

Supporting Information

Replacing Stoichiometric Silver Oxidant with Air: Ligated Pd(II)- Catalysis to β -Aryl Carbonyl Derivatives with Improved Chemoselectivity

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1.1 General Experimental Details:

All solvents and reagents were used, as received from the suppliers. TLC was performed on Merck Kiesel gel 60, F₂₅₄ plates with the layer thickness of 0.25 mm. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (100-200 mesh) using a gradient of ethyl acetate and hexane as mobile phase. Melting points were determined on a Fisher John's melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer RX-1 FT-IR system. ¹H NMR spectral data were collected at 300 (AVANCE & JCAMP), 400 (INOVA) & 500 (INOVA & AVANCE) MHz, while ¹³C NMR were recorded at 75, 100 & 125 MHz. ¹H NMR spectral data are given as chemical shifts in ppm followed by multiplicity (s- singlet; d- doublet; t- triplet; q- quartet; m- multiplet), number of protons and coupling constants. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are expressed in ppm. HRMS (ESI) spectral data were collected using Q-star & ORBITRAP High Resolution Mass Spectrometer. Starting materials were prepared as previously reported [1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1a} 1-Phenylprop-2-en-1-ol,^{1a} 1-*p*-Tolylprop-2-en-1-ol,^{1a} 1-(4-Bromophenyl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1b} 4-(1-Hydroxyallyl)benzotrile,^{1c} 1-(Pyridin-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1d} 1-(Naphthalen-1-yl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1a} 4,4-Dimethylpent-1-en-3-ol,^{1e} 1-((*R*)-2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1f} 1-((3*aR*,5*S*,6*S*,6*aR*)-2,2,6-Trimethyltetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)prop-2-en-1-ol,^{1g} (*Z*)-4-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)but-2-en-1-ol,^{1h} Butyl-2-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)acrylate,¹ⁱ Butyl-2-((4-bromophenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)acrylate,¹ⁱ Butyl-2-(hydroxy(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)acrylate¹ⁱ]. Oct-1-en-3-ol, Prop-2-en-1-ol and Cyclohex-2-enol were purchased from Aldrich.

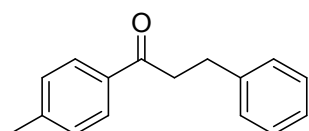
1.2 General Procedure for Synthesis of β -Aryl Carbonyl Compounds from Allyl Alcohols

A mixture of arylboronic acid (1.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.022 g, 0.1 mmol), and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (0.042 g, 0.20 mmol), CuCl (0.005 g, 0.05 mmol) and allyl

alcohol (1.0 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (3 mL) in a 10 mL RB flask closed with air balloon (1 atm pressure). The mixture was vigorously stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (25.0 mL) and water (25 mL) and it was transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed with water, and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (s) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a gradient of hexane and ethyl acetate (eluent system) to afford the pure product.

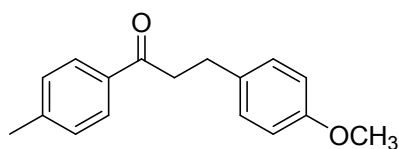
1.3 Analytical data for products

3-Phenyl-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (1)^{2a}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.208 g, 93%). M.p. 62-63 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 3.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.9, 143.9, 141.4, 134.4, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 126.1, 40.4, 30.3, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3060, 1681, 1606, 1451, 1292, 1180, 974, 700 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₆H₁₆ONa]⁺ 247.1098; Found 247.1103.

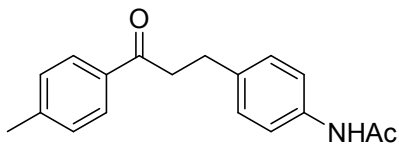
3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (2)^{2a}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3-4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.213 g, 84%). M.p. 112-114 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.0, 158.0, 143.8, 134.5, 133.5, 129.4, 129.3, 128.2, 114.0, 55.3, 40.6,

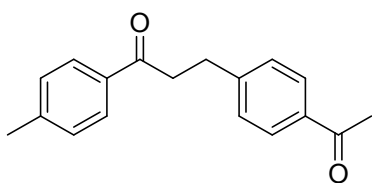
29.4, 21.6; (IR, Neat): 3016, 1678, 1607, 1512, 1216, 746 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2]^+$ 255.13796; Found 255.13807.

***N*-(4-(3-Oxo-3-*p*-tolylpropyl)phenyl)acetamide (3)**



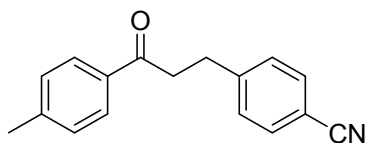
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 10% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.214 g, 76%). M.p. 142-143 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.1, 168.6, 143.9, 137.4, 136.1, 134.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.2, 120.3, 40.3, 29.6, 24.4, 21.6; (IR, Neat): 3017, 1674, 1369, 1215, 743 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}]^+$ 304.13080; Found 304.13092.

3-(4-Acetylphenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (4)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 7-8 % ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.205 g, 77%). M.p. 138-140 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 11.0, 8.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.35 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.31 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3, 197.8, 147.3, 144.1, 135.2, 134.2, 129.3, 128.7, 128.7, 128.1, 39.6, 30.1, 26.6, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3019, 1679, 1607, 1412, 1215, 743, 667 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2]^+$ 267.13796; Found 267.13821.

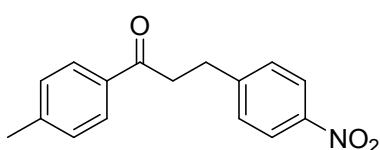
4-(3-Oxo-3-*p*-tolylpropyl)benzonitrile (5)^{2b}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl

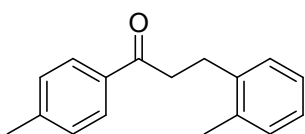
acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.219 g, 88%). M.p. 130-132 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.34 – 3.29 (m, 2H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 147.1, 144.2, 134.1, 132.3, 129.4, 129.4, 128.1, 119.0, 110.0, 39.3, 30.1, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3020, 2223, 1678, 1481, 1214, 742 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₇H₁₅NONa]⁺ 272.10512; Found 272.10514.

3-(4-Nitrophenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (6)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4 % ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.234 g, 87%). M.p. 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.8, 149.3, 144.2, 134.1, 129.4, 128.3, 128.1, 124.4, 123.7, 39.3, 29.8, 21.6; (IR, Neat): 3020, 1679, 1519, 1215, 742 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₆H₁₆NO₃]⁺ 270.11247; Found 270.11251.

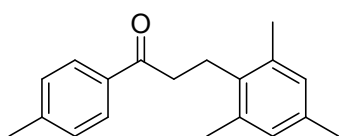
3-*o*-Tolyl-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (7)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.193 g, 81%). M.p. 86-88 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (ddd, *J* = 13.1, 6.3, 3.0 Hz, 4H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.0, 143.9, 139.5, 136.0, 134.5, 130.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.2, 126.3, 126.2, 39.0, 27.7, 21.7, 19.4; (IR, Neat): 3018, 1679, 1607, 1570, 1216, 1180, 974, 743 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI):

Calculated for $[C_{17}H_{19}O]^+$ 239.14304; Found 239.14325.

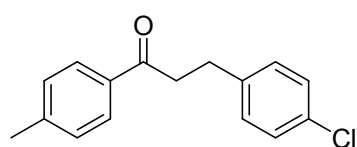
3-Mesityl-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (8)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.210 g, 79%).

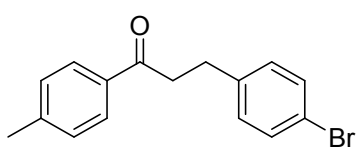
M.p. 112-114 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.92 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 3.22 – 3.02 (m, 4H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 203.9, 148.5, 140.7, 140.1, 139.5, 139.0, 133.9, 133.7, 132.7, 42.4, 28.4, 26.2, 25.4, 24.4; (IR, Neat): 3011, 1677, 1447, 1180, 748, cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[C_{19}H_{23}O]^+$ 267.17434; Found 267.17463.

3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (9)^{2a}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.230 g, 89%). M.p. 101-102 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.17 (m, 6H), 3.27 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 198.5, 144.0, 139.9, 134.3, 131.8, 129.8, 129.3, 128.6, 128.1, 40.1, 29.5, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3025, 1668, 1603, 1219, 808, 771 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[C_{16}H_{16}OCl]^+$ 259.08842; Found 259.08863.

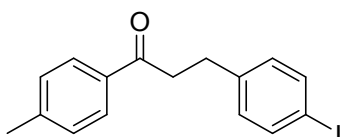
3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (10)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.284 g, 94%). M.p. 104-106 °C; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.24

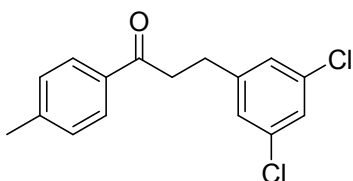
(t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.4, 144.0, 140.4, 134.3, 131.5, 130.2, 129.3, 128.1, 119.9, 39.9, 29.6, 21.6; (IR, Neat): 3020, 1678, 1214, 747, 667 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{OBr}]^+$ 303.03790; Found 303.03843.

3-(4-Iodophenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (11)



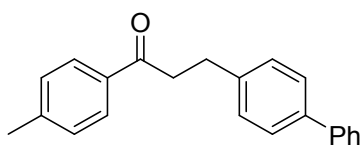
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.312 g, 89%). M.p. 105-106 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.00 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.4, 144.0, 141.1, 137.5, 134.3, 130.6, 129.3, 128.2, 91.2, 39.9, 29.6, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3018, 1679, 1607, 1447, 1215, 745, 666 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{OI}]^+$ 351.02403; Found 351.02450.

3-(3,5-Dichlorophenyl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (12)



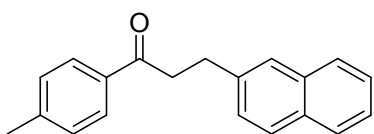
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.228 g, 78%). M.p. 118-119 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.28 – 3.23 (m, 2H), 3.01 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.8, 144.9, 144.1, 134.8, 134.1, 129.4, 128.1, 127.1, 126.3, 39.4, 29.4, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3019, 1680, 1566, 1214, 745, 667 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{OCl}_2]^+$ 293.04945; Found 293.04980.

3-(Biphenyl-4-yl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (13)



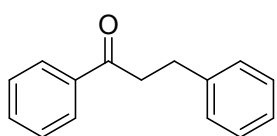
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.246 g, 82%). M.p. 109-110 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.9, 143.9, 141.0, 140.6, 139.1, 134.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 40.3, 29.9, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3017, 1601, 1420, 1214, 981, 743 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₂₂H₂₁O]⁺ 301.15869; Found 301.15892.

3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-1-*p*-tolylpropan-1-one (14)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.225 g, 82%). M.p. 89-90 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.46 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.9, 143.9, 139.0, 134.5, 133.7, 132.2, 129.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 126.5, 126.0, 125.3, 40.3, 30.4, 21.7; (IR, Neat): 3018, 1679, 1409, 1215, 742 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₂₀H₁₉O]⁺ 275.14304; Found 275.14341.

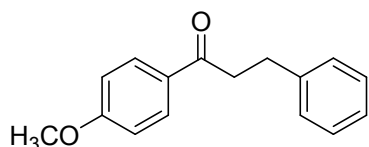
1,3-Diphenylpropan-1-one (15)^{2c,4}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.185 g, 88%). M.p. 62-63 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.43 (m, 2H),

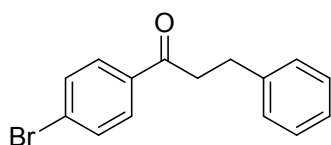
7.35 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 3.32 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.2, 141.3, 136.8, 133.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.1, 40.4, 30.1; (IR, KBr): 3059, 1679, 1593, 1446, 1207, 975, 746, 693 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{ONa}]^+$ 233.0942; Found 233.0939.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (16)^{2c,3}



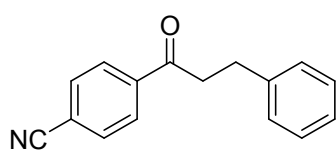
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.226 g, 94%). M.p. 98-99 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.25 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.8, 163.4, 141.5, 130.3, 130.0, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 113.7, 55.4, 40.1, 30.3; (IR, KBr): 3003, 1668, 1602, 1450, 1256, 1174, 1026, 841, 660 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) Calculated for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{Na}]^+$ 263.1035; Found 263.1038.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (17)



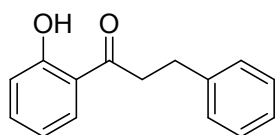
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.268 g, 93%). M.p. 97-98 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 3.28 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.07 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 141.0, 135.5, 131.9, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 126.2, 40.4, 30.0; (IR, KBr): 3054, 1656, 1595, 1483, 1210, 991, 760 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrONa}]^+$ 311.0047; Found 311.0041.

4-(3-Phenylpropanoyl)benzonitrile (18)



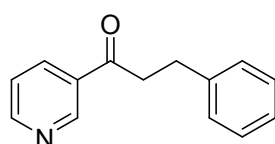
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.212 g, 90%). M.p. 57-58 °C; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.80 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 3.30 (dd, $J = 8.0, 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.8, 146.6, 132.5, 131.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 126.4, 121.2, 117.9, 40.7, 29.8; (IR, KBr): 3035, 2224, 1682, 1597, 1402, 1205, 985, 774 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) Calculate for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NONa}]^+$ 258.0895; Found 258.0923.

1-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (19)^{5a}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 10% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a pale yellowish coloured oil (0.201 g, 89%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz,) δ 12.30 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dt, $J = 11.8, 6.4$ Hz, 5H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.04 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.3, 162.4, 140.6, 136.2, 129.7, 128.5, 128.3, 126.2, 119.2, 118.8, 118.5, 39.9, 29.9; (IR, Neat): 3358, 2995, 1658, 1450, 1219, 772 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) Calculate for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{Na}]^+$ 249.08860; Found 249.08883.

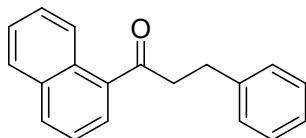
3-Phenyl-1-(pyridin-3-yl)propan-1-one (20)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 35% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.165 g, 78%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.16 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.77 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dt, $J = 7.9, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, $J = 7.9, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 3.32 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.09

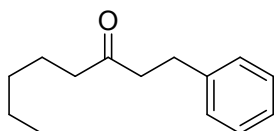
(t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.8, 153.4, 149.6, 140.7, 135.3, 132.1, 128.6, 128.4, 126.3, 123.6, 40.7, 29.8; (IR, Neat): 3028, 1690, 1585, 1495, 1294, 1024, 772 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}]^+$ 212.1075; Found 212.1071.

1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (21)



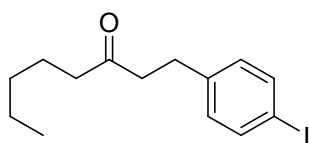
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.208 g, 80%); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 3.39 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.5, 141.1, 135.9, 133.9, 132.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 126.4, 126.1, 125.7, 124.3, 43.8, 30.6; (IR, Neat): 3056, 1681, 1597, 1400, 1231, 1098, 776 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{ONa}]^+$ 283.1098; Found 283.1100.

1-Phenyl octan-3-one (22)^{2c}



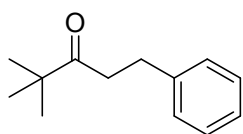
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.200 g, 98%); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.23 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 2.87 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.69 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.34 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.55 (dt, $J = 14.9, 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.34 – 1.20 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 210.3, 141.1, 128.4, 128.3, 126.0, 44.2, 43.0, 31.3, 29.7, 23.4, 22.4, 13.9; (IR, Neat): 2955, 1713, 1602, 1456, 1127, 1029, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{ONa}]^+$ 227.1411; Found 227.1416.

1-(4-Iodophenyl)-octan-3-one (23)



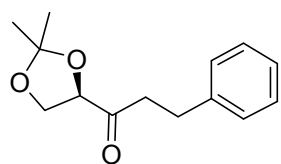
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.314 g, 95%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.83 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.69 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.36 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.57 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.28 – 1.22 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.2, 136.2, 132.8, 125.8, 86.4, 39.1, 38.3, 26.7, 24.5, 18.8, 17.7, 9.2; (IR, Neat): 2925, 1712, 1461, 1218, 771 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{OINa}]^+$ 353.03728; Found 353.03858.

