

Supporting Information

Nonsilyl bicyclic secondary amine catalyzed Michael addition of nitromethane to β,β -disubstituted α,β -unsaturated aldehydes

Rohtash Kumar, Avinash Avinash, Ronak Mehta and Chandrakumar Appayee*

*Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar,
Gujarat-382055, India*

E-mail: a.chandra@iitgn.ac.in

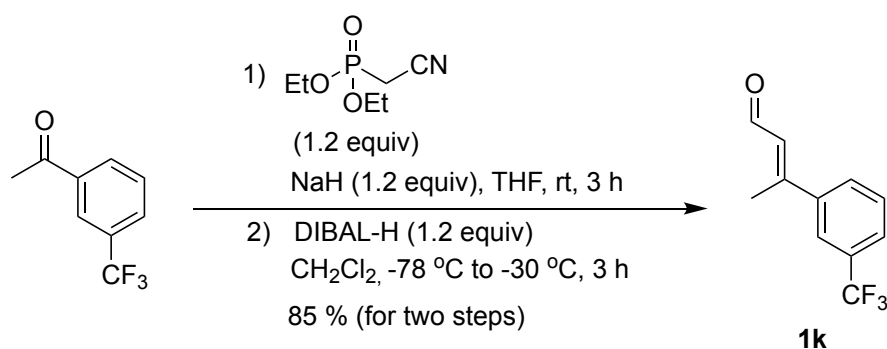
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1. General information

All the reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, TCI and used without further purification unless otherwise mentioned. All the solvents were purchased from Merck or SD Fine and used for the purification of products. Thin-layer chromatography (SiO₂, TLC) was performed on Merck TLC silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ visualized by ultraviolet irradiation, KMnO₄ solution. Column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel 100-200 using standard flash chromatographic methods. The NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Advance III (500 MHz) spectrometer and were referenced against the residual solvent peaks [CDCl₃: δ 7.26 ppm (¹H NMR) and 77.16 ppm (¹³C{¹H} NMR). Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, bs = broad singlet), coupling constant, and integration. Infrared spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer Spectrum Two FT-IR spectrometer. Selected absorption bands are reported in wave numbers (cm⁻¹). The HRMS data for all the compounds was recorded (in positive ion mode) with Waters Synapt-G2S ESI-Q-TOF Mass instrument. Chiral HPLC analysis was performed on Agilent 1200 series using Daicel Chiralpak IC, IG and IA (Chiral Technologies Eur., 25 cm $\times$ 4.6 mm I.D.) were used. Specific rotations were measured with a Rudolph Polarimeter 341 at 589 nm and were reported as $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ (*c* in g per 100 mL, solvent, *ee*). The compound **1a-1c**¹, **1d**³, **1e**¹, **1f**², **1g-1j**¹, **1l-1n**¹, **1o**³, **1p**⁴, **1q**⁵, **1r**⁶, and **1s**⁷, **1t**¹², were prepared according to the literature procedure.

2. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of (*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enal (**1k**)

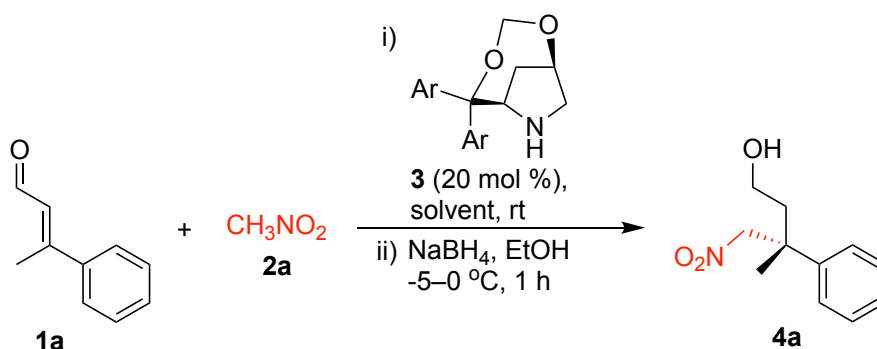


To a solution of NaH (0.96 g, 24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv, 60% assay) in anhydrous THF (30 mL), diethyl (cyanomethyl)phosphonate (3.9 mL, 24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise at rt and stirred for 10 min under argon atmosphere. Then, 1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3.76 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) dissolved in anhydrous THF (30 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at the same temperature and stirred for 3 h. After completion of the

reaction (monitored by TLC), the crude reaction mixture was diluted with water (40 mL), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 40 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated over the rotary evaporator. The crude mass was diluted with diethyl ether and passed through a short pad of silica gel. After the removal of solvent, the crude product was used for the next step without further purification.

To a dry 100 ml round bottom flask under argon containing the crude product, was added dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. To this solution, DIBAL-H (13.7 mL, 24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv, concentration 25% by weight in toluene) was added dropwise while maintaining -78 °C temperature and then stirred for 3 h at -30 °C. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the crude reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (100 mL), added to saturated sodium potassium tartrate solution (100 mL), and stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was again extracted with EtOAc (2 x 40 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **1k**, which was further purified as a yellow liquid (3.64 g, 85% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (90:10)]. *R_f* = 0.5 [hexane/EtOAc (90:10)]. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 191.0, 155.7, 141.6, 131.4 (q, *J*² = 32.7 Hz), 129.6, 129.5, 128.4, 126.6 (q, *J*³ = 3.8 Hz), 123.9 (q, *J*¹ = 272.2 Hz), 123.2 (q, *J*³ = 3.8 Hz), 16.5. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.8. IR (neat) ν 2865, 2757, 1663, 1612, 1497, 1439, 1338, 1311, 1245, 1164 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₀F₃O⁺ [*M* + *H*]⁺ 215.0678, found 215.0686.

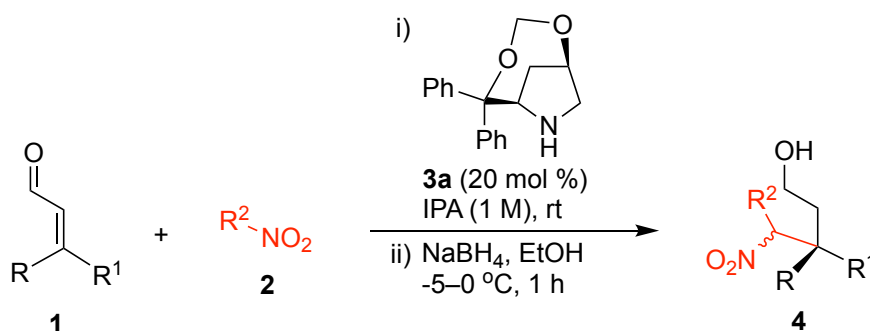
3. Reaction optimization for the synthesis of β-substituted γ-nitroalcohol **4a**



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3** (0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in solvent (200 μL), (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enal **1a** (29 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH₃NO₂ **2a** (107 μL, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for the time mention in table 1 (in manuscript). After completion of the reaction (monitored by ¹H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH₄ (76 mg, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in EtOH (1.6 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture in EtOH (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at -5 °C for 15 min and at 0 °C for 1 h. Then, the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled

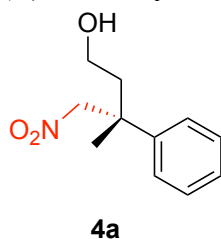
the ethanol over the rota evaporator, and diluted with EtOAc (25 mL), washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (20 mL). The aqueous layer was again extracted with EtOAc (4 × 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **4a**, which was further purified by flash column chromatography.

4. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of β -substituted γ -nitroalcohol **4**



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in IPA (200 μ L), β -substituted α,β -unsaturated aldehyde **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and nitroalkane **2** (2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for the time mention in Scheme 2 (in manuscript). After completion of the reaction (monitored by ¹H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH₄ (76 mg, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in EtOH (1.6 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture in EtOH (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at -5 °C for 15 min and at 0 °C for 1 h. Then, the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator, and diluted with EtOAc (25 mL), washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (20 mL). The aqueous layer was again extracted with EtOAc (4 × 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **4**, which was further purified by flash column chromatography.

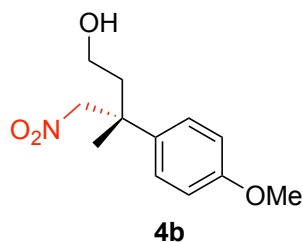
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-ol (**4a**)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enal **1a** (29 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH₃NO₂ **2a** (107 μ L, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4a** which was purified as a colourless liquid (29 mg, 69% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. *R_f* = 0.2 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), *t_R* (major) = 8.2 min, *t_R* (minor) = 9.7 min, 95% *ee*. [α]_D²⁷ = +24.6 (*c* = 0.2, CHCl₃ for 95% *ee*), lit.⁹ [α]_D²⁷ = -

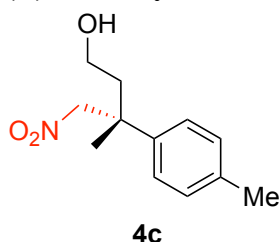
11.0 ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3 for 96% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.39-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 4.68 (dd, $J = 14.2, 11.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.63-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.06-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 142.0, 129.0, 127.5, 126.0, 86.1, 59.2, 42.2, 41.5, 23.2. IR (neat) ν 3393, 2956, 2929, 2858, 1596, 1547, 1498, 1454, 1382, 1373 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4a** match with that reported in the literature.⁹

(R)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4b)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enal **1b** (35 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4b** which was purified as a colourless liquid (26 mg, 54% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 11.8 min, t_R (minor) = 14.3 min, 94% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +17.6$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3 for 94% *ee*), lit.⁹ $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -32.0$ ($c = 0.4$, CHCl_3 for 95% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.88 (m, 2H), 4.63 (dd, $J = 16.2, 11.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 158.7, 133.8, 127.2, 114.3, 86.4, 59.2, 55.4, 42.2, 41.0, 23.2. IR (neat) ν 3388, 2956, 2924, 2841, 1613, 1544, 1507, 1461, 1374 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4b** match with that reported in the literature.⁹

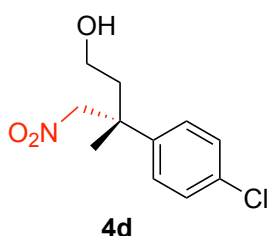
(R)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(p-tolyl)butan-1-ol (4c)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(*p*-tolyl)but-2-enal **1c** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4c** which was purified as a colourless liquid (26 mg, 60% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.4$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 20.0 min, t_R (minor) = 24.3 min, 95% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +13.5$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3 for 95% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.22 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.65 (dd, $J = 18.5, 11$ Hz,

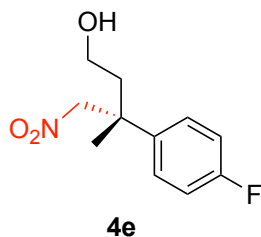
2H), 3.63-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.363 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 138.9, 137.1, 129.7, 125.9, 86.2, 59.3, 42.2, 41.2, 23.2, 21.0. IR (neat) ν 3364, 3026, 2929, 2862, 1543, 1374, 1053, 1023, 817, 769 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4c** match with that reported in the literature.¹⁰

(R)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4d)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)but-2-enal **1d** (36 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4d** which was purified as a colourless liquid (23 mg, 48% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. R_f = 0.2 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 7.6 min, t_R (minor) = 9.4 min, 93% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ = +15.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3 for 93% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (dd, J = 18.0, 11.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 141.2, 132.0, 127.9, 121.5, 85.7, 59.0, 42.2, 41.4, 23.1. IR (neat) ν 3375, 2952, 2925, 1656, 1542, 1487, 1433, 1401, 1378 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4d** match with that reported in the literature.¹⁰

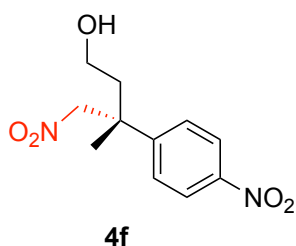
(R)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4e)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-enal **1e** (33 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4e** which was purified as a colourless liquid (27 mg, 61% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. R_f = 0.2 [hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 13.7 min, t_R (minor) = 16.2 min, 91% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ = +7.4 (c = 0.4, CHCl_3 for 91% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 2H), 4.67 (dd, J = 12.5, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 3.66-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.13 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 161.9 (d, J^I = 246.9 Hz), 137.8, 127.8 (d, J^3 = 8.8 Hz), 115.8 (d,

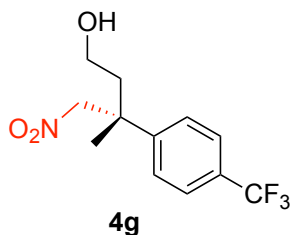
$J^2 = 21.4$ Hz), 86.1, 59.1, 42.3, 41.3, 23.3. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -115.2. IR (neat) ν 3440, 3066, 2957, 2921, 2857, 1706, 1611, 1552, 1492 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_3\text{Na}^+ [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 250.0850, found 250.0829.

(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (4f)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)but-2-enal **1f** (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4f** which was purified as a colourless liquid (23 mg, 45% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (60:40)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane /EtOAc (60:40)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 11.3 min, t_R (minor) = 14.4 min, 92% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +37.4$ ($c = 0.1$, CHCl_3 for 92% *ee*), lit.⁹ $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -22.0$ ($c = 0.1$, CHCl_3 for 98% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.24 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 4.85 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.73 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz), 3.70-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.55-3.50 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 148.6, 144.8, 132.4, 129.9, 122.5, 121.4, 85.2, 58.8, 42.3, 41.9, 23.1. IR (neat) ν 3376, 2953, 2921, 2854, 1761, 1596, 1542, 1515, 1345 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4f** match with that reported in the literature.⁹

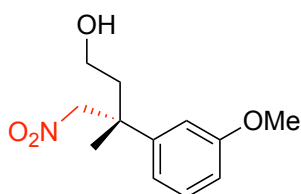
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (4g)



Following the experimental procedure, (4:1, *E/Z* mixture) 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enal **1g** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4g** which was purified as a colourless liquid (36 mg, 65% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.1$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 10.3 min, t_R (minor) = 13.6 min, 92% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +23.8$ ($c = 0.1$, CHCl_3 for 92% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H),

7.48 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.78 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.68-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 146.4, 129.7 (q, $J^2 = 32.8$ Hz), 126.6, 125.9 (q, $J^3 = 3.8$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J^1 = 273.4$ Hz), 85.4, 59.0, 42.3, 41.8, 23.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.6. IR (neat) ν 3386, 2958, 2921, 2852, 1720, 1618, 1549, 1411, 1374 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 278.0999, found 278.1017.

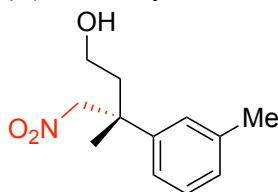
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)butan-1-ol (4h)



4h

Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enal **1h** (35 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4h** which was purified as a colourless liquid (19 mg, 40% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (60:40)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IG, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 11.9 min, t_R (minor) = 14.9 min, 94% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +18.5$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3 for 94% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.29 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.87 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.82-6.80 (m, 1H), 4.66 (dd, $J = 15.5, 11.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.15 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 160.0, 143.8, 130.0, 118.3, 113.1, 111.7, 86.0, 59.2, 55.4, 42.2, 23.1. IR (neat) ν 3365, 2929, 2844, 1544, 1429, 1241, 1380, 1295, 1047, 769, 703 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 262.1050, found 262.1059.

(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(*m*-tolyl)butan-1-ol (4i)

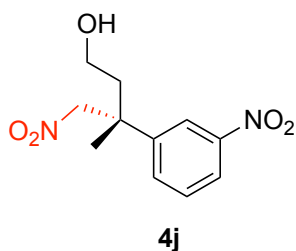


4i

Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(*m*-tolyl)but-2-enal **1i** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4i** which was purified as a colourless liquid (23 mg, 51% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.4$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.7 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 32.1 min, t_R (minor) = 37.4 min, 95% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +13.0$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3 for 95% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500

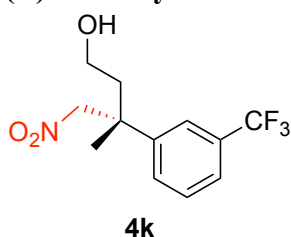
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 3H), 4.67 (dd, J = 24.0, 11.0 Hz, 2H), 3.62-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 138.6, 128.8, 128.2, 126.7, 123.1, 86.2, 59.3, 42.2, 41.4, 23.2, 21.8. IR (neat) ν 3377, 2923, 2862, 1543, 1374, 1211, 1059, 1029, 769, 702 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₈NO₃⁺ [M + H]⁺ 224.1281, found 224.1288.

(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (4j)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(3-nitrophenyl)but-2-enal **1j** (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH₃NO₂ **2a** (107 μ L, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4j** which was purified as a colourless liquid (20 mg, 40% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (60:40)]. R_f = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (60:40)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 13.9 min, t_R (minor) = 19.4 min, 91% *ee*. [α]_D²⁷ = +8.2 (c = 0.3, CHCl₃ for 91% *ee*). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (t, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.15 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.72-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.56-3.52 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.13 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 144.9, 132.4, 129.9, 122.5, 121.4, 85.2, 58.9, 42.3, 41.9, 23.2. IR (neat) ν 3386, 2955, 2919, 2855, 1723, 1549, 1531, 1467, 1343 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₁H₁₅N₂O₅⁺ [M + H]⁺ 255.0975, found 255.0982.

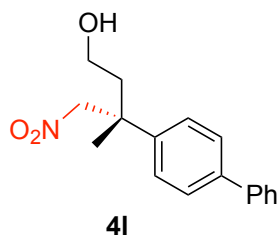
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (4k)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enal **1k** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH₃NO₂ **2a** (107 μ L, 2 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4k** which was purified as a colourless liquid (28 mg, 50% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. R_f = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 20.6 min, t_R (minor) = 24.6 min, 91% *ee*. [α]_D²² = +13.7 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃ for 91% *ee*). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58-7.49 (m, 4H), 4.74 (dd, J = 27.0, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 3.67-

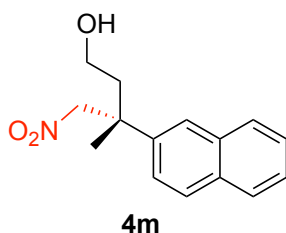
3.62 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 143.5, 131.3 (q, $J^2 = 32.2$ Hz), 129.6, 129.4, 124.3 (q, $J^3 = 3.7$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J^1 = 273.1$ Hz), 122.9 (q, $J^3 = 3.7$ Hz), 85.5, 59.0, 42.2, 41.7, 23.2. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.6. IR (neat) ν 3395, 2929, 2856, 1556, 1332, 1162, 1126, 1078, 805, 757, 702 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 278.0999, found 278.1021.

(*R*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4l)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)but-2-enal **1l** (44 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4l** which was purified as a yellow liquid (29 mg, 50% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 16.1 min, t_R (minor) = 19.1 min, 93% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +6.6$ ($c = 0.4$, CHCl_3 for 93% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 5H), 4.73 (dd, $J = 13.0$, 11.0 Hz, 2H), 3.69-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.58-3.55 (m, 1H), 2.27-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 141.0, 140.4, 140.2, 129.0, 127.63, 127.60, 127.2, 126.5, 86.0, 59.3, 42.2, 41.4, 23.3. IR (neat) ν 3384, 2968, 2929, 2655, 1711, 1542, 1485, 1377, 1329 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 308.1257, found 308.1261.

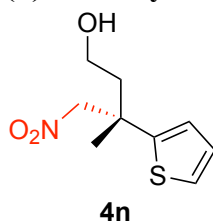
(*R*)-3-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4m)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-2-enal **1m** (39 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4m** which was purified as a colourless liquid (27 mg, 52% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hex/IPA = 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 22.5 min, t_R (minor) = 25.8 min, 94% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +25.1$ ($c = 0.3$, CHCl_3 for 94% *ee*).

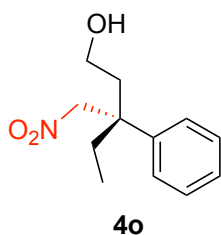
ee). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.74 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 3H), 4.86-4.72 (m, 2H), 3.65-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 139.3, 133.4, 132.4, 128.8, 128.3, 127.6, 126.6, 126.5, 125.3, 123.8, 86.0, 59.2, 42.0, 41.7, 23.2. IR (neat) ν 3353, 3054, 2966, 2926, 2855, 1601, 1548, 1464, 1376 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4m** match with that reported in the literature.¹⁰

(S)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-ol (4n)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)but-2-enal **1n** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4n** which was purified as a colourless liquid (20 mg, 47% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. R_f = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 23.1 min, t_R (minor) = 28.3 min, 95% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ = +24.3 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3 for 95% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.98 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, J = 3.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 29.5, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.64 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.09 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 147.6, 127.2, 124.7, 124.5, 86.2, 59.2, 43.0, 41.0, 24.9. IR (neat) ν 3359, 2923, 2856, 1550, 1465, 1435, 1380, 1241, 1217, 1053, 763, 703 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3\text{SNa}^+$ [$M + \text{Na}$] $^+$ 238.0514, found 238.0517.

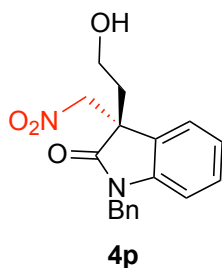
(R)-3-(nitromethyl)-3-phenylpentan-1-ol (4o)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-phenylpent-2-enal **1o** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4o** which was purified as a colourless liquid (18 mg, 40% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. R_f = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IA, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.7 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 19.5 min, t_R (minor) = 21.7 min, 88% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ = +25.1 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3 for 88% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 3H), 4.91 (dd, J = 28.0, 11.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65-

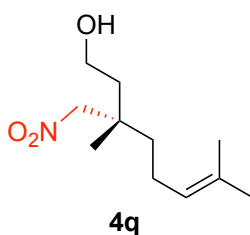
3.60 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.97-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.82 (m, 1H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 141.3, 129.0, 127.2, 126.1, 81.1, 59.2, 44.8, 38.7, 29.7, 7.9. IR (neat) ν 3364, 2921, 2857, 1547, 1454, 1376, 1028, 758, 699 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4o** match with that reported in the literature.¹⁰

(S)-1-benzyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-(nitromethyl)indolin-2-one (4p)



Following the experimental procedure, (*Z*)-2-(1-benzyl-2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene)acetaldehyde **1p** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3c** (22 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4p** which was purified as a colourless liquid (33 mg, 51% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (50:50)]. $R_f = 0.2$ [hexane/EtOAc (50:50)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 75:25, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 10.7 min, t_R (minor) = 19.2 min, 87% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -48.0$ ($c = 0.3$, CHCl_3 for 87% *ee*), lit.⁸ $[\alpha]_D^{26} = +28.7$ ($c = 1.6$, CHCl_3 for 94% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.01-4.94 (m, 3H), 3.60 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 177.4, 143.4, 135.5, 129.6, 129.0, 127.9, 127.5, 127.3, 123.2, 110.2, 78.8, 58.4, 50.1, 44.6, 38.2. IR (neat) ν 3370, 2958, 2926, 2848, 1604, 1549, 1517, 1462, 1375 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4p** match with that reported in the literature.⁸

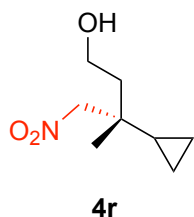
(S)-3,7-dimethyl-3-(nitromethyl)oct-6-en-1-ol (4q)



Following the experimental procedure, (1:1, *E/Z* mixture) citral **1q** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4q** which was purified as a colourless liquid (26 mg, 60% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.45$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.7 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 19.7 min, t_R (minor) = 22.4 min, 58% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -3.6$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3 for 58% *ee*), lit.⁹ $[\alpha]_D^{27} =$

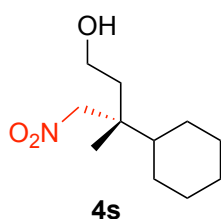
+7.0 ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3 for 90% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.07-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.41 (dd, $J = 20.5, 10.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.79 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.02-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.64 (m, 5H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.41-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.10 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 132.4, 123.5, 83.9, 59.0, 39.5, 38.0, 37.5, 25.8, 23.2, 22.2, 17.7. IR (neat) ν 3395, 2971, 2917, 2856, 1453, 1550, 1380, 1029, 769 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **4q** match with that reported in the literature.⁹

(R)-3-cyclopropyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4r)



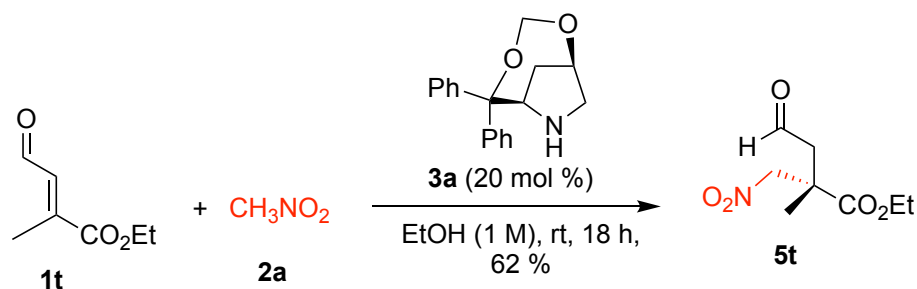
Following the experimental procedure, (3:1, *E/Z* mixture) 3-cyclopropylbut-2-enal **1r** (22 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4r** which was purified as a colourless liquid (17 mg, 49% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $R_f = 0.25$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -3.4$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3 for 68% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.49-4.40 (m, 2H), 3.92-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.85-3.81 (m, 1H), 1.73 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 0.87-0.84 (m, 1H), 0.78 (s, 3H), 0.44-0.42 (m, 2H), 0.29-0.27 (m, 2H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 85.5, 59.2, 41.1, 36.8, 18.2, 18.1, 0.44, 0.35. IR (neat) ν 3564, 3371, 3086, 3008, 2929, 2862, 1544, 1465, 1380, 1217, 1047, 1023, 751 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$ 196.0944, found 196.0945.

(R)-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4s)



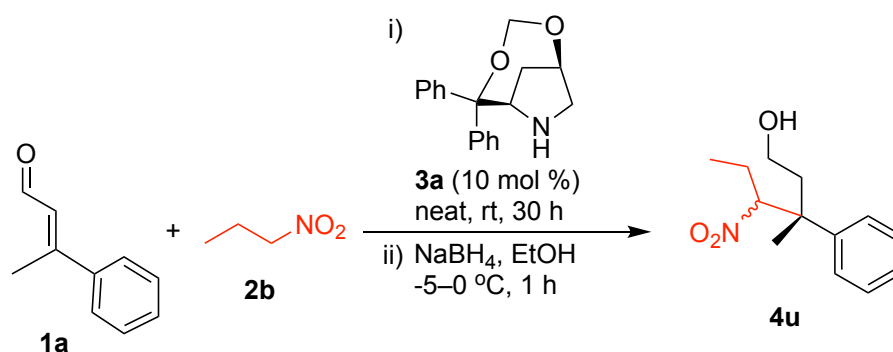
Following the experimental procedure, (5:1, *E/Z* mixture) 3-cyclohexylbut-2-enal **1s** (30 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μL , 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), were converted to the product **4s** which was purified as a colourless liquid (26 mg, 61% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. $R_f = 0.5$ [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +8.9$ ($c = 0.25$, CHCl_3 for 83% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.47 (dd, $J = 22.0, 1.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.81-3.74 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.76 (m, 3H), 1.73-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.30 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.17 (m, 2H), 1.15-1.09 (m, 1H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 1.03-1.00 (m, 2H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz; CDCl_3) δ 82.9, 59.1, 43.7, 40.0, 37.6, 27.1, 26.94, 26.93, 26.5, 20.8. IR (neat) ν 3383, 3080, 2923, 1550, 1459, 1374, 1211, 1023, 763 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$] $^+$ 238.1414, found 238.1427.

5. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of ethyl (*S*)-2-methyl-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (**5t**)



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in EtOH (200 μ L), β -substituted α,β -unsaturated aldehyde **1t** (28 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (107 μ L, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for 18 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by ^1H NMR), the ethanol was removed under reduced pressure to get the crude product **5t**, which was further purified as a yellow liquid (25 mg, 62% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (85:15)]. R_f = 0.5 [hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ = -6.2 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3 for 93% *ee*). lit.⁸ $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ = +1.8 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3 for 91% *ee* of the opposite enantiomer). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.72 (s, 1H), 4.80 (dd, J = 28.0, 28.0 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (s, 2H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.7, 172.7, 79.6, 62.2, 47.9, 43.3, 21.9, 14.0. IR (neat) ν 2976, 2926, 2849, 1724, 1554, 1465, 1380, 1281, 1224, 1129, 1023, 860 cm^{-1} . ¹. NMR data of **5t** match with that reported in the literature.⁸

6. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of (3*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexan-1-ol (**4u**)



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), β -substituted α,β -unsaturated aldehyde **1a** (29 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and nitropropane **2b** (178 μ L, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for 30 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by ^1H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 $^\circ\text{C}$) of NaBH_4 (76 mg, 2.0 mmol, 10 equiv) in EtOH (1.6 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture in EtOH (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at -5 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 min and 1 h at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$. Then, the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator, and diluted with EtOAc (25 mL), washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (20

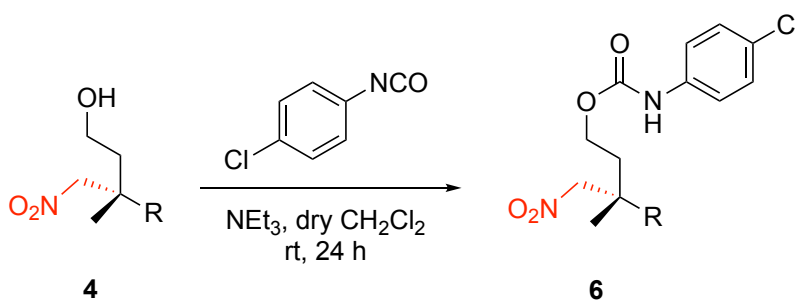
mL). The aqueous layer was again extracted with EtOAc (4 × 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **4u**, which was purified as a yellow liquid (14 mg, 29% yield, 1.4:1 inseparable mixture of diastereomers) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography. *R_f* = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)].

Major diastereomer: **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), *t_R* (major) = 11.3 min, *t_R* (minor) = 15.2 min, 83% *ee*, *t_{RB}* (major) = 17.0 min, *t_{RB}* (minor) = 65.2 min, 83% *ee*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.32-7.17 (m, 5H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 1H), 3.38-3.31 (m, 1H), 2.20-1.13 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz; CDCl₃) δ: 141.4, 128.6, 127.3, 126.8, 100.6, 59.0, 43.6, 39.3, 22.0, 20.5, 11.1.

Minor diastereomer: **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), *t_R* (major) = 17.0 min, *t_R* (minor) = 65.2 min, 83% *ee*. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.32-7.17 (m, 5H), 4.60 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.38-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.21-3.15 (m, 1H), 2.32-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.23-1.13 (m, 2H), 0.71 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz; CDCl₃) δ: 141.8, 129.0, 127.3, 126.6, 100.4, 59.0, 43.5, 42.1, 21.6, 17.9, 11.0.

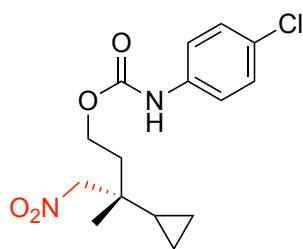
IR (neat) *ν* 3340, 3058, 3027, 2925, 1648, 1601, 1542, 1495, 1444, 1366, 1025, 1010, 758, 696 cm⁻¹. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀NO₃⁺ [*M* + *H*]⁺ 238.1438, found 238.1440.

7. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of carbamate **6**



To a solution of the **4** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NEt₃ (14 μL, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (0.50 mL) was added 4-chlorophenyl isocyanate (17.0 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at rt and stirred for 24 h at the same temperature. After completion of the reaction, monitored by crude ¹H NMR, the crude reaction mass was quenched with brine (30 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 30 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **6**, which was further purified by flash column chromatography.

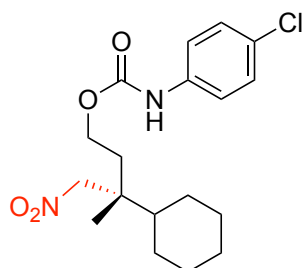
(*R*)-3-cyclopropyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (6r)



6r

Following the experimental procedure, **4r** (17 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), was converted to product **6r** which was purified as a clear liquid (28 mg, 85% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. $R_f = 0.4$ [hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (minor) = 15.9 min, t_R (major) = 17.6 min 68% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +6.5$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3 for 68% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.60 (bs, 1H), 4.41-4.27 (m, 4H), 1.89-1.85 (m, 2H), 0.86-0.82 (m, 1H), 0.79 (s, 3H), 0.49-0.40 (m, 2H), 0.35-0.30 (m, 1H), 0.28-0.23 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.3, 136.4, 129.2, 128.8, 120.0, 61.8, 37.7, 36.7, 17.9, 17.8, 0.79, 0.24. **IR** (neat) ν 3322, 2965, 2917, 1707, 1598, 1543, 1308, 1229, 1096, 824, 775 cm^{-1} . **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 349.0926; found 349.0933.

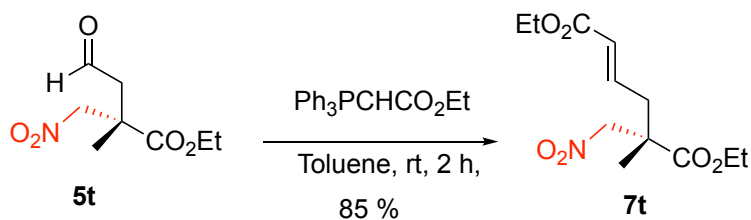
(R)-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (6s)



6s

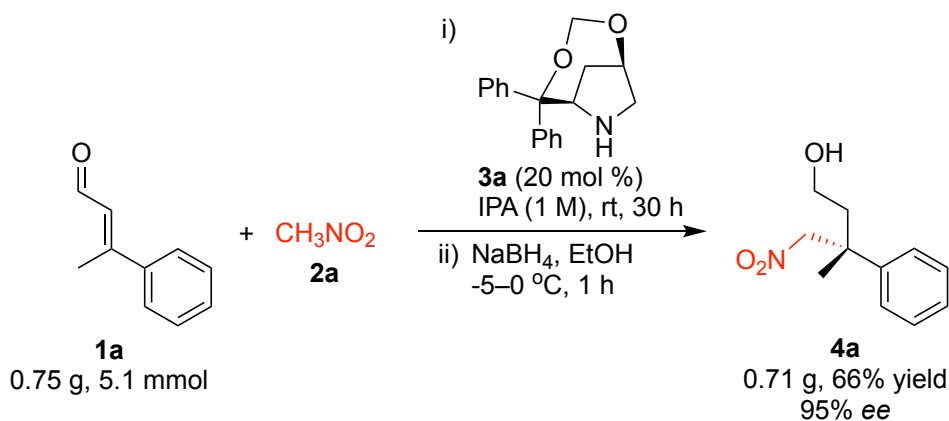
Following the experimental procedure, **4s** (21 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), was converted to product **6s** which was purified as a clear liquid (33 mg, 90% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. $R_f = 0.5$ [hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.7 mL/min, 210 nm), t_R (major) = 27.6 min, t_R (minor) = 30.2 min, 83% *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -5.8$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3 for 83% *ee*). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.58 (bs, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 4.23-4.13 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.72 (m, 5H), 1.67-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.25 (m, 1H), 1.20-1.12 (m, 2H), 1.08-1.05 (m, 1H) 1.02 (s, 3H), 0.98-0.9 (m, 2H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.3, 136.4, 129.2, 128.7, 120.0, 82.5, 61.6, 43.9, 39.8, 34.0, 27.1, 27.0, 26.90, 26.89, 26.4, 20.8. **IR** (neat) ν 3328, 2929, 2856, 1707, 1604, 1556, 1223, 1090, 775 cm^{-1} . **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 391.1395, found 391.1387.

8. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of diethyl (S,E)-5-methyl-5-(nitromethyl)hex-2-enedioate (7t)



To a solution of the **5t** (20 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry toluene, ethyl(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate (52 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added at rt and stirred for 2 h at the same temperature. After completion of the reaction, monitored by crude ^1H NMR, the toluene was removed under reduced pressure to get the crude product **7t**, which was further purified as a clear liquid (23 mg, 85% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (90:10)]. R_f = 0.5 [hexane/EtOAc (85:15)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 1 mL/min, 230 nm), t_R (major) = 18.3 min, t_R (minor) = 28.1 min, 93 % *ee*. $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ = -8.5 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3 for 93% *ee*). **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.80 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.14 (m, 4H), 2.62-2.48 (m, 2H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 8 Hz, 6H). **$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 165.7, 141.0, 126.4, 80.2, 62.0, 60.6, 45.6, 38.4, 20.4, 14.3, 14.1. **IR** (neat) ν 2994, 2961, 2929, 2857, 1722, 1658, 1557, 1464, 1376, 1274, 1218, 1189, 1133, 1028, 988, 895, 863, 774 cm^{-1} . **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}^+$ $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ 296.1105, found 296.1108.

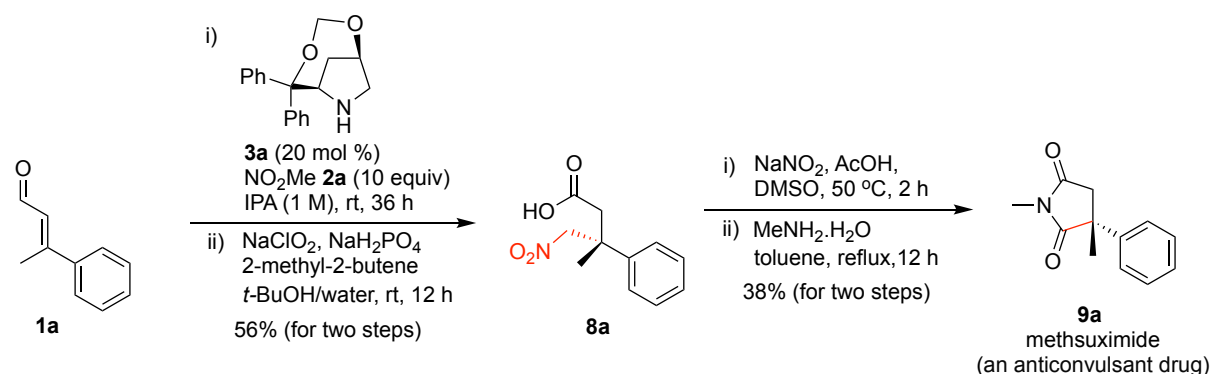
9. Experimental procedure for the scale-up synthesis of alcohol **4a**



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3a** (290 mg, 1.03 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in IPA (5.13 mL), (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enal **1a** (0.75 g, 5.13 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (2.75 mL, 51.3 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for 30 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by ^1H NMR), to a cooled solution ($-5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) of NaBH_4 (1.95 g, 51.3 mmol, 10 equiv) in EtOH (40 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture in EtOH (20 mL) was added, dropwise. The reaction was stirred at $-5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 15 min and at $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h. Then, the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator,

washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 50 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (50 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **4a**, which was further purified as a clear liquid (0.71 g, 66% yield with 95% *ee*) using silica gel column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)].

10. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of methsuximide **9a**



To a solution of bicyclic organocatalyst **3a** (20 mg, 0.07 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in IPA (360 μL), (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enal **1a** (53 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH_3NO_2 **2a** (193 μL , 3.6 mmol, 10 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for 36 h. After the reaction was completed (monitored by ^1H NMR), the reaction mass was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (4 $\times$ 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude aldehyde, which was directly used for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of the above crude aldehyde in *t*-BuOH (1.8 mL) and water (0.6 mL) were added NaClO_2 (65 mg, 0.72 mmol, 2.0 equiv), $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (168 mg, 1.08 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and 2-methyl-2-butene (114 μL , 1.08 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and stirred for 12 h at rt. After the reaction was completed (monitored by ^1H NMR), the reaction mass was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and extracted with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (4 $\times$ 3 mL). The aqueous layer was then acidified (up to 1–2 pH value) with 20% aqueous HCl solution, and the product was later extracted with EtOAc (4 $\times$ 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure to get product **8a** as a clear liquid (45 mg, 56% yield for two steps). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +28.4$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 3H), 4.88 (dd, $J = 26.0, 11.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (dd, $J = 37.5, 16.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 176.2, 141.7, 129.0, 127.7, 125.6, 83.8, 42.6, 40.7, 24.2. IR (neat) ν 3483, 3176, 2975, 2922, 2853, 1783, 1703, 1550, 1449, 1221, 1068, 988 cm^{-1} . NMR data of **8a** match with that reported in the literature.¹⁰

To a solution of **8a** (42 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMSO (0.8 mL) was added AcOH (109 μ L, 1.9 mmol, 10.0 equiv) and NaNO₂ (39 mg, 0.56 mmol, 3.0 equiv) at rt and stirred for 2 h at 50 °C. After the reaction was completed (monitored by ¹H NMR), the reaction mass was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) extracted with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (4 $\times$ 3 mL). The basic aqueous layer was then acidified (up to 1–2 pH value) with 20% aqueous HCl solution, and the product was later extracted with EtOAc (4 $\times$ 25 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude di-carboxylic acid, which was directly used for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of the above crude di-carboxylic acid in toluene (3 mL), MeNH₂ (295 μ L, 3.8 mmol, 20 equiv, 40% w/v in water) was added and stirred at 110 °C, for 12 h using Dean-Stark apparatus. After the reaction was completed (monitored by ¹H NMR), the solvent was evaporated over the rotary evaporator to get the crude product **9a**, which was further purified as a clear liquid (15 mg, 38% yield for two steps) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. *R_f* = 0.5 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel AD-H, 4.6 mm $\times$ 250 mm (hexane/IPA = 90:10, 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm), *t_R* (major) = 13.7 min, *t_R* (minor) = 14.7 min, 93% *ee*. [α]_D²⁹ = +27.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃ for 93% *ee*), lit.¹¹ [α]_D²⁴ = +18.6 (*c* = 1.26, CHCl₃ for 75% *ee*). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 18.5 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.2, 175.8, 141.9, 129.1, 127.7, 125.7, 48.0, 45.3, 25.8, 25.3. IR (neat) ν 2928, 1780, 1697, 1430, 1383, 1282, 1087, 1028, 696 cm⁻¹. NMR data of **9a** match with that reported in the literature.¹¹

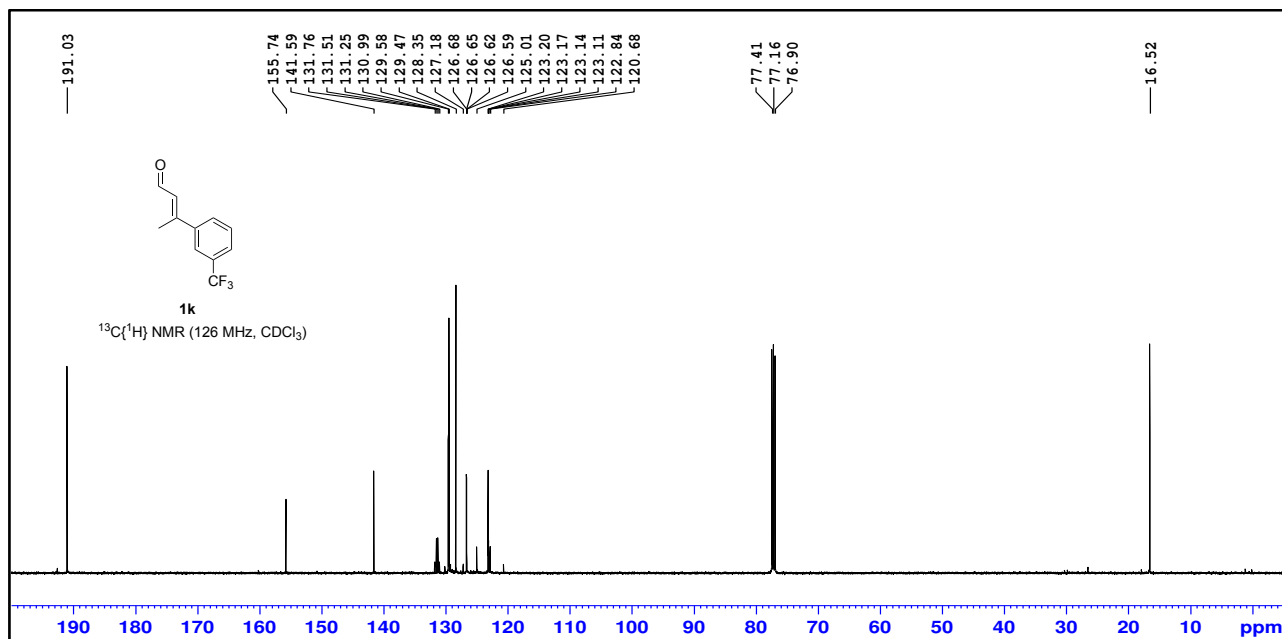
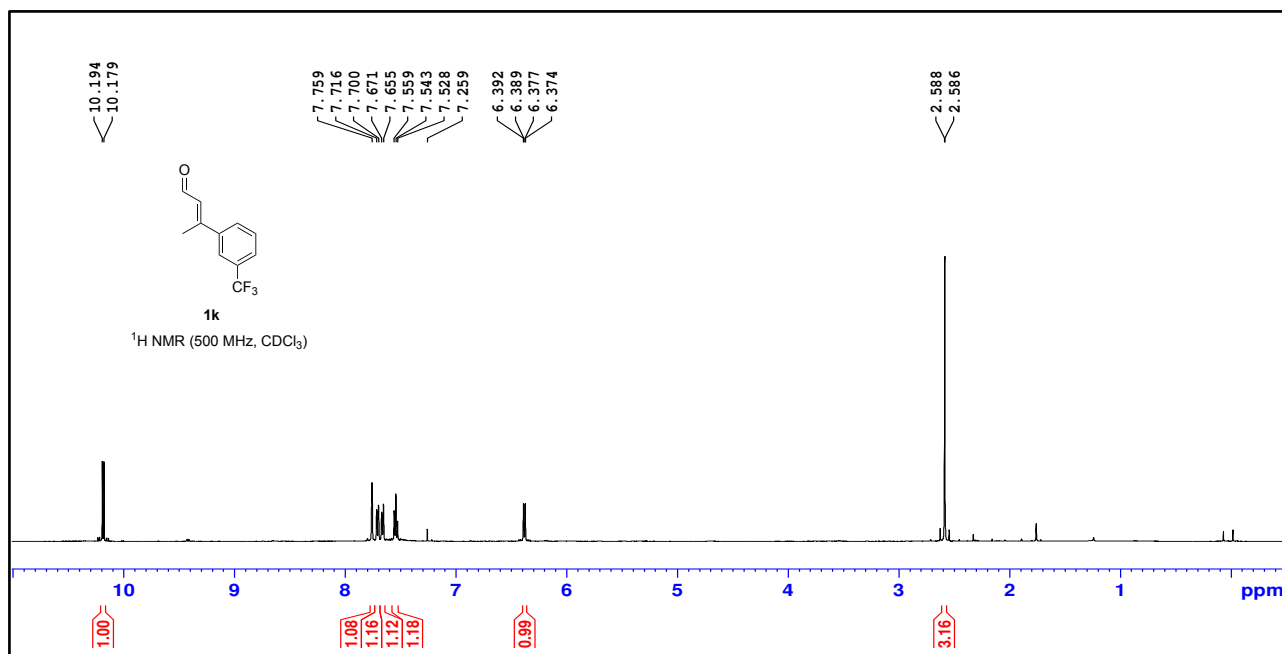
11. References

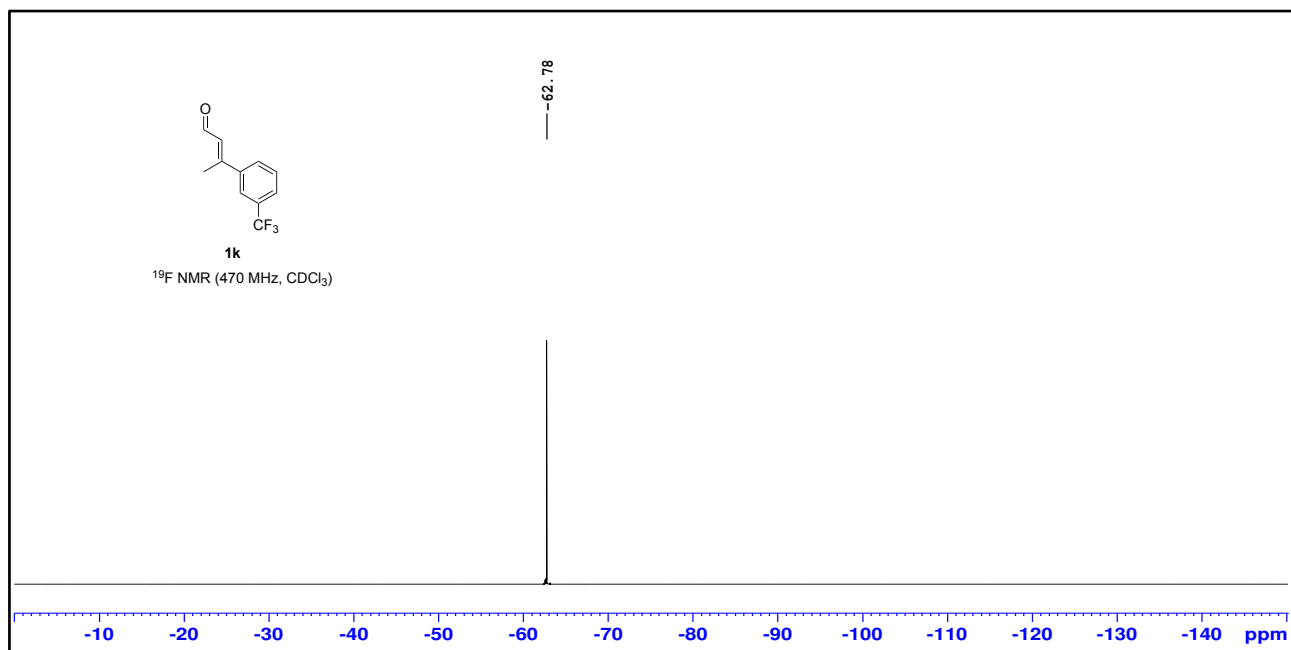
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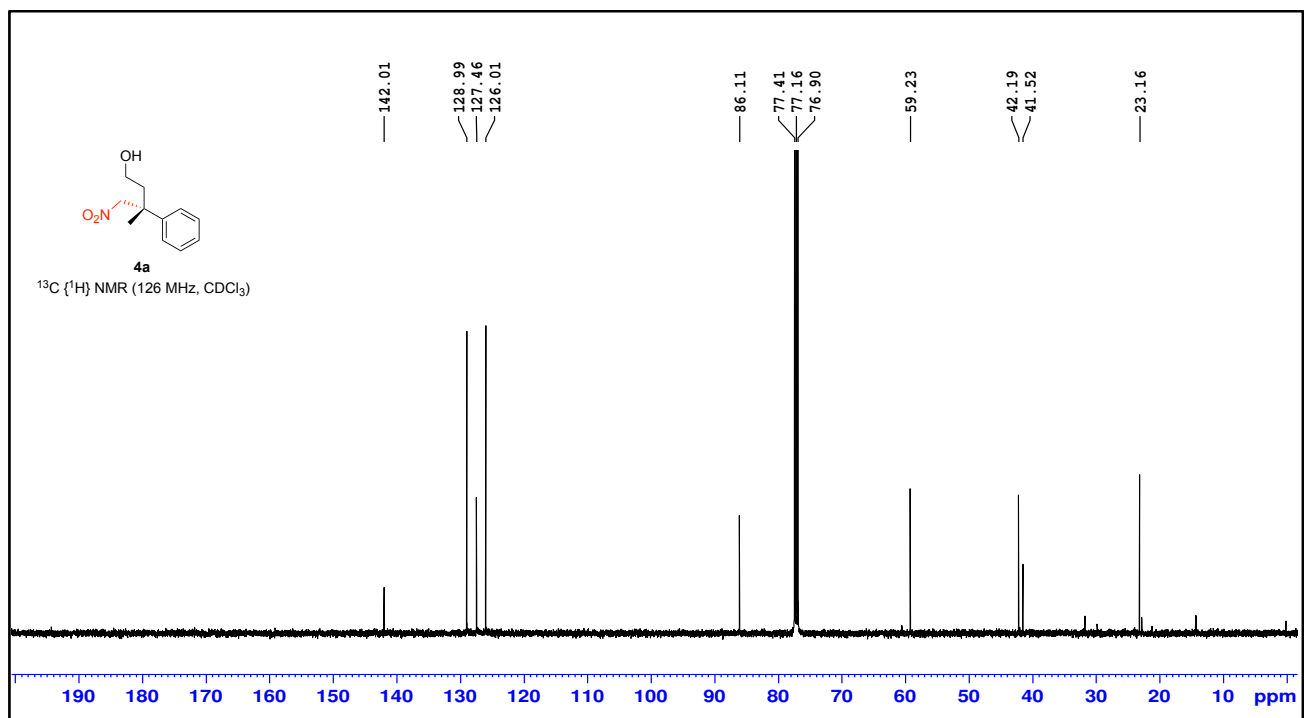
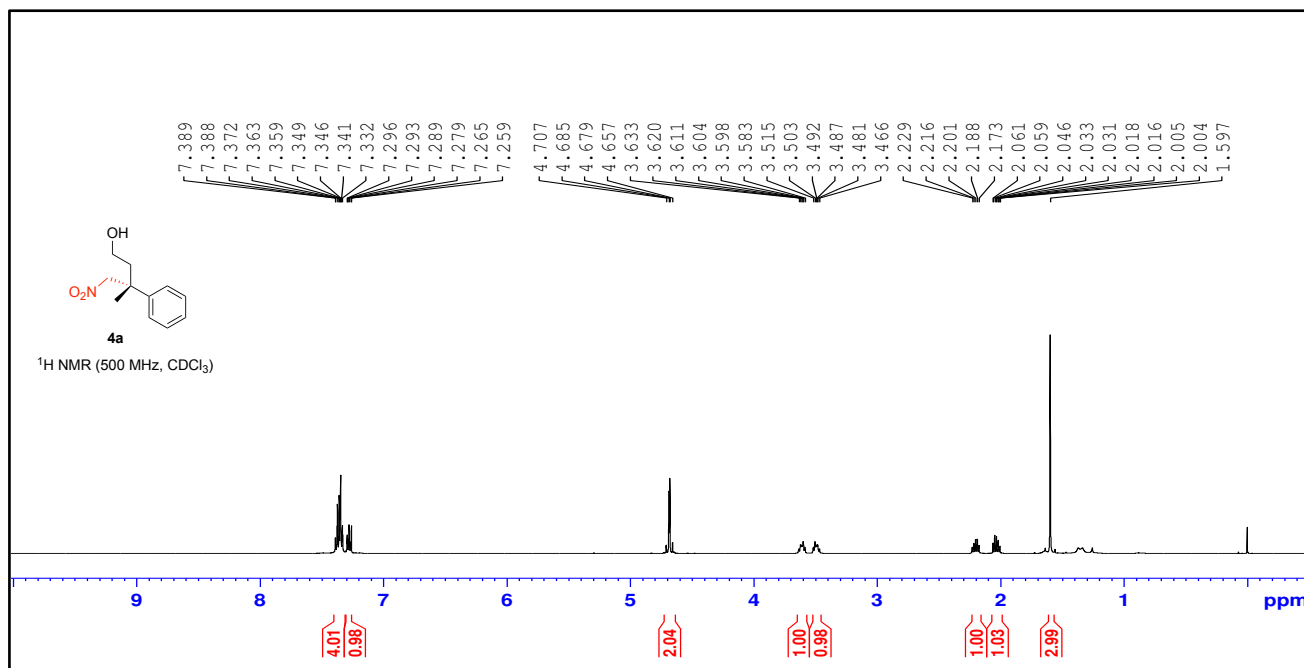
12. NMR and HPLC data

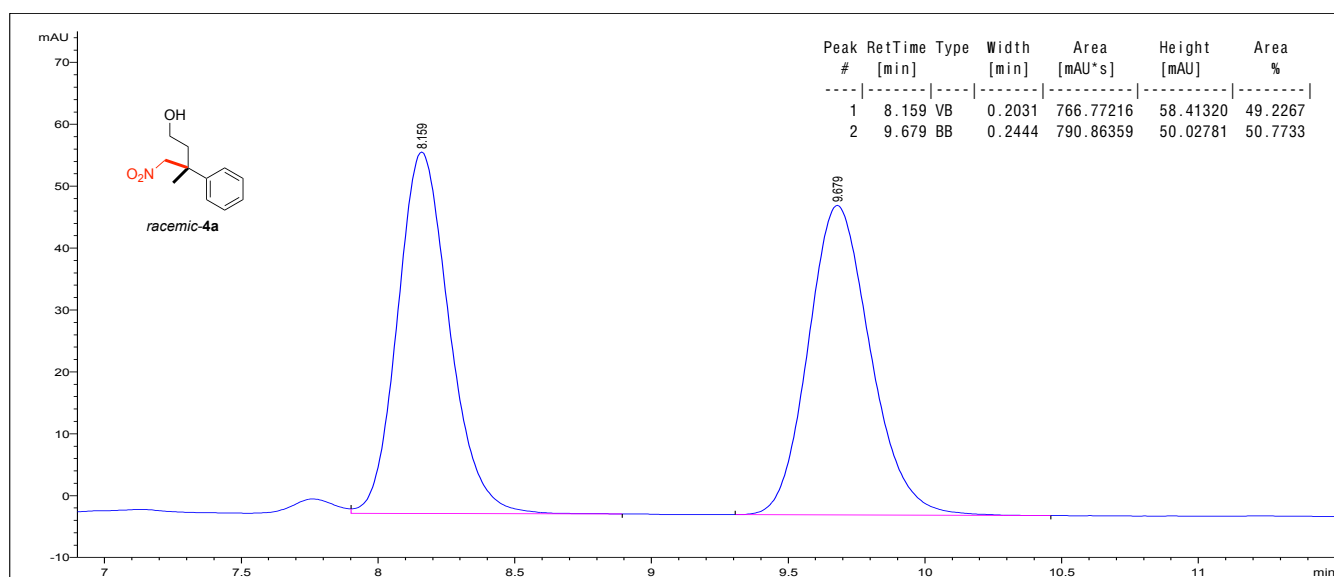
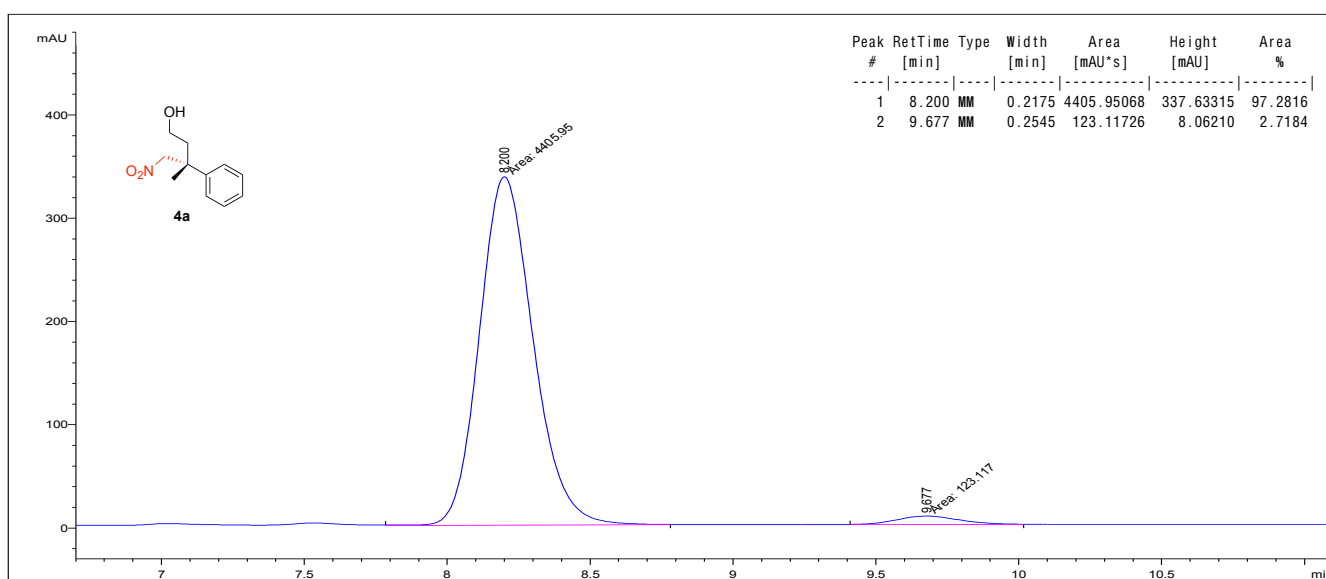
(E)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enal (1k)



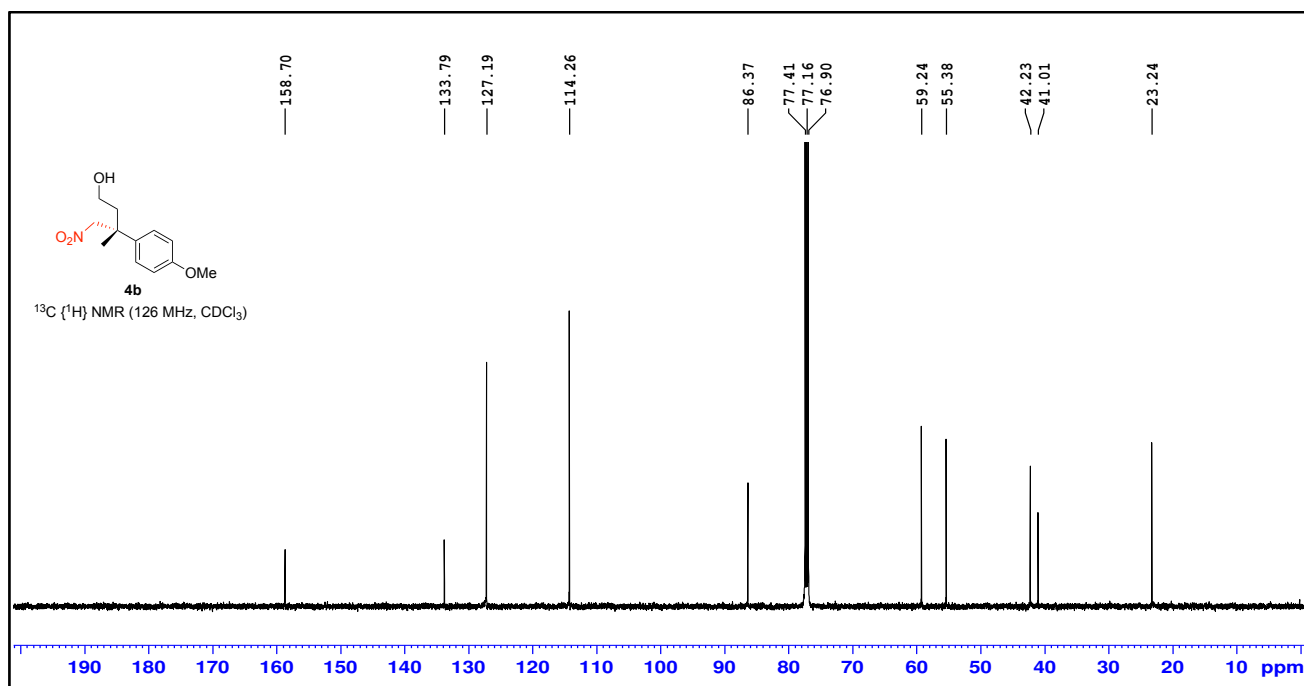
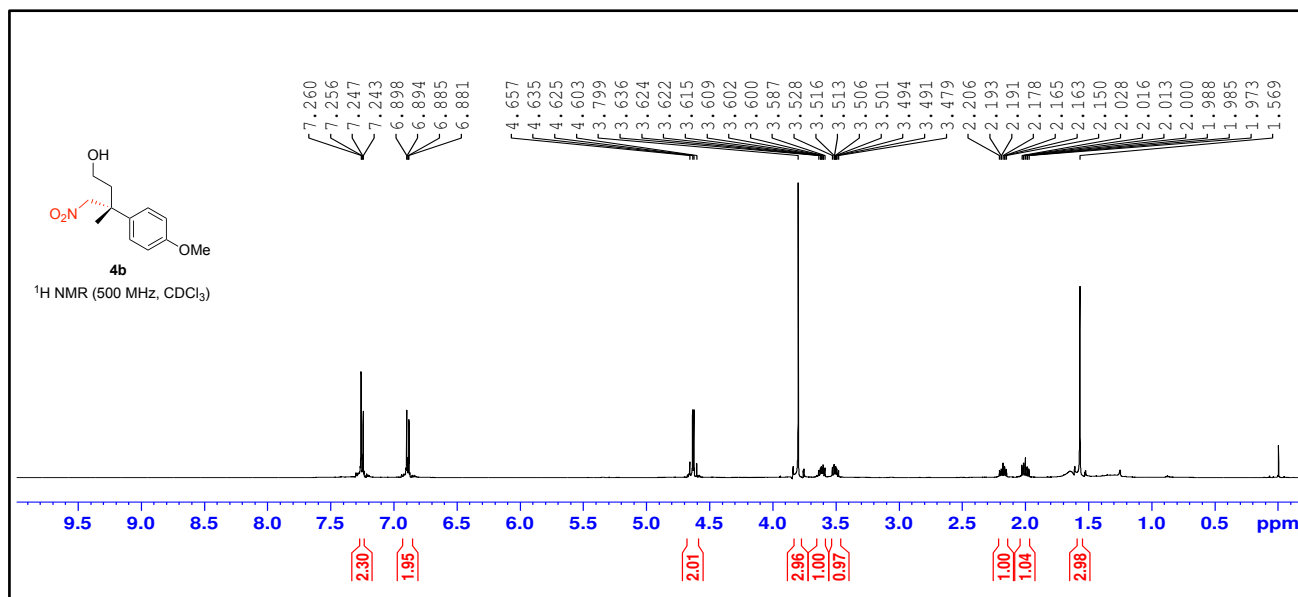


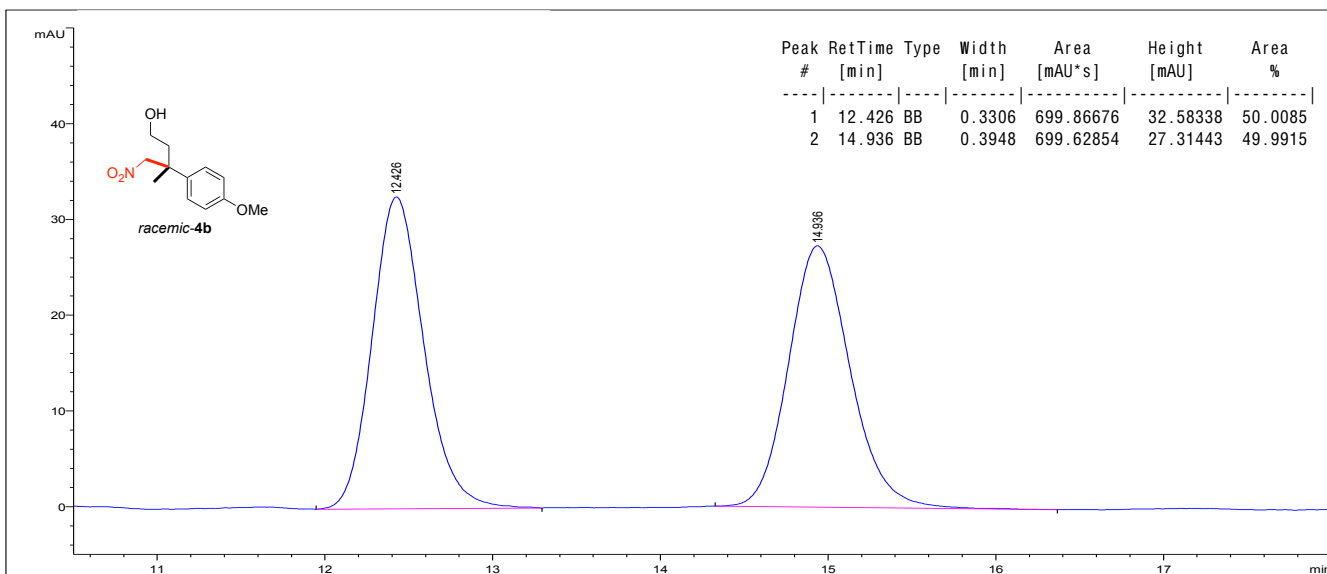
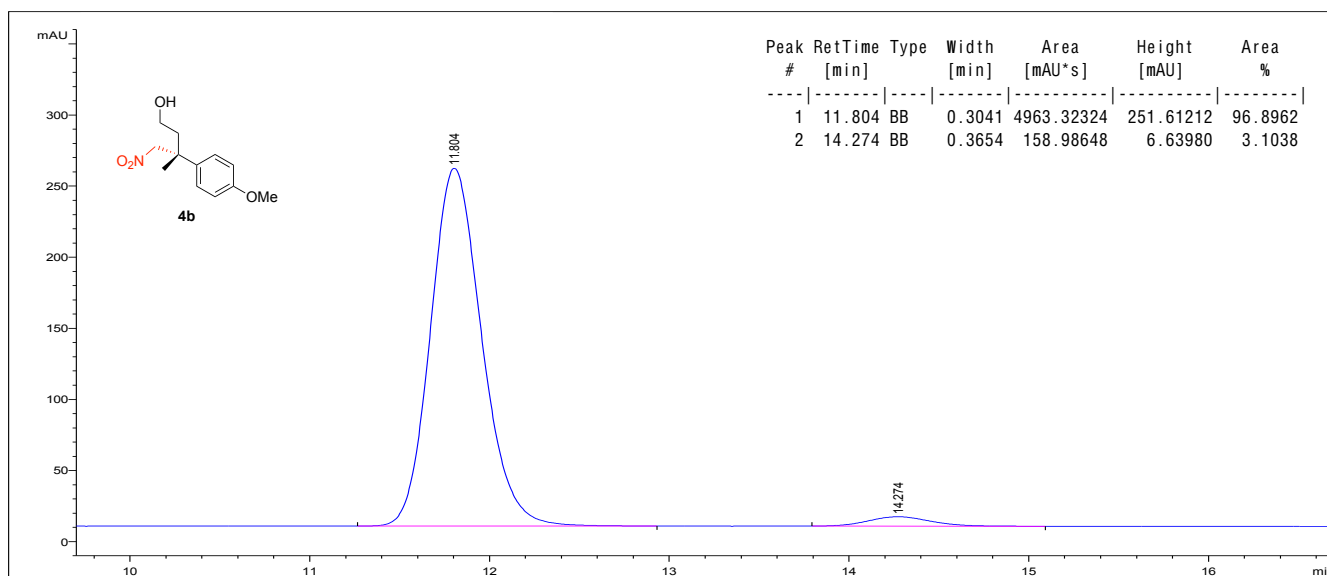
(R)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-ol (4a)



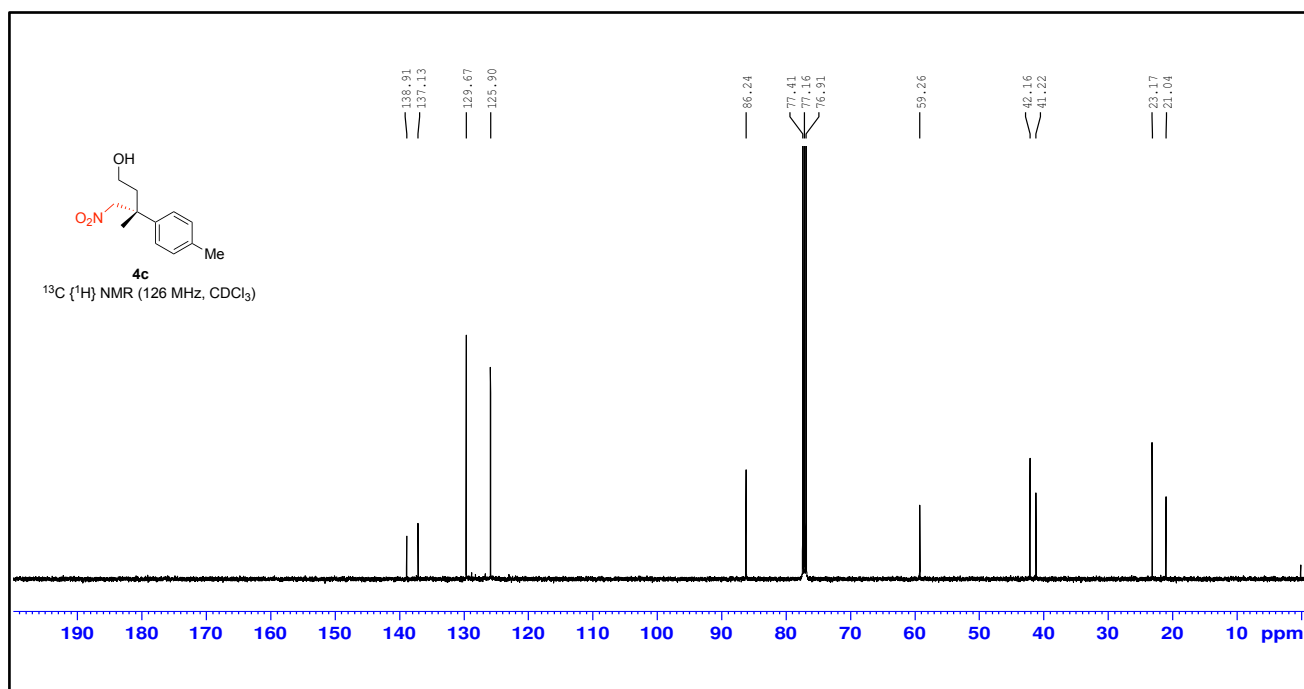
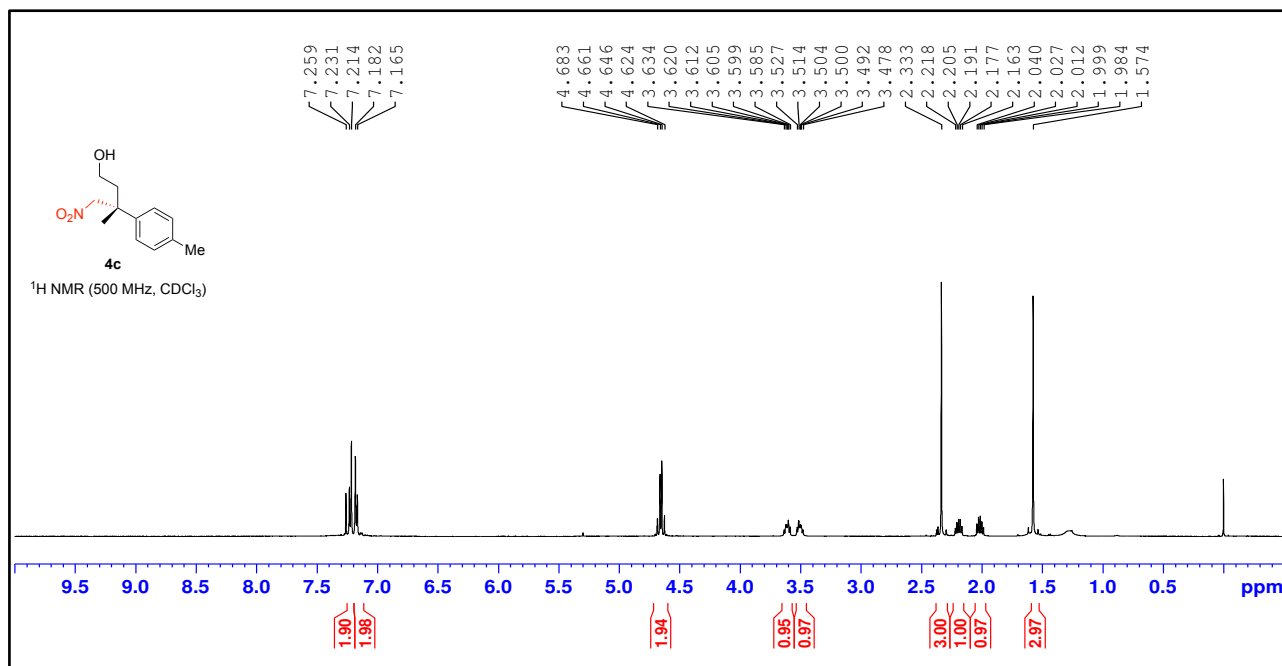


