

Cerium(III)-Catalyzed Cascade Cyclization: An Efficient Approach to Functionalized pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolines

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1. General Information

Commercial reagents were used as received, unless otherwise stated. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Broker Avance 400, and tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as a reference. Data for ^1H are reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm), and multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). Data for ^{13}C NMR are reported as ppm. High resolution electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra (MS, m/z) were recorded on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL instrument.

2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline derivatives **3**.

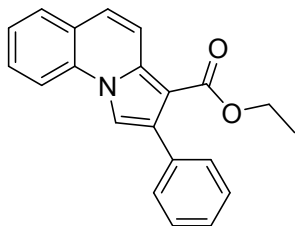
2.1 A tube was charged with **1** (0.25 mmol), **2** (0.20 mmol), $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.02 mmol). Then 2 mL of ethanol was added to the reaction system. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC until the **2** was completely consumed (about 24h). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified through column chromatography using silica gel to give **3**.

2.2 Typical Procedure for the Synthesis of pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline derivatives (**3r**, **3s**, **3t**) under Ultrasound.

2-Alkylazaarenes **1** (0.25 mmol), nitroolefins **2** (0.2 mmol), and $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.02 mmol) were placed in a 10 mL glass flask with 2mL of ethanol. After the mixture was sonicated at 40°C in running water bath for 3.0 h (The ultrasonic power is 100 W), the solvent was removed under reduced pressure; the mixture was then purified by column chromatography over silica gel to afford target molecules.

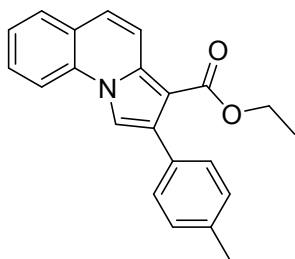
3. Characterization Data for the Products

ethyl 2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3a).



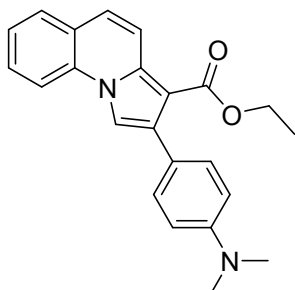
White solid (88% yield). m.p. 129-130 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.22 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (m, 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J=7.88$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, $J=7.40$ Hz, 3H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 4.29 (q, $J=7.10$ Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 59.6, 105.2, 112.4, 114.5, 118.9, 123.6, 123.9, 124.6, 127.0, 127.6, 128.7, 128.9, 129.9, 131.3, 132.3, 134.9, 135.1, 165.1; **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{H}]^+$) : 316.1336 found: 316.1338.

ethyl 2-p-tolylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3b).



White solid (86% yield). m.p. 146-147 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd, $J_1=7.88$ Hz, $J_2=1.08$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, $J=7.84$ Hz, 2H), 4.29 (d, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, $J=7.14$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.3, 21.2, 59.5, 105.2, 112.2, 114.5, 119.0, 123.4, 123.9, 124.5, 128.3, 128.7, 128.9, 129.7, 131.4, 132.1, 132.3, 134.8, 136.6, 165.0; **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{H}]^+$) : 330.1494 found: 330.1495.

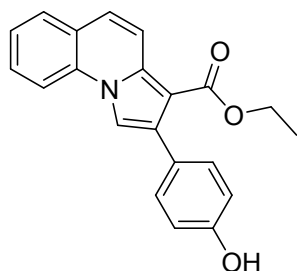
ethyl 2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3c).



White solid (82% yield). m.p. 183-184 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J=8.36$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J=8.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J=7.76$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J=8.36$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, $J=7.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 4.31 (q, $J=7.02$ Hz, 2H), 3.00 (s, 6H), 1.31 (t, $J=7.04$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.4, 40.8, 59.5,

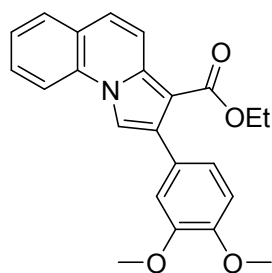
105.1, 111.9, 112.1, 114.5, 119.0, 123.1, 123.9, 124.4, 128.6, 128.8, 130.6, 131.6, 132.3, 134.8, 165.2; **HRMS** calcd for $C_{23}H_{23}N_2O_2$ ($[M+H]^+$) : 359.1760 found: 359.1761.

ethyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3d).



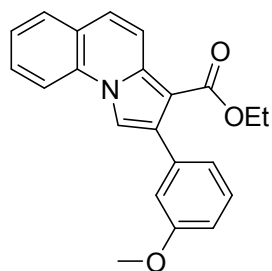
White solid (90% yield). m.p. 151-153 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.18 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J=8.56$ Hz, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.33 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 14.3, 59.8, 105.0, 112.3, 114.5, 114.8, 118.9, 123.6, 123.9, 124.5, 127.1, 128.7, 128.8, 131.0, 131.3, 132.3, 134.8, 155.2, 165.5; **HRMS** calcd for $C_{21}H_{18}NO_3$ ($[M+H]^+$) : 332.1287 found: 332.1290.

ethyl 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3e).



White solid (98% yield). m.p. 192-193 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.20 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.74 (dd, $J=7.86$ Hz, $J=1.06$ Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J=8.32$ Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 14.3, 55.9, 55.9, 59.5, 105.2, 110.6, 112.2, 113.6, 114.5, 118.9, 122.1, 123.5, 123.9, 124.6, 127.8, 128.7, 128.9, 131.1, 132.3, 134.8, 148.1, 148.3, 165.0; **HRMS** calcd for $C_{23}H_{22}NO_4$ ($[M+H]^+$) : 376.1543 found: 376.1541.

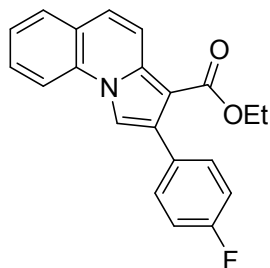
ethyl 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3f).



White solid (92% yield). m.p. 132-133 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.22 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J=7.84$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.41 (m,

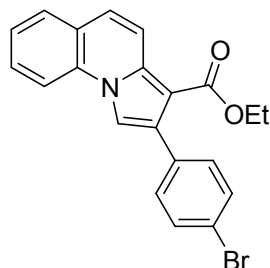
1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 4.29 (q, $J=7.11$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.25 (t, $J=7.11$ Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ Peak 14.2, 55.2, 59.5, 105.3, 112.4, 112.5, 114.5, 115.6, 118.9, 122.5, 123.6, 123.9, 124.6, 128.5, 128.7, 128.9, 131.1, 132.3, 134.9, 136.5, 158.9, 165.0; **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$) : 346.1437 found: 346.1435.

ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3g).



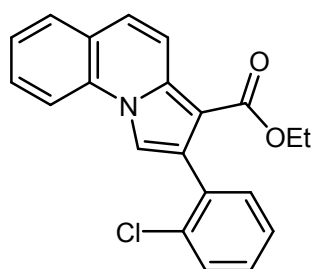
White solid (93% yield). m.p. 161-162 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J=8.36$ Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.60 (t, $J=7.78$ Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 4.27 (q, $J=7.13$ Hz, 2H), 1.23 (d, $J=7.13$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ Peak 14.2, 59.6, 105.2, 112.3, 114.3, 114.5, 114.5, 118.9, 123.7, 123.9, 124.7, 128.8, 128.9, 130.3, 131.1, 131.1, 131.4, 131.5, 132.3, 134.9, 161.0, 163.4, 164.9; **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2\text{NF}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$) : 334.1237 found: 334.1239.

ethyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3h).



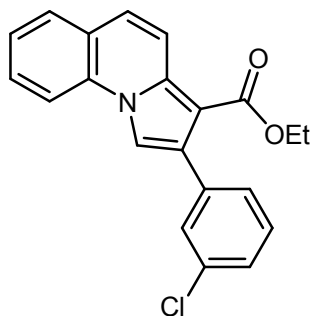
White solid (96% yield). m.p. 162-163 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.743-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 4H), 4.28 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ Peak 14.2, 59.6, 76.7, 77.0, 77.2, 77.3, 105.0, 112.3, 114.5, 118.8, 121.2, 123.8, 123.9, 124.7, 128.8, 128.9, 130.1, 130.7, 131.5, 132.2, 134.1, 135.0, 164.8; **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{NBrNa}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) : 416.0256 found: 416.0254.

ethyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3i).



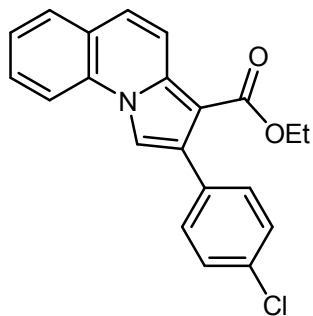
White solid (83% yield). m.p. 181-182 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J*=8.36 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J*=9.12 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 4.19 (q, *J*=7.12 Hz, 2H), 1.10 (d, *J*=7.12 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 59.4, 106.6, 112.4, 114.5, 118.8, 123.7, 124.0, 124.6, 125.9, 127.8, 128.5, 128.7, 128.9, 131.7, 132.4, 134.3, 134.6, 134.9, 164.7; C₂₁H₁₆O₂NCINa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 372.0761 found: 372.0759.

ethyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3j).



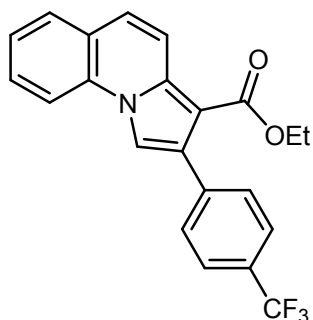
White solid (85% yield). m.p. 160-161 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, *J*=9.52 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J*=8.40 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J*₁=7.86 Hz, *J*₂=1.10 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J*=9.52 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 2H), 4.28 (q, *J*=7.13 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J*=7.13 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 59.6, 105.0, 112.4, 114.5, 118.8, 123.9, 123.9, 124.8, 127.0, 128.1, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.7, 130.0, 132.2, 133.3, 135.1, 137.0, 164.8; C₂₁H₁₆O₂NCINa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 372.0761 found: 372.0758.

ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3k).



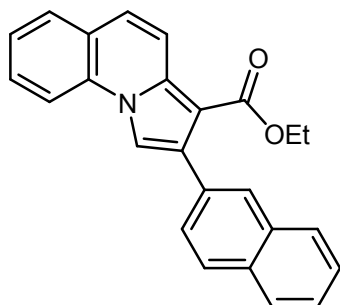
White solid (91% yield). m.p. 171-172 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J*=8.40 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 6H), 4.28 (q, *J*=7.13 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J*=7.13 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 59.6, 105.1, 112.3, 114.5, 118.9, 123.8, 123.9, 124.7, 127.7, 128.8, 128.9, 130.1, 131.2, 132.2, 133.0, 133.6, 134.9, 164.8; C₂₁H₁₆O₂NCINa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 372.0761 found: 372.0757.

ethyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3l).



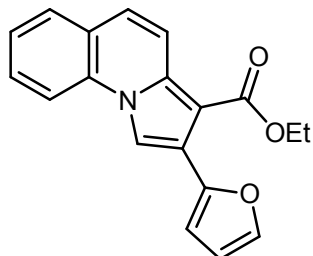
White solid (80% yield). m.p. 152-153 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, *J*=9.52 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J*=8.40 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.66 (s, 4H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J*=7.12 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, *J*=7.12 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 59.7, 105.1, 112.5, 114.5, 118.8, 124.0, 124.1, 124.4, 124.5, 124.5, 124.9, 128.9, 128.9, 129.0, 129.9, 130.2, 132.3, 135.0, 139.0, 164.7; C₂₂H₁₆O₂NF₃Na ([M+ Na]⁺) : 406.1025 found: 406.1020.

ethyl 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3m).



White solid (89% yield). m.p. 146-147 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.94 (m, 1H), 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.88-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J*=8.44 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.38 (m, 4H), 4.28 (q, *J*=7.06 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t, *J*=7.06 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 59.6, 105.3, 112.6, 114.5, 118.9, 123.7, 124.0, 124.6, 125.6, 125.9, 126.7, 127.6, 127.9, 127.9, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 131.2, 132.3, 132.5, 132.8, 133.1, 135.0, 165.0; C₂₅H₁₉O₂NNa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 388.1308 found: 388.1303.

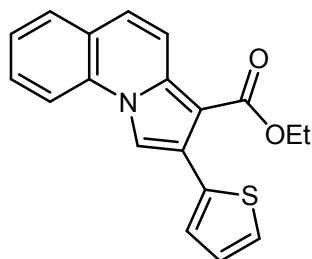
ethyl 2-(furan-2-yl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3n).



White solid (85% yield). m.p. 90-91 °C. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J*=8.44 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J*=9.60 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.52-6.51 (m, 1H), 4.44 (q, *J*=7.13 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, *J*=7.13 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.5, 59.8, 103.5, 110.0, 111.5, 111.7, 114.6, 118.9, 120.5, 123.6, 123.9, 124.7, 128.8, 128.8, 132.1, 134.9, 141.2, 148.7, 164.7;

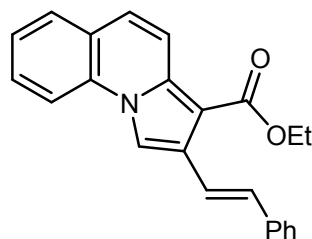
C₁₉H₁₅O₃NNa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 328.0944 found: 328.0940.

ethyl 2-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3o).



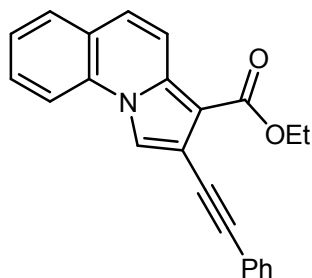
White solid (83% yield). m.p. 142-143 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, *J*=9.56 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d, *J*=7.80 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J*=7.26 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.12-7.09 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, *J*=7.13 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, *J*=7.13 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.3, 59.7, 105.2, 112.9, 114.6, 118.8, 123.5, 123.8, 123.9, 124.8, 125.0, 126.9, 127.5, 128.8, 128.9, 132.1, 135.0, 135.8, 164.8; C₁₉H₁₅O₂NNaS ([M+ Na]⁺) : 344.0715 found: 344.0712.

(*E*)-ethyl 2-styrylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3p).



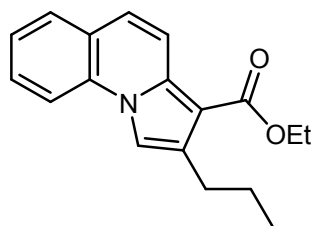
White solid (74% yield). m.p. 135-137 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.95-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J*=16.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J*=7.12 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J*=9.56 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.6, 59.7, 105.1, 109.3, 114.7, 118.8, 121.8, 123.3, 124.0, 124.6, 126.4, 127.3, 128.0, 128.6, 128.6, 128.8, 129.2, 132.1, 134.9, 137.7, 165.3; C₂₃H₁₉O₂NNa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 364.1308 found: 364.1304.

ethyl 2-(phenylethynyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3q).



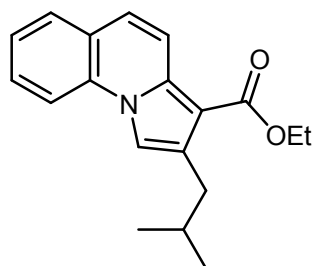
White solid (70% yield). m.p. 157-158 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (dd, *J*₁=9.46 Hz, *J*₂=2.42 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J*=9.48 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.31 (m, 5H), 4.44 (q, *J*=7.11 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J*=7.11 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.6, 59.9, 83.4, 92.5, 107.7, 110.2, 114.6, 116.9, 118.5, 123.8, 124.1, 124.2, 125.0, 128.0, 128.3, 128.9, 129.0, 131.5, 131.9, 134.2, 164.3; C₂₃H₁₇O₂NNa ([M+ Na]⁺) : 362.1151 found: 362.1147.

ethyl 2-propylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3r).



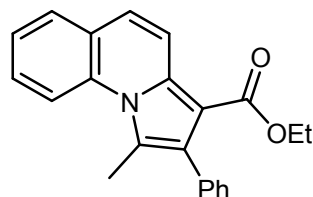
White solid (76% yield). m.p. 106-107 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.15 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J=8.44$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J=7.88$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q, $J=7.13$ Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, $J=7.32$ Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.43 (t, $J=7.13$ Hz, 3H), 1.03 (t, $J=7.36$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.2, 14.5, 23.6, 29.3, 59.3, 105.6, 111.3, 114.5, 118.8, 122.9, 123.8, 124.1, 128.4, 128.7, 131.6, 132.3, 134.8, 165.5; $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 304.1308 found: 304.1305.

ethyl 2-isobutylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3s).



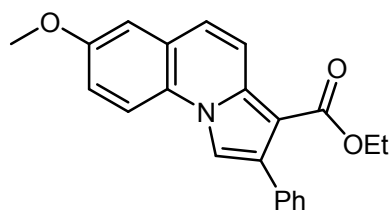
White solid (80% yield). m.p. 97-98 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J=8.44$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J=9.48$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (q, $J=7.13$ Hz, 2H), 2.81 (d, $J=6.96$ Hz, 2H), 2.03-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.43 (t, $J=7.13$ Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, $J=6.64$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.5, 22.6, 29.0, 36.3, 59.3, 105.8, 112.1, 114.5, 118.9, 122.8, 123.8, 124.1, 128.4, 128.7, 130.4, 132.3, 134.8, 165.6; $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 318.1464 found: 318.1462.

ethyl 1-methyl-2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3t).



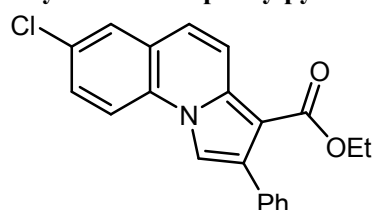
White solid (56% yield). m.p. 162-163 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.48 (d, $J=8.68$ Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, $J=9.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, $J_1=1.40$ Hz, $J_2=7.80$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.30 (m, 7H), 4.14 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 1.036 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.9, 16.5, 59.2, , 105.4, 116.8, 118.8, 123.0, 124.0, 124.9, 125.8, 126.6, 127.5, 128.8, 129.7, 130.8, 134.7, 135.1, 136.1, 165.1; $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 352.1308 found: 352.1305.

ethyl 7-methoxy-2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3u).



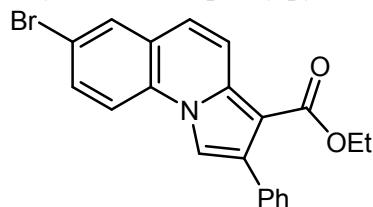
White solid (86% yield). m.p. 151-152 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J=9.08$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J=9.56$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 4.26 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.22 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 55.5, 59.3, 104.7, 109.8, 112.0, 115.7, 117.7, 119.3, 123.1, 124.9, 126.8, 126.9, 127.4, 129.8, 131.0, 134.2, 135.1, 156.3, 164.9; $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3\text{NNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 368.1257 found: 368.1252.

ethyl 7-chloro-2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3v).



