Solvent-dependent oxidations of 5- and 6-azaindoles to trioxopyrrolopyridines and functionalized azaindoles†

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Electronic Supplementary Information

General

Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were carried out under a positive pressure of argon and with oven-dried glassware. Melting points were measured on a Barnstead Electrothermal 9200 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR SPECTRUM ONE spectrometer (film or 1% in KBr). Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker ALS300 and DRX 300 Fourier transform spectrometers, using an internal deuterium lock, operating at 300 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to internal standard (tetramethylsilane, $\delta_{\rm H} = 0.00$; CDCl₃, $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.26$; acetone-d₆, $\delta_{\rm H} = 2.05$ and DMSO-d₆, $\delta_{\rm H} = 2.50$). Data are presented as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quadruplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (reported in Hz), assignment. Atom numbering refers to pyridine and indole nomenclatures. Carbon magnetic resonance (¹³C NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker AC200 and DRX 300 Fourier transform spectrometers, using an internal deuterium lock, operating at 50 MHz and 75 MHz respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to internal standard (tetramethylsilane, $\delta_C = 0.00$; CDCl₃, $\delta_C = 77.16$; acetone-d₆, $\delta_C = 29.84$ and DMSO-d₆, $\delta_C = 39.52$). Carbon multiplicities (indicated in parentheses) were determined by DEPT experiments. Electron-Spray low-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo ALCQ Advantage spectrometer. Gas chromatography coupled with low-resolution mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) were recorded on a Thermo Focus GC (fused silica column, diameter 0.25 mm, length 15 m, coated with TR5M5, thickness 0.25 μm, initial temperature for 2 min: 70°C, heating rate 15°C/min)-DSQ spectrometer operating at 70 eV. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermoquest Finnigan MAT 95 XL spectrometer (for chemical ionisations, isobutane was used). Elemental analyses (Anal.) were performed by the Service Central d'Analyses du CNRS, Solaize, France.

Product purification by flash column chromatography was performed using Merck Kieselgel 60 Å (40-63 μ m). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using Merck commercial aluminium sheets coated (0.2 mm layer thickness) with Kieselgel 60 F254, with visualization by ultraviolet and anisaldehyde stain solution. *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (HPLC grade) was used as received without purification. THF (anhydrous analytical grade, stored over molecular sieves) was purchased from Carlo Erba Chemicals. Dichloromethane was distilled over calcium hydride prior to use. Diisopropylamine was distilled over sodium hydride prior to use. Methanol and isopropanol were distilled over sodium prior to use. Petroleum ether (PE) refers to the 40-60°C boiling point fraction. MeLi and *n*-BuLi solutions were titrated using *N*-benzylbenzamide. All other chemical reagents were used as received.

5-hydroxy-2-methoxy-pyridine **7** and 2-methoxy-5-methoxymethoxy-pyridine **8b** were prepared according to known procedures.³ Methyl- and *tert*-butyl azidoacetate were prepared from methyl- and *tert*-butyl bromoacetate and sodium azide according to a literature procedure.⁴

¹ H. E. Gottlieb, V. Kotlyar and A. Nudelman, J. Org. Chem. 1997, 62, 7512.

² A. F. Burchat, J. M. Chong and N. Nielsen J. Organomet. Chem. 1997, **542**, 281.

³ H. Van de Poël, G. Guillaumet and M.-C. Viaud-Massuard *Heterocycles* 2002, **57**, 55.

⁴ A. T. Moore and H. N. Rydon *Org. Synth.* 1965, **45**, 47.

General experimental procedure for the methylation of pyridinols: preparation of 2,5-dimethoxy-pyridine 8a

To a solution of 5-hydroxy-2-methoxy-pyridine 7 (1.877 g, 15 mmol) in DMF (45 mL) at room temperature was added K_2CO_3 (3.110 g, 22.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 50°C for 10 min, then methyl iodide (935 μ L, 15 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 3h30 at 50°C. After addition of water (50 mL) and EtOAc (100 mL) and decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2×100 mL) and the organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford **8a** (1.790 g, 86%) as a yellow liquid.

 v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3583, 2947, 2838, 1738, 1611, 1576, 1493, 1464, 1382, 1253, 1185, 1039, 828 and 742; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.89 (3H, s, OCH₃), 6.69 (1H, d, J = 9.0, ArH3), 7.21 (1H, dd, J = 9.0 and J = 3.0, ArH4) and 7.80 (1H, d, J = 3.0, ArH6); δ_{C} (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 53.43 (CH₃), 56.18 (CH₃), 111.02 (CH), 126.73 (CH), 131.01 (CH), 151.05 (C) and 158.73 (C); GC-MS (retention time: 3.97 min) m/z (EI) 139 (M^{+•}, 96%), 138 (100), 96 (48) and 54 (44).

2-Methoxy-5-triisopropylsilanyloxy-pyridine 8c

To a solution of 5-hydroxy-2-methoxy-pyridine 7 (2.503 g, 20 mmol) and imidazole (2.859 g, 42 mmol) in DMF (60 mL) at room temperature was added triisopropylsylilchloride (5.2 mL, 24 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 20h, after which water (50 mL) and EtOAc (100 mL) were added. After decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2×100 mL) and the organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 . After filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 90:10) to afford 8c (6.336 g, quantitative) as a pale yellow liquid.

 v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2945, 2893, 2867, 2727, 1743, 1724, 1607, 1584, 1573, 1488, 1464, 1432, 1378, 1256, 1195, 1115, 1060, 1031, 997, 912, 883, 818 and 688; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.08 (18H, d, J = 6.8, (CH(C H_3)₂)₃), 1.16-1.28 (3H, m, (CH(CH₃)₂)₃), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH₃), 6.61 (1H, d, J = 8.9, ArH3), 7.1((1H, dd, J = 8.9 and J = 3.0, ArH4) and 7.79 (1H, d, J = 3.0, ArH6); δ_{C} (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 12.55 (CH), 17.76 (CH₃), 53.41 (CH₃), 110.76 (CH), 131.07 (CH), 136.79 (CH), 147.40 (C) and 158.59 (C); GC-MS (retention time: 9.83 min) m/z (EI) 281 (M^{+•}, 22%), 238 (62), 210 (50), 182 (100) and 168 (58).

Typical experimental procedure for the formylation of 5-substituted 2-methoxypyridines 8: preparation of 5a and 6a

To a solution of 2,5-dimethoxy-pyridine 8a (417 mg, 3.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added diisopropylamine (10 µL, 0.06 mmol). The mixture was then cooled to -40°C and MeLi 1.6 M solution in Et₂O (3.4 mL, 5.4 mmol) was slowly added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0°C for 3 hours, then cooled to -40°C and N-formylpiperidine (600 μL, 5.4 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at -40°C for 2h then quenched by careful addition of a solution of 37% aqueous HCl (3 mL) in THF (7 mL). The temperature was raised to 20°C, then water (30 mL) and EtOAc (150 mL) were added. The pH of the resulting mixture was then adjusted to 8-9 with solid K₂CO₃. After decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2×20 mL). After drying of the combined organic phases with Na₂SO₄ and filtration, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 96:4 to 80:20).

The less polar fraction was 2,5-dimethoxy-pyridine-3-carbaldehyde 5a (77 mg, 15% yield, colorless solid).

Mp 64-66°C; Anal. found C, 57.4; H, 5.5; N, 8.35. C₈H₉NO₃ requires C, 57.5; H, 5.4; N, 8.4; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3461, 3055, 2953, 2875, 1679, 1611, 1577, 1488, 1445, 1432, 1411, 1382, 1305, 1290, 1258, 1211, 1172, 1044, 1012, 955, 904, 800, 752 and 737; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.84 (3H, s, OCH_3), 4.03 (3H, s, OCH_3), 7.66 (1H, d, J = 3.3, ArH), 8.10 (1H, d, J = 3.3, ArH) and 10.35 (1H, s, CHO); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 53.87 (CH₃), 56.24 (CH₃), 117.90 (C), 121.01 (CH), 140.52 (CH), 151.35 (C), 159.39 (C) and 189.13 (CH).

The more polar fraction was 2,5-dimethoxy-pyridine-4-carbaldehyde 6a (279 mg, 56% yield, yellow solid).

Mp 98-100°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3362, 2976, 2914, 1697, 1616, 1563, 1485, 1456, 1446, 1436, 1396, 1381, 1314, 1277, 1242, 1220, 1190, 1040, 1011, 930, 883, 873 and 742; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.97 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.08 (1H, s, ArH), 8.01 (1H, s, ArH) and 10.43 (1H, s, CHO); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 53.93 (CH₃), 56.72 (CH₃), 107.83 (CH), 131.51 (CH), 133.28 (C), 151.00 (C), 159.12 (C) and 189.15 (CH); m/z (EI) 167 (M^{+•}, 100%), 166 (75) and 44 (88); HRMS (EI) found (M^{+•}) 167.0580, C₈H₉NO₃ requires 167.0582.

2-Methoxy-5-methoxymethoxy-pyridine-4-carbaldehyde 6b

Compound **6b** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compounds **5a/6a**, scale: 2methoxy-5-methoxymethoxypyridine (1.523 g, 9.0 mmol), THF (30 mL), diisopropylamine (30 μL, 0.18 mmol), MeLi 1.6 M in Et₂O (10.2 mL, 16.2 mmol), N-formylpiperidine (1.8 mL, 16.2 mmol). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 90:10 to 80/20) to afford **6b** (1.083 g, 61%) as a yellow solid. Mp 39-40°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3369, 2973, 2930, 1739, 1699, 1609, 1486, 1380, 1235, 1195, 1155,

1083, 1032, 986 and 930; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.53 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.25 (2H, s, C H_2 OCH₃), 7.07 (1H, s, ArH), 8.23 (1H, s, ArH), 10.43 (1H, s, CHO); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 54.10 (CH₃), 56.66 (CH₃), 96.25 (CH₂), 107.64 (CH), 134.28 (C), 136.03 (CH), 148.98 (C), 159.88 (C) and 189.22 (CH); m/z (CI) 199 (10%), 198 (MH⁺, 100) and 89 (15); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 198.0766, $C_9H_{12}NO_4$ requires 198.0766.

2-Methoxy-5-triisopropylsilanyloxy-pyridine-3-carbaldehyde 5c

Compound $\bf 5c$ was prepared according to the same procedure as for compounds $\bf 5a/6a$, scale: 2-methoxy-5-triisopropylsilanyloxypyridine (2.815 g, 10.0 mmol), THF (35 mL), diisopropylamine (30 μ L, 0.2 mmol), MeLi 1.5 M in Et₂O (12.0 mL, 18.0 mmol), N-formylpiperidine (2.0 mL, 18.0 mmol). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 98:2 to 96:4) to afford $\bf 5c$ (1.965 g, 64%) as a yellow oil.

 v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2943, 2893, 2868, 2748, 1742, 1691, 1602, 1569, 1474, 1430, 1383, 1286, 1244, 1211, 1048, 1018, 1003, 910, 882, 844, 801, 755, 690, 665 and 587; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.10 (18H, d, J = 6.8, (CH(CH₃)₂)₃), 1.18-1.30 (3H, m, (CH(CH₃)₂)₃), 4.02 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.61 (1H, d, J = 3.1, ArH), 8.04 (1H, d, J = 3.1, ArH) and 10.32 (1H, s, CHO); δ_{C} (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 12.53 (CH), 17.84 (CH₃), 53.85 (CH₃), 118.29 (C), 127.56 (CH), 144.19 (CH), 147.87 (C), 159.26 (C) and 189.27 (CH); m/z (CI) 311 (23%) and 310 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 310.1838, $C_{16}H_{28}NO_3Si$ requires 310.1838.

Typical experimental procedure for the acidic deprotection of 6b: 5-hydroxy-2-methoxy-pyridine-4-carbaldehyde 9

To a solution of 2-methoxy-5-methoxymethoxy-pyridine-4-carbaldehyde **6b** (986 mg, 5 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added 3N aqueous HCl (15 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 50°C for 3 hours. After this time, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and water (100 mL) was added followed by neutralisation (pH=7-8) with solid K_2CO_3 . The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3×100 mL). After drying of the organic phase over Na_2SO_4 , filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford **9** (725 mg, 95%) as a yellow powder.

Mp 136-137°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3436, 2925, 2616, 1691, 1677, 1472, 1449, 1424, 1394, 1324, 1298, 1229, 1119, 1048, 921, 854, 830 and 733; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 6.93 (1H, d, J=0.5, ArH3), 8.08 (1H, s, ArH5), 9.46 (1H, s, ArOH) and 9.97 (1H, d, J=0.5, CHO); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 54.16 (CH₃), 111.62 (CH), 127.71 (C), 137.34 (CH), 148.96 (C), 158.35 (C) and 196.58 (CH); m/z (ESI⁺) 186 (M+CH₃OH+H⁺, 100%), 168 (46) and 154 (MH⁺, 49); HRMS (EI) found (M⁺*) 153.0421, C₇H₇NO₃ requires 153.0426.

Typical experimental procedure for the fluoride-promoted deprotection of 5c: preparation of 5-hydroxy-2-methoxy-pyridine-3-carbaldehyde 10

A tetra *n*-butyl-ammonium fluoride 1M solution in THF (15 mL, 15 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-methoxy-5-triisopropylsilanyloxy-pyridine-3-carbaldehyde $\mathbf{5c}$ (3.095 g, 10 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) at 0°C. The temperature was allowed to rise to room temperature and the resulting mixture for stirred for 2 hours. After addition of water (15 mL) and EtOAc (50mL) and decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2×50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with water (2×50 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 50:50) to afford $\mathbf{10}$ (1.408 g, 92%) as a white solid.

Mp 104-105°C; Anal. found C, 54.6; H, 4.6; N, 9.05. $C_7H_7NO_3$ requires C, 54.9; H, 4.6; N, 9.15; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3466, 3084, 3007, 2962, 2888, 1674, 1312, 1588, 1483, 1460, 1426, 1390, 1323, 1307, 1283, 1226, 1207, 1170, 1132, 1049, 995, 897, 751 and 743; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 4.03 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.09 (1H, br s, ArOH), 7.64 (1H, d, J = 3.2, ArH), 8.07 (1H, d, J = 3.2, ArH) and 10.33 (1H, s, CHO); δ_C (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 54.10 (CH₃), 118.17 (C), 124.31 (CH), 140.93 (CH), 148.15 (C), 159.29 (C) and 190.22 (CH); m/z (ESI⁺) 200 (66%), 186 (M+CH₃OH+H⁺, 100) and 154 (MH⁺, 59); m/z (ESI⁻) 152 (M-H⁻, 100%) and 137 (44).

Condensation reaction between 3-formyl pyridine 5a and methyl azidoacetate:

Sodium metal (226 mg, 9.84 mmol) was added to anhydrous methanol (6 mL) at 0°C and the resulting mixture stirred until the metal completely dissolved. To this preformed sodium methoxide solution at 0°C was slowly added (over a 5 min period) a solution in methanol (6 mL) of aldehyde **5a** (401 mg, 2.4 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate (1.055 g, 3.8 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 3 hours, then poured onto crushed ice (40 g, in an open beaker) and left for one hour in a refrigerator at 4°C. The product was recovered by filtration on a sintered glass funnel (n°4) and dried under vacuum to give a pale yellow solid (315 mg). This product consisted of a 28:72 mixture (determined by ¹H NMR) of azidoacrylate **4a** and azidoalcohol **11a**, respectively. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (EP/AcOEt 70:30, the solid was adsorbed onto silica).

The less polar fraction was 2-Azido-3-(2,5-dimethoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-acrylic acid methyl ester **4a** (87 mg, pale yellow powder, 14% yield).

Mp 123-124°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3088, 2986, 2941, 2853, 2120, 1702, 1611, 1571, 1470, 1440, 1400, 1382, 1347, 1303, 1279, 1261, 1214, 1182, 1146, 1082, 1019 and 962. $δ_H$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.03 (1H, s, CH), 7.89 (1H, d, J = 3.0, ArH) and 8.13 (1H, d, J = 3.0, ArH); $δ_C$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 53.26 (CH₃), 53.76 (CH₃), 56.21 (CH₃), 115.70 (C), 116.01 (CH), 125.33 (CH), 127.33 (C), 132.66 (CH), 150.40 (C), 155.22 (C) and 162.97 (C); m/z (CI) 265 (MH⁺, 31%), 238 (14) and 237 (MH⁺-N₂, 100); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 265.0938, $C_{11}H_{13}N_4O_4$ requires 265.0937.

The more polar fraction was 2-Azido-3-(2,5-dimethoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-3-hydroxy-propionic acid methyl ester **11a** (205 mg, white powder, 20% yield).

Mp 145-146°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm^{-1*} 3413, 3153, 2965, 2935, 2130, 2098, 1742, 1589, 1484, 1435, 1405, 1351, 1274, 1295, 1214, 1250, 1205, 1068, 1043, 1014, 1008, 947 and 817; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.78 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.17 (1H, d, J=2.3, CHN₃), 5.31 (1H, dd, J=5.0 and J=2.3, CHOH), 6.23 (1H, d, J=5.0, disappears after D₂O addition, OH), 7.46 (1H, d, J=3.0, ArH), 7.80 (1H, d, J=3.0, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 52.70 (CH₃), 53.39 (CH₃), 56.04 (CH₃), 63.95 (CH), 68.53 (CH), 124.08 (CH), 124.30 (C), 129.58 (CH), 151.08 (C), 153.56 (C) and 169.09 (C); m/z (CI) 283 (MH⁺, 32%), 265 (MH⁺-H₂O, 25), 168 (100) and 88 (37); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 283.1044, $C_{11}H_{15}N_4O_5$ requires 283.1042.

Typical experimental procedure for the preparation of azidoacrylates: 2-Azido-3-(2,5-dimethoxy-pyridin-3-yl)-acrylic acid methyl ester 4a

OMe
1
 2 3 7 8 2 2 3 4 4 3 3 3 4 3 3 4 3 3 4 3 3 4 3 4 3 3 4 4 3 3 4 4 3 3 4 4 4 3 4

Sodium metal (189 mg, 8.2 mmol) was added to anhydrous methanol (4 mL) at 0°C and the resulting mixture was stirred until the metal completely dissolved. To this preformed sodium methoxide solution at 30°C was quickly added (in 30 seconds) a solution of aldehyde **5a** (335 mg, 2.0 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate (1.055 g, 7.6 mmol) in methanol (6 mL). The mixture was stirred at 30°C for 2 hours, then poured onto crushed ice (40 g, in an open beaker) and left for one hour in a refrigerator at 4°C. The product was recovered by filtration on a sintered glass funnel (n°4) and dried under vacuum to afford **4a** (315 mg, 57%) as an off-white powder.

