

## **Rh<sup>III</sup>-Catalyzed C–H Heteroarylation and C–N Cleavage: Direct Access to C2-heteroarylated (NH)-indoles**

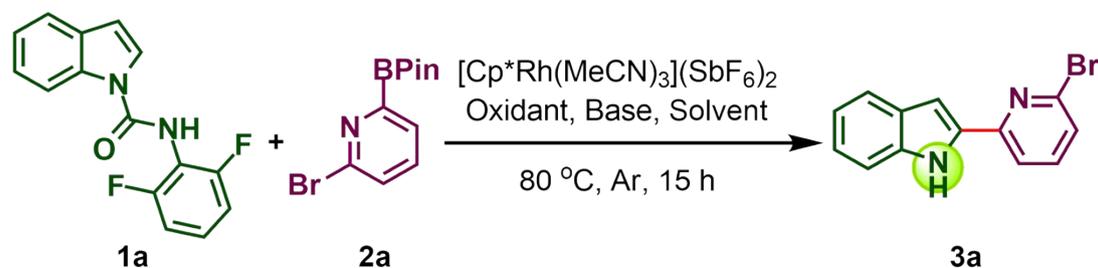
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Technology, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Liaocheng University,  
Liaocheng 252000, China.

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## 1. Optimizations of the model reaction with 2 equivalents of oxidants<sup>a,b</sup>

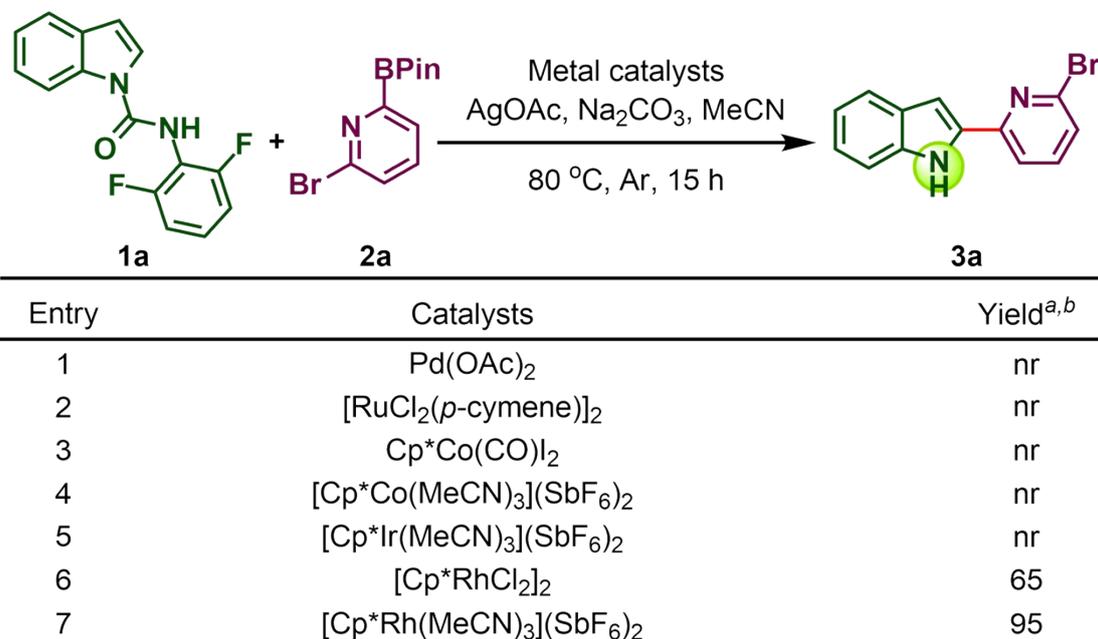
**Table S1** Optimizations of reaction conditions with 2 equivalents of oxidants<sup>a,b</sup>



Entry	Oxidant	Base	Solvent	Yield <sup>a,b</sup>
1	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	81
2	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DCM	28
3	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DCE	32
4	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMF	12
5	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	THF	70
6	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Dioxane	71
7	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Toluene	79
8	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	PhCl	72
9	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeOH	11
10	AgOAc	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	8
11	AgOAc	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	77
12	AgOAc	Rb <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	27
13	AgOAc	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	23
14	AgOAc	NaOAc	MeCN	58
15	AgOAc	NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	64
16	AgOAc	KHCO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	74
17	AgOAc	CsOAc	MeCN	59
18	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	20
19	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	nr
20	AgF	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	48
21	Ag <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	67
22	AgOPiv	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	71
23	CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Ag	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	50
24	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	nr
25 <sup>c</sup>	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	70

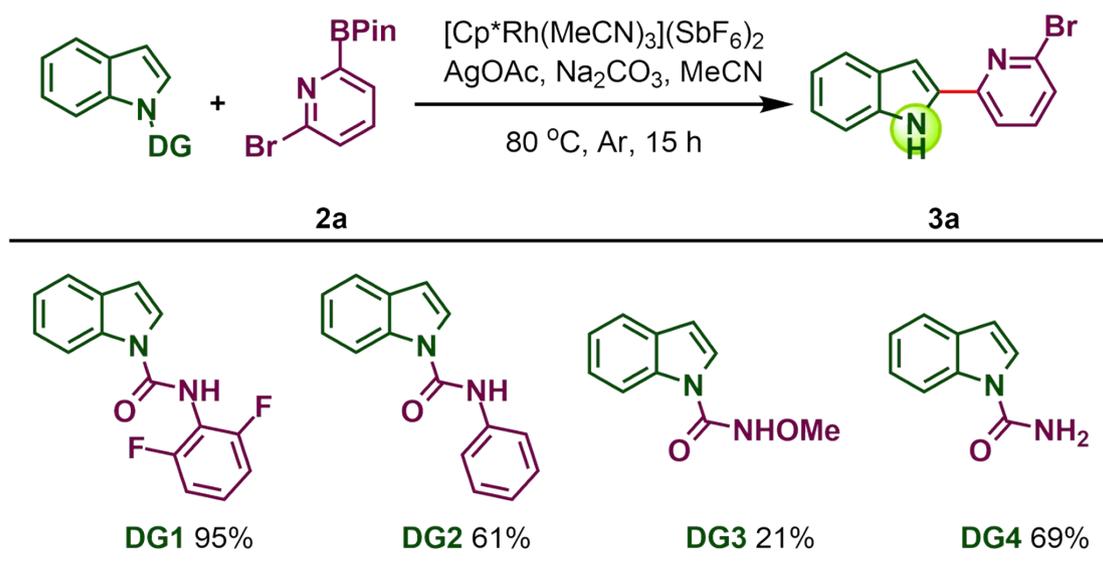
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp\*Rh(MeCN)<sub>3</sub>](SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), Oxidant (0.2 mmol), Base (0.2 mmol) and dry solvent (2 mL), Ar, 15 h, 80 °C. <sup>b</sup>isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>**2a** (0.2 mmol).

**Table S2** The reactivity efficiency of other metal catalysts under the optimal conditions<sup>a,b</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), metal catalysts (10 mol%) or [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(*p*-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%) or [Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), AgOAc (0.3 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol) and dry solvent (2 mL), Ar, 15 h, 80 °C. <sup>b</sup>isolated yields.

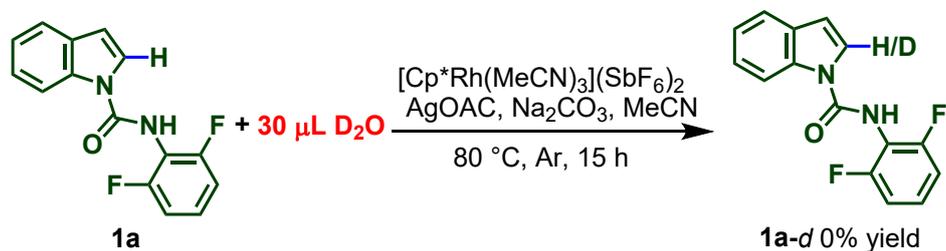
**Table S3** The reactivity efficiency of alternative directing groups<sup>a,b</sup>



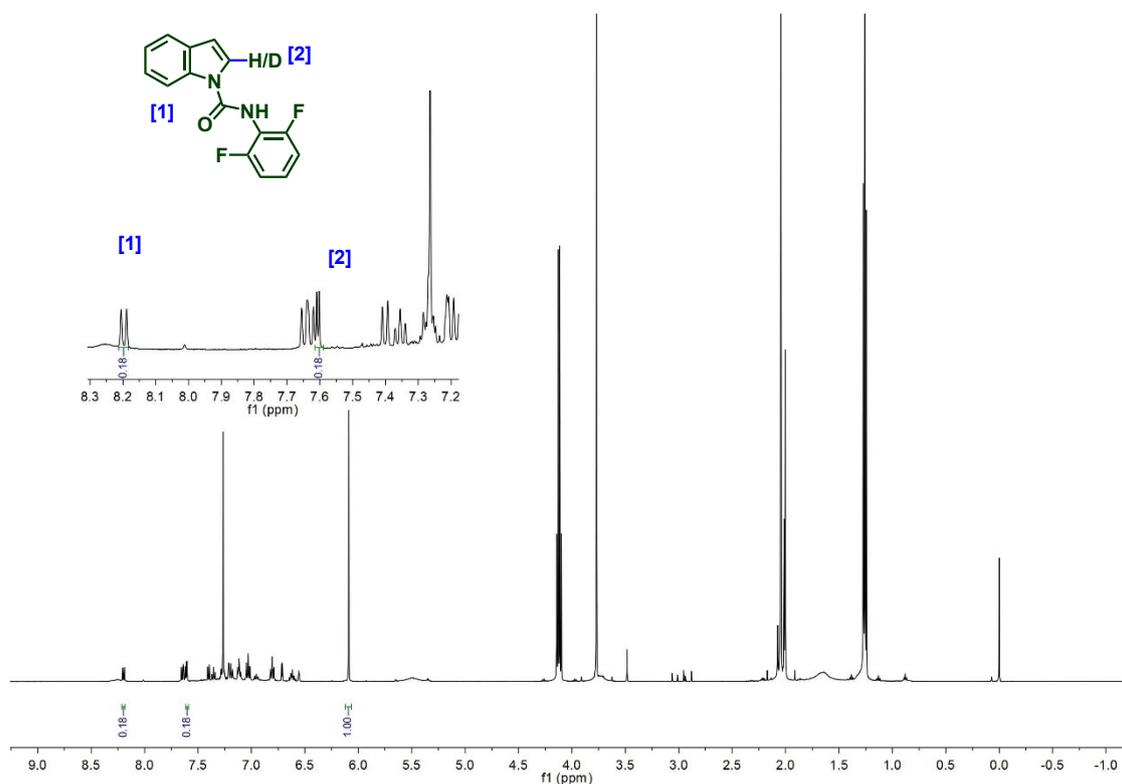
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Cp\*Rh(MeCN)<sub>3</sub>](SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), AgOAc (0.3 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol) and dry solvent (2 mL), Ar, 15 h, 80 °C. <sup>b</sup>isolated yields.

## 2. Control experiments

### 2.1 Deuterium incorporation experiment



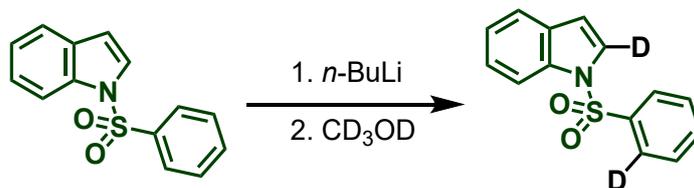
To a 25 mL Schlenk-type sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added the substrate **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.1 mmol),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{MeCN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$  (8.3 mg, 0.01 mmol, 10 mol %), AgOAc (50.1 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3 equiv),  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (21.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv), 30  $\mu\text{L}$   $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  and dry MeCN (2.0 mL) under Ar atmosphere. The tube was capped and subjected to a 80  $^\circ\text{C}$  preheated oil bath for 15 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to afford crude products, which was determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the crude product using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.





## 2.2 Kinetic isotope effect (KIE) studies

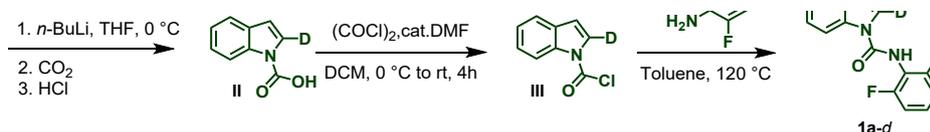
Preparation of **1a-d**:



According to the procedures in the literature **Step 1**:<sup>1</sup> An oven-dried round-bottom flask (100 ml) was charged with 1-phenylsulfonyl-indole (2.1 g, 8.0 mmol), a magnetic stirbar, and dry THF (40 ml). The flask was sealed with a septum and placed under a nitrogen gas atmosphere. The solution was cooled to -78 °C, and a 2.5 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (6.4 ml, 16 mmol) was slowly added to the solution via syringe. The -78 °C bath was removed, and the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. The resulting orange solution was allowed to stir at room temperature. After 1 h, the solution was cooled to -78 °C and CD<sub>3</sub>OD (1.0 ml) was added to the solution. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. The brown solution was diluted with ether (50 ml), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4 g) was added. The liquor was collected after filtering and washing the solids with ether on a fritted funnel. The liquor was concentrated by rotary evaporation to yield a dark brown residue. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography with 10 % ethyl acetate in hexanes. The solvent removed by rotary evaporation to yield the title compound as a white solid (1.97 g, 95 %). NMR spectral data matched published data.

**Step 2:** A round-bottom flask (100 ml) was charged with 1-(ortho-D-phenylsulfonyl)-2-D-indole (1.9 g, 7.5 mmol), methanol (18 ml), a 2.0 M solution of NaOH in water (25 ml, 50 mmol), and a magnetic stirbar. The flask was sealed with a

septum, and the solution was sparged with nitrogen gas for 15 minutes. Once the solution was under a nitrogen atmosphere, the solution was heated to reflux at 90 °C. Complete consumption of the starting material was observed by gas chromatography after 21 h. The solvent was removed by gently blowing nitrogen gas over the solution. The products were extracted with ether (15 ml, x3), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and run through a silica plug with diethyl ether as eluent. Hexanes (30 ml) were added to the solution, and the solvents were removed by rotary evaporation to yield a light brown solid. The light brown solid was washed with hexane (10 ml) to yield title compound as a white solid (602 mg, 68 %). NMR spectral data match published data.



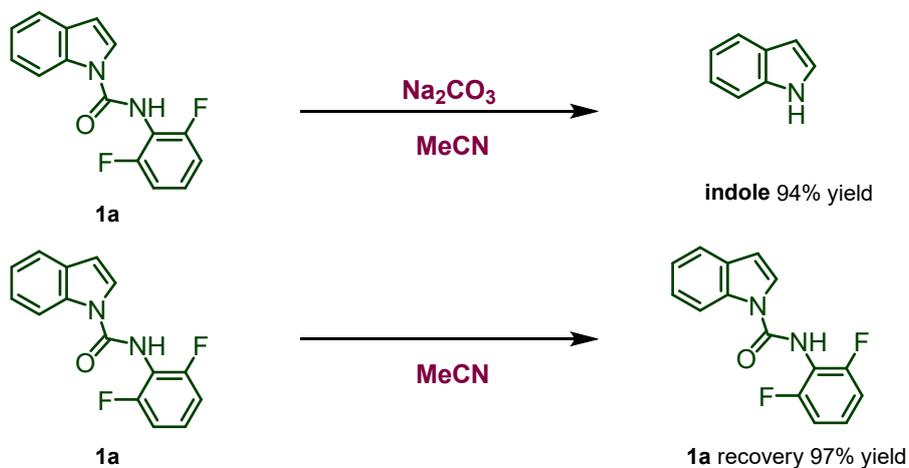
**Step 3: The procedure was according to the reference:**<sup>2,3</sup> In a 250 mL three-neck flask, a solution of *n*-BuLi (14.4 mL, 2.5 M in hexane, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of indole I (30.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry THF (100 mL) over 30 min at 0 °C under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After stirring at 0 °C with for 2 h, CO<sub>2</sub> (using dry ice to produce CO<sub>2</sub>) was bubbled to the solution for 1 h at 0 °C, and then H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was to quench the reaction. The solution was concentrated to 10 mL under vacuum. Aqueous HCl (3 M) was added dropwise to adjust the pH value of the solution to 3. After the solution was extracted with EtOAc, the combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford crude N-carboxyl indole II.

**Step 4:** To a solution of the carboxylic acid I (20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise (COCl)<sub>2</sub> (24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) followed by several drops dry DMF. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 4 h. The solvent was then removed under reduce pressure to afford the corresponding crude acid chloride III.

**Step 5:** An acid chloride was added to a vigorously stirring solution of 2,6-difluoroaniline (22 mmol) in toluene (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h



## 2.4 Investigating the stability of the substrate **1a**



To a 25 mL Schlenk-type sealed tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added the substrate **1a** (27.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), with or without  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (21.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv), dry  $\text{MeCN}$  (2.0 mL) under Ar atmosphere. The tube was capped and subjected to a 80 °C preheated oil bath for 15 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EA=8:1) to afford the products **indole** or **1a**.

### 3. X-ray single crystal data for compound **3d**

#### General Procedure for Crystal Preparation:

Compound **3d** (around 30 mg) were dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), respectively and the NMR tubes were capped with a closed-top cap. The single crystal was grown by slow evaporation of solvents at room temperature.

#### X-ray structure determination of compound **3d**:

Single-crystal X-ray data for Cd-CP were collected on a Siemens Smart CCD diffractometer with graphite-monochromatic Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) at 298 K. The raw data frames were integrated into SHELX-format reflection files and corrected using SAINT program.<sup>4</sup> The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares methods with SHELX program.<sup>5</sup> Displacement parameters were refined anisotropically, and the positions of the H-atoms were generated geometrically, assigned isotropic thermal parameters, and allowed to ride on their parent carbon atoms before the final cycle of refinement. Basic information pertaining to crystal parameters and structure refinement are summarized in Table S1, and selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table S2. CCDC **2502377** (**3d**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper.

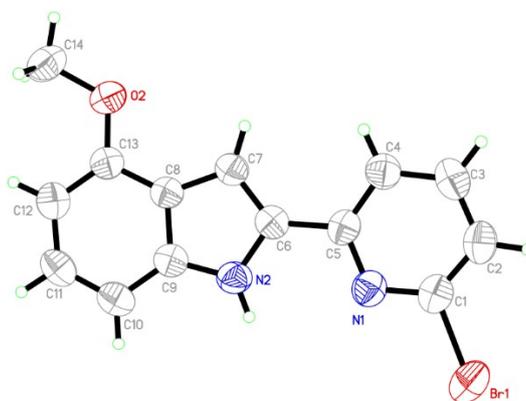


Figure S1. Single crystals of compound **3d**

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinements for **3d**

Empirical formula	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>11</sub> BrN <sub>2</sub> O
Formula weight	303.16
Temperature/K	298.15
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
a/Å	10.027(14)
b/Å	11.291(16)
c/Å	11.805(16)
α/°	90
β/°	109.228(17)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1262(3)
Z	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.596
F(000)	608.0
2θ range for data collection/°	4.638 to 50.028
Reflections collected	5986
Independent reflections	2221 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0856, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0804]
Data/restraints/parameters	2221/438/164
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.821
Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0523, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1301
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0929, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1482

Table S2. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **3d**

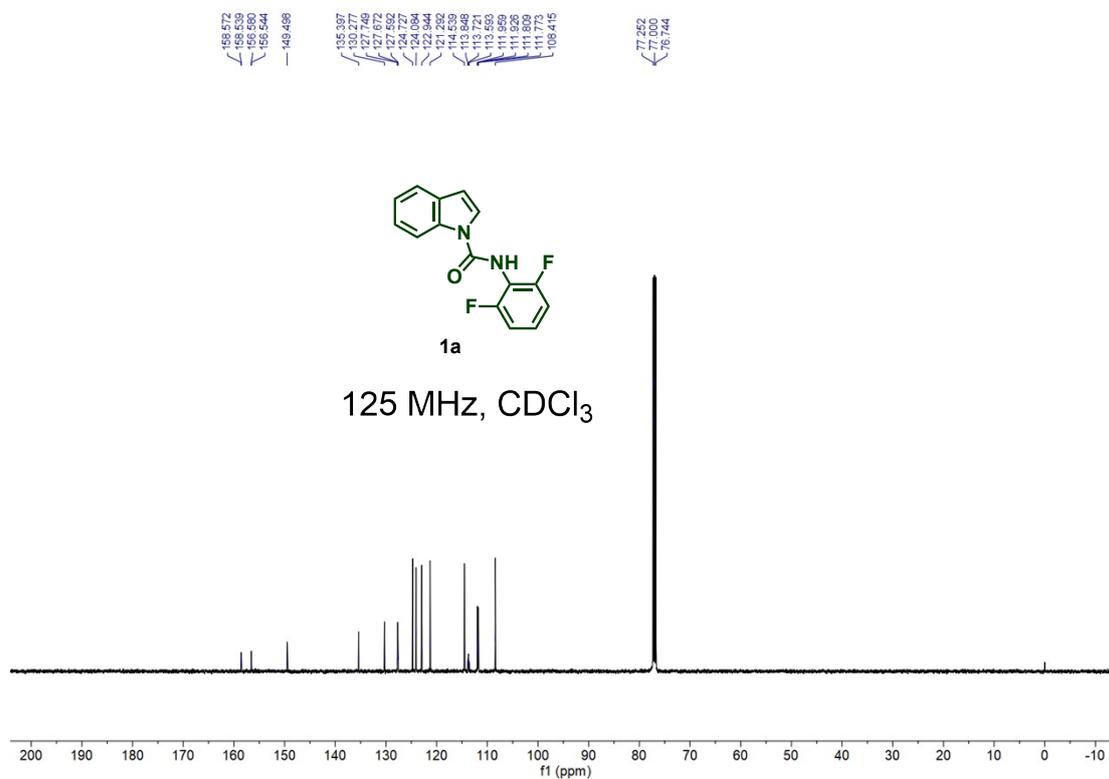
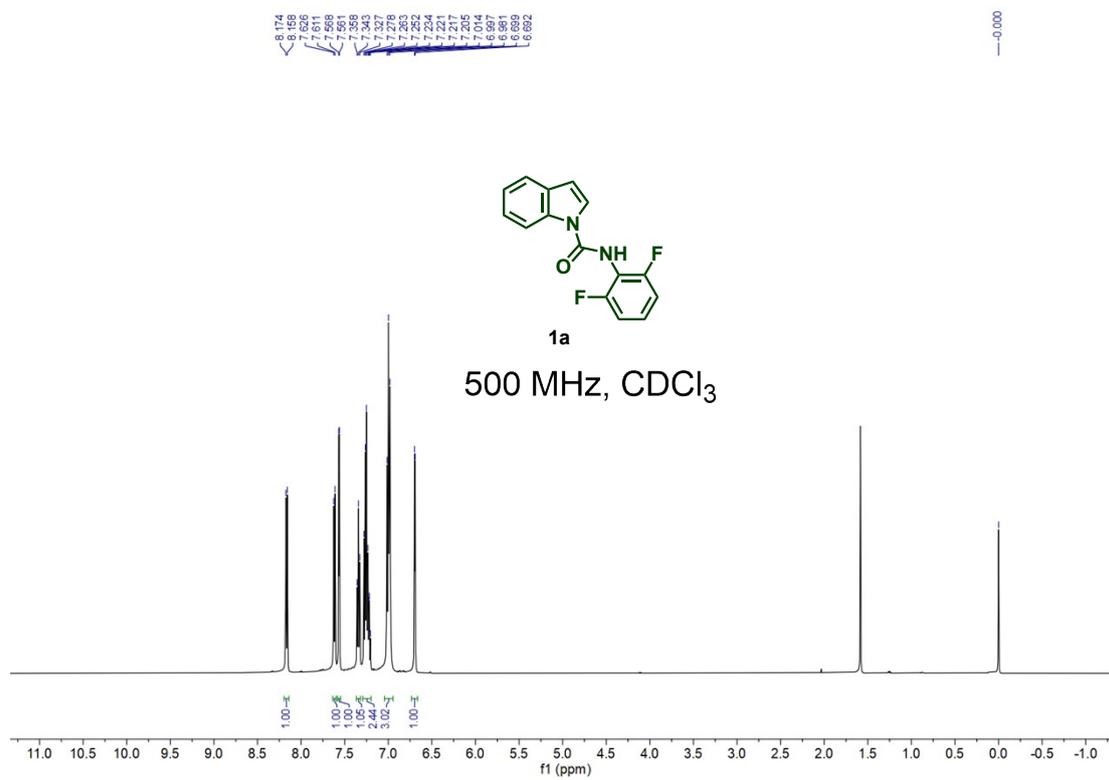
Br1-C1	1.911(5)	C8-C9	1.409(7)
N2-C6	1.383(6)	C8-C13	1.401(6)
N2-C9	1.360(6)	C5-C4	1.384(6)
O2-C13	1.371(5)	C1-C2	1.367(7)
O2-C14	1.430(6)	C9-C10	1.398(7)
N1-C5	1.346(6)	C10-C11	1.367(7)
N1-C1	1.328(6)	C12-C13	1.382(6)
C6-C5	1.468(6)	C12-C11	1.401(7)
C6-C7	1.367(6)	C3-C2	1.385(7)
C8-C7	1.426(6)	C3-C4	1.382(7)
C9-N2-C6	109.3(4)	C2-C1-Br1	119.5(4)
C13-O2-C14	117.6(4)	C6-C7-C8	107.6(4)
C1-N1-C5	116.1(4)	N2-C9-C8	108.1(4)

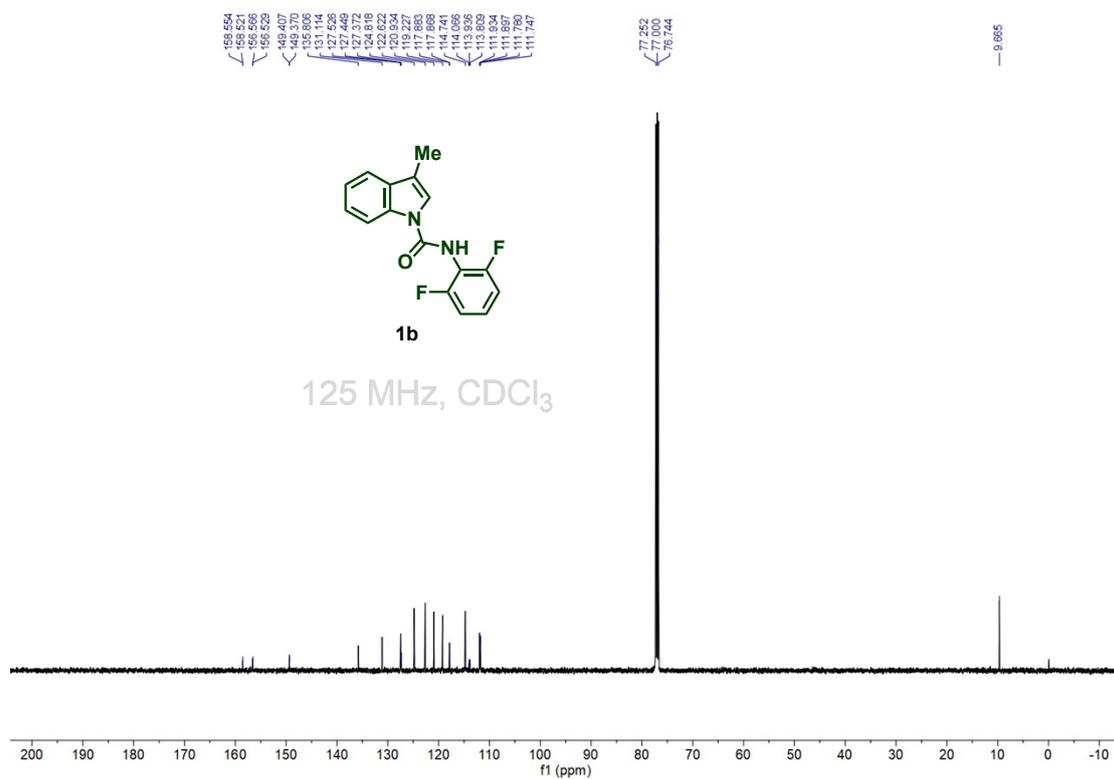
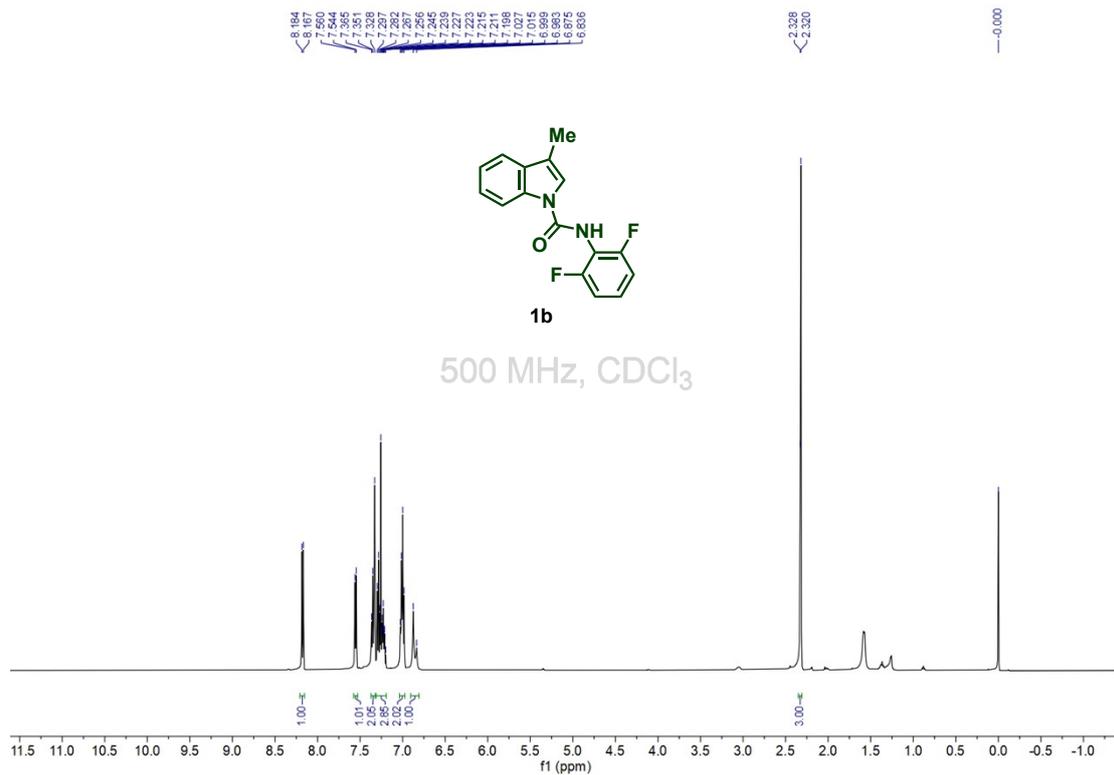
N2-C6-C5	120.2(4)	N2-C9-C10	129.9(4)
C7-C6-N2	108.7(4)	C10-C9-C8	121.9(4)
C7-C6-C5	131.1(4)	C11-C10-C9	116.6(5)
C9-C8-C7	106.4(4)	C13-C12-C11	120.0(4)
C13-C8-C7	134.0(4)	O2-C13-C8	116.0(4)
C13-C8-C9	119.6(4)	O2-C13-C12	125.3(4)
N1-C5-C6	115.9(4)	C12-C13-C8	118.7(4)
N1-C5-C4	123.4(4)	C4-C3-C2	119.9(5)
C4-C5-C6	120.7(4)	C1-C2-C3	116.9(5)
N1-C1-Br1	114.7(4)	C3-C4-C5	118.0(5)
N1-C1-C2	125.8(5)	C10-C11-C12	123.1(5)

