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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Mechanochemical synthesis of pyrrolo[1,2-a]indoles via consecutive C-C and C-N bond formation in presence of ionic liquid: Antimicrobial and photophysical studies

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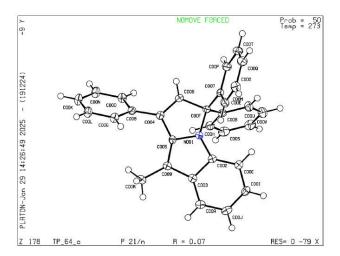
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#### 1. General Information:

No purification of the chemicals has been carried out after purchasing from commercial sources. Solvents, reagents, and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich, Fluka, Merck, SRL, Spectrochem, and Process Chemicals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were determined as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on a 400 MHz spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz and 376 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution, respectively. Chemical shifts are in parts per million (δ) and reported as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (double doublet), and J (coupling constants) in Hz. Slide (made of glass) coated with silica gel has been used for thin-layer chromatography. Silica gel (100–200 mesh) as the stationary phase and ethyl acetate/petroleum ether was used for column chromatography. Melting points were determined on a glass disk with an electric hot plate and are uncorrected. A Borosilicate glass tube was used as a reaction tube.

# 2. Structure Determination (X-ray crystallographic data of 3aa):

The colorless crystals of 3aa were obtained by crystallization from a solution in dichloromethane/ hexane. Chemical Formula:  $C_{30}H_{23}N$ .



**ORTEP** (with 50% probability) diagram for the structure *9-methyl-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3aa)

Wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å			
Formula	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>23</sub> N			
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic			
Space group	P 21/n	P 21/n			
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.3687(4) Å α =	= 90 °			
	b= 17.6290 (7) Å β=	= 108.254 °			
	c = 11.5663 (5) Å γ =	: 90 °			
Volume	2201.45 (19) Å <sup>3</sup>				
Z	4				
R-factor (%)	7				

The crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as a supplementary publication with a CCDC reference number CCDC 2457288.

# 3. Experimental Procedures:

# 3.1. Typical procedure for the synthesis of 3-substituted indoles 1:

$$R_1$$
  $NO_2$   $+$   $R_2$   $NHNH_2 \cdot HCI + H \cap OEt OEt OEt  $R_2$   $R_2$   $R_3$   $R_4$   $R_4$   $R_5$   $R_5$   $R_6$   $R_7$   $R_8$   $R_8$   $R_8$   $R_9$   $R_9$$ 

The synthesis of 1 was carried out according to the described method.<sup>1</sup> In a round bottom flask, 10 mmol of nitro styrene, 10 mmol of phenyl hydrazine hydrochloride, 20 mmol of diethyl phosphite and 20 mol% of iodine were stirred at room temperature for 1h. The mixture was then poured into 40 mL of a saturated sodium thiosulfate solution and extracted with dichloromethane. The extract was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Dichloromethane was removed in a vacuum and evaporated into a crude product. The crude product was passed through a silica gel column using petroleum ether as eluent. The eluent was removed in a vacuum, and the corresponding indole was obtained.

# 3.2. General procedure for the synthesis of substituted propargyl alcohols (2):

$$H-C \equiv C \xrightarrow{OH}_{R^1} + \underbrace{ \begin{bmatrix} PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2 & Cul \\ Et_3N & rt & N_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{R^2} \xrightarrow{PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2} \underbrace{C \equiv C \xrightarrow{OH}_{R^1}}_{R^2}$$

The starting propargyl alcohols were prepared according to the previously reported method.<sup>2</sup> To a mixture of bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium dichloride (0.1 mmol) and tri-ethylamine solution (60 mL) of iodoarene (10 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere in a flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. Then, add alkyne moiety and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 6 h at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the mixture was diluted with saturated saline water (3 × 15 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was collected and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to get the desired products.

The propargylic alcohol  $\mathbf{2a}$  ( $\mathbf{R}^1 = \mathbf{Ph}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2 = \mathbf{H}$ ) was purchased commercially from TCI Chemicals.  $\mathbf{2b}$ ,  $\mathbf{3c}$ ,  $\mathbf{2d}$ ,  $\mathbf{4c}$  are known compounds, and their spectral data showed good agreement with the literature data.

#### 3.3. General procedure for the synthesis of 3:

A grinding beaker (50 mL) and milling balls (4 × 10 mm) were set as a reaction chamber. For each reaction, a mixture of propargyl alcohol (1 mmol), 3-substituted indole (1 mmol), with 10 mol% of Brønsted acidic ionic liquid were milled for 20 min at 500 rpm at room temperature. After completion of reaction (monitored by TLC), the mixture was diluted with saturated saline water (3 × 15 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was collected and dried over anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$ . The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to get the desired products.

# 3.4. General procedure for the synthesis of Brønsted acidic ionic liquids (BAILs):

Brønsted acidic ionic liquids (BAILS) were prepared according to the previously reported method.<sup>6</sup> A mixture of an equivalent amount of 1-methylimidazole and corresponding butane sultone was refluxed in anhydrous acetone for 48 h to get the zwitterionic molten salt in about 99% yield. After washing the salt with diethyl ether and toluene to remove any unreacted starting materials, the solid was dried in vacuo. Then, a stoichiometric amount of corresponding sulfonic acid was added and the mixture was stirred for 240 h at 50 °C, during which time the solid zwitterion dissolved/liquefied and resulted in the formation of –SO<sub>3</sub>H acidic ionic liquids (BAILs) with yield of ~98%. The IL phase was then washed repeatedly with toluene and ether to remove non-ionic residues and dried in vacuo.

# 4. Mechanistic investigation:

# 5. Antimicrobial assay for the compounds 3am & 3ak

# 5.1 Antimicrobial activity using Agar well diffusion method

The agar well diffusion method was used to evaluate the antibacterial activity of test compounds **3am** and **3ak**. To begin the assay, microbial inocula were evenly spread on sterile nutrient agar plates. Uniform wells were then made using a sterile cork borer. Five bacterial strains were tested: Gram-positive *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC 13061), *Listeria monocytogenes* (MTCC 657), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC 96), Gram-negative *Salmonella typhimurium* (MTCC 98) and *Escherichia coli* (MTCC 1667). All strains were cultured in nutrient broth to the logarithmic phase and standardized to an optical density (OD) of 0.5 at 600 nm. Test compounds, dissolved in DMSO, were added to the wells at concentrations of 50, 25, and 10 mg/ml (25 μl per well). The plates were then incubated at 37°C for 12–16 hours. Following incubation, the zones of inhibition were measured to assess antimicrobial activity.<sup>8</sup>

# 5.2 Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) value determination

The lowest concentration of an antimicrobial agent that inhibits bacterial growth is known as the minimum inhibitory concentration or MIC.<sup>9</sup> A modified resazurin-based assay determined the MIC value of **3am** and **3ak**.<sup>10</sup> Resazurin is a blue dye that is reduced to pink resorufin by metabolically active cells, serving as an indicator of cell viability. In this assay, test compounds were prepared at concentrations of 1000, 500, 250, and 125 μg/mL in a 96-well microtiter plate. Each well was filled using a micropipette with the test compound, bacterial suspension, and 0.01% resazurin solution. The negative control consisted of bacterial cultures in DMSO without any test compound, while ciprofloxacin served as the positive control. After 10 hours of incubation at 37°C, the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined as the lowest concentration that retained the blue colour of resazurin, indicating the absence of bacterial growth.<sup>11</sup>

# 5.3 SEM analysis of bacterial strains

To evaluate the effectiveness of compound 3am, which was found to be more effective than the others, morphological changes in bacterial cells were examined using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The analysis provided insights into structural alterations caused by the

treatment. Two bacterial strains, *Bacillus cereus* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, were cultured in fresh nutrient broth and treated with compound 3am at its minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC). After overnight incubation, the bacterial cells were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde, centrifuged, and dehydrated through a graded ethanol series (10% to 90%). Following critical point drying, the samples were mounted on metal stubs, coated with gold using an ion sputter, and imaged using a high-resolution SEM (Carl Zeiss Gemini 450).<sup>12</sup>

#### 5.4 Results

# 5.4.1. Antimicrobial activity using the Agar well diffusion method

Significant variations in the antibacterial activity were found for the compounds 3am, 3ak, 3ap, 3ar, 3ax, but two of them showed the best activity against five bacterial strains found using the agar well diffusion experiment. The compound 3am (25 mg/ml) demonstrated greater activity with inhibitory zones that ranged from 8±0.5 mm for *Bacillus cereus* to 6±1.5 mm for *Listeria monocytogenes*. On the other hand, smaller zones were produced by the compound 3ak (25 mg/ml), with zones measuring 3.5±1.0 mm for *Listeria monocytogenes* and for *Escherichia coli* inhibition zones measuring 5.5±1.0 mm (Table S1). In the antibacterial assay, the compound 3am exhibited a greater inhibitory zone than 3ak, as shown in Figure S1.

Table S1 Inhibition zone of antimicrobial activity for the 3ak and 3am using the agar well diffusion method

Test materials	Zone of Inhibition (mm) (Mean± SD)						
(25 mg/mL)	Escherichia coli	Staphylococcus aureus	Salmonella typhimurium	Bacillus cereus	Listeria monocytogenes		
3ak	5.5±1.0	4.5±1.5	4.5±1.5	4±1.0	3.5±1.0		
3am	7.0±1.5	7.5±0.5	7 ±1.5	8±0.5	6±1.5		

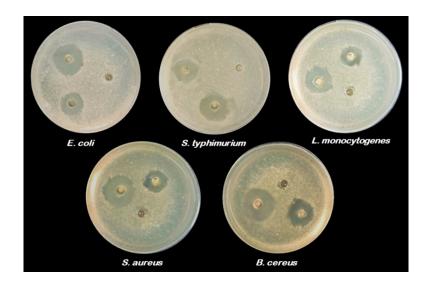


Figure S1 Antibacterial screening of 3am and 3ak against five bacterial strains (agar-well diffusion method). A larger inhibition zone indicates for 3am, whereas a smaller one indicates 3ak.

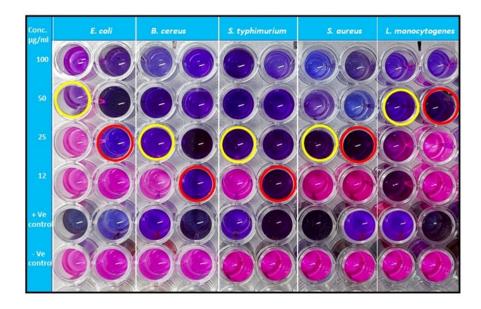


Figure S2 The microtiter plate, after a 14-hour incubation period, showed the antibacterial activity of the test compounds against the five bacterial strains. Blue wells signify the inhibition of bacterial growth, while pink wells show the growth of bacteria. Red circles represent the value of 3am, while yellow circles represent the value of 3ak. Positive and negative controls are below

Table S2 MIC values of the compounds 3ak and 3am against different bacterial strains

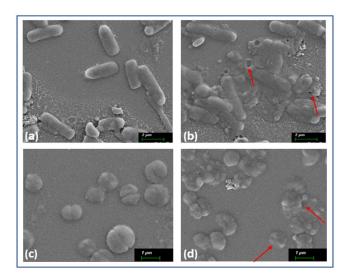
List of Bacterial	Gram-	MIC values of	MIC values of	MIC values of
strains	positive/Gram-	3ak (μg/mL)	3am(μg/mL)	ciprofloxacin
	negative			(μg/mL)
Bacillus cereus	Gm +ve	25	12	03
Salmonella typhimurium	Gm -ve	25	12	03
Escherichia coli	Gm -ve	50	25	02
Staphylococcus aureus	Gm +ve	25	25	01
Listeria monocytogenes	Gm +ve	50	50	02

# **5.4.2** Evaluation of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC):

The minimum concentration of an antimicrobial agent needed to inhibit bacterial growth can be determined by the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC). A redox indicator called resazurin detects the metabolic activities of bacteria. Positive responses were indicated by a continuous blue coloring, whereas responses that were negative were indicated by changing the color to pink or colorless. Although the compounds **3am**, **3ak**, **3ap**, **3ar**, and **3ax** exhibited good antibacterial activity, MIC values were determined only for **3am** and **3ak**, as these two compounds demonstrated the best bioactivity. MIC values for compound **3ak** ranged from 25 to 50 µg/ml against each tested bacterial strain. Meanwhile, MIC values for **3am** ranged from 12 to 25 µg/ml against test bacteria and exhibited stronger antibacterial activity (Table S2). The higher antibacterial potency of compound **3am** is demonstrated by these MIC values over **3ak**, which were also confirmed by triple replicates (Figure S2).