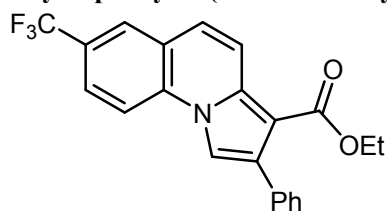
White solid (93% yield). m.p. 219-220 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J=8.92$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.27 (m, 1H), 4.27 (q, $J=7.13$ Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, $J=9.52$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 59.6, 105.9, 112.5, 116.0, 120.2, 122.3, 125.1, 127.1, 127.6, 127.9, 128.8, 129.8, 130.0, 130.8, 131.7, 134.5, 134.8, 164.8; $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{NClNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 372.0761 found: 372.0757

ethyl 7-bromo-2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3w).



White solid (91% yield). m.p. 207-208 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.22 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J=8.92$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, $J=8.88$ Hz, $J=2.12$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.22 (m, 1H), 4.26 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 59.7, 105.9, 112.5, 116.2, 117.6, 120.2, 122.2, 125.5, 127.1, 127.6, 129.8, 131.0, 131.1, 131.5, 131.7, 134.5, 134.8, 164.8; $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{NBrNa}$ ($[\text{M}^+ \text{Na}]^+$) : 416.0256 found: 416.0250.

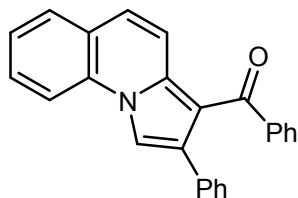
ethyl 2-phenyl-7-(trifluoromethyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3x).



White solid (95% yield). m.p. 129-130 °C. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.32 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H),

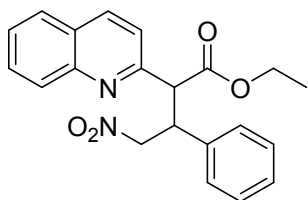
8.03-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 4H), 4.28 (q, $J=7.12$ Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, $J=7.12$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 59.8, 106.4, 112.7, 115.3, 120.5, 122.5, 122.8, 123.6, 125.0, 125.0, 125.2, 126.2, 126.2, 126.3, 126.6, 126.9, 127.2, 127.7, 129.8, 132.1, 134.0, 134.6, 134.9, 164.7; $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{NF}_3\text{Na}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) : 406.1025 found: 406.1019.

phenyl(2-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinolin-3-yl)methanone (3y).



White solid (82% yield). m.p. 149-150 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 (d, $J=8.40$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J=9.52$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J=7.84$ Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J=9.44$ Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.07 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 110.5, 113.4, 113.6, 117.5, 122.8, 123.2, 123.7, 125.5, 126.6, 126.9, 127.8, 127.9, 128.3, 128.7, 130.1, 130.4, 131.2, 133.5, 134.0, 138.7, 191.5; $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{ONNa}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$) : 370.1202 found: 370.1196.

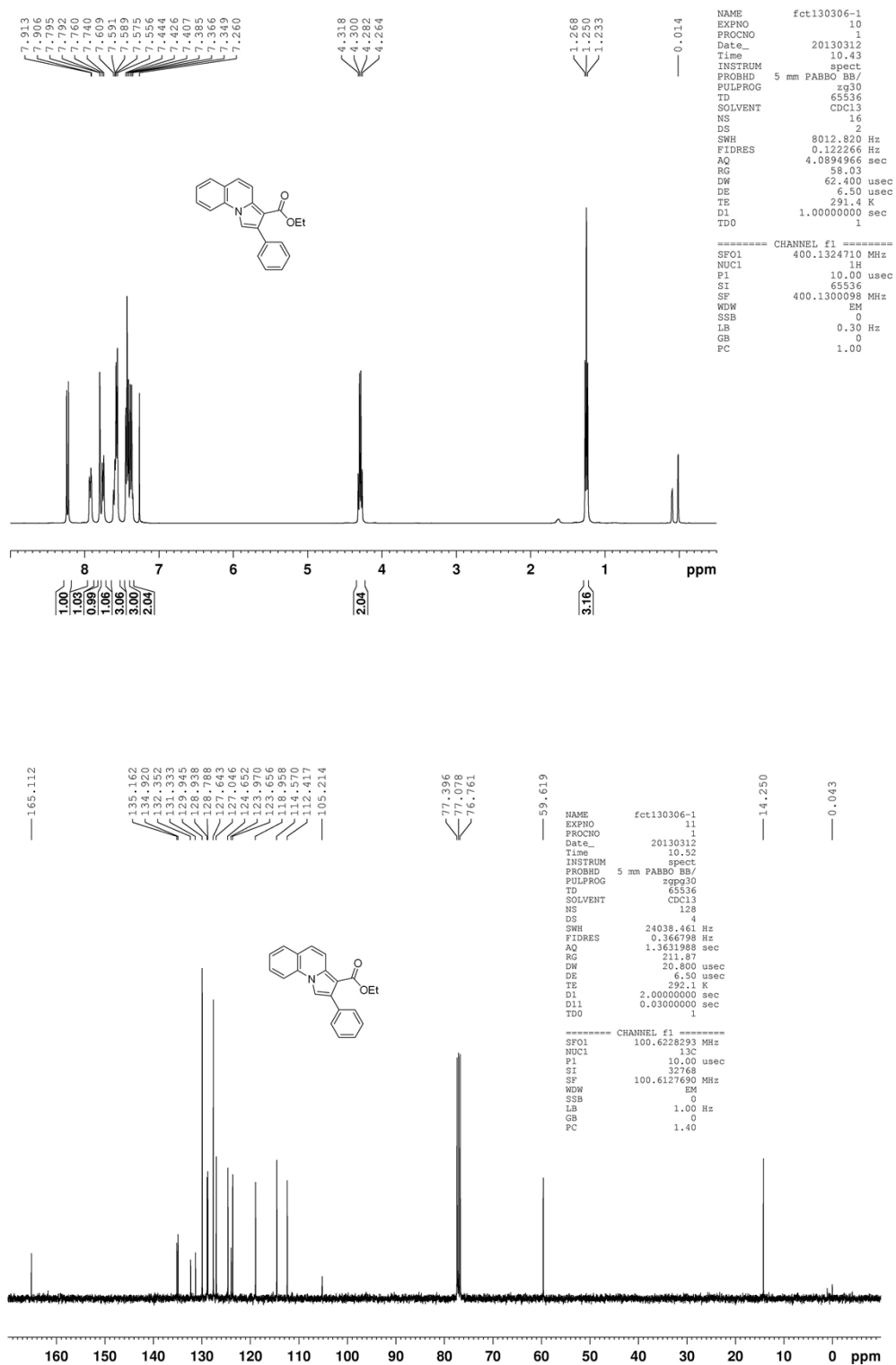
ethyl 4-nitro-3-phenyl-2-(quinolin-2-yl)butanoate (4a).



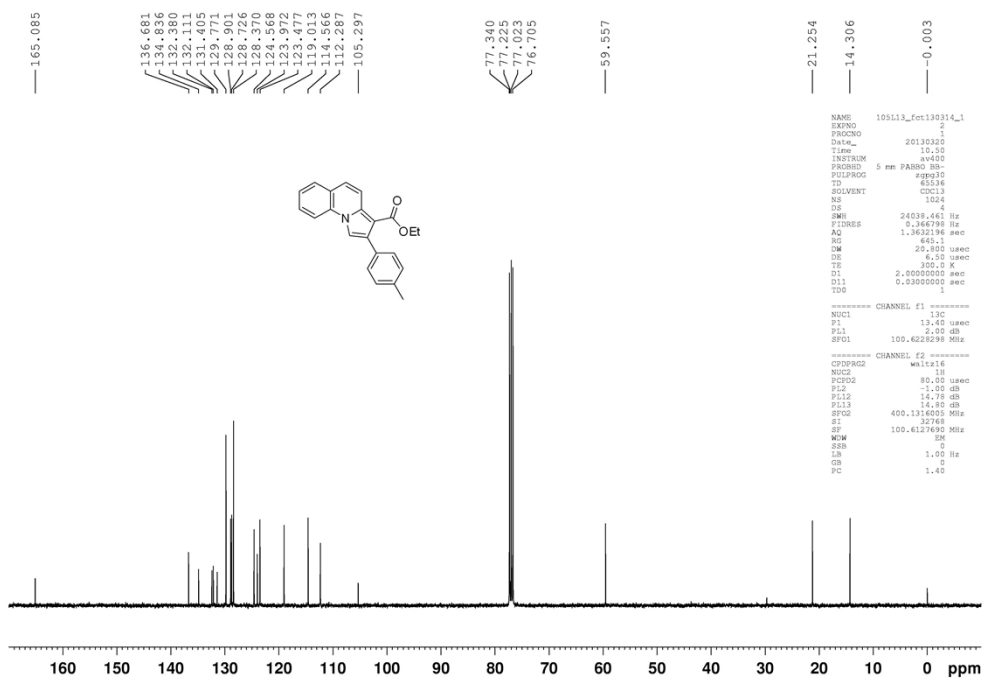
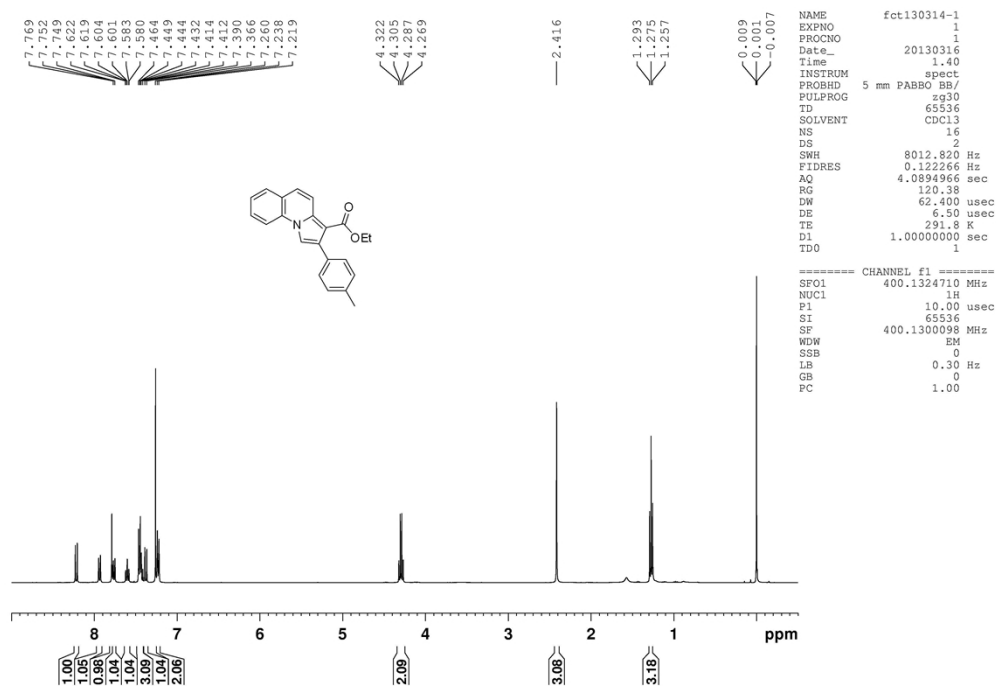
White solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (d, $J=8.48$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J=8.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J=8.04$ Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J=8.48$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.70-4.64 (m, 1H), 4.60-4.52 (m, 2H), 4.46 (d, $J=10.76$ Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.85 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, $J=7.10$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 45.7, 58.0, 61.2, 78.4, 120.4, 127.0, 127.4, 127.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.8, 129.4, 130.0, 137.3, 137.5, 147.8, 155.3, 170.2.

4. Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

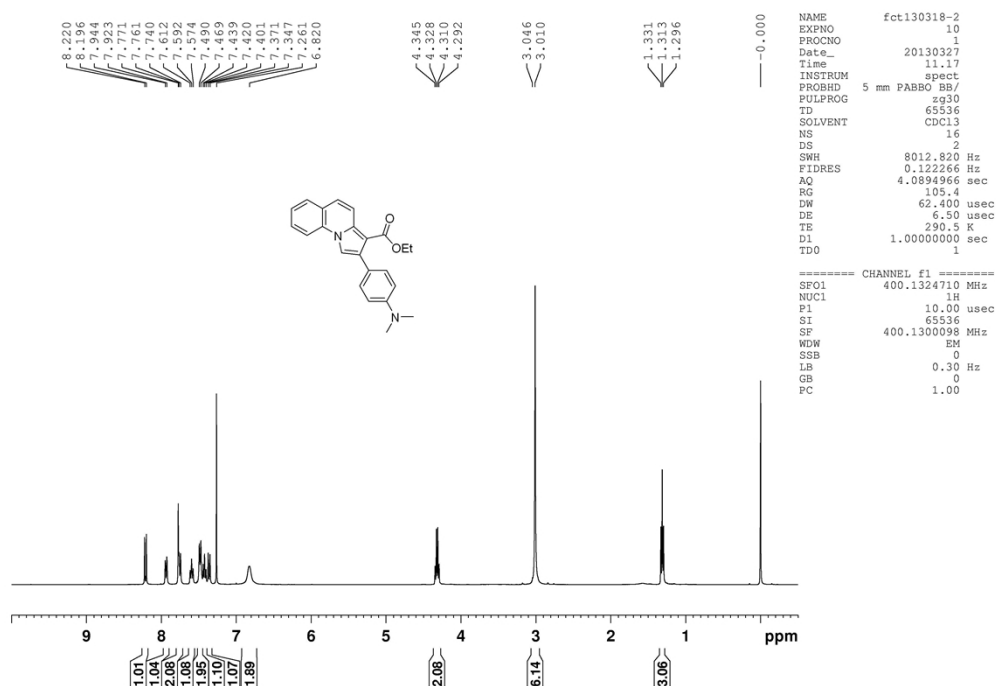
3a



3b



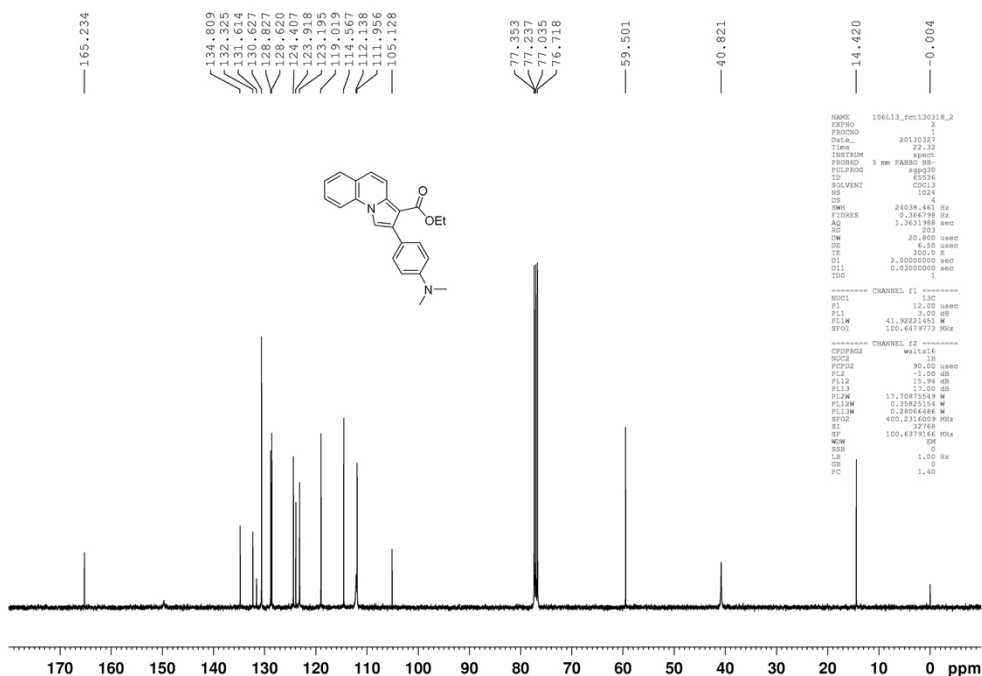
3c



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PROCNO    1
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PULPROG    zg30
TD         65536
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DS         2
SWH         8012.820 Hz
FIDRES     0.122266 Hz
AQ         4.0894966 sec
RG         105.4
DW         62.400 usec
DE         6.50 usec
TE         290.3 K
D1         1.00000000 sec
TD0        1

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NUC1       1H
P1         10.00 usec
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SF         400.1300098 MHz
WDW        EM
SSB        0
LB         0.30 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.00
  