2-Azido-3-(2,5-dimethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-acrylic acid methyl ester 4b

Compound **4b** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **4a**, scale: sodium metal (189 mg, 8.2 mmol), anhydrous methanol (4 mL), methanol (6 mL), aldehyde (335 mg, 2 mmol), methyl azidoacetate (875 mg, 7.6 mmol). (268 mg, 51%, yellow powder). Mp 117-118°C (decomposed); v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3439, 3108, 2946, 2925, 2851, 2127, 1716, 1602, 1548, 1487, 1463, 1435, 1384, 1322, 1281, 1254, 1214, 1189, 1082, 1044, 1014, 888 and 739; δ_{H} (300 MHz; acetone-d₆) 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.12 (1H, s, CH), 7.50 (1H, s, ArH), 7.89 (1H, s, ArH); δ_{C} (75 MHz; acetone-d₆) 53.58 (CH₃), 53.62 (CH₃), 57.15 (CH₃), 111.07 (CH), 116.05 (CH), 130.32 (CH), 130.53 (C), 133.25 (C), 149.30 (C), 159.41 (C) and 164.00 (C); m/z (EI) 264 (M⁺⁺, 53%), 204 (49), 177 (58), 64 (54) and 59 (100); HRMS (EI) found (M⁺⁺) 264.0856, $C_{11}H_{12}N_4O_4$ requires 264.0859.

4,7-Dimethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 2a

OMe
$$5N = 1493$$
 $2 = CO_2Me$ $6 = 78 = 178$ $1 = 78$ 1

The reaction was carried out in a 100 mL round-bottom flask, open to the atmosphere *via* a condenser and an addition funnel.

To hot xylene (13 mL) at 140°C was slowly added with vigorous stirring a suspension of acrylate **4a** (423 mg, 1.6 mmol) in xylene (27 mL). Once the addition was complete, the mixture was stirred for 1 hour at 140°C, then slowly cooled down to room temperature overnight without stirring. After the complete crystallisation of the solid, the supernatant was removed and the solid dried under high vacuum to give 5-azaindole **2a** (310 mg, 82%) as pale pink crystals.

Mp 192-193°C; Anal. found C, 55.8; H, 5.3; N, 11.65. $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_4$ requires C, 55.95; H, 5.1; N, 11.85; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3437, 3300, 2948, 2924, 1702, 1619, 1593, 1537, 1499, 1465, 1446, 1429, 1360, 1307, 1258, 1208, 1157, 1098, 1087, 984, 853 and 754; δ_H (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.90 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.10 (1H, s, ArH), 7.47 (1H, s, ArH) and 12.57 (1H, br s, NH); δ_C (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 51.89 (CH₃), 52.79 (CH₃), 56.37 (CH₃), 106.53 (CH), 112.95 (C), 120.41 (CH), 127.46 (C), 134.17 (C), 140.04 (C), 152.78 (C) and 160.91 (C); m/z (CI) 238 (12%) and 237 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 237.0874, $C_{11}H_{13}N_2O_4$ requires 237.0875.

4,7-Dimethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 2c

The reaction was carried out in a 50 mL round-bottom flask, open to the atmosphere *via* a condenser and an addition funnel.

To hot xylene (8 mL) at 140°C was slowly added with vigorous stirring a solution of acrylate **4b** (264 mg, 1.0 mmol) in xylene (16 mL). Once the addition was complete, the mixture was stirred for 1 hour at 140°C, then cooled down to room temperature over 4 hours and held in a freezer at -20°C overnight. The supernatant was removed and the solid dried under high vacuum to give 6-azaindole **2c** (73 mg, 31%) as a pale yellow powder. The supernatant was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 50:50) to afford **2c** (61 mg, 26%) as a pale yellow powder; global yield = 57%.

Mp 169-170°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3306, 2994, 2939, 1713, 1511, 1470, 1448, 1340, 1320, 1288, 1234, 1202, 1097, 992, 827 and 747; δ_H (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.96 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.07 (1H, s, ArH), 7.27 (1H, s, ArH) and 12.62 (1H, br s, NH); δ_C (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 52.03 (CH₃), 52.81 (CH₃), 55.86 (CH₃), 104.90 (CH), 114.66 (CH), 123.03 (C), 124.81 (C), 128.96 (C), 145.67 (C), 146.37 (C) and 160.98 (C); m/z (EI) 236 (M^{+•}, 100%), 221 (M^{+•}-CH₃°, 7), 204 (M^{+•}-CH₃OH, 53), 189 (M^{+•}-CH₃OH-CH₃°, 54); HRMS (EI) found (M^{+•}) 236.0798, $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_4$ requires 236.0797.

1-Benzyl-4,7-dimethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 2b

To a solution of 5-azaindole 2a (100 mg, 0.42 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) at room temperature, was added in one portion sodium hydride (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 20 mg, 0.50 mmol). The mixture was heated to 50°C and stirred for 3h30. Benzyl bromide (50 μ L, 0.42 mmol) was then added and the resulting mixture stirred for an additional two hours at 50°C. After cooling down to room temperature, water (10 mL) was added and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford compound 2b (101 mg, 74%) as a white powder.

Mp 121-122°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3435, 3028, 3008, 2940, 1712, 1657, 1606, 1520, 1483, 1452, 1437, 1400, 1362, 1312, 1269, 1234, 1203, 1101, 1066, 1011, 985, 857, 749 and 727; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃), 6.04 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 6.93 (2H, d, J = 7.0, CH₂o-ArH), 7.17-7.29 (3H, m, CH₂ArH), 7.30 (1H, s, ArH) and 7.54 (1H, s, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 49.31 (CH₂), 51.97 (CH₃), 52.96 (CH₃), 56.64 (CH₃), 109.44 (CH), 111.93 (C), 121.96 (CH), 125.93 (CH), 126.98 (CH), 127.02 (C), 128.49 (CH), 134.47 (C), 139.19 (C), 140.48 (C), 153.08 (C) and 160.85 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 328 (19%), 327 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (MH⁺) 327.1347, C₁₈H₁₉N₂O₄ requires 327.1345.

Experimental procedure for the oxidation of 4,7-dimethoxy 5-azaindole 2a: 4,6,7-Trioxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 12a

To a solution of 5-azaindole **2a** (47 mg, 0.2 mmol) in a 1:1 acetonitrile/water mixture (16 mL) at room temperature was added in one portion [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA) (86 mg, 0.2 mmol). After stirring for one hour, a further portion of PIFA (86 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added. This procedure was repeated twice more, after 2h and 3h reaction time, so that a total of four equivalents (344 mg, 0.8 mmol) of PIFA were used. One hour after the last PIFA addition, the mixture was filtered on a sintered glass funnel filled with a one cm thick pad of silica gel, washing with EtOAc. After evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether / EtOAc 50:50) to afford a pink solid. This solid was then washed with dichloromethane to give the trioxo compound **12a** (43 mg, 97%) as a pale yellow solid.

Mp 269-270°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3210, 3137, 2924, 2853, 1690, 1554, 1455, 1432, 1287, 1229, 1138, 1096, 974, 927 and 799; δ_H (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.85 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.16 (1H, s, H3), 11.54 (1H, s, H5) and 14.00 (1H, br s, H1); δ_C (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 52.38 (CH₃), 113.25 (CH), 123.89 (C), 130.32 (C), 132.77 (C), 158.70 (C), 159.95 (C), 160.69 (C) and 166.45 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 463 (48%), 445 (54), 427.1 (2M+H⁺, 29), 222.9 (MH⁺, 100), 209 (24); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (M+Na⁺) 245.0174, $C_9H_6N_2O_5Na$ requires 245.0174.

The monocrystal for the X-ray diffraction analysis was obtained as follows: a solution of

compound **12a** (1 mg) in acetone (0.7 mL) was allowed to stand for three days at room temperature (20°C) in a test tube (without capping). A colorless needle ($0.06 \times 0.07 \times 0.21$ mm) was then analyzed on a Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer at 293K. The crystal structure data of compound **12a** has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic

Data Centre (CCDC 641655).

Cr	vstal	data
\sim	ybicii	aaia

Crystat data	0.0
$C_9H_6N_2O_5$	$V = 458.78 (1) \text{ Å}^3$
$M_r = 222.16$	Z = 2
Triclinic, P-1	$D_x = 1.608 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
a = 5.35 Å	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
b = 8.79 Å	Cell parameters from 0 reflections
c = 10.58 Å	$\theta = 0-0^{\circ}$
$\alpha = 111.47^{\circ}$	$\mu = 0.14 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 94.77^{\circ}$	T = 293 K
$\gamma = 94.31^{\circ}$	Needle, colorless

Data collection

Nonius KappaCCD diffractomer	1005 reflections with $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$
φ & ω scans	$R_{\rm int} = 0.042$
Absorption correction: none	$\theta_{max}=27.7^{\circ}$
$T_{\min} = 0.991, T_{\max} = 0.992$	$h = -7 \rightarrow 6$
3192 measured reflections	$k = -11 \rightarrow 11$
2078 independent reflections	$l = -13 \rightarrow 13$

Refinement

Rejinemeni	
Refinement on F	H atoms constrained to parent site
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.047$	Calculated weights Method, part 1,
. /-	Chebychev polynomial, (Watkin, 1994,
	Prince, 1982) [weight] = $1.0/[A_0*T_0(x)]$
	$+ A_1 * T_1(x) + A_{n-1}] * T_{n-1}(x)$ where A_i
	are the Chebychev coefficients listed
	below and $x = F/Fmax$ Method =
	Robust Weighting (Prince, 1982) W =
	[weight] * $[1-(\text{delta}F/6*\text{sigma}F)^2]^2$ A _i
	are: 0.603 0.477 0.354
$wR(F^2) = 0.057$	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.0001$
S = 1.06	$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}} = 0.20 \text{ e Å}^{-1}$
1005 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\min} = -0.20 \text{ e Å}^{-1}$
145 parameters	Extinction correction: None

Geometric parameters (Å, °) for CRYSTALS cif					
1.203 (4)	O7—C9	1.305 (4)			
1.354 (4)	O7—C12	1.450 (4)			
1.385 (4)	N4—C11	1.374 (4)			
1.439 (4)	C5—C7	1.401 (4)			
1.397 (4)	C5—C11	1.379 (4)			
1.362 (4)	C6—C7	1.457 (4)			
1.213 (3)	C8—C10	1.556 (4)			
1.210 (3)	C9—C11	1.476 (5)			
1.216 (4)					
108.7 (3)	N3—C8—O4	123.0 (3)			
127.4 (3)	N3—C8—C10	117.5 (3)			
123.9 (3)	O4—C8—C10	119.6 (3)			
127.8 (3)	O7—C9—O5	125.1 (3)			
116.1 (3)	O7—C9—C11	112.2 (3)			
107.9 (3)	O5—C9—C11	122.6 (3)			
106.2 (3)	C8—C10—C13	114.1 (3)			
119.7 (3)	C8—C10—O1	118.9 (3)			
115.1 (3)	C13—C10—O1	127.0 (3)			
125.1 (3)	C9—C11—C5	131.4 (3)			
130.7 (3)	C9—C11—N4	119.1 (3)			
121.5 (3)	C5—C11—N4	109.4 (3)			
107.8 (3)					
	1.203 (4) 1.354 (4) 1.354 (4) 1.385 (4) 1.439 (4) 1.397 (4) 1.362 (4) 1.213 (3) 1.210 (3) 1.216 (4) 108.7 (3) 127.4 (3) 123.9 (3) 127.8 (3) 116.1 (3) 107.9 (3) 106.2 (3) 119.7 (3) 115.1 (3) 125.1 (3) 130.7 (3) 121.5 (3)	1.203 (4) O7—C9 1.354 (4) O7—C12 1.385 (4) N4—C11 1.439 (4) C5—C7 1.397 (4) C5—C11 1.362 (4) C6—C7 1.213 (3) C8—C10 1.216 (4) 108.7 (3) N3—C8—O4 127.4 (3) N3—C8—C10 123.9 (3) O4—C8—C10 127.8 (3) O7—C9—O5 116.1 (3) O7—C9—C11 107.9 (3) O5—C9—C11 106.2 (3) C8—C10—O1 115.1 (3) C13—C10—O1 115.1 (3) C9—C11—N4 121.5 (3) C5—C11—N4			

Hydrogen-bond parameters (Å, $^{\circ}$) for CRYSTALS cif

	<i>D</i> —H	HA	DA	D—HA
N4—H1O5 ⁱ	0.85	2.00	2.843 (2)	170
N3—H2O4 ⁱⁱ	0.88	2.05	2.924(2)	174

Symmetry codes: (i) 1-x, 1-y, 1-z; (ii) -1-x, 1-y, 2-z.

Experimental procedure for the oxidation of 7-hydroxy 4-methoxy 5-azain dole 3a: Preparation of compound 12a.

To a solution of 5-azaindole **3a** (22 mg, 0.1 mmol) in a 1:1 acetonitrile/water mixture (8 mL) at room temperature was added in one portion [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA) (44 mg, 0.1 mmol). After stirring for one hour, the resulting mixture was filtered off on a sintered glass funnel filled with a one cm thick pad of silica gel, washing with EtOAc. After evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 50:50) to afford the trioxo compound **12a** (19 mg, 95%) as an orange solid.

Typical experimental procedure for the oxidation of *N*-benzyl 4,7-dimethoxy 5-azaindole 2b: Preparation of 1-Benzyl-4,6,7-trioxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 12b

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To a solution of *N*-benzyl 5-azaindole **2b** (68 mg, 0.21 mmol) in a 1:1 acetonitrile/water mixture (23 mL) at room temperature was added in one portion [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA) (359 mg, 0.84 mmol). After stirring for four hours, the resulting mixture was filtered off on a sintered glass funnel filled with a one cm thick pad of silica gel, washing with EtOAc. After evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford compound **12b** (53 mg, 81%) as a pale brown solid. Mp 208-209°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3205, 3120, 2924, 2853, 1728, 1710, 1674, 1526, 1489, 1454, 1425, 1382, 1255, 1186, 1119, 1078, 945, 737 and 707; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.99 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 7.13 (2H, d, J = 6.4, CH₂o-ArH), 7.25-7.30 (3H, m, CH₂ArH), 7.32 (1H, s, H3) and 11.70 (1H, s, H5); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 49.73 (CH₂), 52.50 (CH₃), 115.27 (CH), 123.45 (C), 126.66 (CH), 127.43 (CH), 128.47 (CH), 129.52 (C), 132.00 (C), 136.79 (C), 158.52 (C), 159.74 (C), 160.26 (C) and 167.13 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 648 (32%), 647 (2M+Na⁺, 100), 335 (M+Na⁺, 11), 313 (MH⁺, 8); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (M+Na⁺) 335.0647, C₁₆H₁₂N₂O₅Na requires 335.0644.

Preparation of compound 12c from 4,7-dimethoxy 6-azaindole 2c: 4,5,7-Trioxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 12c

O 5
$$| 4 9 | 3$$
 $| 2 CO_2 Me$ $| 7 8 | N 1$ $| 1 3 c$

Compound **12c** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **12b**, scale: 6-azaindole **2c** (50 mg, 0.21 mmol), [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA) (365 mg, 0.85 mmol), 1:1 acetonitrile/water mixture (16 mL). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 50:50) to afford **12c** (27 mg, 57%) as a yellow powder. Mp 261-262°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3436, 3203, 3124, 2925, 2854, 1691, 1561, 1503, 1483, 1425, 1395, 1331, 1276, 1234, 1140, 1101, 990, 932, 809 and 774; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.18 (1H, s, H3), 11.73 (1H, br s, H6) and 14.06 (1H, very br s, H1); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 52.21 (CH₃), 112.51 (CH), 124.31 (C), 129.69 (C), 132.73 (C), 157.28 (C), 159.22 (C), 160.20 (C) and 171.10 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 468 (22%), 467 (2M+Na⁺, 100), 245 (M+Na⁺, 15); m/z (ESI⁻) for C₉H₅N₂O₅ 221 (M-H⁻, 100%); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (M+Na⁺) 245.0177, C₉H₆N₂O₅Na requires 245.0174.

Preparation of compound 12c from 4-hydroxy 7-methoxy 6-azaindole 3c.

Compound **12c** was also prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **12a** (from 7-hydroxy 4-methoxy 5-azaindole **3a**), scale: 6-azaindole **3c** (30 mg, 0.134 mmol), [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene PIFA (59 mg, 0.137 mmol), 1:1 acetonitrile/water mixture (8 mL). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 40:60) to afford **12c** (29.5 mg, 99%) as an orange powder.

Typical experimental procedure for the BBr $_3$ monodemethylation of 4,7-dimethoxy azaindole 2a: preparation of 7-hydroxy-4-methoxy 5-azaindole 7-Hydroxy-4-methoxy-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 3a

3a

To a cooled (-78°C) solution of dimethoxy 5-azaindole 2a (25 mg, 0.10 mmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was added dropwise a 1M solution of BBr₃ in dichloromethane (535 μ L, 0.53 mmol). The mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. Methanol (2 mL) was added dropwise and the solvent was removed *in vacuuo*. Water (4 mL) was added to the residue and the pH of this solution was carefully adjusted to pH=7 (controlled with a calibrated pH meter) with 0.5 M sodium hydroxide solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL) and, after drying over Na₂SO₄, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/Et₂O 20:80) to afford compound 3a (13.5 mg, 57%) as a yellow solid.

Mp 183-184°C (decomposed); v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3315, 2924, 2854, 1711, 1628, 1601, 1541, 1497, 1442, 1389, 1327, 1278, 1208, 1161, 1093, 1071, 989, 936, 829, 749 and 708; δ_{H} (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.09 (1H, s, ArH), 7.34 (1H, s, ArH), 9.28 (1H, br s, ArOH) and 12.07 (1H, br s, NH); δ_{C} (50 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 51.90 (CH₃), 52.62 (CH₃), 106.34 (CH), 113.10 (C), 122.95 (CH), 126.84 (C), 133.98 (C), 136.70 (C), 151.77 (C) and 161.02 (C); m/z (CI) 223 (MH⁺, 100%), 85 (10), 79 (20); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 223.0720, $C_{10}H_{11}N_{2}O_{4}$ requires 223.0719.