Similarly, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) provides a direct and effective method for evaluating the mechanism of antibacterial action by revealing structural damage in bacterial cells. The images clearly differentiate between live and dead cells, demonstrating the impact of the treatment. A comparison between untreated cells and those treated with compound **3am** allows for a more precise assessment of cell integrity. This visual evidence

underscores the compound's antibacterial potential by highlighting its ability to disrupt and destroy the bacterial cell wall (Figure S3).



**Figure S3** FE-SEM images of a Gram-negative and a Gram-positive bacterium: (a) *E. coli* before treatment; (b) *E. coli* after treatment with **3am**; (c) *S. aureus* before treatment; (d) *S. aureus* after treatment with **3am**. Red arrows indicate dead bacterial cells.

# 6. Photophysical Studies:

We studied the photophysical behavior of these 3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole derivatives. The spectroscopic results are shown for 3ae (Figure S4). The principal absorption band falls between 325 and 346 nm in the experiment. All of the examined compounds were found to be fluorescent in the blue region ( $\lambda_{em} = 422\text{-}463$  nm, Figure S5). <sup>13</sup> The electron donating group present in 3ad and 3ae have relatively high emission wavelengths while the electron withdrawing group present in 3an showed the low emission wavelength. The fluorescence quantum yield  $(\Phi)$  of the synthesized compounds are in the range of 0.02-0.43 in acetonitrile. Here tryptophan is used as a reference at  $\lambda_{ex} = 280$  nm ( $\Phi_R = 0.14$  at 298 K). <sup>14</sup> The thiomethyl group on the arene moiety of 3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole in compound 3ae shows higher  $\Phi$ (0.43) value and higher stokes shift value (123 nm). These values indicate the distortion of the  $\pi$  conjugated system in excited state. <sup>15</sup> Compound 3an showed the lower Stokes shift value (97 nm) and relatively lower quantum yield value (0.16). Remarkable differences between alkyl and aryl substituted 3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole derivatives were also found in fluorescence quantum yield. Compound 3ae exhibited ~21-fold higher quantum yield value and longer emission wavelength than compound 3aa. Additionally, the molar absorptivity  $(\epsilon_{\text{max}})$  for **3ab** (-OMe) is higher (25000 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) and lower (7000 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) for **3an** (-CF<sub>3</sub>),

which indicates the probability of transition from ground state( $S_0$ ) to first excited electronic state ( $S_1$ ) is higher for those derivatives with strong electron donating group comparative to strong electron withdrawing group. <sup>16</sup> These photophysical properties with high quantum yield and Stokes shift value establish the compounds as unique material for potential bioimaging <sup>17</sup> and further utilized them as fluoroprobes.

In addition, we examine the solvatofluorochromic properties of selected five synthesized compounds by changing the solvent polarity from non-polar to polar solvents. Figure S4(c) shows the emission spectra of **3ae** in *n*-hexane, THF, methanol, acetonitrile and DMSO. The results of solvent effect with **3ai**, **3at**, **3an** and **3aw** are shown here. With increase in the polarity of solvents, the compounds show a moderate bathochromic shift. The emission maxima of **3ae** locates at 448 nm in *n*-hexane, while the emission spectra shift to 464 nm in DMSO. In general, the compounds have high dipole moments in excited state as compared to their corresponding ground state due to electronic excitations. The high dipole moment of compounds interacts with the environment of the polarity of solvents and results the slight shifts of emission maxima to longer wavelengths. The observed trend in photoluminescence characteristics is evidently showed that 3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole derivatives have good tendency to photoluminescence properties.

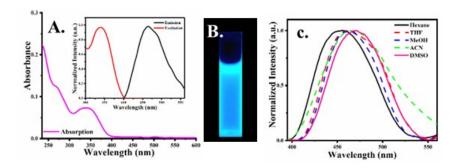


Figure S4 Photophysical behavior of compound 3ae: (a) The UV-Vis absorption characteristic of compound 3ae in acetonitrile (ACN) solvent medium, inset indicates the normalized excitation and emission spectra of the same, (b) the high emissive image of compound 3ae in ACN solution under fluorescence light and (c) the solvent dependent normalized emission spectra of compound 3ae.

# 6.1. Steady state UV-Vis absorbance and fluorescence spectroscopic measurements:

UV-Vis absorption spectra of the selected thirteen compounds were recorded in acetonitrile solution with the help of a UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV 1800 pc) within

the wavelength range of 200-600 nm. The fluorescence emission and corresponding excitation spectra of the same compounds in acetonitrile solution were obtained using a Perkin Elmer LS55 fluorescence spectrophotometer at the excitation wavelength ( $\lambda_{ex}$ ) 290 nm to get the maximum fluorescence intensity. The slit width was fixed at 7/2.5 nm for both the excitation and emission beams. The spectroscopic studies were carried out at 25° C and no change was observed in the spectra of all experimental solutions for a long time period. During experimental studies, this nullifies any possibility of degradation of the sample solutions. Molar extinction coefficient ( $\epsilon$ ) of the thirteen compounds in acetonitrile solution for the maximum absorption band was determined with the help of Beer-Lambert's law (A= $\epsilon$ cl) where concentration (c) of the compounds in micro molar range and path length (l) was kept as 1 cm and 'A' represent the absorbance. For calculation of the Stokes shifts, considered the lowest energetic absorption band of compounds.

# 6.2. Fluorescence Quantum Yield ( $\Phi$ ) calculations of compounds:

The relative fluorescence quantum yields  $(\Phi)$  of the selected thirteen compounds were calculated in acetonitrile solution by using the following equation:

$$\mathbf{\Phi} = \mathbf{\Phi}_R \mathbf{x} \frac{I}{I_R} \mathbf{x} \frac{OD_R}{OD} \mathbf{x} \frac{\mathbf{\eta}_R^2}{\mathbf{\eta}^2} ...(1)$$

Where  $\Phi_R$  represents the quantum yield of reference, here tryptophan in a water medium is used as reference; I and  $I_R$  denote the area under the fluorescence peak of samples and reference respectively; OD and OD<sub>R</sub> indicate the absorbance for samples and reference respectively;  $\eta$  and  $\eta_R$  are the refractive index of respective solvent. Here, refractive indexes of the medium ( $\eta$ = 1.333, water) and ( $\eta$  = 1.344, acetonitrile). The absorbance value of sample compounds and reference was kept between 0.01 to 0.1 to avoid self-quenching and self-aggregation. Quantum yield value ( $\Phi_R$ = 0.14 at 298 K) of tryptophan in water medium at  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 280 nm used as reference.<sup>14</sup>

UV-Vis absorbance and steady-state fluorescence spectra were measured to understand the photo-physical behaviour of 3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole derivatives. Here we selected thirteen 3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole derivatives (3ae, 3au, 3ab, 3af, 3at, 3ai, 3ah, 3ad, 3an, 3aw, 3ax, 3aj and 3aa) in acetonitrile medium for UV-Vis absorbance measurement and the concentration of all measured solutions is fixed at 5μM. Similarly, the excitation and emission spectra of the same solutions were recorded in the same medium. Selected

compounds manifest captivating photo-physical behaviours; the detailed spectral results are summarized in **Table S3**. **Table S3** contains the values of  $\lambda_{abs}$  (wavelengths related to several absorption bands), the excitation wavelength ( $\lambda_{ex}$ ), maxima of emission wavelength ( $\lambda_{max}$ ), molar extinction coefficients,  $\epsilon$  (at the wavelength having the highest absorbance), Stokes shifts and fluorescence quantum yields. **Figure S5** indicates the absorption and normalized excitation and emission spectra of compounds (**3au-3aa**). From all the figures, it is evidently noticed that the excitation and absorption spectra nearly resemble, signifying the purity of the compounds. The UV-Vis spectral patterns show mainly one absorption band ( $\lambda_{abs}$ ) at ~325-346 nm. No remarkable changes are observed in the absorption spectra upon the substitution of 3-position of the indole ring. Electron donating groups as substituents show the red shift as compared to the electron withdrawing group as substituents. The fluorescence emission studies show an intense emission band in visible region at ~ 422-463 nm ( $\lambda_{em}$ ) (**Table S3**). The emission studies of compound (**3ae** and **3ad**) show a red shift in the emission maximum upon increase the conjugation compared to other compounds.

 Table S3 Summarized photo-physical parameters of the selected thirteen indole derivatives

Compounds	Absorption $(\lambda_{abs})$ (nm)	Excitation (λ <sub>ex</sub> ) (nm)	Emission $\lambda_{max}$ (nm)	Molar Extinction Coefficient (ε) (10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Stokes Shift (nm)	Quantum Yield (Φ)
3ae	340	290	463	1.0	123	0.43
3au	346	290	457	1.5	111	0.41
3ab	335	290	452	2.5	117	0.38
3af	335	290	456	1.8	121	0.37
3at	330	290	450	2.2	120	0.31
3ai	331	290	451	1.2	120	0.29
3ah	330	290	448	1.3	118	0.24
3ad	337	290	463	1.2	126	0.19
3an	325	290	422	0.7	97	0.16
3aw	333	290	451	1.8	118	0.14
3ax	330	290	453	1.0	123	0.11
3aj	333	290	450	1.3	117	0.09
3aa	330	290	430	1.2	100	0.02

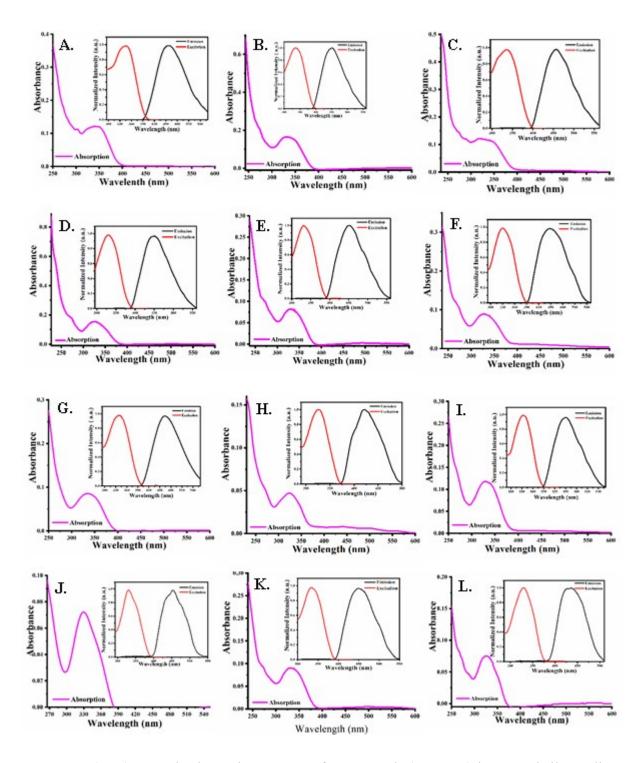


Figure S5 (A-L) UV-Vis absorption spectra of compounds (3au-3aa) in acetonitrile medium respectively (compound final concentration:  $5\mu$ M), inset shows the normalized excitation and emission spectra of the same.

Furthermore, the solvatofluorochromic properties of selected five compounds are examined in various solvents as the polar substituents of aromatic ring are sensitive to the variation of solvents. **Figure S6** shows the emission spectra of selected compounds are in n-hexane, THF, methanol, acetonitrile and DMSO. With increase in the polarity of solvents, the compounds show a moderate bathochromic shift. Here all the five compounds exhibited same observations with the effect of solvents. The emission maxima of **3ai**, **3at** and **3aw** locate at 439 nm, and for **3an** at 410 nm in *n*-hexane, while the emission spectra shift to 453 nm for first three compounds and 425 nm for **3an** in DMSO. In general, the compounds have high dipole moments in excited state as compared to their corresponding ground state due to electronic excitations.<sup>20</sup> The high dipole moment of the compounds interacts with the environment of the polarity of solvents and results the slight shifts of emission maxima to longer wavelengths.<sup>21</sup> The observed trend in photoluminescence characteristics are evidently showed that 3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole derivatives have good tendency to photoluminescence properties.

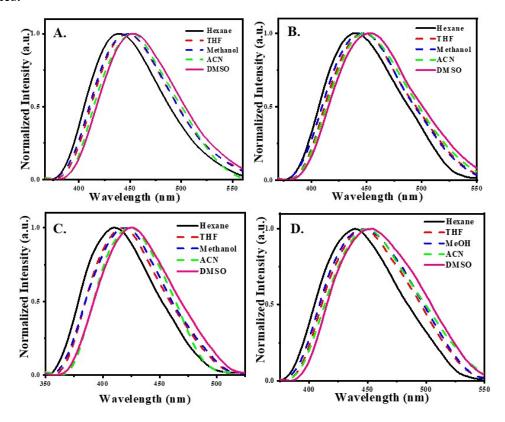


Figure S6 Normalized fluorescence emission spectra of compounds; A. 3ai, B. 3at, C. 3an and D. 3aw in different solvent medium.