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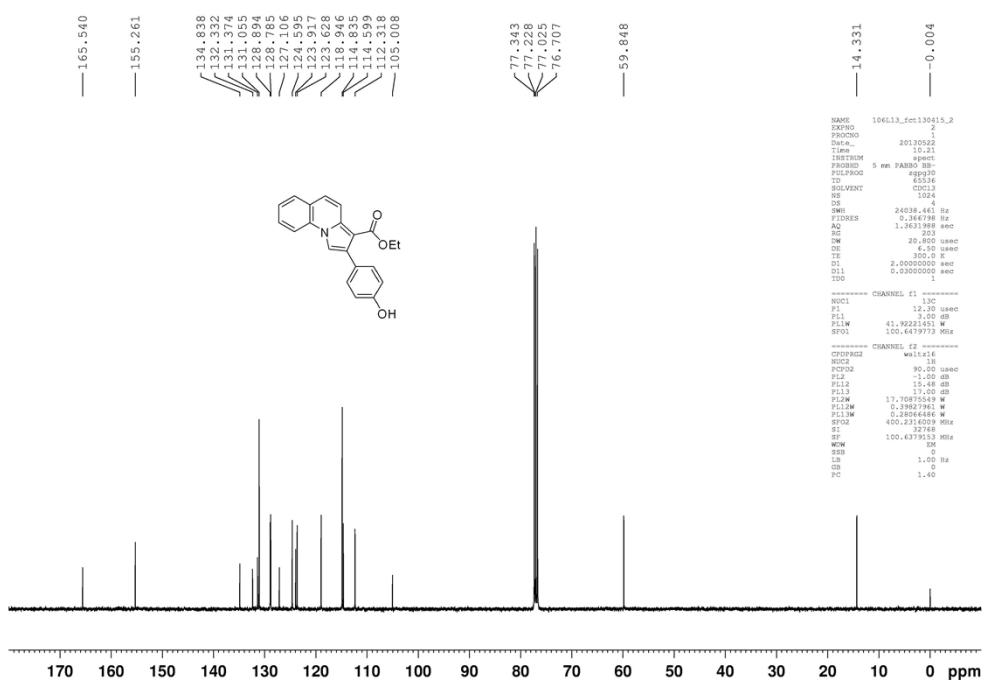
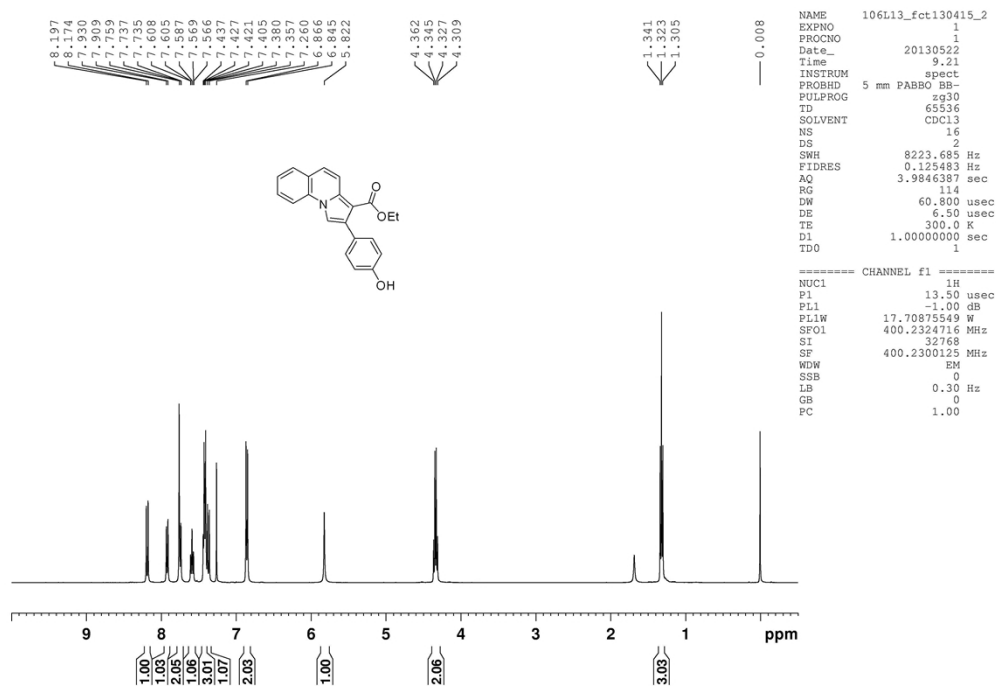
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PROCNO    1
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AQ         1.3631288 sec
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D1         2.00000000 sec
D11        0.03000000 sec
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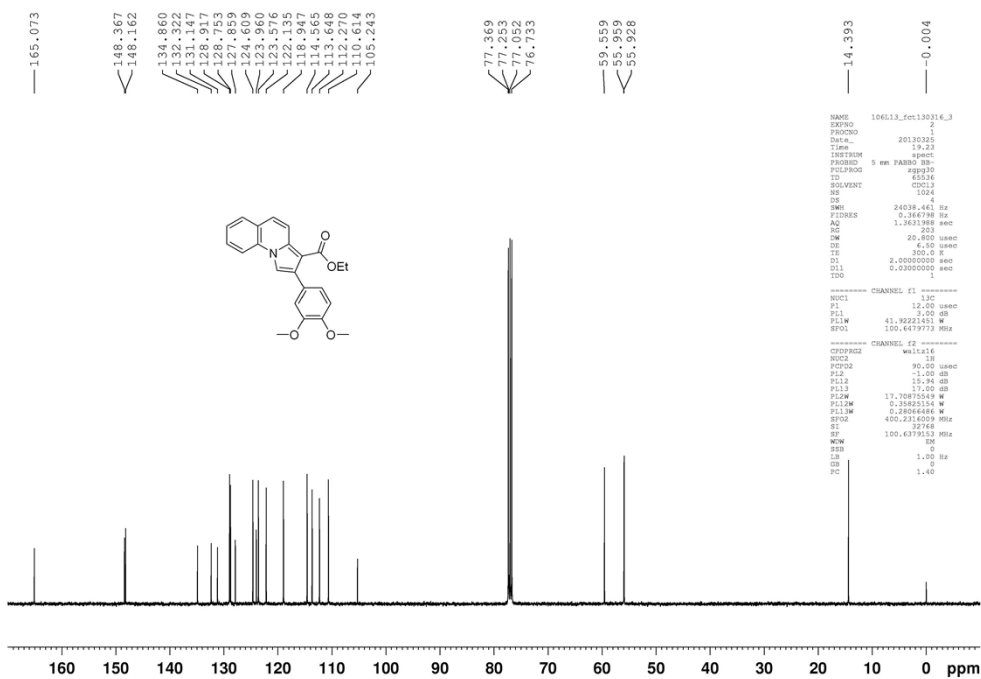
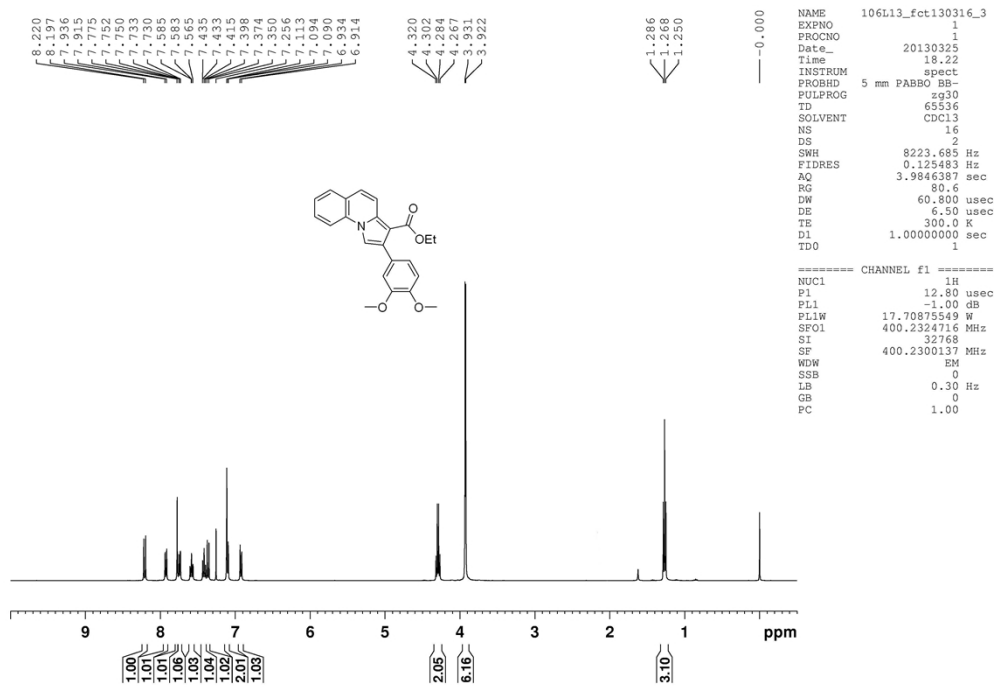
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PL1W       41.92221451 W
SFO1      100.6279773 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====
NUC2       1H
P2         12.00 usec
PL2        -1.00 dB
PL2W       19.94 dB
PL3        17.00 dB
PL3W       17.70870549 W
PL4W       0.35825154 W
PL1W       0.28046466 W
SFO2      400.2314009 MHz
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SF         100.6379166 MHz
WDW        DE
SSB        0
LB         1.00 Hz
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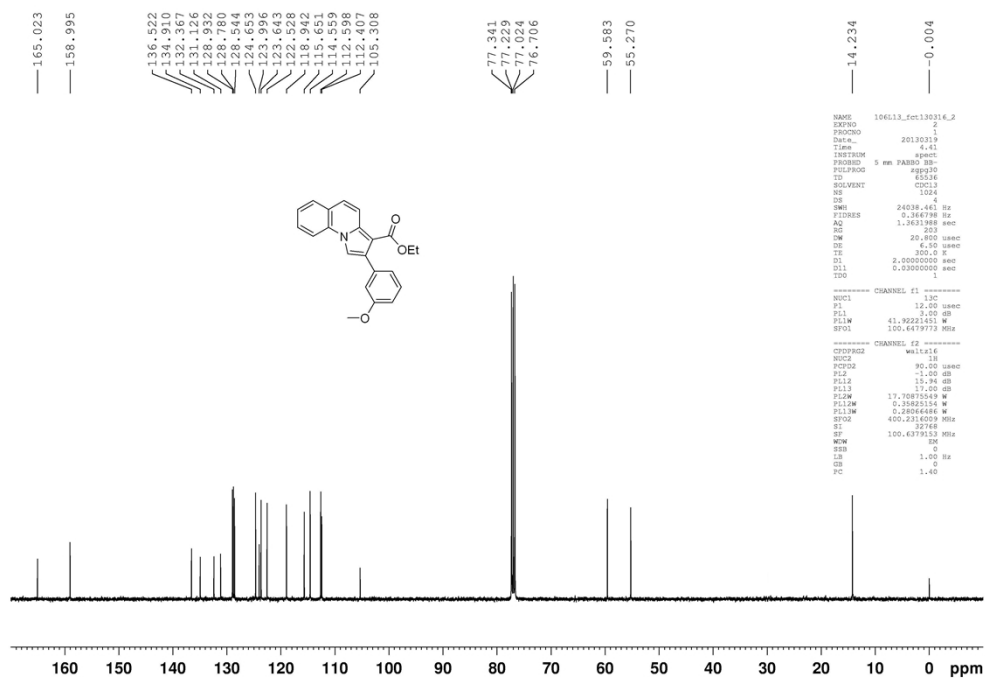
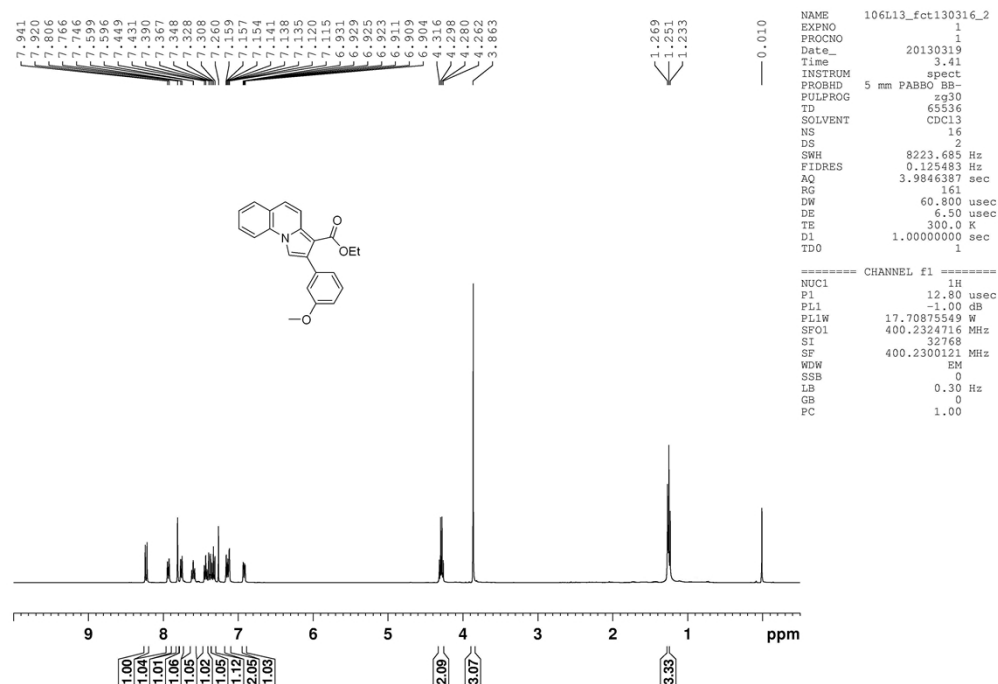
3d



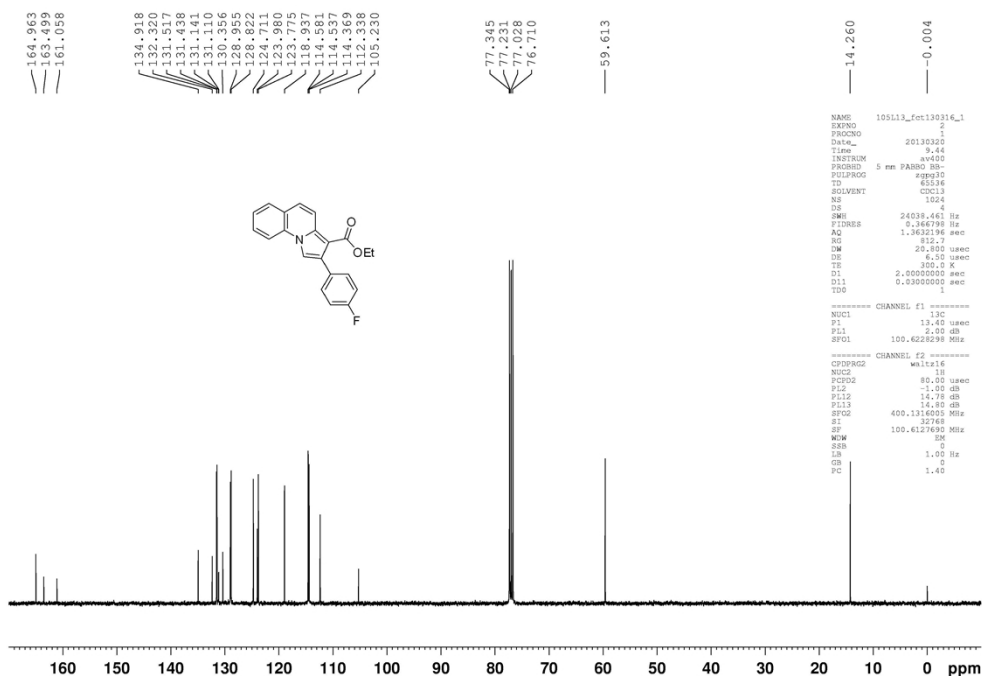
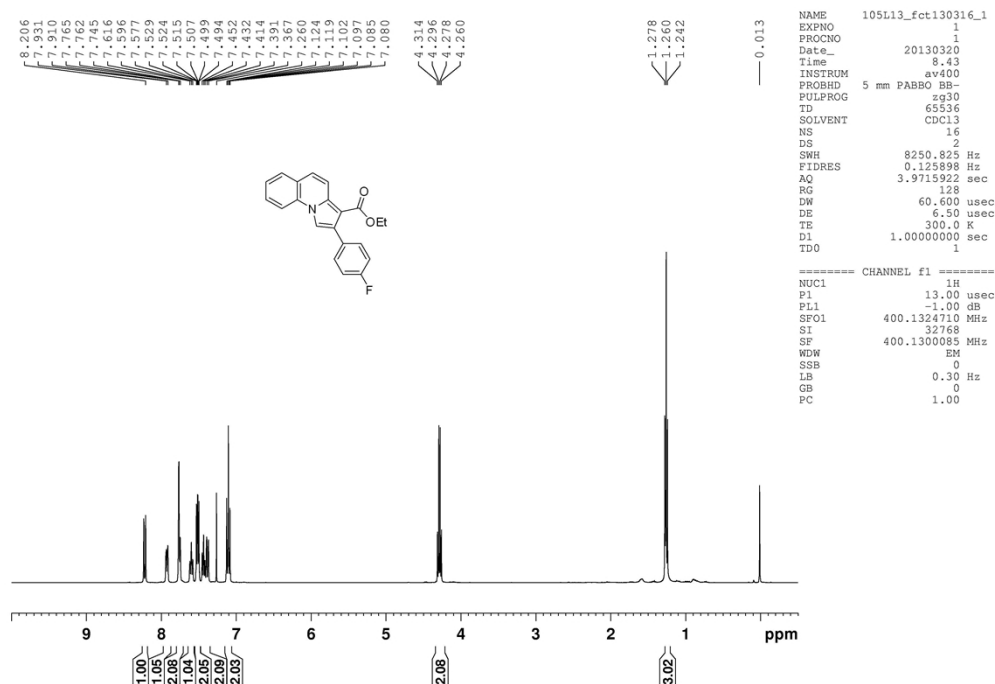
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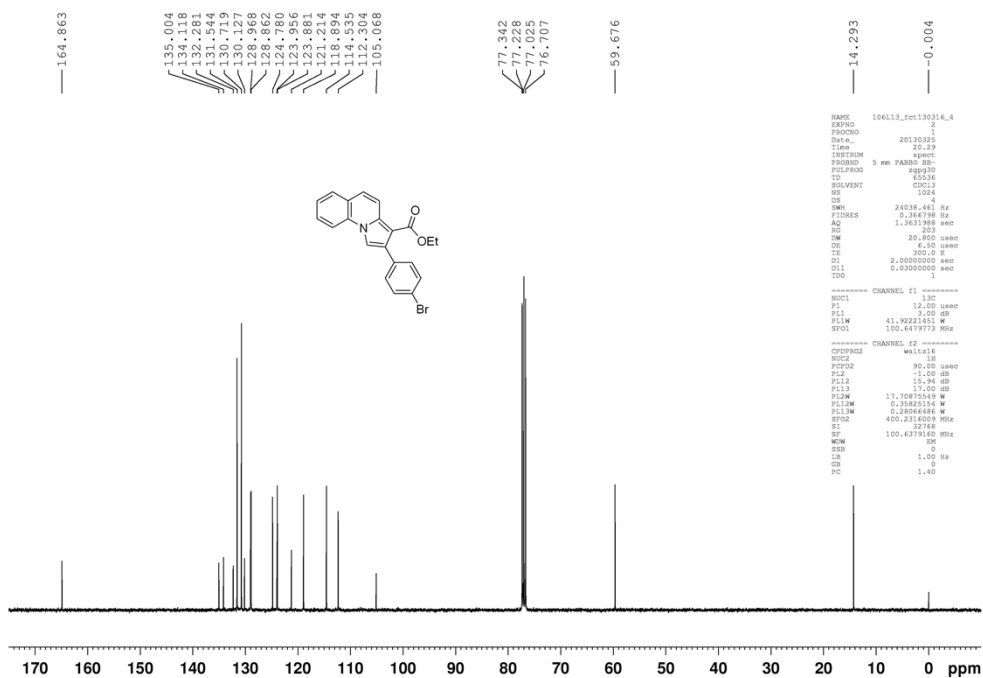
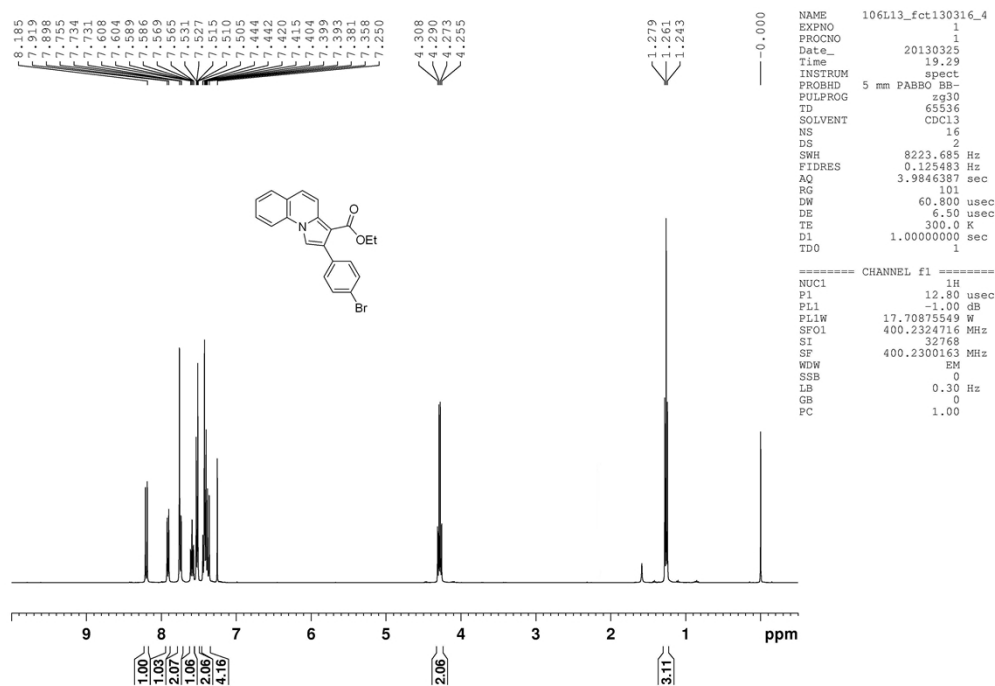
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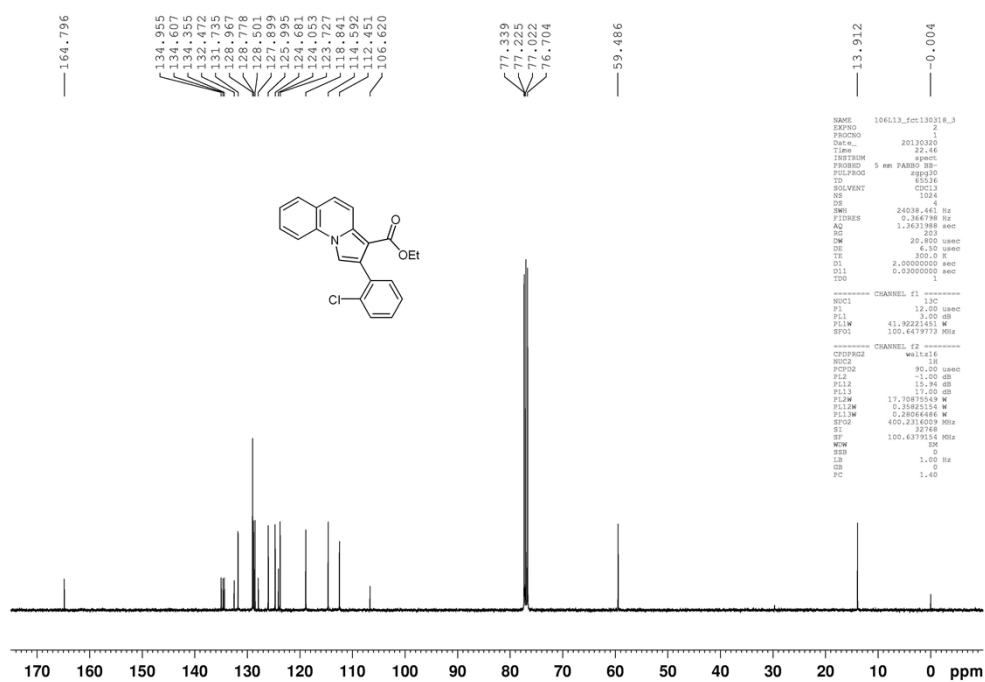
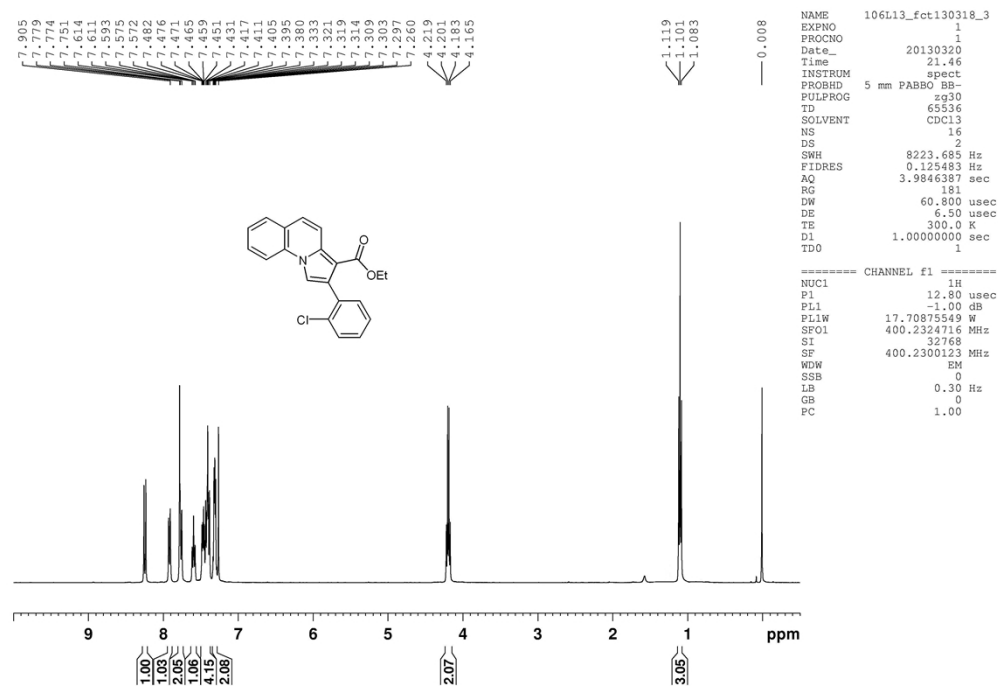


