

## ***Supporting Information***

# **Sustainable Organocatalytic Cyanosilylation of Ketones by PPM-Level Loading Triphenylcarbenium Tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate**

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## 1. General Information

■ **Chemical:** Chemicals were purchased from commercial retailers (*e.g.*, Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Combi-Blocks, TCI) and used as received unless otherwise stated. HPLC grade solvents, anhydrous solvents, NMR solvents, and additional organic solvents were purchased from commercial retailers (*e.g.*, Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, CIL Inc., Merck, Wako) and used without further distillation or purification.

■ **Reaction:** Reaction mixtures were stirred magnetically in flame-dried glassware, under argon gas atmosphere associating standard Schlenk technique and the room temperature was maintained at  $24 \pm 1$  °C consistently unless otherwise specified.

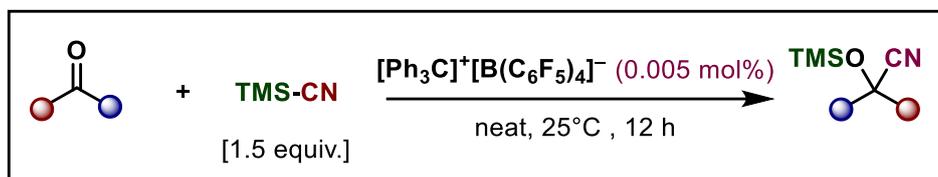
■ **Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC):** TLC results were monitored using silica gel plates (Merck, Kieselgel 60 F254 0.25 mm). Visualization by staining methods (*e.g.*, p-Anisaldehyde Stain or  $\text{KMnO}_4$  upon heating) was performed when if it was needed.

■ **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125.7 MHz), and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470.4 MHz) spectra were recorded using Bruker Ascend™ 500 spectrometer at the Chiral Material Core Facility Center for Sungkyunkwan University. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported by using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard for  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. Integration data were represented as follows; coupling constant ( $J = \text{Hz}$ ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). All analytical data and NMR spectra of known compounds are in accordance with reported literatures.

■ **Mass Spectroscopy (MS):** High-resolution mass spectra were analyzed in electron ionization (HR-EI-MS) option by using JMS-700.

## 2. Reaction Procedure

### 2.1. General procedure for catalytic cyanosilylation



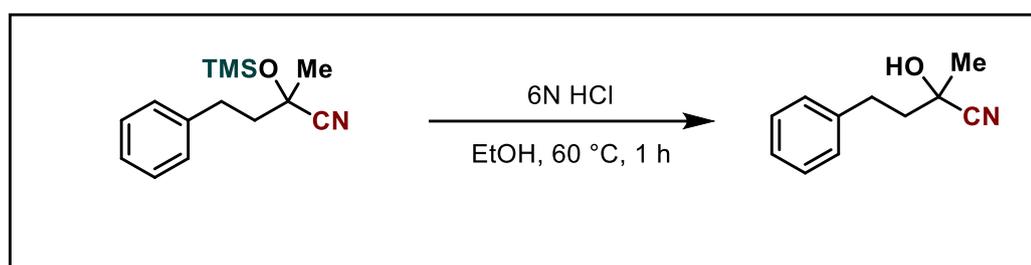
A flame dried 5.0 mL vial was charged, under Ar atmosphere, ketone (75  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}]^+[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]^-$  (50 ppm = 0.005 mol%, 0.023 mg) were added (the stock solution was prepared using 0.005 mmol of  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}]^+[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]^-$  in 2.0 mL of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ). Lastly, TMS-CN (94  $\mu\text{L}$  0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was introduced dropwise by micro syringe. The resultant mixture was then stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. After the completion of reaction, the volatiles were removed by rotary evaporator and dried under high vacuum without further purification which afforded the corresponding pure product.

#### \* Scale-up experiment (on 1.0 g scale)

To a flame-dried 10.0 mL round bottom flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, back filled with Ar gas (three times), 4-Phenyl-2-butanone, (1.00 g, 6.74 mmol), and  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}]^+[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]^-$  (50 ppm = 0.005 mol%, 0.310 mg) were added respectively. Then, TMS-CN (1.26 mL, 10.1 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise via syringe. The resultant mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After the completion of reaction, the volatiles were removed by rotary evaporator and dried under high vacuum without further purification which afforded the corresponding pure product **1** (1.65g, >99% yield).

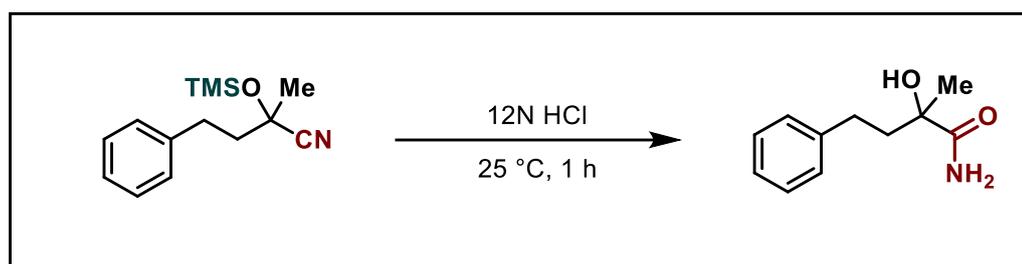
### 2.2. Procedures for the synthetic transformations

#### Synthesis of 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-phenylbutanenitrile (**33**)



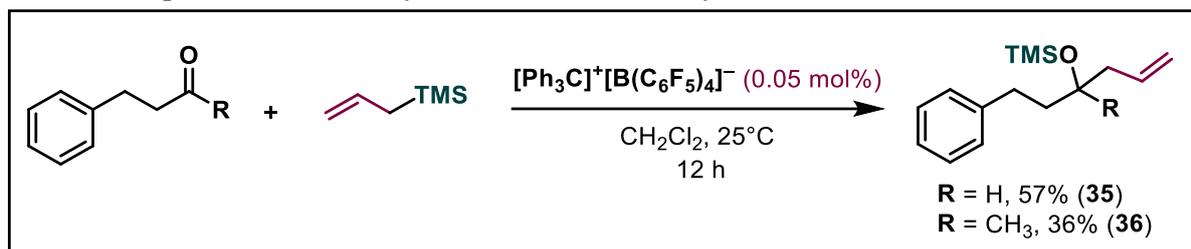
In a flamed-dried 10 mL schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar, cyanohydrin **1** (124mg, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in 6N HCl/EtOH (1.0 mL, 1:1 vol/vol), and stirred at 60 °C for 1 h. After the reaction was completed, water was added, the aqueous layer was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 $\times$ 5 ml, washed with brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford product **33** (91%).

#### Synthesis of 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-phenylbutanamide (**34**)



To a flamed-dried 5 mL vial charged with a magnetic stir bar, cyanohydrin **1** (124mg, 0.5 mmol) and concentrated HCl (37%, 1.0 mL) were added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 25 °C for 1 h. After the reaction was completed, water was added drops wise to reaction mixture in order to quench the reaction. The resulting solution was extracted with EtOAc (3×5 ml), washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1) as eluent to afford product **34** (88%).

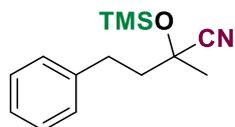
### 2.3. General procedure for catalytic Hosomi-Sakurai allylation



To a flame dried 5.0 mL vial charged with a magnetic bar, under nitrogen atmosphere, hydrocinnamaldehyde /4-phenyl-2-butanone (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), [Ph<sub>3</sub>C]<sup>+</sup>[B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> (500 ppm = 0.05 mol%, 0.23 mg) and 1 mL of anhydrous dichloromethane were added. Finally, Allyltrimethylsilane (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was introduced dropwise by micro syringe. The resultant mixture was the stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After the completion of reaction, the solvent was removed by rotary evaporator and purified by a short column on silica gel (Hexanes: EtOAc = 50:1) to afford the corresponding allylation-reaction products **35** (57%) and **36** (36%).

*#Note: Partial decomposition was observed in both allylation reactions.*

### 3. Analytical Data of the Products



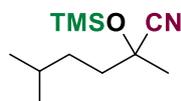
**1**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 122 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.33 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 2.93 – 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.84 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.10–2.00 (m, 2H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 0.29 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.85, 128.66, 128.49, 126.28, 122.01, 69.48, 45.36, 30.83, 29.14, 1.43.



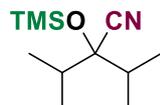
**2**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 92 mg, >99 yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.74 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.60 – 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.52 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.30, 69.70, 45.62, 29.04, 17.77, 13.91, 1.39.



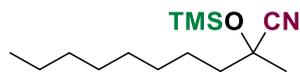
**3**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 99 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.98 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.67 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 0.99 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 5.2 Hz, 6H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.67, 69.27, 51.65, 29.92, 25.04, 23.91, 23.79, 1.43.



**4**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 106 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.75 – 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.44 – 1.37 (m, 1H), 1.35 – 1.27 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.25, 69.86, 41.45, 33.23, 28.97, 28.00, 22.59, 22.52, 1.38.



**5**, known compound<sup>3</sup>, colorless oil, 106 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.04 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 120.23, 81.60, 34.98, 18.55, 16.68, 1.92.



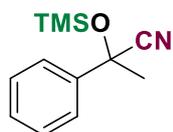
**6**, known compound<sup>4</sup>, colorless oil, 127 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.75–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.53 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.27 (m, 10H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.28, 69.77, 43.50, 31.93, 29.49, 29.43, 29.28, 29.00, 24.38, 22.74, 14.17, 1.38.



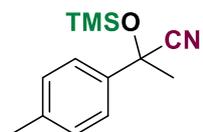
**7**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 109 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.62 – 3.54 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 0.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.80, 69.19, 44.49, 40.84, 29.07, 27.60, 1.32.



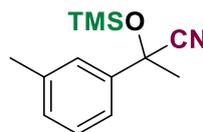
**8**, known compound<sup>5</sup>, colorless oil, 90 mg, 98% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.19 – 1.13 (m, 1H), 0.63 – 0.54 (m, 4H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.12, 70.63, 29.60, 21.69, 2.60, 2.05, 1.40.



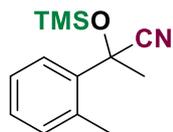
**9**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 109 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 0.20 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.09, 128.75, 128.73, 124.70, 121.71, 71.70, 33.65, 1.14.



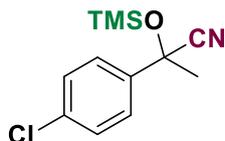
**10**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 116 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 0.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.20, 138.61, 129.36, 124.69, 121.85, 71.61, 33.62, 21.15, 1.17.



**11**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 115 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 0.21 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.00, 138.42, 129.44, 128.60, 125.34, 121.79, 121.75, 71.70, 33.63, 21.54, 1.14.



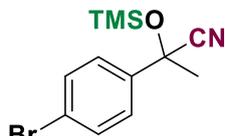
**12**, known compound<sup>6</sup>, colorless oil, 115 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 0.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.49, 135.54, 132.73, 128.75, 126.05, 125.35, 121.67, 71.76, 30.58, 20.74, 1.17.



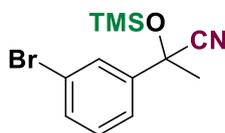
**13**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 126 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.50 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.83, 134.70, 128.94, 126.19, 121.34, 71.16, 33.61, 1.16.



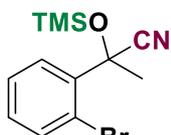
**14**, known compound<sup>2</sup>, colorless oil, 126 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.71 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (pd, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 0.29 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.07, 131.55, 131.25, 129.99, 127.13, 127.01, 120.45, 70.26, 29.84, 1.24.



**15**, known compound<sup>6</sup>, colorless oil, 147 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.36, 131.89, 126.48, 122.82, 121.25, 71.19, 33.57, 1.16.



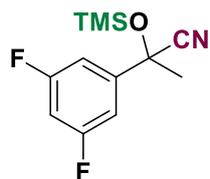
**16**, known compound<sup>7</sup>, colorless oil, 147 mg >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 0.27 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.45, 131.90, 130.34, 127.92, 123.39, 122.86, 121.18, 71.01, 33.61, 1.17.



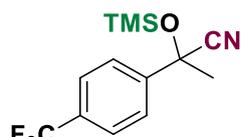
**17**, known compound<sup>8</sup>, colorless oil, 145 mg 97% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (td, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 0.29 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.34, 135.33, 130.21, 127.73, 127.39, 120.49, 120.23, 71.54, 29.98, 1.30.



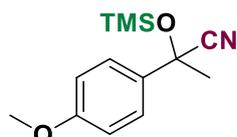
**18**, known compound<sup>9</sup>, colorless oil, 117 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.54 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.79 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 247.9 Hz), 138.09 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 126.64 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.4 Hz), 121.51, 115.63 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 71.14, 33.64, 1.11.



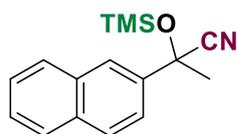
**19**, new compound, colorless oil, 126 mg, >99% yield. *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.41 (EtOAc:hexanes = 1:20 v/v). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.82 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 0.24 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.17 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 12.5 Hz), 162.18 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 12.5 Hz), 146.47 (t, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.6 Hz), 120.84, 108.21 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 6.8 Hz), 108.04 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 6.8 Hz), 104.23 (t, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 25.3 Hz), 70.81 (t, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 33.48, 1.11. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -107.86 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz). HR-MS (EI<sup>+</sup>): [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NOSi : 255.0891; found : 255.0888.



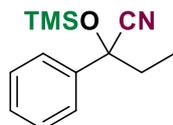
**20**, known compound<sup>9</sup>, colorless oil, 142 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 4H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 146.22, 131.11 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.7 Hz), 127.98 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 195.8 Hz), 125.87 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 125.22, 123.96 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 272.2 Hz), 121.16, 71.26, 33.64, 1.12.



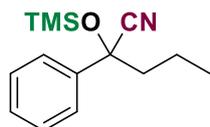
**21**, known compound<sup>6</sup>, colorless oil, 124 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.48 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 0.17 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.84, 134.04, 126.07, 121.81, 113.92, 71.29, 55.30, 33.41, 1.09.



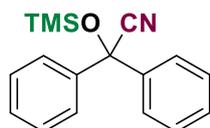
**22**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 132 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 0.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.31, 133.32, 132.93, 128.87, 128.48, 127.77, 126.83, 126.79, 123.81, 122.46, 121.75, 71.94, 33.62, 1.23.



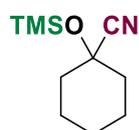
**23**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 115 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 2.10 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.91 (m, 1H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.15 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.00, 128.71, 128.61, 125.25, 120.88, 76.37, 39.31, 8.81, 1.04.



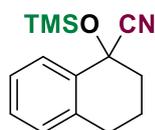
**24**, known compound<sup>10</sup>, colorless oil, 122 mg, 99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 2.05 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.41 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.13 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.33, 128.70, 128.63, 125.20, 121.11, 75.72, 48.27, 17.87, 13.75, 1.07.



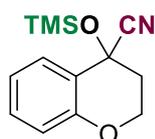
**25**, known compound<sup>7</sup>, colorless oil, 139 mg, >99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 0.19 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.07, 128.78, 128.67, 126.01, 120.83, 76.47, 1.04.



**26**, known compound<sup>7</sup>, colorless oil, 97 mg, 98% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.04 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.49 (m, 5H), 1.26 – 1.20 (m, 1H), 0.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.00, 70.70, 39.43, 24.59, 22.71, 1.48.

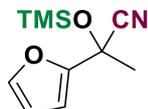


**27**, known compound<sup>11</sup>, colorless oil, 120 mg, 98% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.71 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 2.90 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.26 – 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.13 – 2.05 (m, 1H), 2.04 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 0.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.16, 135.72, 129.33, 129.11, 128.04, 126.65, 122.15, 69.92, 37.78, 28.36, 18.74, 1.40.

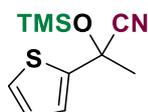


**28**, known compound<sup>12</sup>, colorless oil, 121 mg, 98% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ

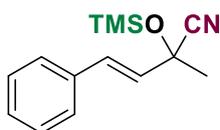
7.56 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 6.99 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.38 – 4.30 (m, 2H), 2.46 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 0.17 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  153.66, 131.48, 128.83, 121.14, 120.91, 120.88, 117.68, 65.68, 61.40, 36.40, 1.30.



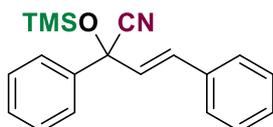
**29**, known compound<sup>6</sup>, brown oil, 104 mg, >99% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 6.49 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dd,  $J = 3.3, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 0.08 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  151.75, 143.20, 120.29, 110.79, 108.24, 65.98, 28.96, 0.58.



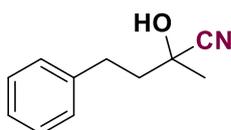
**30**, known compound<sup>6</sup>, colorless oil, 106 mg, 94% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd,  $J = 3.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 0.18 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  146.53, 126.84, 126.20, 124.93, 121.06, 68.48, 33.63, 1.02.



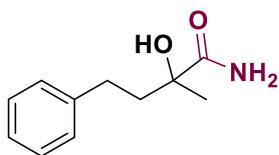
**31**, known compound<sup>1</sup>, colorless oil, 113 mg, 92% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.16 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 0.28 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.23, 131.07, 129.65, 128.88, 128.71, 127.00, 120.78, 70.07, 30.98, 1.48.



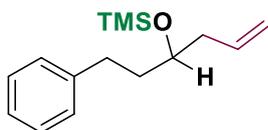
**32**, known compound<sup>7</sup>, colorless oil, 139 mg, 90% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.61 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.29 (m, 8H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz, 1H), 0.27 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.49, 135.24, 131.04, 129.83, 129.01, 128.91, 128.87, 128.82, 127.20, 125.61, 119.81, 75.20, 1.43.



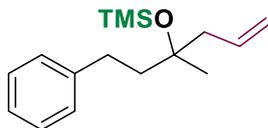
**33**, known compound<sup>13</sup>, viscous oil, 80 mg, 91% yield.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 3.12 (s, 1H), 2.94 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.28, 128.80, 128.48, 121.89, 68.62, 43.40, 30.76, 28.00.



**34**, known compound<sup>14</sup>, white solid, 85 mg, 88% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 2.91 – 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.74 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.28 (ddd, *J* = 13.7, 12.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (ddd, *J* = 13.8, 12.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 179.26, 141.69, 128.61, 128.50, 126.13, 75.84, 42.30, 30.18, 27.03.



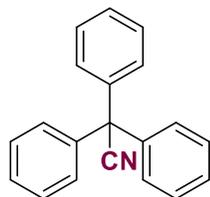
**35**, known compound<sup>15</sup>, colorless oil, 60 mg, 57% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.28– 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23– 7.15 (m, 3H), 5.85 – 5.76 (m, 1H), 5.07– 5.03 (m, 2H), 3.76– 3.71 (m, 1H), 2.76– 2.70 (m, 1H), 2.59– 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.29 – 2.24 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 0.13 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.57, 135.22, 128.49, 128.46, 125.83, 117.13, 71.97, 42.32, 38.84, 32.23, 0.60.



**36**, known compound<sup>16</sup>, colorless oil, 48 mg, 36% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.07– 7.03 (m, 3H), 5.74 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 4.94 – 4.91 (m, 2H), 2.53 – 2.49 (m, 2H), 2.16 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.12 (s, 3H), -0.00 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 143.21, 135.16, 128.51, 128.47, 125.72, 117.34, 75.67, 47.33, 44.34, 30.51, 27.56, 2.83.

#### 4. Preliminary Mechanistic Studies

The pre-catalyst  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}]^+[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]^-$  (0.05 mmol) and TMS-CN (0.05 mmol) were dissolved [1:1 ratio (mol/mol)] in 0.5 mL  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at 25 °C. Then NMR was recorded of this crude mixture. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra confirms the formation of 2,2,2-Triphenylacetonitrile.



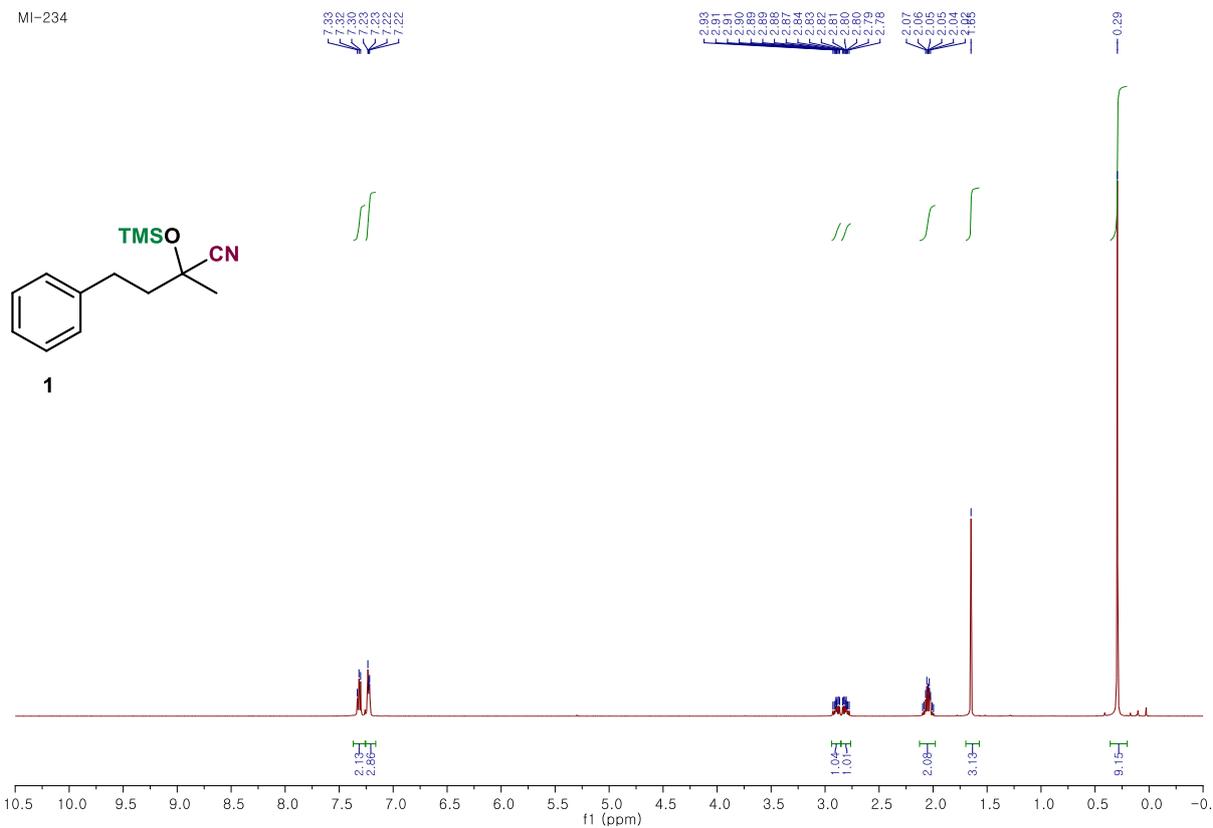
**2,2,2-Triphenylacetonitrile**, known compound<sup>17</sup>, (data from crude  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39 – 7.33 (m, 9H), 7.23 – 7.21 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125.7 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.14, 128.92, 128.87, 128.39, 123.85, 57.63.

## 5. References

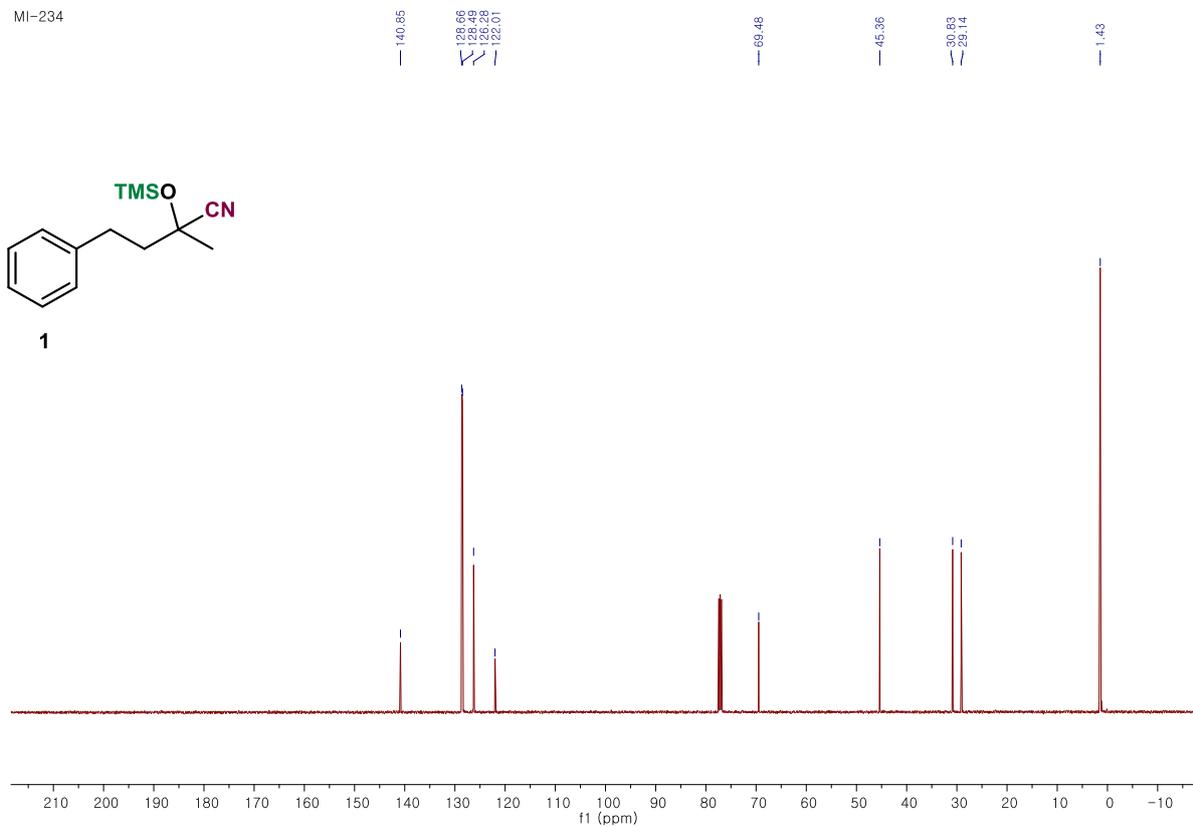
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## 6. NMR Spectra of the Products

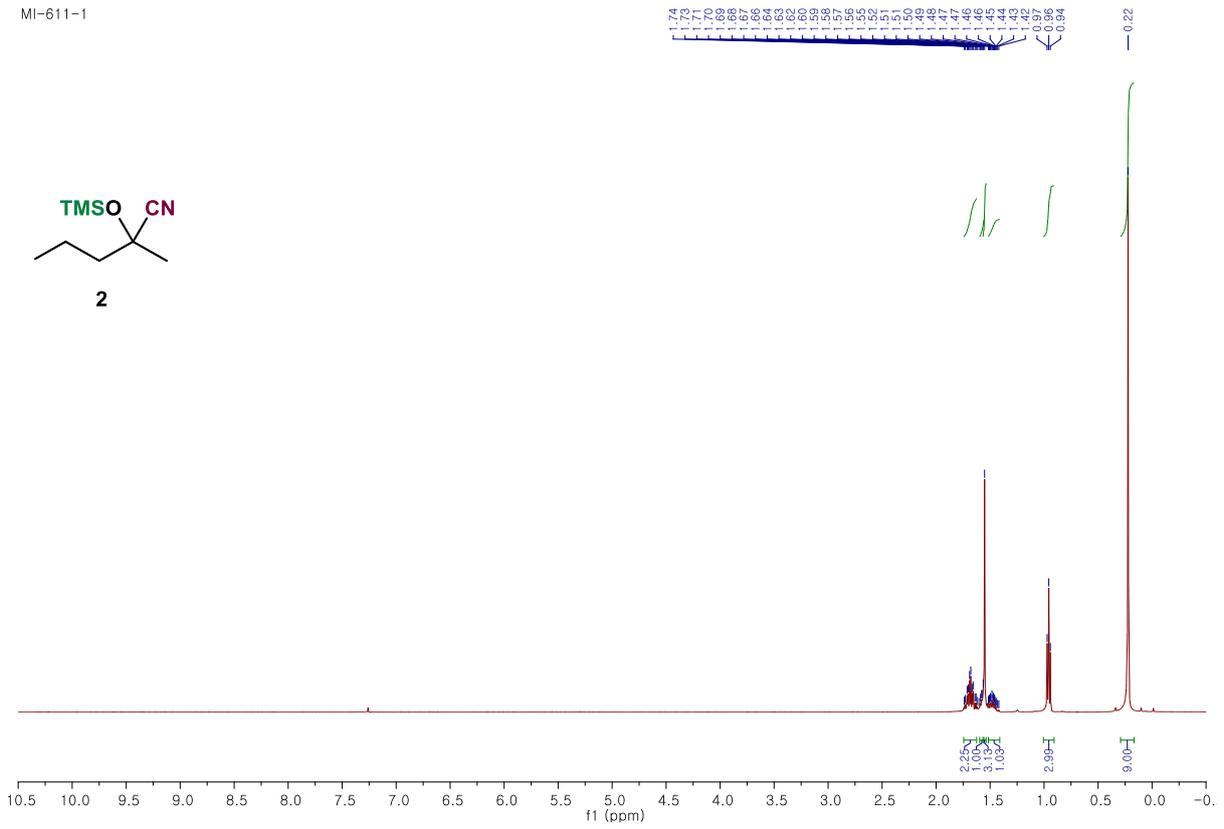
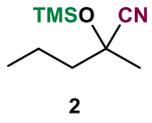
MI-234