# 7. Spectroscopic data of synthesized compounds:

1,1-Diphenyl-3-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-ol (2b)³: Yield: 72%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36(m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 145.2, 139.0, 131.8, 129.2, 128.4, 127.8, 126.2, 119.4, 91.0, 87.5, 74.9, 21.7.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,1-diphenylprop-2-yn-1-ol (2c)³: Yield: 74%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.37 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.85 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  160.0, 145.3, 133.4, 128.4, 127.8, 126.2, 114.5, 114.0, 90.4, 87.3, 75.0, 55.4.

**2-Phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)but-3-yn-2-ol** (**2d**)<sup>4</sup>: Yield: 76%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  145.9, 138.8, 131.7, 129.2, 128.4, 127.8, 125.1, 119.5, 91.8, 85.2, 70.5, 33.5, 21.6.

1,1-Diphenyl-3-(p-tolyl)prop-2-yn-1-ol (2e)<sup>5</sup>: Yield: 71%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.67 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 4H), 2.92 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 144.9, 134.9, 133.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 126.1, 121.0, 92.7, 86.2, 74.9.

*9-Methyl-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo*[1,2-a]indole (3aa)<sup>22</sup>: Yield: 84%; 333 mg; white solid; mp 120-122 °C;  $R_f = 0.60$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.68 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 10H), 7.06-6.94 (m, 3H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 140.5, 140.2, 139.6, 136.4, 134.4, 134.1, 133.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 121.9, 119.7, 118.8, 110.5, 103.0, 75.5, 9.7.

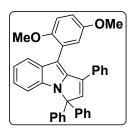
*9-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ab): Yield: 77%; 377 mg; white solid; mp 180-182 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.50 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.21 (m, 14H), 7.16-7.01 (m, 6H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 157.1, 141.1, 140.0, 139.9, 139.6, 136.9, 134.4, 133.6, 132.8, 131.9, 128.7, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8(3C), 127.4, 123.5, 121.9, 120.8, 120.1, 119.5, 110.6, 110.5, 104.7, 75.7, 54.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 490.2165; Found : 490.2169.

1,3,3-Triphenyl-9-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ac): Yield: 83%; 393 mg; white solid; mp 134-136 °C;  $R_f = 0.6$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.96-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 9H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ

140.7, 139.7, 139.7, 136.2, 135.7, 134.3, 132.7, 132.5, 131.2, 130.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 122.3, 120.7, 119.6, 110.7, 110.3, 75.6, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z:  $[M+H]^+$  Calculated for  $[C_{36}H_{28}N]^+$ : 474.2222; Found : 474.2209.

*9-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ad): Yield: 85%; 416 mg; off white solid; mp 182-184 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.65-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.7.20 (m, 9H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 3H), 7.03 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.94 (m, 3H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.68-6.66 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 158.2, 140.6, 139.7, 139.6, 136.1, 134.2, 132.7, 132.5, 131.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9(2C), 126.6, 122.3, 120.6, 119.5, 113.4, 110.6, 109.9, 75.6, 55.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> : 490.2165; Found : 490.2160.

*9-(4-(Methylthio)phenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ae): Yield: 80%; 405 mg; off white solid; mp 184-186 °C;  $R_f = 0.65$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.81-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 9H), 7.34-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.0, 139.9, 139.5, 136.0, 135.8, 134.3, 132.6, 132.2, 131.2, 131.2, 130.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 126.4, 122.4, 120.5, 119.7, 110.7, 109.6, 75.8, 16.38; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NS]<sup>+</sup>: 506.1973; Found: 506.1967.



*9-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3af): Yield: 80%; 416 mg; white solid; mp 214-216 °C;  $R_f = 0.3$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.74-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 13H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.63(d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 153.1, 151.4, 141.1, 140.2, 139.8, 139.6, 136.8, 134.3, 133.5, 132.6, 128.7(2C), 128.3, 127.9, 127.8(2C), 127.5, 124.1, 122.0, 120.9, 119.5, 117.4, 113.2, 111.5, 110.6, 104.8, 75.7, 55.8, 55.0; HRMS (ESITOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 520.2271; Found: 520.2303.

*9-(2-Bromophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ag): Yield: 77%; 415 mg; off white solid; mp 150-152 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.49-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.340 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 7.30-7.260 (m, 6H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 5H) 6.83 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.1, 140.4, 139.6, 139.4, 136.1, 135.8, 133.9, 133.1, 132.6(2C), 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9(2C), 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 126.4, 122.2, 120.7, 119.6, 110.7, 108.7, 75.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrN]<sup>+</sup>: 538.1165; Found: 538.1167.

**9-**(*4-Fluorophenyl*)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ah): Yield: 76%; 363 mg; off white solid; mp 198-200 °C;  $R_f = 0.4$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.76-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 10H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.20 (t, J =

7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.08 (m, 3H), 6.95 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H);  ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  161.6 (d, J = 243 Hz), 141.0, 140.0, 139.5, 135.9, 134.2, 132.5, 132.2 (d, J = 9 Hz), 130.2, 128.8, 128.3(2C), 128.0(2C), 122.4, 120.0 (d, J = 56 Hz), 114.7 (d, J = 22 Hz), 109.9 (d, J = 171 Hz), 75.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FN]<sup>+</sup>: 478.1971; Found: 478.1954.

*9-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ai): Yield: 80%, 395 mg; off white solid; mp 208-210 °C; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.50 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.77-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 10H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 6H), 7.13 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.3, 140.1, 139.4, 135.9, 134.2, 132.7, 132.5, 132.0(2C), 131.9, 128.8, 128.4(2C), 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 122.5, 120.3, 119.9, 110.8, 108.9, 75.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN]<sup>+</sup>: 494.1670; Found : 494.1638.

*9-(4-Bromophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3aj): Yield: 62%; 334 mg; radish solid; mp 216-218 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.60 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 3H), 6.83 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.4, 140.1, 139.4, 135.9, 134.3, 133.2, 132.5, 132.3, 132.0, 131.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 122.5, 120.3, 120.1, 119.9, 110.9, 108.9, 75.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrN]<sup>+</sup>: 338.1165; Found: 338.1156.

9-(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ak): Yield: 77%; 407 mg; off white solid; mp 128-130 °C;  $R_f = 0.45$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.33-7.28 (m, 10H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.00 (m, 5H), 6.84 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 140.4, 139.4, 137.3, 136.0, 134.3, 133.1, 132.5, 132.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 122.1, 120.8, 119.7, 110.9, 103.9, 76.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 528.1280; Found: 528.1254.

*9-(2-Bromo-5-fluorophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3al): Yield: 80%; 445 mg; off white solid; mp 152-154 °C;  $R_f = 0.35$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.32 (m, 10H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.94-6.90 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 161.6 (d, J = 245 Hz), 141.1 (d, J = 53 Hz), 139.4, 139.1, 137.8(d, J = 9 Hz), 135.9, 133.9, 133.7(2C), 132.4 (d, J = 36 Hz), 128.8(2C), 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0 (2C), 127.9, 127.6, 122.4, 120.7(2C), 120.5, 119.9(2C), 119.7, 115.7 (d, J = 22 Hz), 110.8, 107.6, 76.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrFN]<sup>+</sup>: 556.1071; Found: 556.1054.

**9-(2-Bromo-4-chlorophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole** (3am): Yield: 71%; 406.7 mg; light yellow solid; mp 110-112 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.56 (d, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 5H),

7.35-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.14-7.06 (m, 5H), 6.88 (s, 1H);  ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  141.4, 140.7, 139.5, 139.3, 135.9, 134.6, 134.0, 133.7, 133.4, 132.5, 132.4, 132.3, 128.8(2C), 128.3, 128.2, 128.0(3C), 127.7, 127.2, 126.7, 122.3, 120.5, 119.8, 110.9, 107.4, 76.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrClN]<sup>+</sup>: 572.0775; Found: 572.0775.

1,3,3-Triphenyl-9-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3an): Yield: 76%; 401 mg; off white solid; mp 174-176 °C;  $R_f = 0.20$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.75 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.38 (m, 12H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 5H), 7.98 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  140.3 (q, J = 239 Hz), 135.9, 134.1, 134.0, 133.9, 133.7, 132.5, 131.3, 131.2, 131.0, 130.7, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9 (q, J = 14 Hz), 127.6, 127.5, 126.1(q, J = 15 Hz), 125.4, 123.0, 122.7, 122.2, 120.6, 119.9, 119.6, 110.6, 106.0, 75.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]+ Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>25</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N]+: 528.1934; Found: 528.1938.

*9-(3-Nitrophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ao): Yield: 79%; 399 mg; yellow solid; mp 246-248 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.40 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 85/15);  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.10 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 11H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 5H), 6.91 (s, 1H);  $^{13}$ C{ $^1$ H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 147.8, 142.1, 141.0, 139.0, 136.3, 135.9, 135.5, 134.3, 132.3, 131.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2(2C), 128.1, 125.4, 122.9, 120.7, 120.4, 119.8, 111.1, 107.5, 76.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 505.1911; Found: 505.1939.

*9-(4-Nitrophenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3ap): Yield: 80%; 404 mg; yellow solid; mp 247-249 °C; R<sub>f</sub> = 0.40 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 85/15); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 8.06 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.34 (m, 12H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C { <sup>1</sup>H } NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 145.7, 142.7, 141.5, 141.3, 138.8, 135.5, 134.3, 132.4, 131.3, 130.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3(2C), 128.2(2C), 123.1, 123.0, 120.5, 120.0, 111.2, 108.0, 76.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 505.1911; Found: 505.1933.

*9-(2-Bromo-4-methylphenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo*[*1,2-a*]*indole* (3aq): Yield: 72%; 398 mg; off white solid; mp 88-90 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.50 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.06 (m, 6H), 6.88 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.1, 140.3, 139.8, 139.5, 138.7, 136.2, 134.0, 133.1, 132.8, 132.7, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 126.1, 122.1, 120.8, 119.5, 110.7, 108.6, 75.9, 20.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>27</sub>BrN]<sup>+</sup>: 552.1321; Found: 552.1299.

9-(2-Bromo-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ar): Yield: 78%; 500 mg; brown solid; mp 241-243 °C;  $R_f = 0.60$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 85/15); <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 12H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.07 (m, 6H), 7.92-6.85 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H);  $^{13}$ C{ $^{1}$ H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  148.7, 147.9, 141.0, 140.4, 139.6, 139.4, 136.1, 133.9, 132.7, 132.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9(2C), 127.8, 127.7, 122.2, 121.0, 119.6, 116.1, 115.7, 115.4, 110.8, 108.7, 75.9, 56.3, 56.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>29</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 598.1376; Found: 598.1386.

9-(2-Bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3as):

Yield: 80%; 485 mg; grey solid; mp 102-104 °C;  $R_f$  = 0.60 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 85/15); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 11H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.12-7.07 (m, 5H), 6.91 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.7, 141.0, 139.3, 139.1, 136.9, 135.8, 132.9 (q, J = 202 Hz), 130.0 (q, J = 13 Hz), 129.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3(2C), 128.3 (q, J = 28 Hz), 127.7, 125.2, 125.0, 124.9, 122.5, 120.6, 119.9, 111.0, 107.2, 76.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 606.1039; Found: 606.1021.

*9-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3at): Yield: 73%; 372 mg; radish solid; mp 182-184 °C R<sub>f</sub> = 0.80 (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.89 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 9H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13-6.97 (m, 6H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.82 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.4, 140.3, 139.8, 139.7, 136.1, 134.2, 133.8, 133.6, 133.3, 132.2, 129.6, 128.8(2C), 128.4, 128.3, 128.0(2C), 127.9, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 125.6(2C), 125.2, 122.2, 121.3, 119.5, 110.8, 107.8, 75.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]+ Calculated for [C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N]+: 510.2216; Found: 510.2221.

*9-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-1,3,3-triphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole* (3au): Yield: 60%; 306 mg; off white solid; mp 224-226 °C;  $R_f = 0.80$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.87-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 9H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 4H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.2, 140.2, 139.5, 136.2, 134.4, 133.4, 132.7, 132.3, 132.0, 131.7, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 127.1, 125.8, 125.4, 122.5, 120.7, 119.8, 110.8, 110.2, 104.8, 75.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 510.2216; Found: 510.2211.

7-Methoxy-1,3,3-triphenyl-9-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3av): Yield: 76%; 383 mg; yellow solid; mp 138-140 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.28-7.19 (m, 10H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 4H), 7.08 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d , J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.65-6.62 (m, 1H), 3.69(s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 154.2, 140.6, 140.3, 139.7, 136.2, 135.6, 132.8, 132.7, 131.3, 130.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 112.3, 111.3, 109.9, 102.5, 75.6, 55.9, 21.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup>: 504.2322; Found: 504.2353.

