

Supporting Information

Electrochemical Synthesis of Cyanated Imidazo[1,5-a]pyridines

Hao Yang^a, Kai Li^a, Yupu Zhang^a, Qi Sun^{b*} and Zhiyong Wang^{a,b*}

^aHefei National Center for Physical Sciences at Microscale, Key Laboratory of Precision and Intelligent Chemistry, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China.

*E-mail: zwang3@ustc.edu.cn

^bInstitute of Advanced Technology, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230000, China.

*Email: sunqi924@ustc.edu.cn

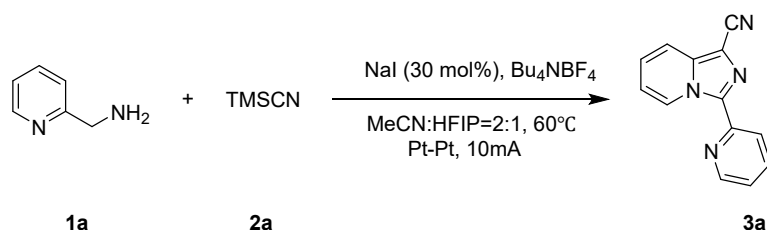
Table of Contents

General Information.....	S2
Experimental Procedure.....	S3
Optimization of Reaction Conditions	S5
Theoretical charge calculation	S6
Detail Descriptions for Products	S7
Reference	S14
Copies of NMR spectra and HRMS.....	S15

General Information

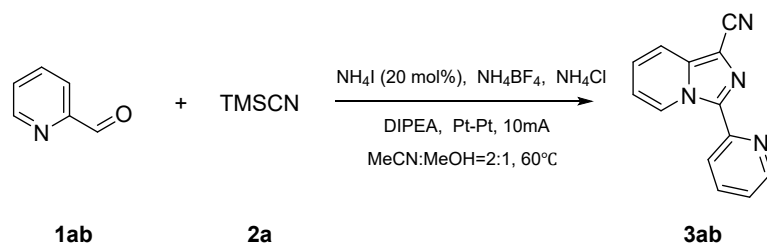
Unless otherwise noted, materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-500 (1H: 500 MHz, 13C: 125 MHz, 19F NMR: 470 MHz) spectrometer using TMS as internal reference. Chemical shifts (δ) and coupling constants (J) were expressed in ppm and Hz, respectively. GC-MS was Shimadzu QP-5050 GC-MS system. All substances were known available compounds. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured using electrospray ionization (ESI) and the time-of-flight (TOF) mass analyzer. The instrument for electrolysis is dual display potentiostat (CJS-292) (made in China). The electrodes are commercially available from GaossUnion, China. Cyclic voltammetry data were measured with a Shanghai Chenhua potentiostat (CHI760E). Working electrode: The working electrode is a 3 mm diameter Pt disk working electrode. Polished with 0.3 μm aluminum oxide and then sonicated in distilled water before drying. Reference electrode: The reference electrode consisted of a silver wire covered with silver chloride immersed in a saturated solution of potassium chloride. Counter electrode: The counter electrode is a platinum wire that was polished with sand paper.

Experimental Procedure



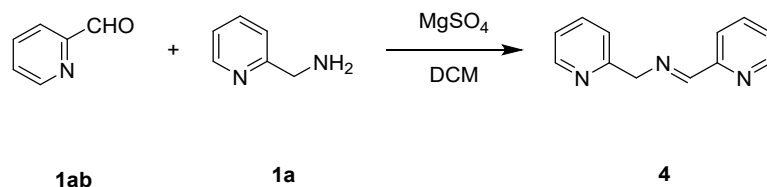
Scheme S1. Experimental procedure for **3a**.

Typical synthesis steps of 3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3a): A mixture of 2-picolylamine (0.6 mmol), trimethylsilyl cyanide (TMSCN) (0.9 mmol), sodium iodide (0.09 mmol), tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate (0.3 mmol), and 3 mL of mixed solvent (MeCN/HFIP = 2:1) was added to an undivided electrolytic cell equipped with two platinum electrodes serving as both anode and cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed at a constant current of 10 mA under 60°C for approximately 6 hours. Upon completion, the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 6:1) to afford the desired product.



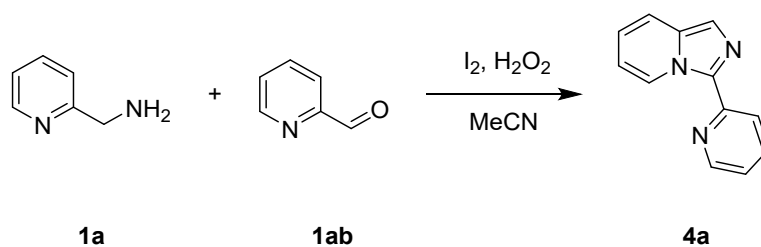
Scheme S2. Experimental procedure for **3ab**.

Typical synthesis of 3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3ab): A mixture of 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.6 mmol), trimethylsilyl cyanide (0.9 mmol), ammonium iodide (0.06 mmol), ammonium tetrafluoroborate (0.3 mmol), N,N-diisopropylethylamine (0.3 mmol), ammonium chloride (1.2 mmol), and 3 mL of a mixed solvent (MeCN/MeOH = 2:1) was added to an undivided electrolytic cell. The electrolytic cell was equipped with two platinum electrodes serving as both anode and cathode. The reaction mixture was stirred and electrolyzed at a constant current of 10 mA at 60 °C for approximately 6 hours. Upon completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed with a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 6:1) to afford the desired product.



Scheme S3. Experimental procedure for **4**.

Typical synthesis of (E)-N-benzyl-1-phenylmethanimine (4)^[S1]: To a suspension of anhydrous MgSO₄ (5equiv, 10.5 mmol, 1.26 g) in anhydrous DCM (4 mL) was added 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (1equiv, 2.1 mmol, 0.2 mL), followed by dropwise addition of 2-picolylamine (1equiv, 2.1 mmol, 0.22 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, then filtered under reduced pressure. The solvent was removed via rotary evaporation to afford the product.

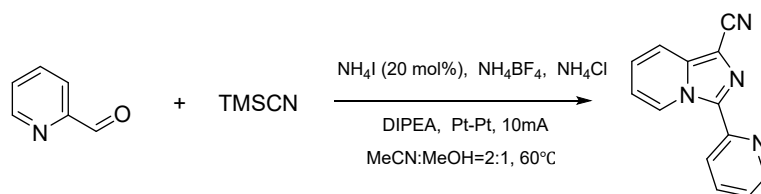


Scheme S4. Experimental procedure for **4a**.

Typical synthesis of 3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine (4a)^[S2]: 2-Picolylamine (0.8 mmol, 2 equiv), 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde (0.4 mmol, 1 equiv), iodine (10.2 mg, 10 mol%), 30% hydrogen peroxide (3 mmol), and acetonitrile (5 mL) were added sequentially to a 25 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a spherical condenser. The reaction flask was placed in a preheated heating block at 60 °C and stirred for 3 hours. The reaction progress was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC). After completion, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution with PE/EA, v/v = 20:1 to 5:1) to afford the target product, 3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine.

Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Optimization of reaction conditions for **3a** from **1ab**.^a



Entry	Variations from standard conditions	Yields(%) ^b
1	None ^a	78
2	MeCN as solvent	34
3	DMSO as solvent	29
4	DMF as solvent	24
5	MeCN: H ₂ O=2:1	67
6	MeCN: EtOH=2:1	73
7	10mol%, 30mol%, 40mol%, 100mol% NH ₄ I	52, 61, 48, 37
8	n-Bu ₄ NBF ₄ and n-Bu ₄ NPF ₆ instead of NH ₄ BF ₄	65,62
9	NaI, KI, Me ₄ NI instead of NH ₄ I	68, 57, 49
10	5mA, 15mA, 20mA instead of 15mA	59, 49, 32
11	50°C, 40°C, 18°C instead of 60°C	63,51,45
12	no electricity and no I ⁻	n.d. ^c
13	DABCO, DBU, ^t BuOK instead of DIPEA	54, 42, 28
14	NH ₄ Br, NH ₄ OAc instead of NH ₄ Cl	trace, 34

^a Reaction conditions: **1ab** (0.6 mmol), **2a** (0.9 mmol), NH₄I (0.06 mmol), NH₄BF₄ (0.3 mmol), MeCN:MeOH=2:1 (3.0 mL), DIPEA (0.3 mmol) 10 mA, 60 °C, undivided cell. The platinum plate (10 mm × 10 mm × 0.2 mm).

^b isolated yield. ^c not detected. The reaction time was determined by TLC and GC-MS.

Theoretical charge calculation

1. Self-coupling reaction starting from 2-picolylamine (**1a**)

According to our proposed mechanism, the formation of one molecule of the final product **3a** requires two molecules of the starting material **1a**. one molecule of **1a** undergoes a two-electron oxidation process at the anode to form an imine intermediate through dehydrogenation, while the other molecule of **1a** is not oxidized but instead serves as a nucleophile and condenses with the oxidized **1a** to form intermediate **4**. The electron transfer process can be broken down as follows:

Oxidative Step A: One molecule of **1a** undergoes a 2-electron oxidation at the anode to generate an imine intermediate ($-2e^-$)

Condensation Step: Another molecule of **1a** acts as a nucleophile to condense with the generated imine, forming intermediate **4**. This step does not involve electron transfer ($0e^-$).

Oxidative Step B: Intermediate **4** undergoes a subsequent 4-electron oxidative dehydrogenation during the cyclization and aromatization process ($-4e^-$).

Total: A total of 6 moles of electrons is required to produce 1 mole of product **3a**.

Theoretical Charge Calculation:

$$Q_{theo} = \frac{n(e^-) \times n(\text{product})}{n(\text{substrate})} = \frac{6 F \times 1 \text{ mol}}{2 \text{ mol}} = 3.0 F/\text{mol}$$

2. Reaction starting from pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde (**1ab**)

For the system starting from the aldehyde, the process involves a convergent paired electrolysis logic in an undivided cell:

Reduction Step: At the cathode, one molecule of **1ab** accepts 2 electrons to be reduced to 2-picolylamine ($+2e^-$).

Condensation Step: The freshly generated amine condenses with another unreduced **1ab** molecule in the system to form intermediate **4** ($0e^-$).

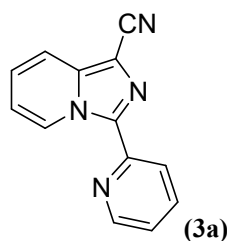
Oxidation Step: Intermediate **4** undergoes a 4-electron oxidation at the anode to complete the cyclization and aromatization ($-4e^-$).

Charge Balance: In an undivided cell, the total charge passed is dictated by the half-reaction with the higher electron demand—in this case, the 4-electron oxidation at the anode.

Theoretical Charge Calculation:

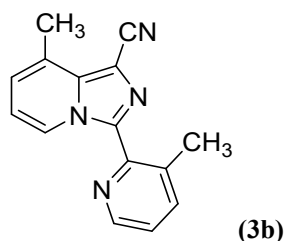
$$Q_{theo} = \frac{n(e^-)_{anodic} \times n(\text{product})}{n(\text{substrate})} = \frac{4F \times 1 \text{ mol}}{2 \text{ mol}} = 2.0 F/\text{mol}$$

Detail Descriptions for Products



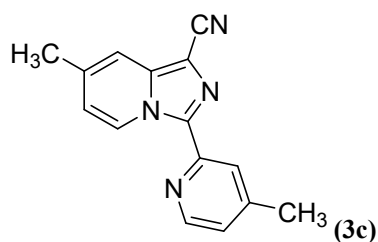
3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3a)^[S3] was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 75% yield, 49.5 mg from amine. 78% yield, 51.5 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.05 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.63 – 8.58 (m, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 6.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 – 6.88 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.5, 148.2, 138.4, 136.9, 136.7, 127.7, 125.5, 123.2, 122.5, 116.5, 115.4, 115.0, 103.3.

HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₃H₈N₄[M+H]⁺ 221.0822, found 221.0823. mp = 201–203°C.



8-methyl-3-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3b)^[S1] was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 62% yield, 46.1 mg from amine. 61% yield, 45.4 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.15 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.67 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.1, 146.1, 140.0, 137.5, 137.1, 134.7, 127.8, 125.0, 124.3, 123.5, 117.4, 114.8, 102.4, 20.7, 18.3.

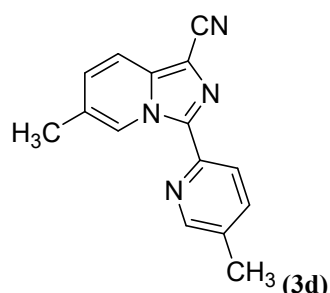
HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₄[M+H]⁺ 249.1135, found 249.1138. mp = 205–207°C.



7-methyl-3-(4-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3c) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid 67% yield, 49.9 mg from amine. 58% yield, 43.2 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.98 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.4, 148.3, 148.1, 139.2, 136.9, 136.6, 127.2, 124.3, 123.1, 117.9, 115.8,

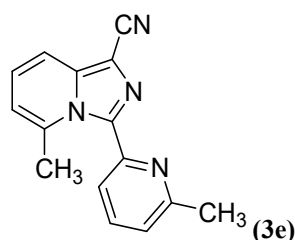
114.7, 101.8, 21.5, 21.3.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}N_4[M+H]^+$ 249.1135, found 249.1143. mp = 188–190°C.



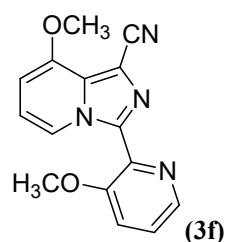
6-methyl-3-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3d)^[S1] was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 61% yield, 45.4 mg from amine. 63% yield, 46.9 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.80 (d, J = 1.2 Hz 1H), 8.46 (dd, J = 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, J = 9.2, 1.3 Hz 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.5, 147.2, 137.6, 137.5, 136.6, 133.0, 128.6, 125.0, 124.8, 122.3, 122.2, 115.7, 102.8, 18.7, 18.5.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}N_4[M+H]^+$ 249.1135, found 249.1142. mp = 148–150°C.



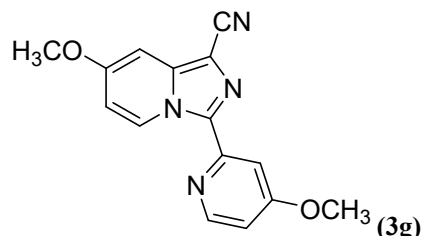
5-methyl-3-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3e)^[S3] was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 71% yield, 52.8 mg from amine. 57% yield, 42.4 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.5, 150.0, 139.9, 139.5, 136.9, 136.2, 125.5, 123.7, 123.4, 116.0, 115.5, 114.9, 103.1, 24.5, 22.2.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}N_4[M+H]^+$ 249.1135, found 249.1136. mp = 163–164°C.

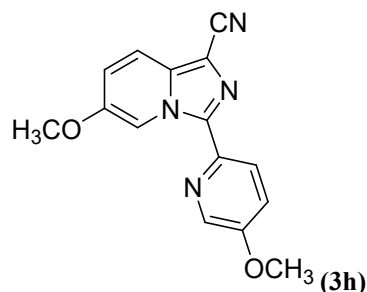


8-methoxy-3-(3-methoxy-5-pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3f) was prepared

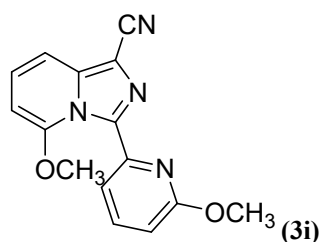
according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 62% yield, 52.1 mg from aldehyde. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.40 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 6.72 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.9, 150.3, 140.9, 137.6, 136.2, 131.7, 125.2, 119.7, 118.3, 116.2, 114.9, 103.0, 100.6, 56.1, 56.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1033, found 281.1039. mp = 162–164°C.



7-methoxy-3-(4-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3g) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 59% yield, 49.6 mg from amine. 66% yield, 55.5 mg from aldehyde. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.02 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 5.7, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, $J = 7.8, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.4, 158.0, 151.3, 149.4, 141.1, 136.0, 129.4, 116.2, 111.3, 110.7, 106.4, 100.9, 92.6, 56.0, 55.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1033, found 281.1035. mp = 218–220°C.

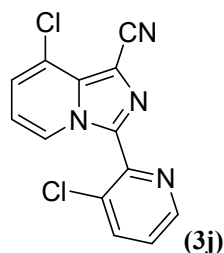


6-methoxy-3-(5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3h) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give the product as a white solid. 81% yield, 68.1 mg from amine. 81% yield, 68.1 mg from aldehyde. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.66 (s, 1H), 8.36 – 8.30 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.4, 150.9, 142.8, 137.1, 135.7, 135.5, 123.8, 121.9, 121.3, 116.6, 115.8, 108.1, 103.3, 56.1, 55.9. HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_4\text{O}_2[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1033, found 281.1034. mp = 218–220°C.



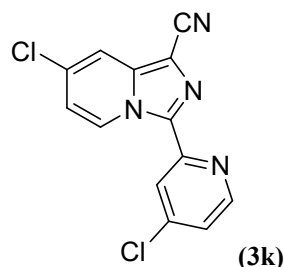
5-methoxy-3-(6-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3i) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 77% yield, 64.7 mg from amine. 84% yield, 70.6 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.8, 150.5, 147.9, 139.9, 138.3, 138.2, 127.2, 118.4, 115.6, 111.2, 108.7, 102.6, 90.3, 56.5, 53.5.

HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₄O₂[M+H]⁺ 281.1033, found 281.1035. mp = 205–207°C.



8-chloro-3-(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3j) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give the product as a white solid. 47% yield, 40.6 mg from amine. 51% yield, 44.1 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.89 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.64 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.1, 145.1, 139.7, 135.9, 134.5, 132.2, 125.1, 124.8, 124.6, 124.2, 115.3, 114.8, 104.6.

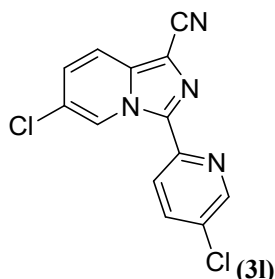
HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₃H₆Cl₂N₄[M+H]⁺ 289.0042, found 289.0043. mp = 233–235°C.



7-chloro-3-(4-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3k) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 52% yield, 45.8mg from amine. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

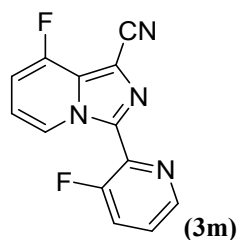
δ 10.06 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.4, 149.4, 145.4, 138.7, 136.0, 133.1, 128.4, 123.9, 122.8, 117.3, 115.5, 114.6, 103.8.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 289.0042, found 289.0043. mp = 256–258°C.



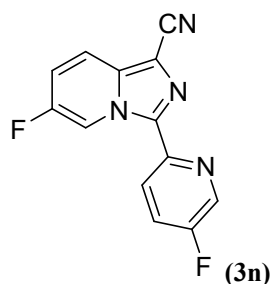
6-chloro-3-(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (31) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give the product as a white solid. 43% yield, 37.2mg from aldehyde. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.14 (s, 1H), 8.66 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.4, 147.3, 137.3, 136.7, 136.1, 132.1, 127.2, 125.4, 124.2, 123.7, 117.2, 114.7, 105.1.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_6\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 289.0042, found 289.0046. mp = 256–258°C.



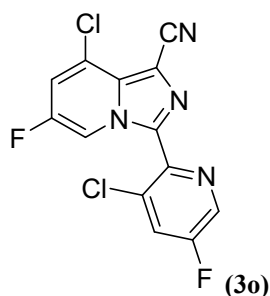
8-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3m) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 53% yield, 40.7 mg from amine. 82% yield, 63.0mg from aldehyde. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.46 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dt, $J = 8.2, 4.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.89–6.94 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.4 (d, $J = 275.0$ Hz), 152.4 (d, $J = 250.0$ Hz), 144.5 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz), 136.9 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 134.5 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 130.2 (d, $J = 37.5$ Hz), 125.4 (dd, $J = 11.8, 7.3$ Hz), 123.1 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz), 114.8 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 114.6 (s), 108.3 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 102.9 (s). ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -116.96, -123.24.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_6\text{F}_2\text{N}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 257.0633, found 257.0639. mp = 155–157°C.



6-fluoro-3-(5-fluoropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3n) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 44% yield, 33.8 mg from amine. 74% yield, 56.9 mg from aldehyde. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 9.84 (dd, J = 5.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, J = 9.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, J = 8.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (ddd, J = 9.8, 7.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.2 (d, J = 250.0 Hz), 154.7 (d, J = 237.5 Hz), 145.8 (s), 136.8 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 136.7 (m), 136.3 (d, J = 50.0 Hz), 124.6 (d, J = 18.8 Hz), 124.2 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 118.4 (d, J = 37.5 Hz), 117.5 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 114.8 (s), 114.1 (d, J = 50.0 Hz), 104.8 (s). $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -124.97, -134.84.

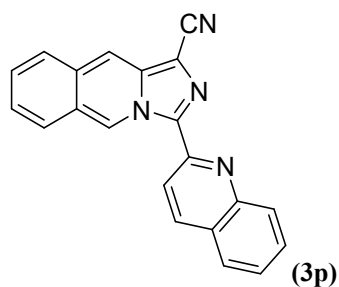
HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_6\text{F}_2\text{N}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 257.0633, found 257.0641. mp = 206–208°C.