4,4-Dimethyl-1-phenylpentan-3-one (24)^{2c}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.182 g, 96%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.24 (dd, $J = 8.8, 5.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 2.90 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.80 – 2.73 (m, 2H), 1.11 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 214.8, 141.5, 128.4, 127.8, 126.0, 44.0, 38.4, 30.1, 26.3; (IR, Neat): 2966, 1704, 1606, 1454, 1218, 1076, 761, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{ONa}]^+$ 213.1255; Found 213.1248.

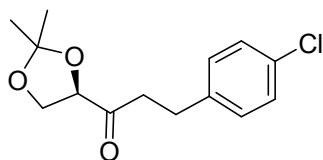
(R)-1-(2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (25)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 10% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.215 g, 92%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.31 – 7.11 (m, 5H), 4.39 (dd, $J = 7.2, 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, $J = 8.4, 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.01 – 2.76 (m, 4H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.9, 140.9, 128.5, 128.3, 126.1, 110.9,

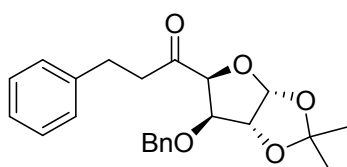
80.3, 66.4, 40.2, 29.0, 26.0, 25.0; (IR, Neat): 3028, 1718, 1495, 1217, 1081, 752, 700 cm^{-1} ;
HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Na}]^+$ 257.1153; Found 257.1143.

(*R*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)propan-1-one (26)



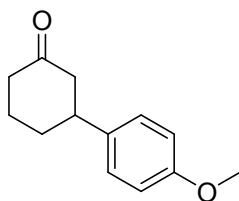
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 10% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.249 g, 93%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.43 (dd, $J = 7.8, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, $J = 8.6, 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd, $J = 8.7, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.98 – 2.84 (m, 4H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 209.8, 139.4, 131.9, 129.7, 128.6, 111.0, 80.2, 66.4, 40.0, 28.2, 26.0, 24.9; (IR, Neat): 2988, 1716, 1491, 1374, 1217, 1063, 772 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{Cl}]^+$ 269.0944; Found 269.0947.

1-((3*aR*,5*S*,6*R*,6*aR*)-6-(Benzyloxy)-2,2-dimethyltetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (27)



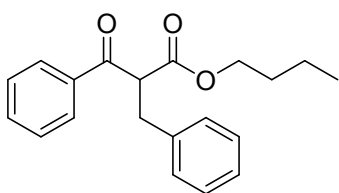
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 15% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.336 g, 88%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.28 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.13 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.63 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, $J = 7.7, 3.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.39 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 – 2.79 (m, 4H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 207.7, 141.1, 136.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 126.2, 125.9, 112.3, 105.9, 85.4, 83.7, 81.8, 72.5, 46.7, 44.6, 42.2, 29.7, 28.6, 26.9, 26.3; (IR, Neat): 2928, 1717, 1655, 1454, 1219, 1076, 856 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_5\text{Na}]^+$ 405.1677; Found 405.1692.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-cyclohexanone (28) ^{5b}



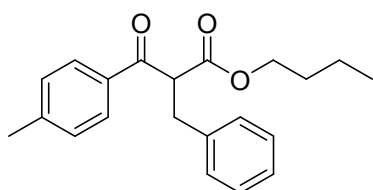
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.177 g, 87%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.01 – 2.90 (m, 1H), 2.60 – 2.30 (m, 4H), 2.18 – 2.02 (m, 2H), 1.80 (ddd, *J* = 12.7, 6.5, 2.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.5, 158.3, 136.5, 127.4, 114.0, 96.2, 55.1, 49.2, 44.0, 41.2, 33.1, 29.8, 25.5; (IR, Neat): 2926, 1709, 1608, 1512, 1456, 1251, 1033, 828 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₃H₁₆O₂Na]⁺ 227.1047; Found 227.1049.

Butyl 2-benzyl-3-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate (29)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.285 g, 92%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 4.68 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (dt, *J* = 14.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.4, 169.3, 138.4, 136.2, 133.4, 128.9, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 126.6, 65.3, 56.2, 34.7, 30.4, 18.8, 13.5; (IR, Neat): 2960, 1733, 1685, 1450, 1181, 1078, 772 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₂₀H₂₃O₃]⁺ 311.1641; Found 311.1640.

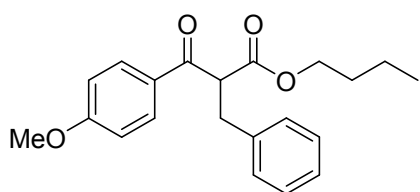
Butyl 2-benzyl-3-oxo-3-*p*-tolylpropanoate (30)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.269 g, 83%); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H),

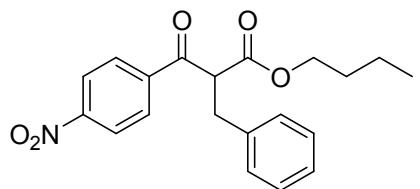
7.59 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.12 (dd, $J = 18.0, 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 4.63 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.32 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.19 (dt, $J = 14.7, 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 194.5, 169.4, 136.2, 136.1, 135.3, 133.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 65.3, 56.3, 34.3, 30.4, 21.0, 18.9, 13.5; (IR, Neat): 3021, 1733, 1687, 1515, 1448, 1217, 907, 728 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3\text{Na}]^+$ 347.1617; Found 347.1609.

Butyl 2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (31)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.286 g, 84%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.48 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.03 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, $J = 7.2, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.48 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.18 (dq, $J = 15.2, 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.0, 169.2, 163.7, 138.7, 131.0, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 126.5, 113.8, 65.0, 56.0, 55.3, 34.8, 30.5, 19.0, 13.7; (IR, KBr): 2959, 1773, 1676, 1420, 1294, 1222, 1026, 840, 698 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_4\text{Na}]^+$ 363.1572; Found 363.1588.

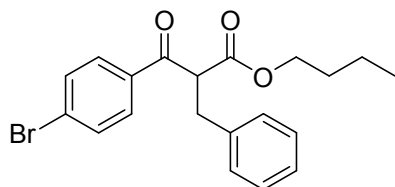
Butyl 2-benzyl-3-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (32)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4-5% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.323 g, 91%). M.p. 87-88 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 4.62 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.36 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.55 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 1.27 – 1.08 (m, 2H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.4, 168.6, 150.4, 140.9,

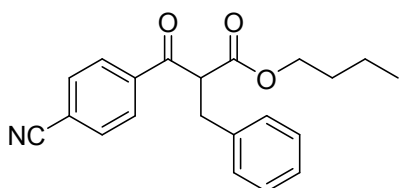
137.8, 129.6, 128.9, 128.7, 126.9, 123.9, 65.8, 56.7, 34.6, 30.4, 18.9, 13.6; (IR, Neat): 3020, 1737, 1696, 1529, 1347, 1215, 667 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_5]^+$ 356.14925; Found 356.14947.

Butyl 2-benzyl-3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (33)



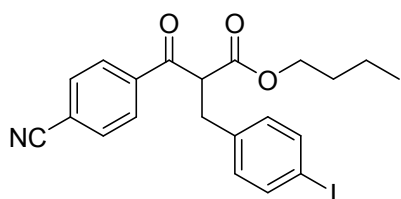
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.334 g, 86%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 4.59 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.06 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.35 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.20 (dd, $J = 15.1, 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.85 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.5, 169.0, 138.2, 135.0, 132.0, 130.1, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 126.7, 65.4, 56.1, 34.6, 30.3, 18.8, 13.5; (IR, Neat): 2958, 1737, 1689, 1488, 1273, 1071, 771 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrO}_3]^+$ 389.0746; Found 389.0752.

Butyl 2-benzyl-3-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-oxopropanoate (34)



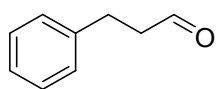
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.298 g, 89%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 4.54 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (td, $J = 6.6, 1.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.33 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.49 (ddd, $J = 13.3, 8.7, 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.25 – 1.17 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.4, 168.6, 139.3, 137.8, 132.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 126.8, 117.7, 116.7, 65.7, 56.4, 34.5, 30.3, 18.8, 13.5; (IR, KBr): 2926, 2232, 1734, 1694, 1373, 1220, 940, 771 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}]^+$ 358.1419; Found 358.1420.

Butyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-iodobenzyl)-3-oxopropanoate (35)



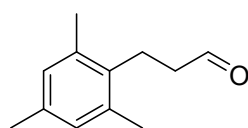
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless solid (0.401 g, 87%). M.p. 89-91 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 4.54 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.04 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 7.4, 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.19 – 1.13 (m, 2H), 0.82 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.0, 168.4, 139.1, 137.7, 137.5, 132.6, 131.0, 129.0, 117.7, 116.9, 92.2, 65.8, 56.2, 33.9, 30.3, 18.9, 13.6; (IR, Neat): 2929, 1734, 1694, 1217, 746 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for: $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NIO}_3]^+$ 462.05606; Found 462.05606.

3-Phenylpropanal (36)^{3,6a}



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 3% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.118 g, 88%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.81 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 2.95 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 201.5, 140.3, 128.5, 128.2, 126.2, 45.2, 28.0; (IR, Neat): 3028, 2924, 1704, 1412, 1214, 925, 695 cm^{-1} .

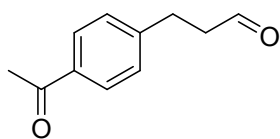
3-Mesitylpropanal (37)



Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.139 g, 79%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.85 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 2H), 2.96 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.63 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.7, 133.9, 133.7, 132.0, 127.1, 121.5, 41.3, 19.6, 18.8, 17.7; (IR, Neat): 2951, 1724, 1448, 1219, 772 cm^{-1} ; Calculated for

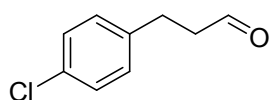
$[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{ONa}]^+$ 199.1093; Found 199.1099.

3-(4-Acetylphenyl)propanal (38)^{6a}



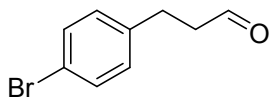
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 20% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.157 g, 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.83 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.8, 197.8, 146.1, 135.5, 130.9, 128.8, 128.6, 44.7, 28.0, 26.6; (IR, Neat): 2961, 2933, 1679, 1605, 1359, 1268, 772 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $[\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2]^+$ 177.0910; Found 177.0916.

3-(4-Chlorophenyl)propanal (39)^{6b}



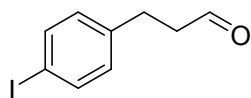
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.146 g, 87%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.83 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.1, 138.9, 132.0, 129.7, 128.7, 45.1, 27.4; (IR, Neat): 2923, 1710, 1491, 1219, 1091, 772 cm⁻¹.

3-(4-Bromophenyl)propanal (40)^{7a}



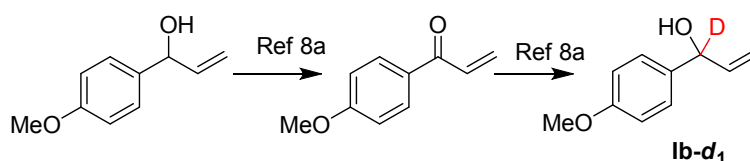
Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.191 g, 90%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.81 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.0, 139.1, 131.6, 130.1, 120.2, 35.4, 29.9; (IR, Neat): 2915, 1692, 1432, 1270, 1073, 817 cm⁻¹.

3-(4-Iodophenyl)propanal (41) ^{7b}

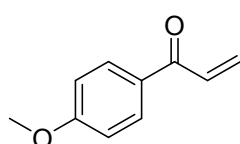


Following the general procedure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product as a colourless liquid (0.244 g, 94%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz,) δ 9.83 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.92 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.0, 140.1, 137.6, 130.4, 91.9, 45.0, 27.5; (IR, Neat): 2922, 1729, 1512, 1219, 1072, 772 cm⁻¹.

Deuterium Labeling Experiment:

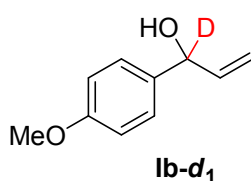


1-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one^{8a}



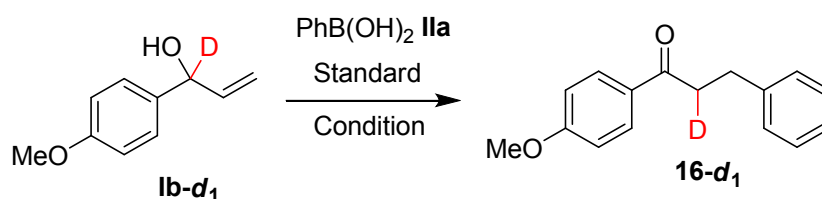
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, J = 17.1, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.42 (dd, J = 17.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (dd, J = 10.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H).

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-1-(²H₁)-2-en-1-ol (Ib-d₁)^{8a}



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (dd, J = 17.1, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (dd, J = 17.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (dd, J = 10.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H).

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-2(²H₁)-propan-1-one (16-d₁**)^{8b}**

