

# Formation of C=N bonds by the release of H<sub>2</sub>: a new strategy for synthesis of imines and benzazoles

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## Supporting Information

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## General Experimental Information

*Supporting Information*

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Pd/C(10%) was washed by dry DMA which was distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub>. All the other chemical reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were obtained on a Bruker DRX-400 NMR as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million and coupling constants are in hertz. The reaction mixture was filtered through 300-400 mesh silica gel and then injected into the GC equipped with FID detector (Agilent Technologies, GC7890A) for analysis. The detection of H<sub>2</sub> was carried out with GC with TCD detector (Shimadzu GC-2014C, stationary phase: AE 5A MS 3m\*3mm (OD)). The chemical structures of products were confirmed by GC-MS (Agilent Technologies, GC7683B, MS5973).

**General procedure for Synthesis of Imines and Benzazoles:**

**General procedure for the Pd/C catalytic cross-coupling of various benzylamine .**

Benzylamine (107mg, 1mmol), Pd/C(53mg, 0.05mmol), *n*-dodecane(17mg, 0.1mmol, internal standard) and DMA(2mL) were added to a two-necks flask which was deoxidized and then heated at 120°C and stirred under an atmosphere of high-purity nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub> balloon). The reaction was detected by GC.

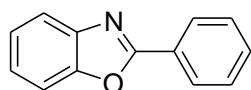
**General procedure for the Pd/C catalytic dehydrogenation of cross-coupling of benzylamine and other amines.**

Benzylamine (107mg, 1mmol), amine(465mg, 5mmol), Pd/C(53mg, 0.05mmol), *n*-dodecane(17mg, 0.1mmol, internal standard) and DMA(2mL) were added to a two-necks flask which was deoxidized and then heated at 120°C and stirred under an atmosphere of high-purity nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub> balloon). The reaction was detected by GC.

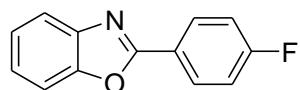
**General procedure for the synthesis of benzazoles catalyzed by Pd/C.**

Benzylamine (2mmol) , o-phenylenediamine (2-aminophenol or 2-aminothiophenol) (1mmol), Pd/C(53mg, 0.05mmol) and DMA(2mL) were added to a two-necks flask which was deoxidized and then heated at 120°C and stirred under an atmosphere of high-purity nitrogen(N<sub>2</sub> balloon). After the reaction was completed, Pd/C was filtrated .5ml water was added to the filtrate and extracted with 5ml EtOAc . The water layer was washed with EtOAc(2×5ml). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column to afford the product.

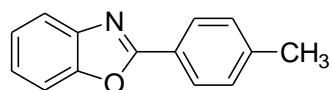
**Characterization data for Benzazoles (benzoxazoles, benzimidazoles, and benzothiazoles)**



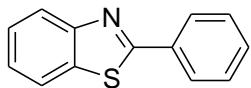
Prepared from Benzylamine (214 mg, 2 mmol ) and 2-aminophenol (109mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 150mg ,77%;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.31-8.28 (m, 2 H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 1 H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 1 H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 3 H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  109.6, 119.0, 123.5, 124.1, 126.2, 126.6, 127.9, 130.5, 141.1, 149.7, 162.0; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{NO} [\text{M}]^+$  195.0684, found 195.0681. This compound was known.<sup>1</sup>



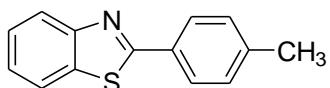
Prepared from 4- fluorobenzylamine (250 mg, 2 mmol ) and 2-aminophenol (109mg, 1mmol), pale yellow solid, yield 149mg , 70%;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.31-8.27 (m, 2 H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1 H), 7.62-7.60 (m, 1 H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  110.6, 116.1, 116.3, 120.0, 124.7, 125.2, 129.8, 129.9, 142.1, 150.8, 162.2, 163.6, 166.1; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{FNO} [\text{M}]^+$  213.059, found 213.0588. This compound was known.<sup>2</sup>



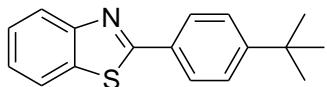
Prepared from 4-methylbenzylamine (242 mg, 2 mmol ) and 2-aminophenol (109mg, 1mmol), pale yellow solid, yield 180mg , 86% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.18 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1 H), 7.61-7.60 (m, 1 H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 4 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  20.6, 109.5, 118.8, 123.4, 123.5, 123.8, 126.6, 128.6, 141.0, 141.2, 149.7, 162.3; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO} [\text{M}]^+$  209.0841, found 209.0839. This compound was known.<sup>3</sup>



Prepared from benzylamine (214 mg, 2 mmol) and 2-aminothiophenol (125mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 181mg, 85% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.13-8.10 (m, 3 H), 7.94 (d, 1 H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 7.54-7.51 (m, 4 H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  121.6, 123.2, 125.2, 126.3, 127.6, 129.0, 131.0, 133.6, 135.1, 154.2, 168.1; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{NS} [\text{M}]^+$  211.0456, found 211.0454. This compound was known.<sup>4</sup>



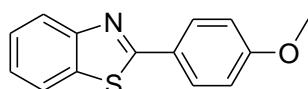
Prepared from 4-methylbenzylamine (242 mg, 2 mmol) and 2-aminothiophenol (125mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 209mg, 93% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.09 (d, 1 H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 8.02-8.00 (m, 2 H), 7.92 (d, 1 H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.33 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 2.46 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.5, 121.6, 123.1, 125.0, 126.3, 127.5, 129.7, 131.0, 135.0, 141.4, 154.2, 168.3; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NS} [\text{M}]^+$  225.0612, found 225.0611. This compound was known.<sup>5</sup>



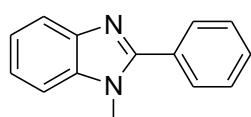
Prepared from 4-tert-butylbenzylamine (326 mg, 2 mmol) and 2-aminothiophenol (125mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 254mg, 95% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.10-8.04 (m, 3 H), 7.93 (d, 1 H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 7.55-7.49 (m, 3 H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1 H), 1.40 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  31.2, 35.0, 121.6, 123.1, 125.0, 126.0, 126.2, 127.4, 130.9, 135.0, 154.2, 154.6, 168.2; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NS} [\text{M}]^+$  267.1082, found 267.1087. This compound was known.<sup>6</sup>

Supporting Information

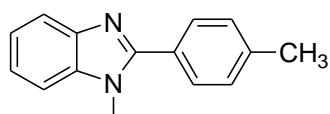
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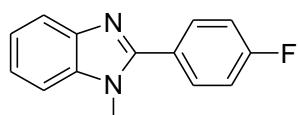
Prepared from 4-methoxybenzylamine (274 mg, 2 mmol) and 2-aminothiophenol (125mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 169mg , 70% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.07-8.05 (m, 3 H), 7.91 (d, 1 H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1 H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1 H), 7.03 (d, 2 H,  $J=8.8$  Hz), 3.91 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.4, 113.3, 120.5, 121.8, 123.8, 125.2, 125.4, 128.1, 133.8, 153.2, 160.9, 166.8; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NOS} [\text{M}]^+$  241.0561, found 241.0556. This compound was known.<sup>7</sup>



Prepared from benzylamine (214 mg, 2 mmol ) and o-phenylenediamine (122mg, 1mmol), pale yellow solid, yield 156mg , 75% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87-7.85 (m, 1 H), 7.81-7.79 (m, 2 H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 3 H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 2 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  31.7, 109.6, 119.9, 122.5, 122.8, 128.7, 129.5, 129.7, 130.3, 136.6, 143.0, 153.8; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2 [\text{M}]^+$  208.1, found 208.0996. This compound was known.<sup>8</sup>



Prepared from 4-methylbenzylamine (242 mg, 2 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (122mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 191mg , 86% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86-7.83 (m, 1 H), 7.69 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8$  Hz), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 4 H), 3.89 (s,3 H), 2.47 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  21.5, 31.7, 109.6, 119.7, 122.4, 122.6, 127.3, 129.3, 129.4, 136.6, 139.8, 143.0, 154.0; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2 [\text{M}]^+$  222.1157, found 222.1156. This compound was known.<sup>9</sup>

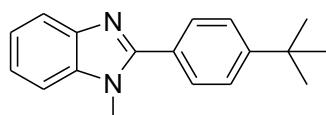


Prepared from 4- fluorobenzylamine (250 mg, 2 mmol ) and o-phenylenediamine

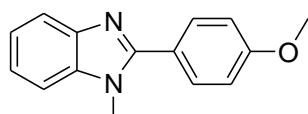
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(122mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 207mg , 92%;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.85-7.83 (m, 1 H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 2 H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 2 H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  31.7, 109.7, 115.8, 116.0, 119.8, 122.6, 122.9, 131.4, 131.5, 136.5, 142.9, 152.8, 162.4, 164.9; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{FN}_2$  [M] $^+$  226.0906, found 226.0903.



Prepared from 4-tert-butylbenzylamine (326 mg, 2 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (122mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 237mg , 90% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86-7.83 (m, 1 H), 7.74 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.58-7.56 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1 H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2 H), 3.91 (s, 3 H), 1.41 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  31.3, 31.7, 34.9, 109.5, 119.8, 122.3, 122.6, 125.6, 127.2, 129.2, 136.6, 143.0, 153.0, 153.9; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2$  [M] $^+$  264.1626, found 264.1627.

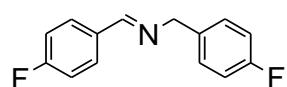
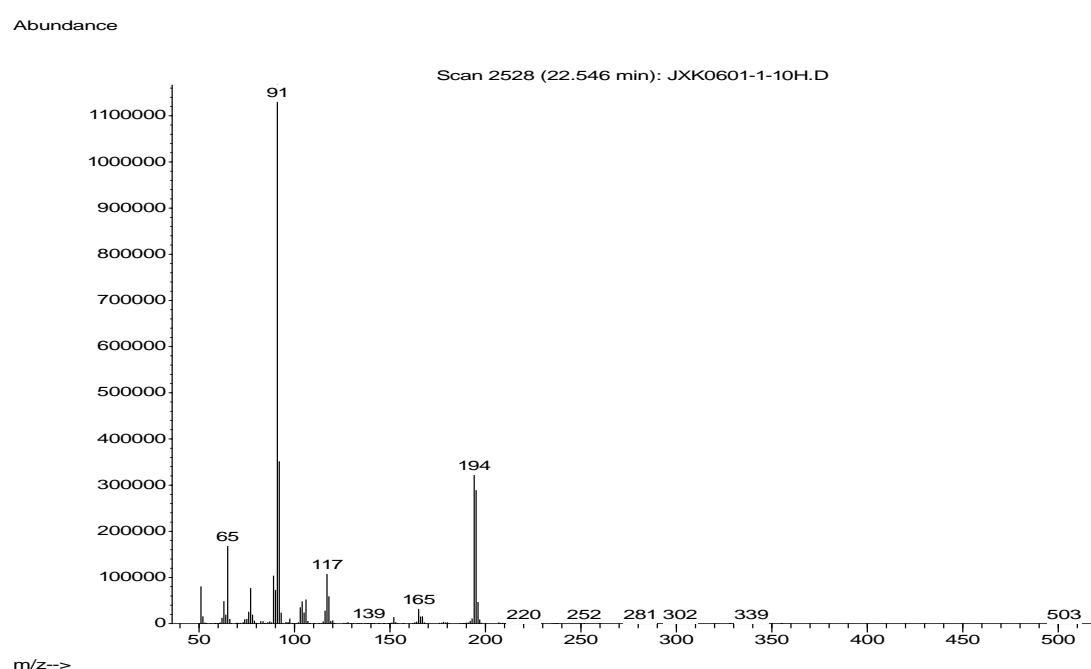
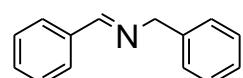


Prepared from 4-methoxybenzylamine (274 mg, 2 mmol) and o-phenylenediamine (122mg, 1mmol), white solid, yield 202mg ,85% ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84-7.82 (m, 1 H), 7.74 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 7.42-7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2 H), 7.07 (d, 2 H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 3.91 (s, 3 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  31.7, 55.4, 109.5, 114.2, 119.6, 122.3, 122.5, 122.6, 130.9, 136.6, 143.0, 153.8, 160.8; HRMS-ESI Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  [M] $^+$  238.1106, found 238.1107. This compound was known.<sup>10</sup>

## References

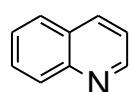
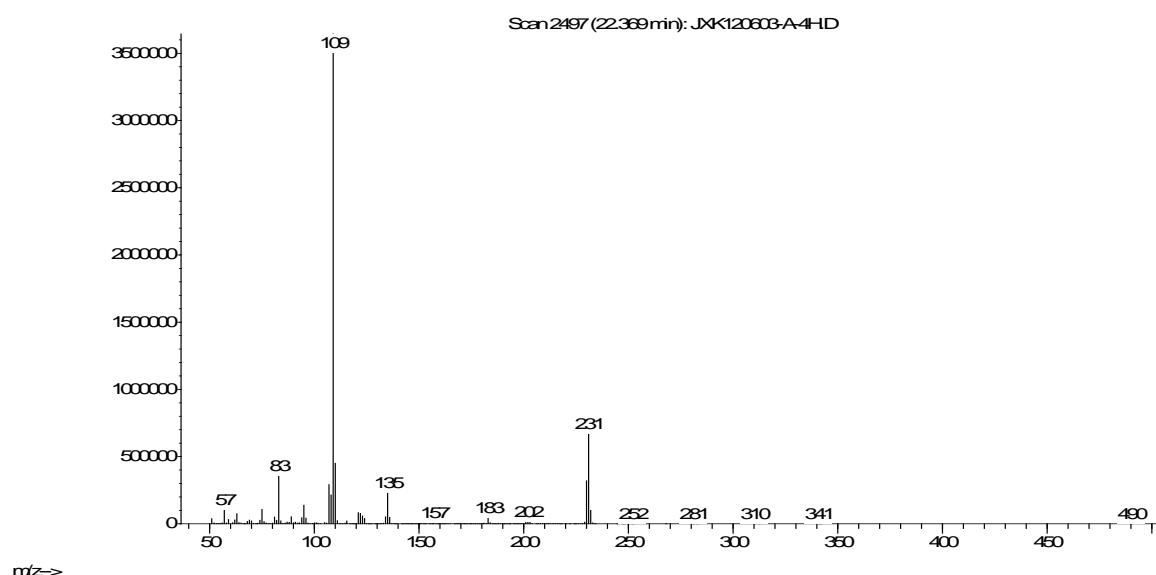
1. Chen, Y-X.; Qian, L-F.; Zhang, W.; Han, B. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, **2008**, *47*, 9330.
2. Wu, M.; Hu, X.; Liu, J.; Liao, Y.; Deng, G.-J. *Org. Lett.*, **2012**, *14*, 2722.
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8. Turner, D. L.; Morris, J. A.; Greaney, M. F. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, **2007**, *46*, 7996.
9. Chakrabarty, M.; Mukherji, A.; Mukherjee, R.; Arima, S.; Harigaya, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.*, **2007**, *48*, 5239.
10. Fekner, T.; Gullucci, J.; Chan, M. K. *Org. Lett.*, **2003**, *5*, 4795.

