

**A highly efficient and recyclable ligand-free protocol for  
Suzuki coupling reaction of potassium trifluoroborates in  
water**

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**Supporting Information**

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## General

All reactions were carried out in air without any protection of inert gases. Potassium aryltrifluoroborates used were prepared by corresponding arylboronic acids following the method reported in literature.<sup>1</sup> Other starting materials were purchased from common commercial sources and used without further purification. All products were isolated by chromatography on a silica gel (300-400 mesh) using petroleum ether (60 °C-90 °C) and ethyl acetate.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 300MHz or 400 MHz spectrometer using TMS as internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta$  7.26 ppm,  $d\text{-DMSO}$ :  $\delta$  2.50 ppm). Datas were reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. Mass spectroscopy data were collected on Shimadzu GCMS-QP 2010 instrument.

## Typical Procedure for the Product

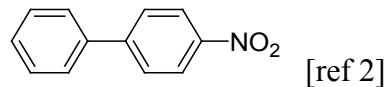
### General procedure for the Suzuki coupling of aryl and heteroaryl halides with potassium aryltrifluoroborates

A 25 mL round-bottom flask was charged with aryl or heteroaryl halides (0.5 mmol),  $\text{ArBF}_3\text{K}$  (0.60 mmol), base (1 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (1 mol%), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{PEG}$  (3: 3 g) and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for indicated time in air. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and extracted by diethyl ether (4×10 mL). The combined organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. And the residue was isolated by chromatography on a silica gel (300-400 mesh) column using petroleum and ethyl acetate to afford corresponding biaryl product.

## **General Procedure for the Reusability of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O/PEG in the Suzuki Coupling Reaction of 1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene with PhBF<sub>3</sub>K**

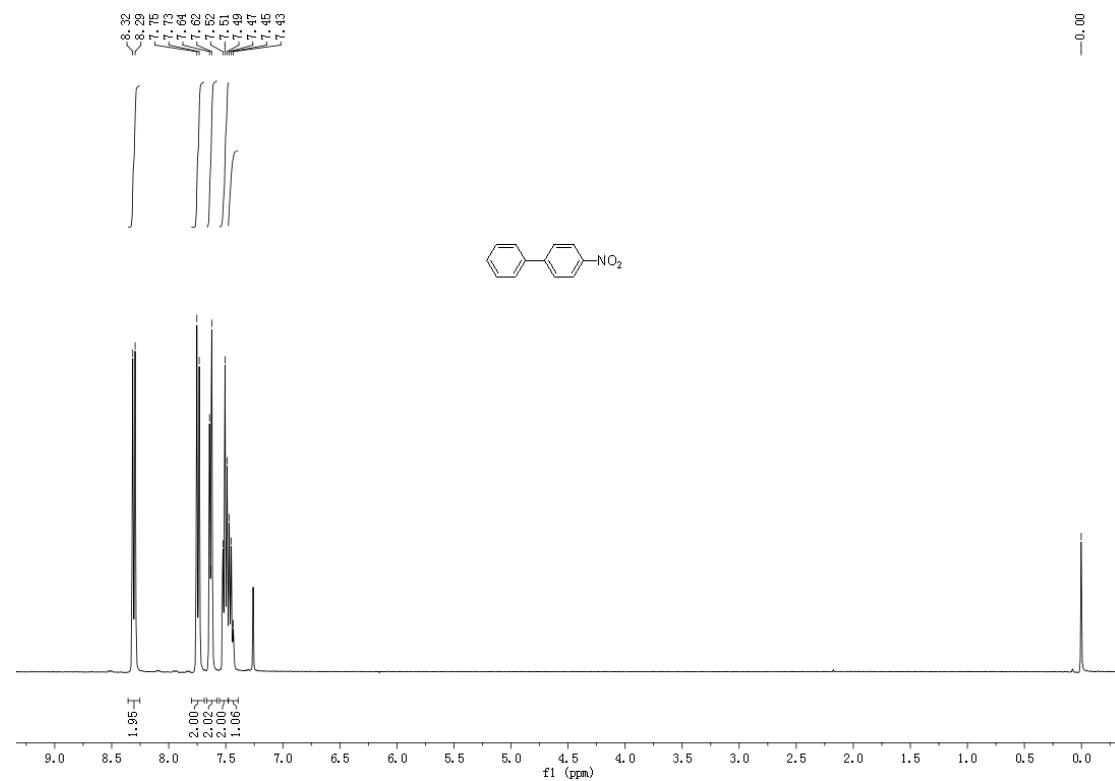
A 25 mL round-bottom flask was charged with 1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene (0.5 mmol), PhBF<sub>3</sub>K (0.60 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%), and H<sub>2</sub>O/PEG (3: 3 g) and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and extracted by diethyl ether (4×10 mL). The residue (Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-PEG) was subjected to the next run of the Suzuki reaction by charging with the same substrates (1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene (0.5 mmol), PhBF<sub>3</sub>K (0.60 mmol), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol)) under the same reaction conditions. Water (0.5 mL) was added to the catalytic system in the third, fifth and seventh run. The combined organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was isolated by chromatography on a silica gel (300-400 mesh) column using petroleum and ethyl acetate to afford the product.

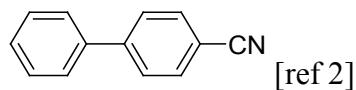
## Characterization Data of the Products



### (4-Nitro-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 92-93-3, T1)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 200 (10), 199 (71), 169 (28), 153 (29), 152 (100), 151 (29), 150 (9), 141 (19), 127 (10), 126 (9), 115 (12), 77 (9), 76 (14), 75 (7), 63 (7), 51 (7).

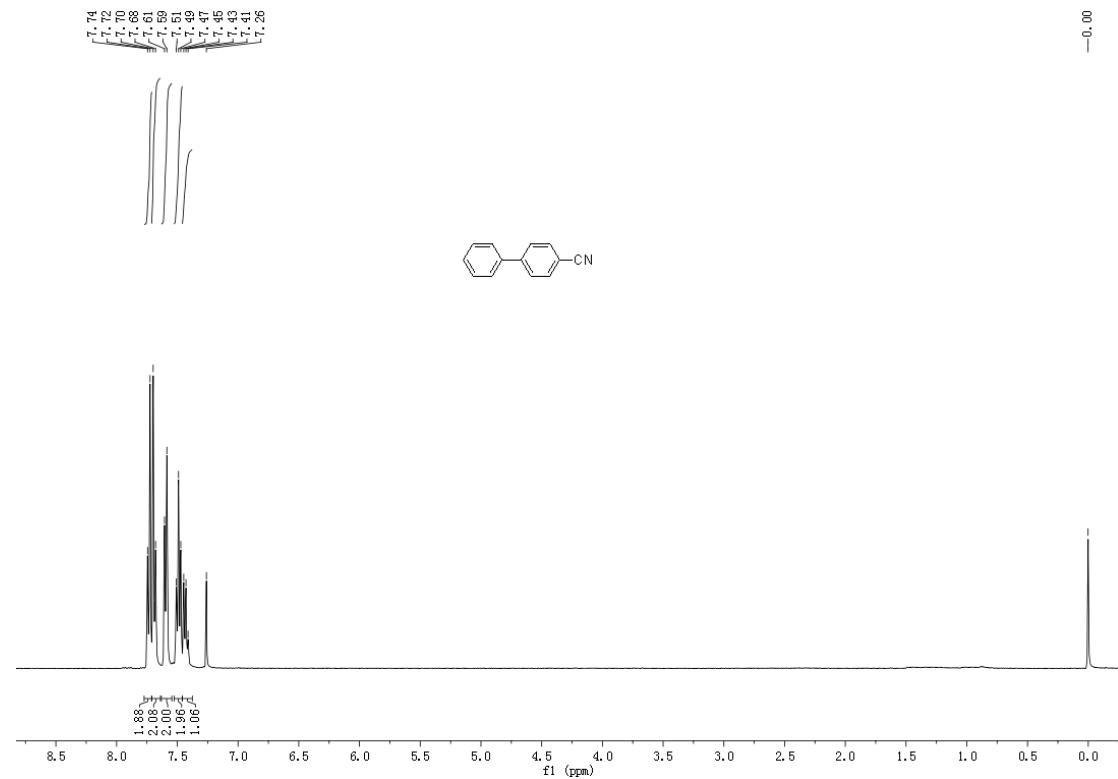


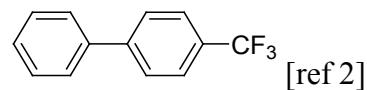


[ref 2]

**(1, 1'-Biphenyl-4-carbonitrile, CAS: 2920-38-9, T2-2)**

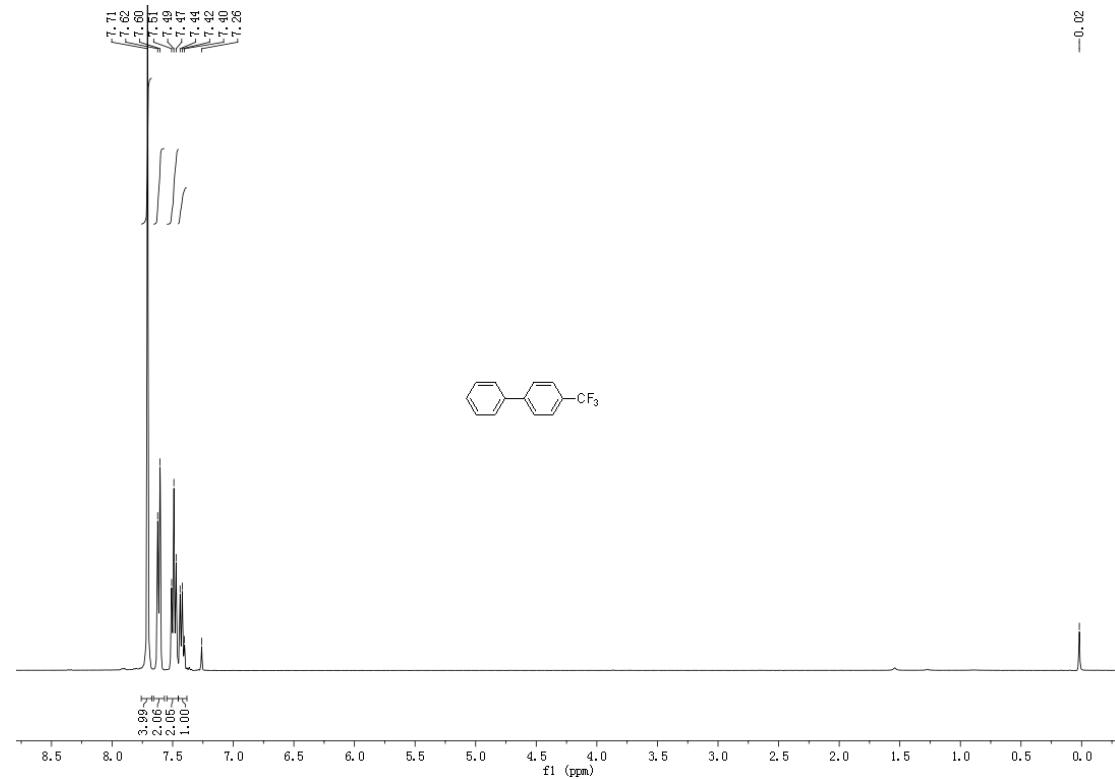
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.73 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.39 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 180 (15), 179 (100), 178 (24), 152 (9), 151 (20), 150 (5), 89 (10), 76 (38).

