

# Ruthenium-Catalyzed Direct C3 Alkylation of Indoles with $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Ketones

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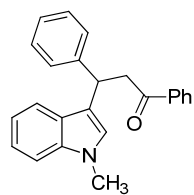
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## 1. General Methods

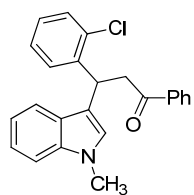
NMR data were obtained for  $^1\text{H}$  at 300 MHz or 400 MHz, and for  $^{13}\text{C}$  at 75 MHz or 100 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  solution. ESI HRMS was recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2 and Water XEVO G2 Q-ToF. UV detection was monitored at 220 nm. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_2\text{CHCl}_2$  were distilled over  $\text{CaH}_2$ . All indoles were commercially available and *N*-methyl indoles were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>[1]</sup> All  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2. General Procedure for Synthesis of 3-alkyl indole derivatives and Characterization Data

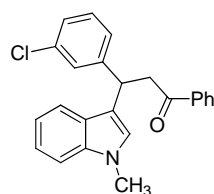
*N*- $\text{CH}_3$  indole **1a** (6.6 mg, 0.05 mmol), chalcone **2a** (12.1 mg, 0.058 mmol),  $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  (1.4 mg, 3 mol %) and  $\text{AgSbF}_6$  (3.44 mg, 20 mol %) were stirred in DCM (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 4 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether (1:50) to give the product **3aa** as a white solid (16.3 mg, 96%).



3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3aa**). 4 h, 96% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.10 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.81 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20.4, 24.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.4, 144.4, 137.3, 137.1, 132.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, 126.9, 126.2, 121.6, 119.5, 118.8, 117.7, 109.2, 45.3, 38.0, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  362.1521, found 362.1515.

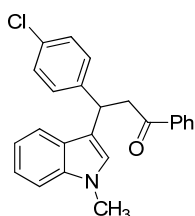


3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (**3ab**). 8 h, 91% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.97 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 5.53 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.73 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 20.8, 44.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.0, 141.7, 137.2, 136.8, 133.5, 133.0, 129.7, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.6, 121.7, 119.5, 118.9, 116.1, 109.2, 44.3, 34.7, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  396.1131 found  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{35}\text{ClNNaO}$  396.1133,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{37}\text{ClNNaO}$  398.1105.

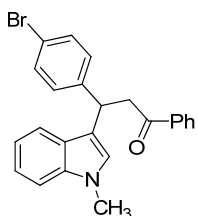


3-[1-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-phenylbut-3-enyl]-1-methyl-1*H*-indole (**3ac**). 10 h, 80% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H),

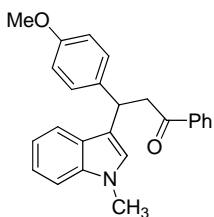
5.07 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.78 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 20, 33.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  197.9, 146.6, 137.3, 136.9, 134.1, 133.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.7, 126.4, 126.1, 121.8, 119.3, 118.9, 117.0, 109.2, 44.9, 37.7, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  396.1131 found  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{35}\text{ClNNO}$  396.1142,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{37}\text{ClNNO}$  398.1096.



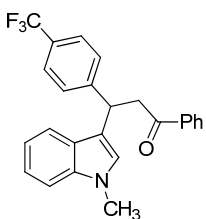
3-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3ad**). 8 h, 95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 5.03 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.74 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20, 29.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.2, 142.9, 137.3, 136.9, 133.1, 131.8, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 126.7, 126.1, 121.8, 119.1, 119.0, 117.3, 109.3, 45.0, 37.4, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  396.1131 found  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{35}\text{ClNNO}$  396.1140,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{37}\text{ClNNO}$  398.1090.



3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3ae**). 10 h, 96% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.16 (m, 4H), 7.03-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 5.01 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.75 (ddd,  $J = 10.8, 22.2, 31.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.1, 143.4, 137.3, 136.9, 133.1, 131.4, 129.6, 128.6, 128.0, 126.7, 126.1, 121.8, 119.9, 119.4, 118.9, 117.2, 109.3, 44.9, 37.4, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrNO}+\text{Na}$  440.0626, found  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{79}\text{BrNNO}$  440.0615,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}^{81}\text{BrNNO}$  442.0593.

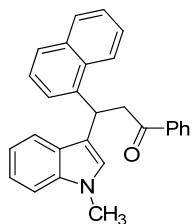


3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3af**). 10 h, 95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.77 (m, 3H), 5.00 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.75 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 25.2, 33.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.6, 157.8, 137.3, 137.0, 136.4, 132.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 126.9, 126.1, 121.6, 119.6, 118.7, 118.1, 113.7, 109.1, 55.1, 45.4, 37.3, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2+\text{Na}$  392.1626, found 392.1627.

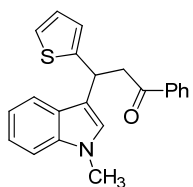


3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propan-1-one (**3ag**). 12 h, 98% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.93 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.40 (m, 8H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 5.12 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.79 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20.4, 26$  Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.0, 148.5, 137.3, 136.8, 133.2, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.7, 126.2, 125.4, 125.3, 125.3, 121.2, 119.3,

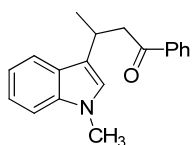
119.0, 116.9, 109.3, 44.8, 37.8, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{25}H_{20}F_3NO+Na$  430.1395, found 430.1401.



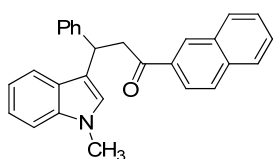
3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-naphthalen-1-yl-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3ah**). 10 h, 77% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.85-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.38 (m, 8H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 6.99 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.94 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 21.4, 61.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.3, 140.0, 137.3, 137.0, 134.0, 133.0, 131.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.0, 126.9, 126.1, 125.4, 125.3, 124.2, 123.6, 121.6, 119.5, 118.8, 117.5, 109.2, 44.9, 33.0, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{28}H_{23}NO+Na$  412.1677, found 412.1675.



3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-3-thiophen-2-yl-propan-1-one (**3ai**). 18 h, 60% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.95 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.89 (m, 1H), 5.39 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.86 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 17.6, 21.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  197.9, 148.9, 137.2, 136.9, 133.0, 128.5, 128.0, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 124.1, 123.3, 121.7, 119.5, 118.9, 117.4, 109.3, 46.2, 33.3, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For  $C_{22}H_{19}NOS+Na$  368.1085, found 368.1093.

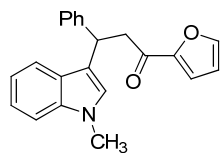


3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-butan-1-one (**3aj**). 10 h, 60% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.95 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 3.81 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.34 (ddd,  $J = 5.2, 18.8, 89.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  199.7, 137.3, 137.2, 132.9, 128.5, 128.1, 126.6, 125.0, 121.5, 120.0, 119.3, 118.6, 109.3, 46.6, 32.6, 29.7, 27.0, 21.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{19}H_{19}NO+Na$  300.1364, found 300.1366.

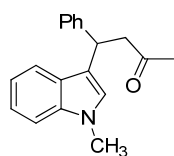


3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalen-2-yl-3-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3ak**). 12 h, 96% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.79 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 3H), 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.92 (m, 1H), 4.94 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.01 (ddd,  $J = 7.2, 20.8, 32.8$  Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.3, 145.4, 136.9, 135.2, 134.3, 132.4, 130.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 126.9, 126.5, 126.1, 123.8, 121.4, 119.2, 118.6, 117.7,

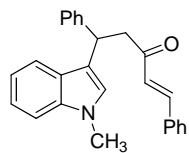
109.8, 44.5, 37.7, 32.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO+Na 412.1677, found 412.1667.



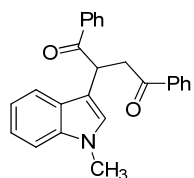
1-Furan-2-yl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one (**3al**). 10 h, 96% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.46-6.45 (m, 1H), 5.03 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.63 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 19.6, 28.4 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 187.6, 152.9, 146.2, 144.1, 137.2, 128.3, 127.8, 126.9, 126.2, 121.6, 119.6, 118.8, 117.4, 117.0, 112.2, 109.1, 45.0, 38.1, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+Na 352.1313, found 352.1307.



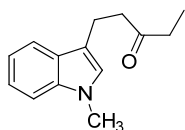
4-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-4-phenyl-butan-2-one (**3am**). 8 h, 55% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.48-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.23 (ddd, *J* = 7.2, 19.6, 32 Hz, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 207.6, 144.1, 137.2, 128.4, 127.6, 126.8, 126.3, 126.1, 121.7, 119.4, 118.8, 117.2, 109.2, 50.4, 38.3, 32.6, 30.3 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO+Na 300.1364, found 300.1360.



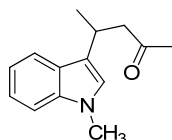
5-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,5-diphenyl-pent-1-en-3-one (**3an**). 8 h, 70% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.76-6.72 (m, 1H), 5.02 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.50 (ddd, *J* = 6.8, 19.2, 37.2 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.6, 144.2, 142.6, 137.2, 134.4, 130.4, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 126.9, 126.2, 126.1, 121.6, 119.6, 118.8, 117.5, 109.2, 47.5, 38.4, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO+Na 388.1677, found 388.1676.



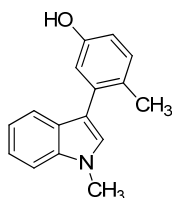
2-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,4-diphenyl-butane-1,4-dione (**3ao**). 6 h, 98% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.07-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.98-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 5.59 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 18.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 18 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 199.1, 198.6, 137.1, 136.5, 136.4, 133.1, 132.6, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.4, 126.4, 122.0, 119.5, 118.7, 111.4, 109.5, 43.1, 39.4, 32.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+Na 390.1470, found 390.1465.



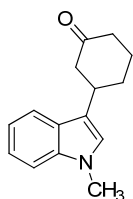
1-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-pentan-3-one (**3ap**). 8 h, 75% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.03 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  211.3, 136.9, 127.5, 126.3, 121.5, 118.7, 118.6, 113.7, 109.1, 42.9, 35.9, 32.5, 19.2, 7.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  238.1208, found 238.1210.



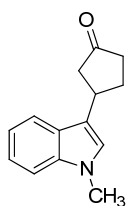
4-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-pentan-2-one (**3aq**). 8 h, 71% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.65-3.60 (m, 1H), 2.81 (ddd,  $J = 6.0, 19, 86.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  208.6, 137.1, 126.5, 124.9, 121.5, 119.4, 119.1, 118.6, 109.3, 51.6, 32.5, 30.3, 26.9, 21.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  238.1208, found 238.1205.



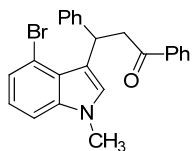
4-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-phenol (**3ar**). 12 h, 42% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.05-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.89-6.86 (m, 1H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.3, 136.6, 135.6, 131.3, 128.6, 127.6, 127.3, 121.7, 120.2, 119.4, 117.4, 115.6, 113.4, 109.3, 32.8, 19.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  260.1051, found 260.1048.



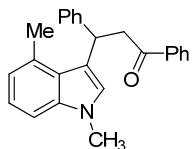
3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-cyclohexanone (**3as**). 4 h, 33% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.63 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.49-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.66-2.60 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.02 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.82 (m, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  211.8, 170.6, 137.0, 126.4, 125.2, 121.7, 119.0, 118.8, 118.1, 109.3, 48.1, 41.5, 35.8, 32.6, 31.8, 24.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  250.1208, found 250.1196.



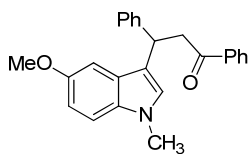
3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (**3at**). 4 h, 66% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.64 (m, 1H), 2.73-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.49-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.43-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.04 (m, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  218.3, 136.9, 126.8, 125.6, 121.2, 118.9, 118.4, 116.5, 109.7, 44.9, 37.9, 33.1, 32.3, 29.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. For  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  236.1051, found 236.1042.



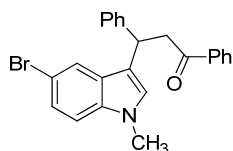
3-(4-Bromo-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ba**). 10 h, 70% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 5.82 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (ddd, *J* = 5.6, 20.4, 27.2 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.9, 144.3, 138.5, 137.0, 132.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 126.1, 124.8, 123.8, 122.4, 118.8, 114.3, 108.5, 46.7, 36.9, 32.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNO+Na 440.0626, found C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNNaO 440.0620, C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub><sup>81</sup>BrNNaO 442.0612.



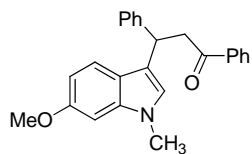
3-(1,4-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ca**). 8 h, 79% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (ddd, *J* = 6.8, 24.6, 33 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.2, 145.4, 137.6, 137.1, 133.0, 131.2, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 126.5, 126.1, 125.8, 121.7, 120.8, 118.1, 107.0, 47.1, 38.6, 32.8, 20.7 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO+Na 376.1677, found 376.1680.



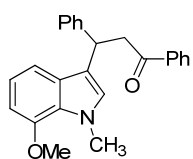
3-(5-Methoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3da**). 8 h, 96% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.83 (m, 3H), 5.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (ddd, *J* = 6.8, 20.2, 29.2 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.5, 153.5, 144.3, 137.0, 132.9, 132.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 126.7, 126.2, 117.2, 111.7, 109.9, 101.4, 55.8, 45.2, 37.9, 32.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+Na 392.1626, found 392.1633.



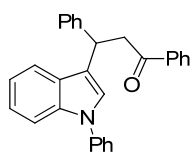
3-(5-Bromo-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ea**). 8 h, 80% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.98 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (ddd, *J* = 7.2, 20.4, 27.6 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.1, 143.9, 136.9, 135.9, 133.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 126.4, 124.4, 121.9, 117.3, 112.2, 110.7, 45.2, 37.8, 32.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNO+Na 440.0626 found C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNNaO 440.0626, C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub><sup>81</sup>BrNNaO 442.0608.



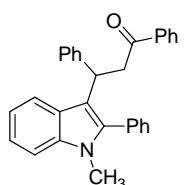
3-(6-Methoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3fa**). 8 h, 86% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.71-6.65 (m, 3H), 5.00 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.74 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 20.2, 27.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.5, 156.3, 144.4, 138.0, 137.0, 132.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 126.2, 125.0, 121.4, 120.2, 117.7, 108.6, 92.73, 55.60, 45.3, 38.1, 32.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2 + \text{Na}$  392.1626 found 392.1621.



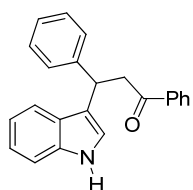
3-(7-Methoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ga**). 8 h, 91% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 1H), 5.12 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.93 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 17.2, 20$  Hz, 2H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  199.0, 144.4, 137.1, 136.8, 133.6, 132.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.5, 126.4, 125.8, 120.2, 119.1, 118.7, 112.9, 108.7, 43.7, 37.0, 29.4, 10.5 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2 + \text{Na}$  392.1626 found 392.1619.



1,3-diphenyl-3-(1-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)propan-1-one (**3ha**). 20 h, 60% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 8H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 5.18 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.86 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20.4, 22.8$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.3, 143.9, 139.7, 137.0, 136.3, 132.9, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, 126.4, 126.2, 125.2, 124.1, 122.6, 120.3, 120.0, 119.8, 110.5, 45.1, 38.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO} + \text{Na}$  424.1677, found 424.1674.



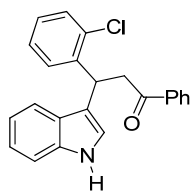
3-(1-Methyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**3ia**). 14 h, 73% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 7H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 5.07 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.92 (ddd,  $J = 7.2, 15.6, 20.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.4, 144.6, 138.3, 137.3, 136.8, 132.7, 131.8, 130.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.5, 126.4, 125.7, 121.4, 120.1, 119.2, 114.6, 109.5, 44.2, 37.5, 30.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO} + \text{Na}$  438.1834 found 438.1833.



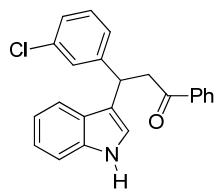
3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**5aa**). 12 h, 90% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.9 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.03 (m,



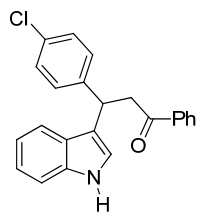
1H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 4.90 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 20, 40.8$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  214.7, 198.6, 145.5, 137.1, 136.6, 133.3, 128.9, 128.3, 128.0, 126.6, 126.0, 122.1, 121.2, 118.9, 118.5, 118.2, 111.6, 44.5, 37.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  348.1364, found 348.1365.



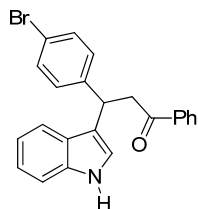
3-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5ab**). 12 h, 93% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.93 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.91 (m, 1H), 5.38 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 16.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 17.6$  Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  203.1, 147.4, 141.8, 141.4, 138.3, 137.7, 134.5, 134.4, 133.8, 133.2, 132.7, 132.3, 131.5, 127.8, 127.7, 126.3, 123.6, 121.8, 116.6, 48.8, 39.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  382.0975, found  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{ClINNaO}$  382.0960,  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{37}\text{ClINNaO}$  384.0944.



3-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5ac**). 12 h, 90% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.08 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.94 (m, 1H), 5.07 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20.4, 44.4$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.2, 146.4, 136.8, 136.5, 134.1, 133.2, 129.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.5, 126.3, 126.1, 122.2, 121.4, 119.5, 119.2, 118.4, 111.2, 44.8, 37.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  382.0975, found  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{ClINNaO}$  382.0967,  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{37}\text{ClINNaO}$  384.0947.

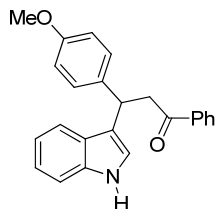


3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (**5ad**). 12 h, 87% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.91 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.89 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.89 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 20.8, 35.2$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.4, 144.5, 137.0, 136.6, 133.4, 130.5, 129.9, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 126.4, 122.2, 121.3, 118.8, 118.6, 117.8, 111.6, 44.2, 37.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNO}+\text{Na}$  382.0975, found  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{ClINNaO}$  382.0967,  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{37}\text{ClINNaO}$  384.0940.

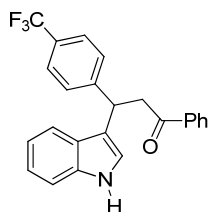


3-(4-Bromo-phenyl)-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5ae**). 14 h, 90% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.91 (s, 1H), 8.02-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.87

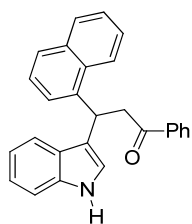
(t,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.88 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20.4, 33.6$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.4, 145.0, 137.0, 136.6, 133.4, 131.1, 130.3, 128.9, 128.3, 126.4, 122.2, 121.3, 119.0, 118.8, 118.6, 117.8, 111.6, 44.2, 37.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNO}+\text{Na}$  426.0469, found  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{79}\text{BrNNaO}$  426.0483,  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}^{81}\text{BrNNaO}$  428.3361.



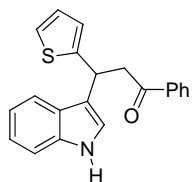
3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (**5af**). 26 h, 63% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.00 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 5.00 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.71 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 20, 30$  Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.8, 157.8, 137.0, 136.6, 136.3, 133.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 126.5, 122.0, 121.3, 119.5, 119.4, 119.2, 113.7, 111.1, 55.1, 45.3, 37.4 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2+\text{Na}$  378.1470, found 378.1466.



3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-one (**5ag**). 26 h, 70% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.96 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.90 (m, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 3.97 (ddd,  $J = 6.8, 21.2, 24.4$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.3, 150.4, 136.9, 136.5, 133.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 126.4, 125.2, 125.2, 122.4, 121.3, 118.7, 118.7, 117.4, 111.6, 44.0, 37.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  416.1238, found 416.1240.

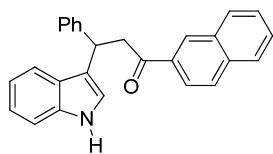


3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-3-naphthalen-1-yl-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5ah**). 12 h, 87% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.35-8.33 (m, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.90-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.77-6.76 (m, 1H), 5.97 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.89 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 21.2, 77.2$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  198.5, 139.9, 137.0, 136.6, 134.0, 133.1, 131.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.0, 126.6, 126.1, 125.5, 125.3, 124.3, 123.6, 122.2, 122.0, 119.4, 119.3, 118.9, 111.1, 44.6, 33.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  398.1521, found 398.1530.



3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-1-one (**5ai**). 48 h, 40% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.92 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 1H), 7.00-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.95 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.88-6.86 (m, 1H), 5.20 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR

(100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.2, 149.9, 136.9, 136.6, 133.4, 128.9, 128.3, 126.7, 126.3, 124.1, 123.8, 122.4, 121.3, 118.9, 118.7, 117.9, 111.7, 45.4, 32.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{21}H_{17}NOS+Na$  354.0929, found 354.0930.



3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-1-naphthalen-2-yl-3-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5ak**). 11 h, 80% yield;

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.89 (s, 1H), 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H),

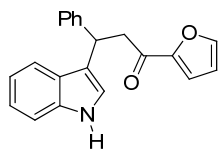
7.98-7.07 (m, 3H), 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m,

1H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.93-6.89 (m, 1H), 4.97 (t,  $J =$

7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (ddd,  $J = 7.2, 20.8, 66.8$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  198.5, 145.5, 136.6,

135.2, 134.4, 132.4, 130.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 126.6, 126.0, 123.8, 122.1, 121.2,

118.9, 118.5, 118.2, 111.6, 44.4, 38.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{21}NO+Na$  398.1521, found 398.1511.



1-Furan-2-yl-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one (**5al**). 16 h, 73% yield;  $^1H$  NMR

(400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.88 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 3H),

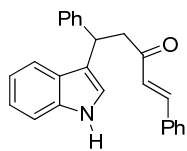
7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.88

(m, 1H), 6.69-6.68 (m, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.64 (ddd,  $J = 6.4, 19.6, 60$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,

DMSO):  $\delta$  186.9, 152.4, 148.1, 148.0, 145.1, 136.5, 128.4, 127.9, 126.5, 126.1, 122.1, 122.1, 121.3, 119.3,

118.9, 118.6, 117.8, 112.7, 112.7, 111.6, 44.2, 38.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{21}H_{17}NO_2+Na$  338.1157,

found 338.1157.



5-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-1,5-diphenyl-pent-1-en-3-one (**5an**). 12 h, 62% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,

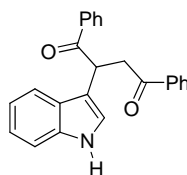
DMSO):  $\delta$  10.88 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.33-7.30 (m,

2H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.92-6.88 (m,

1H), 4.84 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 20, 66.4$  Hz, 2H) ppm;  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$

198.7, 145.4, 142.4, 136.6, 134.7, 130.6, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 126.9, 126.6, 126.0, 122.1, 121.2, 118.9,

118.4, 118.0, 111.6, 46.5, 38.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{25}H_{21}NO+Na$  374.1521, found 374.1514.



2-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-1,4-diphenyl-butane-1,4-dione (**5ao**). 12 h, 99% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400

MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.27 (s, 1H), 8.04-8.02 (m, 2H), 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.75 (m, 1H),

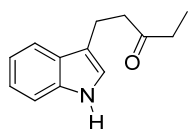
7.53-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H),

5.58 (dd,  $J = 3.2, 10.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd,  $J = 10.4, 18.4$  Hz, 1H) 3.40 (dd,  $J = 3.6, 18.4$  Hz, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}C$

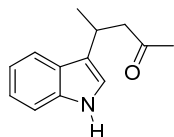
NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  199.2, 198.8, 136.4, 136.4, 133.2, 132.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 125.9,

122.8, 122.4, 119.9, 118.6, 112.9, 111.5, 42.8, 39.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{24}H_{19}NO_2+Na$  376.1313,

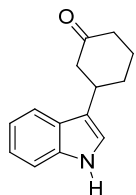
found 376.1311.



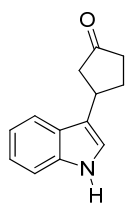
1-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-pentan-3-one (**5ap**). 12 h, 91% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  10.77 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 1H), 2.90 (t,  $J = 7.2\text{Hz}$ , 2H), 2.80 (t,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 2.45 (q,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 0.93 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  210.9, 136.5, 127.2, 122.4, 121.2, 118.5, 118.4, 113.8, 111.5, 42.4, 35.2, 19.3, 7.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  224.1051, found 224.1044.



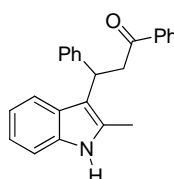
4-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-pentan-2-one (**5aq**). 12 h, 76% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.05 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 3.66-3.60 (m, 1H), 2.81 (ddd,  $J = 6.0, 18.8, 86.4\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.37 (d,  $J = 6.8\text{ Hz}$ , 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  208.8, 136.4, 126.2, 121.9, 120.8, 120.1, 119.1, 119.0, 111.3, 51.4, 30.4, 26.9, 21.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  224.1051, found 224.1042.



3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-cyclohexanone (**5as**). 16 h, 41% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.18 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.69-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.39 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.11-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.81 (m, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  212.0, 136.4, 126.0, 122.1, 120.3, 119.5, 119.3, 118.9, 111.3, 48.0, 41.5, 35.9, 31.6, 24.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  236.1051, found 236.1043.

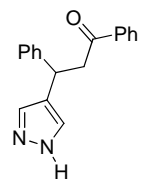


3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-cyclopentanone (**5at**). 16 h, 51% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.15 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.95 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.67 (m, 1H), 2.79-2.72 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.41 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.08 (m, 1H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  219.6, 136.6, 126.5, 122.2, 119.9, 119.4, 119.0, 118.4, 111.3, 45.2, 38.1, 33.6, 29.8 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}+\text{Na}$  222.0895, found 222.0892.

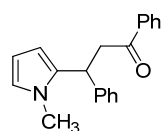


3-(2-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenyl-propan-1-one (**5ba**). 16 h, 76% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 1H), 5.08 (t,  $J = 6.8\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 3.92 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 24.8, 26\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  199.1, 144.2, 137.1, 135.4, 132.9, 131.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 125.8, 120.6, 119.1, 119.1, 113.5, 110.4,

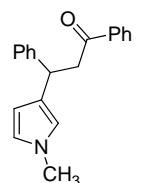
43.5, 36.7, 12.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO+Na 362.1521, found 362.1508.



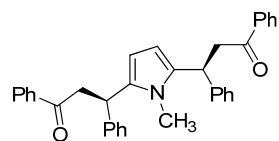
1,3-Diphenyl-3-(1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)propan-1-one (**5ca**). 10 h, 30% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 5.2 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (q, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H) 3.64 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 17.6 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 196.6, 140.7, 139.2, 136.4, 133.3, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 126.6, 105.5, 60.7, 44.1 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 299.1160, found 299.1154.



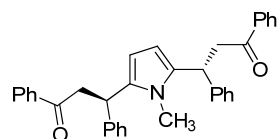
3-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**7a**). 8 h, 33% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 5H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.08 (s, 2H), 4.81 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.8, 143.2, 137.0, 134.3, 133.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 126.4, 121.9, 106.3, 105.6, 45.5, 38.2, 33.9 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO+Na 312.1364, found 312.1365.



3-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (**7b**). 8 h, 6% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (ddd, *J* = 7.2, 20.3, 34.4 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H) ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO+Na 312.1364, found 312.1364.



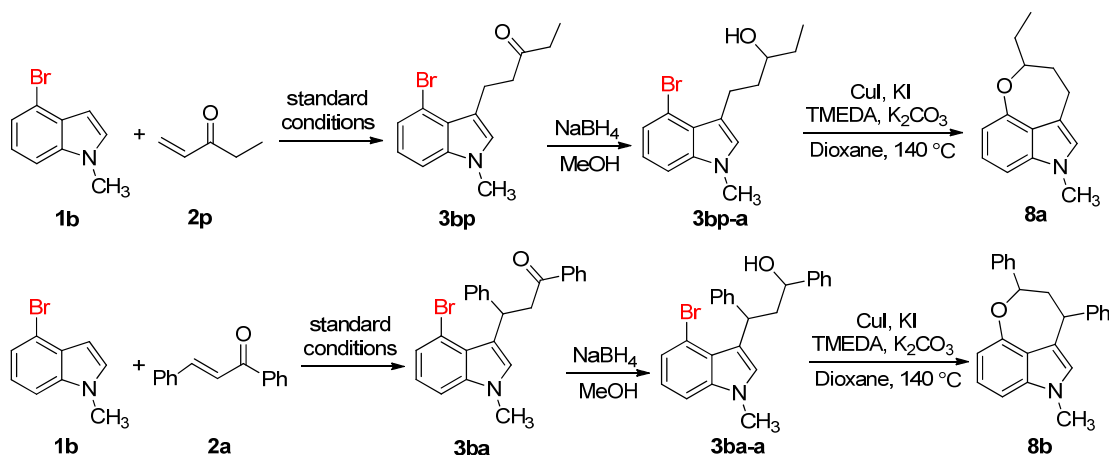
(3*R*,3'*S*)-3,3'-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one) (**7c**). 8 h, 16% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.14 (m, 6H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 4.71 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.61 (ddd, *J* = 6.4, 20.4, 91.6 Hz, 4H), 3.05 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.9, 143.3, 137.1, 134.4, 132.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 126.4, 104.2, 45.4, 38.6, 30.6 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+Na 520.2252, found 520.2250.



(3*R*,3'*R*)-3,3'-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2,5-diyl)bis(1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one) (**7d**). 8 h, 17% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.92-7.90 (m, 4H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 6H), 6.00 (s, 2H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 17.2 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 17.2 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(75 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  197.8, 143.7, 136.7, 134.2, 133.2, 128.7, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 126.1, 104.2, 44.6, 37.9, 30.2 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for  $C_{35}H_{31}NO_2+Na$  520.2252, found 520.2258.

### 3. Synthetic Applications and Characterization Data

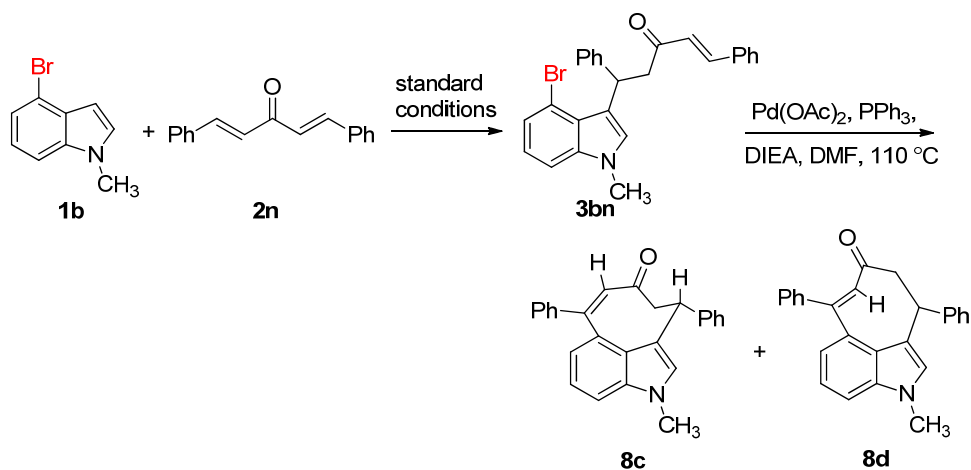


#### General Procedure for Synthesis of Compound **8a**:

(1) **1b** (20.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **2p** (9.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) worked under standard conditions to produce **3bp** (60% yield). To the MeOH (1.5 mL) solution of **3bp** (17.6 mg, 0.06 mmol) at r.t. was added  $NaBH_4$  (2.3 mg, 0.06 mmol). The resulting mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 2 h, then quenched with water. The aqueous layer was extracted further with ethyl acetate three times; then the combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . Then the organic layer was concentration in vacuo. In this step, **3bp** would convert to **3bp-a** completely.

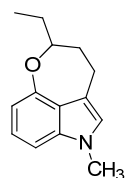
(2) To a mixture of **3bp-a** (17.7 mg, 0.06 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (16.6 mg, 0.12 mmol),  $KI$  (19.8 mg, 0.12 mmol) and  $CuI$  (2.9 mg, 0.015 mmol) in anhydrous dioxane (0.8 mL), in a dry flask under nitrogen atmosphere, was added  $TMEDA$  (3.5 mg, 0.03 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at  $140\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 48 h. Then the mixture quenched with water. The aqueous layer was extracted further with ethyl acetate three times; then the combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 200) to give compound **8a** (80% conversion) as white solid.<sup>[3]</sup>

The general procedure for synthesis of compound **8b** was same as compound **8a**.

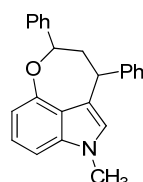


### General Procedure for Synthesis of Compound **8c** and **8d**:

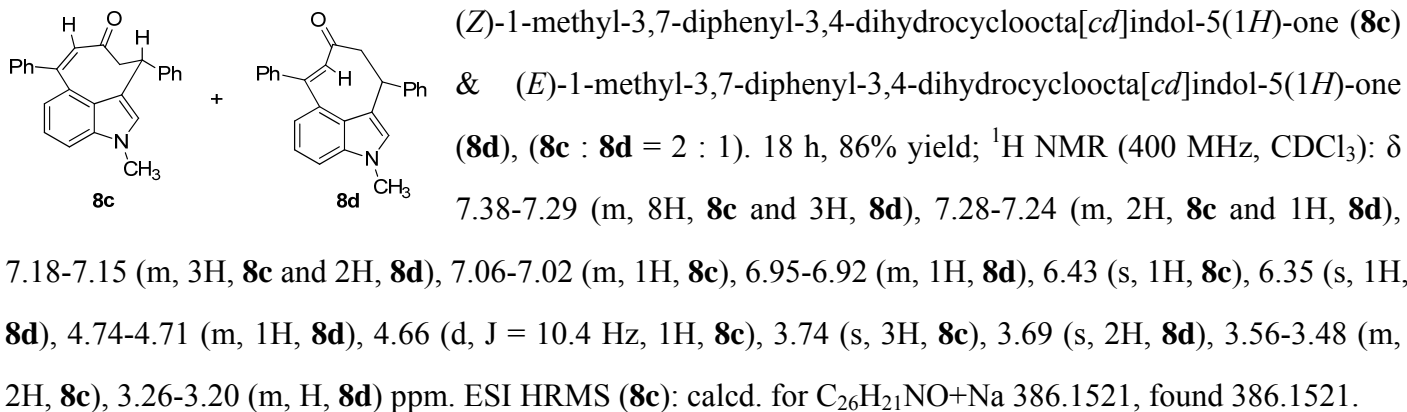
**1b** (20.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) and **2n** (25.7 mg, 0.11 mmol) worked under standard conditions to produce **3bn** (58% yield). To the DMF (1.0 mL) solution of **3bn** (27 mg, 0.058 mmol) was added Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1.9 mg, 0.0087 mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (7.6 mg, 0.029 mmol), DIEA (15 mg, 0.116 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C under Ar atmosphere for 18 h. Then the mixture quenched with water. The aqueous layer was extracted further with ethyl acetate three times; then the combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 50) to give compound **8c** (57.3% yield) and **8d** (28.7% yield) as yellow solid.<sup>[4]</sup>



2-ethyl-6-methyl-2,3,4,6-tetrahydrooxepino[4,3,2-*cd*]indole (**8a**). 48 h, 80% conversion; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO): δ 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.99-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.45-6.42 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.03-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.74 (m, 1H), 2.15-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.69 (m, 3H), 1.05-0.99 (m, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO): δ 152.0, 138.8, 124.6, 121.6, 117.4, 112.0, 105.0, 101.9, 83.7, 34.9, 32.4, 29.4, 24.6, 10.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO+H 216.1388, found 216.1386.

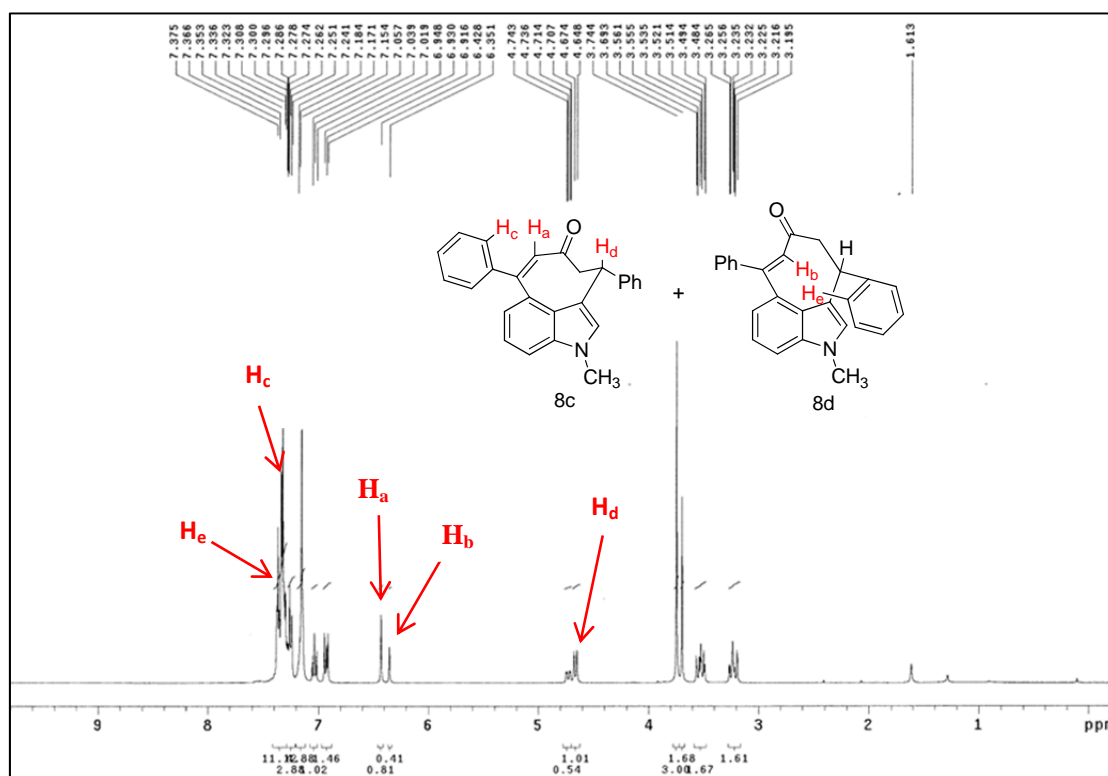


6-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-2,3,4,6-tetrahydrooxepino[4,3,2-*cd*]indole (**8b**). 48 h, 72% conversion; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.30-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.72-6.70 (m, 2H), 5.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.01 (ddd, *J* = 4.4, 9.8, 13 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 14.8 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 152.5, 146.7, 143.6, 139.2, 128.3, 126.9, 126.1, 125.4, 122.6, 118.2, 115.1, 106.3, 102.0, 78.8, 46.6, 40.6, 33.0 ppm. ESI HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO+H 340.1701, found 340.1700.

