

Supplementary Materials for

Unlocking mild-condition benzene ring contraction using nonheme diiron *N*-oxygenase

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Experimental Procedures	3
Table. S1. PCR Primers	6
Fig. S1. SDS-PAGE analysis of AzoC and AzoC-III.....	7
Fig. S2. Plasmid map of pET28a-AzoC.....	8
Fig. S3. HRMS of 3	9
Fig. S4. ^1H NMR of 3	10
Fig. S5. ^{13}C NMR of 3	11
Fig. S6. HRMS of 3a	12
Fig. S7. Crystal structure of 3a	13
Fig. S8. ^1H NMR of compound 3a	14
Fig. S9. ^{13}C NMR of compound 3a	15
Fig. S10. HRMS of 3b	16
Fig. S11. Crystal structure of 3b	17
Fig. S12. ^1H NMR of compound 3b	18
Fig. S13. ^{13}C NMR of compound 3b	19
Fig. S14. HRMS of 3c	20
Fig. S15. ^1H NMR of 3c	21
Fig. S16. ^{13}C NMR of 3c	22
Fig. S17. HRMS of 3d	23
Fig. S18. ^1H NMR of 3d	24
Fig. S19. ^{13}C NMR of 3d	25
Fig. S20. HRMS of 3e	26
Fig. S21. ^1H NMR of 3e	27
Fig. S22. ^{13}C NMR of 3e	28
Fig. S23. HRMS of 3f	29
Fig. S24. ^1H NMR of 3f	30
Fig. S25. ^{13}C NMR of 3f	31
Fig. S26. HRMS of 3g	32
Fig. S27. ^1H NMR of 3g	33
Fig. S28. ^{13}C NMR of 3g	34
Fig. S29. HRMS of 3h	35
Fig. S30. ^1H NMR of 3h	36
Fig. S31. ^{13}C NMR of 3h	37
Fig. S32. HRMS of 3i	38
Fig. S33. ^1H NMR of 3i	39
Fig. S34. ^{13}C NMR of 3i	40
Fig. S35. HRMS of 3j	41
Fig. S36. ^1H NMR of 3j	42
Fig. S37. ^{13}C NMR of 3j	43
Fig. S38. HRMS of 3k	44
Fig. S39. ^1H NMR of 3k	45
Fig. S40. ^{13}C NMR of 3k	46
Fig. S41. HRMS of 3l	47
Fig. S42. ^1H NMR of 3l	48
Fig. S43. ^{13}C NMR of 3l	49
Fig. S44. HRMS of 3m	50
Fig. S45. ^1H NMR of 3m	51
Fig. S46. ^{13}C NMR of 3m	52

Fig. S47. HRMS of 3n	53
Fig. S48. ¹ H NMR of 3n	54
Fig. S49. ¹³ C NMR of 3n	55
Fig. S50. HRMS of 3o	56
Fig. S51. ¹ H NMR of 3o	57
Fig. S52. ¹³ C NMR of 3o	58
Fig. S53. CO ₂ production via GC analysis.	59
Fig. S54. HRMS of isotope replacement experiment.	60
Fig. S55. HRMS of isotope replacement experiment (control reaction).	61
Fig. S56. Influence of 2/1 ratio on the production of 3	61
Fig. S57. IC50 of 3a against lymphoma cell line RAMOS.	61
Fig. S58. IC50 of 3g against breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-648.	61

Experimental Procedures

General Experiment procedures: Unless otherwise noted, chemical reagents were purchased commercially and used as received (Sigma-Aldrich, Macklin Lab, and Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology, etc.). GDH was purchased from Syncozymes Co., Ltd (Shanghai). Protein marker and Bradford protein concentration quantification kit was purchased from Yeasen Biotech (Shanghai). ¹H- and ¹³C- NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker UltraShield 400 MHz and 600 MHz spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra were obtained by using Bruker UHR ES TOF MS. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data was collected on SuperNova diffractometer.

AzoC (GenBank Accession Code: AKQ24642.1) sequence:

MSSRAPEELTGVQSPELPAYDPDDQAENAVIARLAGNWHRRRAAVKREEPNLADLFELARDDYPERIL
PFRDHPTFRALPPEDRARLLSWAWISYNRTTVLLEGQIVNPAPQLGLDGEFPQPVSELMQRSLAQAMV
DEQYHTLMHLNASAVTRRRRGEAFADAALPKPLVVREHEARLASCANERERRLTLAFATVAEISIN
AYLNLIADDKEIQPVNSATVRIHNRDEYCHASISAVLAEQVHHTLDDGERRYFLQSLVAGLEAFVGND
FMAWHRIMDEAGIRGGHEMLDDIQHAGGRKRLVQDFSGLRKLVERLDAVDDLFDWSRSVTGSDA
VS PTR

AzoC-III sequence (the red marked letters represent the mutant amino acid residues):

MSSRAPEELTGVQSPELPAYDPDDQAENAVIARLAGNWHRRRAAVKREEPNLADLFELARDDYPERIL
PFRDHPTFRALPPEDRARLLSWAWISYNRT**GVL** GEGQIVNPAPQLGLDGEFPQPVSELMQRSLAQAM
VDEQYHTLMHLNASAVTRRRRGEAFADAALPKPLVVREHEARLASCANERERRLTLAFATVAEISI
NAYLNLIADDKEIQPVNSATVRIHNRDEYCHASISAVLAEQVHHTLDDGERRYFLQSLVAGLEAFVGND
DFMAWHRIMDEAGIRGGHEMLDDIQHAGGRKRLVQDFSGLRKLVERLDAVDDLFDWSRSVTGSD
AVS PTR

DNA sequence of AzoC coding gene:

ATGTCTTCGTCCCCGAAGAACTGACAGGTGTTCAGAGTCGGATTACCGGCATGATCC
GGATGATCAGGCCAAAATGCAGTTATTGCCGCTTAGCAGGTAAATTGGCATCGCGCCGCC
TTAACCGGAAGAACCGAATCTGCCGATCTGTTGAATTAGCACCGATGATTATCCGGAACCG
ATTCTGCCGTTCCGATCATCGACCTTCGCCCTGCCGCCGAAGATCGCACGTTACTG
TCTTGGGCATGGATTCTTATAATCGTACCAACCCTGCTGCTGGAAGGTAGATTGTAATCCGGCC
TTTCAGCTGGCTTAGATGGTGAATTCCGACGCCGGTAGCGAATTATGCAGCGCTCACTGGC
ACAGGCATGGTGTGAACAGTATCATACCTTAATGCATTAAATGCAAGCGCCGTGACCCGTC
GTCGTCGGCGAACGCTTGCGATGCCATTACCGAAACCGCTGGTTGCGTGAACATGAA
GCACGCTTAGCAAGTTGTCCAATGAACGTGAACGTGCTGCTGACCACCCCTGGCCTTGCCACCGT
TGCAGAAATTCTTATAATGCCTATCTGAATCTGATTGAGATGATAAAGAAATTAGCCGGTTA
ATAGCGCAACCGTGCATTACAATCGCGATGAATATTGTCATGCCTCAATTAGTCAGTGT
GCAGAACAGGTTCATCATACCCCTGGATGATGGCGAACGTGCTATTGTCAGTCACTGGTGGC
AGGCTTAGAAGCCTTGTGGCAATGATTGATGGCATGGCATCGTATTATGGATGAAGCAGGTA
TTCGCGGGCCATGAAATGTTAGATGATATTCAAGCACGCAAGGGCGTAAACGTTAGTCAG
GATTGATGGTCTCGTAAACTGGTGGAACGCTTAGATGCAGTGGATGATCTGGATTGATTG
GTCACGTAGTGTGACCGGGAGCGATGCAGTGTCTCCGACCCGC

Protein expression and purification: *Escherichia coli* BL21(DE3) containing the AzoC (or mutants) expressing plasmid pET28a-azoC (or mutants) was incubated into 1 L of TB liquid culture with the supplementation of 50 µg/mL kanamycin, and further cultivated at 37 °C, 220

r.p.m for 5 h, until the OD 600 reached 0.6. Then, the culture was added with 0.1 mM isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside and 1mM Mohr's salt (ammonium ferric sulfate), and further incubated at 25 °C for 24 h. After that, cells were collected and lysed with sonication in buffer A (20 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, and 10 mM imidazole). Then, the cell lysate was centrifuged at 14000 rpm, 4 °C for 15 min, and the supernatant was collected and referred to Ni²⁺-nitrilotriacetic acid resin column for protein purification. After loading the sample, the Ni²⁺-nitrilotriacetic acid resin column was first eluted with buffer A solution containing 50mM imidazole to remove the undesired proteins, then was eluted with buffer A solution containing 250mM imidazole to get the target enzyme. The recombinant protein was desalted on a 10-kDa YM-3 column with 20mM Tris buffer (pH 7.5). The resulting enzyme was analyzed with SDS-PAGE. Protein concentration was determined with the Bradford assay, and bovine serum albumin was employed as standard.

Protein engineering method: Mutation experiments were conducted by whole plasmid PCR using Pfu DNA polymerase. The plasmid pET28a-AzoC was used as the template for PCR amplified with corresponding mutagenesis primer pairs. The resulting PCR product was digested with DpnI to eliminate the template. Then, the digested products were transformed into *E.coli* BL21(DE3), and further incubated at 37 °C for the single colony isolation on the LB agar plate with the addition of 50 µg/mL kanamycin. Single colonies grown on the plate were further cultivated for protein purification, and tested for enzymatic activities. The positive mutant was referred to DNA sequencing to identify the mutant site.

GDH Stock solution: NAD⁺ (5 mg/mL), Glucose (180 mg/mL), GDH (500 U/mL) dissolved in PBS buffer (pH 8).

Scale-up bioconversion method: *E. coli* BL21(DE3) containing pET28a-azoC were grown in TB liquid culture with the supplementation of with 1mM ammonium ferric sulfate and 50 µg/mL kanamycin and further cultivated at 37 °C, 220 r.p.m for 5 h until the OD 600 reached 1. Then, the culture was added with 0.1 mM isopropyl β -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside and further inducted at 25 °C for 24 h. Later, cells were collected and lysed, and referred to 14000 rpm centrifuge at 4 °C for 15 min. The supernatants were collected and diluted 10 times with HEPES buffer or Tris buffer or PBS buffer, then the solution was added with 100 µM PMS, 100 µM TEMPO, 1mM phloroglucinol and 3 mM amines, and incubated at 25 °C, 200 rpm for 12 h.

HPLC analysis method: HPLC analysis was performed on a Thermol Ultimate 3000 system with VWD Uv detector. A Thermol Hypersil Gold column (250*4.6 mm, 5 µm) was used. Mobile phase A was 0.1% triflouroacetic acid (TFA) in water, and mobile phase B was acetonitrile. Flow rate was 1 mL/min. During the analysis, mobile phase B raised from 10% to 100% in 20 min, and kept at 100% for 5 min.

Isotope replacement experiment: 1 mM phloroglucinol and 2 mM nitrosobenzene were added into NaOD's D2O solution (pH 8), then the solution was incubated at room temperature for 1 h. Then the resulting sample was referred to LC-HRMS analysis. And another reaction sample in NaOH's H2O solution (pH 8) was used as control.

Silica gel chromatography: Silica gel chromatography were performed with silica gel (200-300 meshes). Hexane and ethyl acetate were used as eluents. Scale-up reactions were extracted using ethyl acetate and then vacuum dried, the products were then purified using silica gel chromatography. Compound **3-3a** were purified using Hexane/Ethyl acetate (1:1) as the eluent, and **3b-3o** were purified using Hexane/Ethyl acetate (4:1) as the eluent.

Crystallization of 3a: Purified **3a** was dissolved in methanol to afford crystal for X-ray analysis. Crystallographic data for the reported compound **3a** has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (CCDC) under CCDC ID: 2193171.

Table S1. PCR primers

Primer Name	Primer Sequence (5' to 3')	Tm
T98A-F	acttccagcagcacggcggtacgattataagaaa	78.1
T98A-R	ttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaa	
T98S-F	tccagcagcacgtgtacgattataagaaatcc	78.0
T98S-R	ggatttcttataatcgtaaccaggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98C-F	ctgacacctccagcagcacgcaggtacgattataagaaatcc	79.1
T98C-R	gatttcttataatcgtaacctcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98V-F	ctgacacctccagcagcacgcaggtacgattataagaaatcc	78.1
T98V-R	gatttcttataatcgtaaccgtcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98G-F	ctgacacctccagcagcacgcaggtacgattataagaaatcc	79.1
T98G-R	gatttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
L101A-F	attaacaatctgacacctccggccagcacgggtacgattataagaaatcc	78.1
L101A-R	taatcgtaaccaccgtcggtacgattgttaat	
L101V-F	caatctgacacctccaccagcacgggtacg	80.3
L101V-R	cgtaccaccgtcggtacgattgttaat	
L101G-F	attaacaatctgacacctccccagcacgggtacgattataagaaatcc	78.1
L101G-R	taatcgtaaccaccgtcggtacgattgttaat	
T98A/L101A -F	gattaacaatctgacacctccggccagcacggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	79.1
T98A/L101A -R	ggatttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98G/L101G-F	ggattaacaatctgacacctccccagcacggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	79.1
T98G/L101G -R	tggatttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98A/L101G -F	gattaacaatctgacacctccccagcacggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	80.0
T98A/L101G -R	ggatttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
T98G/L101A-F	ggattaacaatctgacacctccggccagcacggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	79.0
T98G/L101A -R	tggatttcttataatcgtaaccggcggtacgattataagaaatcc	
Sequencing-F	AGCGCTGCATTAATTGCTC	58
Sequencing-R	CGATCATCCGACCTTCGCG	

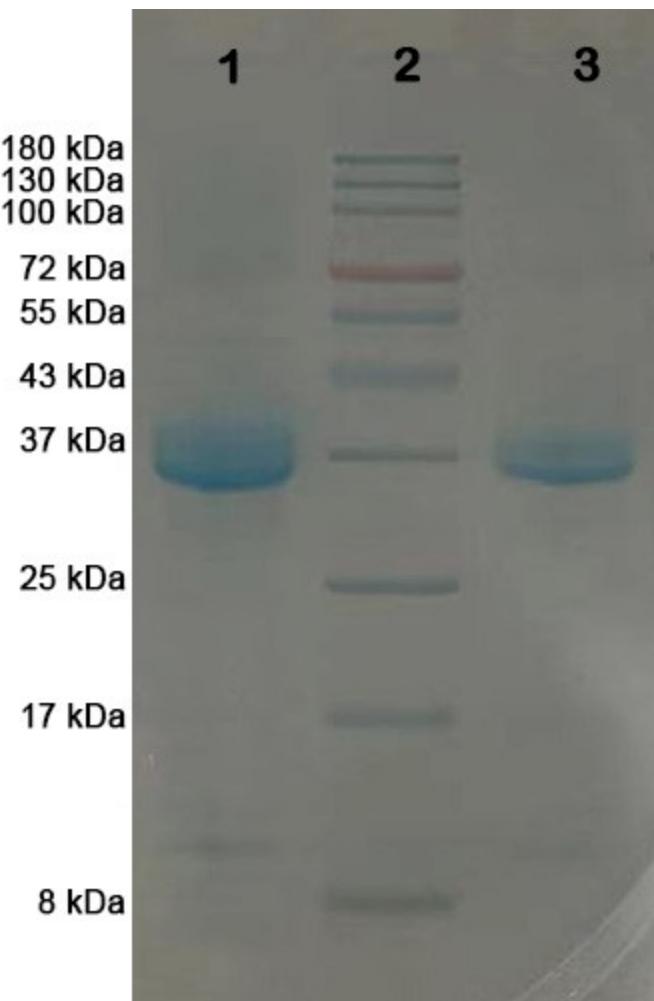


Fig. S1. SDS-PAGE analysis of purified AzoC and AzoC-III.

Lane 1, AzoC;

Lane 2, protein marker;

Lane 3, AzoC-III. Theoretical molecular weight of AzoC mutant was 39 KD.

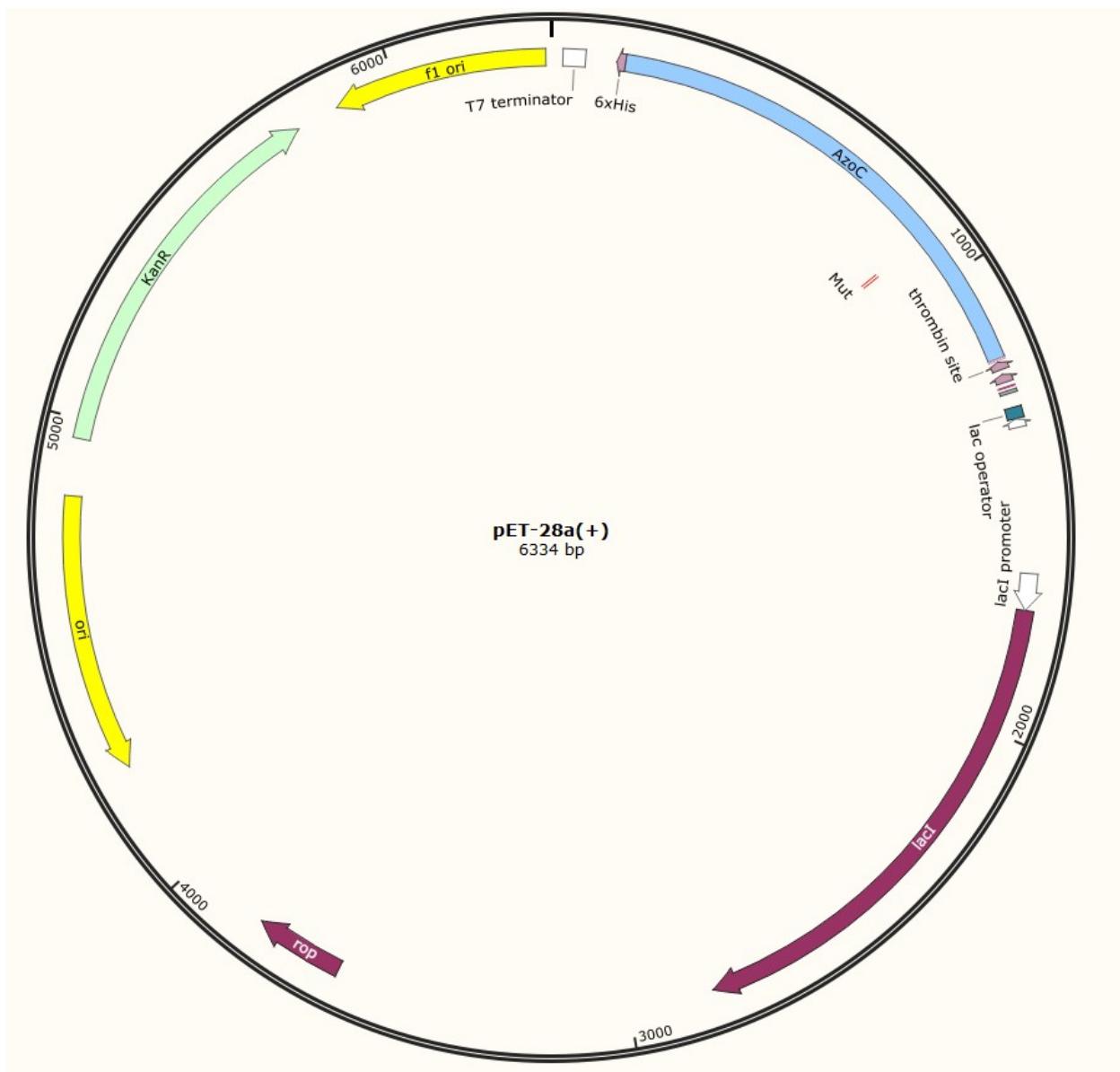


Fig. S2. Plasmid map of pET28a-AzoC.

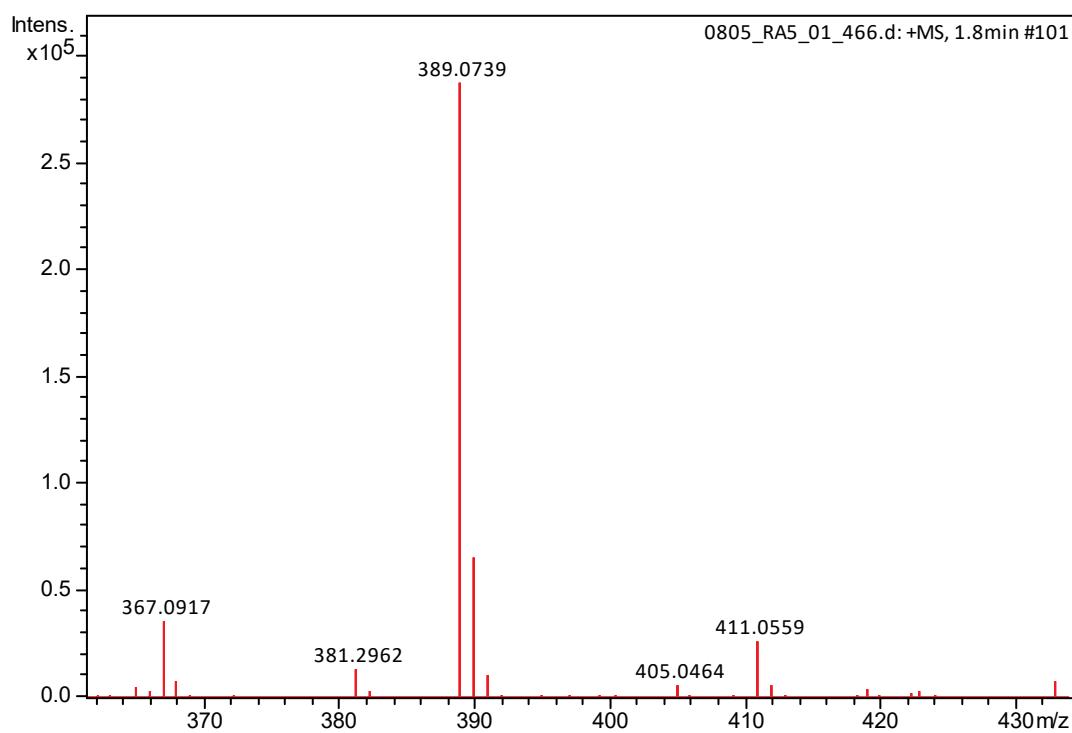


Fig. S3. HRMS of **3**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 367.0925, found as 367.0917. $[M+Na]^+$ calculated for 389.0744, found as 389.0739.

