

Supporting information

Very High Stereoselectivity in Organocatalyzed Desymmetrizing Aldol Reactions of 3-Substituted Cyclobutanones

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1. General information:

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on VARIAN 250, 300 or 500 MHz spectrometers at ambient temperature with CDCl₃ as solvent and TMS as internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shifts (δ), multiplicity, integration and coupling constants. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on the same instruments, operating respectively, at 62, 75 or 124 MHz at ambient temperature with CDCl₃ as solvent. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Nexus 670 FT-IR spectrophotometer. Low resolution mass spectral analyses were recorded on an Agilent 5973N (Cpsil 32m) in E.I. (70 eV) or C.I. (NH₃) mode. Relative intensities are given in parentheses. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) was recorded on a Finnigan MAT-95 spectrometer using Positive Electro Ionization (ESI) mode. Enantiomeric excesses of aldol products were determined by hplc on a HITACHI L7100 instrument fitted with a HITACHI L-7400 UV detector, using a Daicel Chiralpac AD-H, Chiralcel OD-H or Chiralcel OJ analytical column with *i*-PrOH/hexane as eluent, using authentic racemic samples for reference comparison. Optical rotation values were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer 241 or a PolAAR 32 polarimeter. Microanalyses were carried out on a PerkinElmer 2400 Series II. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F plates. Flash chromatography was performed using columns of 70-200 mesh Merk silica gel. Yields refer to chromatographically pure materials. Where a compound has been obtained as a mixture of diastereomers, the NMR data and the chiral hplc data (*ee* values) are reported for the major component.

(±)-Proline and aldehydes **2** were obtained commercially. (2*S*)-*N*-(2-Pyrrolidine-2-carbonyl)-benzenesulfonamide (**II**) was prepared by the literature procedure.¹ 3-Substituted cyclobutanones **1** were prepared by the literature procedures.²

¹ A. J. A. Cobb, D. M. Shaw, D. A. Longbottom, J. B. Gold, S. V. Ley, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2005, **3**, 84.

² a) L. R. Krepski, A. Hasser, *J. Org. Chem.* 1978, **43**, 2879; b) A. Malkov, F. Friscourt, M. Bell, M. E. Swarbrick, P. Kocovsky, *J. Org. Chem.* 2008, **73**, 3996.

2. Experimental procedures for the synthesis of optically active 2,3-disubstituted cyclobutanones **3** and characterization data.

General procedure for the synthesis of authentic racemic samples:

To a solution of aldehyde **2** (0.5 mmol) and 3-substituted cyclobutanone **1** (10 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL) was added (±)-proline (0.05 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 96 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (10 mL). The reaction mixture was extracted several times with EtOAc (2 × 10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give the corresponding aldol product **3**.

General procedure for the enantioselective organocatalyzed aldol reactions:

To a solution of aldehyde **2** (0.5 mmol) and 3-substituted cyclobutanone **1** (10 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added (2*S*)-*N*-(2-Pyrrolidine-2-carbonyl)-benzenesulfonamide **II** (0.05 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 96 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (10 mL). The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give the corresponding aldol product **3**.

2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone **3aa**:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 1:1) to give the title compound (71% yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 98:2). Orange oil. IR (neat): 3460, 1700 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 3.25 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 3.41 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 1.8 Hz, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J* = 17.4 Hz), 3.56 (q, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.76 (tt, 1H, *J* = 2.1 Hz, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 5.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.07-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.54 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.14 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 32.7, 52.5, 72.3, 72.8, 123.7, 126.3, 126.9, 127.2, 128.7, 141.5, 147.5, 147.9, 206.7. MS *m/z*: 297 (M⁺-18 (80)), 251 (14), 234 (63), 204 (100), 189 (44), 165 (18), 115 (100), 89 (34). Anal. Calcd. for

$C_{17}H_{15}NO_4$; C, 68.88; H, 5.09; N, 4.71. Found: C, 68.80; H, 5.12; N, 4.62. The *ee* was determined to be 99% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) t_R (major) = 18.71 min, t_R (minor) = 16.68 min.

2-(hydroxy(4-cyanophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone 3ab:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (76 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 97:3). Orange oil. IR (neat): 3450, 1720 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 3.08 (br s, 1H), 3.22 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 8.1 Hz, J = 17.4 Hz), 3.37 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 8.7 Hz, J = 17.7 Hz), 3.52 (q, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 3.67-3.73 (m, 1H), 5.05 (d, 1H, J = 6.3 Hz), 7.06 (d, 2H, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.18-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.47 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.57 (d, 2H, J = 6.6 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 32.6, 52.4, 72.5, 72.9, 111.7, 118.5, 126.3, 126.9, 127.1, 128.7, 132.3, 141.6, 146.0, 206.7. MS m/z : 259 (M^+ -18 (40)), 230 (20), 216 (15), 190 (9), 104 (100), 78 (10). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{18}H_{15}NO_2$: C, 77.96; H, 5.45; N, 5.05. Found: C, 77.91; H, 5.49; N, 5.09. The *ee* was determined to be 98% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) t_R (major) = 20.61 min, t_R (minor) = 19.18 min.

2-(hydroxy(4-chlorophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone 3ac:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (64 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 98:2). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3440, 1710 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 3.25 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.7 Hz, J = 8.7 Hz, J = 15 Hz), 3.39 (ddd, 1H, J = 1.8 Hz, J = 8.7 Hz, J = 17.4 Hz), 3.51 (q, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.76 (tt, 1H, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 7.5 Hz), 5.00 (d, 1H, J = 6.3 Hz), 7.06 (d, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz), 7.20-7.40 (m, 7H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 32.7, 52.1, 72.9, 73.4, 126.5, 126.8, 128.0, 128.8, 128.9, 131.6, 139.2, 141.9, 207.4. MS m/z : 268 (M^+ -18 (38)), 233 (87), 205 (75), 189 (40), 164 (43), 136 (34), 104 (100), 78 (15). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{17}H_{15}ClO_2$: C, 71.21; H, 5.27. Found: C, 71.28; H, 5.21. The *ee* was determined to be 84% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) t_R (major) = 36.30 min, t_R (minor) = 38.40 min.

2-(hydroxy(4-fluorophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone 3ad:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (66 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 96:4). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3454, 1780 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.17 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, $J = 8.5$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.30 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $J = 9.0$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.42 (q, 1H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 3.65 (t, 1H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 4.92 (d, 1H, $J = 6.7$ Hz), 6.91-7.32 (m, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (124 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 32.7, 51.9, 72.9, 73.5, 126.5, 126.7, 128.4 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 128.6, 136.5, 142.0, 162.5 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz), 207.6. MS m/z : 270 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (3)), 207 (4), 161 (22), 125 (100), 105 (33), 91 (20), 77 (19). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_2$: C, 75.54; H, 5.59. Found: C, 75.50; H, 5.61. The *ee* was determined to be 81% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) t_{R} (major) = 29.30 min, t_{R} (minor) = 22.45 min.

2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)-3-phenyl-

cyclobutanone 3ae: Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (51 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 98:2). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3441, 1775 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.26 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.39 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $J = 9.0$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.53 (q, 1H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 3.75 (br t, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 5.09 (d, 1H, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 7.04 (d, 2H, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.19-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.51 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.58 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (124 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 32.7, 52.2, 72.9, 73.3, 125.5, 125.6, 126.4, 126.8, 126.9, 128.7, 141.7, 144.6 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz), 207.0. MS m/z : 320 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (15)), 301 (4), 161 (40), 145 (9), 127 (11), 104 (100), 77 (12). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$: C, 67.5; H, 4.72. Found: C, 67.3; H, 4.70. The *ee* was determined to be 91% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) t_{R} (major) = 11.57 min, t_{R} (minor) = 13.74 min.

2-(hydroxy(3-nitrophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone 3af:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (51 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 99:1). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3478, 1779 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (500 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ : 2.95 (br s, 1H), 3.27 (dd, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz, J = 17.6 Hz), 3.43 (dd, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz, J = 17.6 Hz), 3.56 (q, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.77 (m, 1H), 5.14 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.09 (d, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.20 (d, 1H, J = 7.1 Hz), 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 8.12 (d, 1H, J = 8.3 Hz), 8.23 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 32.9, 52.6, 72.6, 73.1, 121.5, 123.0, 126.4, 127.0, 128.8, 129.6, 132.5, 141.4, 142.5, 142.8, 148.3, 206.8. MS m/z : 297 (M⁺ (3)), 279 (6), 255 (30), 239 (74), 220 (40), 193 (12), 150 (34), 104 (100), 77 (39). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅NO₄: C, 68.68; H, 5.09, N, 4.71. Found: C, 68.70; H, 5.11, N, 4.72. The *ee* was determined to be 95% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) t_R (major) = 23.62 min, t_R (minor) = 21.42 min.

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclobutanone

3ba: *Syn* and *anti* diastereomers were separated by flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to yield two samples. *Anti*-**3ba** (69 % yield). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3460, 1700 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 3.22 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, J = 8.4 Hz, J = 17.5 Hz), 3.41 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, J = 17.5 Hz), 3.54 (q, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz), 3.71 (br t, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 5.14 (d, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 7.04 (d, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, 2H, J = 8.6 Hz), 8.19 (d, 2H, J = 8.6 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 32.3, 52.6, 72.4, 72.9, 123.9, 126.5, 127.3, 127.8, 128.8, 128.9, 140.1, 147.7, 205.9. MS m/z : 313 (M⁺-18 (13)), 296 (11), 278 (9), 203 (19), 189 (20), 138 (100), 101 (18), 75 (8). Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄ClNO₄: C, 61.55; H, 4.25; N, 4.22. Found: C, 61.51; H, 4.30; N, 4.18. The *ee* was determined to be 97% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel OJ column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) t_R (major) = 38.85 min, t_R (minor) = 48.35 min. *Syn*-**3ba'** (8 % yield). White solid, mp: 144 °C. IR (KBr): 3487, 1780 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 3.18 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, J = 8.4 Hz, J = 17.5 Hz), 3.45 (ddd, 1H, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 9.0 Hz, J = 17.5 Hz), 3.69-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.83 (q, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz), 5.39 (d, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 6.90 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.17 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.52 (d, 2H, J = 8.6 Hz), 8.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (62 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 30.1, 52.9, 69.8, 73.5, 123.8, 126.5, 127.8, 128.8, 140.8, 147.4, 148.3, 206.2. MS m/z (CI, NH₃): 349 (M⁺+18 (100)),

331 (4), 284 (9), 242 (8), 139 (17), 137 (38), 122 (22). HRMS (ESI) calcd for M-H ($C_{17}H_{14}ClNO_4$): 330.0539; found 330.0543.

3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclobutanone

3ca: Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 1:1) to give the title compound (63 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 96:4). Yellow solid. IR (neat): 3505, 1784 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.21 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, $J = 8.0$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.41 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $J = 9.5$ Hz, $J = 18.0$ Hz), 3.53 (q, 1H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 3.65-3.75 (m, 1H), 5.14 (d, 1H, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 6.98 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.40 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.56 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 8.19 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (124 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 32.3, 52.5, 72.3, 72.9, 120.9, 123.9, 127.3, 128.2, 131.9, 140.6, 147.7, 205.8. MS m/z : 377 ($M^+(2)$), 360 (5), 358 (5), 240 (10), 242 (11), 184 (94), 182 (100), 150 (22), 115 (24), 103 (63), 77 (81), 51 (60), 43 (26). Anal. Calcd. For $C_{17}H_{14}BrNO_4$: C, 54.27; H, 3.75; N, 3.72. Found: C, 54.47; H, 3.65; N, 4.80. The *ee* was determined to be 89% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) t_R (major) = 48.13 min, t_R (minor) = 45.54 min.

2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)cyclobutanone 3da:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 1:1) to give the title compound (74 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 93:7). Yellow solid. IR (neat): 3521, 1781 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.93-3.11 (m, 1H), 3.23 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.36 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.1$ Hz, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.53 (q, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 3.71 (tt, 1H, $J = 2.2$ Hz, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 5.13 (d, 1H, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 6.97 (d, 2H, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.08 (d, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.55 (d, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 8.16 (d, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 20.9, 32.4, 52.6, 72.5, 72.8, 123.7, 125.4, 126.2, 127.3, 129.4, 136.7, 138.5, 147.9, 207.1. MS m/z : 293 ($M^+ - 18$ (35)), 278 (14), 218 (8), 202 (20), 118 (100). Anal. Calcd. For $C_{18}H_{17}NO_4$: C, 69.44; H, 5.50; N, 4.50. Found: C, 69.21; H, 5.38; N, 4.80. The *ee* was determined to be 83% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) t_R (major) = 16.79 min, t_R (minor) = 11.99 min.

3-*n*-hexyl-2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclobutanone 3ea:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 1:1) to give the title compound (70 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 98:2). Orange oil. IR (neat): 3440, 1730 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 0.84 (t, 3H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.00-1.50 (m, 10H), 2.22 (q, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 2.69 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.5$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 2.70-2.90 (m, 1H), 3.04-3.17 (m, 2H), 4.97 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.56 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 8.23 (d, 2H, $J = 9.0$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 13.9, 22.4, 27.6, 28.2, 28.8, 31.5, 35.8, 50.6, 71.1, 72.9, 123.8, 127.1, 147.6, 148.3, 208.5. MS m/z : 287 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (25)), 270 (100), 241 (28), 217 (15), 175 (16), 128 (68), 101 (14). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_4$: C, 66.86; H, 7.59; N, 4.59. Found: C, 66.89; H, 7.50; N, 4.68. The *ee* was determined to be >99% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 1.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) $t_{\text{R}}(\text{major}) = 6.76$ min, $t_{\text{R}}(\text{minor}) = 5.87$ min.

2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-3-phenethyl-cyclobutanone 3fa:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 1:1) to give the title compound (60 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 99:1). Orange oil. IR (neat): 3486, 1773 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 1.56-1.79 (m, 2H), 2.14-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.67 (ddd, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz, $J = 7.5$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.05 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.11-3.18 (m, 1H), 4.90 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.02 (d, 2H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 7.19-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 8.17 (d, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 27.5, 33.9, 37.2, 50.5, 71.0, 72.4, 123.7, 125.35, 125.36, 126.1, 127.0, 128.1, 128.4, 140.7, 148.2, 207.8. MS m/z : 307 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (23)), 290 (58), 203 (42), 142 (25), 128 (49), 105 (22), 91 (100), 65 (12). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$: C, 70.14; H, 5.89; N, 4.31. Found: C, 69.85; H, 5.63; N, 4.70. The *ee* was determined to be 98% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) $t_{\text{R}}(\text{major}) = 10.48$ min, $t_{\text{R}}(\text{minor}) = 9.73$ min.

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((4-(trifluoromethyl) phenyl)(hydroxy) methyl) cyclobutanone 3be: Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (70 % yield) as a

mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 90:10). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3450, 1740 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.21(ddd, 1H, $J = 2.7$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.38 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $J = 17.7$ Hz), 3.49 (q, 1H, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 3.66-3.72 (m, 1H), 5.08 (d, 1H, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 6.97 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.50 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 32.1, 52.1, 72.7, 73.4, 125.7 (d, $J = 14.7$ Hz), 126.9, 127.8, 128.6, 128.8, 132.7, 140.2, 144.5, 206.3. MS m/z : 336 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (36)), 301 (11), 267 (26), 204 (17), 189 (14), 138 (100), 103 (17). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClF}_3\text{O}_2$; C, 60.94; H, 3.98. Found: C, 60.99; H, 3.90. The *ee* was determined to be 92% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) $t_{\text{R}}(\text{major}) = 30.54$ min, $t_{\text{R}}(\text{minor}) = 25.03$ min.

4-[(2-Hexyl-4-oxo-cyclobutyl)-hydroxy-methyl]-benzonitrile 3eb:

Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (60 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 98:2). Orange oil. IR (neat): 3450, 1760 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 0.86 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 0.96-1.45 (m, 10H), 2.19 (q, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz, $J = 15.0$ Hz), 2.67 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.5$ Hz, $J = 17.4$ Hz), 3.02-3.15 (m, 2H), 4.90 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.49 (d, 2H, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 7.66 (d, 2H, $J = 8.4$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 13.9, 22.4, 27.6, 28.1, 28.8, 31.5, 35.7, 50.5, 71.1, 73.0, 111.8, 118.5, 127.0, 132.3, 146.4, 205.6. MS m/z : 267 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (58)), 197 (29), 183 (47), 168 (32), 154 (100), 140 (35), 127 (82), 101 (8), 55 (15). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2$: C, 75.76; H, 28.12; N, 4.91. Found: C, 75.69; H, 28.20; N, 4.97. The *ee* was determined to be 83% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99:1, flow rate 1 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) $t_{\text{R}}(\text{major}) = 20.36$ min, $t_{\text{R}}(\text{minor}) = 25.30$ min.

4-[2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-4-oxo-cyclobutyl]-hydroxy-methyl}-

benzonitrile 3cb: Purified using flash column chromatography (hexane/ether, 5:1→1:1) to give the title compound (64 % yield) as a mixture of diastereoisomers (dr = 96:4). Yellow oil. IR (neat): 3441, 1771 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 3.10 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, $J =$

8.0 Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.29 (ddd, 1H, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $J = 9.0$ Hz, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 3.41 (q, 1H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 3.58-3.64 (m, 1H), 4.98 (d, 1H, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 6.88 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.41 (d, 2H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.52 (d, 2H, $J = 8.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (124 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 32.0, 52.2, 72.3, 72.9, 111.9, 118.4, 120.0, 127.2, 128.0, 132.4, 132.5, 140.7, 145.9, 206.0. MS m/z : 355 ($\text{M}^+ - 18$ (3)), 339 (22), 258 (16), 230 (56), 182 (100), 127 (18), 103 (23). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNO}_2$: C, 60.69; H, 3.96; N 3.93 Found: C, 60.67; H, 3.97; N 3.91. The *ee* was determined to be 89% *ee* by HPLC (Chiralcel OJ column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 75:25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) $t_{\text{R}}(\text{major}) = 31.18$ min, $t_{\text{R}}(\text{minor}) = 46.53$ min.

The synthesis of 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-dihydro-5-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)furan-2(3*H*)-one 4: To solution of **3ba** (131 mg, 0.5 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) were added NaHCO_3 (87 mg) and *m*-CPBA (270 mg, 1.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 25 °C until the reaction was complete (monitored by TLC). The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2×10 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 2:1) to give **4** (140 mg) as a white solid in 81% yield; mp: 148-150 °C. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +18$ (c 0.33, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 2.65 (dd, 1H, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 18.5$ Hz), 2.99 (dd, 1H, $J = 9.0$ Hz, $J = 18.0$ Hz), 3.77 (dd, 1H, $J = 6.9$ Hz, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 4.62 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.3$ Hz, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 4.88 (br s, 1H), 7.11 (d, 2H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.5 (d, 2H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 8.14 (d, 2H, $J = 7.5$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 37.4, 42.6, 73.4, 88.7, 124.15, 128.08, 128.2, 128.7, 134.2, 138.3, 146.6, 148.2, 174.3. MS m/z : 195 ($\text{M}^+ - 120$ (27)), 153 (100), 103 (26), 77 (22), 51 (16). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNO}_5$: C, 58.72; H, 4.06; N, 4.03. Found: C, 58.60; H, 4.31; N, 4.42.

3. Single-crystal X-ray structure analyses for **4** and **3ba'**.

Details of the crystal data, data collection and refinement are given in Table 1. The diffraction intensities were collected with graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). Data collection and cell refinement were carried out using a Bruker Kappa X8 APEX II diffractometer. The temperature of the crystal was maintained at the selected value (100 ± 1 K) by means of a 700 Series Cryostream cooling device. Intensity data were corrected for Lorenz-polarization and absorption factors. The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97,³ and refined against F^2 by full-matrix least-squares methods using SHELXL-97⁴ with anisotropic displacement parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. All calculations were performed by using the crystal structure crystallographic software package WINGX.⁵ The structures were drawn (Figures 1 and 2) using ORTEP.⁶ Hydrogen atoms were located on a difference Fourier map and introduced into the calculations as a riding model with isotropic thermal parameters.

The cif files CCDC 752280 (compound **4**) and CCDC 796934 (compound **3ba'**) contain the crystallographic data for this compounds. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

³ G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXS-97, *Program for crystal structure solution*, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

⁴ G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXL-97, *Program for the refinement of crystal structures from diffraction data*, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

⁵ L. J. Farrugia, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 1999, **32**, 837.

⁶ L. J. Farrugia, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 1997, **30**, 565.

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **4** and **3ba'**.

