# **Supporting Information**

# Photo-induced [2+2+n] Radical Cascade for the Synthesis of Alkylated/Spirocyclic Polycyclic Quinolinone via Iron-Catalyzed Decarboxylation

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# **Table Content**

1. General Information	<b>S2</b>
2. General Synthetic Procedure	\$3
3. Optimization of Reaction Conditions	S6
4. Product Characterization	S10
5. References	<b>S16</b>
6. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C and <sup>19</sup> F NMR Spectra for Products	S17

# General Information

Unless otherwise mentioned, all reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. The visible-light mediated reactions were performed on WPTEC-1020L instruments which are purchased from WATTCAS, China. All yields of products refer to the isolated yields after chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz) and <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer or a Quantum-I Plus 400 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. For <sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26 ppm) or tetramethylsilane (TMS,  $\delta$  = 0 ppm) serves as the internal standard; for <sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.16 ppm) serves as the internal standard; for <sup>13</sup>C NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.16 ppm) serves as the internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (in ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, p = quintet, hept = heptet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (in Hz), and integration. GC analysis was performed on a 7890B/Agilent, while GC-MS analysis was performed on a 7890A-5975C/Agilent. HRMS spectra were recorded on a Waters Xevo G2QTOF/UPLC mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization. NMR yields of the screening part were calculated using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard. All yields of products refer to the isolated yields after chromatography.

### 2 General Synthetic Procedure

#### 2.1 General procedure for synthesis of N-methyl-N-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)methacrylamide

It is necessary to synthesize appropriate 1,7-enyne compounds as substrates. According to the synthesis steps published by Nishida et al., a suitable 1,7-enyne was prepared in three steps on a gram scale starting from the inexpensive commercially available reagent orthoiodoaniline. The specific synthesis method takes the synthesis pathway of substrate **1a** as an example.



Scheme S1. Synthesis of 2-(phenylethynyl)aniline

Step one, add ortho iodoaniline (1.10 g, 5 mmol), Pd (PPh<sub>3</sub>) <sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (70.2 mg, 2 mol%), CuI (19.1 mg, 2 mol%) to a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, and then add dry triethylamine as a solvent (20 mL), After stirring evenly, slowly add phenylacetylene (7.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) dropwise to the reaction system and stir at room temperature for 8 hours. After confirming the complete consumption of raw materials through TLC detection, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short silica gel column, washed with ethyl acetate solvent, and the organic phase was collected and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was completely converted and can be directly put into the next reaction step without purification.



Scheme S2. Synthesis of N-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)methacrylamide

Step two, add the crude product obtained in step one into a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, and then add dry triethylamine (2.0 equiv), Then add dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  solvent (20 mL) to the reaction flask. Subsequently, the reaction flask was placed in an ice water bath. After the reaction system cooled to 0 °C, methacryloyl chloride (10 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was slowly added dropwise to the reaction system. After the dropwise addition was complete, the ice water bath was removed to gradually restore the reaction system to room temperature, and the mixture was stirred for 12 hours. After the reaction is complete, filter the reaction mixture through a short silica gel column, wash with ethyl acetate solvent, collect the organic phase, and concentrate under reduced pressure to obtain the crude intermediate product. The crude intermediate product can be directly put into the next reaction step without purification.



Scheme S3. Synthesis of N-methyl-N-(2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)methacrylamide

Step three, at 0  $^{\circ}$ C, dissolve the crude intermediate product obtained from the first step reaction in THF (20 mL), add a magnetic stirrer and start stirring. After the solid is completely dissolved, cool the reaction system in an ice water bath to 0  $^{\circ}$ C. Slowly add 60% NaH (300 mg, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 times equivalent) in batches and stir for 30 minutes. Then add iodomethane (1.07 g, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 times equivalent), and remove the ice water bath to gradually restore the reaction system to room temperature. After stirring for 8 hours, the reaction

mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to remove the THF solution. Then quench the reaction with water (20 mL) and extract the aqueous phase three times with EA (10 mL x 3). The merged organic phases were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by column chromatography gradient elution using PE/EA as the developing agent, VPE:VEA = 10: 1-3:1), a yellow solid reaction template substrate **1a** N-methyl-N - (2-(phenylacetynyl) phenyl) methacrylamide (1.10g, 4mmol) was obtained, with a total yield of 75% in the three-step reaction. Most substrates follow the reaction pathway of **1a**.