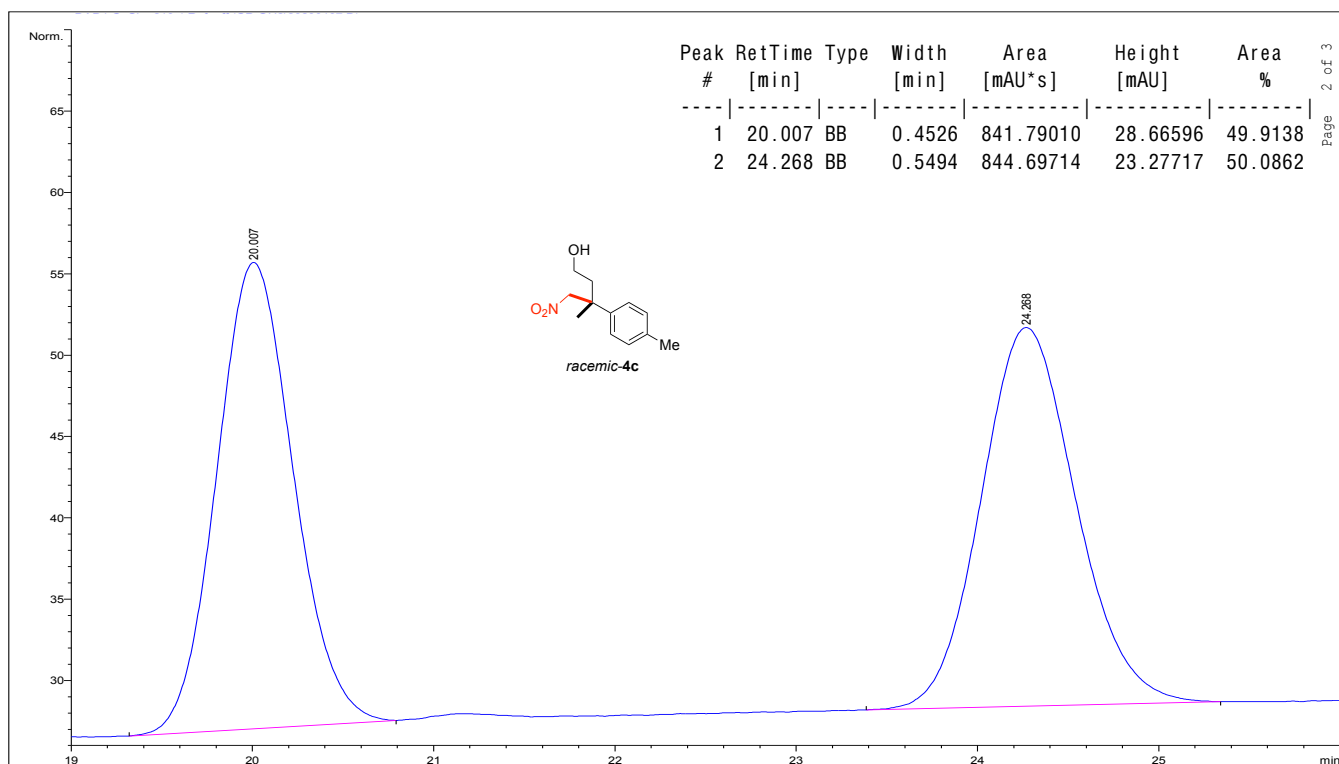
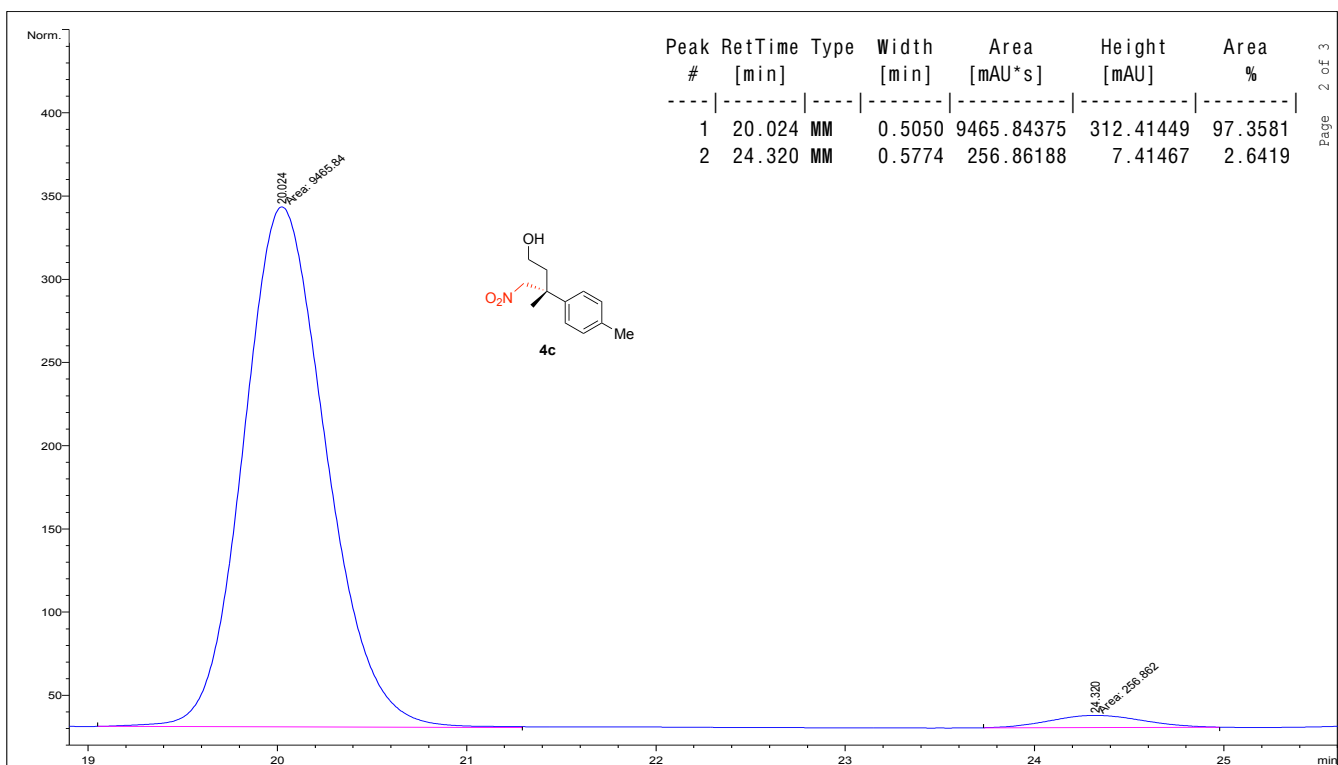
(R)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4b)



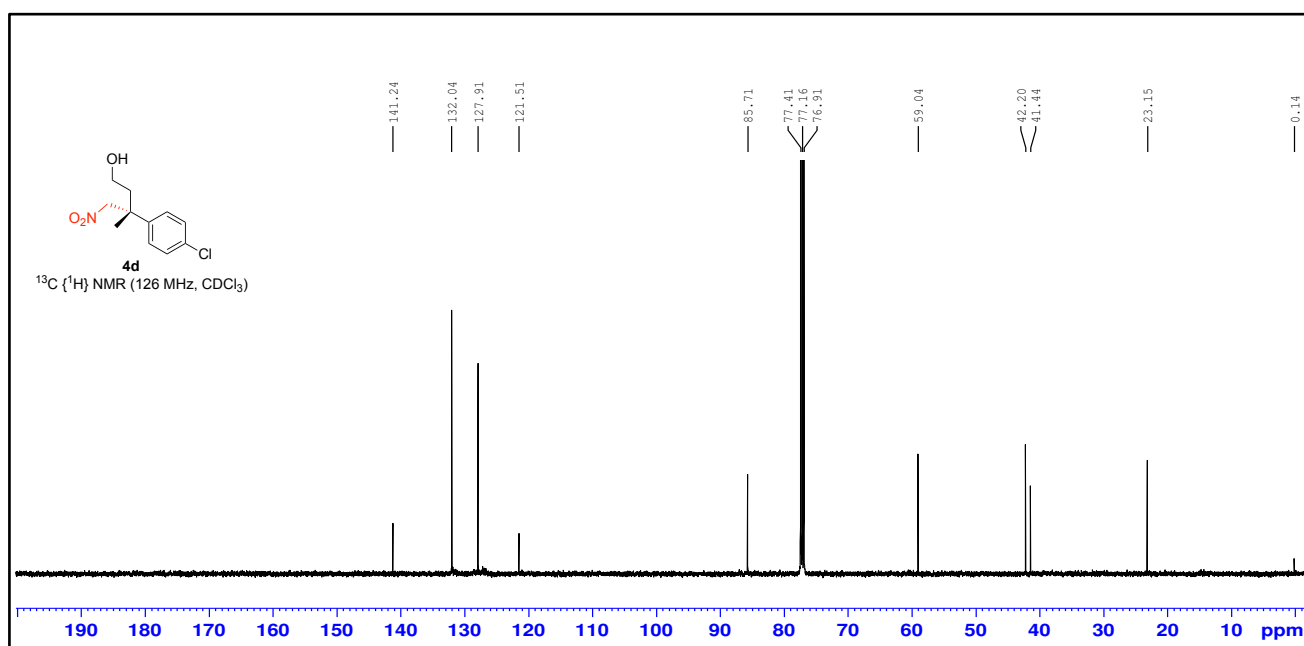
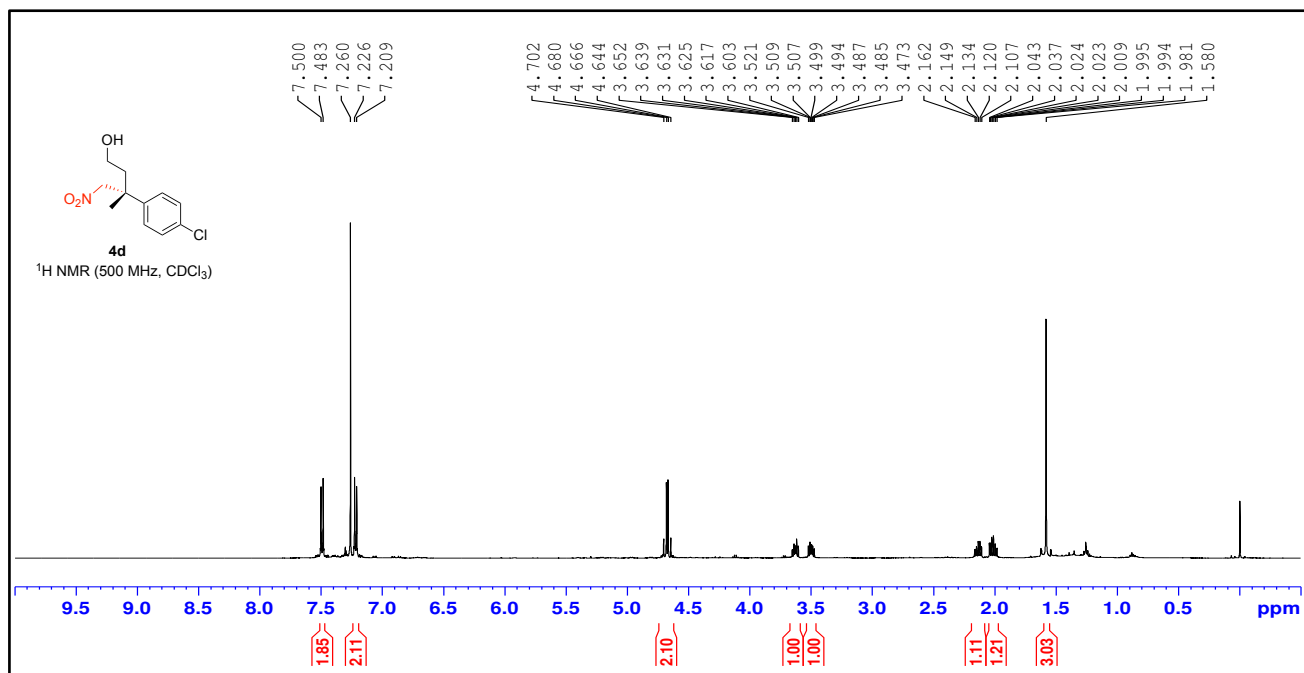


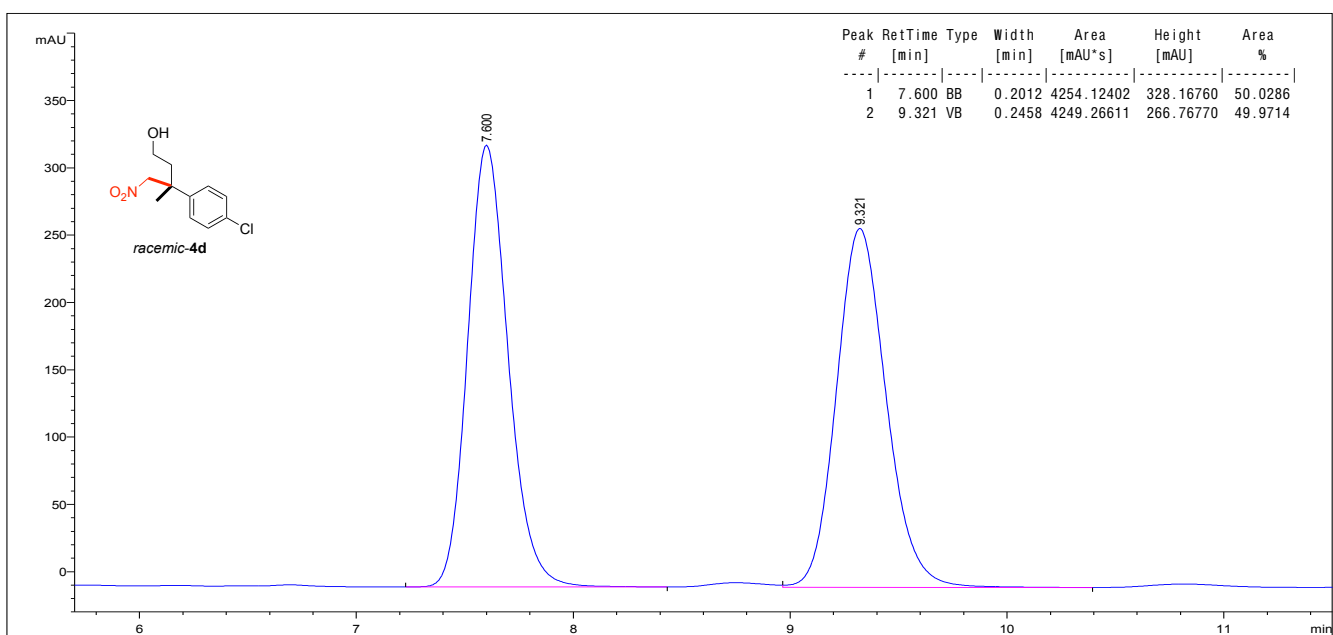
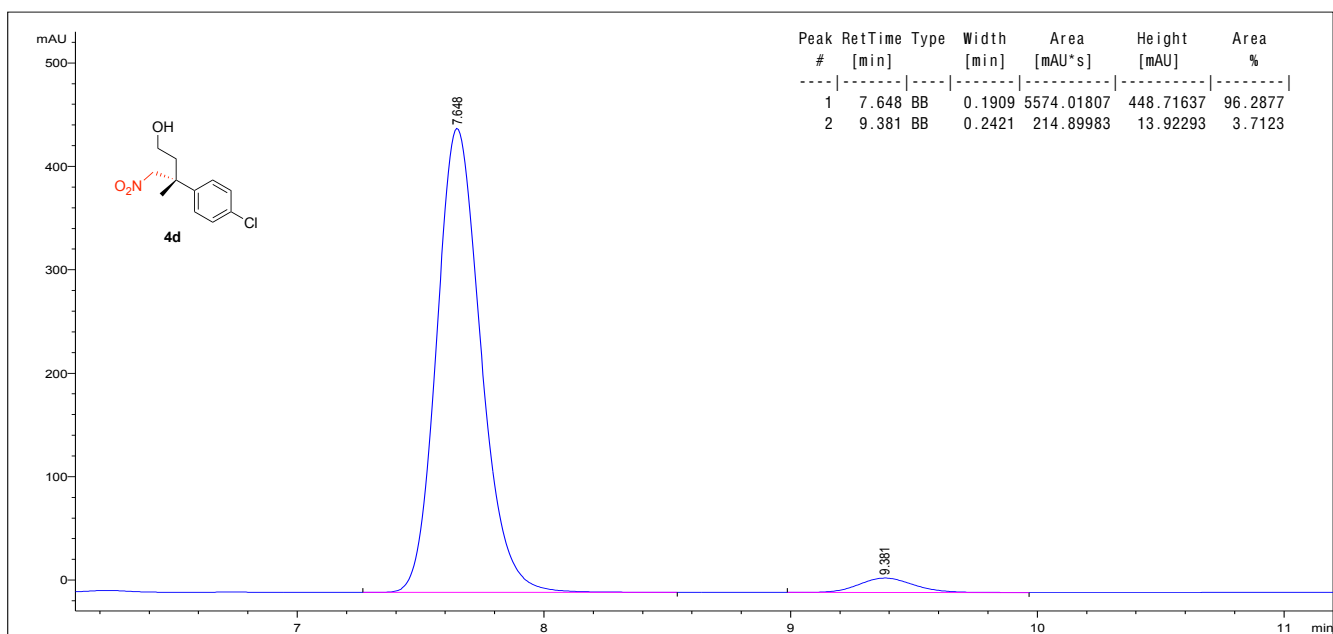
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(*p*-tolyl)butan-1-ol (4c)



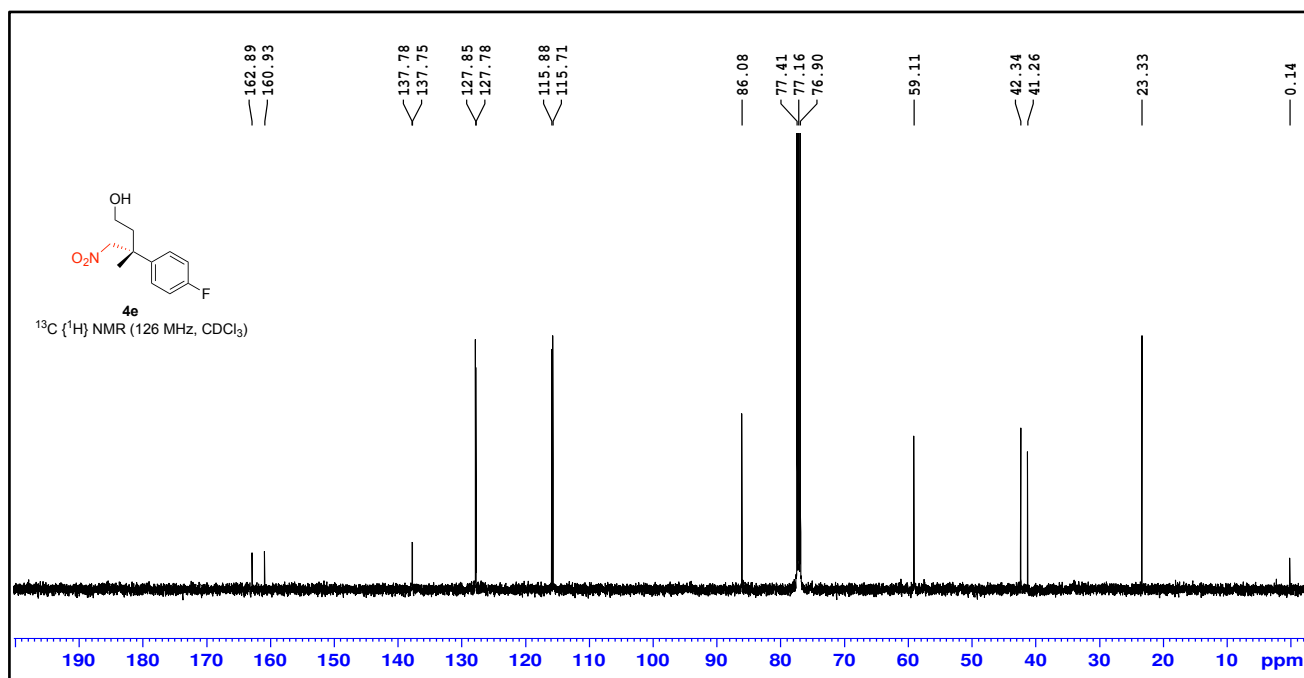
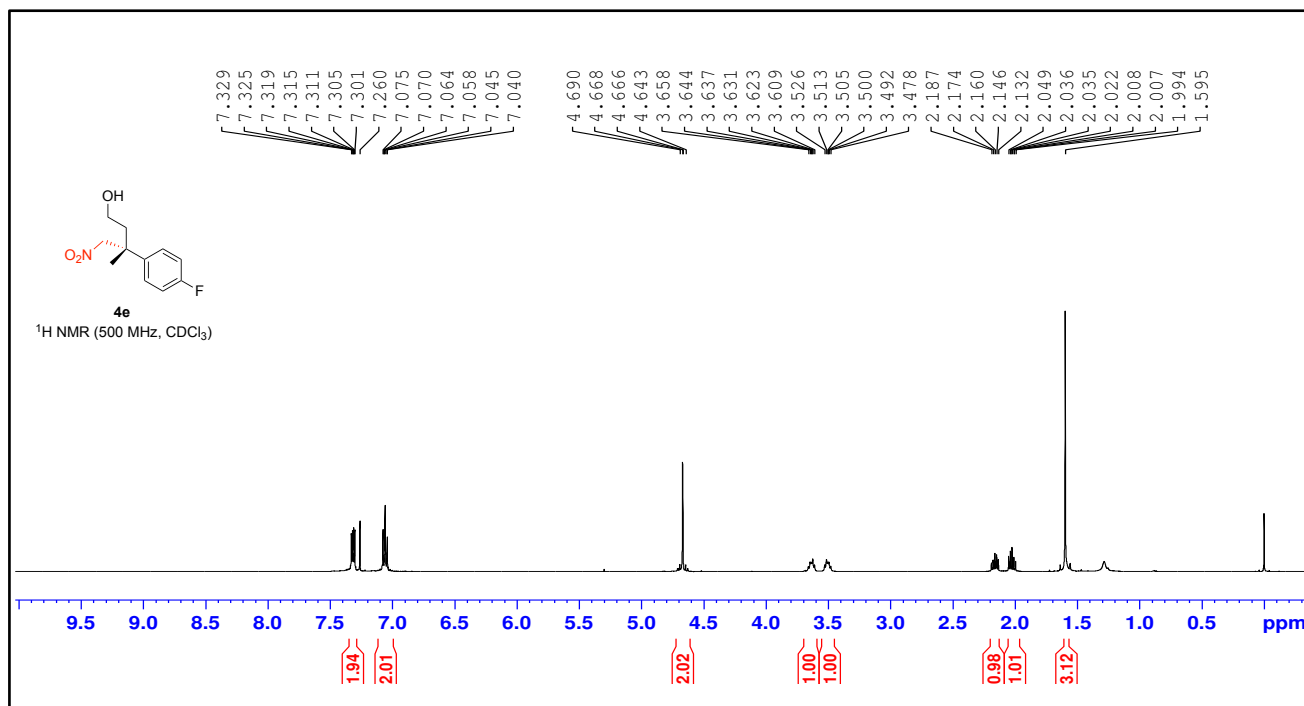


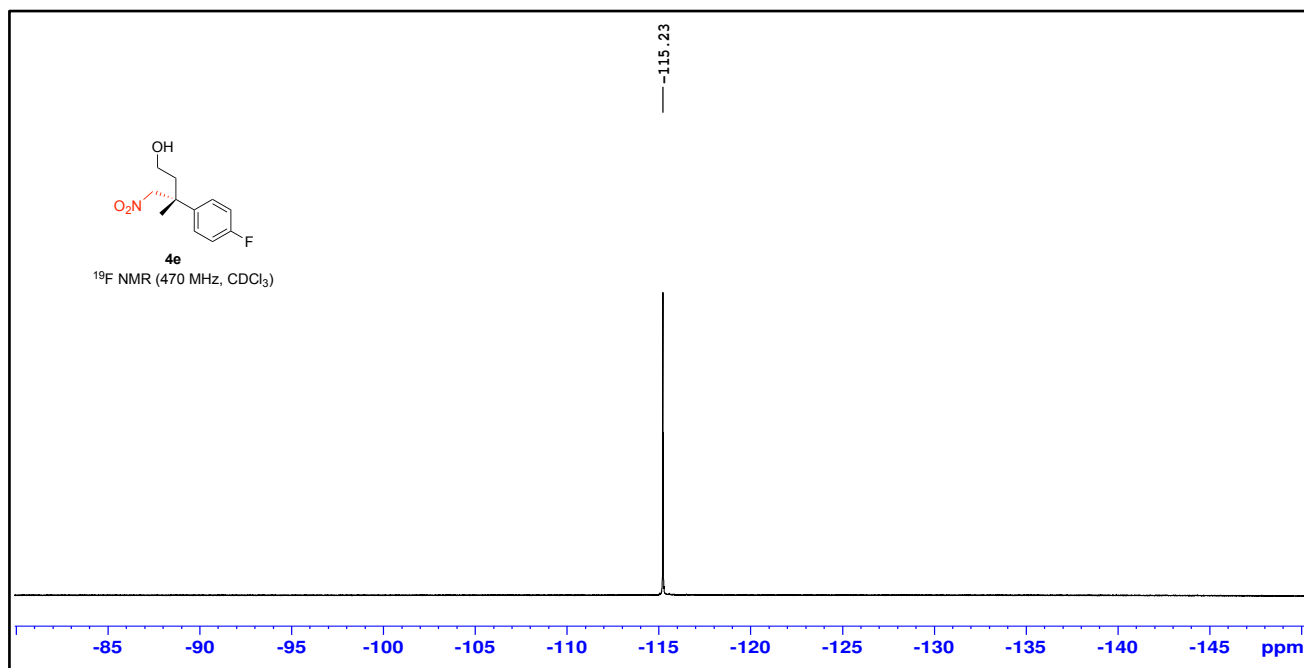
(*R*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4d)

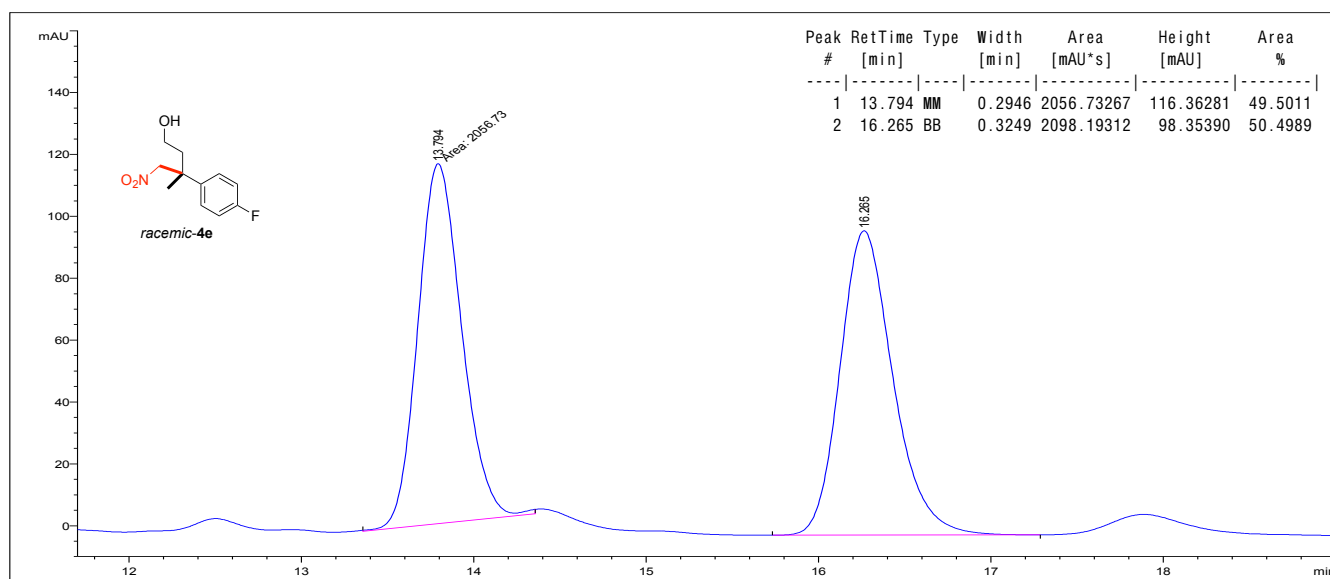
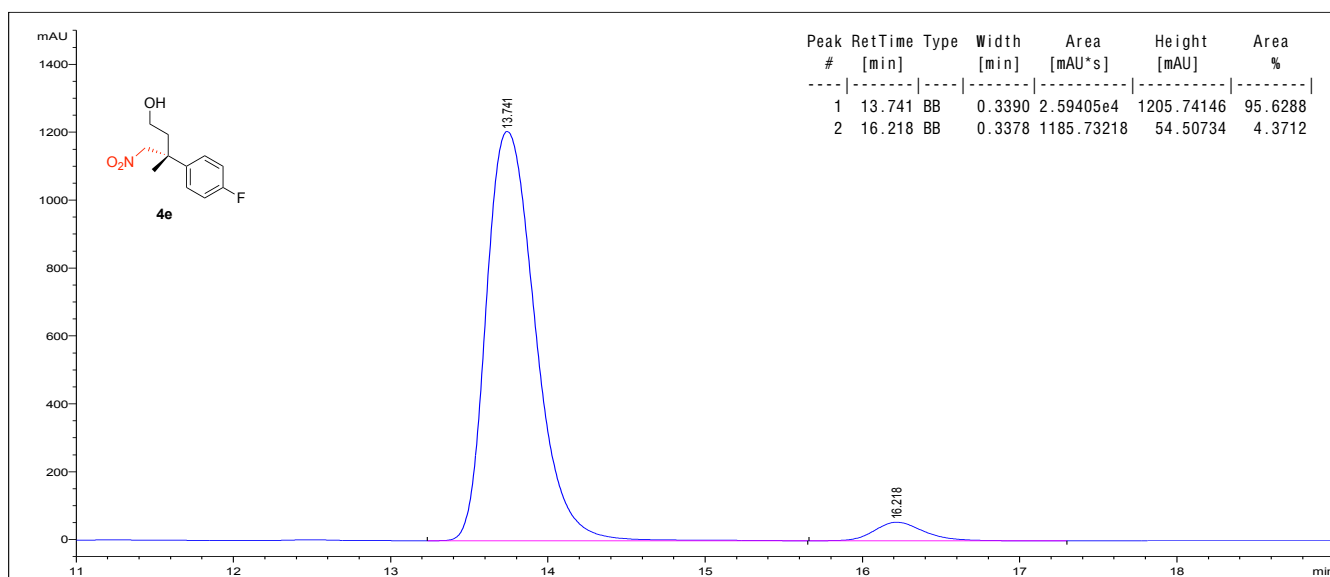




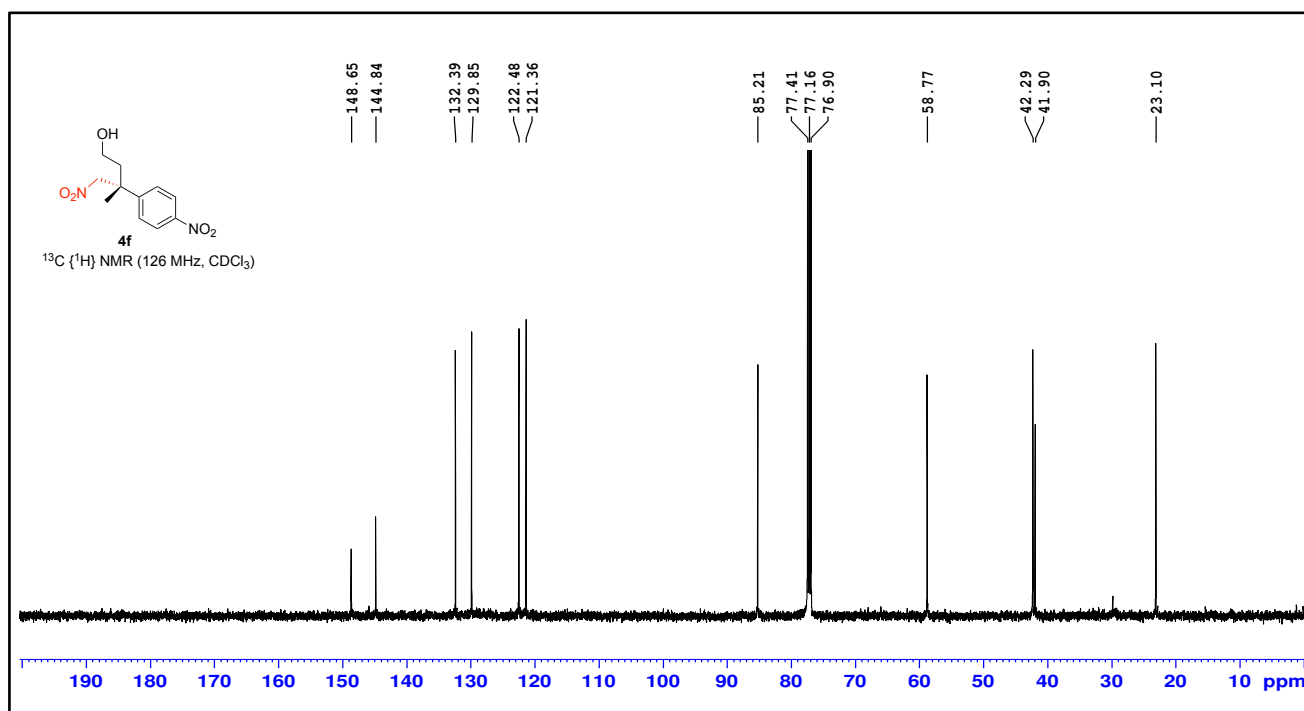
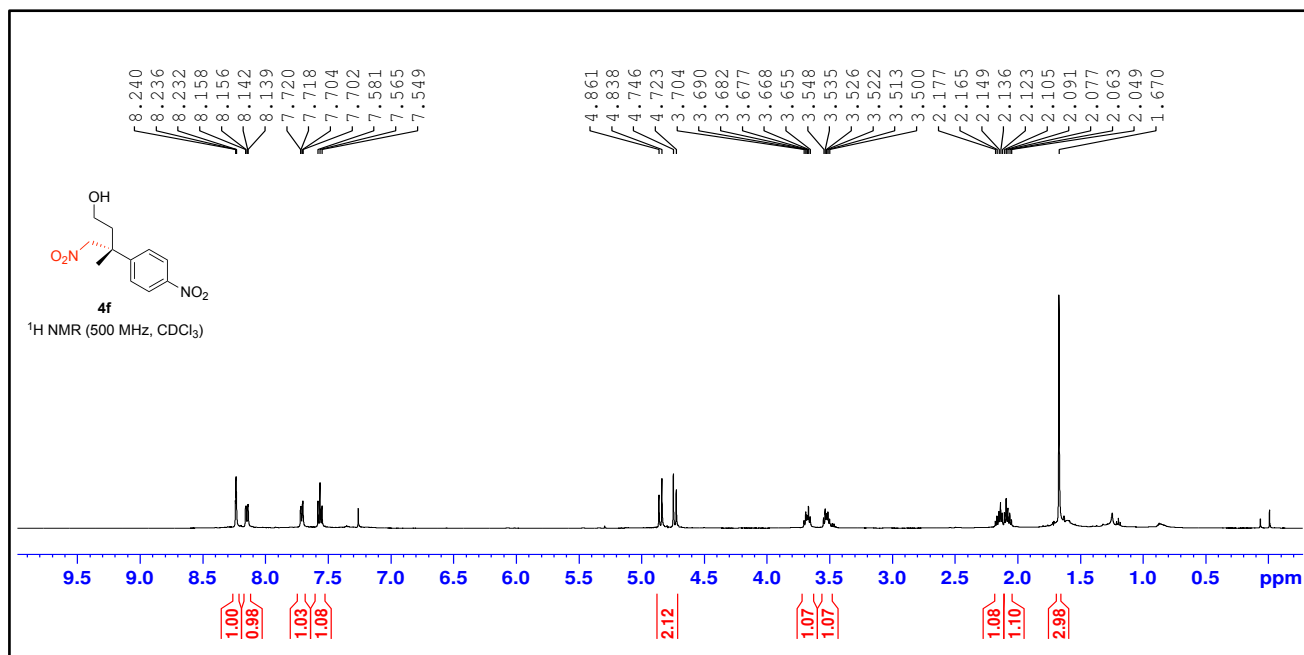
(*R*)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4e)

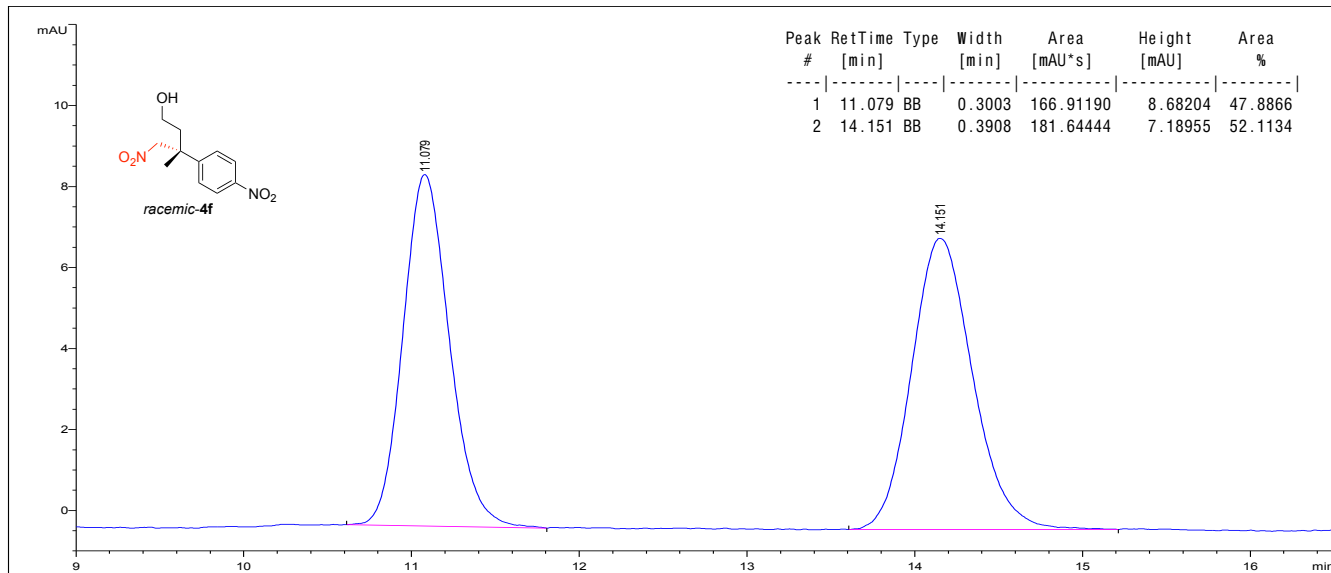
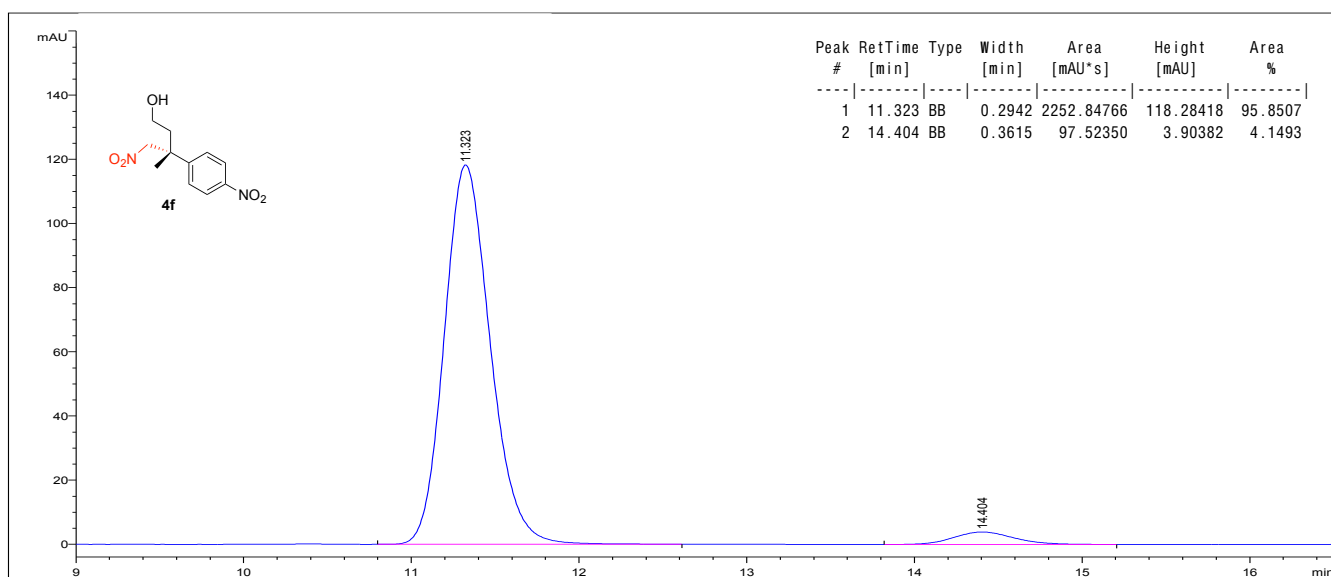