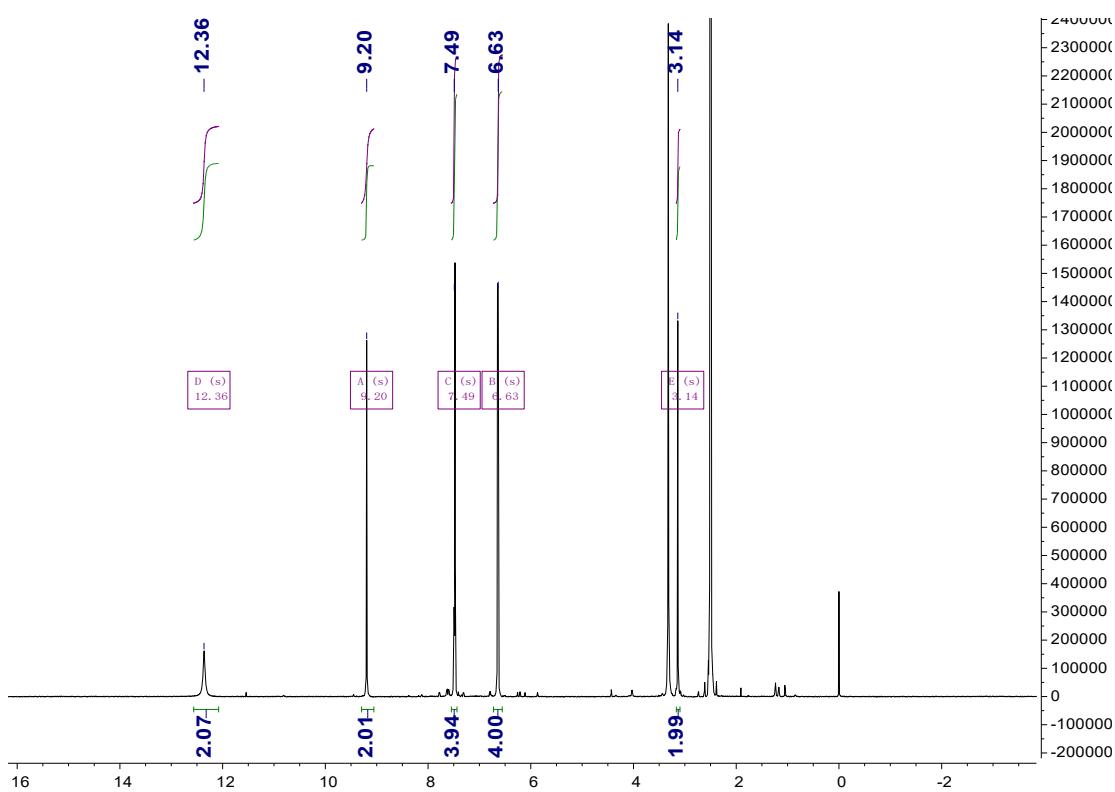


Fig. S4. ^1H NMR of **3**. (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 12.36 (s, 2H), 9.20 (s, 2H), 7.49 (s, 4H), 6.63 (s, 4H), 3.14 (s, 2H).

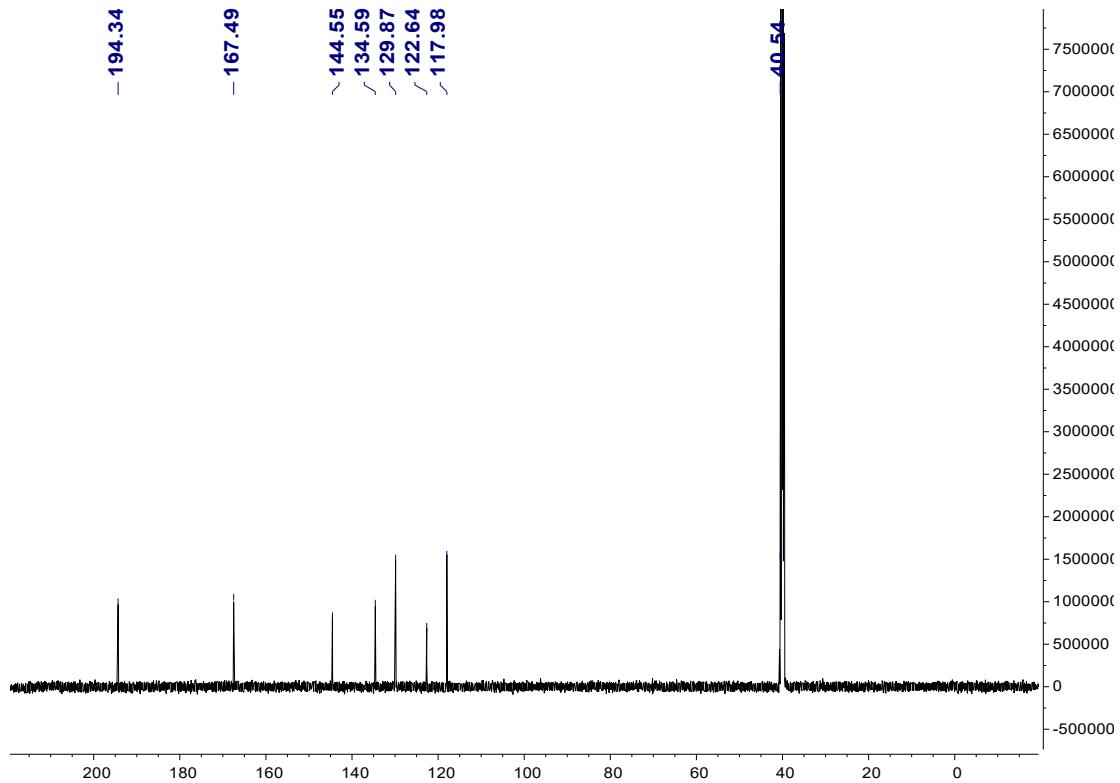


Fig. S5. ^{13}C NMR of 3. (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.34, 167.49, 144.55, 134.59, 129.87, 122.64, 117.98, 40.54.

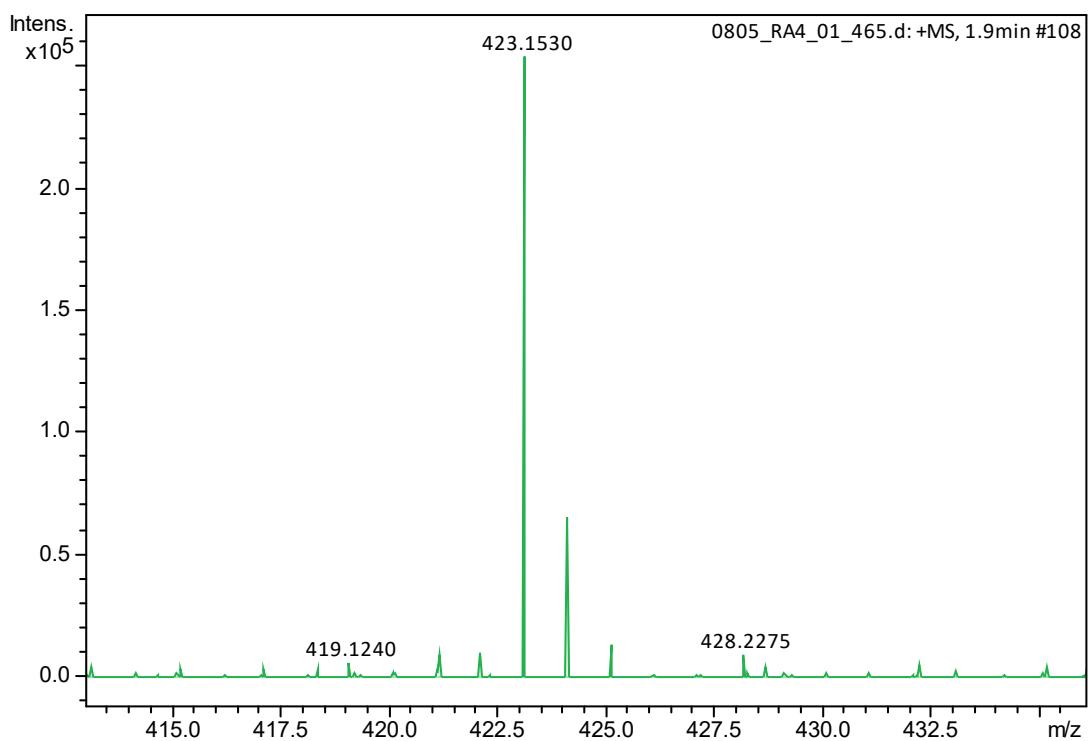


Fig. S6. HRMS of **3a**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 423.1556, found as 423.1530.

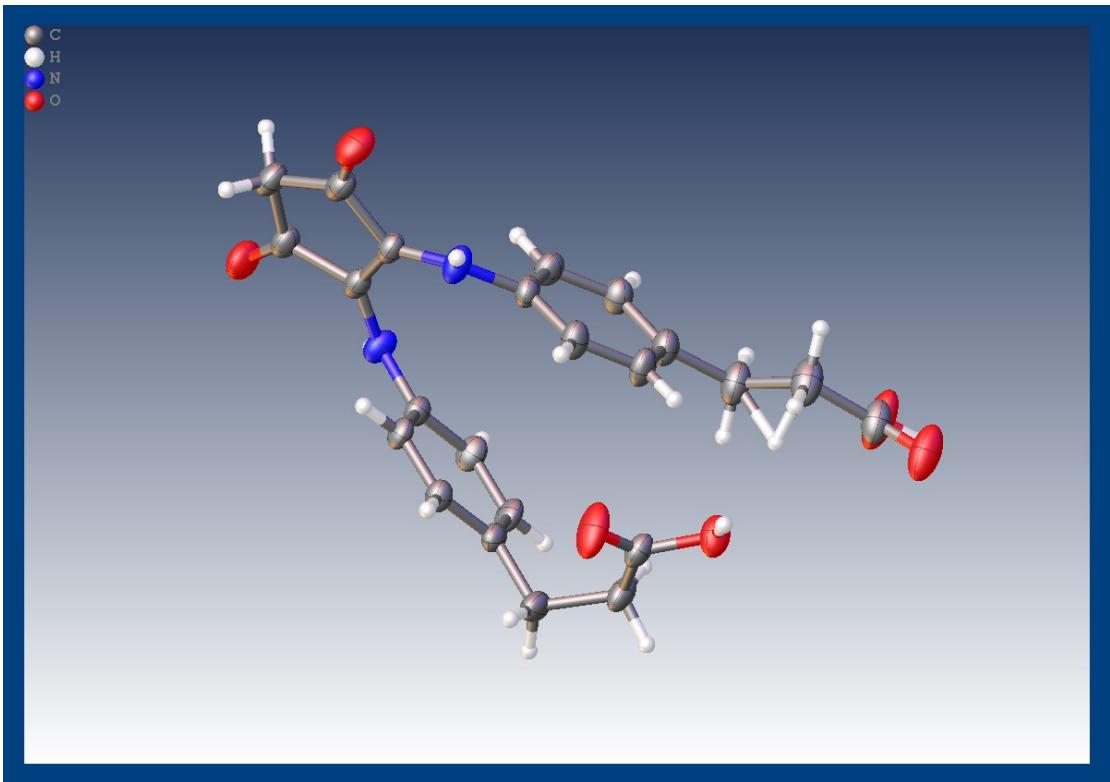


Fig. S7. Crystal structure of 3a.

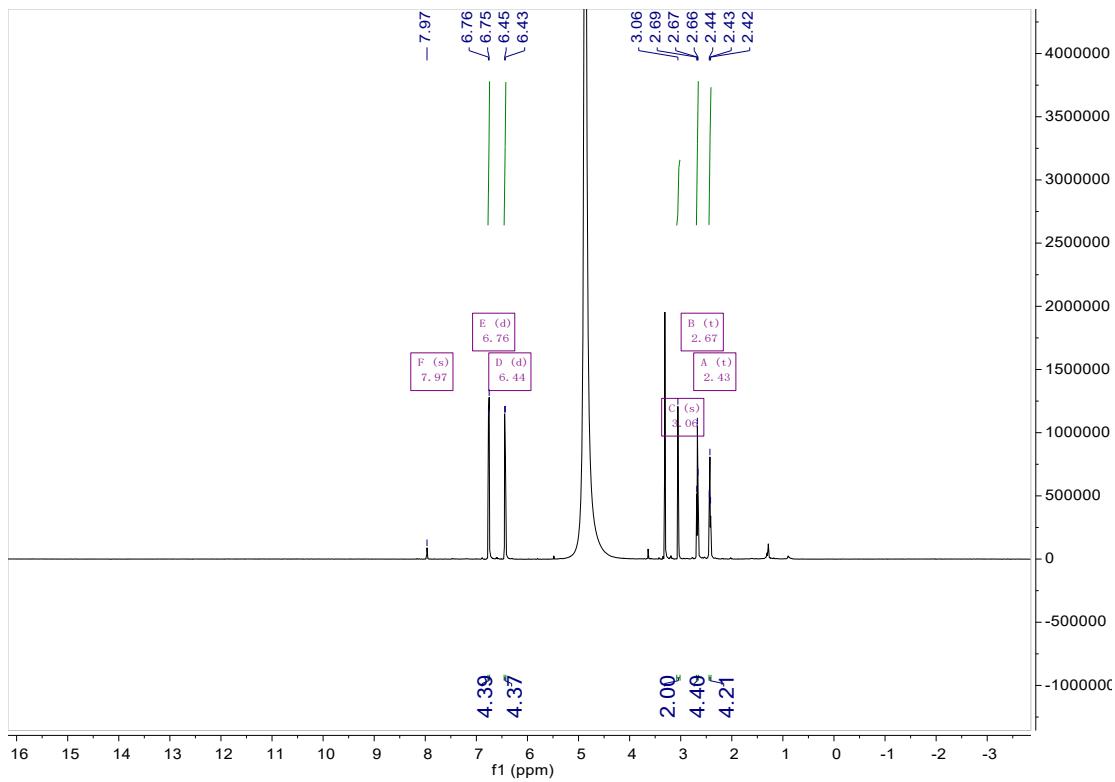


Fig. S8. ^1H NMR of compound **3a**. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 7.97 (s), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 4H), 6.44 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 4H), 3.06 (s, 2H), 2.67 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H), 2.43 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H).

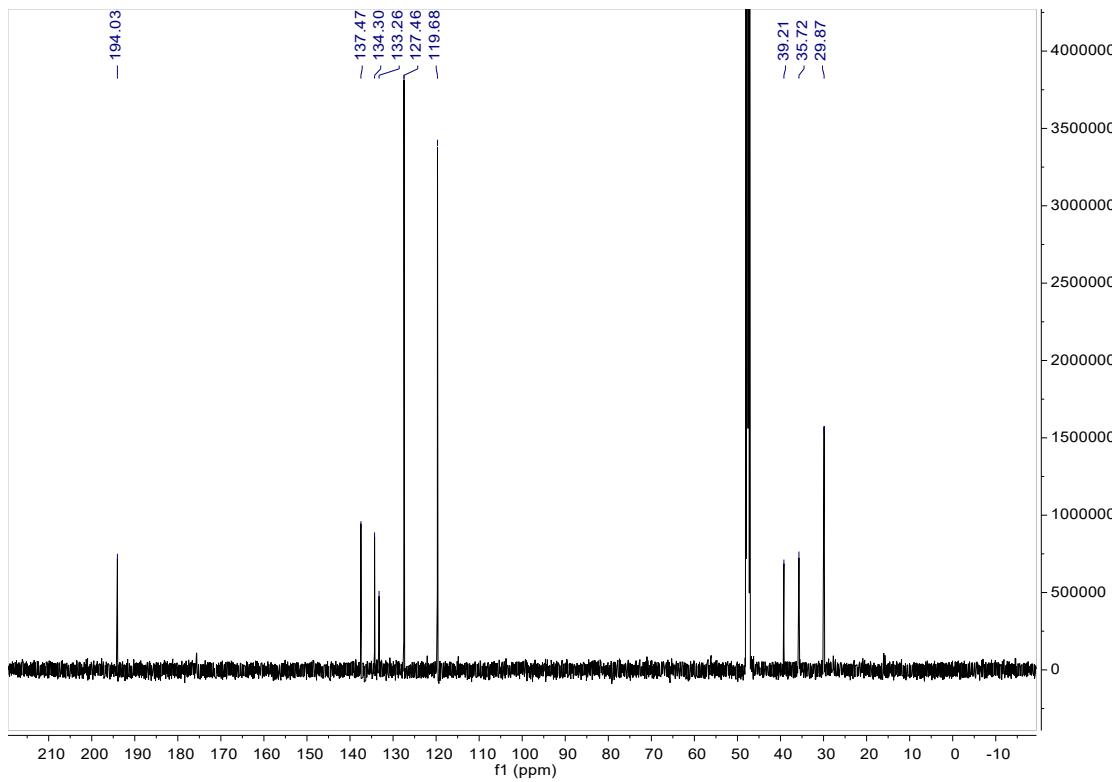


Fig. S9. ^{13}C NMR of compound **3a**. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 194.03, 137.47, 134.30, 133.26, 127.46, 119.68, 39.21, 35.72, 29.87.

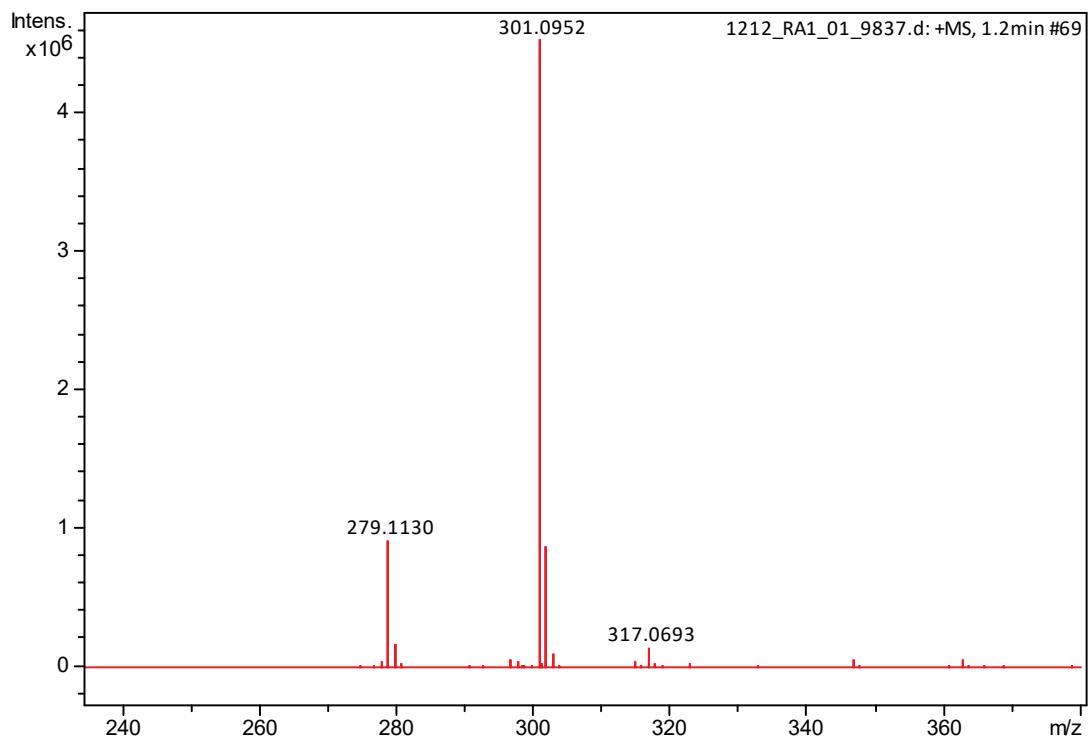


Fig. S10. HRMS of **3b**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 279.1134, found as 279.1130. $[M+Na]^+$ calculated for 301.0953, found as 301.0952. $[M+K]^+$ calculated for 317.0693, found as 317.0693.

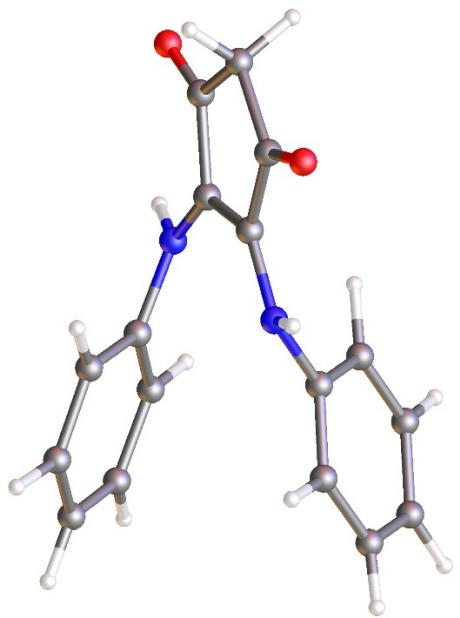


Fig. S11. Crystal structure of **3b**.

