

Supporting Information

Fluorination of 2-substituted benzo[*b*]furans with Selectfluor™

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I . General Information

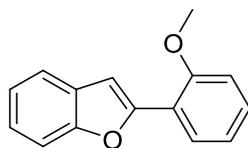
NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV II-400 MHz spectrometer (^1H NMR at 400 MHz, ^{13}C NMR at 100 MHz, and ^{19}F NMR at 376 MHz). The ^1H NMR chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl_3 or DMSO-d_6 as the internal reference (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 7.26$ ppm; DMSO-d_6 : $\delta = 2.50$ ppm). The ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 or DMSO-d_6 as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 77.16$ ppm; DMSO-d_6 : $\delta = 39.52$ ppm). IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet AVATER FTIR360 spectrometer as thin film. Absorptions were given in wave numbers (cm^{-1}). MS experiments were performed on an Agilent 5973N instrument for EI-MS and a Waters Micromass GCT Premier instrument for High-resolution mass. CH_3CN was distilled over CaH_2 . Dichloromethane was distilled under argon over CaH_2 . Unless otherwise noted, all reagent-grade chemicals and other solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used as received. Starting materials **1a**¹, **1d-1f**¹, **1g**², and **1h-1i**¹ are known compounds and were identified by comparison of their spectral data with those reported in the literature.

II .Synthesis and characterization of the starting materials

General procedure for the synthesis of 2-substituted benzofurans by using modified procedure by Suzuki et al.¹

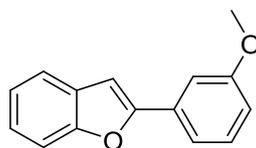
Benzo[*b*]furan-2-boronic acid (324.0 mg, 2.0 mmol), iodo-substituted derivatives (444.6 mg, 1.9 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (44.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and Na_2CO_3 (423.2 mg, 4 mmol) were placed under Argon, and acetone (10 mL) and water (12 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until full consumption of the starting material was indicated by TLC (c.a. 8 h). The reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with dichloromethane(3x10 mL).The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtrated and concentrated to dryness in vacuum. The crude compound was purified by flash chromatography (silica, pentane/EtOAc= 100:1 to 10:1) to afford 2-substituted benzo[*b*]furans.

2-(2-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (1b)



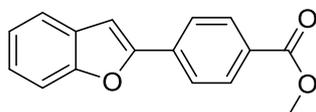
The general procedure was followed to afford the product **1b**³ as white solid in 86% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.46, 153.85, 152.13, 129.76, 129.22, 127.03, 124.07, 122.61, 121.01, 120.75, 119.34, 110.99, 110.80, 106.29, 55.44; EI: 152 (28), 181 (52), 209 (26), 224 (100).

2-(3-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (1c)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product **1c**⁴ as white solid in 91% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.92 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.92, 155.72, 154.83, 131.74, 129.83, 129.15, 124.31, 122.93, 120.91, 117.50, 114.45, 111.16, 110.11, 101.61, 55.34; EI: 152 (28), 181 (32), 224 (100).

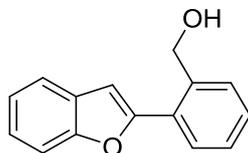
Methyl-4-(benzofuran-2-yl) benzoate (1j)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product **1j**³ as white solid in 83% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.66, 155.16, 154.64, 134.49, 130.12, 129.69, 128.90, 125.05, 124.61, 123.20, 121.27, 111.33,

103.43, 52.19; EI: 165 (32), 221 (63), 252 (100).

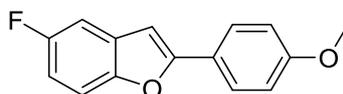
(2-(benzofuran-2-yl) phenyl) methanol (1p)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product **1p** as white solid in 81% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.98, 154.78, 138.06, 129.54, 129.44, 129.06, 128.95, 128.68, 128.12, 124.50, 123.05, 121.15, 111.14, 105.35, 64.17; EI: 165 (41), 178 (32), 206 (89), 224 (100).

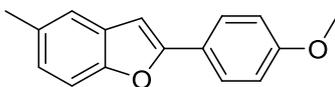
General procedure for the synthesis of 2-substituted benzofurans by using modified procedure by Miller et al.⁵

5-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (1k)



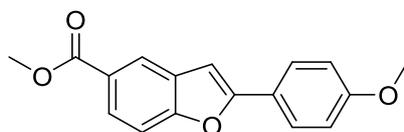
4-Fluoro-2-Iodophenol (900 mg, 3.8 mmol), 4-Methoxy-phenylacetylene (530 mg, 4.0 mmol), PdCl₂P (PH₃)₂ (70 mg), and CuI (50 mg) in DMF/Diethylamine (10 ml/10 ml) was heated to 60 °C. After 1 h, the reaction was cooled and poured into water which was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated to give a solid which was triturated with MeOH and filtered, solid was the aim compound **1k**⁵, yield: 63%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.93 (m, 3H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.21, 159.31 (d, *J* = 236.1 Hz), 157.83, 150.89, 130.28 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz), 126.50, 122.93, 114.27, 111.41 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 111.05, 106.02 (d, *J* = 24.9 Hz), 99.78 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 55.35; EI: 170 (26), 199 (42), 227 (65), 242 (100).

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylbenzofuran (1l)



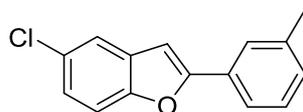
Compound **1l**⁷ was synthesized following the procedure described for the preparation of 5-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (**1k**) using 2-iodo-4-methylphenol, 1-ethynyl-3-methylbenzene was obtained as a white solid in 63% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.86, 156.10, 153.11, 132.19, 129.56, 126.31, 124.95, 123.48, 120.42, 114.19, 110.44, 99.44, 55.34, 21.34; EI: 195 (27), 223 (77), 238 (100).

Methyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran-5-carboxylate (1m)



Compound **1m**⁵ was synthesized following the procedure described for the preparation of 5-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (**1k**) using methyl 4-hydroxy-3-iodobenzoate, 1-ethynyl-4-methoxybenzene was obtained as a white solid in 56% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.36, 160.31, 157.50, 157.25, 129.52, 126.58, 125.57, 125.77, 122.90, 122.67, 114.32, 110.78, 99.82, 55.37, 52.08; EI: 165 (25), 252 (56), 282 (100).

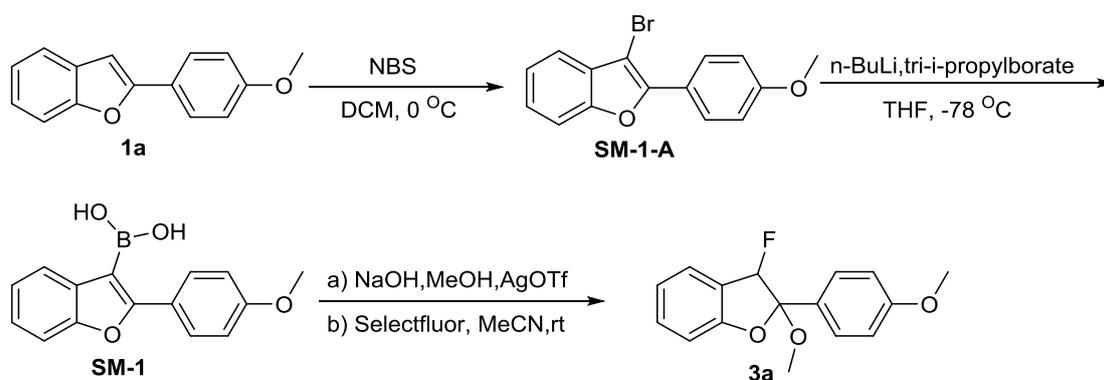
5-chloro-2-(m-tolyl) benzofuran (1o)



Compound **1o**⁶ was synthesized following the procedure described for the preparation

of 5-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (1k) using 4-chloro-2-iodophenol, 1-ethynyl-3-methylbenzene was obtained as a white solid in 58% yield. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.58, 153.19, 138.54, 130.60, 129.85, 129.82, 128.75, 128.41, 125.63, 124.27, 122.24, 120.35, 112.05, 100.66, 21.48; EI: 172 (22), 242 (100), 244 (32).

III. Synthesis 3a according Ritter's paper.⁸



3-bromo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (**SM-1-A**)

To 3-bromo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (672 mg, 3.00 mmol, 1.00 eq) in DCM (15 mL) at 0 °C was added N-Bromosuccinimide (NBS) (560 mg, 3.15 mmol, 1.05 eq). After stirring for 1.5 h at 0 °C, TLC (PE: EA=10: 1) show the reaction was completed. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexanes/EtOAc 50: 1 to 10: 1 (v/v) to afford 810 mg of the title compound as white solid (89% yield, mp: 65-68 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14-8.08 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.01 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.17, 152.95, 150.47, 129.70, 128.31, 125.09, 123.35, 122.19, 119.56, 114.04, 111.09, 92.17, 55.36; MS (EI) m/z (%): 302 (M^+ , 100).