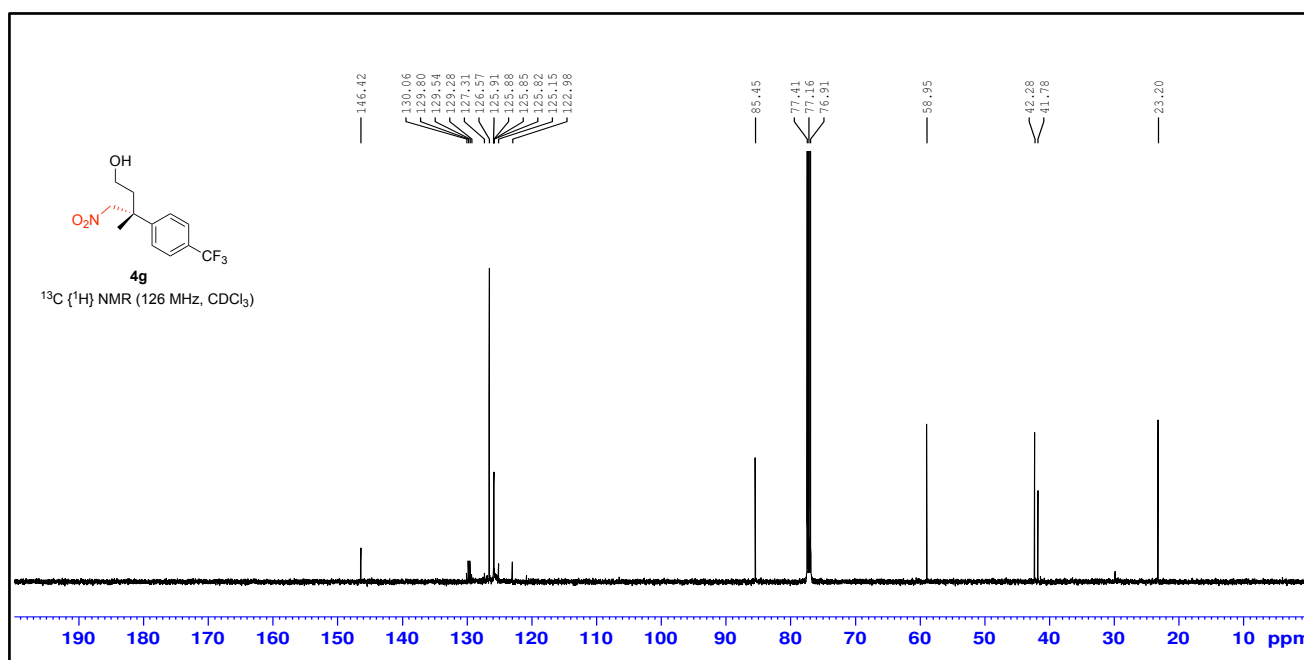
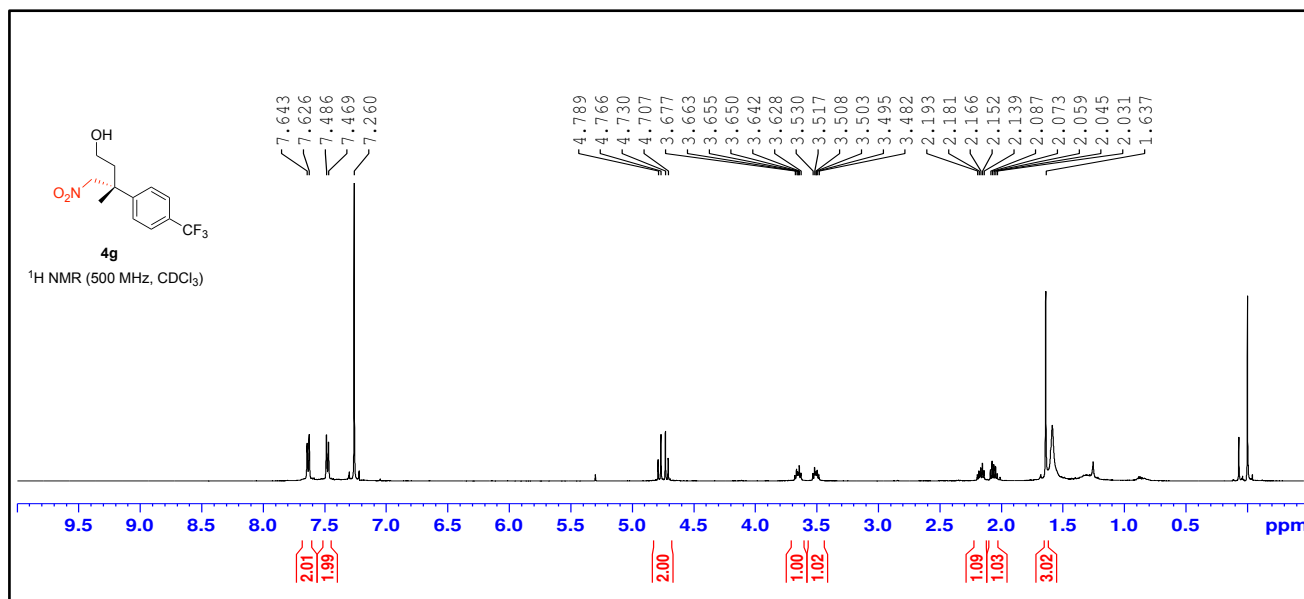


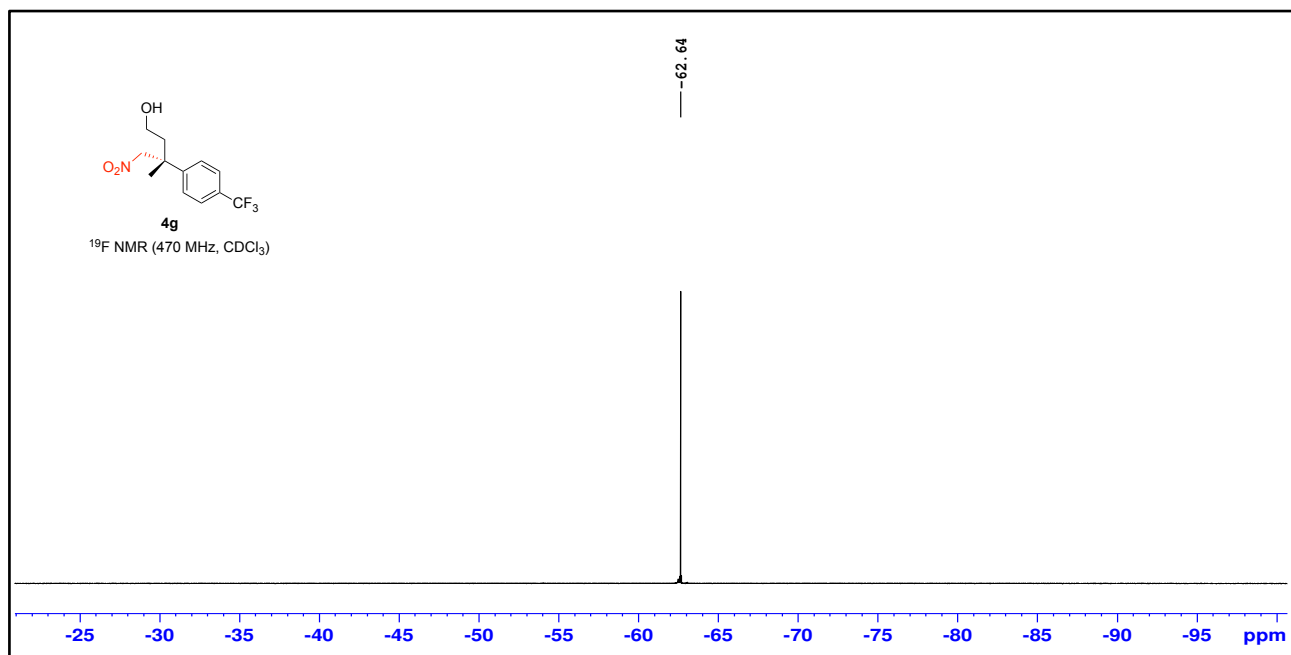
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (4f)

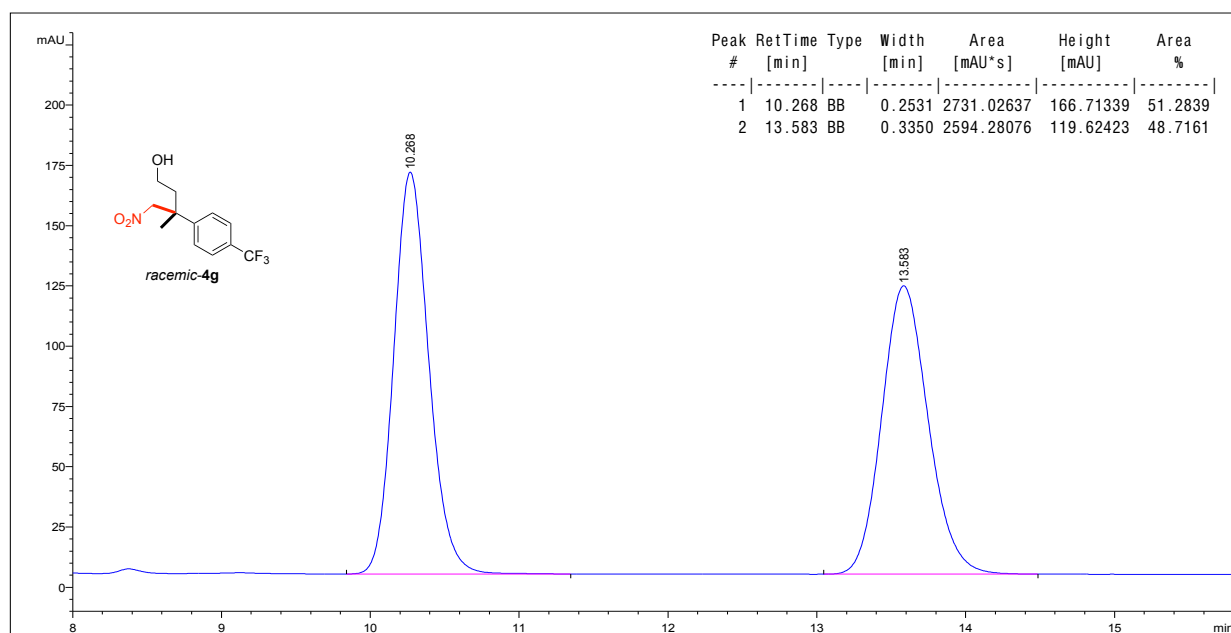
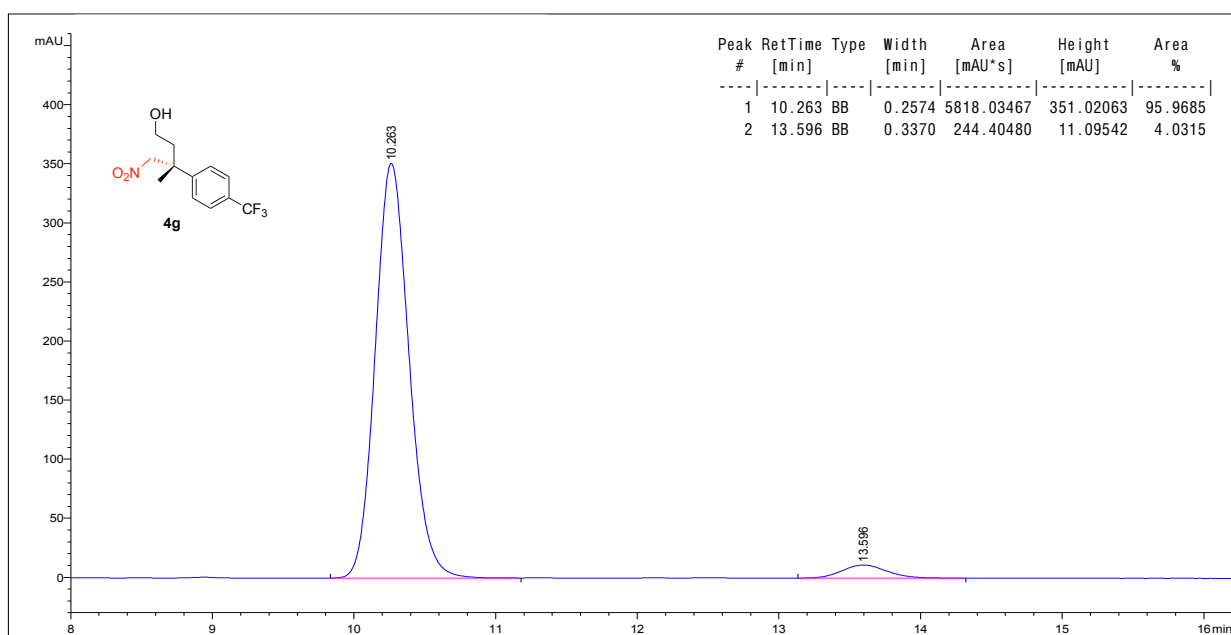




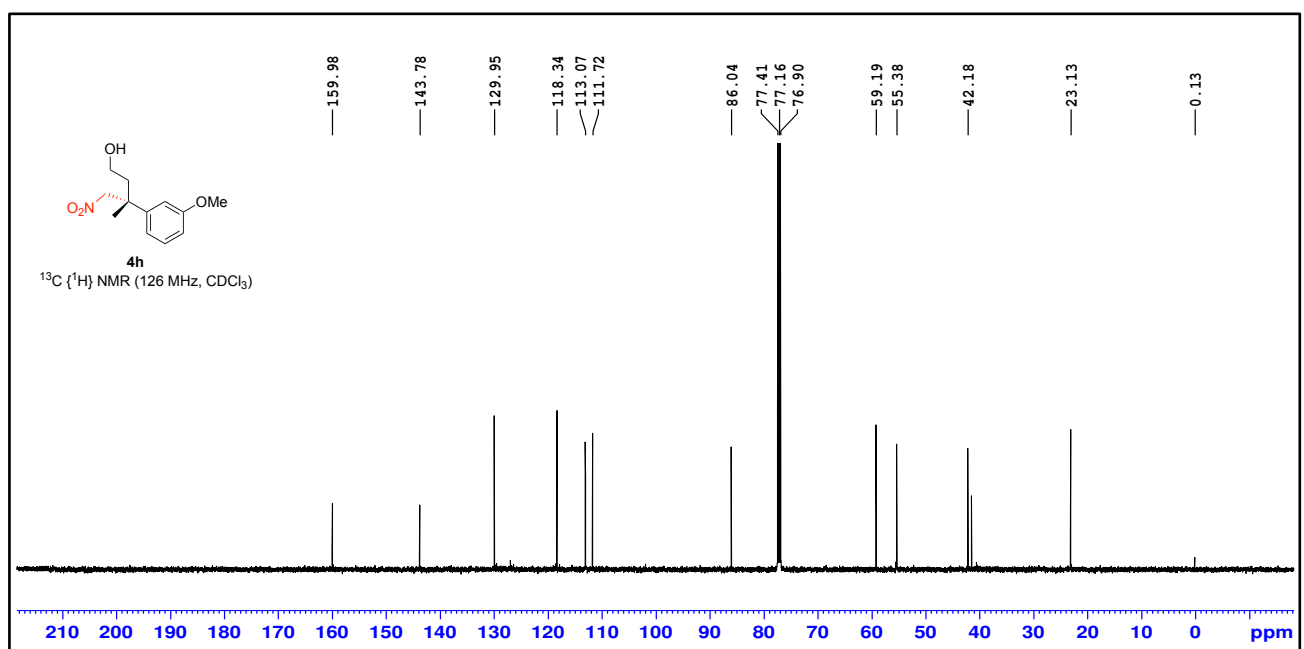
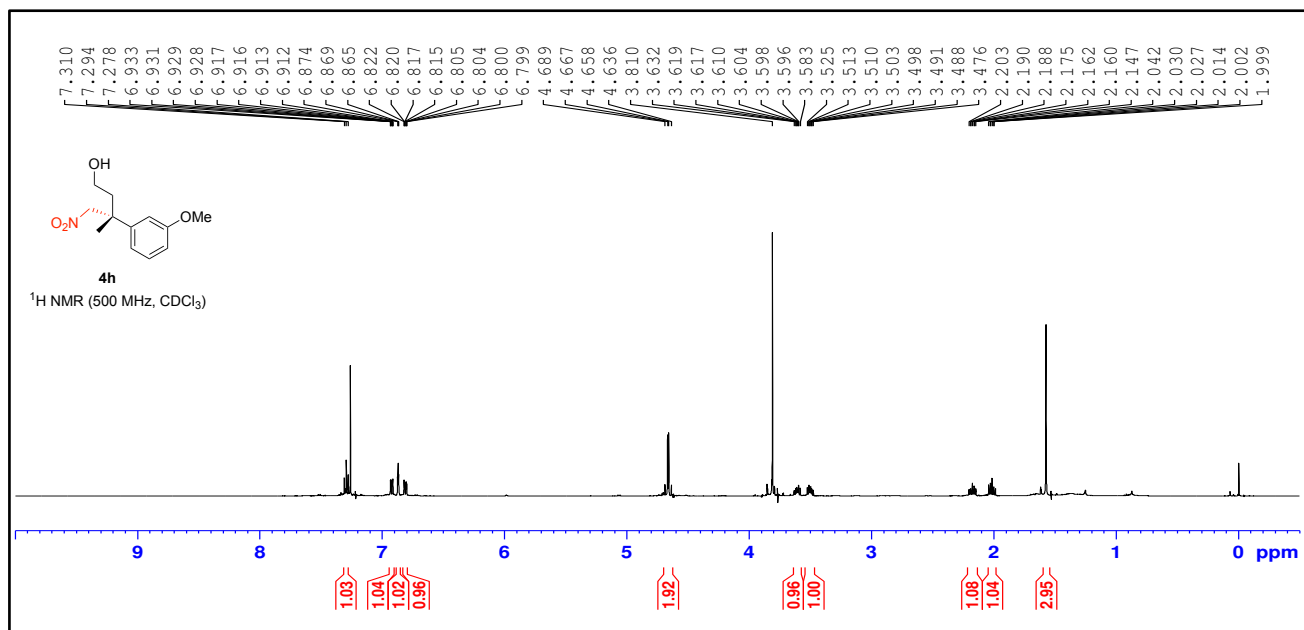
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (4g)

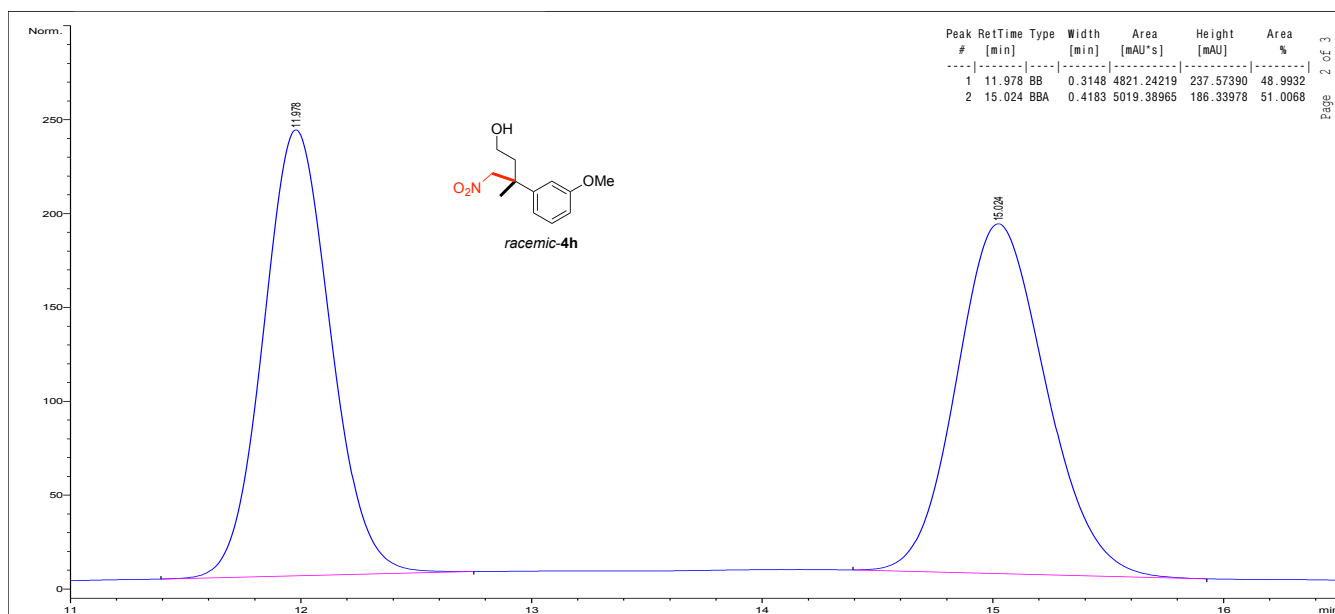
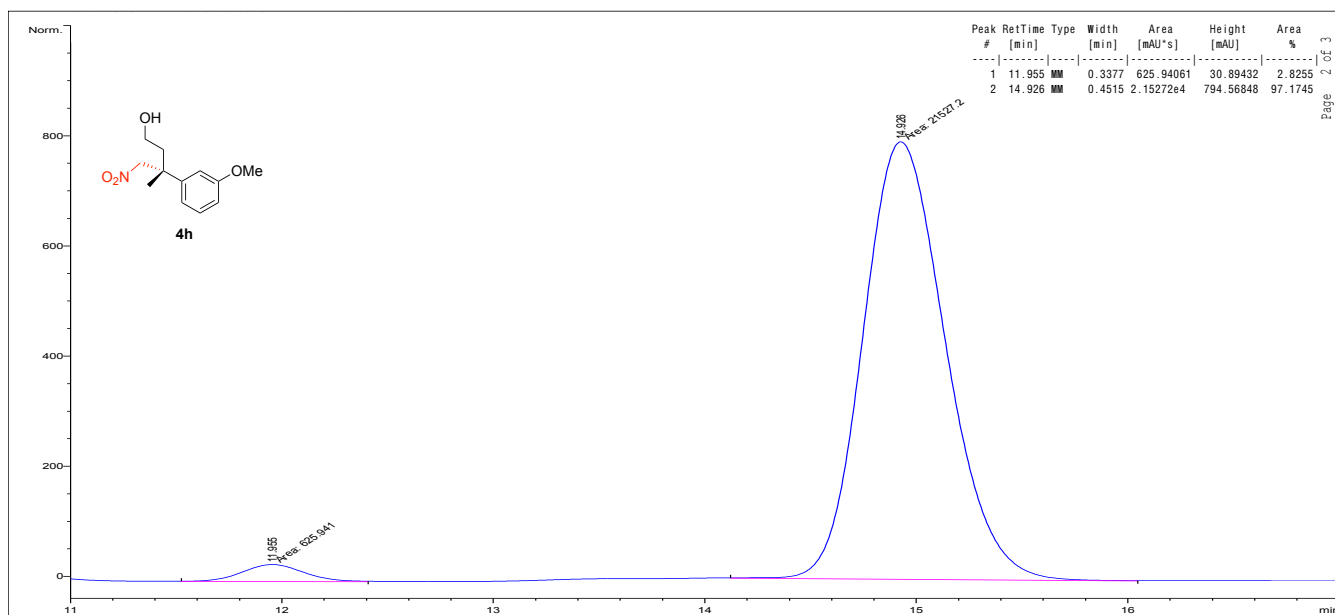




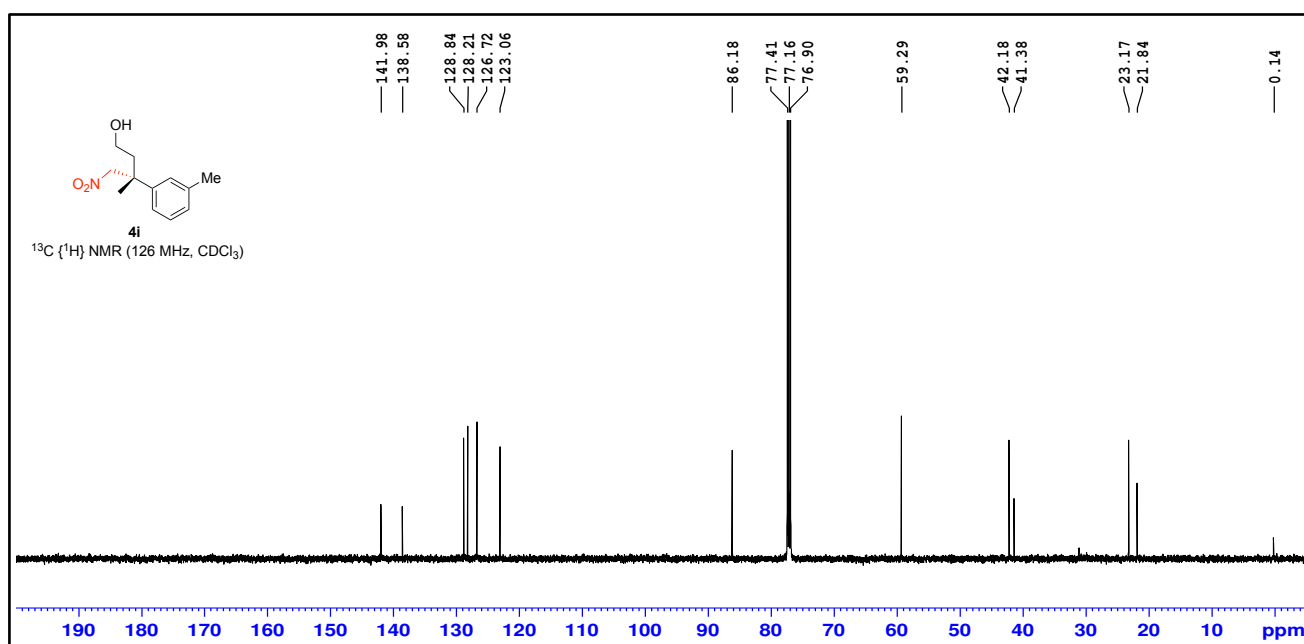
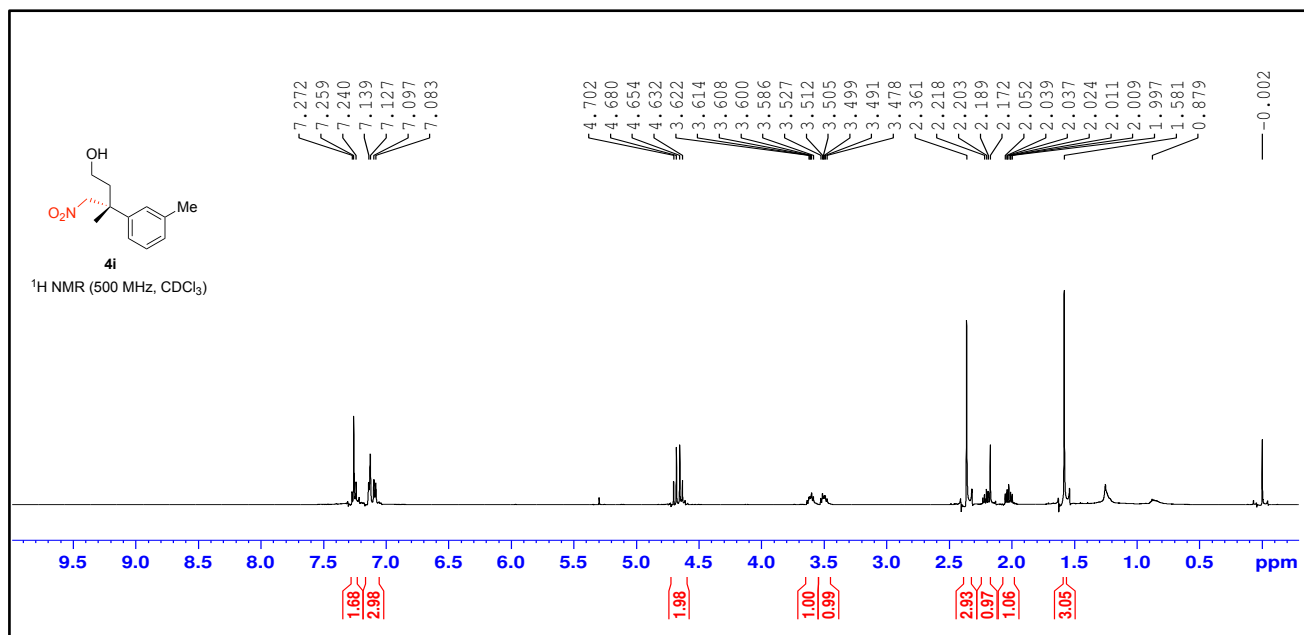


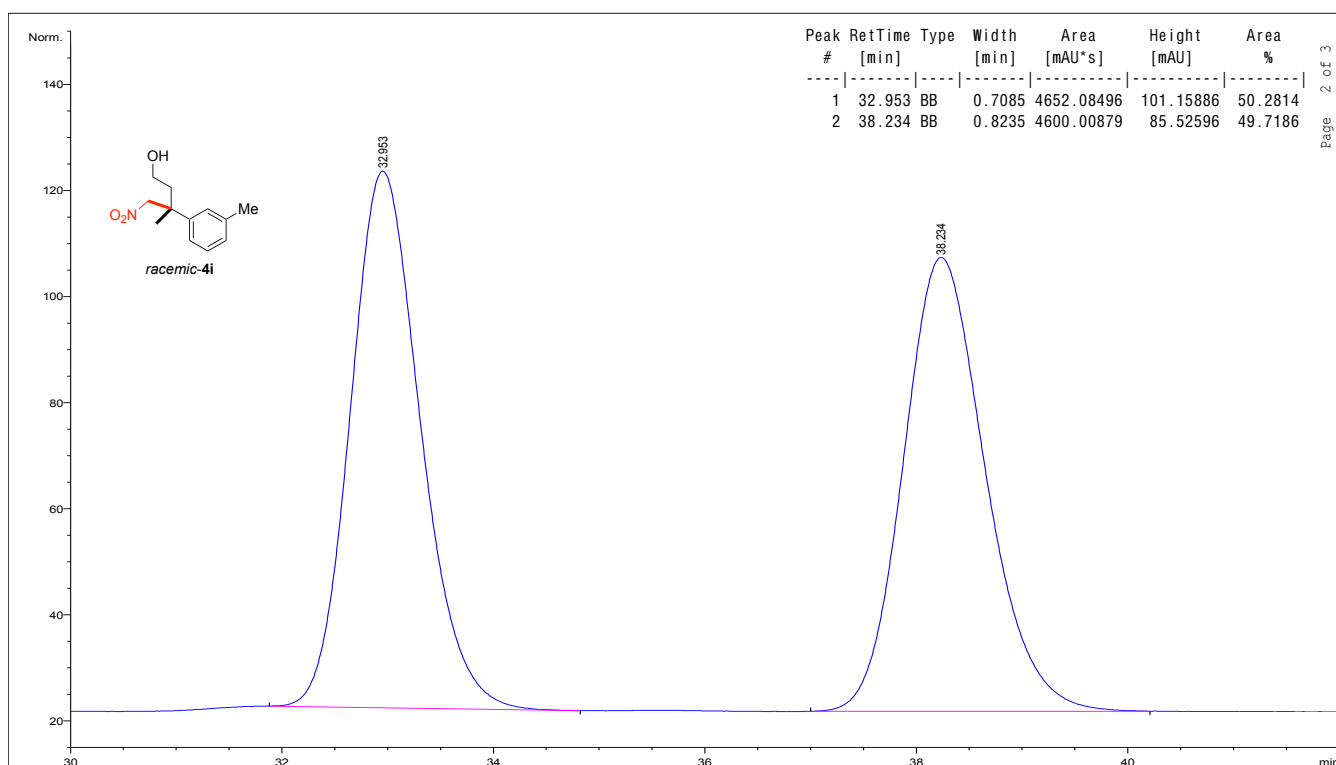
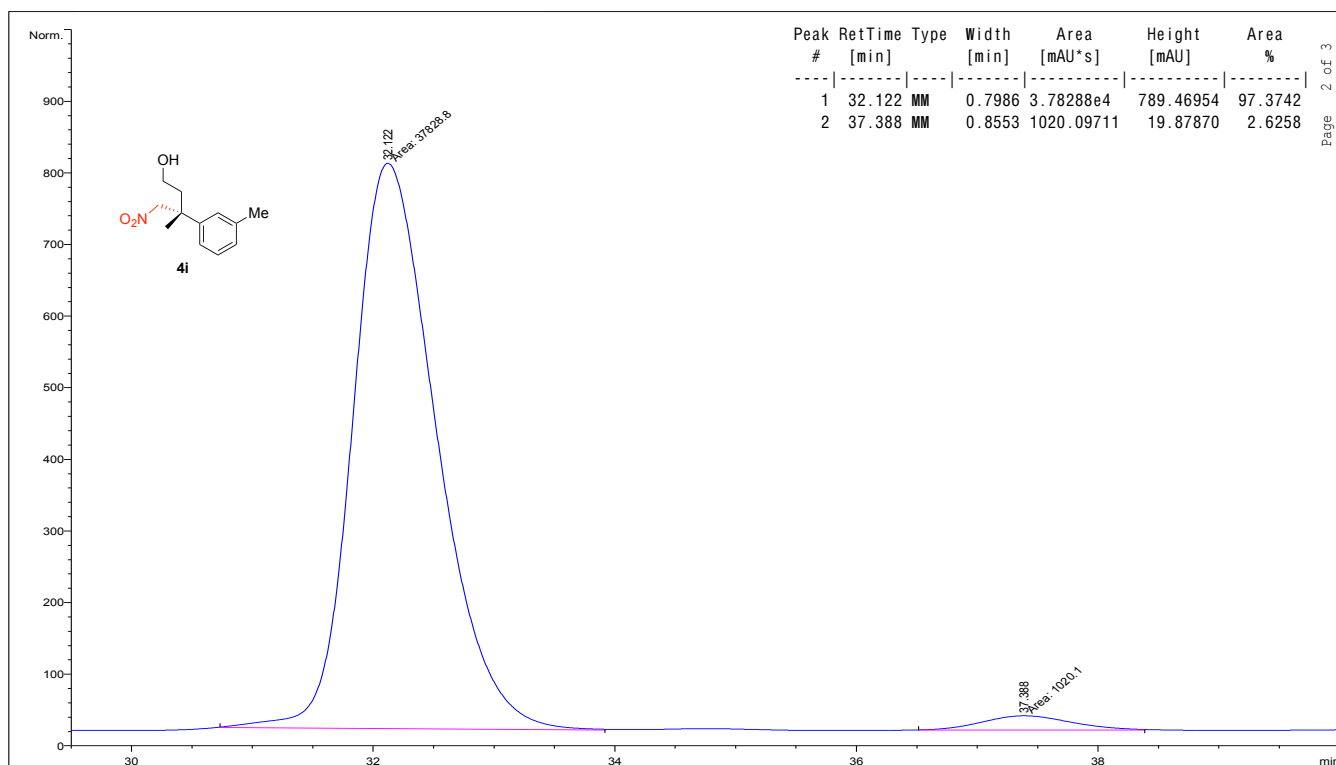
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)butan-1-ol (4h)



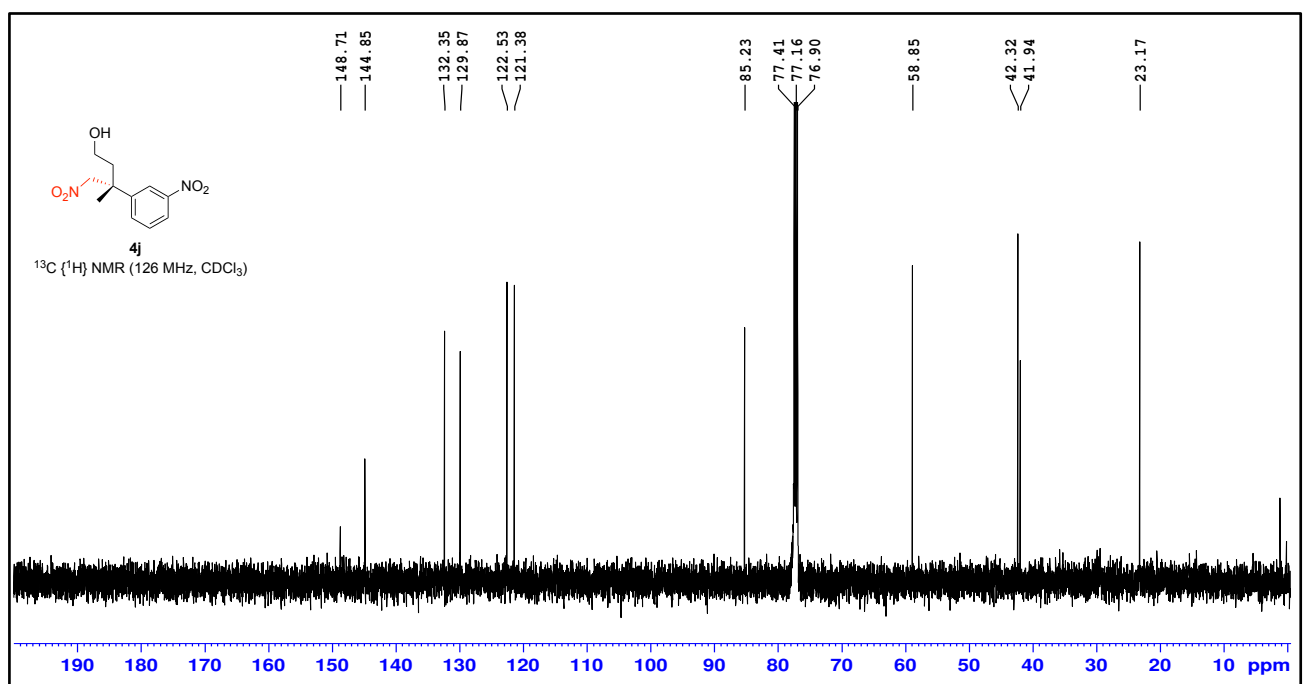
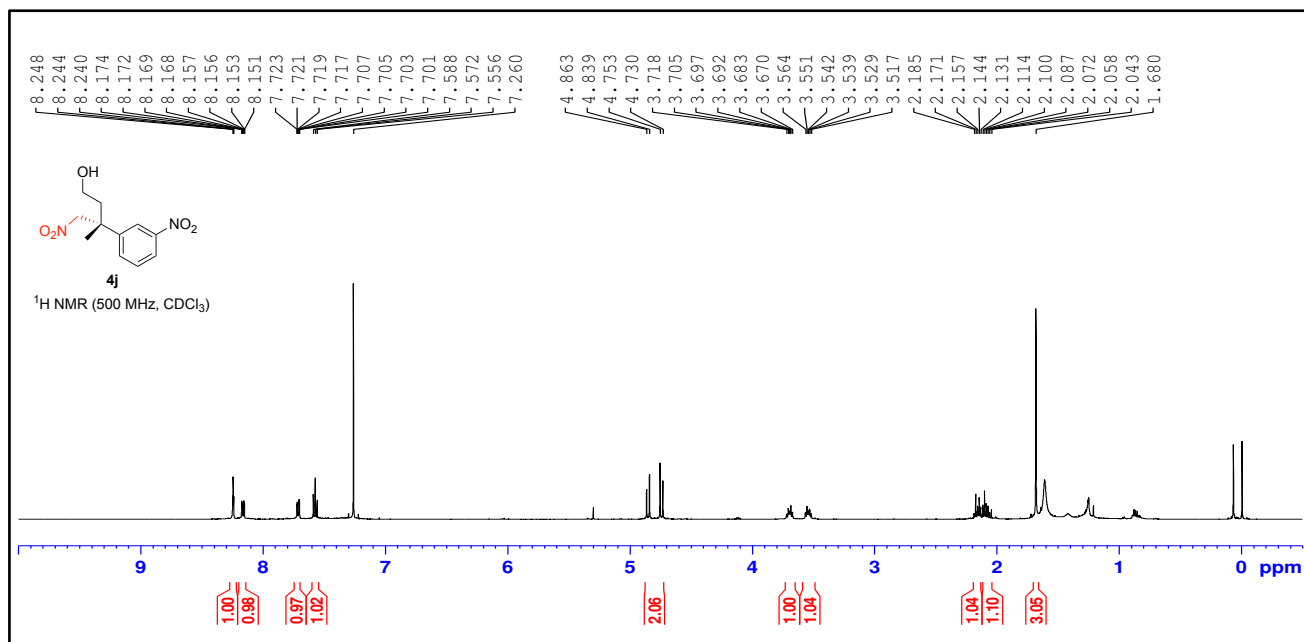


