

## Efficient Palladium-Catalyzed Double Carbonylation of *o*-dibromobenzenes: Synthesis of thalidomide

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### General Methods

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 and Bruker ARX 400 spectrometers. Multiplets were assigned as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), dd (doublet of doublet), m (multiplet) and br. s (broad singlet). All measurements were carried out at room temperature unless otherwise stated. Electron impact (EI) mass spectra were recorded on AMD 402 mass spectrometer (70 eV). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Agilent 6210. The data are given as mass units per charge (*m/z*). Gas chromatography analysis was performed on an Agilent HP-5890 instrument with a FID detector and HP-5 capillary column (polydimethylsiloxane with 5% phenyl groups, 30 m, 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness) using argon as carrier gas. The products were isolated from the reaction mixture by column chromatography on silica gel 60, 0.063-0.2 mm, 70-230 mesh (Merck).

### X-ray crystal structure analysis of 5-methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione:

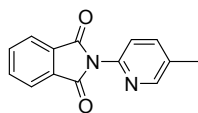
Data were collected on a Bruker Kappa APEX II Duo diffractometer. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on F2 with the SHELXTL software package (G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Crystallogr.* 2008, A64, 112–122.).

Crystal data for 5-methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, *M* = 238.24, monoclinic, space group P2<sub>1</sub>/c, *a* = 12.9282(5), *b* = 13.3172(6), *c* = 6.6540(3) Å, β = 102.290(1)°, *V* = 1119.35(8) Å<sup>3</sup>, *T* = 150(2) K, *Z* = 4, 15678 reflections measured, 2926 independent reflections (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0349), final *R* values (*I* > 2σ(*I*)): *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0432, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.1058, final *R* values (all data): *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0641, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.1185, 164 parameters.

### General Procedure:

The reaction was carried out in a Parr Instruments 4560 series 300 mL autoclave containing an alloy plate with wells for six 4 mL Wheaton vials. Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.49 mg, 2.0 mol%), *CataCXium* A (21.48 mg, 6.0 mol%), amino pyridine (1.1 mmol), and a magnetic stir bar were placed in each vials, which were then capped with a septum equipped with an inlet needle and flushed with argon. Then TEA (3 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), *o*-dibromobenzene (1.0 mmol) and DMAc (5 mL) were added to the vial *via*

syringe. The vials were placed in an autoclave, which was then purged several times with argon. Subsequently it was filled with 30 bars of CO at room temperature and heated at 100 °C for 20 h. After the reaction the autoclave was cooled to room temperature and vented to discharge N<sub>2</sub>. The product was extracted with ethyl acetate (5×3 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated to yield the crude reaction mixture. The purification occurred by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: heptane/EtOAc 50:50).

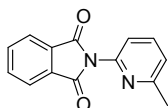


**2-(5-Methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.46 (s, 1*H*), 8.06 – 7.94 (m, 4*H*), 7.91 – 7.78 (m, 1*H*), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1*H*), 2.38 (s, 3*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.67, 149.53, 143.49, 138.96, 135.02, 133.85, 131.41, 123.68, 122.55, 17.60.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 238 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 70), 210 (100), 193 (9), 182 (10), 104(14), 76(20).

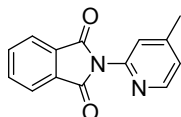


**2-(6-Methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.49 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 0.8 Hz, 1*H*), 8.02 – 7.86 (m, 4*H*), 7.46 – 7.28 (m, 2*H*), 2.41 (s, 3*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.58, 149.81, 149.06, 145.92, 135.06, 131.37, 125.03, 123.71, 123.63, 20.46.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 238 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 65), 210 (100), 193 (12), 104 (14), 76 (20).

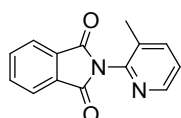


**2-(4-Methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.47 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1*H*), 8.02 – 7.90 (m, 4*H*), 7.85 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 2.6, 0.9 Hz, 1*H*), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1*H*), 2.38 (s, 3*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.58, 149.81, 149.06, 145.92, 135.06, 131.37, 125.03, 123.71, 123.63, 20.46.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 238 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 41), 210 (100), 193 (4), 181 (7), 104 (14), 76 (23).

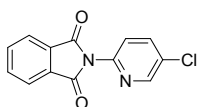


**2-(3-Methylpyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.48 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.8 Hz, 1*H*), 8.10 – 7.86 (m, 5*H*), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 4.7 Hz, 1*H*), 2.20 (s, 3*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.46, 147.28, 144.81, 140.14, 135.17, 132.37, 131.31, 124.97, 123.88, 16.59.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 238 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 209 (21), 194 (29), 181 (19).

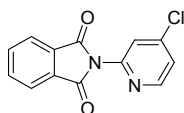


**2-(5-Chloropyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.72 (s, 1*H*), 8.20 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 2.7, 1.0 Hz, 1*H*), 8.03 – 7.86 (m, 4*H*), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 1*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.19, 147.95, 144.45, 138.49, 135.08, 131.31, 131.07, 124.13, 123.77.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 258 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 65), 230 (100), 179 (14), 104 (23), 76 (36).

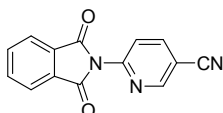


**2-(4-Chloropyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1*H*), 8.06 – 7.98 (m, 2*H*), 7.96 – 7.91 (m, 2*H*), 7.81 – 7.74 (m, 1*H*), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 2.0 Hz, 1*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.18, 150.69, 147.12, 144.27, 135.24, 131.30, 124.27, 123.90, 123.03.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 258 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 57), 230 (100), 202 (9), 179 (8), 104 (16), 76 (21).

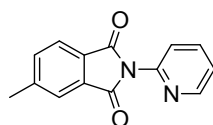


**6-(1,3-Dioxoisindolin-2-yl)nicotinonitrile**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 9.12 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 0.8 Hz, 1*H*), 8.56 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1*H*), 8.06 – 8.00 (m, 2*H*), 7.96 – 7.91 (m, 2*H*), 7.78 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 165.78, 152.60, 148.84, 142.49, 135.31, 131.26, 123.98, 122.42, 116.65, 108.65.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 249 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 43), 221 (100), 204 (8), 193 (9), 104 (17), 76 (27).



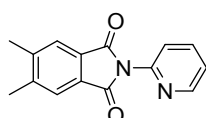
**5-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.68 – 8.59 (m, 1*H*), 8.04 (dddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.4, 1.9, 0.4 Hz, 1*H*), 7.98 – 7.81 (m, 2*H*), 7.74 (ddt, *J* = 7.6, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, 1*H*), 7.60 – 7.43 (m, 2*H*), 2.59 – 2.34 (m, 3*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.55, 166.44, 149.37, 146.05, 145.94, 138.65, 135.40, 131.71, 128.74, 124.06, 124.03, 123.61, 123.06, 21.42.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 238 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 46), 210 (100), 193 (11), 181 (12), 118 (20), 89 (32).

**HRMS (EI) (m/z):** [*M*+*H*]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> 238.07368, found 238.07313.



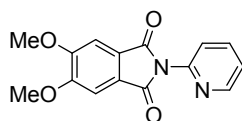
**5,6-Dimethyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 8.63 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1*H*), 8.03 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1*H*), 7.80 (s, 2*H*), 7.59 – 7.43 (m, 2*H*), 2.43 (s, 6*H*)

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 166.64, 149.34, 146.01, 144.68, 138.61, 129.27, 124.36, 123.94, 123.04, 20.04.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 252 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 48), 224 (100), 207 (10), 132 (12), 103 (18), 78 (17).

**HRMS (EI) (m/z):** [*M*+*H*]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> 252.08933, found 252.08906.



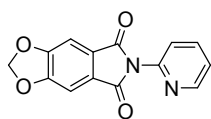
**5,6-Dimethoxy-2-(pyridin-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** δ 7.80 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1*H*), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1*H*), 6.78 – 6.59 (m, 4*H*), 3.14 (s, 6*H*).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** 166.44, 154.12, 149.33, 146.09, 138.60, 124.51, 123.81, 122.97, 105.99, 56.52.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 284 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 256 (89), 239 (15), 136 (24).

**HRMS (EI) (m/z):**  $[M+H]^+$  calcd. for:  $C_{15}H_{12}O_4N_2$  284.07916, found 284. 07862.



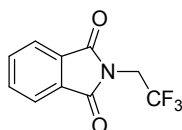
**6-(Pyridin-2-yl)-5H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-f]isoindole-5,7(6H)-dione**

**$^1H$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )**  $\delta$  8.62 (ddd,  $J = 4.8, 1.9, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.03 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 7.5, 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 3H), 6.33 (s, 2H).

**$^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )** 165.85, 153.04, 149.34, 145.90, 138.63, 126.80, 123.91, 122.93, 103.84, 103.61.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):**  $m/z$  (%) = 268 ( $[M]^+$ , 80), 240 (100), 223 (13), 120 (24).

**HRMS (EI) (m/z):**  $[M+H]^+$  calcd. for:  $C_{14}H_8O_4N_2$  268.04786, found 268. 04761.

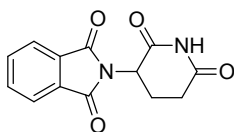


**2-(2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**$^1H$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )**  $\delta$  7.93 – 7.91 (m, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J = 0.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J = 0.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 4.37 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 2H).

**$^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )**  $\delta$  166.65, 134.98, 131.08, 125.51, 124.48, 121.80.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):**  $m/z$  (%) = 229 ( $[M]^+$ , 20), 210 (4), 160 (100), 133 (7), 104 (10), 76 (19).

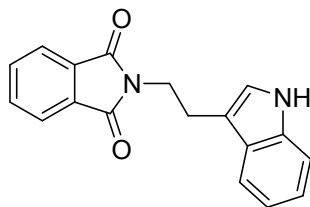


**Thalidomide**

**$^1H$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )**  $\delta$  11.15 (s, 1H), 7.92 (dq,  $J = 5.8, 2.1$  Hz, 3H), 5.17 (dd,  $J = 12.9, 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.41 (m, 4H), 2.16 – 1.90 (m, 1H).

**$^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )** 172.73, 169.82, 167.12, 134.85, 131.19, 131.05, 123.38, 48.94, 40.31, 38.58, 30.90, 21.94.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):**  $m/z$  (%) = 258 ( $[M]^+$ , 25), 230 (24), 213 (12), 202 (22), 187 (17), 173 (100), 160 (7), 148 (45), 113 (23), 117 (7), 104 (45), 76 (42).

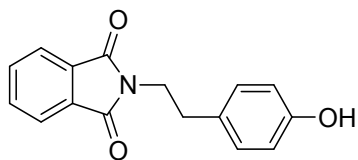


**2-(2-(1H-Indol-3-yl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

**$^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )**  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.78 (ddt,  $J = 7.7, 1.6, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.23 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 4.14 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.25 – 3.11 (m, 2H).