Compound	4	3ba'
Empirical formula	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ Cl N O ₅	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ Cl N O ₄
Crystal size (mm ³)	0.12 × 0.05 × 0.02	0.31 × 0.12 × 0.02
Formula weight (g mol ⁻¹)	347.74	331.74
Temperature (K)	100(1)	100(1)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁	<i>P</i> −1
Unit cell dimensions		
<i>a</i> (Å)	9.2365(4)	8.7119(13)
<i>b</i> (Å)	9.7935(4)	12.7240(18)
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.7681(8)	15.850(2)
<i>α</i> (°)	90	66.646(3)
<i>β</i> (°)	101.569(3)	80.311(3)
<i>γ</i> (°)	90	70.794(3)
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	1574.61(12)	1521.8(4)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
D _{calc.} (Mg.m ⁻³)	1.467	1.448
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	0.270	0.271
<i>F</i> (0 0 0)	720	688
Index ranges	−13 < <i>h</i> < 13, −14 < <i>k</i> < 13, −25 < <i>l</i> < 25	−12 < <i>h</i> < 13, −17 < <i>k</i> < 20, −25 < <i>l</i> < 21
Reflections collected	37 446	25 995
Independent reflections (<i>R</i> _{int})	9 323 (0.0938)	11 075 (0.0288)
Observed reflections [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	5 216	7 614
Refinement method	Full matrix least squares on <i>F</i> ²	Full matrix least squares on <i>F</i> ²
Final <i>R</i> indices [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0671, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1311	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0484, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1216
<i>S</i>	1.023	1.044
Flack Parameter ⁷	0.01(9)	/
(Δ/σ) _{max}	0.000	0.002
(Δ ρ) _{max, min} [e Å ⁻³]	0.682 ; −0.731	0.581 ; −0.394

⁷ H. D. Flack, *Acta Cryst.* 1983, **A39**, 876.

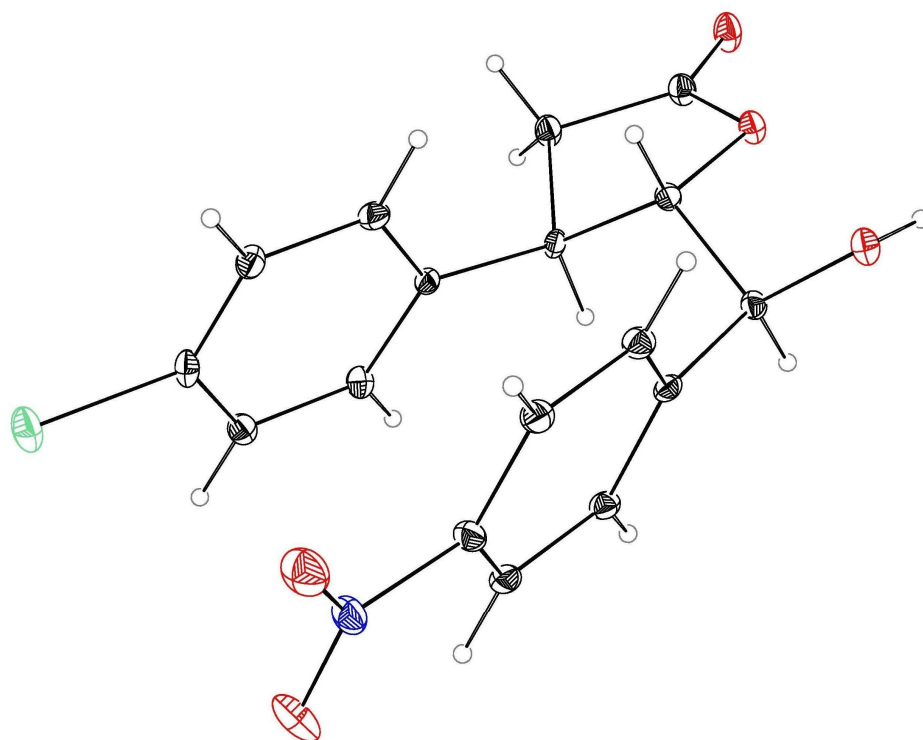


Fig. 1 Crystal structure of compound **4**. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. Only one molecule is shown for the sake of clarity.

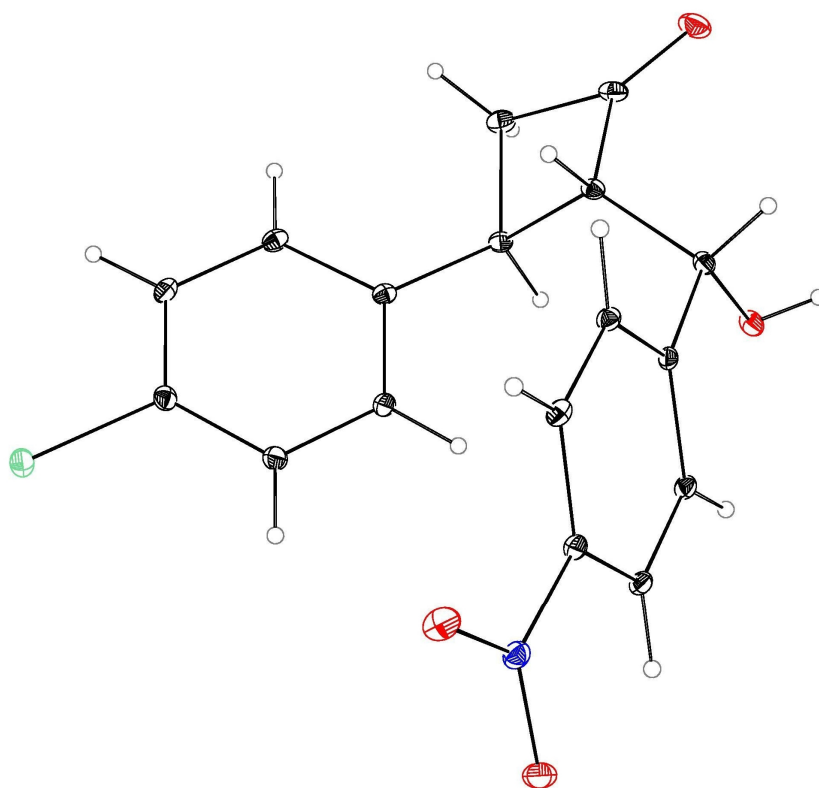
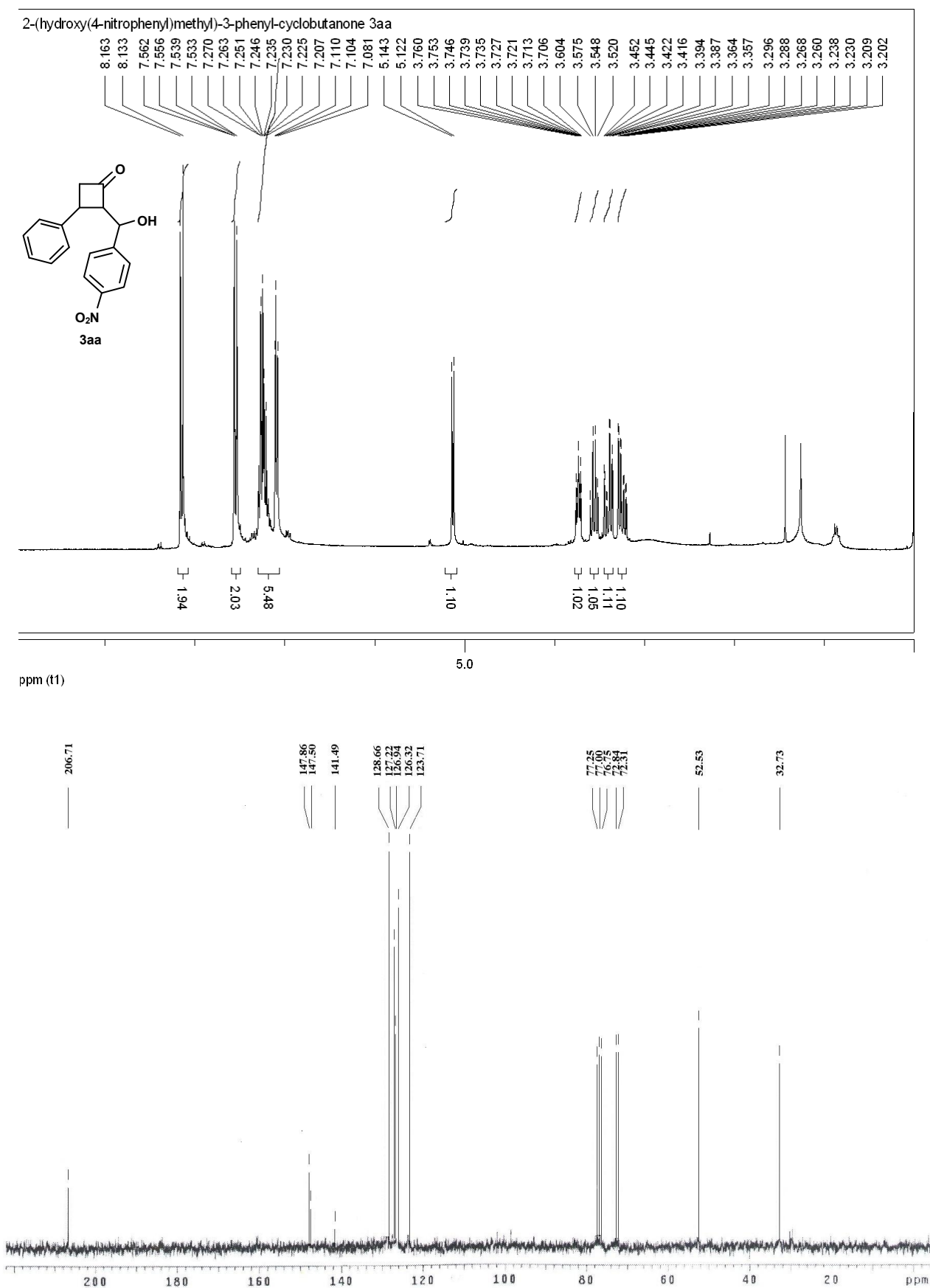
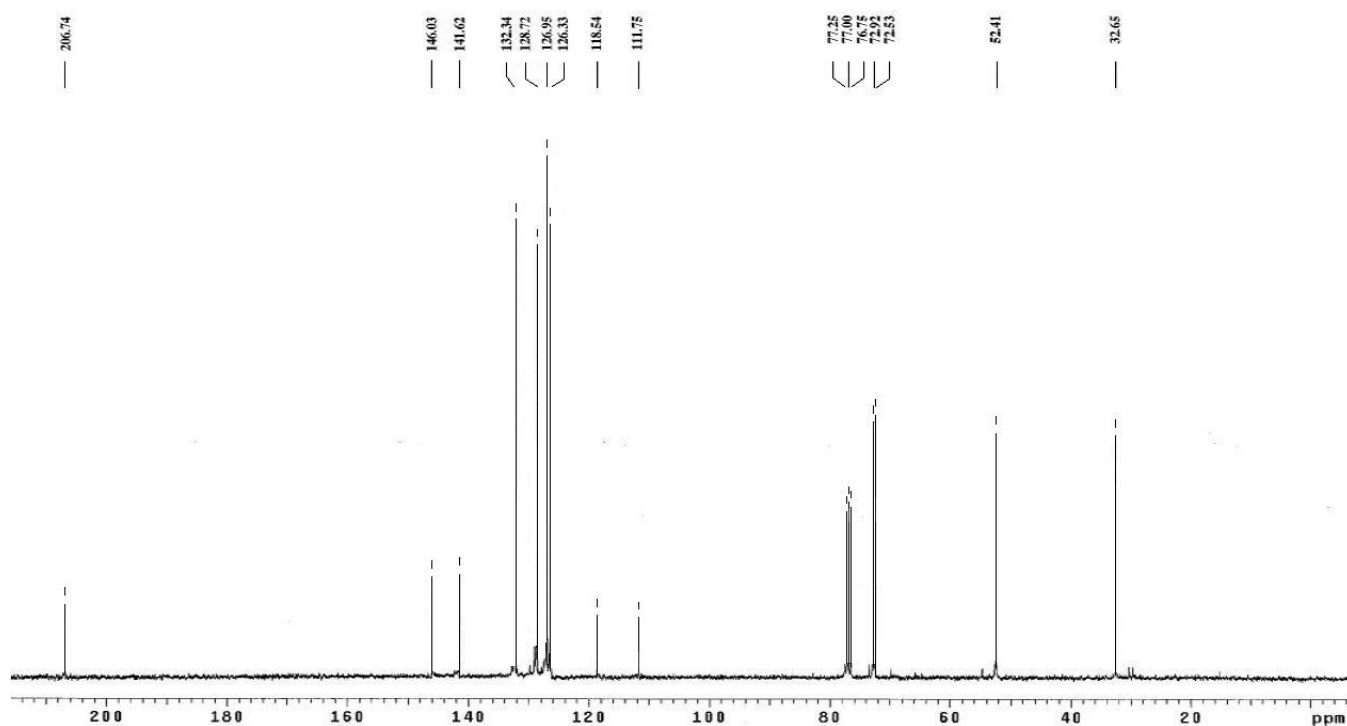
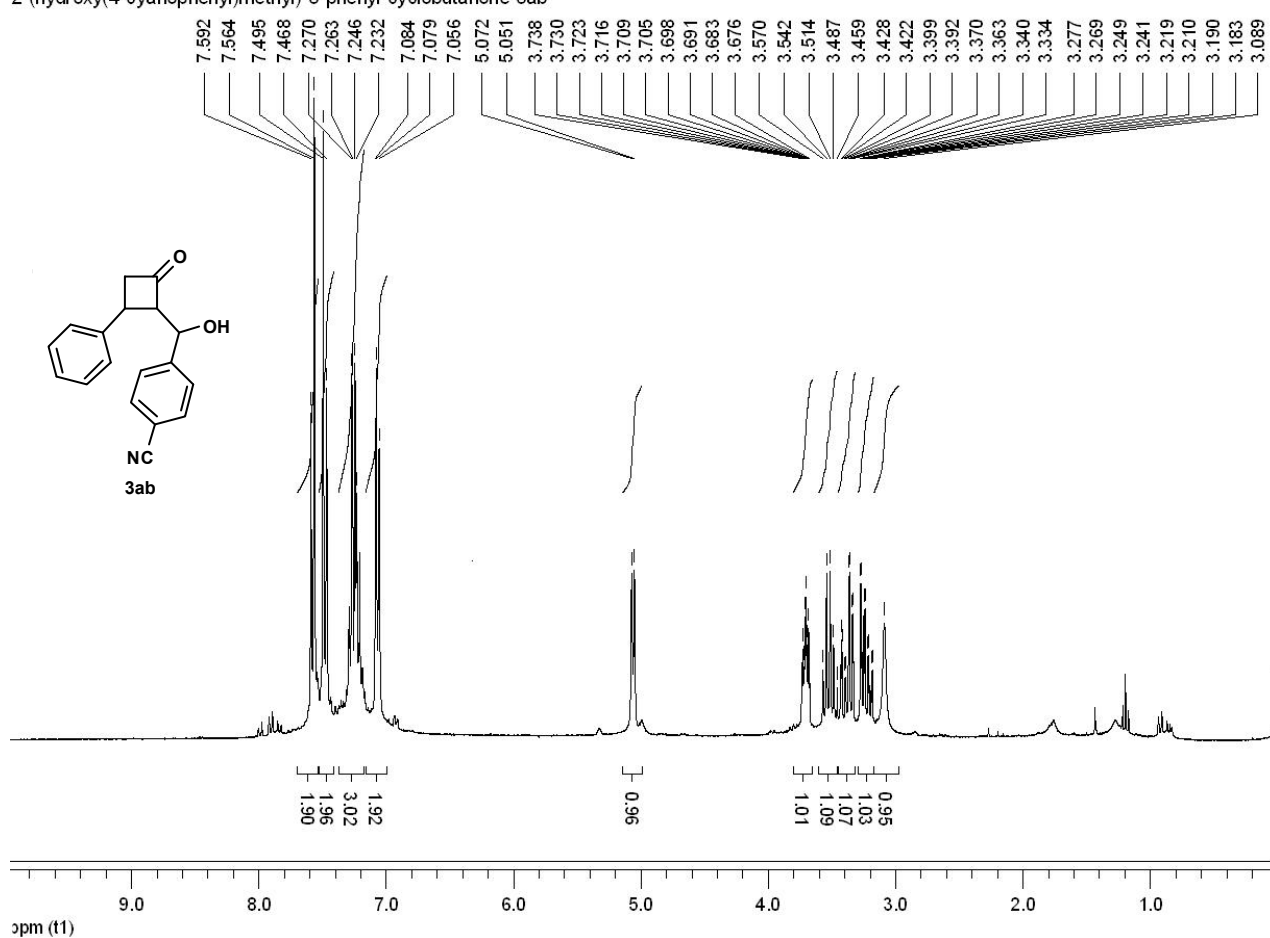


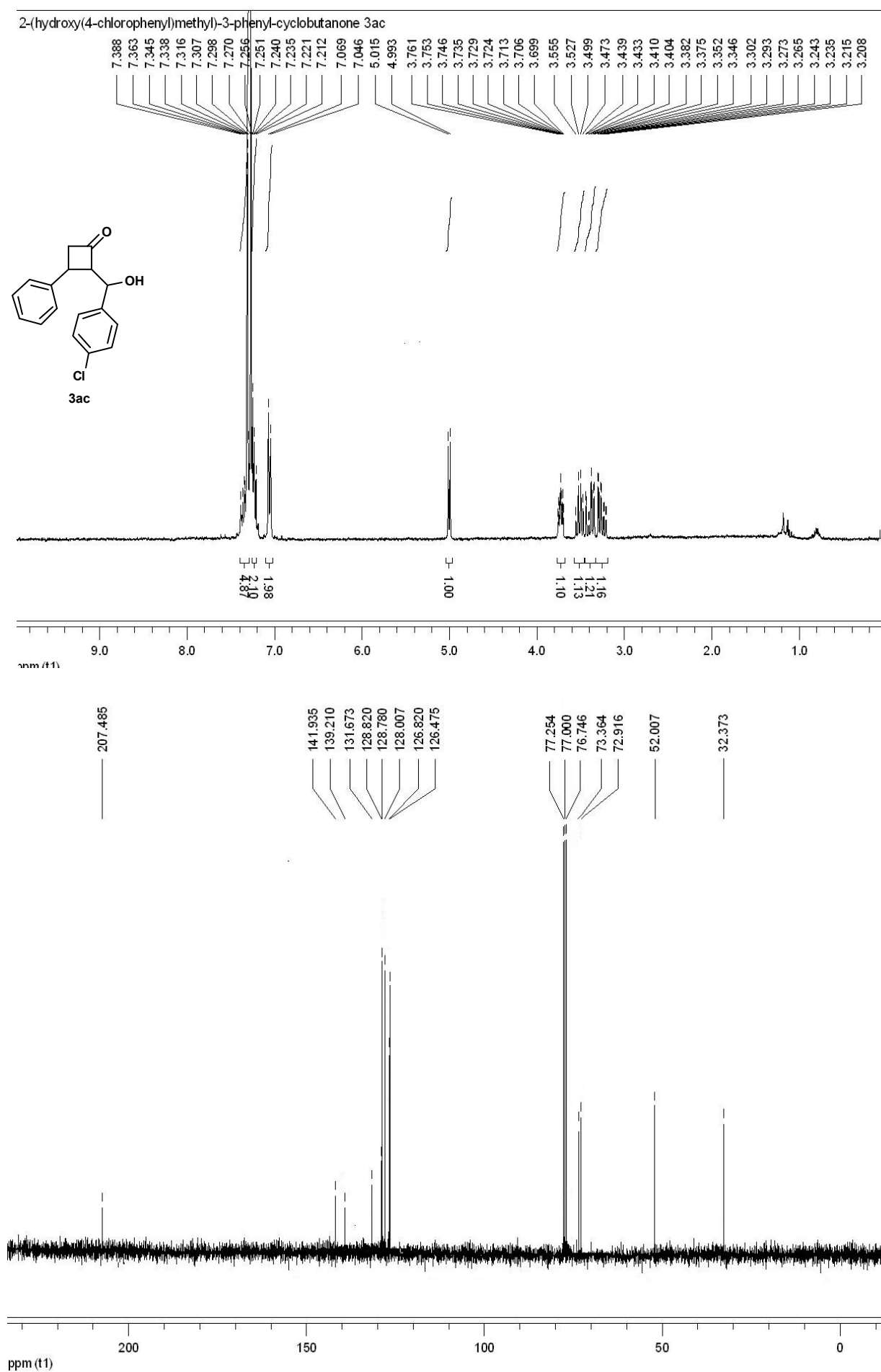
Fig. 2 Crystal structure of compound **3ba'**. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. Only one molecule is shown for the sake of clarity.