Preparation of 4-hydroxy-7-methoxy 6-azaindole 3c from monodemethylation of 4,7-dimethoxy azaindole 2c. 4-Hydroxy-7-methoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 3c

Compound **3c** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **3a**, scale: 6-azaindole **2c** (25 mg, 0.10 mmol), dichloromethane (2 mL), 1M solution BBr₃ in CH₂Cl₂ (266 μ L, 0.26 mmol). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/Et₂O 30:70) to afford **3c** (13 mg, 55%) as a yellow powder.

Mp 203-204°C (decomposed); v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3325, 2924, 2852, 1709, 1512, 1449, 1413, 1333, 1262, 1199, 1090, 1063, 820, 776 and 747; δ_H (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.16 (1H, s, ArH), 7.17 (1H, s, ArH), 9.41 (1H, s, ArOH) and 12.42 (1H, br s, NH); δ_C (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 51.98 (CH₃), 52.65 (CH₃), 105.52 (CH), 117.58 (CH), 123.21 (C), 124.88 (C), 128.48 (C), 143.11 (C), 145.19 (C) and 161.13 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 223 (MH⁺, 100%), 209 (24), 191 (23); m/z (ESI⁻) 425 (100%), 237 (27), 221 (M-H⁻, 30); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (MH⁺) 223.0717, $C_{10}H_{11}N_2O_4$ requires 223.0719.

2-Azido-3-(2-methoxy-5-triisopropylsilanyloxy-pyridin-3-yl)-acrylic acid methyl ester 13

Sodium metal (540 mg, 23.5 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous methanol (17 mL) at 0°C under argon. To this preformed sodium methoxide solution at 0°C was quickly added a solution of aldehyde $\mathbf{5c}$ (1.77 g, 5.7 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate (2.50 g, 21.7 mmol) in methanol (17 mL). The mixture was stirred at 25°C for two hours, then poured onto crushed ice (120 g) and held for one hour at 4°C. After addition of dichloromethane (100 mL) and decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (3×150 mL). The organic phases were washed with water (2×150 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford acrylate $\mathbf{13}$ (457 mg, 20%) as an orange solid.

Mp 61-63°C (decomposed); v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3409, 3093, 2946, 2892, 2867, 2123, 1716, 1612, 1589, 1564, 1468, 1437, 1425, 1403, 1379, 1290, 1277, 1260, 1227, 1141, 1086, 1026, 1009, 901, 883, 864, 834, 748, 740 and 692; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.12 (18H, br d, J=6.8, (CH(C H_3)₂)₃), 1.26 (3H, m, (C H_3)₂)₃), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.18 (1H, s, CH), 7.77 (1H, d, J=3.0, ArH) and 8.15 (1H, d, J=3.0, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 12.57 (CH), 17.87 (CH₃), 52.99 (CH₃), 53.79 (CH₃), 116.23 (C), 117.98 (CH), 126.66 (C), 130.30 (CH), 138.23 (CH), 147.08 (C), 156.00 (C) and 163.80 (C); m/z (ESI) 407 (MH⁺, 12%), 380 (23), 379 (MH⁺-N₂, 100).

4-Methoxy-7-triisopropylsilanyloxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 14

A solution of azidoacrylate **13** (369 mg, 0.9 mmol) in dry xylene (32 mL) was added dropwise onto hot (140°C) xylene (18 mL). After addition, the mixture was heated at 140°C for one hour and then cooled down to room temperature. The xylene solution was then chromatographed over silica gel (eluent PE/EtOAc 90:10) to give 5-azaindole **14** (266 mg, 77%) as a pale yellow solid. Mp 134-135°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3423, 3114, 2969, 2943, 2866, 1723, 1606, 1546, 1497, 1460,

1432, 1382, 1352, 1309, 1296, 1275, 1239, 1215, 1189, 1178, 1083, 1011, 885, 850 and 833; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.13 (18H, d, J=7.2, (CH(CH₃)₂)₃), 1.33 (3H, m, (CH(CH₃)₂)₃), 3.95 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.03 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.27 (1H, d, J=2.3, H3), 7.50 (1H, s, H6) and 8.91 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 12.81 (CH), 17.98 (CH₃), 52.20 (CH₃), 53.25 (CH₃), 107.98 (CH), 114.12 (C), 126.46 (C), 126.81 (CH), 135.60 (C), 135.88 (C), 153.70 (C) and 161.80 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 380 (24%), 379 (MH⁺, 100), 365 (13); m/z (ESI⁻) 378 (31%), 377 (M-H⁻, 100); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (MH⁺) 379.2052, $C_{19}H_{31}N_{2}O_{4}Si$ requires 379.2053.

Fluoride promoted deprotection of the TIPS-protected 5-azaindole 14: preparation of 7-hydroxy-4-methoxy 5-azaindole 3a.

A tetra n-butyl-ammonium fluoride 1M solution in THF (1.15 mL, 1.15 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 5-azaindole 7 (290 mg, 0.76 mmol) in anhydrous THF (1.2 mL) at 0°C under argon. The temperature was allowed to raise to room temperature and the resulting mixture for stirred for 35 minutes. After addition of water (1.5 mL) and EtOAc (10mL), the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2×10 mL). The organic phases was washed with water (2×10 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 40:60) to afford $\bf 3a$ as an orange solid (157 mg, 92%).

Spectral data of the product were similar to those of compound **3a** which was obtained after BBr₃-mediated demethylation of 4,7-dimethoxy 5-azaindole **2a**.

2-Azido-3-(2-methoxy-5-methoxymethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-acrylic acid methyl ester 15a

Sodium metal (95 mg, 4.1 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous methanol (3 mL) at 0°C under argon. To this preformed sodium methoxide solution at 0°C was quickly added a solution of aldehyde **6b** (199 mg, 1.0 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate (440 mg, 3.8 mmol) in methanol (3 mL). The mixture was stirred at 30°C for one hour, then poured onto crushed ice (20 g) and held for one hour at 4°C. The product **15a** was recovered by filtration on a sintered glass funnel as a pale yellow solid (60.6 mg, 21%).

Mp 78-79°C (decomposed); v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3418, 3105, 2956, 2856, 2129, 1716, 1618, 1606, 1546, 1482, 1434, 1381, 1319, 1275, 1260, 1219, 1202, 1155, 1084, 1039, 989 and 962; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.51 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.15 (2H, s, CH₂OCH₃), 7.15 (1H, s, CH), 7.55 (1H, s, ArH), 8.04 (1H, s, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 53.4 (CH₃), 53.67 (CH₃), 56.38 (CH₃), 96.42 (CH₂), 110.61 (CH), 116.04 (CH), 129.49 (C), 133.76 (CH), 134.05 (C), 146.50 (C), 159.50 (C) and 163.46 (C); m/z (ESI) 295 (MH⁺, 7%), 267 (MH⁺-N₂, 69), 223 (41), 191 (100), 177 (36).

7-Methoxy-4-methoxymethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 16a

Compound **16a** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **2a**, scale: azidoacrylate **15a** (36.6 mg, 0.12 mmol), xylene (11 mL). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford **16a** (yellow powder, 10.1 mg, 31%). Mp 119-120°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3322, 3299, 1716, 1706, 1510, 1443, 1333, 1314, 1299, 1274, 1227, 1206, 1163, 1149, 1092, 1055, 979, 917, 779 and 750; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.55 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.96 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.07 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.26 (2H, s, CH₂OCH₃), 7.25 (1H, d, J = 2.3, H3), 7.54 (1H, s, H5) and 9.21 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (50 MHz; CDCl₃) 52.32 (CH₃), 53.32 (CH₃), 56.27 (CH₃), 96.06 (CH₂), 105.83 (CH), 120.93 (CH), 123.06 (C), 126.54 (C), 128.46 (C), 143.72 (C), 147.40 (C) and 161.69 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 268 (13%), 267 (MH⁺, 100), 223 (15); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 267.0987, $C_{12}H_{15}N_2O_5$ requires 267.0981.

Acidic deprotection of the MOM-protected 6-azaindole 16a: preparation of 4-hydroxy-7-methoxy 6-azaindole 3c

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
OH \\
5 & 4 & 9 & 3 \\
\hline
& 17 & 8 & N & 1 \\
OMe & & 3c
\end{array}$$

To a solution of 6-azaindole **16a** (80 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added 3N aqueous HCl (1.1 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 50° C for 3 hours. After this time, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and water (10 mL) was added followed by neutralisation (pH=7-8) with solid K_2 CO₃. The aqueous phase was then extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). After drying of the organic phase over Na₂SO₄, filtration and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 40:60) to afford **3c** (52 mg, 77%) as an orange solid.

Spectral data of the product were similar to those of compound 3c which was obtained after BBr₃-mediated demethylation of 4,7-dimethoxy 5-azaindole 2c.

2-Azido-3-(2-methoxy-5-methoxymethoxy-pyridin-4-yl)-acrylic acid *tert*-butyl ester 15b Formation of the azidoalcohol 11b:

Sodium hydride (60% dispersion in oil, 60 mg, 1.52 mmol) was added portionwise to cold (-30°C) isopropanol (4.5 mL). To the resulting sodium isopropoxide solution was then added solid aldehyde **6b** (150 mg, 0.76 mmol) until completely dissolved. A solution of *tert*-butyl azidoacetate (477 mg, 3.04 mmol) in isopropanol (0.8 mL) was then added dropwise to the reaction mixture. After stirring for four hours at -30°C, water (15 mL) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, then the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3×15 mL) and the combined organic phases dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford azidoalcohol **11b** (170 mg, 63%) as a yellow oil.

This compound 11b was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of two diastereomers: dia1 and dia2.

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 1.20 (9H, s, *t*-Bu dia1), 1.48 (9H, s, *t*-Bu dia2), 3.39 (3H, s, OCH₃ dia 1), 3.42 (3H, s, OCH₃ dia 2), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃ dia 1), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃ dia 2), 3.93-3.97 (2H, m, CHN₃ for both dia), 5.14-5.24 (5H, m, CH₂OCH₃ for both dia + CHOH for dia1), 5.39 (dd, J = 5.3-2.6, 1H, CHOH for dia2), 6.24 (1H, d, J = 5.3, disappears after D₂O addition, OH for dia1), 6.37 (1H, d, J = 5.3, disappears after D₂O addition, OH for dia2), 6.83(1H, s, ArH for dia1), 6.90(1H, s, ArH for dia2), 7.88 (1H, s, ArH for dia1) and 7.90 (1H, s, ArH for dia2); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 27.32 (CH₃), 27.69 (CH₃), 53.16 (CH₃), 53.19 (CH₃), 55.88 (CH₃), 56.04 (CH₃), 63.26 (CH), 64.13 (CH), 68.85 (CH), 69.40 (CH), 82.03 (C), 82.37 (C), 95.08 (CH₂), 95.58 (CH₂), 108.40 (CH), 108.50 (CH), 131.79 (CH), 132.41 (CH), 143.25 (C), 143.92 (C), 144.83 (C), 145.26 (C), 158.71 (C), 158.77 (C), 166.62 (C) and 167.37 (C). (It was impossible to assign with certitude signals for both diastereomers); m/z (ESI⁺) 731 (2M+Na⁺, 14%), 377 (M+Na⁺, 54), 355 (MH⁺, 100), 299 (MH⁺-isobutene (CH₃)₂C=CH₂, 36).

Formation and *in situ* elimination of the mesylate of compound 11b: formation of azidoacrylate 15b:

To a solution of 11b (649 mg, 1.83 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 mL) at 45°C was added quickly methanesulfonyl chloride (710 μ l, 9.19 mmol) and then triethylamine (2.6 ml, 18.30 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 45°C for one hour then cooled to room temperature. After addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (50 mL) and decantation, the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×100 mL). The organic phases were washed with brine (2×100 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 80:20) to afford azidoacrylate 15b (527 mg, 85%) as a yellow solid.

Mp 63-64°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3435, 2924, 2116, 1712, 1605, 1484, 1384, 1277, 1217, 1200, 1153, 1078, 1037, 995 and 886; δ_{H} (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 1.54 (9H, s, *t*-Bu), 3.43 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.20 (2H, s, CH₂OCH₃), 6.99 (1H, s, CH), 7.44 (1H, s, ArH) and 8.02 (1H, s,

ArH); $\delta_{\mathbb{C}}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 27.55 (CH₃), 53.28 (CH₃), 56.10 (CH₃), 83.84 (C), 96.45 (CH₂), 109.50 (CH), 114.10 (CH), 130.91 (C), 133.79 (C), 134.59 (CH), 145.85 (C), 158.70 (C) and 161.03 (C); m/z (ESI⁺): 359 (MNa⁺, 12%), 337 (MH⁺, 26), 309 (MH⁺-N₂, 26), 253 (MH⁺-N₂-isobutene (CH₃)₂C=CH₂, 100), 177 (43).

7-Methoxy-4-methoxymethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester 16b

Compound **16b** was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound **2a**, scale: azidoacrylate **15b** (72 mg, 0.21 mmol), xylene (7.2 mL), reaction time 2 hours. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (PE/EtOAc 70:30) to afford **16b** (47 mg, 72%) as a yellow powder.

Mp 93-94°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3307, 2979, 2936, 1713, 1620, 1587, 1506, 1445, 1408, 1370, 1336, 1300, 1278, 1227, 1208, 1154, 1093, 1059, 973 and 923; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 1.56 (9H, s, *t*-Bu), 3.43 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.97 (3H, s, OCH₃), 5.24 (2H, s, CH₂OCH₃), 7.03 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.40 (1H, s, ArH) and 12.44 (1H, br s, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 27.88 (CH₃), 52.89 (CH₃), 55.78 (CH₃), 81.55 (C), 95.37 (CH₂), 104.48 (CH), 119.66 (CH), 122.83 (C), 125.74 (C), 130.98 (C), 142.92 (C), 147.04 (C) and 159.84 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 308 (MH⁺, 46%), 252 (100), 222 (48); HRMS (EI) found (M^{+*}) 308.1370, C₁₅H₂₀N₂O₅ requires 308.1372.

Acidic deprotection and *in situ* transesterification of the MOM-protected 6-azaindole 16b: preparation of 4-hydroxy-7-methoxy 6-azaindole 3c.

To a solution of 6-azaindole **16b** (48 mg, 0.16 mmol) in methanol (4 mL) was added 3N aqueous HCl (1 mL) and the resulting mixture stirred at 25°C for 4h30: after this time, TLC analysis showed the complete consumption of the starting material. The reaction was then heated to 50°C for 20 hours. A new product was formed whose Rf matched that of compound **3c**. After this time, the mixture was evaporated to dryness. Water (4 mL) was then added to the residue and the pH of this solution was carefully adjusted to pH=7 (controlled with a calibrated pH meter) with 0.5M sodium hydroxide solution. The aqueous phase was then extracted with EtOAc (4×15 mL) and, after drying over Na₂SO₄, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc 60:40) to afford compound **3c** (17 mg, 49%) as a light brown solid.

Spectral data of the product were similar to those of compound **3c** which was obtained after BBr₃-mediated demethylation of 4,7-dimethoxy 5-azaindole **2c**.

Typical experimental procedure for the oxidation of 7-hydroxy-4-methoxy 5-azaindole 3a: Preparation of 7-Hydroxy-4,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 17a

OMe
$$5 N$$
 $4 9$
 3
 $2 CO_2 Me$
MeO $6 7$
 8
 N_1
OH

To a solution of **3a** (26 mg, 0.11 mmol) in a 1:1 acetonitrile/methanol mixture (18 mL) at room temperature was added in one portion [Bis(trifluoroacetoxy)iodo]benzene (PIFA) (50 mg, 0.11 mmol). After stirring at room temperature for four hours, the resulting mixture was filtered off on a sintered glass funnel filled with a one cm thick pad of silica gel, washing with EtOAc. After evaporation of the filtrate under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc 70:30) to afford **17a** (25 mg, 85%) as a yellow powder. Mp 199-200°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3501, 3373, 2951, 2853, 1702, 1675, 1653, 1612, 1537, 1497, 1470, 1446, 1416, 1377, 1329, 1310, 2289, 2211, 1228, 1042, 977 and 748; δ_{H} (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.83 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.90 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.02 (1H, d, J = 2.0, H3), 8.41 (1H, s, ArOH) and 11.63 (1H, s, NH); δ_{C} (75 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 51.80 (CH₃), 52.83 (CH₃), 53.63 (CH₃), 106.42 (CH), 108.64 (C), 119.49 (C), 126.73 (C), 136.46 (C), 145.53 (C), 148.19 (C) and 161.07 (C); m/z (CI) 254 (13%), 253 (MH⁺, 100); HRMS (CI) found (MH⁺) 253.0820, C₁₁H₁₃N₂O₅ requires 253.0824.