**$^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )** 170.77, 168.40, 136.30, 133.90, 132.20, 127.39, 123.19, 122.17, 122.00, 119.39, 118.82, 112.21, 111.21, 77.53, 77.10, 76.68, 38.57, 24.53.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):**  $m/z$  (%) = 290 ( $[M]^+$ , 35), 230 (24), 160 (8), 143 (20), 130 (100), 173 (100), 103 (7), 77 (11).

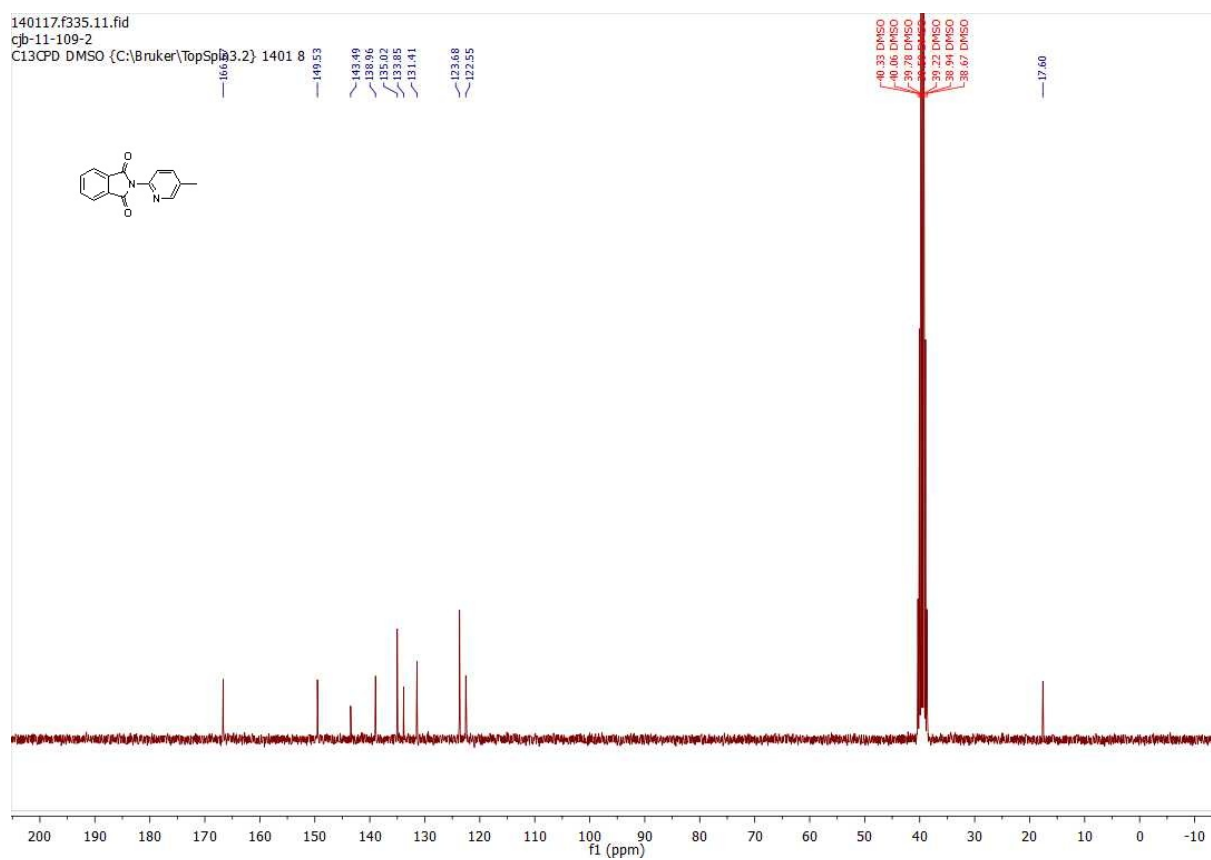
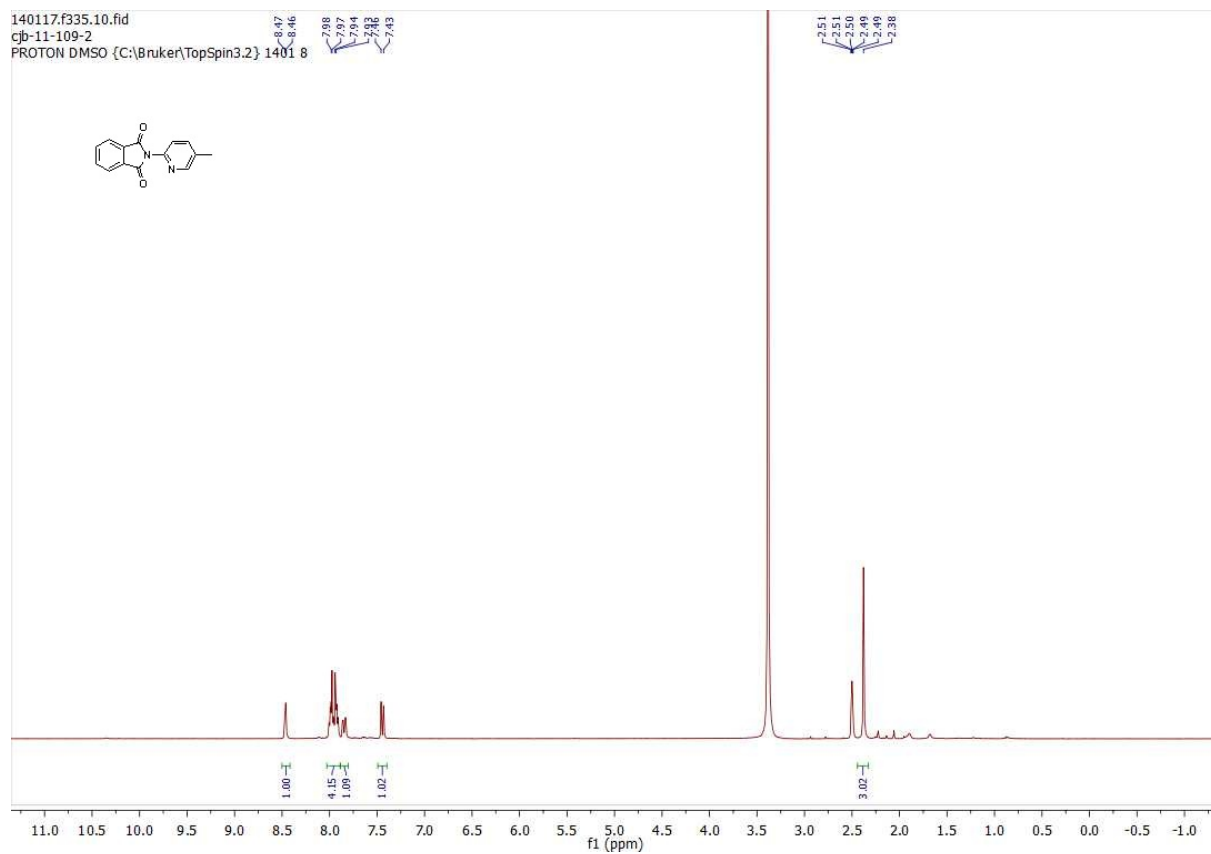


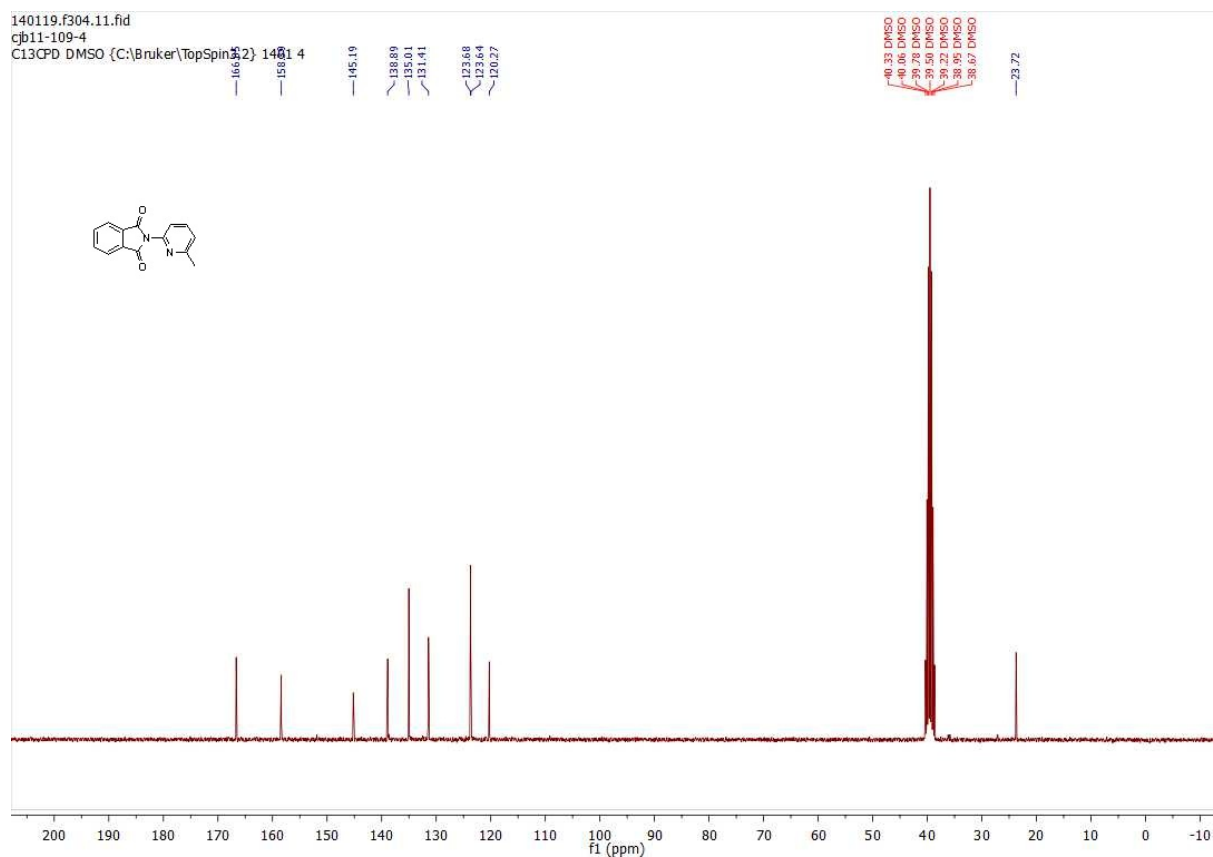
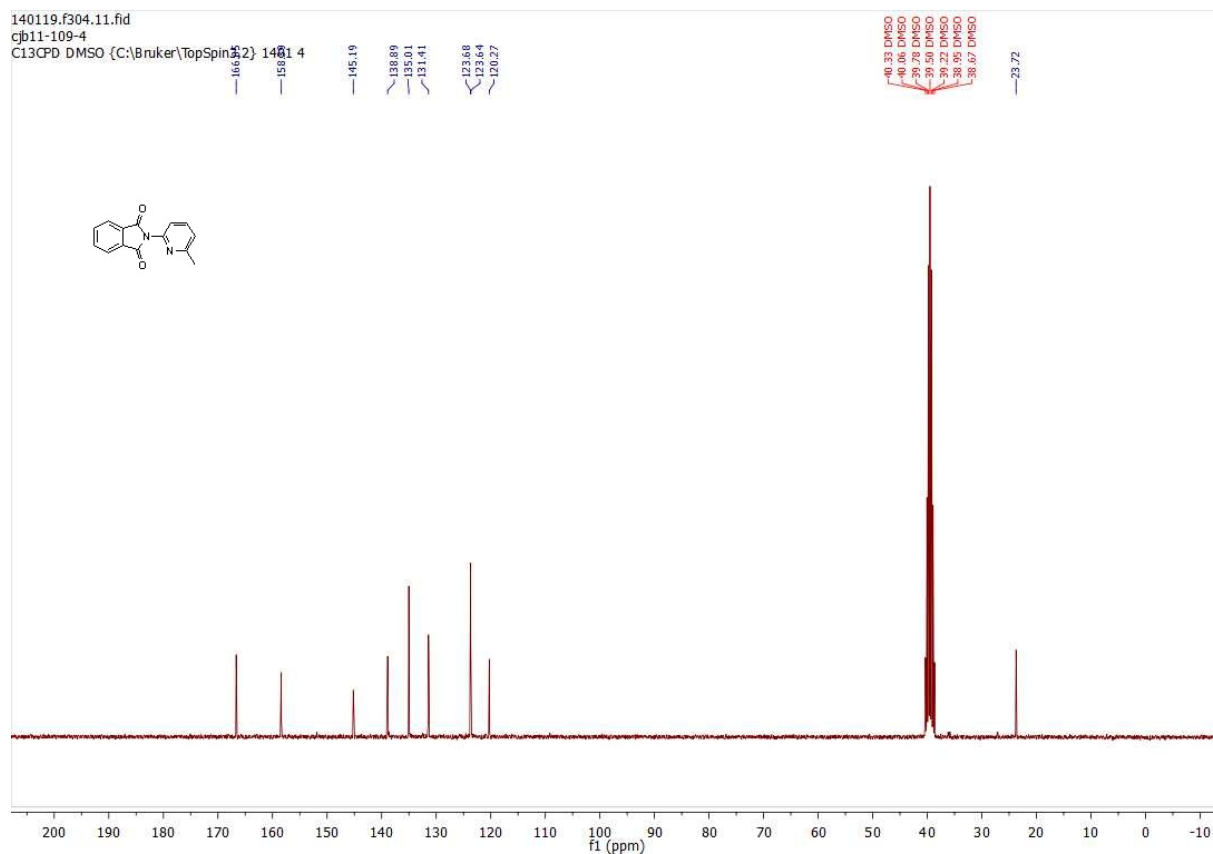
**2-(4-Hydroxyphenethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**

