

Supporting Information

***N*-Benzylhydroxylamine as a novel synthetic block in "C1N1" embedding reaction *via* α -C(sp³)-H activation strategy**

Yong-Xing Tang,^a You Zhou,^a Hao-Xuan Wu,^a Li-Sheng Wang,^a Chun-Yan Wu,^a
Shi-Yi Zhuang^{*,c} and An-Xin Wu^{*,a, b}

^aNational Key Laboratory of Green Pesticide, International Joint Research Center for
Intelligent Biosensor Technology and Health, College of Chemistry, Central China Normal
University, Wuhan 430079, P. R. China

^bState Key Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000,
P. R. China

^cKey Laboratory of Specialty Agri-product Quality and Hazard Controlling Technology of
Zhejiang Province, College of Life Sciences, China Jiliang University, Hangzhou 310018, P.
R. China

E-mail: Shi-Yi Zhuang: chemzsy@126.com

An-Xin Wu: chwuax@mail.ccnu.edu.cn

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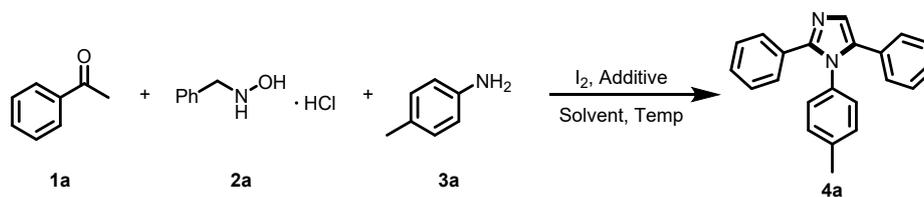
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1. General

All of the substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh). ^1H NMR spectra were determined at 25 °C on a Varian Mercury 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were provided in ppm relative to the internal standard of tetramethylsilane (TMS). ^{13}C spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on 100 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) in ppm. The data is being reported as s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet or unresolved coupling constant(s) in Hz, integration. HRMS were obtained on Thermo Scientific Q Exactive equipped with an electron spray ionization source. Melting points were determined by using an electrothermal capillary melting point apparatus and not corrected. The X-ray crystal-structures were obtained on a Bruker APEX DUO CCD system.

2. Experimental procedures

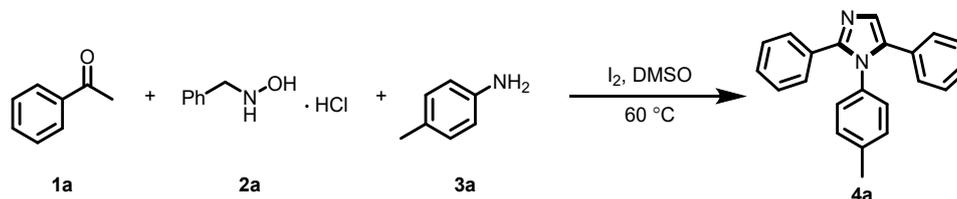
2.1 Optimization of the reaction conditions ^{a,b}



Entry	1a:2a:3a	I ₂ (equiv.)	Additive (equiv.)	solvent	Temp (°C)	Yield ^b (%)
1	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	100	41
2	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	120	29
	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	140	25
3	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	80	50
4	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	60	63
5	1:1:1	1.6		DMSO	40	26
6	1:1:1	1.6	TFA (1.0)	DMSO	60	46
7	1:1:1	1.6	TfOH (1.0)	DMSO	60	40
8	1:1:1	1.6	HI (1.0)	DMSO	60	31
9	1:1:1	1.6	TsOH (1.0)	DMSO	60	37
10	1:1:1	1.6	PhCOOH (1.0)	DMSO	60	49
11	1:1:1	1.6	ZnCl ₂ (1.0)	DMSO	60	28
12	1:1:1	1.6	FeCl ₃ (1.0)	DMSO	60	43
13	1:1:1	1.6	CuBr ₂ (1.0)	DMSO	60	trace
14	1:1:1	1.6	Morpholine (1.0)	DMSO	60	50
15	1:1:1	1.6	DABCO (1.0)	DMSO	60	46
16	1:1:1	1.6	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (1.0)	DMSO	60	33
17	1:1:1	1.6	NaHCO ₃ (1.0)	DMSO	60	47
18	2:1:1	1.6		DMSO	60	56
19	1:2:1	1.6		DMSO	60	31
20	1:1:2	1.6		DMSO	60	43
21	1:2:2	1.6		DMSO	60	70
22	1:3:2	1.6		DMSO	60	54
23	1:2:2	0		DMSO	60	ND
24	1:2:2	0.8		DMSO	60	59
25	1:2:2	1.2		DMSO	60	64
26	1:2:2	2.0		DMSO	60	57
27	1:2:2	1.6		THF	60	ND
28	1:2:2	1.6		MeCN	60	ND
29	1:2:2	1.6		EtOH	60	ND
30	1:2:2	1.6		H ₂ O	60	ND
31	1:2:2	1.6		DMF	60	ND
32	1:2:2	1.6		1,4-Dioxane	60	ND
33	1:2:2	1.6		DCM	60	ND
34	1:2:2	1.6		DCE	60	ND

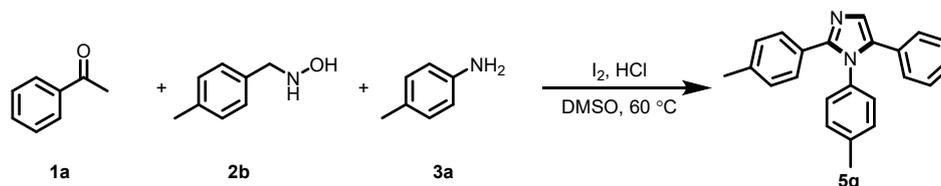
^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **2a** (equiv.), **3a** (equiv.), I₂ (equiv.), additive (equiv.) and indicated temperature heated in solvent (3mL) for 8 h. ^bProducts were obtained in isolated yields.

2.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 4 or 5a-5p (4a as an example)



A tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with acetophenone (**1a**) (60.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), *N*-Benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (**2a**) (160.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-toluidine (**3a**) (107.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), and iodine (203.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (3 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h and monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the mixture was quenched with saturation Na₂S₂O₃ solution (50 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1) to yield the desired product **4a** (108.6 mg, yield 70%) as light yellow solid.

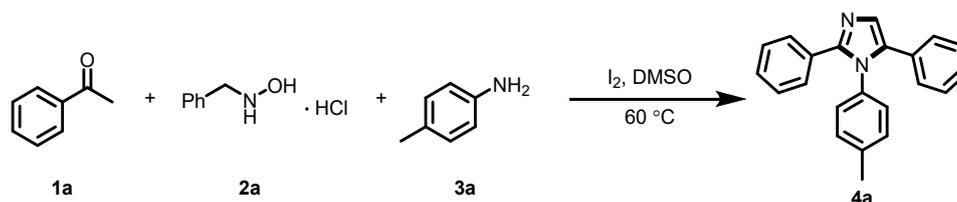
2.3 General procedure for the synthesis of 5q



A tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with acetophenone (**1a**) (60.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), *N*-(4-methylbenzyl)hydroxylamine (**2b**) (137.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-toluidine (**3a**) (107.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), and iodine (203.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (3 mL) was added, followed by the dropwise addition of a 12 N HCl (36 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) at 60 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h and monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the mixture was quenched with saturation Na₂S₂O₃ solution (50 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 8:1) to yield the desired product **5q** (76.2 mg, yield 47%) as light

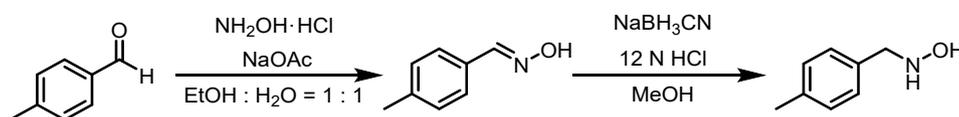
yellow solid.

2.4 General procedure for the synthesis of 4a in a 10.0 mmol scale



A 100 mL round-bottomed flask was charged with acetophenone (**1a**) (1.20 g, 10.0 mmol), *N*-Benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (**2a**) (3.20 g, 20.0 mmol), *p*-toluidine (**3a**) (2.14 g, 20.0 mmol), and iodine (4.06 g, 16.0 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (50 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h in oil bath and monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the mixture was quenched with saturation Na₂S₂O₃ solution (200 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 200 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1) to yield the desired product **4a** (1.98 g, yield 64%) as light yellow solid.

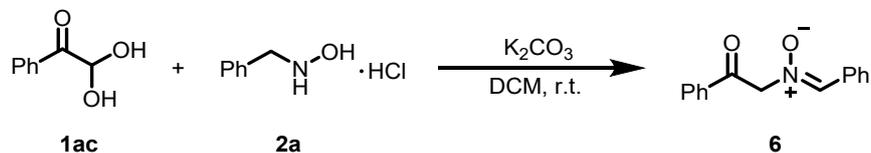
2.5 Preparation of hydroxylamines from aldehydes^[1]



To a solution of an aldehyde (1.2g, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and hydroxylammonium chloride (0.83 g, 12 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in ethanol-water (10 mL:10 mL) was added sodium acetate (1.64 g, 20 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). The solution was stirred until the aldehyde was fully consumed. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was separated between water and EtOAc. The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (2× 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to afford oxime that was used for the next step without further purification. The oxime obtained in the previous step was suspended in MeOH (20 mL), to which sodium cyanoborohydride (0.75g, 12 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added, followed by the dropwise addition of a 12 N HCl (8.3 mL, 100 mmol, 10.0 equiv.) at 0 °C. After stirring for 4 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into water and the whole mixture was neutralized with KOH pellet at 0 °C. Then, extractive work-up was performed with EtOAc, and the organic extracts

were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. The hydroxylamine could be used directly without further purification.

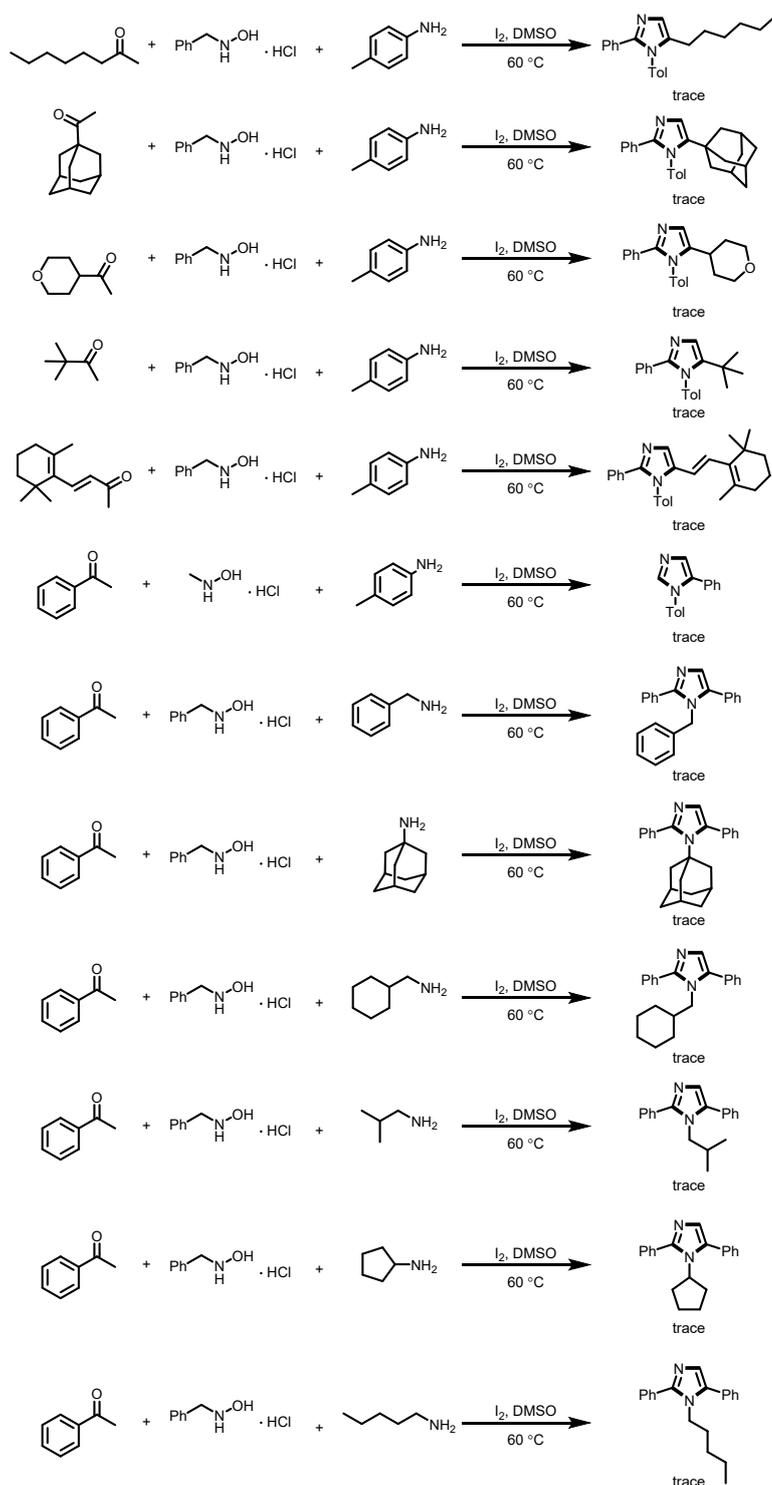
2.6 Procedure for the synthesis of **6** [2]



To a stirred solution of *N*-Benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride **2a** (319 mg, 1.0 equiv., 2 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (828 mg, 3.0 equiv., 6 mmol) in DCM was added phenylglyoxal monohydrate **1ac** (334mg, 1.1 equiv., 2.2 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred overnight, and then filtrated on celite, evaporation under vacuum. The residue was then crystallized from dichloromethane and petroleum ether, to give the product **6** (454.1 mg, yield 95%) as orange solid.

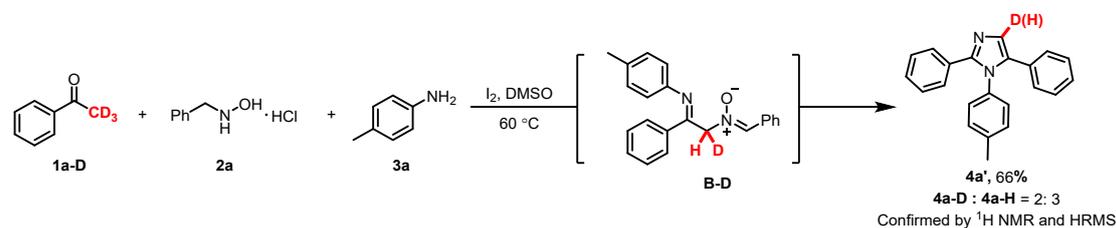
3. Substrate scope of alkyl reactants

We employed some alkyl reactants under the optimized reaction conditions, to our disappointment, the aliphatic ketones, alkyl hydroxylamine, and aliphatic amines were not compatible with this transformation, and the trace desired products only could be detected in the crude reaction extract by HRMS analysis.

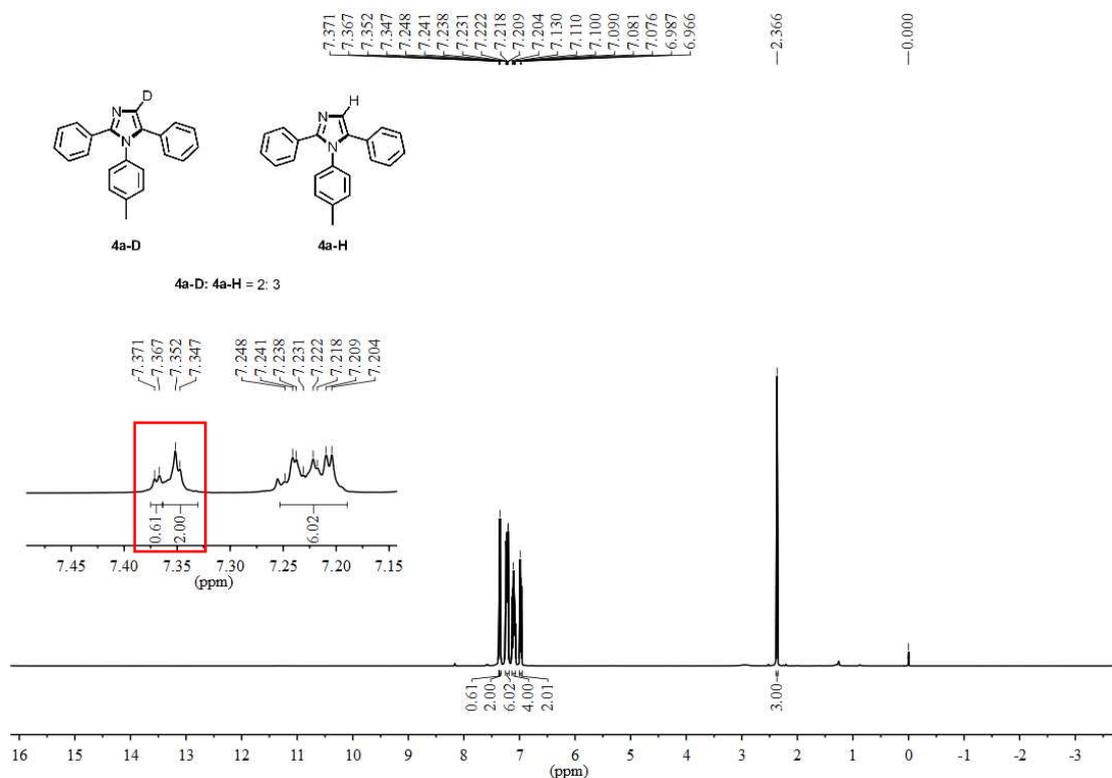


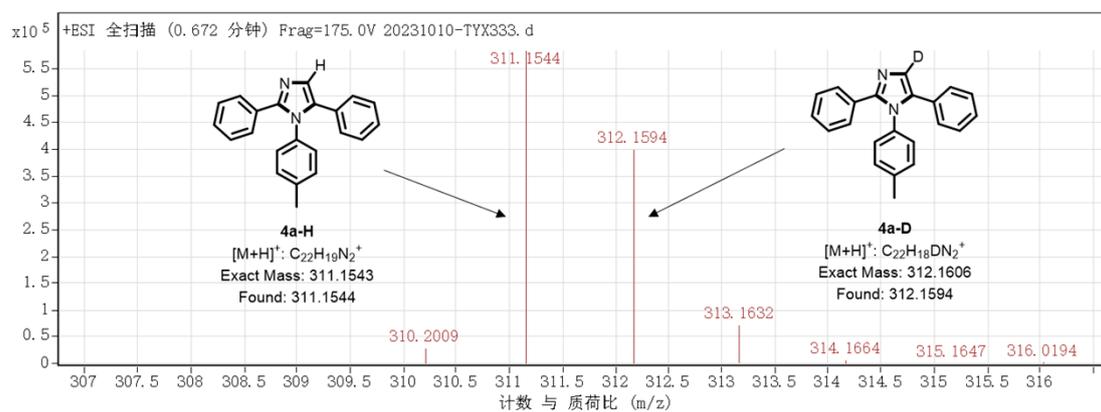
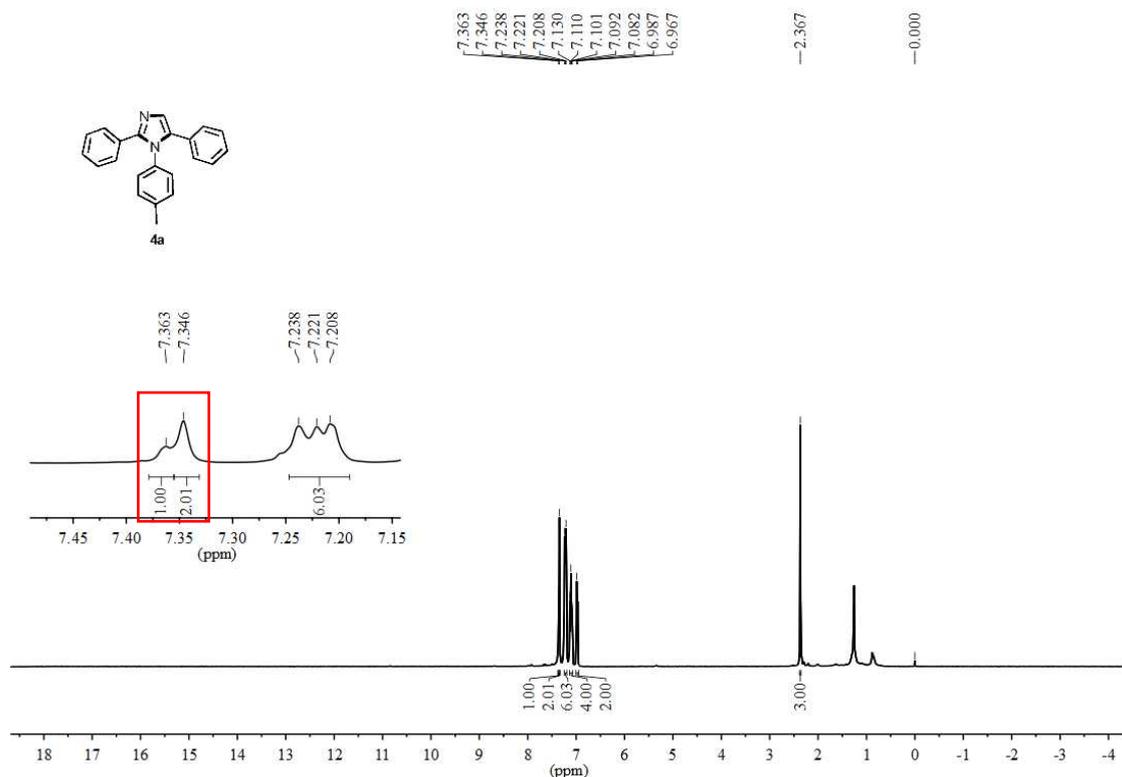
4. Mechanistic study

4.1 Isotope labeling experiment

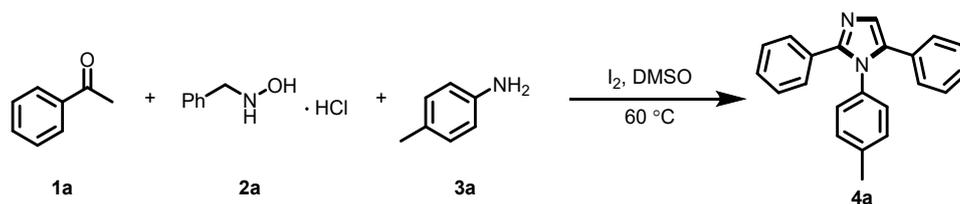


A tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CD_3 -labeled acetophenone (**1a-D**) (62.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), *N*-Benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (**2a**) (160.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-toluidine (**3a**) (107.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) and iodine (203.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (3 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h and monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the mixture was quenched with saturation $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ solution (50 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1) to yield the desired product (102.6 mg, yield 66%) as yellow solid.

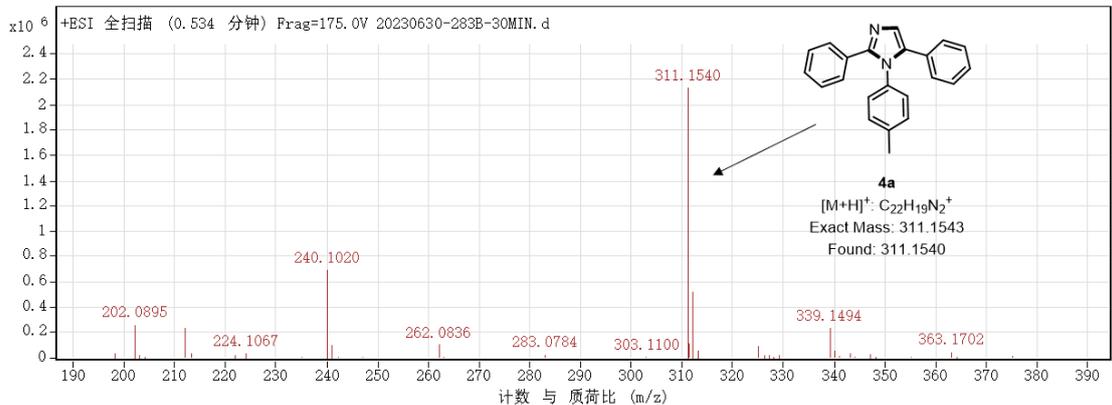
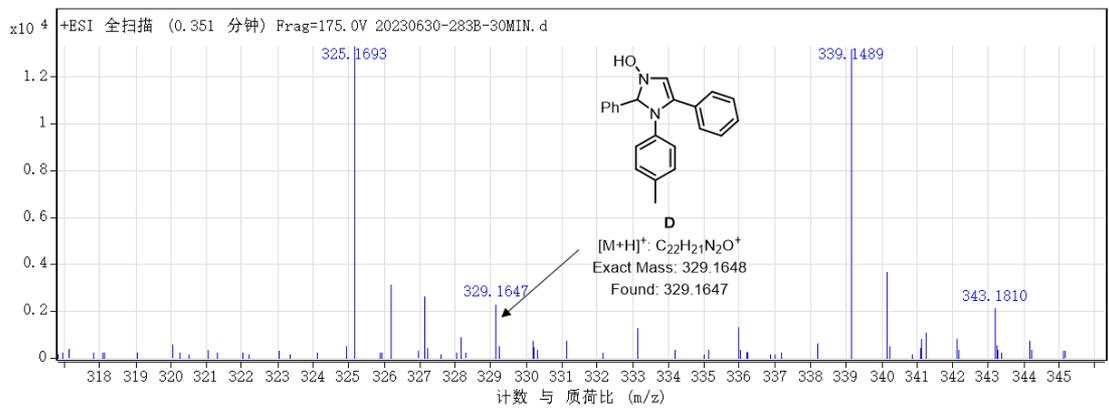
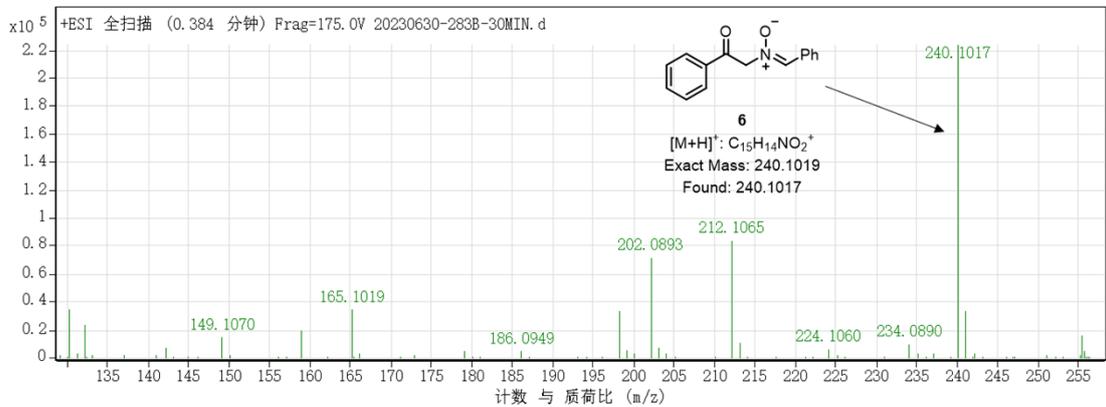
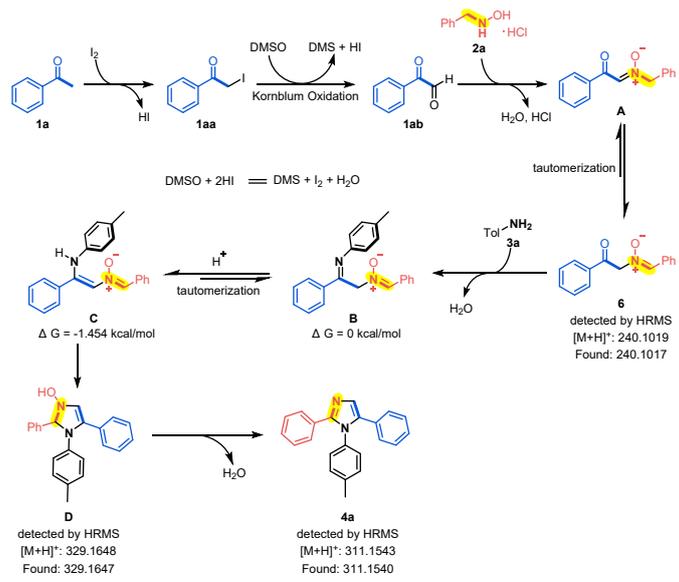




4.2 The mechanism of HRMS

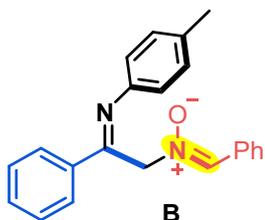


A tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with acetophenone (**1a**) (60.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), *N*-Benzylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (**2a**) (160.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-toluidine (**3a**) (107.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) and iodine (203.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (3 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min. Then, the 0.5 mL of the reaction solution was diluted with 1.5 mL of EtOAc. The samples were immediately monitored by HRMS.



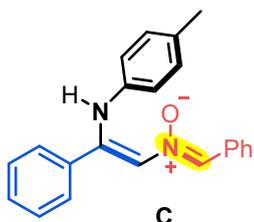
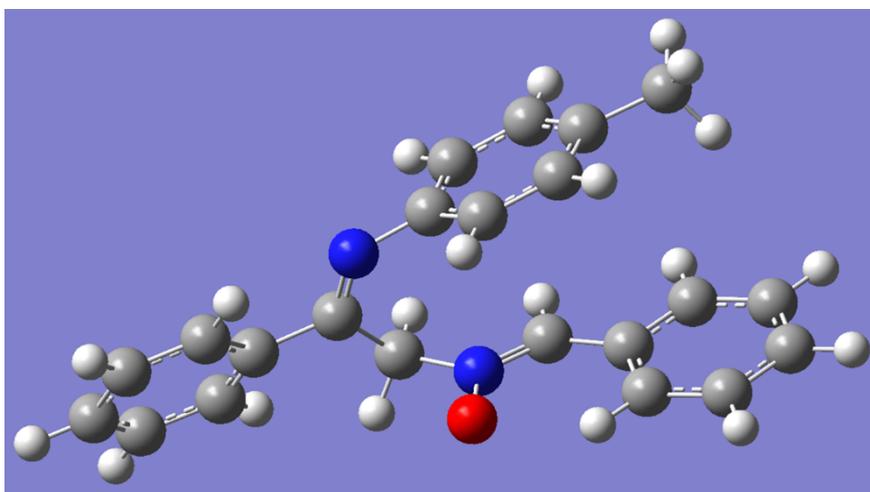
4.3 The free energies of the key intermediates **B** and **C**

We calculated the free energies of the key intermediates **B** and **C**. It turns out that the energy difference between the two was 1.454 kcal/mol, with **C** having less energy than **B**, thus, the conversion of **B** to **C** is thermodynamically advantageous (Software: Gaussian 09W; Method: b3lyp/lanl2dz).



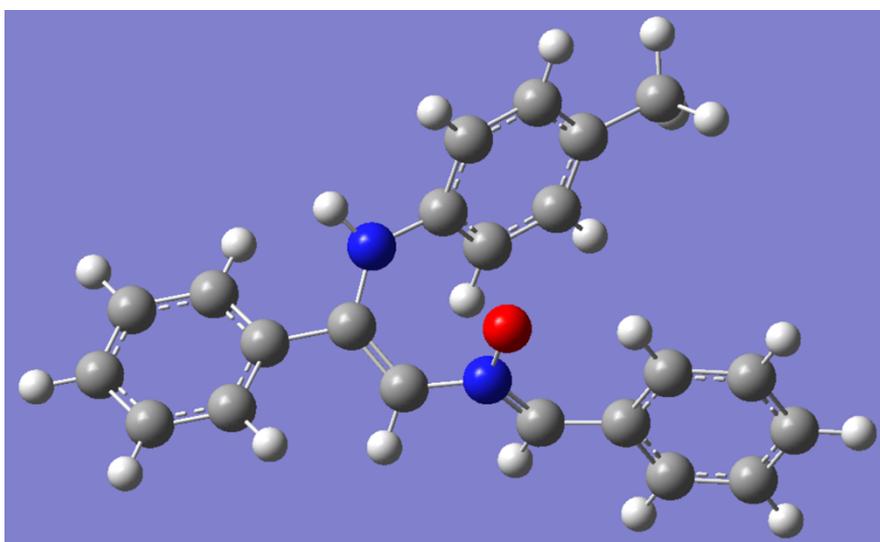
Free energy:
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= -649274.8119792909 kcal/mol

Relative value: 0 kcal/mol



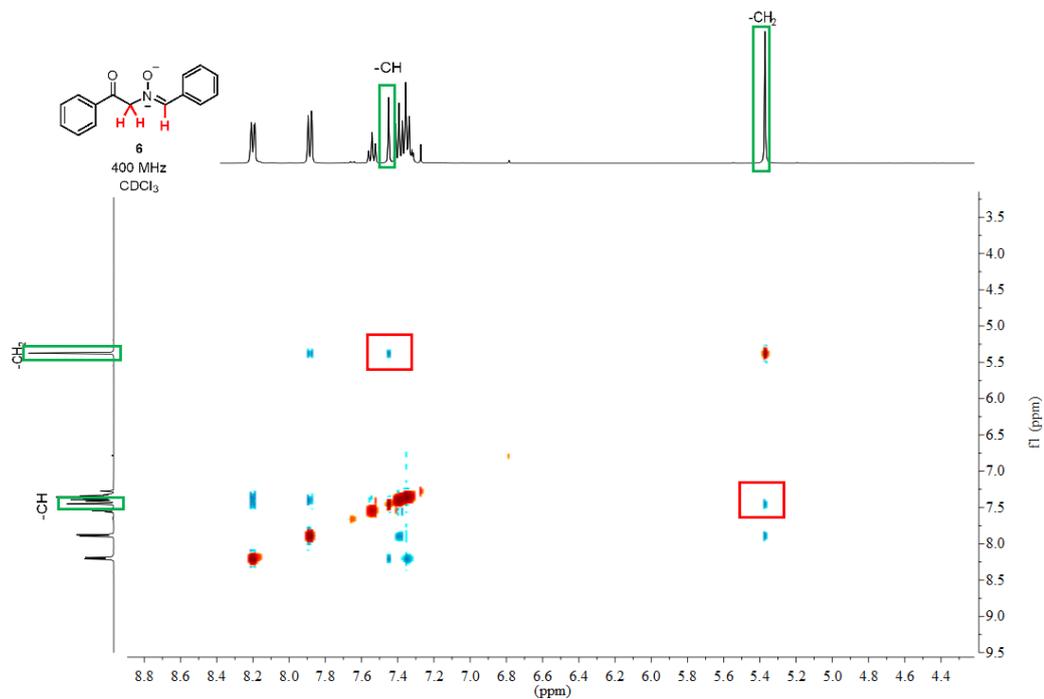
Free energy:
-1034.68672411 hartree
= -649276.2662462661 kcal/mol

Relative value: -1.454 kcal/mol



4.4 The 2D NMR spectra (NOESY) of intermediate **6**

We have performed the 2D NMR spectra (NOESY) of intermediate **6**, the spectrum indicated that -CH₂ and -CH were exist a spatial long-range coupling, thus indirectly showing that the two groups -Ph and PhCOCH₂- were in trans-configuration.



Reference

- [1] (a) Sun, H.; Gong, L.; Tian, Y.; Wu, J.; Zhang, X.; Liu, J.; Fu, Z.; Niu, D. Metal- and Base-Free Room-Temperature Amination of Organoboronic Acids with *N*-Alkyl Hydroxylamines. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2018**, *57*, 9456–9460; (b) Zhang, Z.; Sabat, N.; Frison, G.; Marinetti, A.; Guinchard, X. Enantioselective Au(I)-Catalyzed Multicomponent Annulations via Tethered Counterion-Directed Catalysis. *ACS Catal.*, **2022**, *12*, 4046–4053
- [2] (a) Zhang, Z.; Sabat, N.; Frison, G.; Marinetti, A.; Guinchard, X. *ACS Catal.*, **2022**, *12*, 4046–4053; (b) Zhang, M.; Kumagai, N.; Shibasaki, M. *Chemistry A European J*, **2017**, *23*, 12450–12455.

5. The crystallographic data

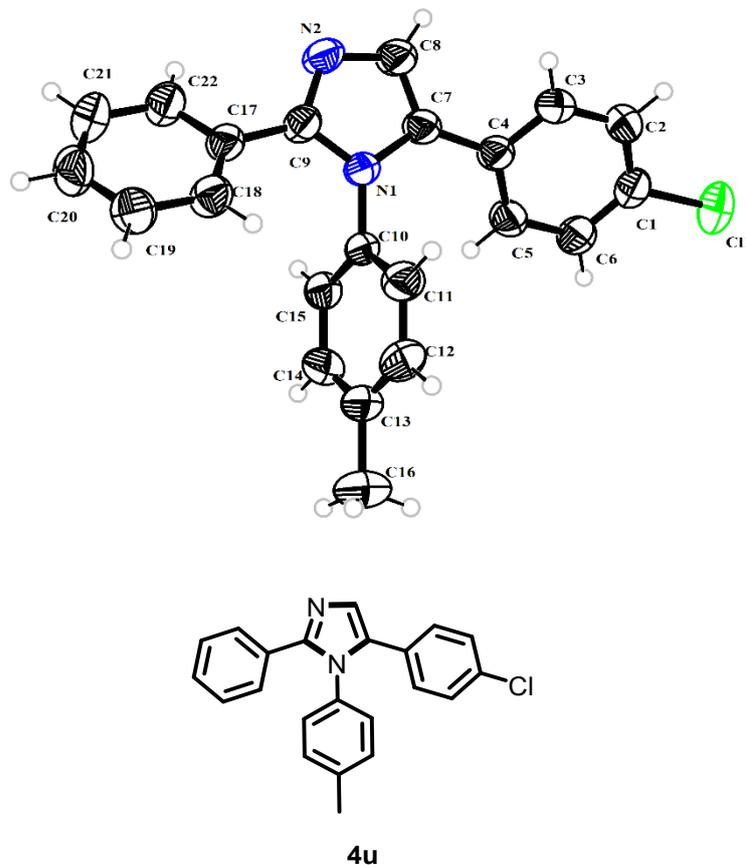


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure of **4u** ORTEP (50%) drawing

Crystal Data for Compound **4u**: CCDC 2342462 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Sample preparation: In a 10 mL glass bottle, 15 mg of pure **4u** was completely dissolved in the mixed solvent of 3 mL CHCl_3 , and then 2 mL of n-hexane was added slowly. After a week of solvent evaporation, some yellow transparent crystals were obtained. The crystals were mounted on a glass fiber for diffraction experiments. Intensity data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD diffractometer with Mo $K\alpha$ radiation (0.71073 Å) at room temperature.

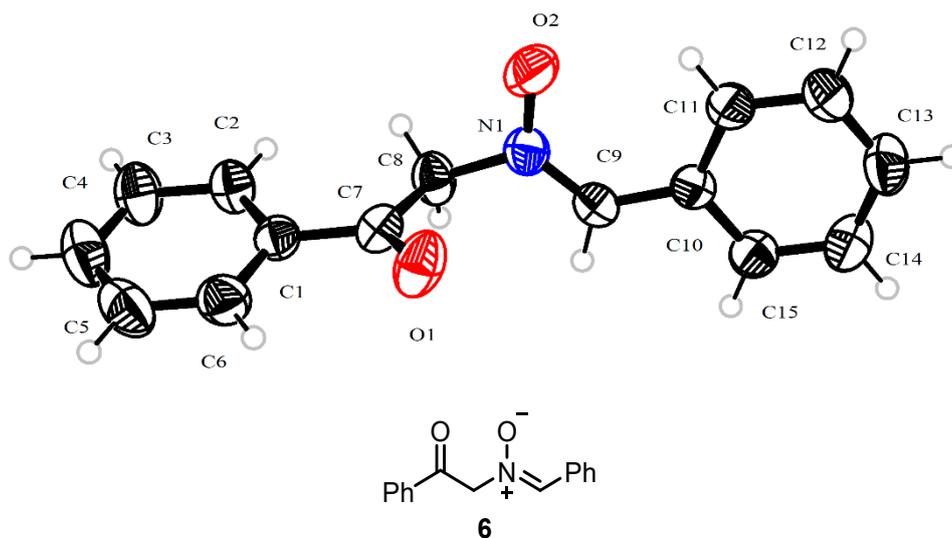
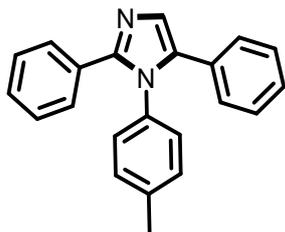


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure of **6** ORTEP (50%) drawing

Crystal Data for Compound **6**: CCDC 2359610 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

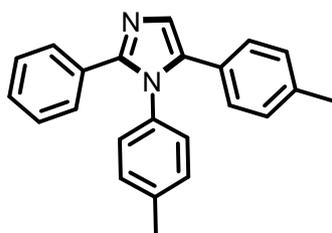
Sample preparation: In a 10 mL glass bottle, 15 mg of pure **6** was completely dissolved in the mixed solvent of 3 mL CHCl₃, and then 2 mL of n-hexane was added slowly. After a week of solvent evaporation, some yellow transparent crystals were obtained. The crystals were mounted on a glass fiber for diffraction experiments. Intensity data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD diffractometer with Mo K α radiation (0.71073 Å) at room temperature.

6. Spectroscopic data



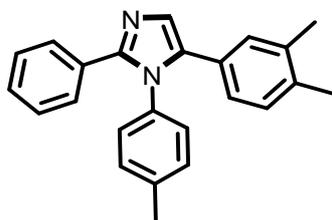
2,5-Diphenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (**4a**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (15:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4a** (108.6 mg, yield 70%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 239-241 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.35 (s, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 6H), 7.14–7.07 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 138.5, 135.1, 134.4, 130.5, 130.0, 129.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₂⁺ 311.1543; Found 311.1539.



2-Phenyl-1,5-di-*p*-tolyl-1*H*-imidazole (**4b**)

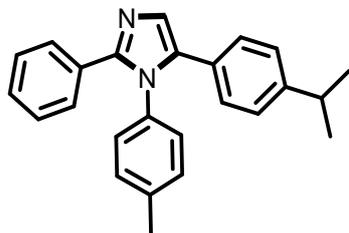
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4b** (101.5 mg, yield 68%) as white solid; m.p. 146-148 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02–6.96 (m, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 144.7, 140.8, 139.6, 135.8, 131.3, 131.1, 130.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.3, 123.3, 123.1, 118.8, 21.15, 21.12; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂⁺ 325.1699; Found 325.1697.