(2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran-3-yl) boronic acid (**SM-1**)

To a solution of 3-bromo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (606 mg, 2.50 mmol, 1.0

eq) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added a 1.6 M solution of n-butyllithium in hexane (1.72 mL, 2.75 mmol, 1.1 eq) and tri-*i*-propylborate (0.63 mL, 2.75 mmol, 1.1 eq), the reaction was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, and then warmed to 25 °C for another 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and hydrolyzed with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution and 2 N HCl aqueous solution and stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL), and then the combined organic layers were extracted with 2N NaOH aqueous solution (3 x 10 mL). The combined aqueous layers were cooled to 0 °C and acidified with 2 N HCl aqueous solution to pH = 2. The precipitated boronic acid was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with cold water, and dried in vacuum to afford (2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzofuran-3-yl)boronic acid (476 mg, 71 %, 90% purity) as a white-yellow solid (mp: 138-140 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d₆-DMSO): δ 7.88-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d₆-DMSO): δ 159.68, 157.73, 153.75, 132.97, 128.03, 123.90, 123.84, 122.60, 122.21, 114.22, 114.17, 110.40, 55.31; HRMS(EI): calcd. for [C₁₅H₁₃BO₄] 268.0907, found:268.0910.

3-fluoro-2-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2, 3-dihydrobenzofuran (3a)

To NaOH (60 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 eq) in MeOH (2 mL) at 23 °C was added (2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran-3-yl) boronic acid (268 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv). After stirring for 30 min at 23 °C, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and to the reaction mixture was added AgOTf (514 mg, 2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv). After stirring for 30 min at 0 °C, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure at RT. To the residue was added MeCN (5 mL) and Selectfluor (372 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, EA (15mL) was added and washed with water, brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexanes/EtOAc 50: 1 to 10: 1 (v/v) to afford 53 mg of the title compound as clear oil which solidified upon cooling to white solid (19% yield, dr: 98: 2, mp: 87~89 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.6

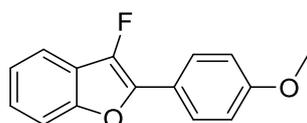
Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 2H), 5.62 (d, $J = 56.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.23, 160.07 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 132.06 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 128.99 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz), 127.21 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 125.65 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 124.11 (d, $J = 18.7$ Hz), 121.87 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 113.70, 113.21 (d, $J = 27.2$ Hz), 111.24 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 95.00 (d, $J = 186.4$ Hz), 55.22, 50.77; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -166.47 (d, $J = 56.78$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2931, 1618, 1521, 1478, 1260, 1050, 834, 751 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_3]$ 274.1005, found: 274.1006.

IV. Synthesis and characterization of 2a-2o

General procedure for the synthesis of 3-fluorination 2-substituted benzofurans.

To the solution of 2-substituted benzofurans (0.5 mmol) in MeCN (8.0 mL) was added Selectfluor (195 mg, 1.1 eq) at room temperature (about 25 °C), then water (0.4 mL) was added, then the formed mixture was stirred at room temperature under air for 1h as monitored by TLC (PE: EA=10: 1), once the reaction was completed, EA (30 mL) was added, and washed with water, brine and dried (Na_2SO_4), the solvent was removed under reduce vacuum and the residue was used in the next step directly. The residue was dissolve in dry DCM (5 mL) and pyridine (0.41 mL, 5 mmol, 10 eq) was added dropwise at 0 °C, then SOCl_2 (0.055 mL) was added dropwise at that temperature, then the reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight as monitored by TLC, once the reaction was completed, DCM (10 mL) was added, washed with water, brine and dried (Na_2SO_4), The solvent was removed under reduce vacuum to give crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE: EA=100: 1 to 10: 1) to afford pure aim product.

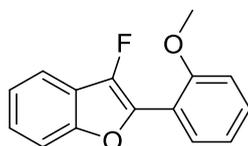
3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2a)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as

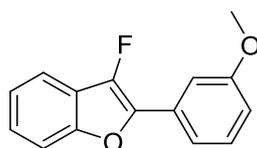
white-off solid in 75% yield (mp: 61-63 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.58 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.00 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.55 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 150.87 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 143.49 (d, *J* = 253.3 Hz), 138.33 (d, *J* = 20.6 Hz), 126.30 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 124.81, 123.11, 121.50 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 120.88, 117.26 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 114.33, 111.60, 55.34; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -172.87 (d, *J* = 5.64 Hz); IR: (KBr) *v*_{max} 2961, 1608, 1450, 1310, 1258, 1028, 752 cm⁻¹; HRMS(EI): calcd. for [C₁₅H₁₁FO₂] 242.0743, found: 242.0744.

3-fluoro-2-(2-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2b)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as colorless oil in 71% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.75, 151.75 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 144.22 (d, *J* = 255.1 Hz), 136.29 (d, *J* = 24.1 Hz), 130.44, 129.45 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 124.99, 122.88, 120.69 (d, *J* = 20.1 Hz), 120.68, 117.76 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 117.68 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 111.74, 111.57, 55.81; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -166.06; IR: (KBr) *v*_{max} 2971, 1599, 1495, 1392, 1258, 1026, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. for [C₁₅H₁₁FO₂] 242.0743, found: 242.0741.

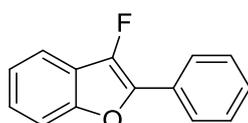
3-fluoro-2-(3-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2c)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 62% yield (mp: 59-61 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H),

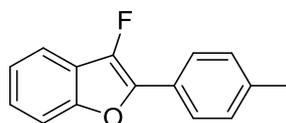
7.37-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.90, 151.11 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz), 144.74 (d, $J = 256.2$ Hz), 137.98 (d, $J = 20.0$ Hz), 129.90, 129.84, 125.47, 123.23, 120.63 (d, $J = 19.3$ Hz), 117.66, 117.37 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 114.27, 111.80, 109.79, 55.34; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -169.48 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 3066, 1643, 1456, 1345, 1291, 1048, 750 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{FO}_2]$ 242.0743, found: 242.0748.

3-fluoro-2-phenylbenzofuran (2d)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 70% yield (mp: 47-49 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.93 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.15 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz), 144.62 (d, $J = 255.8$ Hz), 138.11 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz), 128.79, 128.69 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz), 128.16 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 125.39, 124.75 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz), 123.21, 120.66 (d, $J = 19.3$ Hz), 117.63 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 111.77; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -170.17 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2950, 1632, 1449, 1312, 1257, 1073, 744 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{FO}]$ 212.0637, found 212.0633.

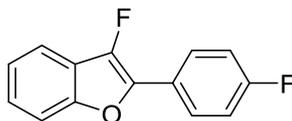
3-fluoro-2-(p-tolyl)benzofuran (2e)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 69% yield (mp: 61-63 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.81 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 4H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 150.98 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz), 144.12 (d, $J = 254.6$ Hz), 138.39 (d, $J = 20.4$ Hz), 138.21, 129.49, 125.90 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz), 125.09, 124.69 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 123.12, 120.77 (d, $J = 22.3$ Hz), 117.44, 111.70, 21.42; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz,

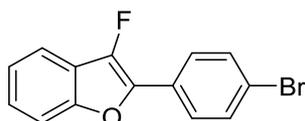
CDCl₃): δ -171.19 (d, $J = 2.26$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{\max} 2950, 1632, 1512, 1450, 1257, 817, 740 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. For [C₁₅H₁₁FO] 226.0794, found 226.0789.

3-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)benzofuran (2f)



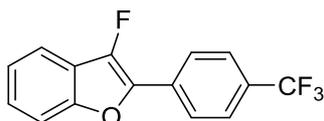
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 58% yield (mp: 81-83 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.98 (d, $J = 248.7$ Hz), 153.09, 149.51, 129.48, 128.75 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 125.79 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 125.64, 123.56, 119.89, 115.74 (d, $J = 21.7$ Hz), 111.25, 93.53 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -112.20, -168.40; IR: (KBr) ν_{\max} 2923, 1604, 1503, 1451, 1234, 1072, 831, 737 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. for [C₁₄H₈F₂O] 230.0543, found 230.0546.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-fluorobenzofuran (2g)



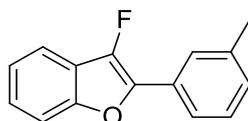
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 51% yield (mp: 82-84 °C); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.22 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz), 144.90 (d, $J = 256.8$ Hz), 137.18 (d, $J = 20.1$ Hz), 132.00, 131.87, 127.62, 126.15 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 125.76, 123.40, 122.10, 117.77, 111.84; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -168.92 (d, $J = 2.26$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{\max} 3016, 1631, 1490, 1389, 1074, 821, 738 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. for [C₁₄H₈BrFO] 289.9747, found 289.9749.

