# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# **Rhodium-Catalyzed Cascade C-H Activation/Annulation Strategy**

# for Expeditious Assembly of Pyrrolidinedione-Fused 1,2-

## **Benzothiazines**

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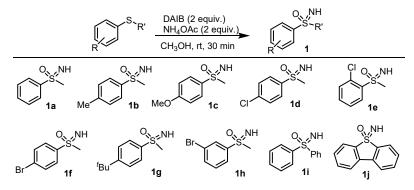
#### 1. General information

**Experimental:** Unless otherwise noted, all the reactions were set up under air atmosphere. Reactions were monitored using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on Silica Gel plates. Visualization of the developed plates was performed under UV light (245 or 365 nm) stain. Silicagel flash column chromatography was performed using 200–300 mesh silica gel.

**Materials:** Unless otherwise indicated, starting catalysts and materials were obtained from Energy Chemicals, Bidepharm. Moreover, commercially available reagents were used without additional purification

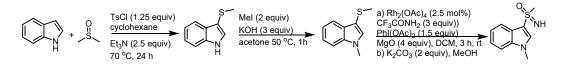
**Instrumentation:** Melting points were recorded on an uncorrected Melting Point instrument. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz and 100 MHz NMR spectrometers, unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in parts per million were reported relative to the residual signals of chloroform (7.26 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and 77.0 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C) or DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> (2.54 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and 40.5 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C), and all <sup>13</sup>C NMR were recorded with proton broadband decoupling and indicated as <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR. Multiplicities are described as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), or m (multiplet), and the coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). HRMS analysis with a quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer yielded ion mass/charge (m/z) ratios in atomic mass units.

#### 2. General procedure for the synthesis of sulfoximines 1



According to the reported literature,<sup>[1]</sup> a mixture of aryl sulfide (5 mol), ammonium acetate (10 mol, 0.77 g), iodobenzene acetate (10 mol, 3.22 g) were added to a 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Methanol was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, evaporation under vacuum to remove the solvent, then extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3×15 mL), and washed with brine. The organic layer was combined, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:1, v/v) as the elution solvent to give desired white solid or colorless oily liquid.

#### 3. General procedure for the synthesis of indolyl sulfoximine 4



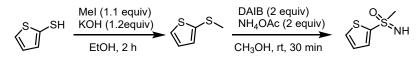
Step 1: According to the reported literature,<sup>[2]</sup> a mixture of indole (5 mmol, 0.59 g), DMSO (3 equiv,

15 mmol, 1.1 mL), *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (1.25 equiv, 1.19 g) were added to a 50 mL roundbottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Cyclohexane (20 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred in an oil bath preheated to 70 °C for 24 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 15$  mL), and washed with brine. The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:10 v/v) as the elution solvent to give red liquid 3-(methylthio)-1*H*-indole in 80% yield.

Step 2: A mixture of 3-(methylthio)-1*H*-indole (5 mmol, 0.82g), iodomethane (2 equiv, 10 mmol, 0.62 mL), KOH (3 equiv, 1.2 g) were added to a 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Acetone (20 ml) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred in an oil bath preheated to 50 °C for 1 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, evaporation under vacuum to remove the solvent, then extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 15$  mL), and washed with brine. The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:10 v/v) as the elution solvent to give red liquid 1-methyl-3-(methylthio)-1*H*-indole in 90% yield.

Step 3: According to the reported literature,<sup>[3]</sup> a mixture of 1-methyl-3-(methylthio)-1H-indole (5) mmol, 0.89g), trifluoroacetamide (3 equiv, 1.7 g), Rh<sub>2</sub>(OAc)<sub>4</sub> (2.5 mol%, 55 mg), PIDA (1.5 equiv, 2.4 g), MgO (4 equiv, 20 mmol, 0.8 g) were added to a 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, vacuum pumping removes most of the solids. extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×15 mL), and washed with brine. The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. Purification is not required, then K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv, 10 mmol, 1.38 g) and methanol (20 mL) was added, the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, evaporation under vacuum to remove the solvent, then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×15 mL), and washed with brine. The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:3 v/v)to give white solid imino(methyl)(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)- $\lambda^6$ -sulfanone in 87% yield. mp 134-135 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.95 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.3, 133.8, 124.4, 123.3, 122.0, 119.6, 116.3, 110.3, 46.7, 33.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z:  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS 209.0743; found 209.0736.

#### 4. General procedure for the synthesis of thienyl sulfoximine 6

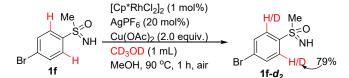


Step 1: According to the reported literature,<sup>[4]</sup> a mixture of thiophene-2-thiol (1.0 equiv, 5 mmol, 0.58 g), iodomethane (1.1 equiv., 5.5 mmol, 0.34 mL), NaOH (1.2 equiv., 6 mmol, 0.24 g) were added to a 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Ethanol (20 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, evaporation under vacuum to remove the solvent, then extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 15$  mL).

The organic layer was combined, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:100 v/v). to obtain red solid 2-(methylthio)thiophene in 79% yield.

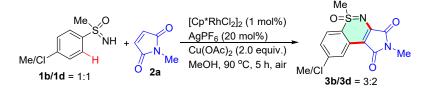
Step 2: According to the reported literature,<sup>[5]</sup> a mixture of 2-(methylthio)thiophene (5 mol, 0.65 g), ammonium acetate (10 mol, 0.77 g), iodobenzene acetate (10 mol, 3.22 g) were added to a 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Methanol (20 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minute. Upon completion of the reaction, evaporation under vacuum to remove the solvent, then extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL). The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:1 v/v) to obtain colorless oily liquid imino(methyl)(thiophen-2-yl)- $\lambda^6$ -sulfanone in 69% yield. mp 162-163 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 4.0 Hz, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  145.5, 133.4, 133.0, 127.8, 47.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub> 162.0042; found 162.0047.

#### 5. H/D Exchange experiment



A mixture of **1f** (0.2 mmol), [RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%, 3 mg), AgPF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol %, 34 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2 equiv, 80 mg) CD<sub>3</sub>OD (1 ml) were added to a 15 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Methanol (3 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred in an oil bath preheated to 90 °C for 1 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×10 mL). The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:1, v/v) to obtain the desired products **1f**-*d*<sub>2</sub> in 70% yield. 79 % of the hydrogen in the ortho-position of imine is deuterated.

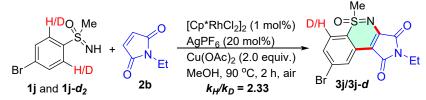
#### 6. General procedure for the competitive experiment



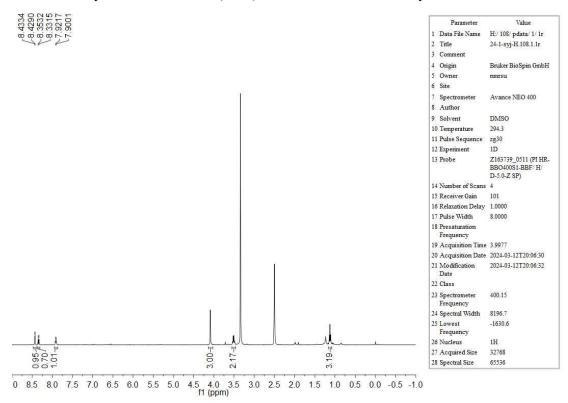
A mixture of **1b** (0.1 mmol), **1d** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.25 mmol), [RhCp\*Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%, 3 mg), AgPF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol %, 34 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2 equiv, 80 mg) were added to a 15 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Methanol (3 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred in an oil bath preheated to 90 °C for 5 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×10 mL). The organic layer was

combined, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:3, v/v) to obtain the desired products **3b** and **3d** in a ratio of 1:1.5.

#### 7. Kinetic Isotope Effect study



A mixture of **1j** (0.1 mmol), **1j**-*d*<sub>2</sub> (0.1 mmol), **2b** (0.25 mmol), [Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%, 3 mg), AgPF<sub>6</sub> (20 mol %, 34 mg), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2 equiv., 80 mg) were added to a 15 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. Methanol (3 mL) was then added. The resulting mixture was stirred in an oil bath preheated to 90 °C for 2 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3×10 mL). The organic layer was combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and then evaporated under a vacuum. The residue was purified using flash column chromatography with a silica gel (200-300 mesh), using ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:3, v/v) to obtain the mixture products **3j** and **3j-d**. The KIE experiment result was detected by NMR. A KIE value ( $k_H/k_D$ ) was determined to be 2.33 by the <sup>1</sup>H NMR test.



