

## Supporting information

### N-2-Hydroxybenzaldehyde acylhydrazone-Fe(III) complex: Synthesis, crystal structure and its efficient and selective N-methylation

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#### *Supporting information*

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## 1. General Procedure for the Synthesis of the N-2-Hydroxybenzaldehyde Acylhydrazones (**4a–4g**).

The *N*-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde acylhydrazones were prepared according to a previously reported method. [22] Briefly, to an ethanol solution (20 ml) of the appropriate acylhydrazine (4.0 mmol) and 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (4.0 mmol), a few drops of *AcOH* were added. The mixture was heated at reflux for 1 h and then cooled to r.t. The crystalline solid was collected by filtration, washed with cold ethanol, and dried in air.

1.1. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-2-[4-(2-methyl propyl) phenyl]propane hydrazide (**4a**).

The title compound was obtained in 94.9% yield, 1.50 g, as a thin yellow solid with *mp* 84–86 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.42, 10.96 (5:1, *s*, 1H), 11.241, 9.93 (5:1, *s*, 1H), 8.15, 7.98 (5:1, *s*, 1H), 7.25, 7.20 (5:1, *d*, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.11 (m, 3H), 6.23 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 6.07 (*d*, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 4.36, 3.60 (1:5, *q*, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.44, 3.34 (1:5, *q*, 4H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 2.40, 2.37 (5:1, *d*, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.38, 1.33 (5:1, *d*, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.08, 1.05 (5:1, *t*, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.84, 0.83 (*d*, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 174.1, 169.4; 160.0, 158.7; 150.5, 150.3; 149.3, 144.3; 140.0, 139.6; 139.5, 139.3; 131.9, 130.0; 129.4, 129.3; 127.5, 127.4; 107.5, 106.8; 104.4, 104.0; 97.97, 97.90; 44.7; 44.2; 43.9, 40.9; 30.0; 22.6; 19.3, 18.9; 12.9. IR (KBr) 3415(s), 3192(m), 3017(m), 2971(s), 1657(vs), 1634(vs), 1597(s), 1518(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 72.88; H, 8.41; N, 10.62. Found: C, 72.71; H, 8.30; N, 10.81.

1.2. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(6-methoxy naphthyl)propane hydrazide (**4b**).

The title compound was obtained in 94.3% yield, 1.58 g, as a thin yellow solid with *mp* 91–92 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.50, 9.91 (*s*, 1H), 11.25, 11.02 (*s*, 1H), 8.16, 7.99 (*s*, 1H), 7.82–7.02 (m, 3H), 7.48, 7.43 (*dd*, 1H, *J*<sub>ax</sub> = 8.0 Hz, *J*<sub>bx</sub> = 1.2 Hz), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.22, 6.20 (*dd*, 1H, *J*<sub>ax</sub> = 8.8 Hz, *J*<sub>bx</sub> = 2.0 Hz), 6.07 (*s*, 1H), 4.55, 3.78 (*q*, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.86, 3.84 (*s*, 3H), 3.32 (*q*, 4H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.48, 1.43 (*d*, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz). 1.07 (*t*, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 174.0, 169.3; 159.9, 158.7; 157.5, 157.4; 150.4, 150.3; 149.3, 144.1; 137.5, 137.1; 133.7, 133.5; 131.8, 129.8; 129.6, 129.5; 128.9, 128.8; 127.2, 127.1; 126.7; 125.8, 125.7;

119.1; 107.5, 106.7; 106.1; 104.3, 103.9; 97.8, 97.7; 55.6; 44.2; 41.4; 19.4, 18.9; 12.9. IR (KBr) 3416(m), 3193(m), 3037(w), 2974(m), 1633(vs), 1600(s), 1519(s). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{25}H_{29}N_3O_3$ : C, 71.57; H, 6.97; N, 10.02. Found: C, 71.42; H, 6.86; N, 10.23.

1.3. Synthesis of *N'*-(2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(6-methoxynaphthyl)propane hydrazide (**4c**).

The title compound was obtained in 93.1% yield, 1.30 g, as a colorless solid with mp 175–176 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  10.87, 9.99 (s, 1H) . 9.01, 8.32(s, 1H). 8.16, 7.75(s, 1H). 7.71, 7.46(d, 1H,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz ). 7.71 (m, 2H); 7.19–6.81 (m, 7H); 4.46, 3.82(q, 1H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz). 3.92, 3.88(s, 3H). 1.68, 1.61(d, 3H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  175.1, 170.1; 157.8, 157.5; 157.7, 157.6; 147.7, 141.2; 137.5, 136.9; 133.7, 133.5; 131.7, 131.3; 129.8, 129.4; 129.6; 128.9, 128.8; 127.3; 126.7; 125.9; 120.6, 119.7; 119.9, 119.1; 119.0; 116.7, 116.5; 106.2; 55.6; 44.3, 41.4; 19.1, 18.9. IR (KBr): 3447(w), 3202(s), 3062(m), 2996(w), 1657(vs), 1612(s), 1551(s). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$  : C 72.40, H 5.79, N 8.04; found: C 72.24, H 5.86, N 8.12.

1.4. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-benzohydrazide (**4d**).

The title compound was obtained in 97.4% yield, 1.21 g, as a yellow solid with mp 215–217 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.79 (s, 1H), 11.47 (s, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 7.91 (dd, 2H,  $J_{ax}$  = 6.8Hz,  $J_{bx}$  = 1.6 Hz), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.4Hz), 6.27 (dd, 1H,  $J_{ax}$  = 8.8Hz,  $J_{bx}$  = 2.4 Hz), 6.13 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz), 3.36 (q, 4H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz ), 1.11 (t, 6H,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  162.6, 160.2, 150.6, 150.4, 133.6, 132.1, 128.9, 127.9, 106.9, 104.0, 97.9, 44.2, 12.9. IR (KBr) 3448(m), 3200(m), 3034(w), 2973(m), 1630(vs), 1587(s), 1518(vs). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{21}N_3O_2$ : C, 69.43; H, 6.80; N, 13.49. Found: C, 69.55; H, 6.95; N, 13.66.

1.5. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-4-methoxybenzo hydrazide (**4e**).

The title compound was obtained in 96.5% yield, 1.30 g, as a colorless solid with mp 210–212 °C.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.68 (s, 1H), 11.53 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 7.18 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz), 7.06 (d, 2H,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz), 6.26 (dd, 1H,  $J_{ax}$  = 8.8 Hz,  $J_{bx}$  = 2.0 Hz ), 6.12 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.36 (q, 4H,

*J* = 6.8 Hz ), 1.11(*t*, 6*H*, *J* = 6.8 Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  162.4, 161.1, 160.1, 150.4, 149.9, 132.0, 129.8, 125.6, 114.1, 106.9, 104.0, 97.9, 55.8, 44.2, 12.9. IR (KBr) 3447(w), 3236(m), 3074(w), 2970(m), 1629(vs), 1586(m), 1506(s). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ : C, 66.84; H, 6.79; N, 12.31. Found: C, 67.03; H, 6.92; N, 12.45.