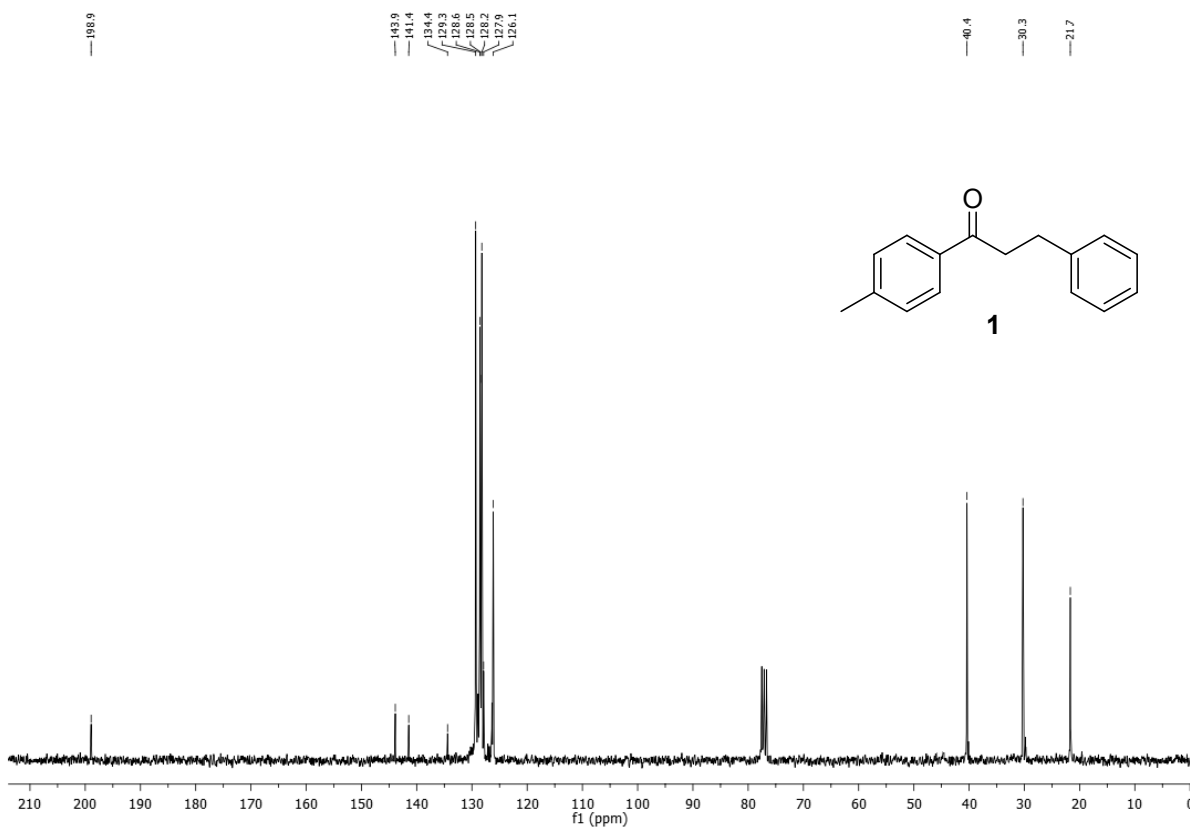
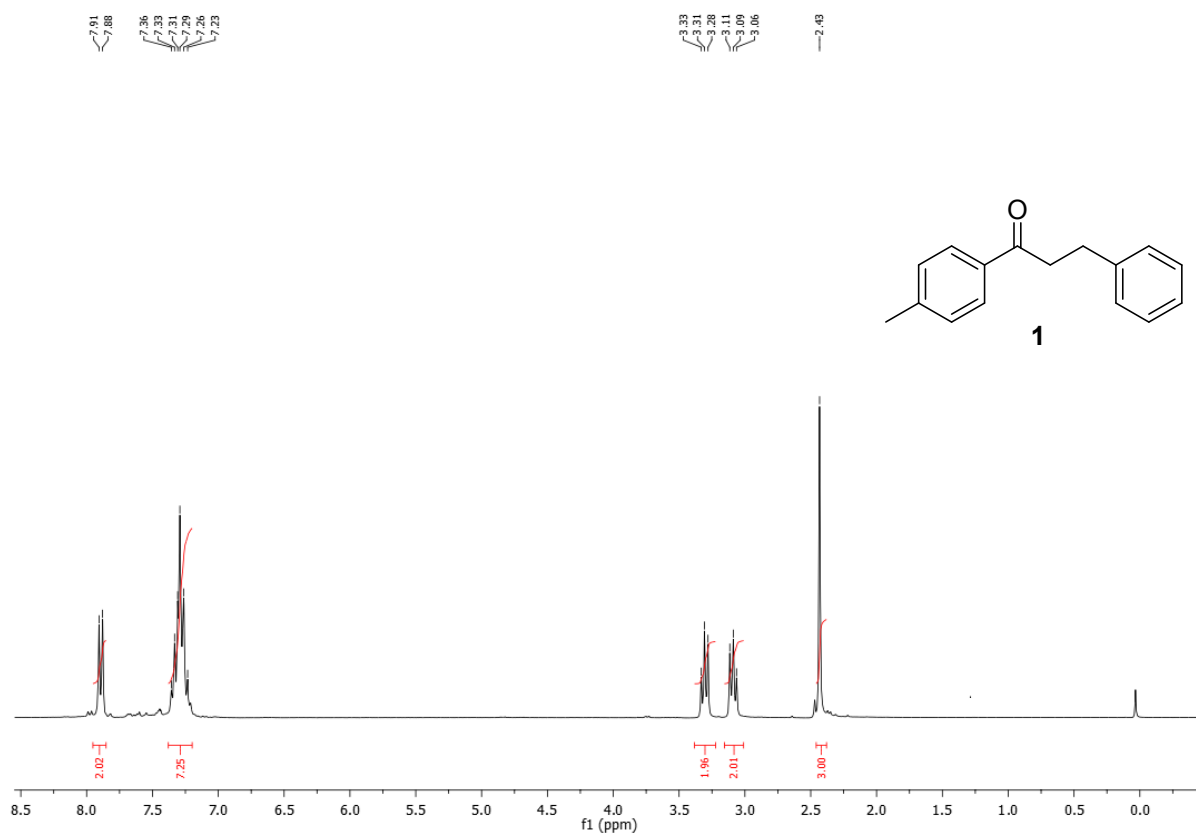


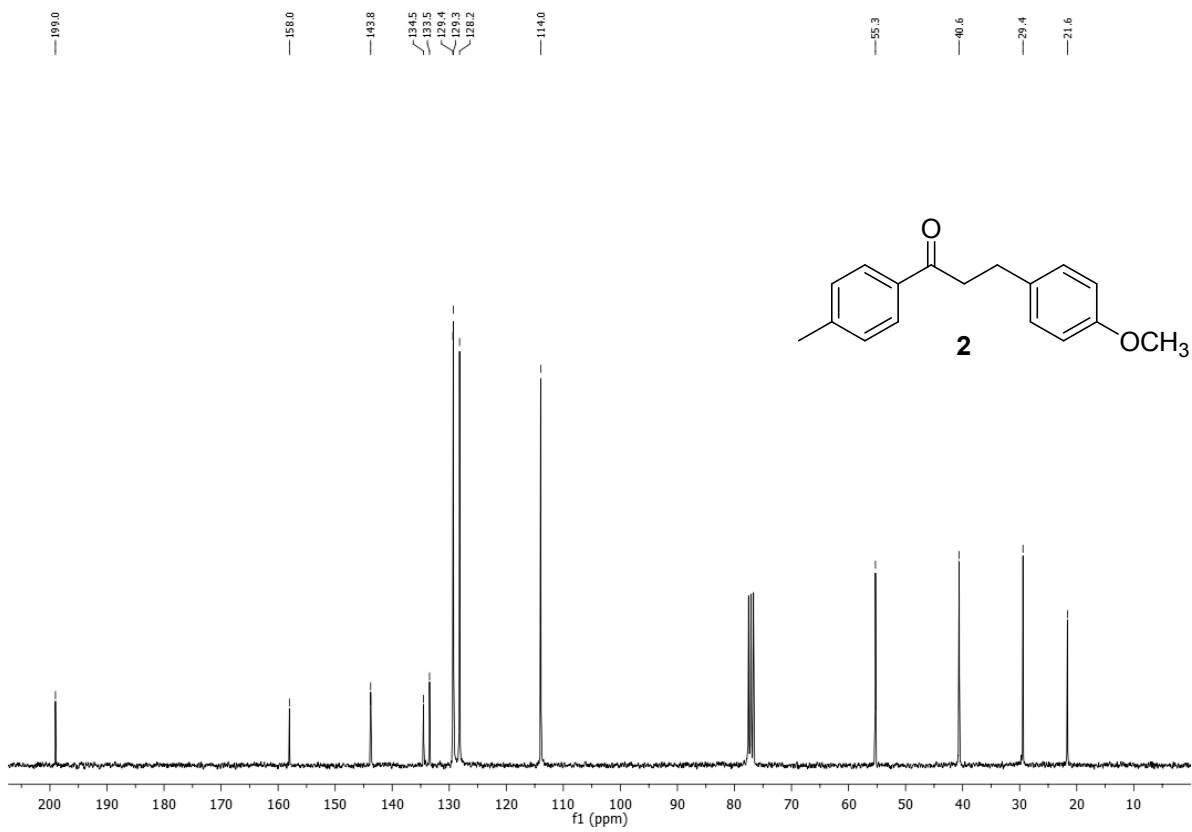
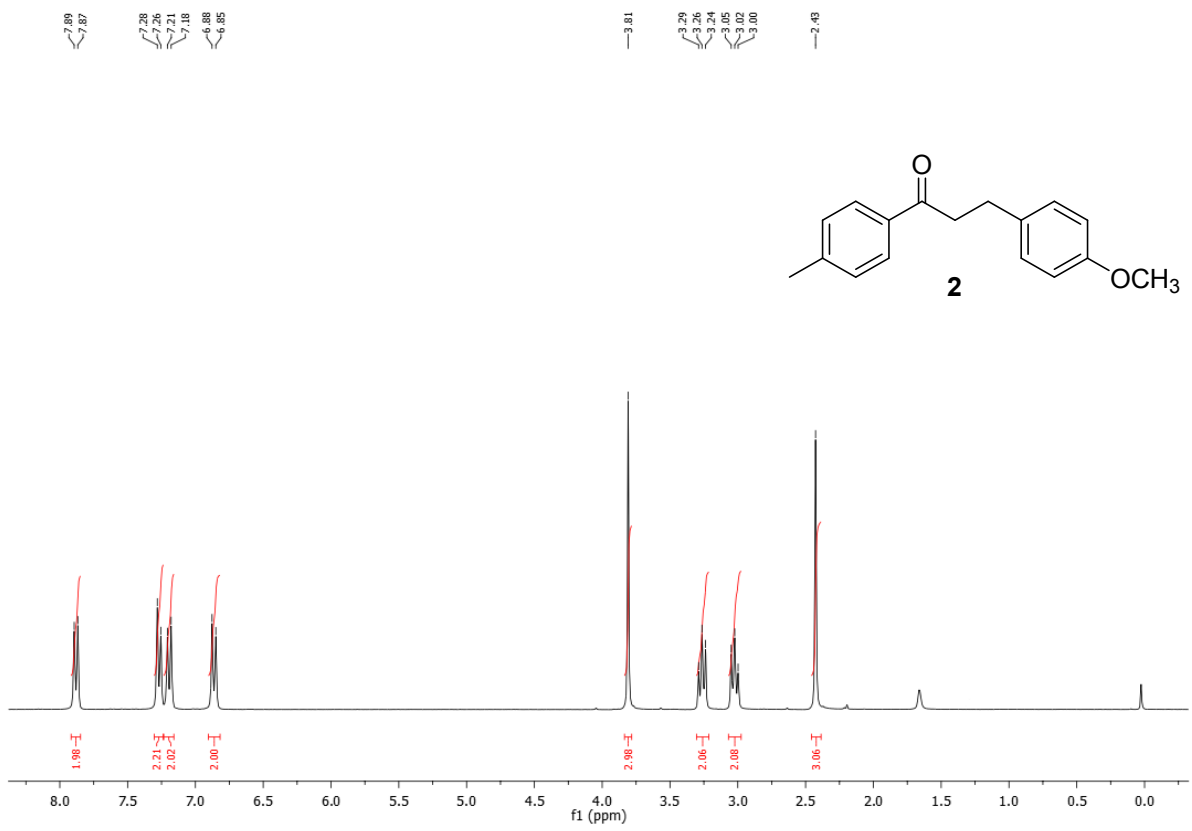
A mixture of phenylboronic acid **IIa** (0.183g, 1.5mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.022 g, 0.1 mmol), and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (0.042 g, 0.20 mmol), CuCl (0.005 g, 0.05 mmol), Deuterium-labelled propenol (**Ib-d₁**) (0.165g, 1.0mmol) {prepared as per the literature procedure^{8a}}, was dissolved in DMSO (3 mL) in a 10 mL RB flask closed with air balloon (1atm pressure). The mixture was vigorously stirred at 50 °C for 12 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (25.0 mL) and water (25 mL) and it was transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed with water, and brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (s) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel 100-200 mesh, 4% ethyl acetate in hexane as eluent) to afford the title product **16-d₁** as a colourless solid (0.203 g, 84%). M.p. 100-101 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.28 – 3.19 (m, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 163.5, 141.5, 130.3, 130, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 113.8, 77.3, 77.1, 76.8, 55.5, 39.8 (t, *J* = 38.2 Hz, CHD), 30.3; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [C₁₆H₁₆DO₂]⁺ 242.12858; Found 242.12697.

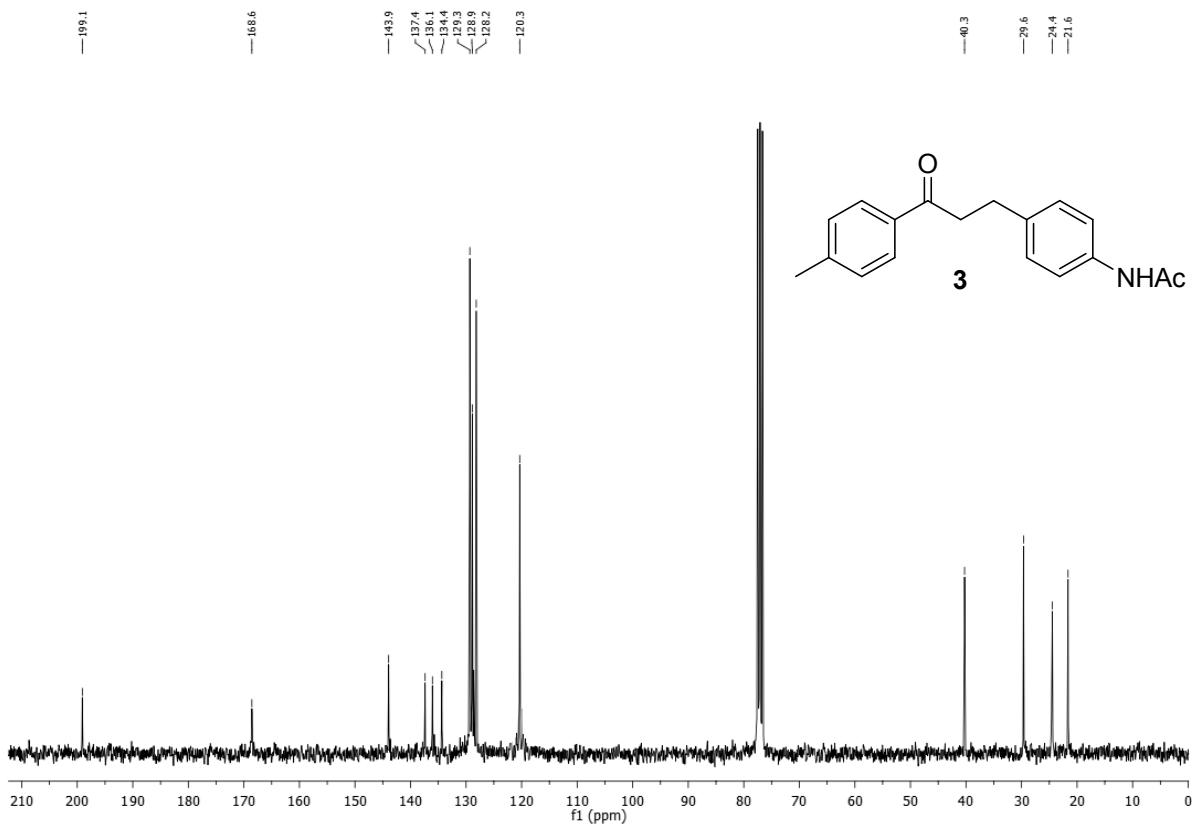
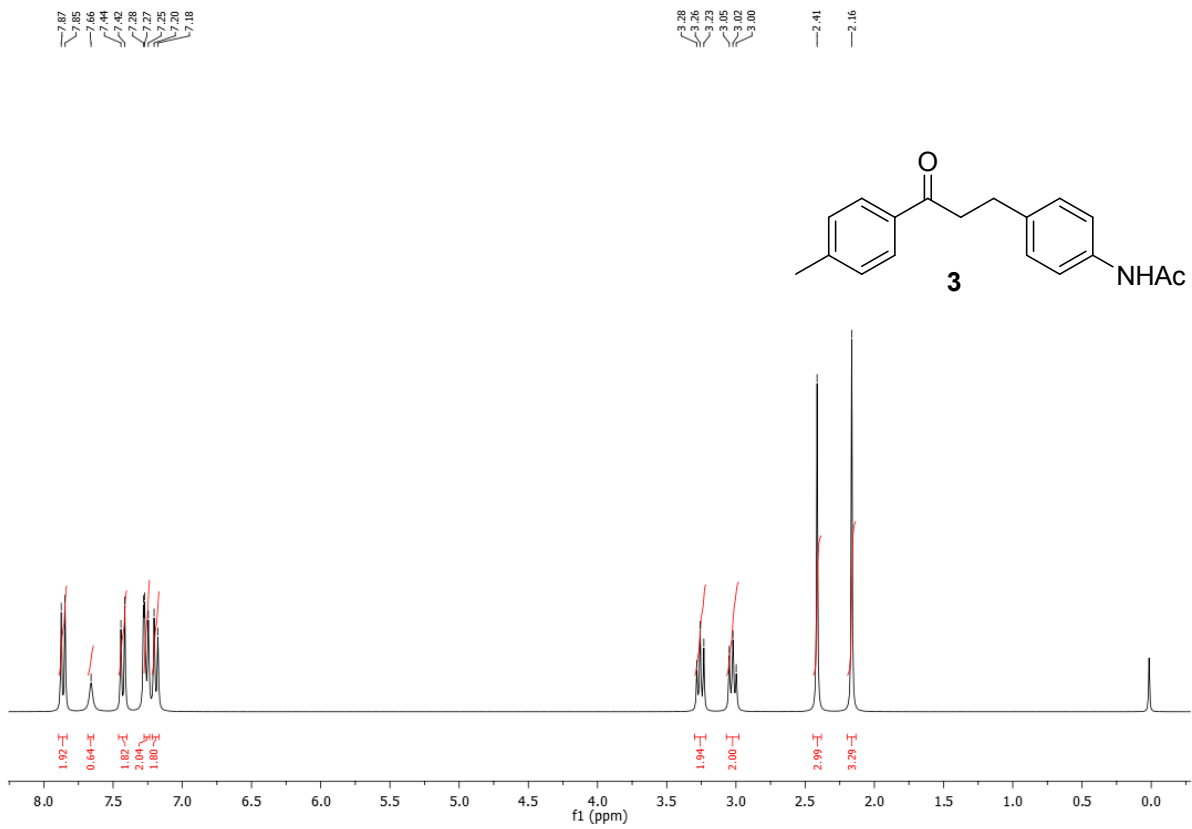
1.4 References