### 8. References:

[1] Y. Cheng and C. Bolm, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2015, 54, 12349-12352.

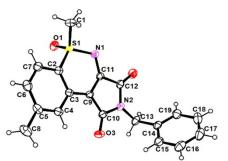
[2] L.-Y. Zhang, Y.-H. Wu, N.-X. Wang, X.-W. Gao, Z. Yan, B.-C. Xu, N. Liu, B.-Z. Wang and Y. Xing, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2021, **2021**, 1446-1451.

[3] H. Okamura and C. Bolm, Org. Lett., 2004, 6, 1305-1307.

[4] Z. Hloušková, M. Klikar, O. Pytela, N. Almonasy, A. Růžička, V. Jandová and F. Bureš, *RSC adv.*, 2019, **9**, 23797-23809.

[5] C. Kang, M. Li, W. Huang, S. Wang, M. Peng, L. Zhao, G. Jiang and F. Ji, *Green Chem.*, 2023, **25**, 8838-8844.

9. X-ray crystallographic data of compound 3q



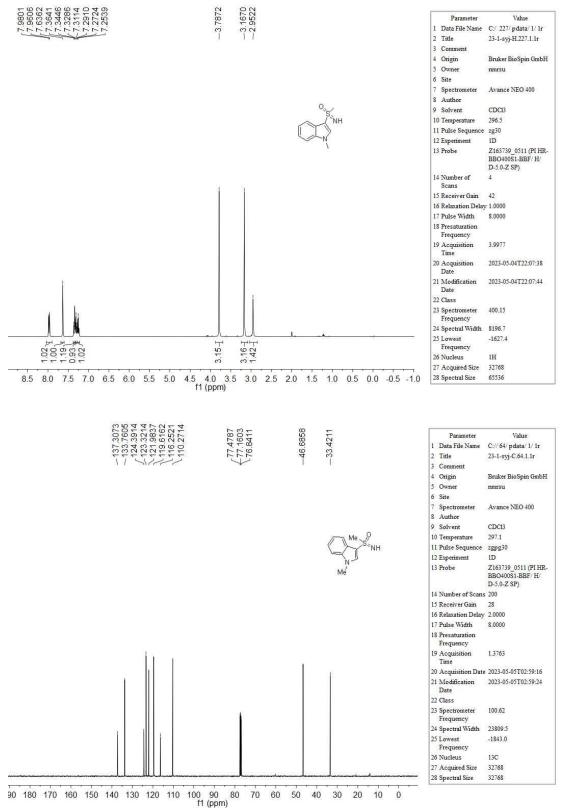
The purified compound 3q is dissolved in a mixed solvent of dichloromethane and *n*-hexane, and placed in a dark cabinet to slowly evaporate. After several days, a colourless bulk crystal is obtained. The X-ray crystal-structure determinations were obtained on a Bruker Smart CCDC APEX-2 diffractometer (graphite- monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda$ =0.71073 nm) at 293.15 K.

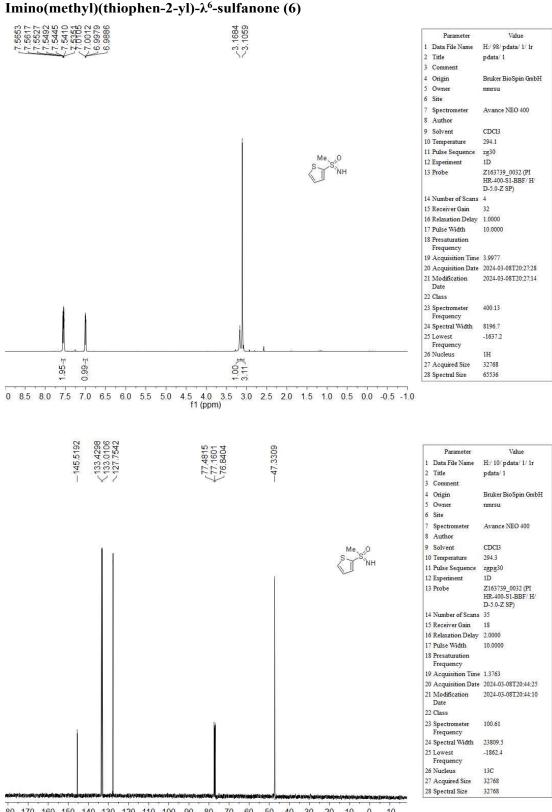
Figure S1. ORTEP drawing of compound 3q (30% probability for the thermal ellipsoid).

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CCDC number	2328549	
Identification code	330831d_0m_a	
Empirical formula	$C_{19}H_{16}N_2O_3S$	
Formula weight	352.40	
Temperature	293.15 К	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	orthorhombic	
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 11.45(2) \text{ Å} \qquad \alpha = 90^{\circ}.$	
	$b = 8.899(16) \text{ Å} \qquad \beta = 101.80(3)^{\circ}.$	
	$c = 17.03(3) \text{ Å} \qquad \gamma = 90^{\circ}.$	
Volume	1698(6) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.379 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.211 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	736.0	
Crystal size	$0.16 \times 0.15 \times 0.13 \text{ mm}^3$	
$2\Theta$ range for data collection	3.636 to 55.012°.	
Index ranges	$-14 \le h \le 14, -11 \le k \le 11, -21 \le l \le 22$	
Reflections collected	18605	
Independent reflections	3868 [ $R_{int} = 0.0336$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0279$ ]	
Data / restraints / parameters	3868/0/228	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.053	
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	$R_1 = 0.0391, wR_2 = 0.1077$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0505, wR_2 = 0.1160$	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.31 and -0.39 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	

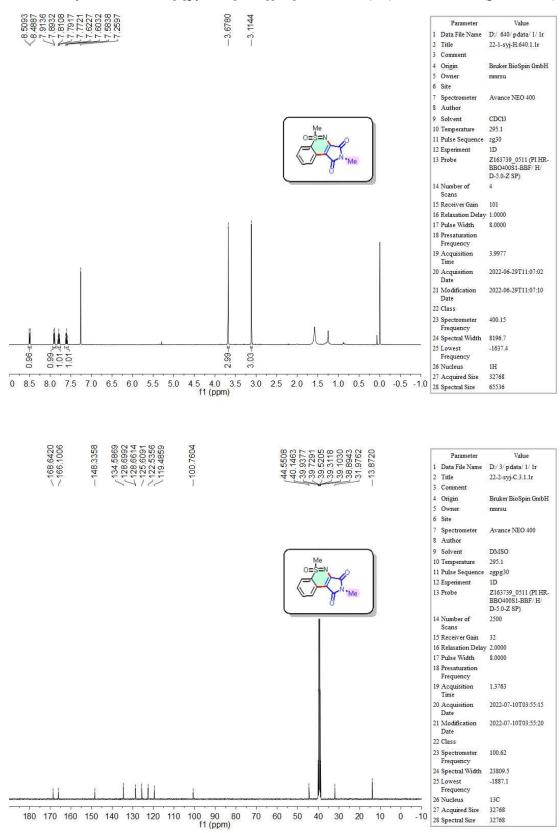
Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for compound 3q.