## Mass Spectra for Imines

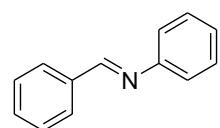
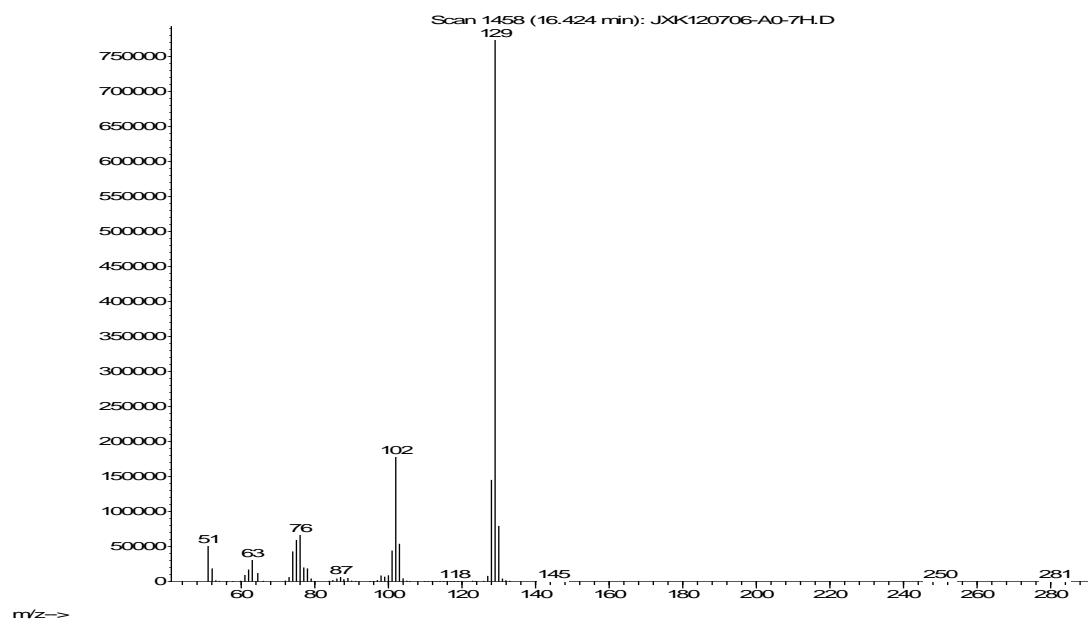


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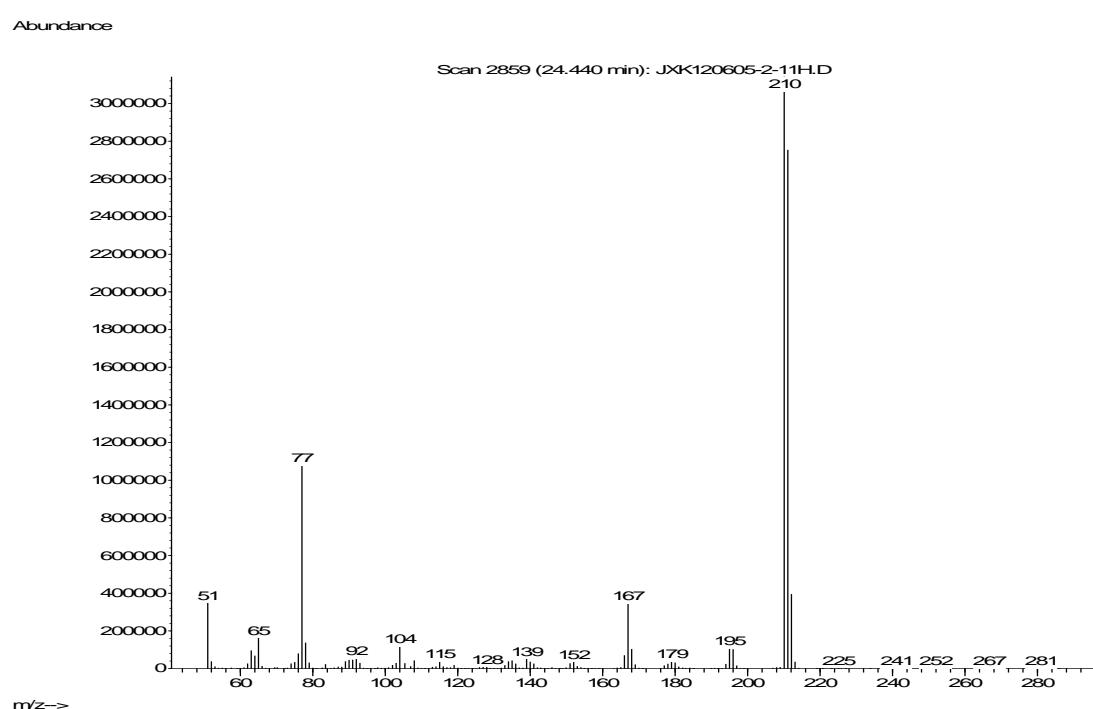
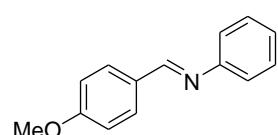
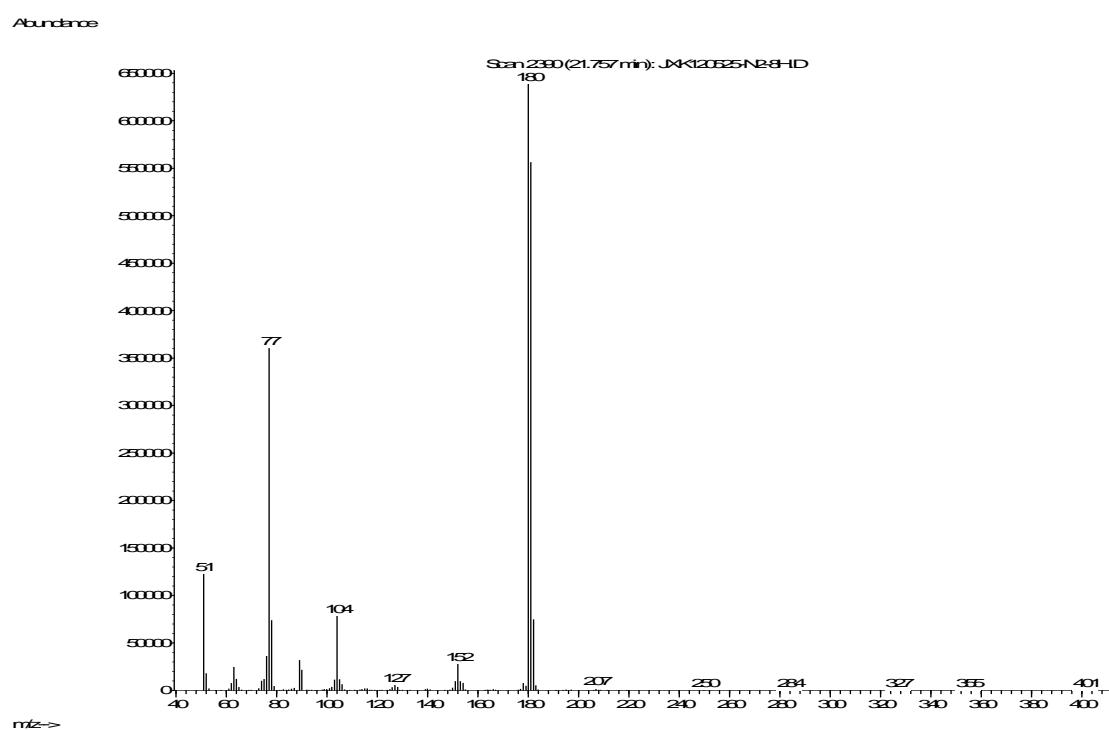
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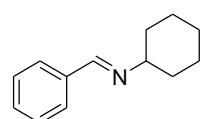
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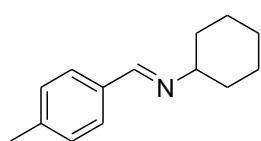
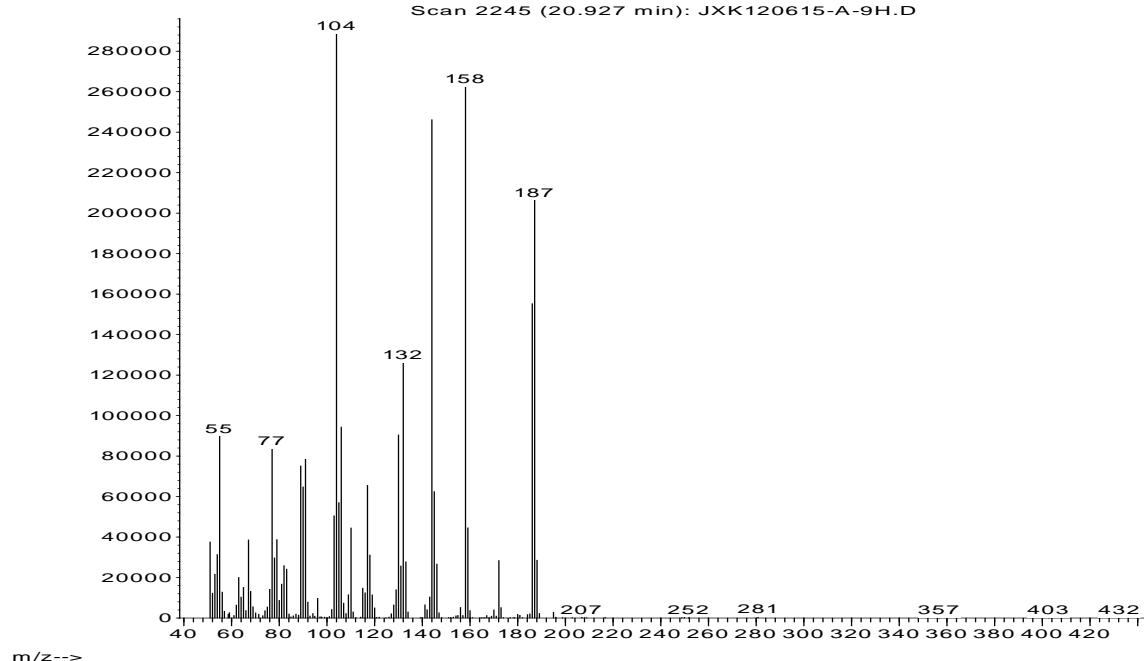


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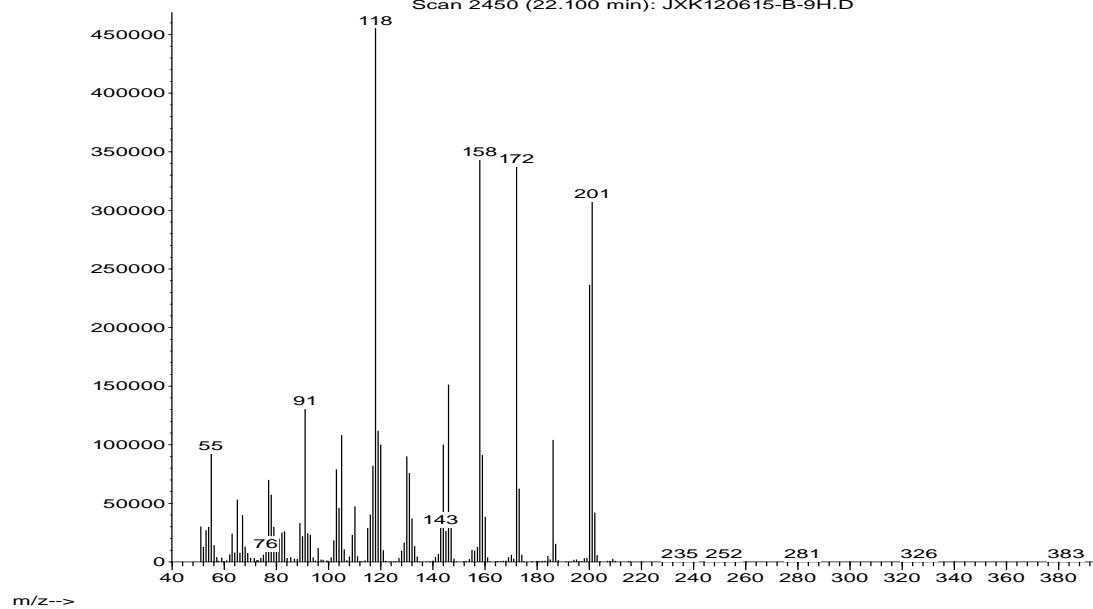
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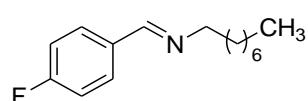