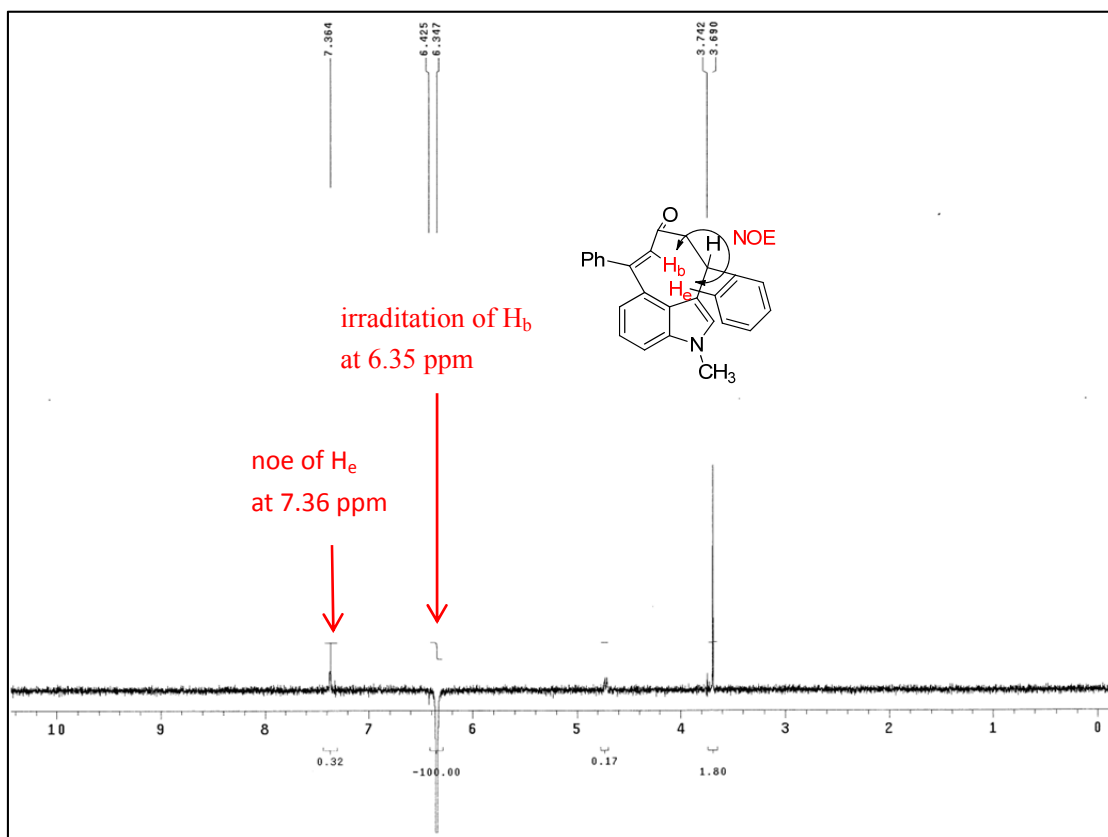
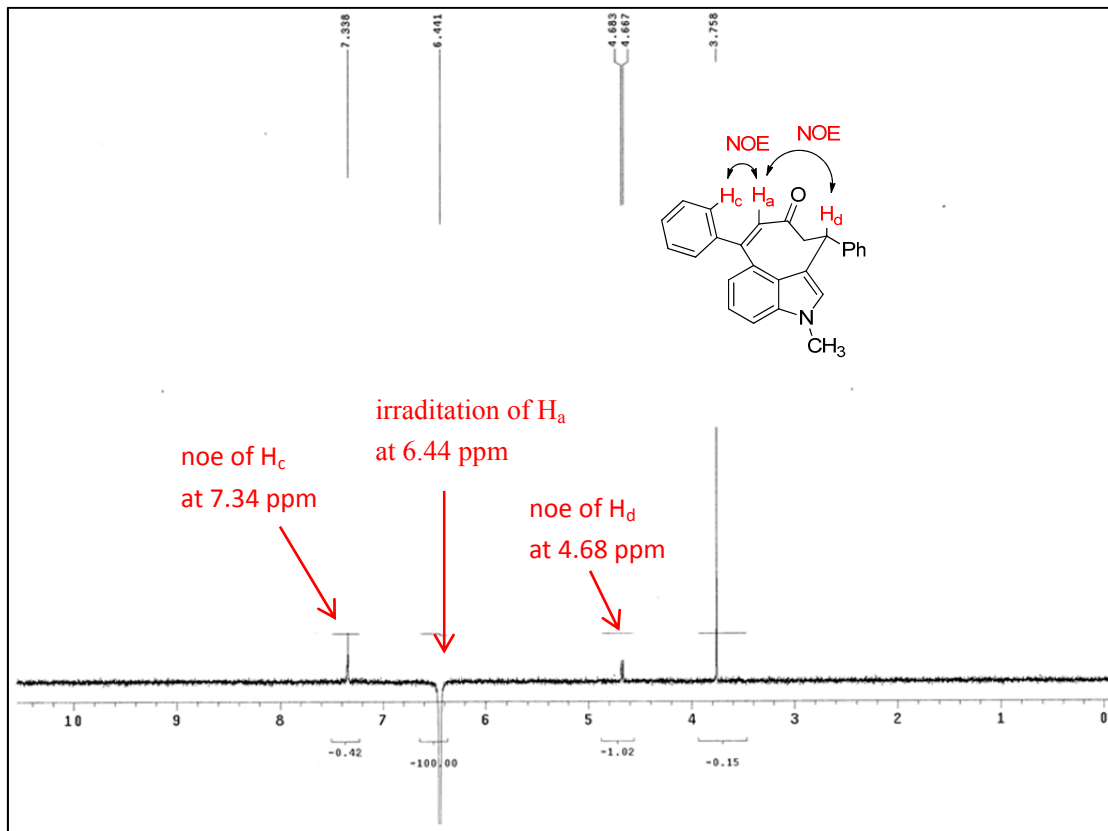


## Structure Determination

The structure of compound **8c** and compound **8d** were determined by NOE





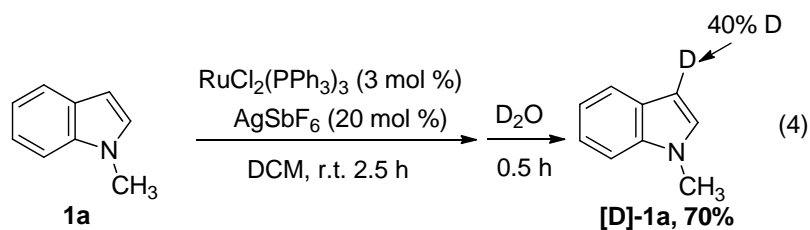


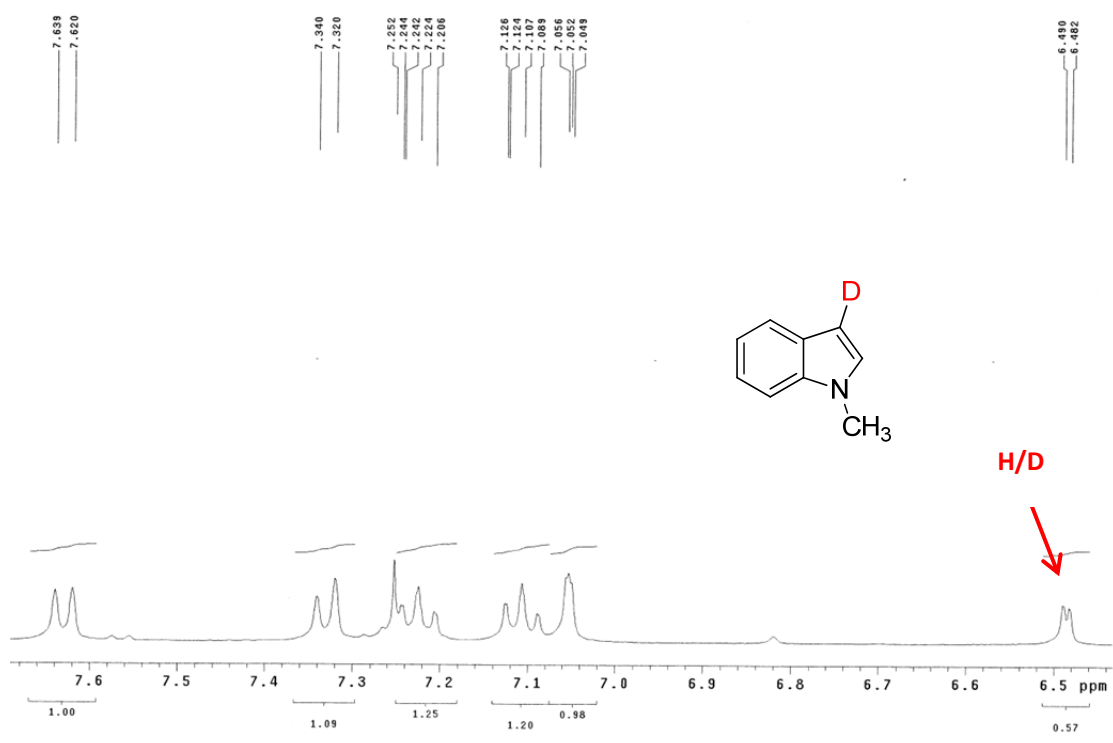
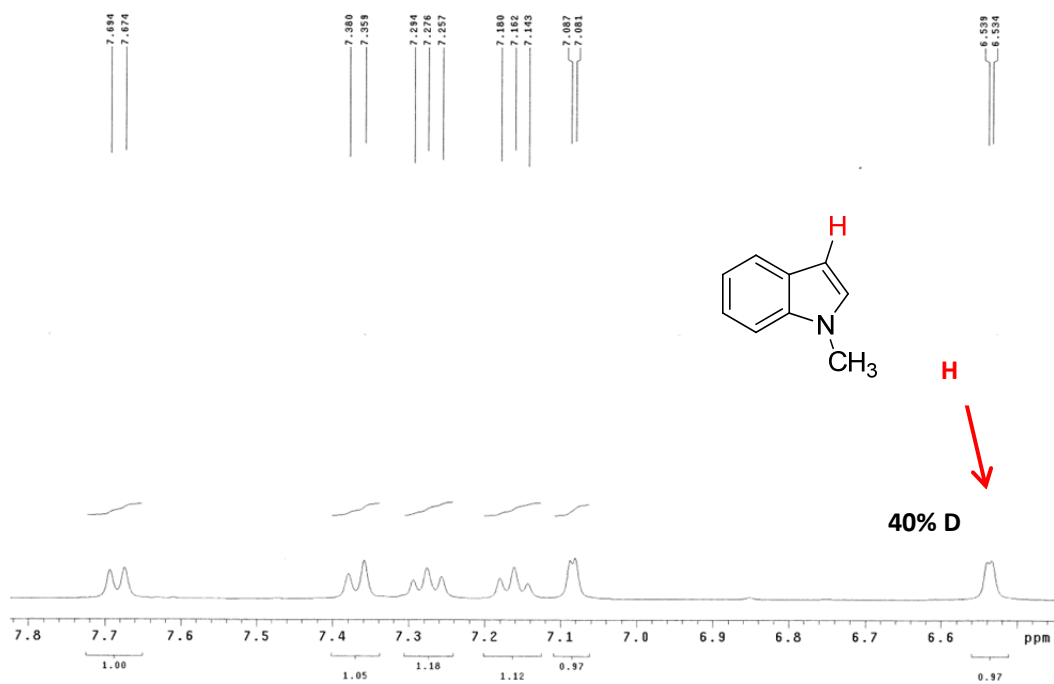
## Reference

- [1] J. M. Fraile, K. L. Jeune, J. A. Mayoral, N. Ravasio, F. Zaccheria, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2013**, *11*, 4327.
- [2] L.-J Zhang, X.-X Xu, Q.-R Shao, L. Pan, Q. Liu, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2013**, *11*, 7393; F. D. Therkelsen, A. L. Hansen, E. B. Pedersen, C. Nielsen, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, **2003**, *1*, 2908.
- [3] a) M. Mari, F. Bartoccini, G. Piersanti, *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 7727; b) R. J. Rafferty, R. M. Williams, *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 519.
- [4] a) S. Fujita, T. Tanaka, Y. Akiyama, K. Asai, J. Hao, F. Zhao, and M. Araia, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2008**, *350*, 1615; b) A. Mansour, M. Portnoy, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 2195; c) H.- J. Li, L. Wang, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 5099.

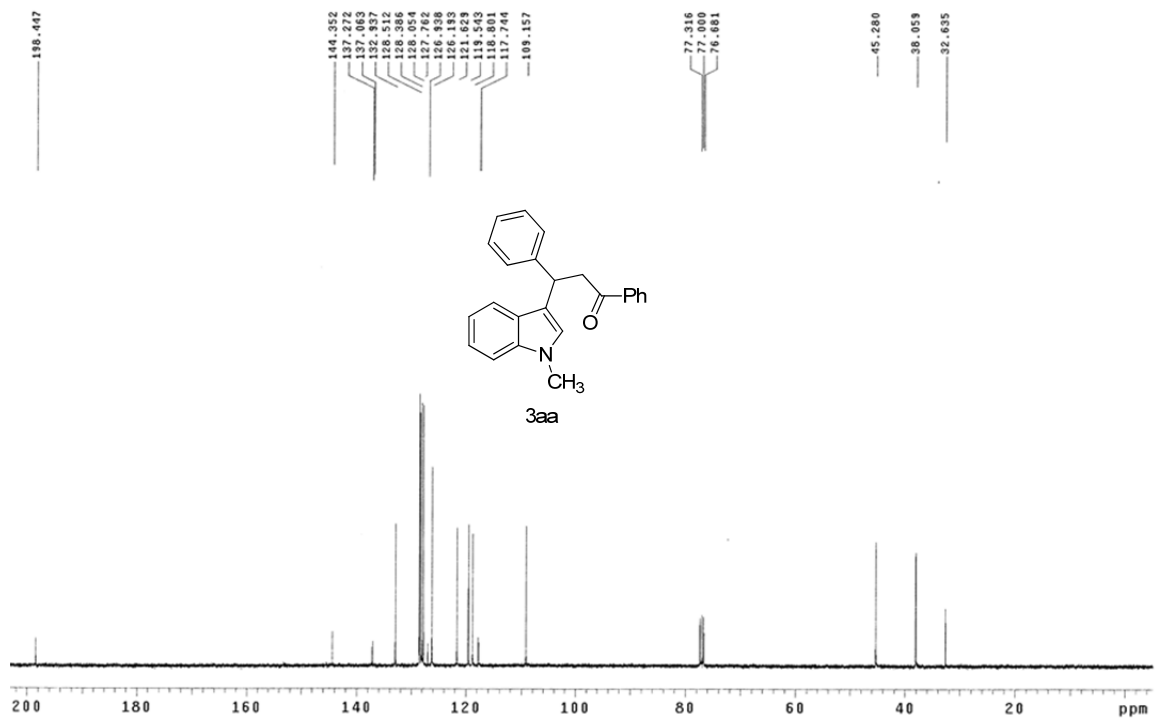
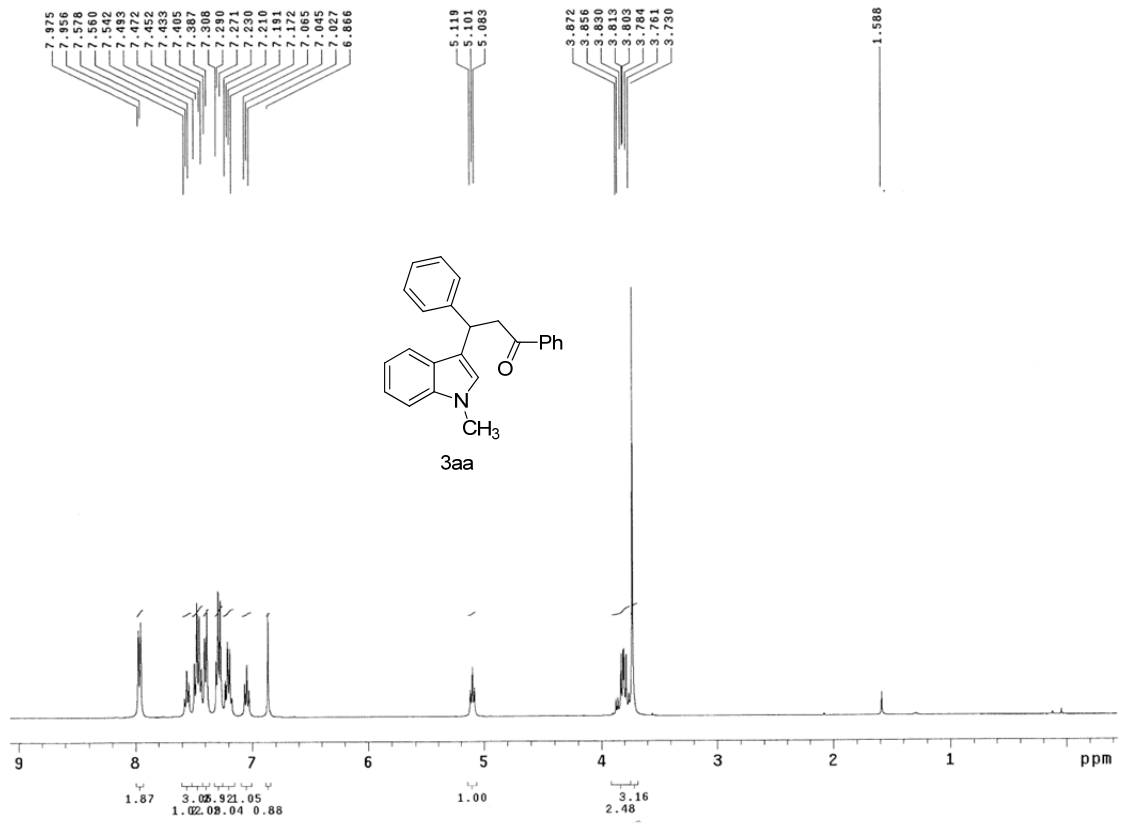
## 4. Mechanism Study

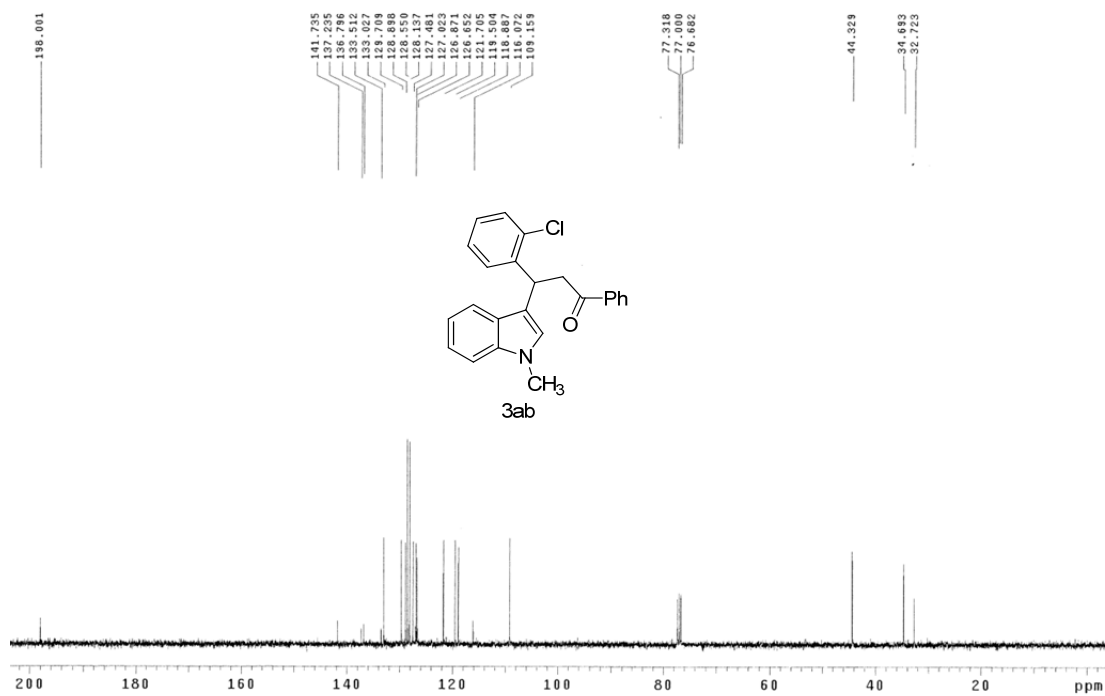
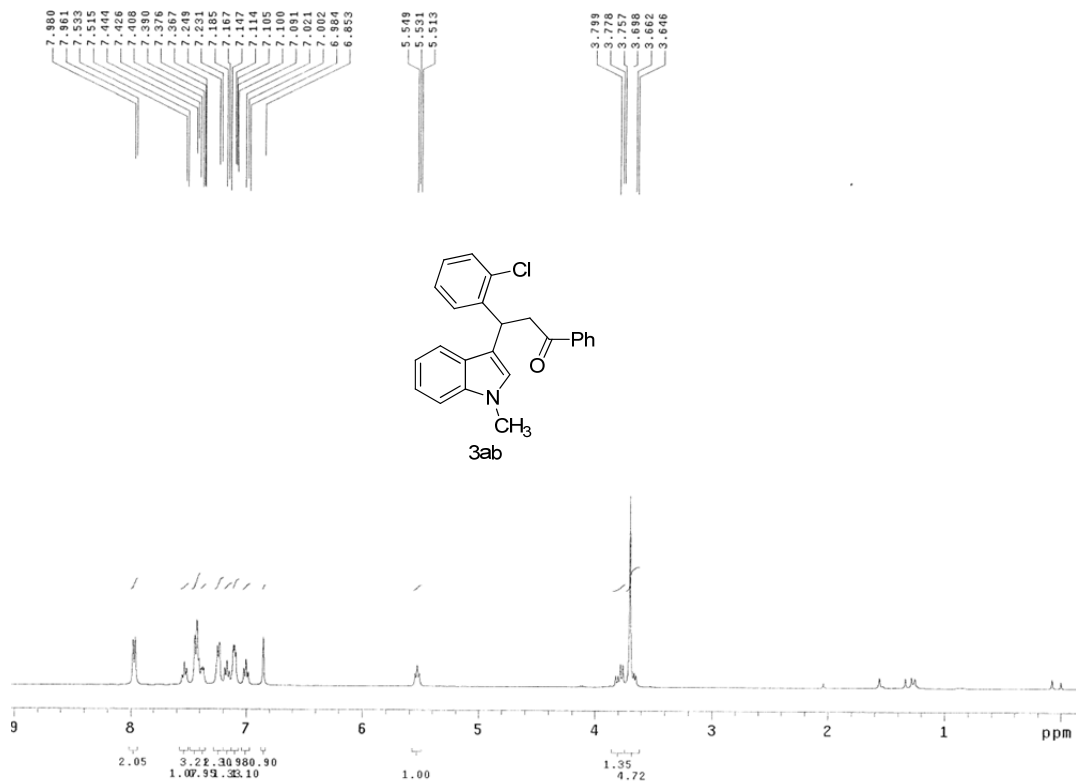
Deuterium-labeling experiments were carried out to study the mechanism of this alkylation reaction. **1a** was stirred in the absence of alkynes for 2.5 h, then D<sub>2</sub>O was added and stirred for 0.5 h. <sup>1</sup>HNMR indicated the possibility of the reaction pathway via C-H activation.

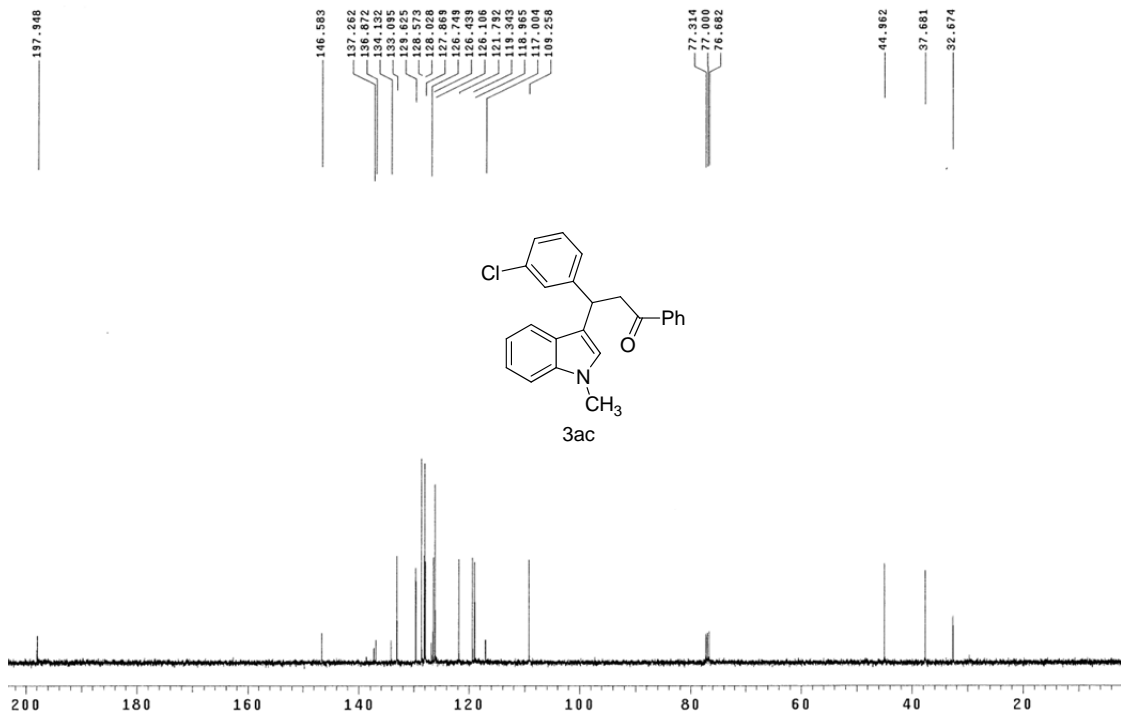
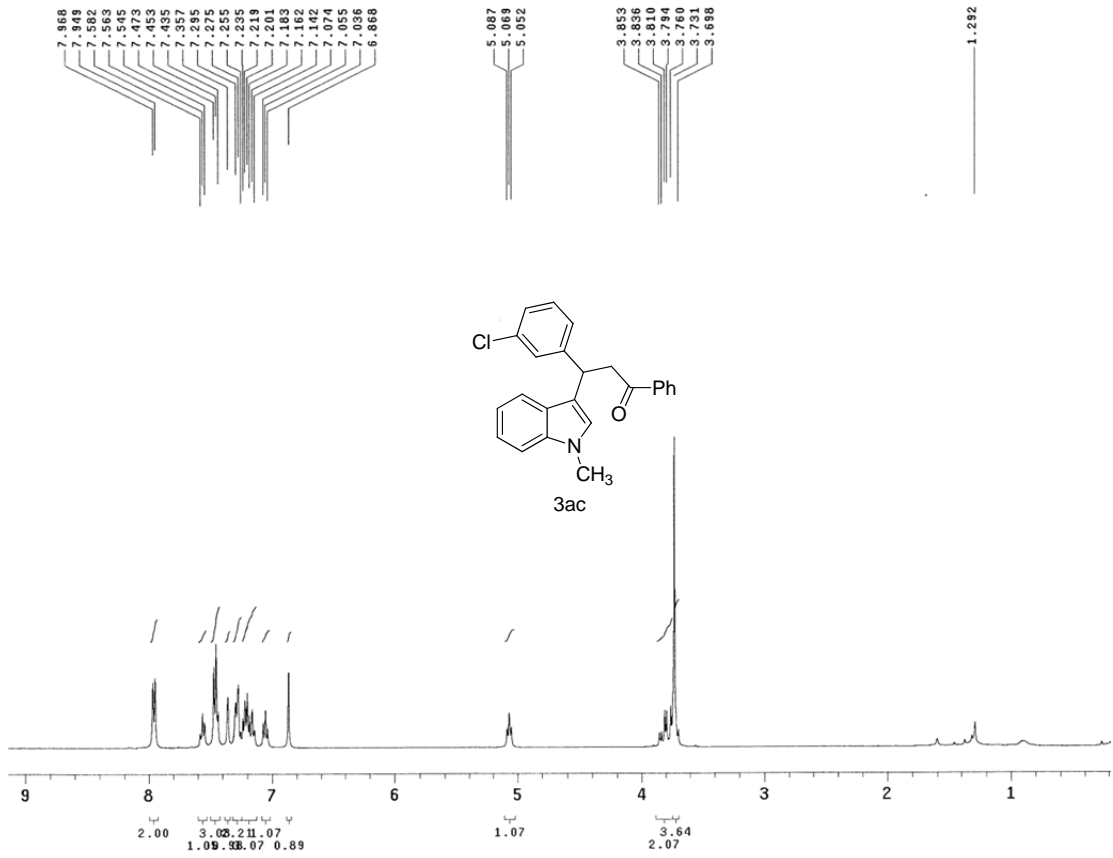


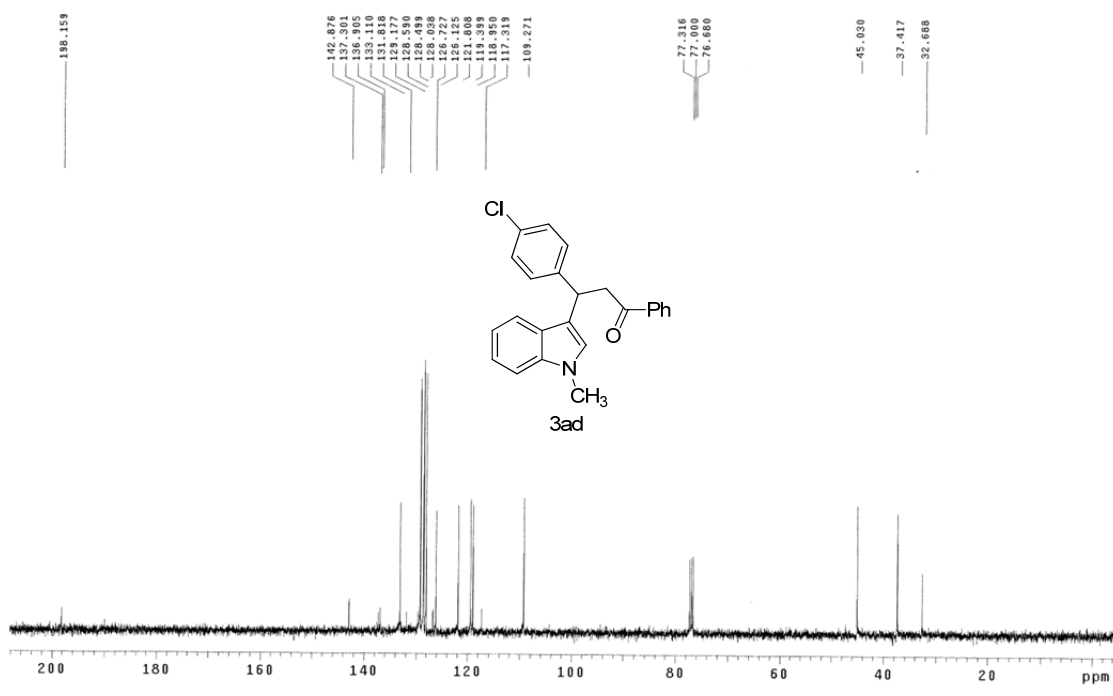
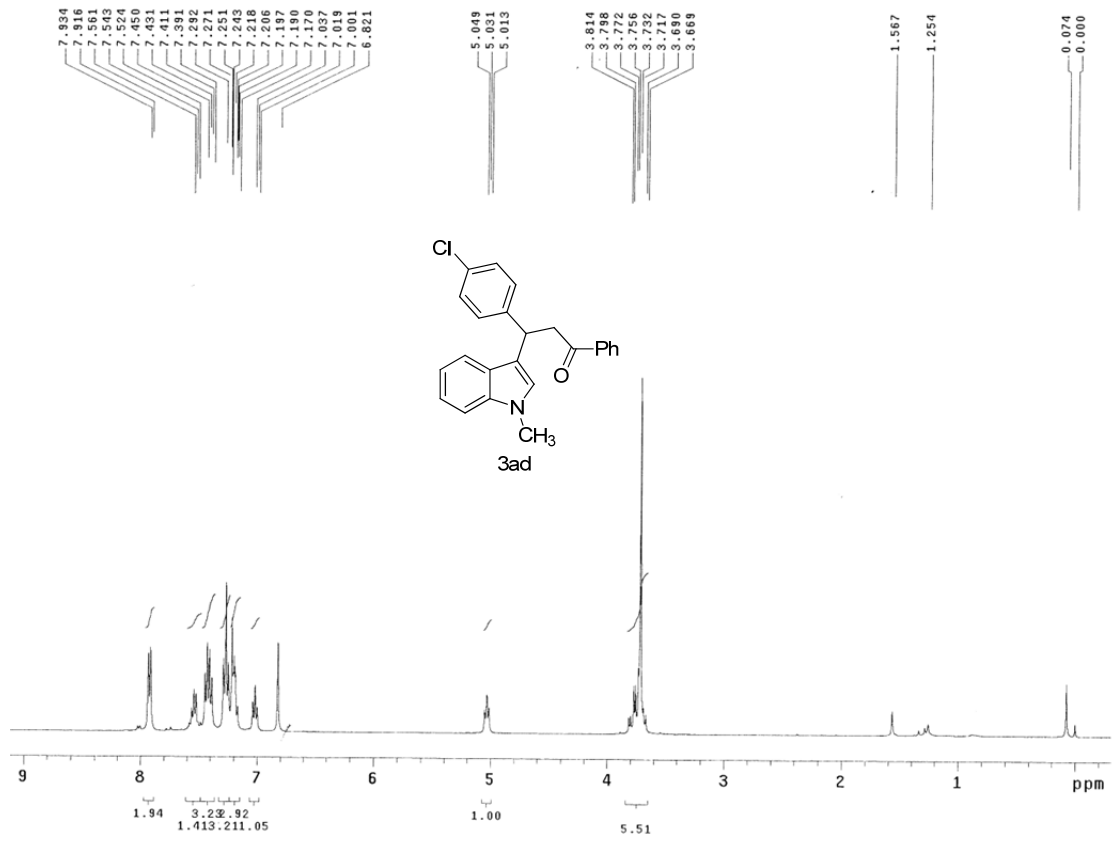


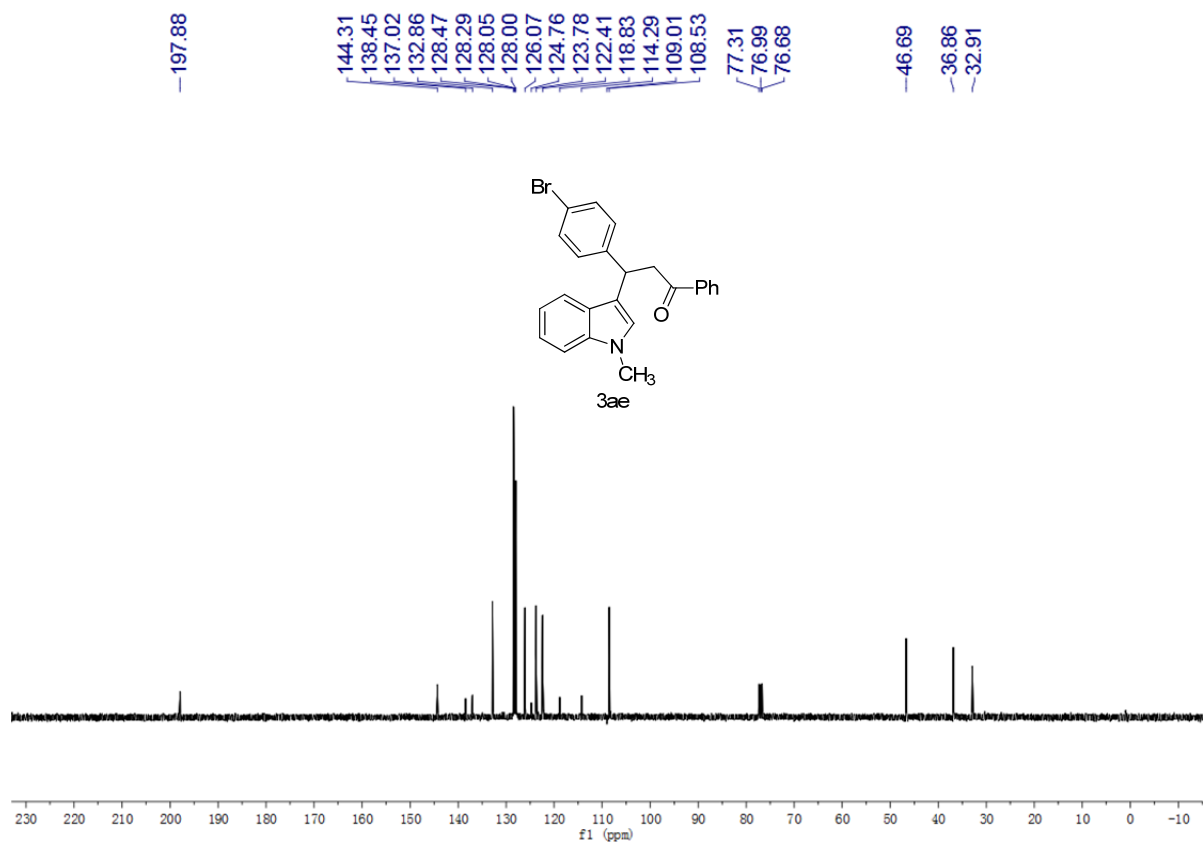
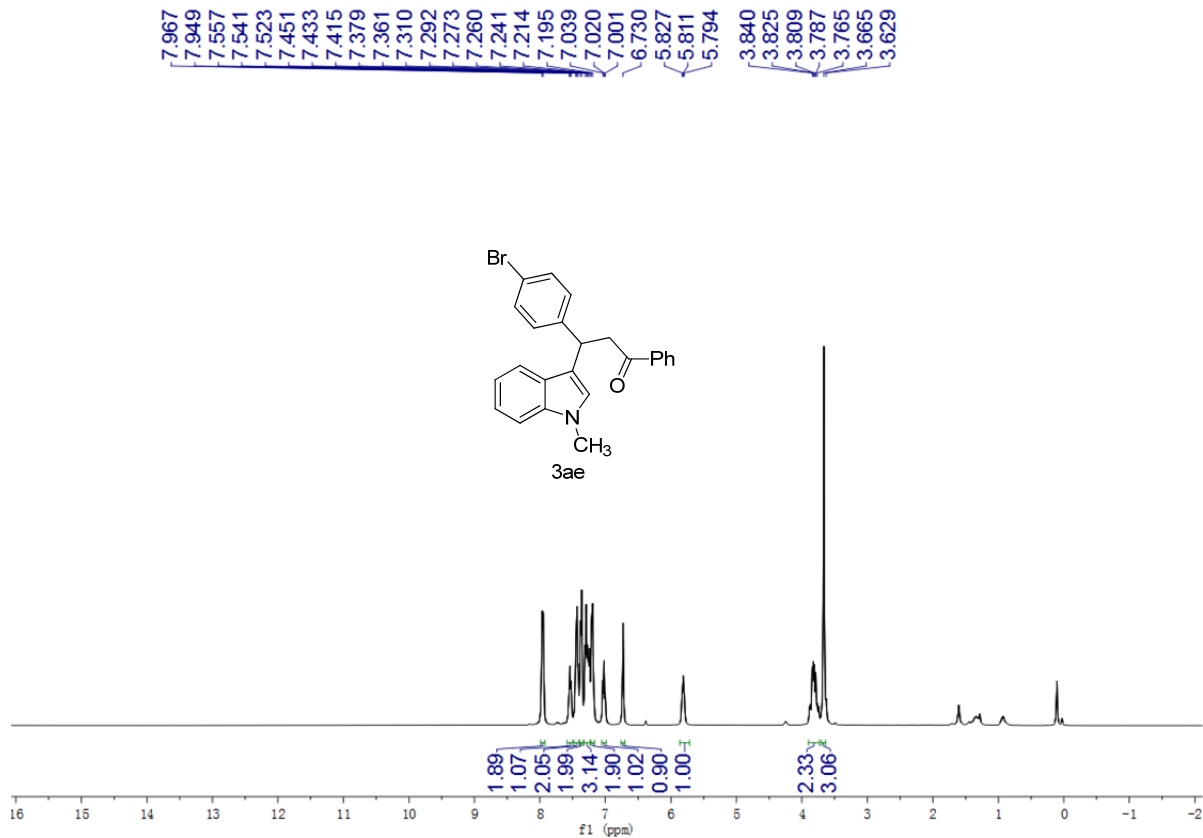
## 5. NMR Spectra of 3-alkyl indole



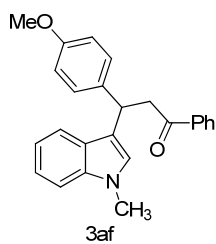
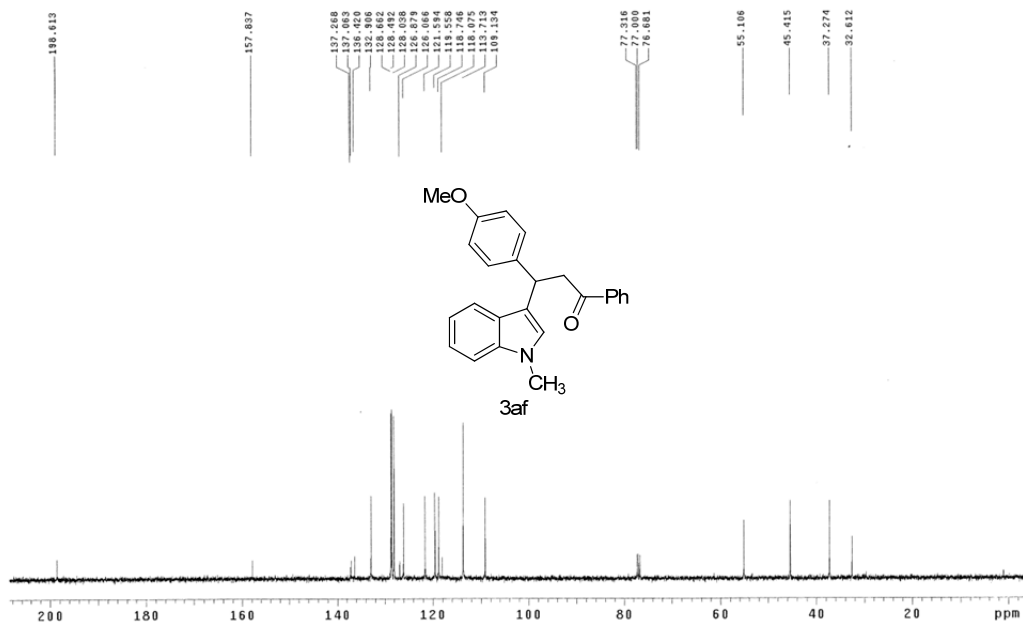
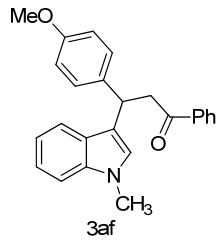
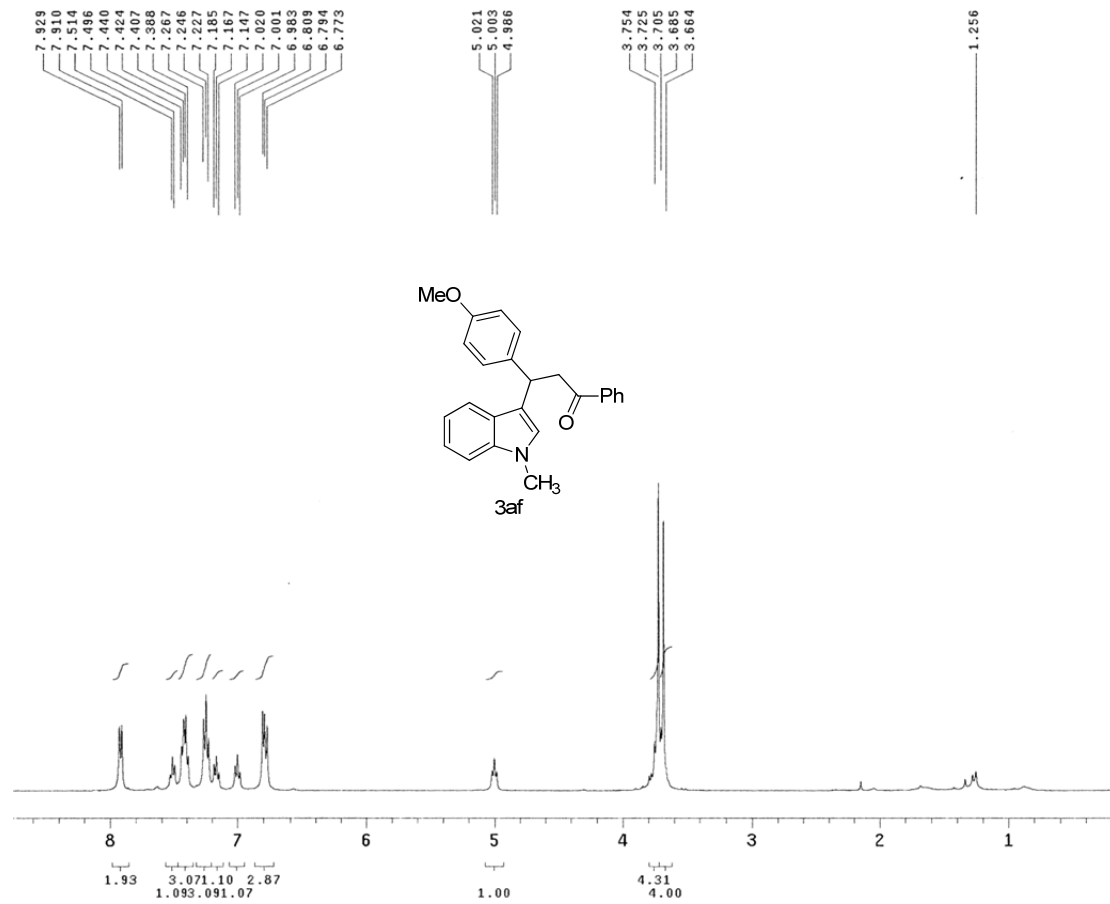