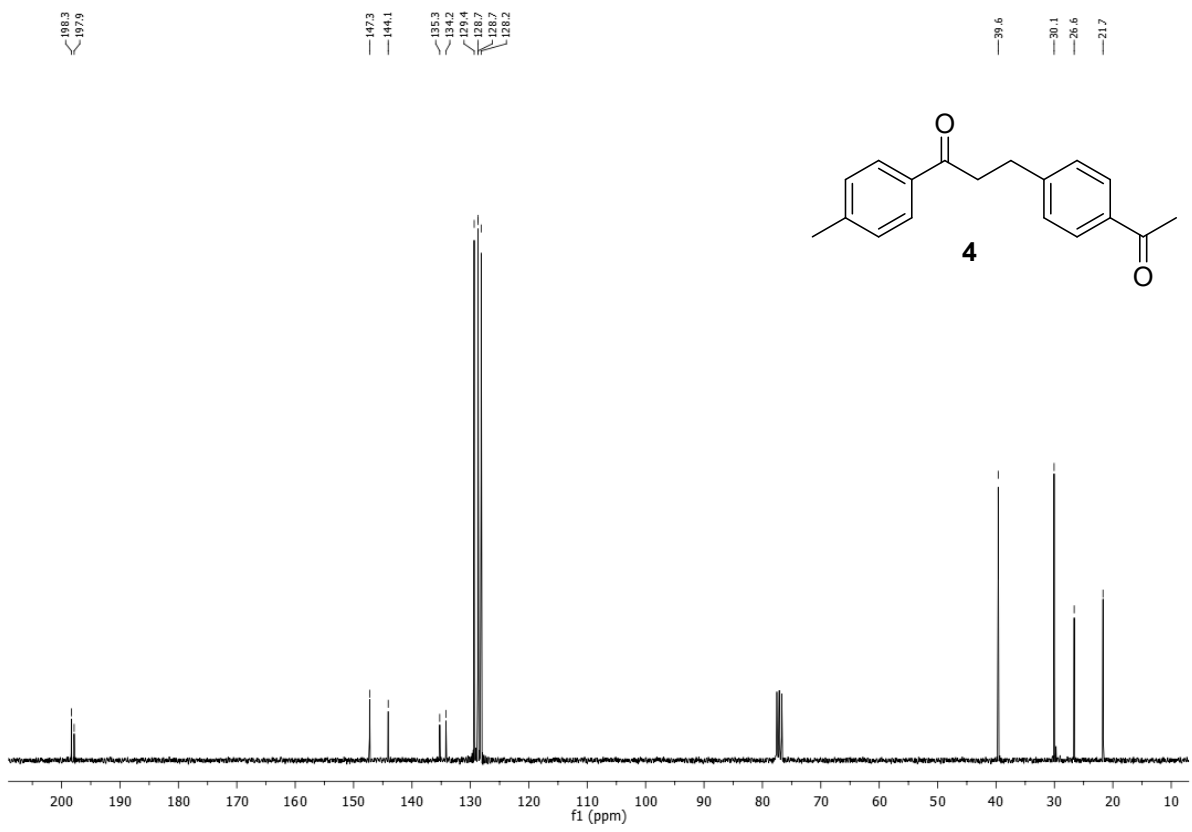
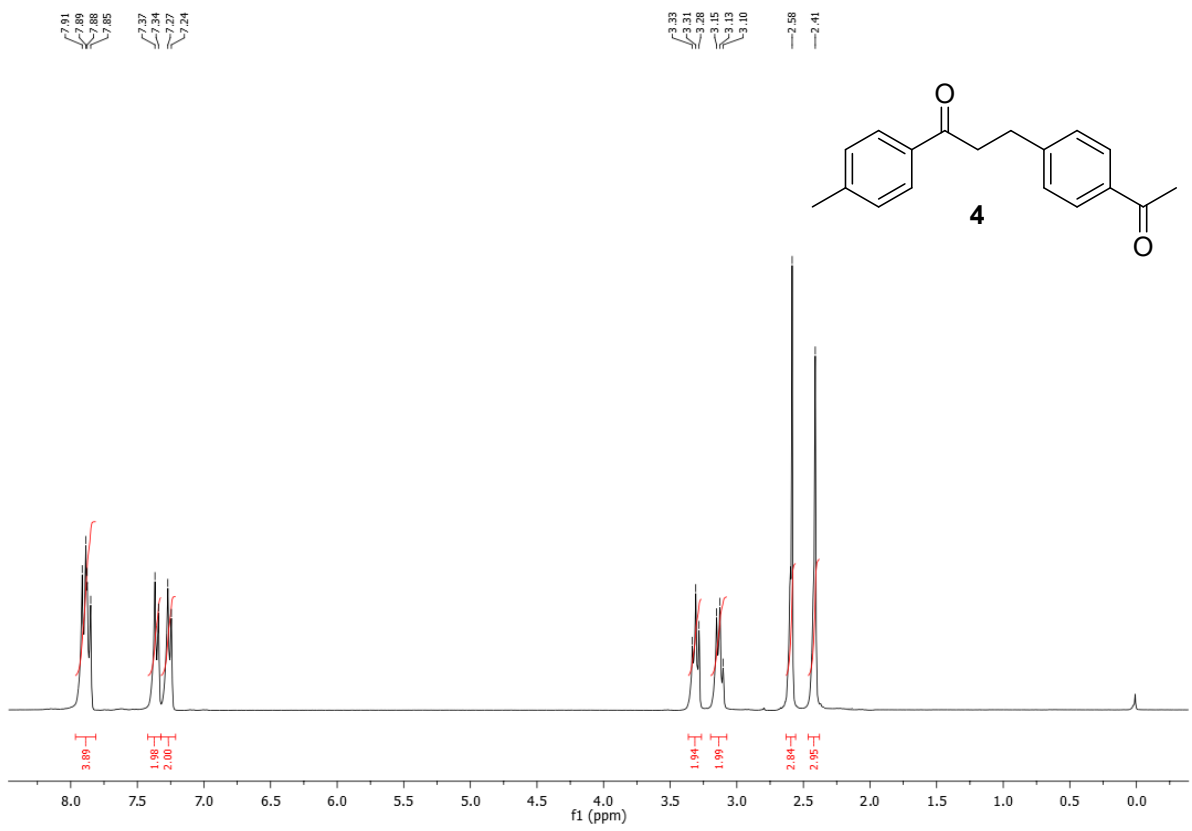
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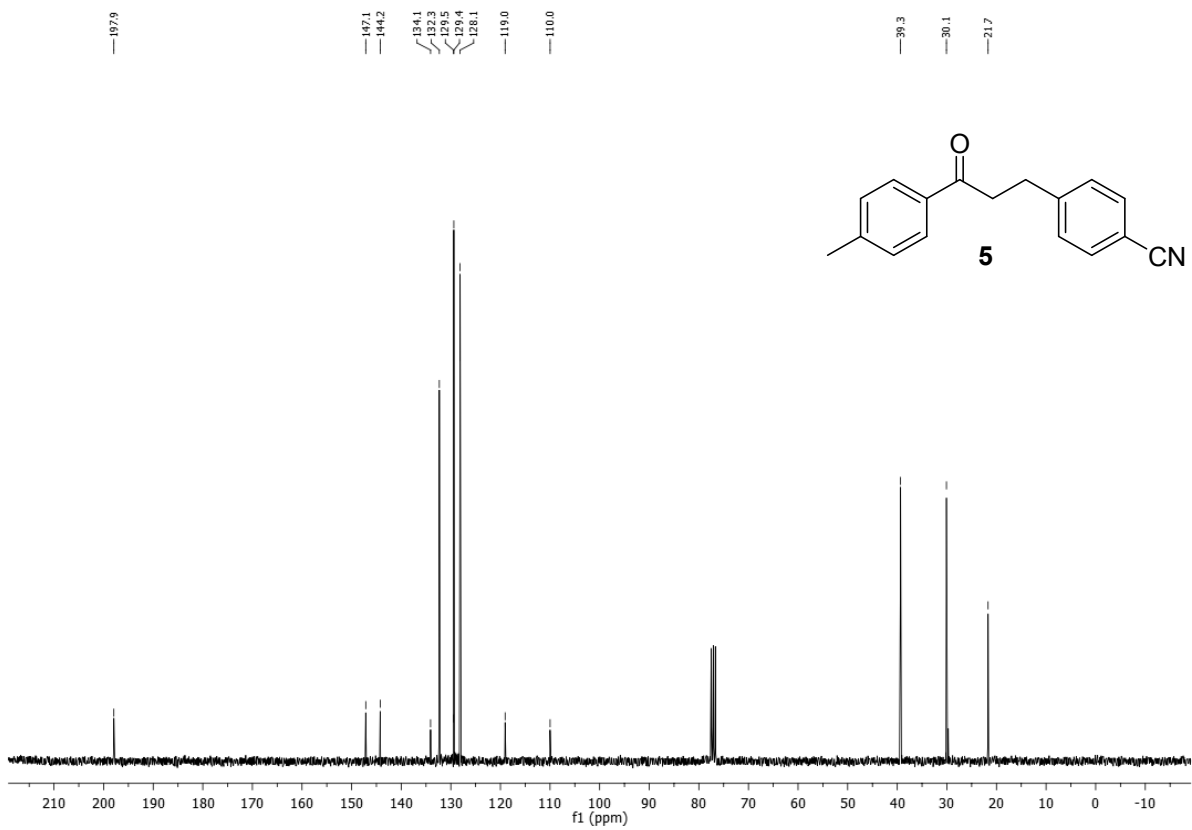
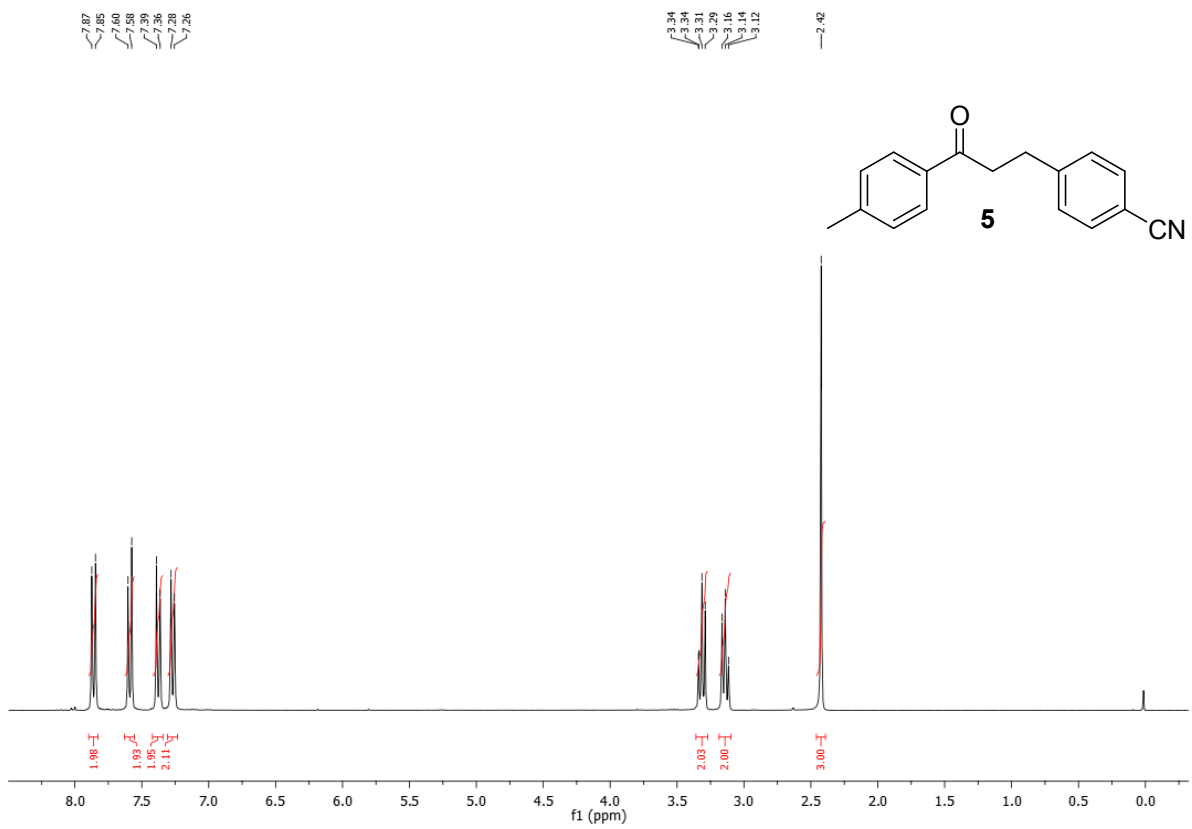
^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra for compounds (1-41)

