

Supporting information

CuBr-Catalyzed Selective Oxidation of N-Azomethine: Highly Efficient Synthesis of Methine-Bridged bis-Indole Compounds

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1. Synthetic experiment

Typical experimental procedure (3a) Bis(indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methane [1]. To a mixture of CuBr (3.6 mg, 0.025 mmol) and indole (59 mg, 0.5 mmol), N-benzyl-piperidine (88 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added. Then tert-butyl hydroperoxide (0.6 mmol, 5–6 M in decane) was added dropwise into the mixture under nitrogen at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h. Then, the cooled reaction mixture was dissolved in water (5 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried with anhydrous MgSO₄, and the product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography and eluted with cyclohexane and petroleum ether mixture to afford the product. Pink solid; mp 122–124 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (br s, 2H, NH), 7.34–7.39 (m, 6H), 7.25–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (s, 2H), 5.88 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.2, 136.9, 128.9, 128.4, 127.3, 126.3, 123.8, 122.1, 120.1, 120.0, 119.5, 111.2, 40.4; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$ /cm⁻¹ 3410, 3051, 2924, 2858, 1612; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₂₃H₁₈N₂: 322.1470; found 322.1472.

[3b] Bis(6-chloroindol-3-yl)(phenyl)methane. Pink solid; mp 128–130 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (br s, 2H, NH), 7.34 (s, 2H), 7.28–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.23–7.26 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 5.78 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.5, 137.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 126.7, 125.8, 124.3, 120.9, 120.3, 119.8, 111.2, 40.3. IR $\nu_{\max}$ /cm⁻¹ 3423, 3026, 2927, 2858, 1610; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₂₃H₁₆N₂Cl₂: 390.0691; found 390.0694.

[3c] Bis(6-fluoroindol-3-yl)(phenyl)methane. Pink solid; mp 133–135 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.19–7.31 (m, 7H), 6.98–7.00 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 9.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (dt, *J* = 2.0, 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (s, 2H), 5.78 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.5, 157.8, 143.8,

136.9, 136.7, 128.8, 128.6, 126.6, 124.0, 123.9, 123.8, 120.9, 120.7, 119.8, 108.5, 108.0, 97.8, 97.3, 40.4. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3421, 3064, 3030, 2929, 1624; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{F}_2$: 358.1282; found 358.1284.

[3d] Bis(5-methylindol-3-yl)(phenyl)methane.[2] Red solid; mp 193–194°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.20–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.54 (s, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 144.4, 135.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.5, 126.3, 124.1, 123.8, 119.7, 119.5, 110.9, 40.3, 21.7. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3408, 3022, 2920, 2856, 1597; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$: 350.1783; found 350.1786.

[3e] Bis(indol-3-yl)(4-chlorophenyl)methane.[1] Pink solid; mp 76–77°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.88 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.21–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 5.85 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.8, 136.9, 132.0, 130.3, 128.6, 127.1, 123.8, 122.3, 120.1, 119.6, 119.4, 111.4, 39.8. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3410, 3051, 2923, 2858, 1614; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}_2$: 356.1080; found 356.1075.

[3f] Bis(6-fluoroindol-3-yl)(4-chlorophenyl)methane. Pink solid; mp 98–100°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.21–7.24 (m, 6H), 7.02 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.77 (dt, $J = 1.1, 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.60 (s, 2H), 5.77 (s, 1H, Ar-CH); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.6, 157.8, 142.3, 136.9, 136.7, 132.3, 130.2, 128.7, 124.1, 124.0, 123.6, 120.8, 120.6, 119.3, 108.7, 108.2, 98.0, 97.4, 39.8. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3427, 3066, 2864, 1624; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_2\text{ClN}_2$: 392.0892; found 392.0892.

[3g] Bis(5-bromoindol-3-yl)(4-chlorophenyl)methane.[3] Pink solid; mp 212–214°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (br s, 2H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 7.18–7.24 (m, 8H), 6.59(d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H) ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 141.8, 135.5, 132.4, 130.1, 128.8, 128.7, 125.3, 125.1, 122.4, 118.7, 113.0, 39.5. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3431, 3130, 2856, 1616; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{Br}_2\text{ClN}_2$: 511.9291; found 511.9297.

[3h] Bis(5-methylindol-3-yl)(4-chlorophenyl)methane. Pink solid; mp 148–150°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.78 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.21–7.23 (m, 6H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.54 (s, 2H), 5.78 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 2.35 (s, 6H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 143.0, 135.2, 131.9, 130.3, 128.8, 128.6, 127.3, 124.1, 123.9, 119.6, 119.0, 111.0, 39.7, 21.7. IR $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ 3408, 3026, 2922, 2858, 1622; HRMS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{Cl}$: 384.1393; found 384.1389.