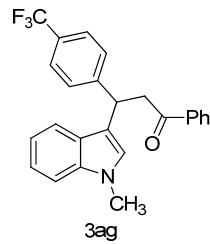
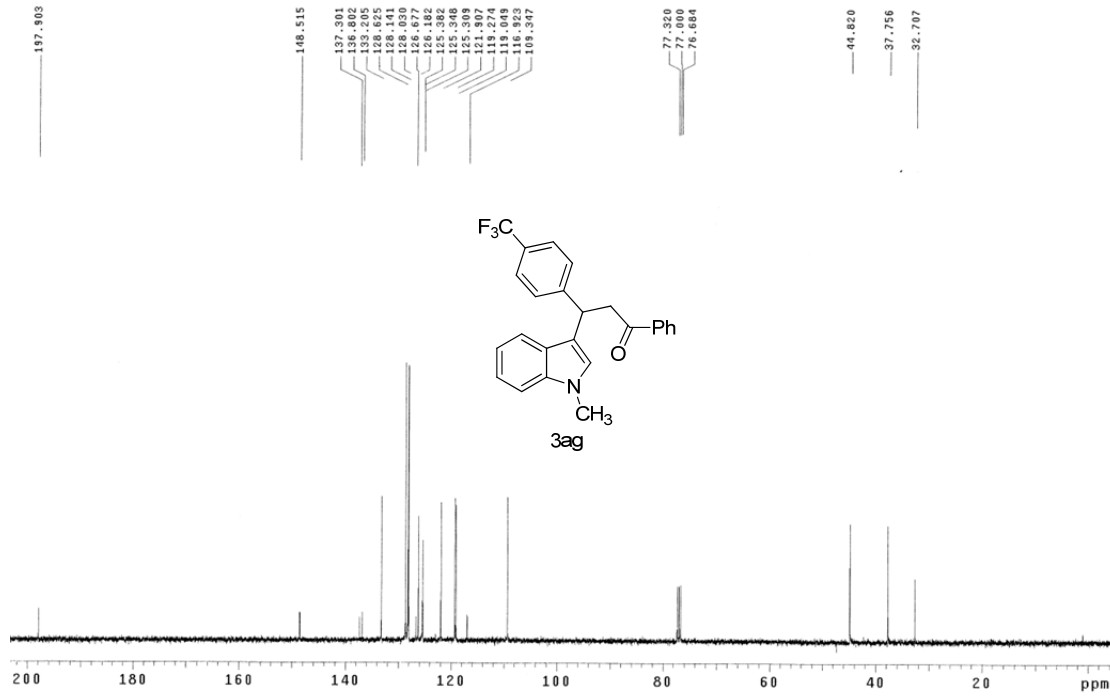
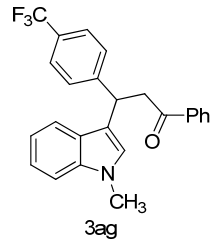
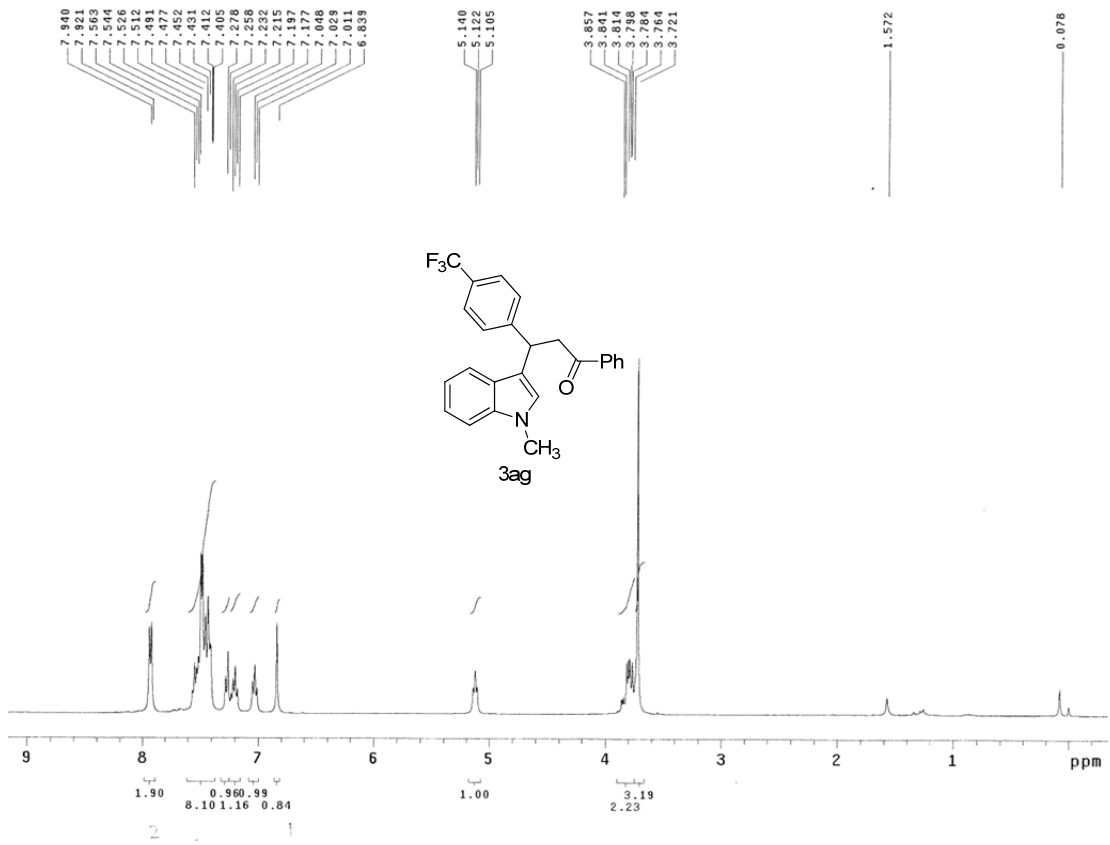


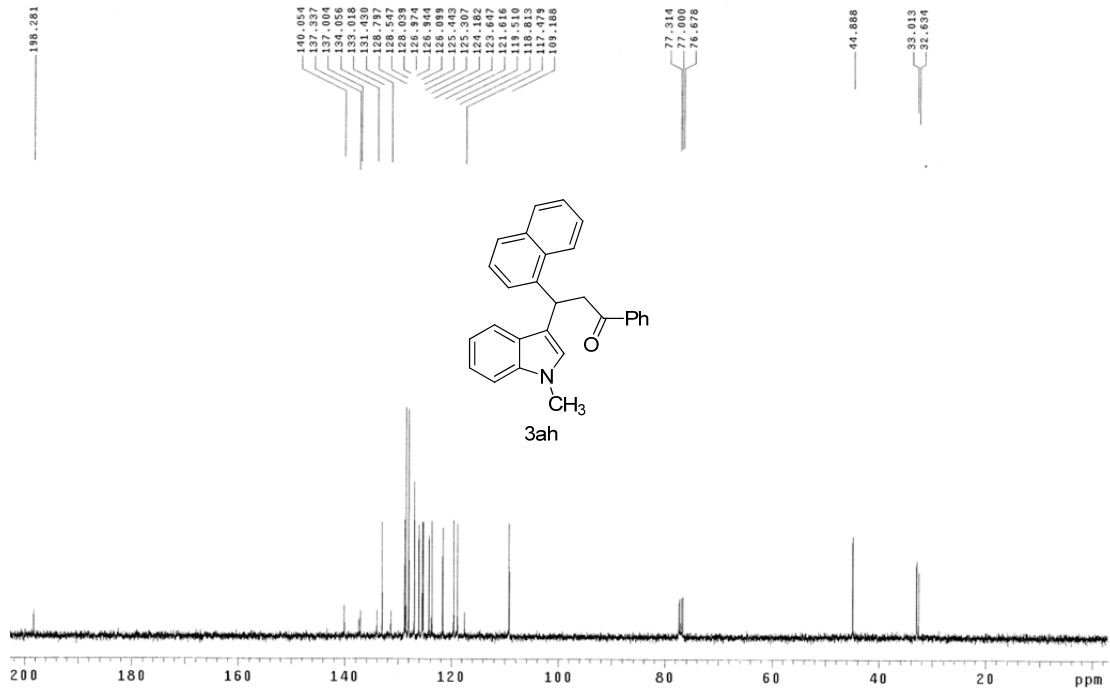
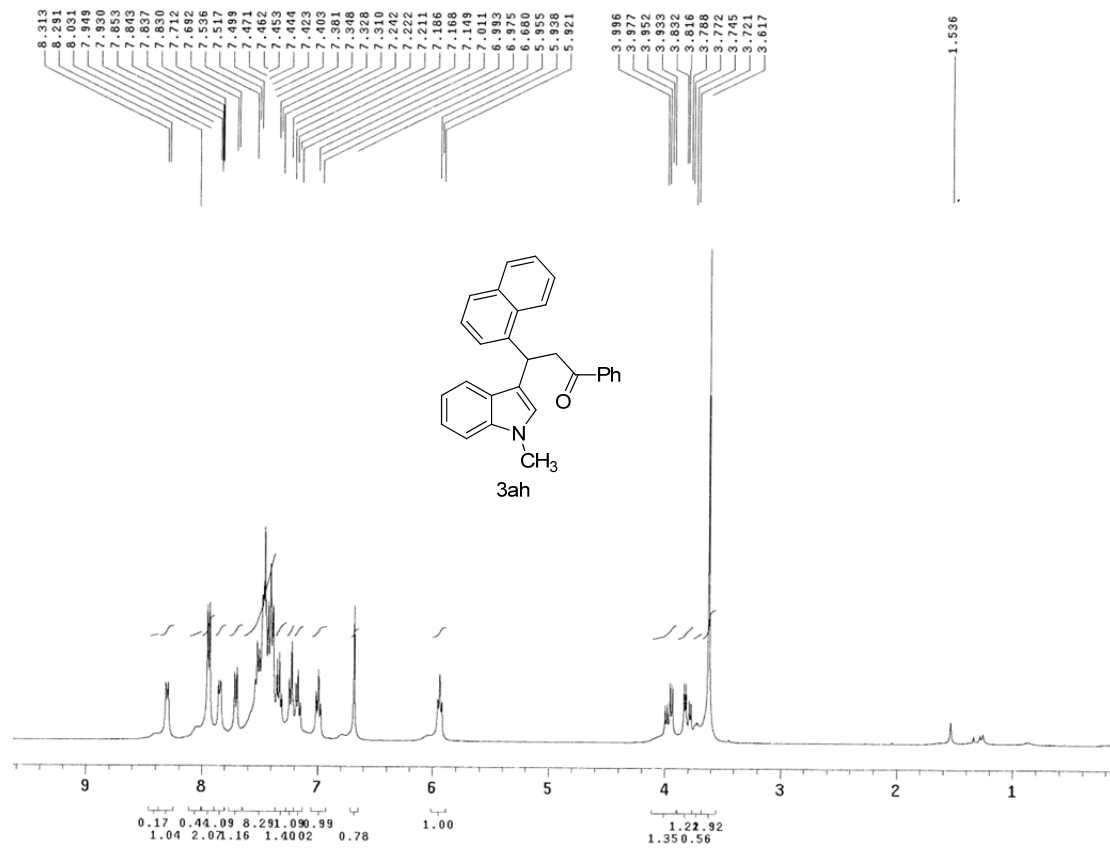


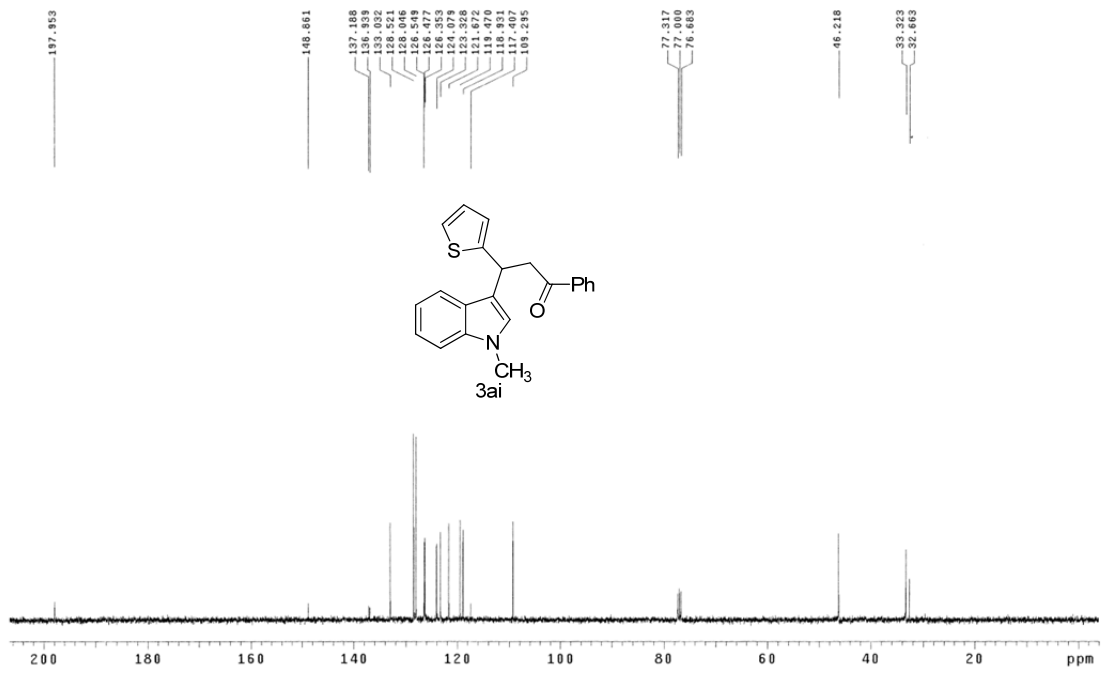
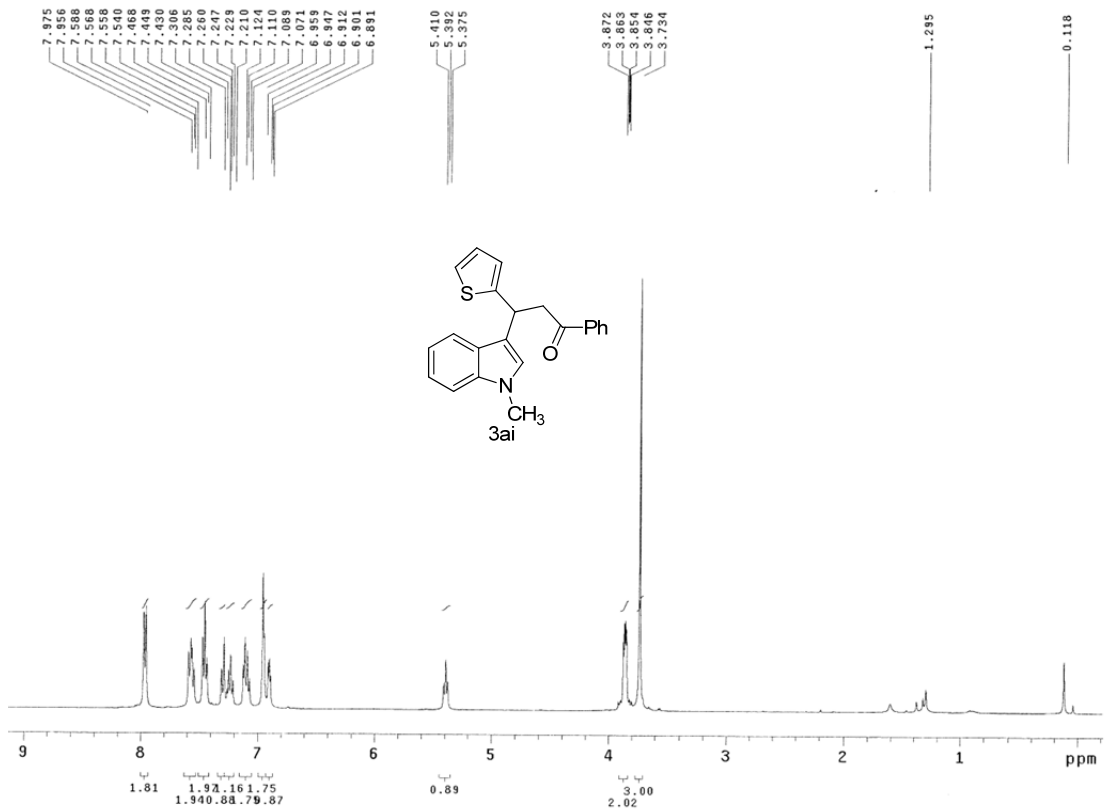


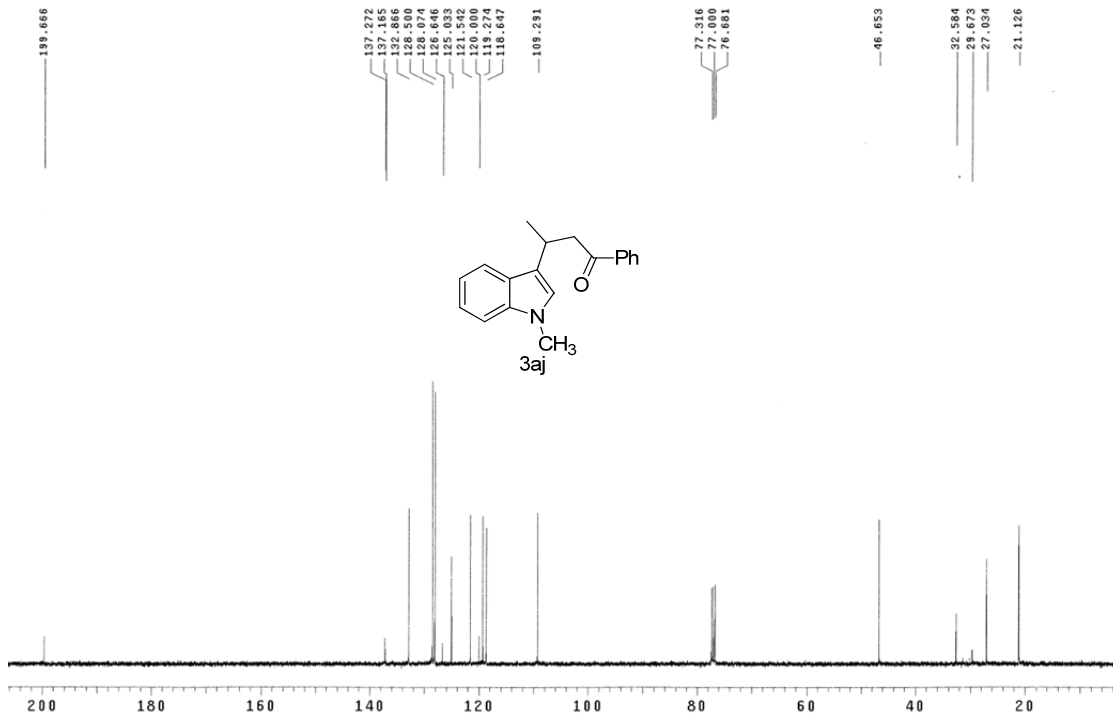
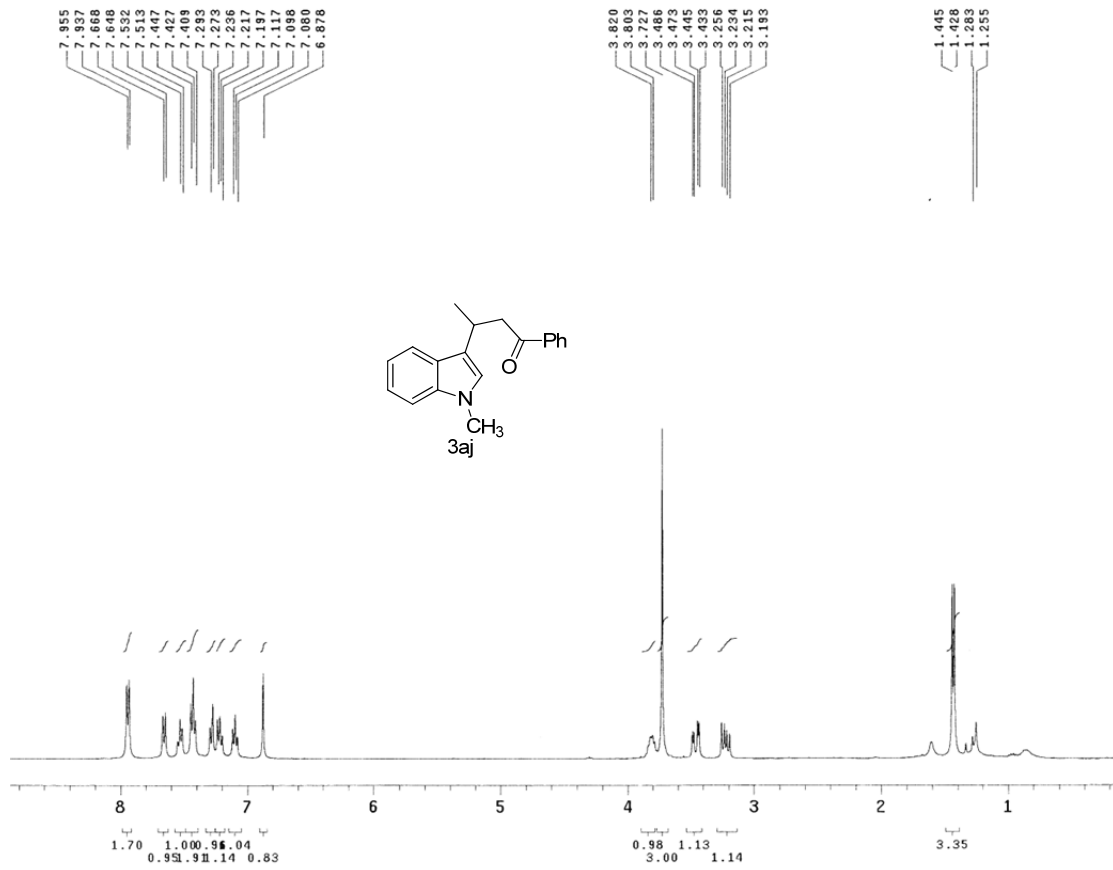


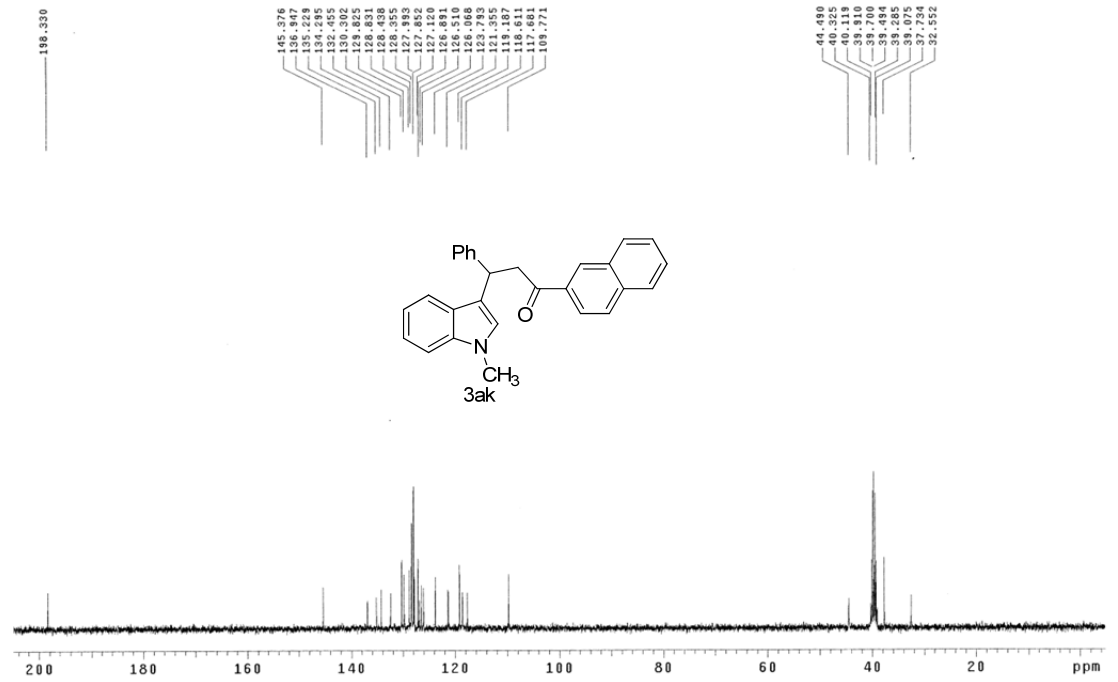
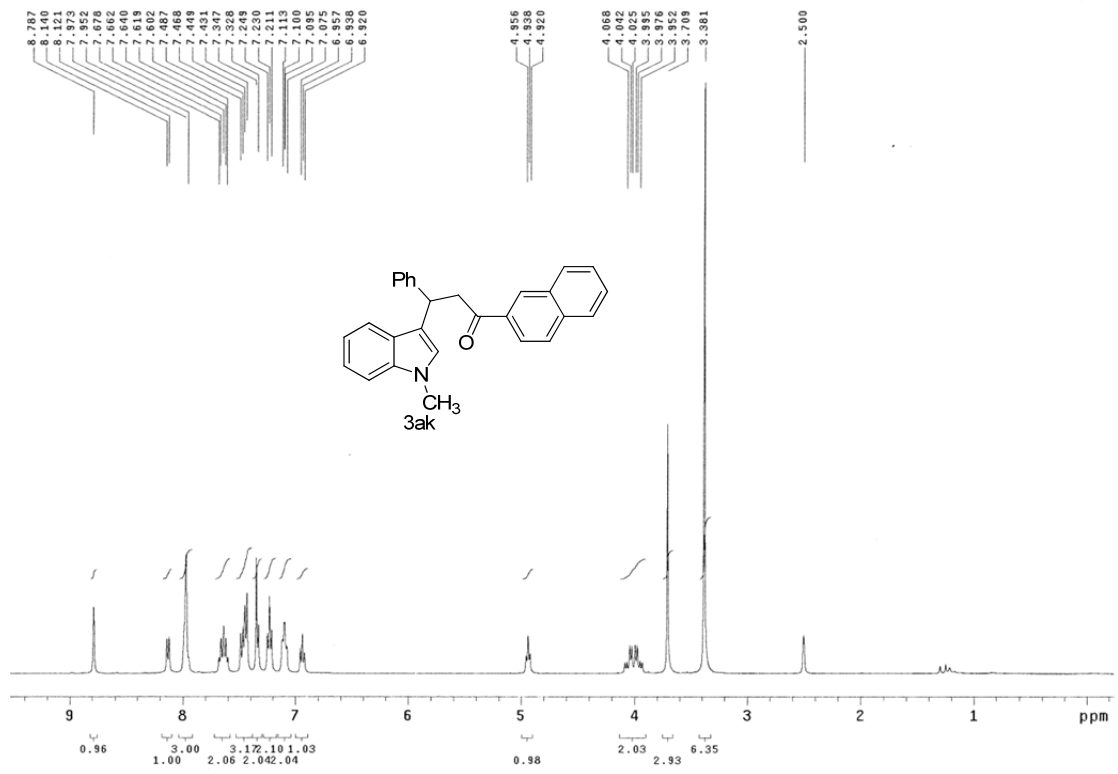


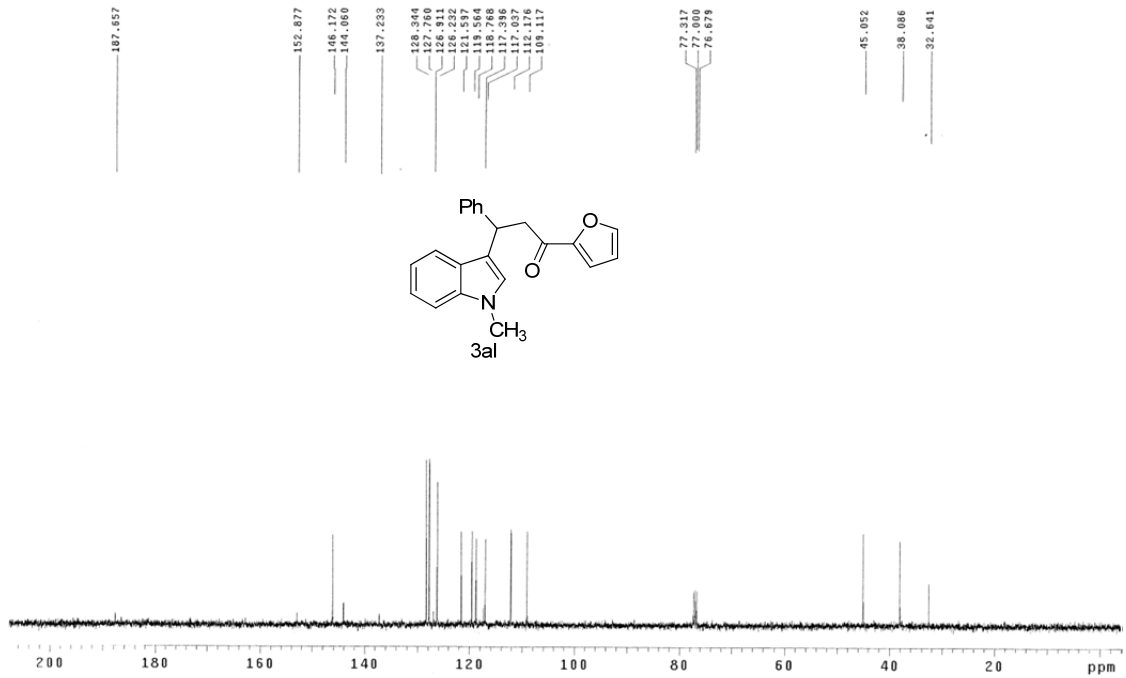
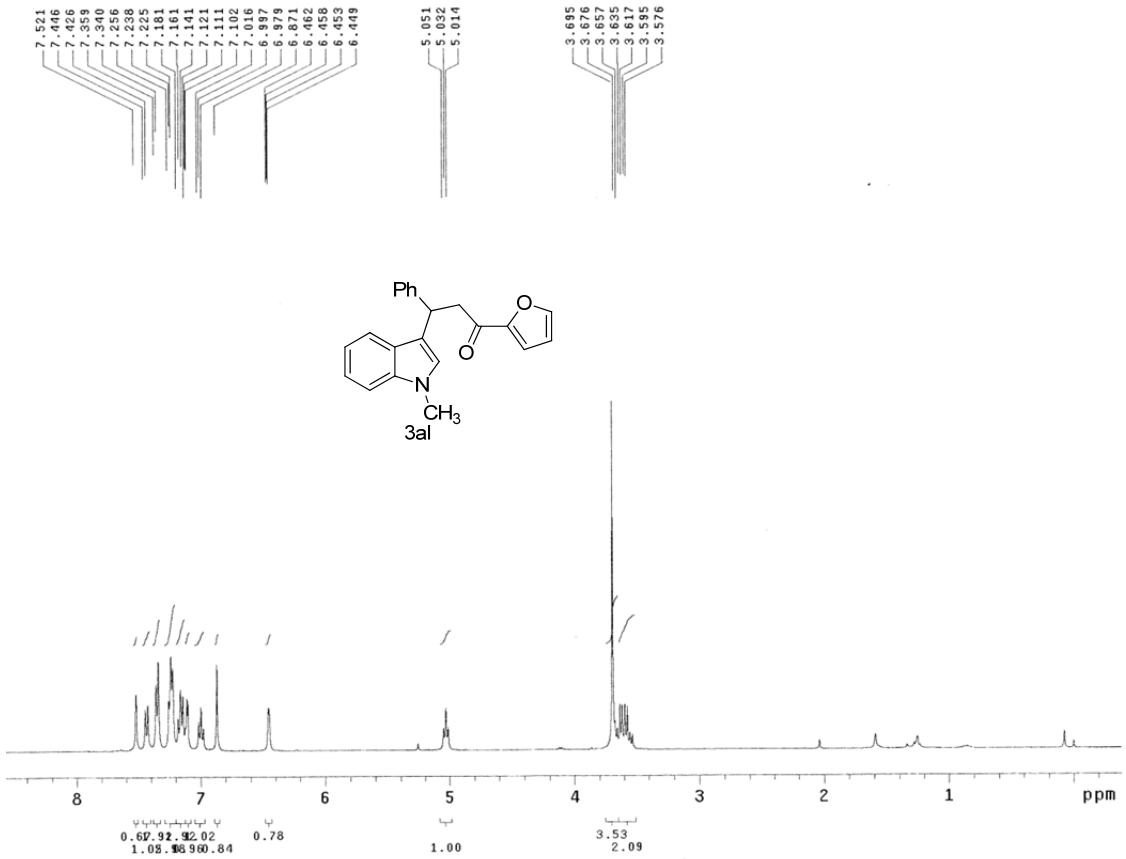


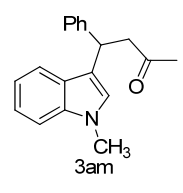
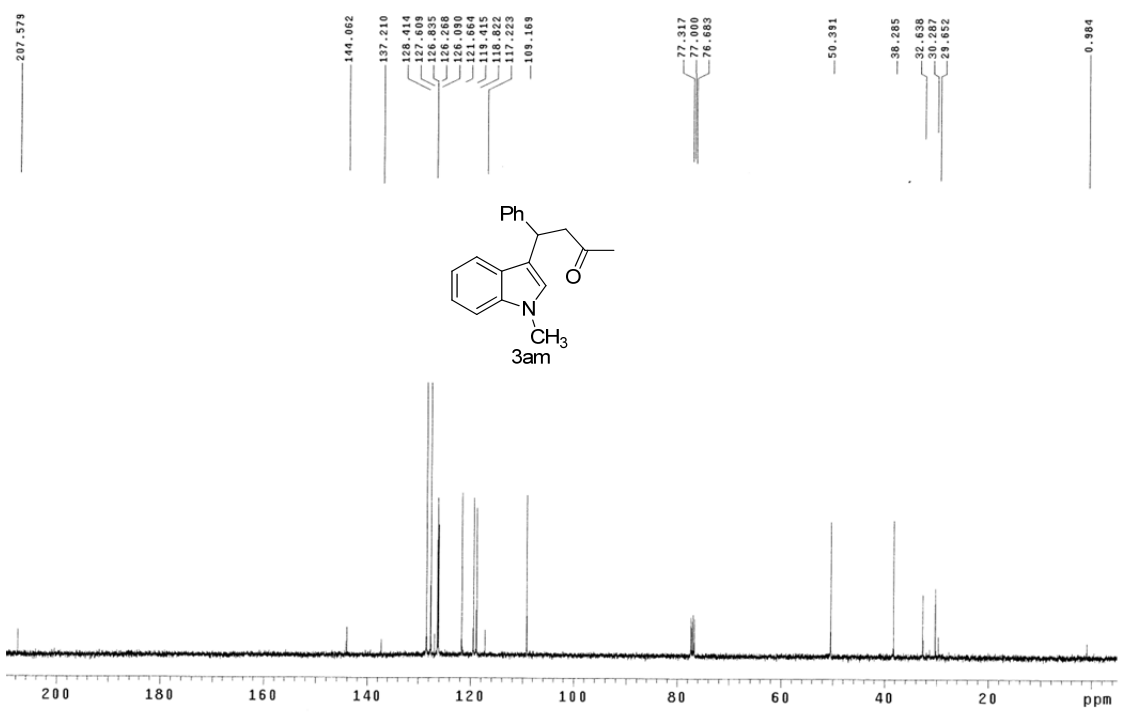
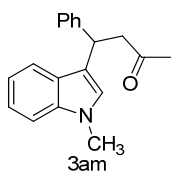
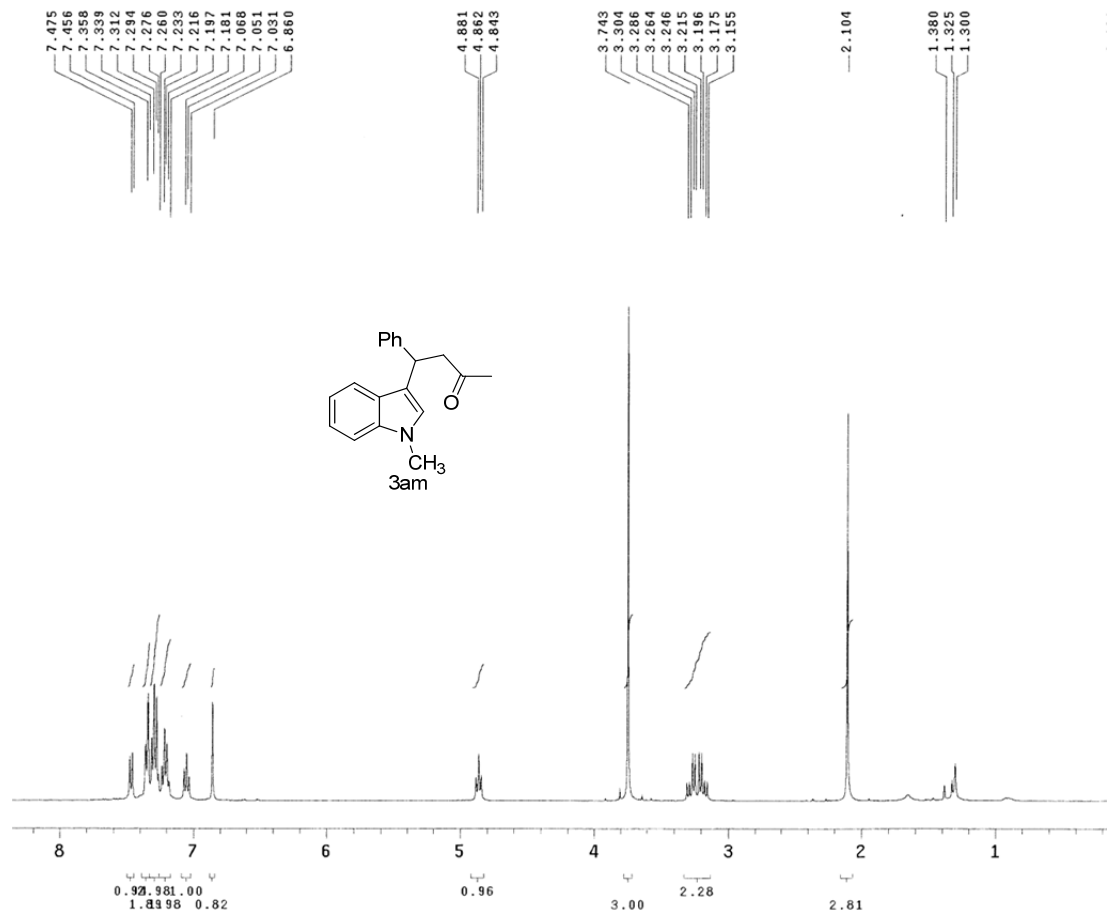




