

Supporting Information

**Palladium catalyzed cyanation of aryl (pseudo)halides using redox active N-CN reagent**

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## 1. General Comments:

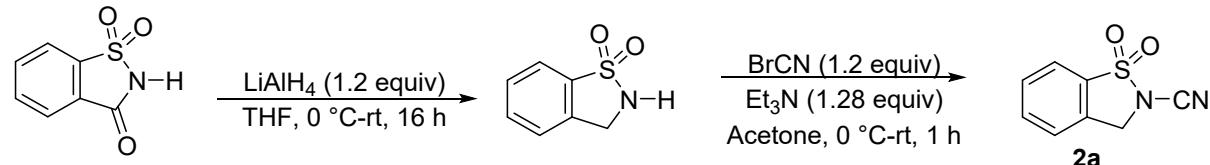
All reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere using oven dried pressure tubes. All electrophilic cyanating reagents (N-CN reagents) were synthesized from corresponding amine/amide<sup>1</sup>. [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]<sub>2</sub> was prepared from known literature<sup>2</sup>. Dry solvents were prepared through standard procedure and stored in an oven using molecular sieves 4Å under argon atmosphere. Column chromatography was performed using Rankem Silica gel (100-200 mesh) and the solvent system used unless otherwise specified was ethyl acetate – hexanes with various percentages of polarity depending on the nature of the substance.

## 2. Analytical Methods:

NMR data were recorded on 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were referenced to signals of either deuterated solvents or residual protic solvents. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet iS10 FT and Jasco ATR-IR spectrometer. HRMS were recorded by electrospray ionization (ESI) method on a Q-TOF Micro with lock spray source

## 3. Synthesis of electrophilic cyanating reagents

### Synthesis of 2-cyano-2,3-dihydrobenzo[d]isothiazole 1,1-dioxide (2a)

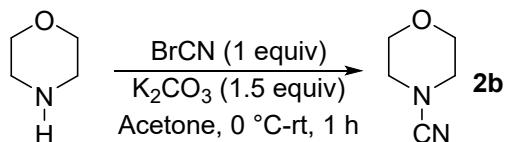


Step 1: To a stirred suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (122 mg, 3.29 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4 mL) in an ice-water bath was added a solution of saccharin (500 mg, 2.74 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (3 mL) dropwise over 30 min under argon. The ice bath was removed and the suspension stirred for 16 h at room temperature. When TLC analysis showed the reaction completed, the reaction mixture was quenched with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and extracted to ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were concentrated to a pale-yellow solid.

Step 2: A dry and argon flashed Schlenk tube was charged with above obtained reduced saccharin (500 mg, 2.95 mmol, 1 equiv), cyanogen bromide (376 mg, 3.54 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and magnetic stir bar and sealed with septum. Acetone (8 mL) was added, and the resultant slurry was cooled to 0 °C. Then, triethylamine (383 mg, 3.78 mmol, 1.28 equiv) was added dropwise over 20 min and stirred at same temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was

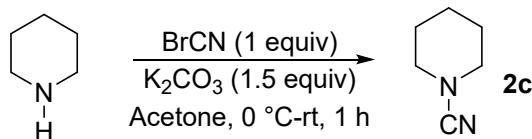
partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was washed to brine and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation of solvent and purification by column chromatography using mixture of hexane/ ethyl acetate as an eluent afforded **2a** in 69% of yield (512 mg) as a white solid.  $R_f = 0.50$  in 30:70 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2360, 2236, 1348, 1184, 734, 668;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.85 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  134.8, 131.8, 130.6, 130.5, 125.1, 122.1, 106.0, 51.1; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M $^+$ ] Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$  194.0150; found 194.0154.

### Synthesis of morpholine-4-carbonitrile (**2b**)



Round bottomed flask was charged with a stir bar, morpholine (535 mg, 6.13 mmol, 1 equiv) and potassium carbonate (1.27 g, 9.20 mmol, 1.5 equiv) followed by acetone (8 mL) was added and cooled to 0 °C. Then, cyanogen bromide (650 mg, 6.13 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetone was added dropwise. The reaction mixture is then allowed to warm to room temperature and water was added followed by extracted with DCM. Evaporation of solvent afford **2b** in 75% (519 mg) yield as a yellow liquid.  $R_f = 0.50$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane. FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3454, 2862, 2358, 2212, 1449, 1109, 997, 731;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  3.67-3.52 (m, 4H), 3.39-2.96 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  117.0, 66.2, 65.3, 48.5, 43.9; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M $^+$ ] Calcd. for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{O}$  112.0637; found 112.0640.

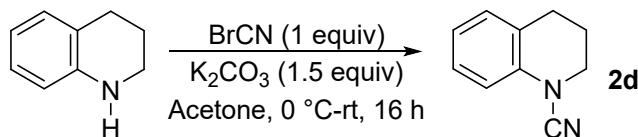
### Synthesis of piperidine-1-carbonitrile (**2c**)



Round bottomed flask was charged with a stir bar, piperidine (500 mg, 5.87 mmol, 1 equiv) and potassium carbonate (1.21 g, 8.80 mmol, 1.5 equiv) followed by acetone (10 mL) was added and cooled it to 0 °C. Then, cyanogen bromide (621 mg, 5.87 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetone was added dropwise. The reaction mixture is then allowed to warm to room temperature and water was added followed by extracted with DCM. Evaporation of solvent afford **2c** in 80%

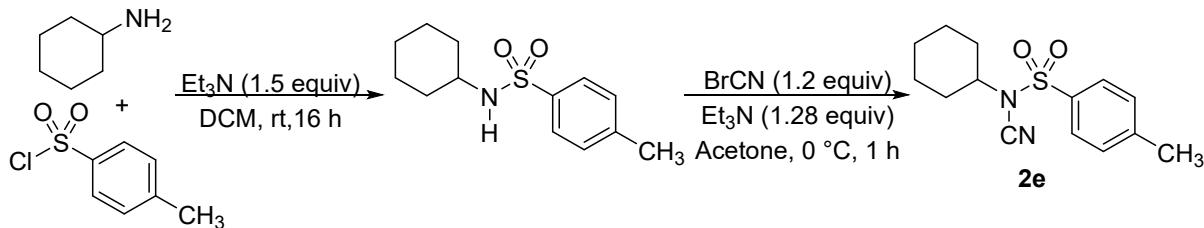
(517 mg) yield as a colourless liquid.  $R_f = 0.50$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3593, 2941, 2858, 2360, 2207, 1449, 1104, 727;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  3.09 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 4H), 1.59-1.45 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  118.5, 50.0, 24.4, 22.8; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M $^+$ ] Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2$ : 110.0844; found: 110.0848.

### Preparation of 3,4-dihydroquinoline-1(2H)-carbonitrile (2d)



Round bottomed flask was charged with a stir bar, tetrahydroquinoline (622 mg, 4.67 mmol, 1 equiv) and potassium carbonate (970 mg, 7.00 mmol, 1.5 equiv) followed by acetone (7 mL) was added and cooled it to 0 °C. Then, cyanogen bromide (495 mg, 4.67 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetone was added dropwise. The reaction mixture is then allowed to warm to room temperature and water was added followed by extracted with DCM. Evaporation of solvent and purification by column chromatography using mixture of hexane/ ethyl acetate as an eluent afforded **2d** in 69% (512 mg) yield as a dark brown liquid.  $R_f = 0.40$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3039, 2945, 2360, 2213, 1496, 1294, 738;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.20-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 7.78$  Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.89 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.68 (m, 2H), 2.77 (t,  $J = 11.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.04-1.97 (m, 2H)  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  135.4, 129.7, 127.4, 123.9, 122.7, 115.4, 113.4, 48.4, 26.1, 20.8; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H] $^+$  Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{NO}$  159.0922; found 159.0922.

### Preparation of *N*-cyano-*N*-cyclohexyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (2e)

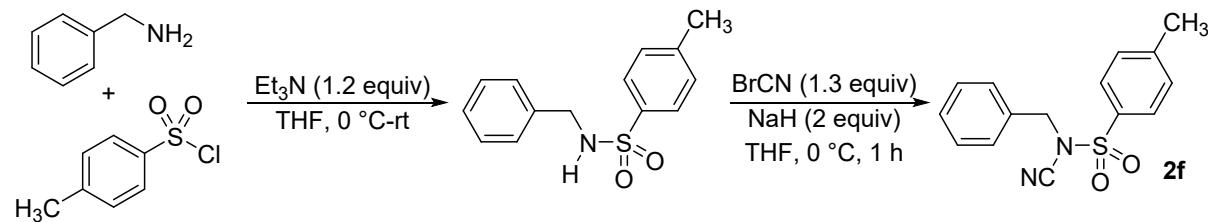


Step 1: Round bottom flask with magnetic stirring bar was charged with cyclohexylamine (600 mg, 6.05 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and THF (10 mL). After the solution had been cooled to 0 °C, a solution of the tosyl chloride (1.1 g, 5.76 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 5 min. Subsequently, triethylamine (702 mg, 6.91 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added

at the same temperature. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 24 h, before being quenched with water. The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM and dried over sodium sulphate. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the crude product was purified using column chromatography to afford a *N*-tosylamine derivative as a colourless liquid.

Step 2: A dry and argon flashed Schlenk tube was charged with *N*-tosylamine derivative (500 mg, 1.97 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in THF and cooled to 0 °C. To this solution NaH (95 mg, 4.06 mmol, 2 equiv) was added portion wise. Then, the mixture was stirred for half-an-hour at same temperature. To this, cyanogen bromide (271 mg, 2.64 mmol, 1.3 equiv) in THF was added dropwise over 15 minutes and stirred for 2 h at 0 °C then warm to RT, subsequently stirring was continued for 16 h. Aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was added to remove excess NaH then extracted with ethyl acetate. Evaporation of solvent followed by purification of compound through column chromatography using mixture of hexane/ ethyl acetate as an eluent afforded **2e** in 87% (480 mg) yield as a colourless liquid.  $R_f$ = 0.6 in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane FTIR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3060, 2938, 2359, 2225, 1376, 1171, 979, 735, 665; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.69-3.57 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.82-1.69 (m, 4H), 1.61-1.59 (m, 1H), 1.49-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.20 (m, 2H), 1.13-1.00 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C):  $\delta$  146.2, 135.1, 130.5, 127.7, 107.3, 60.0, 31.5, 25.3, 24.6, 21.8; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) *m/z*: [M<sup>+</sup>] Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S 278.1089; found 278.1095.

### Synthesis of *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyano-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**2f**)

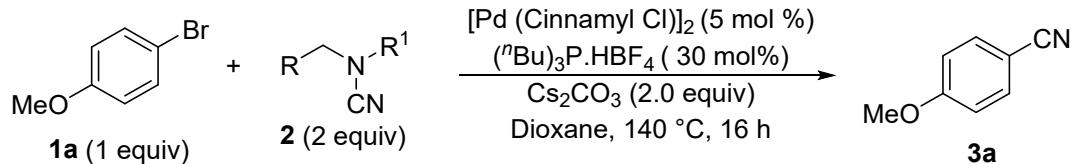


Step 1: To a solution of benzylamine (500 mg, 4.66 mmol, 1 equiv) and triethylamine (708 mg, 6.99 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in DCM (20 mL), tosyl chloride (889 mg, 4.66 mmol, 1 equiv) was added in small portions. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h, before being quenched by water. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM. The residue obtained after evaporation was recrystallized from (DCM/hexane) to produce *N*-tosylamine derivative as a colourless crystal.

Step 2: A dry and argon flashed Schlenk tube was charged with *N*-tosylamine derivative (500 mg, 1.91 mmol, 1 equiv), cyanogen bromide (242 mg, 2.29 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and magnetic stir bar and sealed with septum. Acetone (5 mL) was added and the resultant slurry was cooled to 0 °C. Then triethylamine (248 mg, 2.45 mmol, 1.28 equiv) was added dropwise over 20 min and stirred at same temperature for 1 h. To the reaction mixture diluted water was added and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over sodium sulphate. Evaporation of solvent and purification by column chromatography using mixture of hexane/ ethyl acetate as an eluent afforded **2f** in 39% (213 mg) yield as a colourless solid.  $R_f$ = 0.50 in 30:80 ethyl acetate/hexane FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3067, 2359, 2229, 1377, 1171, 1009, 896, 706, 658;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.68 (d,  $J$ = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  146.4, 133.9, 132.2, 130.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.0, 108.7, 54.3, 21.8; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M $^+$ ] Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$  286.0776; found 286.0784.

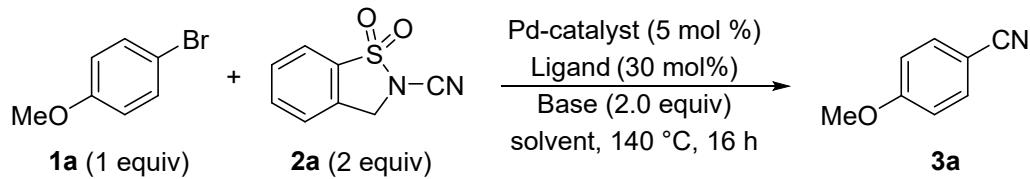
#### 4. Optimization studies

##### 4.1 Screening of cyanating reagent



Entry	Cyanating Reagent	Yield (%)	$\text{2a}$	$\text{2b}$	$\text{2c}$
1	<b>2a</b>	28			
2	<b>2b</b>	23	<b>2a</b>	<b>2b</b>	<b>2c</b>
3	<b>2c</b>	nr			
4	<b>2d</b>	15			
5	<b>2e</b>	14		<b>2e</b>	
6	<b>2f</b>	11			<b>2f</b>

#### 4.2 Screening of catalyst, ligand, base and solvent

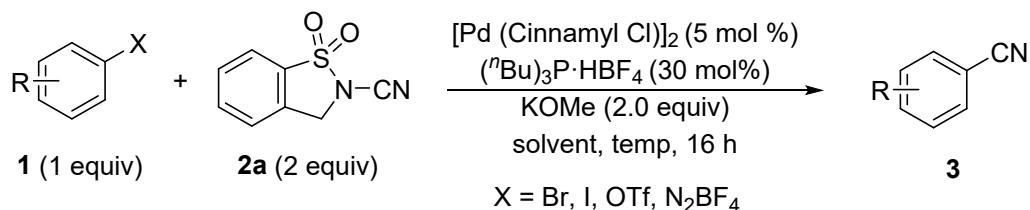


Entry	Pd-catalyst	Ligand	Base	Solvent	Yield (%)
1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	14
2	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	18
3	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	17
4	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	10
5	[Pd(CH <sub>3</sub> CN) <sub>4</sub> ](BF <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	15
6	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	28
7	Pd(acac) <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	nr
8	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOAc	Dioxane	12
9	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	NaOPiv	Dioxane	10
10	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	NaOMe	Dioxane	25
11	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	Dioxane	nr
12	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	10
13	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Dioxane	45
14	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	73
15	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	DMSO	20
16	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	DCE	37
17	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <i>n</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	83
18	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	21
19	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	Tri( <i>o</i> -tolyl)phosphine	KOMe	Diglyme	17
20	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	Tributylphosphine	KOMe	Diglyme	43
21	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	X-phos	KOMe	Diglyme	30
22	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	Bipyridyl	KOMe	Diglyme	nr

23	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	(cy) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	48
24	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>t</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	<10
25	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>n</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Diglyme	46
26	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>n</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOH	Diglyme	nr
27 <sup>(a)</sup>	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>n</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	50
28 <sup>(b)</sup>	[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>n</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	13
29	[Pd(allyl)Cl] <sub>2</sub>	( <sup>n</sup> Bu) <sub>3</sub> P·HBF <sub>4</sub>	KOMe	Diglyme	24

**Reaction condition:** **1a** (50 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (104 mg, 0.53mmol, 2 equiv), Pd-catalyst (5 mol%), ligand (30 mol%), base (2 equiv), sovlent (2 mL for 0.26 mmol), 140 °C, 16 h; <sup>(a)</sup> 2.5 mol% catalyst and 15 mol% ligand; <sup>(b)</sup> 1.25 mol% catalyst and 7.5 mol% ligand.

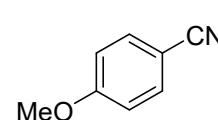
## 5. General procedure for the synthesis of benzonitrile derivatives:



In an oven dried Schlenk tube, aryl bromide **1** (50 mg, 1 equiv), **2a** (2 equiv), [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), P(<sup>n</sup>Bu)<sub>3</sub>HBF<sub>4</sub> (30 mol%), KOMe (2 equiv) were added under argon atmosphere. Dry diglyme (for aryl bromides) or CH<sub>3</sub>CN (for iodides and pseudo halides) (2 mL) was added into the reaction tube using a syringe. The reaction mixture was kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 140 °C/120 °C and stirred at the same temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, water was added and extracted with hexane. The solvent was evaporated to get the crude product, which was further purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate: hexane (5:95) as an eluting solvent to afford the benzonitrile derivatives in good yield.

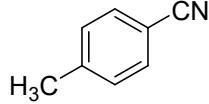
## 6. Properties of isolated benzonitriles:

### 4-methoxybenzonitrile (**3a**)<sup>3</sup>

 Yield: 83% (29 mg); from iodide: 92% (26 mg); from triflate: 45% (13 mg); from diazonium salt: 61% (18 mg); white solid; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.5 in 5:95 ethyl

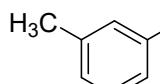
acetate/ hexane; FTIR (neat ,cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2922, 2364, 2219, 1697, 1600, 1490, 1282, 1023, 827; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C); δ 162.9, 134.0, 119.3, 114.8, 104.0, 55.6; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO 134.0606; found 134.0592.

#### **4-methylbenzonitrile (3b)<sup>4</sup>**



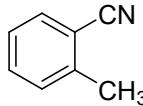
Yield: 70% (24 mg); colourless liquid; R<sub>f</sub>=0.3 in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2838, 2224, 1605, 1509, 1303, 1258, 835, 769, 560; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 143.7, 132.1, 129.9, 119.2, 109.3, 21.9; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) *m/z*: [M<sup>+</sup>] Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N 117.0578; found 117.0562.

#### **3-methylbenzonitrile (3c)<sup>5</sup>**



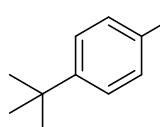
Yield: 68% (23 mg); yellow liquid; R<sub>f</sub>= 0.5 in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3051, 2931, 2233, 1585, 1390, 1297, 789, 689; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 7.45-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36- 7.32 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 139.2, 133.7, 132.5, 129.3, 129.0, 119.1, 112.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N 118.0657; found 118.0645.

#### **2-methylbenzonitrile (3d)<sup>3</sup>**



Yield: 58% (20 mg); yellow liquid; R<sub>f</sub>= 0.5 in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3215, 2931, 2239, 1685, 1390, 1129, 789, 689; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 7.39 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13- 7.05 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C): δ 141.9, 132.6, 132.4, 130.2, 126.2, 118.1, 112.7, 20.4.

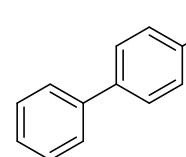
#### **4-(tert-butyl) benzonitrile (3e)<sup>6</sup>**



Yield: 65% (24 mg); from iodide: 76% (23 mg); from triflate: 48% (18 mg); colourless liquid; R<sub>f</sub>= 0.3 in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>):

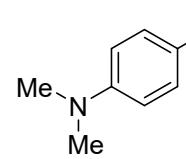
2965, 2227, 1606, 1366, 1269, 1107, 838, 750;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  156.7, 132.0, 126.2, 119.2, 109.3, 35.3, 31.0; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}$  160.1126; found 160.1111.

#### [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (3f)<sup>4</sup>



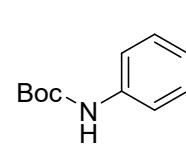
Yield: 78% (30 mg); from iodide: 81% (26 mg); white solid;  $R_f$  = 0.4 in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3058, 2226, 1924, 1687, 1605, 1483, 1266, 842;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.74- 7.67 (m, 4H), 7.59 (d,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50- 7.40 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  145.8, 139.3, 132.7, 129.2, 128.7, 127.8, 127.3, 119.0, 111.0; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M<sup>+</sup>] Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{N}$  179.0735; found 179.0727.

#### 4-(dimethylamino)benzonitrile (3g)<sup>7</sup>



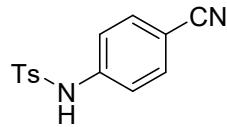
Yield: 76% (28 mg); yellow solid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2904, 2361, 2211, 1607, 1528, 1372, 1171, 818, 737;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.45 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  152.5, 133.4, 120.8, 111.5, 97.5, 40.0; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2$  147.0922; found 147.0921.

#### Tert-butyl (4-cyanophenyl) carbamate (3h)<sup>8</sup>



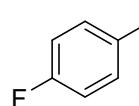
Yield: 63% (25 mg); brown solid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3445, 2954, 2855, 2316, 1939, 1681, 1607, 1448, 1169, 848;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.56 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  152.0, 142.7, 133.4, 119.1, 118.2, 106.0, 81.8, 28.3.

### **N-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3i)<sup>9</sup>**



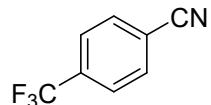
Yield: 74% (31 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2924, 2356, 2228, 1926, 1592, 1379, 1169, 1088, 915, 812;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  145.7, 138.5, 136.1, 133.1, 132.6, 129.9, 128.6, 117.8, 114.2, 21.8.

### **4-Fluorobenzonitrile (3j)<sup>4</sup>**



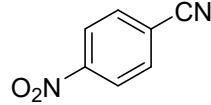
Yield: 42% (15 mg); colourless liquid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2957, 2233, 1601, 1504, 1240, 1162, 843, 755;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.69-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.15 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  165.1 (d,  $J = 256$  Hz), 134.7 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz), 118.1, 116.9 (d,  $J = 22.7$  Hz), 108.6 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz); HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{FN}$  122.0406; found 122.0446.

### **4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (3k)<sup>4</sup>**



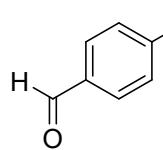
Yield: 56% (21 mg), from iodide: 73% (23 mg), from triflate: 33% (16 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.3$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2239, 2208, 1323, 1176, 1068, 843, 736, 691;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.81 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  134.6, (q,  $J = 32.7$  Hz), 132.8, 126.23 (q,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 123.1 (q,  $J = 273$  Hz), 117.5, 116.1.

### **4-nitrobenzonitrile (3l)<sup>4</sup>**

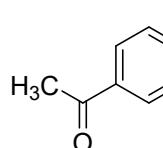


Yield: 87% (32 mg); from iodide: 93% (28 mg); from triflate: 49% (15 mg); from diazonium salt: 69% (21 mg); yellow solid;  $R_f = 0.4$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3109, 2360, 2232, 1601, 1526, 1347, 1102, 742;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.35 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  150.1, 133.5, 124.4, 118.4, 116.9.

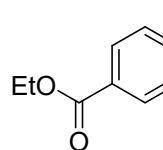
### **4-formylbenzonitrile (3m)<sup>10</sup>**

 Yield: 76% (27 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.6$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3096, 2842, 2221, 1705, 1411, 1297, 1043, 831, 726;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  10.09 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  190.7, 138.8, 133.0, 130.0, 117.8, 117.7; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M<sup>+</sup>] Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_5\text{NO}$  131.0371; found 131.0376.

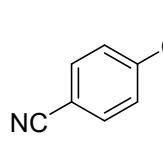
### **4-acetylbenzonitrile (3n)<sup>3</sup>**

 Yield: 81% (30 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3725, 2928, 2360, 2233, 1692, 1402, 1261, 1102, 960, 839, 735;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.04 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  196.6, 140.0, 132.6, 128.8, 118.0, 116.5, 26.8.

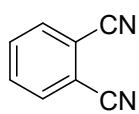
### **Ethyl 4-cyanobenzoate (3o)<sup>10</sup>**

 Yield: 84% (32 mg), from iodide: 90% (29 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2987, 2232, 1937, 1722, 1369, 1176, 1106, 1020, 744;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.13 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.43-4.38 (m, 2H), 1.40 (t,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  165.0, 134.4, 132.2, 130.1, 118.1, 116.3, 61.9, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_2$  175.0633; found 175.0635.

### **Terephthalonitrile (3p)<sup>4</sup>**

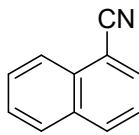
 Yield: 62% (14 mg), from diazonium salt: 39% (12 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.6$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2361, 2229, 1937, 1533, 1265, 1200, 840, 781;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.79 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  132.8, 117.1, 116.8.

### **Phthalonitrile (3q)<sup>11</sup>**



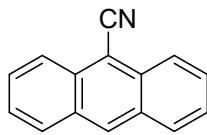
Yield: 53% (19 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.6$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3048, 2355, 2232, 1582, 1481, 1453, 1266, 771, 735;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.83–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.79–7.76 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  133.6, 133.3, 115.9, 115.4; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{N}_2$  128.0374; found 128.0366.

### **1-naphthonitrile (3r)<sup>4</sup>**



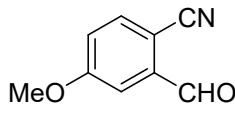
Yield: 74% (28 mg); yellow liquid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/ hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3059, 2360, 2222, 1940, 1508, 1341, 1216, 801, 768, 689;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR(400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.23 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  133.3, 133.0, 132.7, 132.4, 128.7, 128.6, 127.6, 125.2, 125.0, 117.9, 110.2; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_7\text{N}$  153.0578; found 153.0559.

### **Anthracene-9-carbonitrile (3s)<sup>6</sup>**



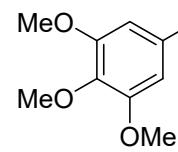
Yield: 69% (27 mg); yellow solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3054, 2260, 2219, 1948, 1527, 1265, 1158, 802, 730;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.65 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.71 (t,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  133.4, 132.8, 130.7, 129.0, 126.5, 125.4, 125.4, 117.4; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{N}$  203.0735; found 203.0724.

### **2-formyl-4-methoxybenzonitrile (3t)<sup>12</sup>**

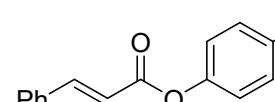


Yield: 71% (26 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3096, 2930, 2364, 2223, 1711, 1692, 1415, 1297, 831, 727;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  10.33 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  188.6, 163.3, 138.9, 135.5, 121.0, 116.3, 113.1, 106.1, 56.1; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{NO}_2$  162.0555; found 162.0555.

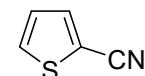
**3,4,5-trimethoxybenzonitrile (3u)<sup>13</sup>**

 Yield: 53% (21 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2928, 2849, 2220, 1729, 1502, 1245, 1137, 1038, 855, 516;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  6.85 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  153.7, 142.4, 119.0, 109.7, 106.8, 61.1, 56.5.

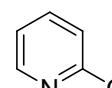
**4-cyanophenyl cinnamate (3v)<sup>14</sup>**

 Yield: 56% (24 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2923, 2362, 2232, 1766, 1600, 1308, 1221, 1136, 855, 762;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t,  $J = 4.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d,  $J = 15.9$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  164.6, 154.2, 148.0, 133.9, 133.8, 131.2, 129.2, 128.5, 122.9, 118.4, 116.4, 109.7.

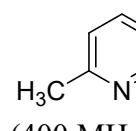
**Thiophene-2-carbonitrile (3w)<sup>4</sup>**

 Yield: 59% (20 mg); yellow liquid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3627, 3103, 2220, 1674, 1234, 1043, 721;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.63-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  137.5, 132.6, 127.7, 114.3, 109.9; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{NS}$  110.0064; found 110.0065.

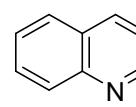
**Picolinonitrile (3x)<sup>15</sup>**

 Yield: 66% (22 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.4$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2359, 2238, 1579, 1433, 1092, 993, 781;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.71 (d,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  151.2, 137.1, 134.0, 128.6, 127.0, 117.2; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{N}_2$  105.0453; found 105.0445.

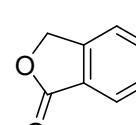
### **6-methylpicolinonitrile (3y)<sup>15</sup>**

 Yield: 62% (21 mg); brown liquid;  $R_f = 0.4$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3058, 2980, 2238, 1912, 1588, 1267, 796, 736;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.70 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C);  $\delta$  160.7, 137.1, 133.2, 126.9, 125.7, 117.4, 24.8; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$  119.0609; found 119.0602.

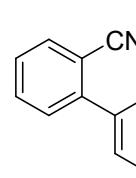
### **Quinoline-2-carbonitrile (3z)<sup>15</sup>**

 Yield: 75% (28 mg); yellow liquid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3060, 2211, 1608, 1400, 1375, 1266, 953, 825, 736;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  148.2, 137.6, 133.6, 131.3, 130.0, 129.5, 128.7, 127.8, 123.4, 117.6; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$  155.0609; found 155.0603.

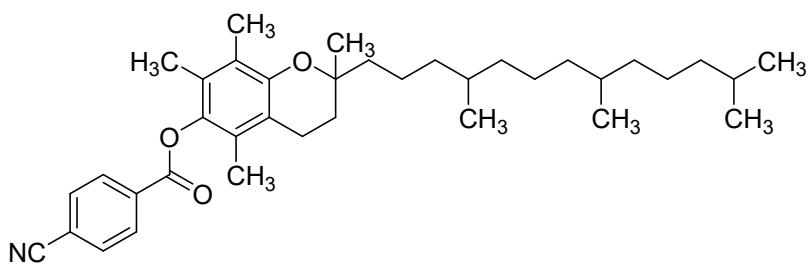
### **1-oxo-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-5-carbonitrile (3aa)<sup>10</sup>**

 Yield: 76% (28 mg); yellow solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 20:80 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3495, 3057, 2235, 1754, 1459, 1121, 1050, 997, 738, 678;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.19 (s, 1H), 8.01 (s, 2H), 5.46 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO, 24 °C):  $\delta$  169.3, 147.7, 132.8, 128.9, 127.5, 126.0, 118.0, 116.1, 69.9.

### **4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile (3ab)<sup>16</sup>**

 Yield: 70% (27 mg); brown liquid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3069, 2360, 2226, 1630, 1478, 1267, 1078, 755;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.75 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  145.6, 138.8, 135.3, 133.8, 132.8, 130.0, 129.5, 128.7, 127.3, 118.9, 111.2, 21.3.

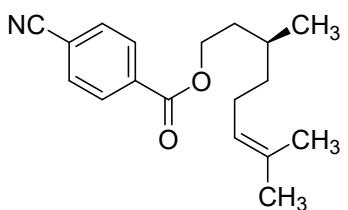
**2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl 4-cyanobenzoate (3ac)<sup>11</sup>**



Yield: 21% (10 mg); yellow solid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2928, 2232, 1738, 1458, 1240, 1094, 1016, 918,

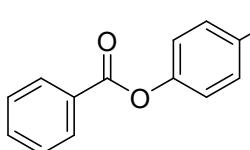
860, 756, 688; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.87-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.38 (m, 5H), 1.26 (s, 13H), 1.64-1.06 (m, 7H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  163.7, 149.9, 140.5, 133.6, 132.5, 130.7, 126.7, 125.0, 123.5, 118.0, 117.8, 117.0, 75.3, 39.5, 37.6, 37.5, 37.5, 37.4, 32.9, 32.8, 31.2, 28.1, 24.9, 24.6, 22.8, 22.7, 21.1, 20.7, 19.9, 19.8, 19.7, 19.7, 13.1, 12.3, 11.9.

**(S)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl 4-cyanobenzoate (3ad)**



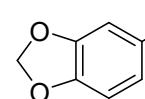
Yield: 80% (34 mg); colourless liquid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3428, 2921, 2232, 1760, 1605, 1458, 1274, 1110, 860, 691; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.08 (t,  $J$  = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.43-4.35 (m, 2H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.38-1.25 (m, 3H), 0.96 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  165.1, 132.3, 130.1, 124.5, 118.1, 116.3, 68.2, 64.4, 37.0, 35.4, 29.6, 25.8, 25.4, 19.5, 17.7, 14.1.