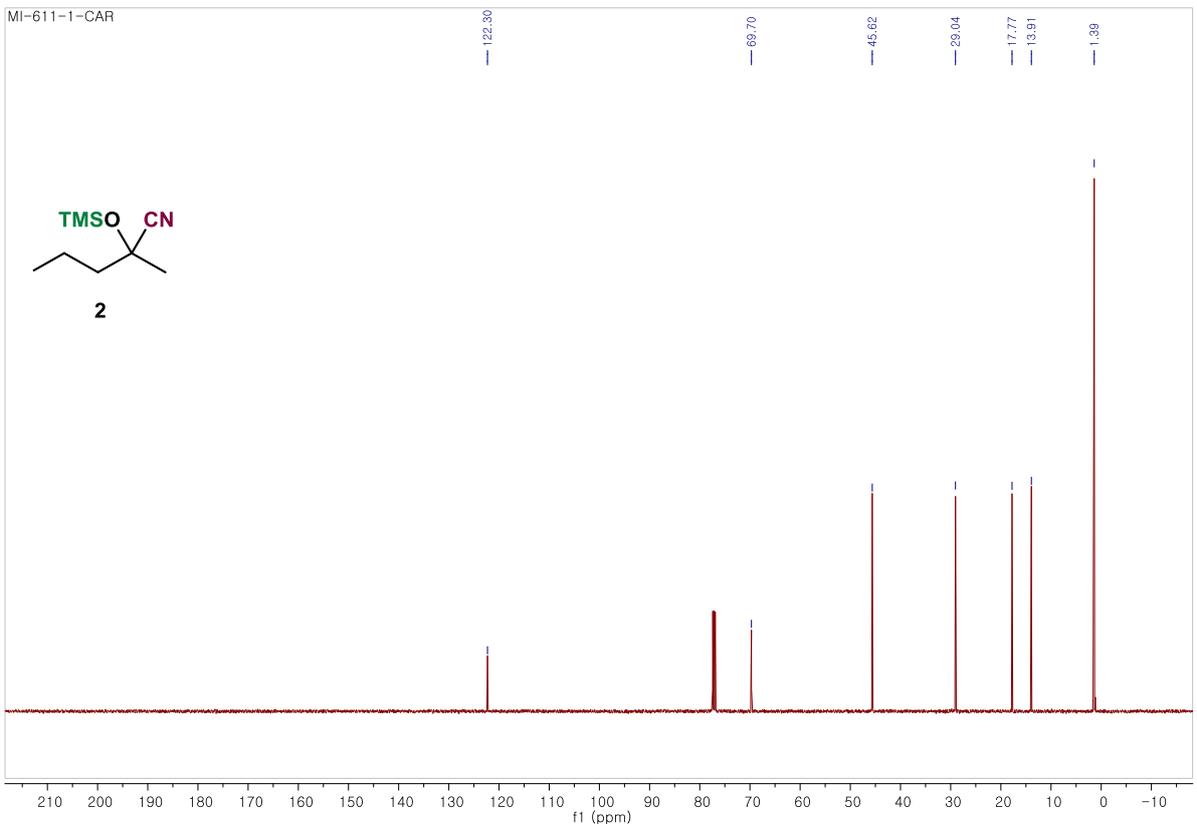
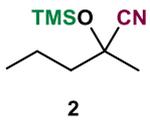
MI-234



MI-611-1



MI-611-1-CAR

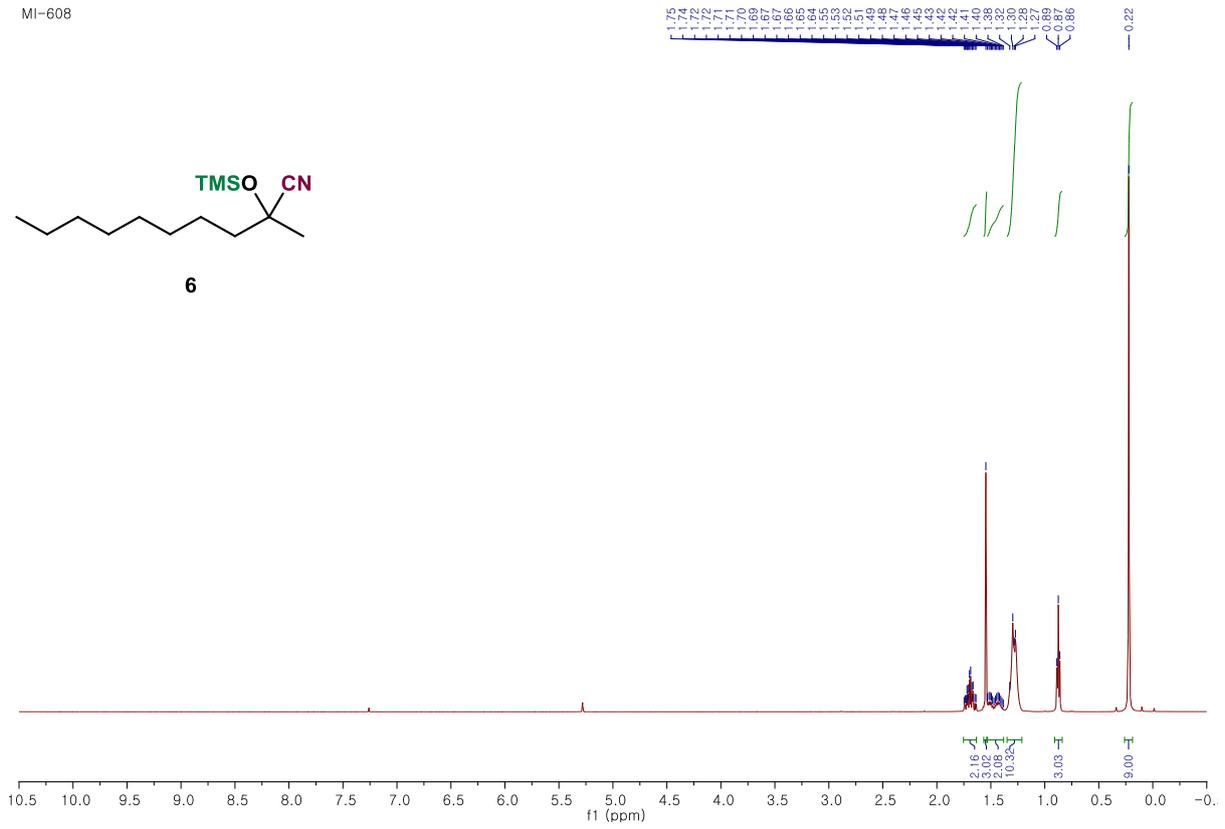
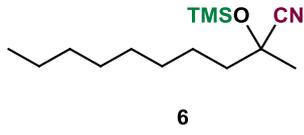




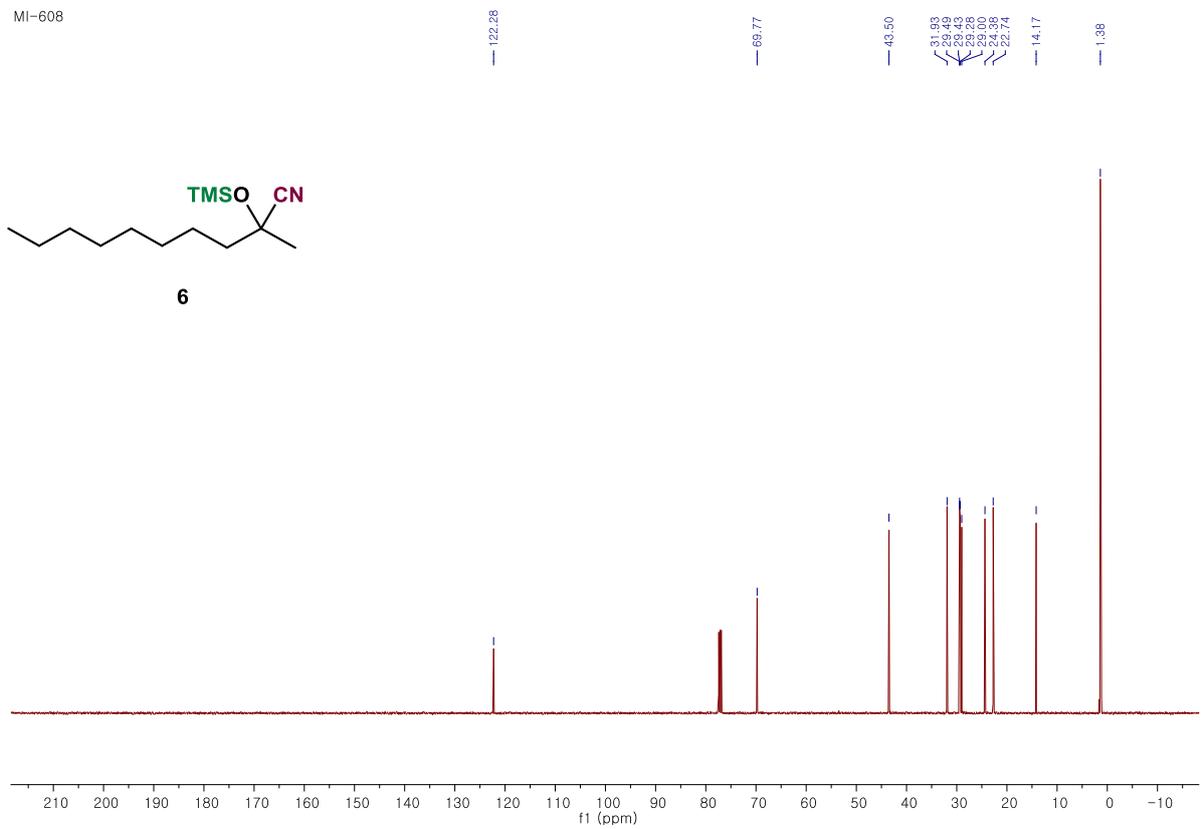
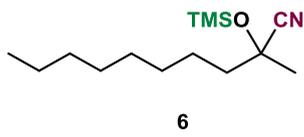




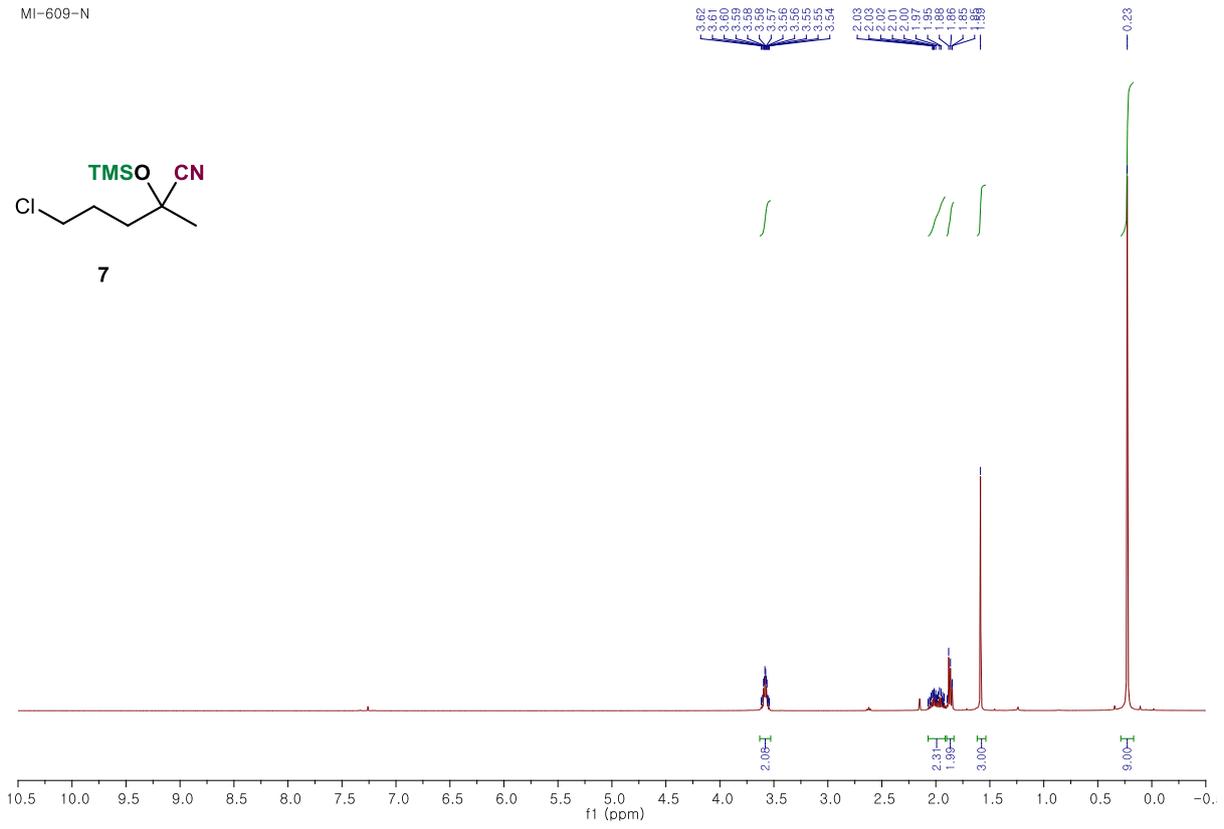
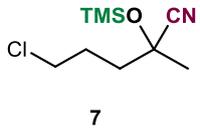
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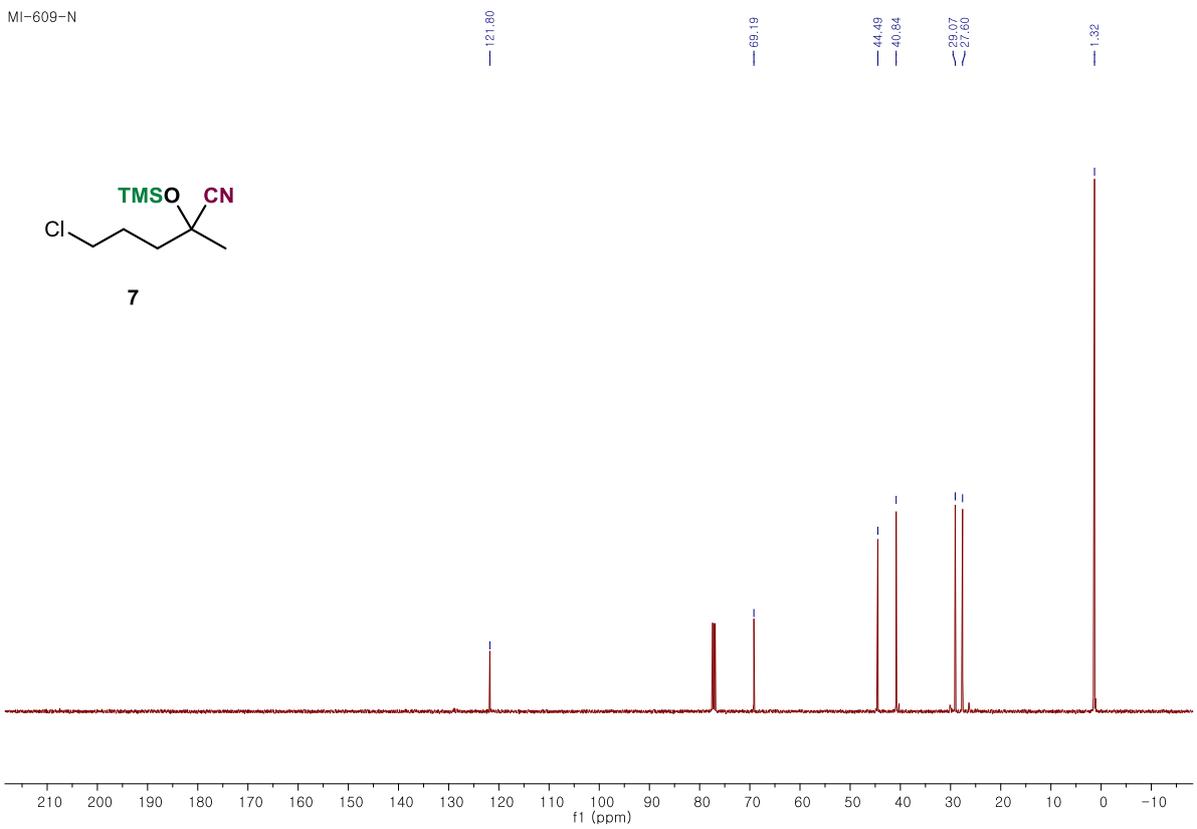
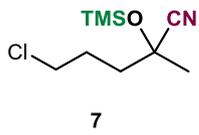
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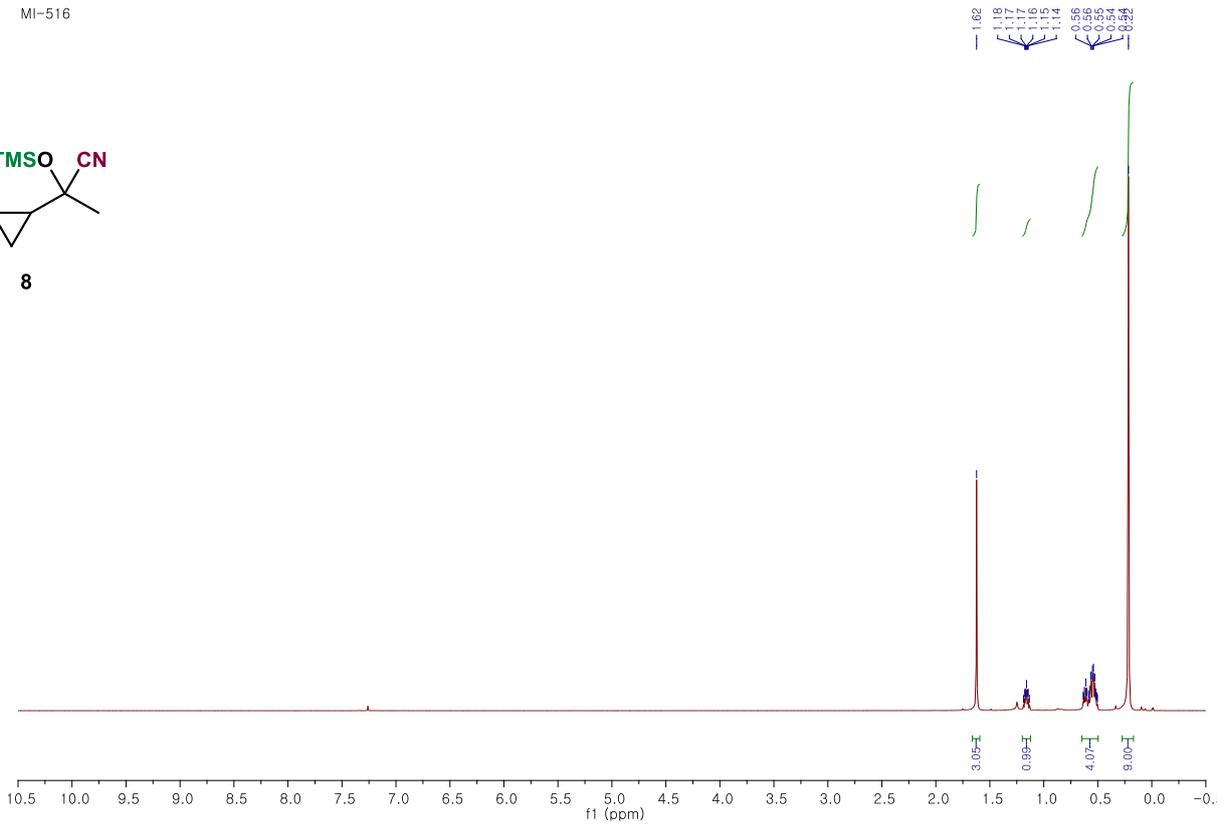
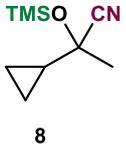
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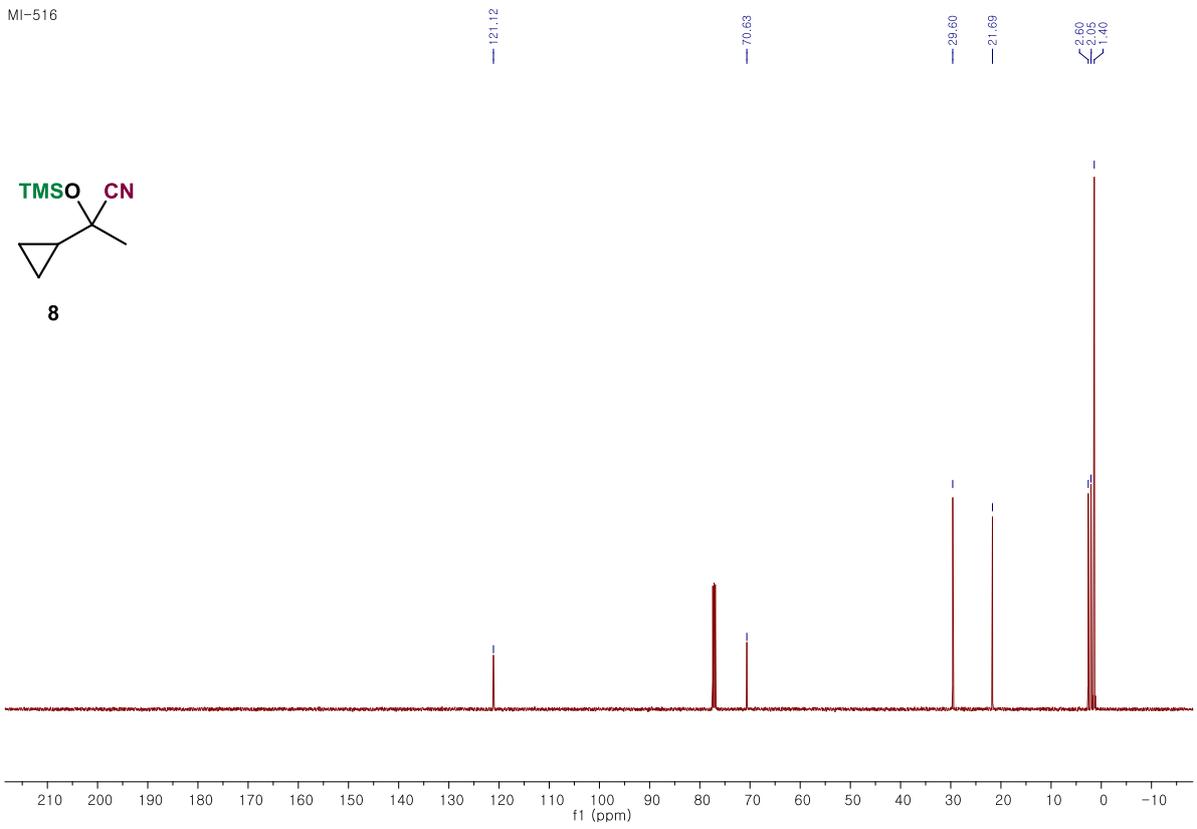
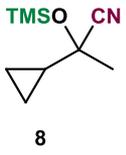
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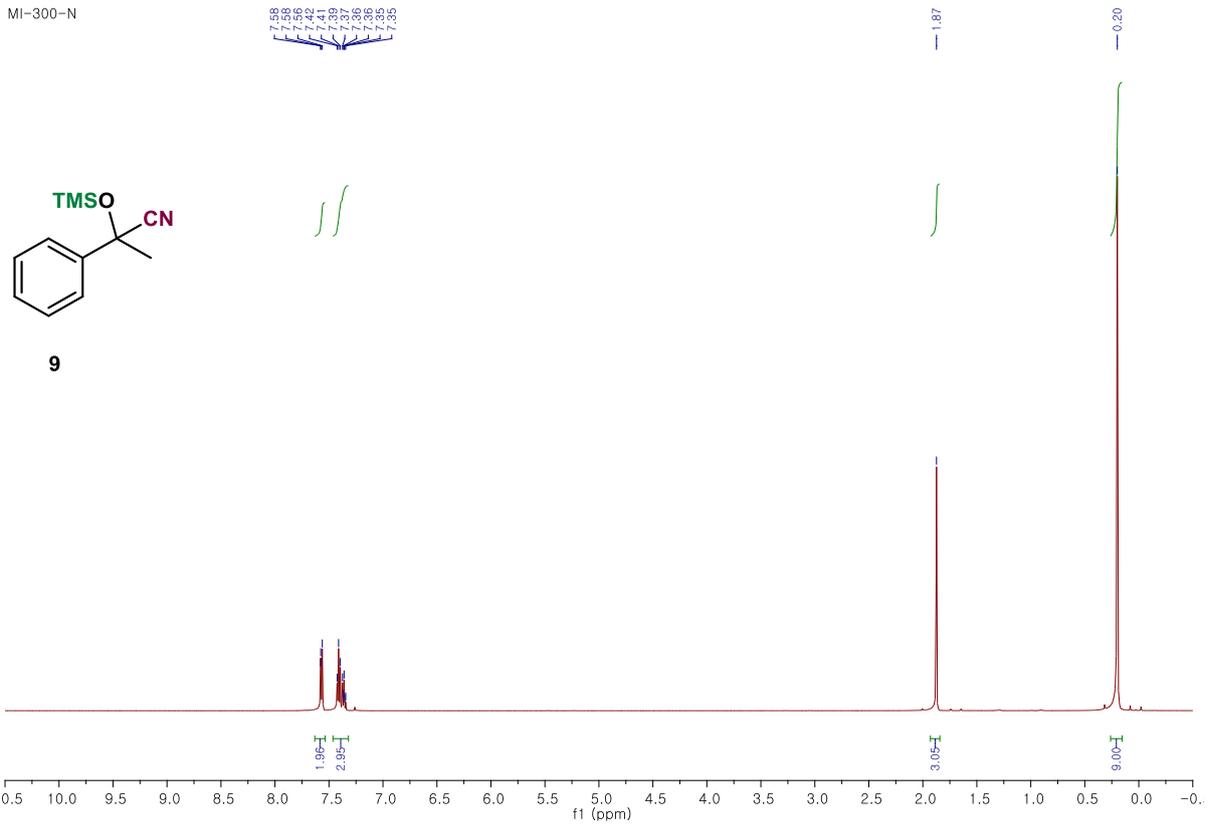
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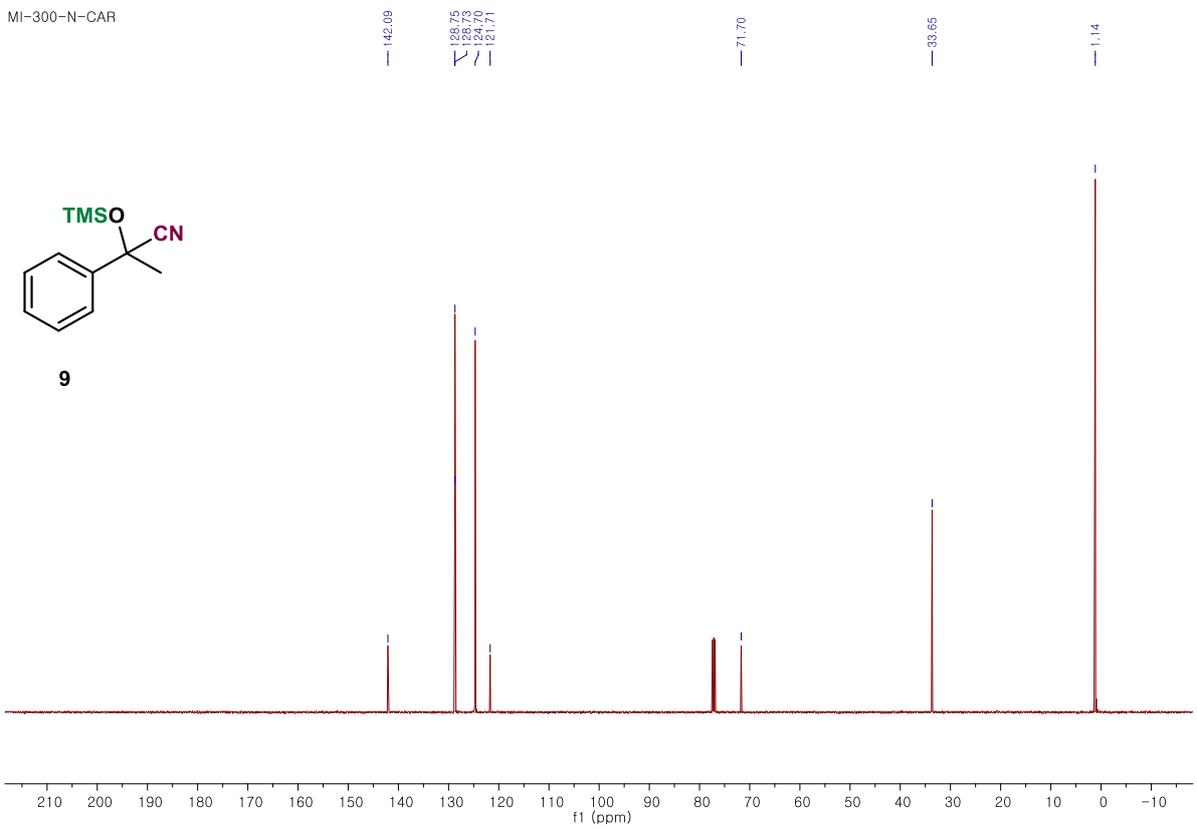
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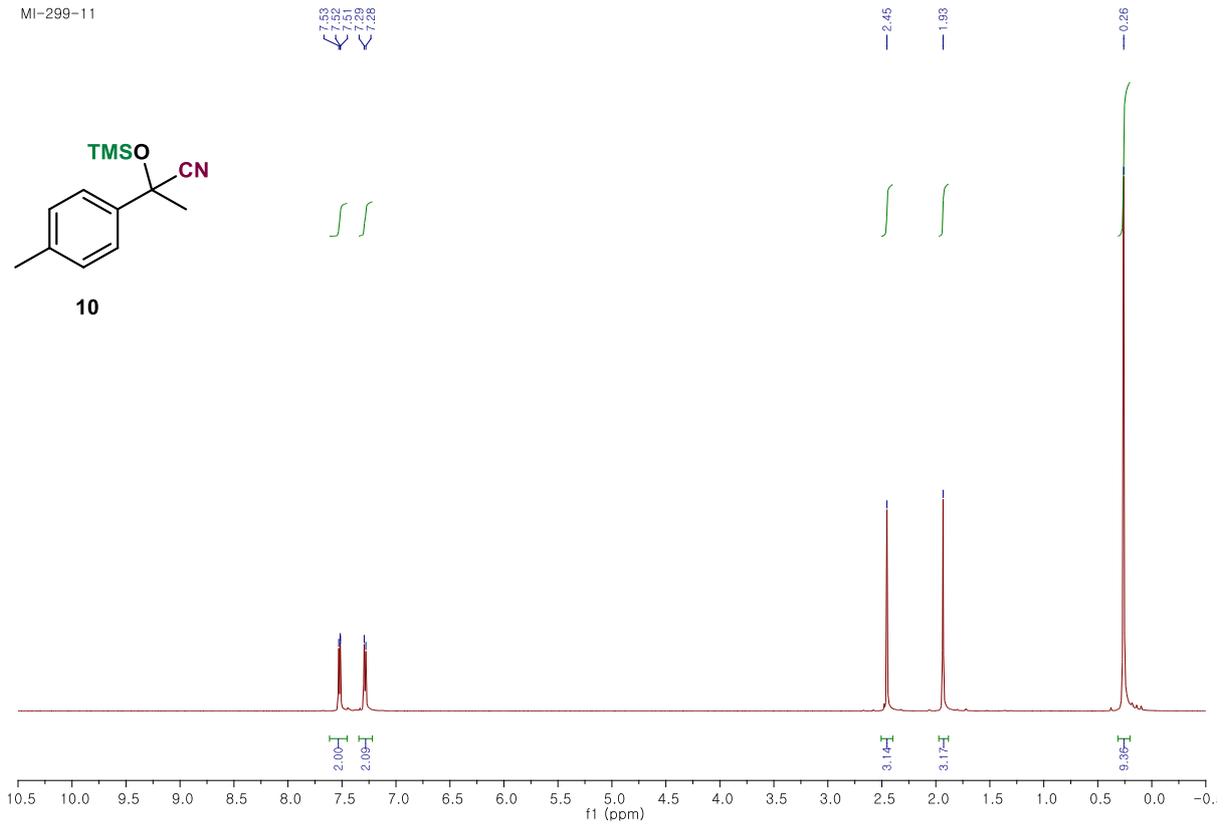
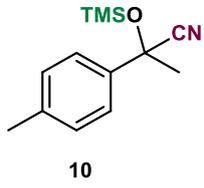
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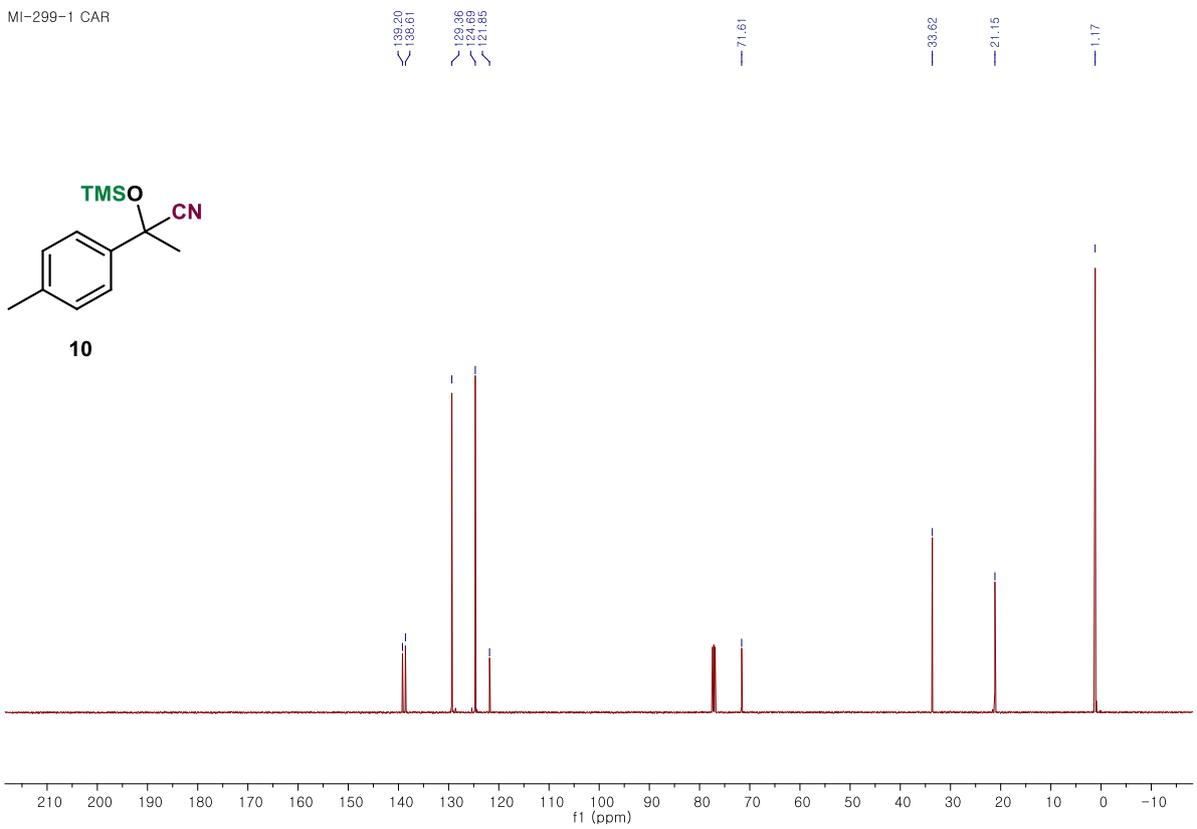
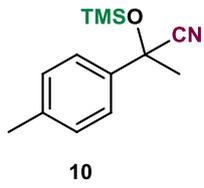
MI-300-N-CAR