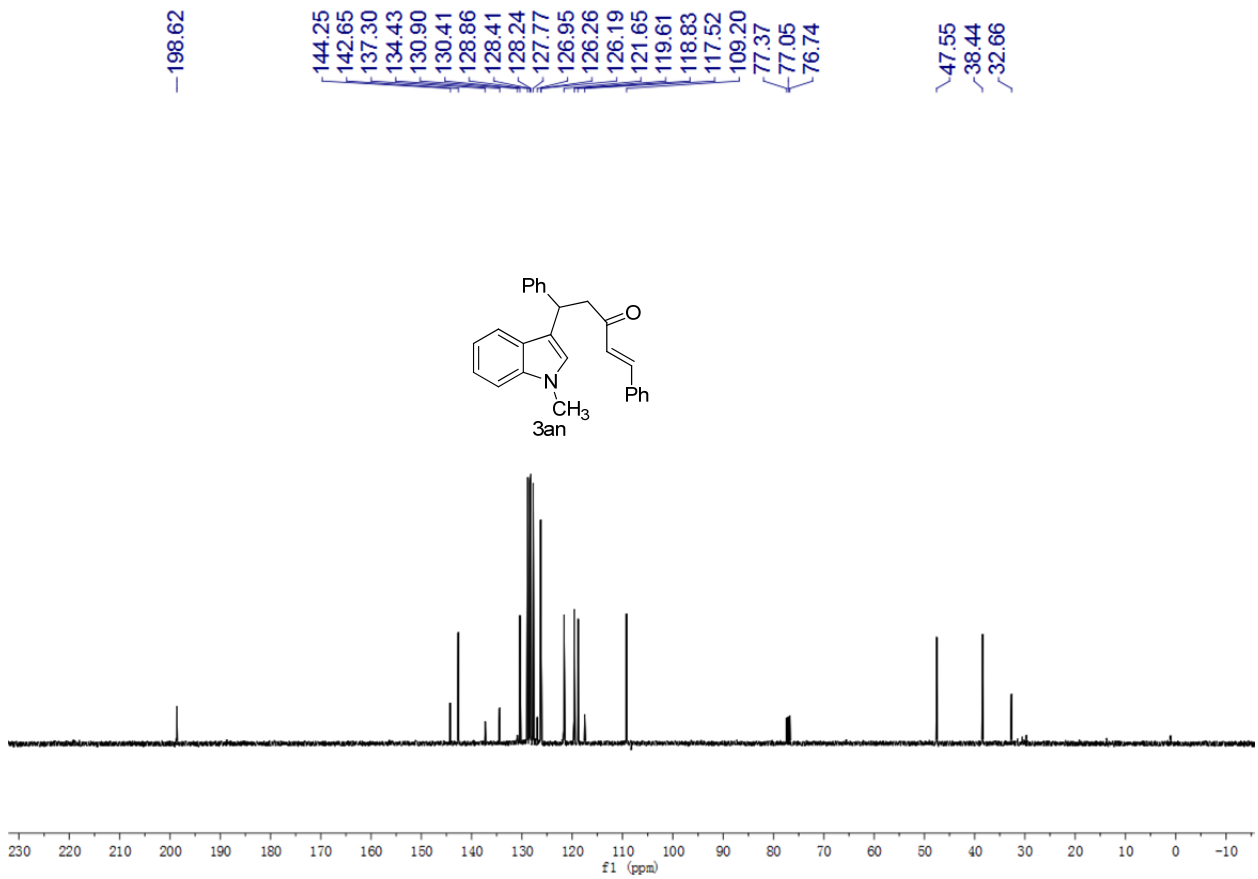
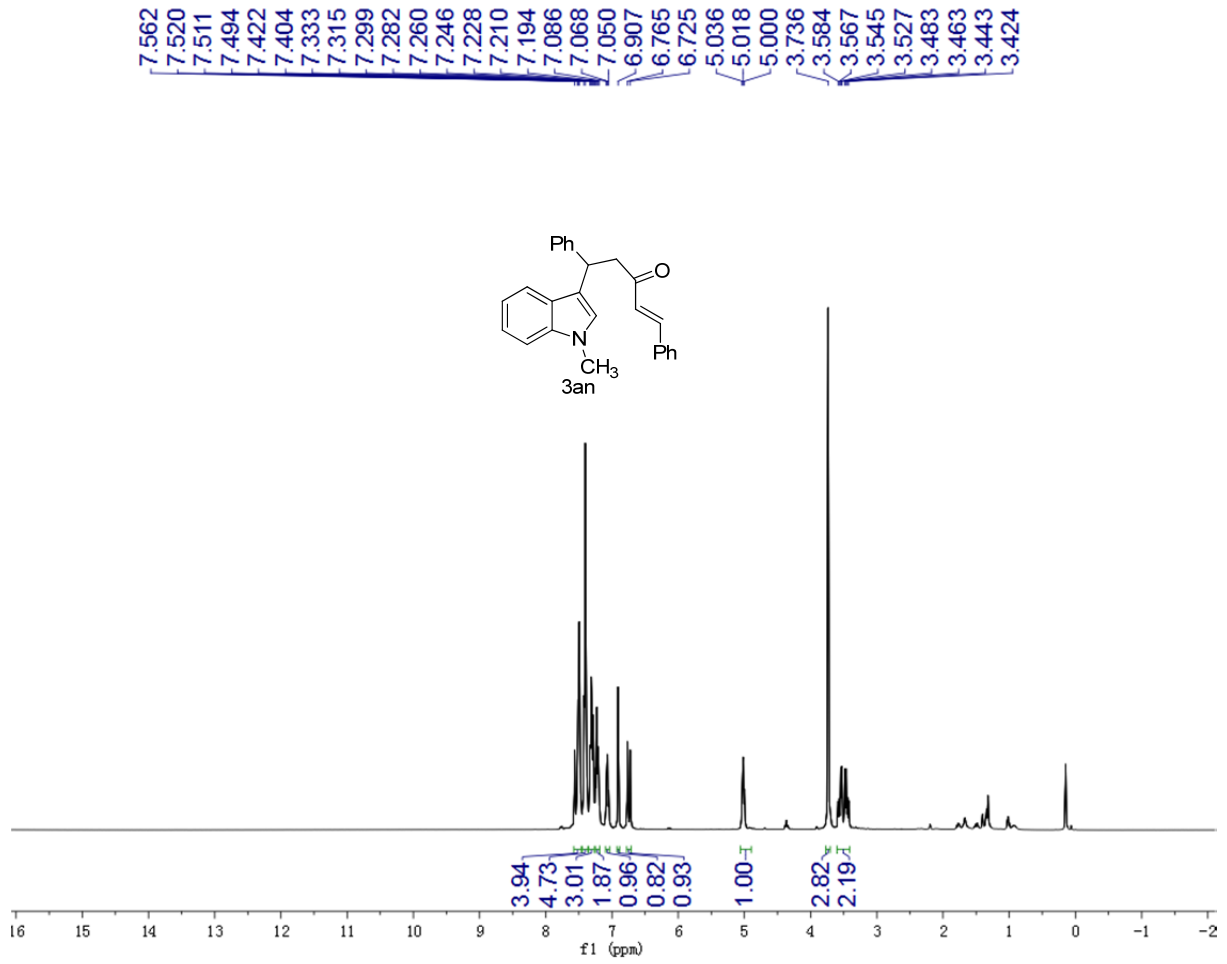


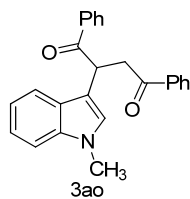
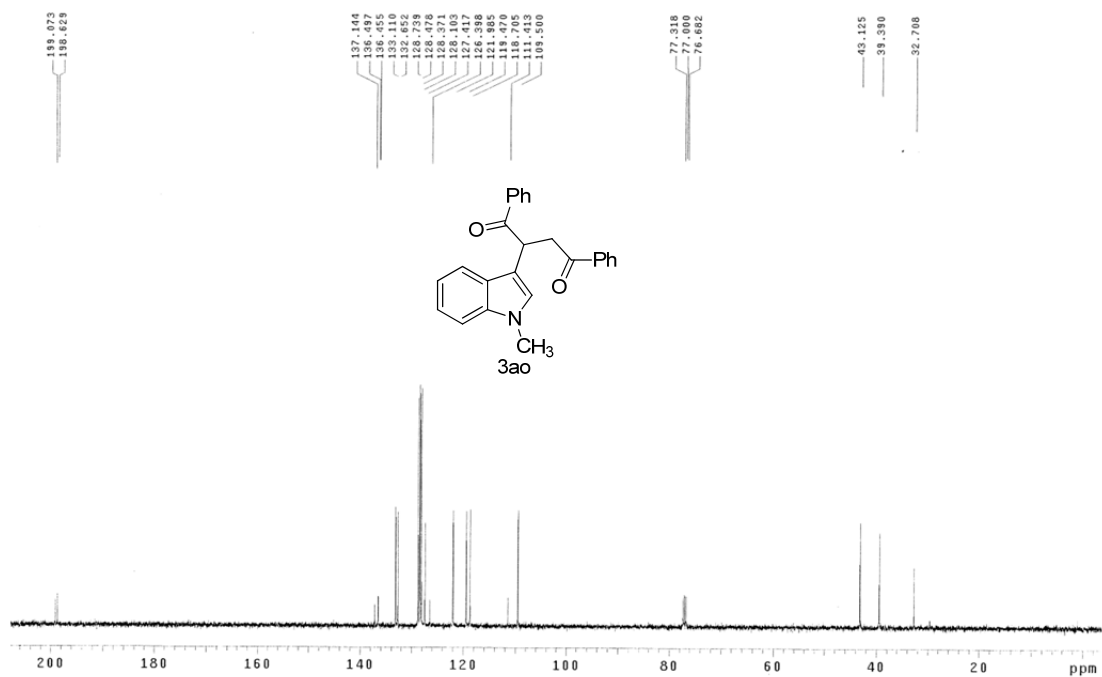
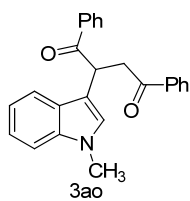
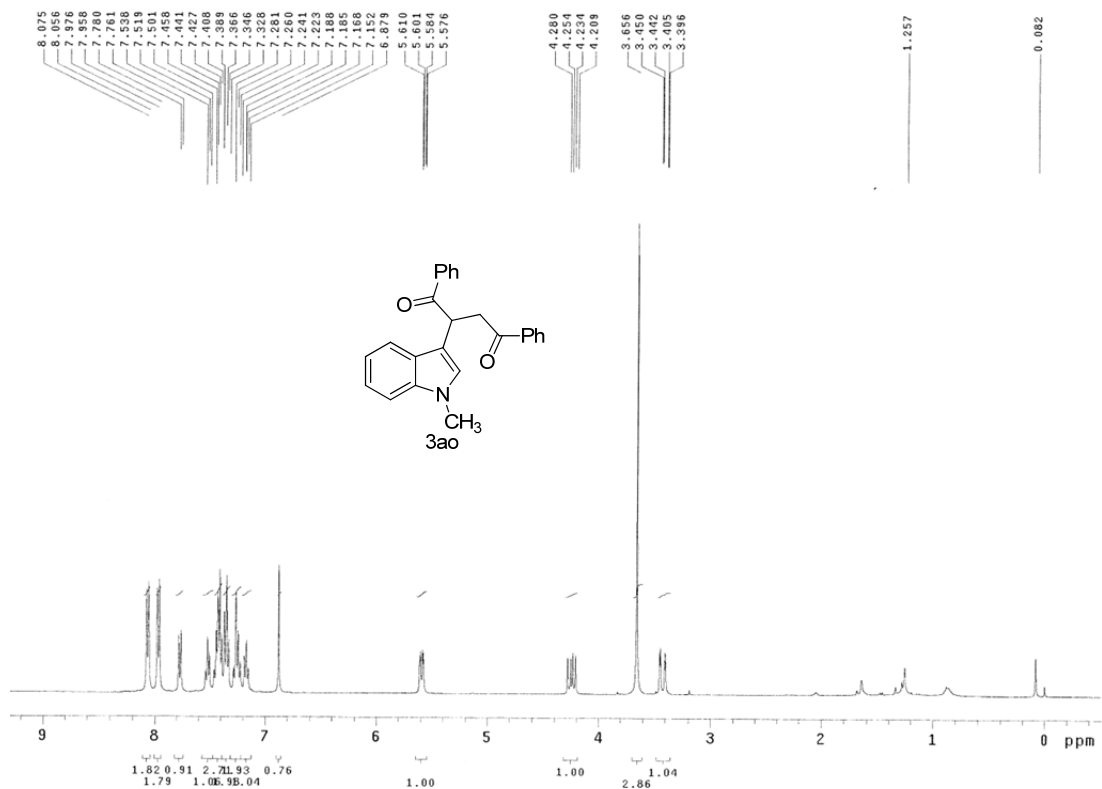


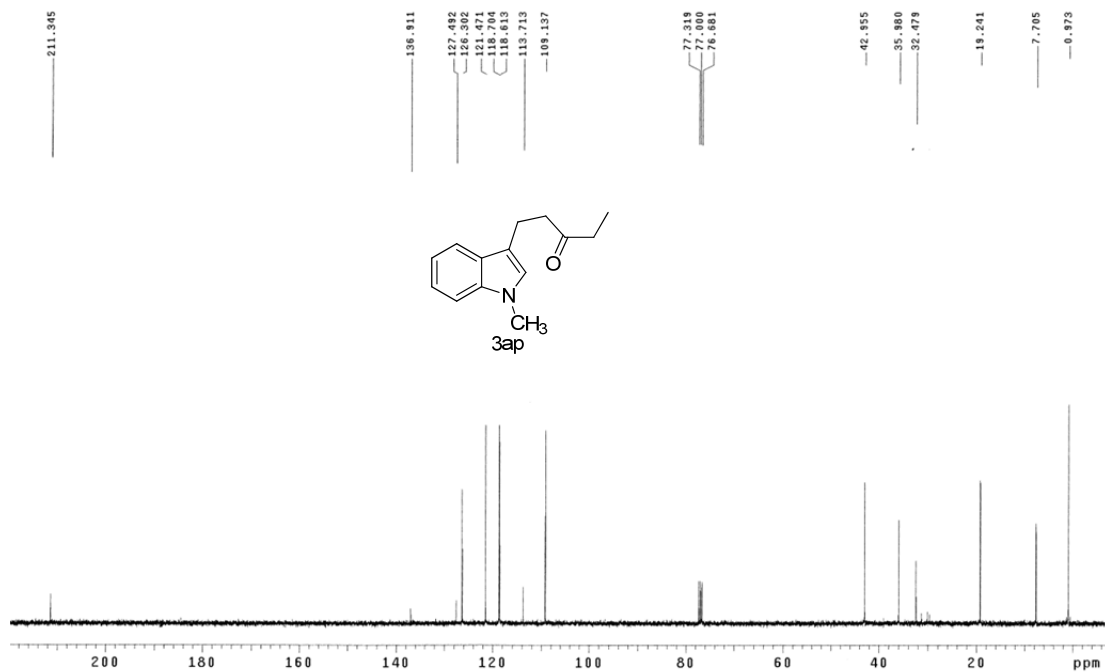
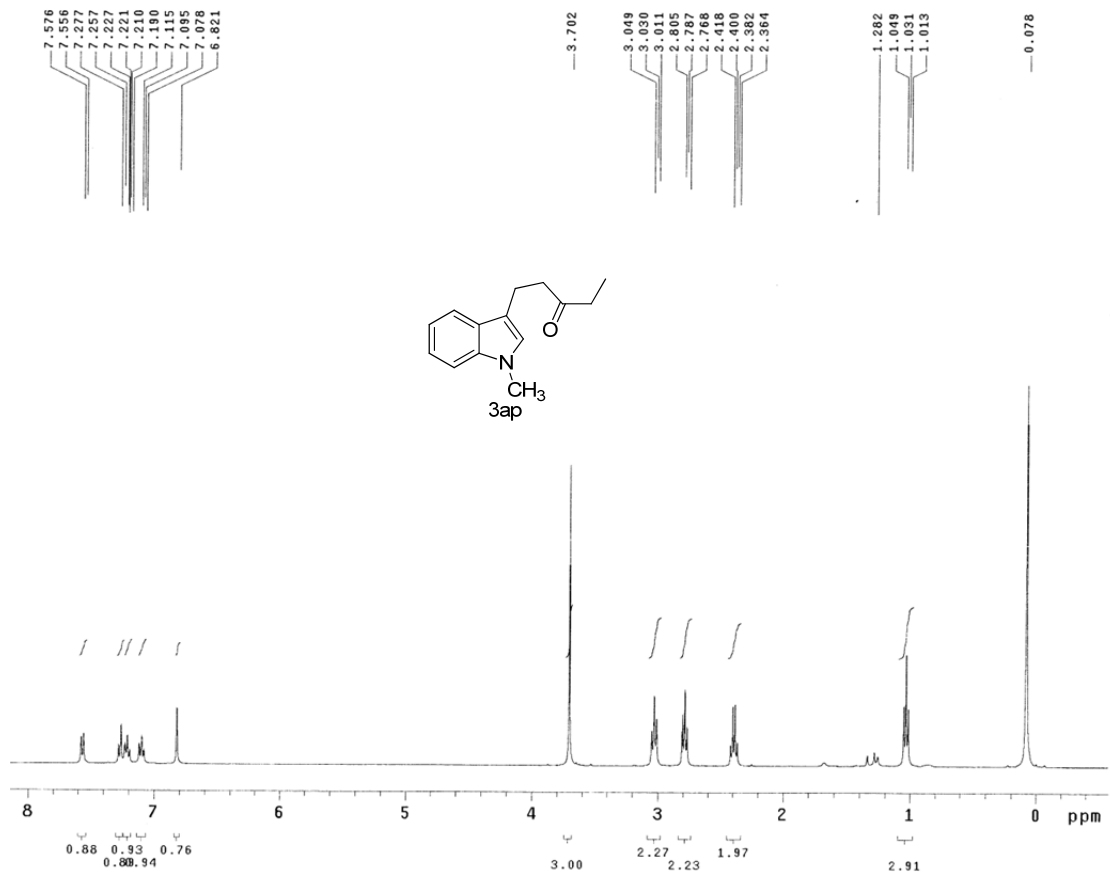


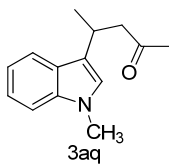
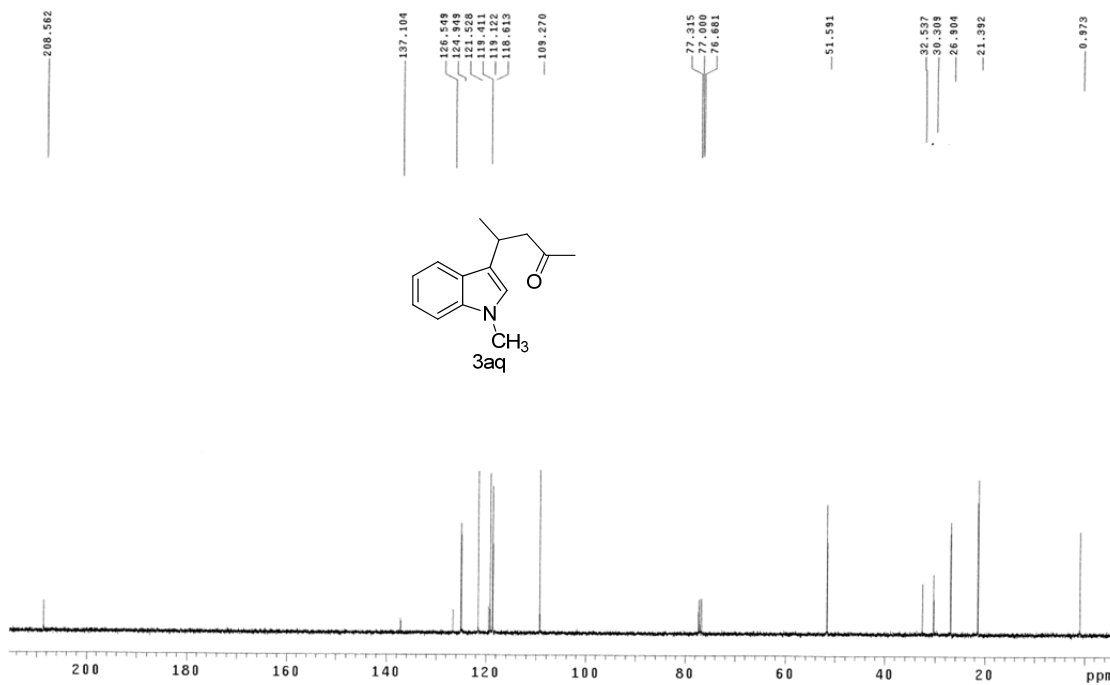
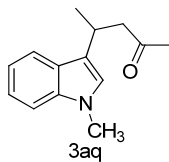
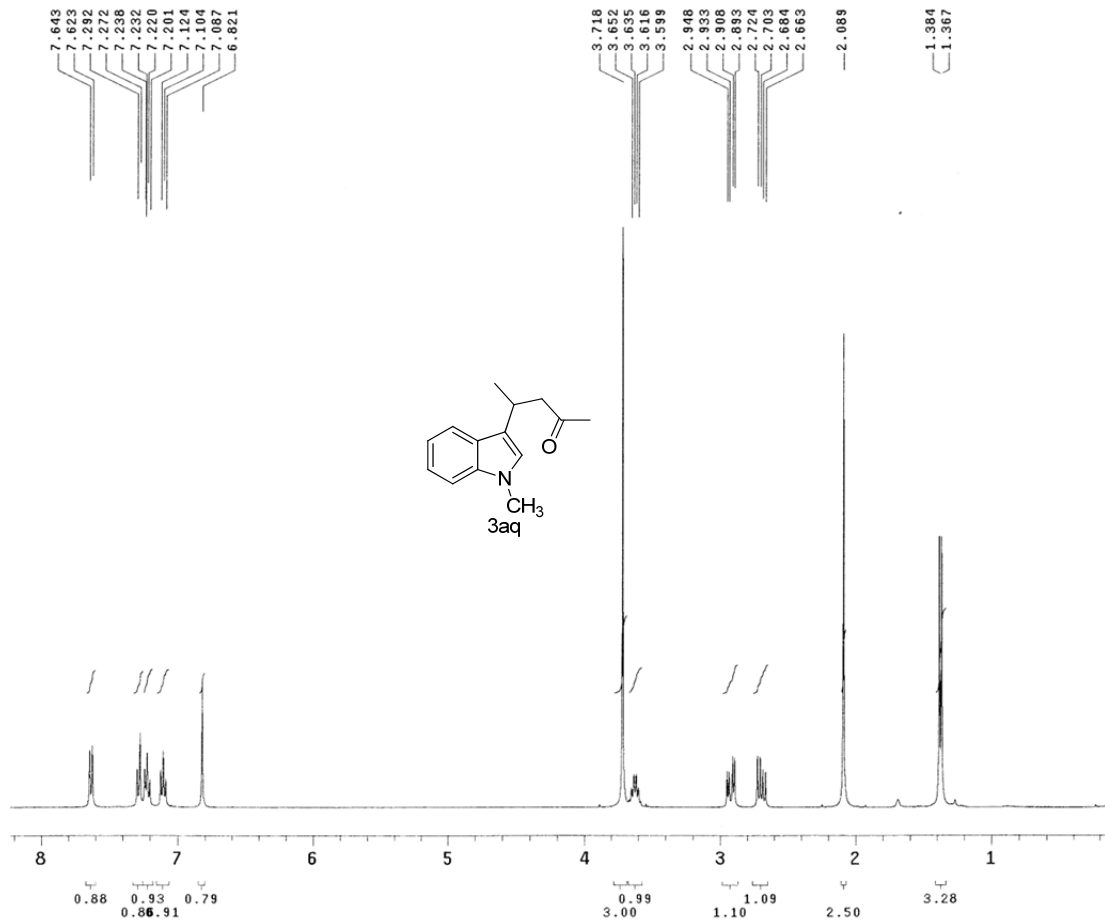


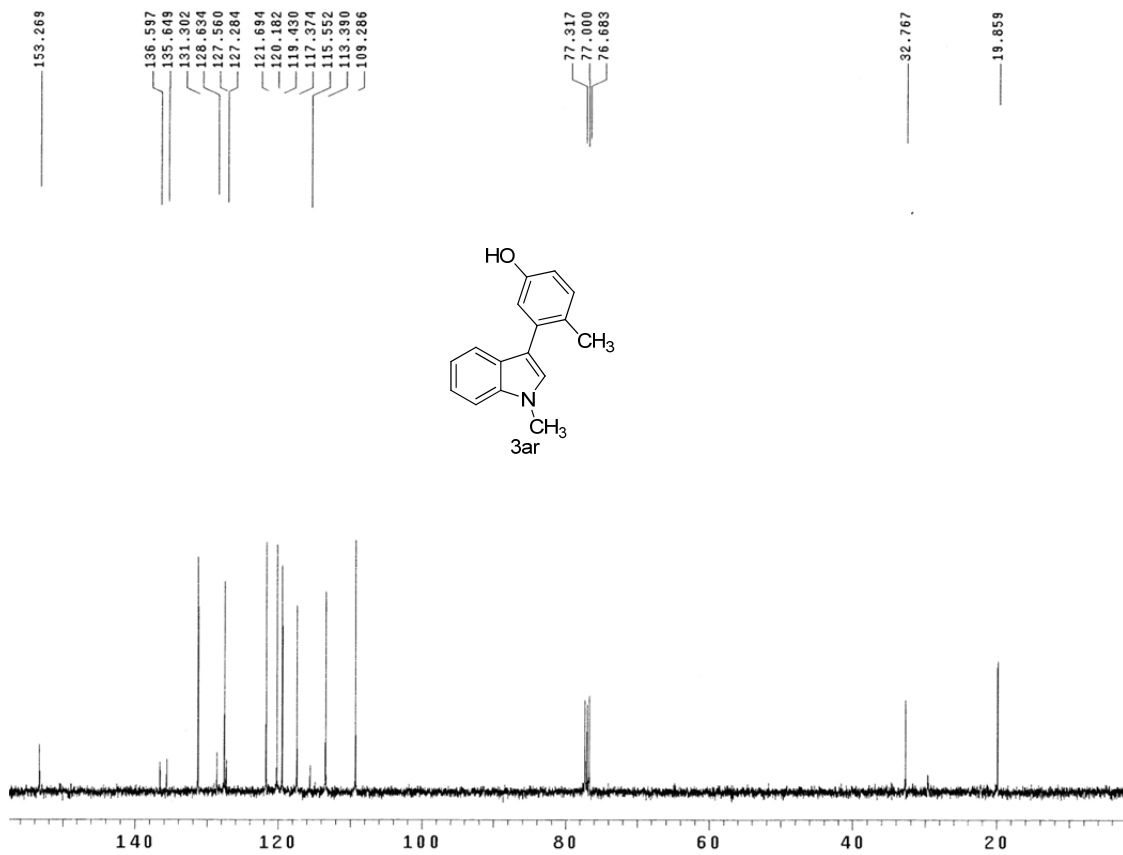
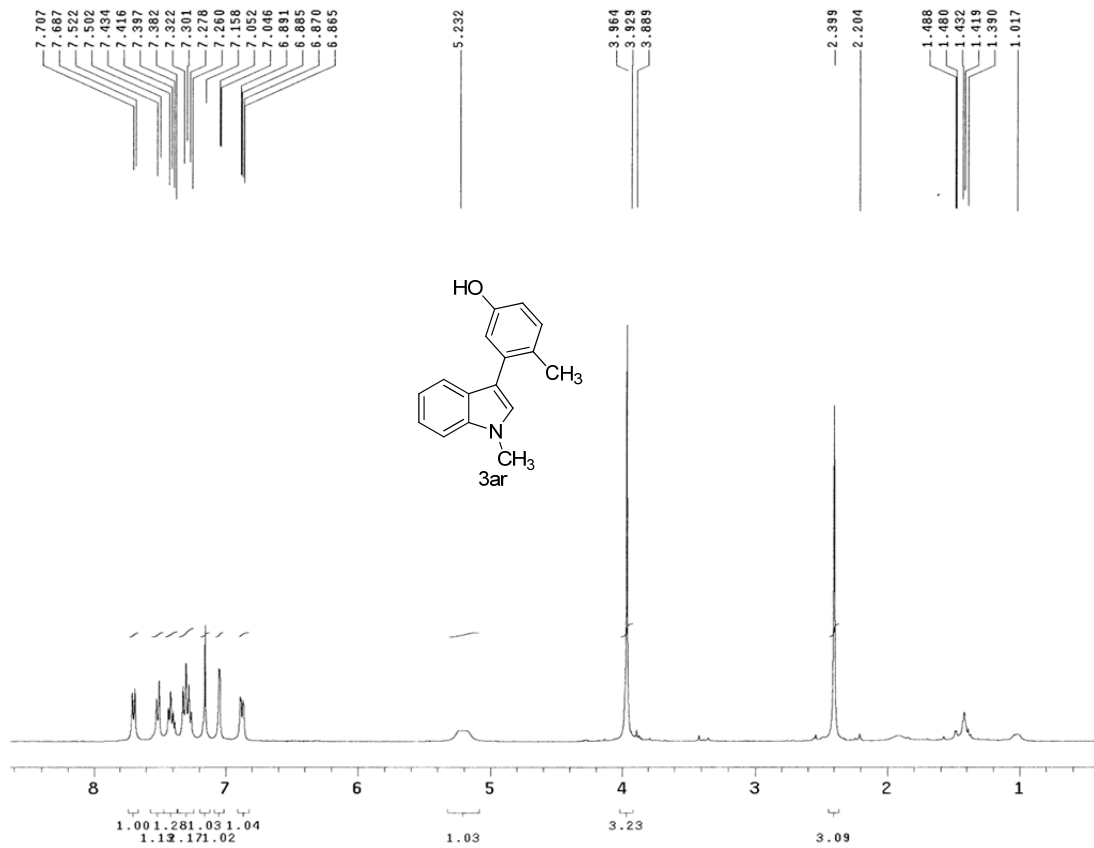


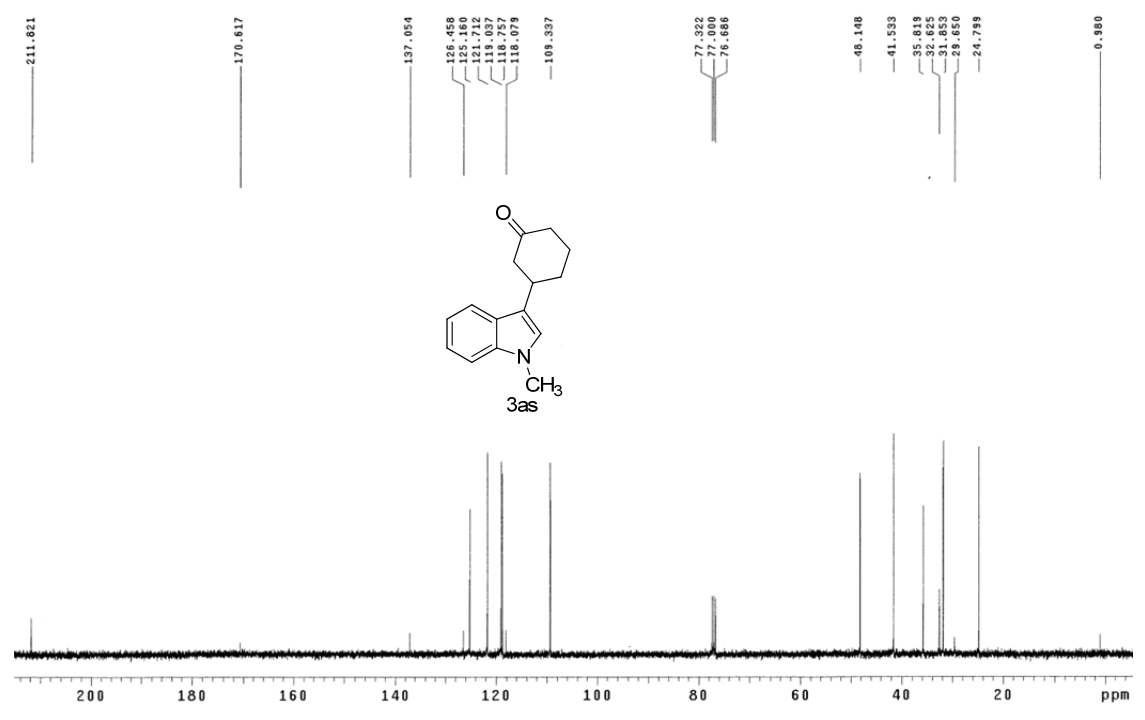
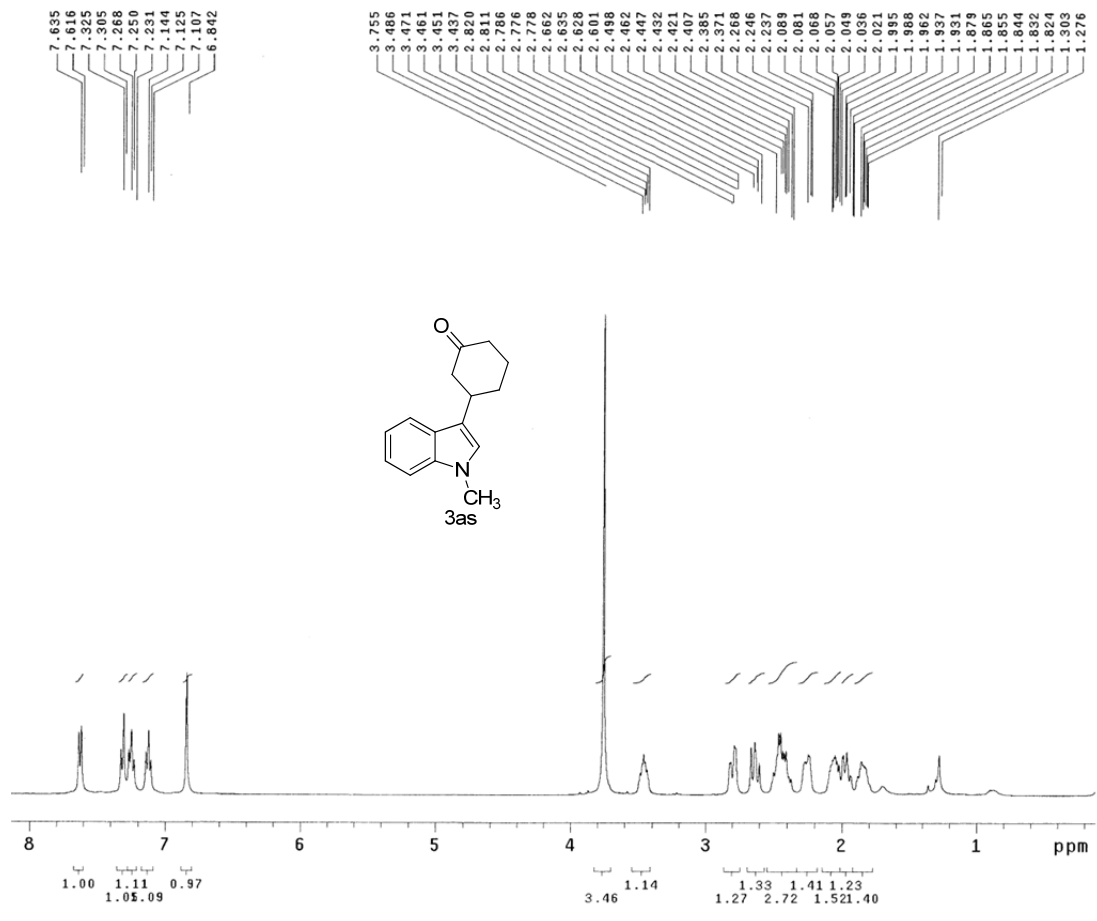


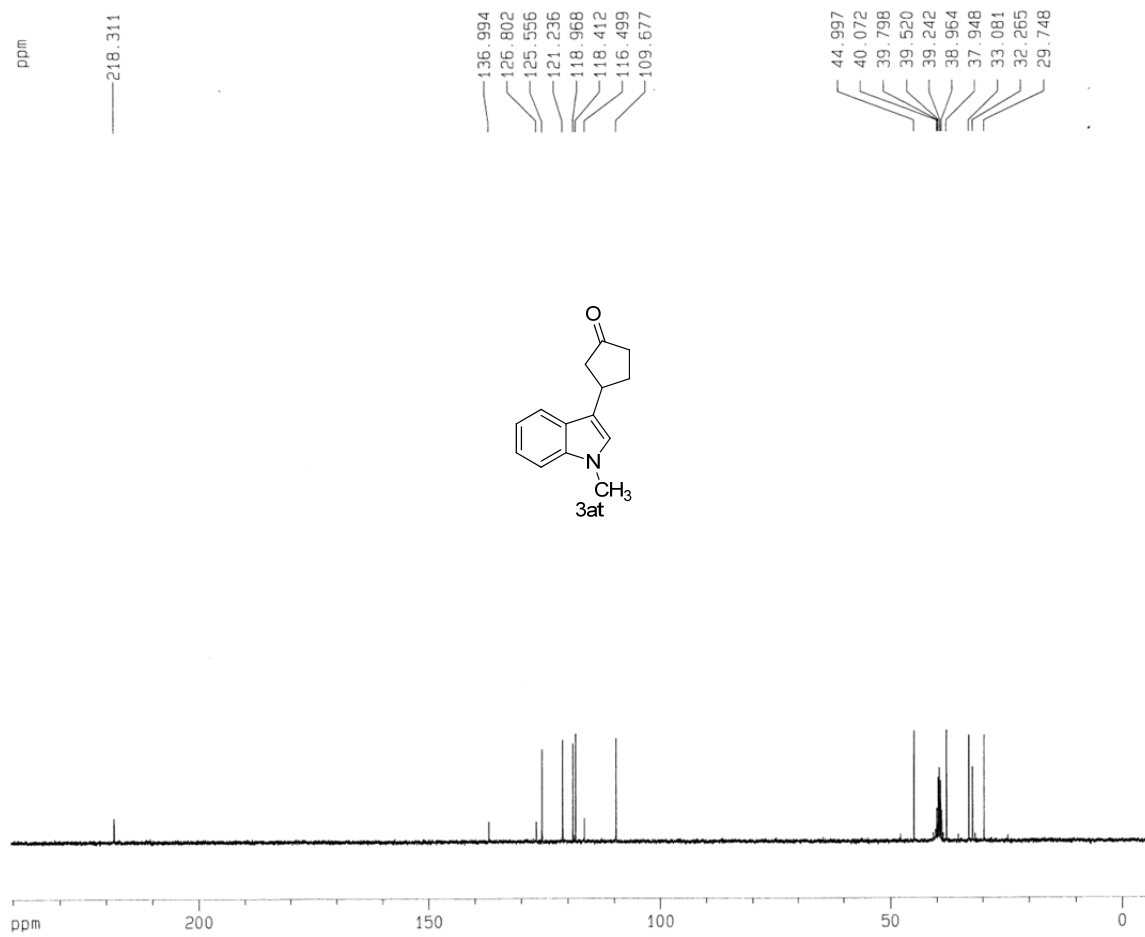
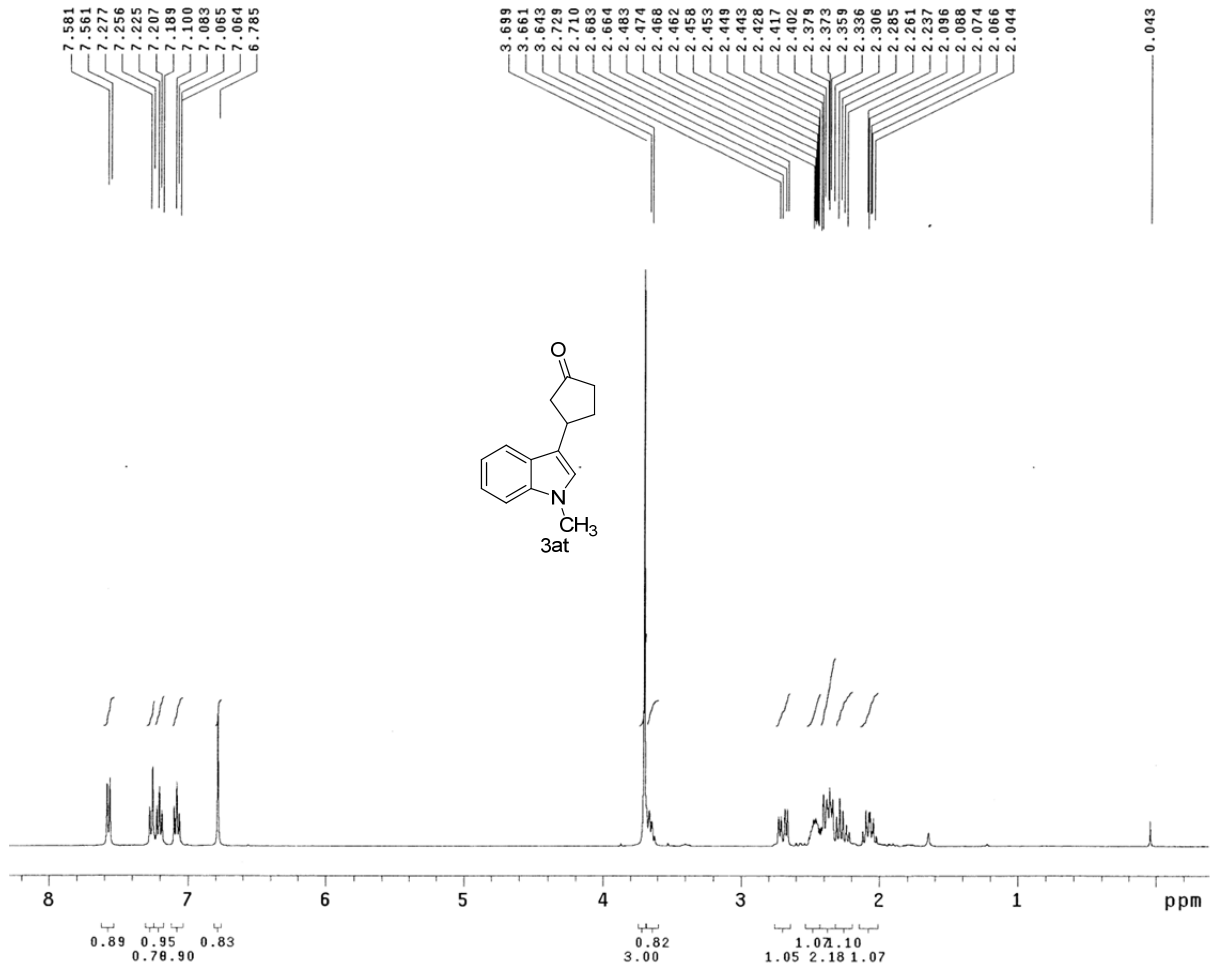


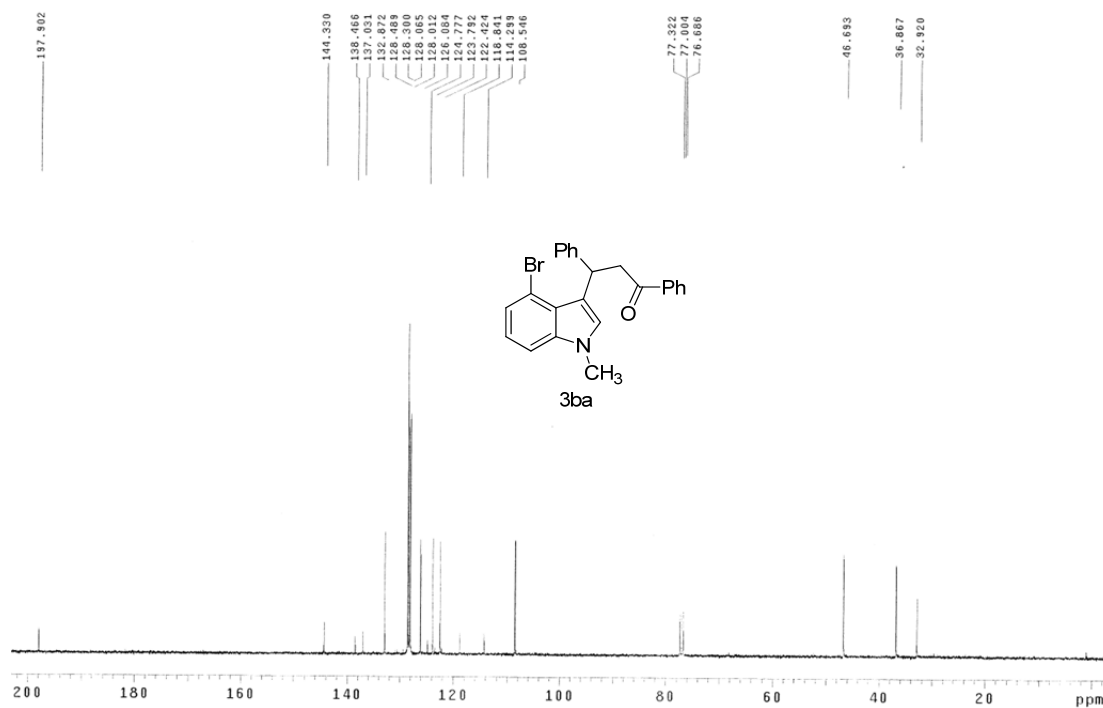
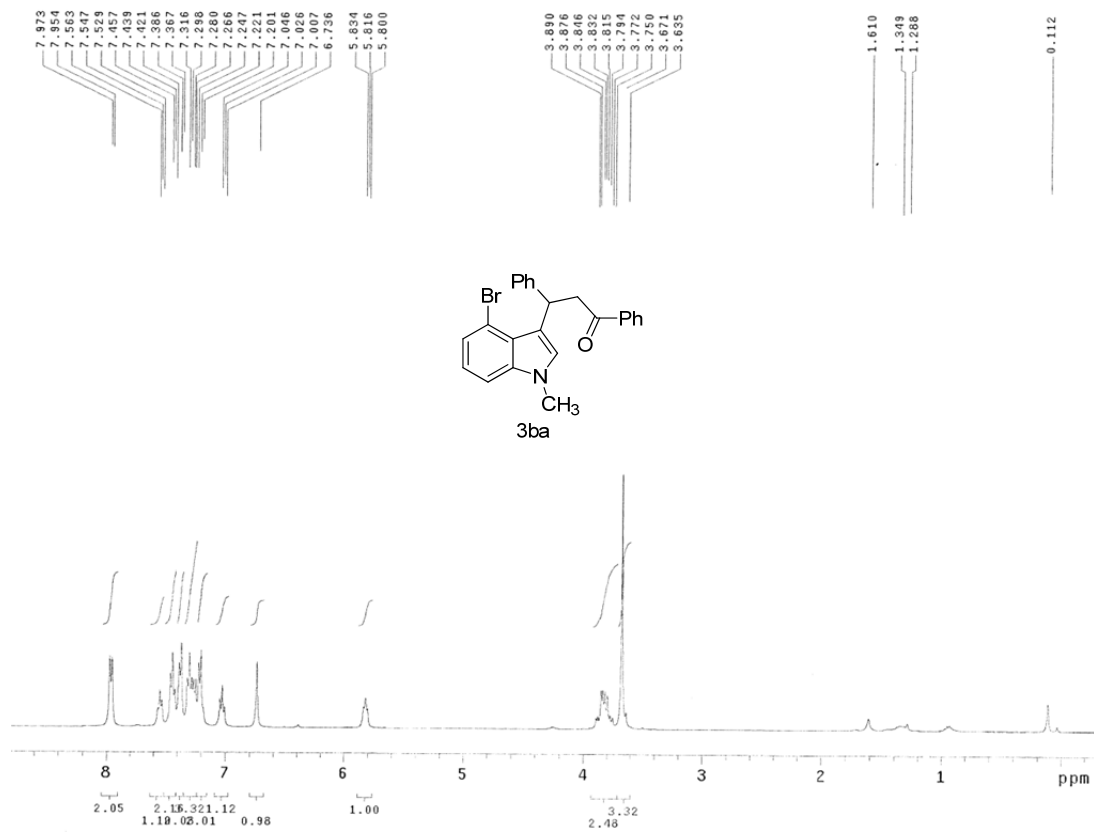