**4-cyanophenyl benzoate (3ae)<sup>17</sup>**

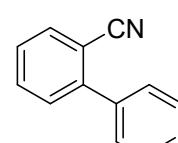


Yield: 81% (28 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 10:90 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3067, 2360, 2230, 1744, 1594, 1260, 1057, 736; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d,  $J$  = 8.59 Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  164.4, 154.4, 134.3, 133.8, 130.4, 128.9, 128.3, 123.0, 118.4, 109.9.

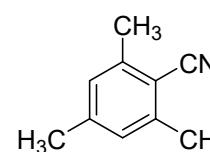
**Benzo[d][1,3]dioxole-5-carbonitrile (3af)<sup>16</sup>**

 Yield: 71% (21 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2923, 2866, 2223, 1724, 1486, 1441, 1258, 1035, 919, 811, 736, 613;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.22- 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.06 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  151.6, 148.1, 128.3, 119.0, 111.5, 109.2, 105.1, 102.3.

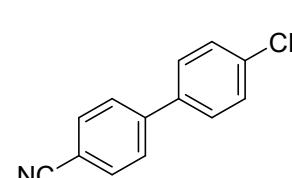
**[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile (3ag)<sup>7</sup>**

 Yield: 76% (24 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.4$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3063, 2360, 2226, 1630, 1475, 1267, 1078, 758;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.77 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.66- 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.57- 7.42 (m, 7H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  145.6, 138.2, 133.8, 132.9, 130.1, 128.8, 128.8, 127.6, 118.8, 111.3; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF)  $m/z$ : [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}$  180.0813; found 180.0806.

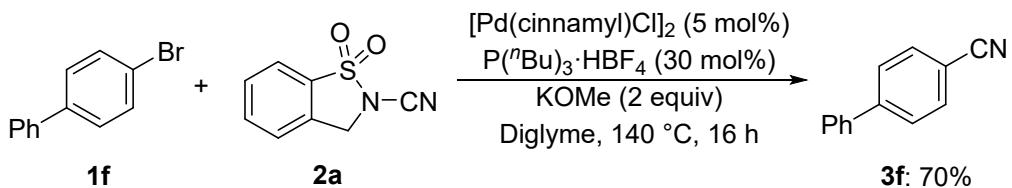
**2,4,6-trimethylbenzonitrile (3ah)<sup>3</sup>**

 Yield: 59% (17 mg); white solid;  $R_f = 0.5$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2927, 2855, 2226, 1628, 1591, 1265, 1031, 828, 748;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.26 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  146.6, 146.3, 129.6, 115.9, 112.6, 21.3, 20.1.

**[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarbonitrile (3ai)<sup>18</sup>**

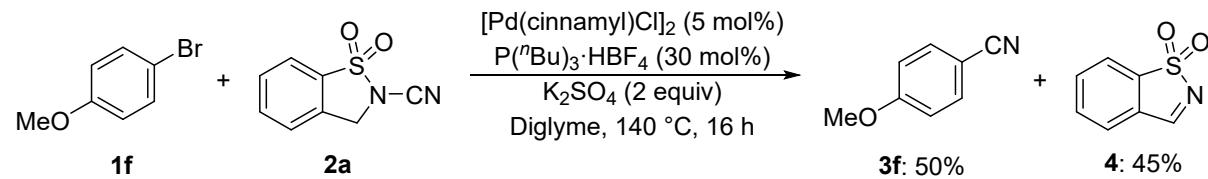
 Yield: 61% (15 mg); colourless solid;  $R_f = 0.6$  in 5:95 ethyl acetate/hexane; FTIR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3048, 2360, 2223, 1489, 1266, 818, 741;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 7.69$  Hz, 4H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.69$  Hz, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  143.6, 133.0, 128.0, 118.5, 112.5.

## 7. Procedure for the synthesis of benzonitrile derivative in 1 mmol scale:

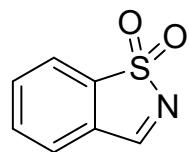


In an oven dried Schlenk tube, 4-bromo-1,1'-biphenyl (233 mg, 1 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (388 mg, 2 mmol, 2 equiv),  $[\text{Pd}(\text{cinnamyl})\text{Cl}]_2$  (26 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%),  $\text{P}(^n\text{Bu})_3 \cdot \text{HBF}_4$  (87 mg, 0.3 mmol, 30 mol%),  $\text{KOMe}$  (204 mg, 2 mmol, 2 equiv) were added under argon atmosphere. Dry diglyme (10 mL) was added into the reaction tube using a syringe. The reaction mixture was kept in a pre-heated oil bath at  $140^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred at the same temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, water was added and extracted with hexane. The solvent was evaporated to get the crude product, which was further purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate: hexane (5:95) as an eluting solvent to afford the [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile in 70% yield.

## 8. Isolation of benzo[d]isothiazole 1,1-dioxide (4):



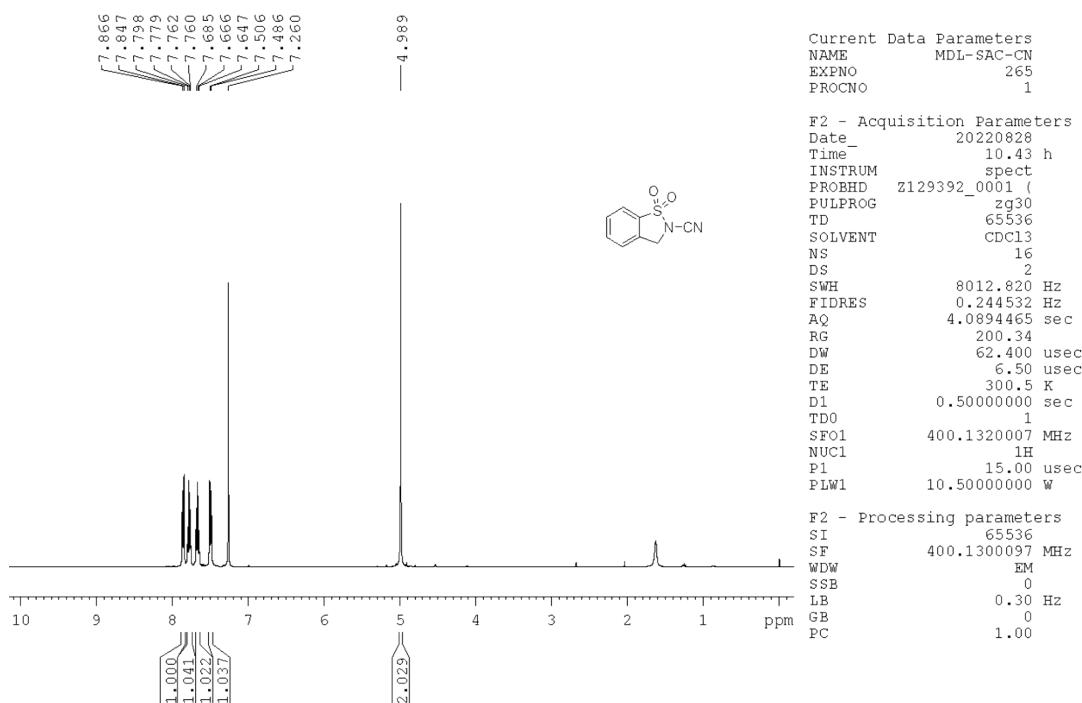
In an oven dried Schlenk tube, 4-bromoanisole (50 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (104 mg, 0.53 mmol, 2 equiv),  $[\text{Pd}(\text{cinnamyl})\text{Cl}]_2$  (6.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%),  $\text{P}(^n\text{Bu})_3 \cdot \text{HBF}_4$  (23 mg, 0.08 mmol, 30 mol%),  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$  (92 mg, 0.53 mmol, 2 equiv) were added under argon atmosphere. Dry diglyme (10 mL) was added into the reaction tube using a syringe. The reaction mixture was kept in a pre-heated oil bath at  $140^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred at the same temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, water was added and extracted with hexane. The solvent was evaporated to get the crude product, which was further purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate: hexane (5:95) as an eluting solvent to afford the 4-methoxybenzonitrile and imine **4** in 50% and 45% yield, respectively.



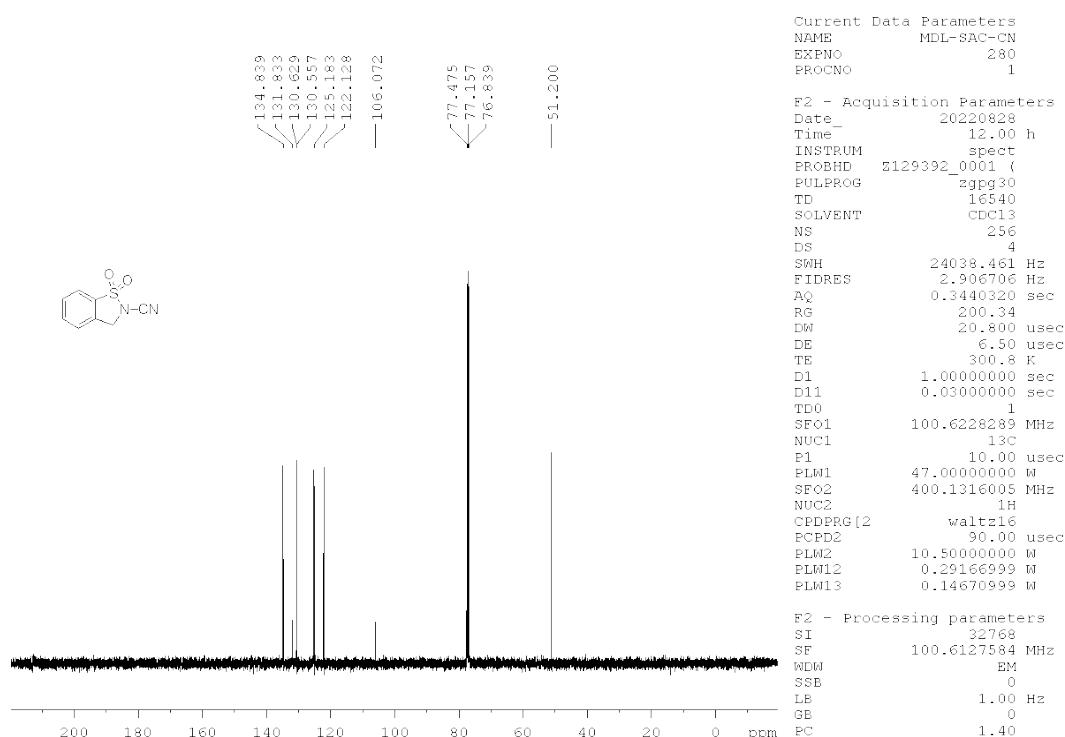
Yield: 45% (20 mg); white solid;  $R_f$  = 0.5 in 30:70 ethyl acetate/hexane;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  9.0 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.08 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t,  $J$  = 8.54 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t,  $J$  = 8.21 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.15 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C):  $\delta$  157.3, 134.4, 134.2, 131.5, 130.0, 125.4, 121.7.

## 9. NMR spectra of isolated compounds:

### 2-Cyano-2,3-dihydrobenzo[d]isothiazole 1,1-dioxide (2a)

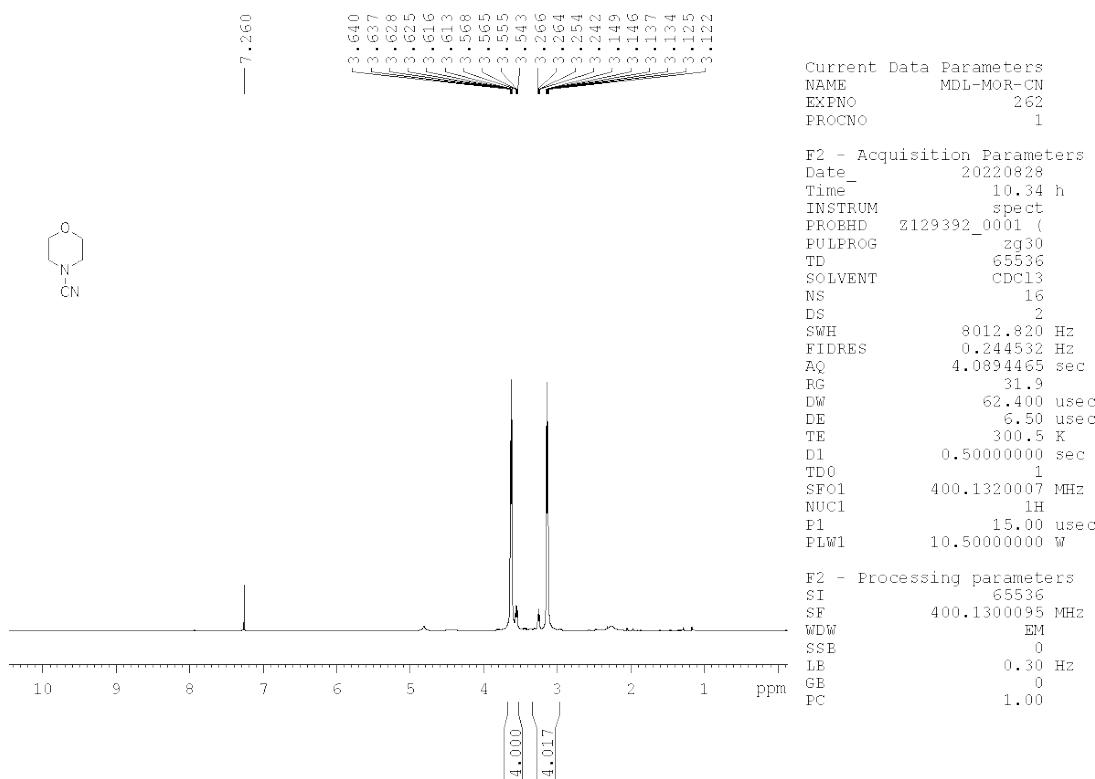


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2a

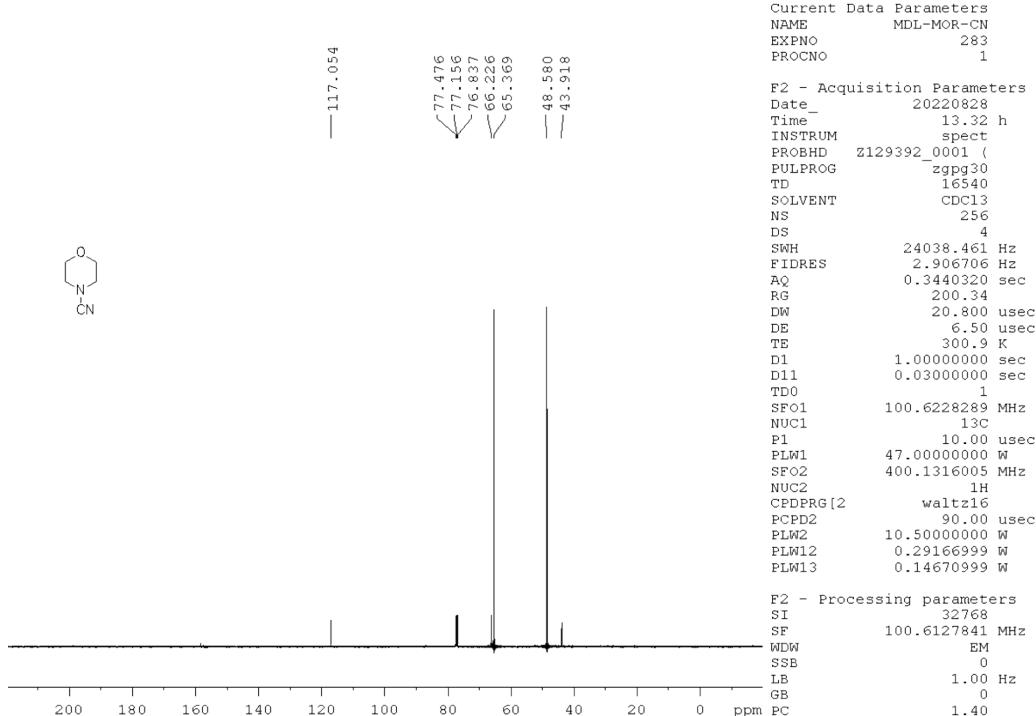


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2a

## Morpholine-4-carbonitrile (2b)

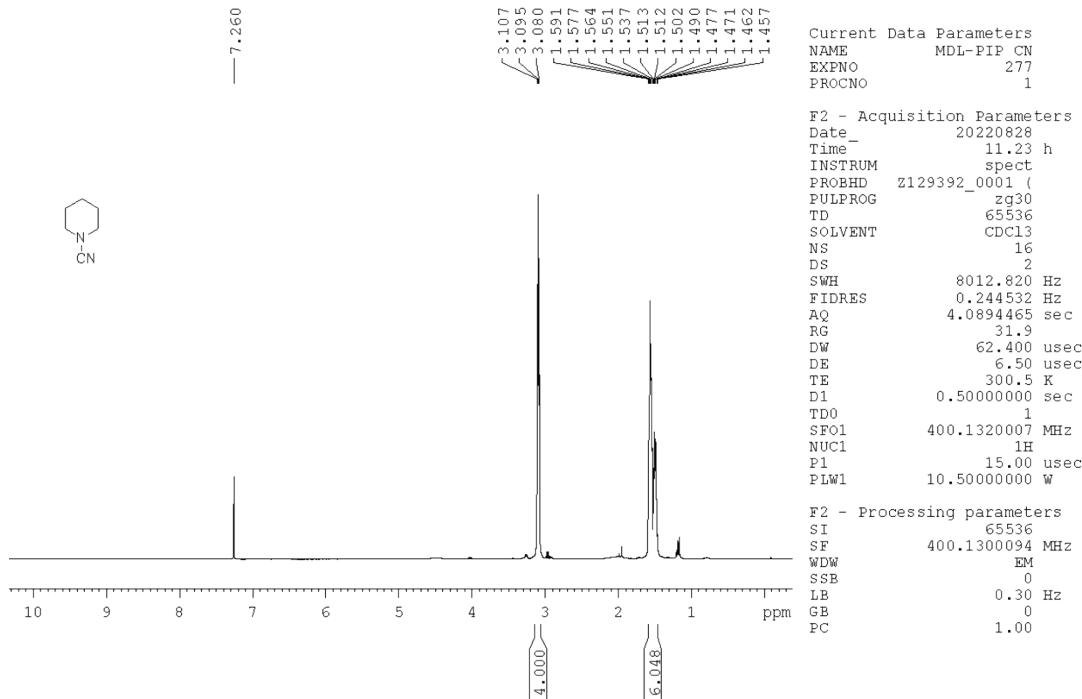


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 2b

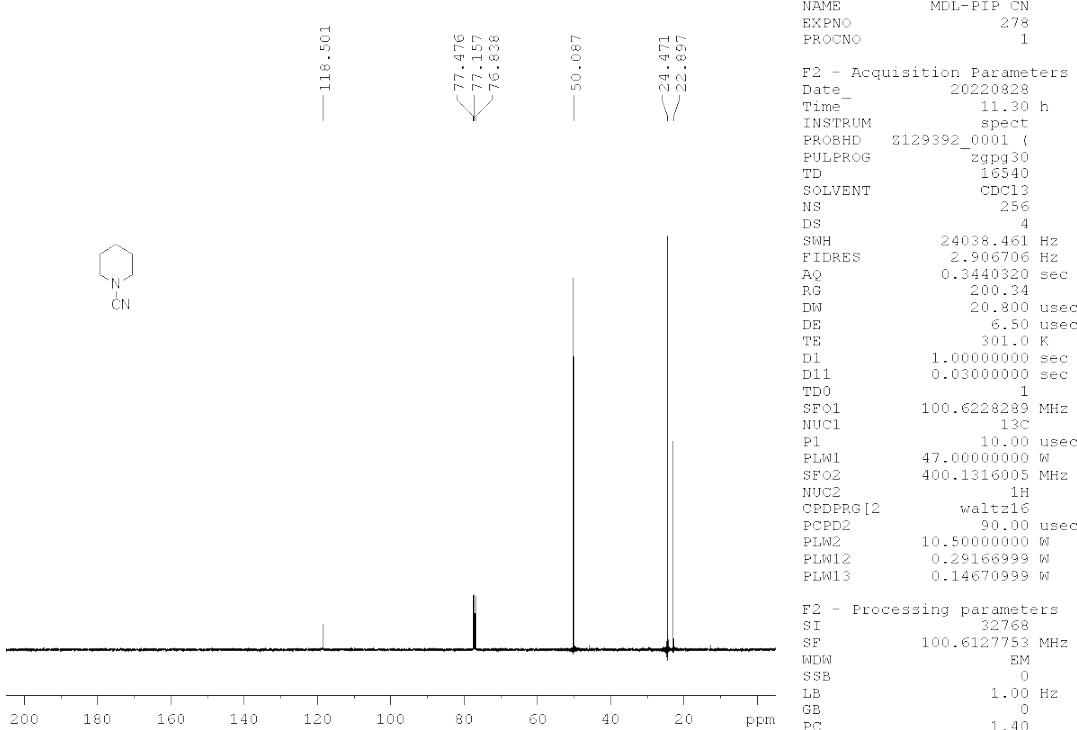


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 2b

**Piperidine-1-carbonitrile (2c)**

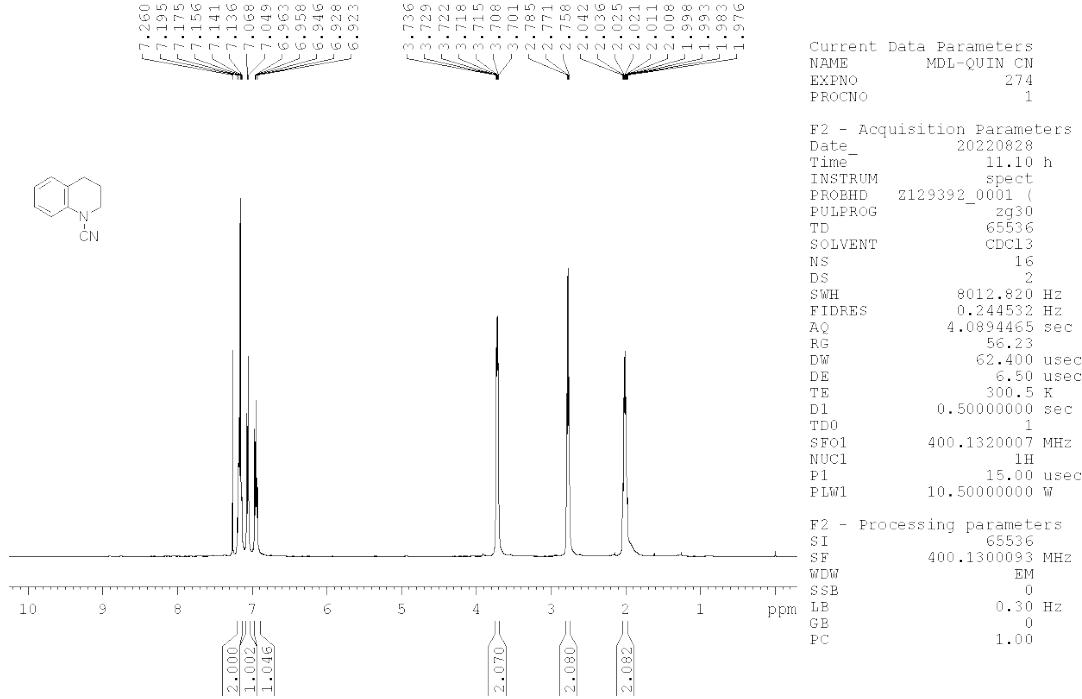


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2c**

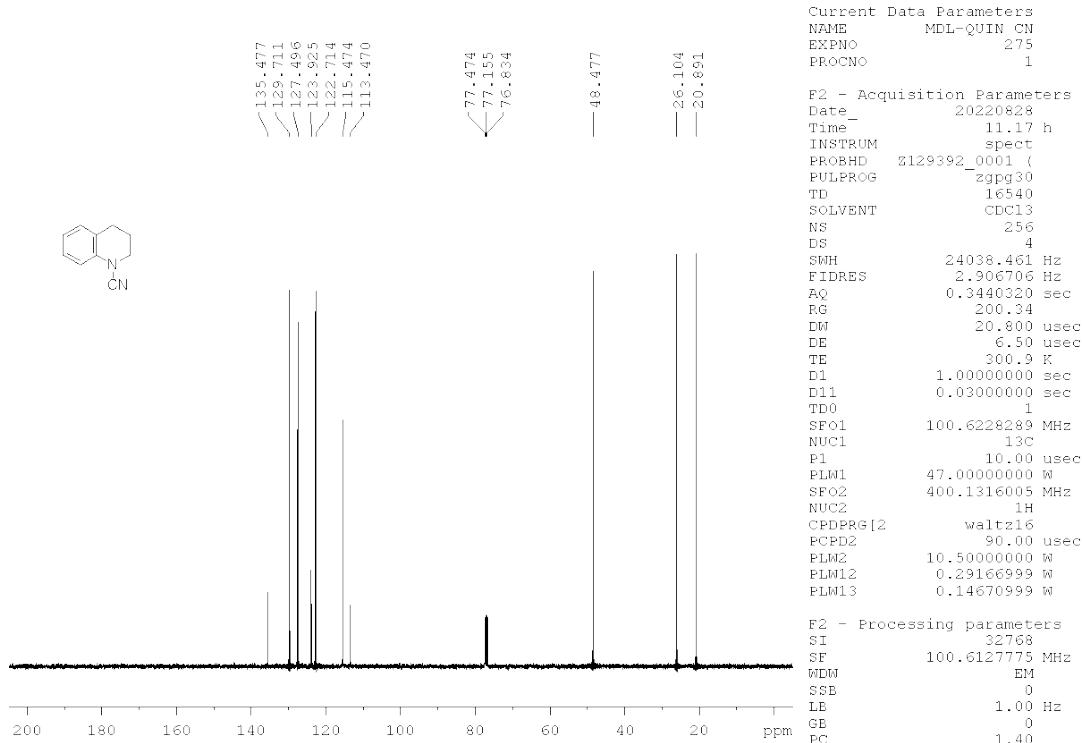


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2c**

### 3,4-Dihydroquinoline-1(2H)-carbonitrile (2d)

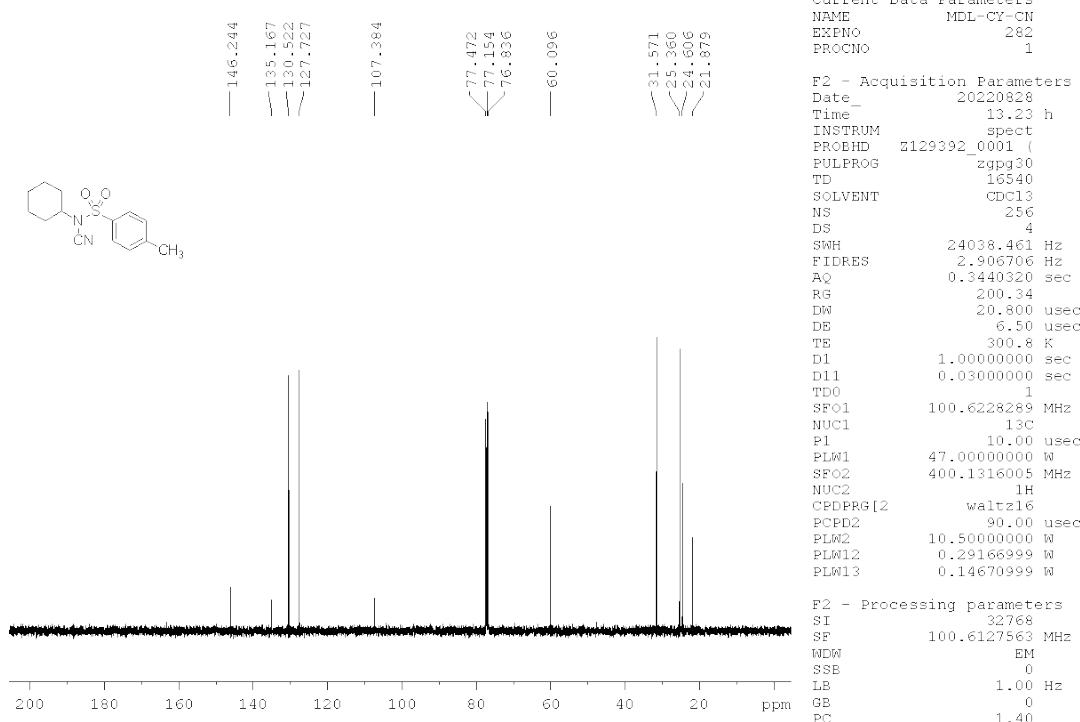
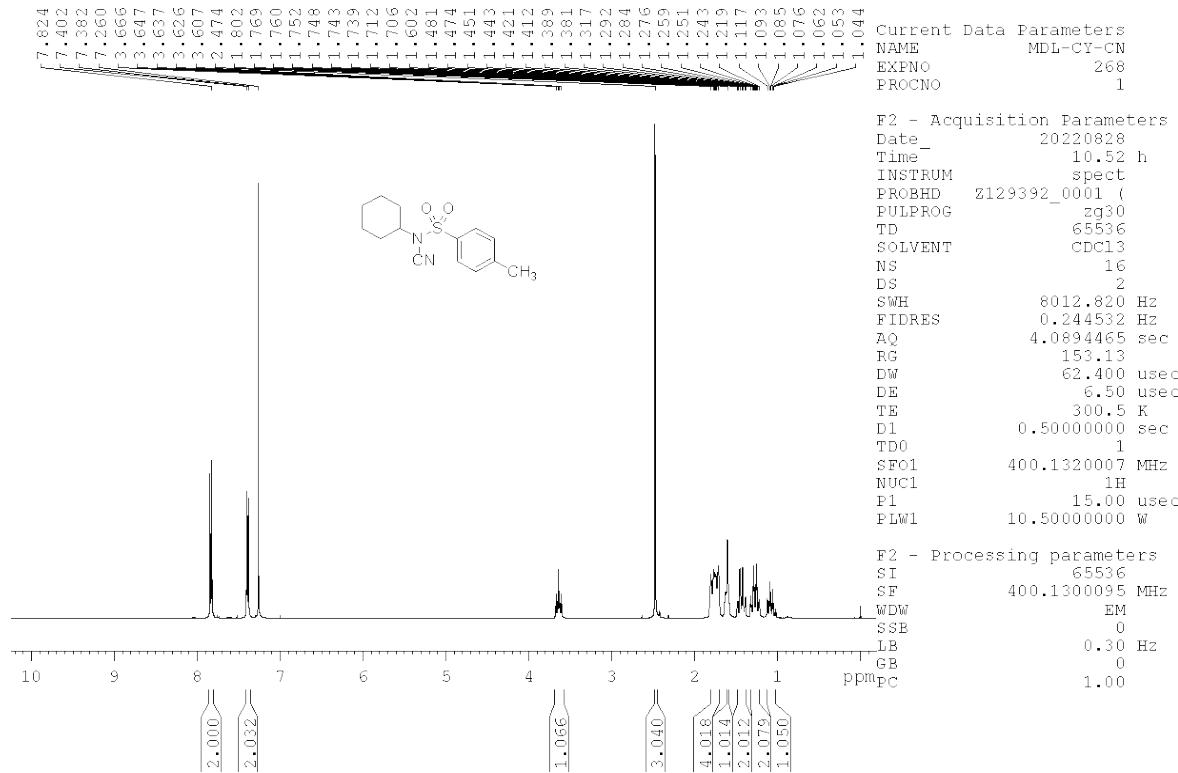


