

## General information

Unless otherwise stated, all the reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All the aldehydes liquid under standard conditions were filtrated through silica gel pads prior to being introduced in reactions. DMF used in the experiments contained 0.3 mass % of water.

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , and  $^{19}\text{F}$  spectra were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  on Bruker Avance 300, Bruker Avance 400, or Varian Inova 400 spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million relative to  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (7.26 and 77.16 ppm for  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  respectively). The following abbreviations were used to designate chemical shift multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, q = quartet, hept - septet, m = multiplet.

High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were registered on a TripleTOF 5600+ AM Sciex mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization (ESI). The voltage on the capillary was 5500 V in positive ion registration mode, 4500 V in negative ion registration mode; the range of scanned masses,  $m/z$  50-1000. The flux of the ion source gas was 15 arb, of the curtain gas – 25 arb. The sample was injected with an infusion pump.

GC-MS analyses were performed using a gas chromatograph (Chromatec) equipped with an AS-2M (3D) autosampler and a CR-5ms capillary column (30 m x 250  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and EI-mass detector. The instrument was set to an injection volume of 0.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , an inlet split ratio of 75:1, and inlet and detector temperatures of 250  $^\circ\text{C}$  and 250  $^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively. Helium was used as a carrier gas in isobaric conditions (60.9 kPa).

### Comparison between commercial dimethylamine solutions and DMF in terms of safety

According to Sigma's Safety Data Sheets, DMF has lower categories of hazard in flammability, acute toxicity and eye irritation. The table below provides the classification of these substances according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, which assigns substances numeric categories from 1 to 4, with 1 meaning the highest danger and 4 - -the lowest.

**Table S1. Classification of the substances according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.<sup>1</sup>**

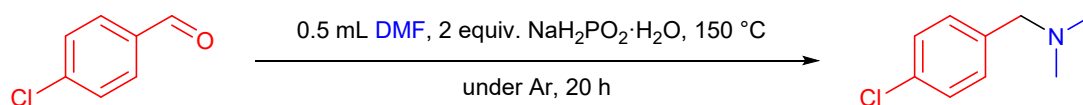
|                            | DMF | $\text{Me}_2\text{NH}/\text{THF}$ | $\text{Me}_2\text{NH}/\text{MeOH}$ |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Flammable liquids          | 3   | 2                                 | 2                                  |
| Acute toxicity, Inhalation | 4   | -                                 | 3                                  |
| Skin irritation            | -   | 2                                 | 2                                  |
| Eye damage                 | 2   | 1                                 | 1                                  |

## Optimization data

### General protocol of a typical optimization experiment

The reactions were set up in 10 mL Schlenk tubes. The Schlenk tube was connected to the Schlenk line and flushed three times with argon. Then the tube was charged with  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , p-chlorobenzaldehyde, water (if stated), DMSO (if stated), sealed and heated for a time specified in the tables below. Then the tubes were cooled, opened and an aliquot of the internal standard (N,N-dimethylaniline) in DMF was added into the Schlenk tube. Then a portion of the reaction mixture was analyzed with GC-FID. The calibration curve (product concentration) - (Peak of product: Peak of standard relation) had been obtained using NMR pure product and N,N-dimethylaniline.

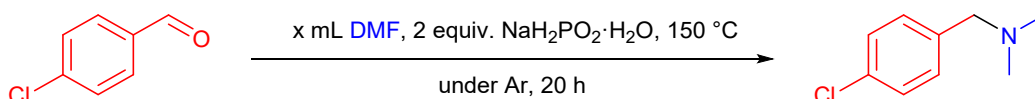
**Table S2. Temperature optimization**



| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Temperature, °C | Yield, % |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1                  | 150             | 53       |
| 2                  | 130             | 11       |
| 3                  | 110             | traces   |
| 4                  | 90              | traces   |
| 5                  | 70              | traces   |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.285 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 0.594 mmol  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.5 mL DMF.

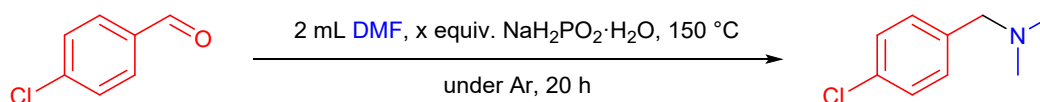
**Table S3. Concentration optimization**



| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Solvent volume, mL | Concentration, M | Yield, % |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1                  | 0.25               | 1.13             | 33       |
| 2                  | 0.5                | 0.58             | 53       |
| 3                  | 1                  | 0.29             | 55       |
| 4                  | 2                  | 0.14             | 62       |
| 5                  | 5                  | 0.057            | 62       |
| 6                  | 10                 | 0.029            | 69       |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.285 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 0.594 mmol  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**Table S4. Hypophosphite load optimization**

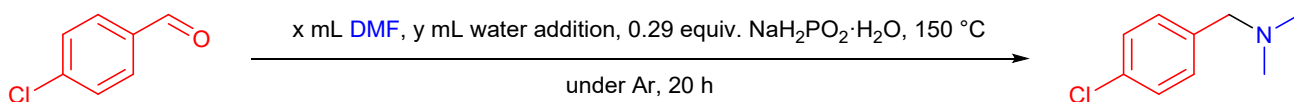


| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Hypophosphite load, equiv. | Yield, % |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1                  | 0                          | 16       |
| 2                  | 0.13                       | 45       |

|   |      |    |
|---|------|----|
| 3 | 0.26 | 91 |
| 4 | 0.53 | 75 |
| 5 | 1    | 64 |
| 6 | 2    | 62 |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.285 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 2mL DMF

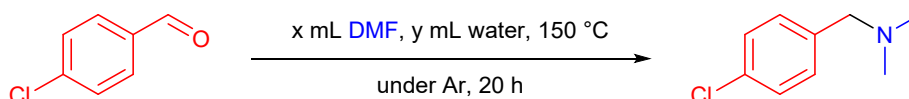
**Table S5. Water quantity optimization**



| Entry <sup>a</sup> | DMF volume, mL | Water volume, $\mu$ L | Water quantity, mmol <sup>b</sup> | Water quantity, equiv. | Yield, % |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1                  | 5              | 0                     | 0.99                              | 1.4                    | 58       |
| 2                  | 5              | 2                     | 1.1                               | 1.5                    | 71       |
| 3                  | 5              | 4                     | 1.2                               | 1.7                    | 73       |
| 4                  | 5              | 6                     | 1.3                               | 1.8                    | 95       |
| 5                  | 5              | 8                     | 1.4                               | 2.0                    | 94       |
| 6                  | 2              | 14                    | 1.5                               | 2.1                    | 91       |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.711 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 0.208 mmol NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O. <sup>b</sup>The values provided in the column refer to the total quantities of water in the solvent, NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O and added to the reaction mixture.

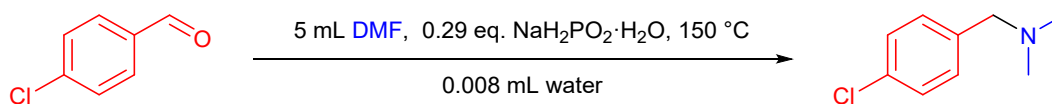
**Table S6. Control experiments: reactions without hypophosphite**



| Entry <sup>a</sup> | DMF volume, mL | Water volume, mL | Water quantity, equiv. | Yield, % |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1                  | 0.5            | 0.014            | 1.2                    | 24       |
| 2                  | 1              | 0.014            | 1.3                    | 23       |
| 3                  | 2              | 0.014            | 1.5                    | 11       |
| 4                  | 5              | 0                | 1.1                    | 5        |
| 5                  | 5              | 0.008            | 1.7                    | 8        |
| 6                  | 2              | 0.012            | 1.4                    | 18       |
| 7                  | 2              | 0.017            | 1.8                    | 11       |
| 8 <sup>b</sup>     | 2              | 0.014            | 1.5                    | 72       |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.711 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde. <sup>b</sup>180 °C.

**Table S7. Reaction time influence**

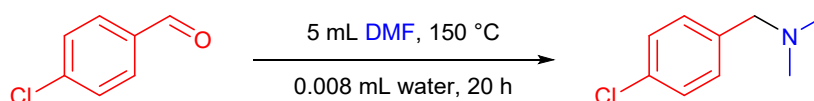


| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Time, h | Yield, % |
|--------------------|---------|----------|
|--------------------|---------|----------|

|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| 1 | 1  | 7  |
| 2 | 2  | 10 |
| 3 | 3  | 15 |
| 4 | 4  | 20 |
| 5 | 5  | 22 |
| 6 | 8  | 55 |
| 7 | 12 | 90 |
| 8 | 16 | 90 |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.711 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 0.208 mmol NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 5 mL DMF, 8 μL water.

**Table S8. Atmosphere influence**

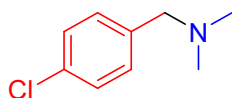


| Entry <sup>a</sup> | Atmosphere | Yield, % |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| 1                  | argon      | 94       |
| 2                  | air        | 90       |

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.711 mmol p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 0.208 mmol NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 5 mL DMF, 8 μL water.

### Substrate scope investigation

#### 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (1)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 100 mg (0.711 mmol) of p-chlorobenzaldehyde, 14 μL of H<sub>2</sub>O, 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 98 mg (81 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

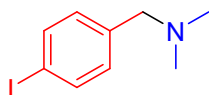
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 92 %.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.4, 132.8, 130.5, 128.5, 63.6, 45.3.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1-(4-iodophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (2)



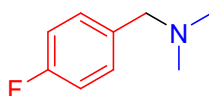
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 166 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of p-iodobenzaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 125 mg (67 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.7, 137.4, 131.1, 92.5, 63.8, 45.4.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>3</sup>

### 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (3)



A 100 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 497 mg (4.69 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 1.73 mL (2.0 g, 16.1 mmol, 1 eq) of p-fluorobenzaldehyde, 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 20 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 24.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 100 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 50 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 50 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL). These three ether fractions were combined, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 1.58 g (64 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

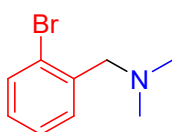
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.23 (m app as t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (m app as t,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 6H).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.64.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d)  $\delta$  162.1 (d,  $J$  = 244.8 Hz), 134.6 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz), 130.7 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz), 115.1 (d,  $J$  = 21.1 Hz), 63.6, 45.3.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>4</sup>

### 1-(2-bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (4)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 83.4  $\mu\text{L}$  (132.1 mg, 0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of o-bromobenzaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated

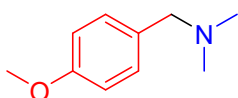
to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 20 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL). The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 110 mg (72 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.54 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (ddd, J = 7.7, 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, J = 7.7, 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 138.3, 132.9, 131.1, 128.6, 127.3, 124.9, 63.4, 45.7.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>5</sup>

### 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (5)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 90.8 μL (97.1 mg, 0.711 mmol) of p-methoxybenzaldehyde, 14 μL of H<sub>2</sub>O, 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 84 mg (71 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

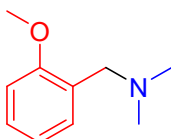
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 81 %.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.21 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.8, 131.0, 130.3, 113.6, 63.8, 55.3, 45.3.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>2</sup>

### 1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (6)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 97 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of o-methoxybenzaldehyde, 14 μL of H<sub>2</sub>O, 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent

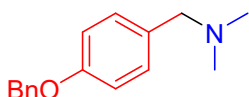
was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 83 mg (70 % yield) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.92 (dd,  $J = 7.4, 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  157.9, 131.0, 128.3, 126.7, 120.2, 110.4, 57.9, 55.4, 45.5.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>4</sup>

#### 1-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (7)



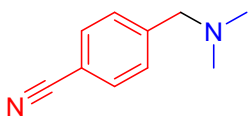
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 151 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of p-benzyloxybenzaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 148 mg (86 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.47 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 (m app as t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 3.37 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.0, 137.2, 131.3, 130.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.6, 114.6, 70.1, 63.8, 45.3.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>6</sup>

#### 4-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzonitrile (8)



A 100 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 470 mg (4.43 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 g (15.3 mmol, 1 eq) of p-cyanobenzaldehyde, 283  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 20 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 23.3 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 200 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 50 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 50 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL). The solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 1.0 g (41 %) of the product as a transparent yellowish oil.

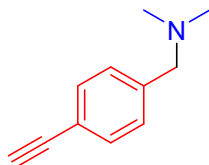
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 53 %.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d)  $\delta$  144.6, 132.1, 129.6, 119.0, 110.9, 63.8, 45.4.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>2</sup>

### 1-(4-ethynylphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (9)



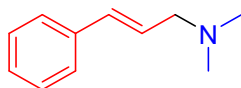
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 93 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of p-ethynylbenzaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 20 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL). These three ether fractions were combined, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 82 mg (72 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.42 (s, 2H), 3.06 (s, 1H), 2.24 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.8, 132.2, 129.2, 120.9, 83.8, 77.10, 64.1, 45.4.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>7</sup>

### (E)-N,N-dimethyl-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-amine (10)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 89.8  $\mu\text{L}$  (94.2 mg, 0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of *trans*-cinnamaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 20 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), and the resulting ether fraction was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After evaporation of the solvent, 73 mg of crude product was obtained, which was 10 : 1 mixture of the target product and N,N-dimethyl-3-phenylpropanamine. The product (58 mg of a yellowish oil, 50 % yield) was isolated via column chromatography of the mixture (Acros Organic silica gel 0.06–0.2 mm, 6 % MeOH-DCM, product  $R_f = 0.25$ ).

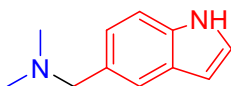
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 (m app as t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.27 (dt,  $J = 15.8, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H).



$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.0, 133.1, 128.7, 127.7, 126.9, 126.5, 62.1, 45.2.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>5</sup>

### 1-(1H-indol-5-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (11)



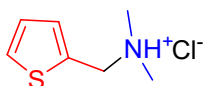
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 104 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 5-formylindole, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 20 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL). These three ether fractions were combined, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 64 mg (51 %) of product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.64 (s, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.4, 129.5, 127.9, 124.7, 123.7, 121.5, 111.1, 102.5, 64.8, 45.2.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>8</sup>

### N,N-dimethyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (12)



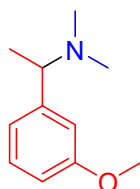
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 66.8  $\mu\text{L}$  (80 mg, 0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 2-formylthiophene, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF. Then HCl in ether was added, the ether was evaporated with a rotary evaporator, and the residue was dried in vacuo under 50  $^\circ\text{C}$ . 115 mg (86 % yield) of product were isolated as a white solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.17 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.67 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  132.2, 131.0, 129.2, 127.6, 52.8, 40.9.

HRMS (ESI (+), acetonitrile;  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{SN}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  142.0685. Found: 142.0691.

### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylethan-1-amine (13)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 100.8  $\mu\text{L}$  (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of *m*-methoxyacetophenone, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL of DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 180 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 30 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), and the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give a yellowish oil.

The oil was dissolved in 10% HCl solution, washed with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10 to the aqueous layer. The layer was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 100 mg (78 %) of the product as a transparent yellowish oil.

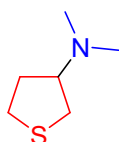
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 78 %.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.39 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.01 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.23 (q,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 6H), 1.39 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  159.7, 146.1, 129.2, 120.0, 113.0, 112.3, 66.2, 55.3, 43.5, 20.6.

The spectra are in agreement with the literature data.<sup>9</sup>

#### **N,N-dimethyltetrahydrothiophen-3-amine (14)**



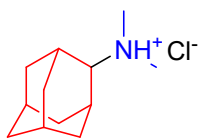
A 100 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 604 mg (5.70 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 1.75 mL (2.0 g, 19.6 mmol, 1 eq) of 3-oxothiolane, 365  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 20 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 29.1 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 100 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 50 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF, and then washed with aqueous acid (3 \* 50 mL, 10 % v/v concentrated HCl in water). The acidic fraction was combined, washed with ether (3 \* 50 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10. The resulting liquid was extracted with ether (3 \* 50 mL). These three ether fractions were combined, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 0.83 g (31 %) of product as a dark-brown oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.97 – 2.78 (m, 4H), 2.78 – 2.67 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 2.30 – 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.74 (m, 1H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  70.6, 44.3, 33.8, 33.2, 28.6.

HRMS (ESI (+), acetonitrile;  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14}\text{SN}^+$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  132.0841. Found: 132.0841.

### N,N-dimethyladamantan-2-amine hydrochloride (15)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 107 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 2-adamantanone, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL DMF, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL) to get rid of the remaining DMF. Then HCl in ether was added, the ether was evaporated with a rotary evaporator, and the residue was dried in vacuo under 50 °C. 159 mg (99 % yield) of product were isolated as a white solid.

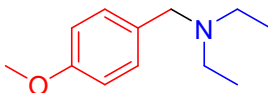
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  9.94 (s, 1H), 3.20 (m app as d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.72 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 6H), 2.29 (m app as s, 2H), 2.19 (m app as d,  $J = 13.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.90 – 1.76 (m, 4H), 1.76 – 1.64 (m app as s, 4H), 1.50 (m app as d,  $J = 13.3$  Hz, 2H).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$  3.18 (s, 1H), 2.80 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 2H), 1.90 (m app as d,  $J = 12.7$  Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.72 – 1.62 (m, 8H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )  $\delta$  71.6, 41.2, 36.13, 36.07, 29.7, 27.7, 25.9, 25.8.

HRMS (ESI (+), acetonitrile;  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  180.1747. Found: 180.1744.

### N-ethyl-N-(4-methoxybenzyl)ethanamine (16)



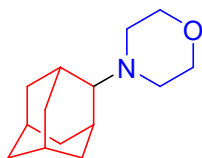
A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 90.8  $\mu\text{L}$  (97.1 mg, 0.711 mmol) of *p*-methoxybenzaldehyde, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL of N,N-diethylformamide, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 40 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 20 mL), and HCl in ether was added to the organic fraction. The ether then was removed with a rotary evaporator, and the residue was dried in vacuo under 80 °C for 4 h. The crystals were dissolved in water, washed with ether (3 \* 20 mL), then solid NaOH was added to the aqueous layer. The layer was extracted with ether (3 \* 20 mL), the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 68 mg (48 %) of the product as a transparent yellowish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.22 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 2.49 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 1.02 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.6, 131.9, 130.1, 113.6, 56.9, 55.3, 46.6, 11.8.

The spectra are in agreement with literature data.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4-(adamantan-2-yl)-morpholine (17)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 107 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 2-adamantanone, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL of N-formylmorpholine, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 30 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), and the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give colorless oil.

The oil was dissolved in 10% HCl solution, washed with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10 to the aqueous layer. The layer was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 134.1 mg (85 %) of the product as a colorless oil.

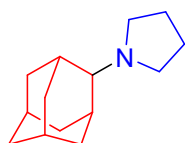
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 95 %.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  3.71 (m app. as t,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 4H), 2.40 (s, 4H), 2.14 – 1.92 (m, 5H), 1.88 – 1.47 (m, 8H), 1.40 (m app. as d,  $J = 12.4$  Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  68.1, 67.7, 50.3, 37.9, 37.3, 31.4, 28.7, 27.6, 27.5.

The spectra are in agreement with the literature data.<sup>11</sup>

#### 1-(adamantan-2-yl)-pyrrolidine (18)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 107 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 2-adamantanone, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL of N-formylpyrrolidine, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 30 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), and the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give yellowish oil.

The oil was dissolved in 10% HCl solution, washed with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10 to the aqueous layer. The layer was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 45 mg (31 %) of the product as a transparent yellowish oil.

External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product - 88 %.

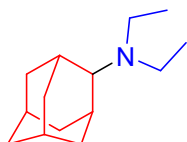
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  2.49 (s, 4H), 2.14 (m app. as d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.08 (s, 1H), 1.94 (s, 2H), 11.87 – 1.61 (m, 12H), 1.42 (m app. as d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  70.5, 51.7, 38.2, 37.4, 31.67, 31.62, 27.74, 27.66, 23.6.

The spectra are in agreement with the literature data.<sup>11</sup>

The large discrepancy between the preparative and GC yields could be explained by evaporation of the product when removing the solvent.

### **N,N-diethyladamantan-2-amine (19)**



A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 22 mg (0.208 mmol, 0.29 eq) of  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 107 mg (0.711 mmol, 1 eq) of 2-adamantanone, 14  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 2 mL of N,N-diethylformamide, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The water content in the reaction mixture is estimated to be 1.5 mmol. Then the tube was cooled and the reaction mixture was placed into a separation funnel and diluted with 30 mL of aqueous brine solution. The solution was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), and the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give yellowish oil.

The oil was dissolved in 10% HCl solution, washed with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then solid NaOH was added to pH 10 to the aqueous layer. The layer was extracted with ether (3 \* 10 mL), then the combined organic fraction was washed with brine (3 \* 30 mL), the ether fraction was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to give 42.4 mg (31%) of the product as transparent yellowish oil.

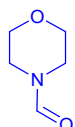
External GC calibration was obtained. GC yield of the product – 40 %.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  2.64 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 4H), 2.46 (s, 1H), 2.07 (m app. as d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 2H), 1.91 – 1.73 (m, 4H), 1.73 – 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m app. as d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  63.3, 41.8, 38.1, 37.6, 31.6, 29.7, 27.8, 27.6, 10.9.

HRMS (ESI (+), acetonitrile;  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  208.2060. Found: 208.2061.

### **N-formylmorpholine**



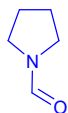
A 100 mL bomb tube was charged with 15 mL (0.243 mol, 1.4 eq) of methyl formate, 15 mL (0.173 mol, 1 eq) of morpholine, sealed under air, and heated to 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h. The product distilled under 150  $^\circ\text{C}$  on a diaphragm pump. Pure fraction contained 15.7 g (79 %) of the product as colorless oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.01 (s, 1H), 3.64 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.61 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.50 (t,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.35 (t,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  160.8, 67.2, 66.4, 45.7, 40.5.

The spectra are in agreement with the literature data.<sup>12</sup>

### N-formylpyrrolidine



A 100 mL bomb tube was charged with 15 mL (0.243 mol, 1.33 eq) of methyl formate, 15 mL (0.183 mol, 1 eq) of pyrrolidine, sealed under air, and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. The product distilled under 150°C on a diaphragm pump. Pure fraction contained 12.0 g (66 %) of the product as colorless oil.

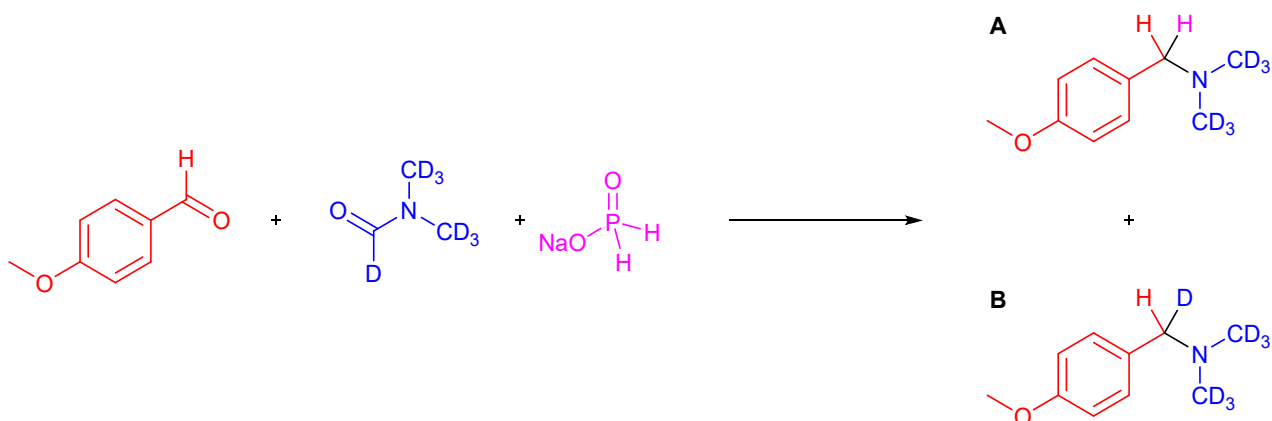
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 3.46 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.68 (m, 4H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  160.8, 46.0, 43.0, 24.8, 24.1.

