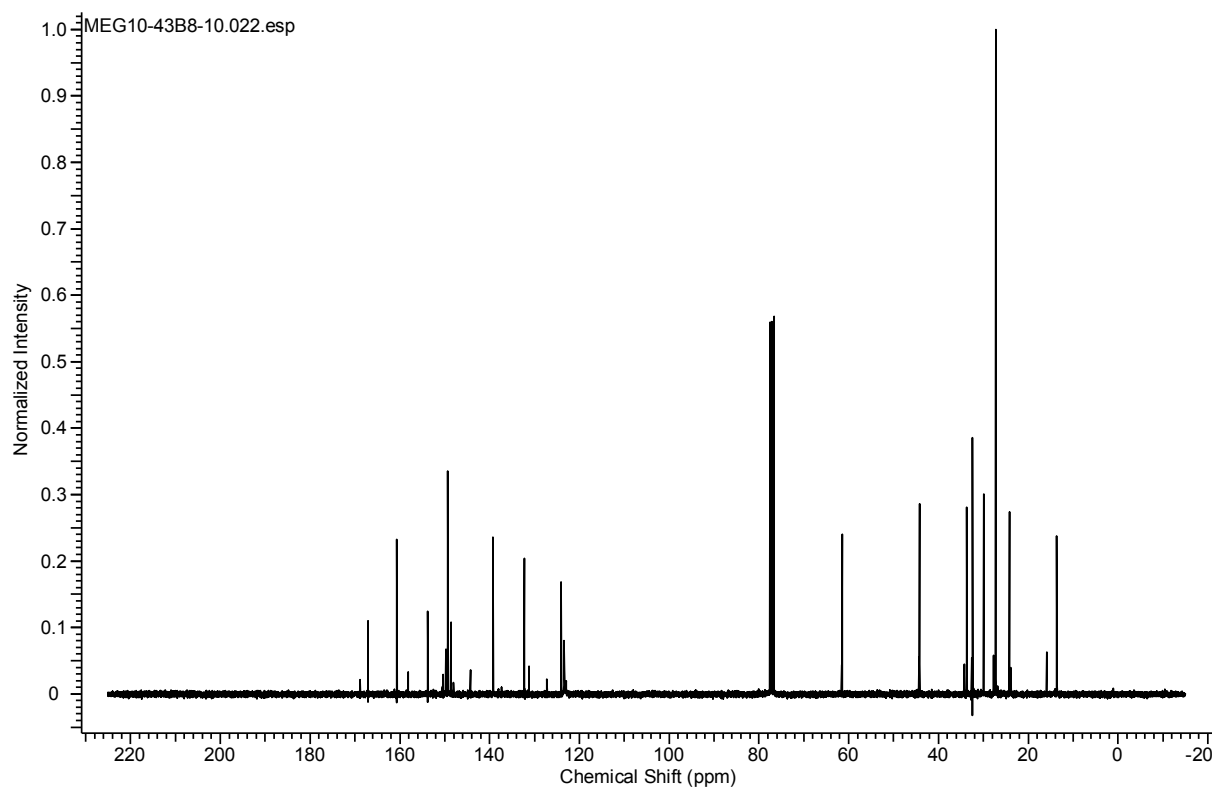
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **8z** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)



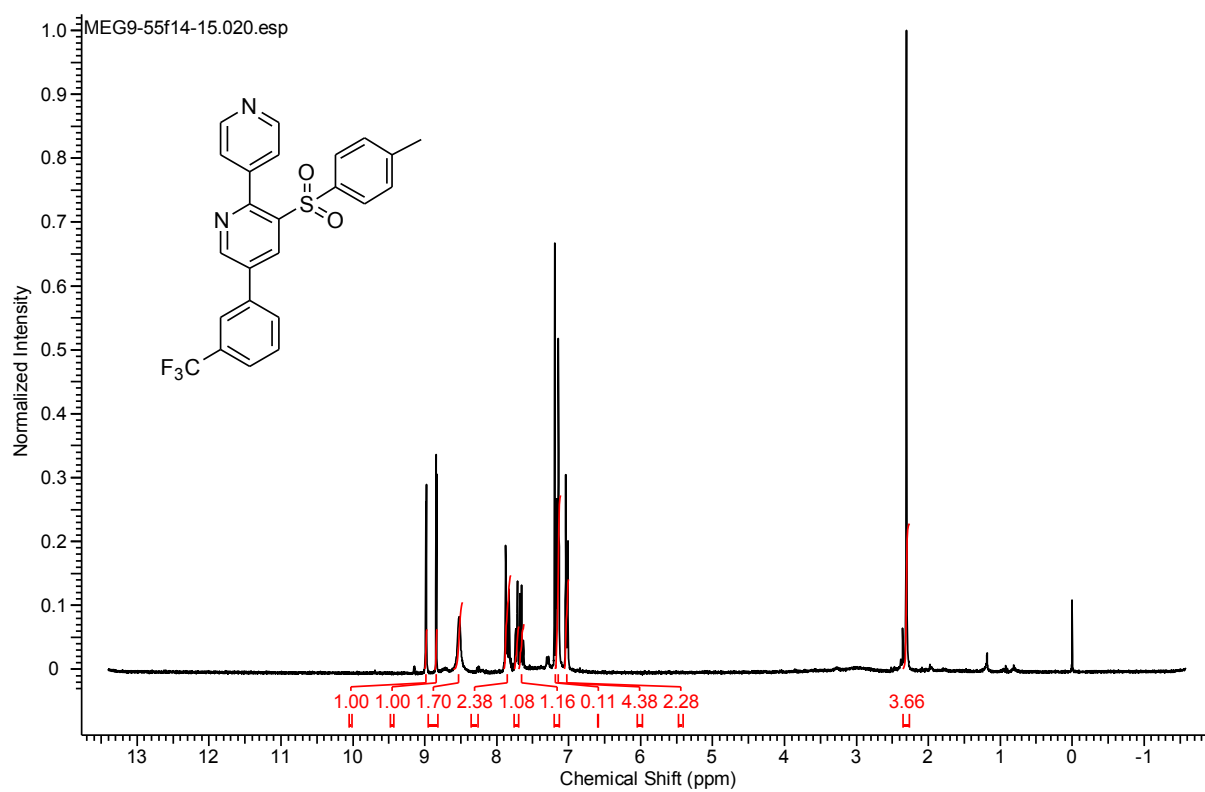
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