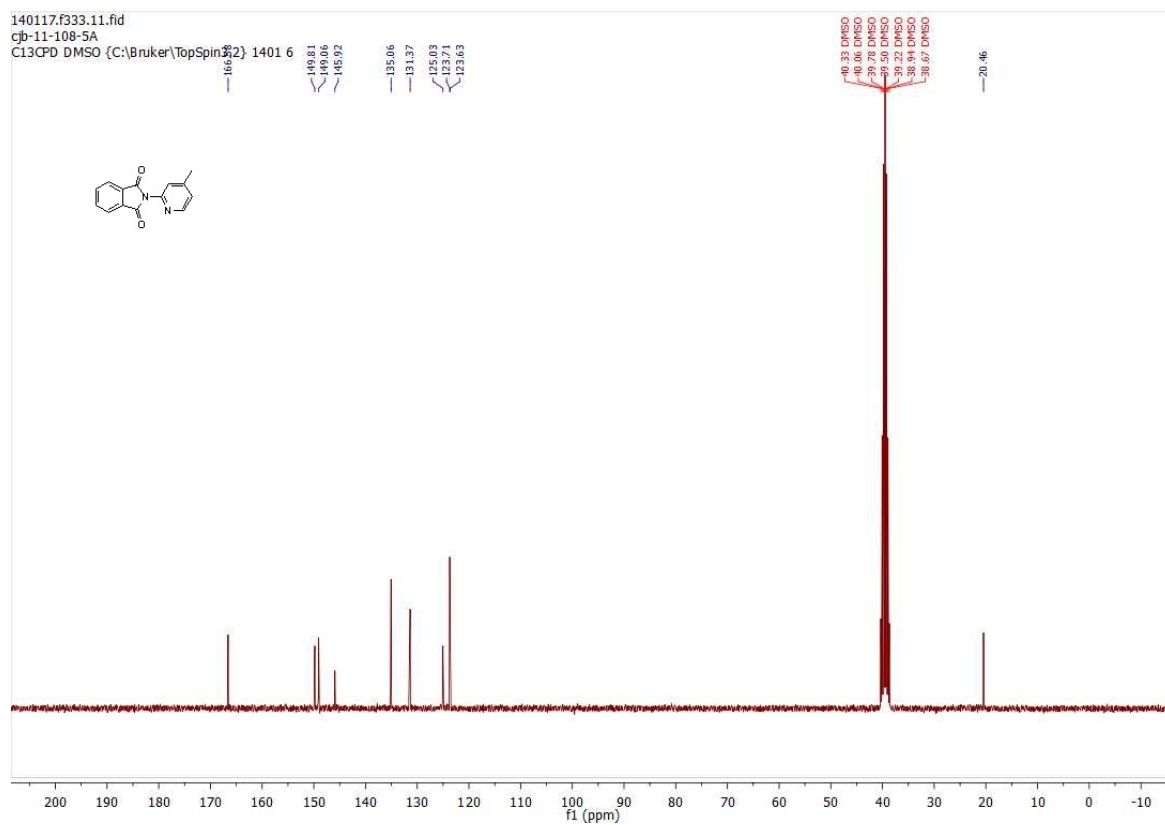
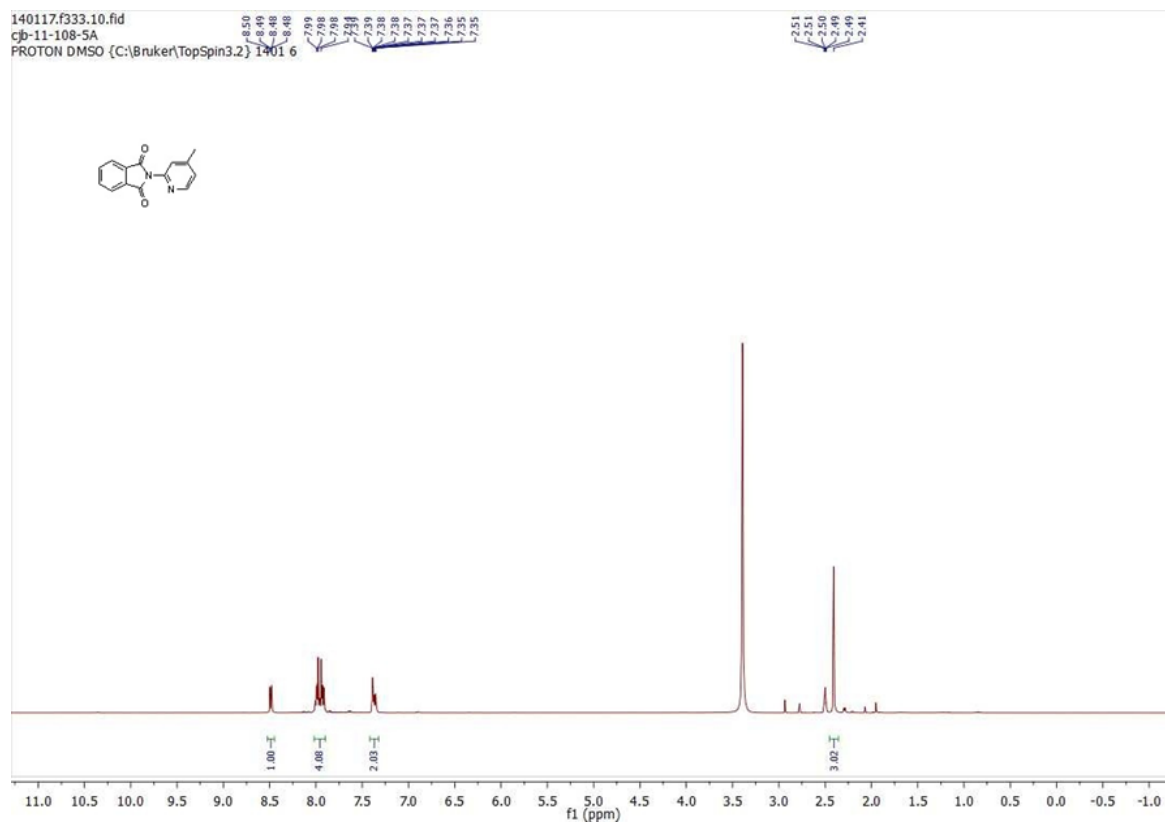
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)**  $\delta$  7.81 – 7.71 (m, 4*H*), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2*H*), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2*H*), 5.31 (s, 1*H*), 3.79 – 3.56 (m, 2*H*), 2.73 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2*H*).