#### 2.2 General procedure for preparation of alkyl/spirocyclic polycyclic quinolinone



Scheme S4. Procedure for preparation of 3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one

Add a magnetic stirrer to a 10mL quartz light tube dried in an oven, and then sequentially add substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol, 27.5mg), free radical precursor cyclohexanecarboxylic acid **2a** (0.5 mmol, 5 equiv), a mixed solvent of acetonitrile and water in a volume ratio of 4:1 (1.0 mL), photocatalyst acetylacetonate iron (10 mol%, 3.5 mg), DABCO (50 mol%, 2 mg). Place the light tube in the light irradiation slot of the photoreactor, insert a balloon filled with  $O_2$ , seal it and ventilate it five times to fill the reaction tube with  $O_2$ , and then start to irradiate it with a 10W 405 nm LED light reaction chip. During the irradiation process, use the fan and water cooling device of the photoreactor to cool the tube. Maintain the temperature near room temperature while keeping the  $O_2$  balloon continuously supplying oxygen to the reaction system. After 6 hours of reaction, stop the light irradiation and remove the reaction tube. Concentrate the reaction solution under reduced pressure, remove the solvent MeCN, add water (10mL), and extract three times with EA (5 mL \* 3 ·). Collect the organic phase, dry it, and concentrate under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by column chromatography gradient elution using PE/EA as the developing agent, VPE:VEA = 20: 1-5:1), a yellow solid 3a', 5' - dimethyl-1 '- phenyl-3', 3a '- dihydrospiro [cyclohexane-1,2' - cyclopentanol [c] quinoline] -4 '(5'H) - one (28.9 mg) was obtained with a yield of 81%.



Figure S1. Photo reactor device and 405 nm 10 W blue LED chip

#### 2.3 General procedure for gram-scale flow reaction



Figure S2. Example figure of gram scale flow reactor of photoreactions

The construction of the photoreaction device followed Qi, et al<sup>[2]</sup>. An oven dried 200 mL round bottom flask was charged with a stir bar. Substrate **1a** (1.38 g, 5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), **2a** (25 mmol, 5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DABCO (50 mol%) and Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (2 equiv) was added with 40 mL MeCN and 10 mL water. The reaction mixture was pumped into PTFE transparent coil and irradiated with commercially available 410 nm blue light bulbs and flow pump for 6 hours. After the reaction was complete, all reactants were filtered through a short silica gel column, washed with EtOAc, and the crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure, then purified by column chromatography (1:10 to 1:3 EtOAc : petroleum ether). Affording product  $\gamma$ -lactam **3aa** (62% yield) as a yellow solid.

#### 2.4 Typical unsuccessful reaction samples



Scheme S5. Typical unsuccessful reaction samples

## **3** Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Entry	Solvent	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	
1	MeCN	24	
2	MeCN:Water $= 2:1$	19	
3	MeCN:Water $=$ 4:1	34	
4	MeCN:Water $= 9:1$	25	
5	DMSO	Trace	
6	DMSO:Water = 4:1	18	
7	DMSO:MeCN = 1:1	Trace	
8	Acetone	Trace	
9	MeCN:Acetone = 1:1	20	
10	DMF	Trace	

#### Table 1S. Optimization of solvent.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.2 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.),  $Fe(OAc)_2OH (10 \text{ mol}\%)$ , DBU (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under Air. 2.0 mL solvent added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	Photocatalyst	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>
1	Fe(OH)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	34
2	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub>	39
3	Fe(OH) (OAc) <sub>2</sub> +LiCl	25
4	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	Trace
5	$Fe(NO_3)_3$	24
6	FeCl <sub>2</sub>	Trace
7	FeBr <sub>3</sub>	31
8	Fac-Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	N.R.
9	Mes-Acr <sup>+</sup> ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	N.R.