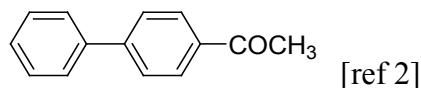




**(4-Trifluoromethyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 398-36-7, T2-3)**

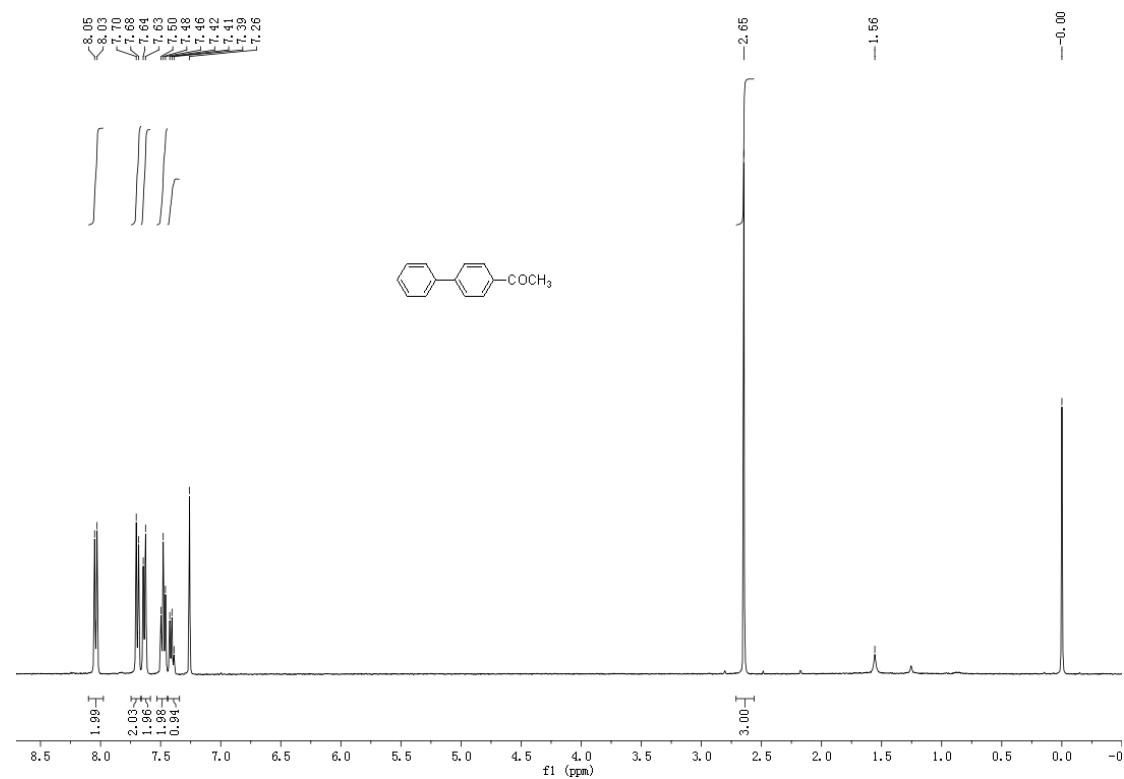
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71 (s, 4H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 223 (15), 222 (100), 201 (7), 153 (24), 152 (29), 151 (10), 86 (7).

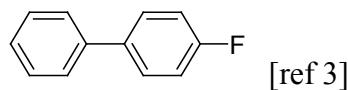




**(1-[1, 1'-biphenyl]-4-yl-ethanone, CAS: 92-91-1, T2-4)**

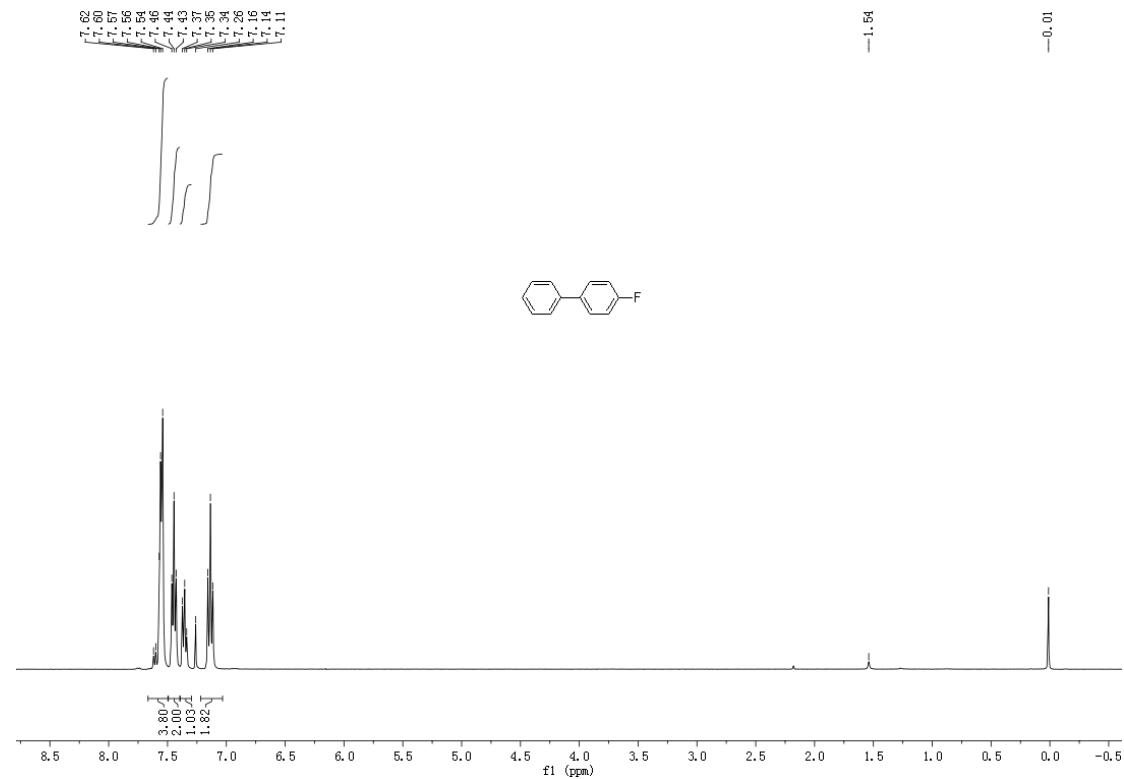
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 197 (6), 196 (54), 182 (20), 181 (100), 154 (5), 153 (54), 152 (78), 151 (21), 128 (5), 127 (5), 91 (5), 84 (5), 77 (7), 76 (24), 75 (5), 63 (5), 39 (6).

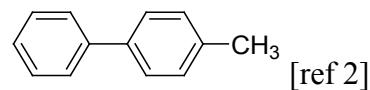




**(4-Fluoro-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 324-74-3, T2-5)**

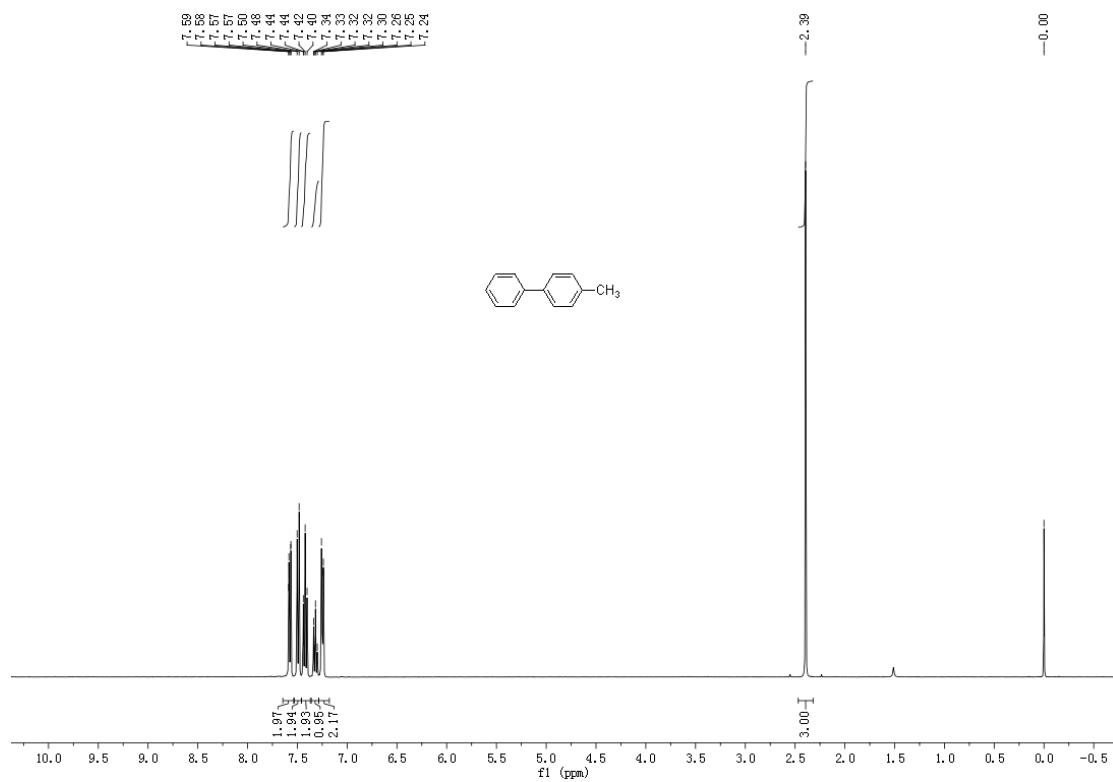
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.67-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 173 (12), 172 (100), 171 (37), 170 (24), 154 (5), 152 (5), 146 (5), 87 (7), 86 (12), 76 (5).

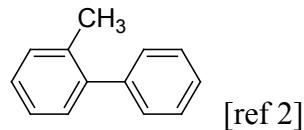




**(4-Methyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 644-08-6, T2-6)**

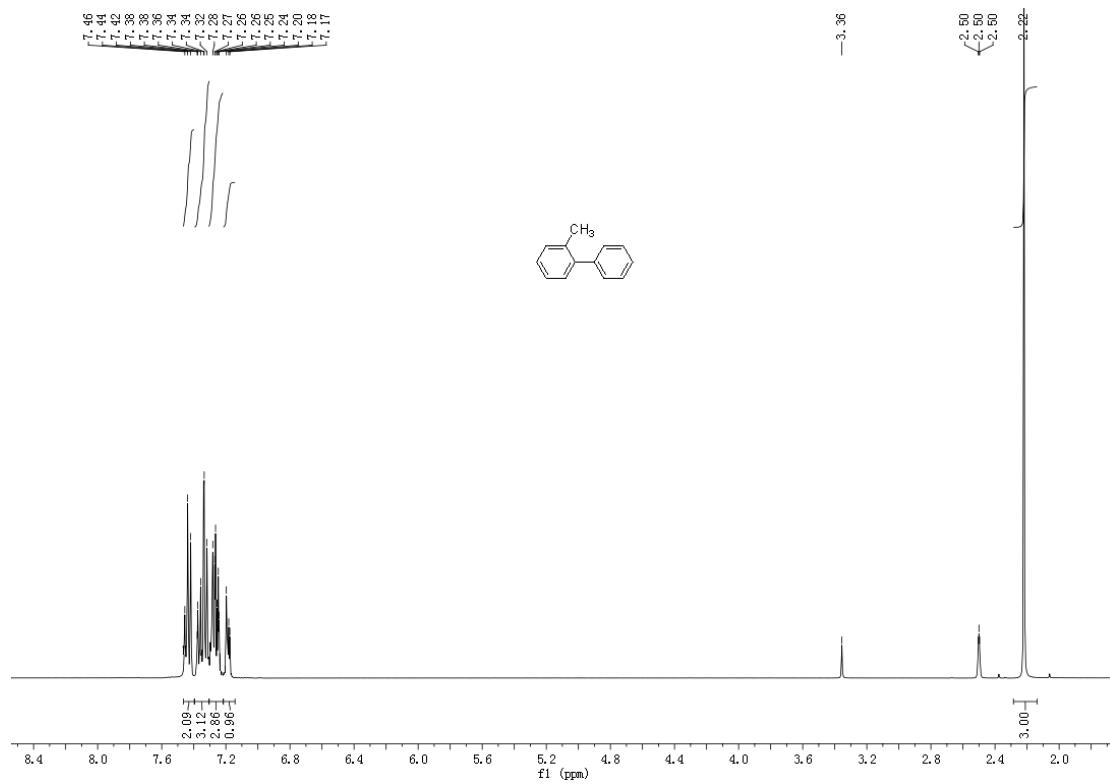
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.18 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 169 (12), 168 (100), 167 (51), 165 (15), 154 (7), 153 (24), 152 (24), 115 (7), 84 (7), 83 (10).