8-chloro-3-(3-chloro-5-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3o) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 41% yield, 39.8 mg from aldehyde. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.73 (dd, J = 9.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.7 (d, J = 275.0 Hz), 151.5 (d, J = 250.0 Hz), 143.6 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 134.8 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 133.8 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 132.9 (d, J = 3.9 Hz), 128.6 (d, J = 37.5 Hz), 125.9 (d, J = 12.5 Hz), 123.5 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 121.0 (d, J = 5.9 Hz), 113.7 (s), 110.9 (d, J = 19.0 Hz), 104.3 (s).

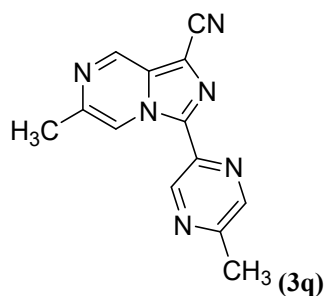
$^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (470 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -113.59, -121.29.

HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2\text{F}_2\text{N}_4[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 324.9854 found 324.9855. mp = 167–169°C.



3-(quinolin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-b]isoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (3p) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give the product as a white solid. 64% yield, 61.5 mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.71 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.7, 147.3, 143.0, 138.2, 137.8, 132.2, 130.7, 129.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 128.1, 126.9, 125.6, 122.7, 119.2, 115.0, 114.6, 106.6.

HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₂₁H₁₂N₄[M+H]⁺ 321.1135, found 321.1137. mp = 283–285°C.



6-methyl-3-(5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazine-1-carbonitrile (3q) was prepared according to the general working procedure and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give the product as a white solid. 64% yield, 51.0mg from aldehyde. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 9.42 (s, 1H) 9.24 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.0, 143.7, 143.1, 142.4, 141.9, 141.5, 135.5, 130.9, 115.2, 113.7, 107.3, 21.9, 21.4.

HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N₆[M+H]⁺ 251.1040, found 251.1035. mp = 202–204°C.

Reference

- [S1] C. Incarvito, M. Lam, B. Rhatigan, A. L. Rheingold, C. J. Qin, A. L. Gavrilova and B. Bosnich, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.*, 2001, **2001**, 3478–3488.
- [S2] H. Li, C. Gao, Q. Liu, Y. Guo and Y. Zhao, *Chem. Sel.*, 2024, **9**, e202401875.
- [S3] S. S. Grishin, A. O. Ustyuzhanin, V. A. Vil and A. O. Terent'ev, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2025, **31**, e202404051.

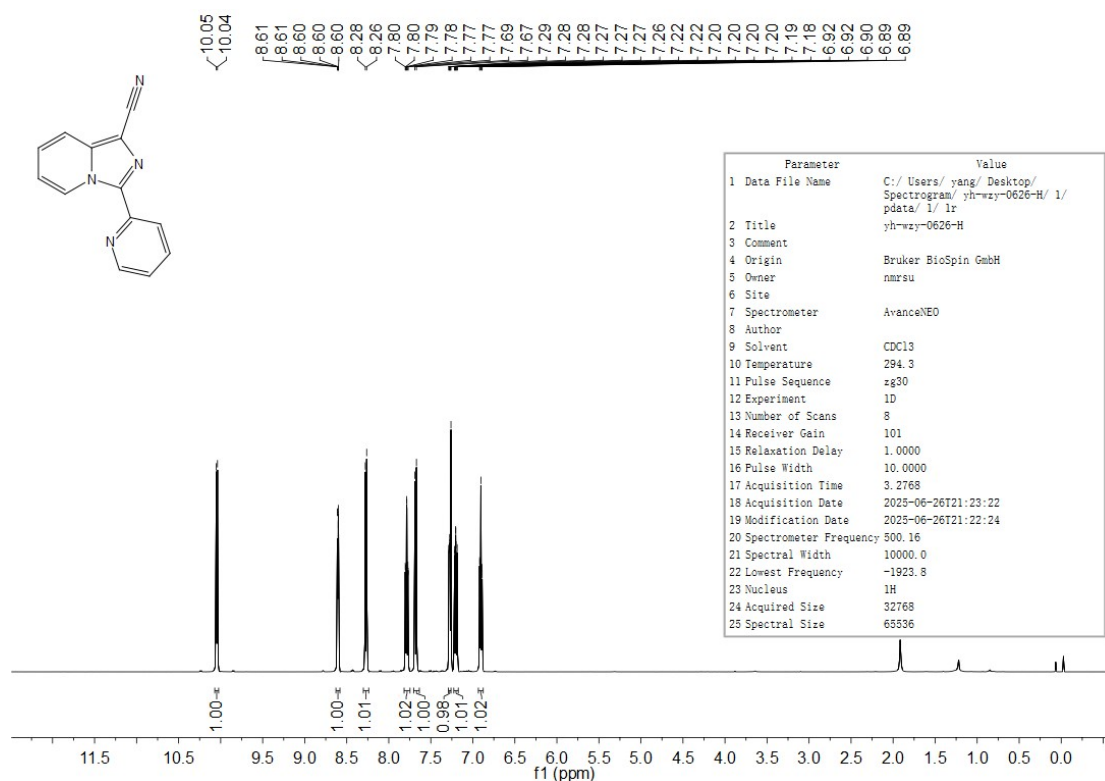
Copies of NMR spectra and HRMS.

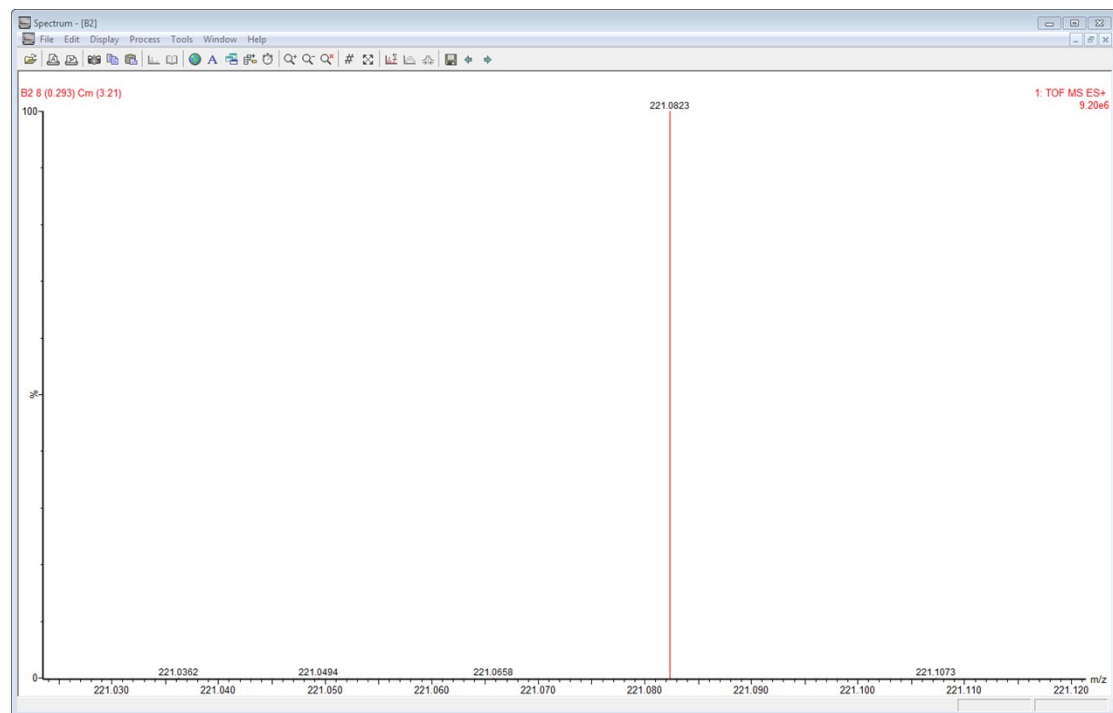
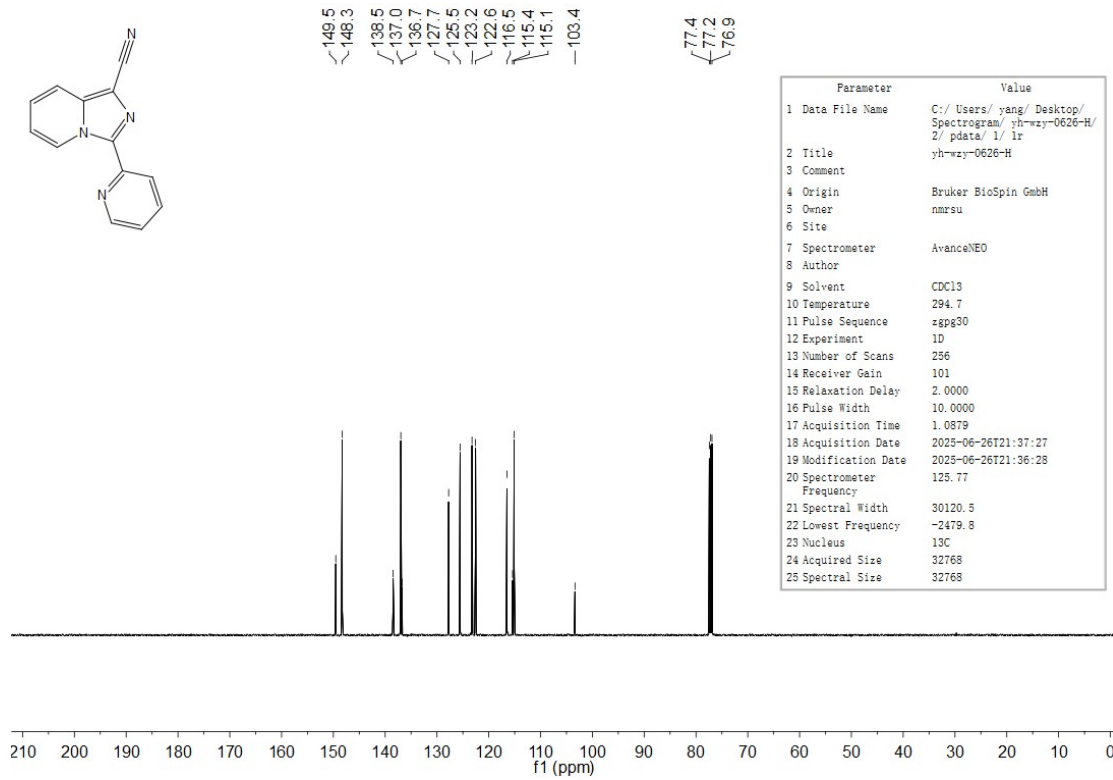
Note: It was observed that some compounds exhibit relatively low signal intensities and diminished signal-to-noise (S/N) ratios in their ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra. This is intrinsically attributed to the exceptionally poor solubility of these planar aromatic heterocycles in common deuterated solvents (e.g., CDCl_3 , DMSO-d_6 , Acetone-d_6) at room temperature. To acquire the characterization data, the NMR tubes were heated with a heat gun to achieve transient supersaturation prior to insertion into the spectrometer. However, during the data acquisition period (typically 20-40 minutes), partial precipitation of the products occurred as the samples cooled down within the probe, leading to a decrease in the effective concentration and a subsequent reduction in signal intensity.

The products 3f, 3g, 3h, 3j, 3k, 3l, 3m, 3n, and 3p are all slightly soluble compounds.

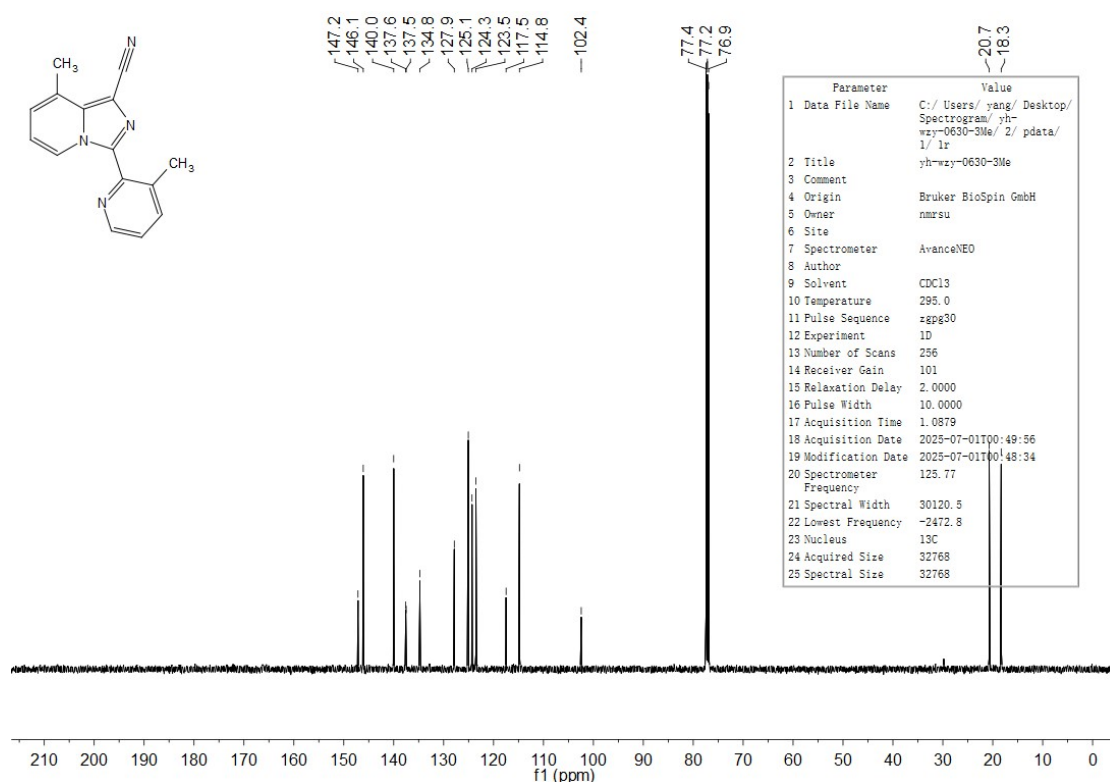
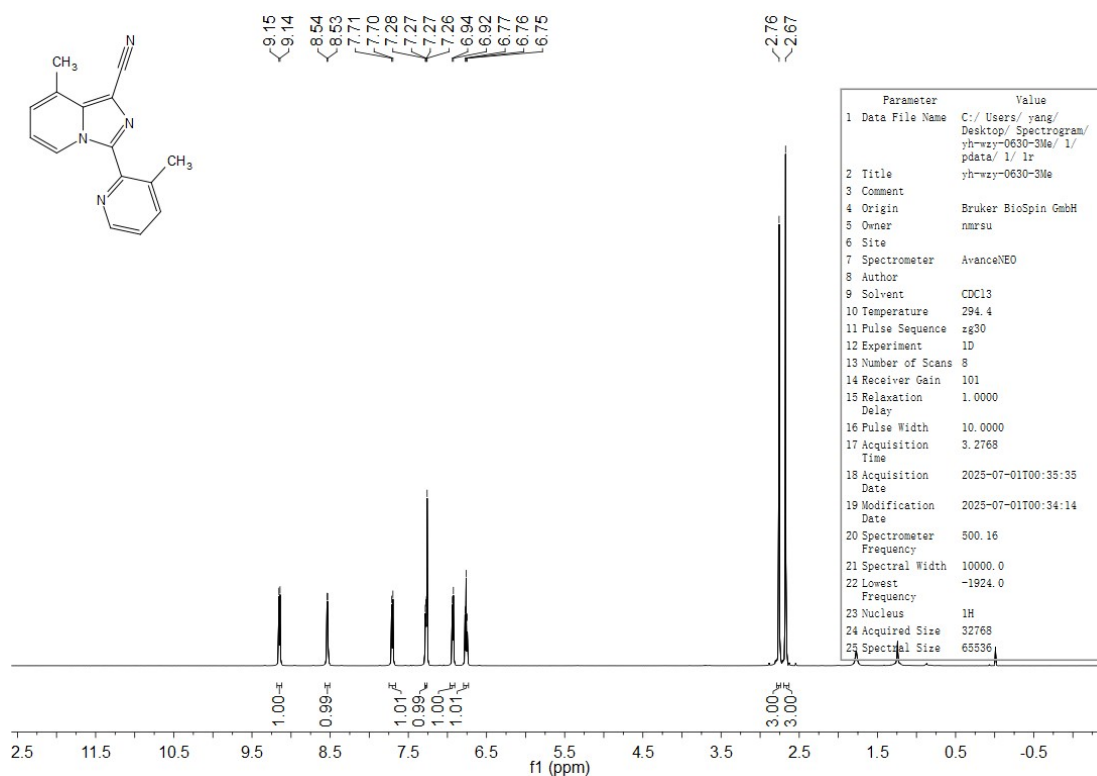


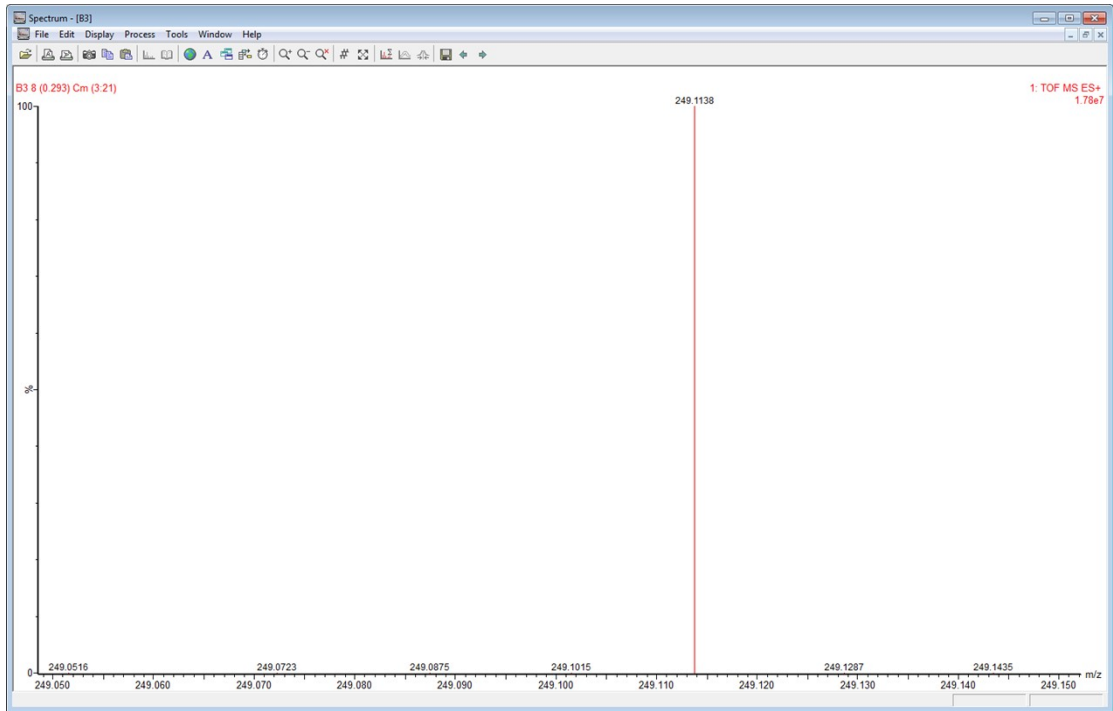
3-(pyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3a)