Table 2S. Optimization of photo catalyst.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.2 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Photo cat (10 mol%), DBU (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under Air, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	Possible Oxidant	Atmosphere	Yield (%) [b]
1	O <sub>2</sub> in air	Air	39
2	$O_2$	O <sub>2</sub>	51
3	$Na_2S_2O_8$	N <sub>2</sub>	46

Table 38. Optimization of Oxidant.<sup>[a]</sup>

4	$K_2S_2O_8$	$N_2$	44
5	(NH4) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	33
6	NFSI	N <sub>2</sub>	trace
7	None	N <sub>2</sub>	trace
8	PhSSPh	$N_2$	trace

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.2 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DBU (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under Air, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	1,7-enyne (mmol)	Acid (mmol)	Yield (%) [b]
1	0.2	1	51
2	0.2	2	48
3	0.2	3	33
4	0.1	0.5	55
5	0.1	1	45
6	0.3	1.5	48

Table 4S. Optimization of substrate and reactant dosage.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a**, Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DBU (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	Base	Yield (%) [b]
1	None	trace
2	DBU	55
3	DABCO	58
4	Quinuclidine	48
5	Et <sub>3</sub> N	trace
6	LDA	34
7	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30
8	$Cs_2CO_3$	37
9	K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	22

Table 5S. Optimization of base.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), base (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	DABCO (equiv.)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>
1	0.5	58
2	1.0	57
3	1.5	53
4	0.2	51
5	0.1	36

Table 6S. Optimization of base dosage.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DABCO (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	Light Source	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>
1	380 nm	30
2	390 nm	58
3	400 nm	62
4	405 nm	70
5	410 nm	68
6	420 nm	52
7	460 nm	n.d.

 Table 7S. Optimization of light resourse.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DABCO (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 390 nm LEDs at room temperature for 12 hours under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS.

Entry	Other changes	Yield (%) [b]
1	12 h react time	70
2	16 h react time	50
3	20 h react time	28
4	24 h react time	Trace
5	8 h react time	75
6	6 h react time	81 <sup>[c]</sup>
7	4 h react time	57
8	2 h react time	30
9	7 h react time	<b>79</b> <sup>[c]</sup>
10	60°C temp	60
11	5 W radiation strength	36

Table 9S. Optimization of react time and additives.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2a**) (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DABCO (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 405 nm LEDs at room temperature under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS. <sup>c)</sup> isolated yield.

Entry	Variation from standard conditions <sup>[b]</sup>	Yield (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
1	None	81 <sup>[d]</sup>
2	Fe(OH)(OAc) <sub>2</sub> as photo catalyst	68
3	Fac-Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub> as photo catalyst	N.R.
4	Mes-Acr <sup>+</sup> ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> as photo catalyst	N.R.
5	390 nm LED	69
6	410 nm LED	78 <sup>[d]</sup>
7	$DMSO: H_2O = 2: 1$ as solvent	68
8	$DMSO: H_2O = 9: 1$ as solvent	75

Table 10S. Verifying of optimalized conditions.<sup>[a]</sup>

9	DBU as base	78 <sup>[d]</sup>
10	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> as base	46
11	3 equiv. <b>2a</b>	54
12	10 equiv. <b>2a</b>	72 <sup>[d]</sup>
13	Open to air	51
14	No Photo Catalyst	N.R.
15	React in dark	N.R.

<sup>a)</sup> Standard reaction conditions: substrate **1a** (0.1 mmol), Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid **2a** (5.0 equiv.), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), DABCO (0.5 equiv.), 10 W 405 nm LEDs at room temperature for 6 hours under O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, 2.0 mL mix solvent (MeCN : Water = 4 : 1) added. <sup>b)</sup> Each entry only changed the condition represented. <sup>c)</sup> yield detected by GC-MS. <sup>d)</sup> isolated yield.

## 4 Product Characterization

3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3aa)



Yellow solid (81% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.34 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 7.18 – 7.06 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.46 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.71 – 1.64 (m, 3H), 1.55 – 1.38 (m, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.27 – 0.85 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  176.05, 148.84, 139.84, 136.90, 129.55, 128.24, 127.93, 127.58, 127.12, 122.28, 114.75, 52.28, 51.96, 43.63, 37.70, 35.94, 30.05, 27.37, 25.48, 23.55, 22.44. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 358.2165, found 358.2166.

3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclopentane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ab)



Yellow solid (81% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.33 (q, J = 7.4, 6.7 Hz, 3H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.82 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.62 (ddd, J = 18.3, 8.0, 4.1 Hz, 3H), 1.55 – 1.38 (m, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.96, 139.83, 136.96, 134.00, 129.49, 128.36, 127.98, 127.50, 127.17, 122.31, 121.70, 114.81, 58.85, 52.09, 48.91, 39.04, 38.48, 30.00, 26.57, 24.29, 24.00. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 344.2009, found 344.2013.