3-fluoro-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzofuran (2h)



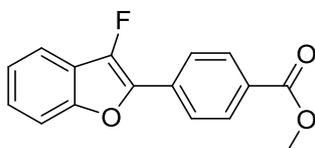
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 61% yield (mp: 69-71 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.53 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz), 145.84 (d, $J = 258.9$ Hz), 136.67 (d, $J = 20.1$ Hz), 131.94, 126.30, 125.83 (d, $J = 21.4$ Hz), 125.78, 124.72 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz), 123.56, 120.26 (d, $J = 19$ Hz), 118.06, 111.99; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.681, -167.06 (d, $J = 1.50$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2960, 1632, 1451, 1395, 1210, 1170, 837, 746 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_8\text{F}_4\text{O}]$ 280.0511, found 280.0510.

3-fluoro-2-(*m*-tolyl)benzofuran (2i)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 71% yield (mp: 31-33 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.11 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz), 144.53 (d, $J = 255.5$ Hz), 138.47, 138.29 (d, $J = 20.2$ Hz), 129.04, 128.71, 128.59 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 125.31, 125.25, 123.17, 122.01, 120.71 (d, $J = 19.3$ Hz), 117.60, 111.74, 21.55; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -170.32 (d, $J = 1.13$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2960, 1632, 1451, 1262, 1140, 867, 740 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_8\text{F}_4\text{O}]$ 226.0794, found 226.0789.

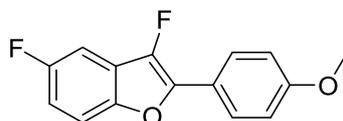
Methyl 4-(3-fluorobenzofuran-2-yl) benzoate (2j)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 43% yield

(mp: 112~113 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.29 (m, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.64, 151.57 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz), 145.91 (d, $J = 259.4$ Hz), 137.12 (d, $J = 19.9$ Hz), 130.10, 129.90, 126.26, 125.86, 124.37 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz), 123.51, 119.27, 118.03, 111.97, 52.21; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -166.47 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2953, 1728, 1608, 1437, 1279, 1108, 859, 757 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{FO}_3]$ 270.0692, found 270.0697.

3, 5-difluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2k)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 68% yield (mp: 69~70 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.03-6.98 (m, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.82, 159.30 (d, $J = 238.2$ Hz), 147.04, 143.24 (d, $J = 253.1$ Hz), 140.30 (d, $J = 20.1$ Hz), 127.92, 126.42 (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz), 121.14, 114.38, 112.62 (d, $J = 12.4$ Hz), 112.45 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 103.05 (d, $J = 17$ Hz), 55.35; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -119.73-119.79, -172.32 (t, $J = 2.26$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2942, 1622, 1513, 1261, 1033, 830, 793 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2]$ 260.0649, found 260.0652.

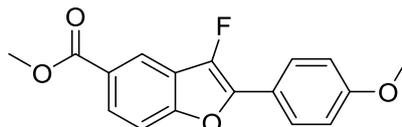
3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methylbenzofuran (2l)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 70% yield (mp: 90~92 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.03-6.99 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.42, 149.38 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 143.35 (d, $J = 253.2$ Hz), 138.37 (d, $J = 20.7$ Hz), 132.70, 126.22, 126.16 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz),

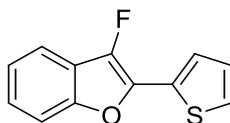
121.68 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 120.86 (d, $J = 19.0$ Hz), 116.96 (d, 3.0 Hz), 114.29, 111.14, 55.34, 21.32; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -172.86 (d, $J = 2.26$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2923, 1633, 1513, 1450, 1250, 1024, 831, 801cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_2]$ 256.0900, found 256.0904.

Methyl 3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzofuran-5-carboxylate (1m)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 52% yield (mp: 117~119 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.03-8.01 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.83, 159.90, 153.17 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 143.24 (d, $J = 254.6$ Hz), 139.89 (d, $J = 20.5$ Hz), 126.47, 126.41, 125.58, 121.05, 120.85, 119.77, 114.39, 111.54, 55.35, 52.23; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -172.29 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2953, 1716, 1610, 1513, 1431, 1258, 1026, 827, 764 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_4]$ 300.0791, found 300.0793.

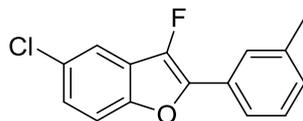
3-fluoro-2-(thiophen-2-yl)benzofuran (2n)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 78% yield (mp: 62~64 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.13 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz), 142.98 (d, $J = 255.9$ Hz), 135.36 (d, $J = 24.1$ Hz), 129.96 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 127.83, 125.88 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 125.34, 124.58 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 123.43, 120.27 (d, $J = 18.3$ Hz), 117.46 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 111.77; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -170.57 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max}

3025, 1634, 1451, 1203, 850, 831, 745, 694 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_7\text{FOS}]$ 218.0202, found 218.0200.

5-chloro-3-fluoro-2-(*m*-tolyl)benzofuran (2o)



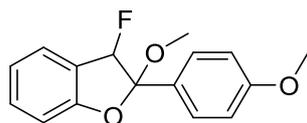
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 52% yield (mp: 71~73 $^{\circ}\text{C}$); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 149.40 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz), 143.56 (d, $J = 256.2$ Hz), 139.90 (d, $J = 19.7$ Hz), 138.571, 129.50, 128.98, 128.77, 128.08 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 125.53, 125.41 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 122.12 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz), 121.88 (d, $J = 18.9$ Hz), 117.20, 112.86, 21.53; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -169.86 (d, $J = 1.88$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2923, 1629, 1458, 1260, 1088, 862, 740 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClFO}]$ 260.0404, found 226.0400.

V. Synthesis and characterization of 3a-3f and 4a-1- 4a-2

General procedure for the synthesis of 3a-3f

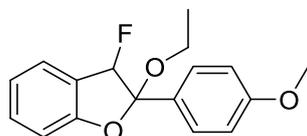
To the solution of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzofuran (0.5 mmol) in MeCN (8.0 mL) was added Selectfluor (195 mg, 1.1 eq) at room temperature (about 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$), then nucleophiles reagent (water, methanol, ethanol et) (0.4 mL) was added , then the formed mixture was stirred at room temperature under air for 1h as monitored by TLC (PE: EA= 10: 1), once the reaction was completed, EA (30 mL) was added, and washed with water, brine and dried (Na_2SO_4),the solvent was removed under reduce vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel column to afford aim compounds.

3-fluoro-2-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2, 3-dihydrobenzofuran (3a)



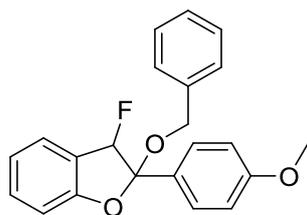
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid (86% yield, dr 98: 2, mp: 87~89 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 2H), 5.62 (d, $J = 56.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.23, 160.07 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 132.06 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 128.99 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz), 127.21 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 125.65 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 124.11 (d, $J = 18.7$ Hz), 121.87 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 113.70, 113.21 (d, $J = 27.2$ Hz), 111.24 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz), 95.00 (d, $J = 186.4$ Hz), 55.22, 50.77; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -166.47 (d, $J = 56.78$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2931, 1618, 1521, 1478, 1260, 1050, 834, 751 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{FO}_3]$ 274.1005, found 274.1006.

2-ethoxy-3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (3b)



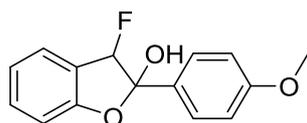
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid (81% yield, dr 95: 5, mp: 101~103 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.57-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.95 (m, 2H), 5.60 (d, $J = 57.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.42 (m, 1H), 1.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.18, 160.14, 132.01 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 128.85 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz), 127.22 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 126.58 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 124.16 (d, $J = 18.7$ Hz), 121.74 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 113.63, 113.24 (d, $J = 27.0$ Hz), 111.14, 95.21 (d, $J = 186.4$ Hz), 59.25, 55.23, 15.51; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -162.81 (d, $J = 56.78$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2931, 1616, 1518, 1457, 1247, 1094, 834, 752 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{FO}_3]$ 288.1162, found 288.1164.

2-(benzyloxy)-3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (3c)



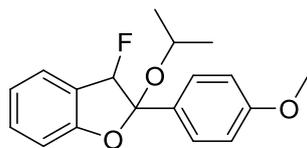
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as colorless oil (78% yield, dr 86: 14). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.09-6.93 (m, 4H), 5.74 (d, $J = 56.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.31, 160.03 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 137.69, 132.05 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 128.99 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz), 128.25, 128.21, 127.57, 127.50, 127.23 (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz), 126.14 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 124.14 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz), 121.91 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 114.08, 113.79, 113.27 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 111.21 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 95.13 (d, $J = 186.9$ Hz), 65.61, 55.25; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -162.81 (d, $J = 56.4$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2932, 1617, 1513, 1246, 1101, 1030, 970, 832, 752 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{FO}_3]$ 350.1318, found 350.1321.