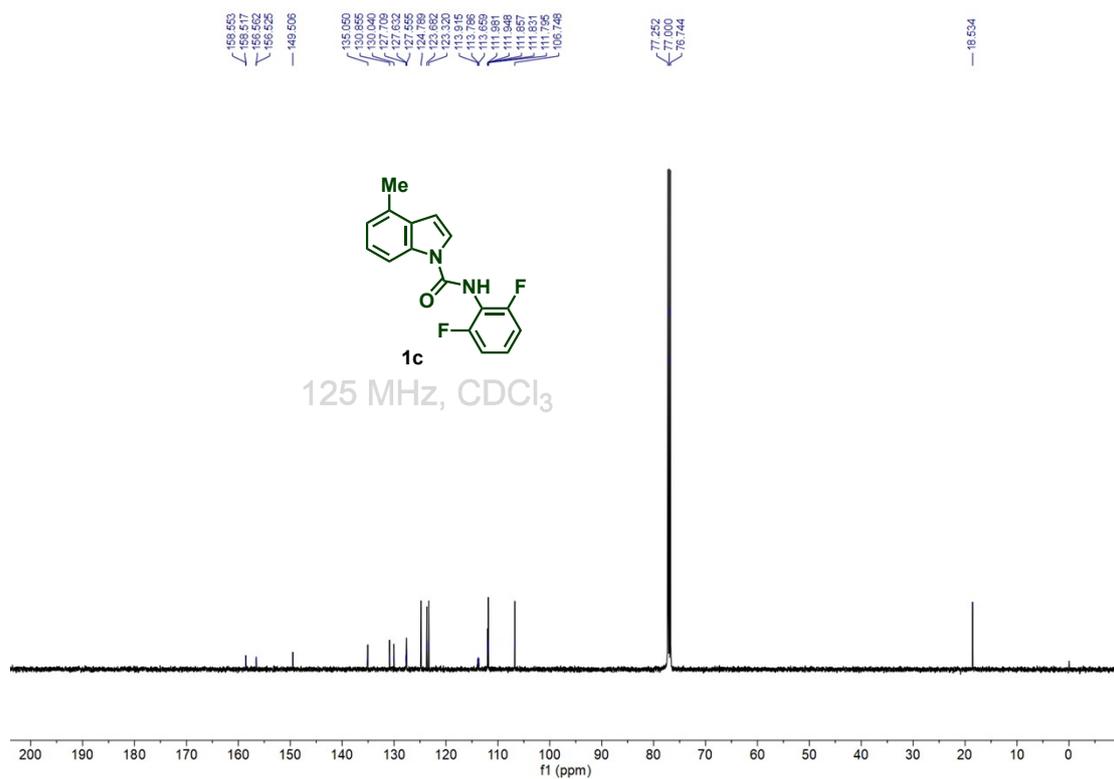
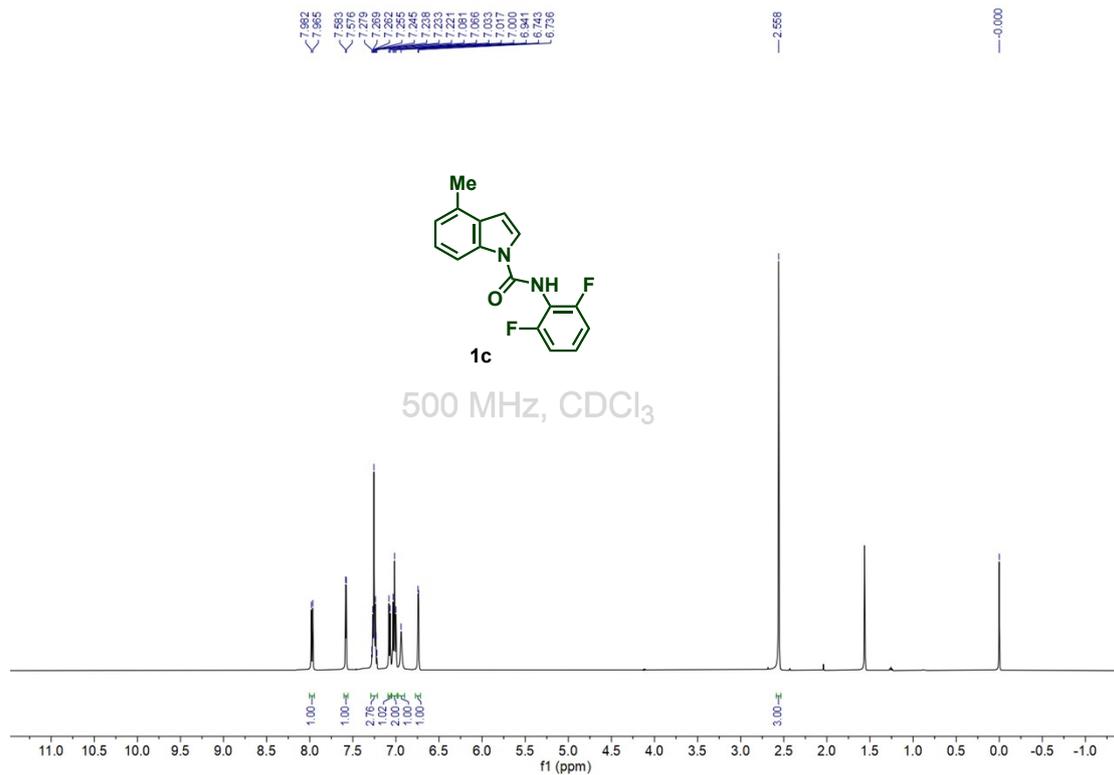
#### 4. References

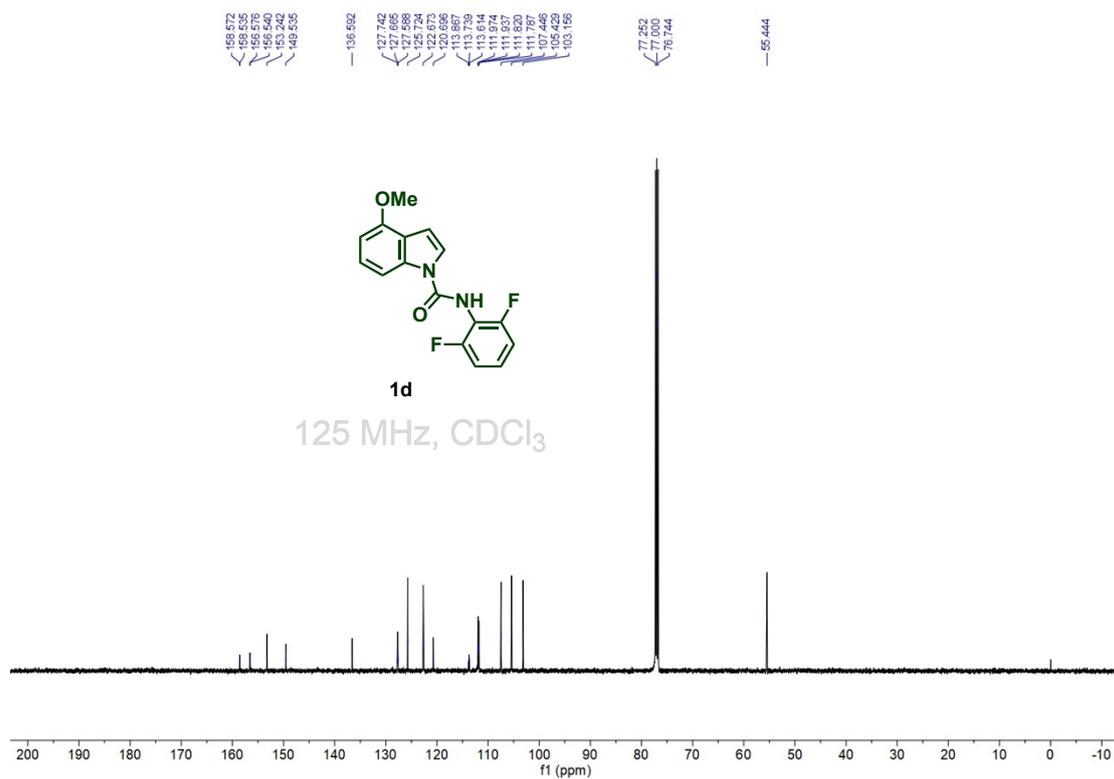
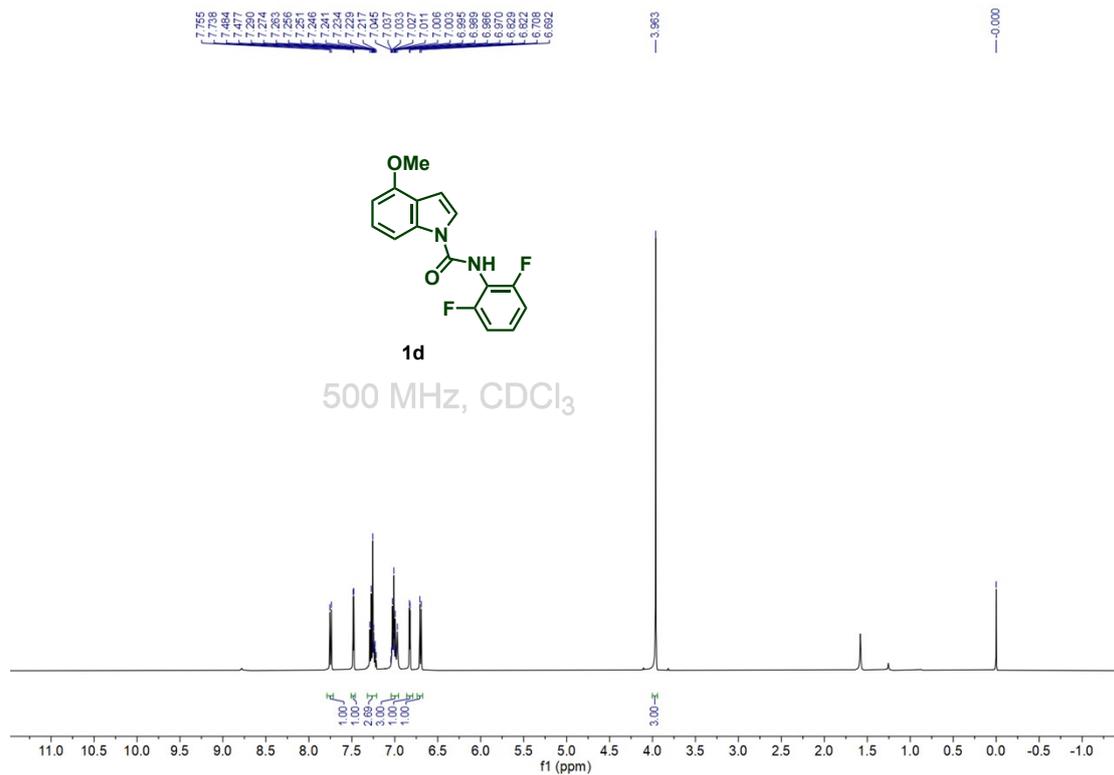
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## 5. NMR Spectra









— 10.128

8.096  
8.098  
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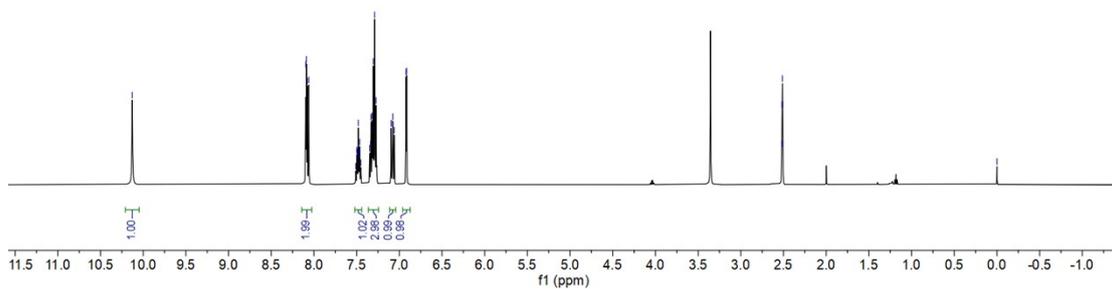
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1e

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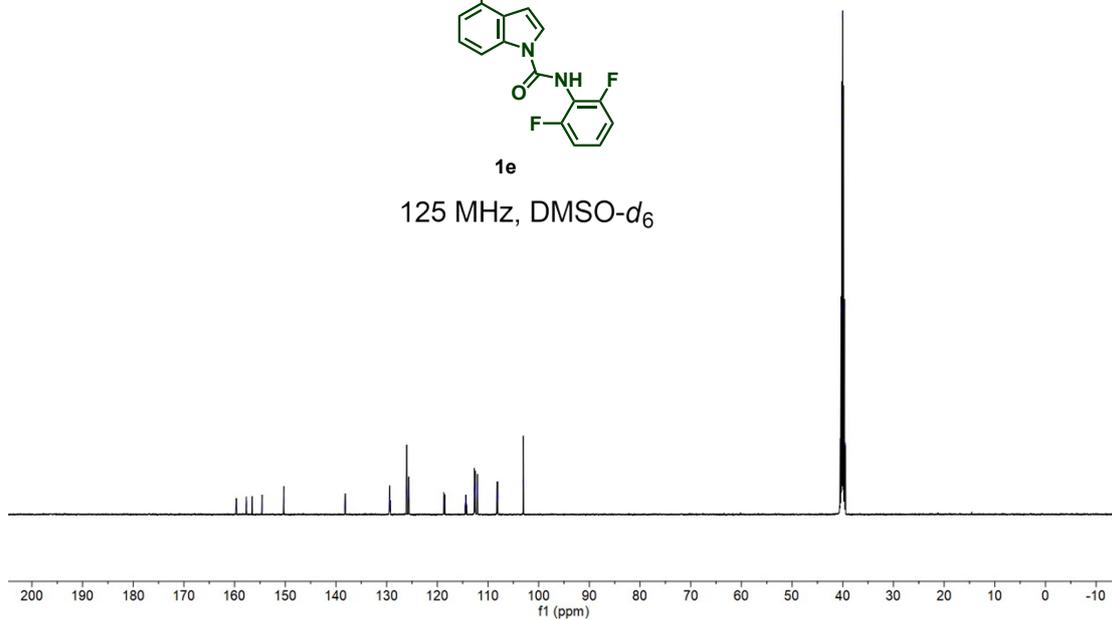
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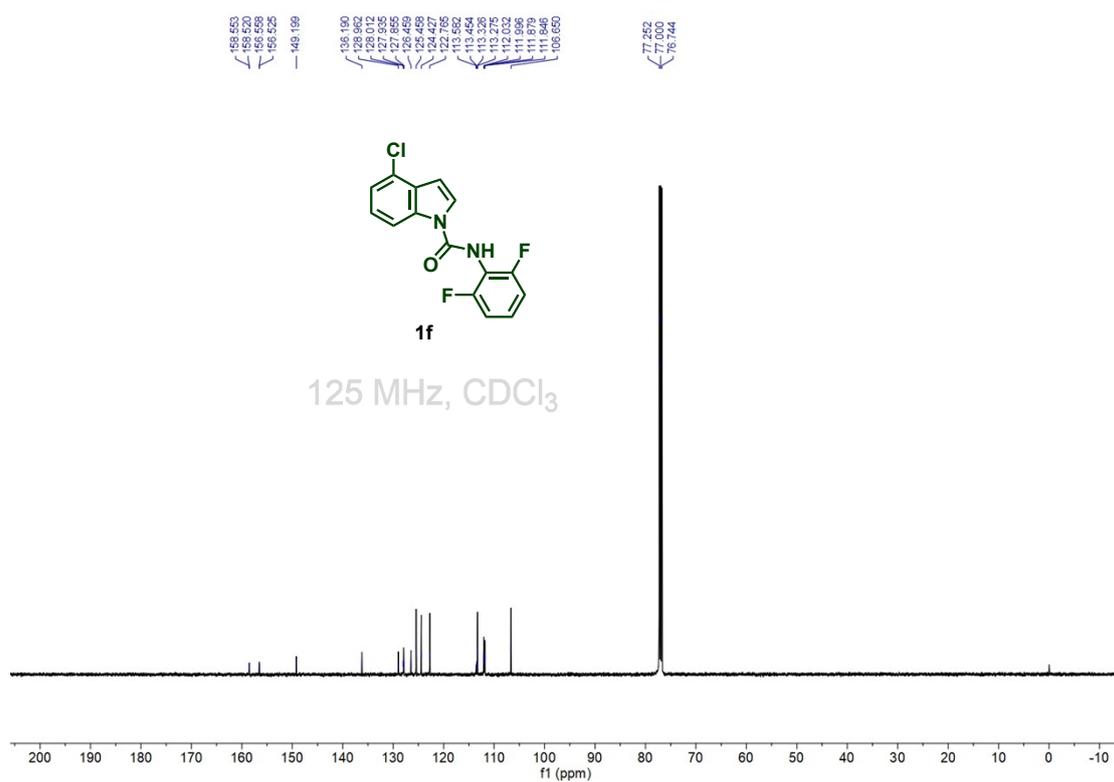
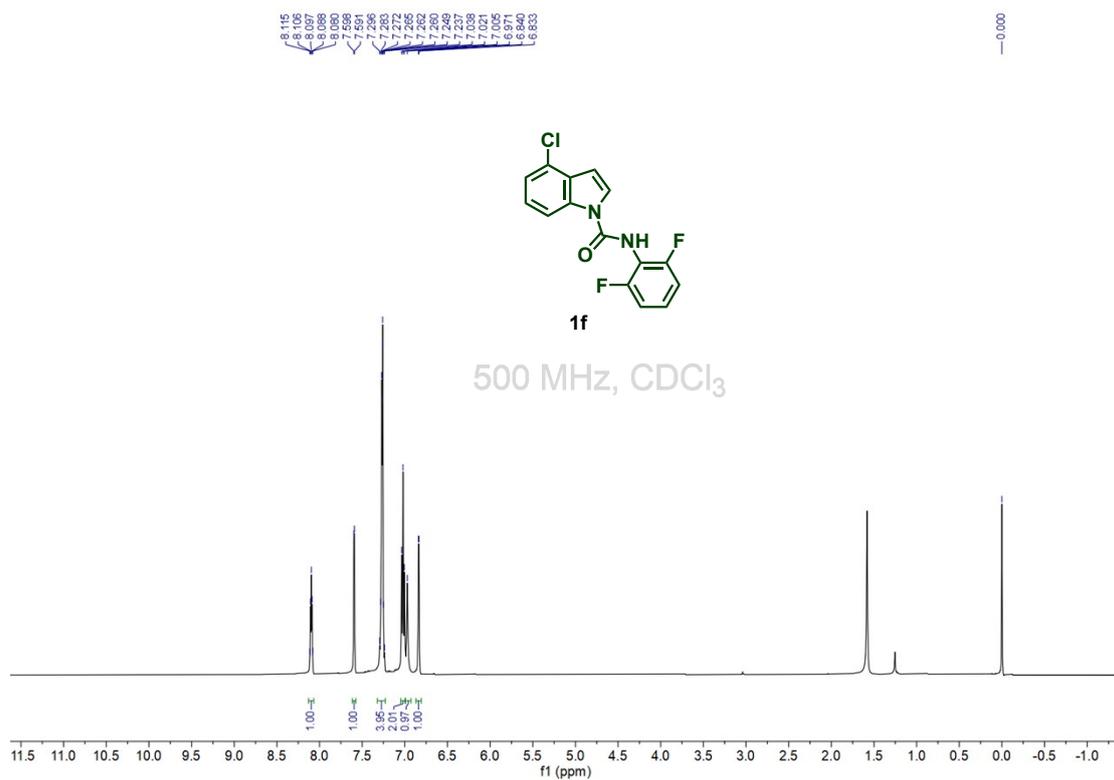
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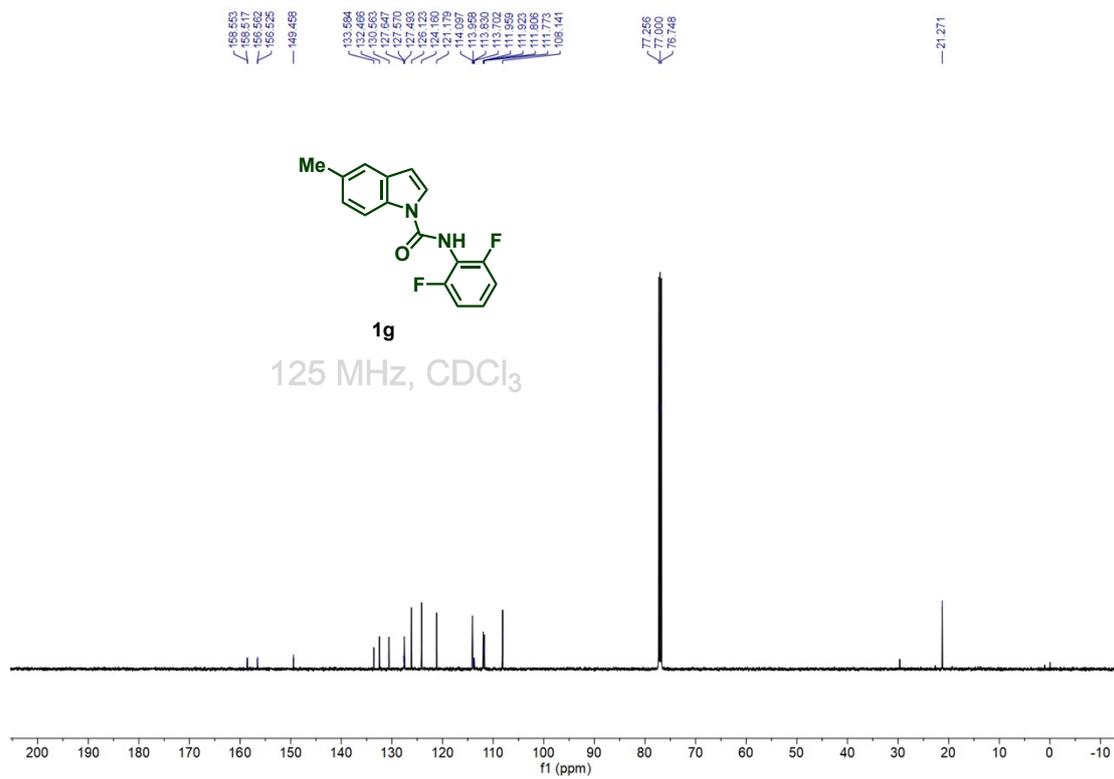
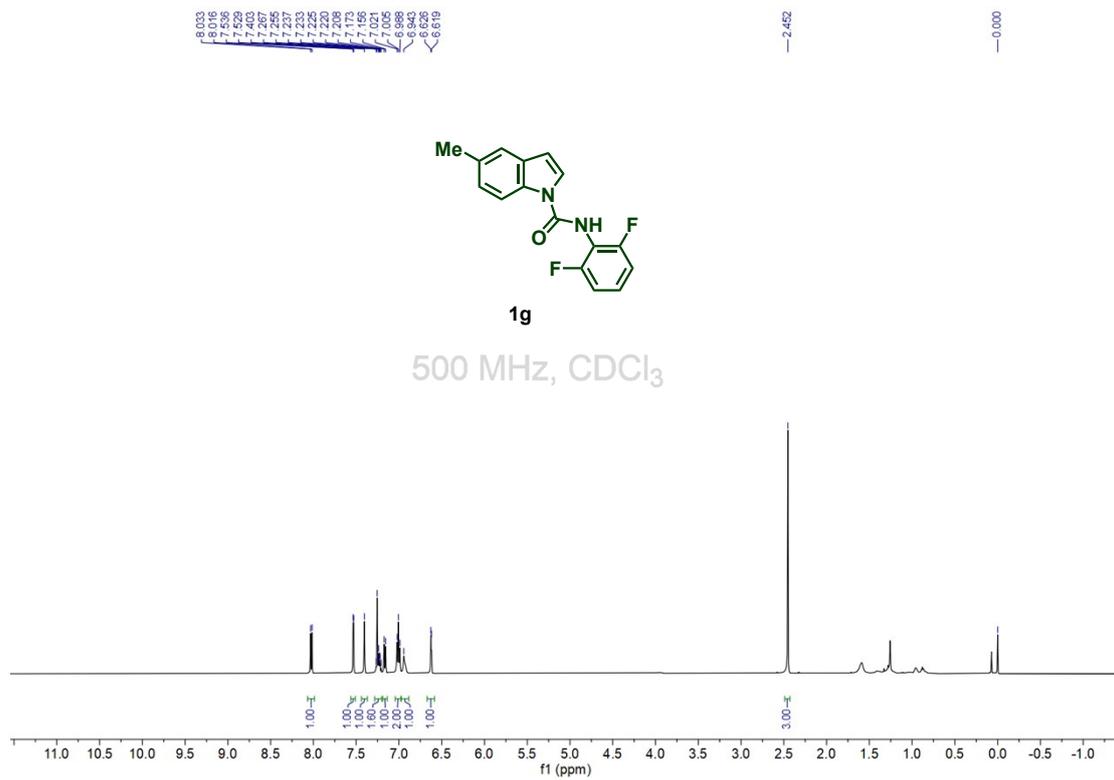