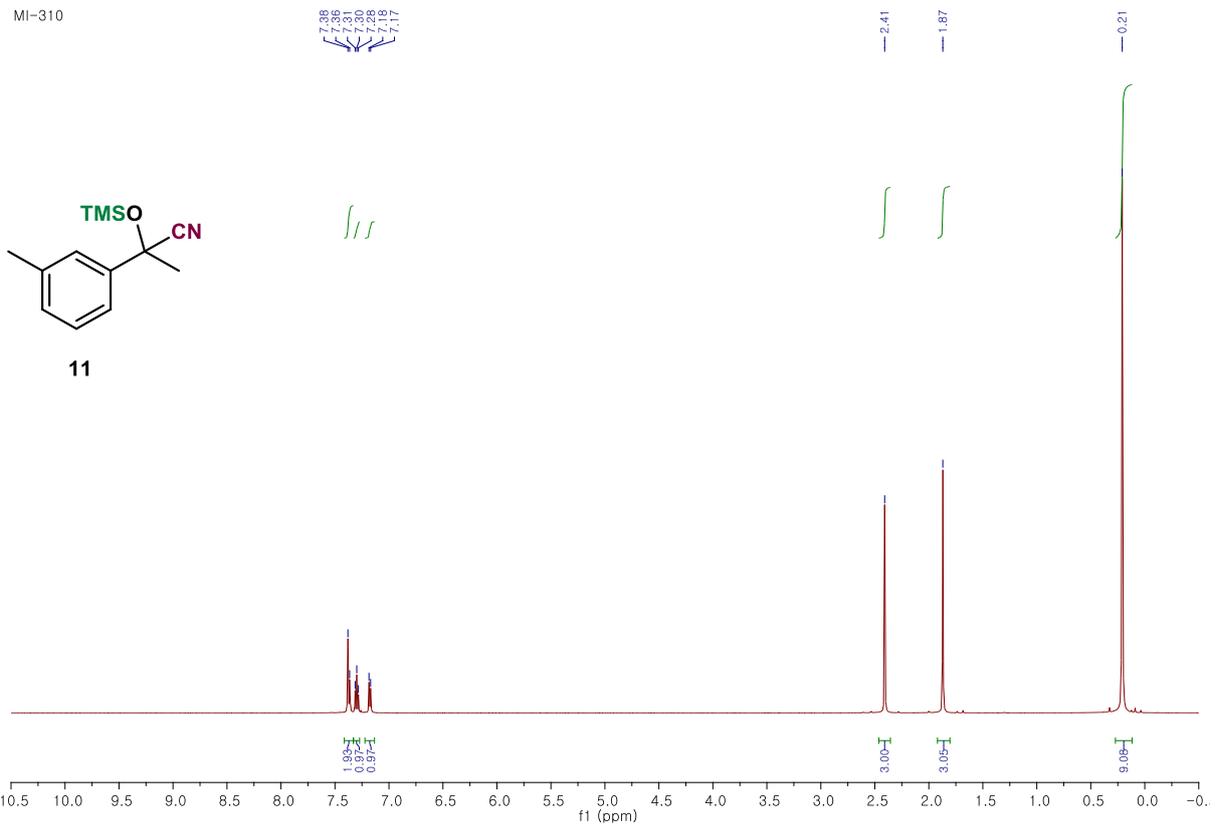
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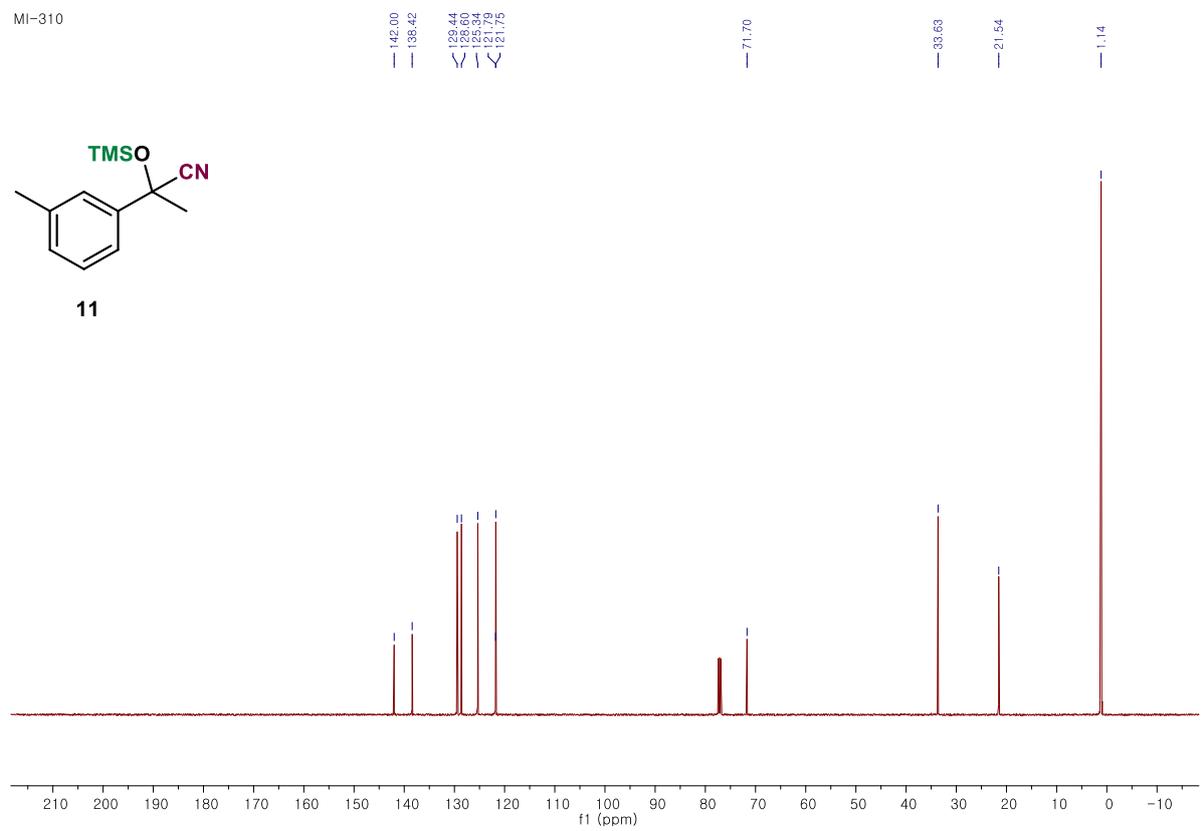
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MI-310



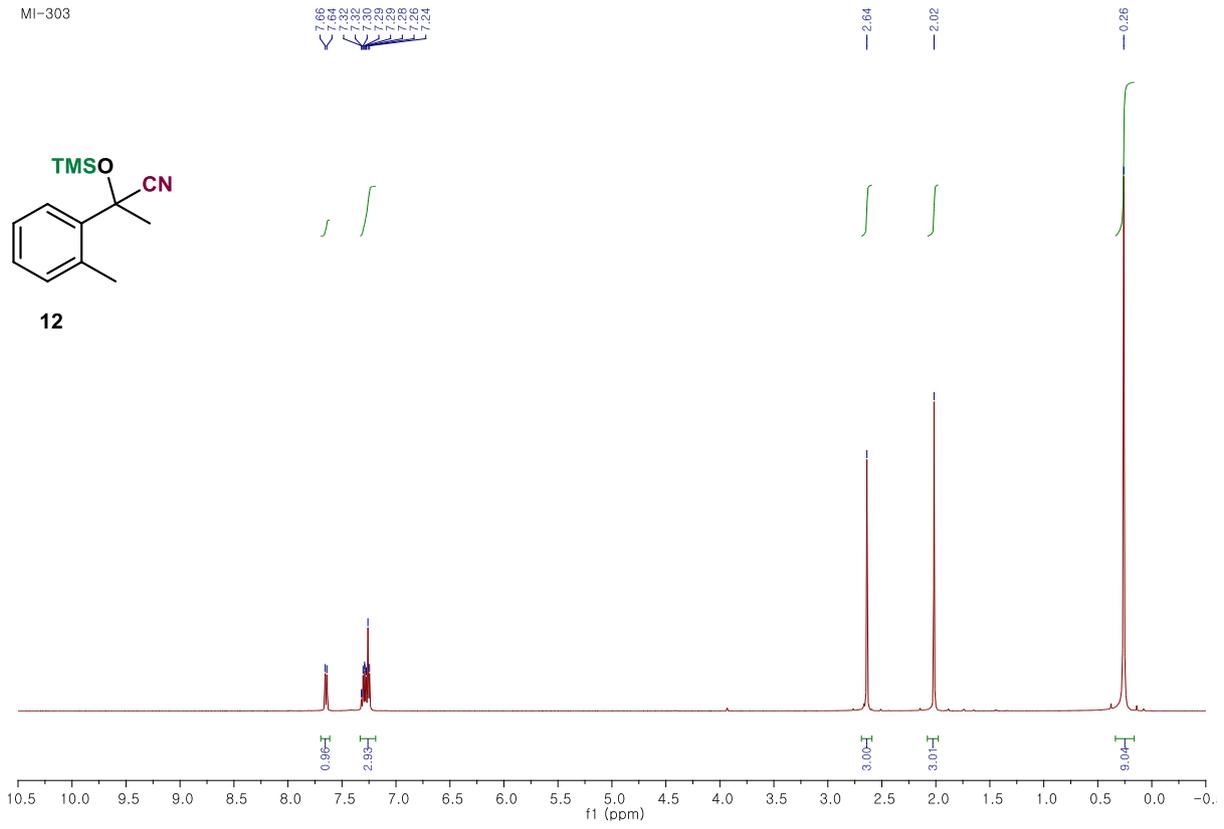
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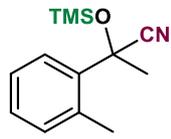
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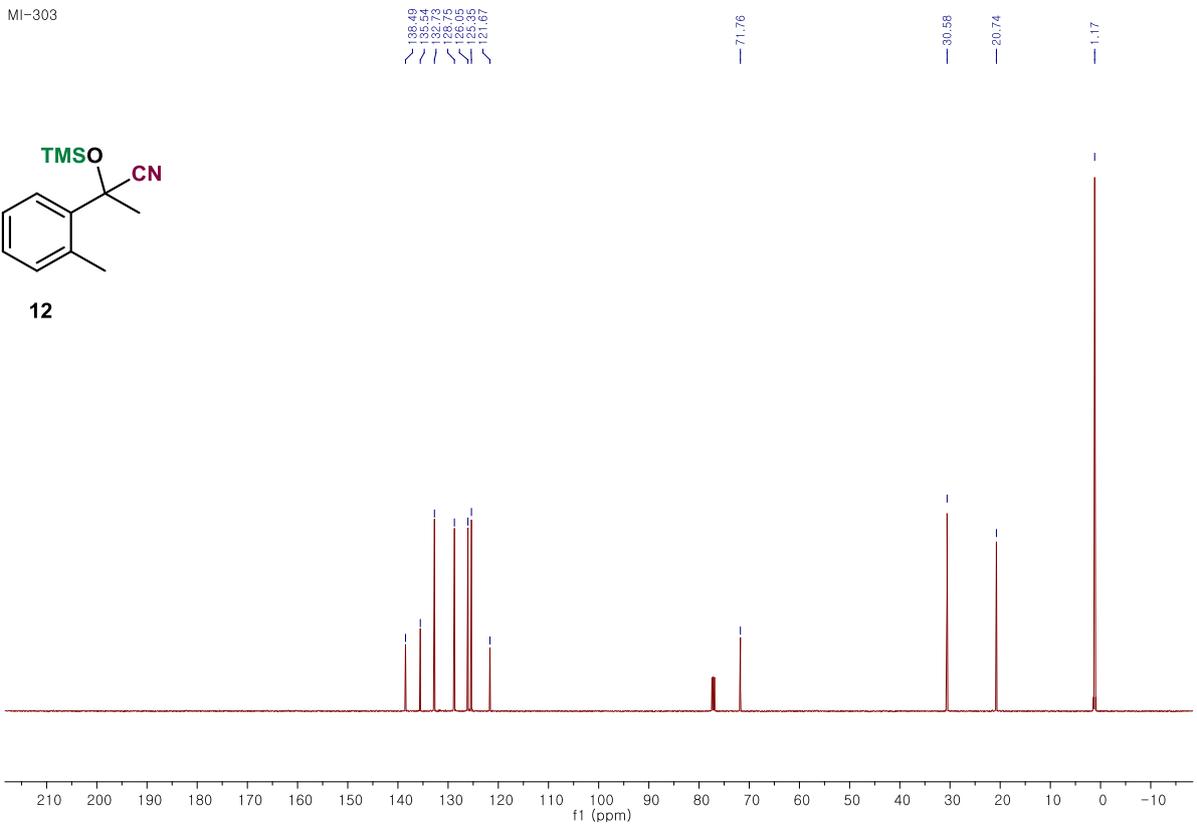
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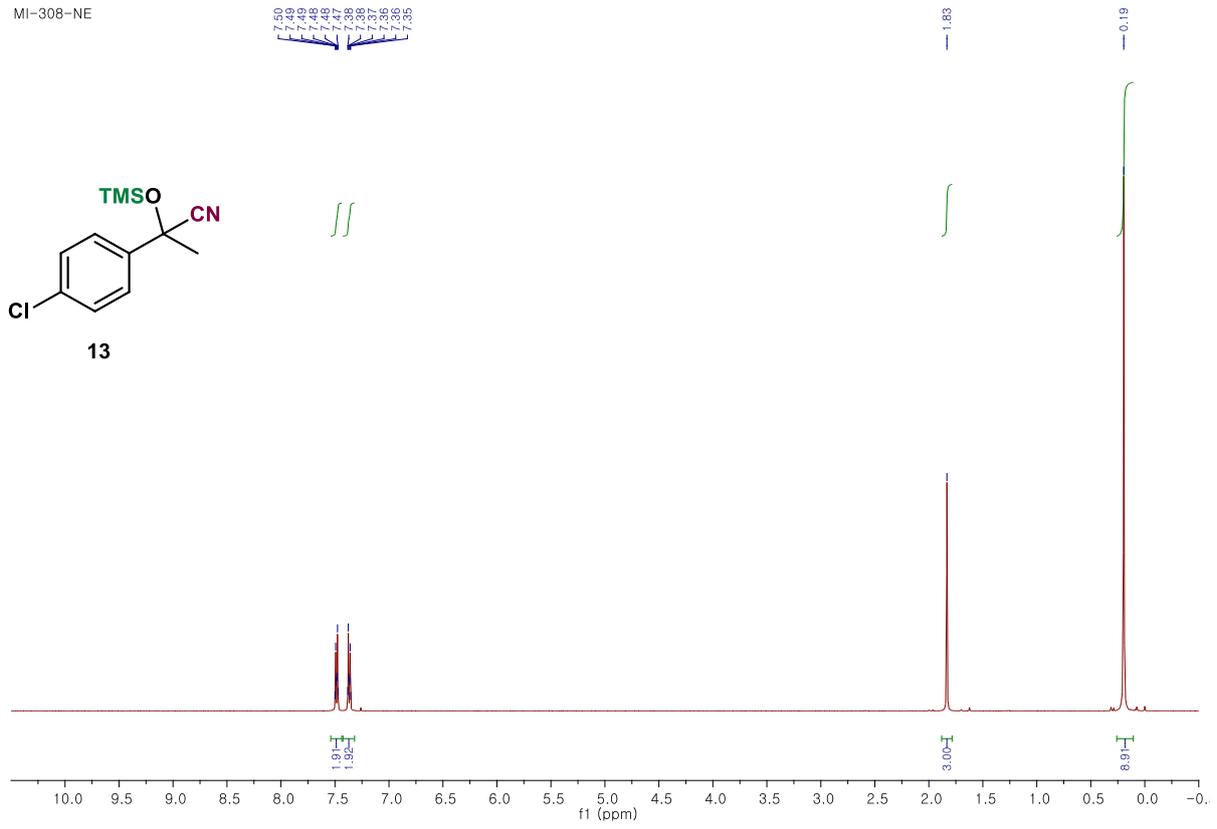
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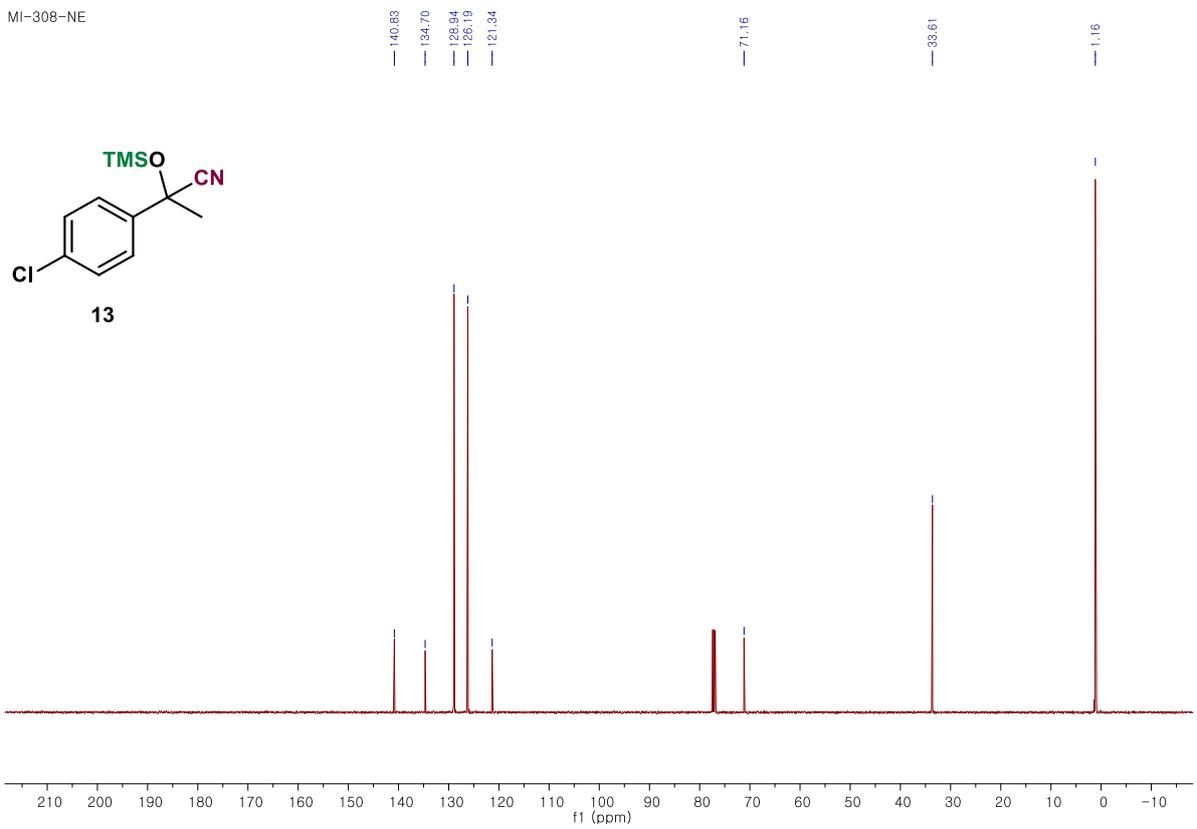
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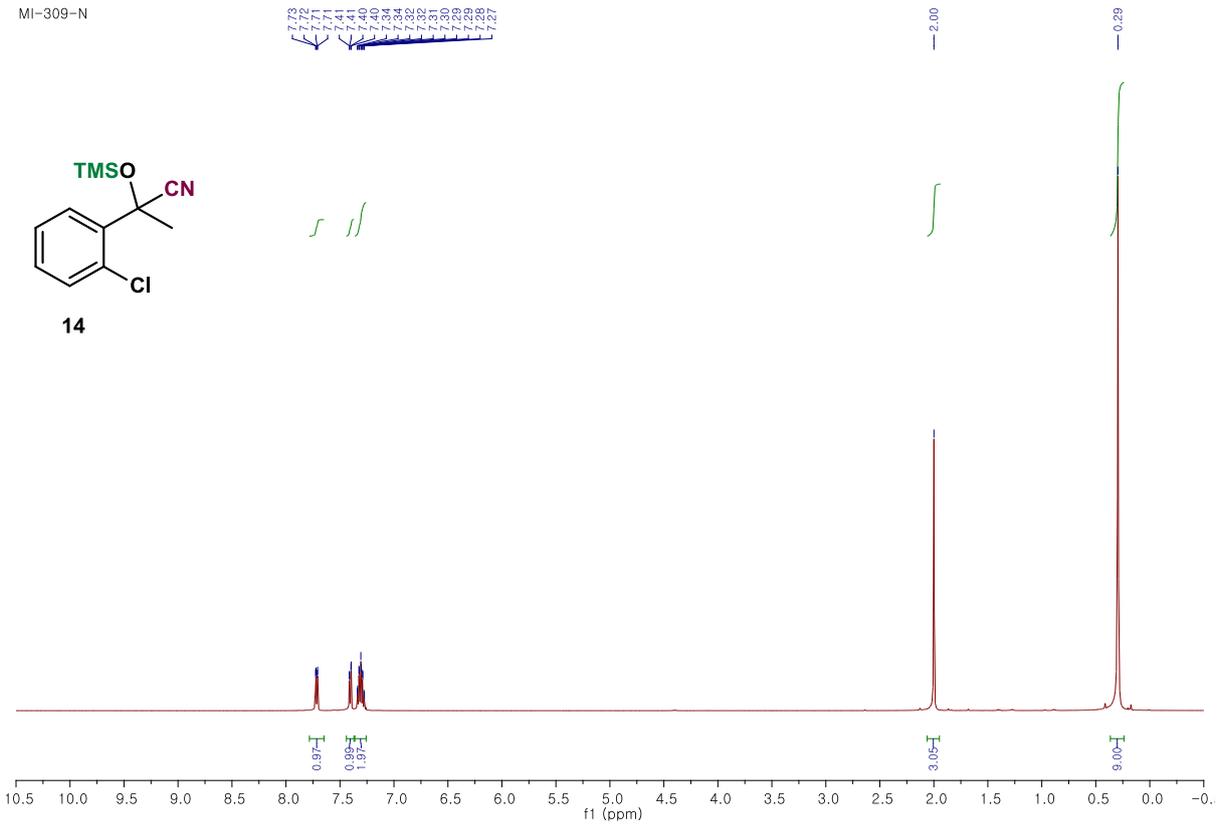
MI-308-NE