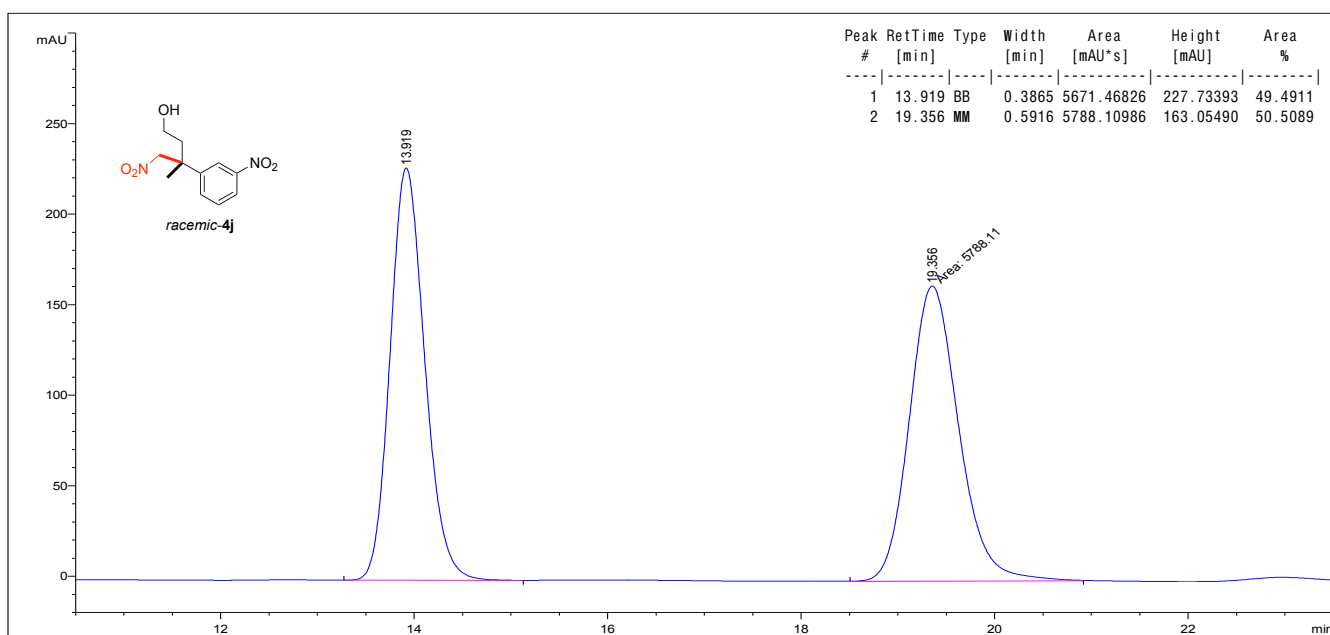
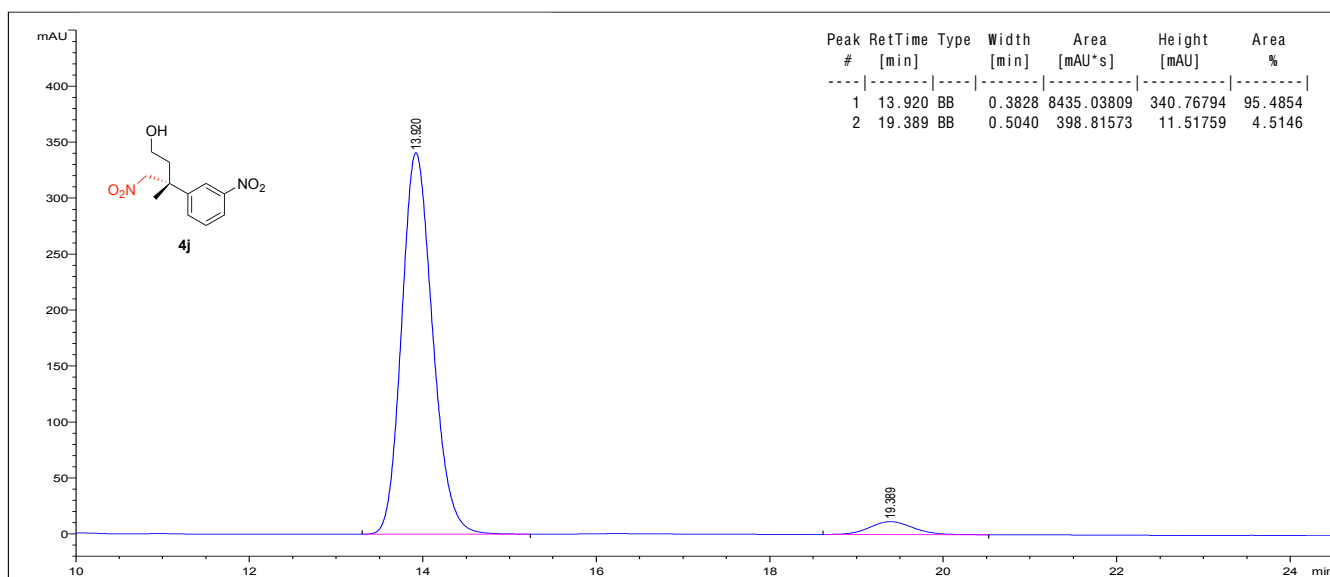
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(*m*-tolyl)butan-1-ol (4i)



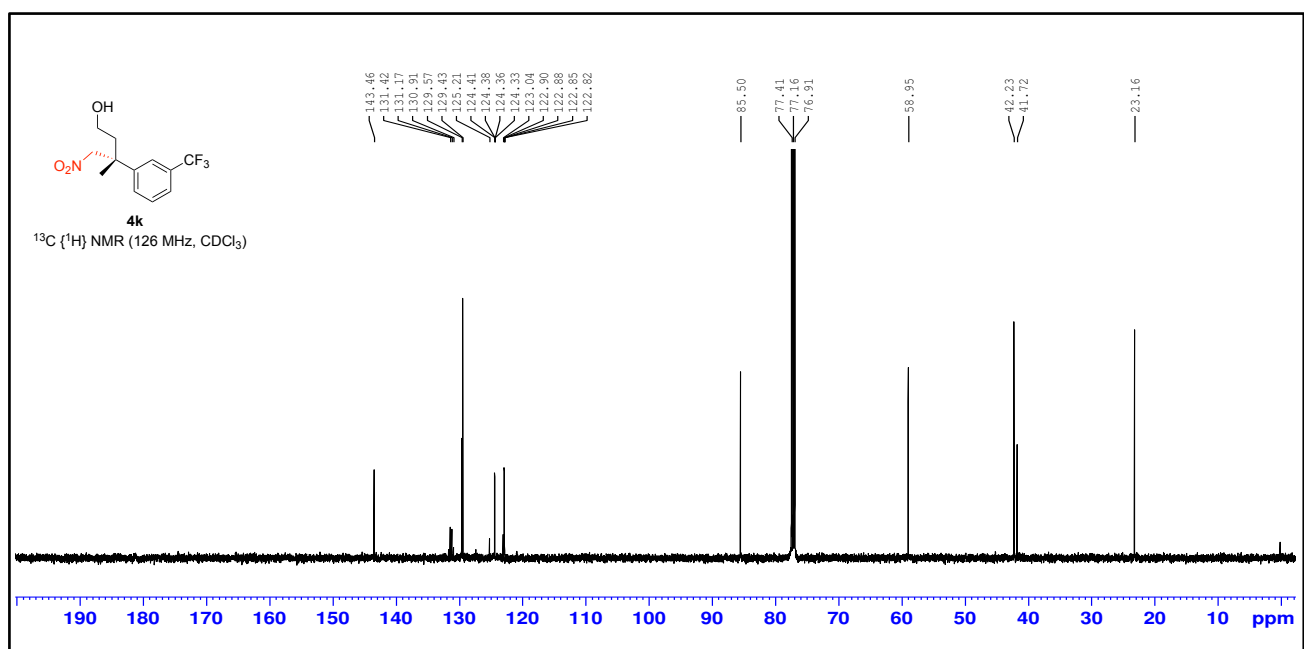
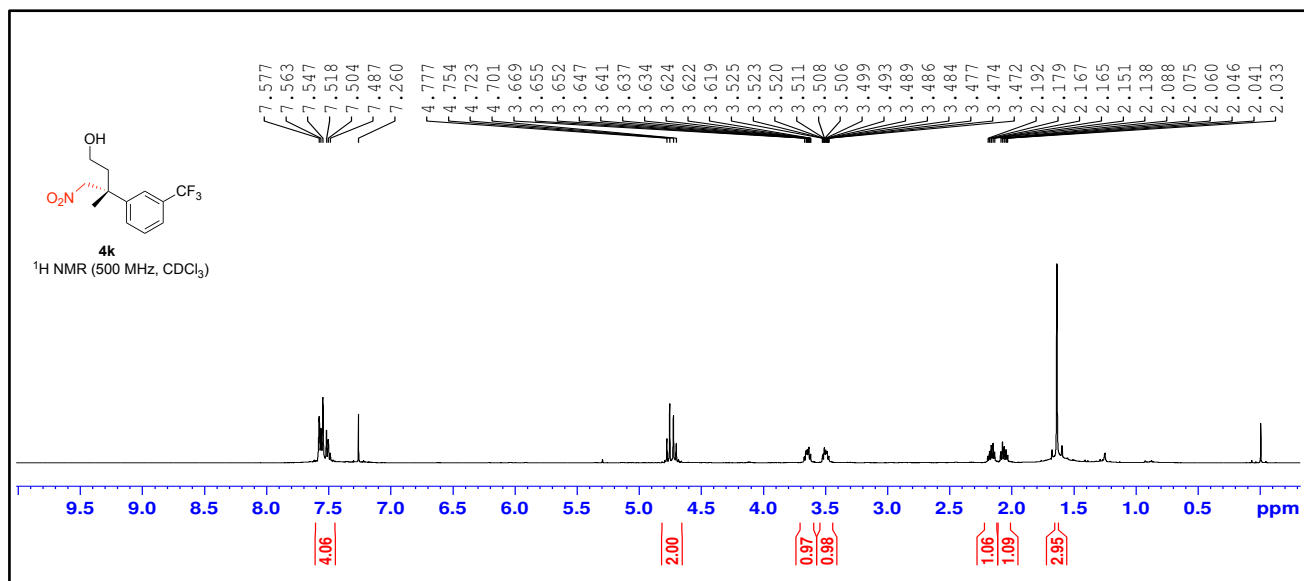


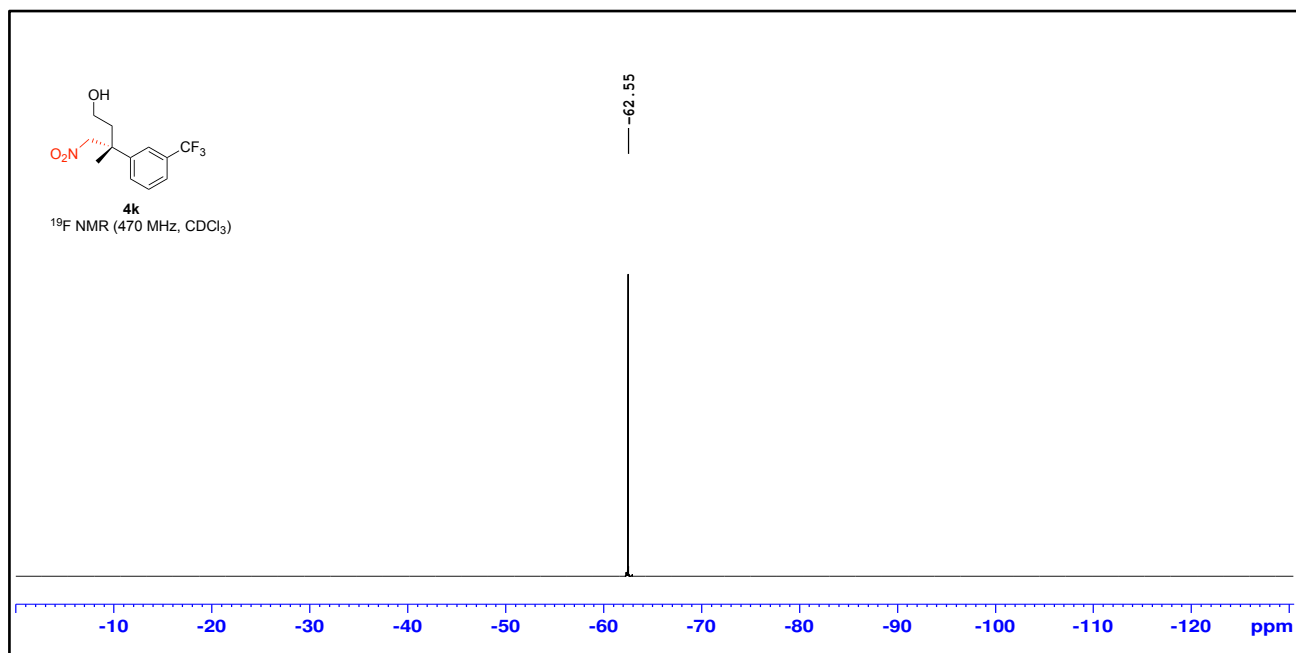
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (4j)

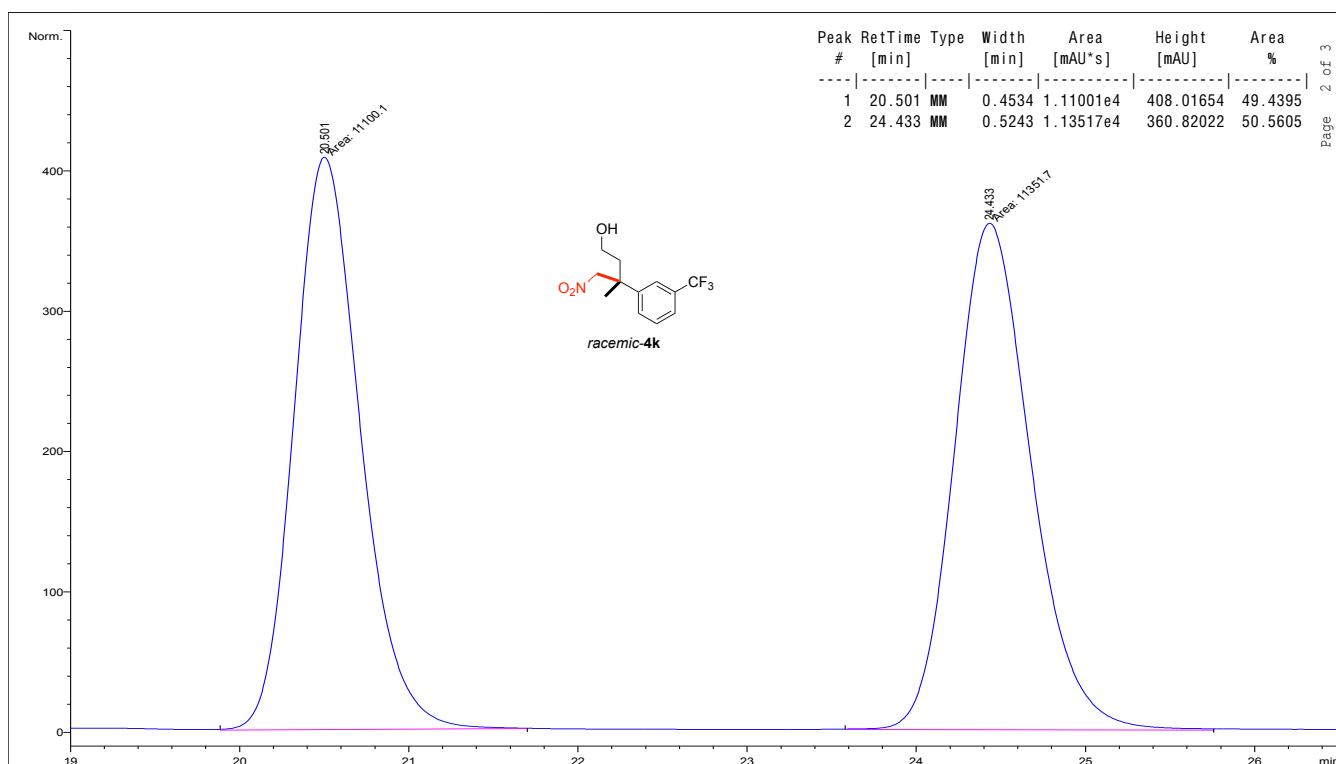
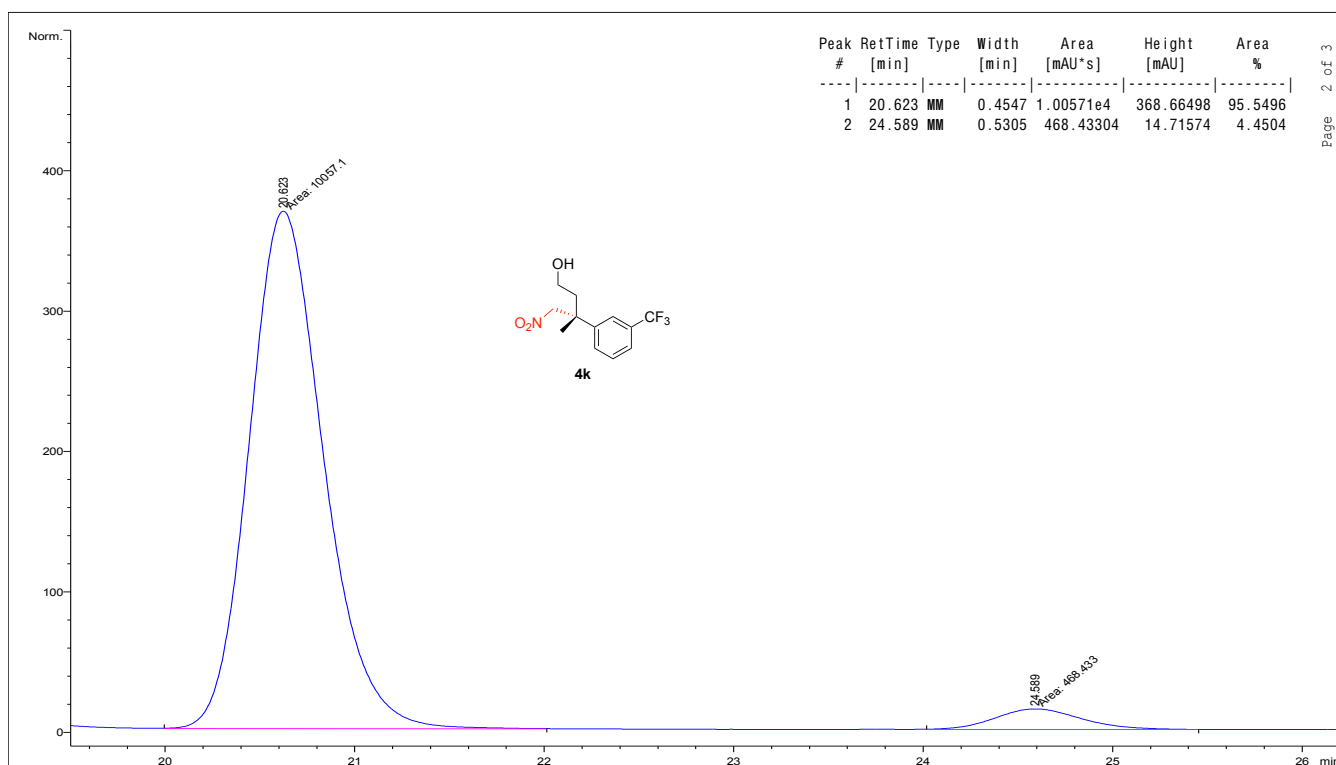




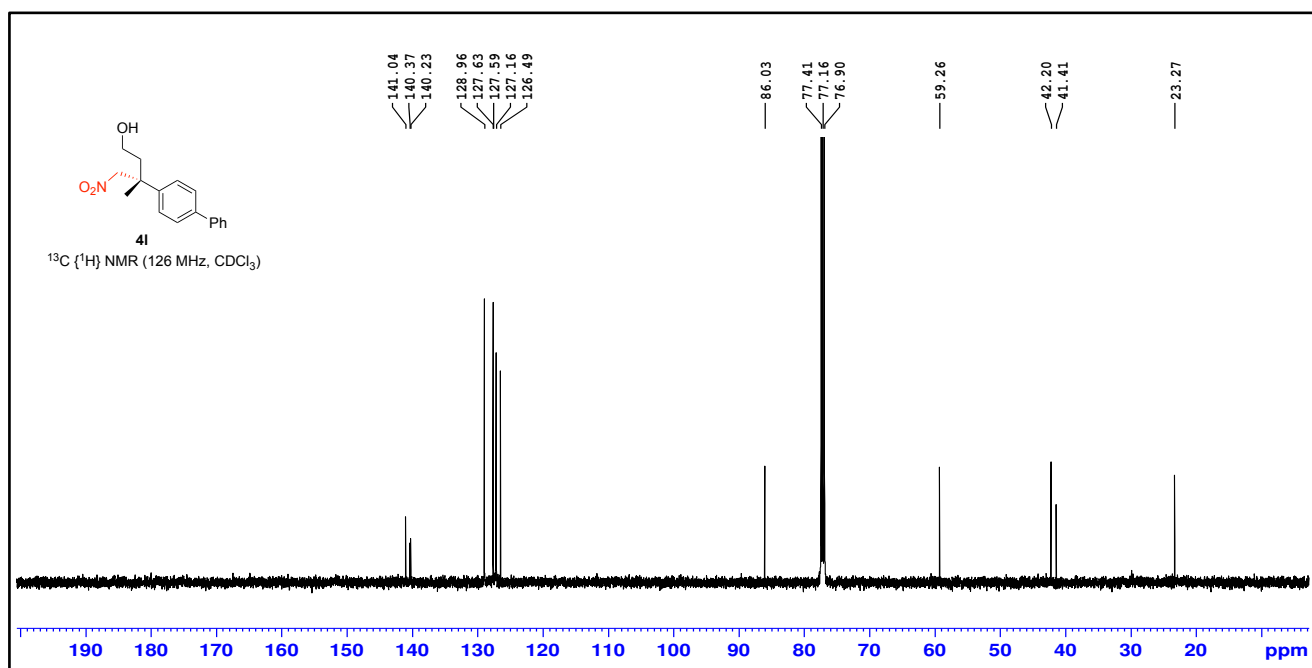
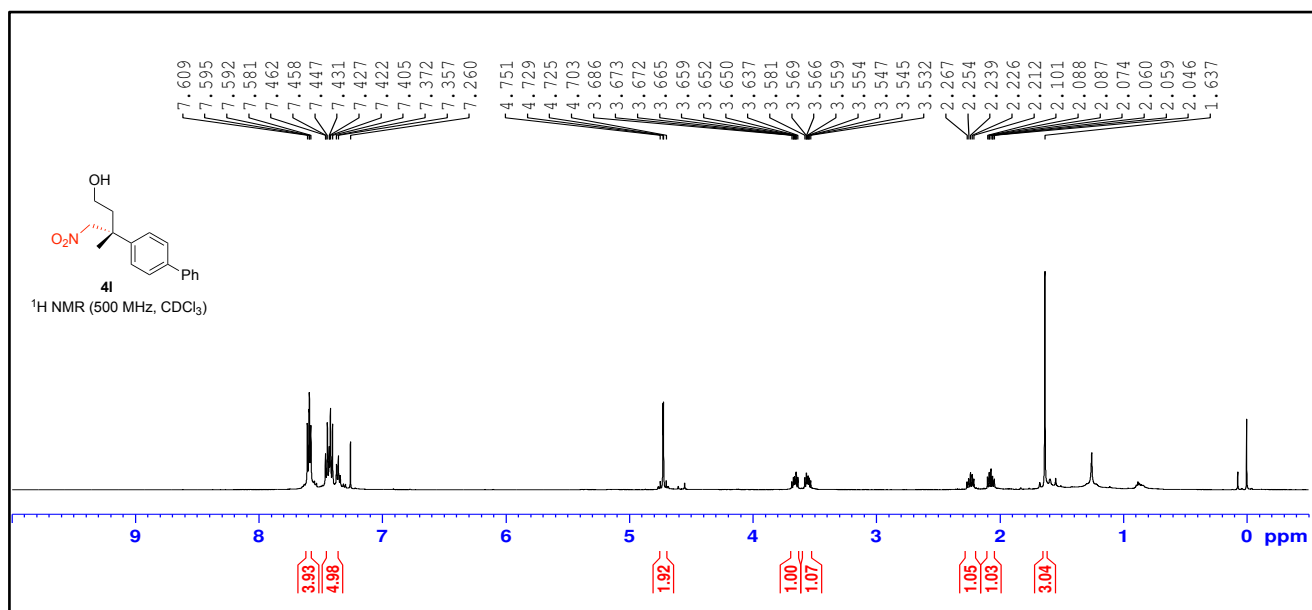
(*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (4k)

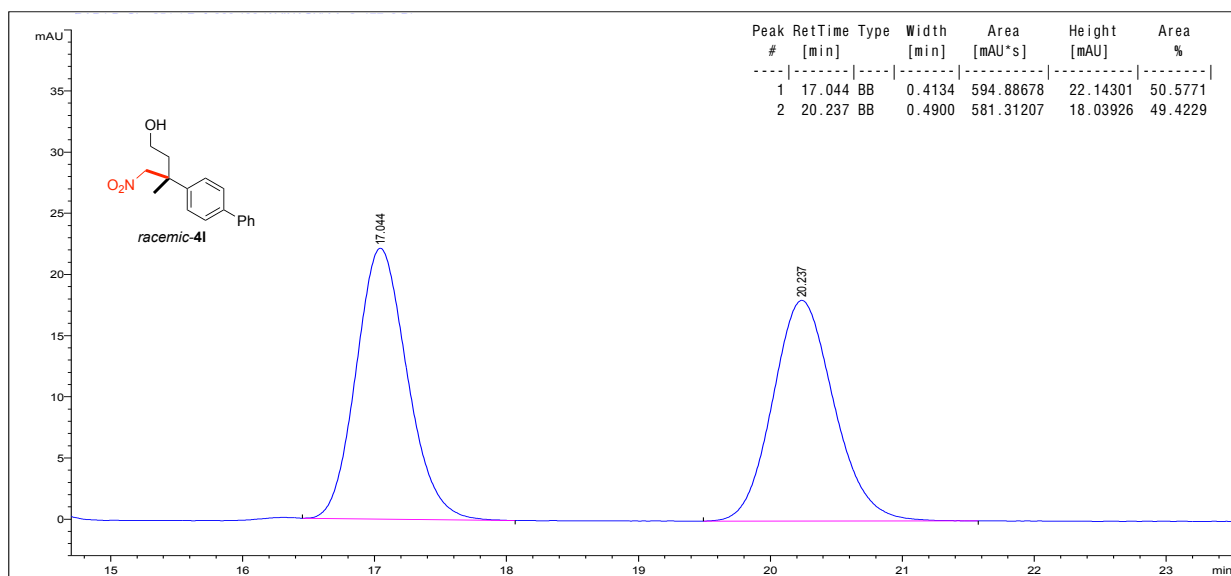
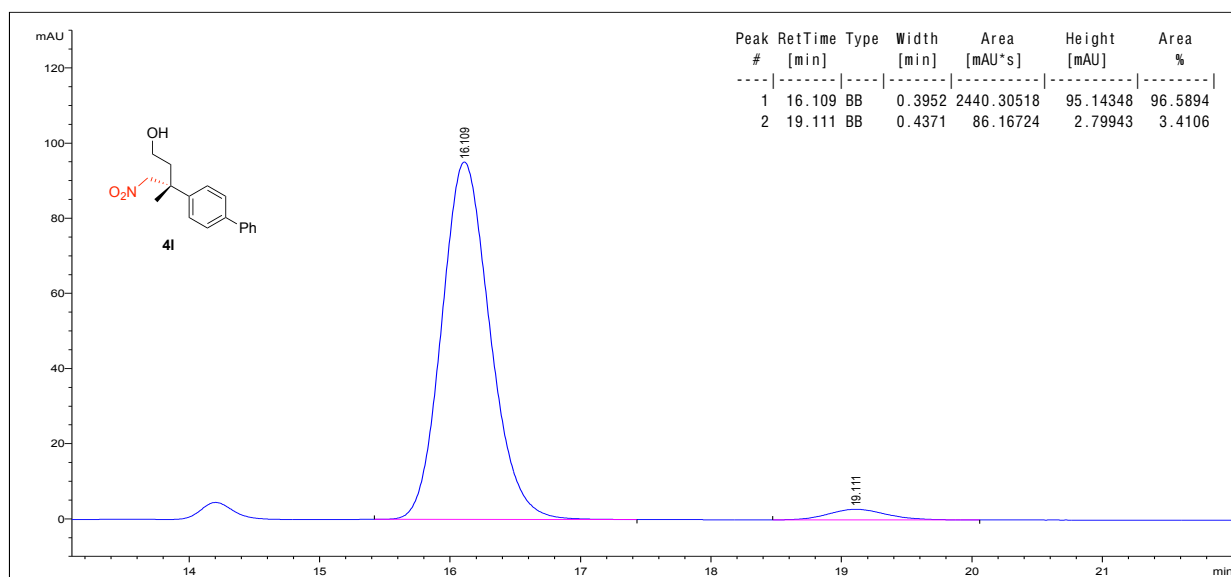




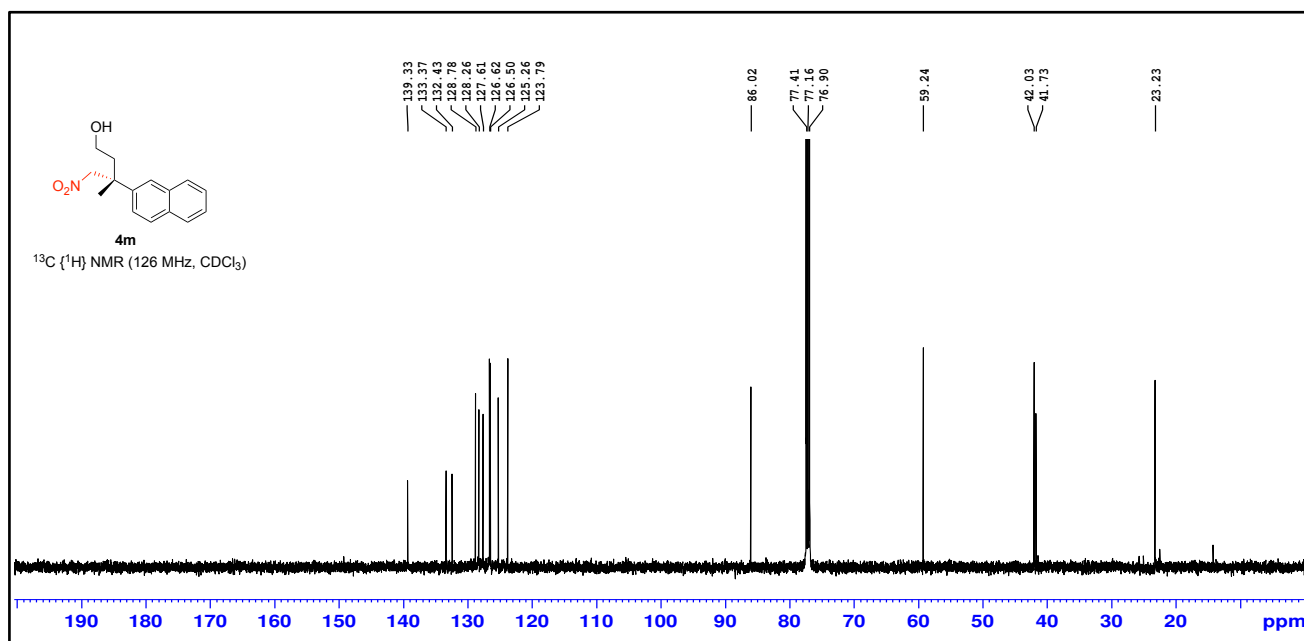
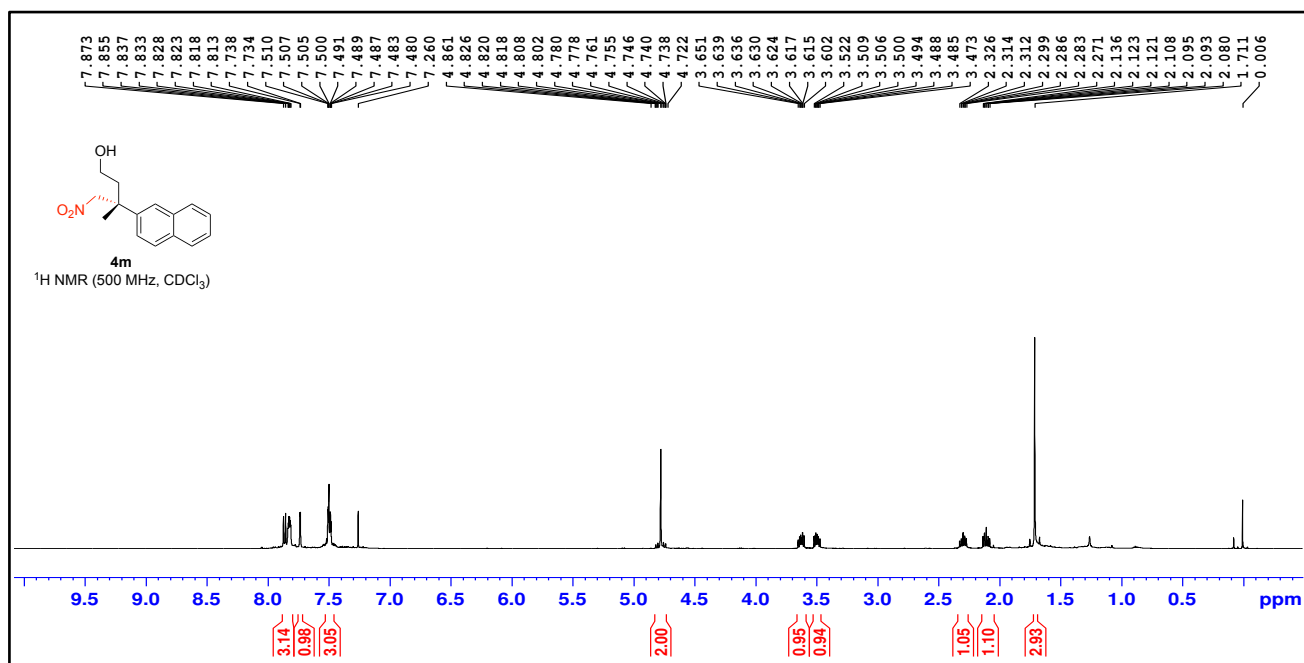


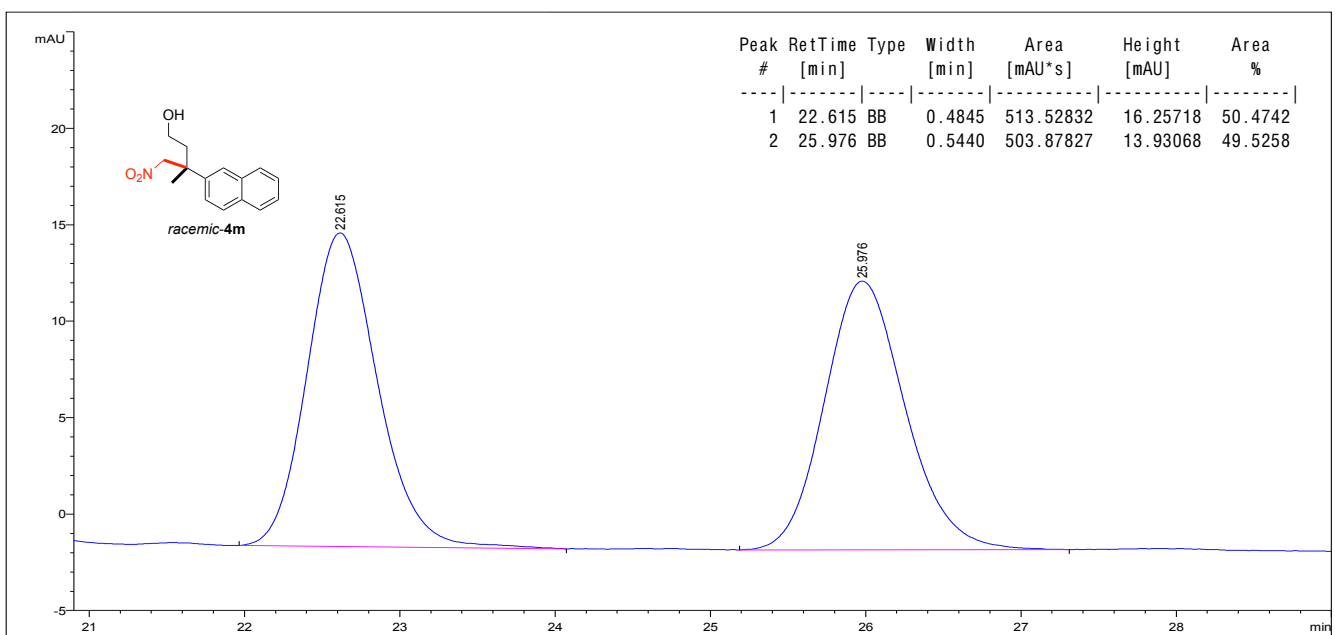
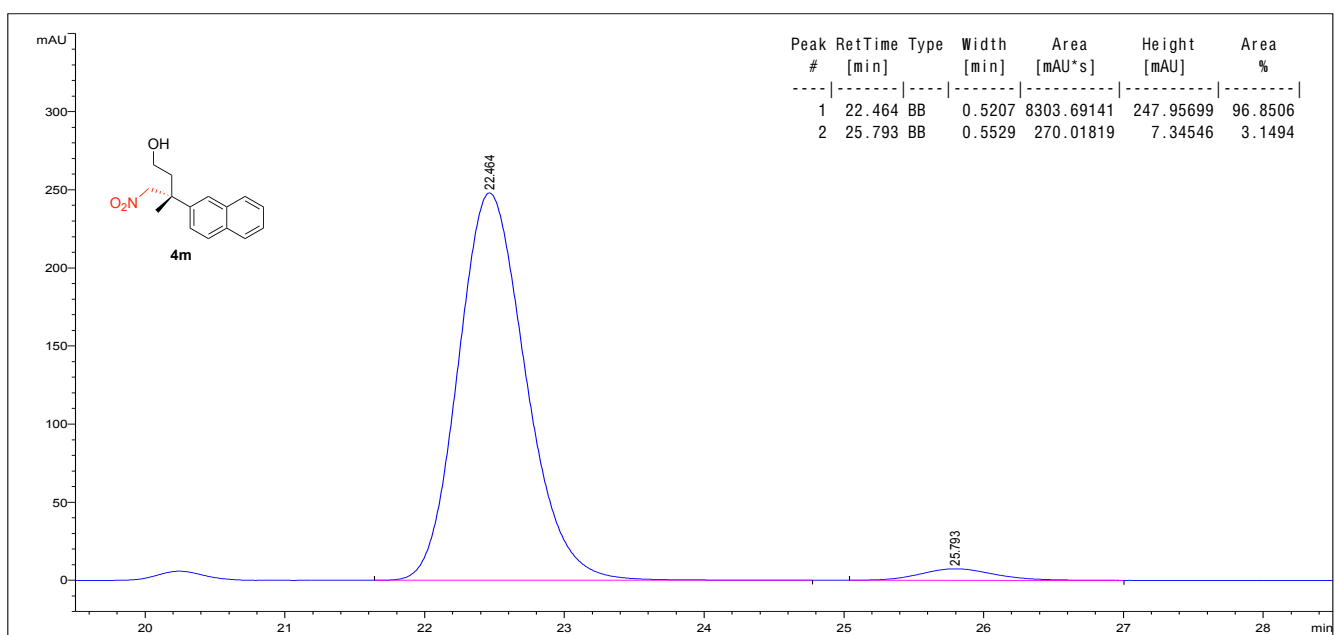
(*R*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4l)