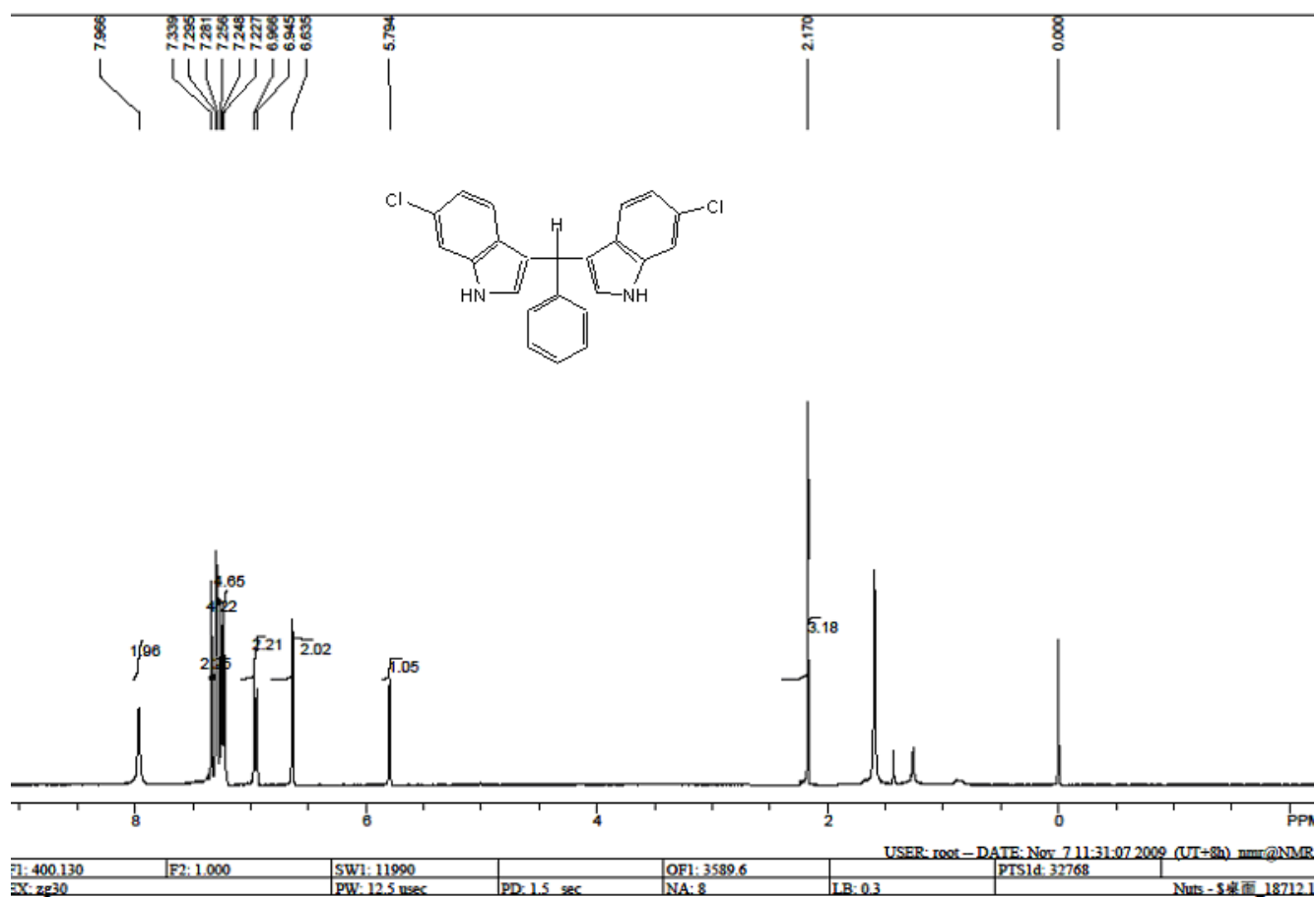
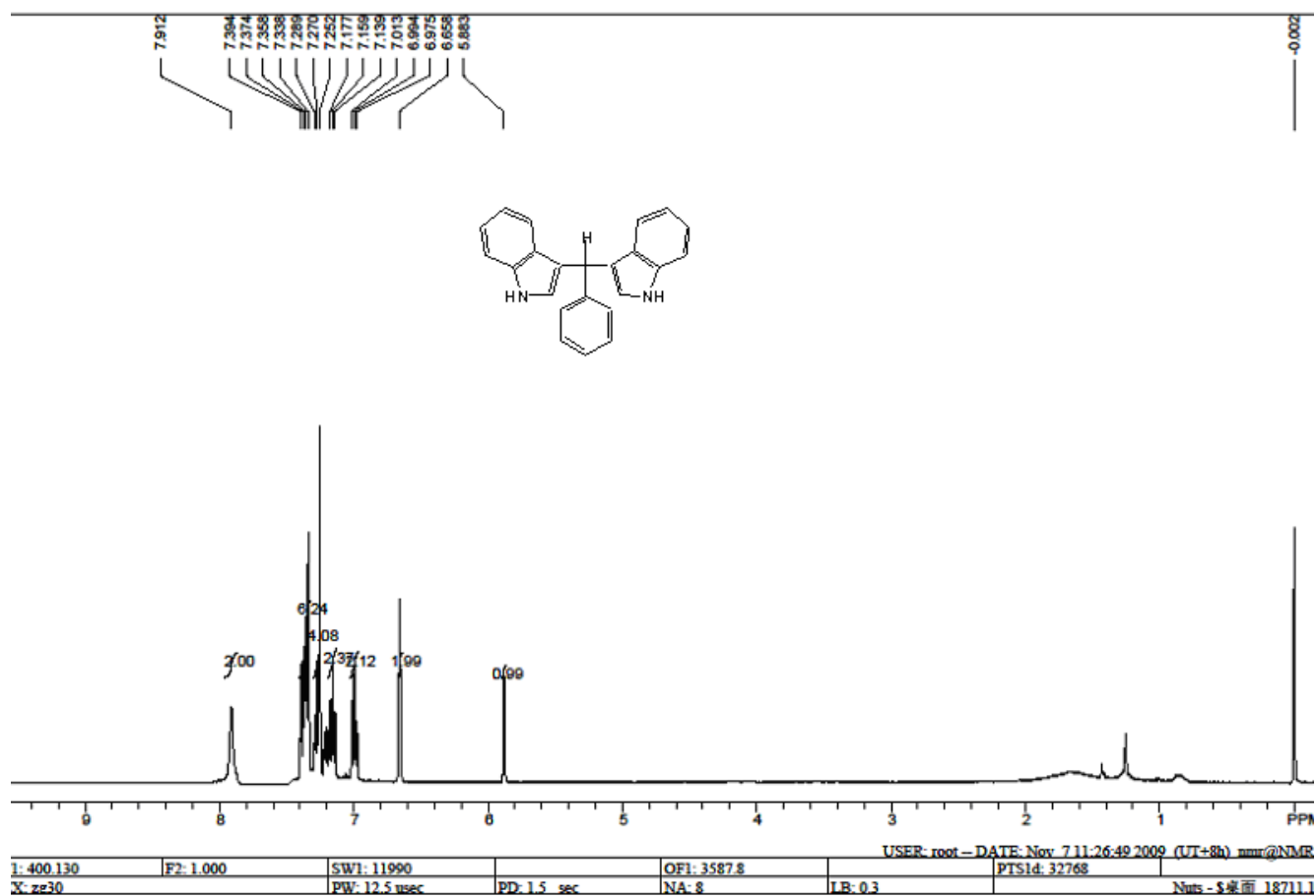
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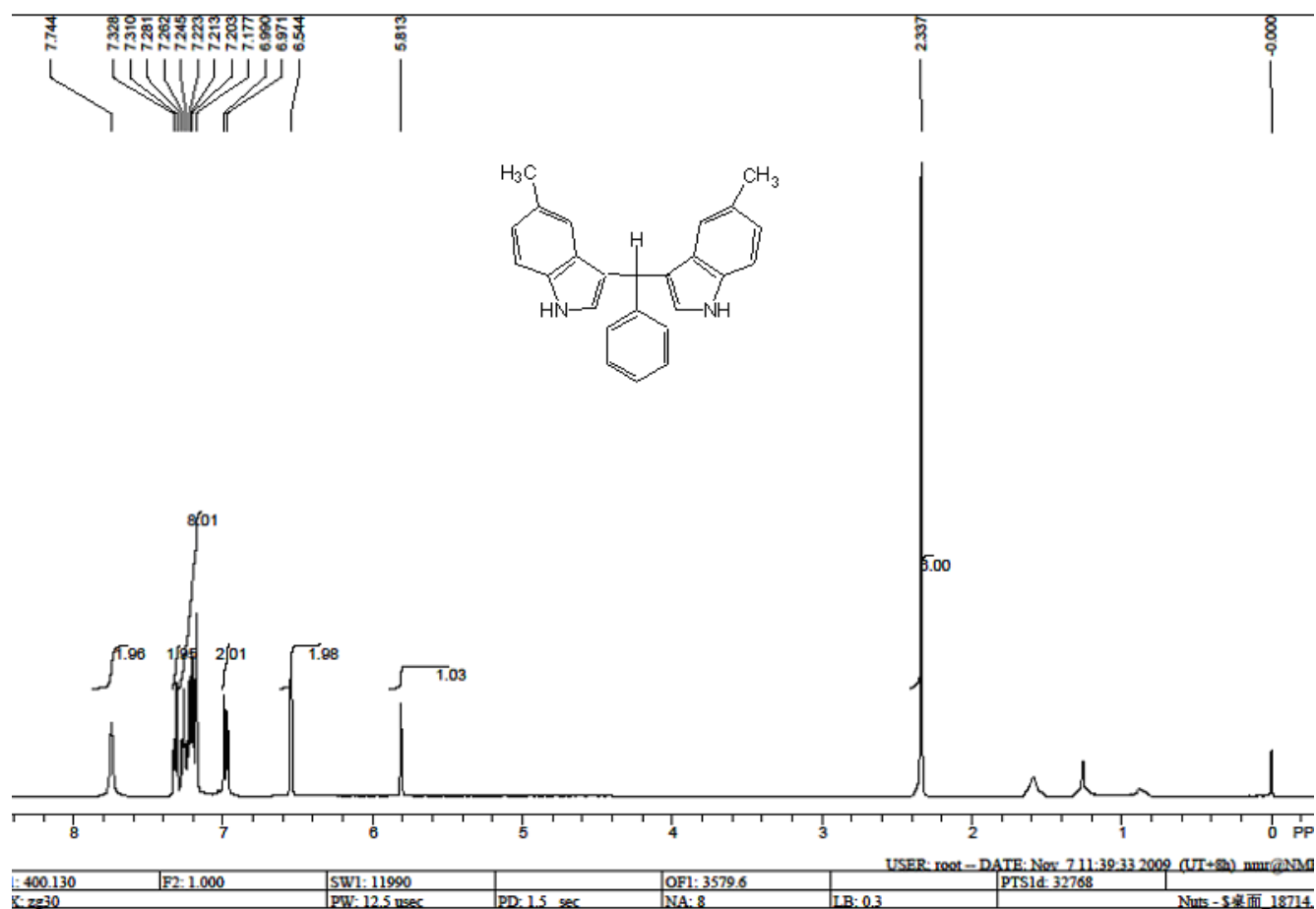
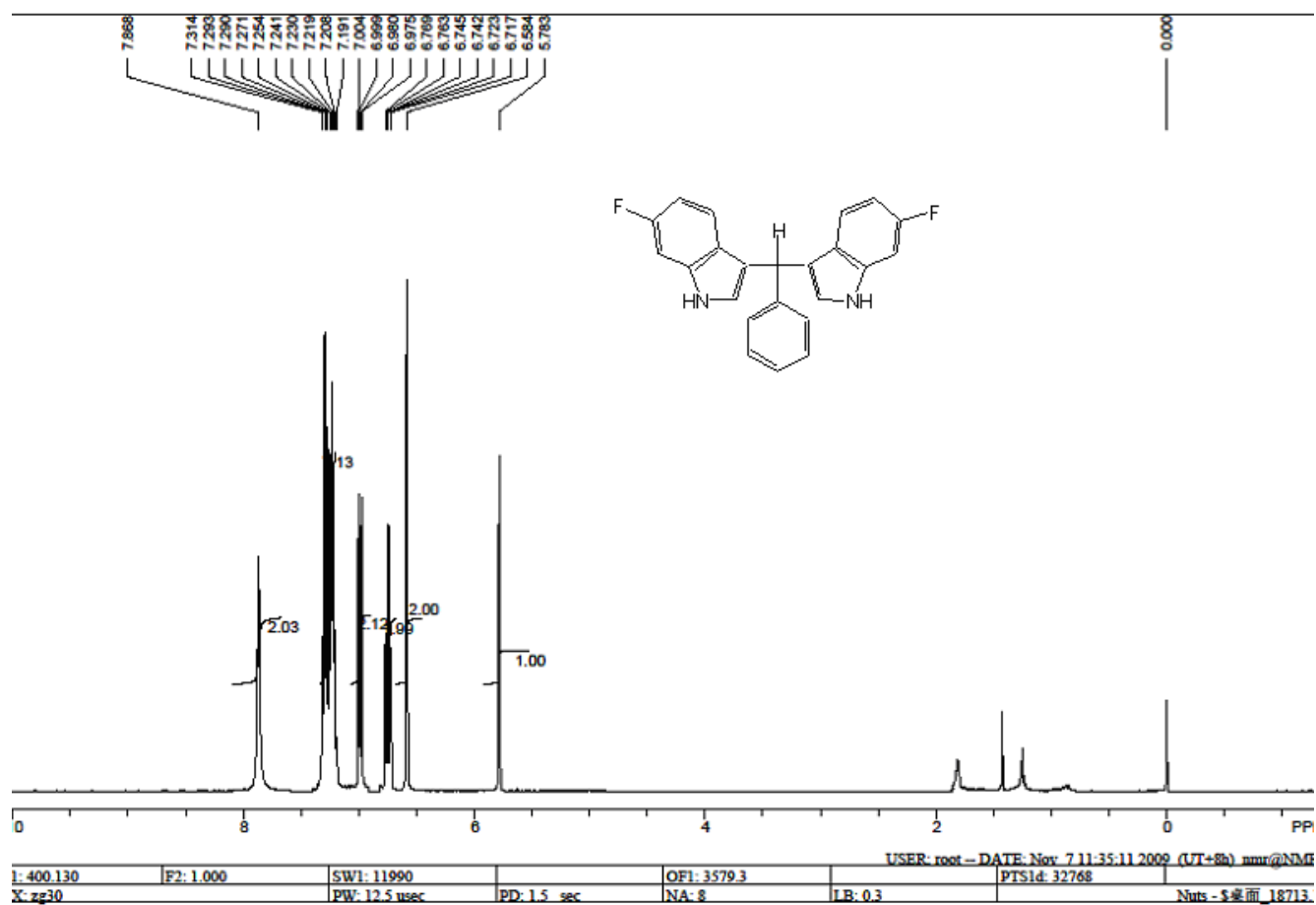
(s, 2H), 5.68 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.2, 138.2, 135.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 125.8, 125.1, 125.0, 122.5, 119.3, 112.8, 40.0, 21.8. IR ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3421, 3024, 2922, 2864, 1602; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₂₄H₁₈N₂Br₂: 491.9837; found 491.9840.