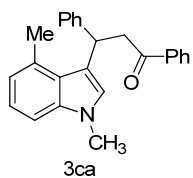
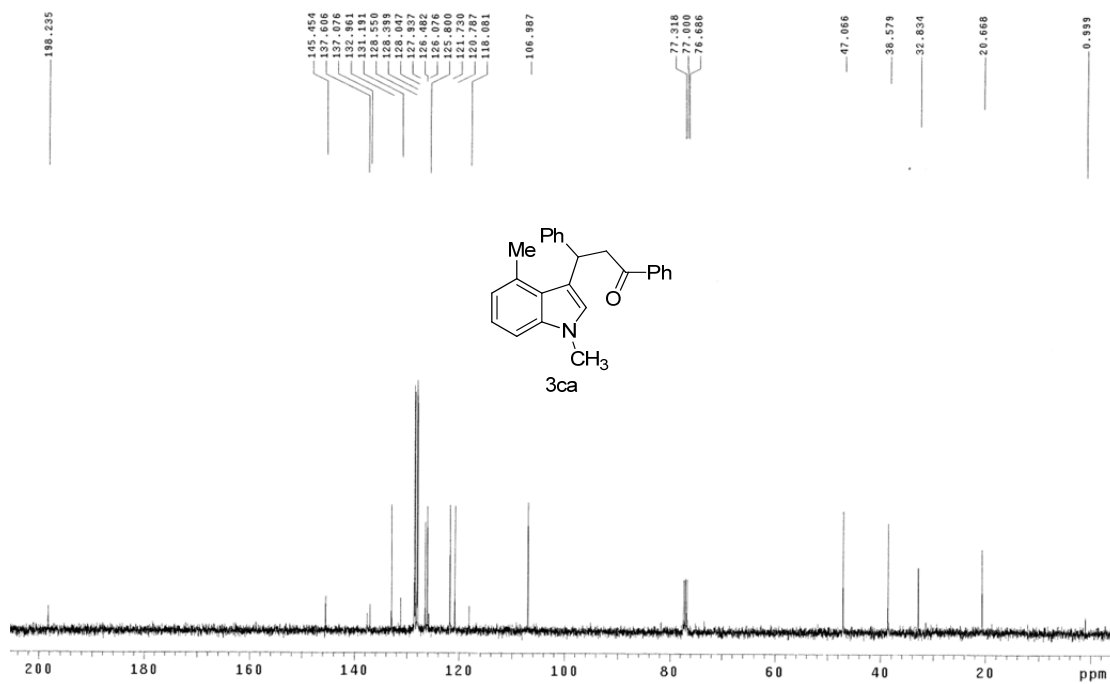
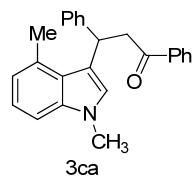
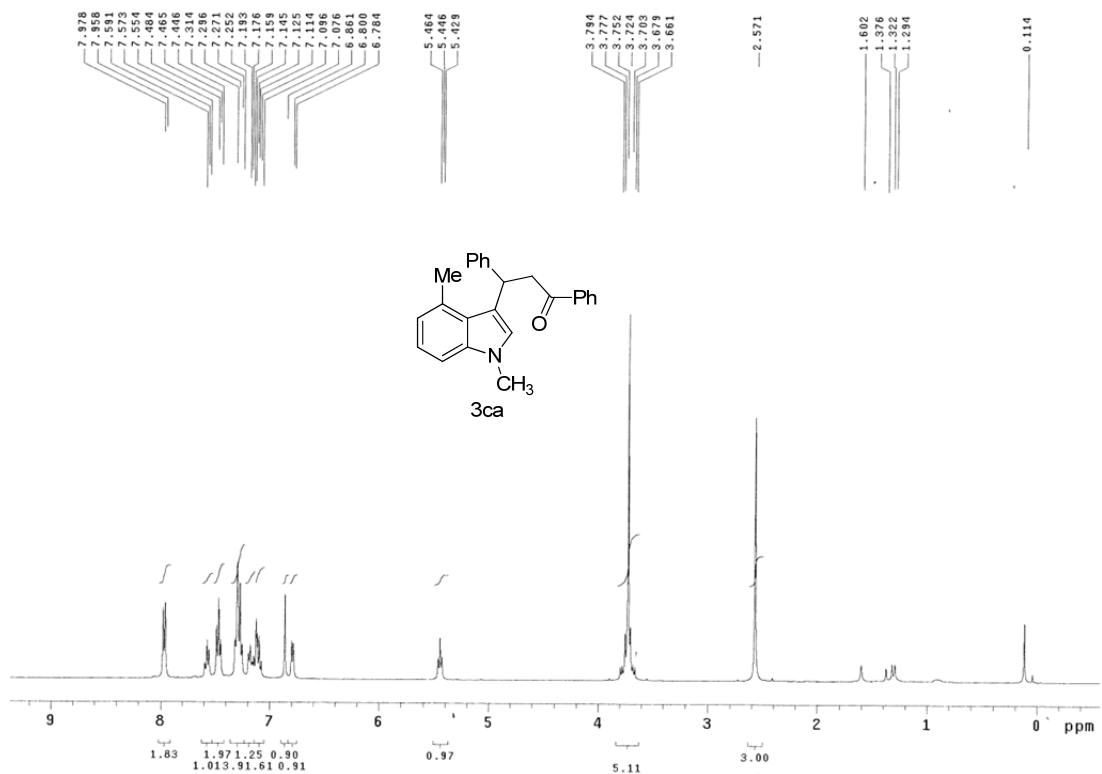


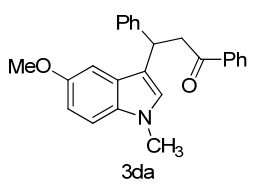
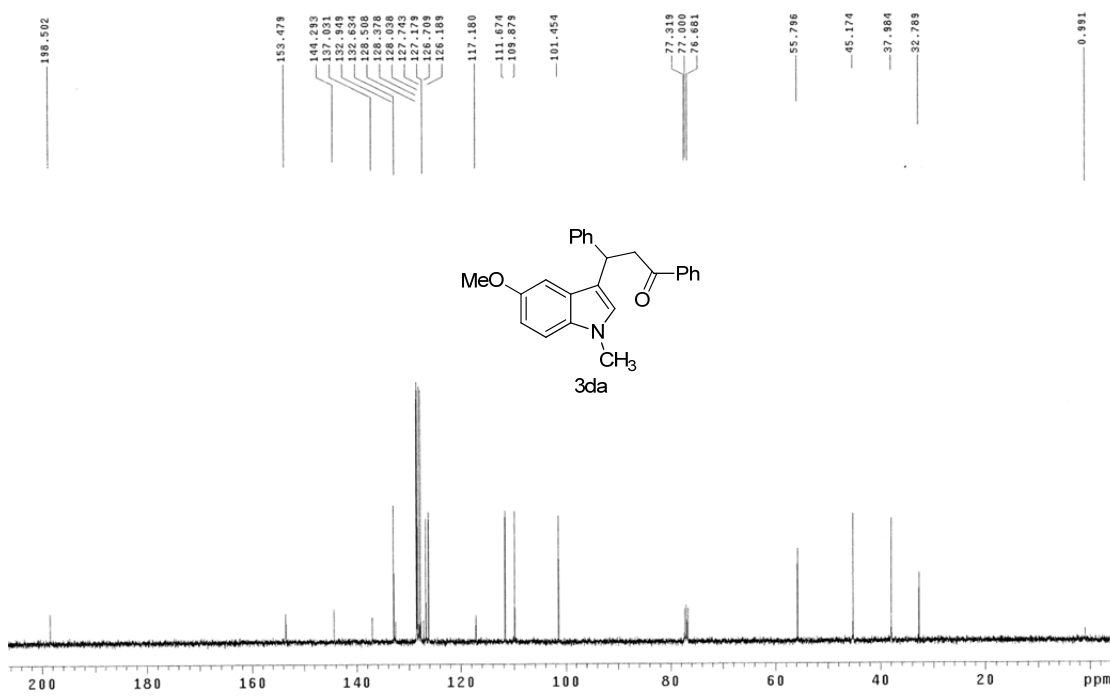
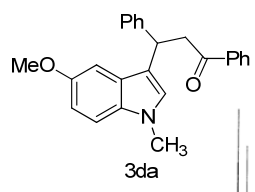
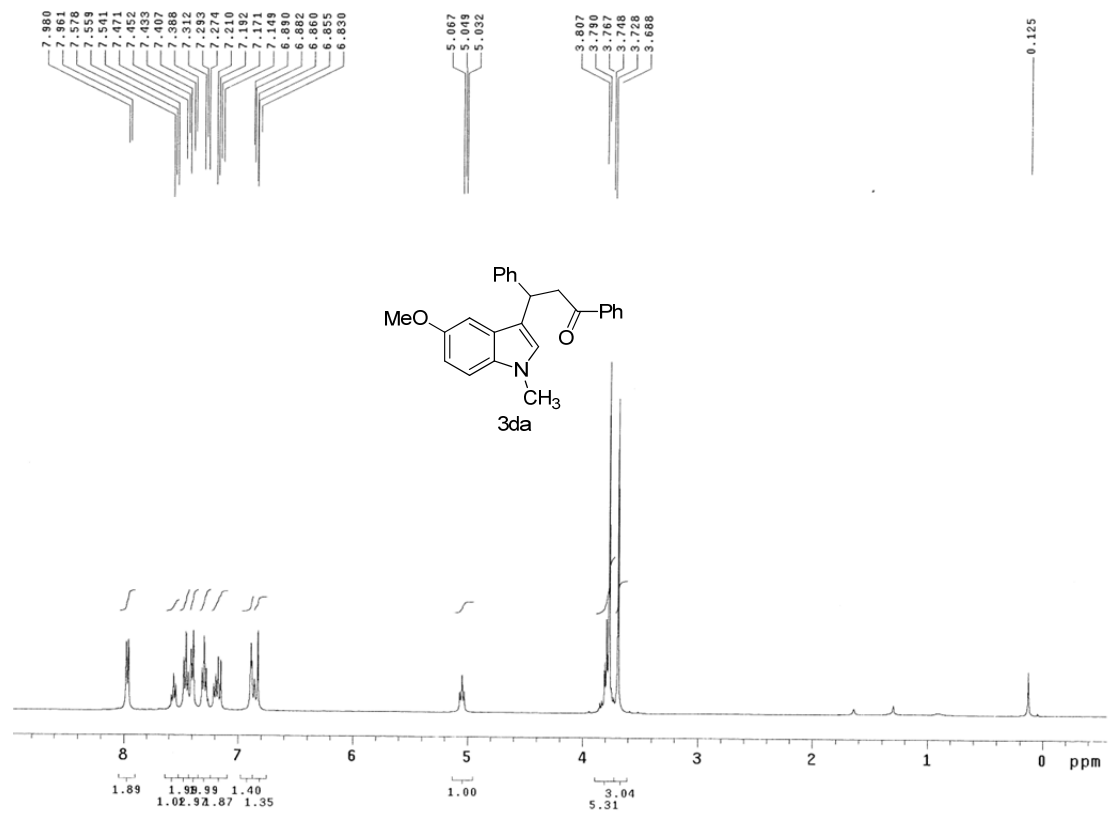


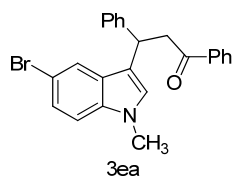
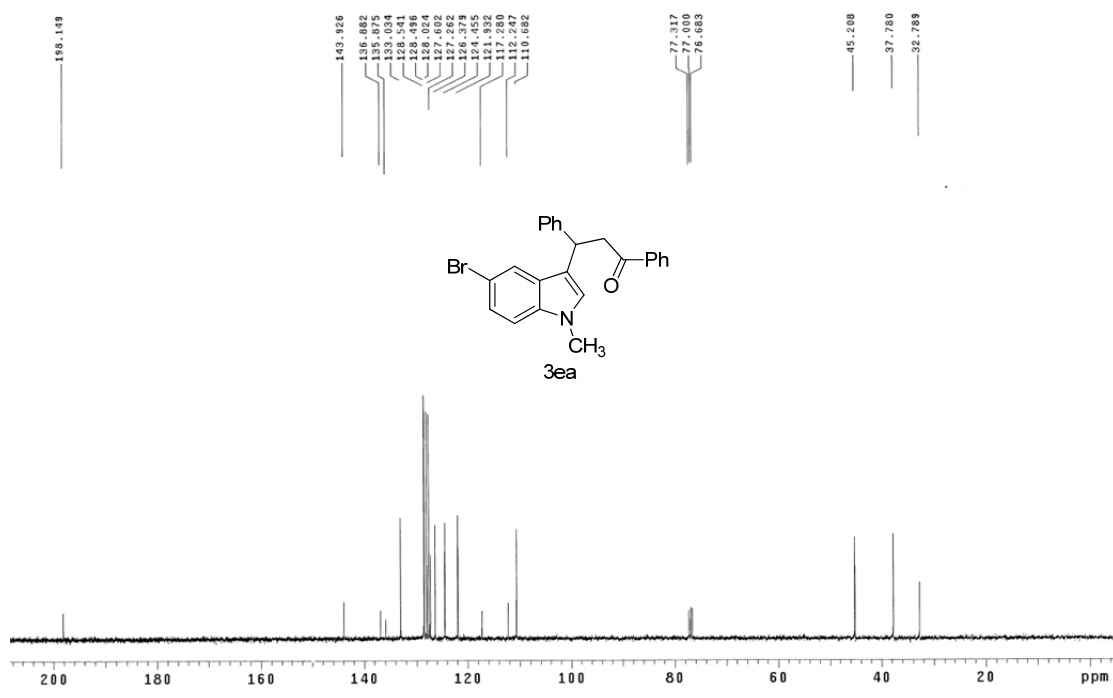
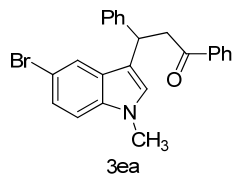
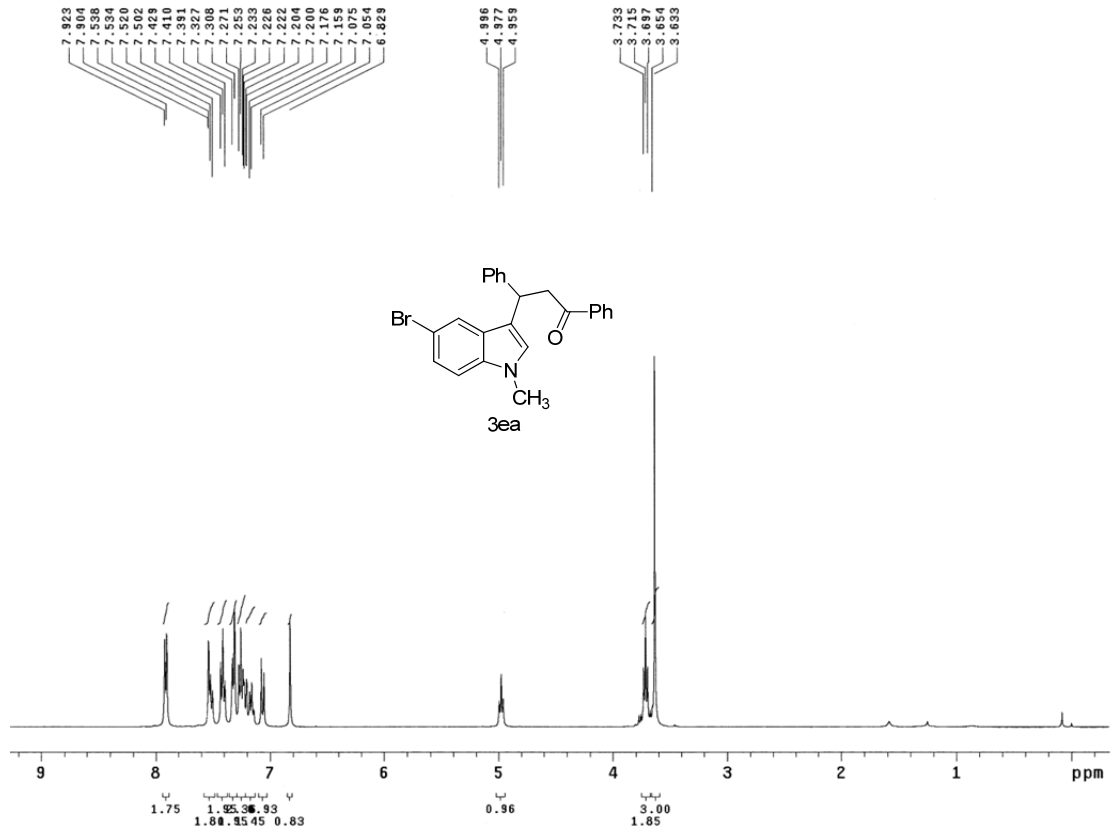


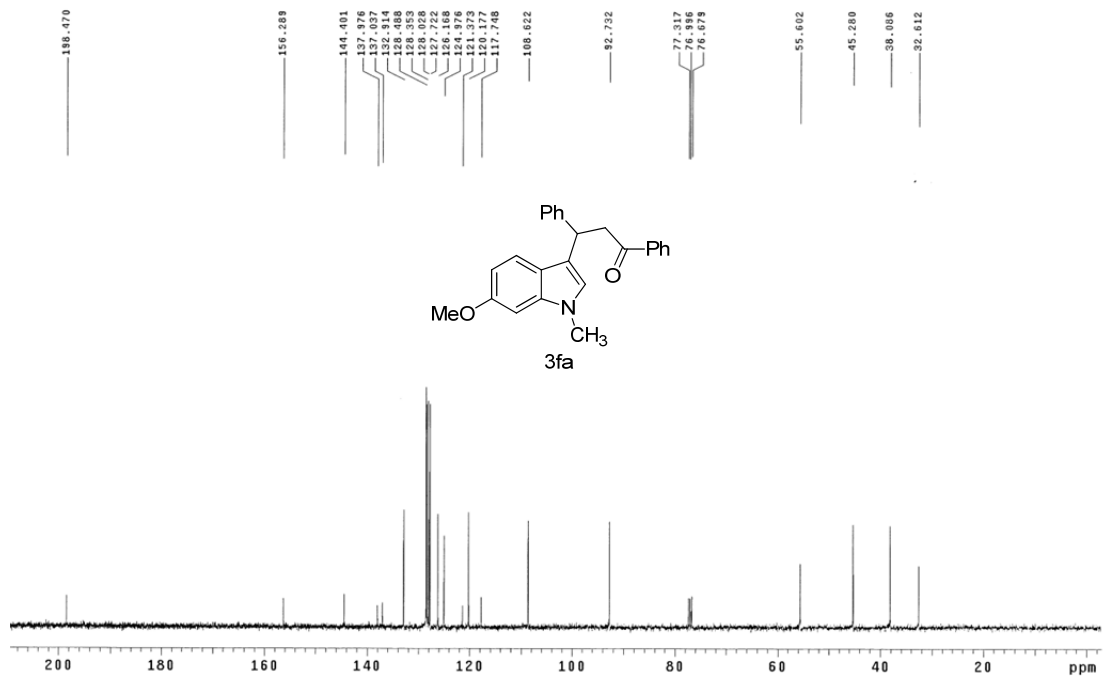
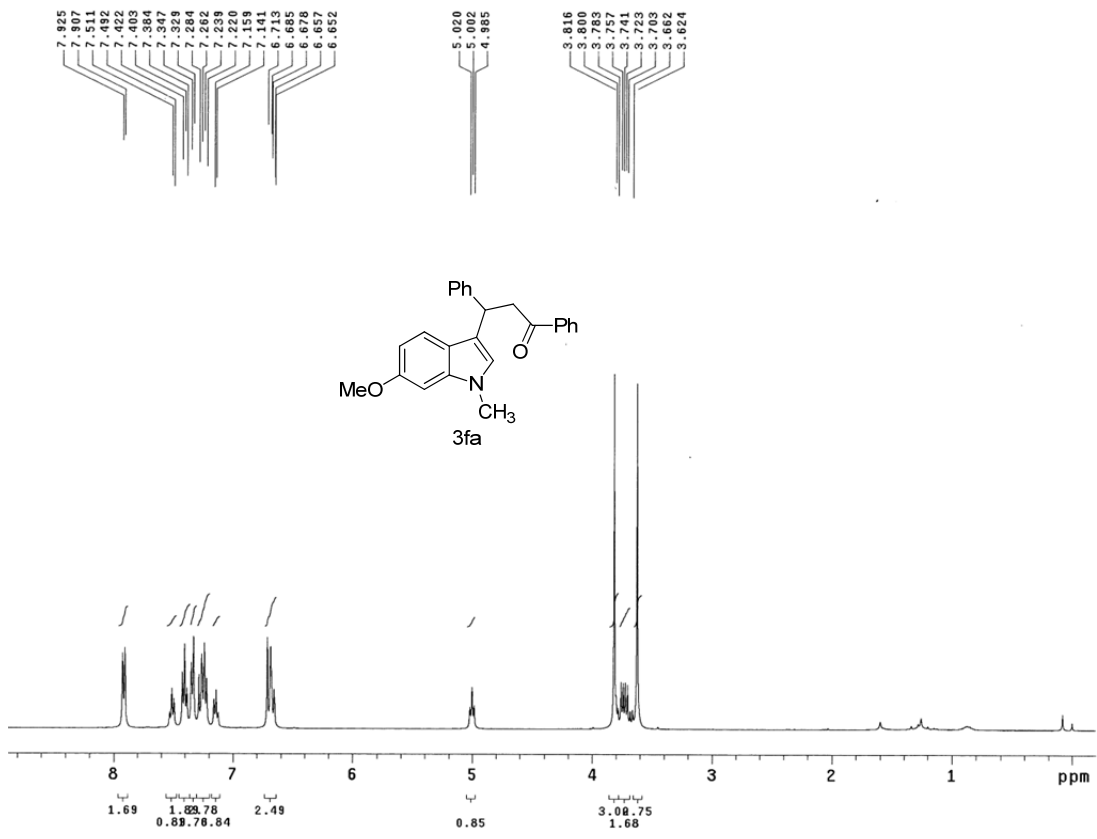


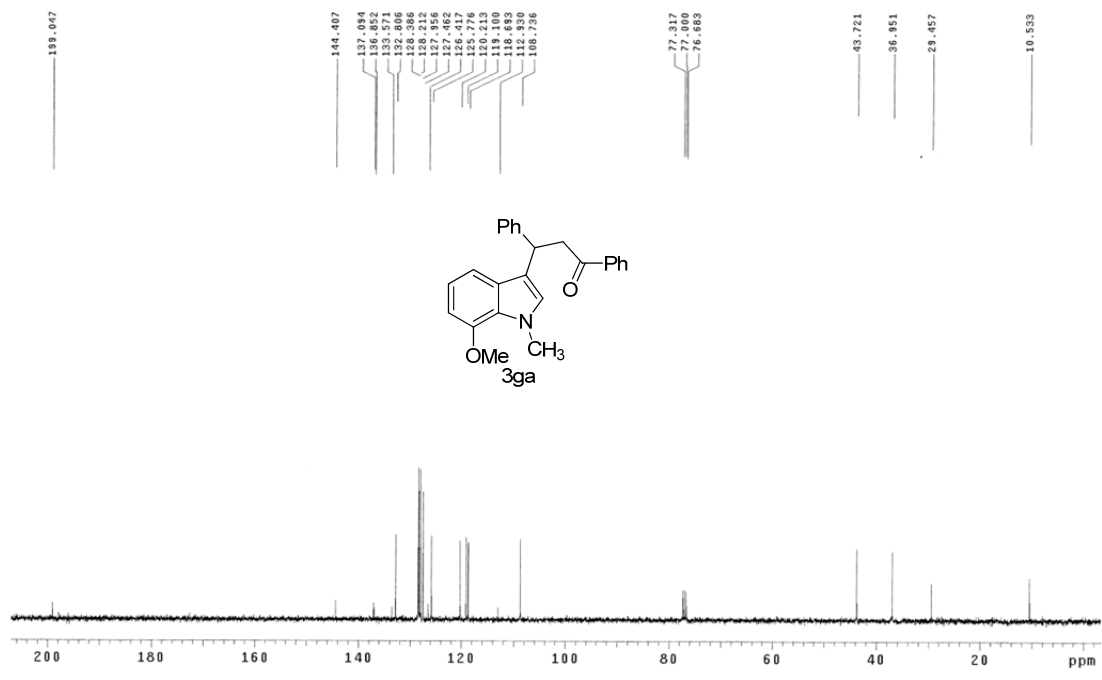
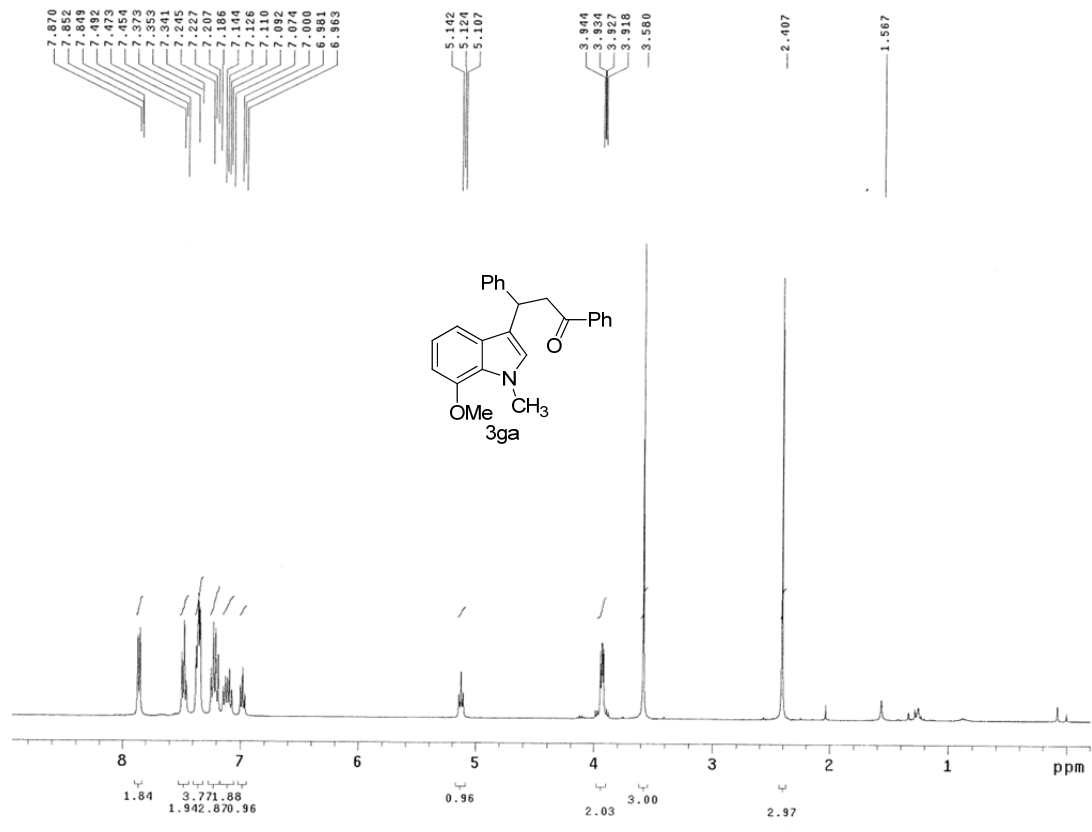


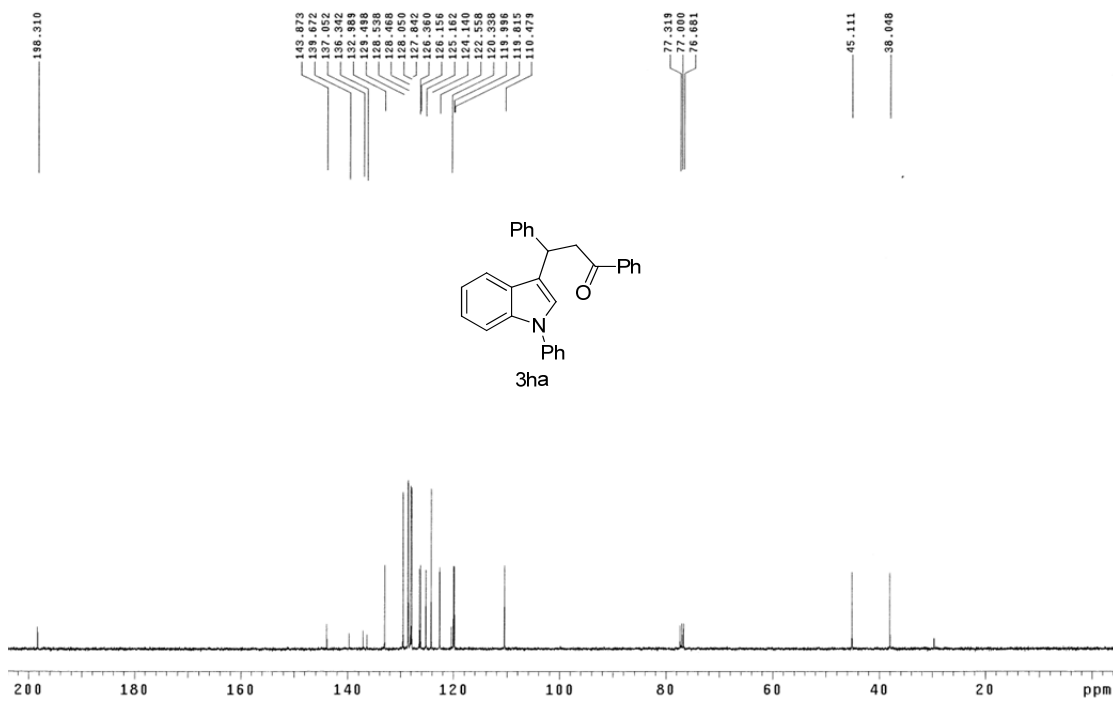
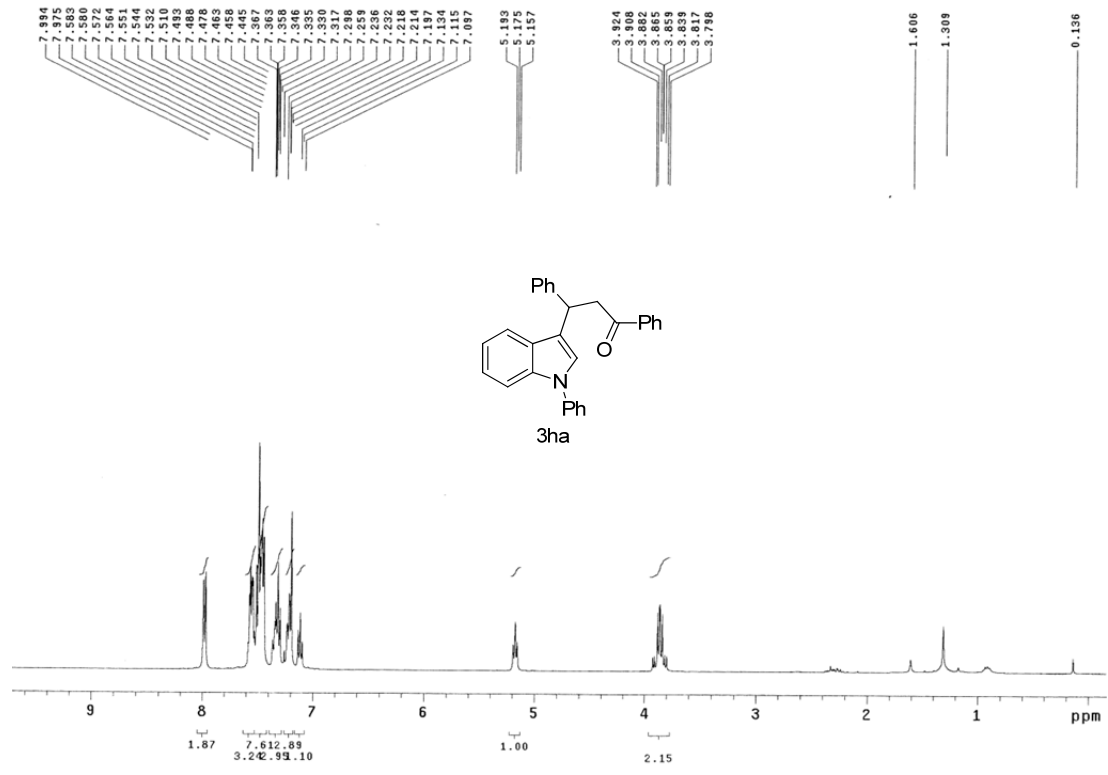


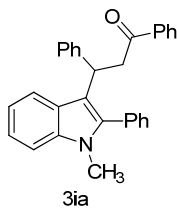
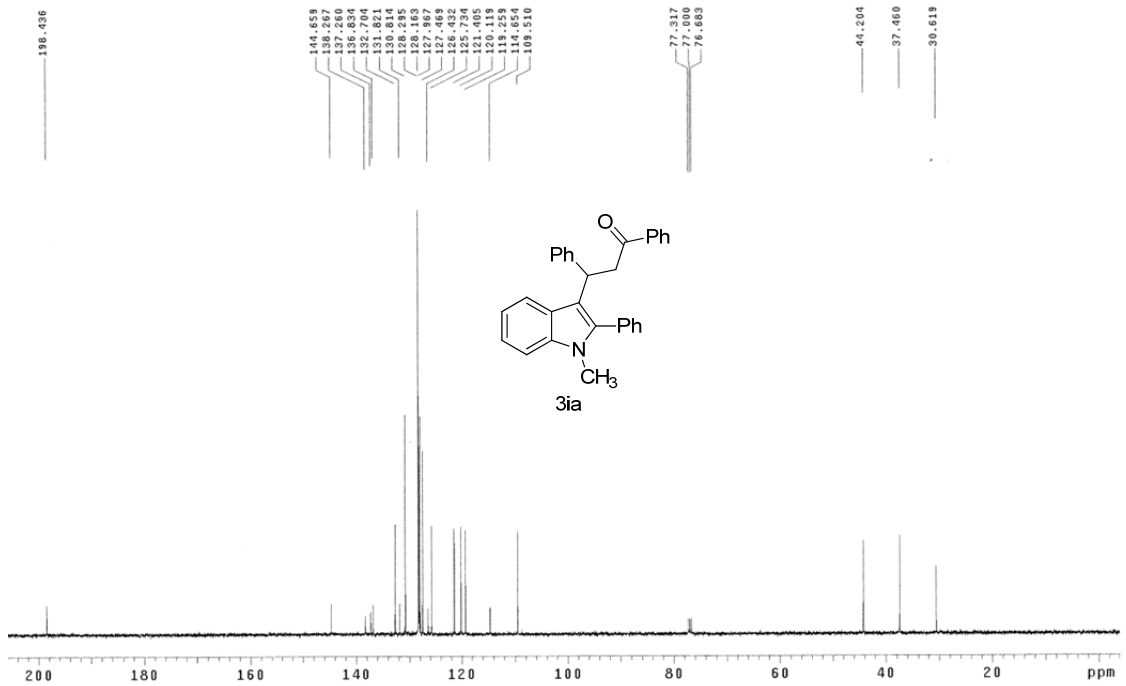
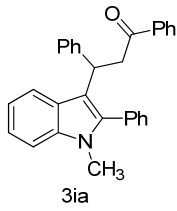
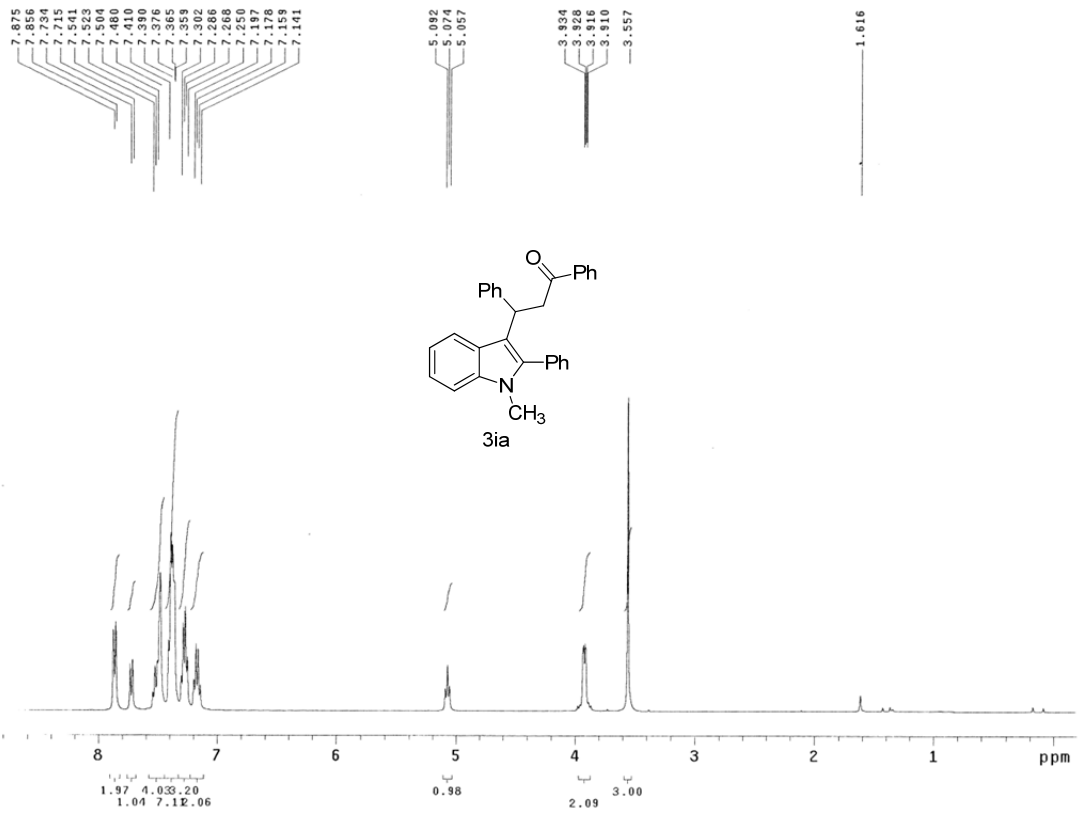