# 10. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for all compounds Imino(methyl)(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-λ<sup>6</sup>-sulfanone (4)

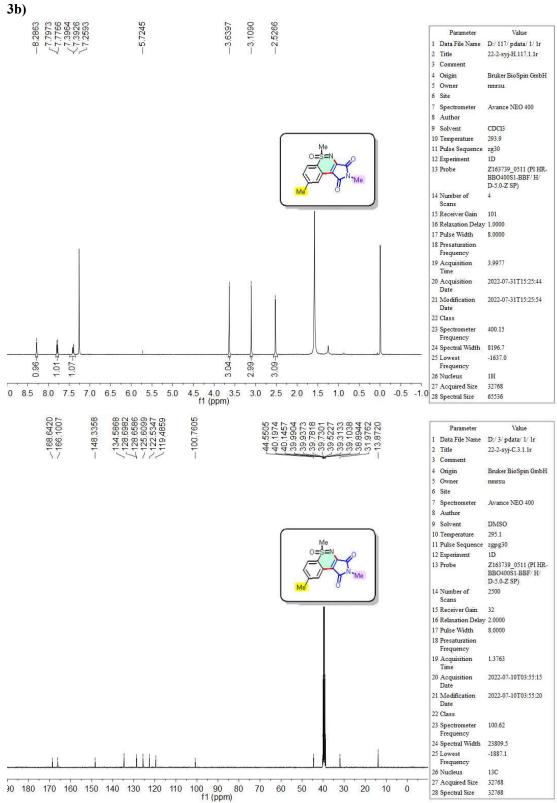




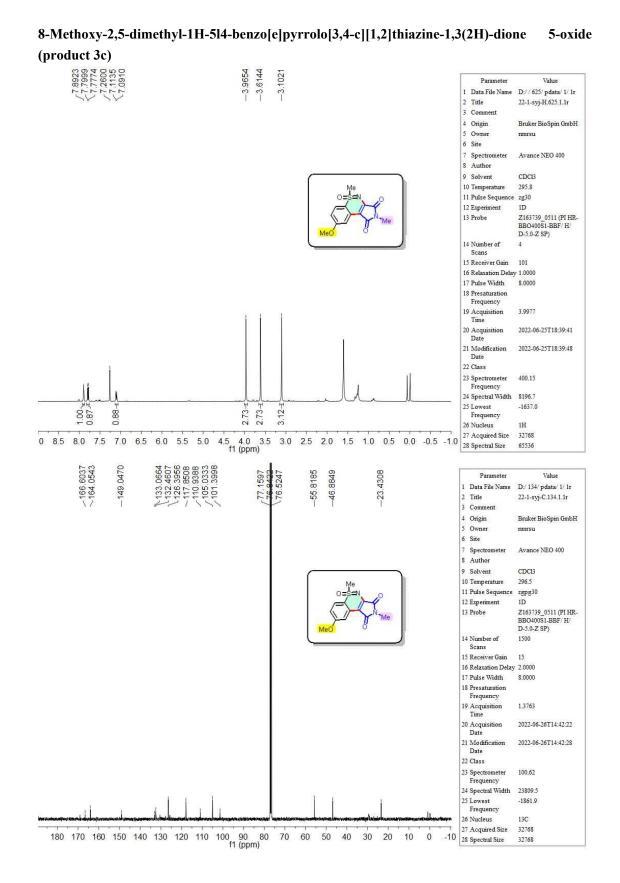
80 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)



### 2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-5λ<sup>4</sup>-benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione-5-oxide (product 3a)

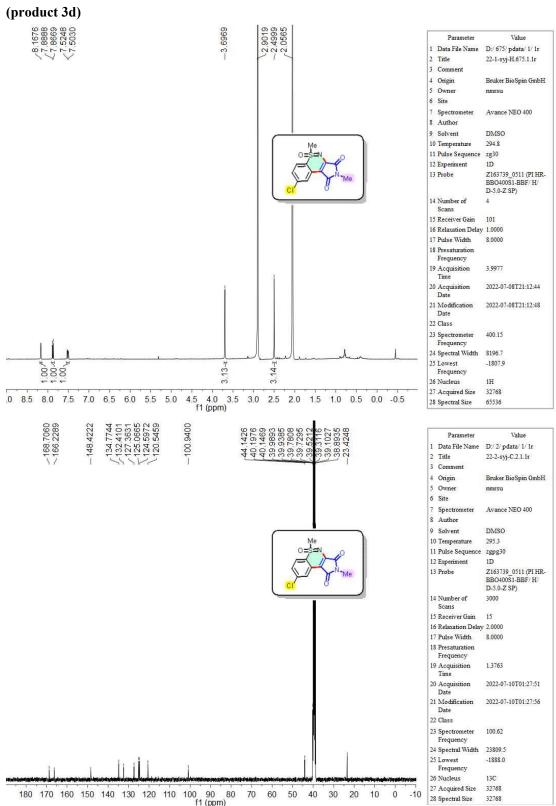


2,5,8-Trimethyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3b)





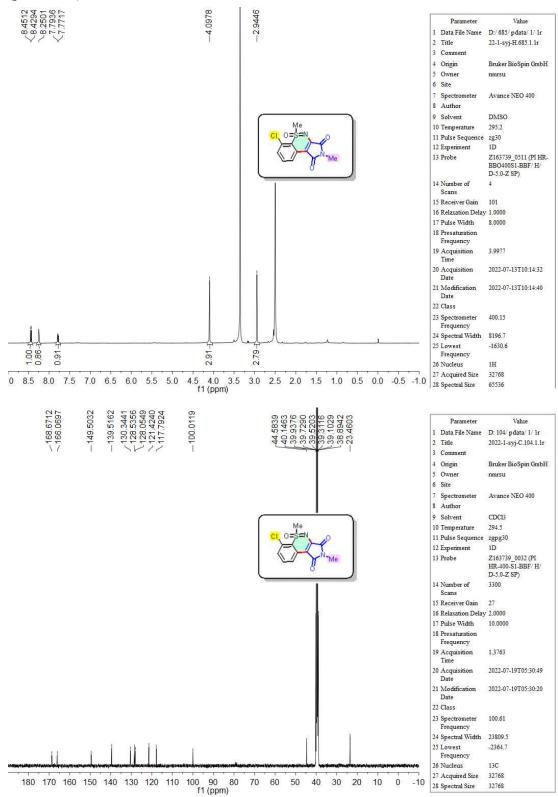


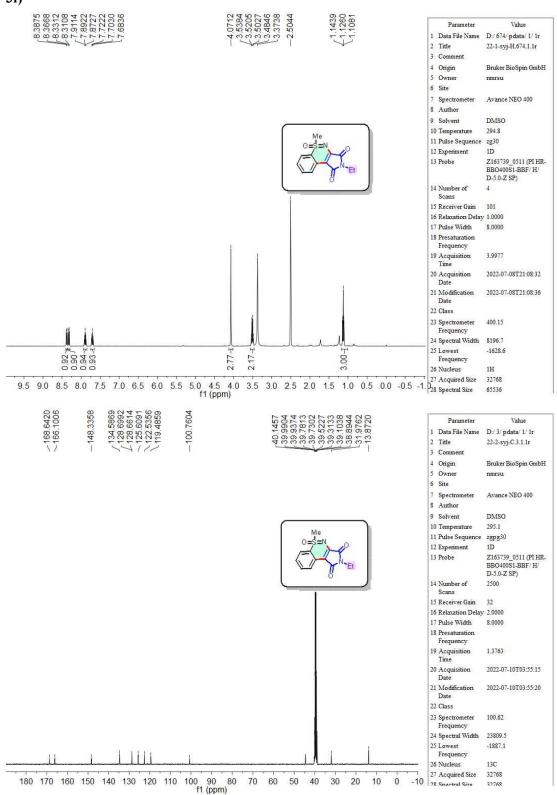




5-oxide

(product 3e)