The spectra are in agreement with the literature data.<sup>13</sup>

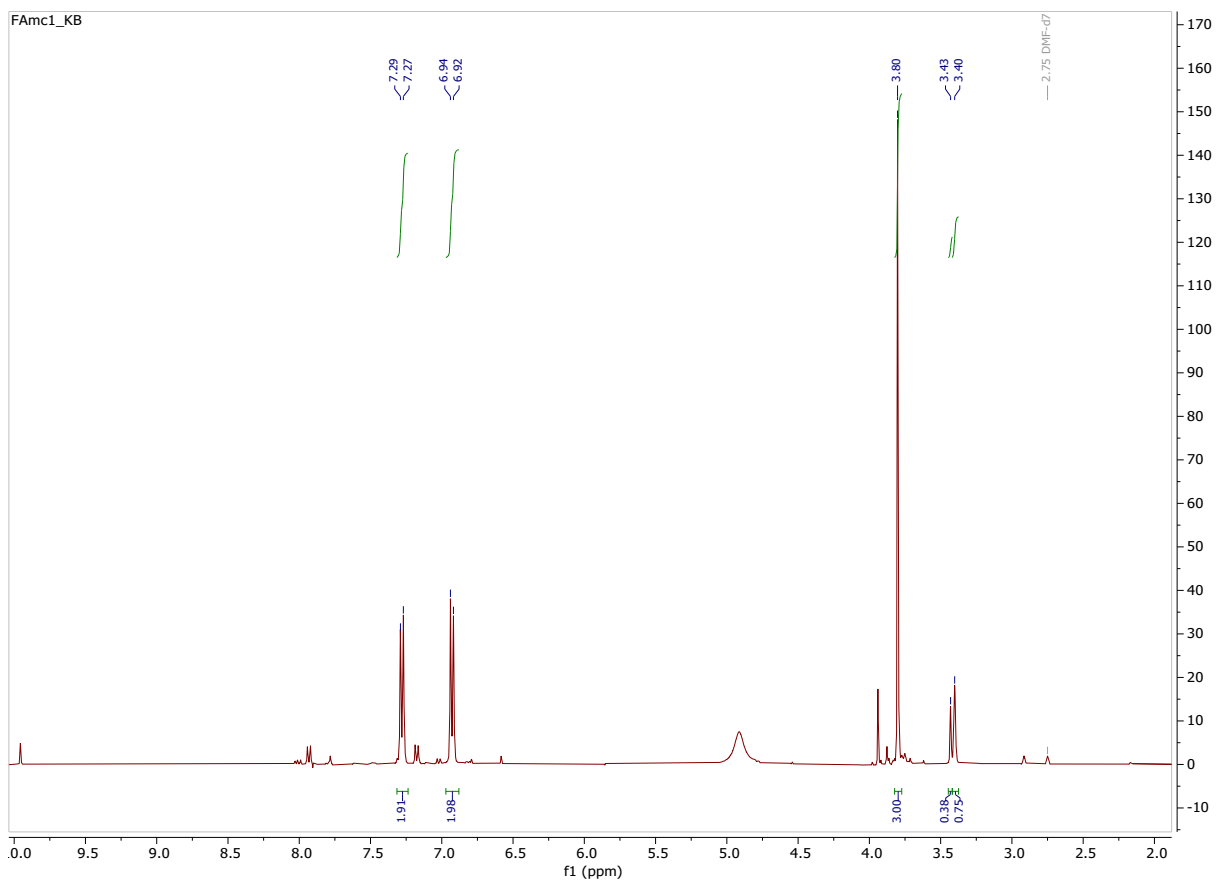
## Mechanistic experiment

The purpose of the experiment was to determine whether the main reductant in the system is hypophosphite or the formate formed by DMF decomposition.



A high-pressure NMR tube was charged with 3.3 mg (0.031 mmol, 0.29 equiv.) of NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O, 13.6 μL (14.6 mg, 0.107 mmol) of p-methoxybenzaldehyde, 2 μL of H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.3 mL of DMF-D7, sealed and heated to 150 °C for 20 h. Then the tube was cooled to room temperature and the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum was registered (Figure S1).

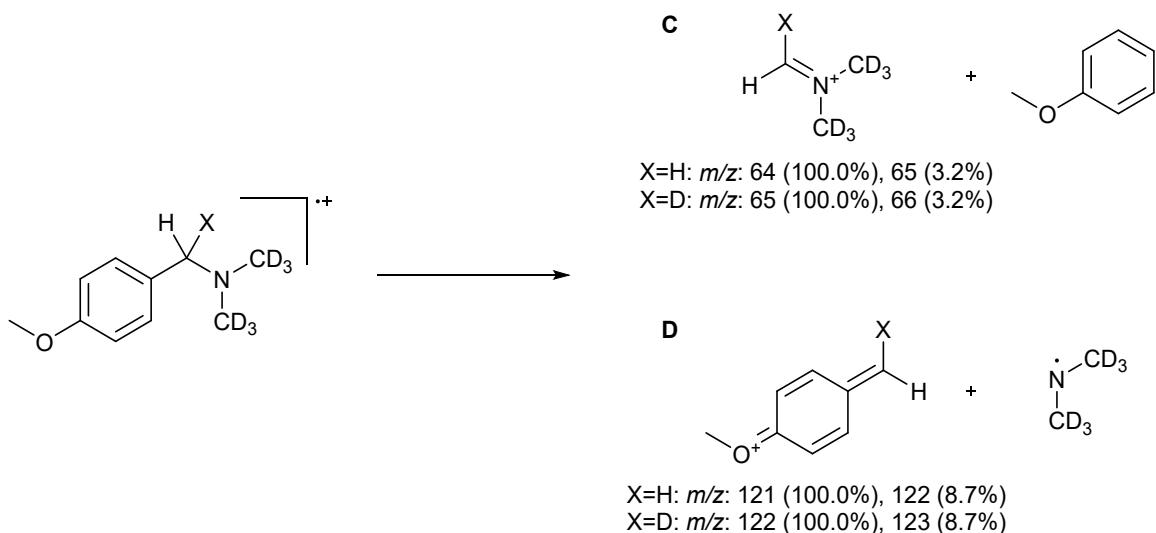
**Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture of the reaction set up in DMF-D7.**



In the spectrum of the formed product, there are two signals corresponding to the benzylic hydrogens at 3.43 and 3.40 ppm, their intensities relate as 1 : 2. It follows that products **A** and **B** formed either in 1 : 1 (if 3.43 peak corresponds to **B**, 3.40 – to **A**) or in 1 : 4 ratio (in another case).

Then the content of the NMR-tube was transferred to a GC vial and diluted with DCM to 1 mL. 200  $\mu$ L of the solution were transferred to another GC vial and diluted with DCM to 1 mL. The resulting solution was analyzed by GC-MS. The chromatogram contained the main peak of the product and the minor peak of the starting aldehyde.

Analysis of the molecular ions of **A** and **B** was hindered by the fast hydrogen radical abstraction from the molecular cation-radical leading to strong  $[M-1]^+$  peak. In the case of **B**, that is further complicated by the competition between protium- and deuterium-radical abstractions. Thus, we analysed the main fragment ions (the spectrum is provided in Table S9 below).



The fraction of undeuterated ions **C**  $\chi_H(\text{C})$  was calculated using the following expression ( $I_{m/z}$  stands for  $m/z$  ion abundance):

$$\chi_H(\text{C}) = \frac{I_{64} * 100 \%}{(I_{65} - 0.032 * I_{64}) + I_{64}}$$

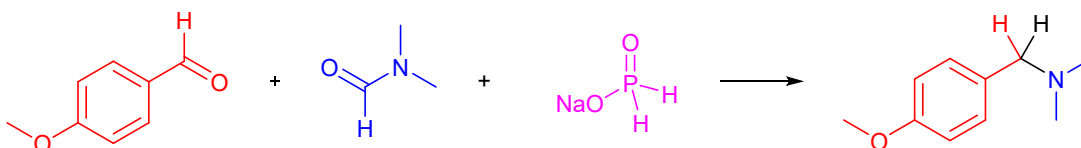
The similar procedure was applied to **D**:

$$\chi_H(\text{D}) = \frac{I_{121} * 100 \%}{(I_{122} - 0.087 * I_{121}) + I_{121}}$$

Thus, we obtained the estimations of the undeuterated product fraction listed below:

|                          | $u(\text{A})/(u(\text{A})+u(\text{B})), \%$ |
|--------------------------|---|
| NMR                      | 20  |
| Ion <b>C</b> peaks in MS | 25  |
| Ion <b>D</b> peaks in MS | 21  |
| Average                  | 22  |

Thus, we estimate that at most 25 % of the black hydrogens in the product on the scheme below come from hypophosphite. The main source of hydrogen is probably the formate formed by DMF decomposition.

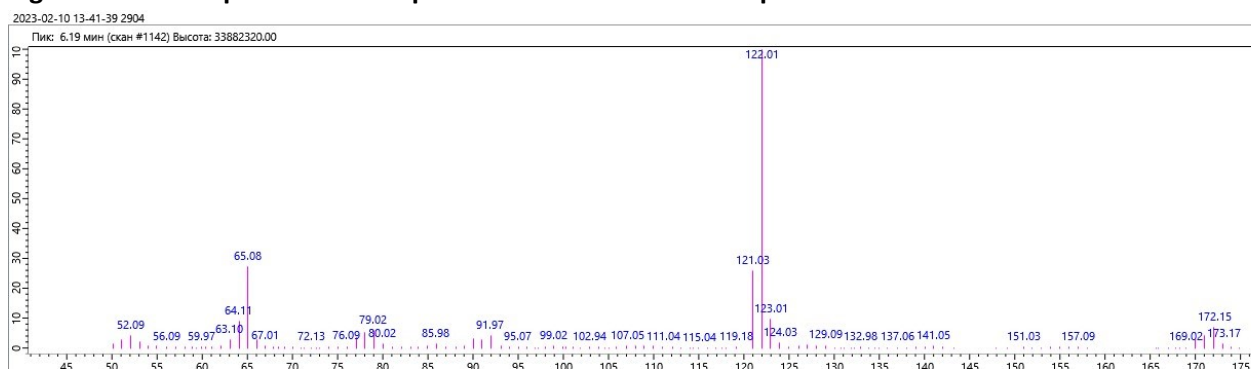




**Table S9. EI-MS spectrum of the product of the reaction set up in DMF-D7.**

| m/z          | Abundance         | m/z    | Abundance  | m/z           | Abundance          | m/z    | Abundance  |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------|------------|
| 50.18        | 418603.63         | 83.99  | 95146.11   | 118.07        | 16691.72           | 165.97 | 477.02     |
| 51.08        | 886311.94         | 85.01  | 196121.81  | 119.18        | 48021.32           | 167.15 | 7351.60    |
| 52.09        | 1389196           | 85.98  | 441072.22  | <b>121.03</b> | <b>8719294.00</b>  | 167.95 | 9387.86    |
| 53.08        | 722290.75         | 87.03  | 57088.13   | <b>122.01</b> | <b>33882320.00</b> | 168.39 | 6156.92    |
| 54.04        | 251362.47         | 88.14  | 51973.21   | 123.01        | 3250501.25         | 169.02 | 20906.96   |
| 54.95        | 223426.56         | 89.08  | 217805.83  | 124.03        | 572264.19          | 170.06 | 881173.44  |
| 56.09        | 83731.82          | 90.03  | 1052052.5  | 125.01        | 94068.64           | 171.12 | 1407980.63 |
| 57.1         | 39058.57          | 91     | 898898.25  | 126.13        | 198587.05          | 172.15 | 2345688.00 |
| 58.12        | 43021.67          | 91.97  | 1399354.88 | 127.10        | 273502.78          | 173.17 | 387840.75  |
| 58.96        | 28355.85          | 93.11  | 183846.22  | 128.09        | 228075.48          | 174.08 | 35254.52   |
| 59.37        | 18964.3           | 94.09  | 74538.42   | 129.09        | 250954.94          | 175.00 | 132.35     |
| 59.97        | 58958.79          | 95.07  | 68108.77   | 130.11        | 12183.50           | 192.83 | 101.13     |
| 60.4         | 25509.05          | 96.04  | 34519.38   | 130.79        | 2245.51            | 206.97 | 4137.61    |
| 61.07        | 129220.09         | 96.88  | 15251.76   | 131.13        | 3385.95            | 207.73 | 343.53     |
| 62.04        | 243588.14         | 97.31  | 8593.53    | 131.96        | 8817.64            | 208.27 | 689.90     |
| 63.1         | 911007.06         | 98.01  | 61028.98   | 132.30        | 6710.69            | 209.16 | 1210.55    |
| <b>64.11</b> | <b>2989344.25</b> | 99.02  | 164226.63  | 132.98        | 46802.15           | 223.03 | 170.41     |
| <b>65.08</b> | <b>9242329</b>    | 99.93  | 94495.83   | 133.95        | 7391.68            | 231.86 | 395.91     |
| 66.05        | 867544.25         | 100.28 | 70167.4    | 134.61        | 2972.45            | 270.94 | 143.50     |
| 67.01        | 172321.36         | 101.12 | 39393.85   | 135.08        | 16795.36           | 280.75 | 149.91     |
| 67.95        | 100865.13         | 101.96 | 10613.9    | 136.00        | 23118.73           | 297.62 | 211.41     |
| 68.51        | 97286.41          | 102.94 | 65799.91   | 137.06        | 13585.73           | 341.15 | 498.41     |
| 69.19        | 58197.3           | 104    | 31660.55   | 138.09        | 18454.96           | 485.85 | 84.56      |
| 70.06        | 41045.53          | 104.67 | 11778.39   | 139.10        | 31545.07           | 521.29 | 13.32      |
| 71           | 13329.74          | 105.06 | 8836.39    | 140.10        | 69887.20           |        |            |
| 71.33        | 7127.3            | 105.96 | 104330.26  | 141.05        | 231318.95          |        |            |
| 72.13        | 20071.55          | 107.05 | 231005.38  | 142.07        | 28636.31           |        |            |
| 72.63        | 3008.47           | 108.06 | 202368.52  | 143.31        | 5591.79            |        |            |
| 73.07        | 20401.65          | 109.03 | 203887.05  | 147.97        | 1330.54            |        |            |
| 74.04        | 64779.05          | 110.06 | 155392.09  | 149.25        | 1396.90            |        |            |
| 75.04        | 55079.54          | 111.04 | 59683.76   | 151.03        | 68504.29           |        |            |
| 76.09        | 133073.22         | 112.17 | 28743.14   | 151.96        | 8969.38            |        |            |
| 77.06        | 1117192           | 113.12 | 21256.08   | 152.97        | 20796.96           |        |            |
| 78.03        | 1686415.63        | 114.09 | 4687.94    | 154.07        | 28043.05           |        |            |
| 79.02        | 1983232.13        | 114.41 | 3753.78    | 155.11        | 93095.75           |        |            |
| 80.02        | 381791.56         | 115.04 | 7270.03    | 156.14        | 100348.56          |        |            |
| 81.09        | 139237.14         | 116.06 | 6990.11    | 157.09        | 112183.43          |        |            |
| 82.1         | 128446.04         | 116.98 | 2514.99    | 158.08        | 12540.37           |        |            |
| 83.12        | 101869.2          | 117.59 | 5073.02    | 165.71        | 855.61             |        |            |

**Figure S2. EI-MS spectrum of the product of the reaction set up in DMF-D7.**



### Bioassays of fungicidal activities

The effect of the chemicals on mycelial radial growth was determined by dissolving the compounds at 3 mg/mL in acetone or at 2 mg/mL in acetone/water mixture (2:1), which was used in cases of poor solubility of the chemical in acetone. Then aliquots were suspended in potato-saccharose agar at 50 °C to give the concentration 30 µg/mL. The final solvent concentration was 10 mL/L. Petri dishes containing 15 mL of the agar medium were inoculated by placing 2-mm mycelial agar discs on the agar surface. Plates were incubated at 25 °C and radial growth was measured after 72 h. The agar medium without a sample was used as the blank control. Three replicates of each test were carried out. The mycelium elongation diameter (mm) of fungi settlements was measured after 72 h of culture. The growth inhibition rates (*I*) were calculated using the following equation:

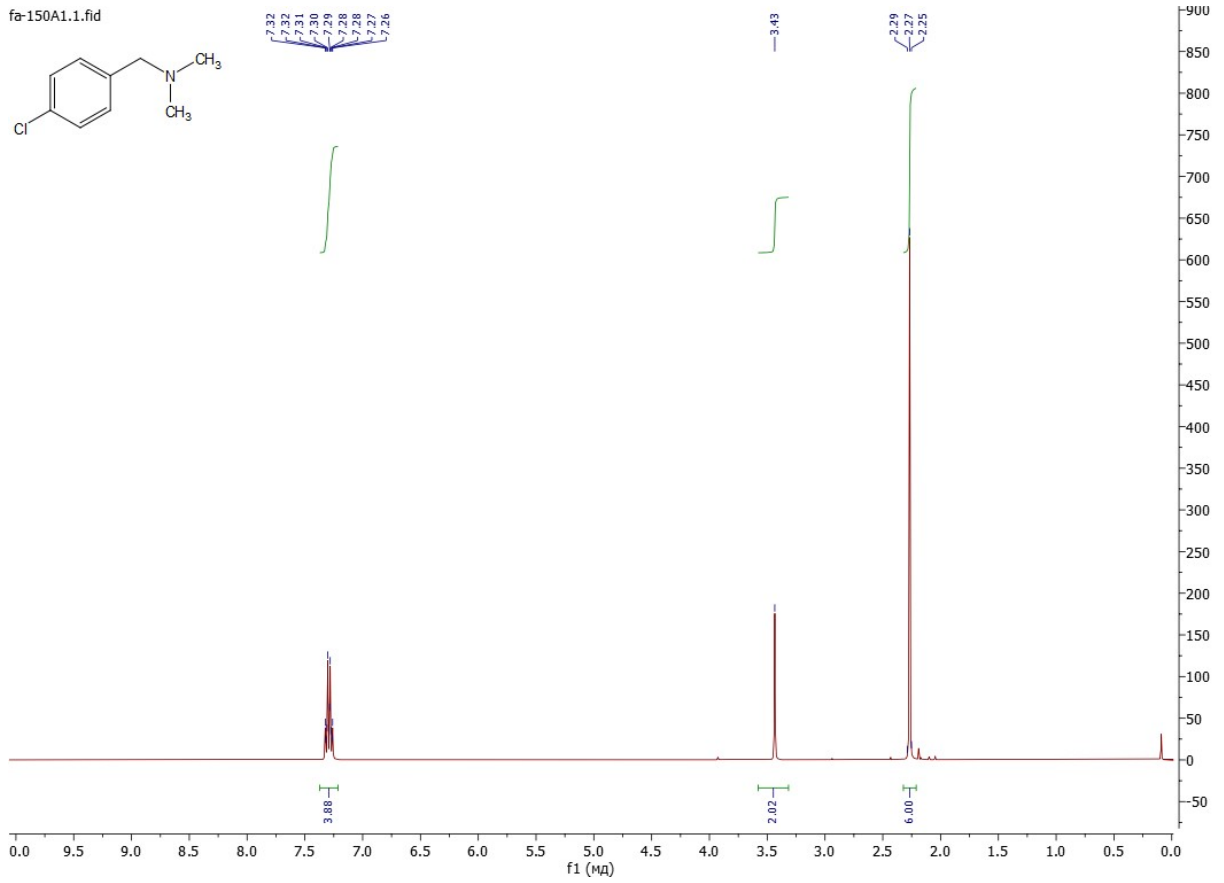
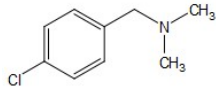
$$I = \frac{\text{Control settlement diameter (mm)} - \text{Test settlement diameter (mm)}}{\text{Control settlement diameter (mm)}} * 100\%$$

**Table S10. The results of the assay of the antifungal activity of the synthesized amides.**

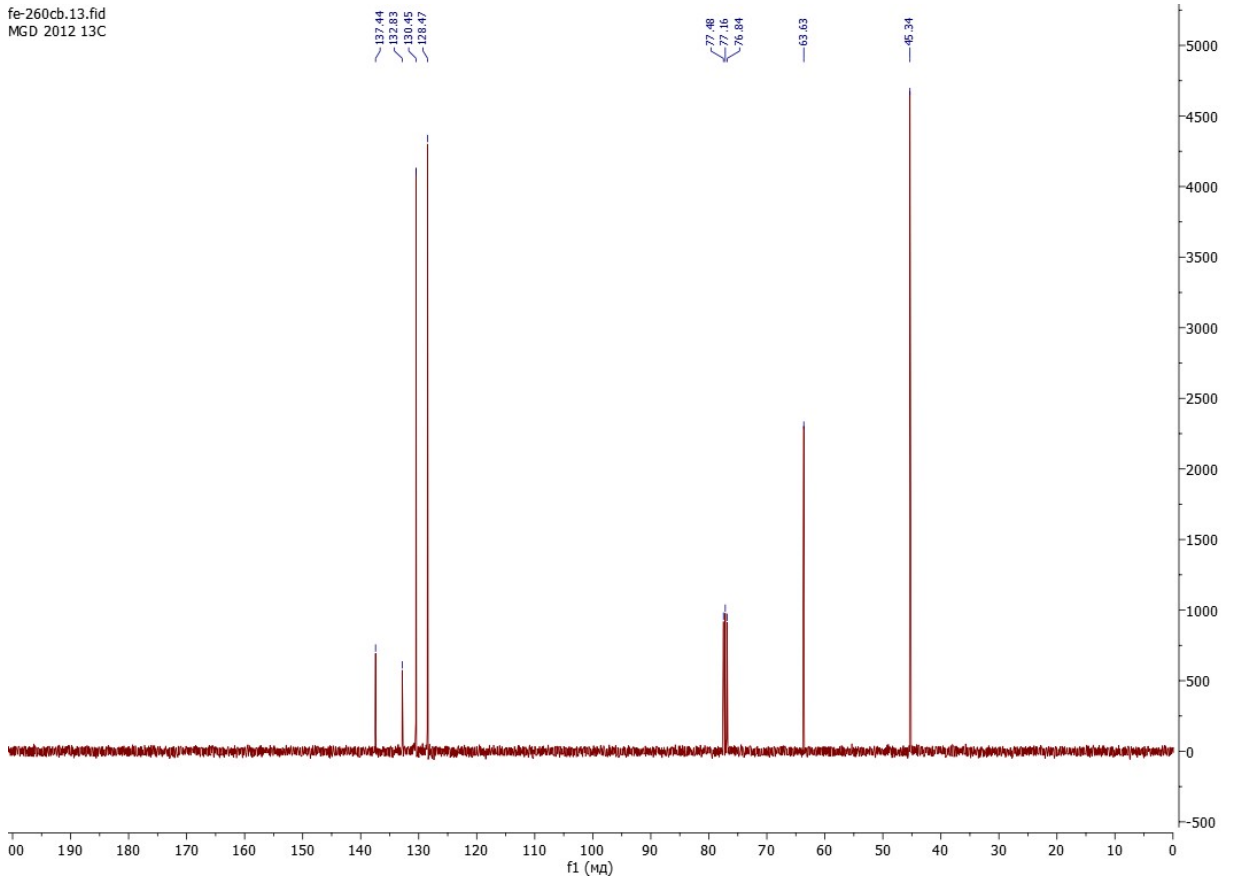
| Amine | Mycelium growth inhibition by the product, %/<br>Mycelium growth inhibition by triadimefon, % |             |             |             |
|-------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|       | <i>R.s.</i>   | <i>V.i.</i> | <i>P.c.</i> | <i>S.s.</i> |
| 1     | 9/,41   | 18/,64      | 22/,32      | 5/,60       |
| 2     | 28/,41  | 6/,64       | 21/,32      | 0/,60       |
| 3     | 13/,41  | 19/,64      | 0/,32       | -2/,60      |
| 4     | 9/,41   | 10/,64      | 13/,32      | 1/,60       |
| 5     | 11/,41  | 19/,64      | 27/,32      | 16/,60      |
| 6     | 9/,41   | 12/,64      | 3/,32       | 1/,60       |
| 7     | 20/,41  | 21/,64      | 9/,32       | 10/,60      |
| 8     | 23/,41  | 26/,64      | 28/,32      | 0/,60       |
| 10    | 21/,41  | 23/,64      | 0/,32       | 0/,60       |
| 12    | 26/,41  | 12/,64      | 21/,32      | 1/,60       |
| 13    | 11/,41  | 30/,64      | 26/,32      | 1/,60       |
| 14    | 24/,41  | 17/,64      | 1/,32       | 1/,60       |
| 15    | 10/,41  | 6/,64       | 5/,32       | 5/,60       |
| 17    | -13/,41   | 17/,64      | 24/,32      | 49/,60      |
| 18    | 3/,41   | 31/,64      | 28/,32      | 13/,60      |
| 19    | 9/,41   | 23/,64      | 5/,32       | 9/,60       |