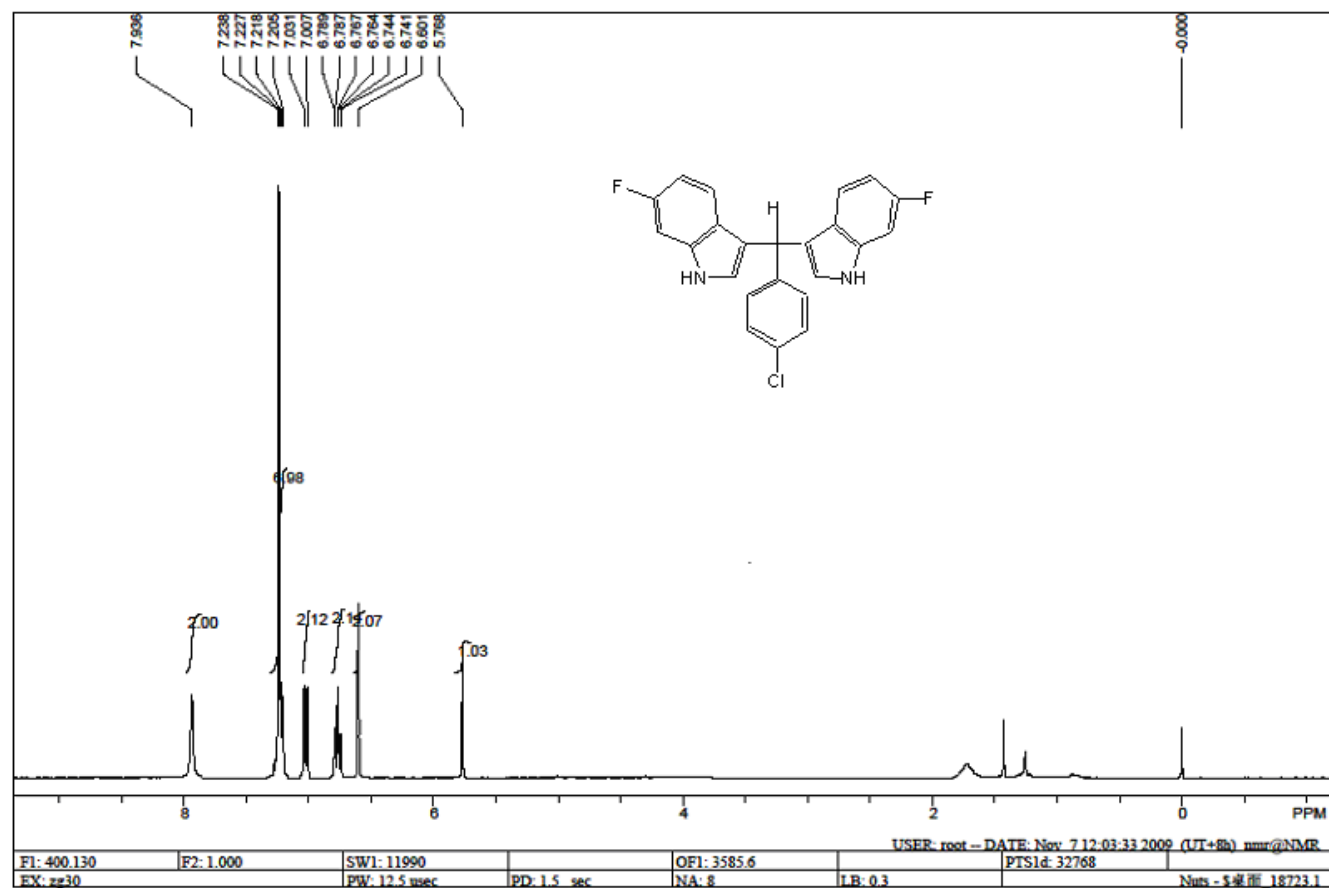
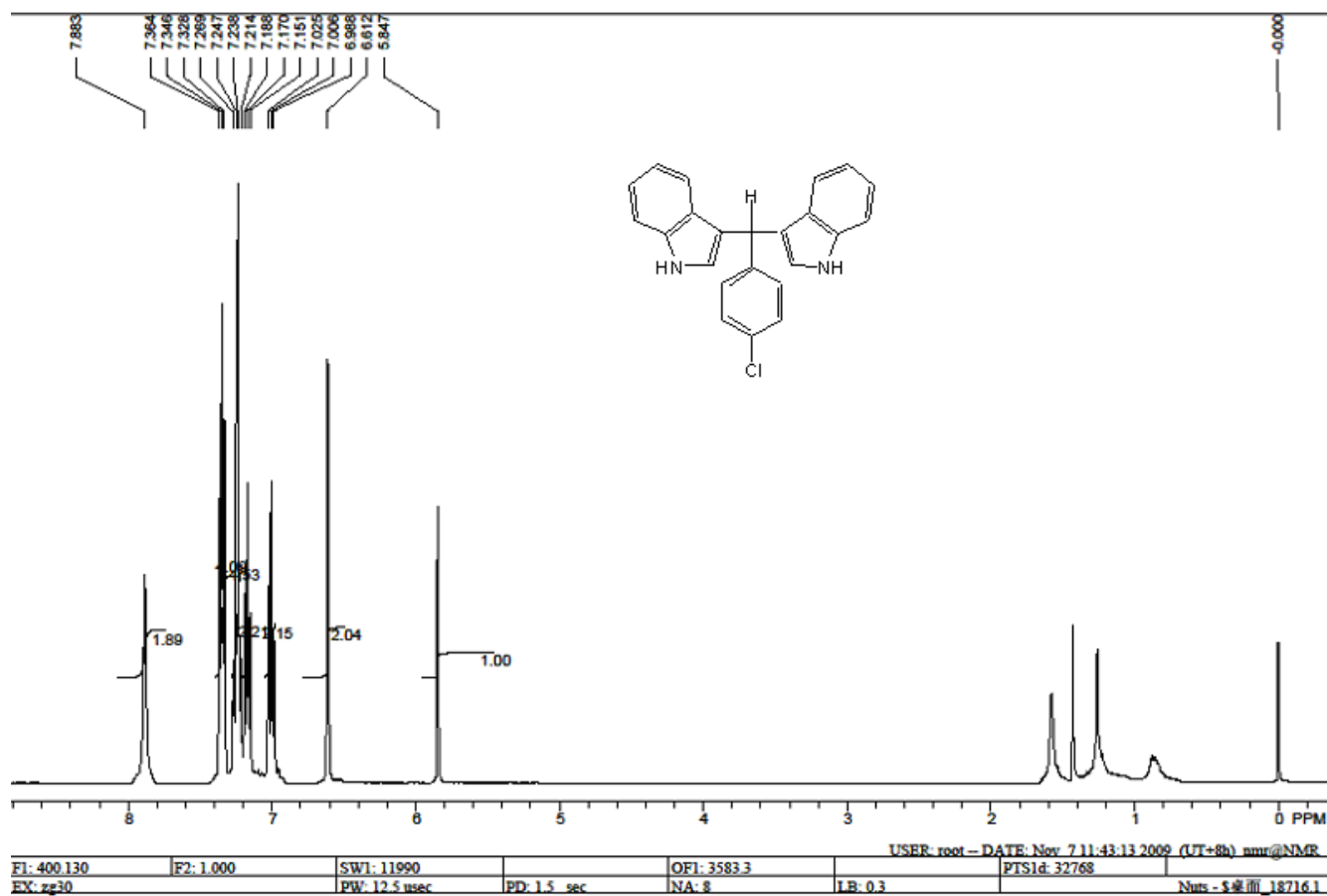
[3j] Bis(6-fluoroindol-3-yl)(3-methylphenyl)methane (3j). Pink solid; mp 141-143°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.23-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.98-7.03 (m, 3H), 6.75 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (s, 2H), 5.75 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.5, 157.8, 143.7, 138.1, 136.9, 136.6, 129.6, 128.4, 127.4, 125.8, 124.0, 123.8, 120.9, 120.7, 119.9, 108.5, 108.0, 97.8, 97.3, 40.3, 21.8. IR ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3419, 3061, 2920, 2858, 1624; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₂₄H₁₈N₂F₂: 372.1438; found 372.1435.