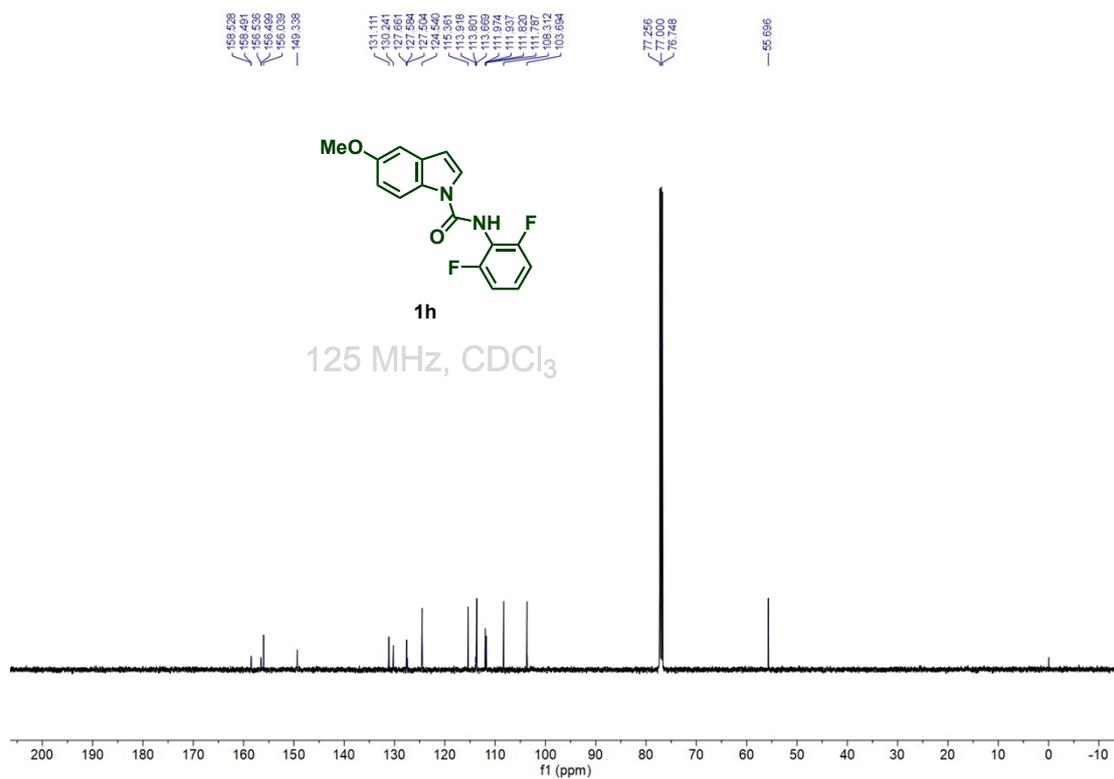
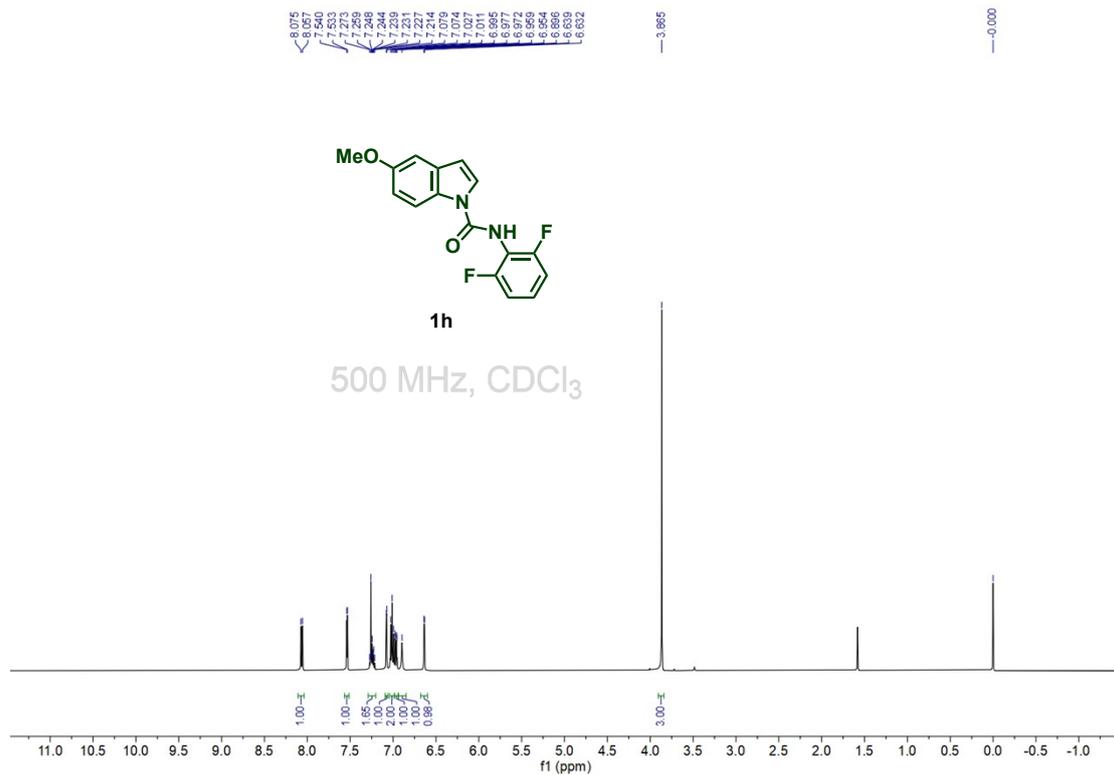
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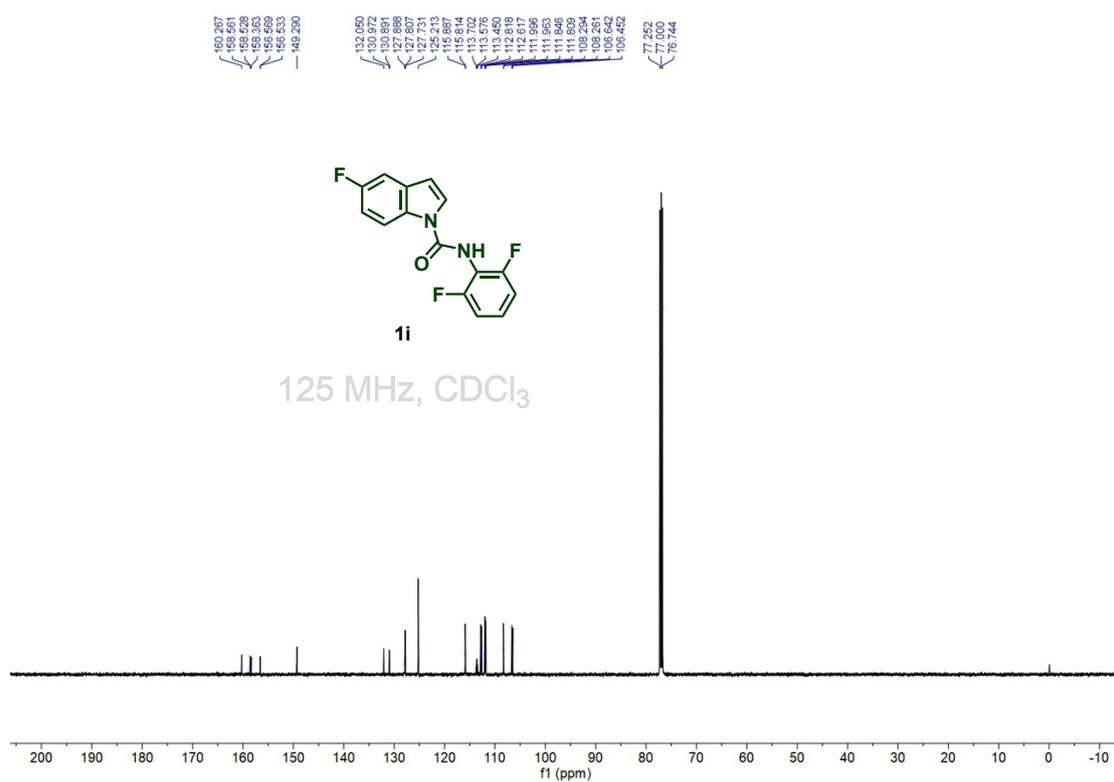
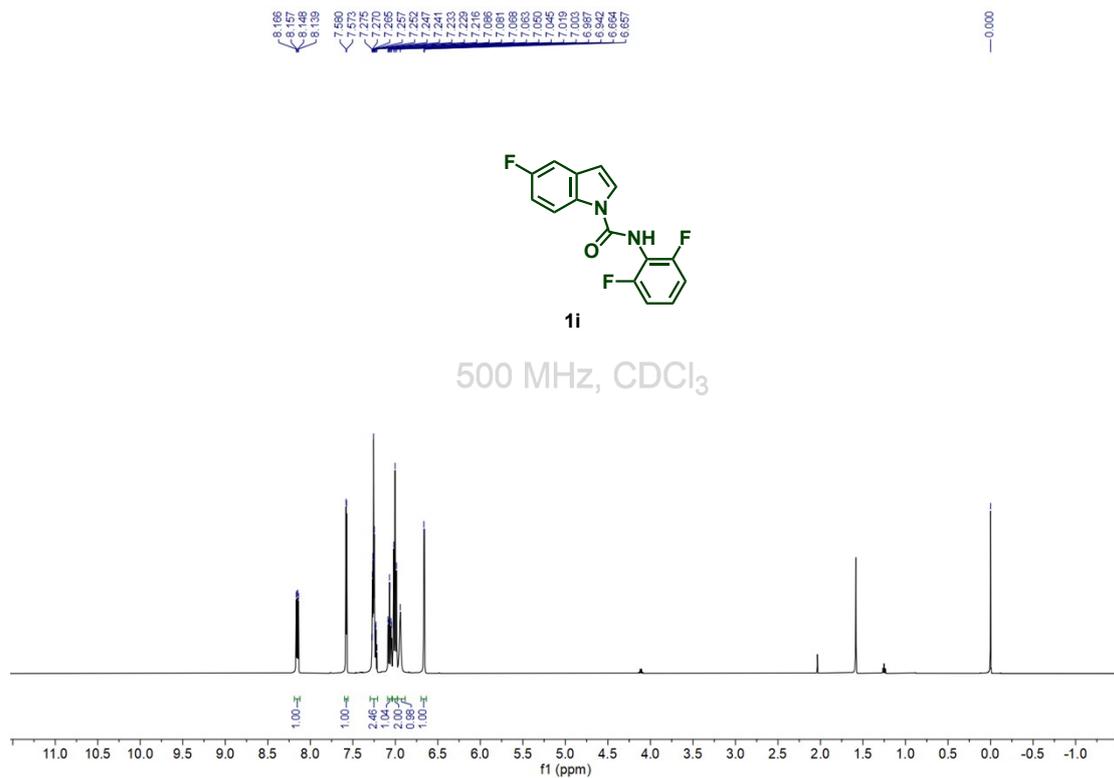
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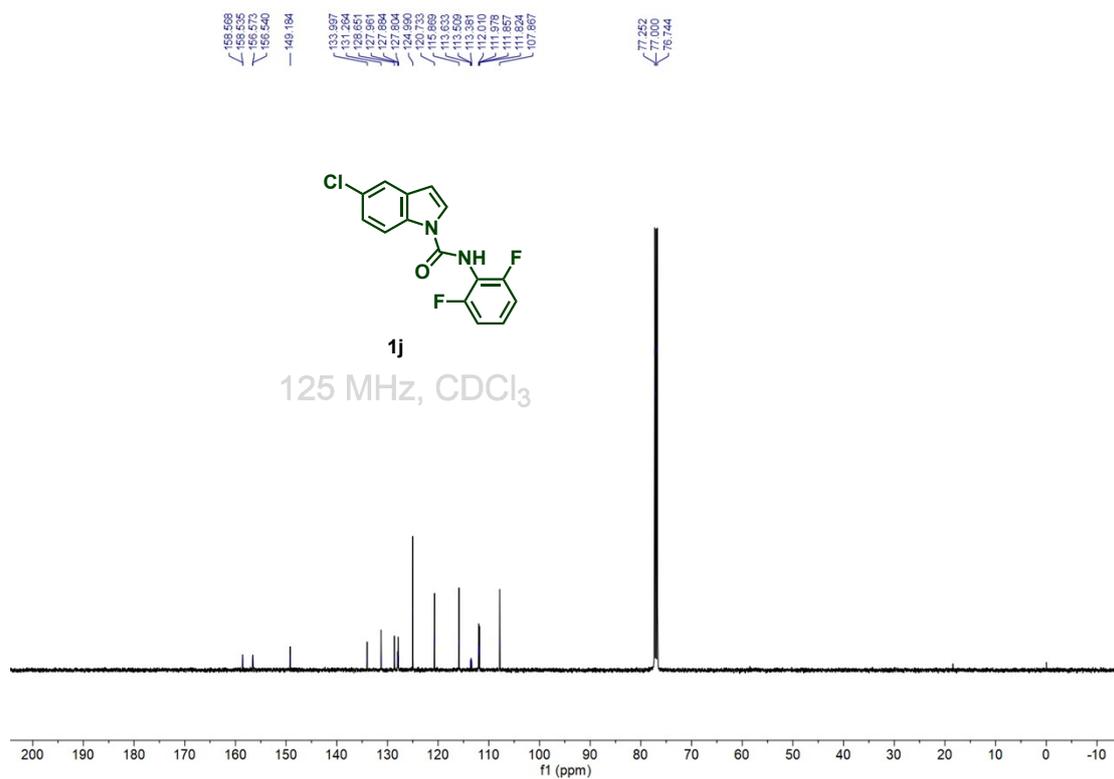
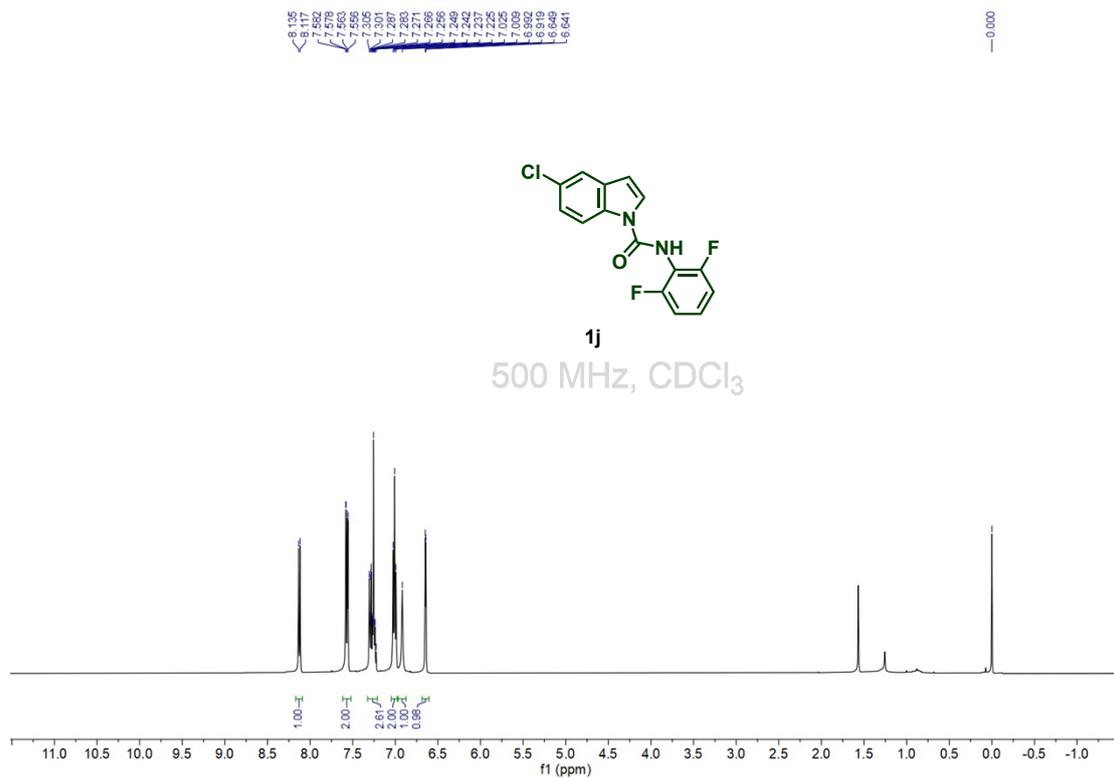


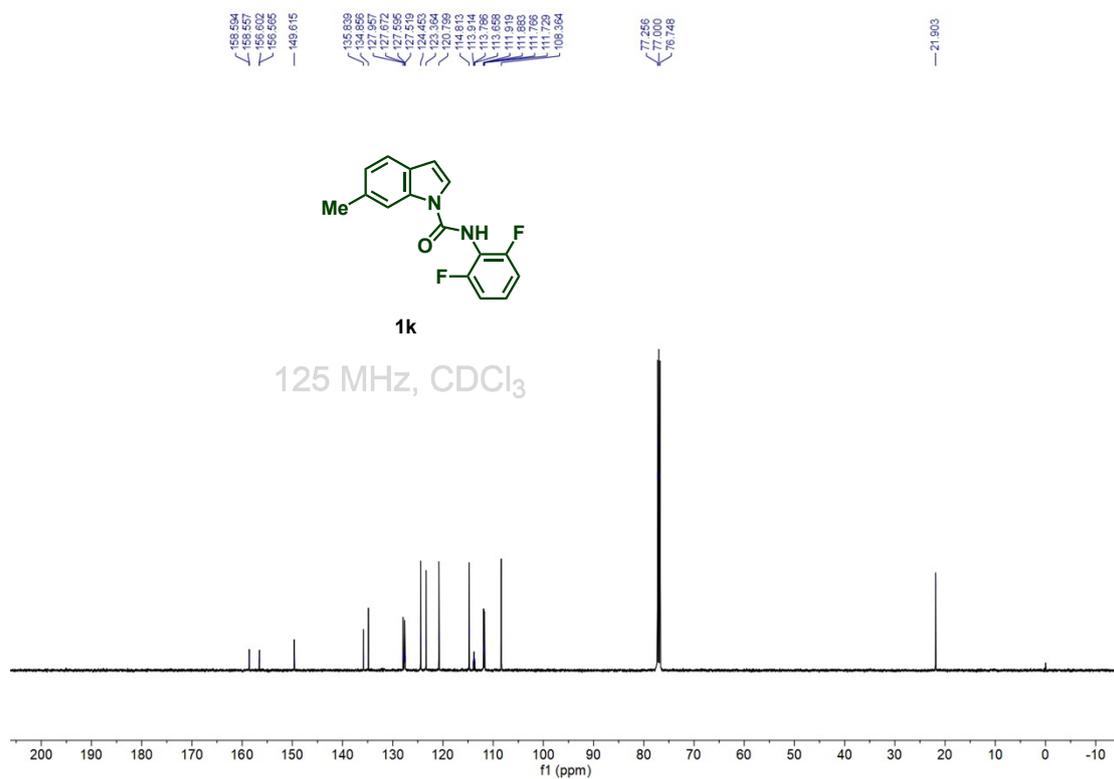
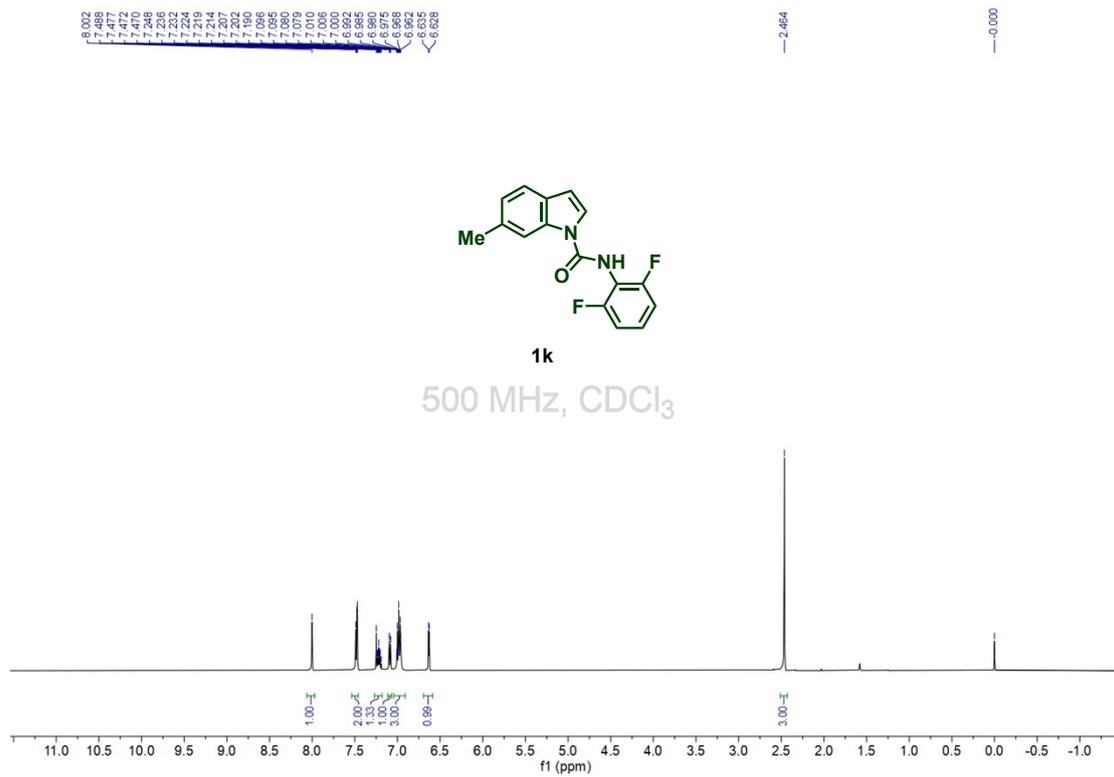


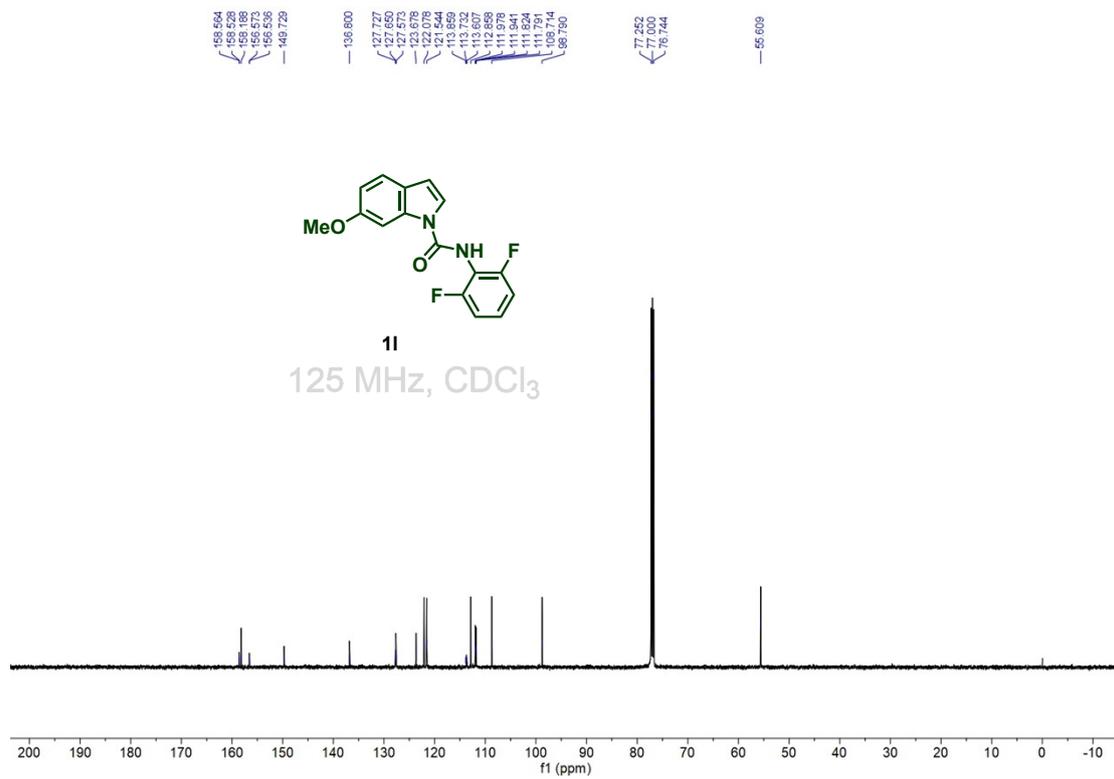
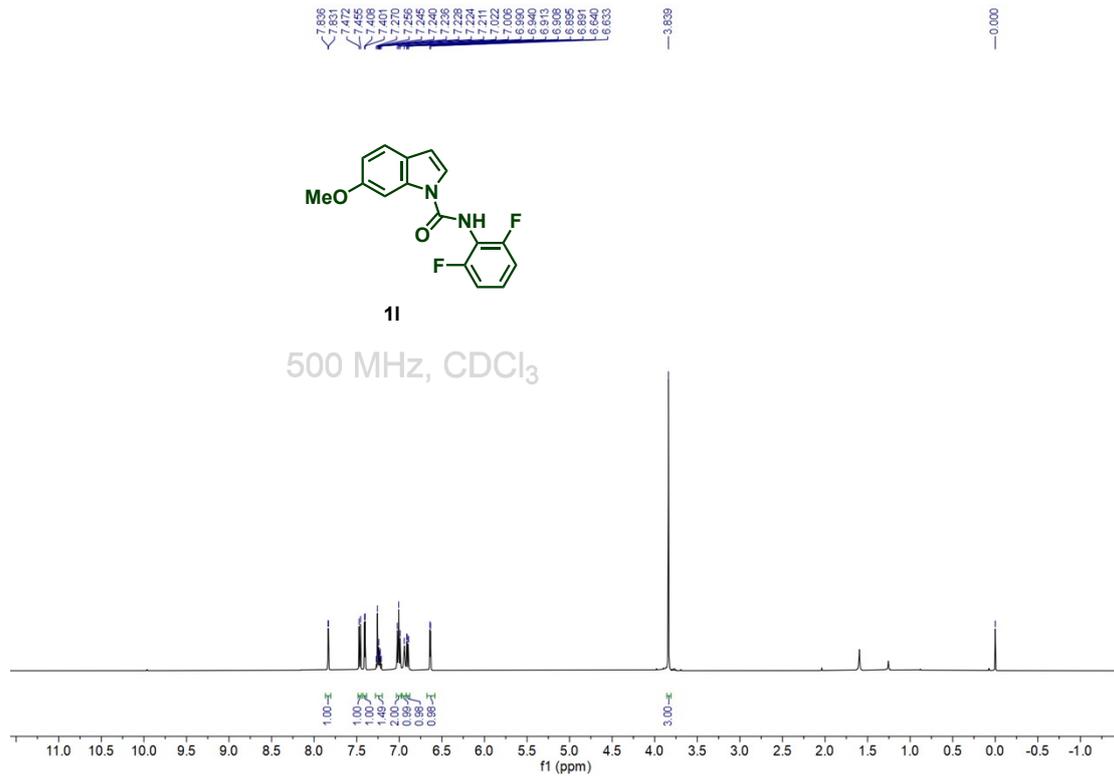


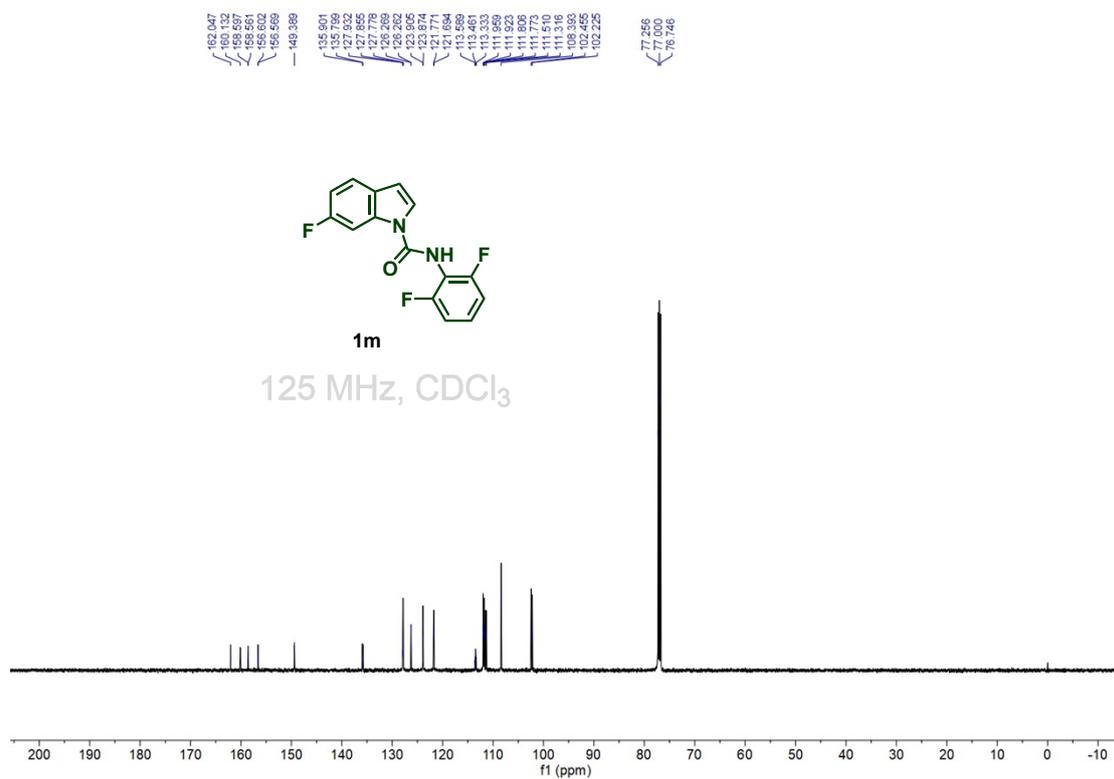
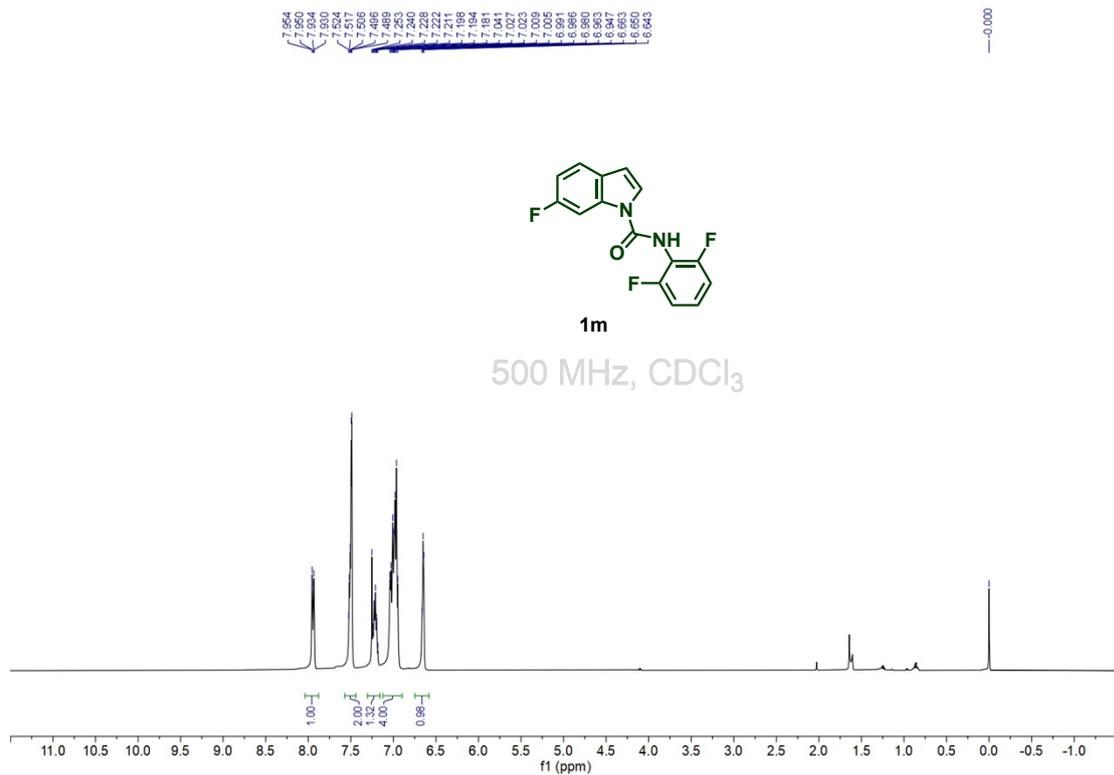




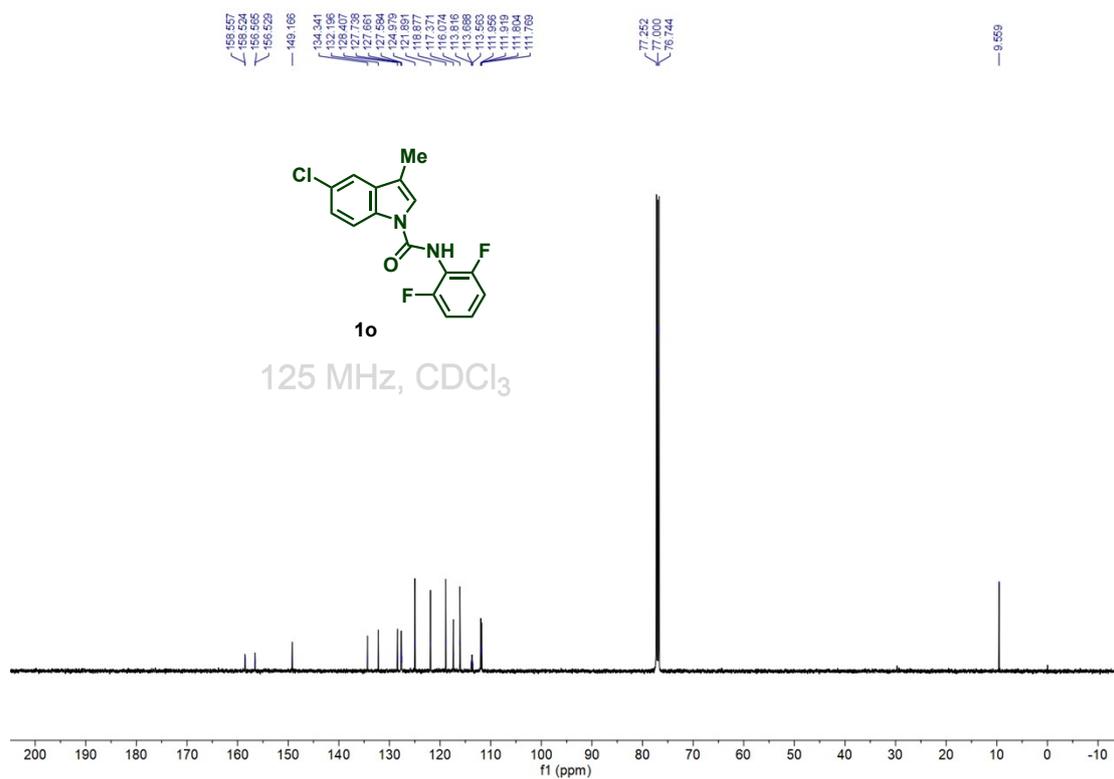
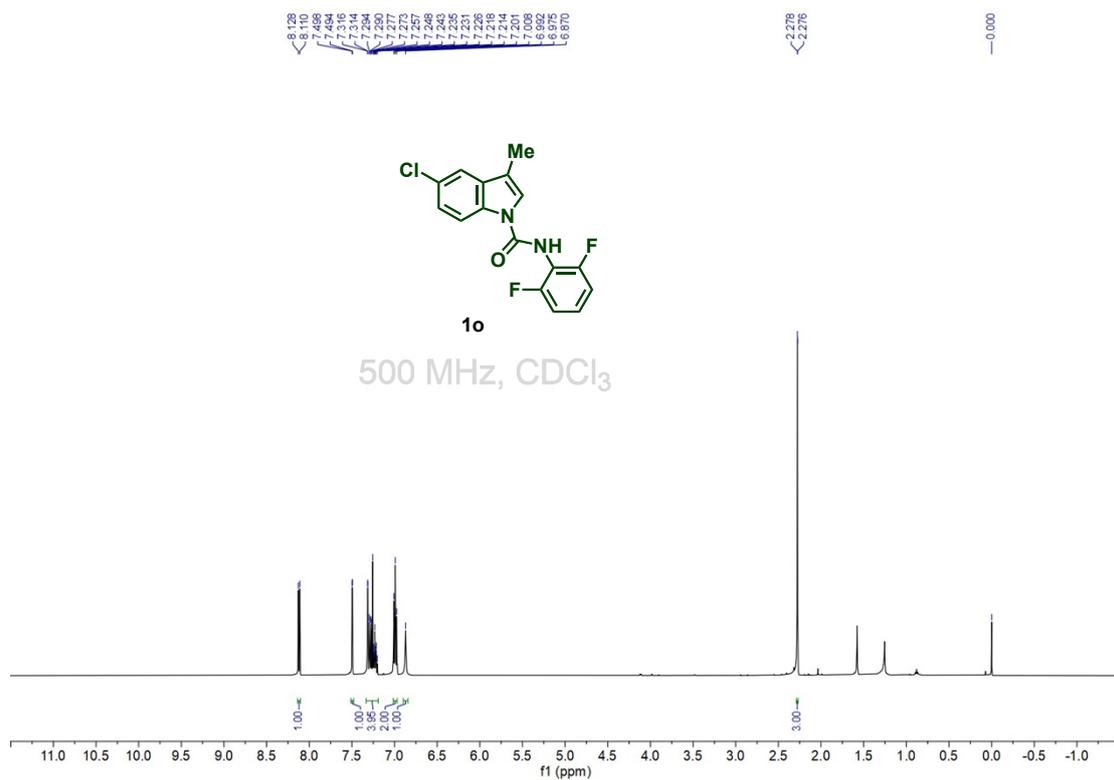