**1-(4-chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (1)**

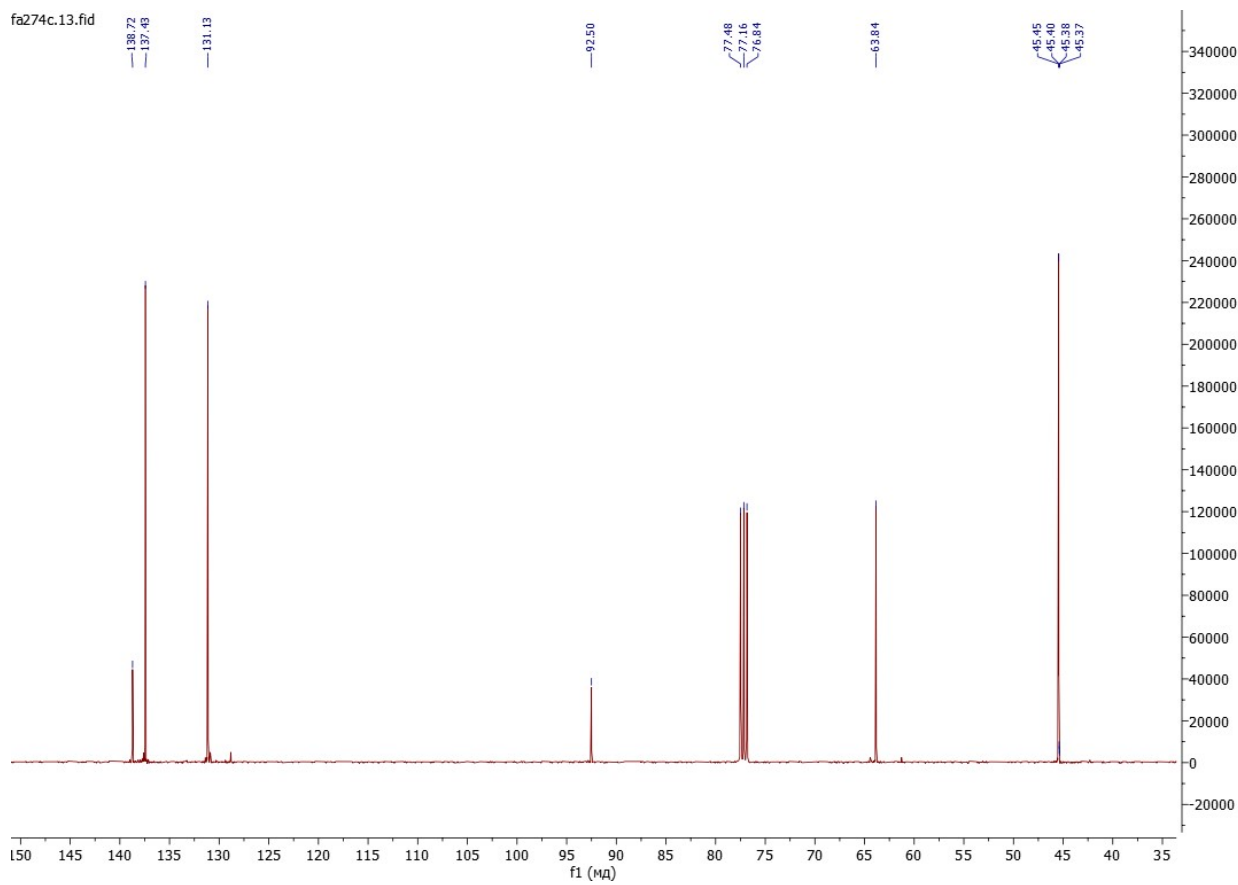
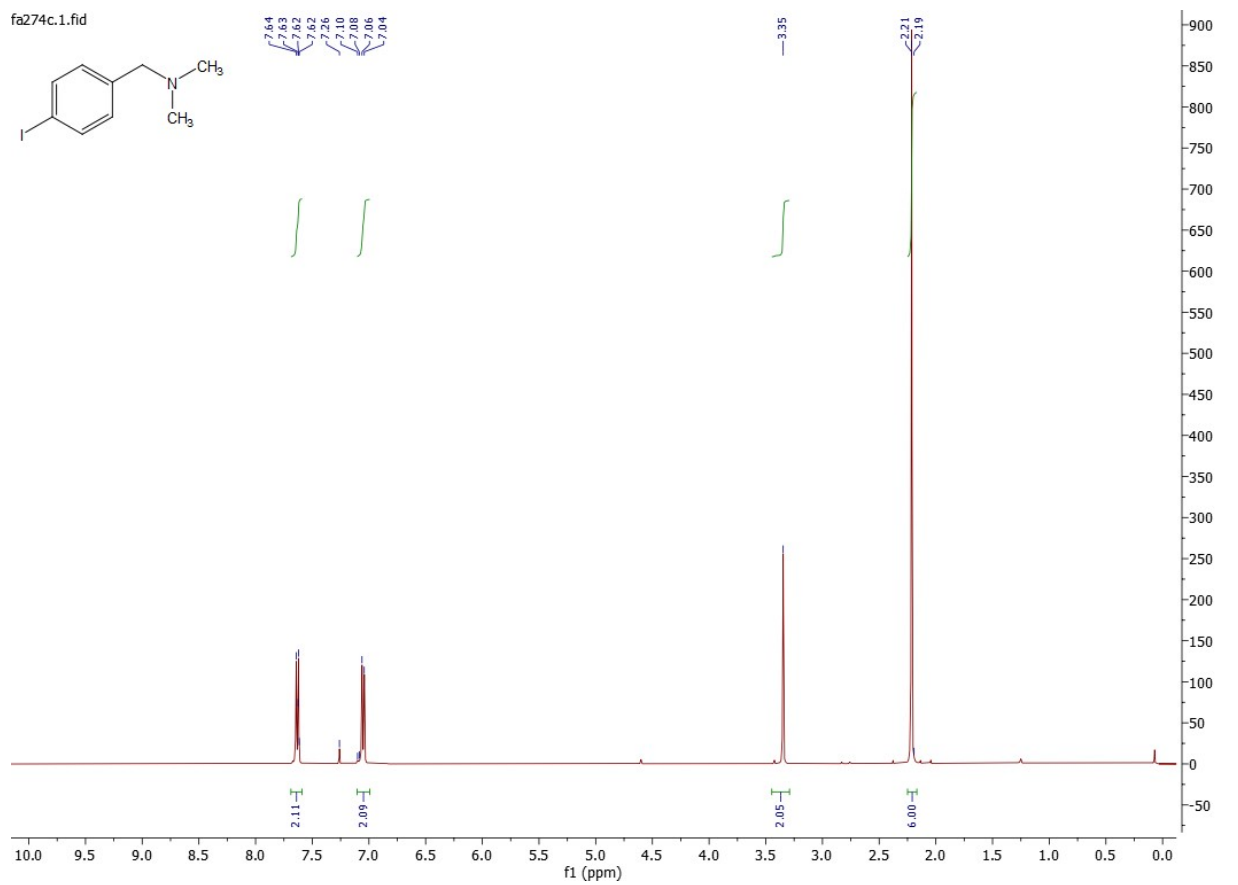
fa-150A1.1.fid



fe-260cb.13.fid  
MGD 2012 13C

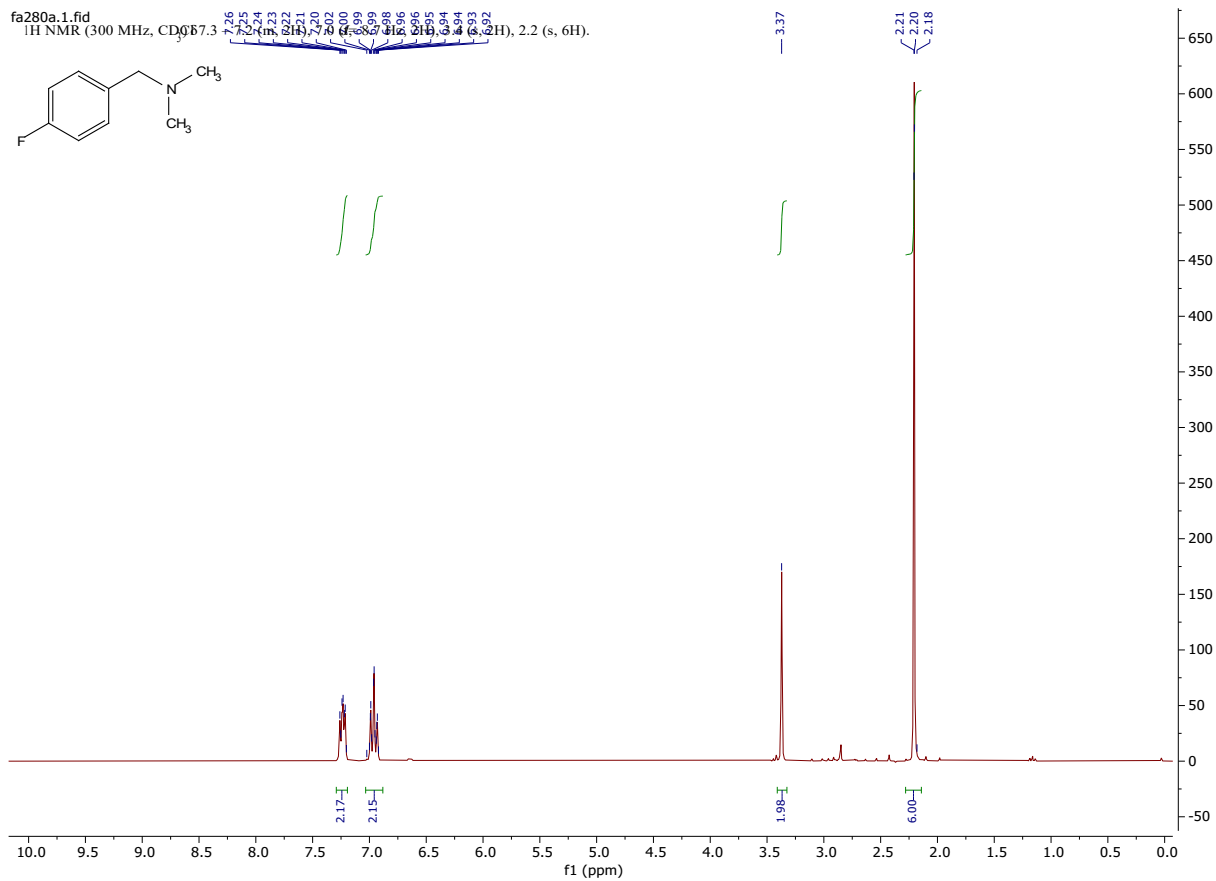
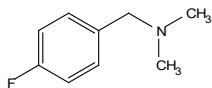


### 1-(4-iodophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (2)

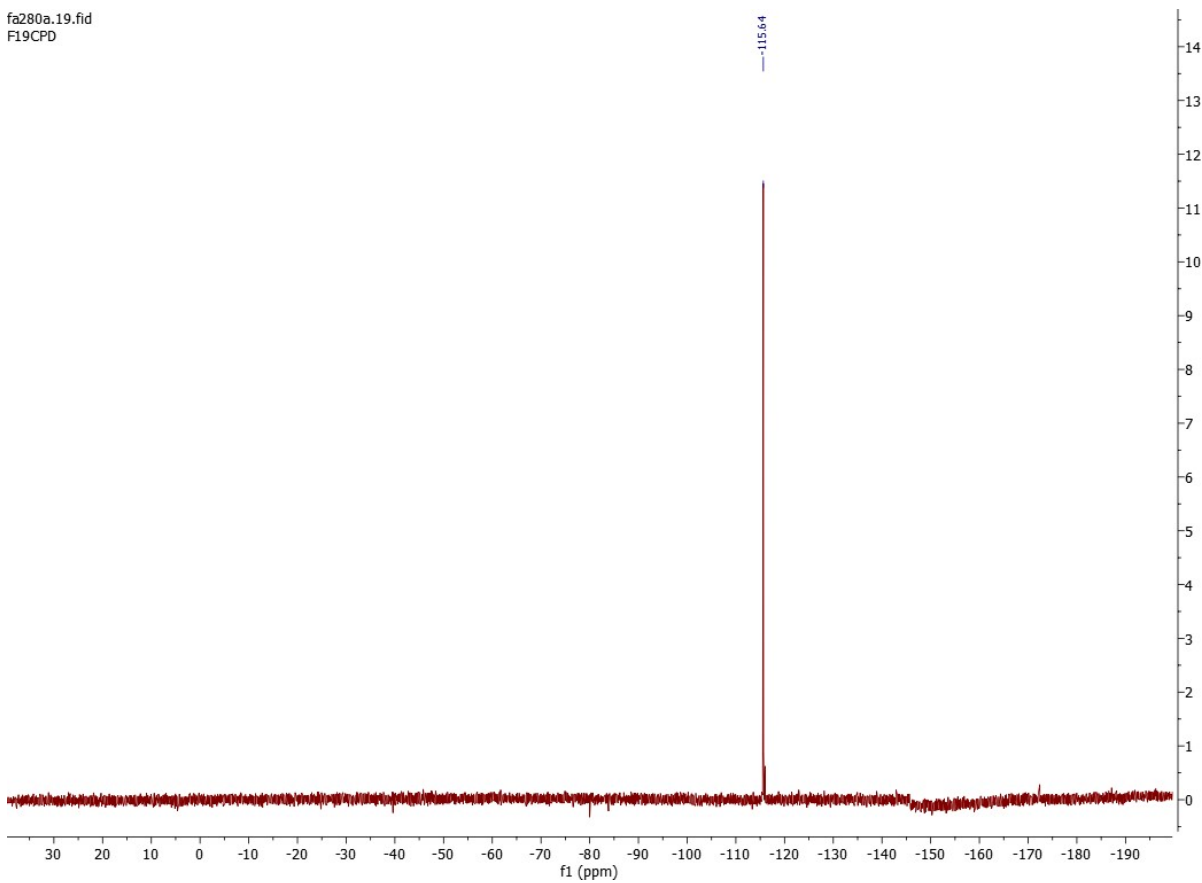


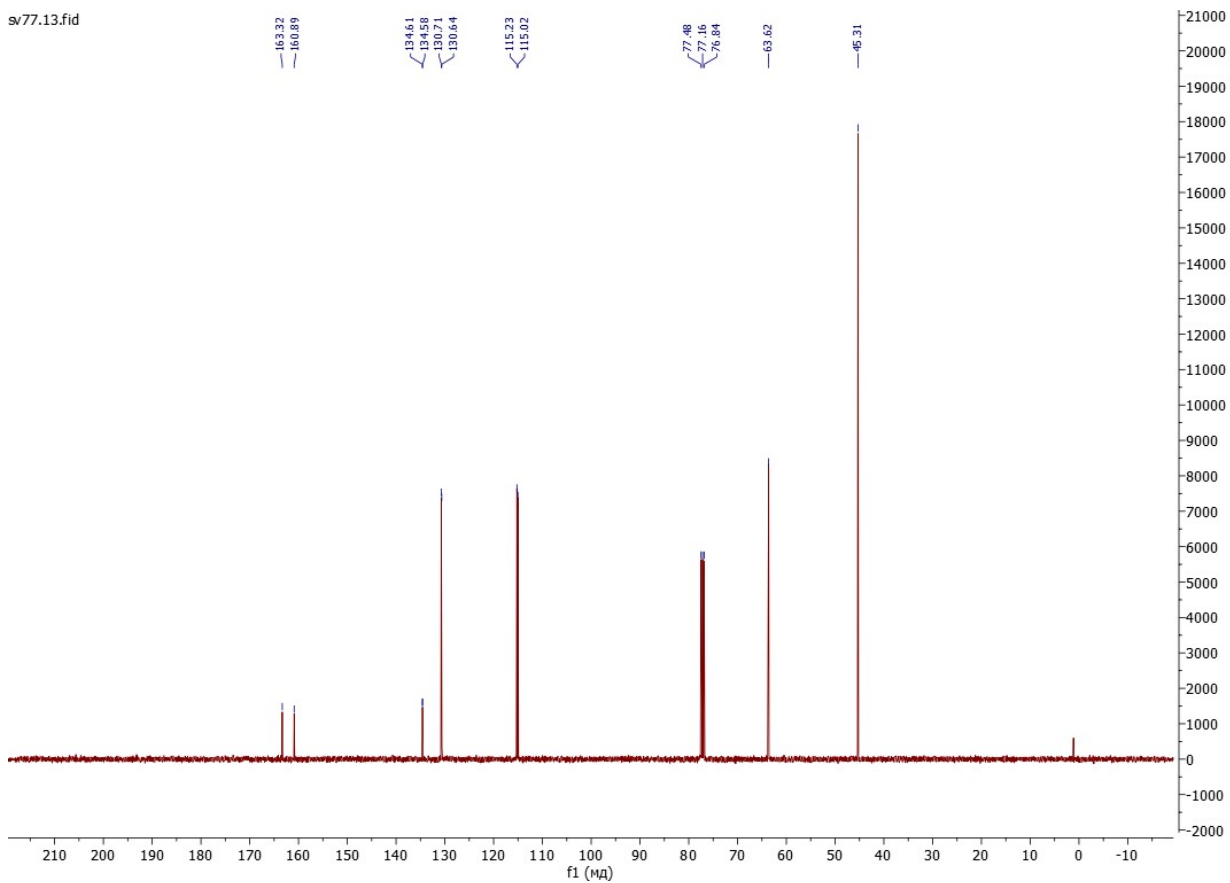
**1-(4-fluorophenyl)-N,N-dimethanamine (3)**

fa280a.1.fid  
1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 7.05 (m, 1H), 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 1H), 7.01 (m, 1H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.95 (m, 1H), 6.94 (m, 1H), 6.93 (m, 1H), 6.92 (m, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.2 (s, 6H).

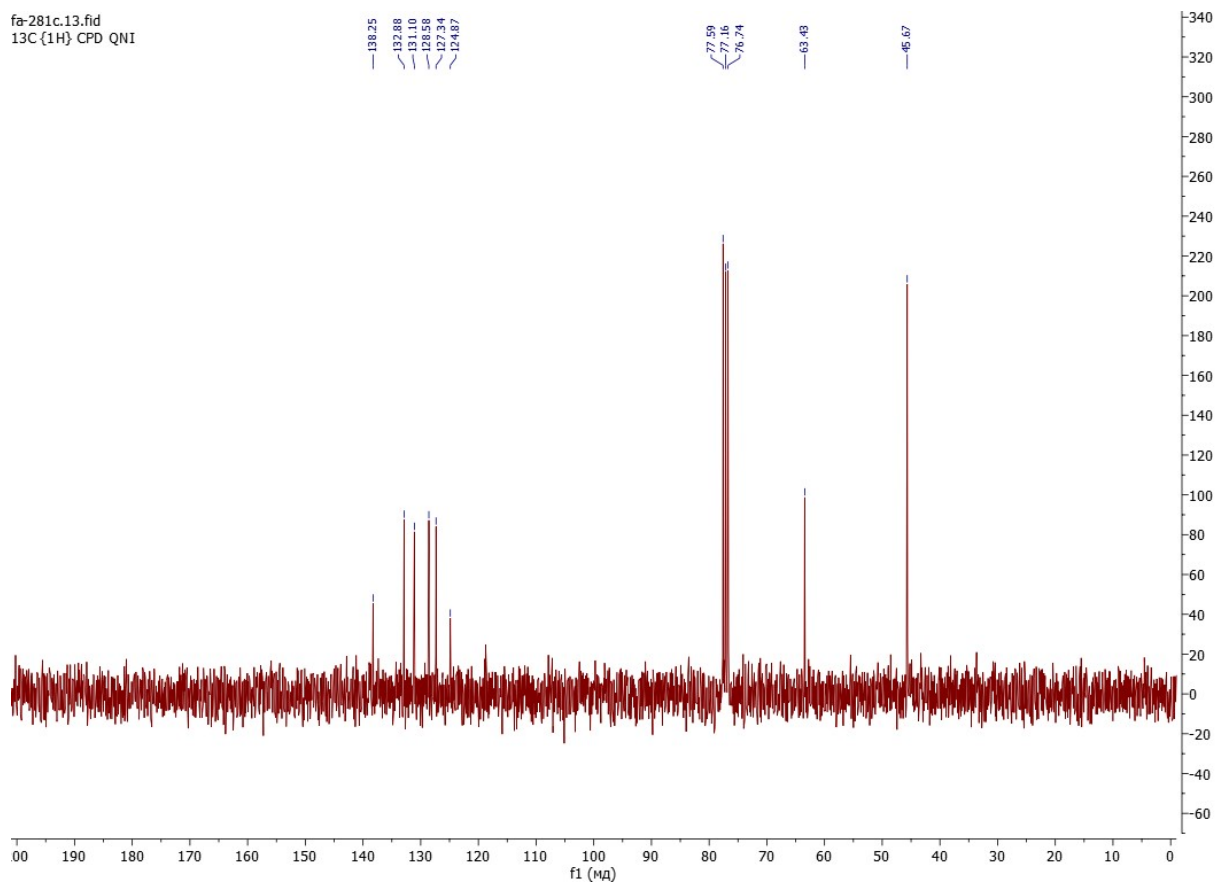
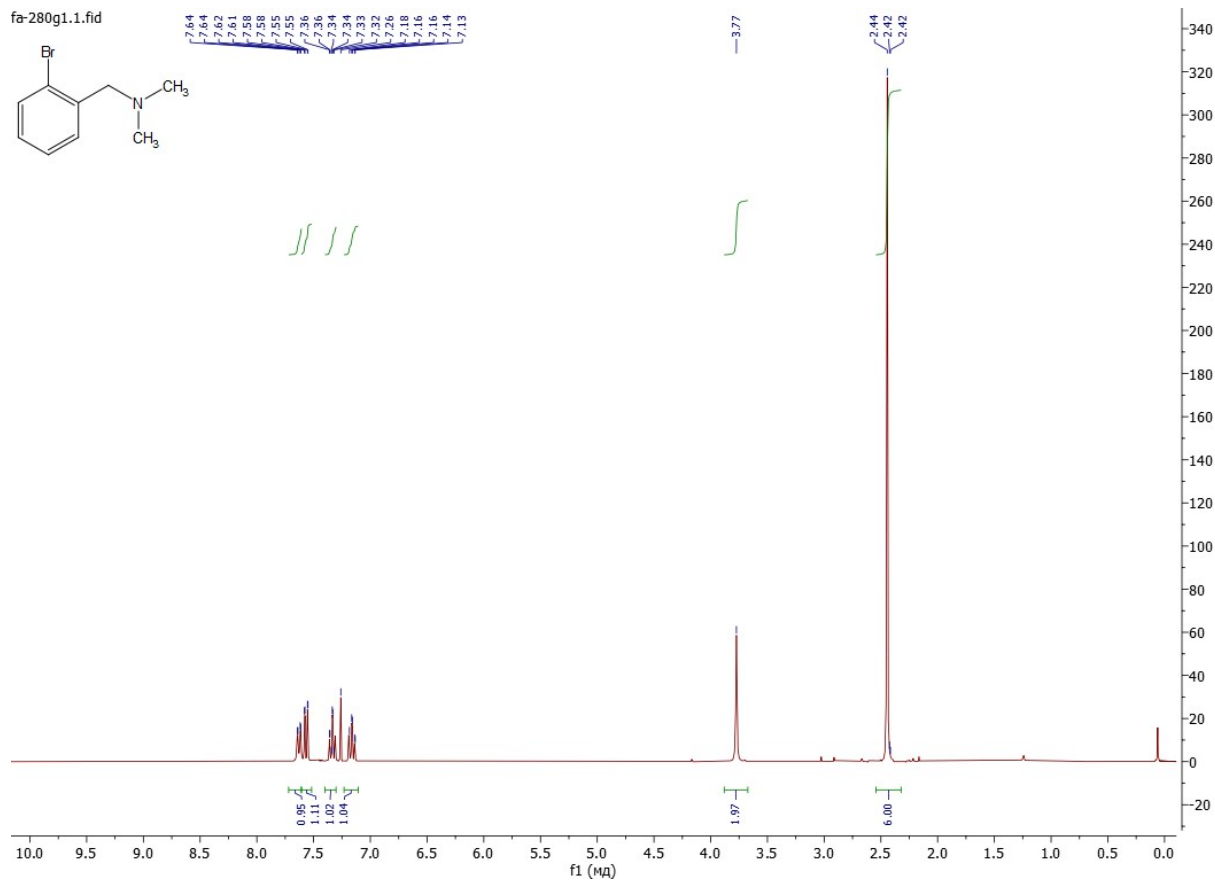


fa280a.19.fid  
F19CPD



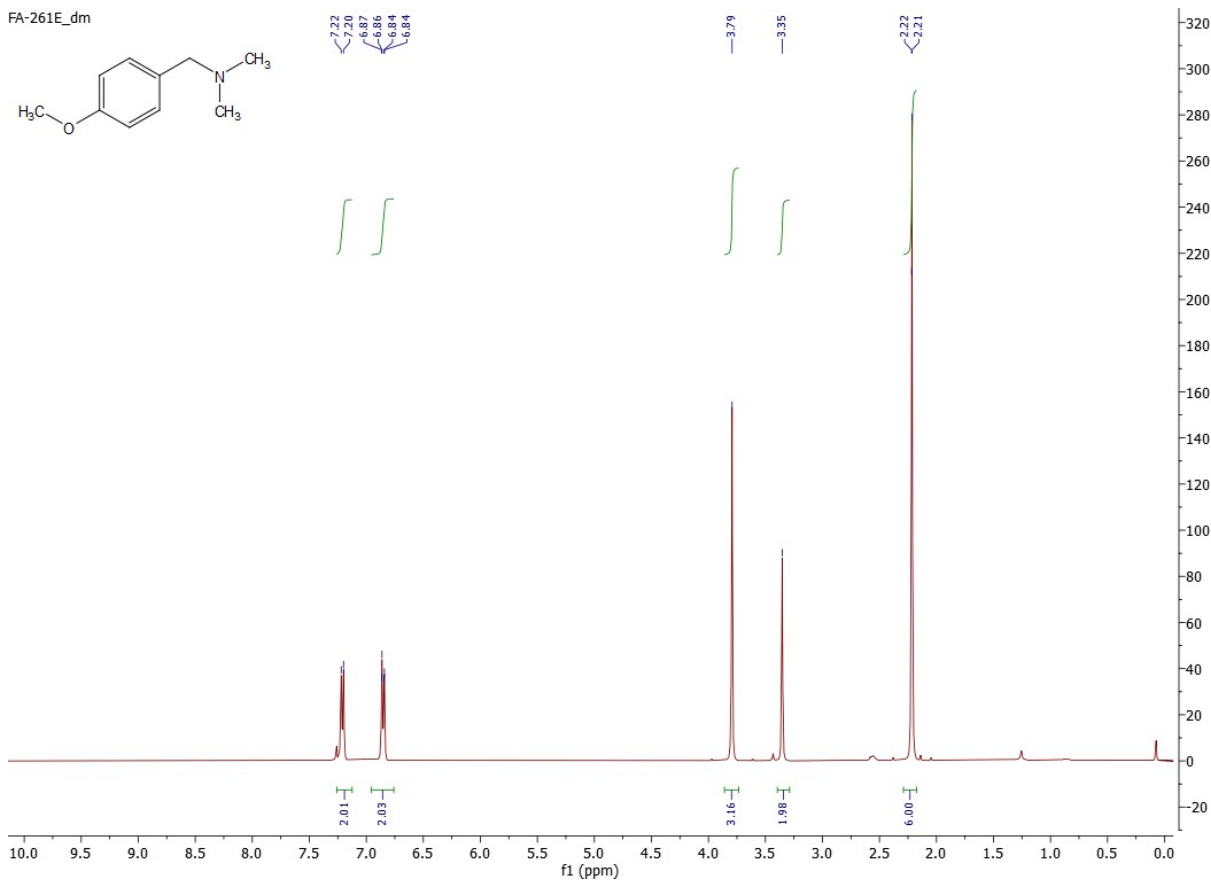
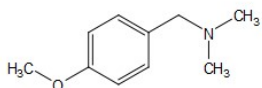