6-Fluoro-1,3,3-triphenyl-9-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3aw): Yield: 79%; 388 mg; off white solid; mp 138-140 °C;  $R_f = 0.40$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.75-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 9H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 5H), 7.11(d, 2H), 6.93-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.81 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 160.0 (d, J = 237 Hz), 141.2, 140.4, 140.0, 139.3, 139.2, 136.0 (d, J = 13 Hz), 134.2, 132.5, 131.3, 130.8, 130.6, 129.0, 128.8(2C), 128.6, 128.4, 128.2(2C), 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 121.4 (d, J = 10 Hz), 110.4, 108.1 (d, J = 24 Hz), 97.1 (d, J = 27 Hz), 97.0, 75.7, 21.3;; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz): δ -119.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>27</sub>FN]<sup>+</sup>: 492.2122; Found : 492.2145.

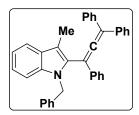
7-Chloro-1,3,3-triphenyl-9-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ax): Yield: 73%; 371 mg; white solid; mp 220-222 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.69 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 13H), 7.34-7.22 (m, 13H), 7.11 (d, J = 6 Hz, 4H), 7.02-7.6.96 (m, 3H), 6.94-6.89 (m, 3H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.2, 141.0, 139.4, 136.1, 133.6, 132.6, 132.4, 130.6, 130.5, 128.4, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 125.6, 122.6, 120.2, 111.5, 110.0, 75.9, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>27</sub>CIN]<sup>+</sup>: 508.1827; Found: 508.1853.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-3,3-diphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ay): Yield: 76%; 325 mg; off white solid; mp 184-186 °C;  $R_f = 0.50$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 90/10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 3H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 10H), 7.05-6.93 (m, 5H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 159.9, 140.8, 140.3, 138.6, 135.9, 134.4, 134.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 126.1, 121.8, 119.6, 118.7, 113.9, 110.5, 102.8, 75.4, 55.5, 9.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for  $[C_{31}H_{26}NO]^+$ : 428.2009; Found : 428.2036.

3,9-Dimethyl-3-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3az): Yield: 74%; 259 mg; off white solid; mp 122-124 °C;  $R_f = 0.70$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.68-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.02-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 141.7, 141.1, 140.1, 138.2, 135.6, 134.0, 133.4, 131.0, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.4, 126.0, 121.6, 119.7, 118.6, 109.9, 101.9, 68.5, 24.0, 21.4, 9.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N]<sup>+</sup> : 350.1903; Found : 350.1906.

9-Methyl-3,3-diphenyl-1-(p-tolyl)-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3ba): Yield: 68%; 280 mg; off white solid; mp 141-143 °C;  $R_f = 0.55$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.63-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 12H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 140.6, 140.2, 139.1, 138.4, 136.2, 134.3, 134.1, 130.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 121.8, 119.6, 118.7, 110.4, 102.9, 75.4, 21.5, 9.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 412.2060; Found: 412.2073.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-3,3-diphenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole (3bb): Yield: 76%; 328 mg; white solid; mp 177-179 °C;  $R_f = 0.6$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.23 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 140.0, 139.9, 139.8, 135.2, 134.4, 134.0, 132.2, 129.7, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 122.1, 119.8, 118.9, 110.5, 103.1, 75.5, 9.73; HRMS (ESITOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated for [C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN]<sup>+</sup>: 432.1514; Found: 432.1505.



1-Benzyl-3-methyl-2-(1,3,3-triphenylpropa-1,2-dien-1-yl)-1H-indole (5): Yield: 87%; 424 mg; off white gummy;  $R_f = 0.70$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 95/05); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): δ 7.60 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 11H), 7.14-7.10 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.73 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 2.13 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 209.6, 138.1, 137.2, 135.8, 135.7, 130.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 126.7, 126.1, 122.1, 119.3, 119.0, 112.8, 111.2, 110.3, 102.7, 47.6, 9.7.

# 7. Calculation of Green Chemistry Metrics (EcoScale and E-factor):

# (a) Calculation of EcoScale indexes under ball milling

The penalty points for synthesis of coumarin derivatives for the synthesis of pyrrolo[1,2-a]indoles (3) under ball milling

Parameter	Penalty
1. Yields 60-85%	20-7.5
2. Price of reaction components	
Indoles	0
Propargyl alcohols	0
BAIL-1	0
3. Safety	
non-dangerous for environment, non-toxic, non-flammable	0
4. Technical setup	
Unconventional activation technique	2
5. Temperature/time	
Room temperature < 1 h	0
6. Workup and purification	
Classical chromatography	10
Penalty points total:	32-19.5

**EcoScale Score** = 100 - Total penalty points = 68-80.5

# EcoScale Score for the synthesis of 9-methyl-1,3,3-triphenyl-3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole (3aa) under the ball-milling conditions:

Parameter	Penalty
1. Yields 84%	8
2. Price of reaction components	
3-Methyl-1 <i>H</i> -indole ( <b>1a</b> )	0
Propargyl alcohol (2a)	0
BAIL-1	0
3. Safety	
non-dangerous for environment, non-toxic, non-flammable	0
4. Technical setup	
Unconventional activation technique	2
5. Temperature/time	
Room temperature < 1 h	0
6. Workup and purification	
Classical chromatography	10
Penalty points total:	20

**EcoScale Score** = 100 - Total penalty points = 80

# (c) Calculation of E-factor for the synthesis of 9-methyl-1,3,3-triphenyl-3*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole (3aa) under the ball-milling conditions:

#### E-factor calculation for the synthesis of 3aa under the ball-milling conditions:

Reactant 1 ( <b>1a</b> ):	3-Methyl-1 <i>H</i> -indole	0.131 g	1 mmol	FW 131.18
Reactant 2 ( <b>2a</b> ):	1,1,3-Triphenylprop-2-yn-1-ol	0.284 g	1 mmol	FW 284.36
Reagent:	BAIL-1	0.039 g	0.1 mmol	FW 390
Solvent:	<del></del>			_
Auxiliary (grinding):	_			— į
Product (3aa):	9-methyl-1,3,3-triphenyl-3 <i>H-</i> pyrrolo[1,2- <i>a</i> ]indole	0.333 g	0.84 mmol	FW 397.52

Product yield = 84%

E-factor = 
$$\frac{0.131 + 0.284 + (0.039 - 0.036) - (0.333)}{0.333} = 0.25 \text{ Kg waste/1 Kg product}$$

**Note:** (i) Calculations were donw on 1 mmol scale. (ii) When the authors have not reported the amount of solvent used in the work-up and purification procedure, we have nnot accounted for solvent and considered that soovent can be recovered. The catalyst was recovered in 94% amount.

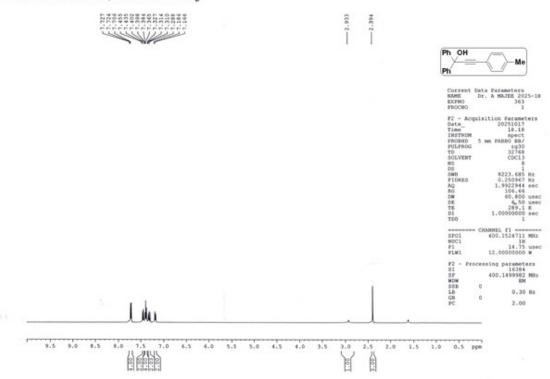
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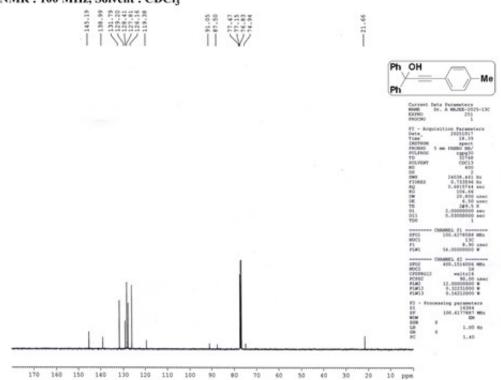
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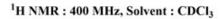
9.  $^{1}\mathrm{H}$ , and  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR spectra of synthesized compounds:

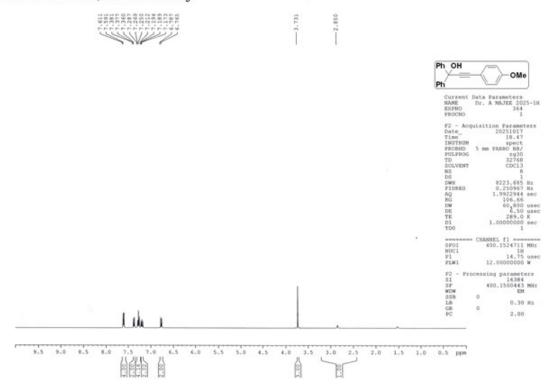




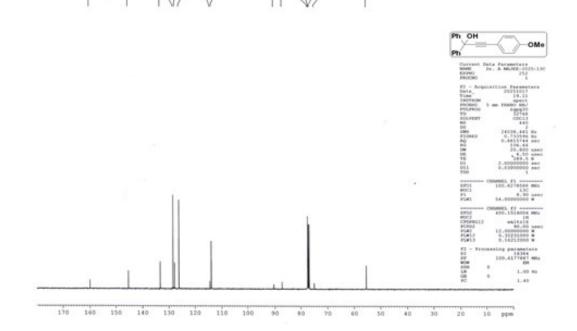




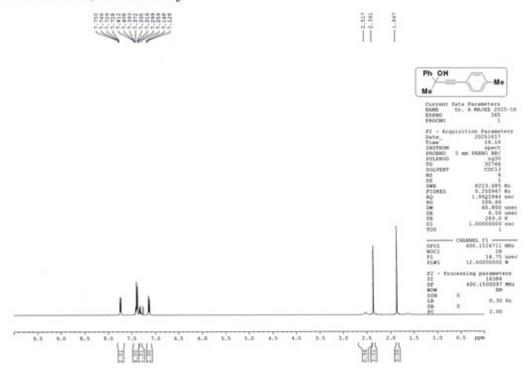




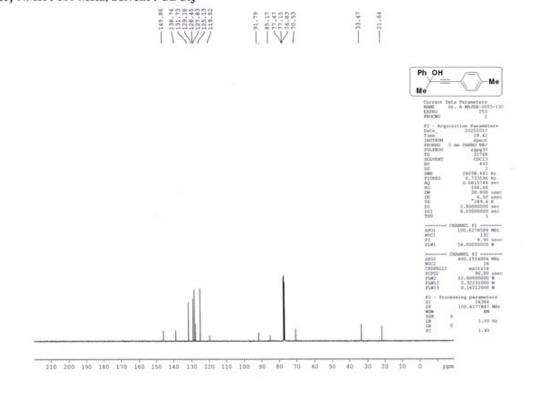
# 13C{1H} NMR: 100 MHz, Solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>