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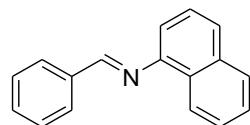
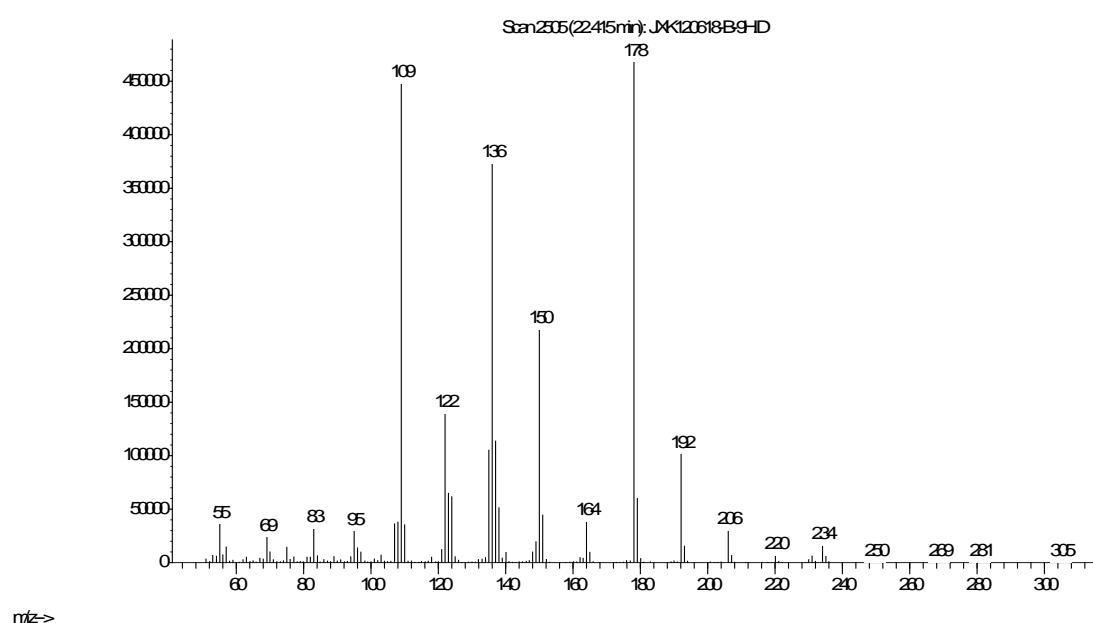
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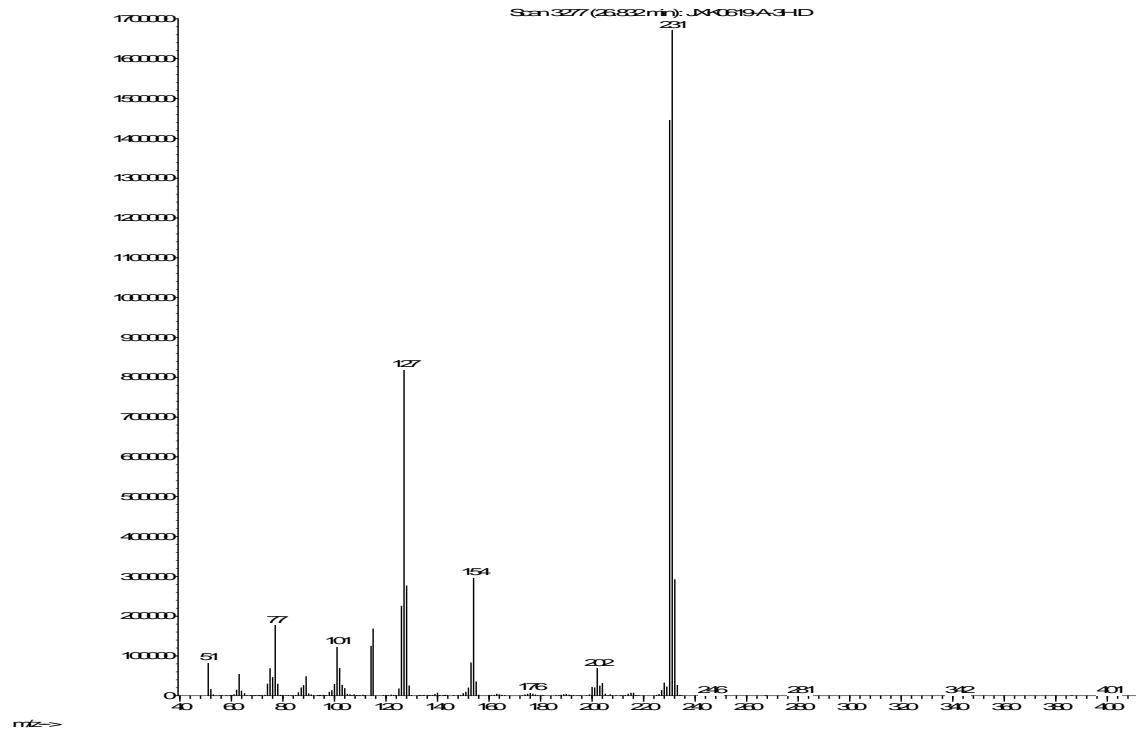
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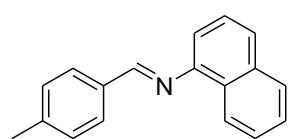
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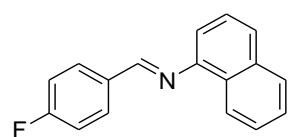
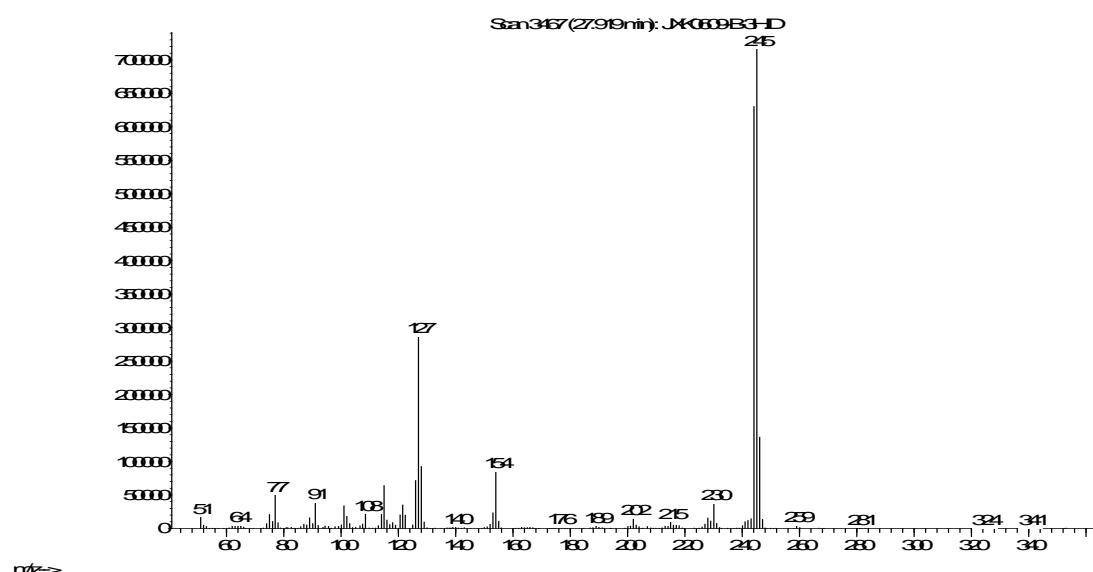
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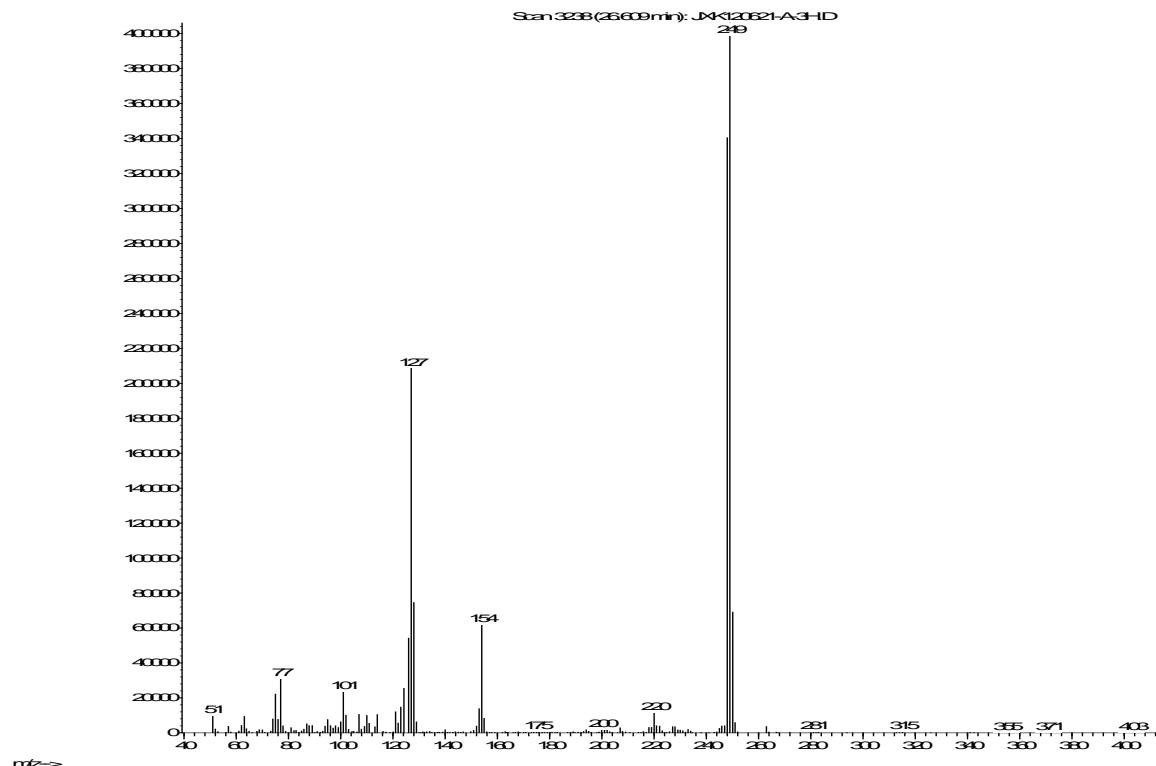
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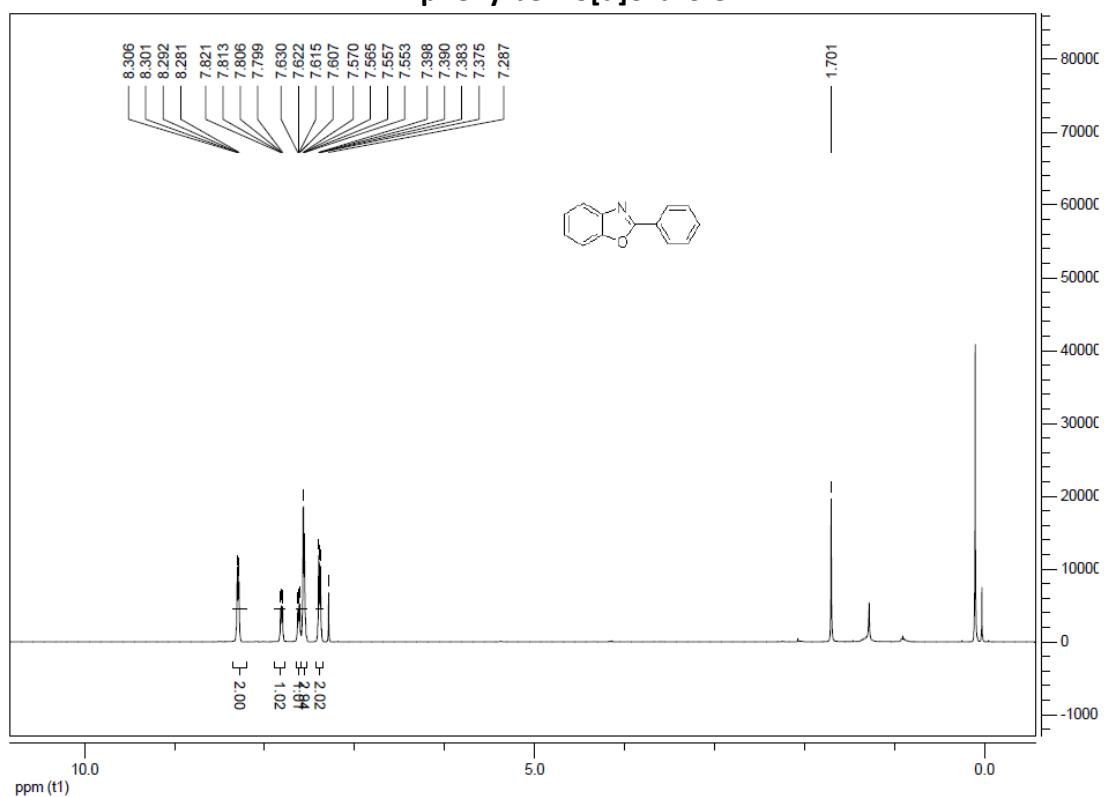
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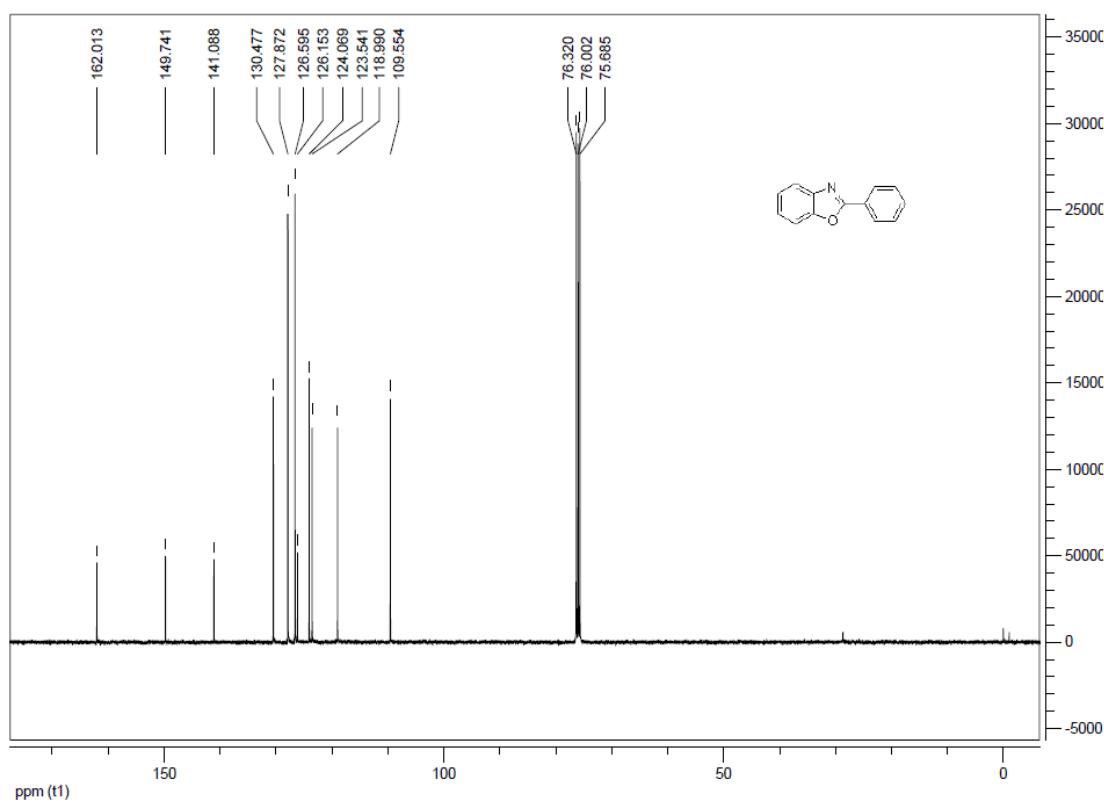
Supporting Information