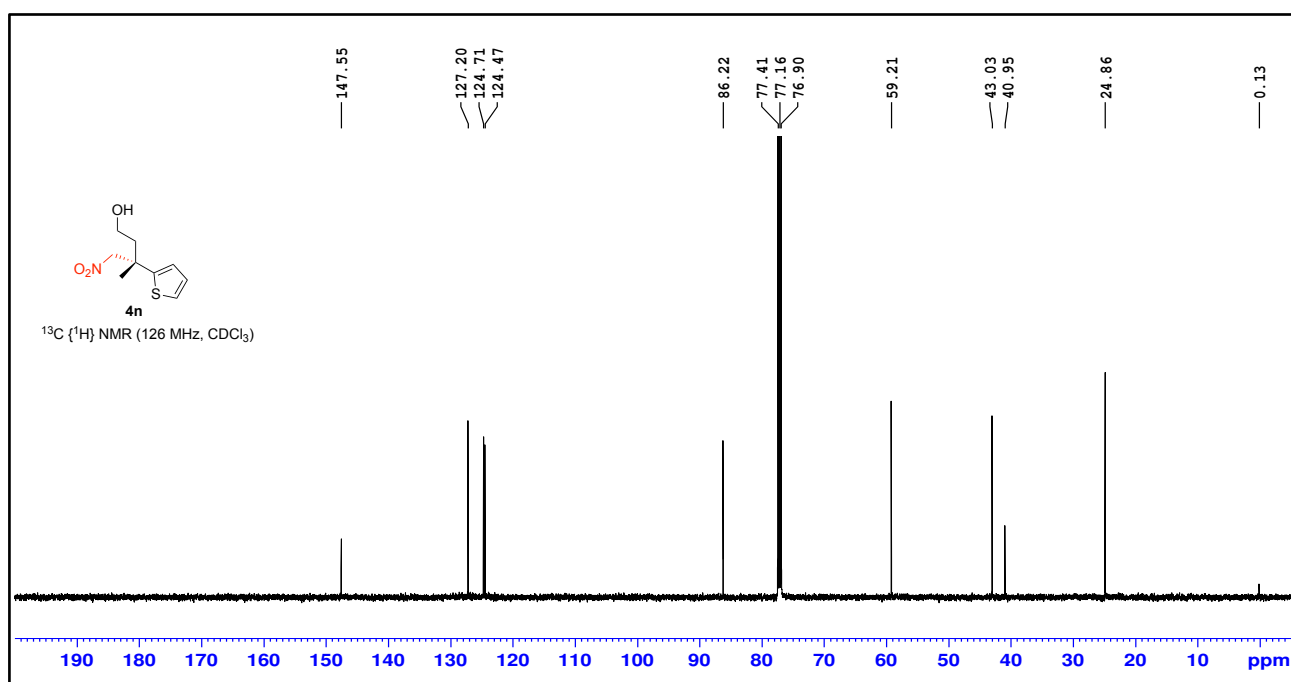
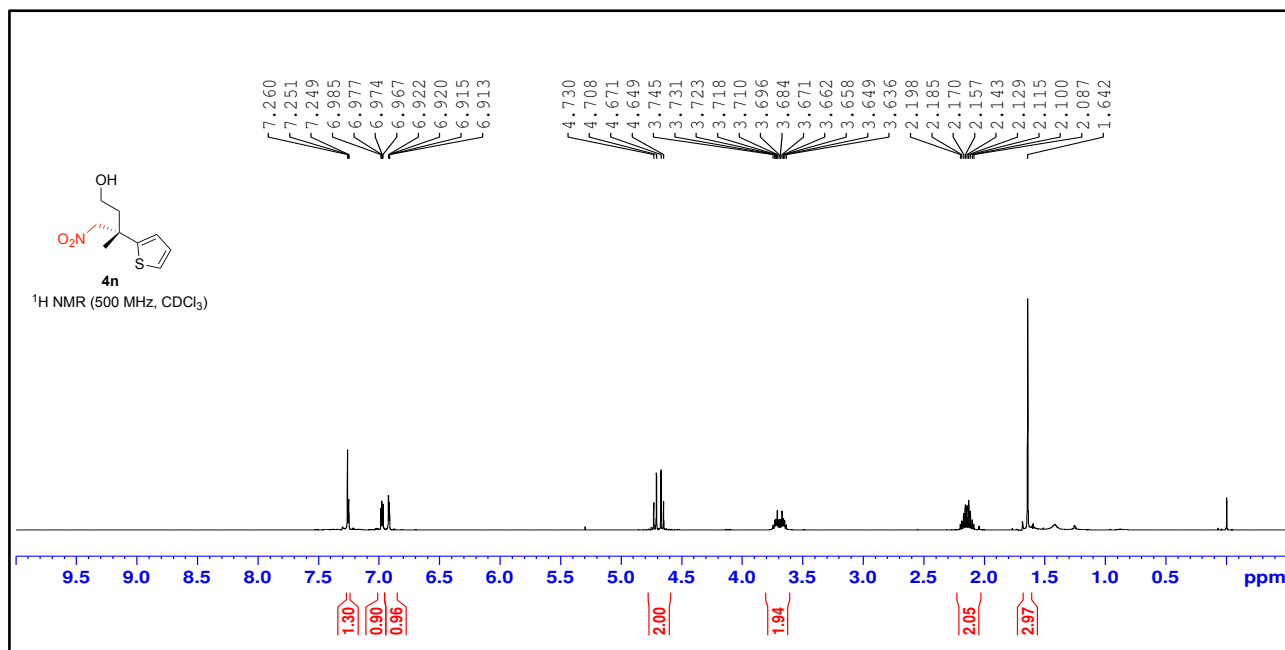


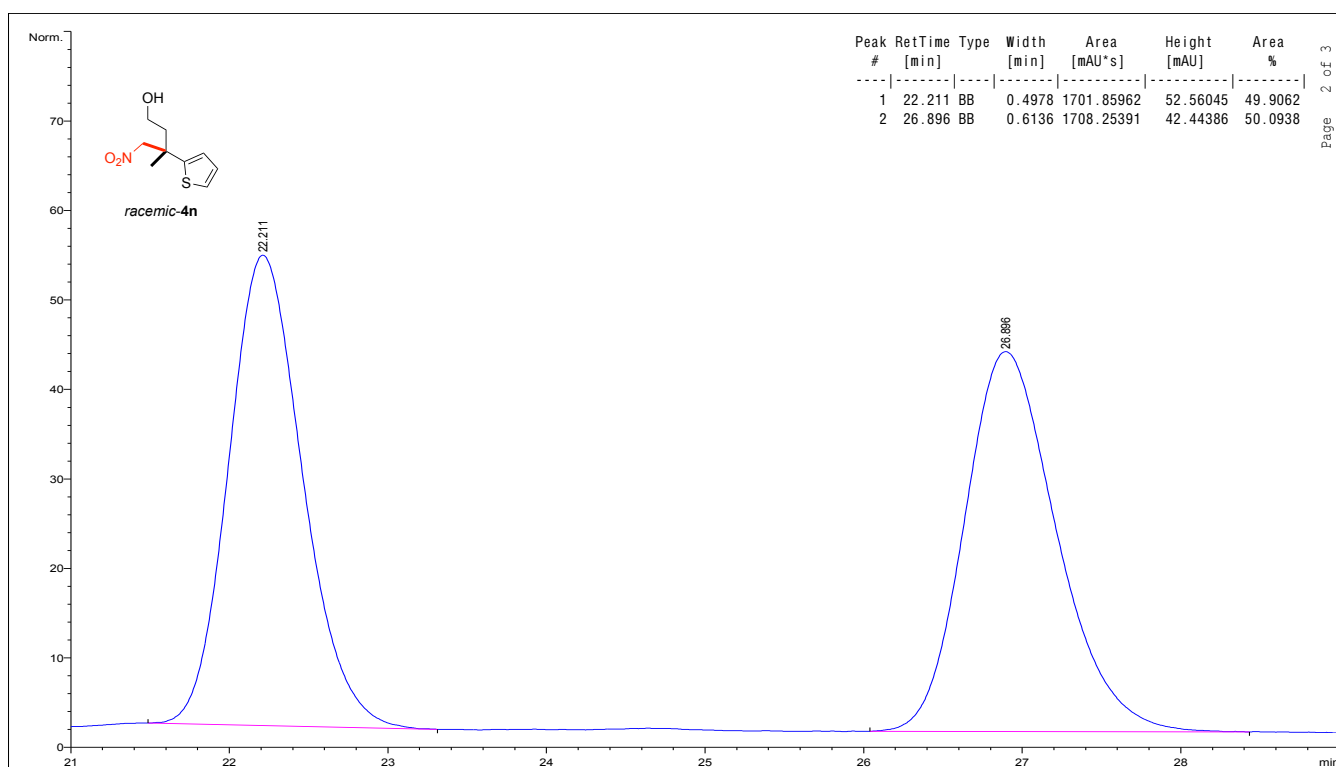
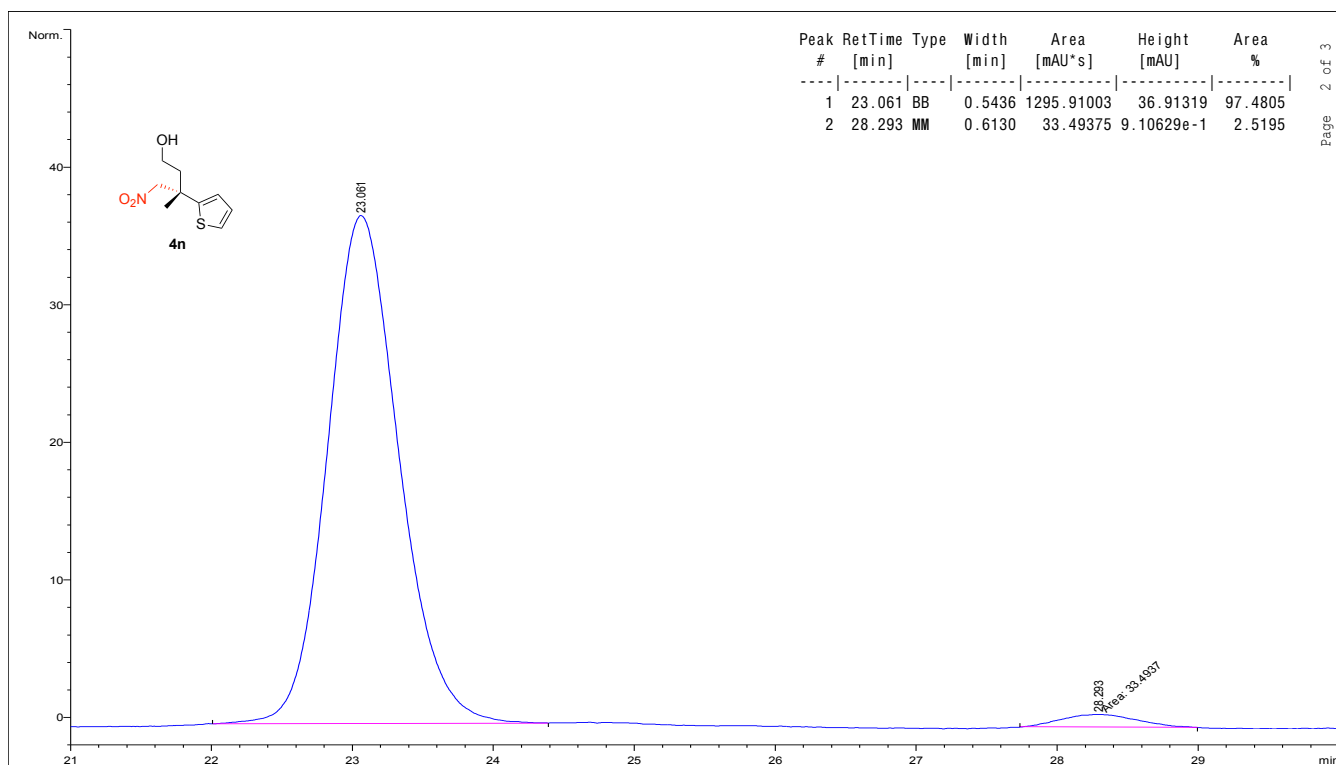
(*R*)-3-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4m)



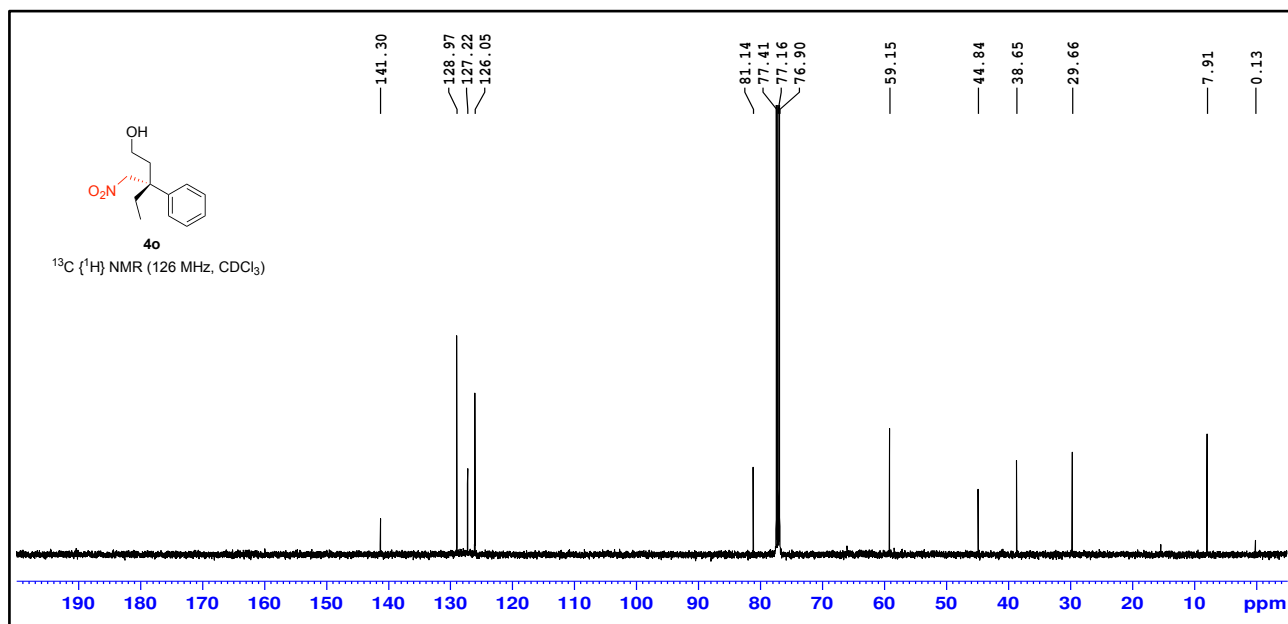
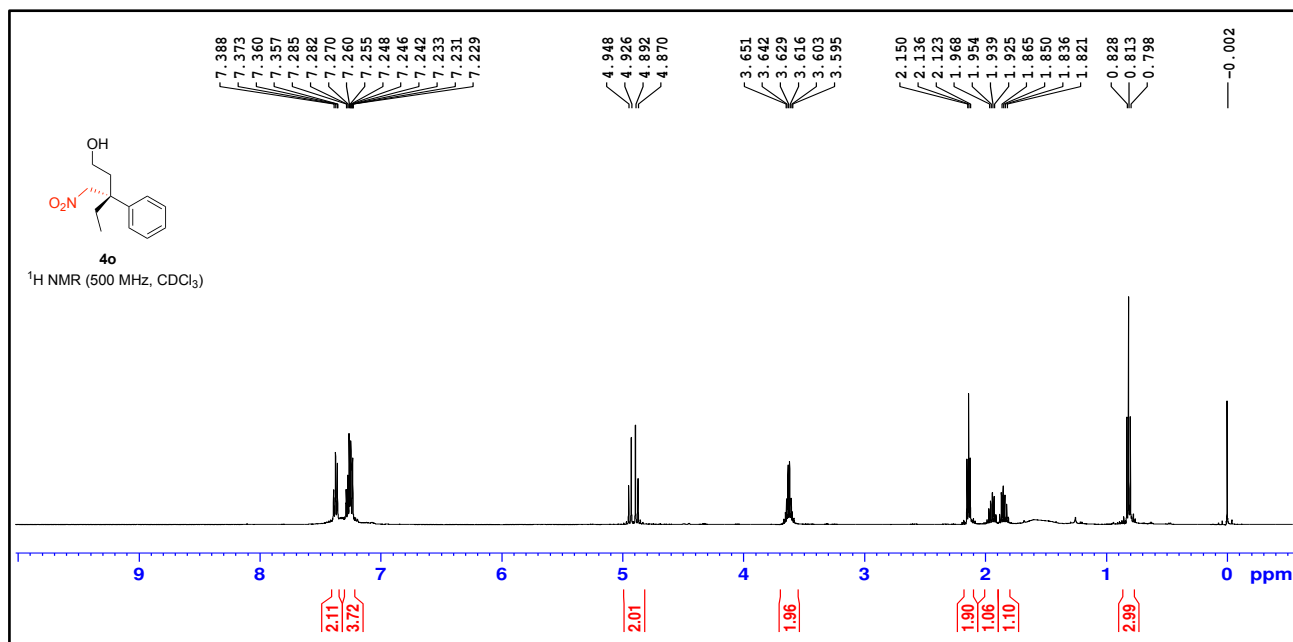


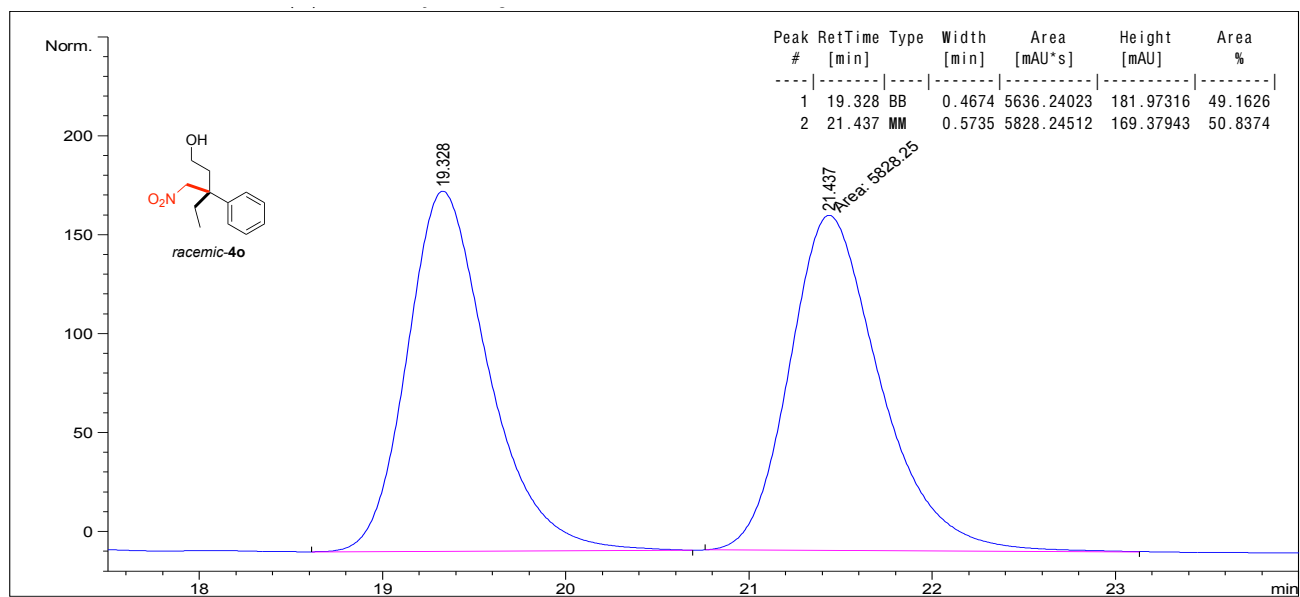
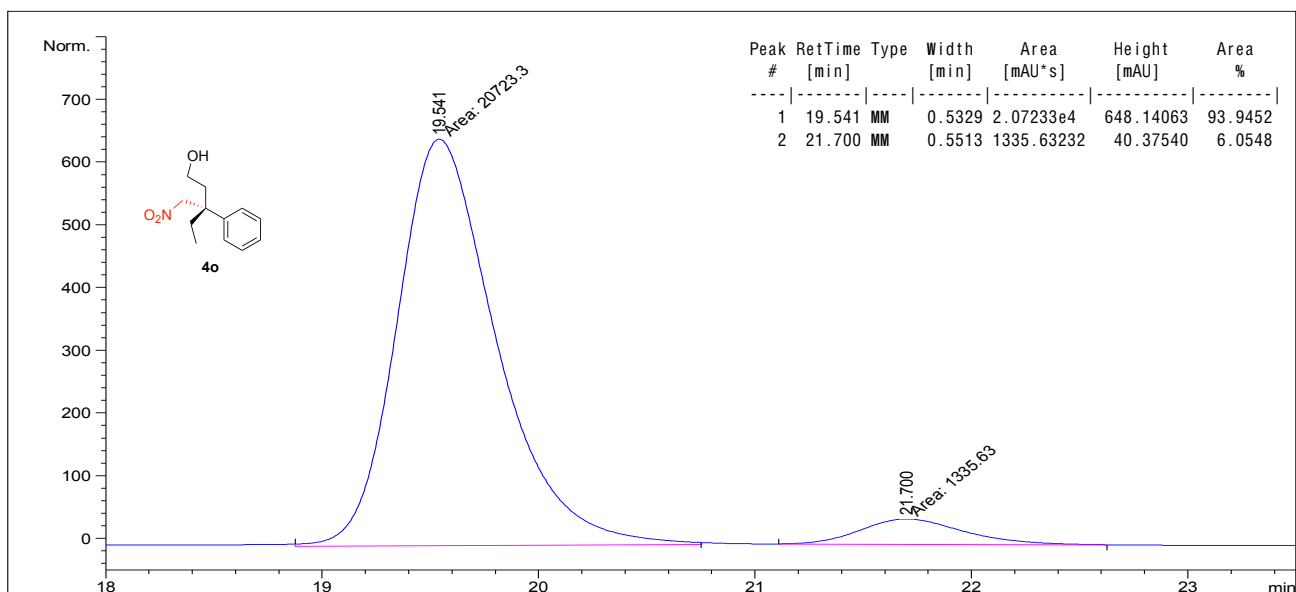
(S)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-ol (4n)



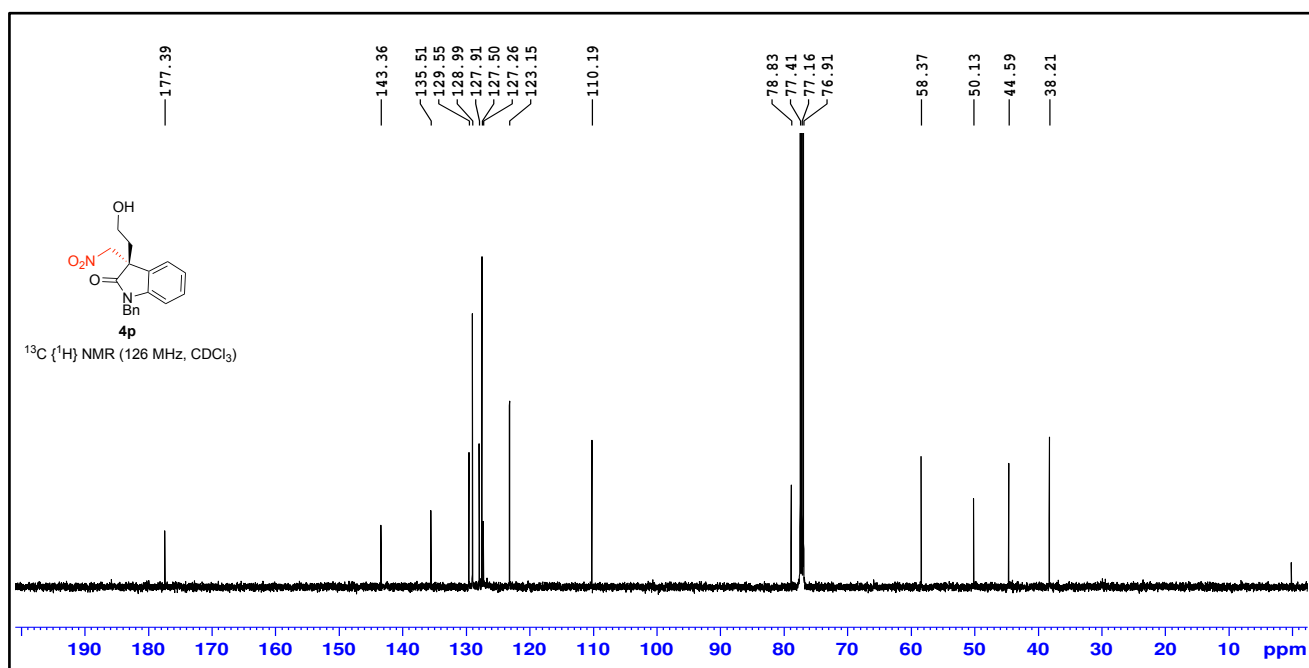
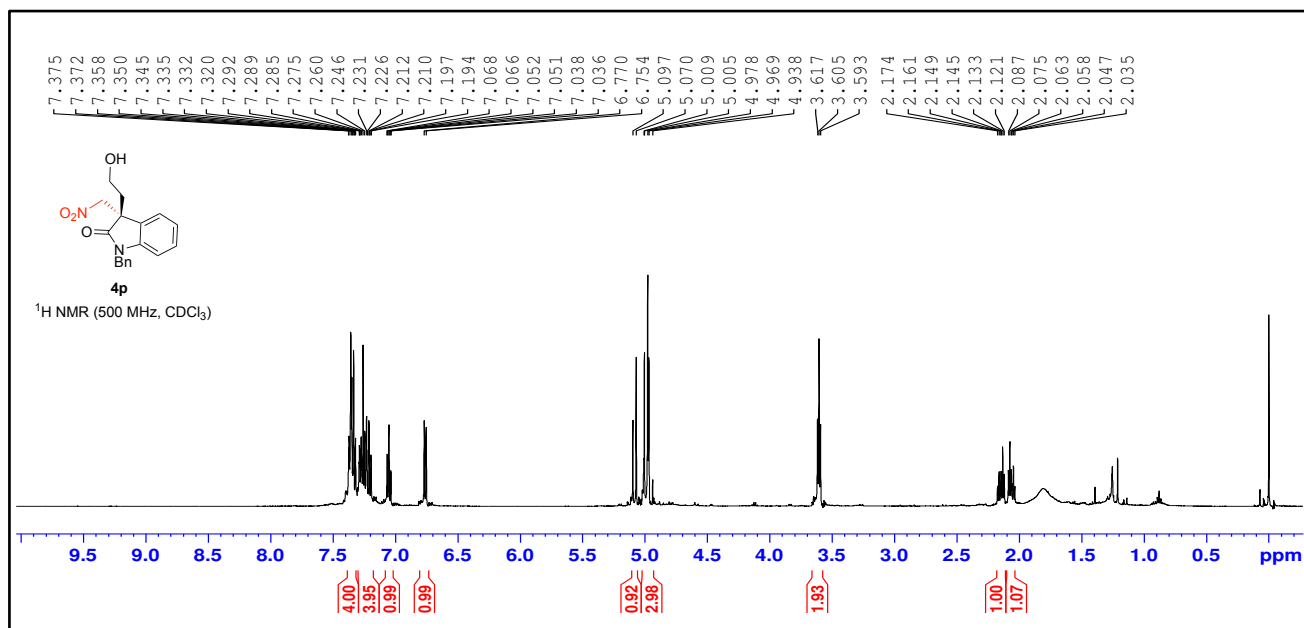


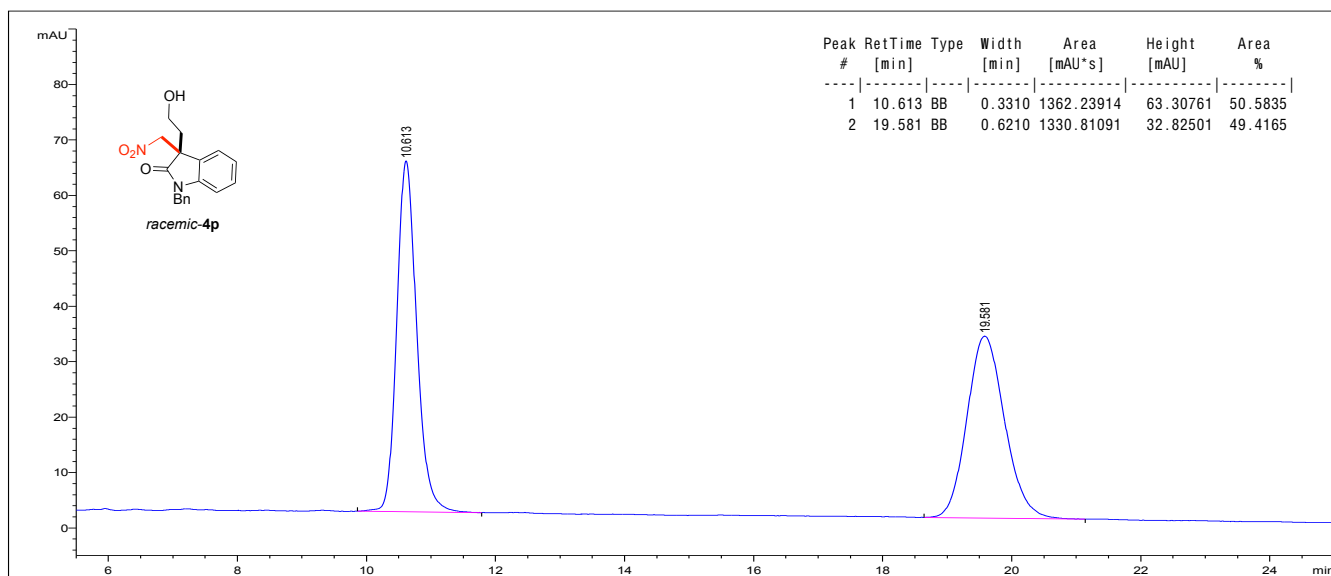
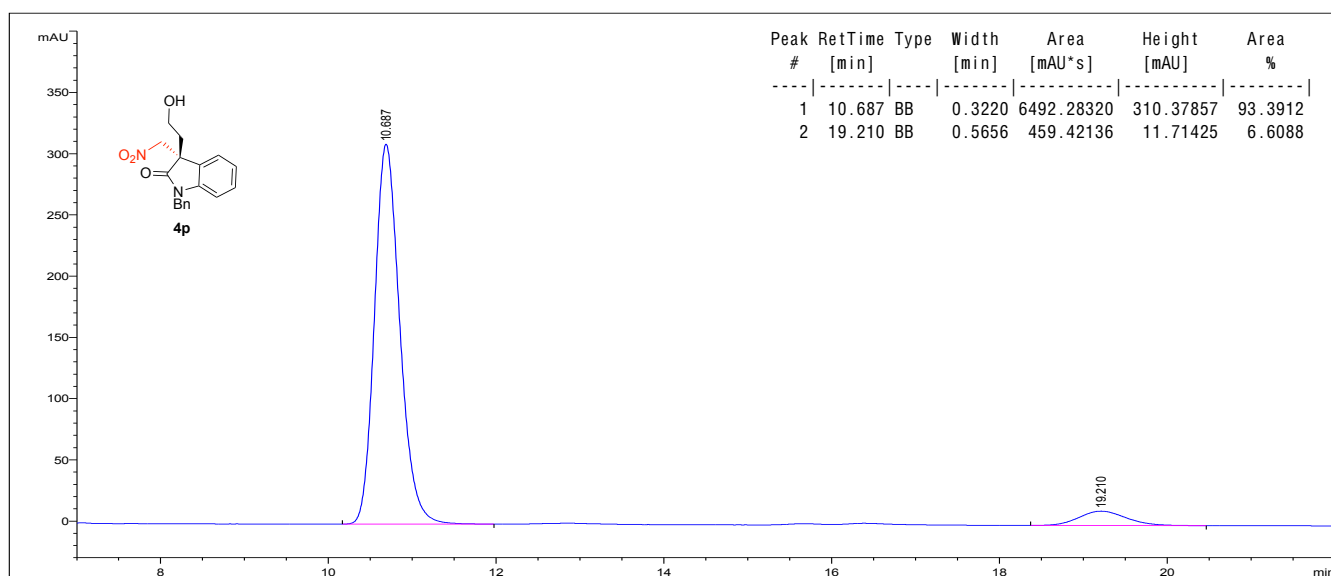
(*R*)-3-(nitromethyl)-3-phenylpentan-1-ol (4o)



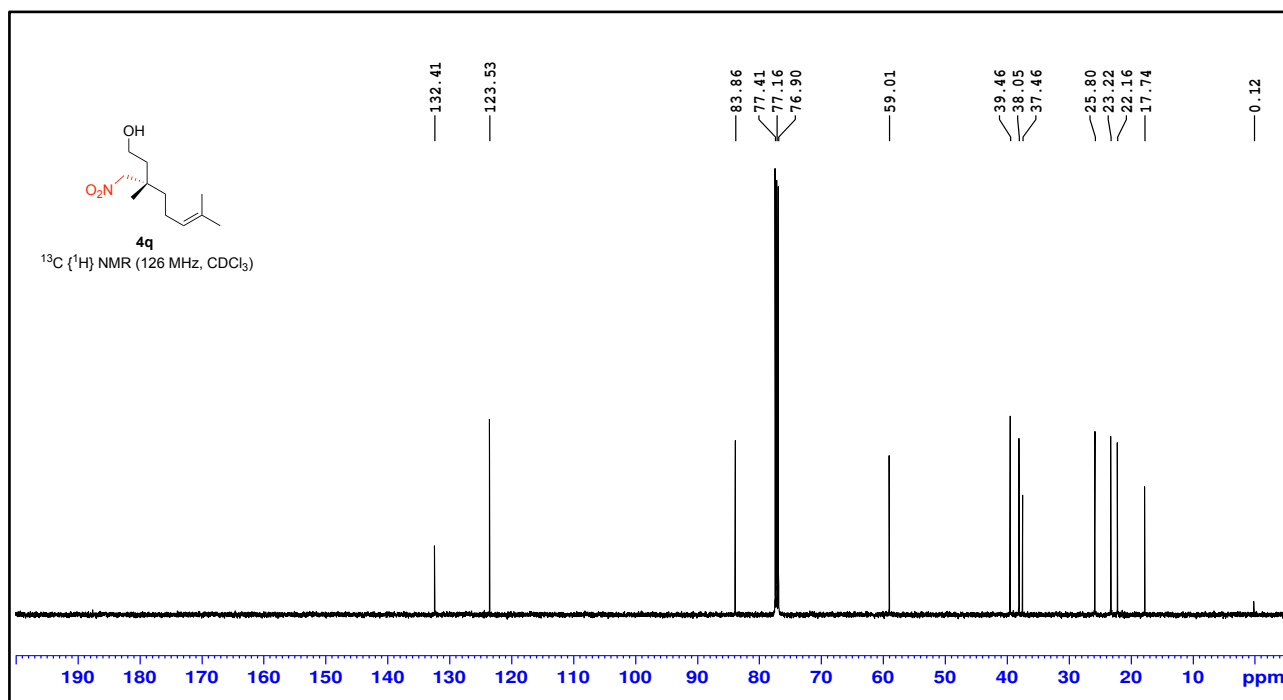
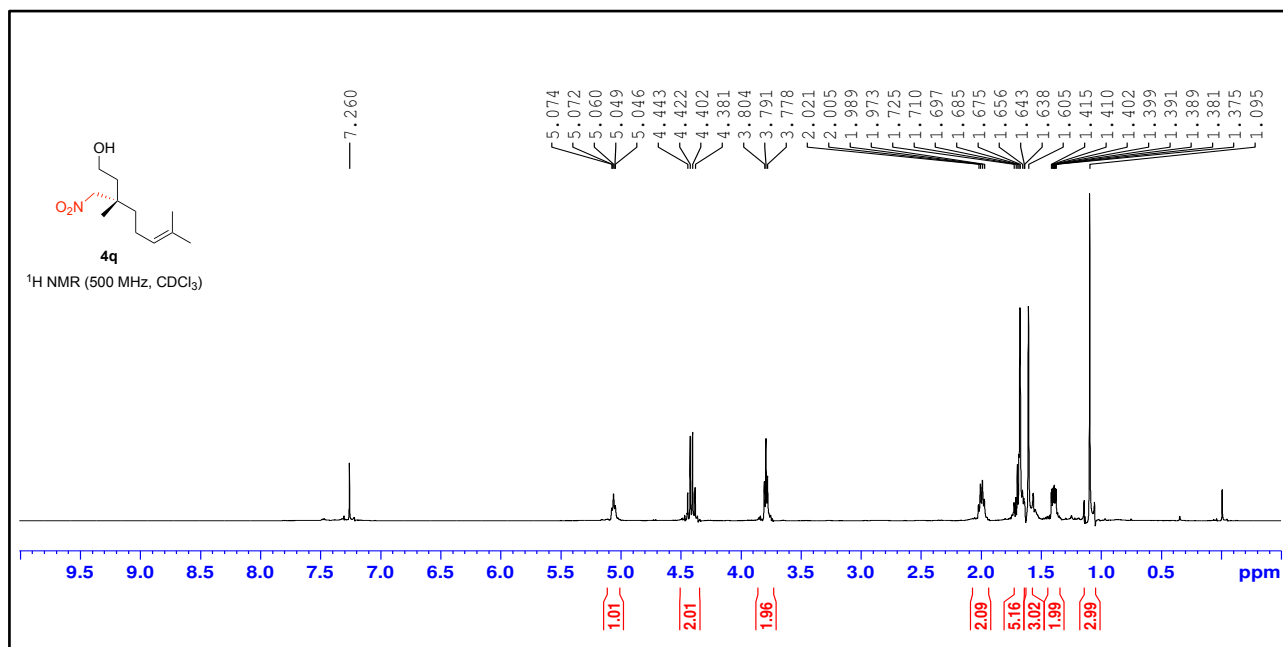


