

## Aryl Boronic Acid-Controlled Divergent Ring-Contraction and Ring-Opening/Isomerization Reactions of *tert*-Cyclobutanols Enabled by Nickel Catalysis

Zhichang He,<sup>‡</sup> Zhengwen Wang,<sup>‡</sup> Zhao Gao, Hongwei Qian, Wangqiannan Ding, Hongwei Jin, Yunkui Liu and Bingwei Zhou\*

College of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, 310014, P. R. of China.

E-mail: [zhoubw@zjut.edu.cn](mailto:zhoubw@zjut.edu.cn)

### Table of Contents

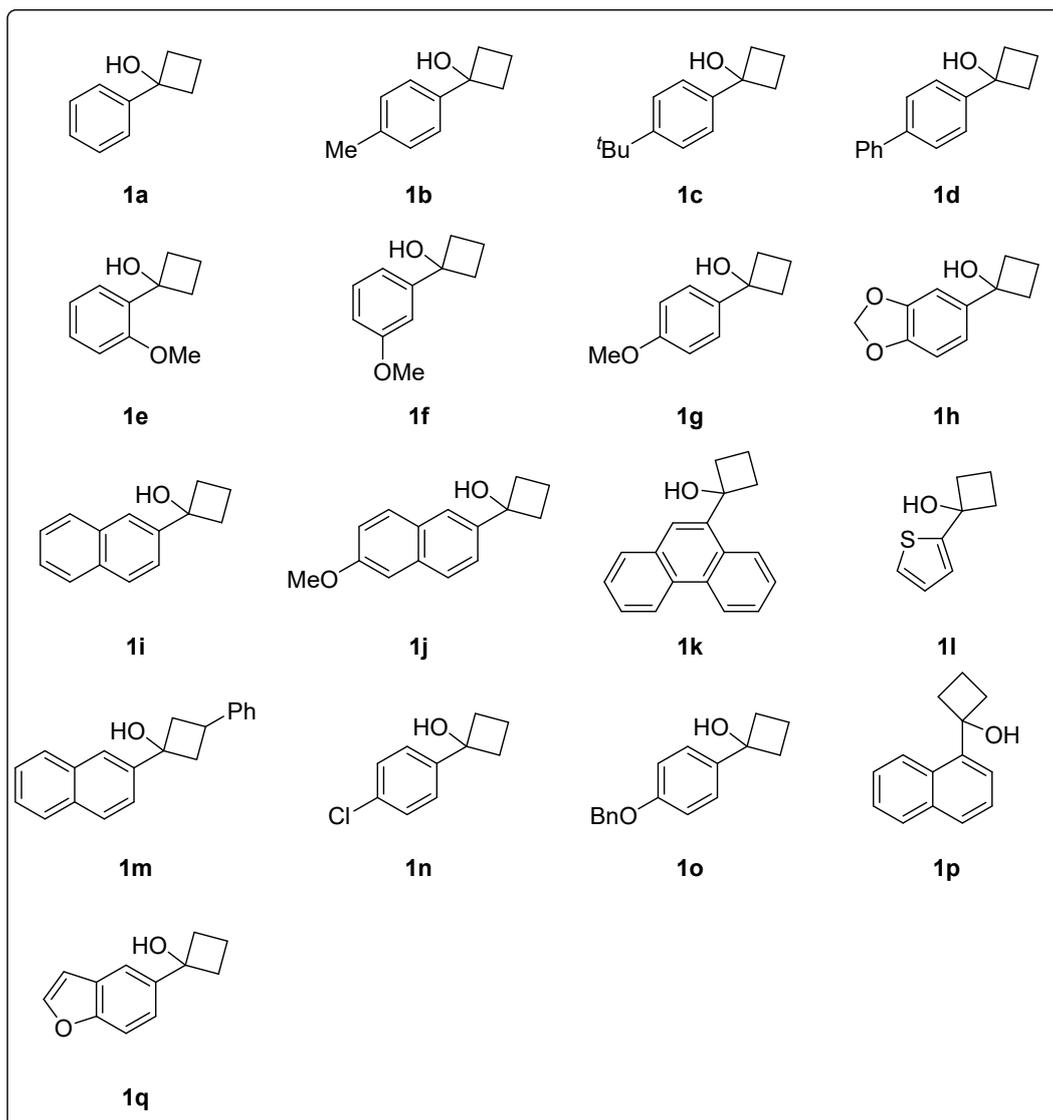
1. General Information	S2
2. Preparation of <i>tert</i> -Cyclobutanols	S3
3. Nickel-Catalyzed Divergent Ring-Contraction and Ring-Opening/Isomerization Reaction of <i>tert</i> -Cyclobutanols	S4
3.1 Optimization of the ring-contraction reaction	S4
3.2 Examination of boron reagents in the ring-contraction reaction	S5
3.3 Optimization of the ring-opening/isomerization reaction	S6
3.4 Experimental details and characterization of products	S6
4. Investigation of Possible Intermediates	S13
5. References	S16
6. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra	S17

## 1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps under nitrogen. Solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. All commercially available reagents were obtained from chemical suppliers and used after proper purification if necessary. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) with the indicated solvent mixtures. TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with UV light.

The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 AV or 500 AV spectrometers. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported as parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane and the following abbreviations were used to identify the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, dq = doublet of quartets, br = broad and all combinations thereof can be explained by their integral parts. Coupling constant (J) was reported in hertz unit (Hz).

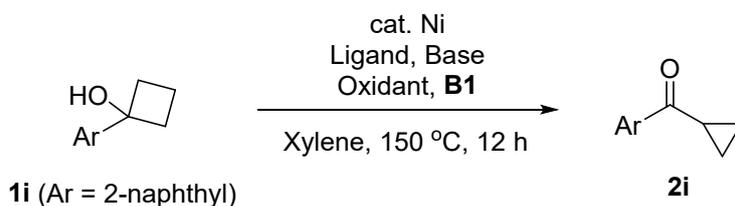
## 2. Preparation of *tert*-Cyclobutanols



All of the *tert*-cyclobutanols are known compounds and prepared according to the known literature.<sup>[1]</sup>

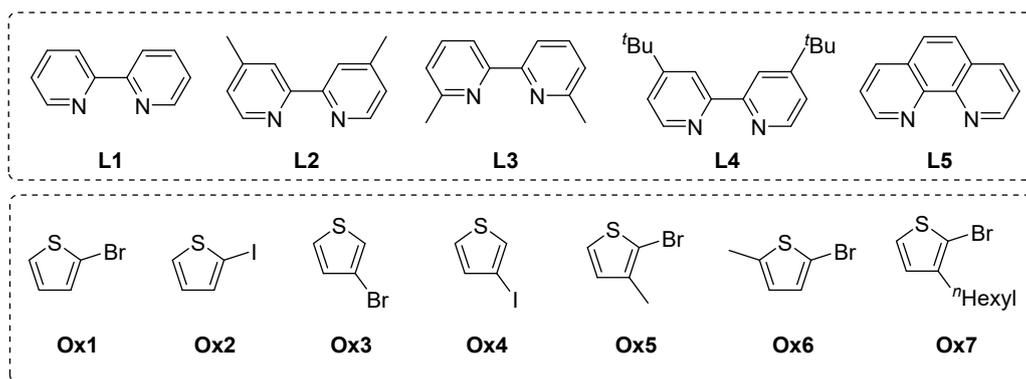
### 3. Nickel-Catalyzed Divergent Ring-Contraction and Ring-Opening/Isomerization Reaction of *tert*-Cyclobutanols

#### 3.1 Optimization of the ring-contraction reaction<sup>a</sup>

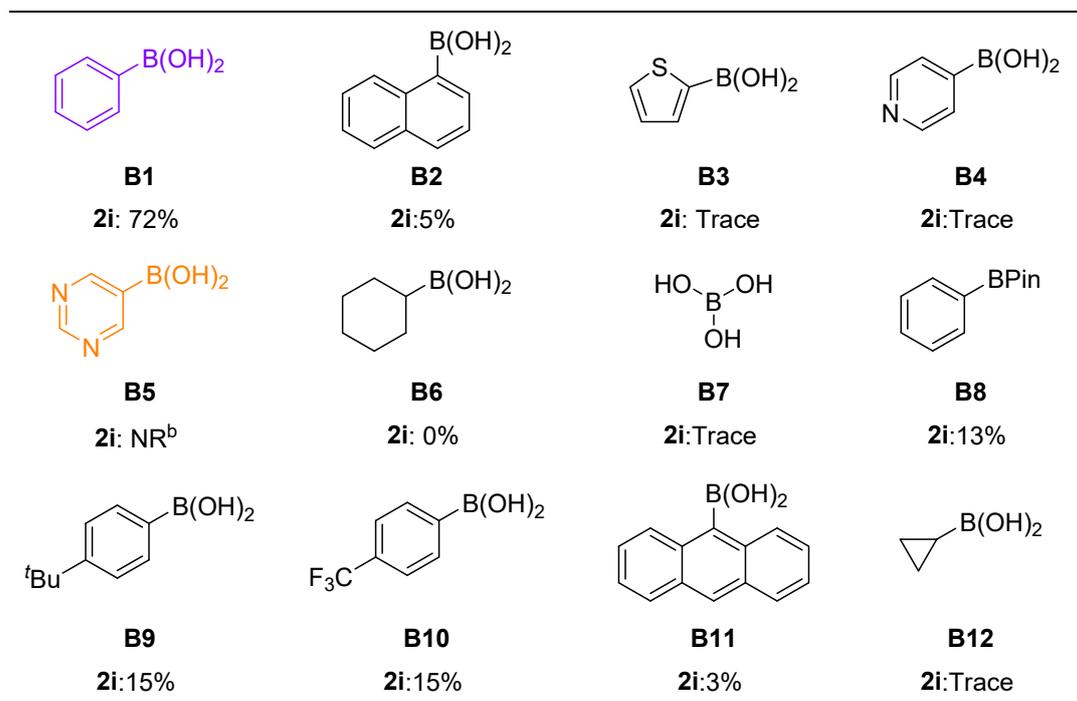
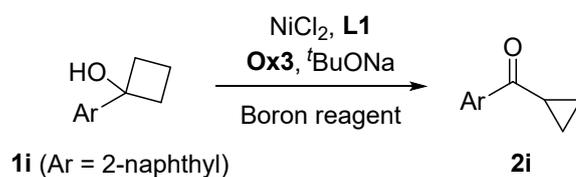


Entry	cat.Ni	Ligand	Base	Oxidant	Yield of <b>2i</b> /%
1	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	46
2	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L2</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	43
3	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L3</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	23
4	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L4</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	30
5	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L5</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	35
6	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	dppb	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	0
7	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	-	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox1</b> /1	0
8	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox2</b> /1	42
9	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /1	55
10	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox4</b> /1	33
11	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox5</b> /1	42
12	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox6</b> /1	46
13	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox7</b> /1	44
14	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	-	0
15	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /2	50
16	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	67
17	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	72
18	Ni(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	43
19	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	Trace
20	Ni(COD) <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	70
21	-	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	0
22	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuOK	<b>Ox3</b> /3	63
23	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	<i>t</i> -BuOLi	<b>Ox3</b> /3	24
24	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	<b>Ox3</b> /3	51
25	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	EtONa	<b>Ox3</b> /3	47
26	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	<b>L1</b>	-	<b>Ox3</b> /3	0

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1i** (0.2 mmol), Ni catalyst (20 mol%), Ligand (30 mol%), Base (0.4 mmol), Oxidant, **B1** (0.4 mmol), Xylene (1 mL), 150 °C for 12 h. **B1** = phenylboronic acid. dppb = 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphaneyl)butane

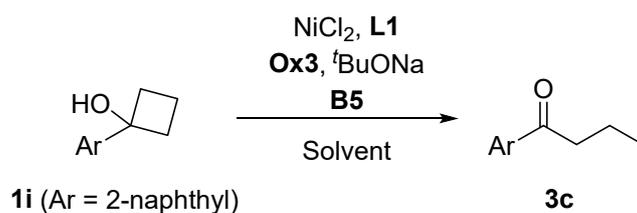


### 3.2 Examination of boron reagents in the ring-contraction reaction<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1i** (0.2 mmol), NiCl<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), **L1** (30 mol%), <sup>t</sup>BuONa (0.4 mmol), **Ox3** (0.6 mmol), Boron reagent (0.4 mmol), Xylene (1 mL), 150 °C for 12 h. <sup>b</sup>1-(naphthalen-2-yl)butan-1-one **3c** was isolated in 53% yield.