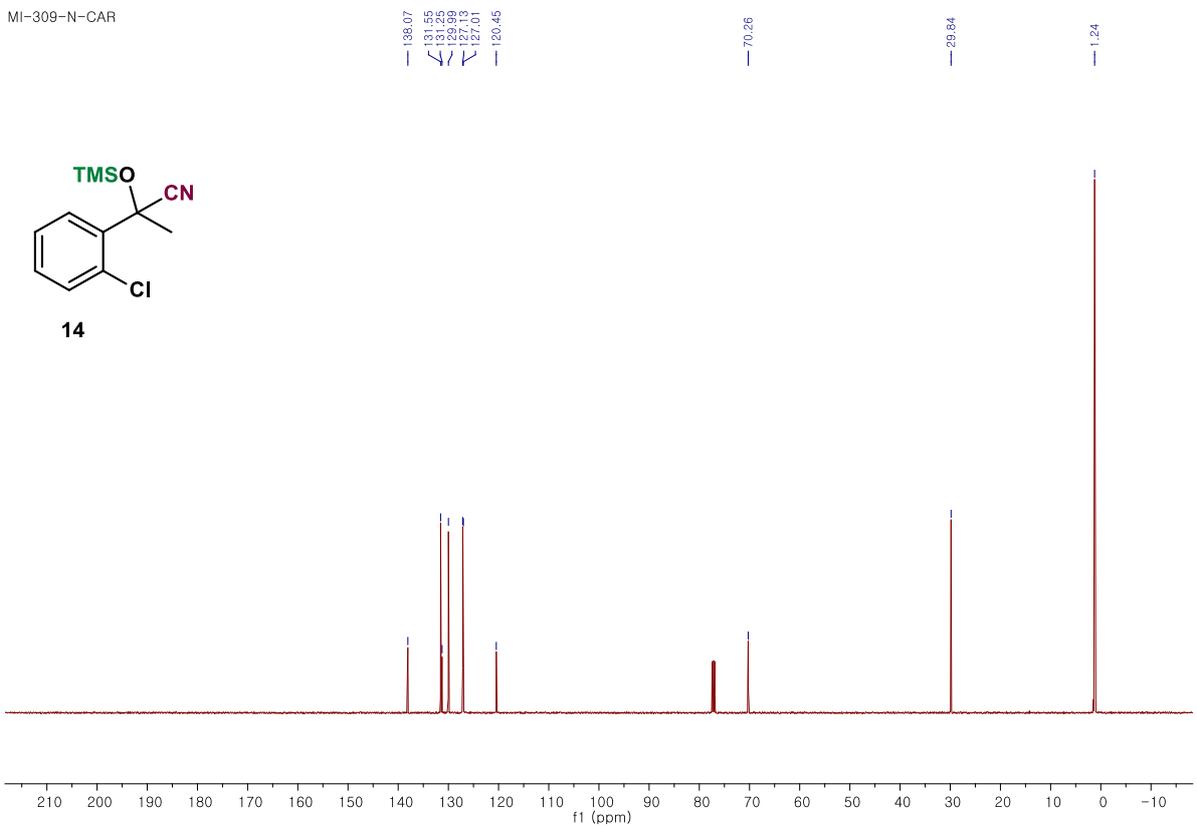
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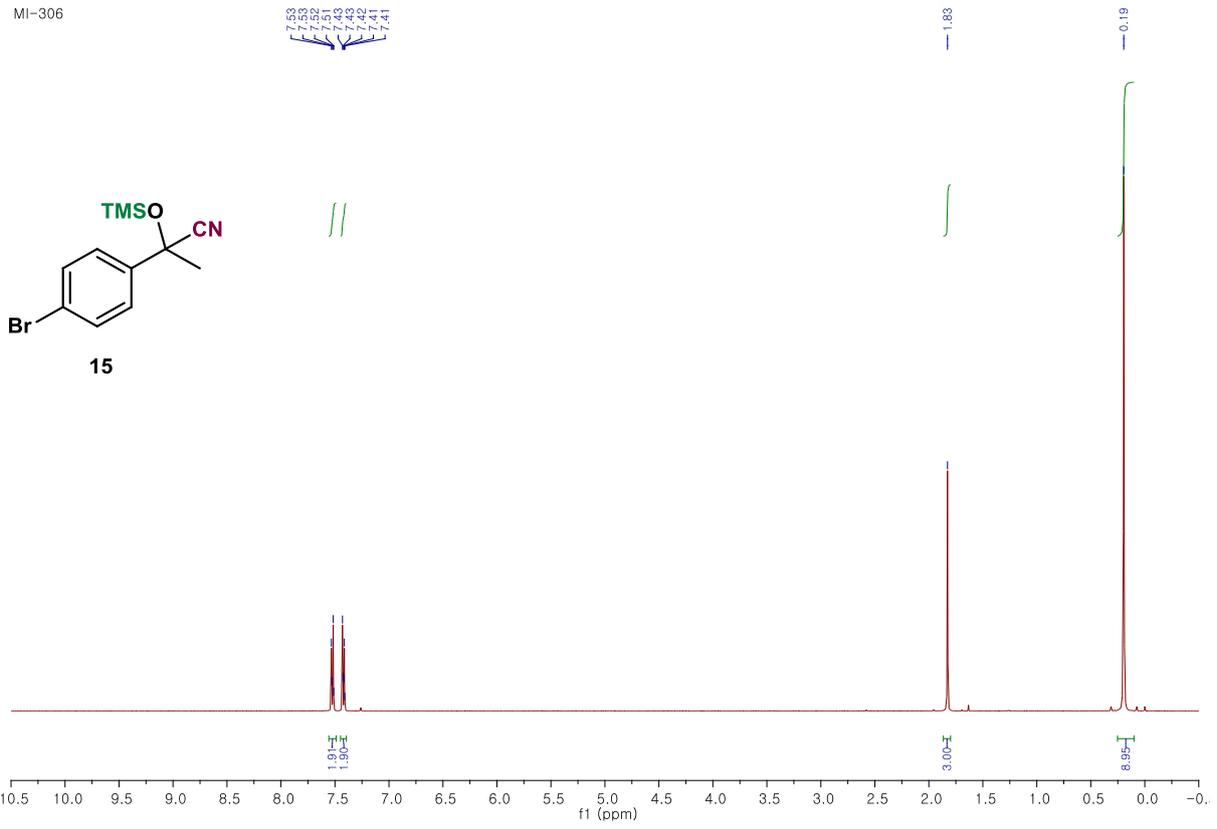
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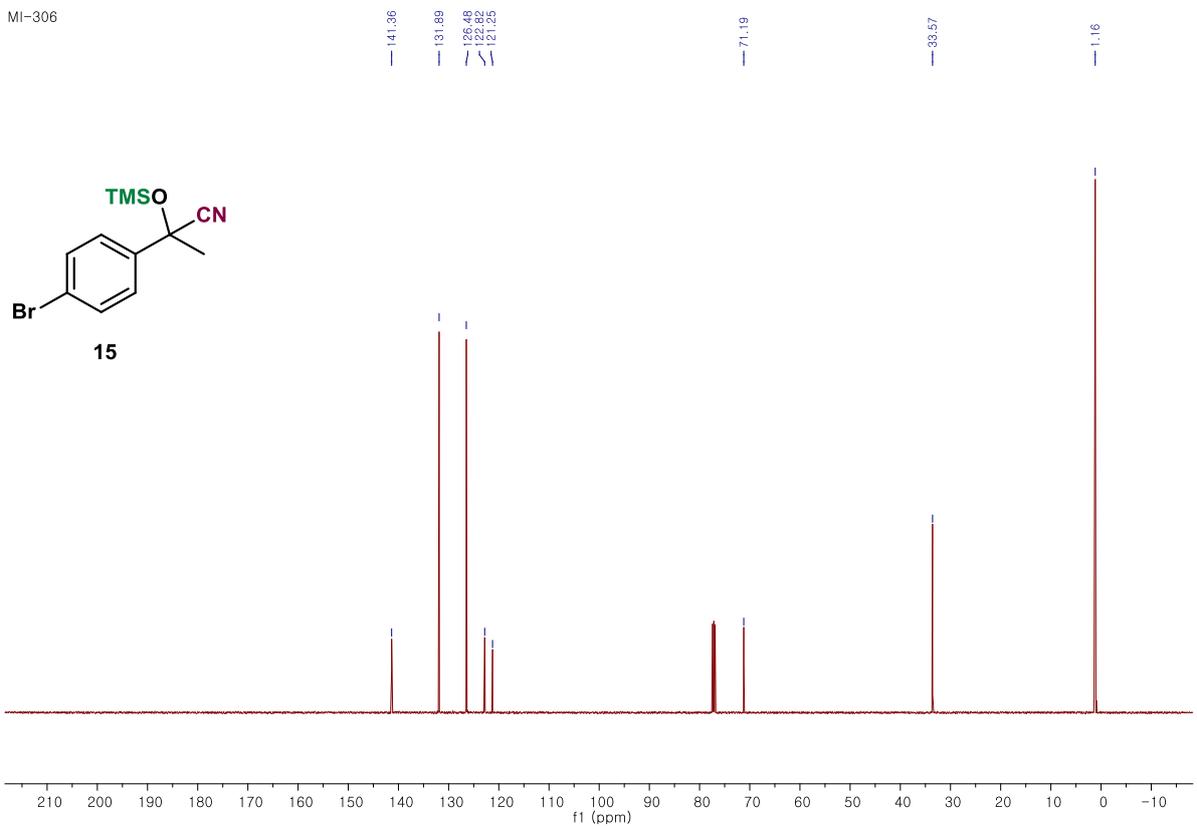
MI-309-N-CAR