**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra for Benzazoles Compounds**

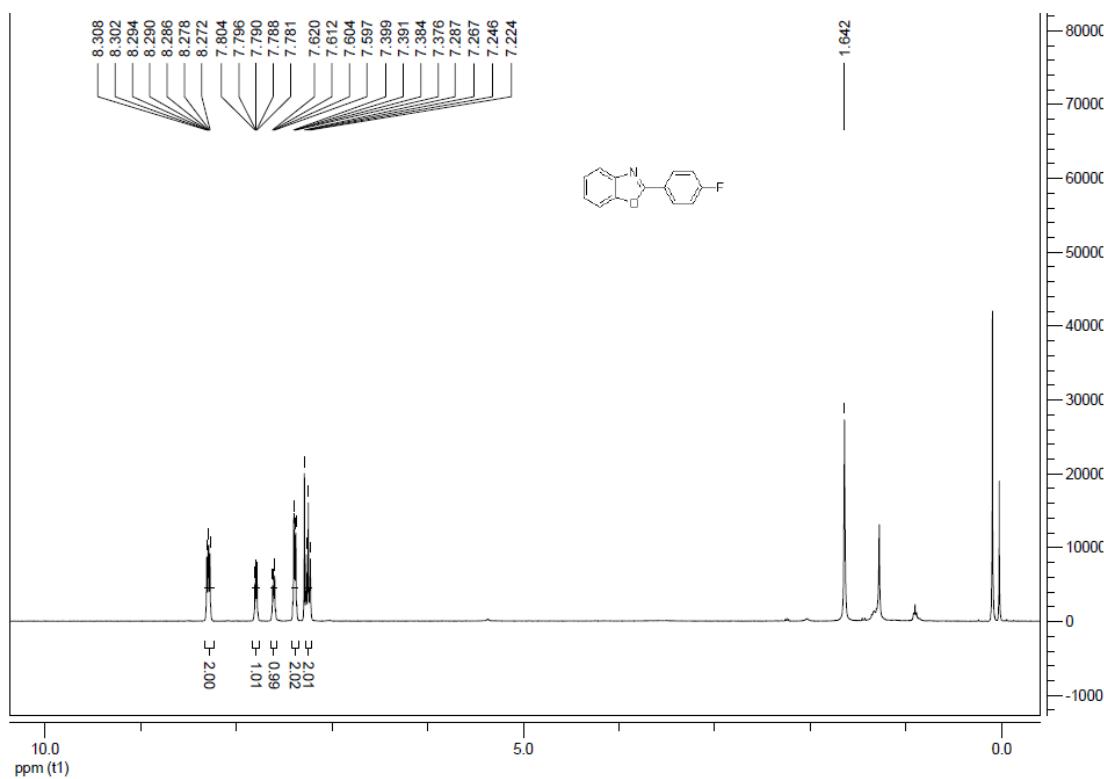
**2-phenylbenzo[d]oxazole**



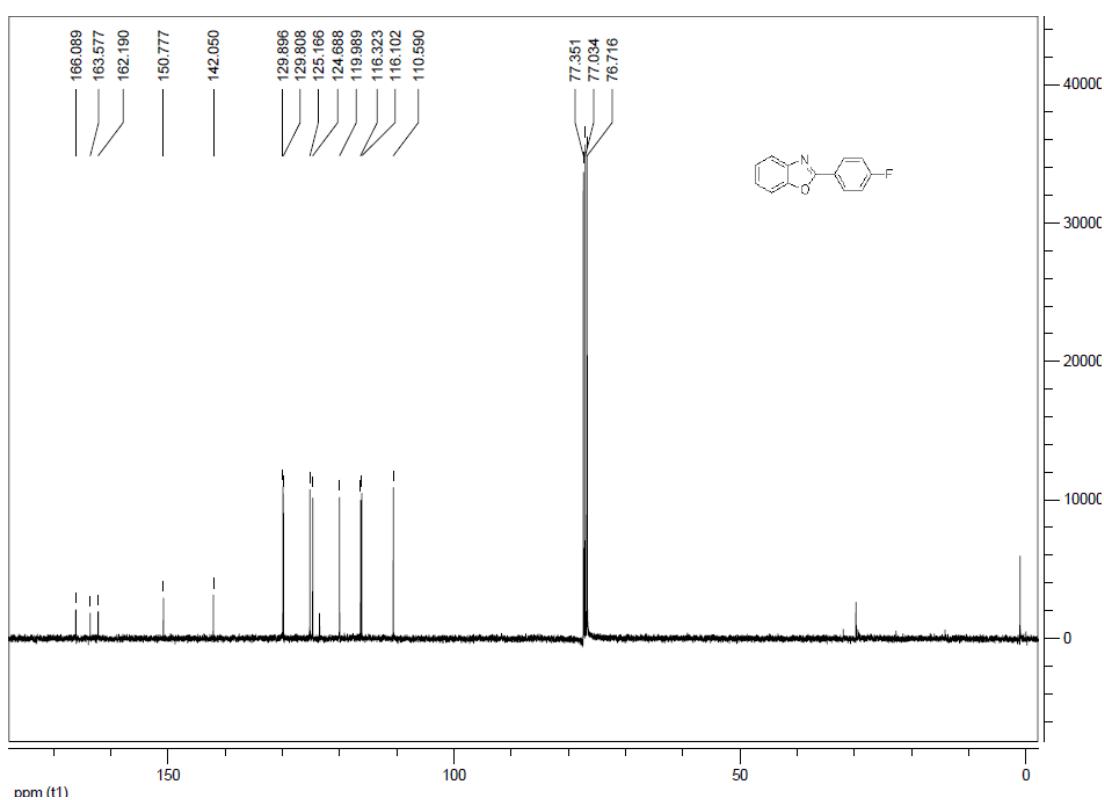
## *Supporting Information*



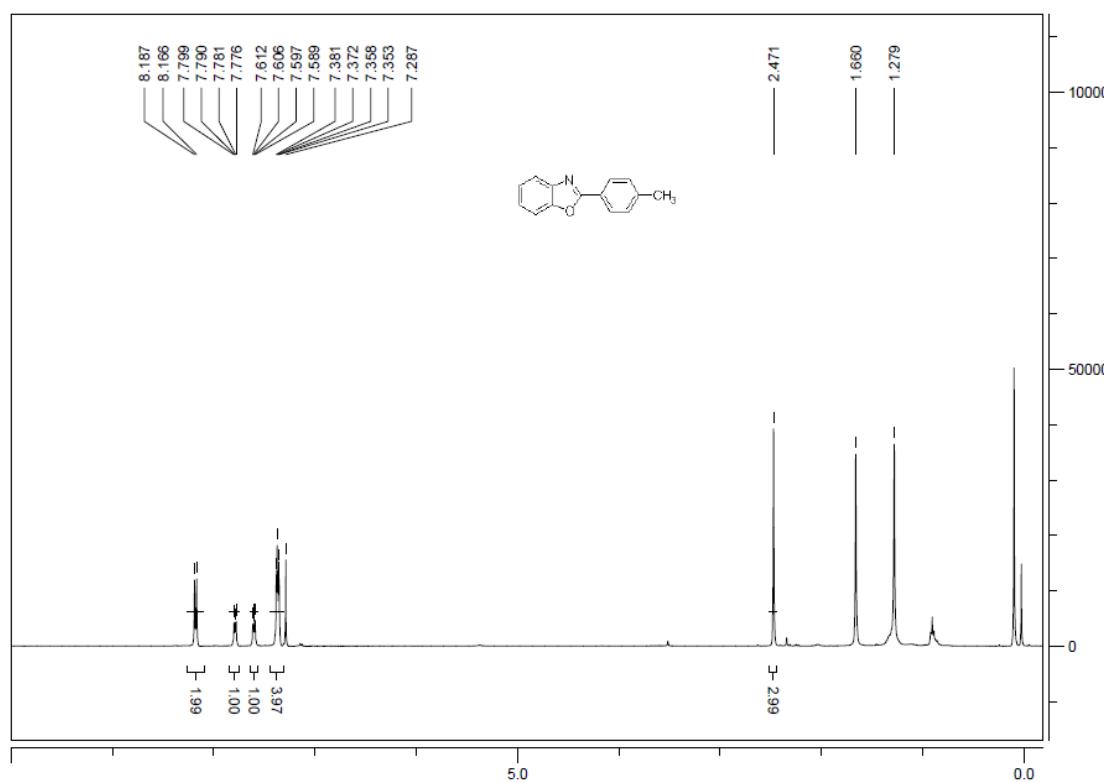
### 2-(4-fluorophenyl)benzo[d]oxazole



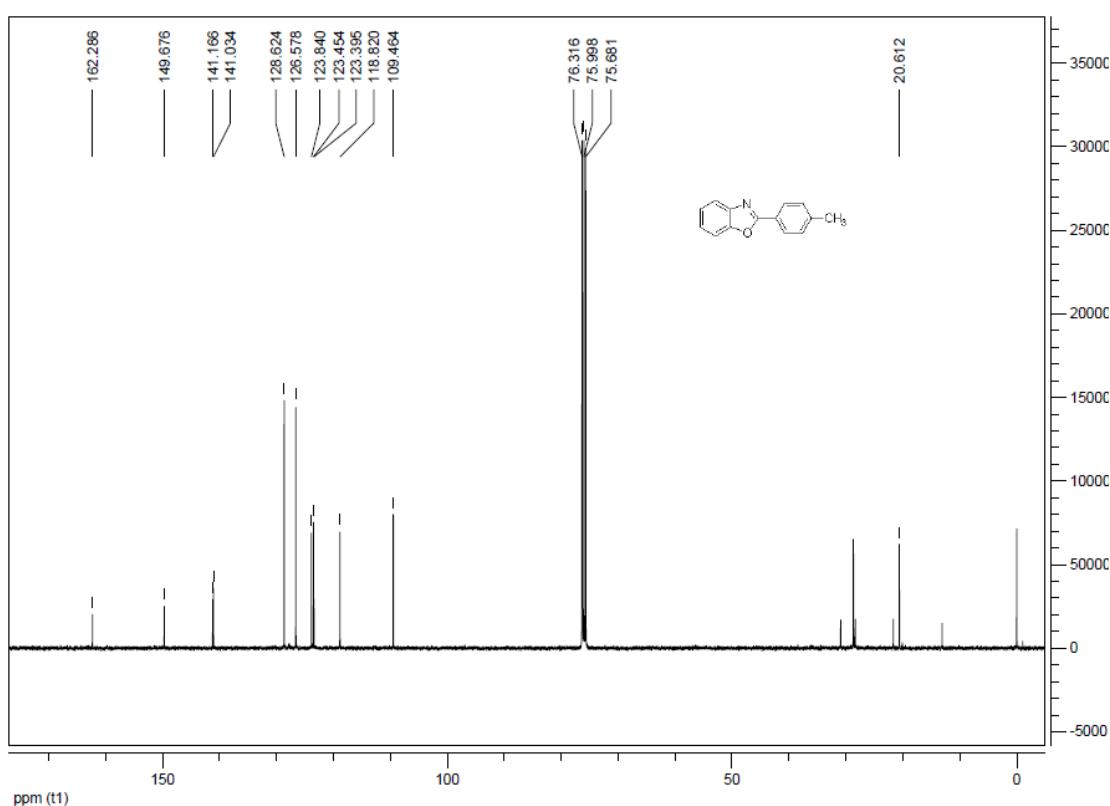