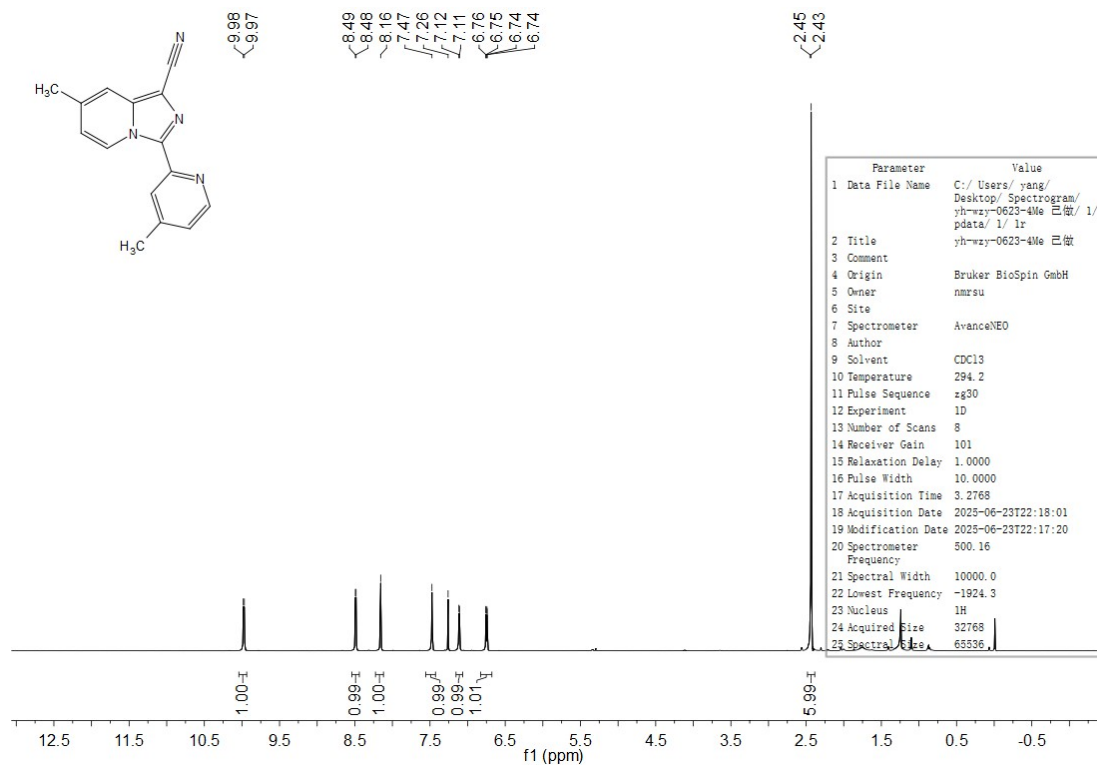


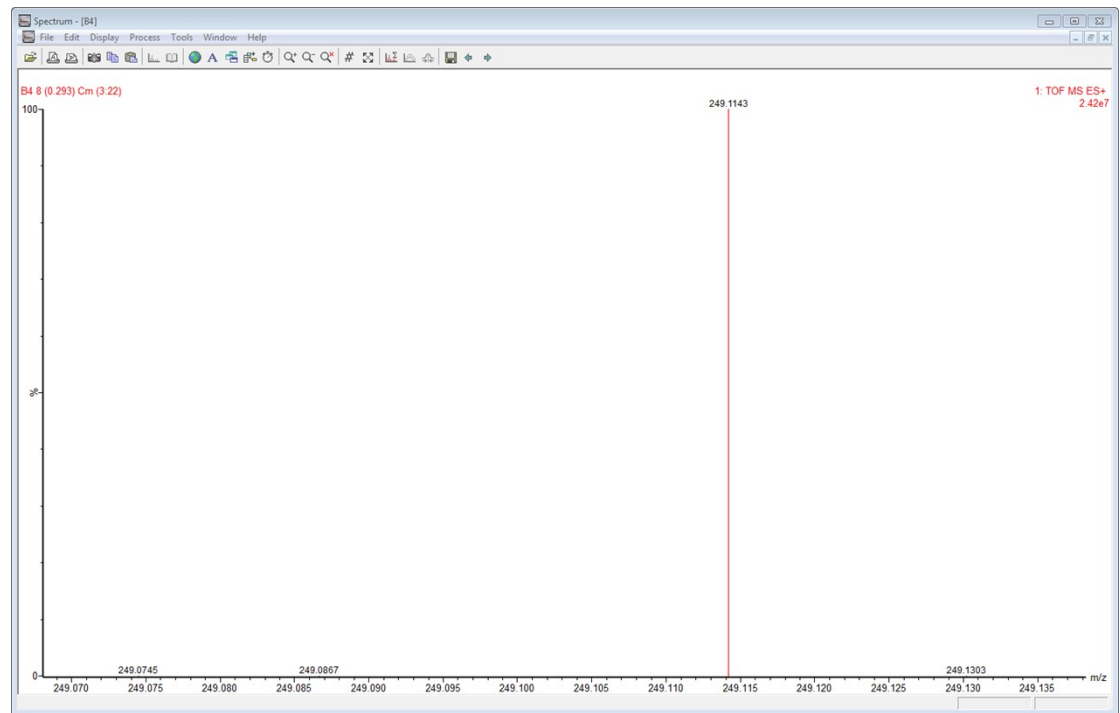
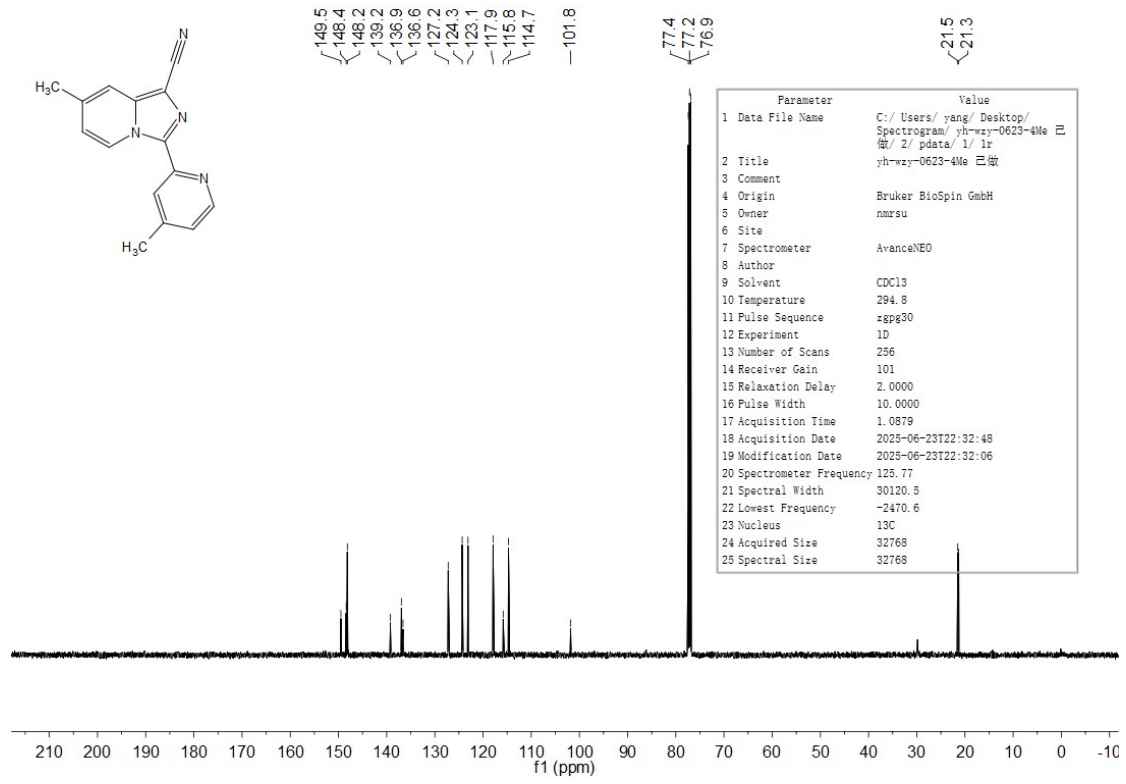
8-methyl-3-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3b)



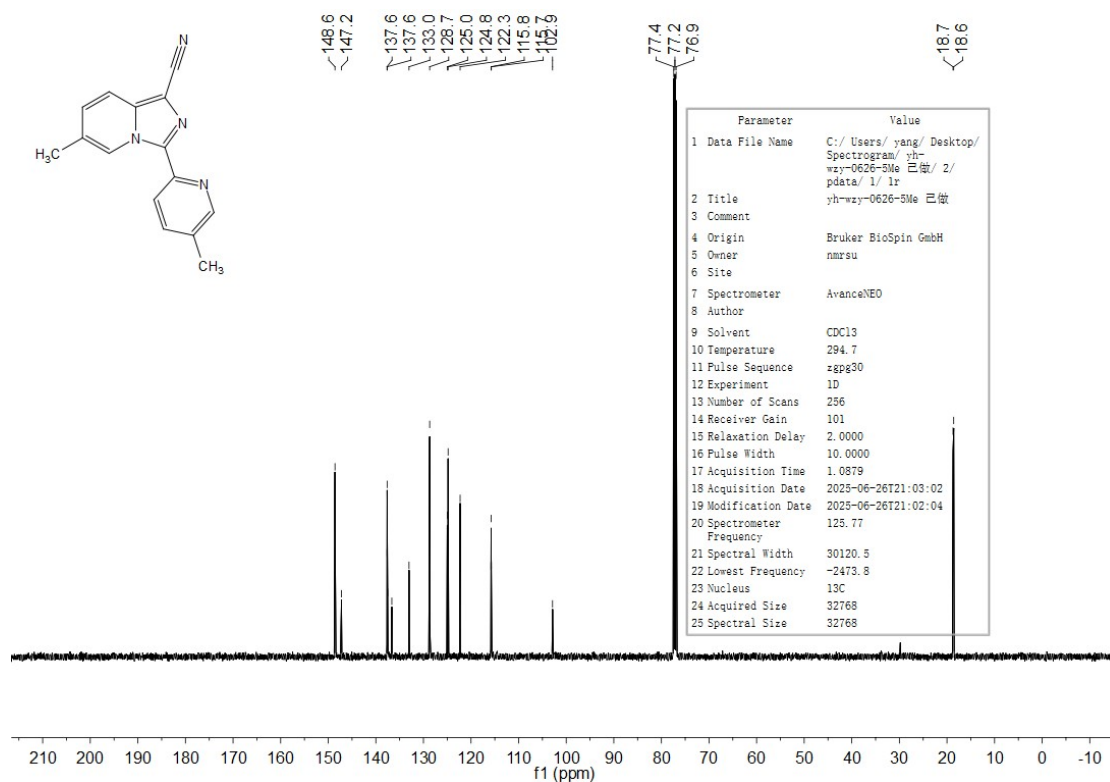
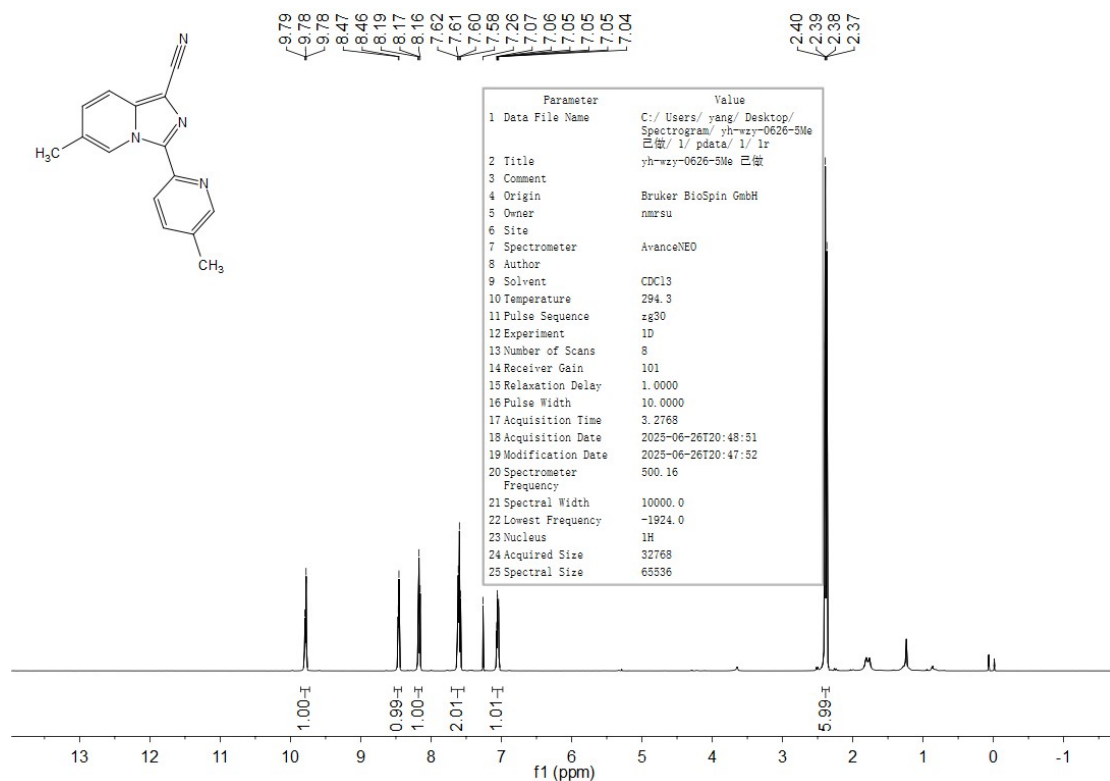


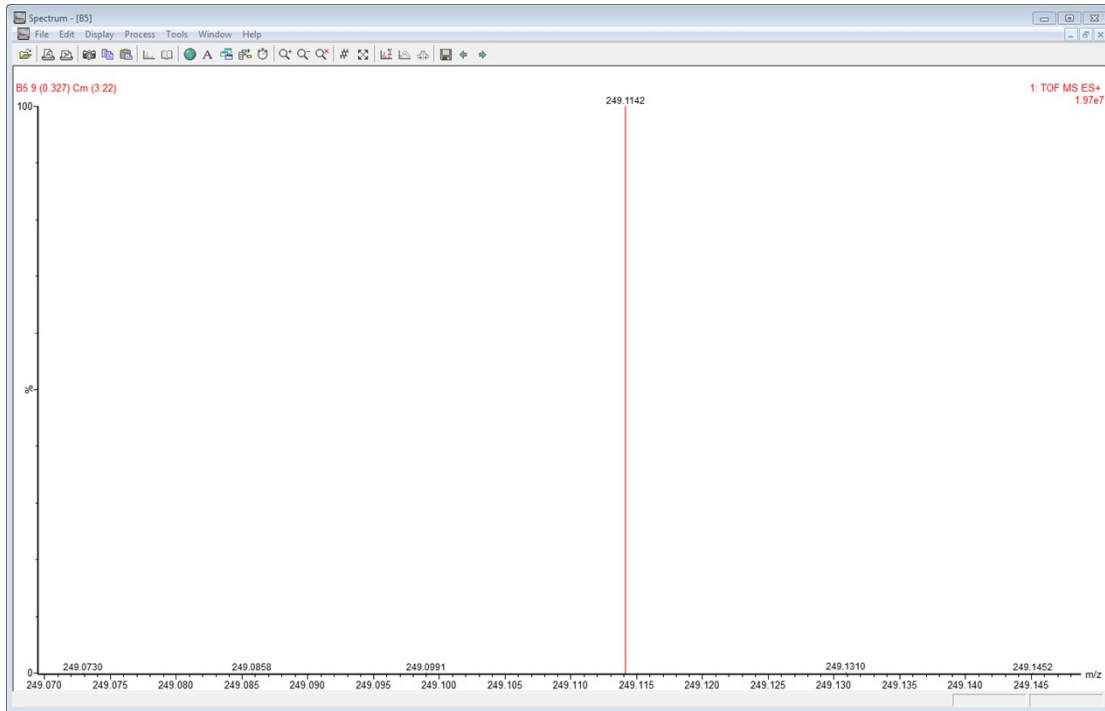
7-methyl-3-(4-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3c)



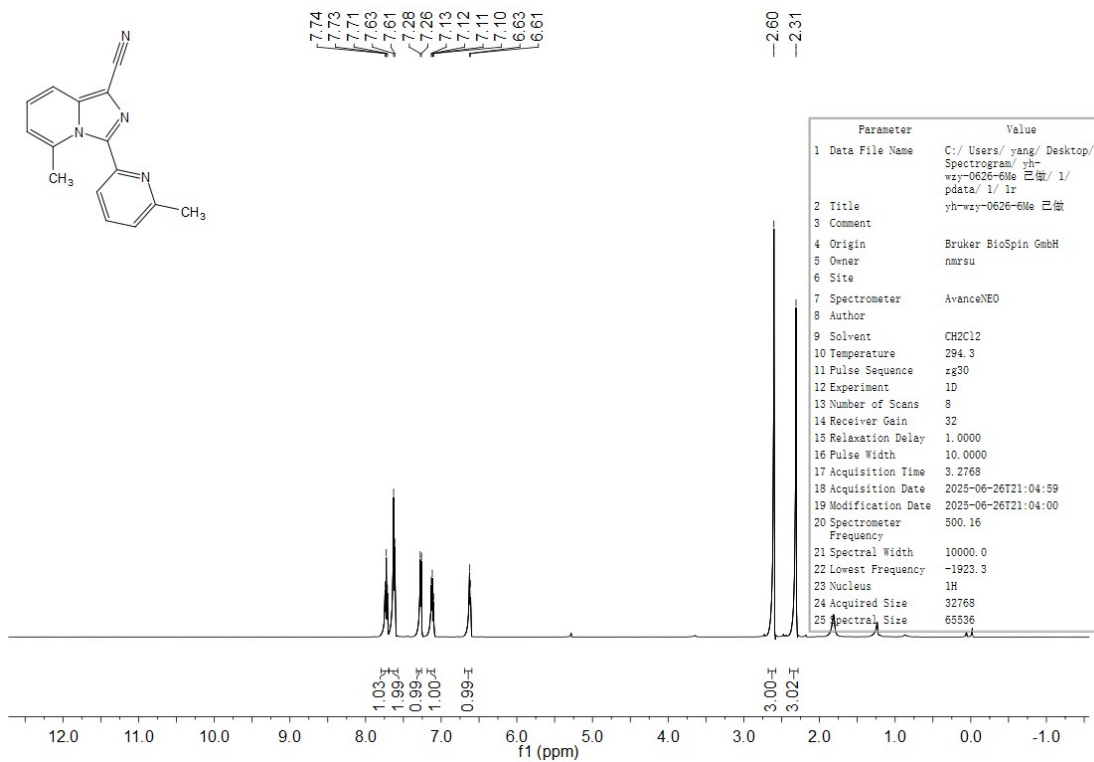


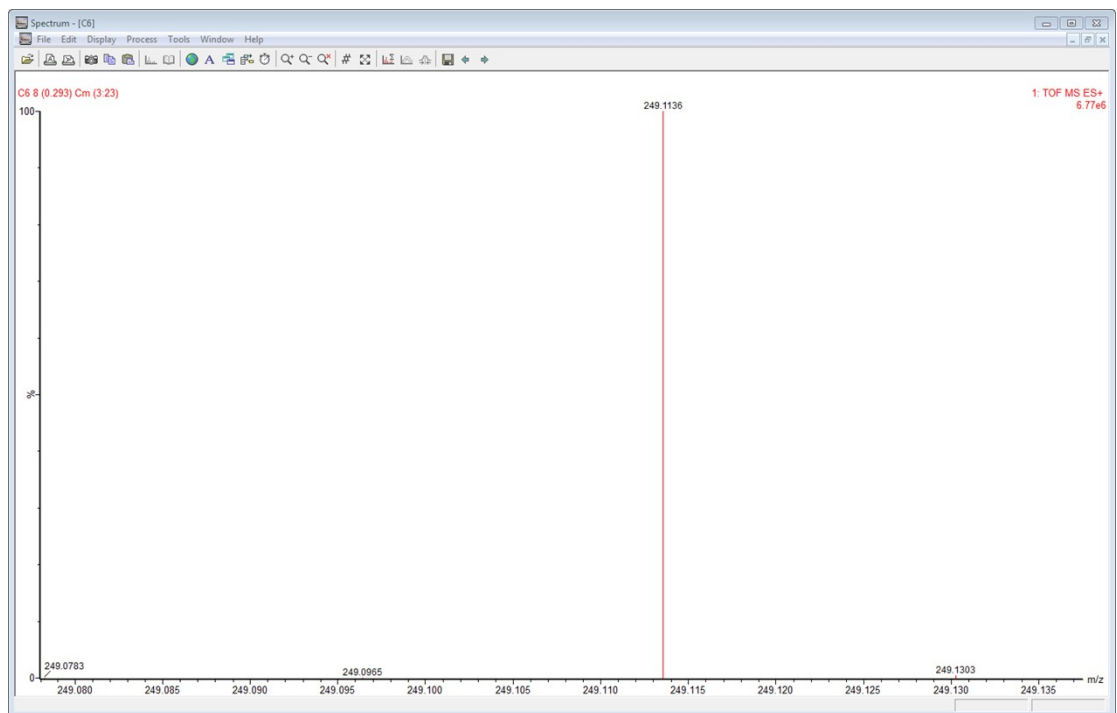
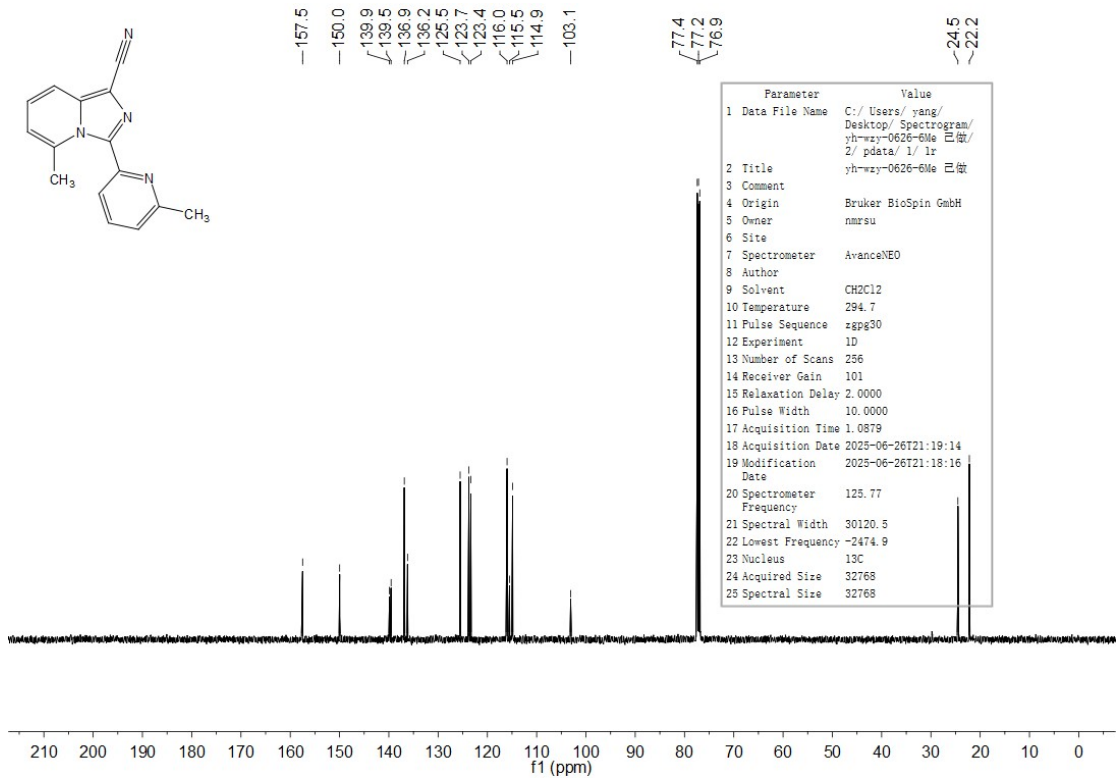
6-methyl-3-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3d)