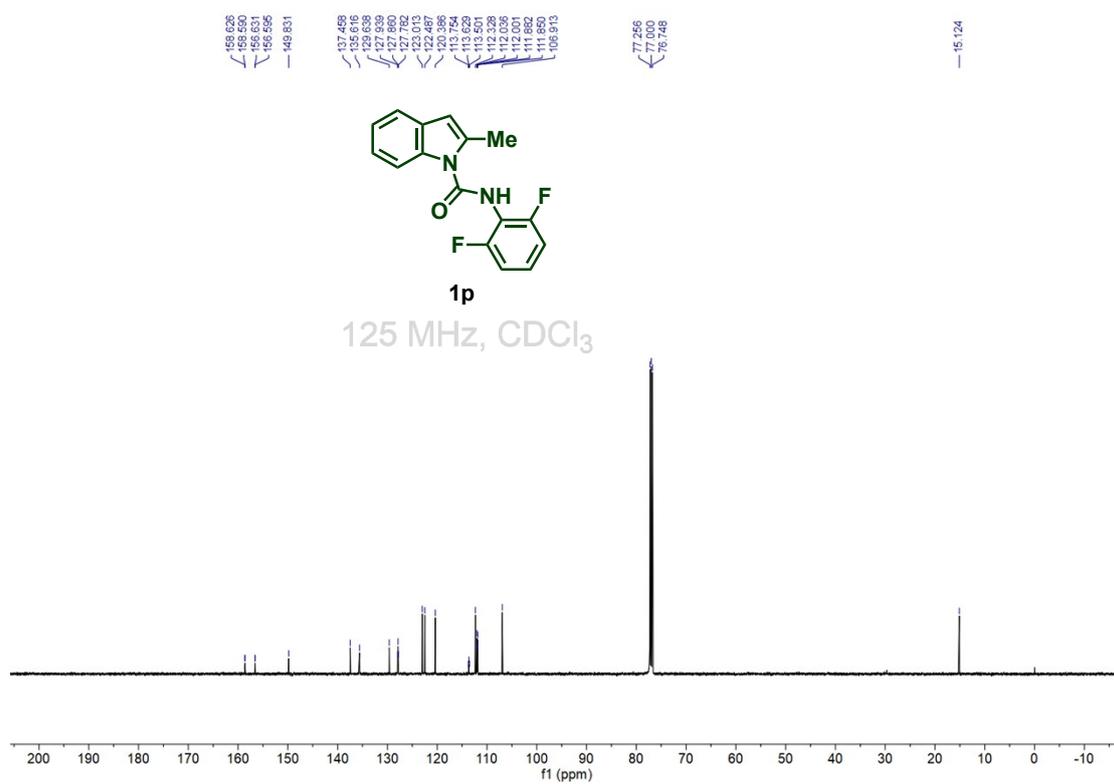
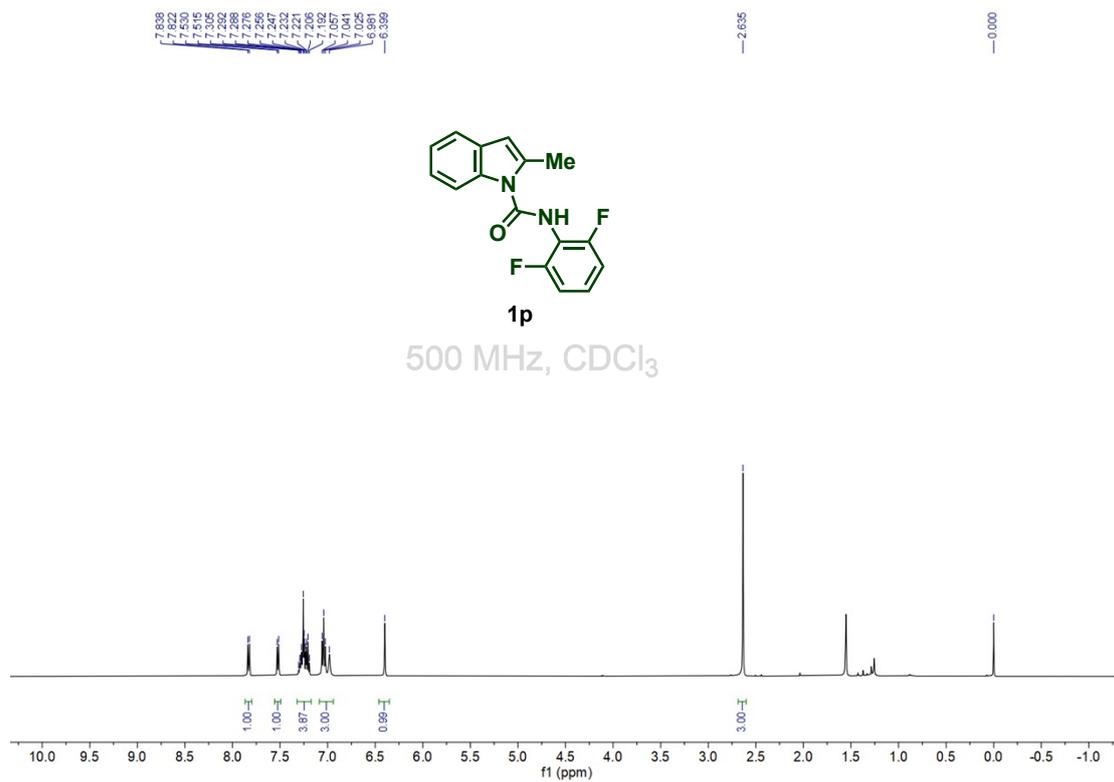




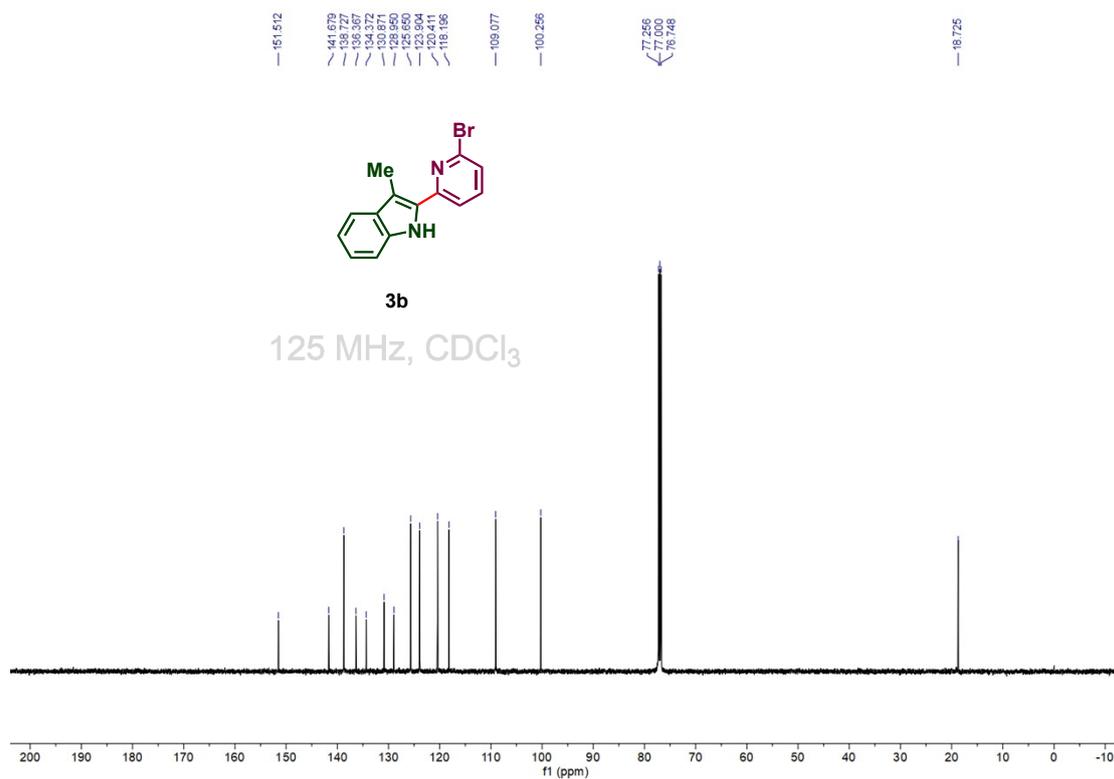
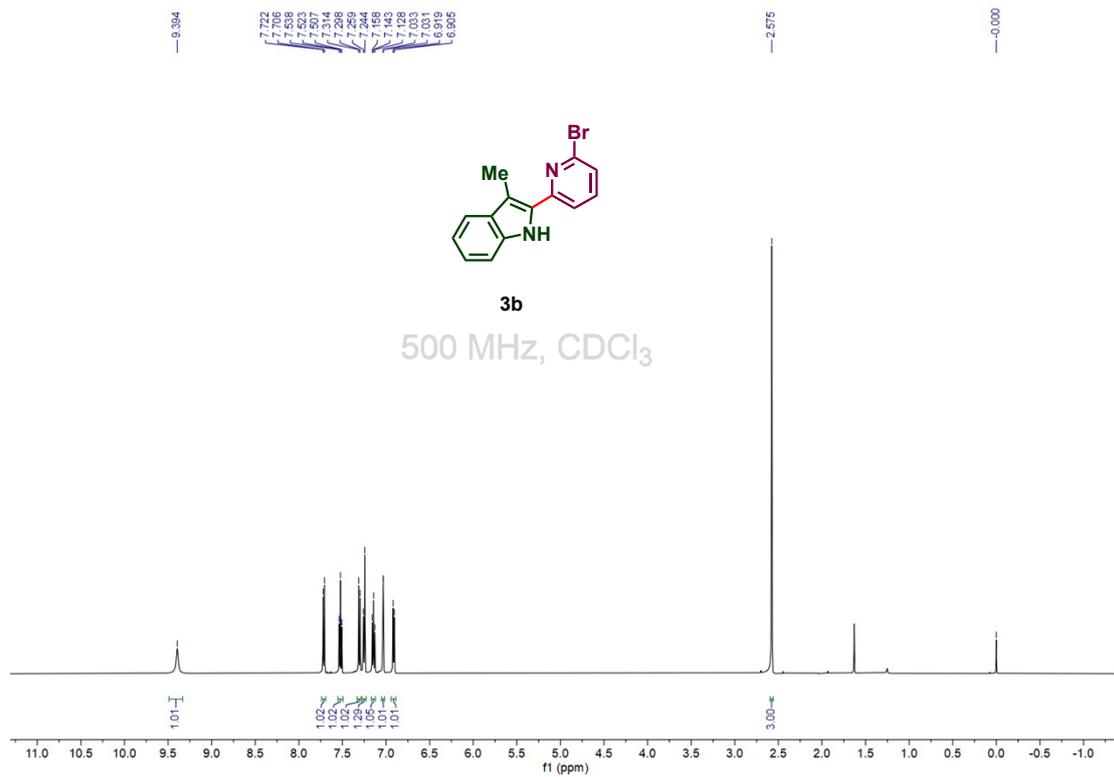


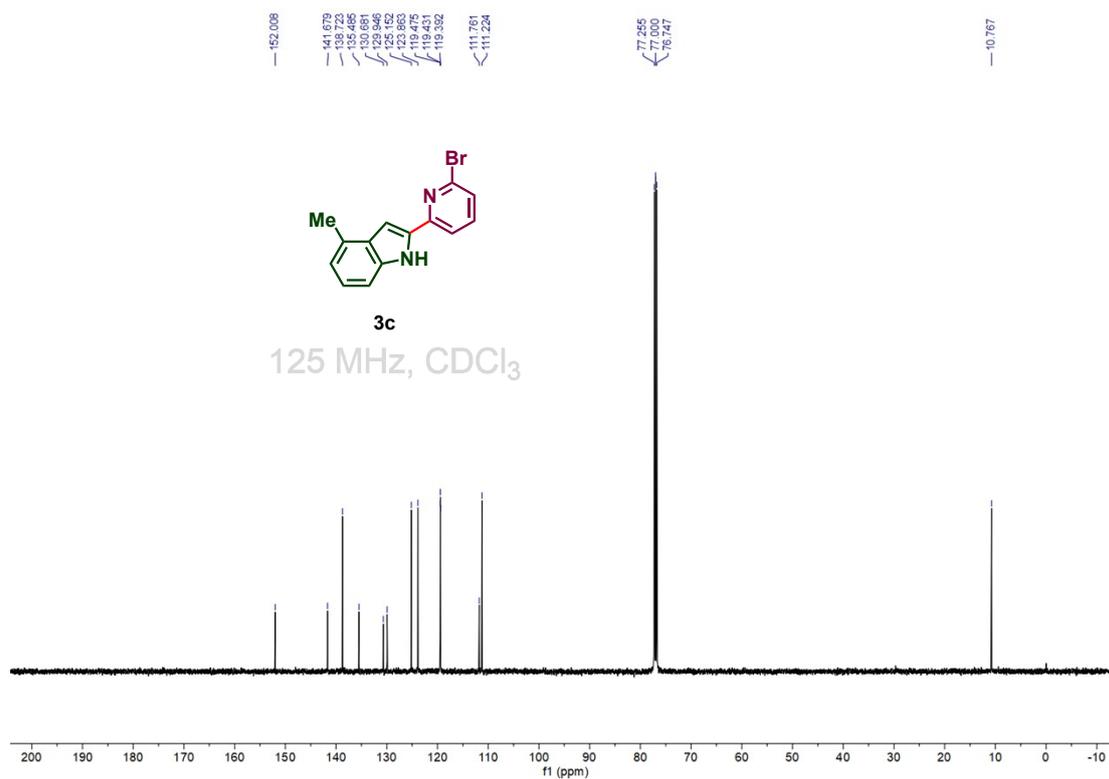
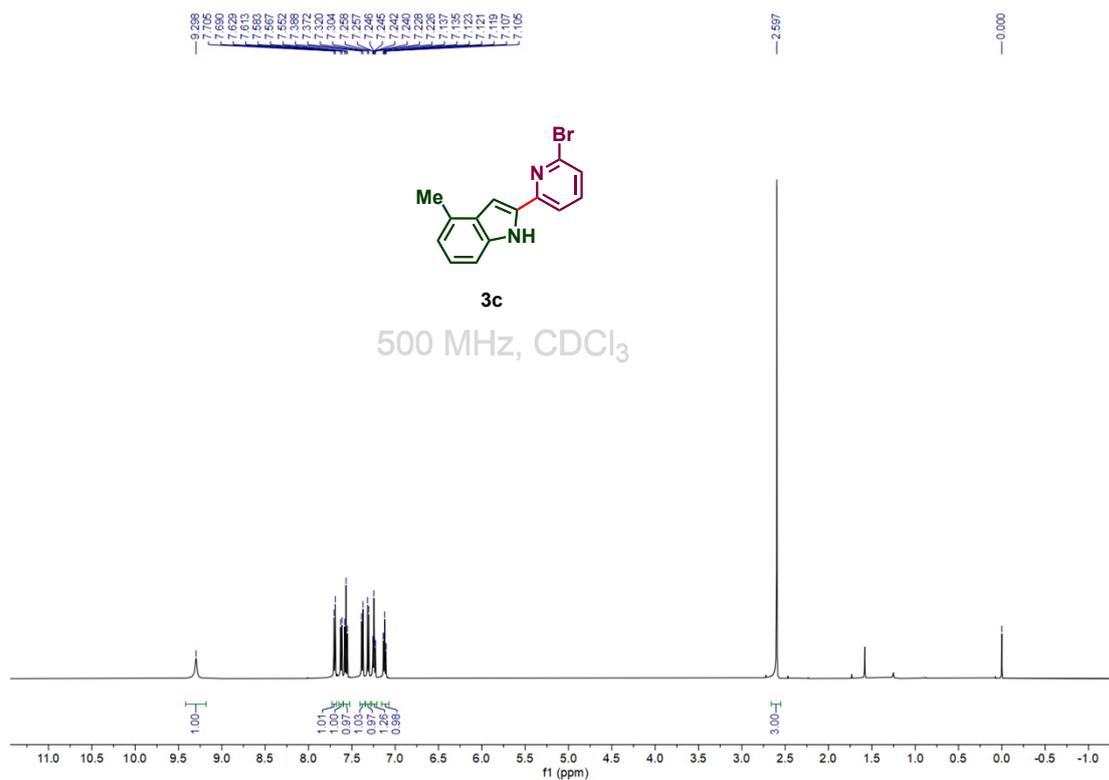


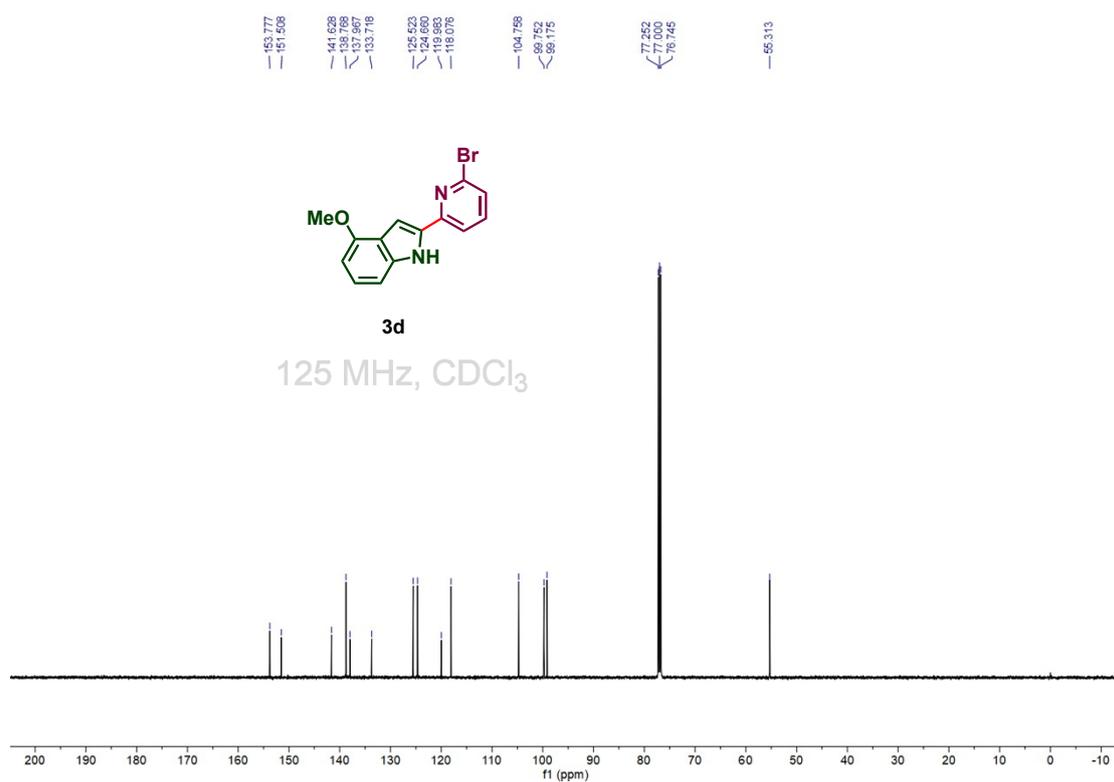
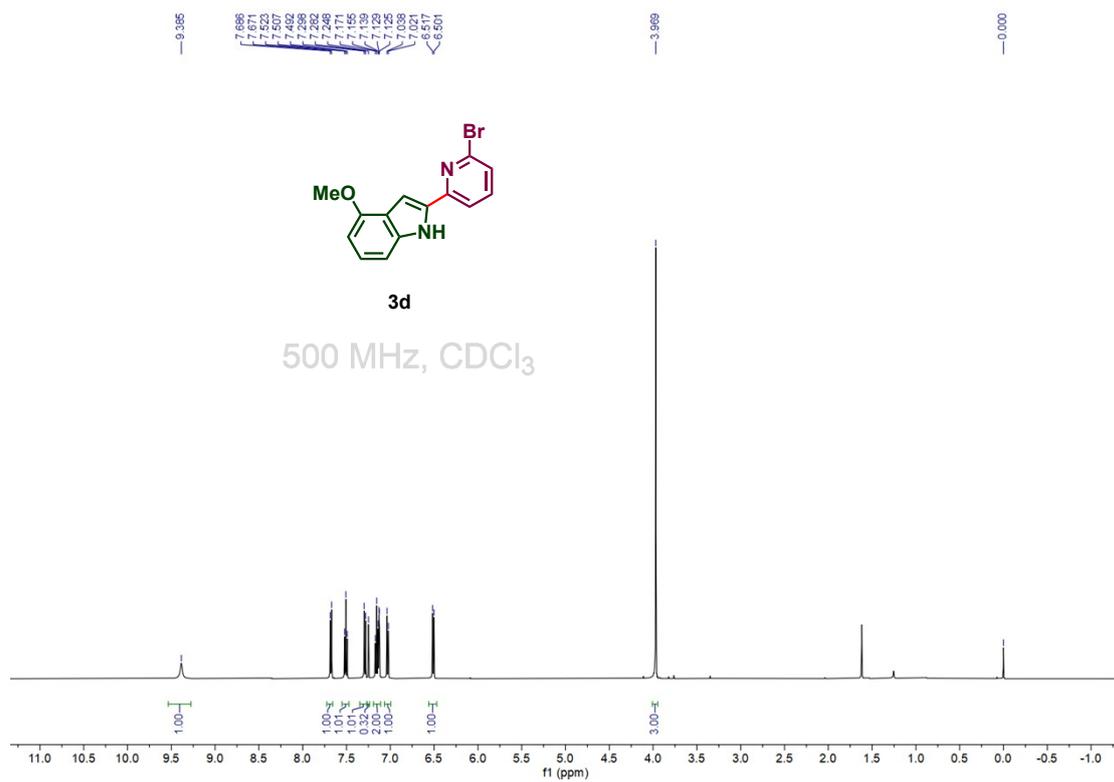


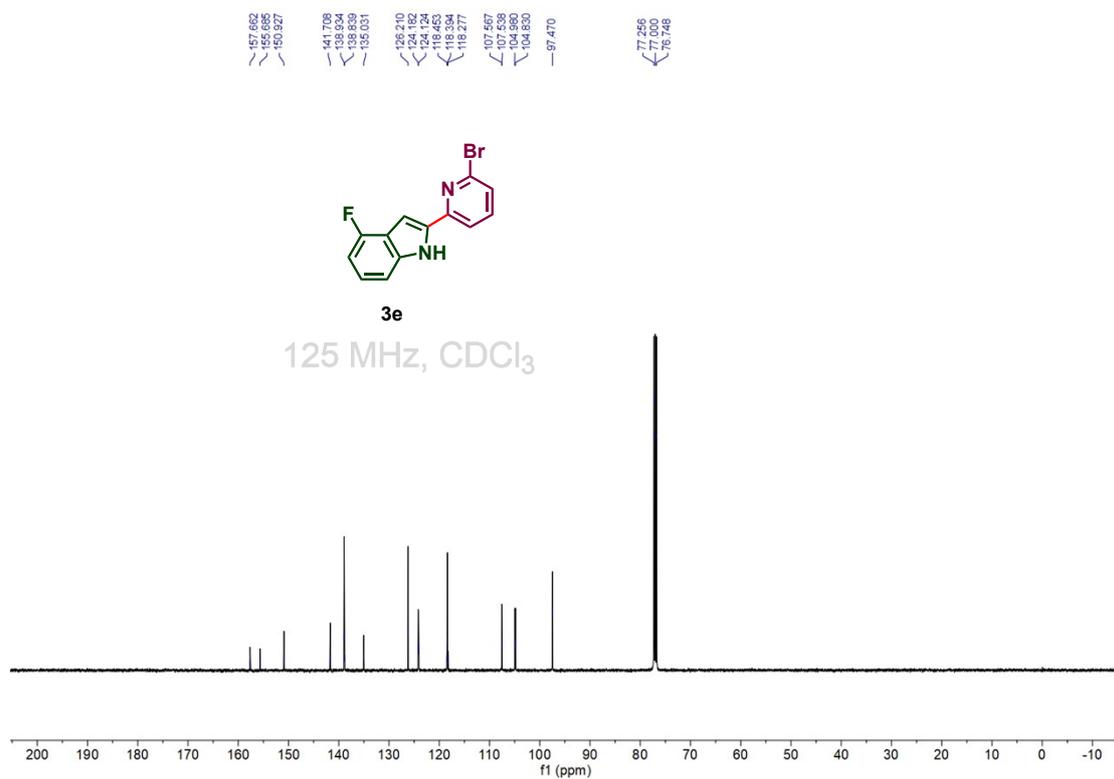
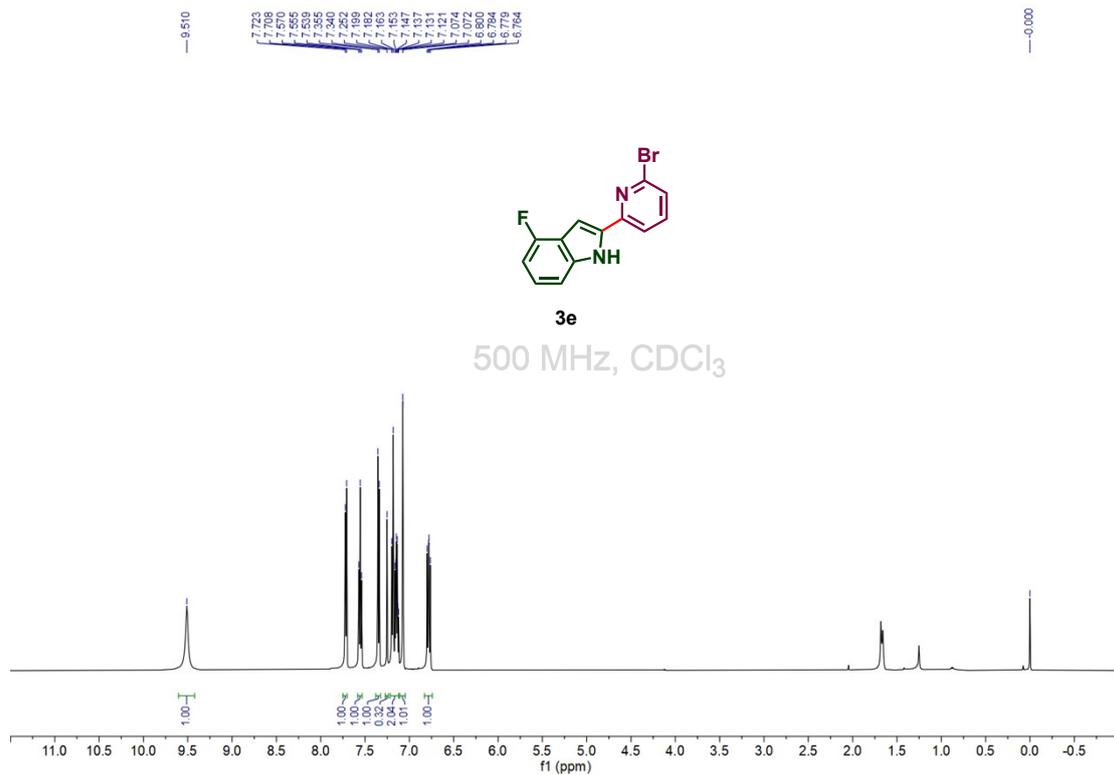


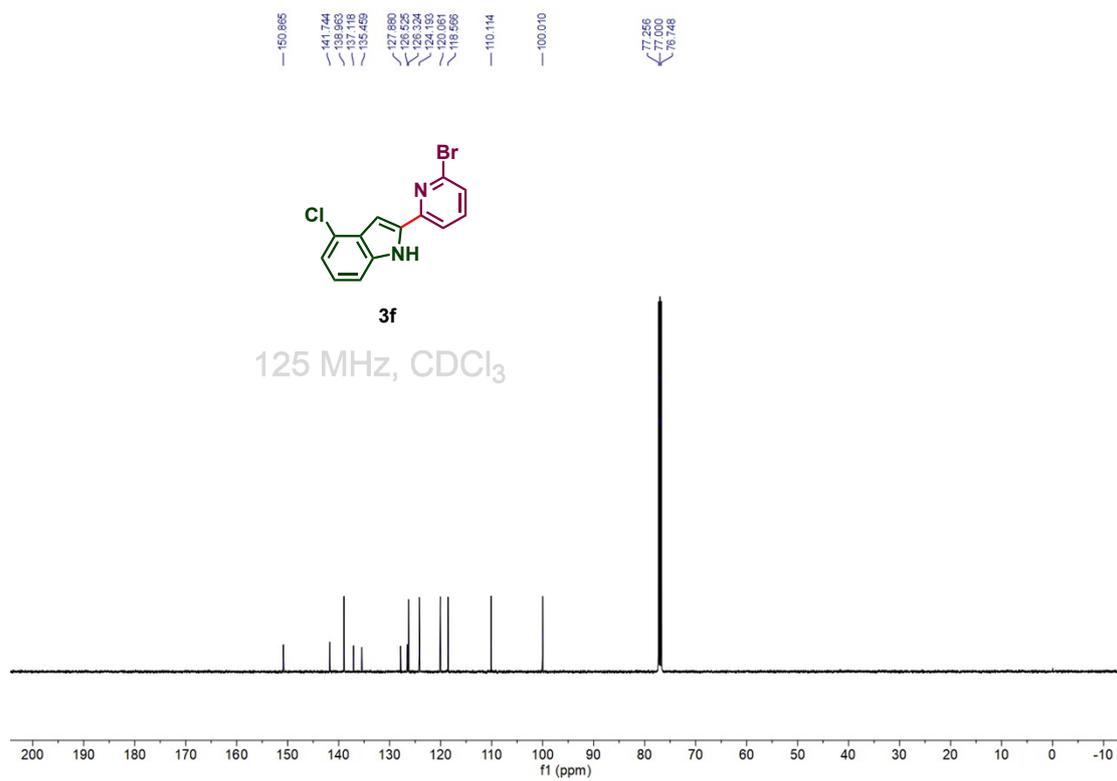
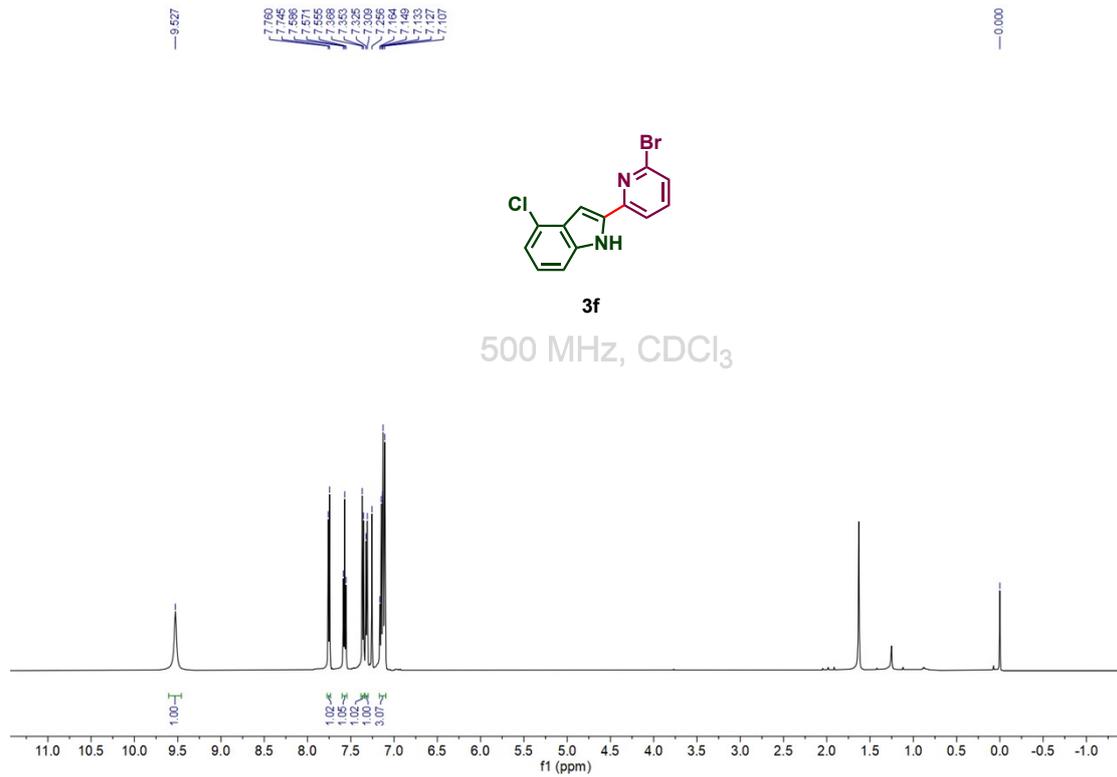