5-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (**4c**)

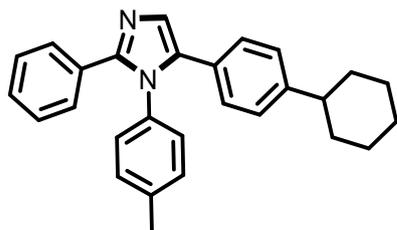
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4c** (101.5mg, yield 60%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 160-162 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.01f–6.93 (m, 4H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.6, 138.4, 136.5, 135.9, 135.3, 134.6, 130.4, 129.9, 129.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.1,

128.02, 127.98, 127.3, 127.2, 125.8, 21.2, 19.7, 19.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{24}H_{23}N_2^+$ 339.1856; Found 339.1853.



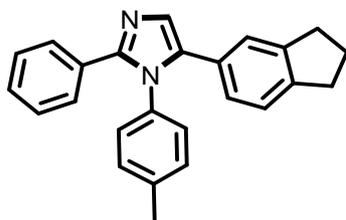
5-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4d)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4d** (114.4 mg, yield 65%) as white solid; m.p. 164-166 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.02–6.97 (m, 4H), 2.88–2.80 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.81, 147.76, 138.3, 135.1, 134.6, 130.7, 129.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.94, 127.91, 127.8, 127.2, 126.2, 33.6, 23.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{25}H_{25}N_2^+$ 353.2012; Found 353.2011.



5-(4-Cyclohexylphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4e)

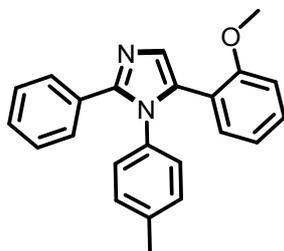
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4e** (123.6 mg, yield 63%) as white solid; m.p. 190-192 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.36–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 4H), 2.46–2.39 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.85–1.79 (m, 4H), 1.72 (d, $J = 12.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.39–1.30 (m, 4H), 1.27–1.21 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.7, 147.1, 138.3, 135.1, 134.6, 130.7, 129.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.94, 127.93, 127.7, 127.2, 126.6, 44.1, 34.2, 26.8, 26.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{28}H_{29}N_2^+$ 393.2325; Found 393.2323.



5-(2,3-Dihydro-1*H*-inden-5-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4f)

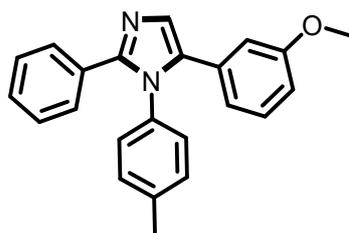
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4f** (103.3 mg, yield 59%) as white solid; m.p. 177-179 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.87–2.78 (m, 4H), 2.36 (s, 3H),

2.07–1.99 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.6, 144.2, 143.5, 138.3, 135.6, 134.6, 130.7, 129.9, 128.7, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 126.4, 124.5, 124.0, 32.7, 32.5, 25.2, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2^+$ 351.1856; Found 351.1854.



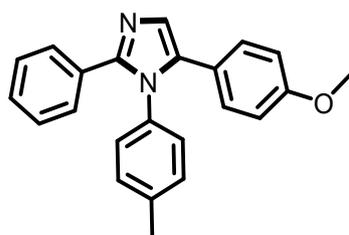
5-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4g)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4g** (95.2 mg, yield 56%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 140–142 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 4H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.92–6.87 (m, 3H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 147.2, 137.5, 135.1, 132.1, 132.0, 130.8, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 120.2, 119.1, 110.5, 54.7, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 341.1648; Found 341.1647.



5-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4h)

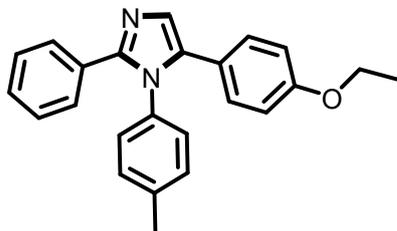
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4h** (103.7 mg, yield 61%) as white solid; m.p. 160–162 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 (s, 3H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.1, 148.0, 138.4, 134.29, 134.5, 131.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.2, 128.7, 128.0, 127.94, 127.89, 120.8, 113.4, 113.2, 54.9, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 341.1648; Found 341.1644.



5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4i)

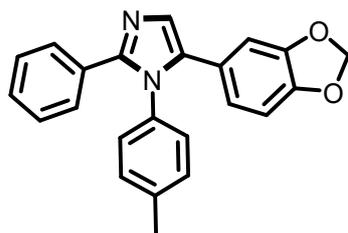
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4i** (98.6 mg, yield 58%) as white solid; m.p. 173–175 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (s, 2H), 7.29–7.20 (m, 4H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 7.04–6.94 (m, 4H), 6.76 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 147.5, 138.3, 134.9, 134.5, 130.7, 129.9, 129.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.3, 122.3, 113.6, 55.1, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂O⁺ 341.1648; Found 341.1646.



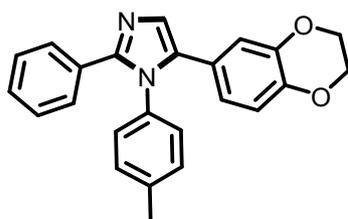
5-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4j)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4j** (100.9 mg, yield 57%) as white solid; m.p. 155-157 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.23 (s, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01–6.94 (m, 4H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01–3.94 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.2, 147.4, 138.3, 135.0, 134.5, 130.6, 129.9, 129.8, 128.7, 127.99, 127.97, 127.9, 127.1, 122.1, 114.1, 63.3, 21.2, 14.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₃N₂O⁺ 355.1805; Found 355.1803.



5-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4k)

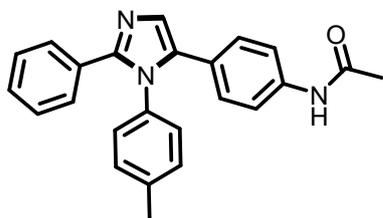
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4k** (109.8 mg, yield 62%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 207-209 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.6, 147.3, 146.9, 138.4, 134.8, 134.4, 130.6, 130.0, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 123.6, 122.5, 109.0, 108.1, 101.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₉N₂O₂⁺ 355.1441; Found 355.1440.



5-(2,3-Dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4l)

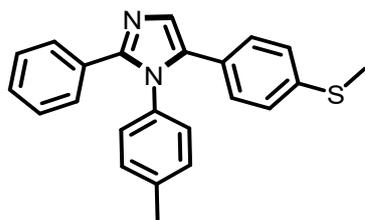
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4l** (112.0 mg, yield 64%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 227-229 °C; ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (s, 2H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 4H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 6.98 (s, 2H), 6.67 (s, 2H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 4.20 (s, 4H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.6, 143.1, 143.0, 138.4, 134.7, 134.5, 130.7, 129.9, 128.6, 127.9, 127.5, 123.2, 121.8, 117.4, 117.0, 64.3, 64.2, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₂O₂⁺ 369.1598; Found 369.1599.



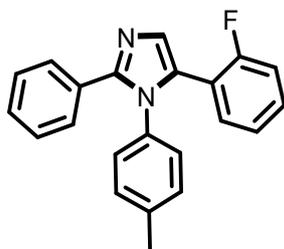
N-(4-(2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)acetamide (4m)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4m** (112.0 mg, yield 61%) as yellow solid; m.p. 140–142 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 8.86 (s, 1H), 7.55–7.47 (m, 4H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07–6.98 (m, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 172.1, 145.1, 141.7, 139.0, 138.9, 136.2, 132.4, 131.0, 130.1, 129.8, 129.3, 129.1, 127.2, 121.9, 121.3, 120.6, 120.5, 117.0, 23.43, 23.38, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₃O⁺ 368.1757; Found 368.1755.



5-(4-(Methylthio)phenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4n)

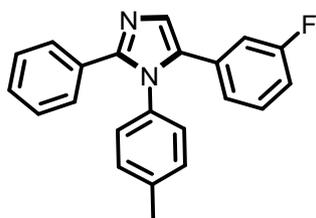
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4n** (105.1 mg, yield 59%) as white solid; m.p. 171–173 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 4H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 138.6, 137.8, 134.7, 134.3, 130.3, 130.1, 128.73, 128.67, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 126.4, 125.9, 21.2, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂S⁺ 357.1420; Found 357.1418.



5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (4o)

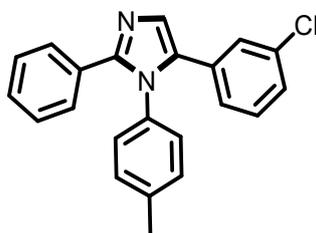
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4o** (106.6 mg, yield 65%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 164–166 °C; ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 4H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.02–6.92 (m, 4H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9 (d, J = 247.0 Hz, ¹ J_{CF}), 148.0, 138.2, 134.4, 131.7 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, ⁴ J_{CF}), 130.5, 129.7 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, ³ J_{CF}), 129.69, 129.6, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 123.7 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, ³ J_{CF}), 118.0 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, ² J_{CF}), 115.6 (d, J = 22.0 Hz, ² J_{CF}), 21.1; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -111.80; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈FN₂⁺ 329.1449; Found 329.1448.



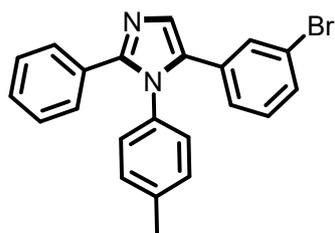
5-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4p)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4p** (109.9 mg, yield 67%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 179-181 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.11 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.92–6.85 (m, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.4 (d, J = 244.0 Hz, ¹ J_{CF}), 148.4, 138.8, 134.2, 133.8 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, ⁴ J_{CF}), 131.9 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ³ J_{CF}), 130.4, 130.1, 129.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, ³ J_{CF}), 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 123.9 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, ⁴ J_{CF}), 115.0 (d, J = 23.0 Hz, ² J_{CF}), 114.0 (d, J = 20.0 Hz, ² J_{CF}), 21.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.78; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈FN₂⁺ 329.1449; Found 329.1445.



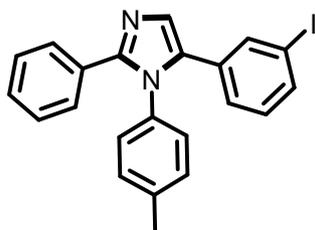
5-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4q)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4q** (110.1 mg, yield 64%) as white solid; m.p. 158-160 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.09 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 138.8, 134.1, 134.0, 133.6, 131.6, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.2, 126.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈ClN₂⁺ 345.1153; Found 345.1152.



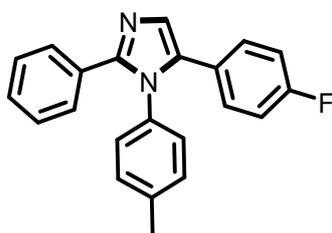
5-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4r)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4r** (120.3 mg, yield 62%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 166-168 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.29 (m, 5H), 7.28–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07–7.02 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 138.8, 134.1, 133.5, 131.8, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 129.6, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 126.7, 122.2, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈BrN₂⁺ 389.0648; Found 389.0644.



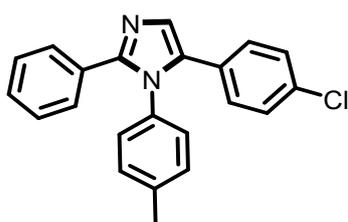
5-(3-Iodophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4s)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4s** (141.7 mg, yield 65%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 150-152 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.67–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.46–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.05–6.98 (m, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 145.4, 140.8, 137.9, 137.4, 133.7, 131.1, 130.7, 130.6, 130.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 127.2, 123.4, 120.1, 93.9, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈IN₂⁺ 437.0509; Found 437.0506.



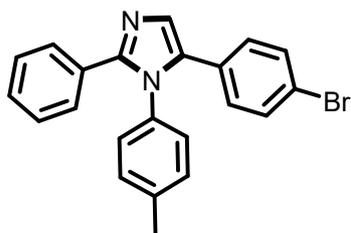
5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4t)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (12:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4t** (100.1mg, yield 61%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 200-202 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.87 (m, 4H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.0 (d, *J* = 246.0 Hz, ¹*J*_{CF}), 148.0, 138.6, 134.3, 134.1, 130.6, 130.3, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7, 128.1, 128.03, 127.98, 127.9, 126.1 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF}), 21.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.34; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈FN₂⁺ 329.1449; Found 329.1446.



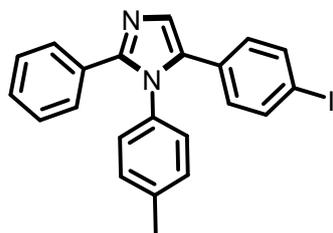
5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4u)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4u** (108.4 mg, yield 63%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 120-122 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.09–7.00 (m, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 145.3, 141.6, 136.4, 135.2, 132.3, 131.0, 130.4, 130.2, 129.3, 129.2, 127.3, 123.8, 121.9, 117.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈ClN₂⁺ 345.1153; Found 345.1150.



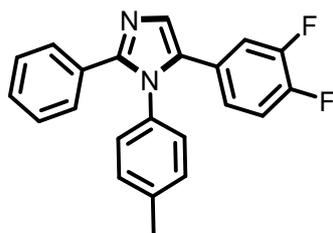
5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4v)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (15:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4v** (116.4 mg, yield 60%) as yellow solid; m.p. 204-206 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 5H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00–6.92 (m, 4H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.3, 138.8, 134.1, 133.9, 131.4, 130.2, 129.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 121.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈BrN₂⁺ 389.0648; Found 389.0647.



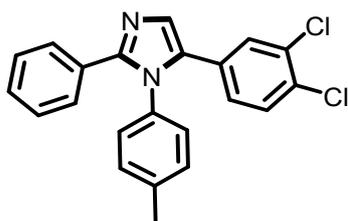
5-(4-Iodophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4w)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4w** (114.2 mg, yield 62%) as white solid; m.p. 210-212 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.34 (s, 3H), 7.23 (s, 3H), 7.13 (s, 2H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 138.7, 137.3, 134.2, 133.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 93.0, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈IN₂⁺ 437.0509; Found 437.0507.



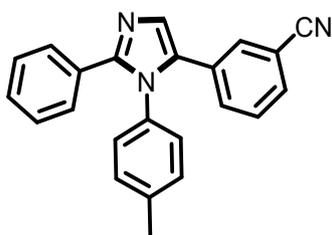
5-(3,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4x)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4x** (114.2 mg, yield 66%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 161-163 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24 (s, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.05–6.95 (m, 3H), 6.90–6.79 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.8 (dd, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF} = 27.0 Hz), 149.6 (dd, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF} = 26.0 Hz), 148.4, 138.9, 134.0, 133.0, 130.3, 130.2, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 126.9 (dd, ³*J*_{CF} = 6.0 Hz, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 2.0 Hz), 124.5 (dd, ³*J*_{CF} = 6.0 Hz, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 4.0 Hz), 117.2 (dd, ²*J*_{CF} = 18.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF} = 8.0 Hz), 21.1; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -137.25, -137.30, -138.96, -139.02; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇F₂N₂⁺ 347.1354; Found 347.1356.



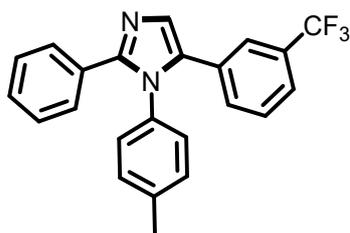
5-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (**4y**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4y** (109.6 mg, yield 58%) as white solid; m.p. 178-180 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 5H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 139.1, 133.9, 132.7, 132.4, 131.3, 130.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.9, 128.72, 128.65, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇Cl₂N₂⁺ 379.0763; Found 379.0761.



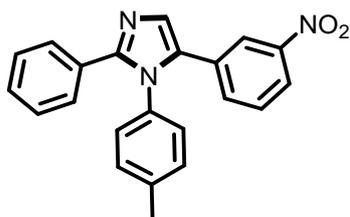
3-(2-Phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzonitrile (**4z**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4z** (103.9 mg, yield 62%) as white solid; m.p. 161-163 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.9, 139.1, 133.8, 132.7, 132.2, 131.3, 130.5, 130.3, 130.1, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.7, 118.3, 112.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃⁺ 336.1495; Found 336.1491.



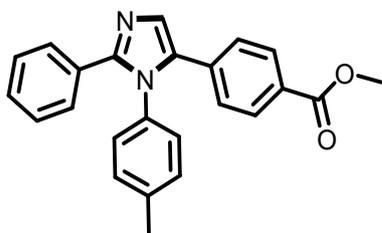
2-Phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-5-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4aa)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4aa** (109.7 mg, yield 58%) as white solid; m.p. 187-189 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.6, 139.0, 134.1, 133.6, 131.3, 130.7, 130.6 (q, *J* = 32.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF}), 130.3, 130.2, 128.73, 128.69, 128.67, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 124.9 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 123.75 (q, *J* = 271.0 Hz, ¹*J*_{CF}), 123.73 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 21.1; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₄) δ -62.98; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈F₃N₂⁺ 379.1417; Found 379.1415.



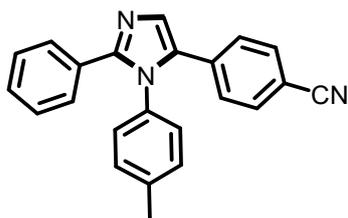
5-(3-Nitrophenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4ab)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ab** (133.0 mg, yield 61%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 156-158 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08–8.02 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.1, 148.0, 139.3, 133.8, 133.7, 132.6, 131.6, 130.4, 130.1, 129.24, 129.19, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 122.6, 121.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈N₃O₂⁺ 356.1394; Found 356.1391.



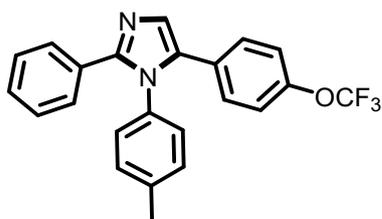
Methyl 4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzoate (4ac)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ac** (110.4 mg, yield 60%) as white solid; m.p. 187-189 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 148.8, 138.8, 134.3, 134.2, 133.9, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 52.0, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₂O₂⁺ 369.1598; Found 369.1599.



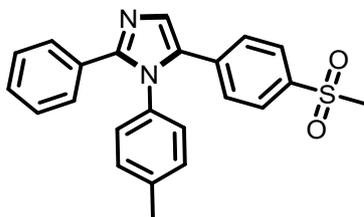
4-(2-Phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzonitrile (4ad)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ad** (95.5 mg, yield 57%) as white solid; m.p. 212-214 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.3, 139.2, 134.4, 133.9, 133.1, 132.1, 130.4, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.13, 128.12, 127.8, 118.7, 110.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃⁺ 336.1495; Found 336.1492.



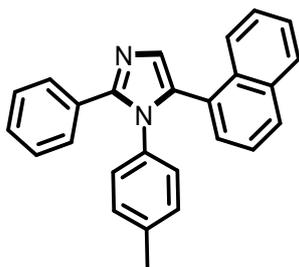
2-Phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-5-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4ae)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ae** (116.3 mg, yield 59%) as white solid; m.p. 164-166 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12–7.05 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 148.3, 138.8, 134.2, 133.7, 130.4, 130.2, 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 120.6, 120.4 (q, *J* = 256.0 Hz, ¹*J*_{CF}), 21.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -57.78; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈F₃N₂O⁺ 395.1366; Found 395.1362.



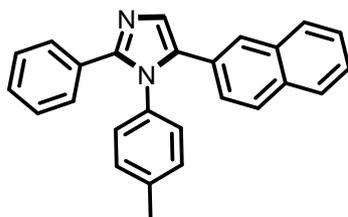
5-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)phenyl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4af)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (2:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4af** (122.3 mg, yield 63%) as white solid; m.p. 230-232 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.2, 139.0, 138.3, 135.2, 133.8, 132.9, 130.3, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 127.2, 44.2, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂O₂S⁺ 389.1318; Found 389.1315.



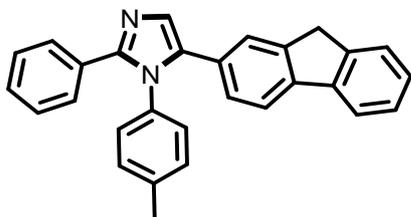
5-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4ag)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ag** (111.7 mg, yield 62%) as yellow solid; m.p. 163-165 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.80–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.43 (s, 4H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.3, 138.0, 134.2, 133.3, 133.0, 132.6, 130.2, 129.50, 129.46, 129.2, 128.62, 128.57, 128.2, 128.0, 127.2, 127.1, 126.3, 125.8, 125.7, 124.7, 20.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂⁺ 361.1699; Found 361.1700.



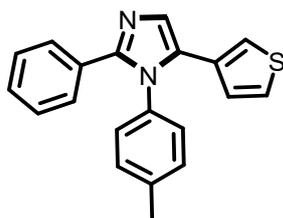
5-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (**4ah**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ah** (108.0 mg, yield 60%) as yellow solid; m.p. 180-182 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.44–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.25 (s, 3H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.2, 138.5, 135.1, 134.6, 133.1, 132.2, 130.7, 130.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 126.2, 126.1, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂⁺ 361.1699; Found 361.1698.



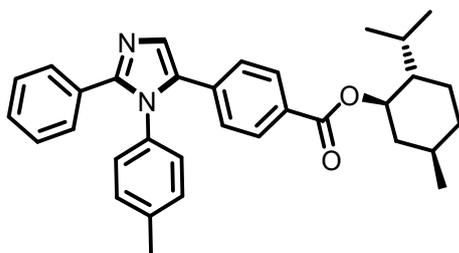
5-(9*H*-fluoren-2-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (**4ai**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ai** (99.5 mg, yield 50%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 200-202 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 3H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 4H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.7, 143.3, 143.2, 141.1, 140.9, 138.5, 135.5, 134.4, 130.3, 130.0, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 126.8, 125.2, 125.0, 119.9, 119.5, 36.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₉H₂₃N₂⁺ 399.1856; Found 399.1860.



2-Phenyl-5-(thiophen-3-yl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (4aj)

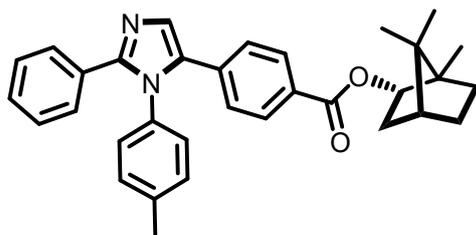
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4aj** (78.0 mg, yield 52%) as yellow solid; m.p. 210-212 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 7H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.6, 139.2, 134.7, 131.1, 130.2, 130.0, 128.5, 128.2, 128.11, 128.08, 127.21, 127.16, 125.3, 121.2, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂S⁺ 317.1107; Found 317.1106.



(1*R*,2*R*,5*R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzoate (4ak)

4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzoate (4ak)

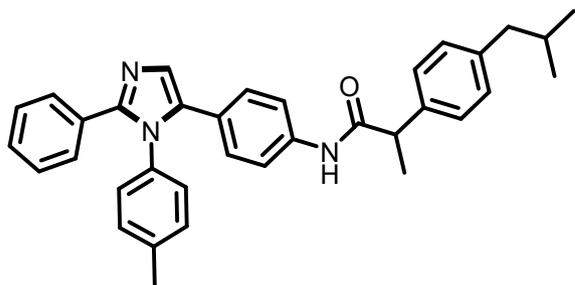
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4ak** (150.1 mg, yield 61%) as yellow solid; m.p. 188-190 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 4H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.95–4.87 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.10 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 1.99–1.90 (m, 1H), 1.72 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.17–1.04 (m, 2H), 0.94–0.88 (m, 7H), 0.78 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 148.8, 138.8, 134.3, 134.11, 134.05, 130.3, 130.2, 129.5, 129.16, 129.15, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 74.8, 47.2, 40.9, 34.2, 31.4, 26.4, 23.5, 22.0, 21.2, 20.7, 16.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₃H₃₇N₂O₂⁺ 493.2850; Found 493.2846.



(1*R*,2*R*,4*R*)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-yl 4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzoate (4al)

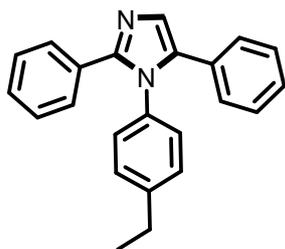
4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)benzoate (4al)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4al** (161.8 mg, yield 66%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 178-180 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.43 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.15–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.71 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.26 (m, 2H), 1.12–1.06 (m, 1H), 0.96 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 148.8, 138.8, 134.22, 134.16, 134.0, 130.3, 130.2, 129.4, 129.17, 129.16, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 80.5, 49.0, 47.8, 44.9, 36.8, 28.0, 27.3, 21.2, 19.6, 18.8, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₃H₃₅N₂O₂⁺ 491.2693; Found 491.2689.



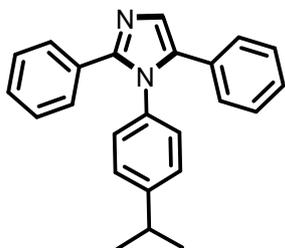
2-(4-Isobutylphenyl)-N-(4-(2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)propanamide (4am)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **4am** (141.2 mg, yield 55%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 210-212 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 4H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 4H), 7.00–6.92 (m, 4H), 3.71–3.64 (m, 1H), 2.46 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.91–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.55 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (s, 1H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.6, 147.7, 141.1, 138.7, 137.9, 137.3, 134.7, 134.2, 130.1, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 127.1, 125.3, 119.3, 47.7, 45.0, 30.1, 22.4, 21.2, 18.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₃₅H₃₆N₃O⁺ 514.2853; Found 514.2852.



1-(4-Ethylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (5a)

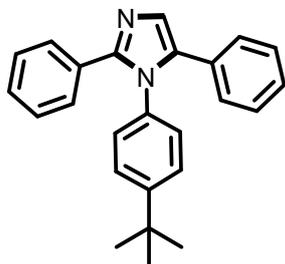
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5a** (108.6 mg, yield 67%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 175-177 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (s, 3H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.0, 144.7, 135.1, 134.6, 130.6, 129.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2, 28.4, 15.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂⁺ 325.1699; Found 325.1700.



1-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (5b)

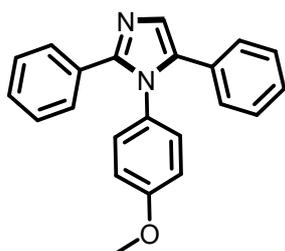
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5b** (104.8 mg yield 62%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 180-182 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 7H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J*

= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.97–2.88 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.5, 147.9, 135.1, 134.6, 130.4, 129.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.34, 127.26, 33.7, 23.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2^+$ 339.1856; Found 339.1855.



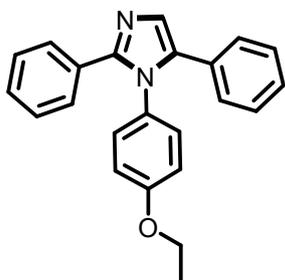
1-(4-(*Tert*-butyl)phenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**5c**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5c** (110.9 mg, yield 63%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 197–199 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 6H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.8, 148.0, 135.1, 134.4, 130.6, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.2, 126.2, 34.7, 31.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2^+$ 353.2012; Found 353.2010.



1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**5d**)

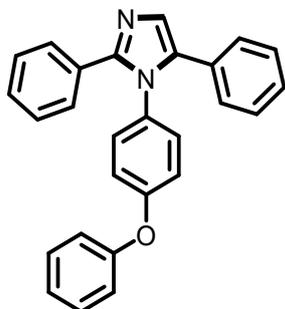
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5d** (104.4 mg, yield 64%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 210–212 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 6H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.2, 148.0, 135.1, 130.6, 129.80, 129.78, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.2, 114.4, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 327.1492; Found 327.1491.



1-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**5e**)

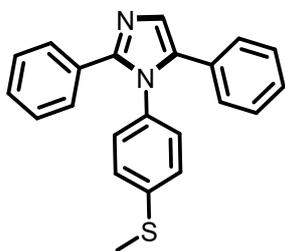
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5e** (103.7 mg, yield 61%) as white solid; m.p. 173–175 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 6H), 7.13–7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.7, 148.1, 135.2, 130.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.2, 114.9, 63.6, 14.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂O⁺ 341.1648; Found 341.1644.



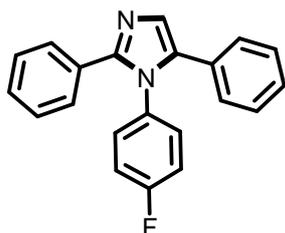
1-(4-Phenoxyphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5f)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5f** (114.5 mg, yield 59%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 220–222 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43–7.33 (m, 5H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 6H), 7.17–7.10 (m, 3H), 7.08–6.99 (m, 4H), 6.97–6.92 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.4, 156.2, 148.0, 135.2, 131.8, 130.3, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.35, 128.29, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 124.1, 119.3, 119.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₁N₂O⁺ 389.1648; Found 389.1647.



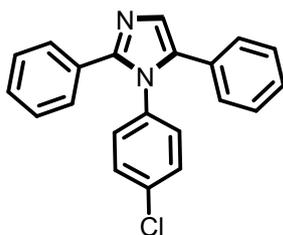
1-(4-(Methylthio)phenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5g)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5g** (102.6 mg, yield 60%) as white solid; m.p. 217–219 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (s, 3H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 139.5, 135.0, 133.7, 130.4, 129.7, 128.7, 128.41, 128.36, 128.24, 128.15, 128.09, 128.06, 127.3, 126.3, 15.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₂S⁺ 343.1263; Found 343.1262.



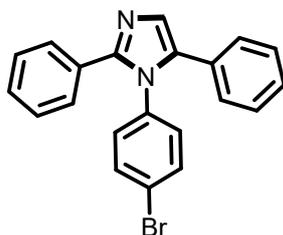
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5h)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5h** (103.7 mg, yield 66%) as white solid; m.p. 130-132 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 3H), 7.39–7.28(m, 5H), 7.19–7.06 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) δ 162.9 (d, *J* = 251.0 Hz, ¹*J*_{CF}), 145.2, 135.7, 131.5, 129.7 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 129.62, 129.56, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 125.8, 123.0, 119.3, 117.2 (d, *J* = 23.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF}); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃, CF₃COOD) -109.21. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆FN₂⁺ 315.1292; Found 315.1289.



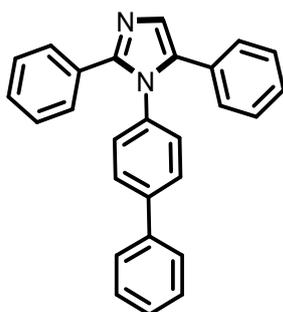
1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**5i**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5i** (102.3 mg, yield 62%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 220-222 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29–7.23 (m, 7H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 135.6, 134.9, 134.3, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆ClN₂⁺ 331.0997; Found 331.0996.



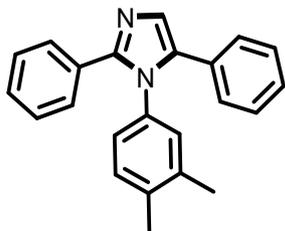
1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**5j**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5j** (121.6 mg, yield 65%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 208-210 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 6H), 7.08–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.8, 136.1, 134.8, 132.5, 130.2, 129.6, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.35, 128.28, 128.1, 127.4, 122.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆BrN₂⁺ 375.0491; Found 375.0490.



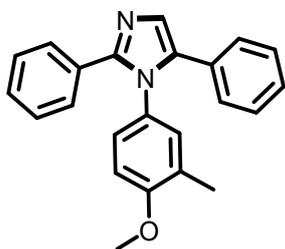
1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (**5k**)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5k** (107.9 mg, yield 58%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 246-248 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63–7.54 (m, 4H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.47–7.34 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 141.1, 139.4, 136.1, 135.1, 130.4, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 126.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₂₁N₂⁺ 373.1699; Found 373.1697.



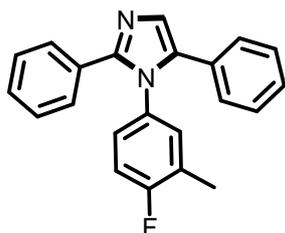
1-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5l)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5l** (105.4 mg, yield 65%) as white solid; m.p. 211-213 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 6H), 7.11–7.04 (m, 3H), 6.88–6.81 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 137.8, 137.1, 135.1, 134.7, 130.7, 130.3, 130.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.99, 127.95, 127.9, 127.1, 125.4, 19.7, 19.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂⁺ 325.1699; Found 325.1698.



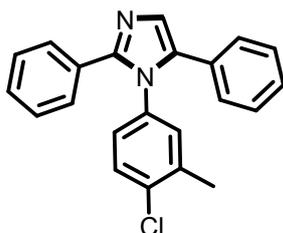
1-(4-Methoxy-3-methylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5m)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5m** (103.7 mg, yield 61%) as white solid; m.p. 164-166 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 6H), 7.13–7.07 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.87 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.5, 148.1, 135.2, 130.8, 130.04, 130.02, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.5, 110.0, 55.4, 16.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂O⁺ 341.1648; Found 341.1647.



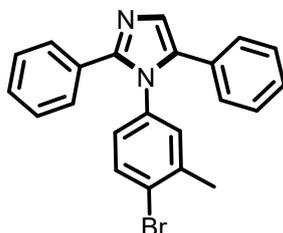
1-(4-Fluoro-3-methylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5n)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5n** (103.4 mg, yield 63%) as white solid; m.p. 221-223 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.27–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.12–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.87 (m, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7 (d, *J* = 246.0 Hz, ¹*J*_{CF}), 159.4, 148.0, 135.1, 132.9 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, ⁴*J*_{CF}), 131.0 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 130.5, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 128.0, 127.3, 127.1 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, ³*J*_{CF}), 126.3 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF}), 115.8 (d, *J* = 23.0 Hz, ²*J*_{CF}), 14.45, 14.43; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) -116.32; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈FN₂⁺ 329.1449; Found 329.1446.



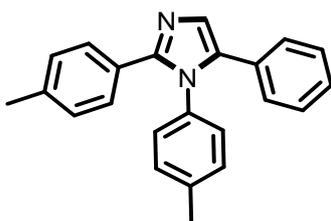
1-(4-Chloro-3-methylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5o)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5o** (103.2 mg, yield 60%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 214-216 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 7H), 7.09–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89–6.84 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 137.5, 135.5, 134.9, 134.4, 130.32, 130.28, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 128.29, 128.27, 128.2, 128.1, 127.4, 126.8, 20.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈ClN₂⁺ 345.1153; Found 345.1152.



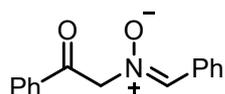
1-(4-Bromo-3-methylphenyl)-2,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (5p)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5p** (128.1 mg, yield 66%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 212-214 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 6H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81–6.76 (m, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.8, 139.4, 136.2, 134.9, 133.1, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.4, 127.0, 124.8, 22.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈BrN₂⁺ 389.0648; Found 389.0642.



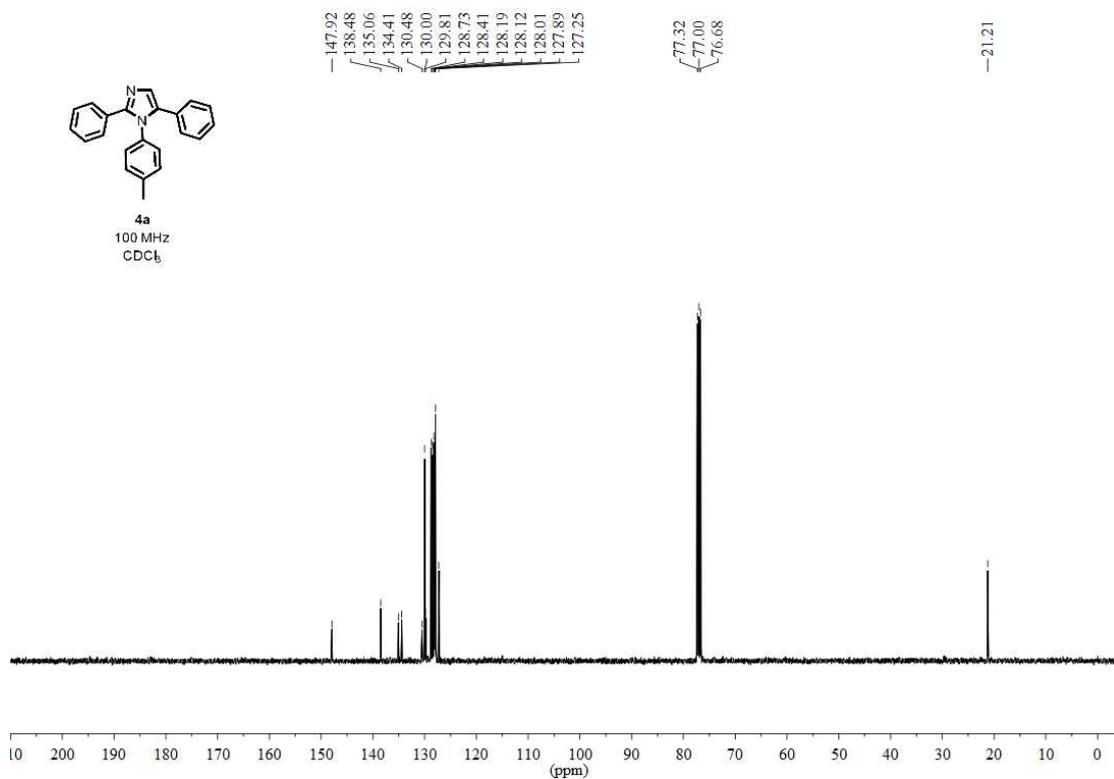
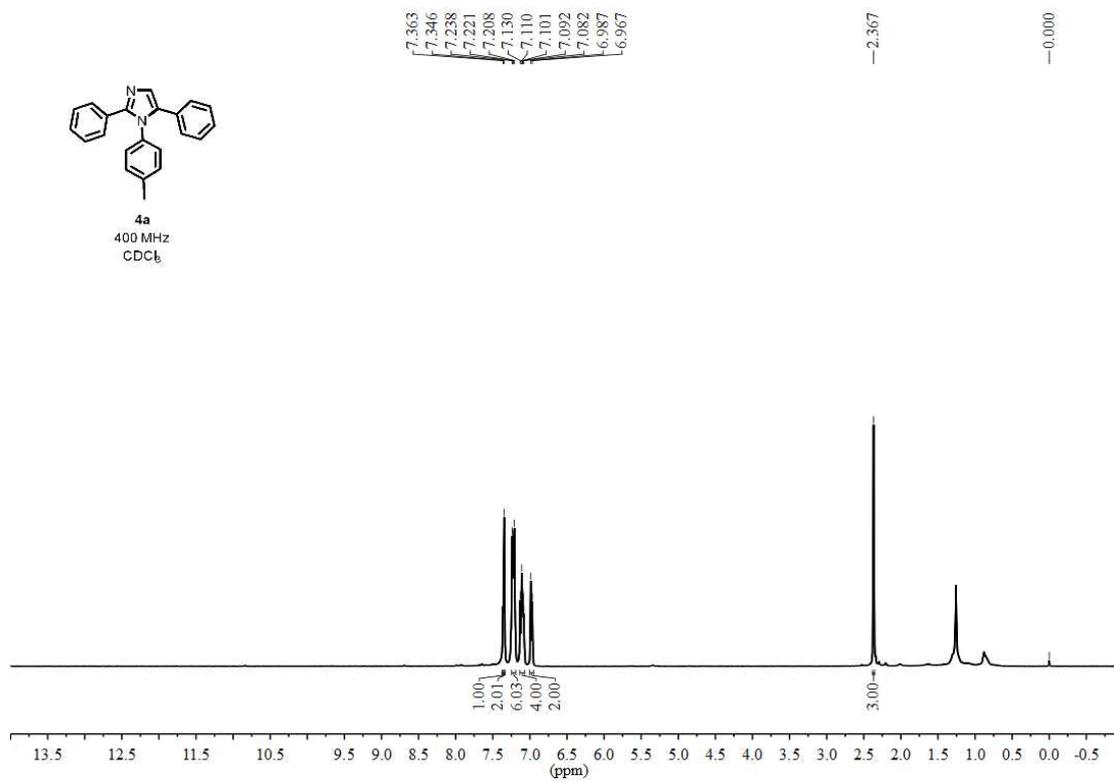
5-Phenyl-1,2-di-p-tolyl-1H-imidazole (5q)

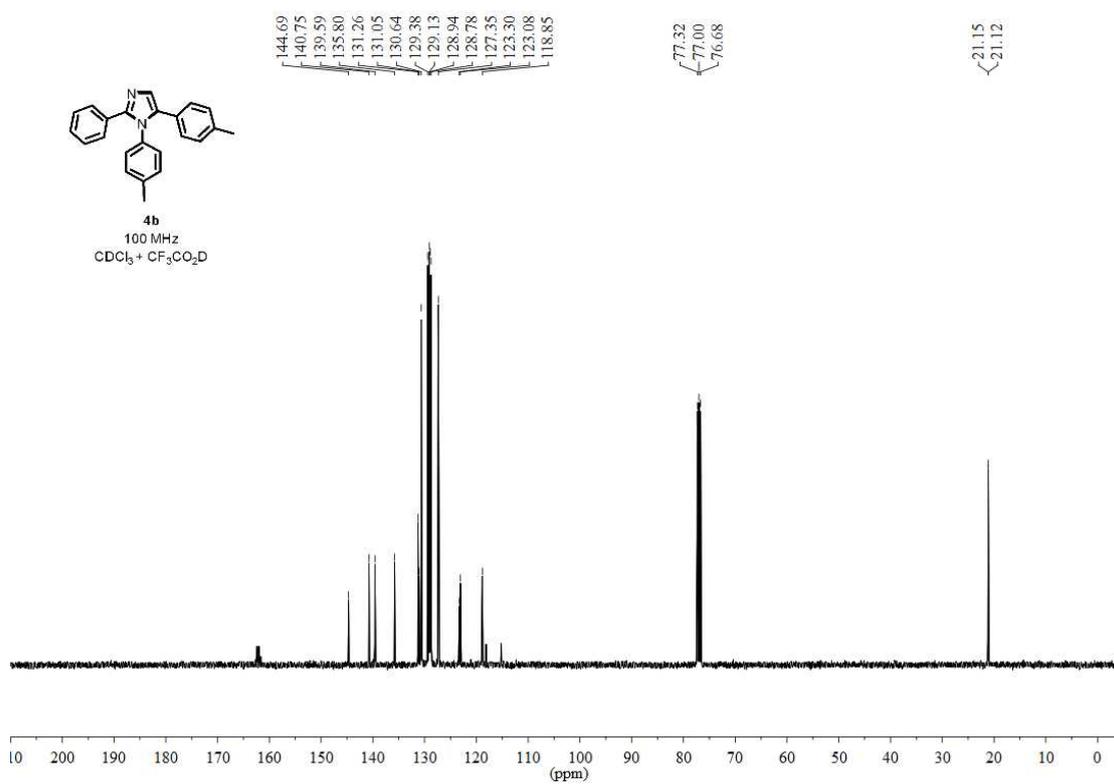
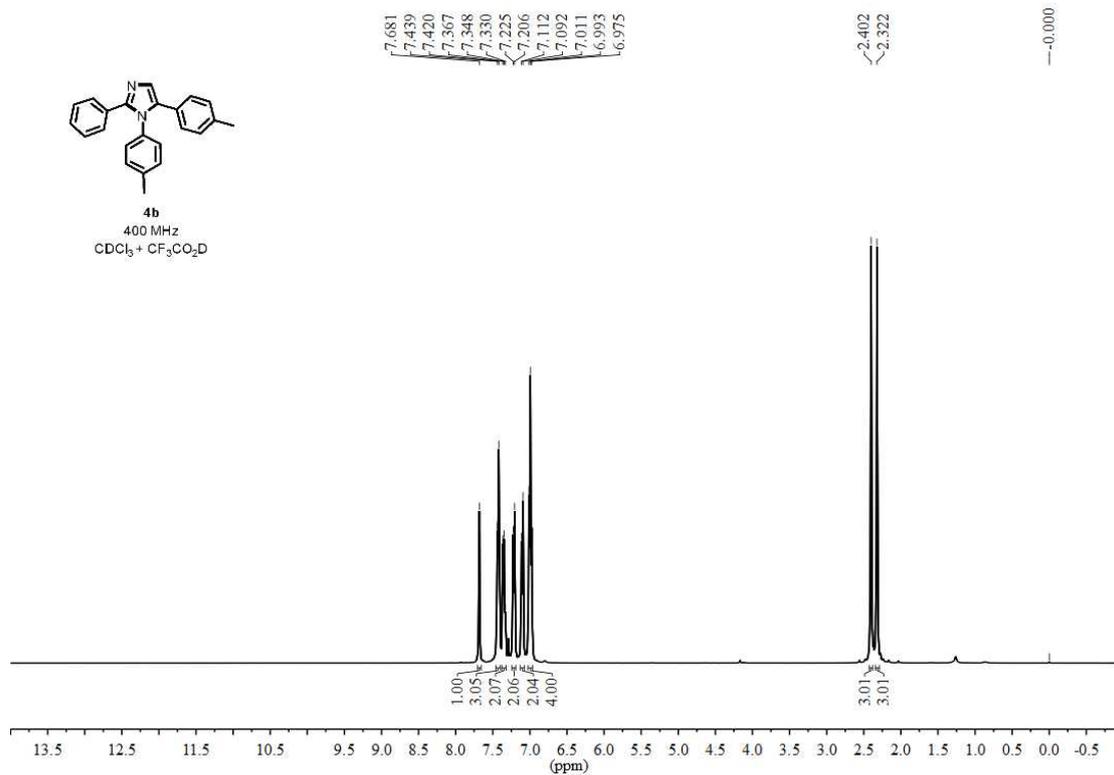
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1 v/v) as eluent afforded **5q** (76.2 mg, yield 47%) as light yellow solid; m.p. 160-162 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 138.4, 138.0, 134.9, 134.6, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 127.2, 21.22, 21.21; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₂₁N₂⁺ 325.1699; Found 325.1703.