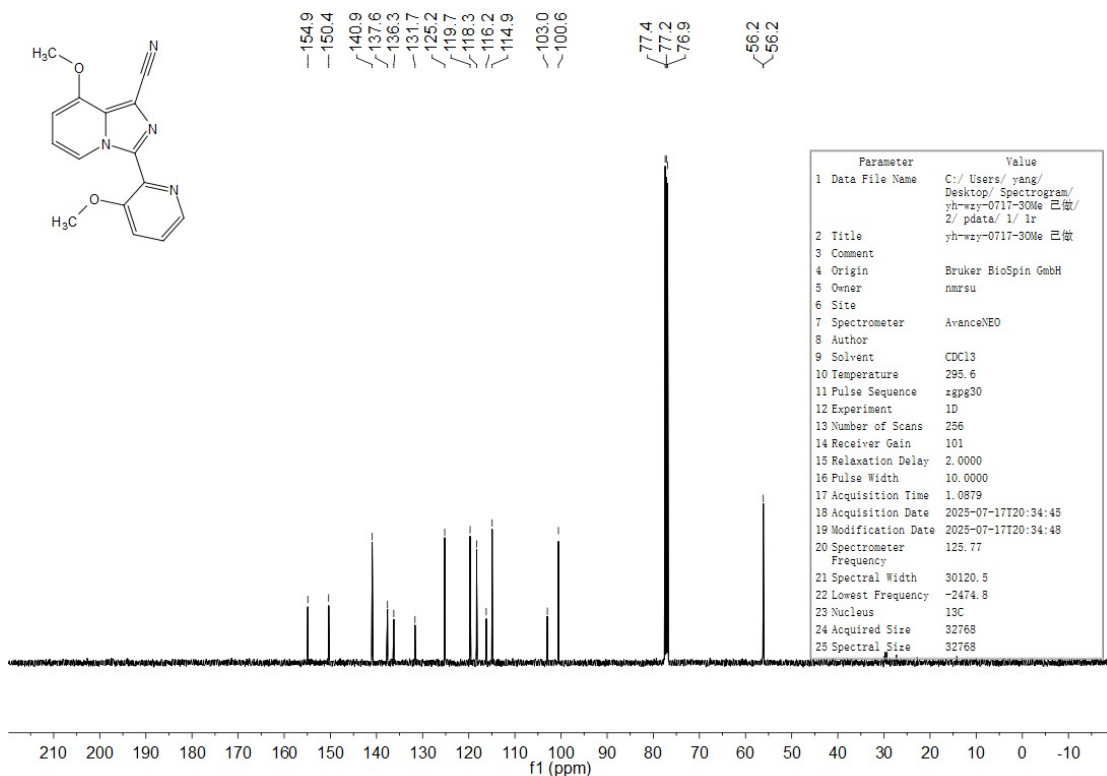
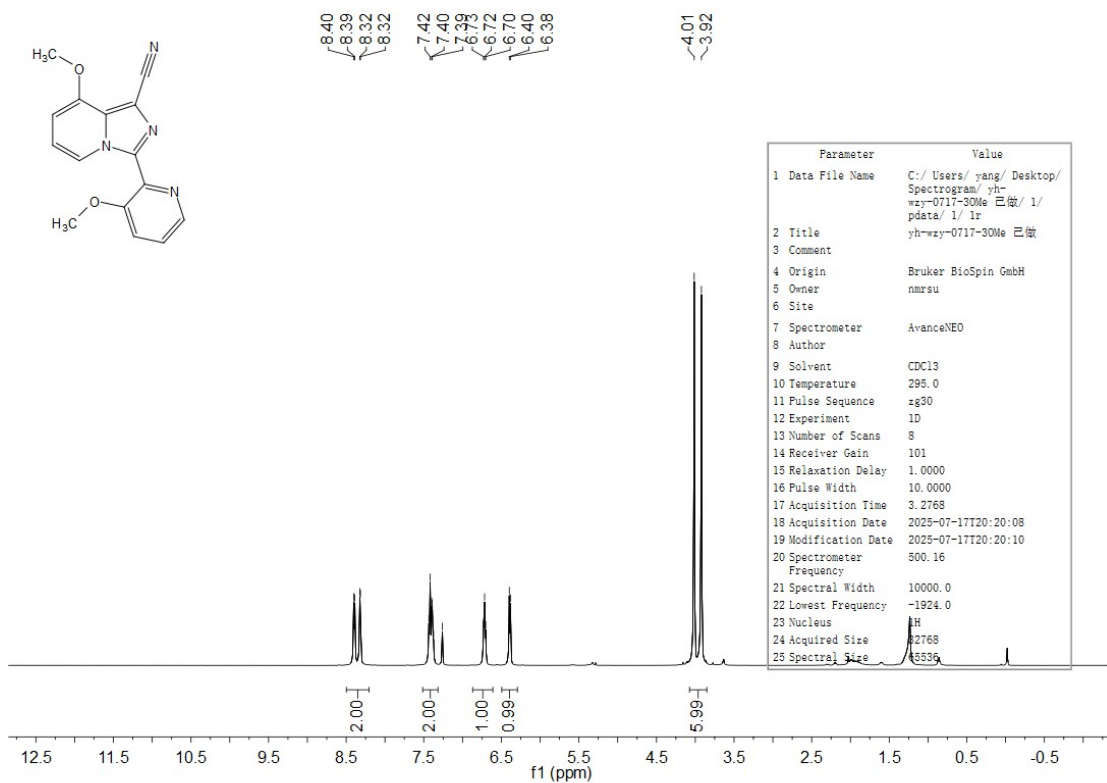


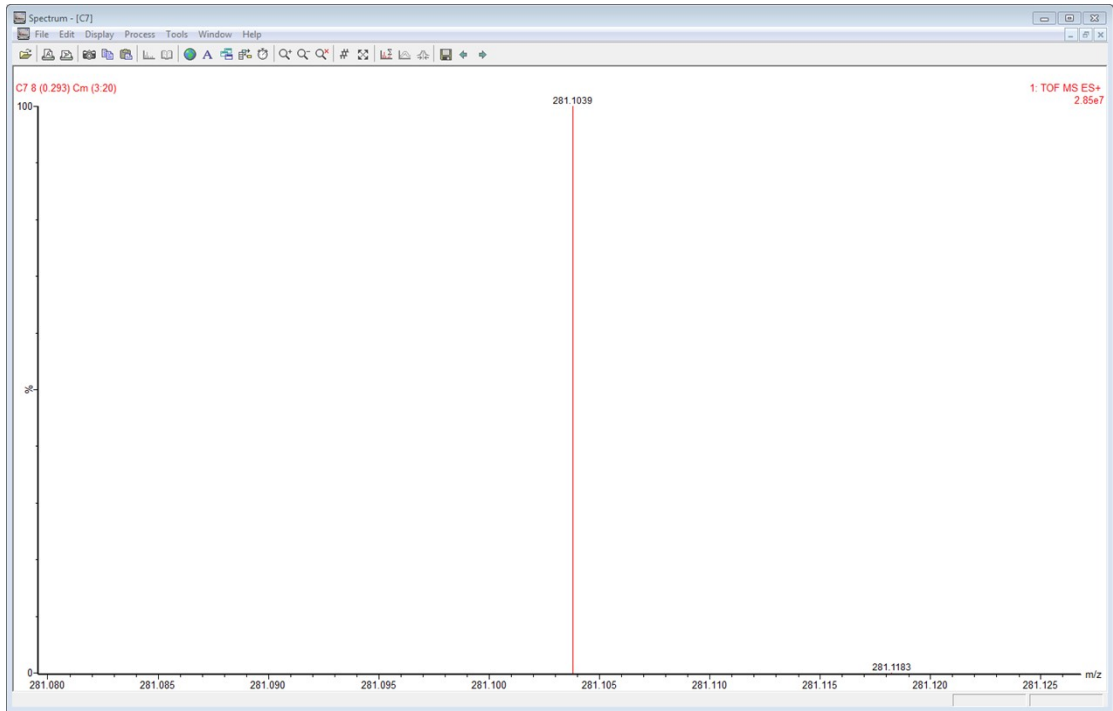
5-methyl-3-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3e)



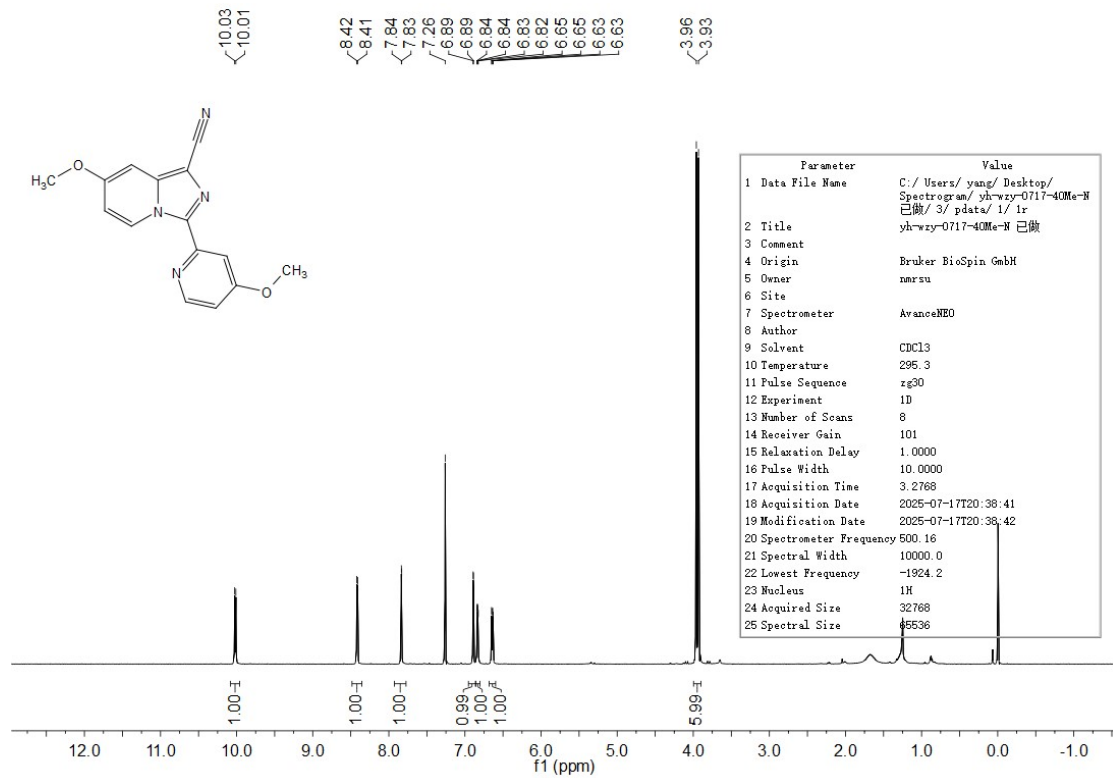


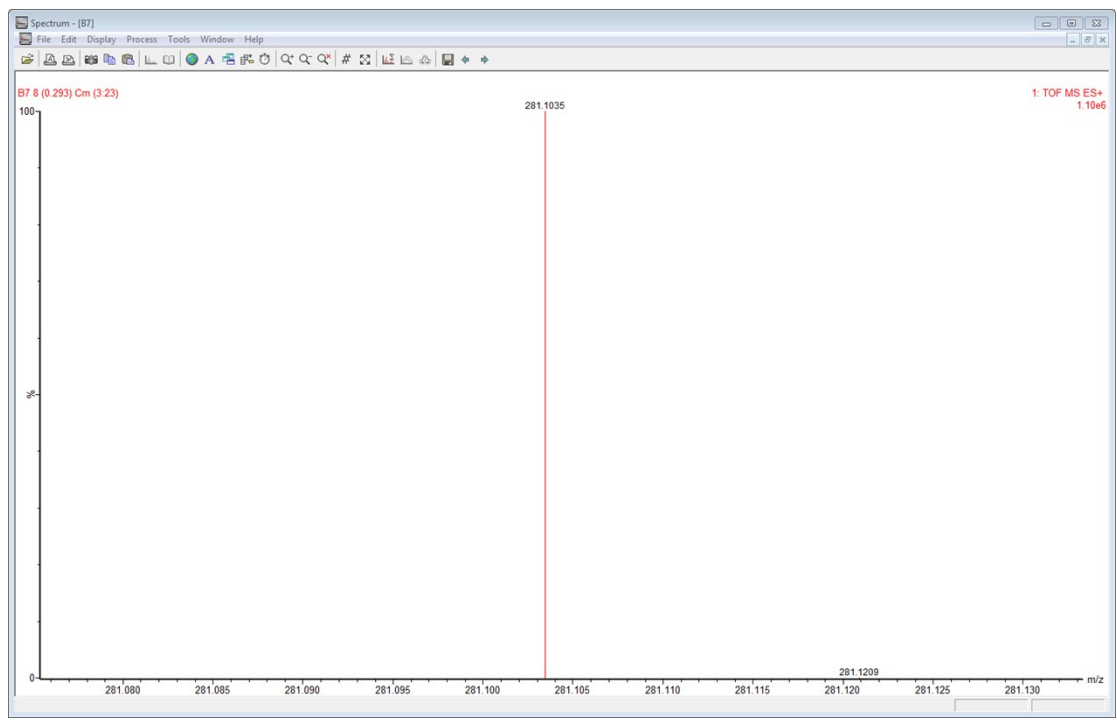
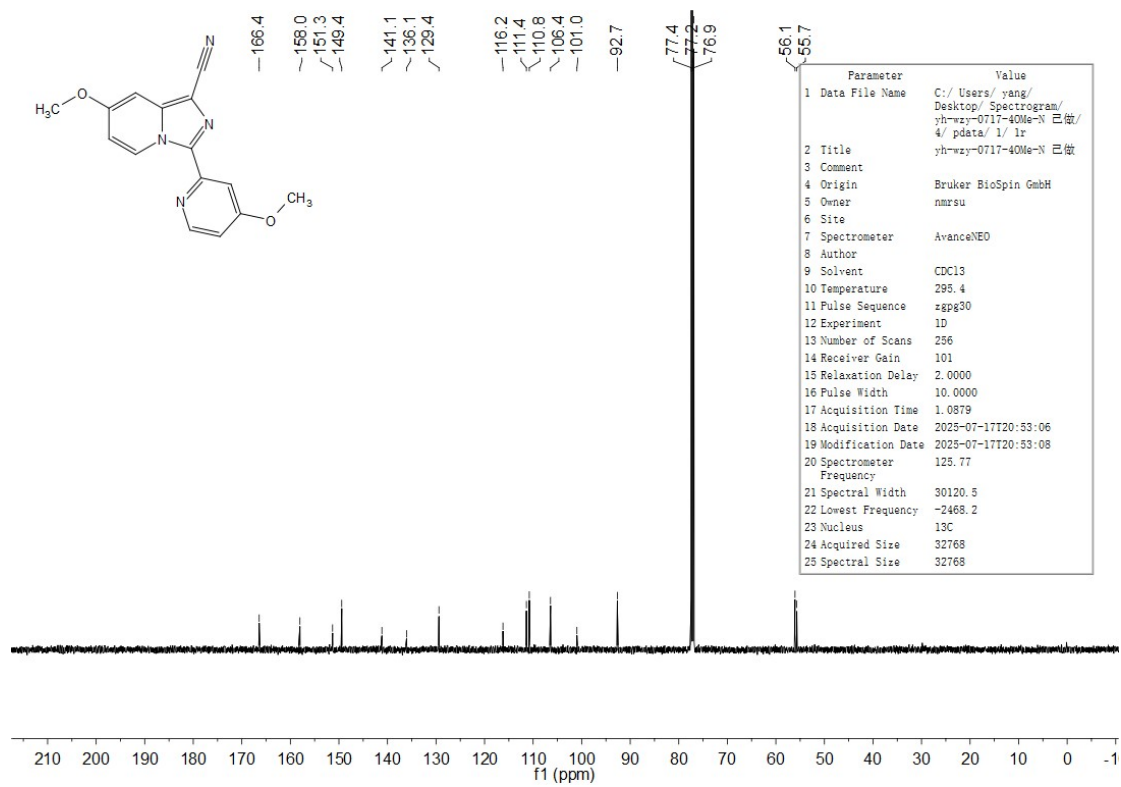
8-methoxy-3-(3-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3f)



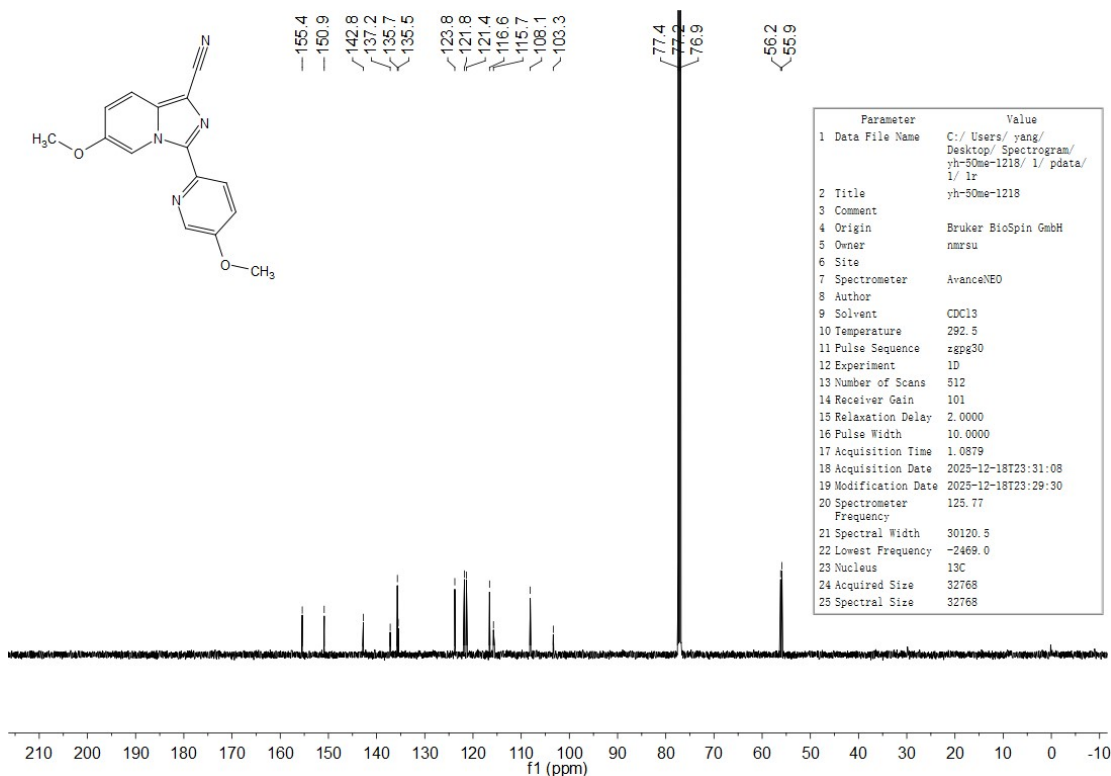
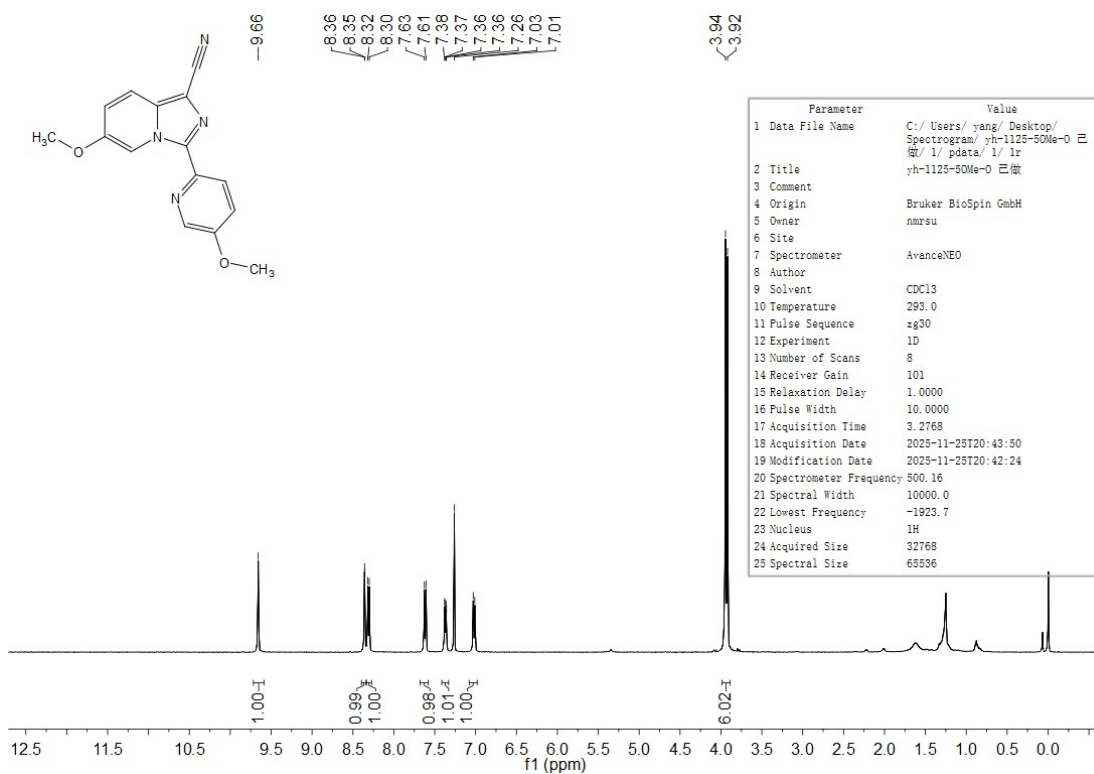