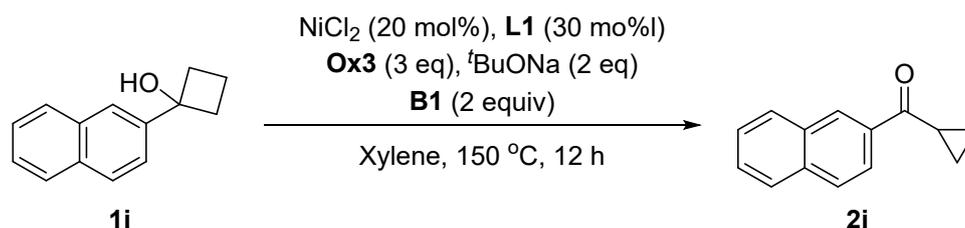
### 3.3 Optimization of the ring-opening/isomerization reaction<sup>a</sup>



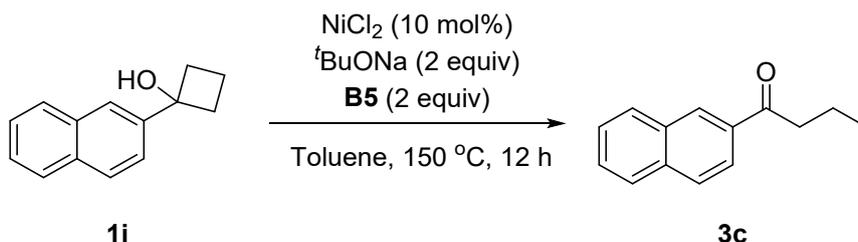
Entry	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /mol%	L1/mol%	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Solvent	Yield of 3c/%
1	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /20	L1/30	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Xylene	53
2	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	L1/15	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Xylene	55
3	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /5	L1/7.5	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Xylene	34
4	-	-	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Xylene	Trace
5	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	L1/15	-	Ox3	Xylene	Trace
6	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	L1/15	<i>t</i> -BuONa	Ox3	Xylene	32 <sup>b</sup>
7	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	-	<i>t</i> -BuONa	-	Xylene	57
8	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	-	<i>t</i> -BuONa	-	Toluene	75
9	NiCl <sub>2</sub> /10	-	<i>t</i> -BuONa	-	Toluene	0 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1i** (0.2 mmol), NiCl<sub>2</sub>, L1, *t*-BuONa (0.4 mmol), Ox3 (0.6 mmol), B5 (0.4 mmol), Solvent (1 mL), 150 °C for 12 h. <sup>b</sup>No B5. <sup>c</sup>At 100 °C

### 3.4 Experimental details and characterization of products

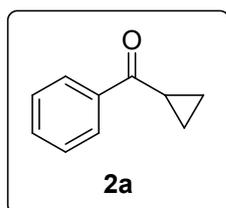


To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added 1-(2-naphthalenyl)cyclobutanol **1i** (0.2 mmol, 40 mg), NiCl<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 0.04 mmol, 5.2 mg), bpy L1 (30 mol%, 0.06 mmol, 10 mg), phenylboronic acid **B1** (2 eq, 0.4 mmol, 48.8 mg), Ox3 (0.6 mmol, 97.8 mg), *t*-BuONa (0.4 mmol, 38.4 mg), xylene (1 mL), sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 12 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the product **2i** in 72% yield.



To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added 1-(2-Naphthalenyl)cyclobutanol (0.2 mmol, 40 mg),  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (10 mol%, 0.02 mmol, 2.6 mg), 5-Pyrimidinylboronic acid **B5** (2 eq, 0.4 mmol, 49.6 mg),  $t\text{BuONa}$  (0.4 mmol, 38.4 mg), Toluene (1 mL), sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 12 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the product **3c** in 75% yield.

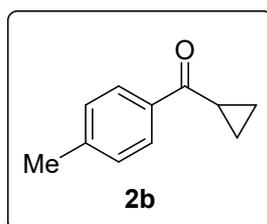
#### cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (**2a**)<sup>[2]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (18 mg, 60% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.07 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 2.72 – 2.65 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.22 (m, 2H), 1.08 – 1.02 (m, 2H).

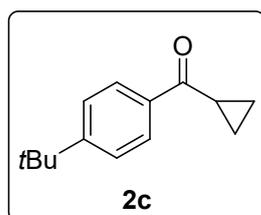
#### cyclopropyl(p-tolyl)methanone (**2b**)<sup>[2]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (20 mg, 62% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.70 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.25 – 1.20 (m, 2H), 1.05 – 0.99 (m, 2H).

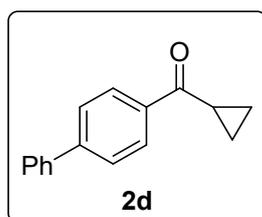
#### (4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)(cyclopropyl)methanone (**2c**)<sup>[2]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (30 mg, 75% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.00 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 2.72 – 2.64 (m, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.25 – 1.19 (m, 2H), 1.05 – 0.98 (m, 2H).

### [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl(cyclopropyl)methanone (**2d**)<sup>[2]</sup>

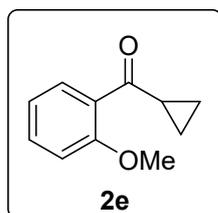


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (24 mg, 54% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz,

2H), 7.39 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.4, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.67 (m, 1H), 1.30 – 1.24 (m, 2H), 1.09 – 1.03 (m, 2H).

### cyclopropyl(2-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**2e**)<sup>[2]</sup>

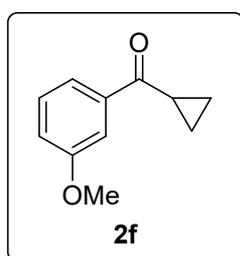


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (15 mg, 42% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 12.1, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H),

2.78 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 1.22 (s, 2H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H).

### cyclopropyl(3-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**2f**)<sup>[3]</sup>

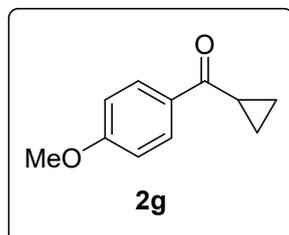


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (20 mg, 58% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 2.4, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.70 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.21 (m,

2H), 1.09 – 1.01 (m, 2H).

### cyclopropyl(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**2g**)<sup>[2]</sup>

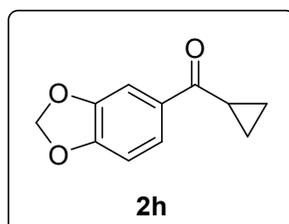


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (22 mg, 62% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.68 – 2.60 (m, 1H),

1.23 – 1.18 (m, 2H), 1.03 – 0.97 (m, 2H).

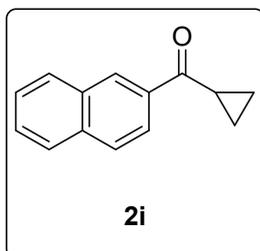
### benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl(cyclopropyl)methanone (**2h**)<sup>[4]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (18 mg, 47% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.65 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.2$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 2.64 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.23 – 1.17 (m, 2H), 1.03 – 0.97 (m, 2H).

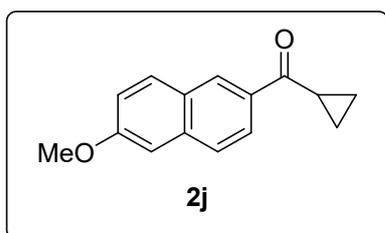
**cyclopropyl(naphthalen-2-yl)methanone (2i)<sup>[2]</sup>**



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (28 mg, 72% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.06 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.6$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 2.87 – 2.80 (m, 1H), 1.33 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 1.12 – 1.06 (m, 2H).

**cyclopropyl(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)methanone (2j)**



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (26 mg, 58% yield).

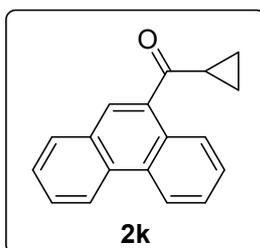
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.04 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.6$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.9$ ,  $J_2 = 2.5$

Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.86 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 1.32 – 1.26 (m, 2H), 1.11 – 1.04 (m, 2H).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 200.19 (s), 159.62 (s), 137.14 (s), 133.41 (s), 131.12 (s), 129.48 (s), 127.91 (s), 127.04 (s), 124.74 (s), 119.66 (s), 105.73 (s), 55.43 (s), 17.01 (s), 11.53 (s).

**HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 227.10720, found: 227.10711.

**cyclopropyl(phenanthren-9-yl)methanone (2k)<sup>[5]</sup>**

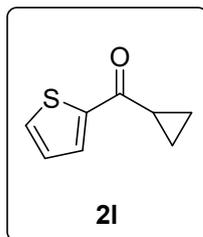


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (16 mg, 33% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.73 – 8.64 (m, 2H), 8.47 – 8.43 (m, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.75 – 7.61 (m, 4H), 2.68 – 2.60 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.19 – 1.11 (m,

2H).

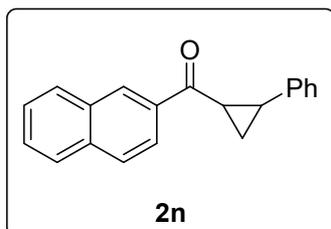
**cyclopropyl(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (2l)<sup>[6]</sup>**



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (16 mg, 52% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.83 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.8$ ,  $J_2 = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.9$ ,  $J_2 = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.9$ ,  $J_2 = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.58 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.27 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.05 – 1.00 (m, 2H).

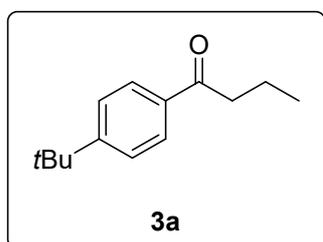
#### naphthalen-2-yl(2-phenylcyclopropyl)methanone (2m) <sup>[7]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (21 mg, 61% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 1H), 8.05 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.6$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.6$ ,  $J_2 = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 3.11 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.88 – 2.71 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.66 – 1.52 (m, 1H).