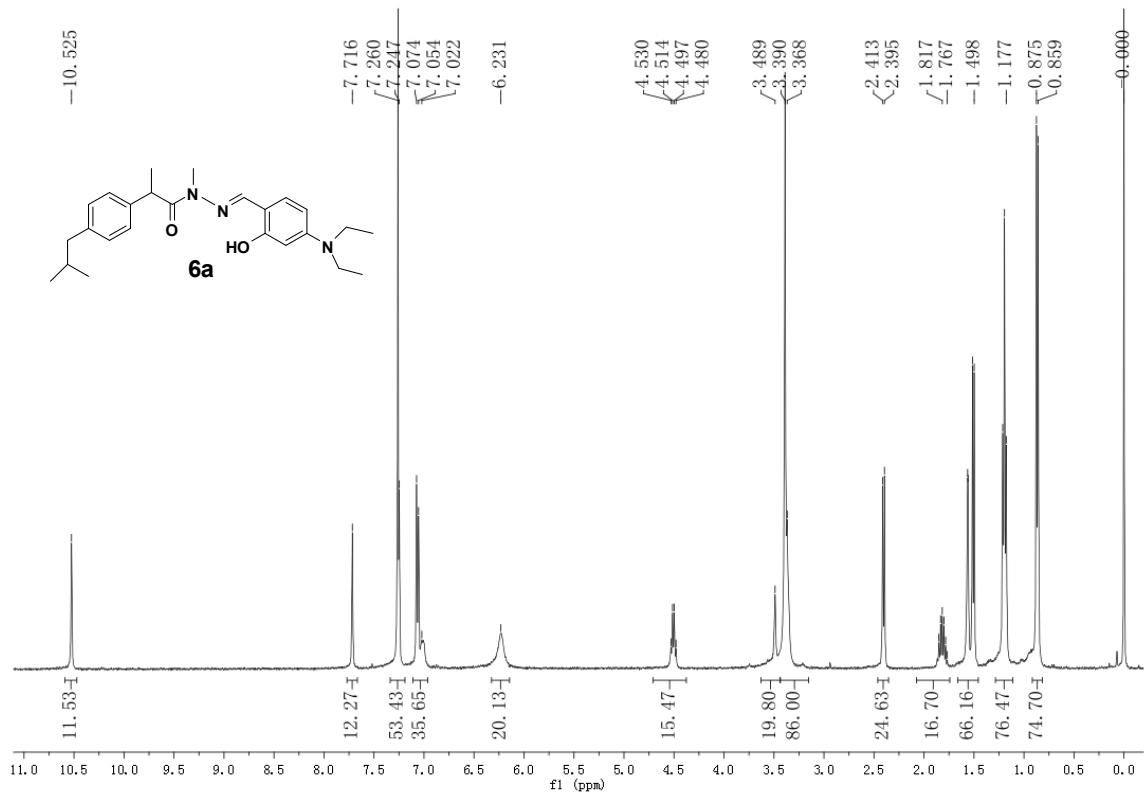
1.6. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-3,4,5-trimethoxybenzohydrazide (**4f**).

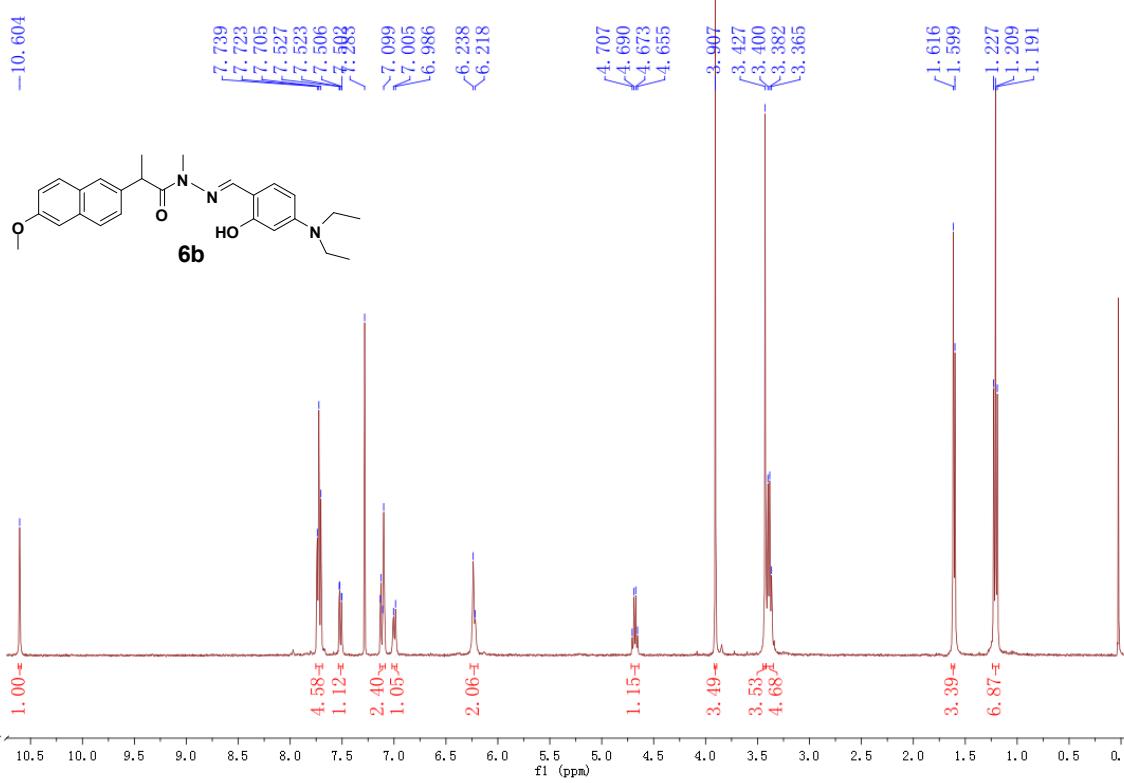
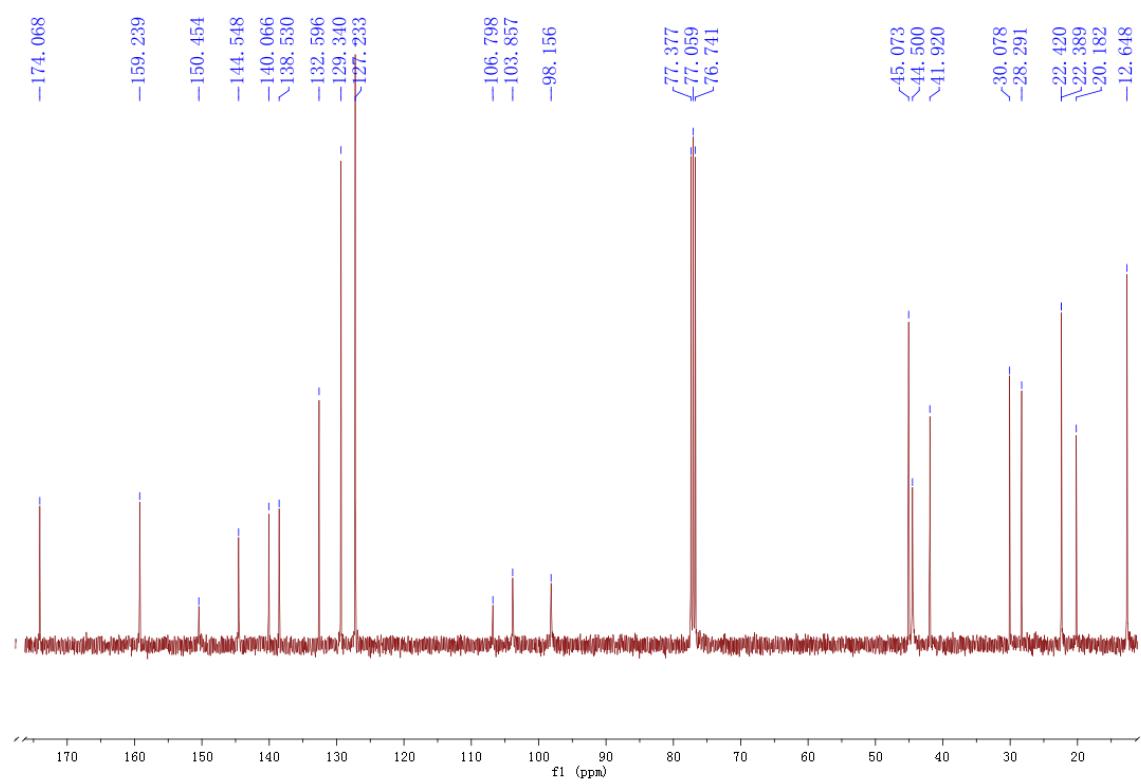
The title compound was obtained in 95.5% yield, 1.53 g, as a gray solid with mp 98–100 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.66 (s, 1*H*), 11.43 (s, 1*H*), 8.43 (s, 1*H*), 7.24 (s, 2*H*), 7.22 (d, 1*H*, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.27 (d, 1*H*, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1*H*), 3.86 (s, 6*H*), 3.72 (s, 3*H*), 3.35 (q, 4*H*, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 1.10(*t*, 6*H*, *J* = 7.2 Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  162.1, 160.1, 153.1, 150.6, 150.2, 140.7, 131.9, 128.7, 106.9, 105.4, 104.1, 97.9, 60.5, 56.5, 49.0, 44.2, 12.9. IR (KBr) 3422(m), 3211(m), 2969(m), 1631(vs), 1588(vs), 1517(s). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$ : C, 62.83; H, 6.78; N, 10.47. Found: C, 62.64; H, 6.86; N, 10.33.