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2d



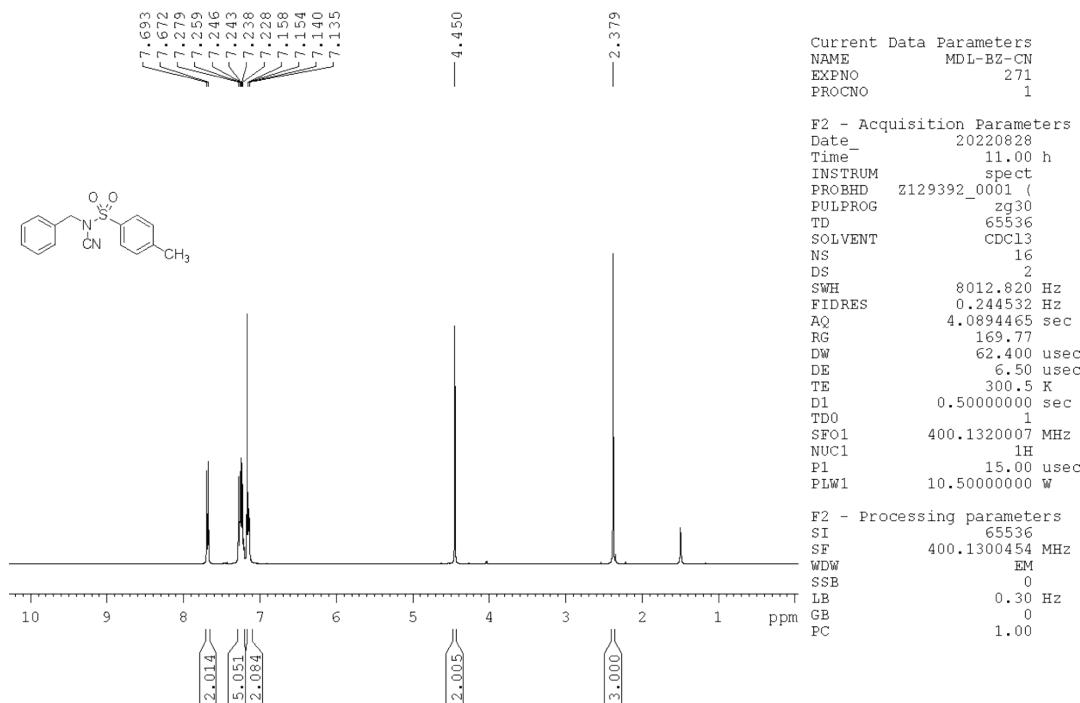
<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2d