8aa** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



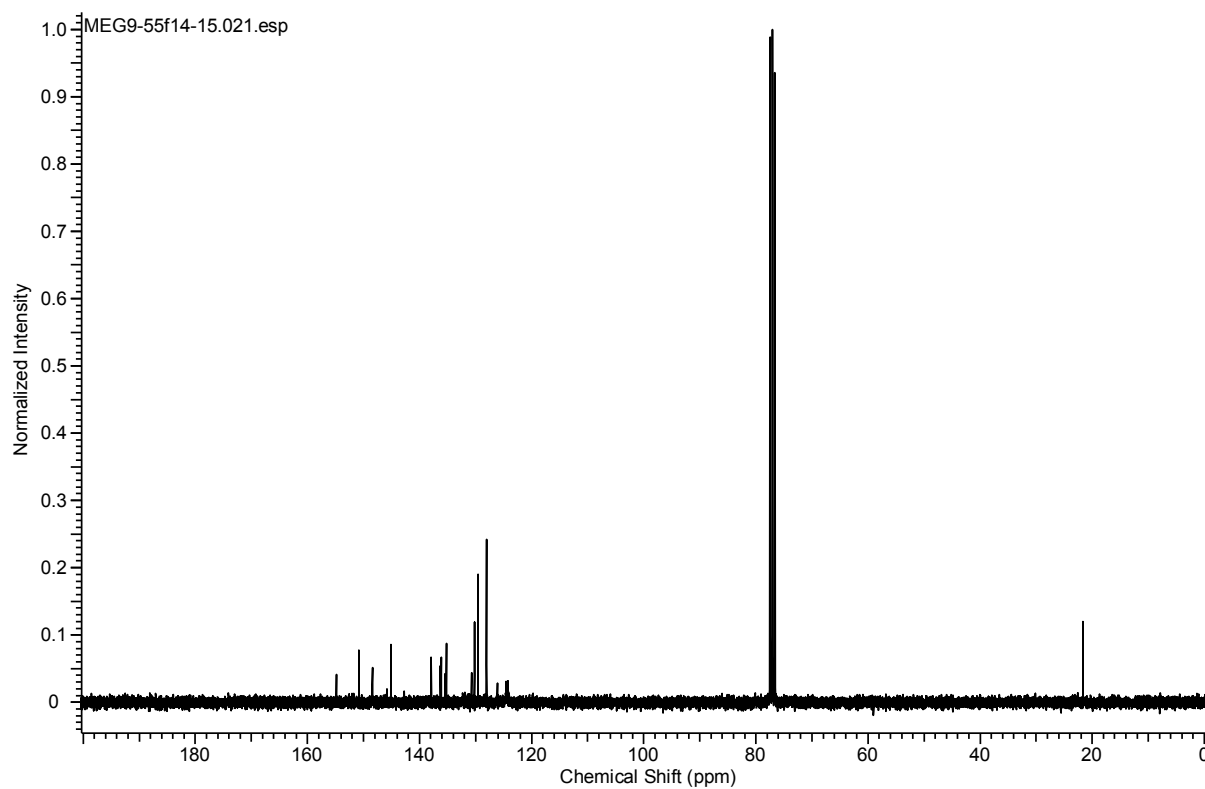
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8aa** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