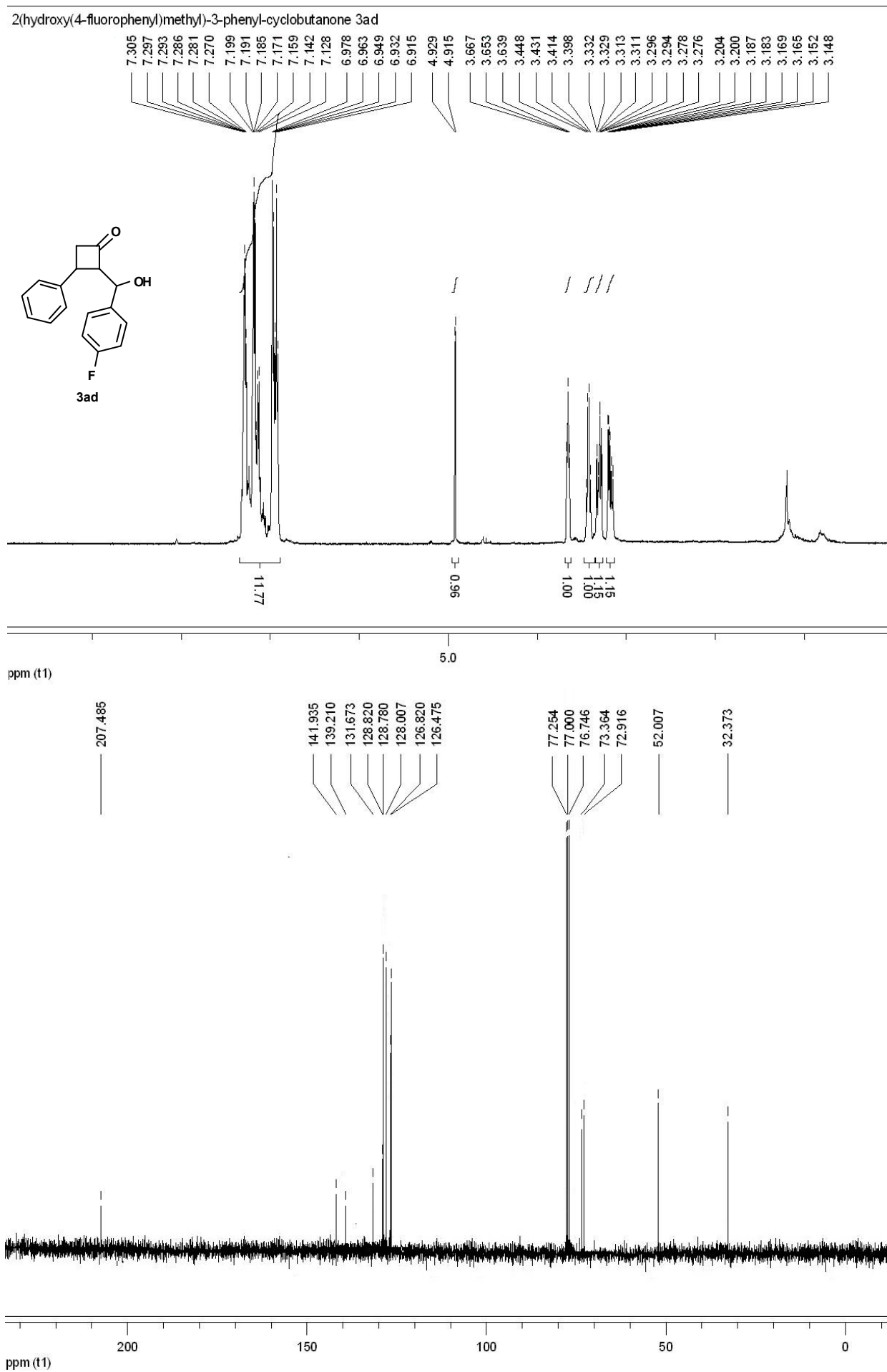
4 Copies of NMR spectra of 2,3-disubstituted cyclobutanones 3:

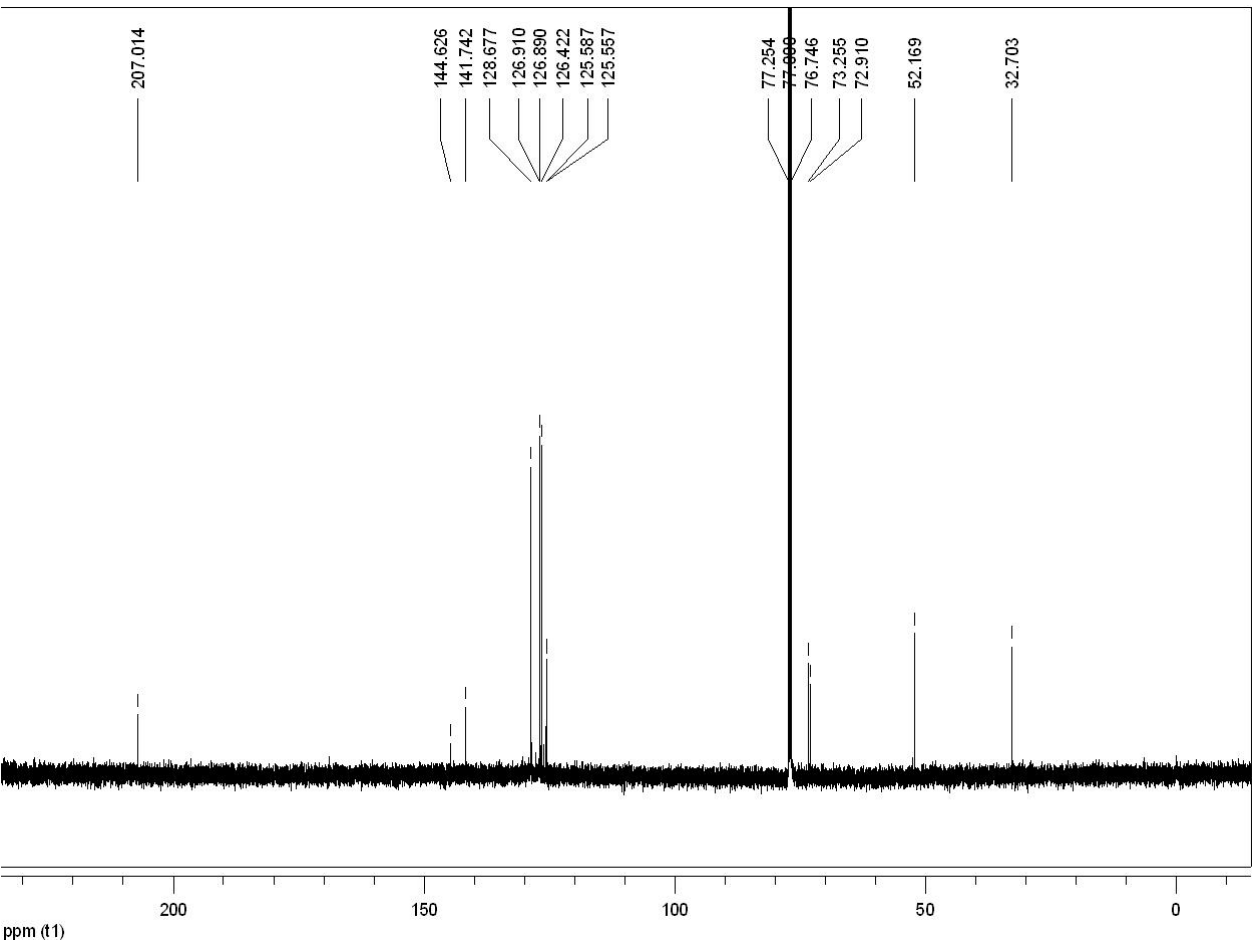
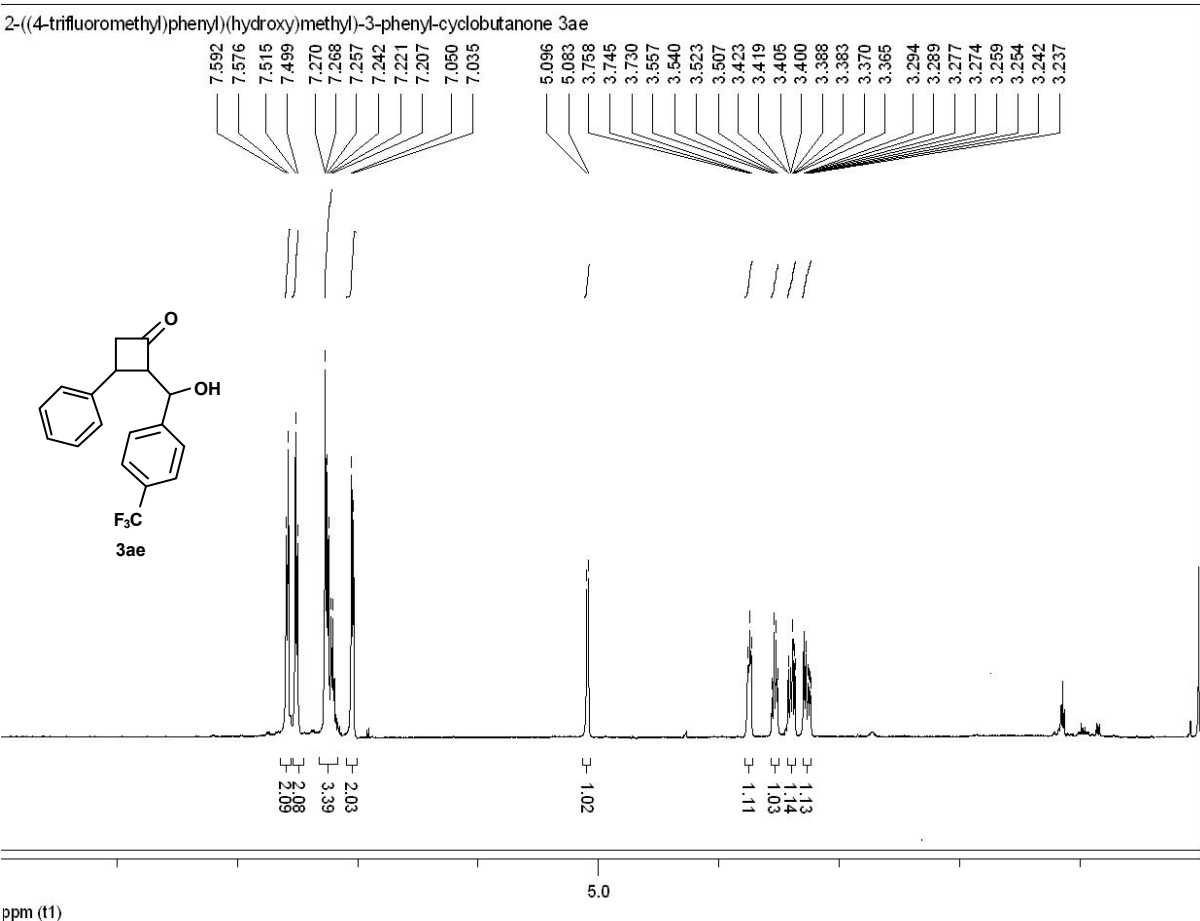


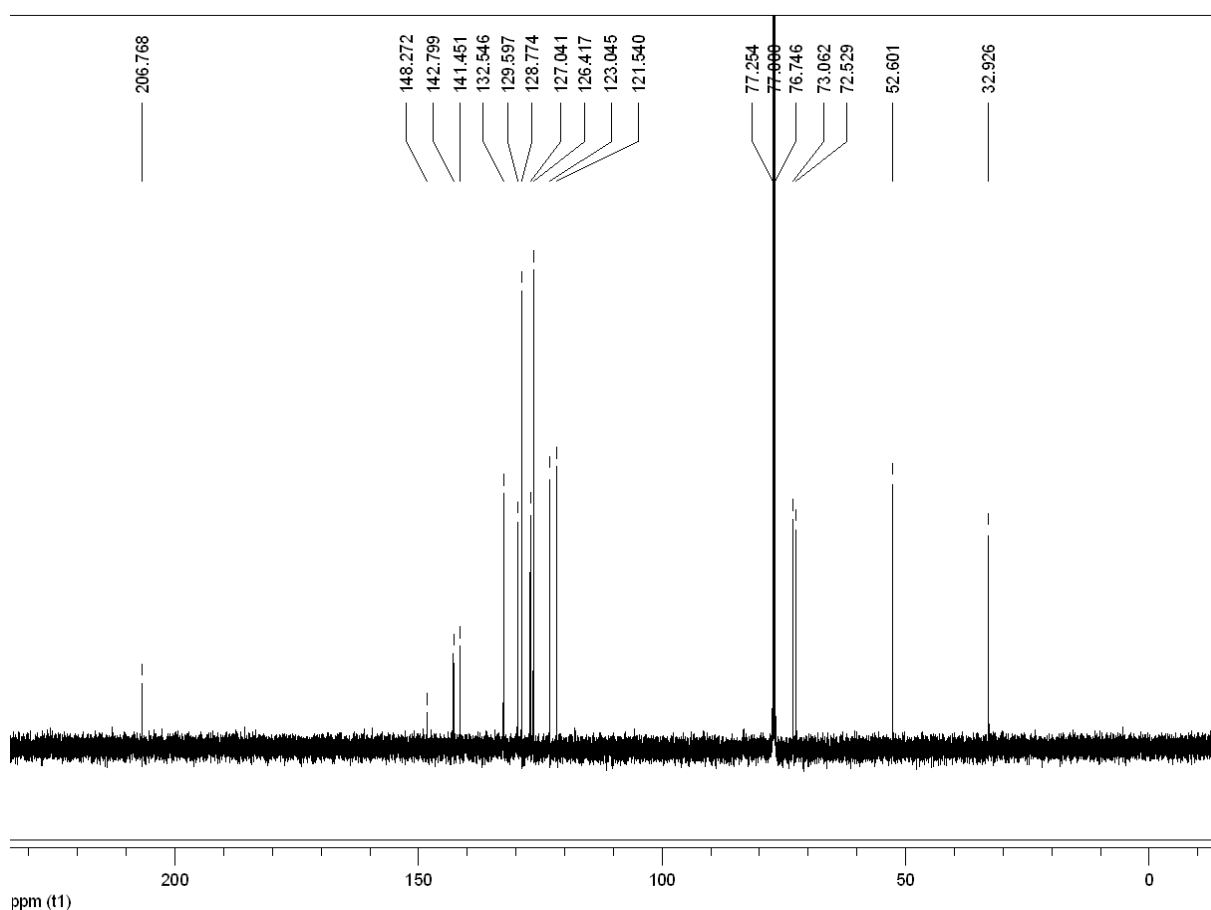
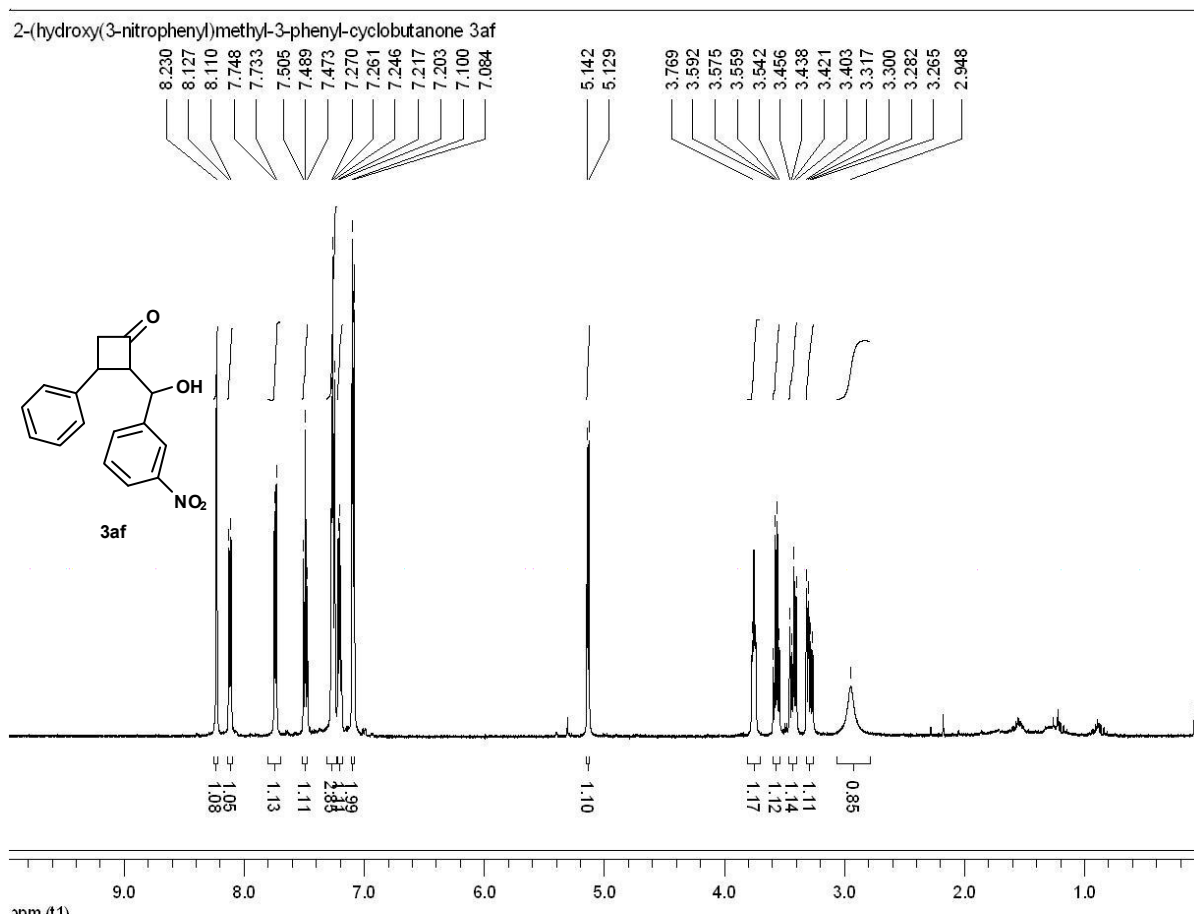
2-(hydroxy(4-cyanophenyl)methyl)-3-phenyl-cyclobutanone 3ab

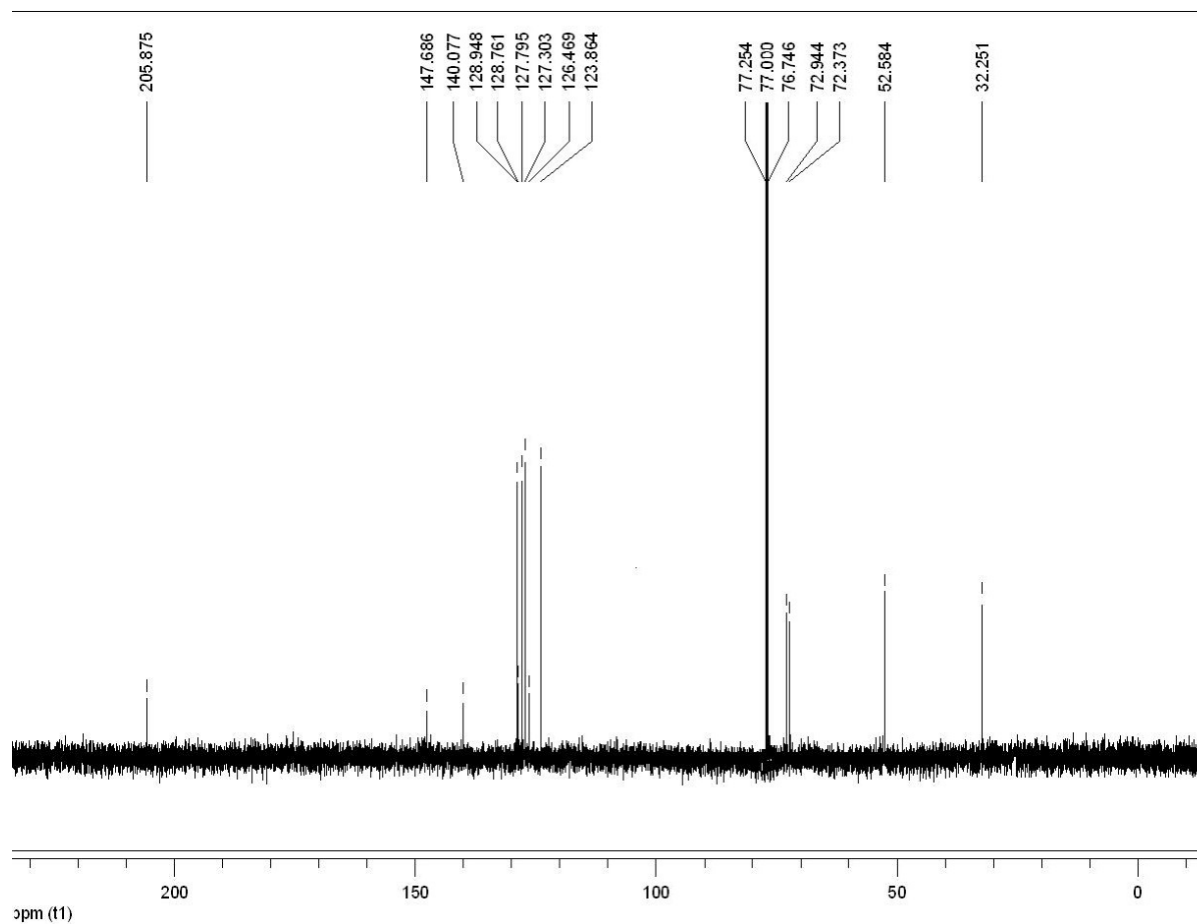
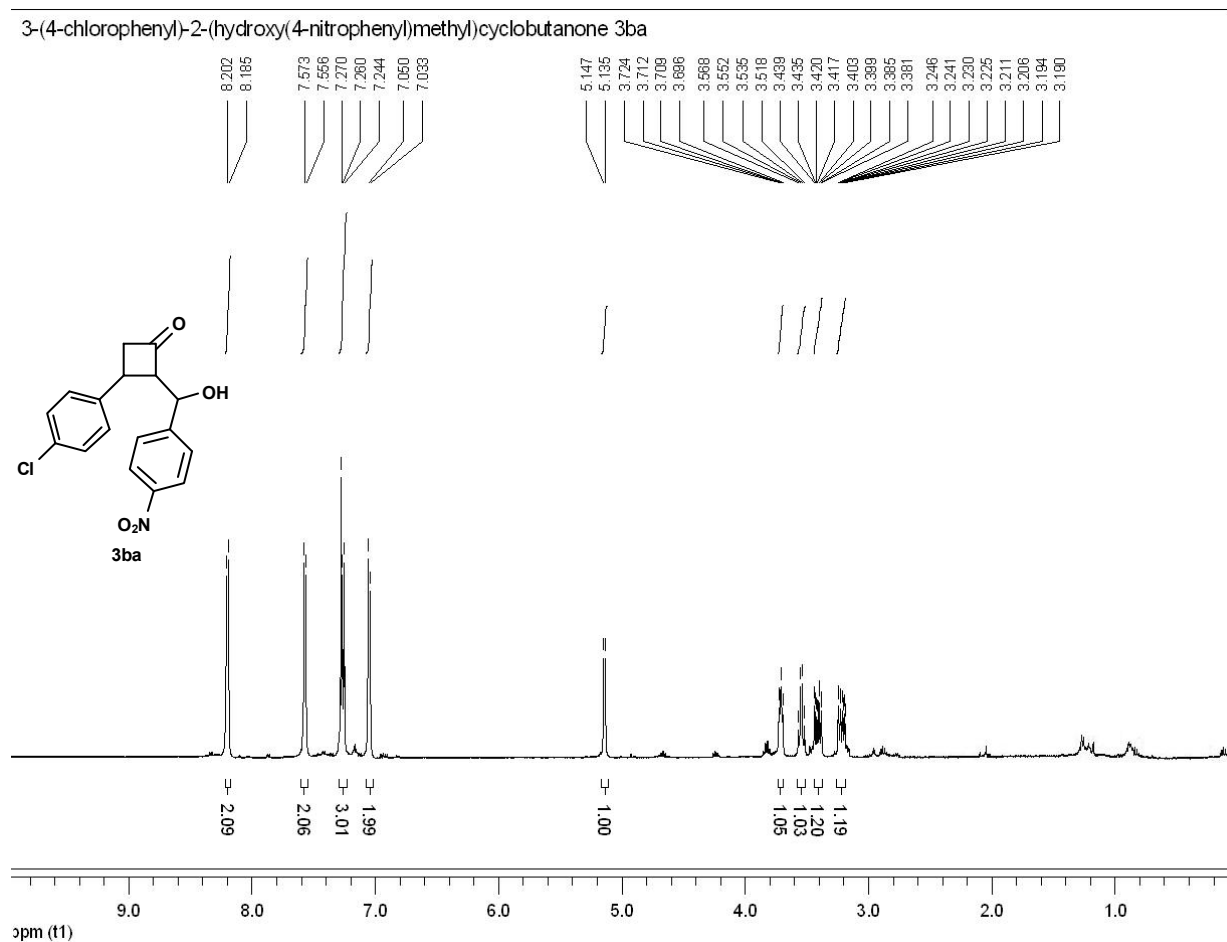