**N-Cyano-N-cyclohexyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (2e)**

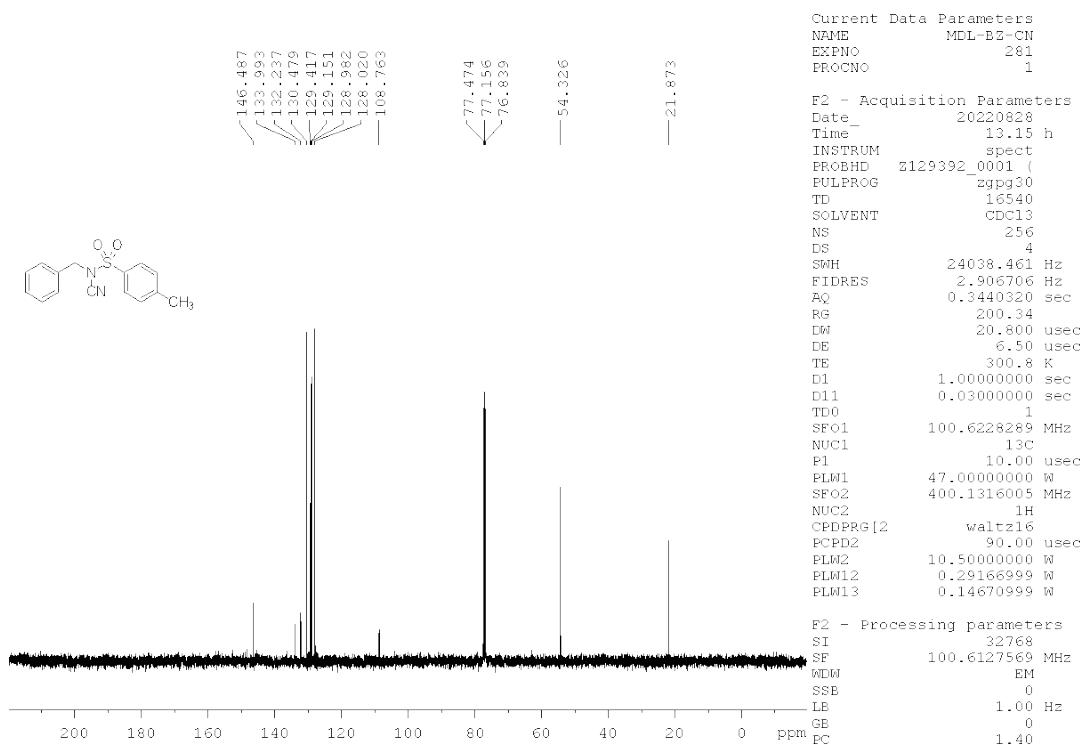


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 2e**

**N-benzyl-N-cyano-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (2f)**

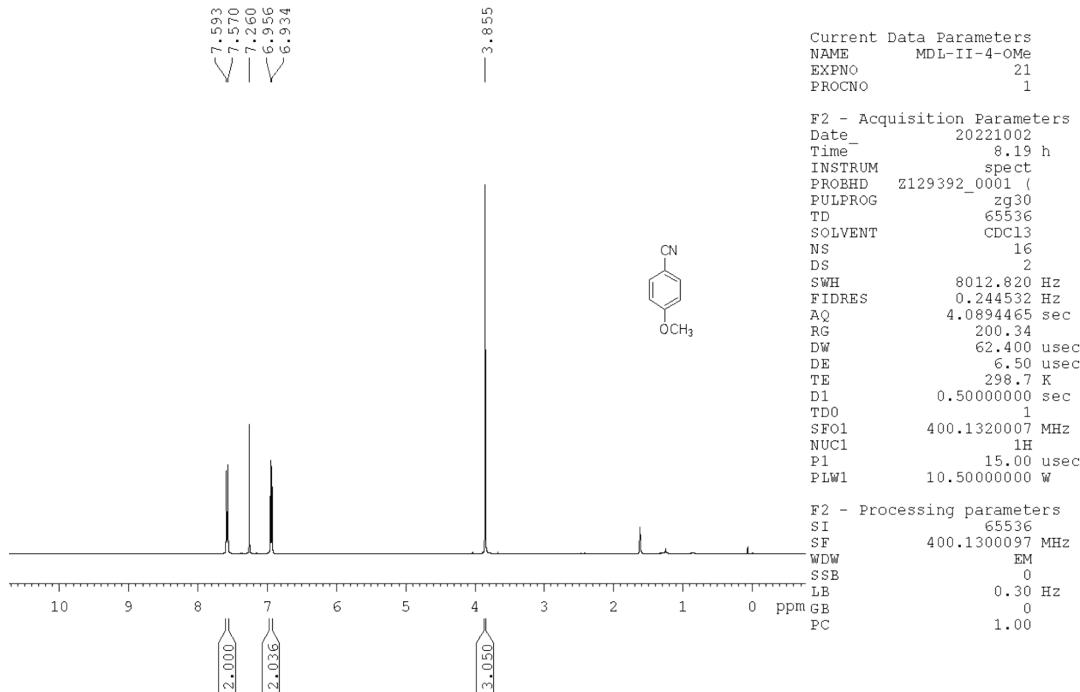


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 2f**

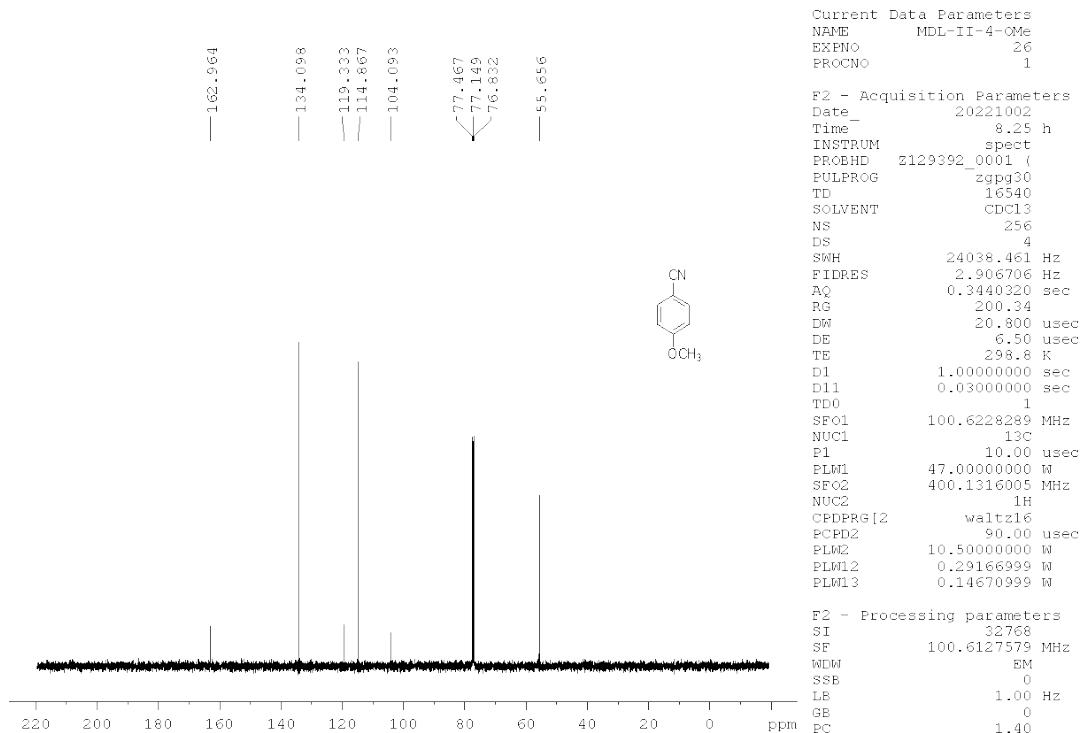


**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 2f**

**4-methoxybenzonitrile (3a)**

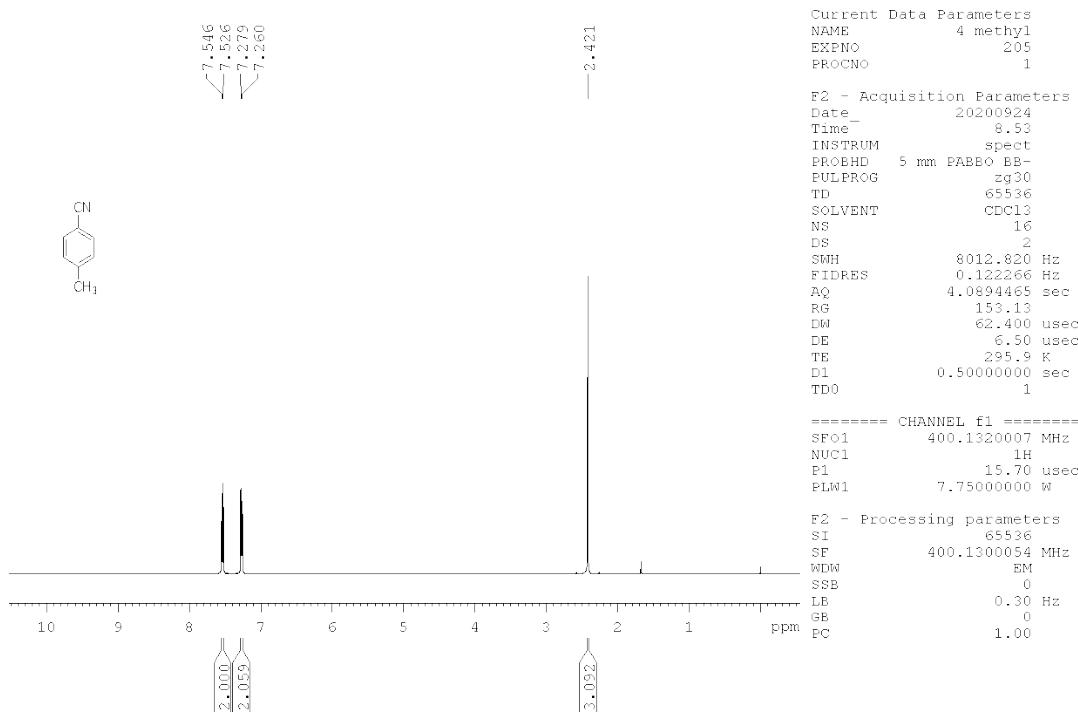


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3a**

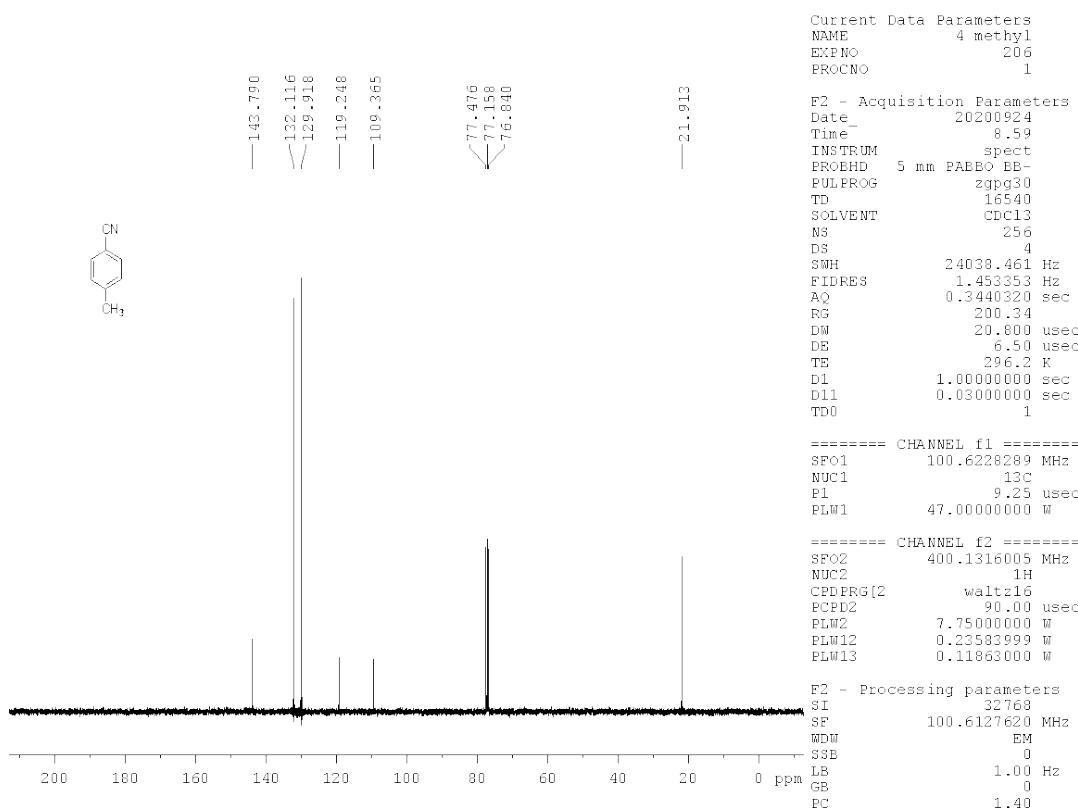


**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3a**

### 4-methylbenzonitrile (3b)

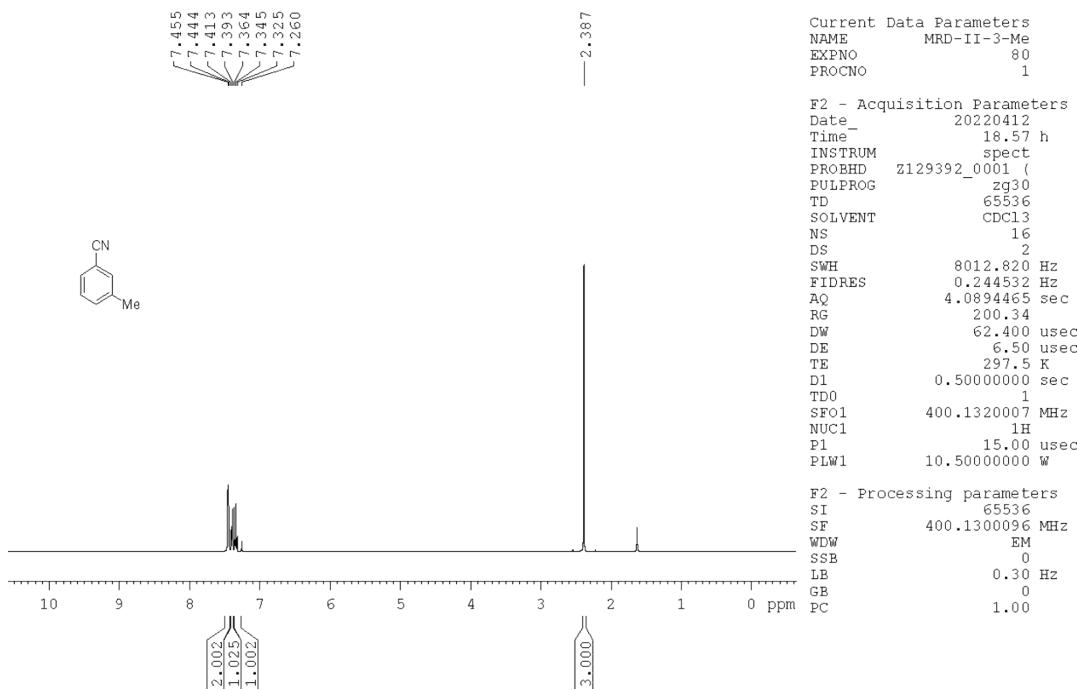


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3b

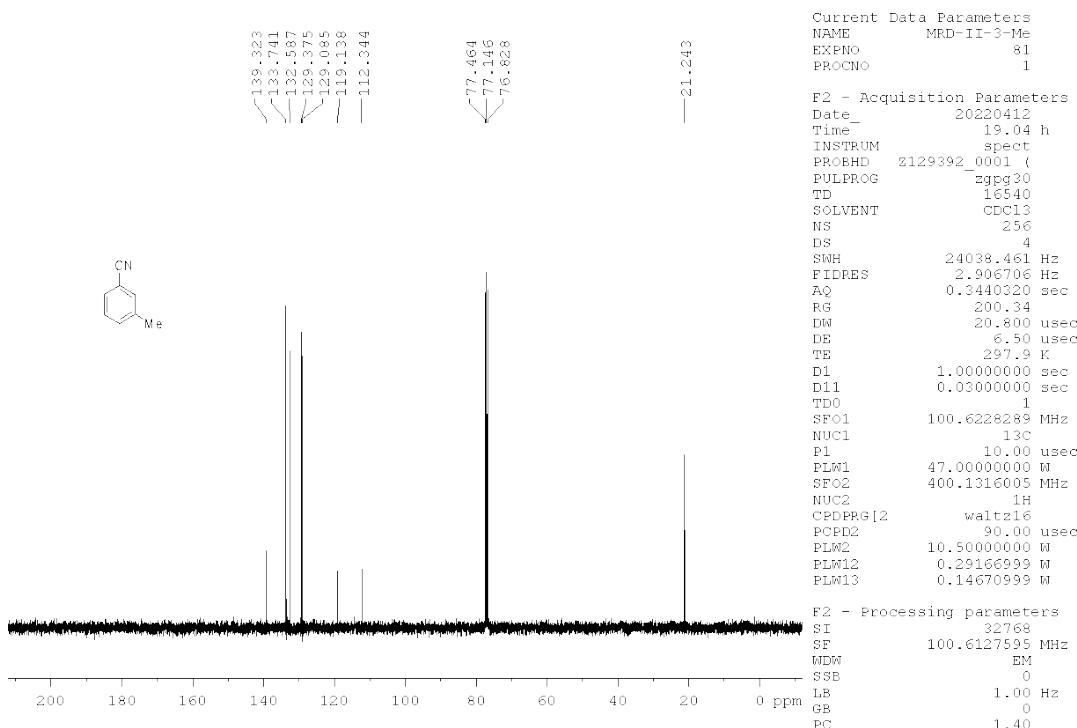


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3b

### 3-methylbenzonitrile (3c)

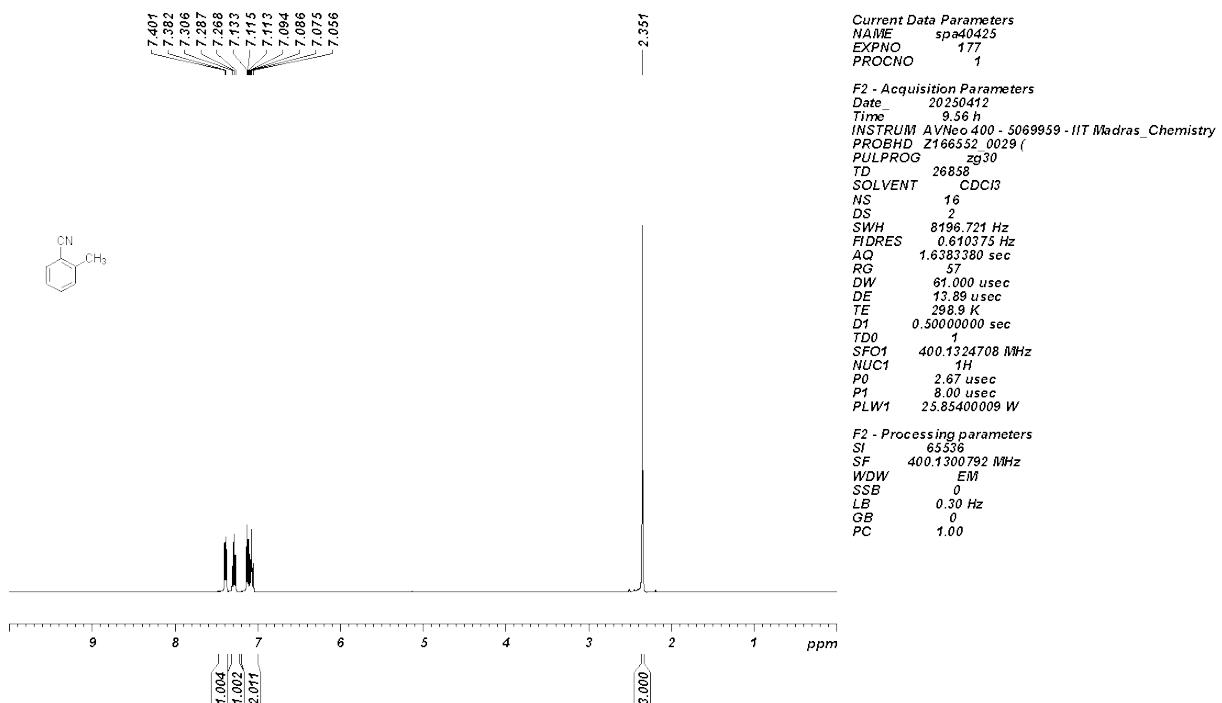


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3c

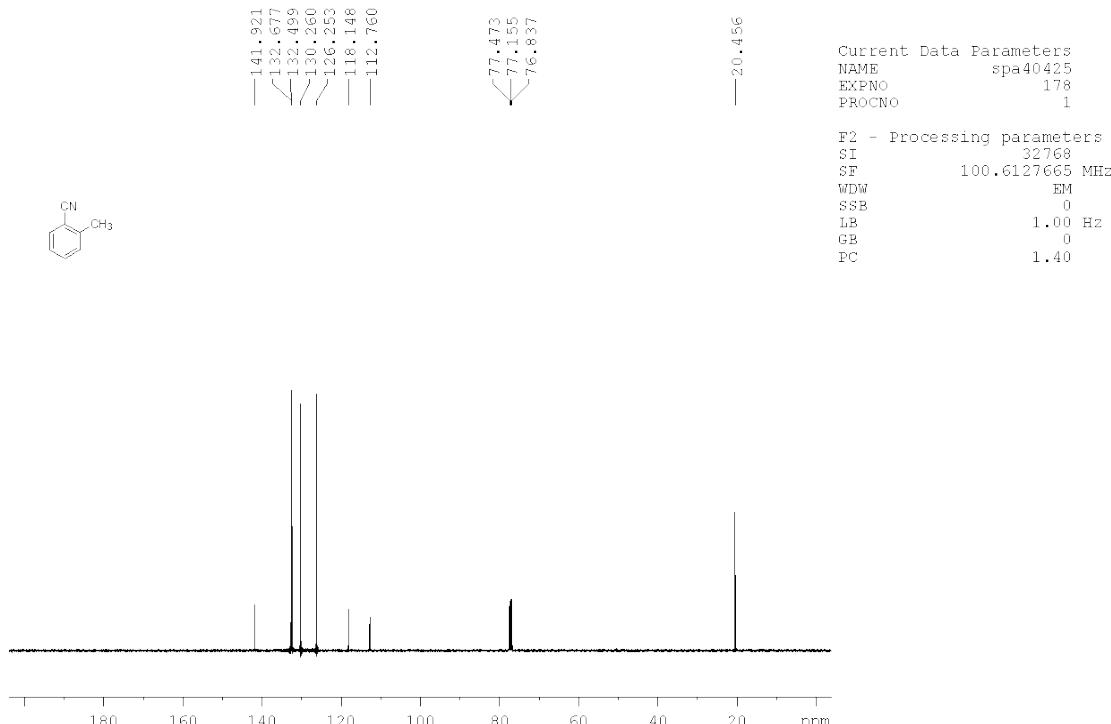


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3c

**2-methylbenzonitrile (3d)**

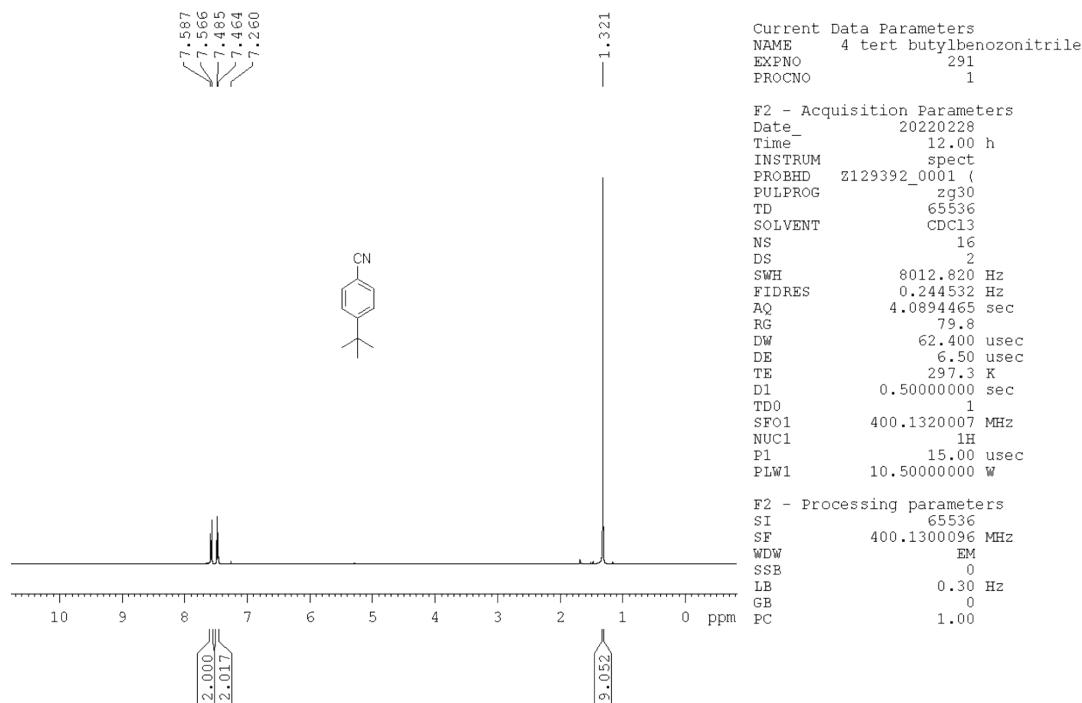


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3d**

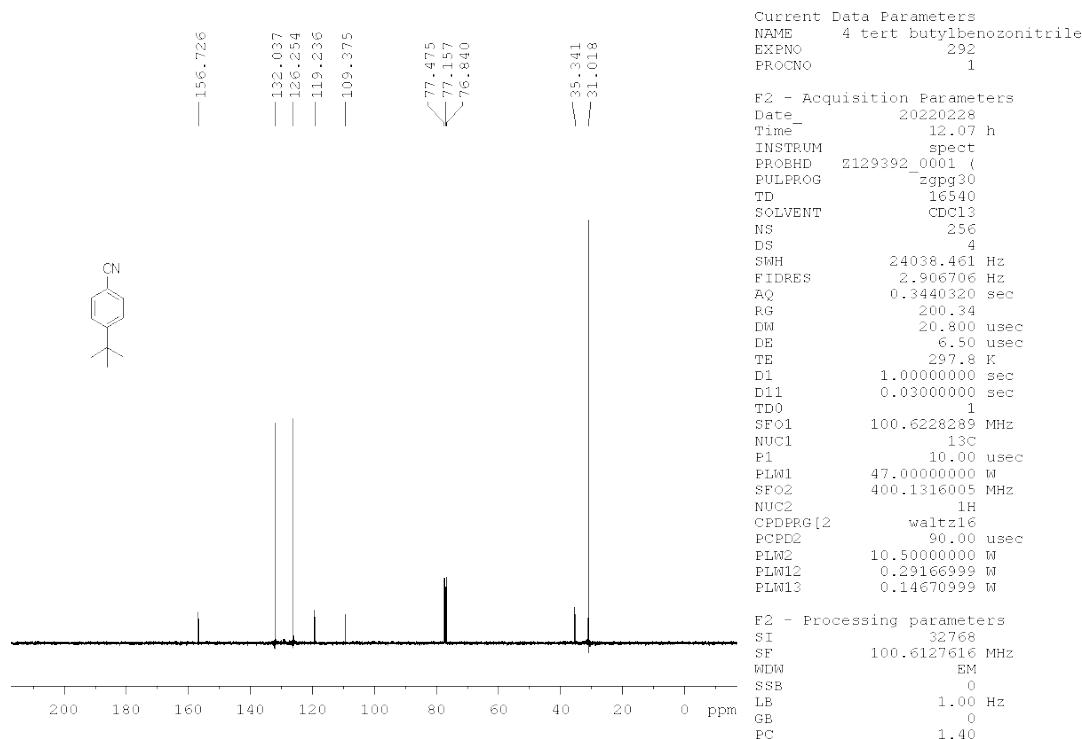


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3d**

**4-(tert-butyl)benzonitrile (3e)**

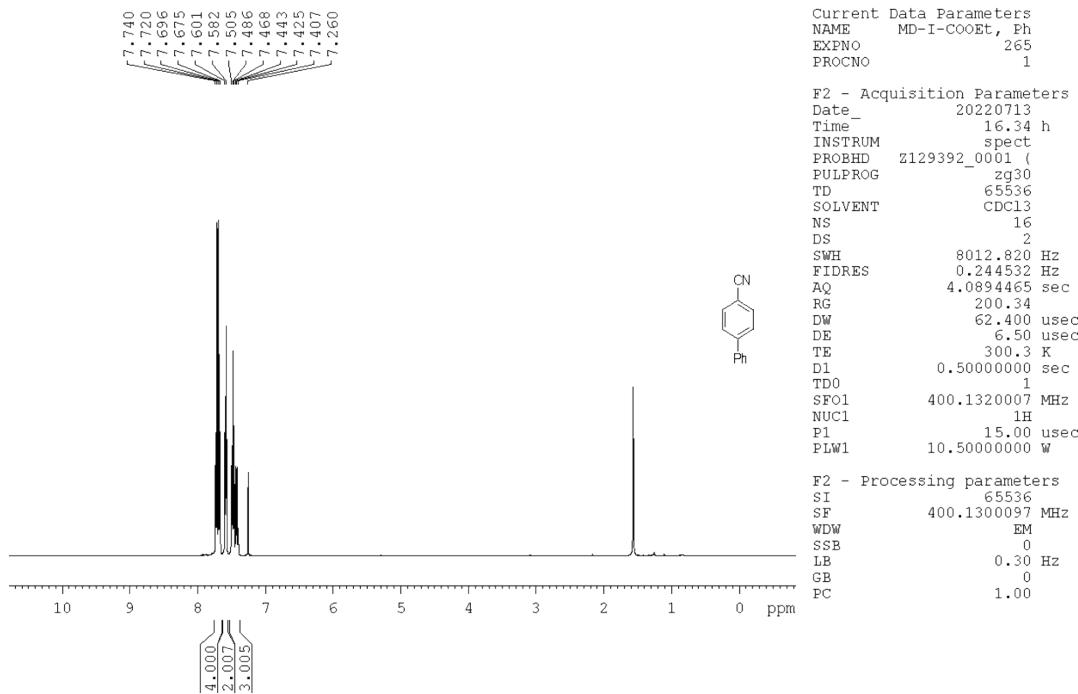


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3e**

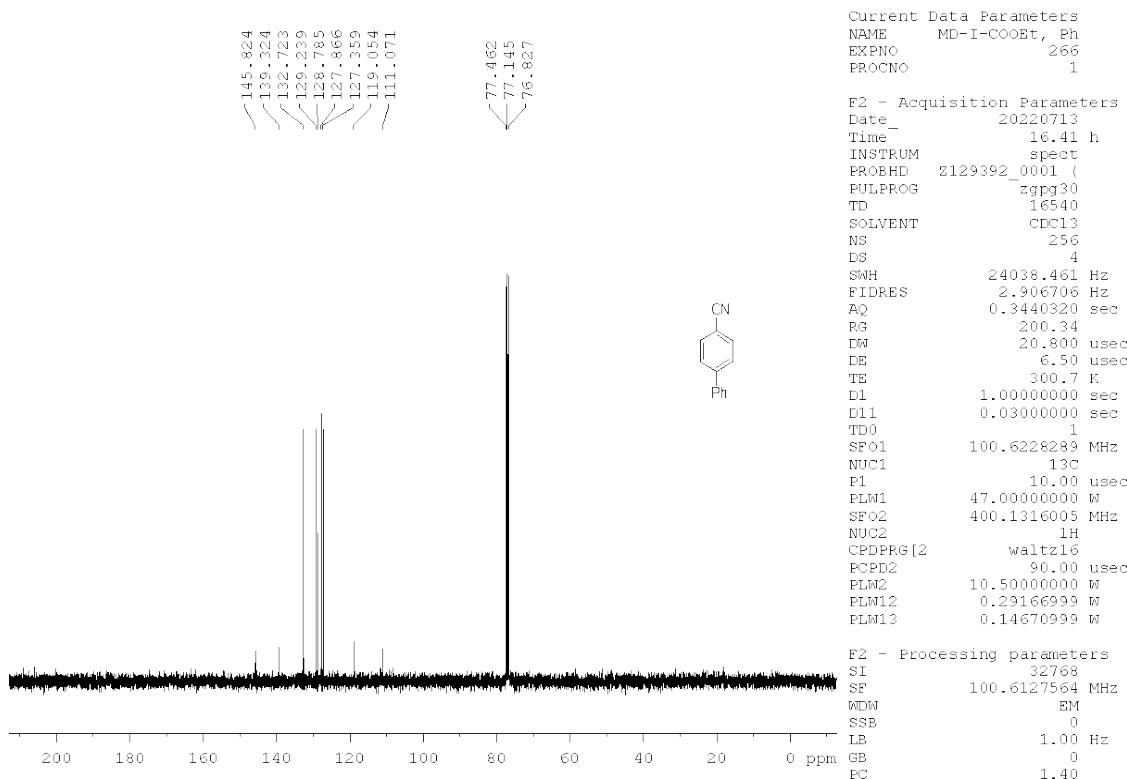


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3e**

**[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile: (3f)**

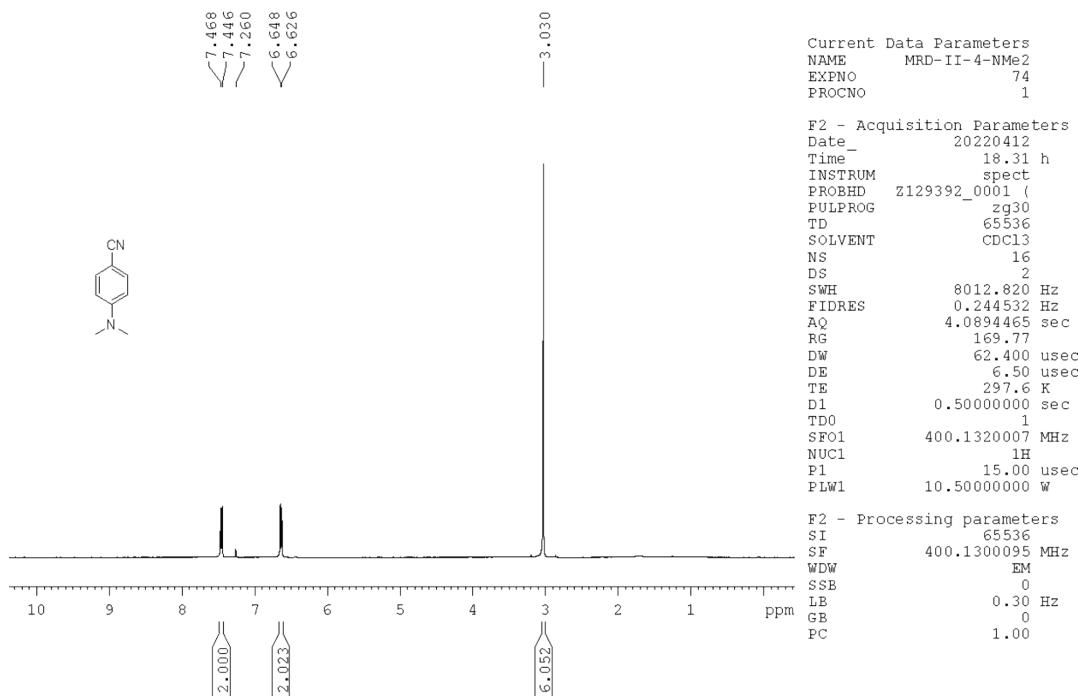


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3f**

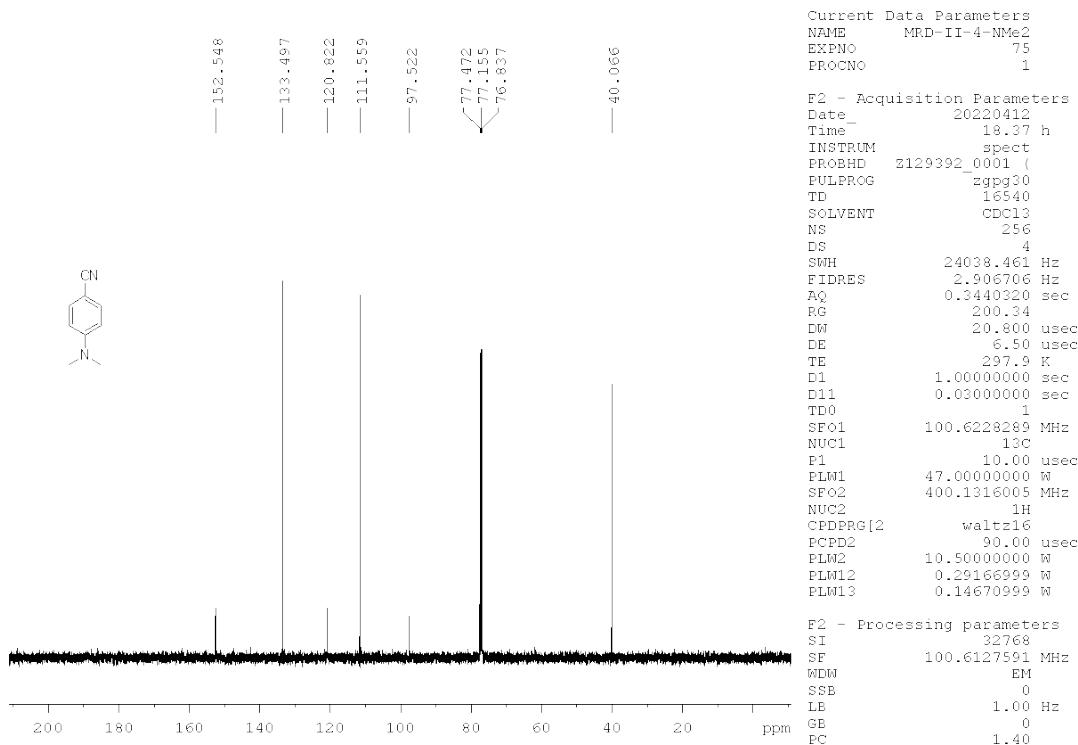