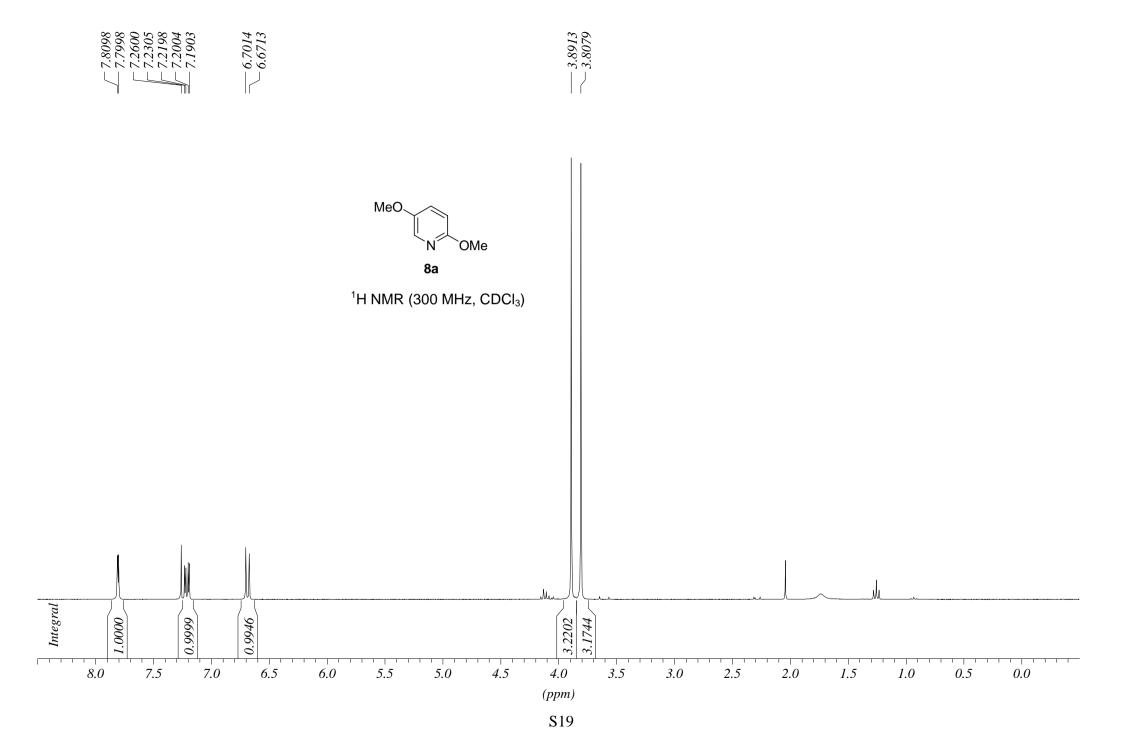
Oxidation of 4-hydroxy-7-methoxy 6-azaindole 3c: Preparation of 4-Hydroxy-5,7-dimethoxy-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 17c

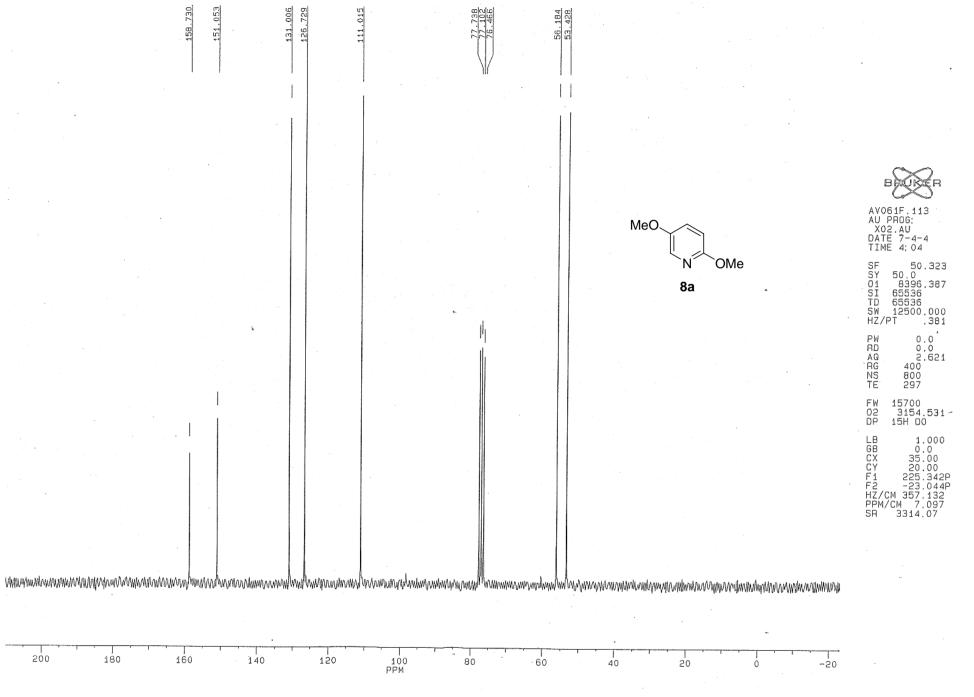
OH
MeO
$$5 \frac{4}{9} \frac{9}{3} \frac{2}{CO_2 Me}$$

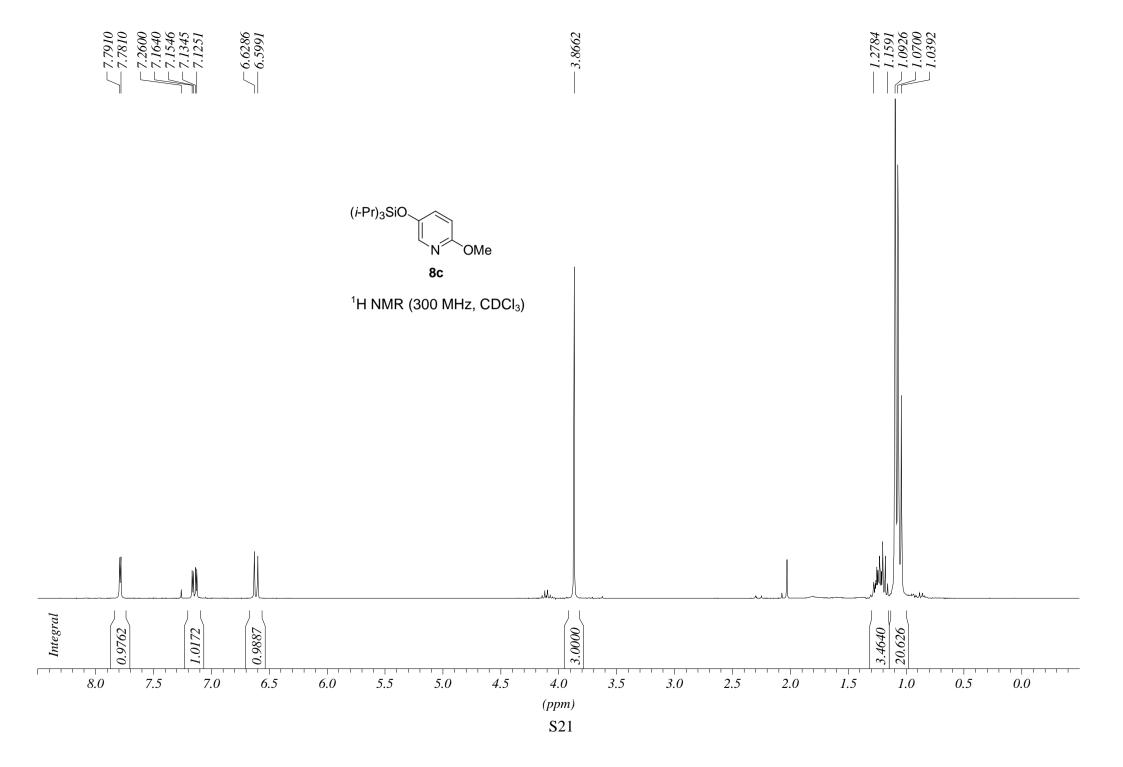
 $6 \frac{N}{7} \frac{8}{H} \frac{N}{1} \frac{1}{OMe}$

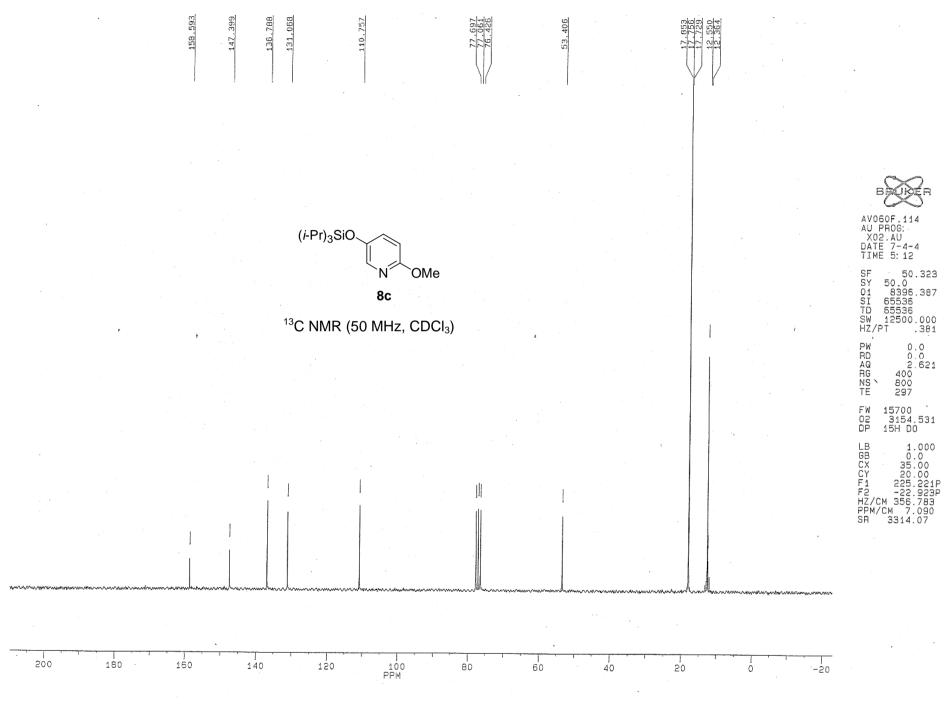
Compound 17c was prepared according to the same procedure as for compound 17a, scale: azaindole 3c (50 mg, 0.22 mmol), PIFA (97 mg, 0.22 mmol), 1:1 acetonitrile/methanol mixture (18 mL). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/EtOAc 60:40) to afford 17c (30 mg, 53%) as a yellow powder.

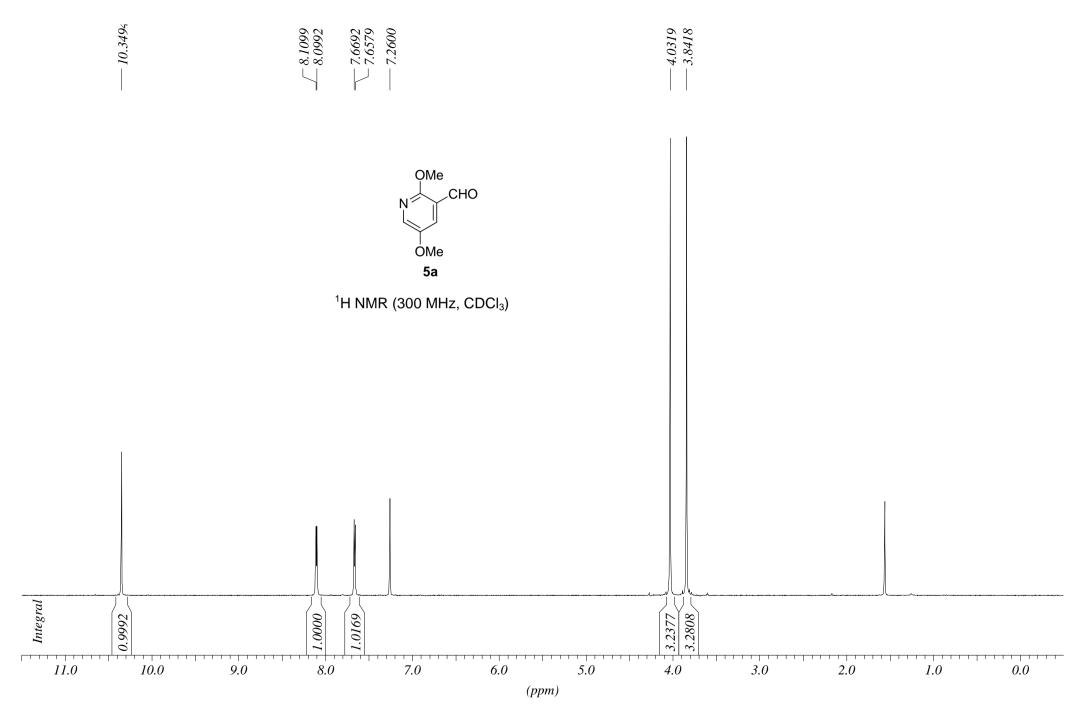
afford **17c** (30 mg, 53%) as a yellow powder. Mp 176-177°C; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹ 3435, 3323, 2951, 1715, 1644, 1598, 1526, 1507, 1451, 1416, 1354, 1328, 1291, 1250, 1210, 1184, 1125, 1095, 1039, 1000, 977, 907 and 770; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; DMSO-d₆) 3.85 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.96 (3H, s, OCH₃), 7.08 (1H, d, J = 2.0, H3), 8.63 (1H, s, ArOH) and 12.10 (1H, s, NH); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆): 51.98 (CH₃), 52.86 (CH₃), 53.96 (CH₃), 104.72 (CH), 119.11 (C), 125.78 (C), 127.81 (C), 129.86 (C), 140.43 (C), 140.89 (C) and 161.19 (C); m/z (ESI⁺) 293 (21%), 253 (MH⁺, 100), 238 (27), 223 (28), 209 (25); HRMS (ESI⁺) found (MH⁺) 253.0822, $C_{11}H_{13}N_2O_5$ requires 253.0824.