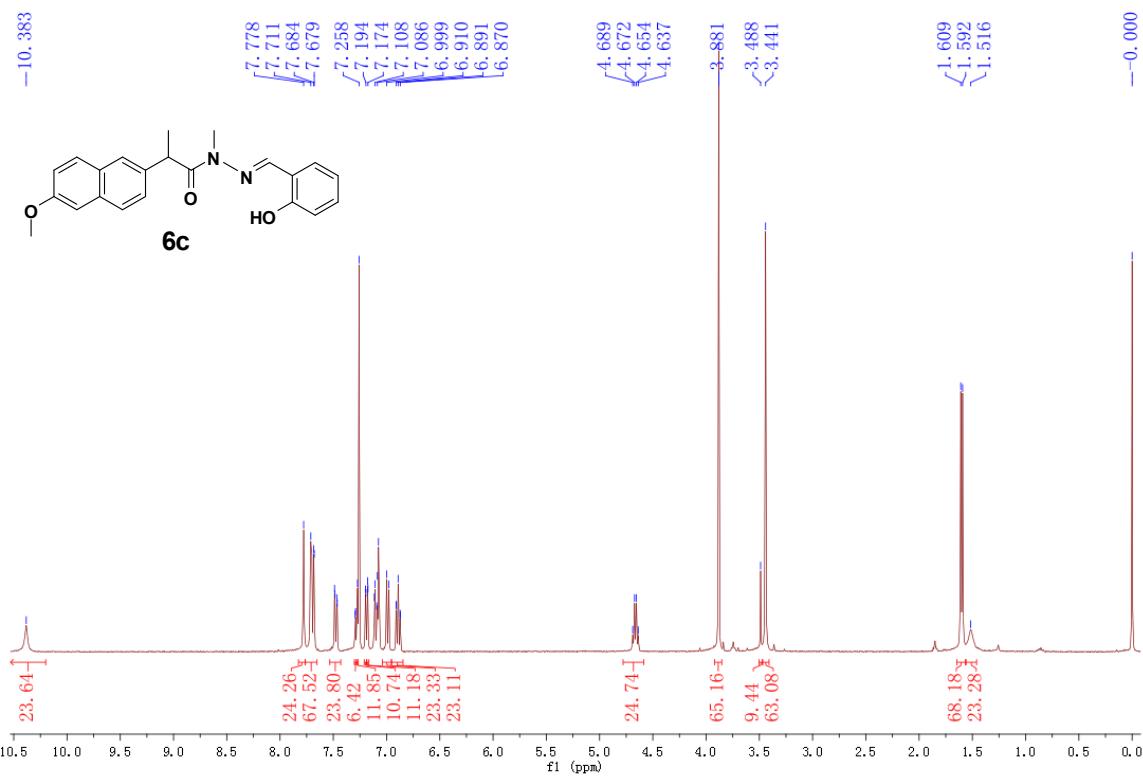
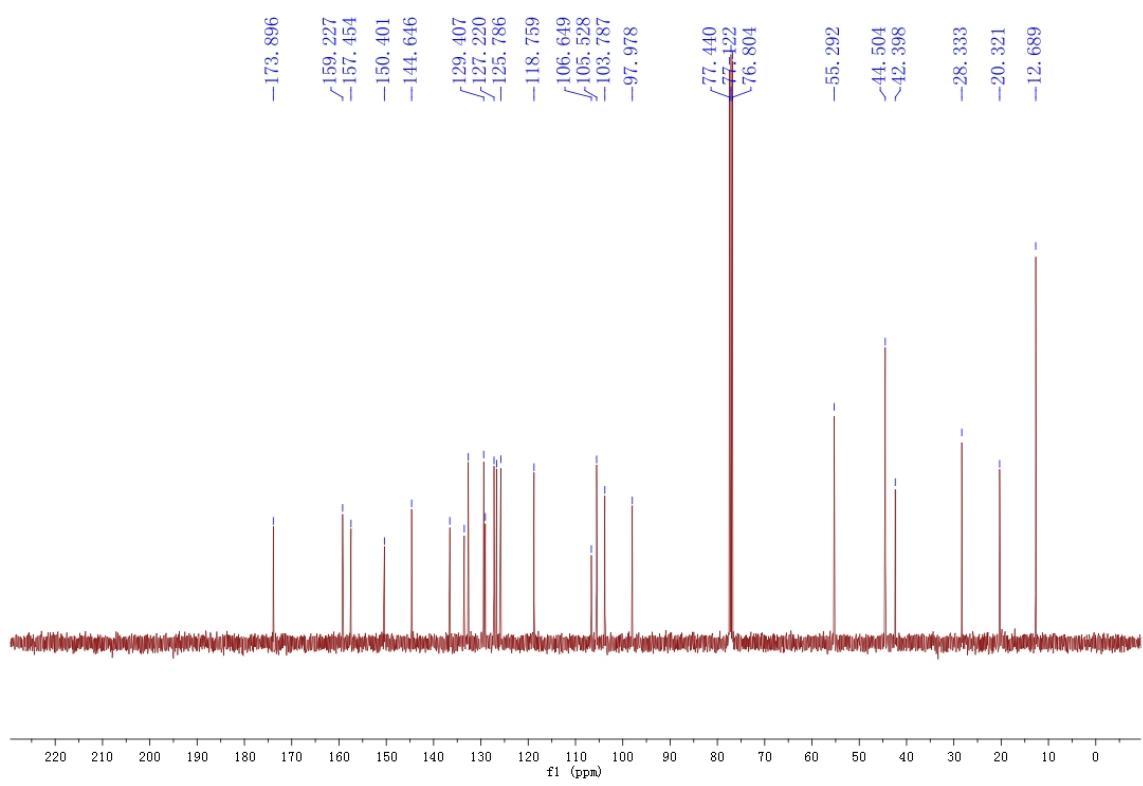
1.7. Synthesis of *N'*-(4-Diethylamino-2-hydroxybenzylidene)-4-hydroxybenzo hydrazide (**4g**).