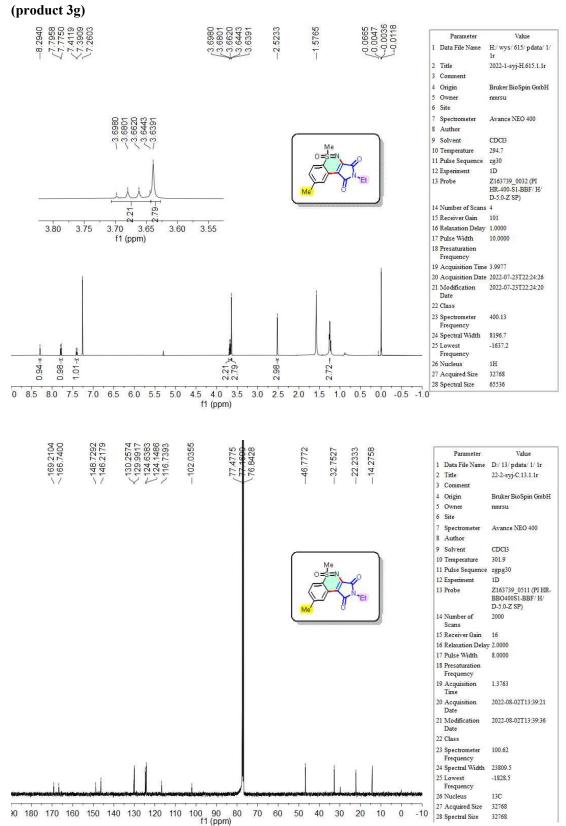


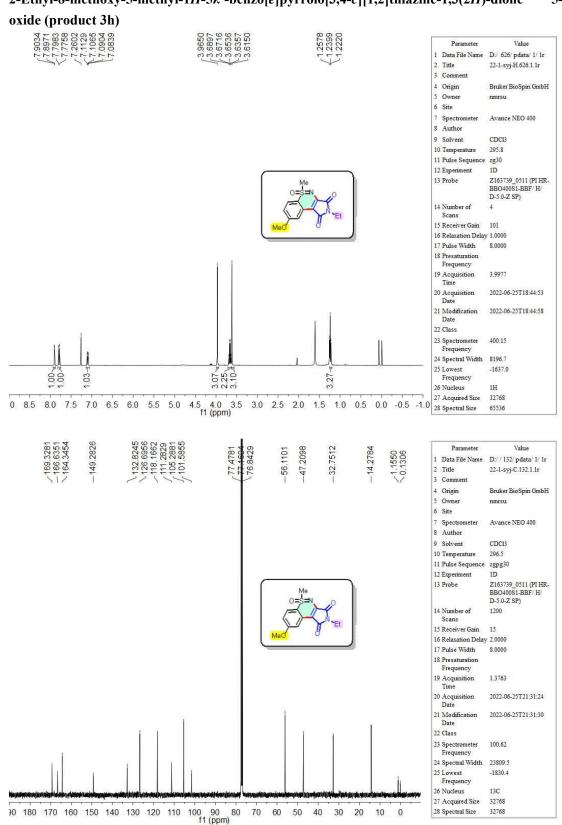


2-Ethyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3f)







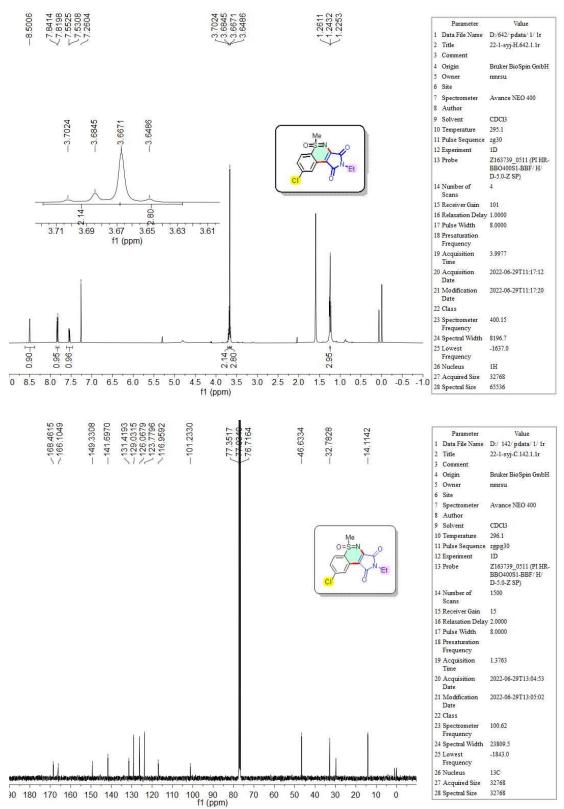


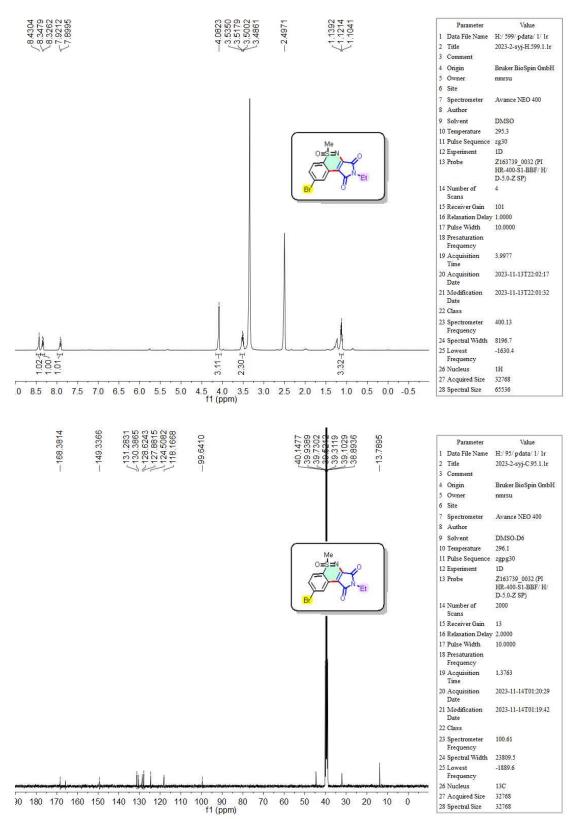
2-Ethyl-8-methoxy-5-methyl-1H-5λ<sup>4</sup>-benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-

28 Spectral Size

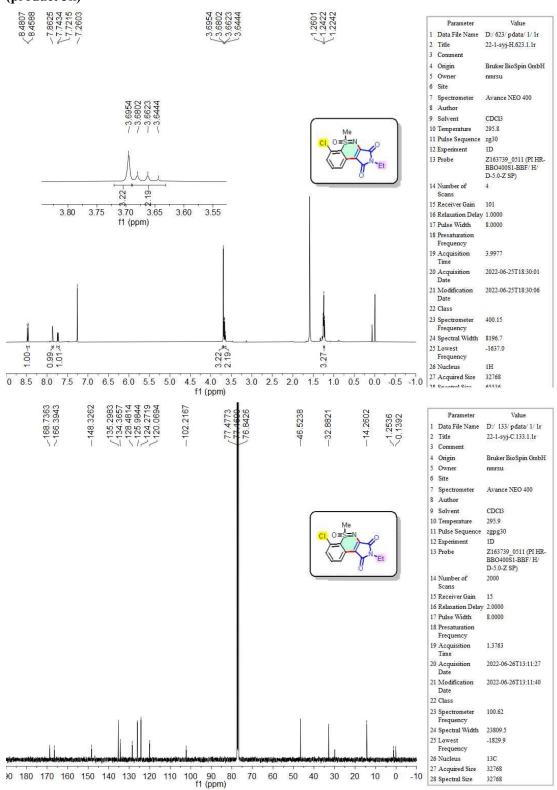
32768

8-Chloro-2-ethyl-5-methyl-1H-5l4-benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-oxide (product 3i)