Supporting Information



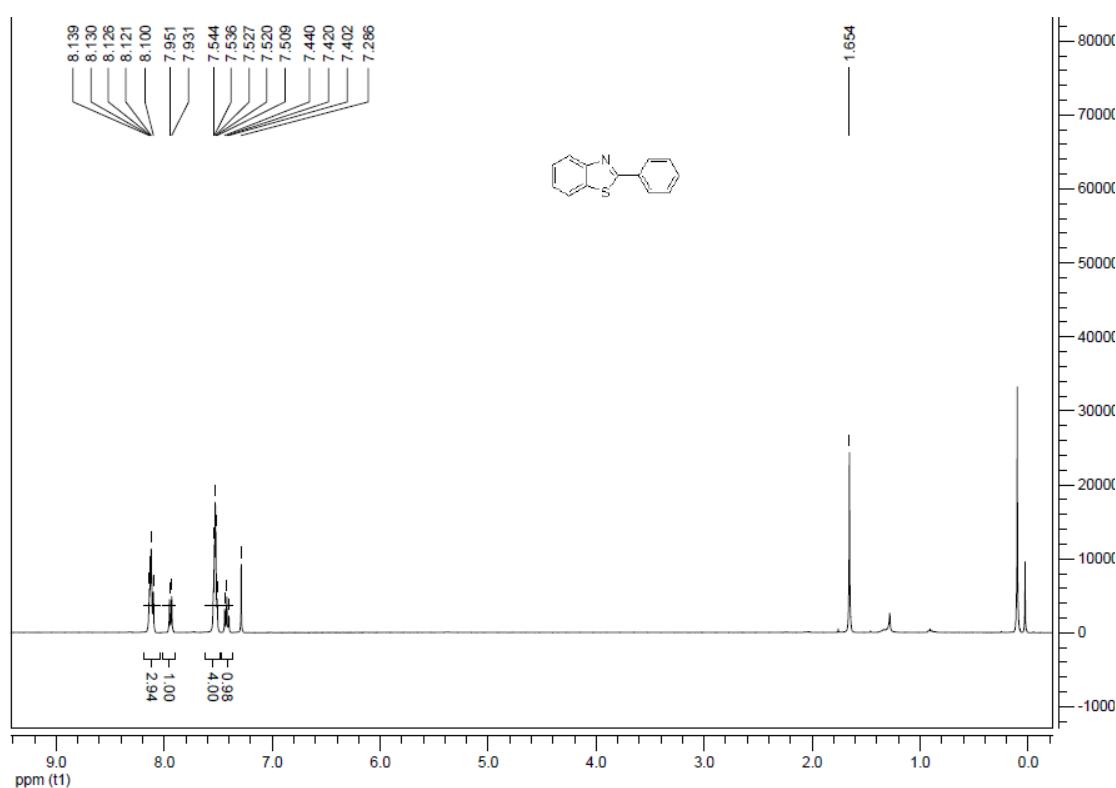
**2-p-tolylbenzo[d]oxazole**



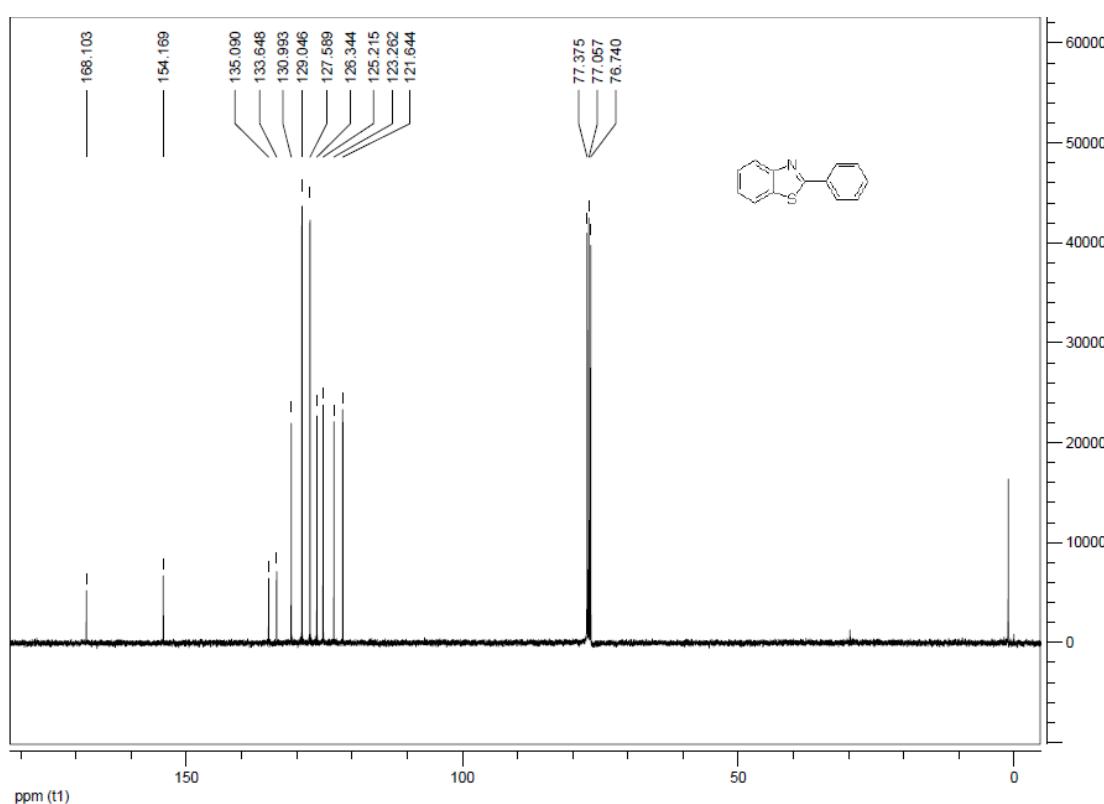
Supporting Information



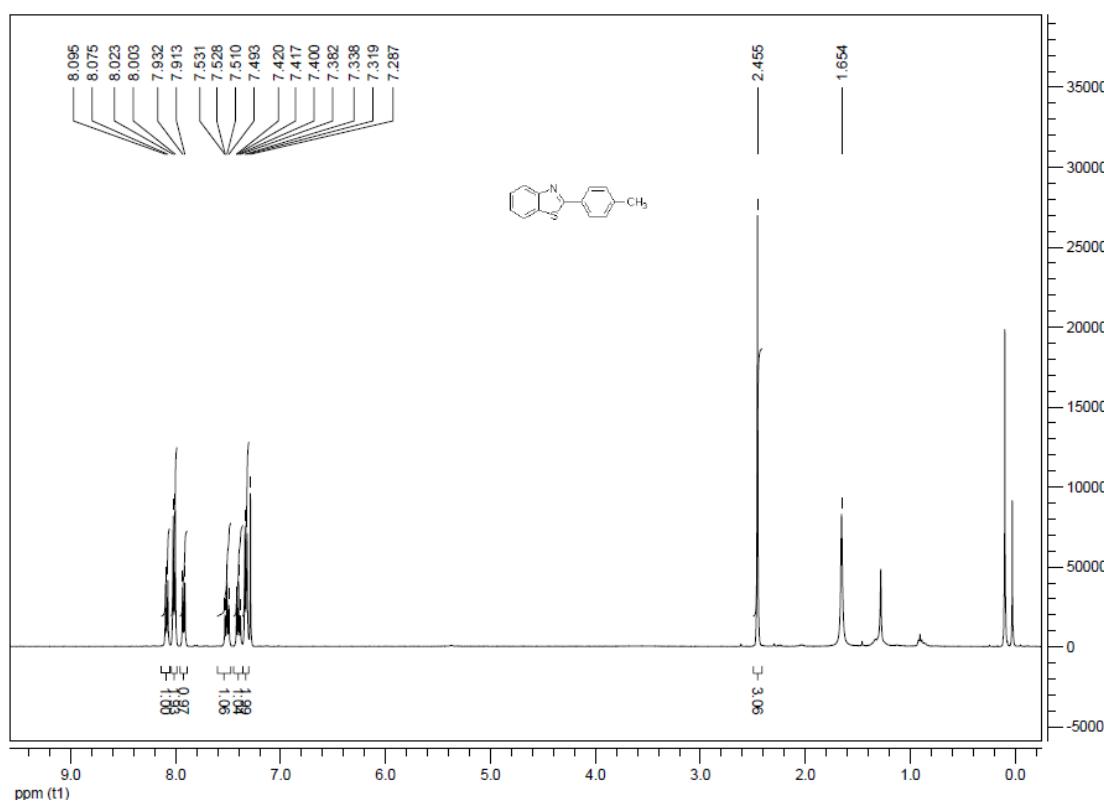
**2-phenylbenzo[d]thiazole**



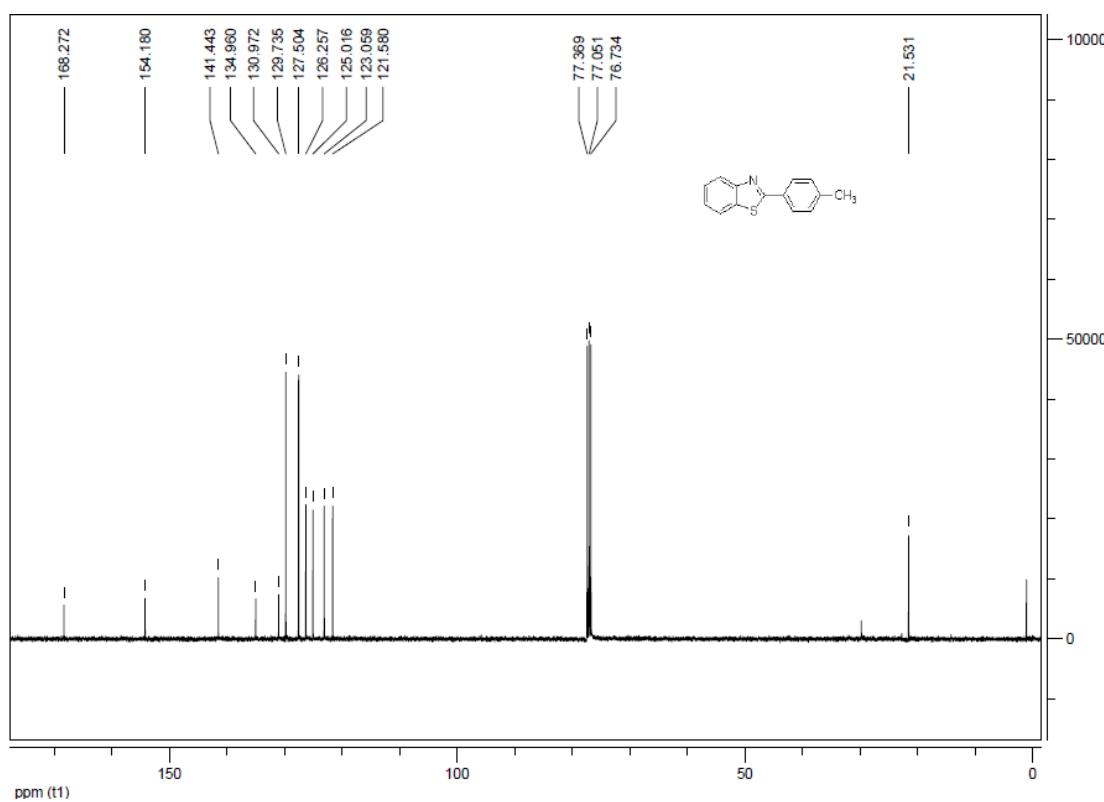
Supporting Information



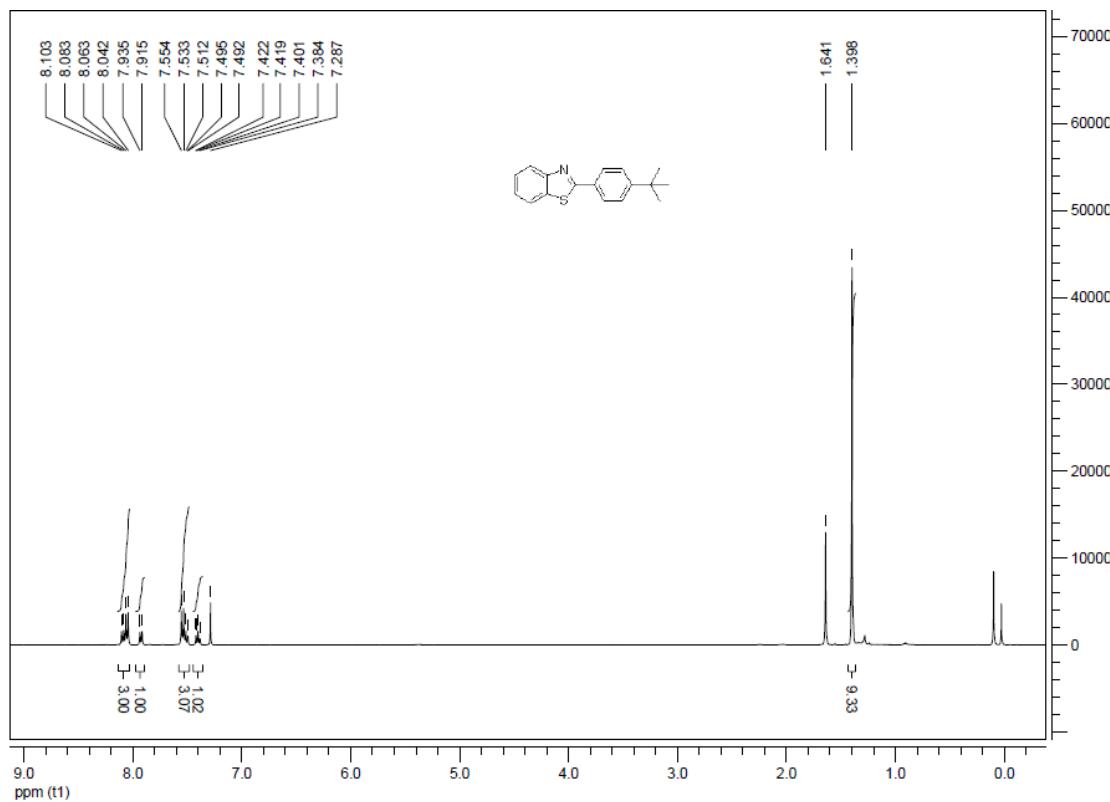