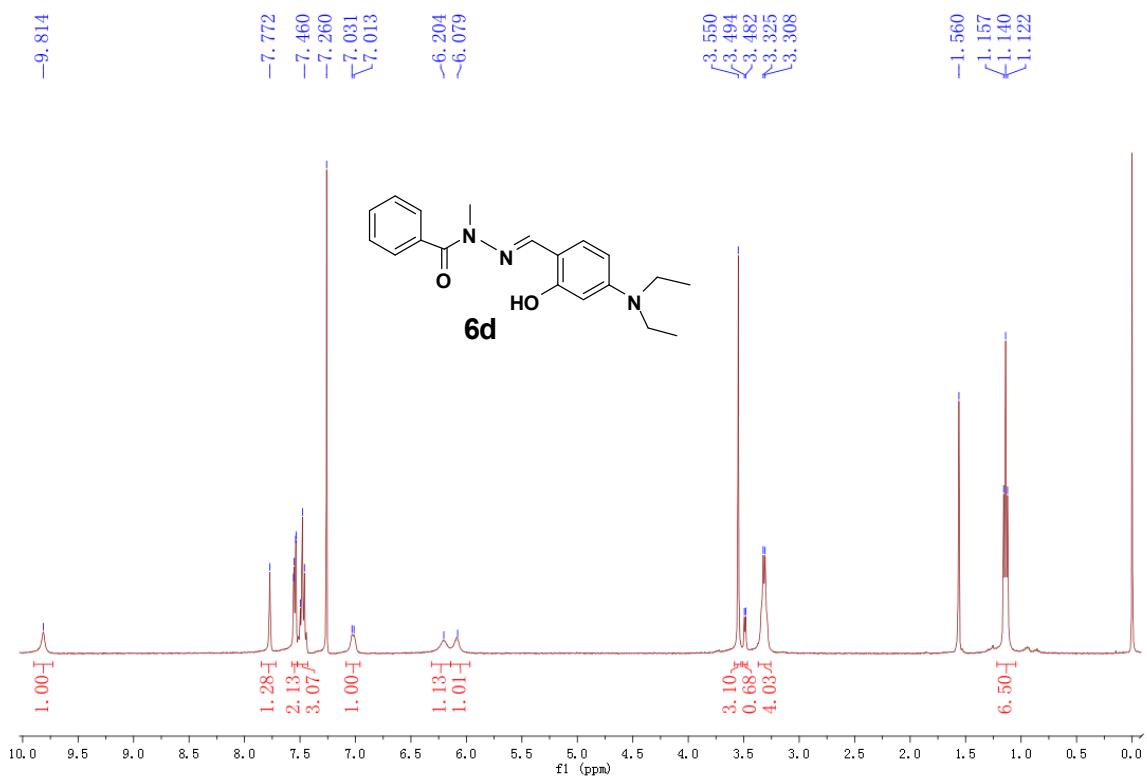
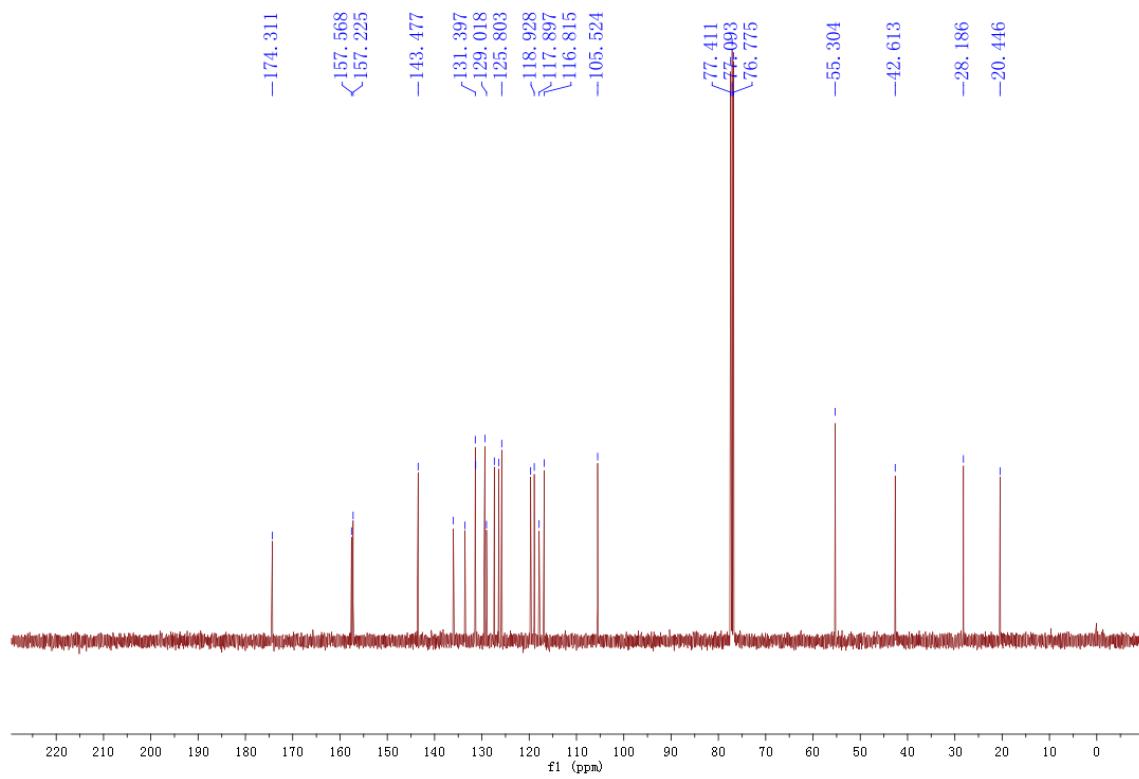
The title compound was obtained in 94.7% yield, 1.24 g, as a colorless solid with mp 218–220 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.58 (s, 1*H*), 11.56 (s, 1*H*), 10.10 (s, 1*H*), 8.39 (s, 1*H*), 7.79 (d, 2*H*, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1*H*, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.86 (d, 1*H*, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.25 (d, 1*H*, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.12 (s, 1*H*), 3.35 (q, 4*H*, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.10(*t*, 6*H*, *J* = 6.8 Hz).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  162.4, 161.0, 160.1, 150.4, 149.7, 132.0, 129.9, 124.1, 115.5, 107.0, 104.0, 98.0, 44.2, 13.0. IR (KBr) 3390(s), 3222(m), 3083(m), 2974(m), 1634(vs), 1594(vs), 1512(s). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ : C, 66.04; H, 6.47; N, 12.84. Found: C, 66.18; H, 6.66; N, 12.75.