# 1-(2-bromophenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (4)

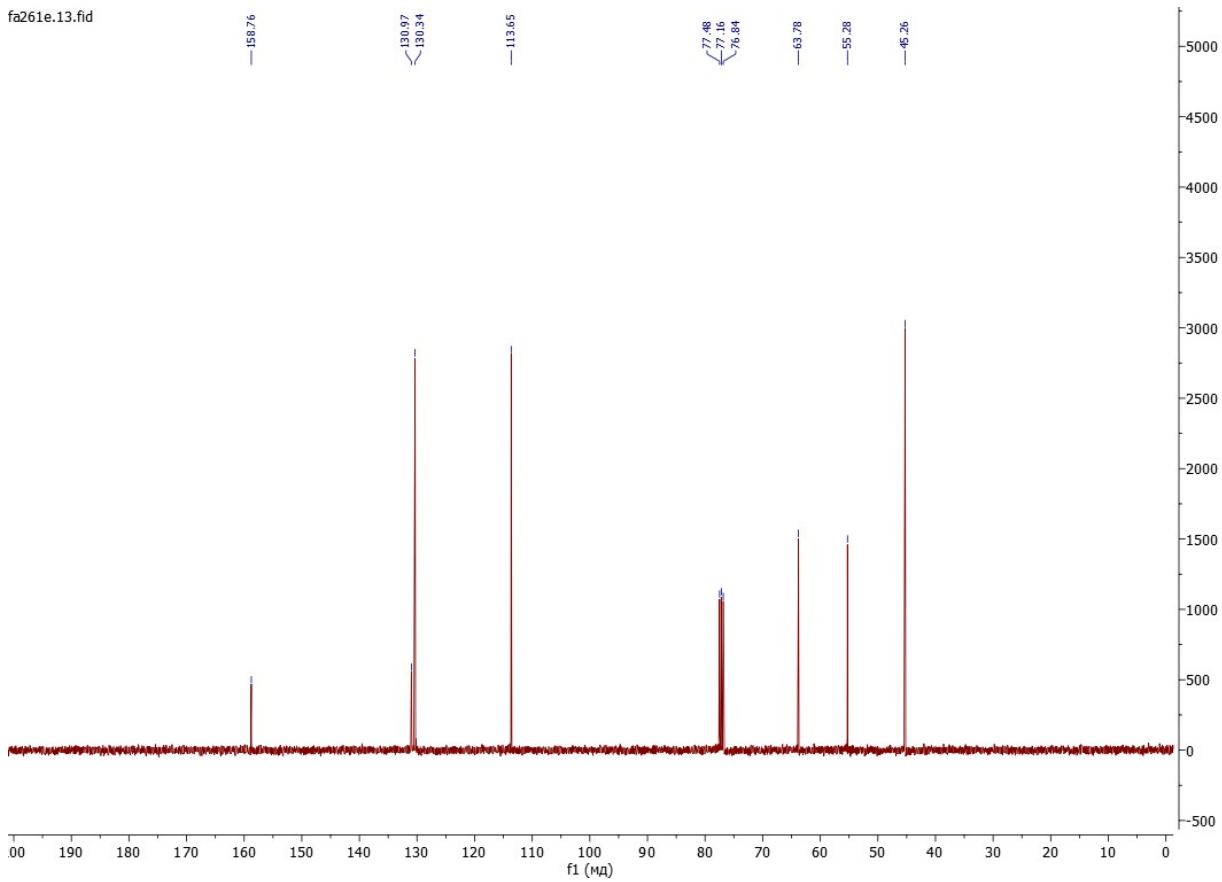


# 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (5)

FA-261E\_dm



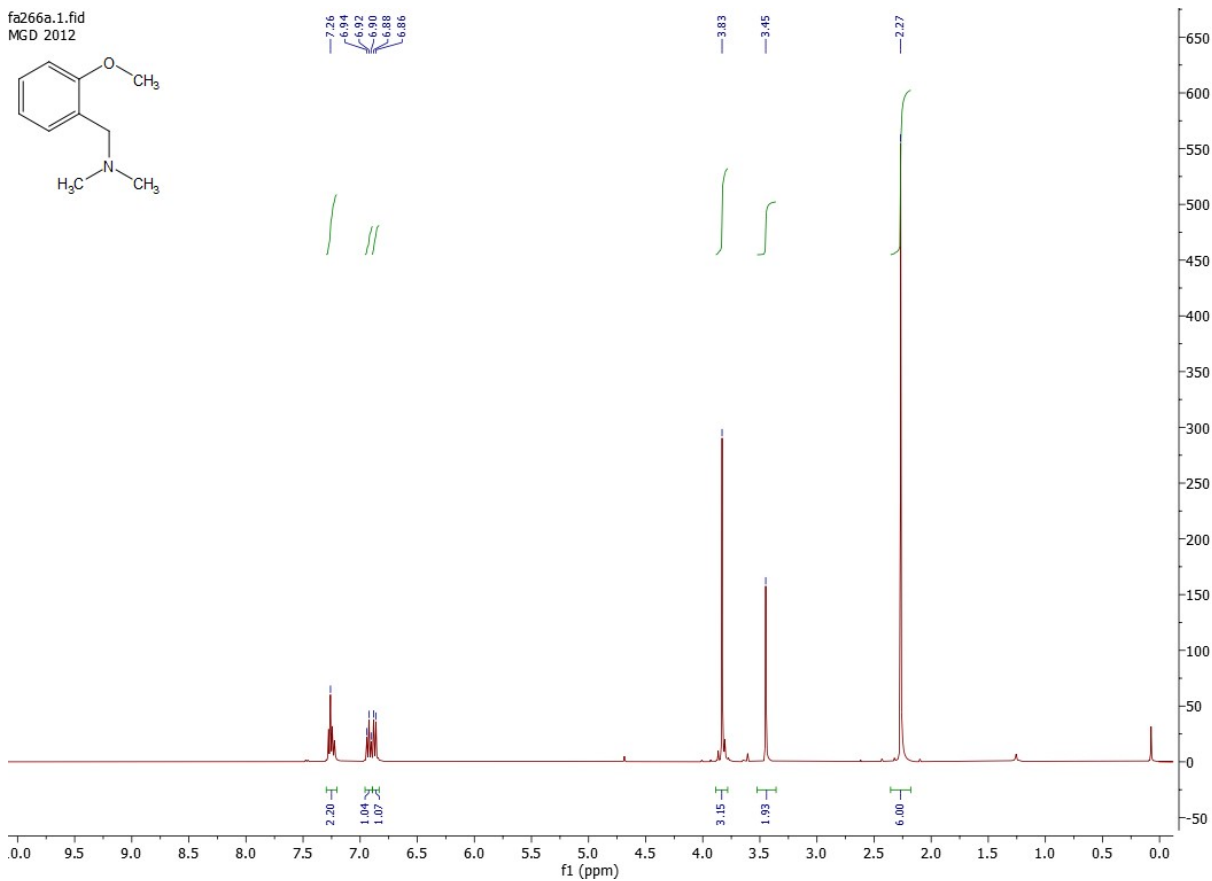
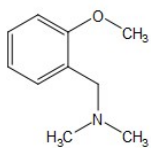
fa261e.13.fid



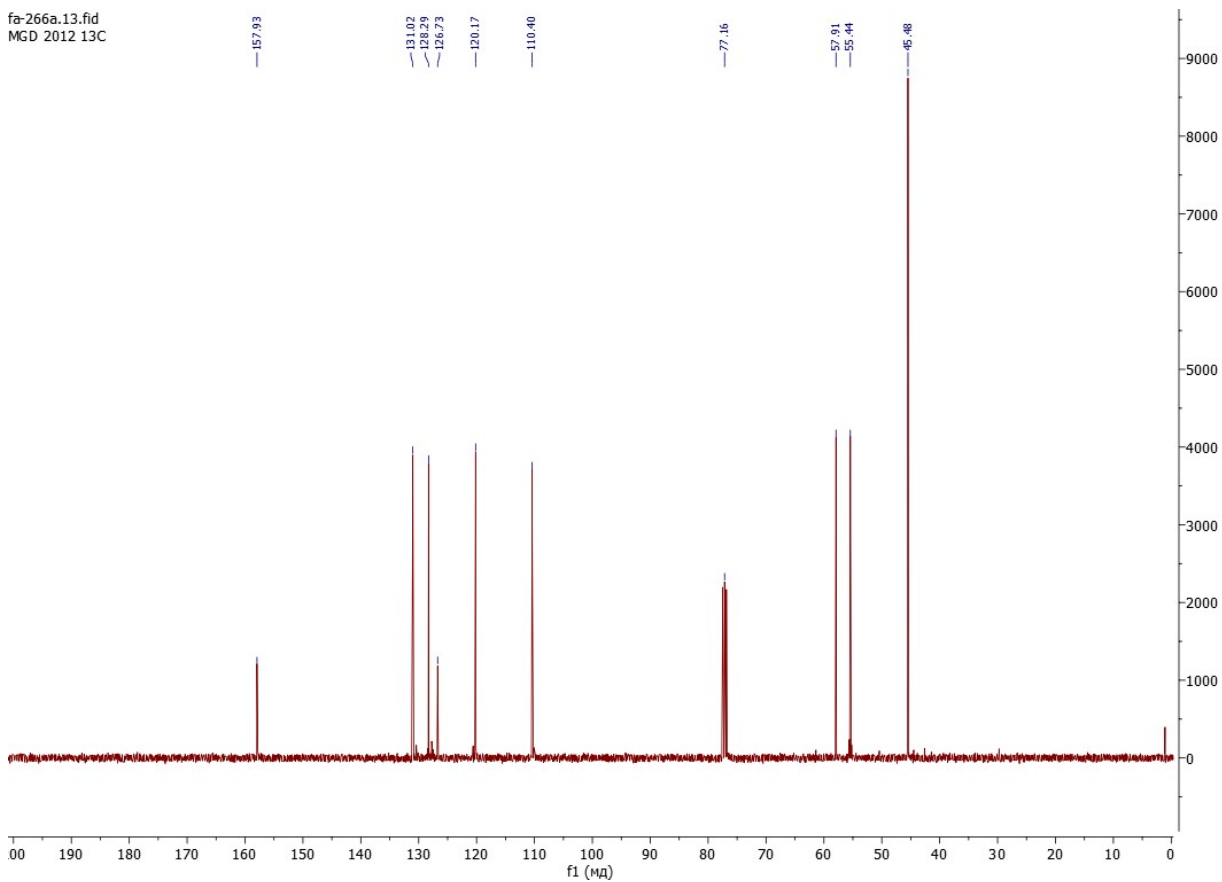


# 1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (6)

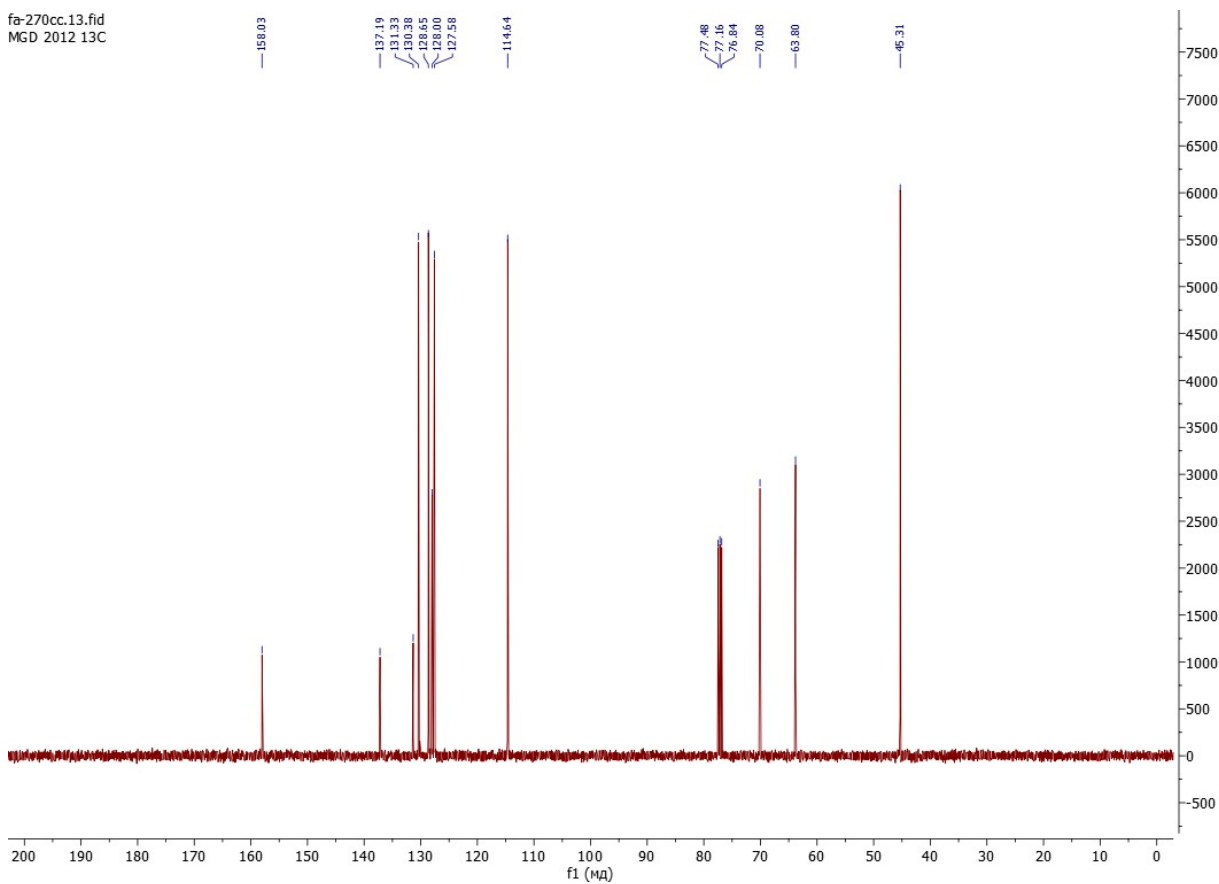
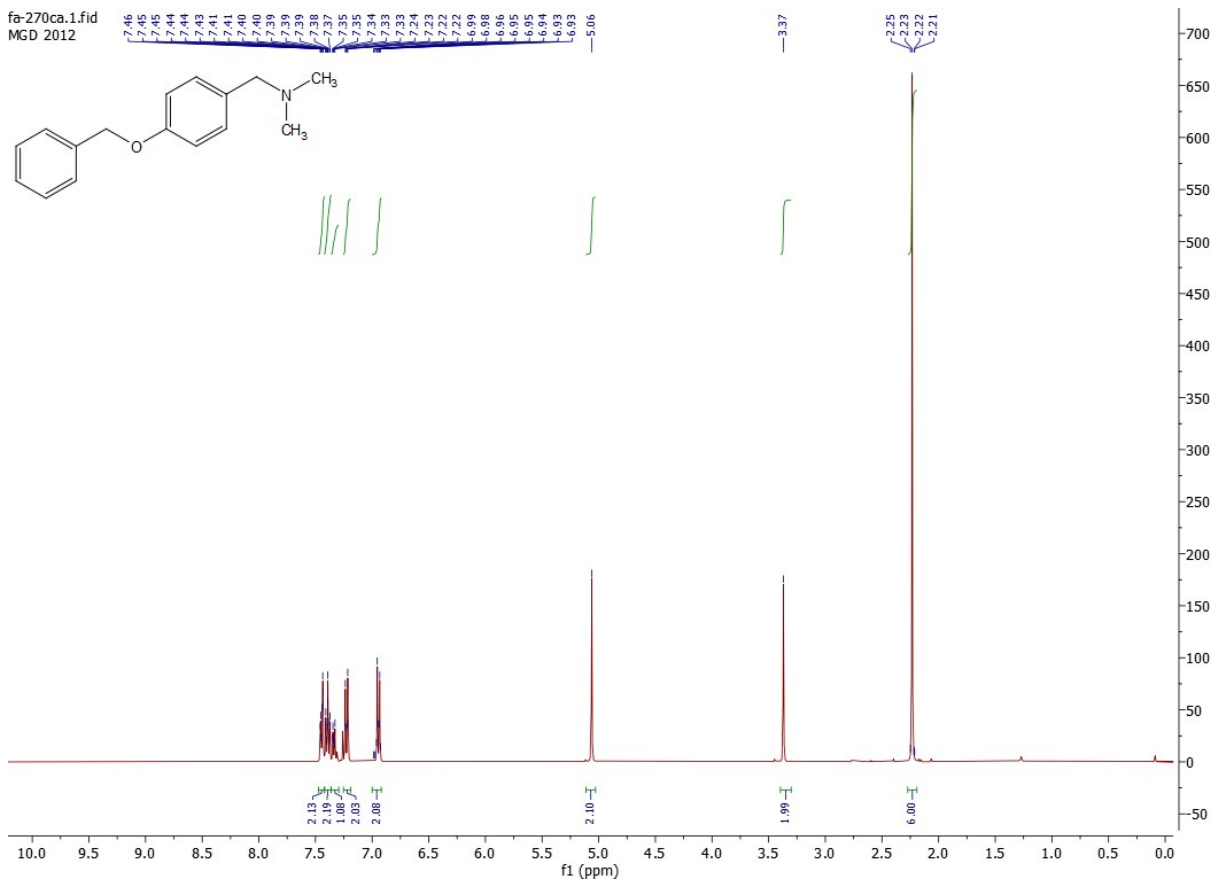
fa266a.1.fid  
MGD 2012



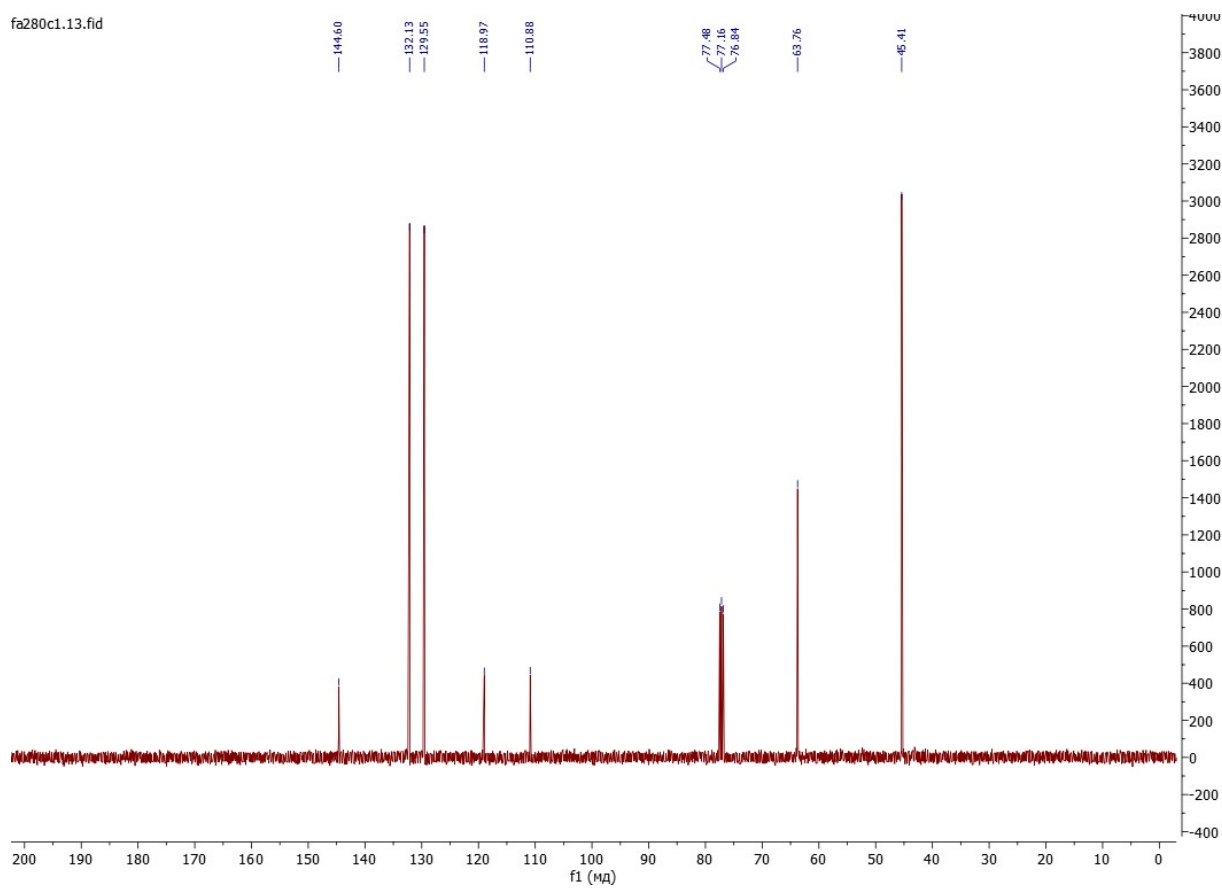
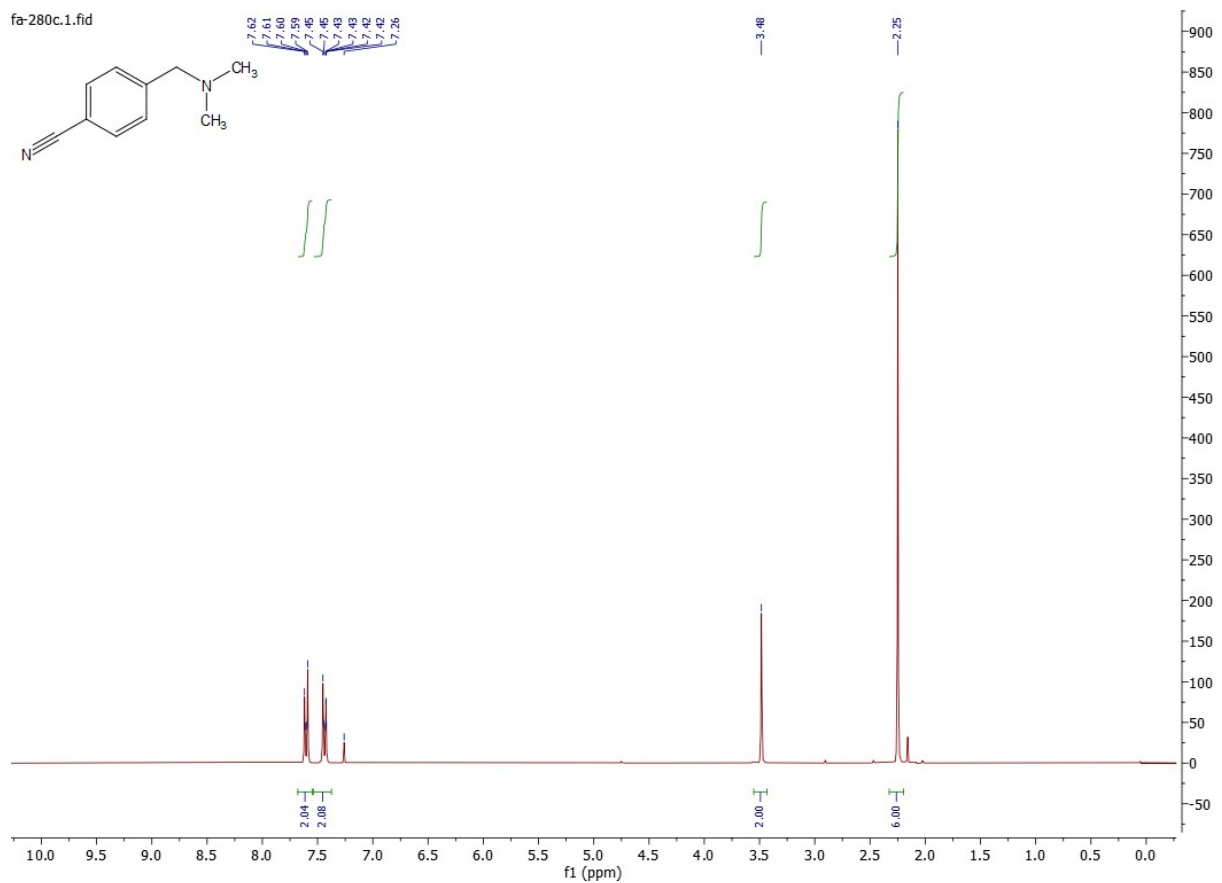
fa-266a.13.fid  
MGD 2012 13C



# 1-(4-benzyloxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (7)

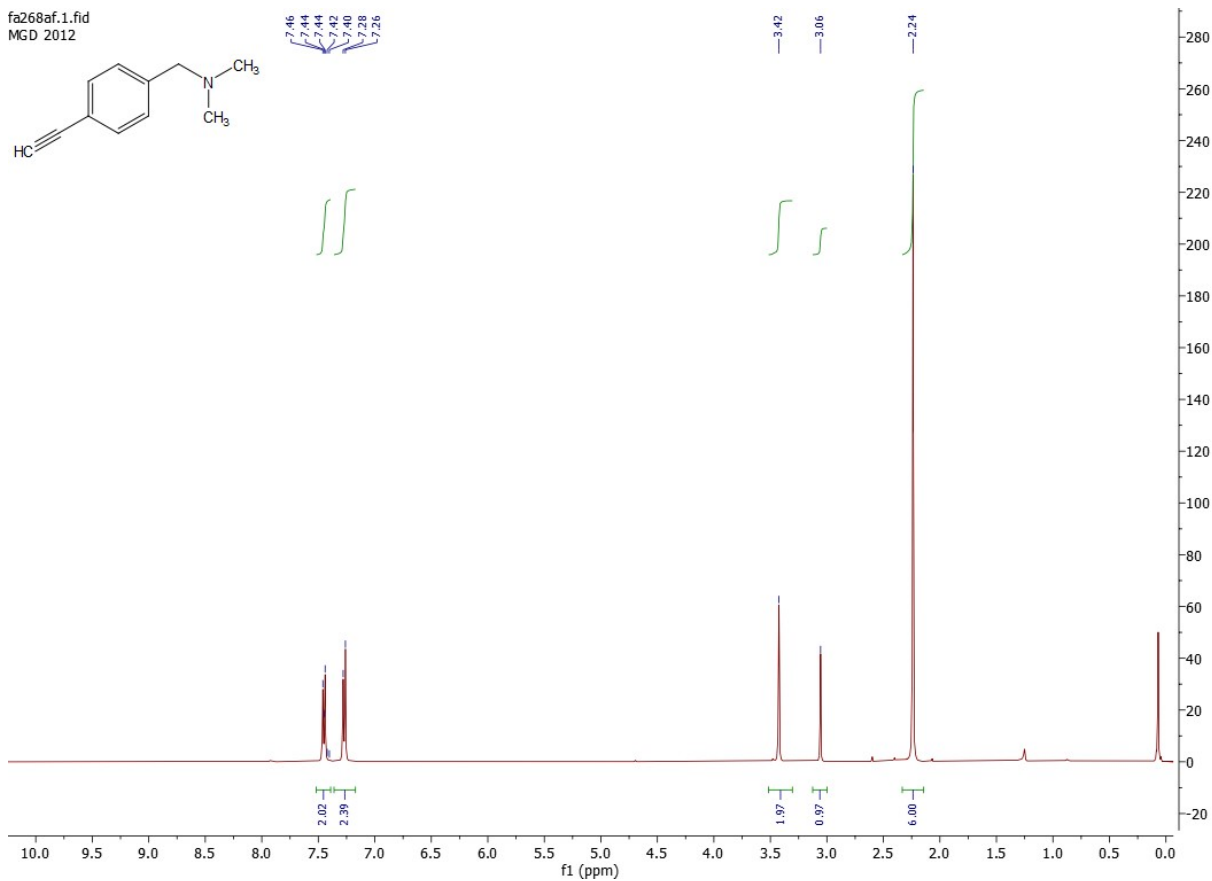
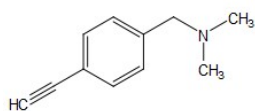