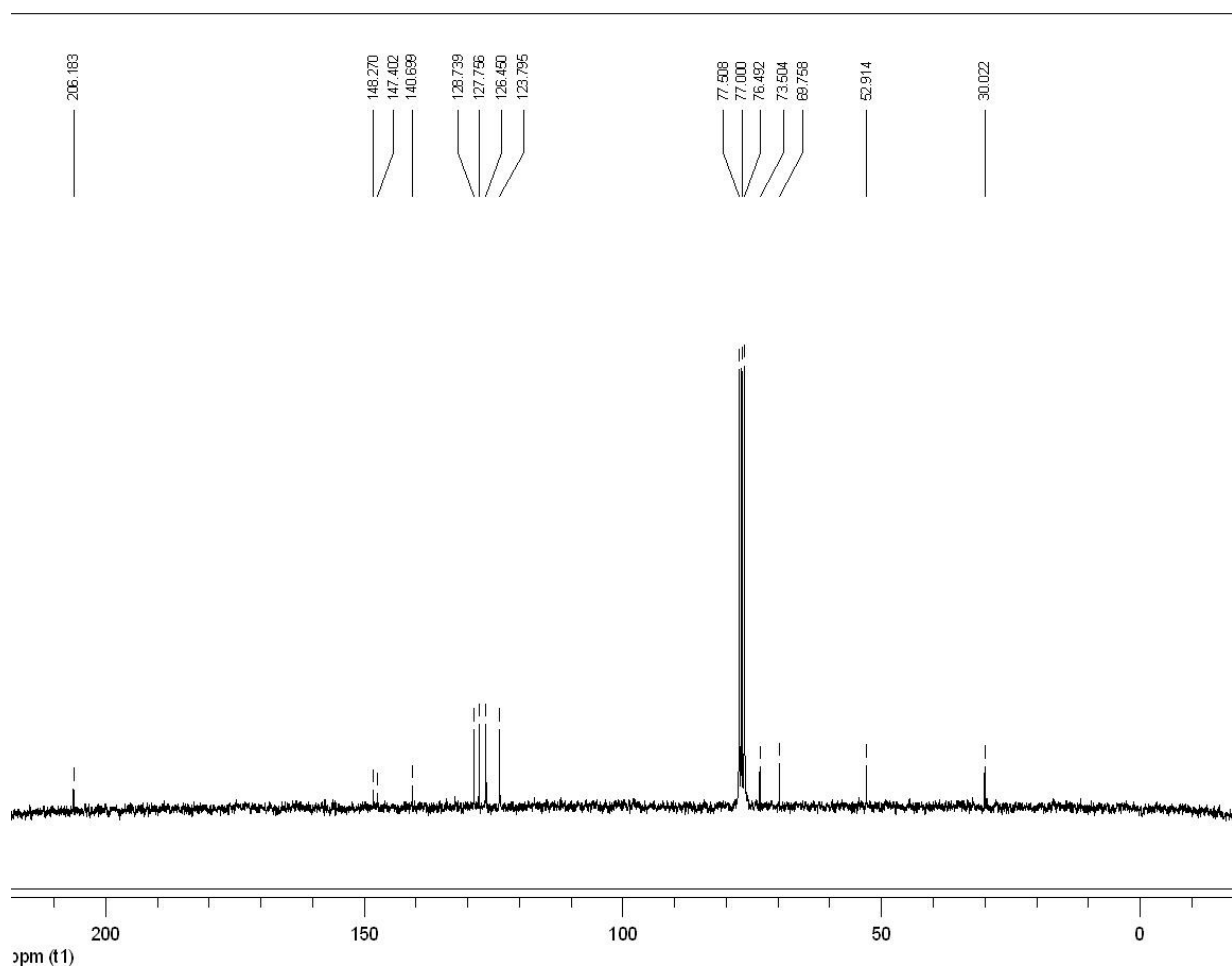
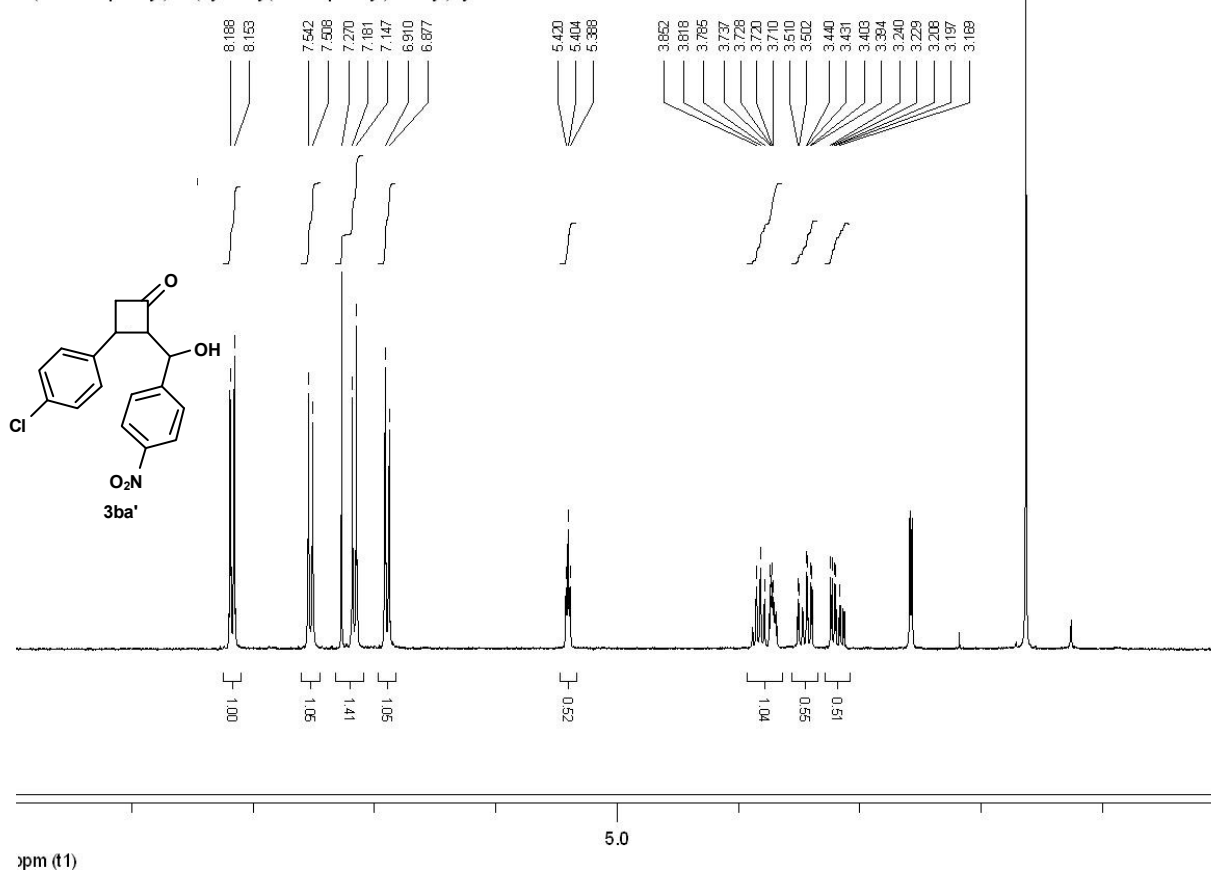


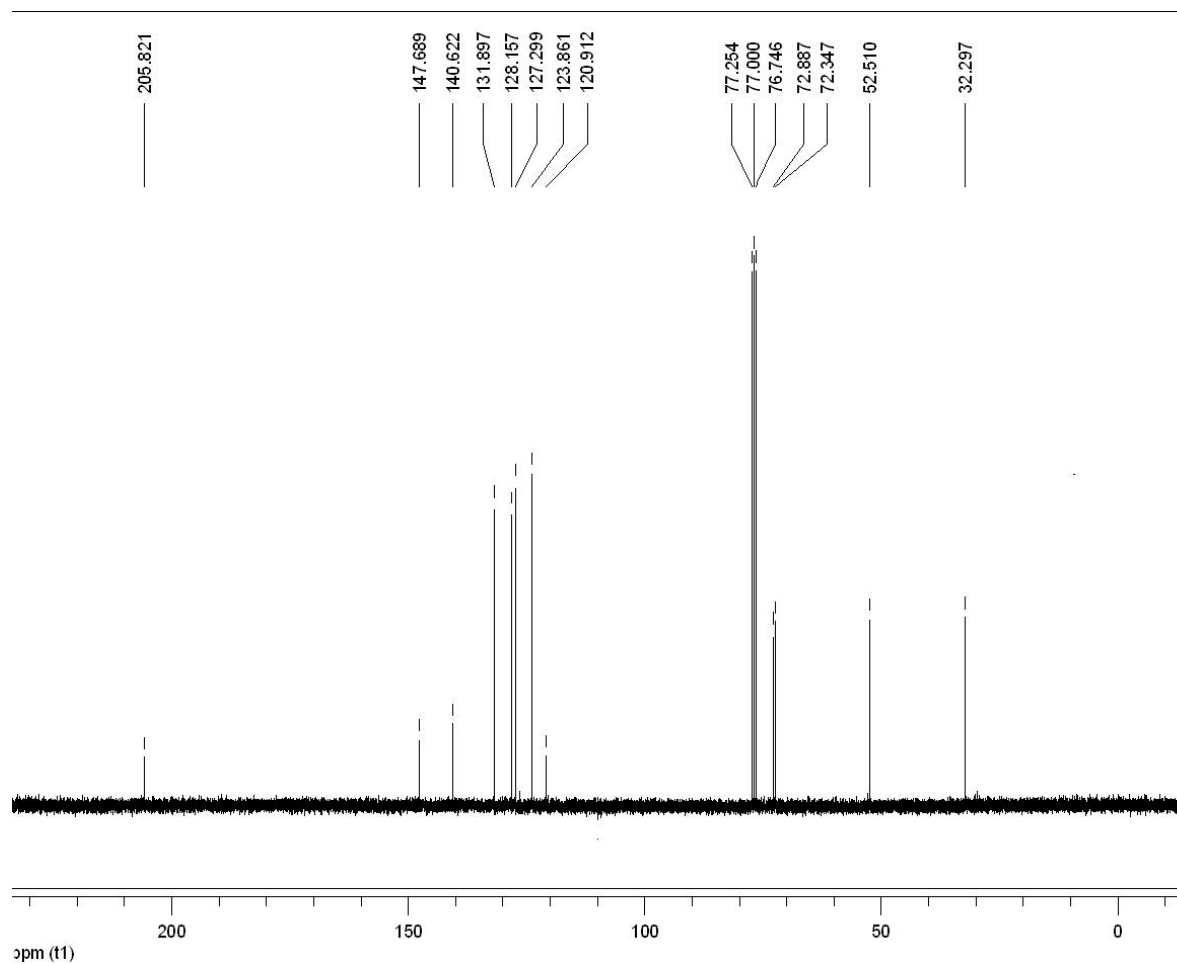
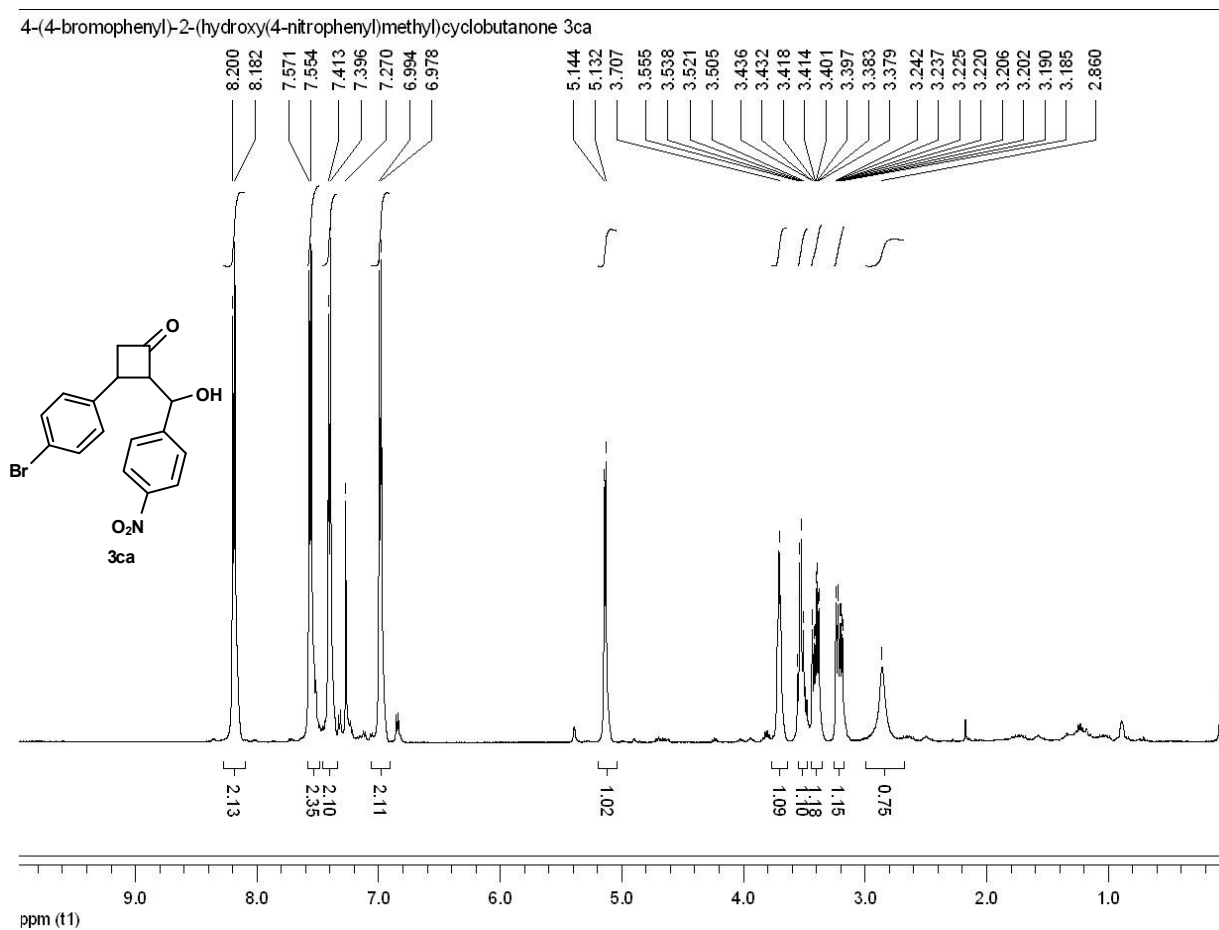