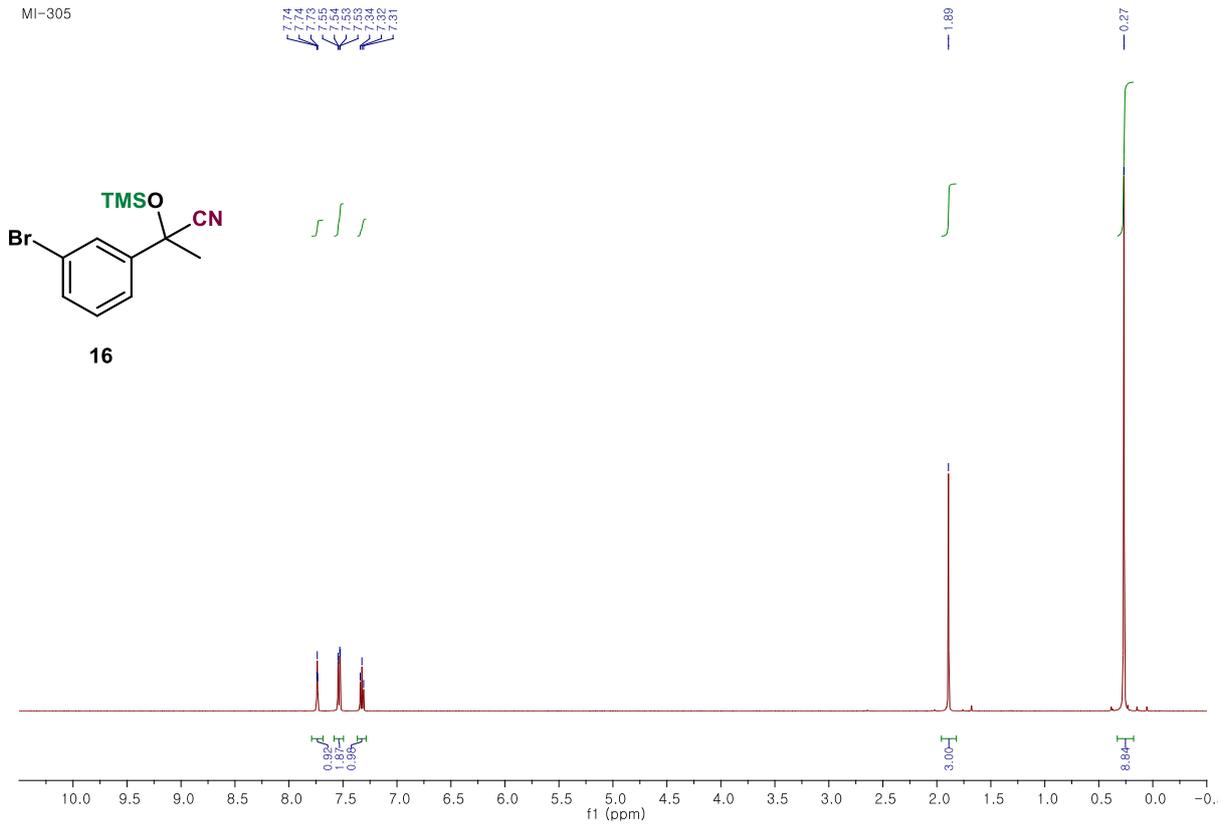
MI-306



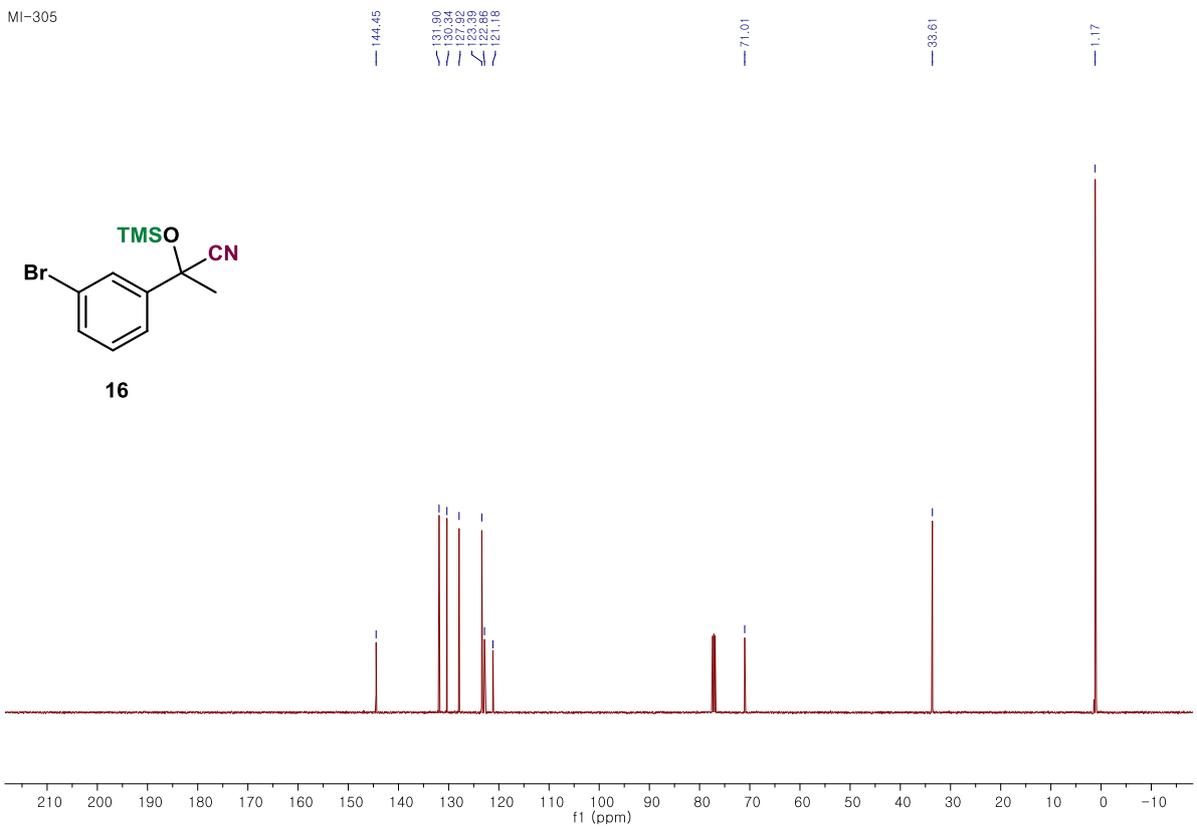
MI-306



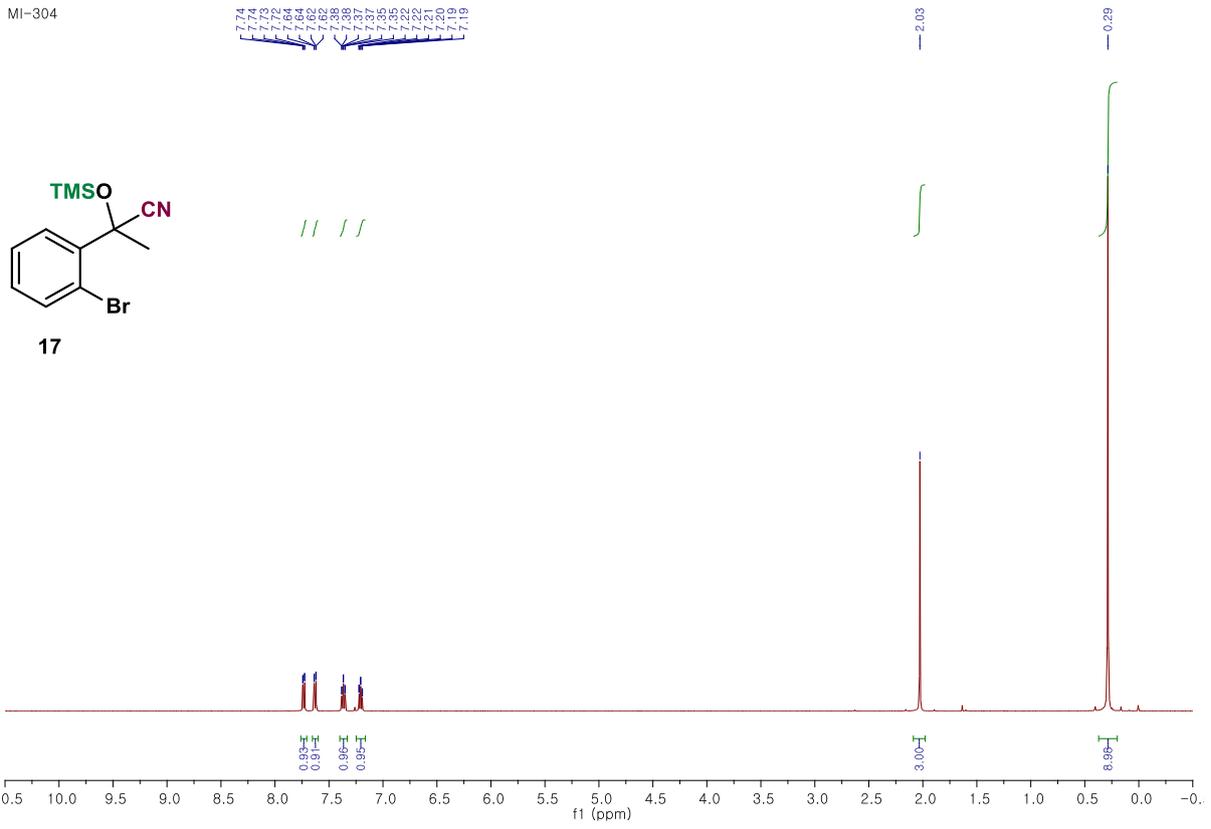
MI-305



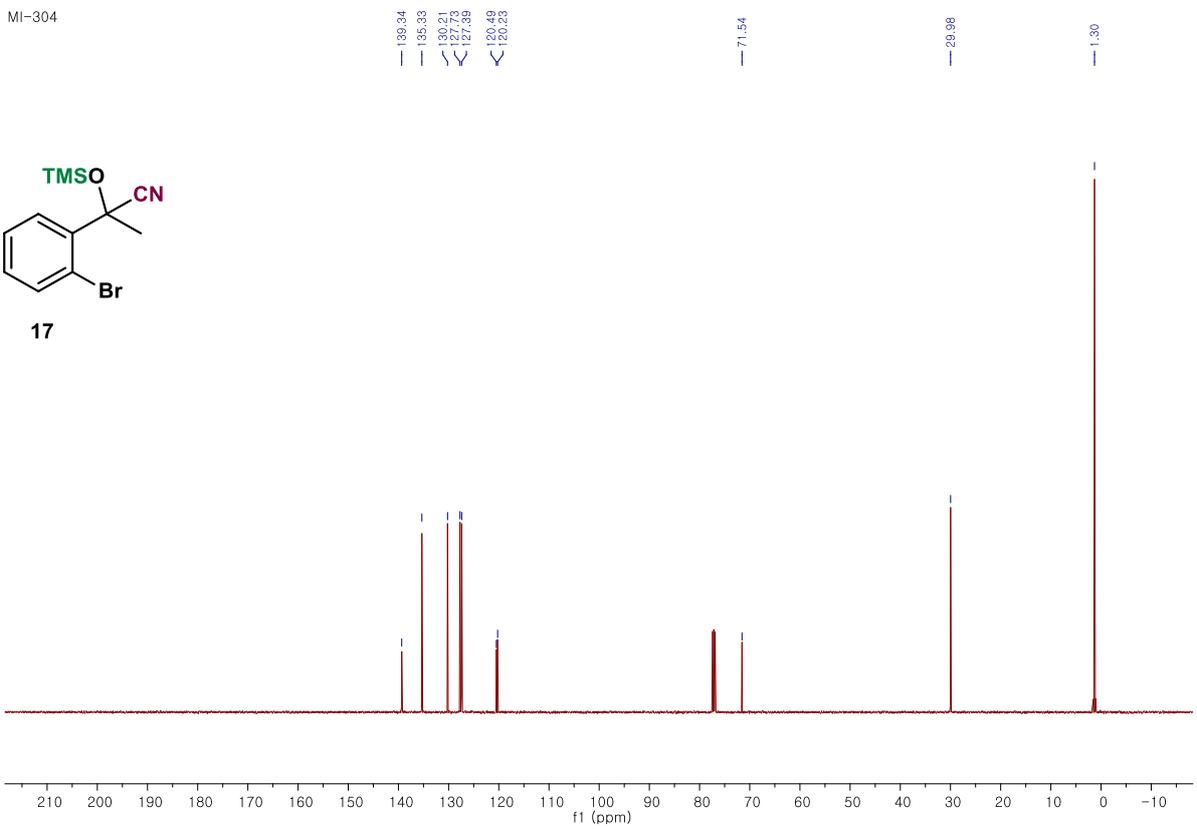
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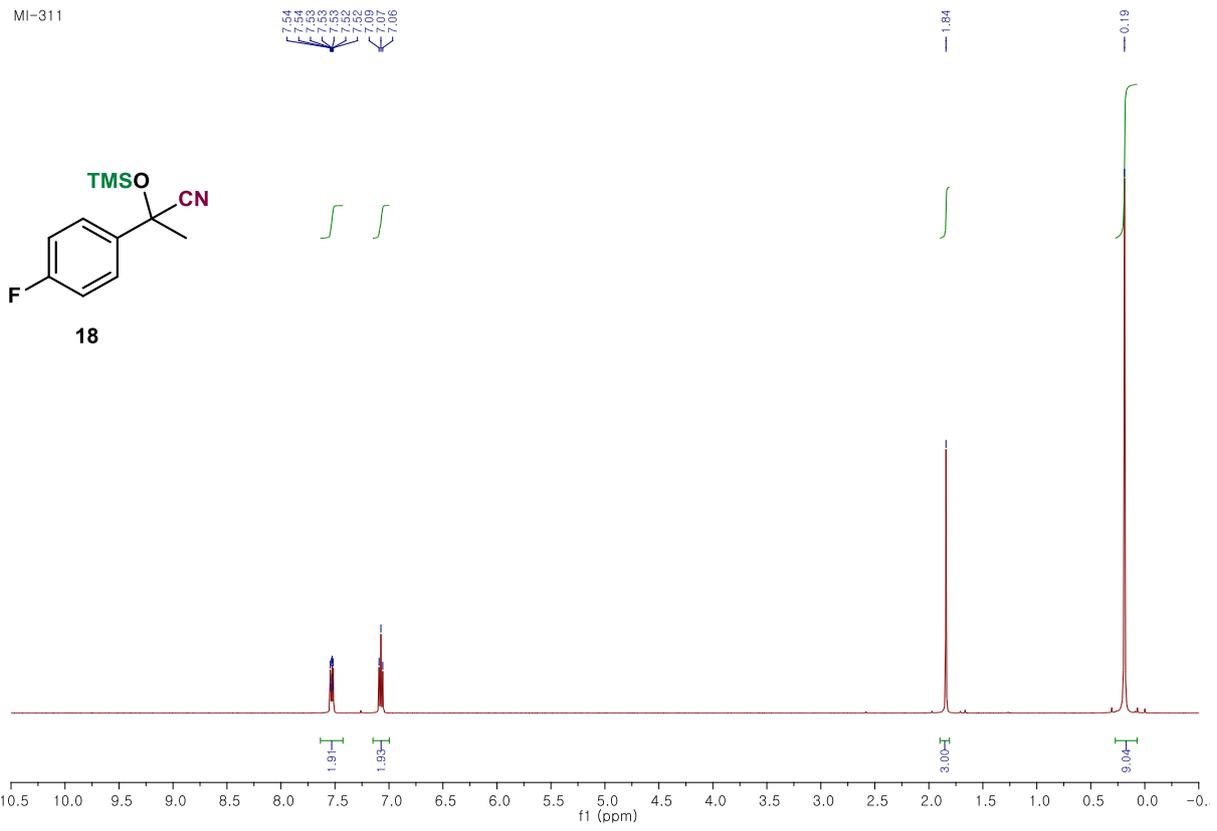
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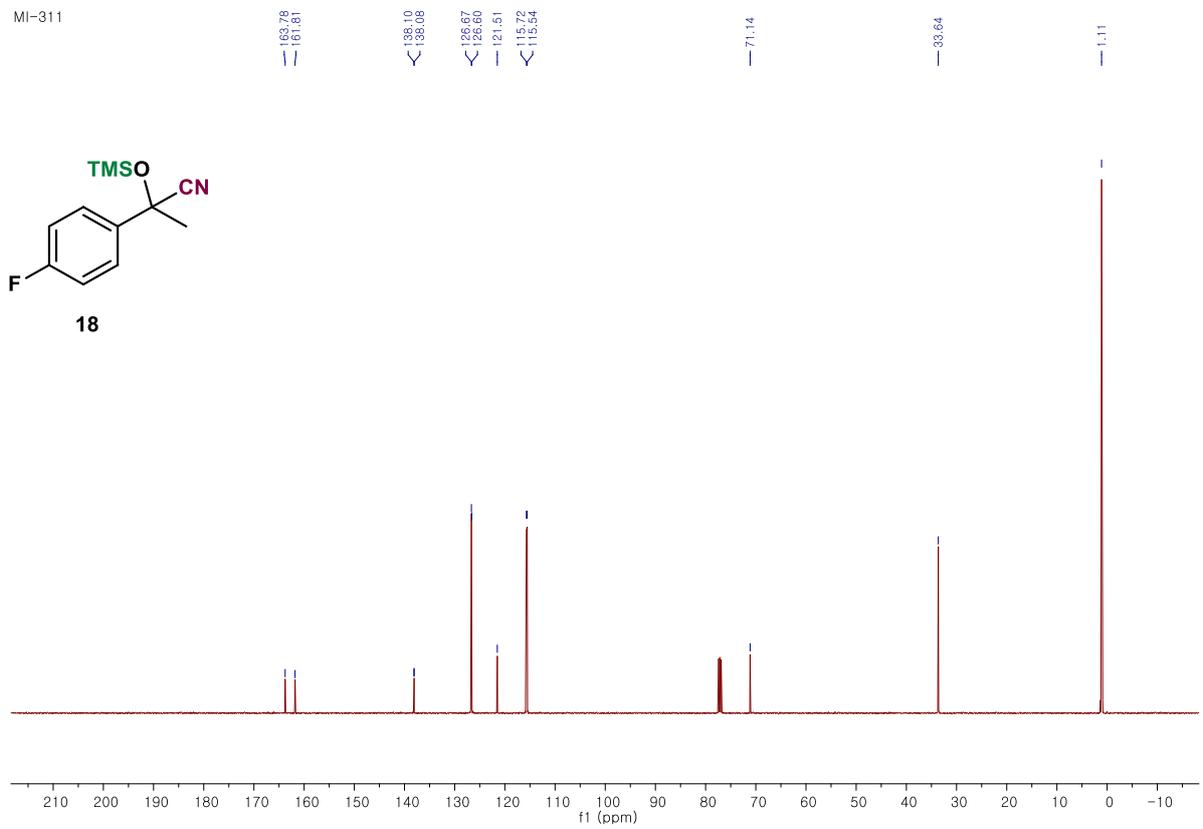
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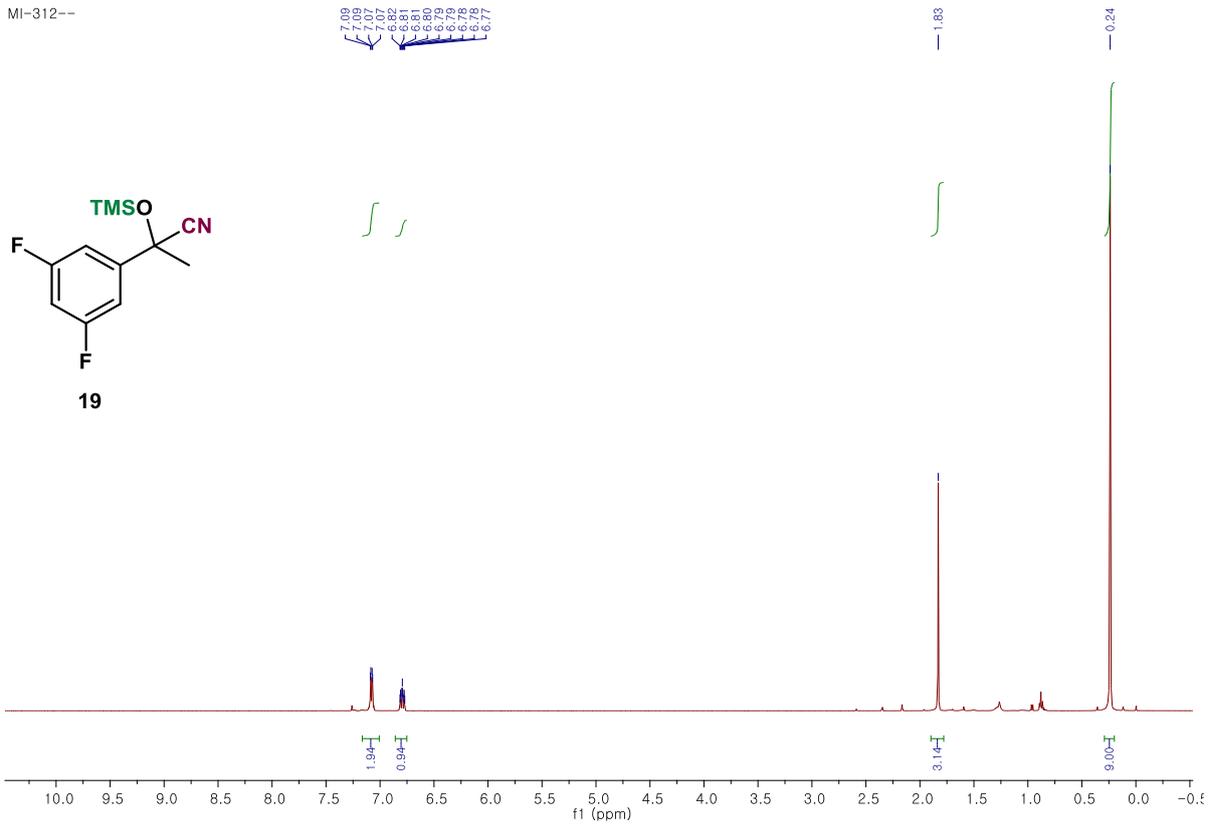
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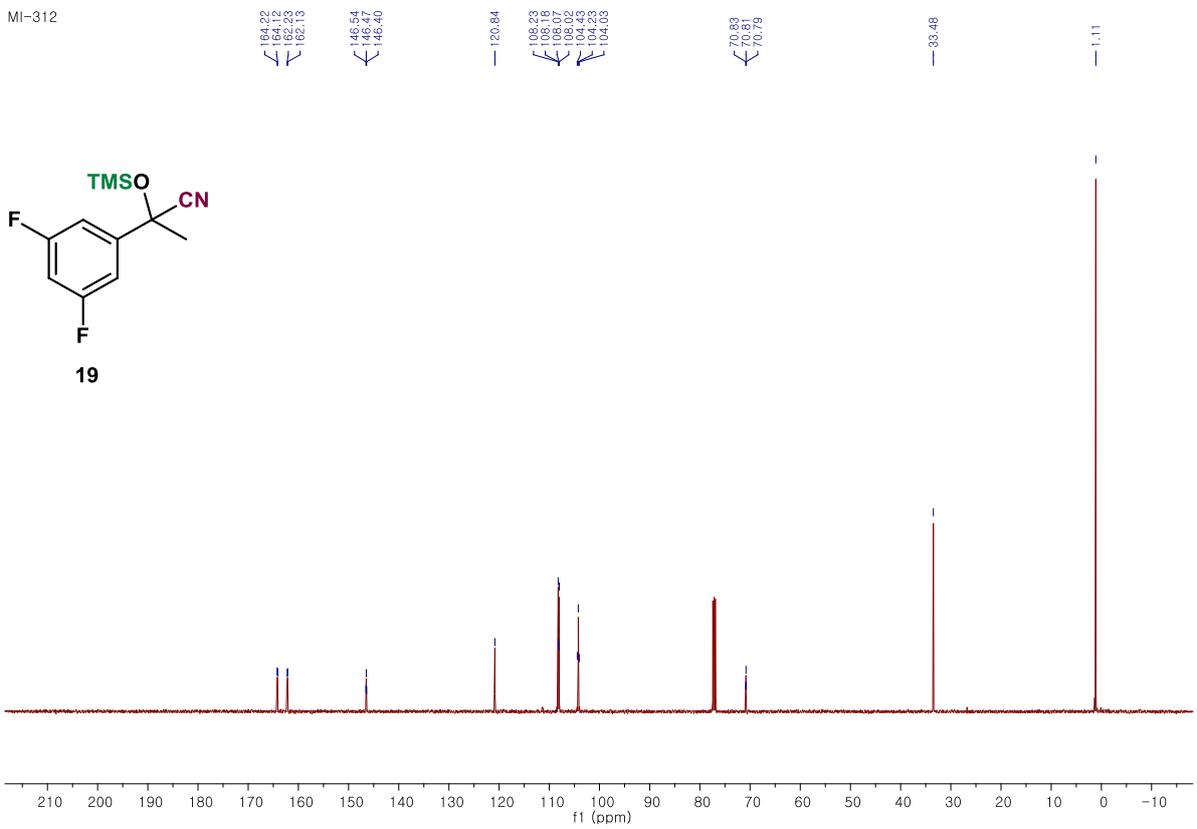
MI-311



MI-312--

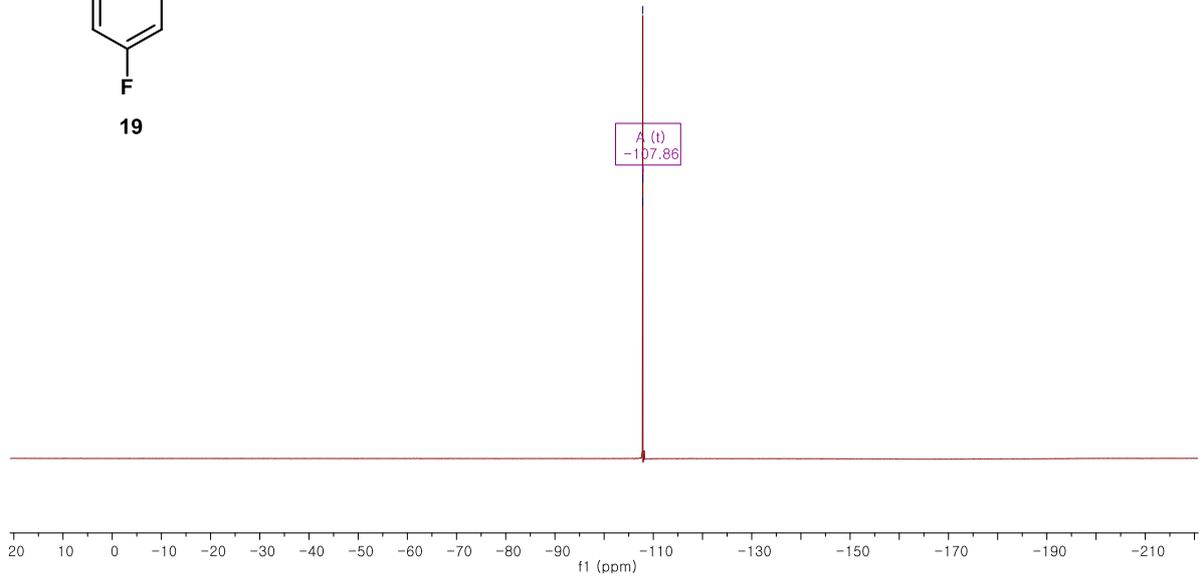
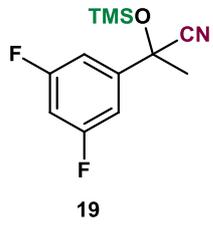