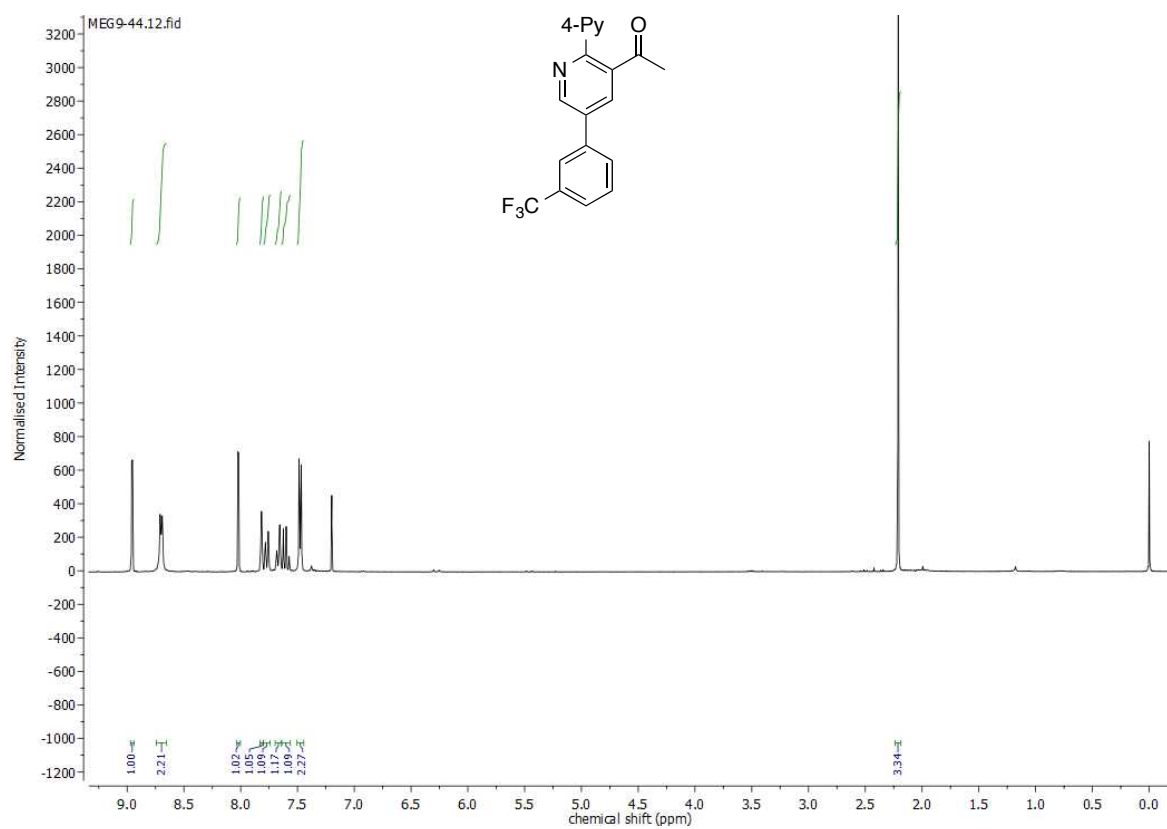
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8ab** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



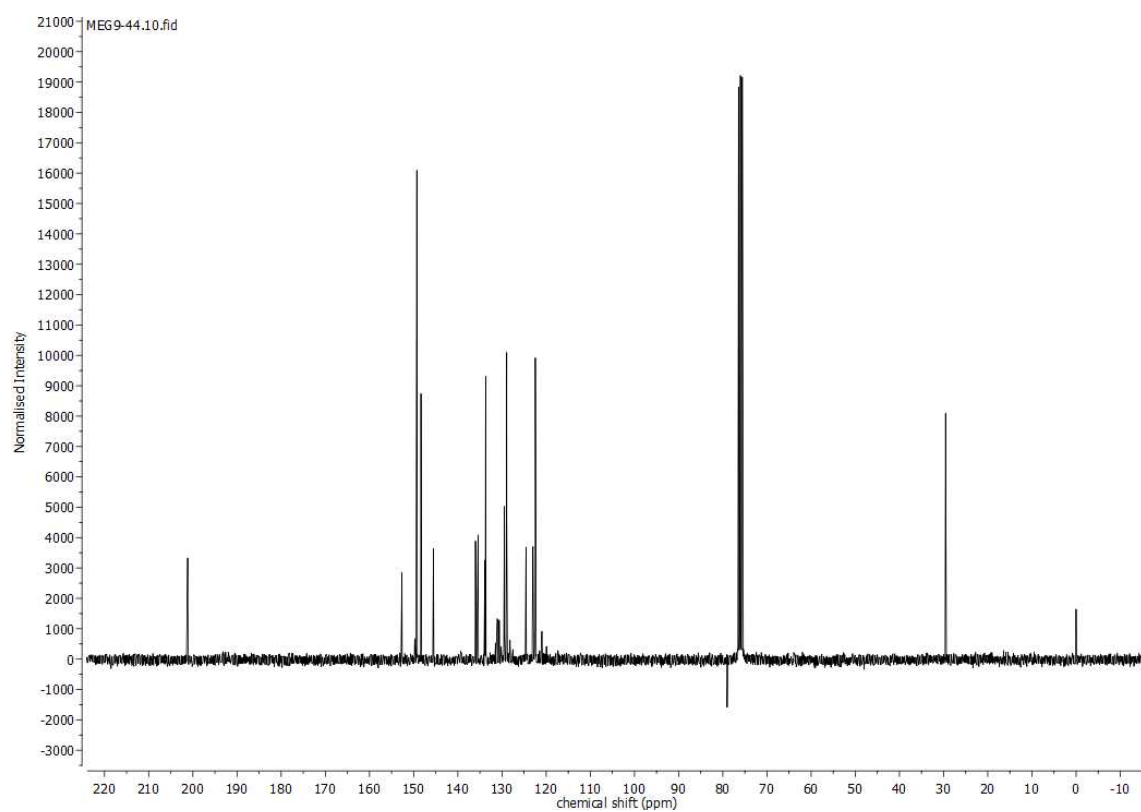
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8ab** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



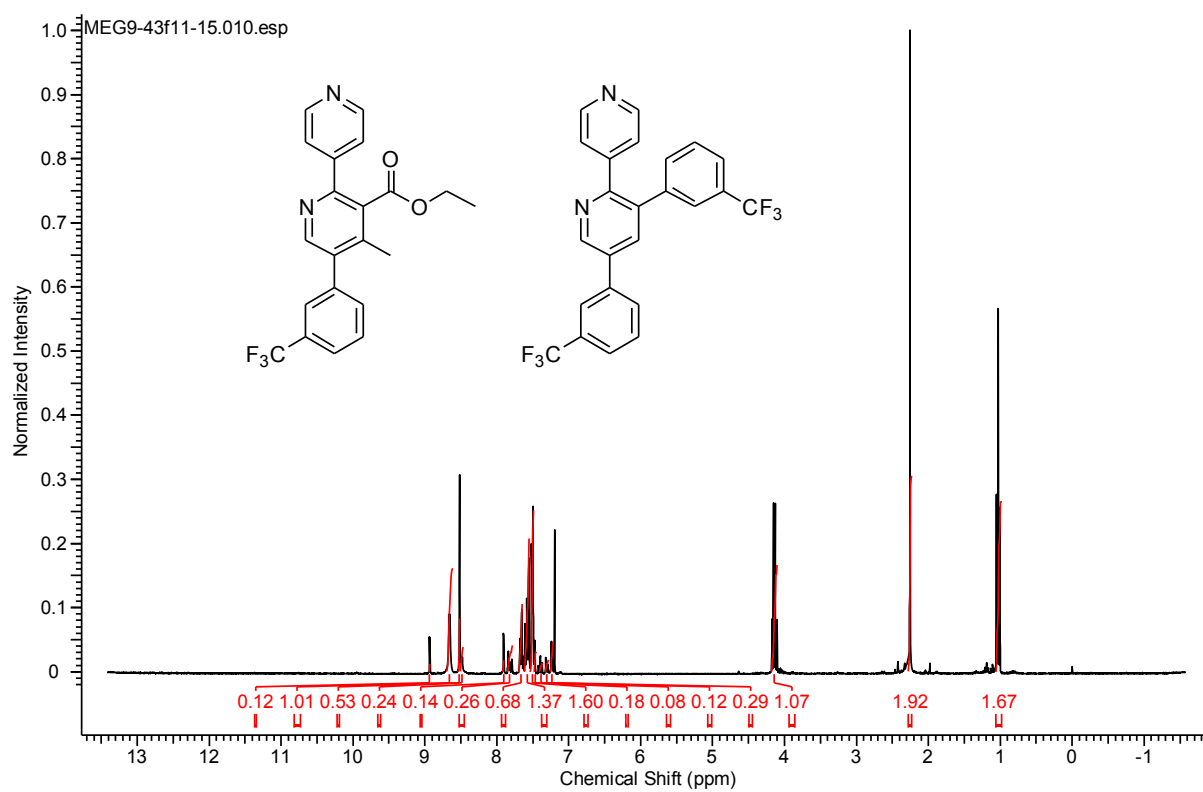
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8ac** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



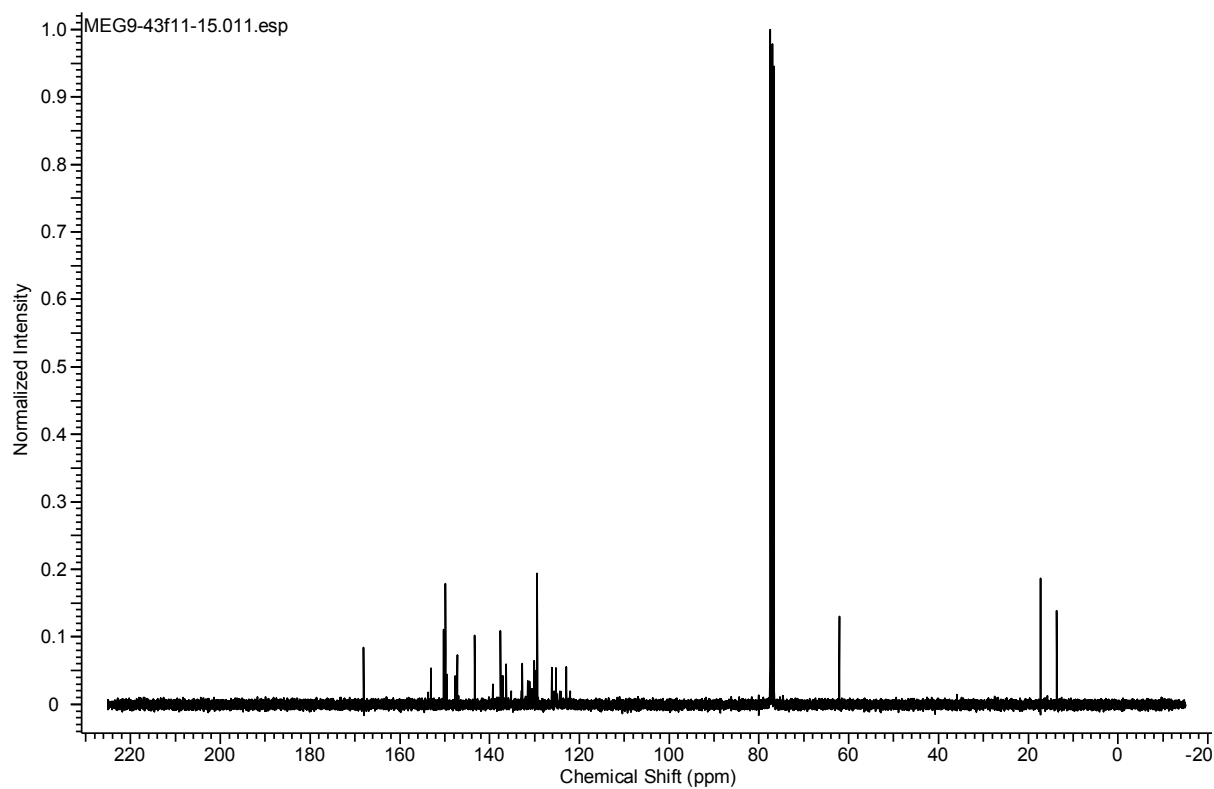