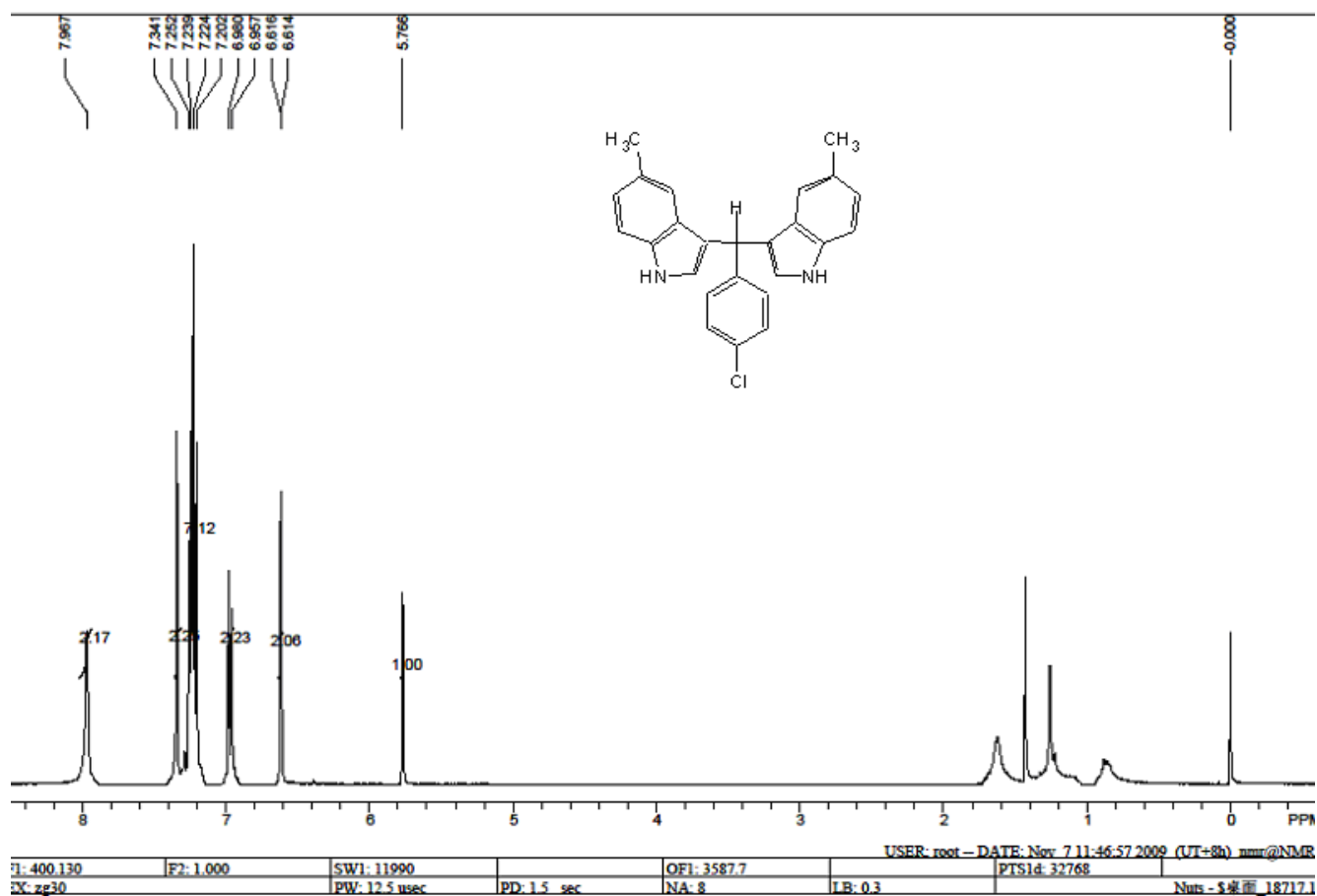
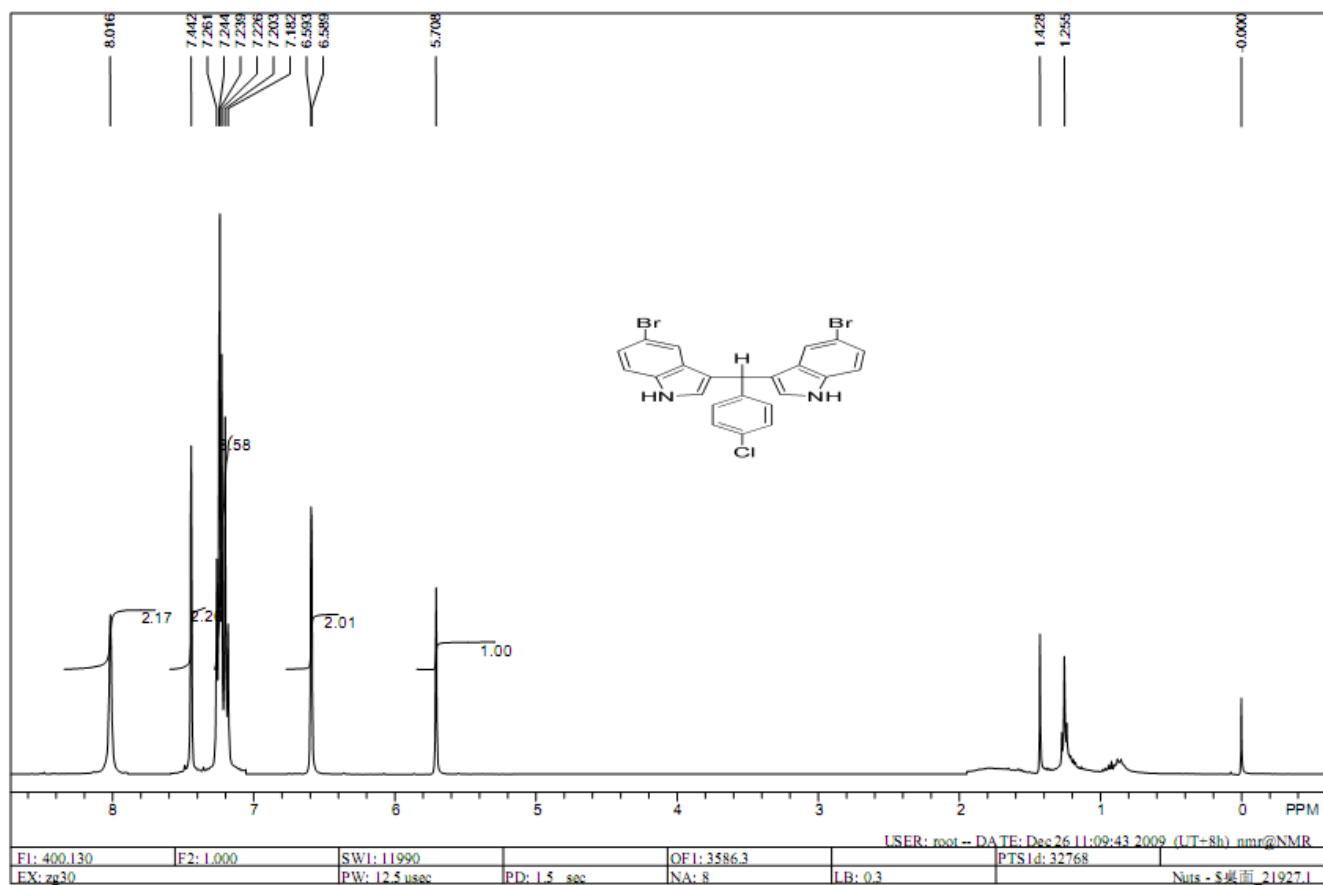
[3k] Bis(5-methylindol-3-yl)(3-methylphenyl)methane. Pink solid; mp 140-142°C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (br, s, 2H, NH), 7.09-7.21 (m, 8H), 6.96-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.52 (s, 2H), 5.77 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 2.34 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.3, 137.8, 135.2, 129.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 127.1, 125.9, 124.1, 123.7, 119.7, 110.9, 40.1, 21.8, 21.7. IR ν_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3408, 3022, 2918, 2858, 1601; HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₂₆H₂₄N₂: 364.1940; found 364.1945.