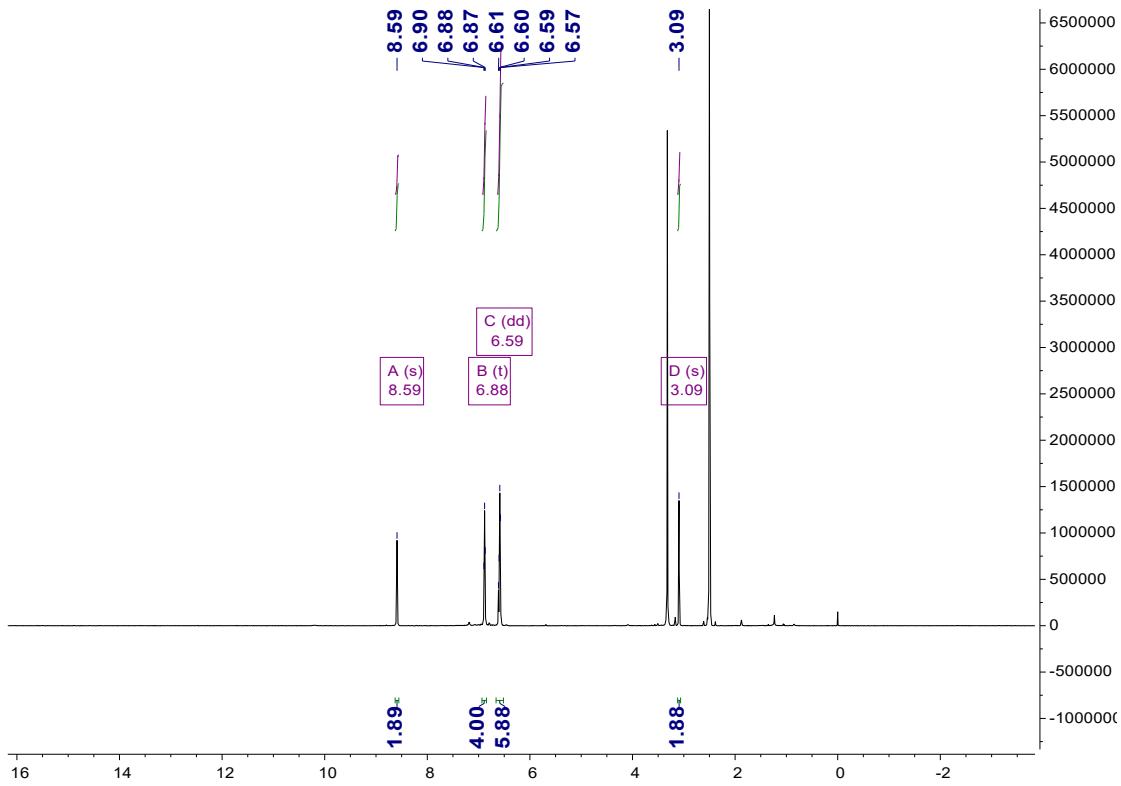


Fig. S12. ^1H NMR of compound **3b**. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.59 (s, 2H), 6.88 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 6.59 (dd, J = 16.0, 7.8 Hz, 6H), 3.09 (s, 2H).

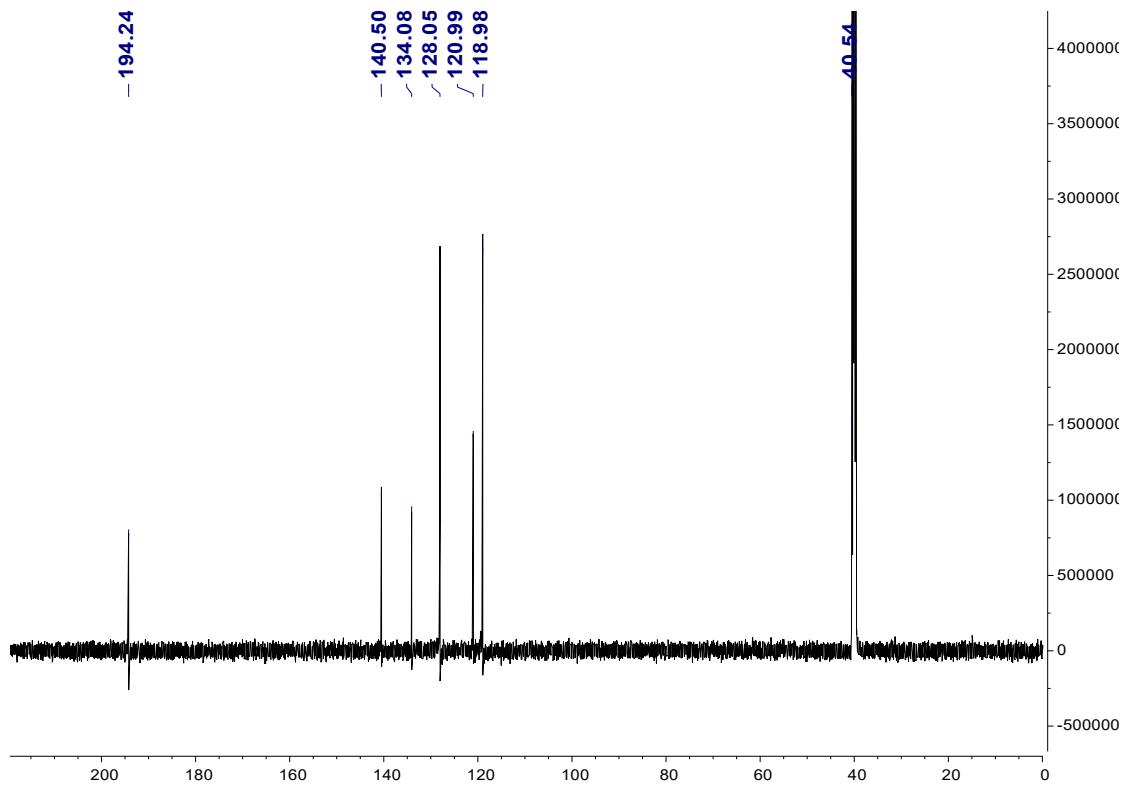


Fig. S13. ^{13}C NMR of compound **3b**. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 194.24, 140.50, 134.08, 128.05, 120.99, 118.98, 40.54.

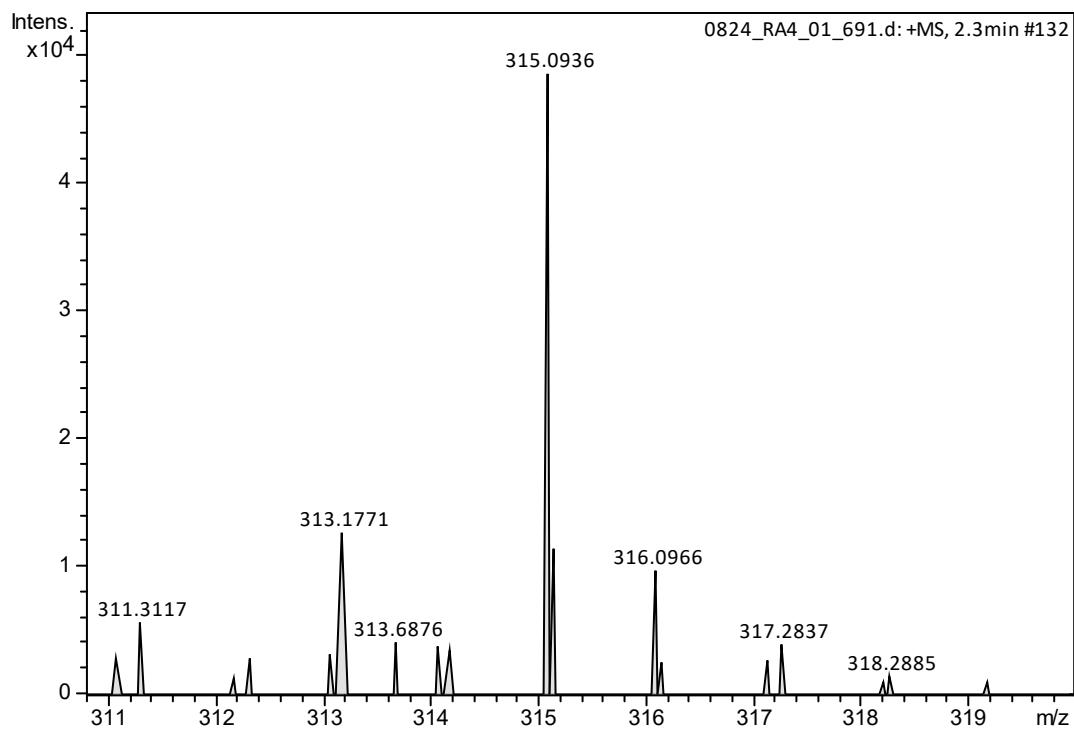


Fig. S14. HRMS of **3c**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 315.0940, found as 389.0932.

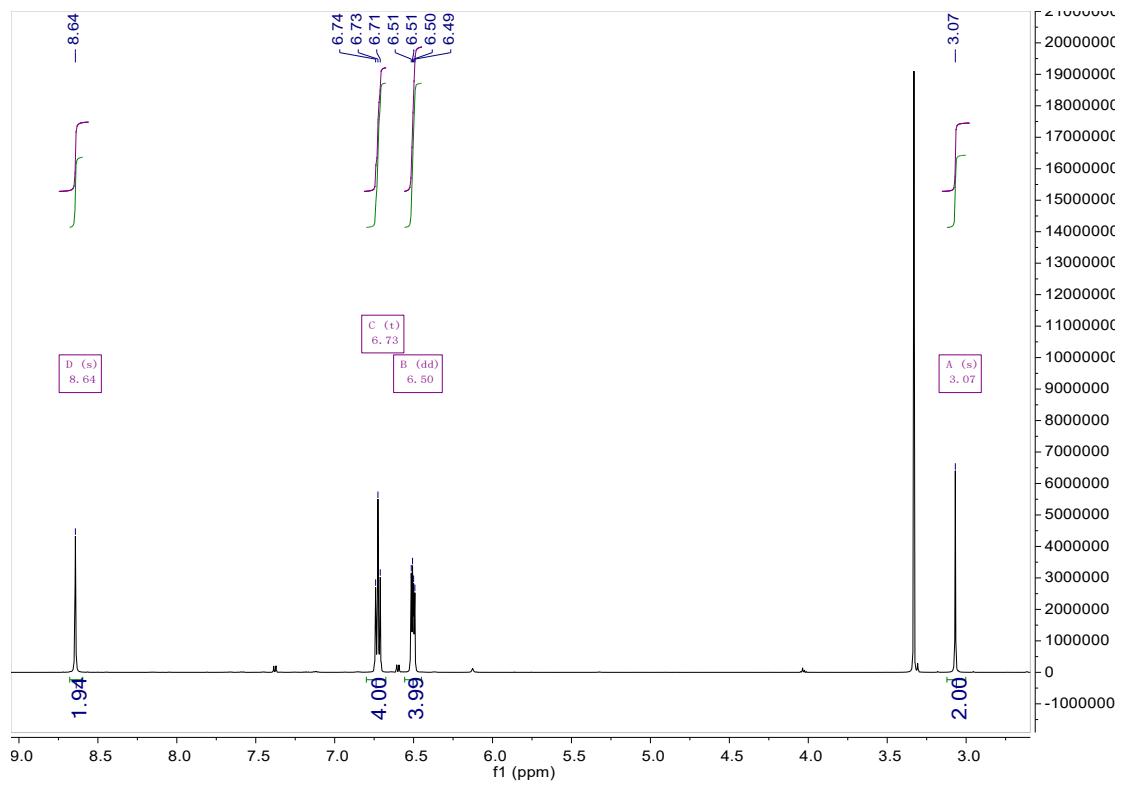


Fig. S15. ^1H NMR of **3c**. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.64 (s, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.50 (dd, J = 9.0, 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.07 (s, 2H).

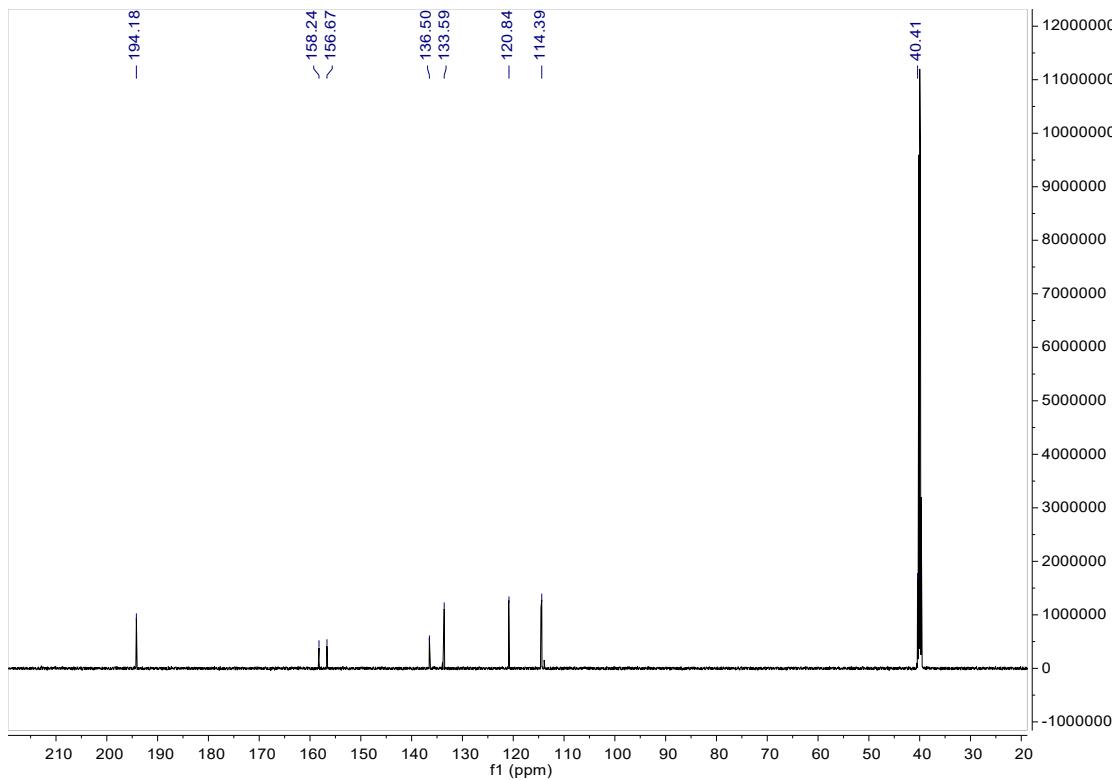


Fig. S16. ^{13}C NMR of **3c**. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 194.18, 158.24, 156.67, 136.50, 133.59, 120.84, 114.39, 40.41.

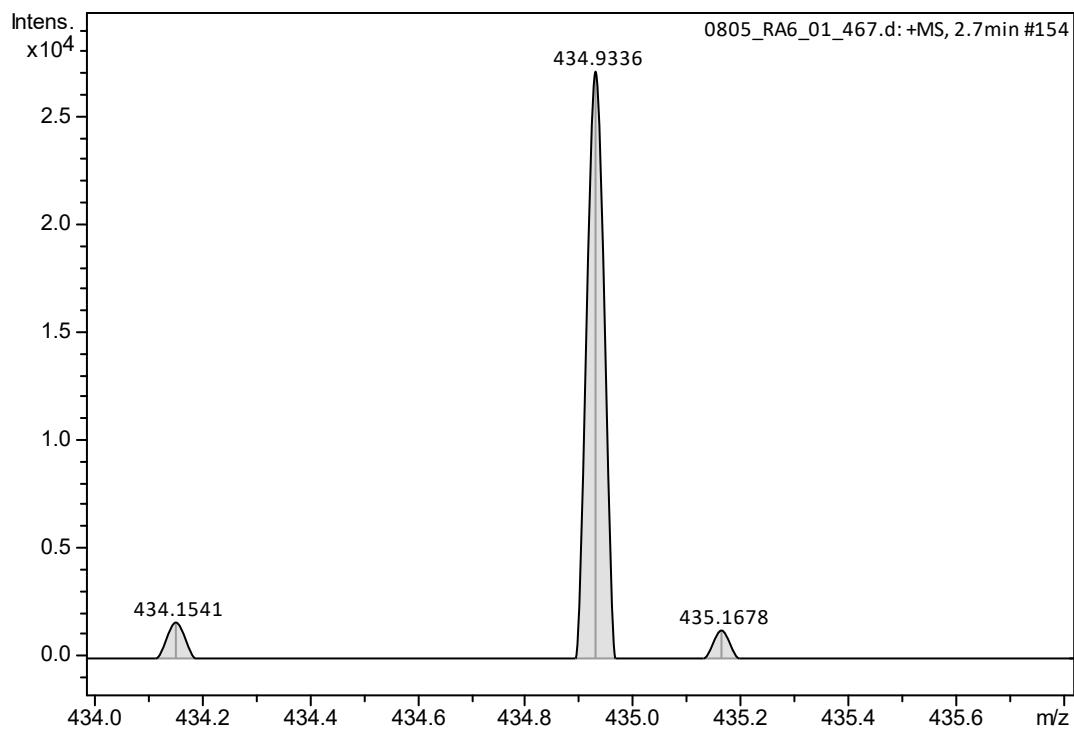


Fig. S17. HRMS of **3d**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 434.9338, found as 434.9336.

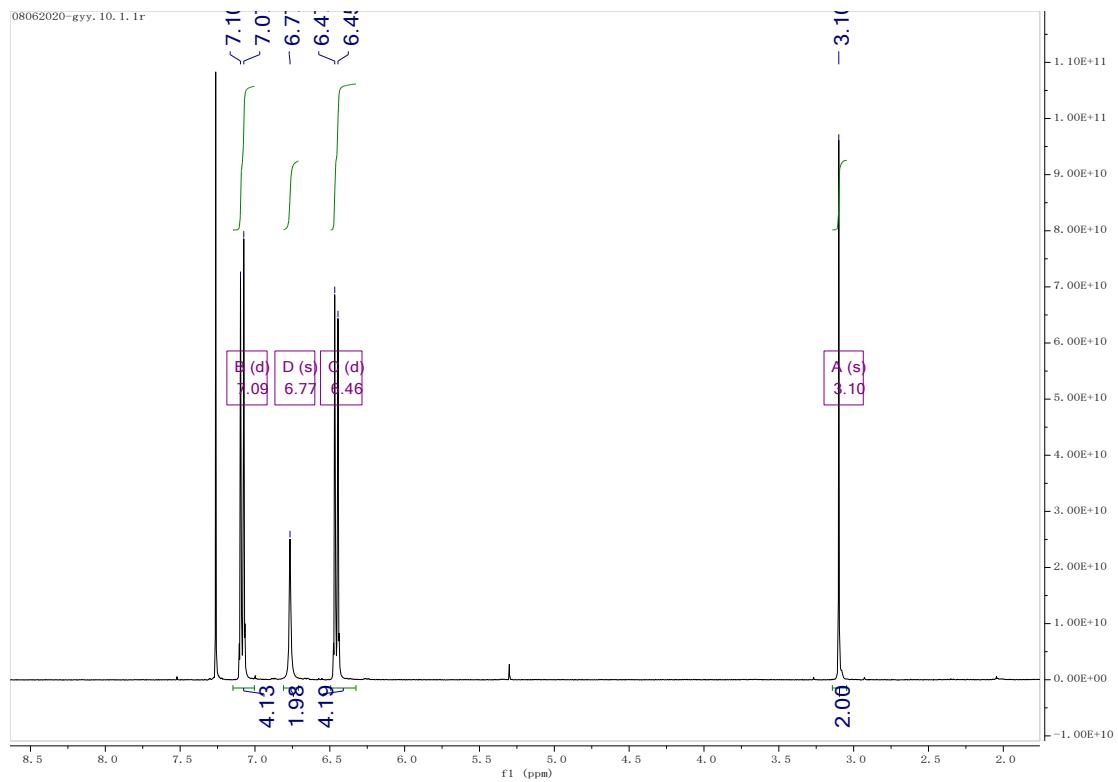


Fig. S18. ^1H NMR of **3d**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.09 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 4H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 6.46 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 4H), 3.10 (s, 2H).