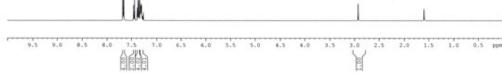




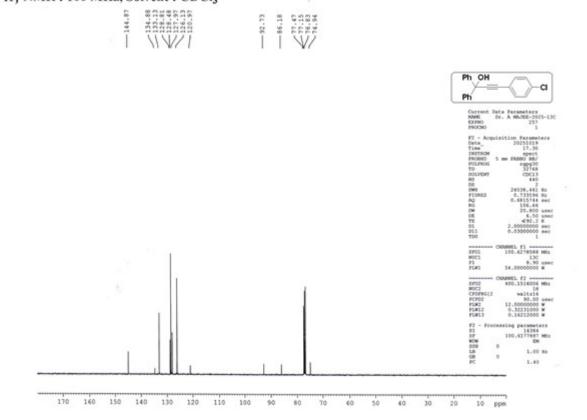




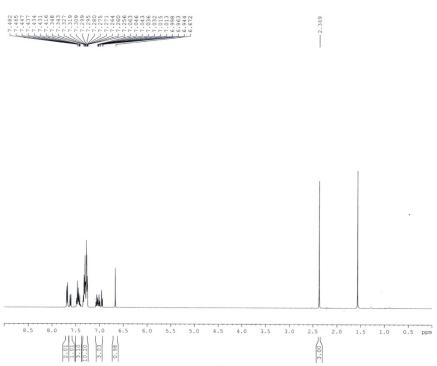




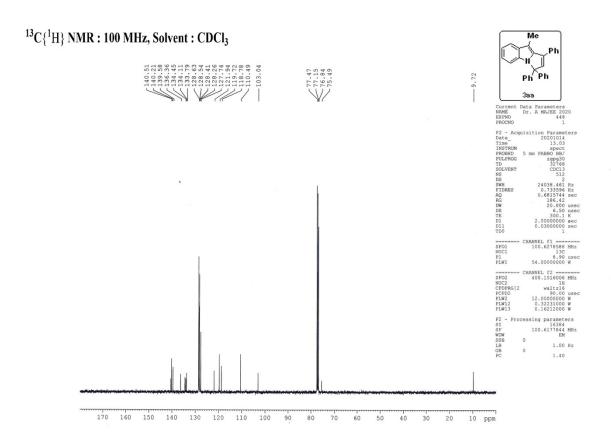
# 13C{1H} NMR: 100 MHz, Solvent: CDCl3

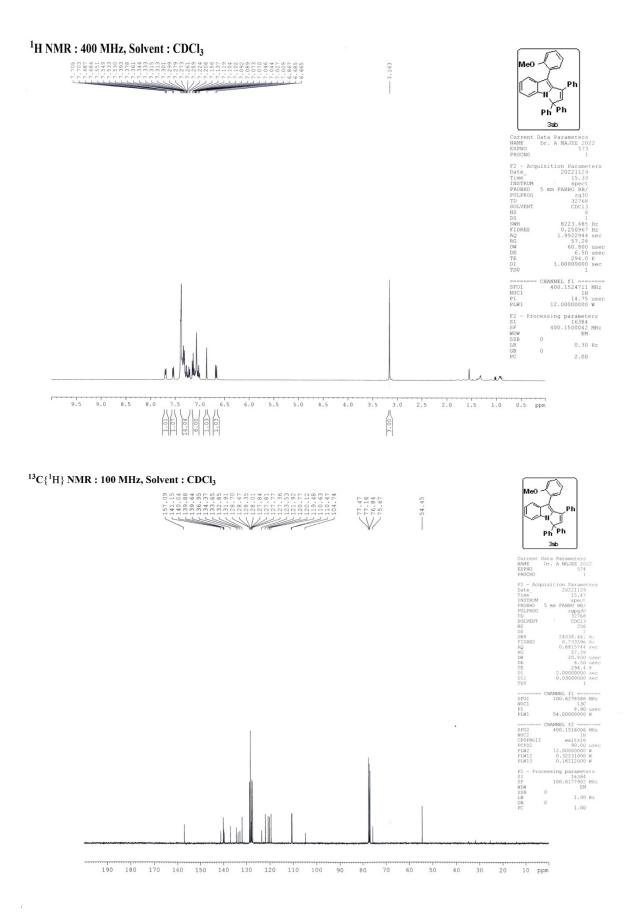




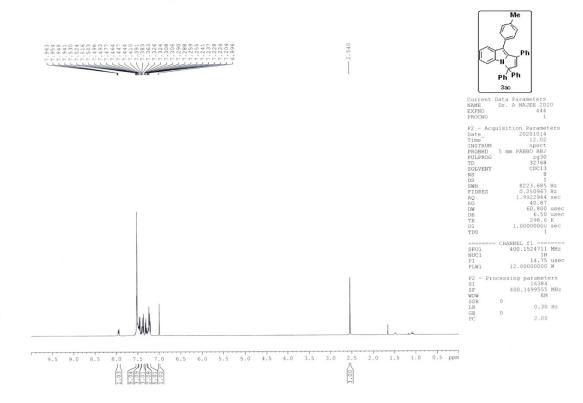


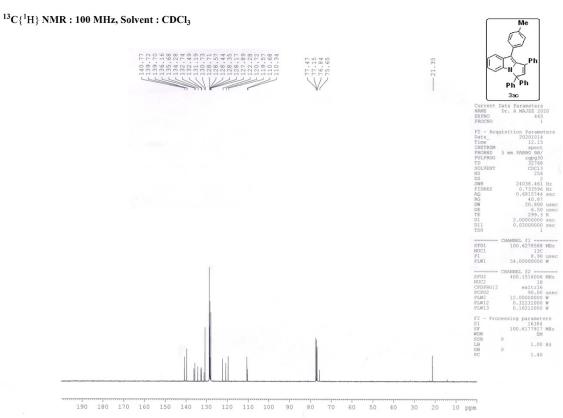


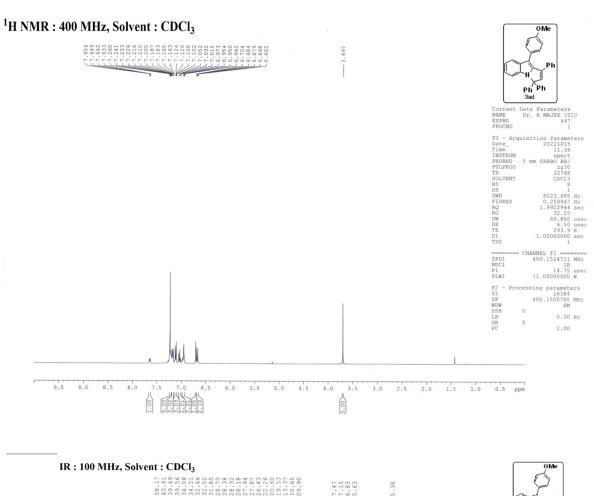


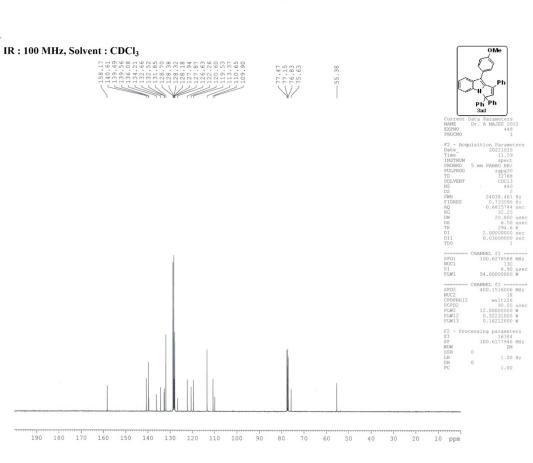


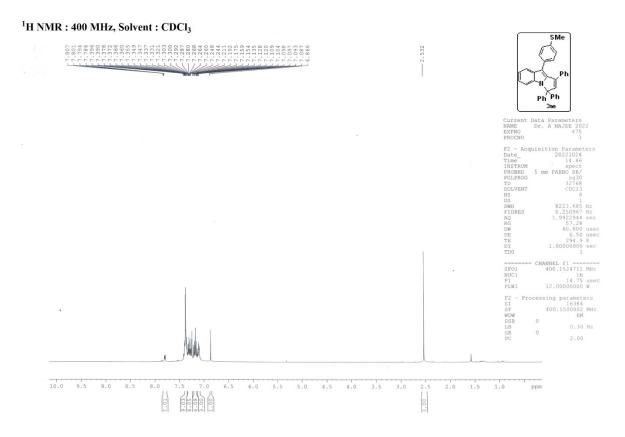
#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 400 MHz, Solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>