3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclobutane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ac)



Yellow solid (79% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.43 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.15 (td, J = 7.9, 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.56 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.37 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.11 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 2.01 – 1.85 (m, 3H), 1.54 (ddd, J = 10.2, 6.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  145.61, 139.99, 137.15, 129.06, 128.59, 128.15, 127.47, 127.32, 122.35, 121.36, 114.90, 54.20, 52.02, 50.24, 35.09, 31.93, 29.93, 25.80, 25.28, 18.44, 16.77. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 330.1852, found 330.1855.

3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cycloheptane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ad)



Yellow solid (61% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.32 (dd, J = 5.0, 2.8 Hz, 3H), 7.13 (td, J = 5.3, 2.9 Hz, 3H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.72 - 6.65 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.46 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.07 - 1.87 (m, 3H), 1.52 - 1.44 (m, 4H), 1.40 (dd, J = 18.5, 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-

*d*) δ 149.66, 139.93, 137.30, 129.44, 128.29, 127.87, 127.63, 127.10, 122.26, 114.74, 54.76, 51.79, 45.84, 40.92, 40.34, 30.02, 29.75, 29.00, 28.70, 26.41, 24.43, 23.81. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.2322, found 372.2318.

3a',4,5'-trimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ae)



Yellow solid (75% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.33 (td, J = 6.1, 2.9 Hz, 3H), 7.13 (dq, J = 9.0, 4.7 Hz, 3H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.05 – 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.91 – 1.67 (m, 4H), 1.45 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 4H), 1.32 (s, 4H), 0.76 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  176.06, 148.91, 137.03, 129.43, 128.29, 127.91, 127.66, 127.12, 122.27, 121.87, 114.73, 52.43, 51.88, 43.71, 31.68, 30.29, 30.04, 28.89, 27.82, 27.28, 26.11, 17.23. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.2322, found 372.2323.

2,3a,5-trimethyl-1-phenyl-2,3,3a,5-tetrahydro-4H-cyclopenta[c]quinolin-4-one (3af)



Yellow oil (42% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.35 (qd, J = 7.2, 5.6, 2.7 Hz, 3H), 7.27 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dt, J = 7.5, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.11 – 2.91 (m, 2H), 1.82 (dd, J = 11.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.35 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.87, 145.06, 139.81, 133.72, 128.63, 128.43, 128.16, 127.48, 127.24, 122.35, 121.89, 114.83, 53.53, 44.98, 41.76, 30.05, 29.75, 27.39, 22.11. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 304.1696, found 304.1693.

2-ethyl-3a,5-dimethyl-1-phenyl-2,3,3a,5-tetrahydro-4H-cyclopenta[c]quinolin-4-one (**3ag**)



Yellow oil (40% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.32 (dtt, J = 14.1, 7.3, 3.7 Hz, 3H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.75 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 3.27 – 2.77 (m, 2H), 2.40 – 2.05 (m, 1H), 1.89 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (td, J = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 3H), 0.86 – 0.76 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  176.77, 144.36, 137.92, 128.89, 128.57, 128.36, 128.11, 127.38, 127.21, 122.34, 114.78, 53.60, 52.47, 37.67, 30.10, 29.94, 29.75, 27.79, 27.44, 26.40, 12.62, 11.19. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 318.1852, found 318.1854.

2,2,3a,5-tetramethyl-1-phenyl-2,3,3a,5-tetrahydro-4H-cyclopenta[c]quinolin-4-one (3ah)



Yellow oil (86% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.19 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dt, J = 10.3, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.58 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) 175.91, 148.23, 139.96, 136.81, 132.92, 129.12,

 $128.36, 128.01, 127.58, 127.17, 122.28, 114.77, 51.83, 49.60, 47.85, 30.01, 29.65, 29.26, 26.40. \ HRMS \ (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]^+ 318.1852, found 318.1852.$ 

2-ethyl-2,3a,5-trimethyl-1-phenyl-2,3,3a,5-tetrahydro-4H-cyclopenta[c]quinolin-4-one (3ai)



Yellow oil (83% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.57 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.54 – 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.27 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.13 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.98 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 145.58, 140.02, 137.16, 134.06, 129.06, 128.60, 128.15, 127.47, 127.32, 127.15, 122.33, 121.35, 114.89, 54.20, 52.02, 50.25, 35.10, 31.94, 29.90, 25.82, 16.77.. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 332.2009, found 332.2012.