3g

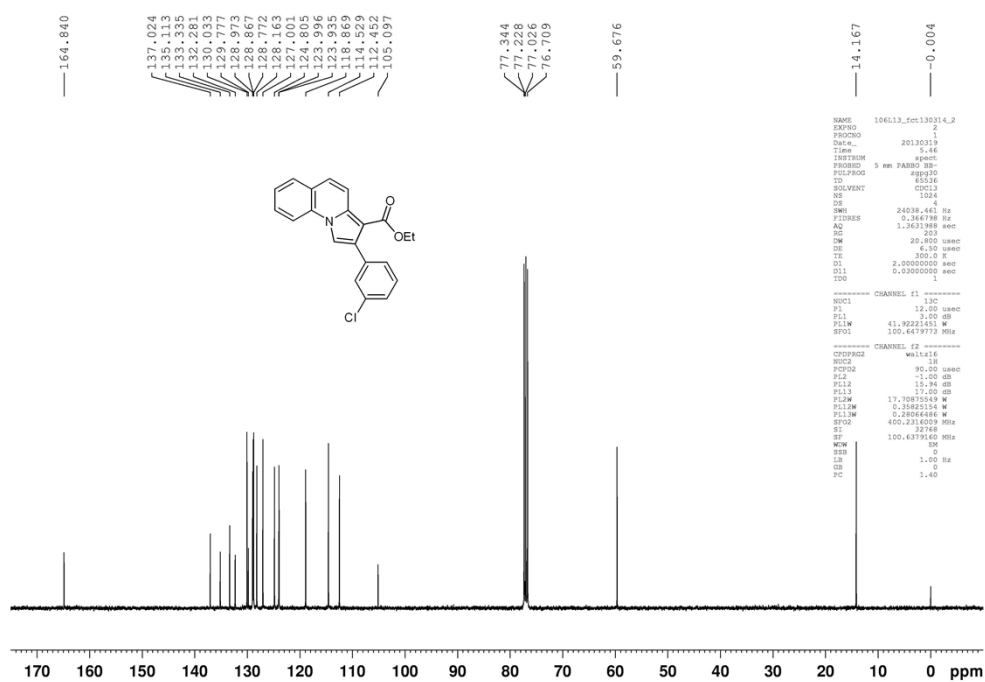
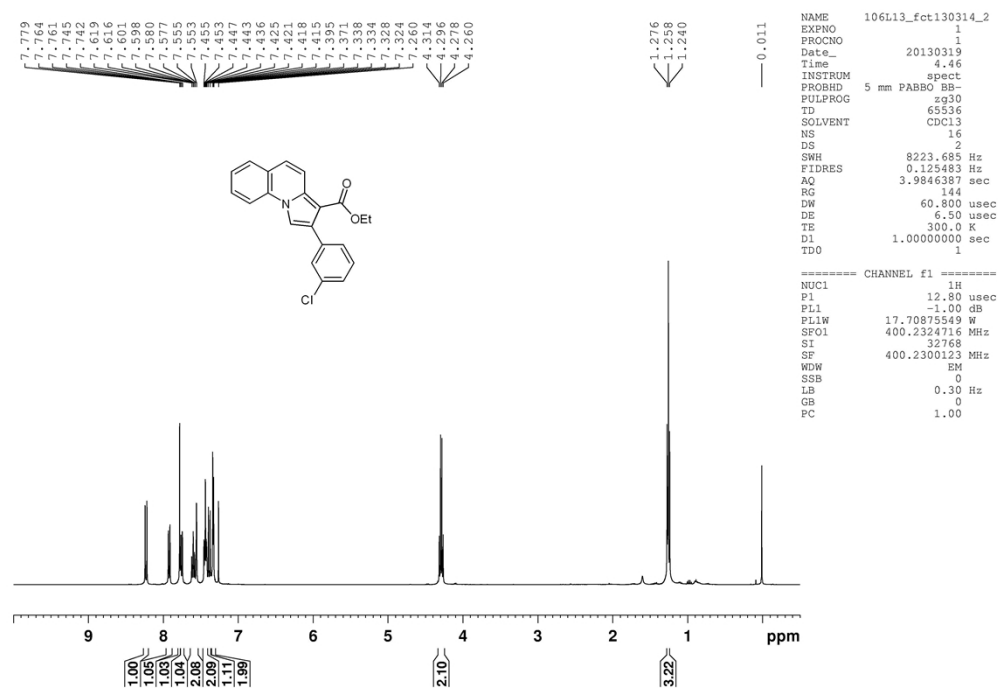


3h

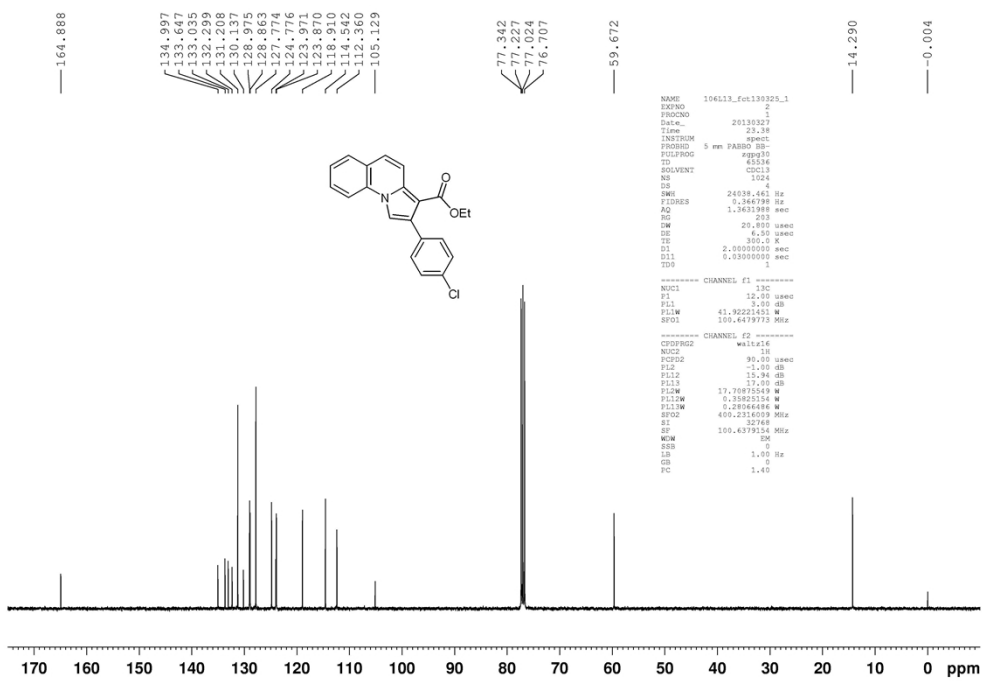
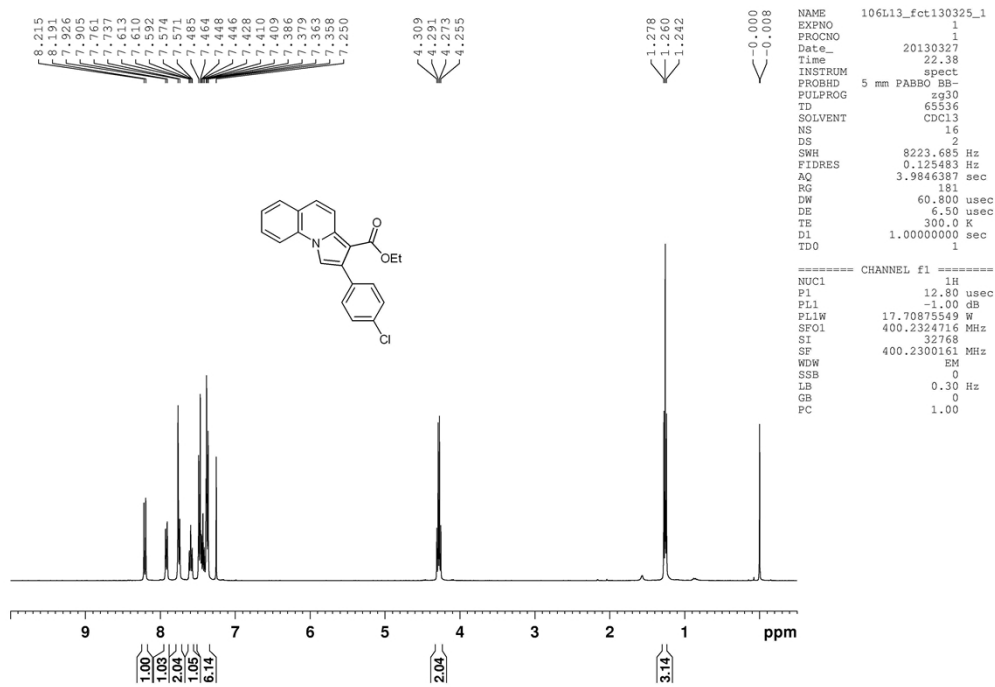


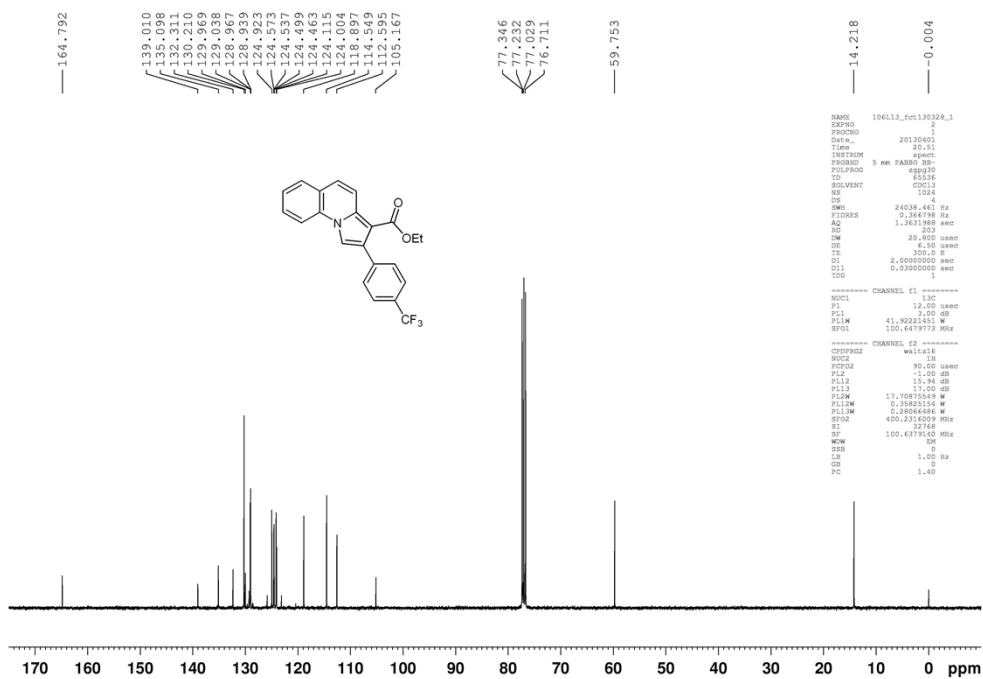
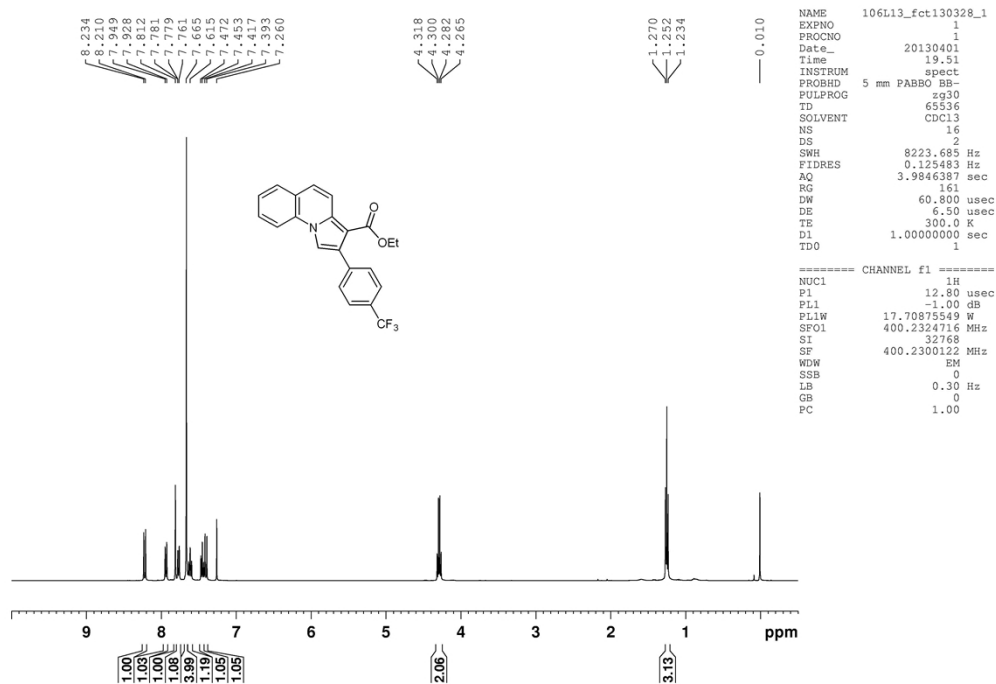