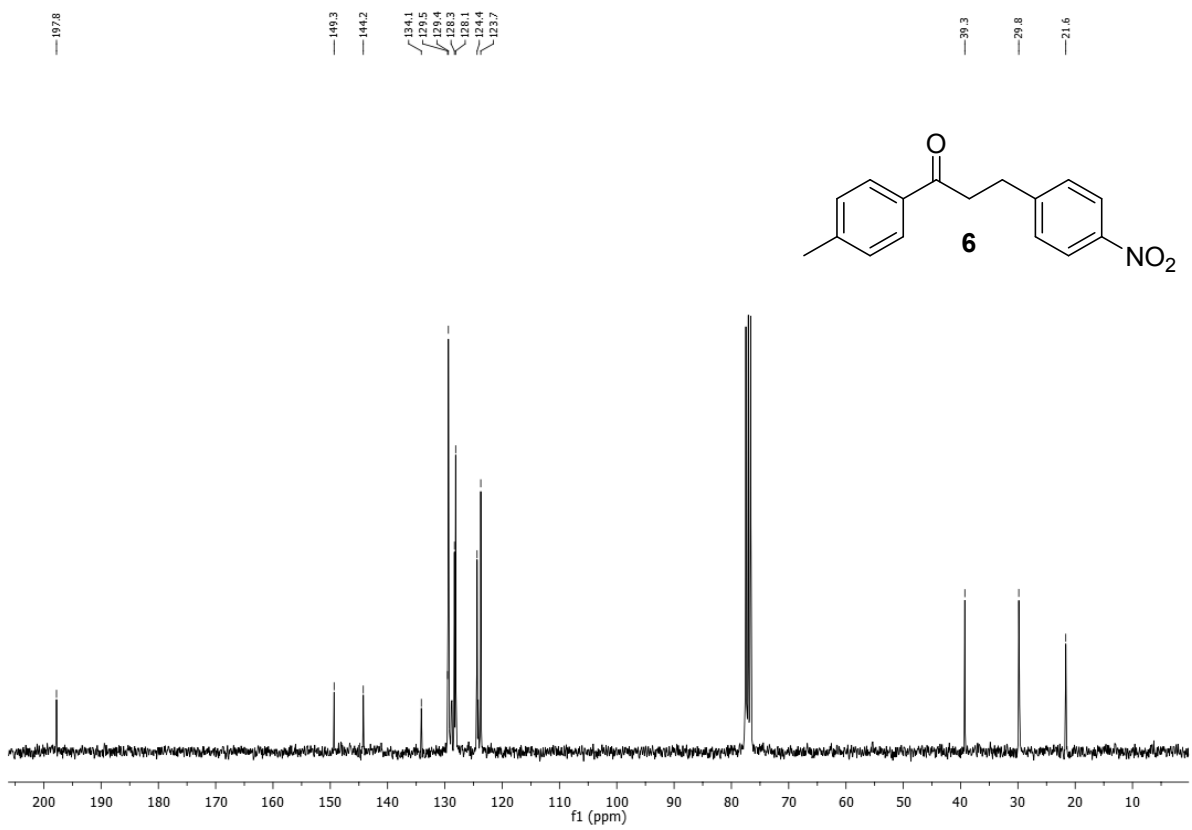
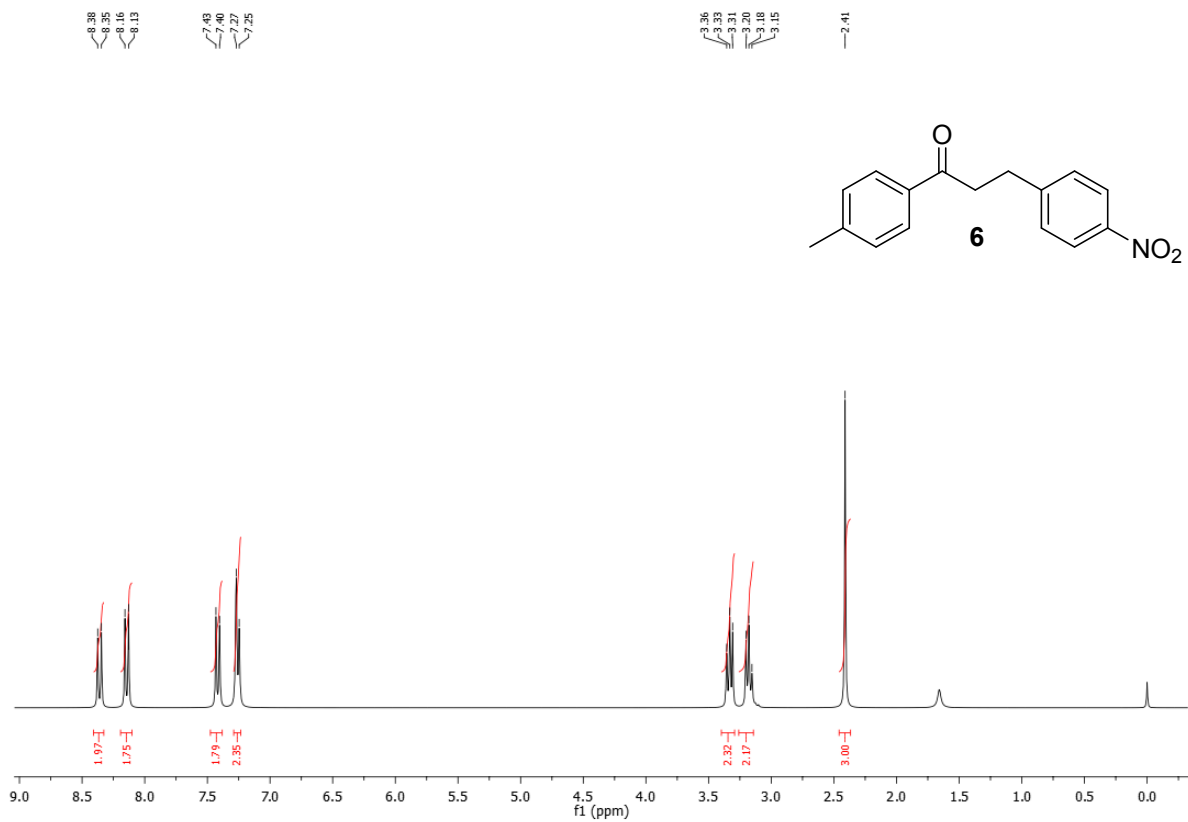


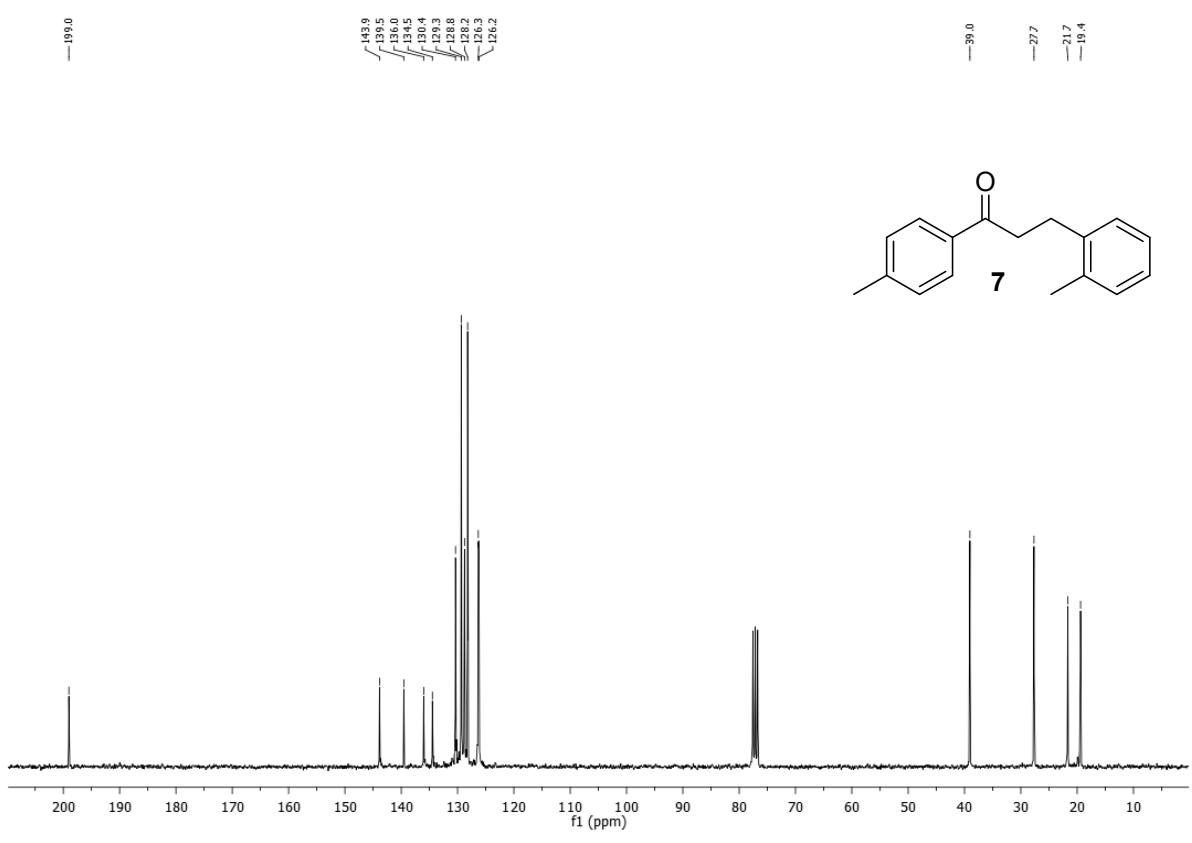
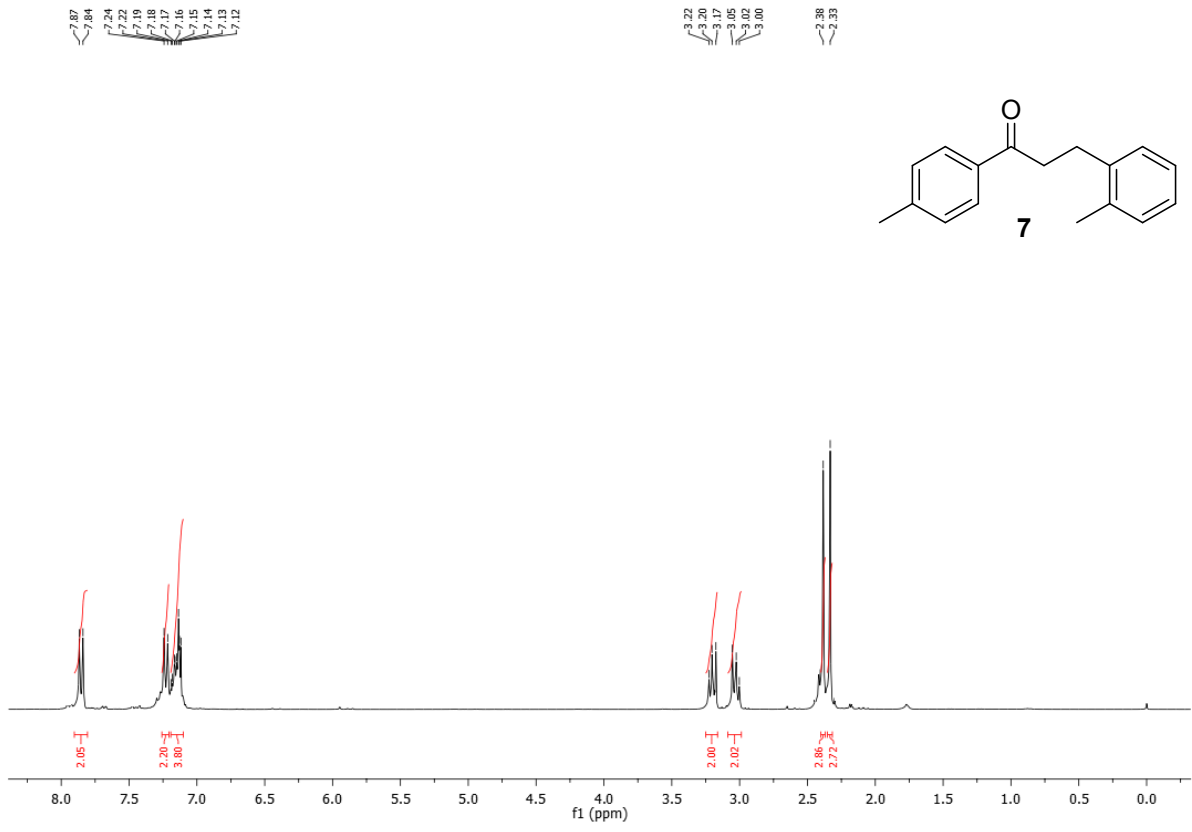


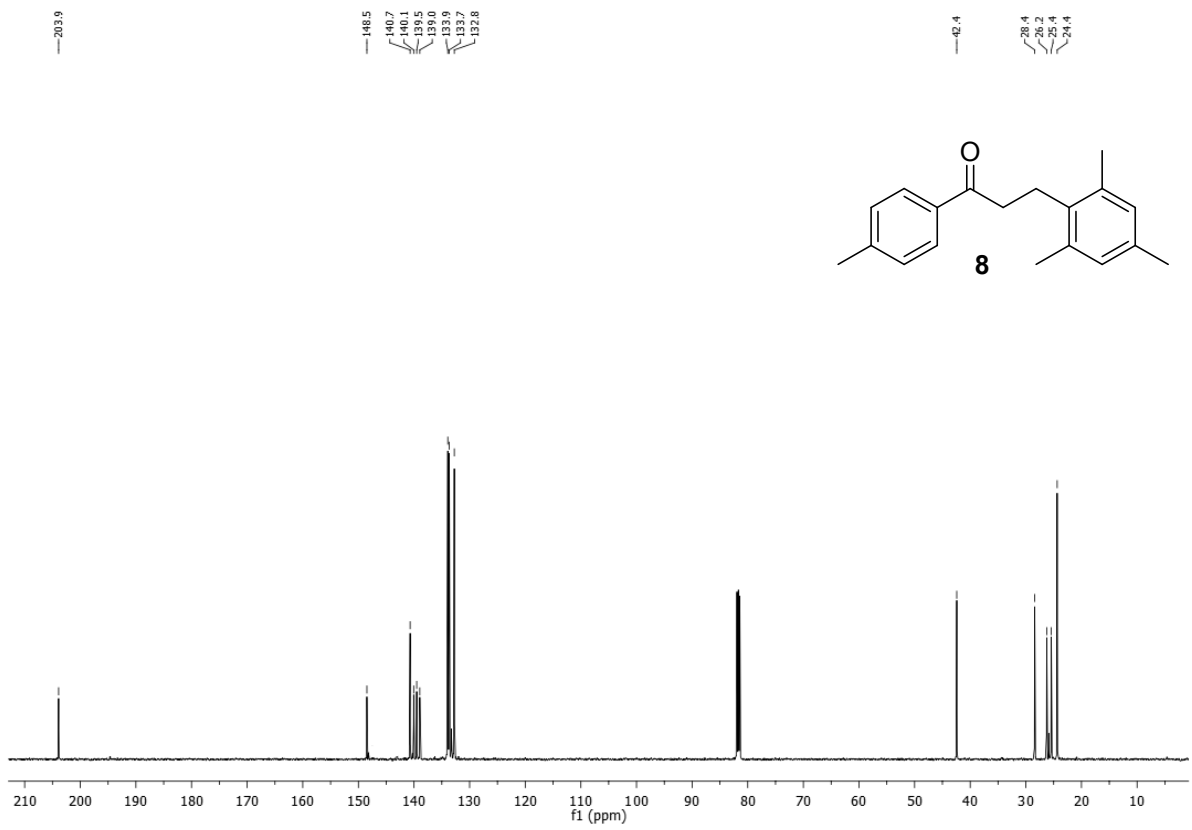
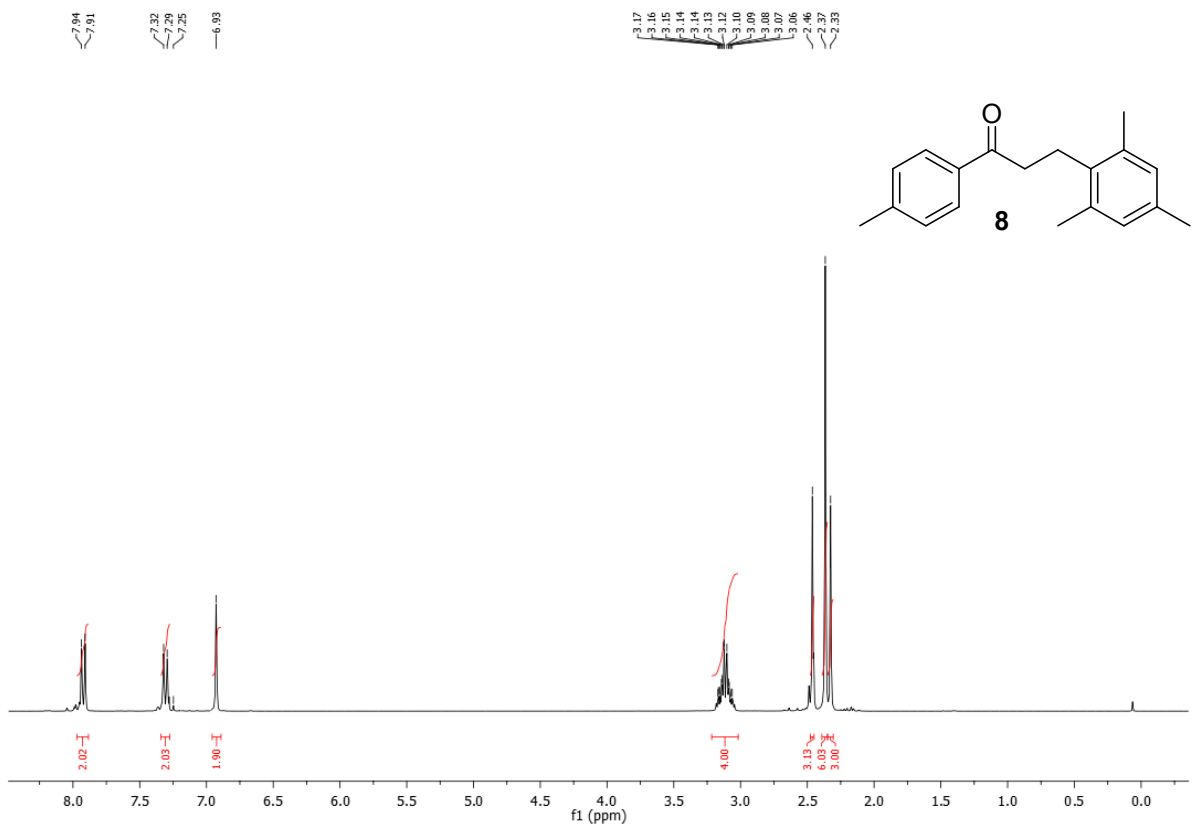