**2-p-tolylbenzo[d]thiazole**



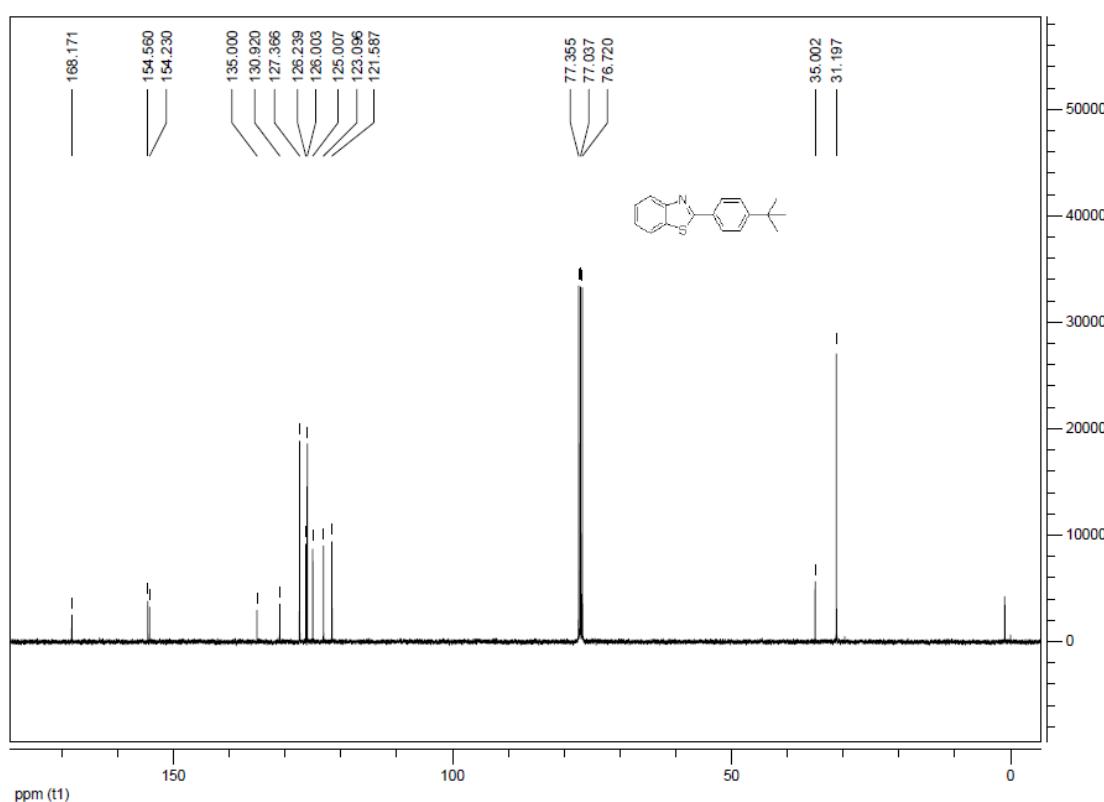
## *Supporting Information*



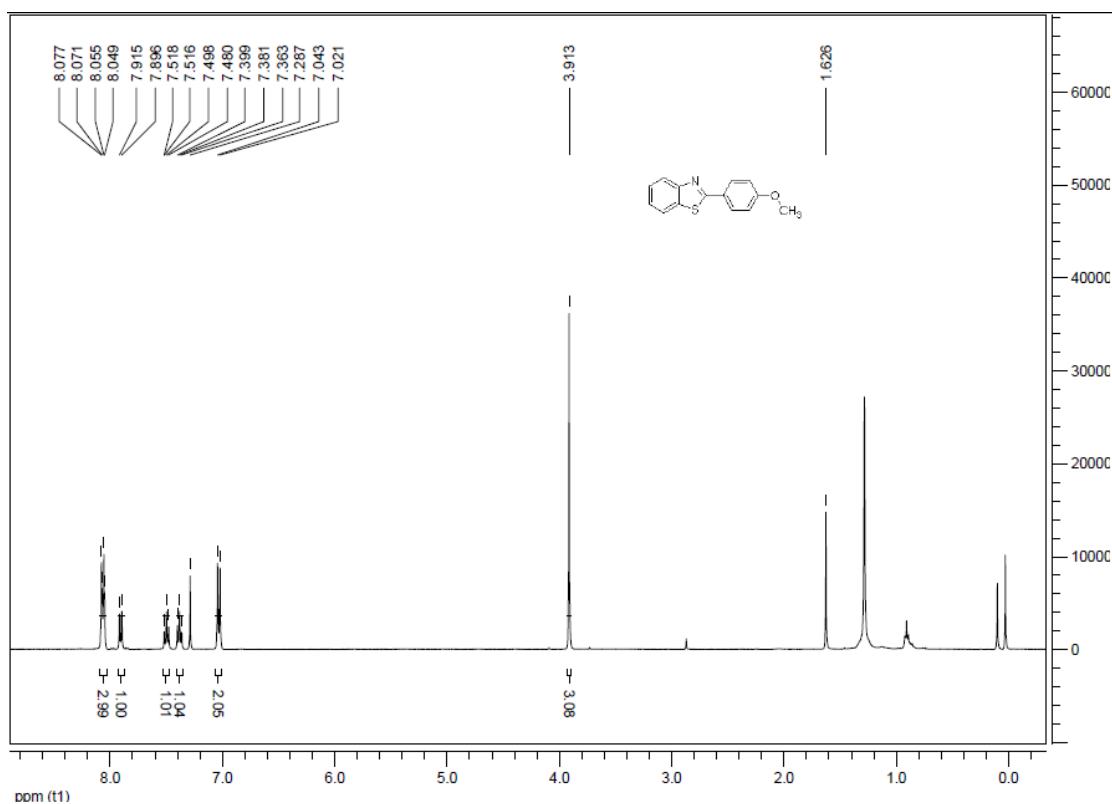
## 2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole



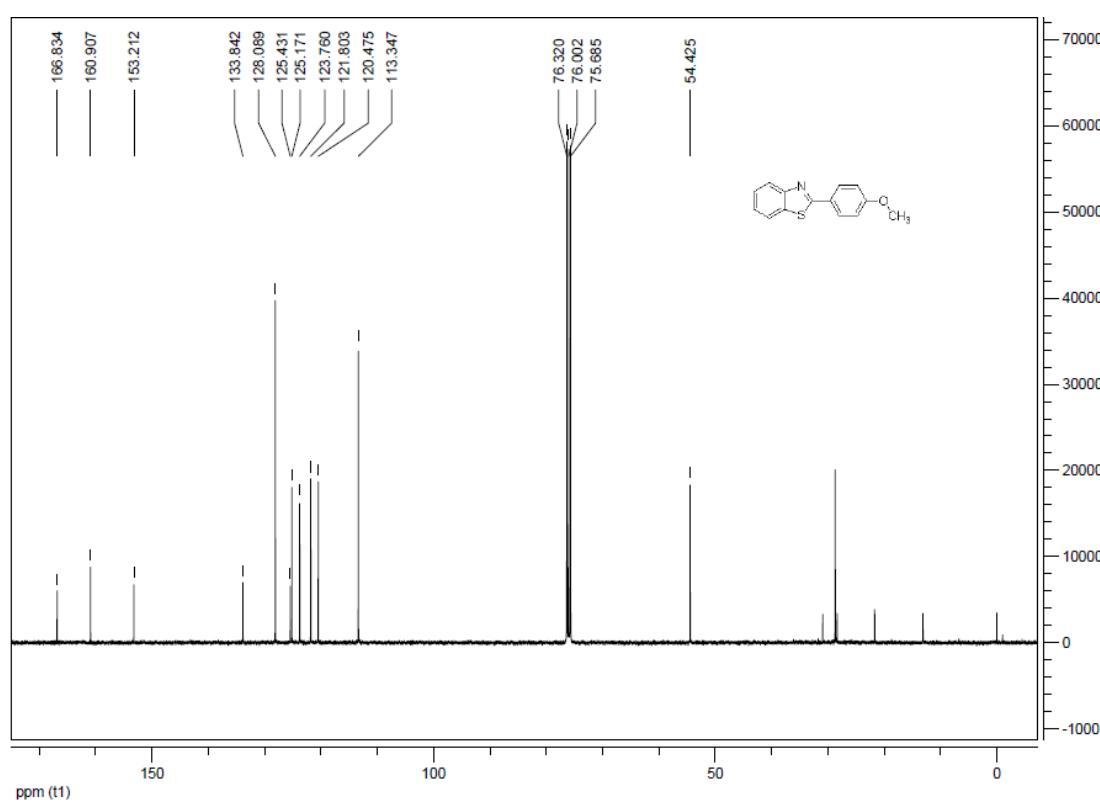
Supporting Information



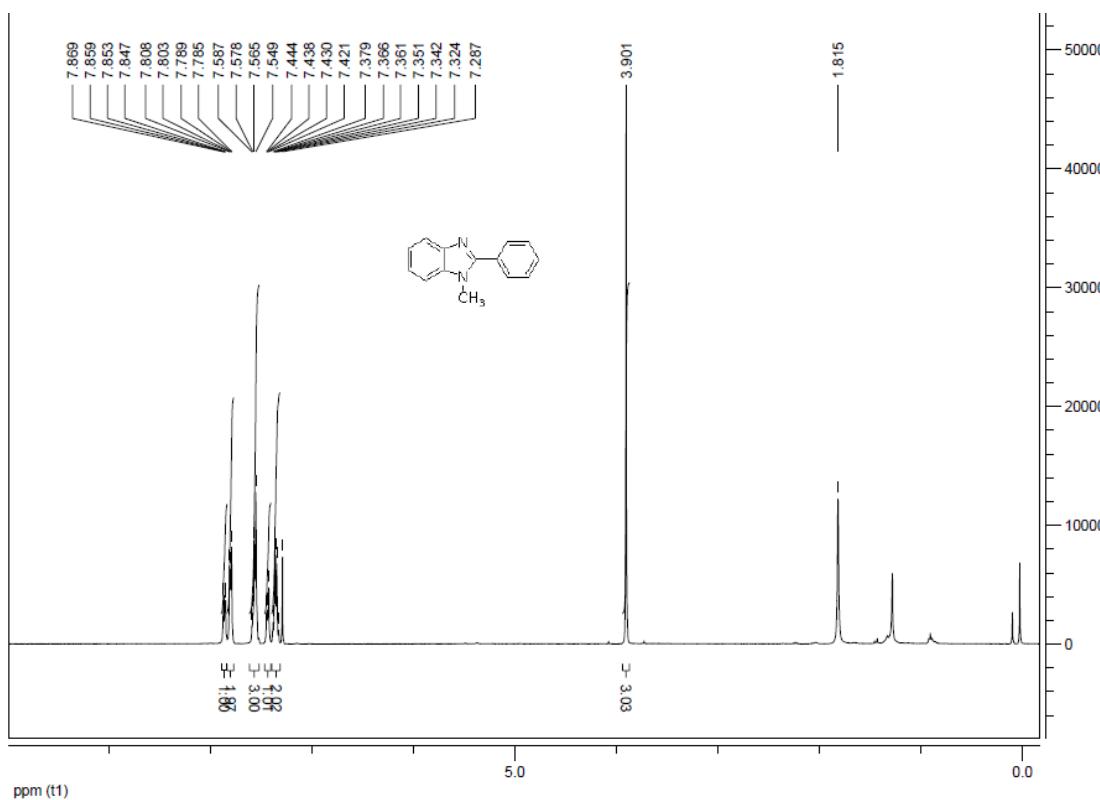
**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[d]thiazole**