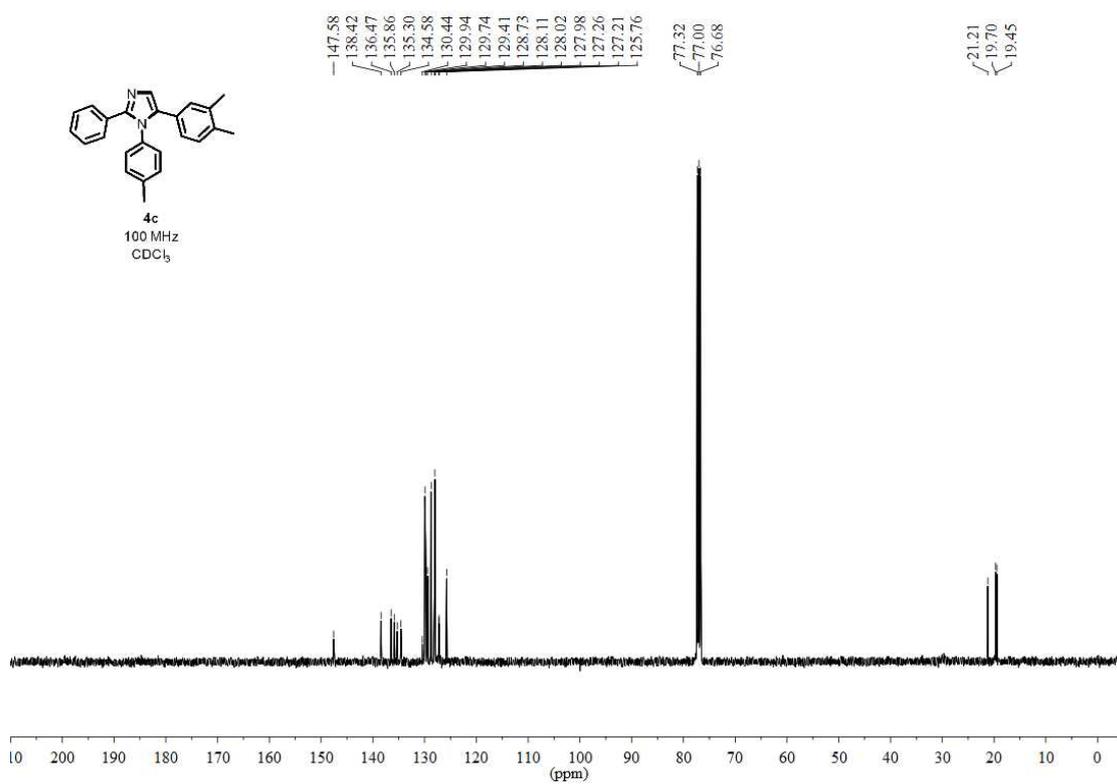
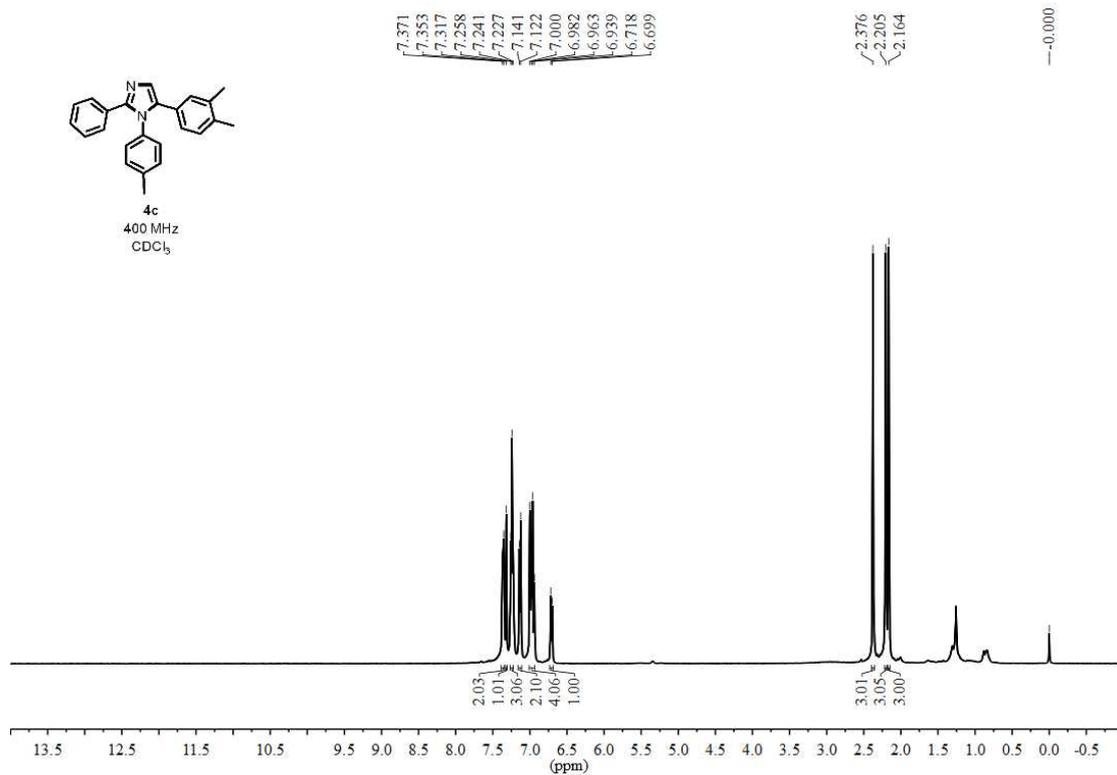


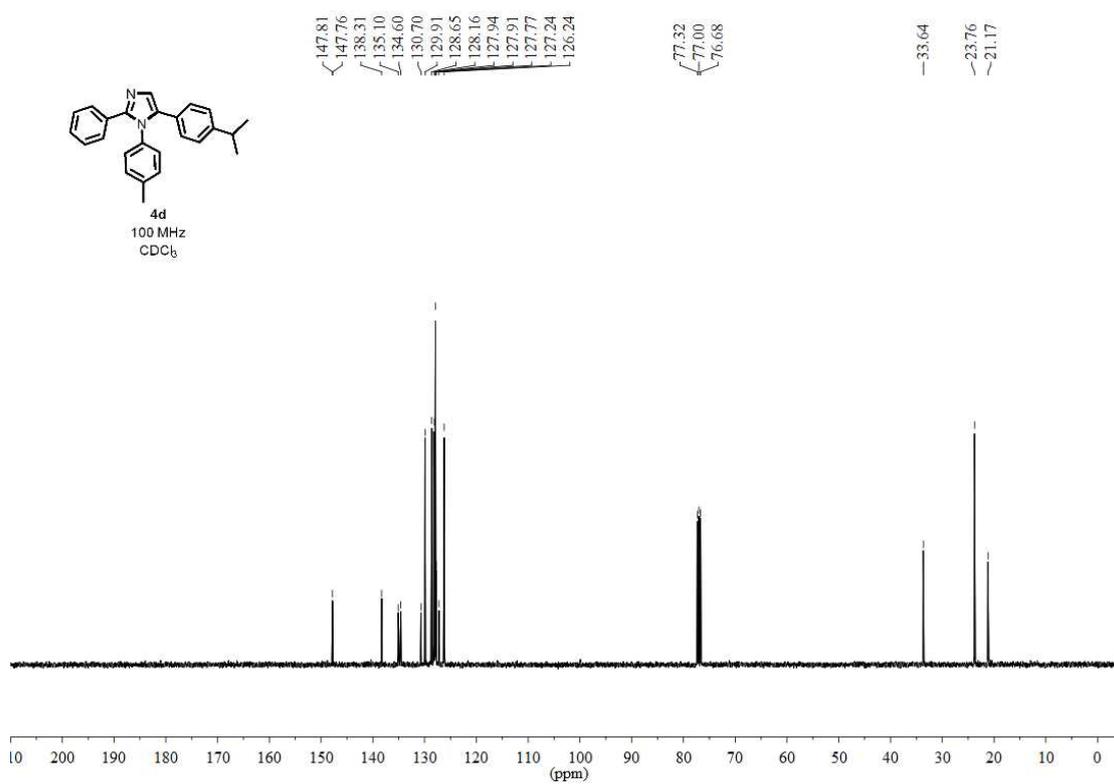
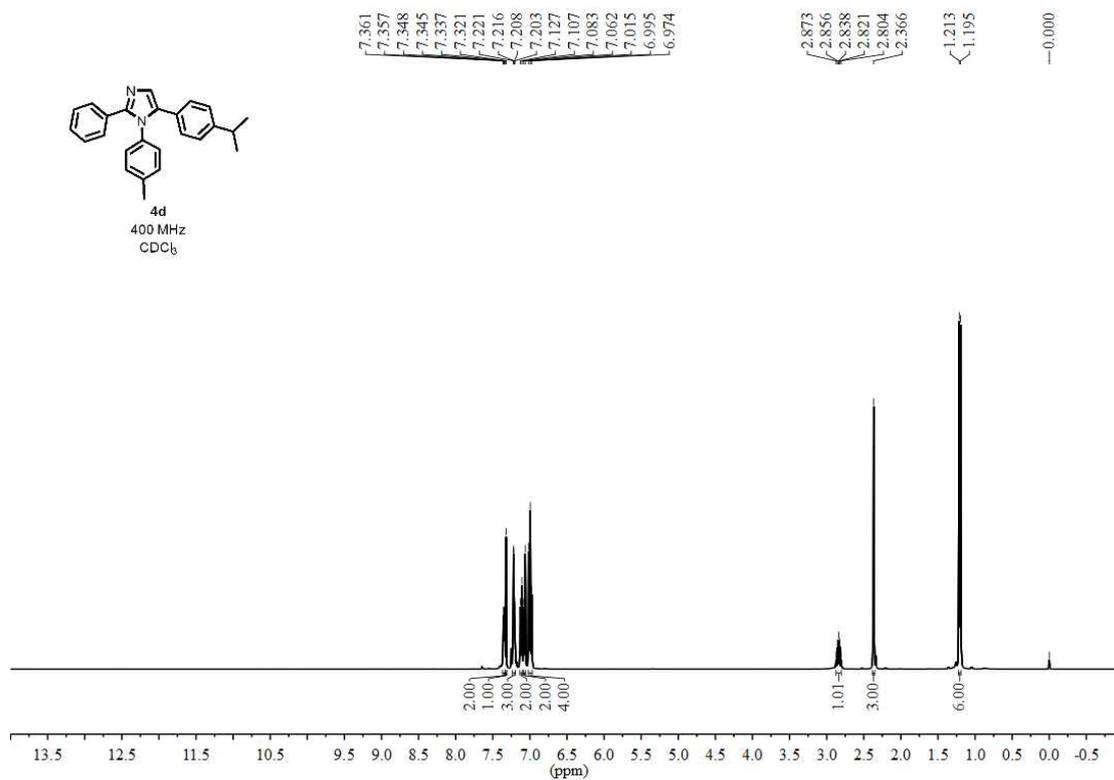
(Z)-N-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-1-phenylmethanimine oxide (6): (Orange solid, 454.1 mg, yield 95%); m.p. 97-99 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22–8.17 (m, 2H), 7.91–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.41–7.32 (m, 5H), 5.37 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.2, 137.3, 134.3, 133.9, 130.4, 129.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 71.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₄NO₂⁺ 240.1019; Found 240.1018.

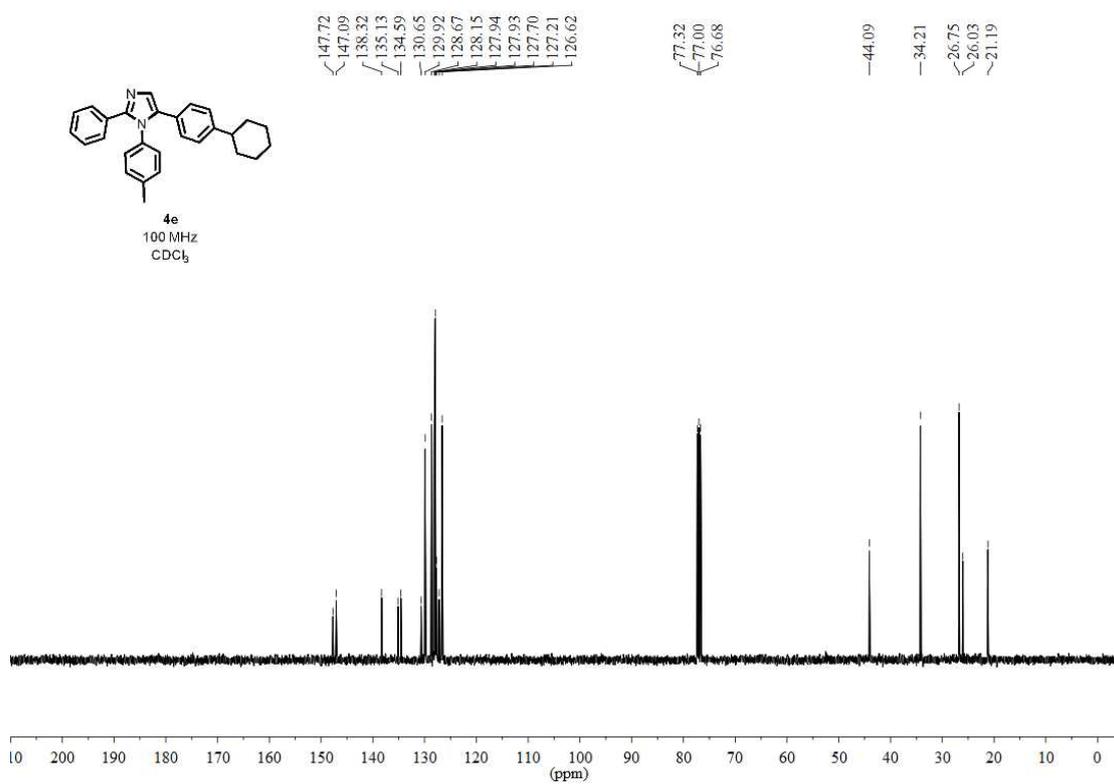
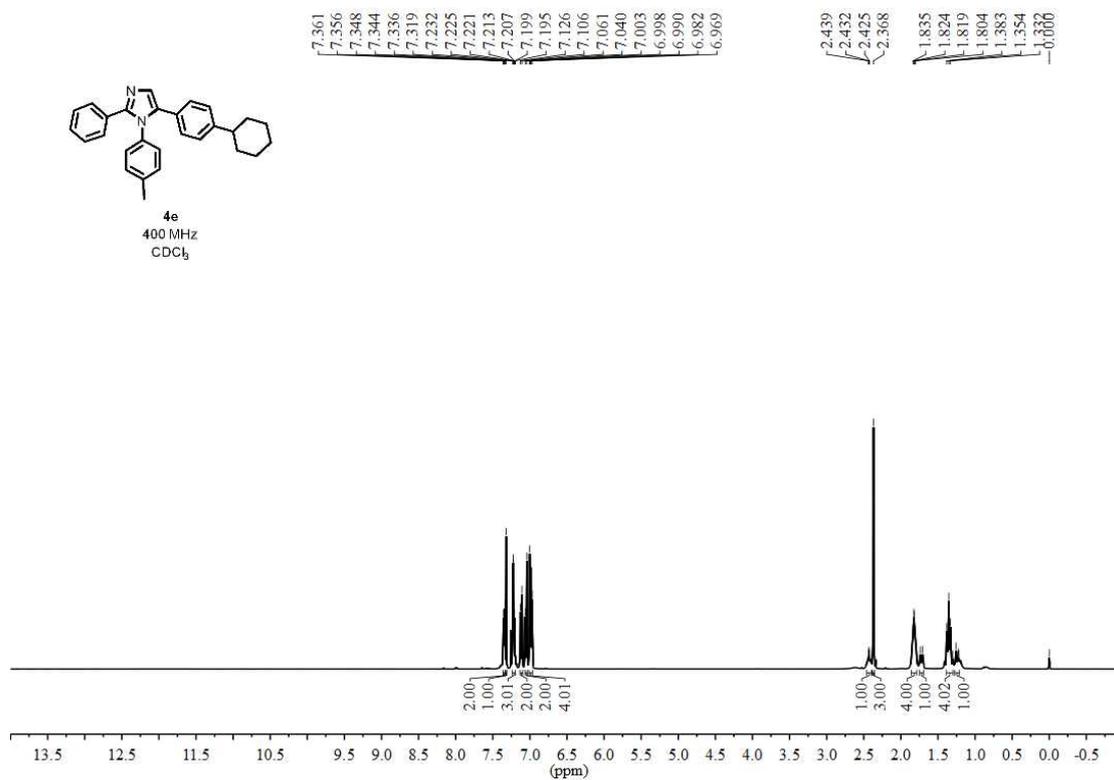
7. Copies of ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra

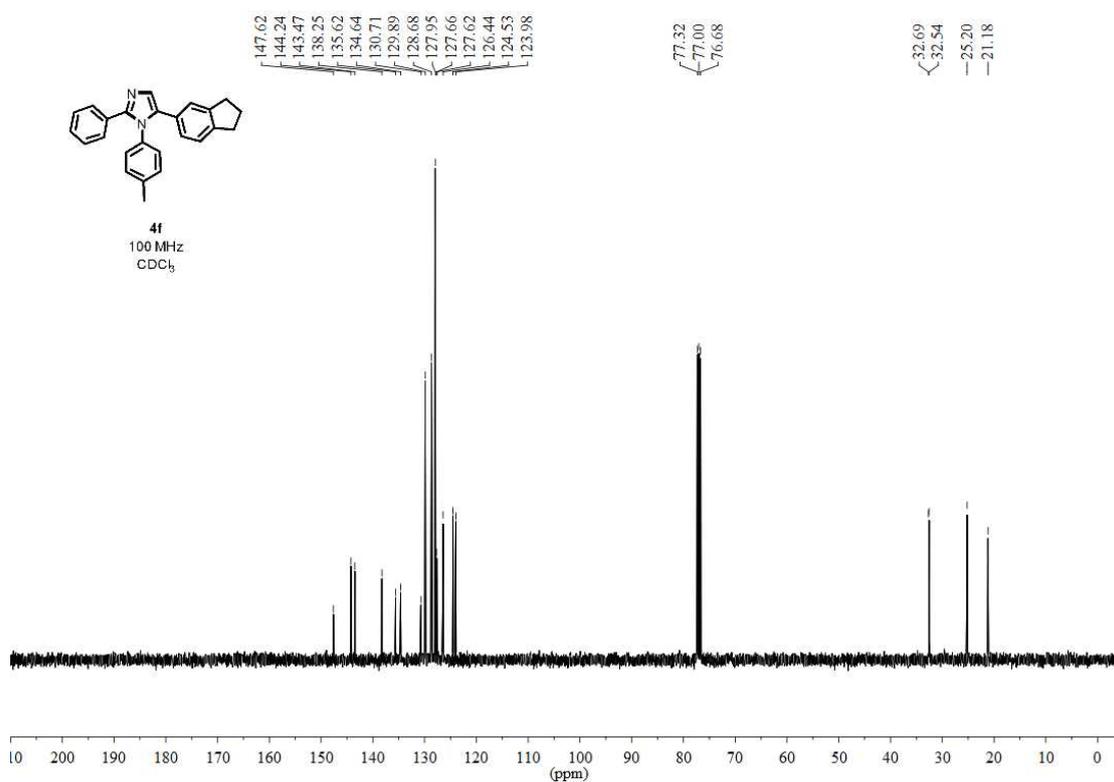
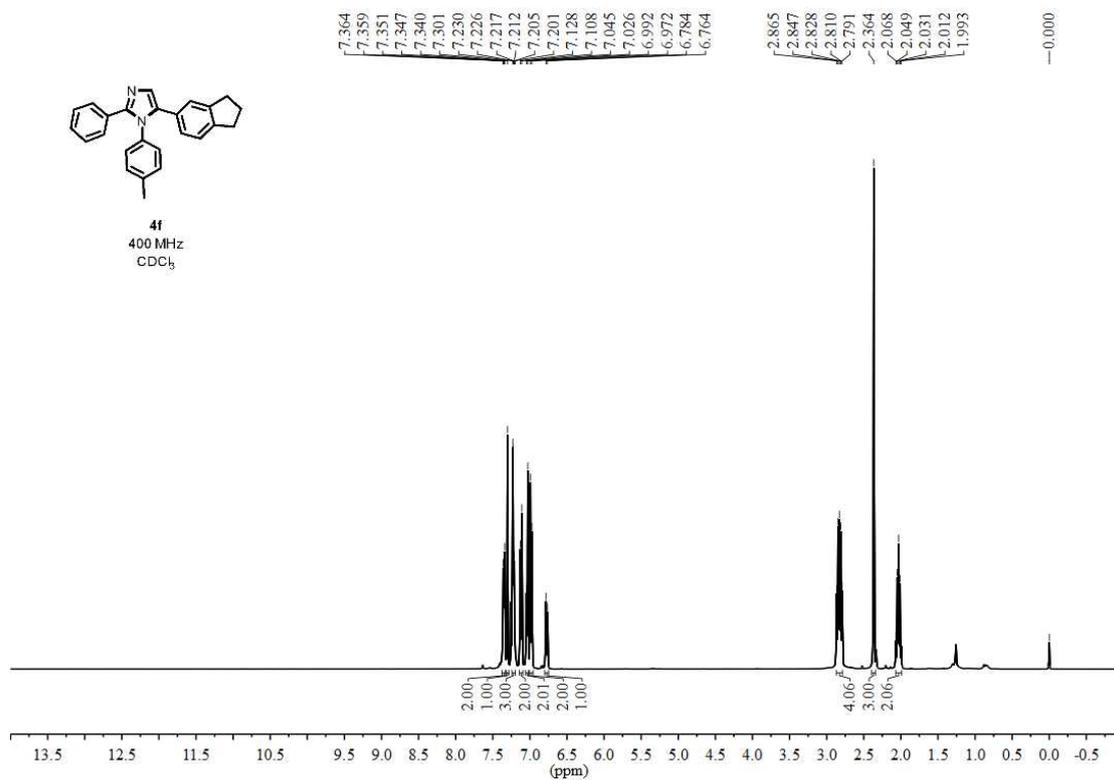


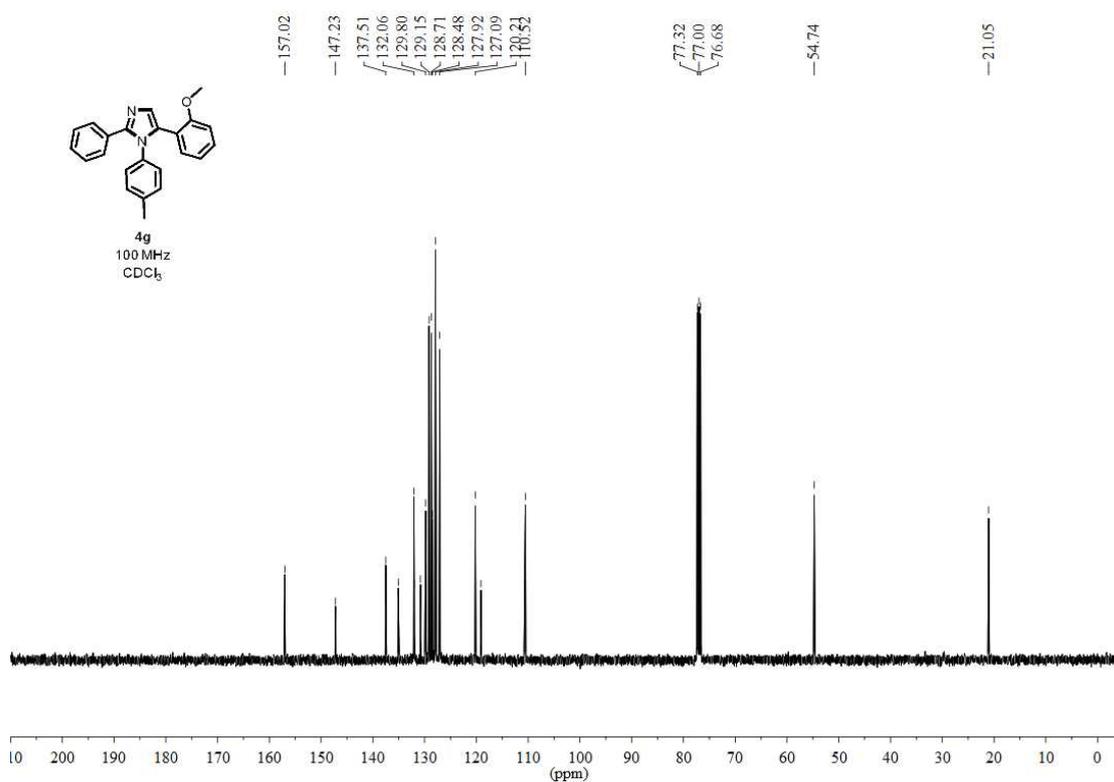
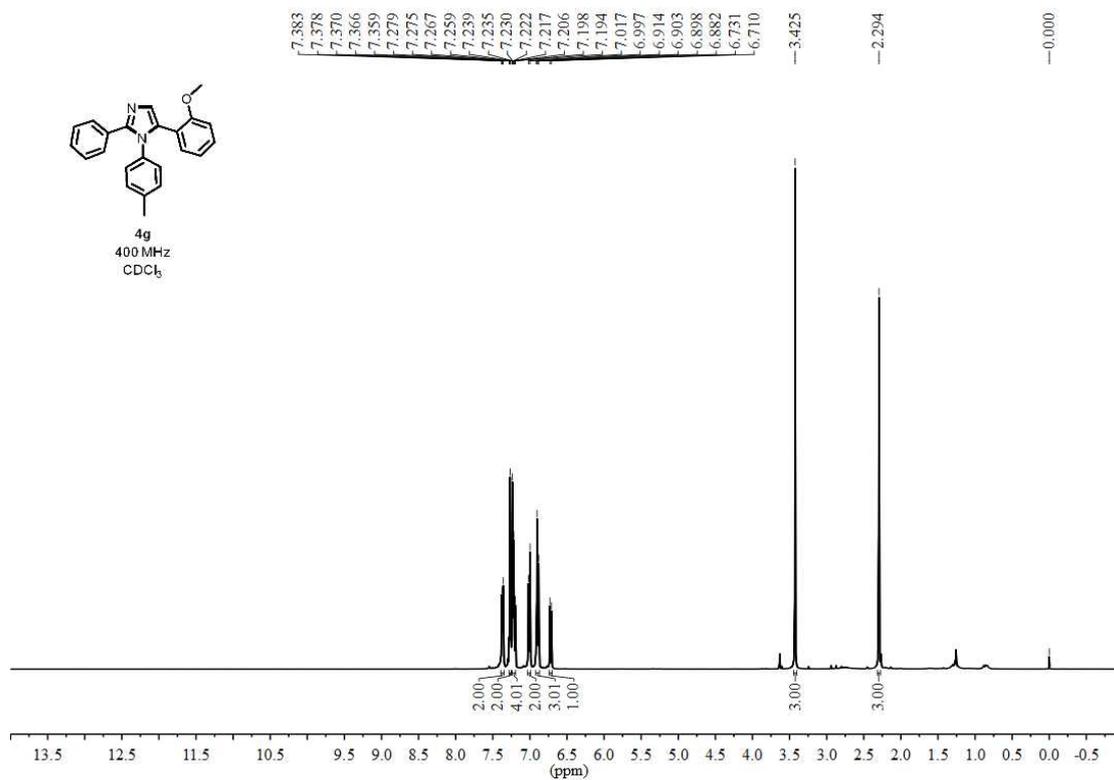


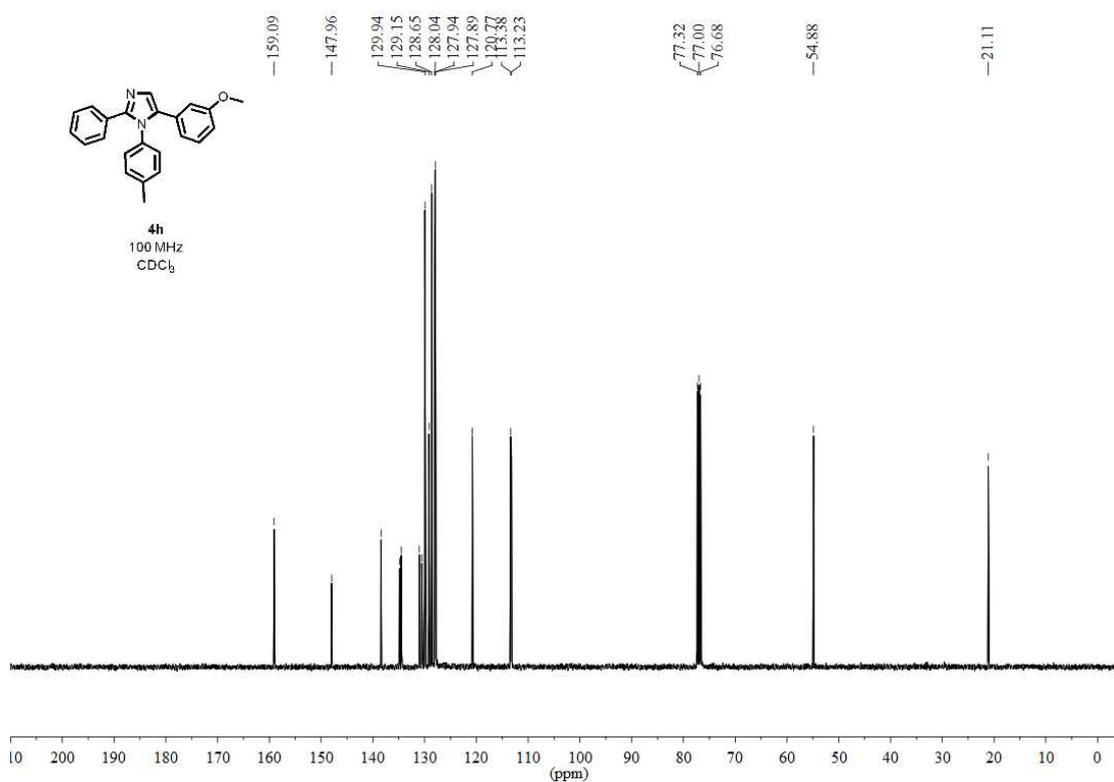
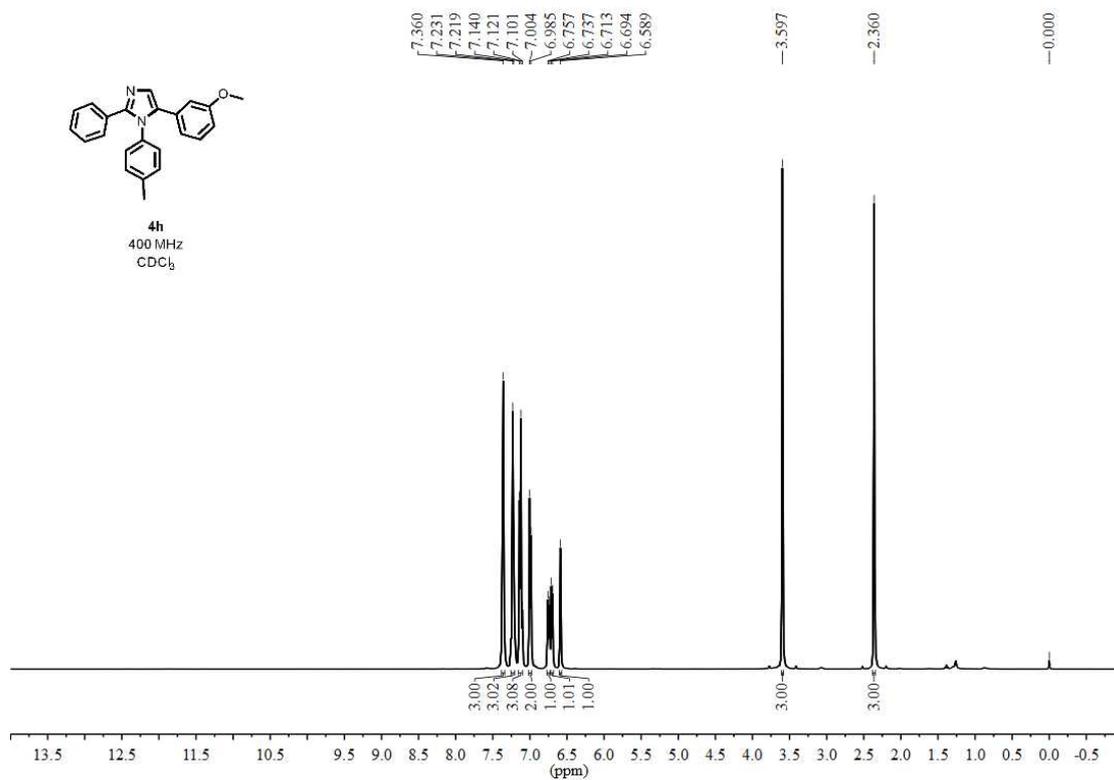


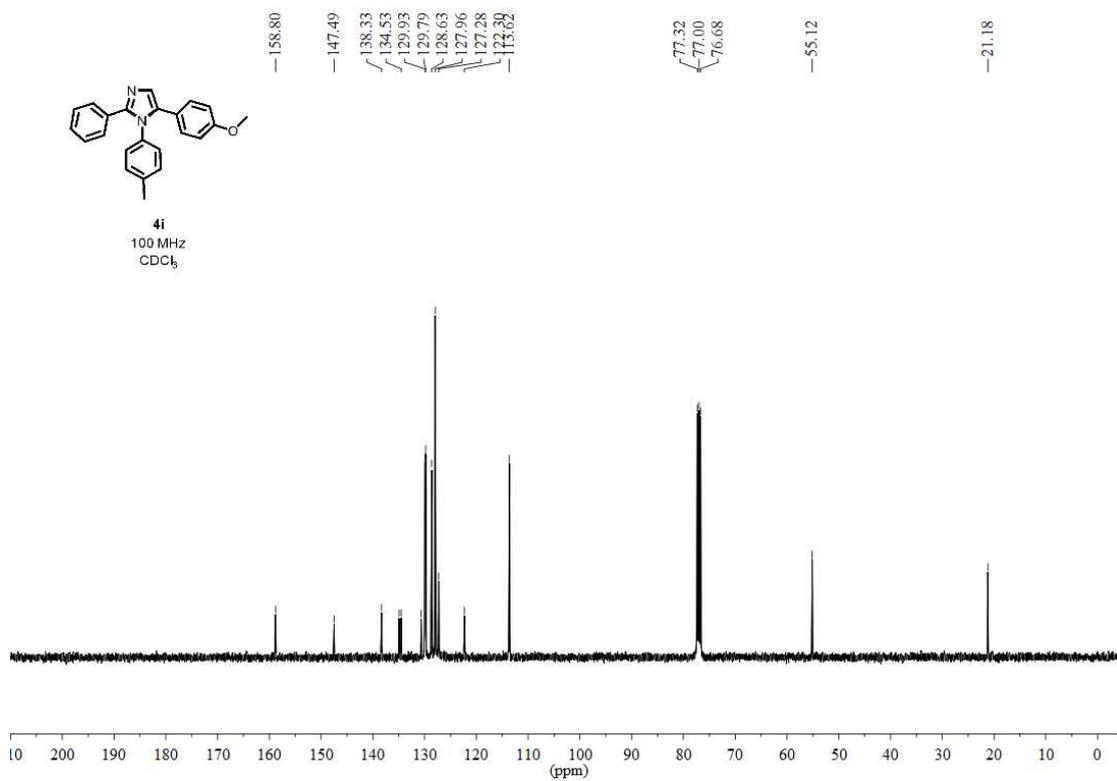
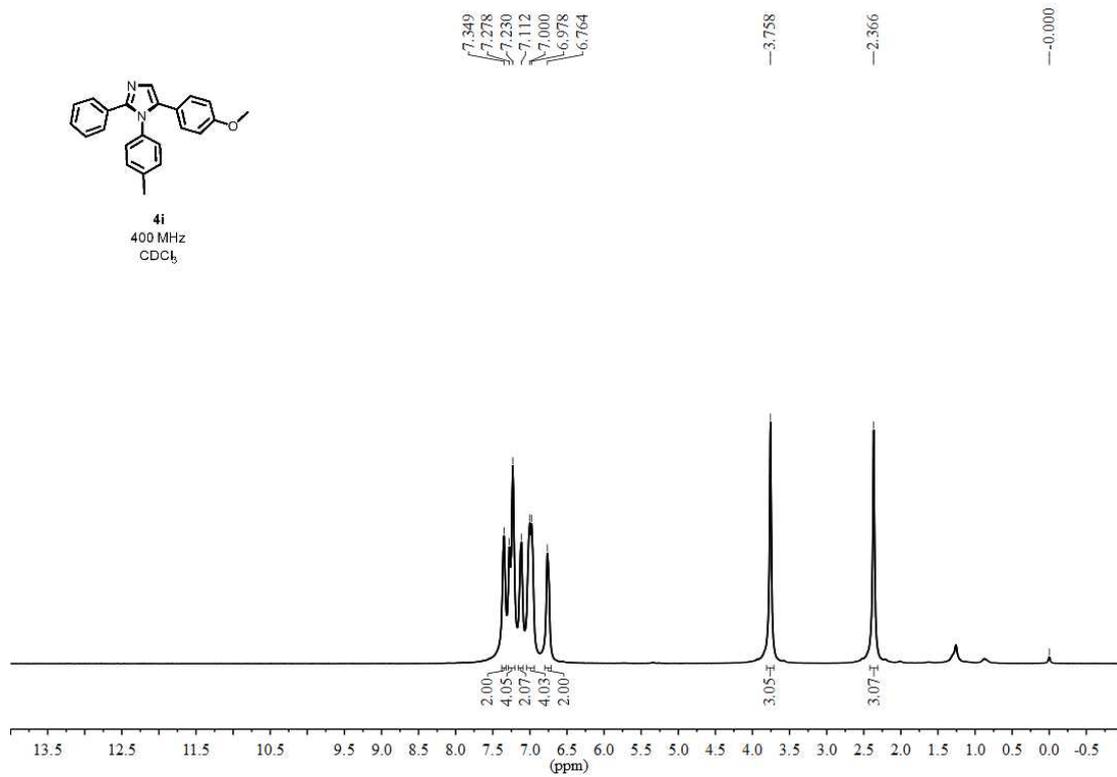