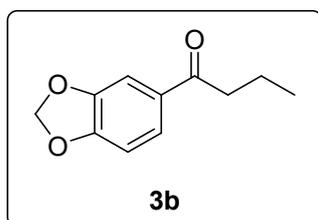
#### 1-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)butan-1-one (3a) <sup>[8]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as purple liquid (27 mg, 67% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.92 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 1.00 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

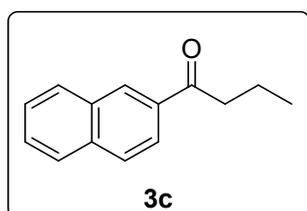
#### 1-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)butan-1-one (3b) <sup>[9]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as purple liquid (30 mg, 78% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.2$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 2.86 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.84 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

#### 1-(naphthalen-2-yl)butan-1-one (3c) <sup>[9]</sup>

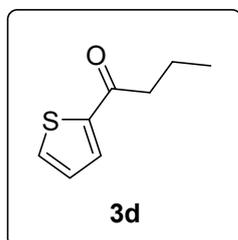


Purified by silica gel column chromatography as colorless liquid (29.7 mg, 75% yield).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.44 (s, 1H), 8.02 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.6$ ,  $J_2 = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t,  $J =$

8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 3.05 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.89 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

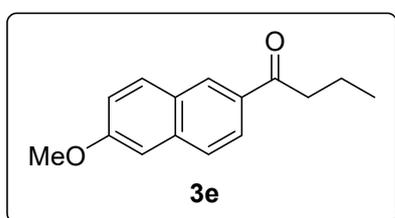
#### 1-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (3d) <sup>[10]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (22.5 mg, 75% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  7.71 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.8$ ,  $J_2 = 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.9$ ,  $J_2 = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.9$ ,  $J_2 = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.88 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.86 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

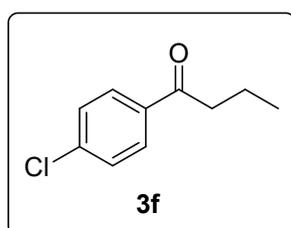
#### 1-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)butan-1-one (3e) <sup>[11]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as white solid (32 mg, 71% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  8.37 (s, 1H), 7.99 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.6$ ,  $J_2 = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.9$ ,  $J_2 = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.02 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.89 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

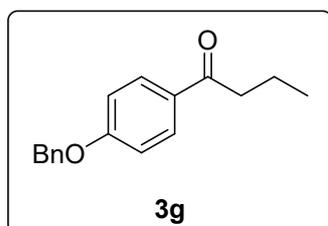
#### 1-(4-chlorophenyl)butan-1-one (3f) <sup>[9]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (22 mg, 60% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  7.90 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.92 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.00 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

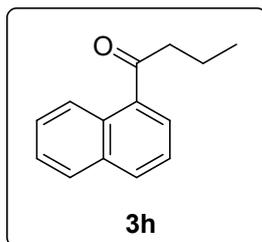
#### 1-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)butan-1-one (3g) <sup>[9]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as yellow oil (37 mg, 73% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  7.97 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.05 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.89 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.81 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).

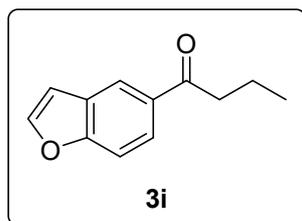
#### 1-(naphthalen-1-yl)butan-1-one (3h) <sup>[12]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as colorless liquid (35 mg, 87% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 15.0, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 3.00 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

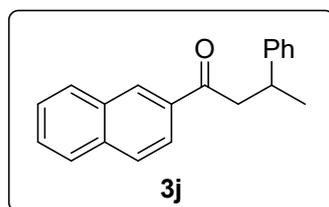
#### 1-(benzofuran-5-yl)butan-1-one (3i)<sup>[13]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as purple liquid (27 mg, 73% yield).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.7, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

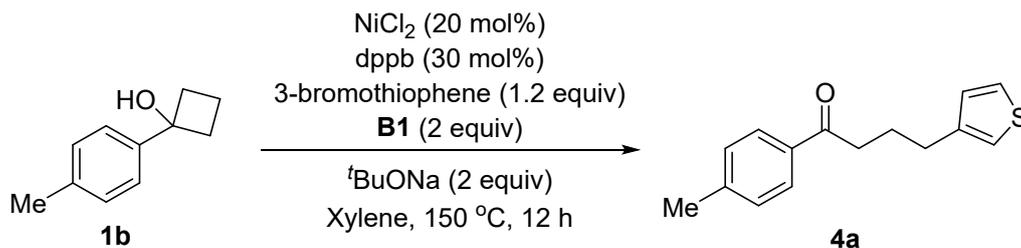
#### 1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-phenylbutan-1-one (3j)<sup>[14]</sup>



Purified by silica gel column chromatography as colorless liquid (31 mg, 56% yield).

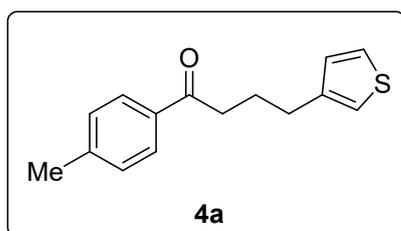
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.01 – 7.98 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 3.61 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.45 – 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.35 – 3.27 (m, 1H), 1.38 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

## 4. Investigation of Possible Intermediates



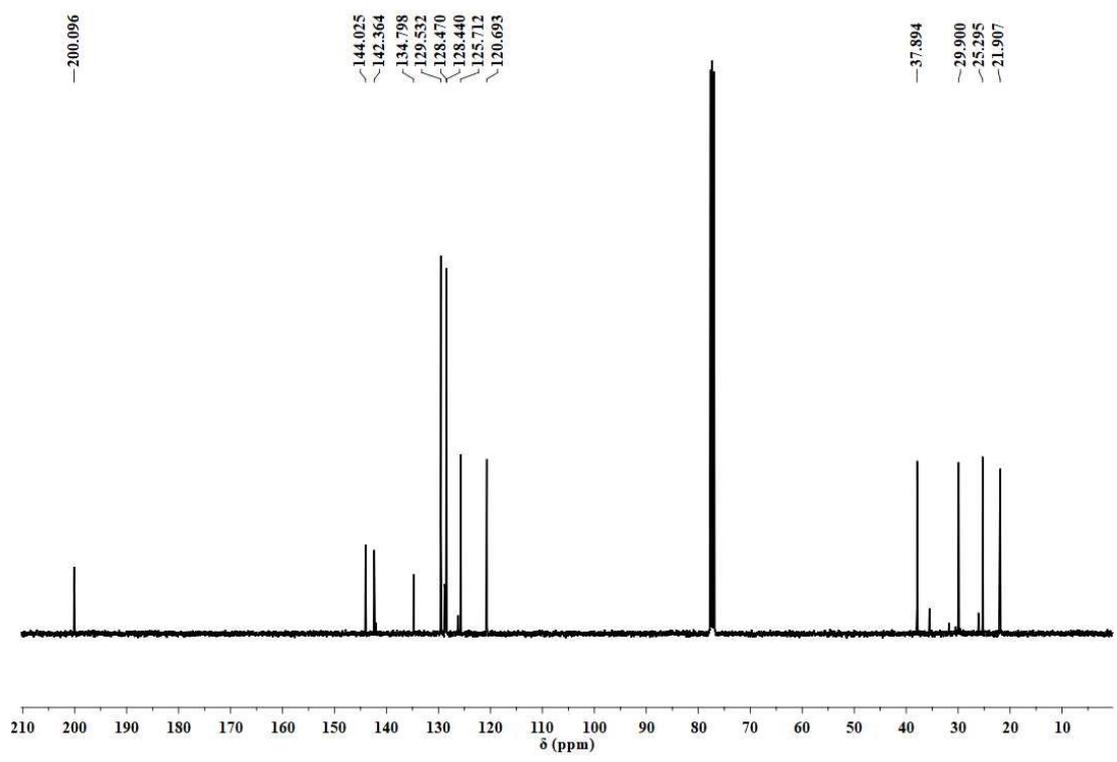
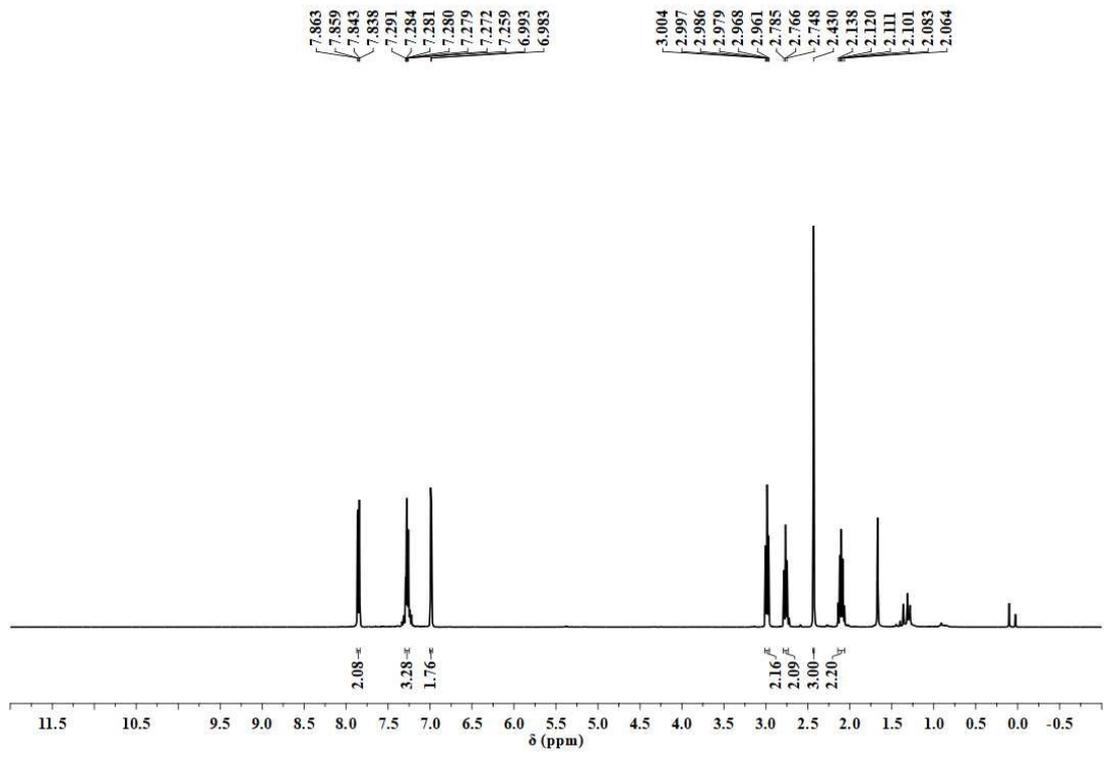
To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added 1-(2-naphthalenyl)cyclobutanol **1i** (0.2 mmol, 40 mg),  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (20 mol%, 0.04 mmol, 5.2 mg),  $\text{dppb}$  (30 mol%, 0.06 mmol, 25.6 mg), phenylboronic acid **B1** (2 eq, 0.4 mmol, 48.8 mg), **Ox3** (0.6 mmol, 97.8 mg),  $t\text{BuONa}$  (0.4 mmol, 38.4 mg), xylene (2 mL), sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the product **4a** in 25% yield.

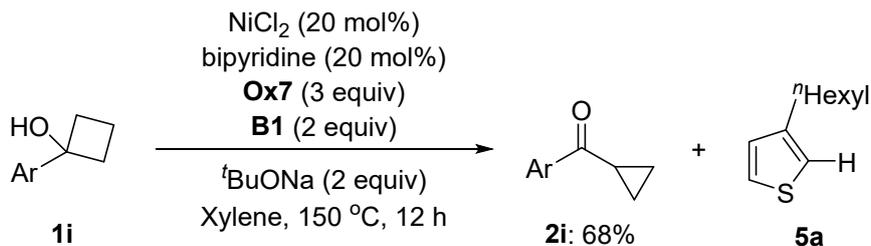
4-(thiophen-3-yl)-1-(p-tolyl)butan-1-one (**4a**)