3j

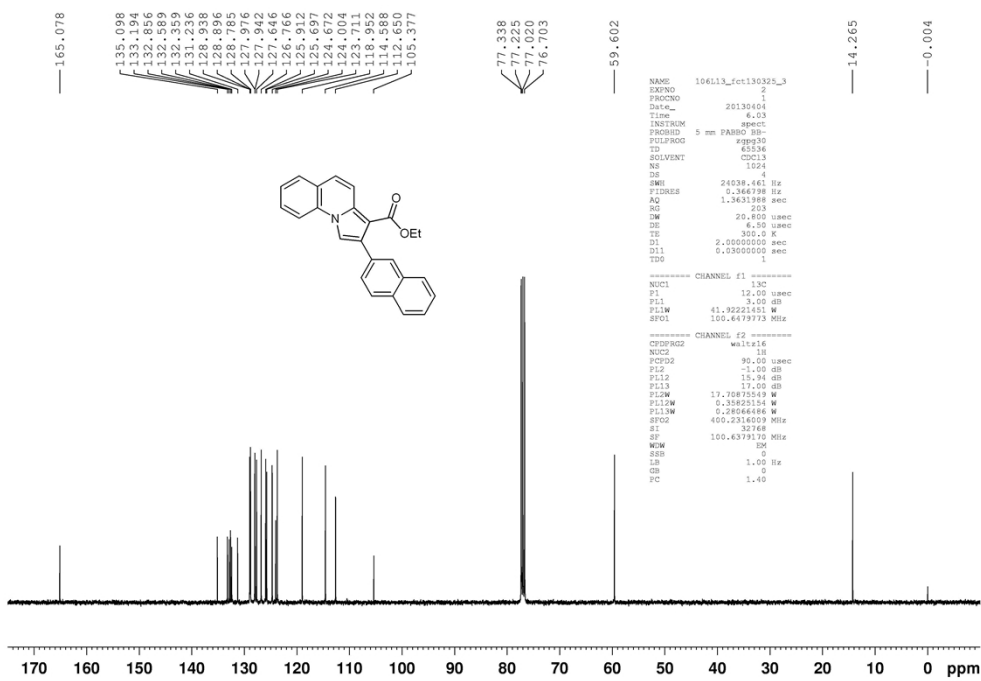
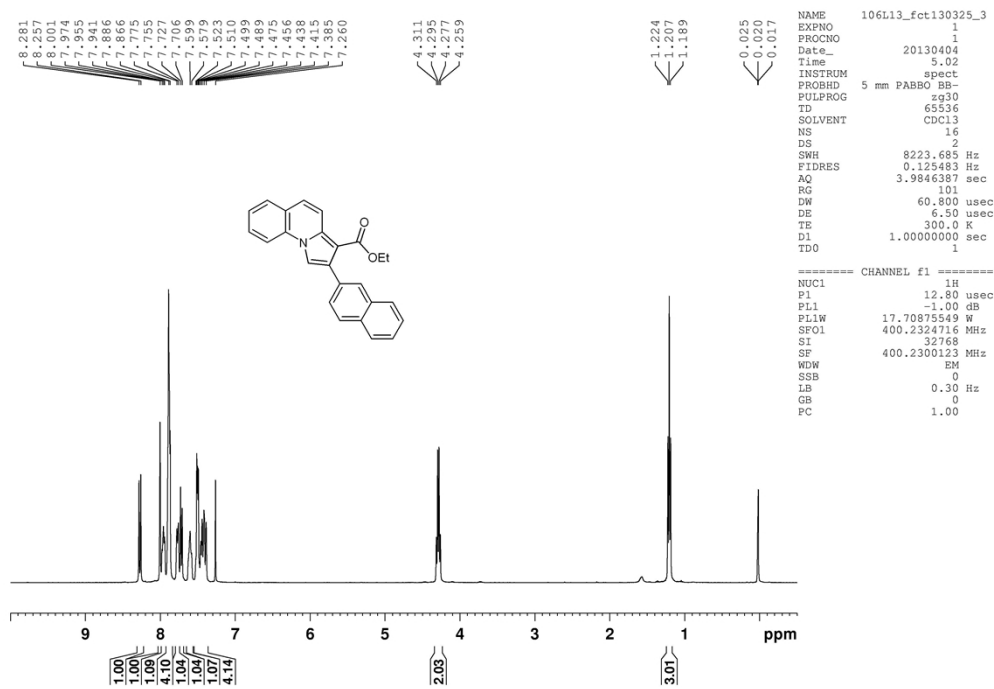


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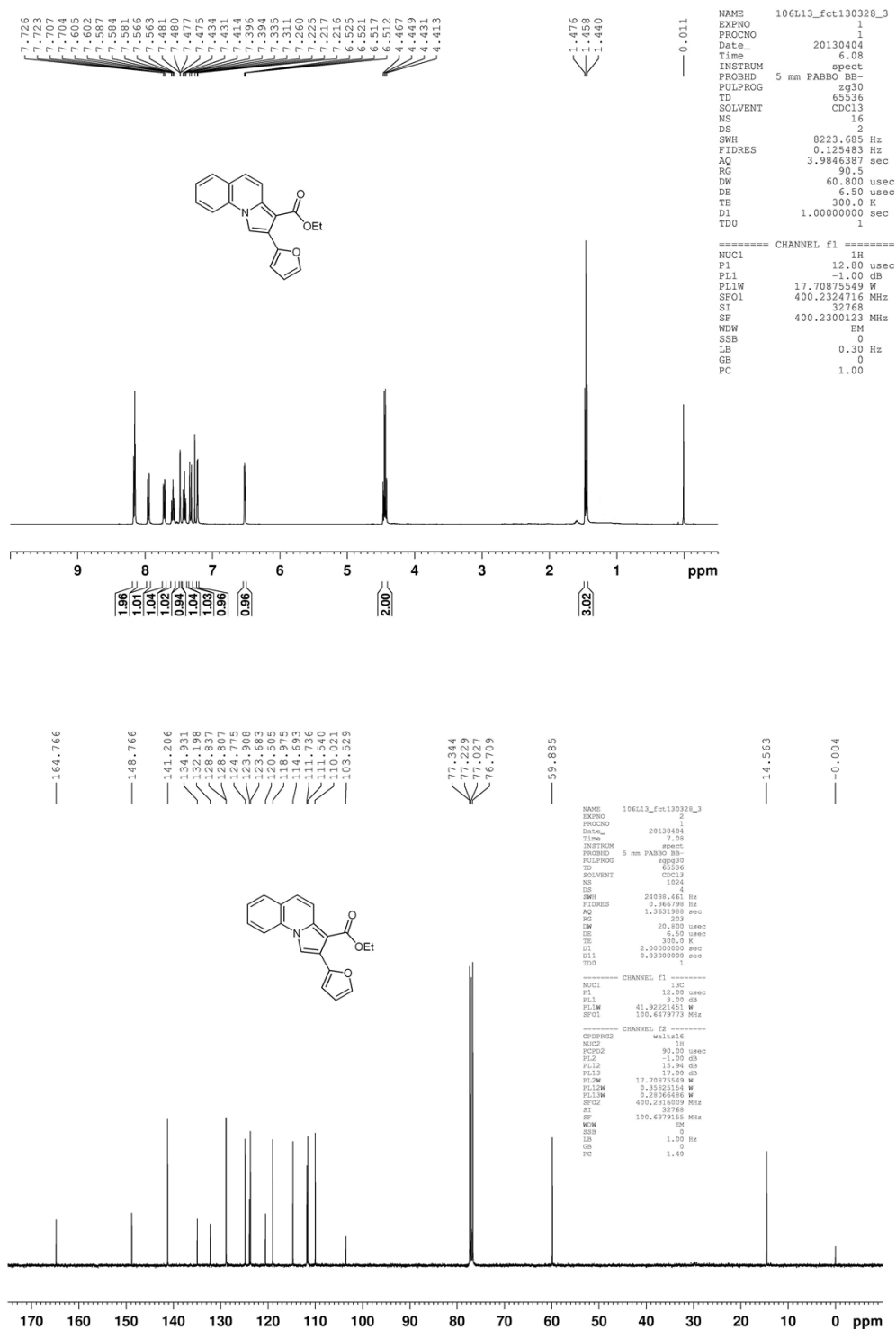