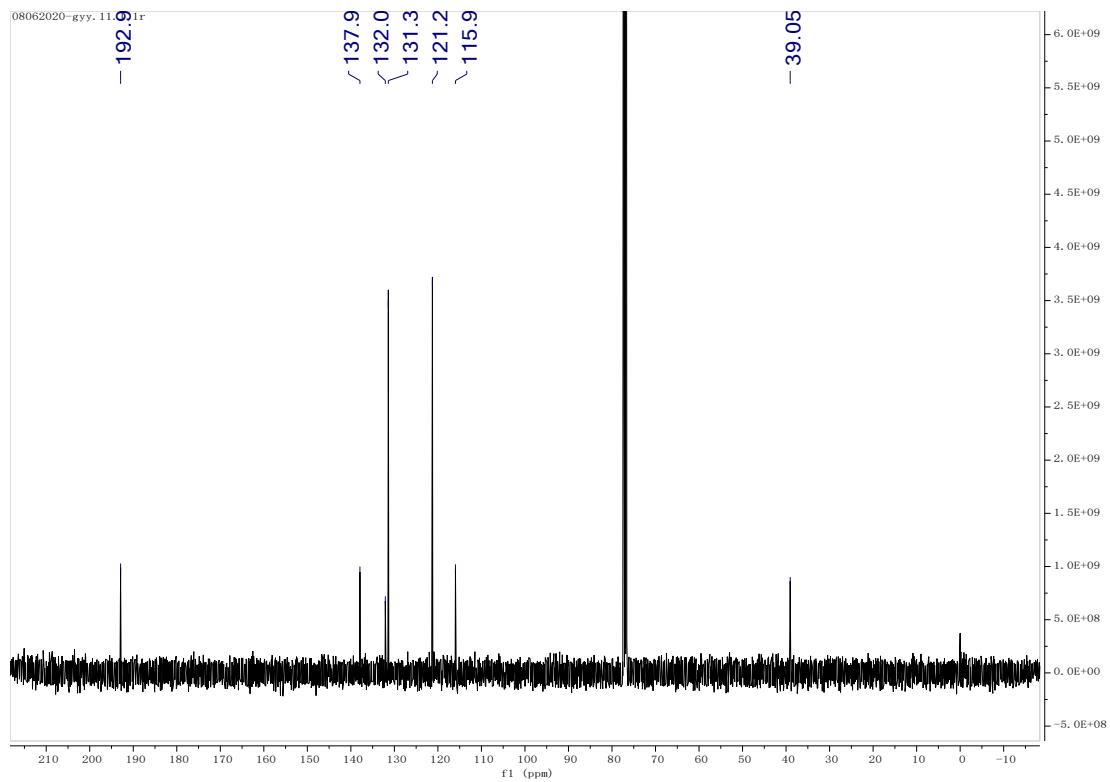


Fig. S19. ¹³C NMR of **3d**. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.91, 137.91, 132.08, 131.39, 121.26, 115.97, 39.05.

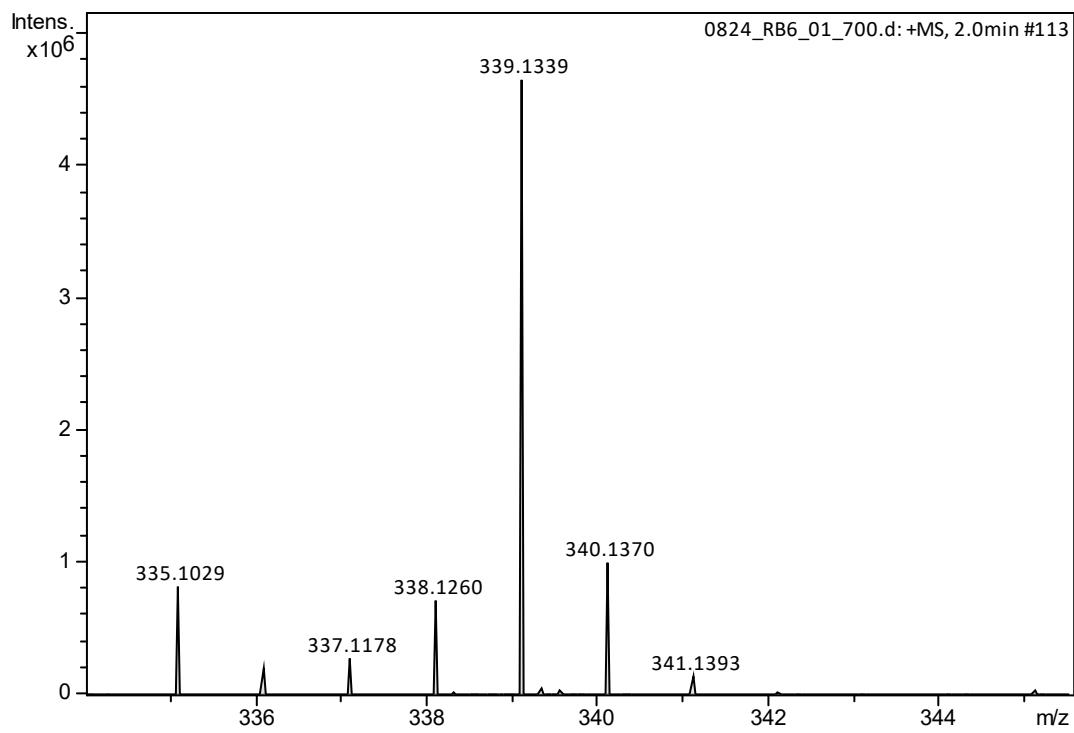


Fig. S20. HRMS of **3e**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 339.1339, found as 339.1339.

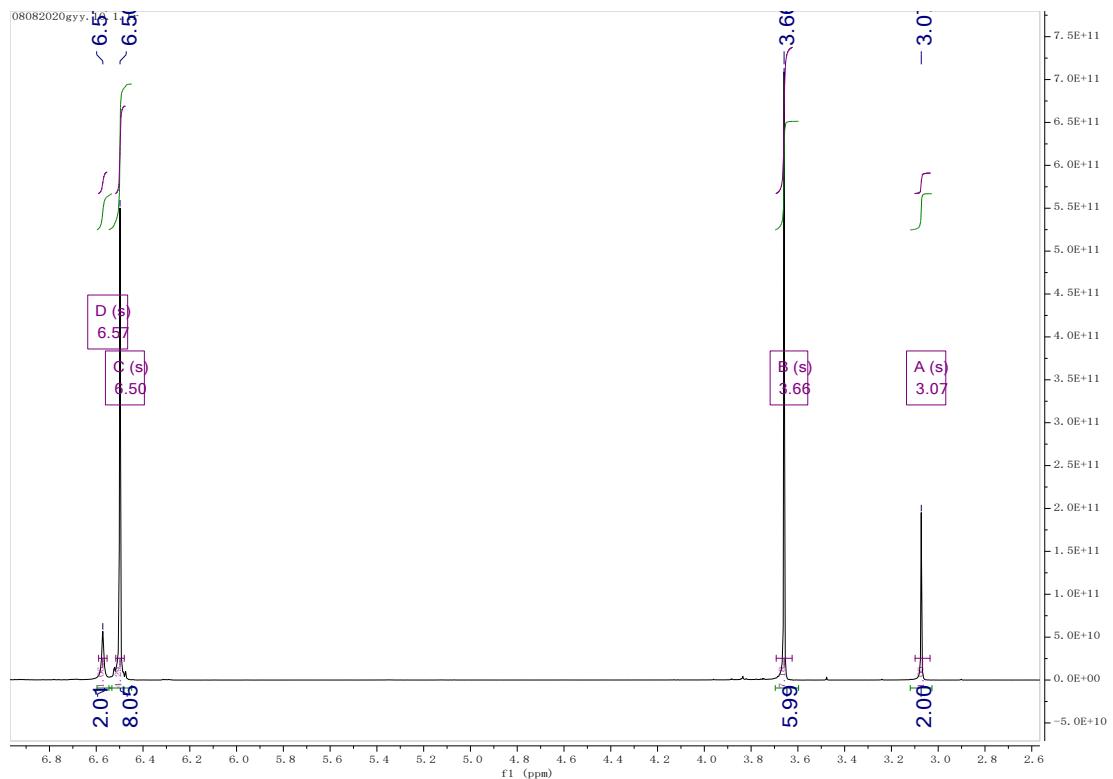


Fig. S21. ¹H NMR of **3e**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.57 (s, 2H), 6.50 (s, 8H), 3.66 (s, 6H), 3.07 (s, 2H).

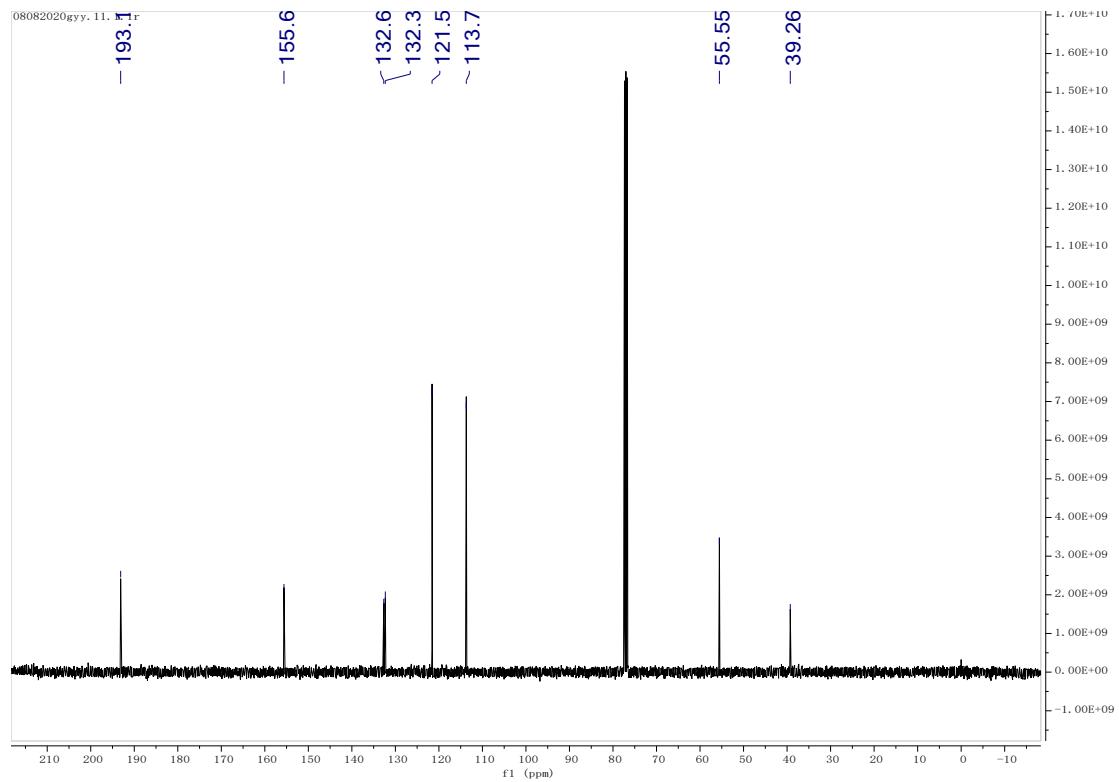


Fig. S22. ^{13}C NMR of **3e**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.13, 155.60, 132.67, 132.31, 121.57, 113.71, 55.55, 39.26.

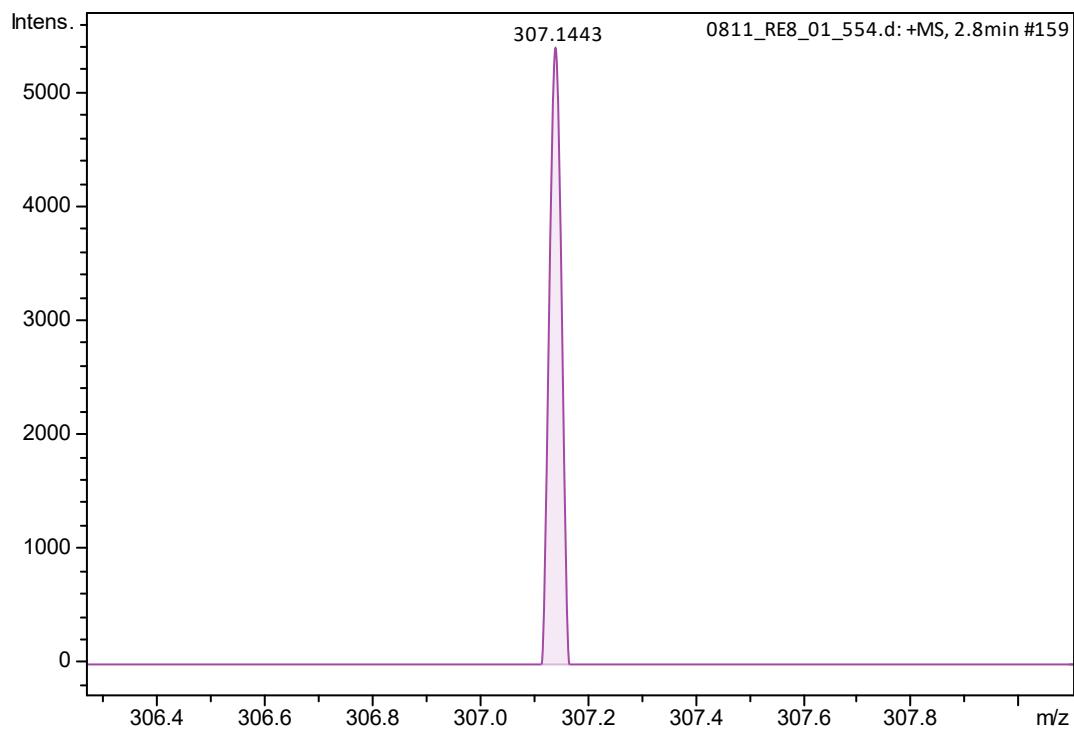


Fig. S23. HRMS of **3f**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 307.1441, found as 307.1443.

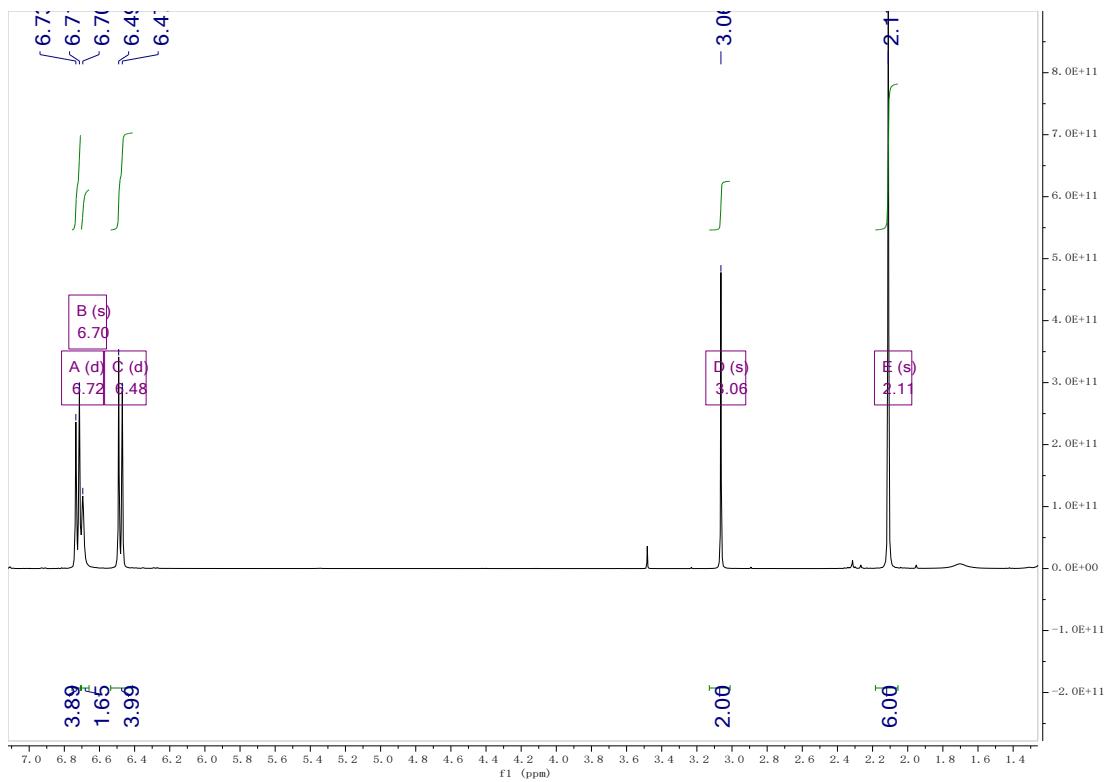


Fig. S24. ^1H NMR of **3f**. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 4H), 6.70 (s, 2H), 6.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 4H), 3.06 (s, 2H), 2.11 (s, 6H).

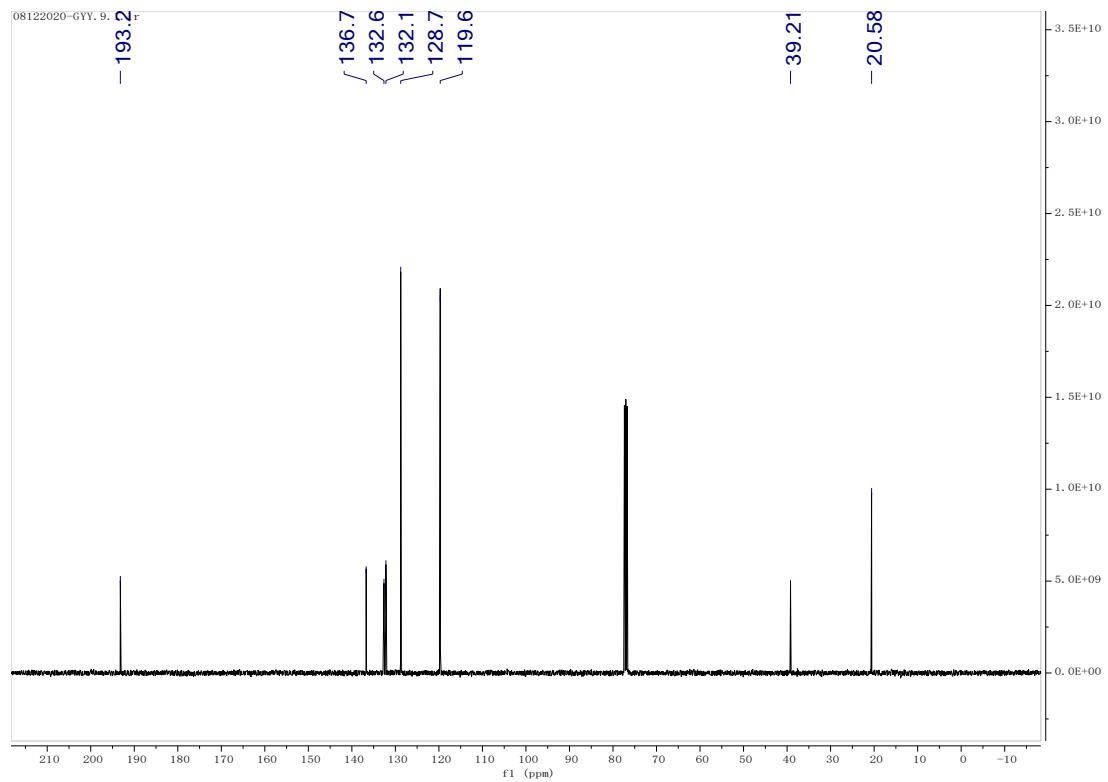


Fig. S25. ¹³C NMR of **3f**. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 136.71, 132.63, 132.18, 128.77, 119.69, 39.21, 20.58.

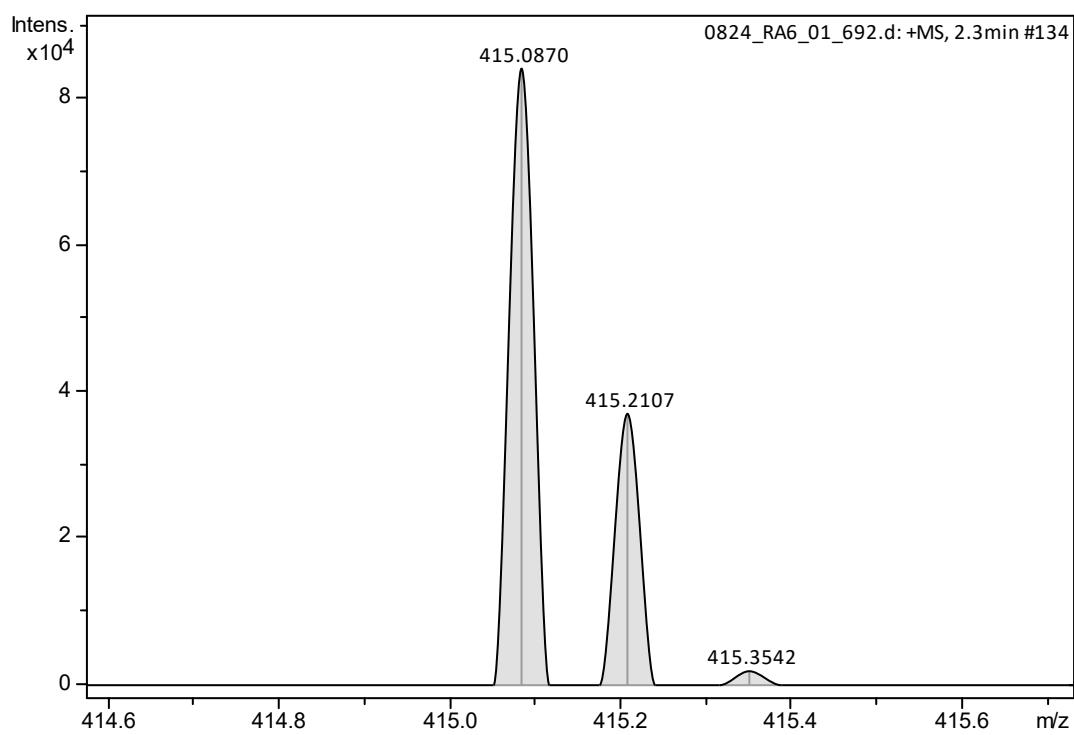


Fig. S26. HRMS of **3g**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 415.0876, found as 415.0870.