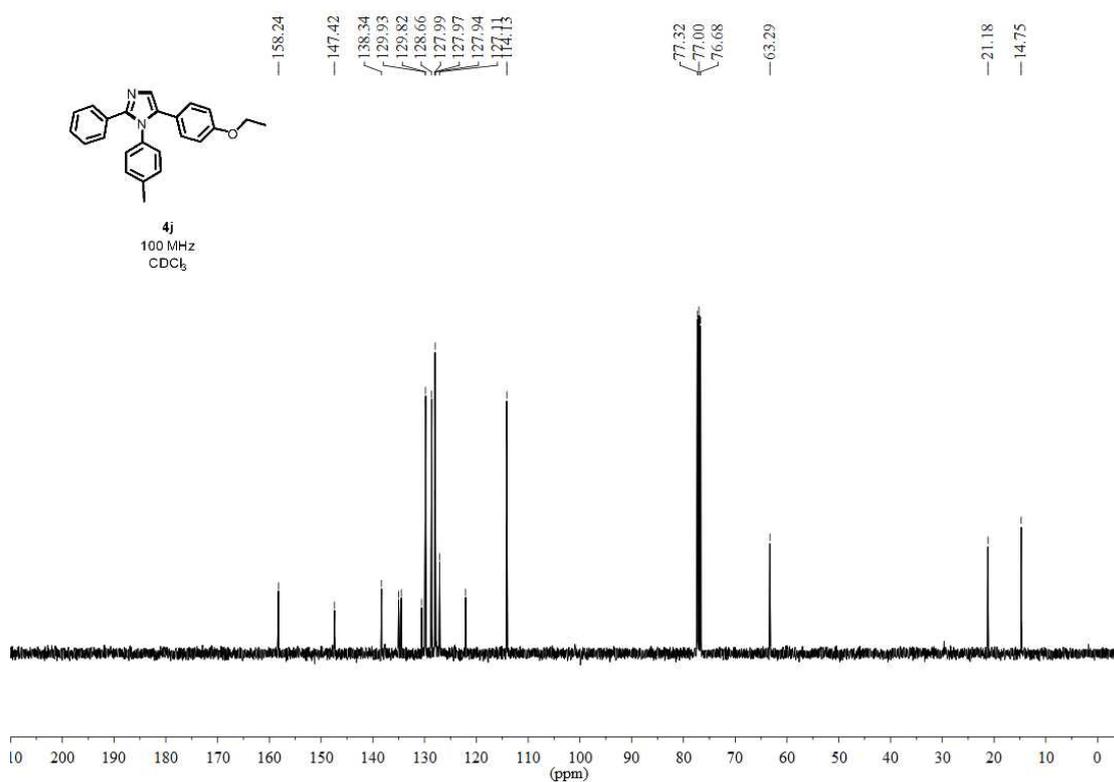
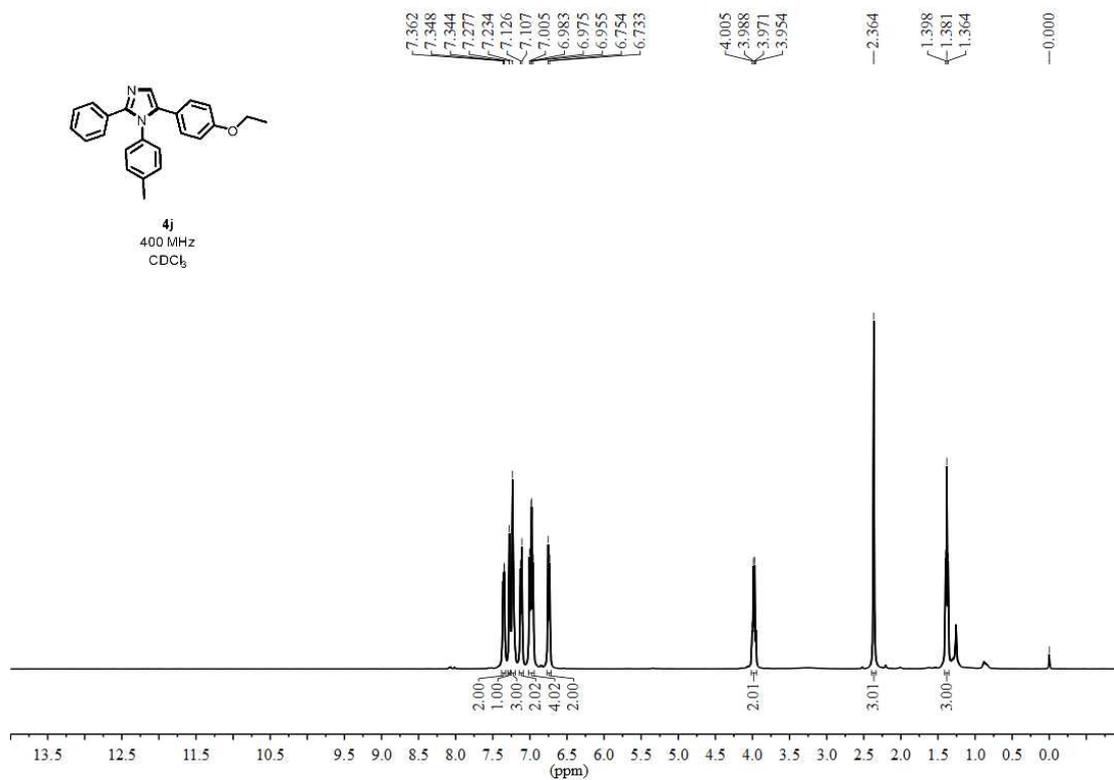


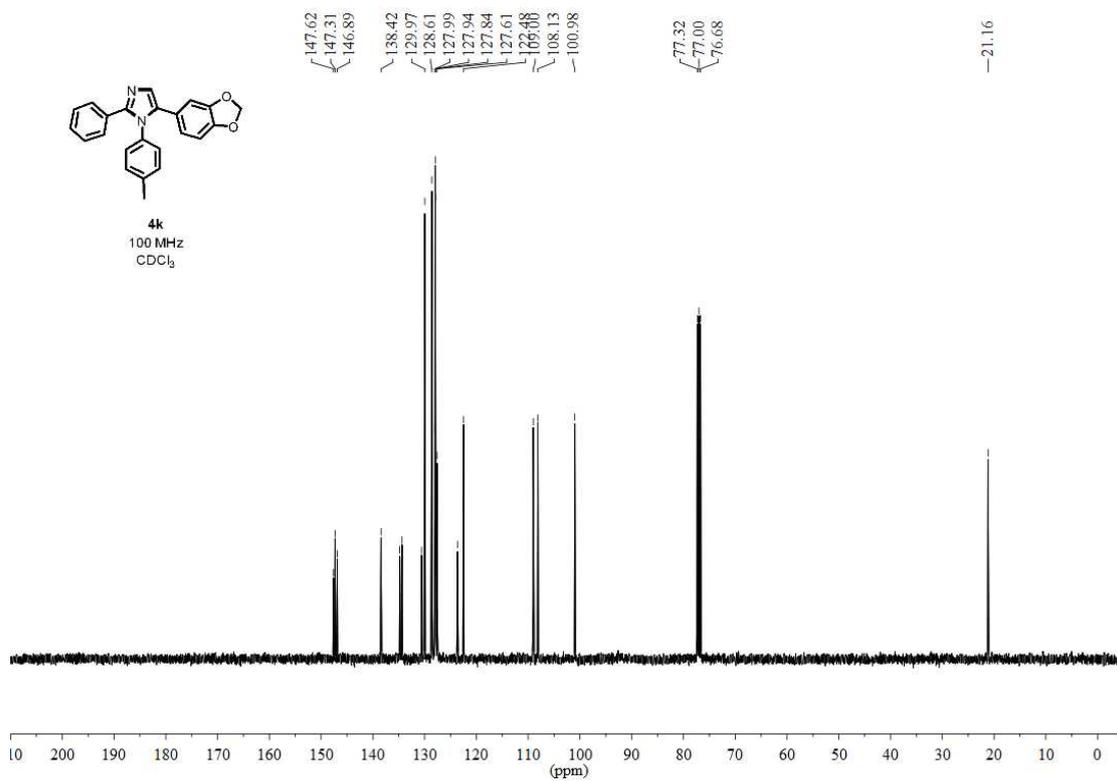
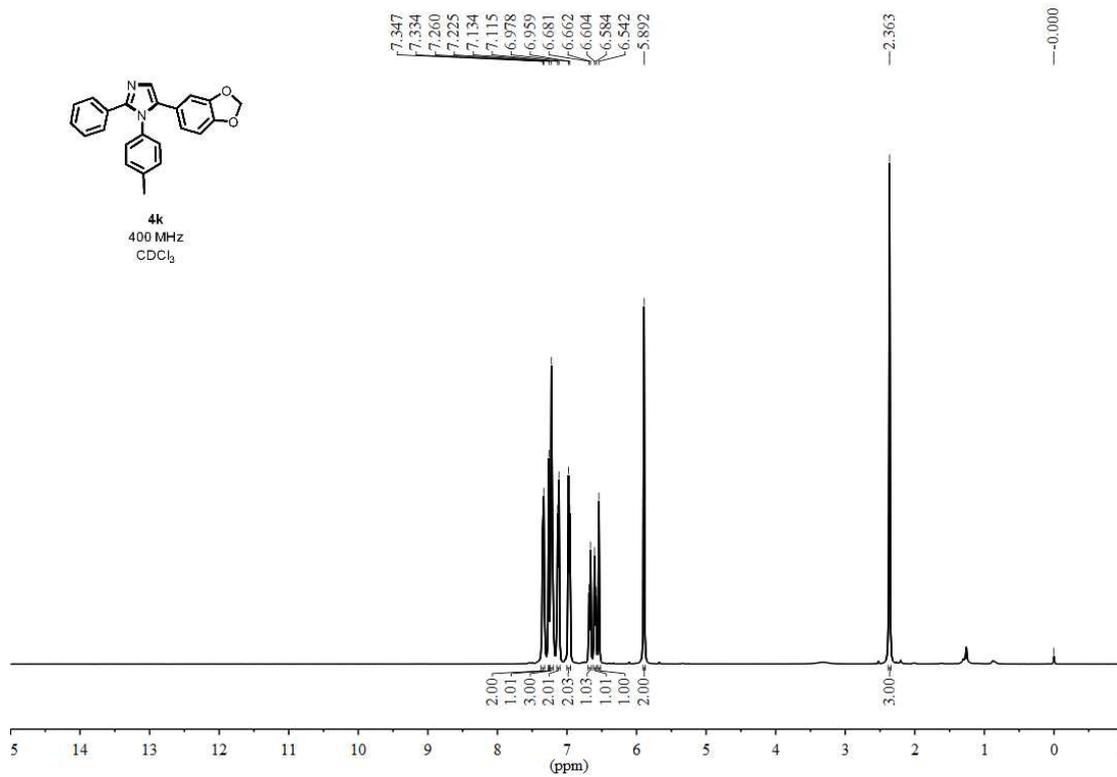


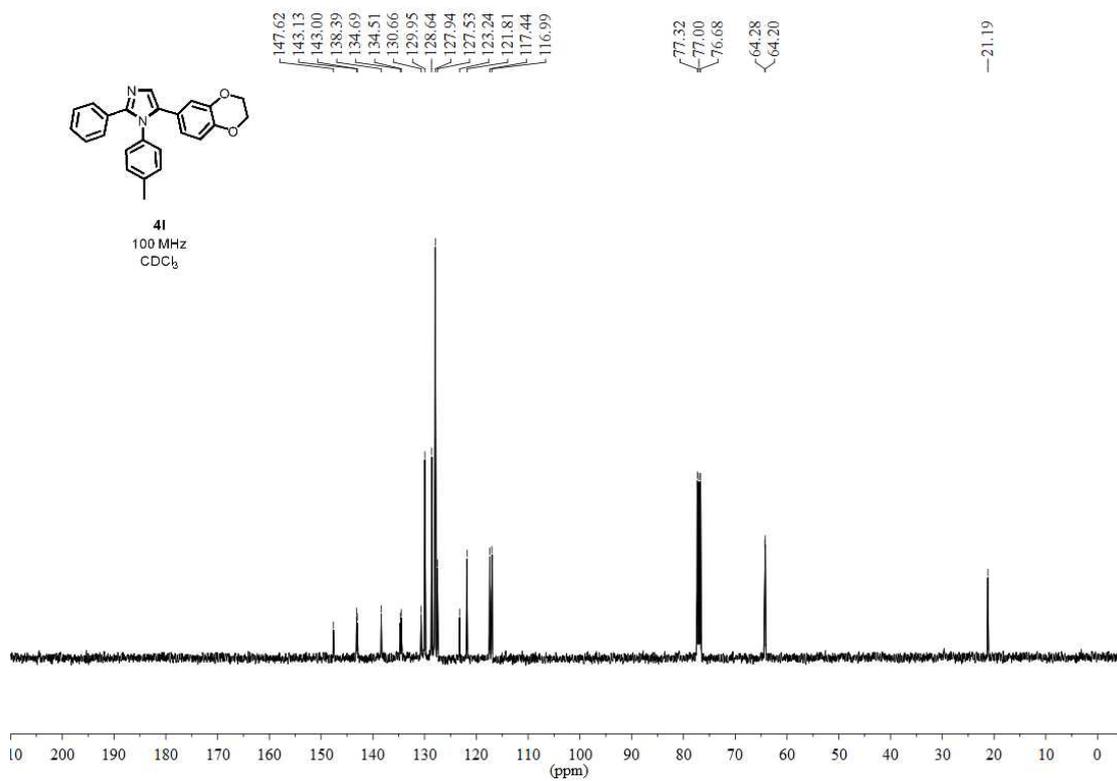
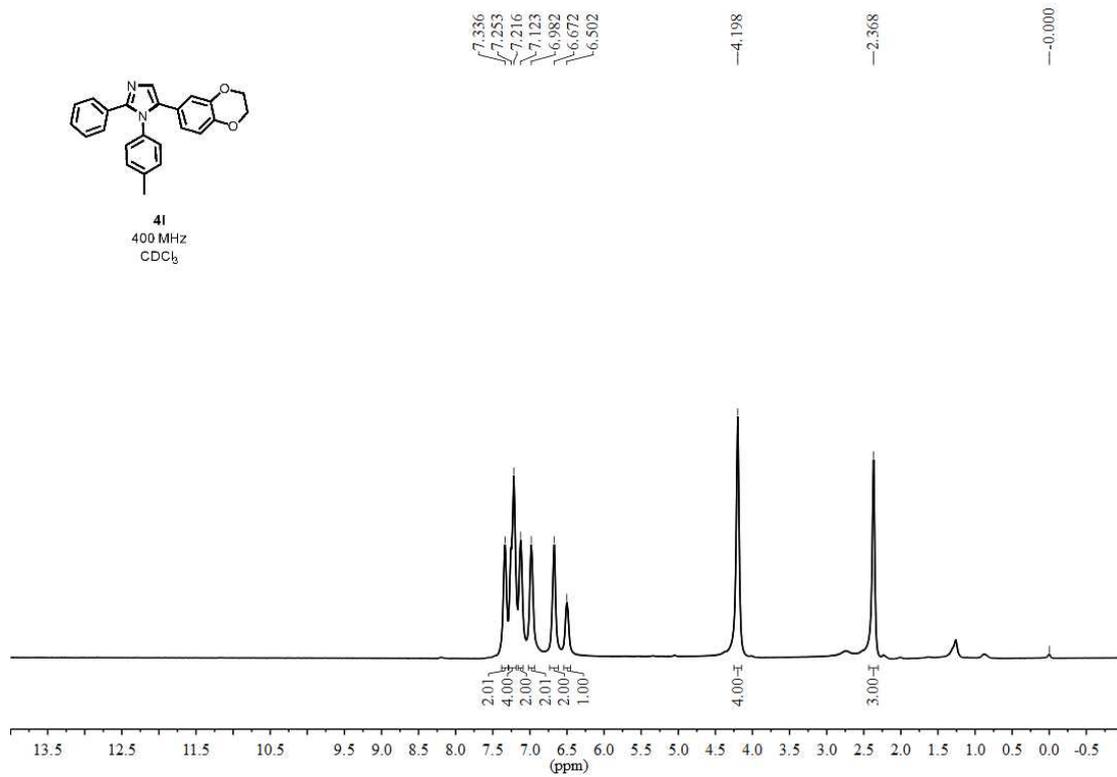


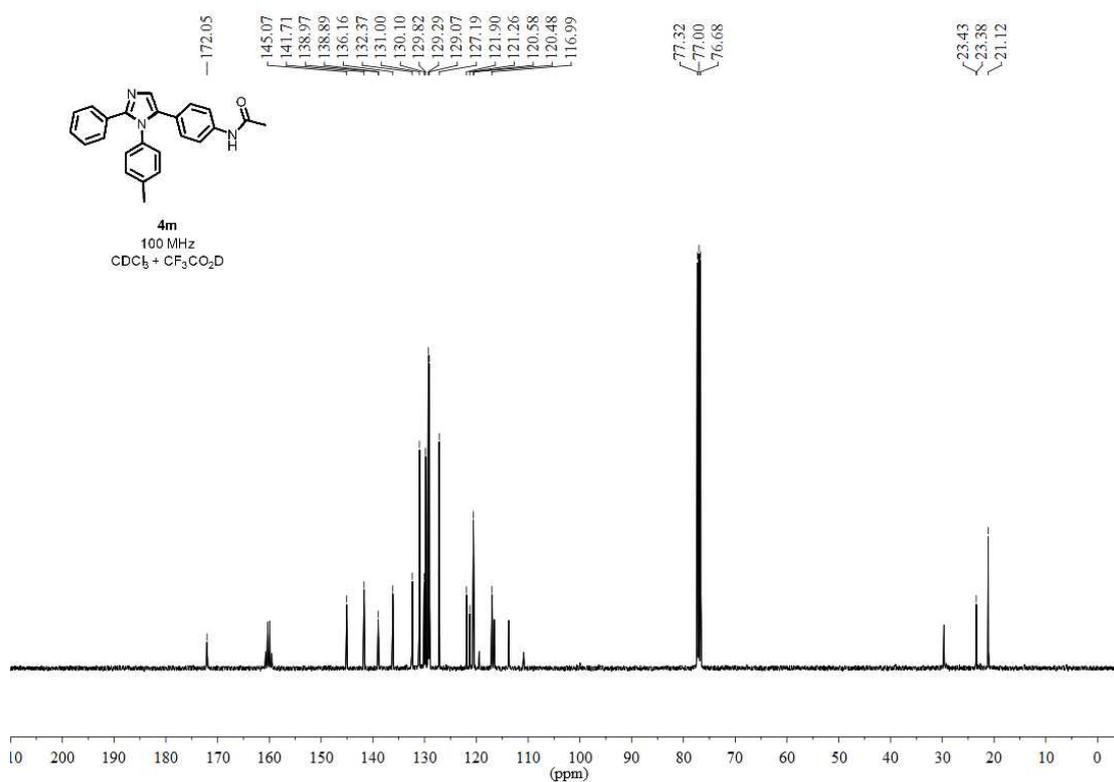
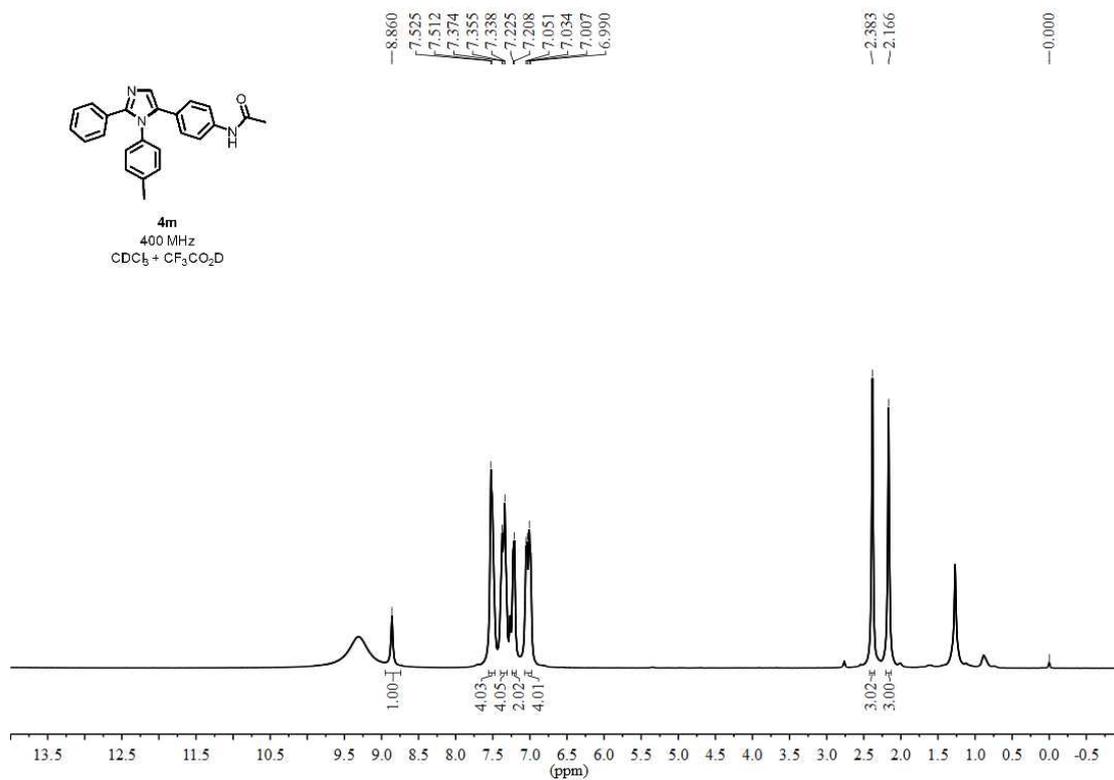


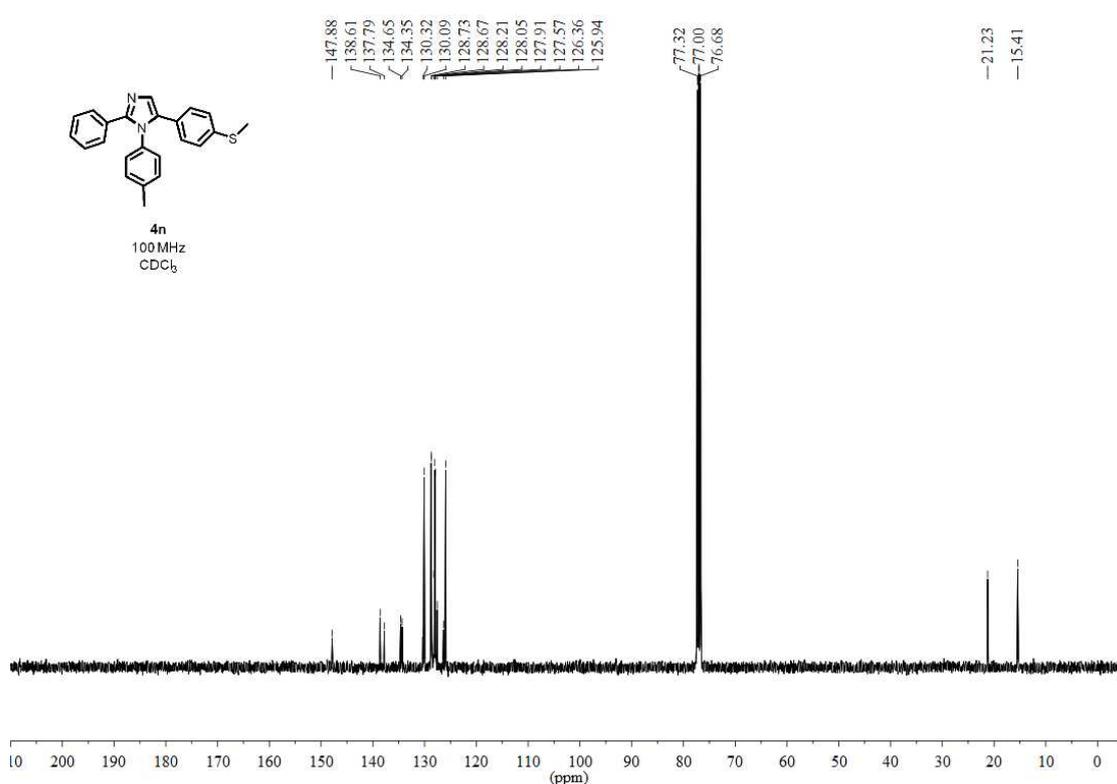
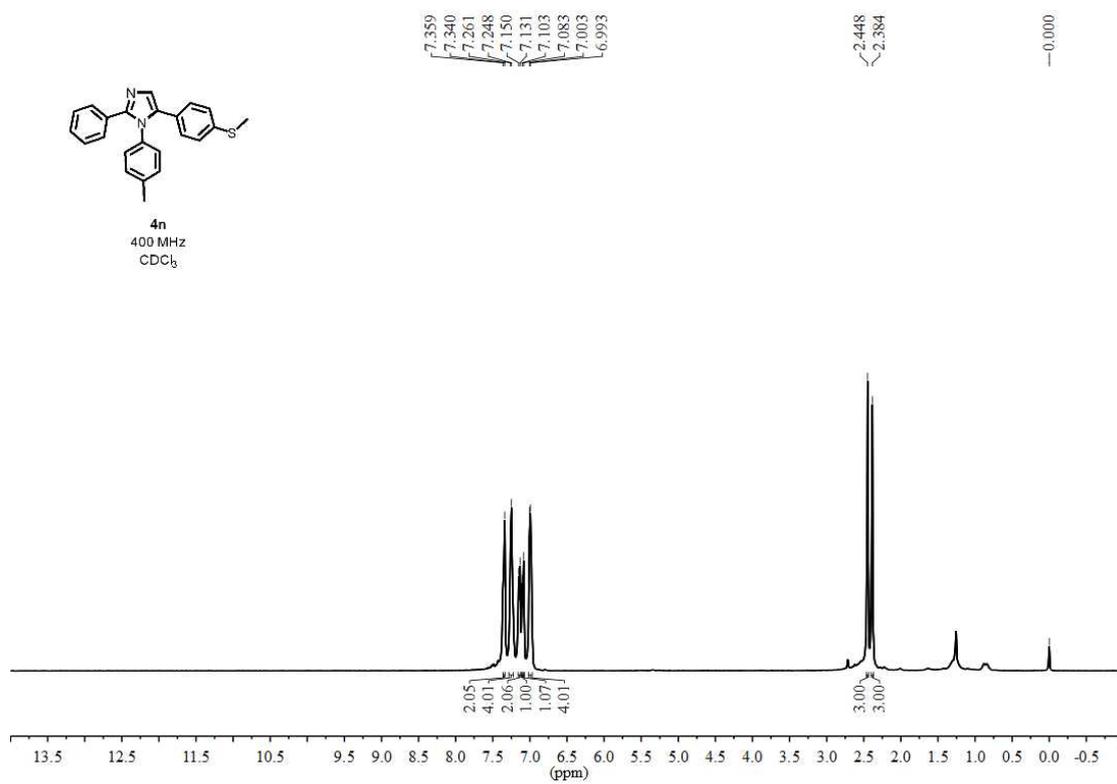


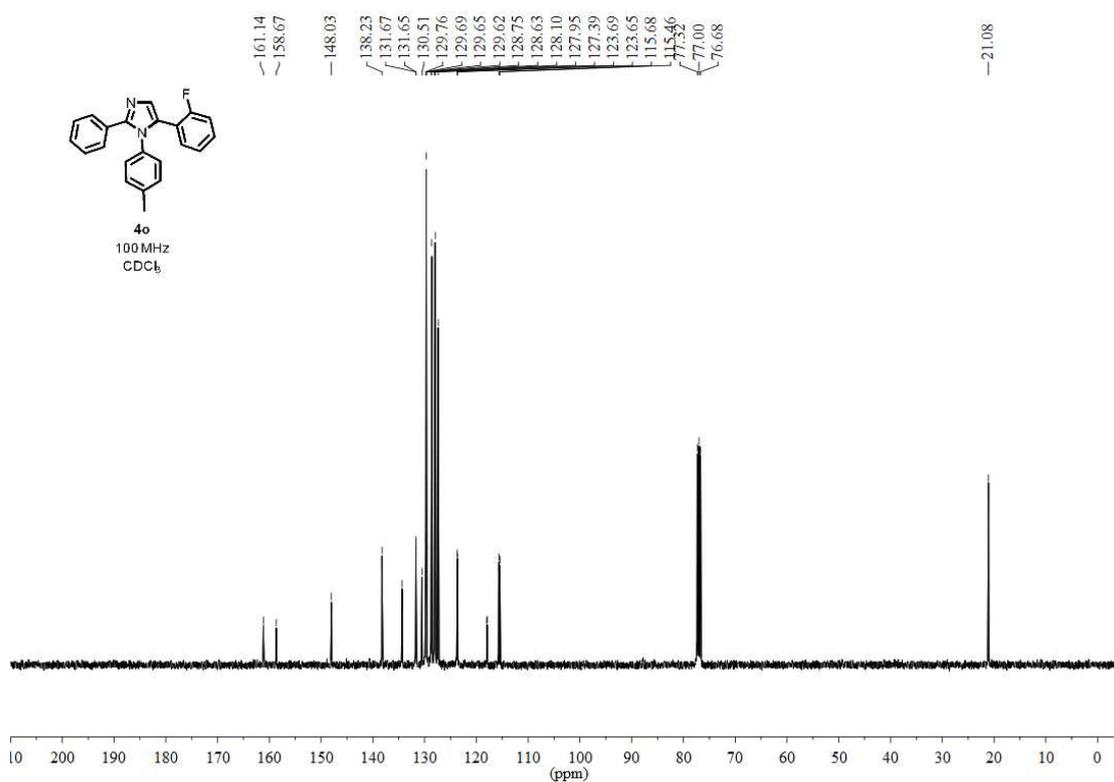
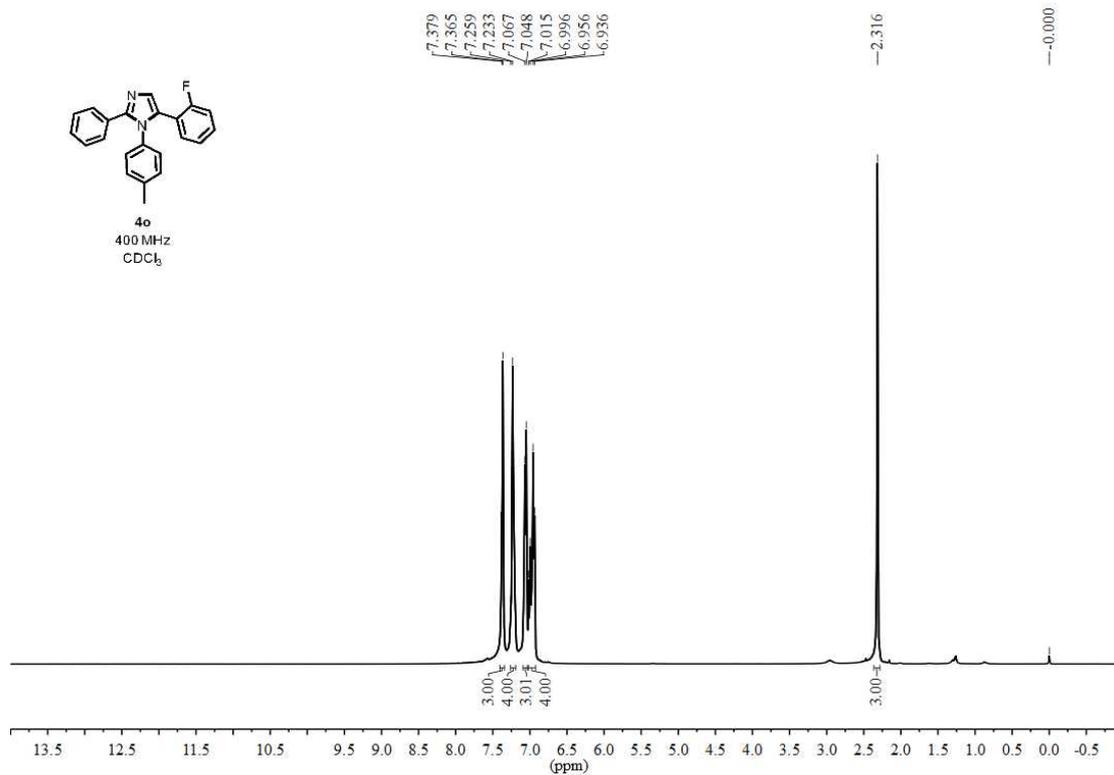


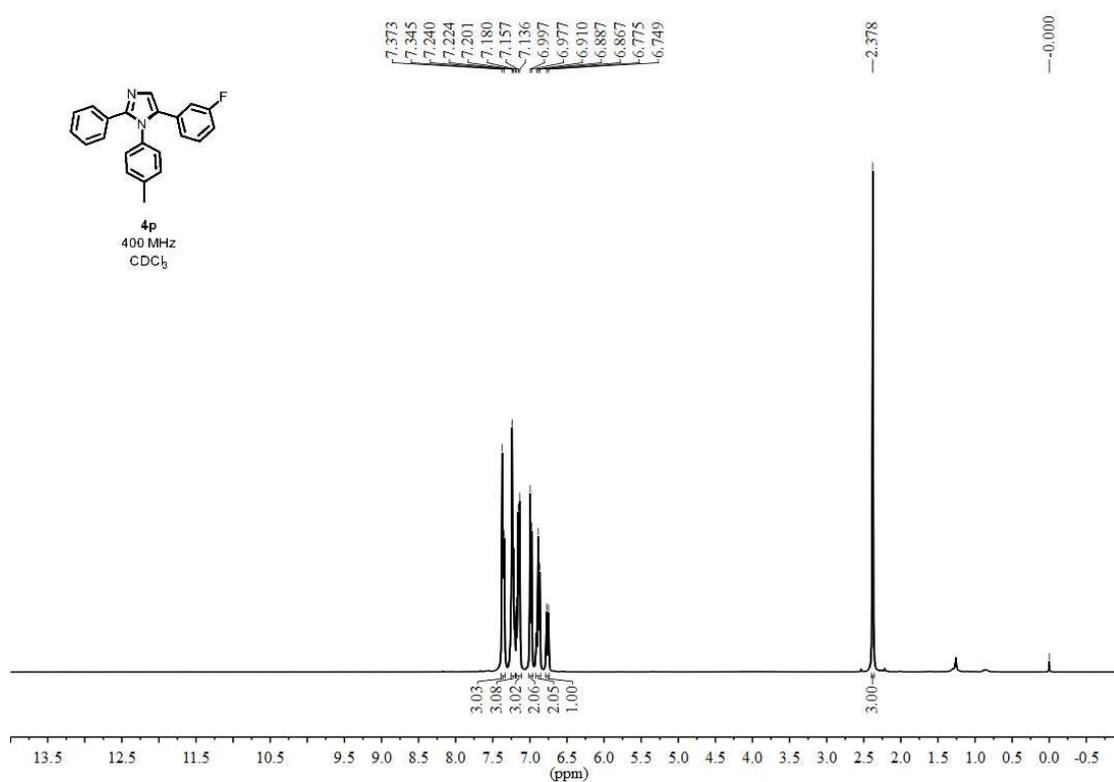
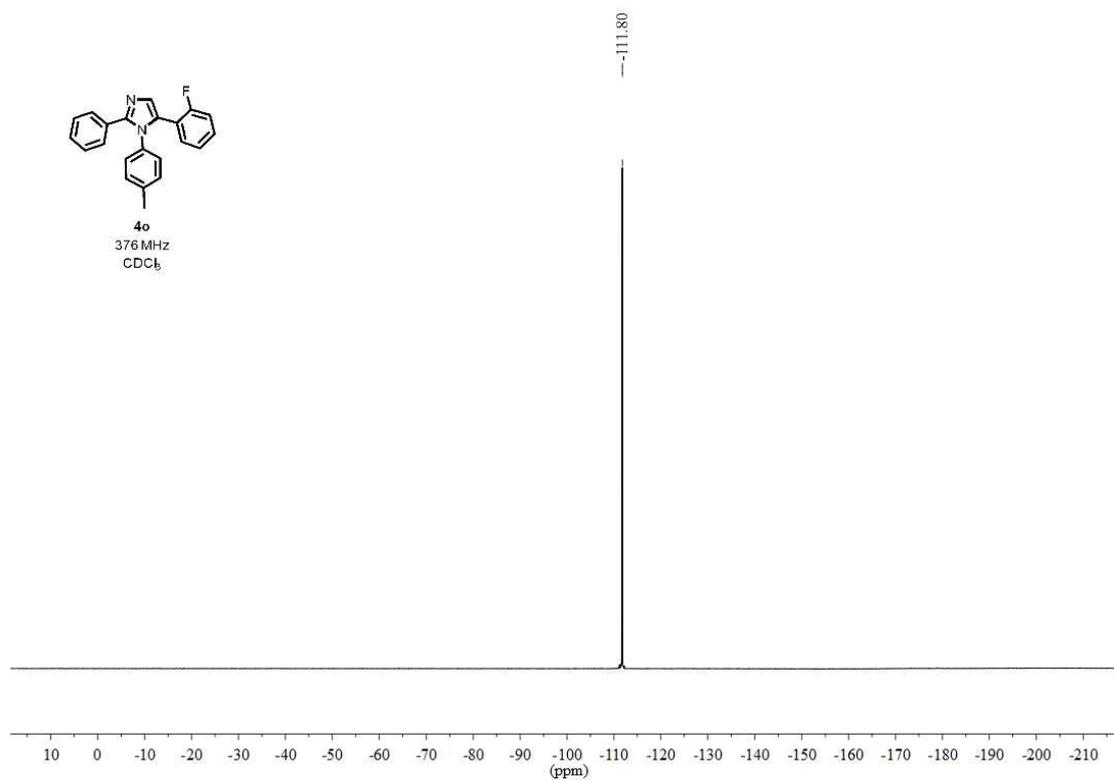


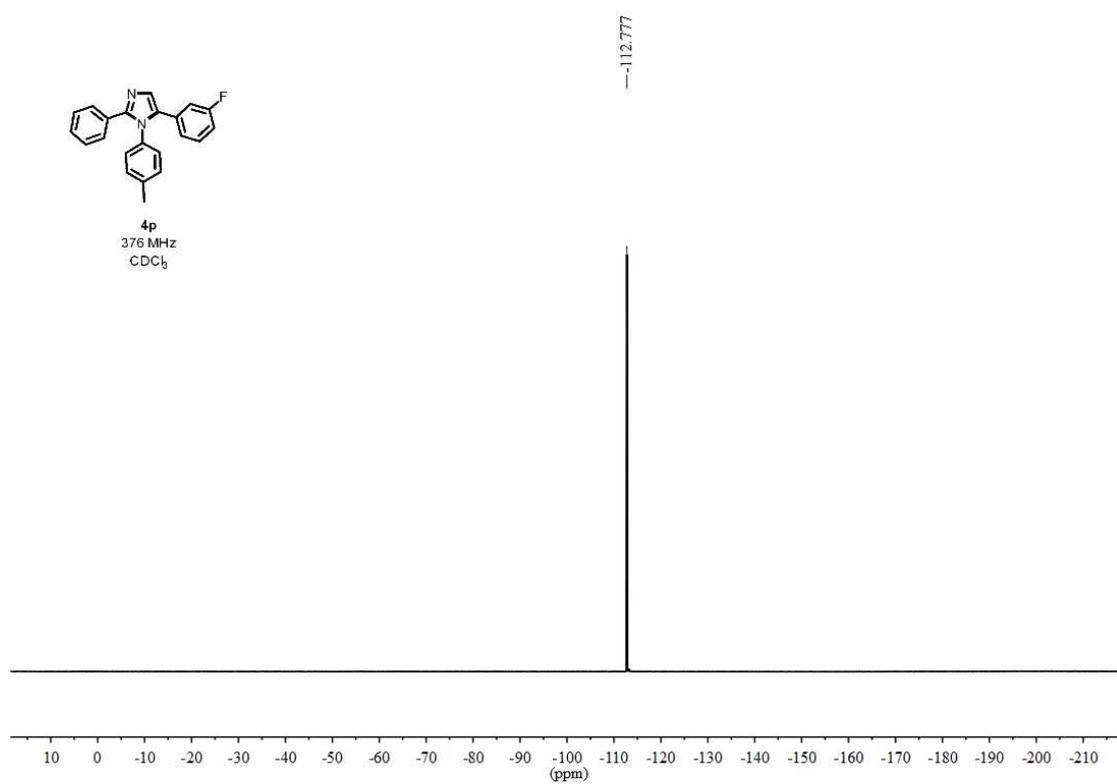
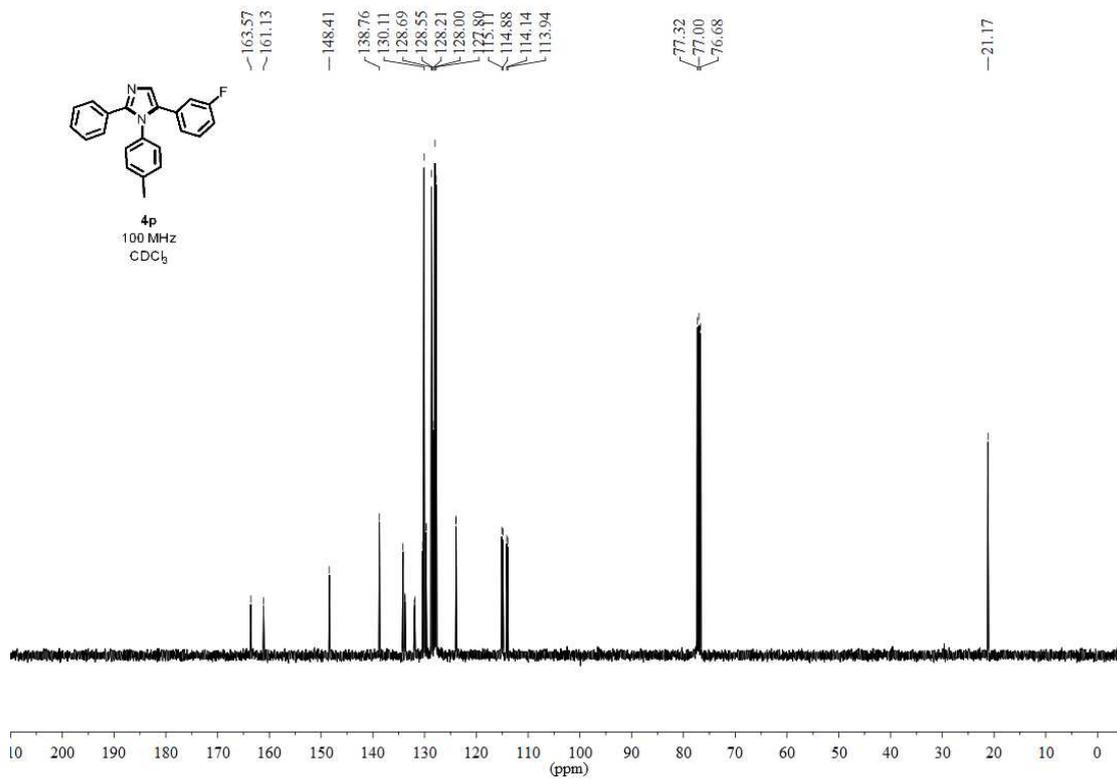