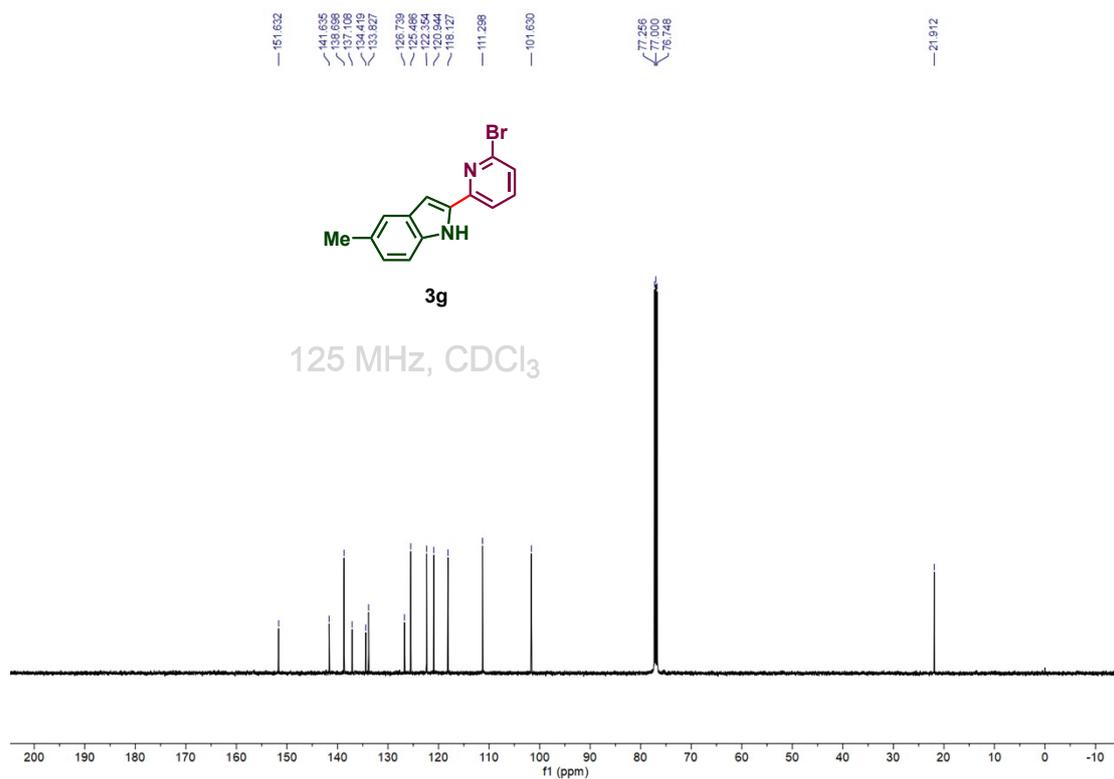
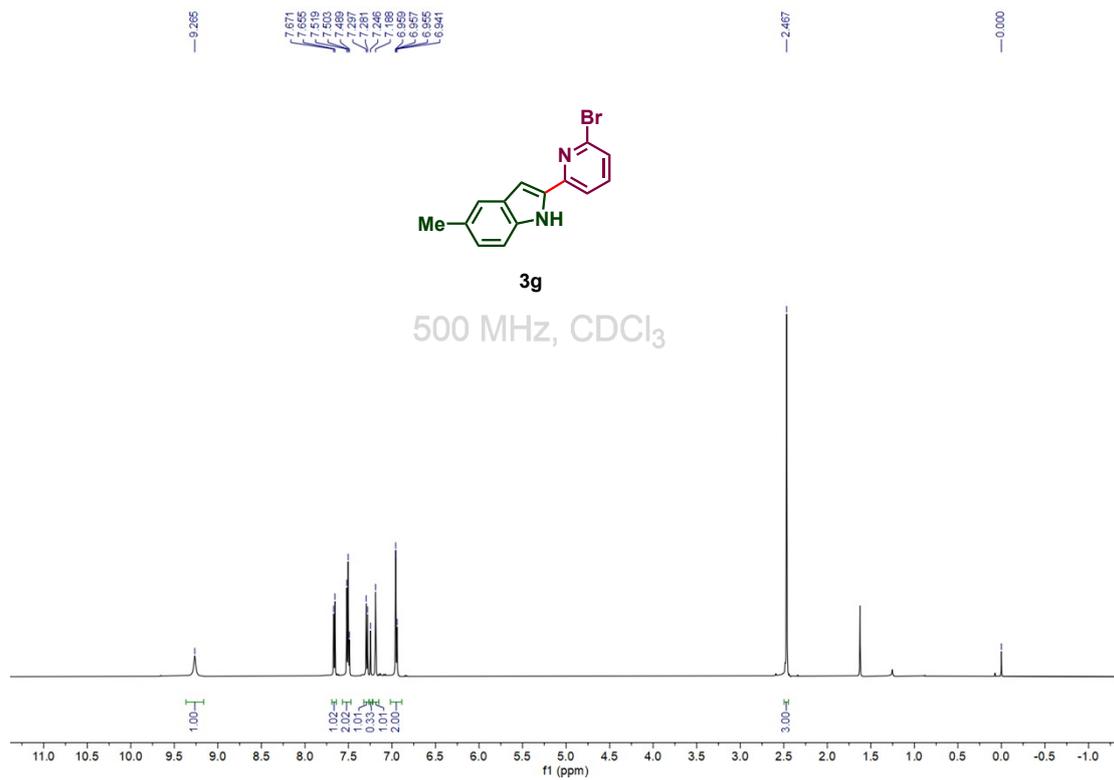


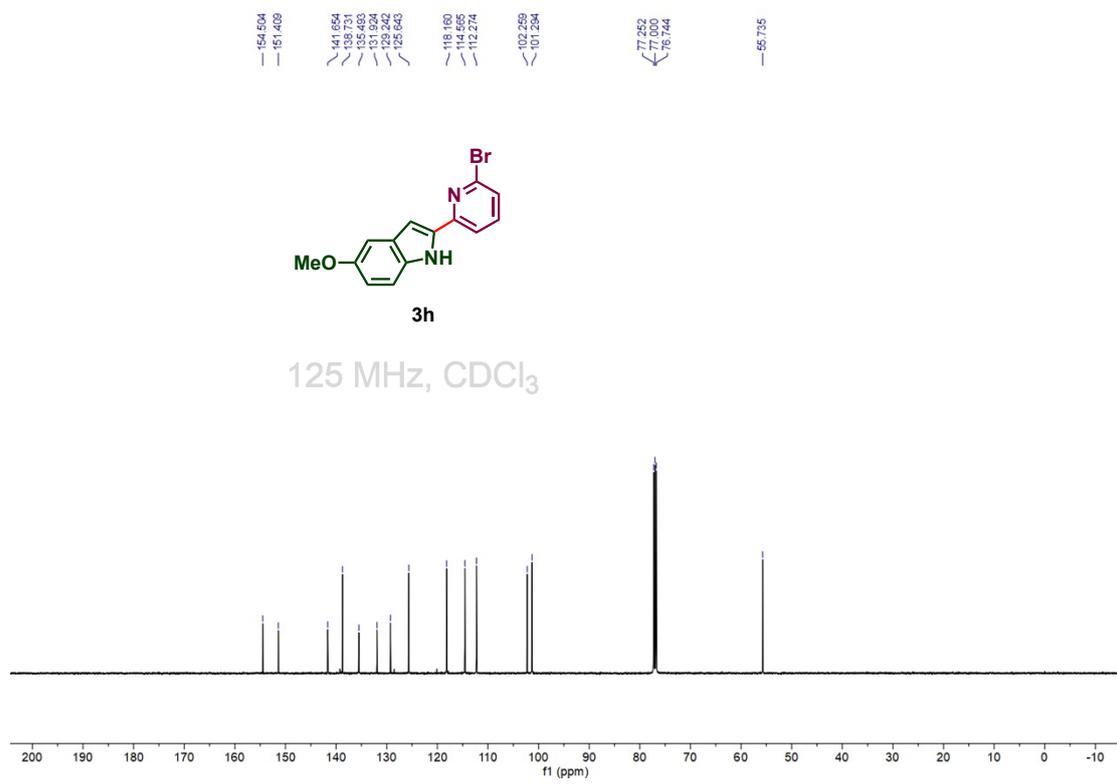
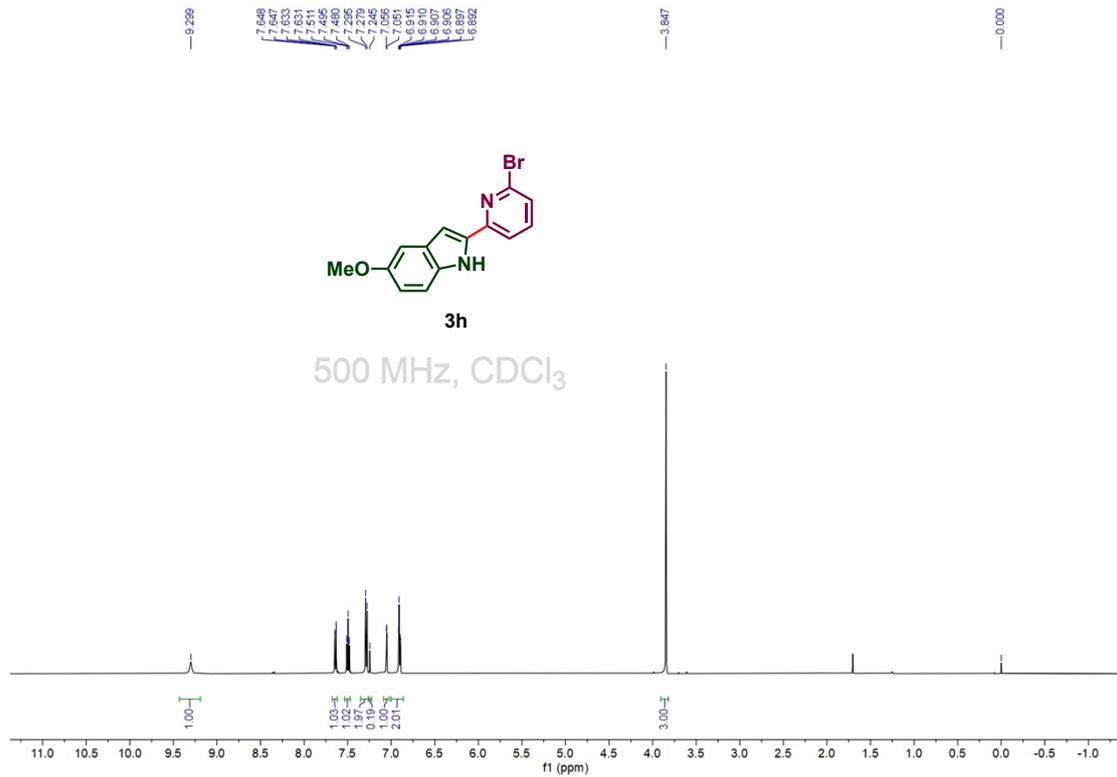






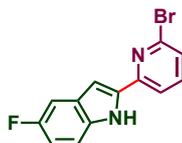






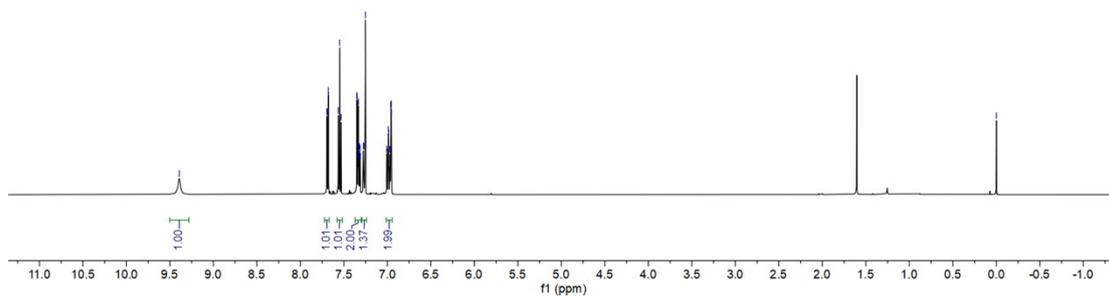
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7.564  
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7.523  
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7.339  
7.338  
7.334  
7.332  
7.330  
7.329  
7.325  
7.321  
7.315  
7.314  
7.315  
7.276  
7.272  
7.258  
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6.960  
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6.954

-0.000

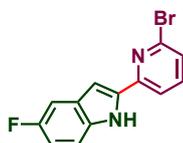


3i

500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>

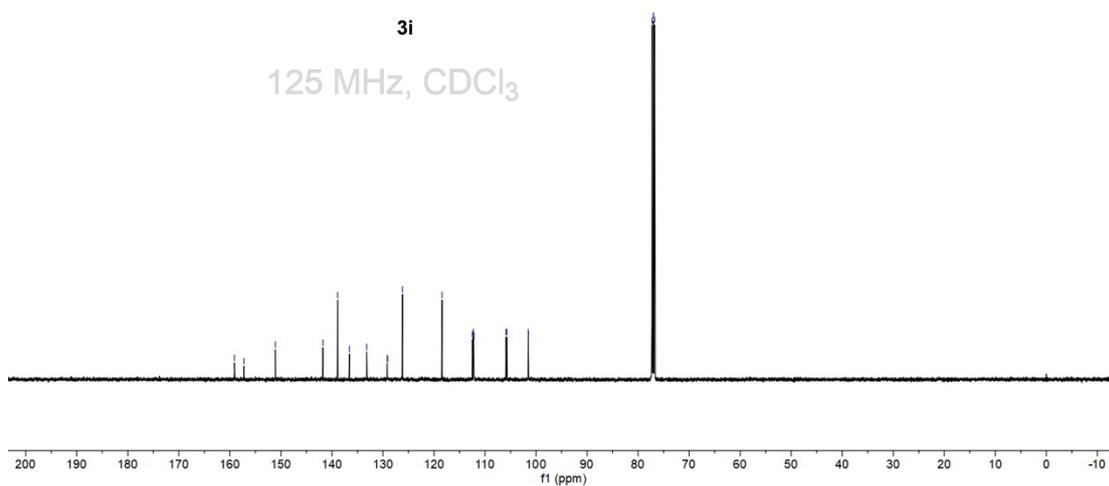


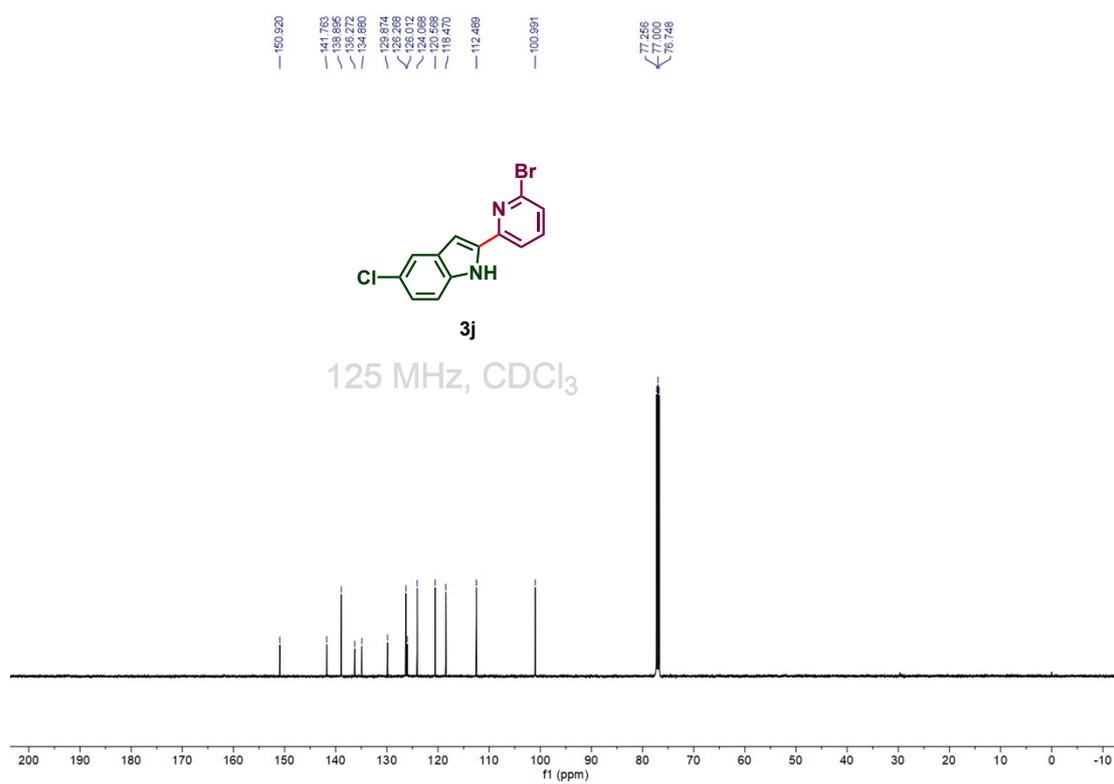
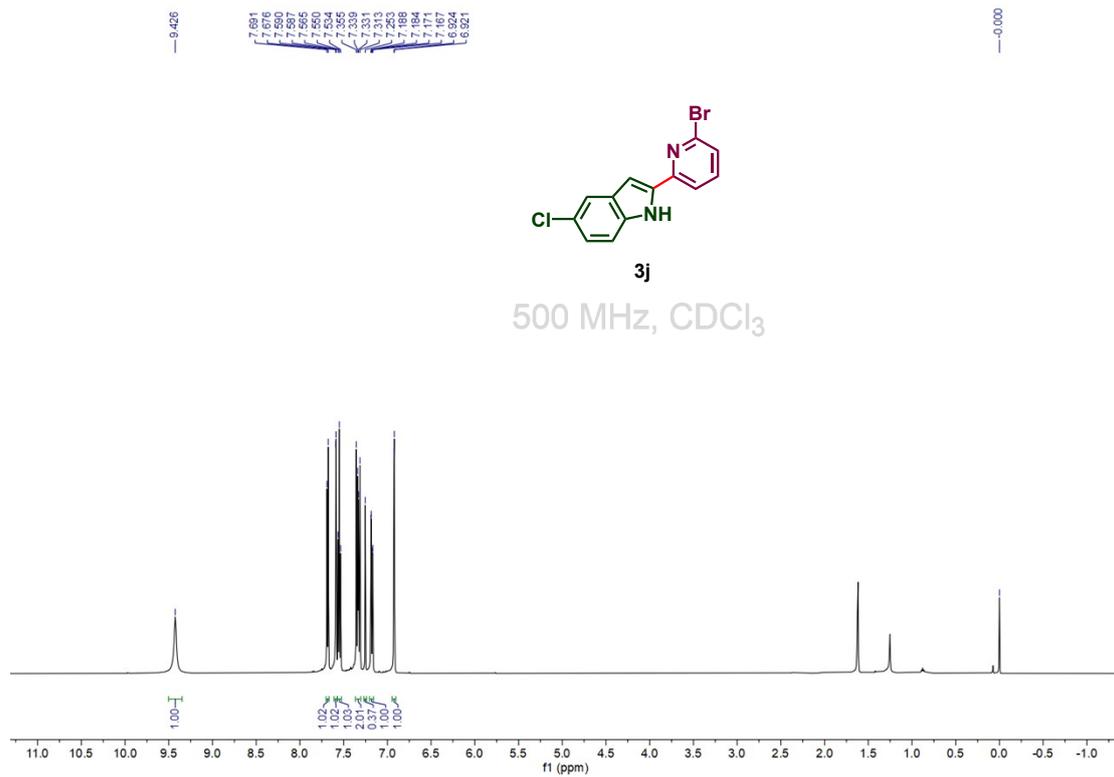
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151.080  
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138.884  
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129.088  
126.182  
118.416  
112.493  
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105.708  
101.528  
101.488  
77.256  
77.000  
76.748

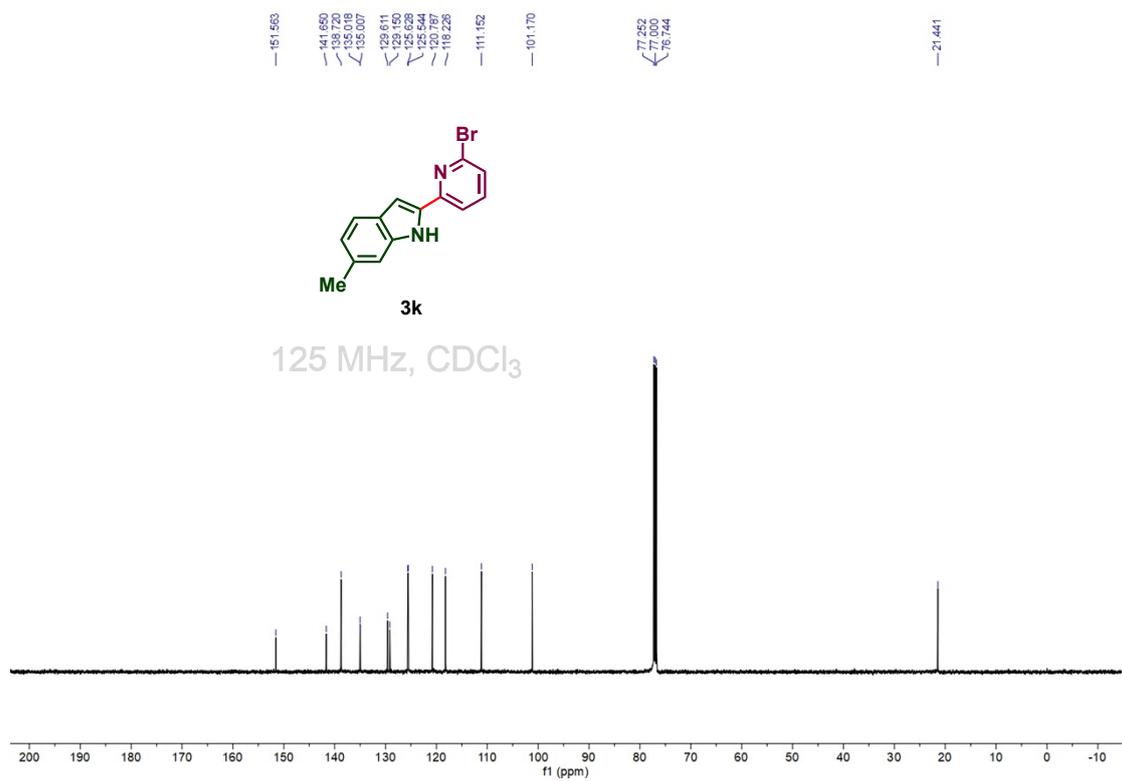
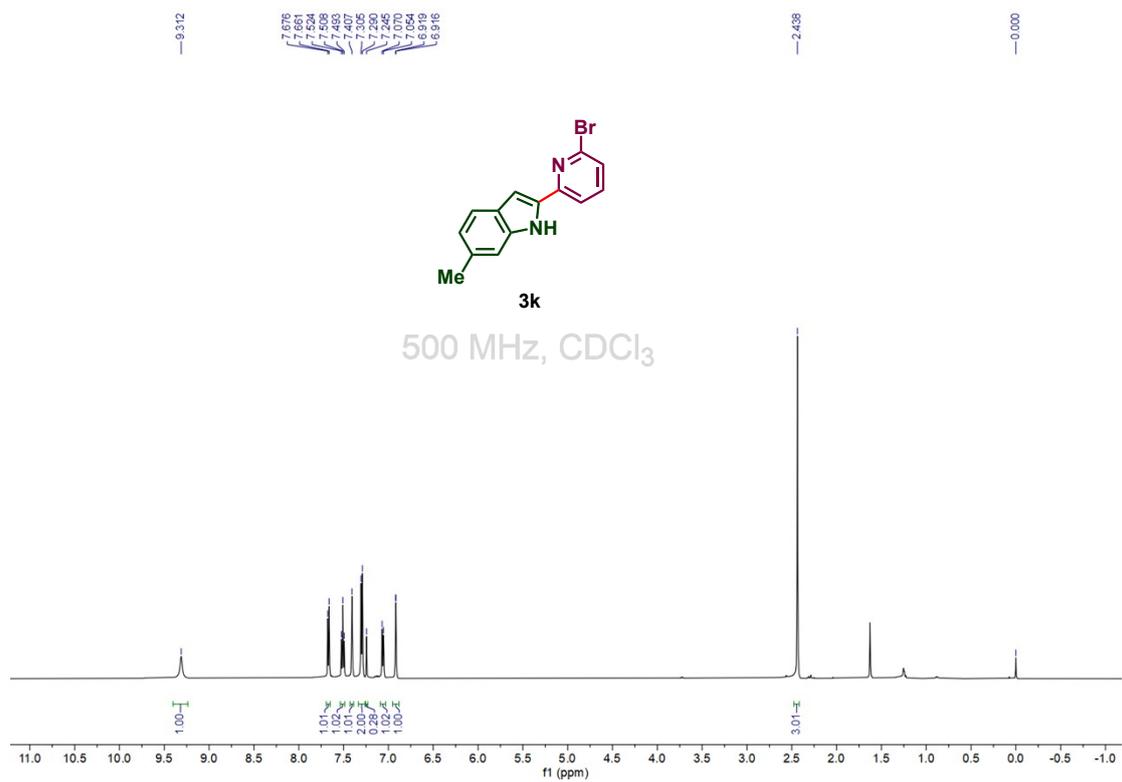


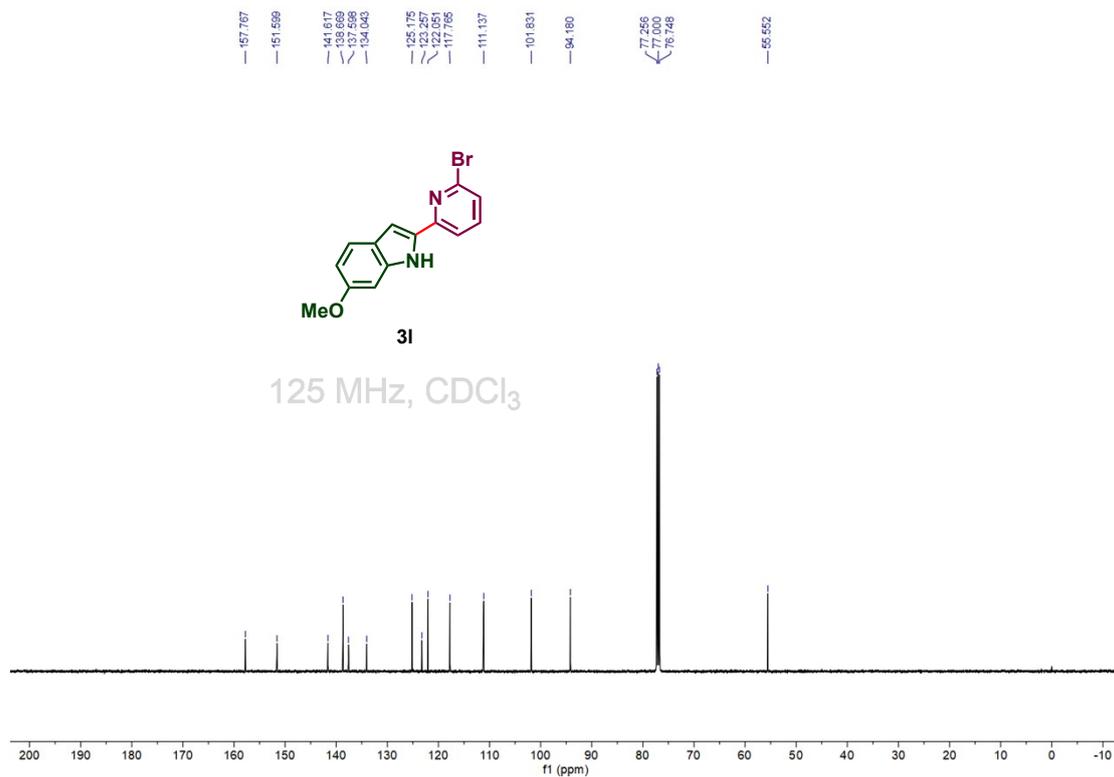
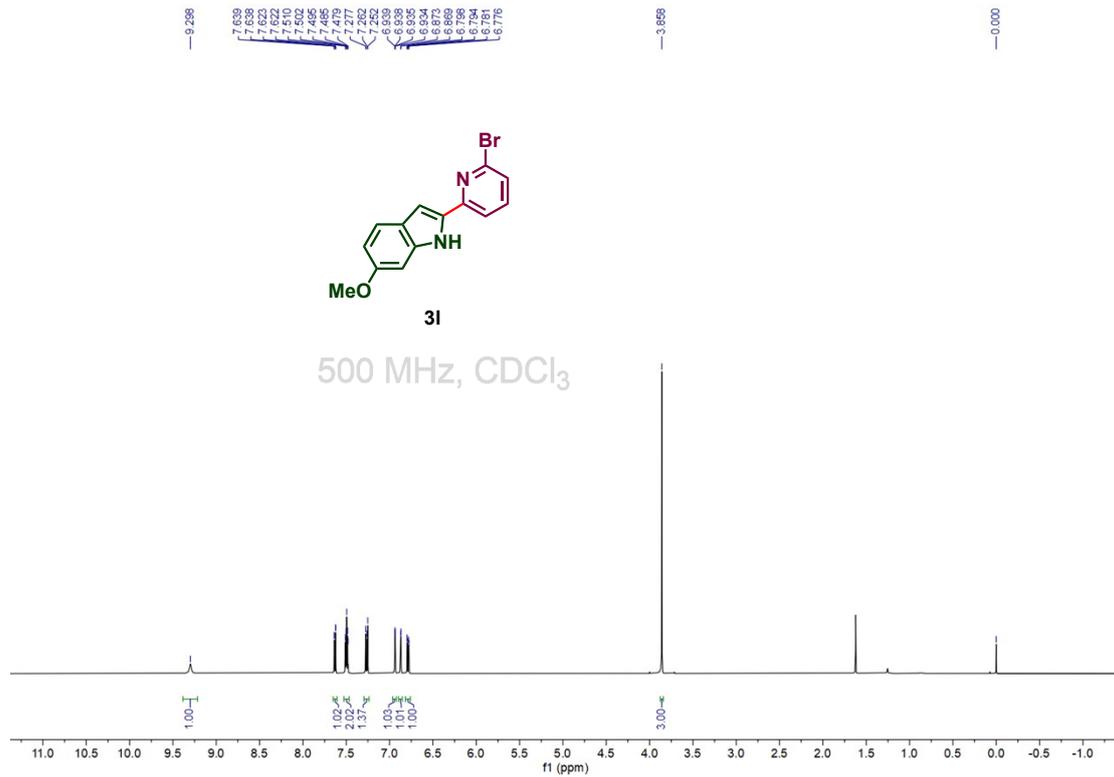
3i