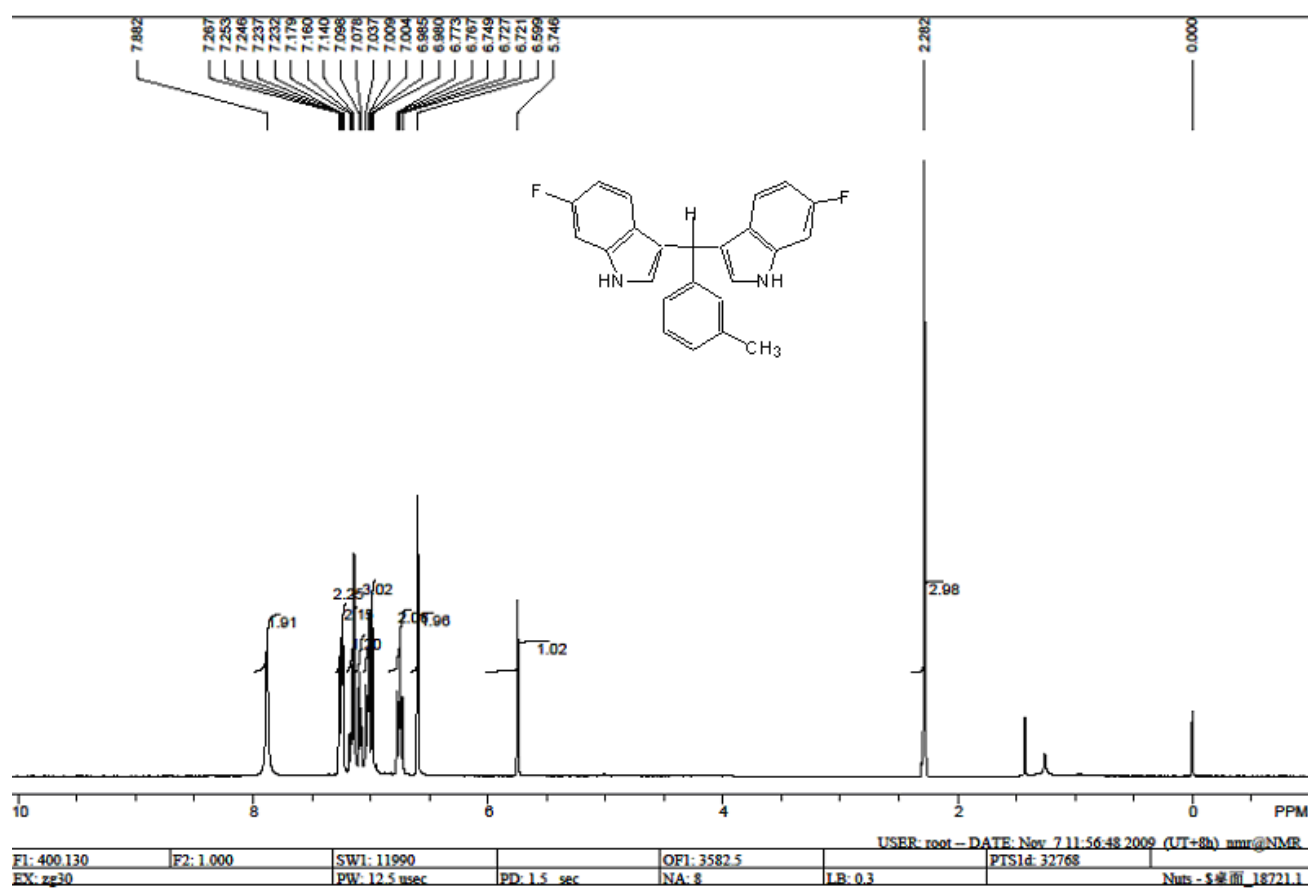
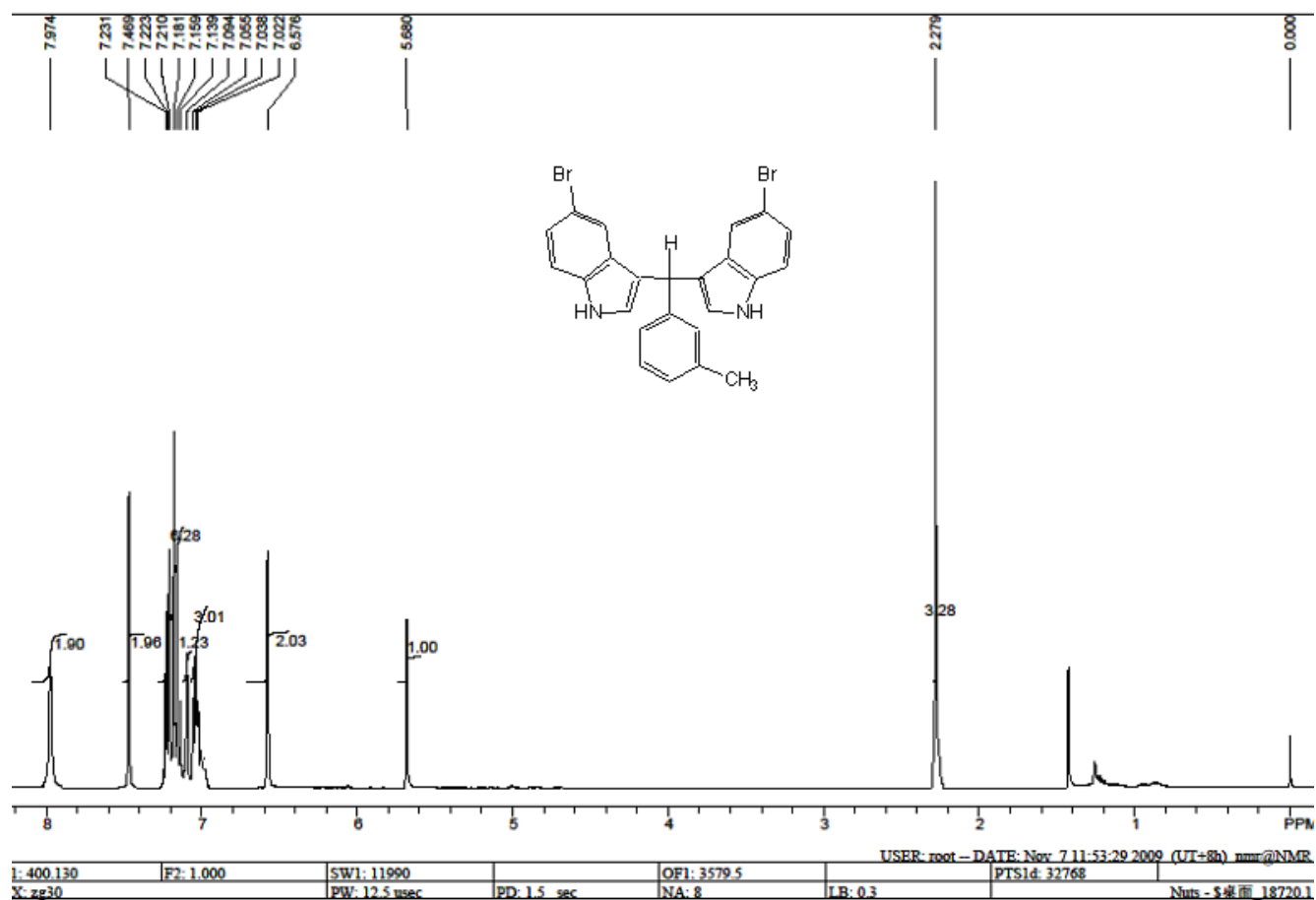
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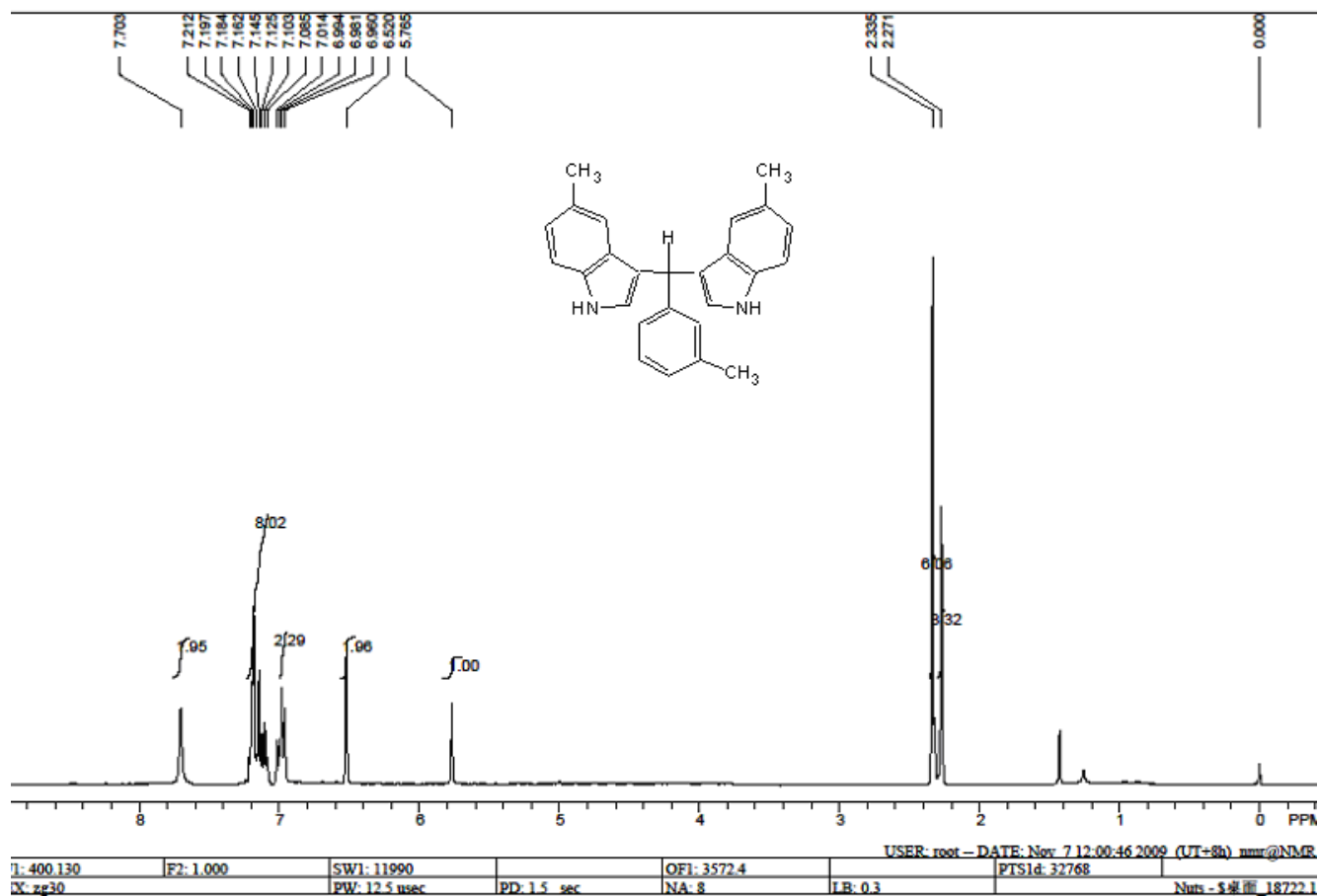