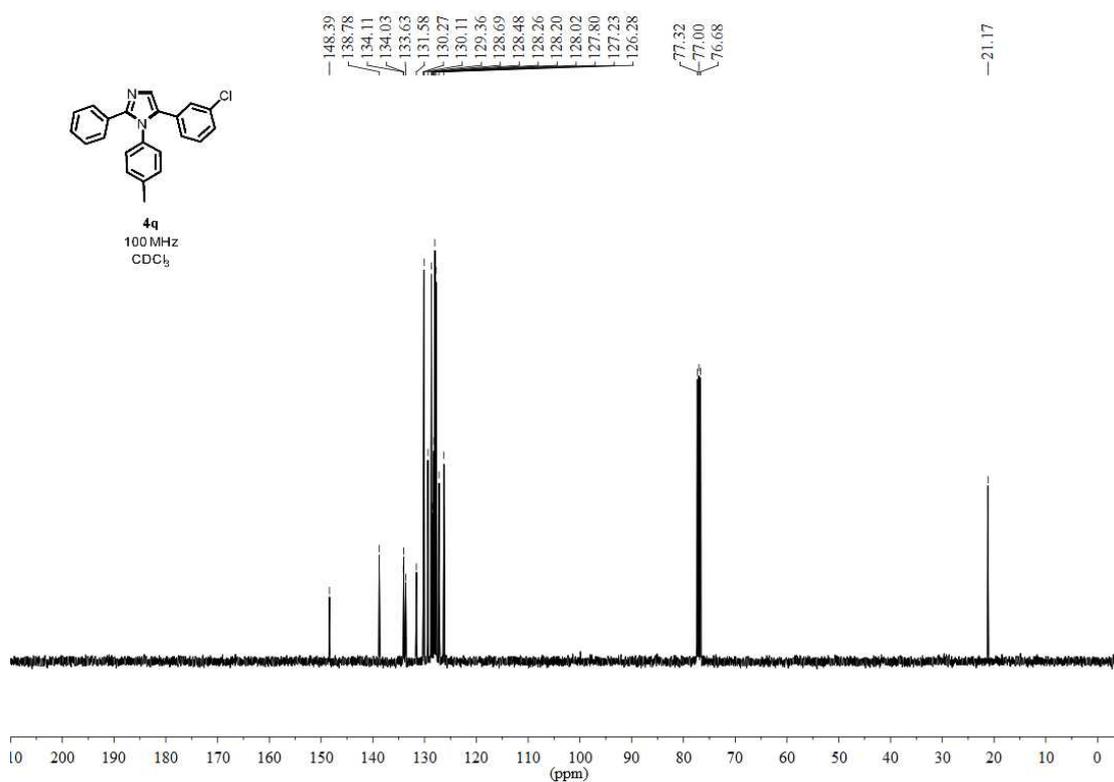
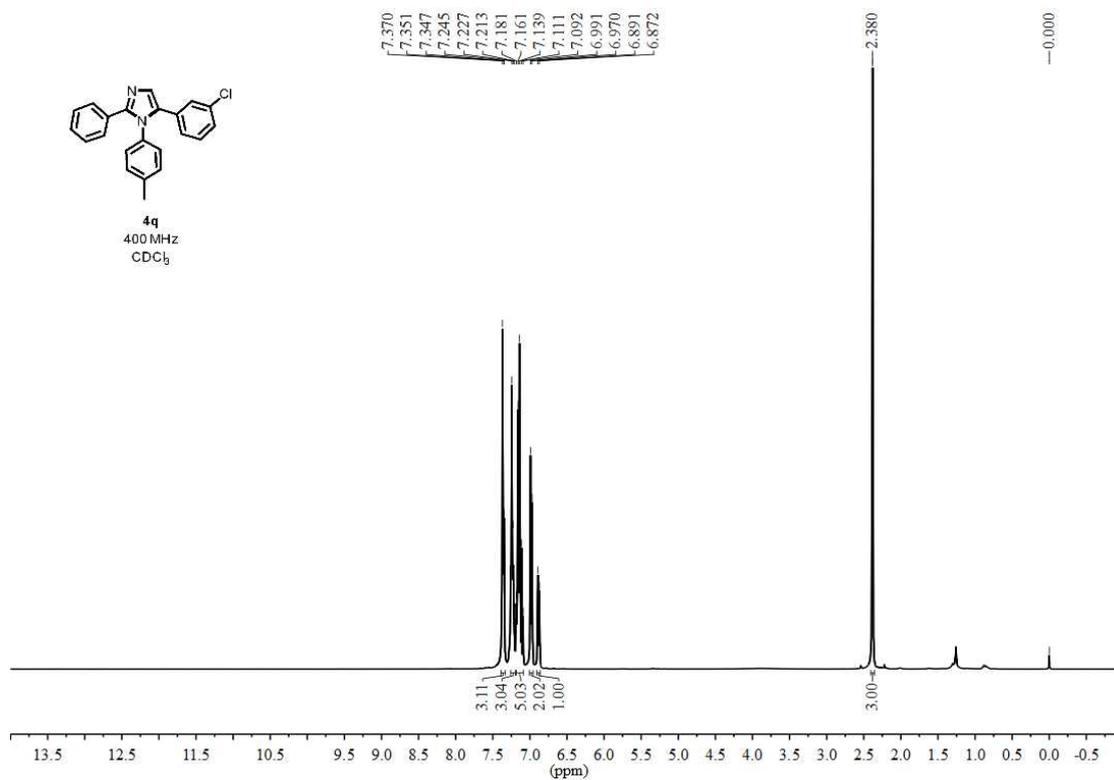


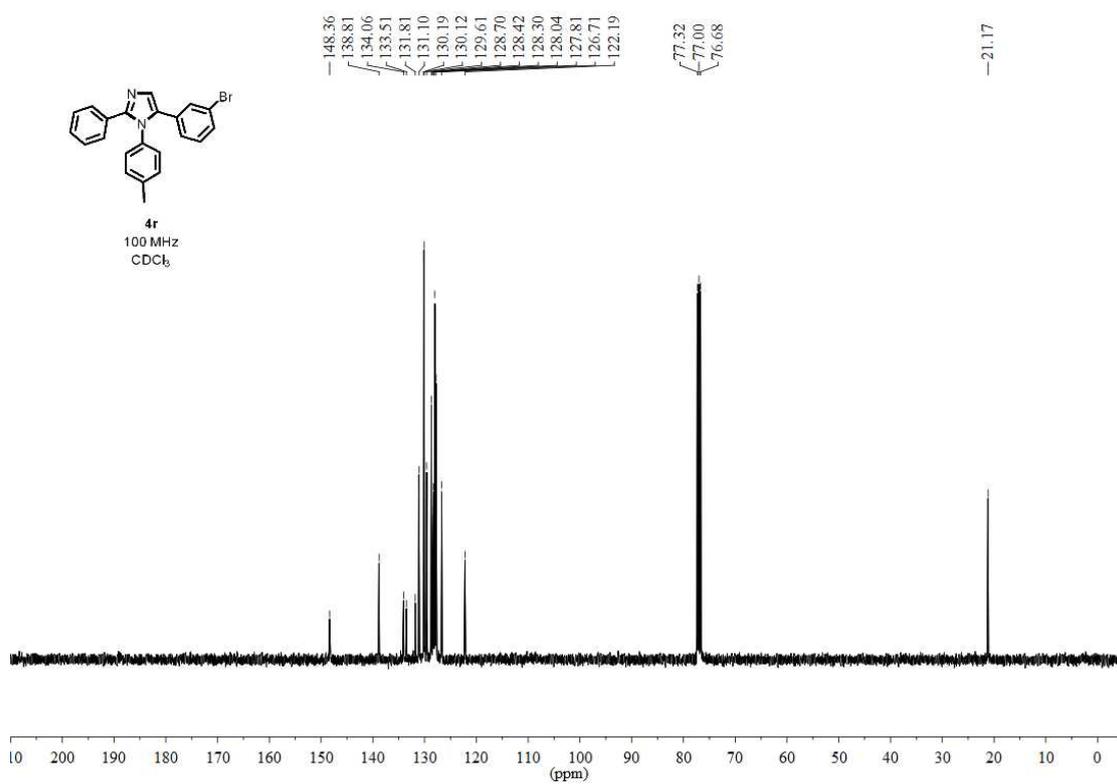
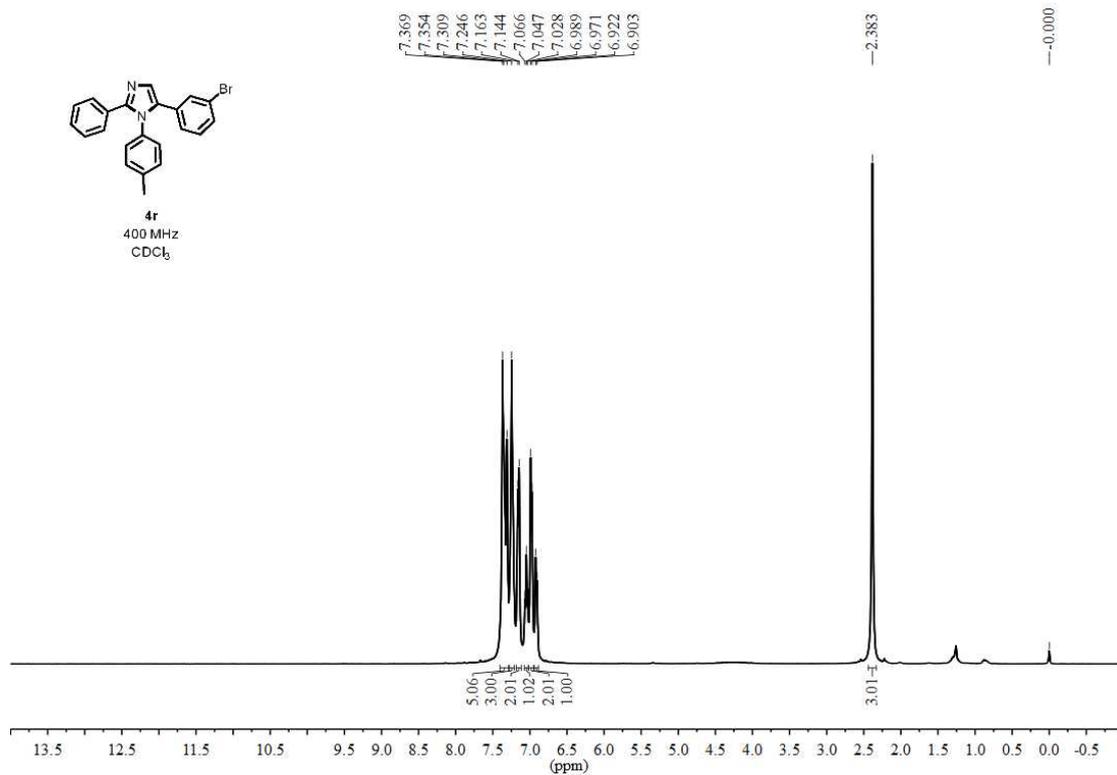


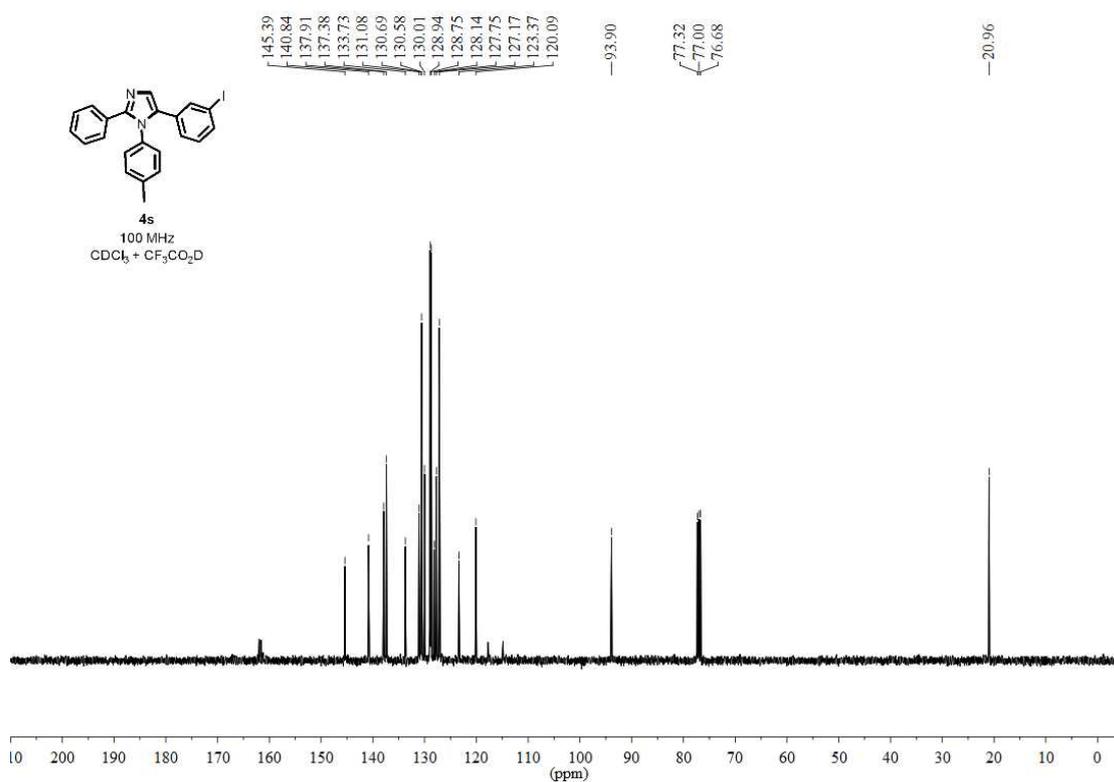
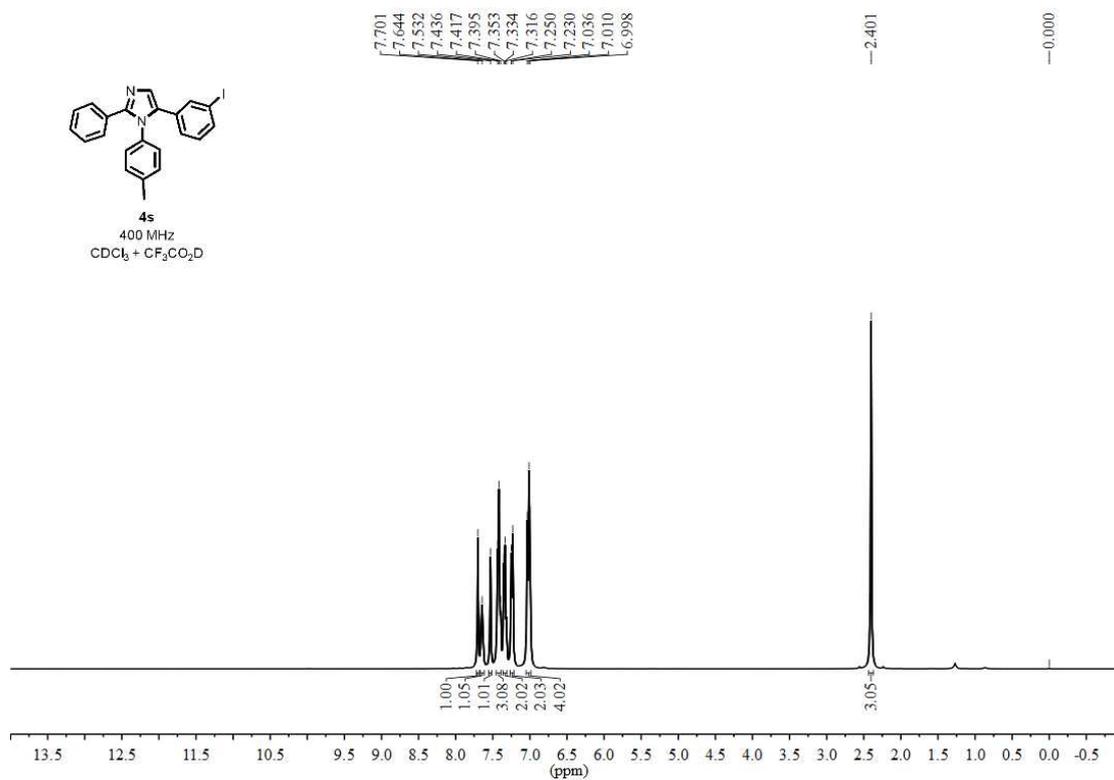


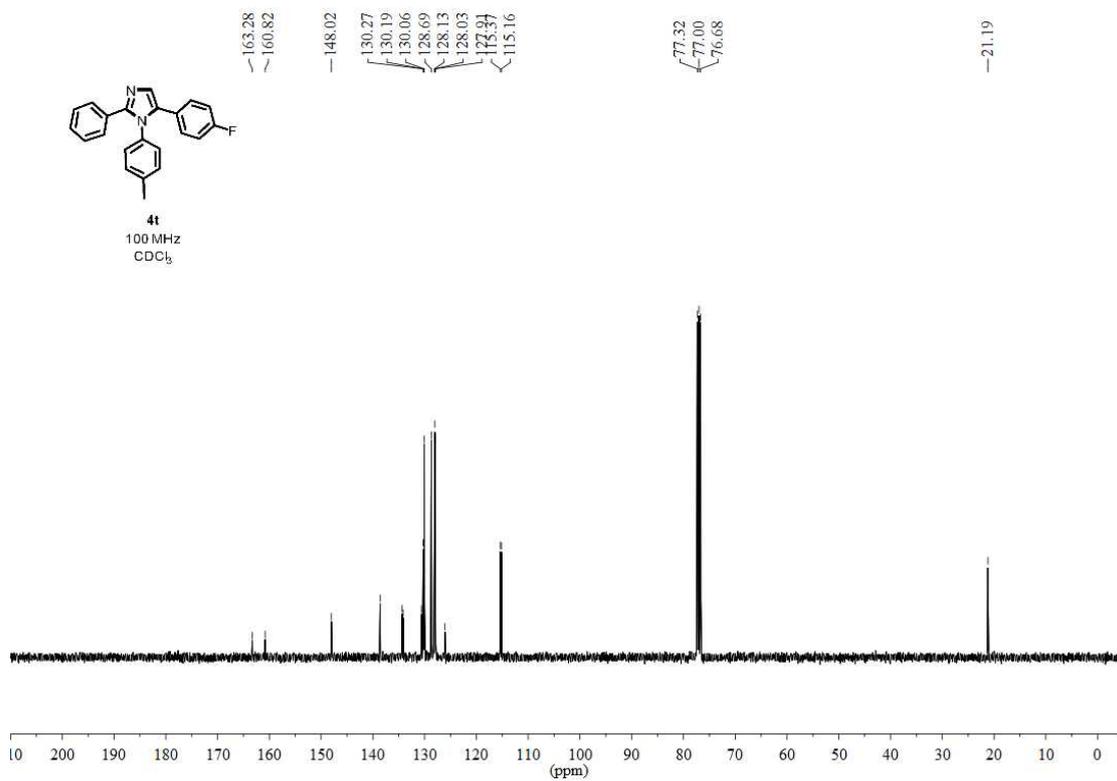
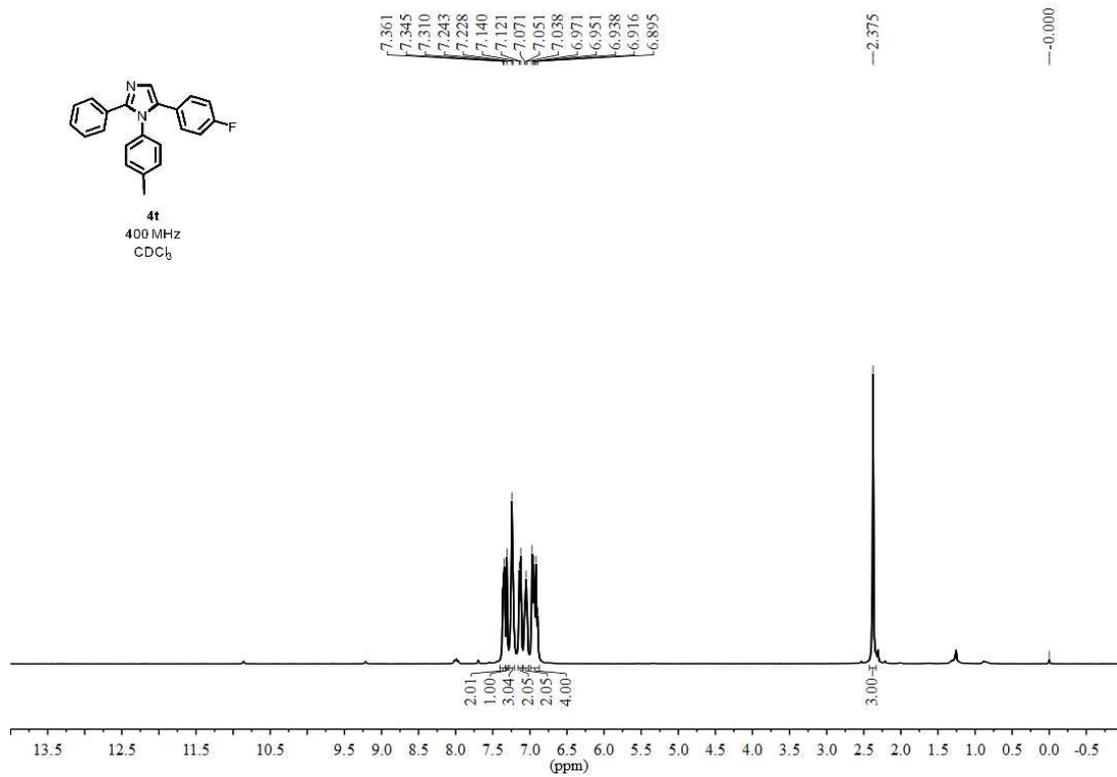


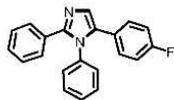




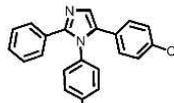
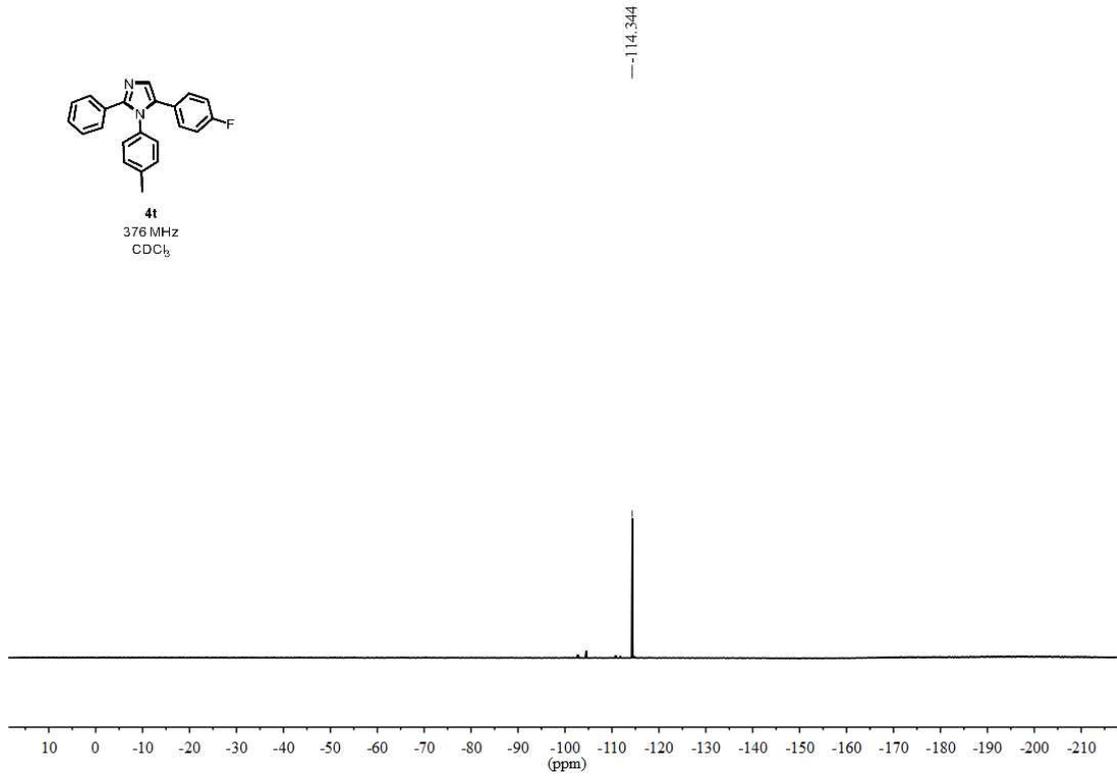




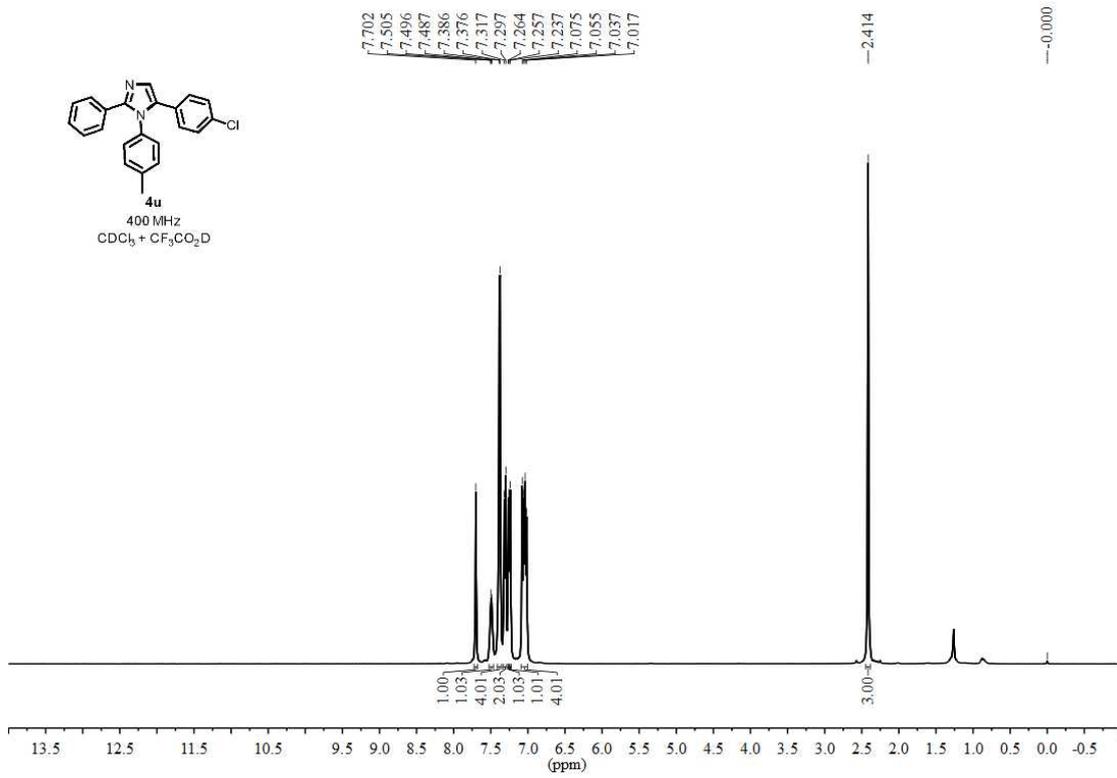


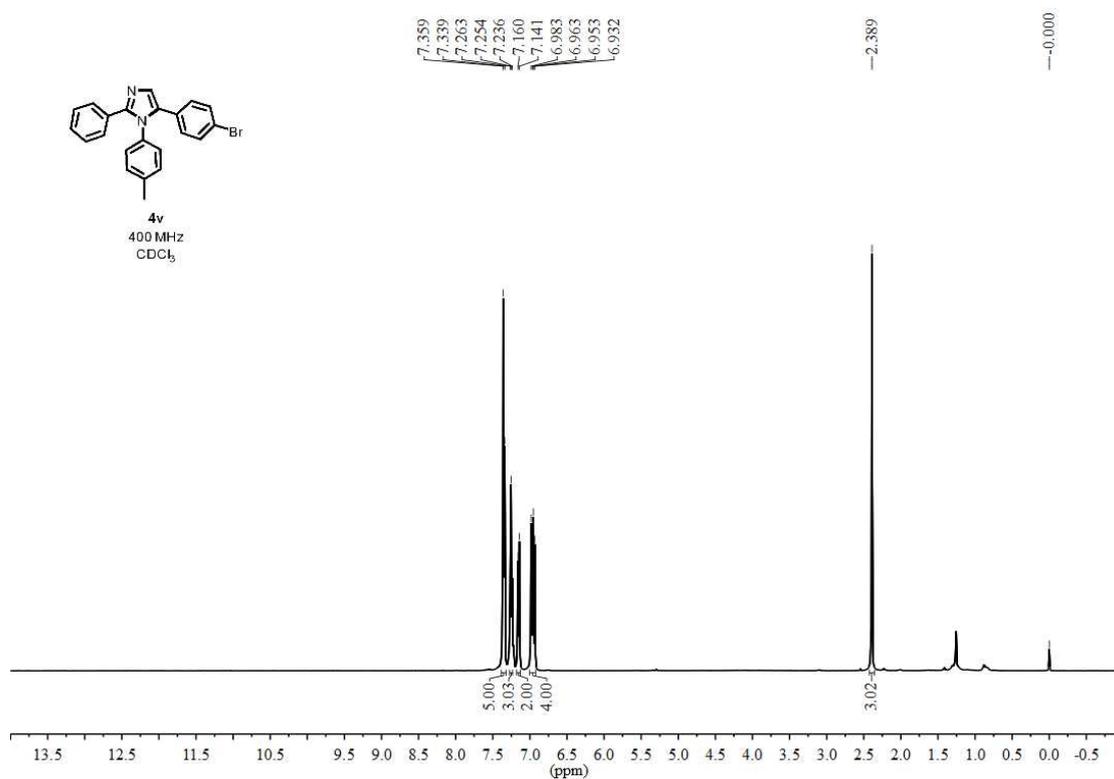
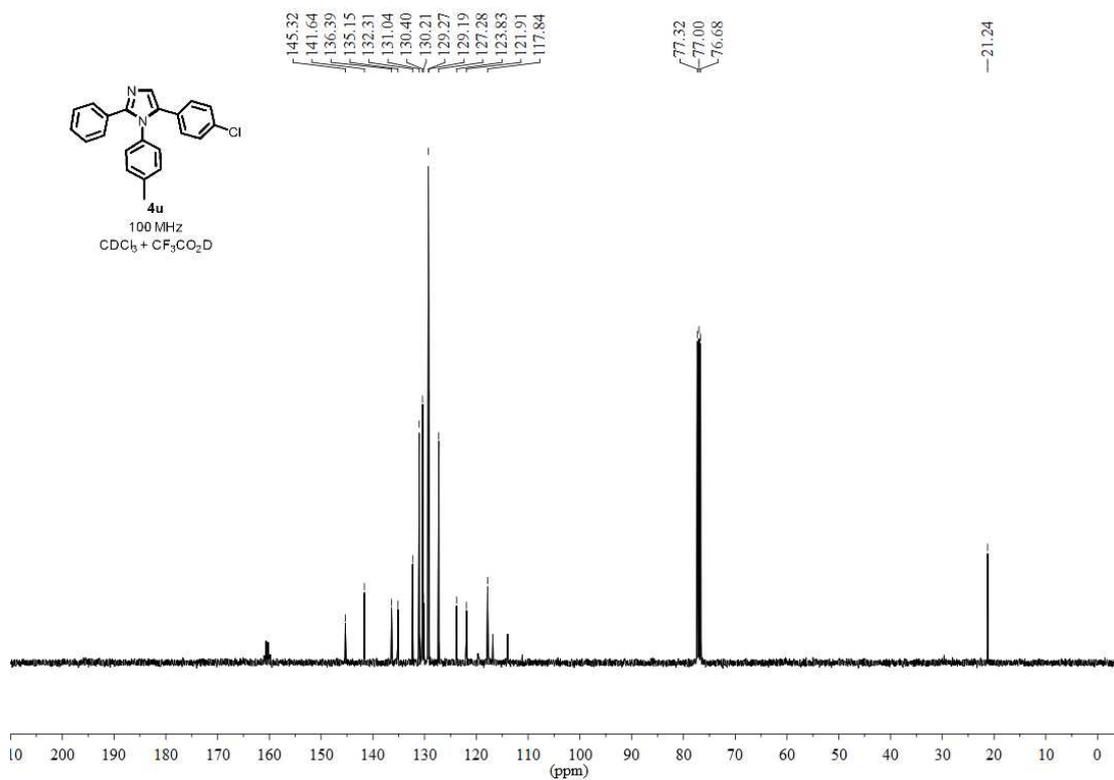


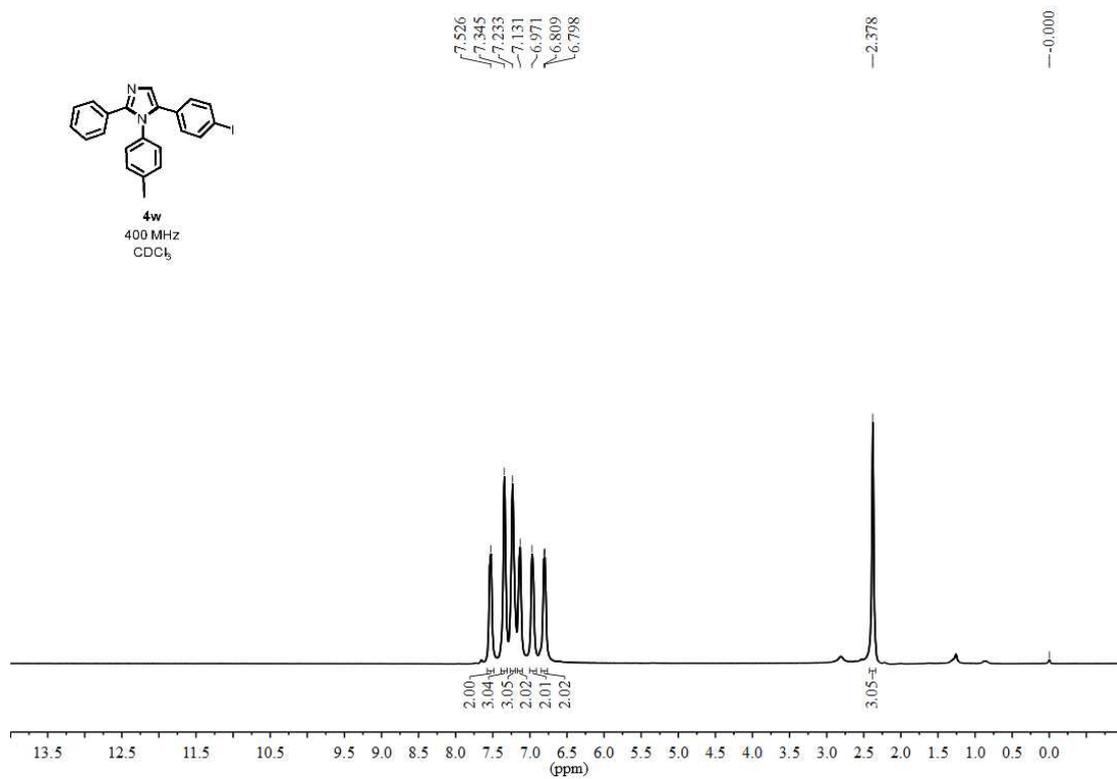
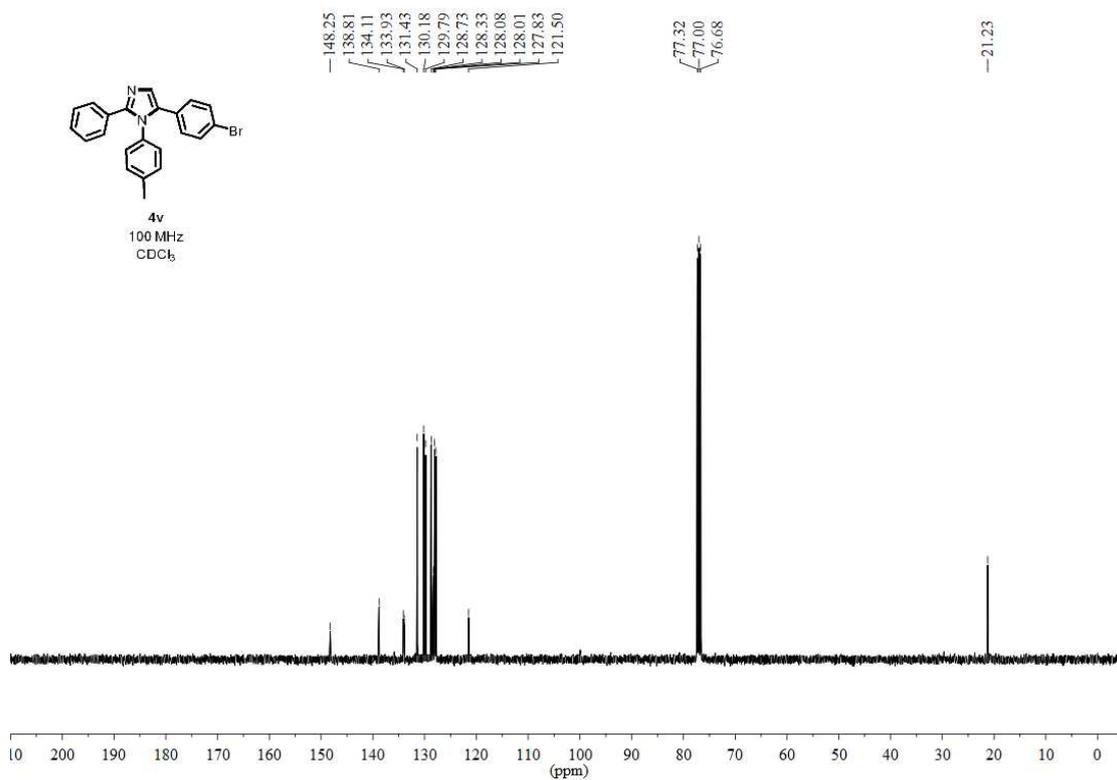
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CDCl₃

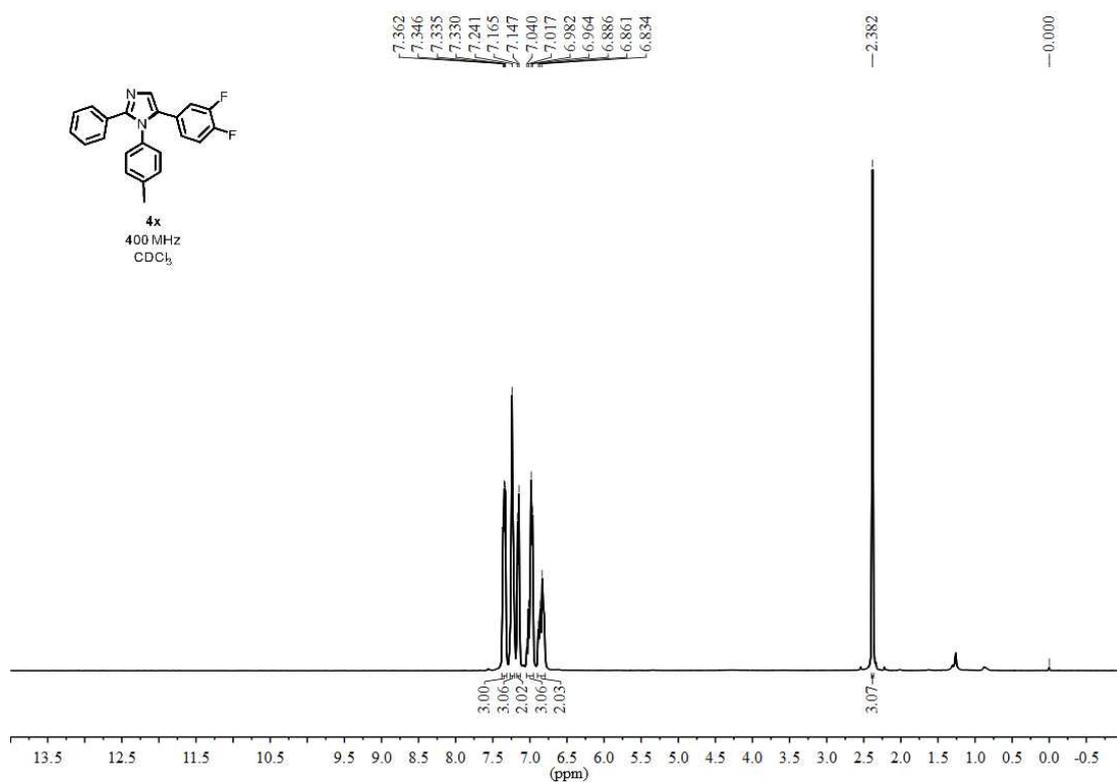
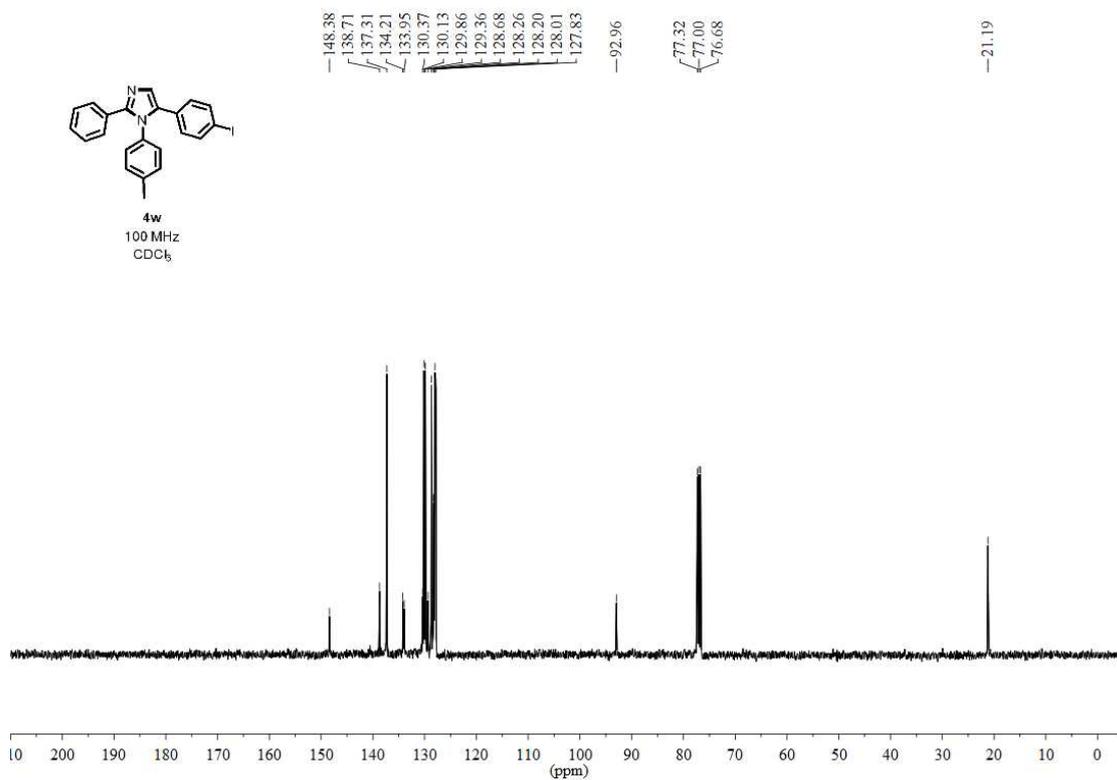