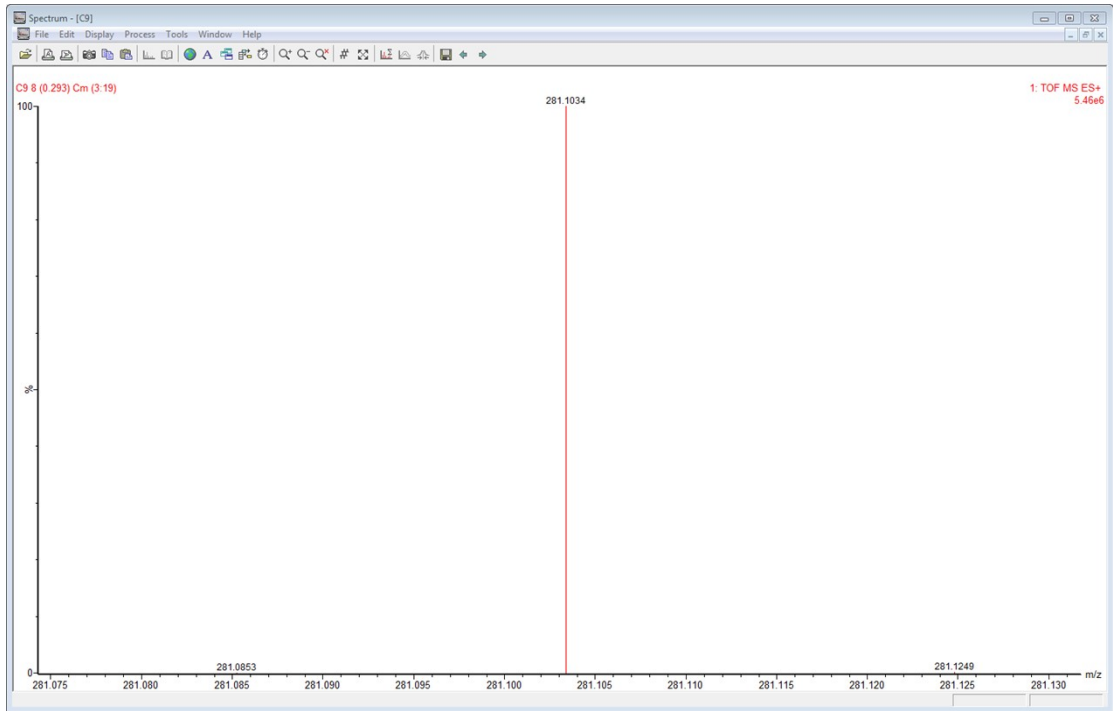
7-methoxy-3-(4-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3g)



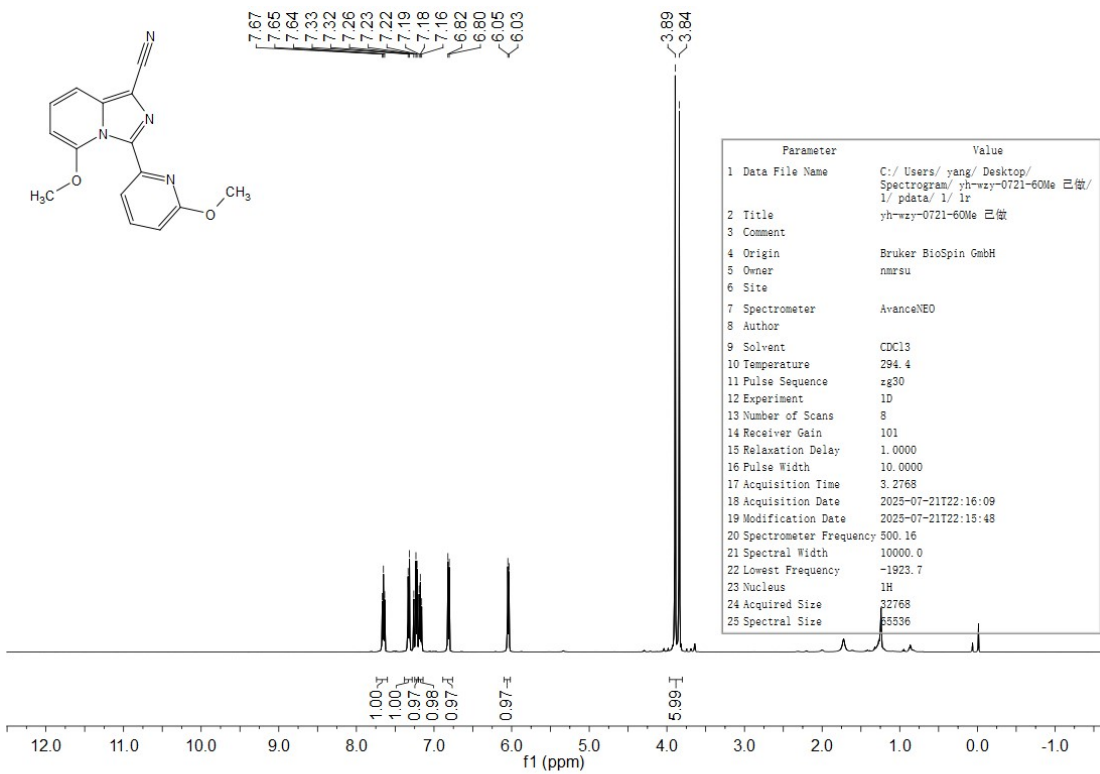


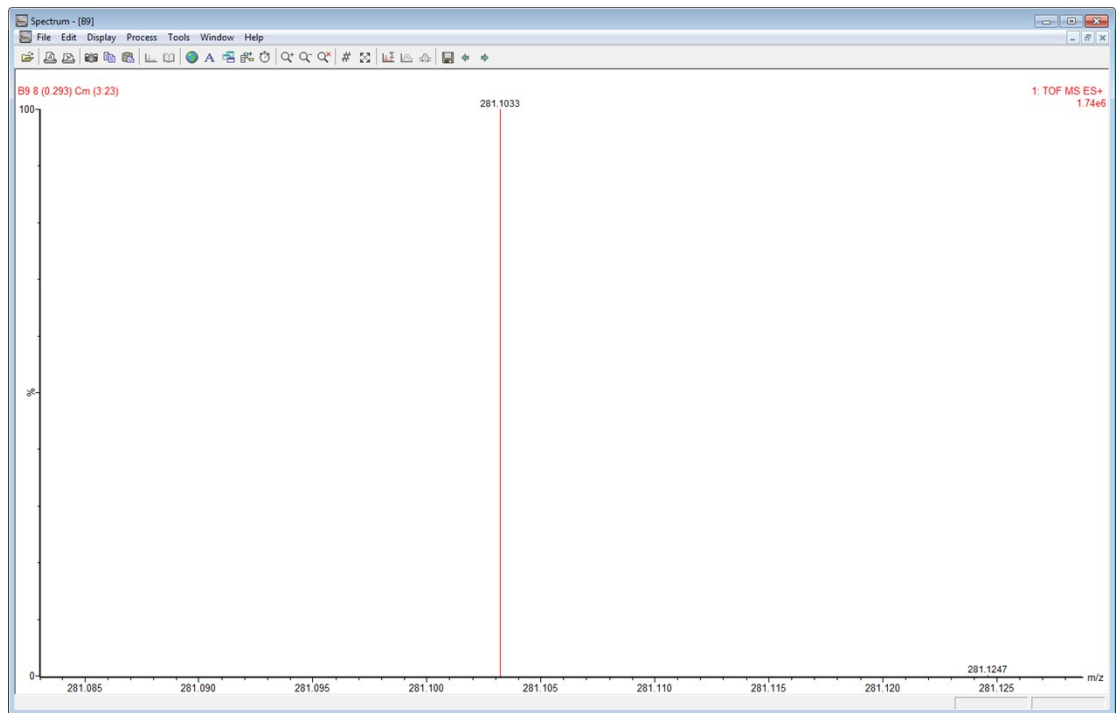
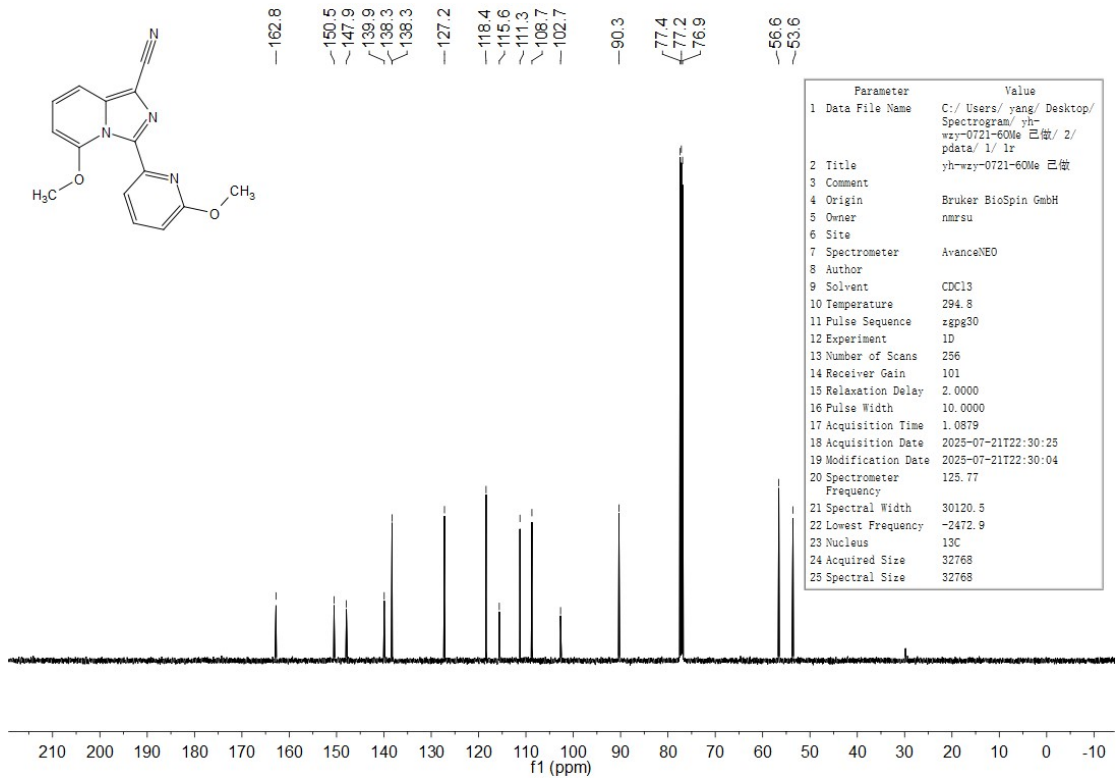
6-methoxy-3-(5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3h)



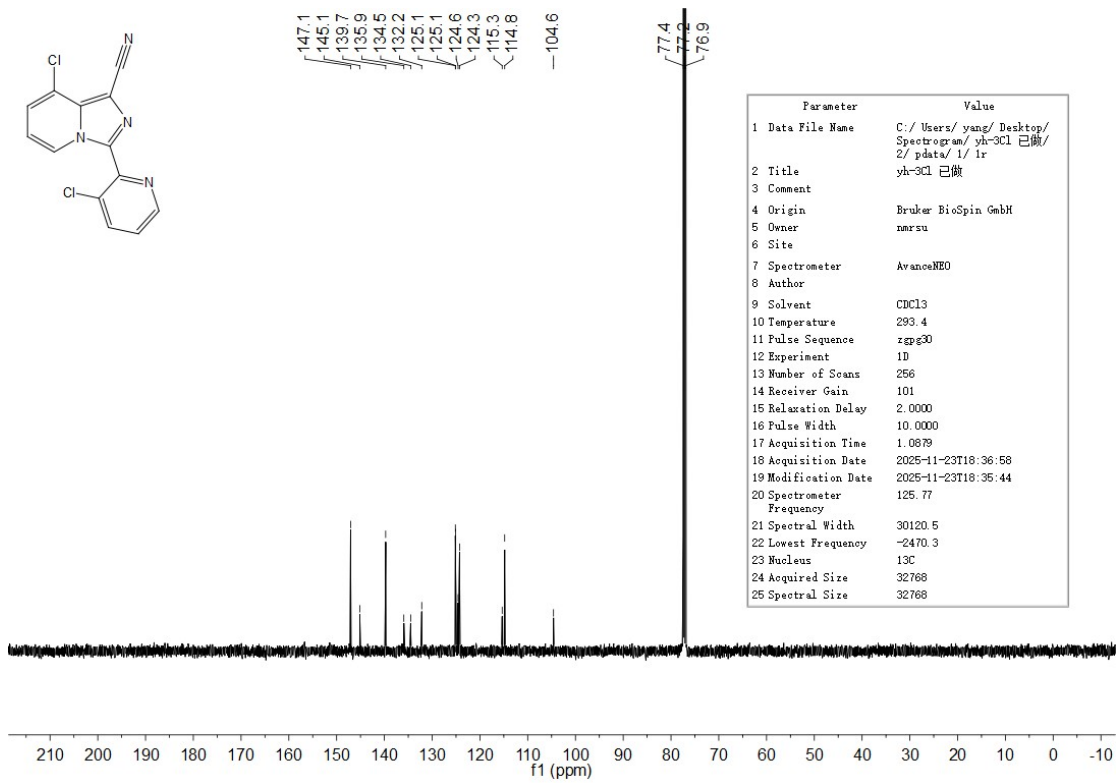
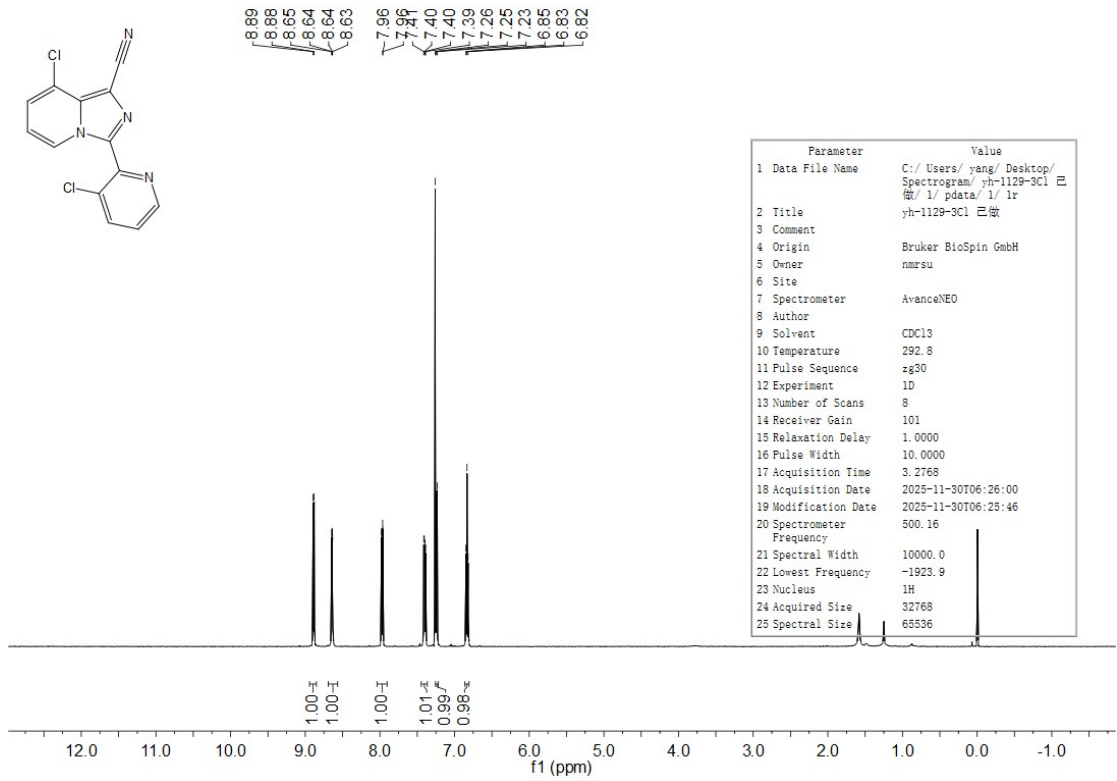


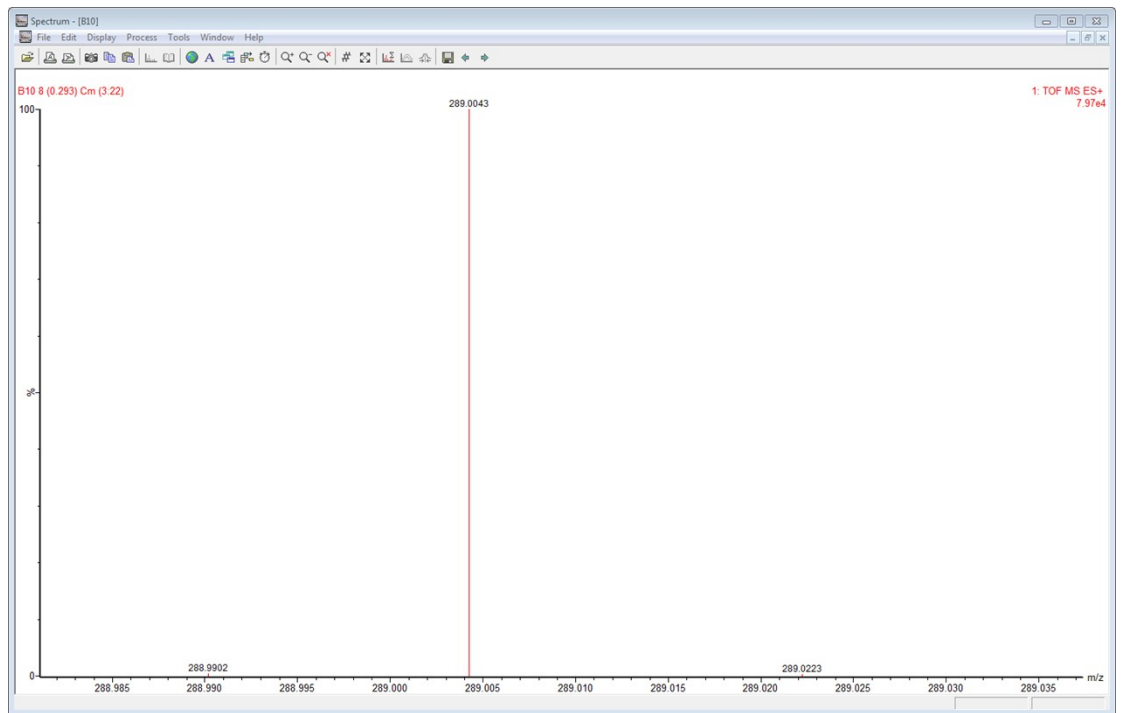
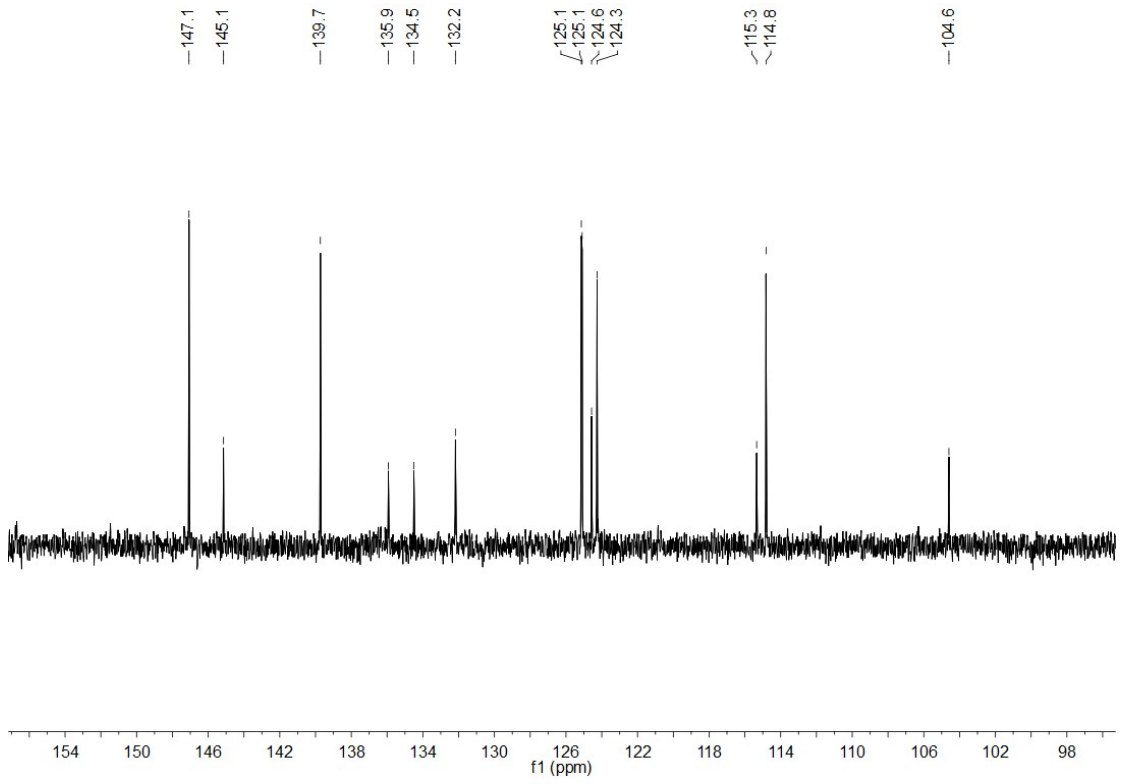
5-methoxy-3-(6-methoxypyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3i)