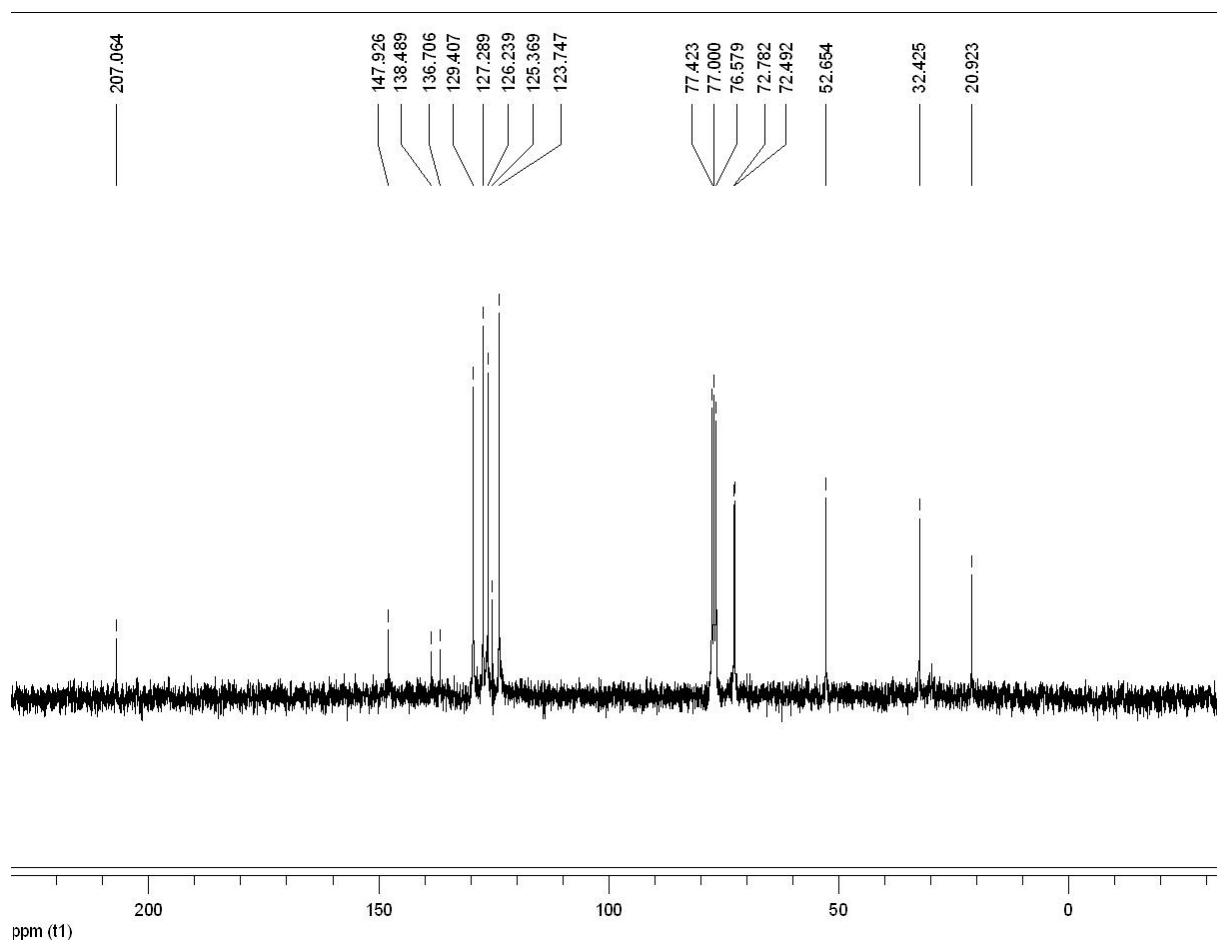
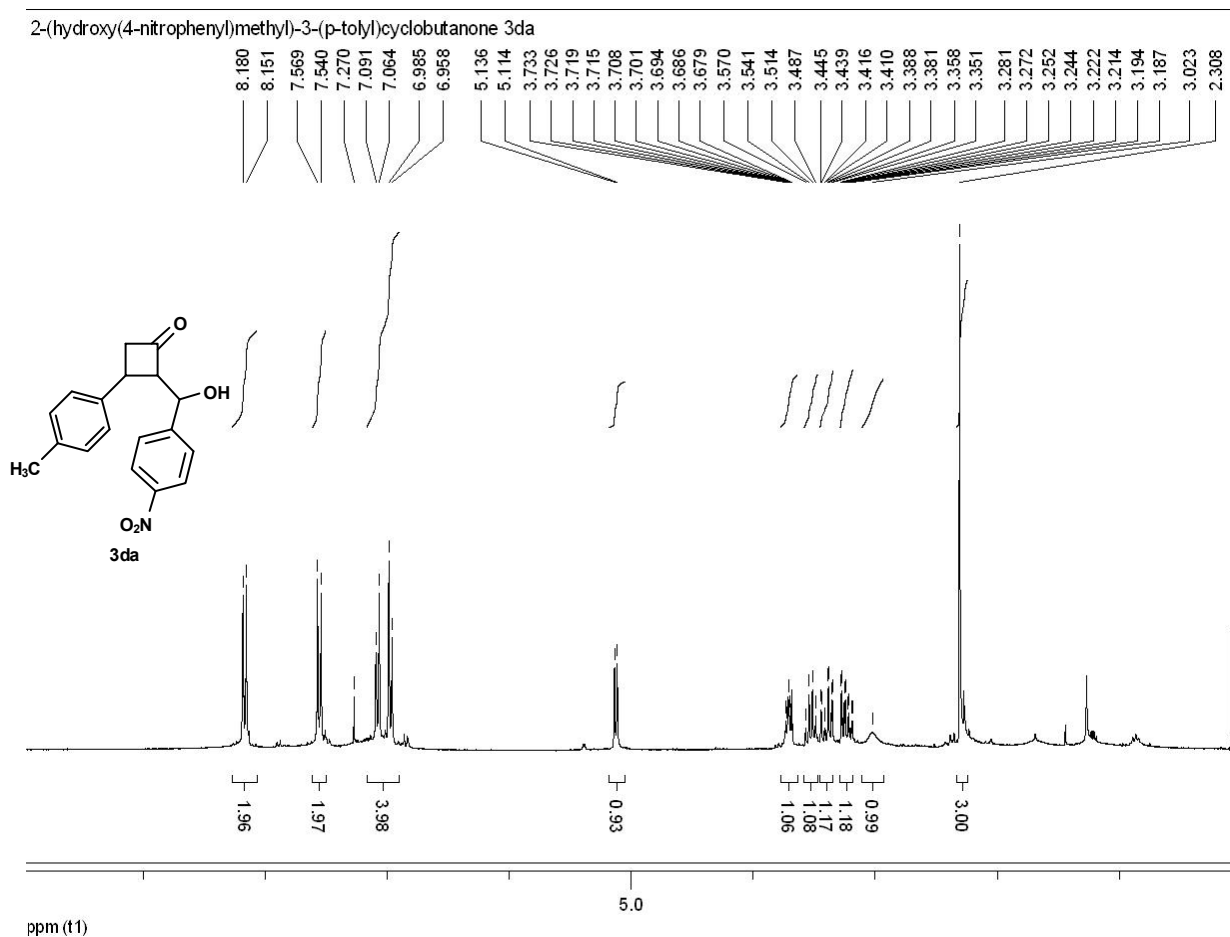




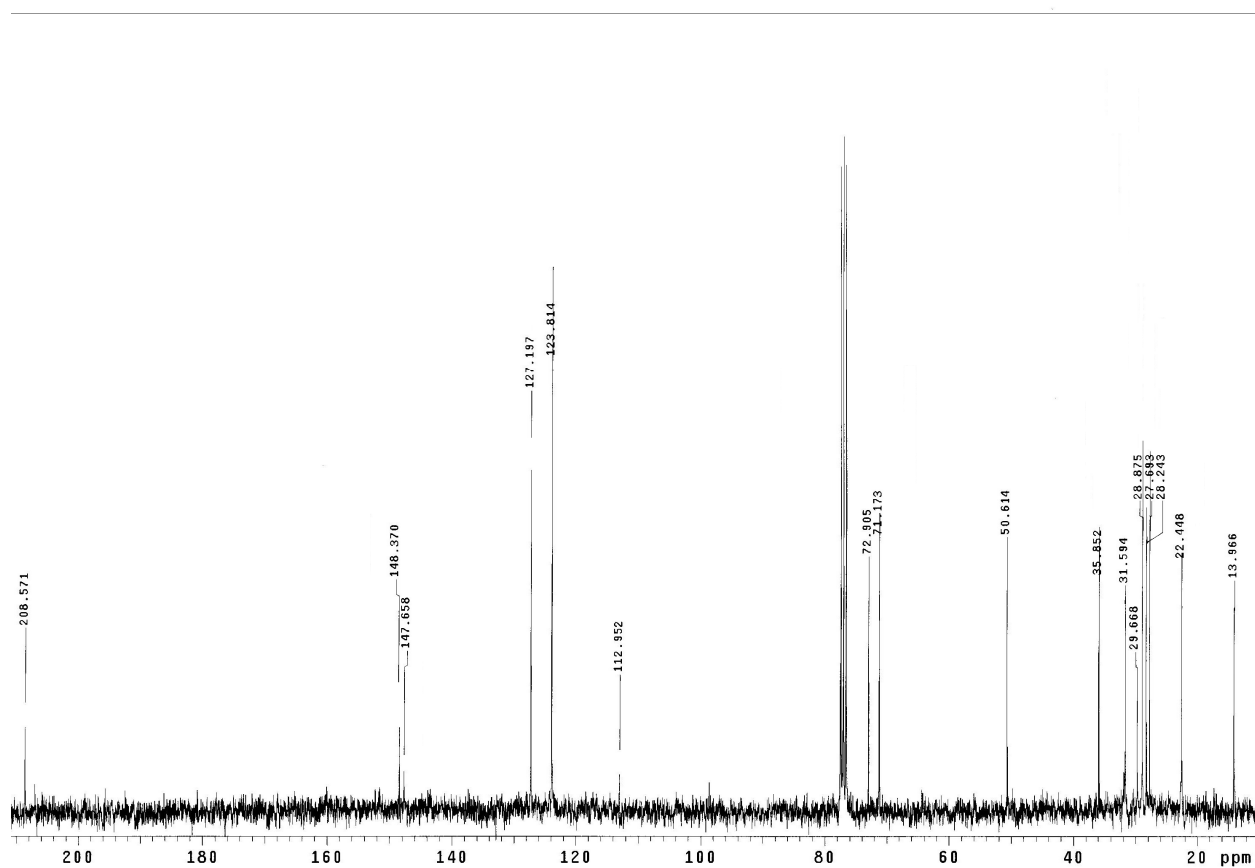
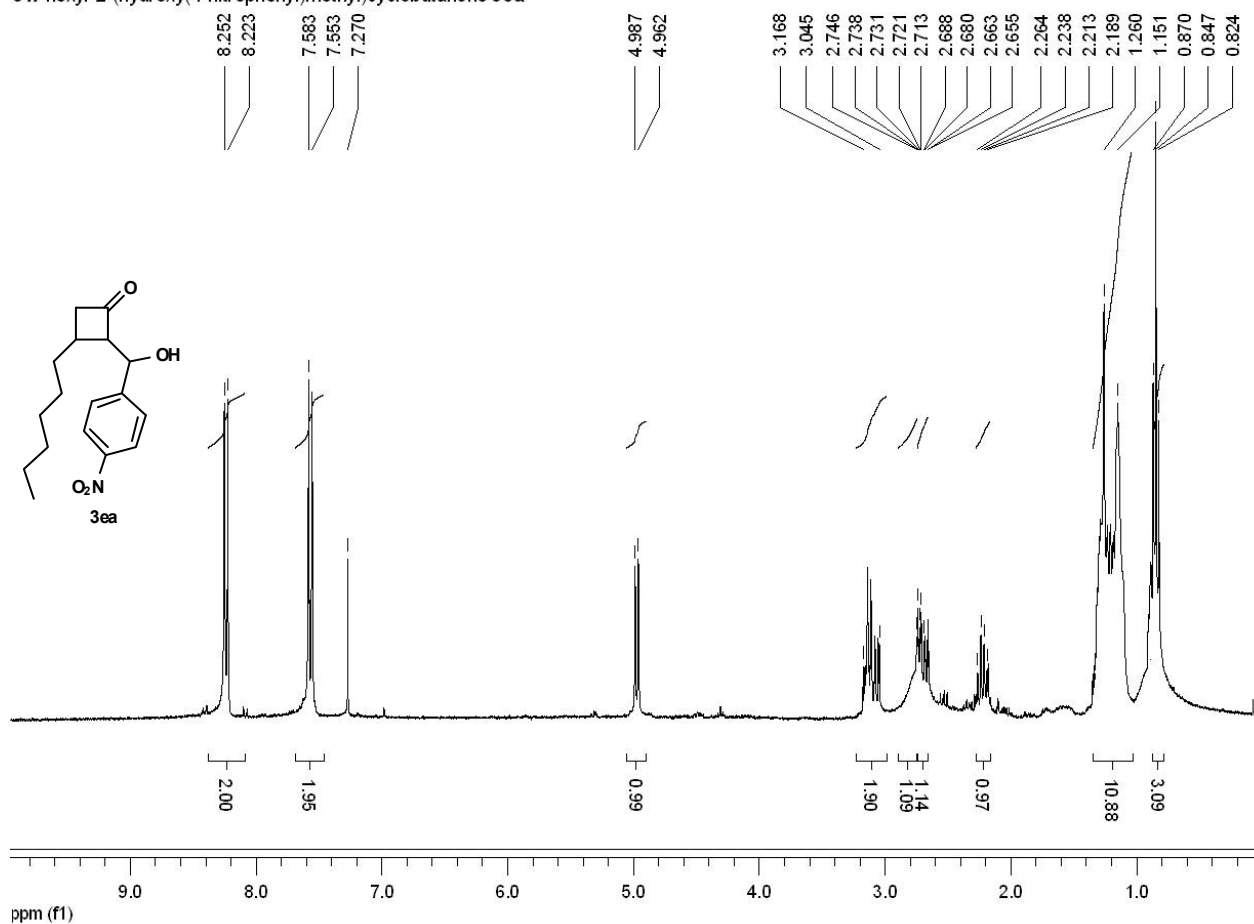
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclobutanone 3ba'

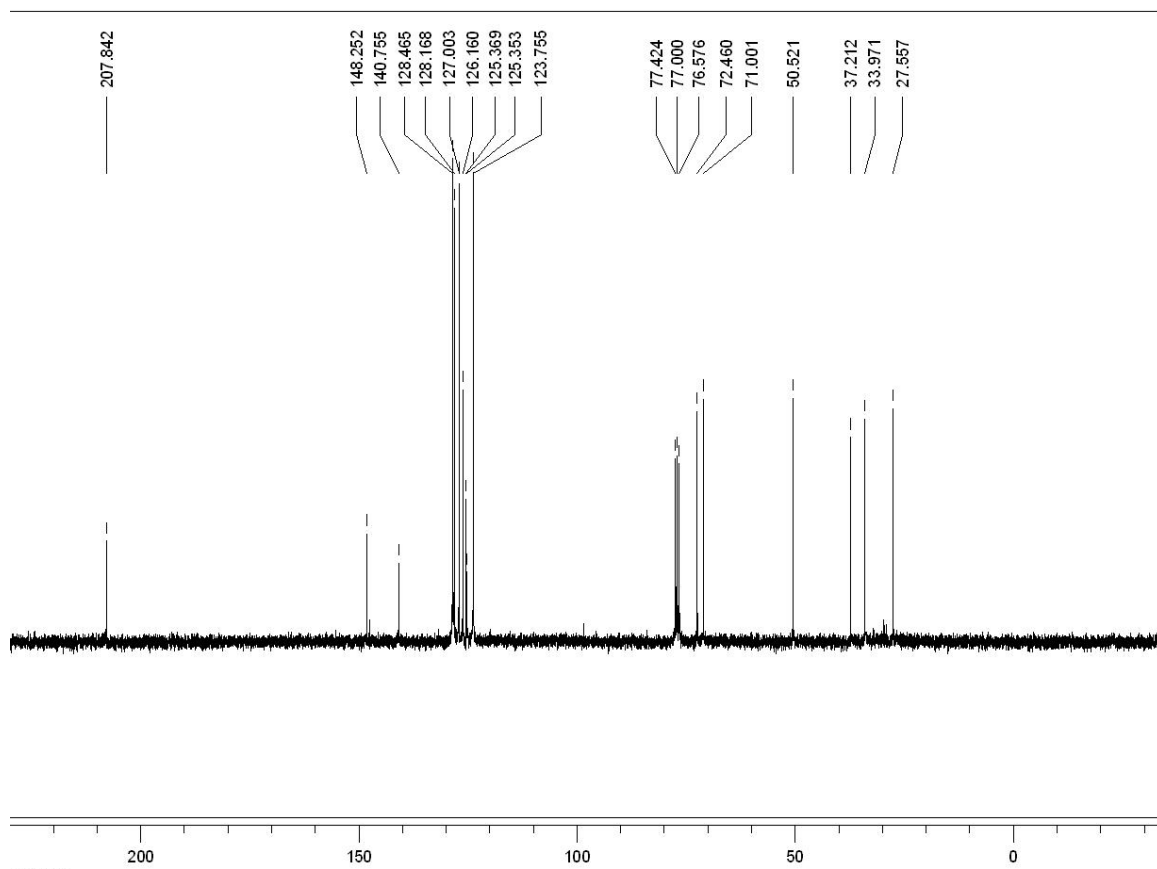
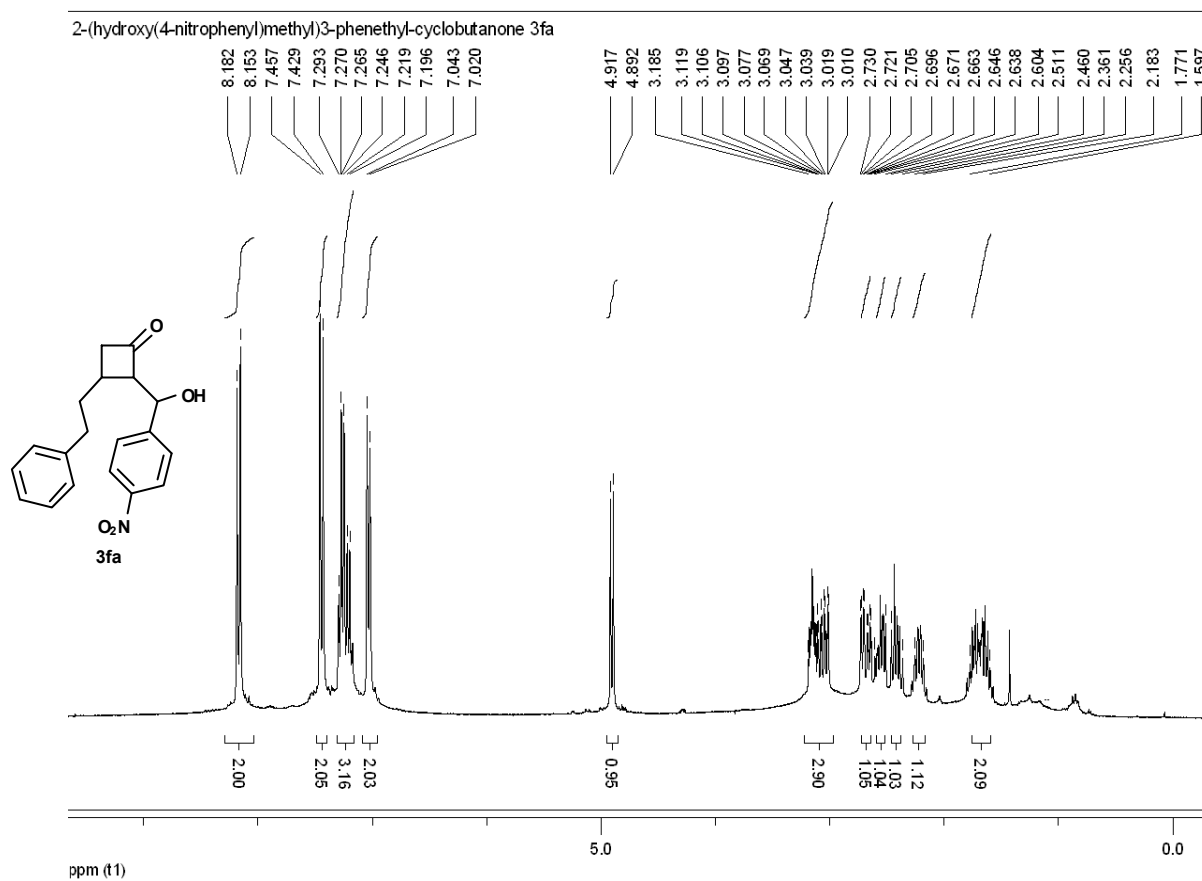