<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8ac** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



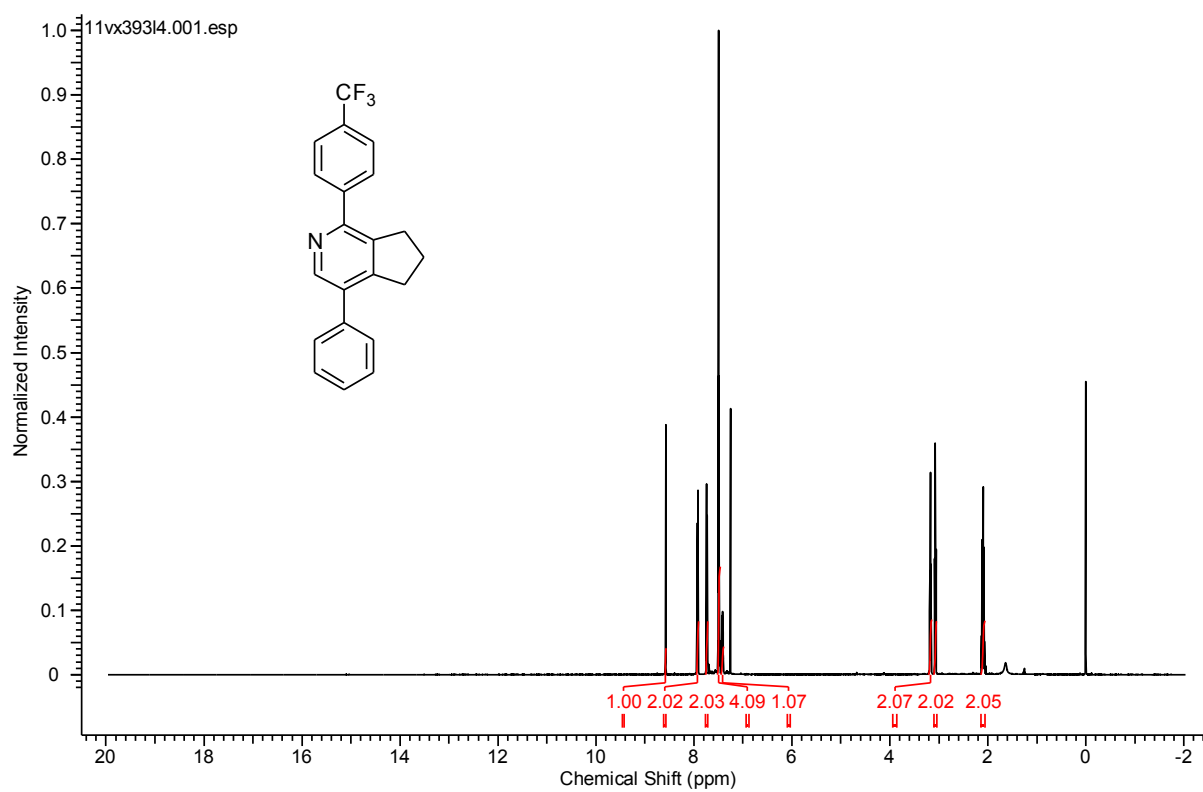
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8ad** and **9b** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8ad** and **9b** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR of **8ae** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **8ae** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)