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3f**

**4-(dimethylamino)benzonitrile (3g)**

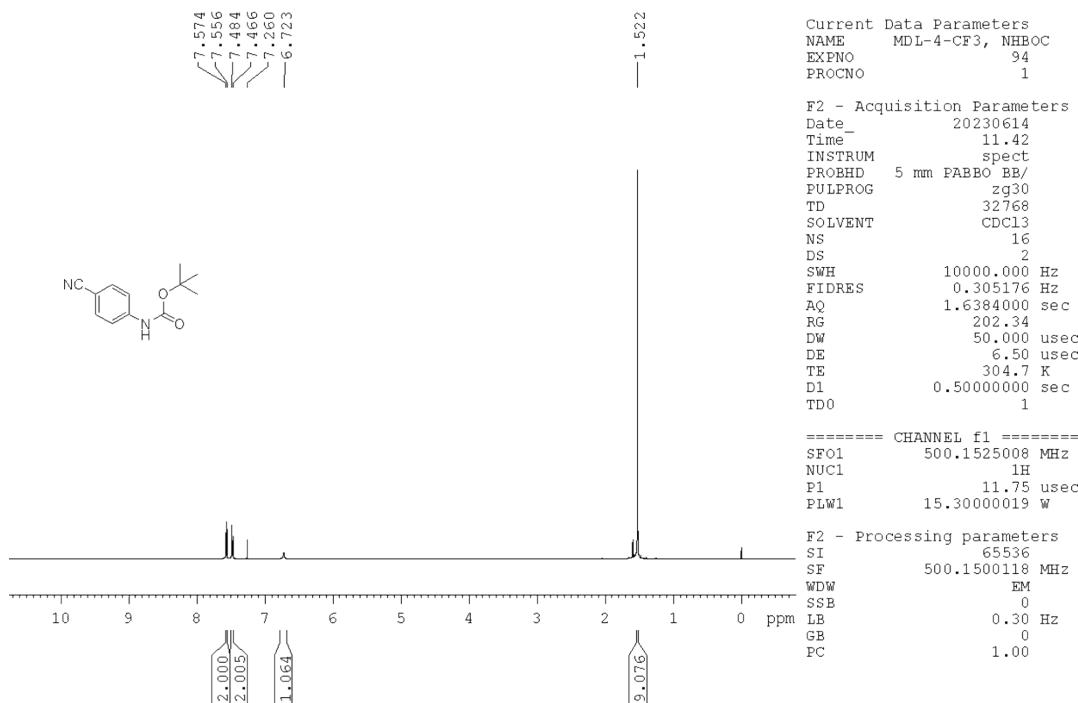


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3g**

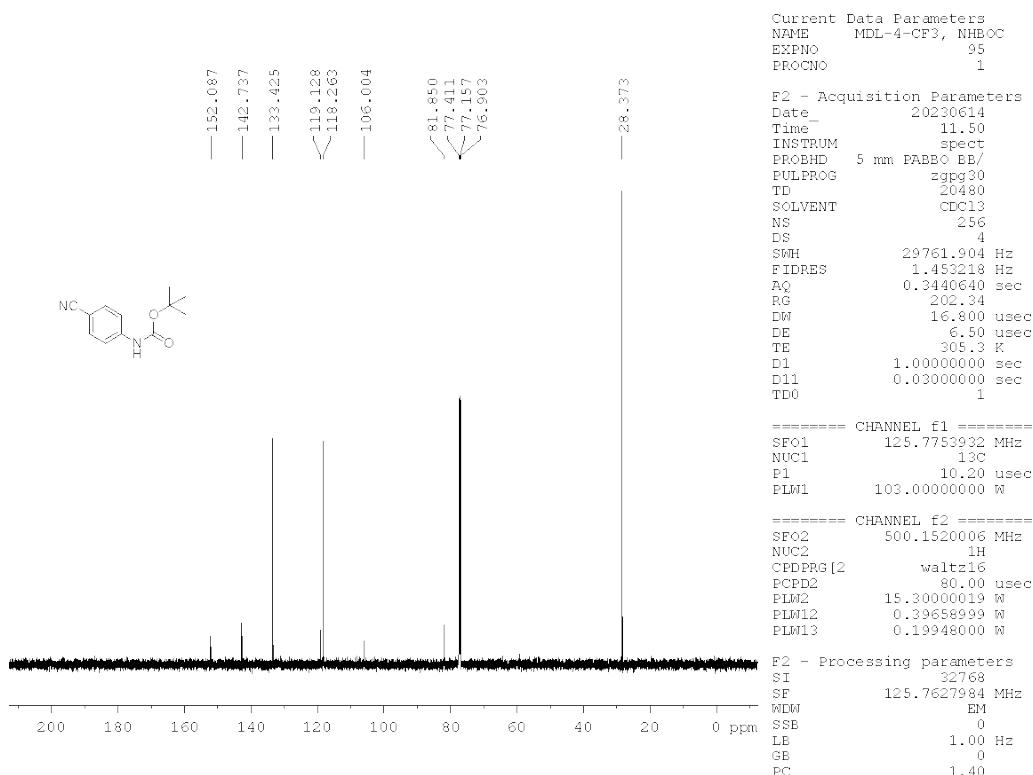


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3g**

**Tert-butyl (4-cyanophenyl)carbamate (3h)**

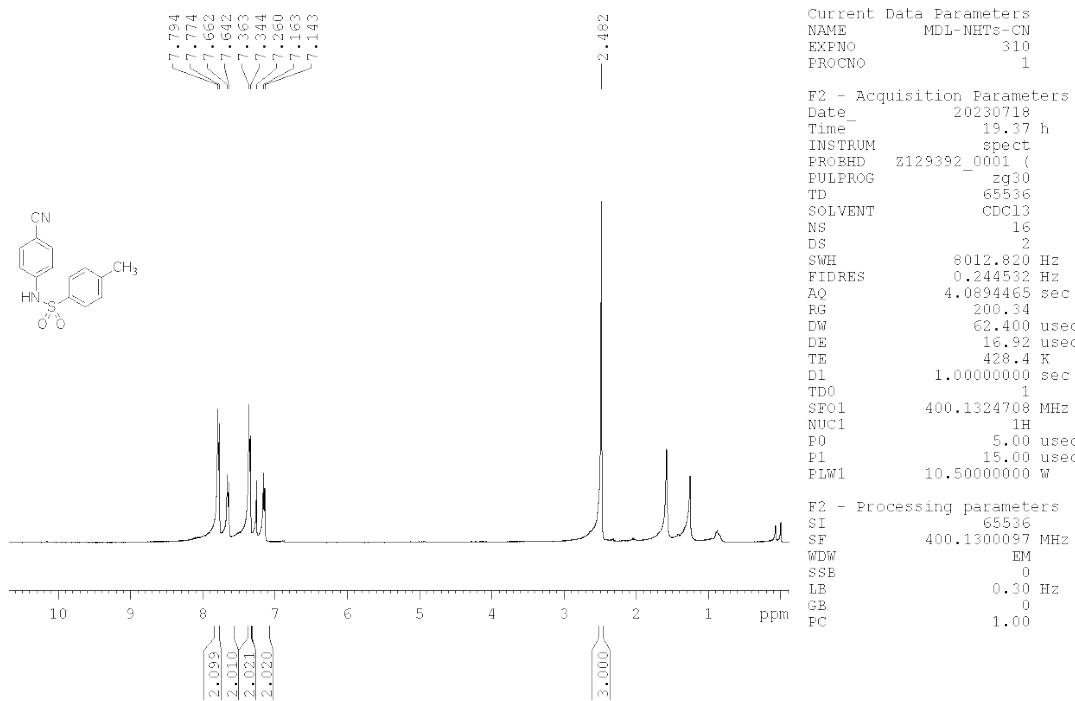


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3h**

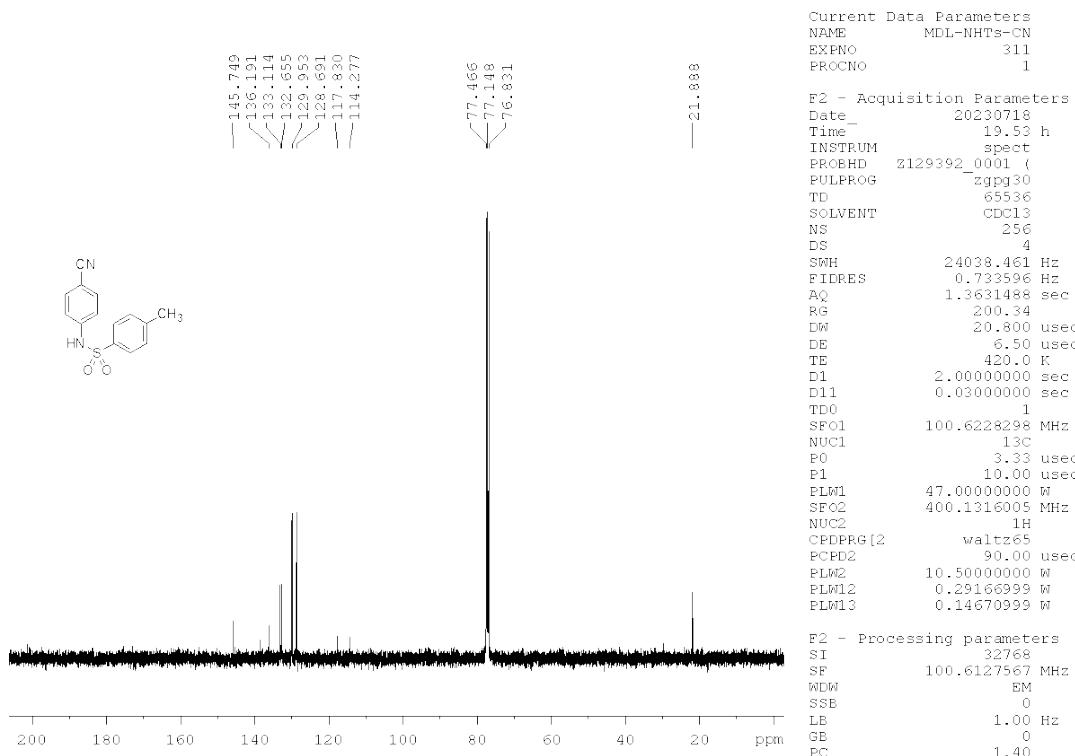


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3h**

**N-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3i)**

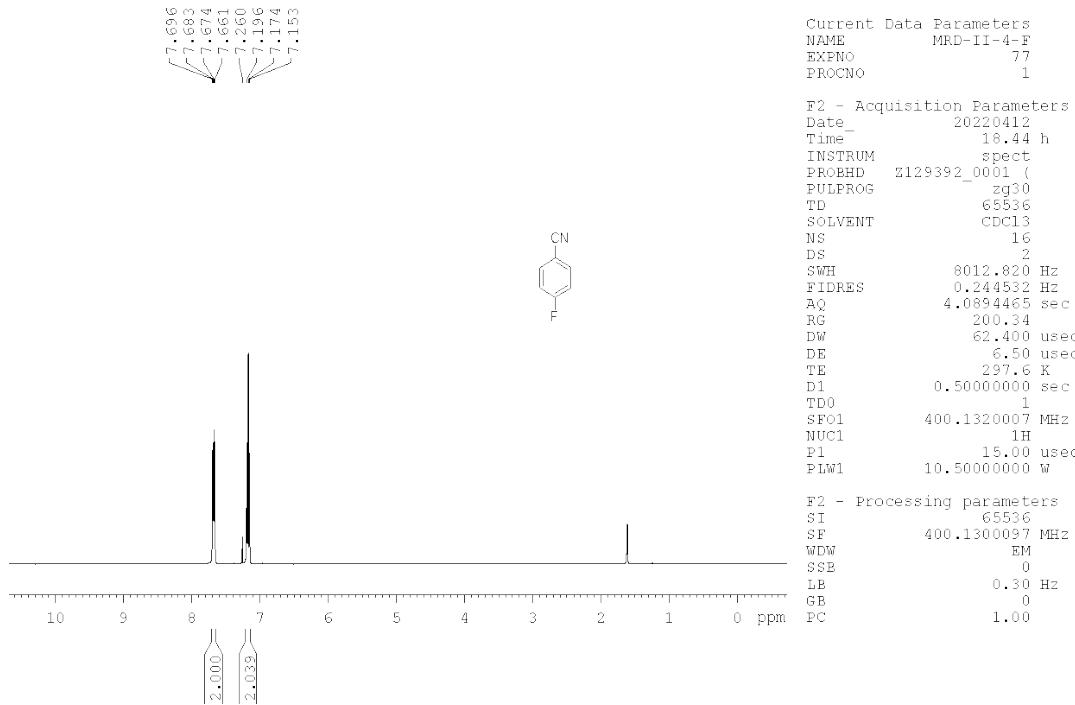


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3i**

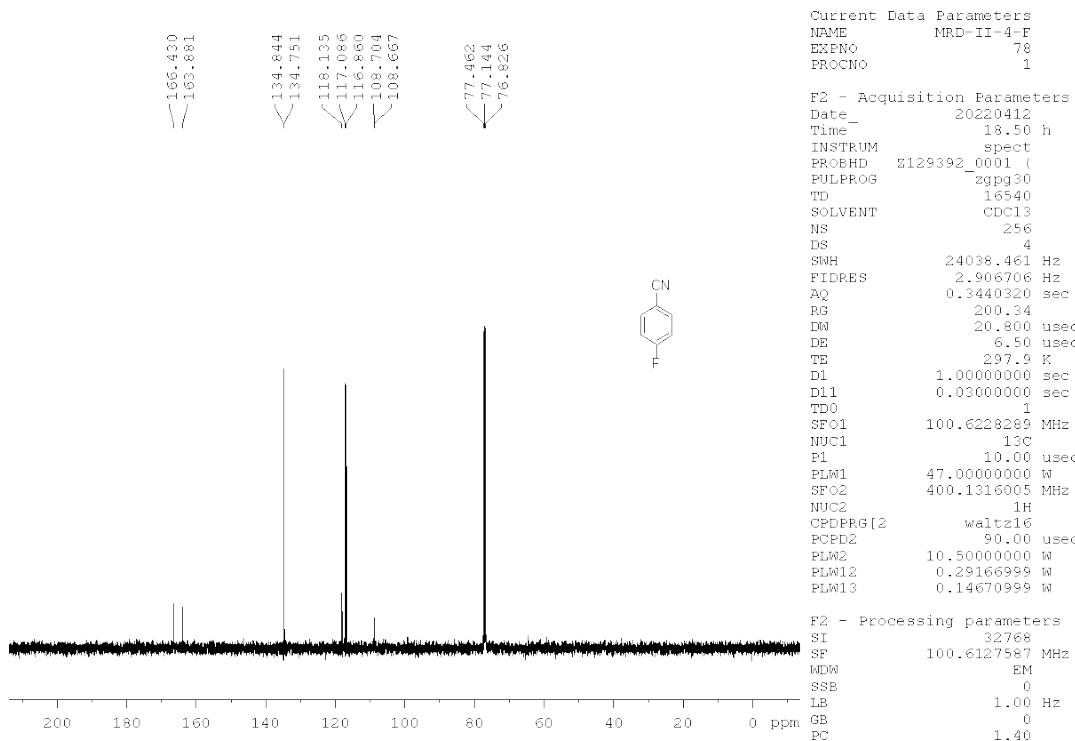


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3i**

### 4-fluorobenzonitrile (3j)

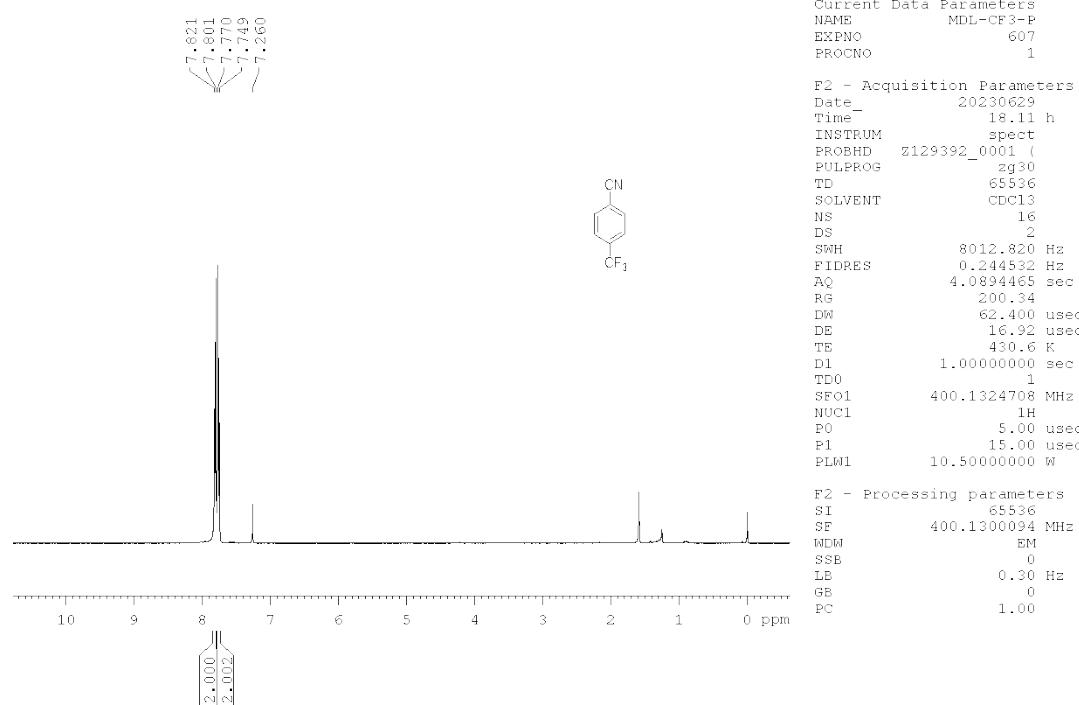


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3j

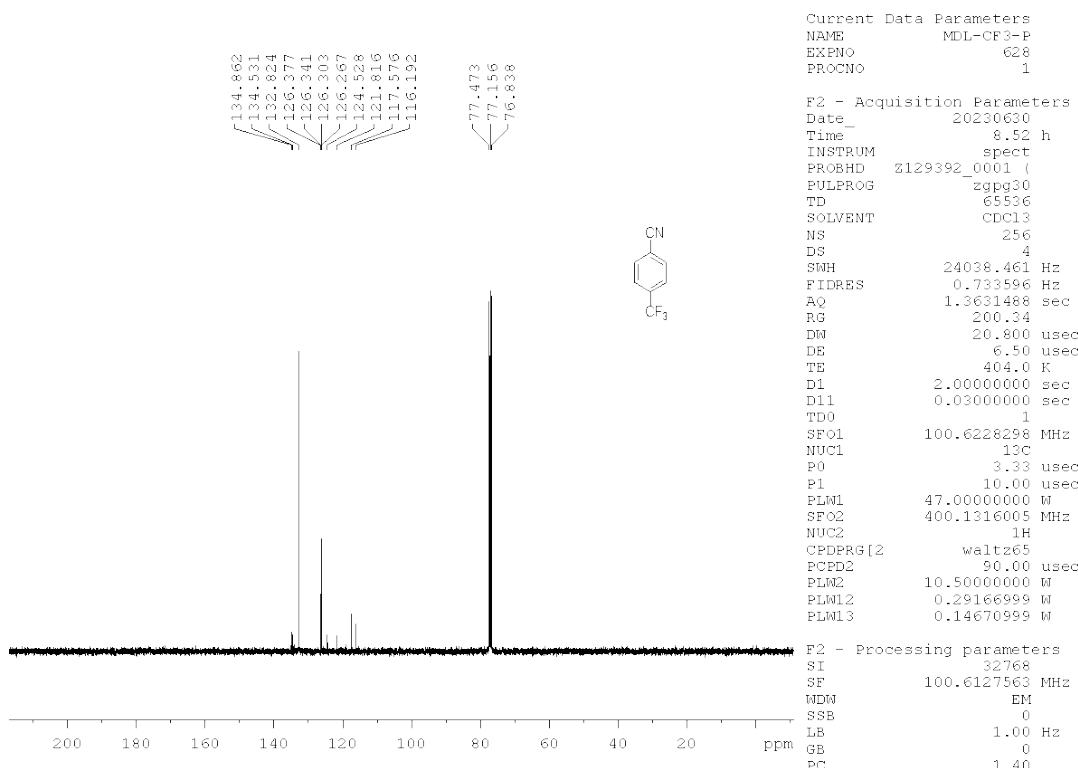


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3j

### 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (3k)

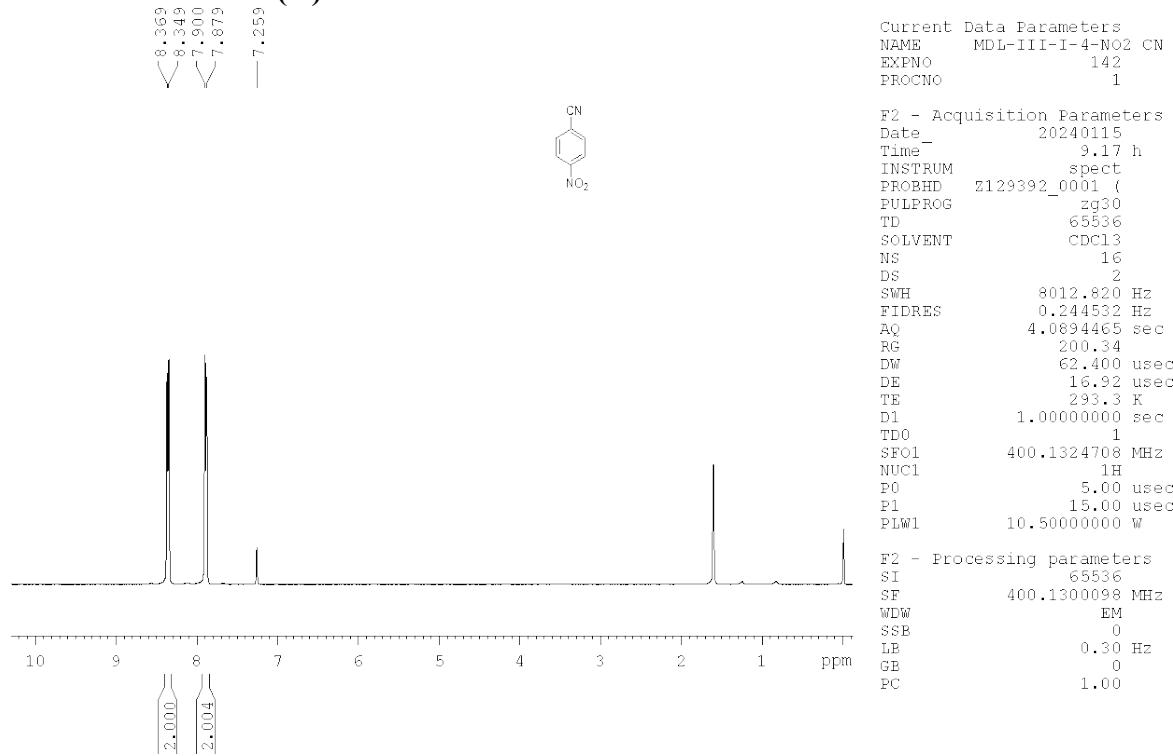


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3k**

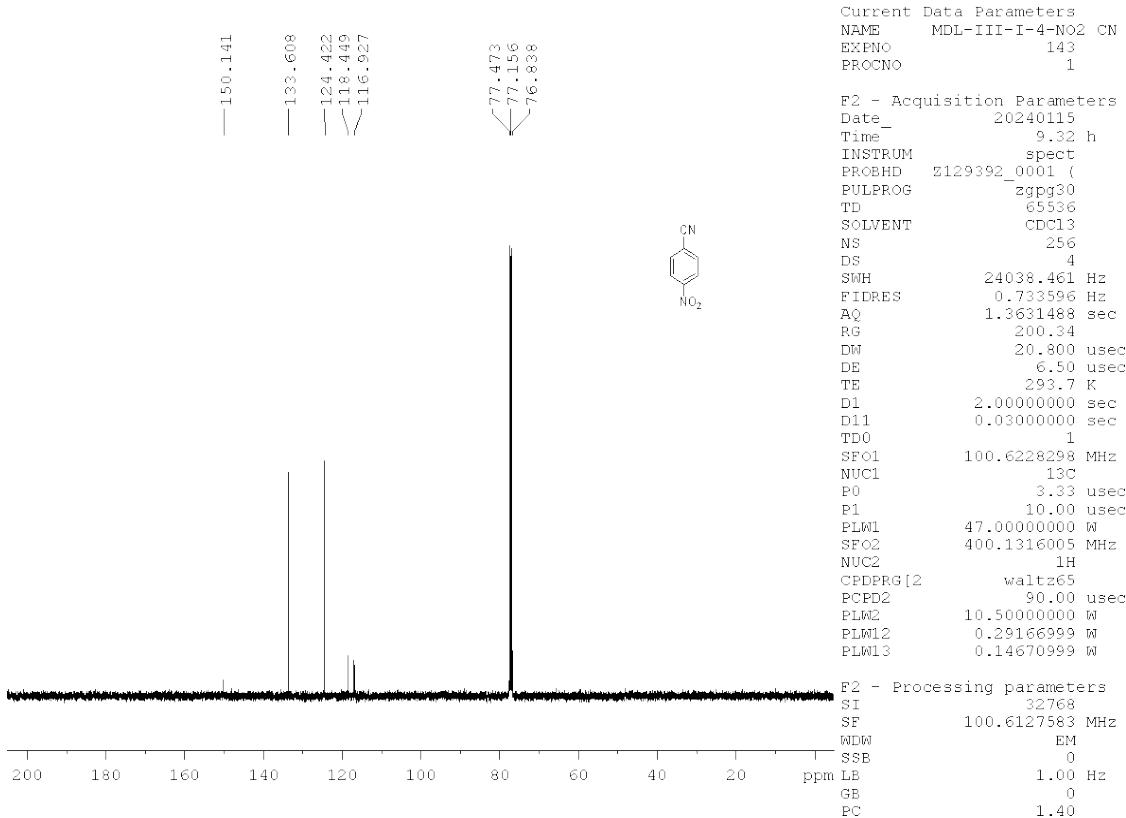


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3k**

**4-nitrobenzonitrile (3l)**

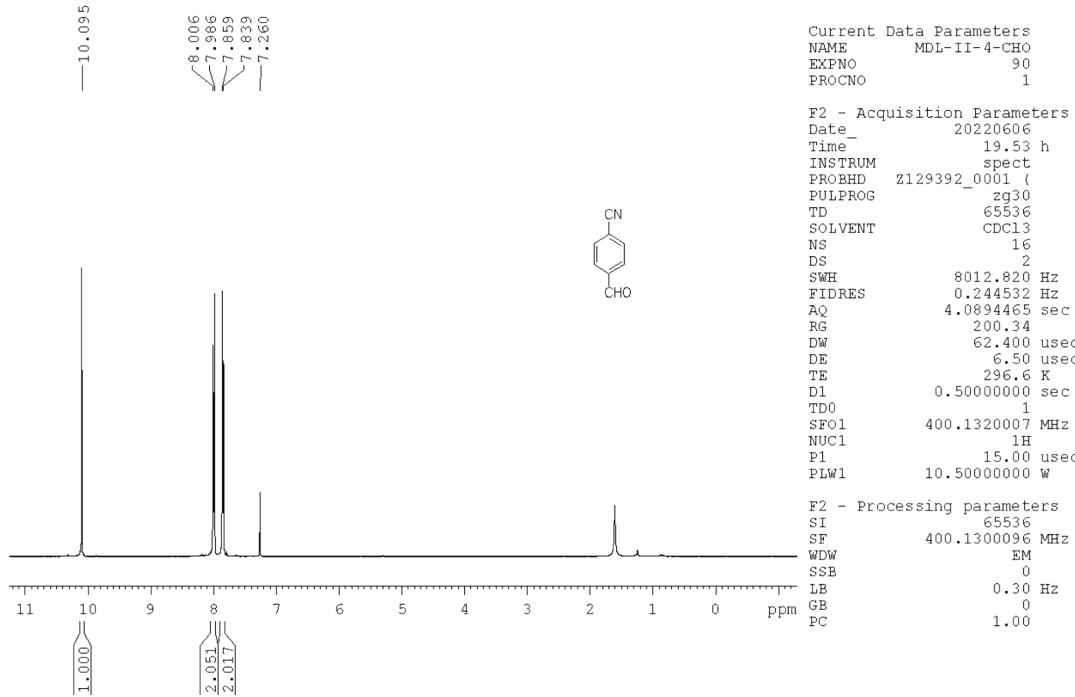


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3l**

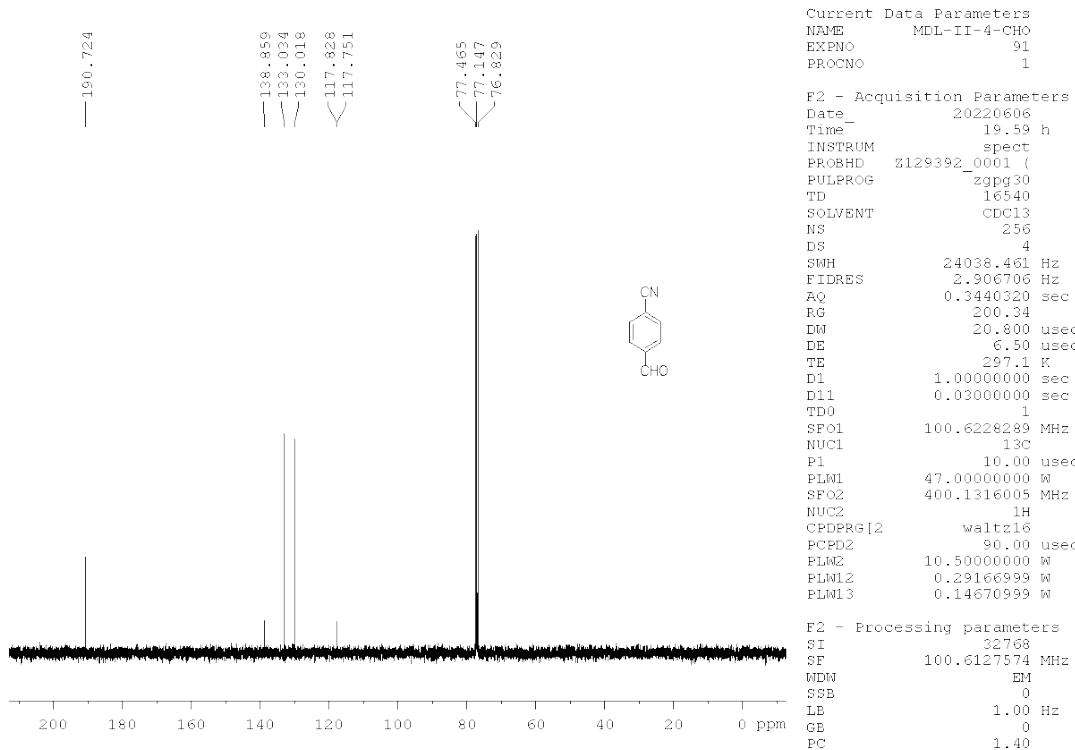


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3l**

**4-formylbenzonitrile (3m)**

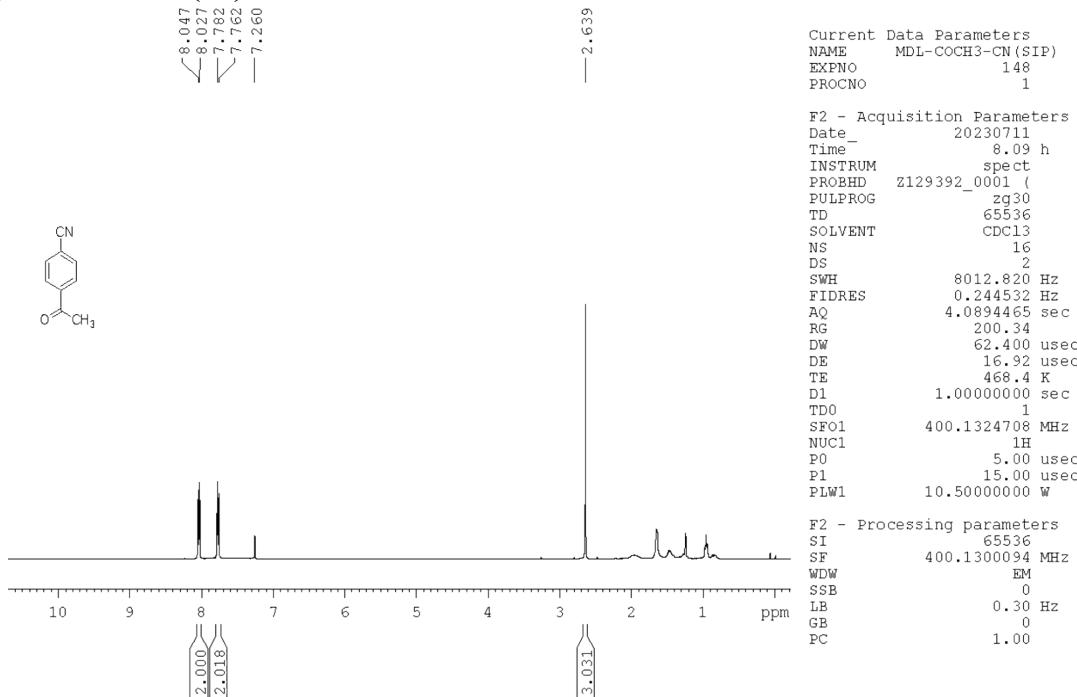


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3m**

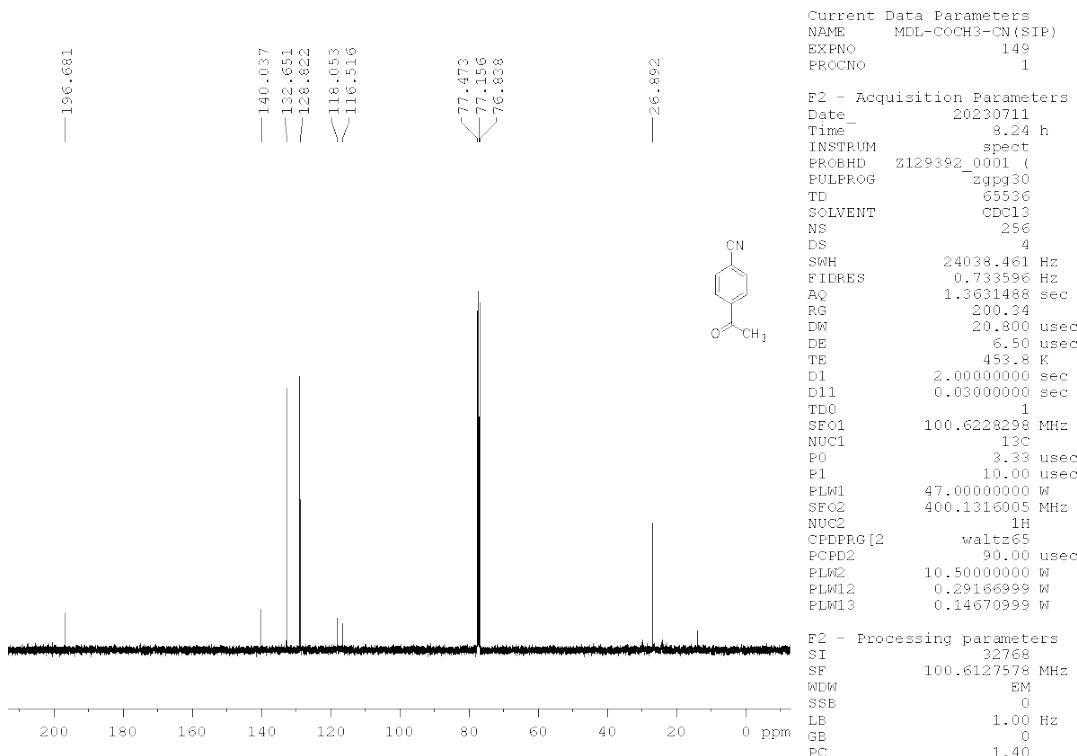


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3m**

**4-acetylbenzonitrile (3n)**

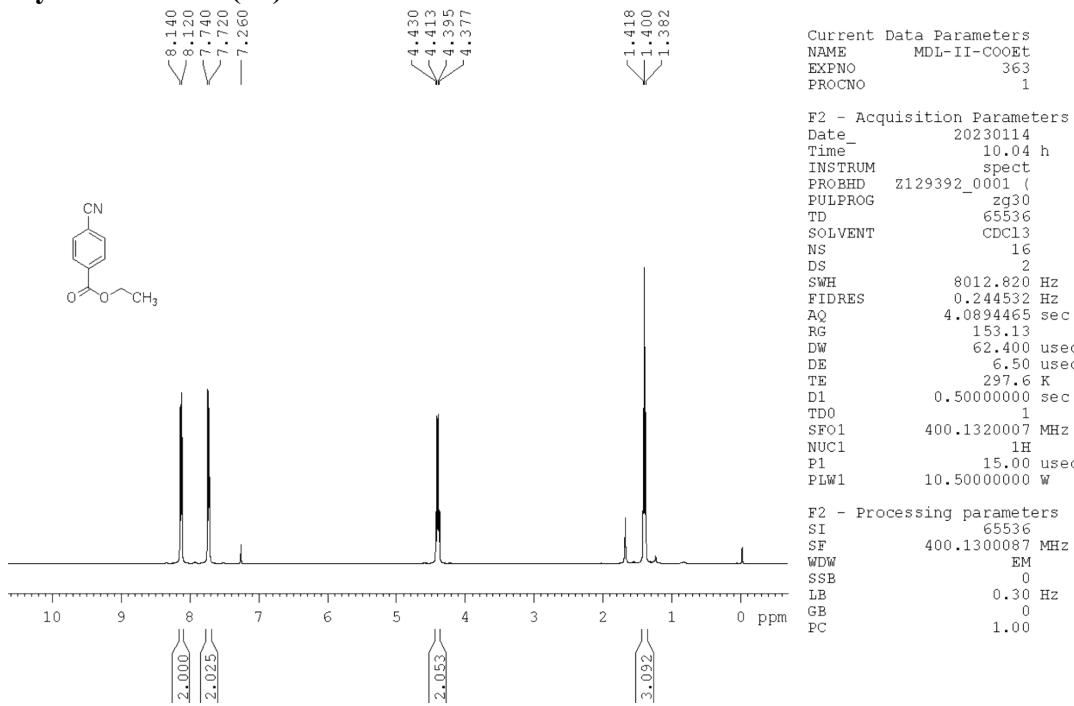