MI-312

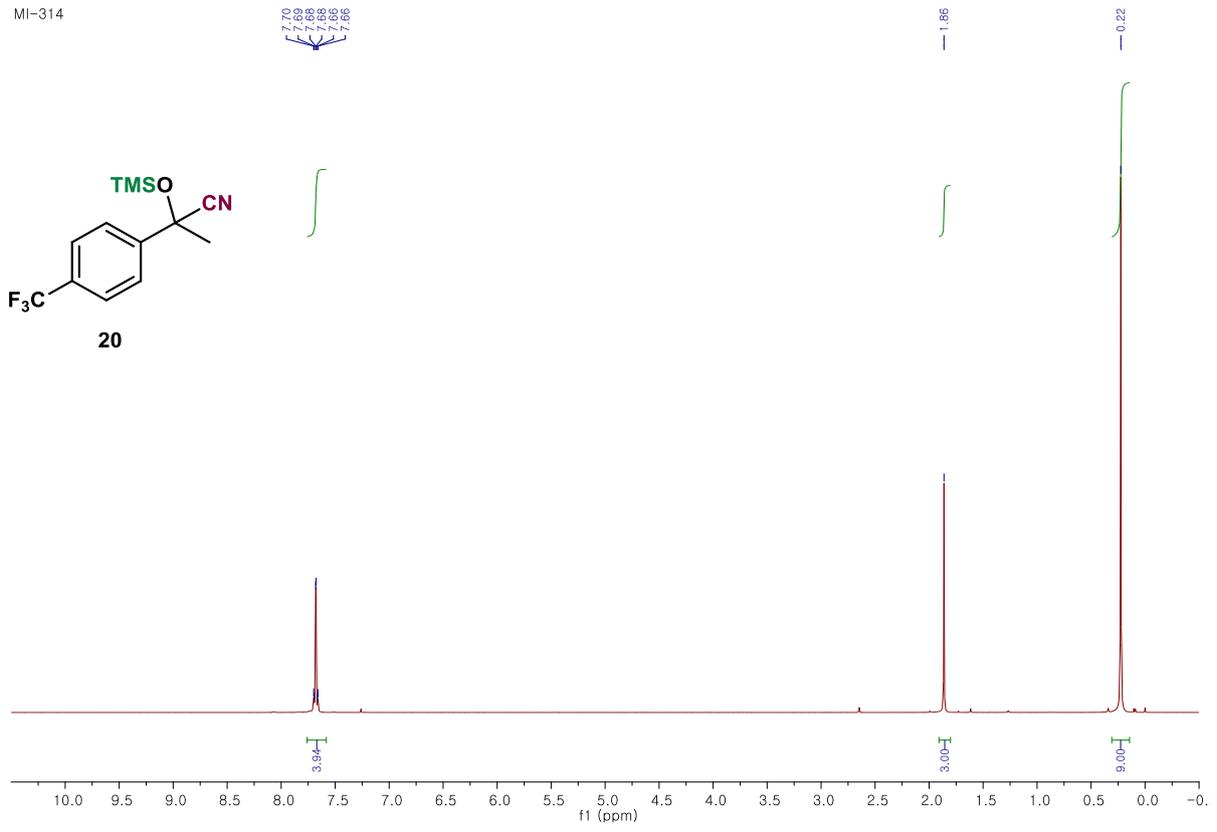


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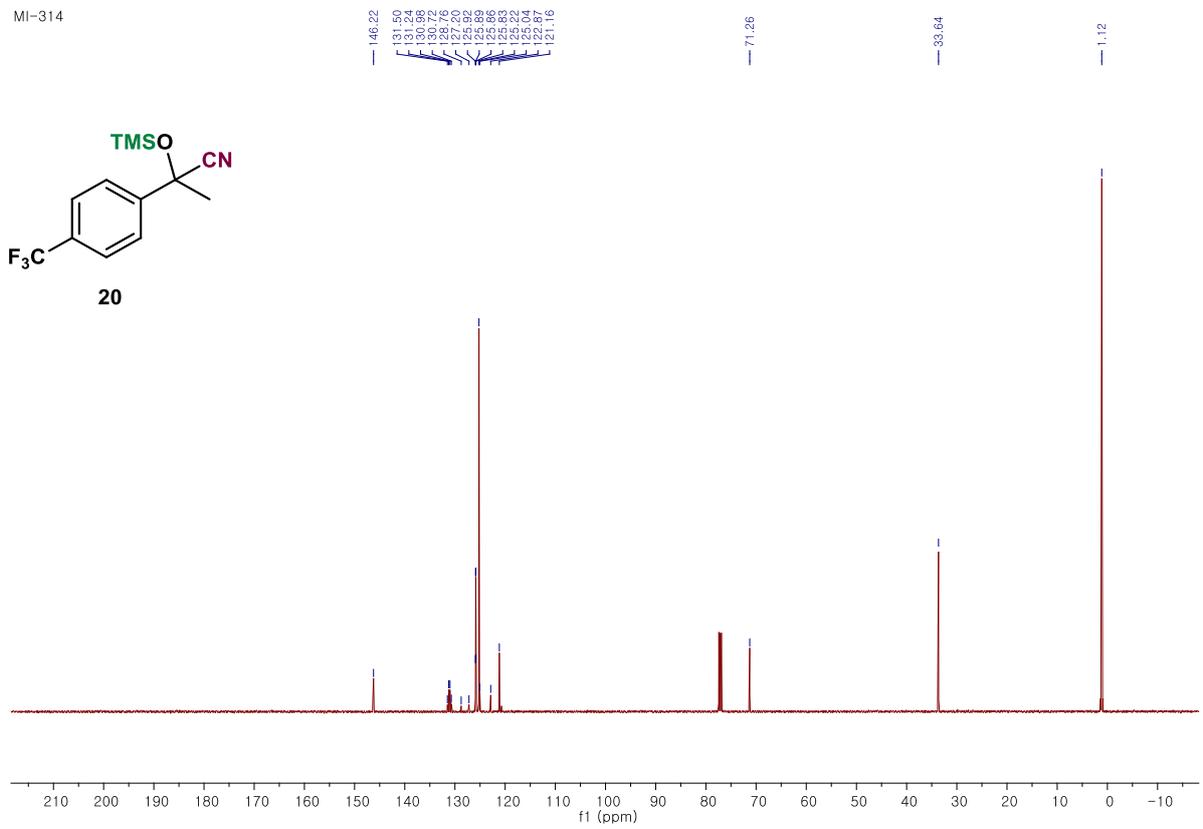
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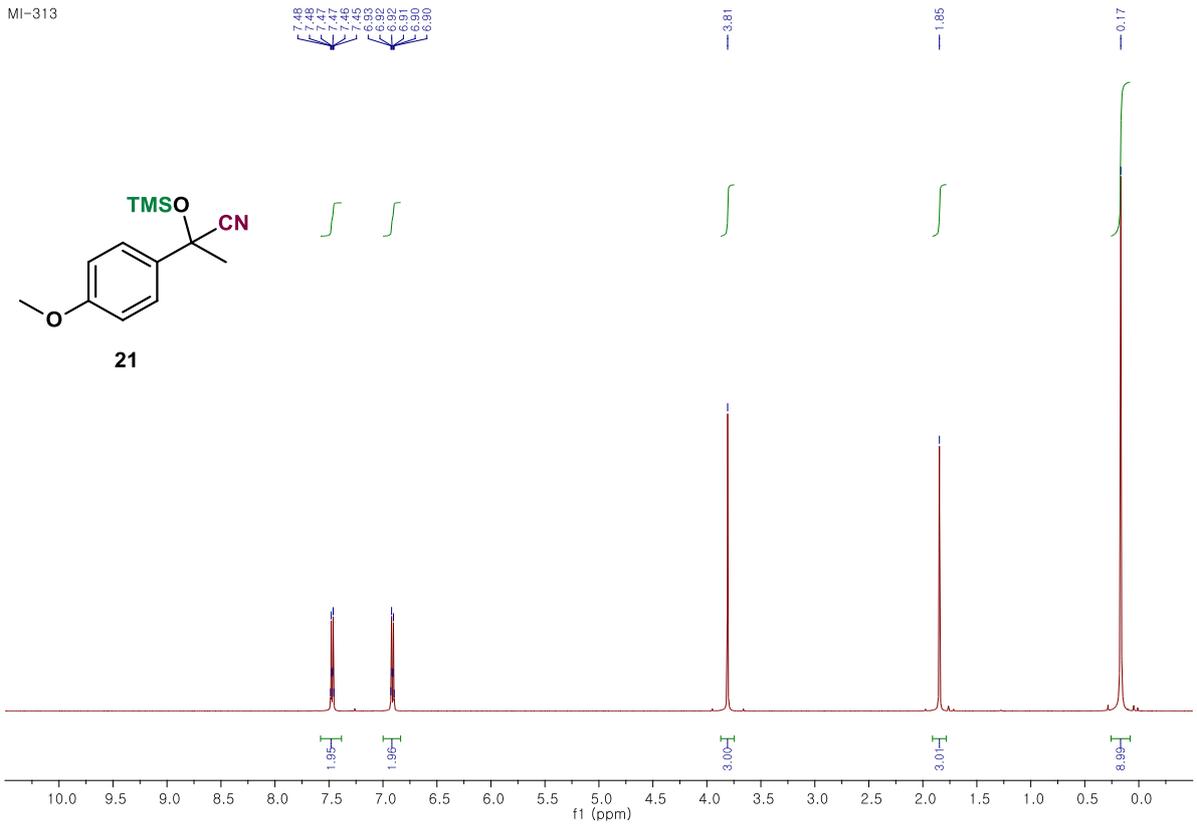
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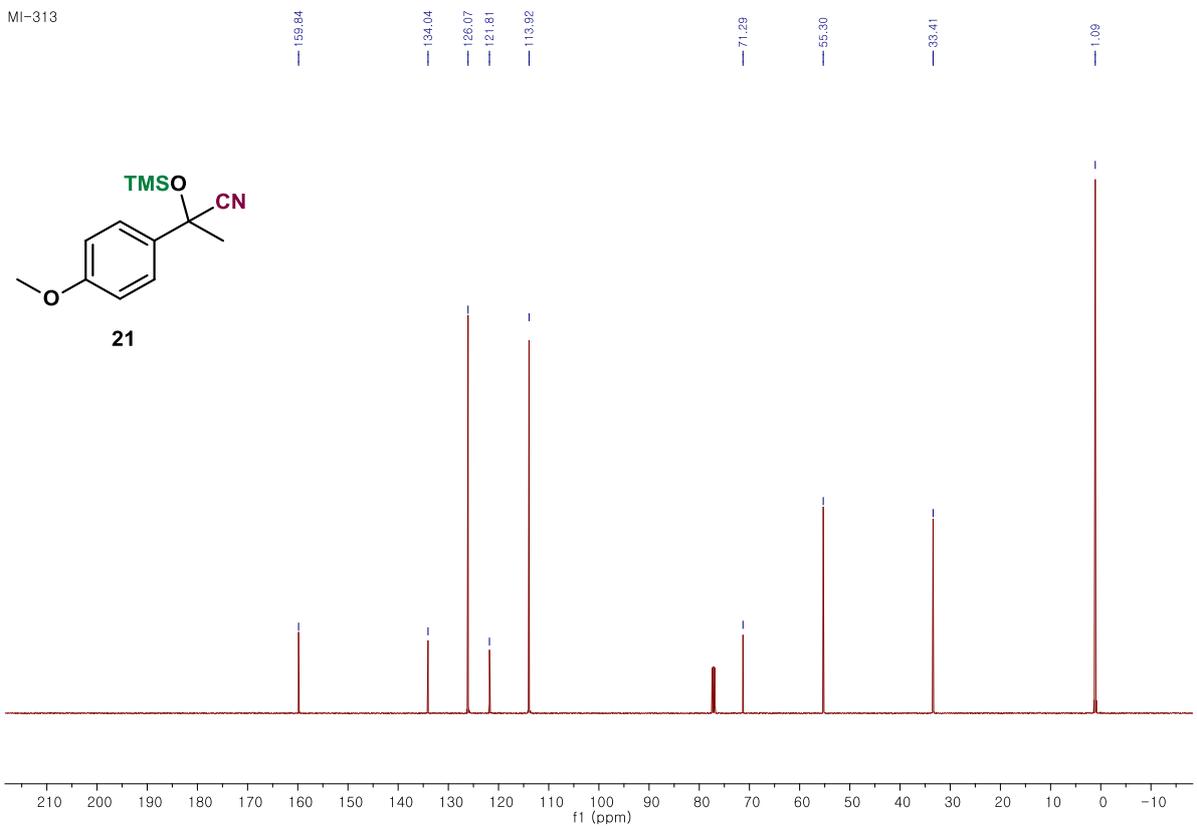
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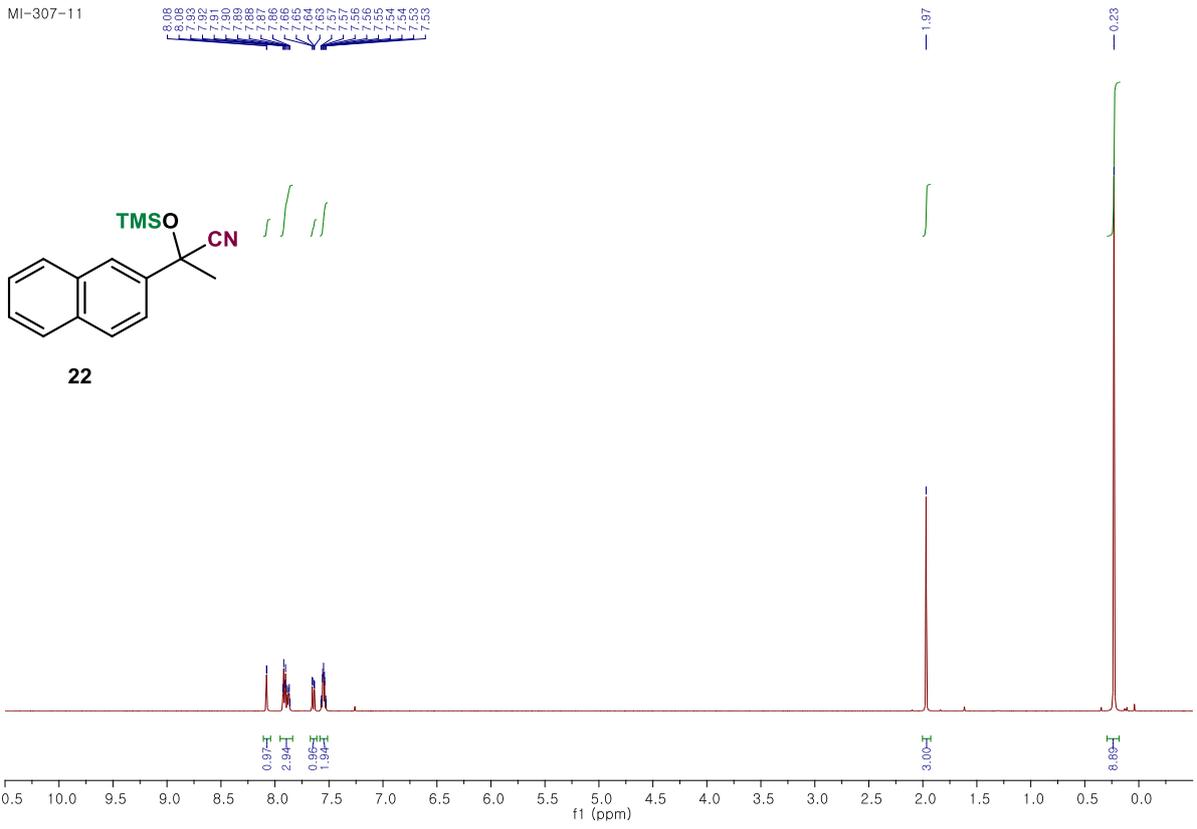
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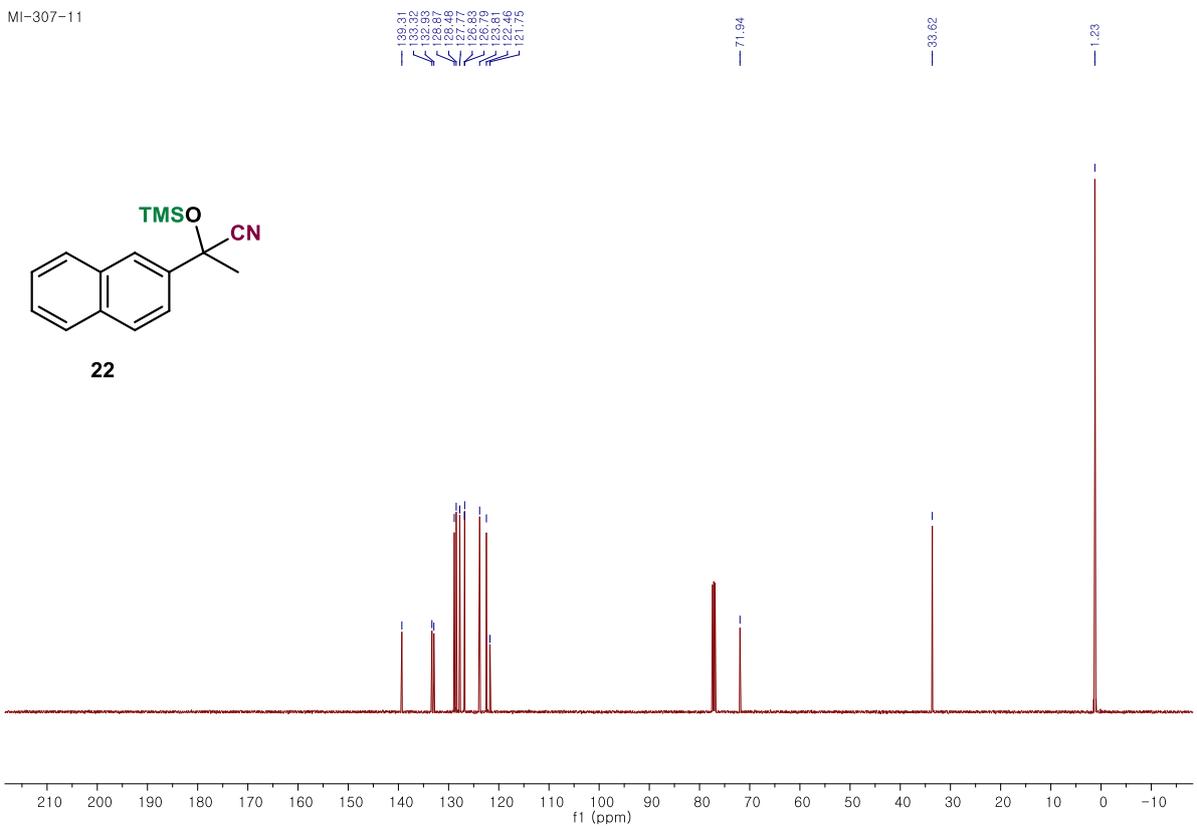
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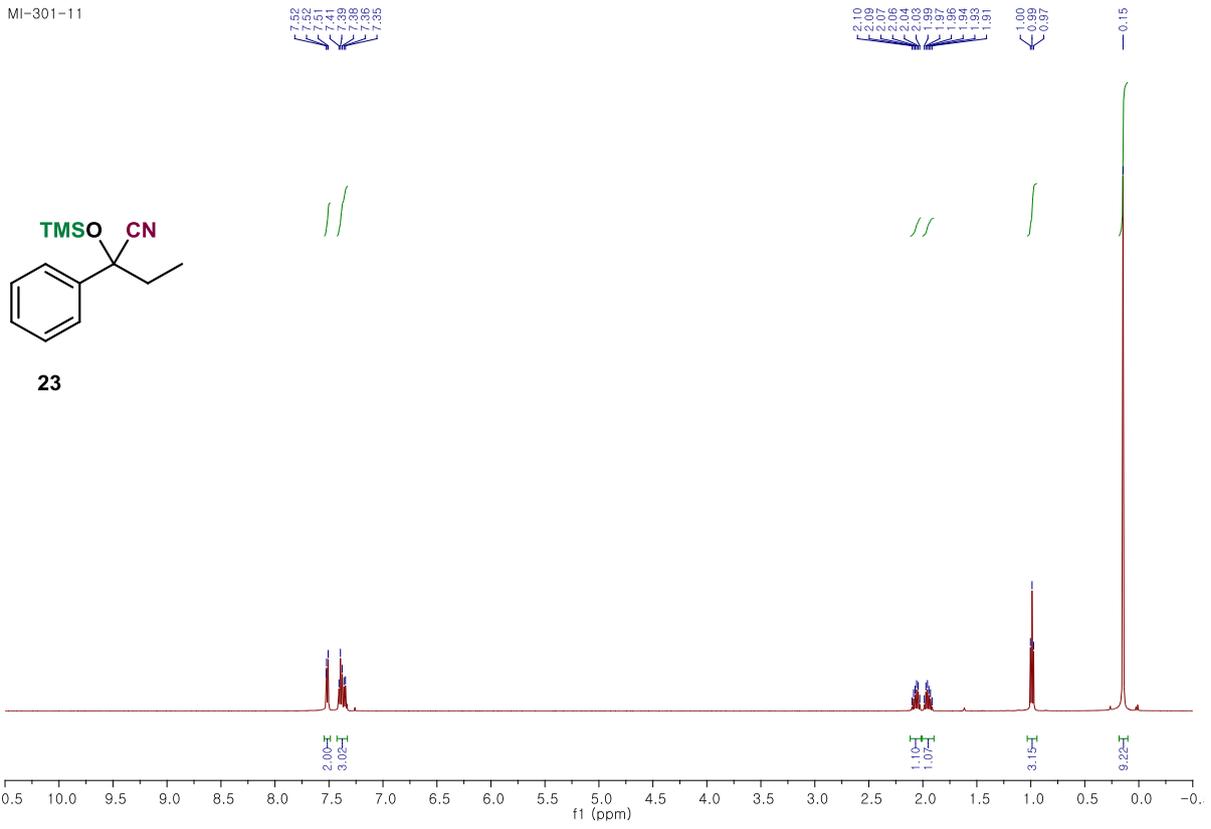
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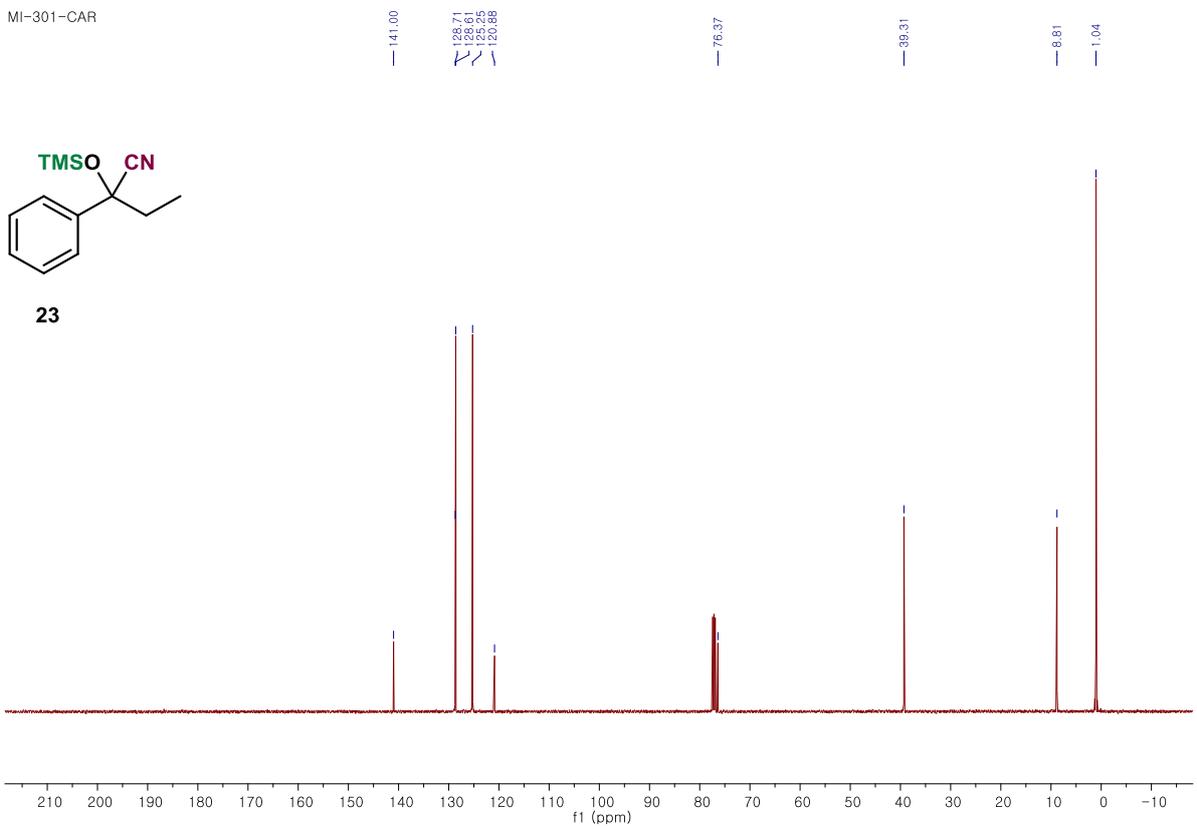
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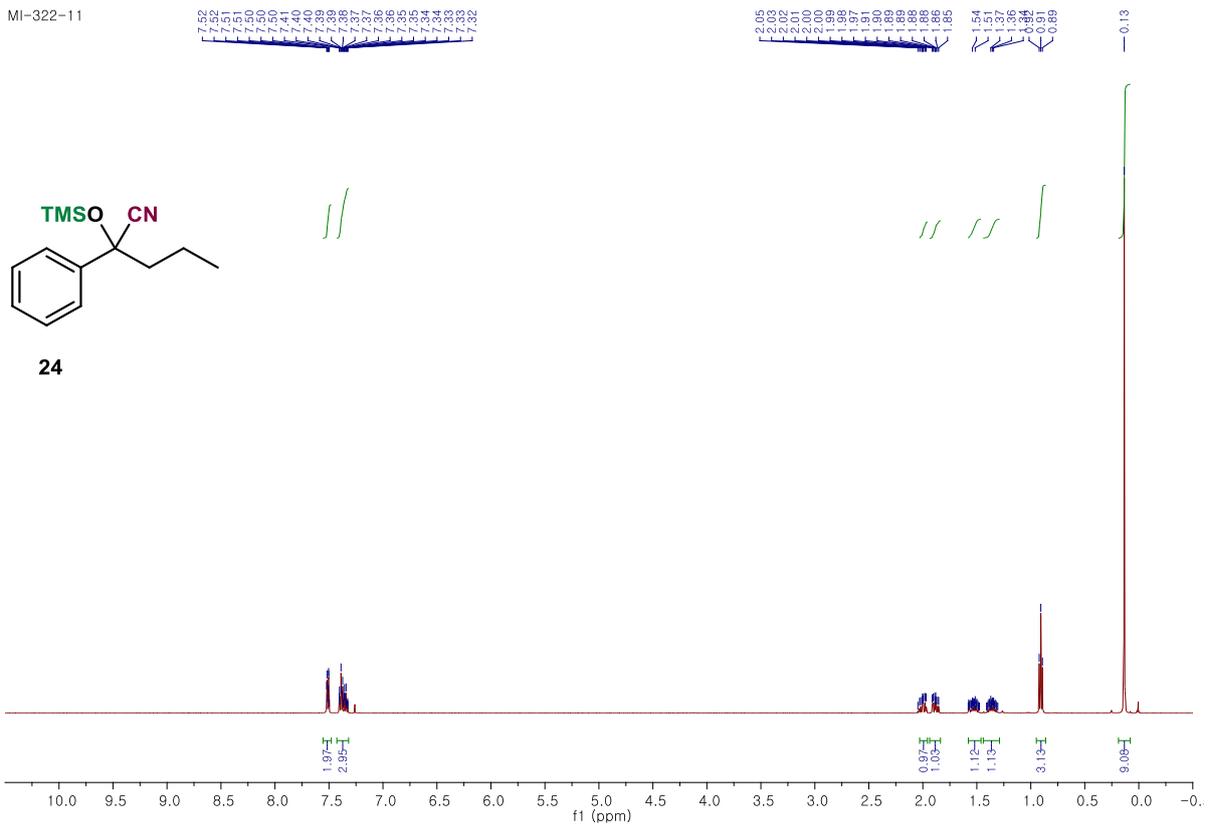
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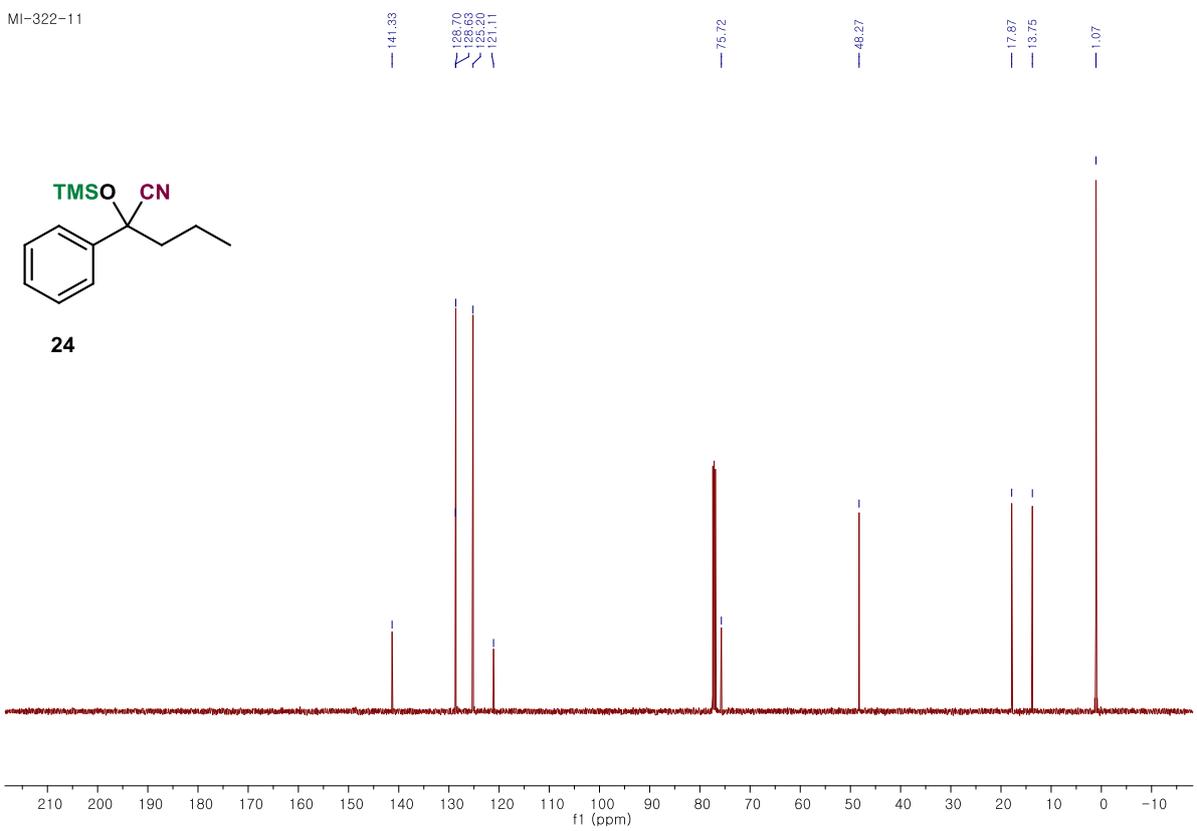
MI-301-CAR



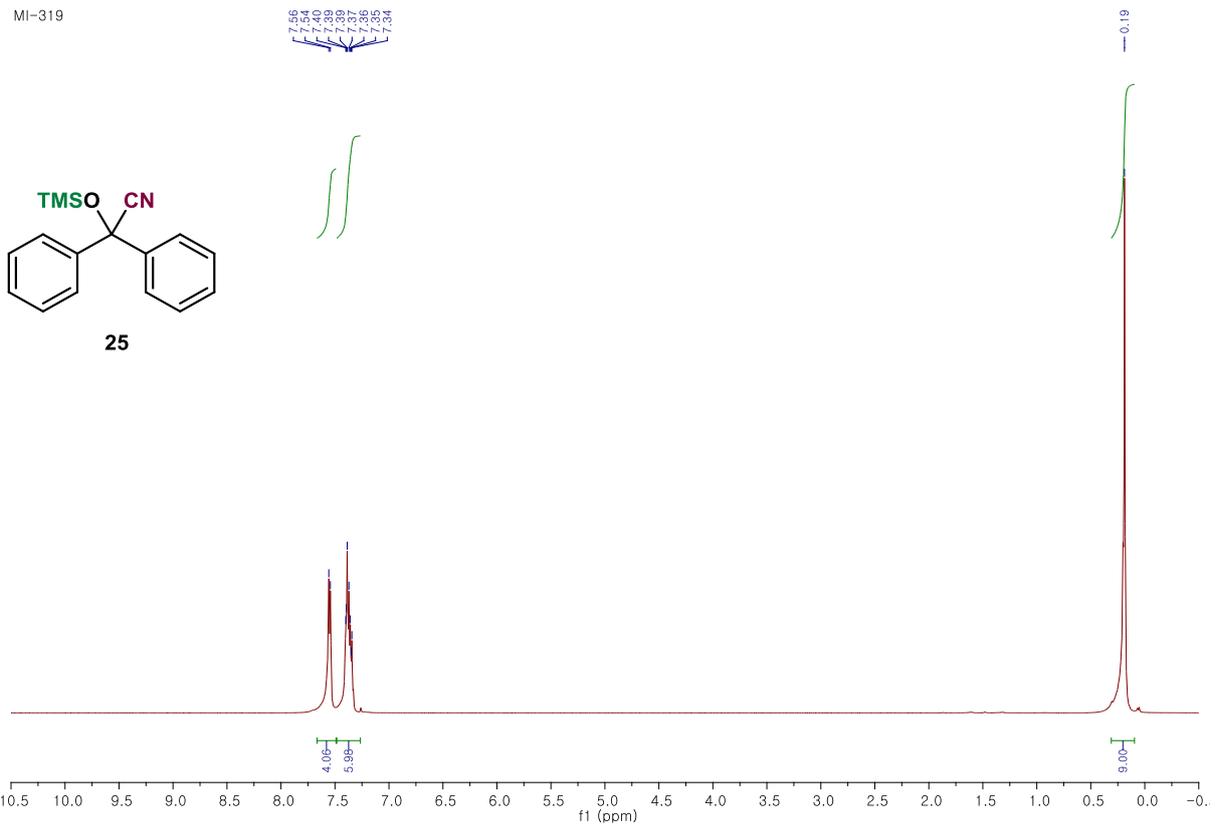
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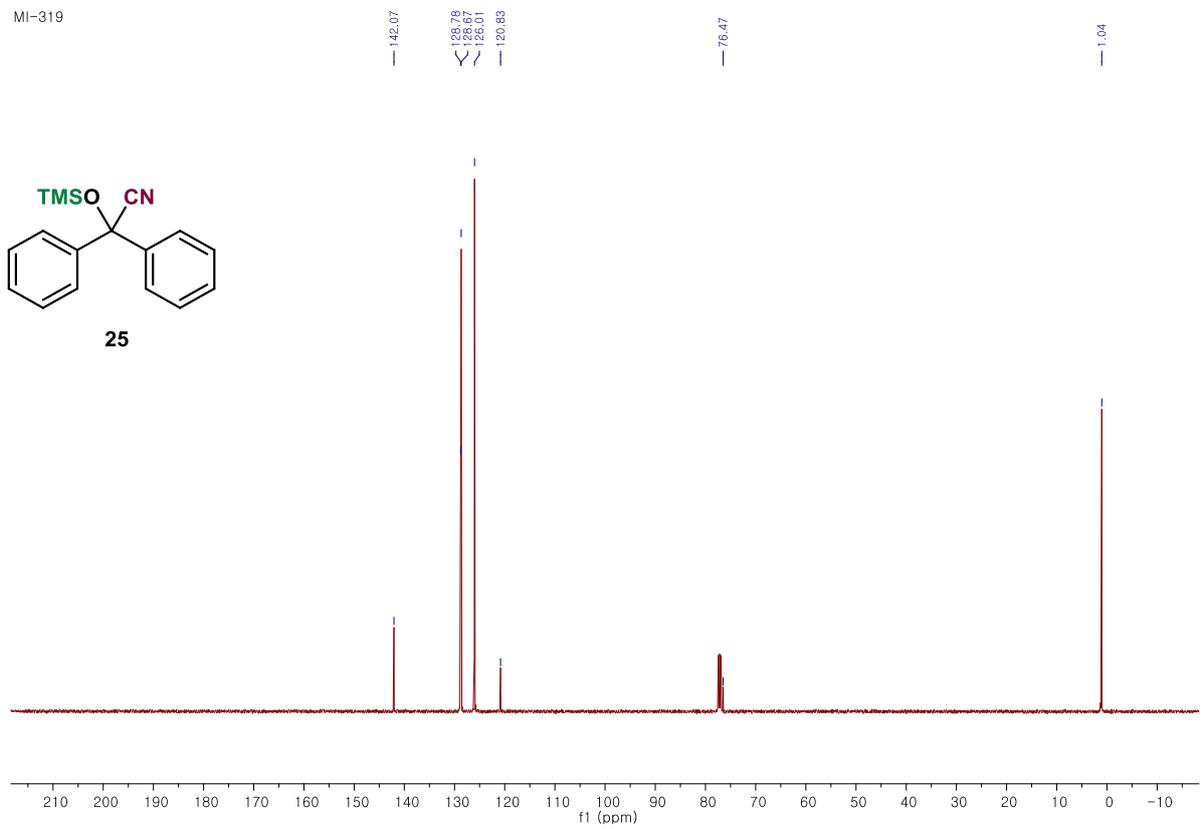
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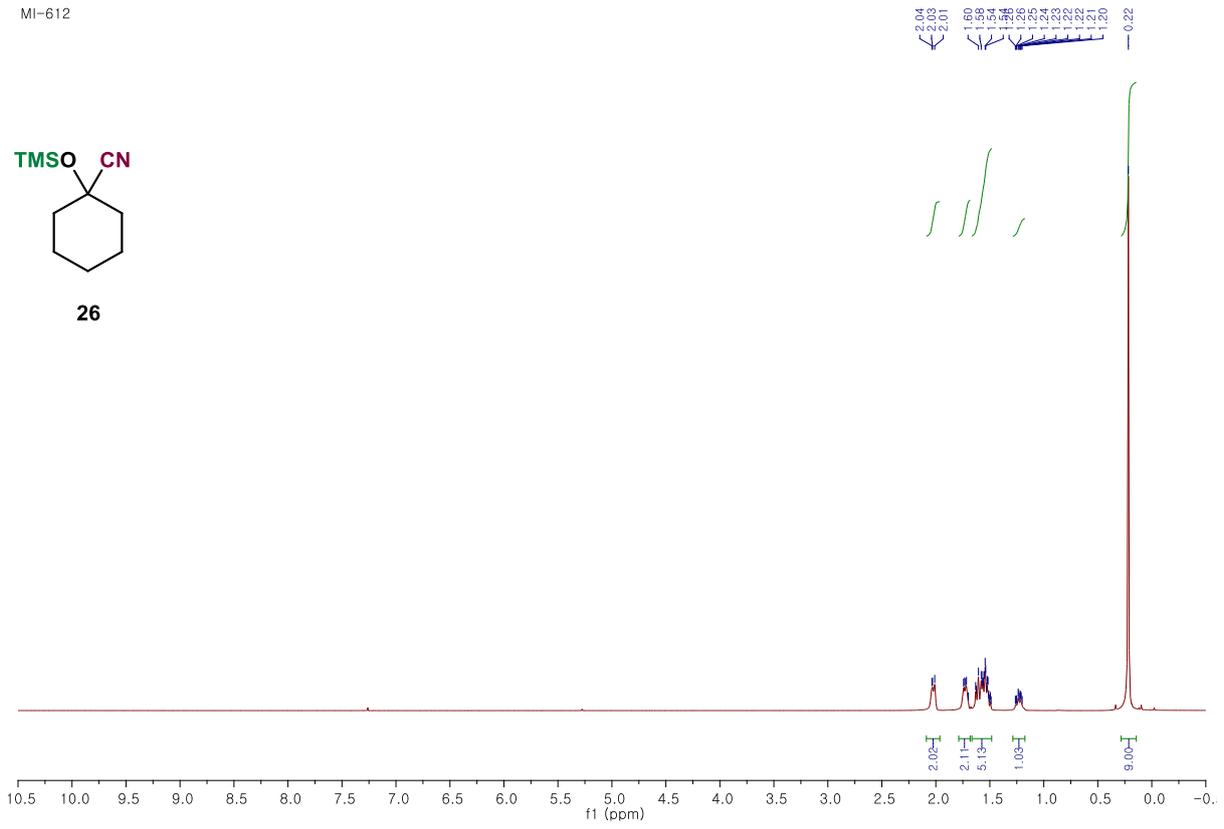
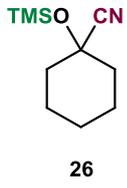
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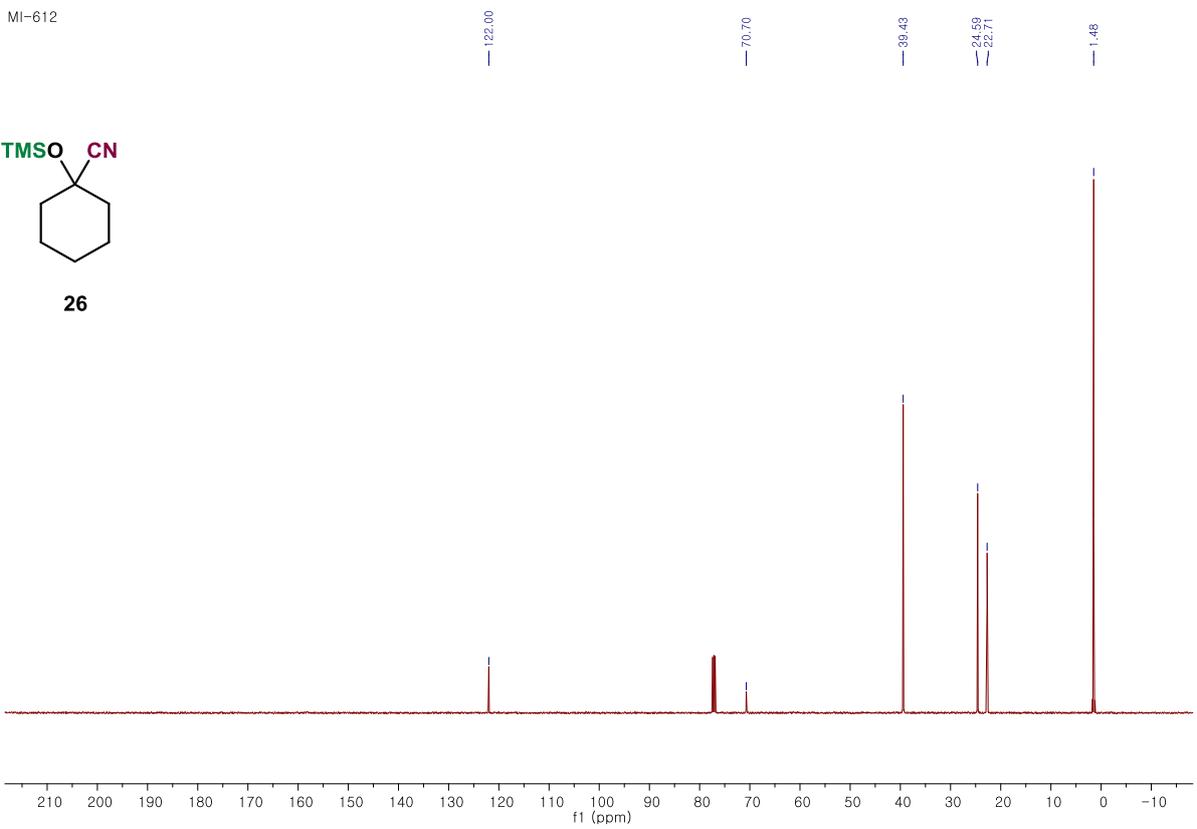
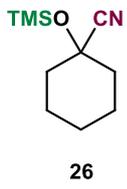
MI-319