3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-2-ol (3d)



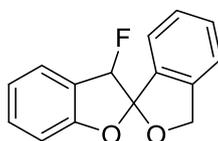
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid (87% yield, dr 94: 6, mp: 110~112 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.06 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 4H), 6.73 (d, $J = 46.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 194.39 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 164.66, 154.84 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 131.77, 131.33, 128.53 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz), 126.23, 120.84, 120.01 (d, $J = 20.4$ Hz), 117.87, 114.16, 90.79 (d, $J = 183.3$ Hz), 55.56; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -182.22 (d, $J = 47.0$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 3228, 2921, 1601, 1459, 1264, 1052, 862, 759 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_3]$ 260.0849, found 260.0851.

3-fluoro-2-isopropoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (3e)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid (81% yield, dr 91: 9, mp: 104~105 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.05-6.96 (m, 4H), 5.59 (d, *J* = 56.8 Hz, 1H), 4.02-3.94 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.07-1.03 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.08, 159.98 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 132.04 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 129.07 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 127.32 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 127.23 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 124.24 (d, *J* = 18.6 Hz), 121.66 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 113.24 (d, *J* = 27.2 Hz), 113.45, 111.10 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 95.30 (d, *J* = 186.5 Hz), 67.59, 55.22, 24.30, 23.73; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -162.84 (d, *J* = 56.78 Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2980, 2926, 1616, 1518, 1479, 1274, 1051, 958, 832, 751 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. for [C₁₈H₁₉FO₃] 302.1318, found 302.1316.

3-fluoro-3H, 3'H-spiro [benzofuran-2, 1'-isobenzofuran] (3f)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid (75% yield, dr 93: 7, mp: 71~73 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 56.4 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.53 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 140.53, 133.74 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 132.40 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 130.23, 127.97, 126.84 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 125.27 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 123.07 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz), 121.86 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 120.907, 119.00 (d, *J* = 27.9 Hz), 110.91 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 95.35 (d, *J* = 186.5 Hz), 73.25; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -168.61 (d, *J* = 56.4 Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2870, 1621, 1469, 1265, 1026, 934, 888, 751 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI): calcd. for [C₁₅H₁₁FO₂] 242.0743, found 242.0748.

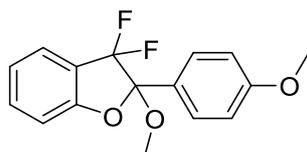
Large-scale synthesis of 3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2a)

To the solution of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl) benzofuran (2.24 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) in MeCN (60 mL) was added Selectfluor (3.90 g, 11.0 mmol, 1.1 eq) at room temperature (about 25 °C), then water (3 mL) was added, then the formed mixture was stirred at room temperature under air for 1h as monitored by TLC (PE: EA= 10: 1), once the reaction was completed, EA (30 mL) was added, and washed with water, brine and dried (Na₂SO₄), the solvent was removed under reduce vacuum and the residue was used in the next step directly. The residue was dissolve in dry DCM (50 mL) and pyridine (8.2 mL, 100 mmol, 10.0 eq) was added dropwise at 0 °C, then SOCl₂ (1.1mL) was added dropwise at that temperature, then the reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight as monitored by TLC, once the reaction was completed, DCM (150 mL) was added, washed with water, brine and dried (Na₂SO₄), The solvent was removed under reduce vacuum to give crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE: EA= 100: 1 to 10: 1) to afford pure aim product (1.81 g, 75% yield).

General procedure for the synthesis of 4a-1 and 4a-2

To the solution of 3-fluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzofuran (0.5 mmol) in MeCN (8.0 mL) was added Selectfluor (195 mg, 1.1 eq) at room temperature (about 25 °C), then nucleophiles reagent (methanol, ethanol) (0.4 mL) was added, then the formed mixture was stirred at room temperature under air for 1h as monitored by TLC (PE: EA= 10: 1), once the reaction was completed, EA (30 mL) was added, and washed with water, brine and dried (Na₂SO₄),the solvent was removed under reduce vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel column to afford aim compounds.

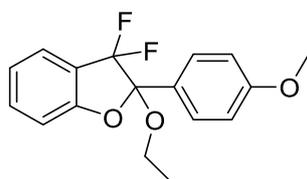
3, 3-difluoro-2-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2, 3-dihydrobenzofuran (4a-1)



The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 72% yield

(mp: 77-80 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.65, 158.77 (dd, $J_1 = 9.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.3$ Hz), 133.47 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz), 128.76, 124.48, 124.32, 122.77 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz), 122.44, 121.29 (t, $J = 26.0$ Hz), 113.83, 112.00, 109.65 (dd, $J_1 = 36.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 18.3$ Hz), 55.27, 51.56; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -84.89 (d, $J = 248.16$ Hz), -122.66 (d, $J = 248.54$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2966, 1621, 1513, 1468, 1230, 1029, 834, 753 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2\text{O}_3]$ 292.0911, found 292.0915.

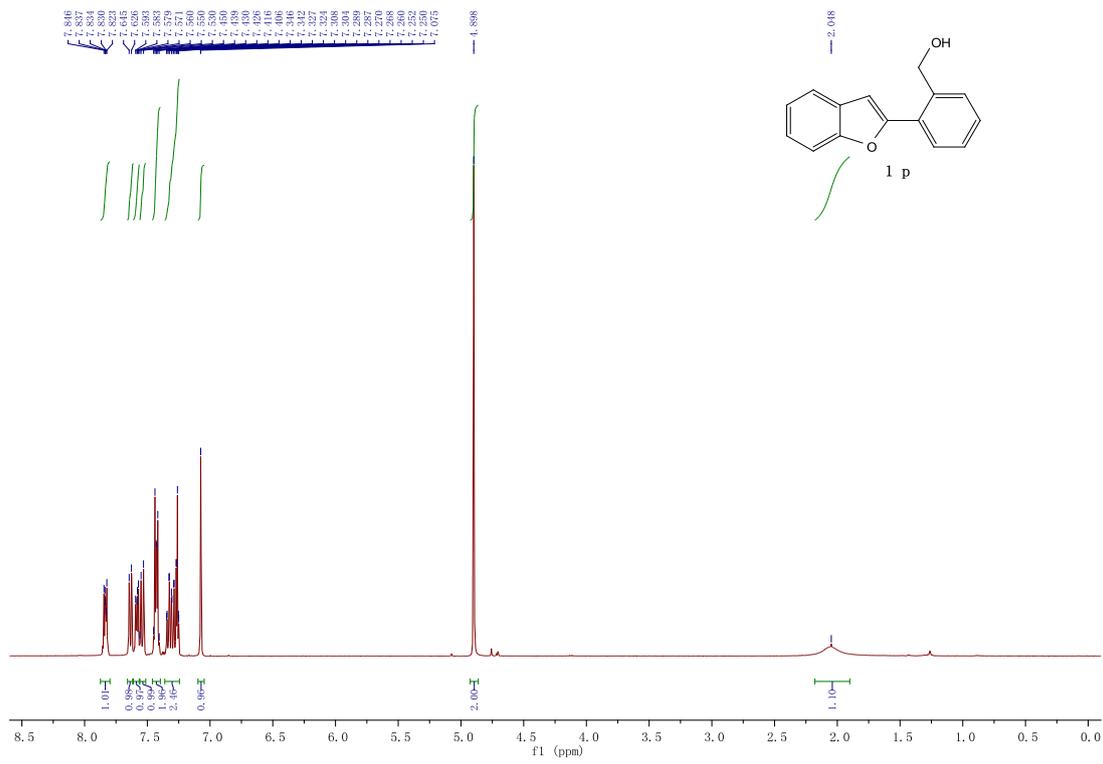
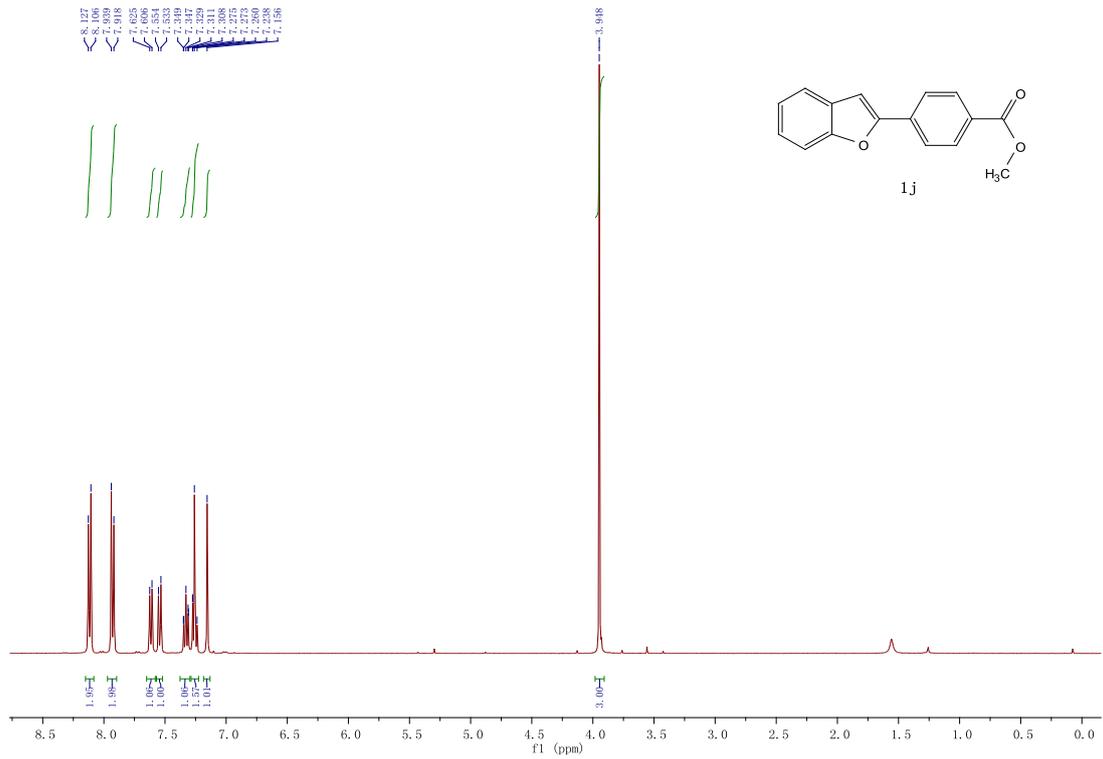
2-ethoxy-3,3-difluoro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (4a-2)