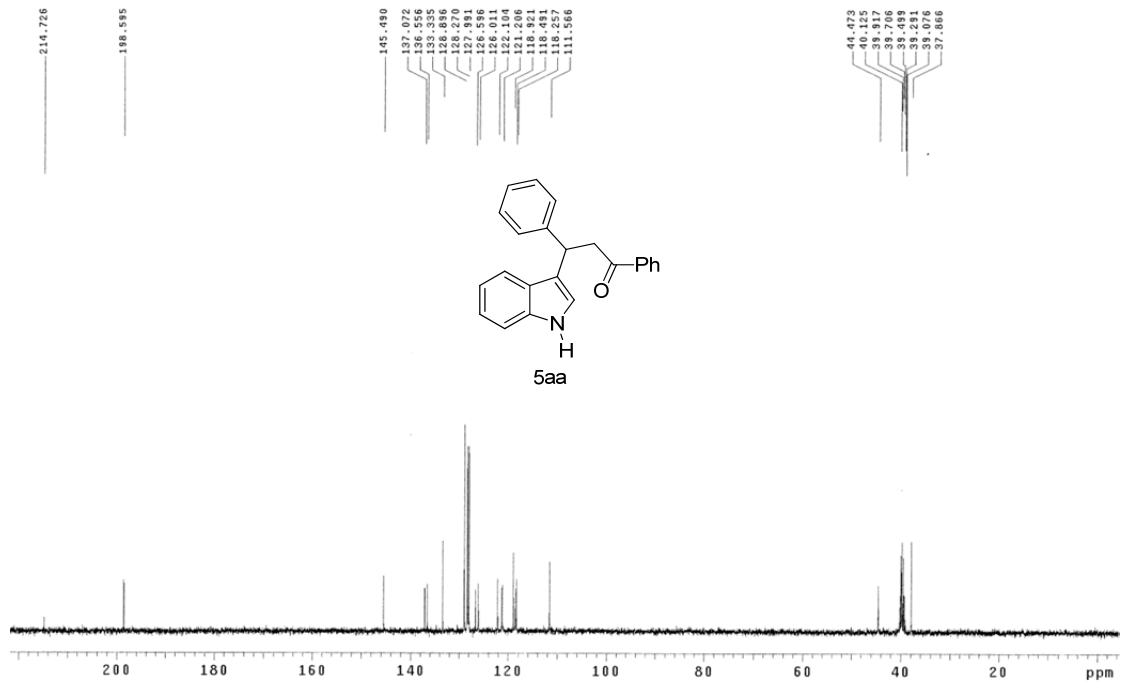
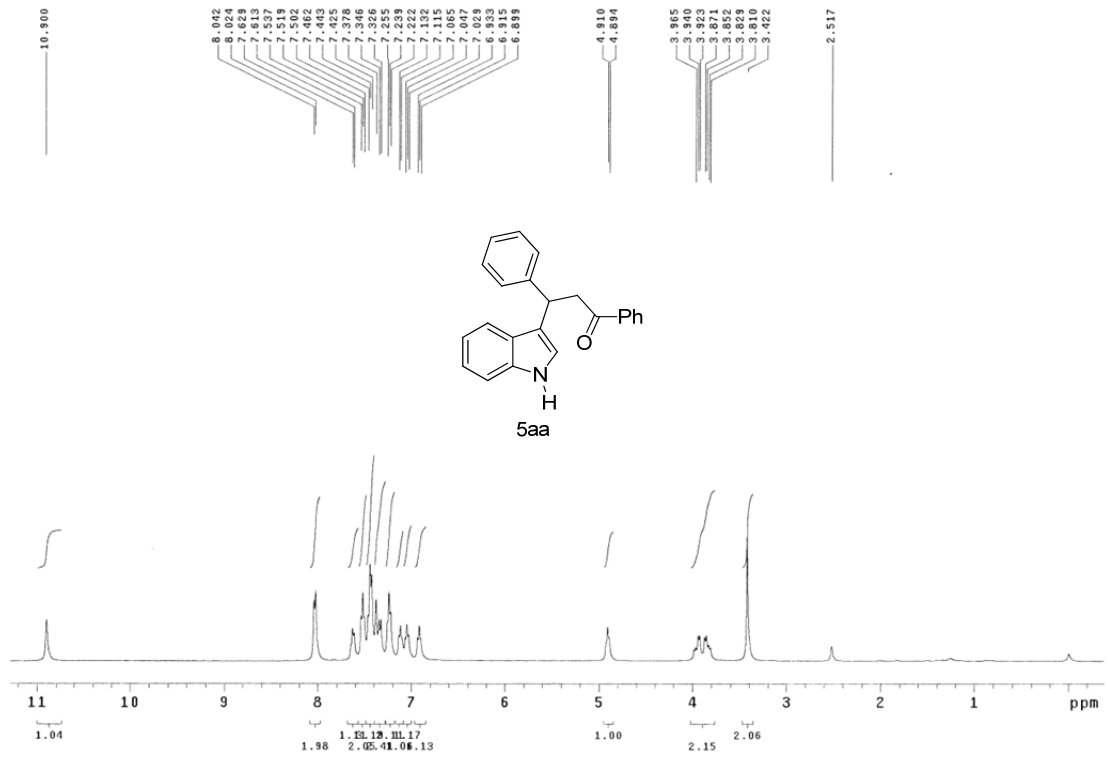




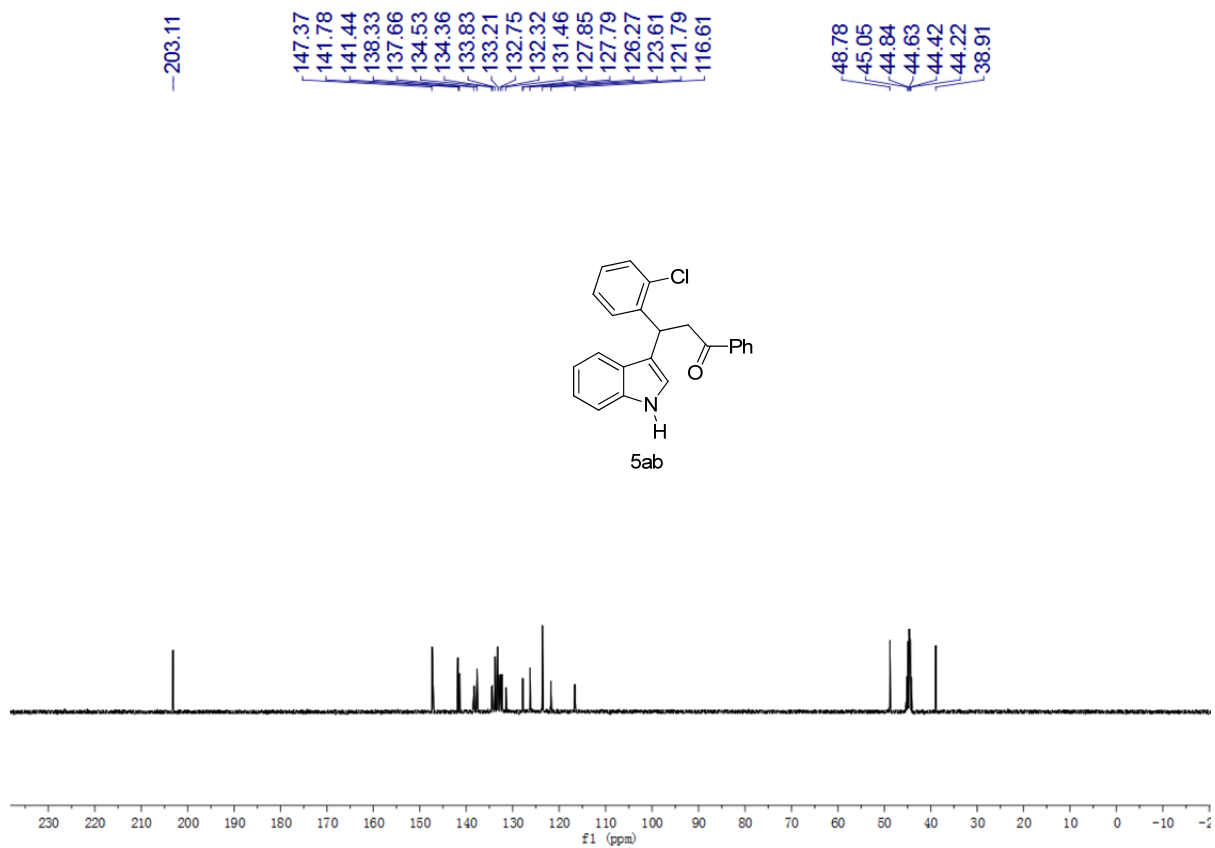
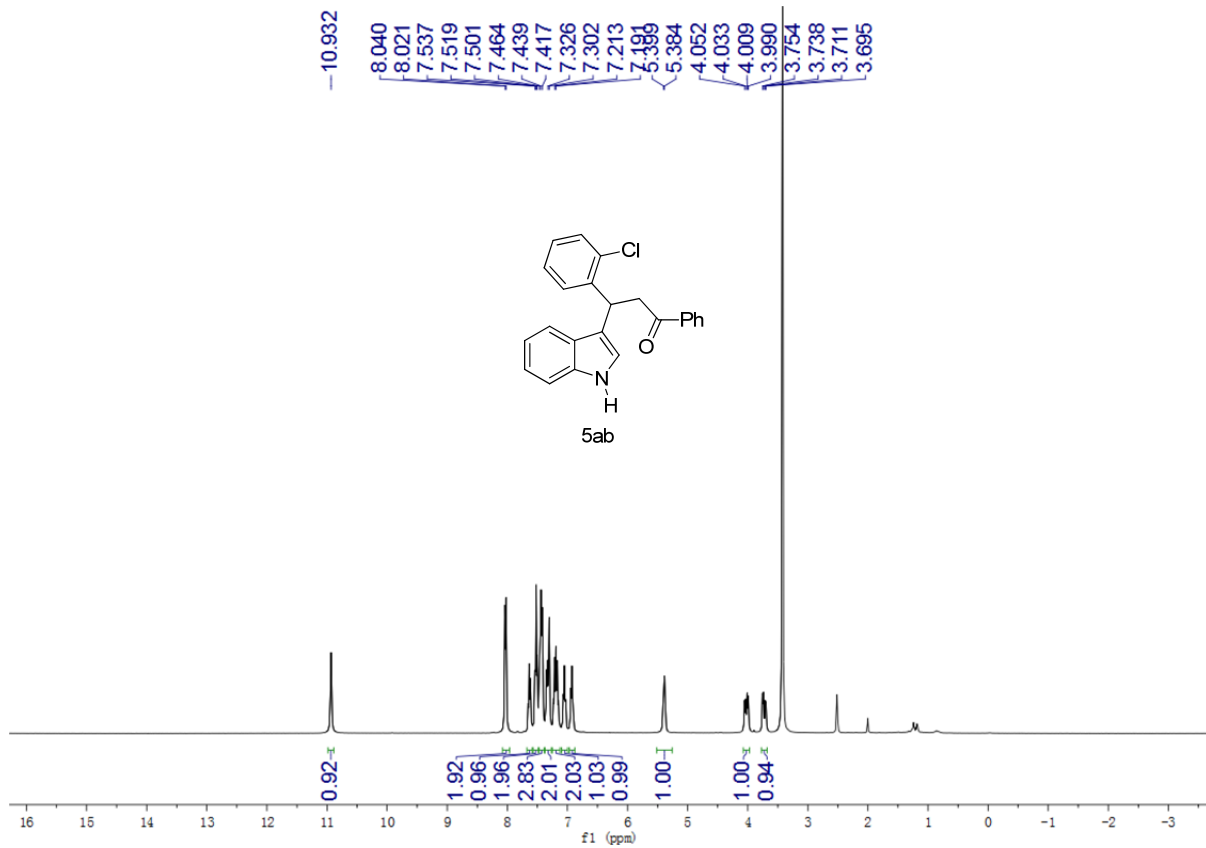


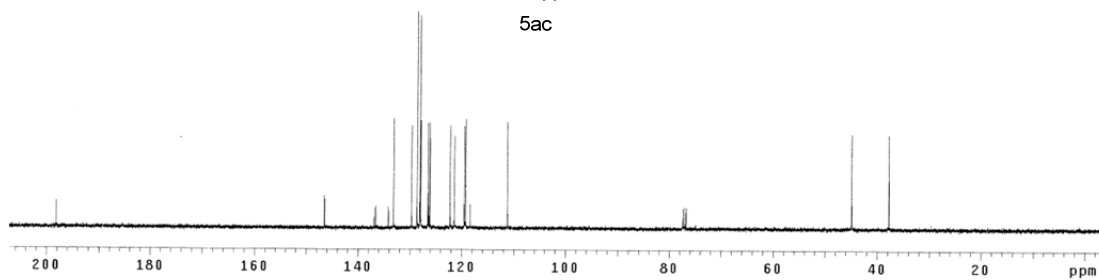
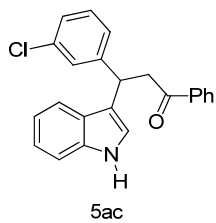
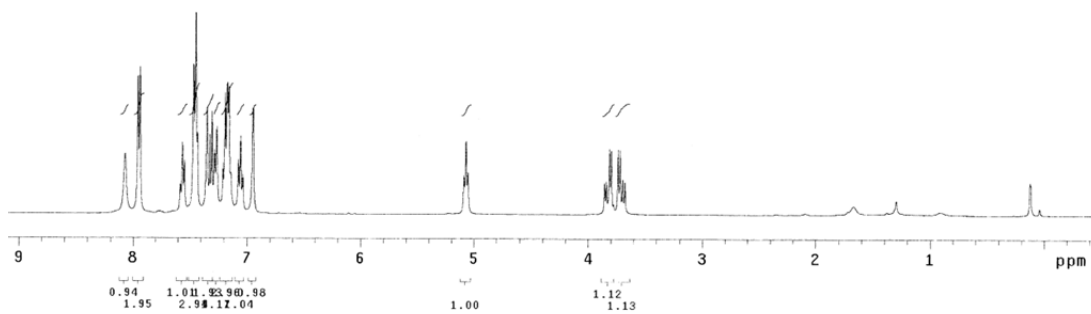
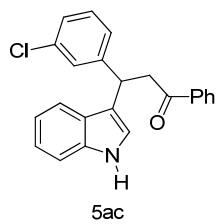
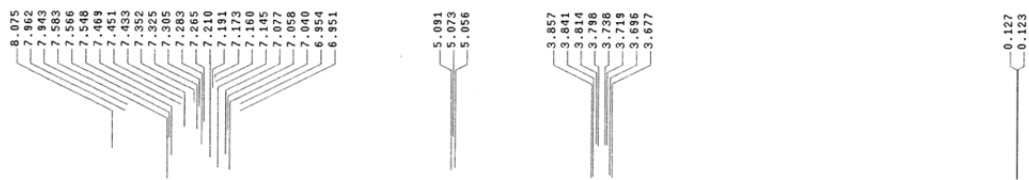


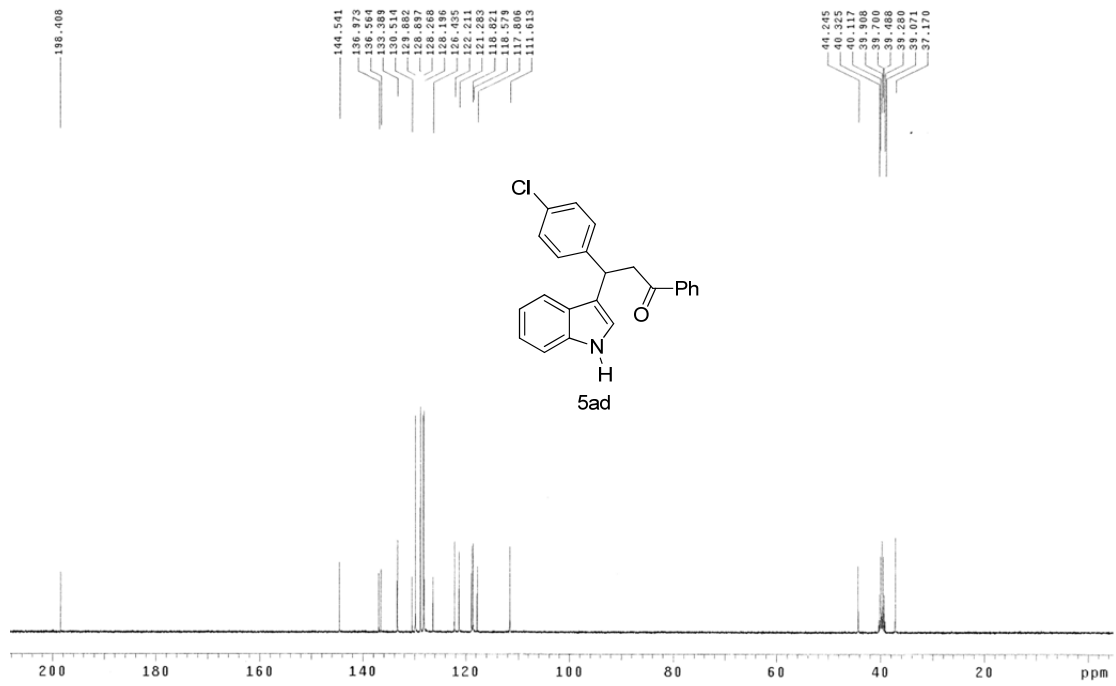
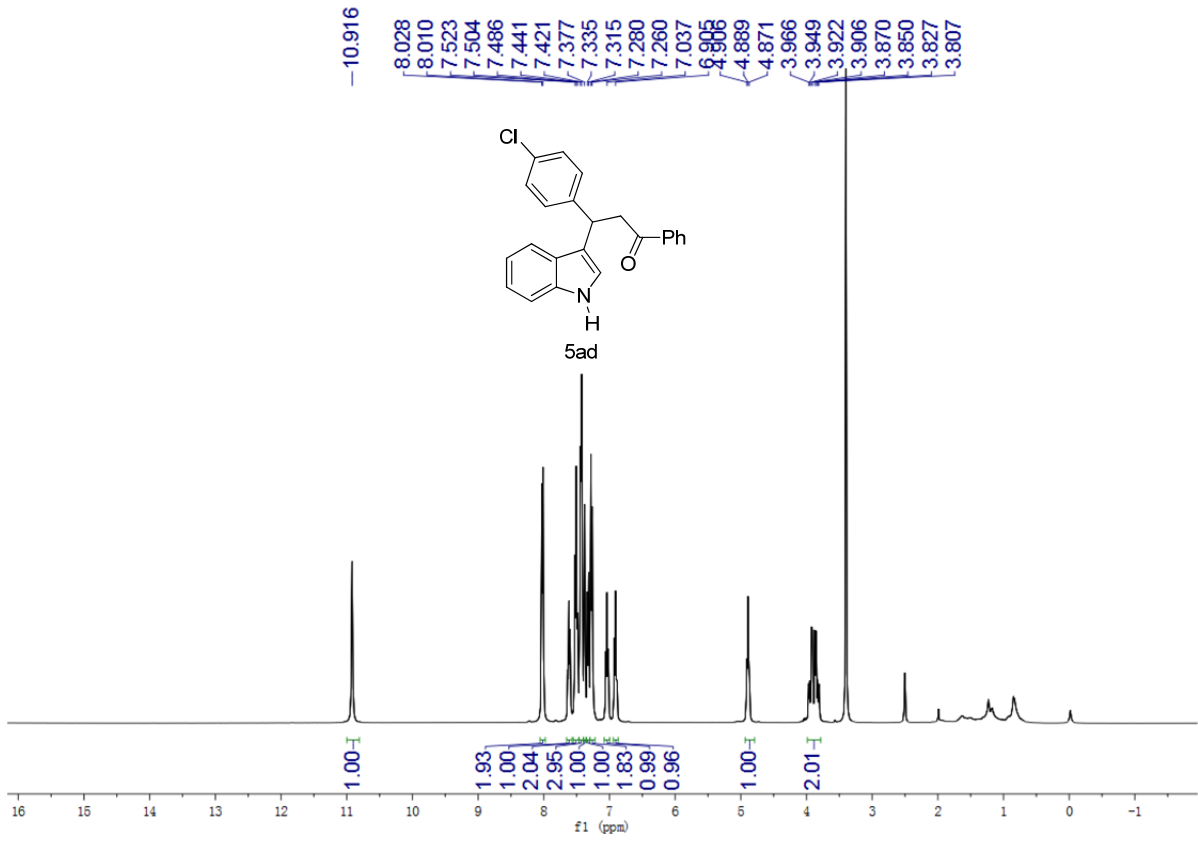


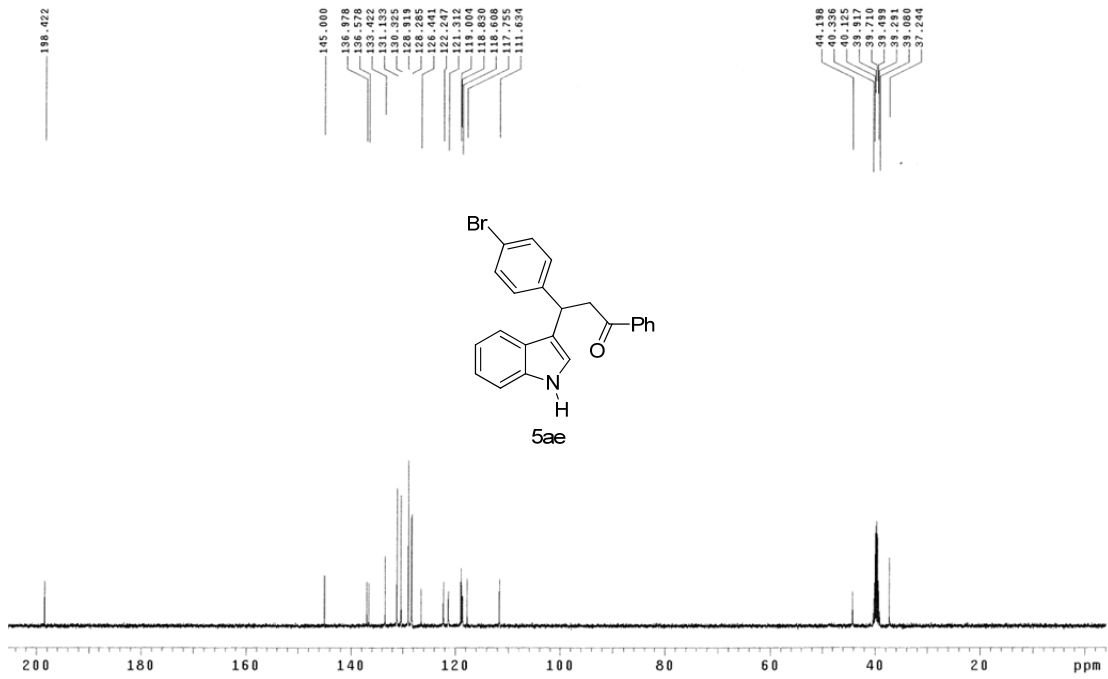
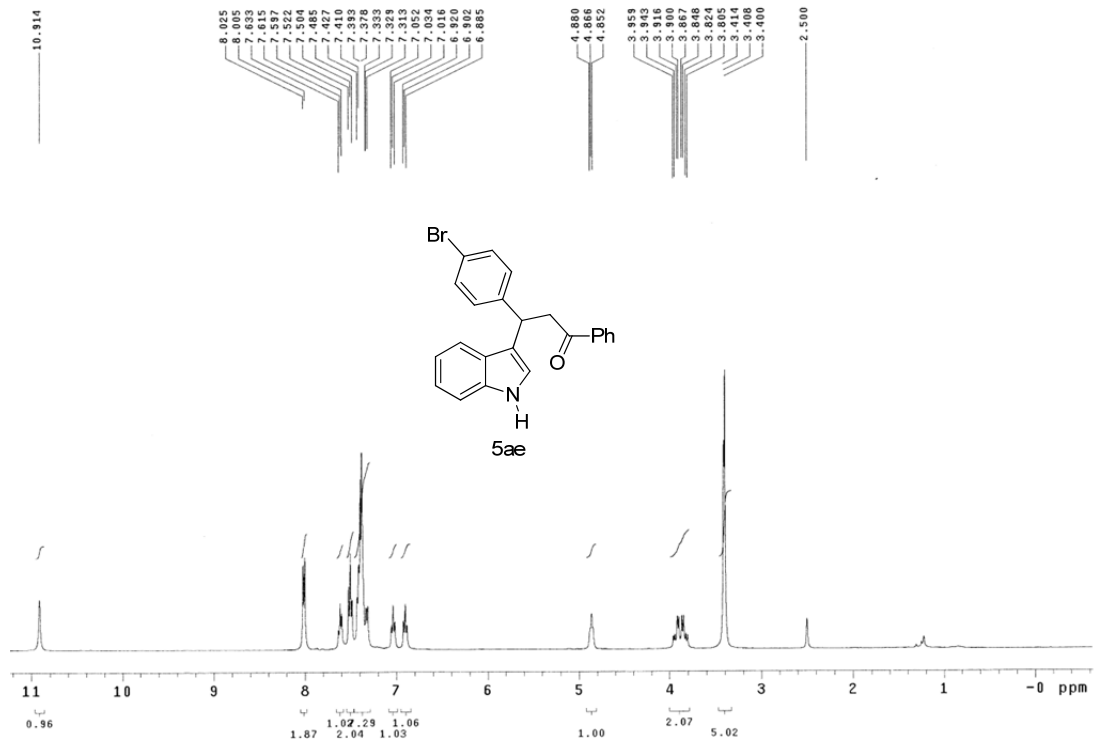


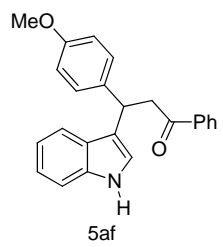
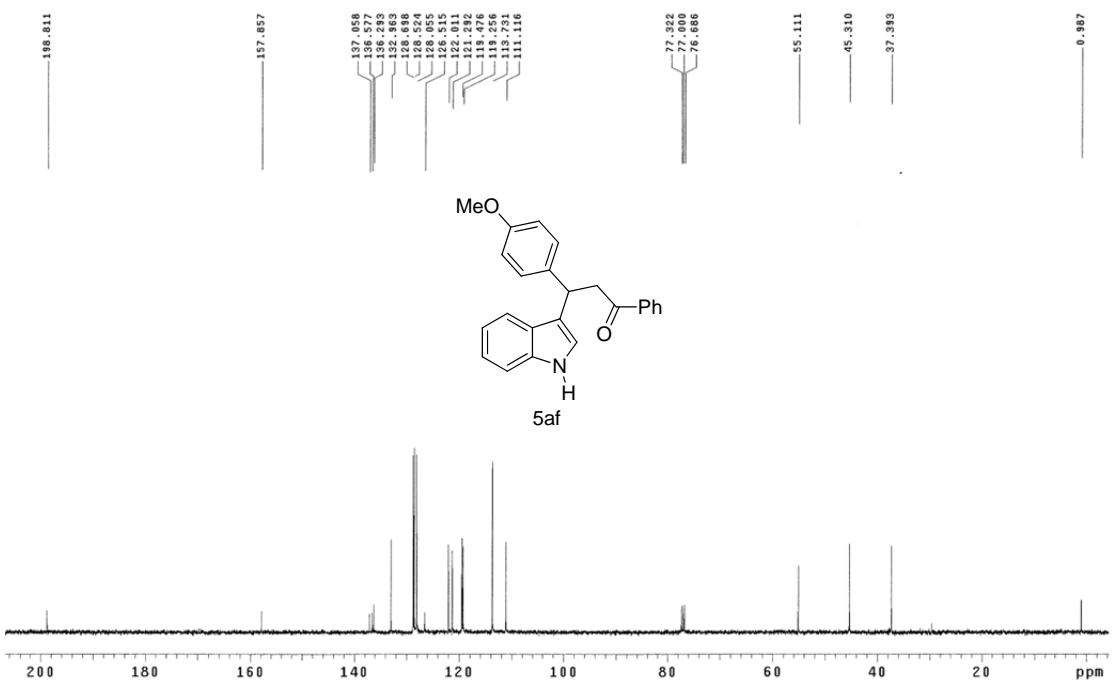
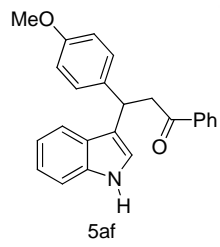
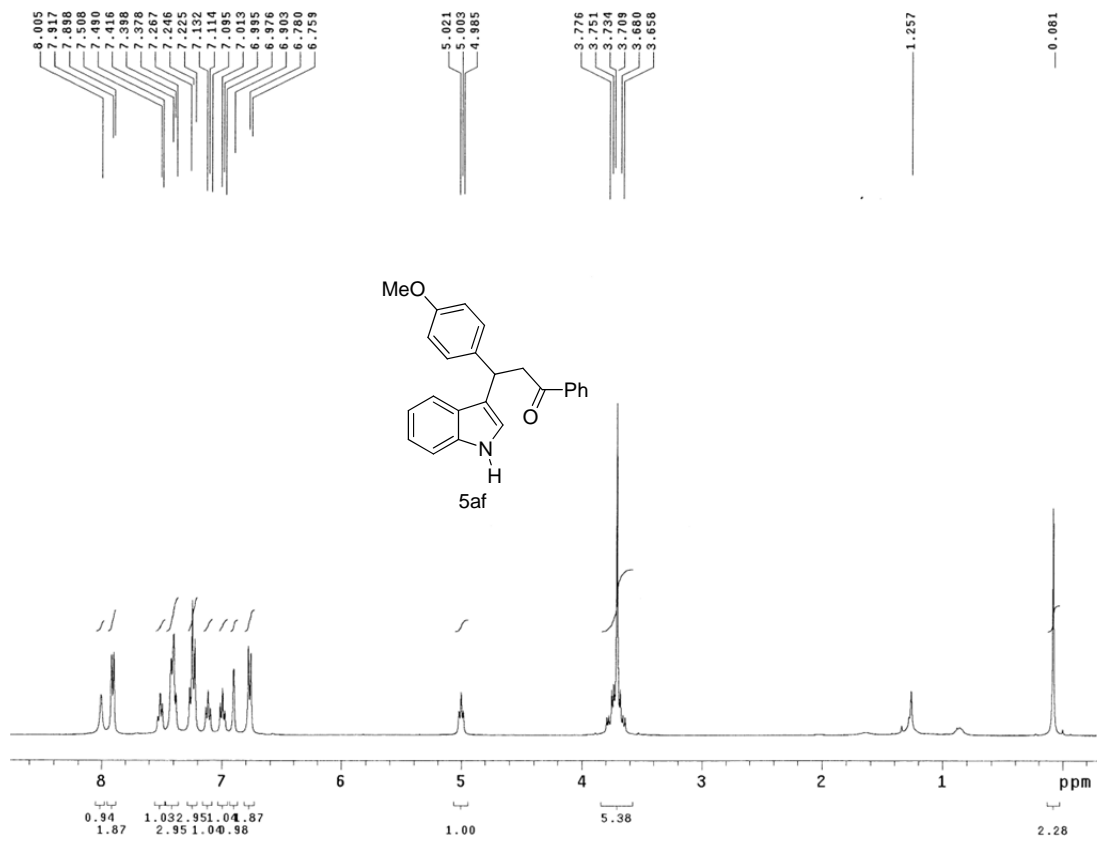


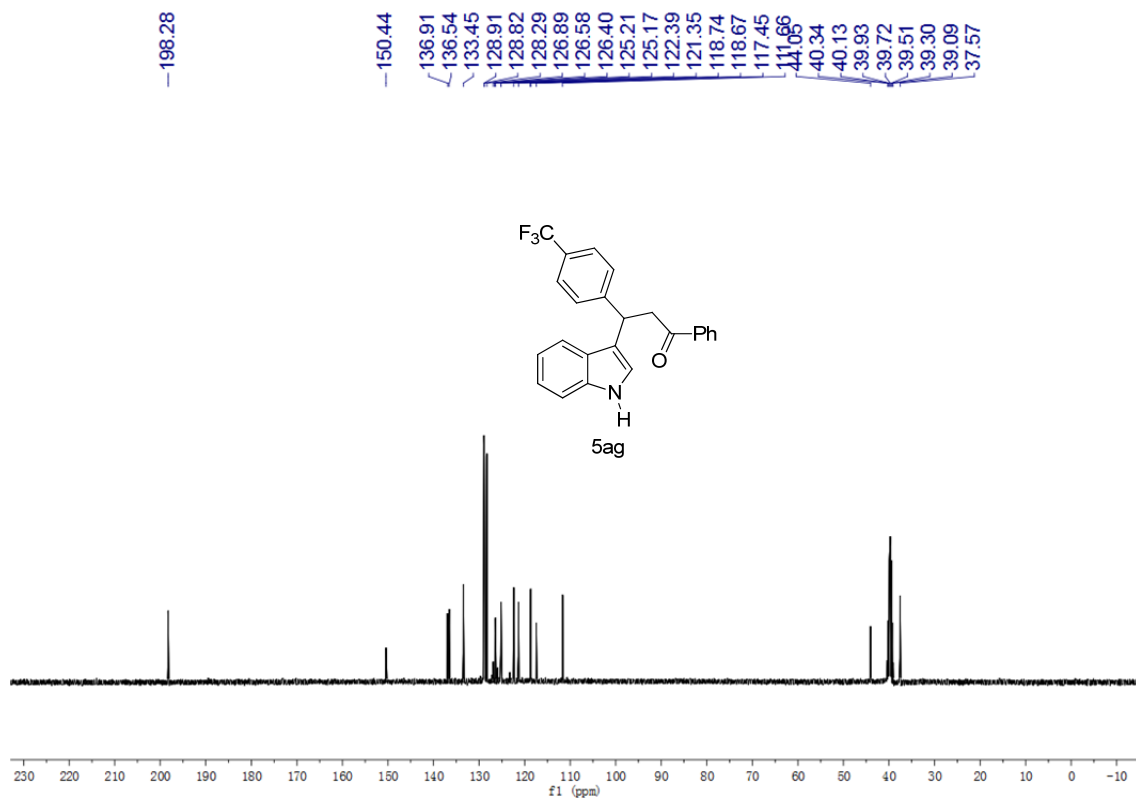
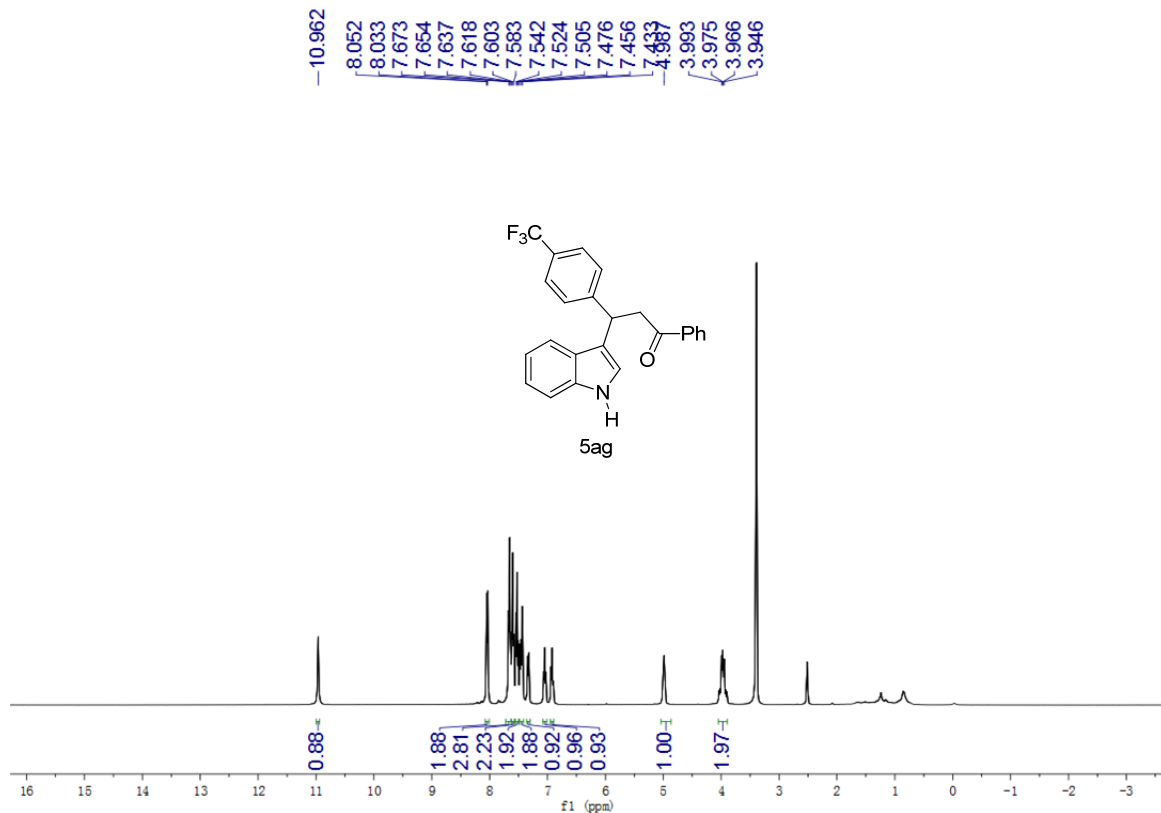


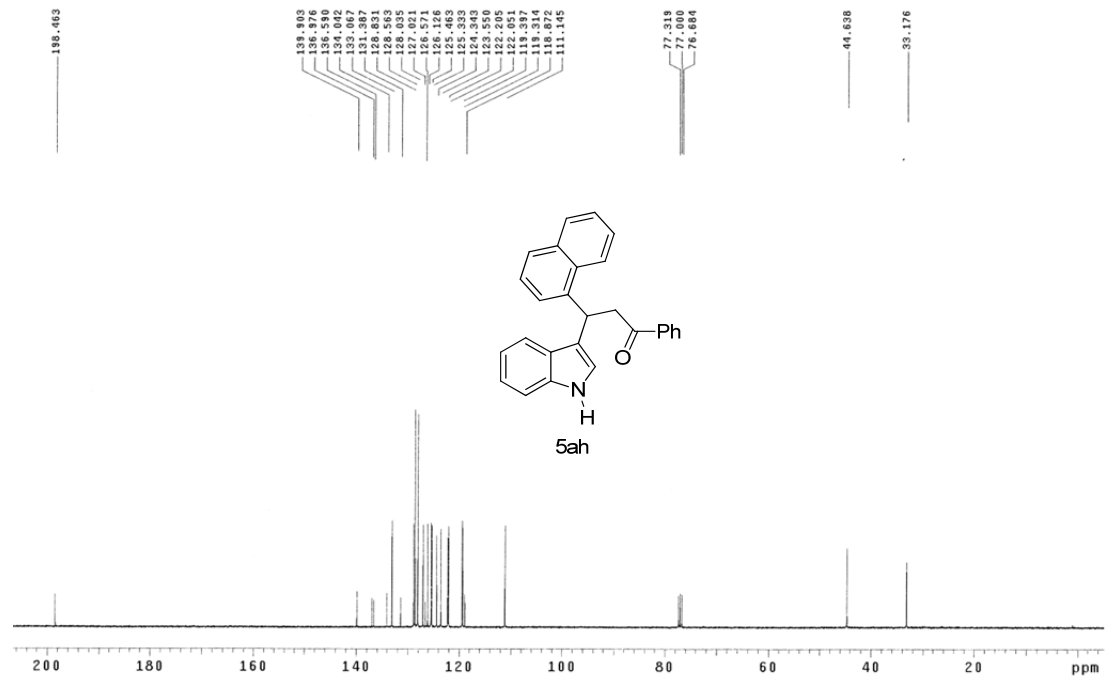
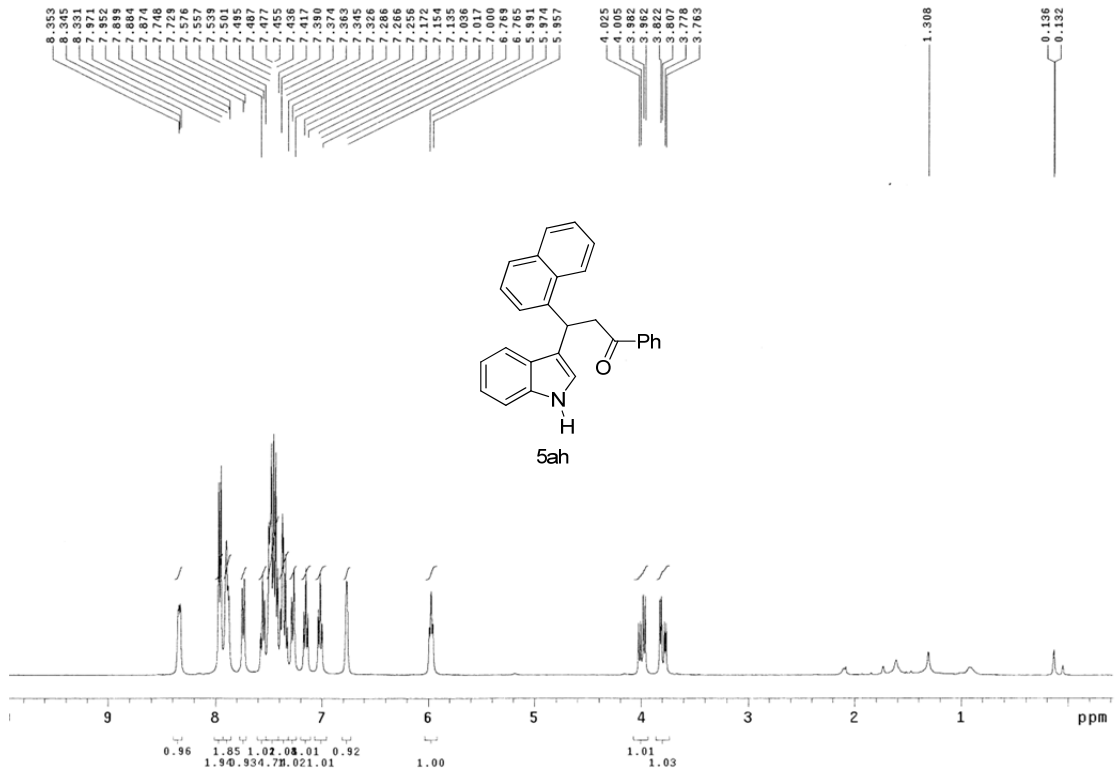