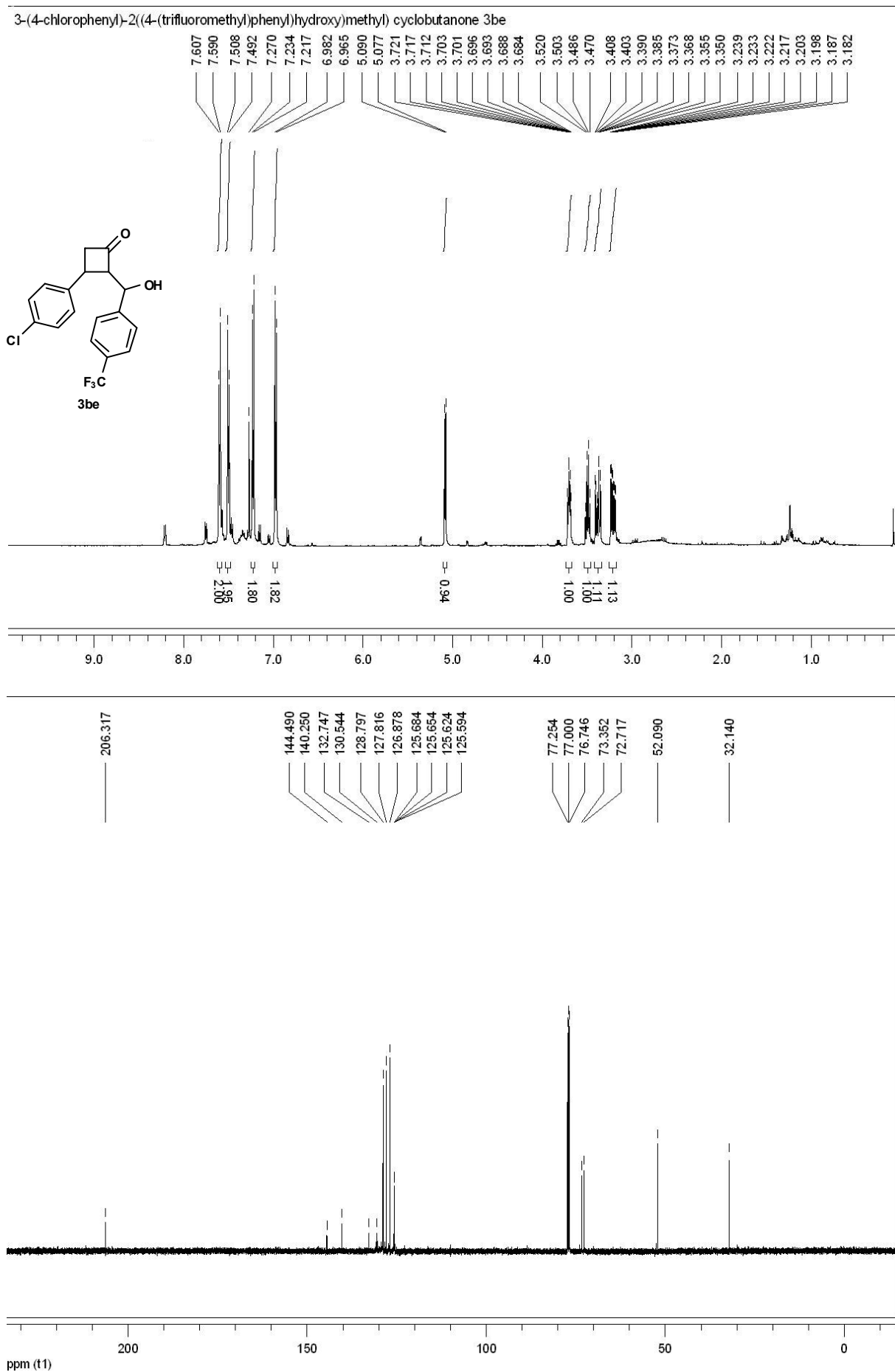


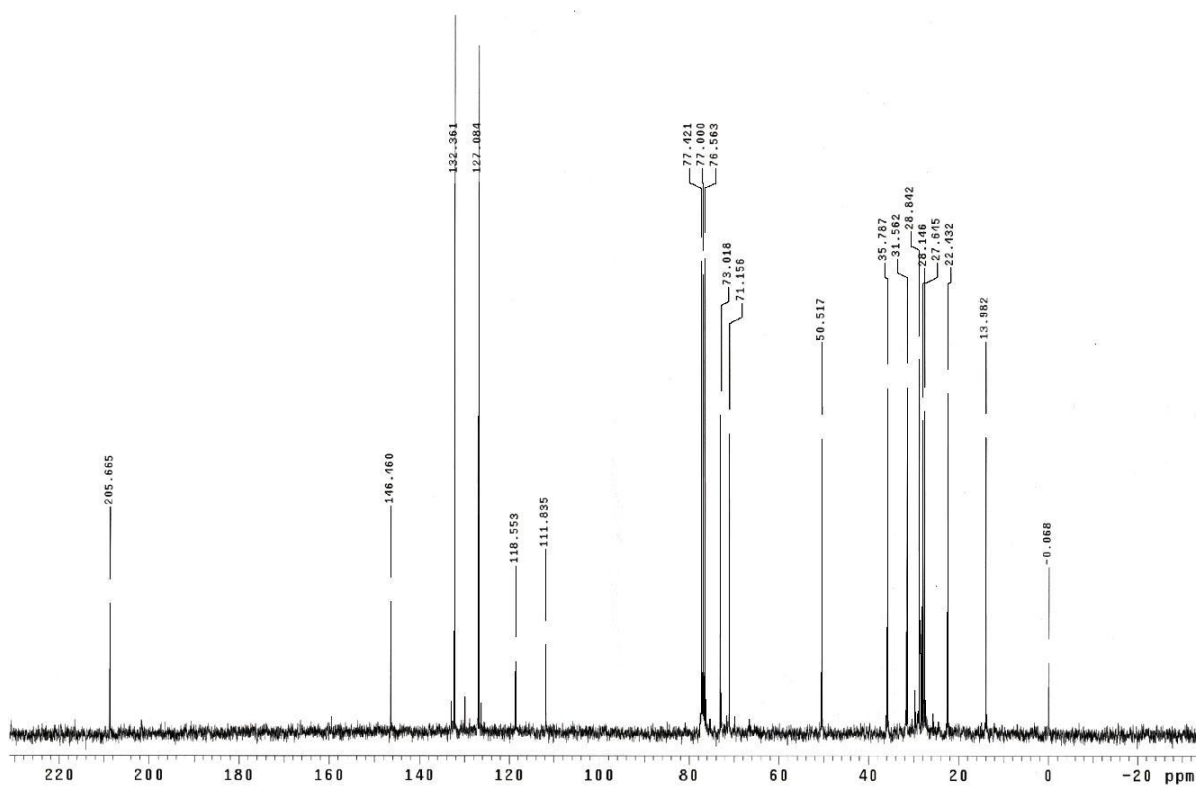
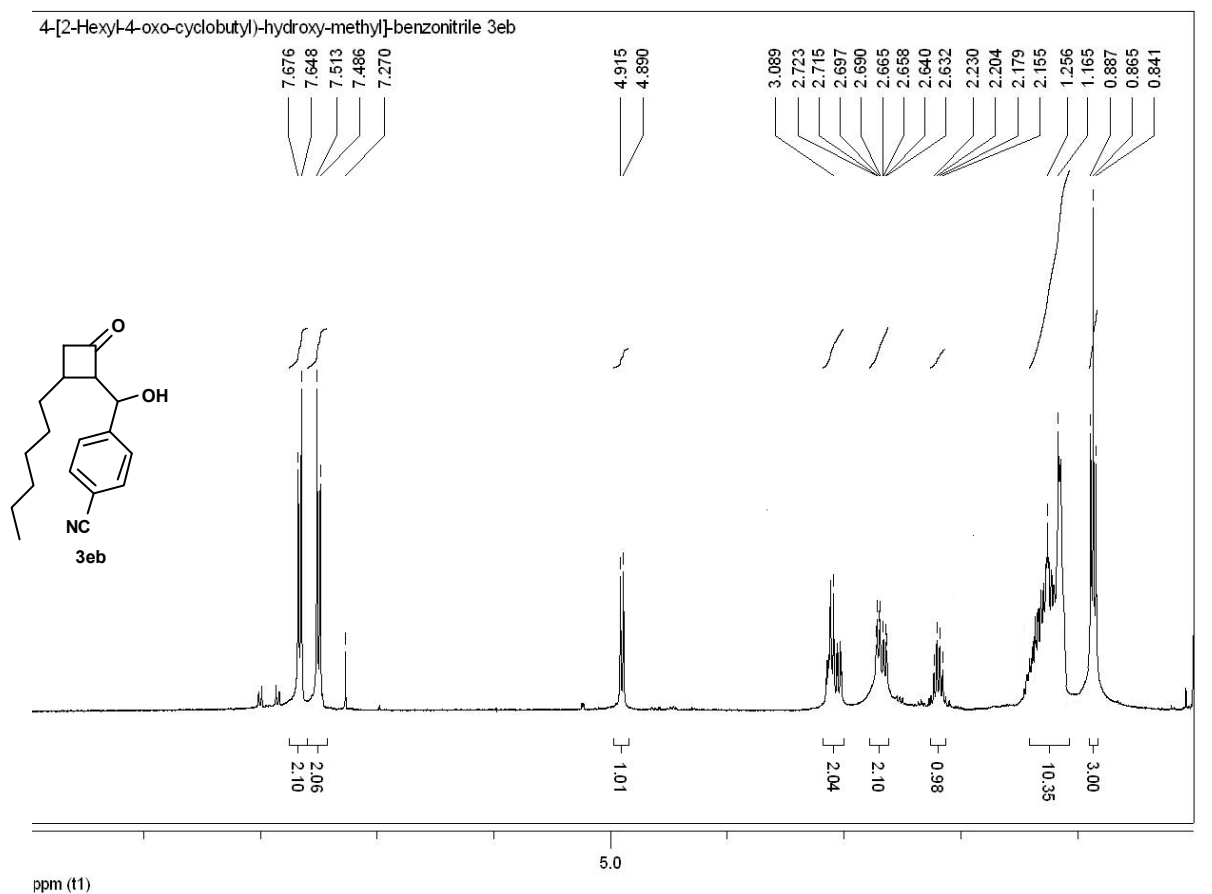


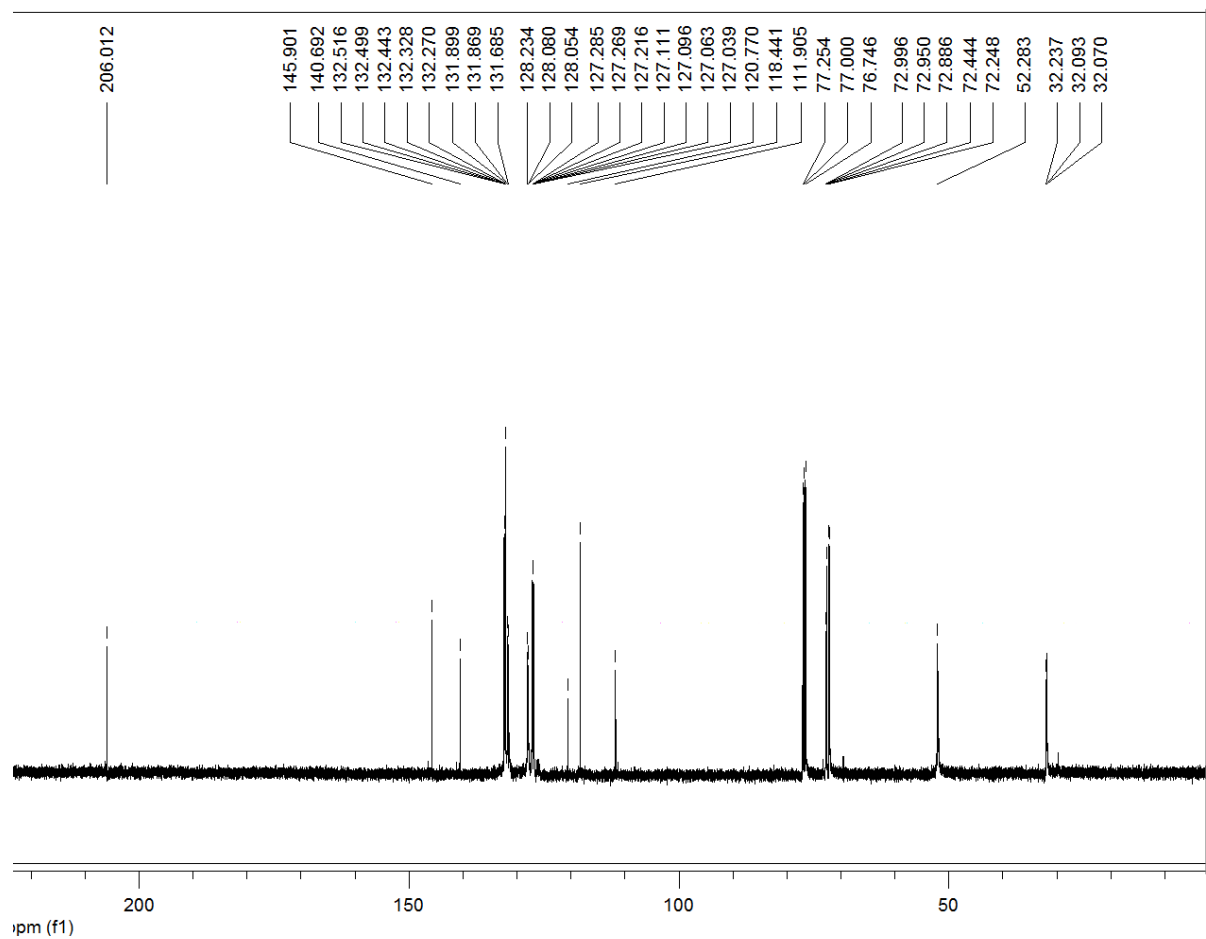
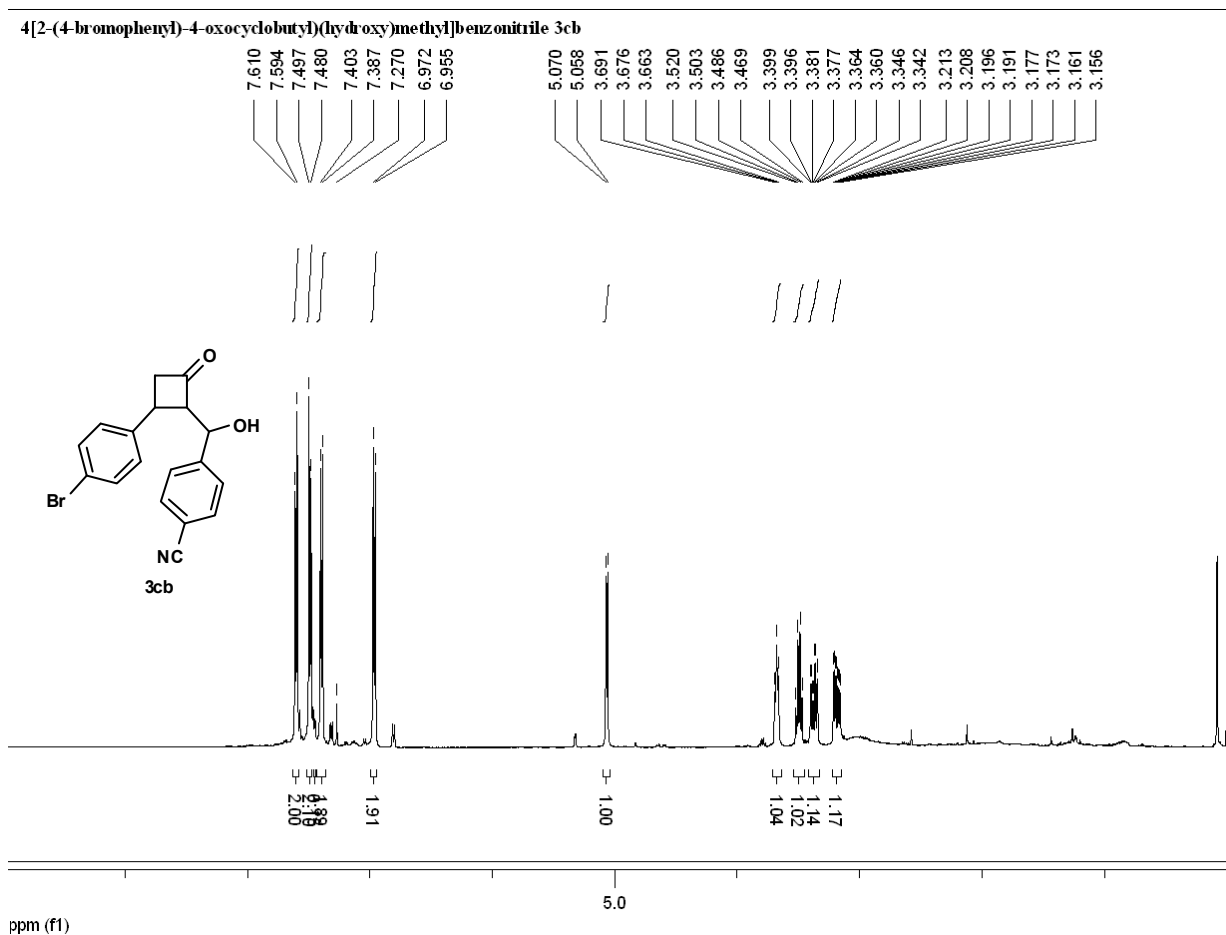
3-*n*-hexyl-2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclobutanone **3ea**

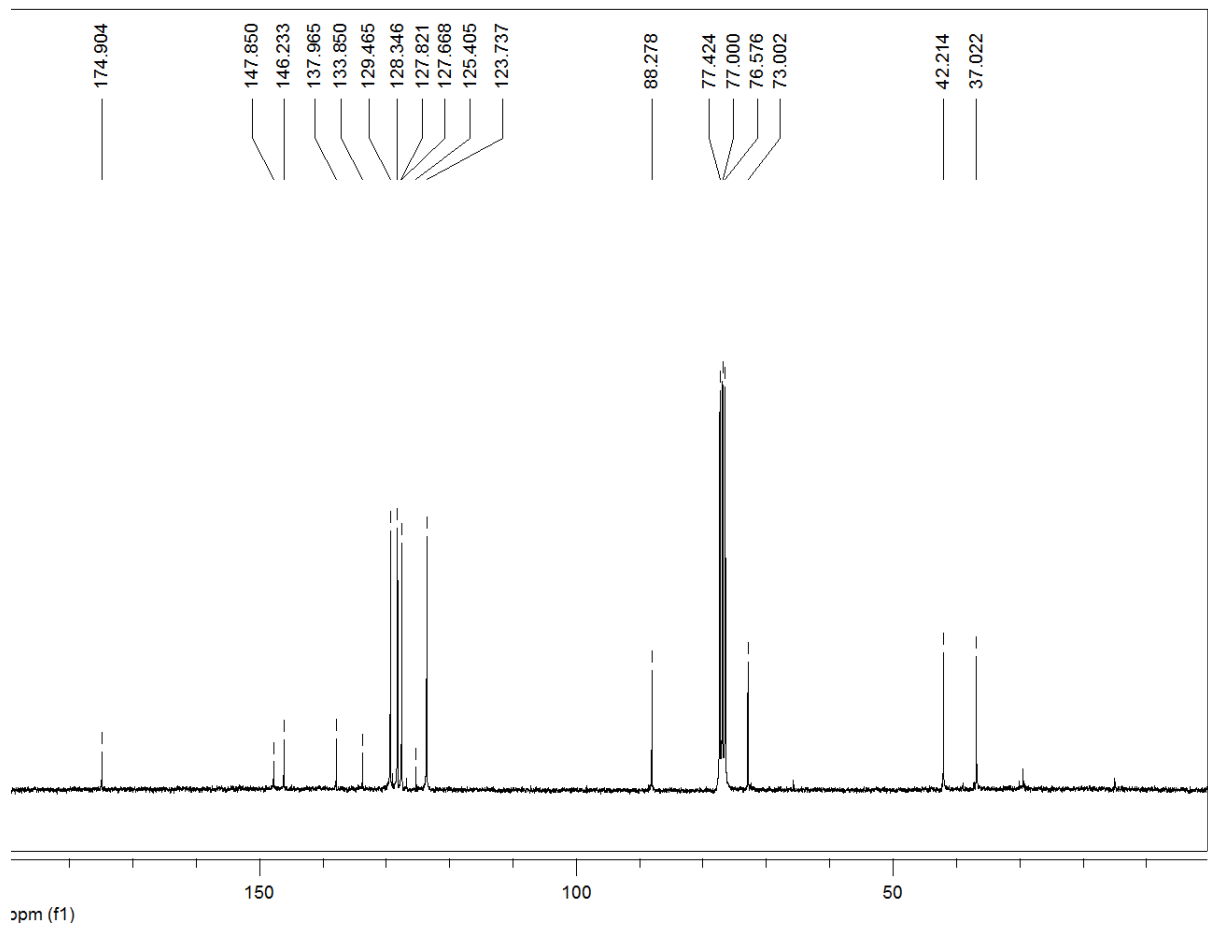
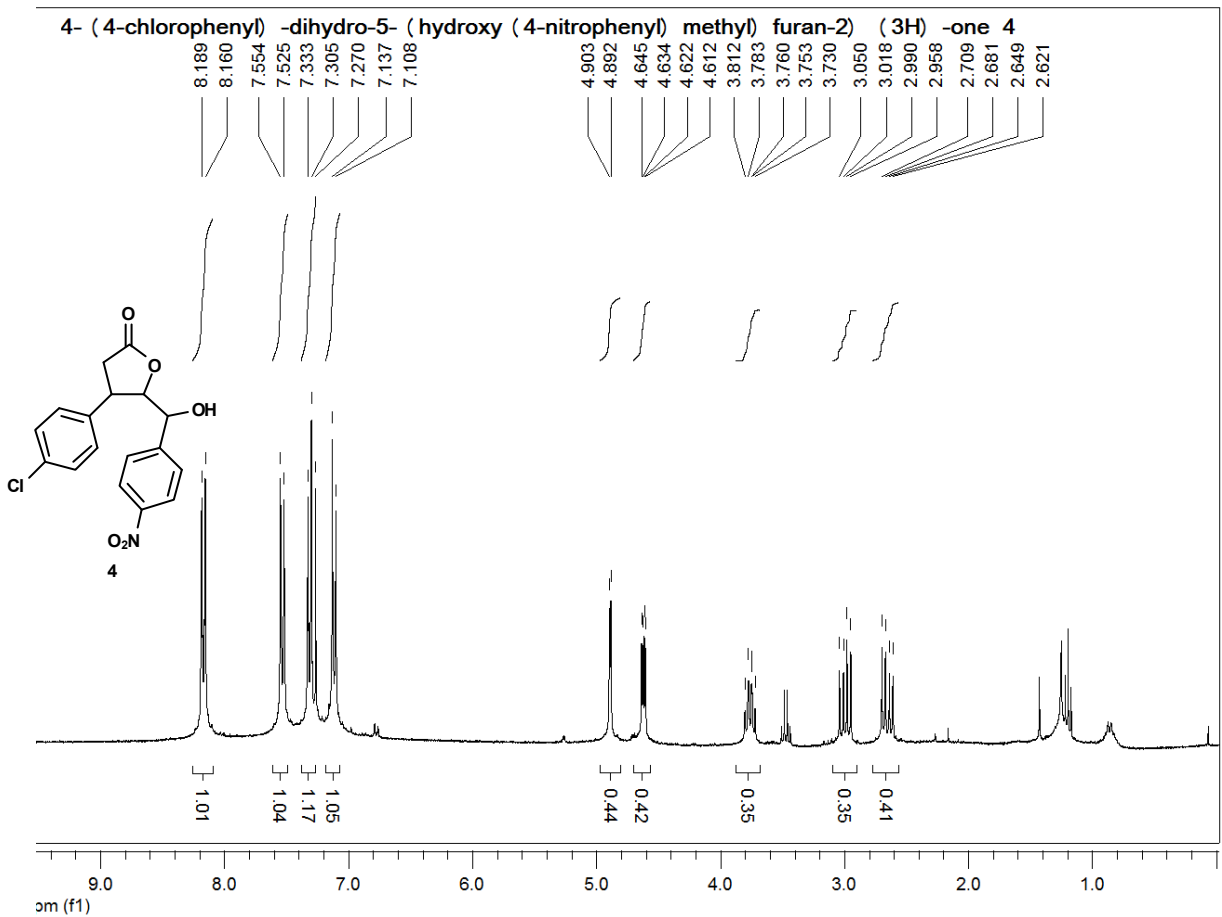