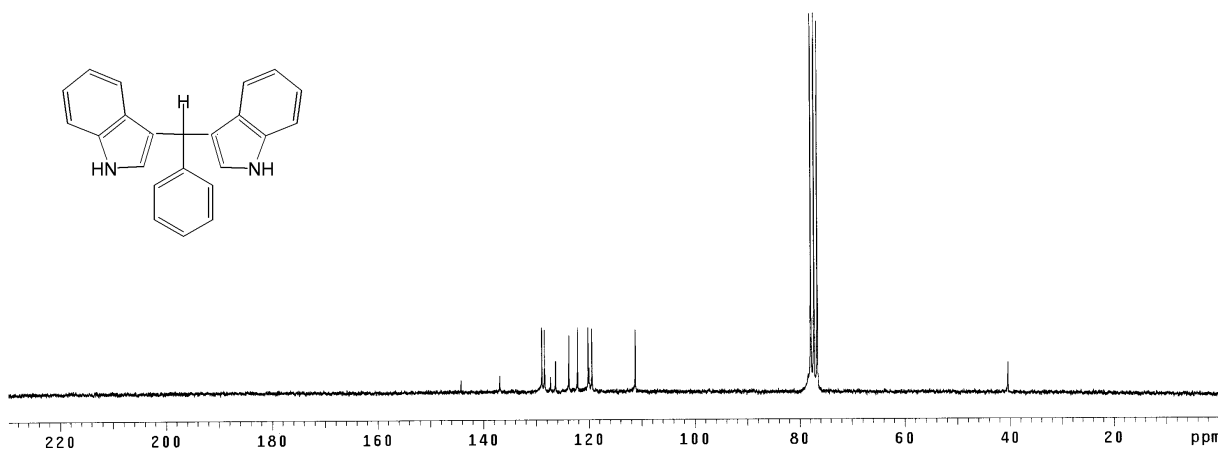
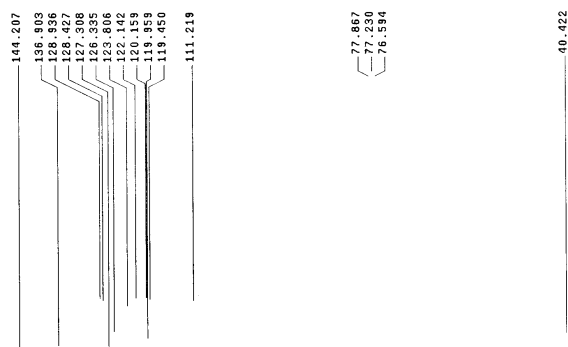