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3n**

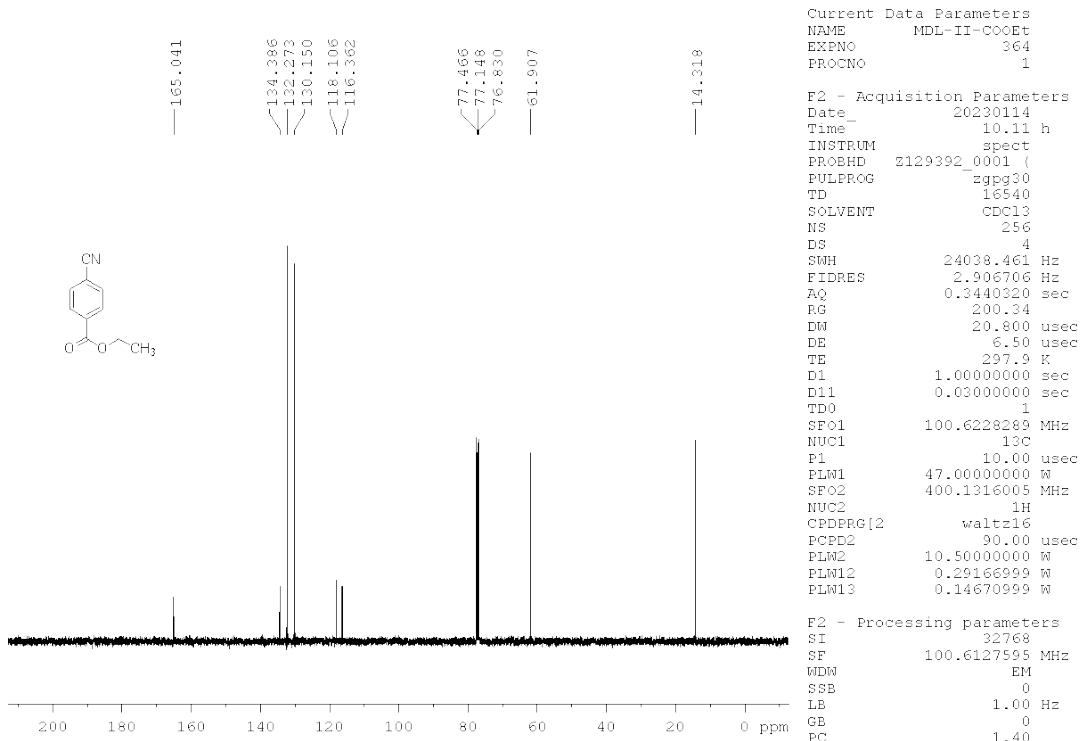


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3n**

### Ethyl 4-cyanobenzoate (3o)

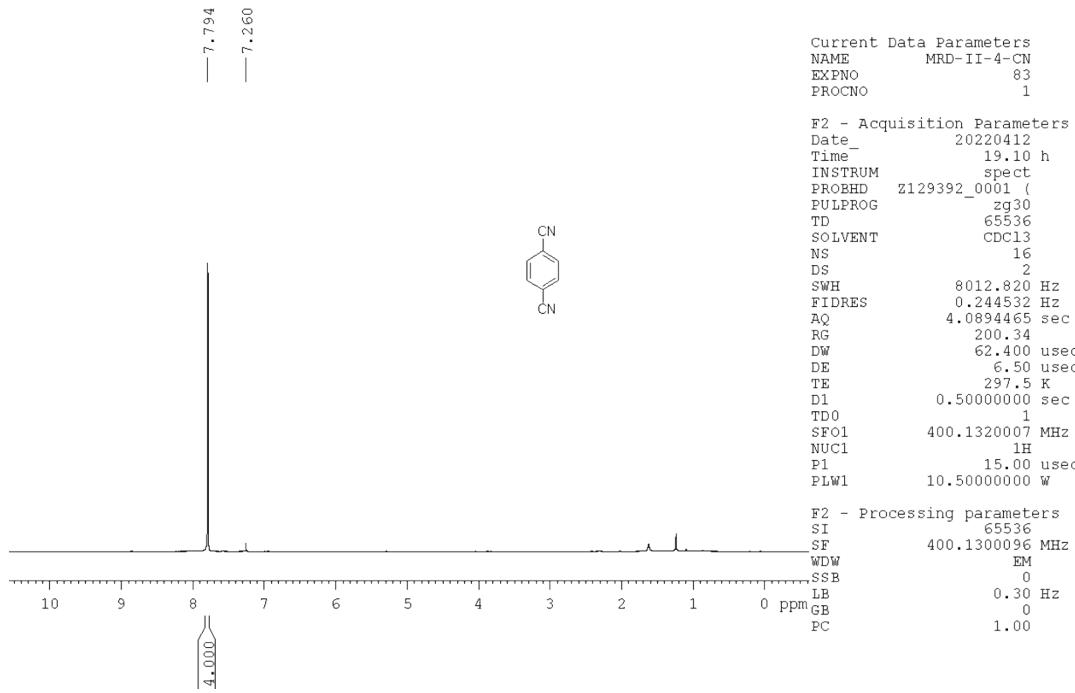


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3o**

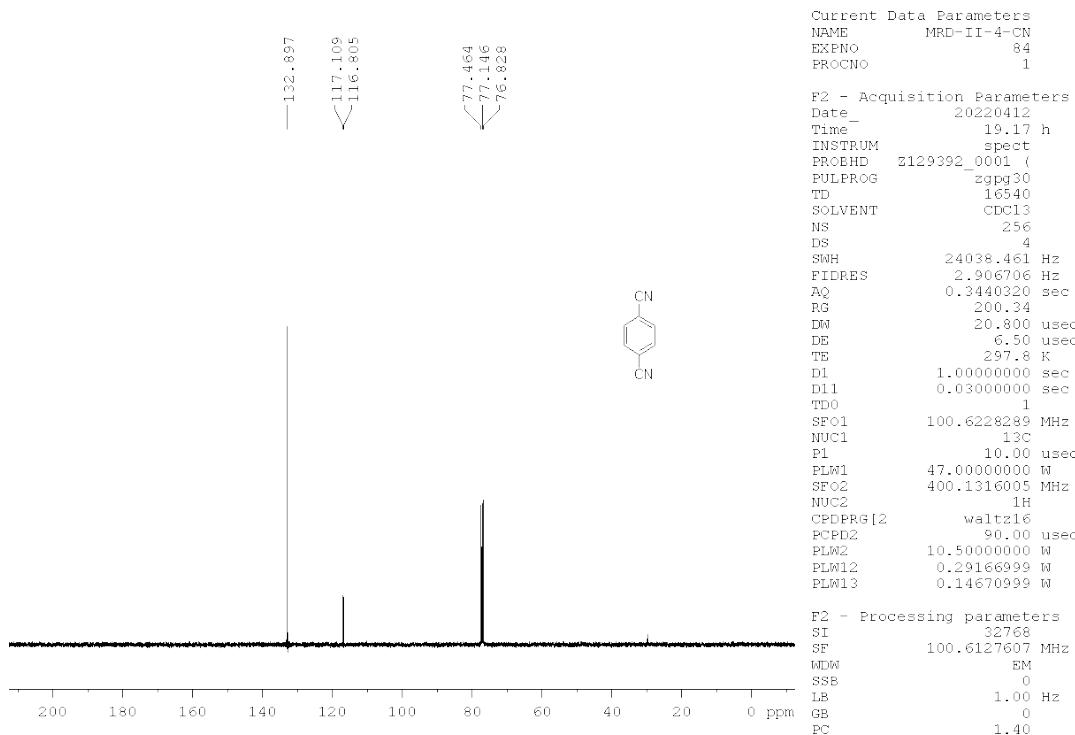


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3o**

### Terephthalonitrile (3p)

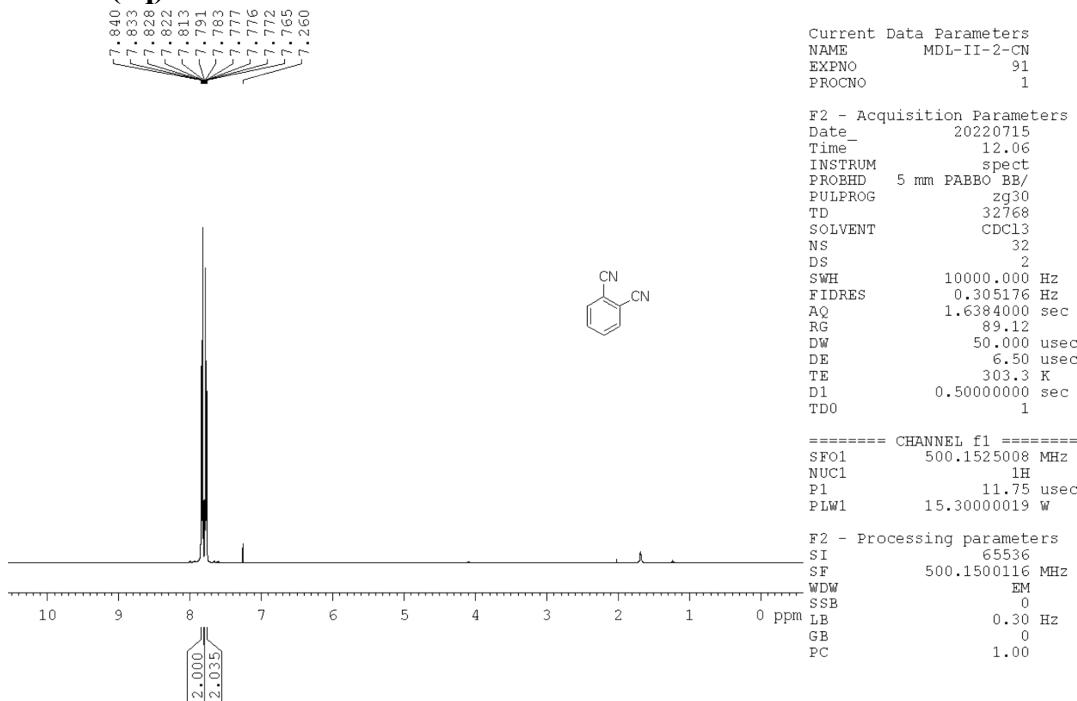


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3p**

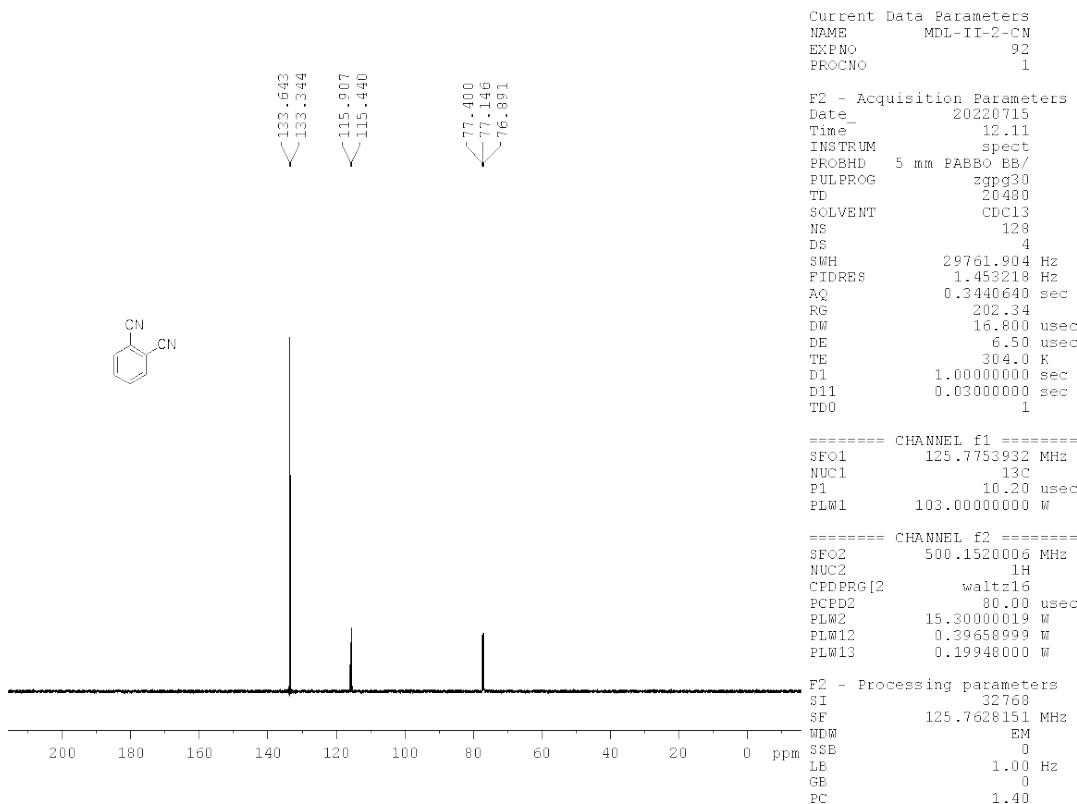


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3p**

**Phthalonitrile (3q)**

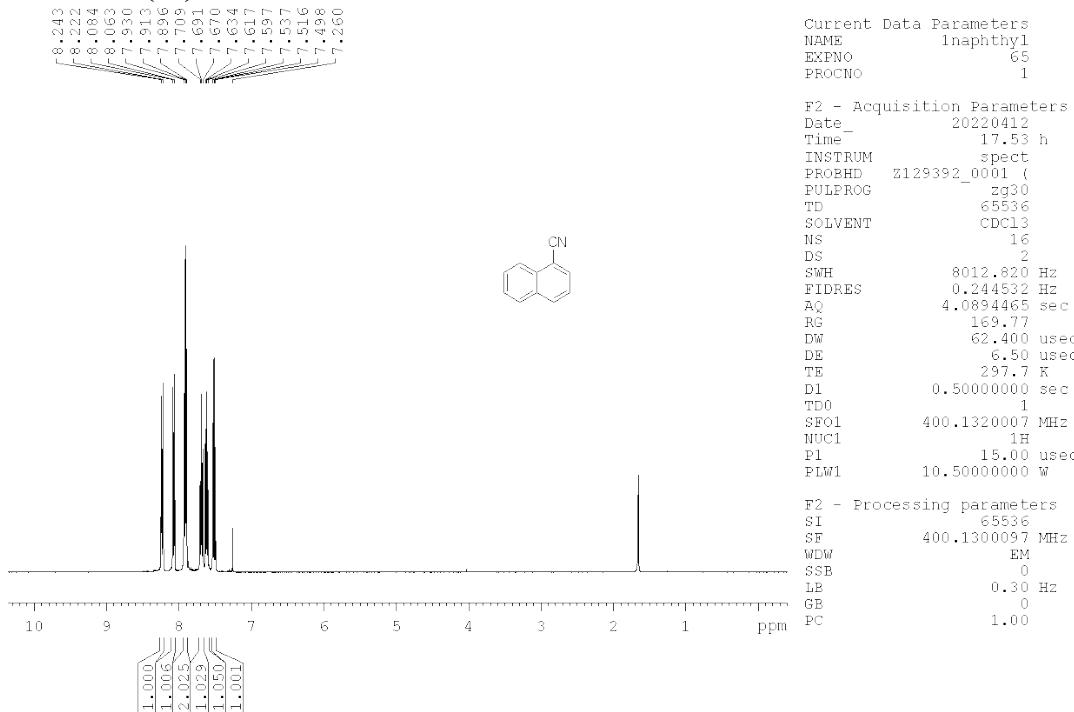


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3q**

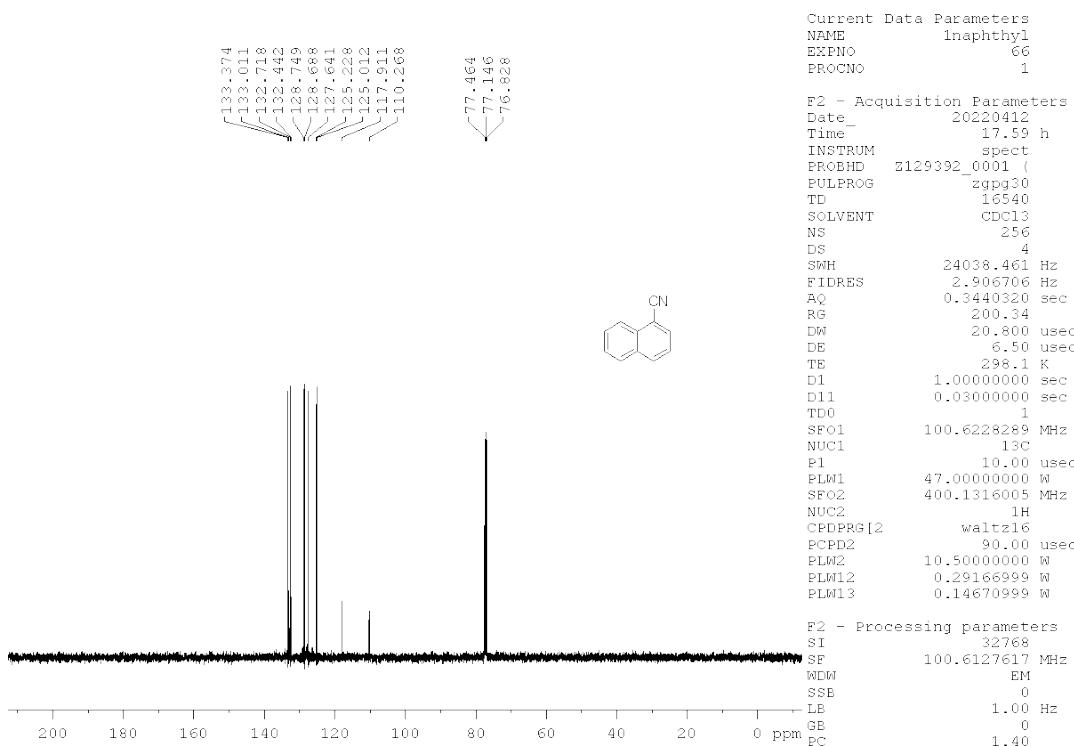


**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3q**

**1-naphthonitrile (3r)**

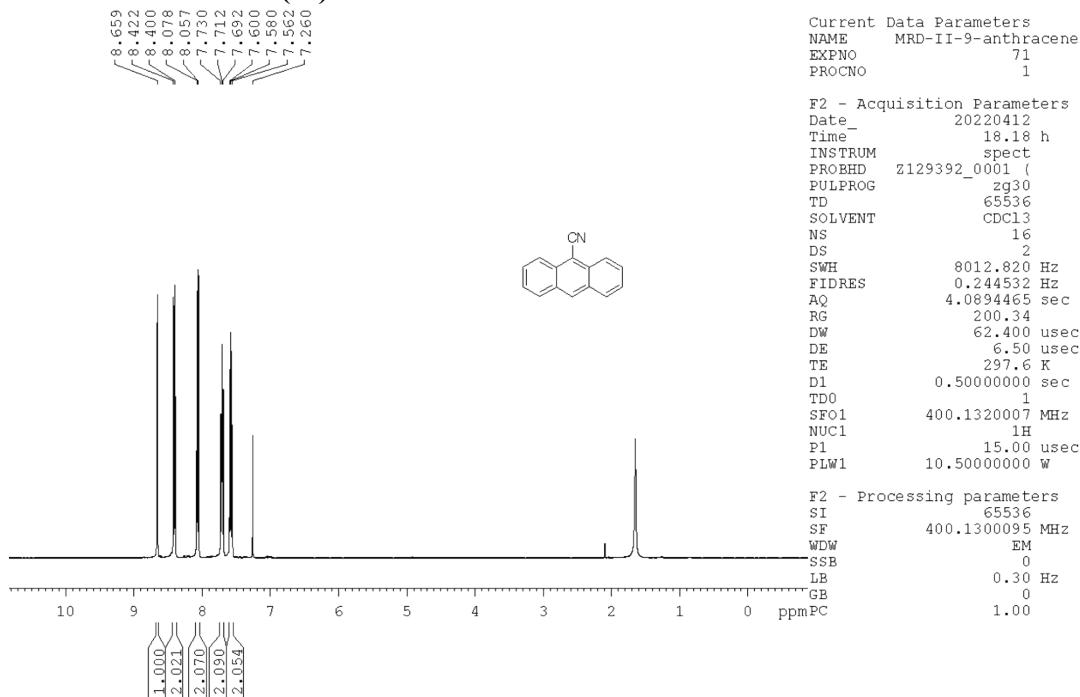


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3r**

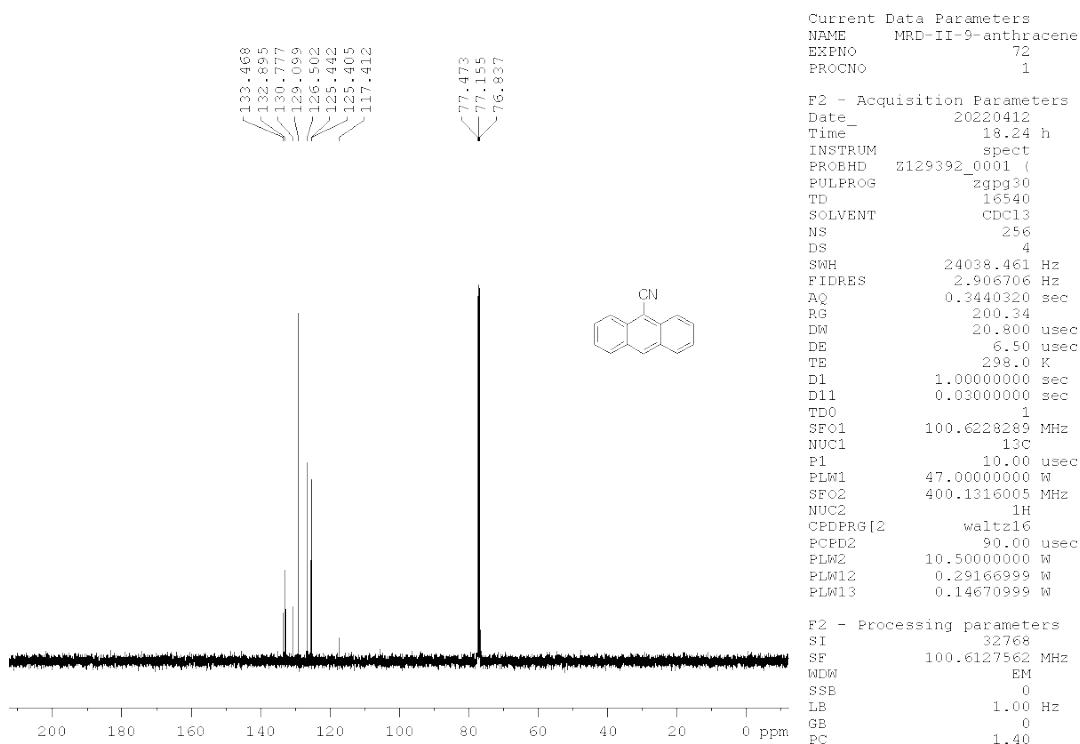


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3r**

**Anthracene-9-carbonitrile (3s)**

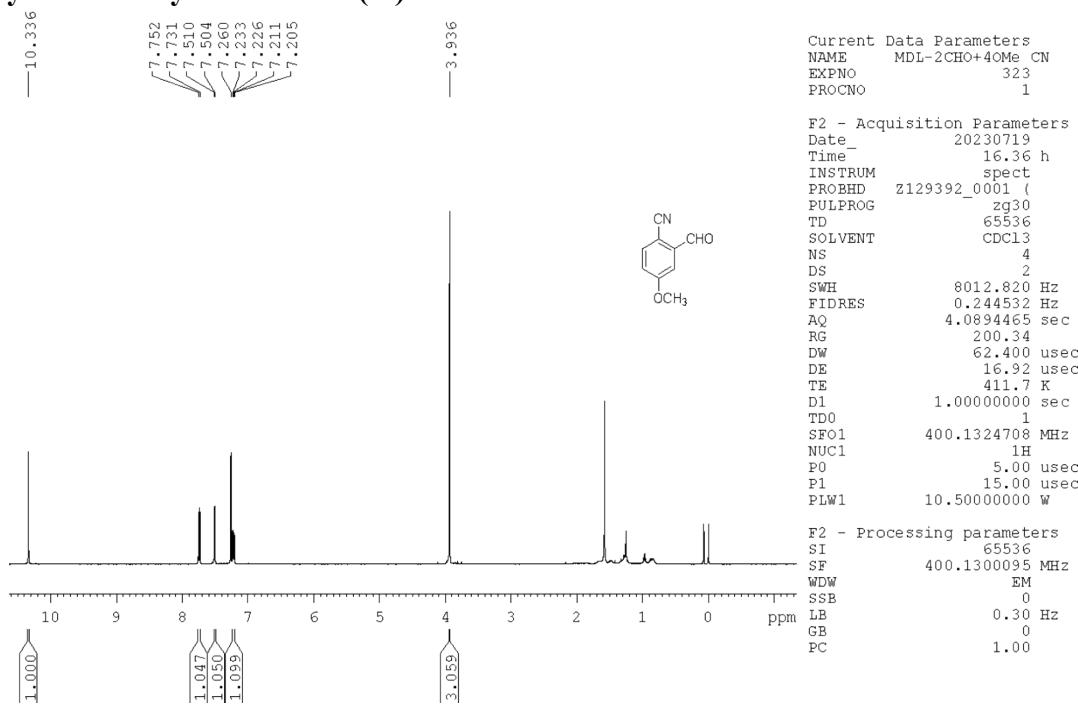


**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3s**

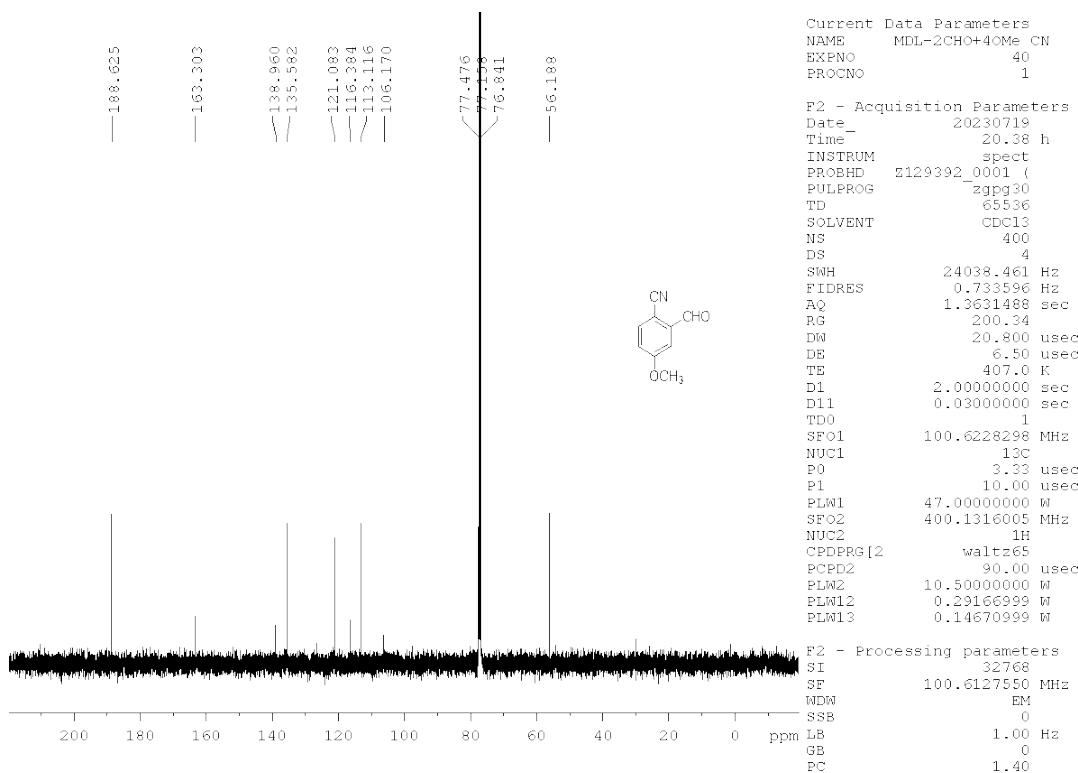


**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3s**

**2-formyl-4-methoxybenzonitrile (3t)**

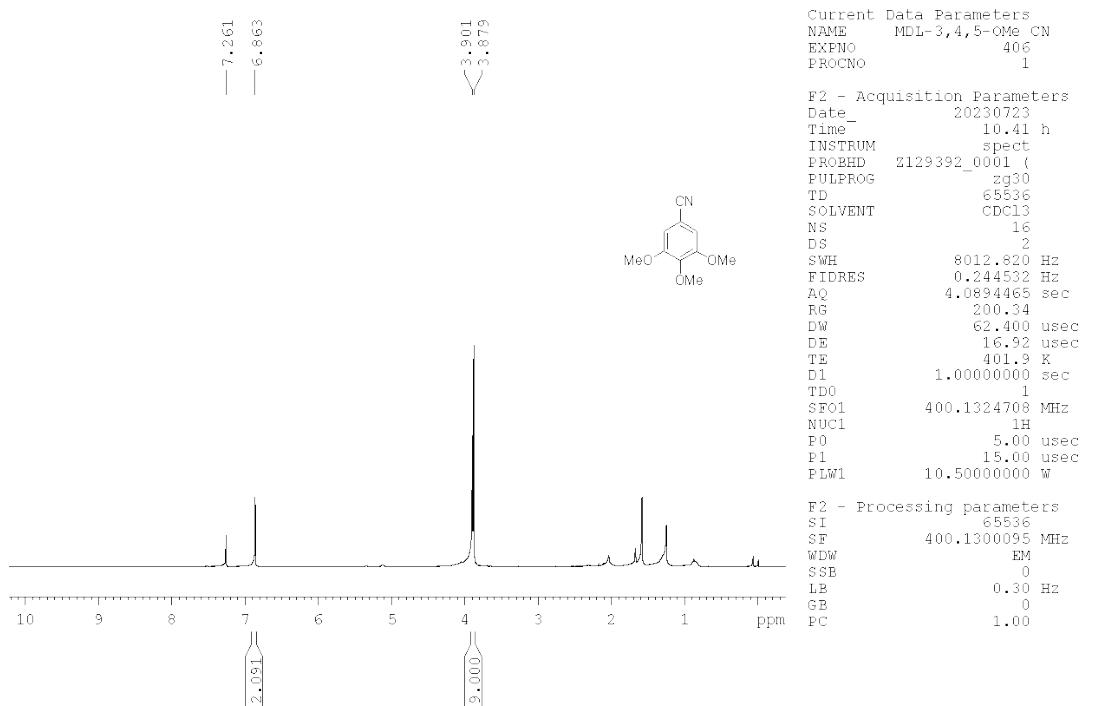


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3t**

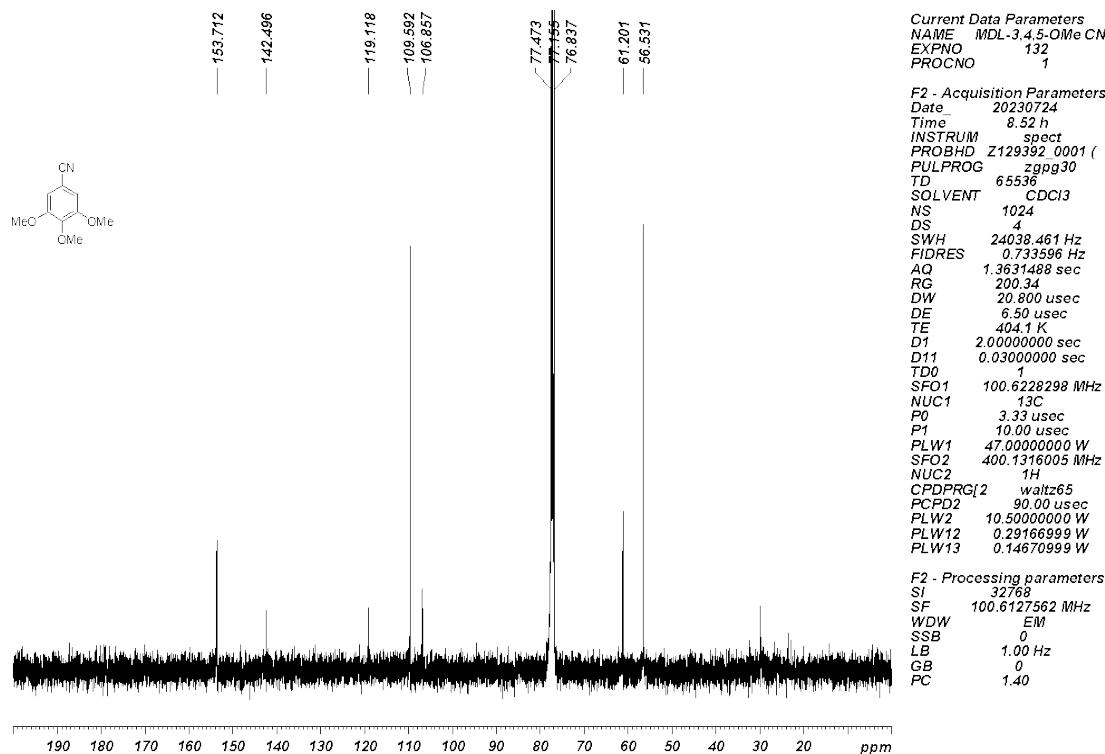


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3t**

**3,4,5-trimethoxybenzonitrile (3u)**

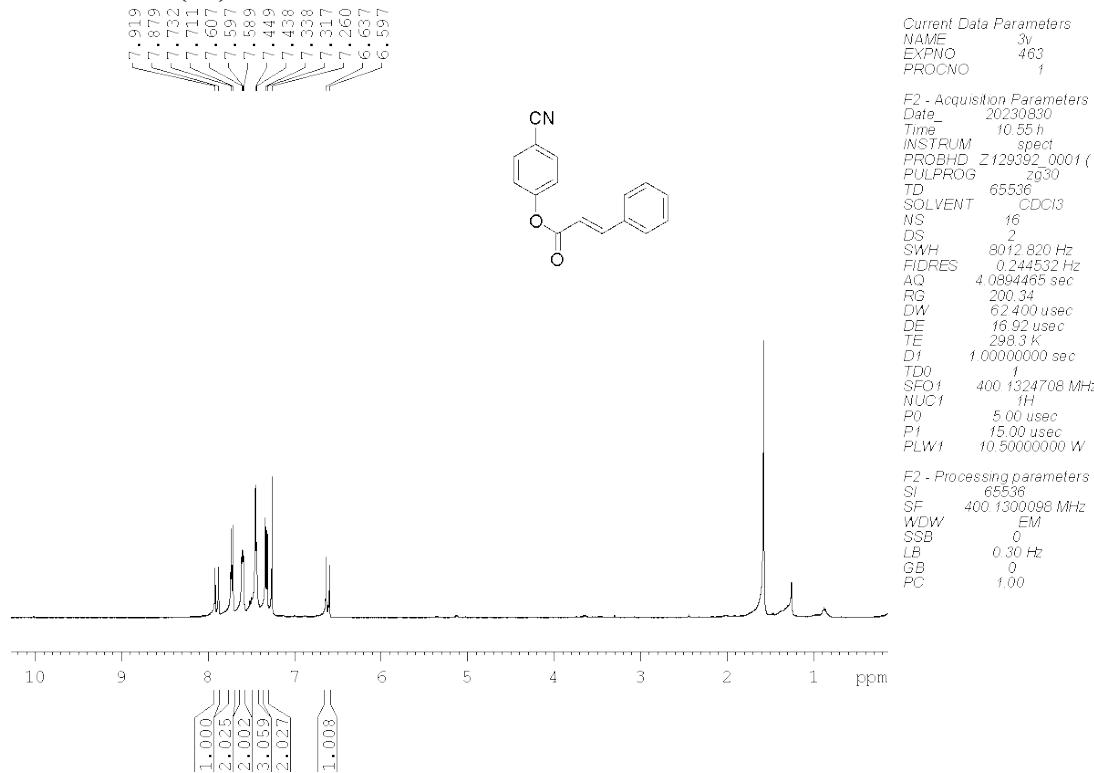


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3u**

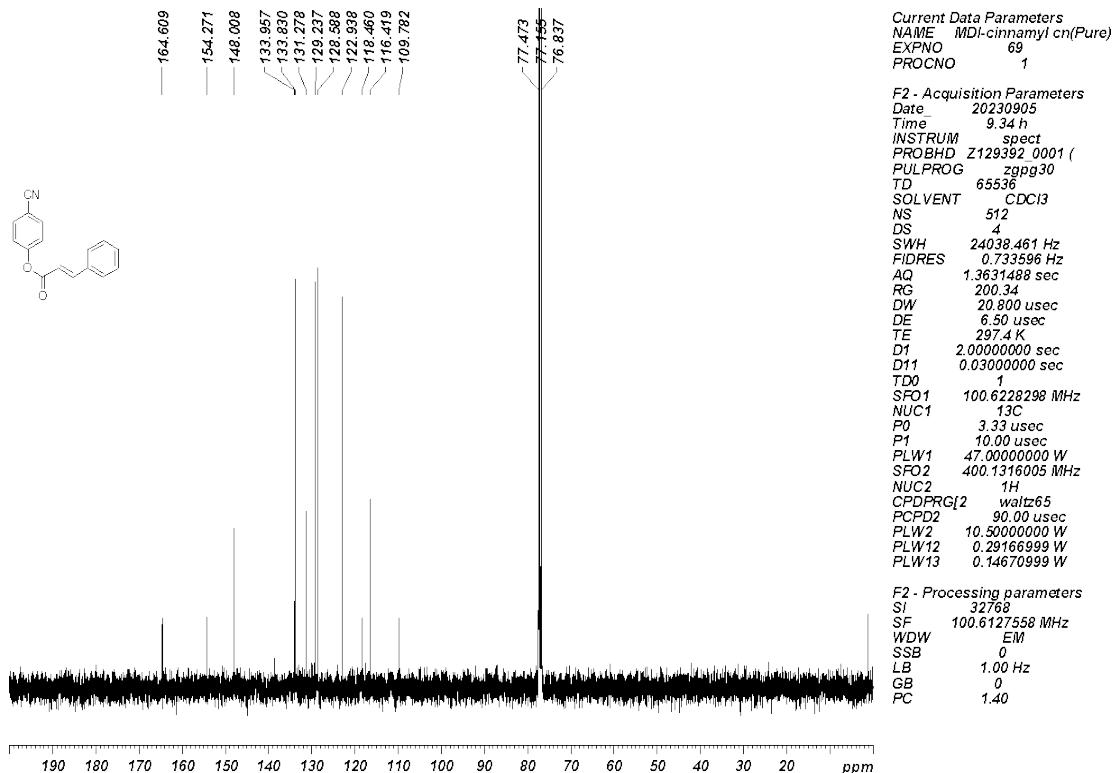


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3u**

**4-cyanophenyl cinnamate (3v)**

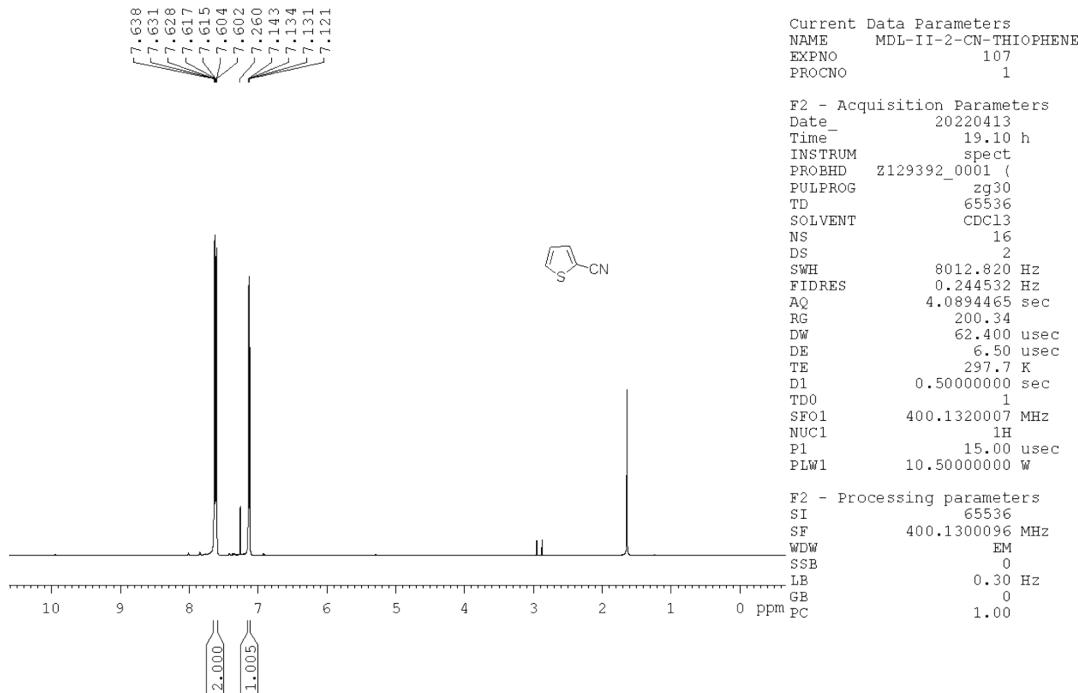