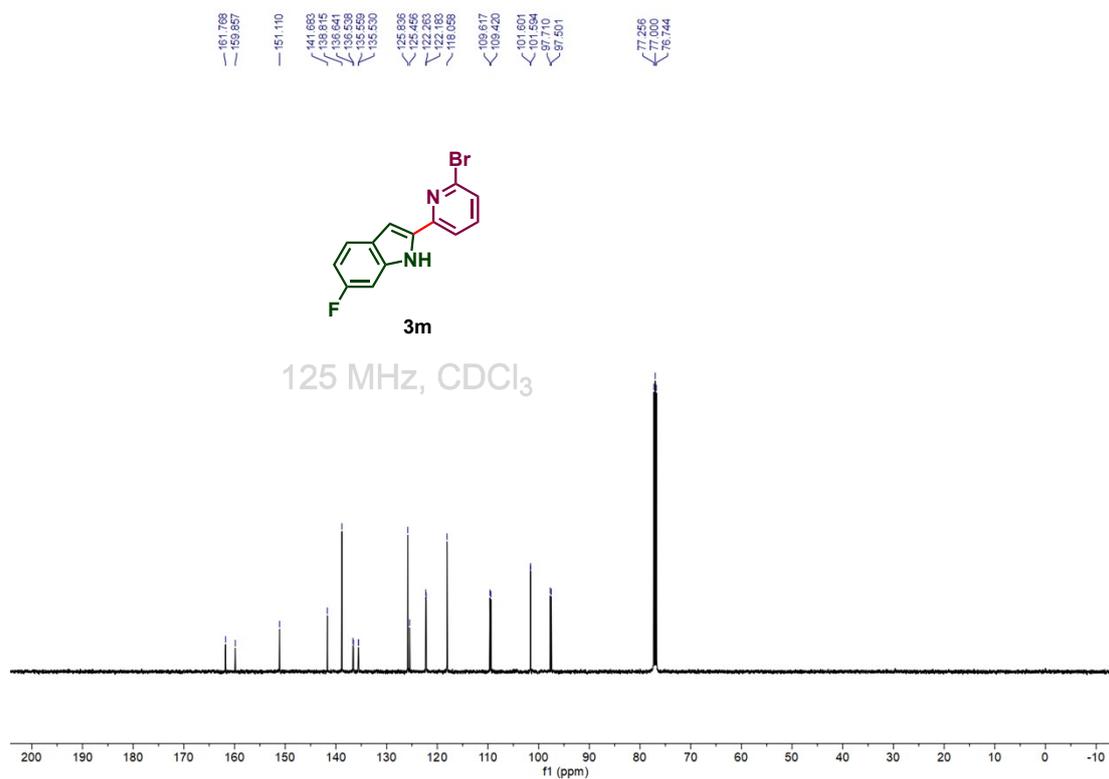
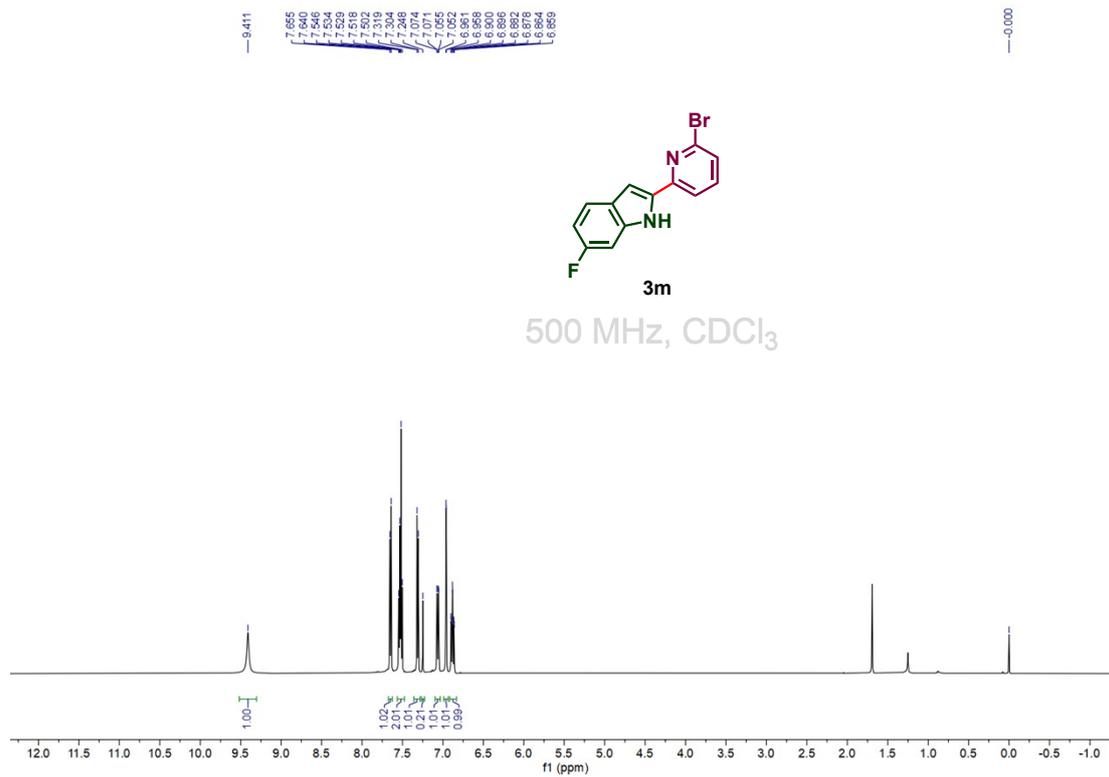
125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>

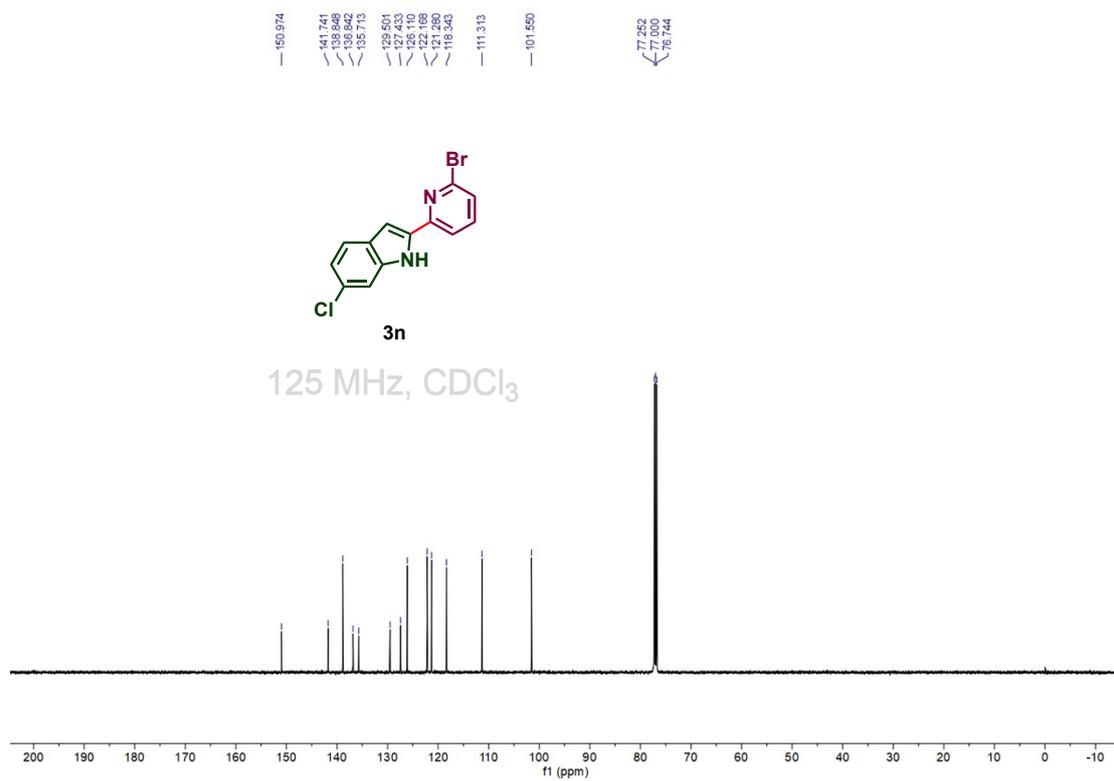
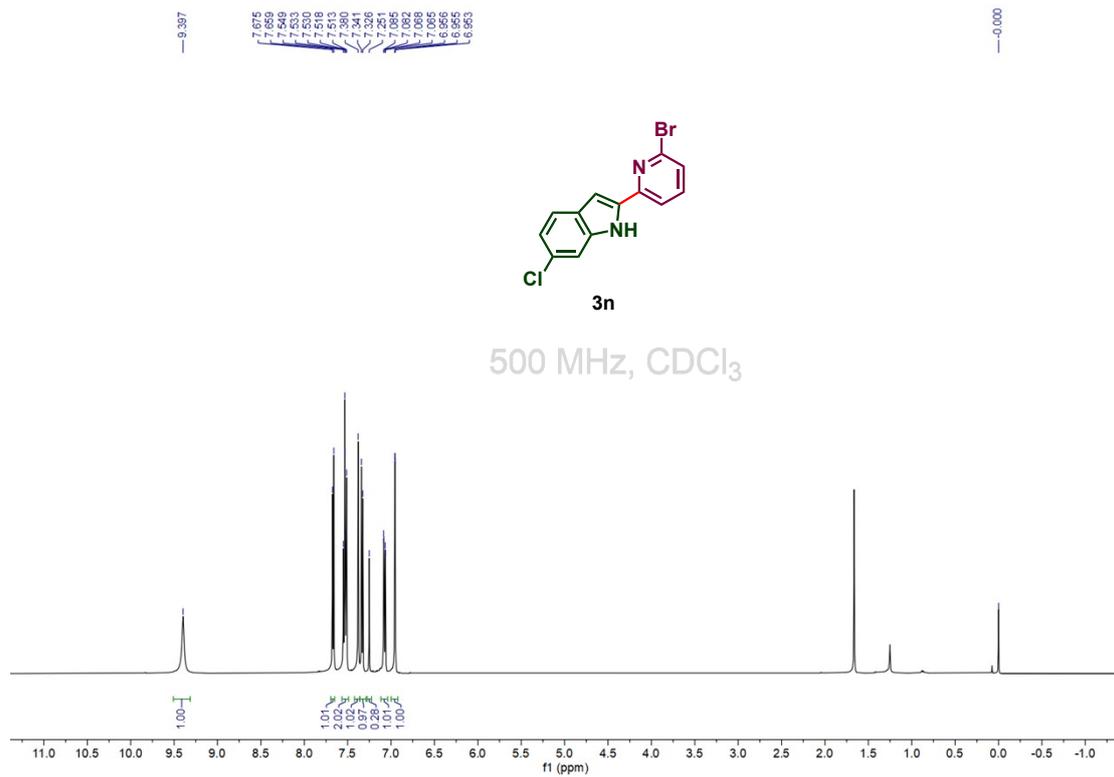


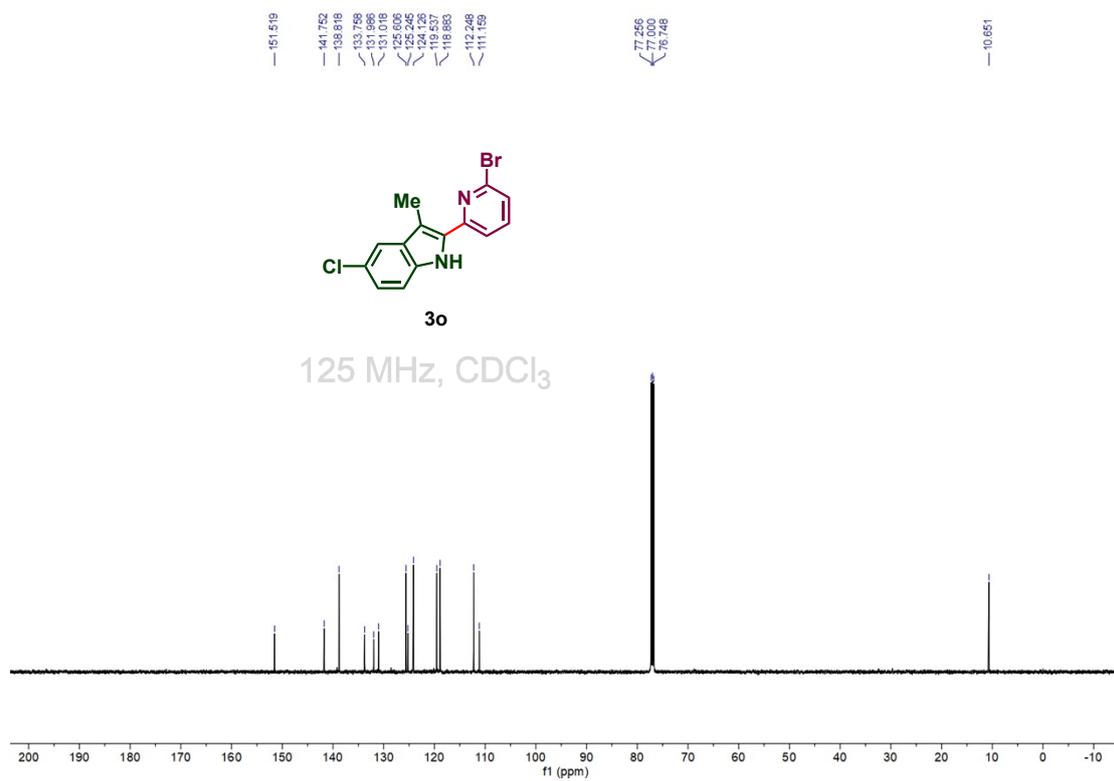
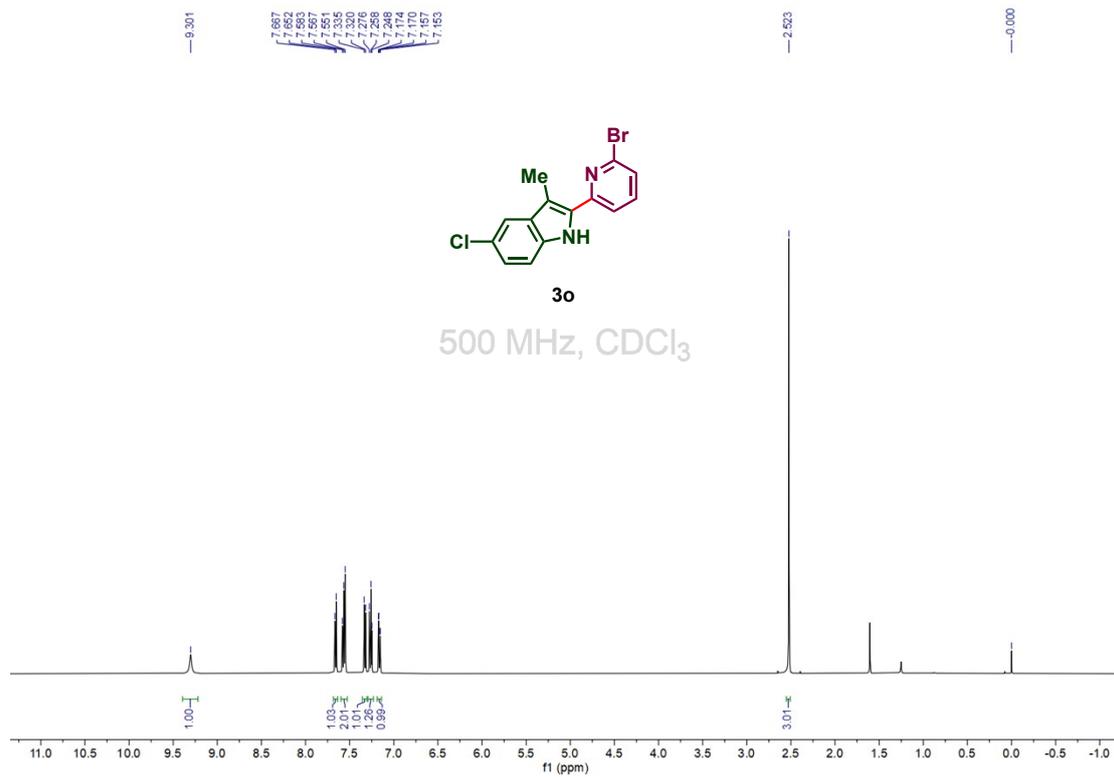


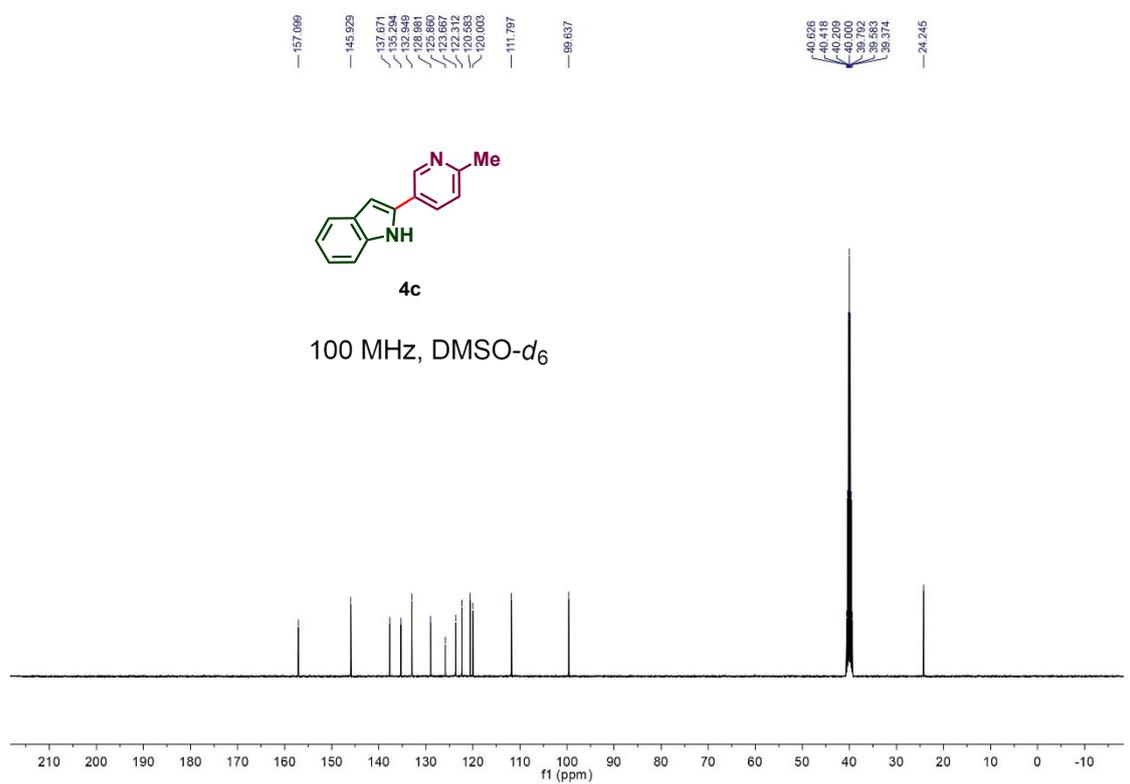
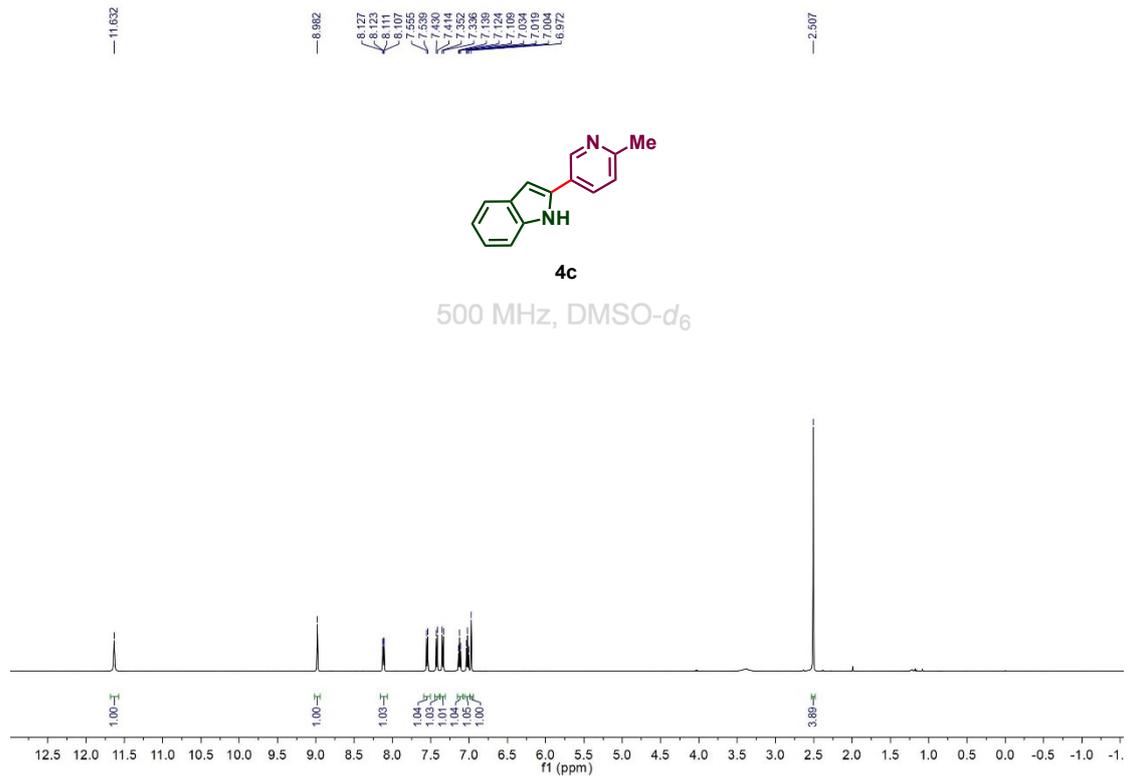


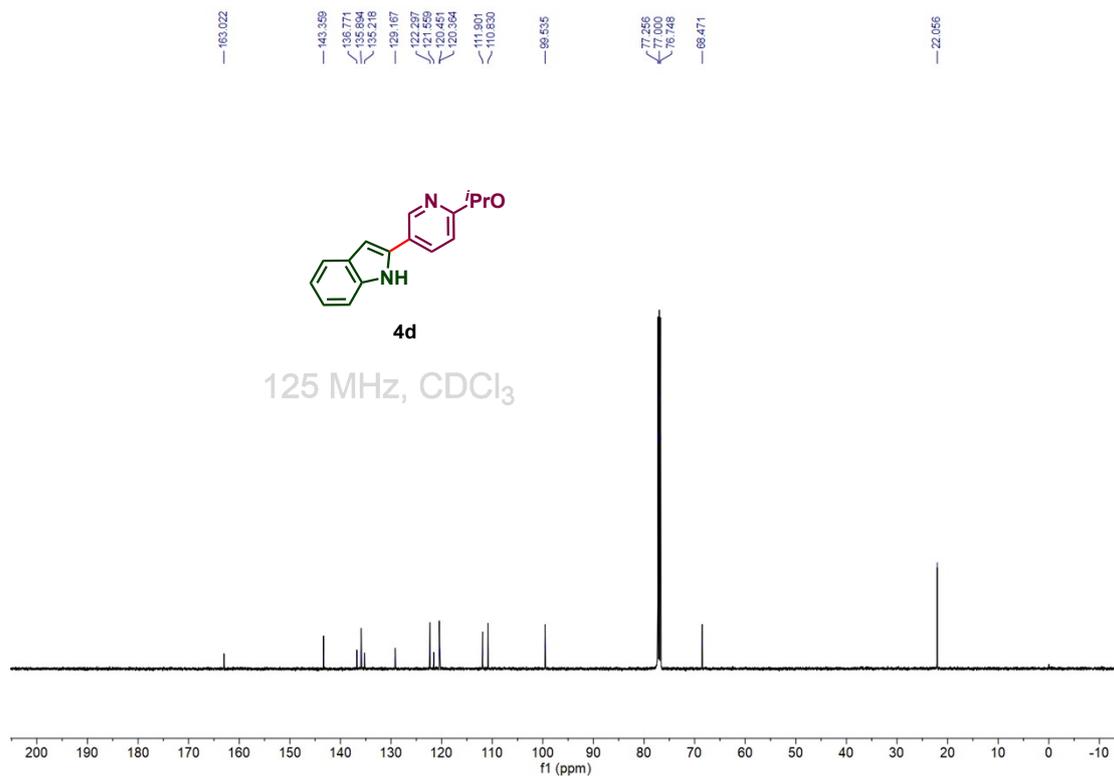
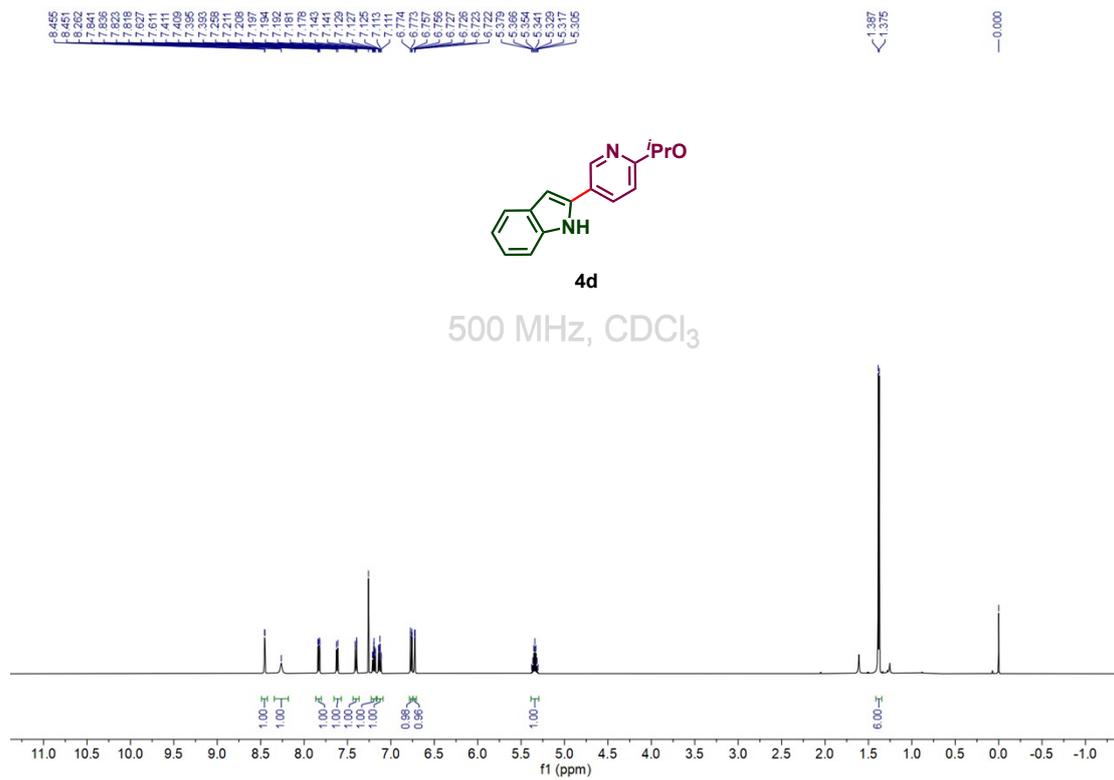


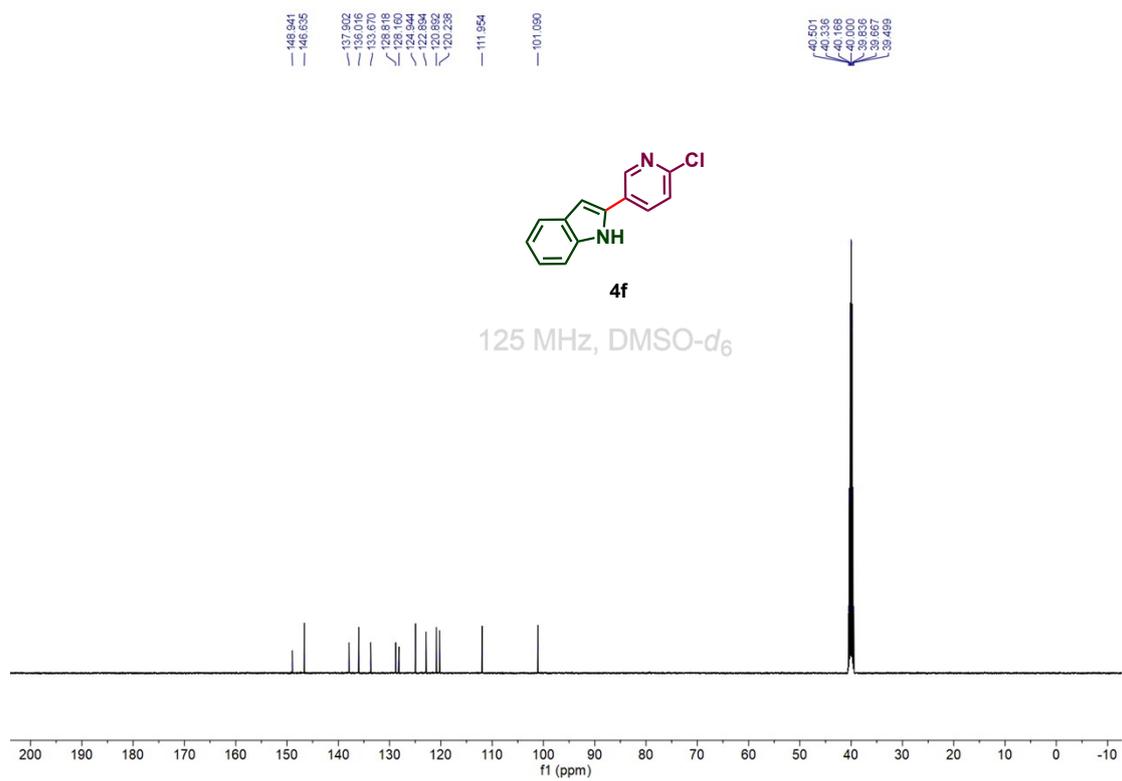
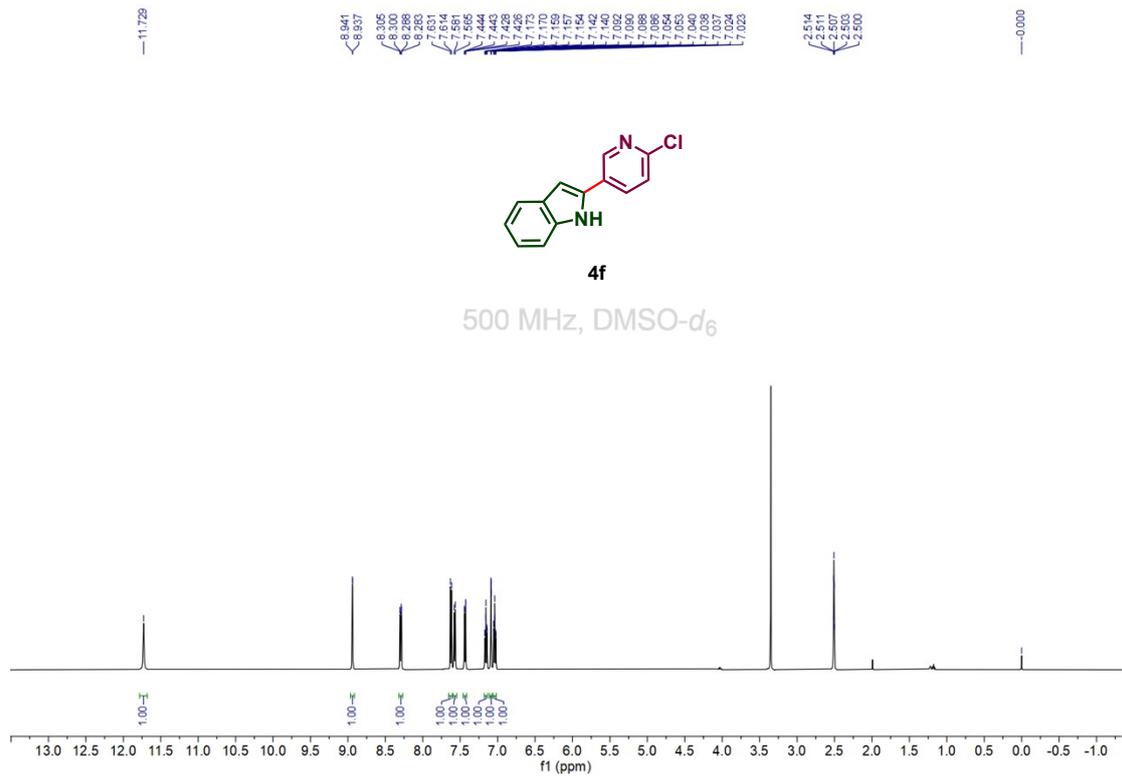