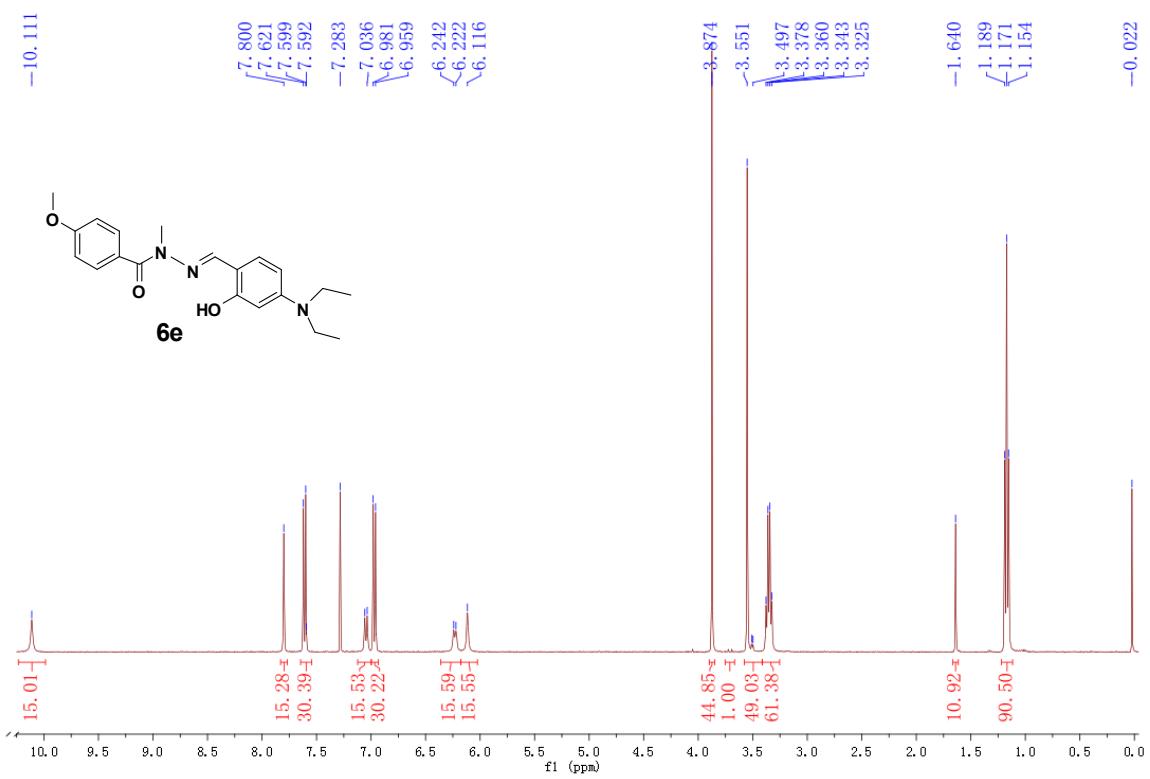
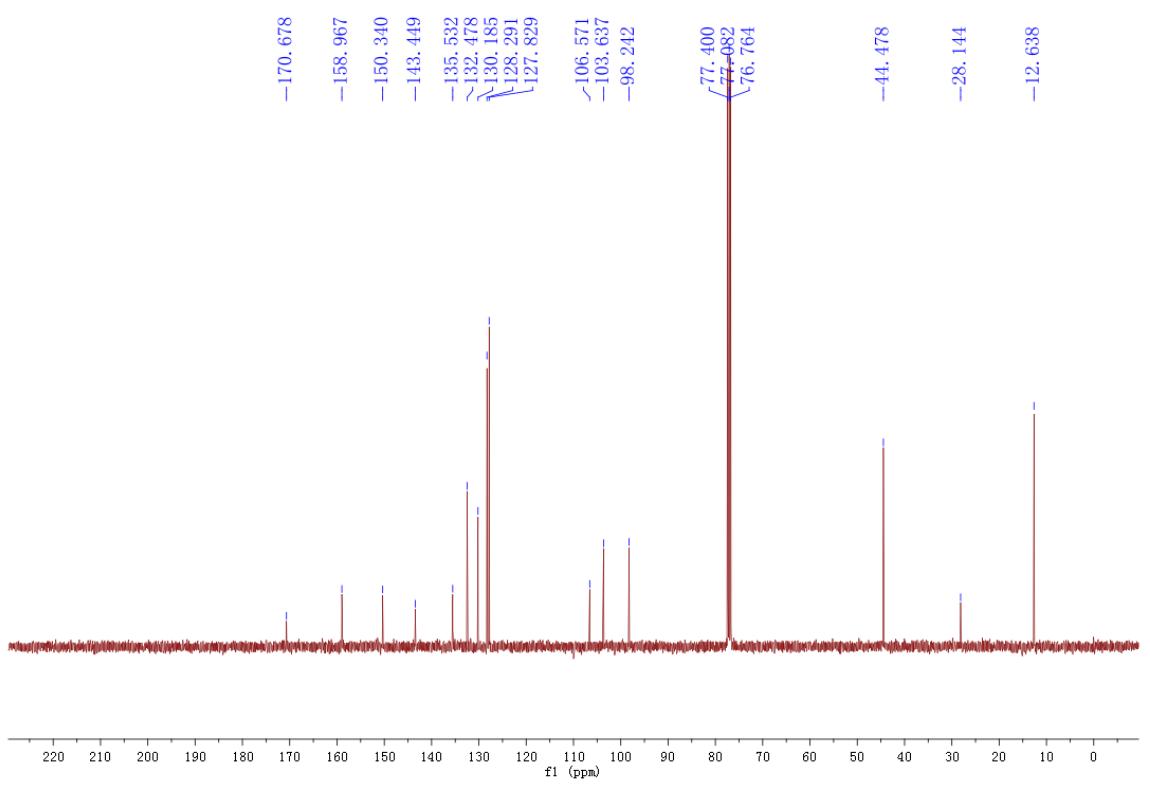
**2.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra **6a-6g****

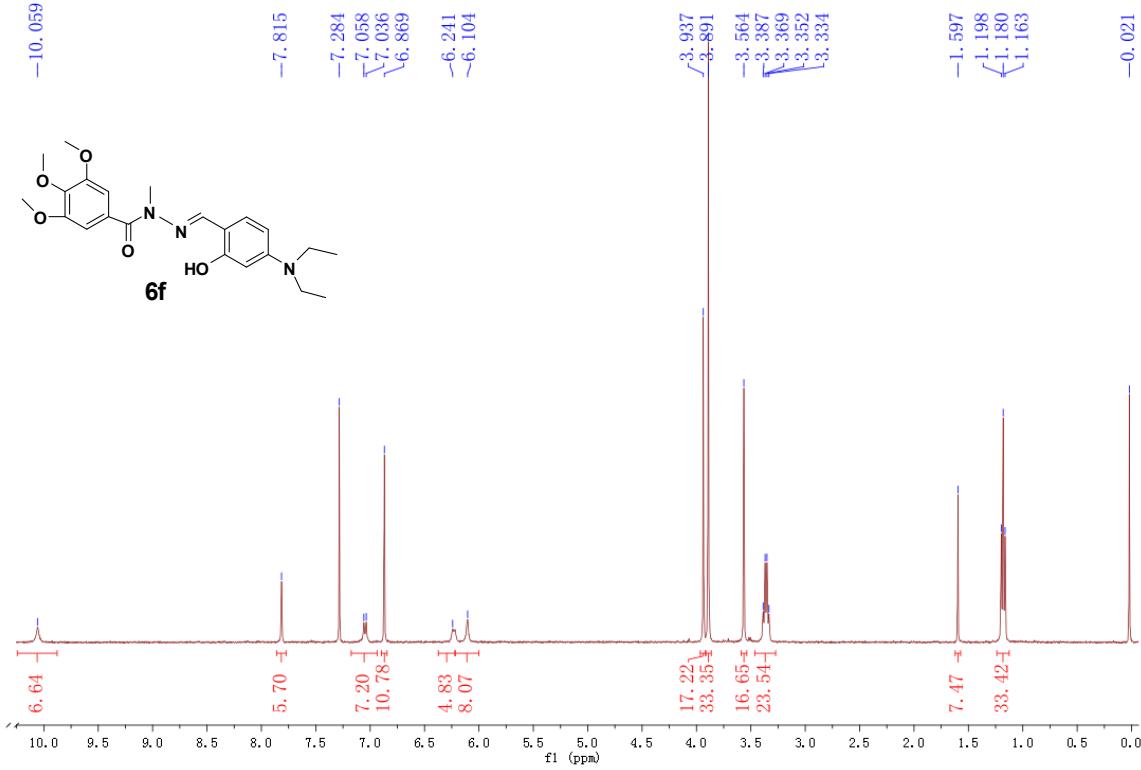
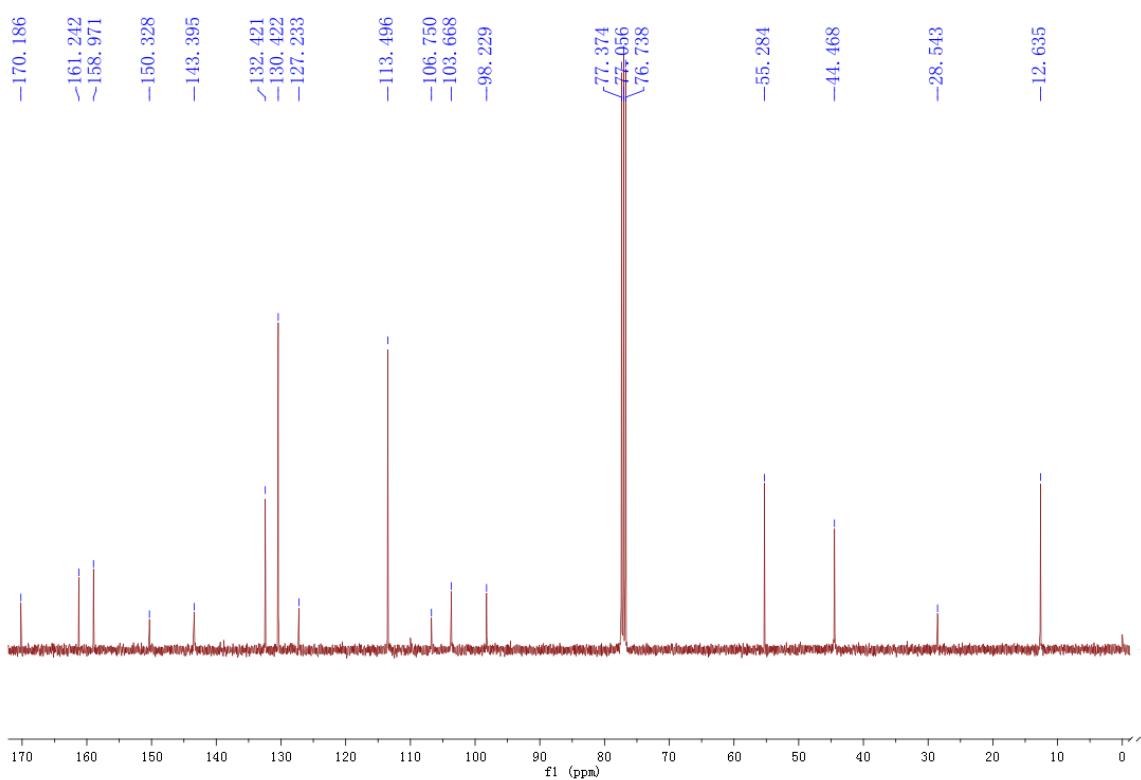