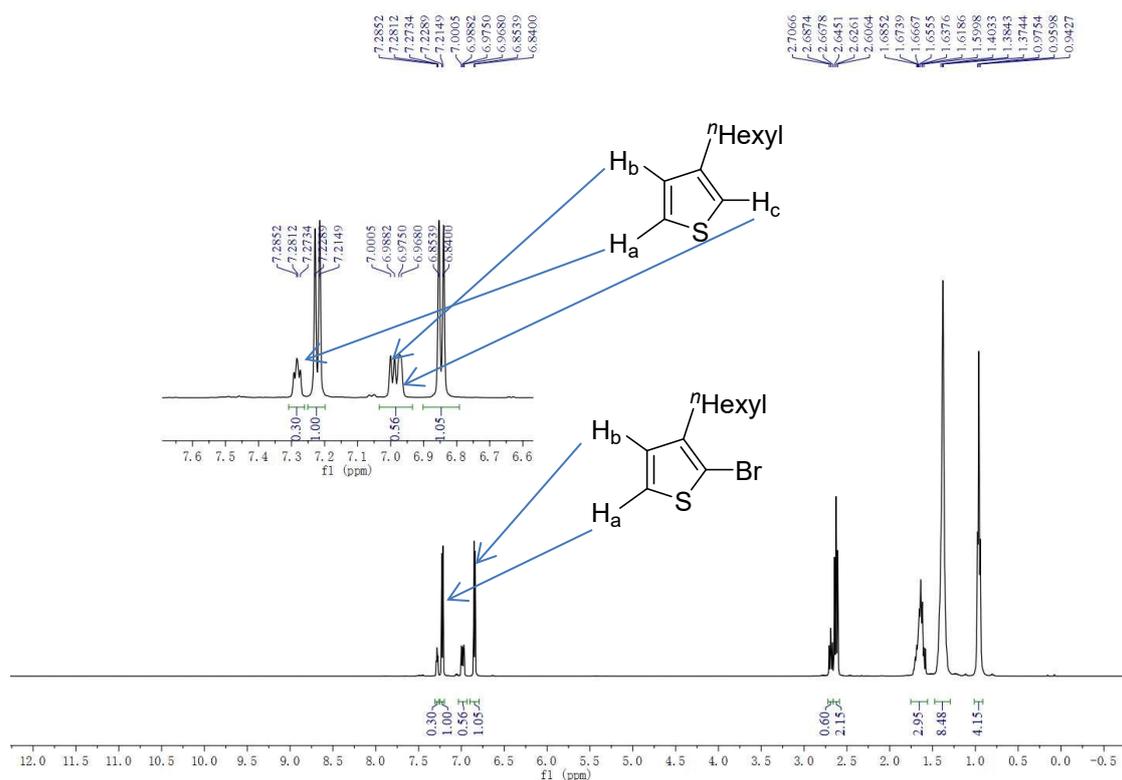
Purified by silica gel column chromatography as  
White solid (12.7 mg, 25% yield)

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.85 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.01 – 2.96 (m,  $J = 7.3, 2.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.10 (dt,  $J = 18.7, 7.4$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.78 (s), 143.71 (s), 142.05 (s), 134.48 (s), 129.21 (s), 128.15 (s), 128.12 (s), 125.39 (s), 120.37 (s), 37.58 (s), 29.58 (s), 24.98 (s), 21.59 (s).





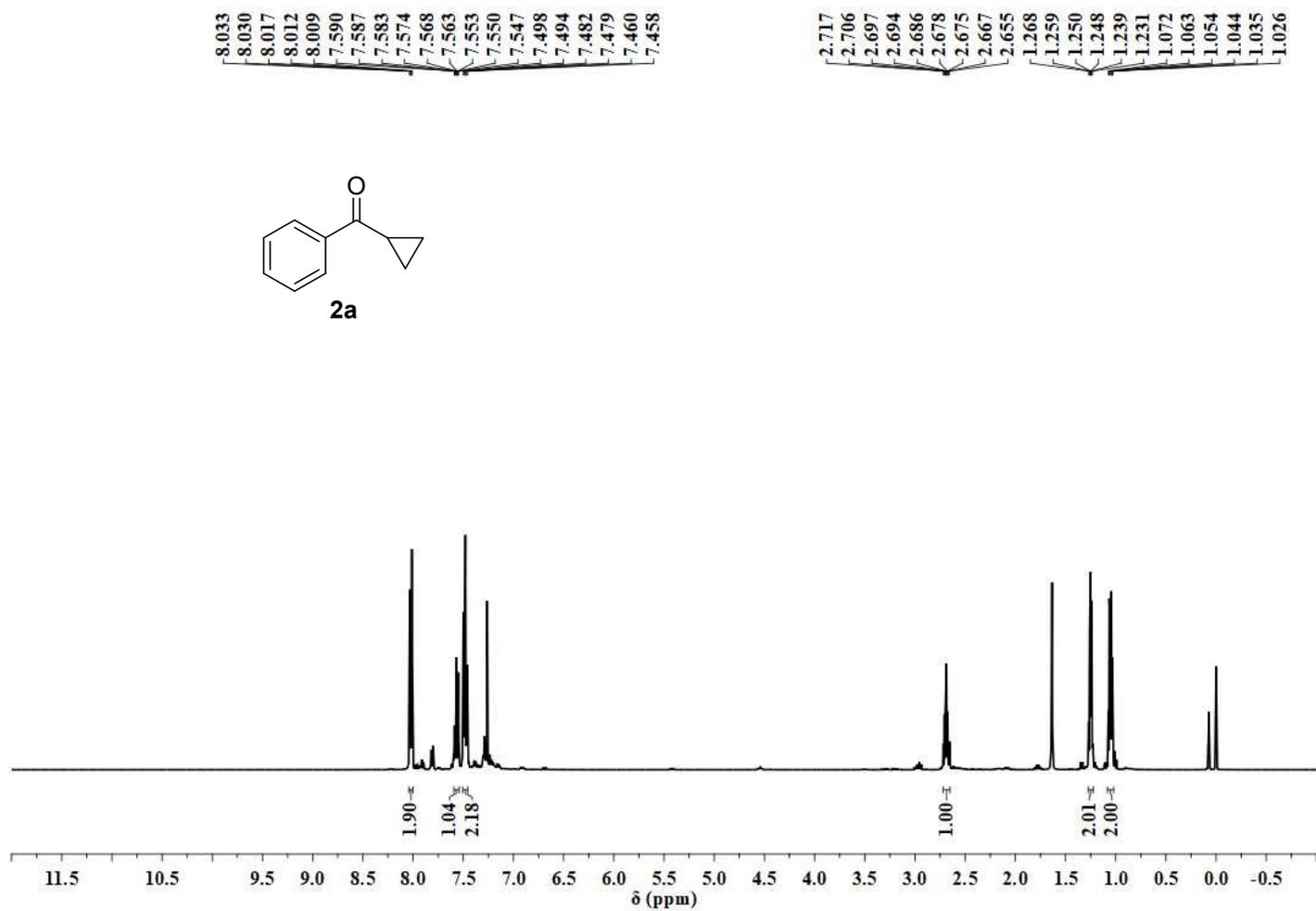
To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added 1-(2-naphthalenyl)cyclobutanol **1i** (0.2 mmol, 40 mg),  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (20 mol%, 0.04 mmol, 5.2 mg), bipyridine (30 mol%, 0.06 mmol, 9.38mg), phenylboronic acid **B1** (2 eq, 0.4 mmol, 48.8 mg), 2-bromo-3-hexylthiophene **Ox7** (0.6 mmol, 148.2 mg),  $t\text{BuONa}$  (0.4 mmol, 38.4 mg), xylene (1 mL), sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 12 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the product **2i** in 68% yield. In addition, the **5a** was also isolated as mixture with **Ox7**.

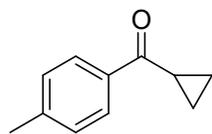


## 5. References

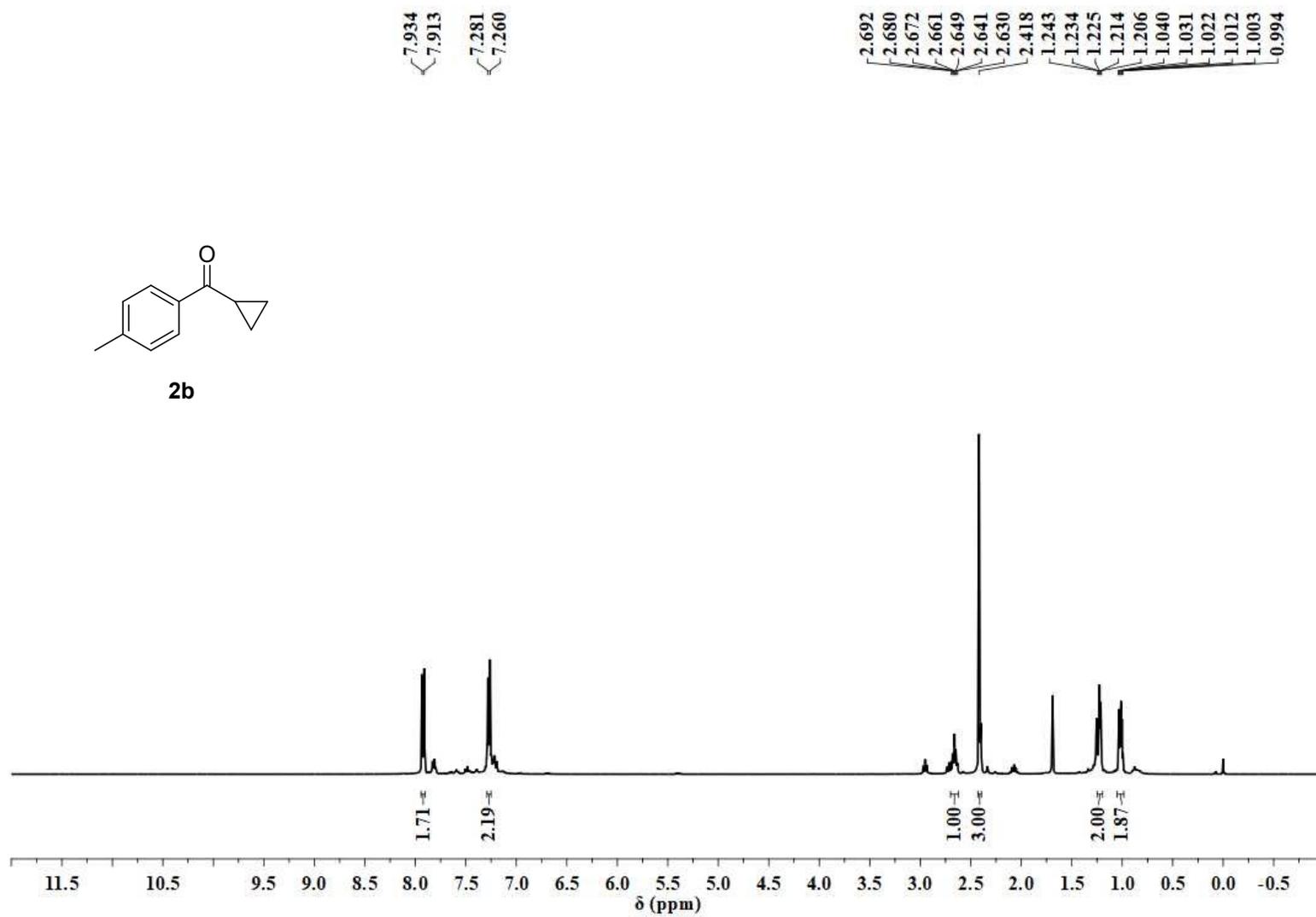
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14. H. Geng and P.-Q. Huang, *Chin. J. Chem.* 2019, **37**, 811.