5,6a,8,8,9-pentamethyl-10-phenyl-6a,7,8,9-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (3aj)



Yellow oil (65% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.20 (ddd, J = 12.5, 7.3, 5.6 Hz, 3H), 7.15 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.89 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, J = 14.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.91 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.99 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  174.27, 143.98, 138.76, 130.01, 128.99, 128.03, 127.15, 126.33, 125.80, 121.81, 113.53, 47.88, 42.79, 38.38, 31.89, 30.66, 27.90, 27.21, 26.90, 15.85. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 346.2165, found 346.2165.

5'-ethyl-3a'-methyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ba**)



Yellow solid (83% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.32 (td, J = 5.7, 2.7 Hz, 3H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 13.7, 7.8, 4.3 Hz, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 4.21 (dq, J = 14.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dq, J = 14.1, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.73 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.60 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.04 – 0.90 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$ 13C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d)  $\delta$ 175.42, 148.65, 138.77, 136.97, 129.58, 128.24, 127.96, 127.90, 127.11, 122.07, 122.03, 114.49, 52.28, 51.77, 43.36, 37.71, 37.64, 36.02, 27.19, 25.50, 23.55, 22.48, 12.73. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.2322, found 372.2326.

5'-benzyl-3a'-methyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ca)



Yellow solid (82% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.37 (dt, J = 8.4, 4.2 Hz, 5H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.16 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, J = 13.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 5.72

 $1.76 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.71 - 1.57 (m, 3H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.41 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (td, J = 7.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H). {}^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-$ *d*) & 176.07, 149.10, 139.32, 137.56, 136.89, 129.59, 128.86, 128.30, 127.95, 127.67, 127.19, 127.10, 126.23, 122.42, 115.59, 52.43, 52.08, 46.70, 43.52, 37.68, 36.11, 27.48, 25.50, 23.56, 22.52. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 434.2478, found 434.2481.

5'-(but-3-en-1-yl)-3a'-methyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3da**)



Yellow solid (42% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.73 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (tt, J = 57.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 2.57 (td, J = 16.0, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  196.93, 173.36, 143.74, 139.68, 127.18, 125.87, 124.59, 123.13, 118.02, 115.64, 113.25, 54.01, 38.90, 38.67, 38.44, 37.48, 24.29, 21.97. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -113.69 (t, J = 16.1 Hz), -113.84 (t, J = 16.1 Hz). HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 398.2478, found 398.2474.

3a',5',8'-trimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (3ea)



Yellow solid (76% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.33 (td, J = 5.8, 2.8 Hz, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.71 – 1.63 (m, 3H), 1.64 – 1.48 (m, 3H), 1.41 (dt, J = 13.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.16 (dd, J = 13.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.90, 148.58, 137.52, 137.00, 133.44, 131.54, 129.57, 128.46, 128.23, 128.16, 127.07, 121.65, 114.58, 52.22, 51.98, 43.63, 37.72, 35.95, 30.01, 27.42, 25.50, 23.57, 22.45, 20.54. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.2322, found 372.2319.

3a',5',7'-trimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3fa**)



Yellow solid (62% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.58 – 6.45 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.43 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.73 – 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.46 – 1.37 (m, 2H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.12 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  176.18, 147.84, 137.93, 137.09, 133.22, 129.60, 129.55, 128.22, 127.37, 127.04, 123.06, 115.56, 52.18, 52.02, 43.63, 37.78, 35.95, 30.02, 27.42, 25.50, 23.57, 22.47, 21.73. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.2322, found 372.2323.

8'-fluoro-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ga**)



Yellow solid (80% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.34 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 7.20 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 6.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (td, *J* = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.43 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.70 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.56 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.40 (dt, *J* = 13.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.12 (td, *J* = 13.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.93, 148.51, 136.67, 132.25, 129.50, 128.88, 128.78, 128.35, 127.25, 108.91, 108.69, 102.78, 102.51, 52.25, 51.95, 43.55, 37.69, 35.92, 30.12, 27.40, 25.45, 23.52, 22.44. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -112.09 (q, *J* = 8.3 Hz). HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 376.2071, found 376.2072.