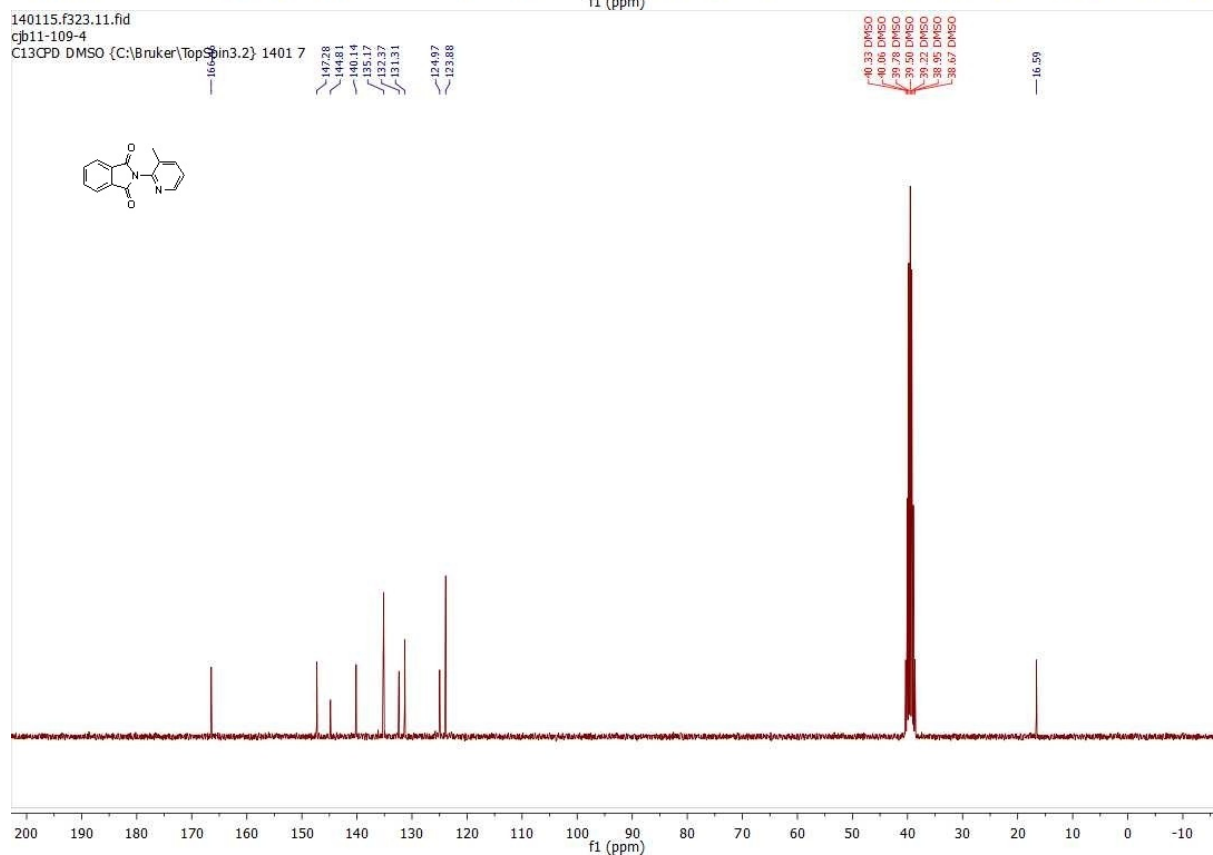
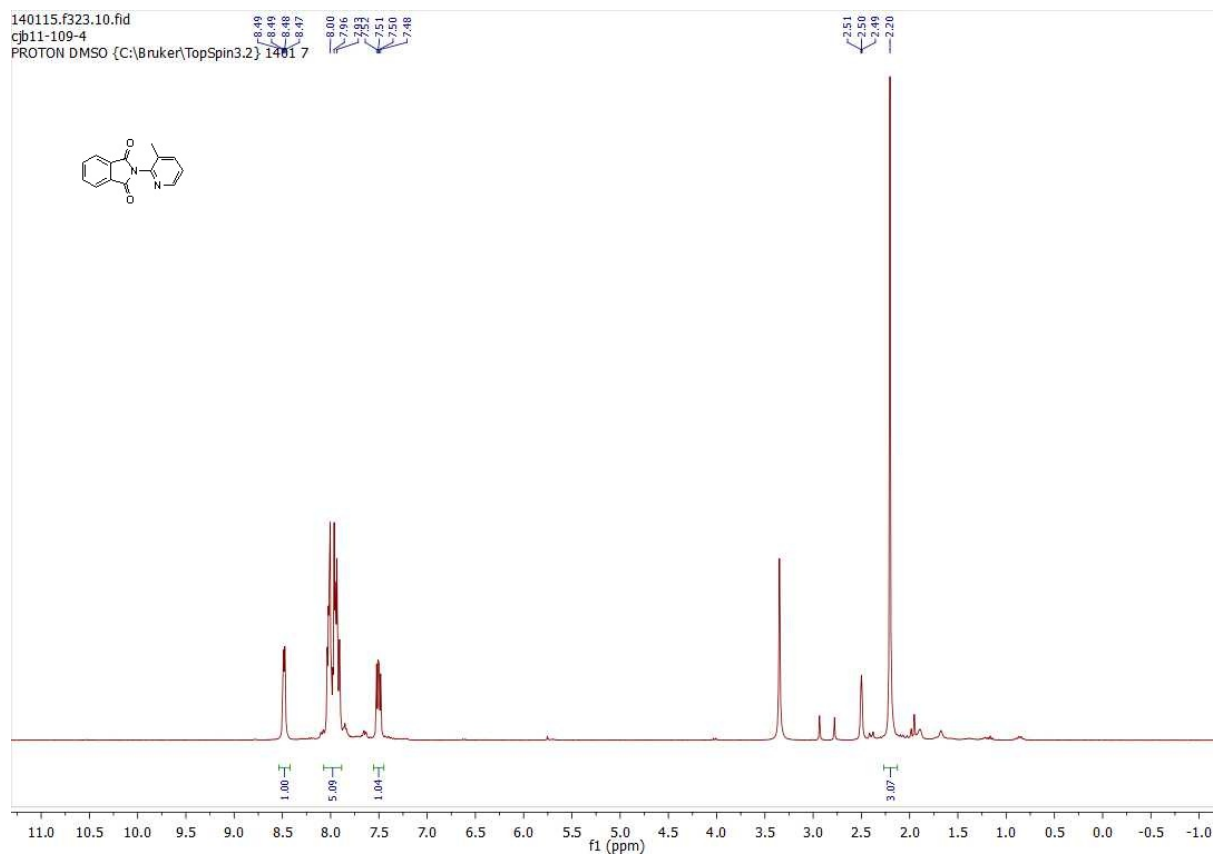
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)** 167.63, 155.74, 134.35, 131.43, 129.48, 128.15, 122.95, 115.15, 40.28, 32.80.

**MS (EI, 70 eV):** *m/z* (%) = 267 ([*M*]<sup>+</sup>, 15), 160 (27), 120 (100), 107 (32), 77 (18), 51 (5).

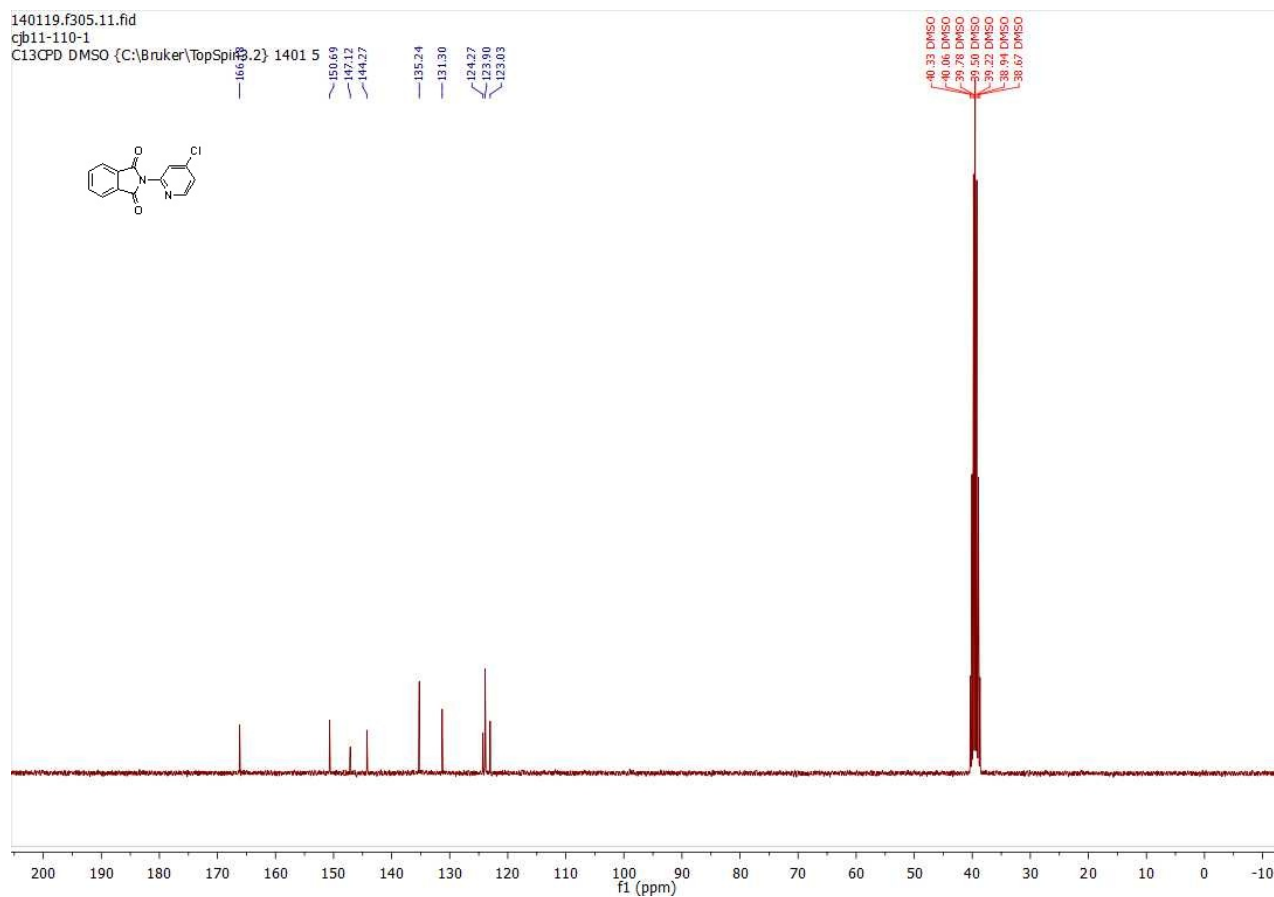
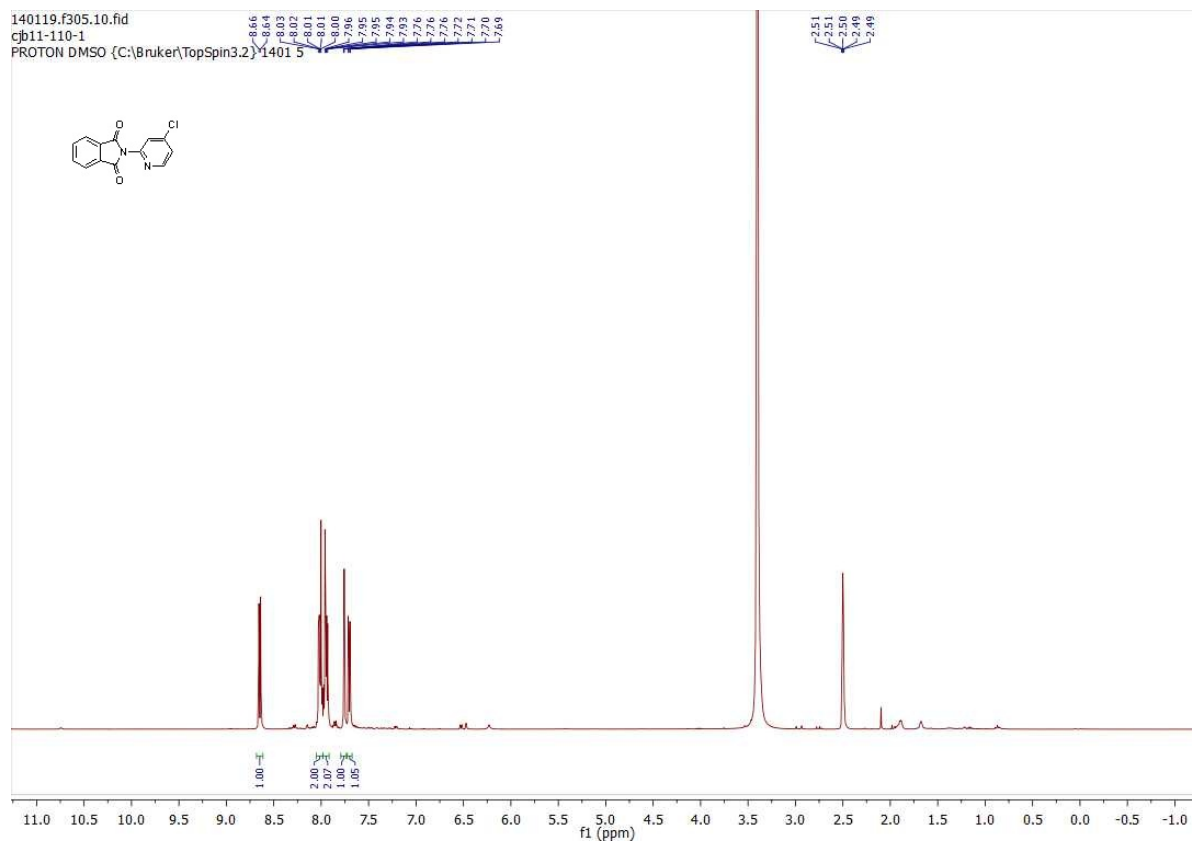