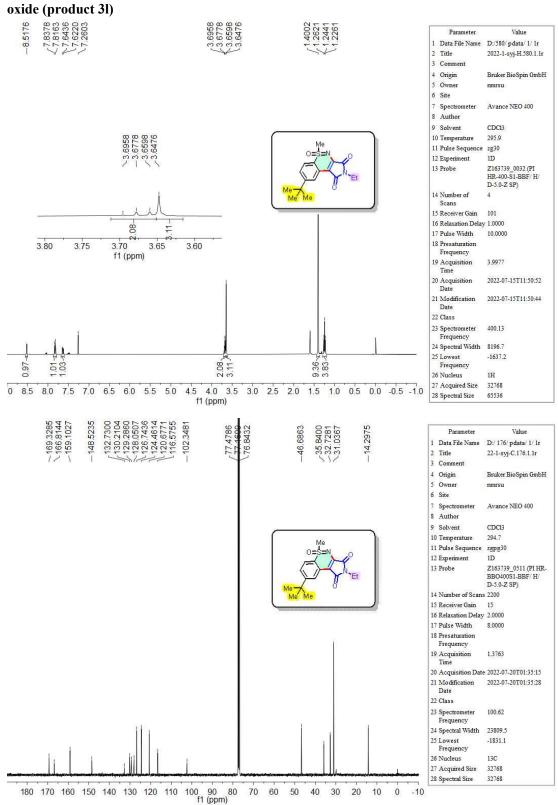




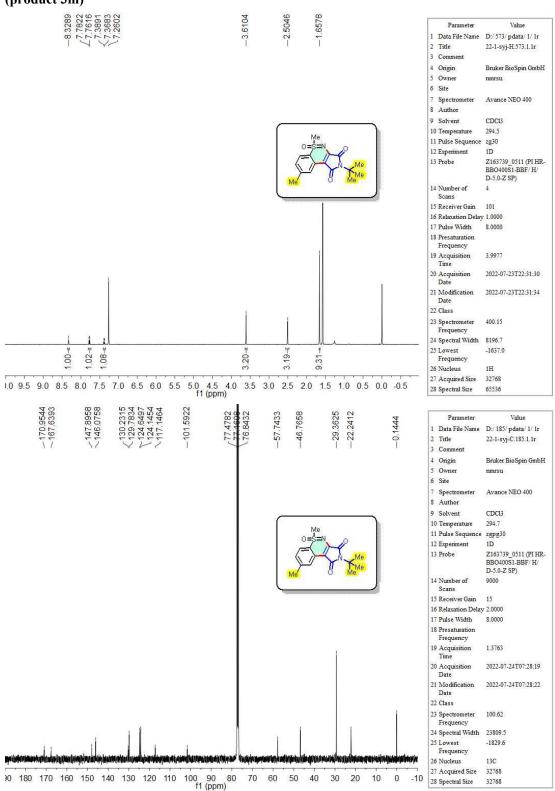
8-Bromo-2-ethyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3j)



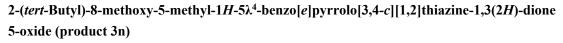
6-Chloro-2-ethyl-5-methyl-1*H*- $5\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3k)

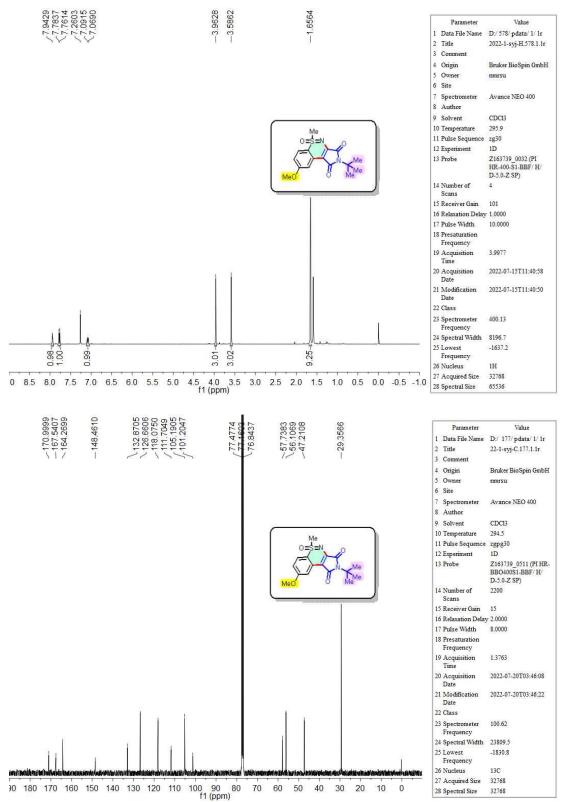


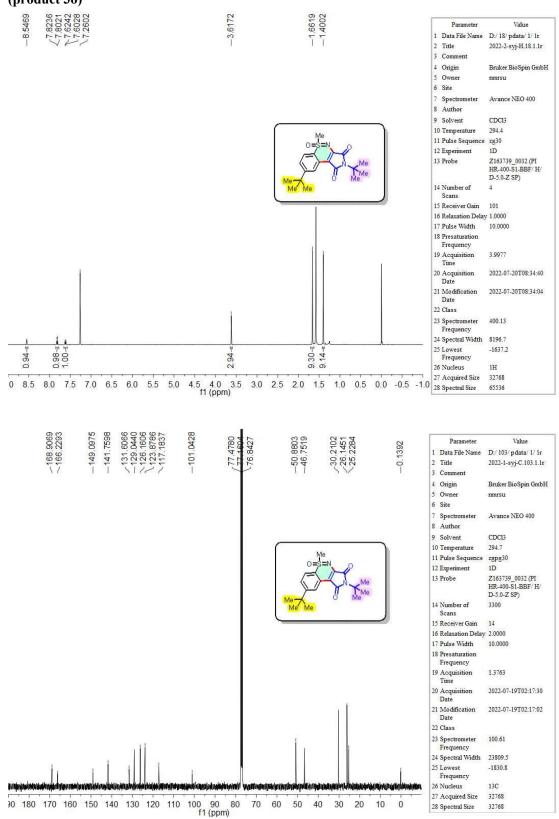
8-(*tert*-Butyl)-2-ethyl-5-methyl-1H-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-



 $2-(tert-Butyl)-5,8-dimethyl-1H-5\lambda^4-benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-oxide (product 3m)$ 



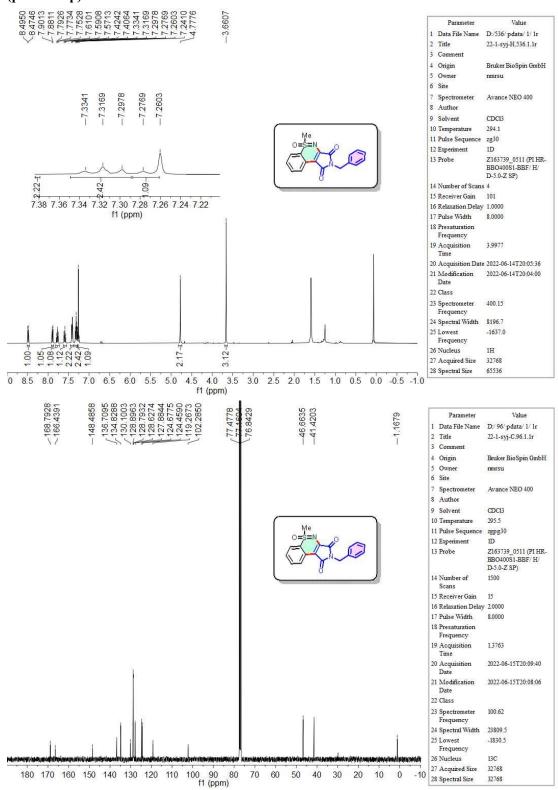


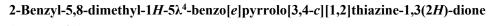


# 2,8-Di-*tert*-butyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5λ4-benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3o)

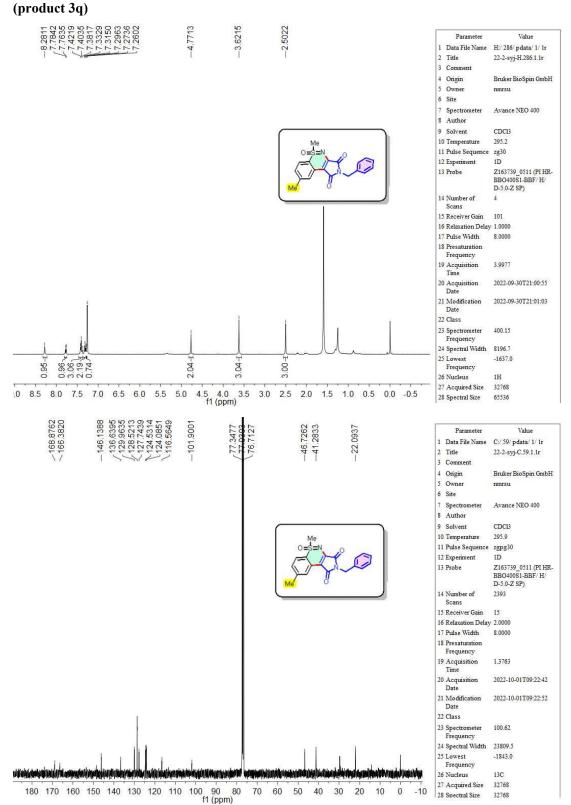
2-Benzyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5λ<sup>4</sup>-benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione