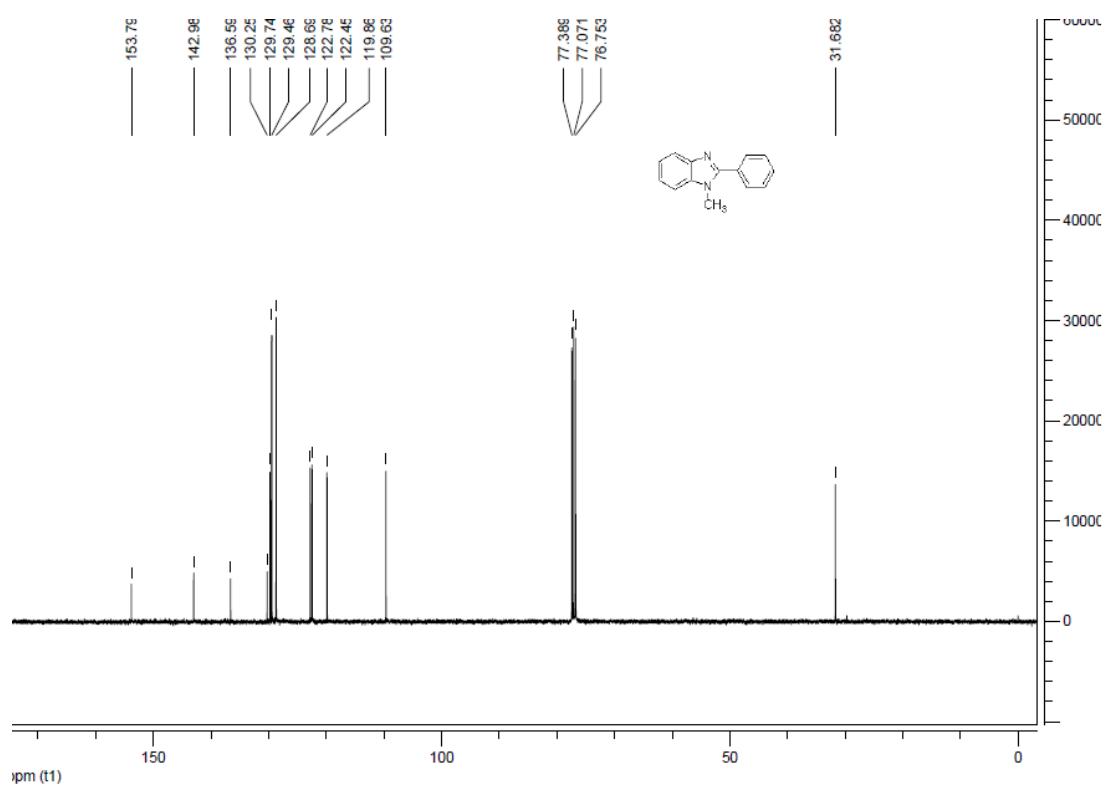
Supporting Information



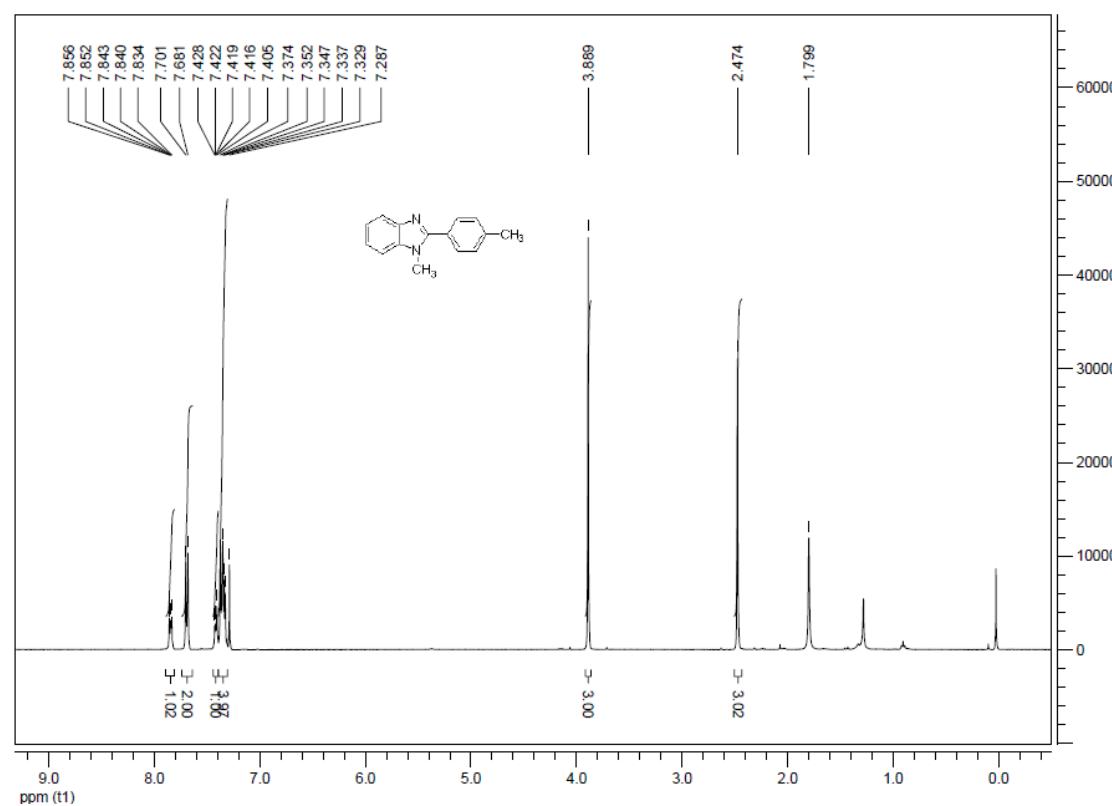
**1-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole**



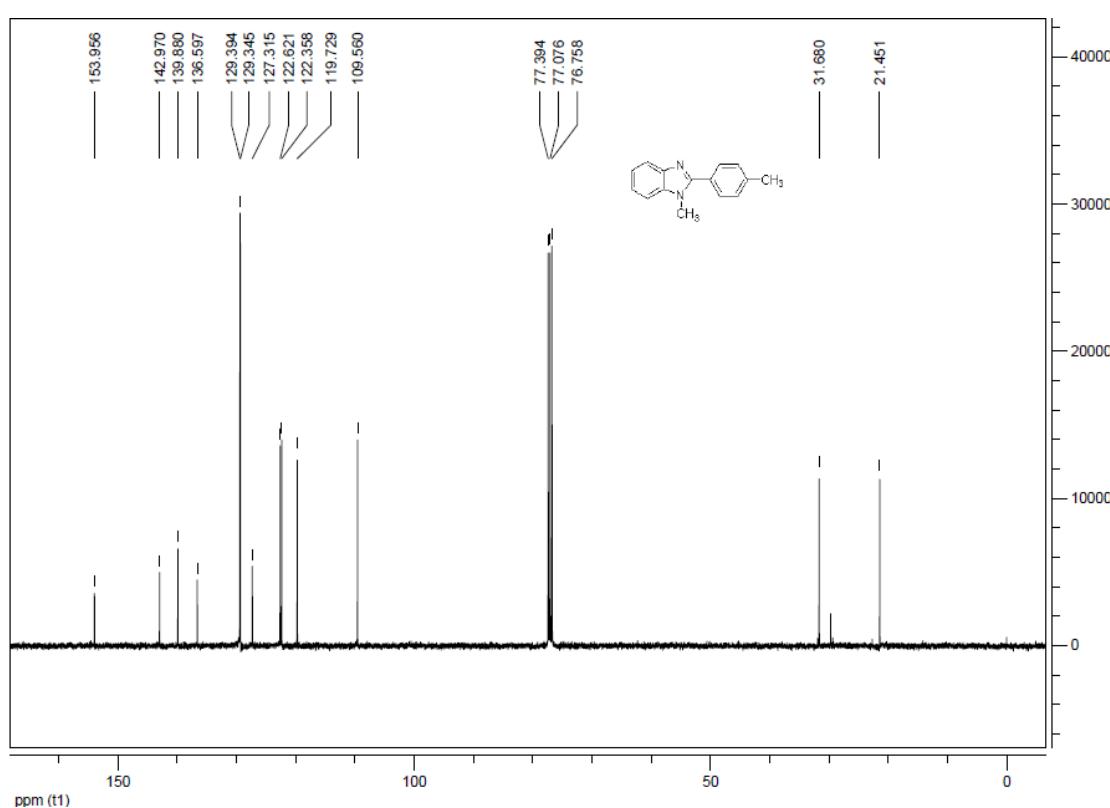
Supporting Information



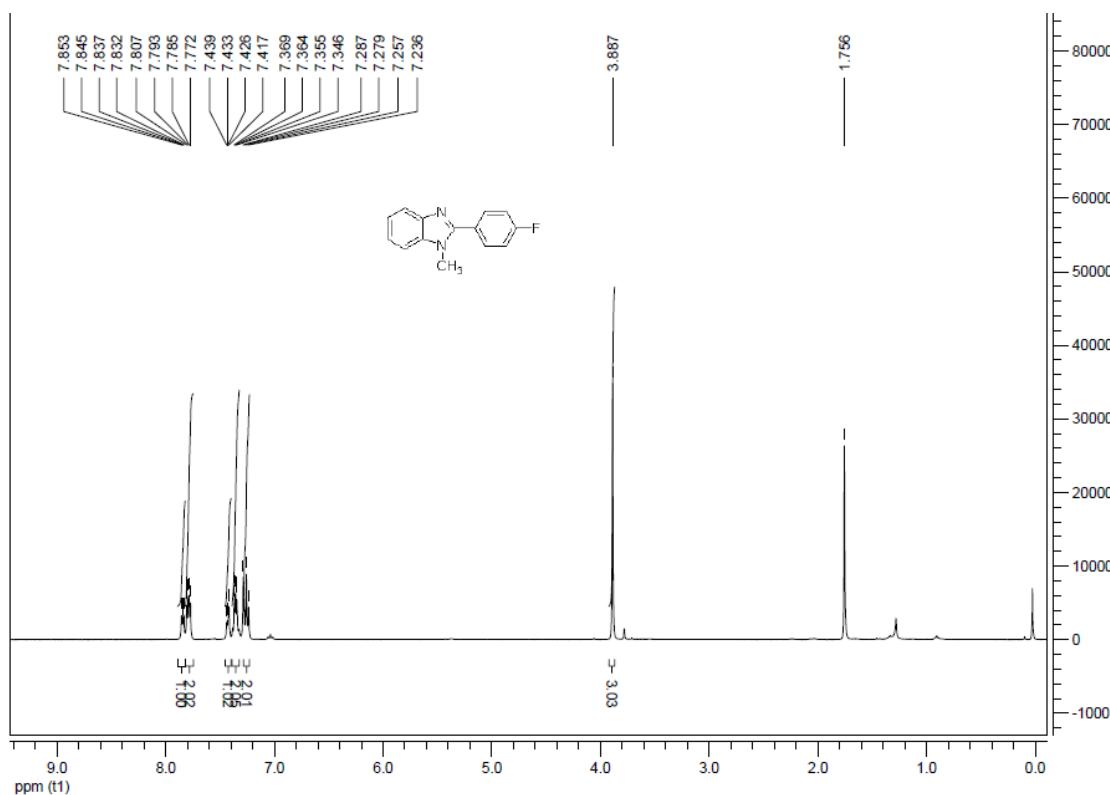
N-methyl-2-p-tolyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole



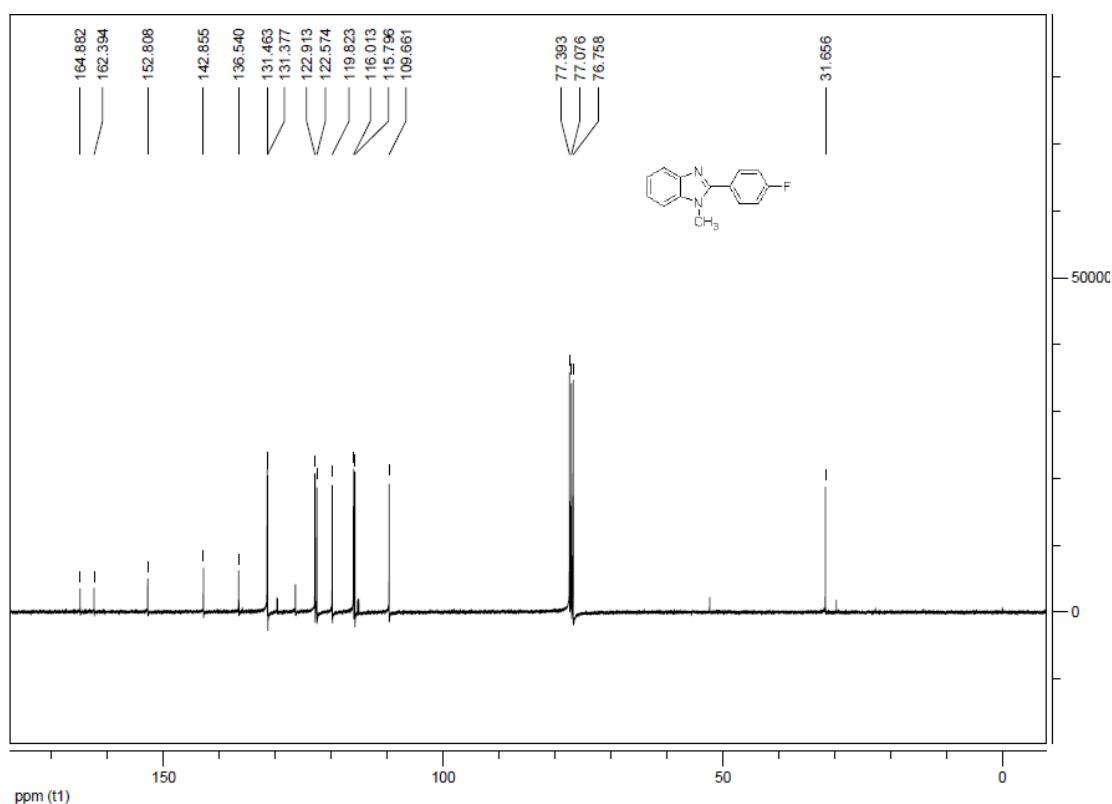
Supporting Information



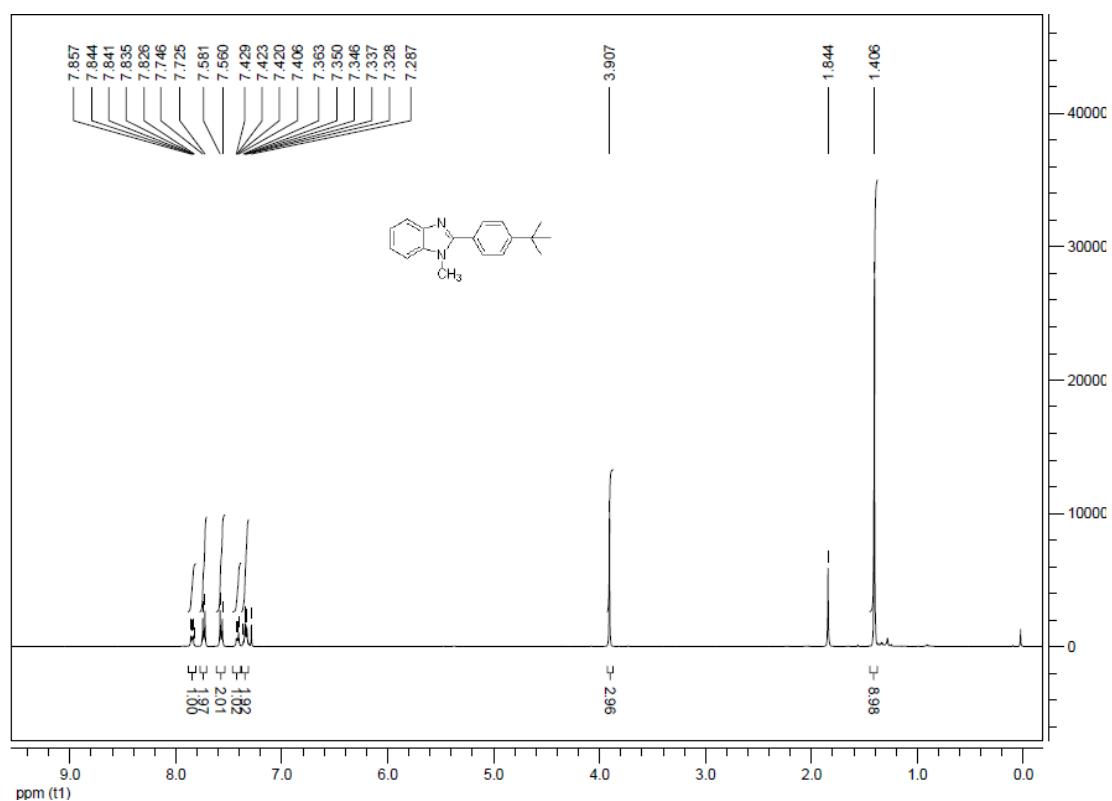
**2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole**