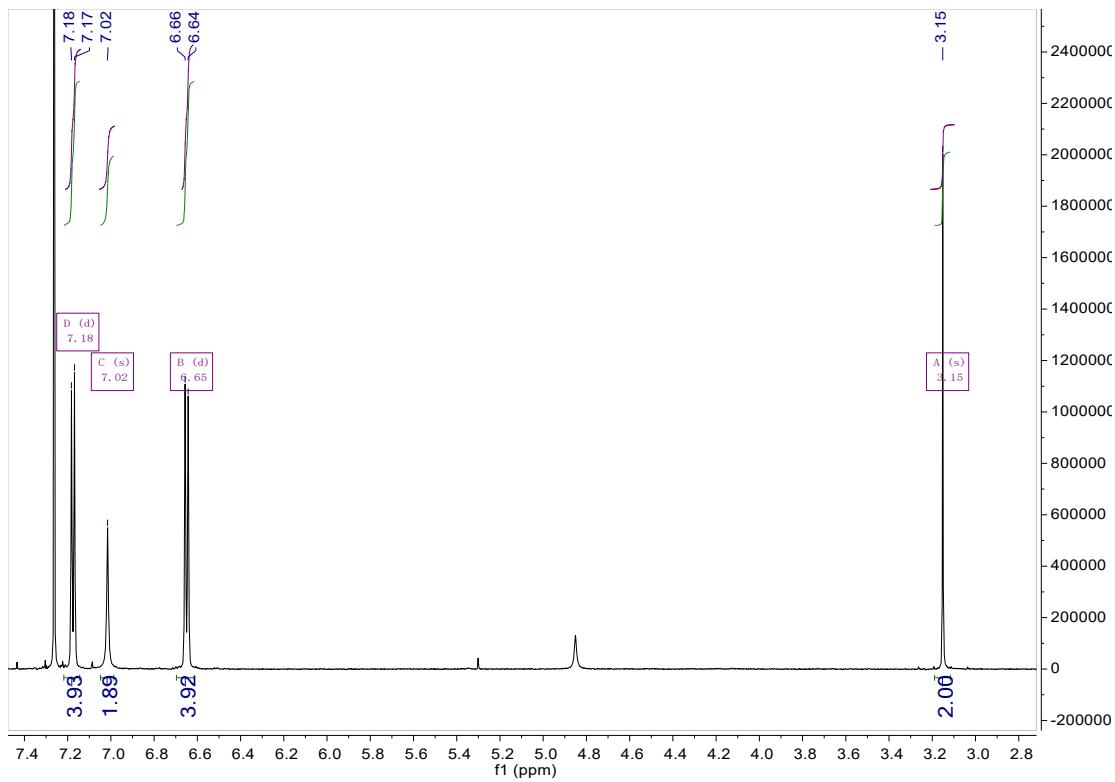


Fig. S27. ^1H NMR of **3g**. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.18 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 4H), 7.02 (s, 2H), 6.65 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 4H), 3.15 (s, 2H).

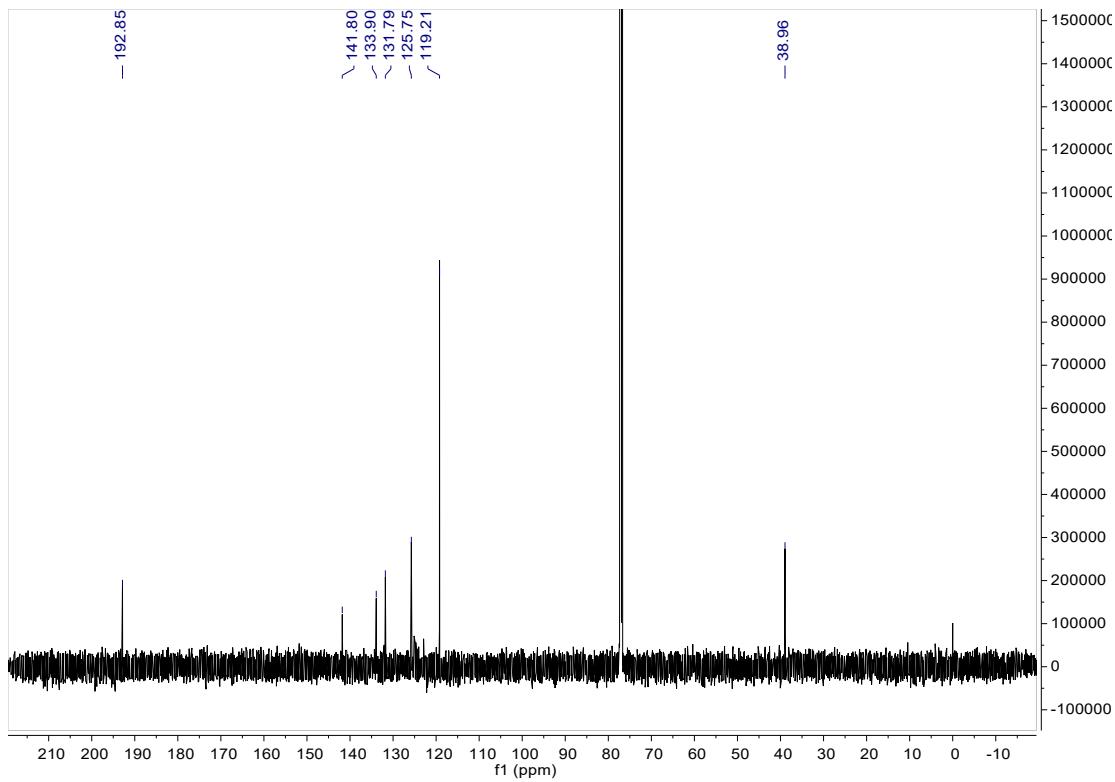


Fig. S28. ¹³C NMR of 3g. (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.85, 141.80, 133.90, 131.79, 125.75, 119.21, 38.96.

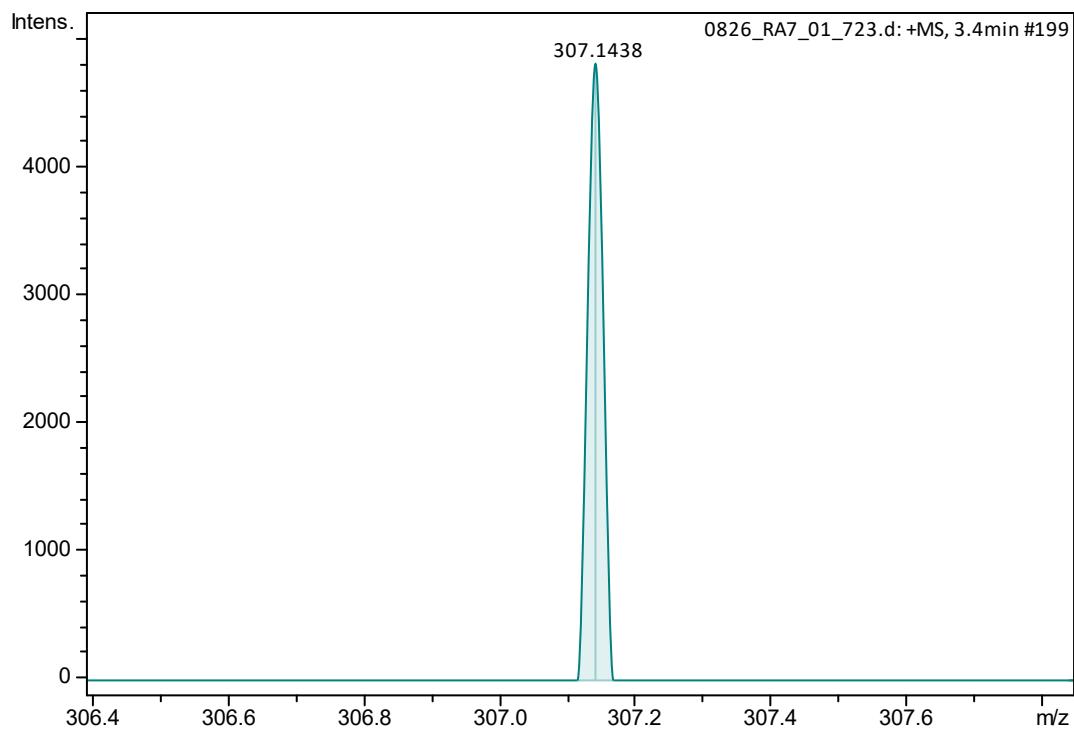


Fig. S29. HRMS of **3h**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 307.1441, found as 307.1438.

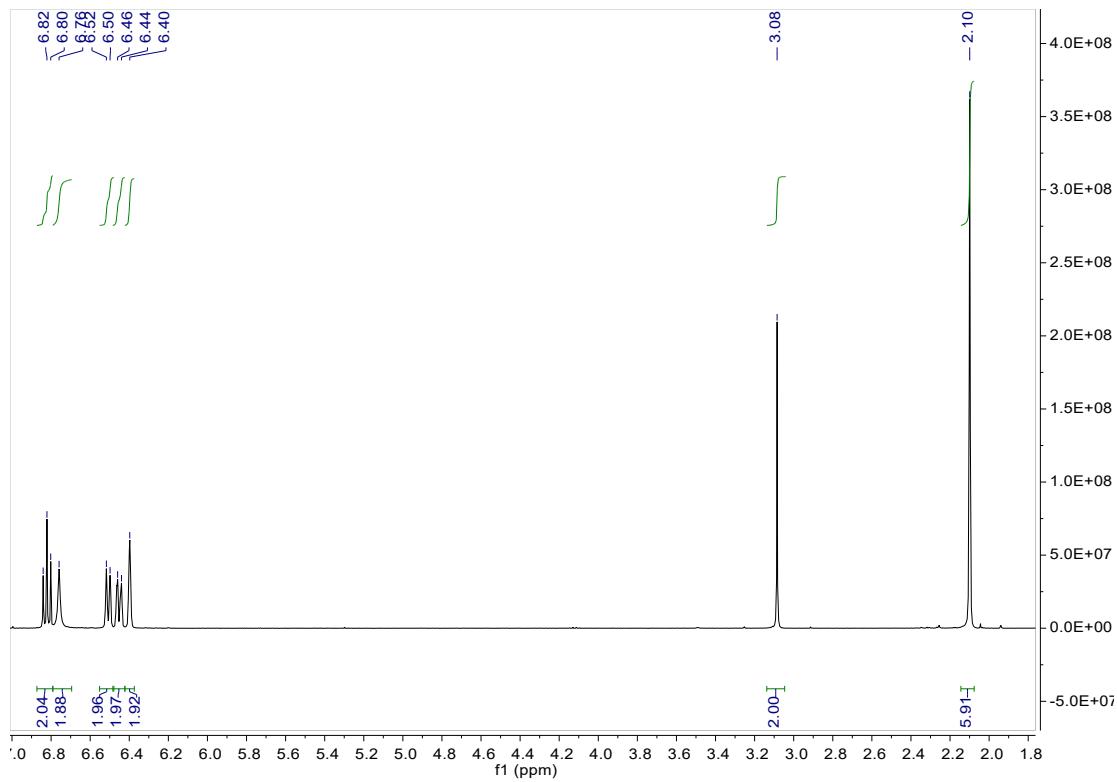


Fig. S30. ^1H NMR of **3h**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.82 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (s, 2H), 6.51 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (s, 2H), 3.08 (s, 2H), 2.10 (s, 6H).

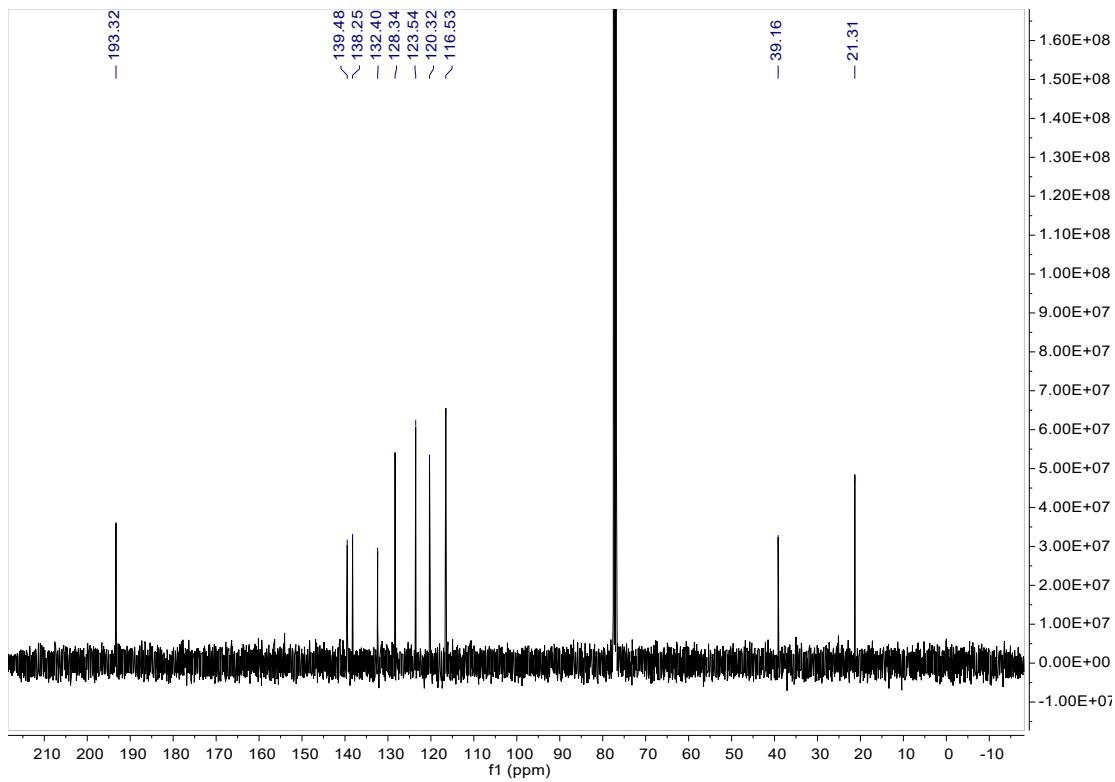


Fig. S31. ¹³C NMR of **3h**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.32, 139.48, 138.25, 132.40, 128.34, 123.54, 120.32, 116.53, 39.16, 21.31.

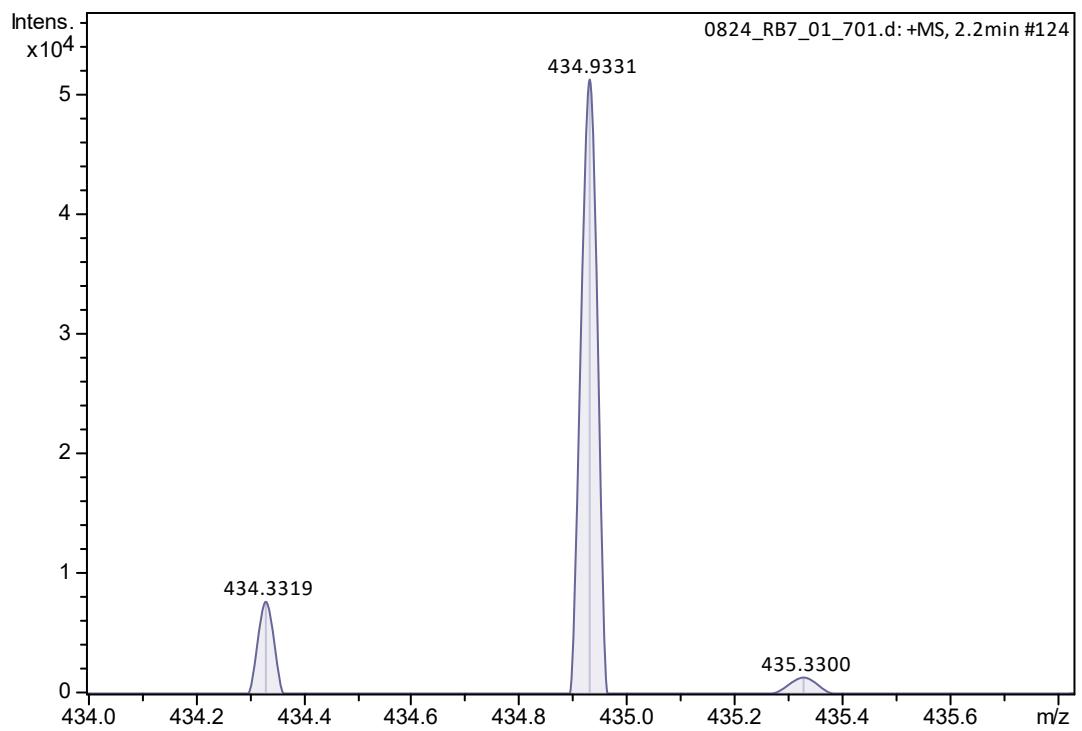


Fig. S32. HRMS of **3i**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 434.9338, found as 434.9331.

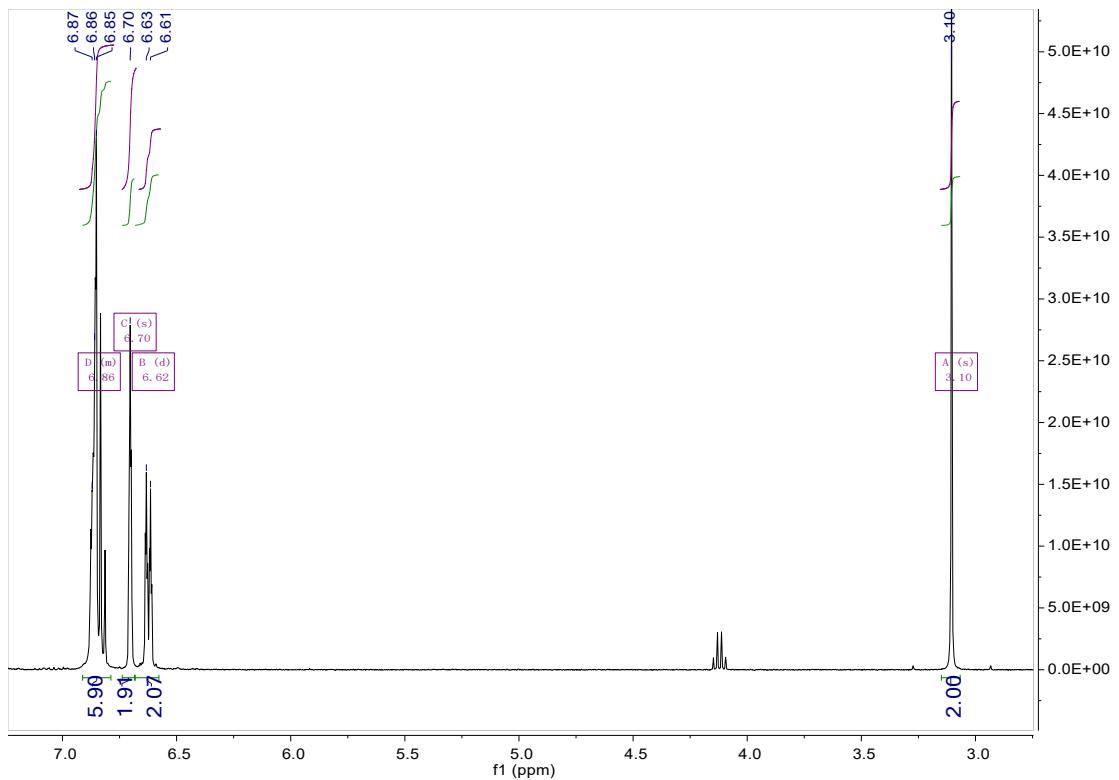


Fig. S33. ^1H NMR of **3i**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.92 – 6.78 (m, 6H), 6.70 (s, 2H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (s, 2H).

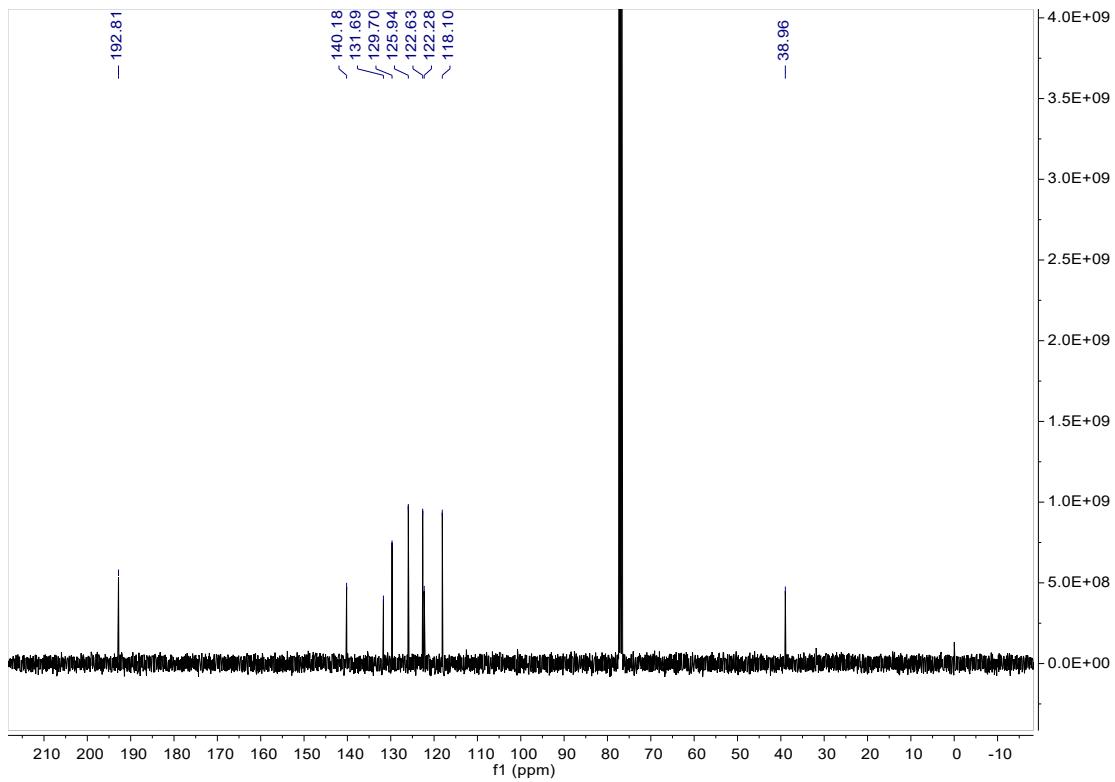


Fig. S34. ¹³C NMR of **3i**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.81, 140.18, 131.69, 129.70, 125.94, 122.63, 122.28, 118.10, 38.96.