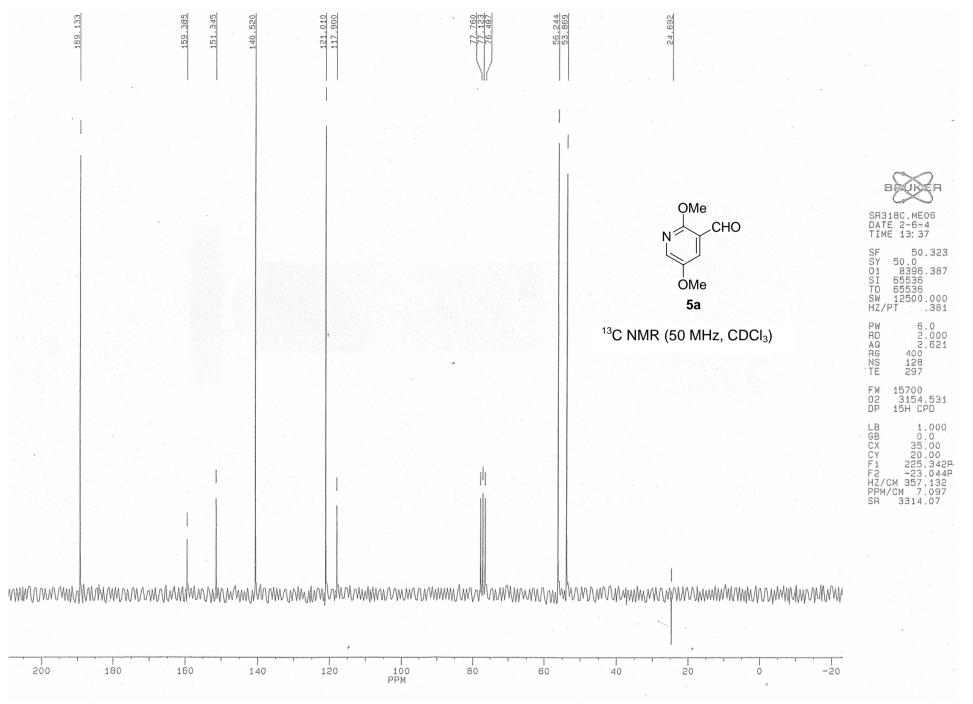


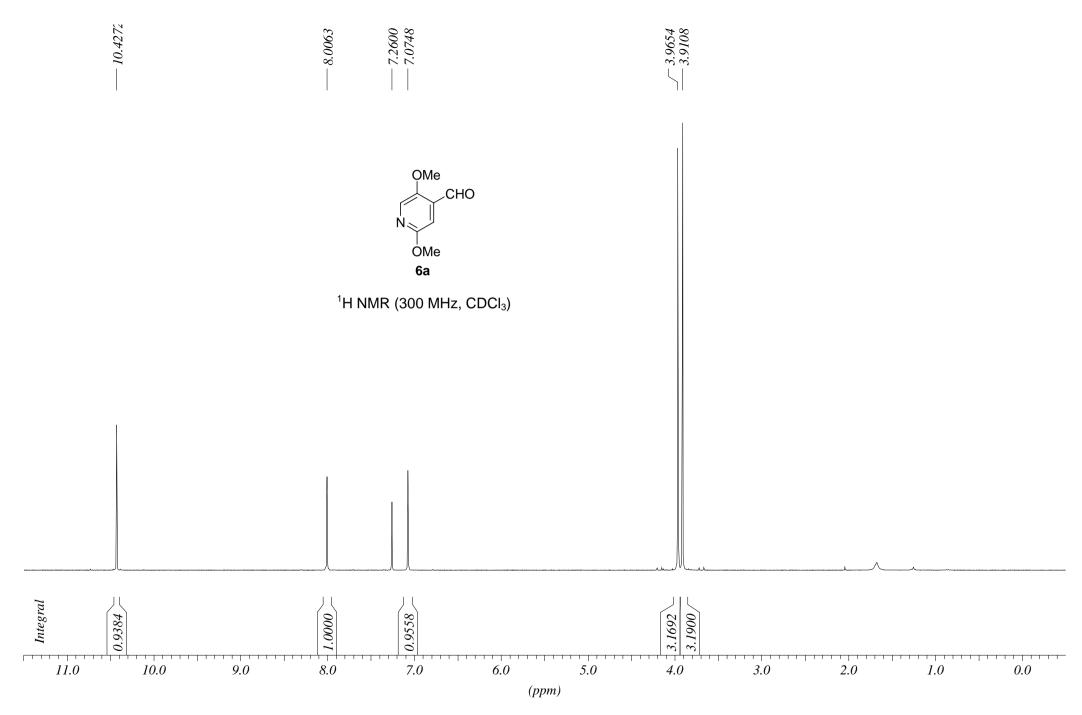


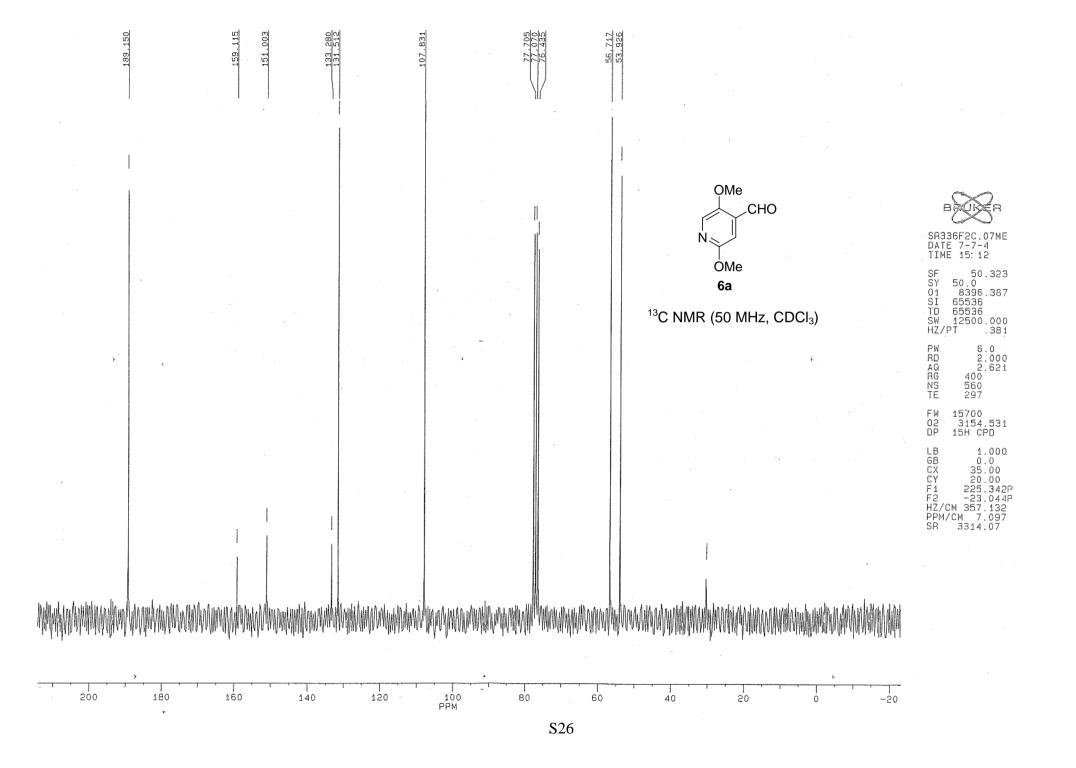


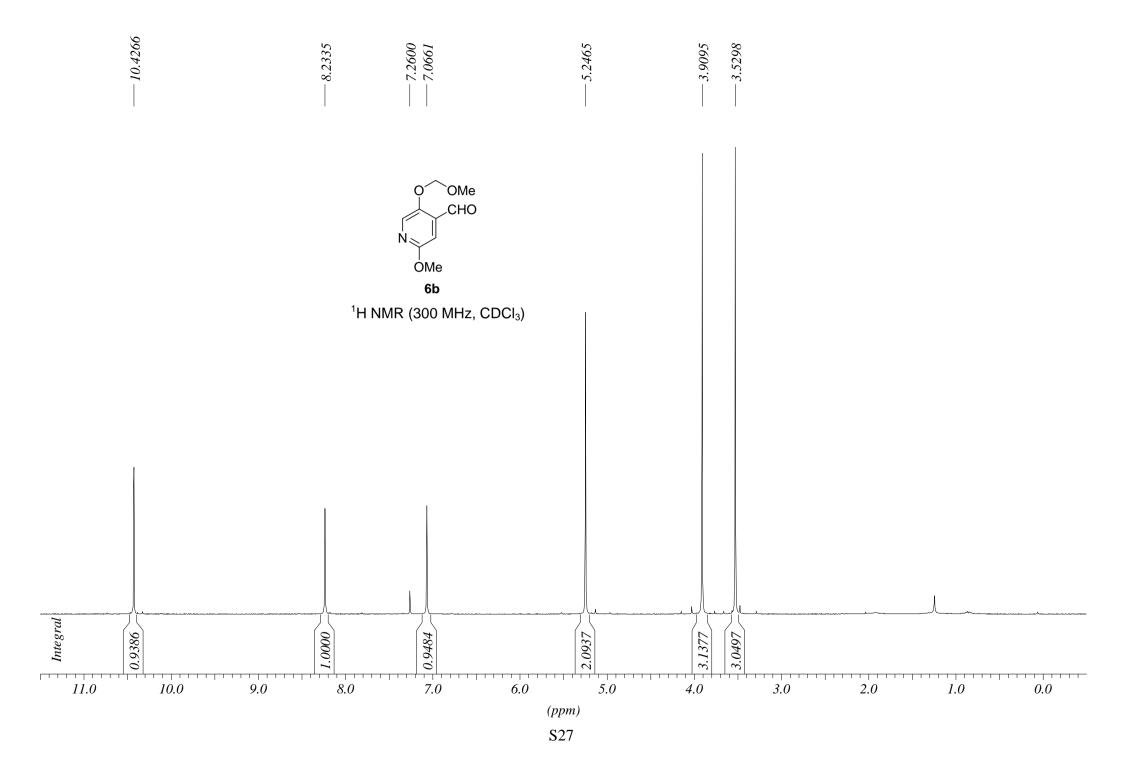


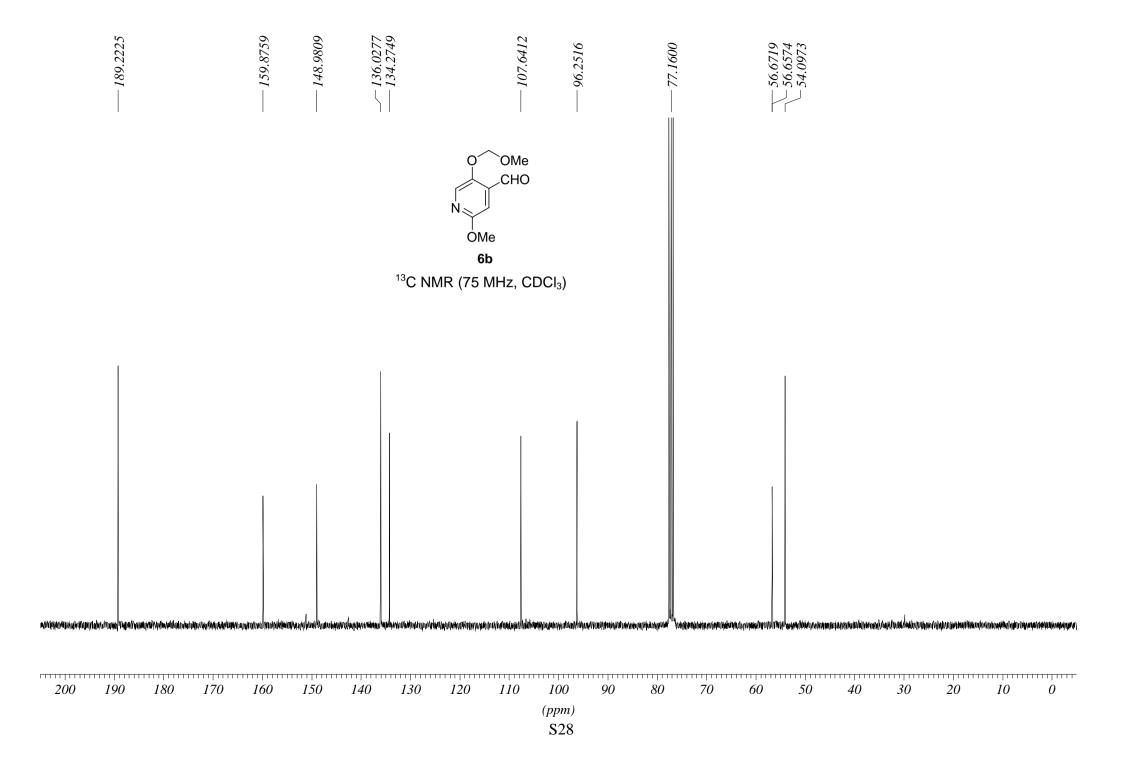


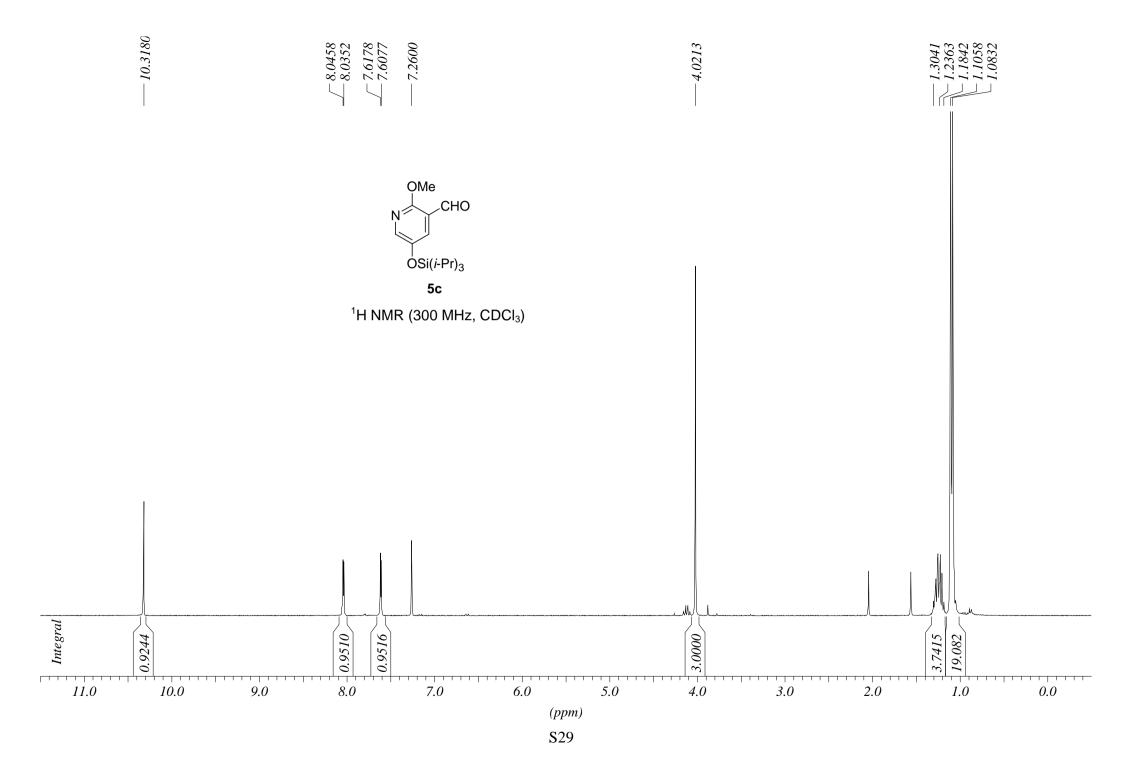


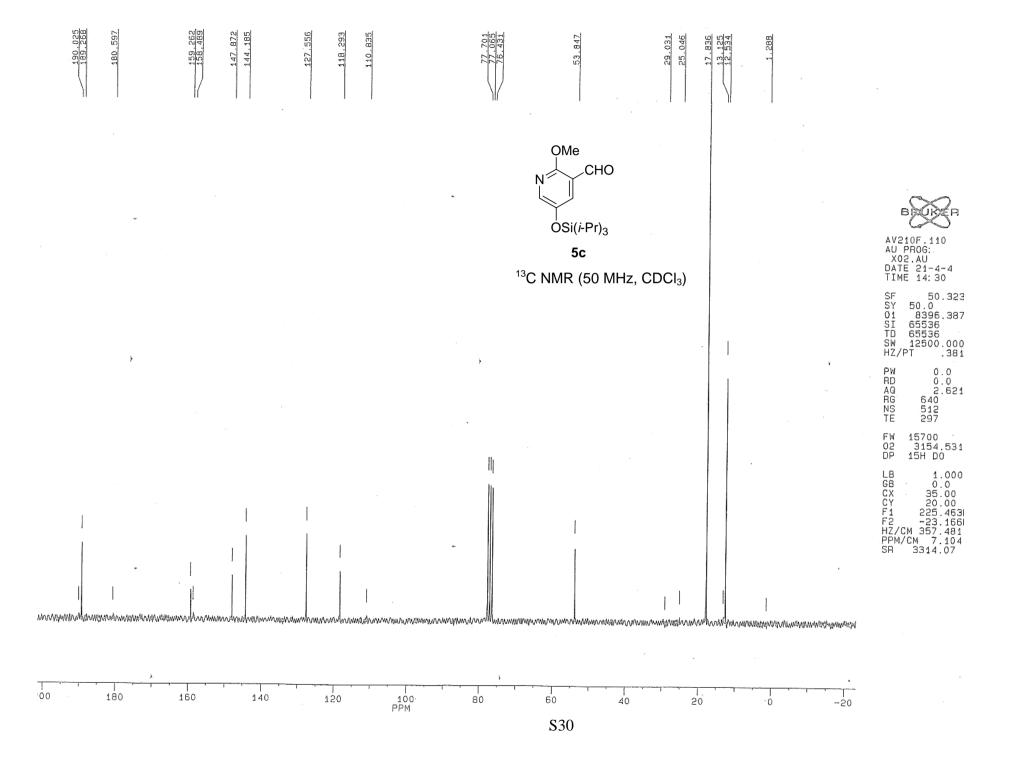


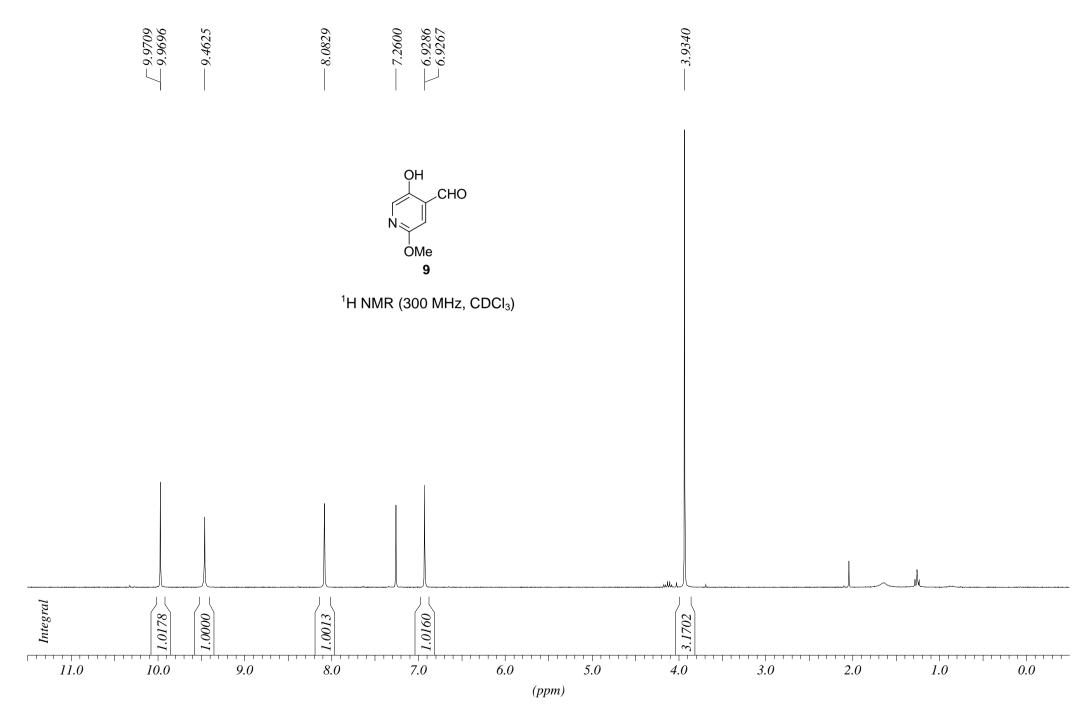