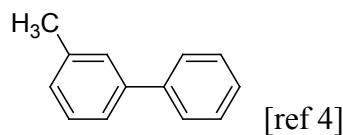




**(2-Methyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 643-58-3, T2-7)**

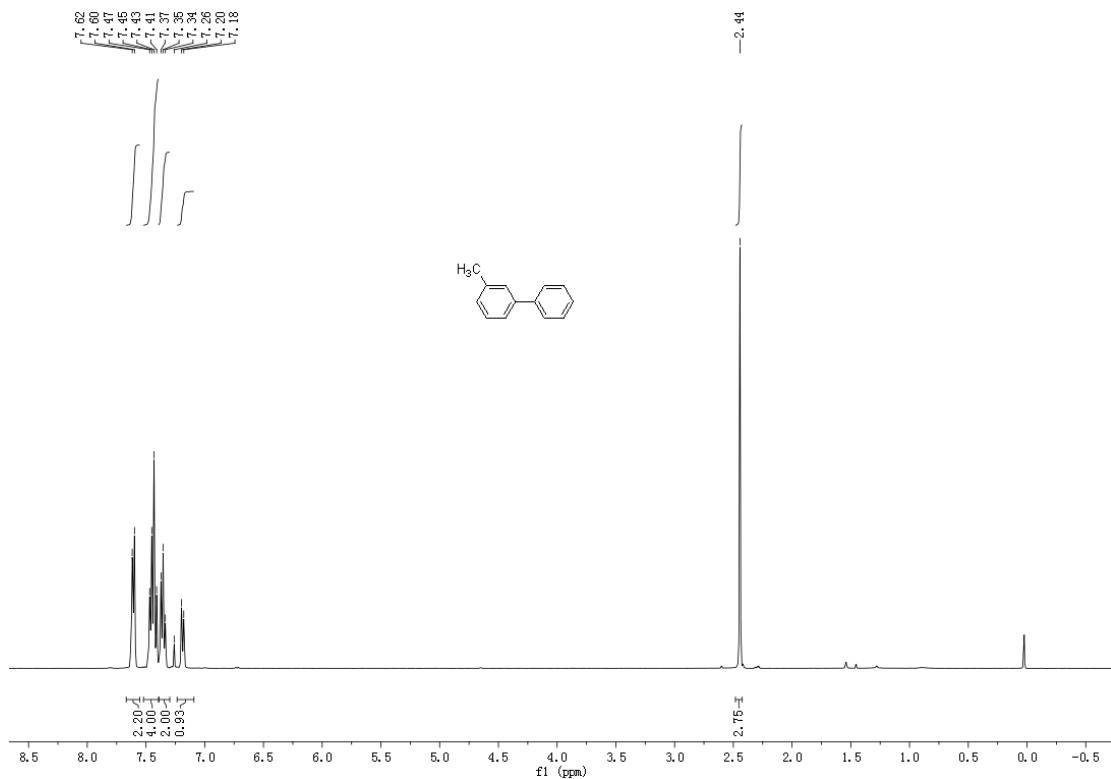
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.44 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.14 (m, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 168 (100), 153 (48), 128 (5), 115 (9), 83 (17), 76 (6).

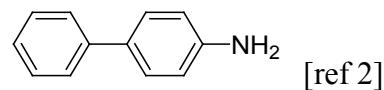




**(3-Methyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 643-93-6, T2-8)**

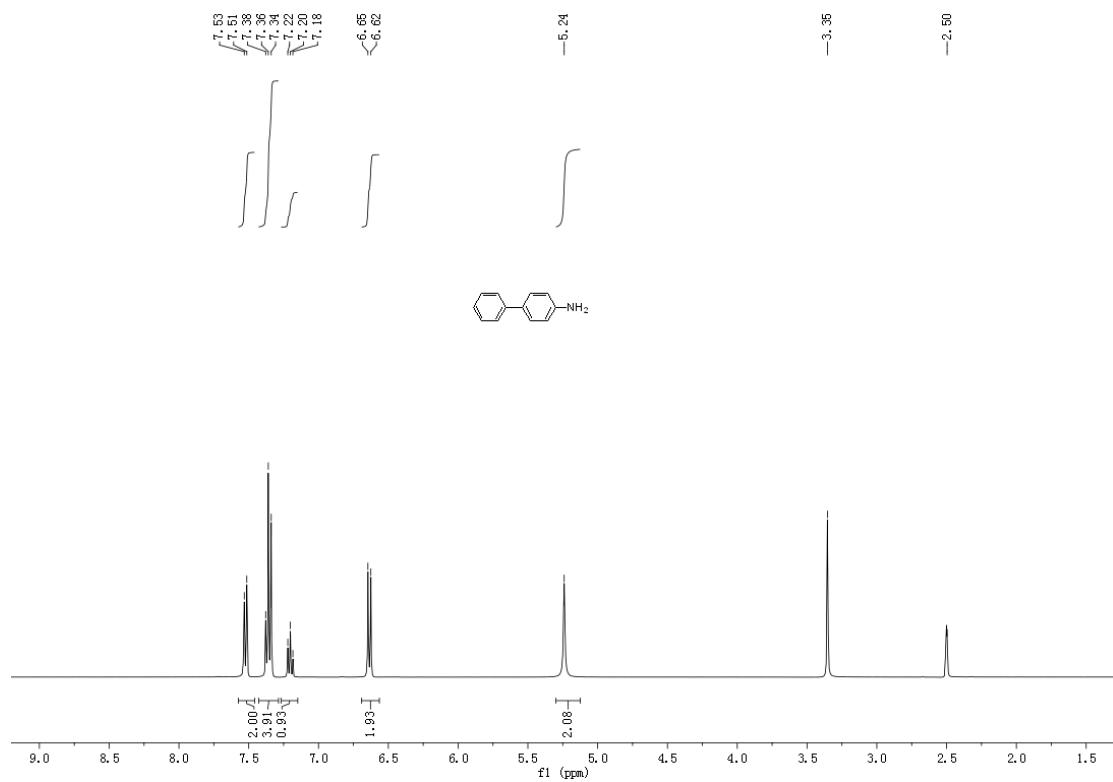
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 168 (100), 152 (25), 115 (5), 83 (10), 63 (7), 51 (5).

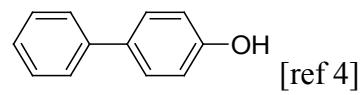




**(1, 1'-Biphenyl-4-amine, CAS: 92-67-1, T2-9)**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H). MS (EI): m/e 169 (100), 139 (10), 115 (9), 83 (10). MS (ESI): m/e 169 (100), 139 (10), 115 (9), 83 (10).

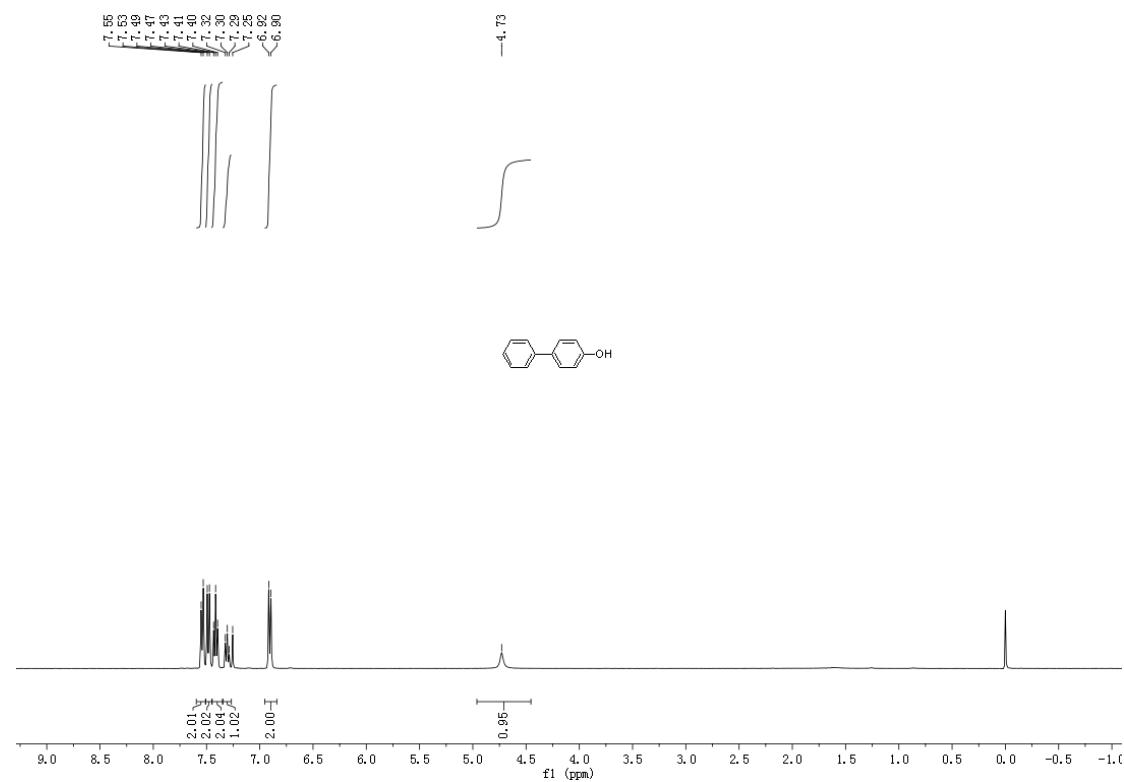


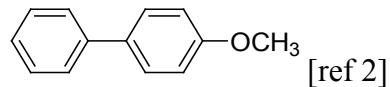


[ref 4]

**(1, 1'-Biphenyl-4-ol, CAS: 92-69-3, T2-10)**

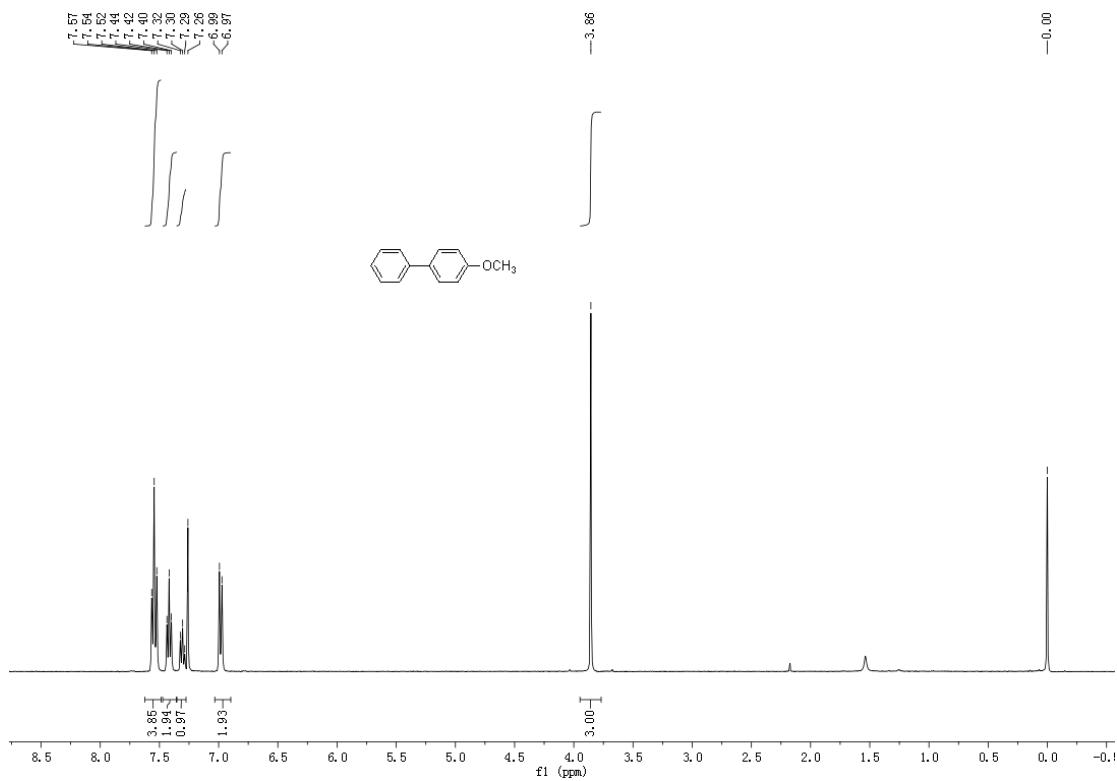
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 4.73 (s, 1H). MS (EI): m/e 170 (100), 169 (90), 141 (33), 115 (24), 83 (9.8), 51 (5), 39 (5).