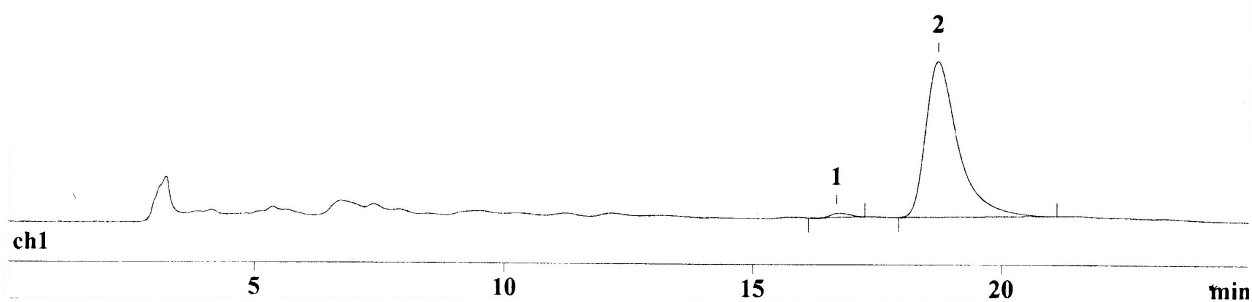
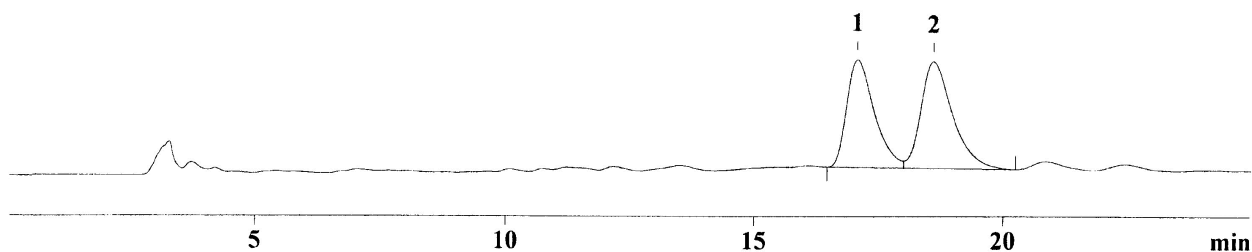






5. Copies of HPLC traces of new aldol adducts:

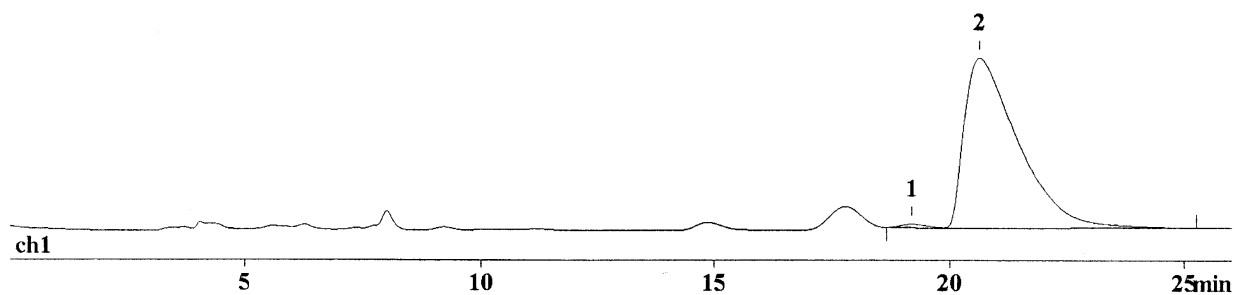
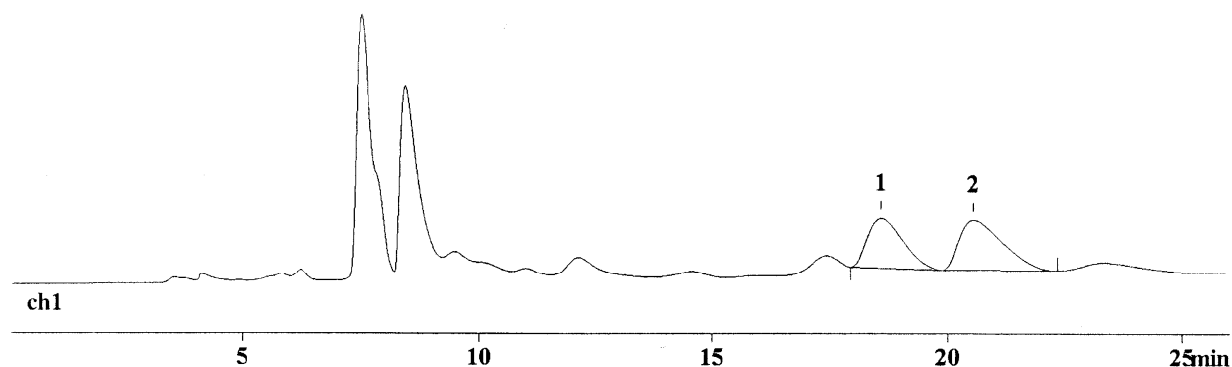
3aa: Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	16.68	8.017	0.52	
2	18.71	1533.532	99.48	
2	33.41	1541.549	100.00	

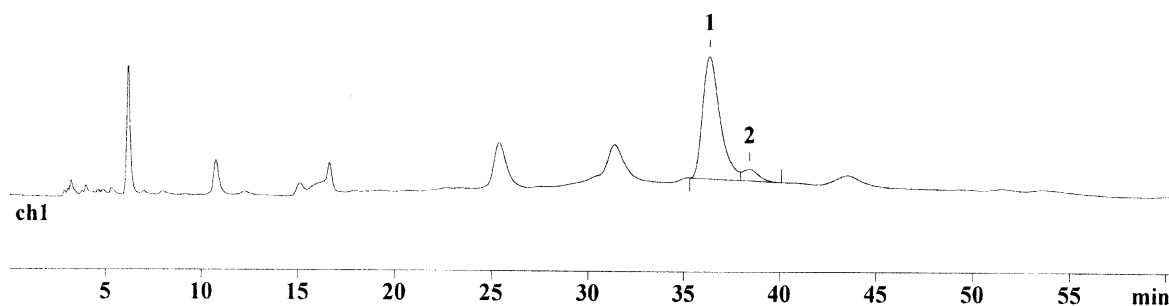
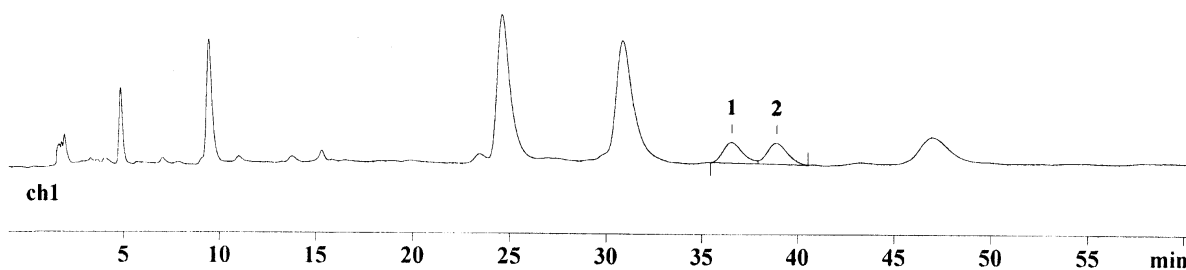
3ab :Chiracel OD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 85 :15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	19.18	309.545	0.94	
2	20.61	32547.334	99.06	
2	26.03	32856.879	100.00	

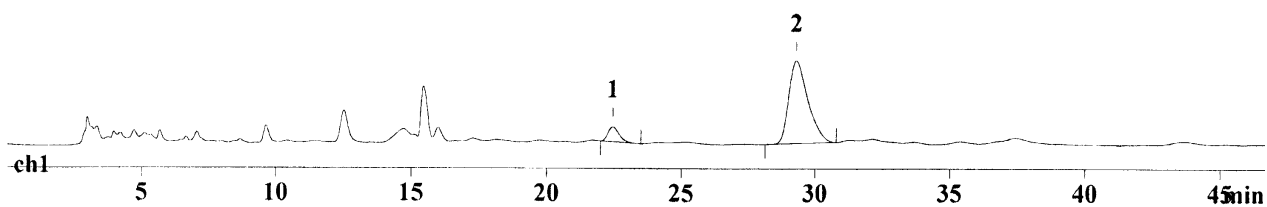
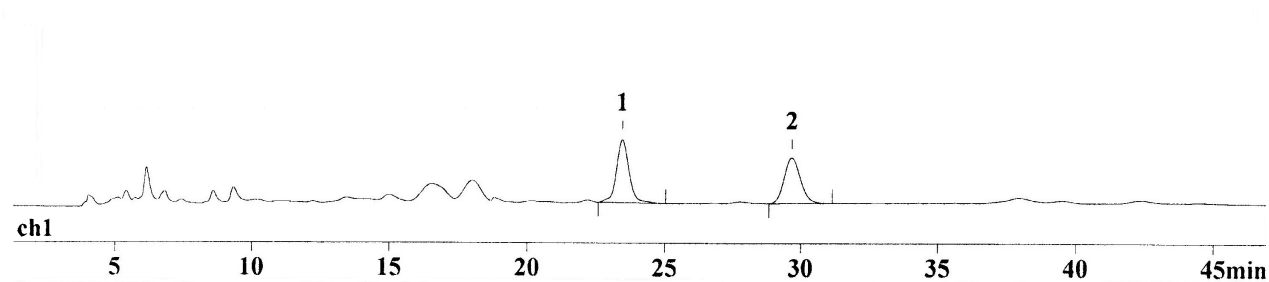
3ac: Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 95 :5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	36.30	2029.270	92.06	
2	38.40	174.999	7.94	
2	80.39	2204.270	100.00	

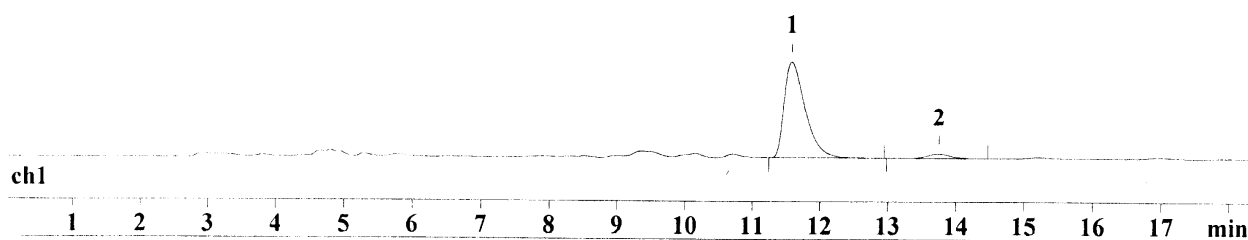
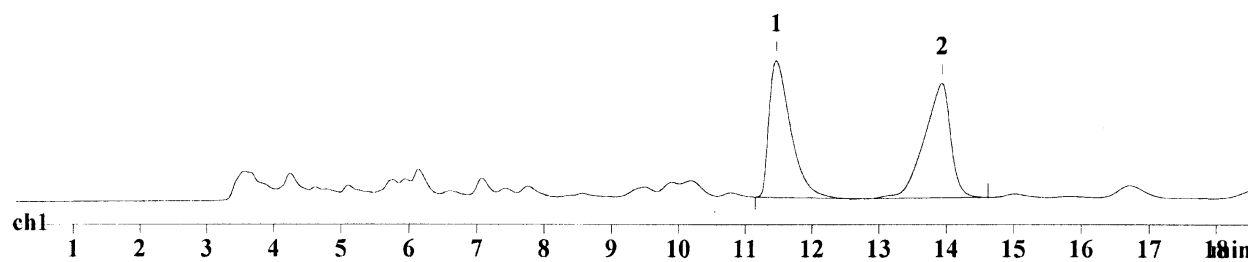
3ad :Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 95 :05, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	22.45	856.030	9.33	
2	29.30	8320.673	90.67	
2	46.66	9176.703	100.00	

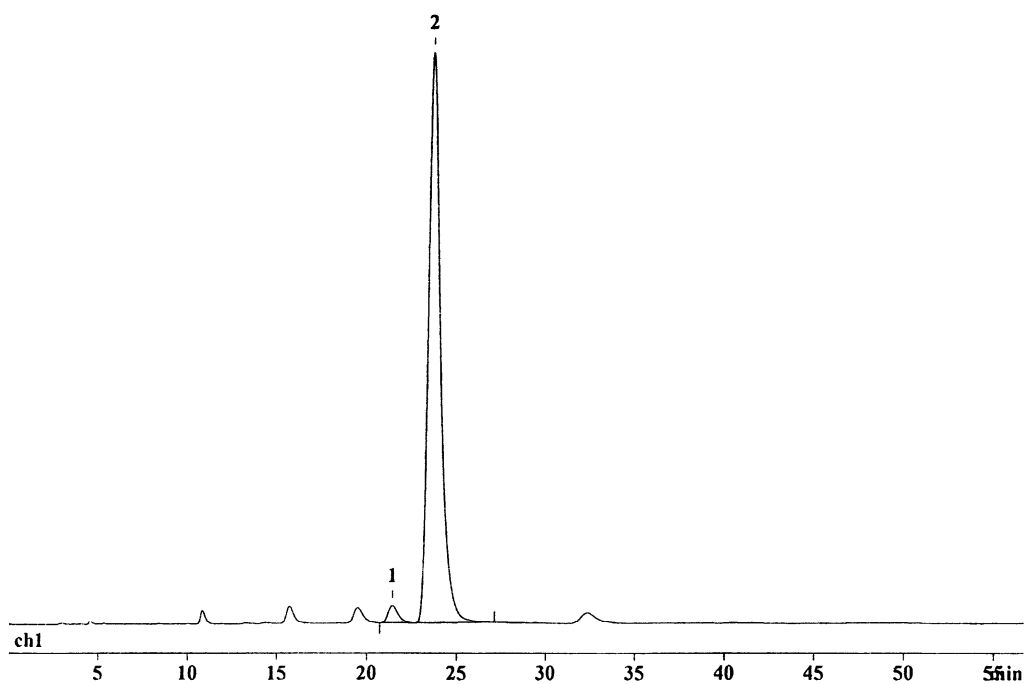
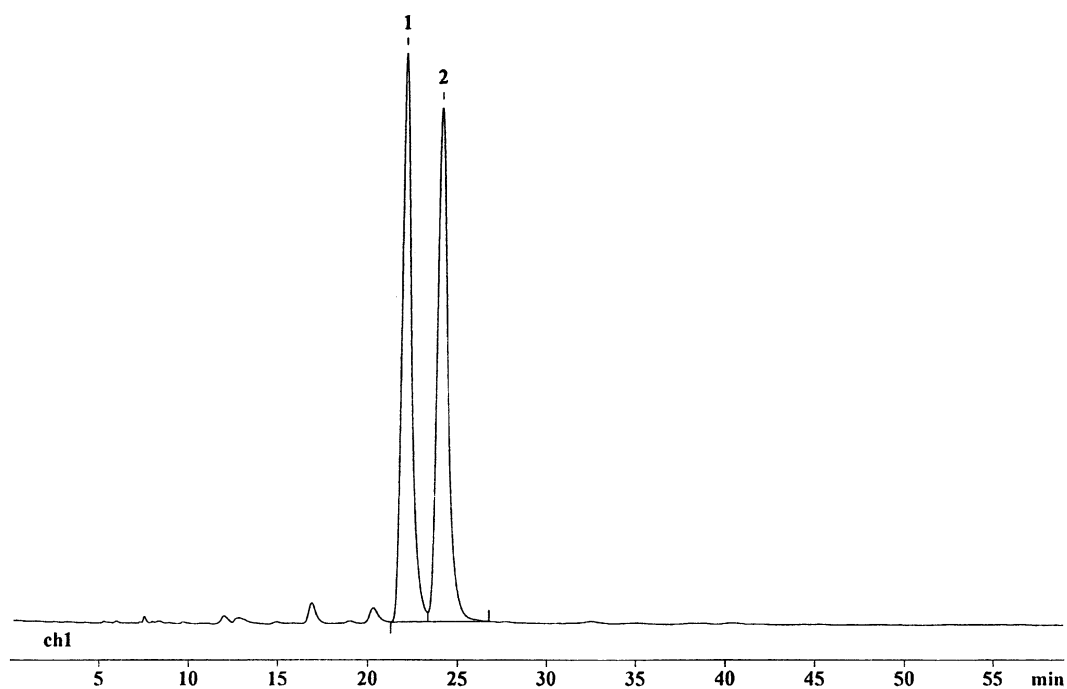
3ae :Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 90 :10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	11.57	9352.377	95.40	
2	13.74	451.295	4.60	
2	29.50	9803.673	100.00	

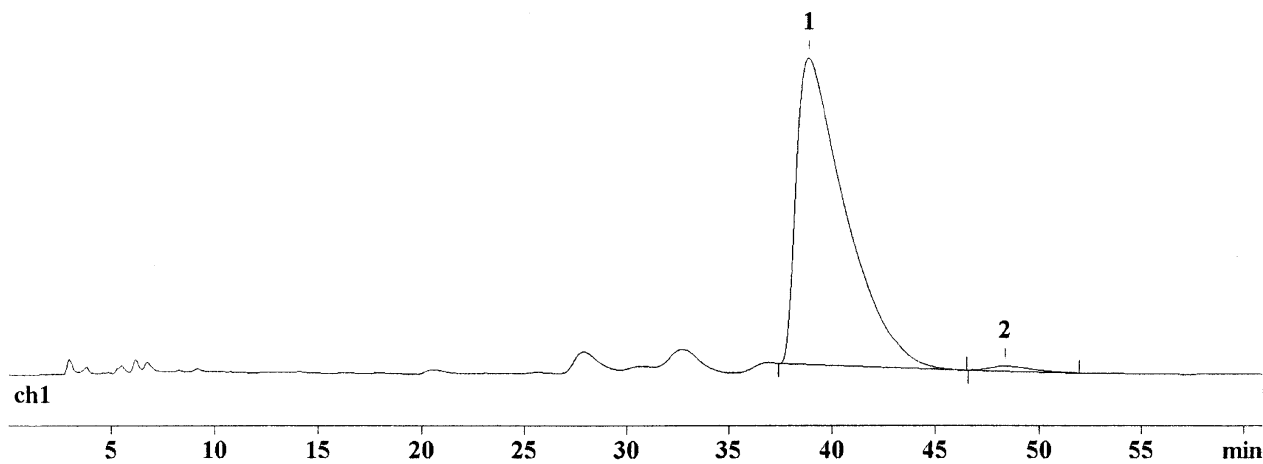
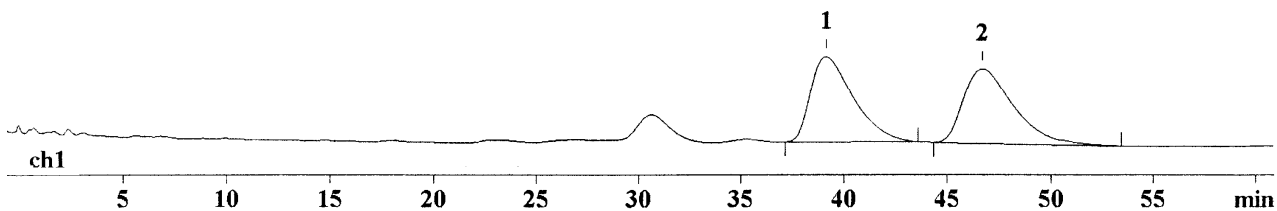
3af: Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 90 :10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	21.42	657.400	2.63	
2	23.62	24360.435	97.37	
2	56.65	25017.835	100.00	