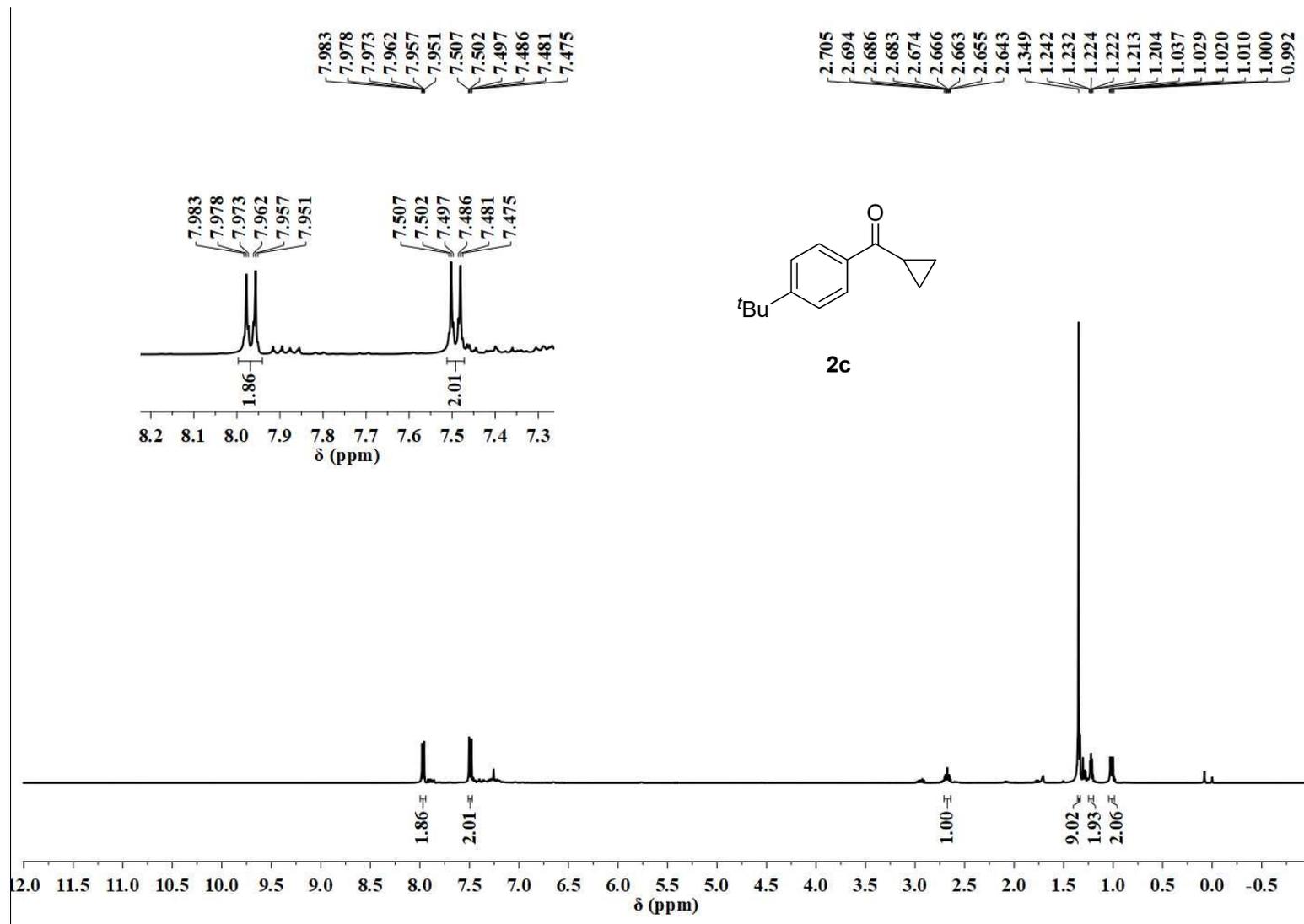
## 6. $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra

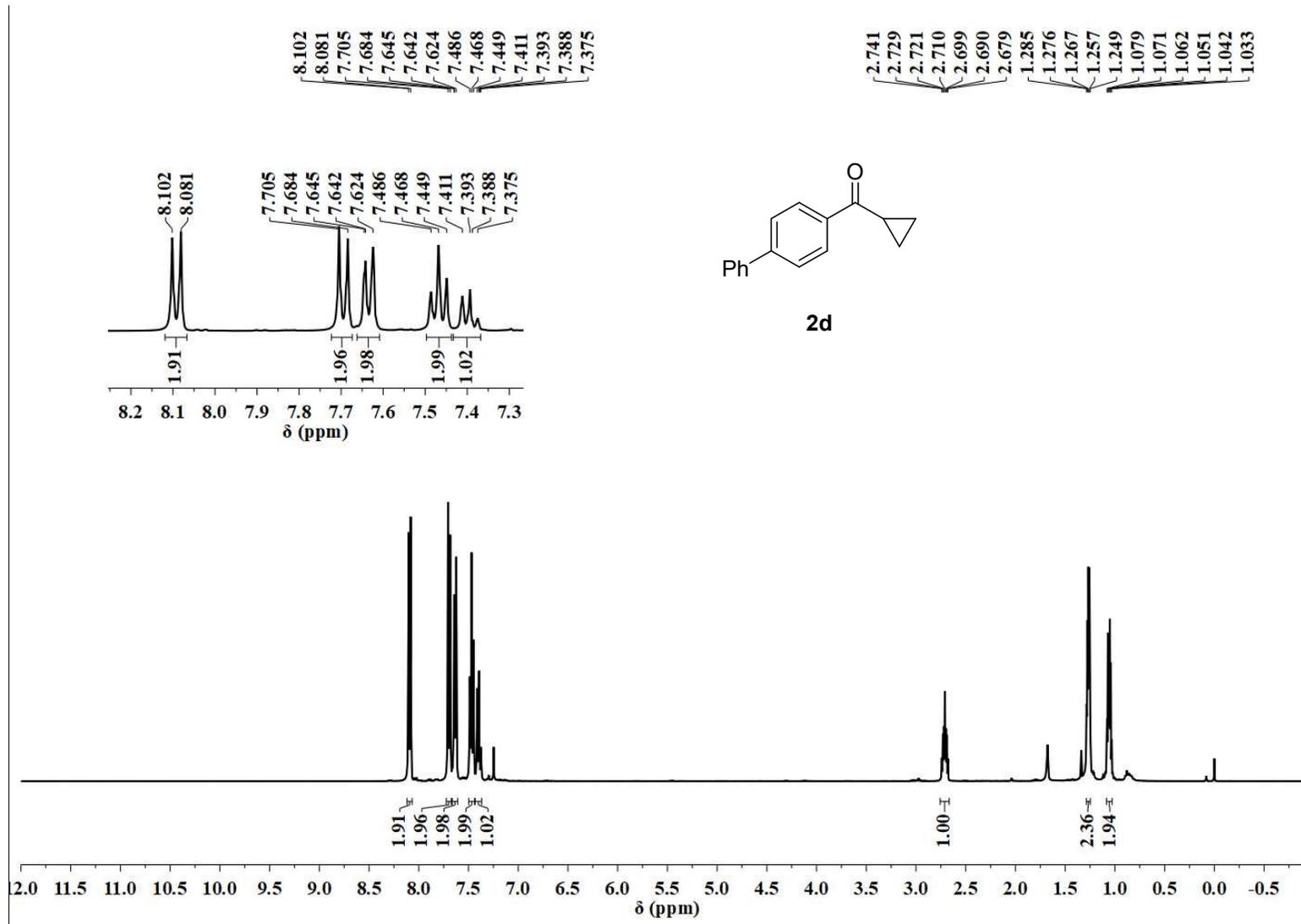


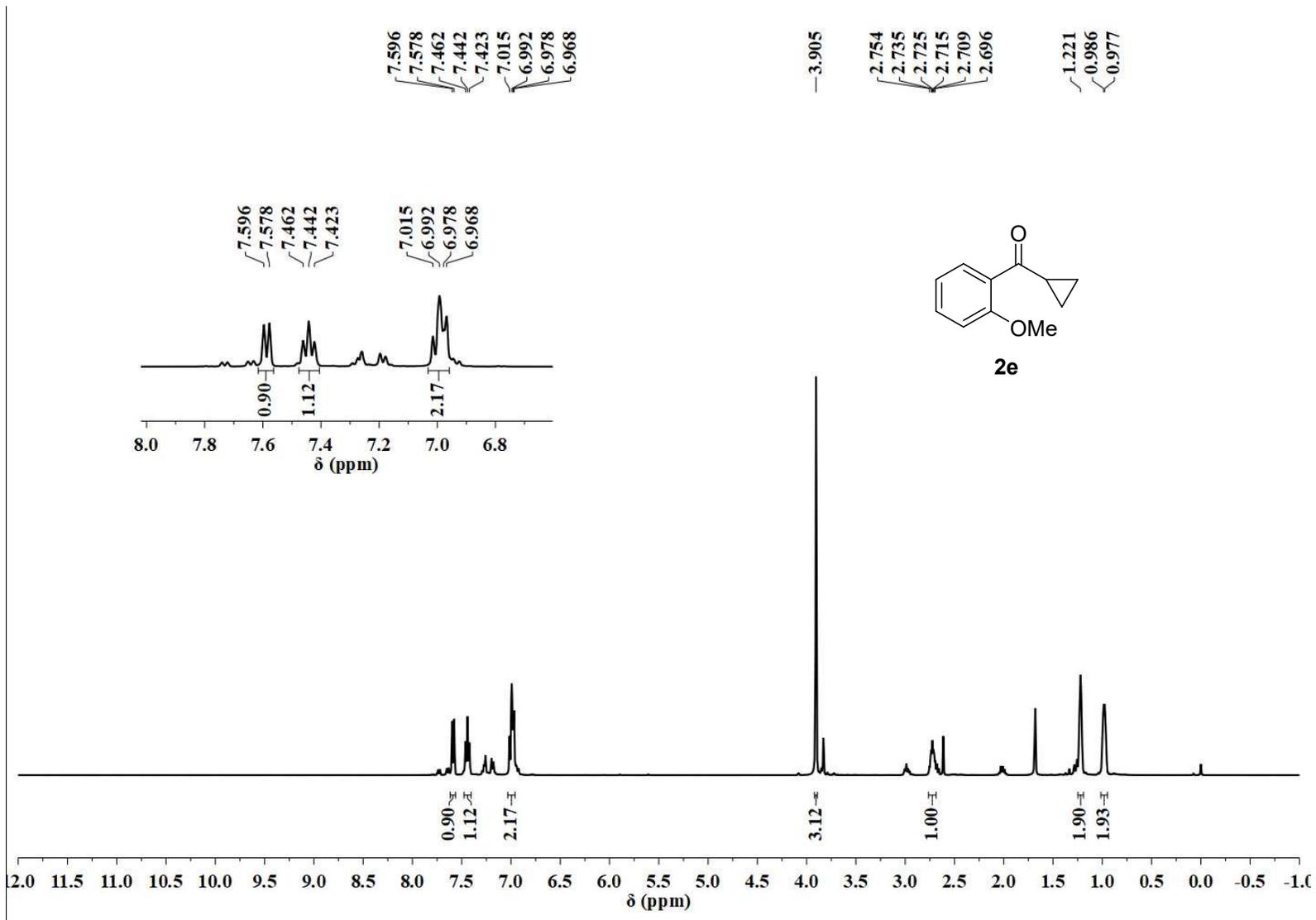


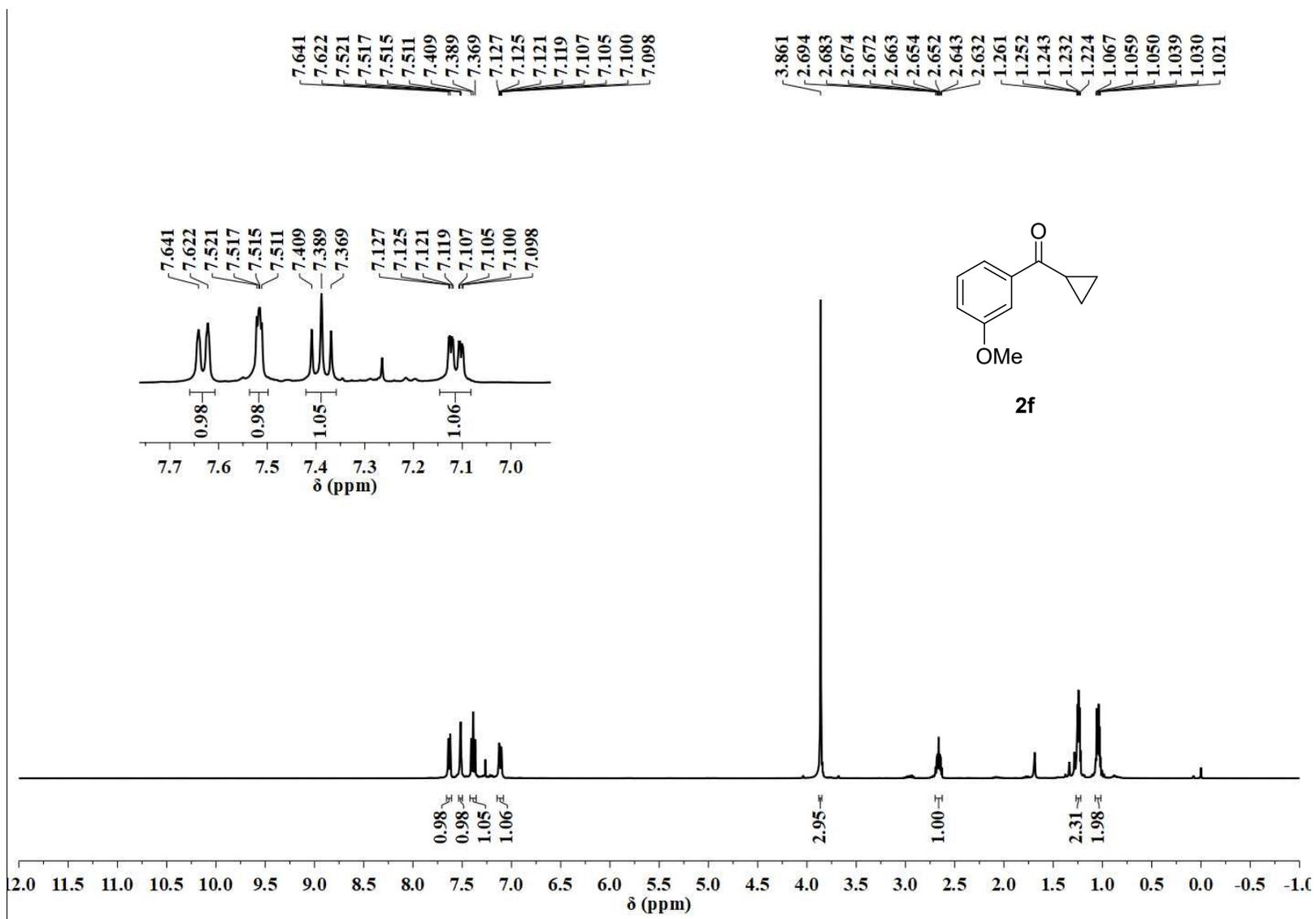
**2b**

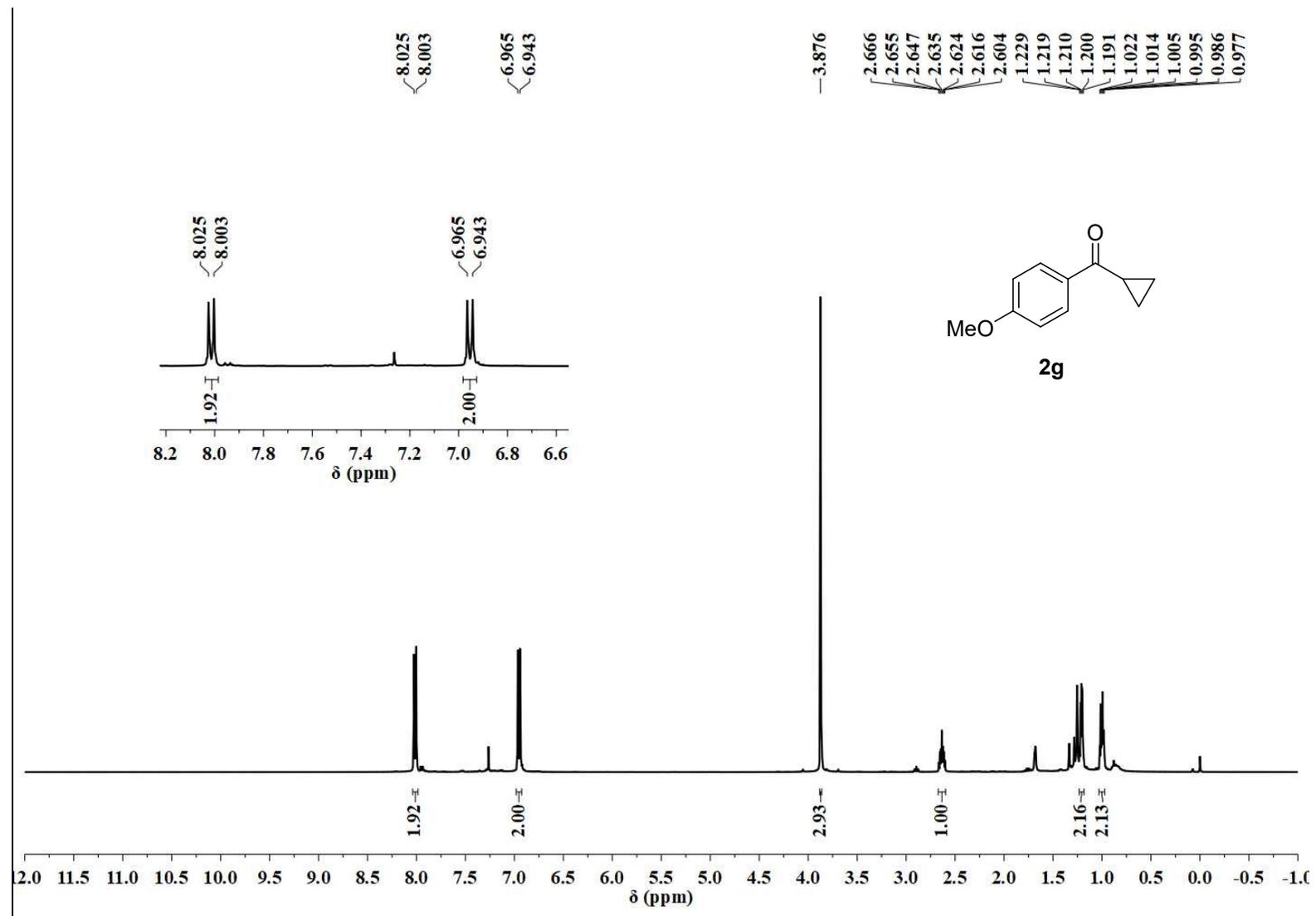