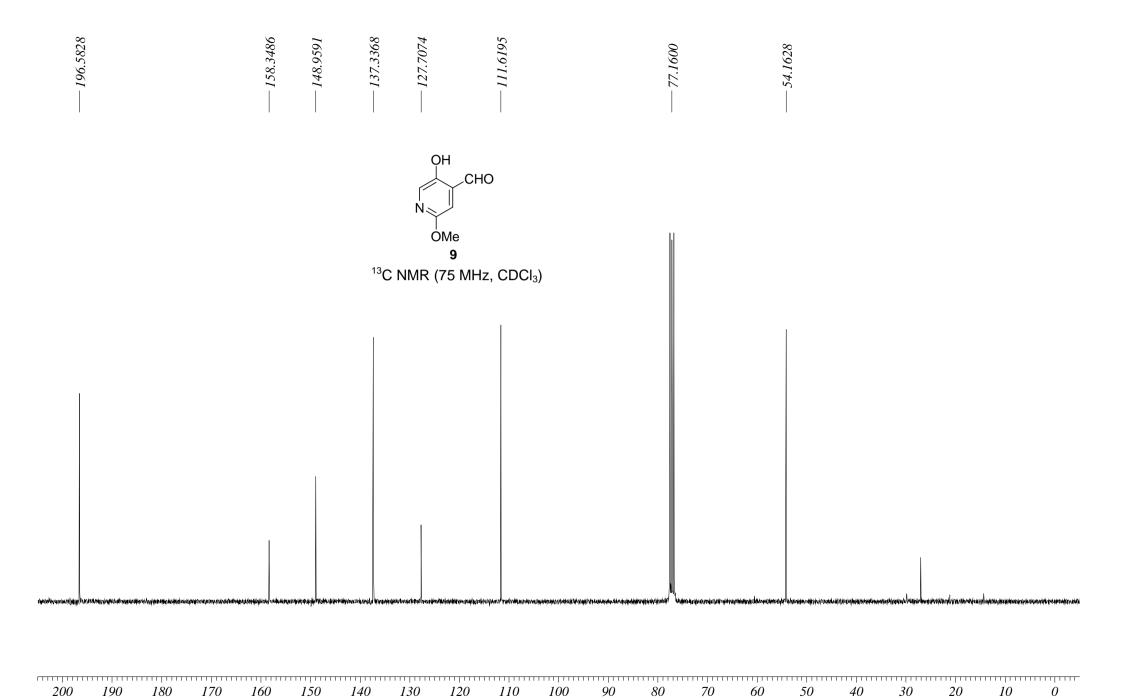


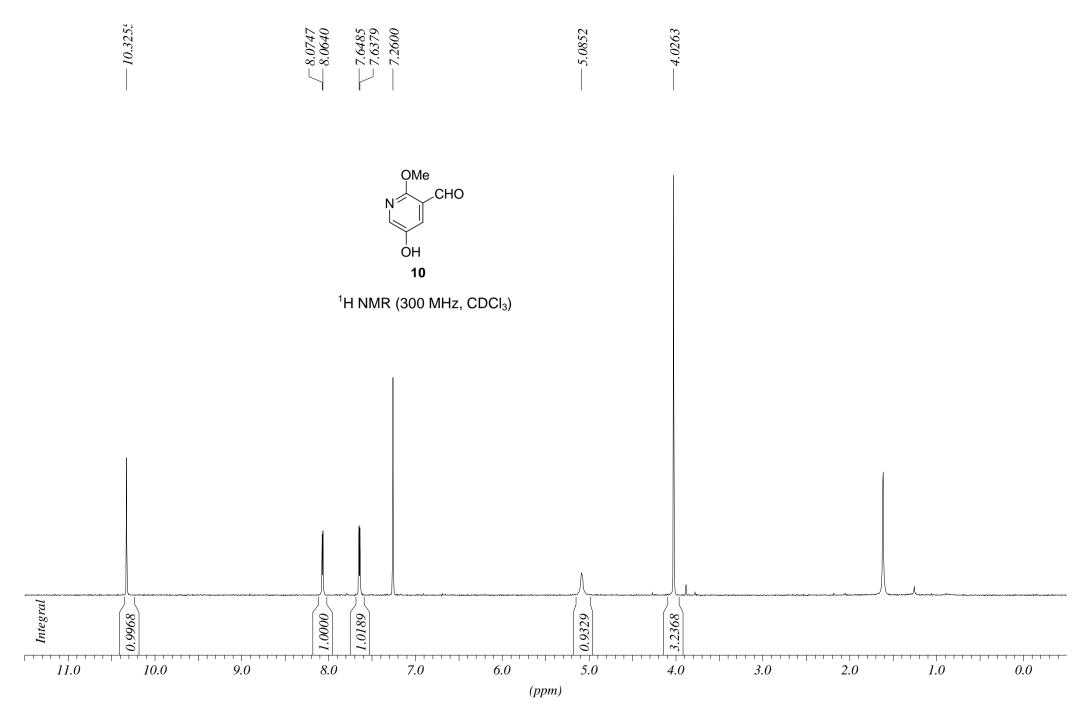


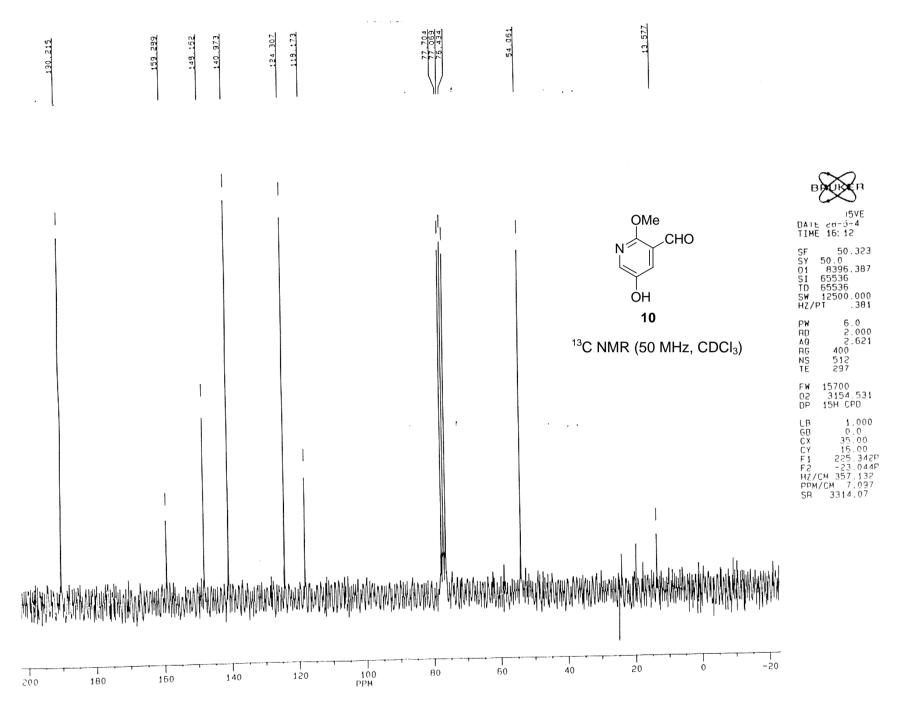


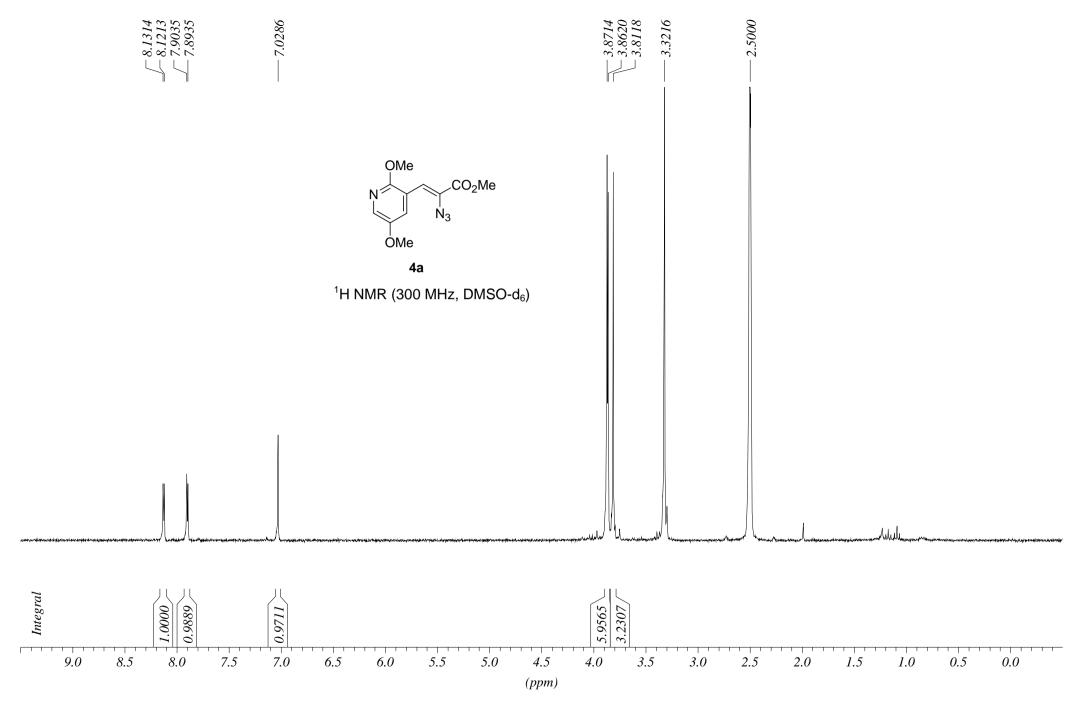


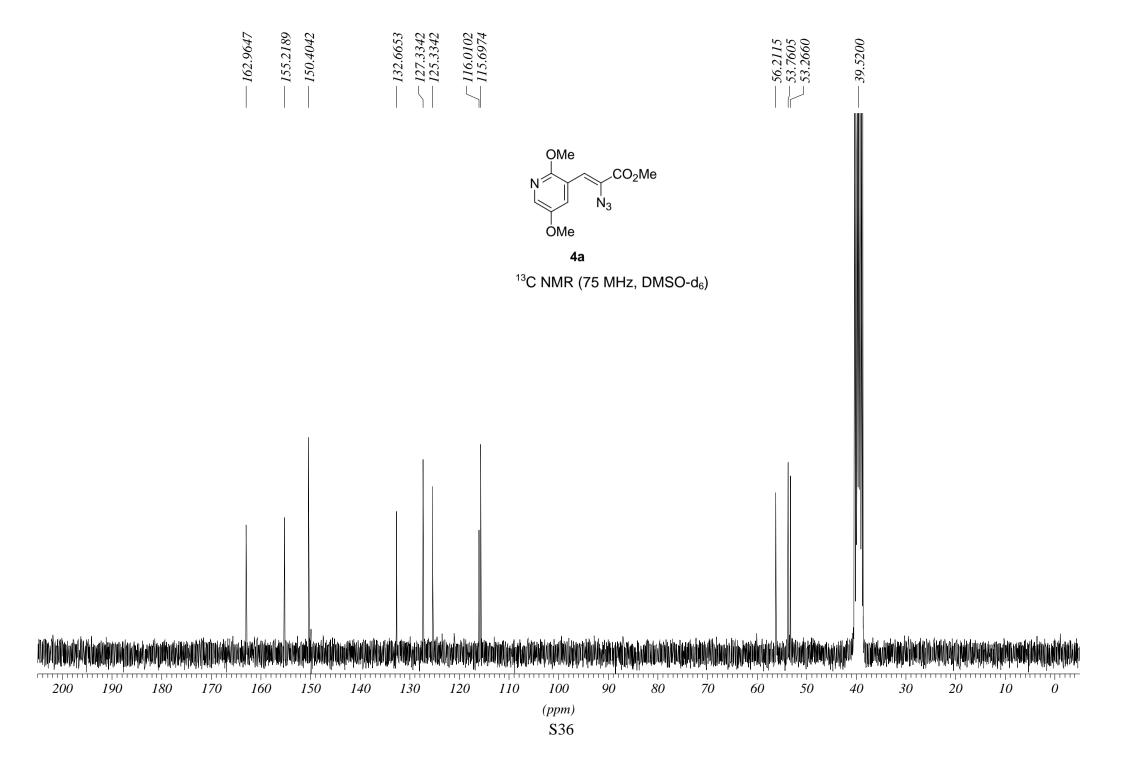


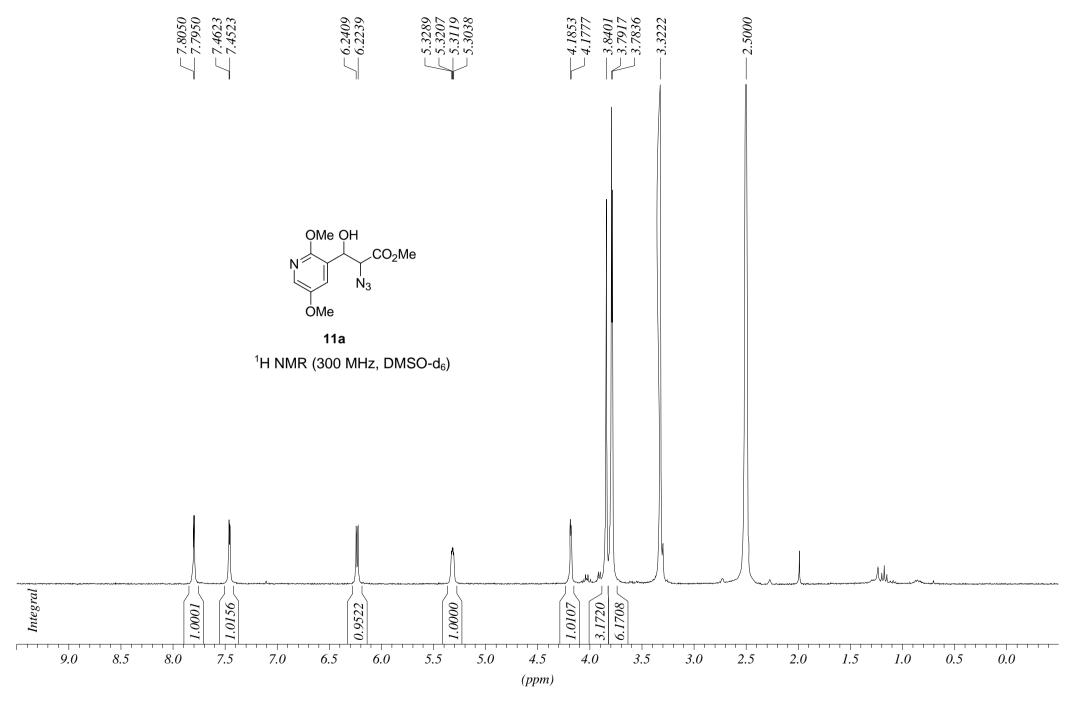


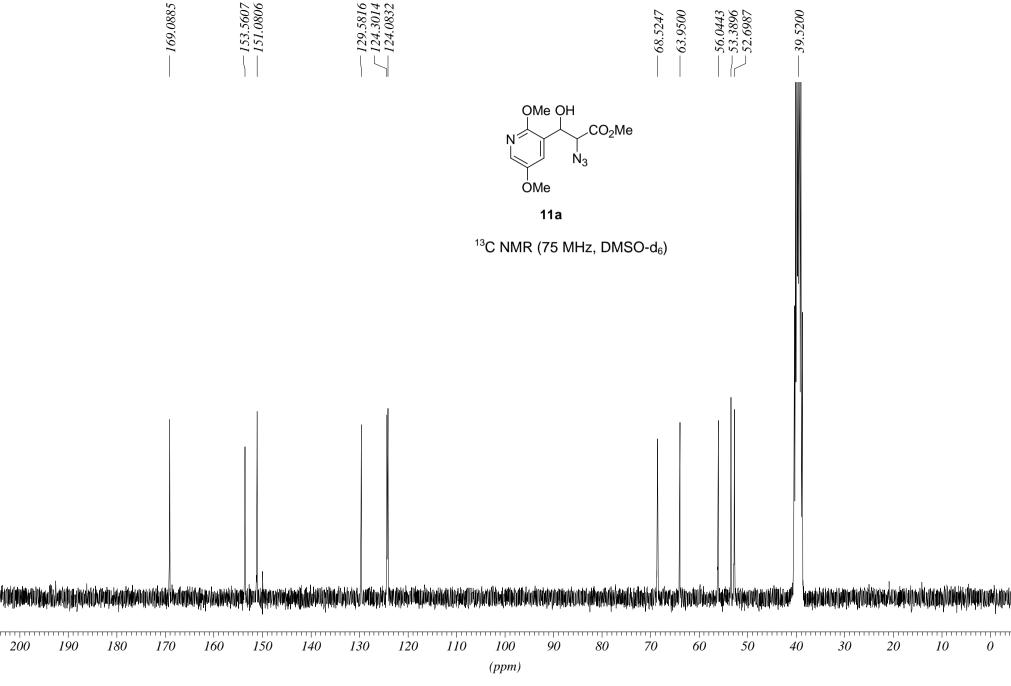


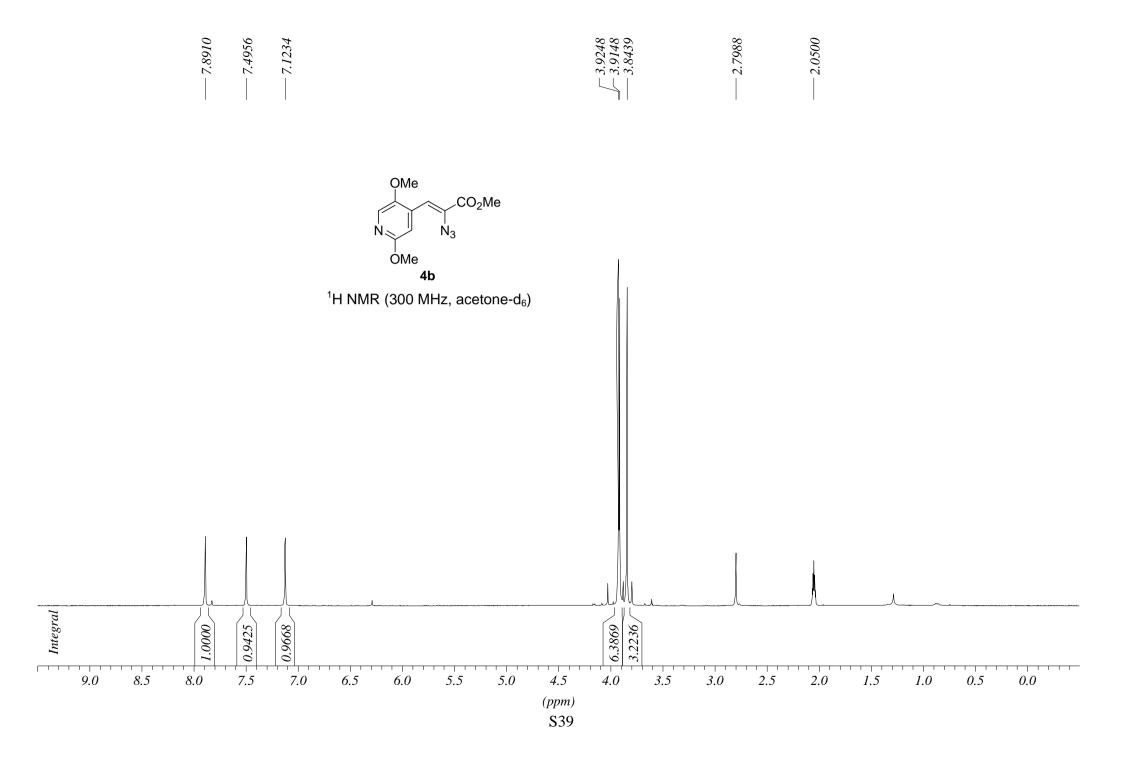