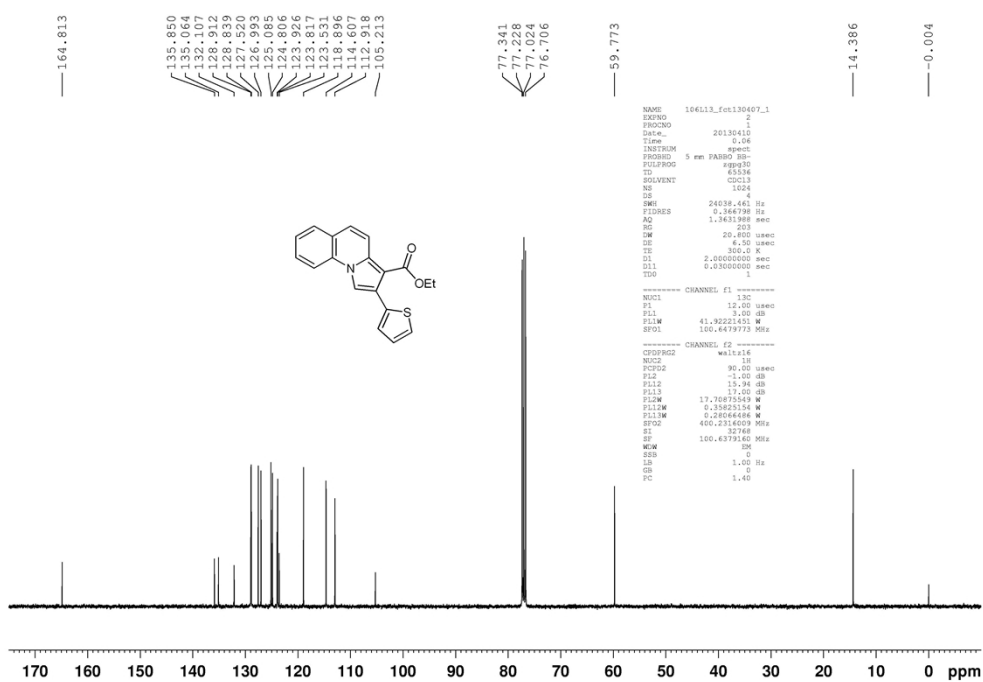
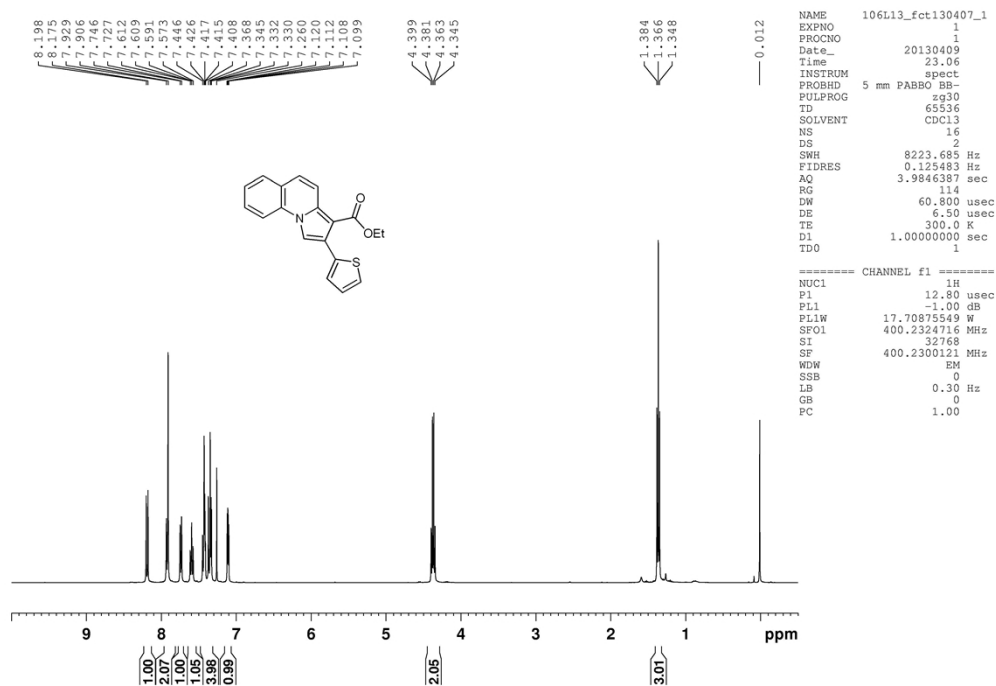
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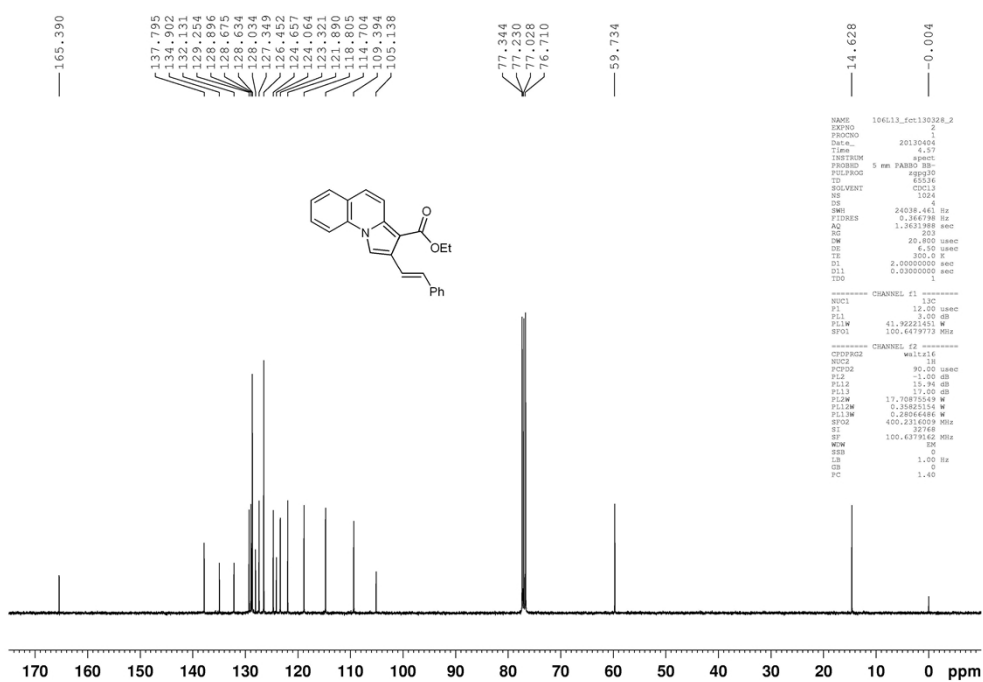
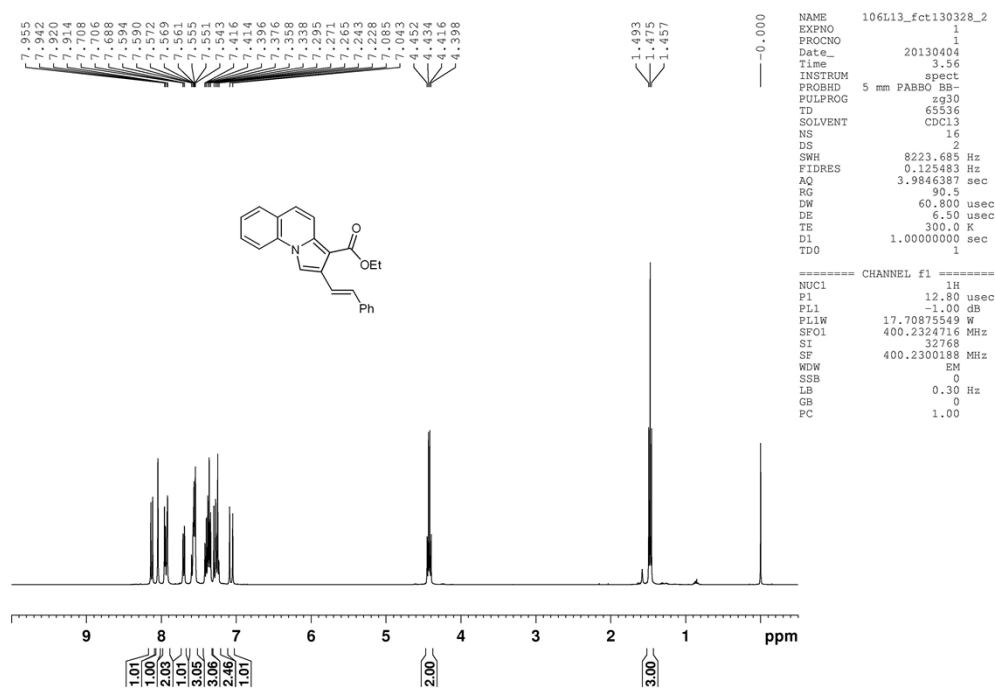
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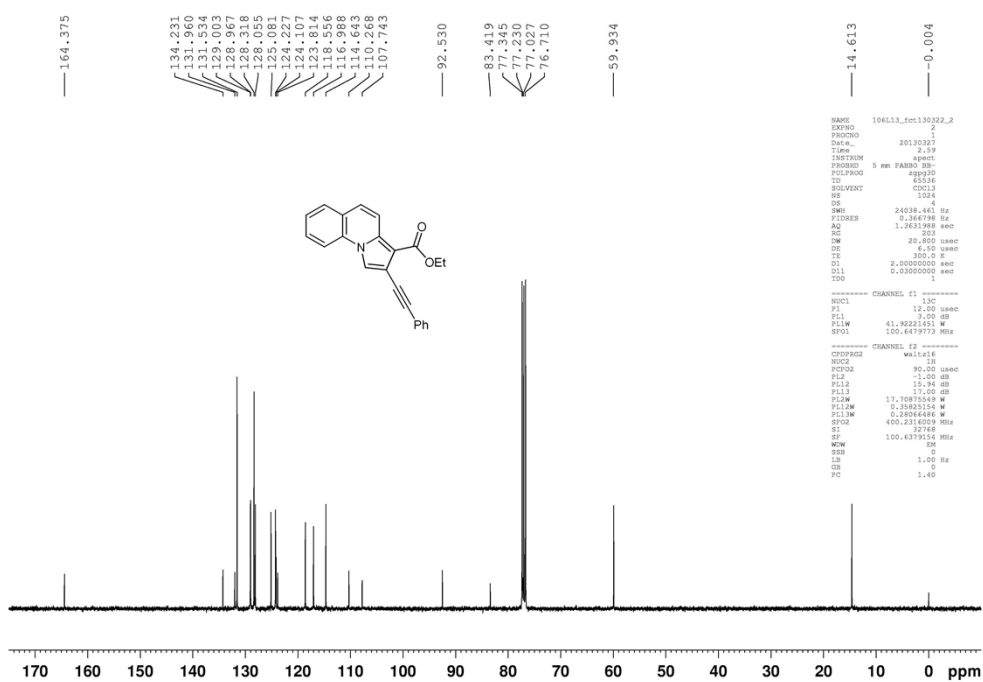
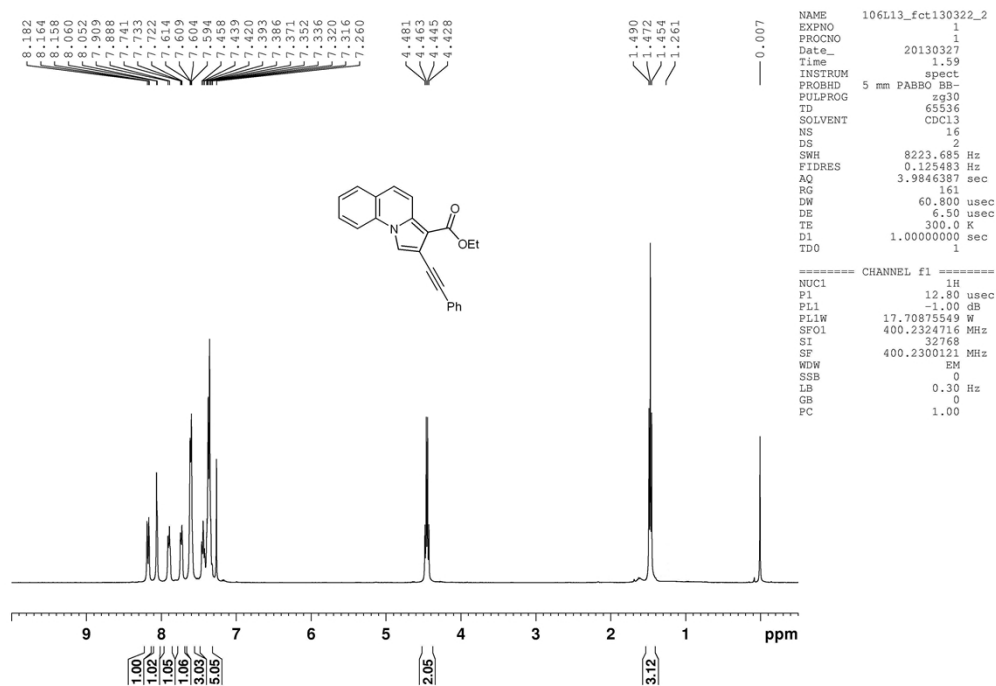
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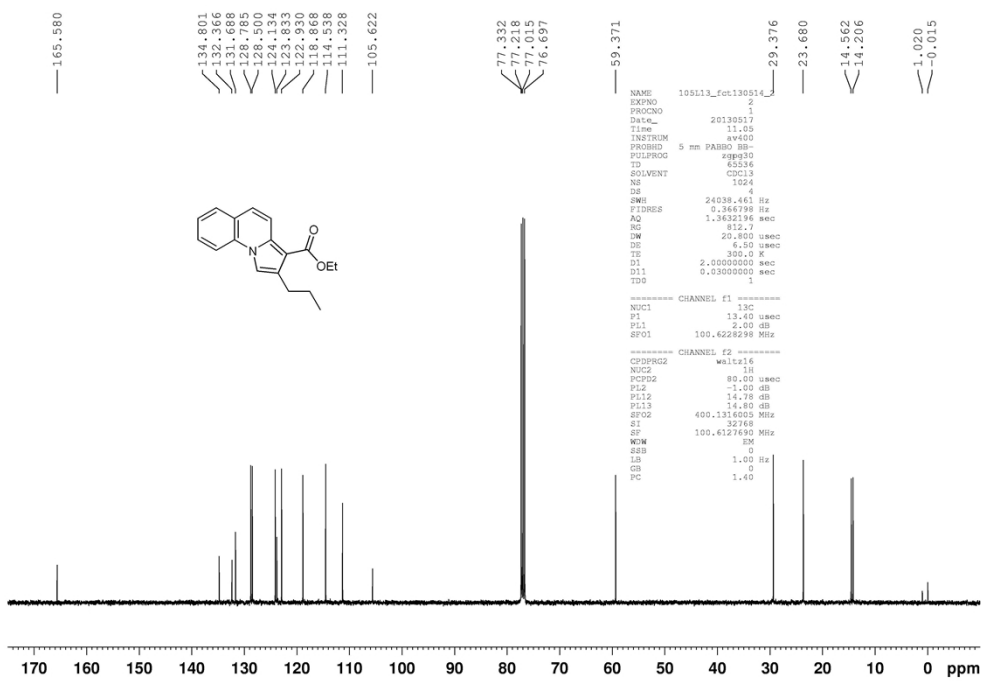
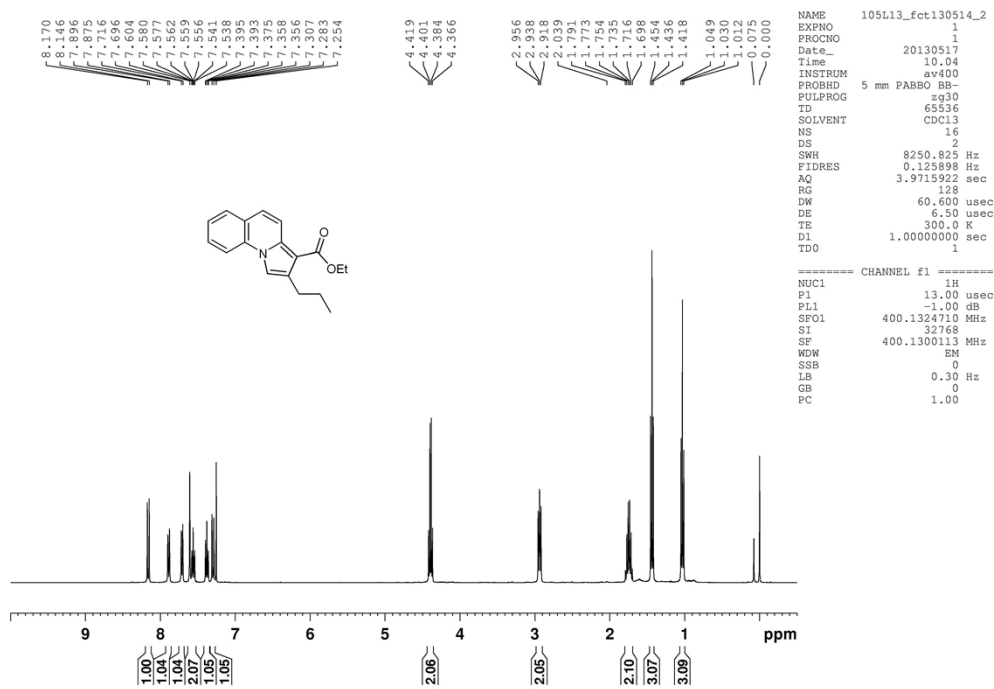
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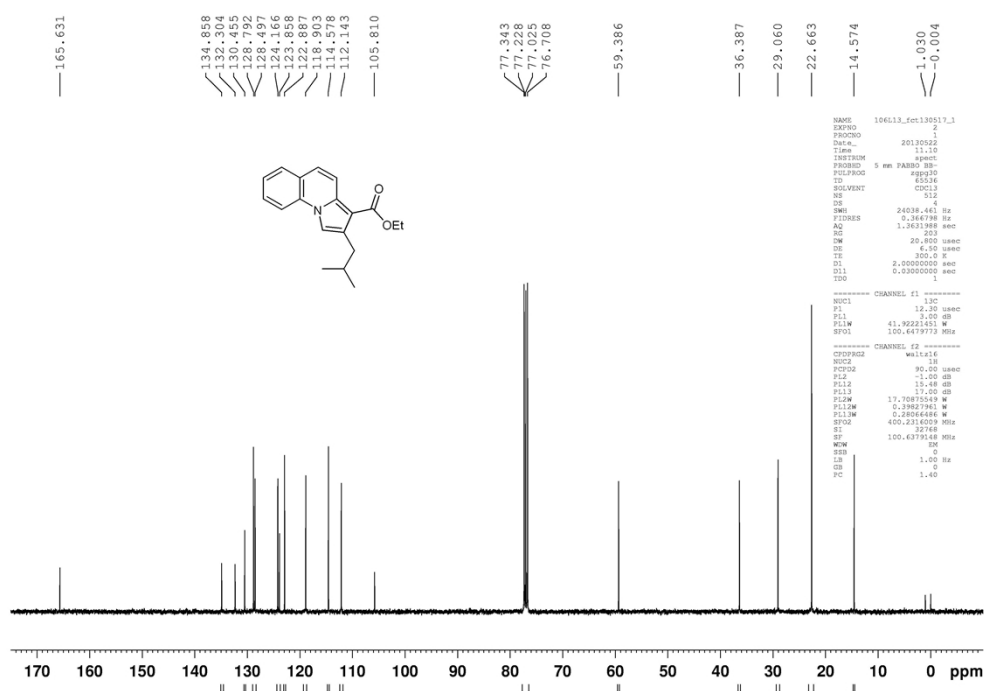
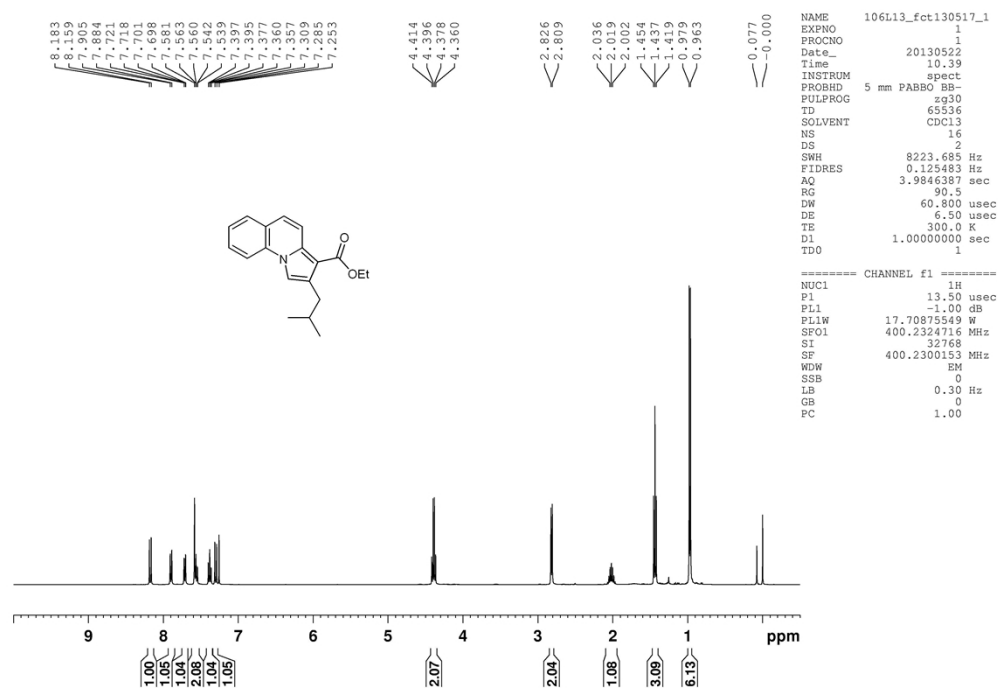
3q