MI-612

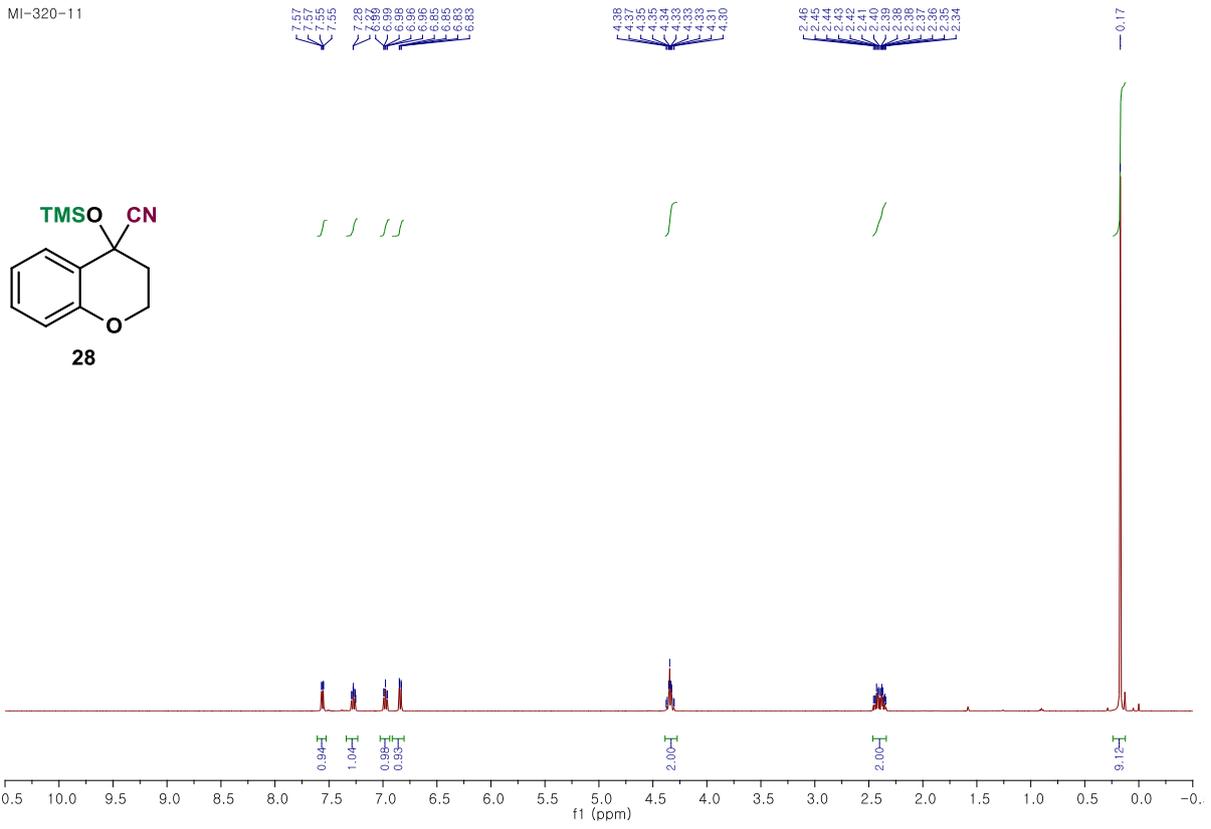


MI-612

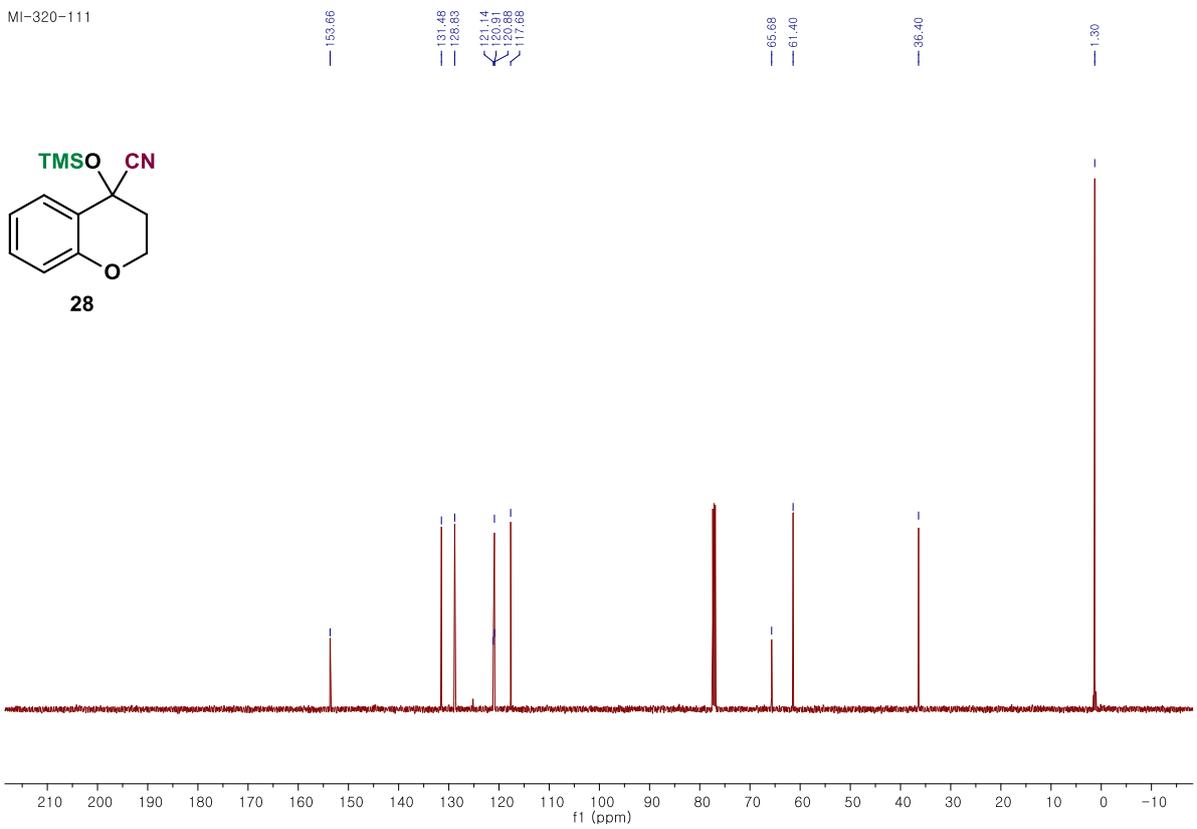




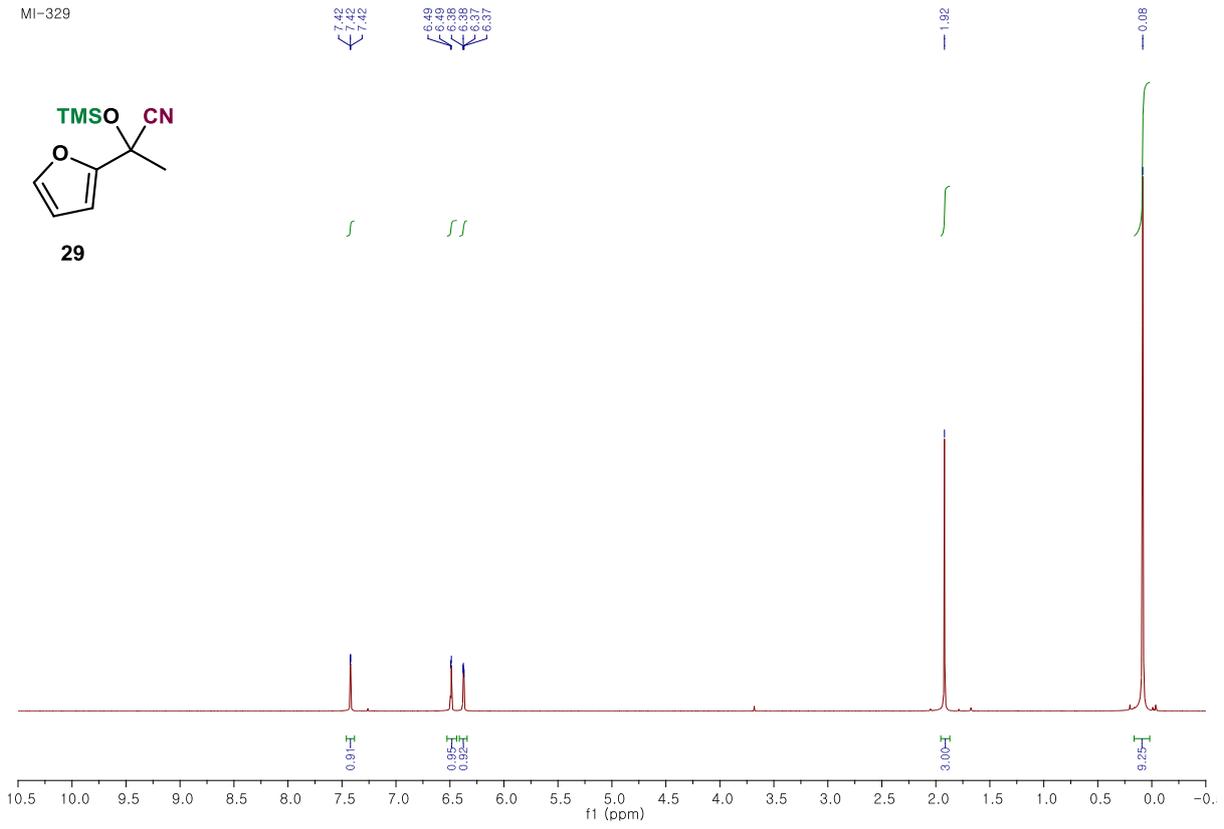
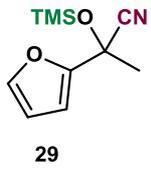
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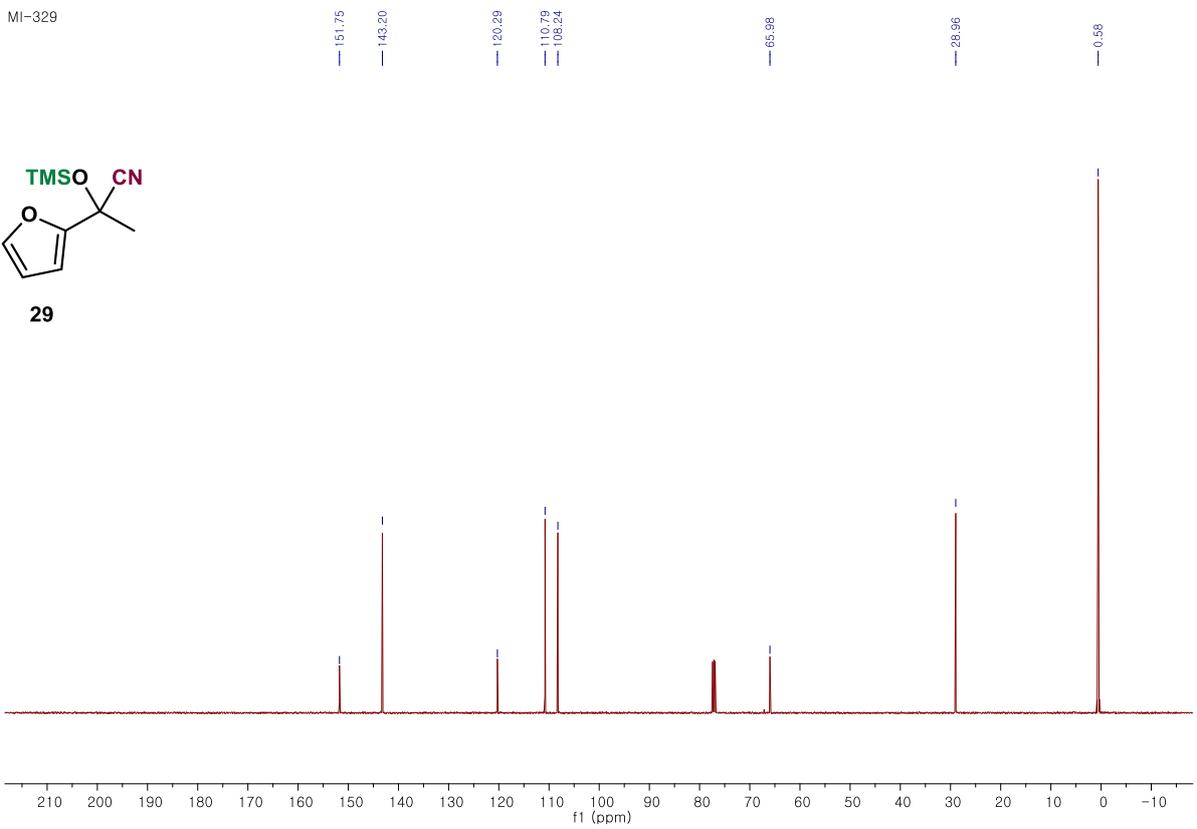
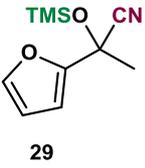
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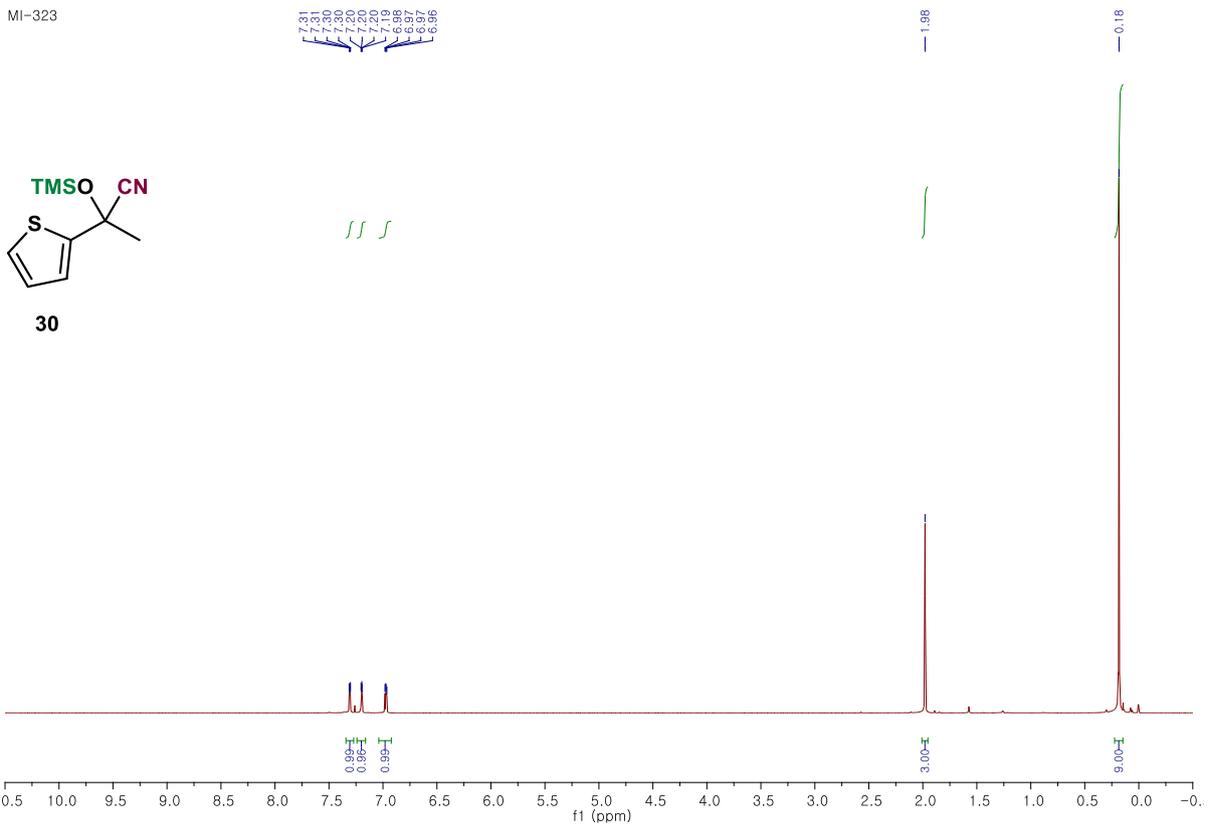
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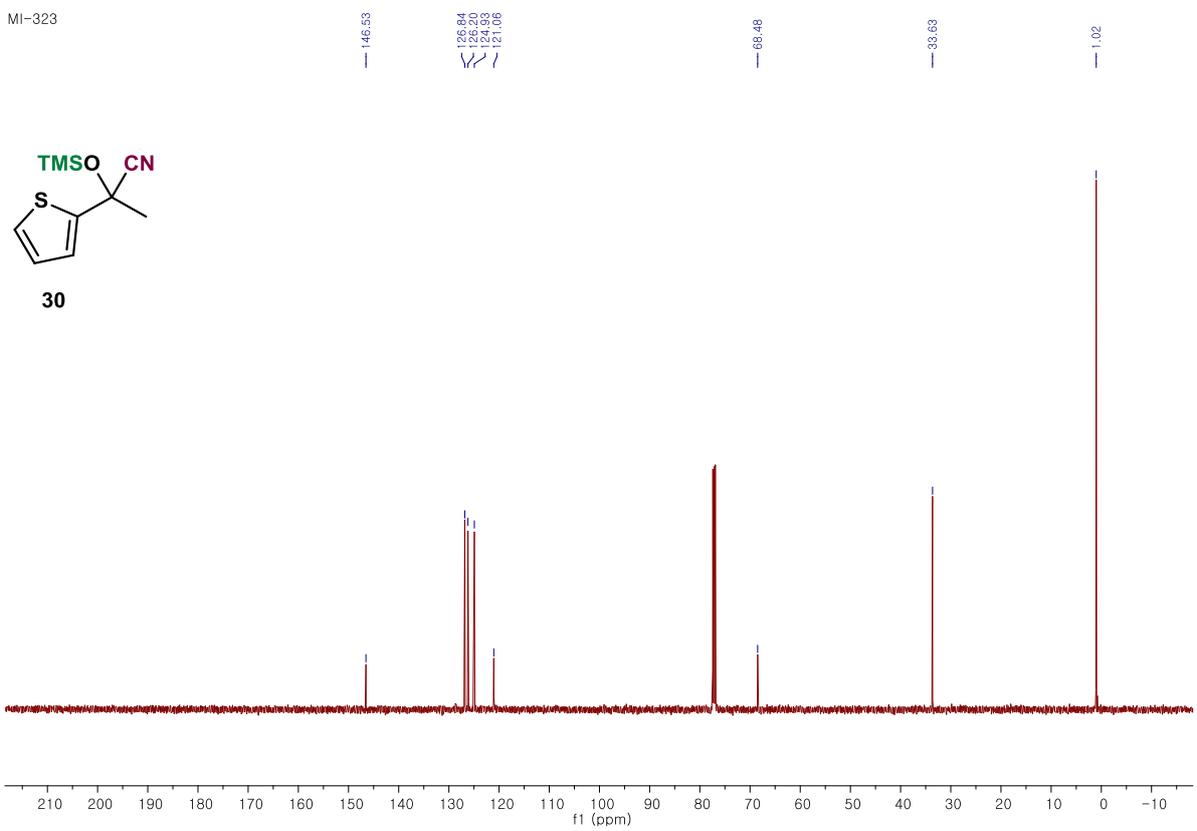
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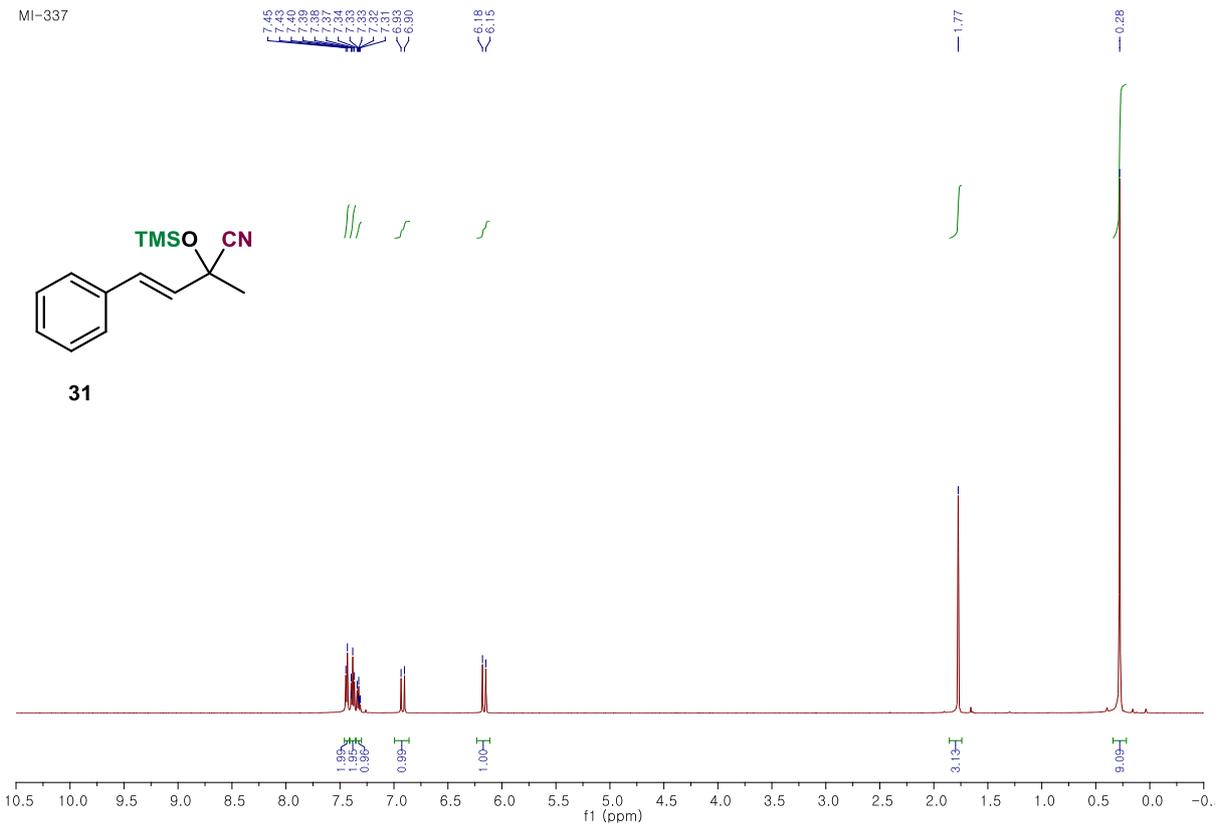
MI-323