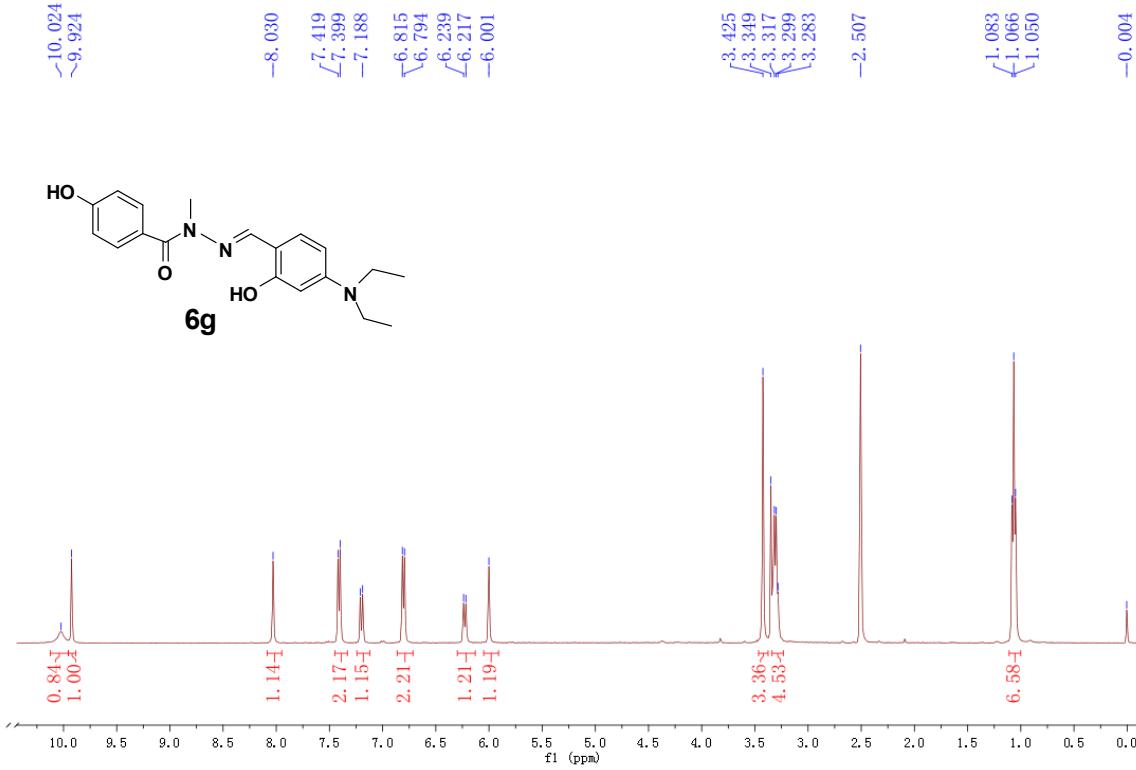
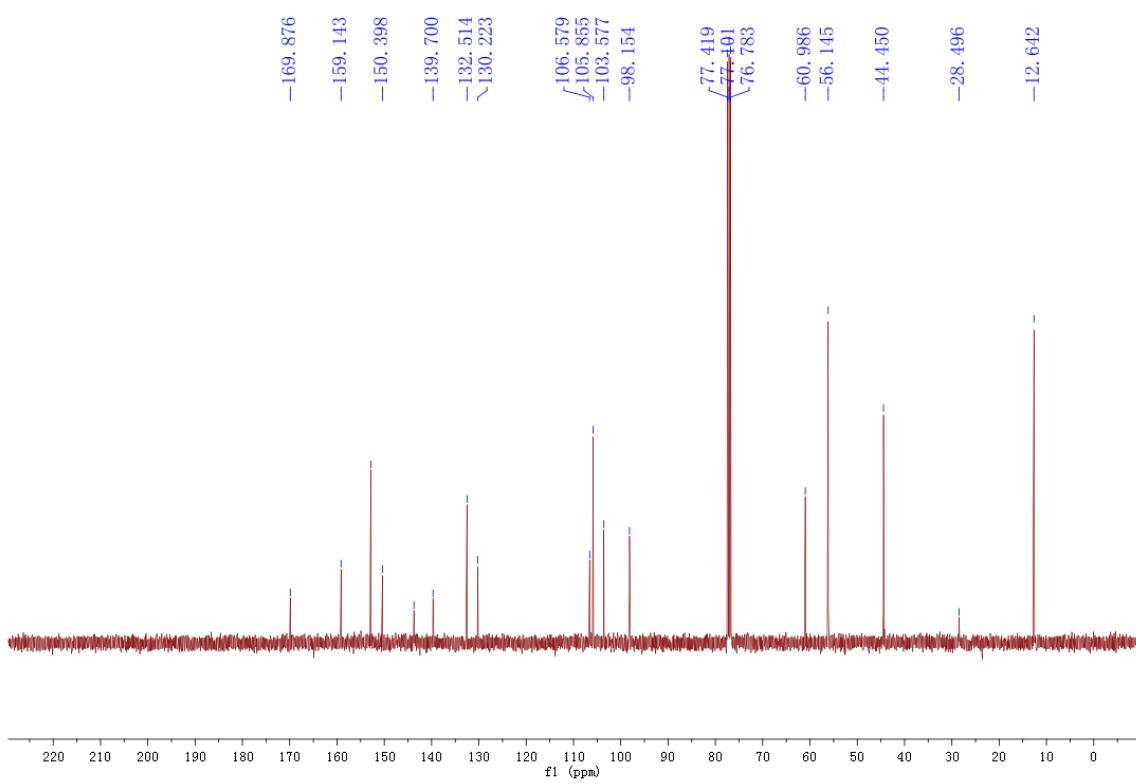