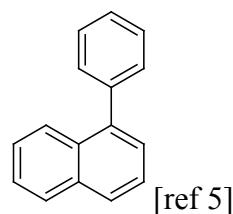




**(4-Methoxy-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 613-37-6, T2-11)**

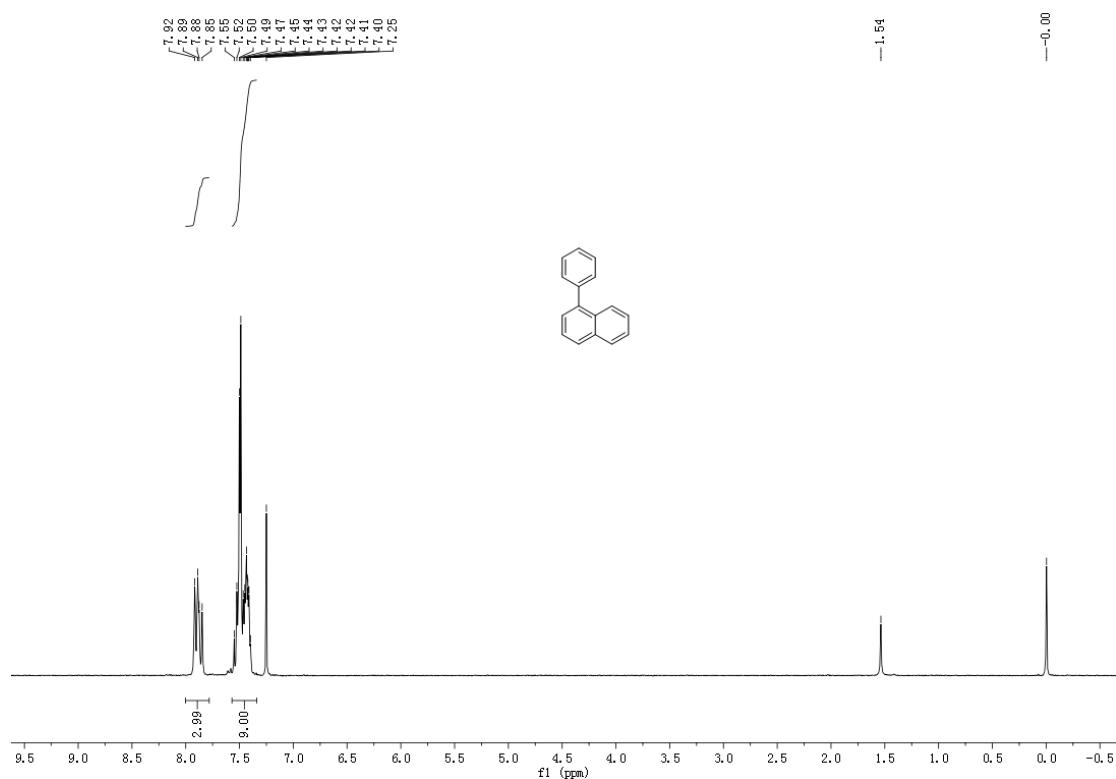
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 185 (14), 184 (100), 169 (57), 152 (7), 141 (71), 139 (15), 115 (45), 92 (7), 89 (5), 76 (9), 71 (5), 62 (7), 57 (7), 39 (5).

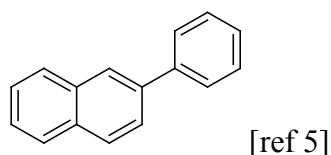




**(1-Phenyl-naphthalene, CAS: 605-02-7, T2-12)**

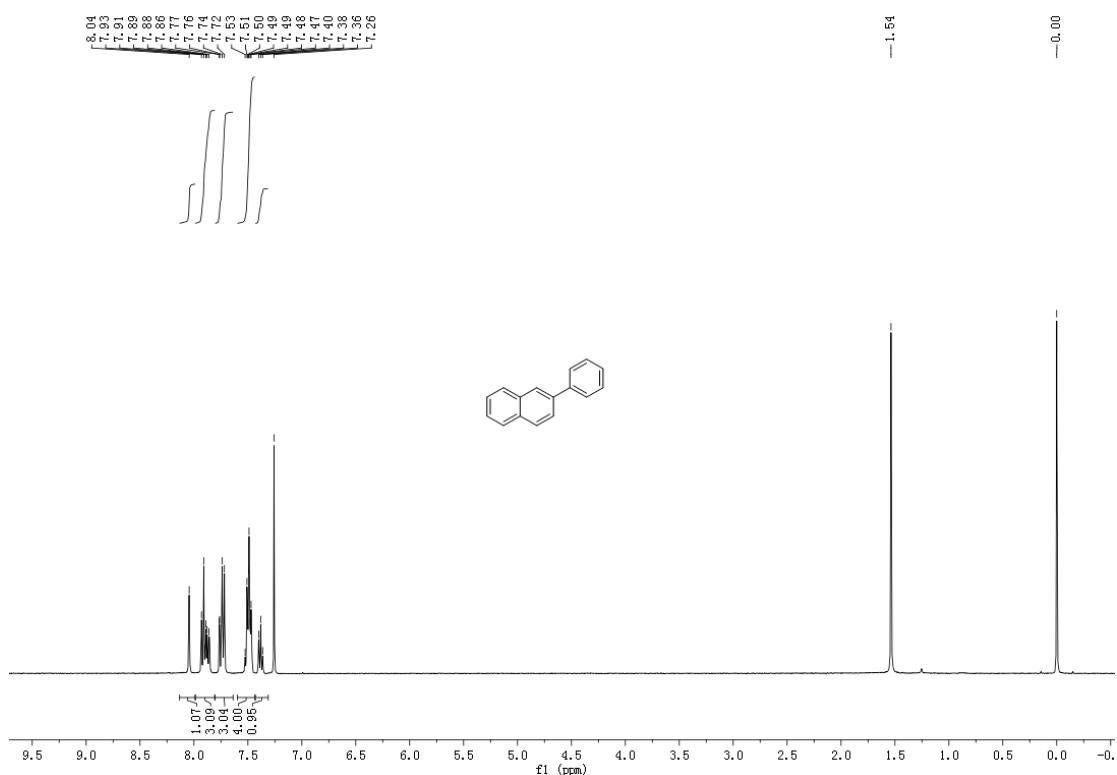
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (m, 3H), 7.57-7.34 (m, 9H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 204 (100), 101 (55), 88 (17), 76 (8).

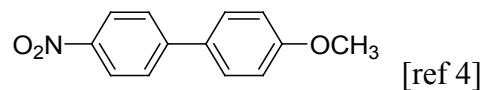




**(2-Phenyl-naphthalene, CAS: 612-94-2, T2-13)**

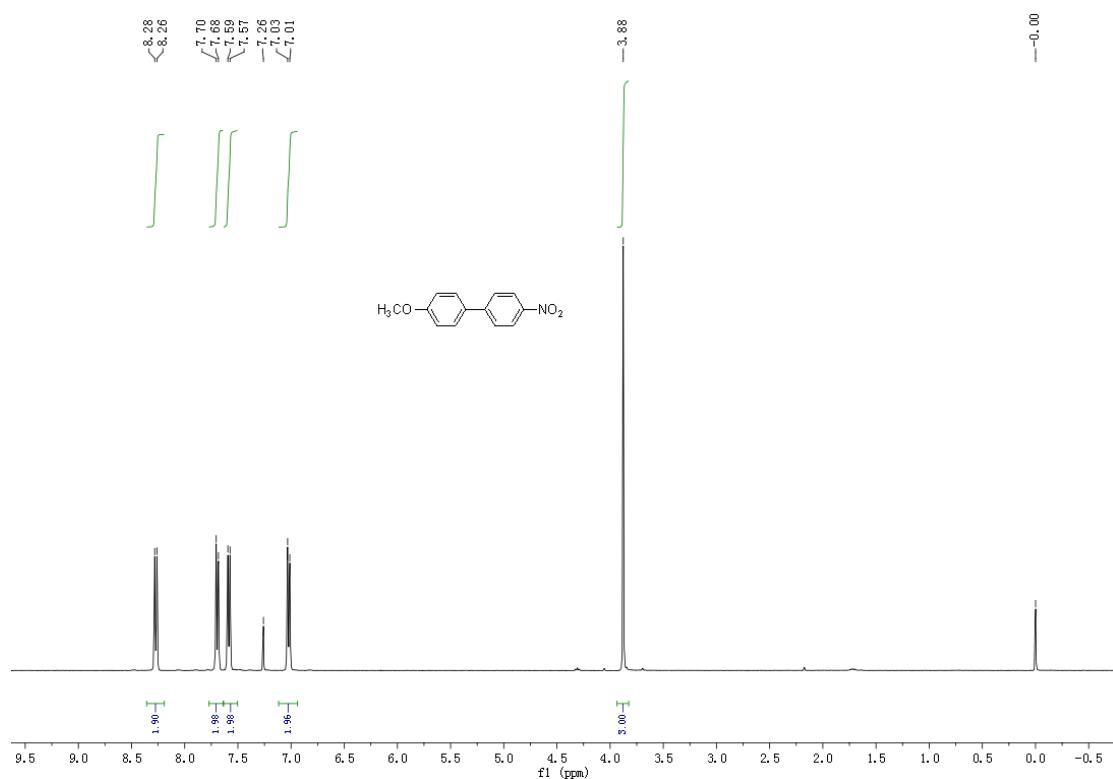
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.04 (s, 1H), 7.99-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.75 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 204 (100), 101 (30), 89 (11), 76 (8).

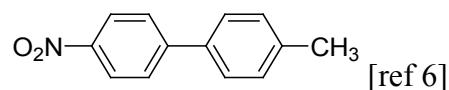




**(4'-Methoxy-4-nitro-biphenyl, CAS: 2143-90-0, T2-14)**

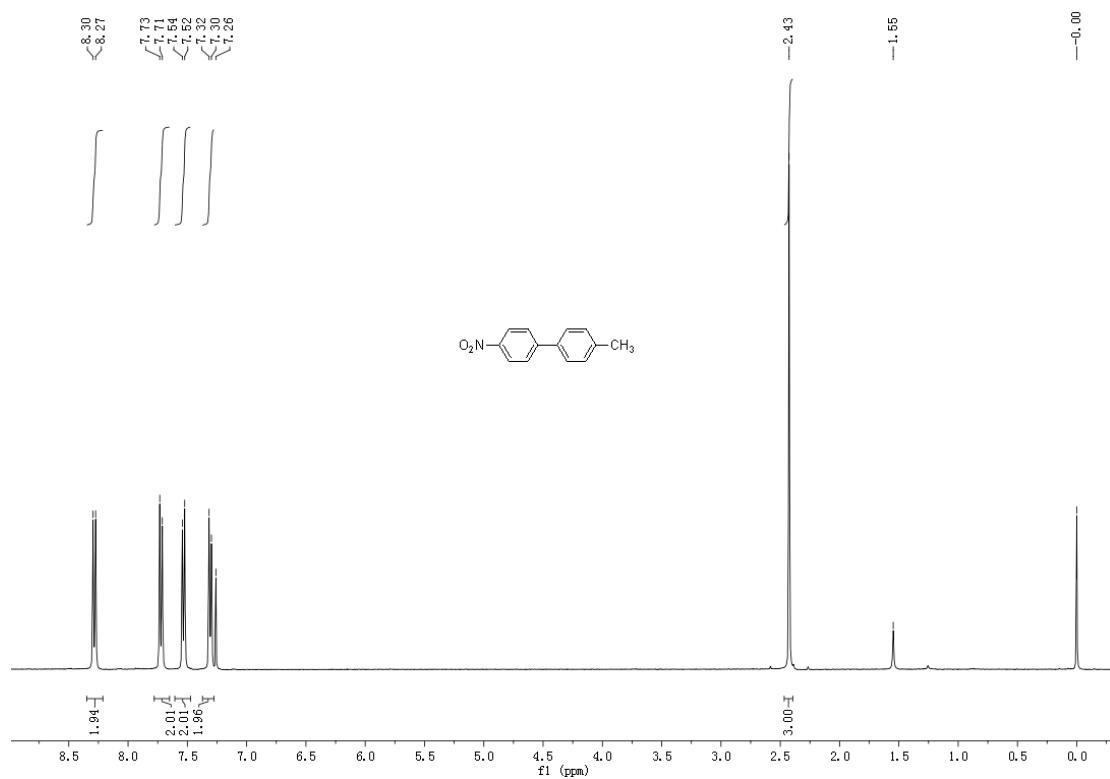
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 229 (100), 199 (20), 183 (12), 171 (10), 168 (24), 156 (7), 153 (20), 139 (49), 128 (10), 63 (7).