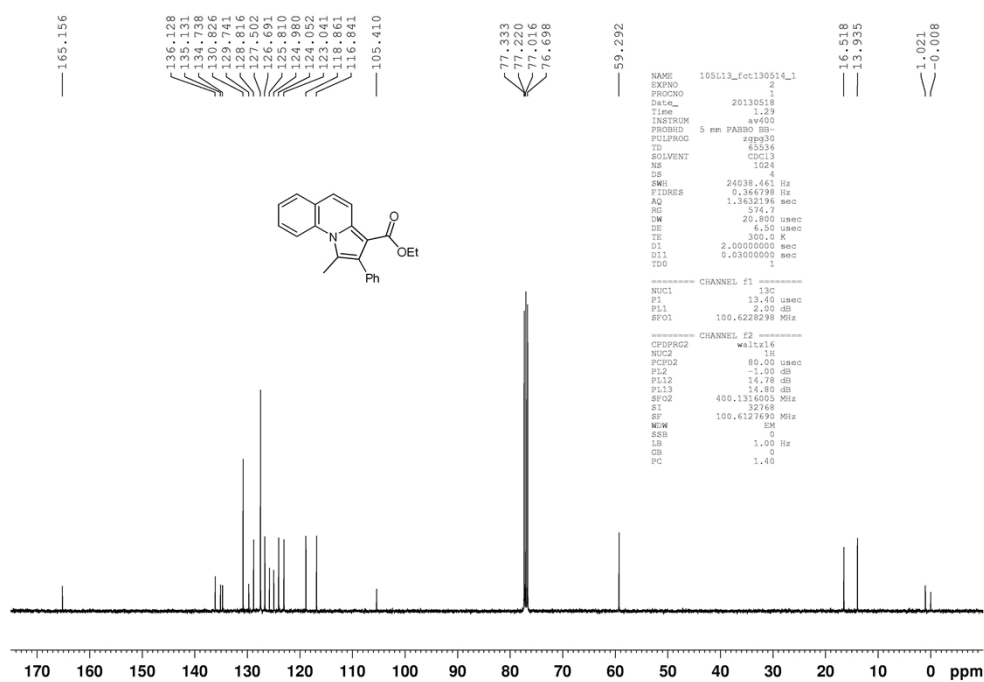
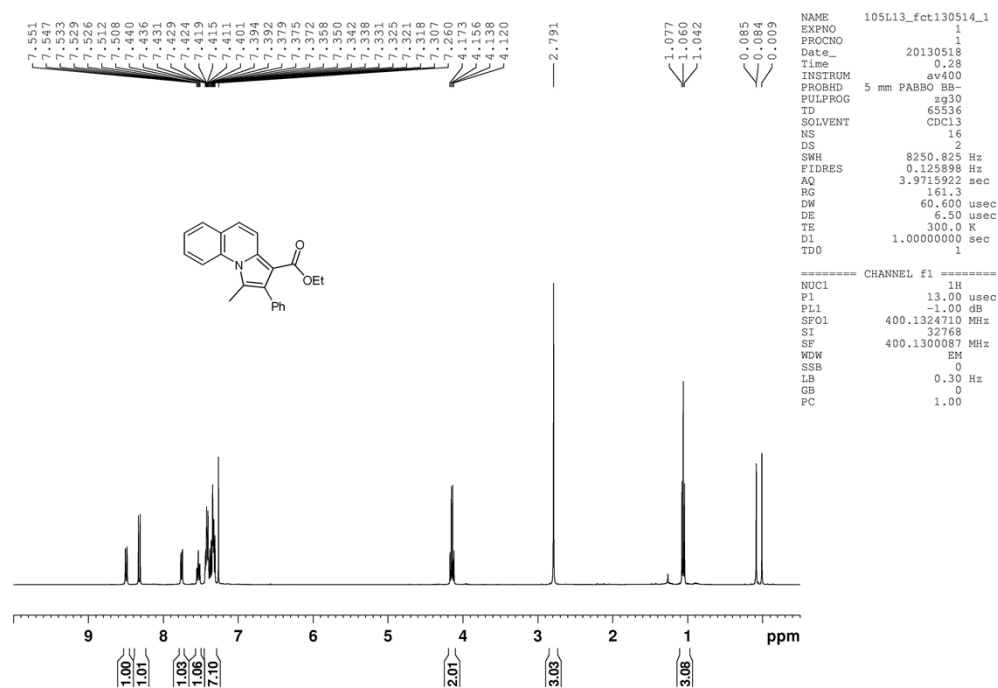
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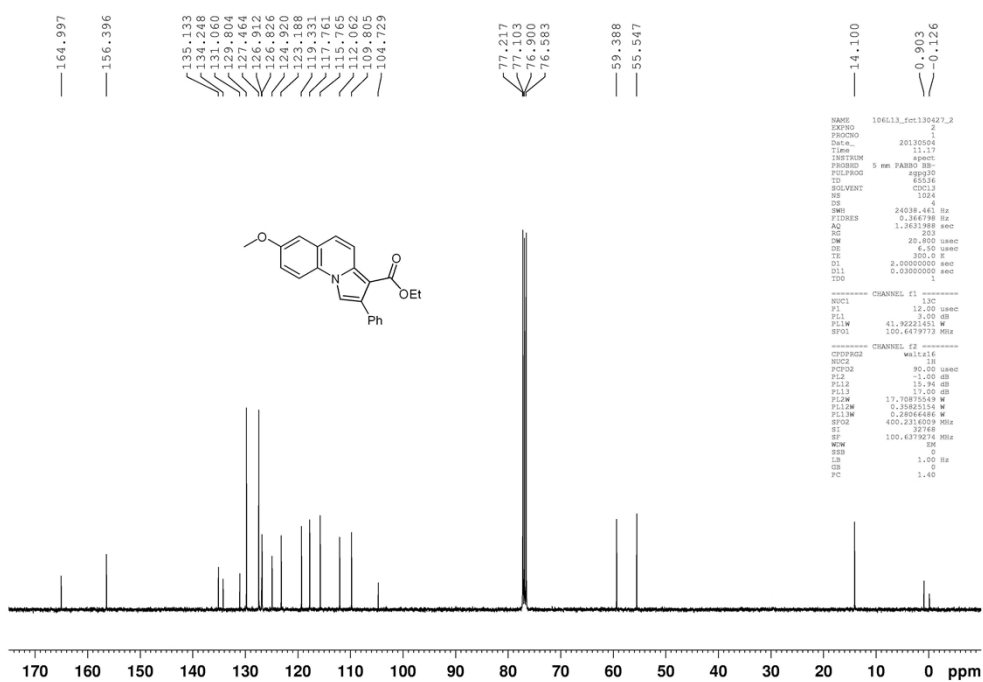
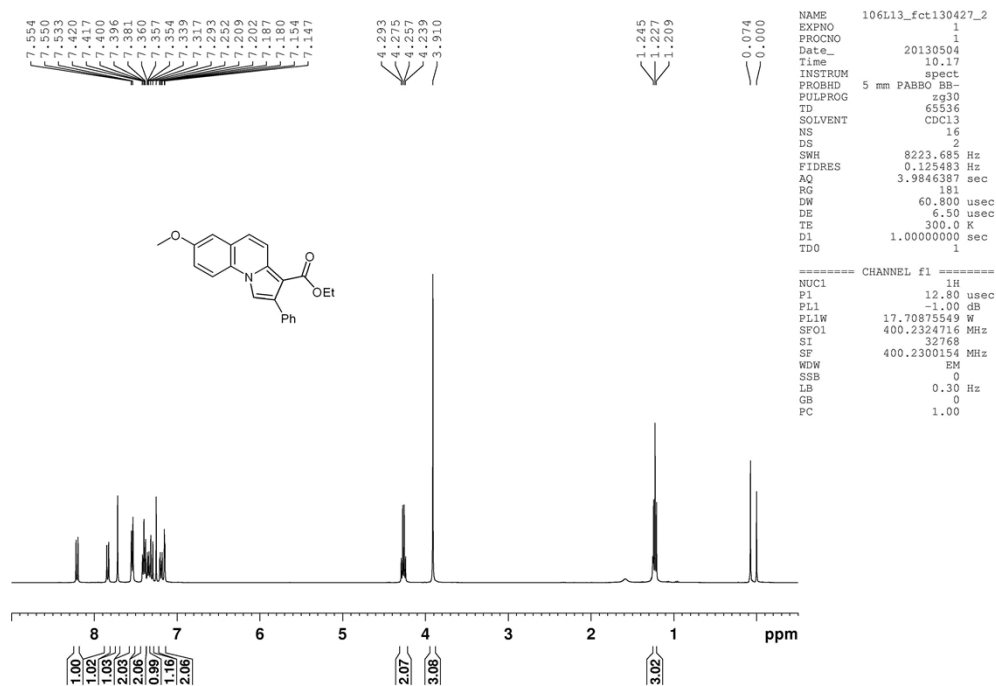
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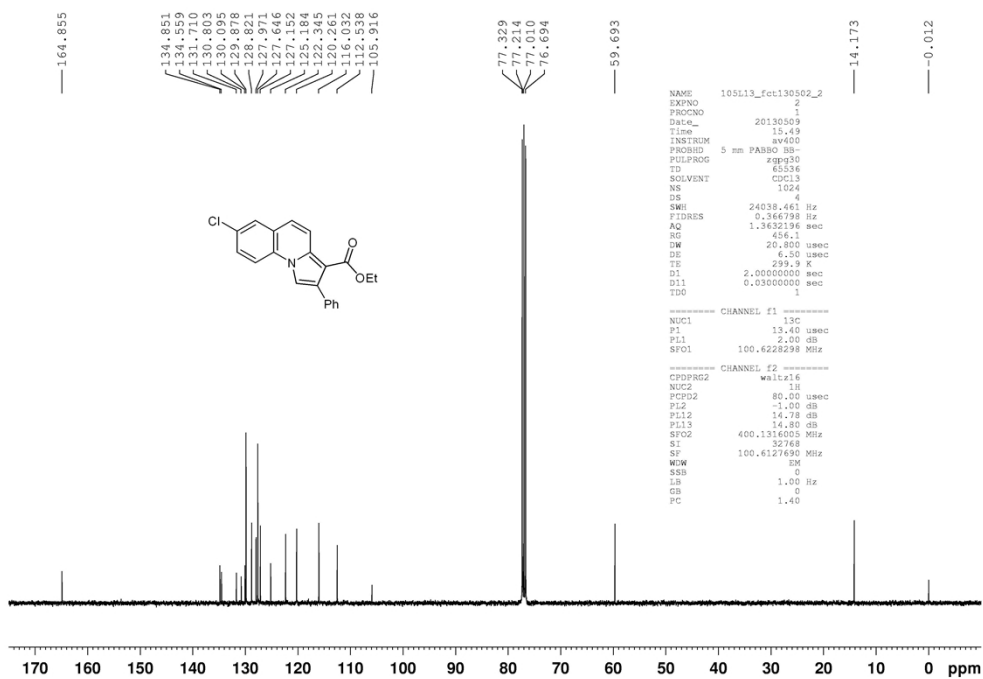
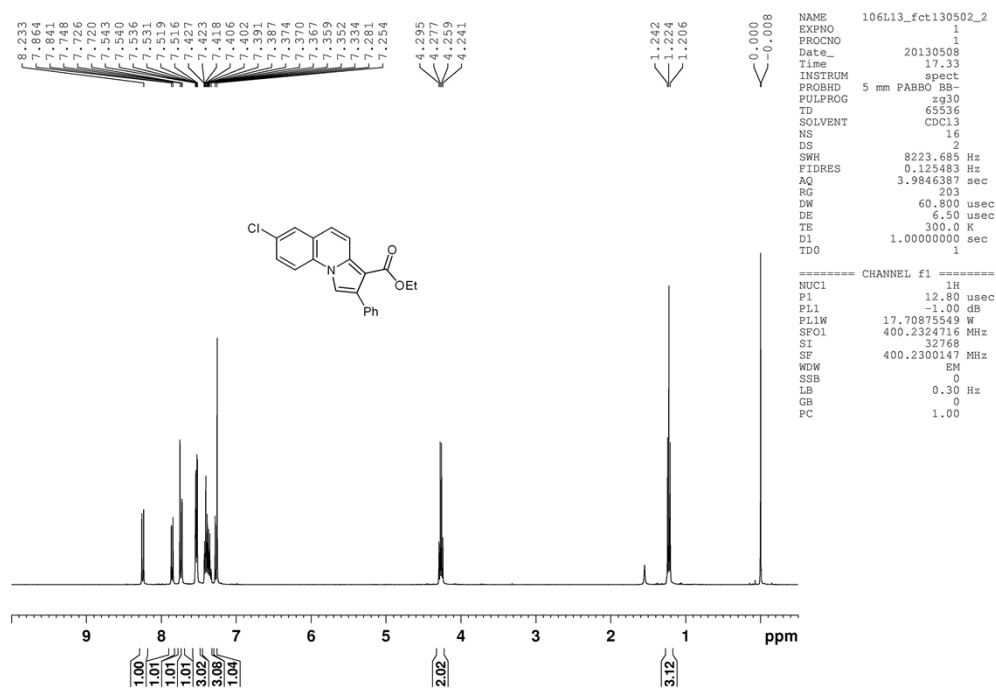
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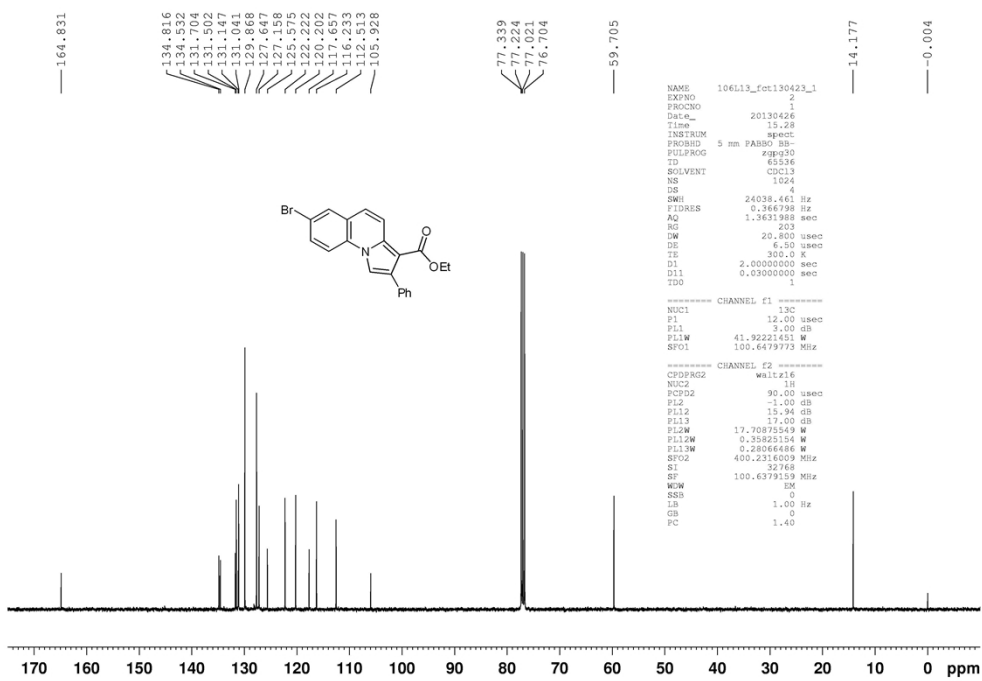
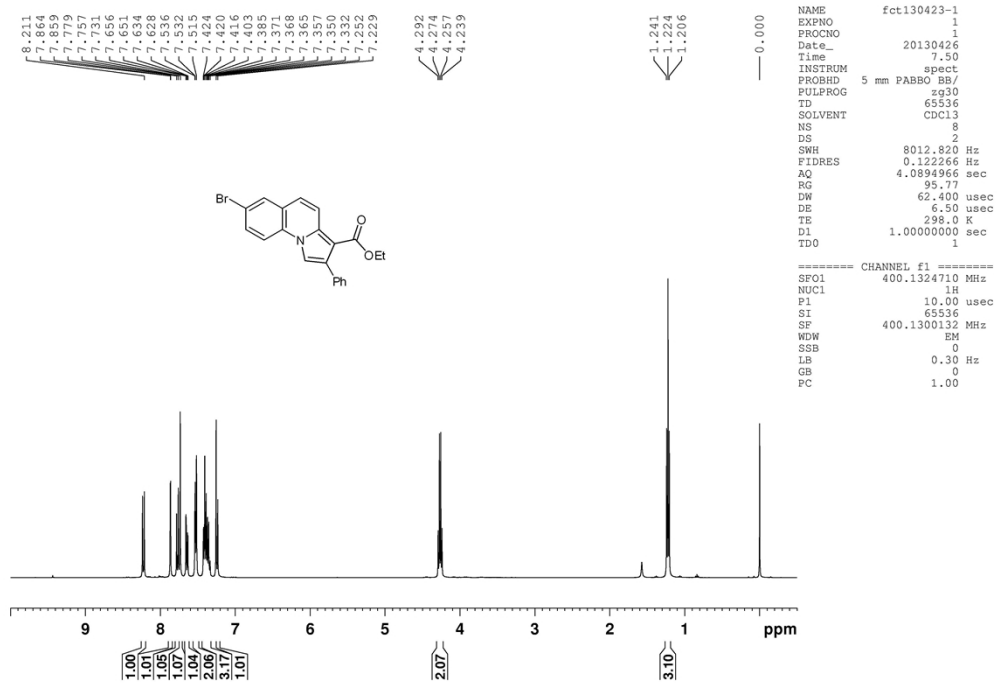
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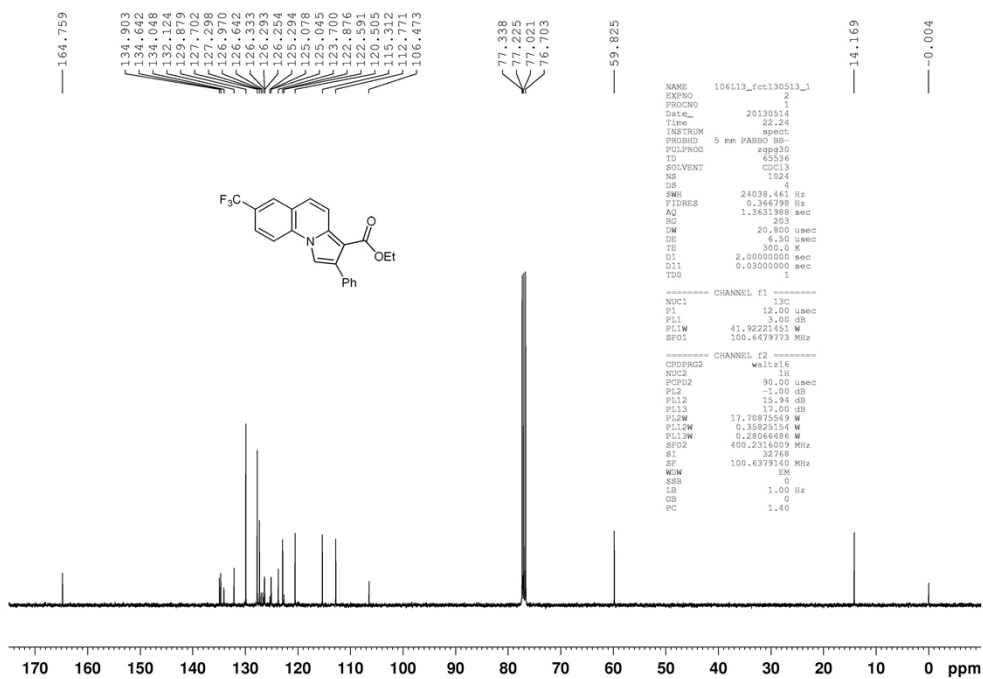
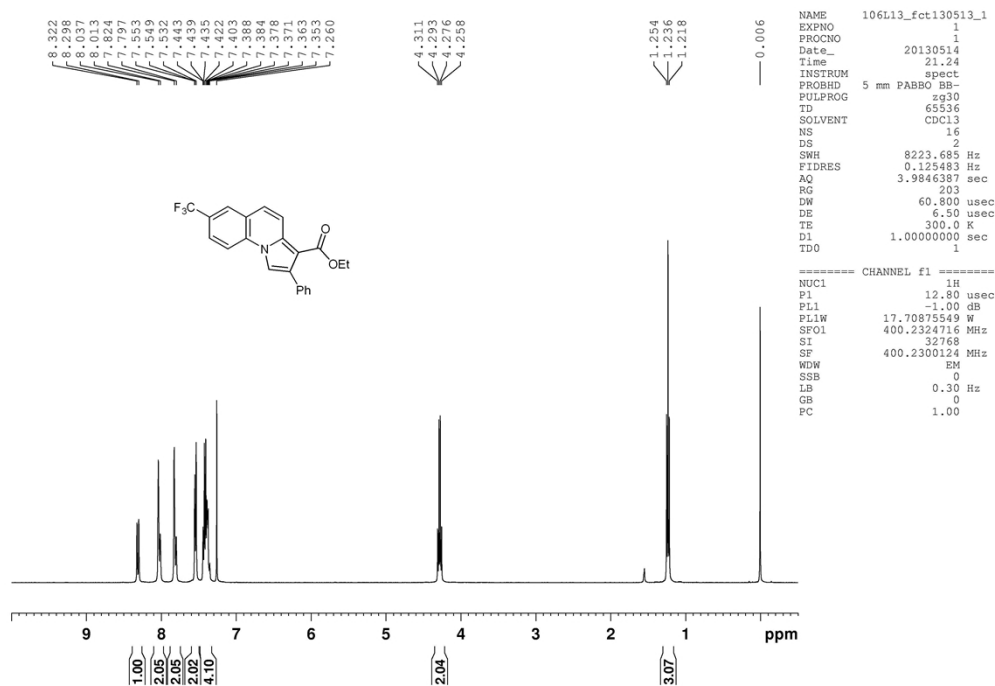
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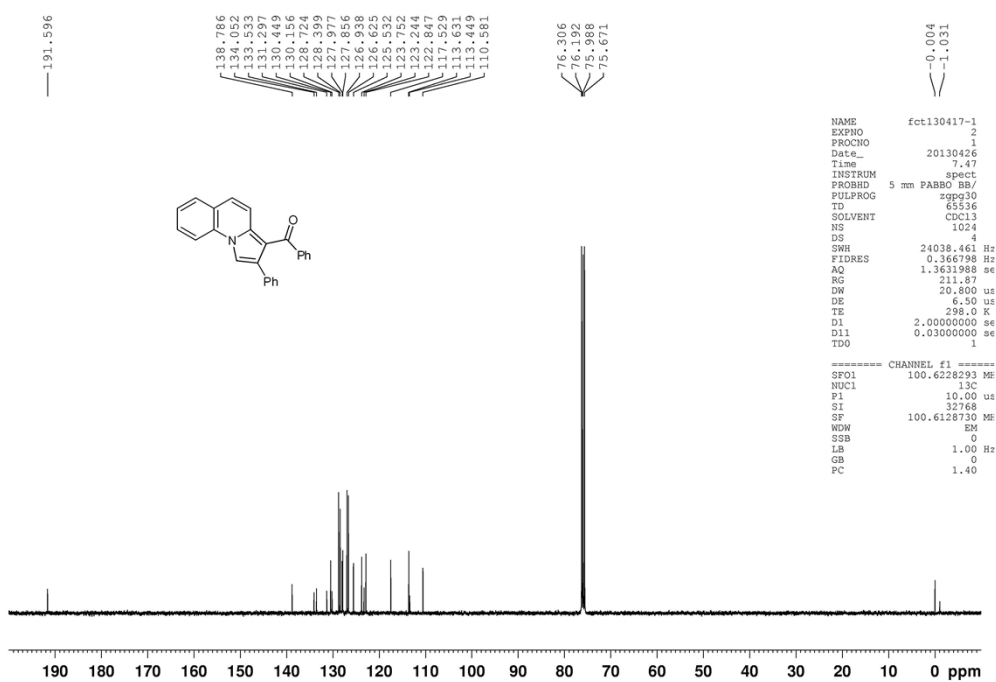
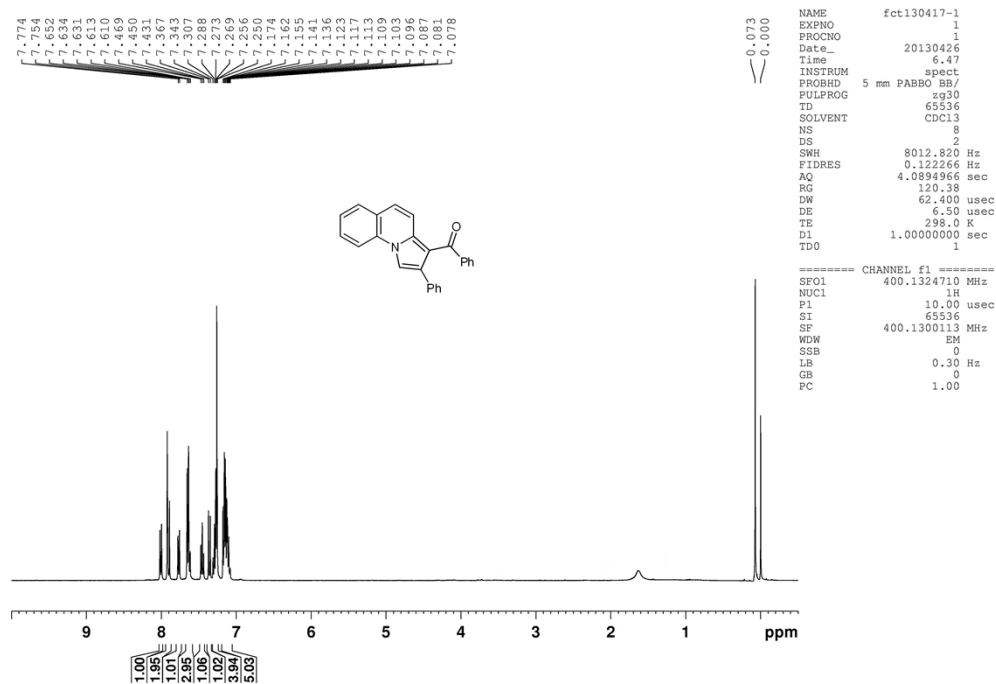
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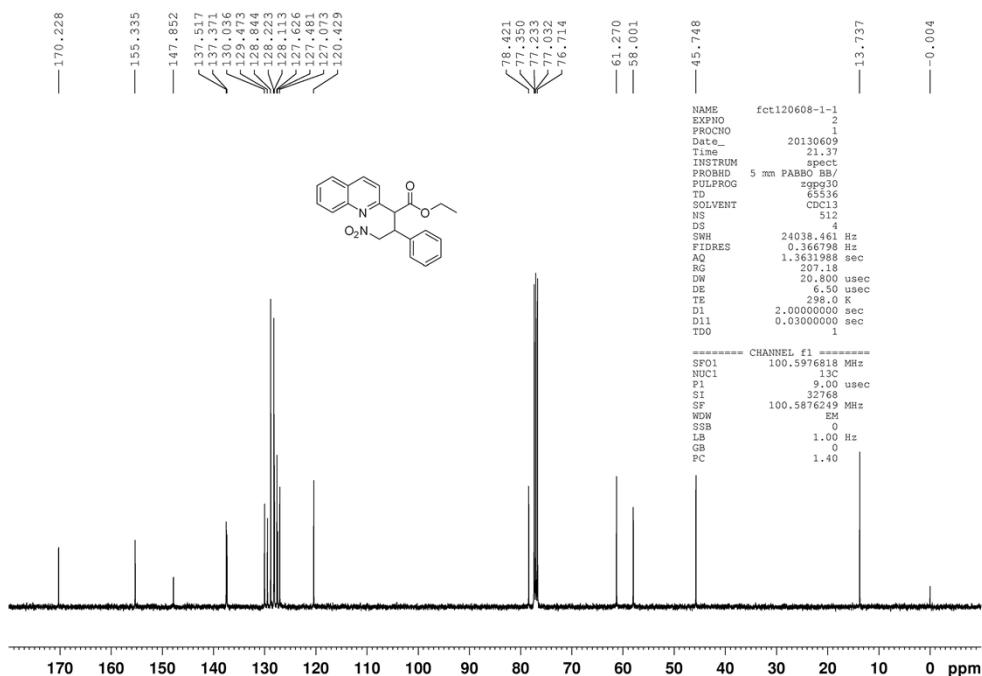
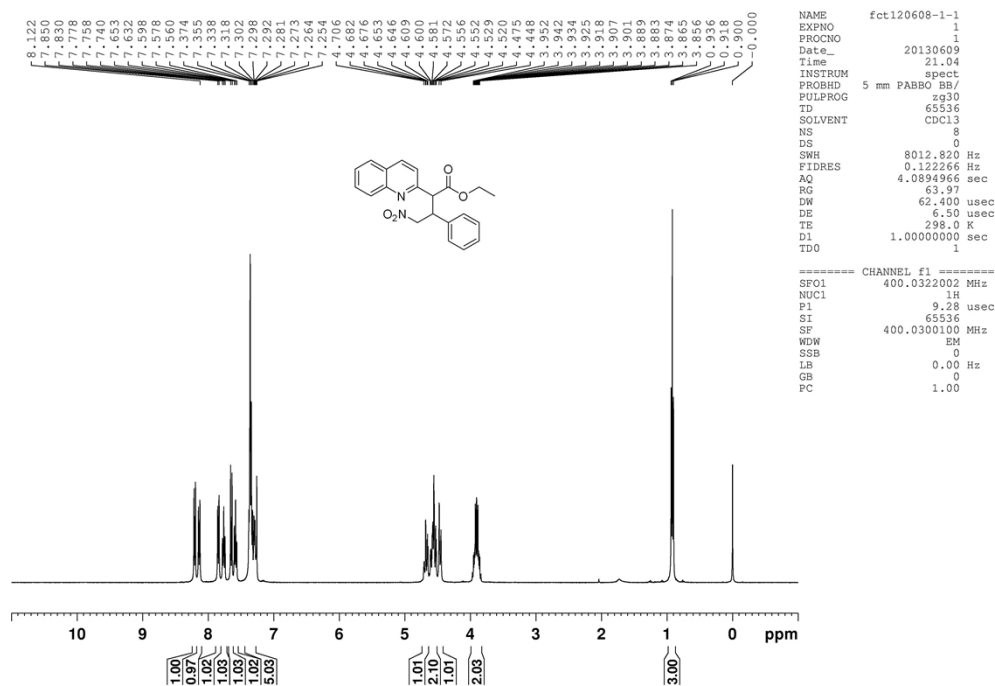
3x