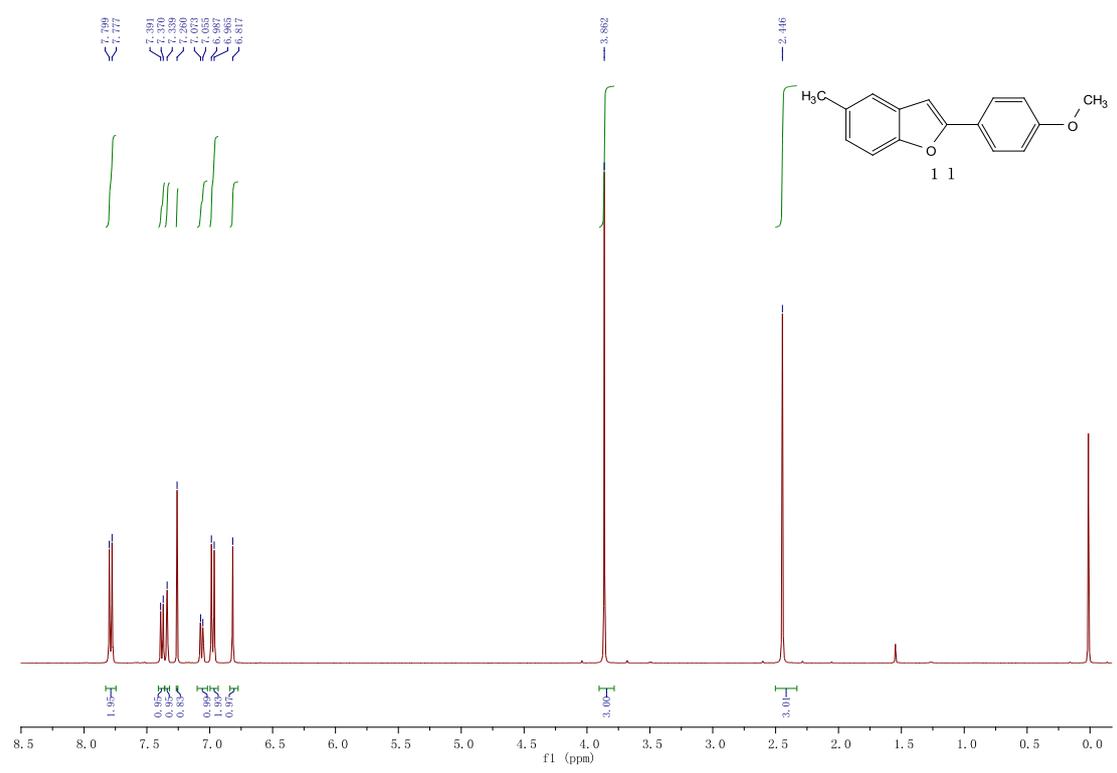
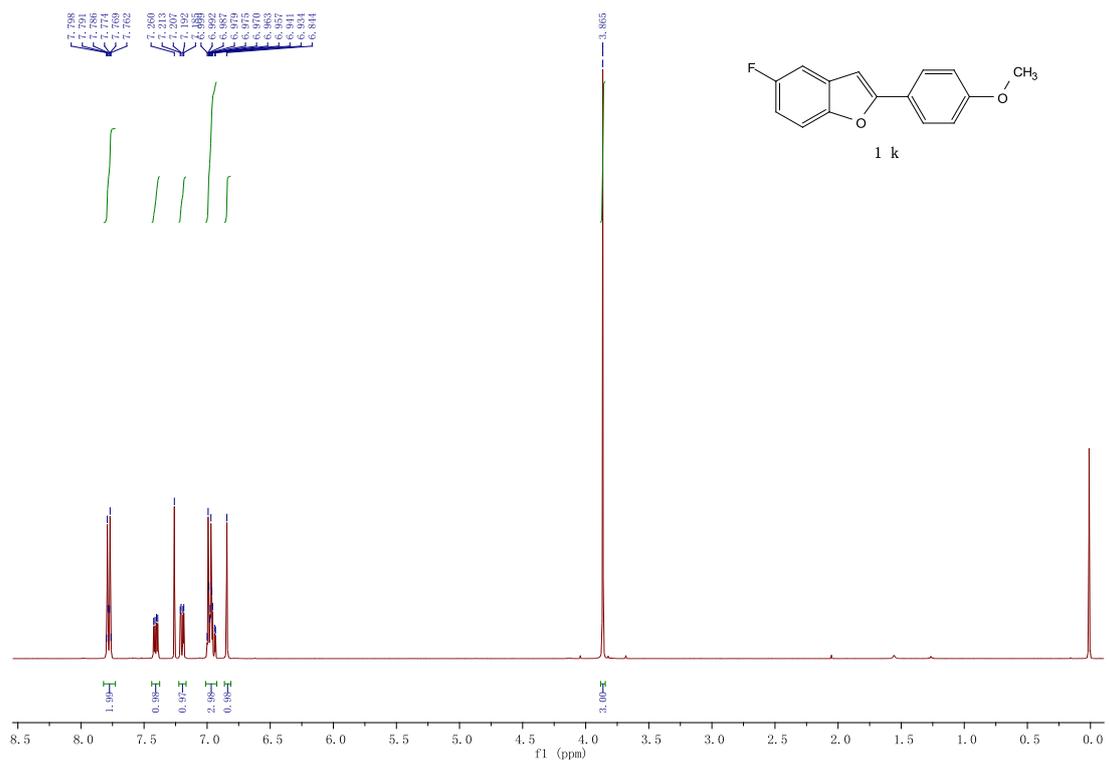