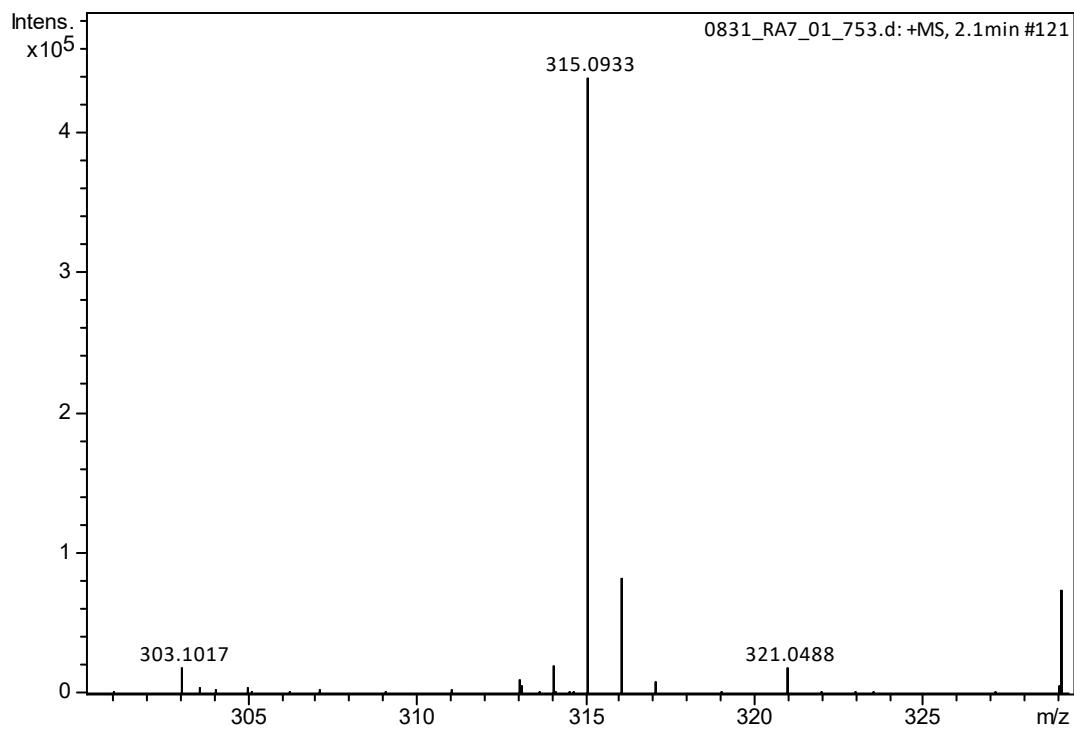


Fig. S35. HRMS of **3j**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 315.0939, found as 315.0933.

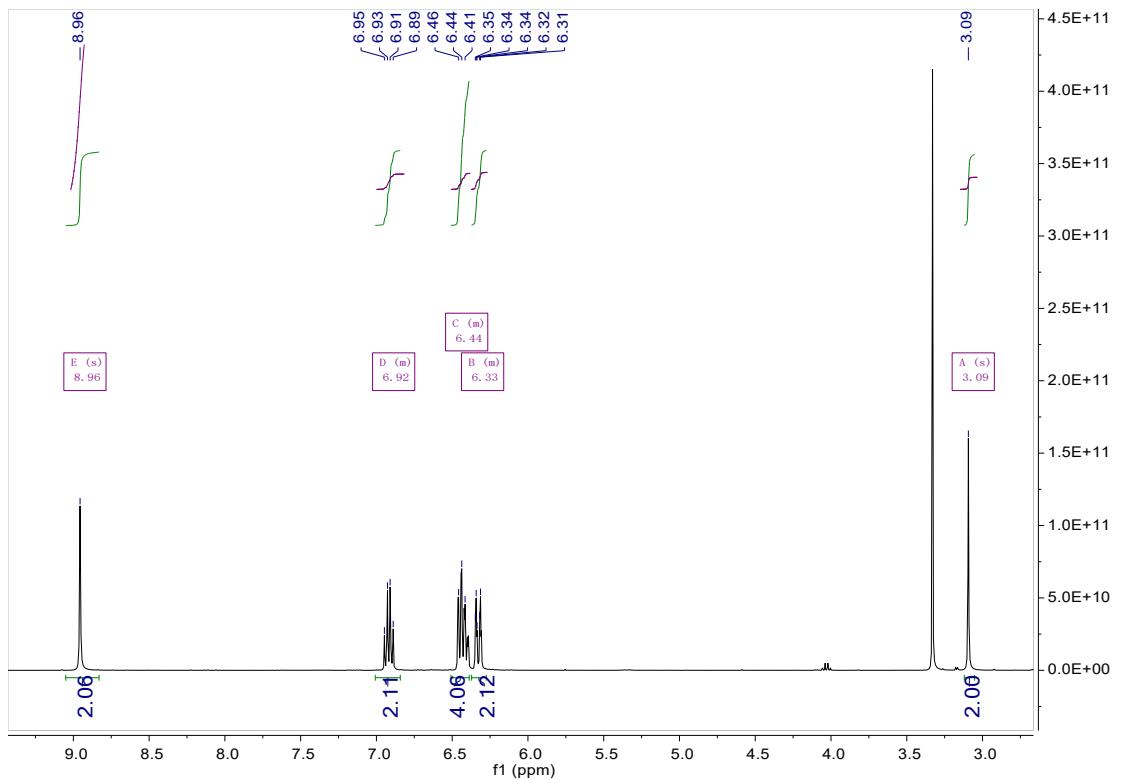


Fig. S36. ^1H NMR of **3j**. (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.96 (s, 2H), 7.00 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.50 – 6.38 (m, 4H), 6.37 – 6.27 (m, 2H), 3.09 (s, 2H).

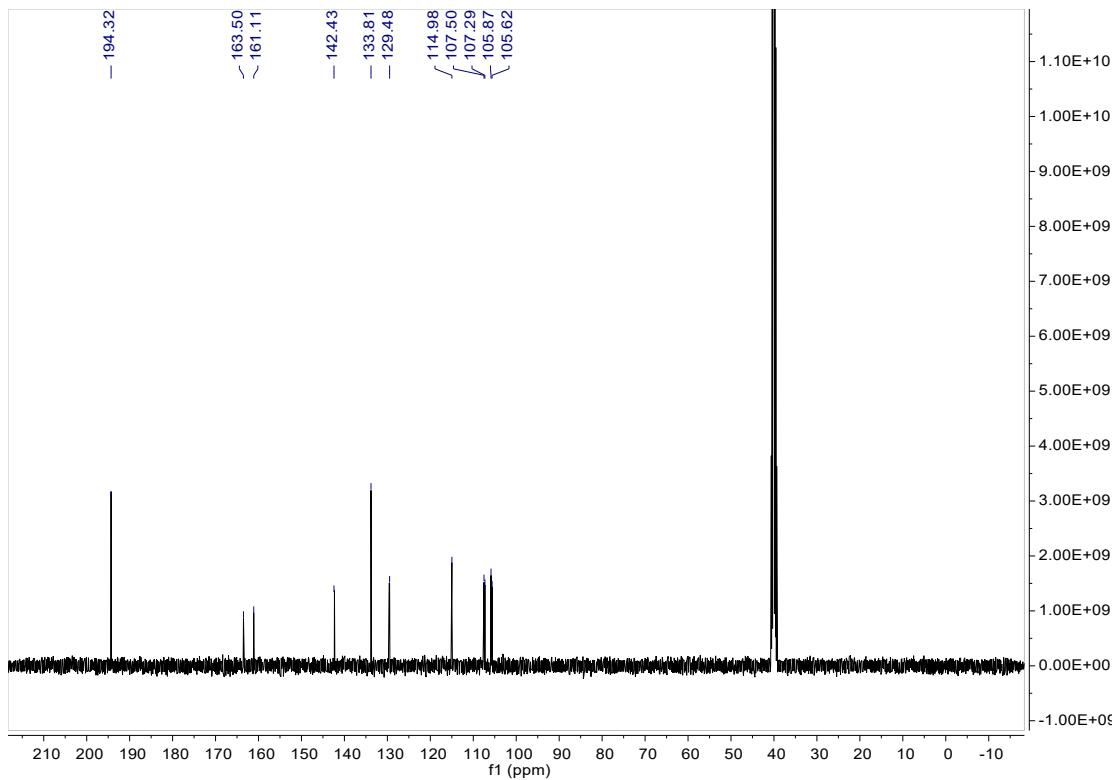


Fig. S37. ^{13}C NMR of **3j**. (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 194.32, 163.50, 161.11, 142.43, 133.81, 129.48, 114.98, 107.50, 107.29, 105.87, 105.62.

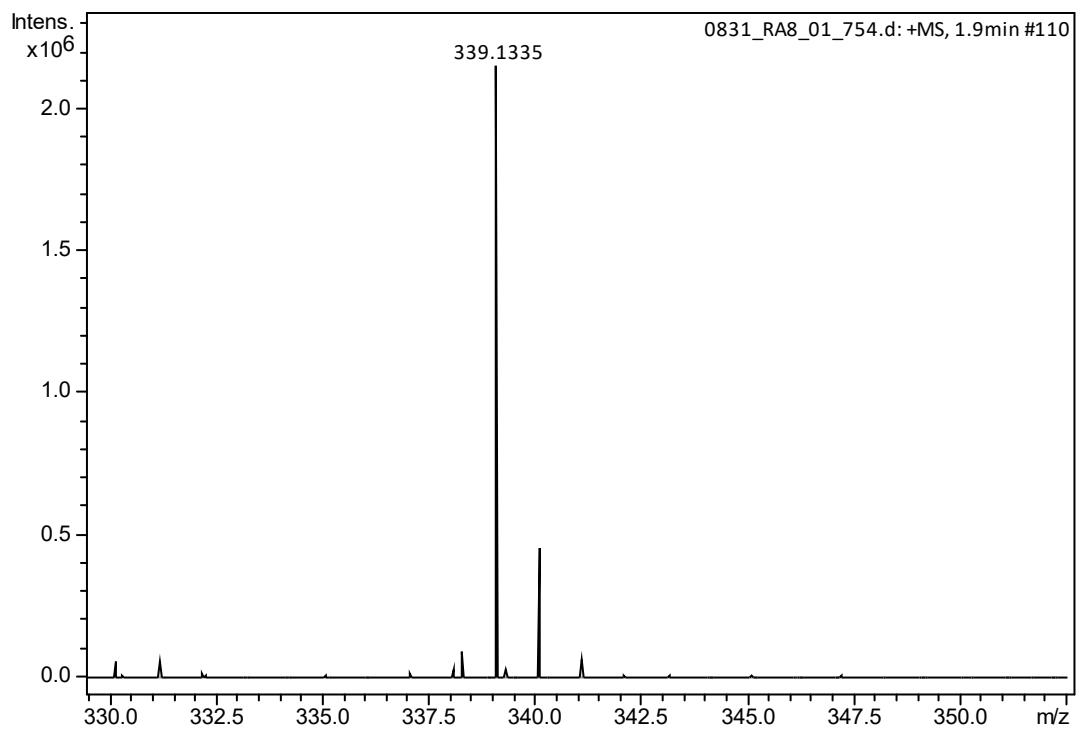


Fig. S38. HRMS of **3k**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 339.1339, found as 339.1336. $[M+Na]^+$ calculated for 361.1164, found as 361.1156.

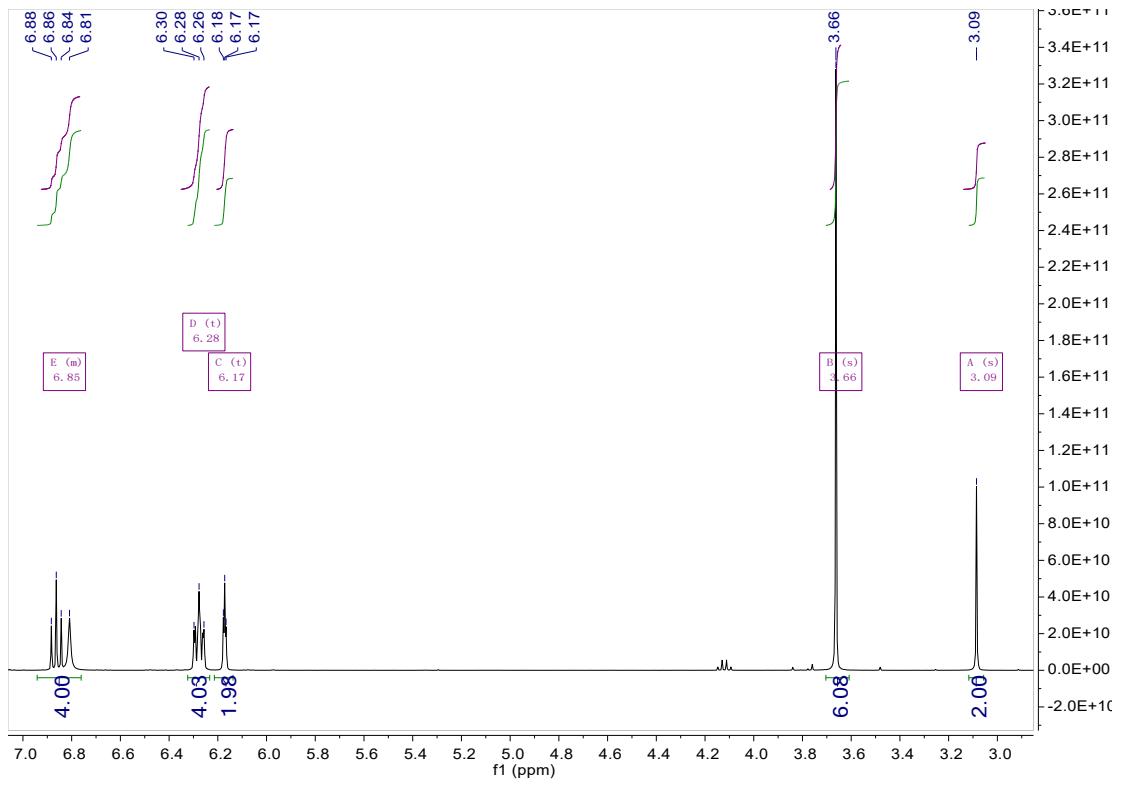


Fig. S39. ^1H NMR of **3k**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.92 – 6.77 (m, 4H), 6.28 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 6.17 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 4H), 3.66 (s, 6H), 3.09 (s, 2H).

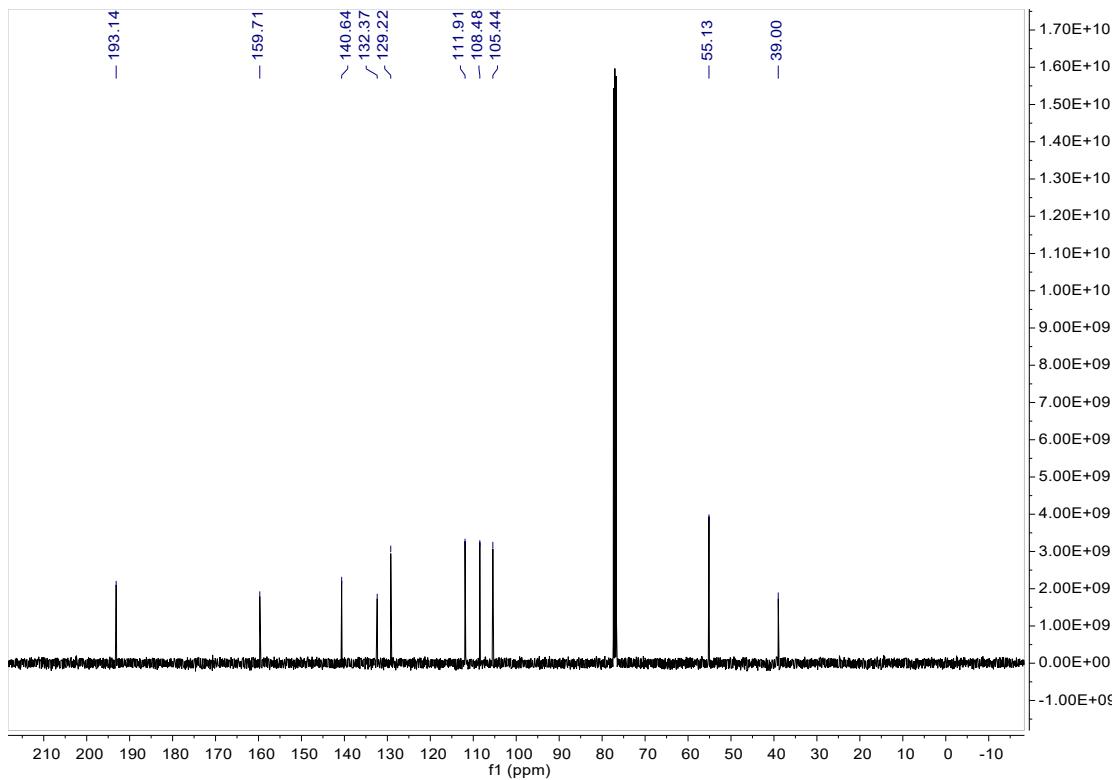


Fig. S40. ^{13}C NMR of **3k**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.14, 159.71, 140.64, 132.37, 129.22, 111.91, 108.48, 105.44, 55.13, 39.00.

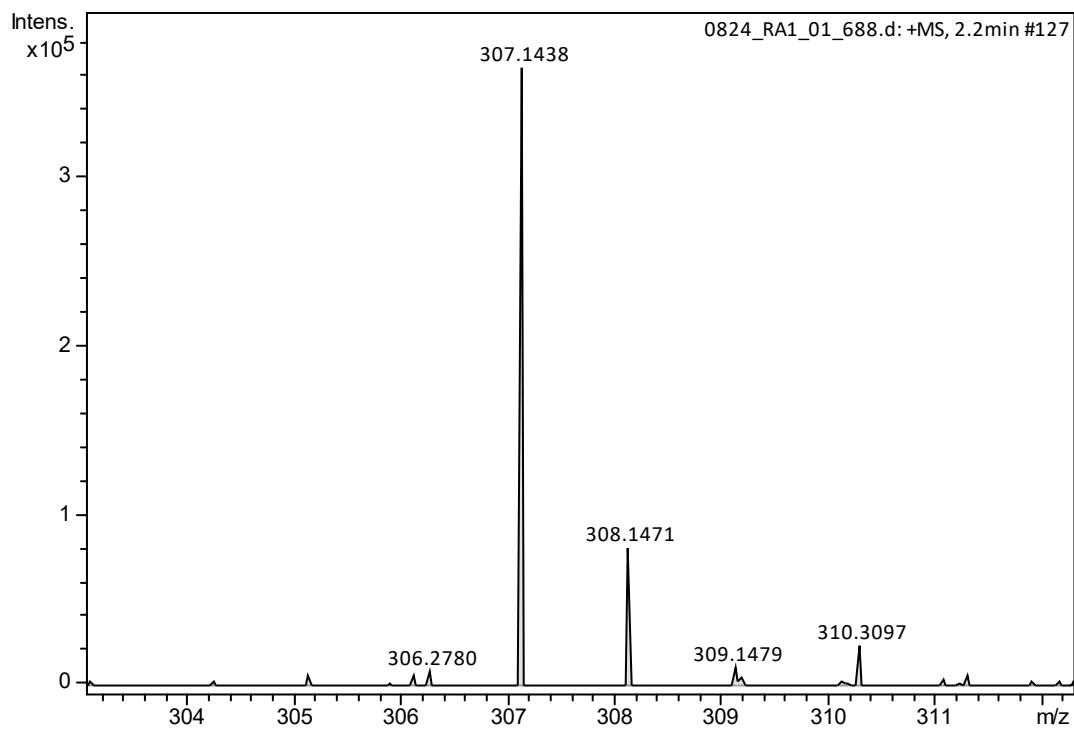


Fig. S41. HRMS of **3l**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 307.1441, found as 307.1438.