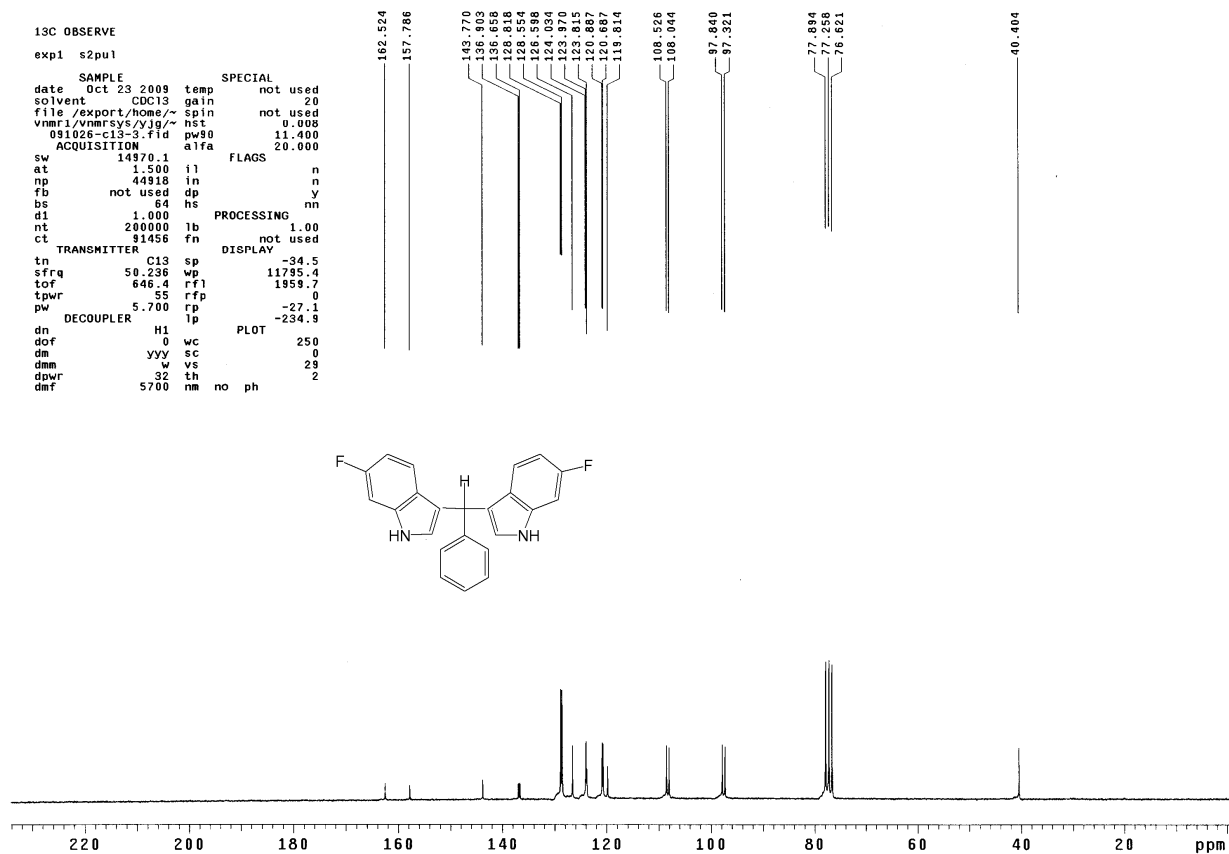
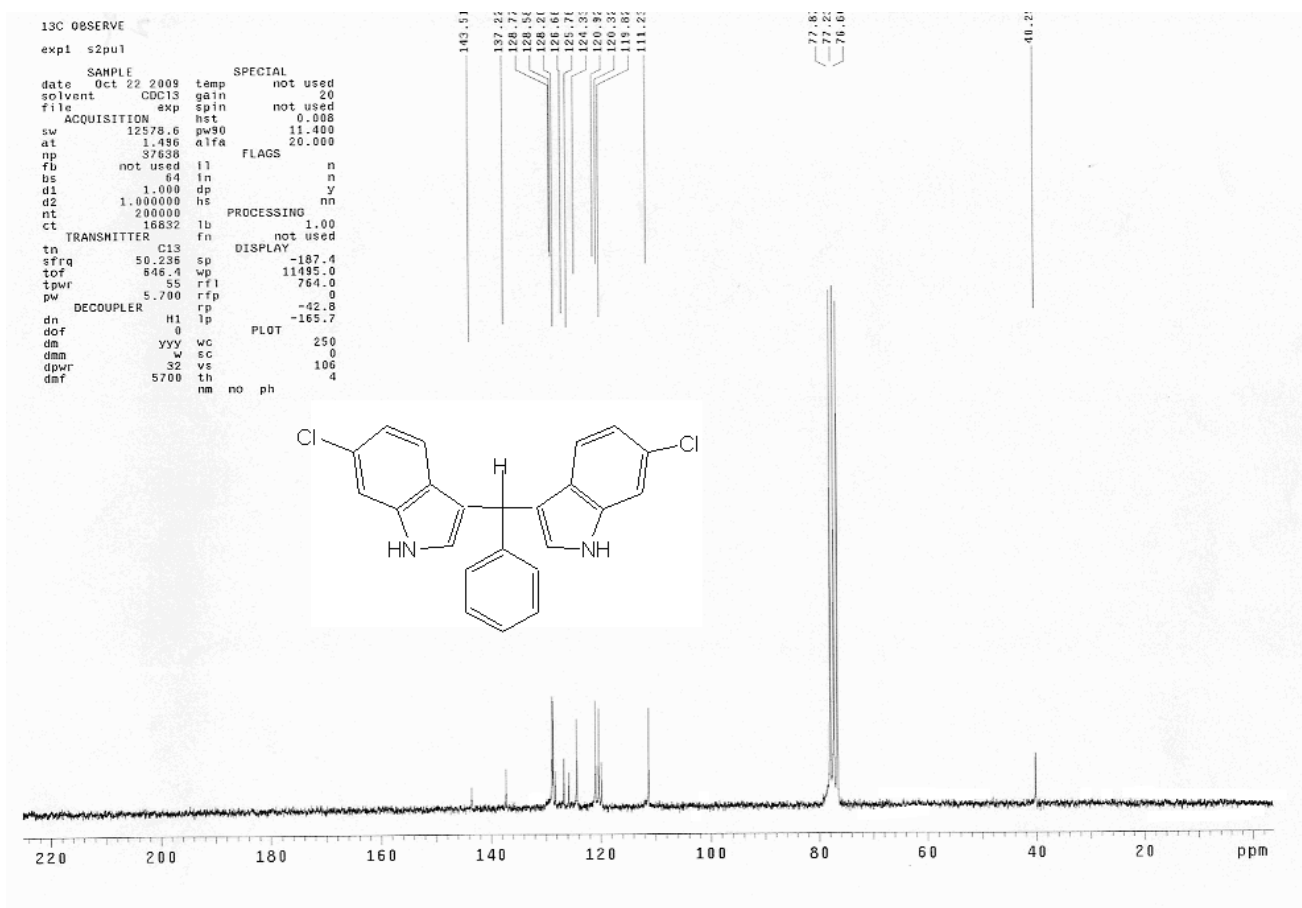
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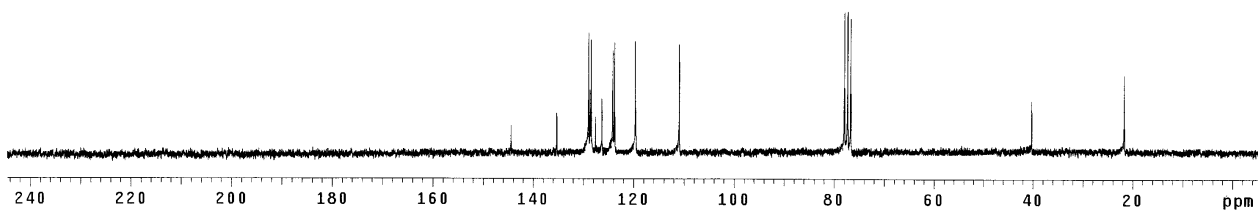
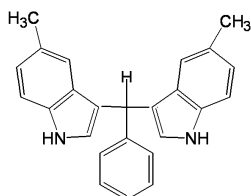
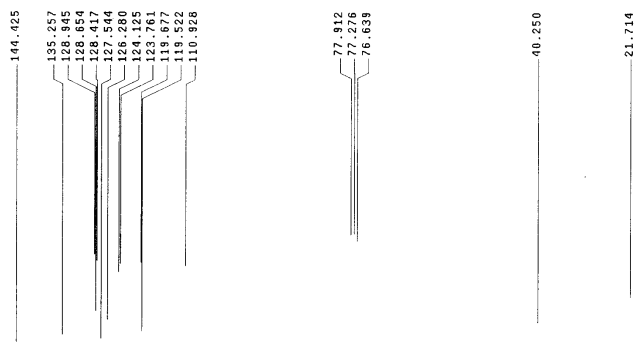
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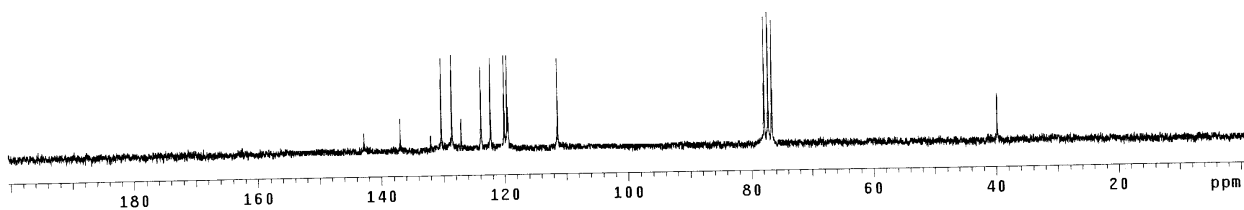
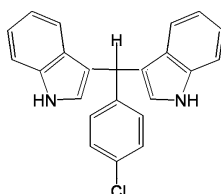
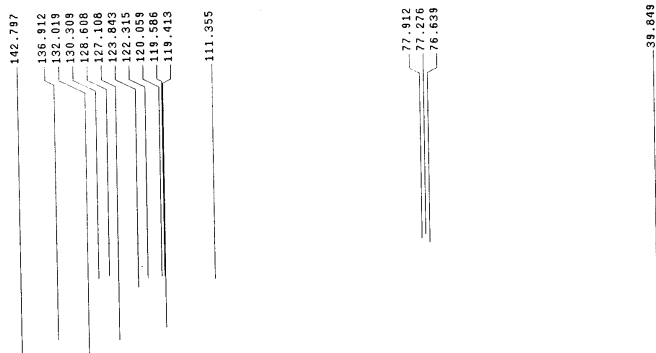
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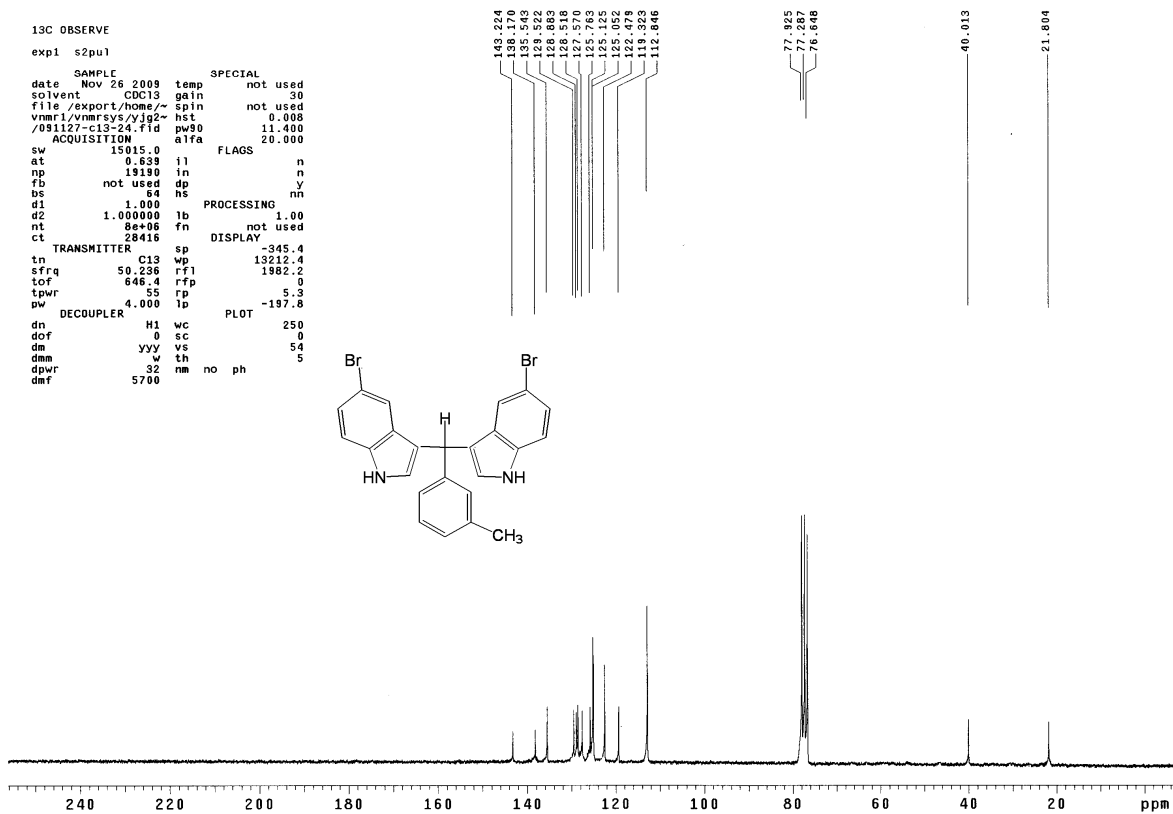
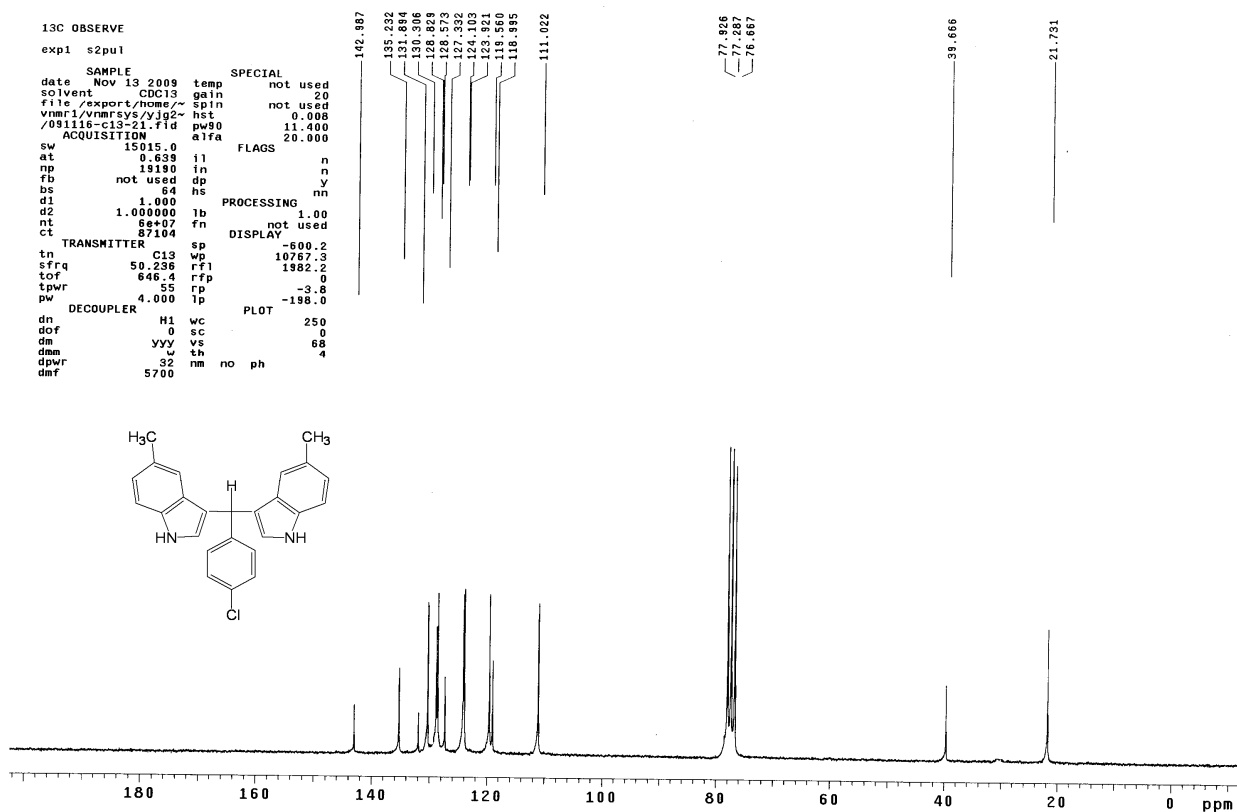