# 4-((dimethylamino)methyl)benzonitrile (8)

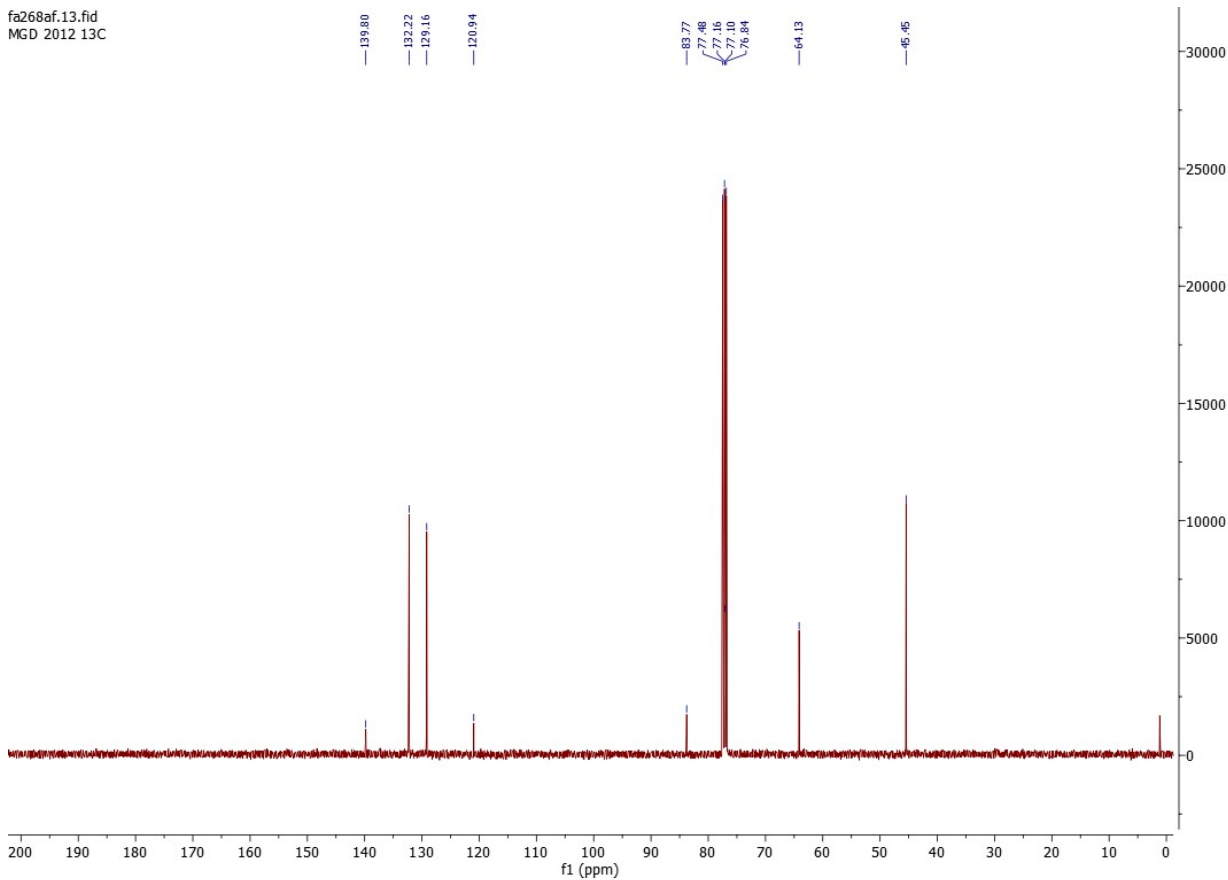


# 1-(4-ethynylphenyl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (9)

fa268af.1.fid  
MGD 2012

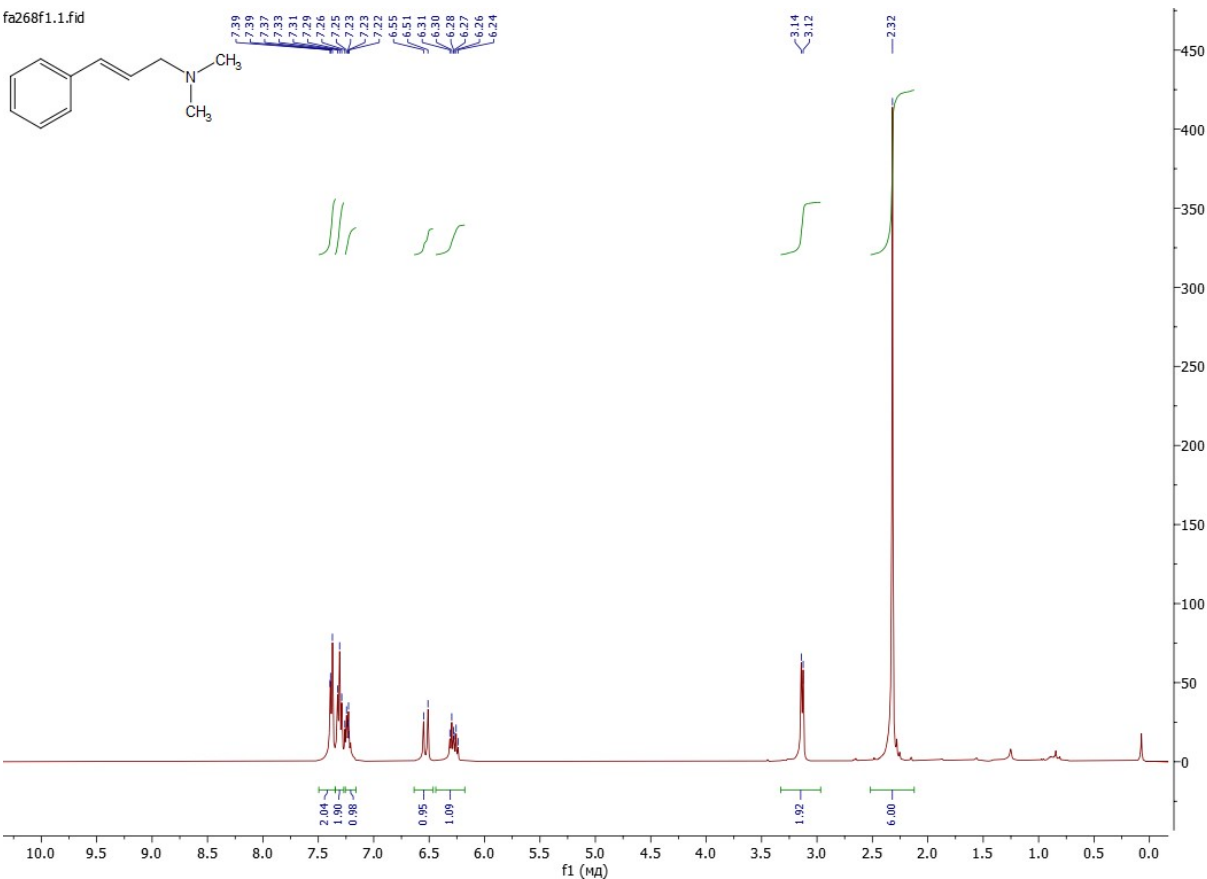


fa268af.13.fid  
MGD 2012 13C

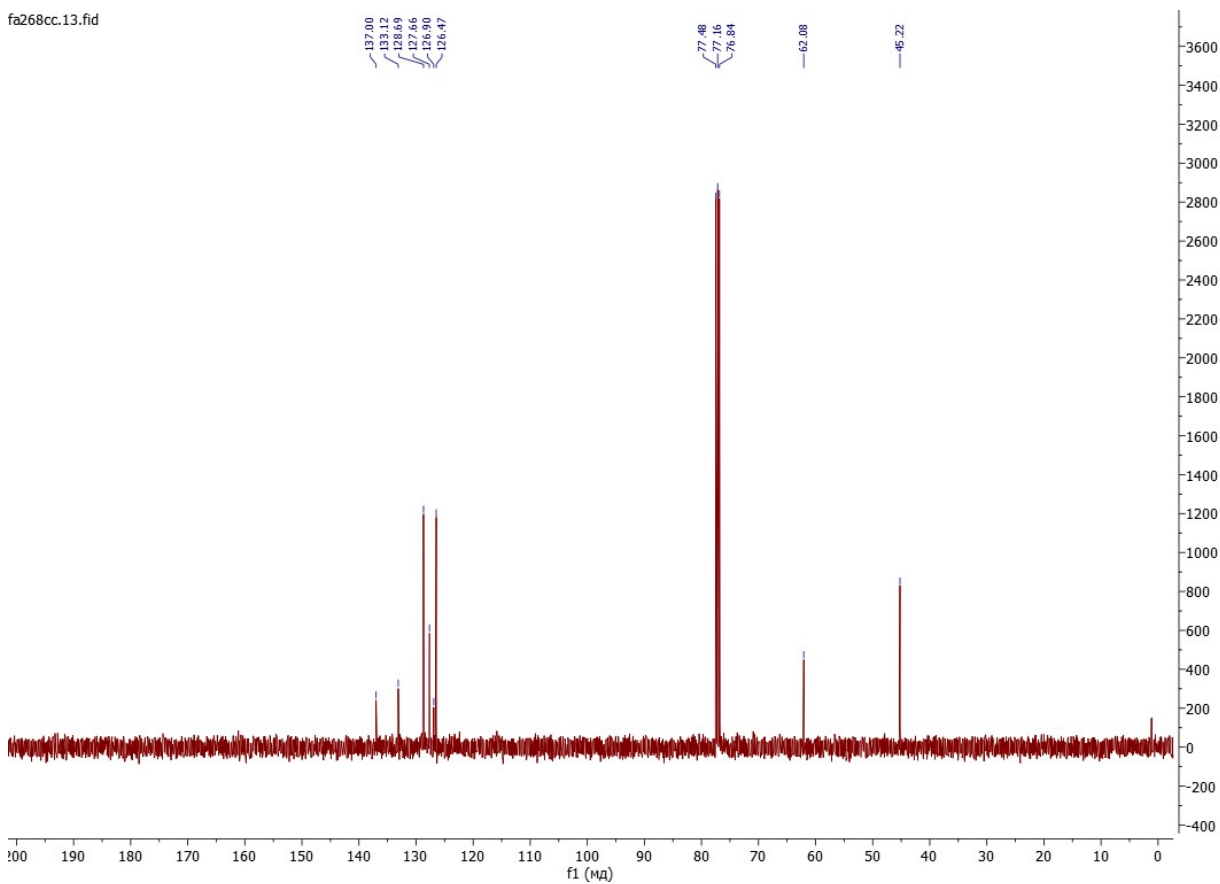


# (E)-N,N-dimethyl-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-amine (10)

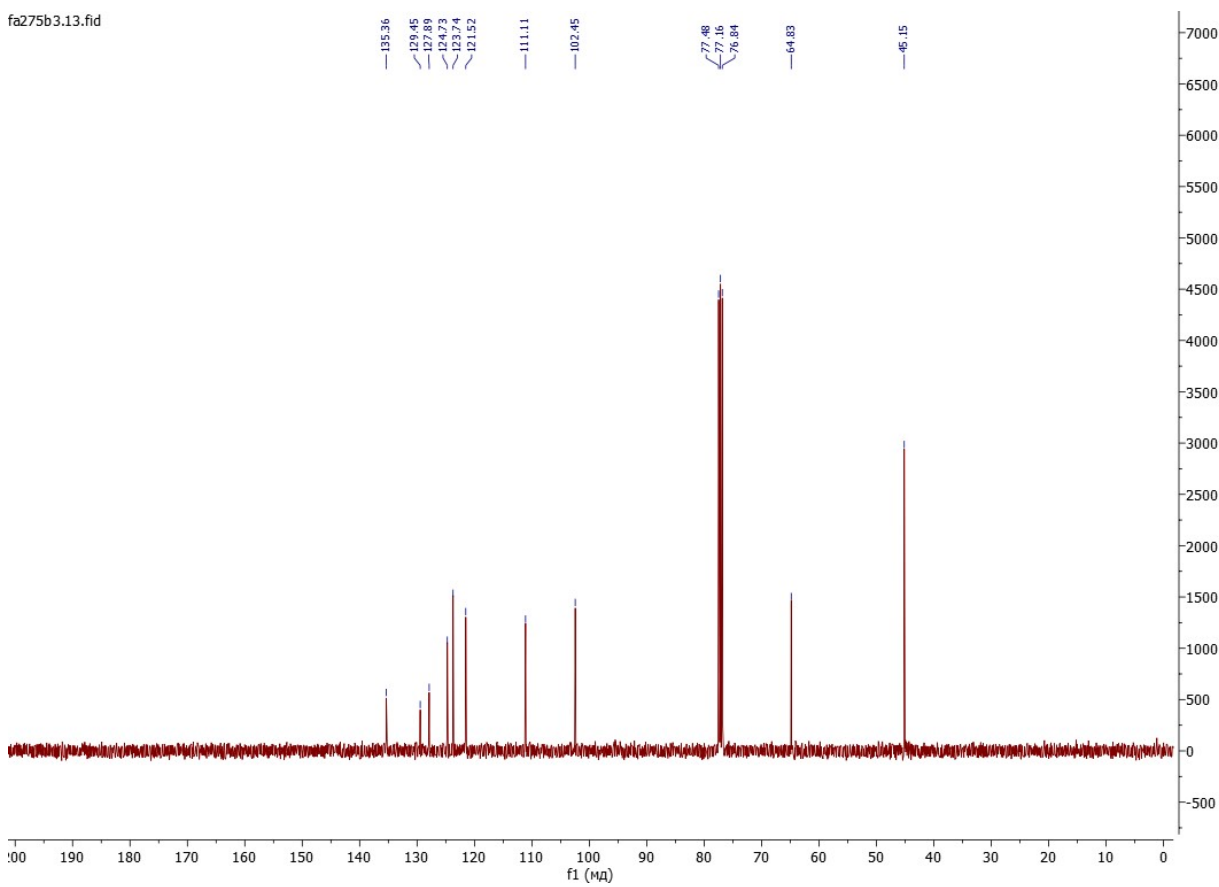
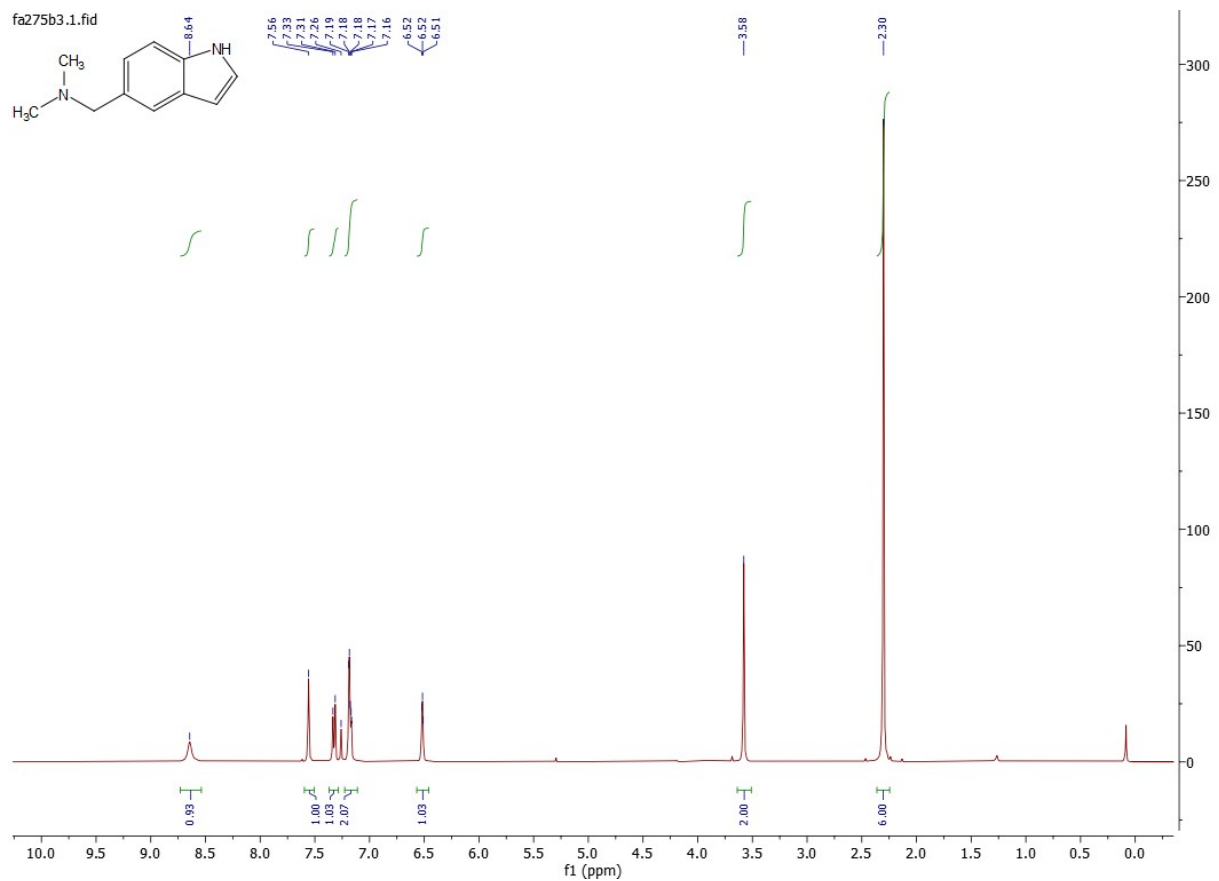
fa268f1.1.fid



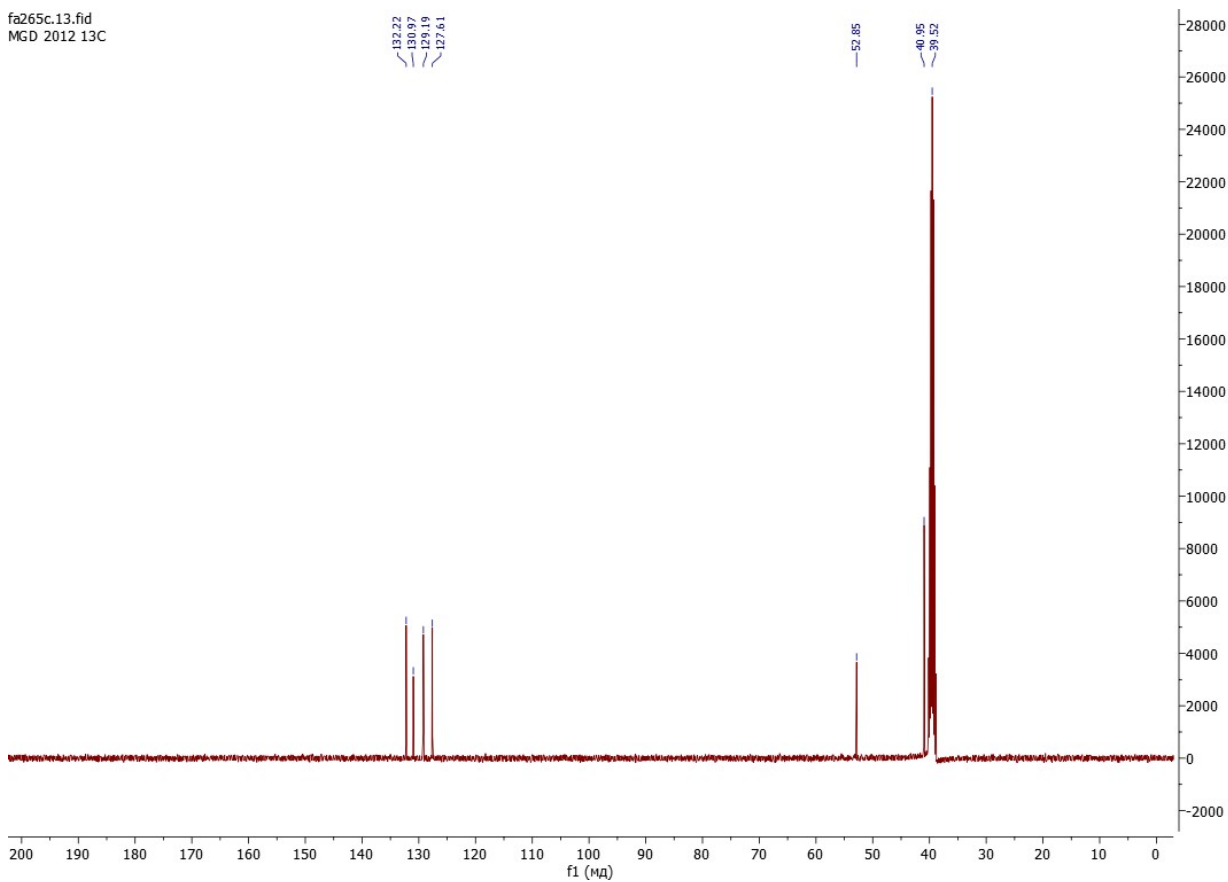
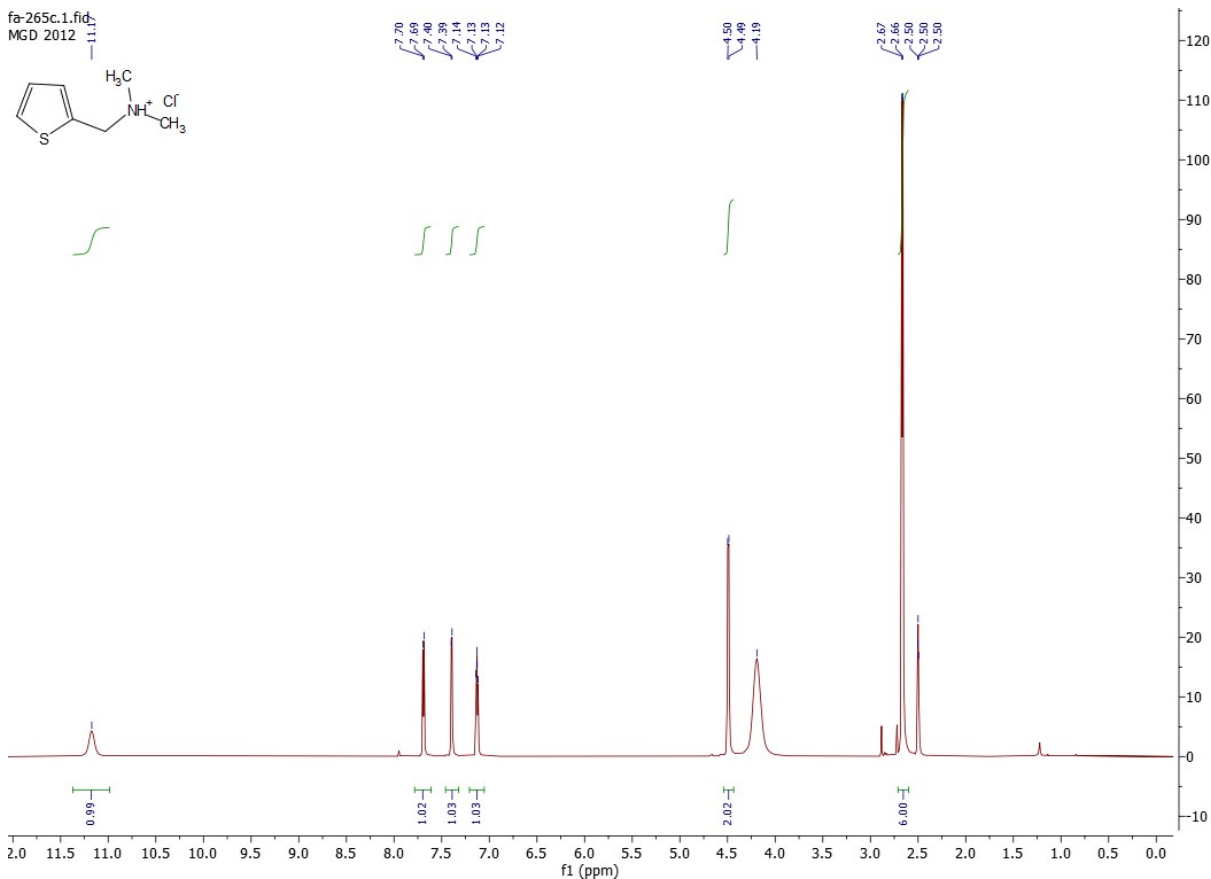
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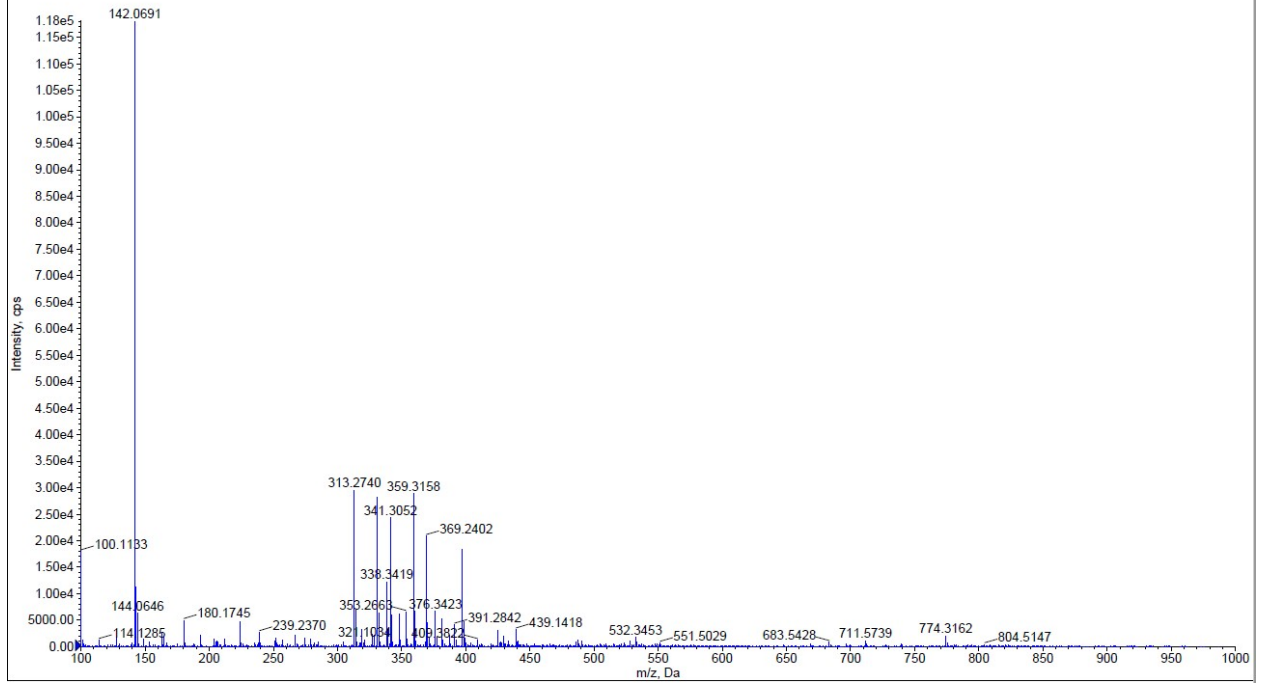