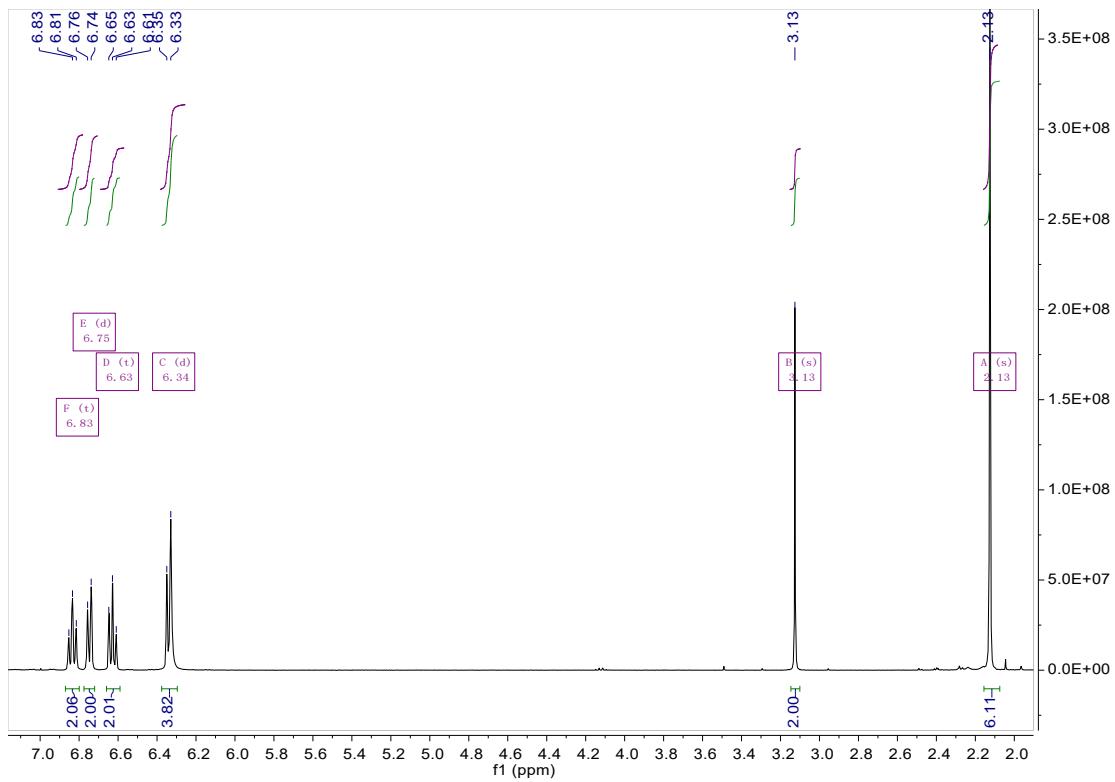


Fig. S42. ^1H NMR of **3l**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.83 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.63 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.34 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 4H), 3.13 (s, 2H), 2.13 (s, 6H).

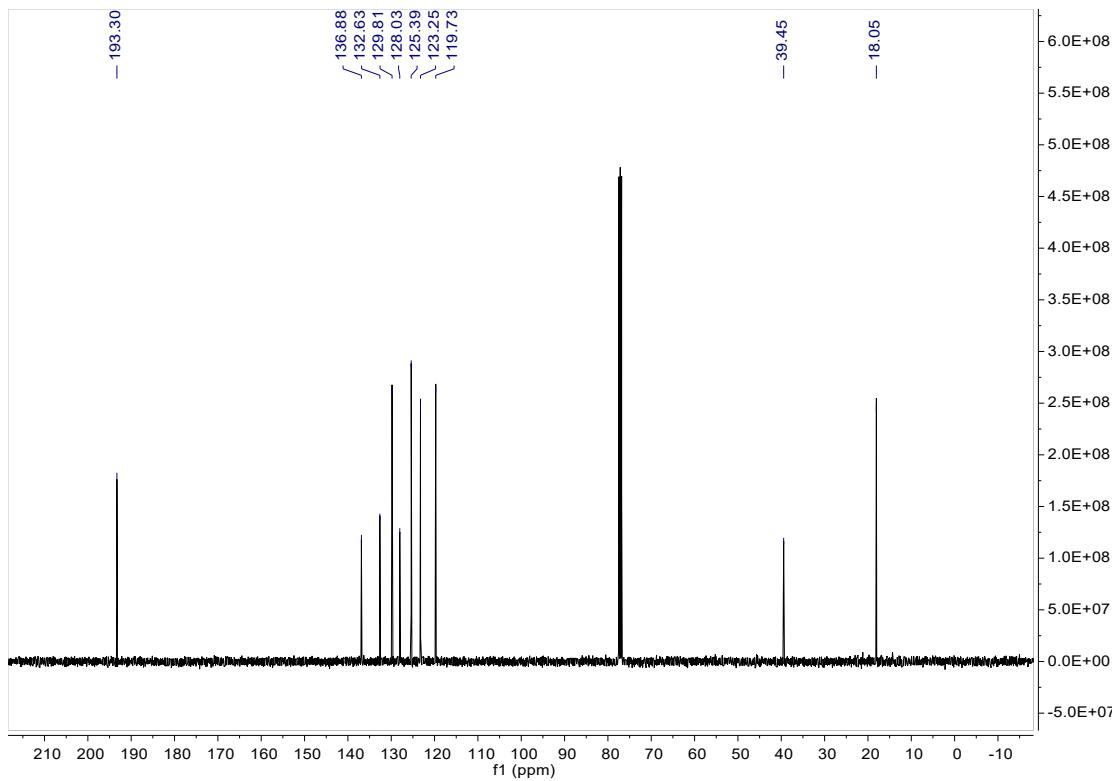


Fig. S43. ^{13}C NMR of **3l**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.30, 136.88, 132.63, 129.81, 128.03, 125.39, 123.25, 119.73, 39.45, 18.05.

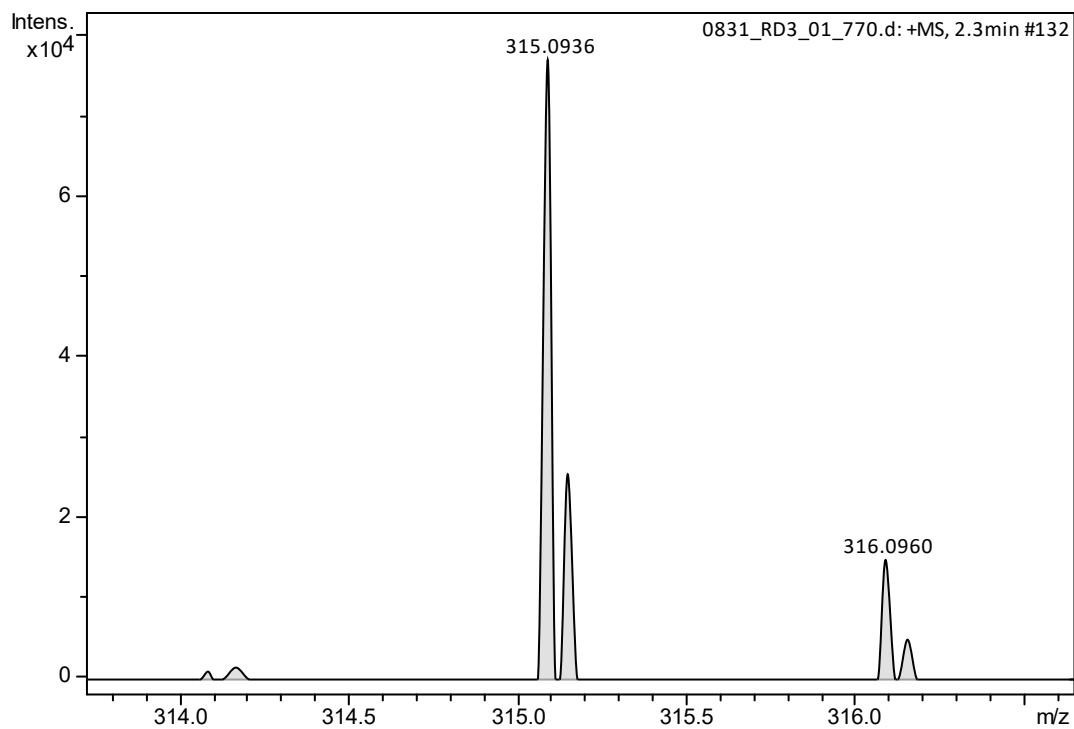


Fig. S44. HRMS of **3m**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 315.0939, found as 315.0936.

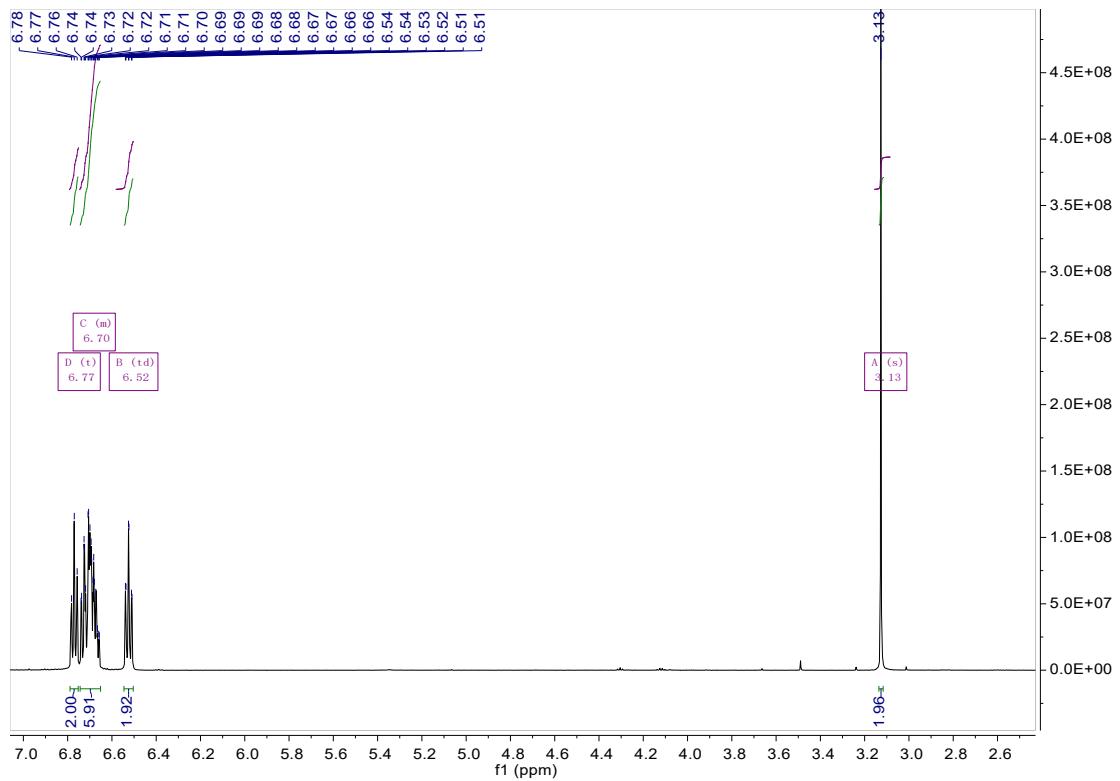


Fig. S45. ^1H NMR of **3m**. (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.77 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.75 – 6.65 (m, 6H), 6.52 (td, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (s, 2H).

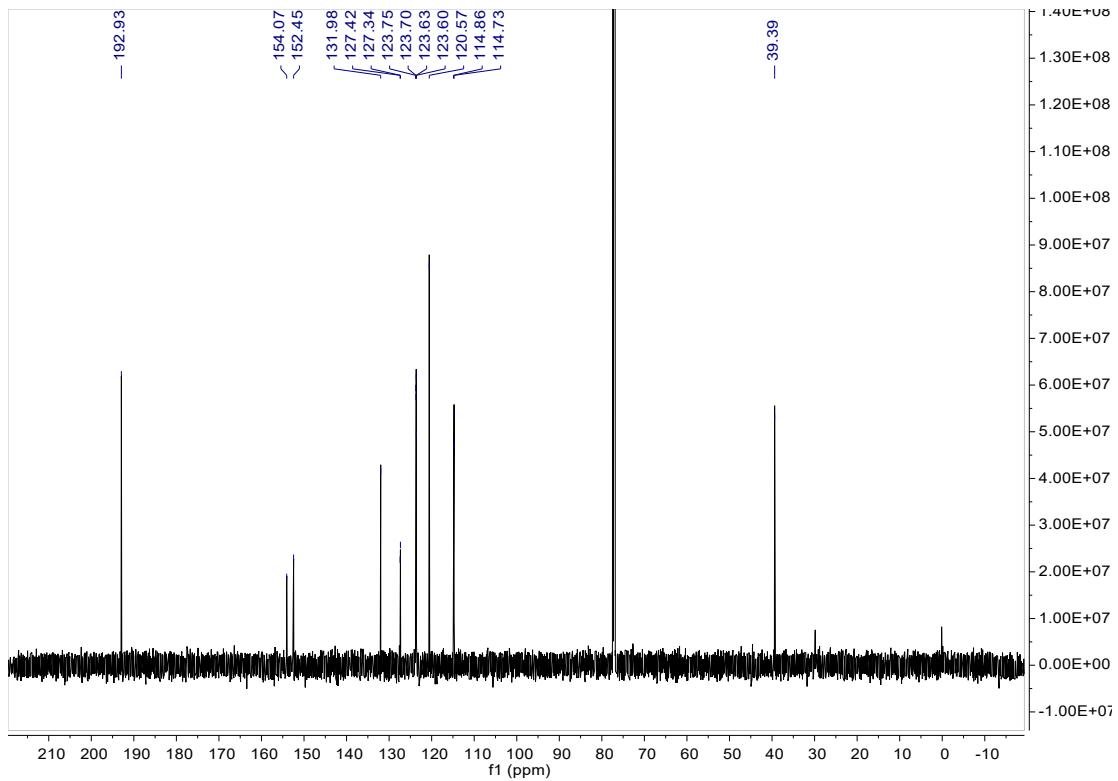


Fig. S46. ^{13}C NMR of **3m**. (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.93, 154.07, 152.45, 131.98, 127.42, 127.34, 123.75, 123.70, 123.63, 123.60, 120.57, 114.86, 114.73, 77.37, 77.16, 76.95, 39.39.

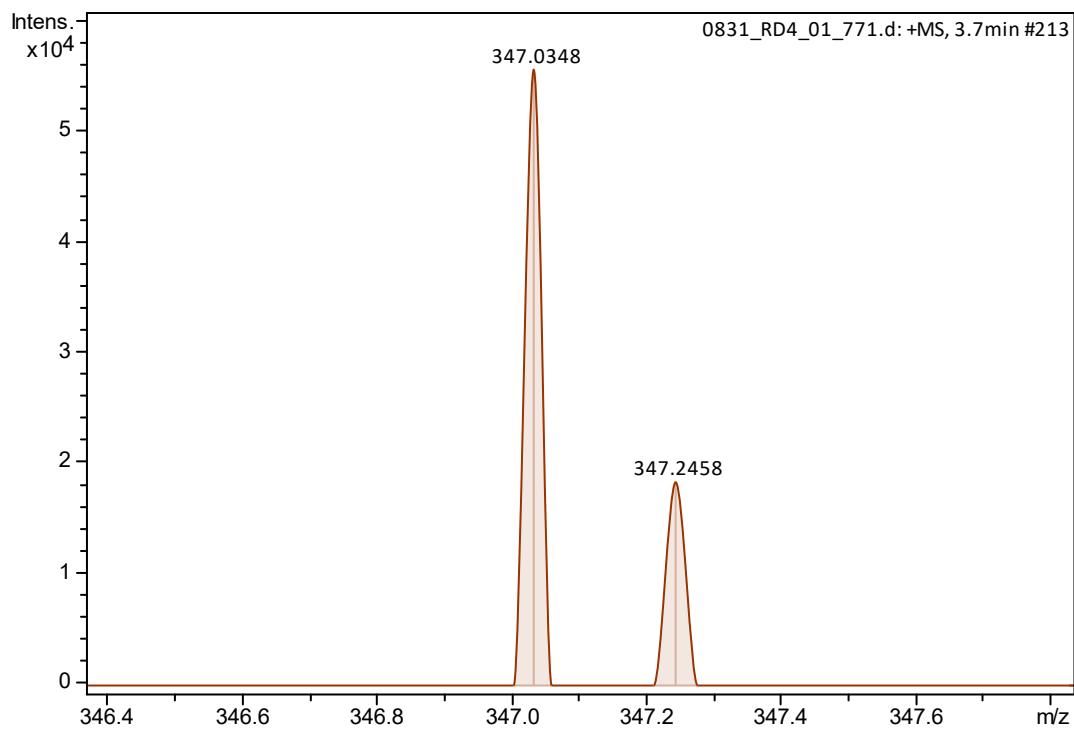


Fig. S47. HRMS of **3n**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 347.0349, found as 347.0348.

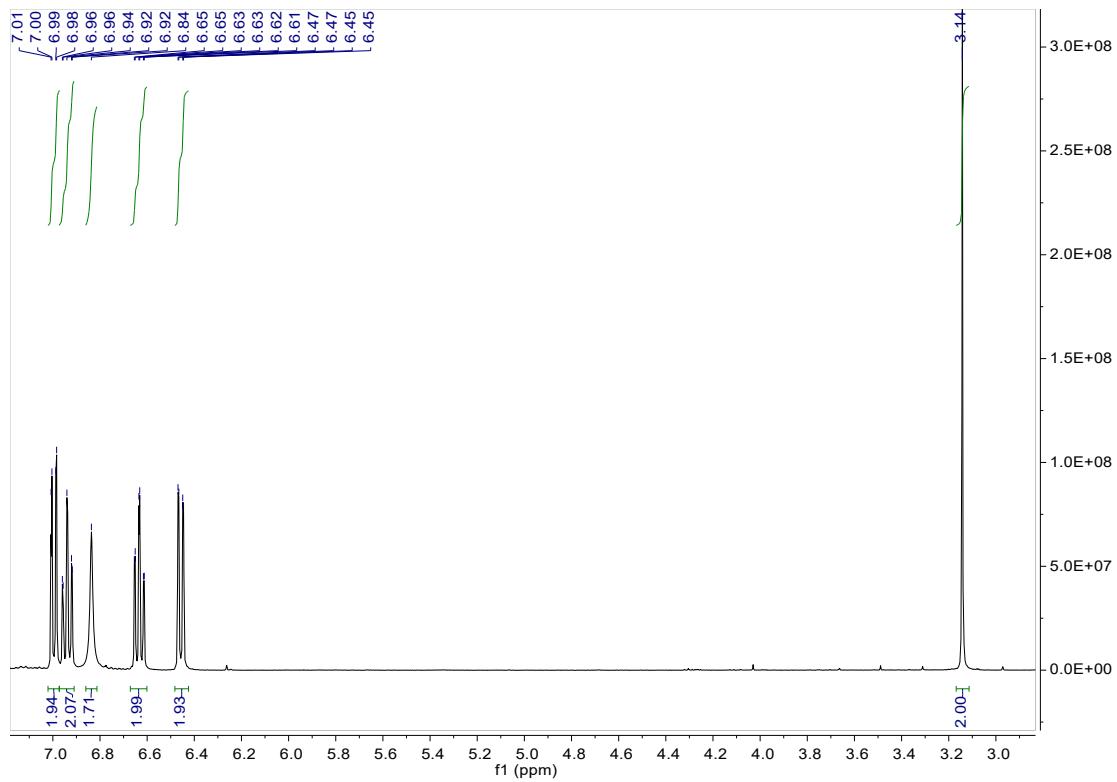


Fig. S48. ^1H NMR of **3n**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.00 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.84 (s, 2H), 6.63 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 3.14 (s, 2H).

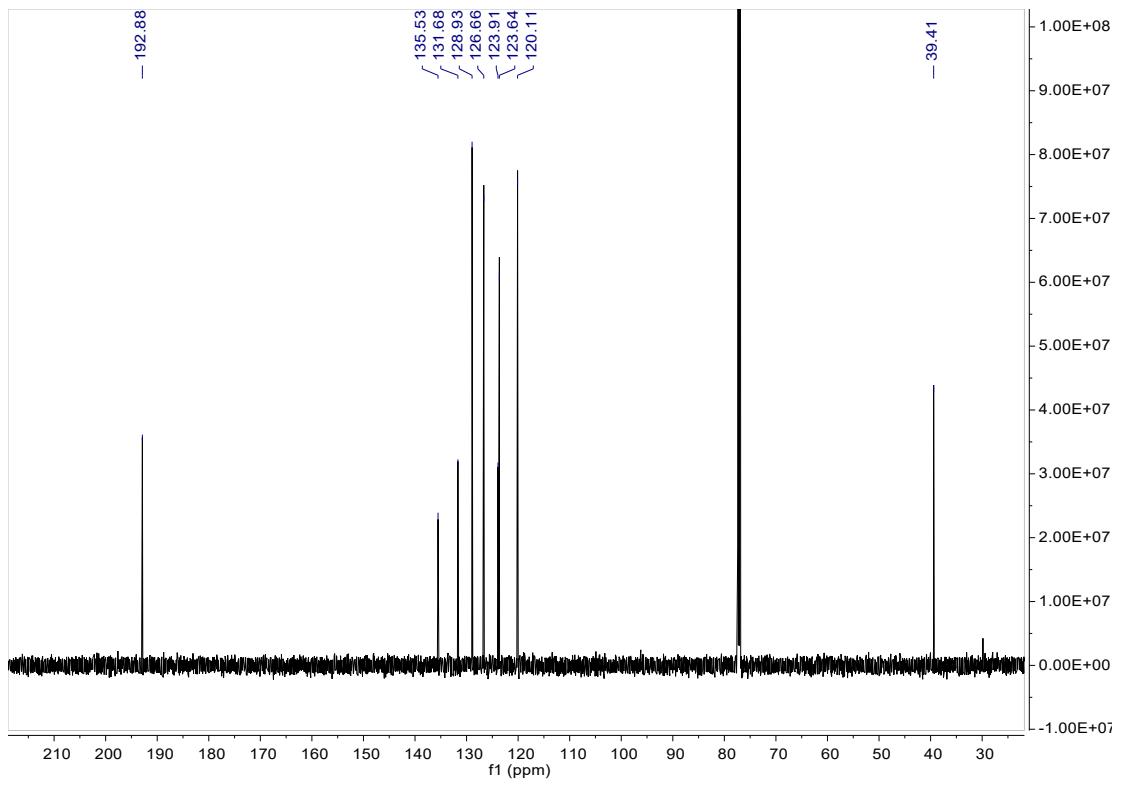


Fig. S49. ^{13}C NMR of **3n**. (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 192.88, 135.53, 131.68, 128.93, 126.66, 123.91, 123.64, 120.11, 39.41.