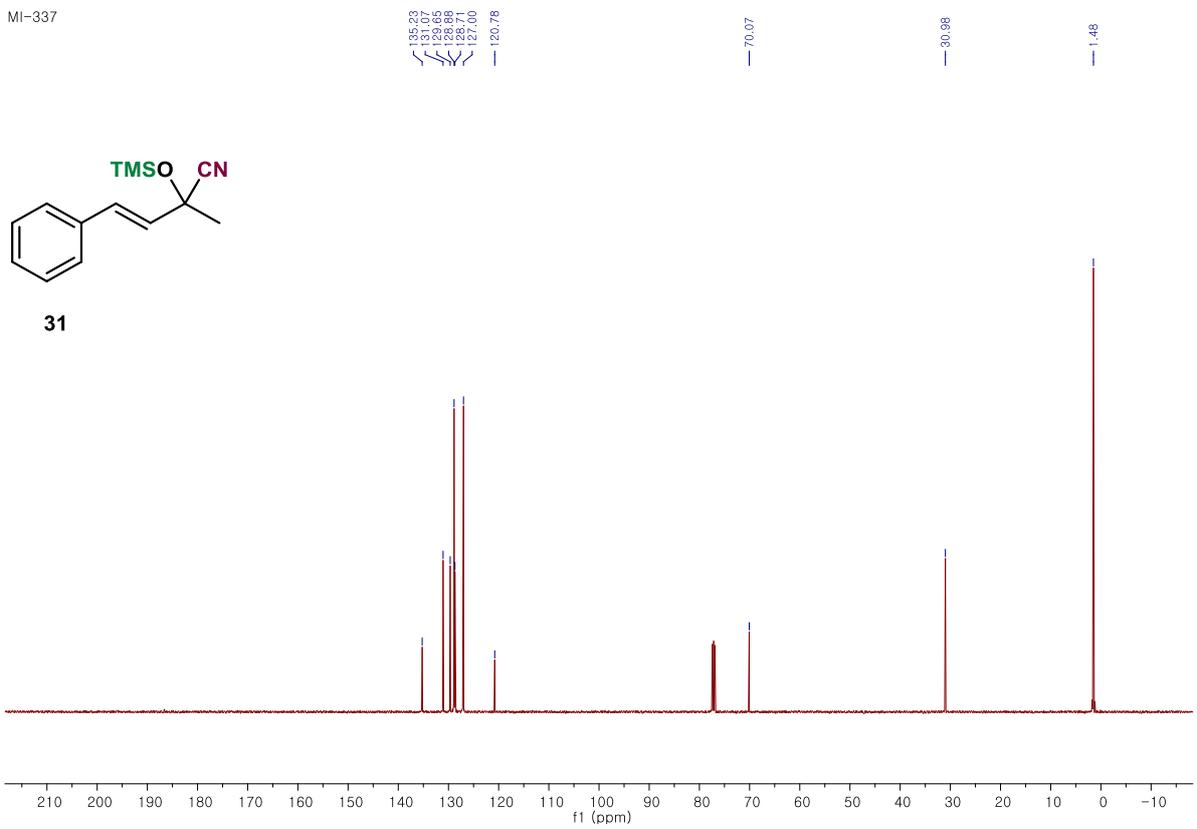
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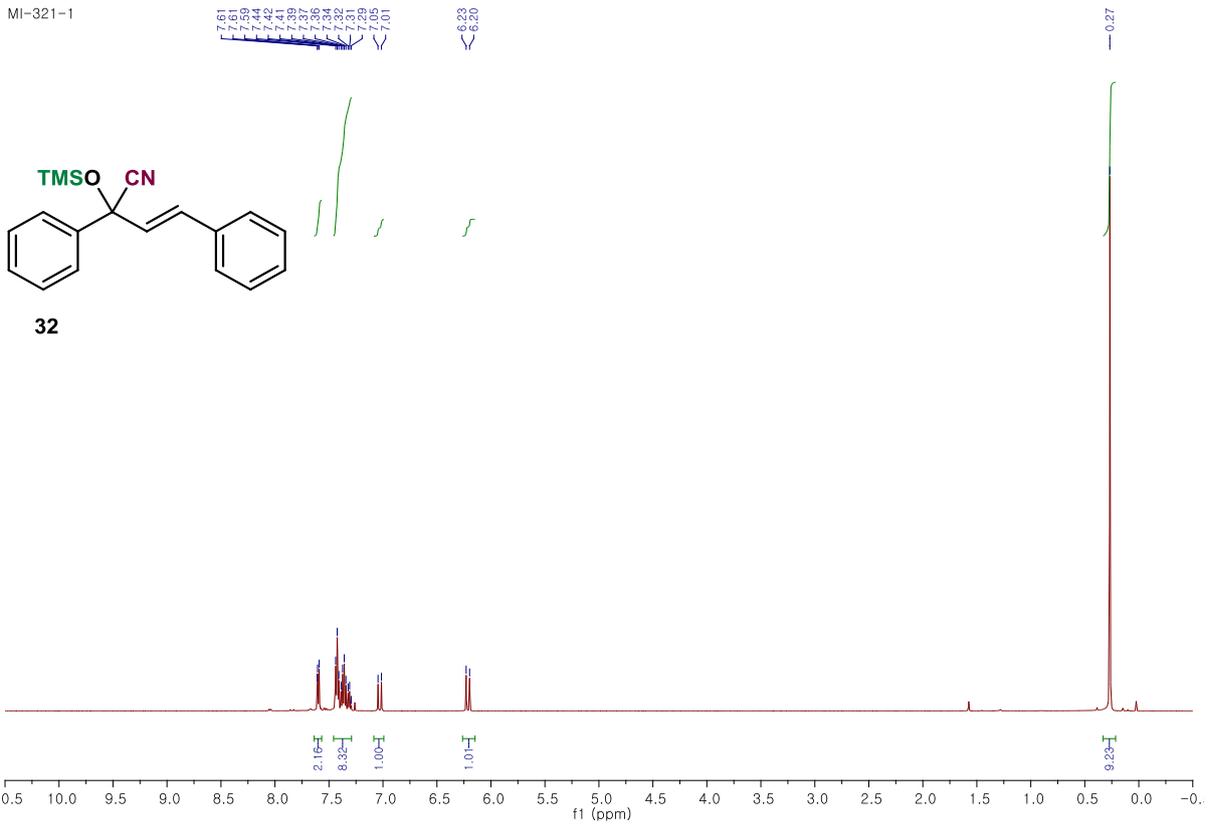
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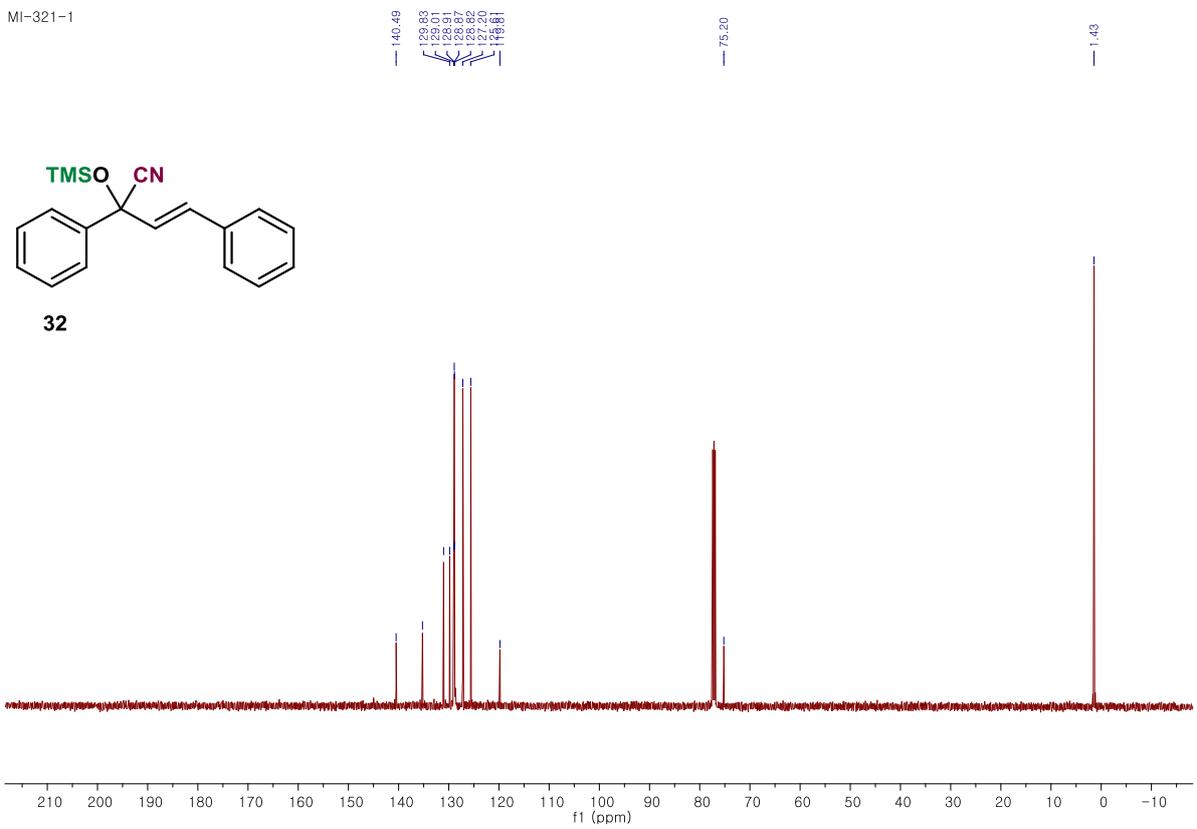
MI-337



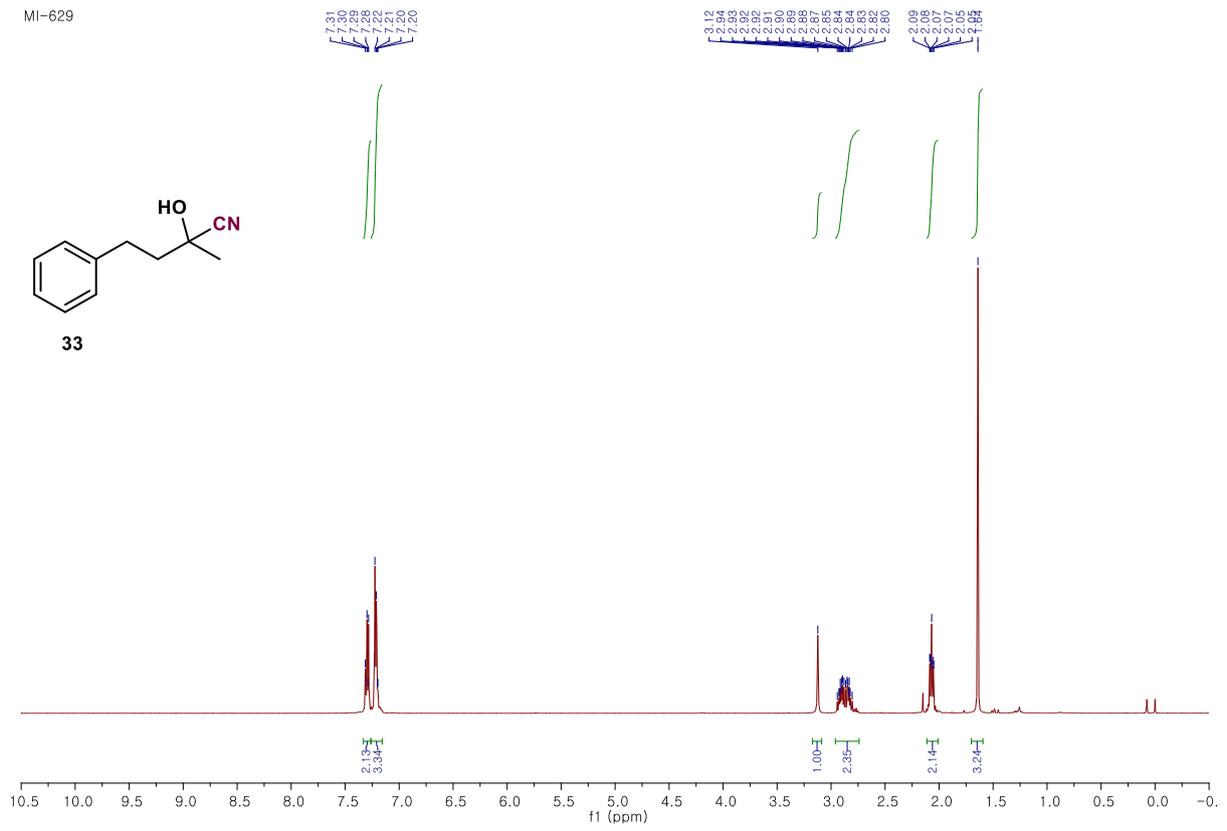
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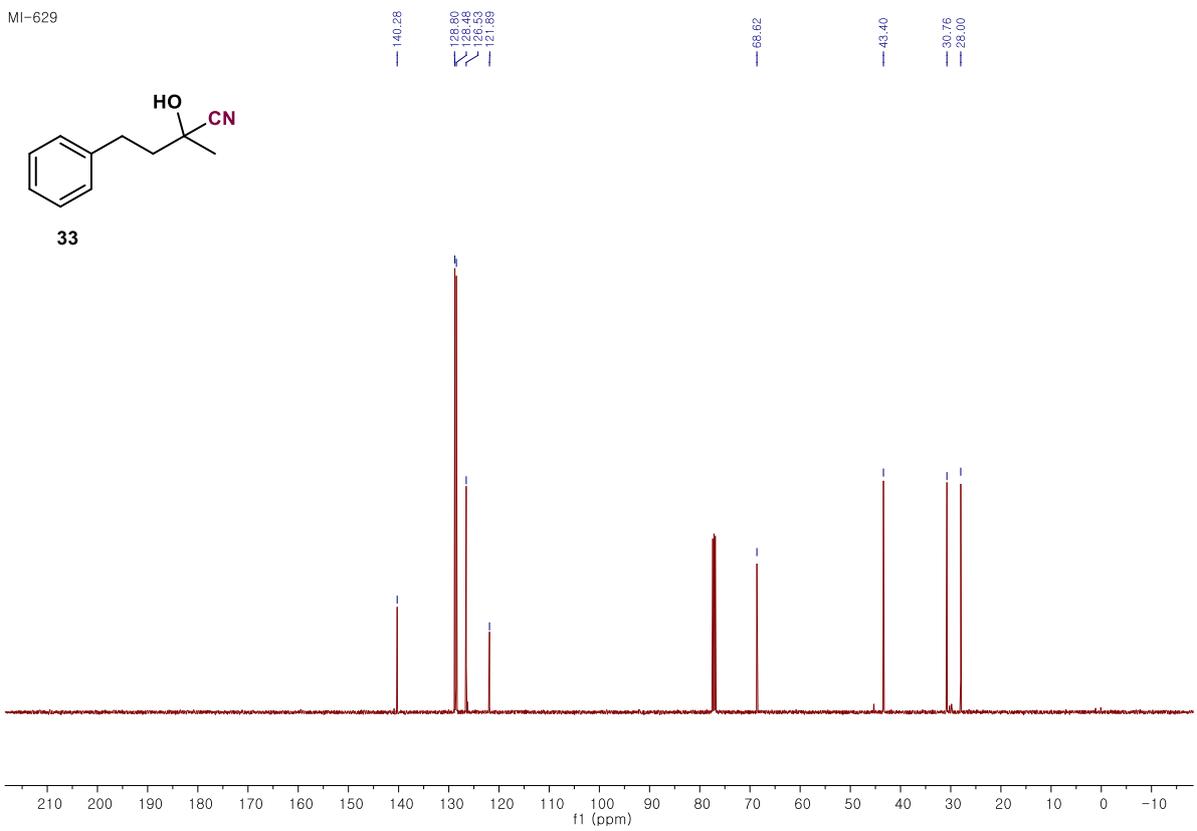
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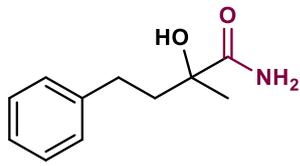
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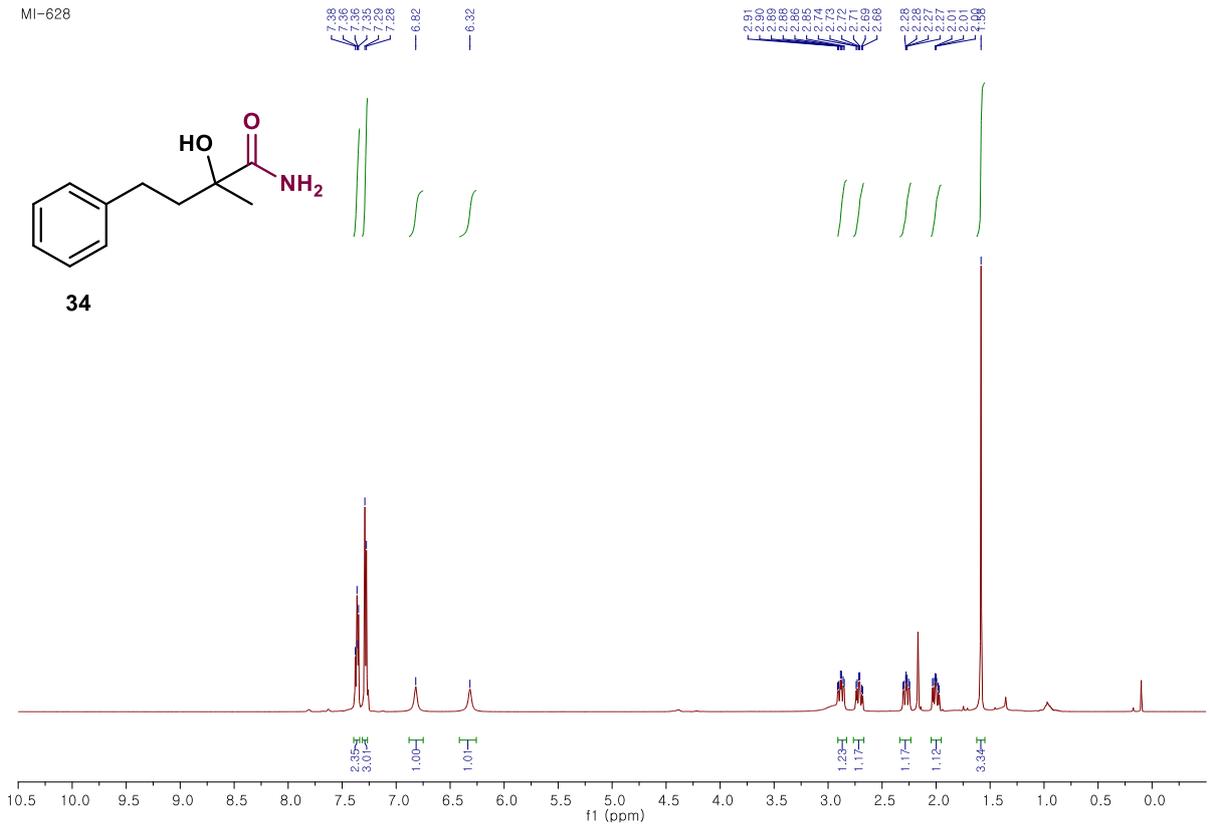
MI-629



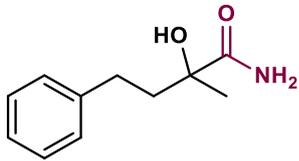
MI-628



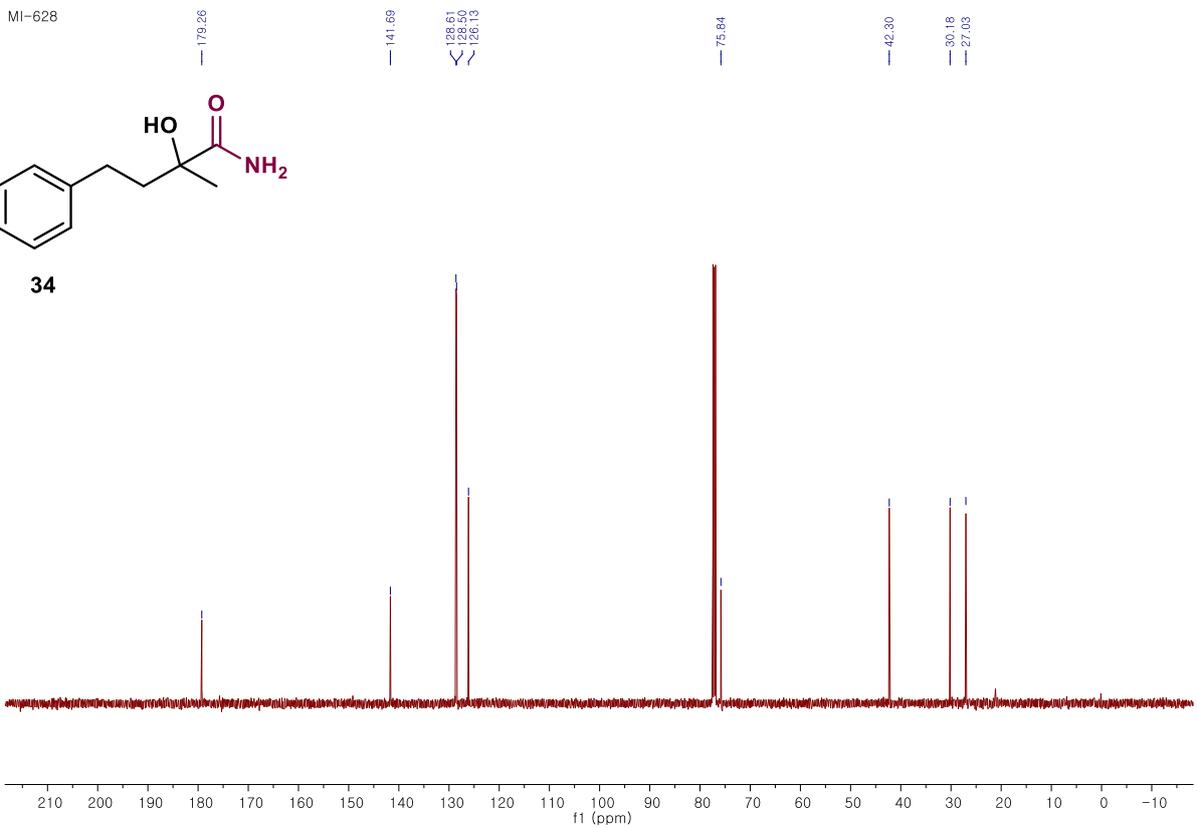
34



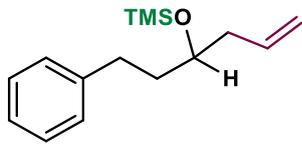
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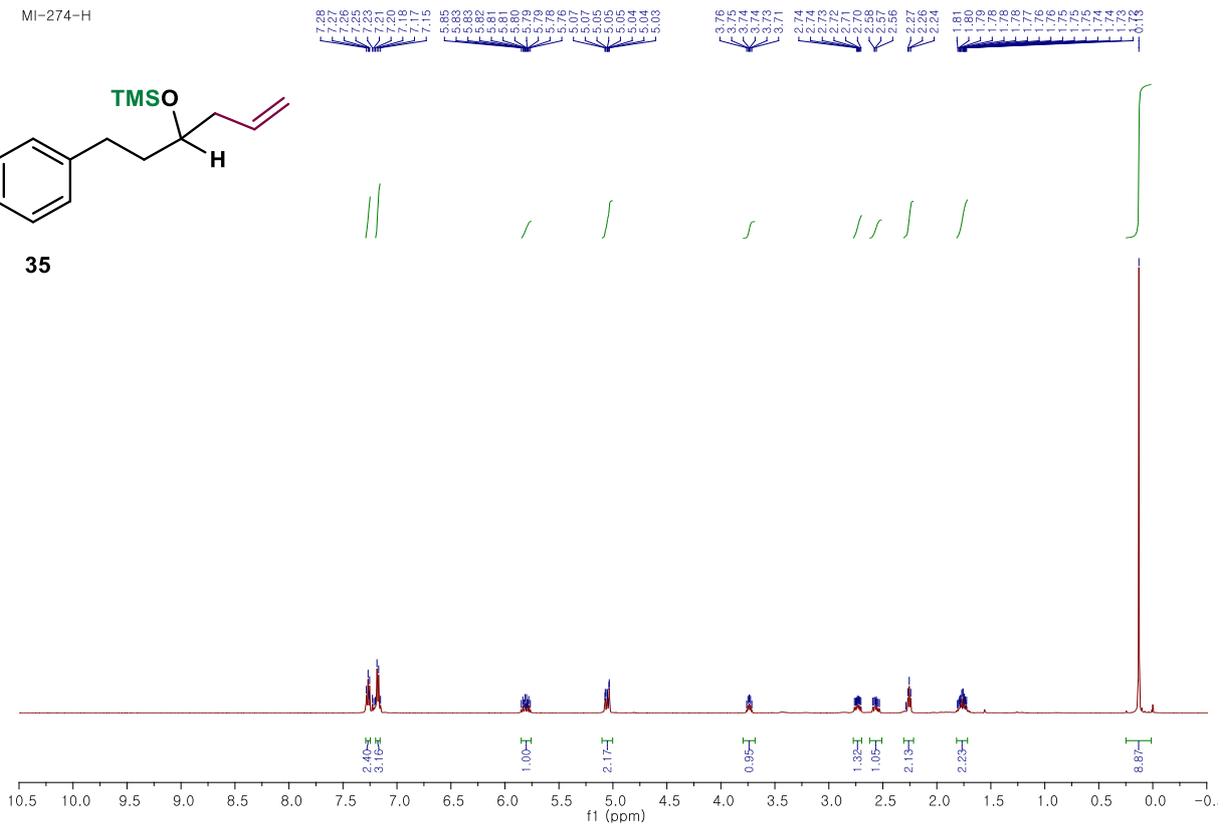
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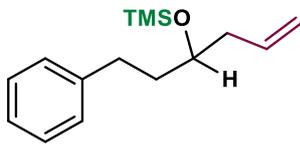
MI-274-H



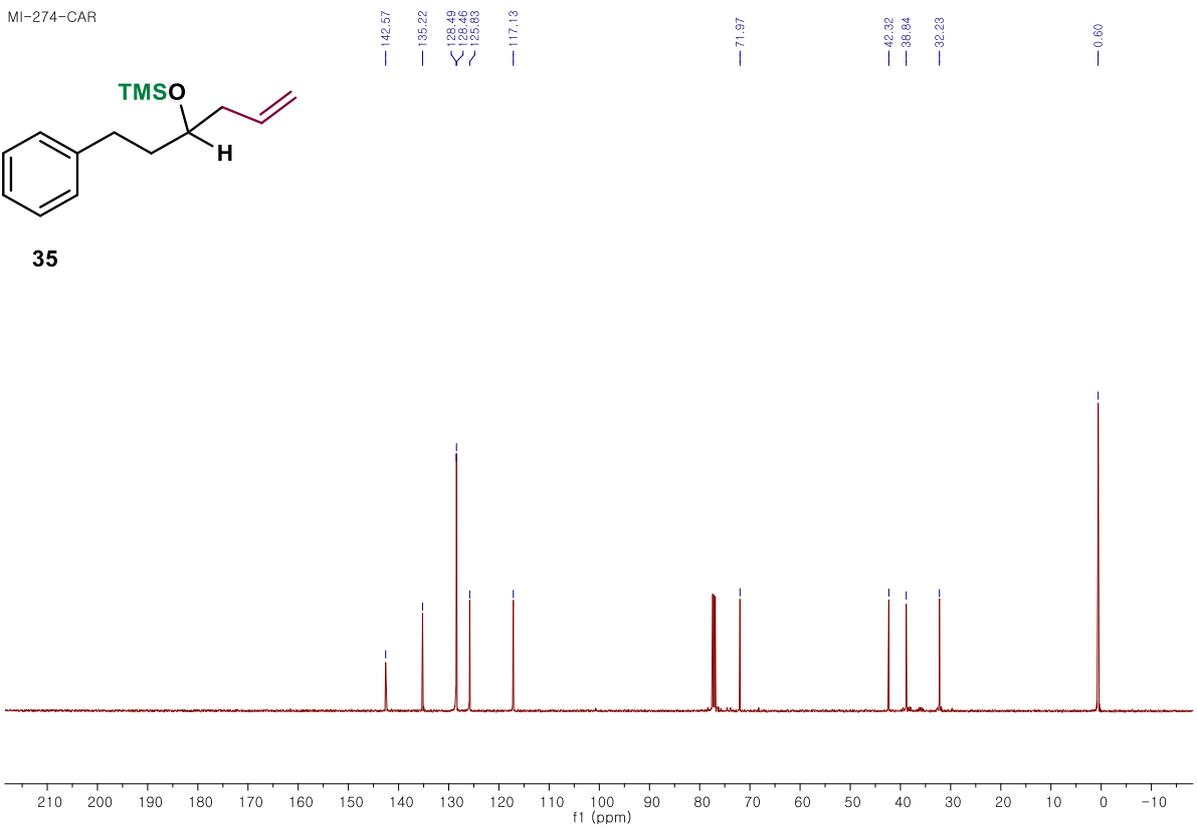
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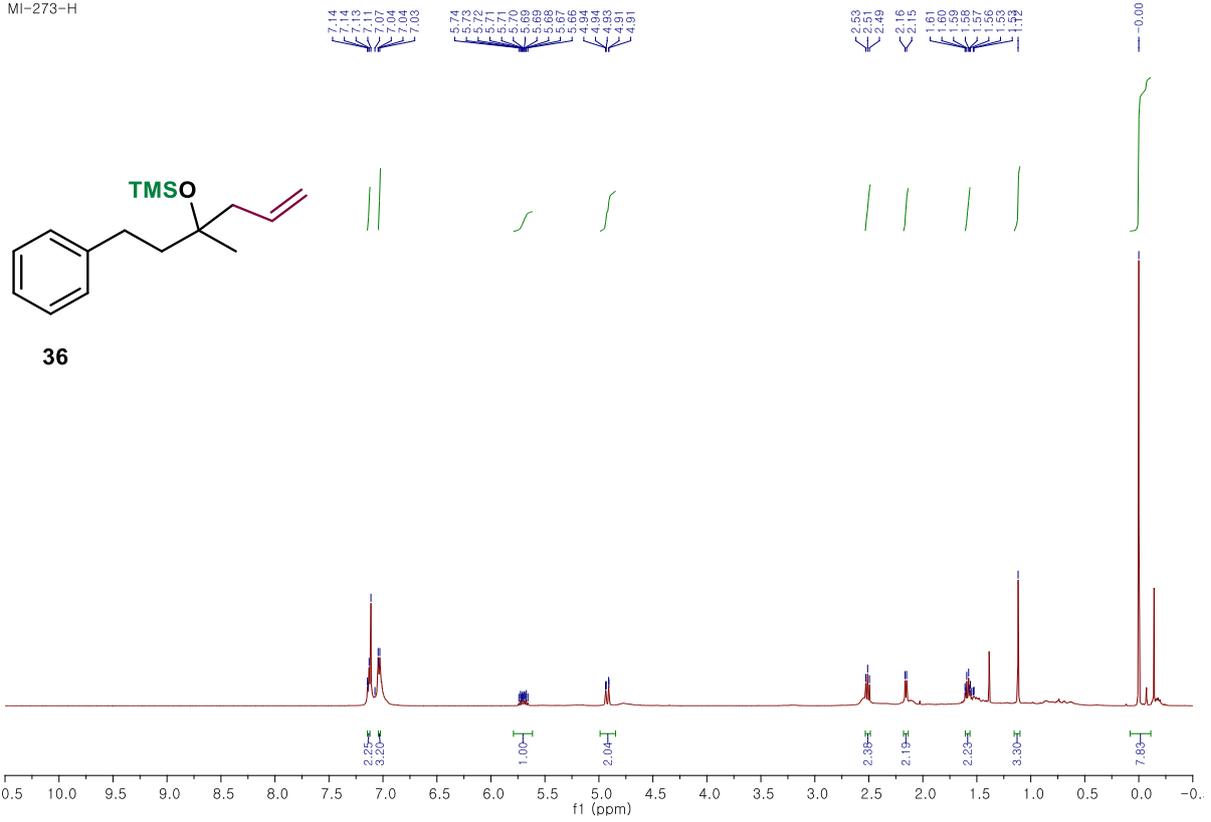
MI-274-CAR



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MI-273-H



MI-273-H