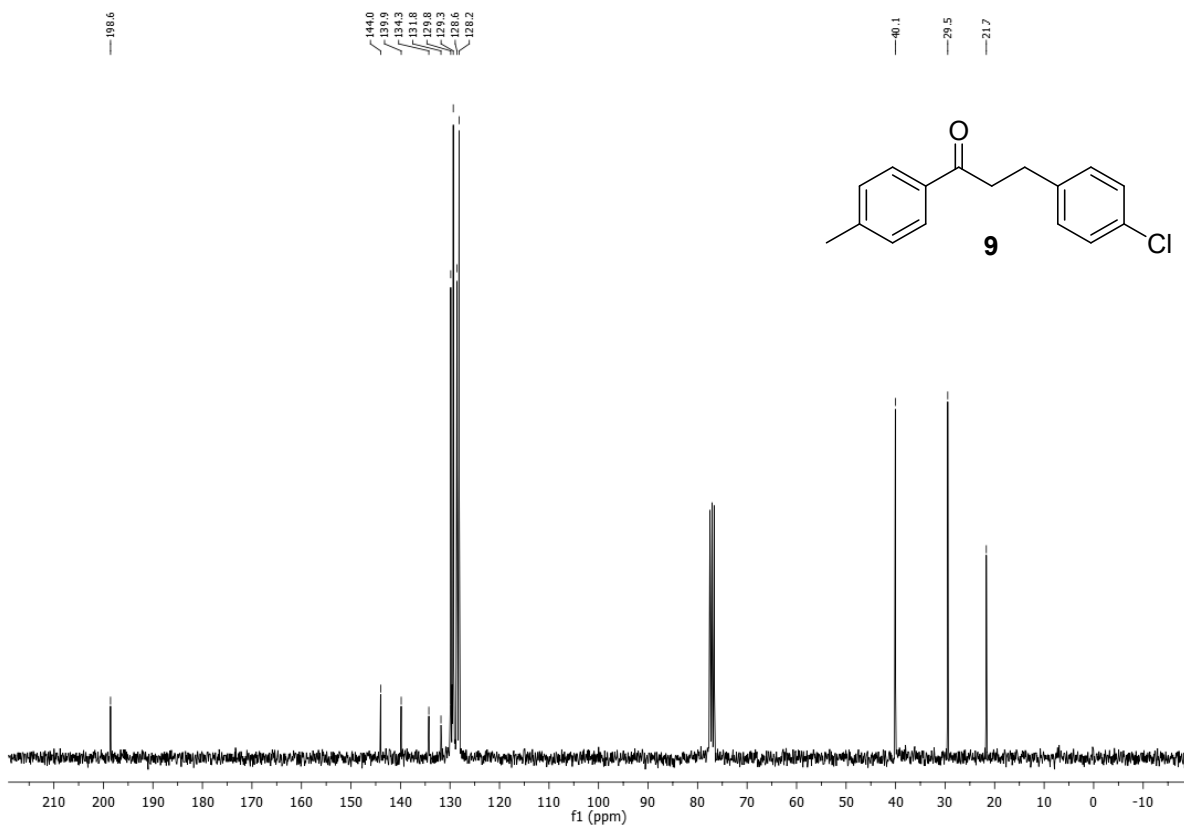
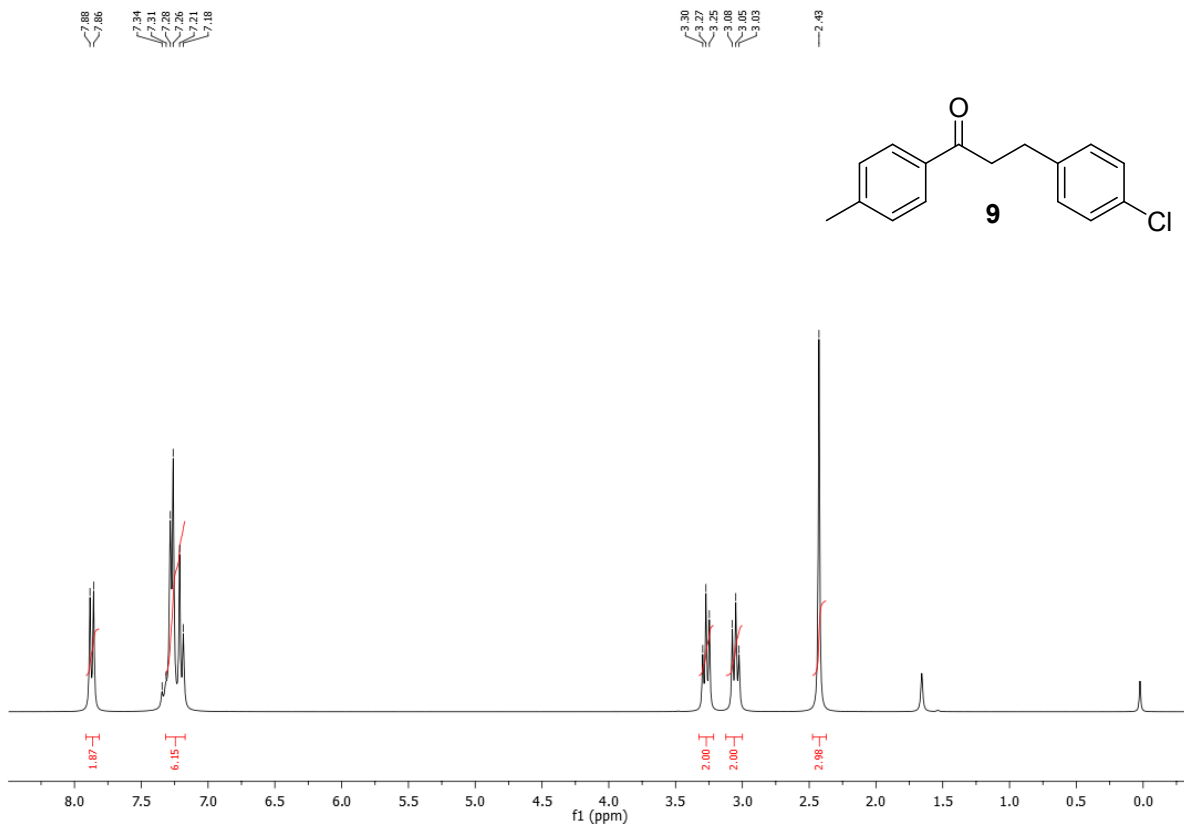


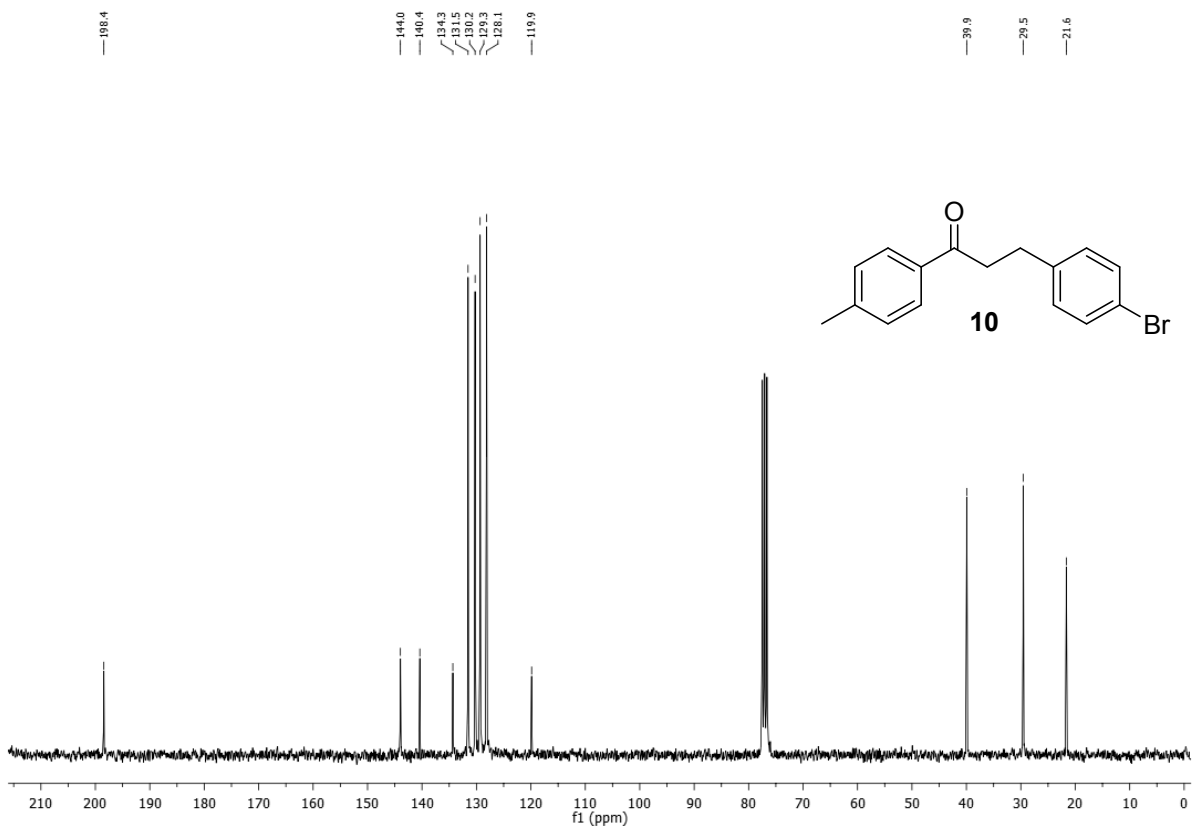
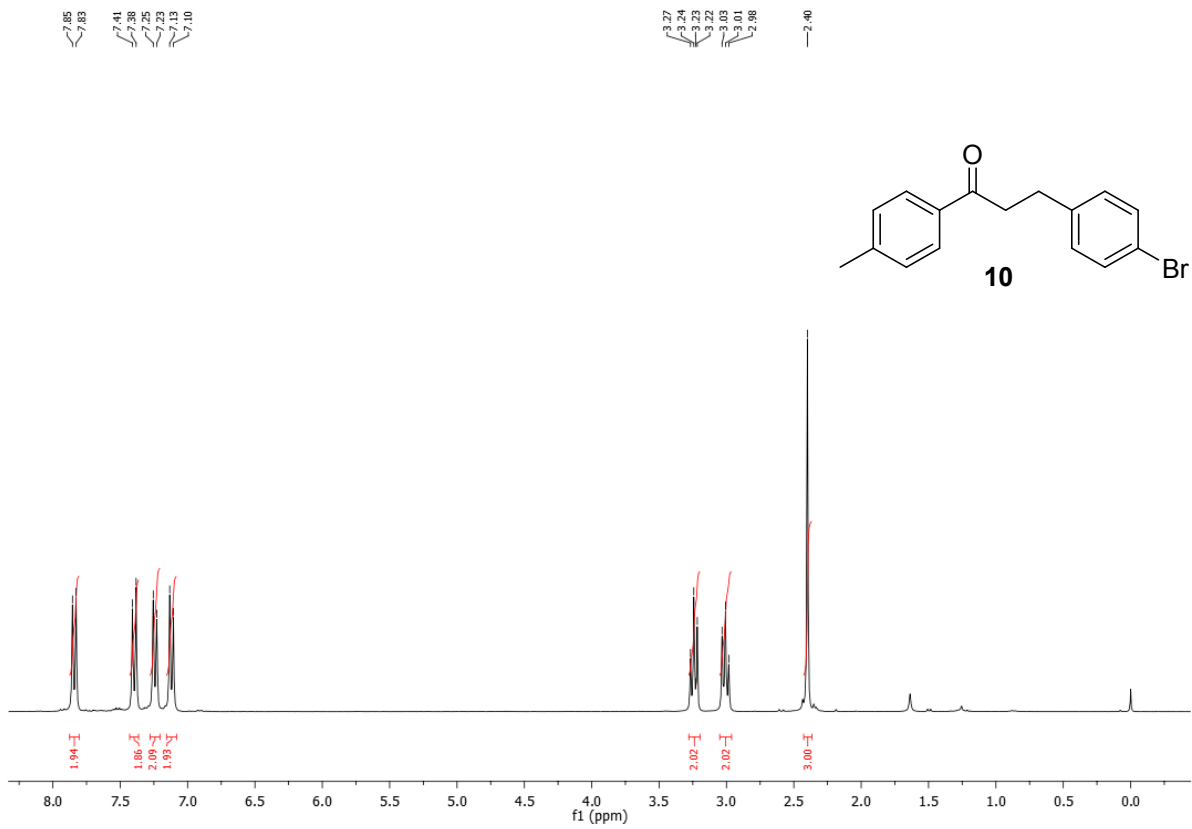


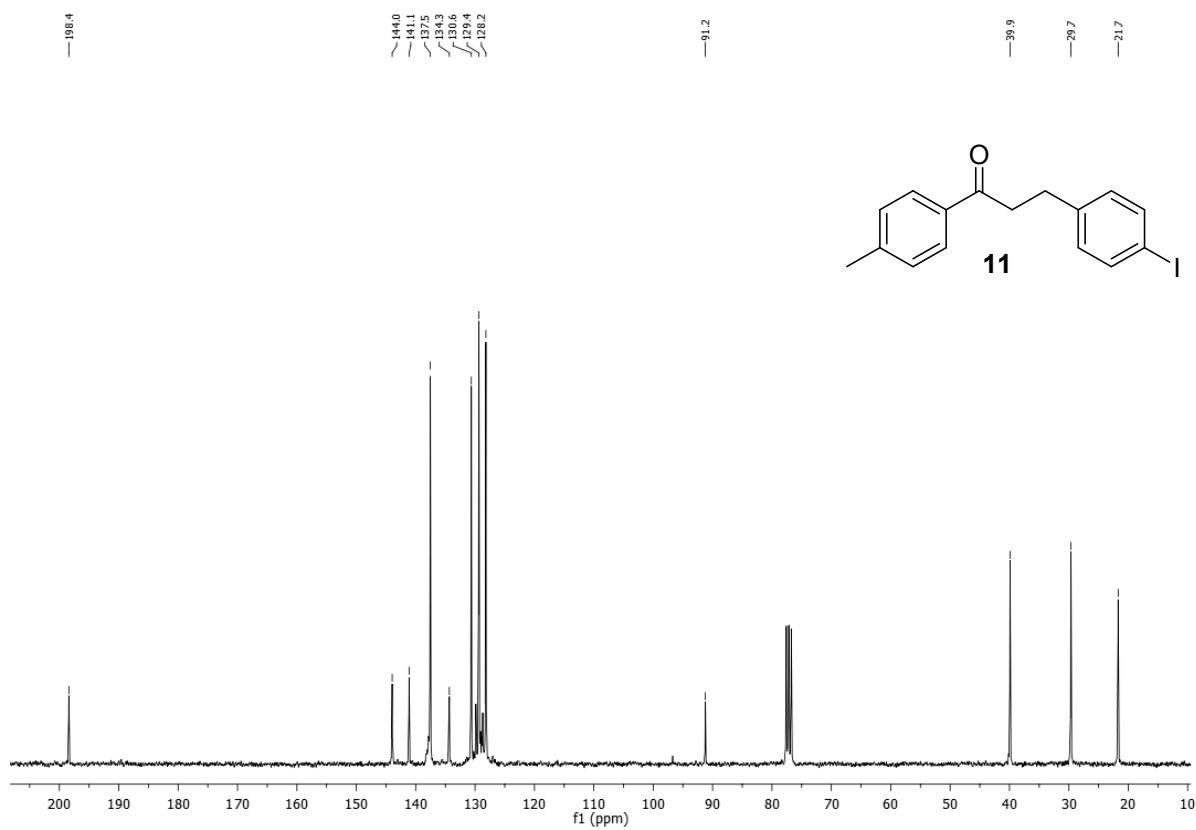
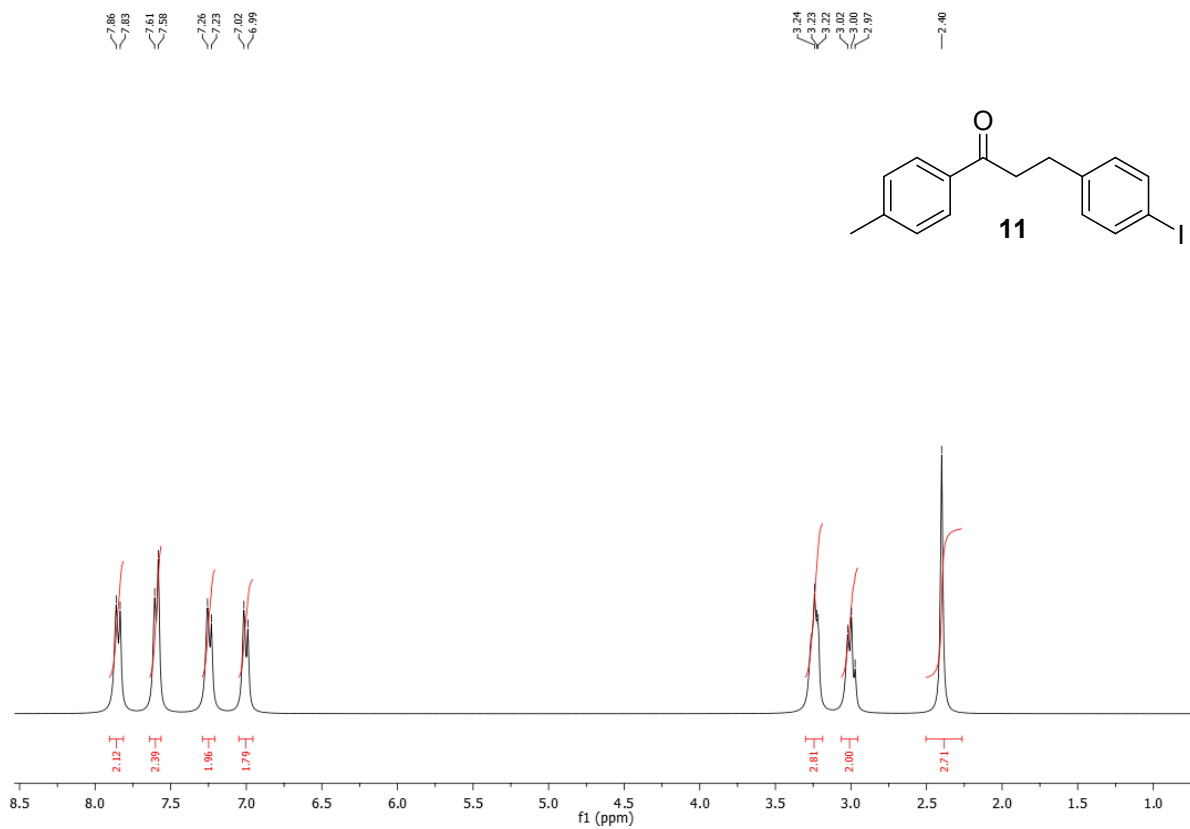