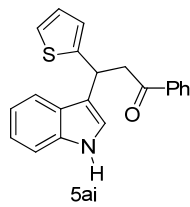
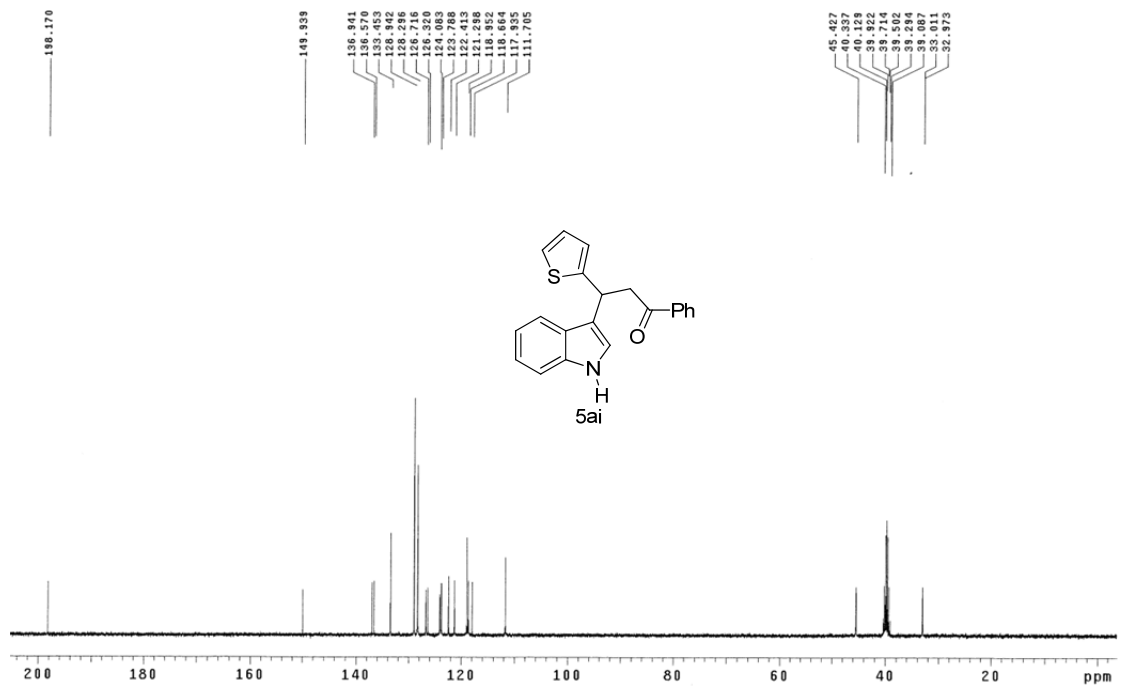
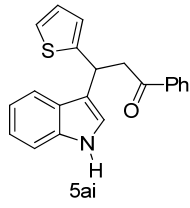
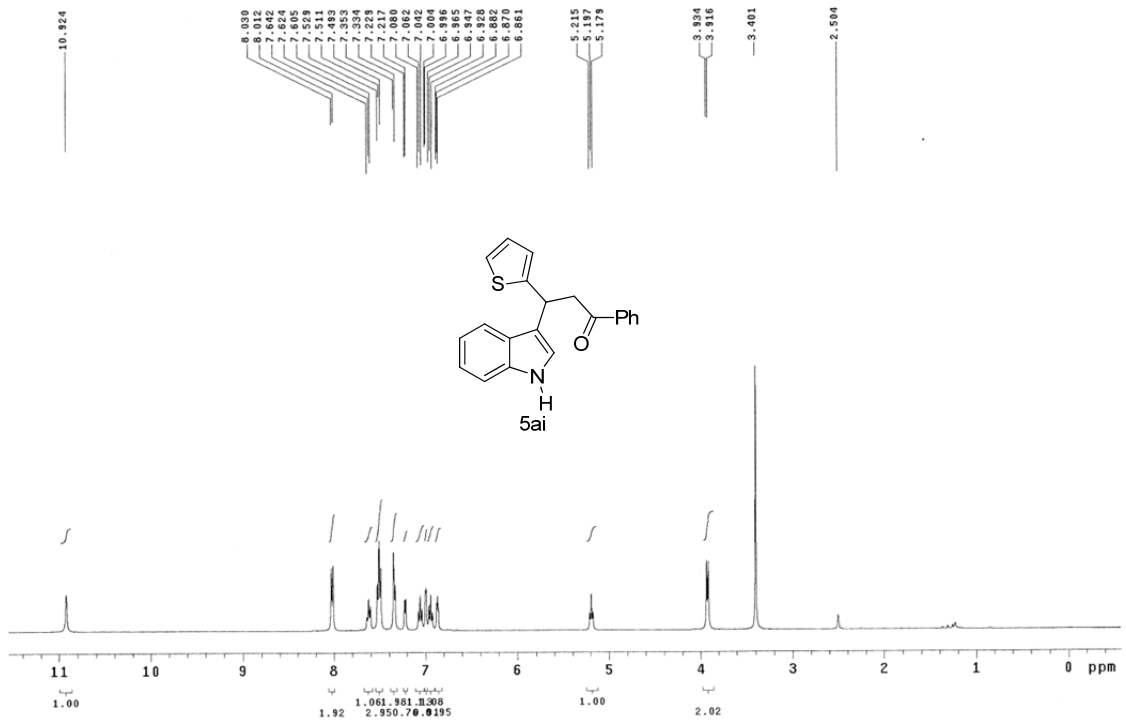




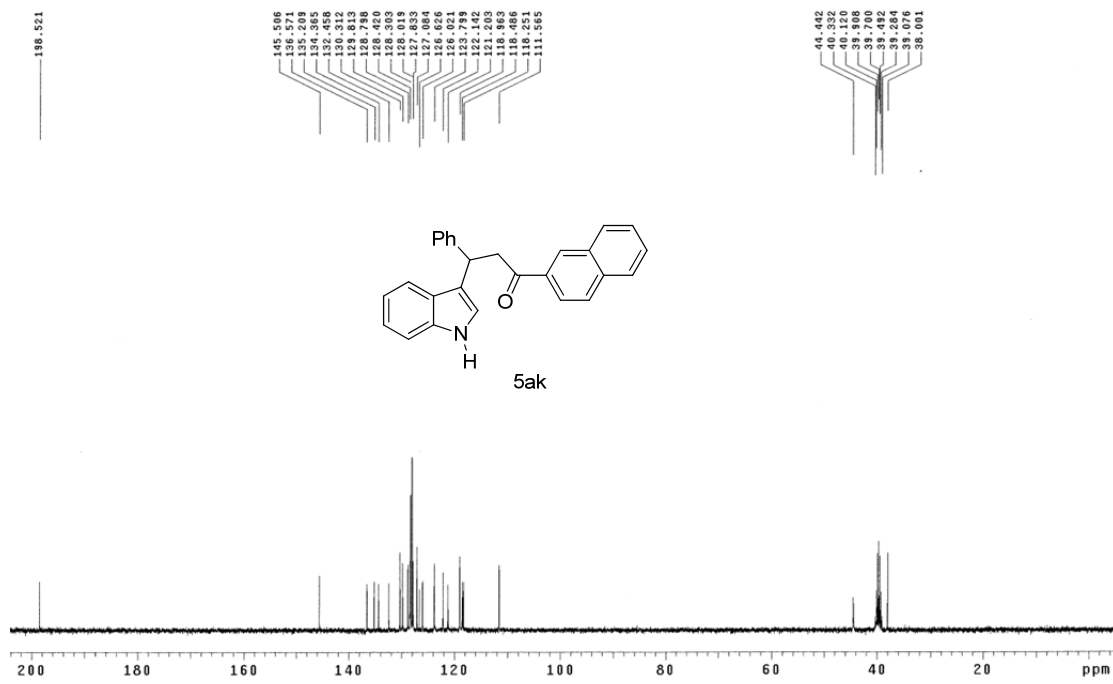
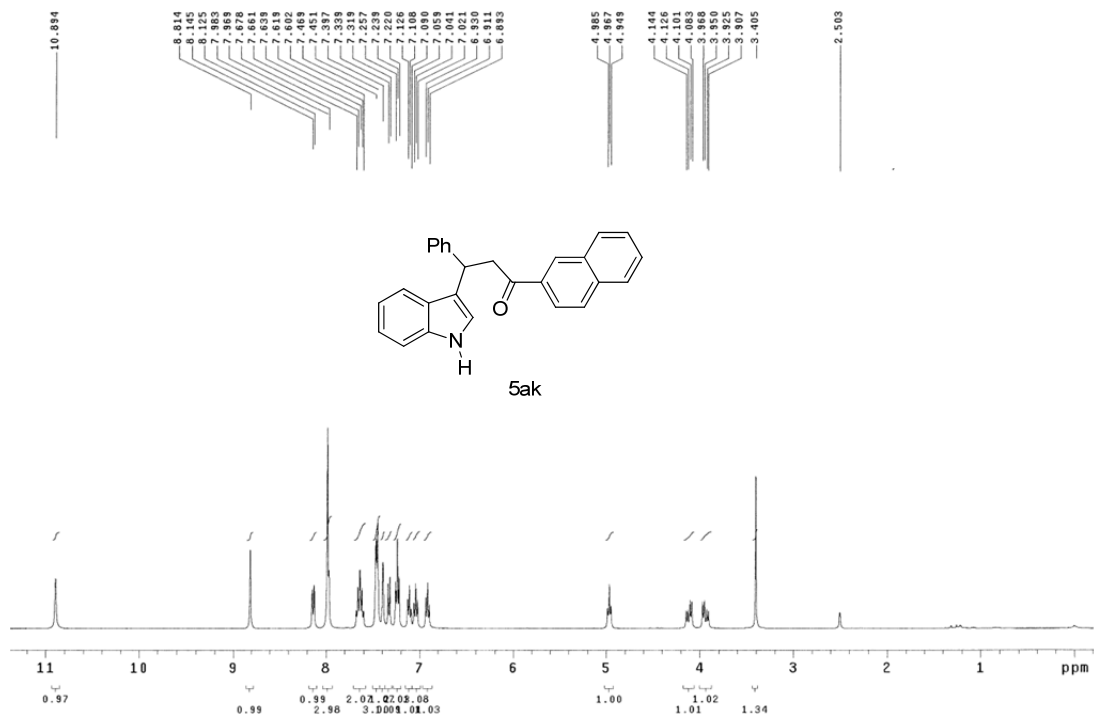


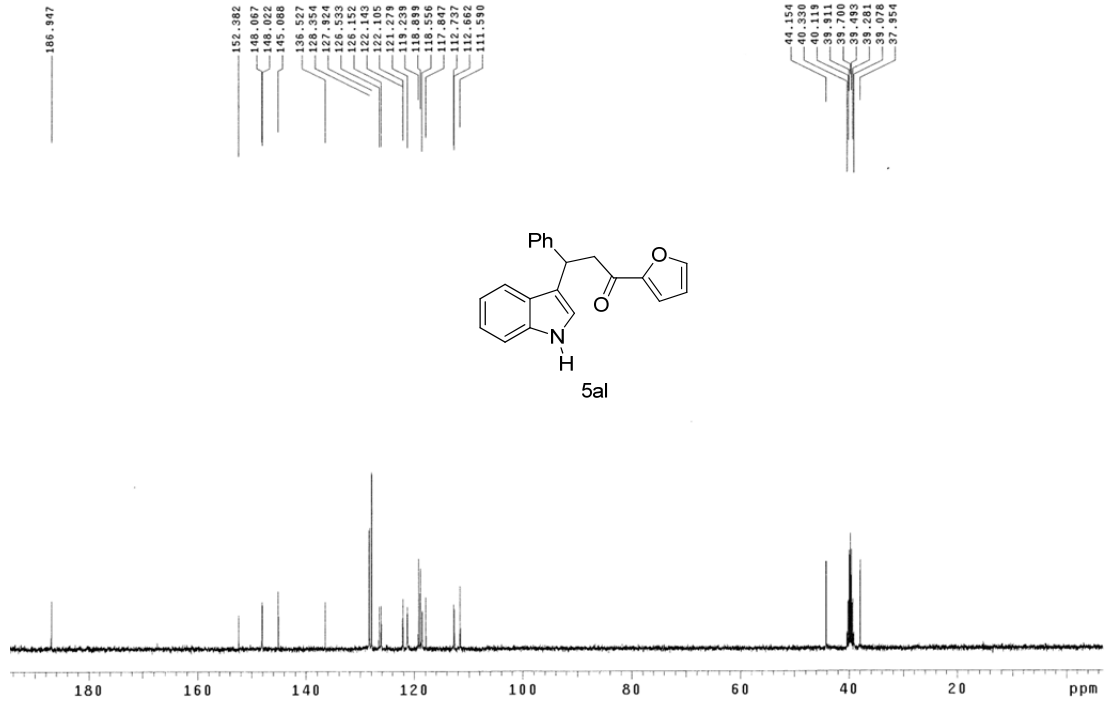
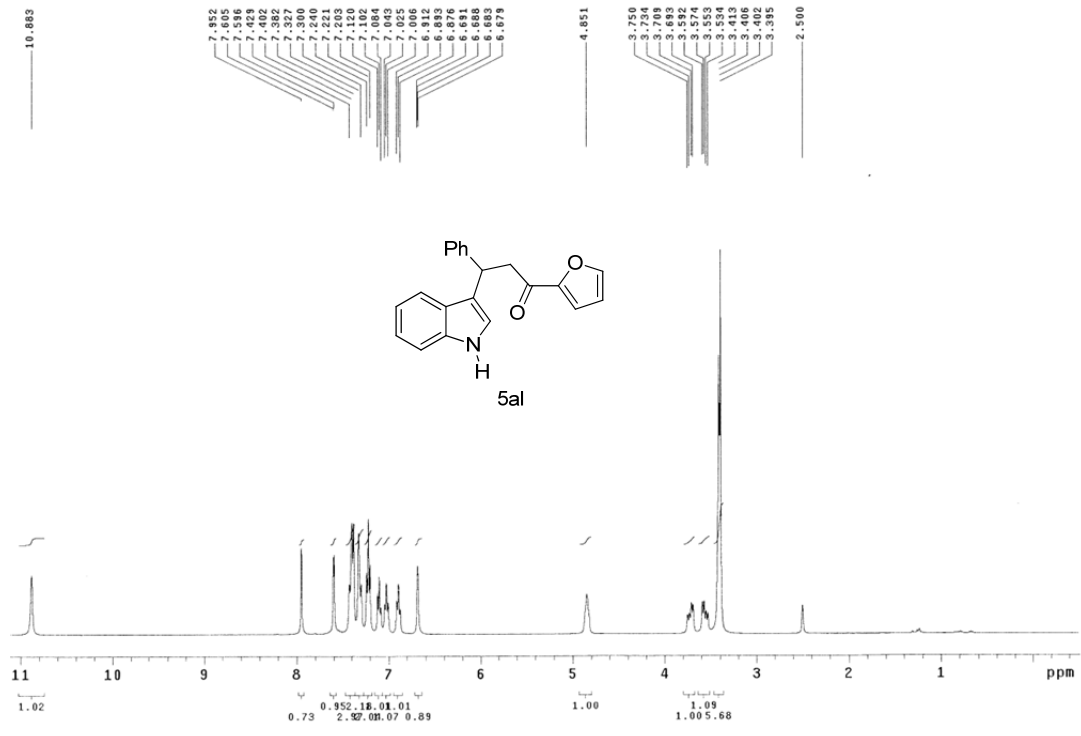


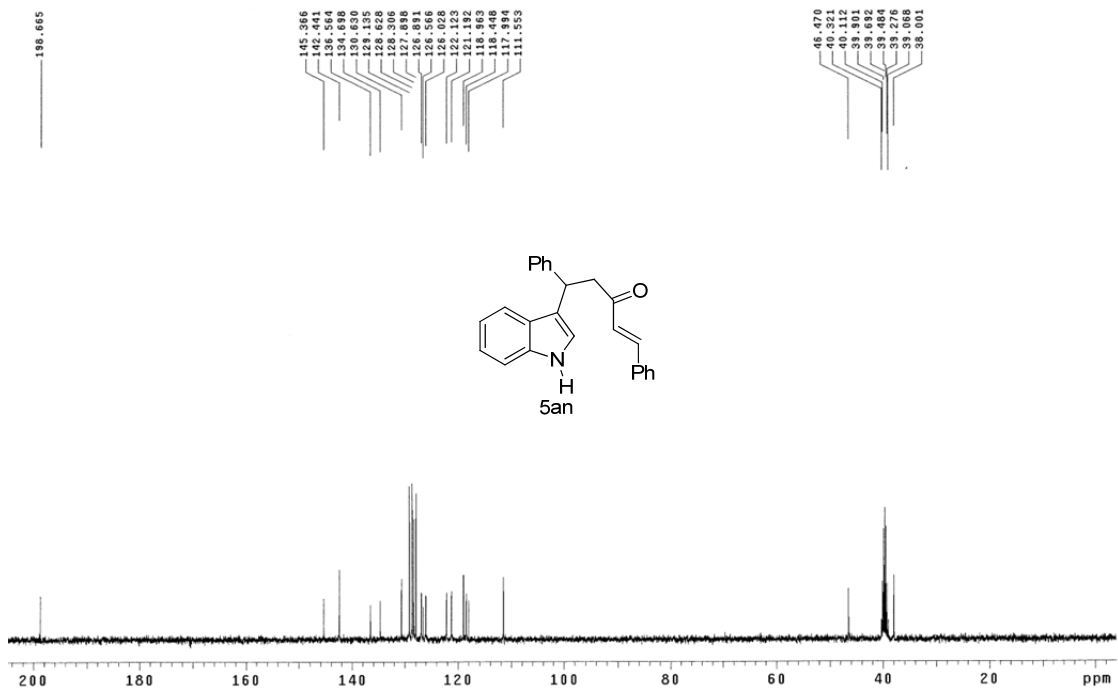
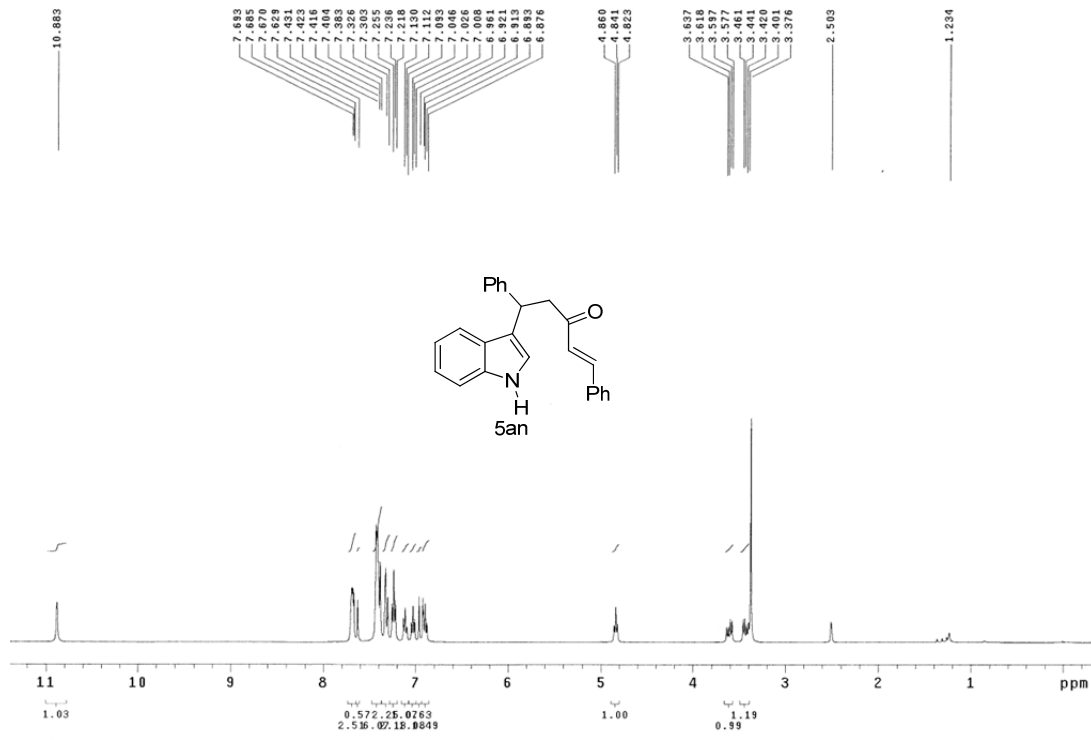


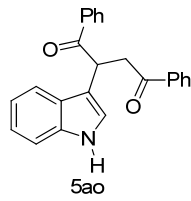
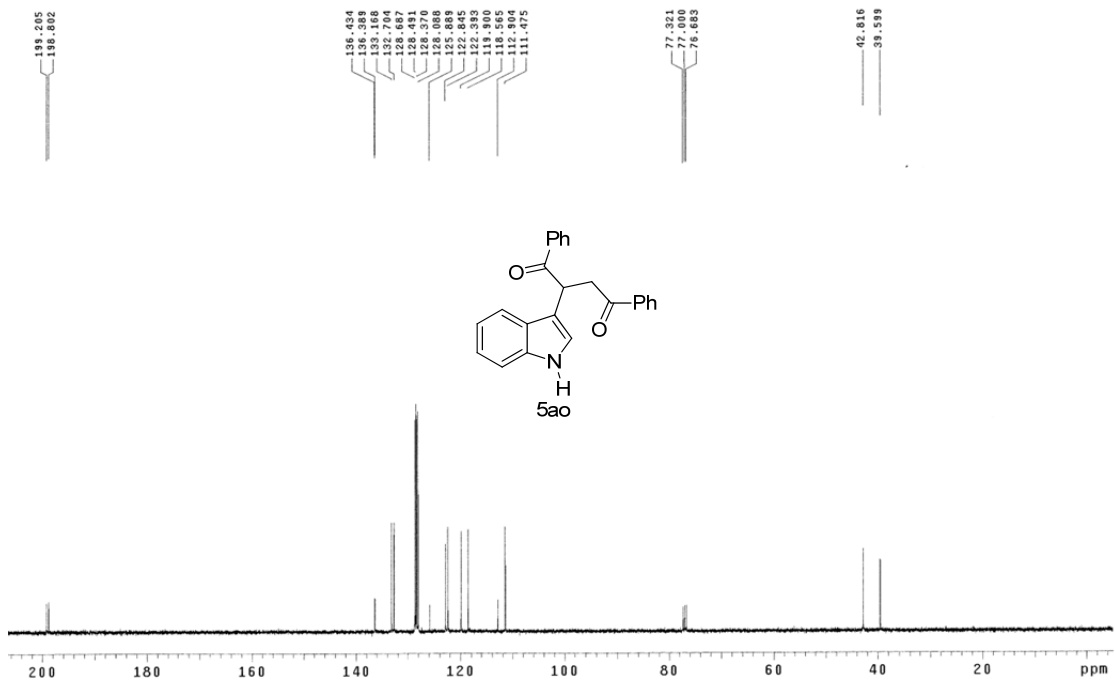
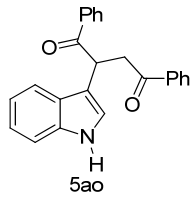
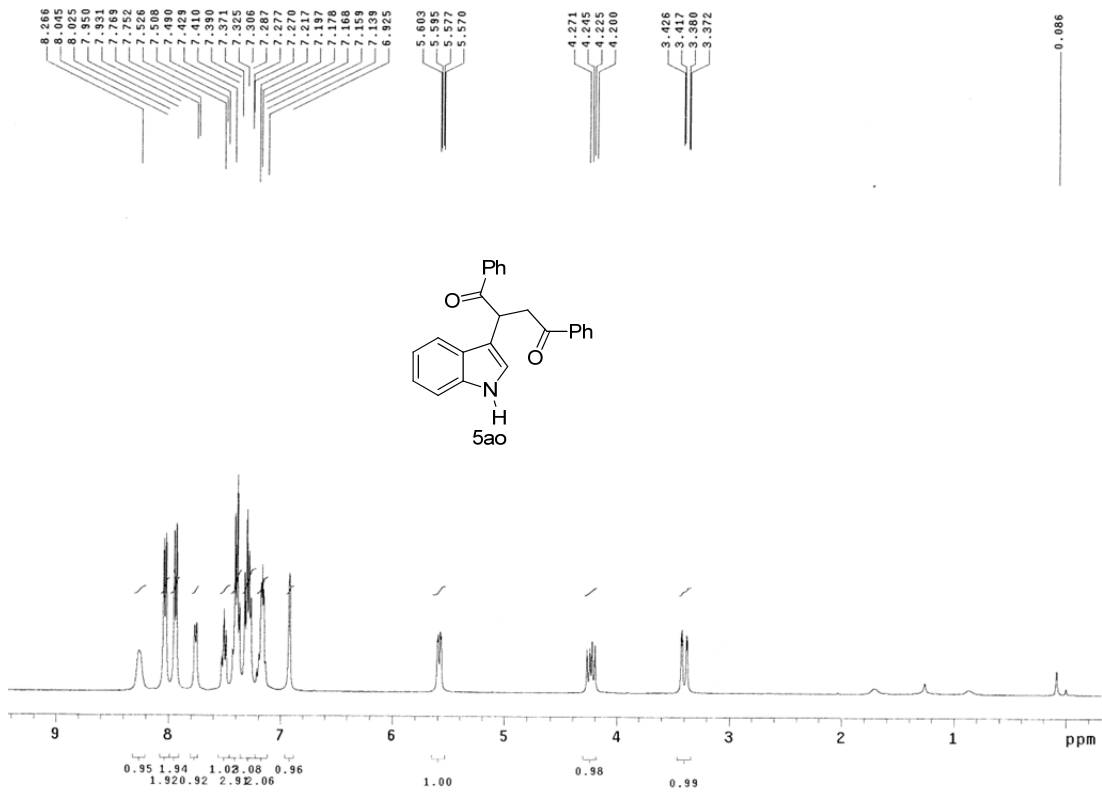


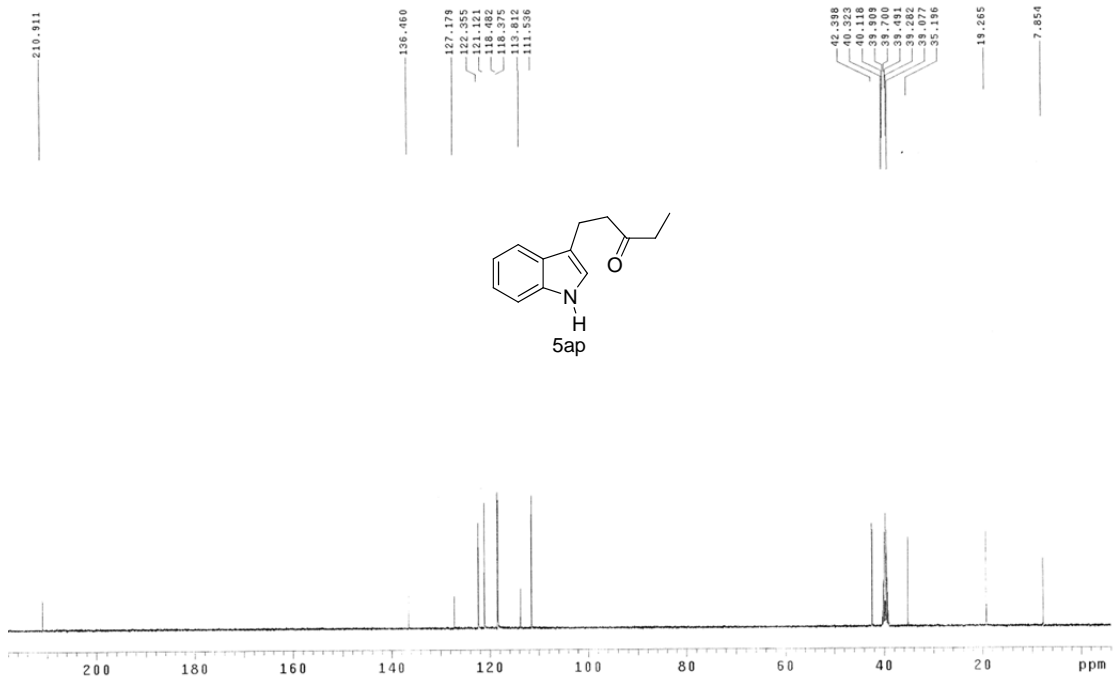
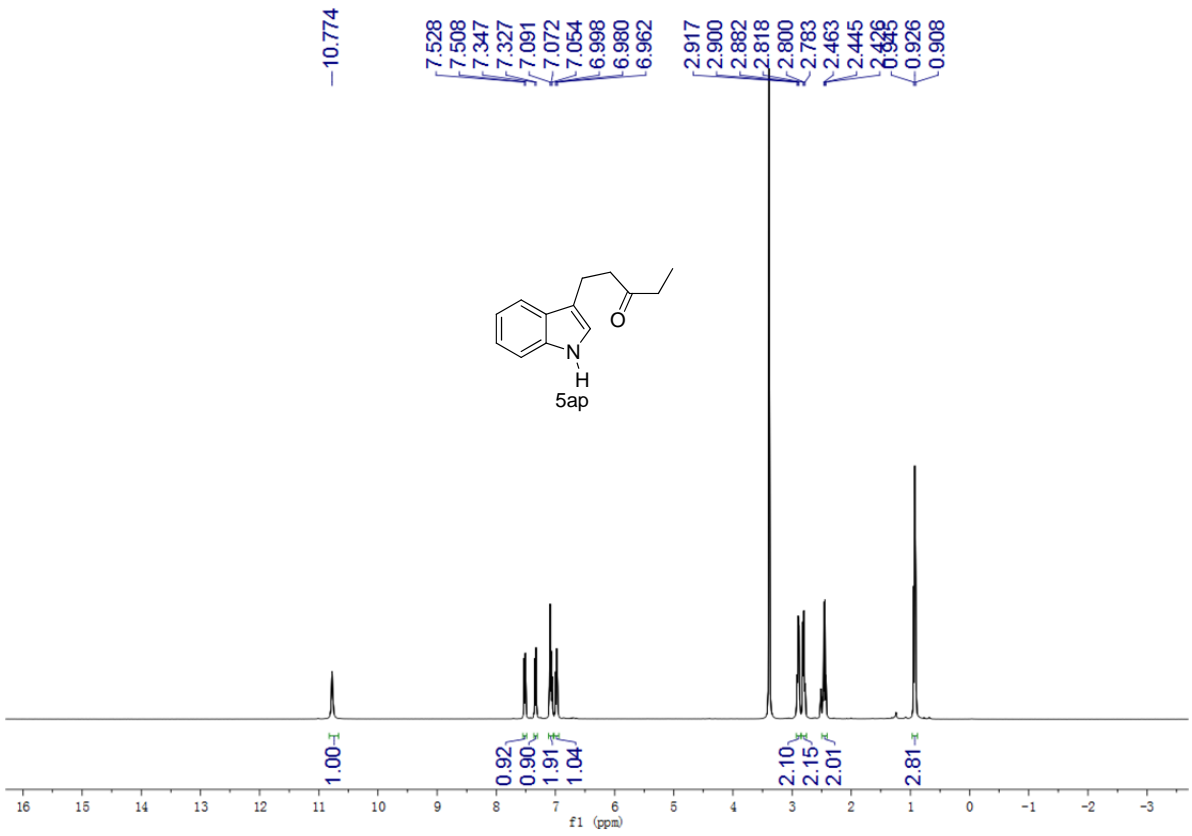


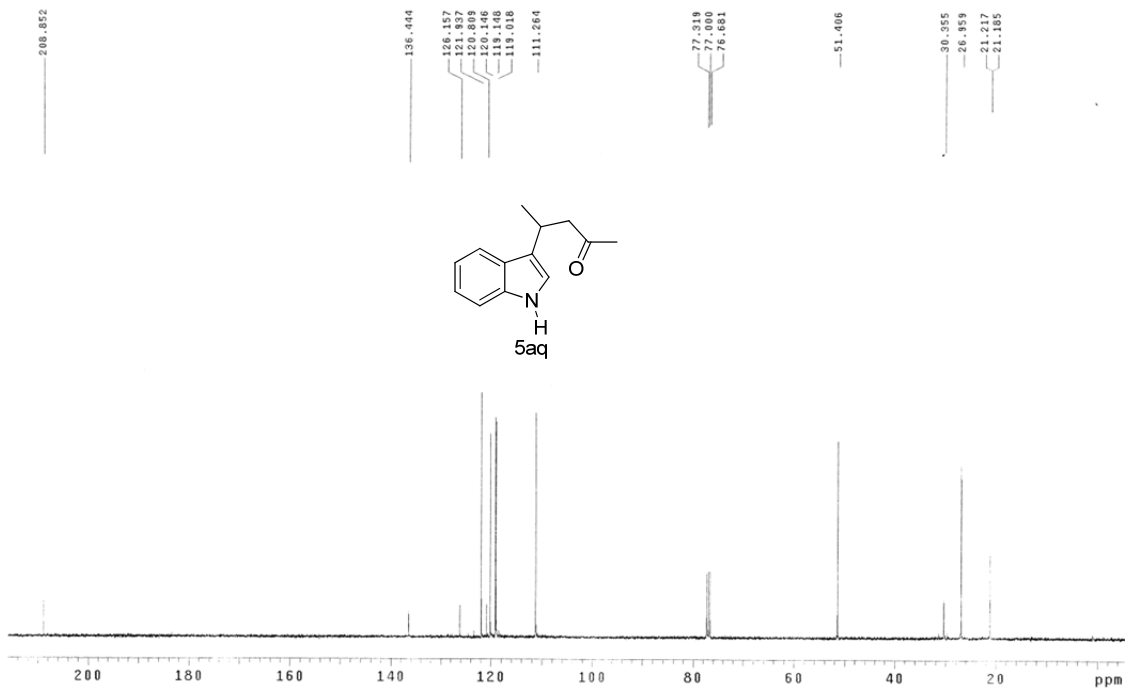
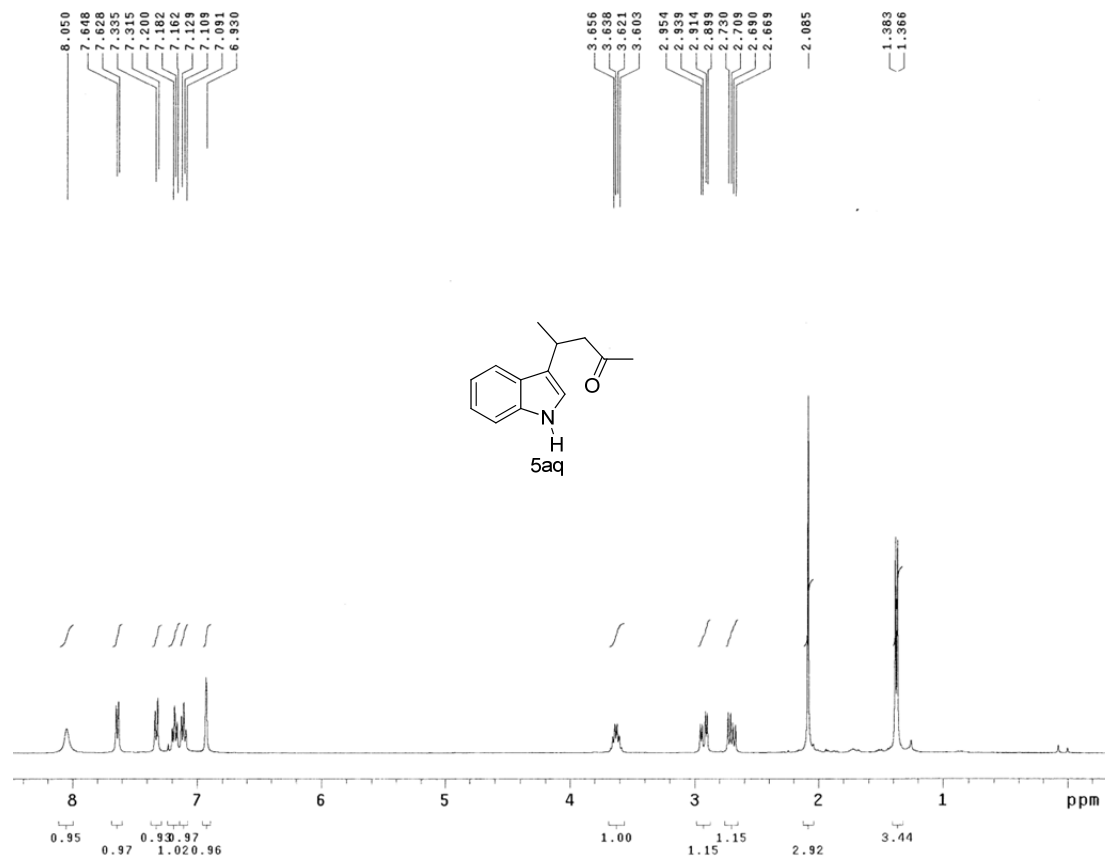


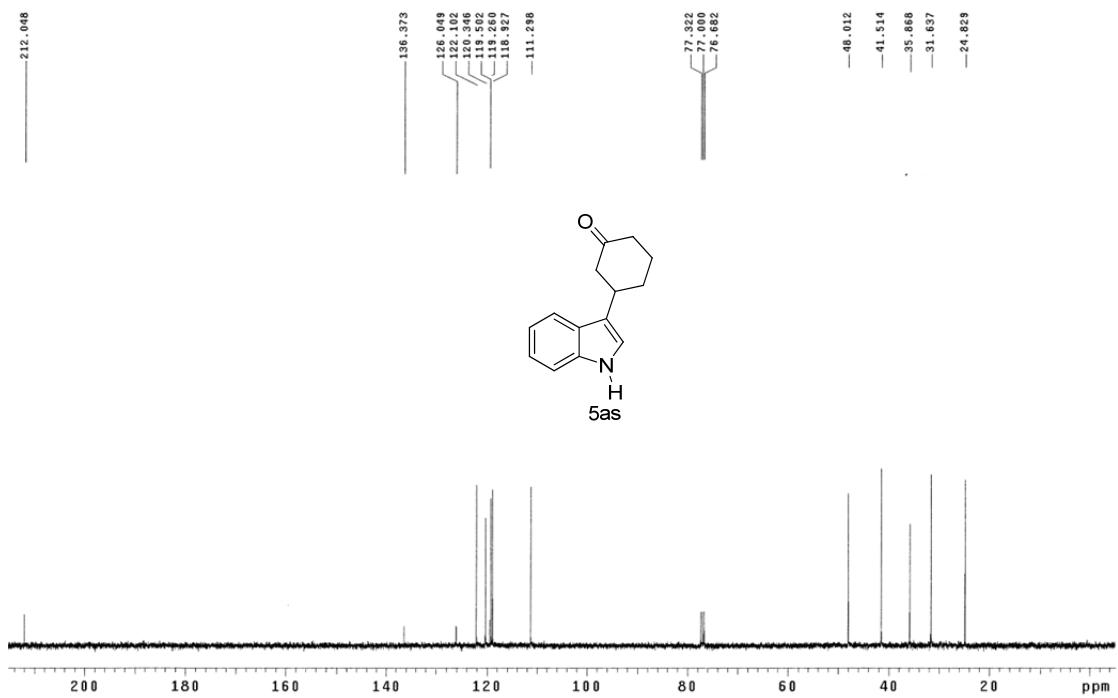
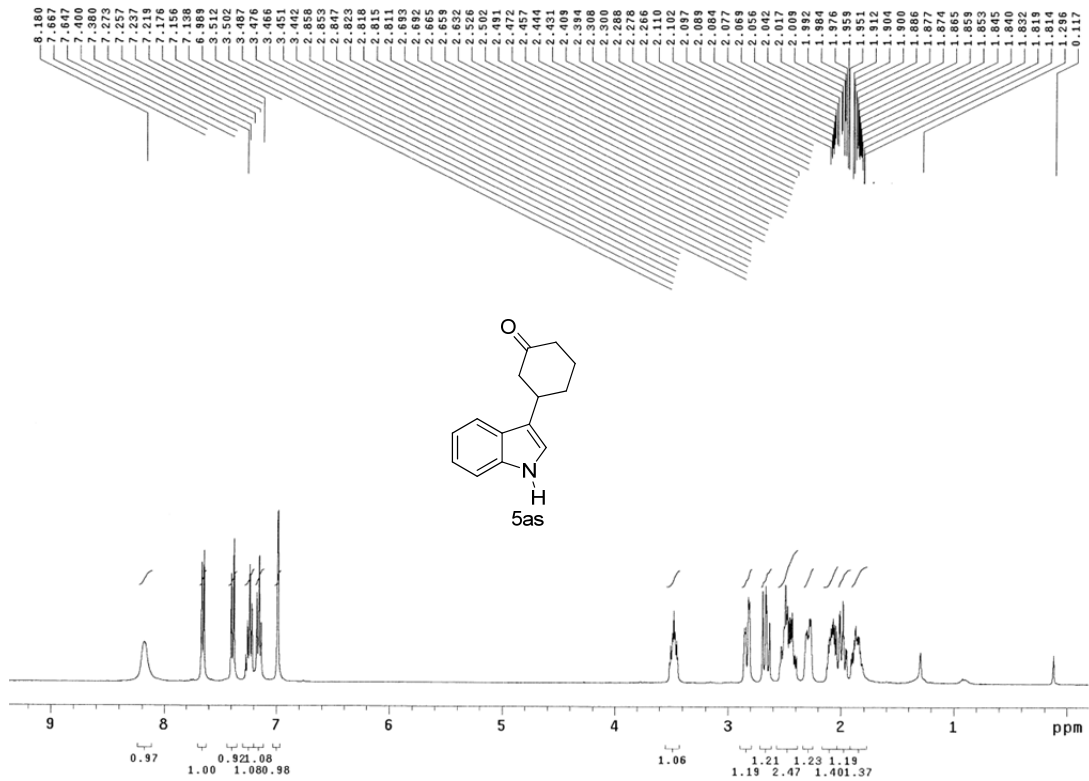