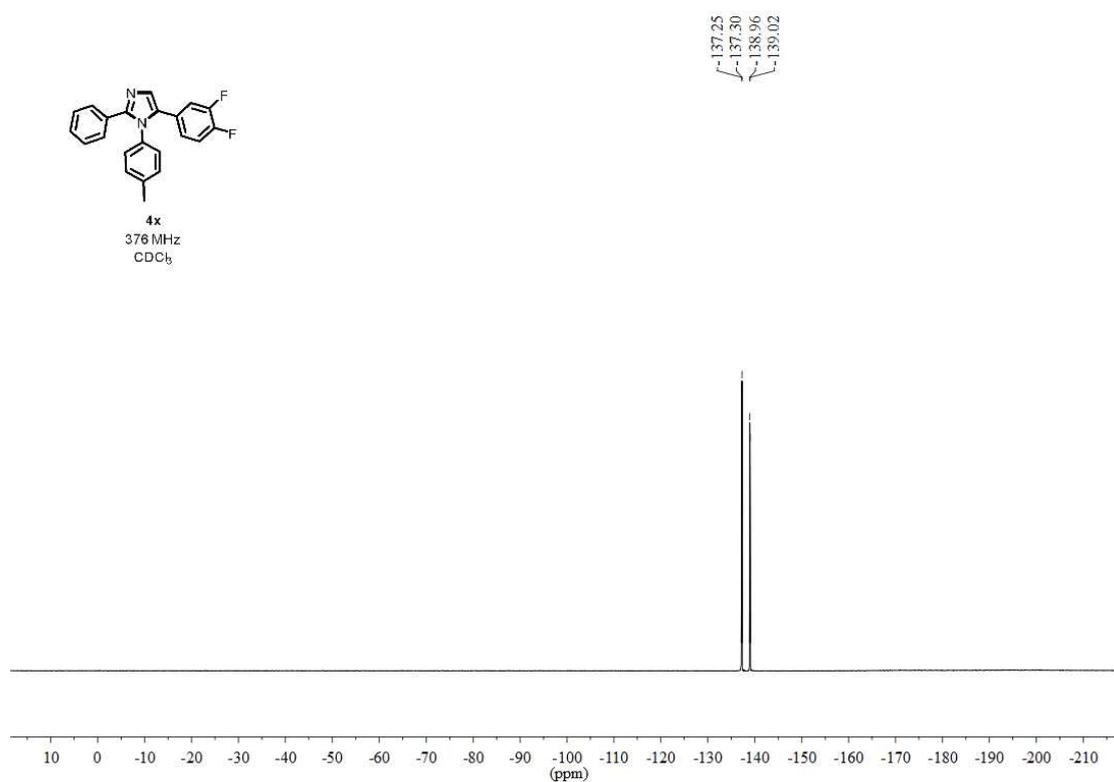
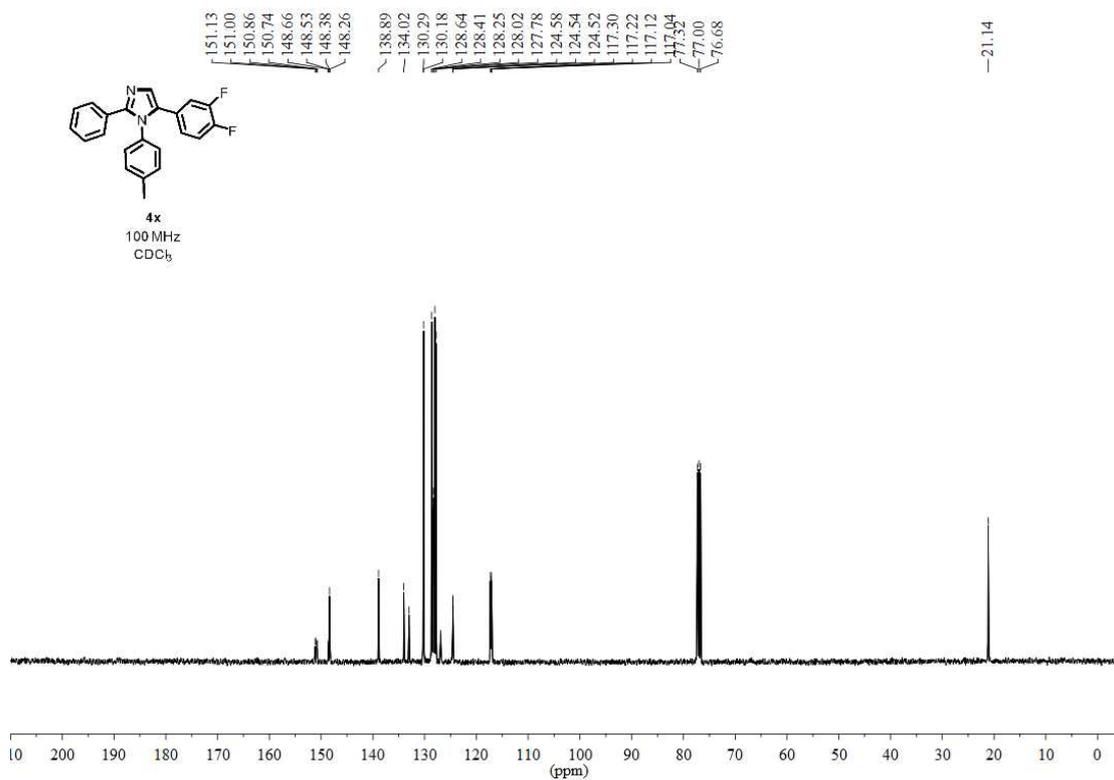
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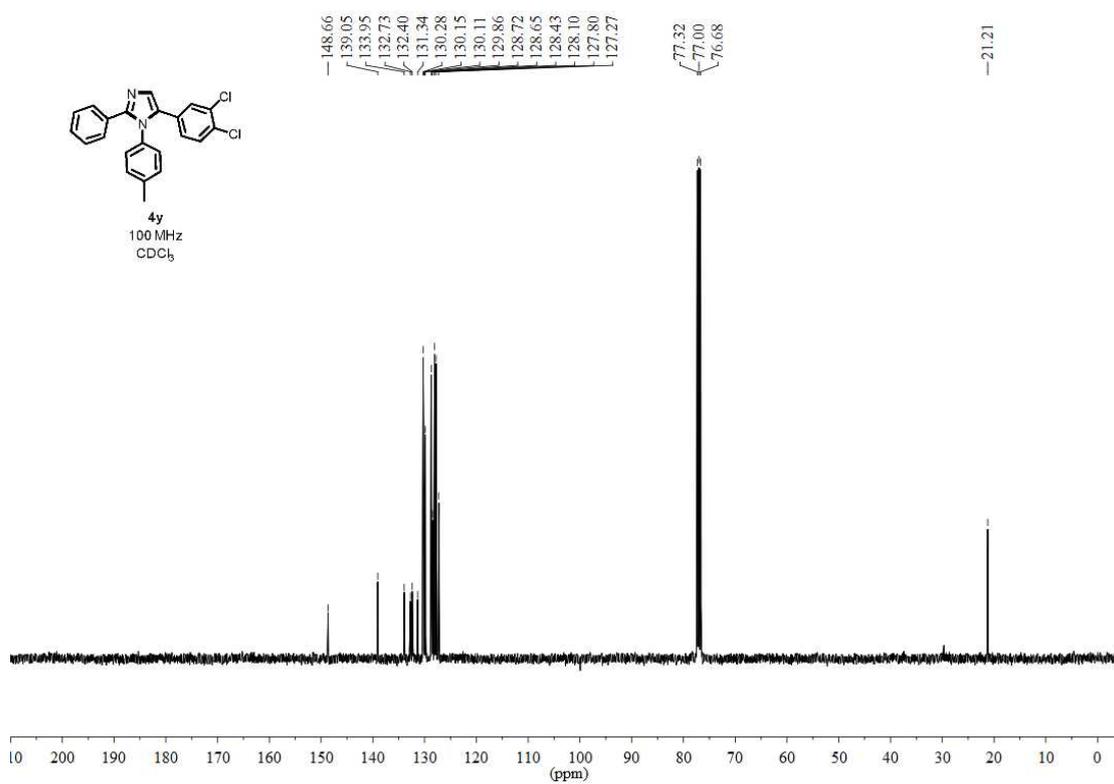
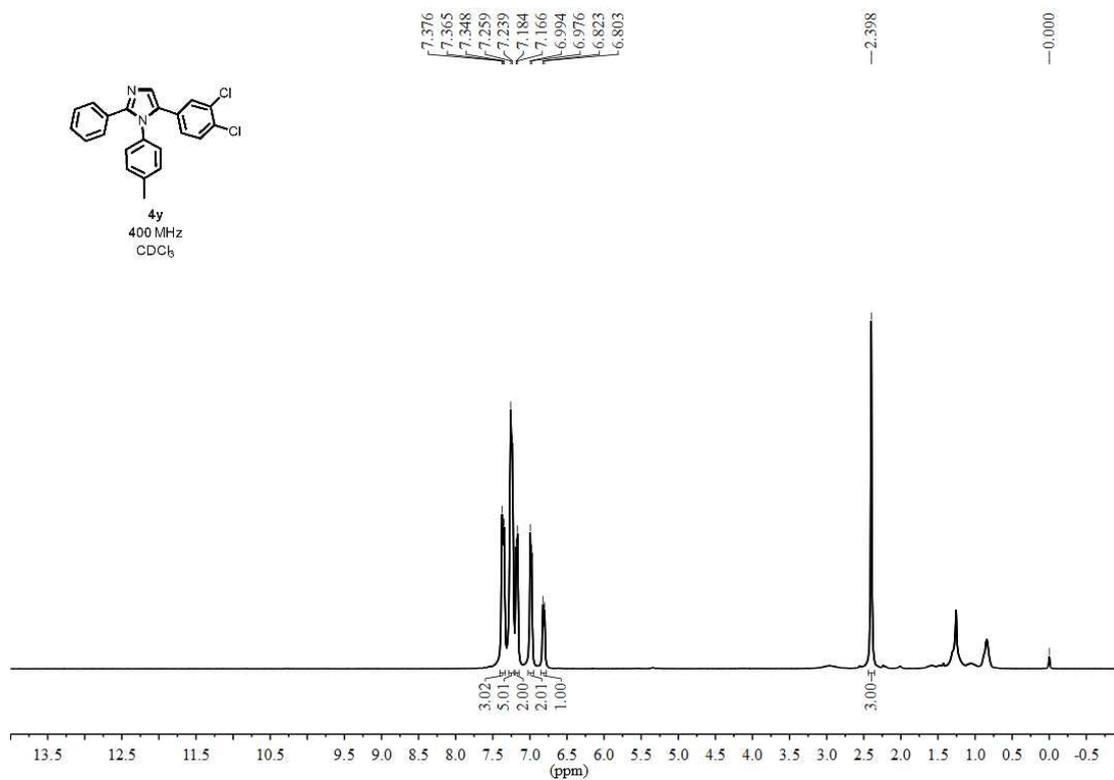


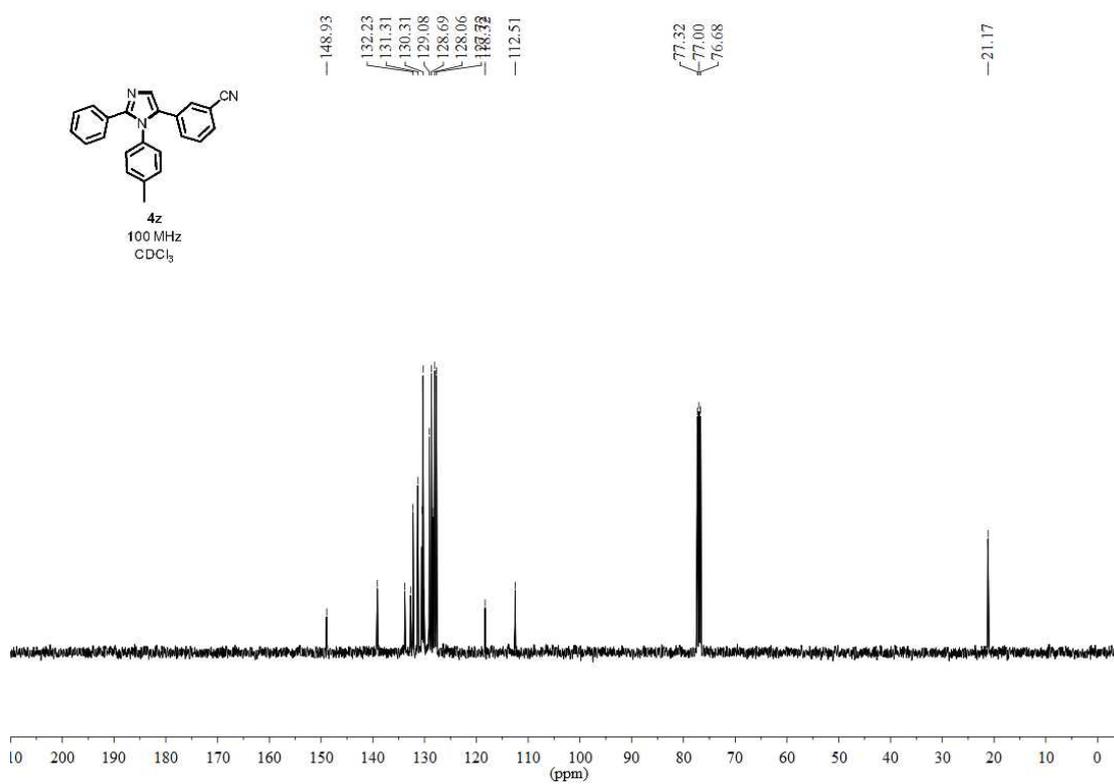
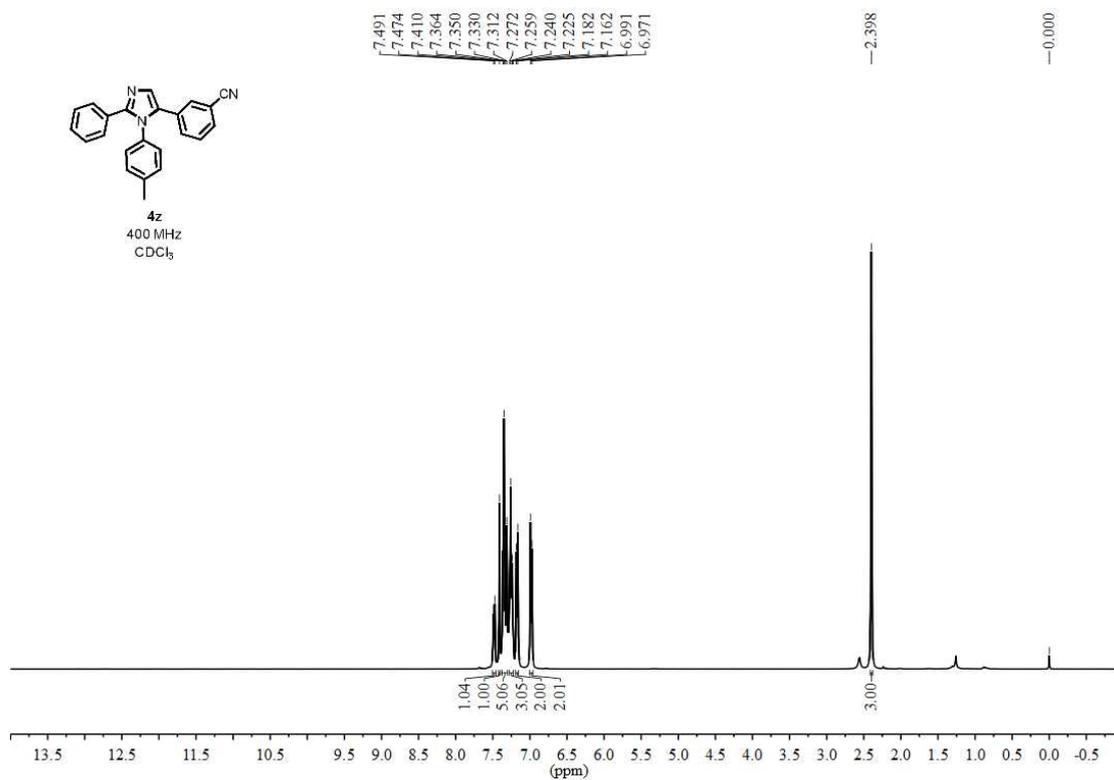


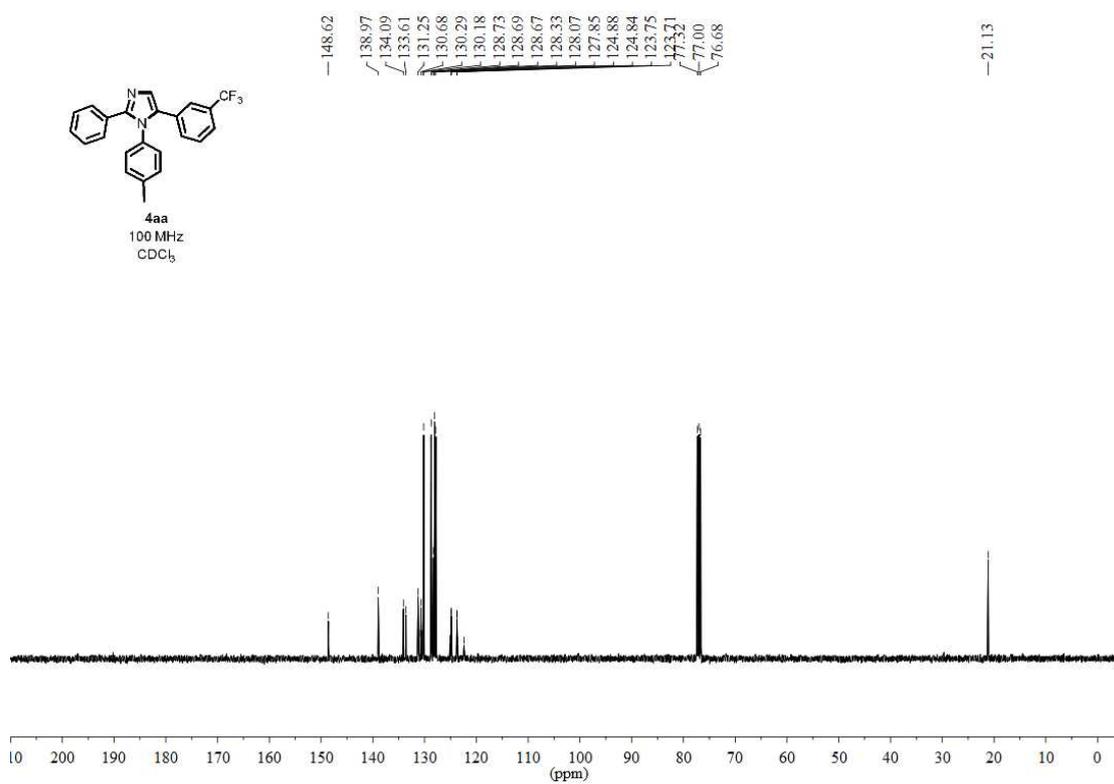
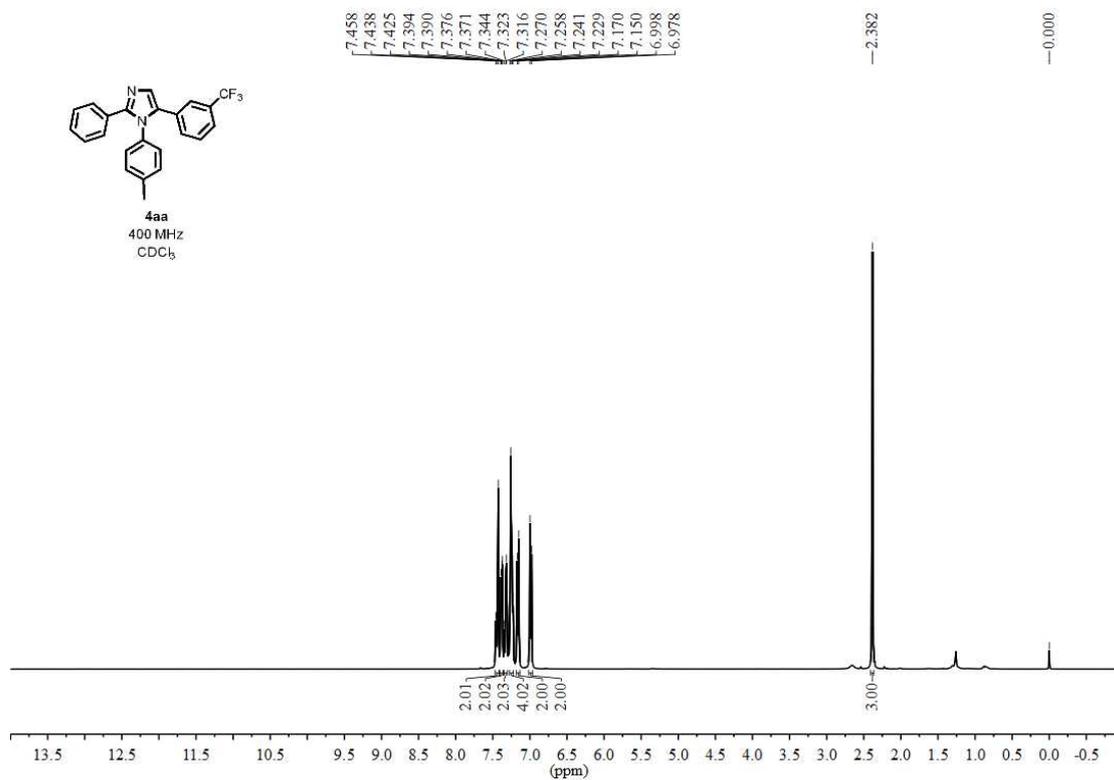


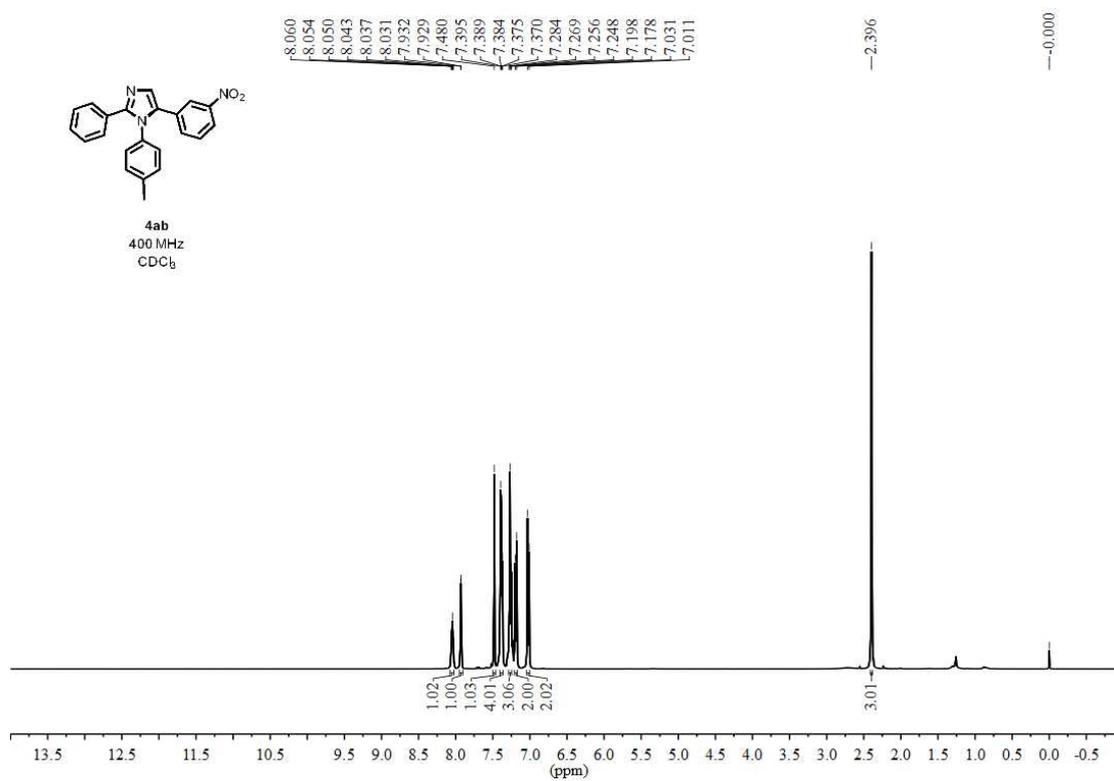
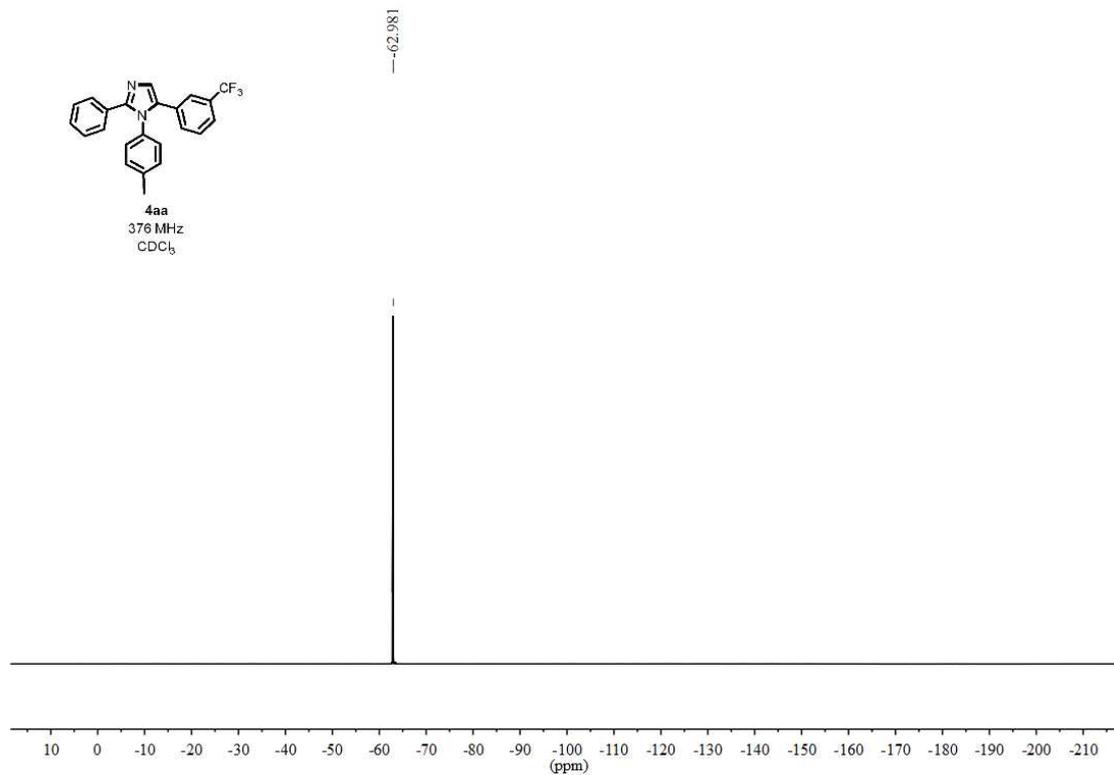


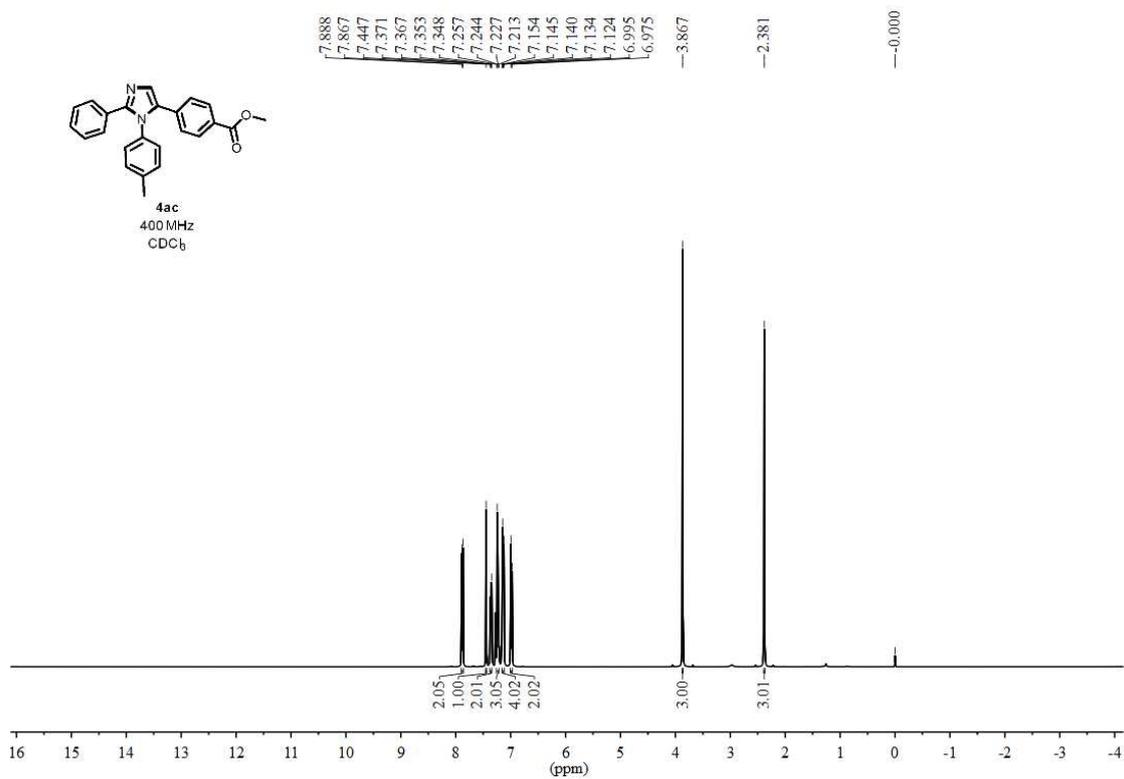
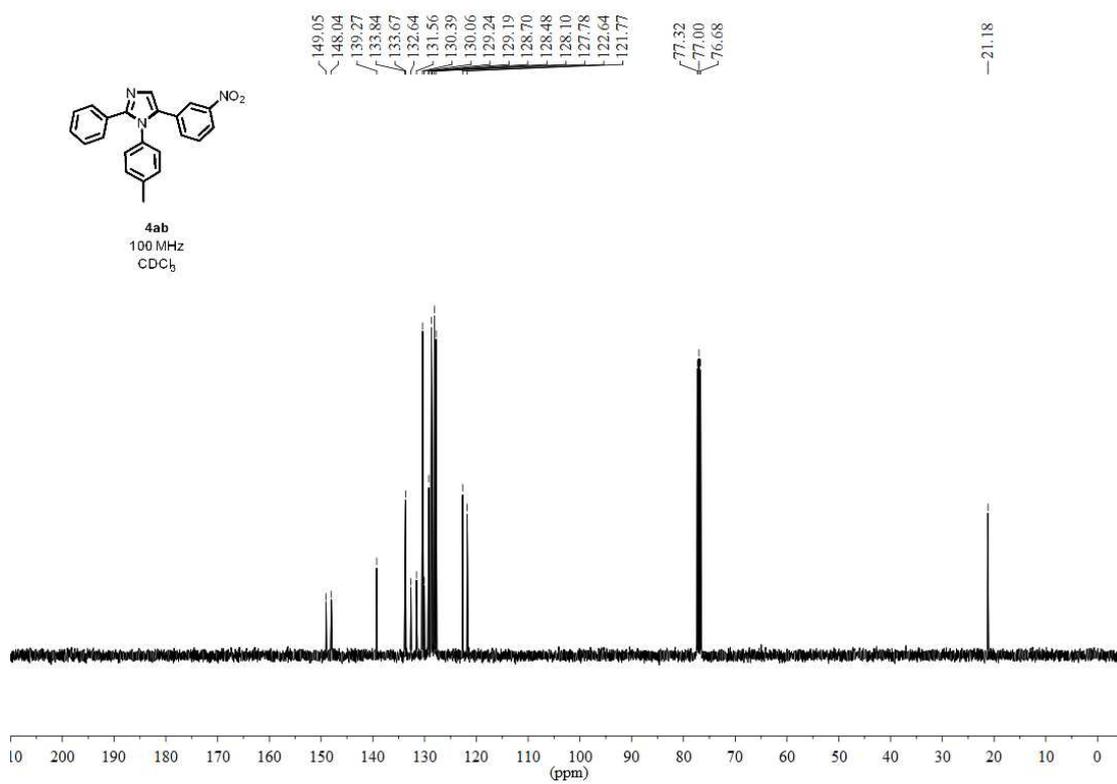


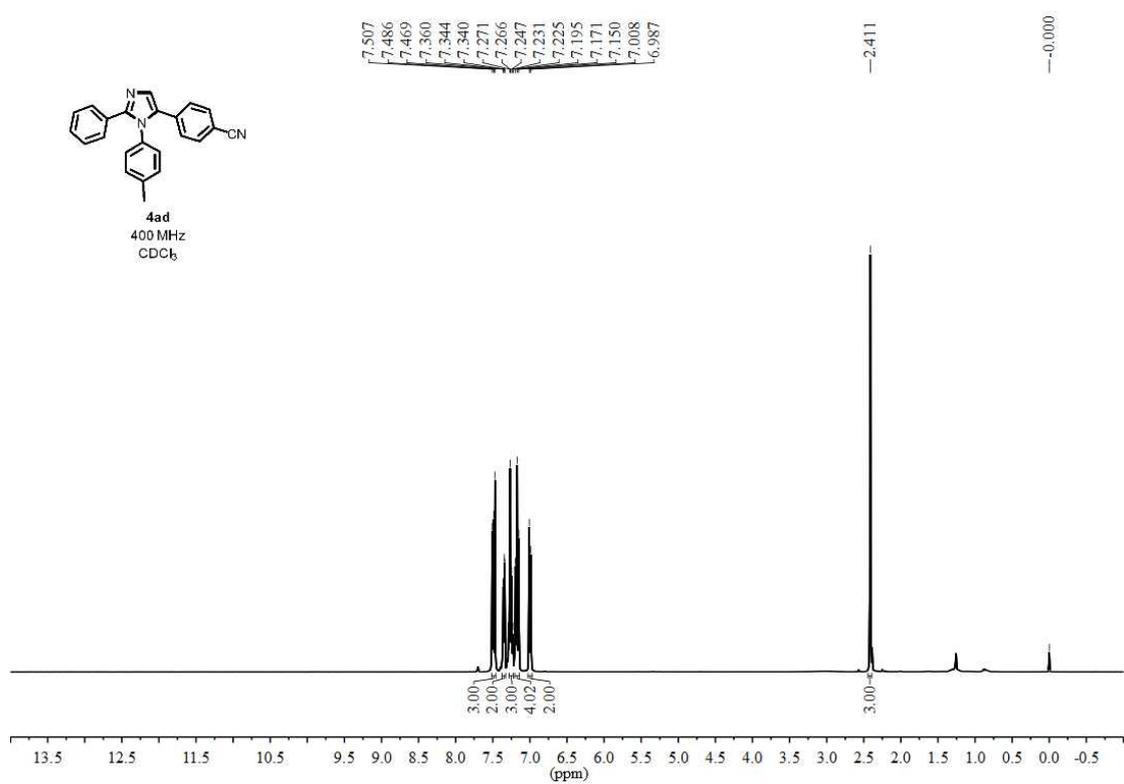
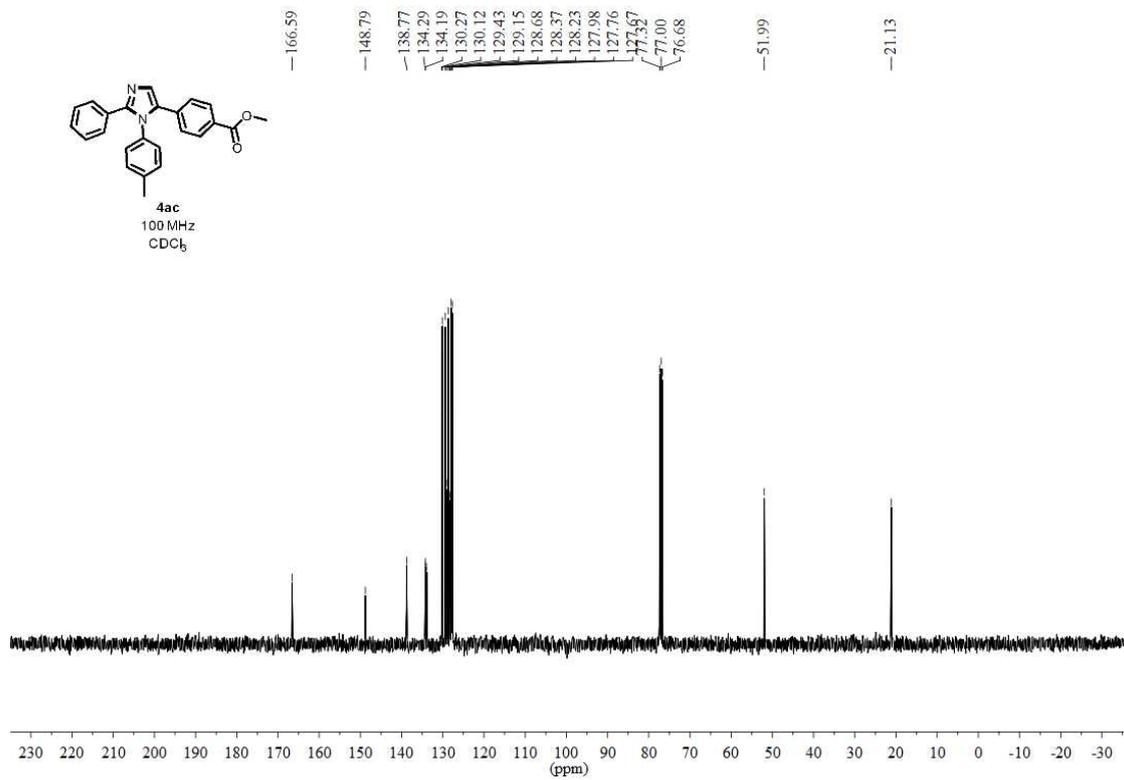


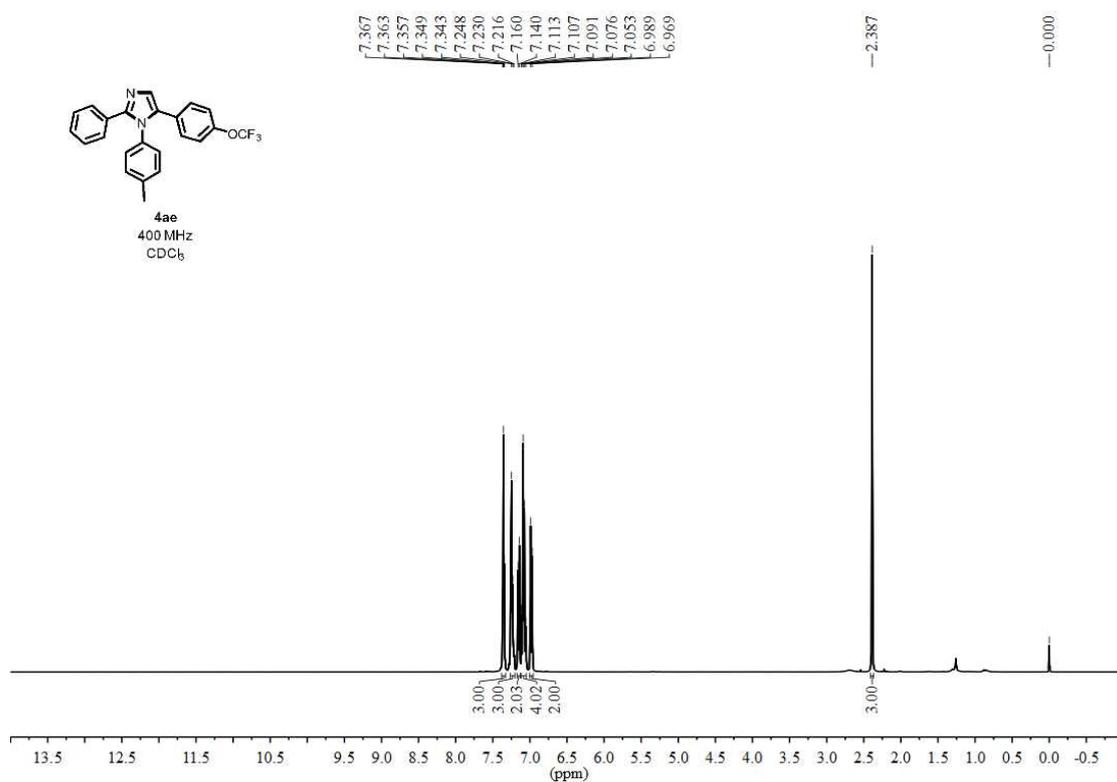
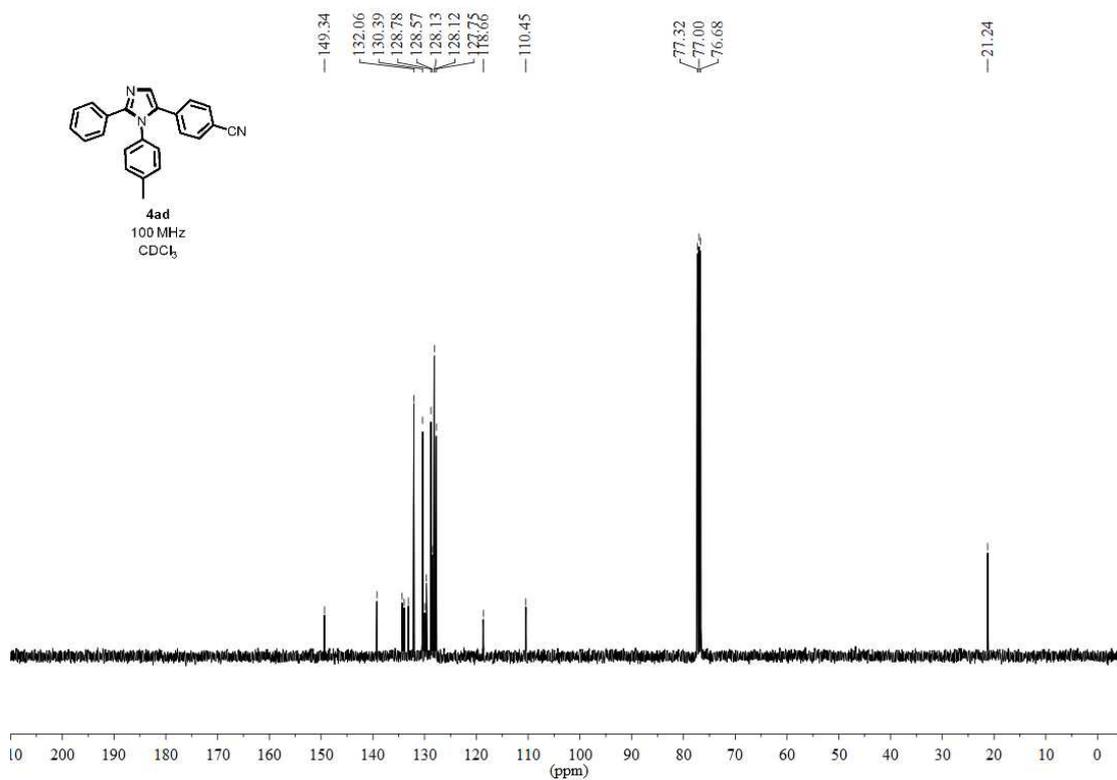