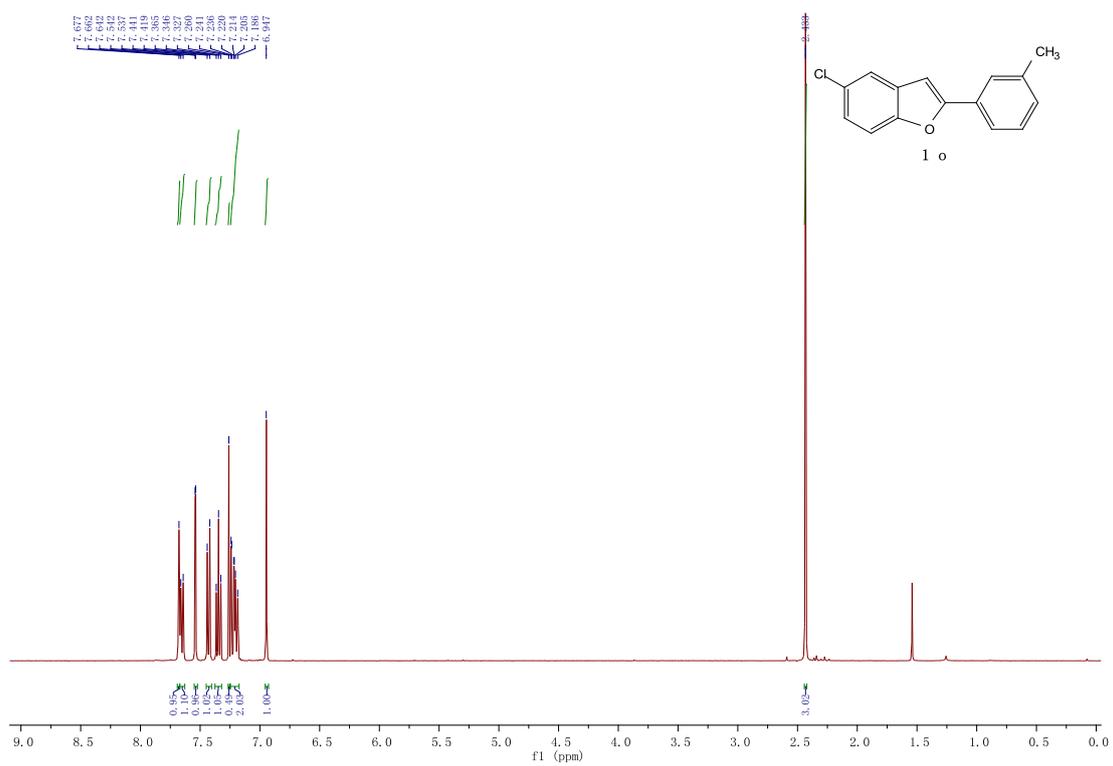
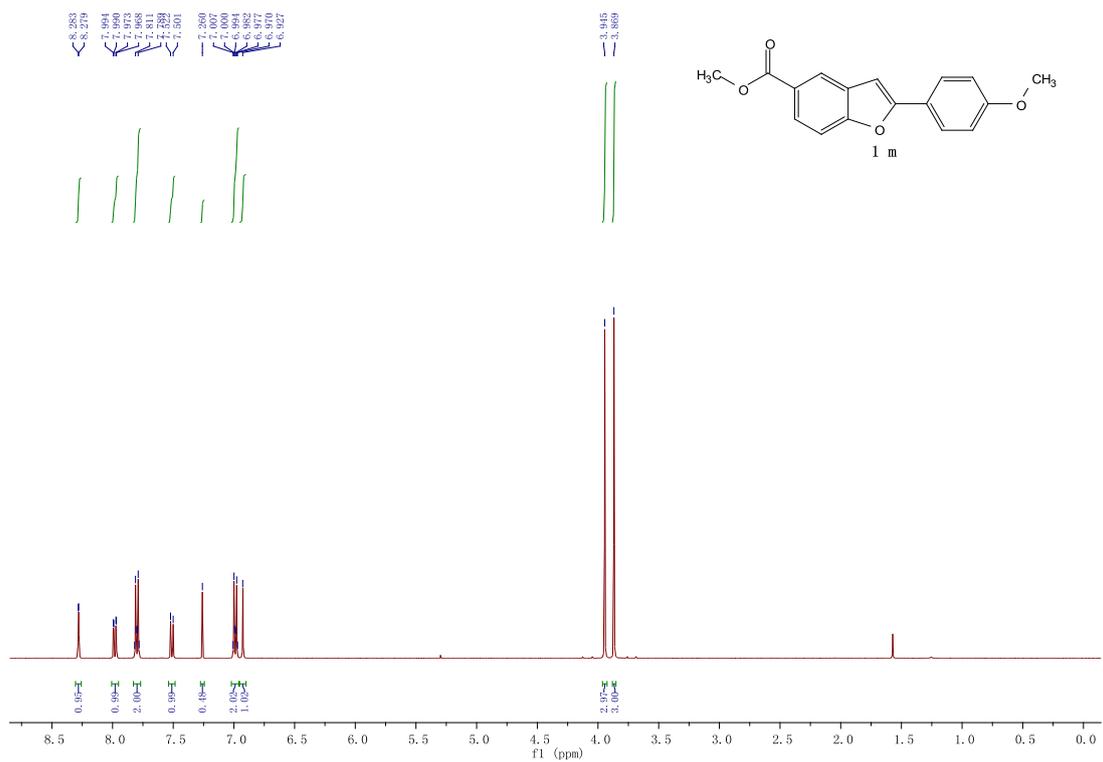
The general procedure was followed to afford the product as white solid in 68% yield (mp: 108~110 °C); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.57 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.70-3.62 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.45 (m, 1H), 1.16 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.54, 158.85 (dd, $J_1 = 9.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.3$ Hz), 133.40 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 128.62, 125.319, 124.48, 122.71 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz), 122.49, 121.35 (t, $J = 26.1$ Hz), 113.73, 111.88, 109.71 (dd, $J_1 = 36.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 18.4$ Hz), 60.27, 55.26, 15.32; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -84.99 (d, $J = 247.41$ Hz), -122.20 (d, $J = 247.78$ Hz); IR: (KBr) ν_{max} 2989, 1612, 1515, 1469, 1225, 1040, 967, 837, 758 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (EI): calcd. for $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{O}_3]$ 306.1068, found 306.1069.

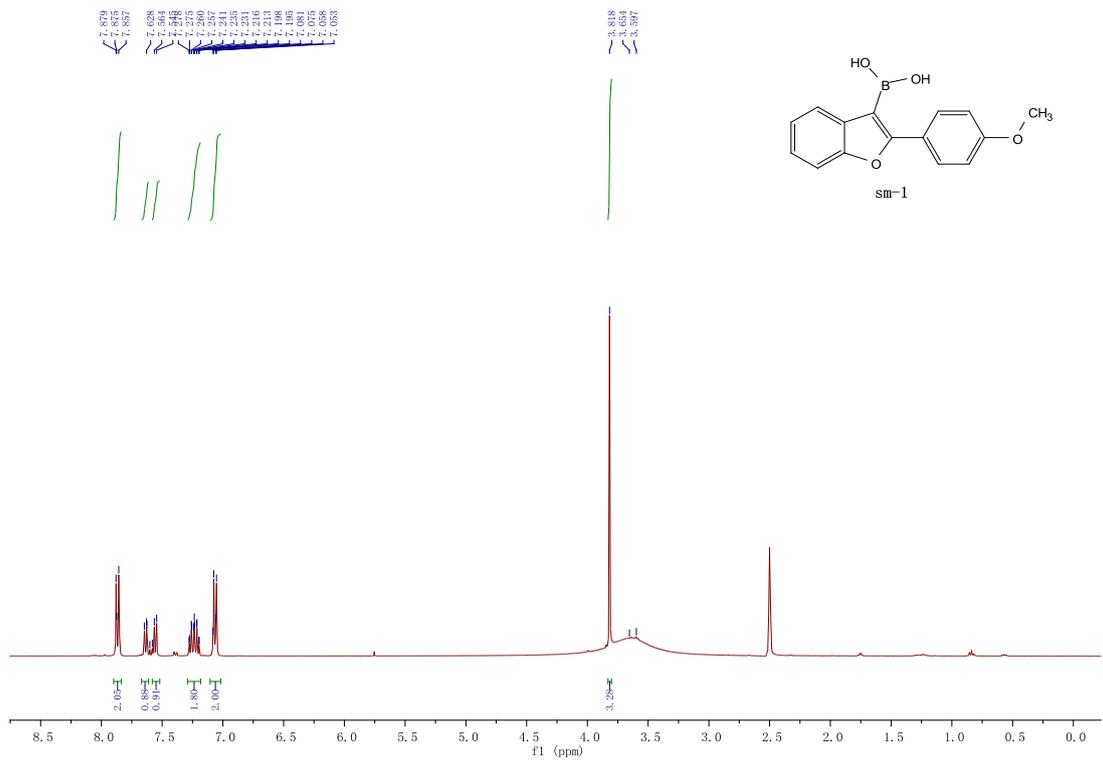
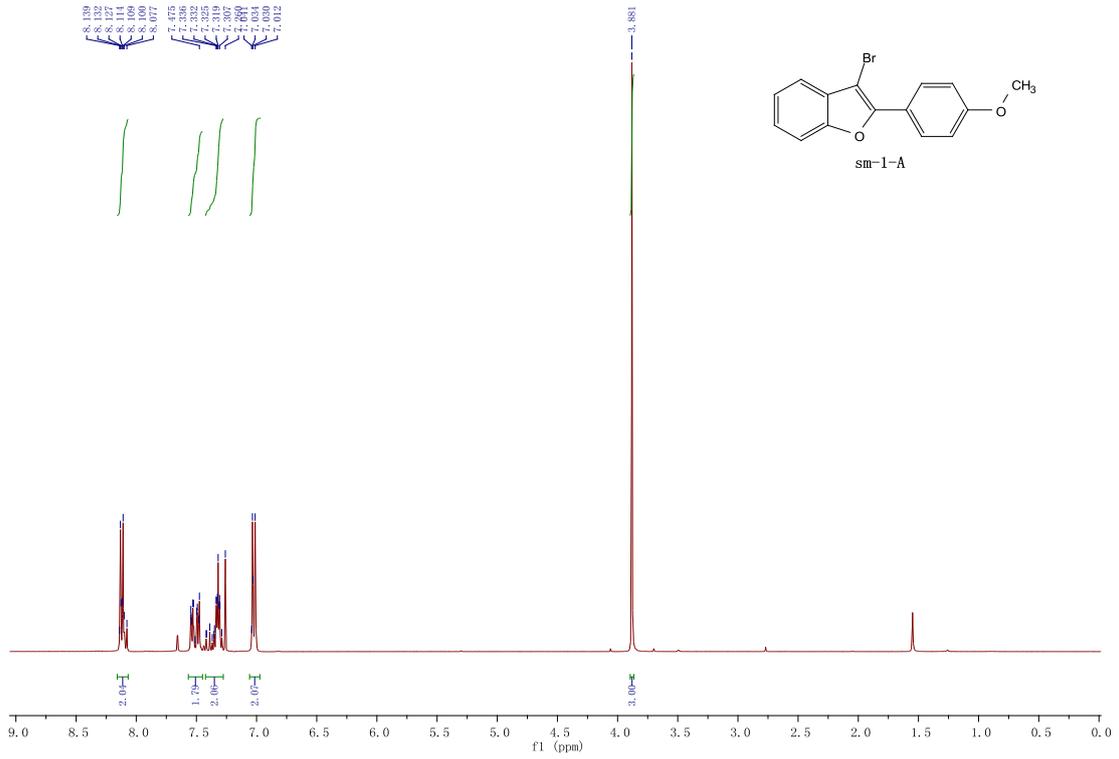
VI. References