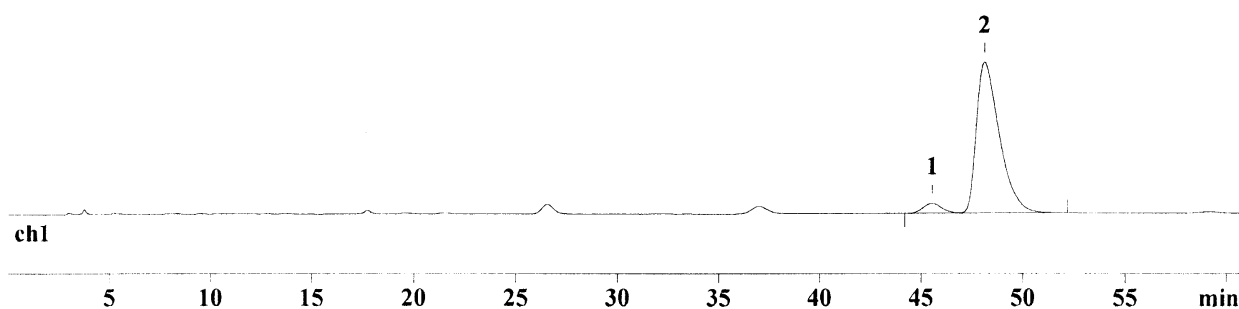
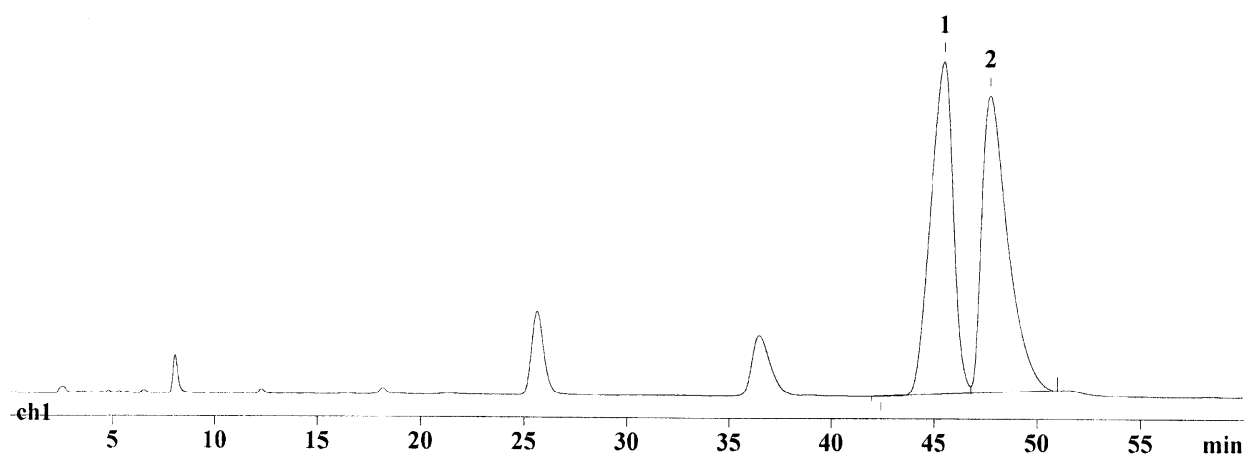
3ba :Chiracel OJ column (hexane/i-PrOH = 80 :20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	38.85	84505.036	98.73	
2	48.35	1089.283	1.27	
2	70.00	85594.320	100.00	

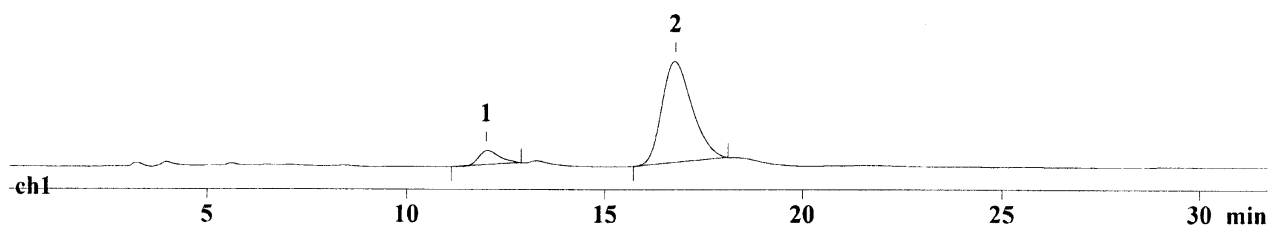
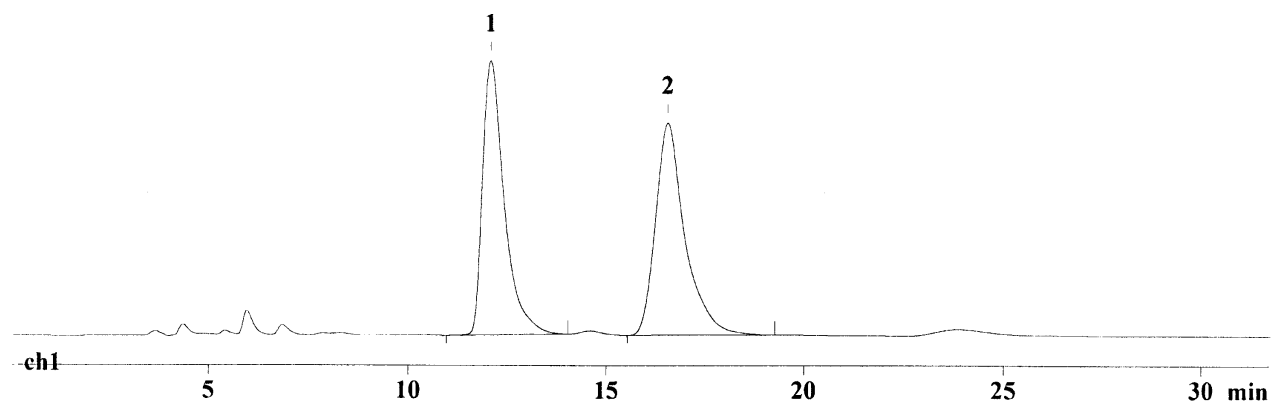
3ca :Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 90 :10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	45.54	1290.192	5.27	
2	48.13	23176.501	94.73	
2	76.59	24466.693	100.00	

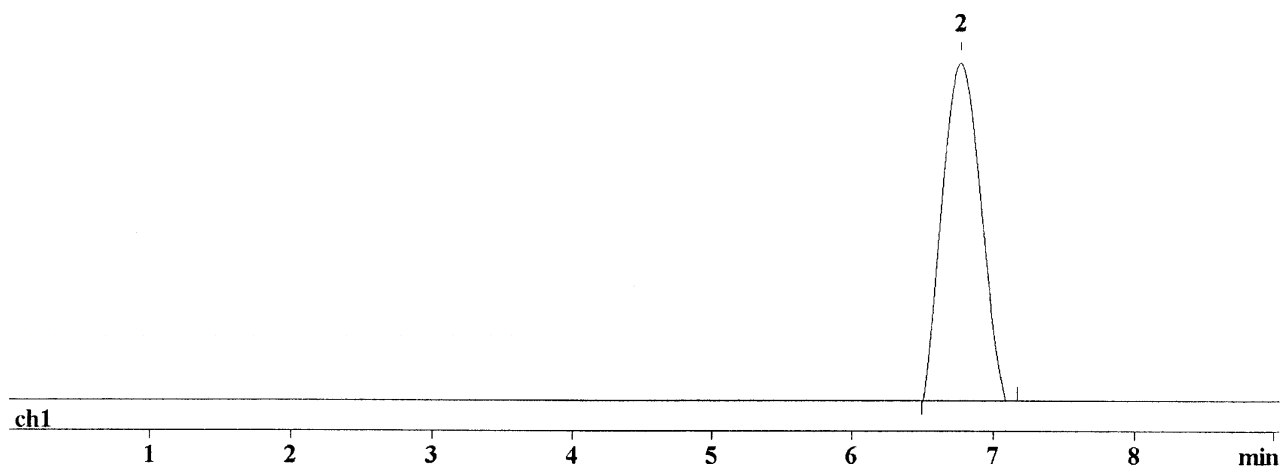
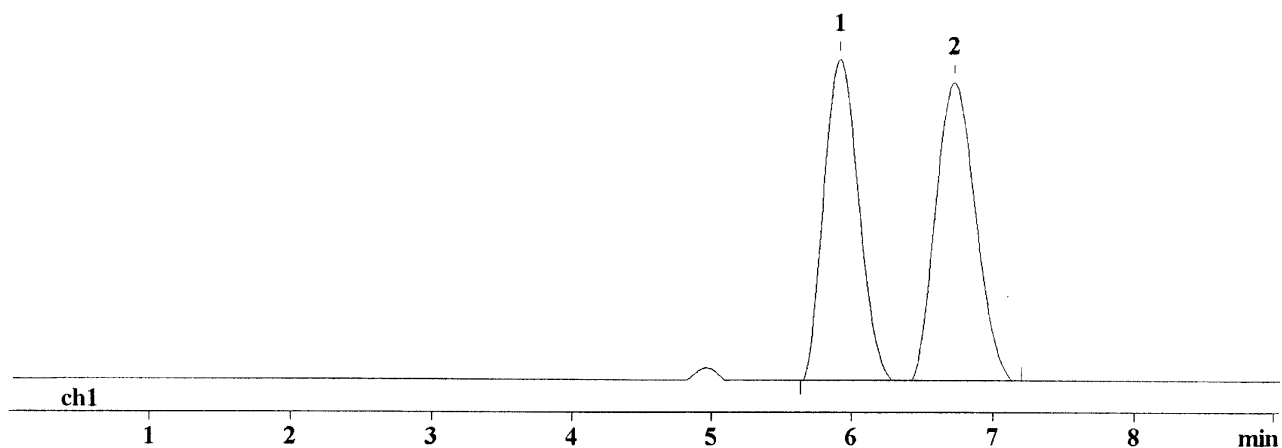
3da :Chiracel OD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 85 :15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	11.99	2062.660	8.70	
2	16.79	21648.538	91.30	
2	31.72	23711.198	100.00	

3ea :Chiracel OD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 85 :15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)

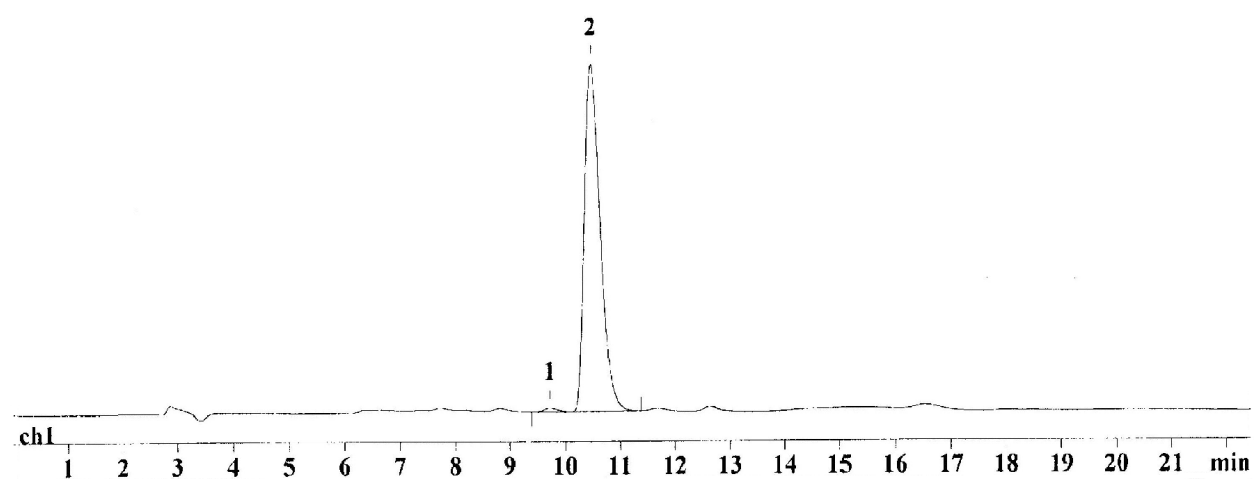
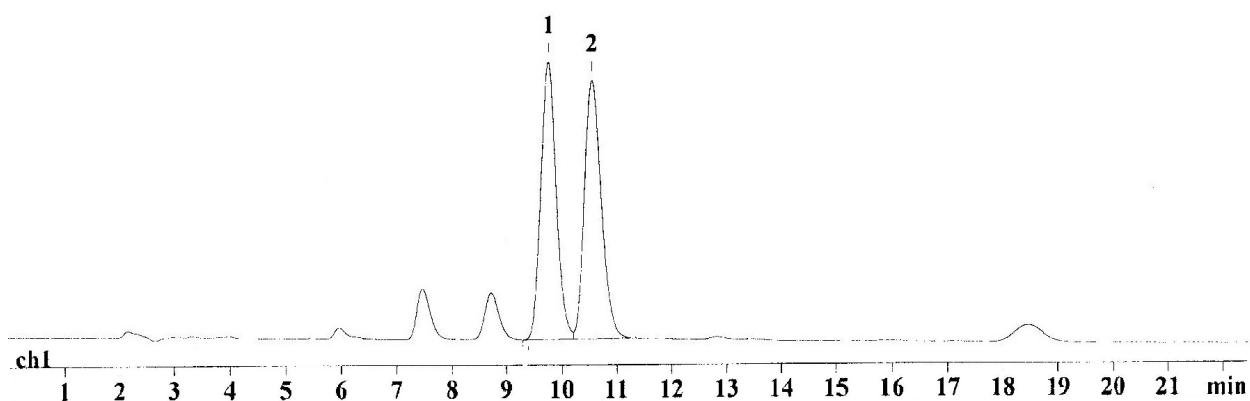


Quantitation method: Absolute concentration

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	6.76	6395.389	100.00	

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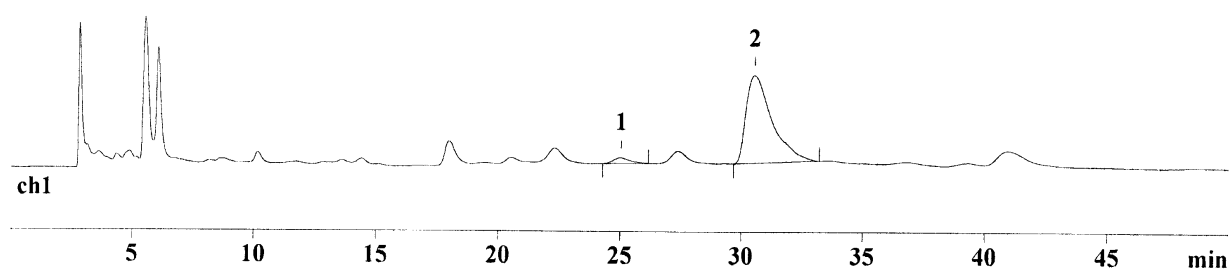
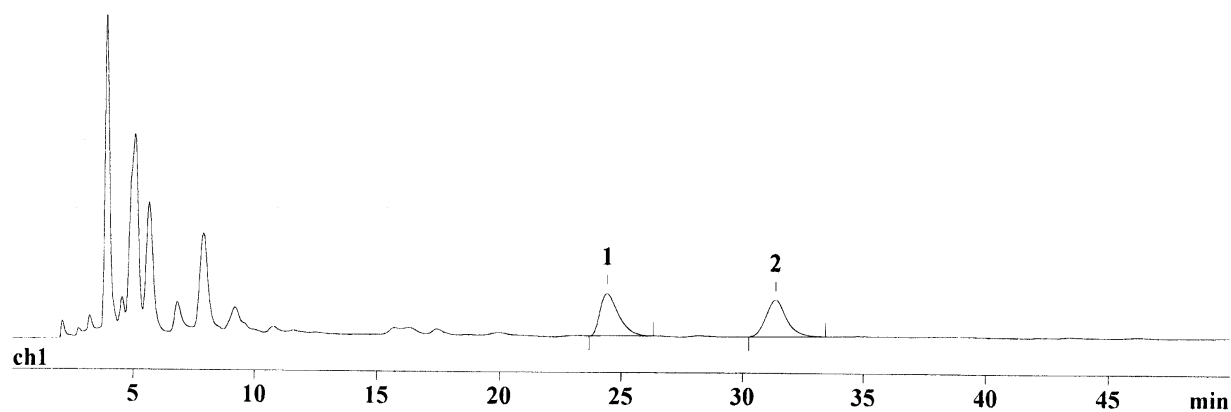
3fa :Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 80 :20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	9.73	140.633	0.95	
2	10.48	14705.299	99.05	
2	22.45	14845.932	100.00	

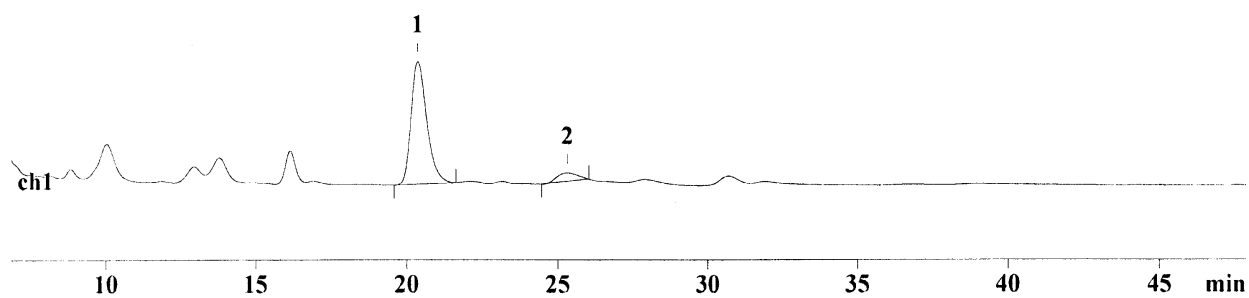
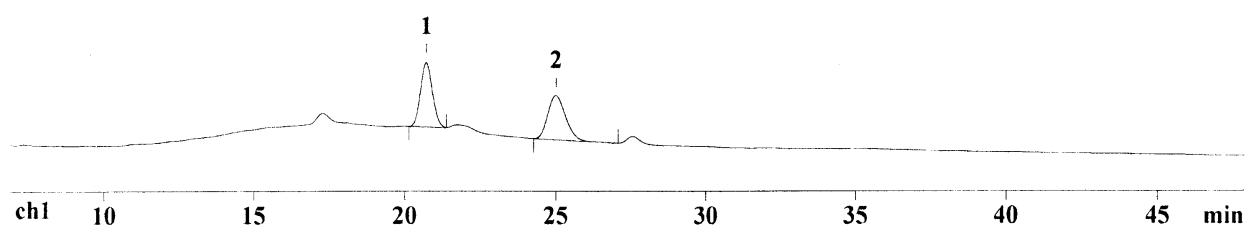
3be: Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 95 :5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	25.03	74.409	4.06	
2	30.54	1756.510	95.94	
2	62.41	1830.919	100.00	

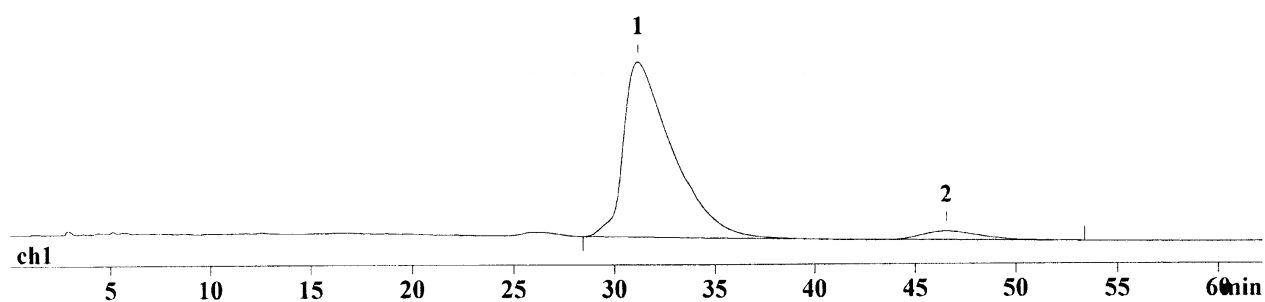
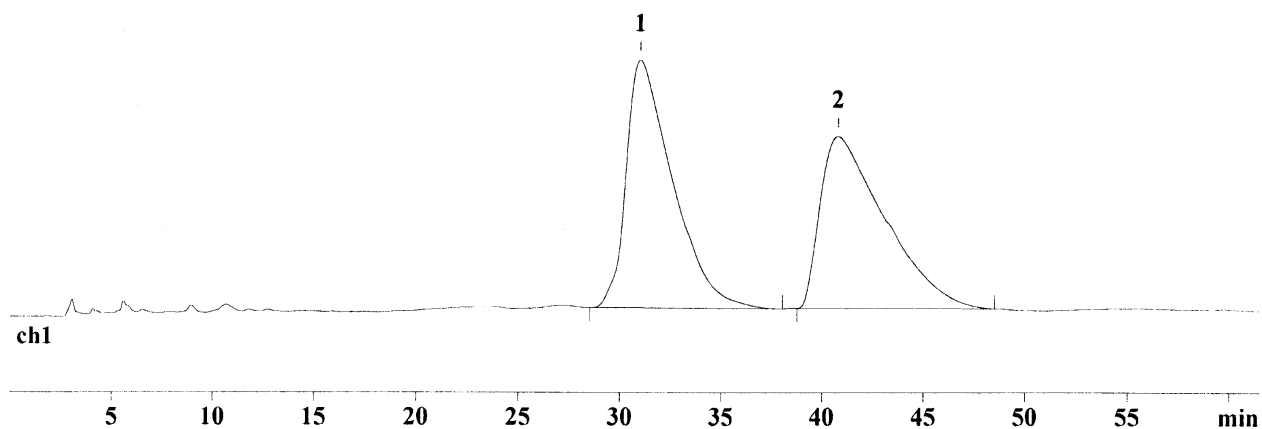
3eb :Chiracel AD-H column (hexane/i-PrOH = 99 :1, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	20.36	3129.401	91.51	
2	25.30	290.162	8.49	
2	49.79	3419.563	100.00	

3cb :Chiracel OJ column (hexane/i-PrOH = 75:25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm)



Quantitation method: Absolute concentration
Standard component: No
Normalization: 100.00

No	Retention min	Area mV*sec	Area %	Name
1	31.18	13973.634	94.45	
2	46.53	821.743	5.55	
2	62.17	14795.377	100.00	