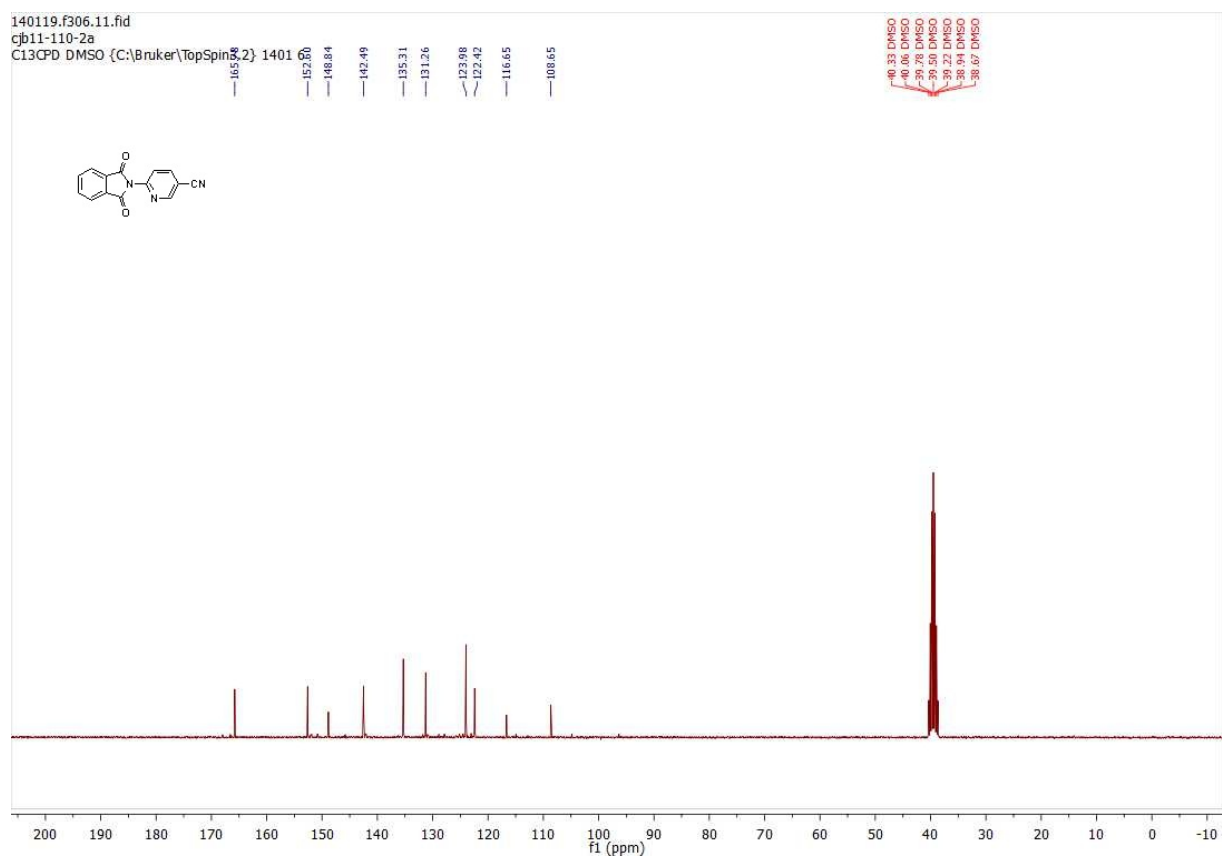
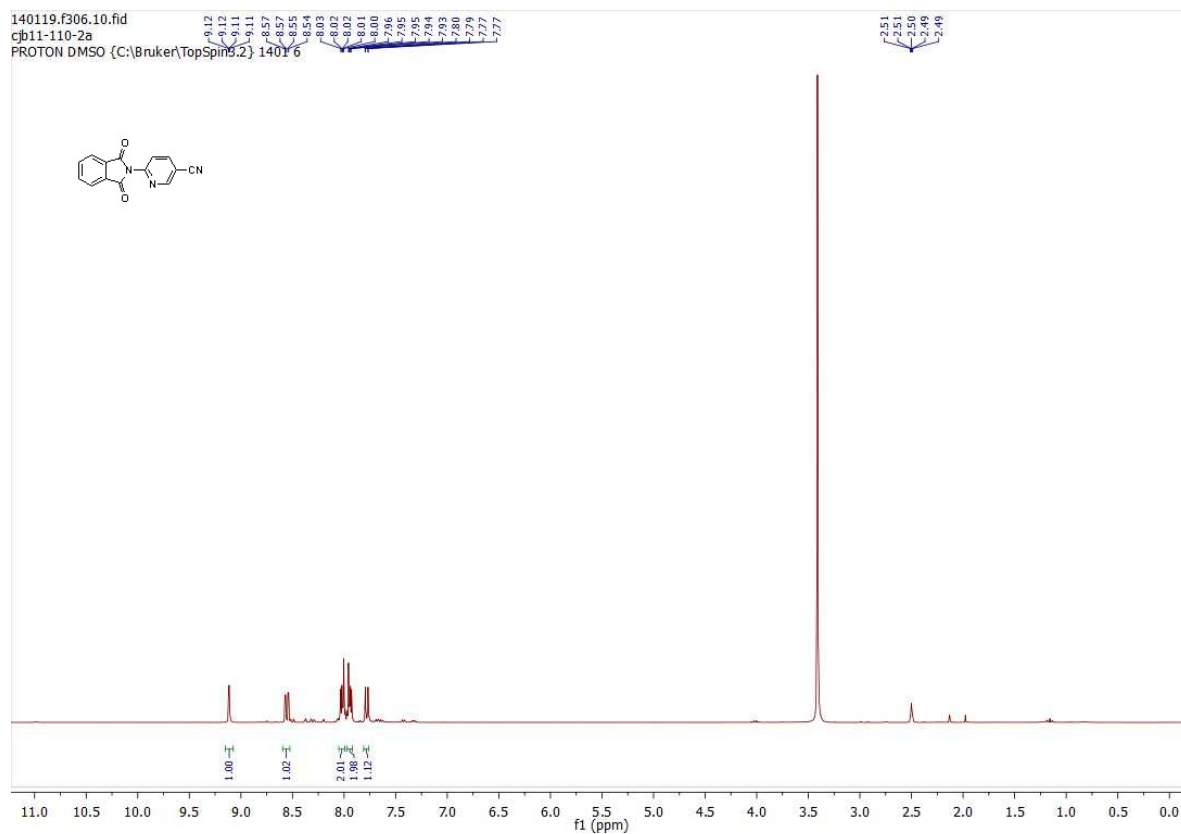