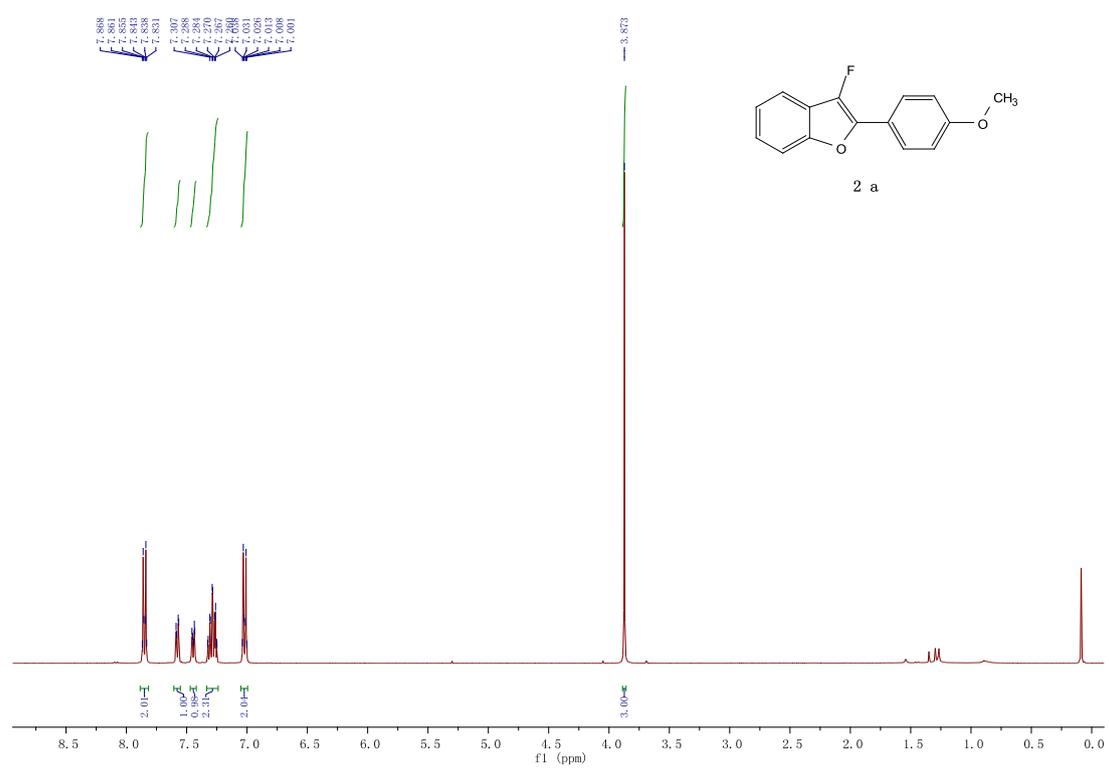
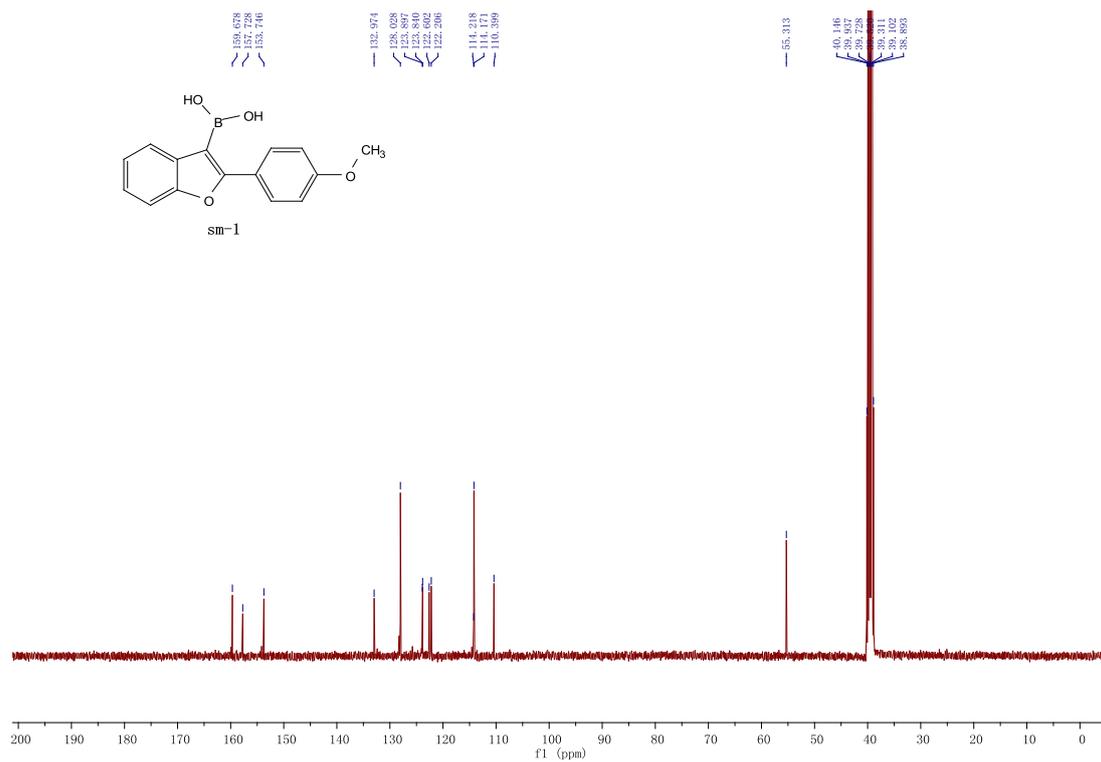
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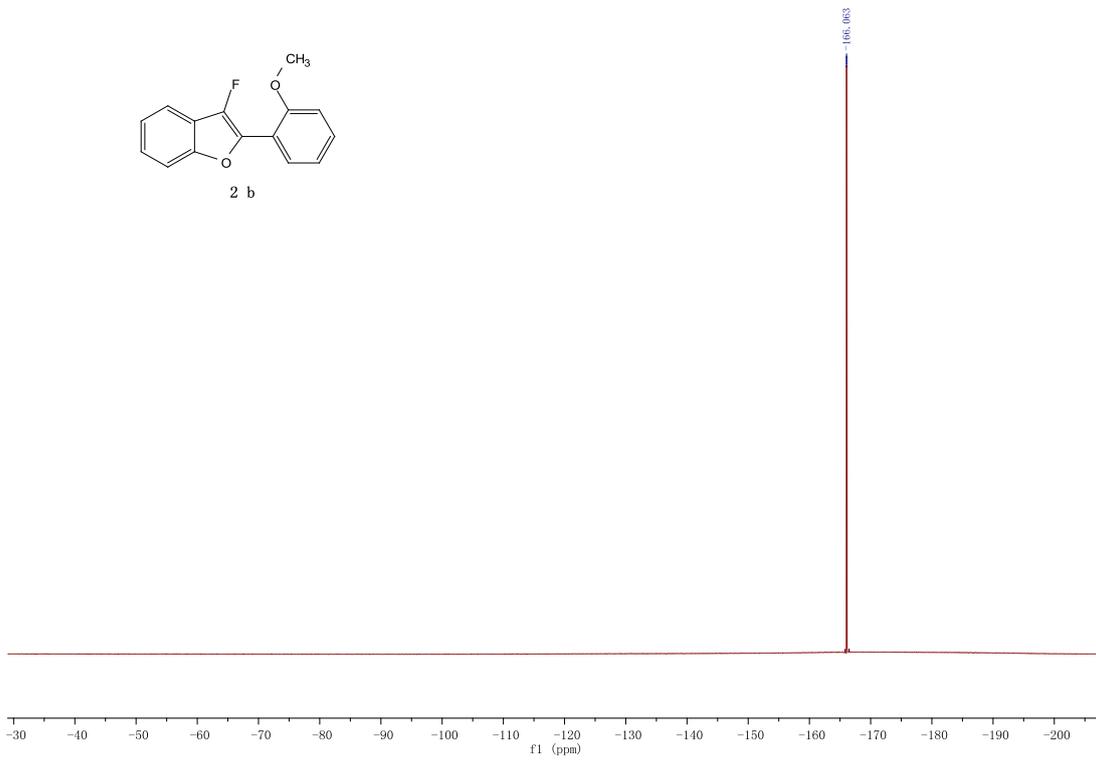
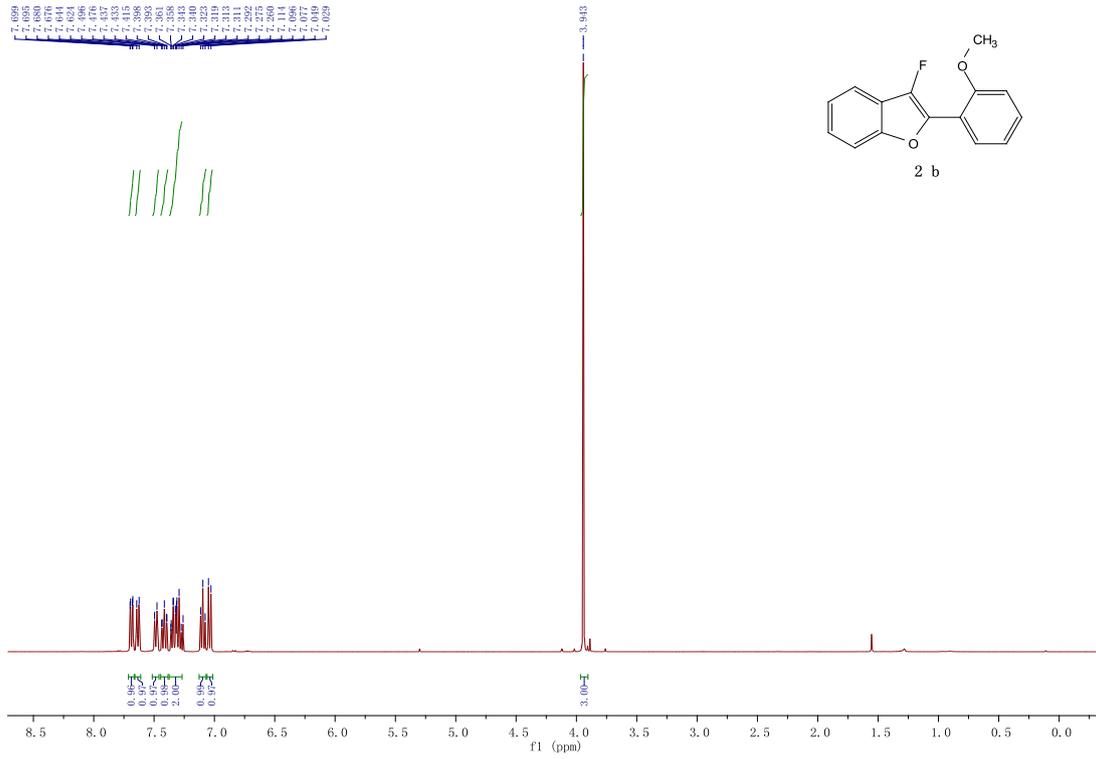