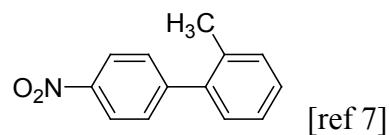




**(4'-Methyl-4-nitro-biphenyl, CAS: 2143-88-6, T2-15)**

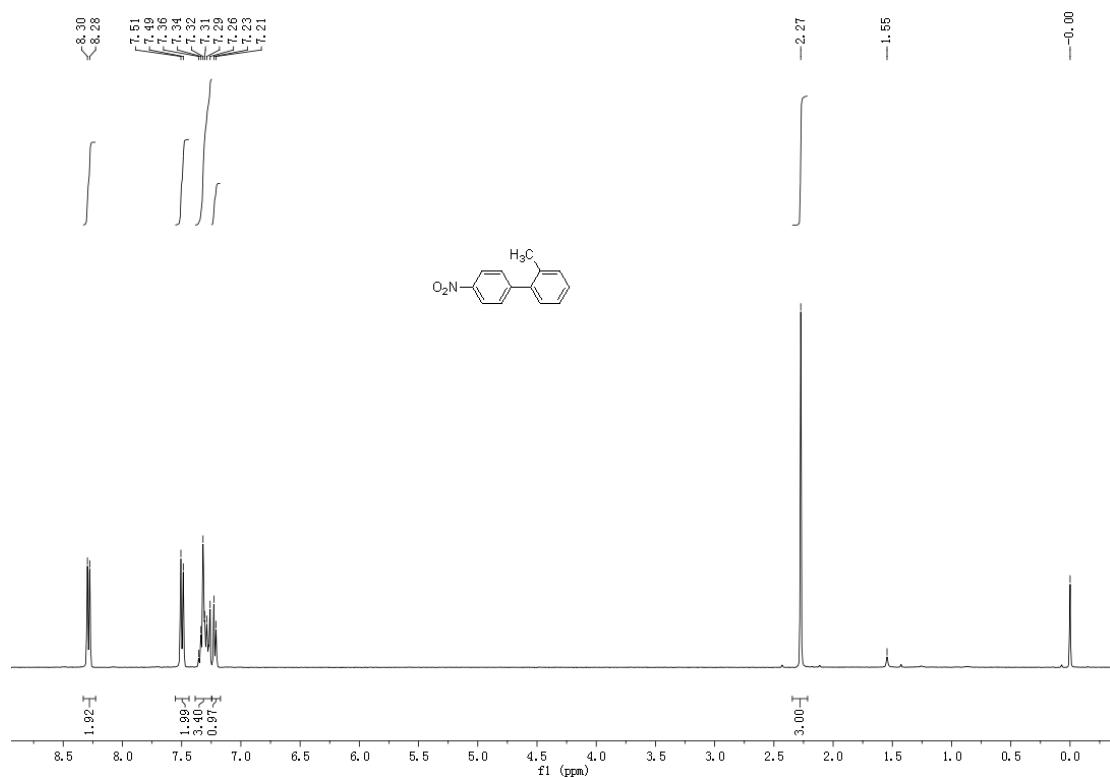
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.28 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 214 (15), 213 (100), 183 (27), 165 (46), 155 (27), 153 (15), 152 (83), 151 (13), 139 (10), 128 (7), 115 (15), 82 (7), 63 (5).

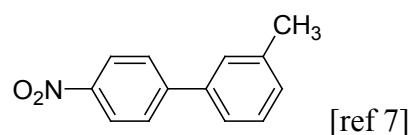




**(2'-Methyl-4-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl, CAS: 33350-73-1, T2-16)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.29 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 213 (100), 165 (88), 152 (78), 151 (12), 115 (27), 82 (15), 77 (5), 63 (11), 51 (7), 39 (7).

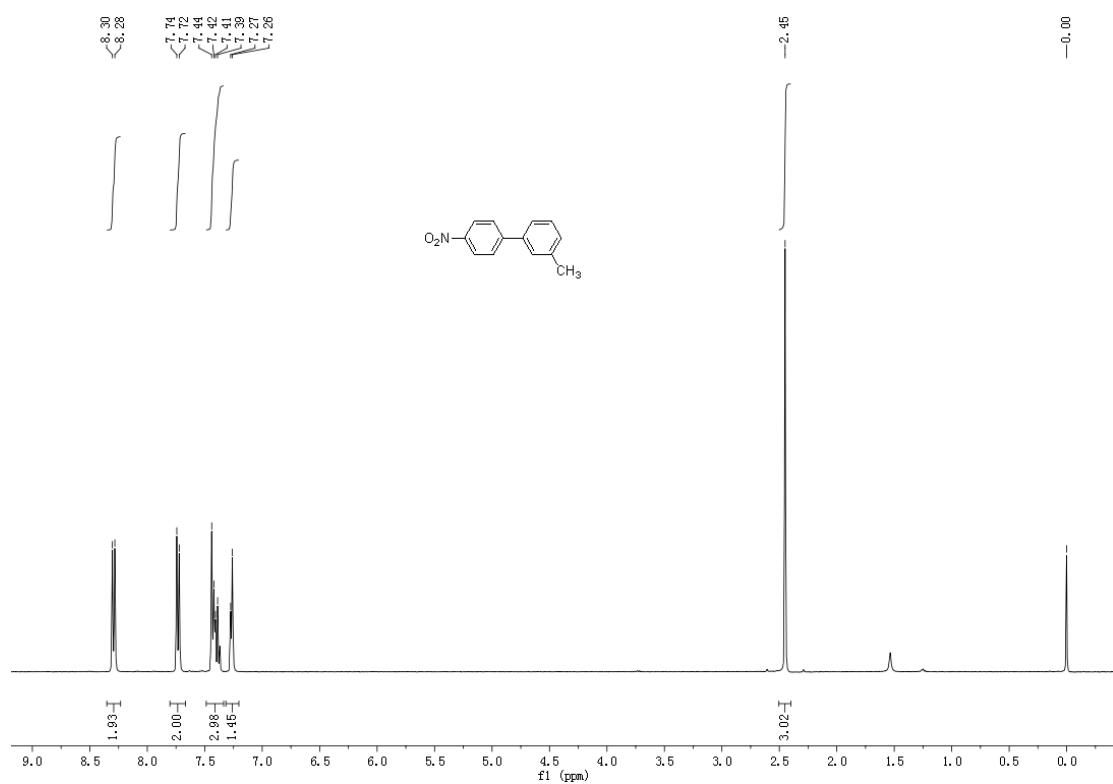


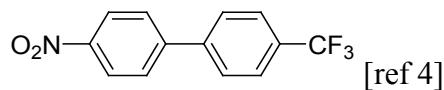


[ref 7]

**(3'-Methyl-4-nitro-1,1'-biphenyl, CAS: 952-21-6, T2-17)**

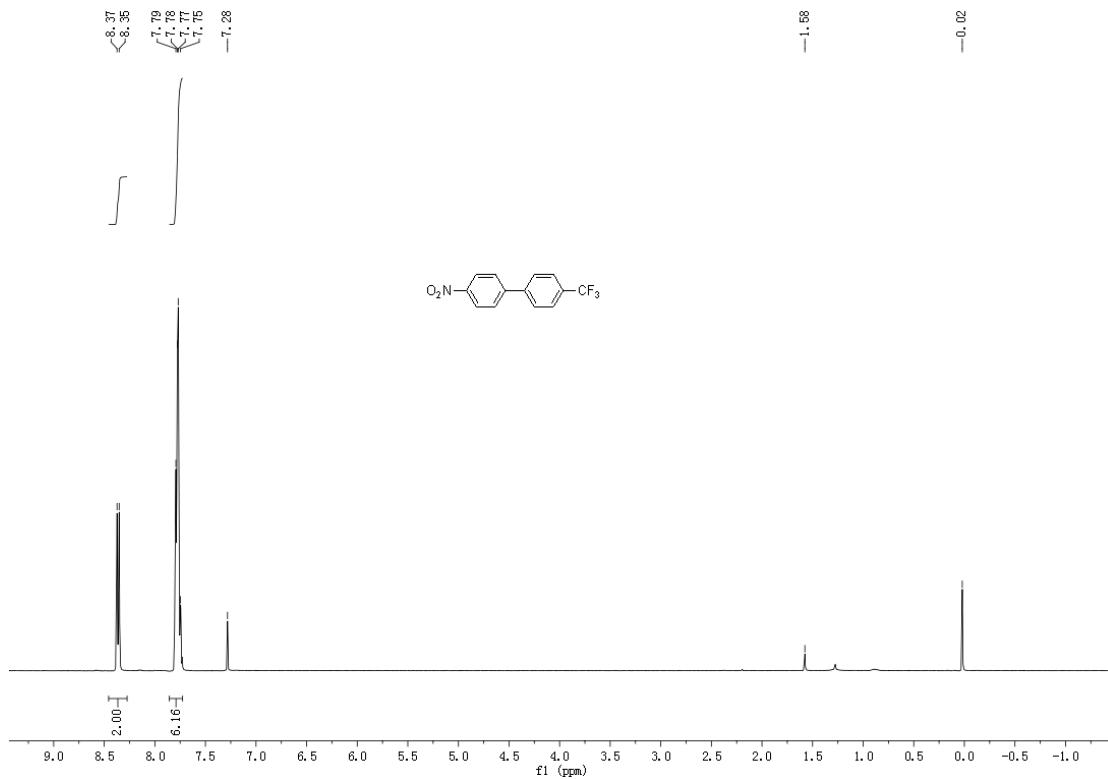
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.29 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.27 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 213 (88), 183 (29), 165 (53), 152 (100), 115 (20), 82 (12), 63 (10), 51 (7), 39 (7).