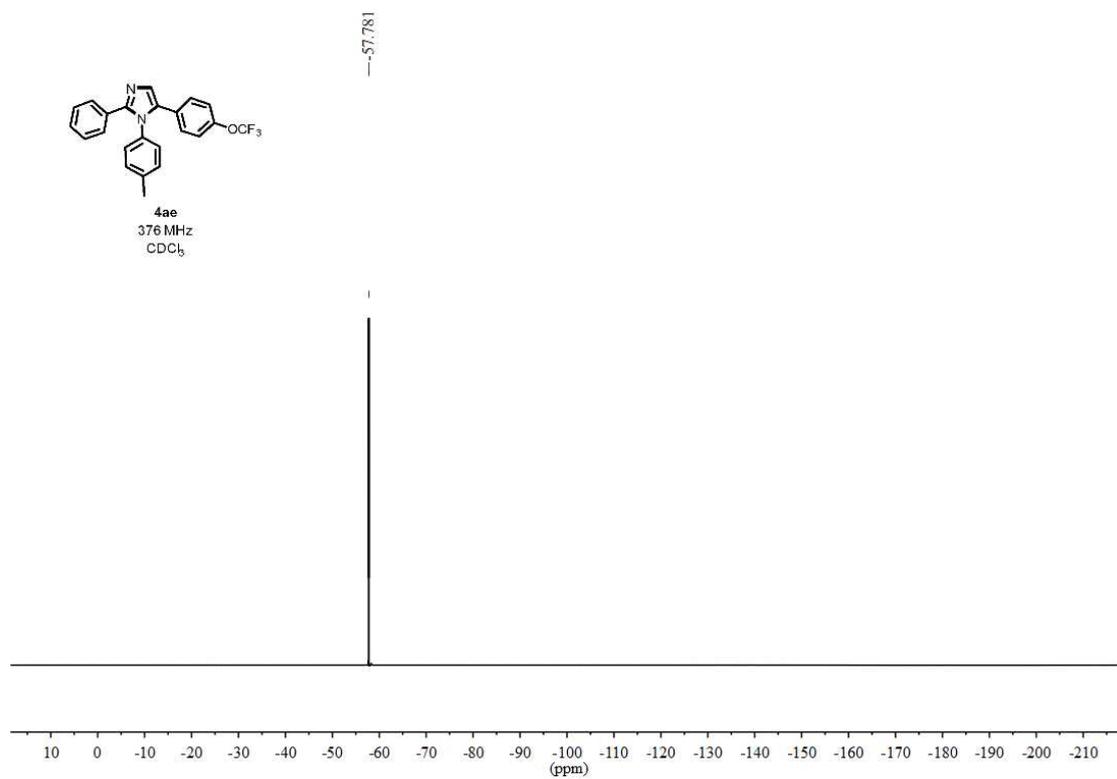
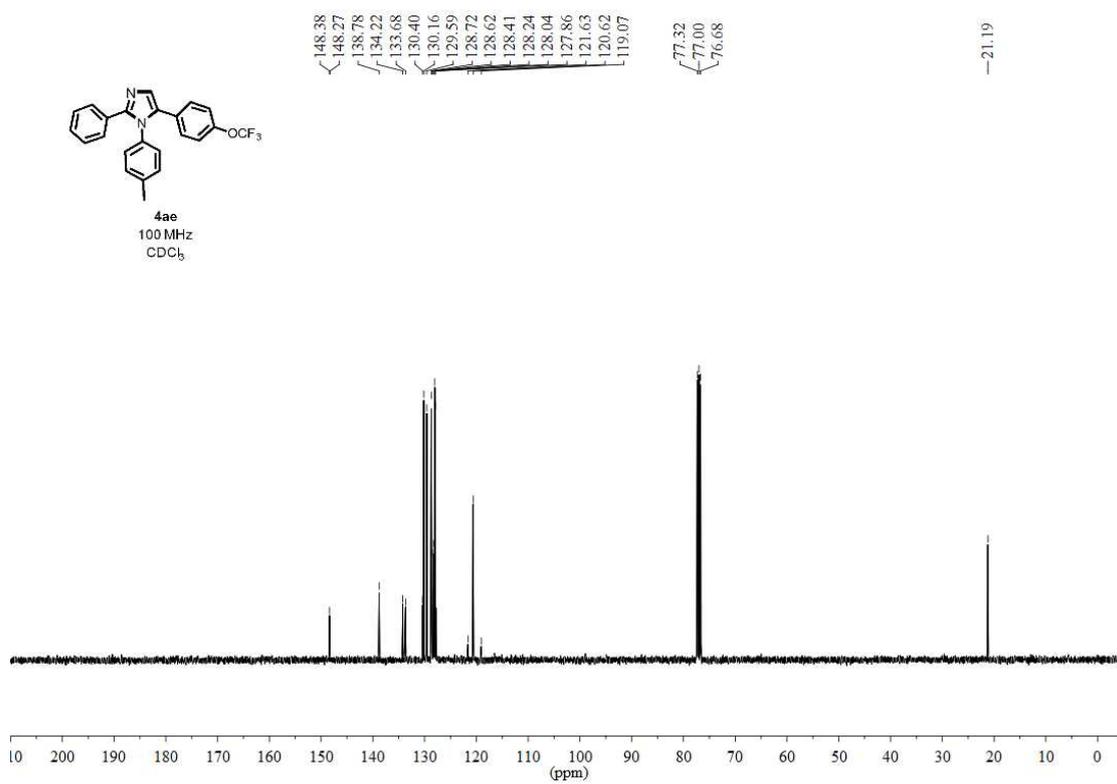


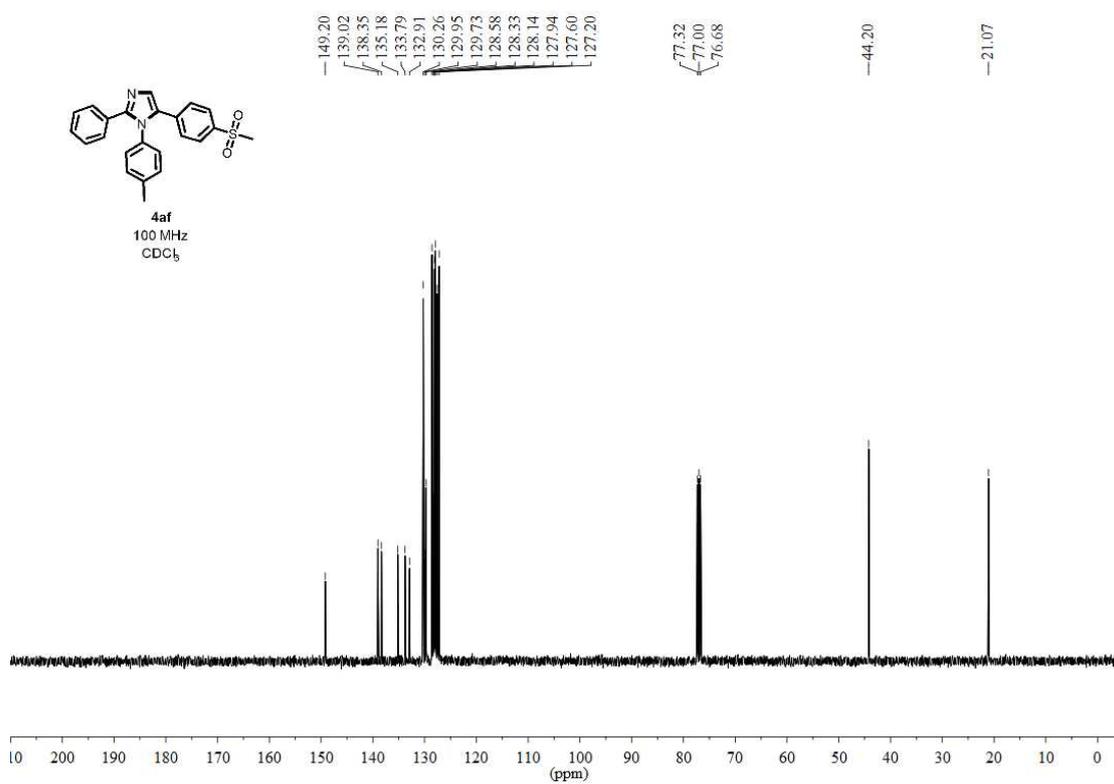
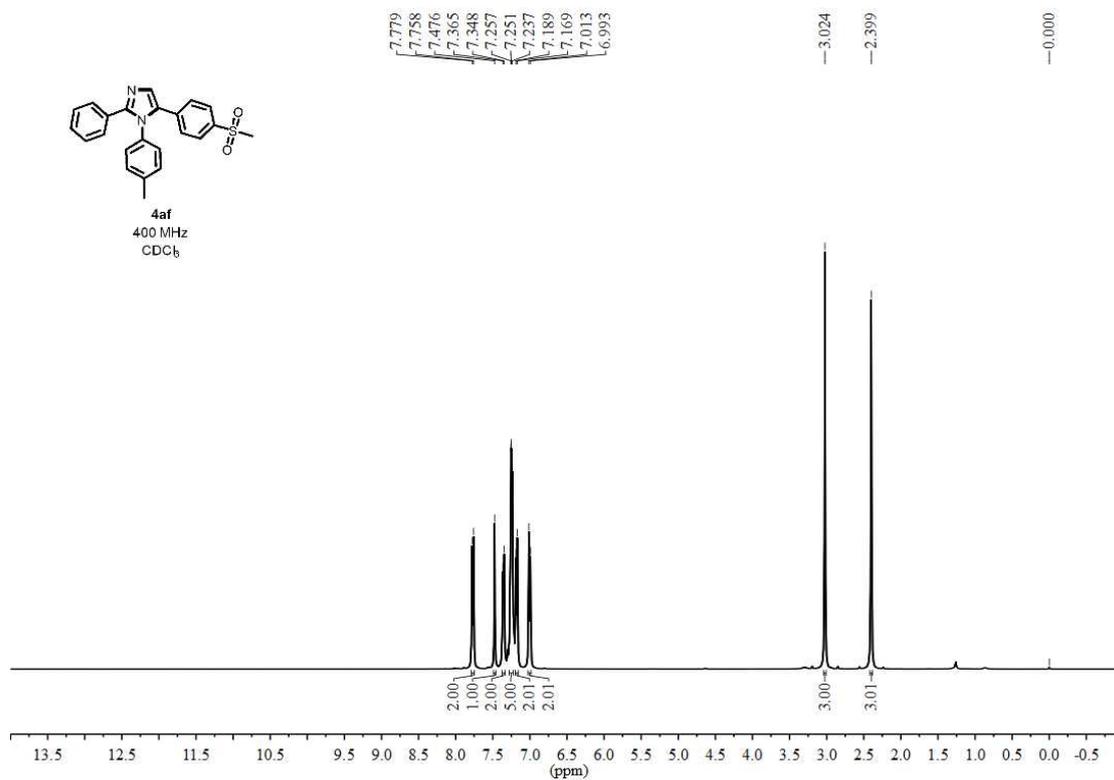


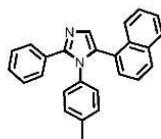




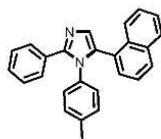
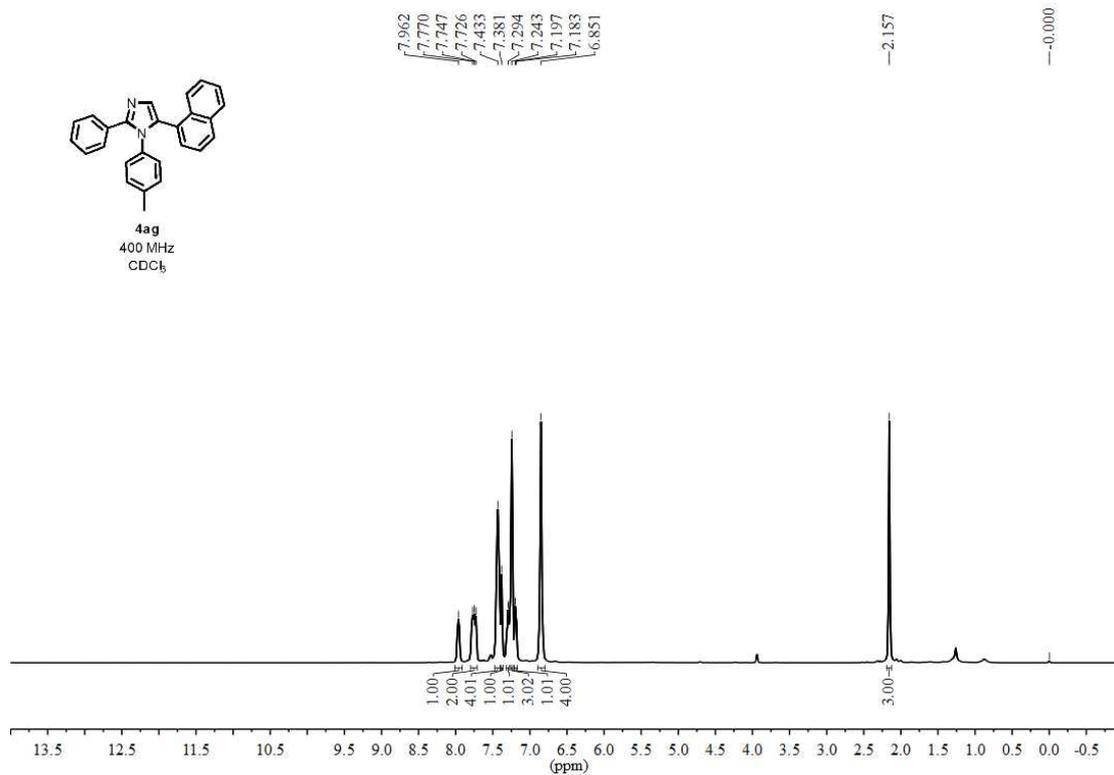




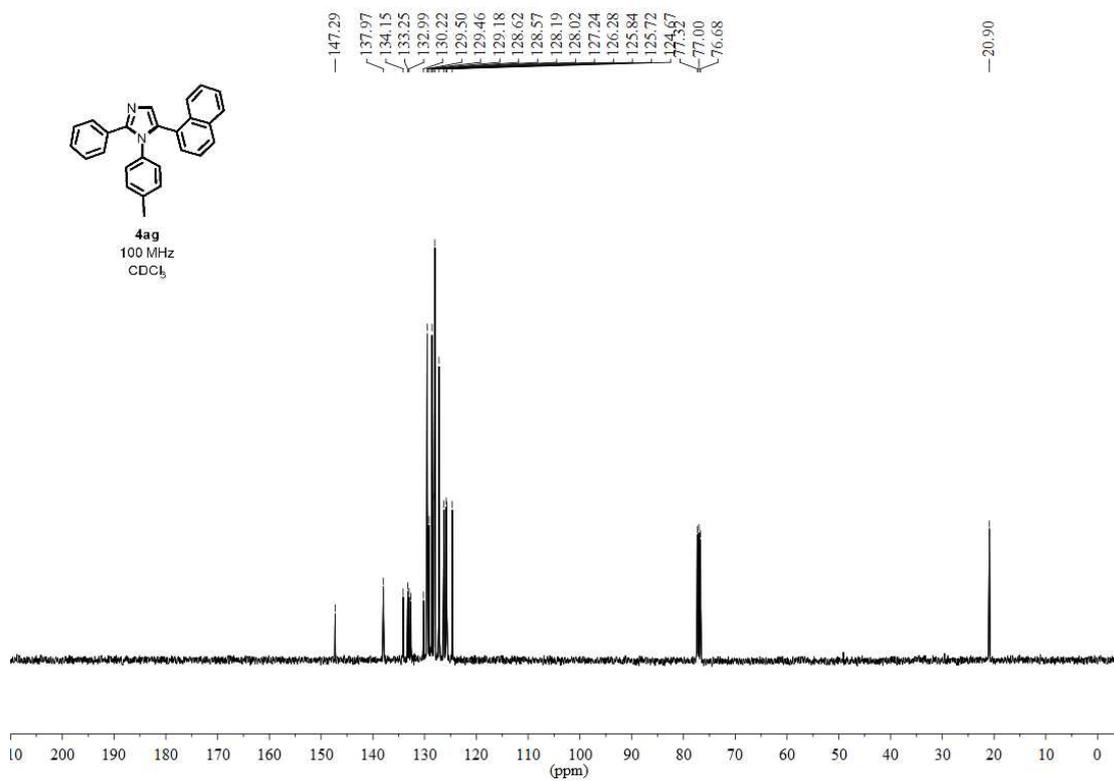


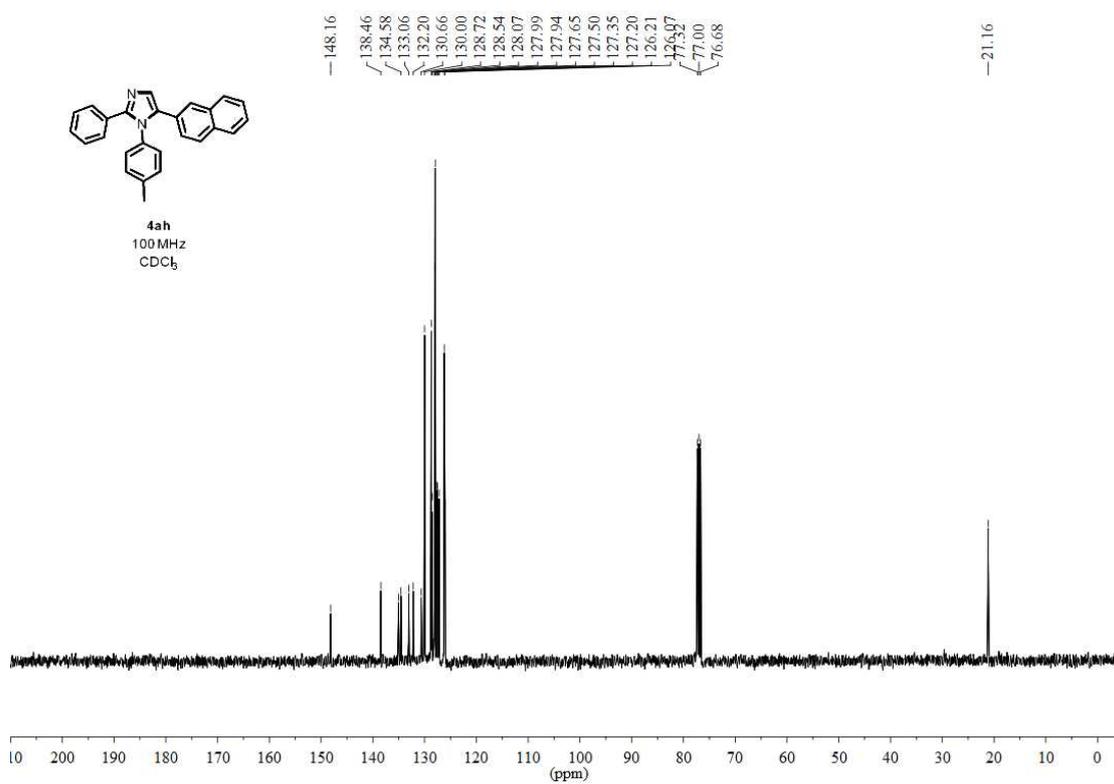
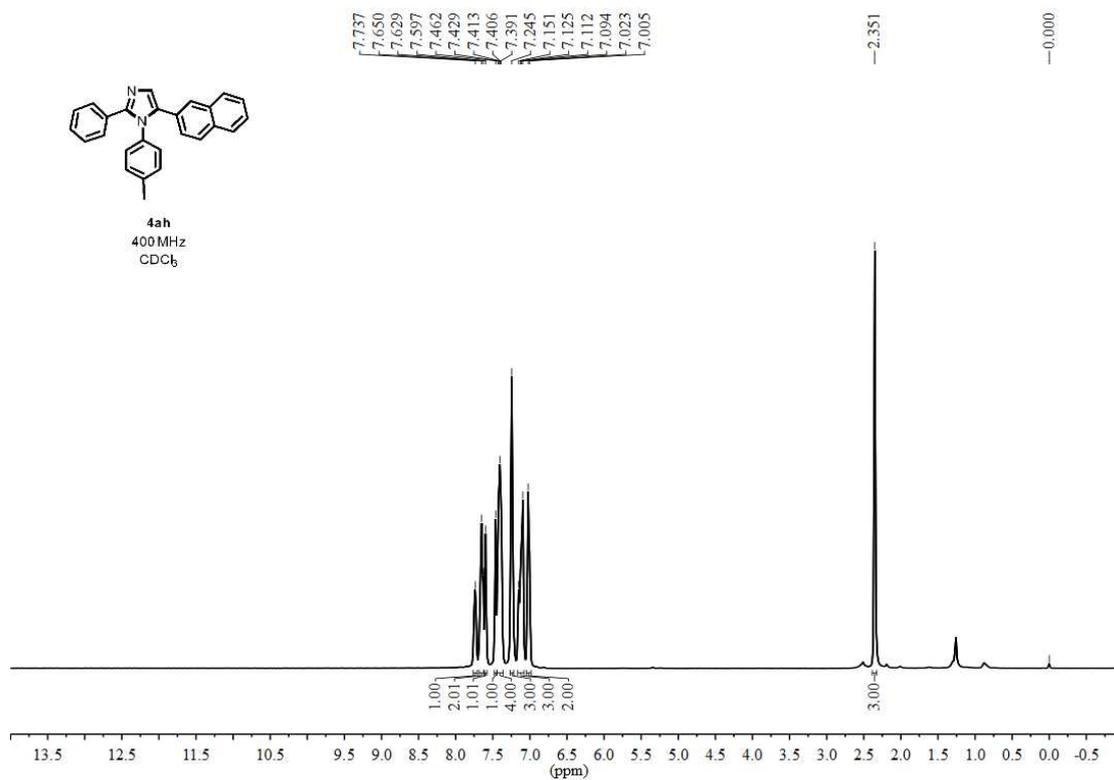


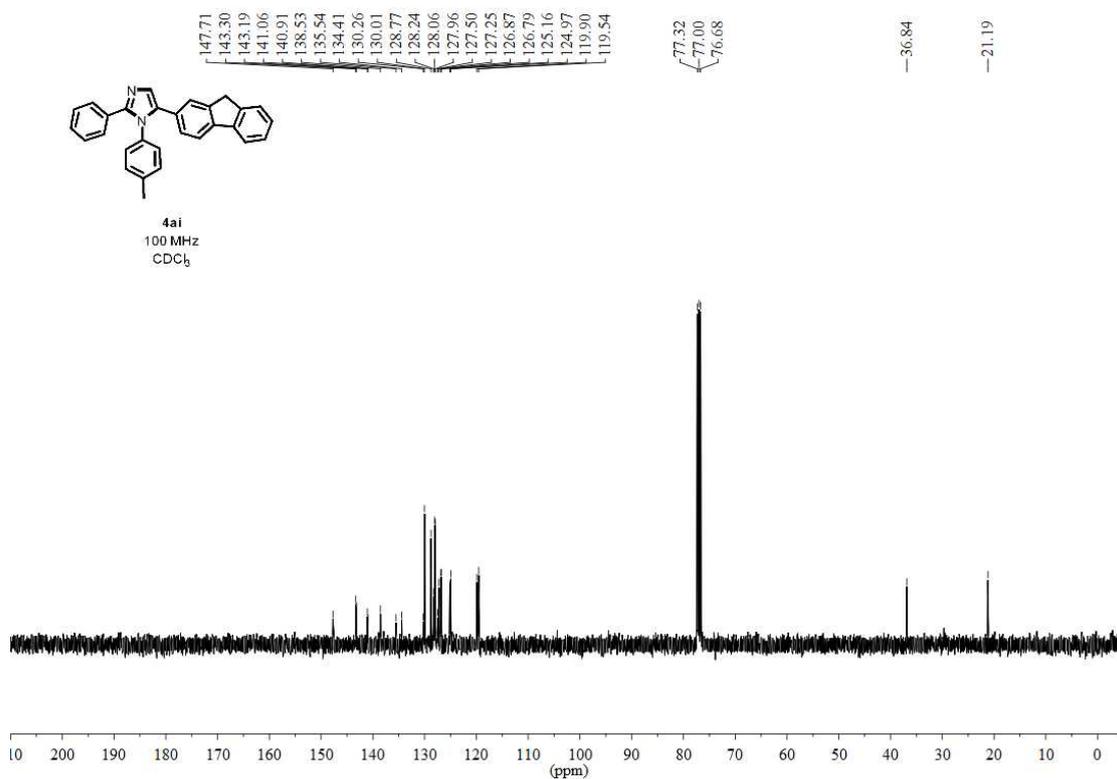
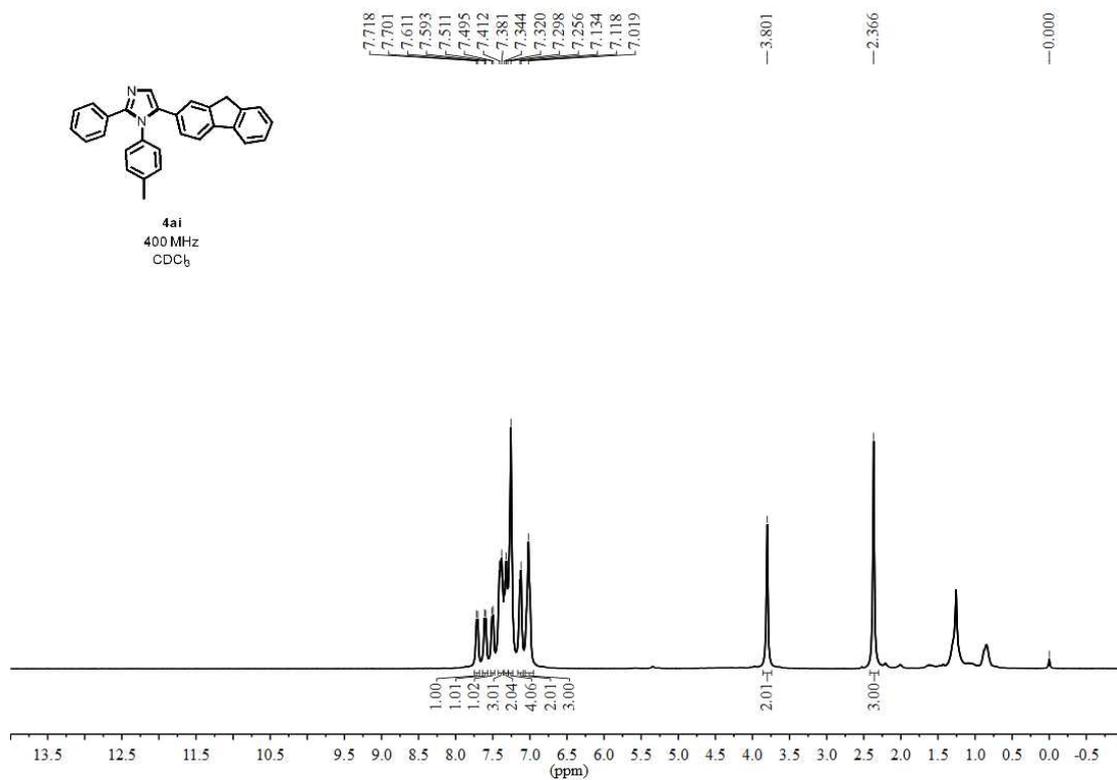
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400 MHz
CDCl₃

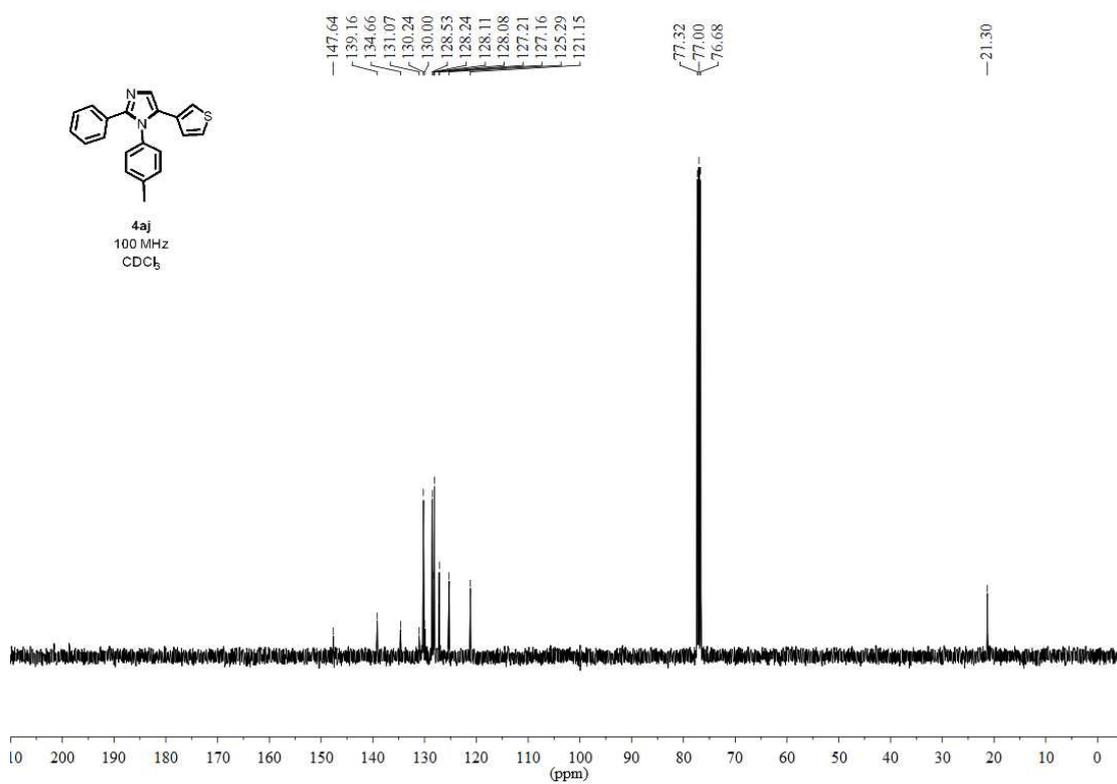
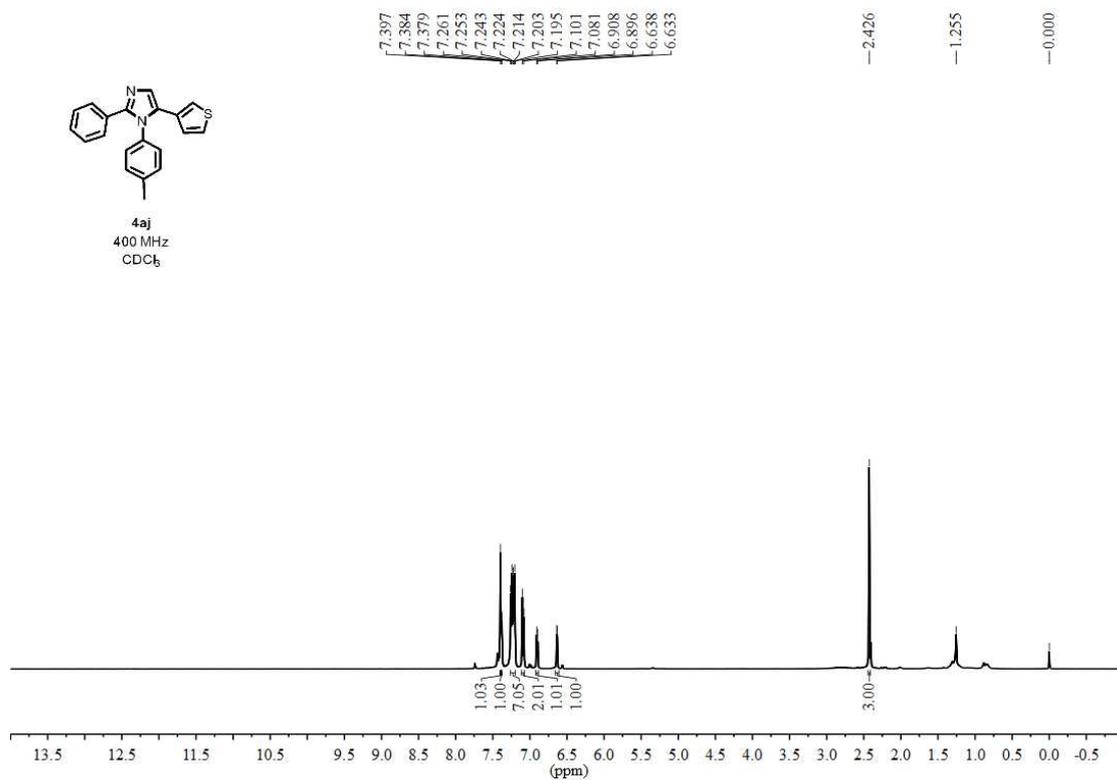


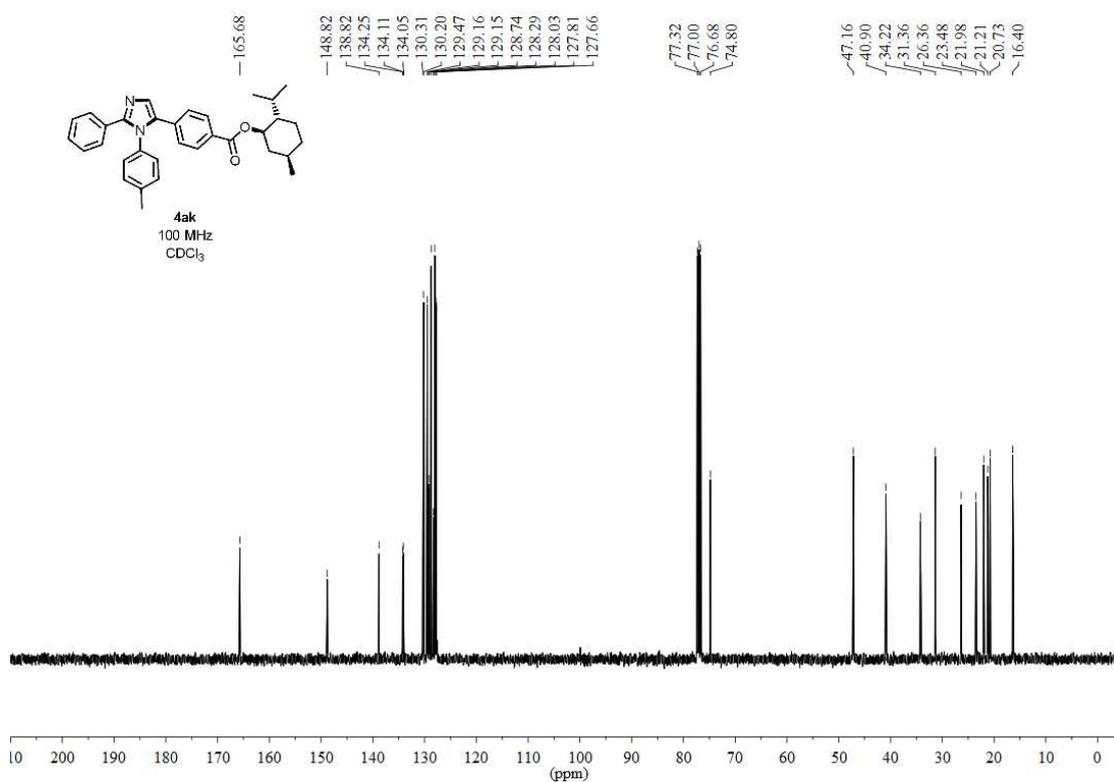
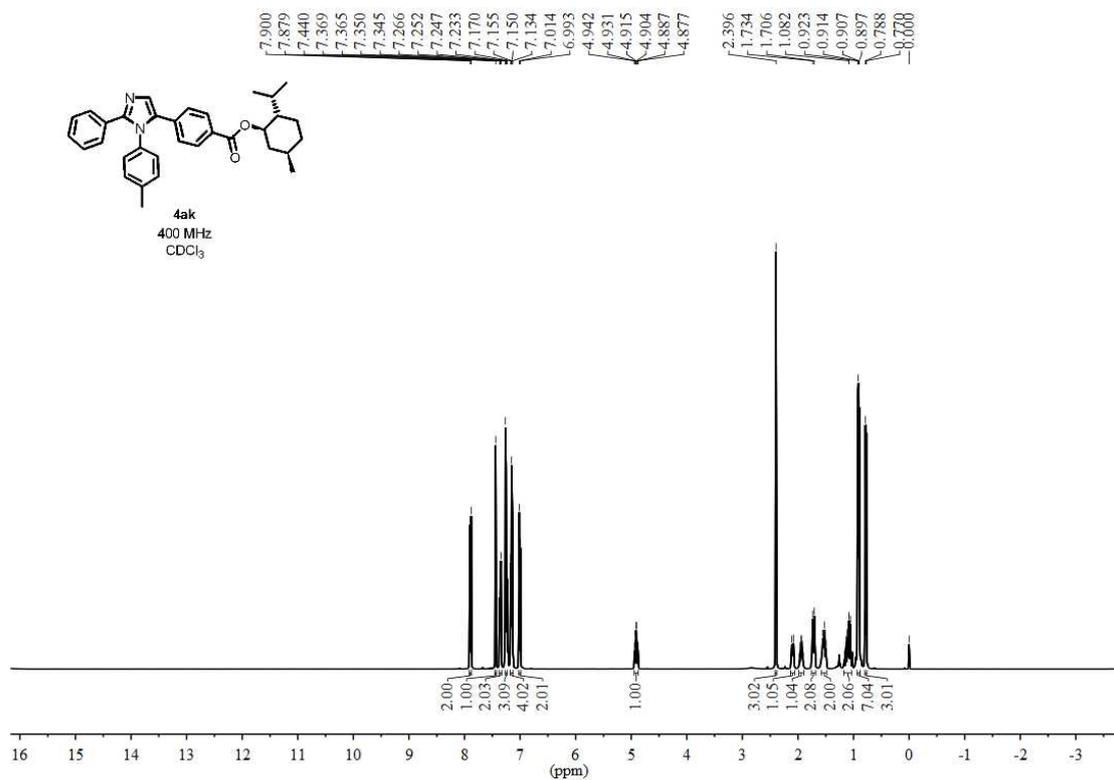
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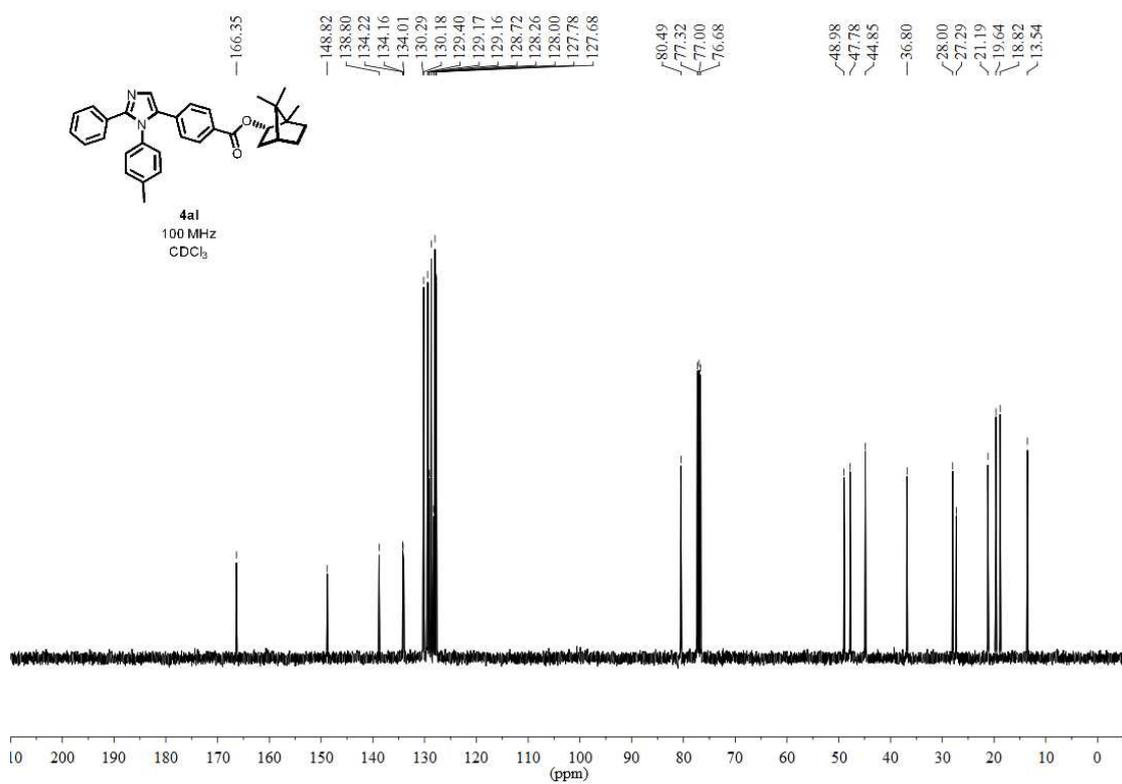
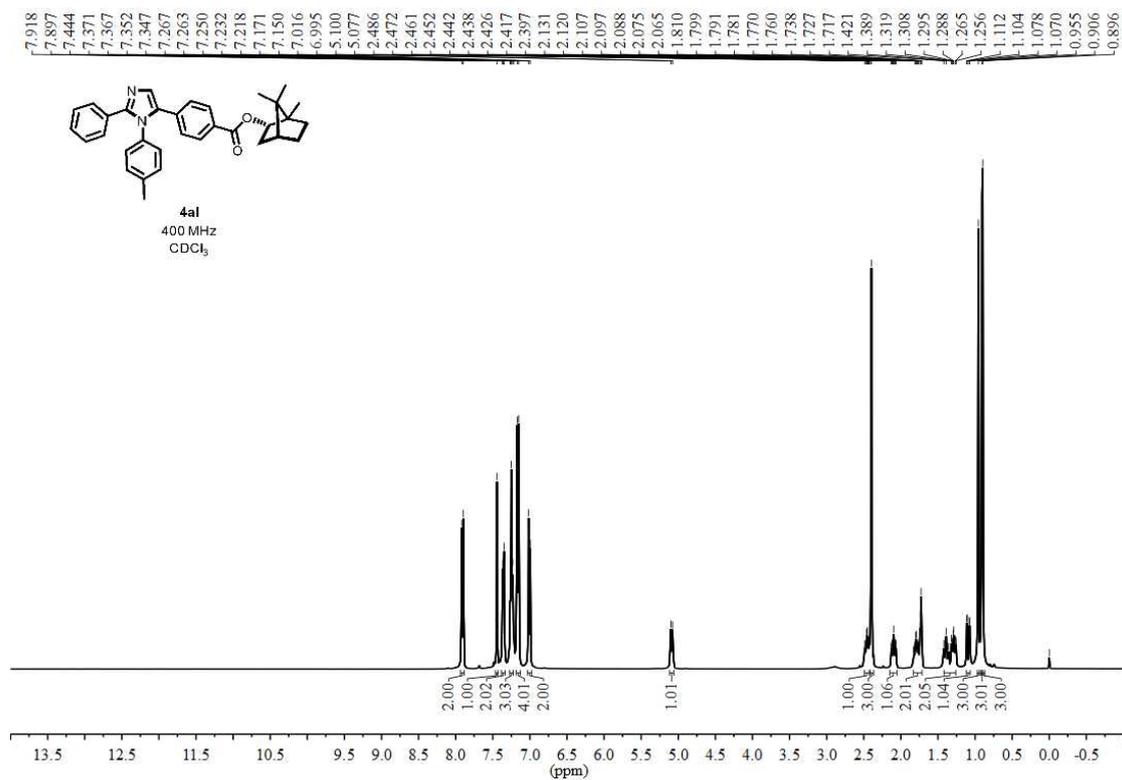