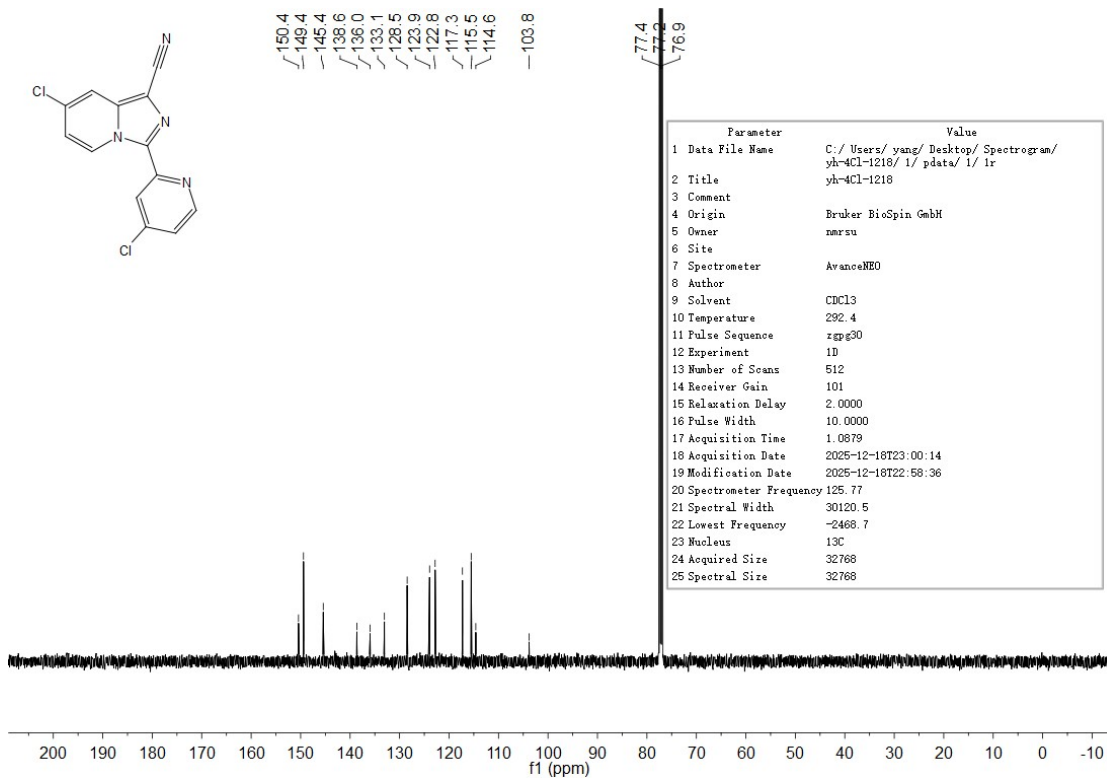
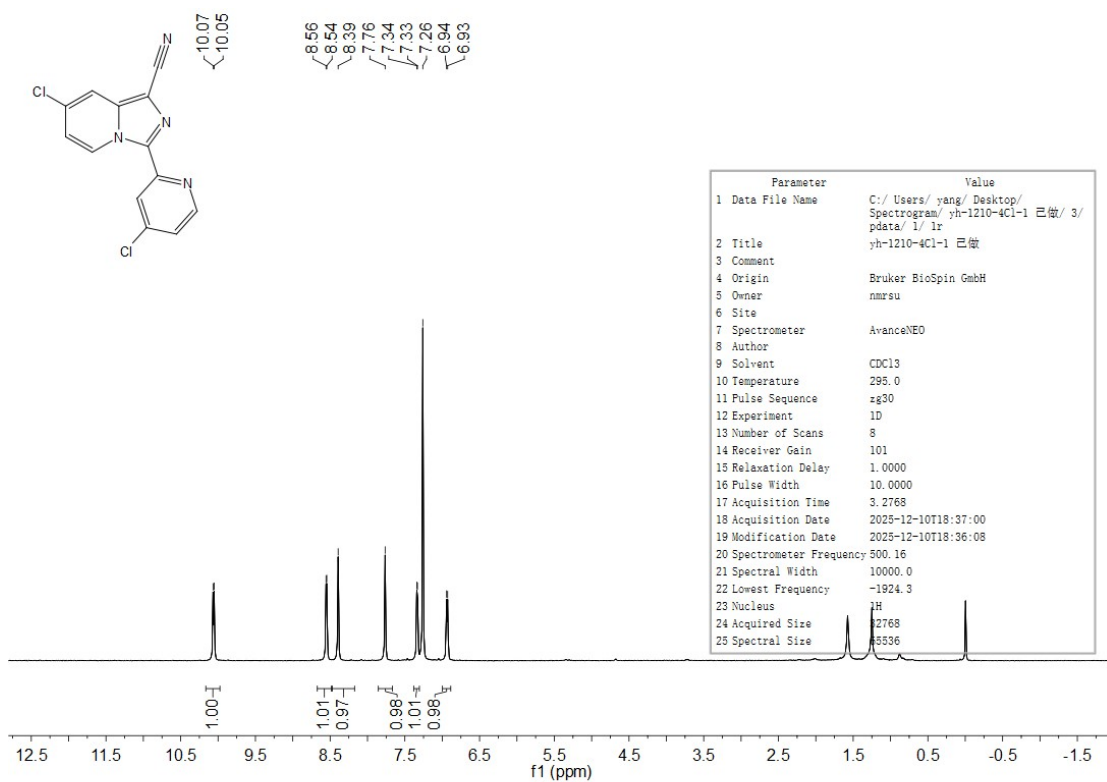


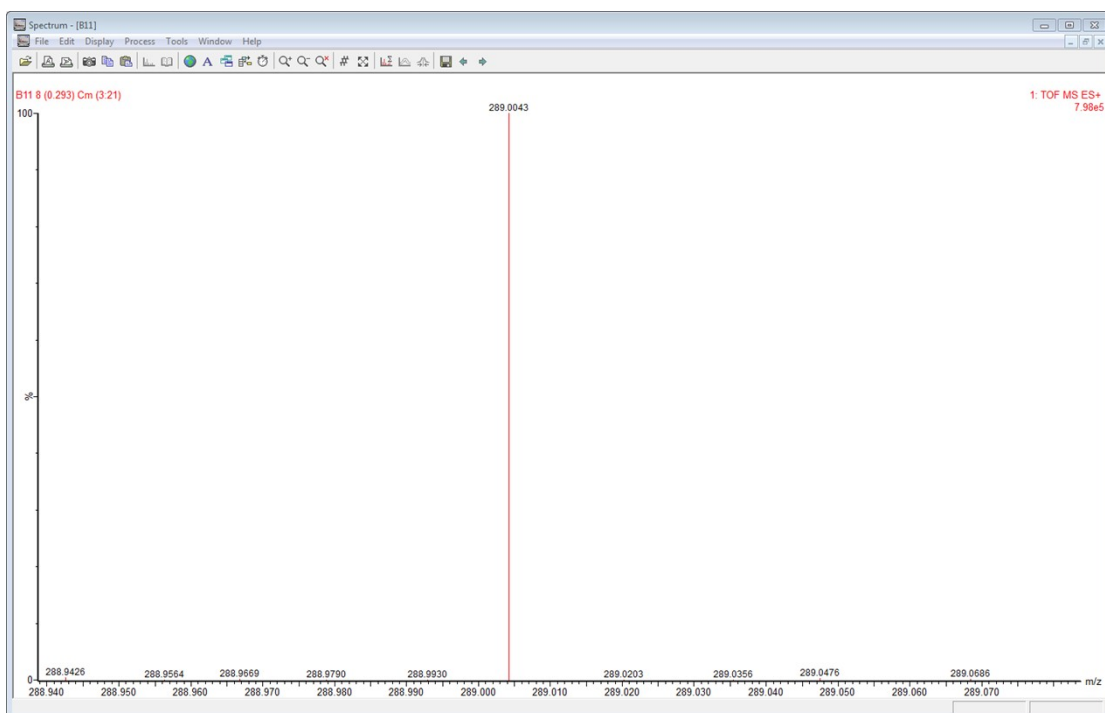
8-chloro-3-(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3j)



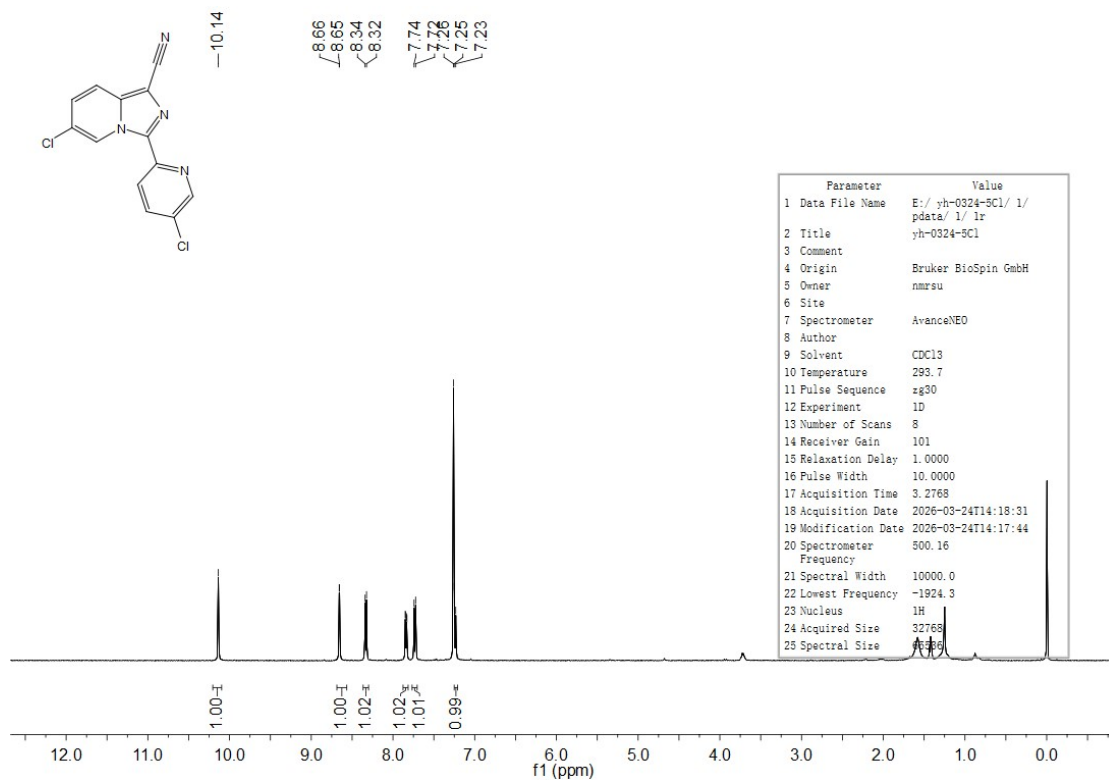


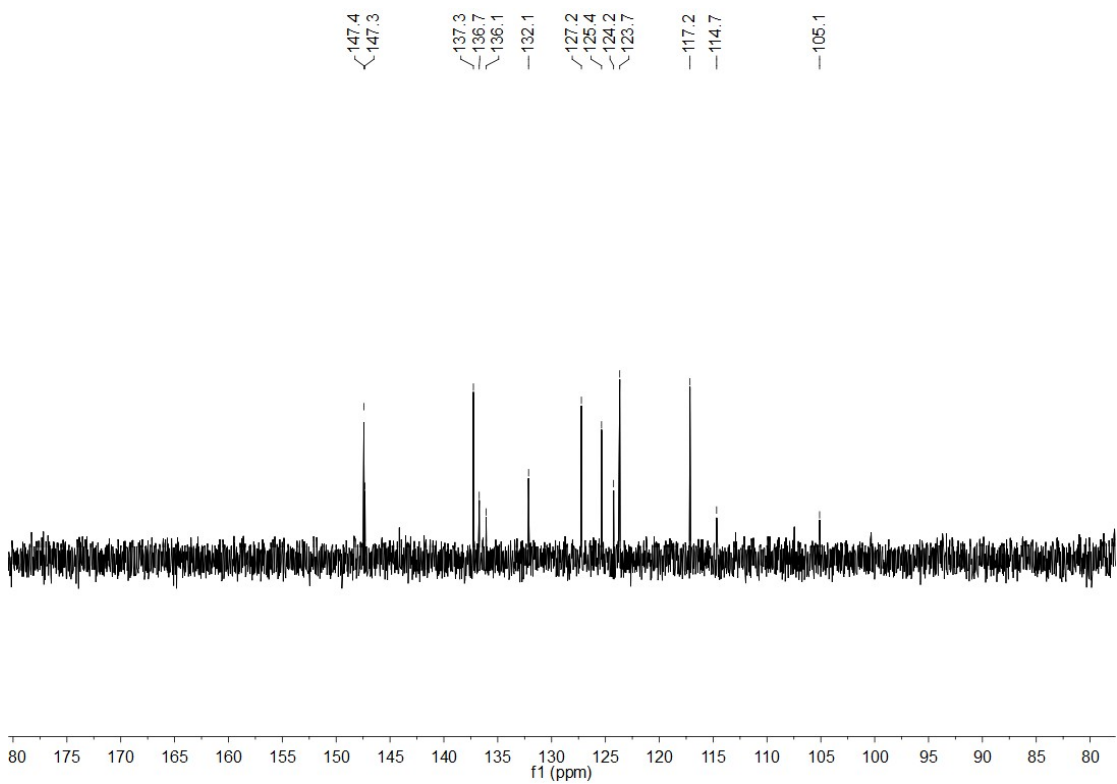
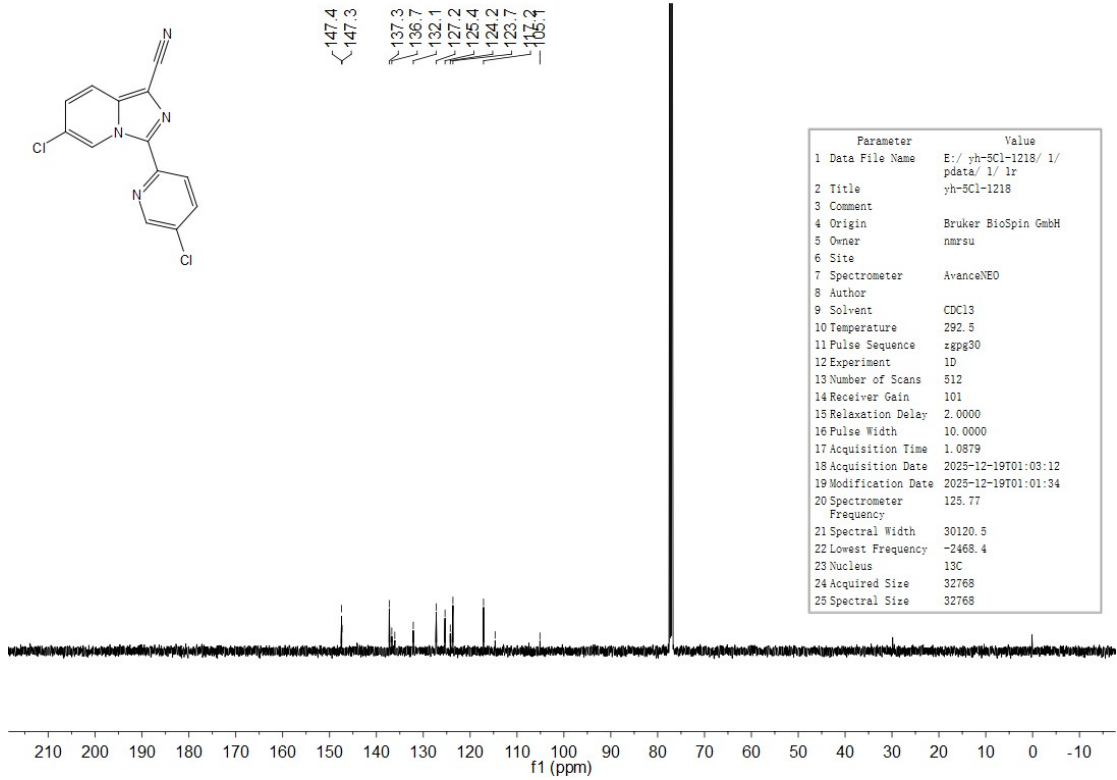
7-chloro-3-(4-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3k)

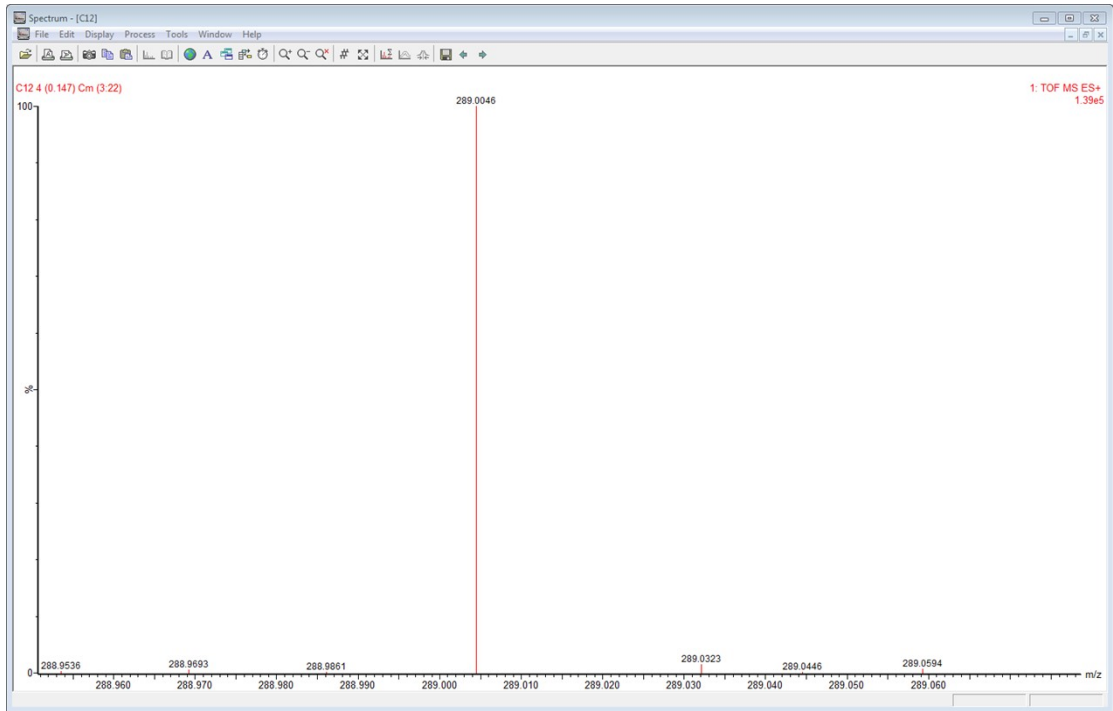




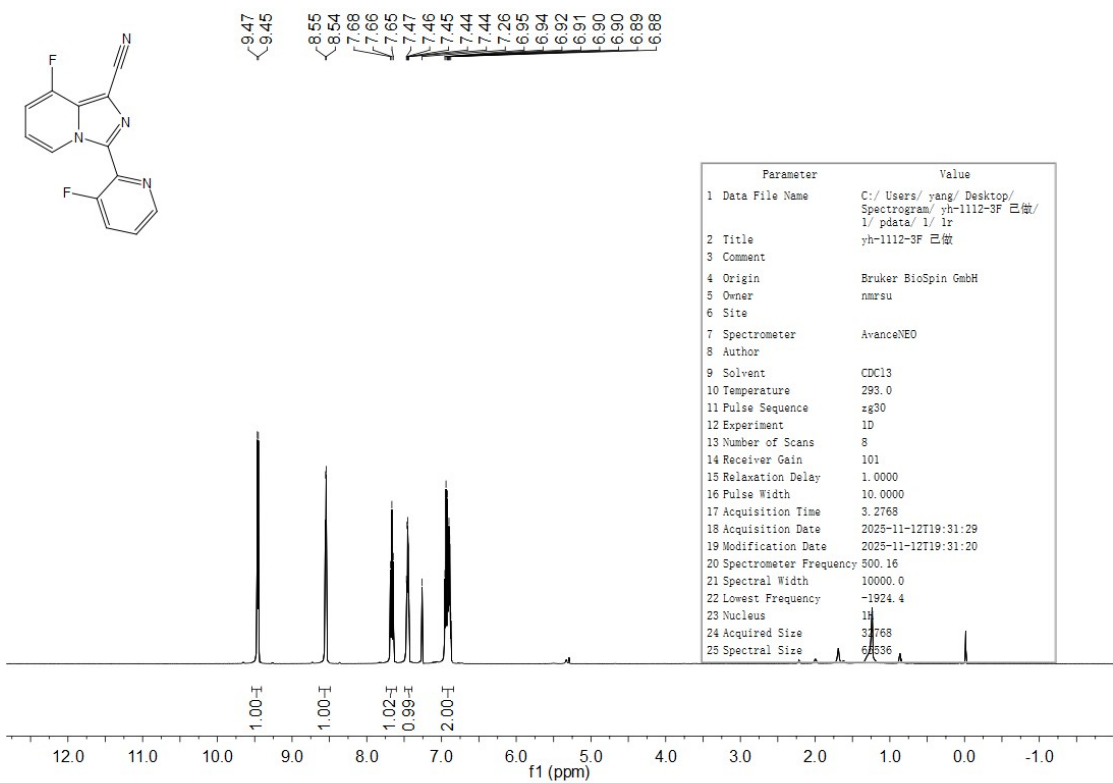
6-chloro-3-(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3)