# 1-(1H-indol-5-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (11)



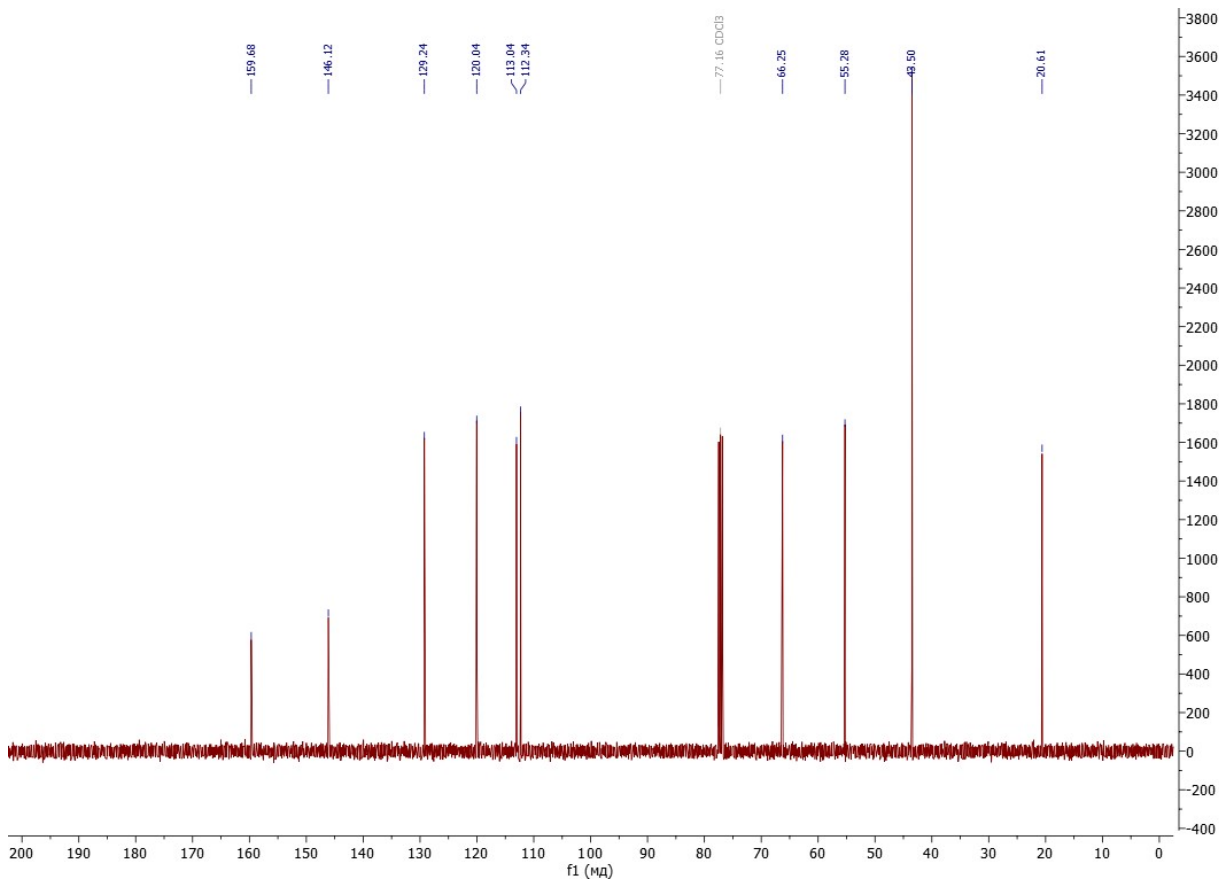
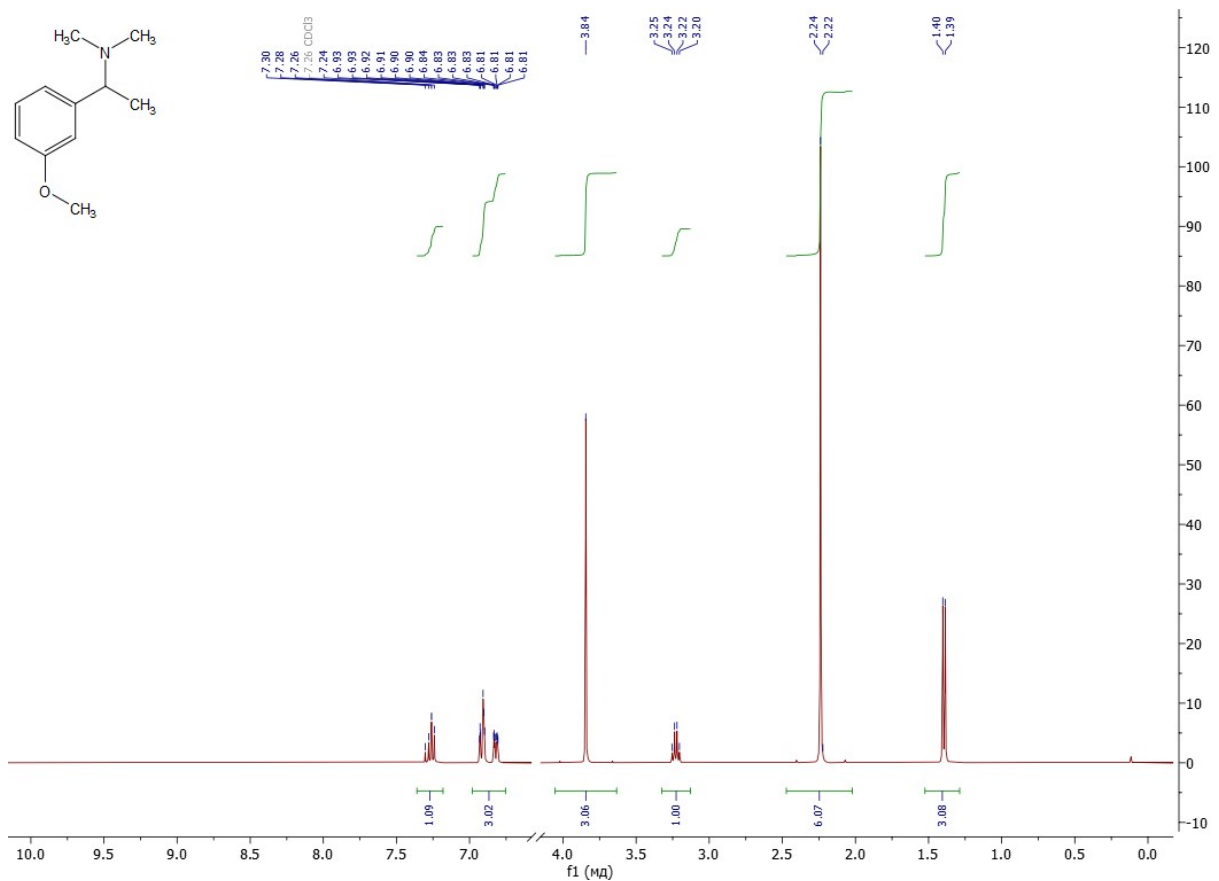
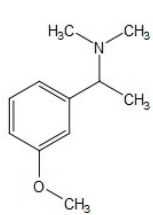
# N,N-dimethyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (12)





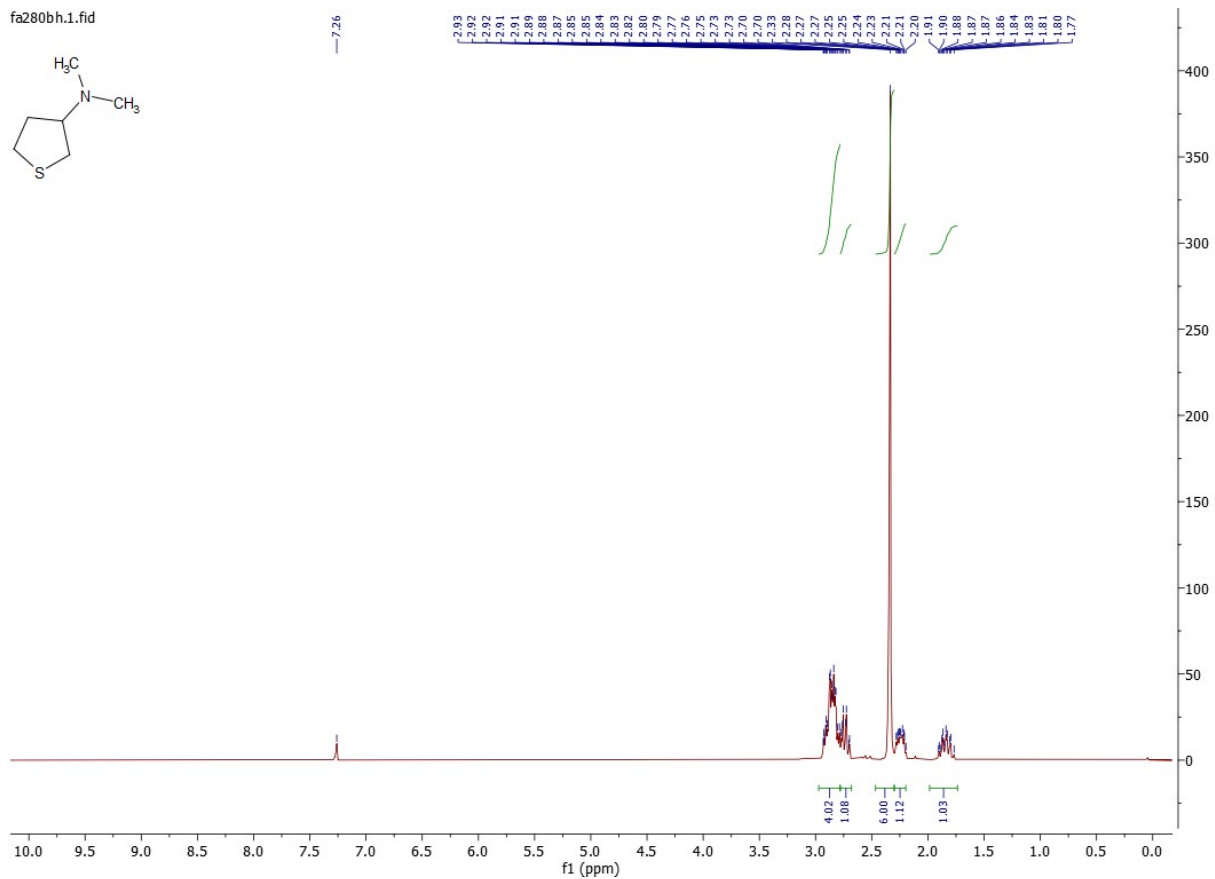
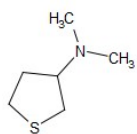


### 1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylethan-1-amine (13)

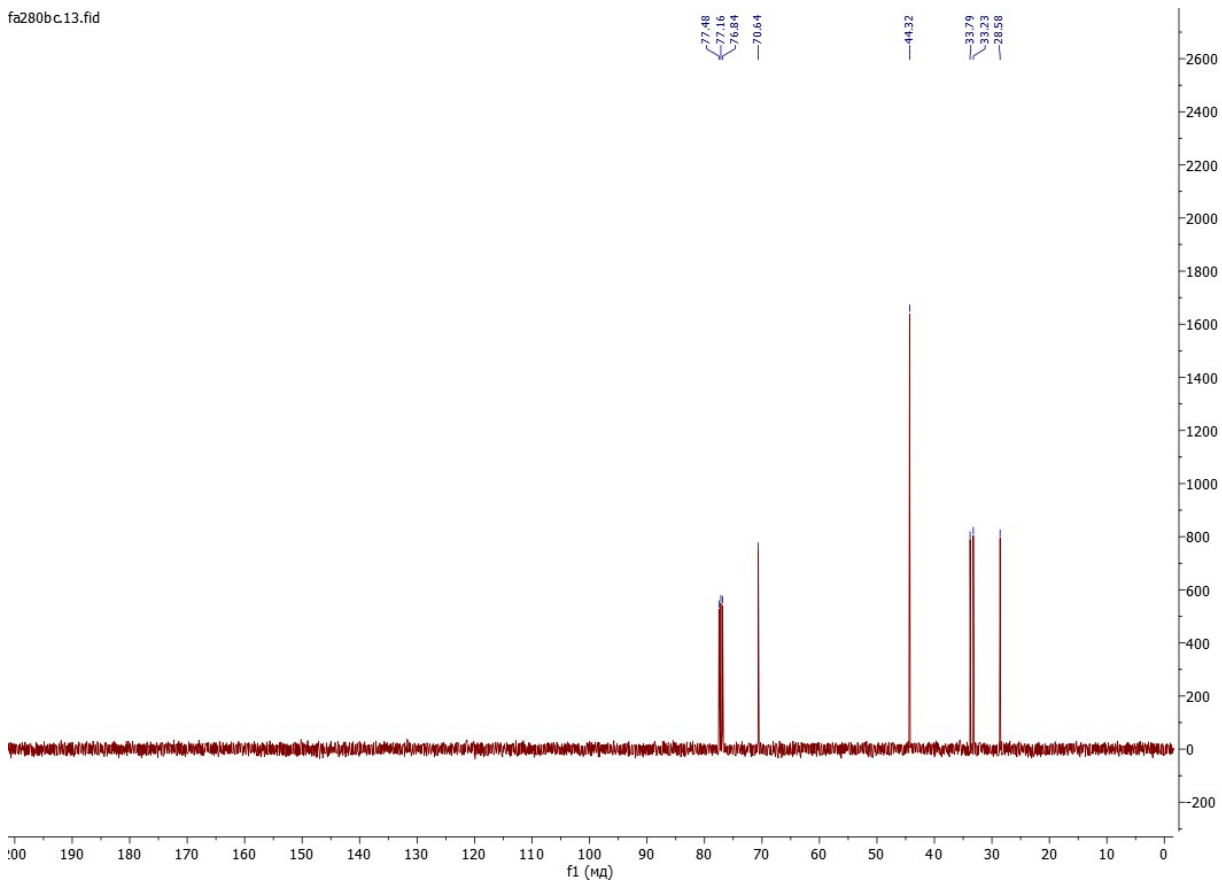


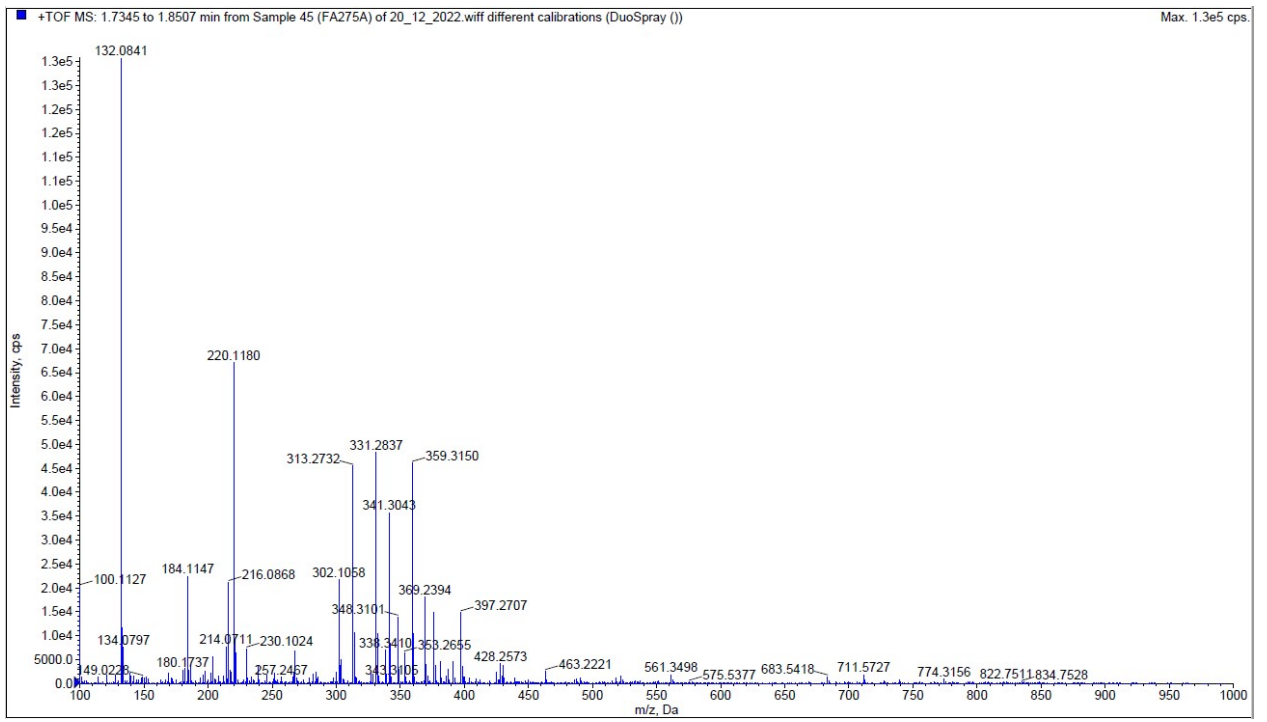
# N,N-dimethyltetrahydrothiophen-3-amine (14)

fa280bh.1.fid



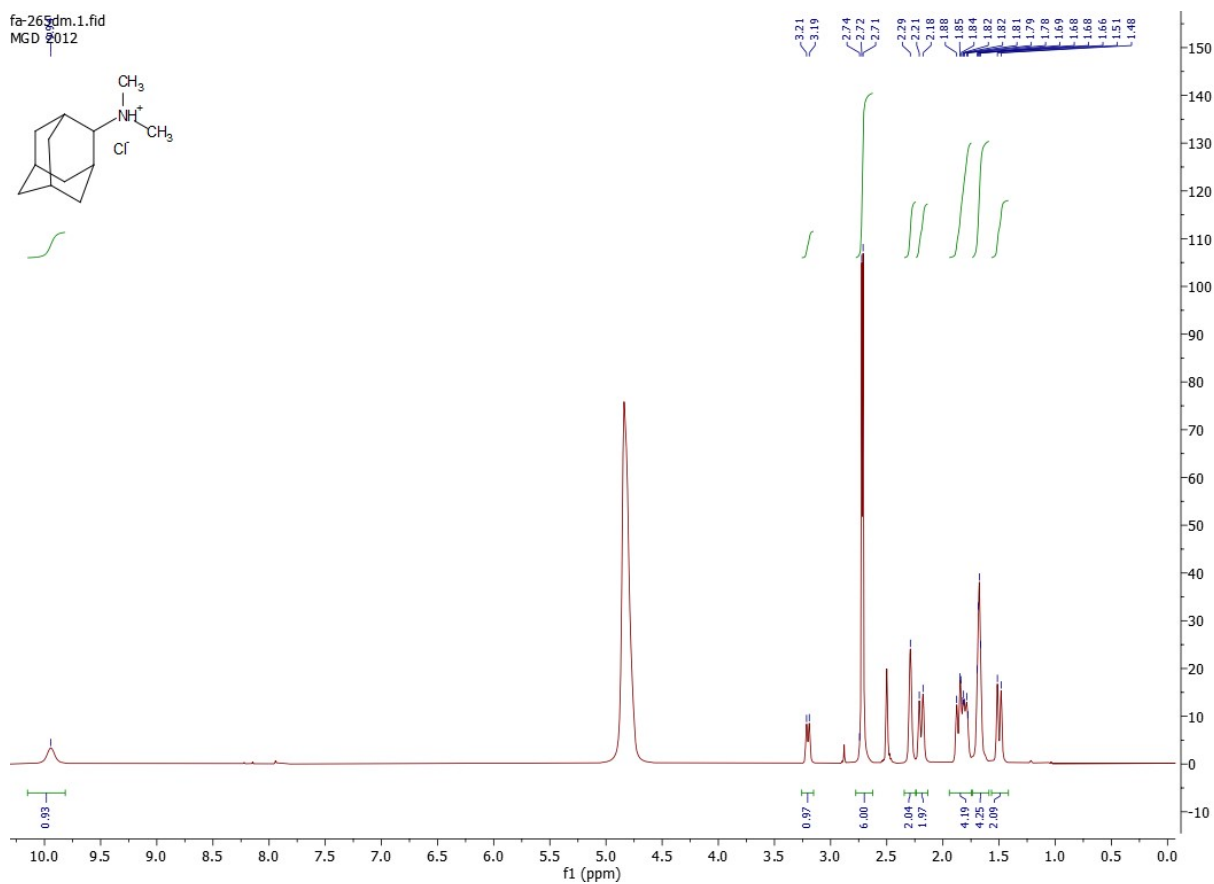
fa280bc.13.fid





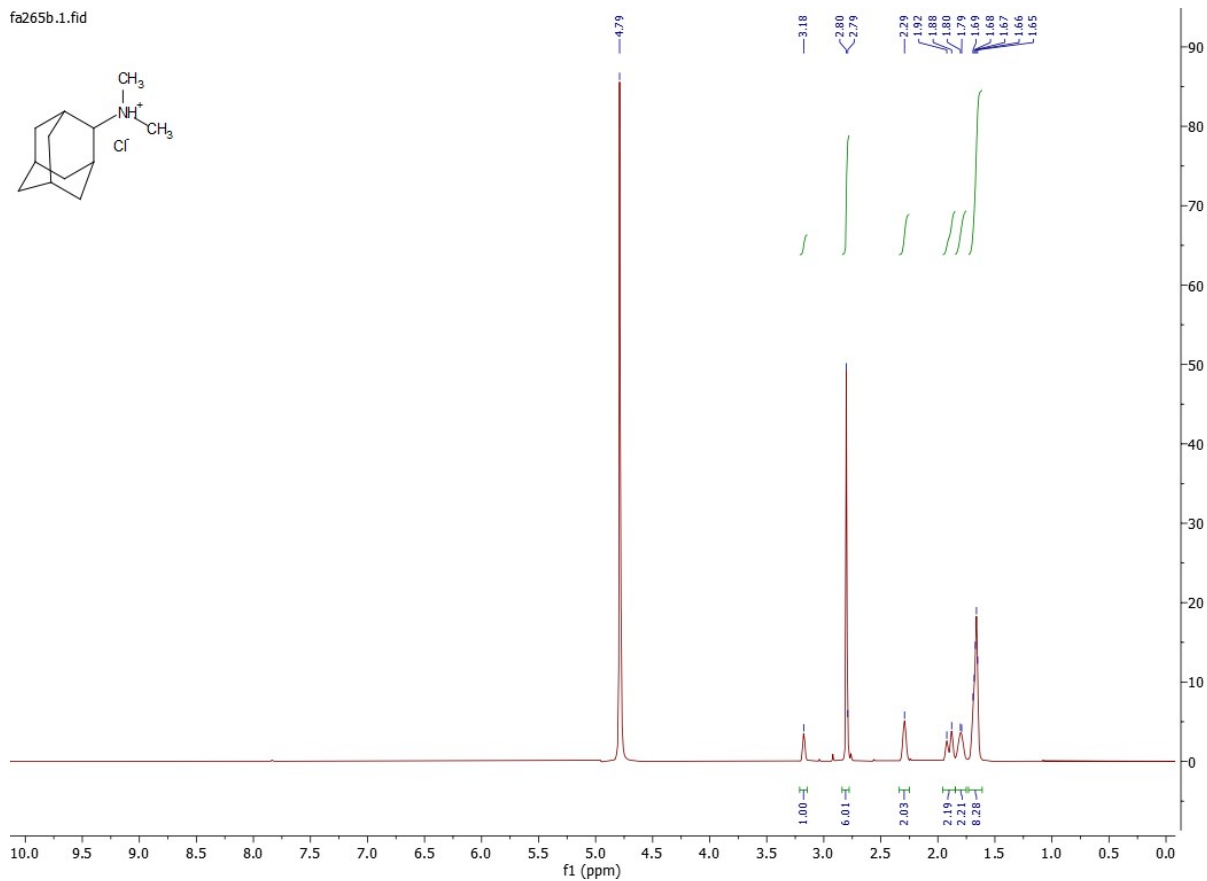
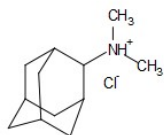
# N,N-dimethyladamantan-2-amine hydrochloride (15)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR in DMSO:



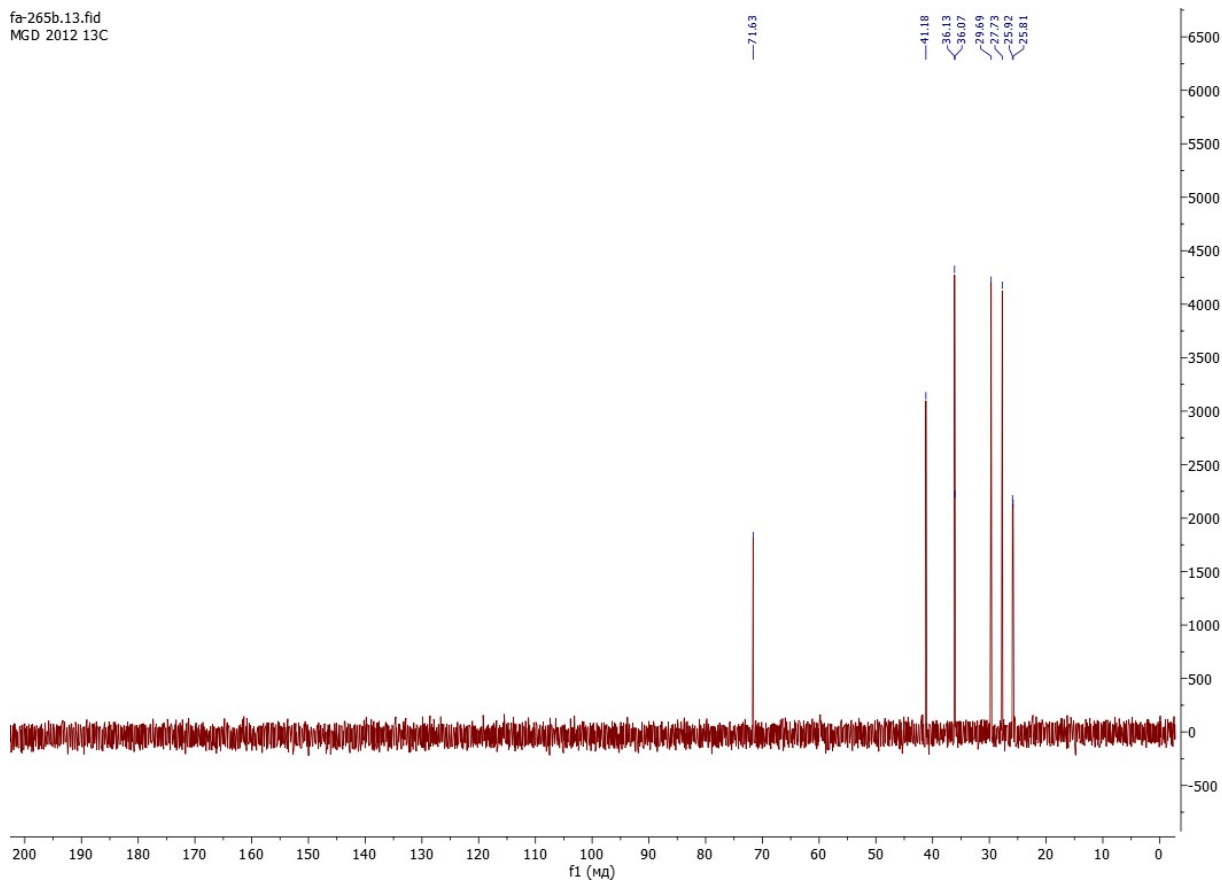
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR in D<sub>2</sub>O:

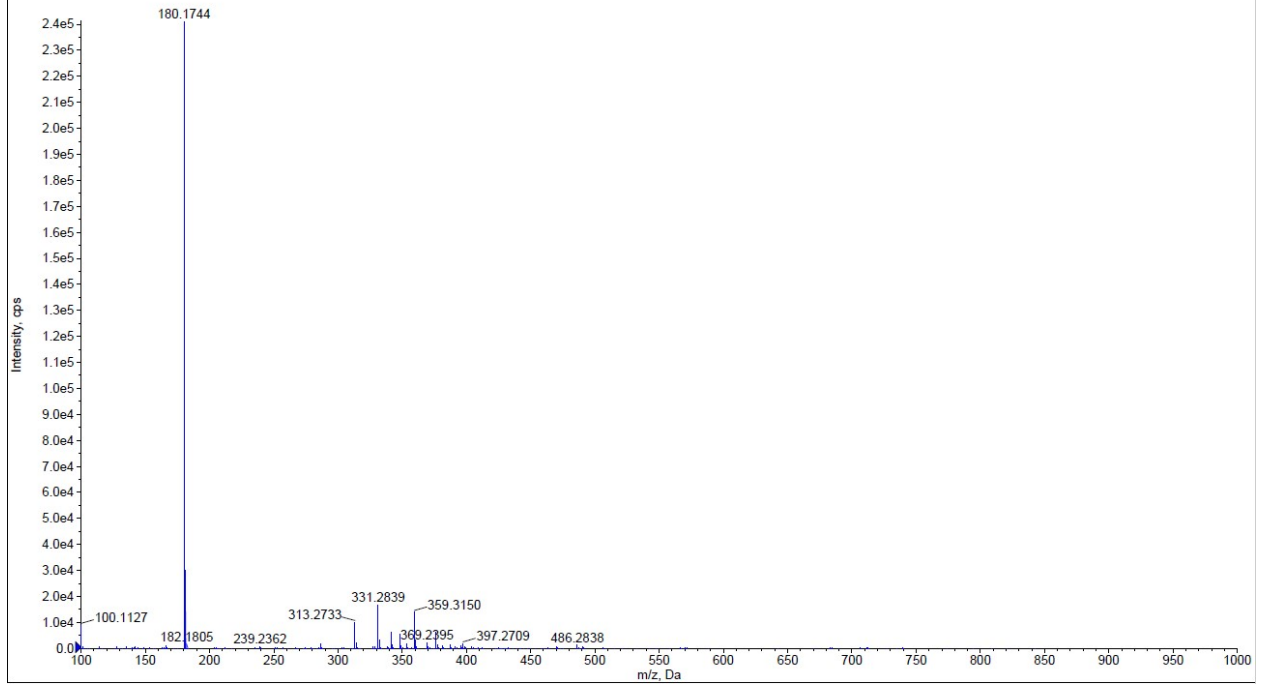
fa265b.1.fid



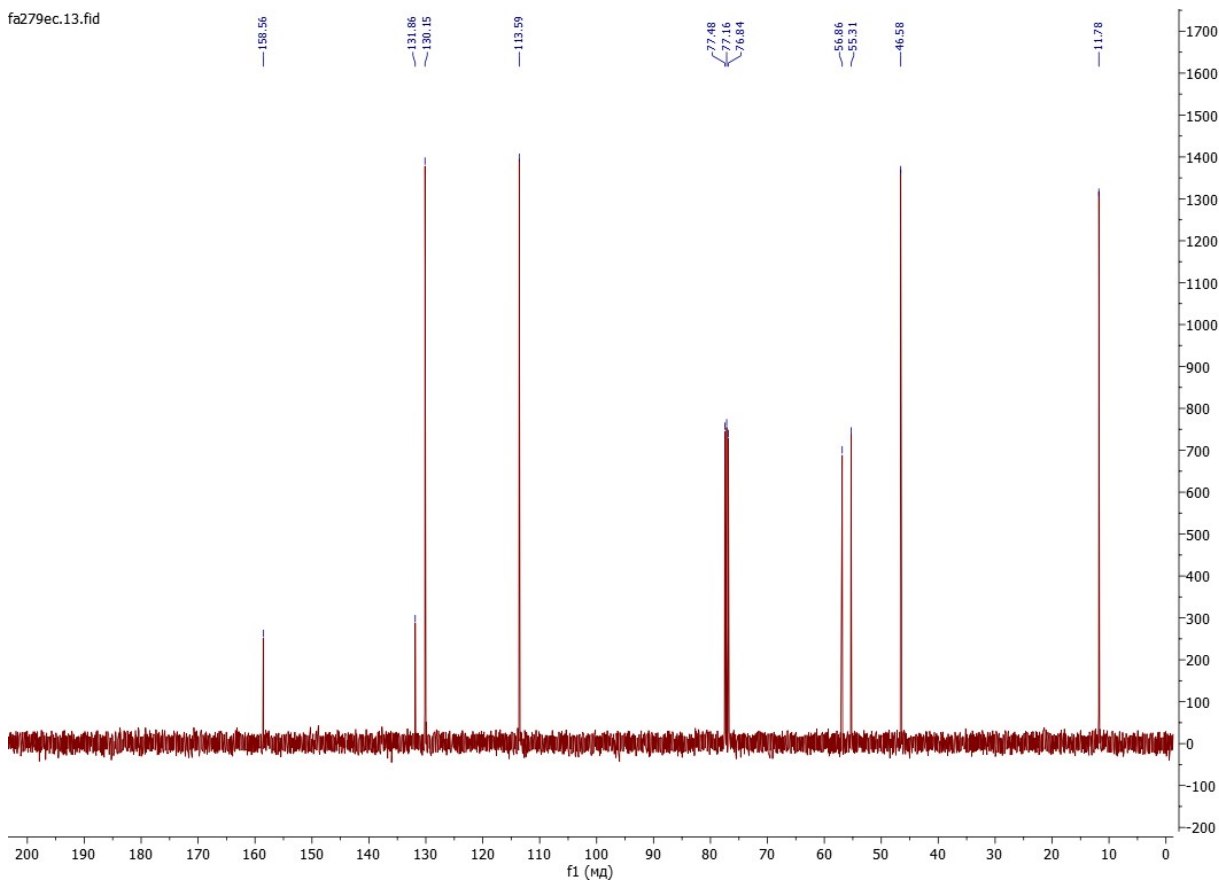
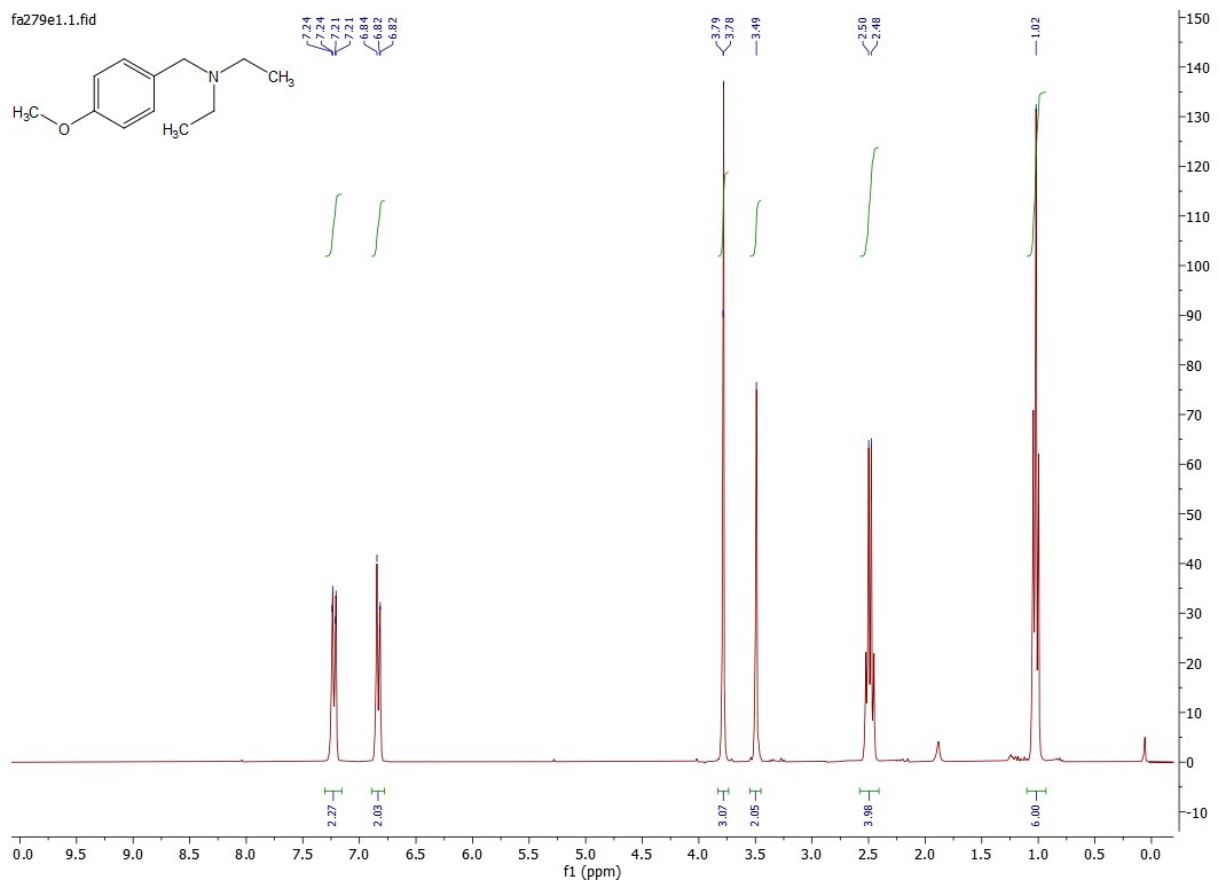
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ :

fa-265b.13.fid  
MGD 2012 13C

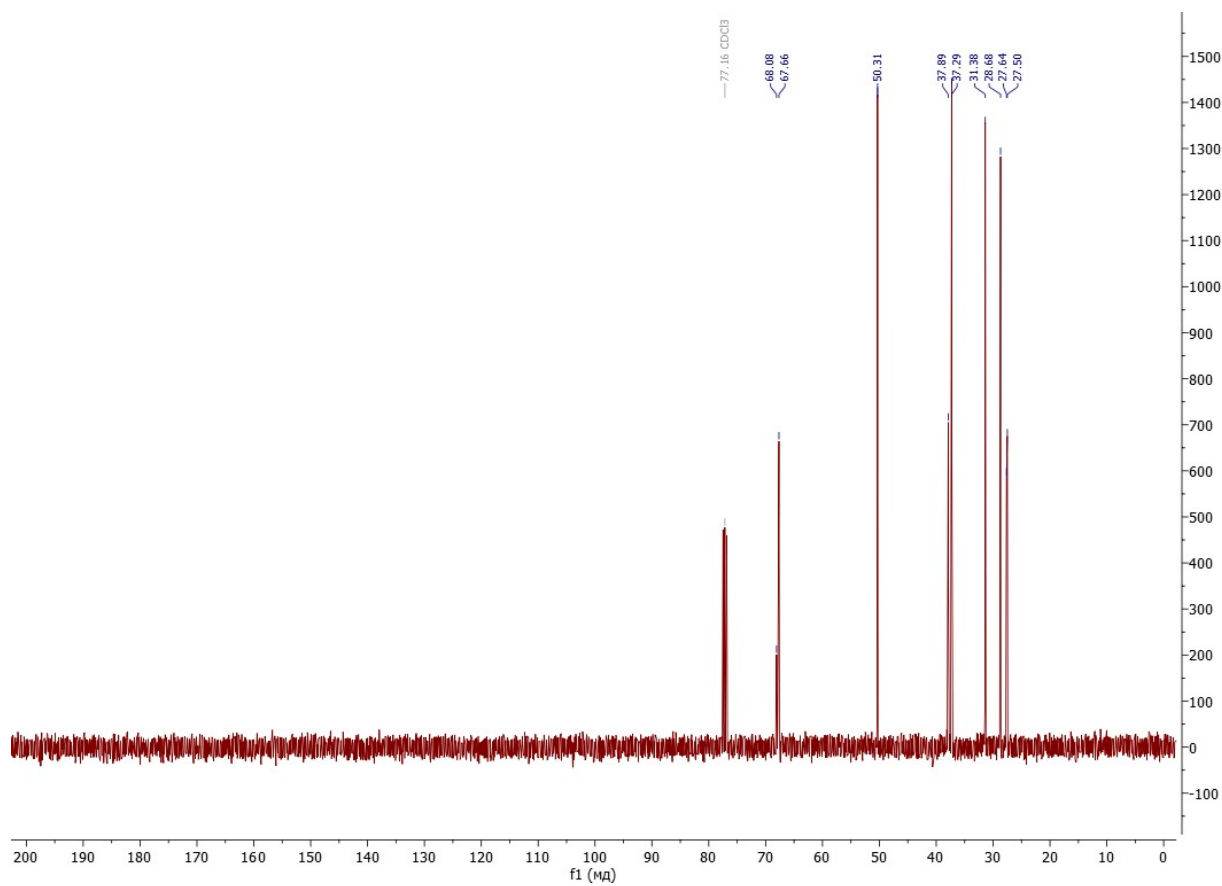
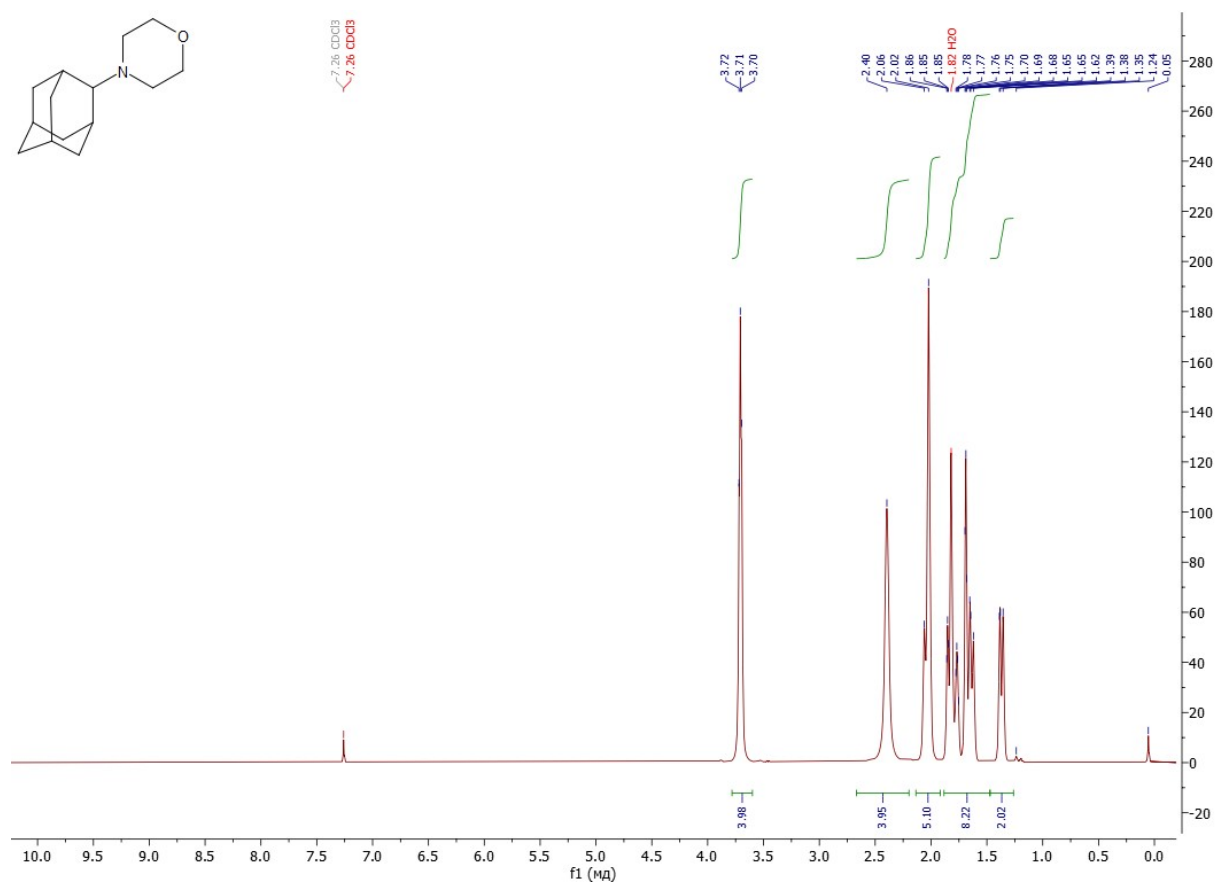
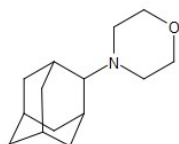




# N-ethyl-N-(4-methoxybenzyl)ethanamine (16)

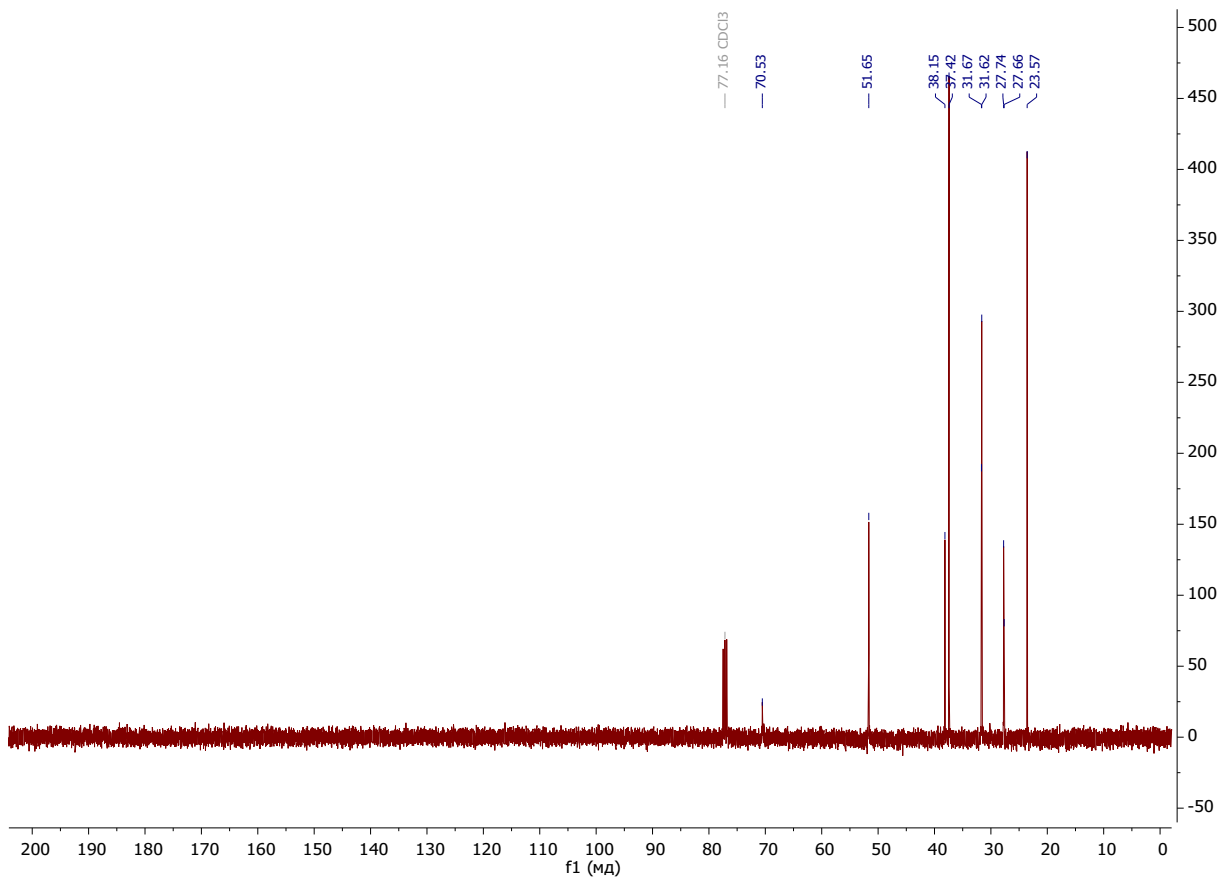
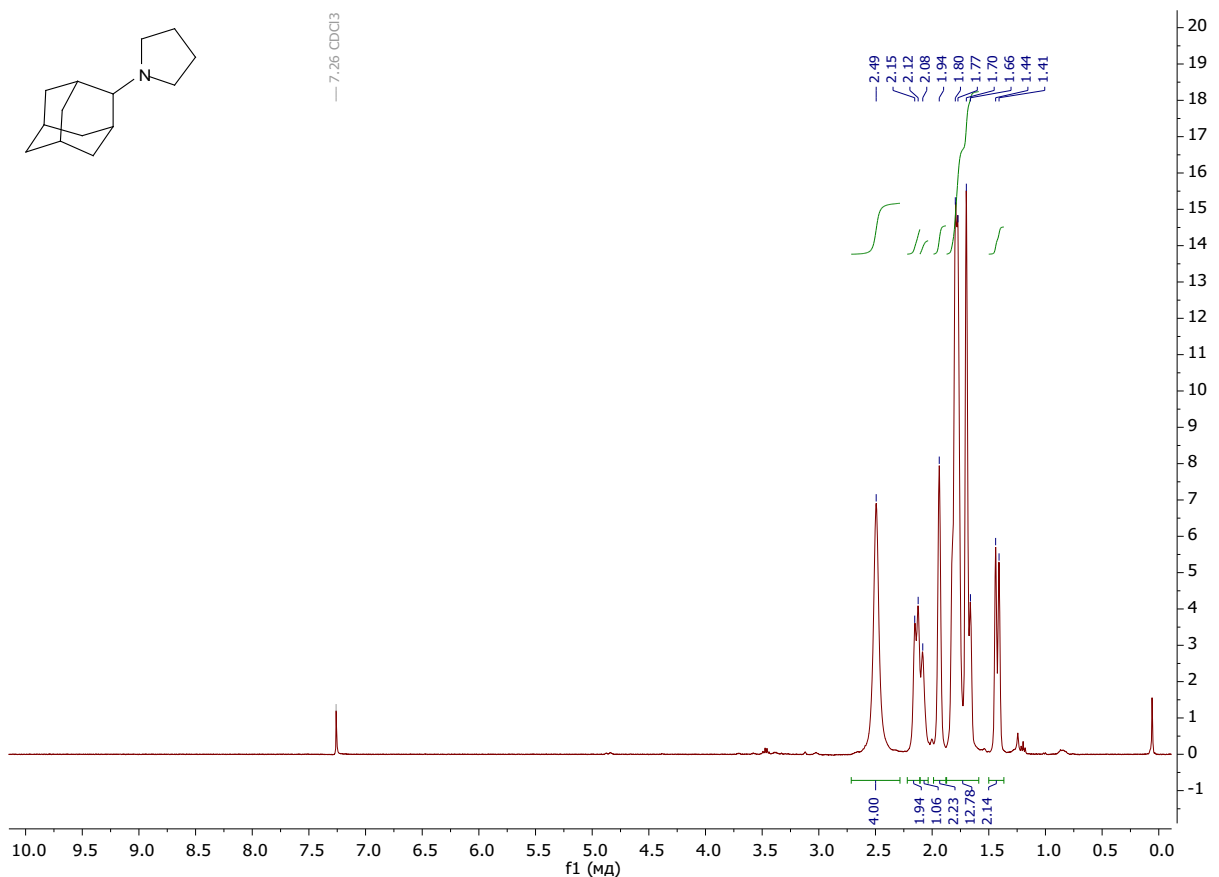
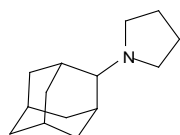