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3v**

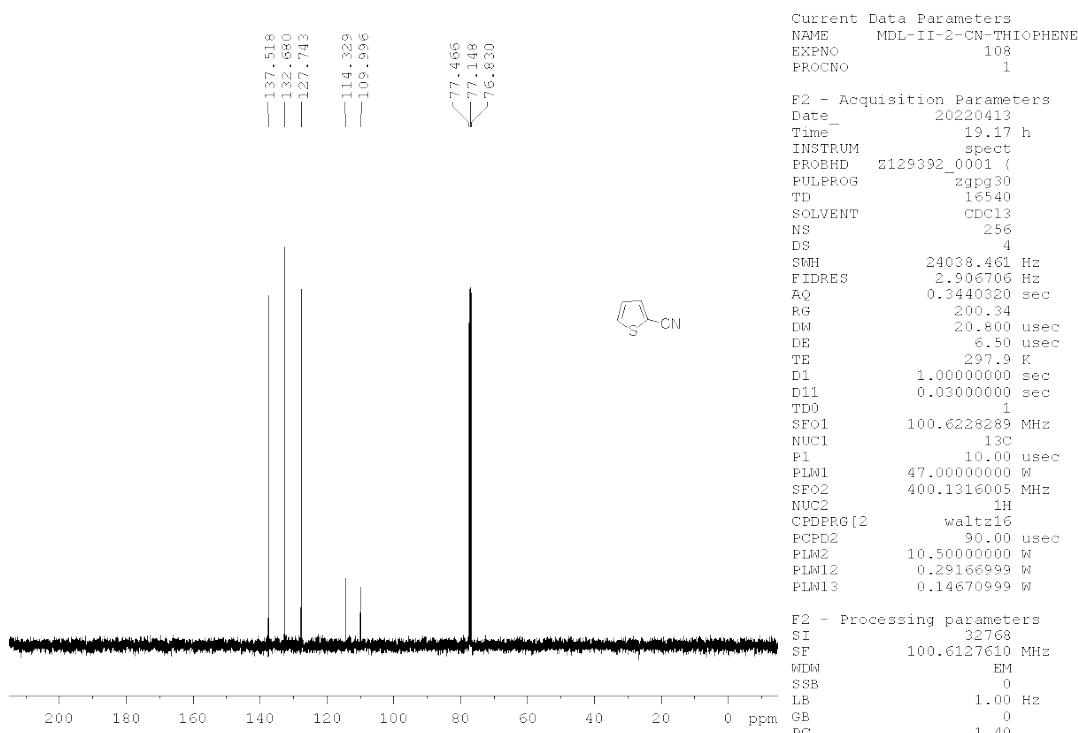


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3v**

### Thiophene-2-carbonitrile (3w)

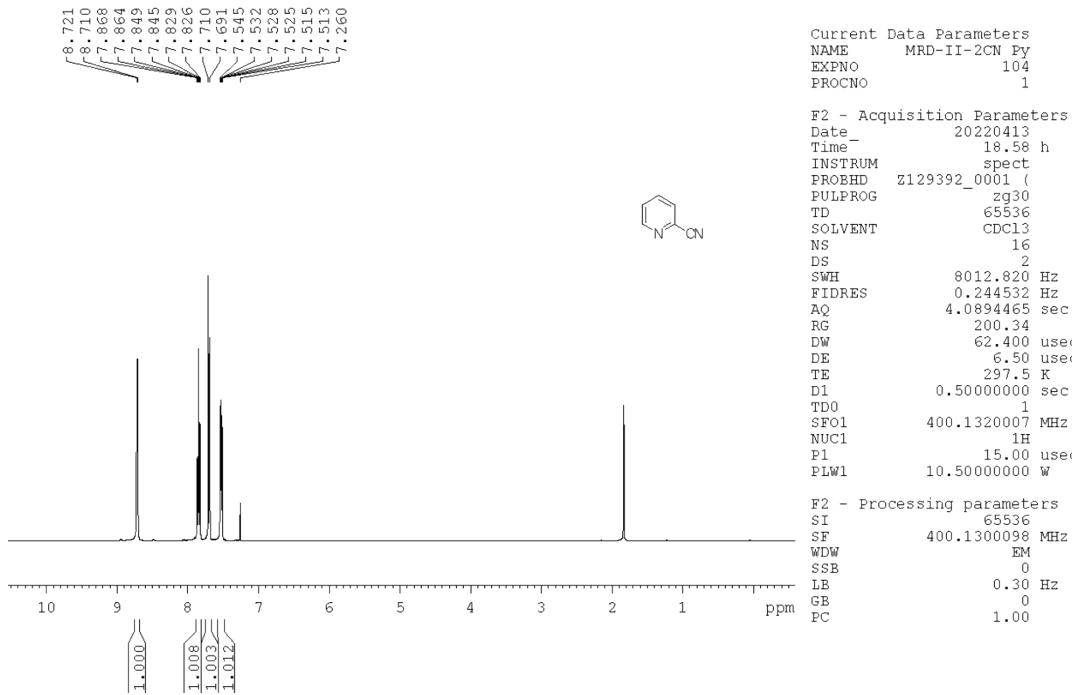


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3w

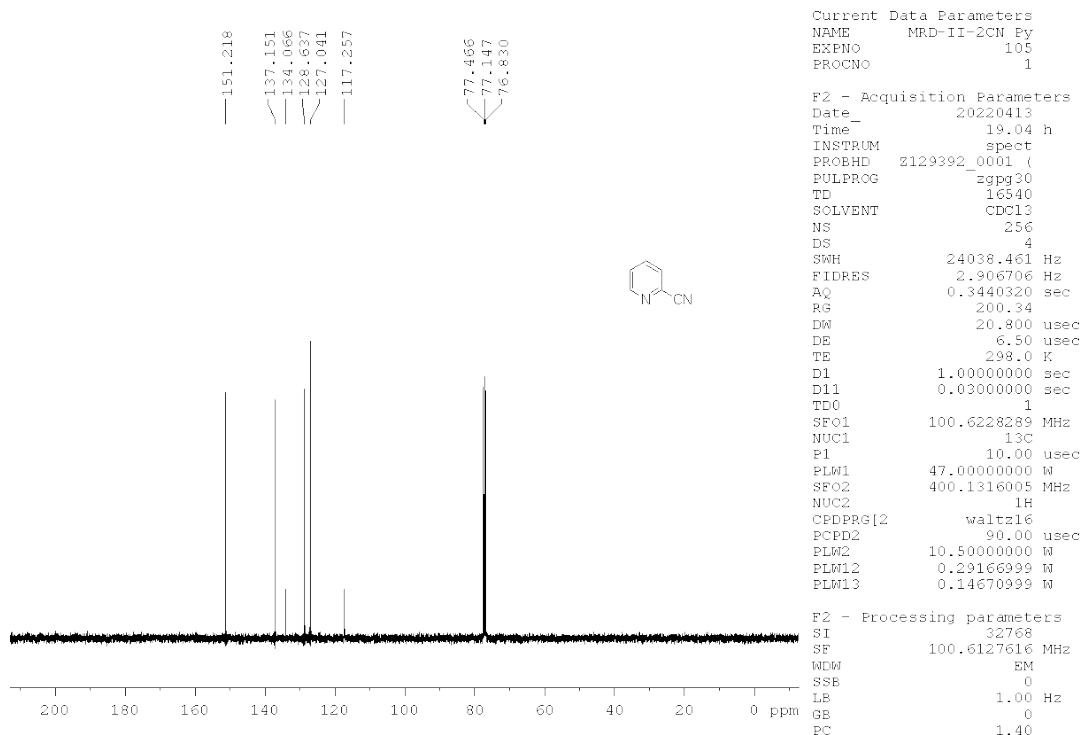


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3w

### Picolinonitrile (3x)

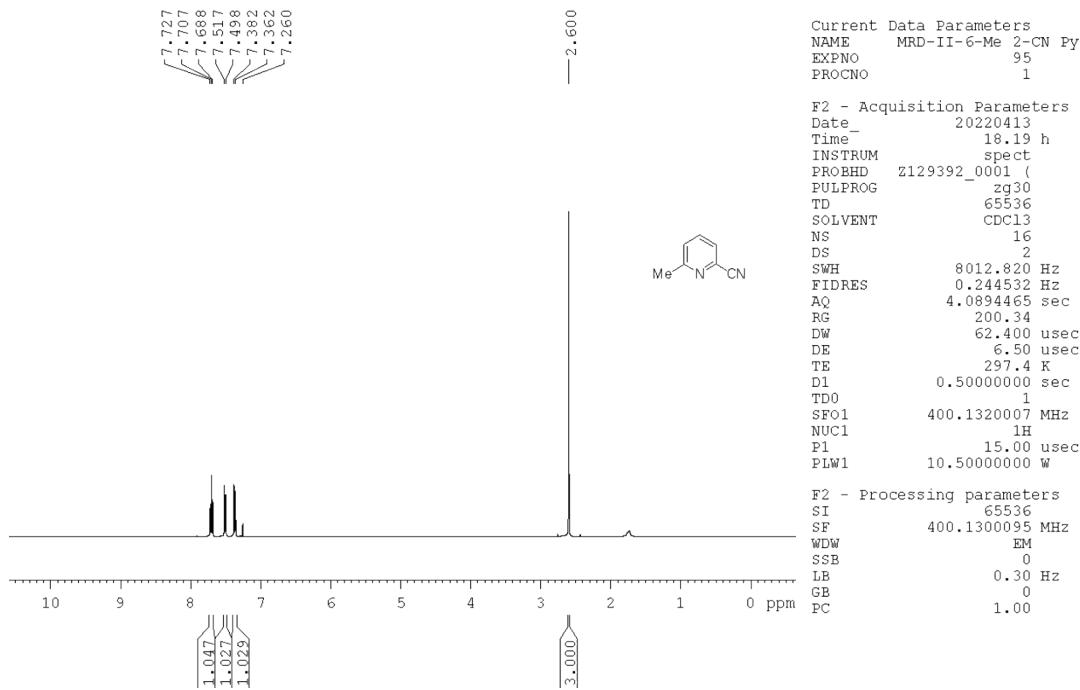


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3x

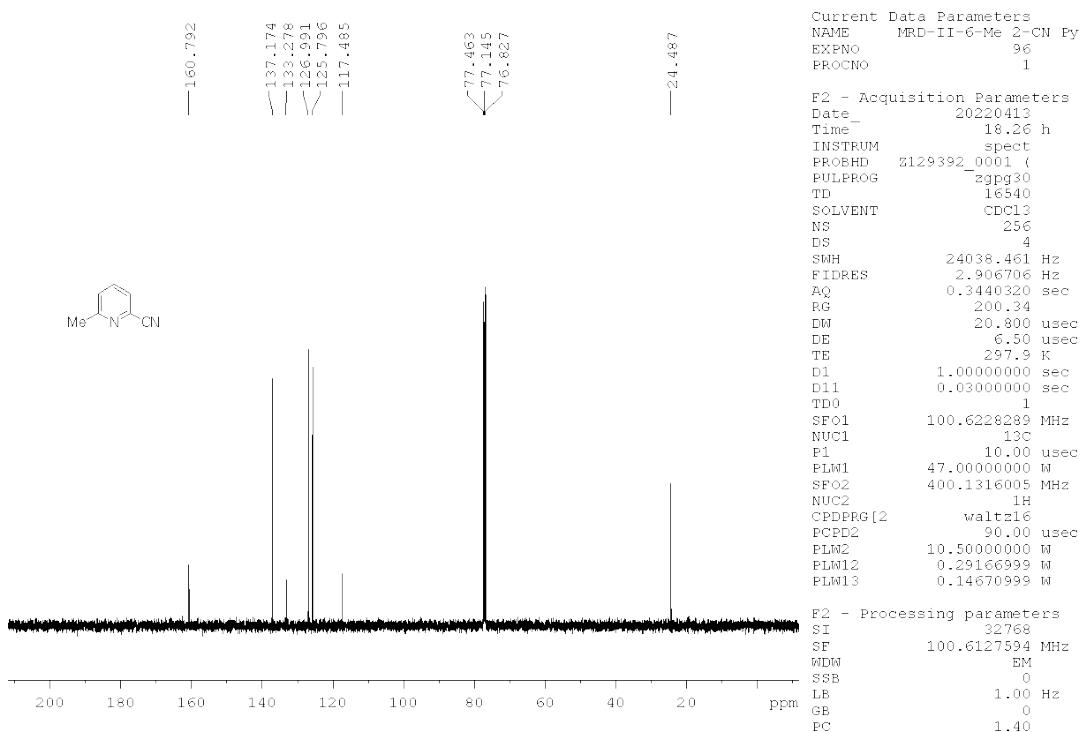


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3x

### 6-methylpicolinonitrile (3y)

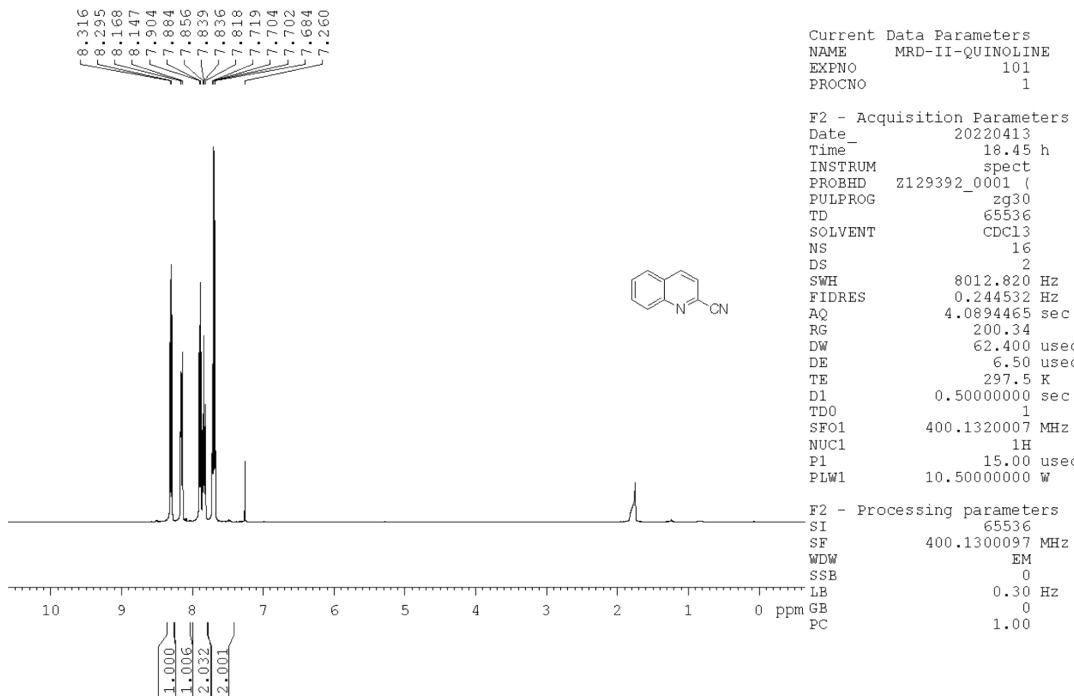


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3y

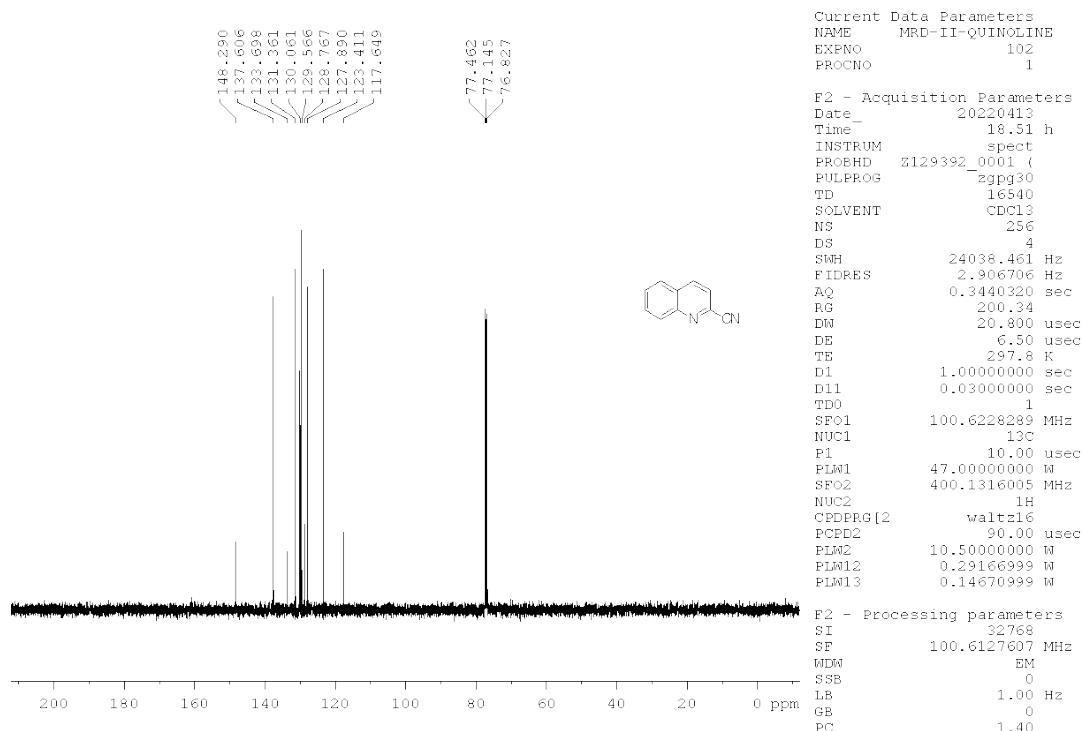


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3y

## Quinoline-2-carbonitrile (3z)

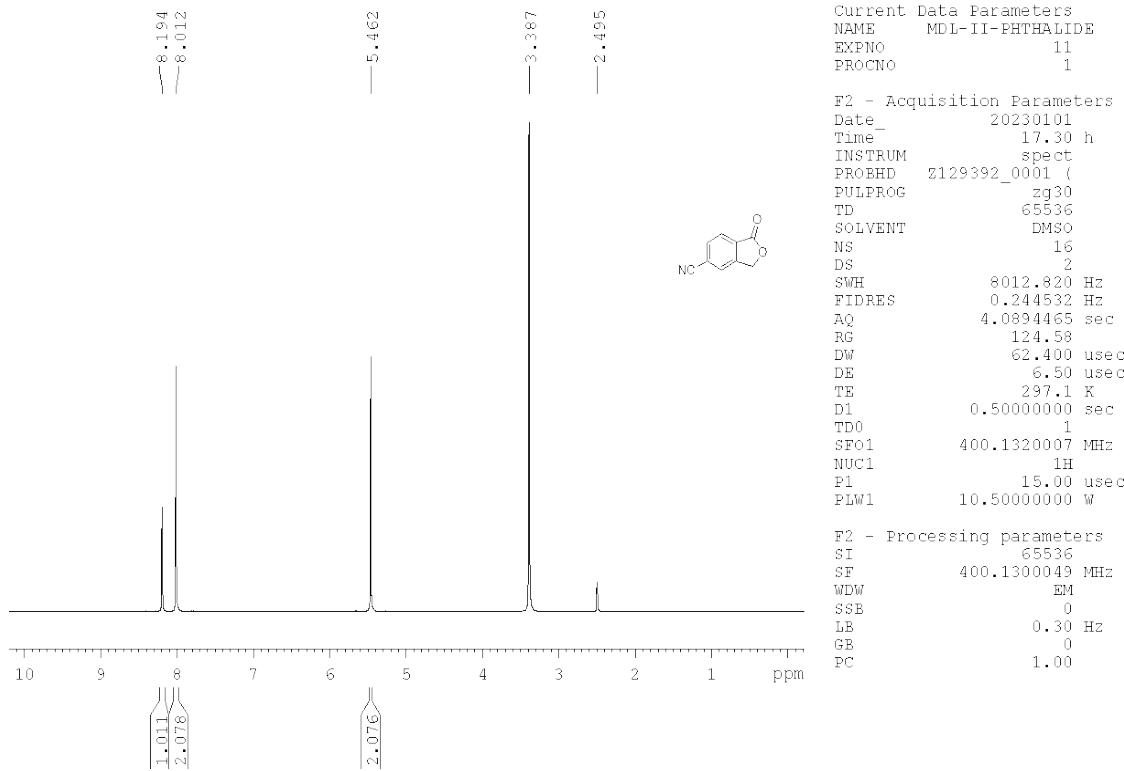


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3z

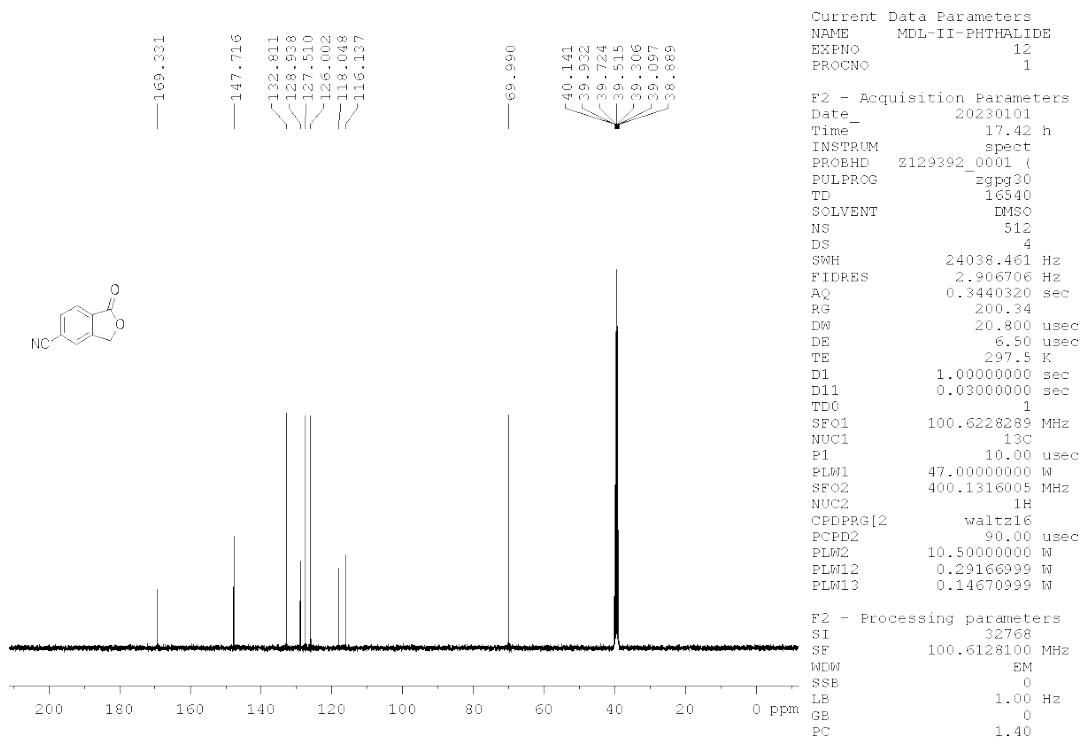


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3z

**1-oxo-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-5-carbonitrile (3aa)**

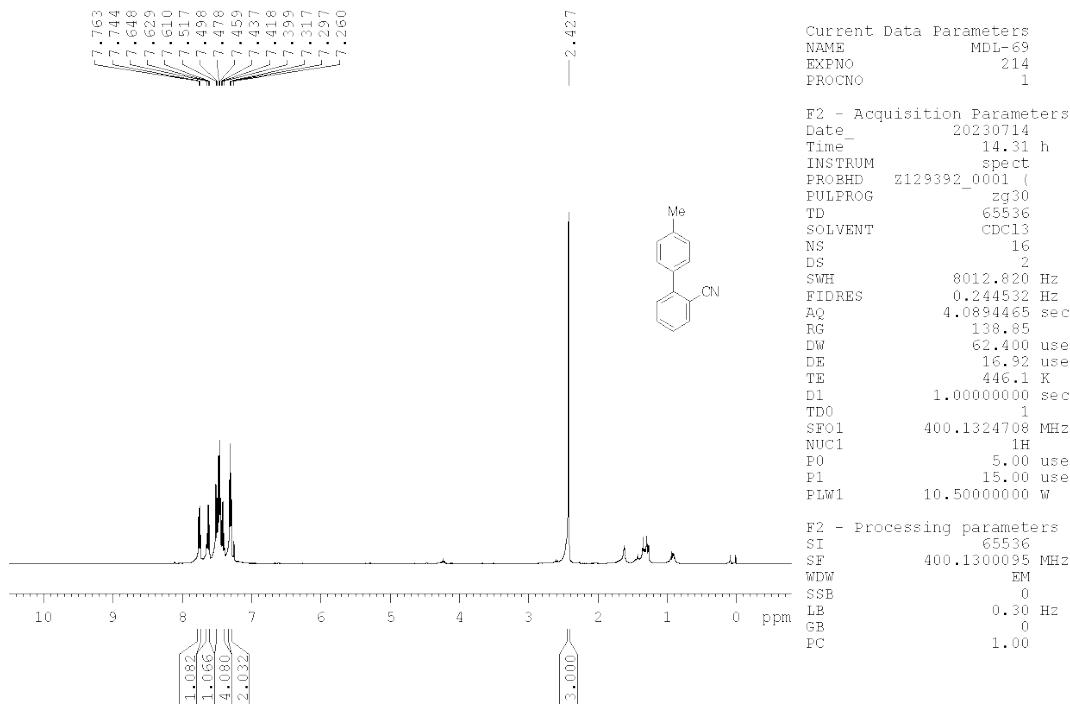


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 24 °C) of compound 3aa**

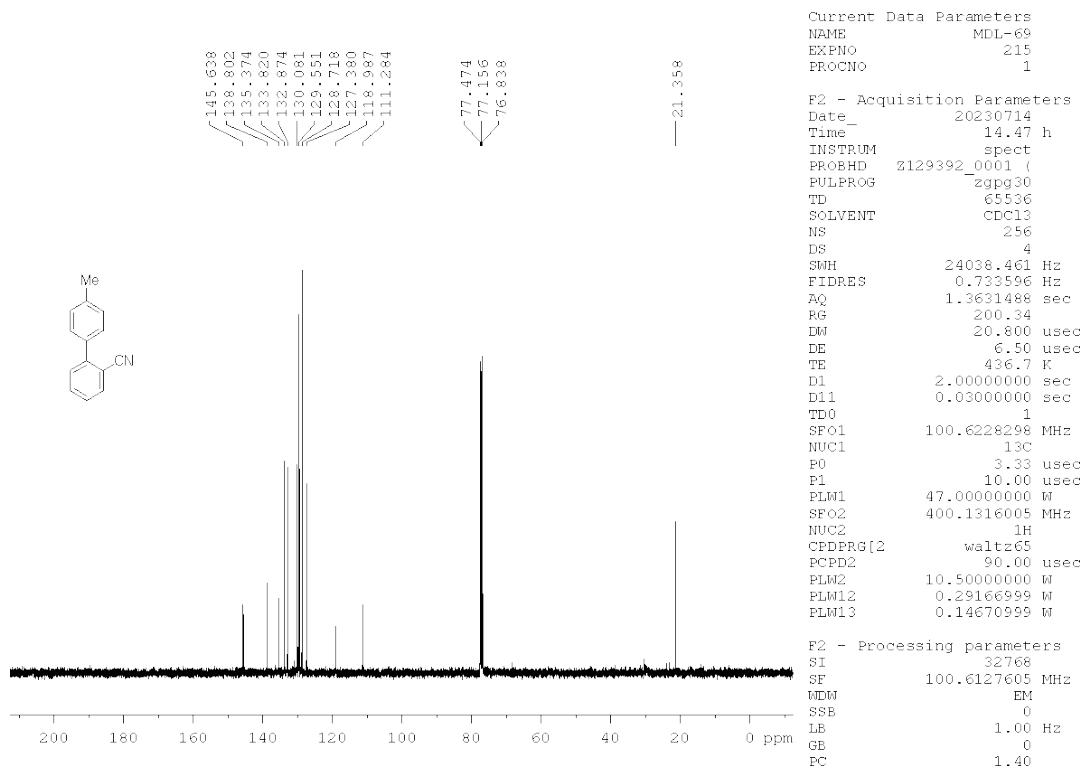


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO, 24 °C) of compound 3aa**

### 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile(3ab)

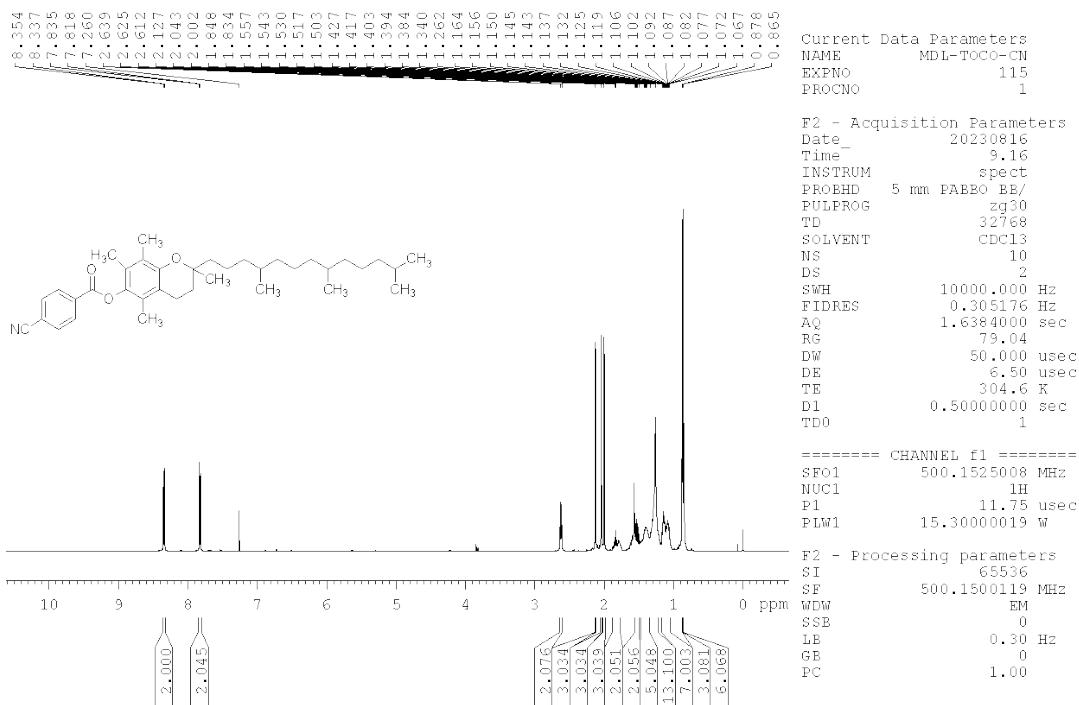


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3ab

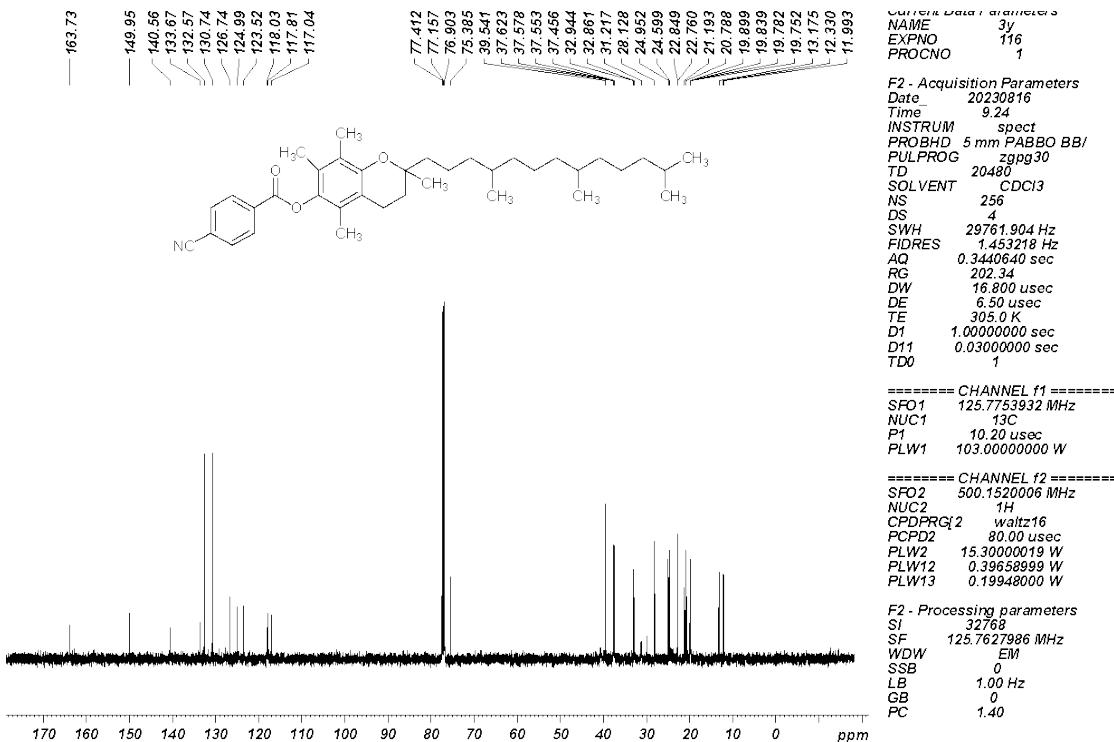


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 24 °C) of compound 3ab

### 2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-(4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl 4-cyanobenzoate (3ac)