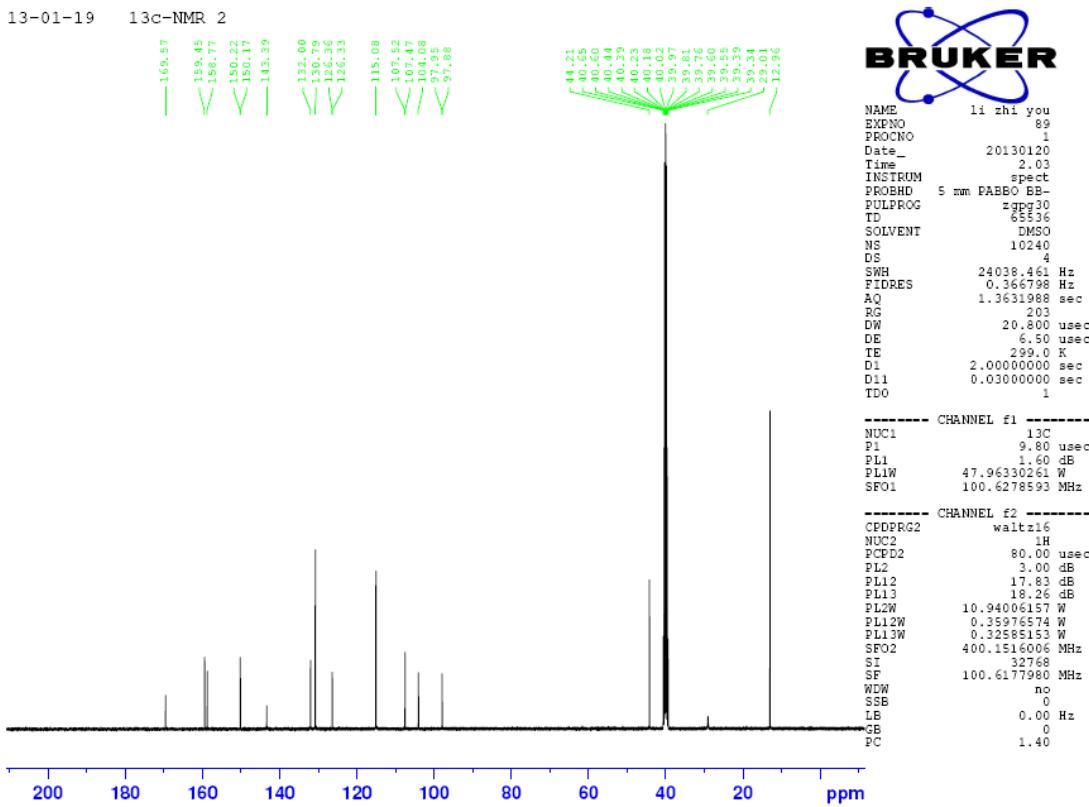






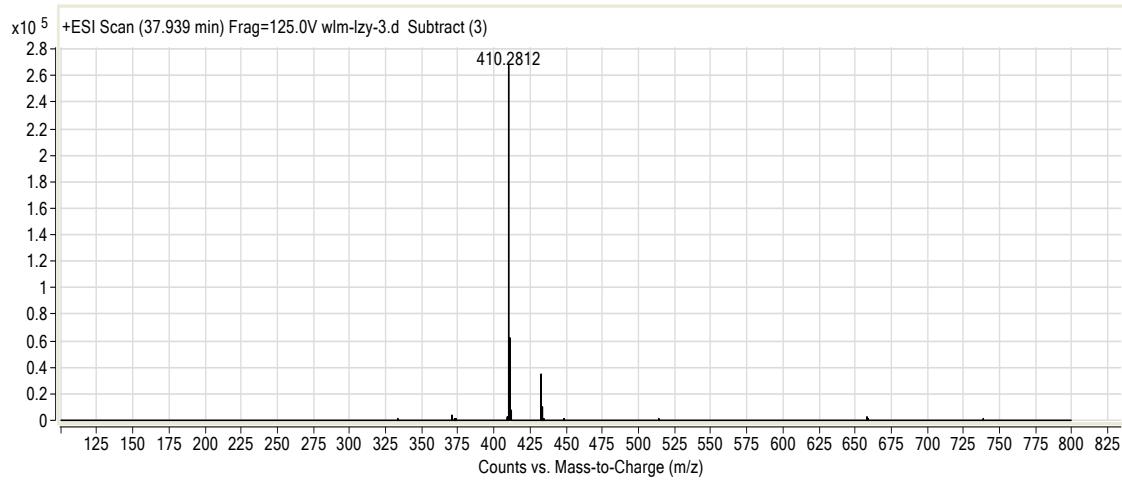




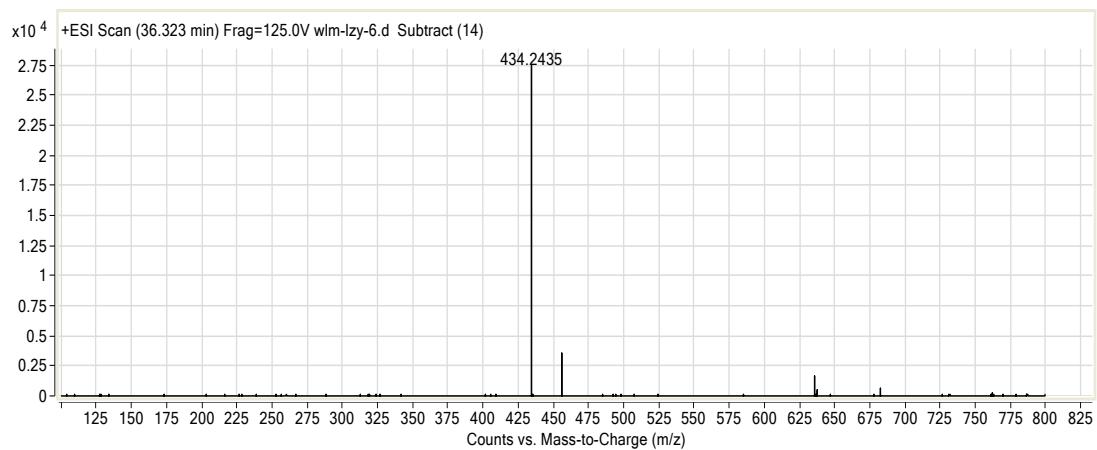


### 3. HRMS spectra of 6a-6g

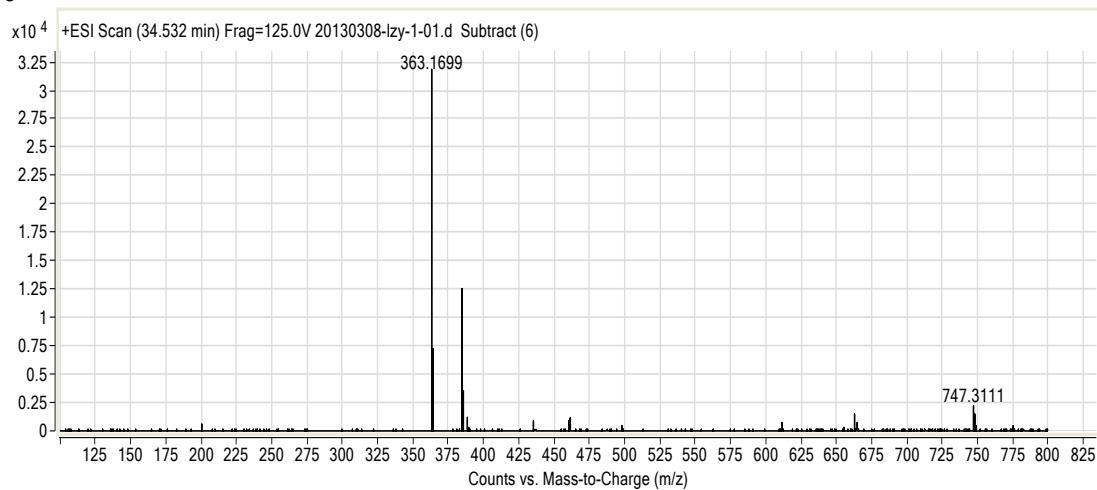
**6a**



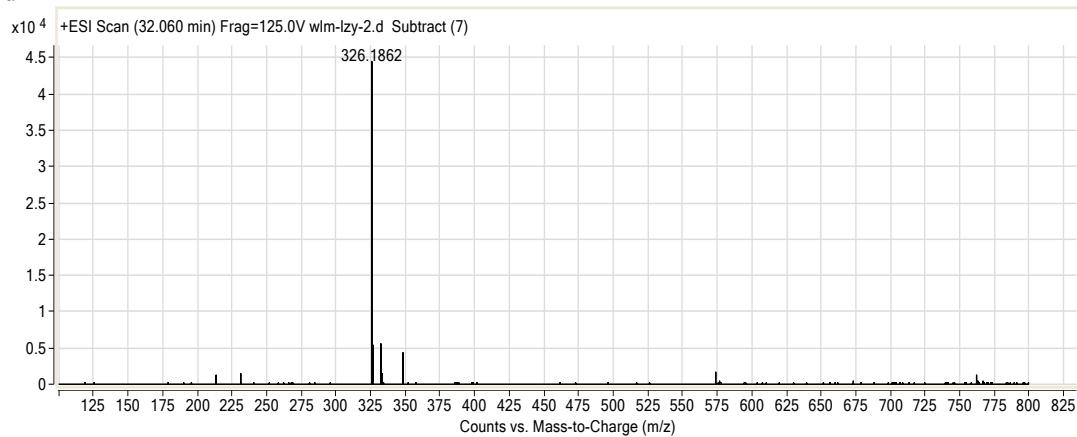
**6b**



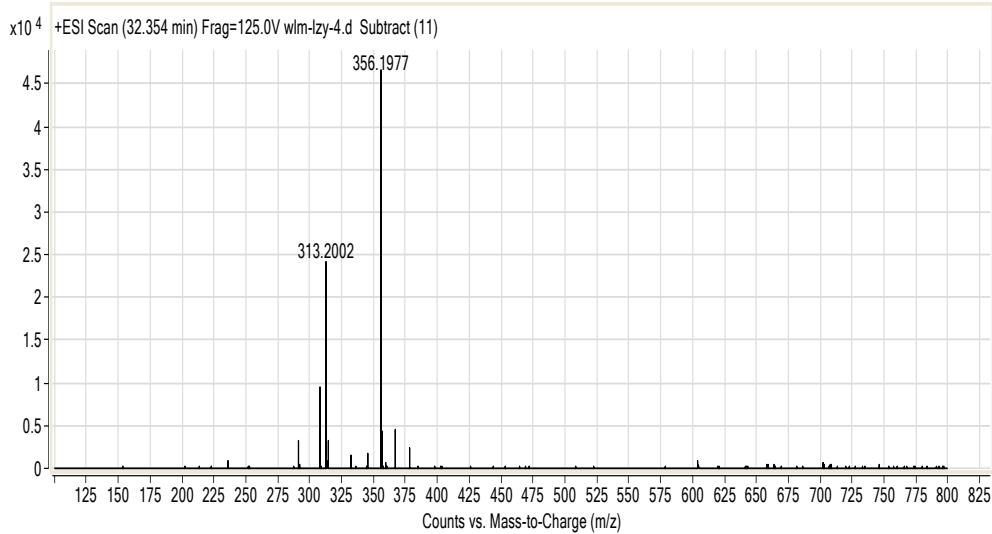
6c



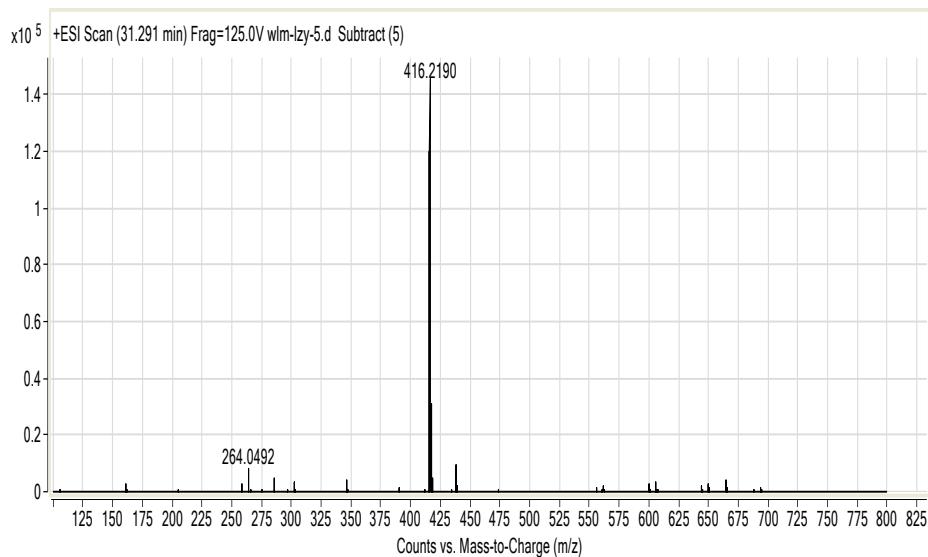
6d



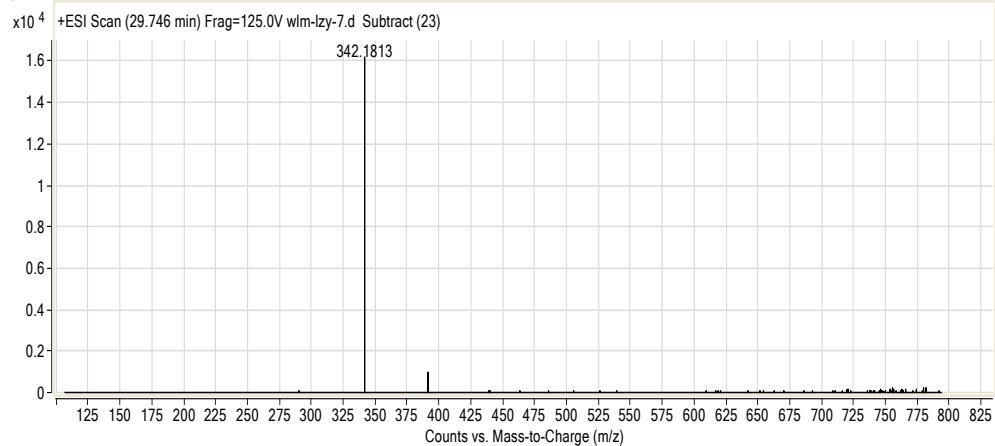
6e



**6f**



**6g**



#### **4. The elemental analyses and IR spectra of metal complexes of **5a-5g****

Ferric (III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-2-[4-(2-methylpropyl) phenyl] propane-hydrazide (**5a**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3452(m), 2952(m), 1614(vs), 1533(m), 1497(vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>49</sub>H<sub>68</sub>ClFeN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 64.50; H, 7.51; N, 9.21. Found: C, 64.32; H, 7.43; N, 9.37.

Zinc (II) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-2-[4-(2-methylpropyl) phenyl] propane-hydrazide (**5a'**), yellow solid, IR (KBr) 3450(w), 2948(m), 1613(vs), 1530(m), 1498(vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>64</sub>ZnN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 67.47; H, 7.55; N, 9.84. Found: C, 67.40; H, 7.58; N, 9.91.

Ferric (III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(6-methoxynaphthyl) propane- hydrazide (**5b**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3445(w), 3187(w), 2973(m), 1600(vs), 1514(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>60</sub>ClFeN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 63.78; H, 6.30; N, 8.75. Found: C, 63.87; H, 6.14; N, 8.87.