3y



4a



5. Determination of nitrous oxide (N₂O)

Preparation of the sample gas

A two-neck tube was charged with **1a** (640 mg, 3 mmol), **2a** (298 mg, 2 mmol), CeCl₃·7H₂O (74 mg, 0.2 mmol). The tube was sealed with a rubber stopper. The tube was evacuated and flushed with nitrogen three times via a three-way valve. Then 5 mL of ethanol was added to the reaction system by an injection syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5h.

The analysis of the sample gas

Then 100 µL gas sample was collected from the tube by a gas tight syringe. The sample was injected to GC-MS system without undue delay.

The analysis was performed on a GC-MS system (Trace GC/ISQ MS). The mass spectrometer (MS) was used in selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode (8 scans s⁻¹) with electron ionization (70 eV). The selected ions were m/z 22 and m/z 44 for CO₂ and the selected ions were m/z 30 and m/z 44 for N₂O.

Results and discussion

The result was shown in **Fig 1**, **Fig 2** and **Fig 3**.

CO₂ and N₂O have the same base peak at m/z 44, but they have different fragments. CO₂ was analyzed at m/z 22, (CO₂²⁺), an ion present in 1.4% of the base ion. As showed in **Fig 2**, the relative abundance of ion m/z 22 present in 10⁻⁴ of the base ion m/z 44. Most of m/z 44 ions may be derived from N₂O. To confirm the result, ion m/z 30 which was the next largest peak of the N₂O, was monitored (in **Fig 1**). Ion m/z 30 was presented in 15% of the base ion m/z 44, it was consistent with the mass spectrogram of N₂O.

Based on the above results, we verify that N₂O gas exist in the reaction system.

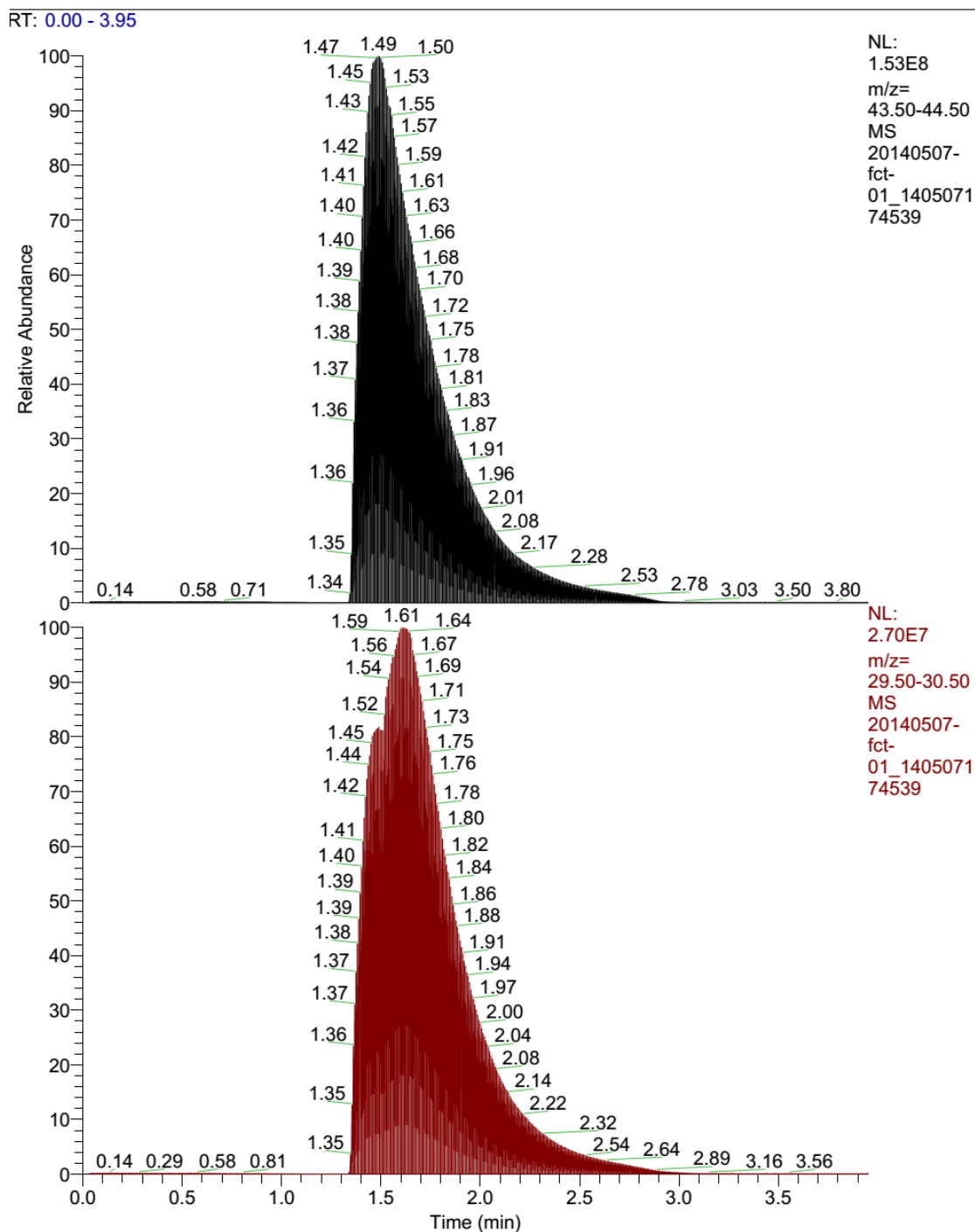


Fig. 1 The SIM mass spectrogram of the sample gas was recorded by m/z 30 and m/z 44.

RT: 0.00 - 4.53

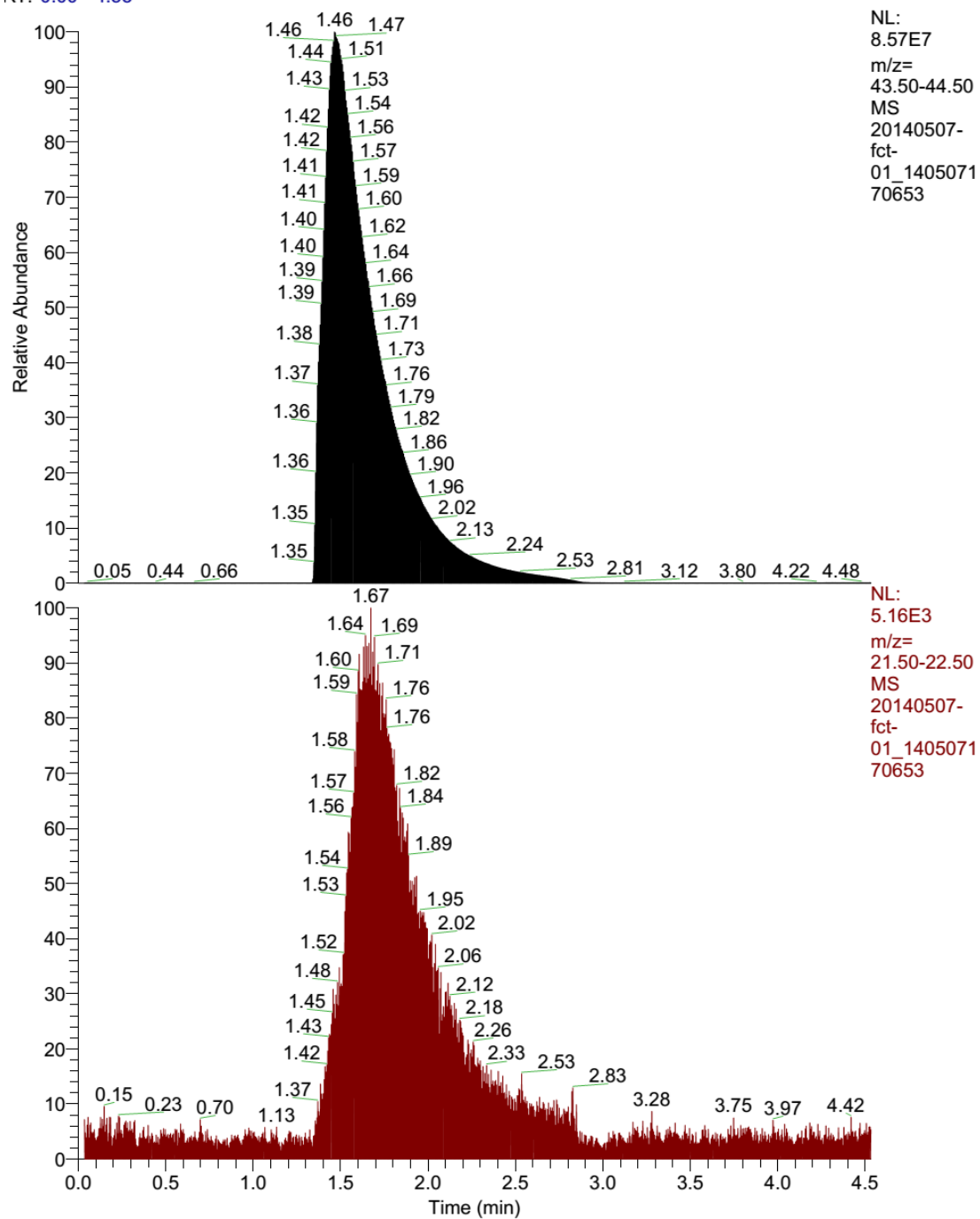
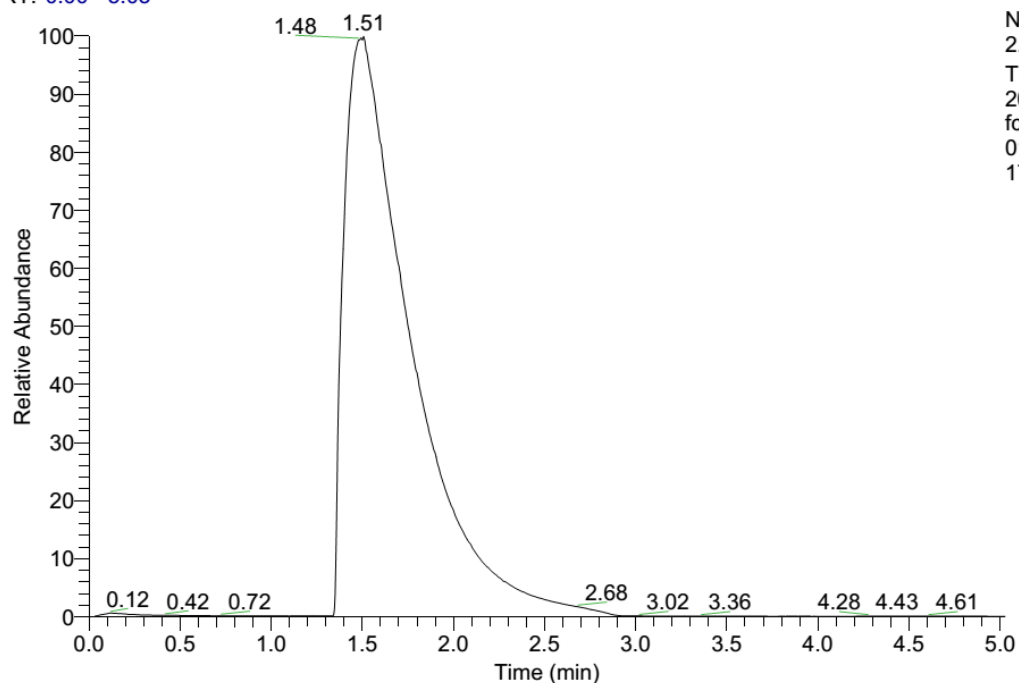


Fig. 2 The SIM mass spectrogram of the sample gas was recorded by m/z 22 and m/z 44.

RT: 0.00 - 5.03



NL:
2.40E8
TIC MS
20140507-
fct-
01_140507
171737

20140507-fct-01_140507171737 #1 RT: 0.03 AV: 1 NL: 3.55E5
Γ: {0,0} + c EI SIM ms [43.50-44.50]

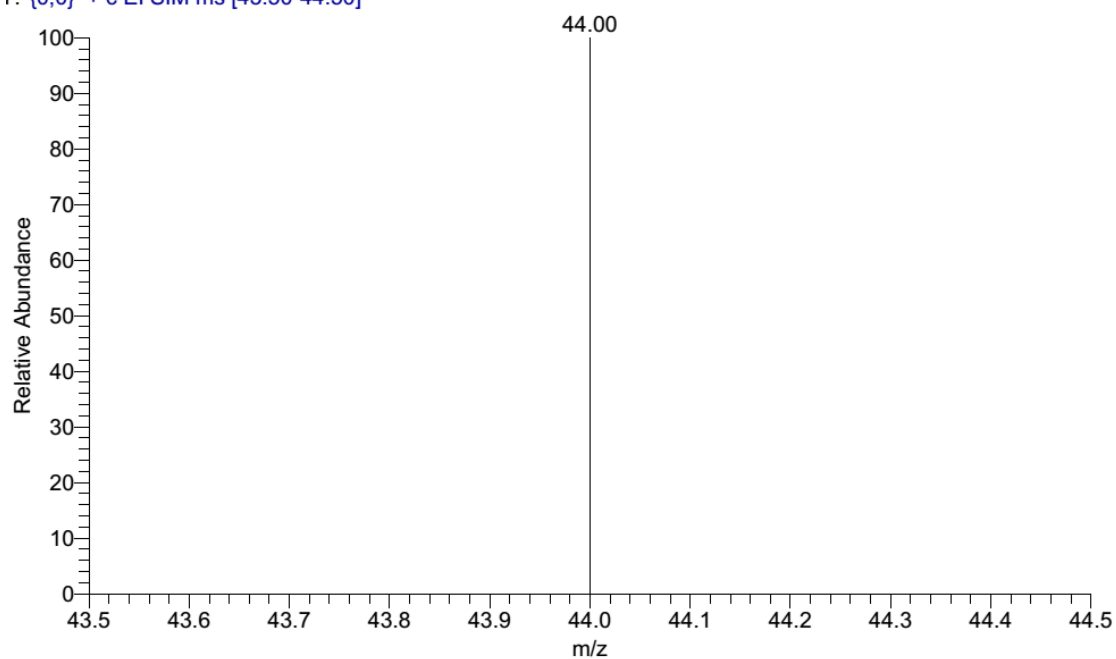


Fig. 3 The SIM chromatograms of the sample gas was recorded by m/z 44.