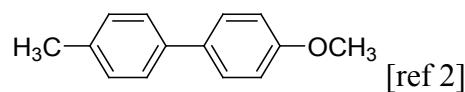




**(4-Nitro-4'-trifluoromethyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 80245-34-7, T2-18)**

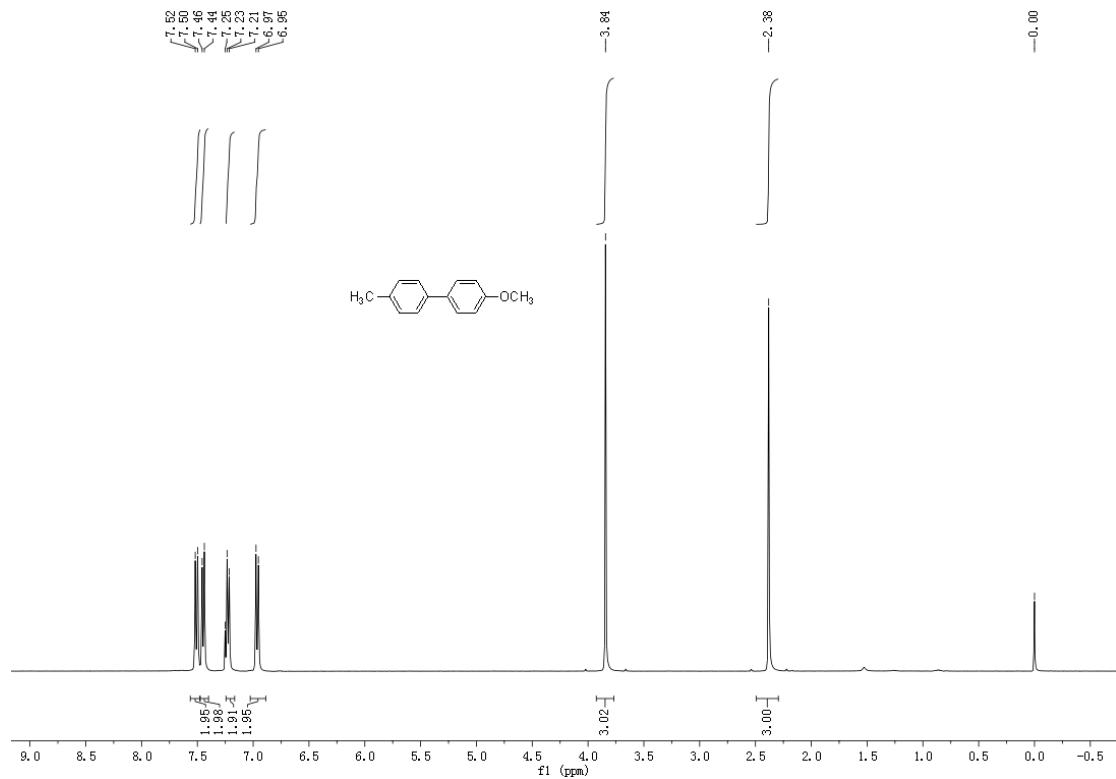
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.36 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.86-7.73 (m, 6H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 268 (15), 267 (100), 266 (7), 248 (7), 237 (33), 221 (7), 209 (27), 201 (34), 170 (7), 153 (7), 152 (59), 151 (17), 75 (7).

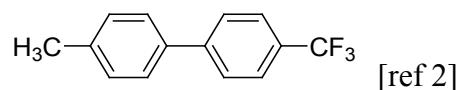




**(4-Methoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl, CAS: 53040-92-9, T2-19)**

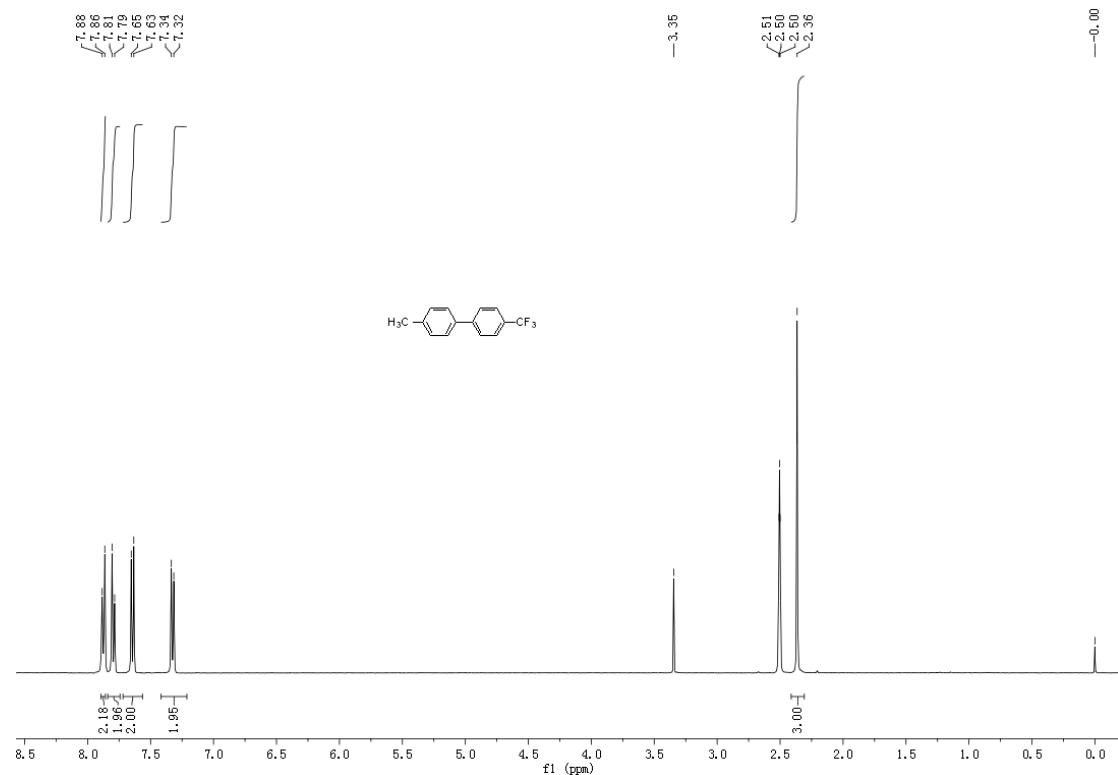
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 198 (100), 183 (52), 155 (39), 127 (5), 115 (7), 99 (7).

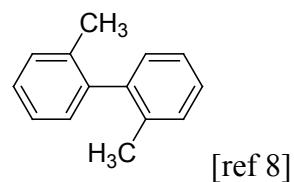




**(4-Methyl-4’-(trifluoromethyl)-1, 1’-biphenyl, CAS: 97067-18-0, T2-20)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.87 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 236 (100), 167 (42), 152 (9), 91 (8).



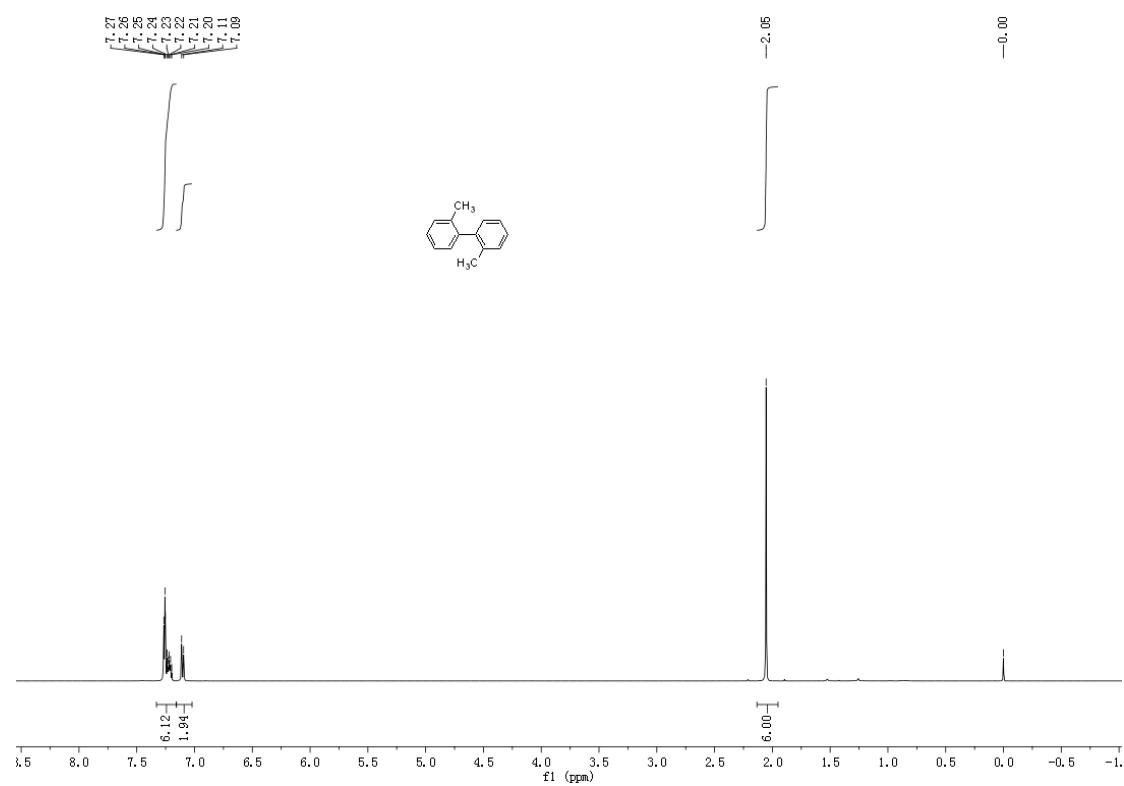


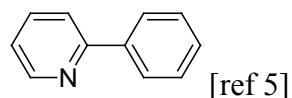
**(2, 2'-dimethyl-1, 1'-biphenyl, CAS: 605-39-0, T2-21)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.23 (m, 6H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.05 (s, 6H).

MS (EI): m/e (%) 182 (65), 167 (100), 152 (22), 115 (10), 89 (20), 76 (10), 51 (5), 39

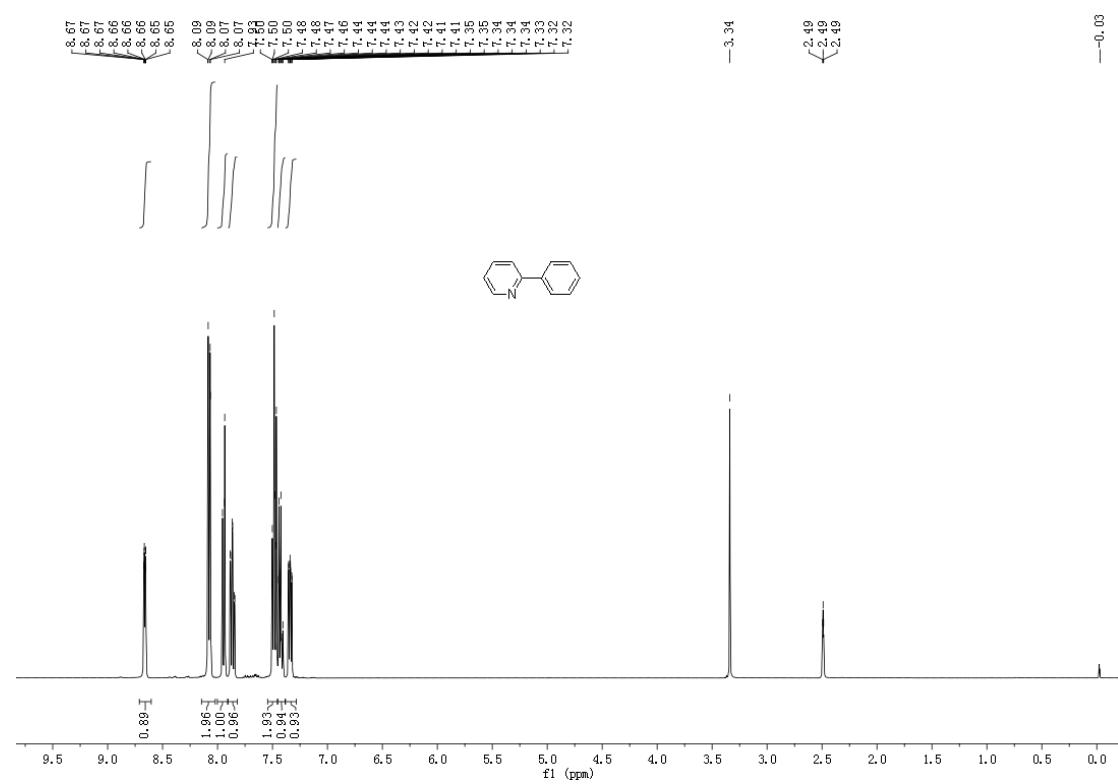
(8).