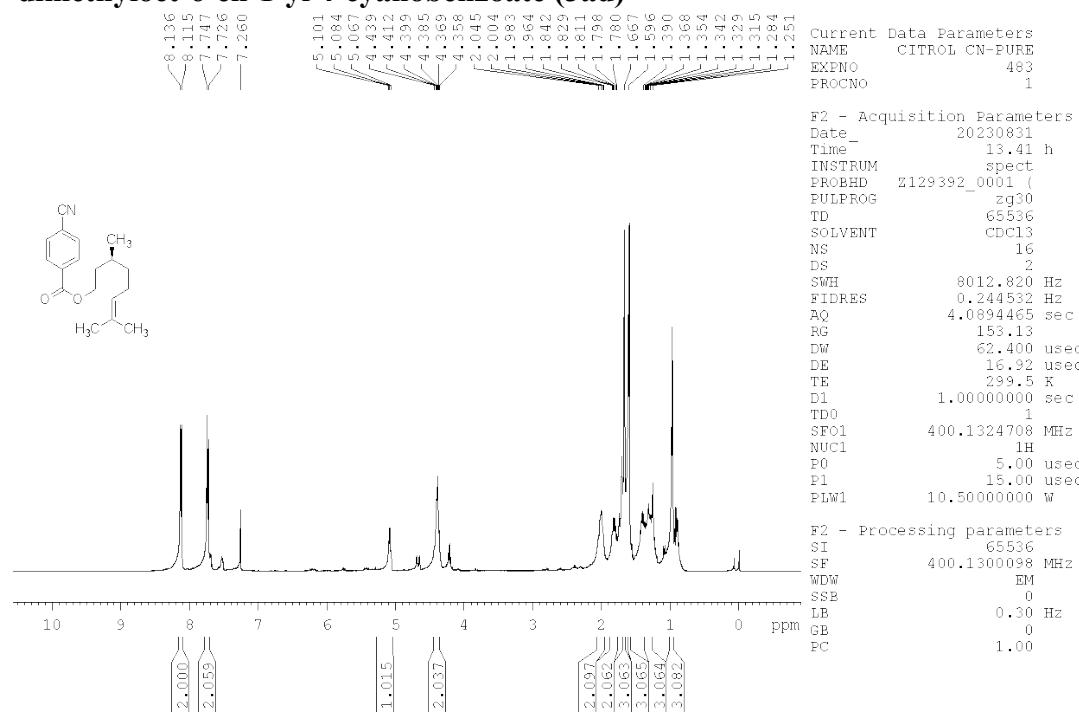


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ac**

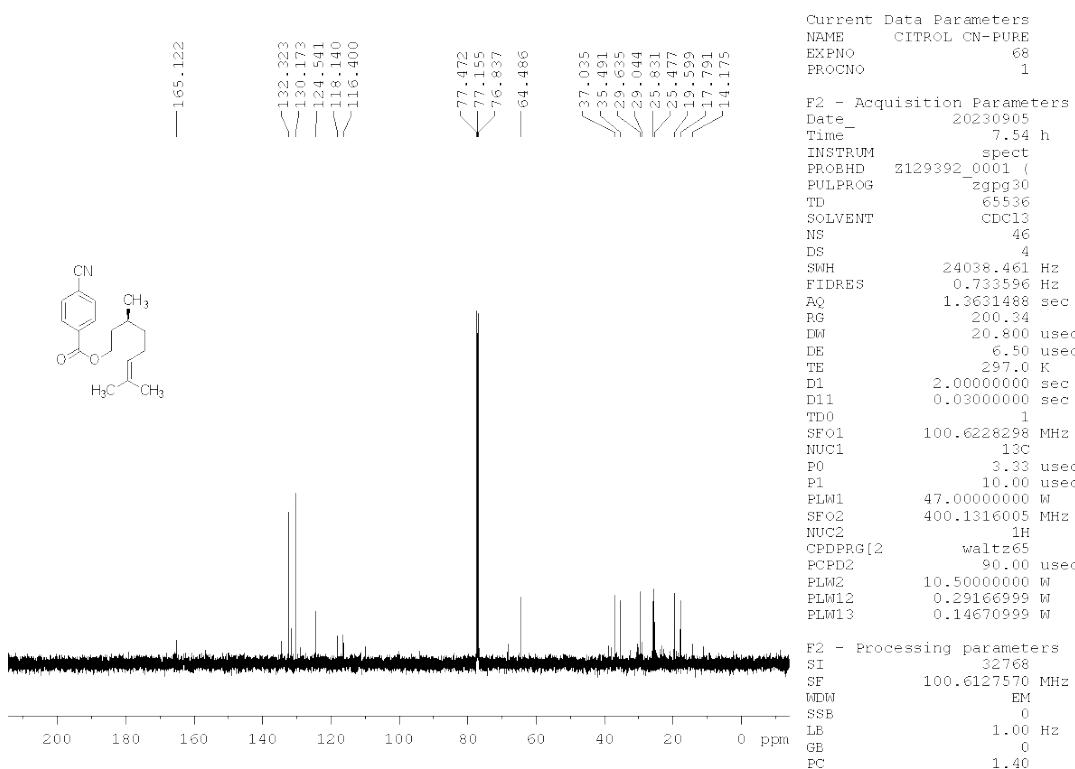


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ac

**(S)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl 4-cyanobenzoate (3ad)**

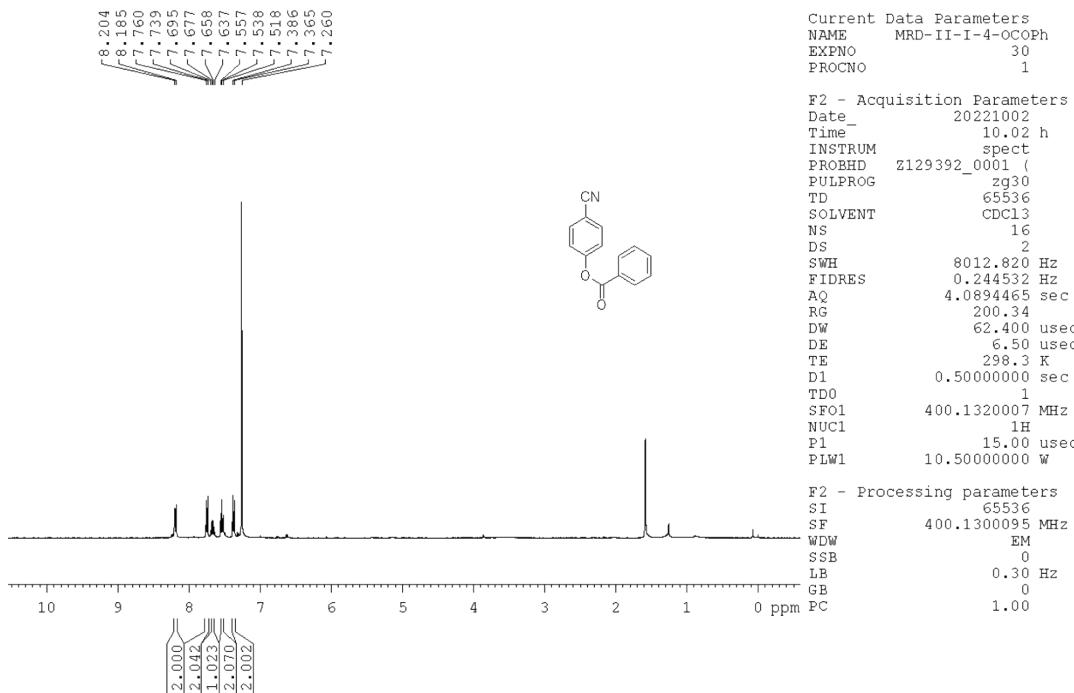


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ad**

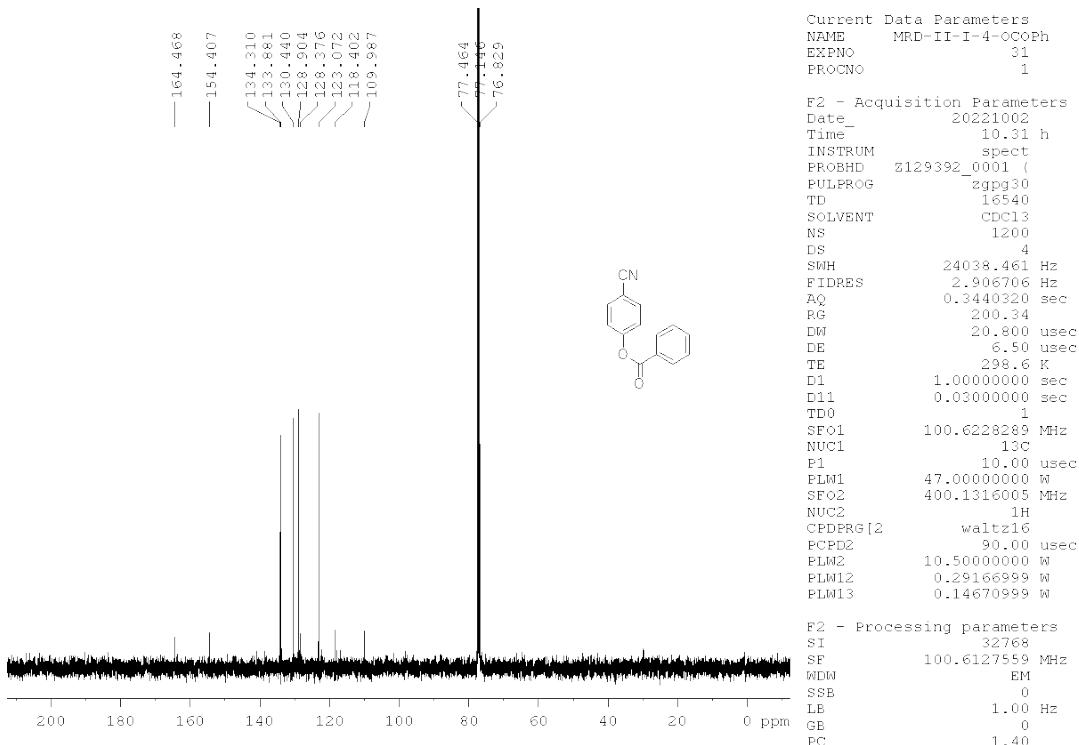


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ad

### 4-cyanophenyl benzoate (3ae)

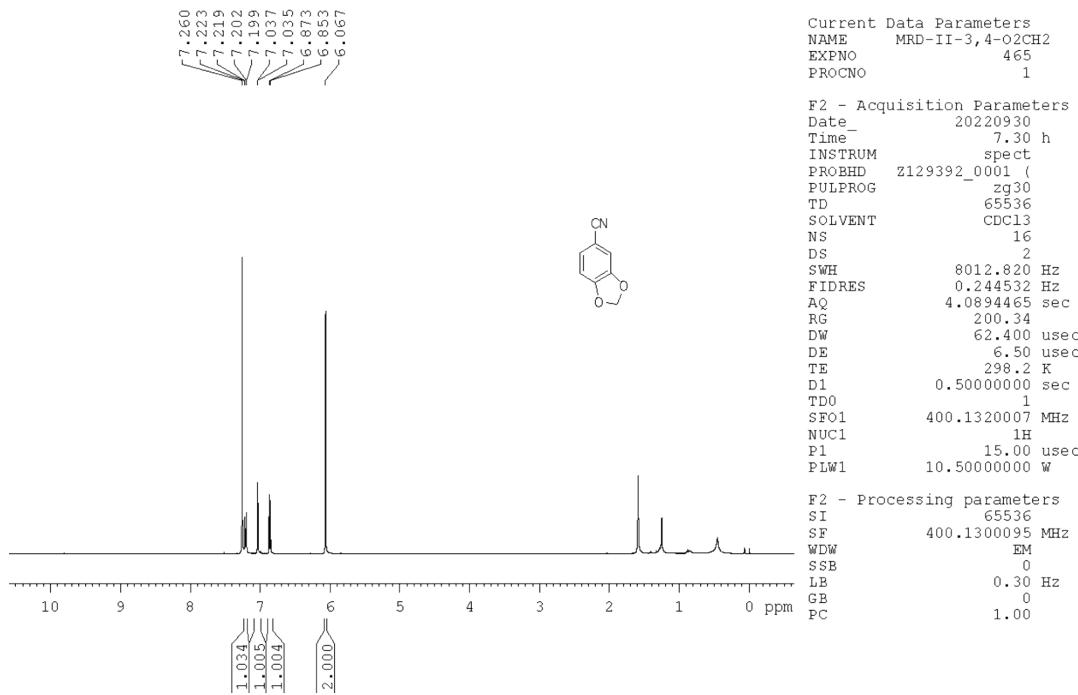


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ae**

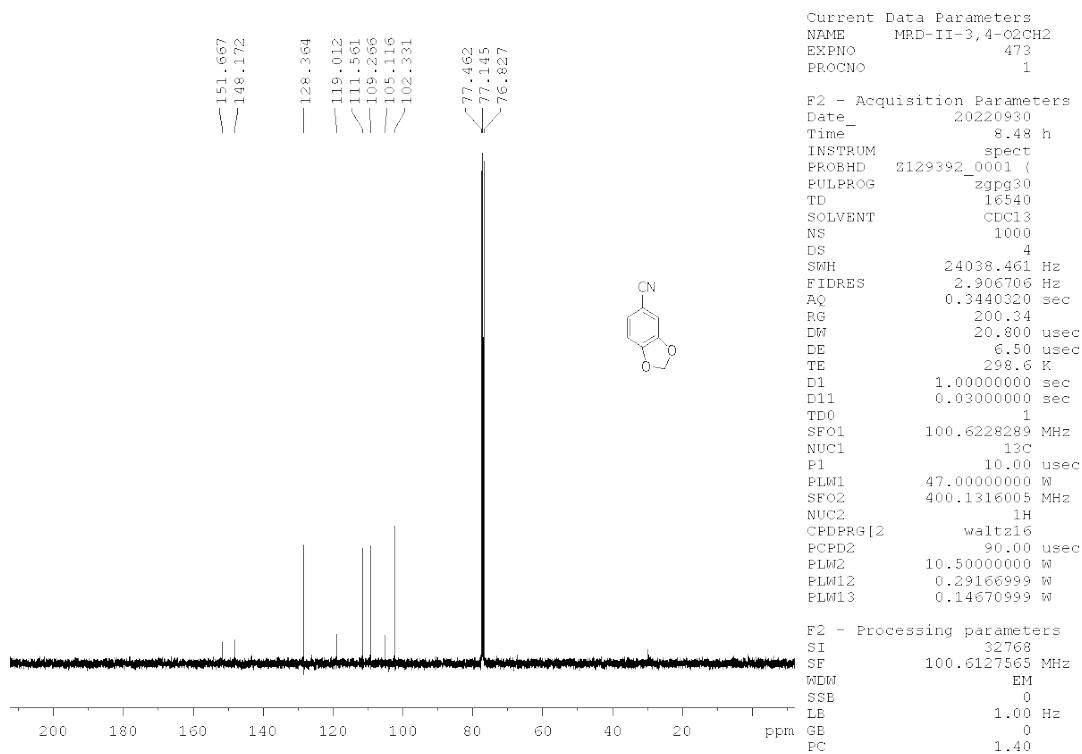


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ae**

**Benzo[d][1,3]dioxole-5-carbonitrile (3af)**

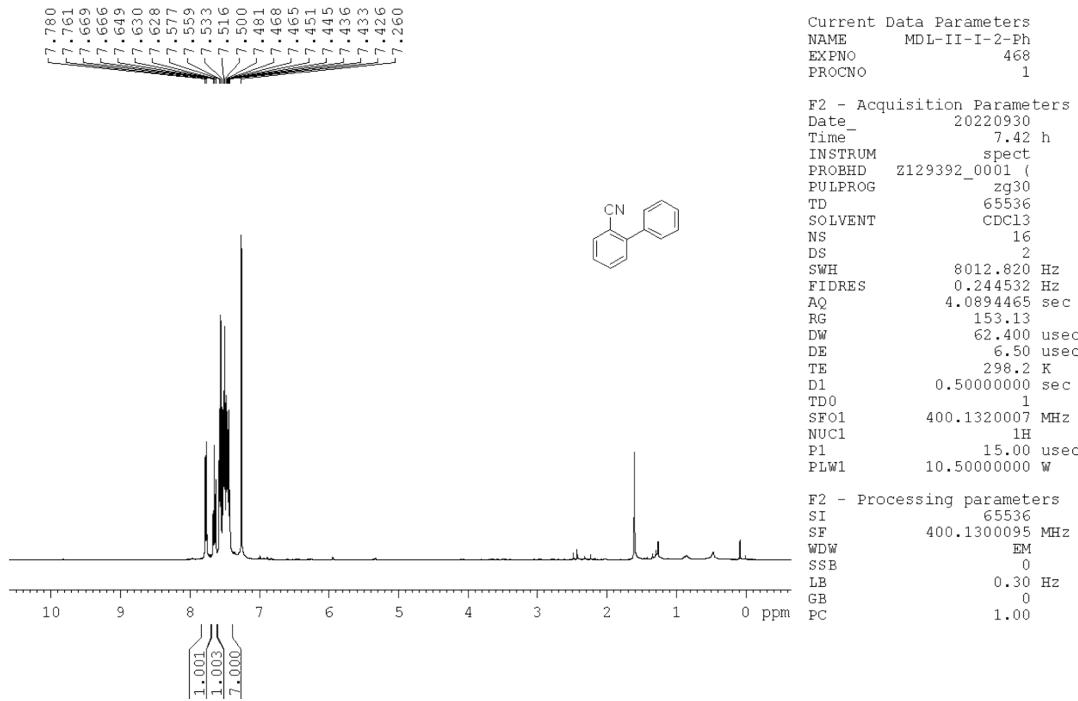


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3af**

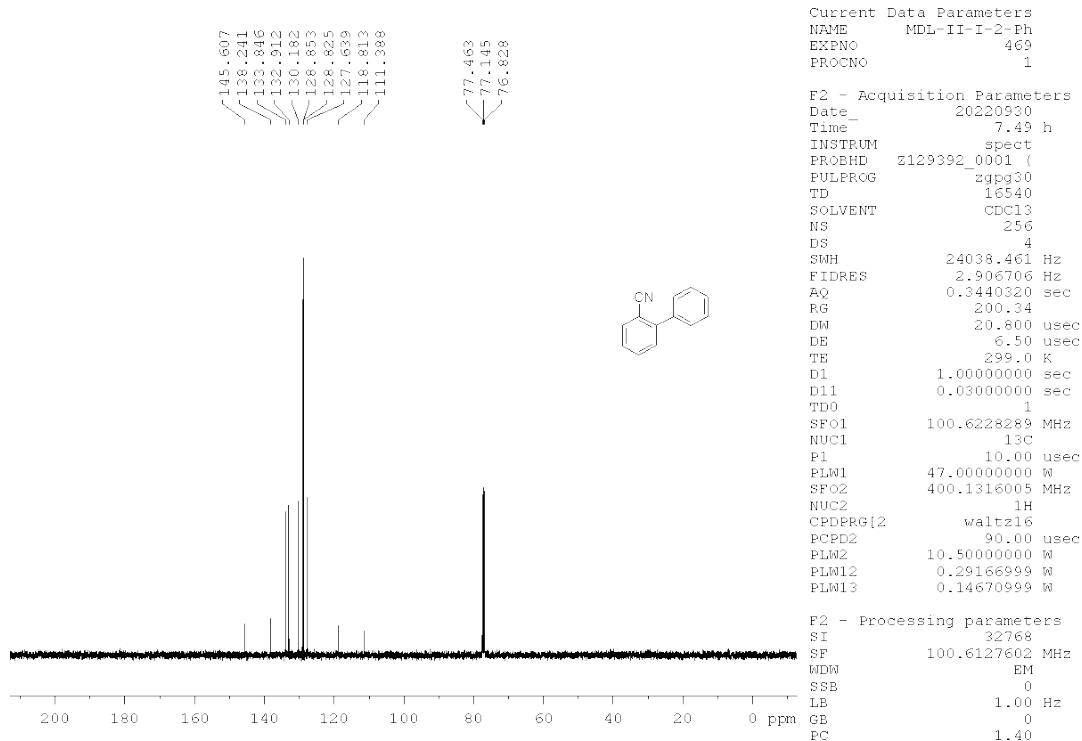


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3af**

**[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbonitrile (3ag)**

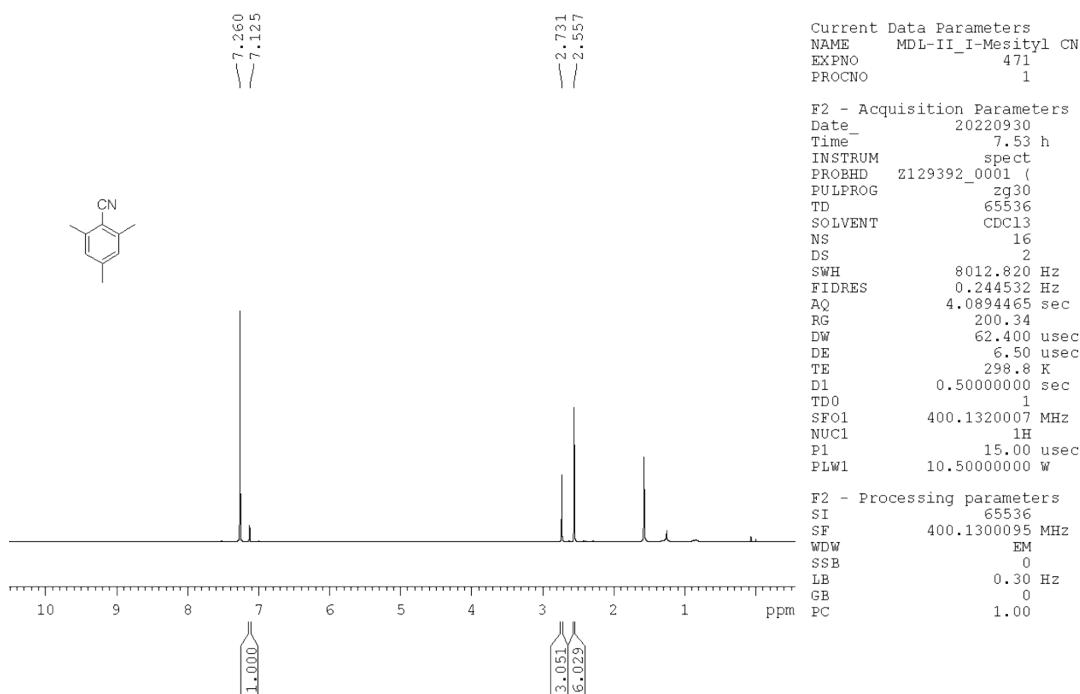


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ag**

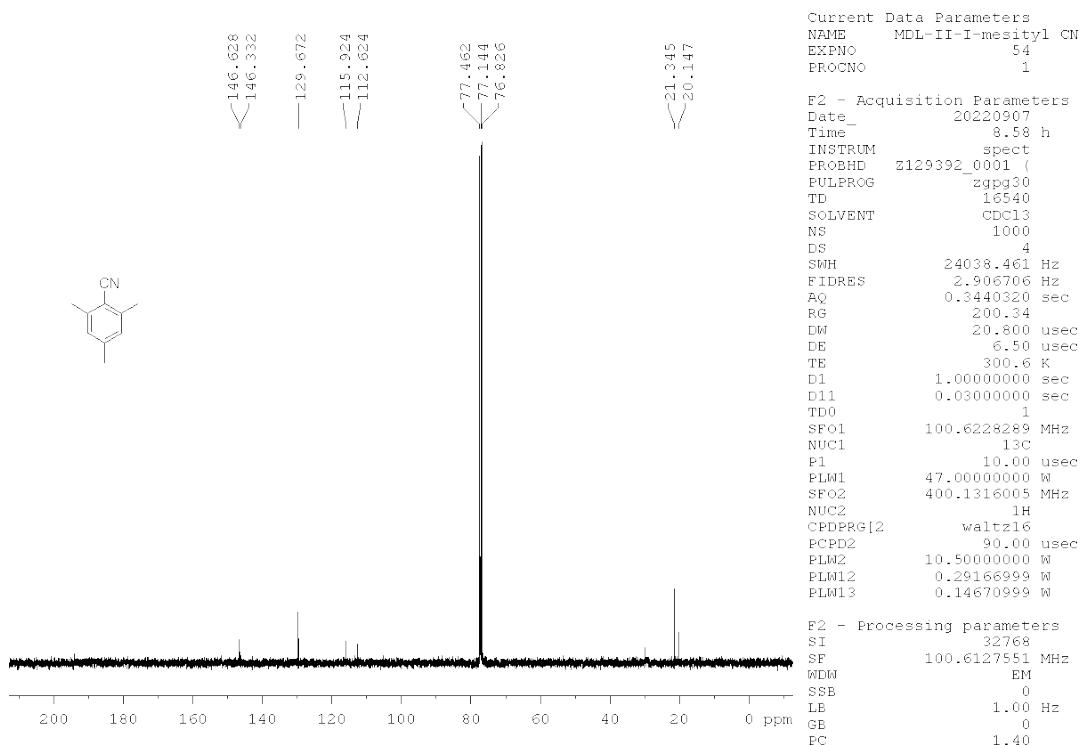


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ag**

**2,4,6-trimethylbenzonitrile (3ah)**

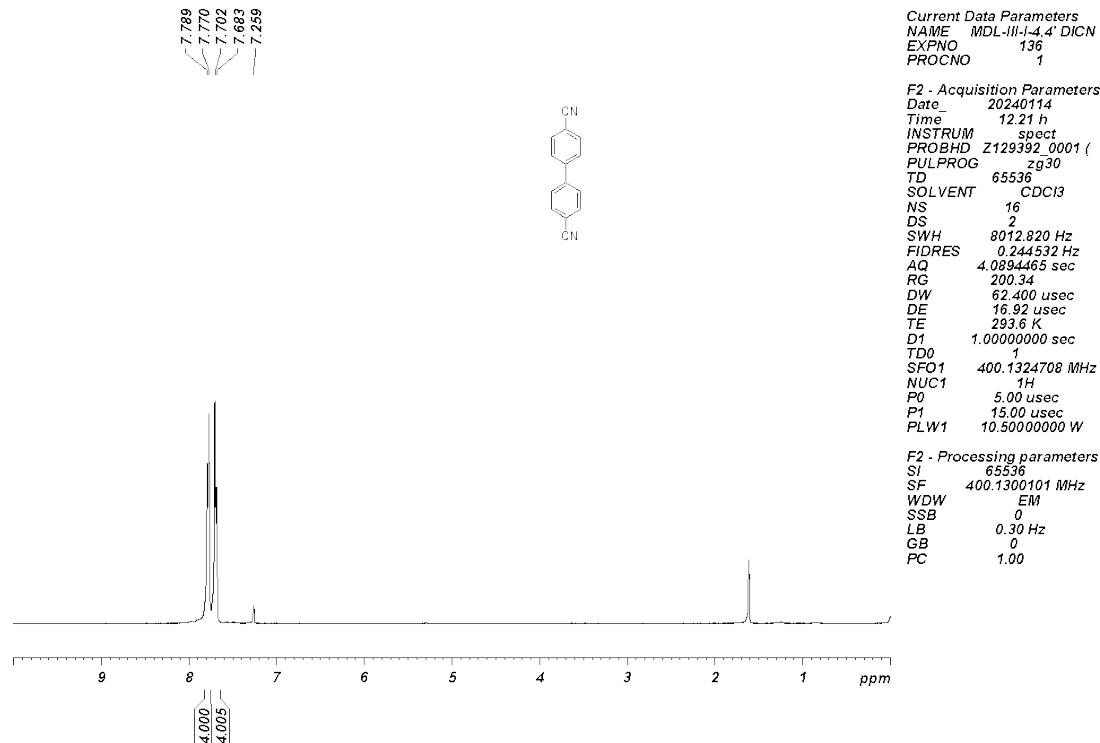


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ah**

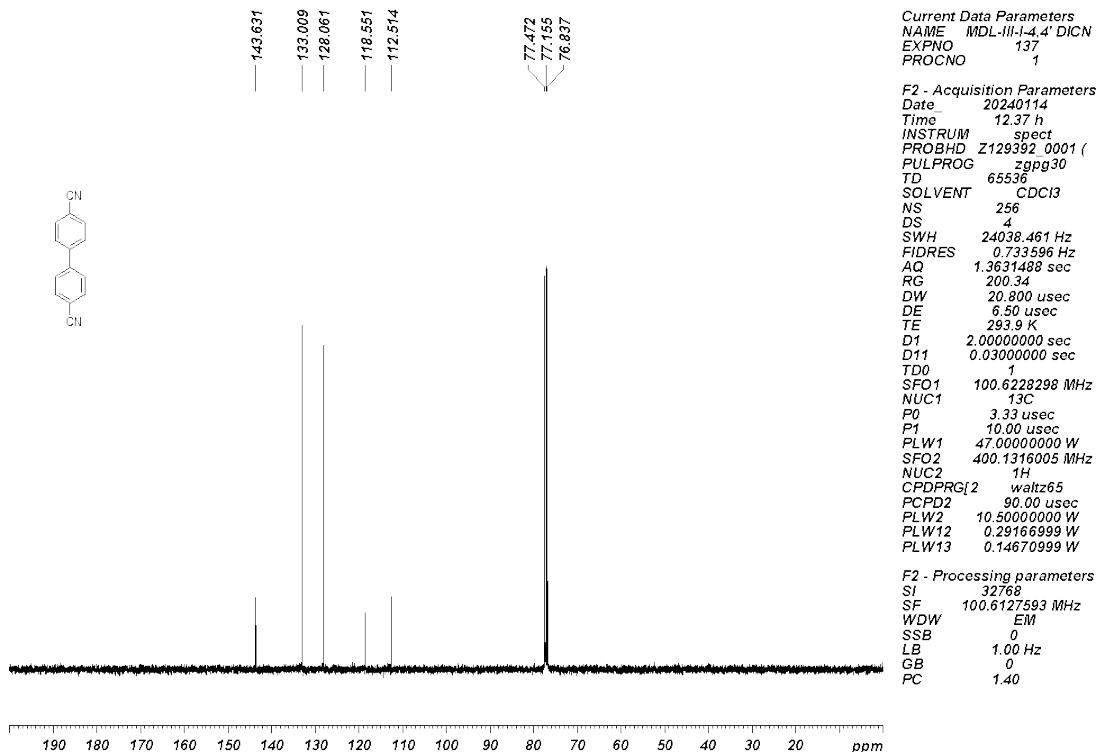


**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ah**

[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarbonitrile(3ai)

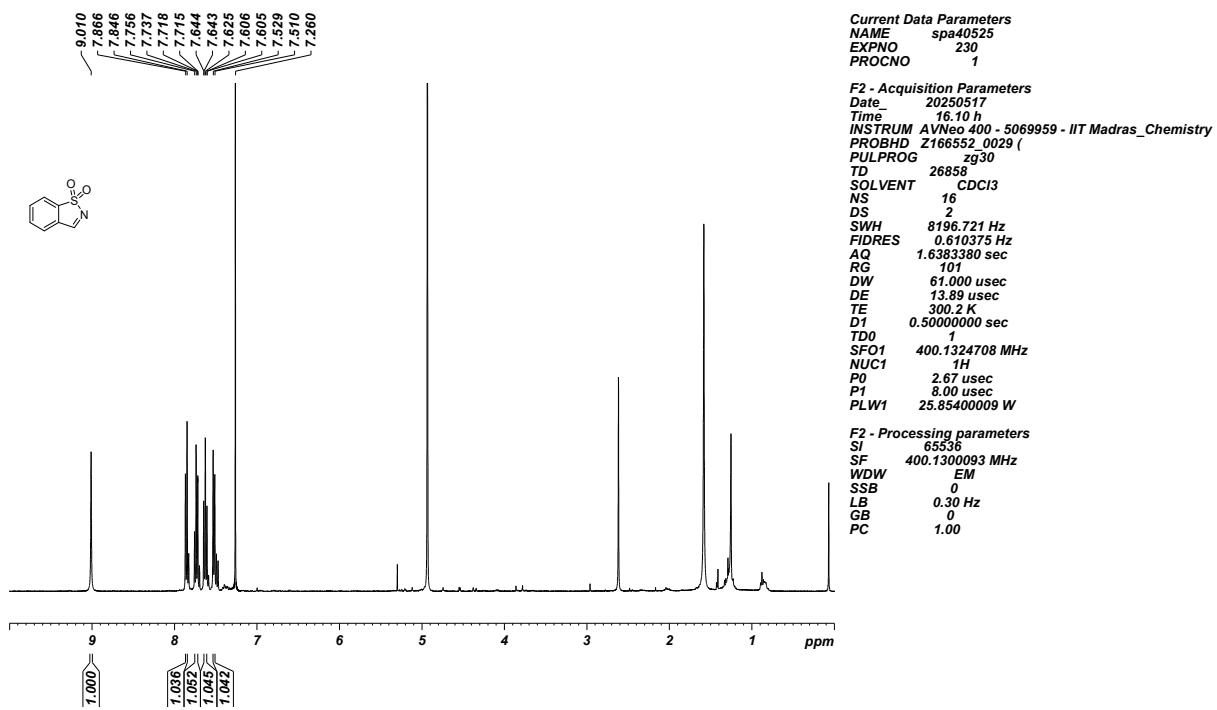


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ai

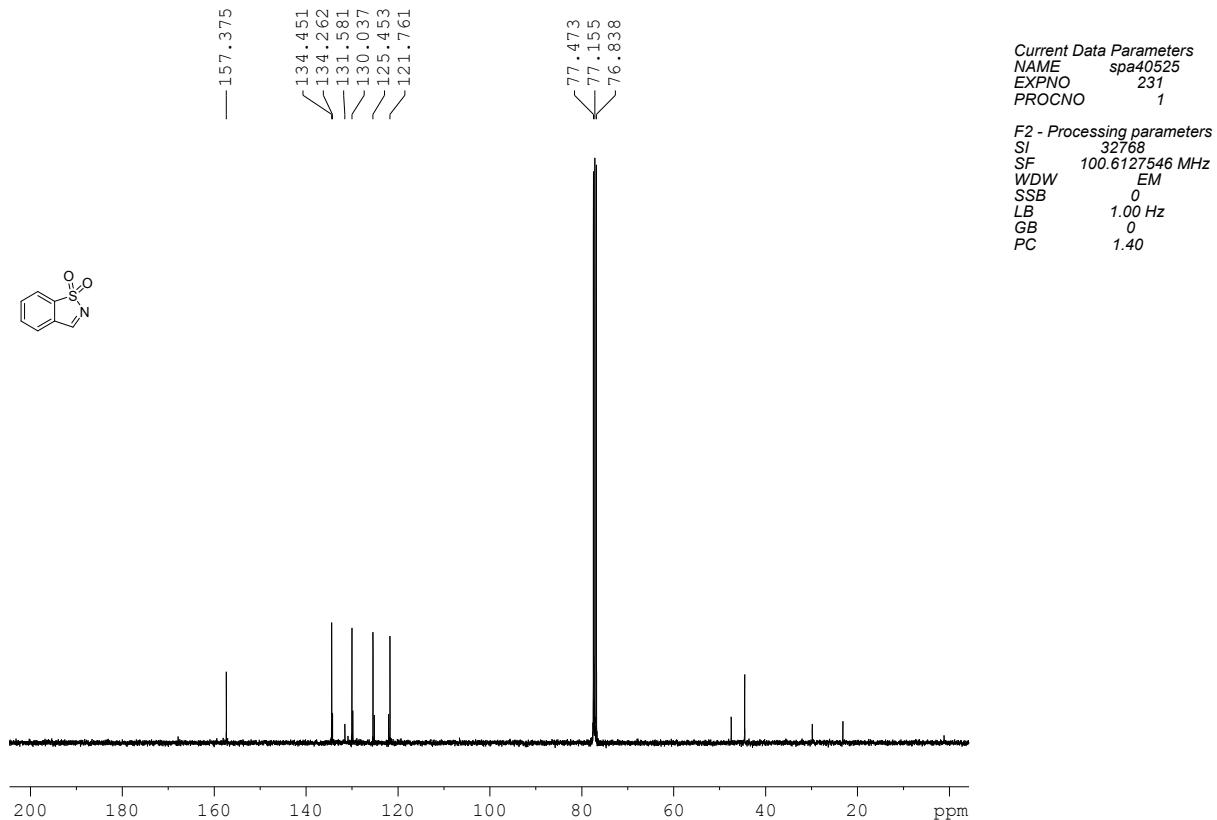


<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 3ai

**Benzo[d]isothiazole 1,1-dioxide (4):**



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 4**



**<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C) of compound 4**



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