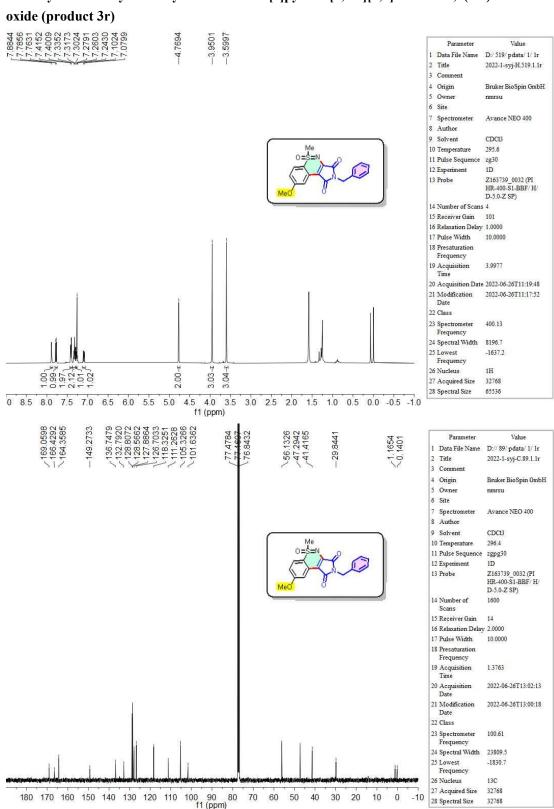
(product 3p)



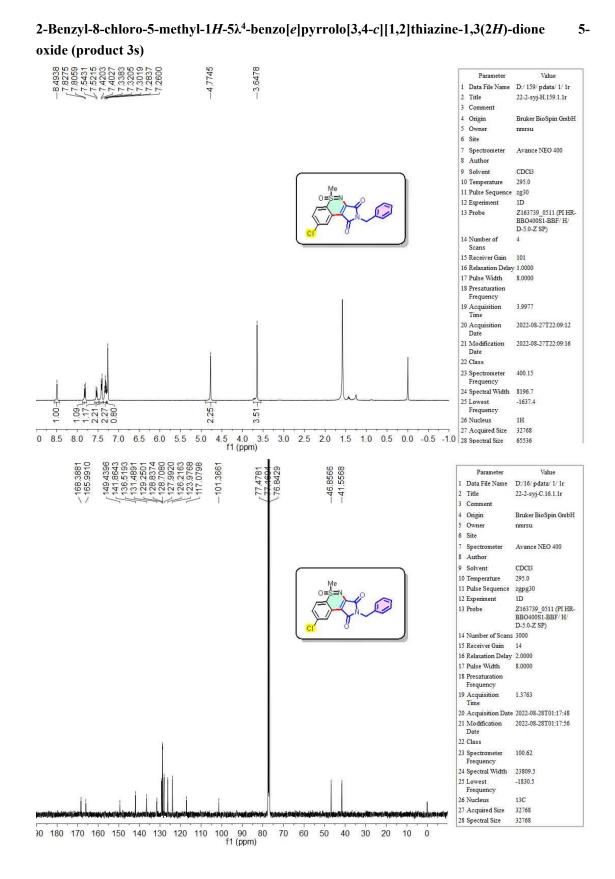


5-oxide

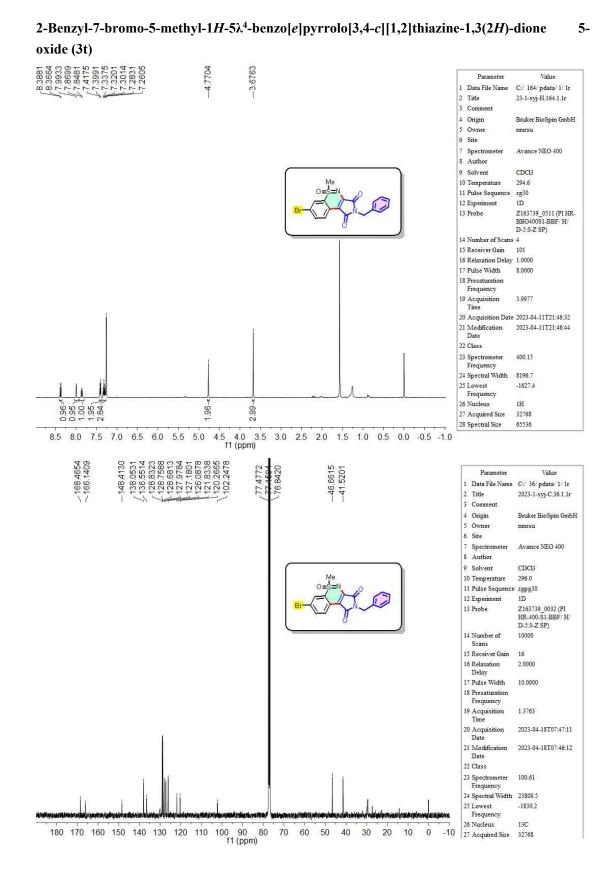




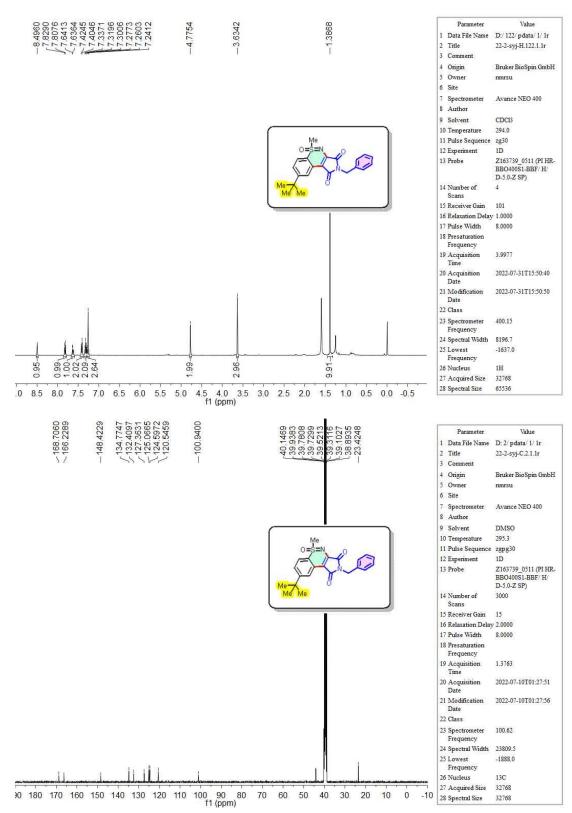
# 2-Benzyl-8-methoxy-5-methyl-1H-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-