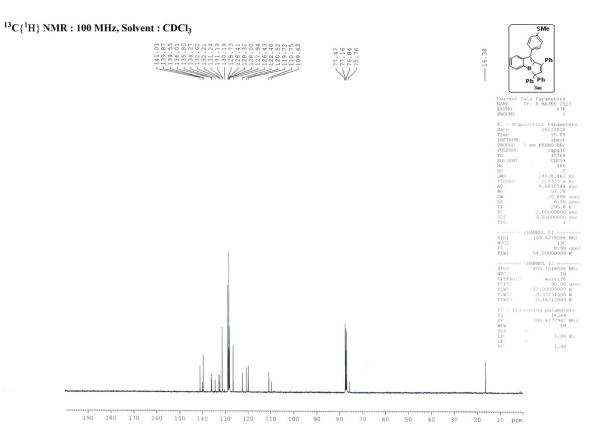


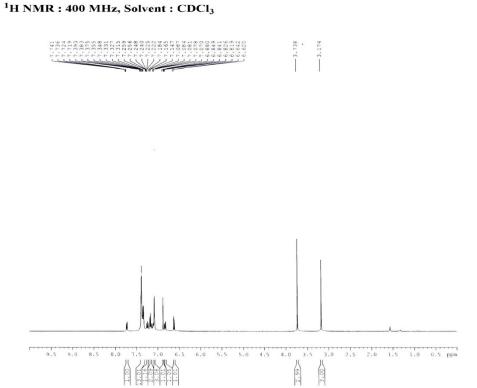


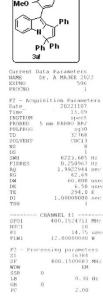


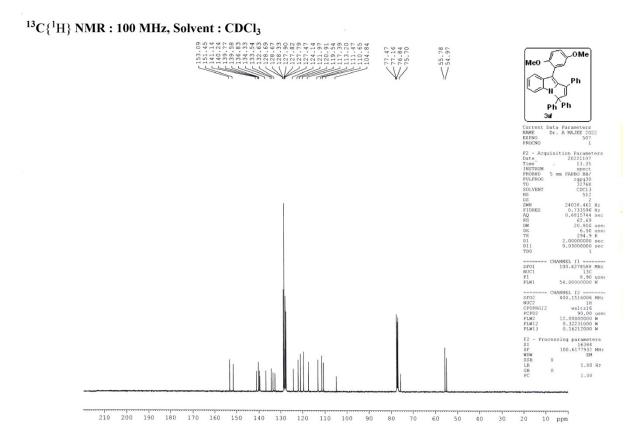


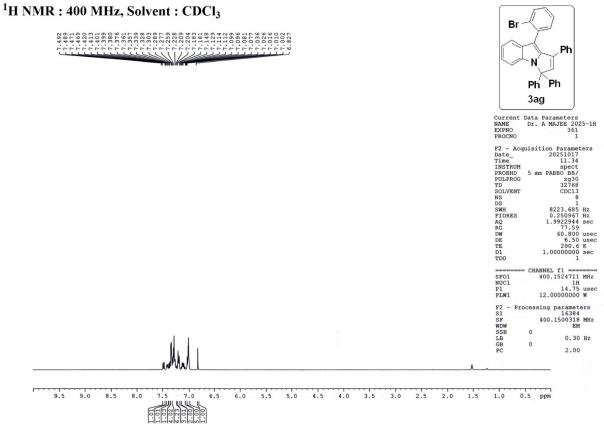


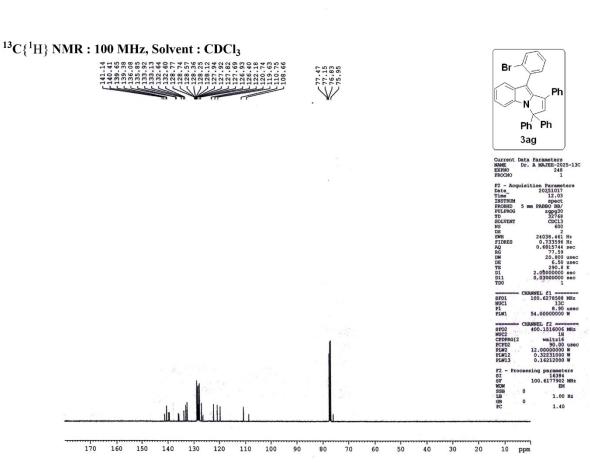


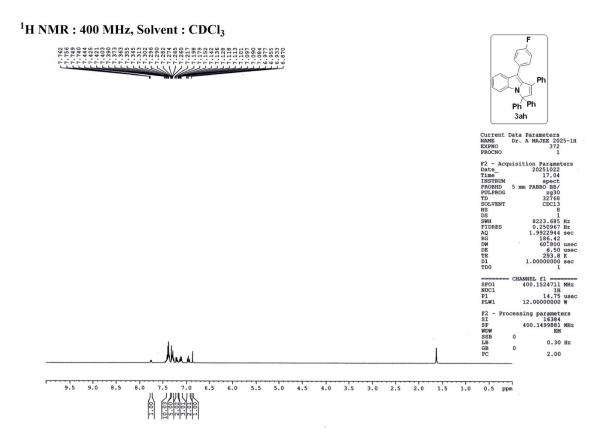


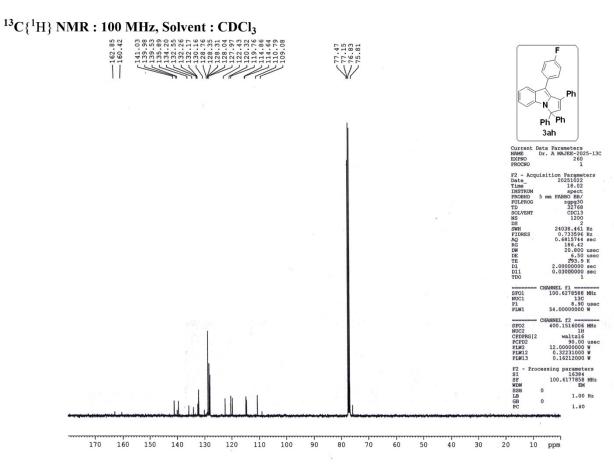


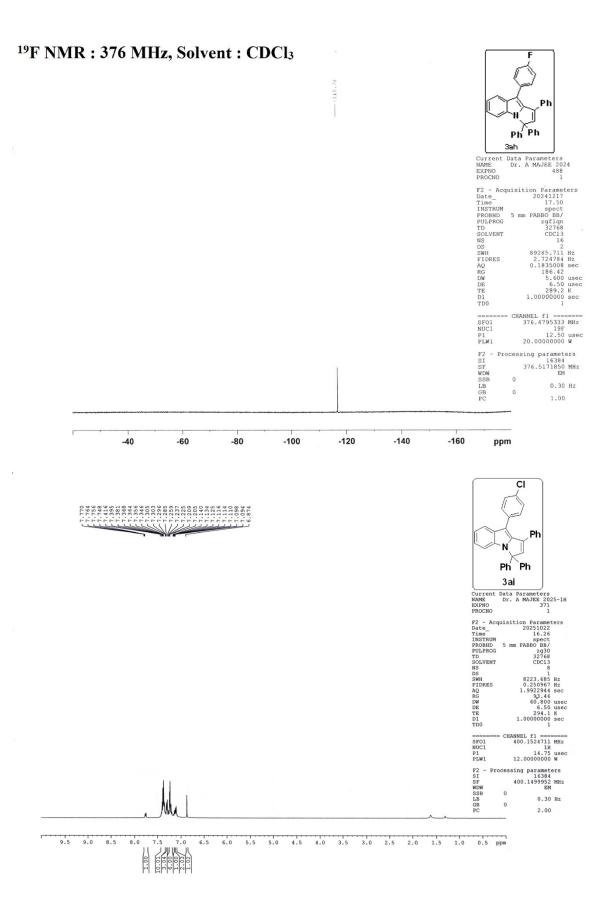


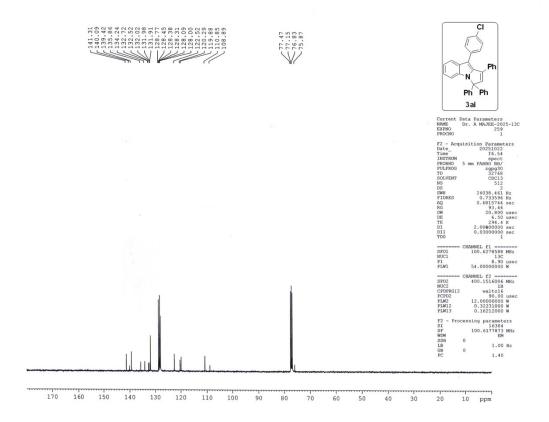


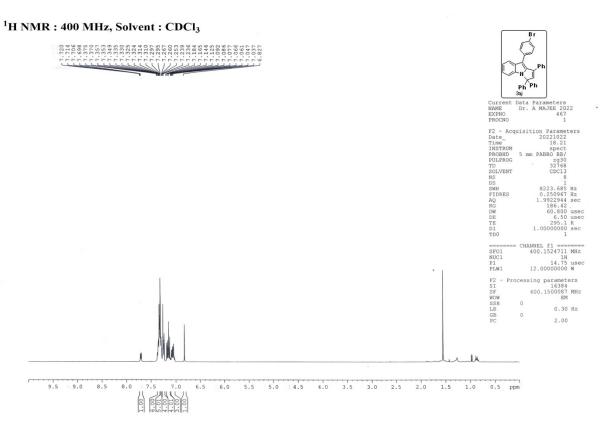


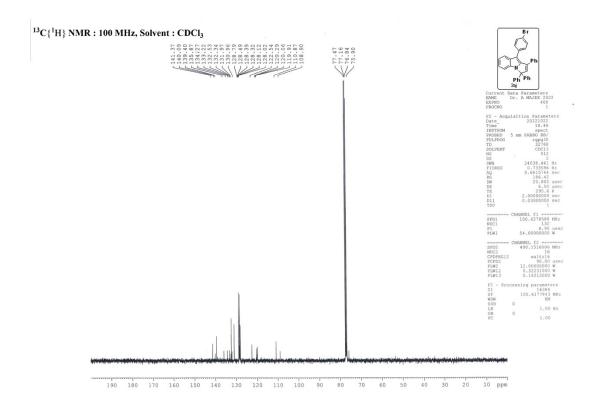


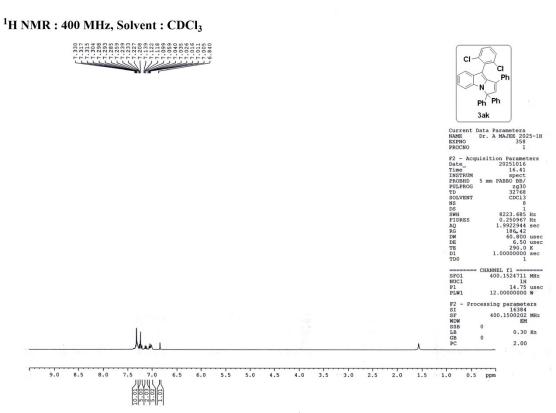


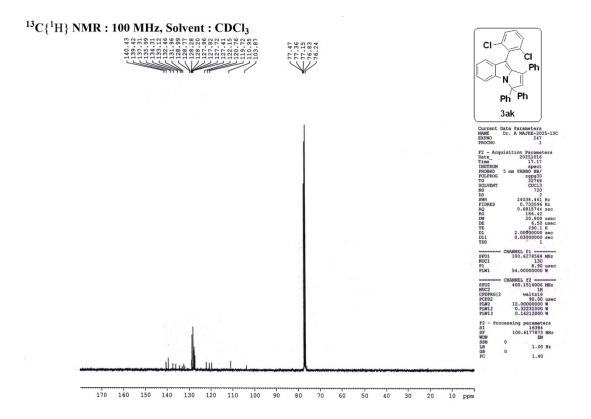


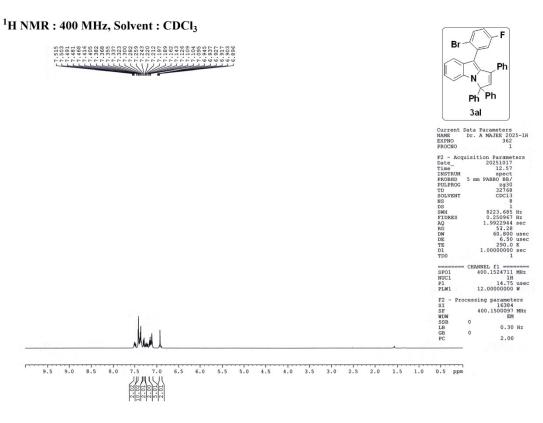




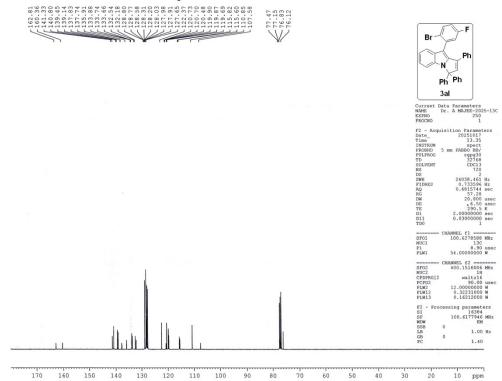




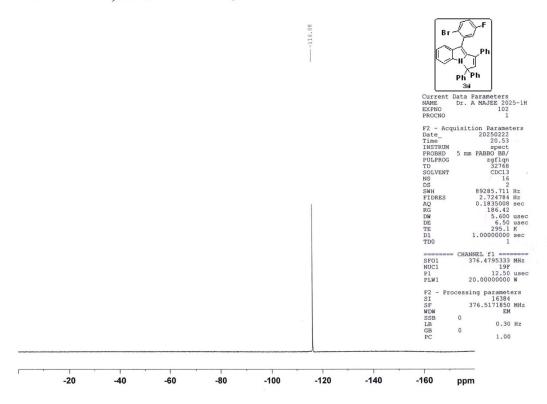




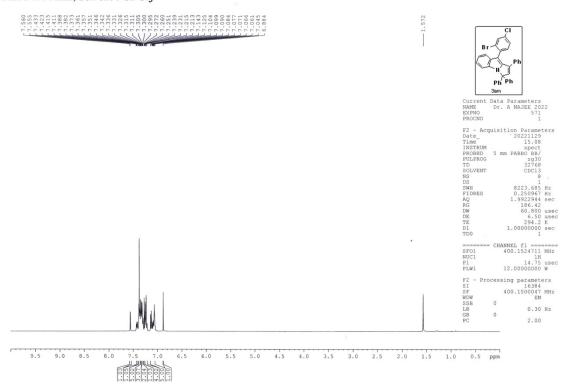


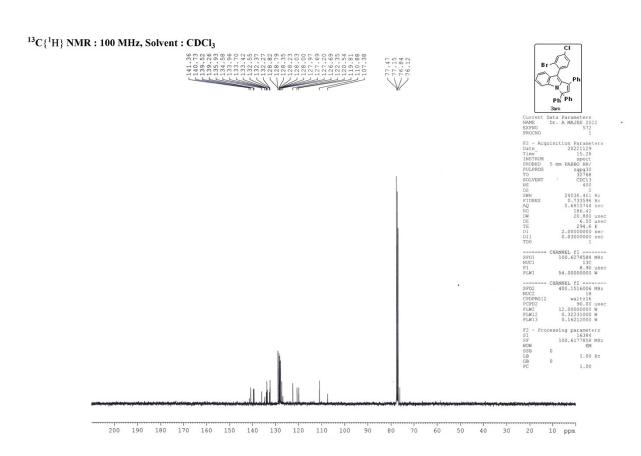


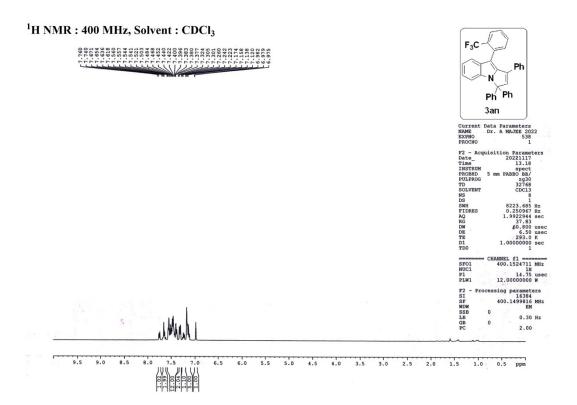
### <sup>19</sup>F NMR: 376 MHz, Solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>