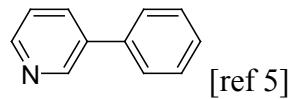




**(2-Phenyl-pyridine, CAS: 1008-89-5, T3-1)**

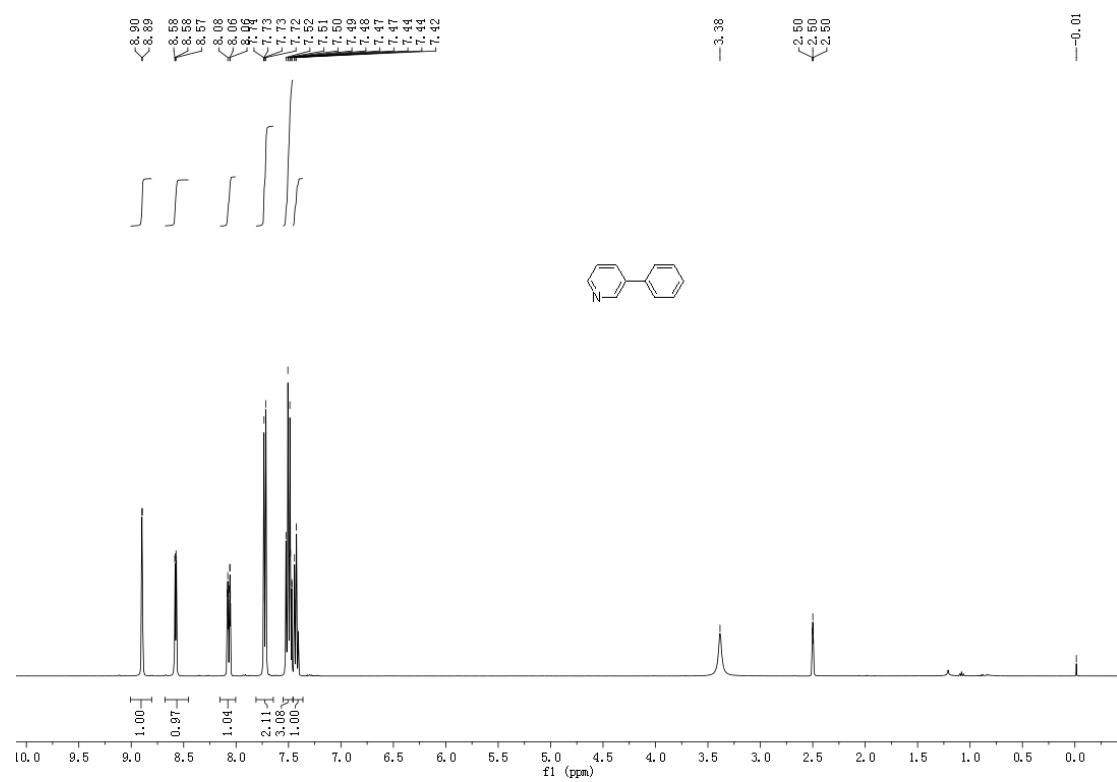
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  8.66 (m, 1H), 8.15-8.02 (m, 2H), 8.00-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 155 (100), 127 (19), 77 (22), 63 (5), 51 (14).

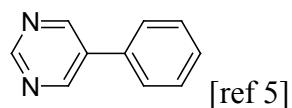




## (3-Phenylpyridine, CAS: 1008-88-4, T3-2)

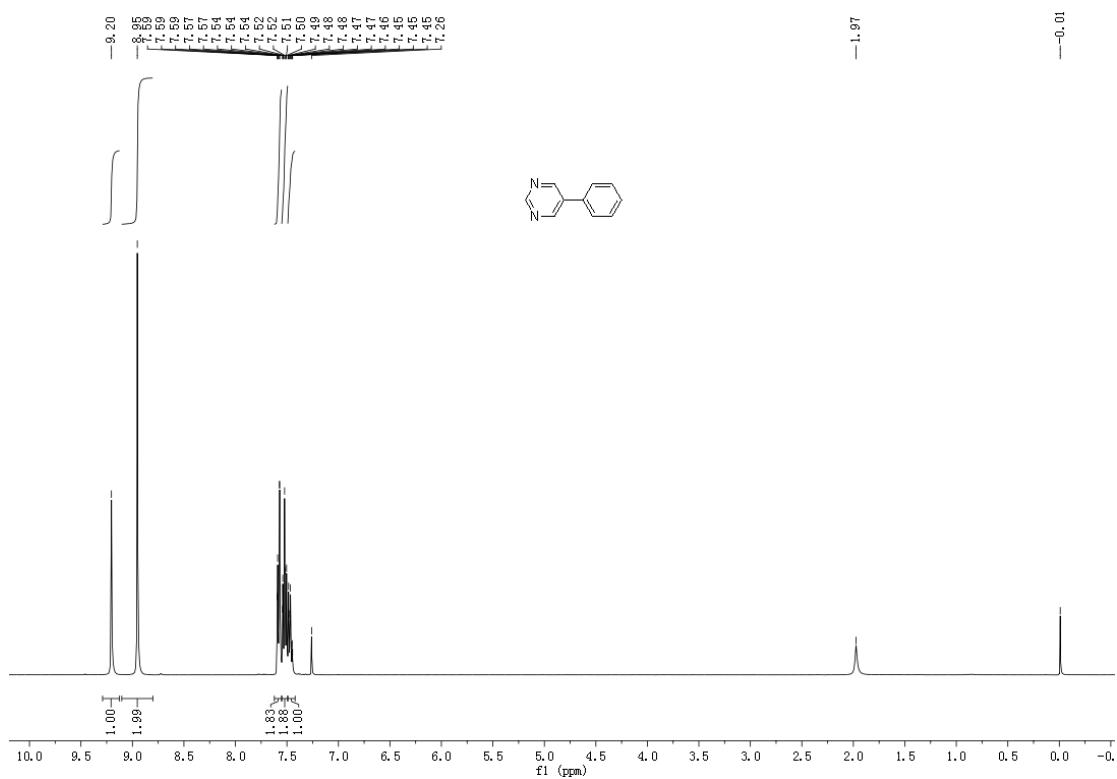
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.90 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (m 1H), 8.15-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 155 (100), 127 (15), 102 (11), 76 (10).

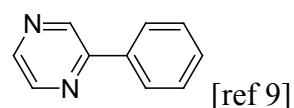




### (5-Phenylpyrimidine, CAS: 34771-45-4, T3-3)

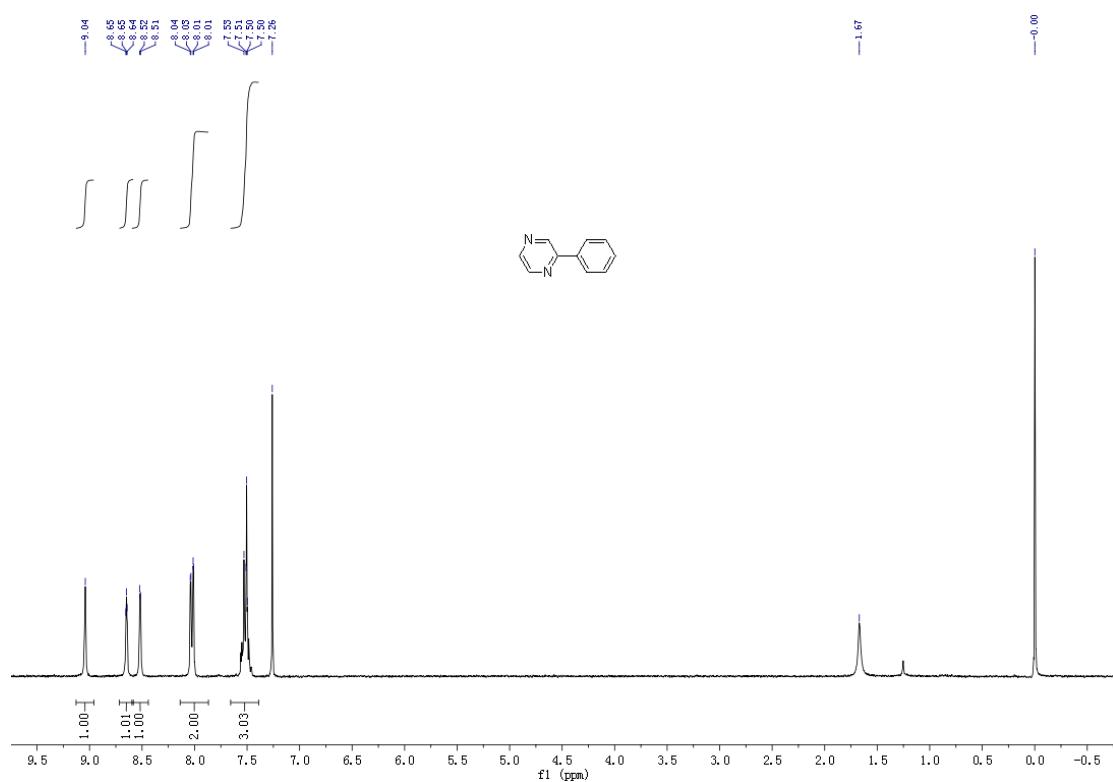
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.95 (s, 2H), 7.62-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 156 (100), 102 (73), 76 (15), 51(22).

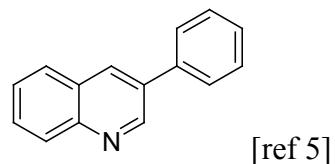




**(2-Phenyl-pyrazine, CAS: 29460-97-7, T3-4)**

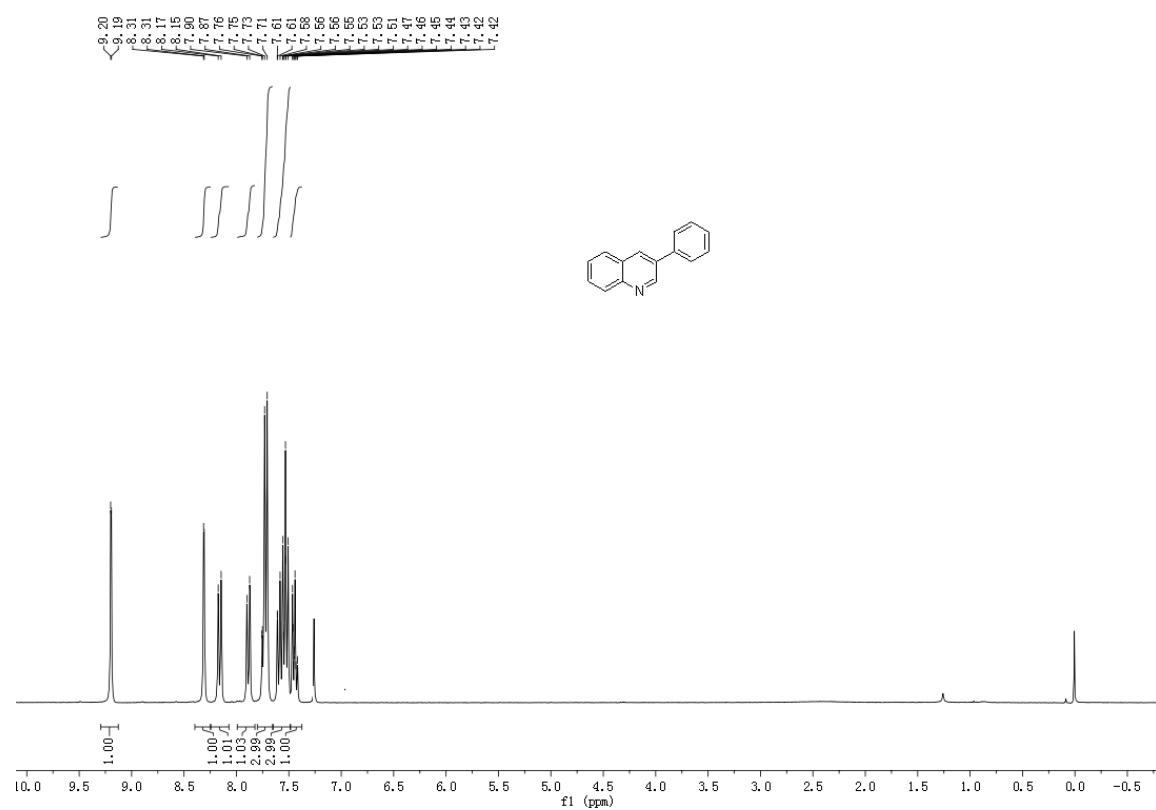
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.04 (s, 1H), 8.72-8.58 (m, 1H), 8.52 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.51 (m, 3H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 156 (100), 129 (22), 103 (91), 76 (25), 51 (18), 39 (5).