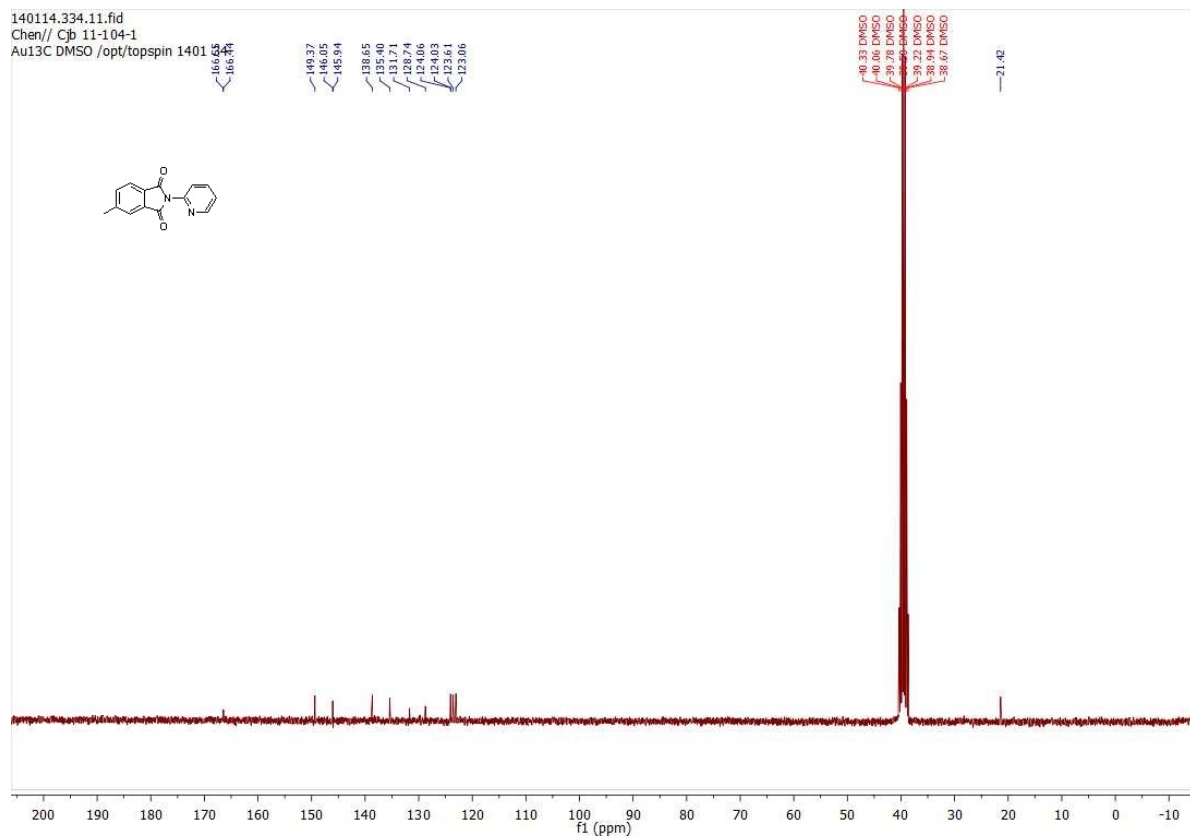
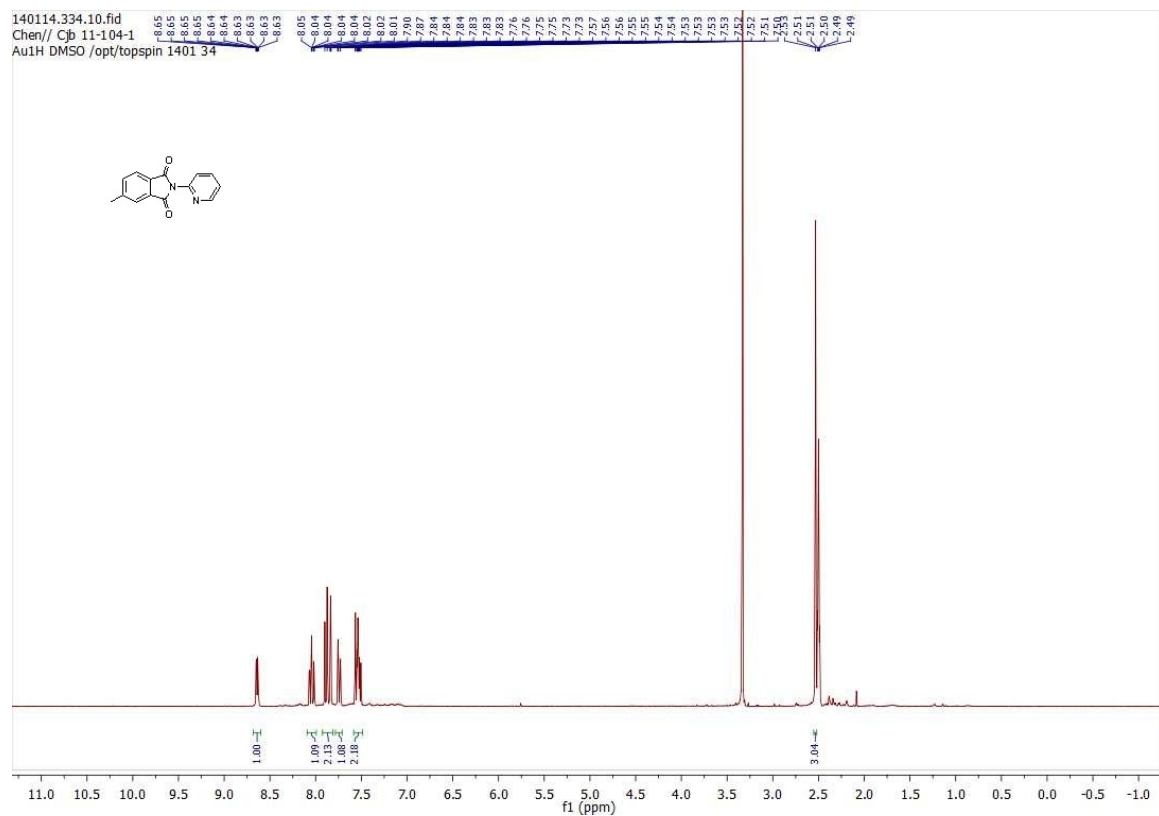


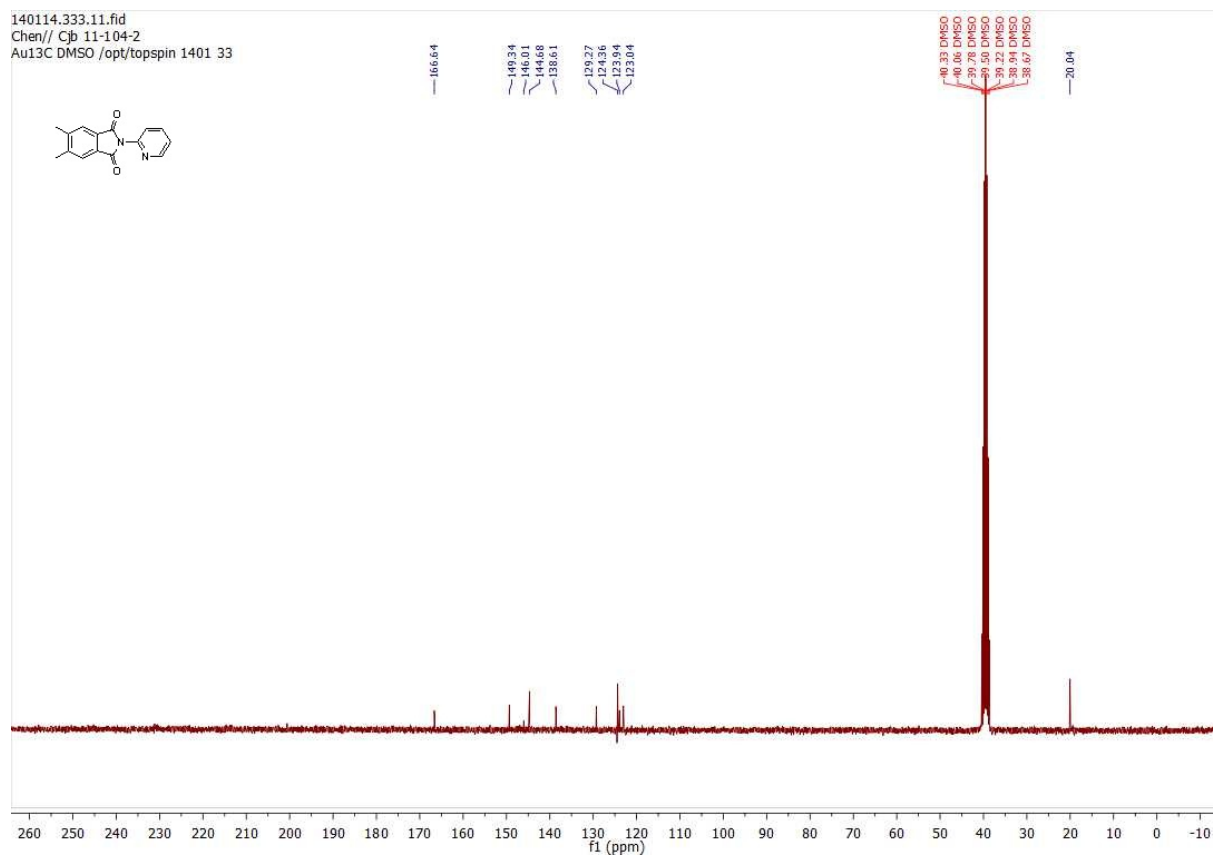
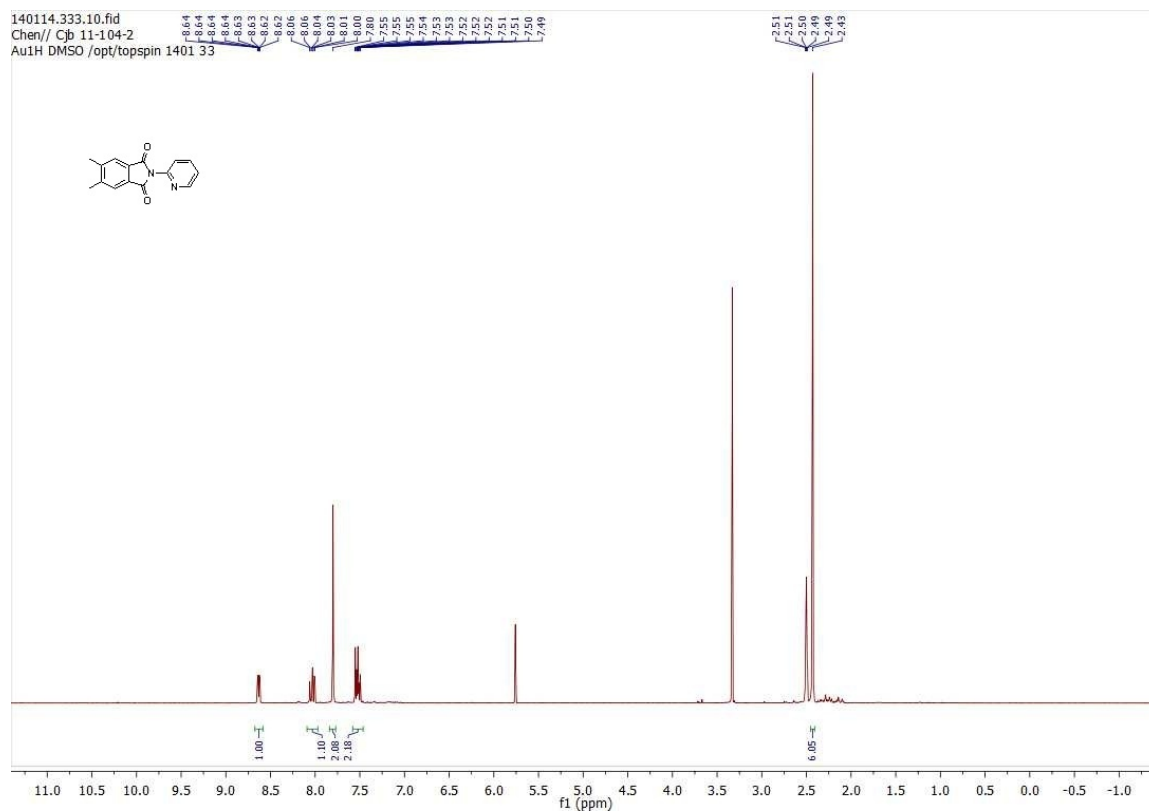