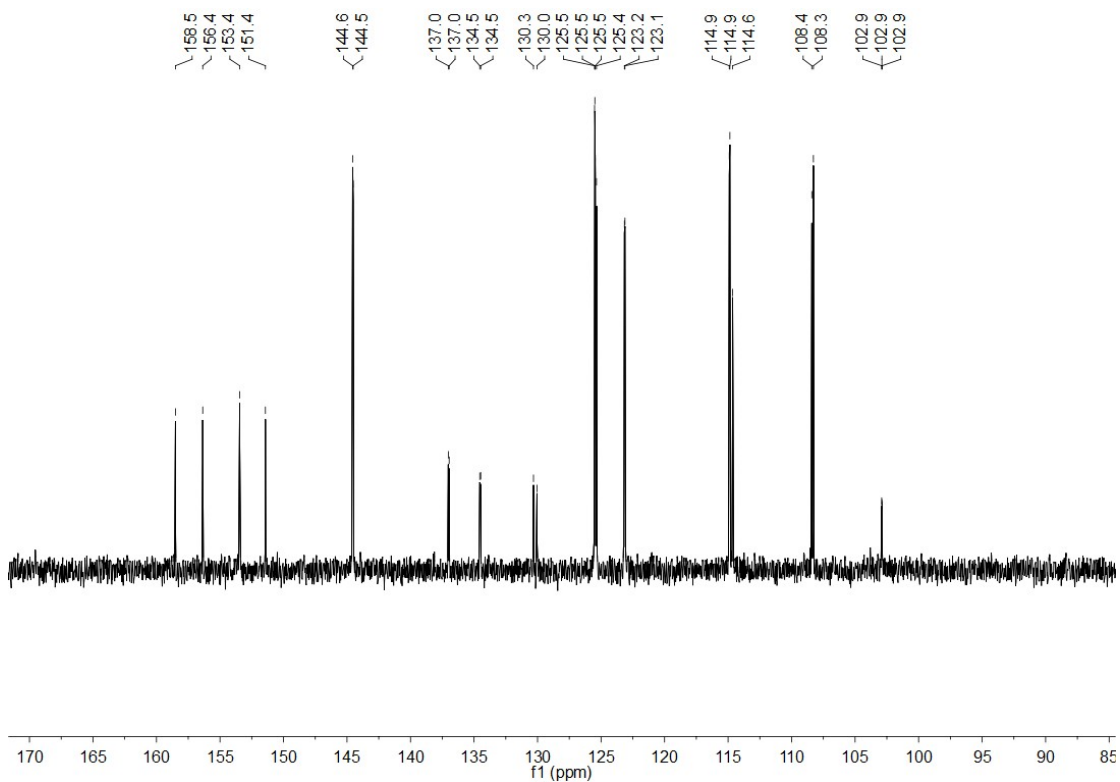
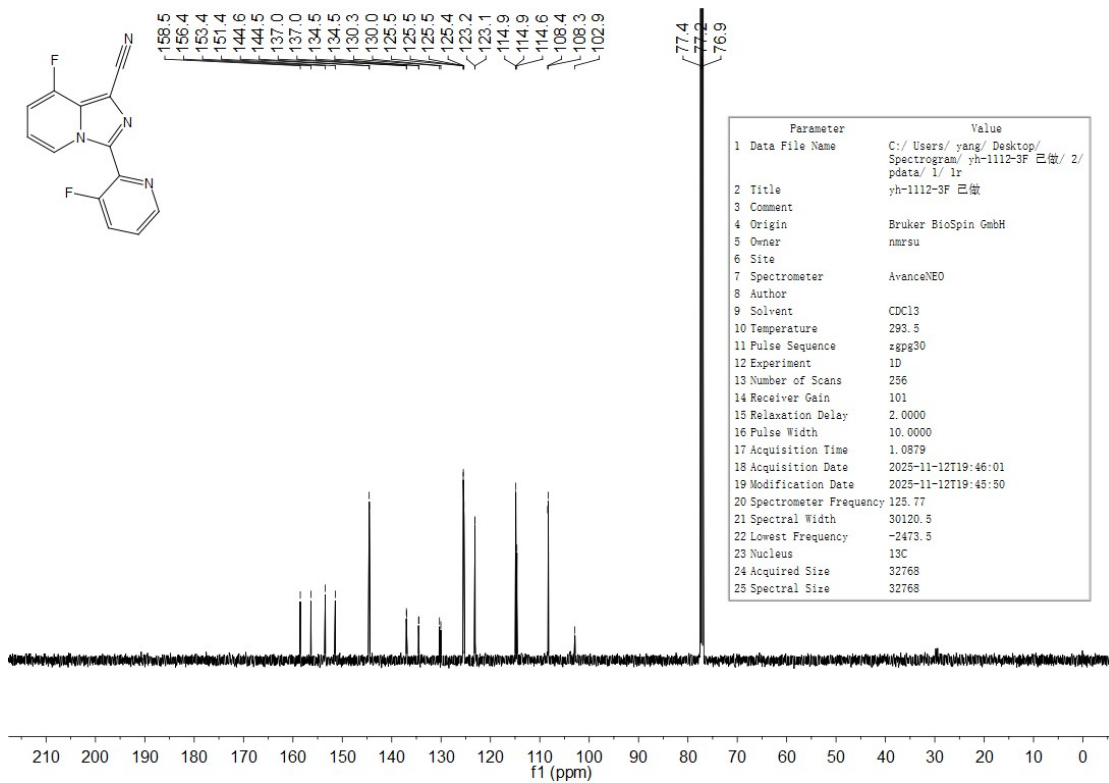


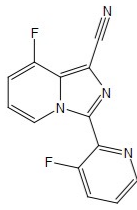




8-fluoro-3-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3m)

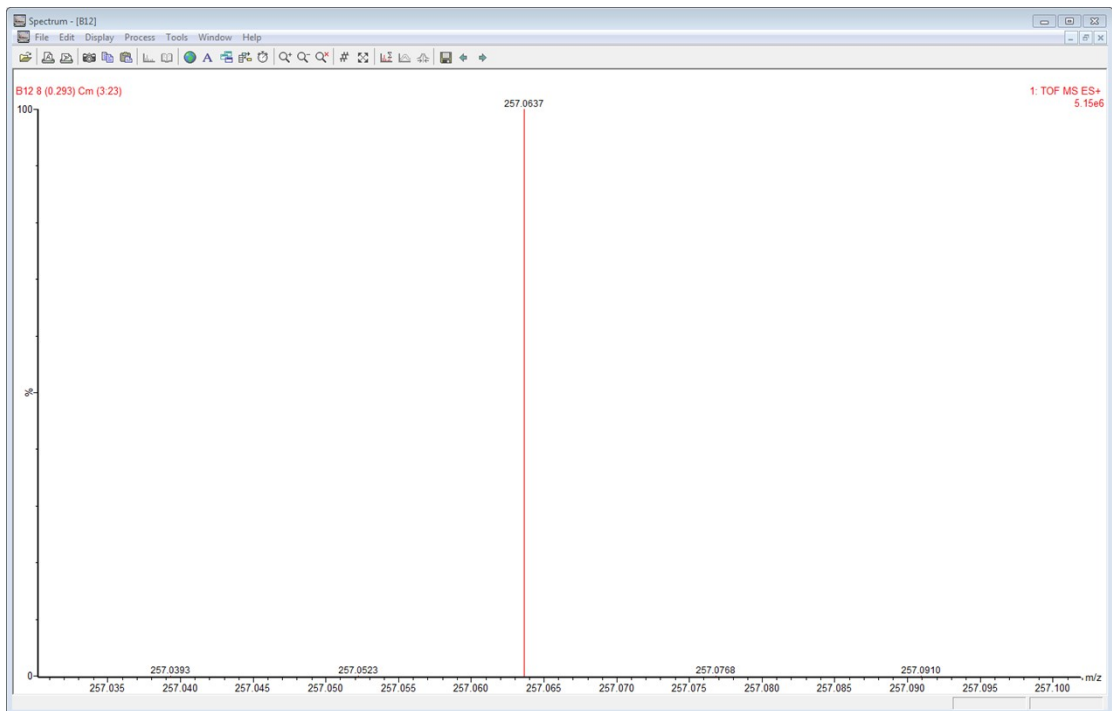
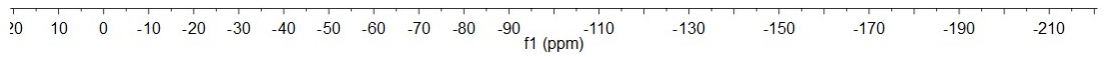




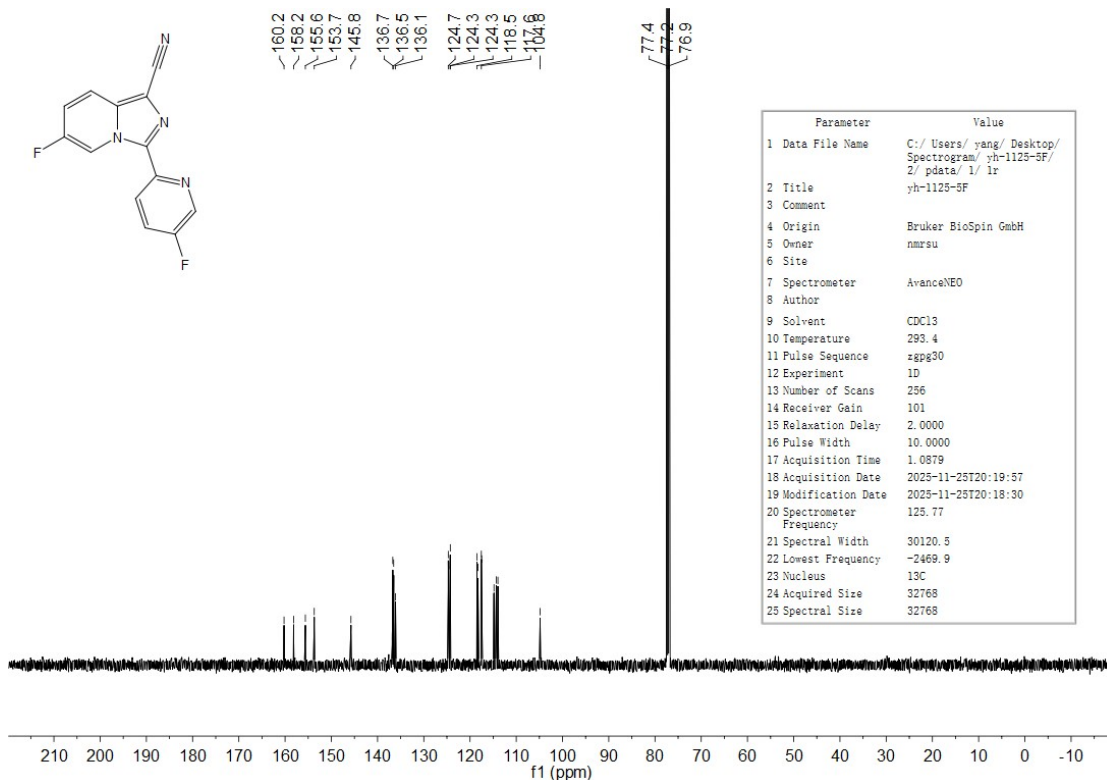
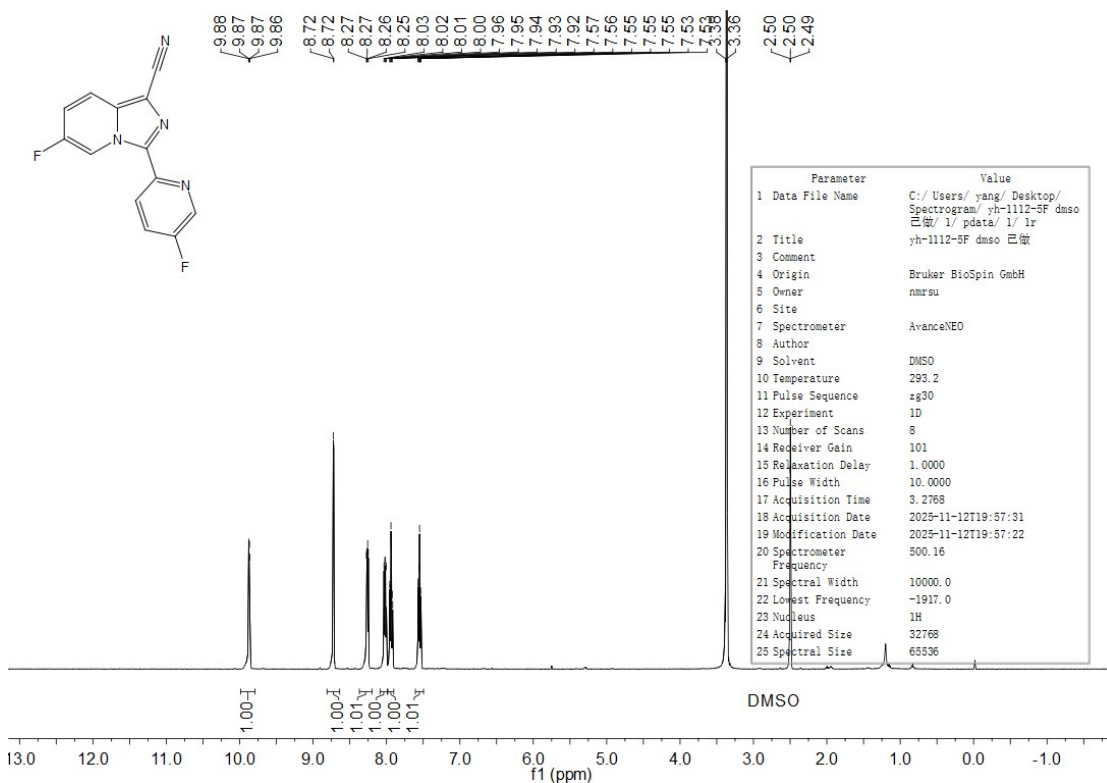


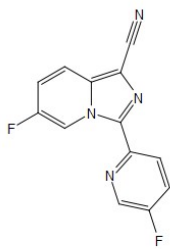
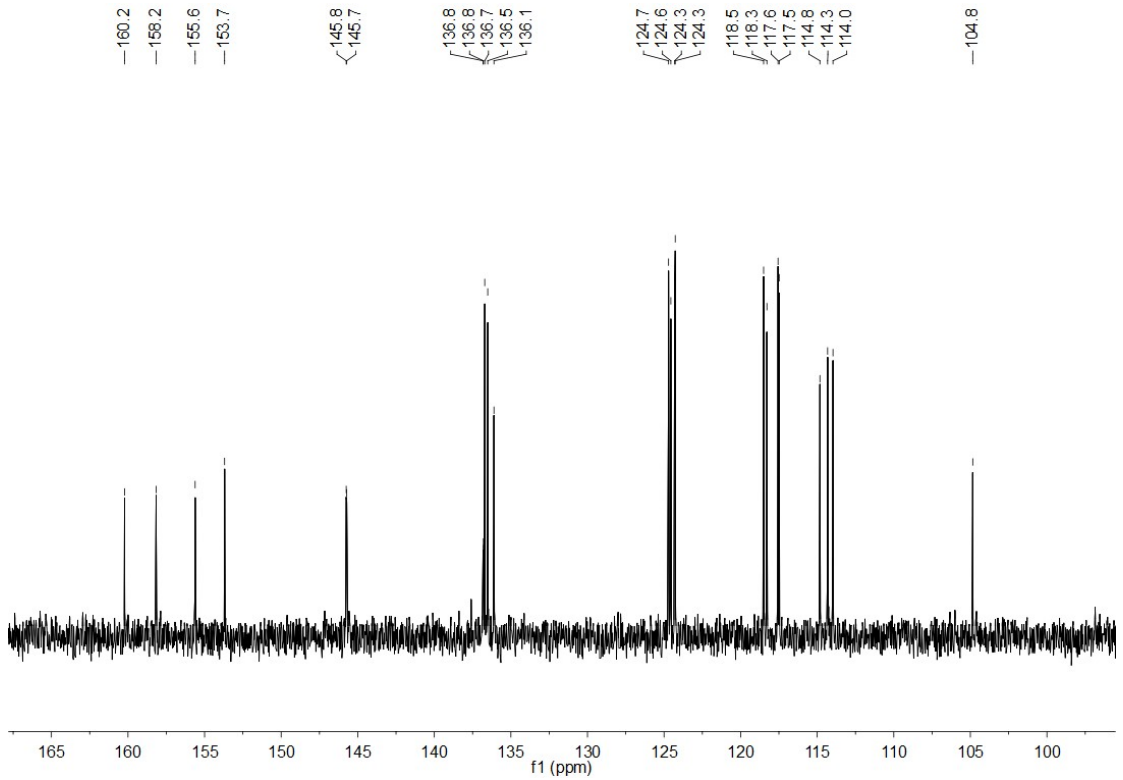
116.86
123.11

Parameter	Value
1 Data File Name	C:/Users/yang/Desktop/Spectrogram/yh-wzy-0701-3F/3/pdata/1/1r
2 Title	yh-wzy-0701-3F
3 Comment	
4 Origin	Bruker BioSpin GmbH
5 Owner	nmsu
6 Site	
7 Spectrometer	AvanceBBO
8 Author	
9 Solvent	CDCl3
10 Temperature	294.4
11 Pulse Sequence	zgig
12 Experiment	1D
13 Number of Scans	16
14 Receiver Gain	101
15 Relaxation Delay	1.0000
16 Pulse Width	15.0000
17 Acquisition Time	0.5767
18 Acquisition Date	2025-07-01T21:49:20
19 Modification Date	2025-07-01T21:47:52
20 Spectrometer Frequency	470.62
21 Spectral Width	113636.4
22 Lowest Frequency	-103880.2
23 Nucleus	13C
24 Acquired Size	65536
25 Spectral Size	65536



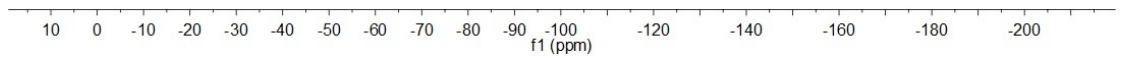
6-fluoro-3-(5-fluoropyridin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3n)