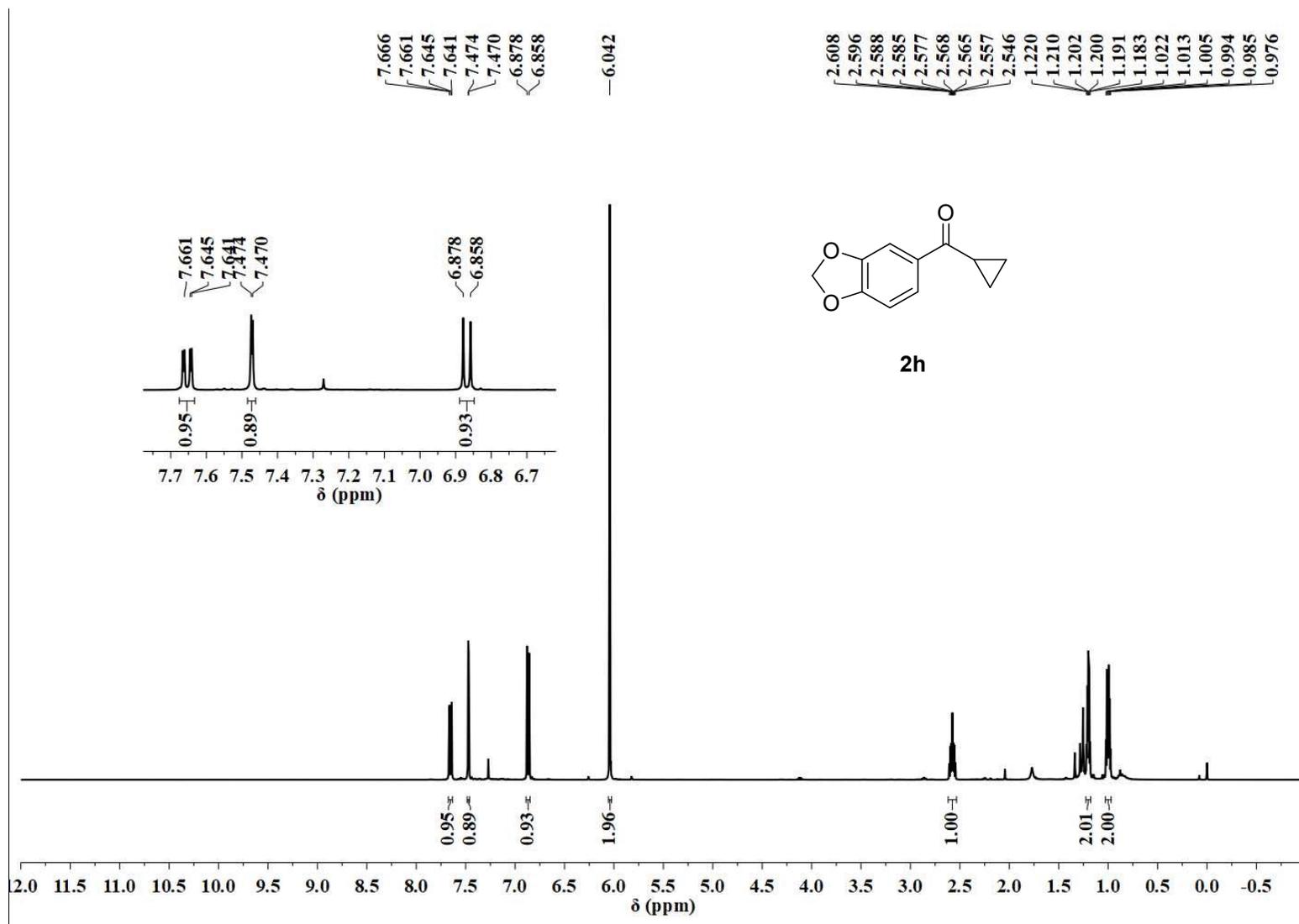


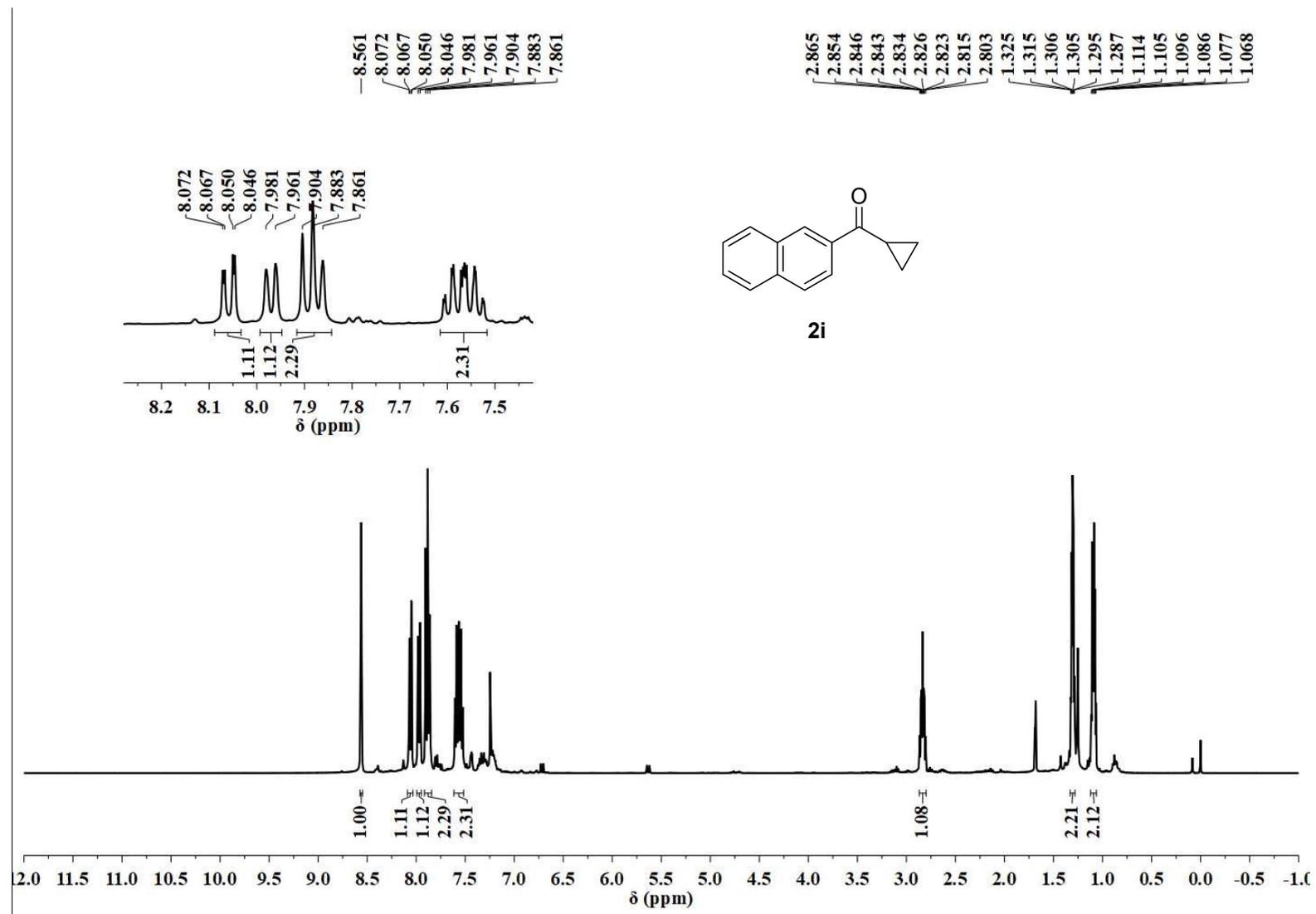


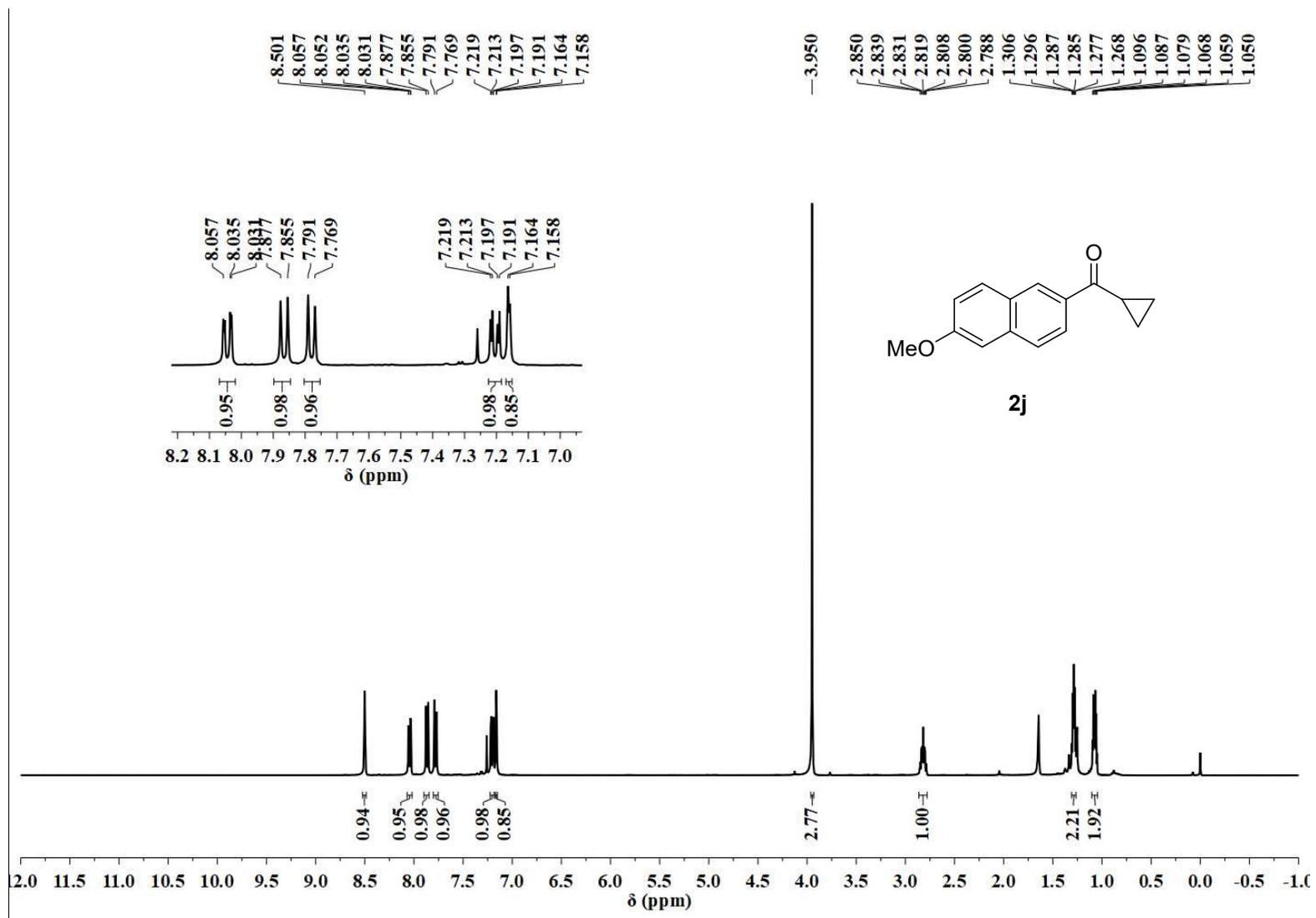


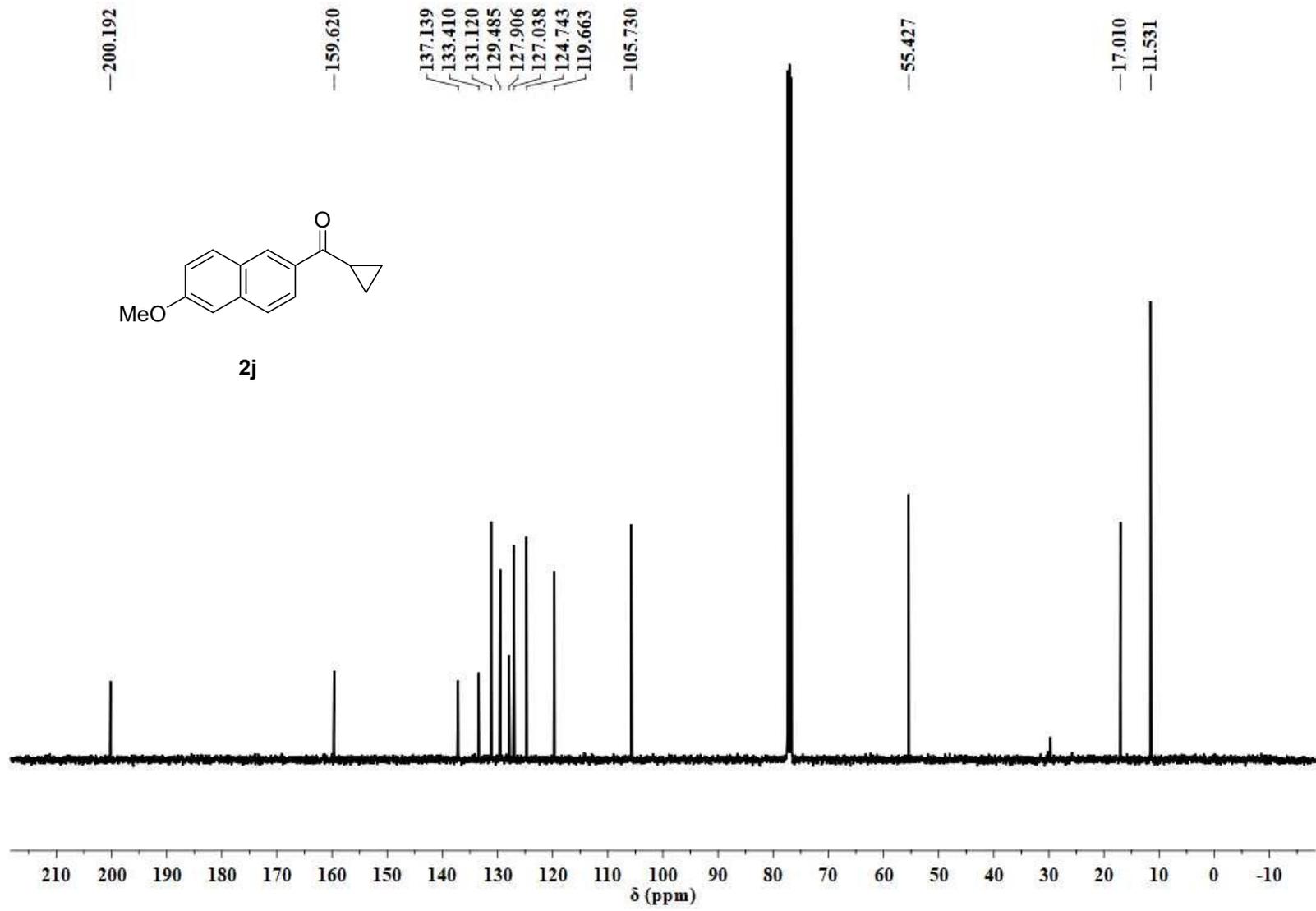


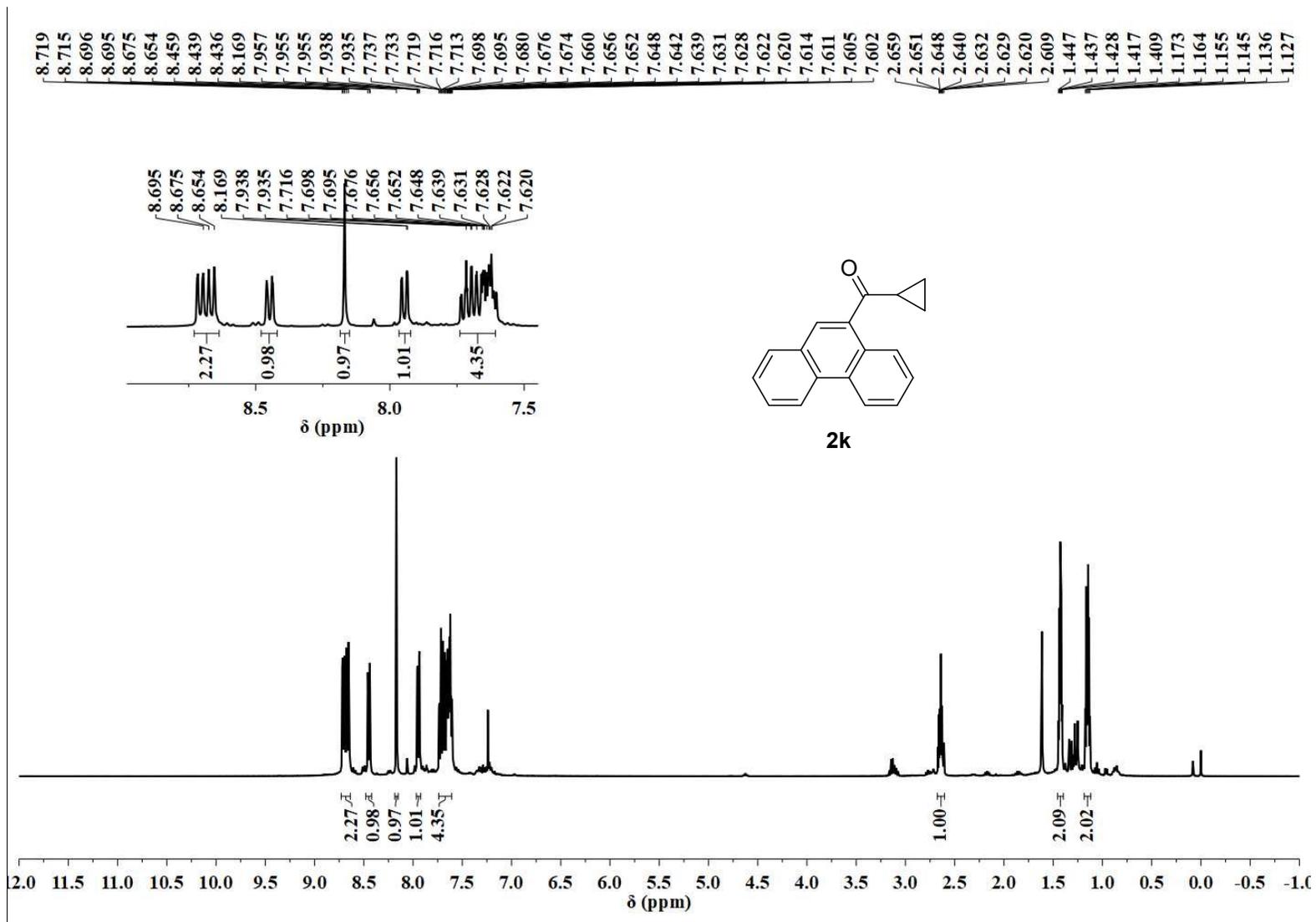