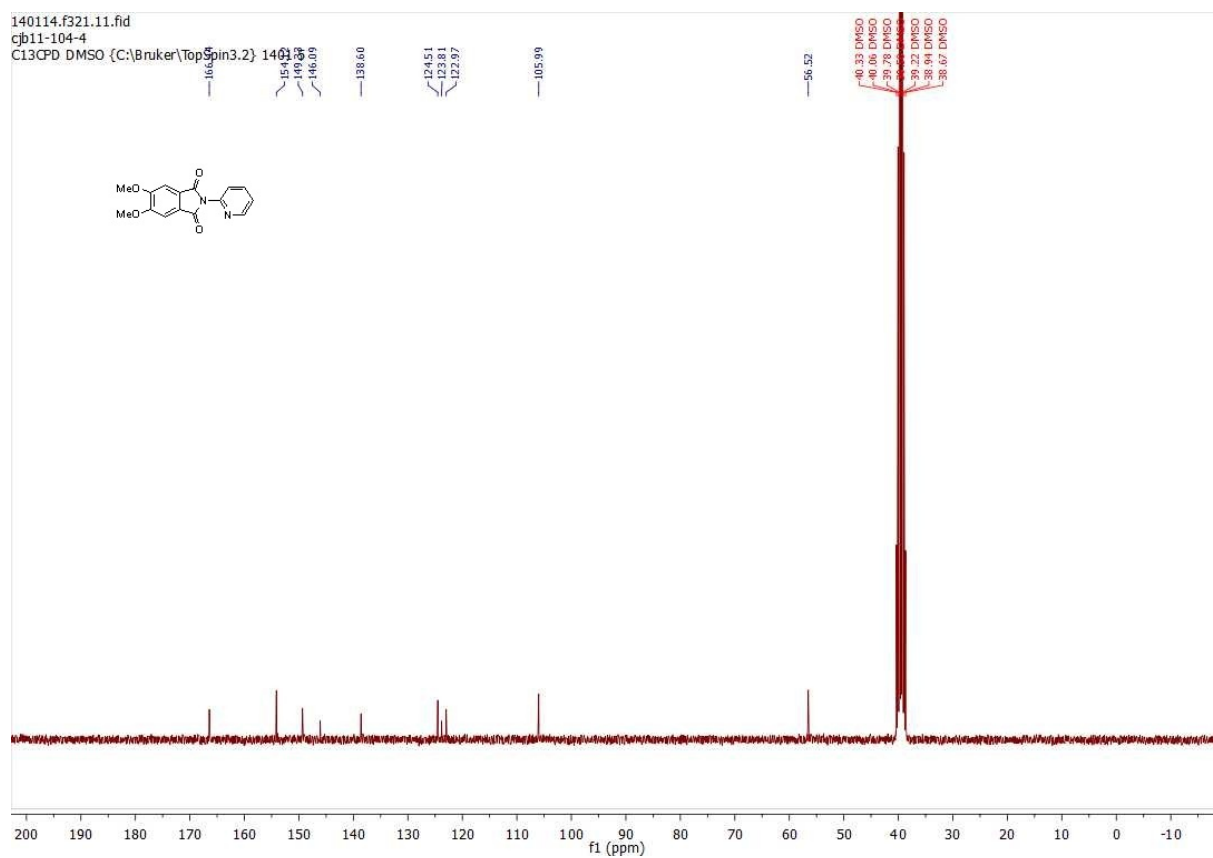
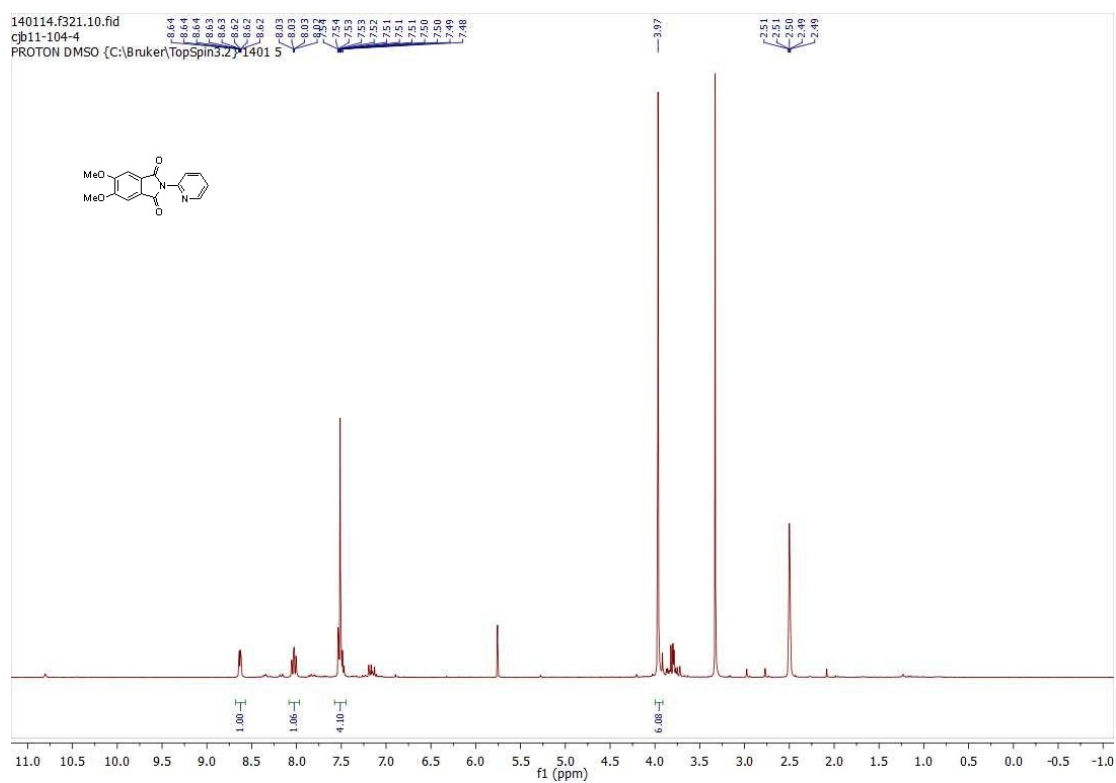


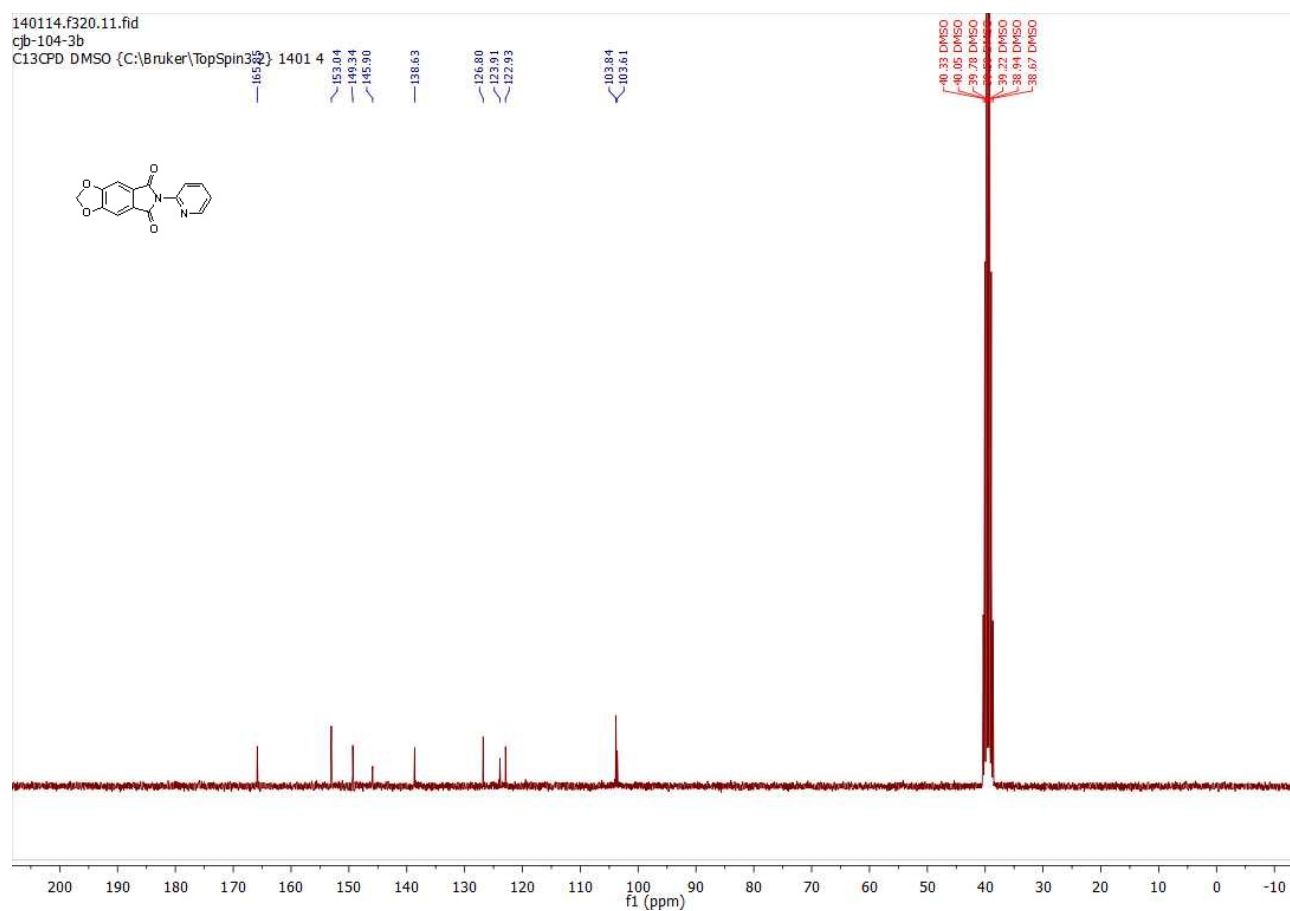
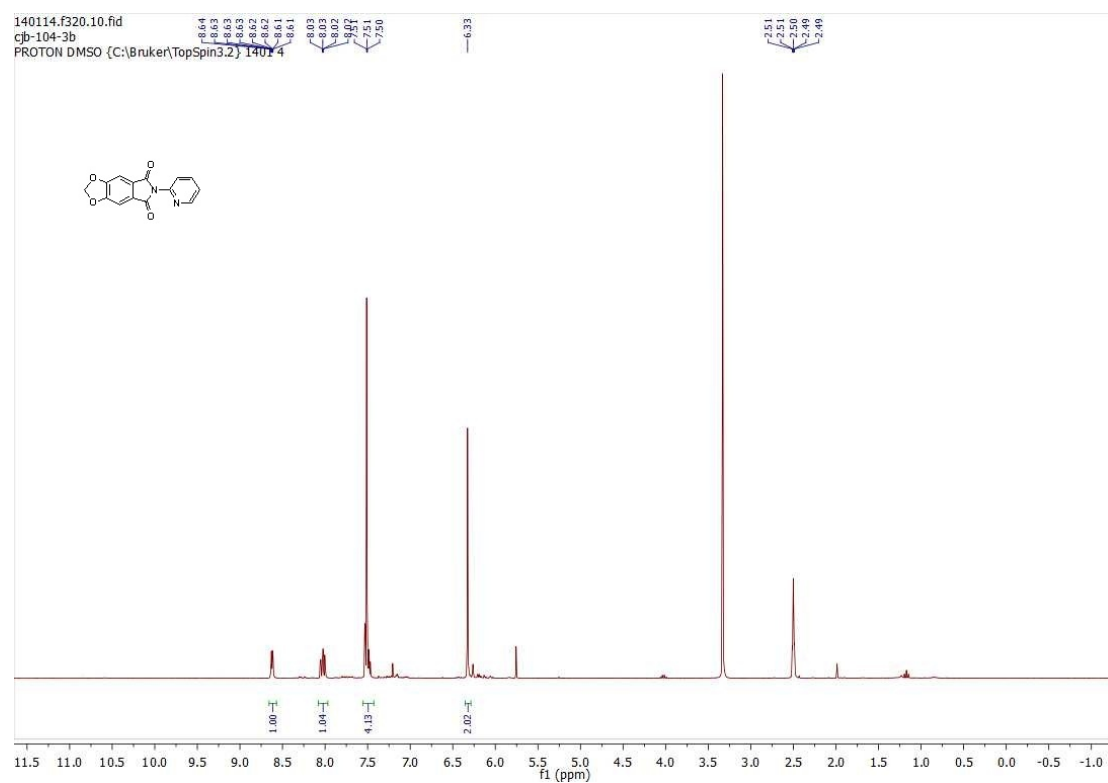