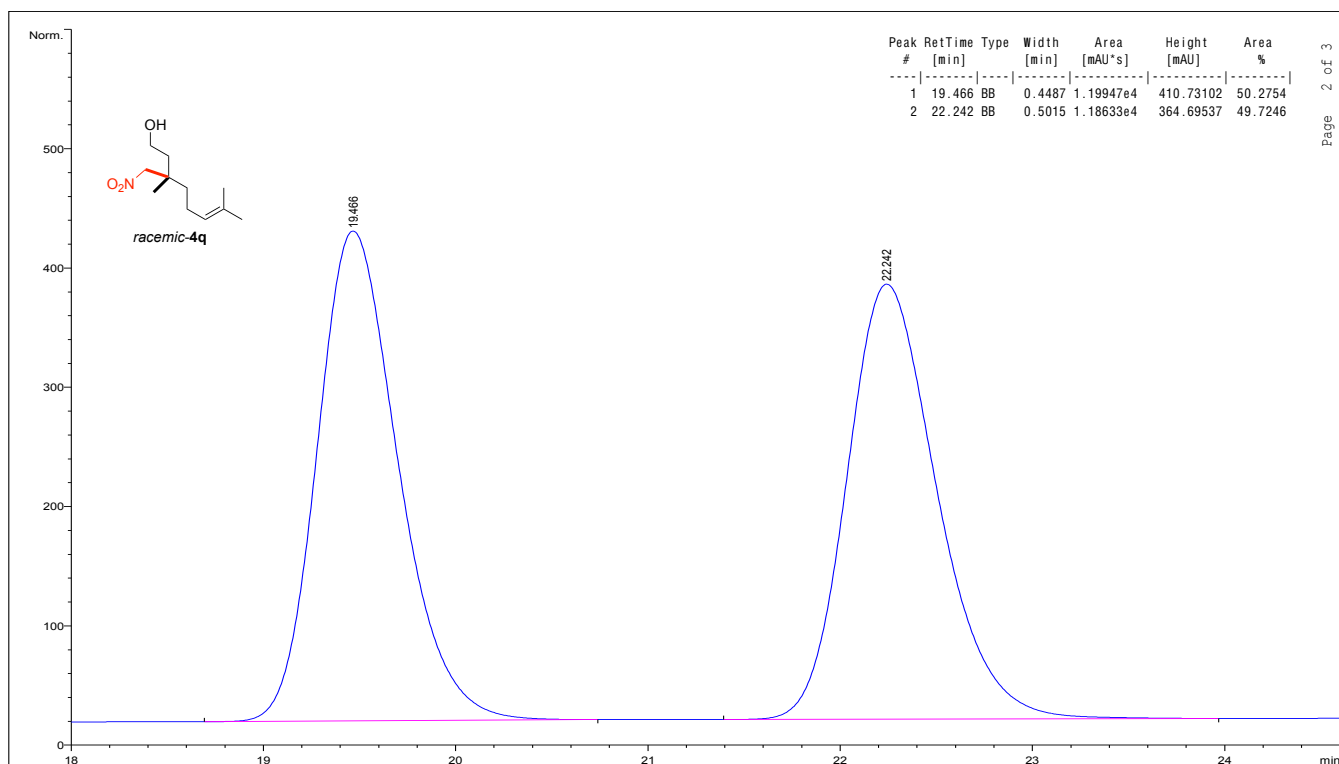
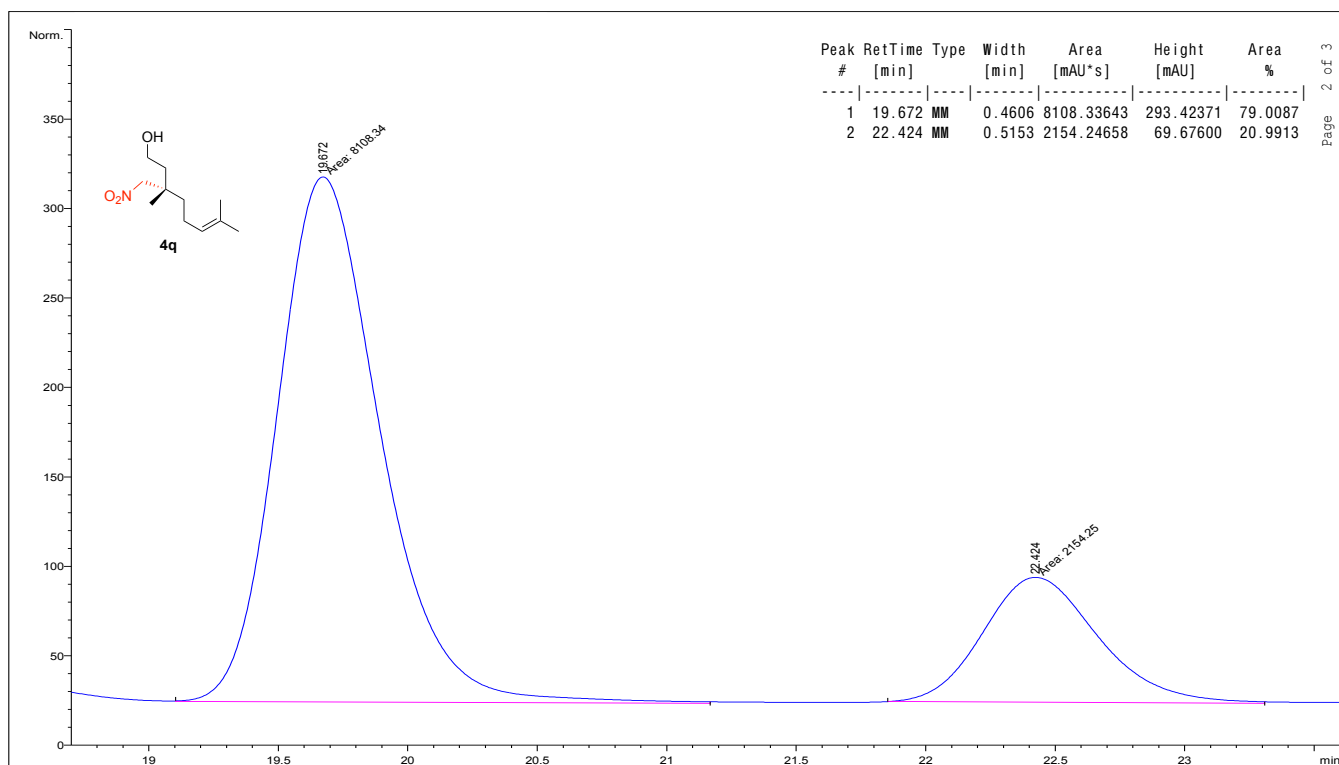
(S)-1-benzyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-(nitromethyl)indolin-2-one (4p)



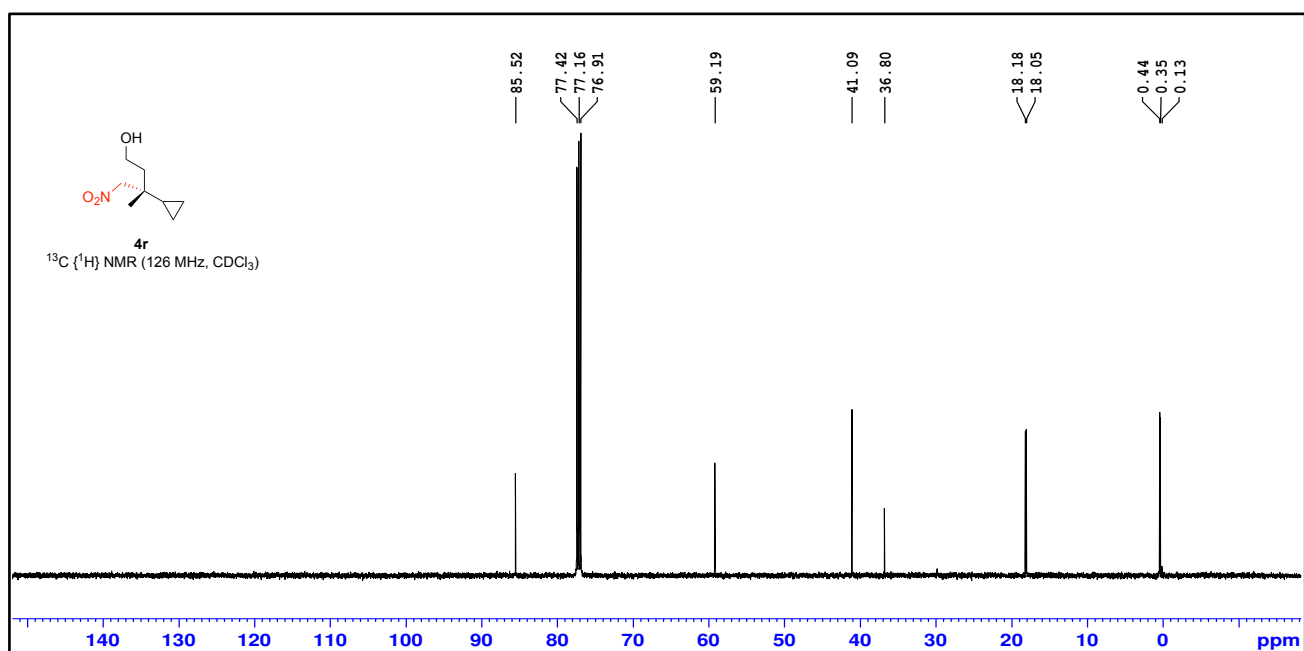
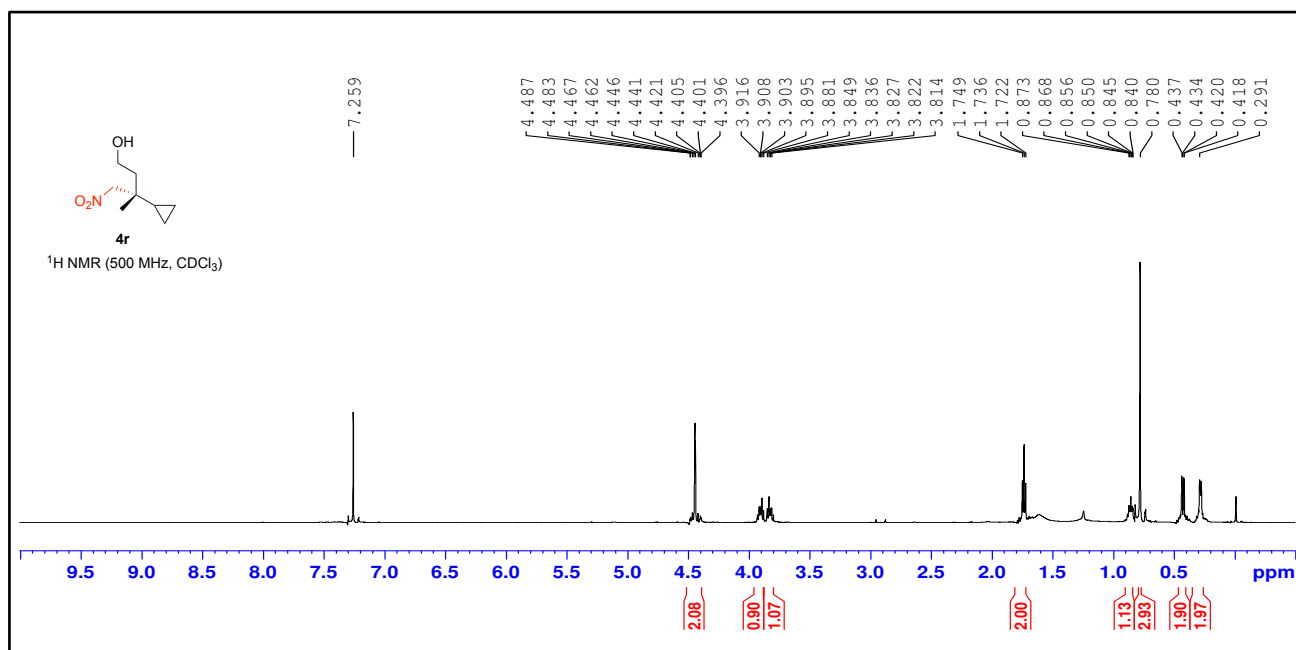


(S)-3,7-dimethyl-3-(nitromethyl)oct-6-en-1-ol (4q)

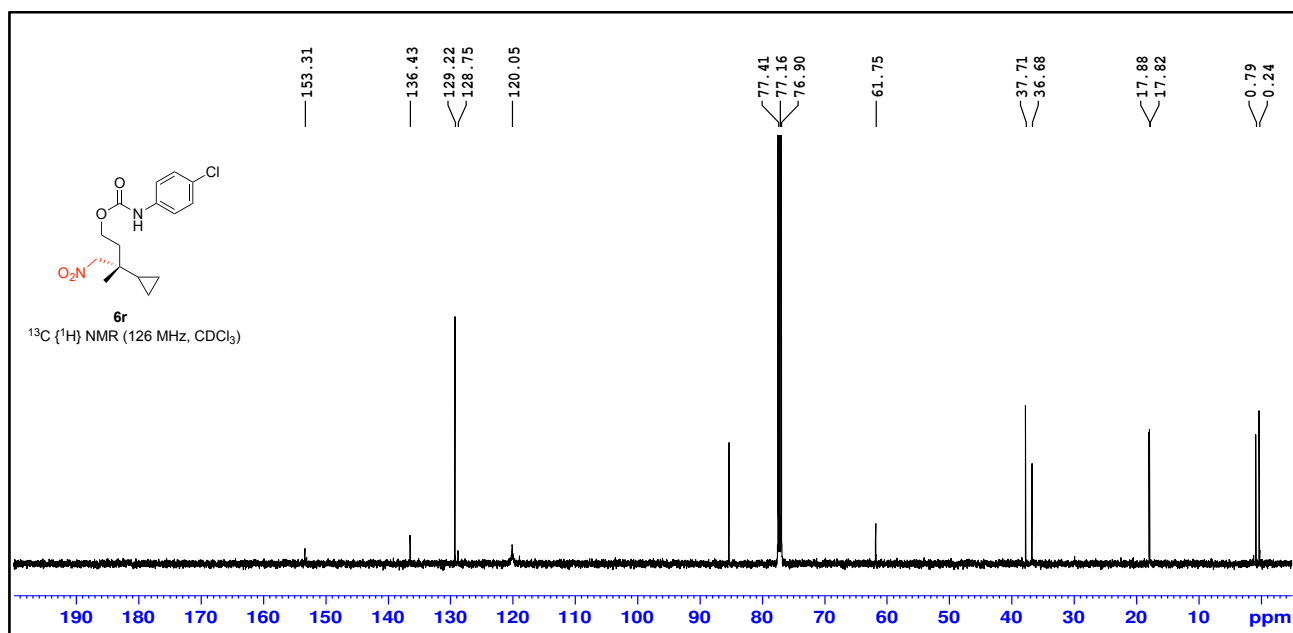
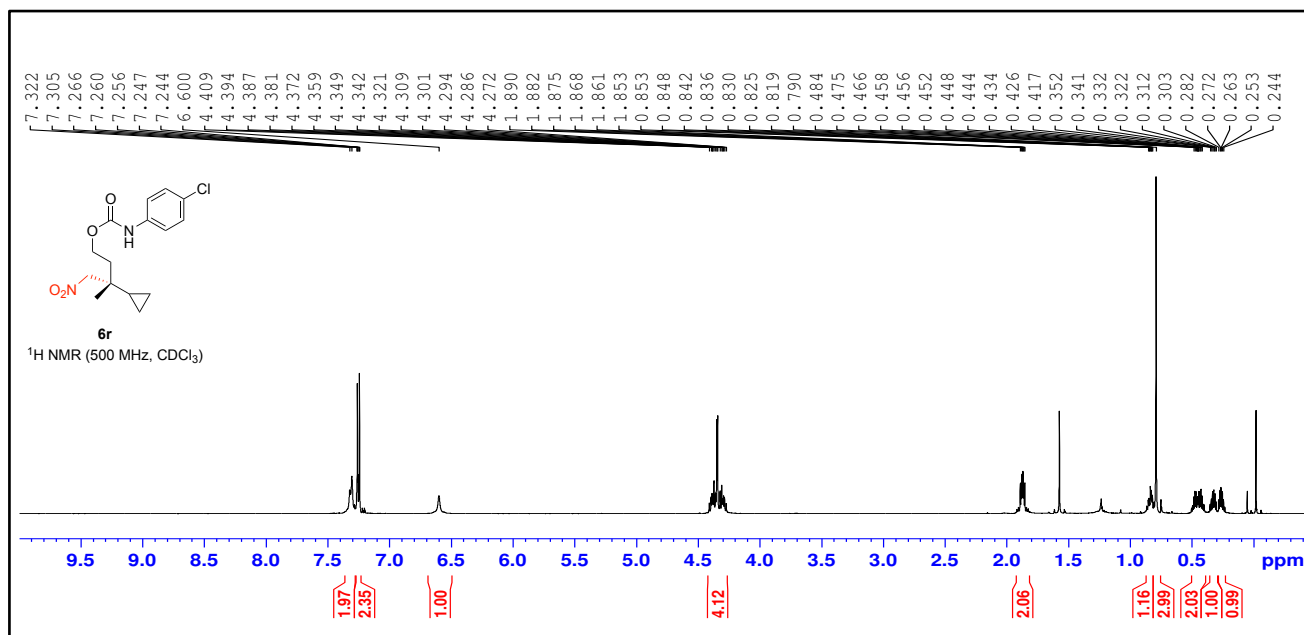


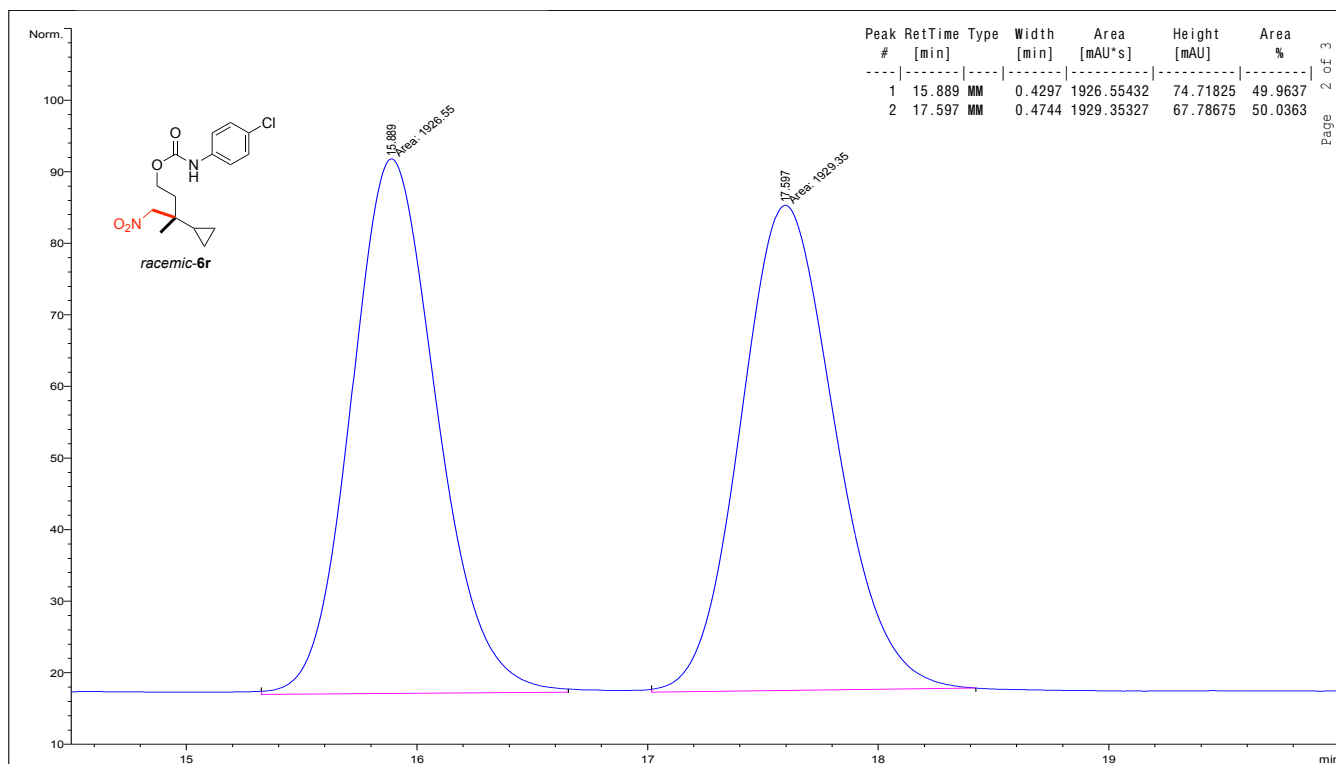
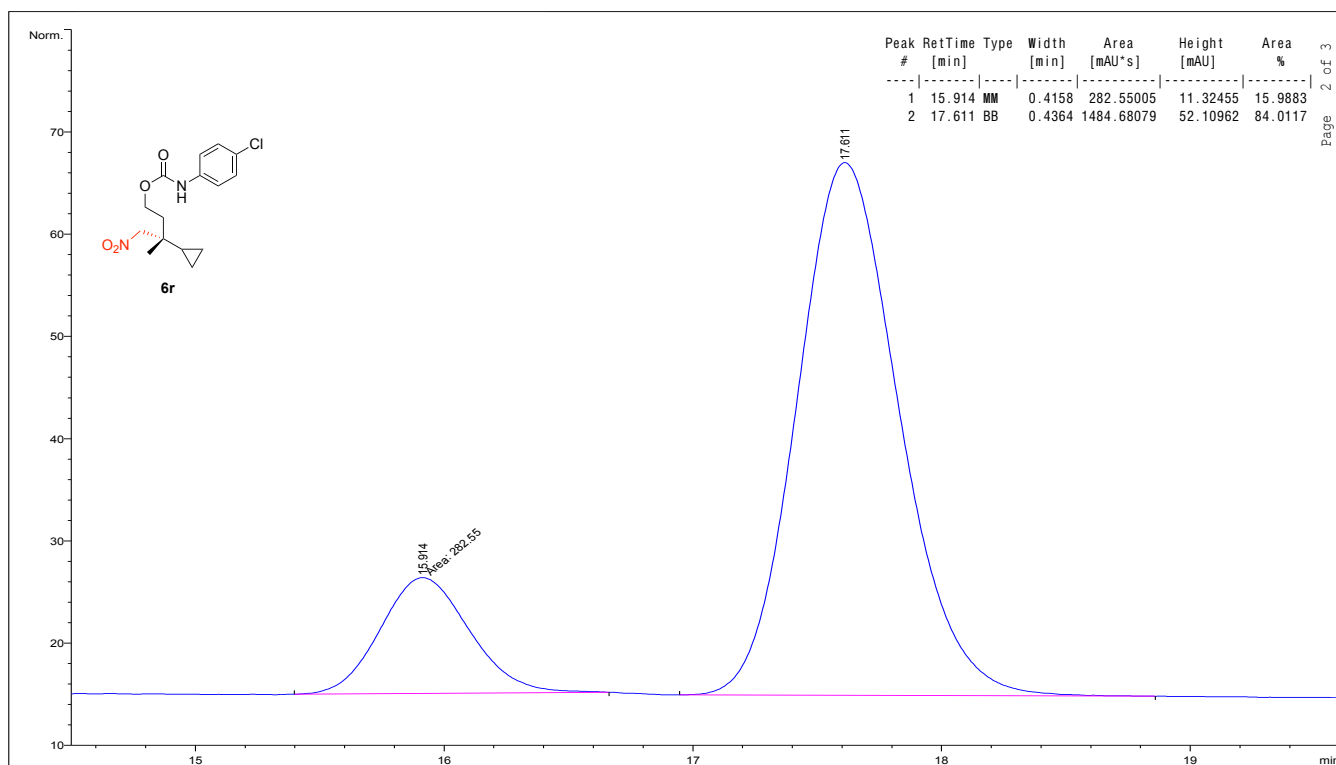


(R)-3-cyclopropyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4r)

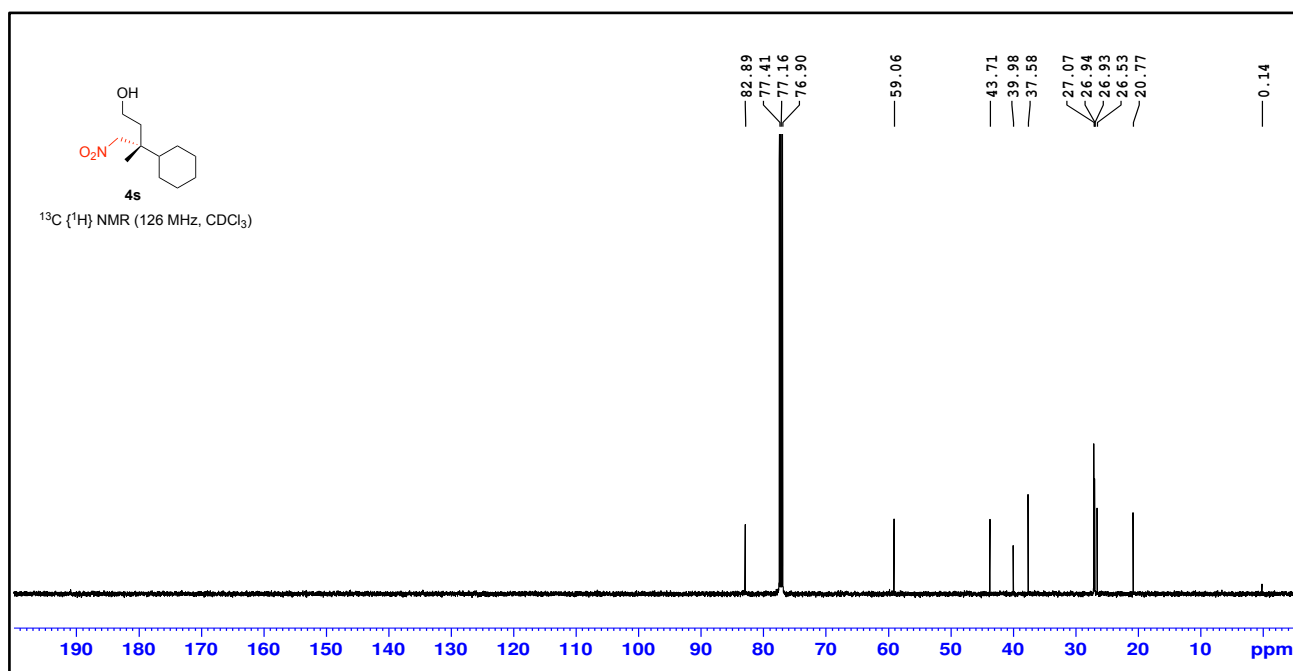
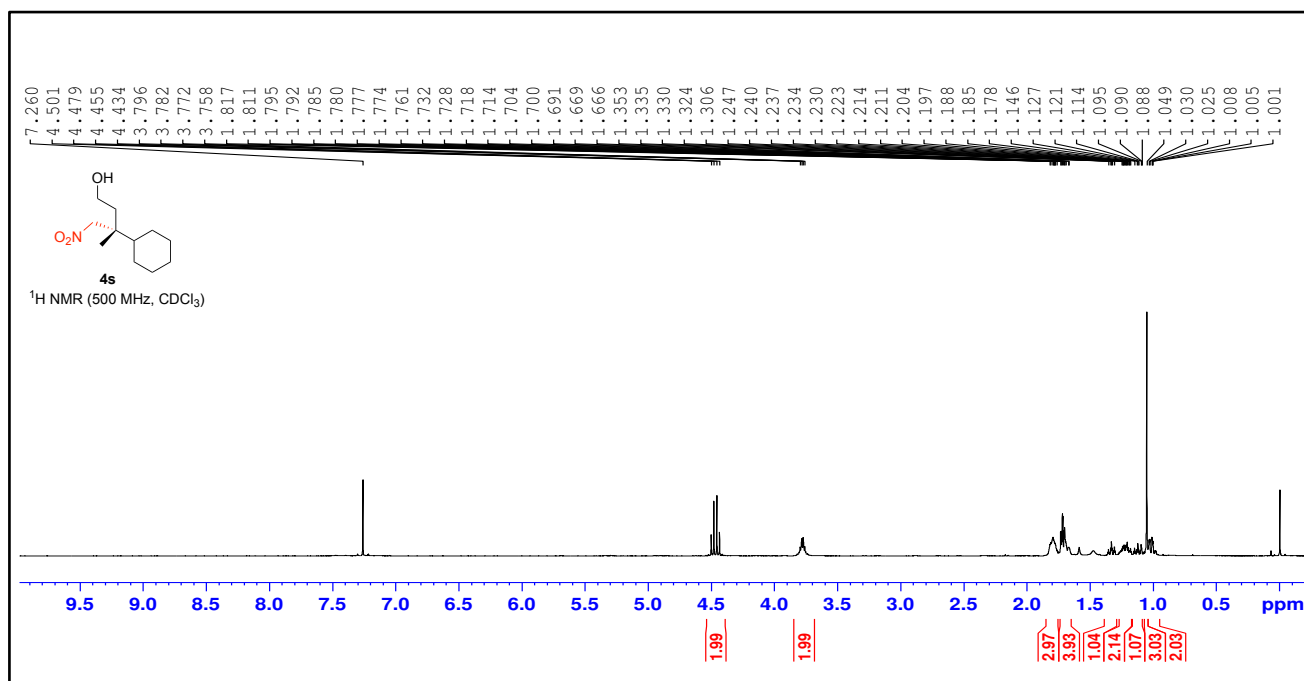


(*R*)-3-cyclopropyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (6r)

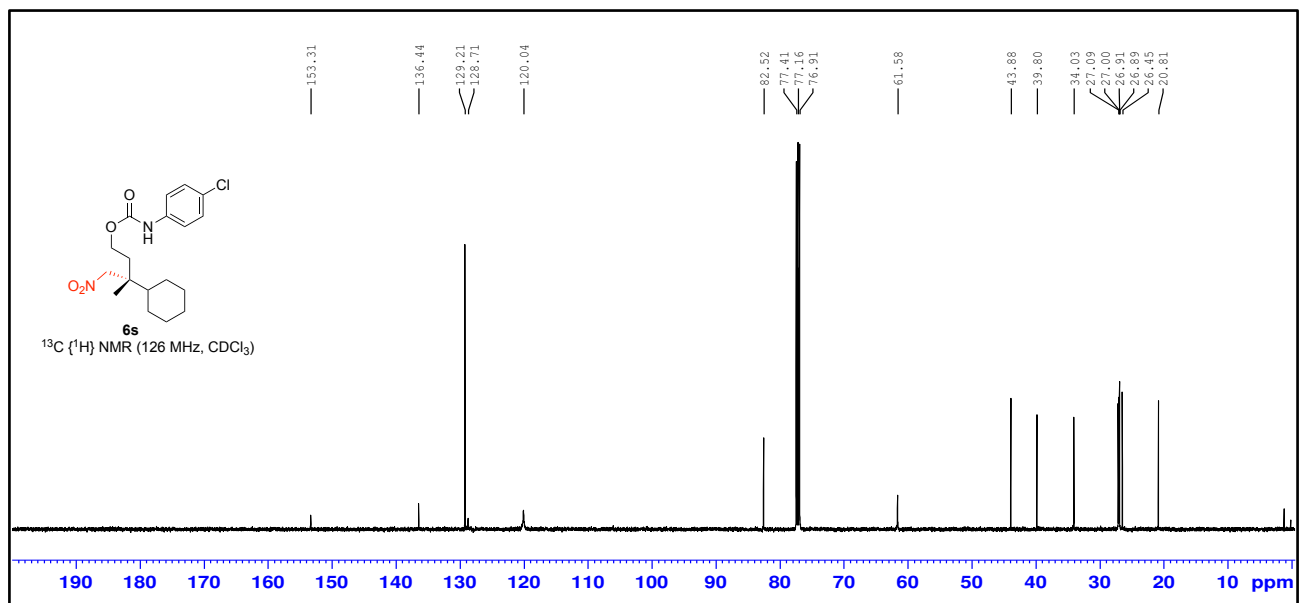
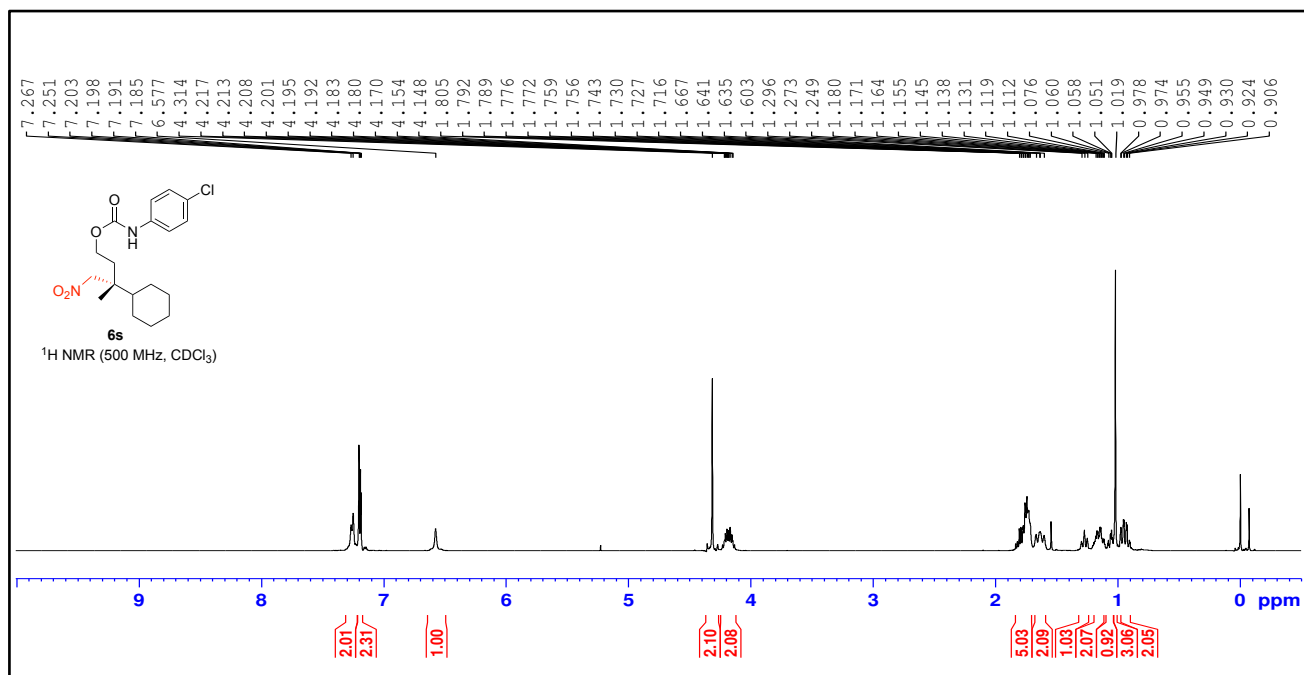


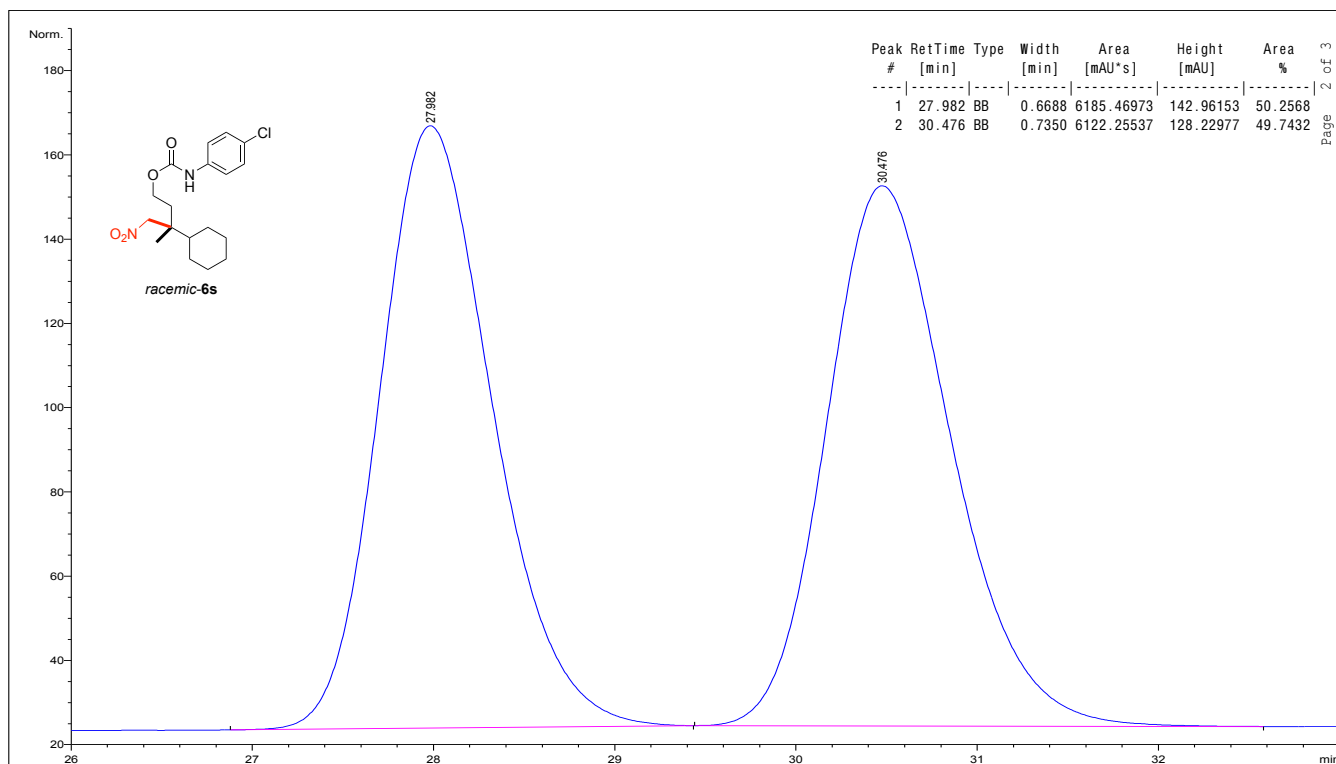
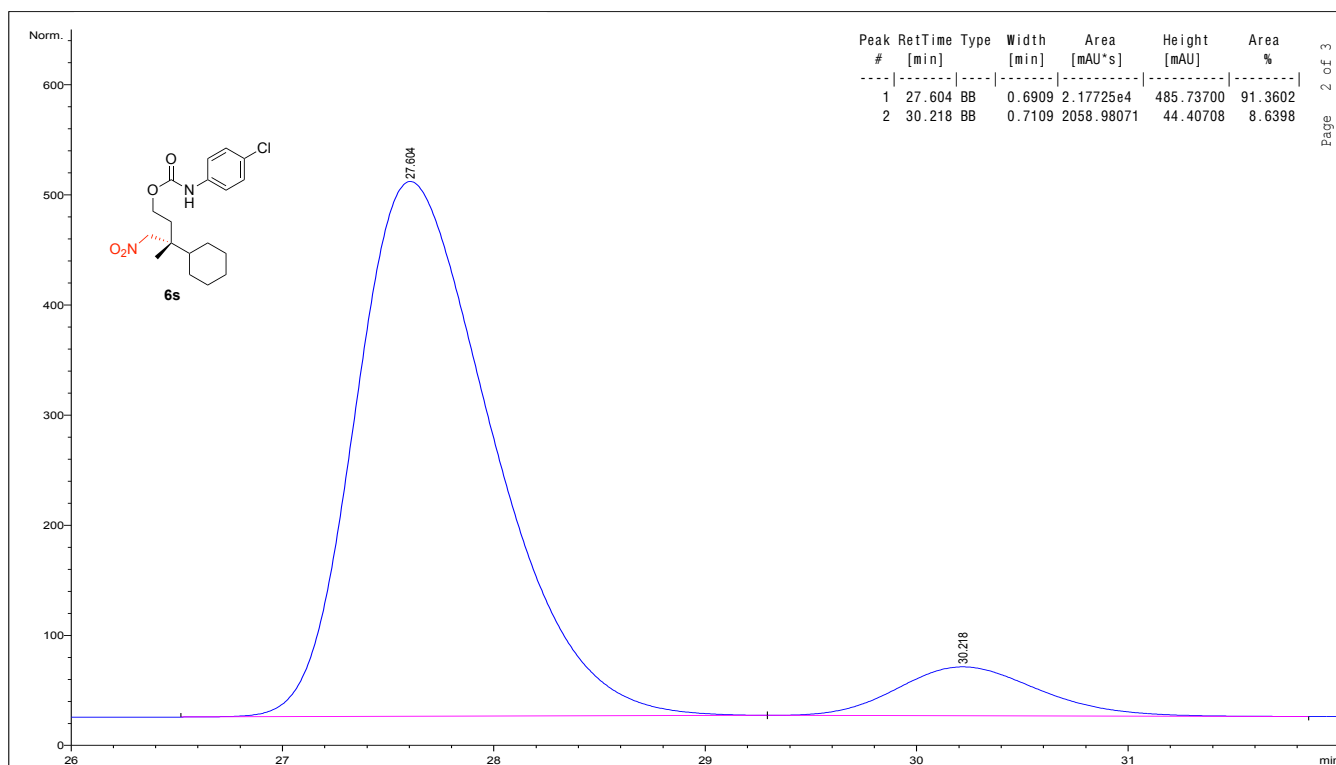