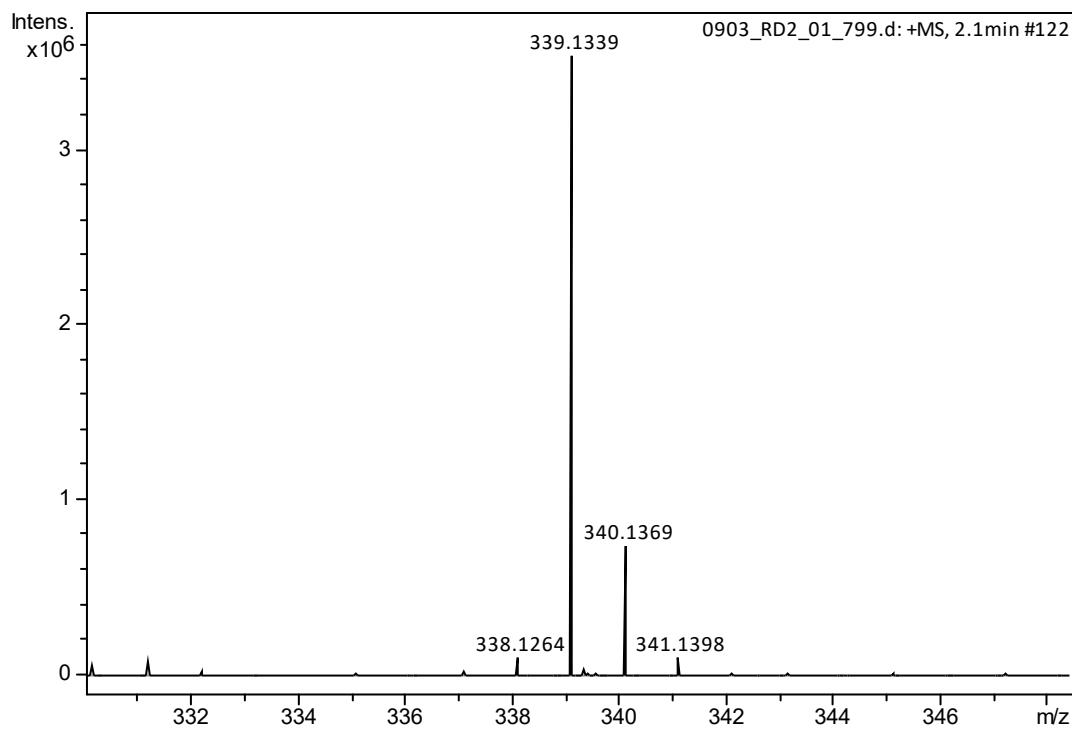


Fig. S50. HRMS of **3o**. $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 339.1339, found as 339.1339.

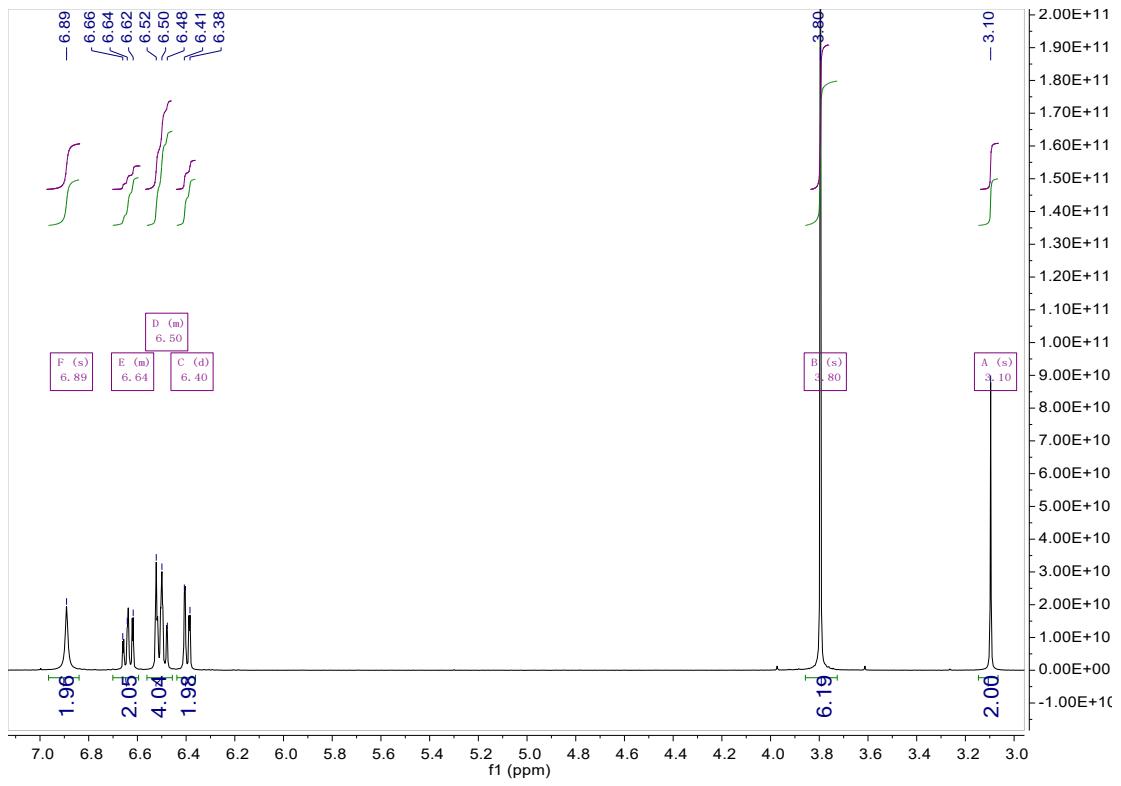


Fig. S51. ^1H NMR of **3o**. (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.89 (s, 2H), 6.70 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 6.57 – 6.46 (m, 4H), 6.40 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 3.10 (s, 2H).

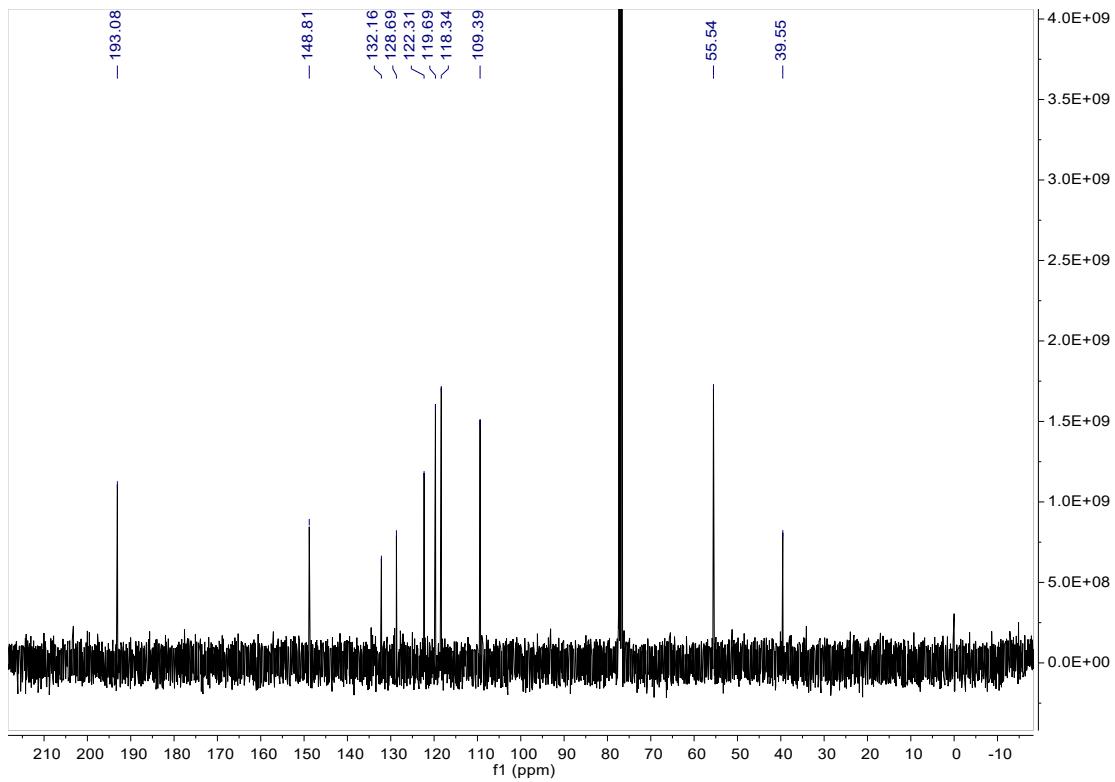


Fig. S52. ^{13}C NMR of **3o**. (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 193.08, 148.81, 132.16, 128.69, 122.31, 119.69, 118.34, 109.39, 55.54, 39.55.

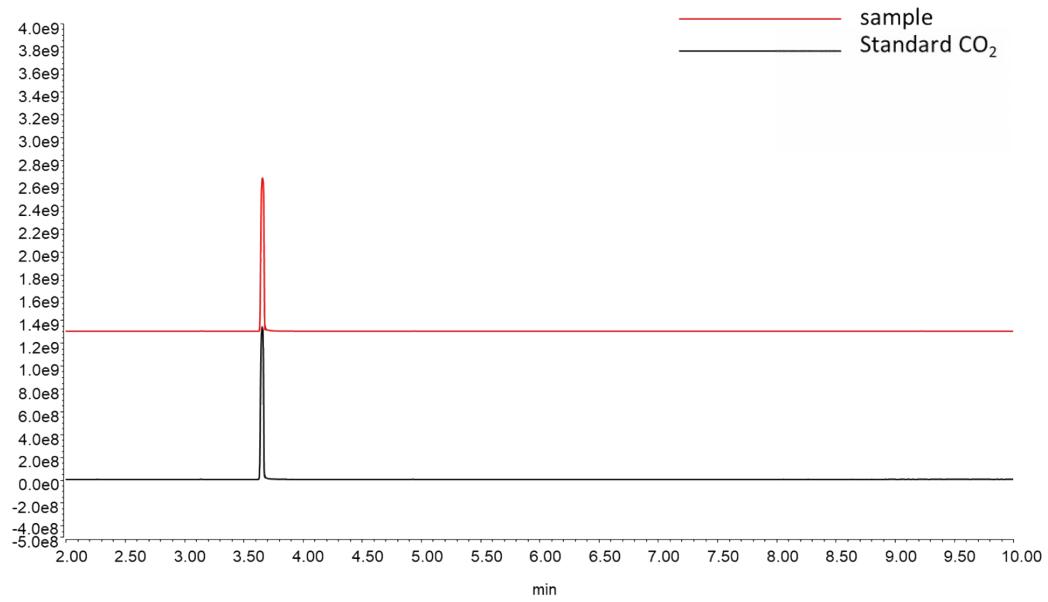


Fig. S53. CO₂ production via GC analysis.

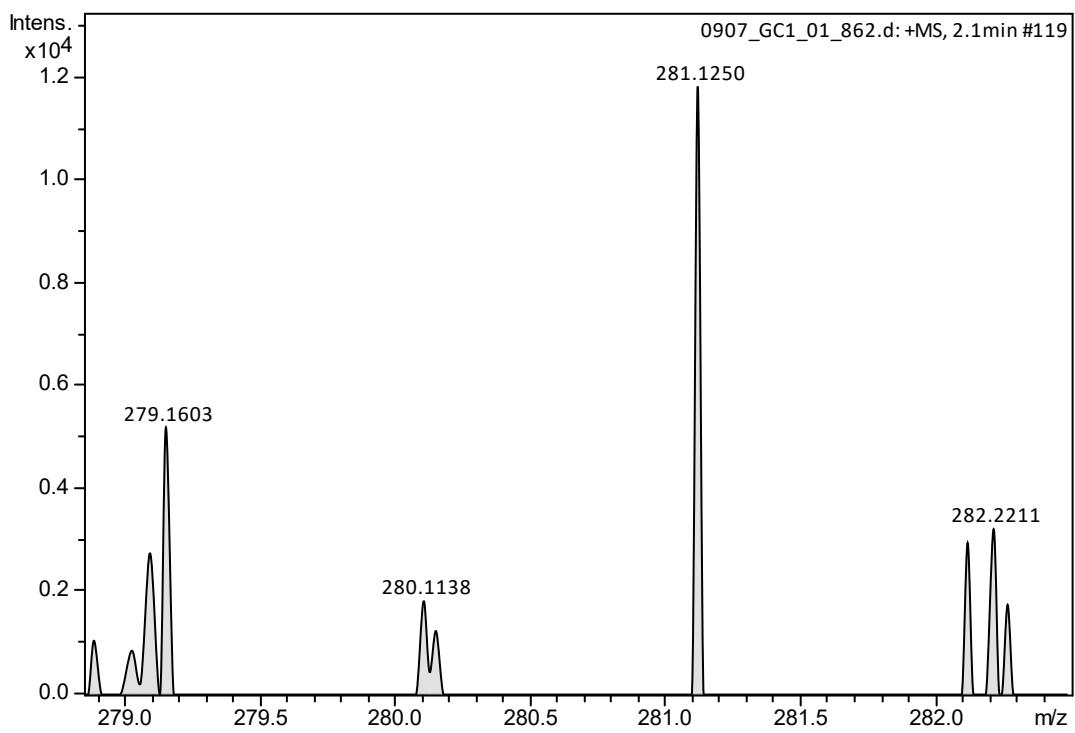


Fig. S54. HRMS of isotope replacement experiment. Molecular formula, C₁₇H₁₂D₂N₂O₂, [M+H]⁺ calculated for 281.1255, found as 281.1250. 1 mM phloroglucinol and 2 mM nitrosobenzene were added into NaOD's D₂O solution (pH 8), then the solution was incubated at room temperature for 1 h. Then the resulting sample was referred to LC-HRMS analysis

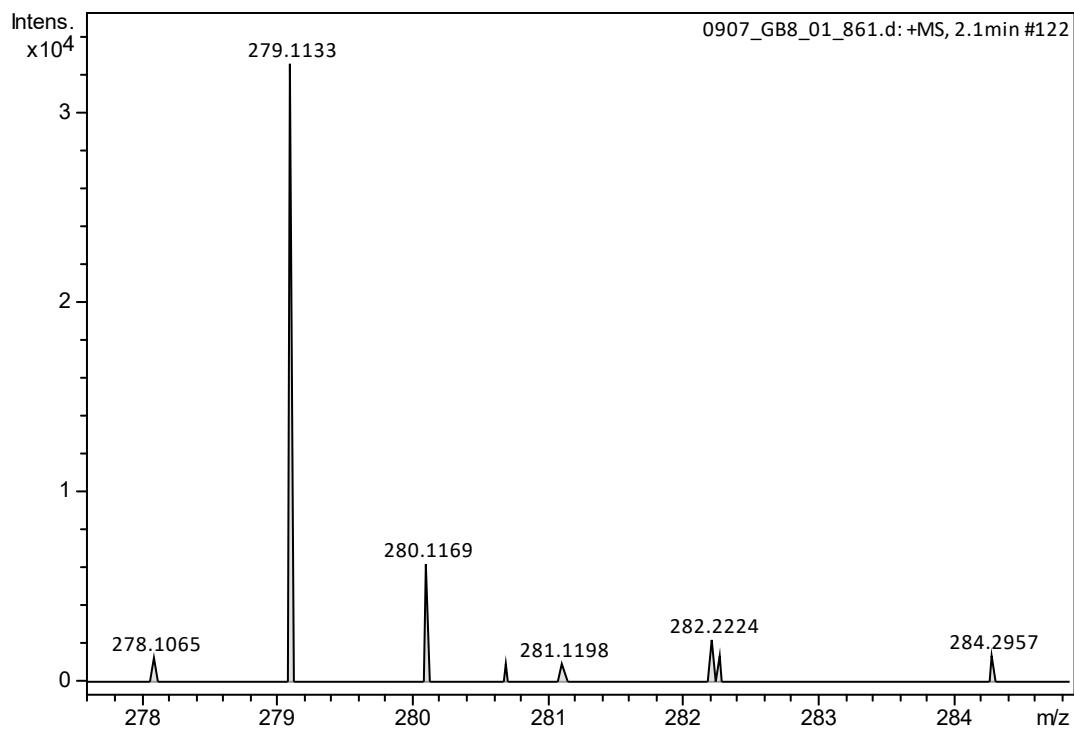


Fig. S55. HRMS of isotope replacement experiment (**control reaction**). Molecular formula, $C_{17}H_{14}N_2O_2$, $[M+H]^+$ calculated for 279.1128, found as 279.1133. 1 mM phloroglucinol and 2 mM nitrosobenzene were added into NaOH's H_2O solution (pH 8), then the solution was incubated at room temperature for 1 h. Then the resulting sample was referred to LC-HRMS analysis.

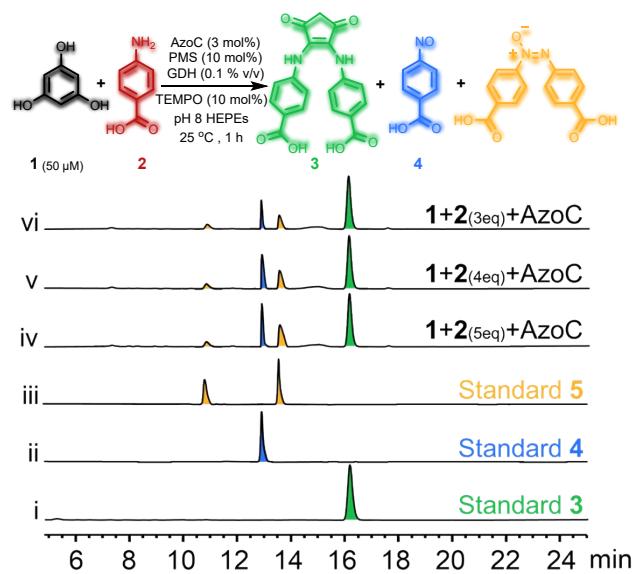


Fig. S56. Influence of **2/1** ratio on the production of **3**. (i) standard **3**; (ii) standard **4**; (iii) standard **5**; (iv) 50 μM **1**, 250 μM **2**, with 1.5 μM AzoC; (v) 50 μM **1**, 200 μM **2**, with 1.5 μM AzoC; (vi) 50 μM **1**, 150 μM **2**, with 1.5 μM AzoC.

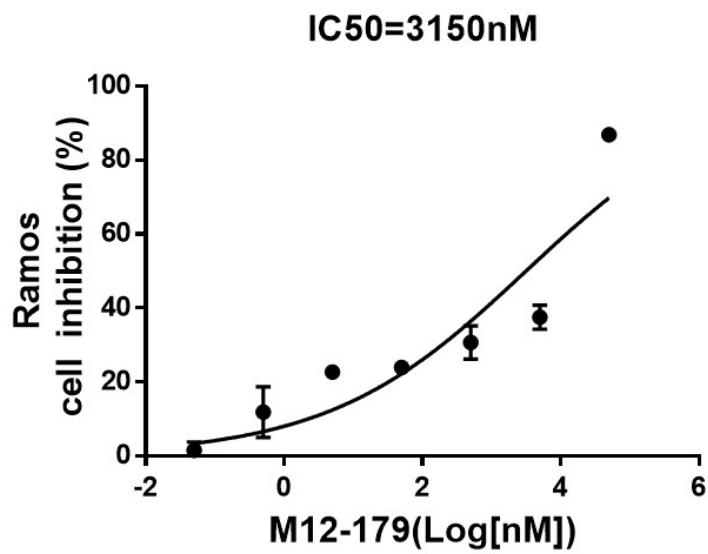


Fig. S57. IC₅₀ of **3a** against lymphoma cell line RAMOS.

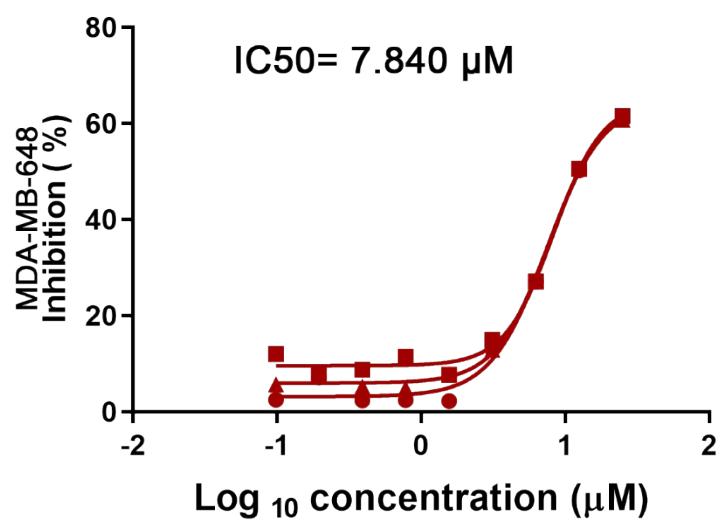


Fig. S58. IC₅₀ of **3g** against breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-648.