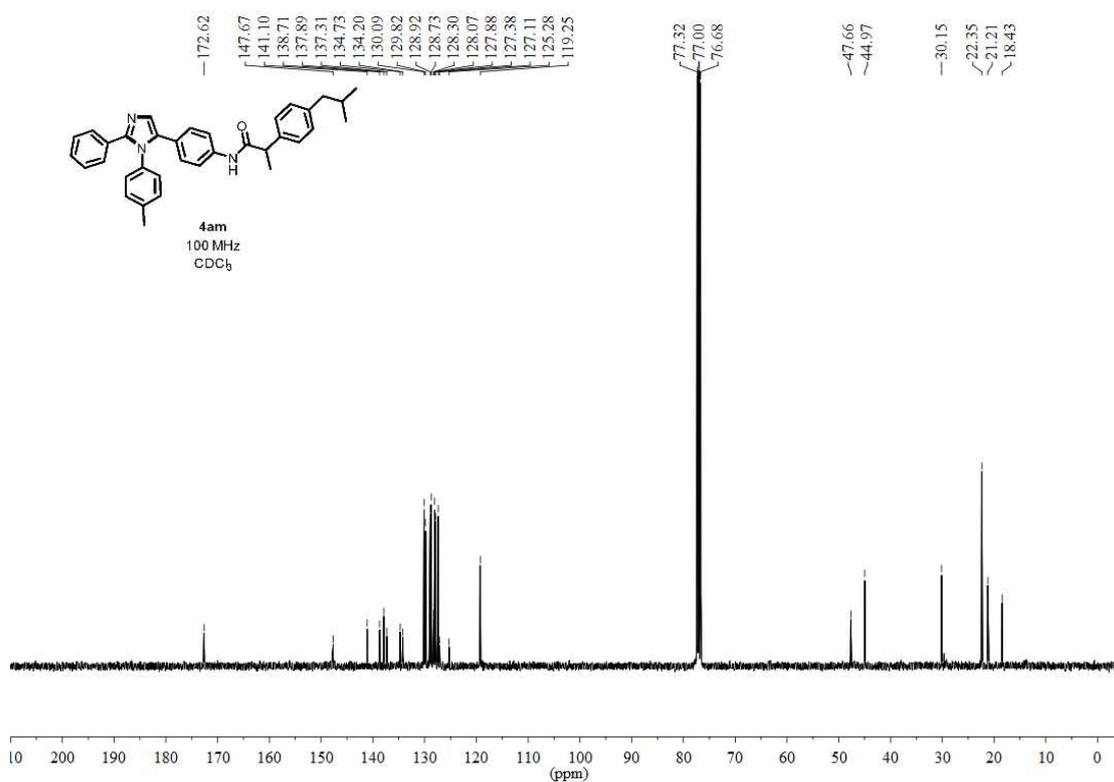
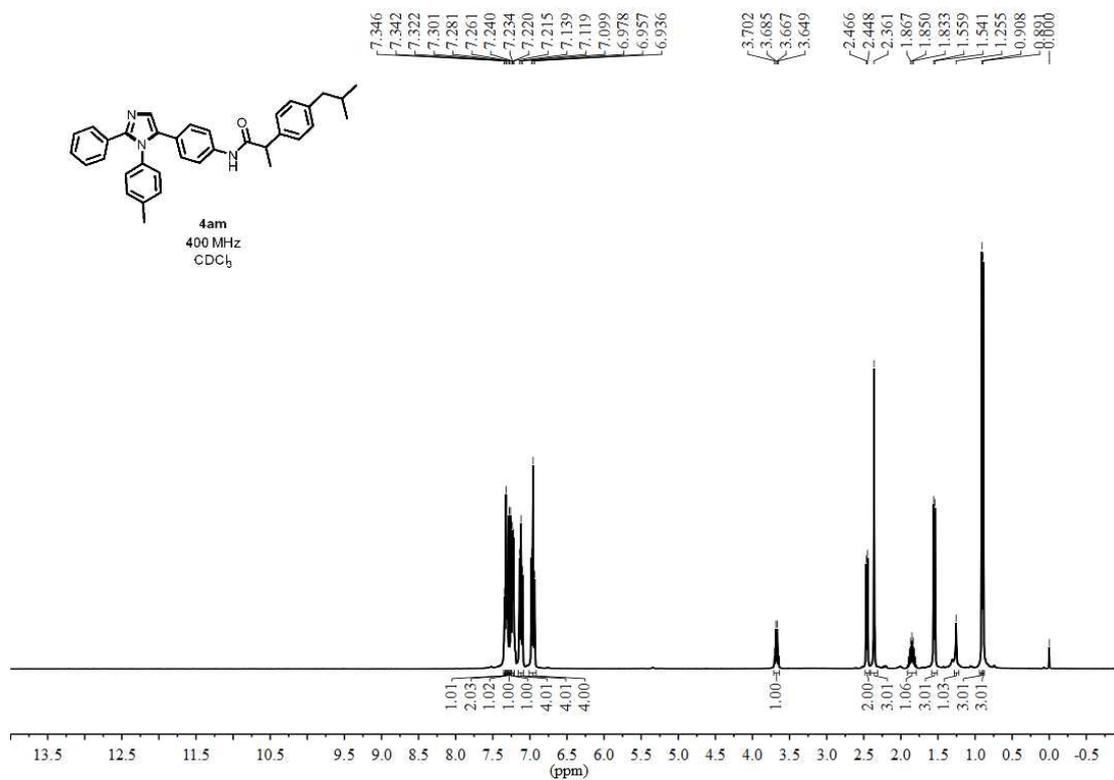


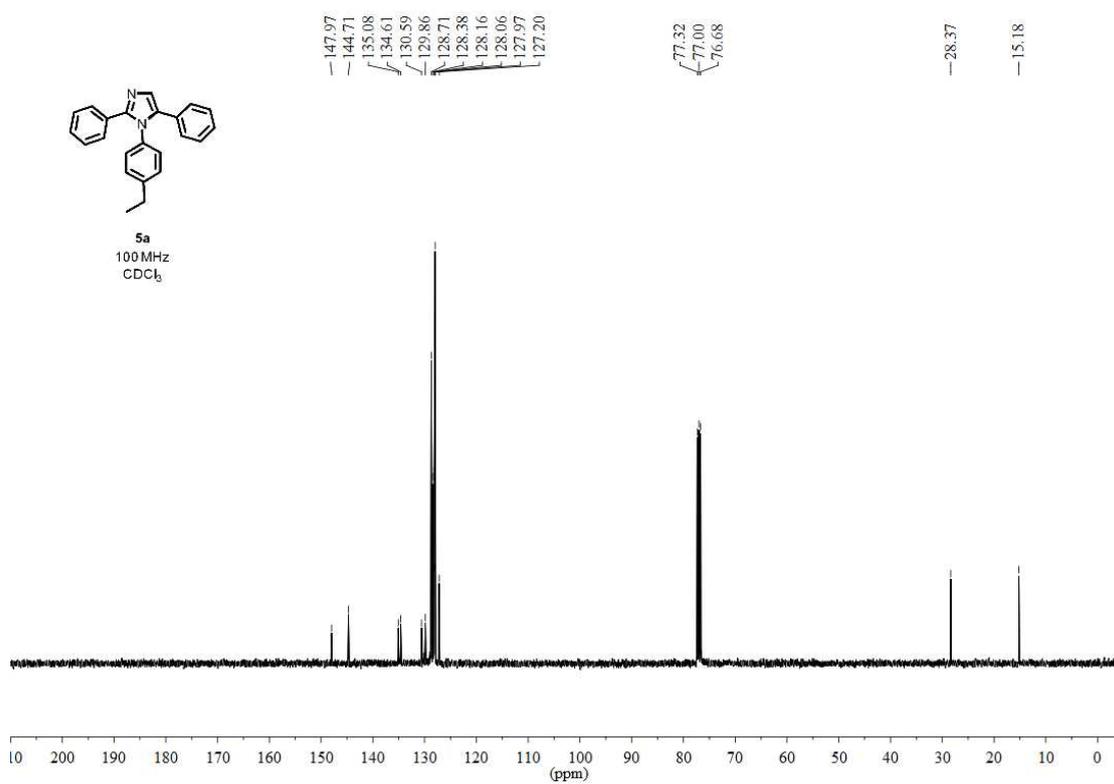
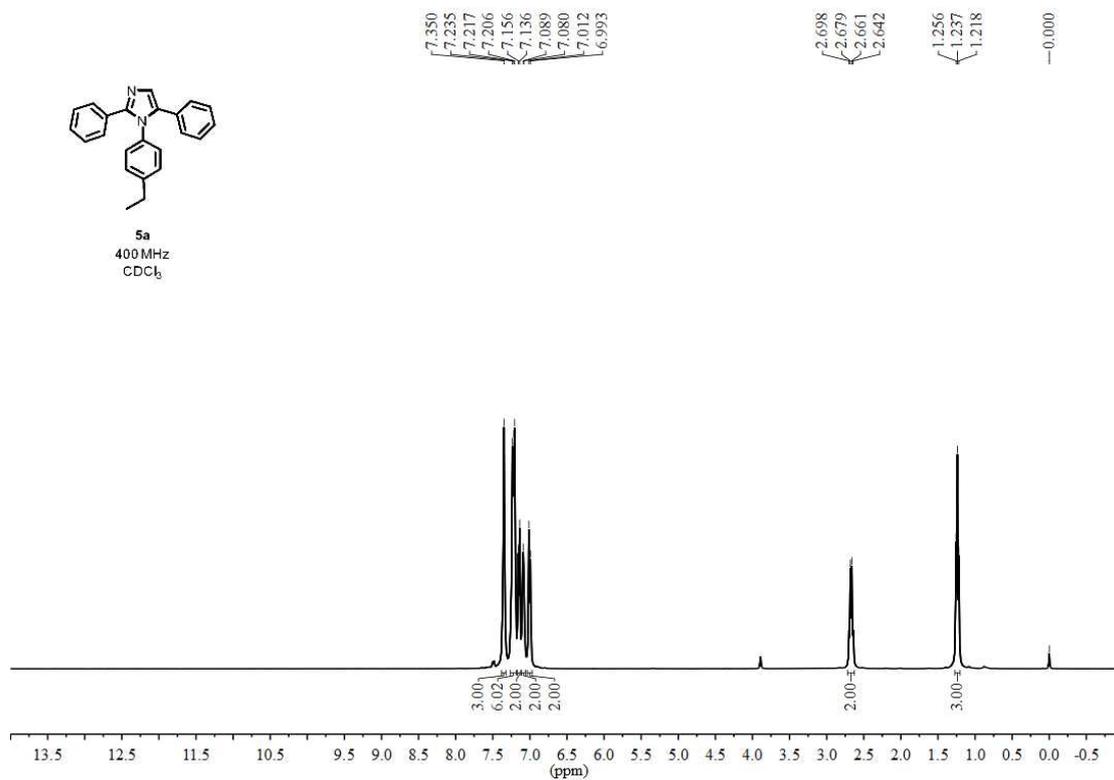


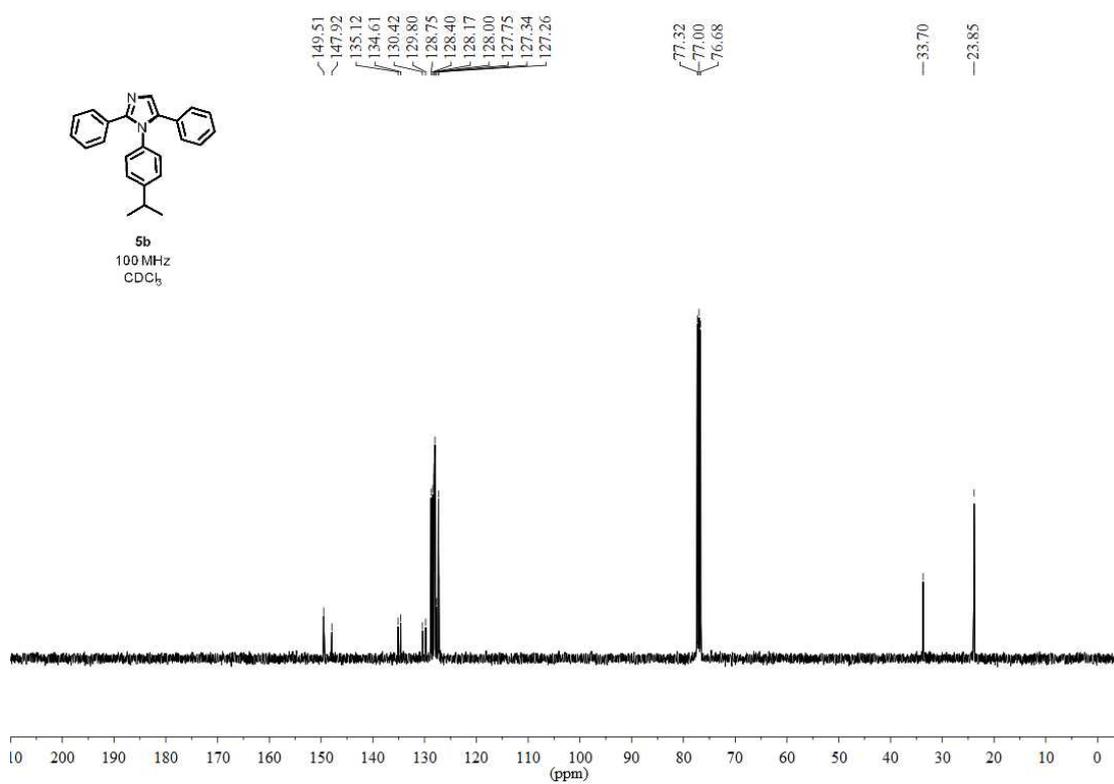
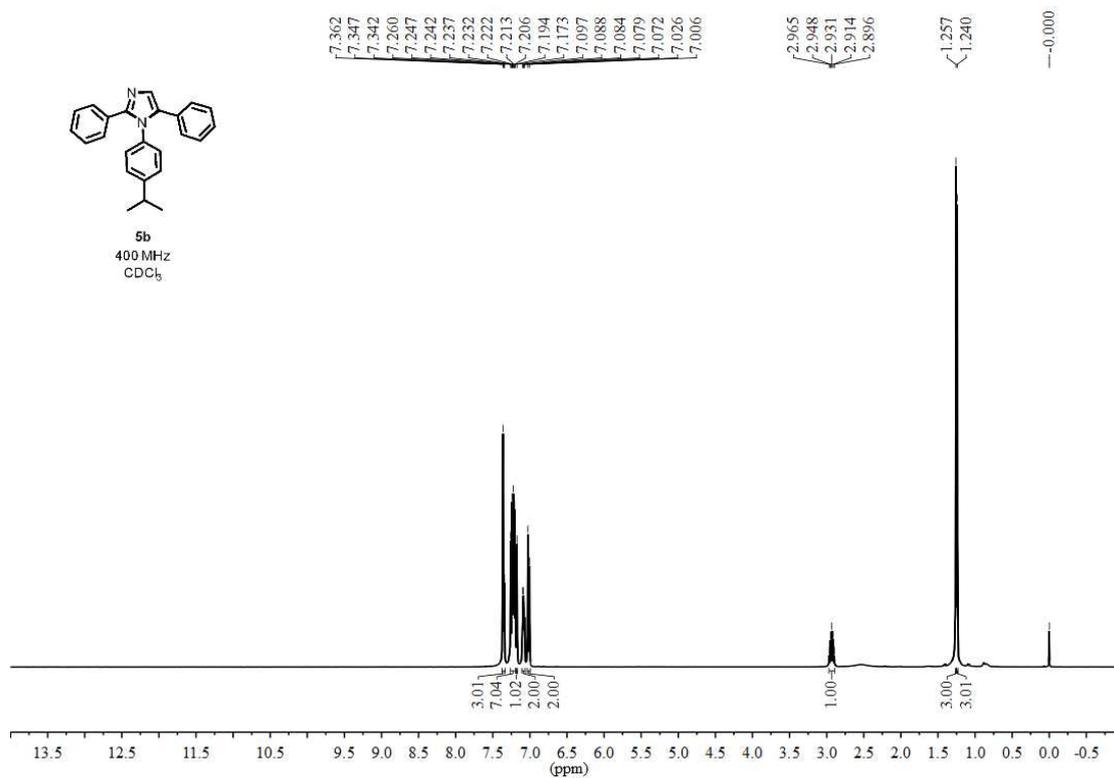


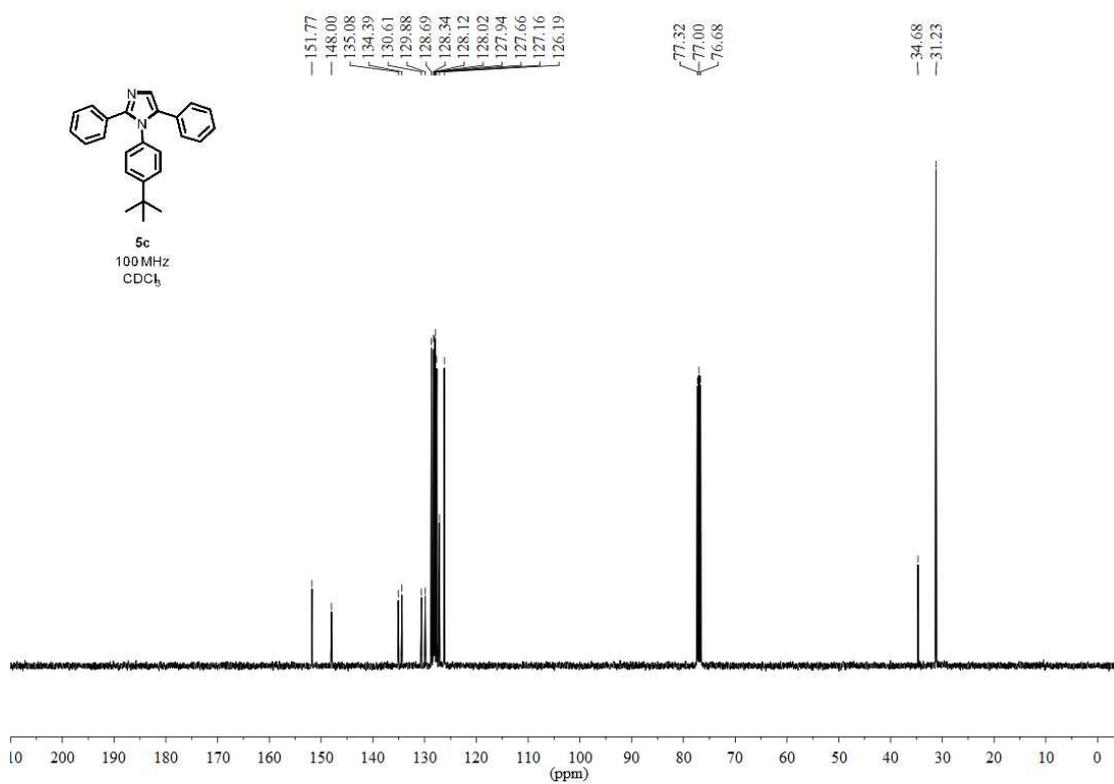
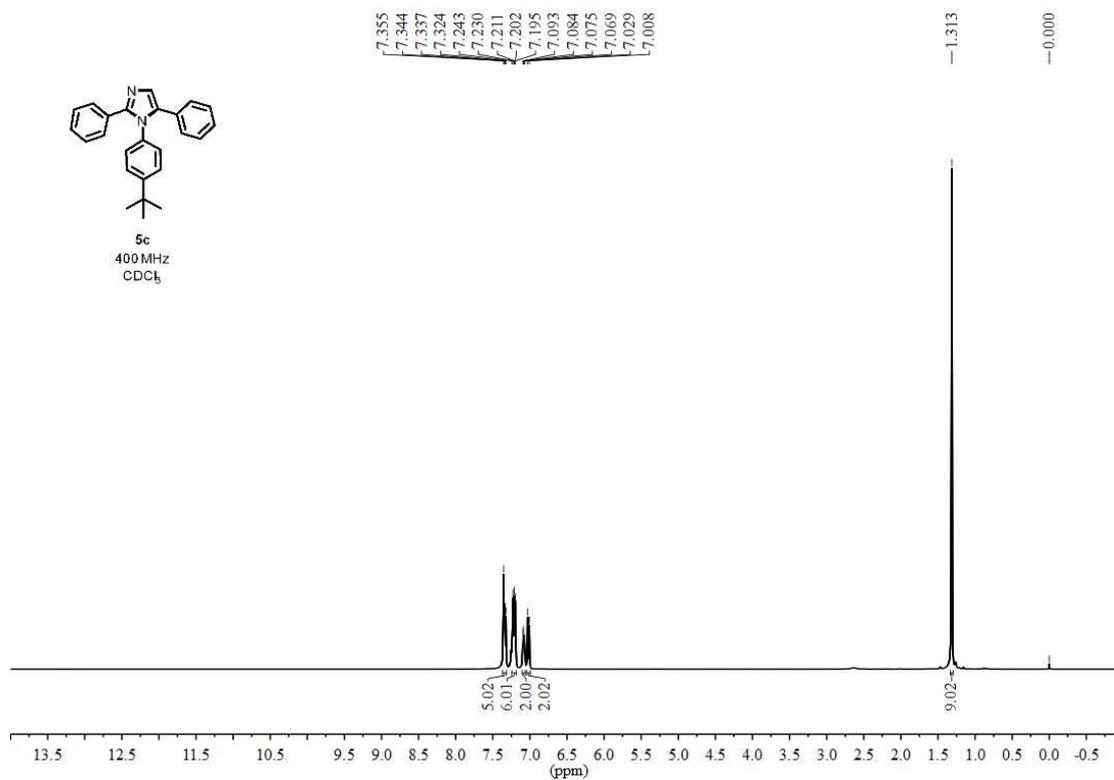


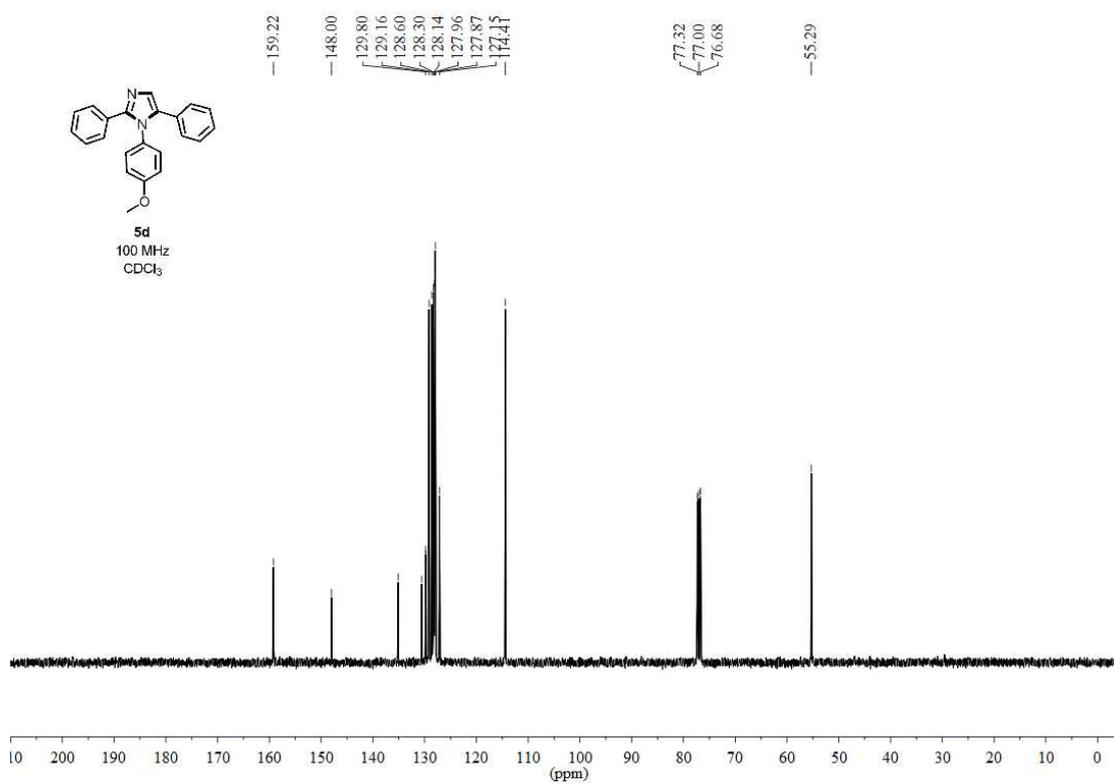
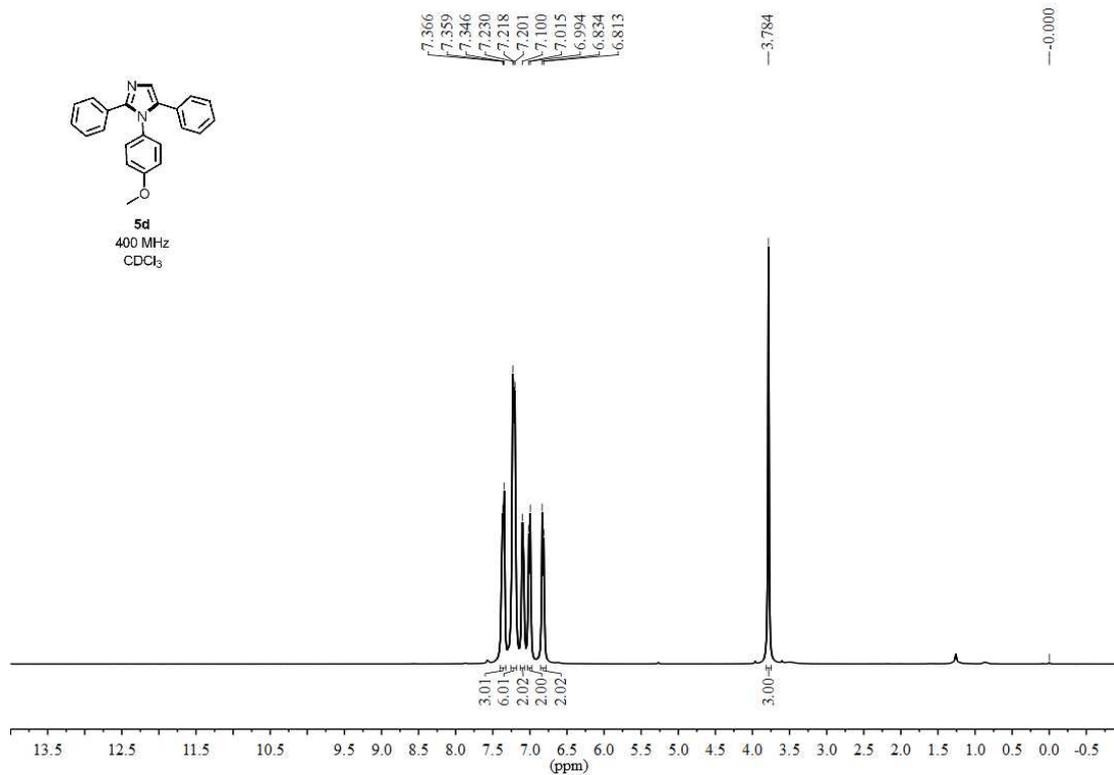


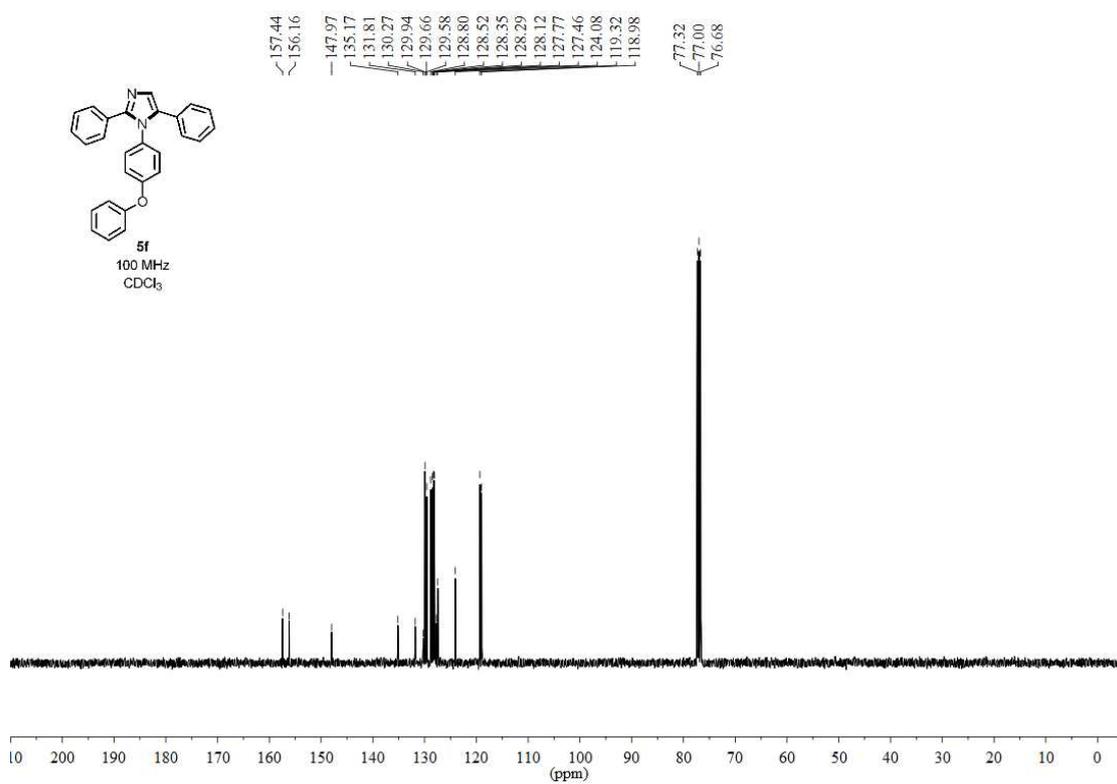
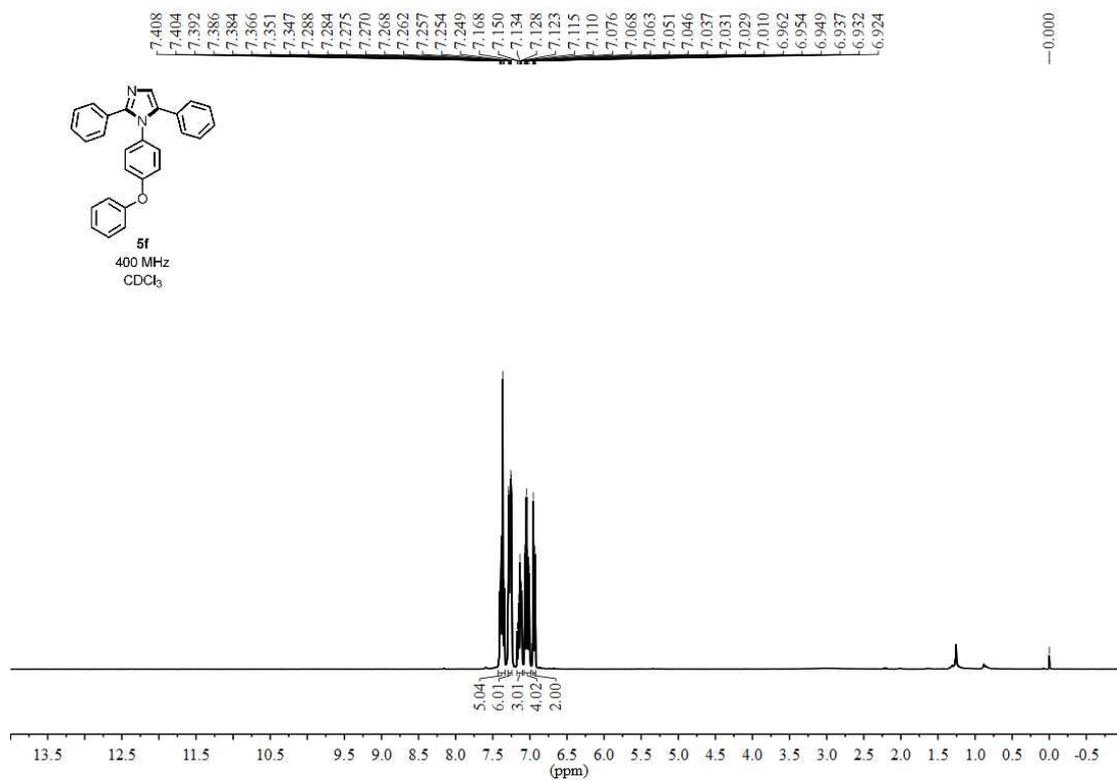


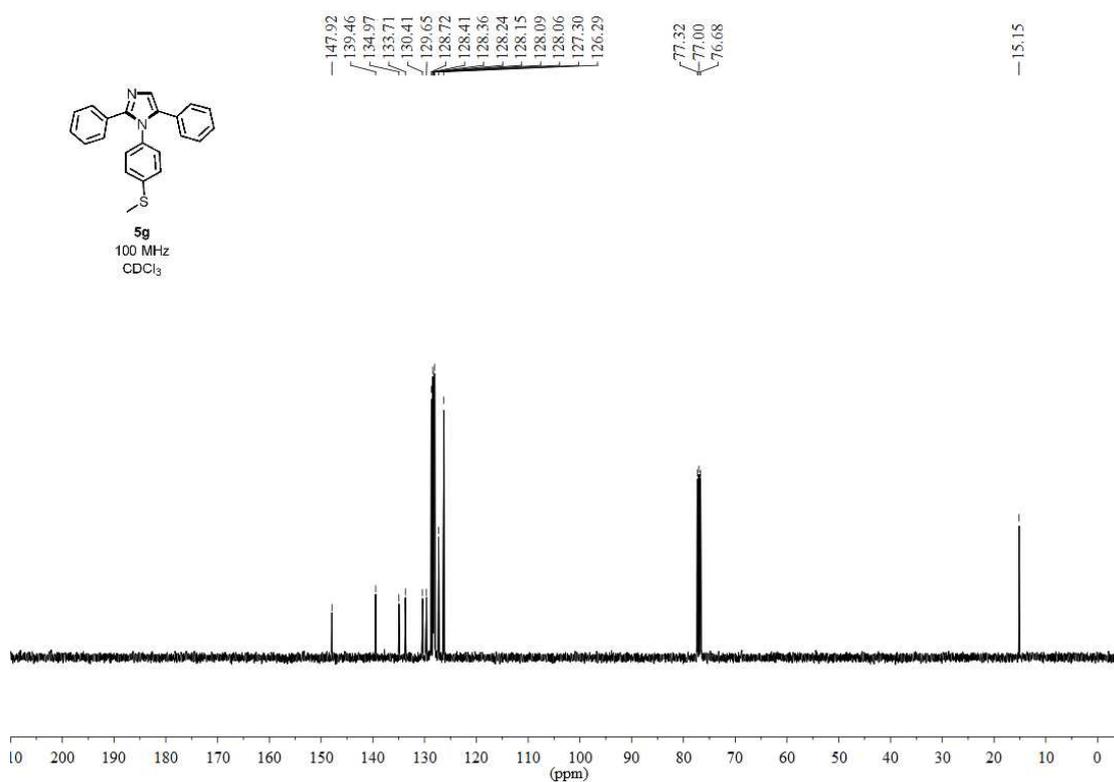
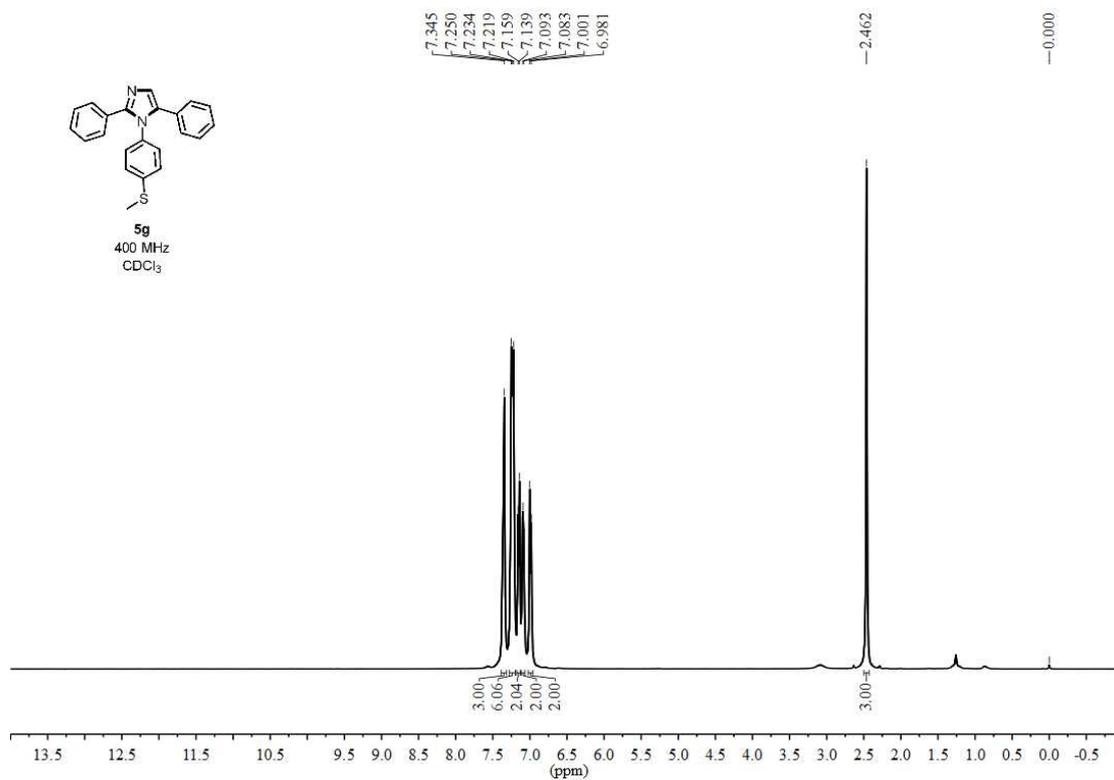


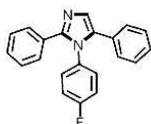




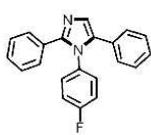
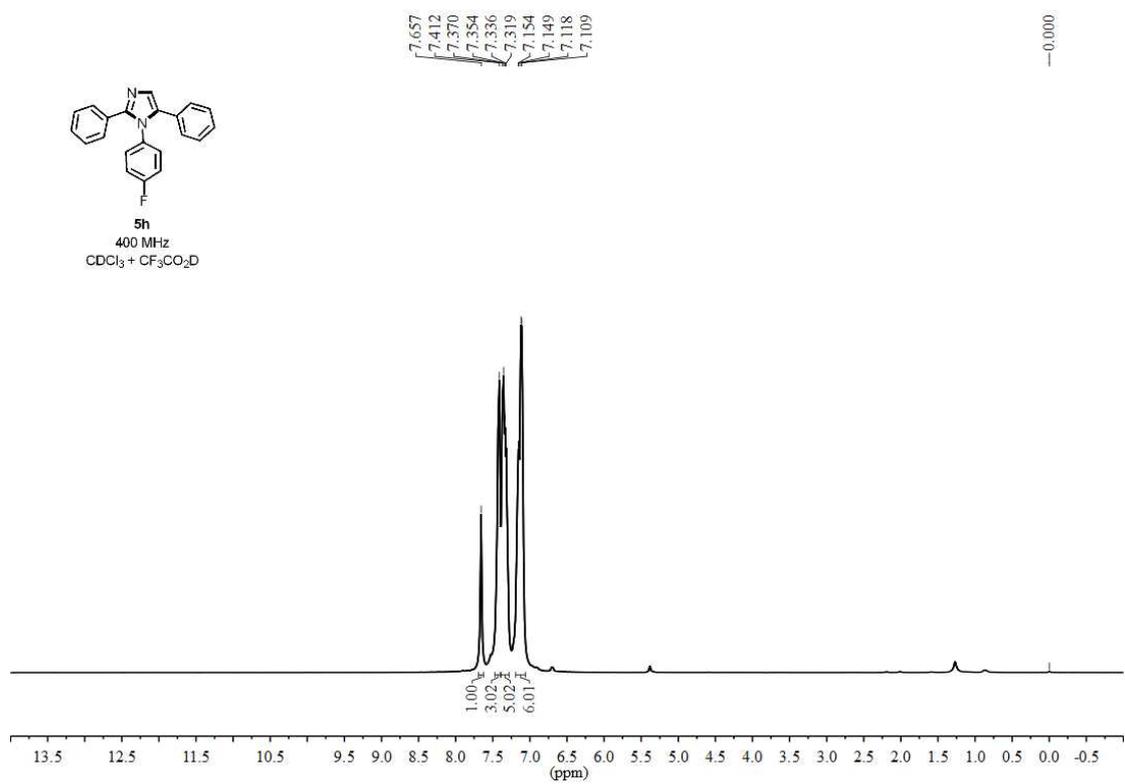








5h
400 MHz
CDCl₃ + CF₃CO₂D



5h
100 MHz
CDCl₃ + CF₃CO₂D