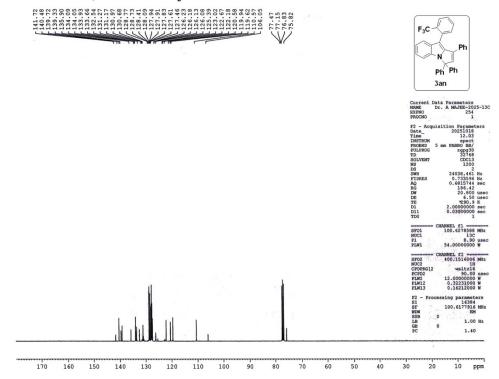




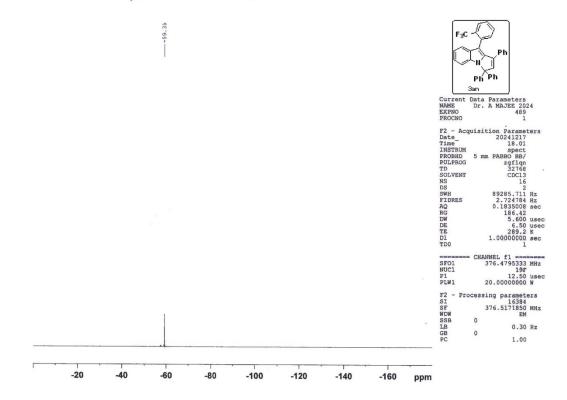


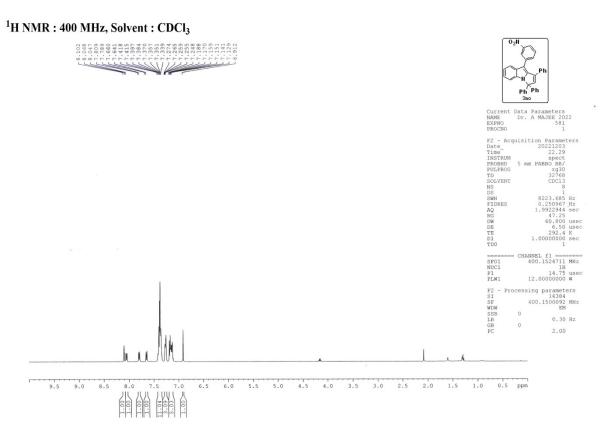


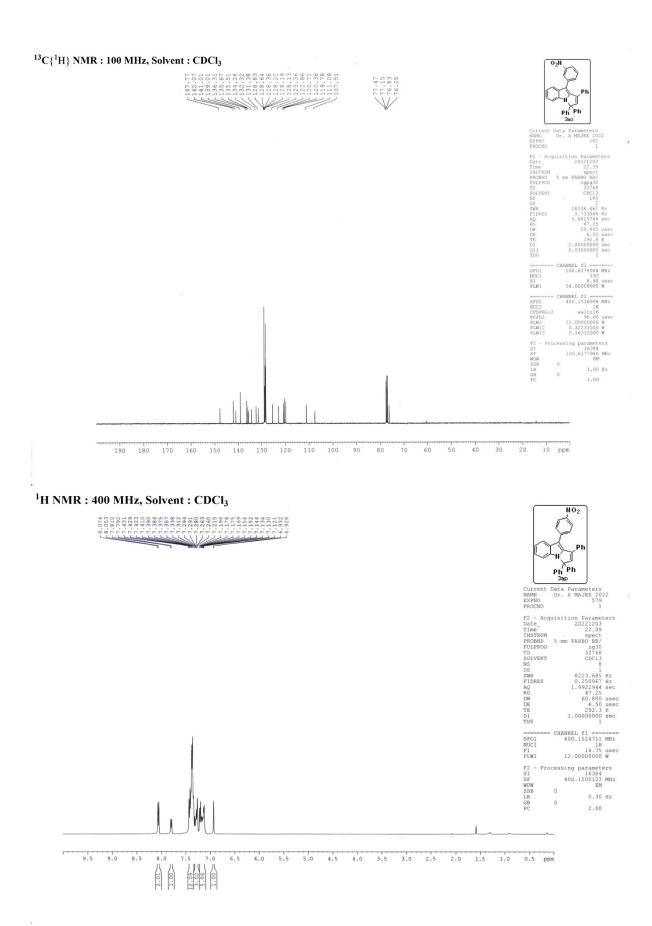


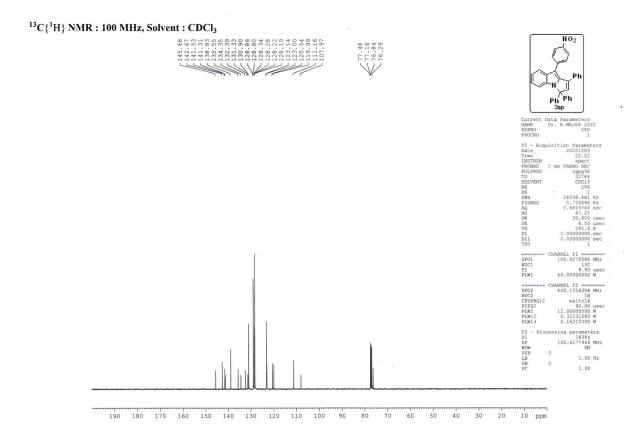


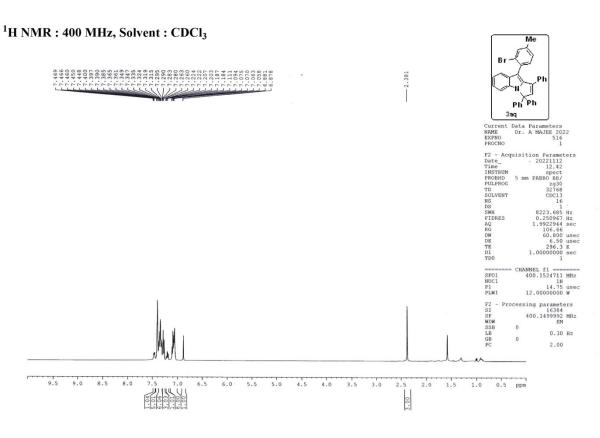
# <sup>19</sup>F NMR: 376 MHz, Solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>