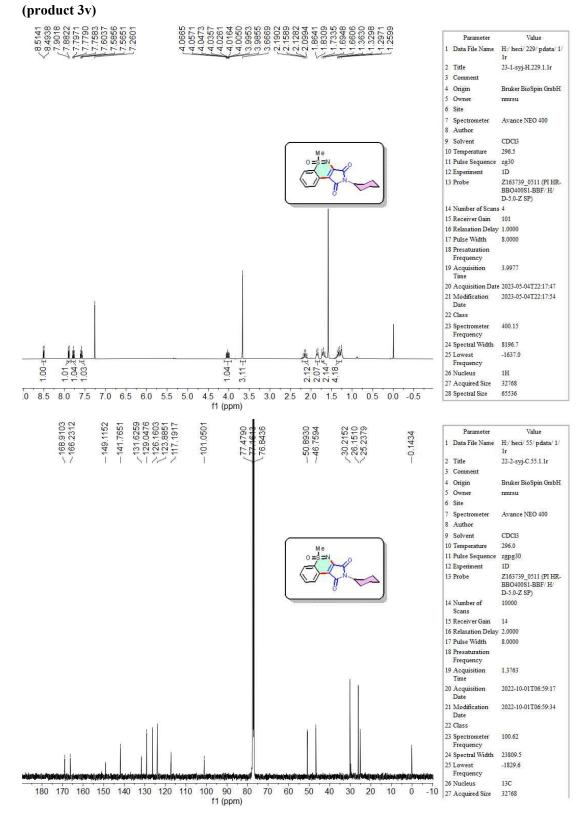
S29



S30

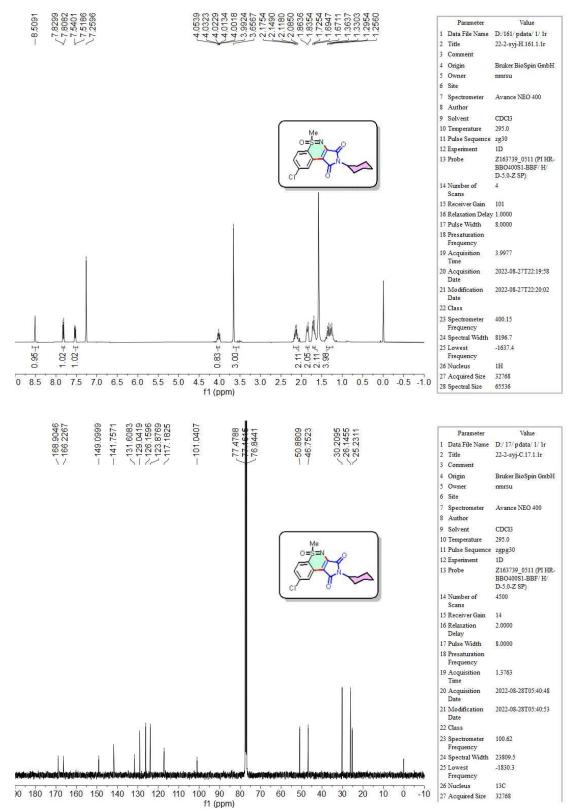


2-Benzyl-8-(*tert*-butyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3u)

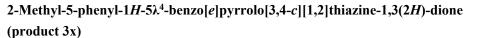


## 2-Cyclohexyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5λ<sup>4</sup>-benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione

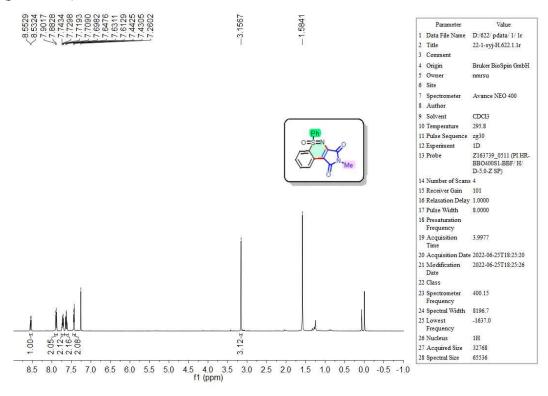
5-oxide

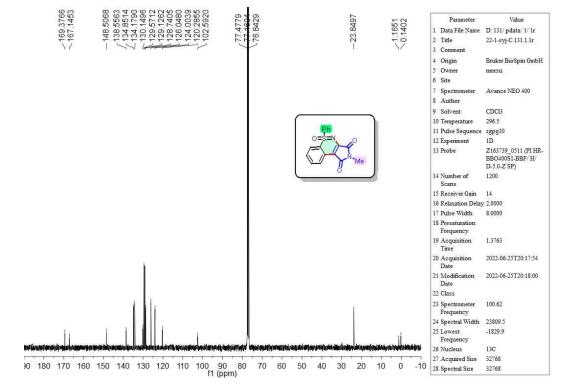


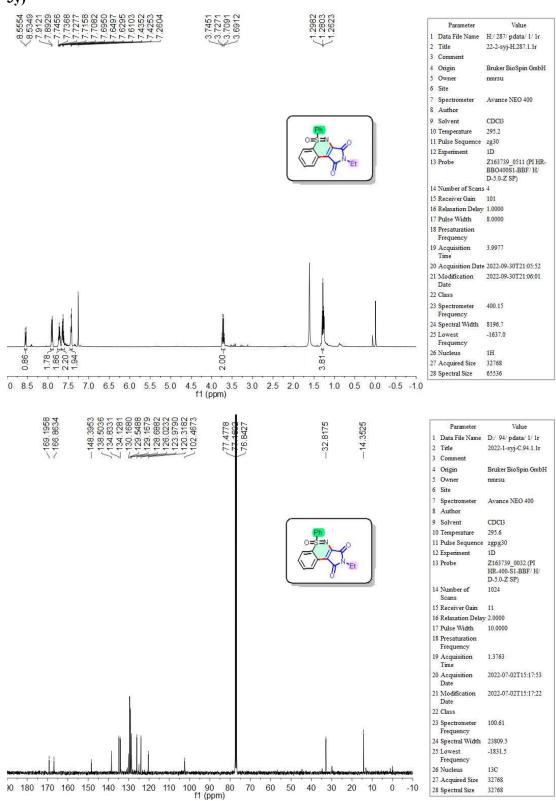
8-Chloro-2-cyclohexyl-5-methyl-1H-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[e]pyrrolo[3,4-c][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2H)-dione 5-oxide (product 3w)