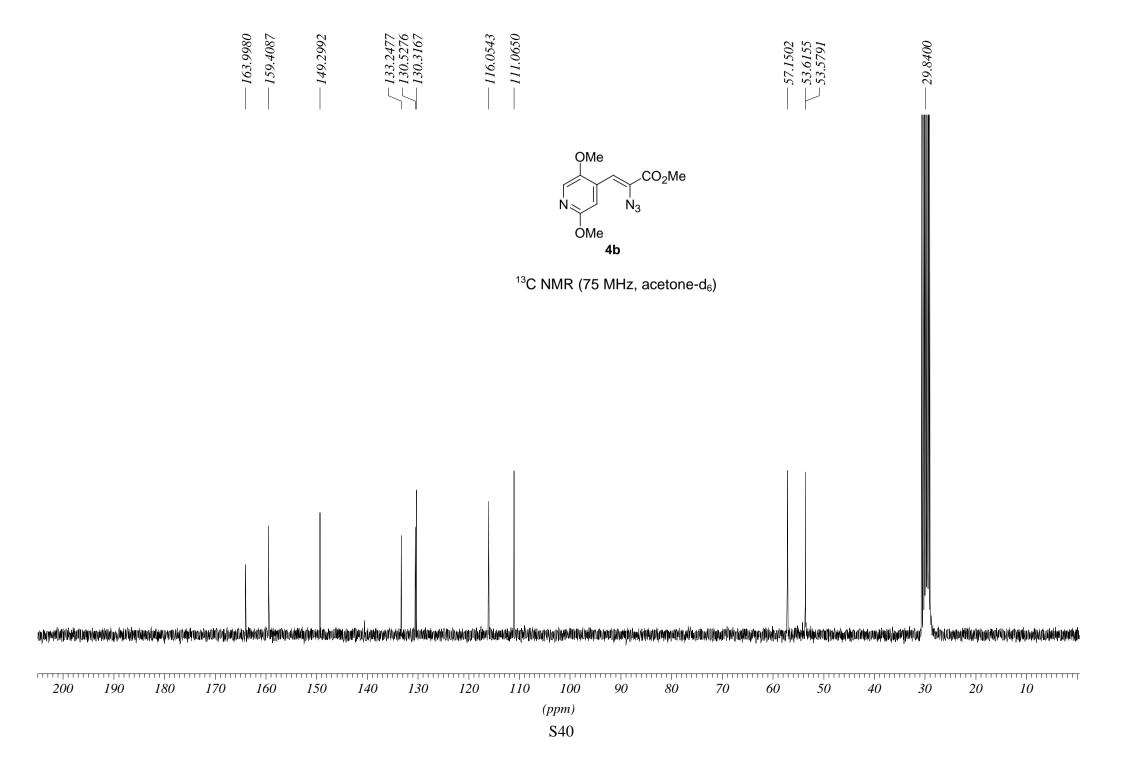


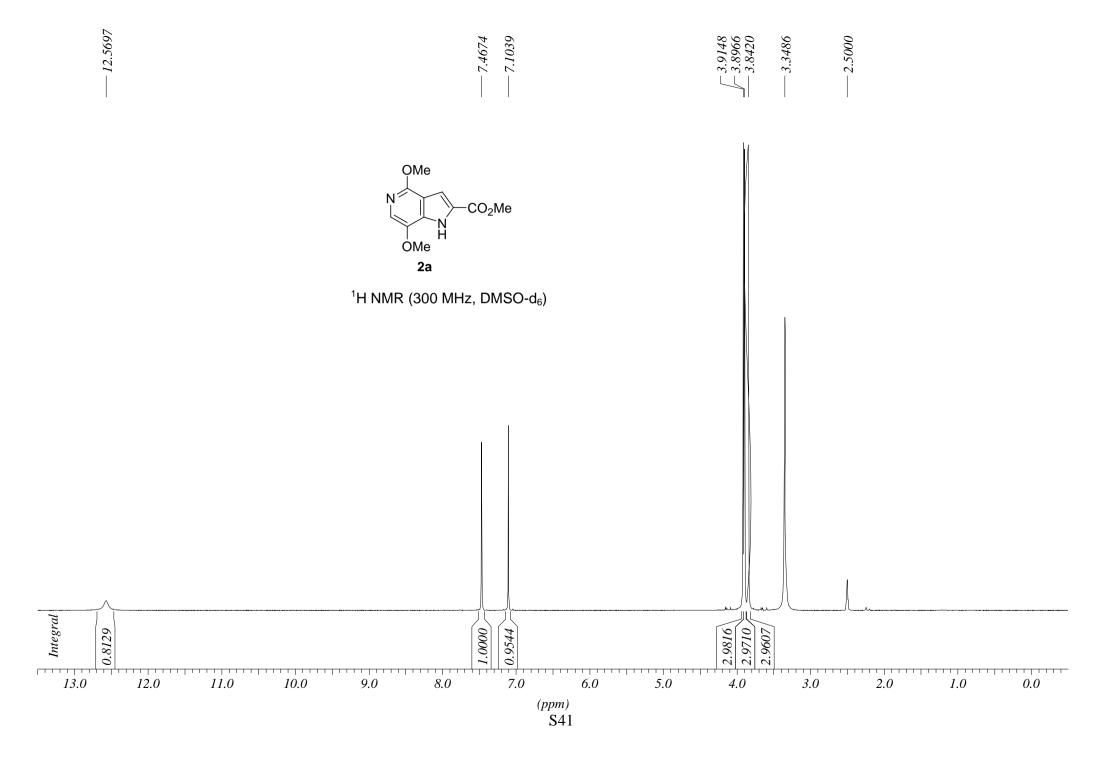


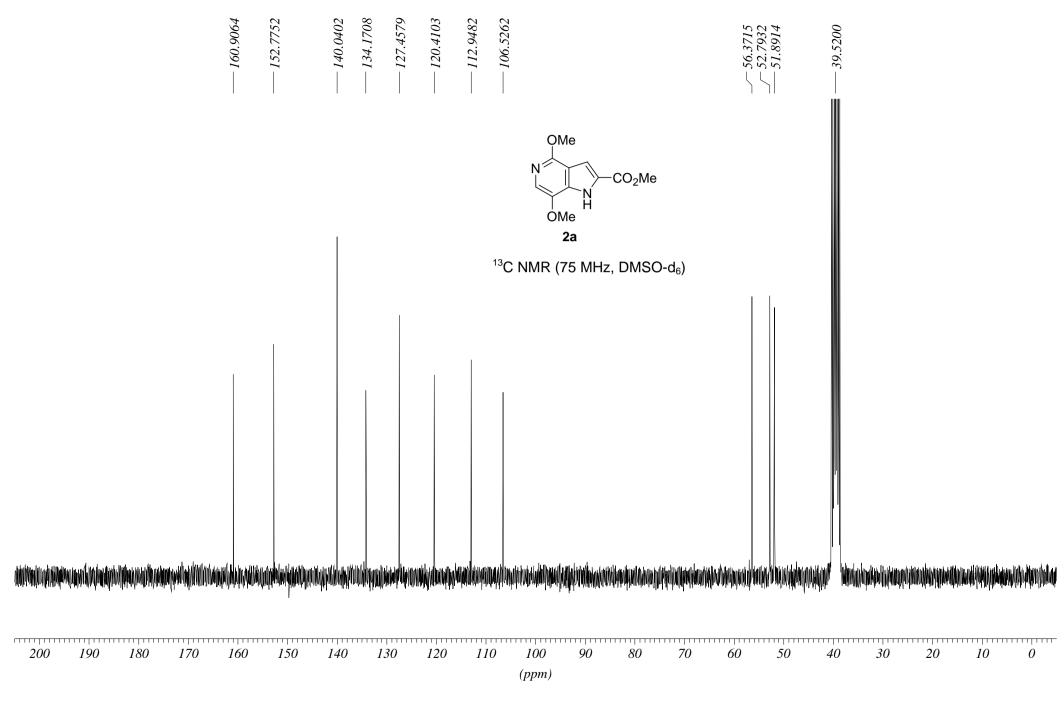


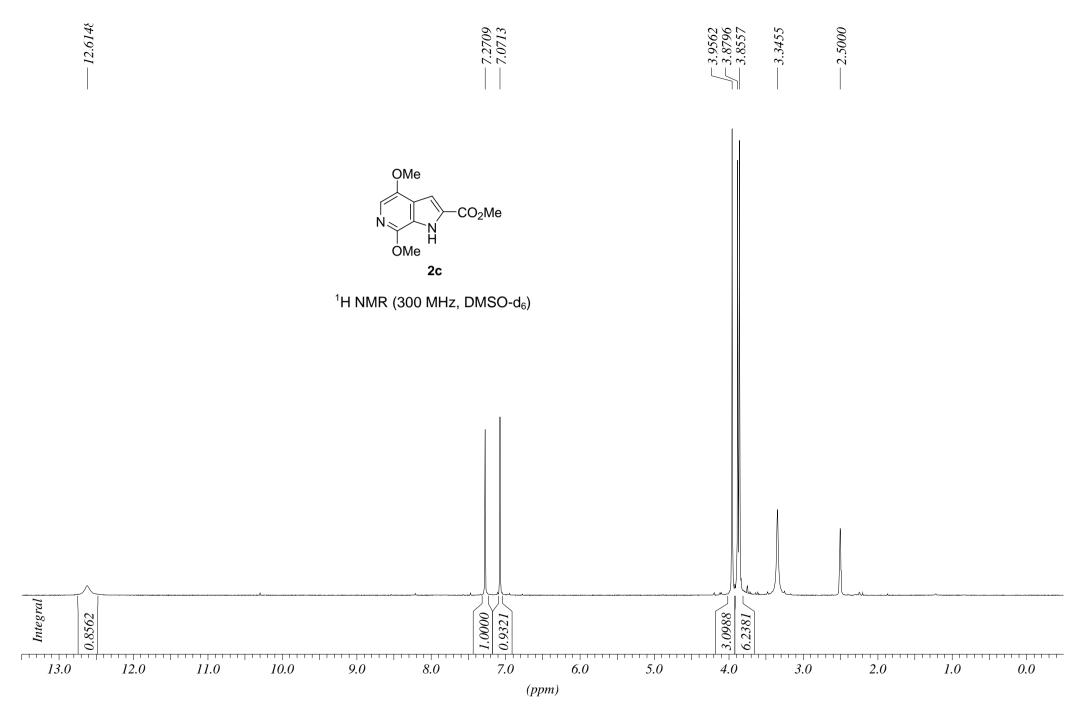


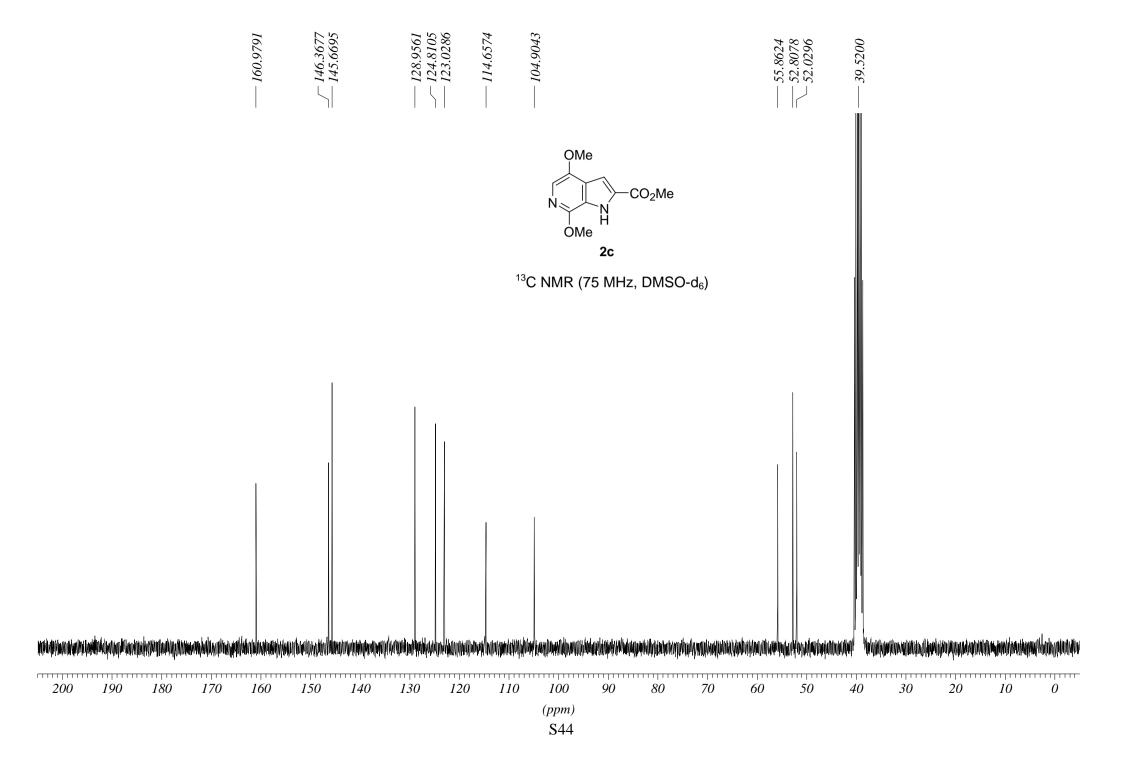


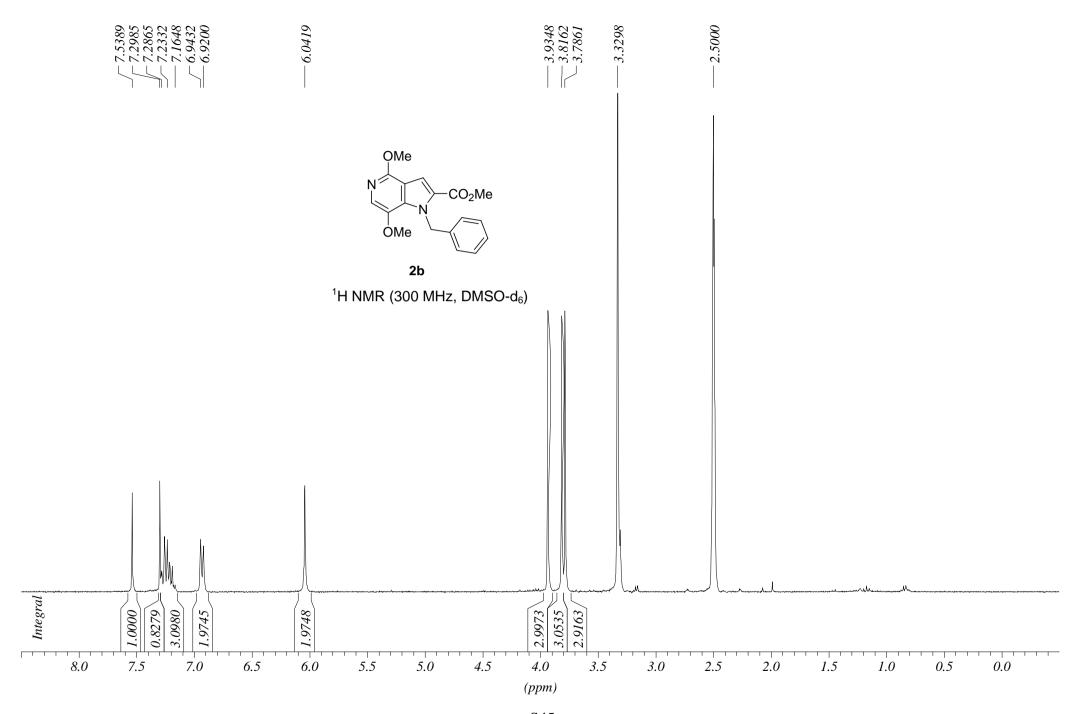


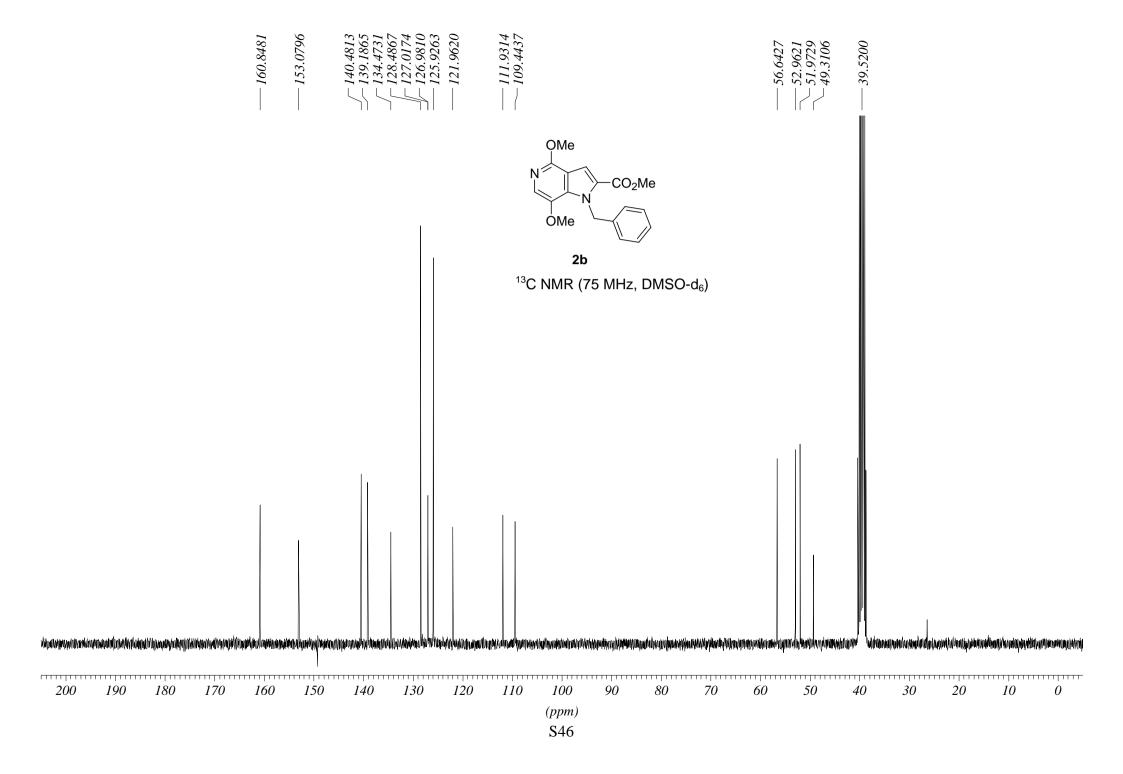


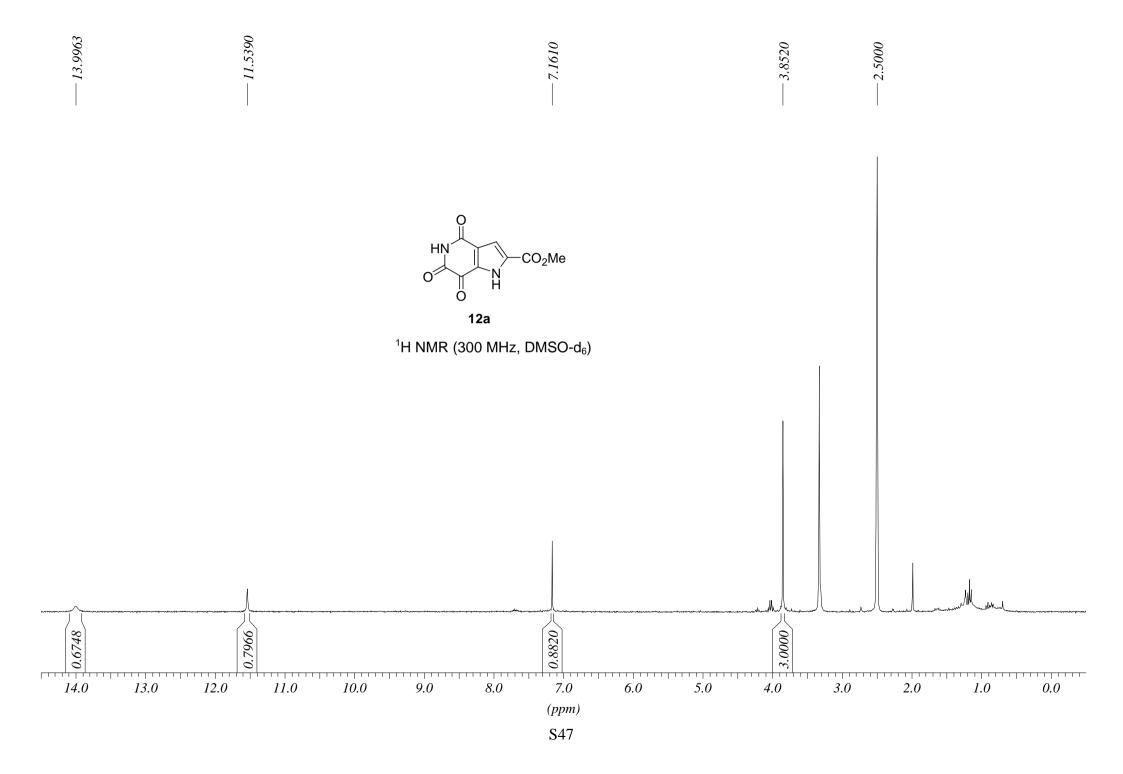