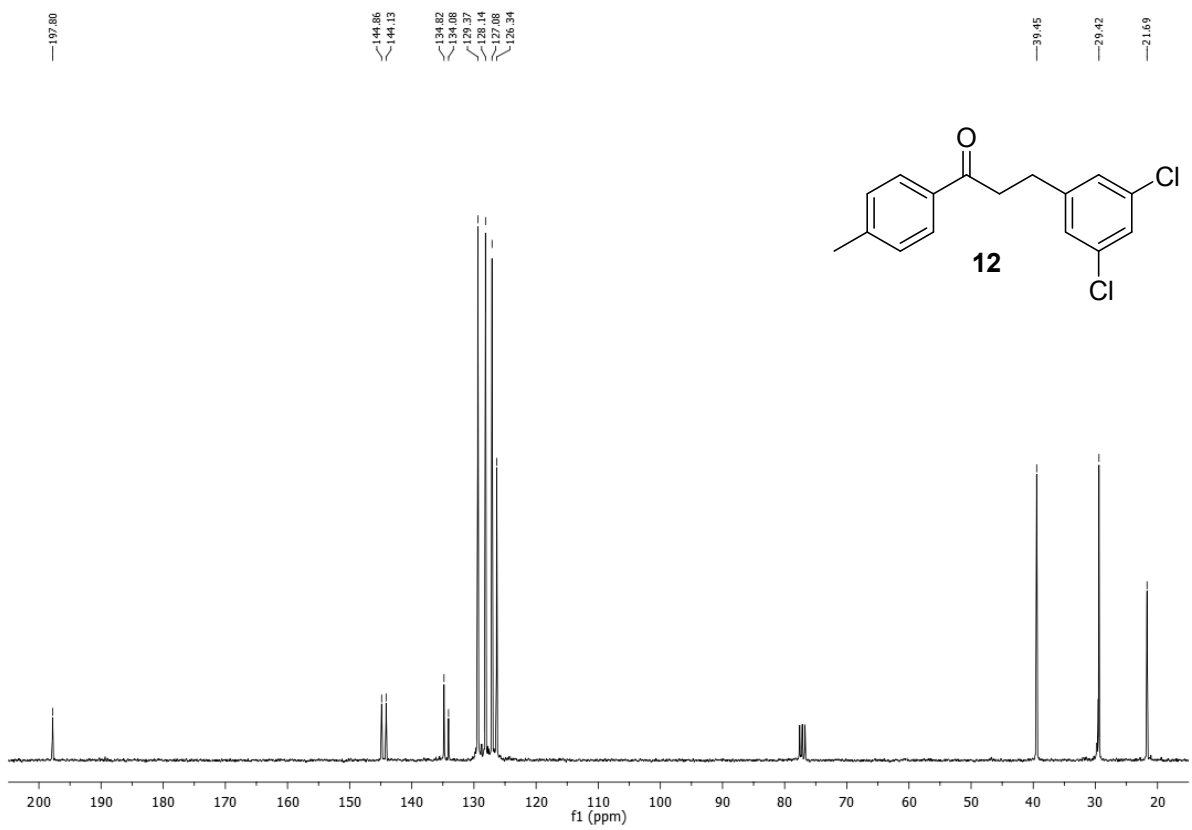


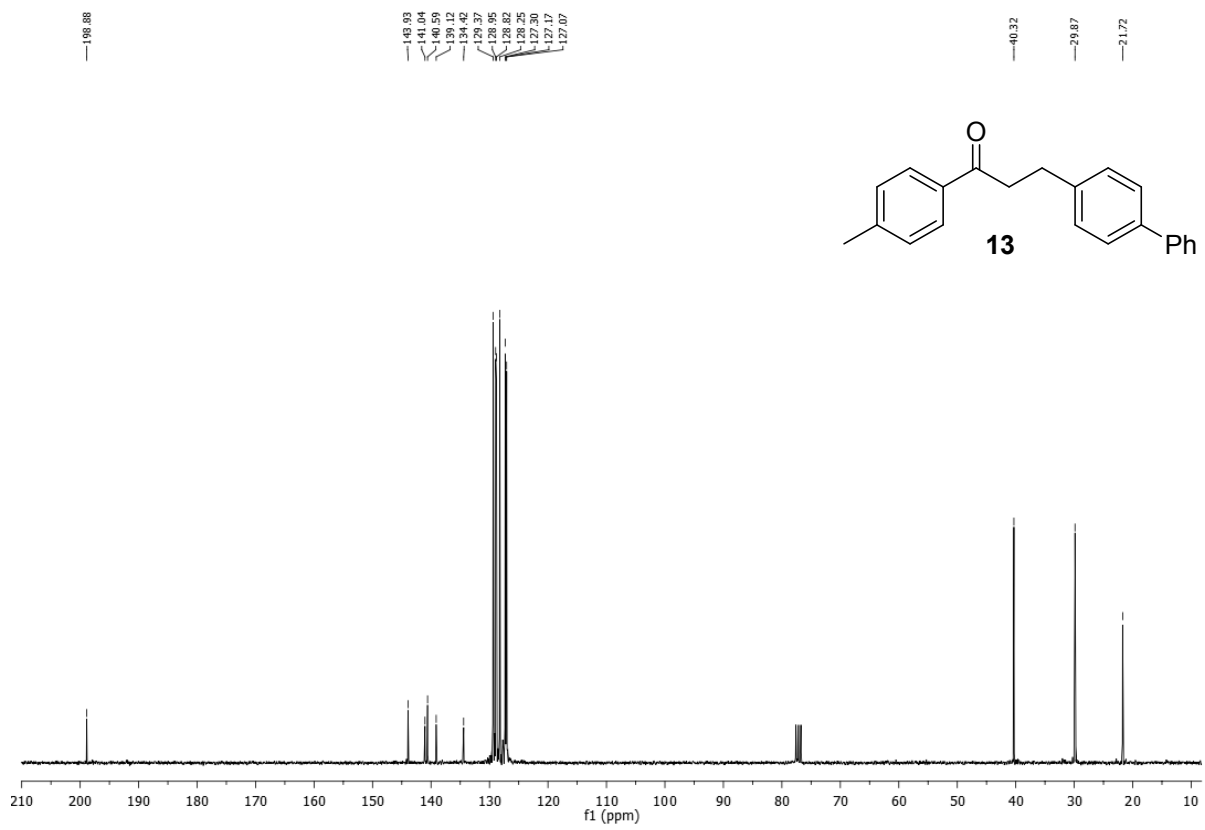
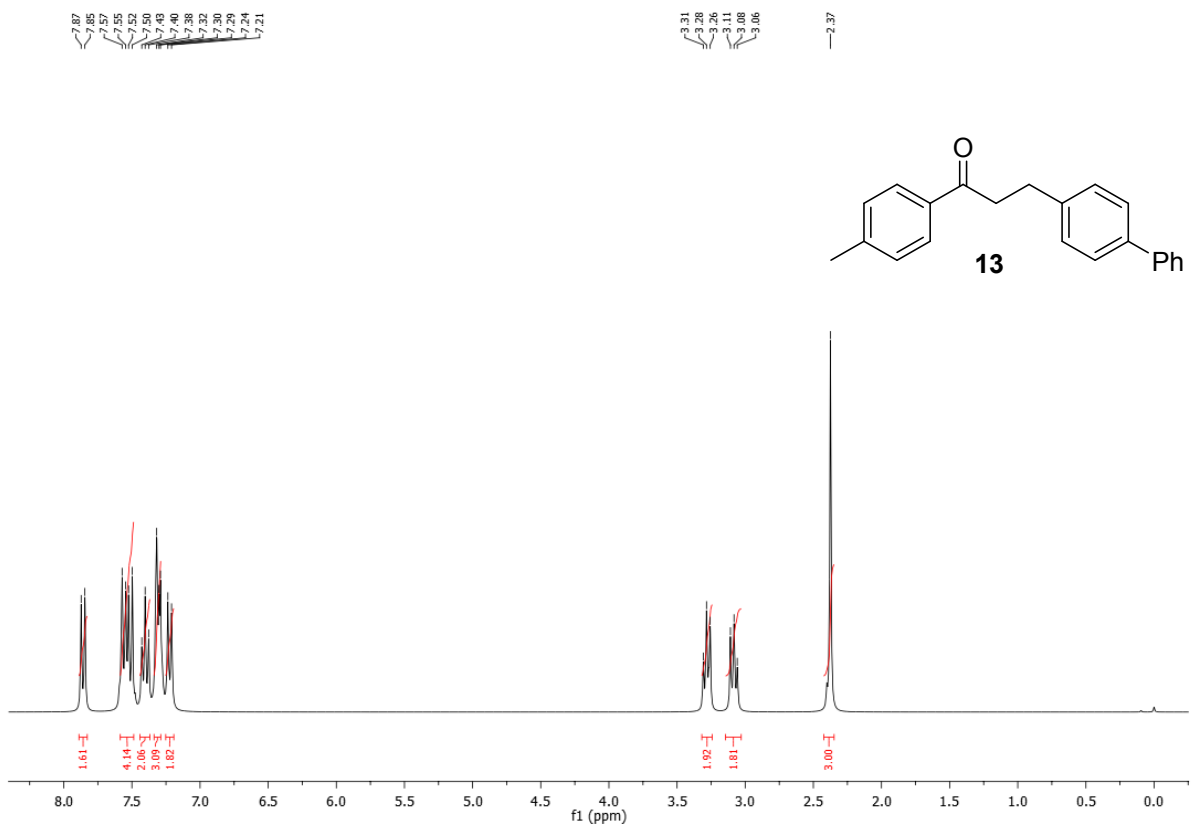


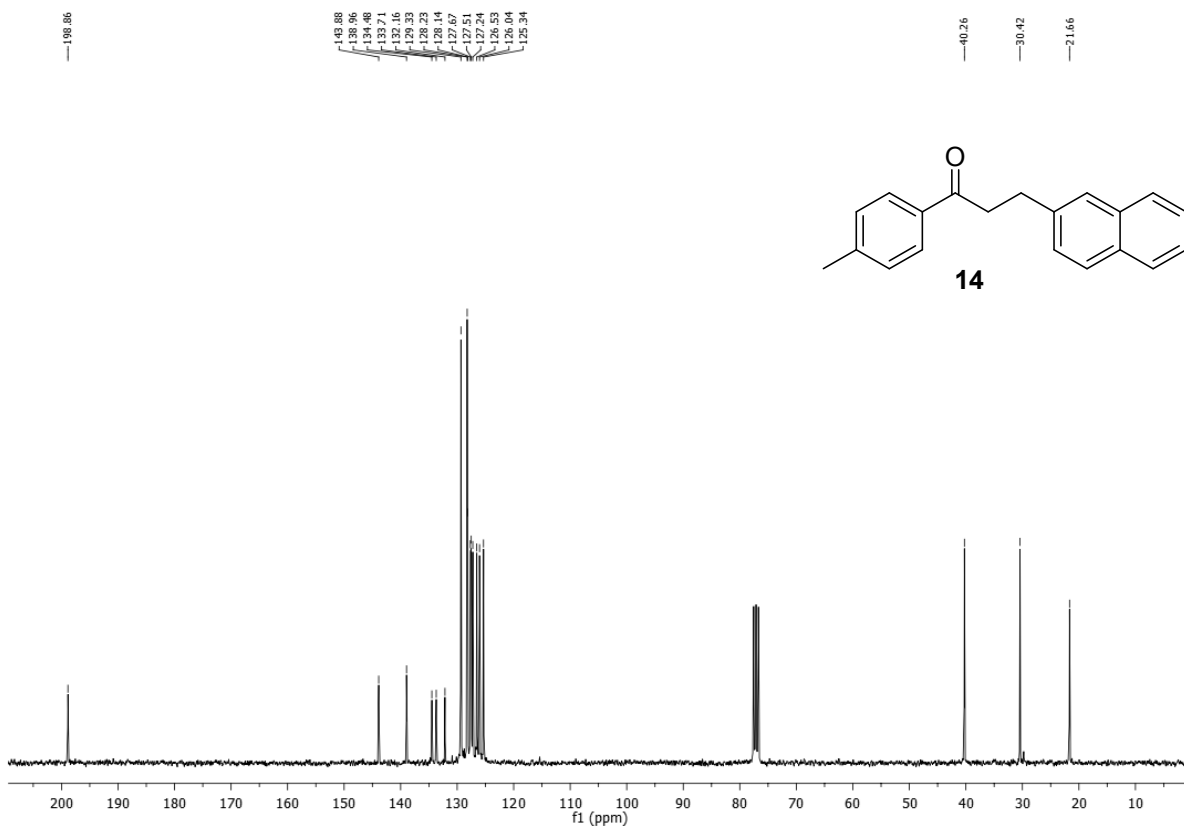
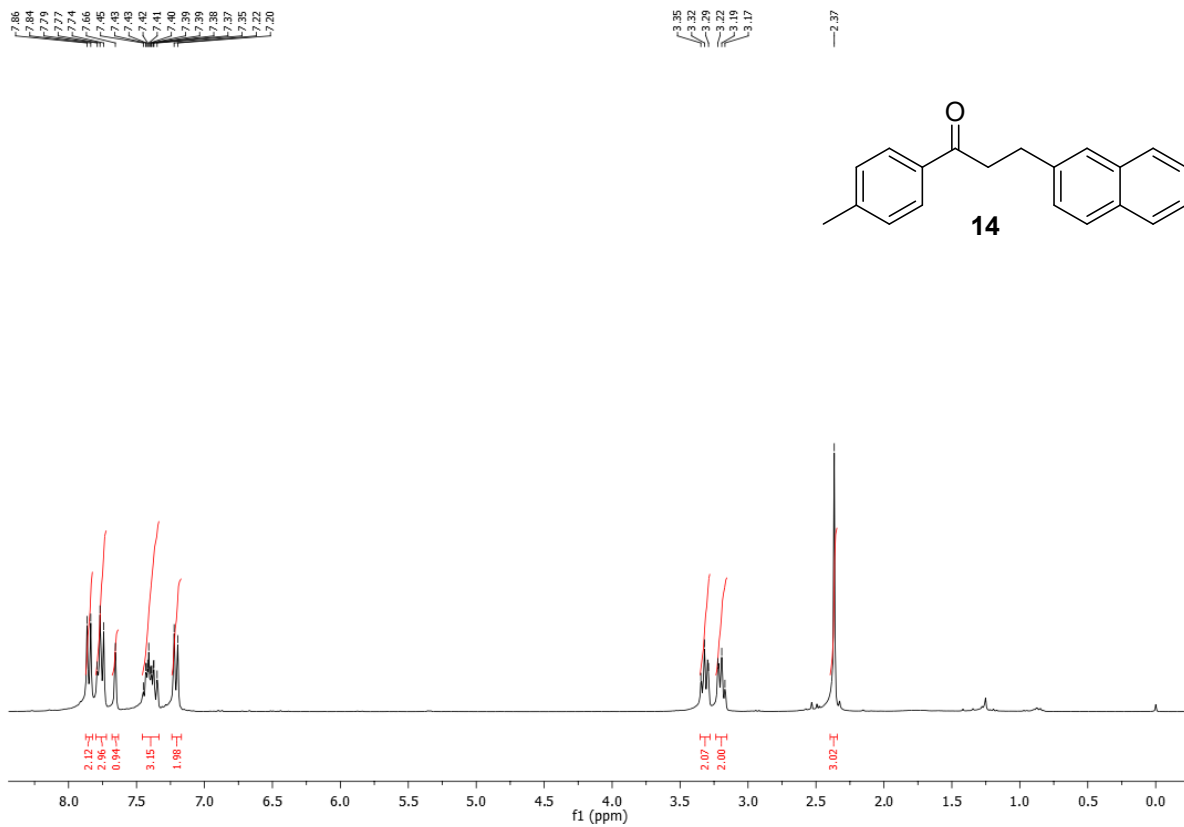