5-oxide





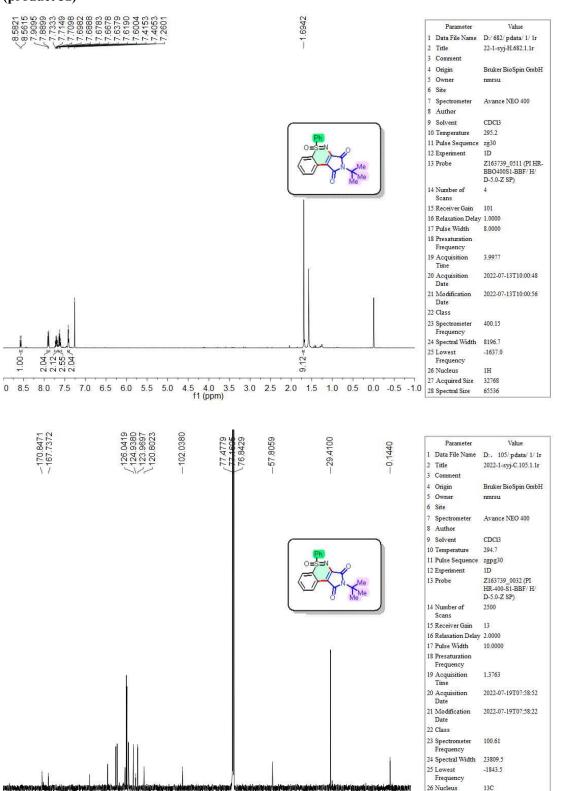


# 2-Ethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 3y)

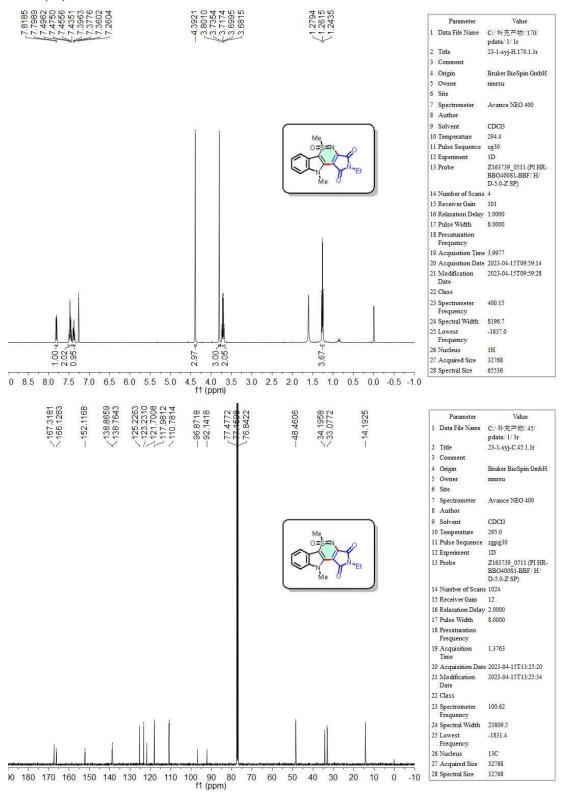
5-oxide

32768

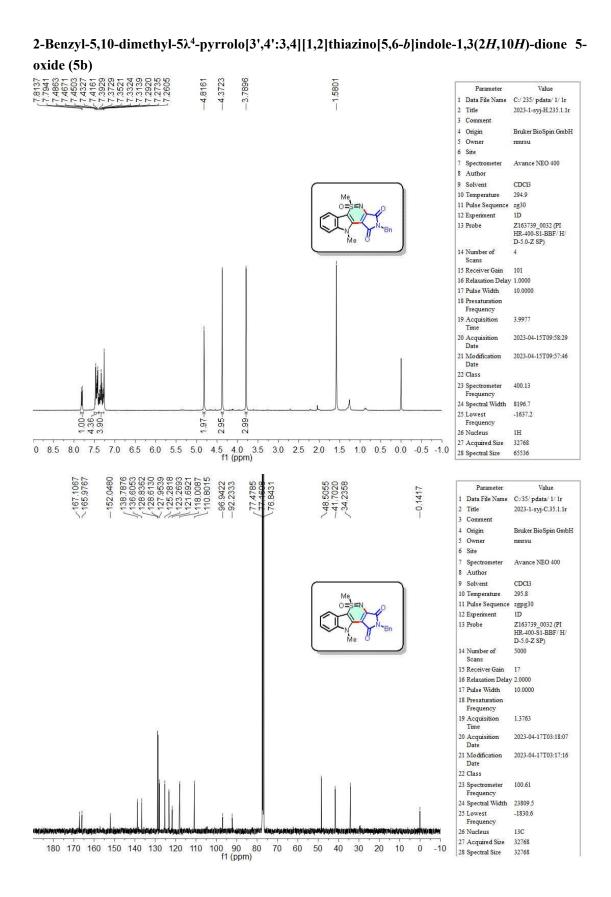
32768



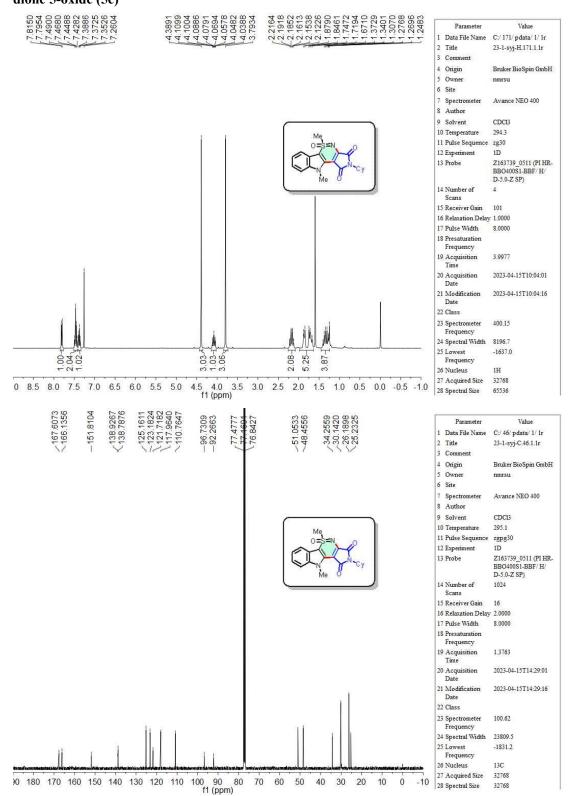
180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 27 Acquired Size f1 (ppm)



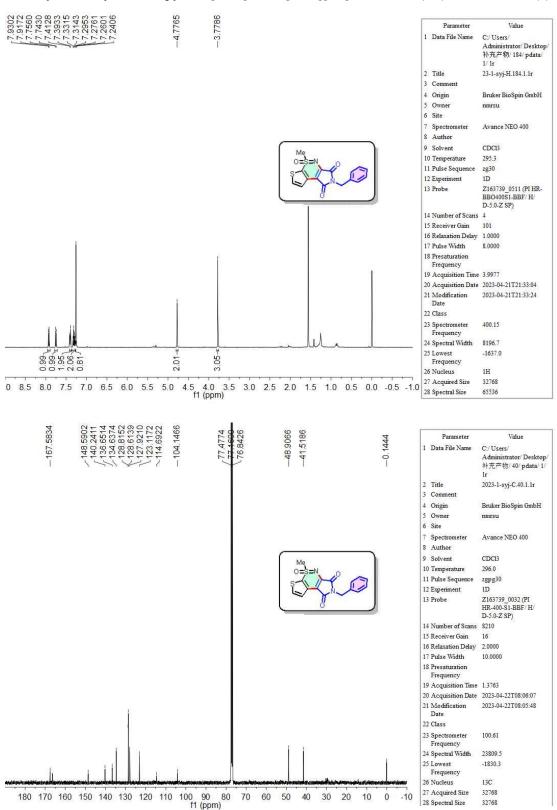
2-Ethyl-5,10-dimethyl-5λ<sup>4</sup>-pyrrolo[3',4':3,4][1,2]thiazino[5,6-*b*]indole-1,3(2*H*,10*H*)-dione 5-oxide (5a)



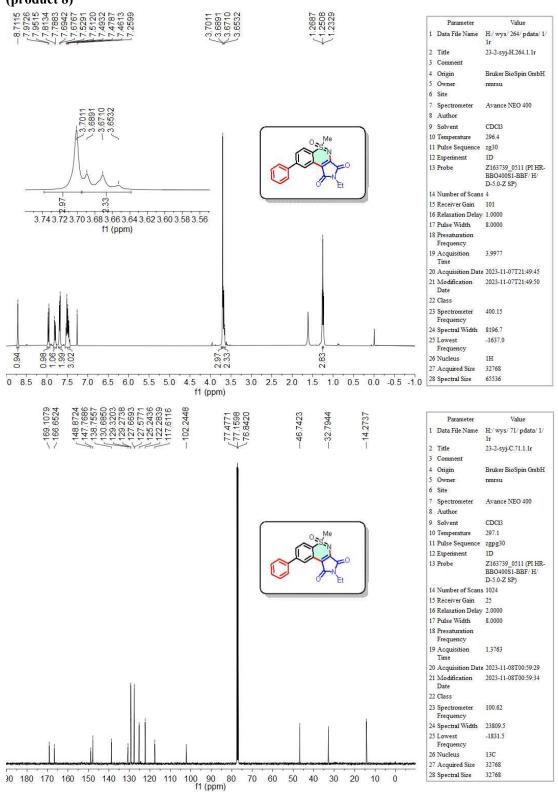
S38



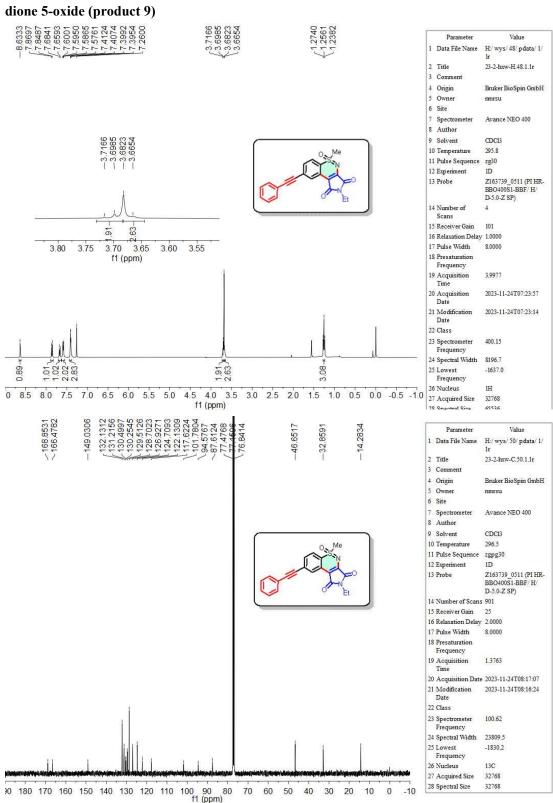
2-Cyclohexyl-5,10-dimethyl- $5\lambda^4$ -pyrrolo[3',4':3,4][1,2]thiazino[5,6-*b*]indole-1,3(2*H*,10*H*)-dione 5-oxide (5c)



### 2-Benzyl-5-methyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -pyrrolo[3,4-*c*]thieno[3,2-*e*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (7)



2-Ethyl-5-methyl-8-phenyl-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)-dione 5-oxide (product 8)



2-Ethyl-5-methyl-8-(phenylethynyl)-1*H*-5 $\lambda^4$ -benzo[*e*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*][1,2]thiazine-1,3(2*H*)dione 5-oxide (product 9)