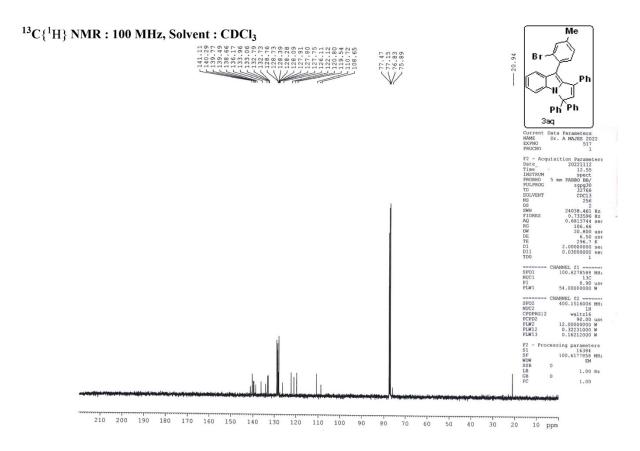


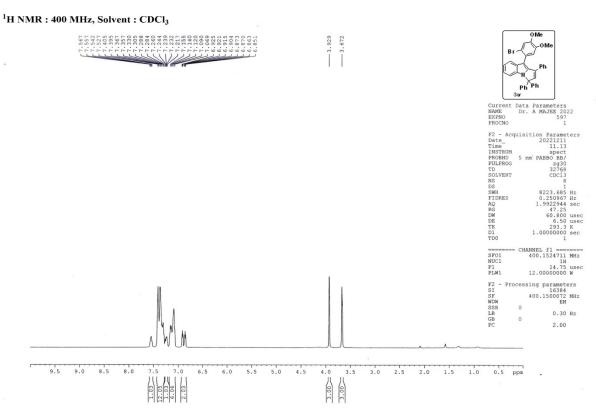


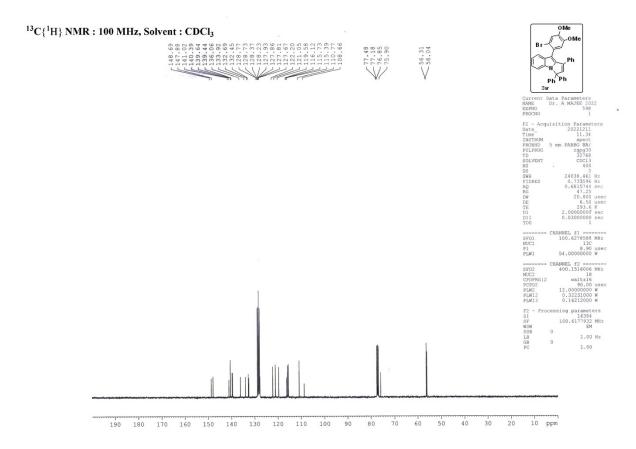


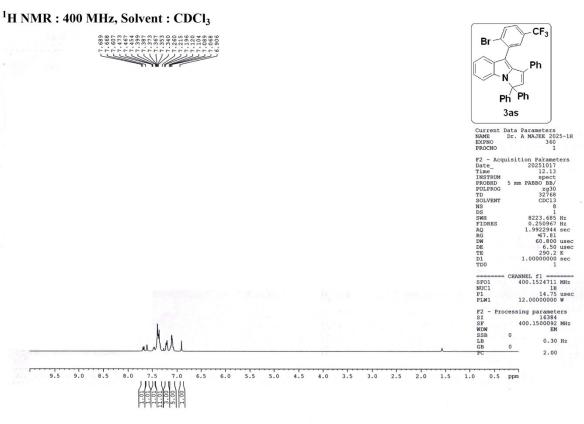


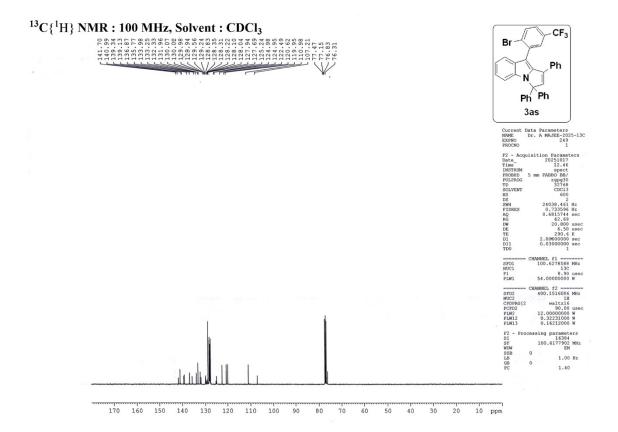


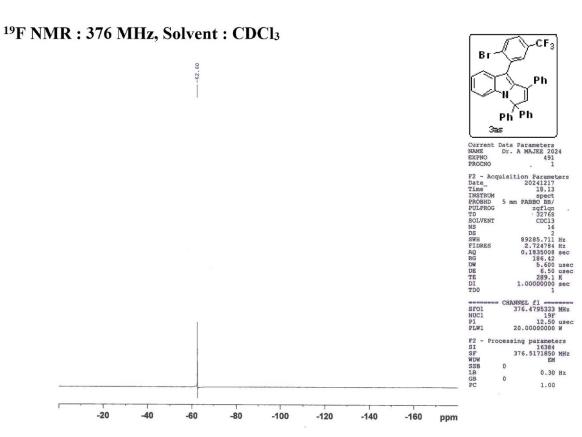


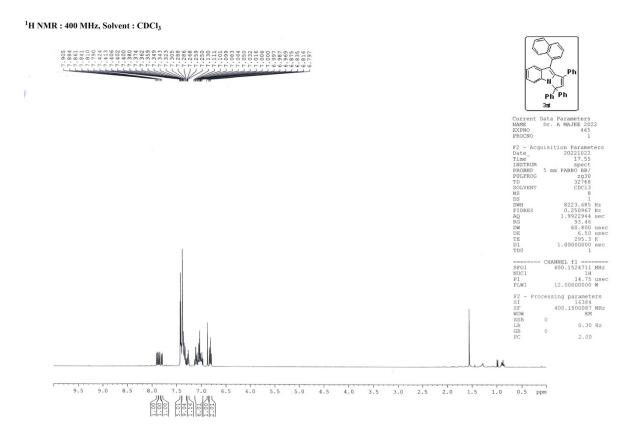


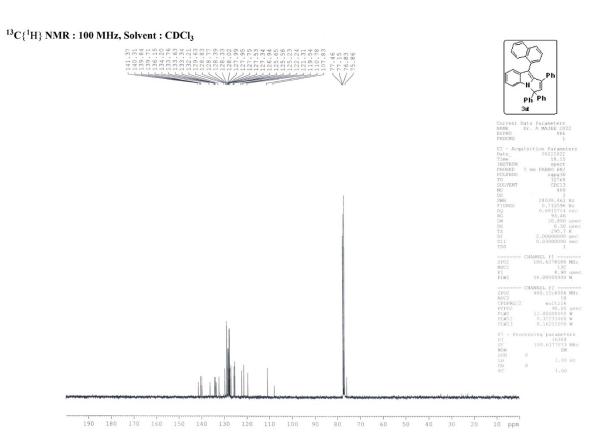


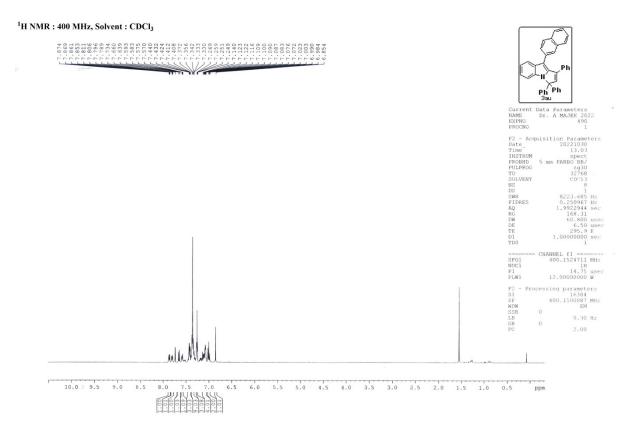


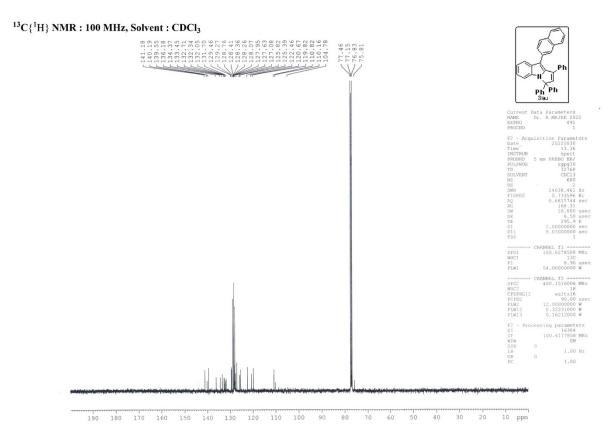


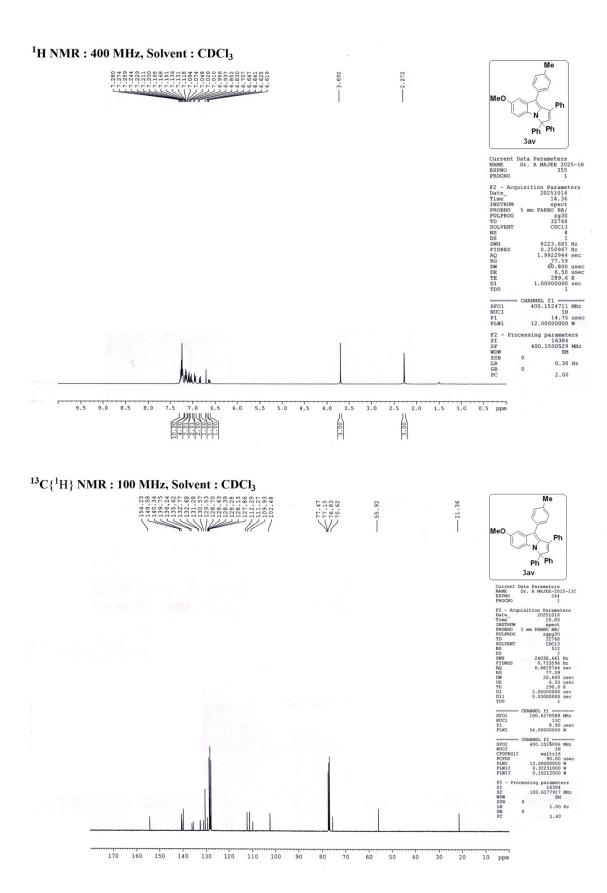


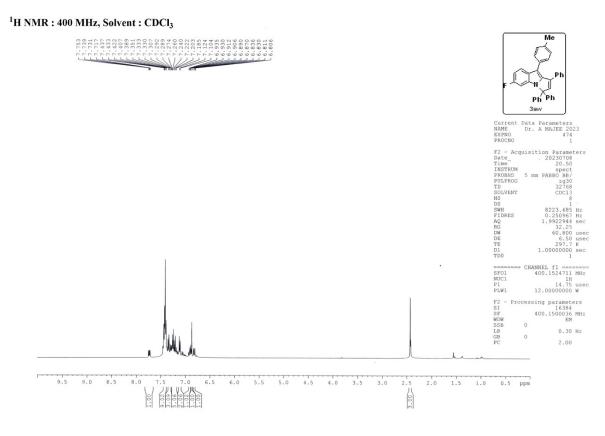


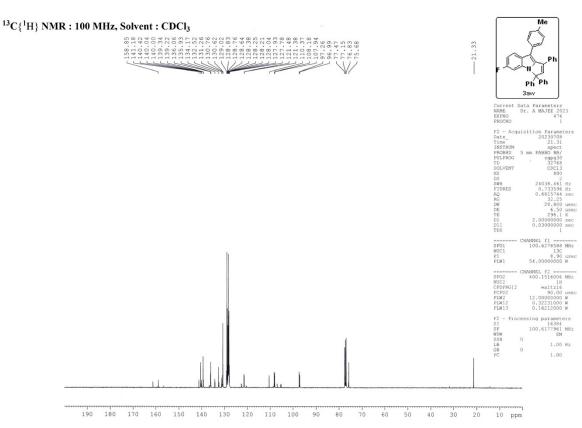


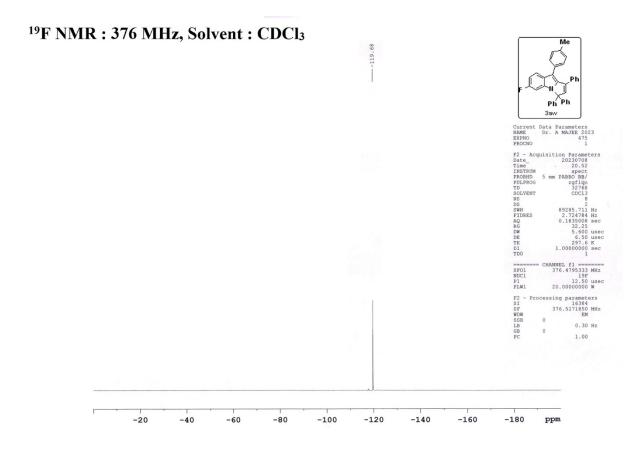


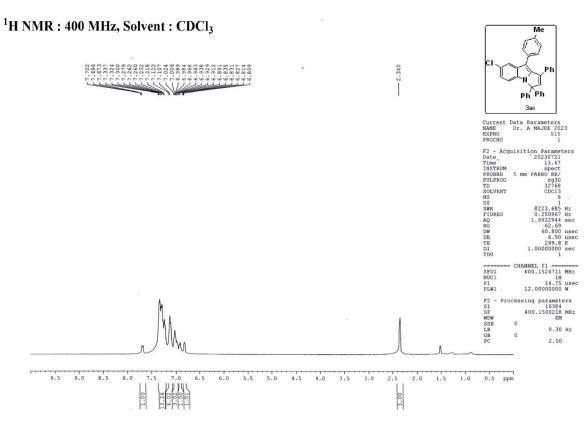


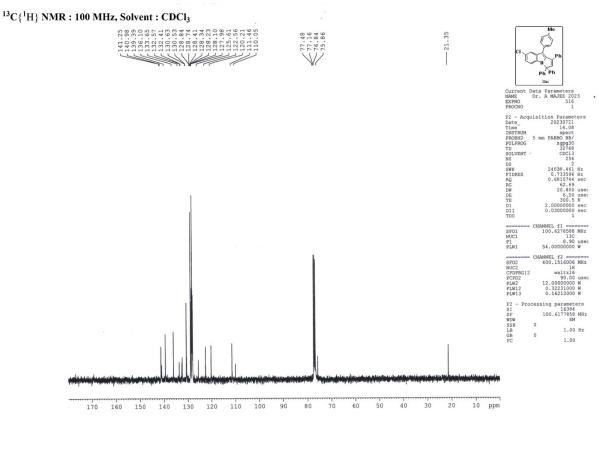


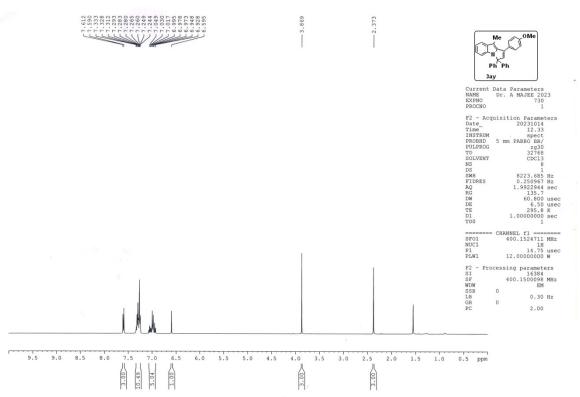


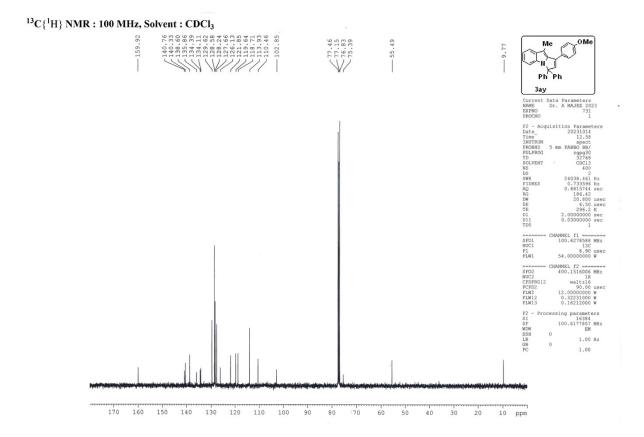


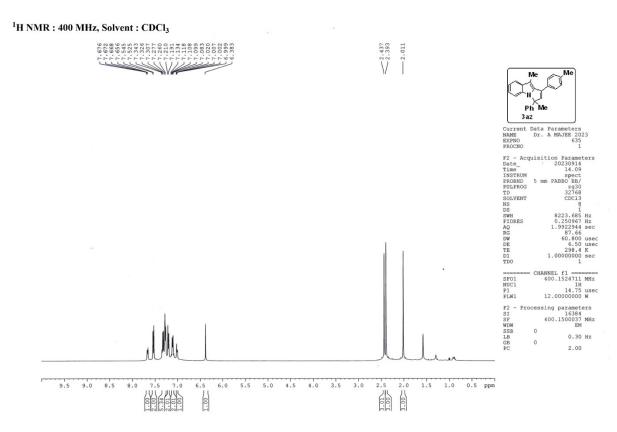


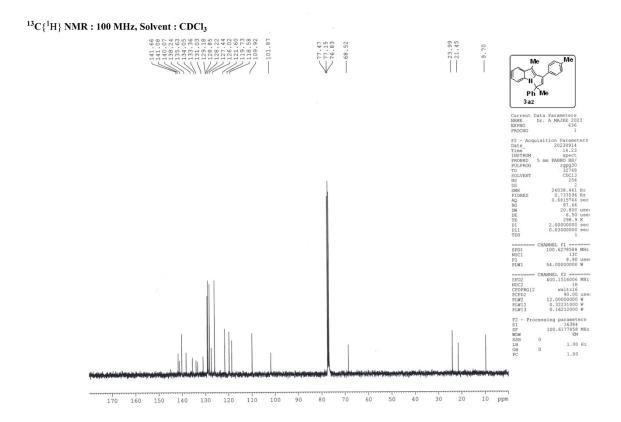


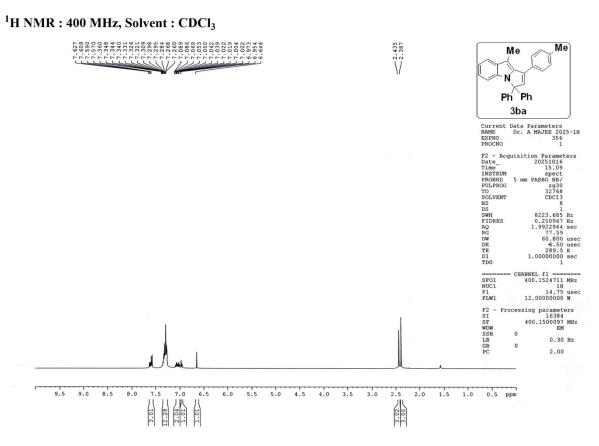


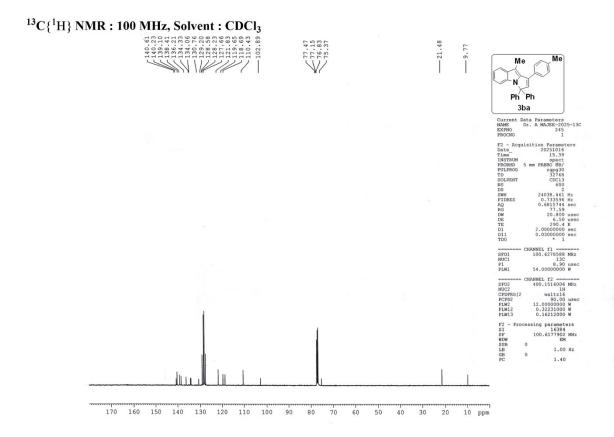


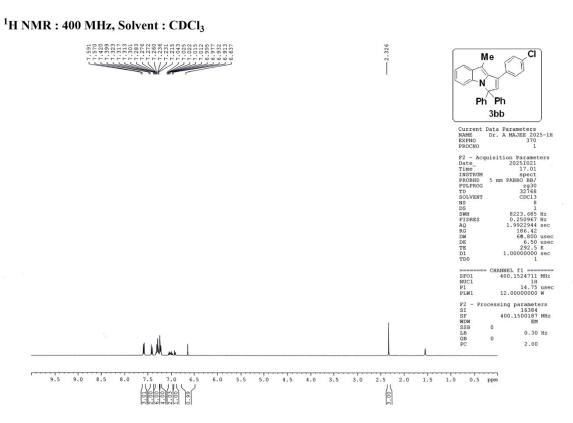


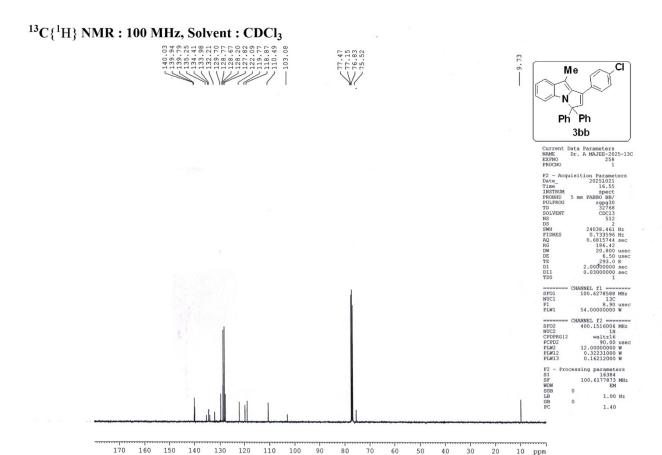












# <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 400 MHz, Solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>