7'-fluoro-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ha**)



Yellow solid (42% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.37 (p, J = 5.5, 4.7 Hz, 3H), 7.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (dt, J = 11.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (ddd, J = 8.6, 6.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (tt, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 2.46 (dd, J = 13.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (dd, J = 13.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 3H), 1.53 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.34 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.17 (dd, J = 13.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.94, 148.51, 136.66, 132.23, 129.49, 128.87, 128.77, 128.34, 127.24, 108.90, 108.69, 102.77, 102.50, 52.24, 51.94, 43.54, 37.68, 35.90, 30.12, 27.39, 25.44, 23.51, 22.43. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -112.14 (q, J = 8.6 Hz).. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 376.2071, found 376.2074.

8'-chloro-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ia**)



Yellow solid (82% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.33 (q, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.65 – 6.45 (m, 2H), 3.40 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 2.41 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 1.75 – 1.67 (m, 3H), 1.51 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.12 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  148.15, 147.72, 139.75, 133.24, 129.66, 128.19, 127.29, 127.01, 120.73, 113.53, 52.16, 44.77, 43.54, 37.86, 35.89, 34.38, 34.32, 30.06, 27.59, 26.86, 26.14, 25.50, 23.57, 22.46. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 392.1776, found 392.1771.

7'-chloro-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ja**)



3ja

Yellow solid (53% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.33 (td, J = 5.8, 5.0, 2.6 Hz, 3H), 7.11 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.69 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.51 (dt, J = 12.0, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (dt, J = 13.4, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.16 – 1.07 (m, 1H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.84, 149.55, 140.93, 136.51, 133.52, 132.26, 129.38, 128.48, 128.37, 127.33, 122.23, 120.26, 115.09, 52.36, 51.86, 43.59, 37.61, 35.88, 30.09, 27.37, 25.43, 23.50, 22.40. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 392.1776, found 392.1774.

8'-bromo-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ka**)



14

Yellow solid (68% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.37 (t, J = 3.5 Hz, 3H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.47 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.71 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.51 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.15 (td, J = 13.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.67, 150.51, 136.09, 132.05, 130.56, 130.25, 129.27, 128.42, 127.52, 123.72, 116.29, 115.10, 52.40, 51.78, 43.59, 37.56, 35.83, 30.12, 27.36, 25.42, 23.48, 22.37. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 436.1271, found 436.1271.

7'-bromo-3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3la**)



Yellow solid (77% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.39 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.80 (dq, J = 8.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.56 – 6.40 (m, 1H), 3.41 – 3.33 (m, 3H), 2.48 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.67 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 3H), 1.56 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.40 (dd, J = 13.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.33 – 1.29 (m, 3H), 1.16 – 1.07 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.82, 149.70, 141.03, 136.48, 132.31, 129.35, 128.72, 128.37, 127.34, 125.18, 121.57, 120.70, 117.91, 52.40, 51.82, 43.60, 37.58, 35.85, 30.11, 27.38, 25.43, 23.50, 22.39. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 436.1271, found 436.1267.

3a',5'-dimethyl-1'-phenyl-8'-(trifluoromethyl)-3',3a'-dihydrospiro[cyclohexane-1,2'-cyclopenta[c]quinolin]-4'(5'H)-one (**3ma**)



Yellow solid (79% yield), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.43 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.16 – 6.99 (m, 3H), 6.91 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 2.57 – 2.27 (m, 2H), 1.74 (q, J = 4.8, 3.2 Hz, 3H), 1.61 – 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.45 (dt, J = 13.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (td, J = 13.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  175.93, 151.04, 142.33, 135.94, 131.97, 129.21, 128.46, 127.58, 124.81, 124.78, 124.64, 121.98, 114.65, 52.43, 51.77, 43.65, 37.54, 35.82, 30.18, 27.45, 25.40, 23.49, 22.36. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  -62.61. HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 426.2039, found 426.2039.

# 5 References

- [1] S. Arai, Y. Koike, A. Nishida, Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis 2010, 352, 893-900.
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# 6 Copies of 1H, 13C and 19F NMR Spectra for Products





<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of Compound 3ab



<sup>160</sup> 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 4 <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of Compound 3ac







<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of Compound 3af















<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of Compound 3ea







 $\underbrace{\underbrace{}}_{-112,\,08}^{-112,\,08}\\_{-112,\,10}^{-112,\,13}$ 





20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 f1 (ppm)

<sup>19</sup>F NMR Spectrum of Compound 3ha









<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of Compound 3la





-62, 61