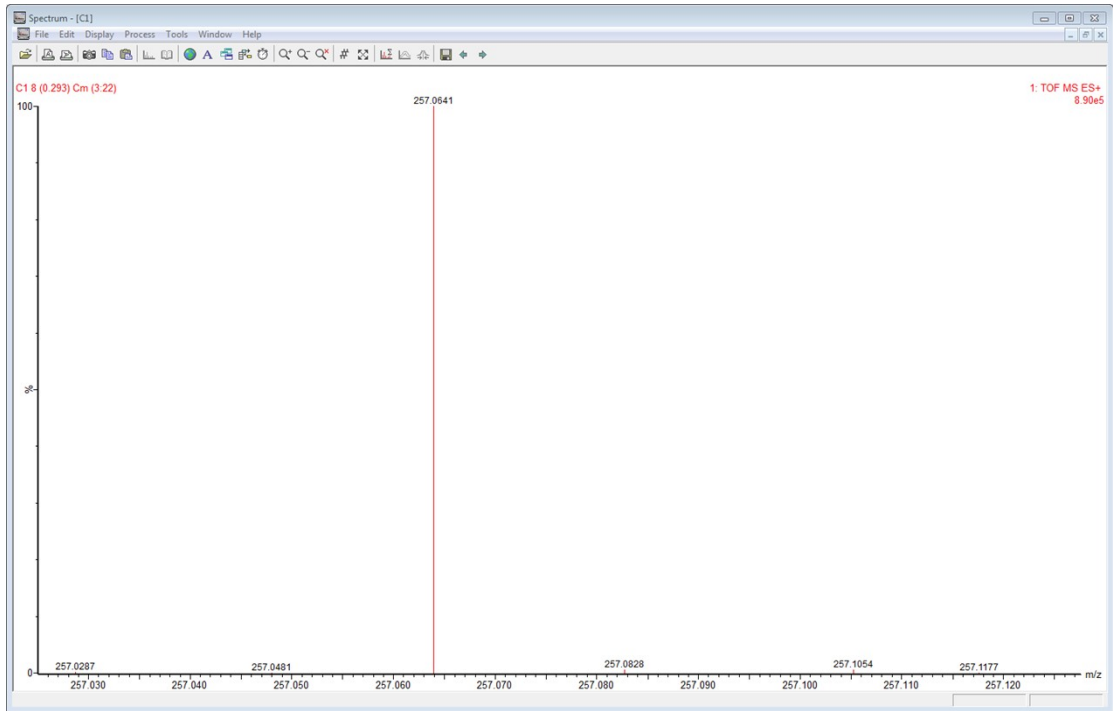




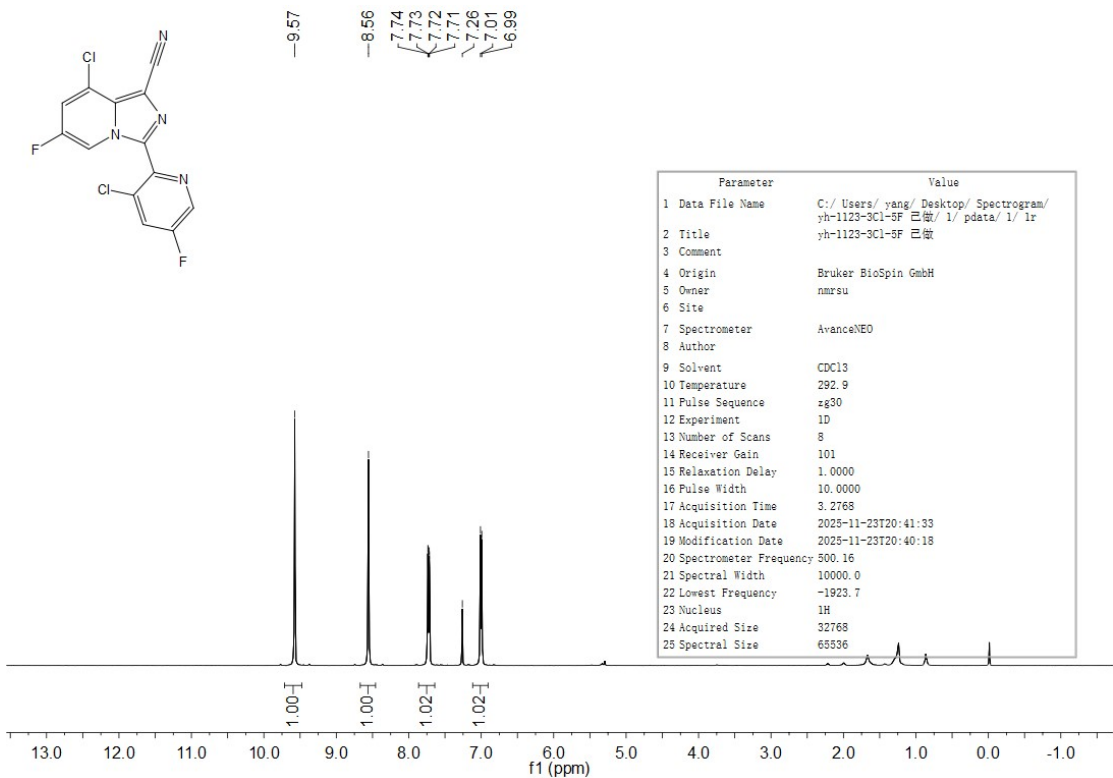
125.0
134.8

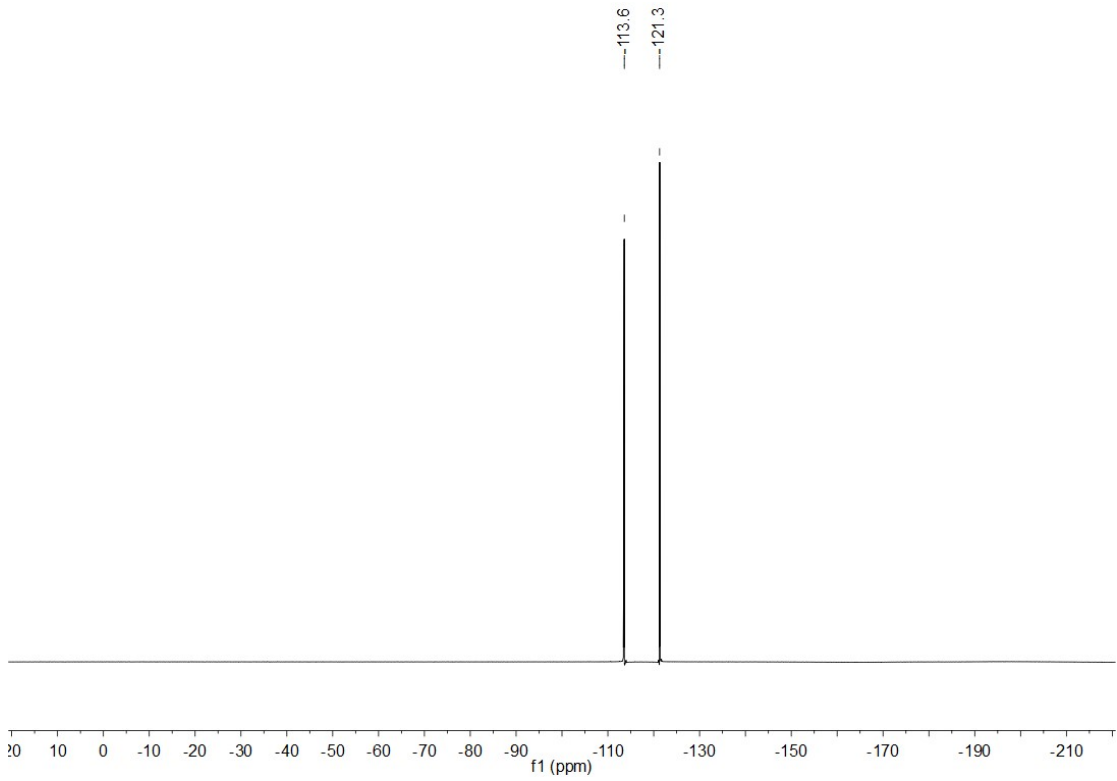
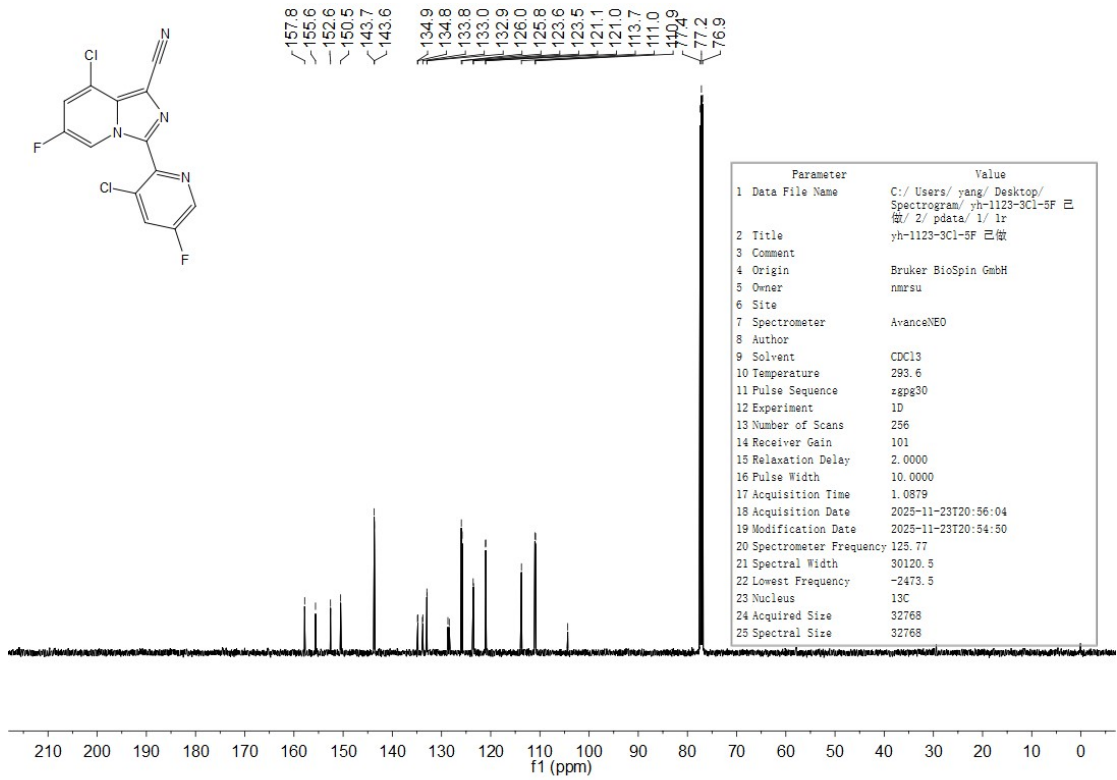
Parameter	Value
1 Data File Name	C:/Users/yang/Desktop/Spectrogram/yh-1125-5F/3/pdata/1/lr
2 Title	yh-1125-5F
3 Comment	
4 Origin	Bruker BioSpin GmbH
5 Owner	nrsu
6 Site	
7 Spectrometer	AvanceNEO
8 Author	
9 Solvent	CDCl3
10 Temperature	293.2
11 Pulse Sequence	zgig
12 Experiment	1D
13 Number of Scans	16
14 Receiver Gain	101
15 Relaxation Delay	1.0000
16 Pulse Width	13.0000
17 Acquisition Time	0.5767
18 Acquisition Date	2025-11-25T20:21:35
19 Modification Date	2025-11-25T20:20:10
20 Spectrometer Frequency	470.62
21 Spectral Width	113636.4
22 Lowest Frequency	-103880.2
23 Nucleus	13C
24 Acquired Size	65536
25 Spectral Size	65536

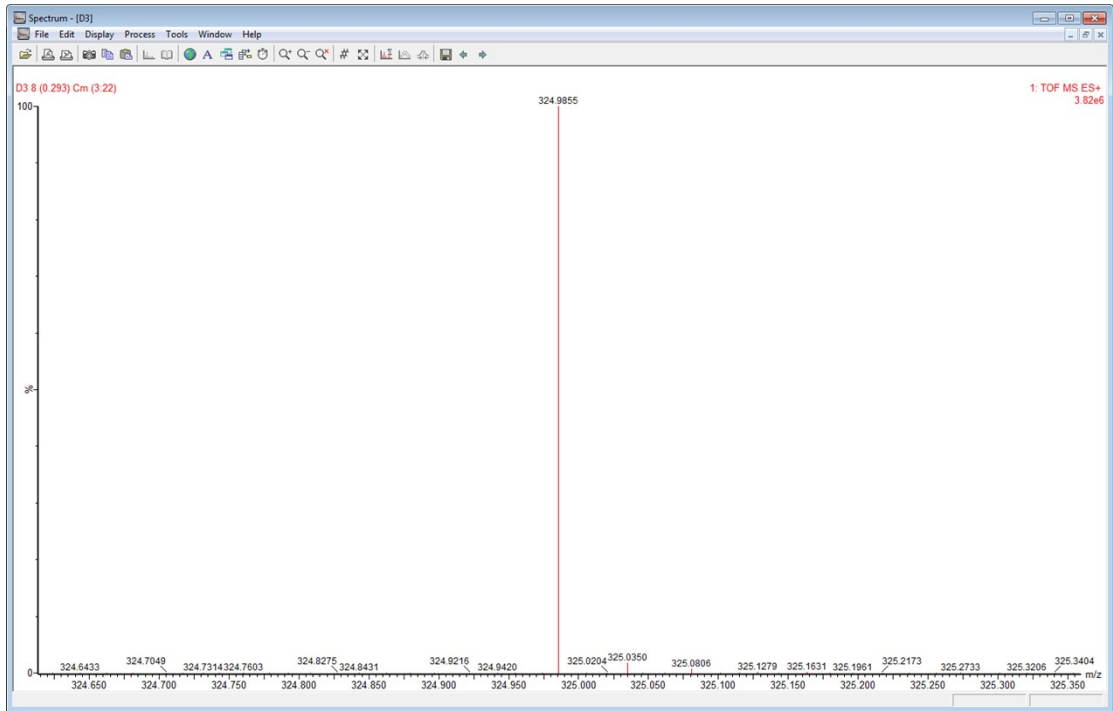




8-chloro-3-(3-chloro-5-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-fluoroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carbonitrile (3o)

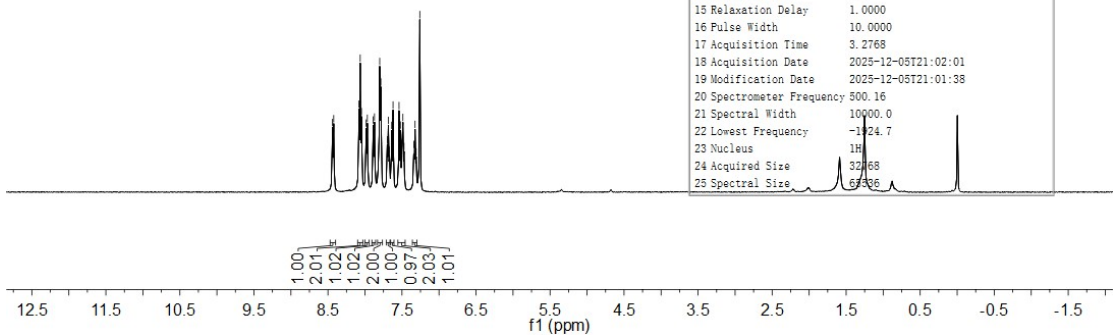
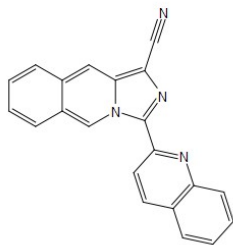


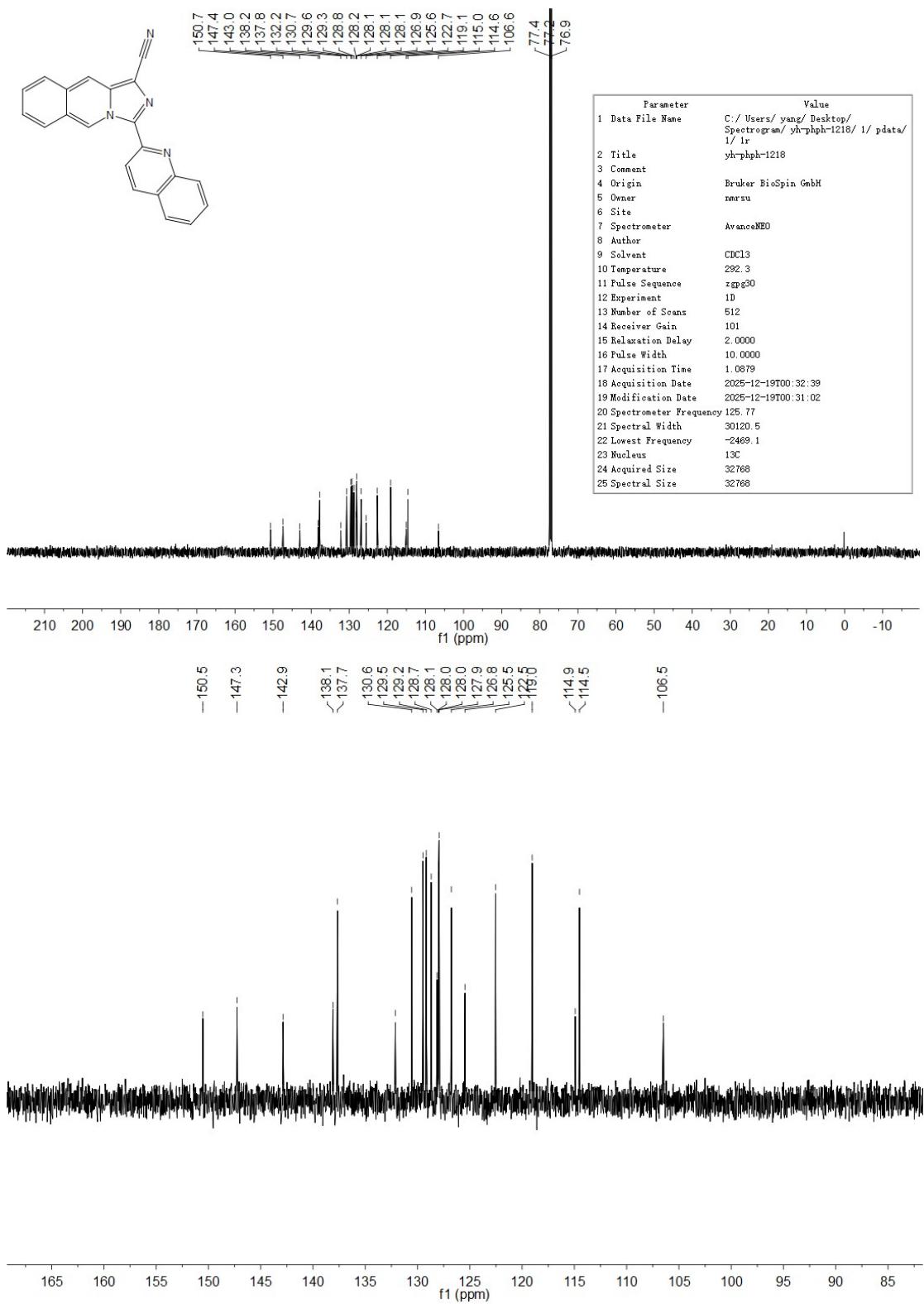


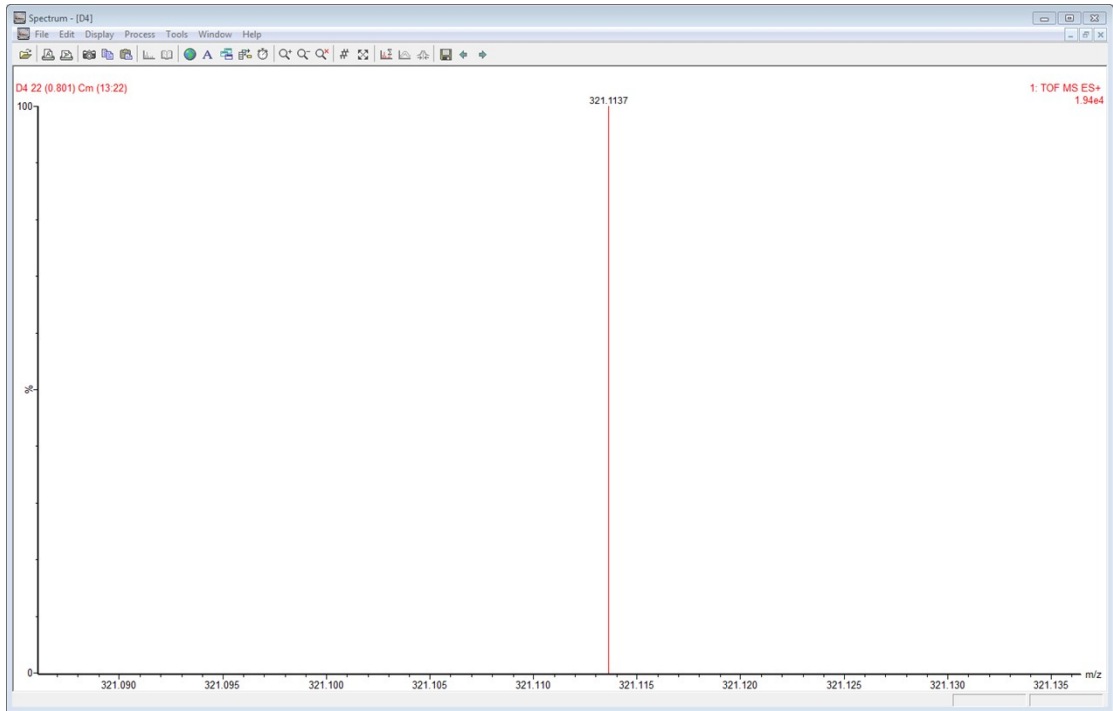


3-(quinolin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-b]isoquinoline-1-carbonitrile (3p)

8.44
8.42
8.08
8.06
8.05
7.98
7.97
7.89
7.87
7.80
7.79
7.77
7.70
7.68
7.67
7.64
7.62
7.54
7.52
7.50
7.49
7.47
7.34
7.32
7.31
7.26







6-methyl-3-(5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazine-1-carbonitrile (3q)