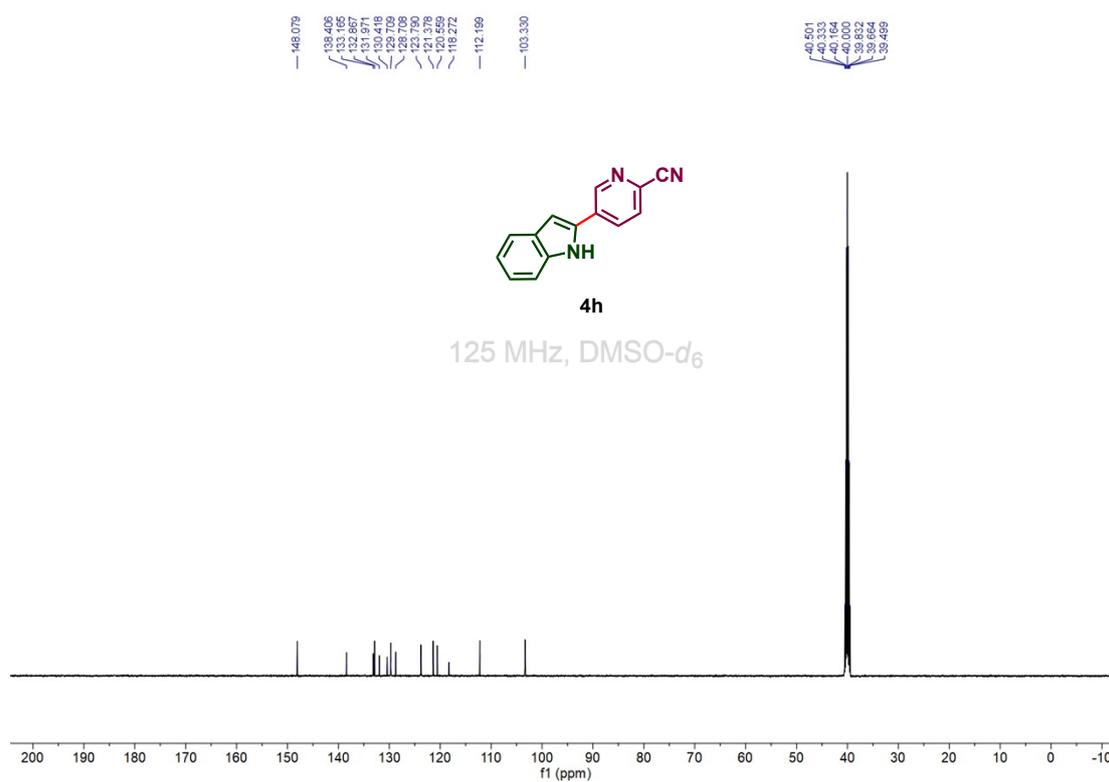
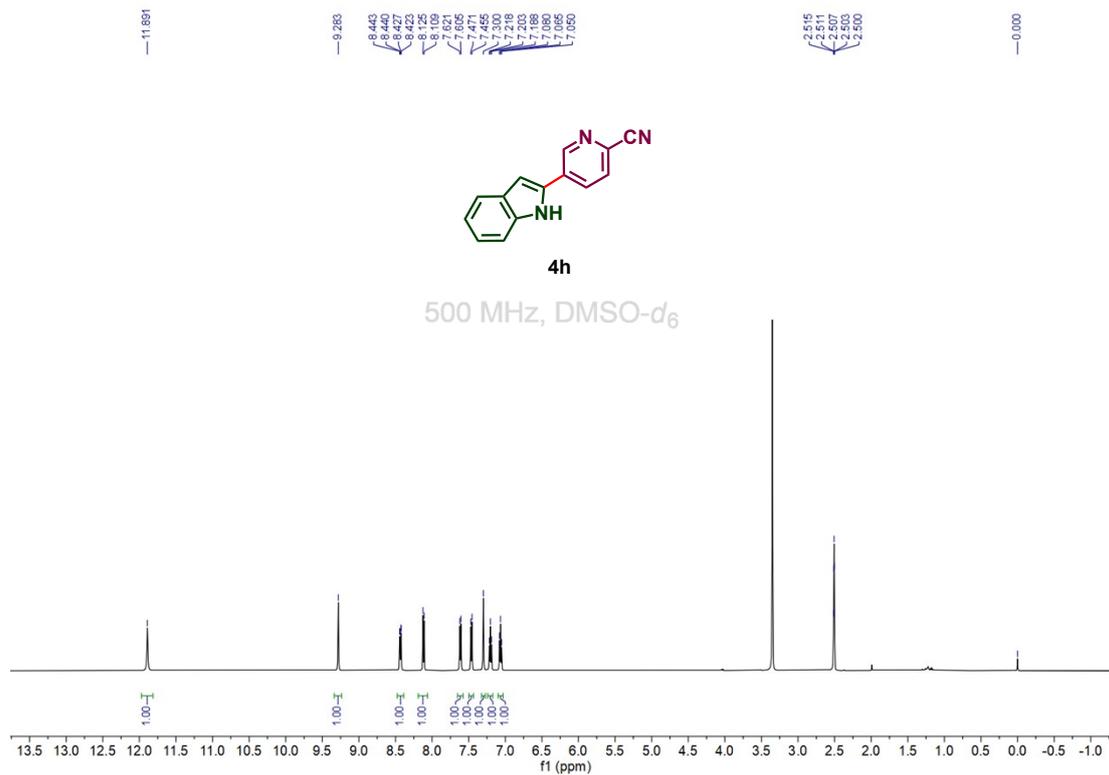


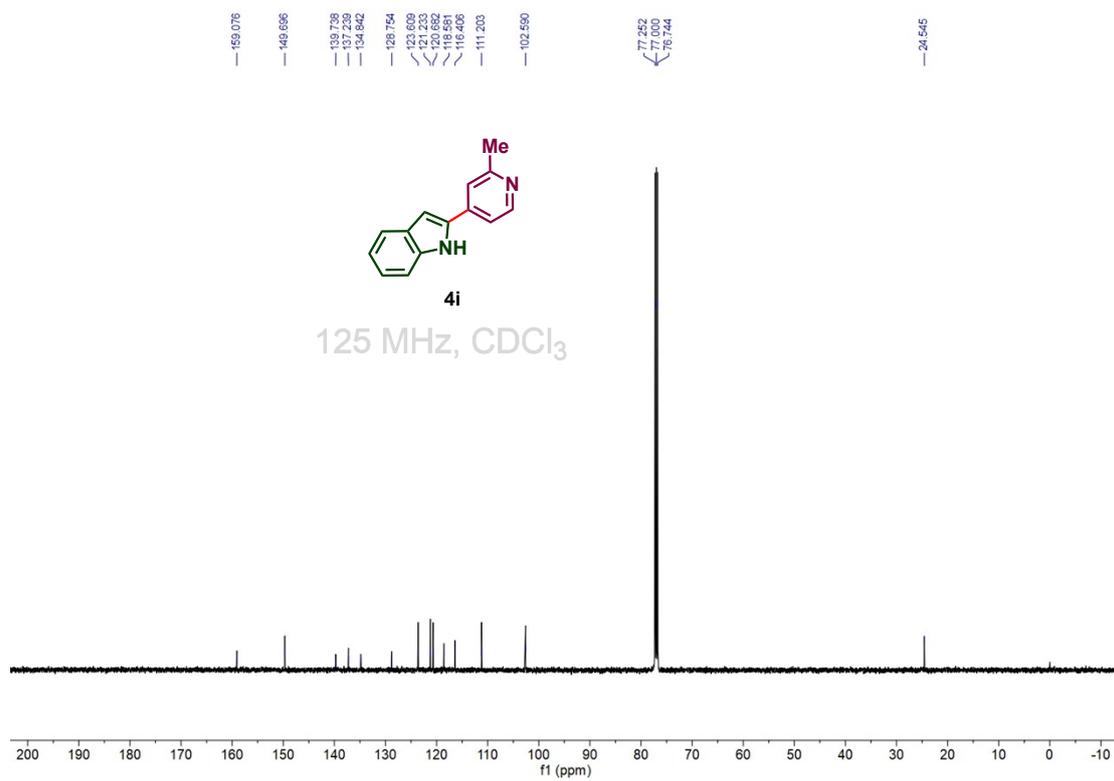
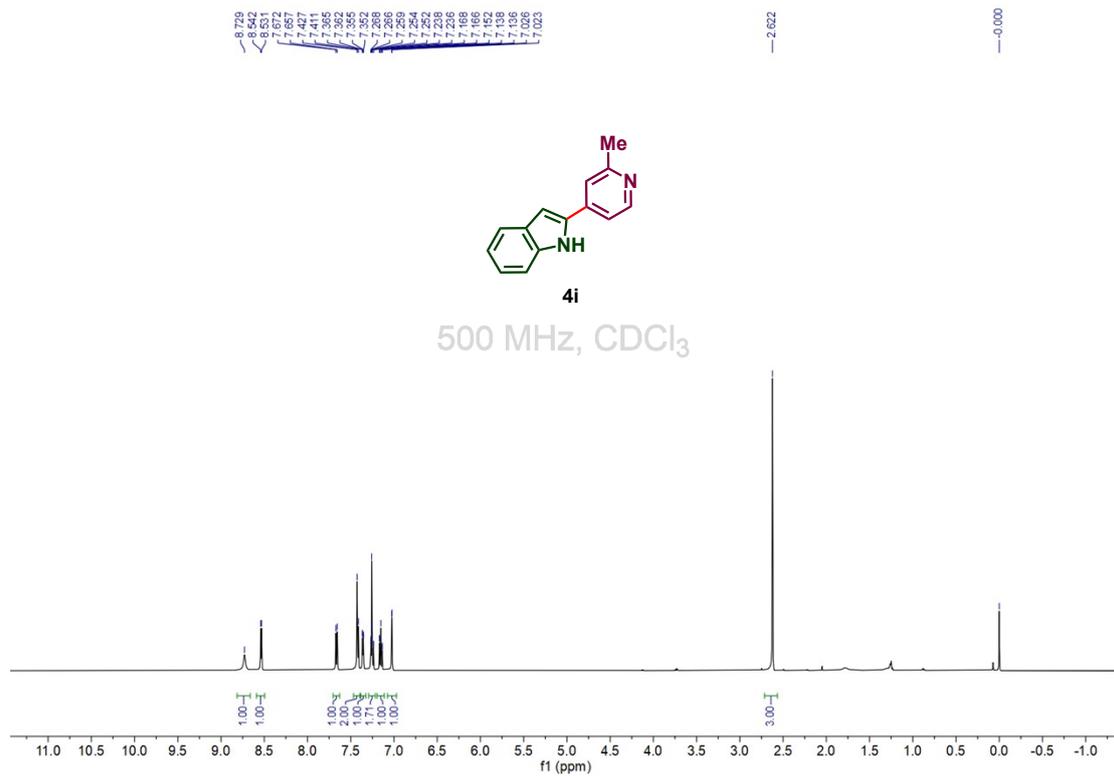


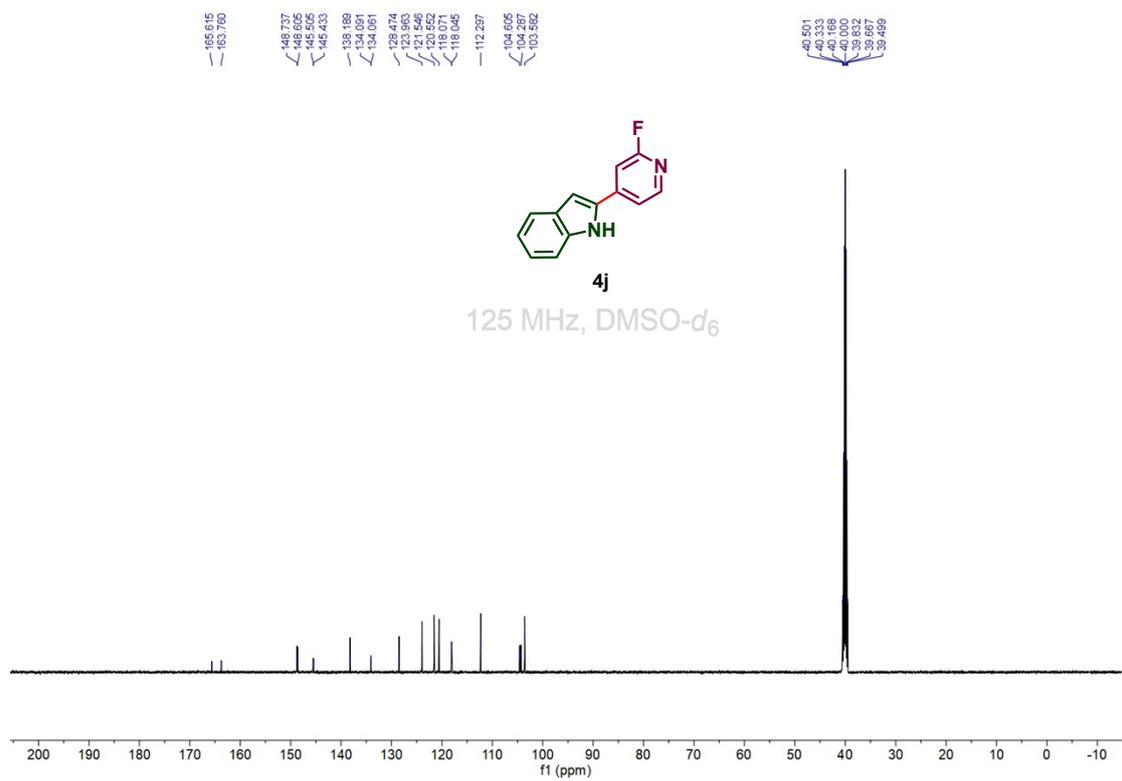
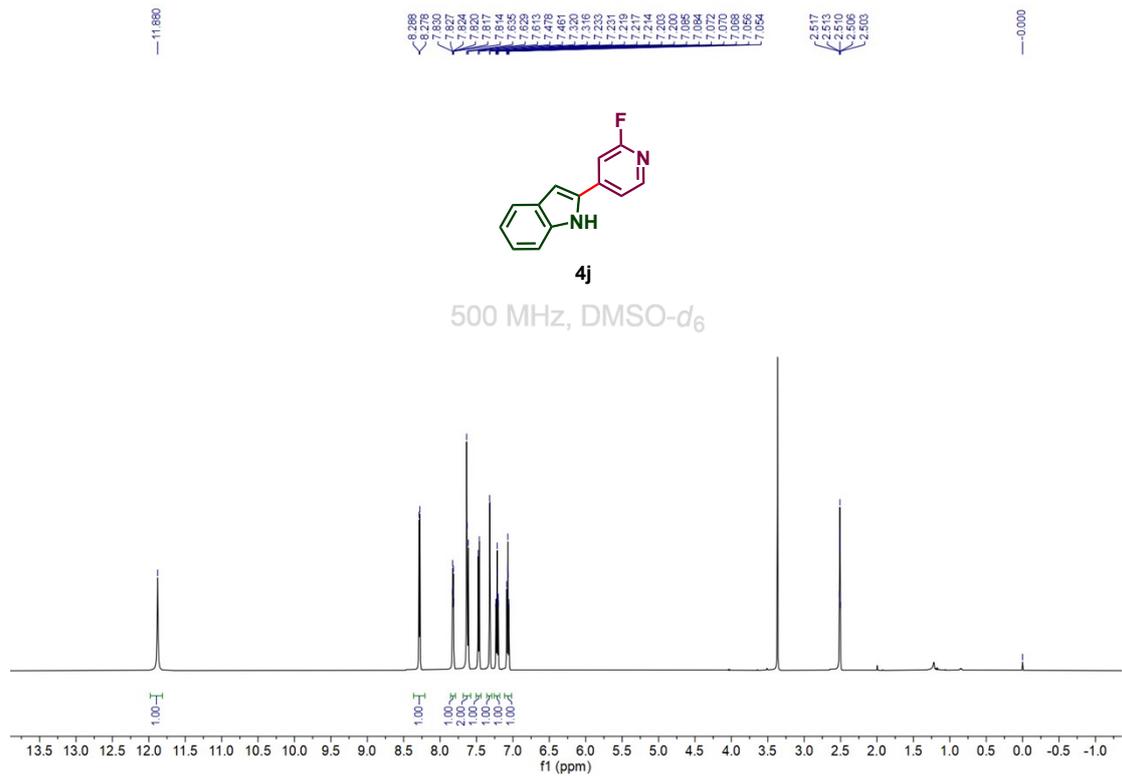




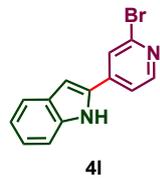
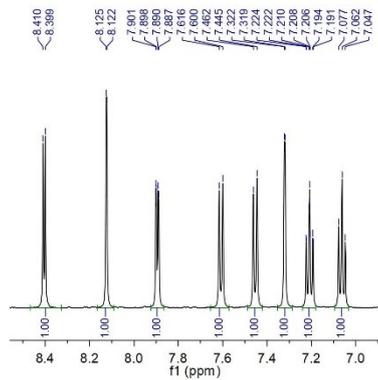




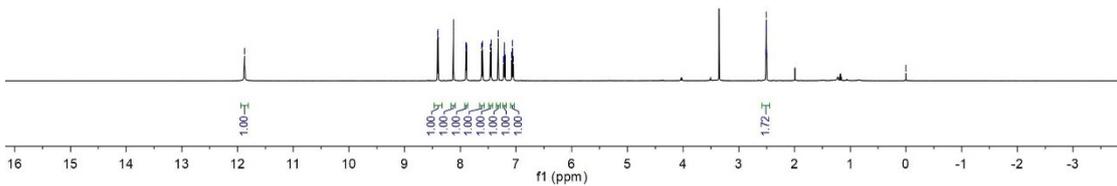




—11.875  
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 8.399  
 8.122  
 7.901  
 7.898  
 7.890  
 7.887  
 7.880  
 7.876  
 7.862  
 7.850  
 7.832  
 7.7319  
 7.724  
 7.722  
 7.722  
 7.722  
 7.708  
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 7.647  
 2.515  
 2.507  
 2.504  
 2.500  
 —0.000



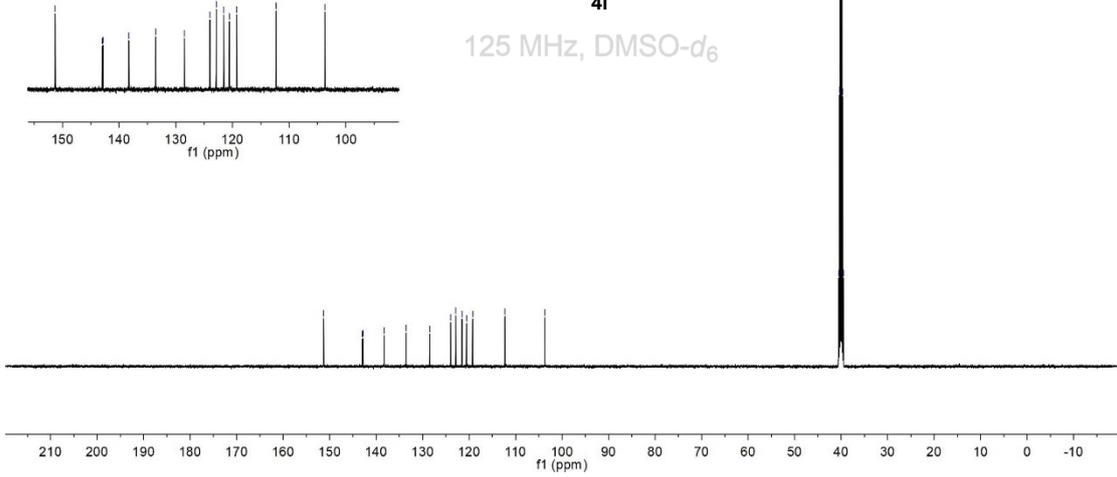
500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>

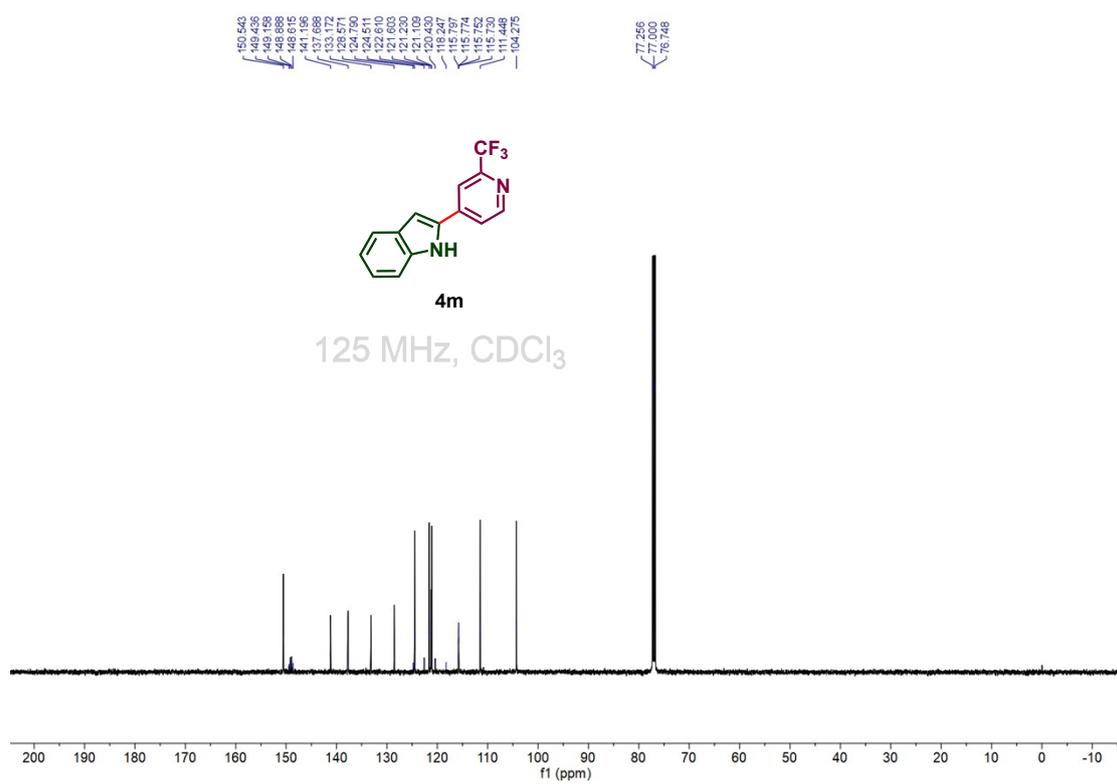
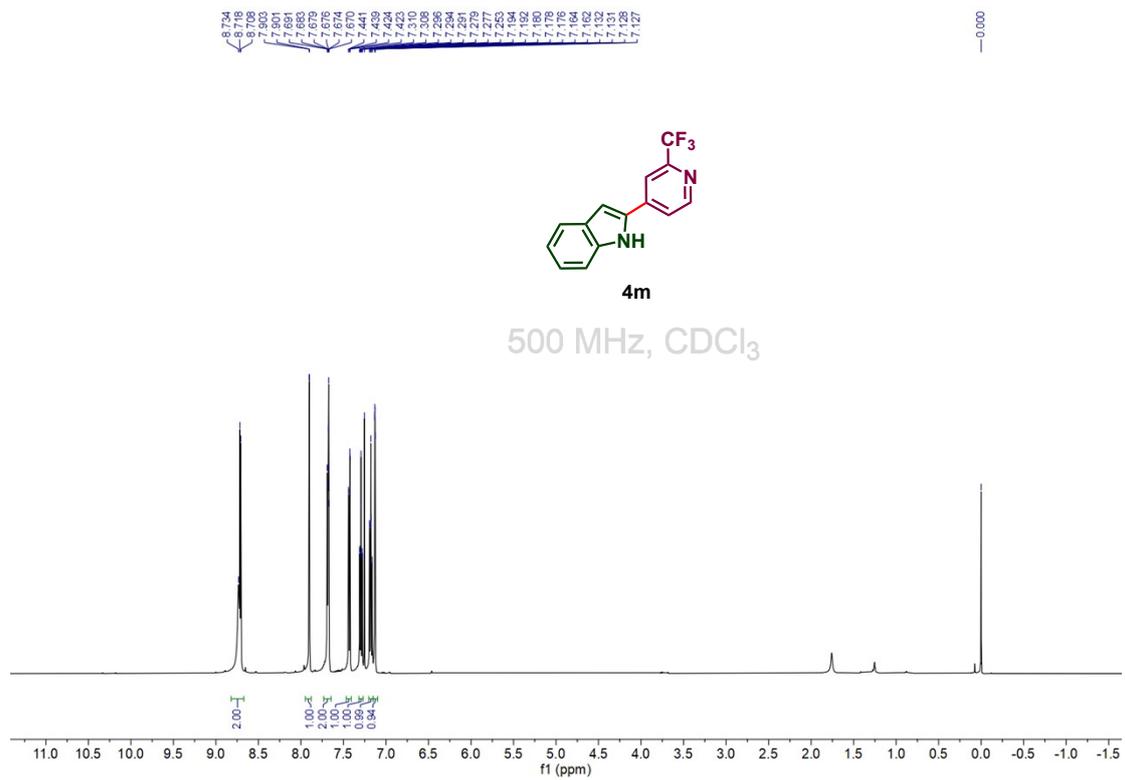


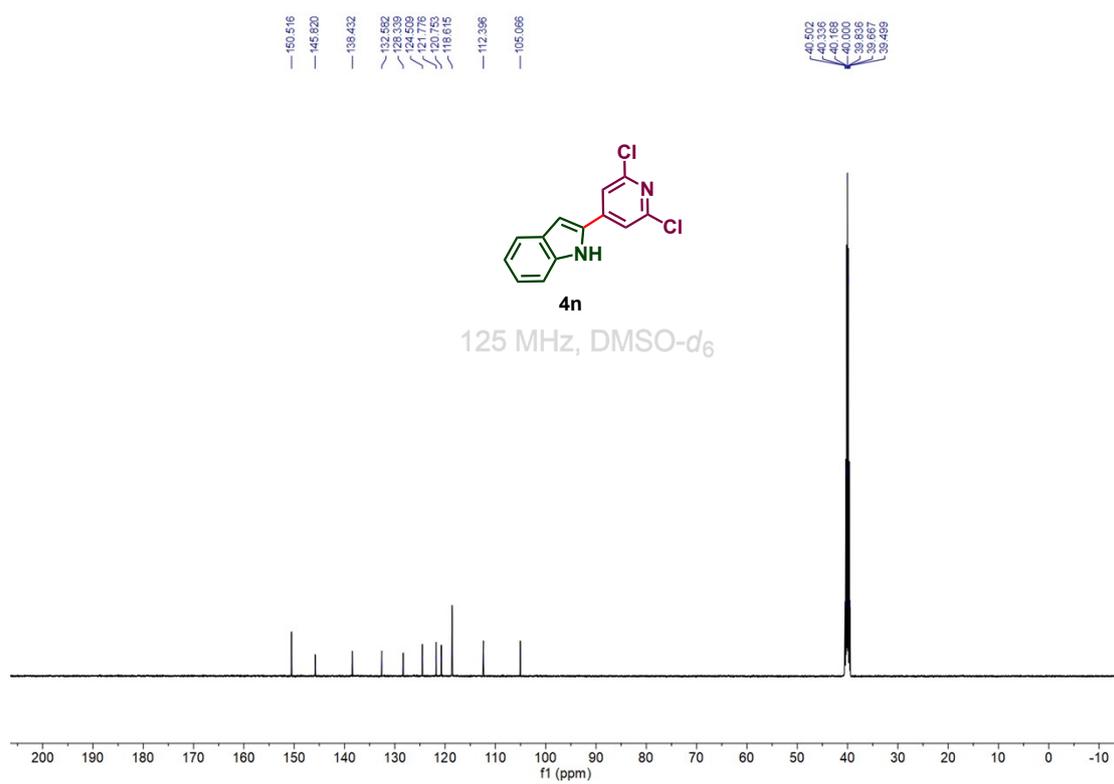
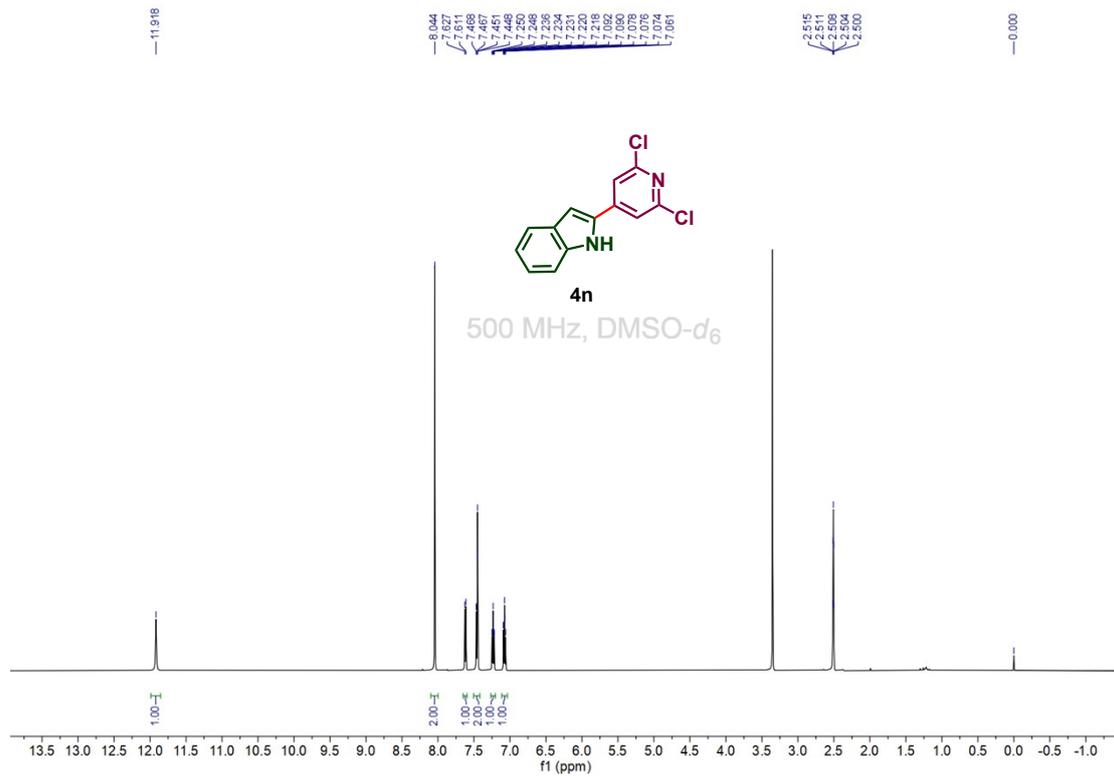
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 119.282  
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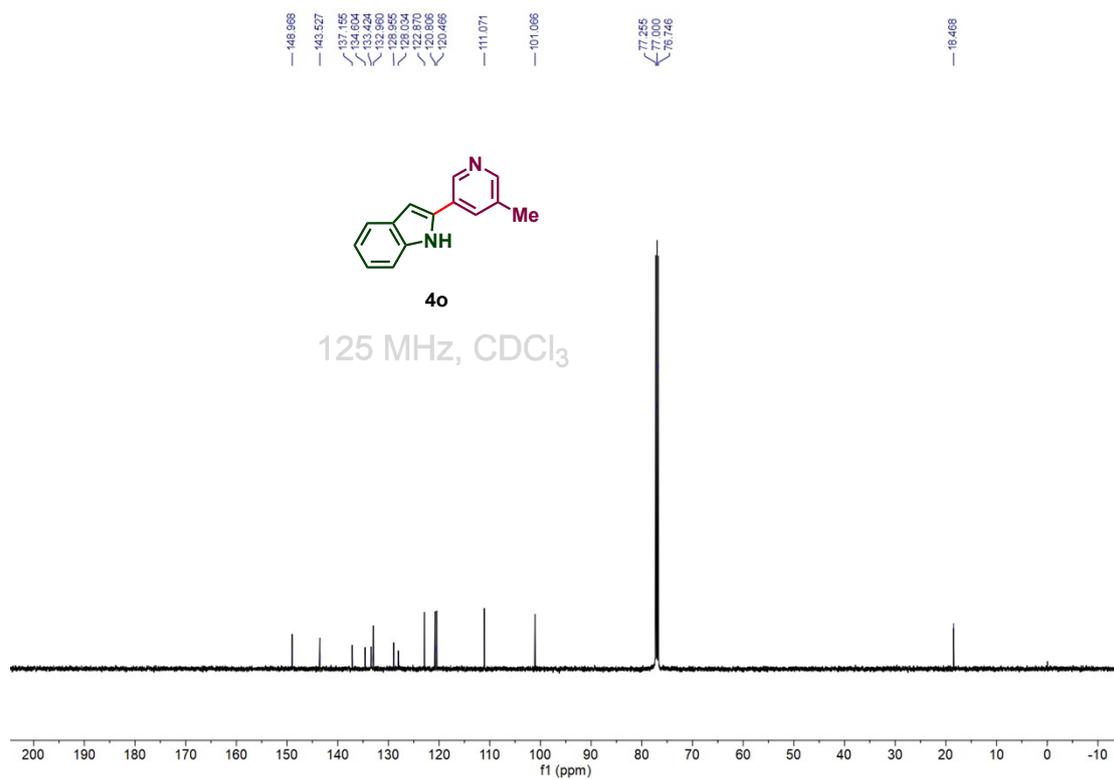
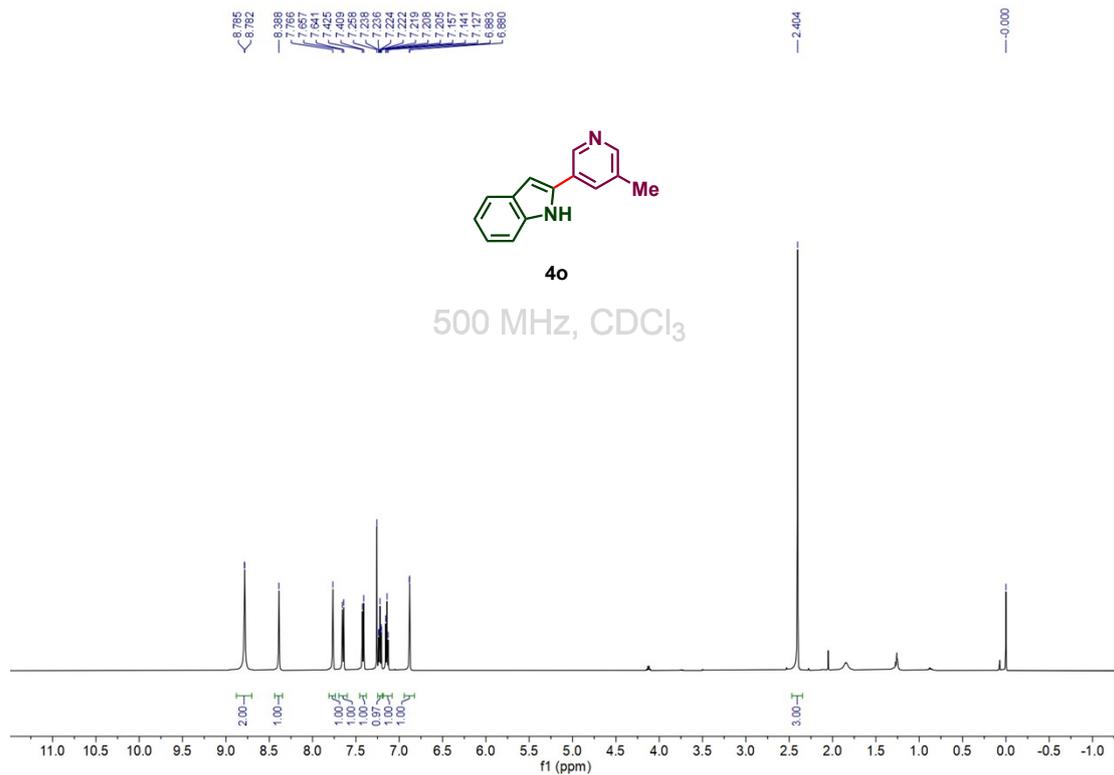