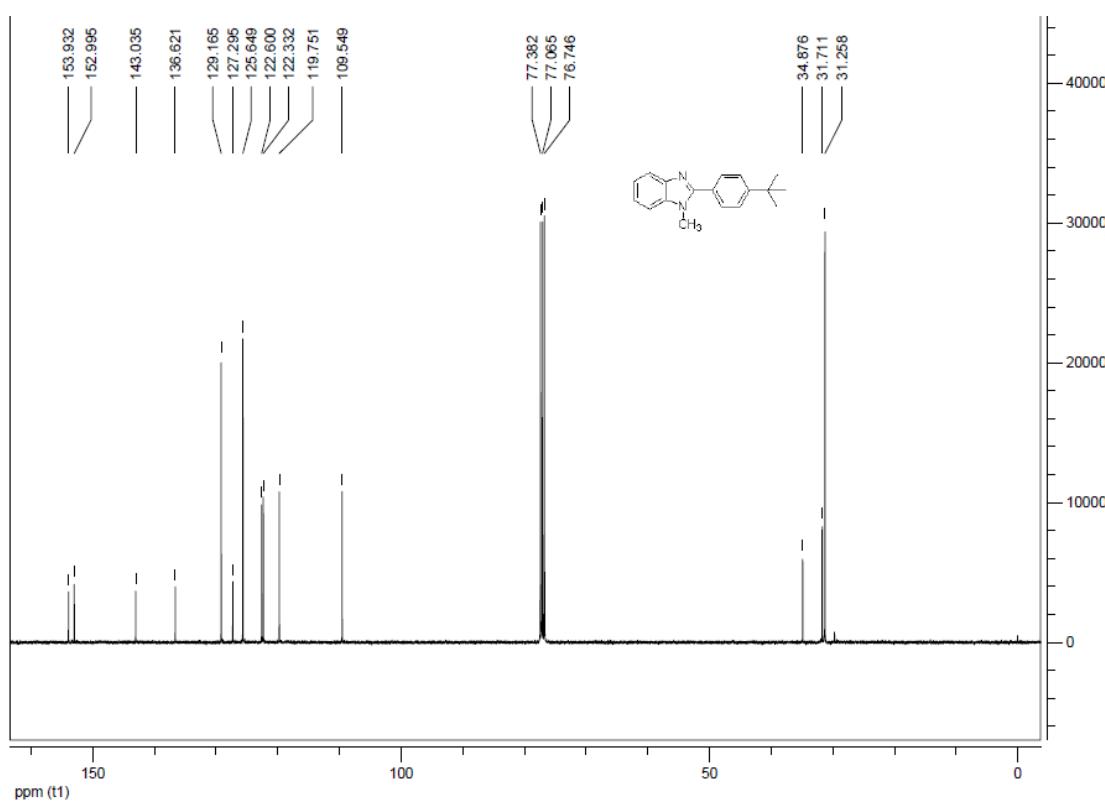
## *Supporting Information*



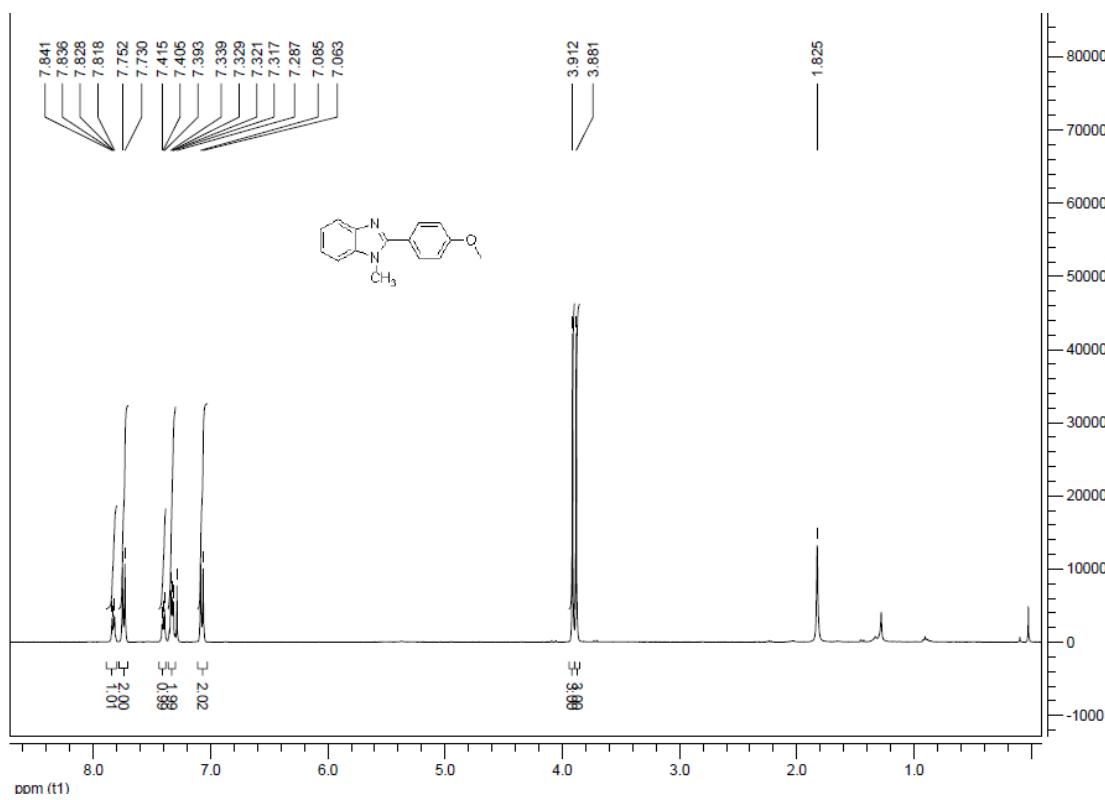
### 2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole



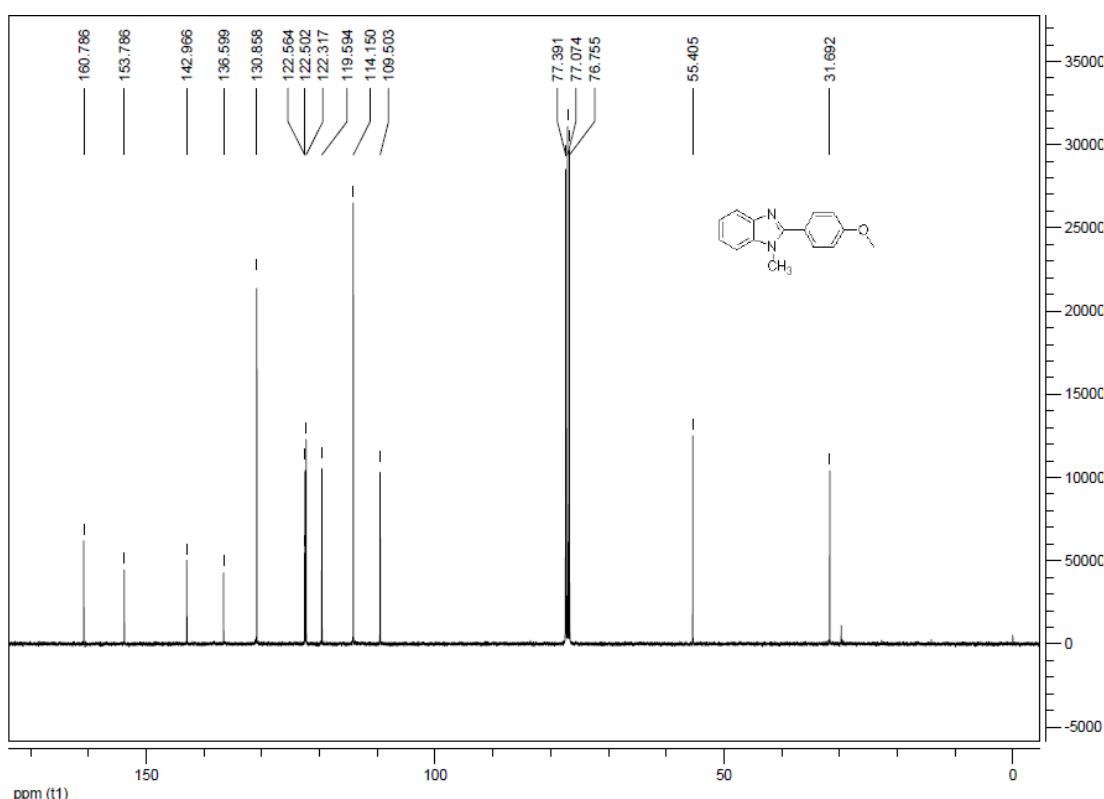
Supporting Information



**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole**

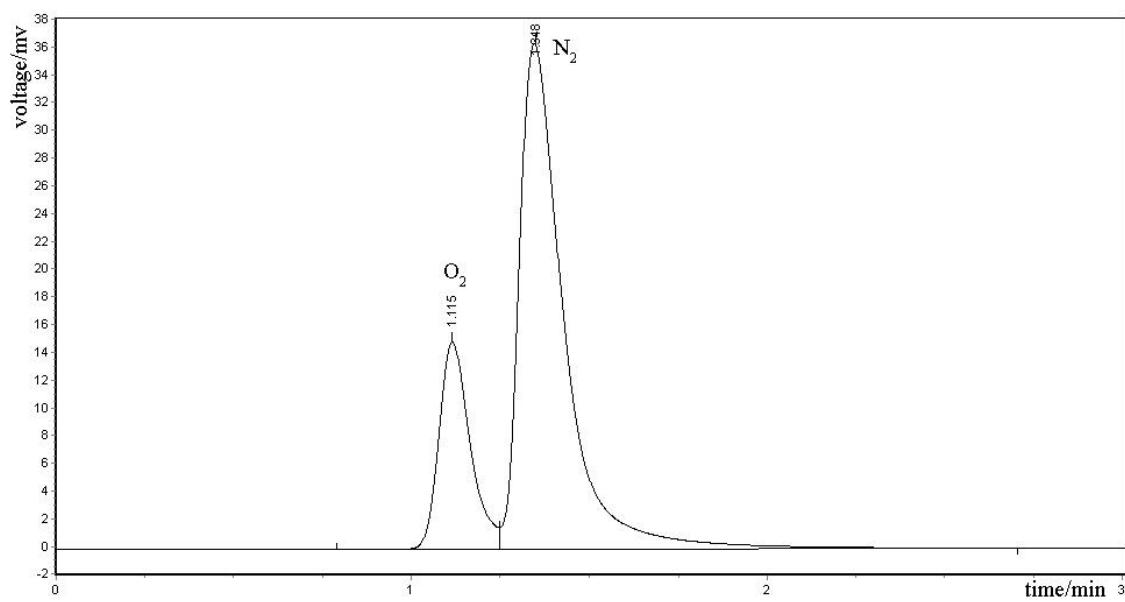


Supporting Information



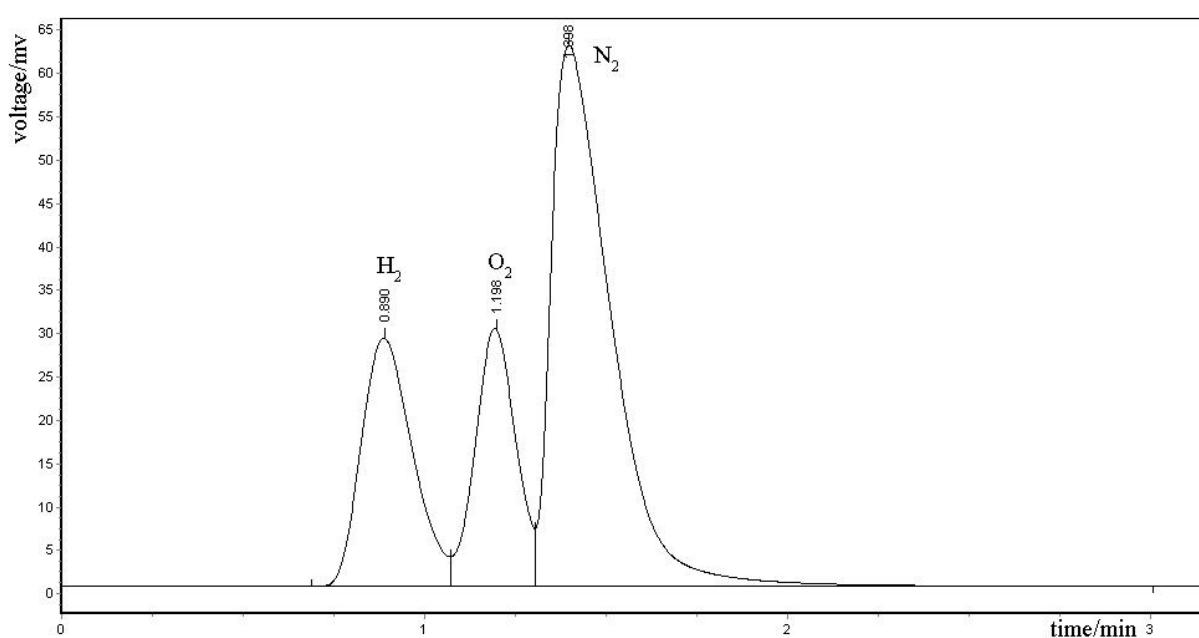
**GC H<sub>2</sub> detection for the dehydrogenation of benzylamine.**

GC for air.



Supporting Information

GC for the mixture of hydrogen gas and air.



GC for the gas from reaction system (some air infiltrated into the gas sample during sampling).