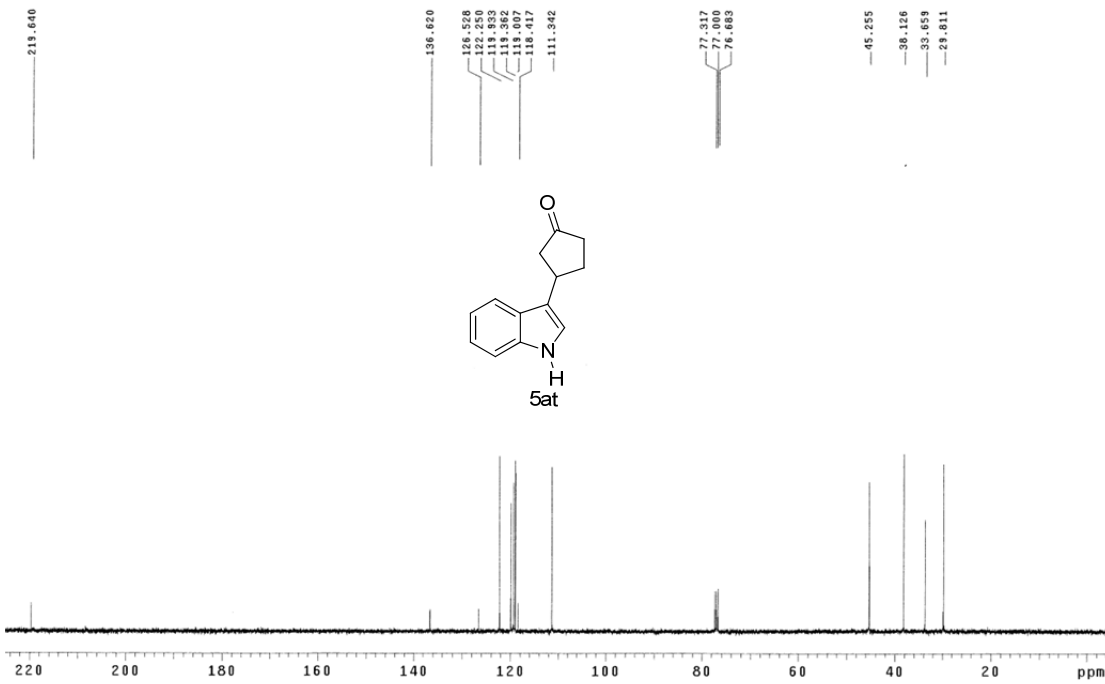
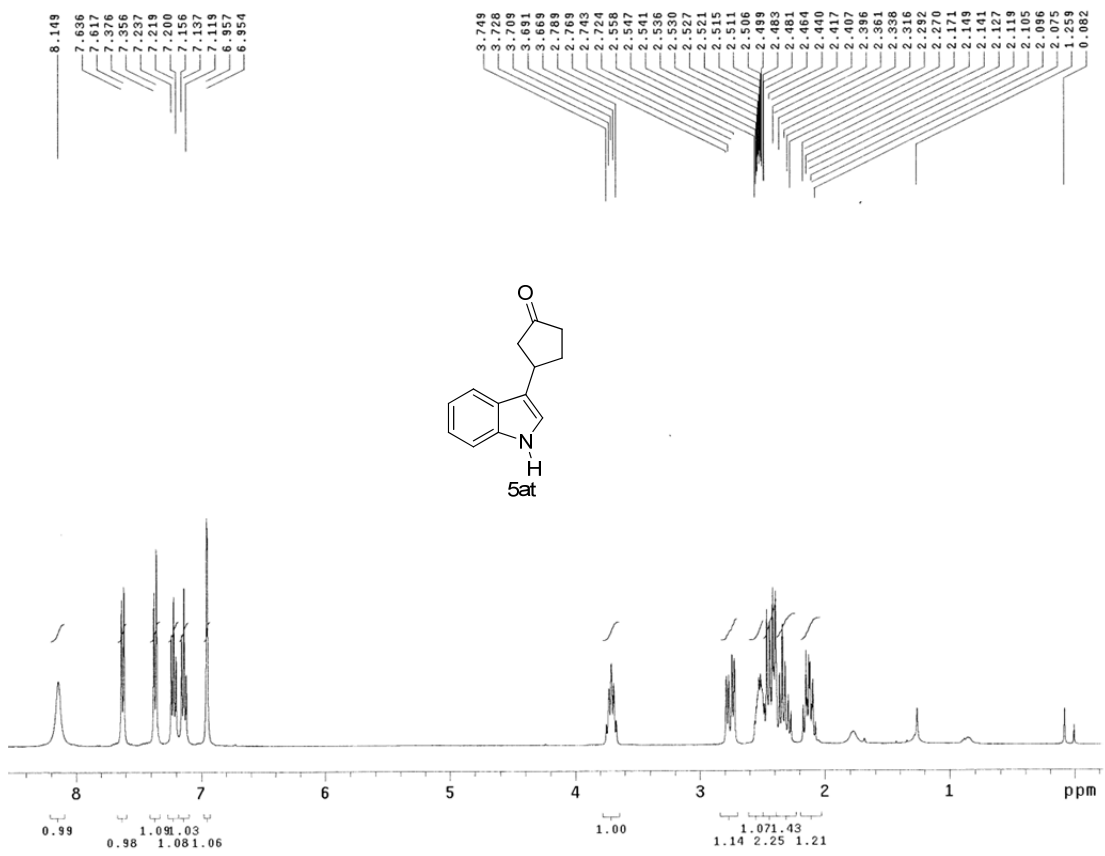




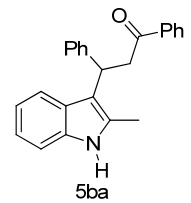
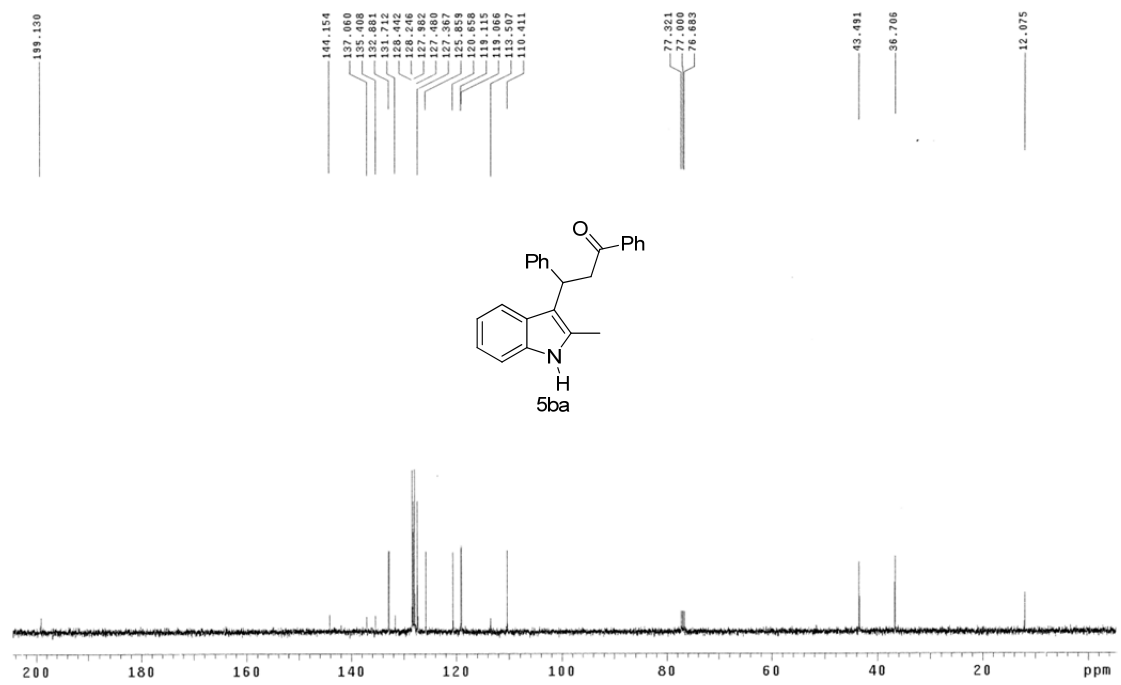
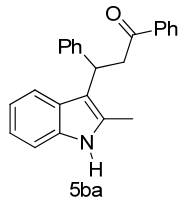
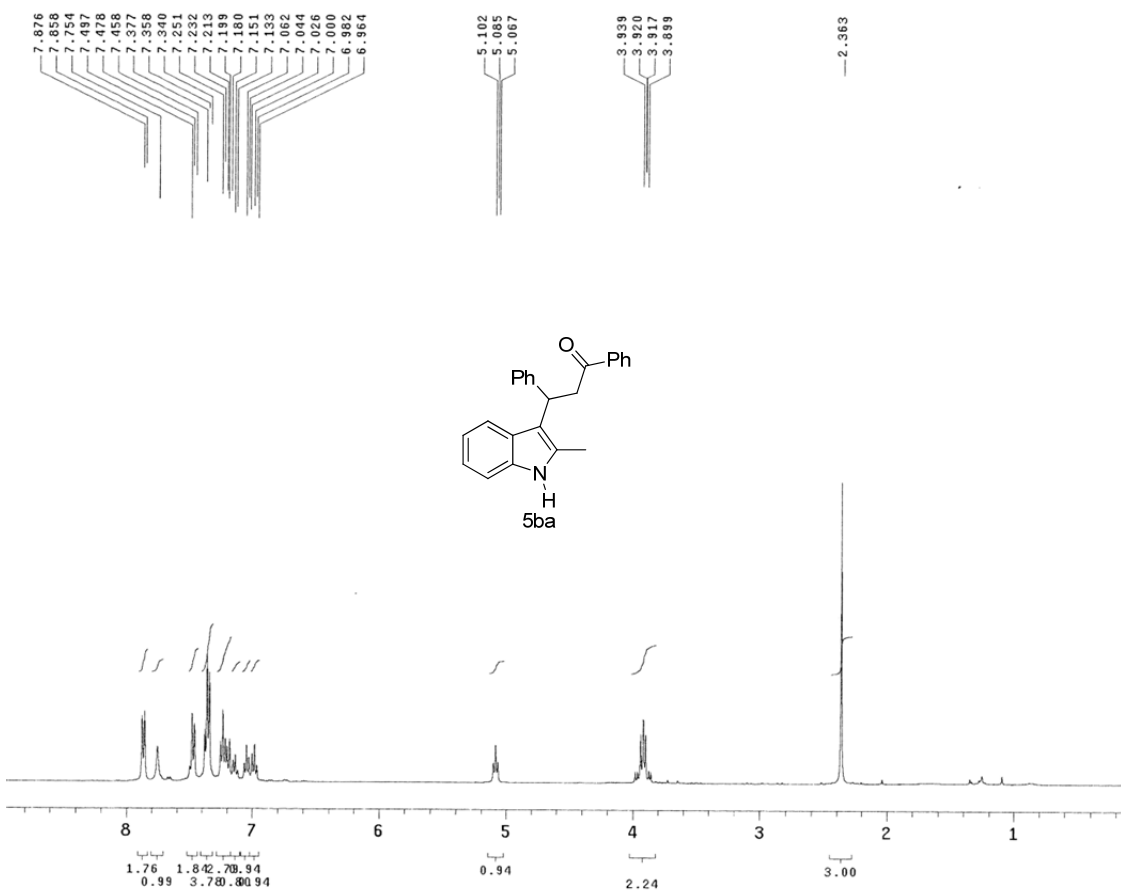


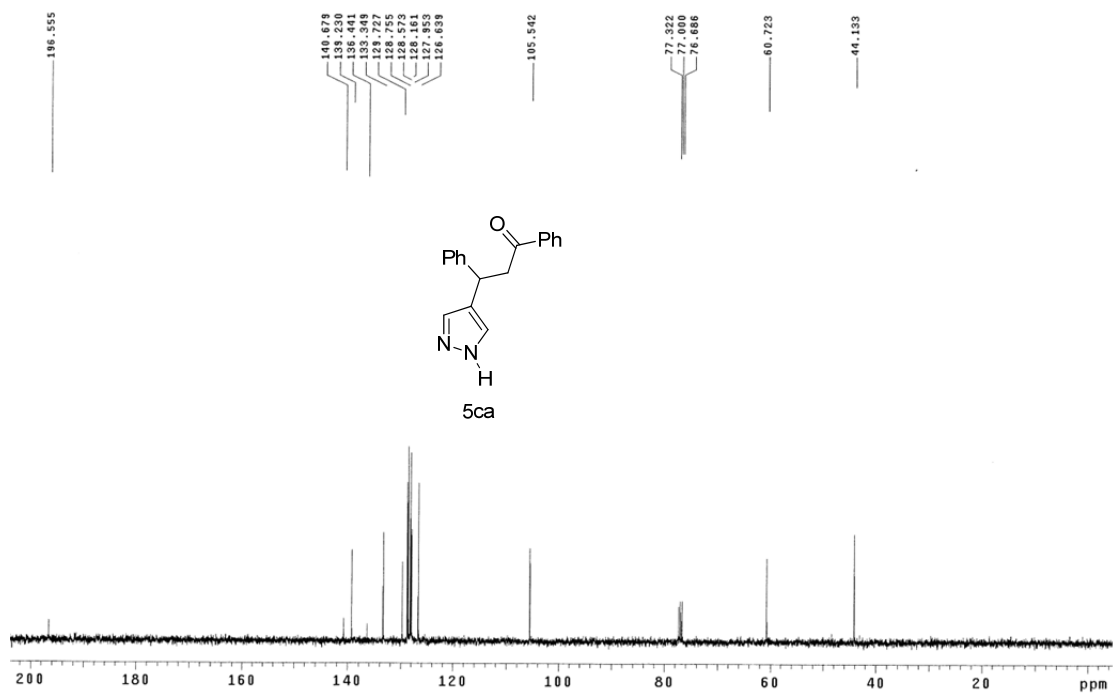
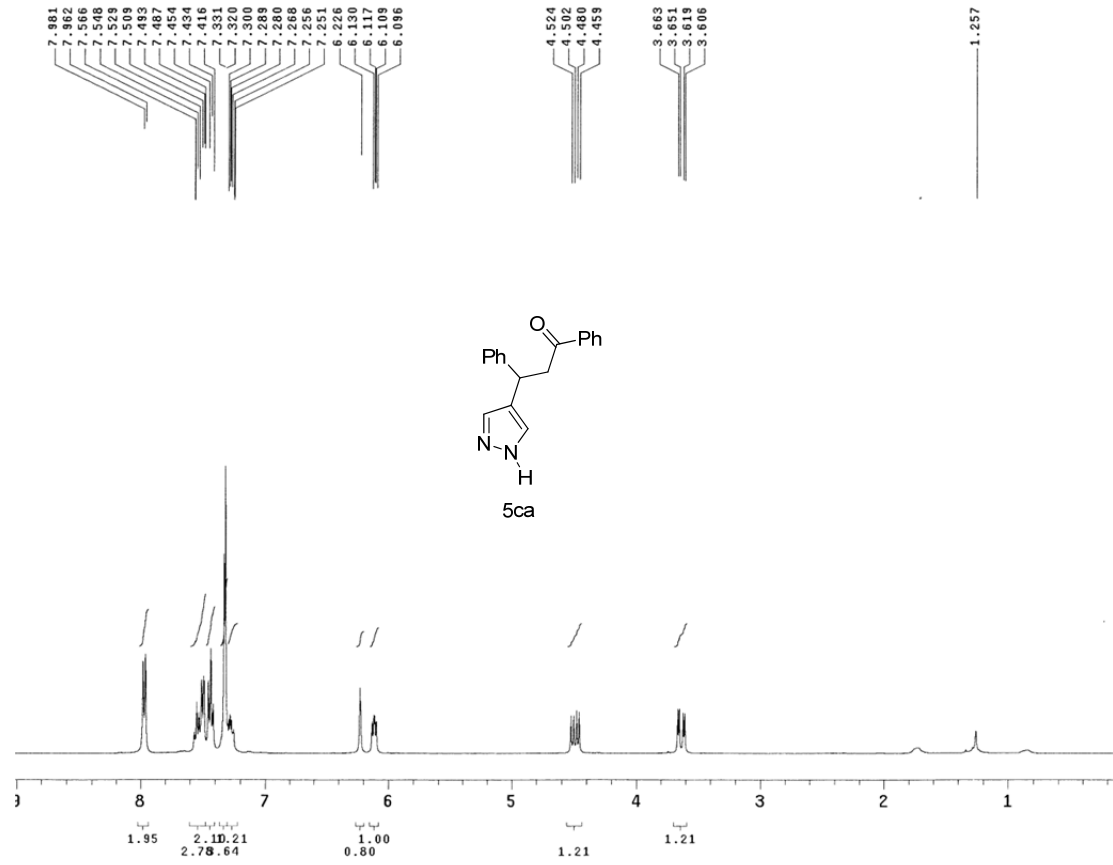


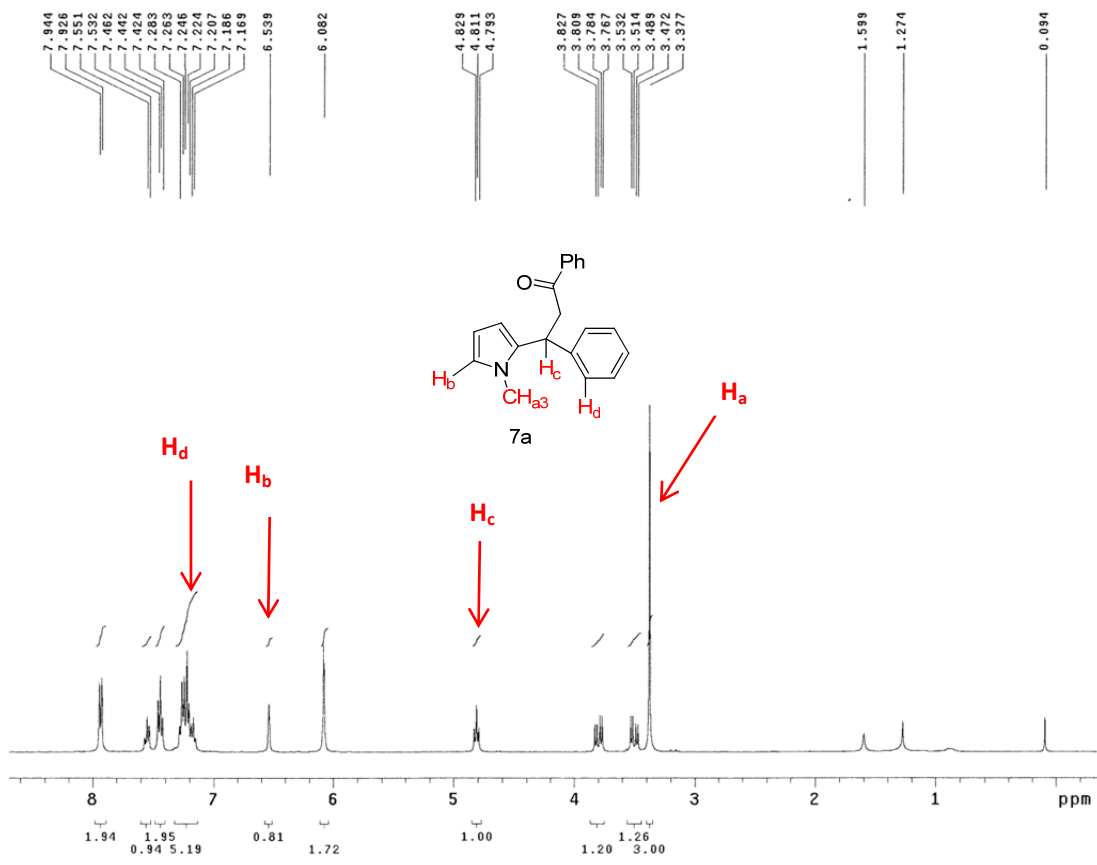


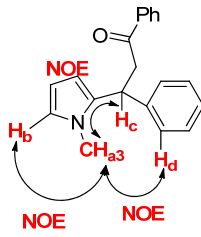
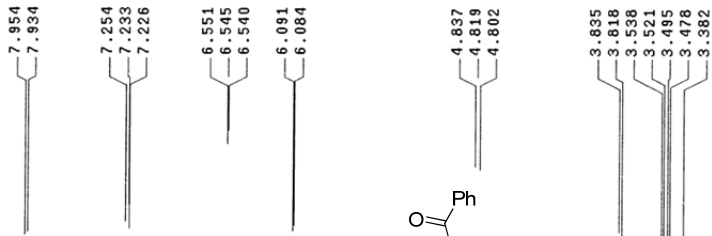




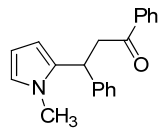
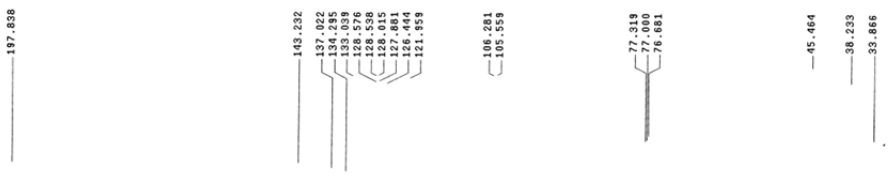
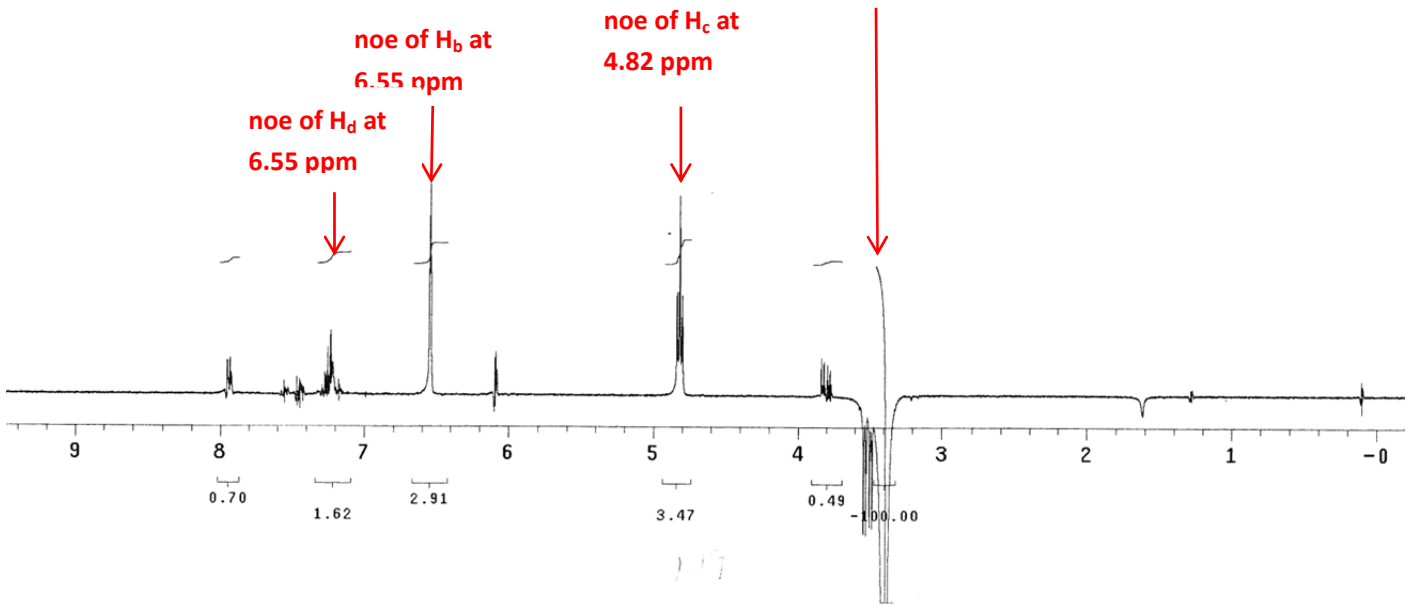




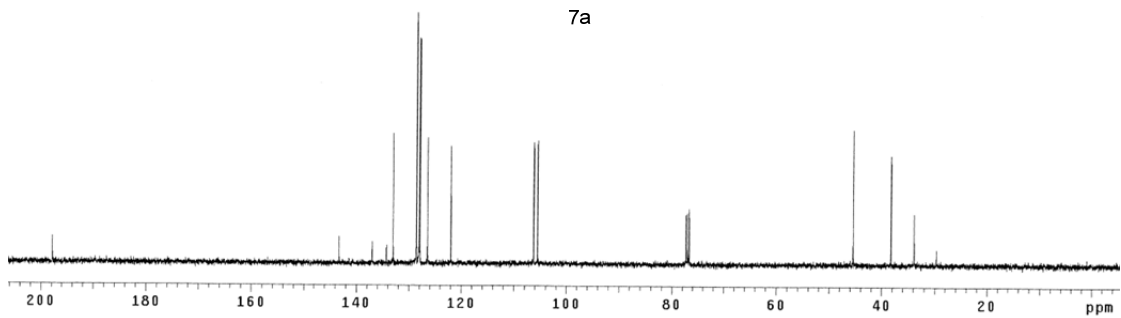




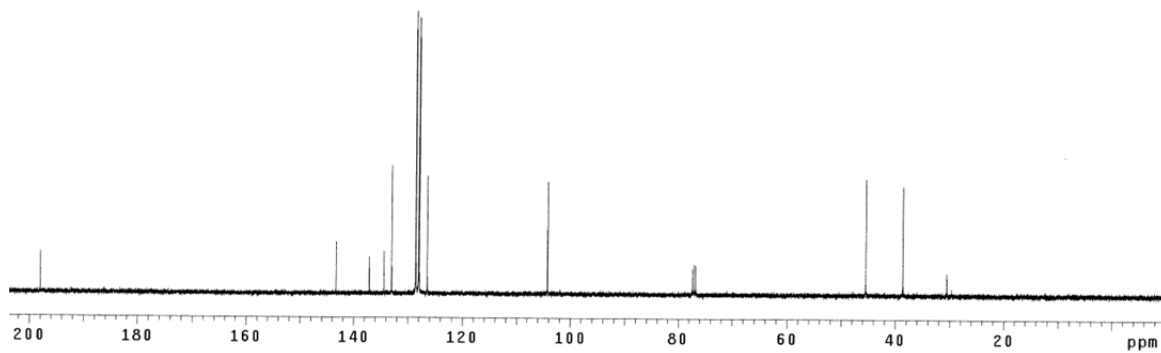
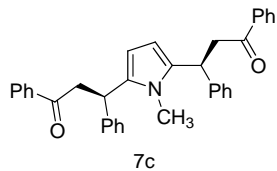
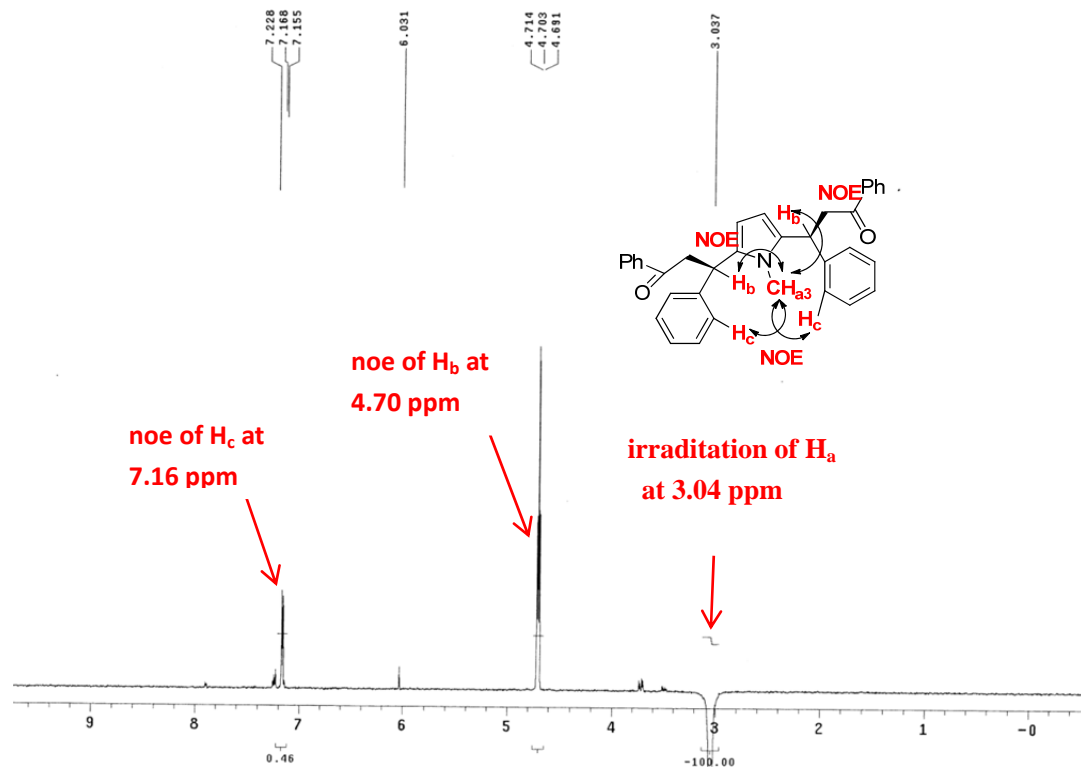
irradiation of H<sub>a</sub>  
at 3.38 ppm



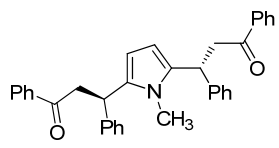
7a



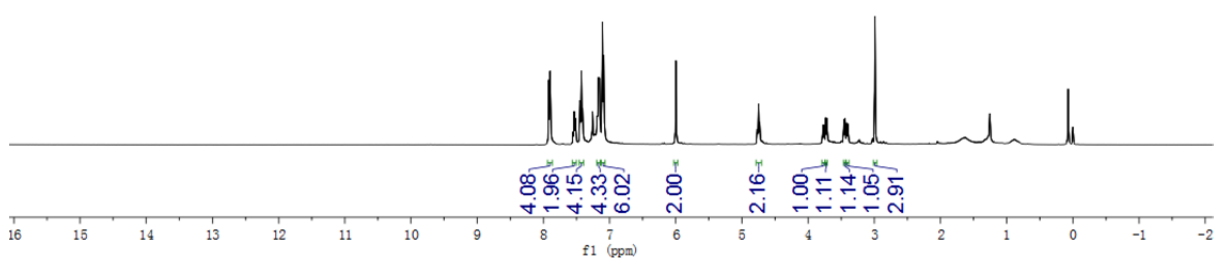




7.919  
7.899  
7.552  
7.534  
7.516  
7.444  
7.426  
7.407  
7.257  
7.189  
7.170  
7.152  
7.107  
7.089  
5.998  
4.766  
4.748  
4.731  
3.777  
3.759  
3.734  
3.717  
3.459  
3.442  
3.417  
3.399  
2.990



7d

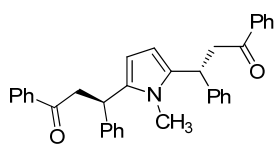


ppm

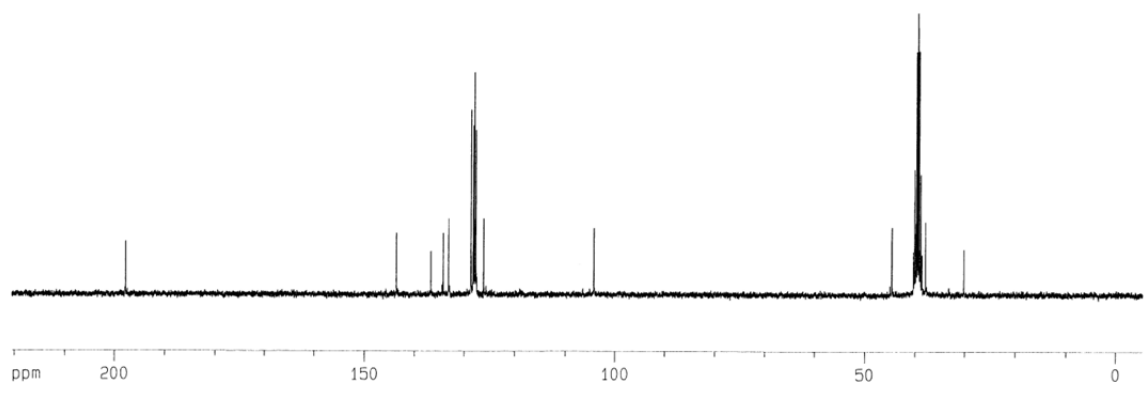
197.761

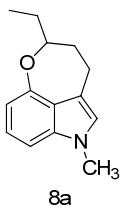
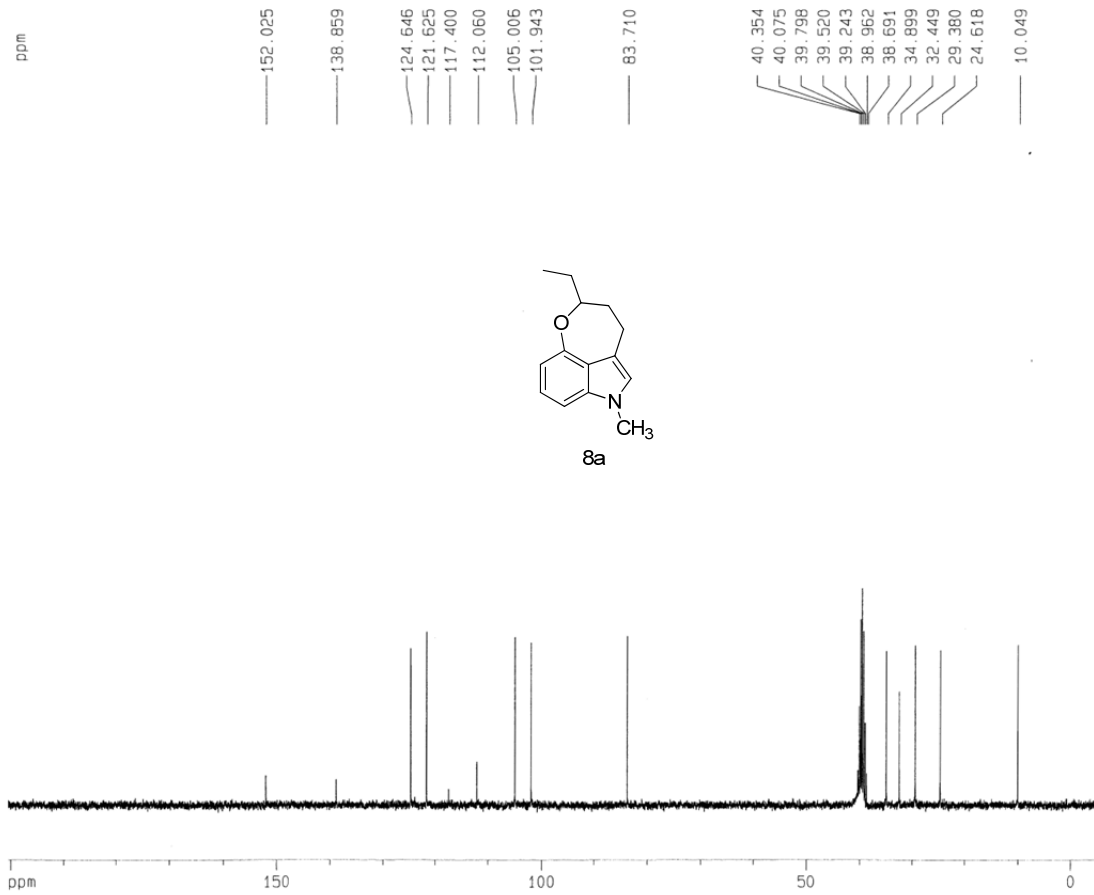
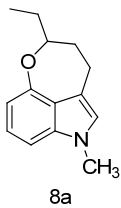
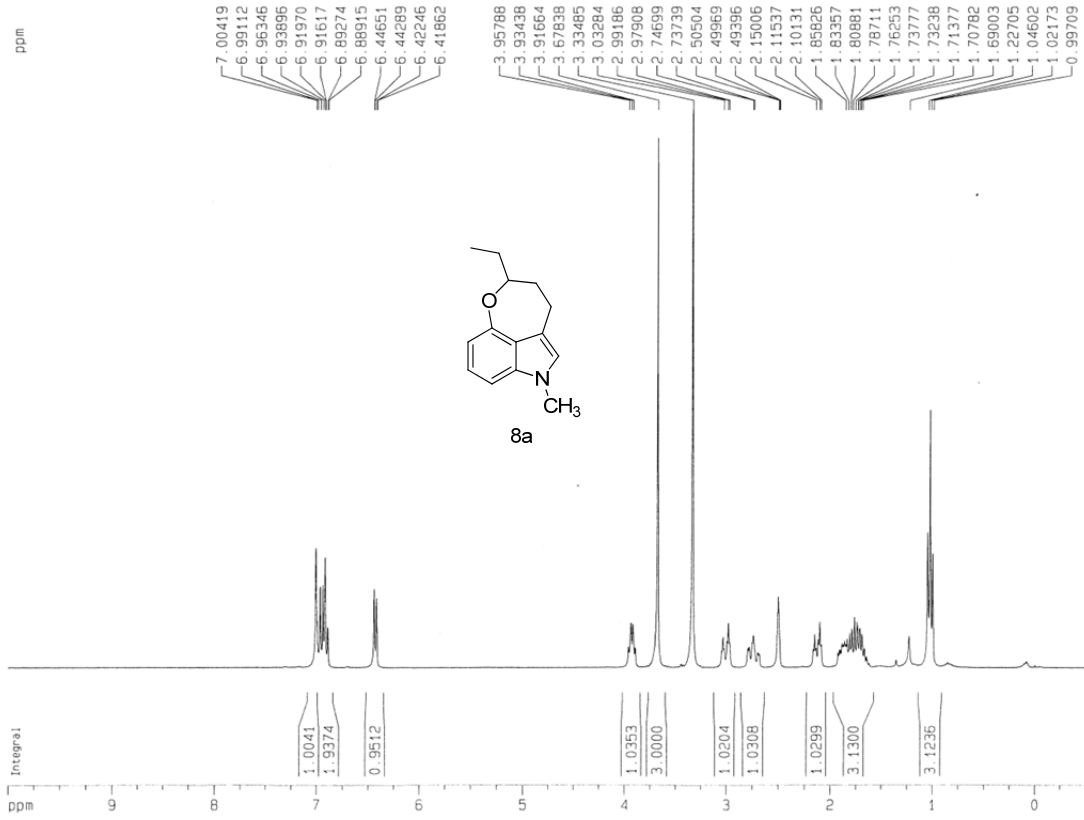
143.672  
136.716  
134.230  
133.174  
128.697  
128.201  
128.004  
127.697  
126.140  
104.189

44.621  
40.353  
40.074  
39.798  
39.520  
39.242  
38.964  
37.953  
30.165

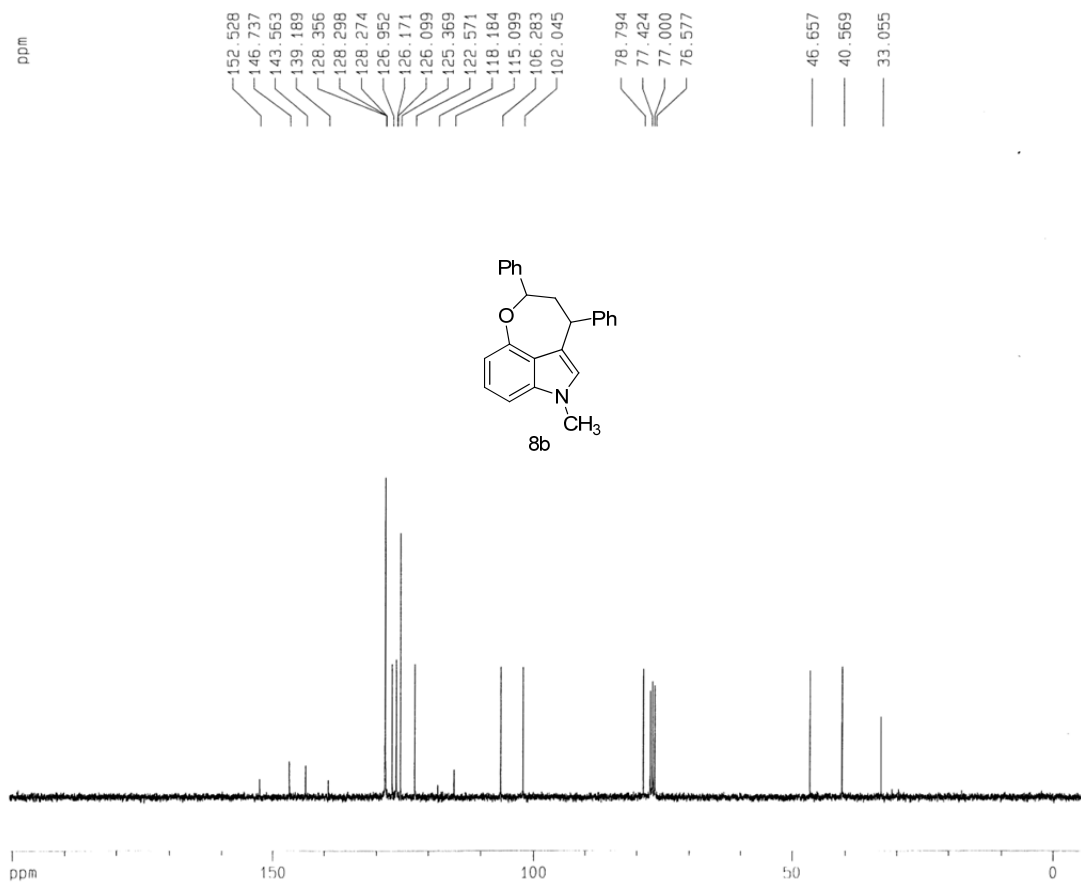
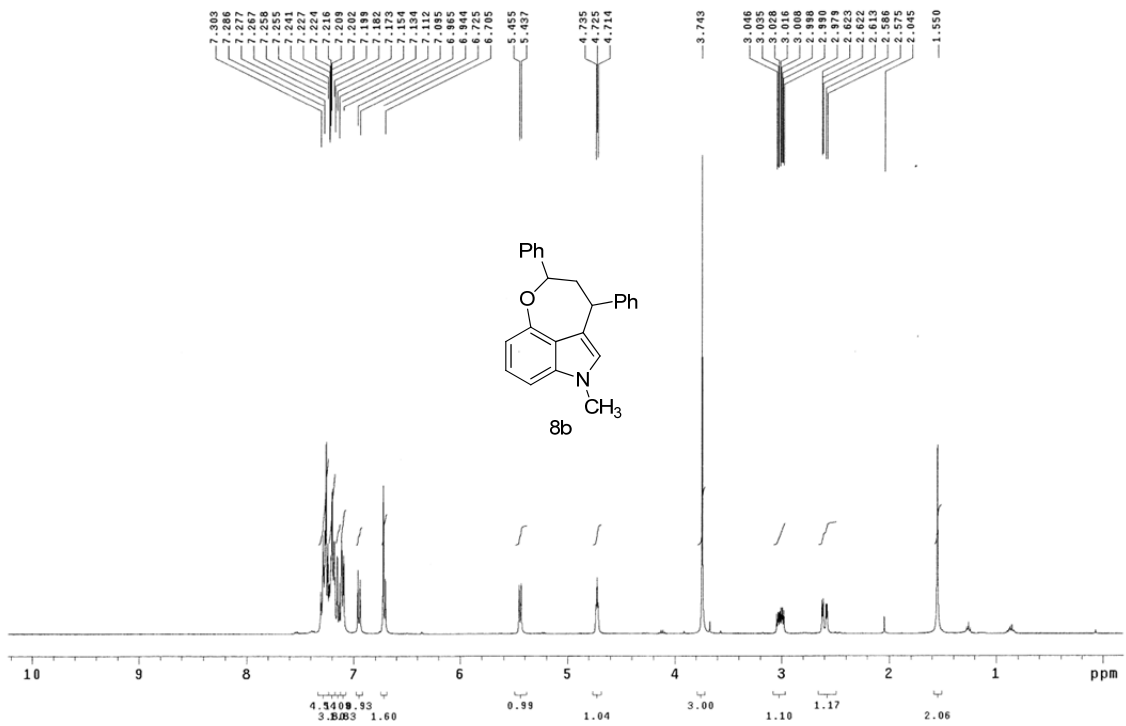


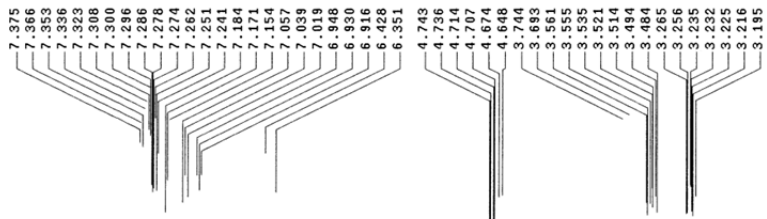
7d











1.613