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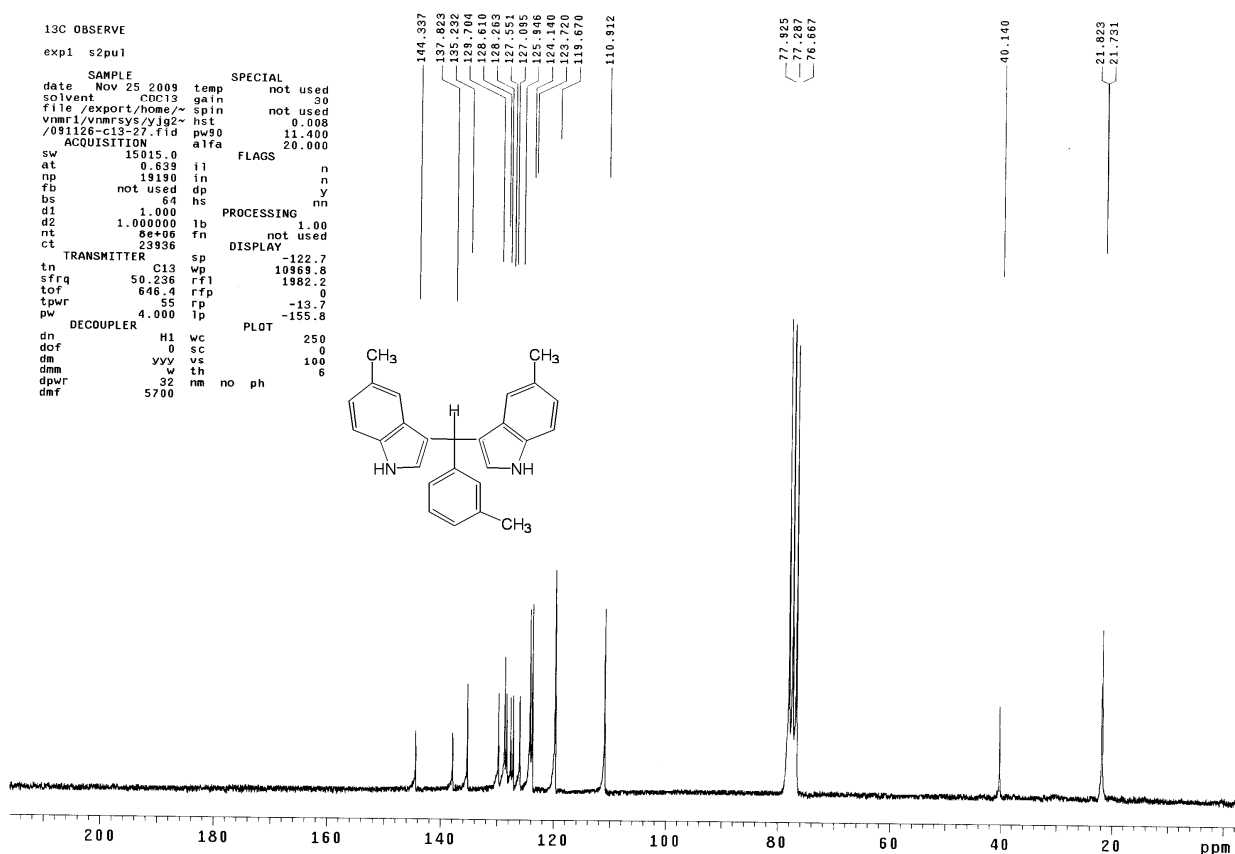
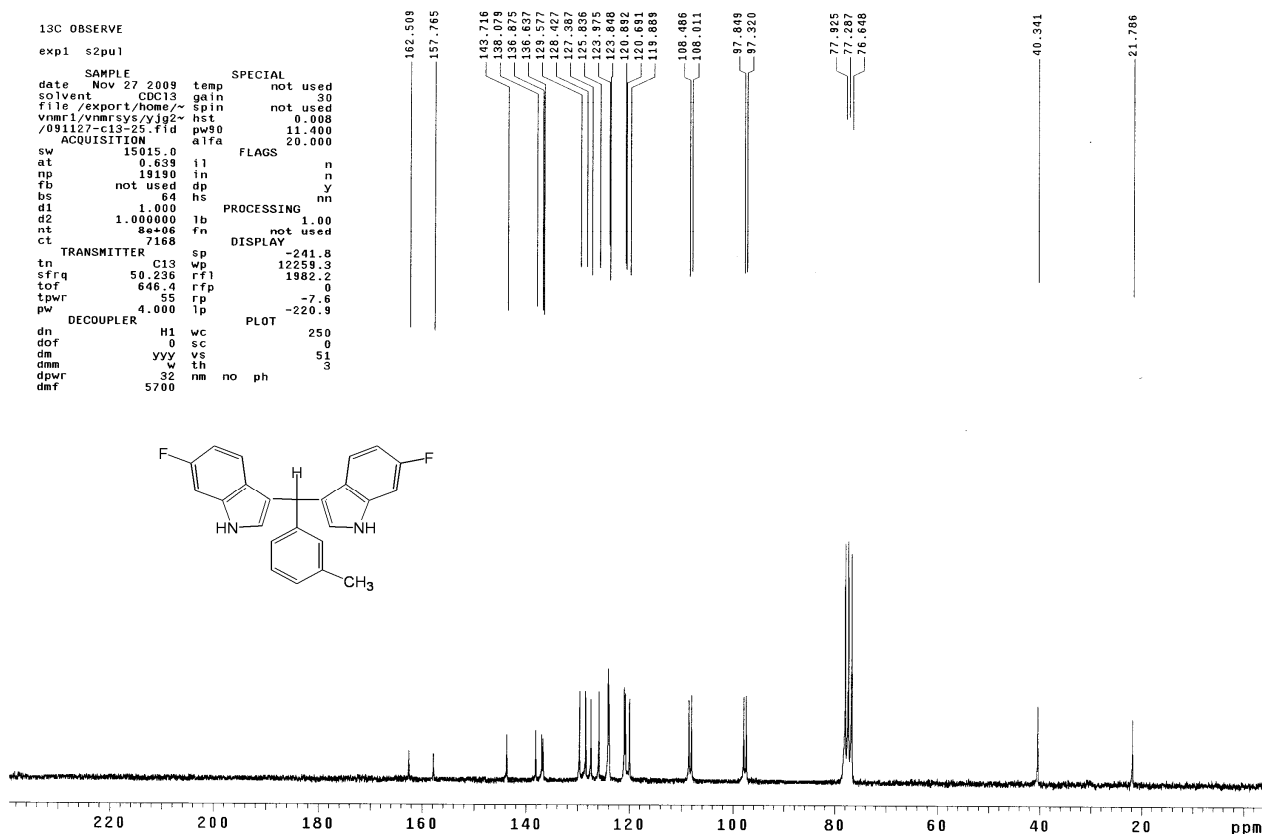
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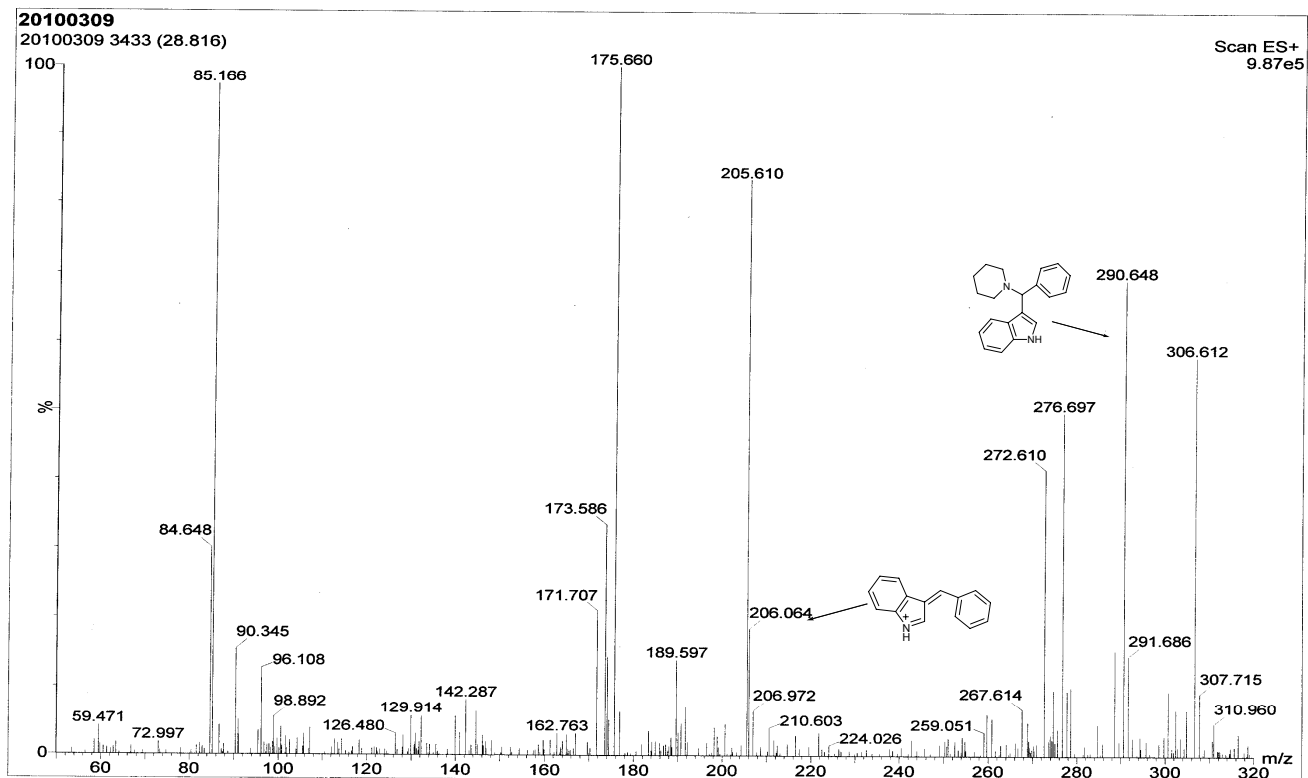
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3. Reference

- [1] a) S. J. Ji, S. Y. Wang, Y. Zhang, T. P. Loh, *Tetrahedron* 2004, 2051-2055; b) S. R. Sheng, Q. Y. Wang, Y. Ding, X. L. Liu, M. Z. Cai, *Catal. Lett.* 2009, 418-422.
- [2] M. L. Deb, P. J. Bhuyan, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2006, 1441-1443.
- [3] W. J. Li, X. F. Lin, J. Wang, G. L. Li, Y. G. Wang, *Synth. Commun.* 2005, 2765-2769.