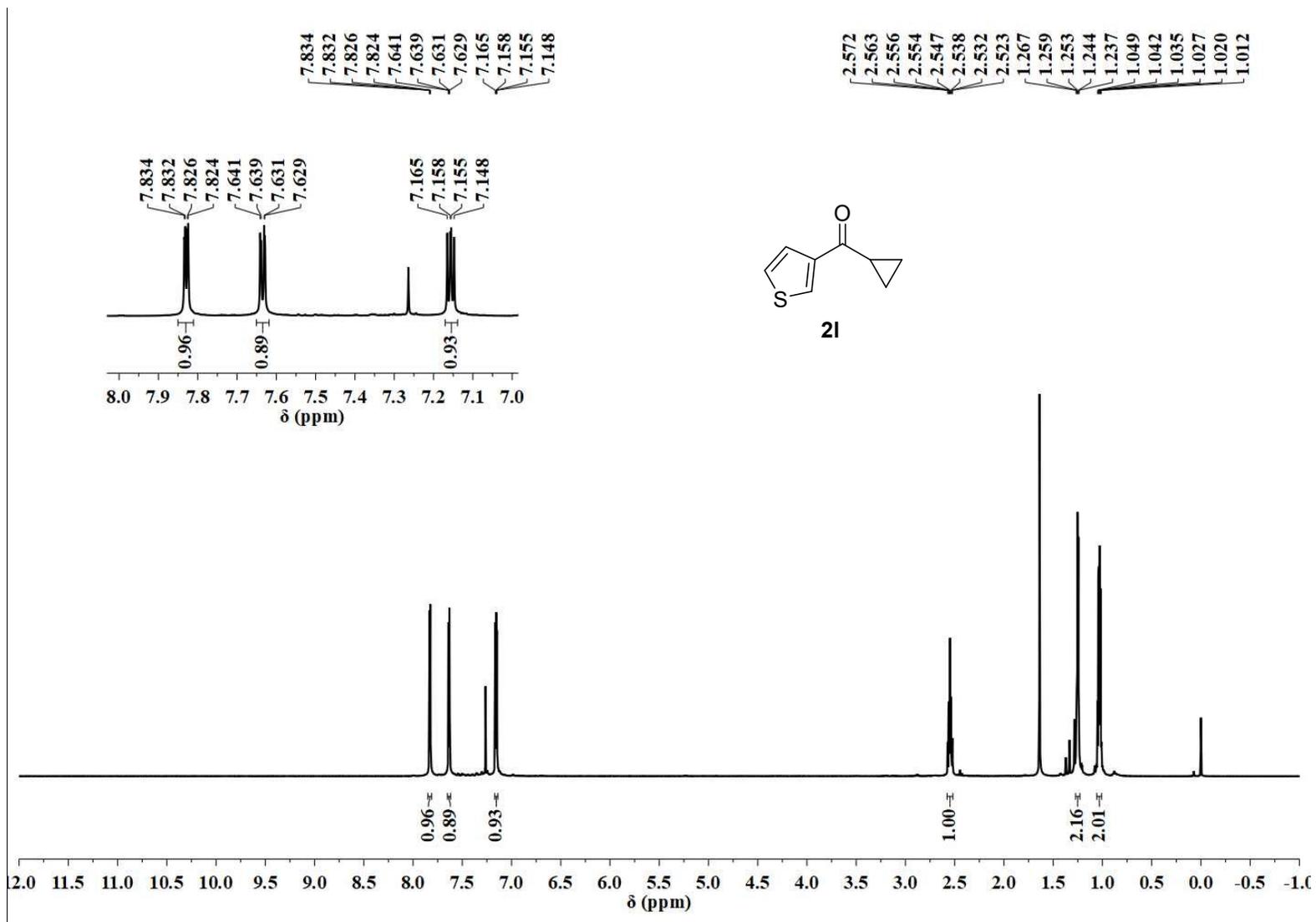


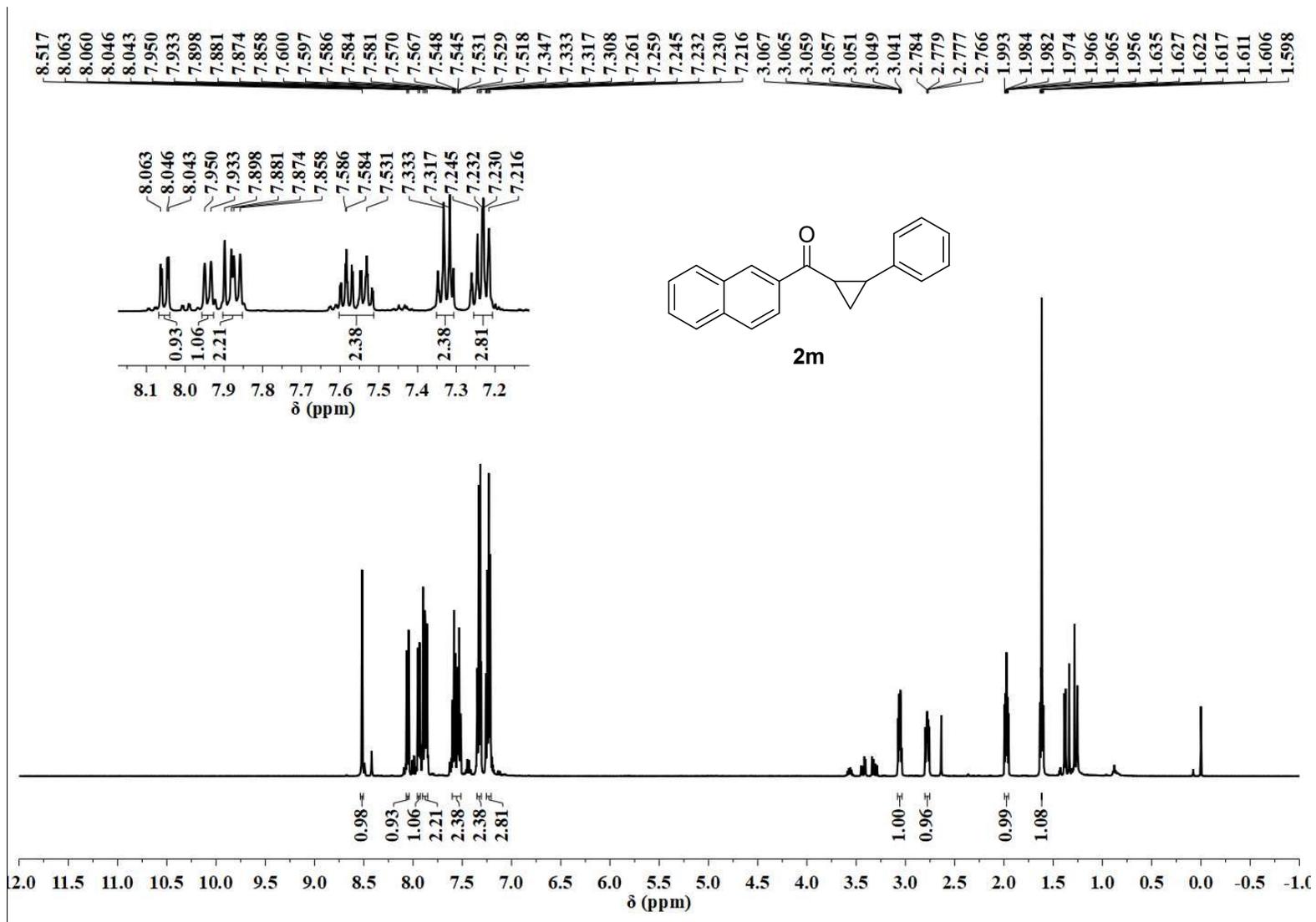


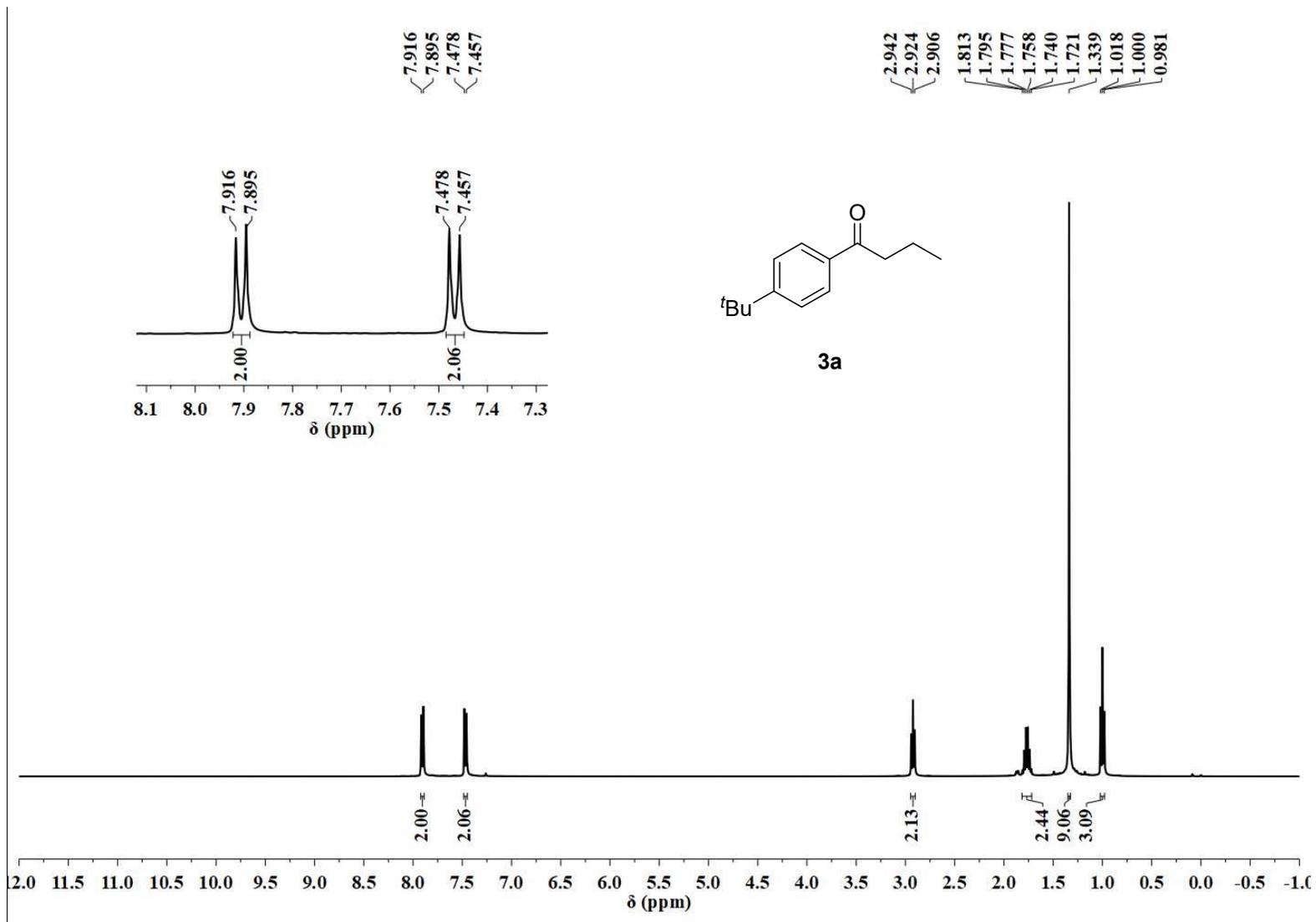


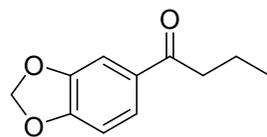












**3b**