# 4-(adamantan-2-yl)-morpholine (17)

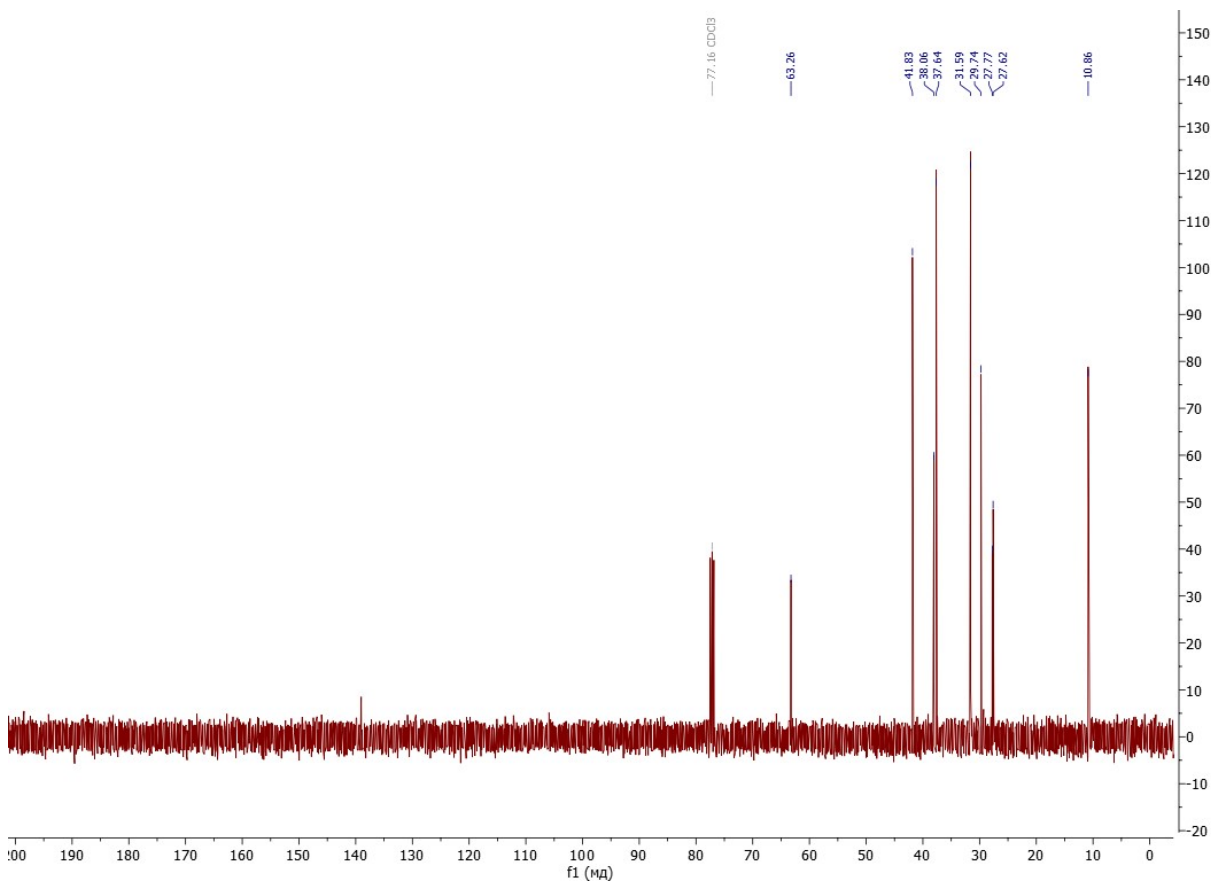
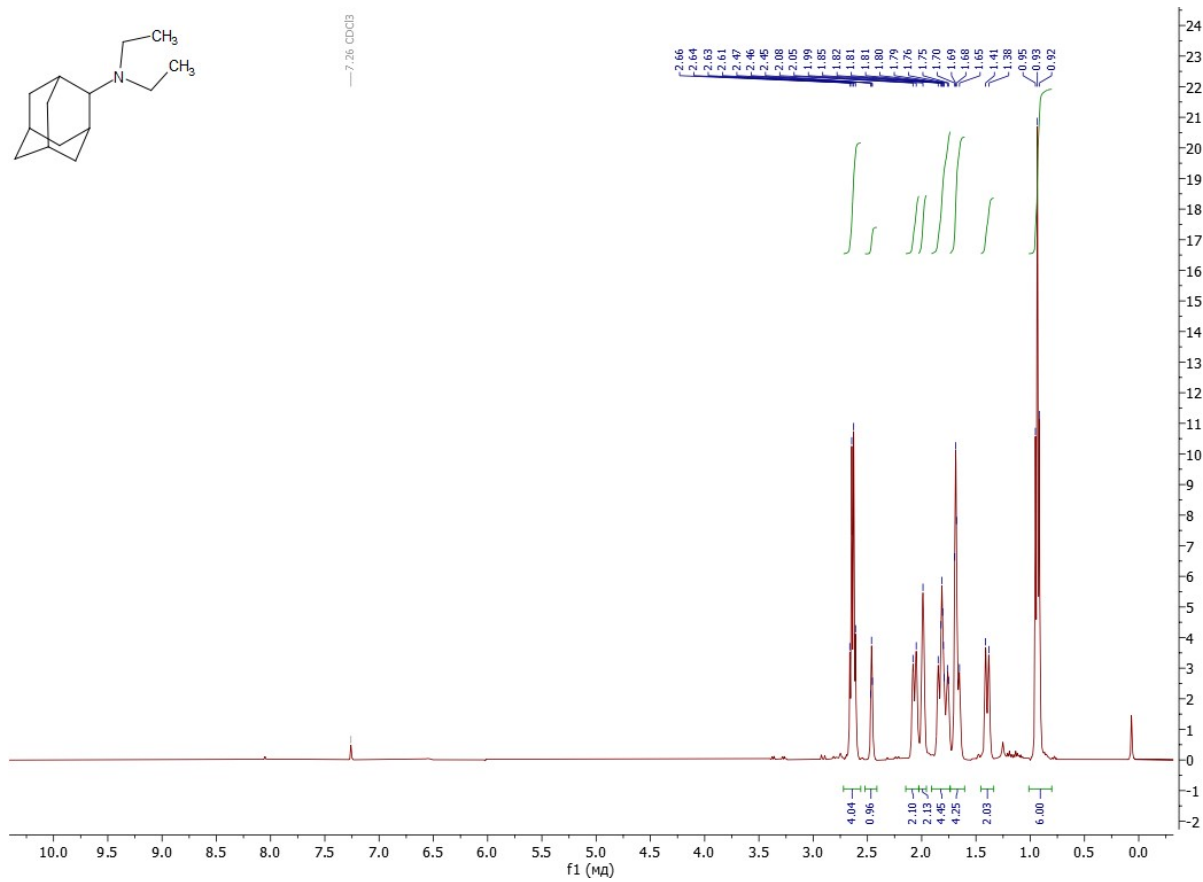
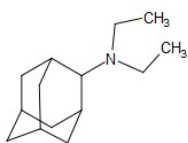




# 1-(adamantan-2-yl)-pyrrolidine (18)

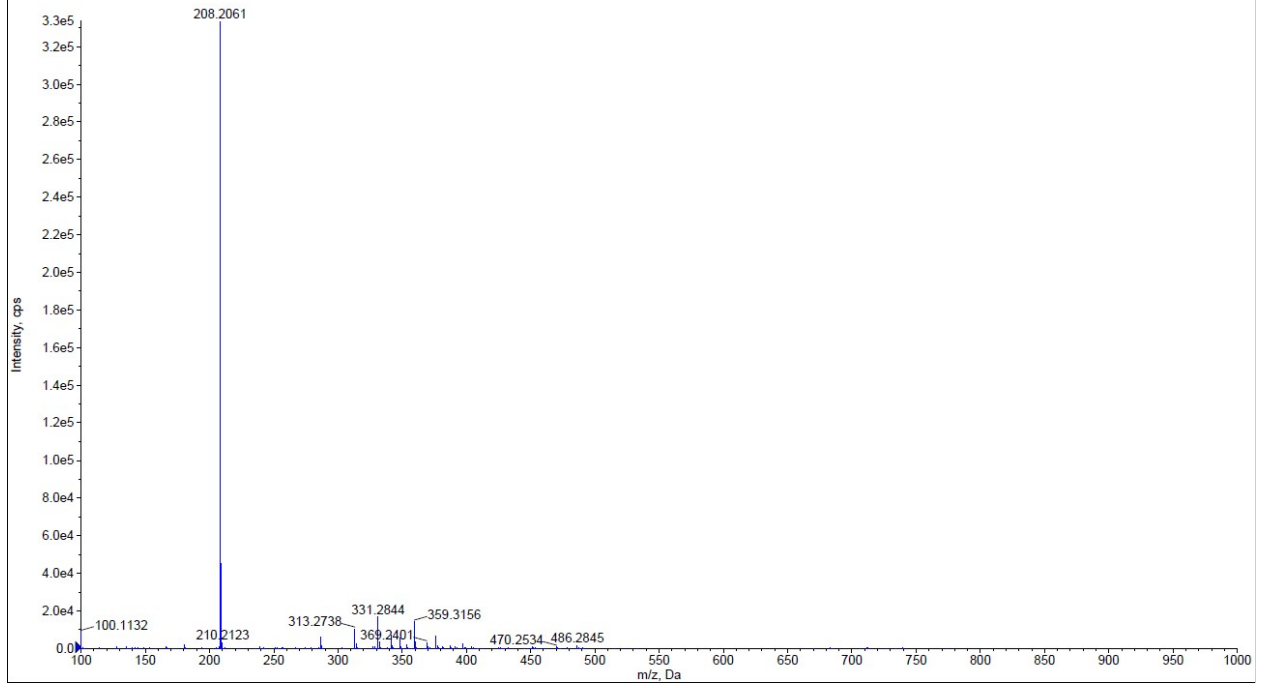


# N,N-diethyladamantan-2-amine (19)

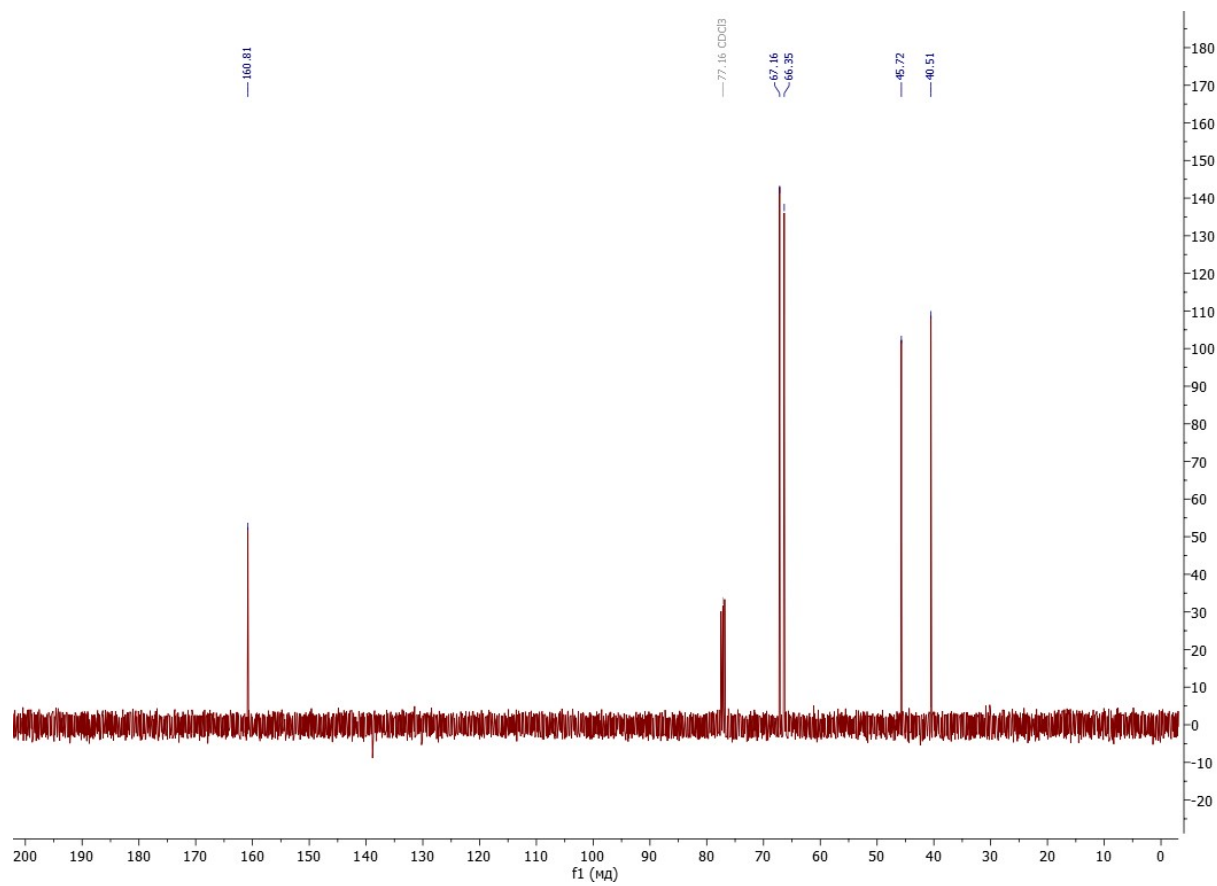
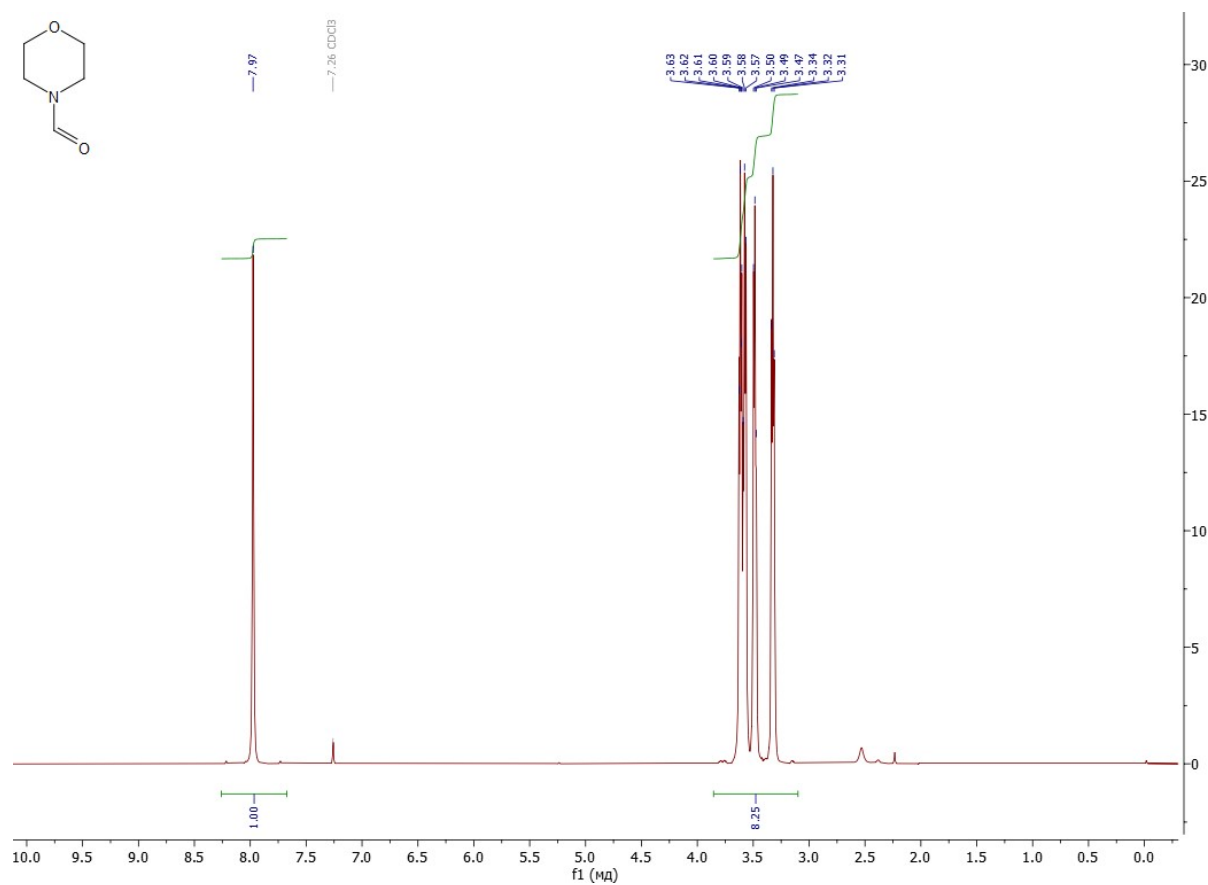
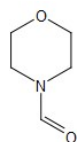


■ +TOF MS: 0.5162 to 0.6696 min from Sample 48 (SV101) of 20\_12\_2022.wiff different calibrations (DuoSpray ())

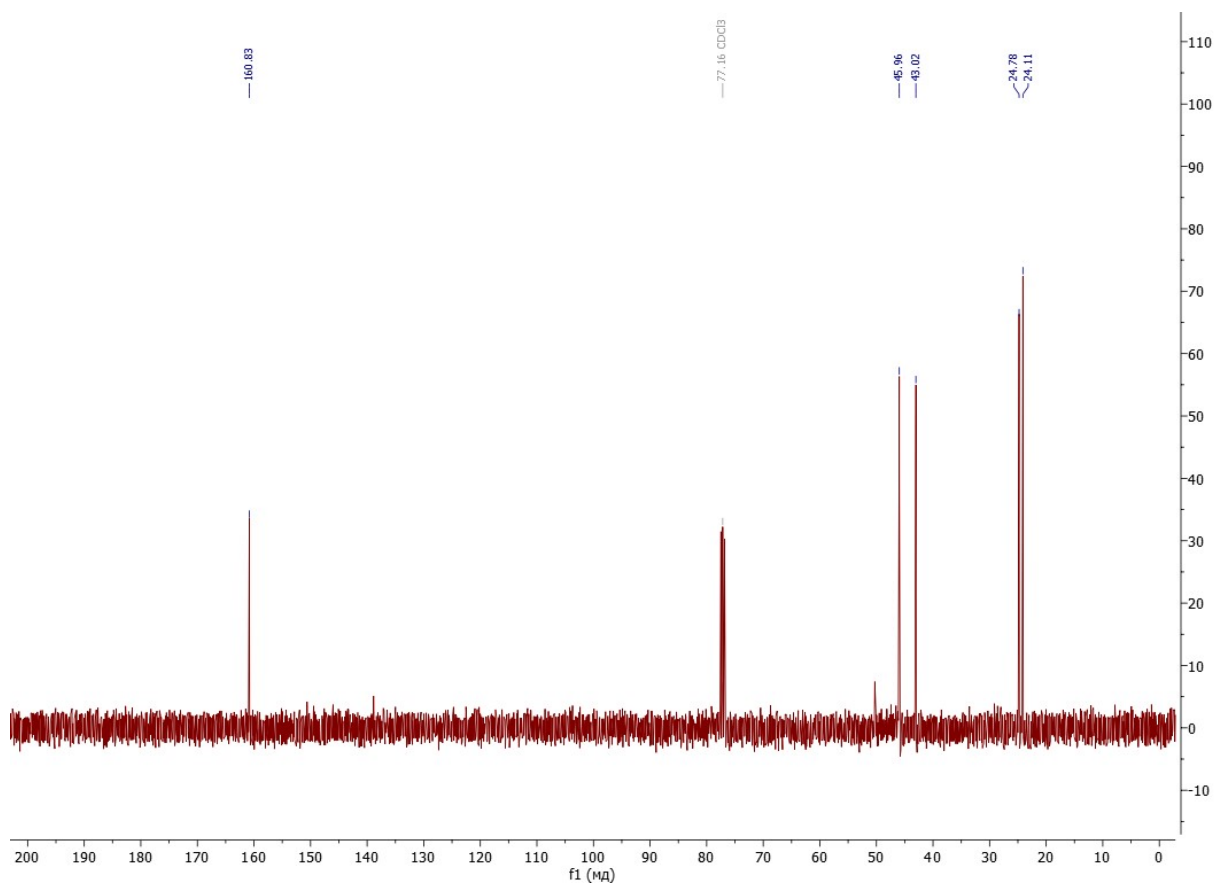
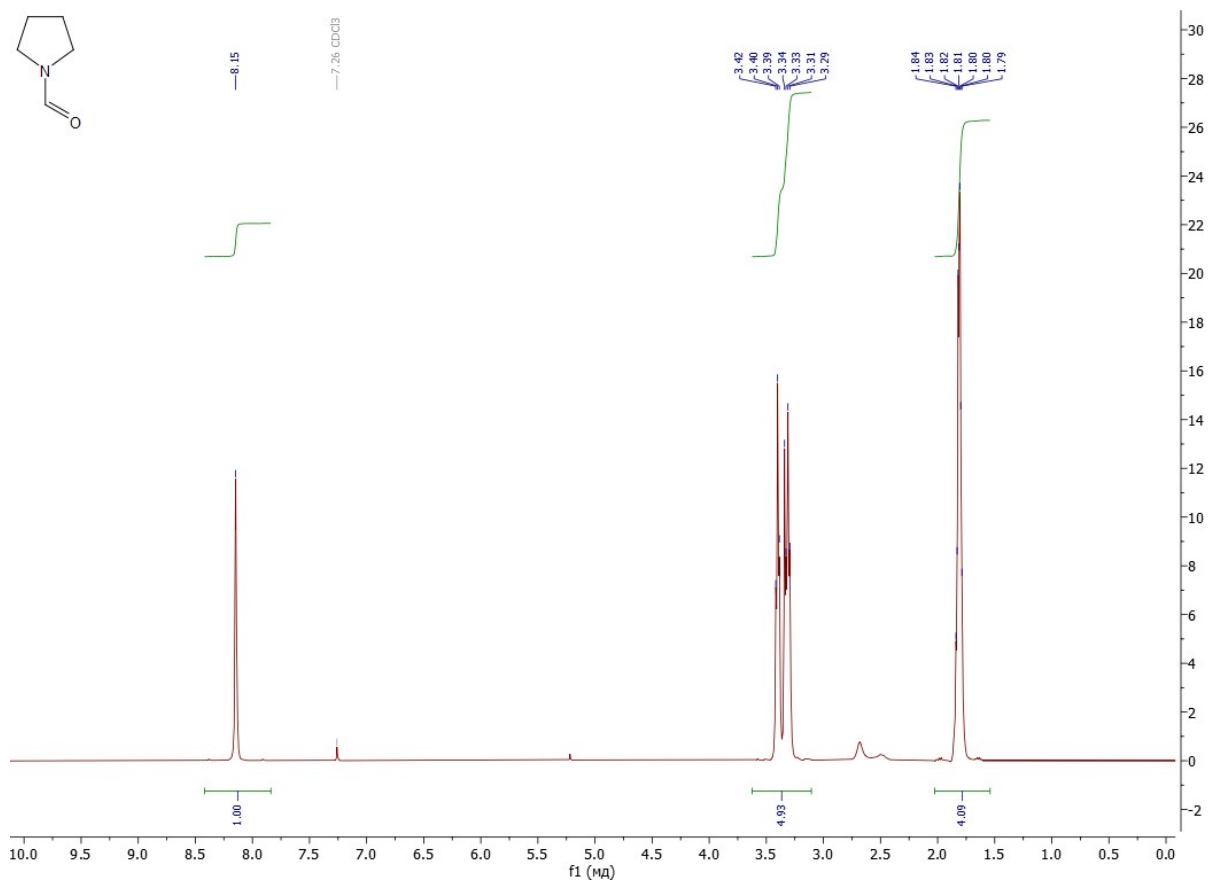
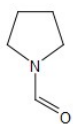
Max. 3.3e5 cps.



# N-formylmorpholine



# N-formylpyrrolidine



- 1 <https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/RU/en/sds/sial/227056>;  
<https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/RU/en/sds/aldrich/391956>;  
<https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/RU/en/sds/aldrich/388246>.
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