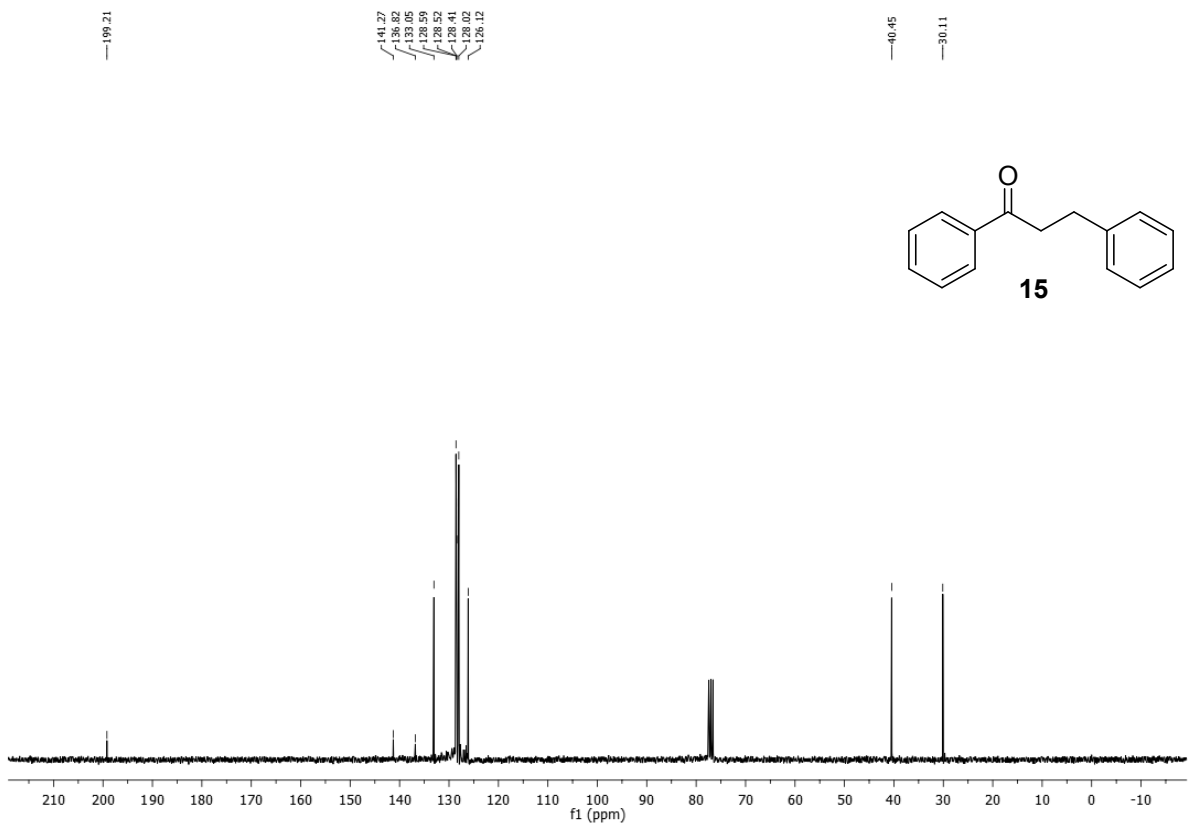
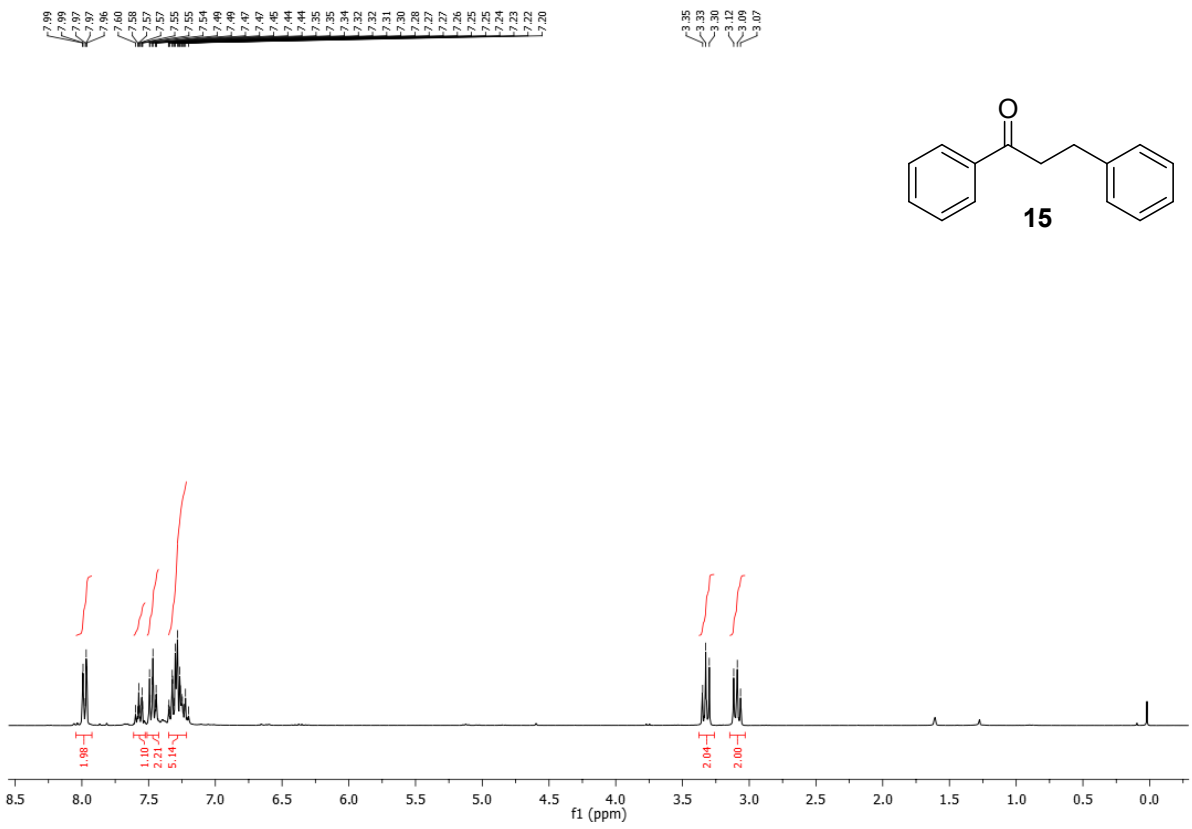


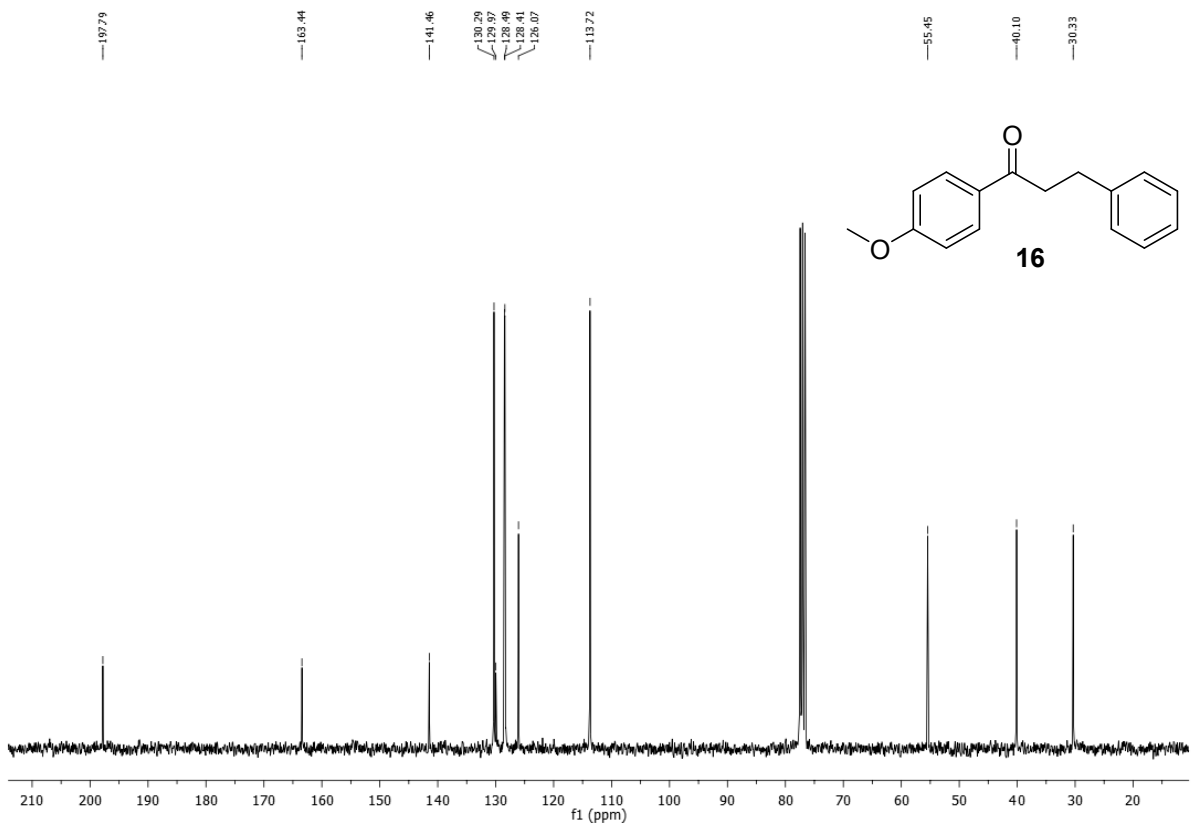
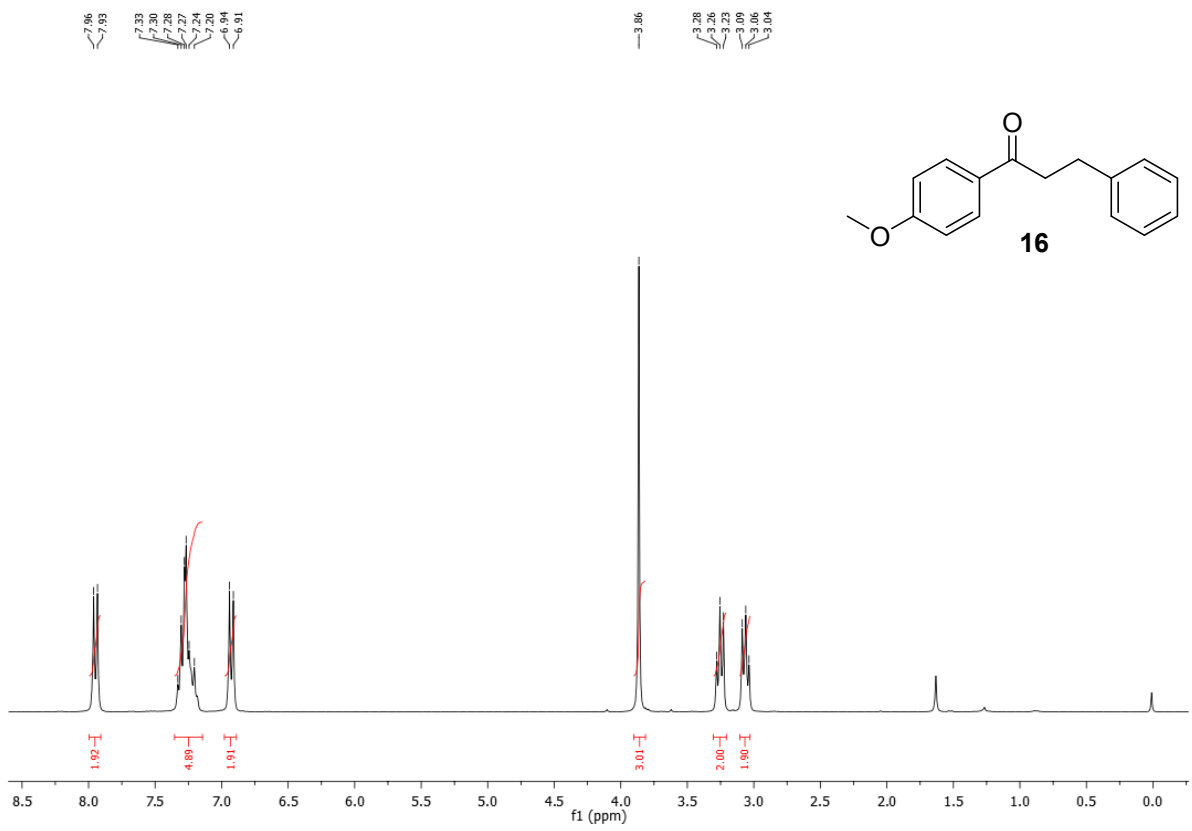






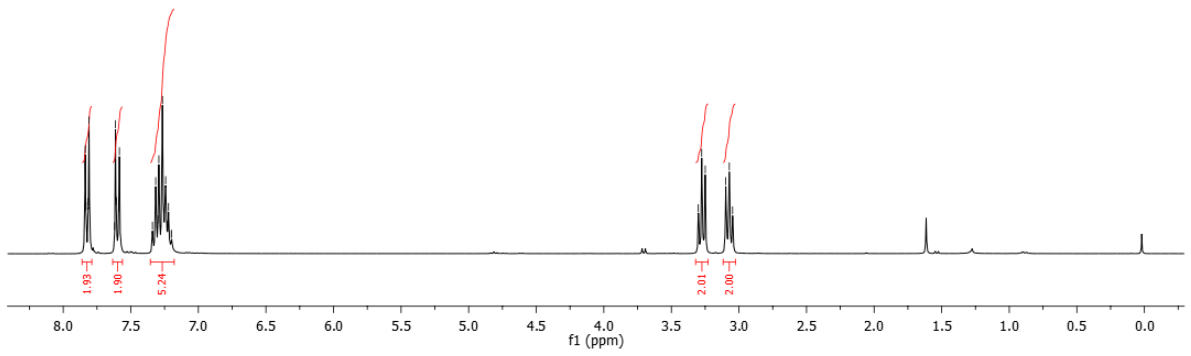
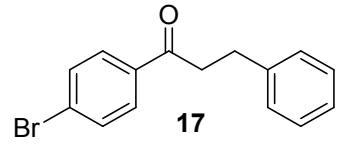






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3.30
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3.00
3.02
3.05



198.13

141.02
135.55
131.90
129.55
128.55
128.36
126.21

40.38

30.01