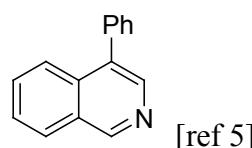




**(3-Phenyl-quinoline, CAS: 1666-92-2, T3-6)**

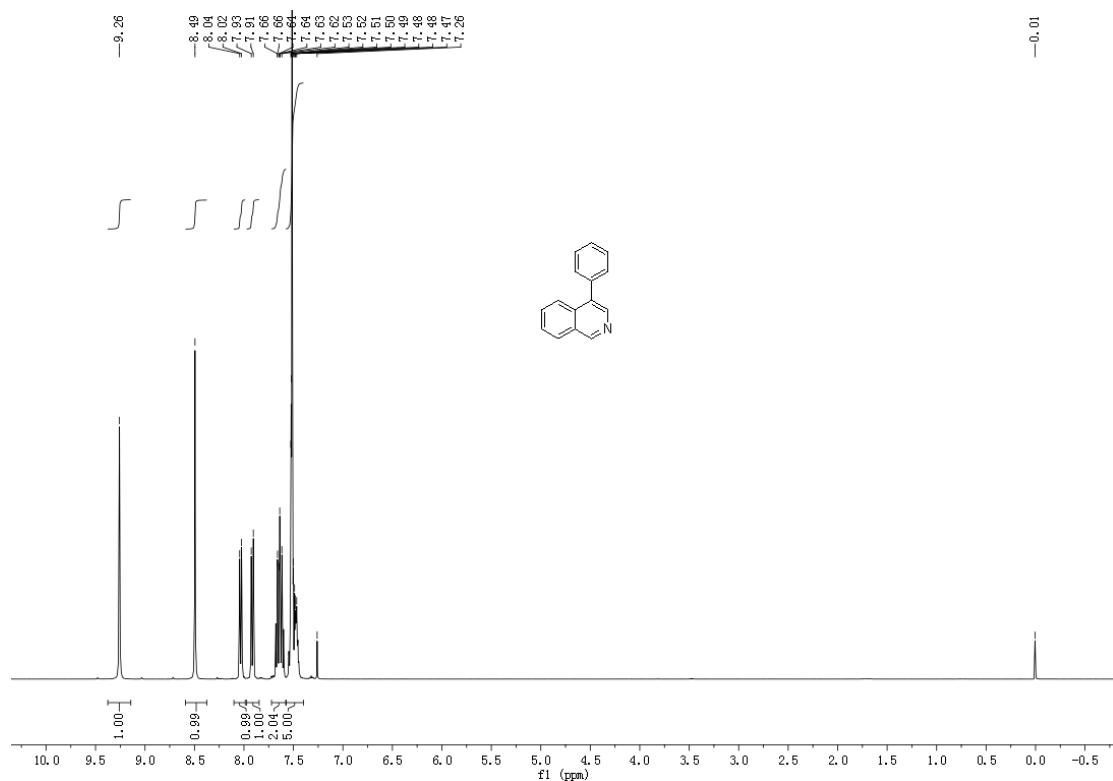
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.20 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.65-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 205 (100), 176 (12), 151 (8), 102 (15), 88 (13), 76 (28), 51 (5).

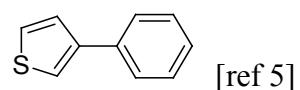




**(4-Phenylisoquinoline, CAS: 19571-30-3, T3-7)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.26 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.40 (m, 5H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 205 (100), 176 (20), 151 (9), 102 (23), 88 (21), 76 (15).

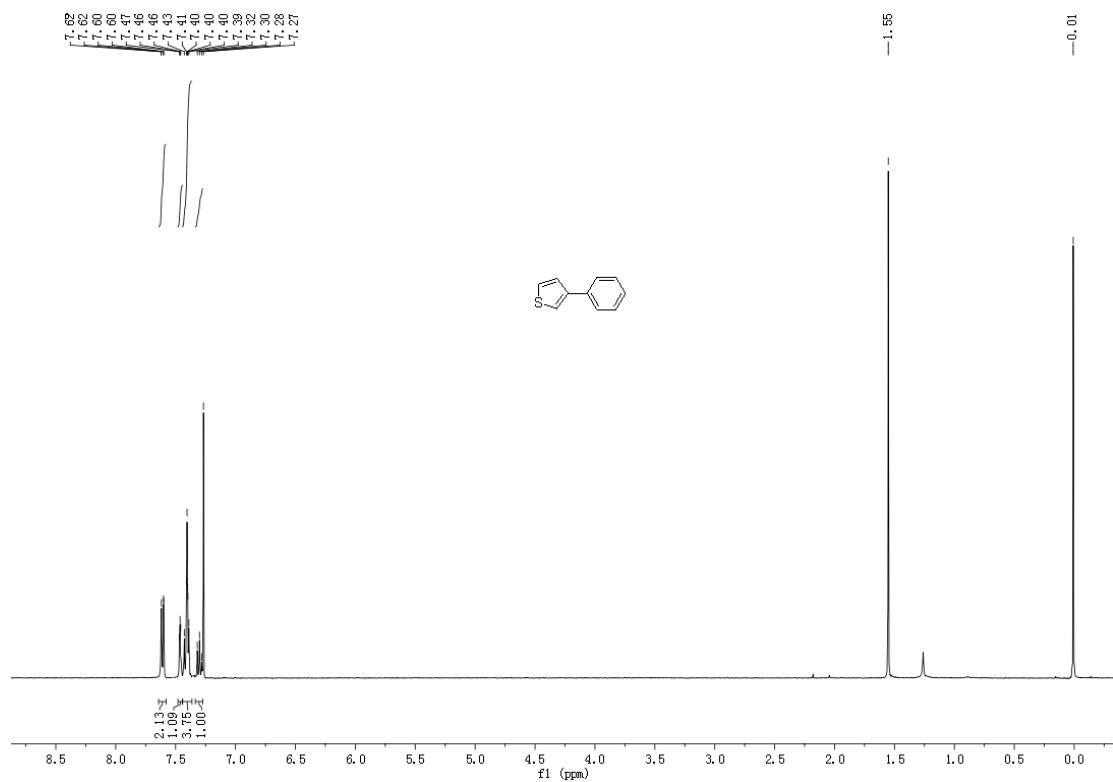


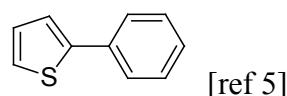


[ref 5]

**(3-Phenyl-thiophene, CAS: 2404-87-7, T3-8)**

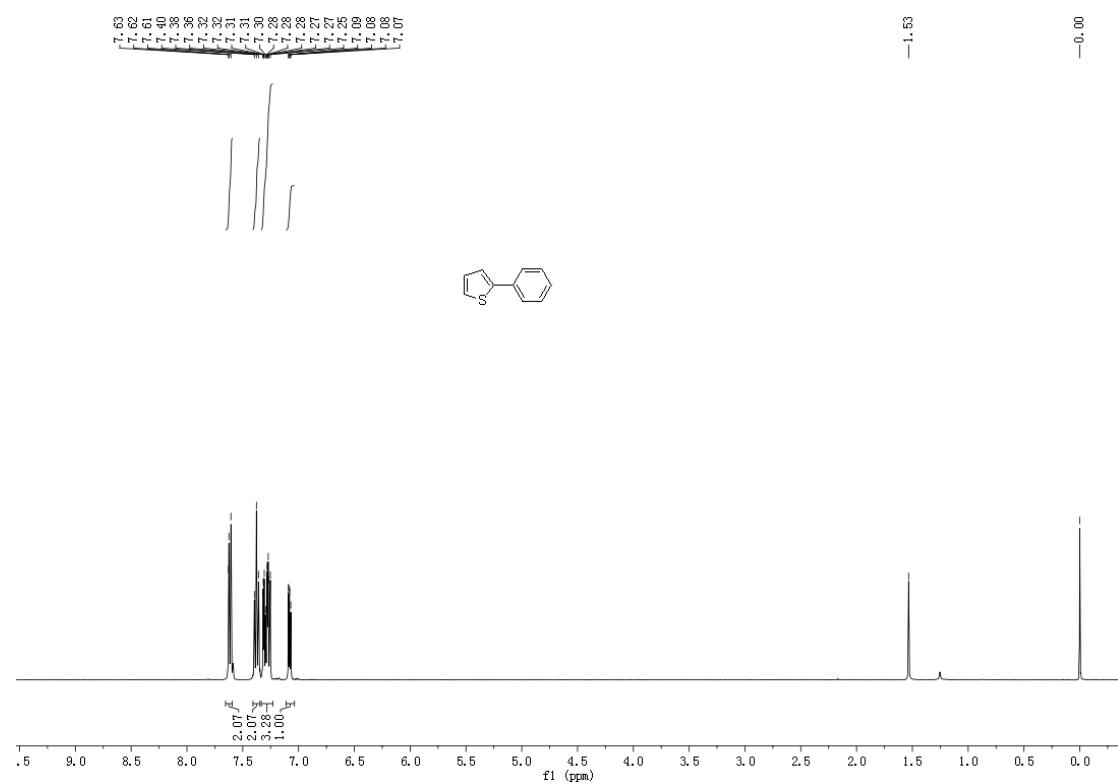
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 160 (100), 115 (33).

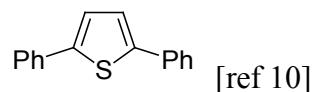




**(2-Phenyl-thiophene, CAS: 825-55-8, T3-9)**

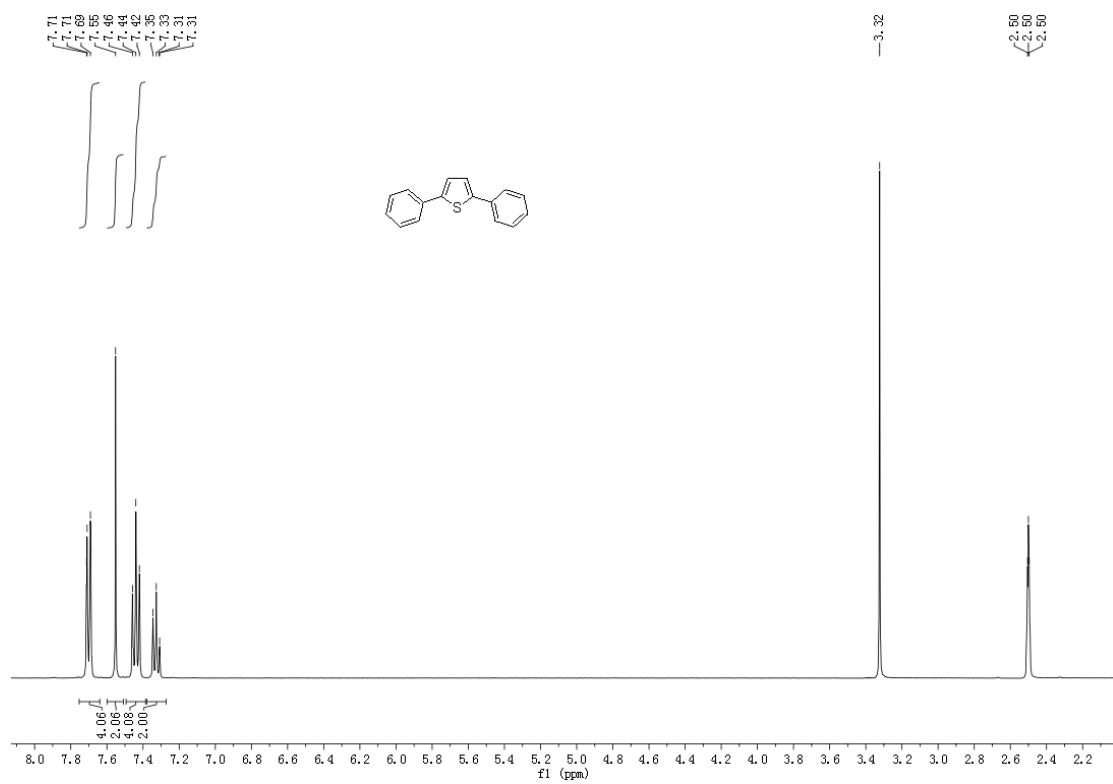
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.65-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.08 (m, 1H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 160 (100), 128 (14), 115 (42), 63 (6), 39 (6).





**(2, 5-diphenylthiophene, CAS: 1445-78-9, T3-10)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.75-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.55 (s, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 4H), 7.32 (m, 2H). MS (EI): m/e (%) 236 (100), 202 (8), 121 (22), 77 (9).



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