(*R*)-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (4s)

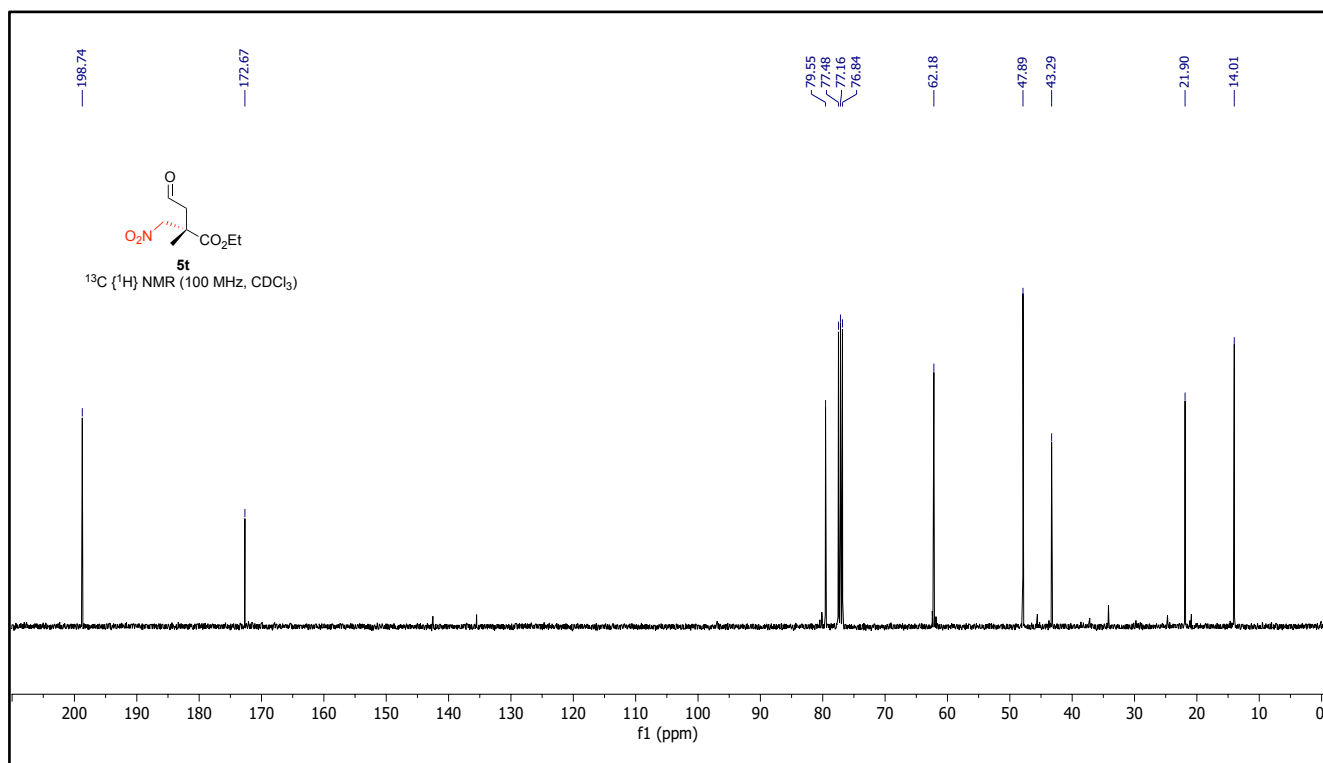
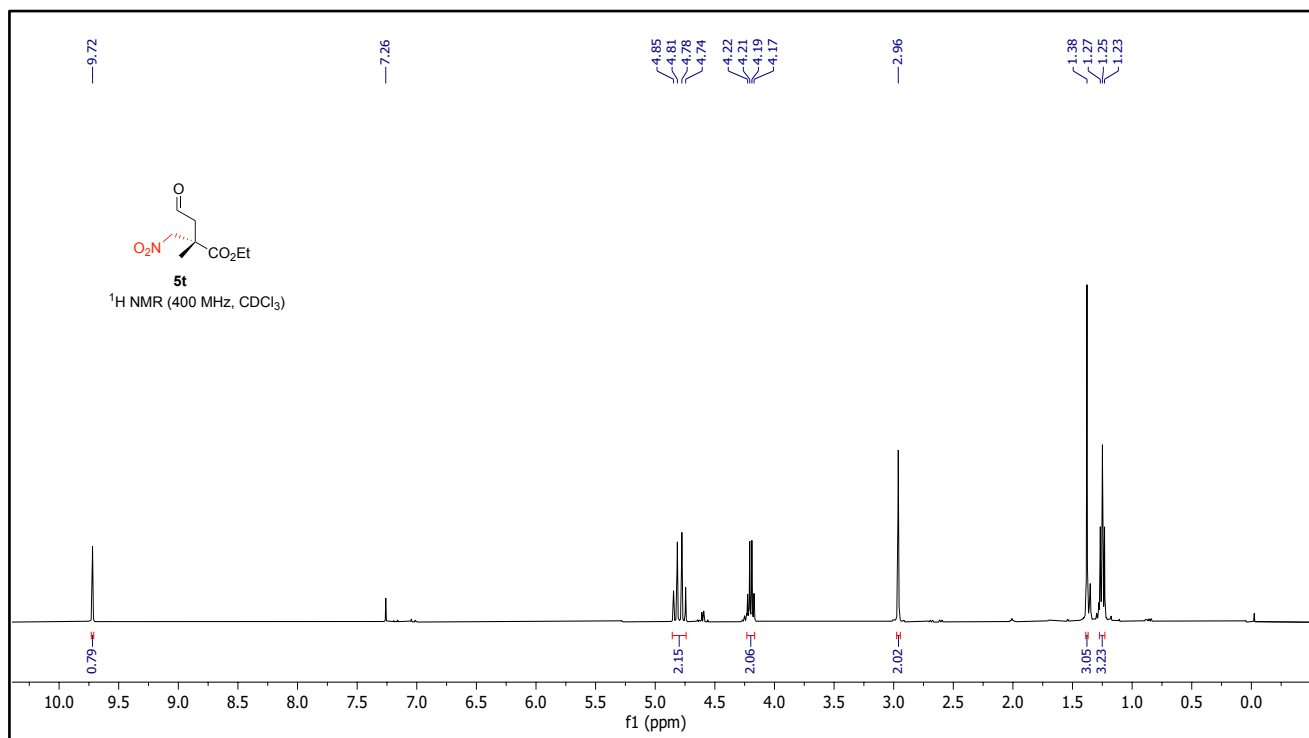


(R)-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-4-nitrobutyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (6s)

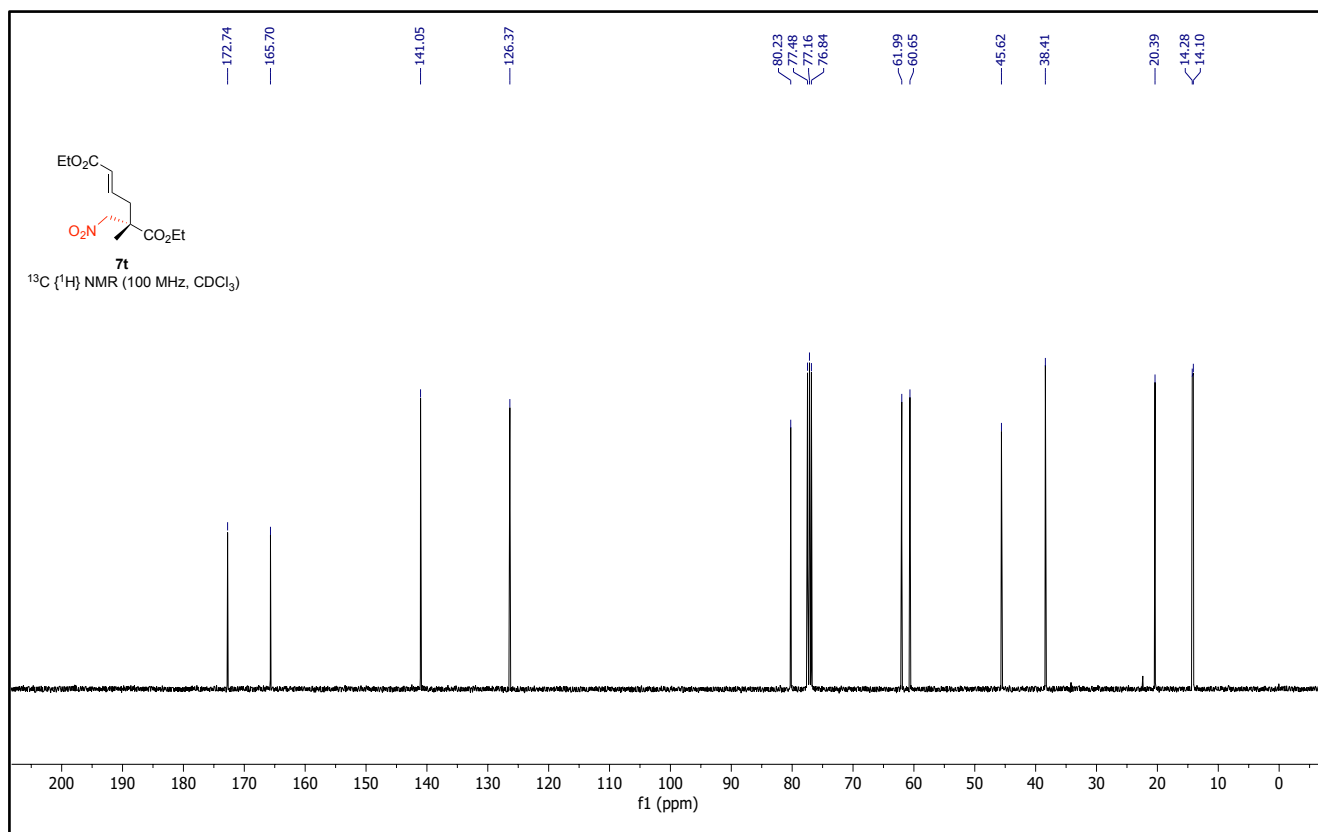
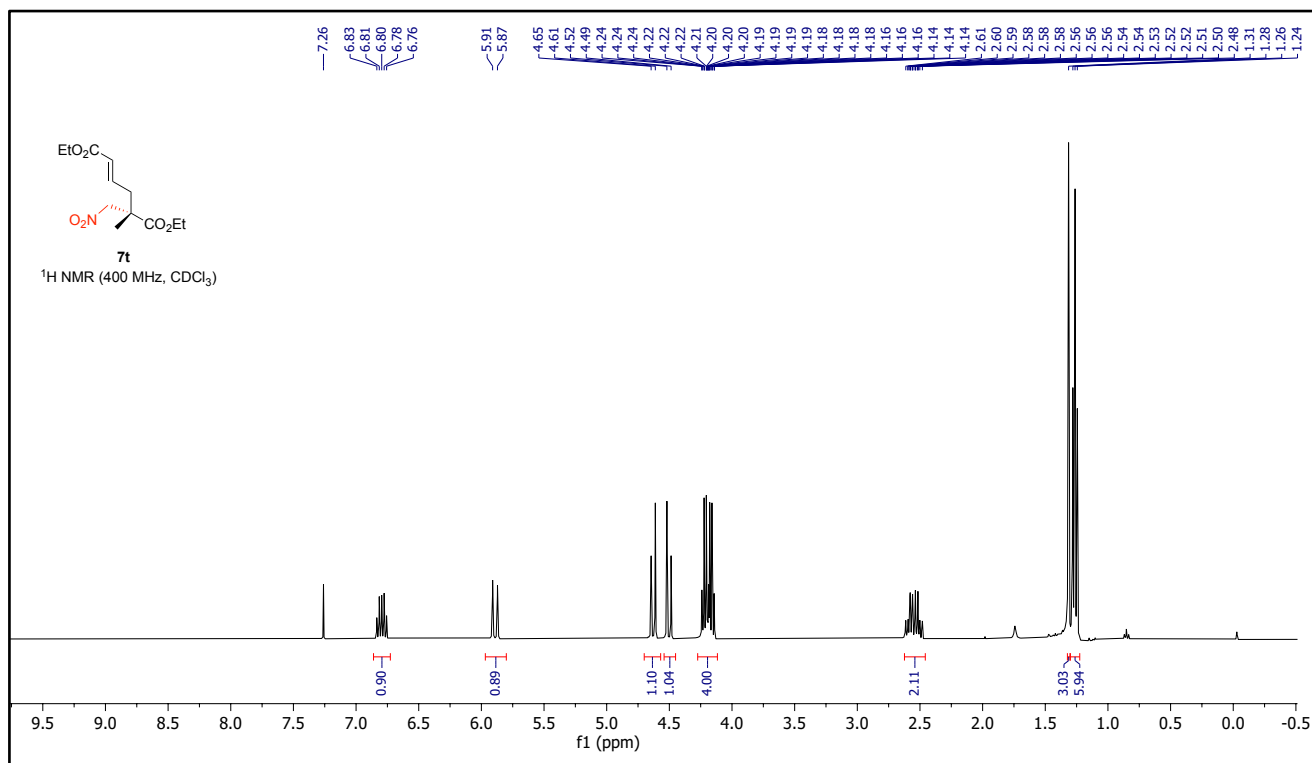


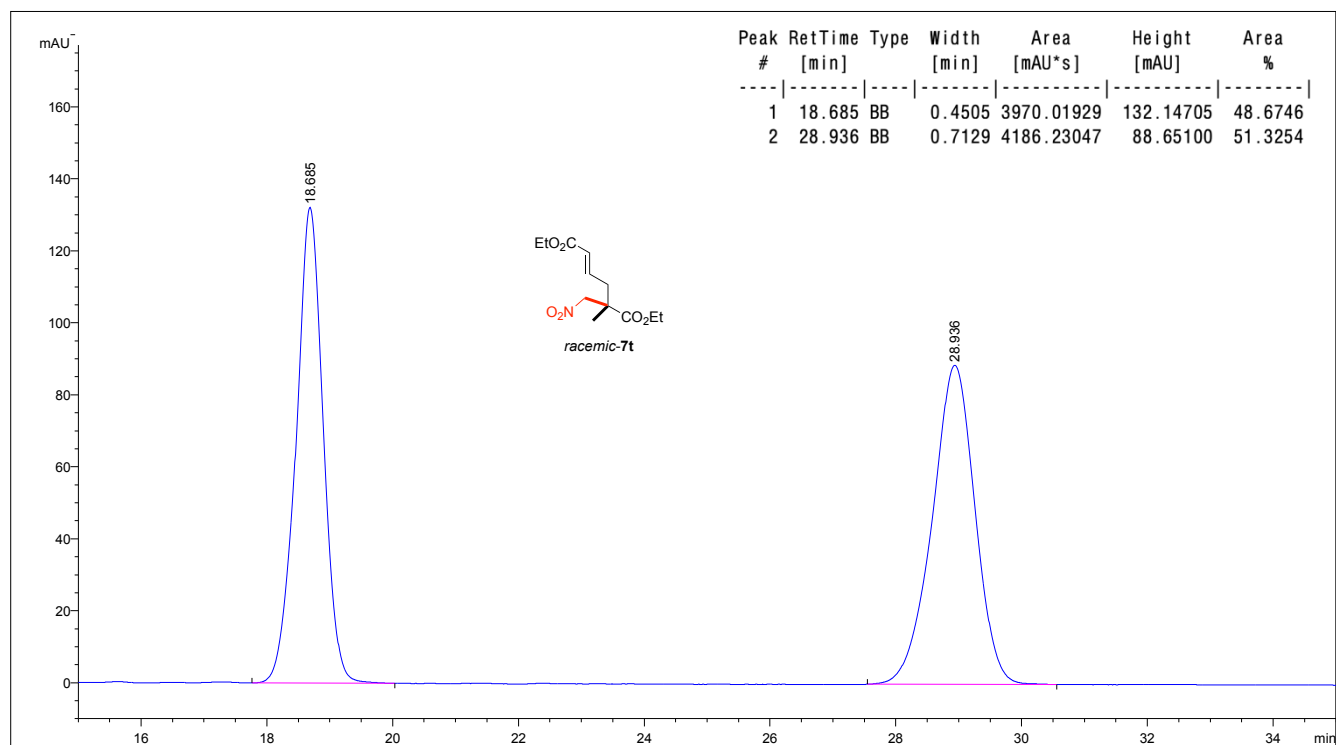
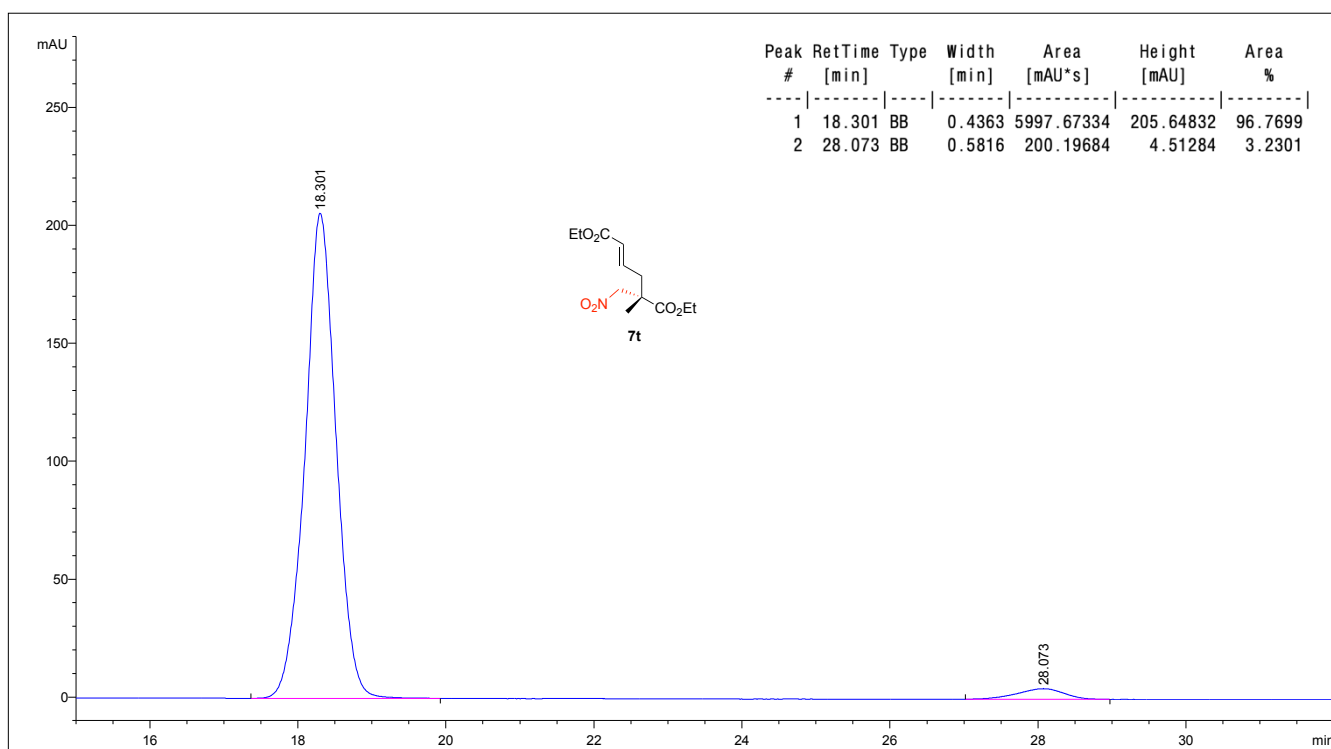


Ethyl (*S*)-2-methyl-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (5t)

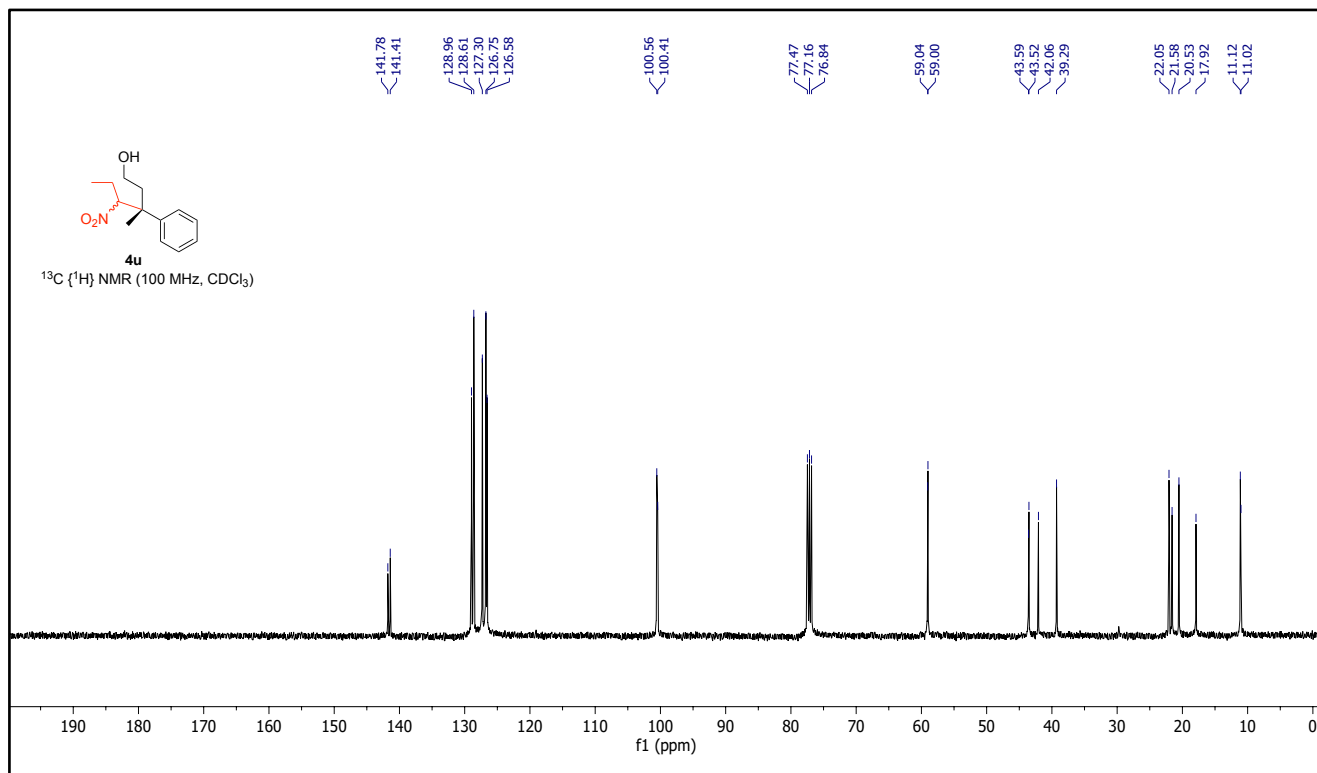
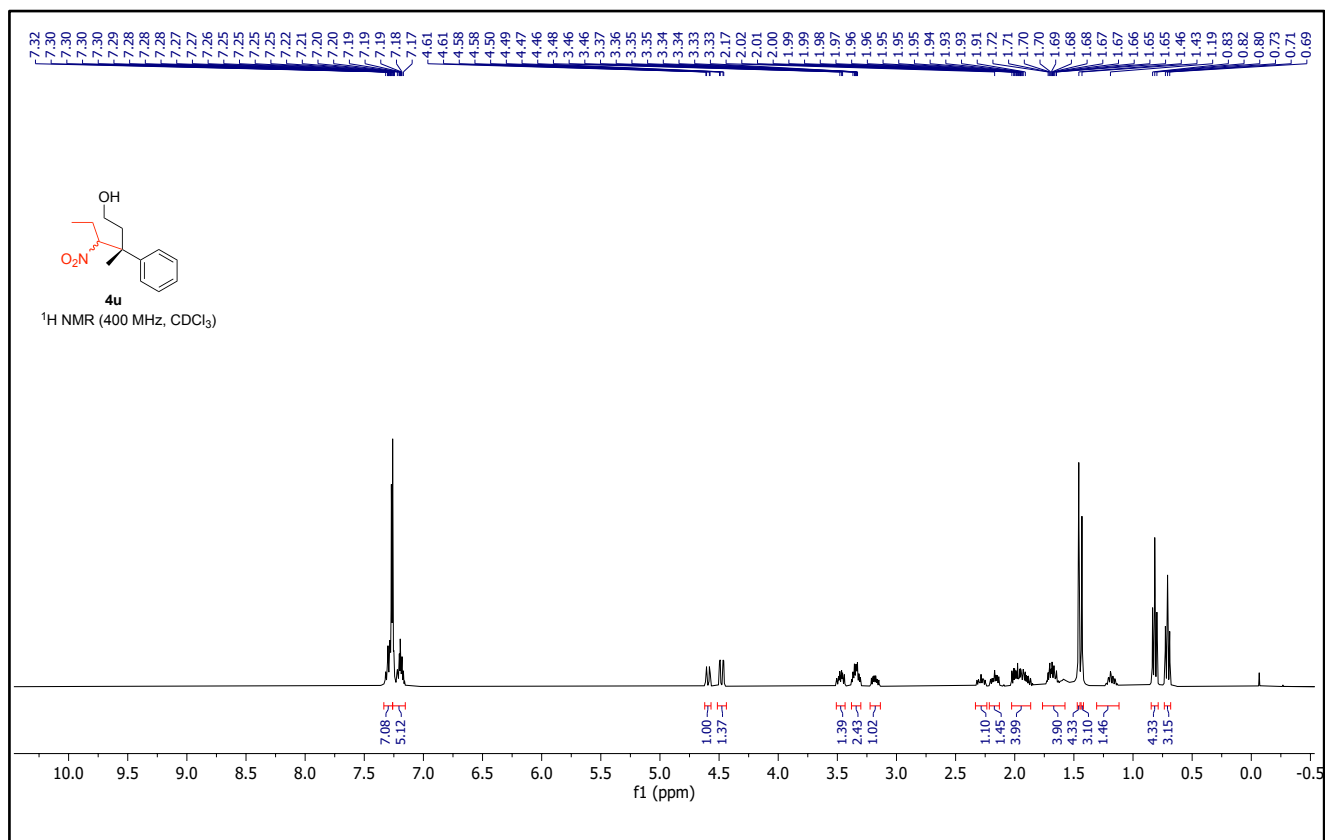


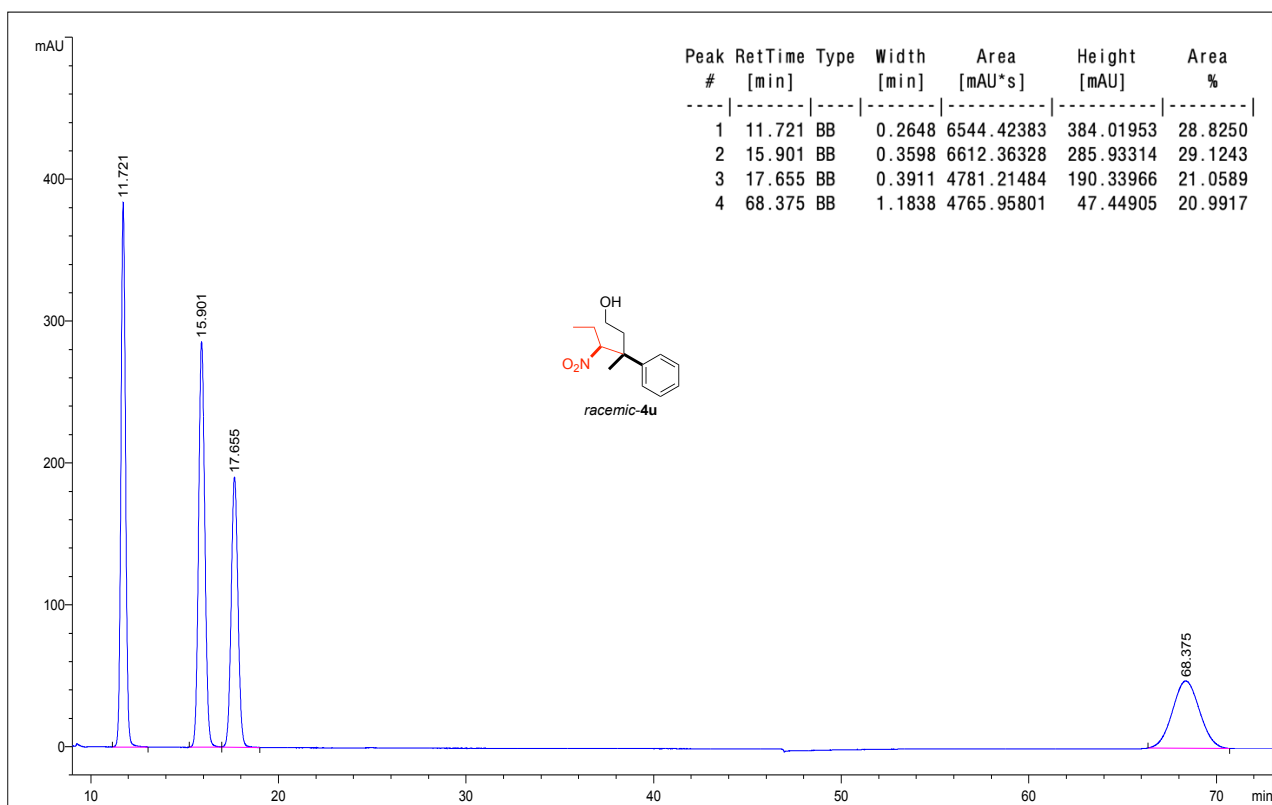
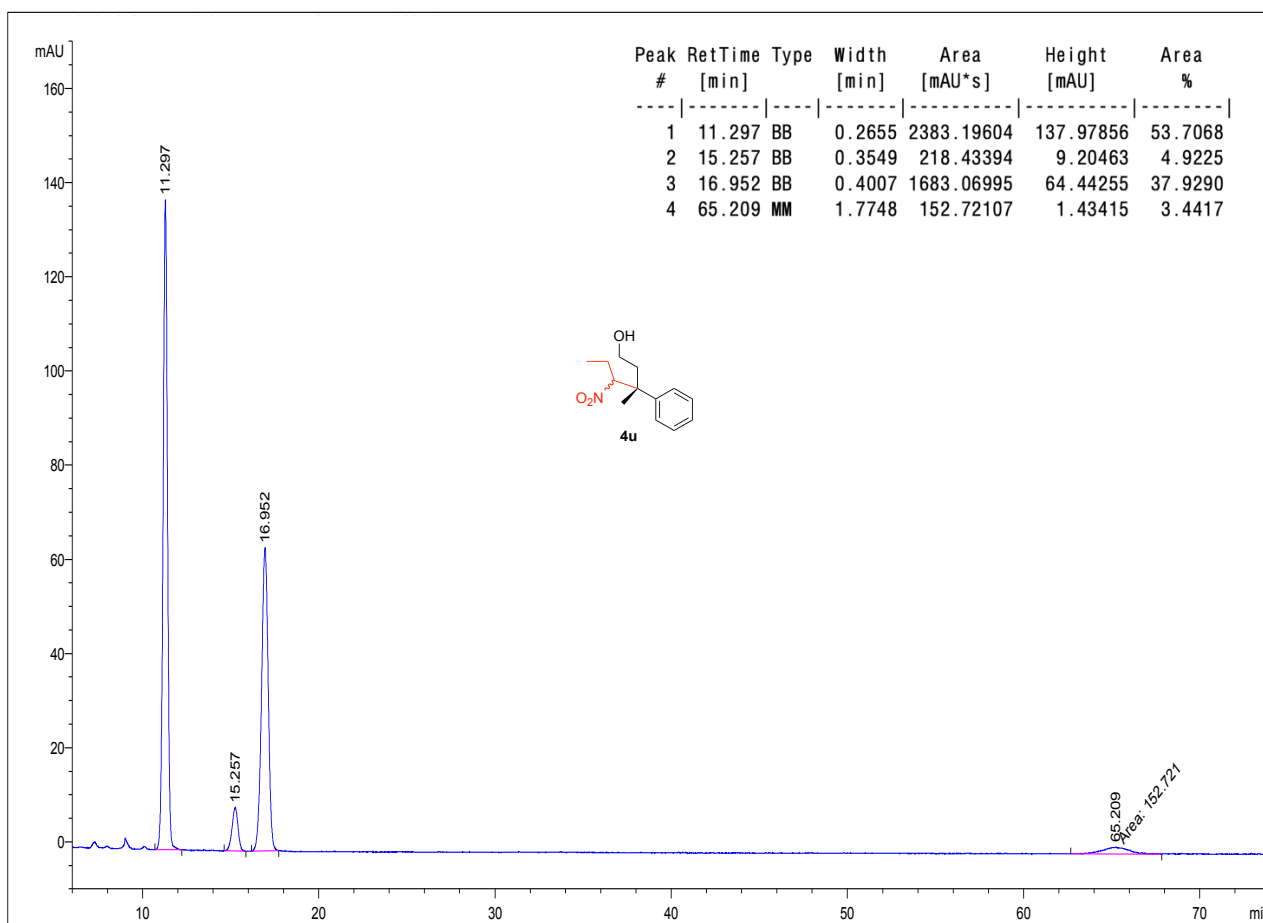
Diethyl (*S,E*)-5-methyl-5-(nitromethyl)hex-2-enedioate (**7t**)



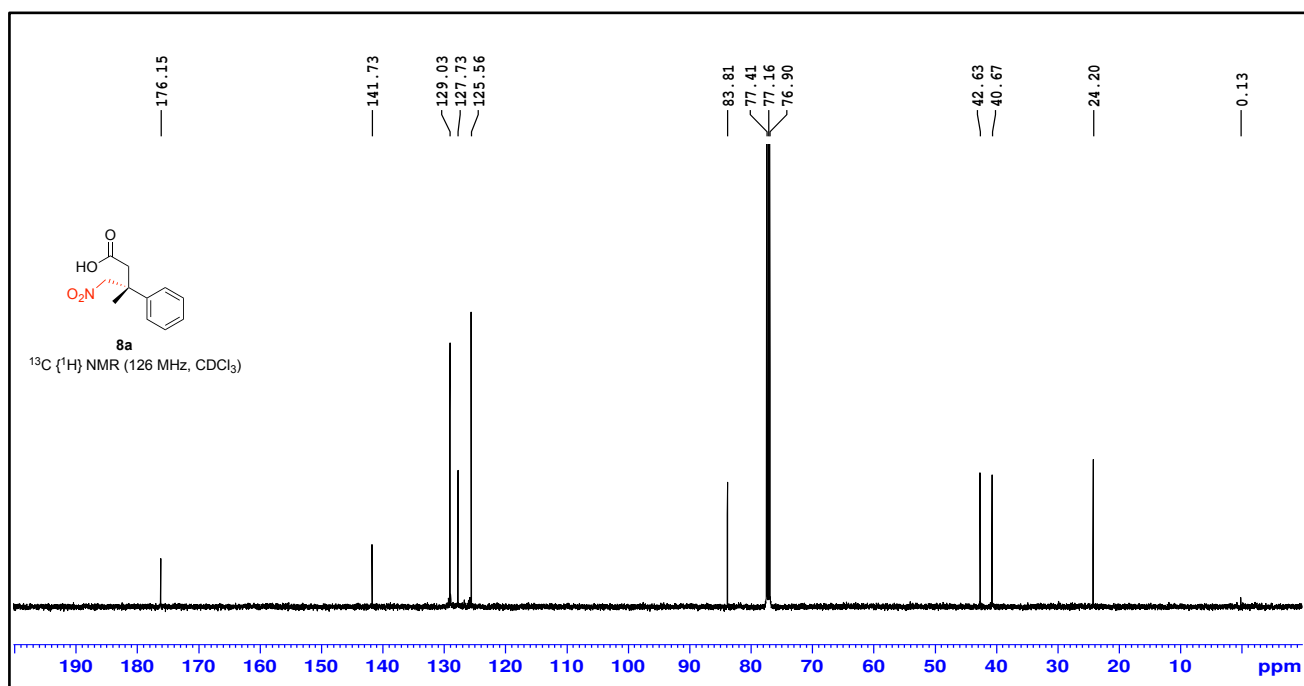
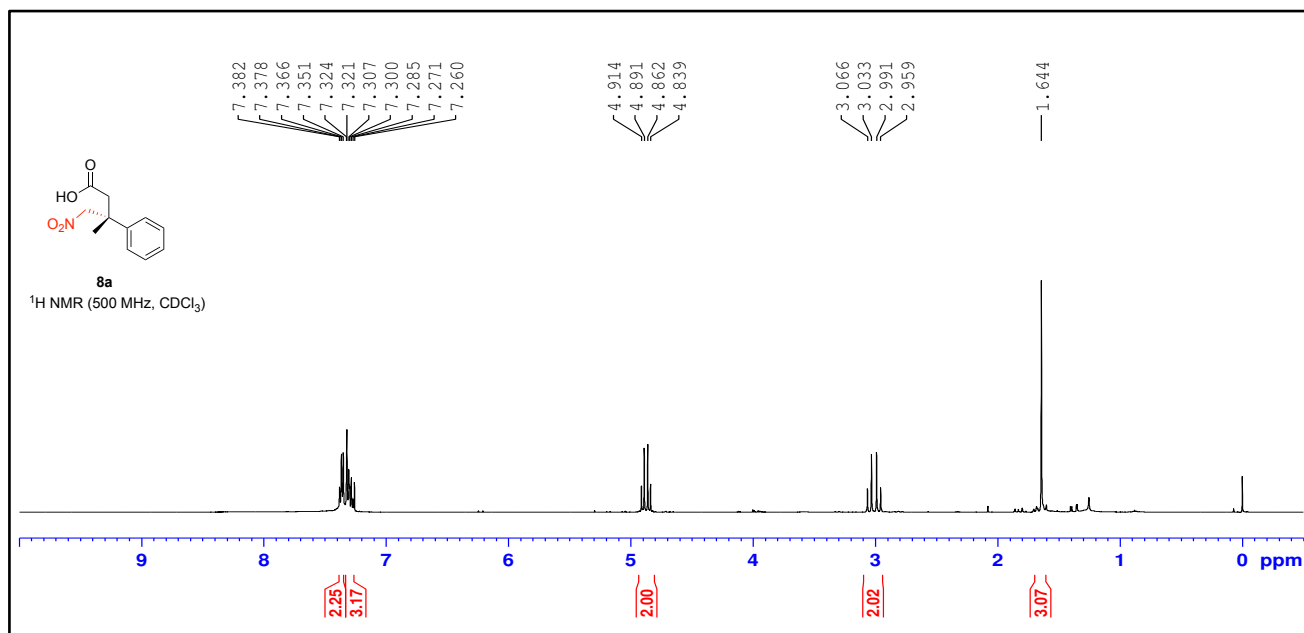


(3*R*)-3-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexan-1-ol (4u)





3-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanoic acid (8a)



Methsuximide (9a)