Ferric (III) complex of N'-(2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-2-(6-methoxynaphthyl) propane-hydrazide (**5c**), black solid, IR (KBr): 3444(w), 2973(w), 1606(vs); 1540(m). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>42</sub> Cl Fe N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: C, 63.13; H, 5.17; N, 6.85. Found: C, 62.97; H, 5.32; N, 6.78.

Ferric(III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-benzohydrazide (**5d**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3423(w), 3216(w), 3090(w), 2975(w), 1595(vs), 1566(s), 1513(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>46</sub> Cl Fe N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 58.31; H, 6.08; N, 11.03. Found: C, 58.08; H, 6.21; N, 11.15.

Ferric(III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene) -4-methoxybenzohydrazide (**5e**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3447(w), 2970(w), 1596(vs), 1508(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>48</sub> Cl Fe N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: C, 56.48; H, 5.99; N, 10.40. Found: C, 56.36; H, 6.09; N, 10.56.

Ferric(III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene) -3,4,5-trimethoxy benzohydrazide (**5f**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3447(w), 3248(w), 2972(w), 1594(vs), 1568(s), 1509(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>56</sub> Cl Fe N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>12</sub>: C, 54.35; H, 6.08; N, 9.05. Found: C, 54.22; H, 6.21; N, 8.87.

Ferric(III) complex of N'-(4-diethylamino-2-Hydroxybenzylidene)-4-Hydroxybenzohydrazide (**5g**), black solid, IR (KBr) 3427(w), 3263(w), 2975(w), 1601(vs), 1511(s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>46</sub> Cl Fe N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: C, 55.96; H, 5.84; N, 10.58. Found: C, 55.85; H, 5.93; N, 10.64.