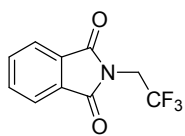






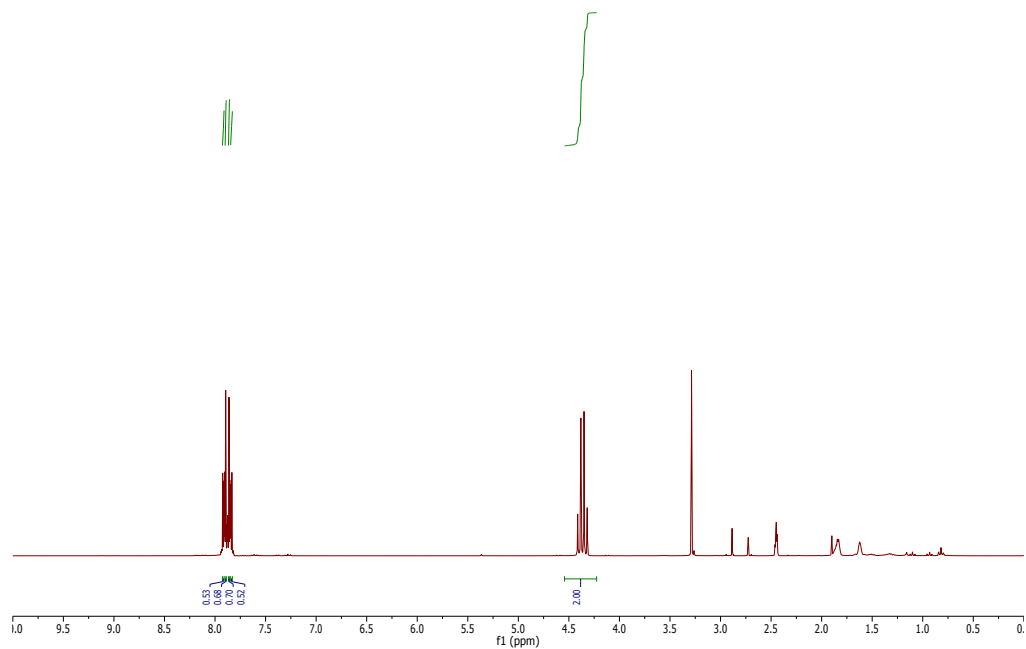




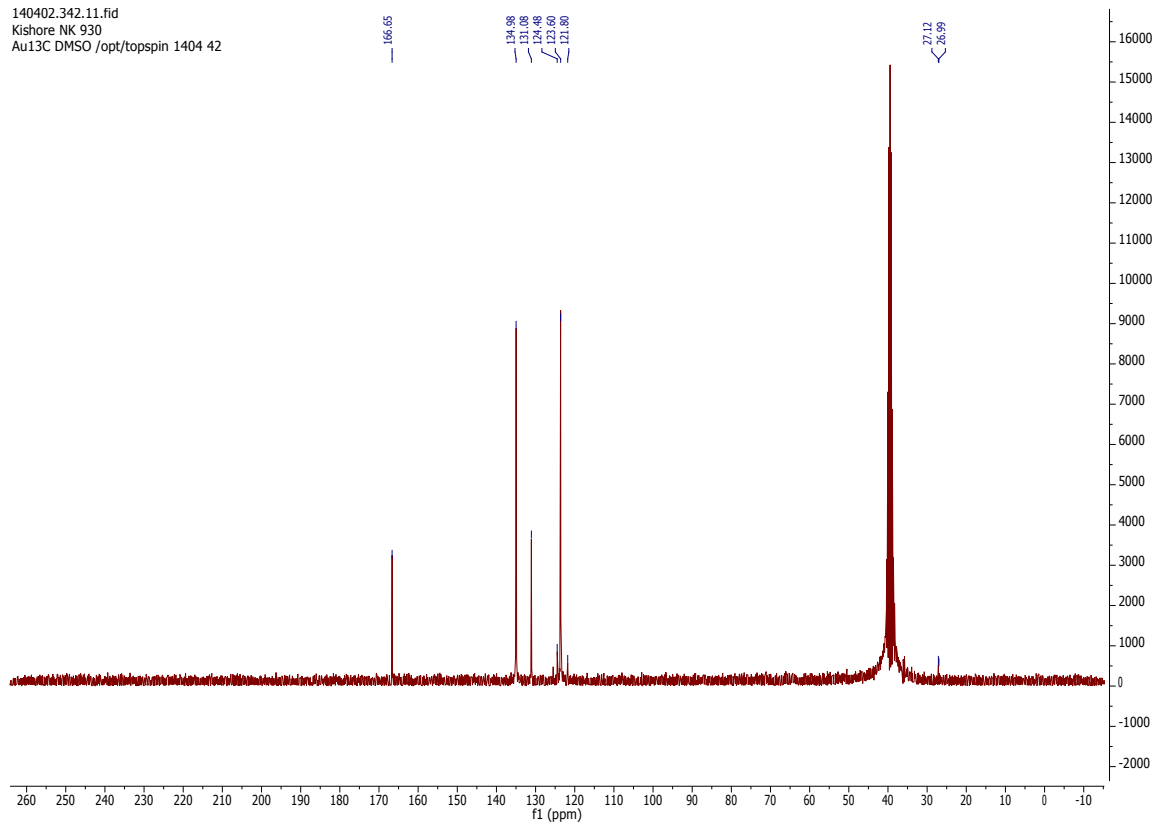


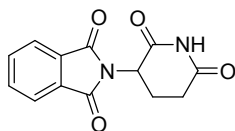
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR

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Kishore NK 930  
Au1H DMSO /opt/topspin 1404 42



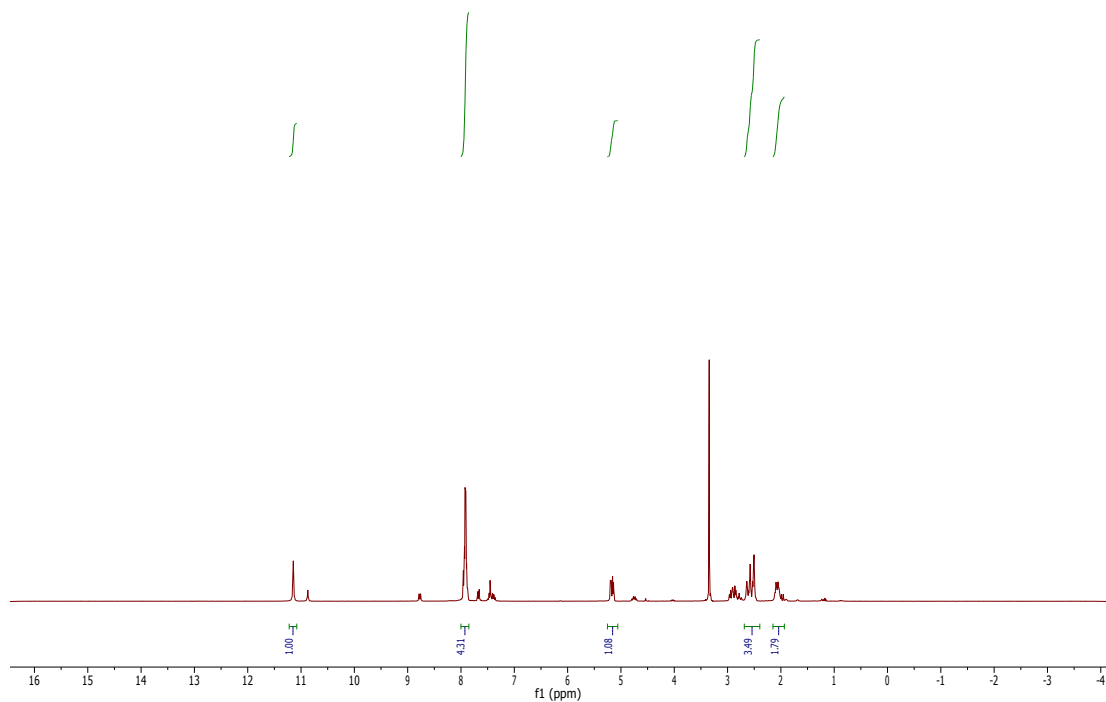
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Au13C DMSO /opt/topspin 1404 42





# <sup>1</sup>H NMR

140321.360.10.fid  
Kishore/ NK 874  
Au1H DMSO /opt/topspin 1403 60



# <sup>13</sup>C NMR

140321.360.11.fid  
Kishore/ NK 874  
Au13C DMSO /opt/topspin 1403 60