125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>

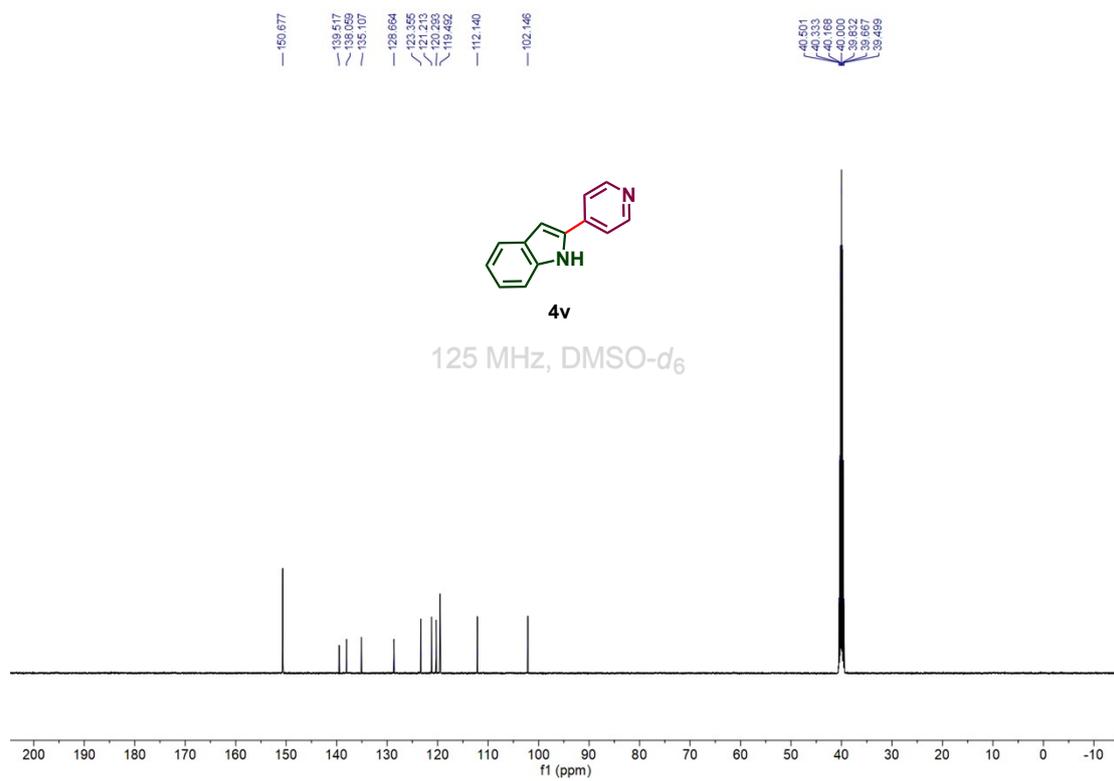
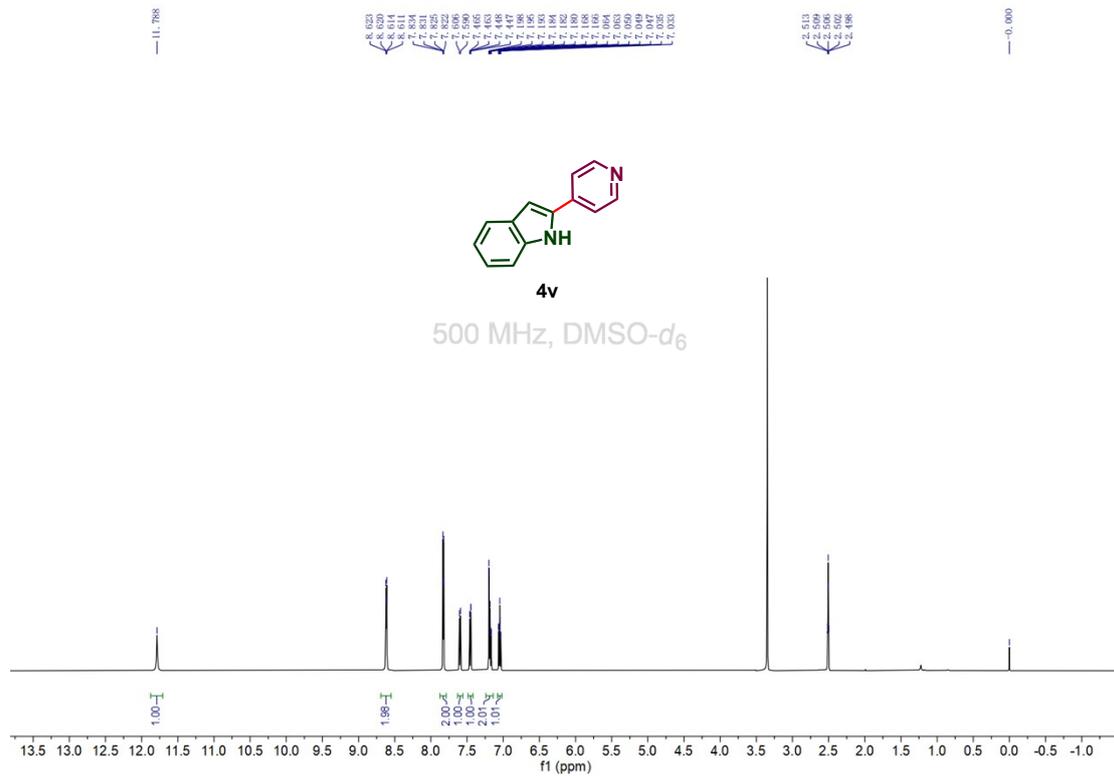


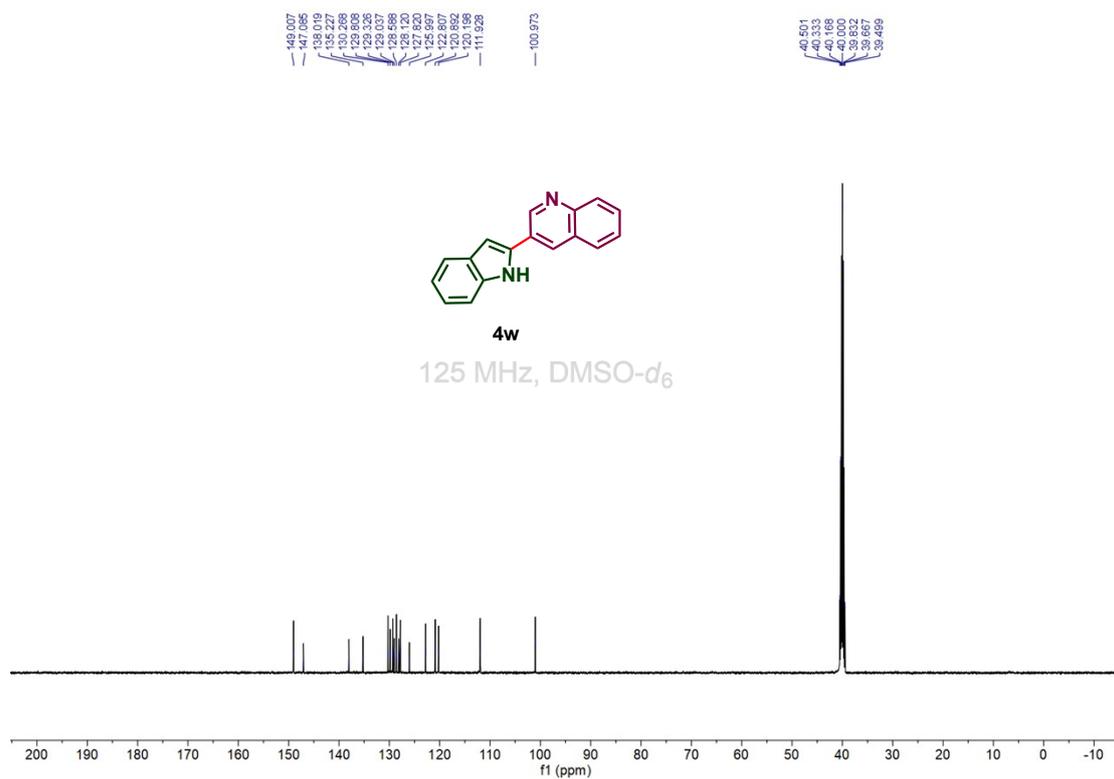
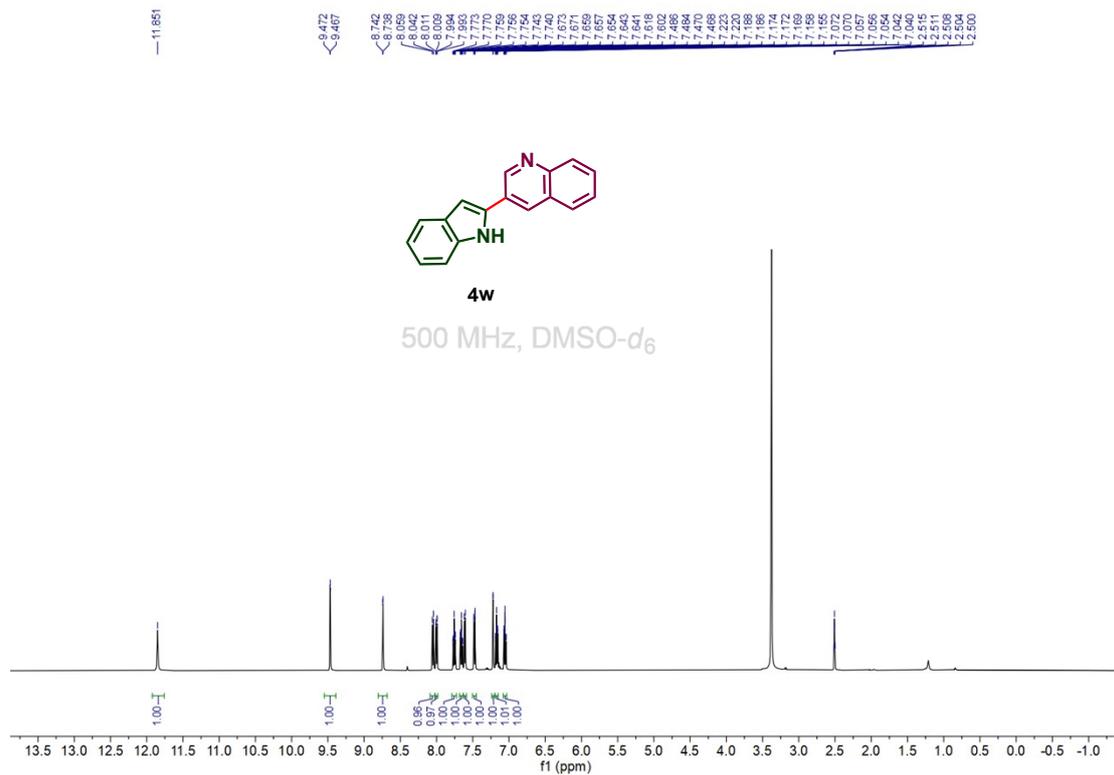


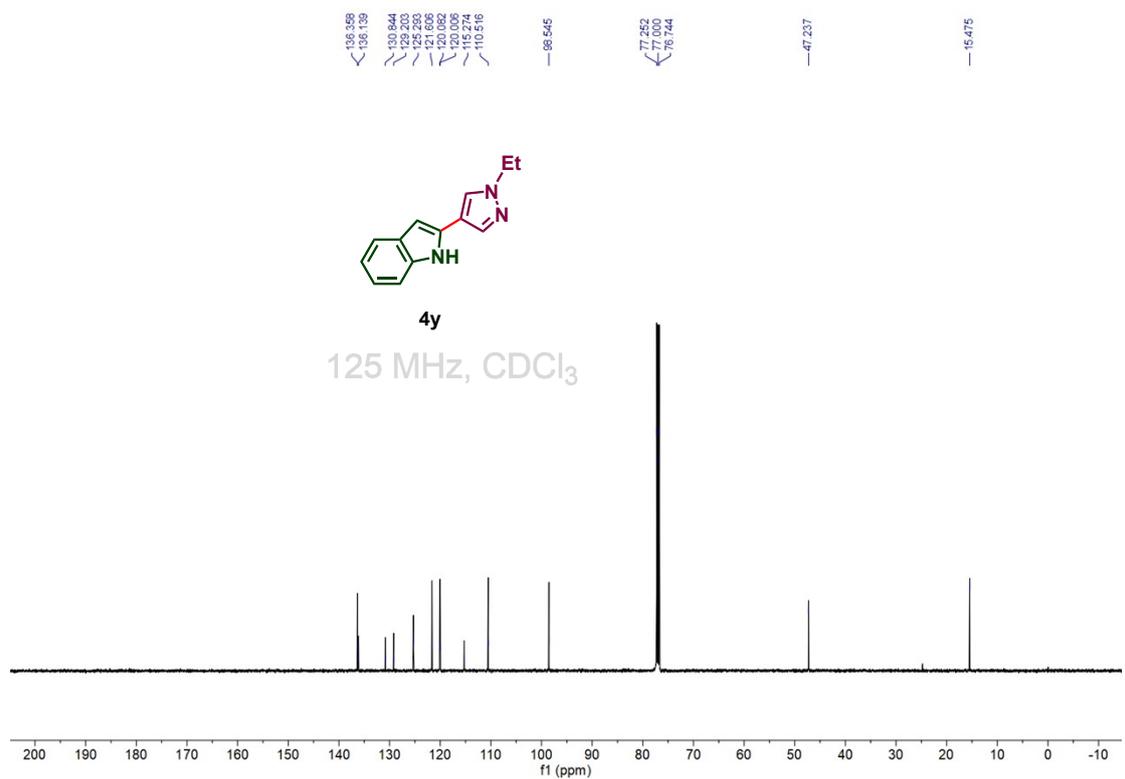
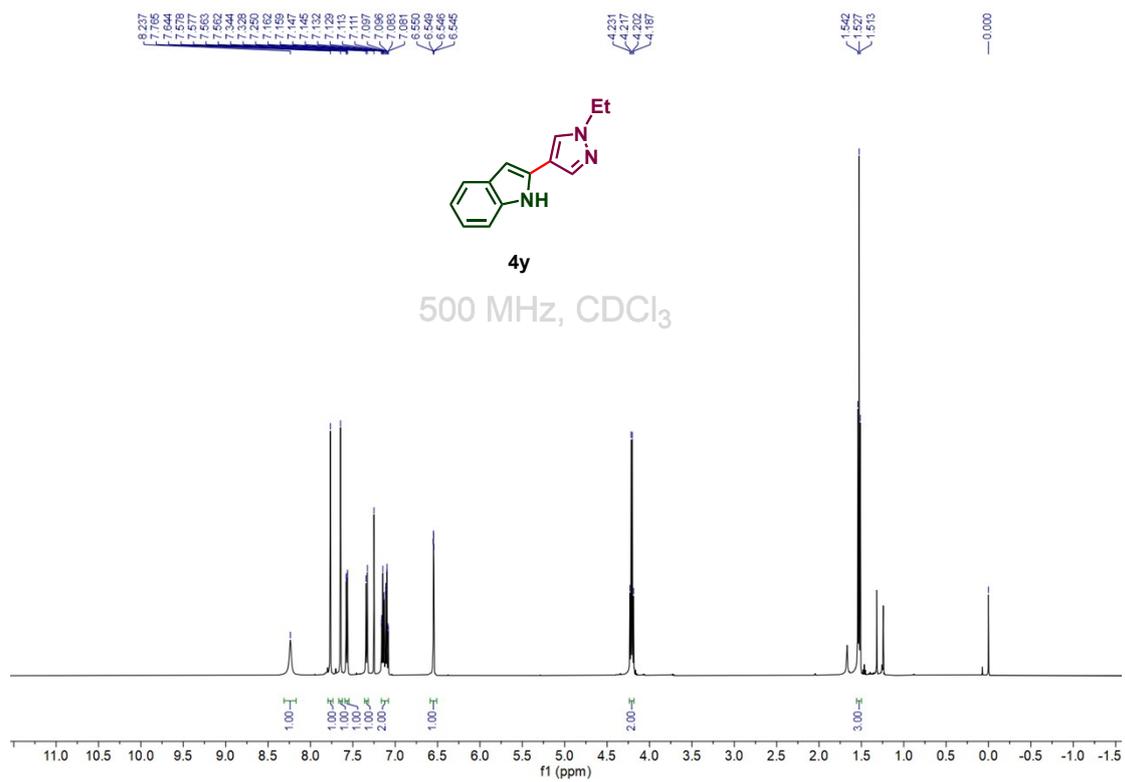


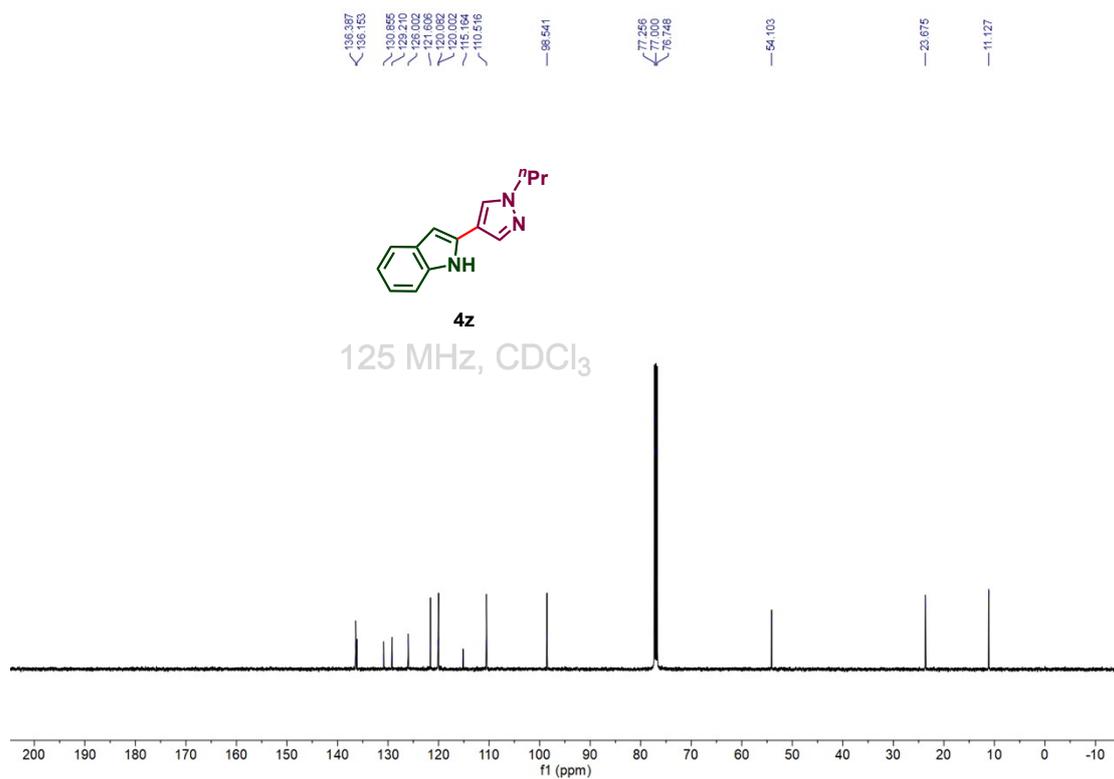
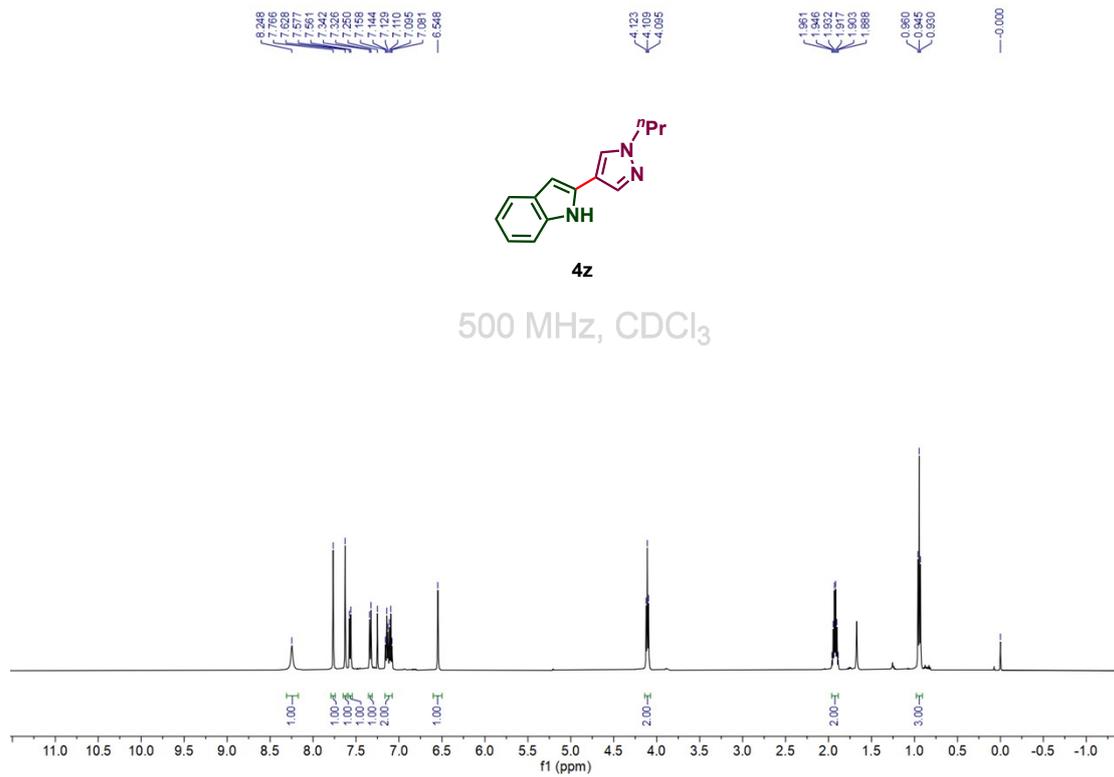


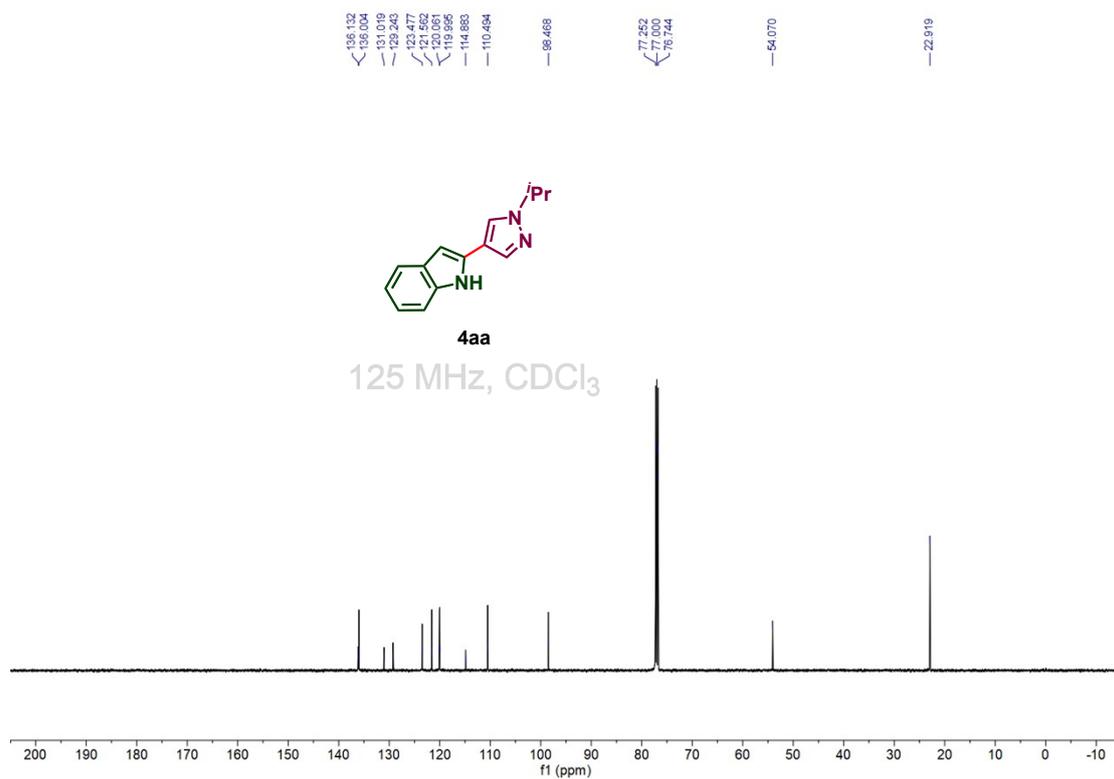
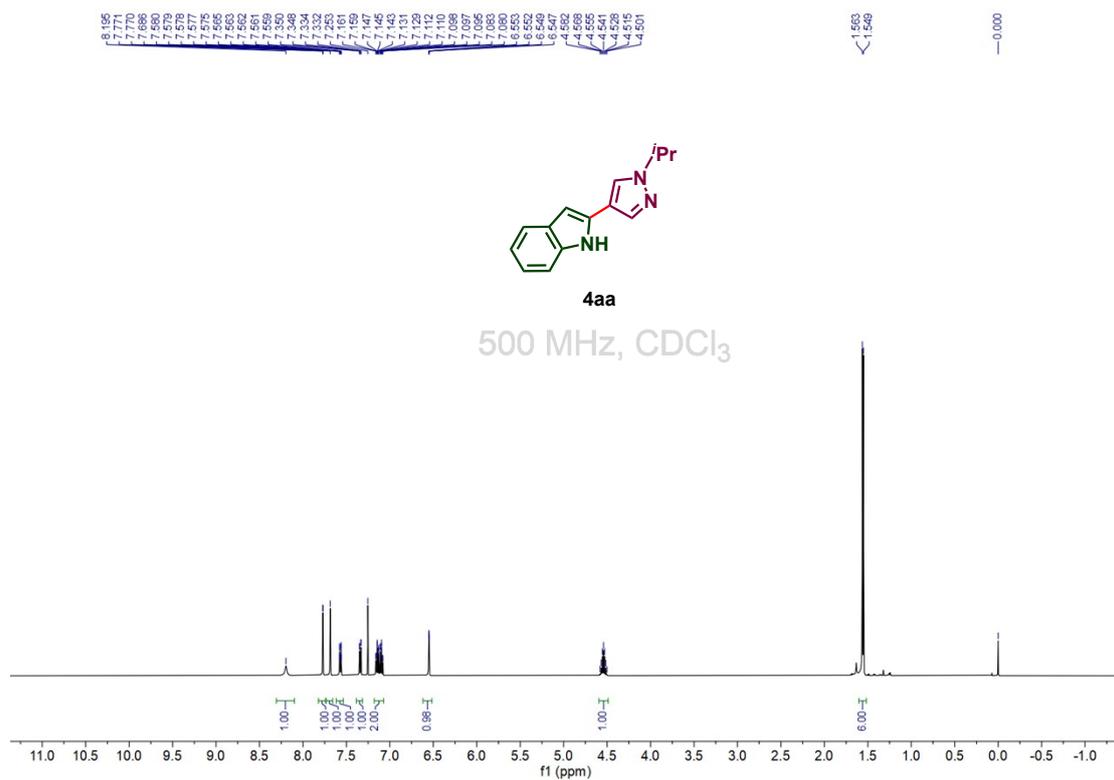




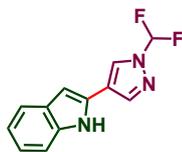






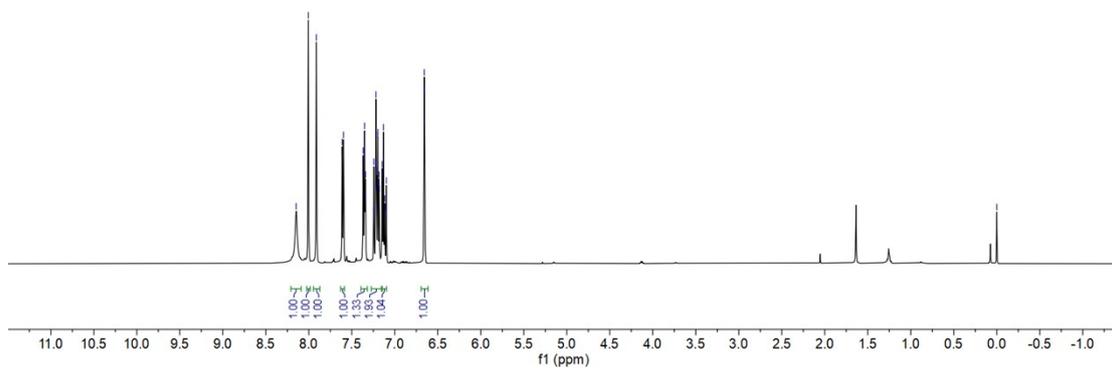


8.147  
8.007  
7.913  
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7.686  
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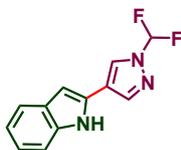
4ab

500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>



139.420  
139.404  
139.387  
136.391  
128.980  
122.461  
122.289  
120.469  
119.752  
118.754  
112.975  
110.980  
110.764  
109.961  
100.449

77.256  
77.000  
76.748



4ab

125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>