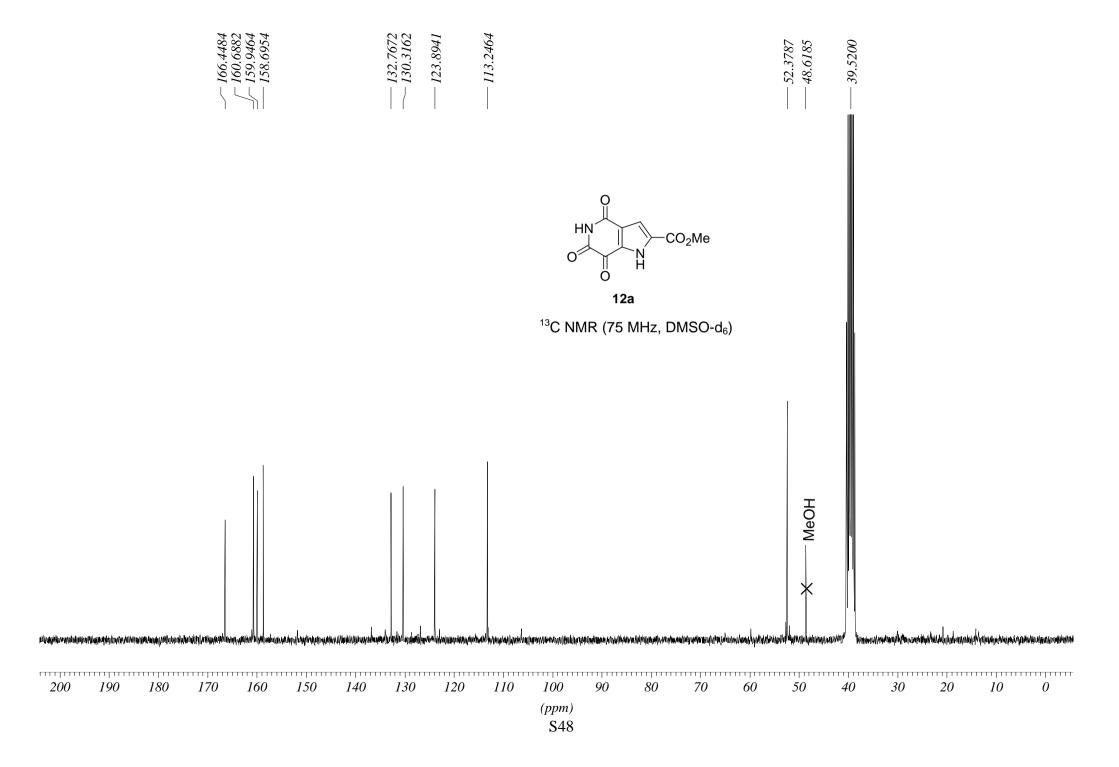


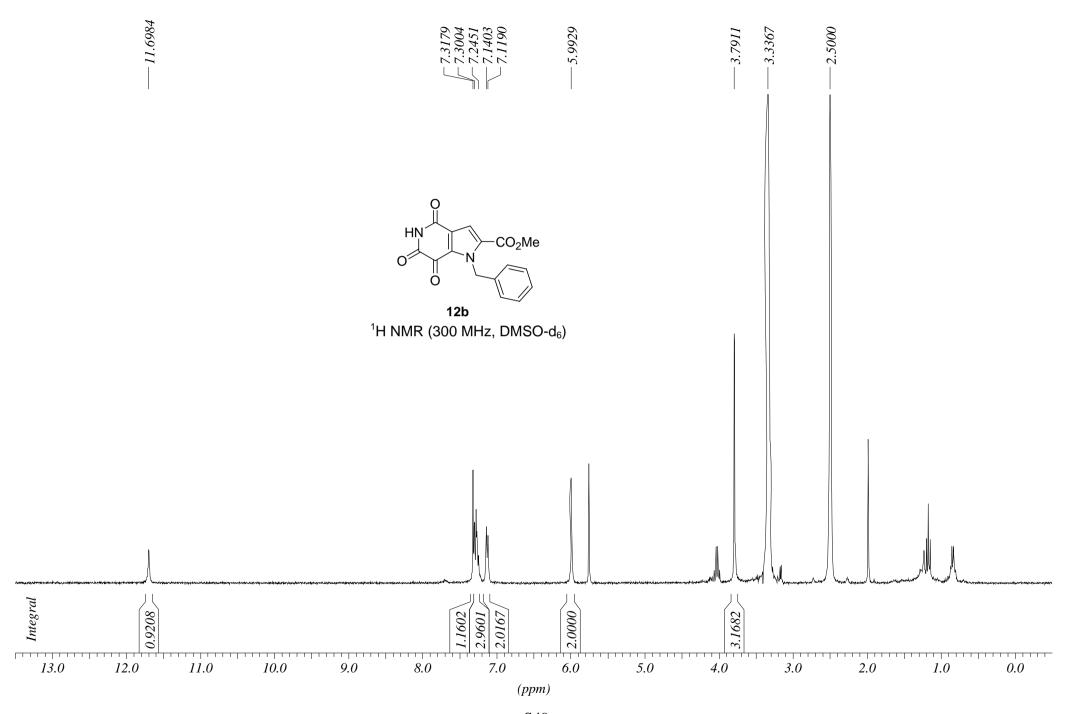


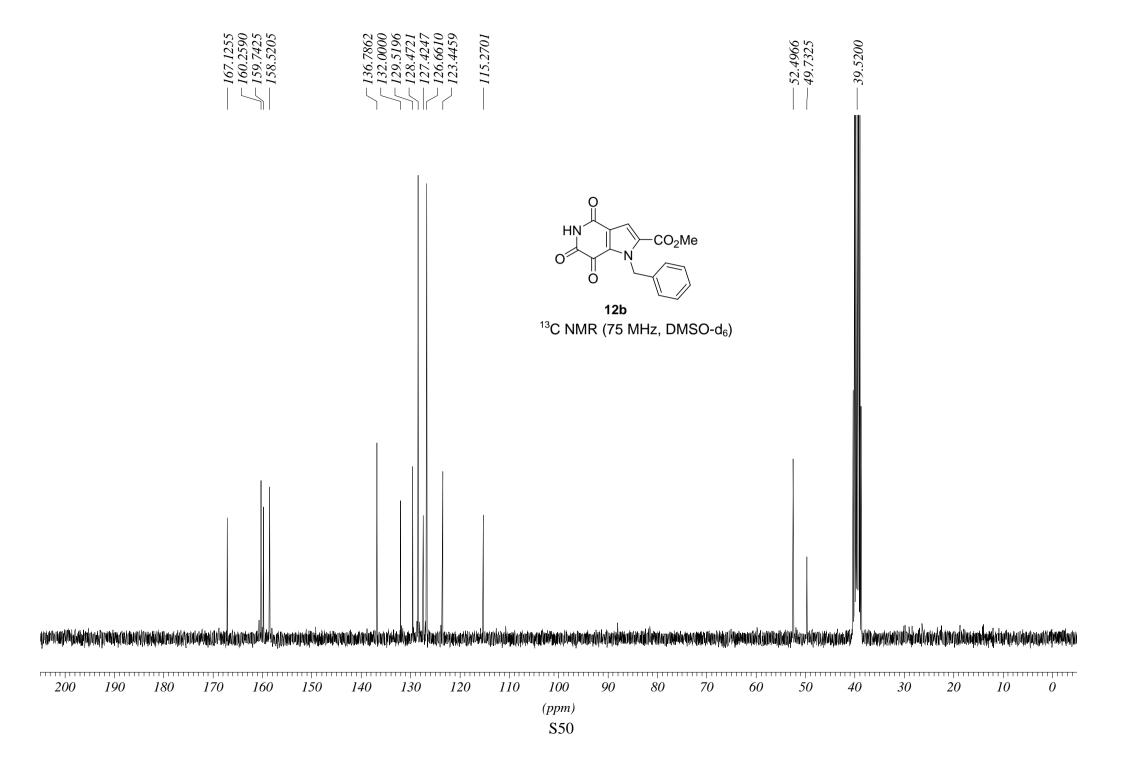


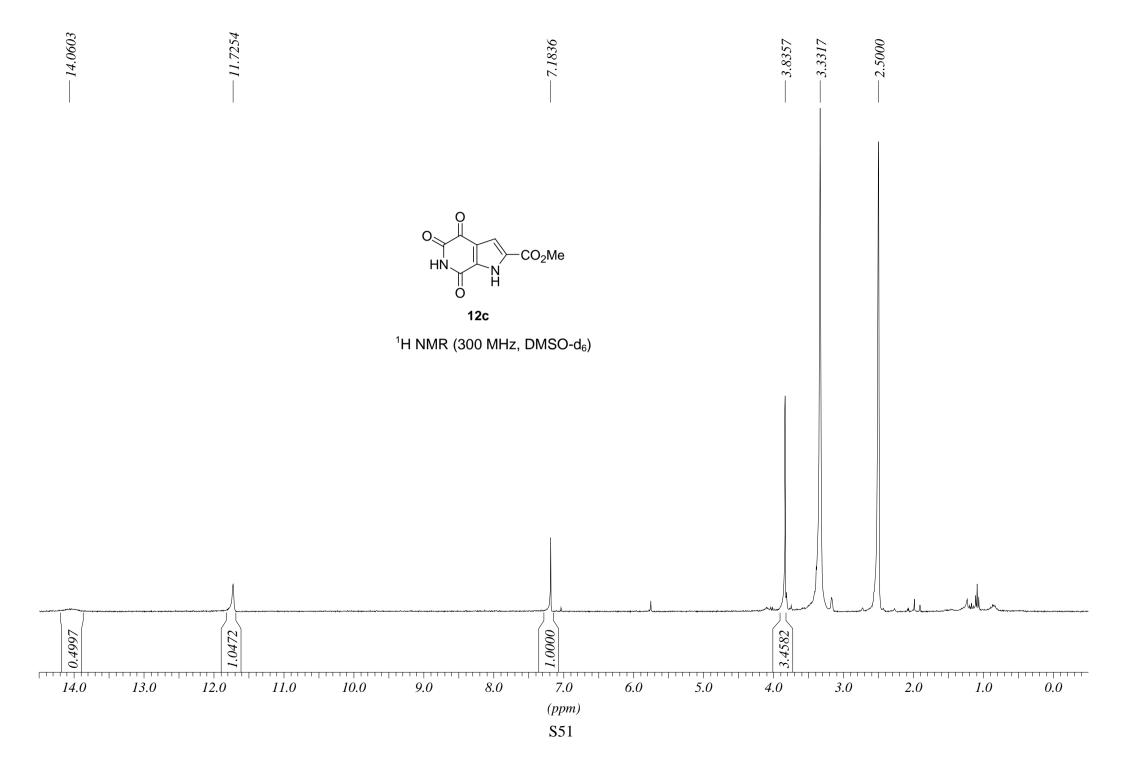


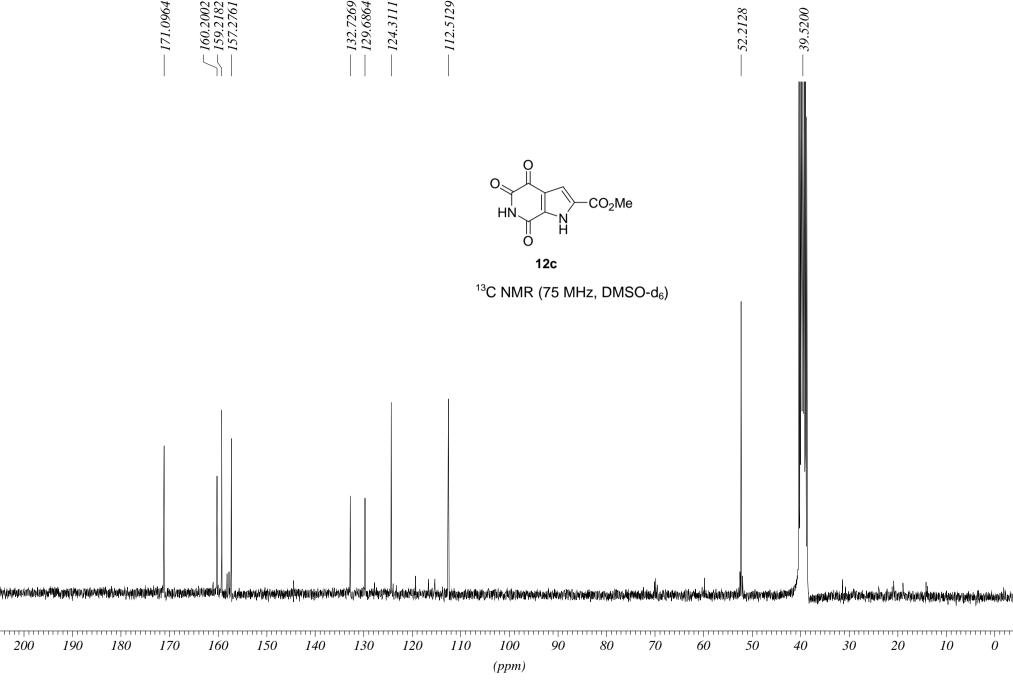


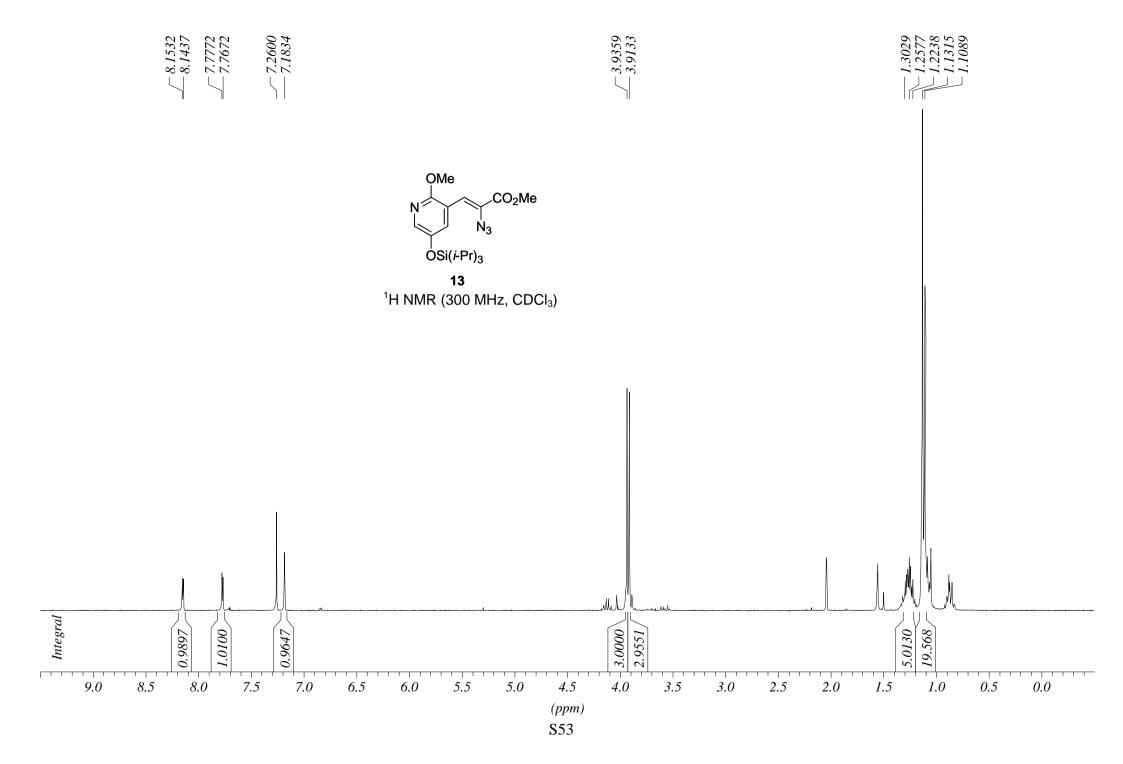


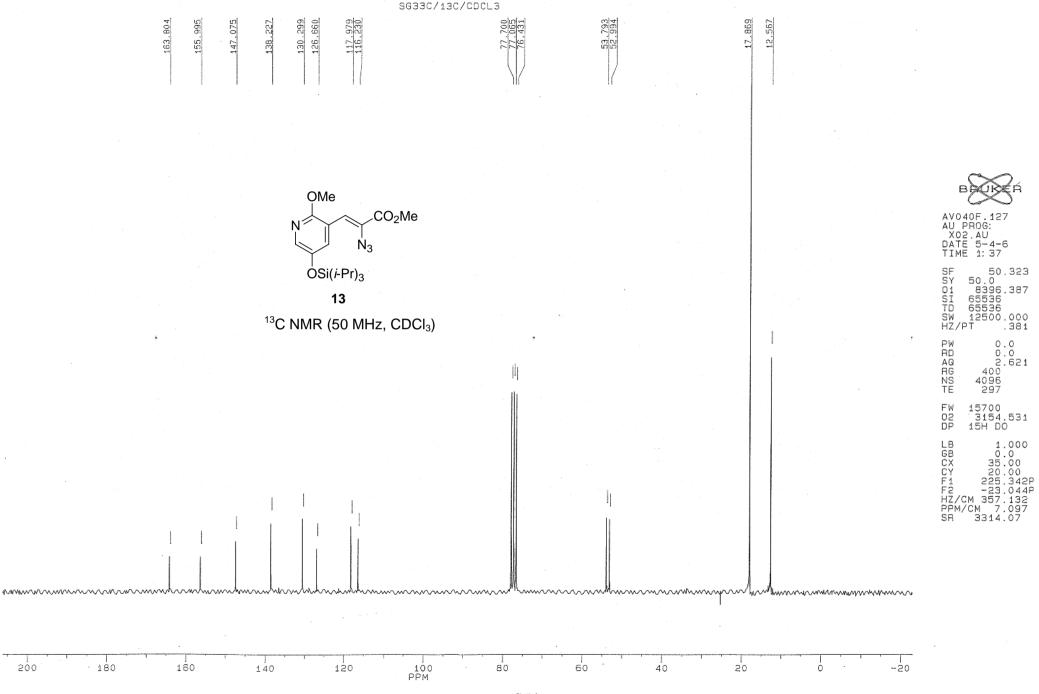












S54