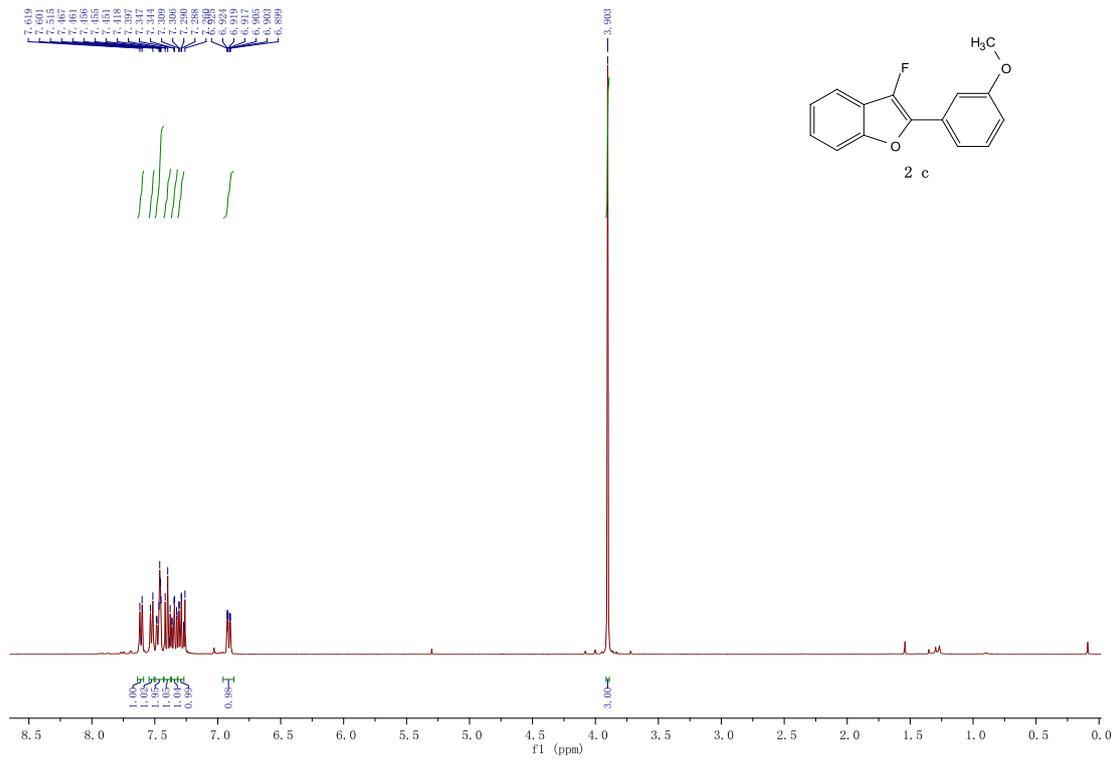
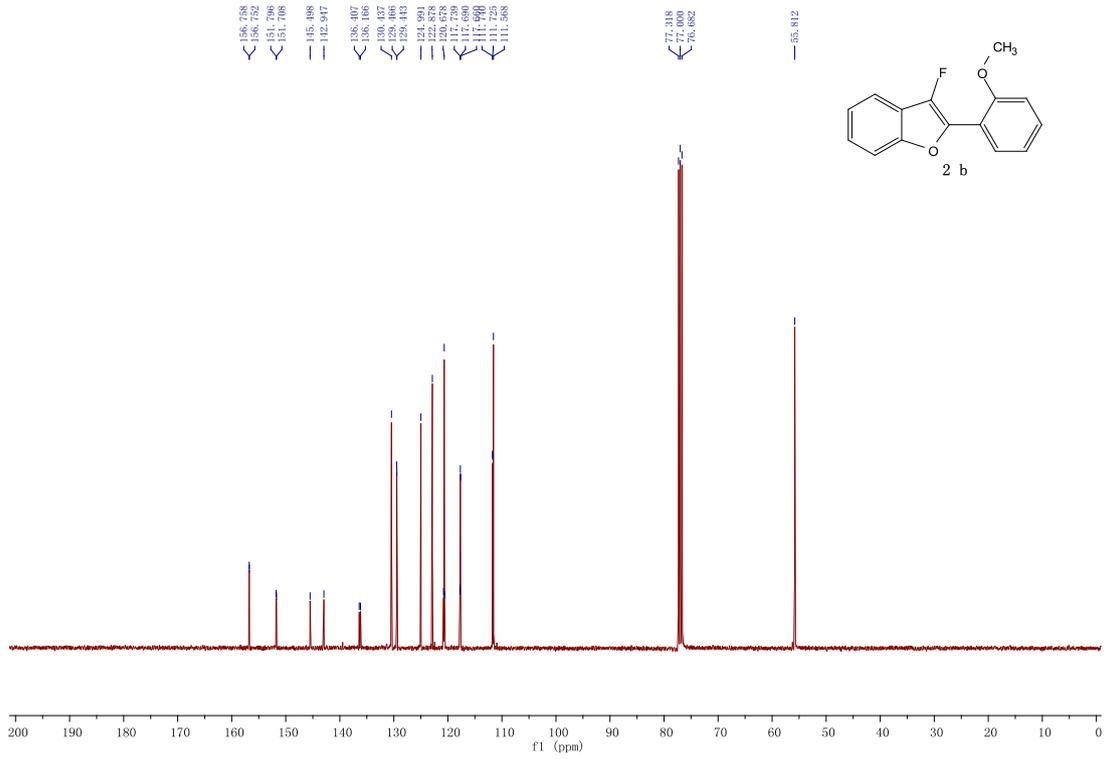


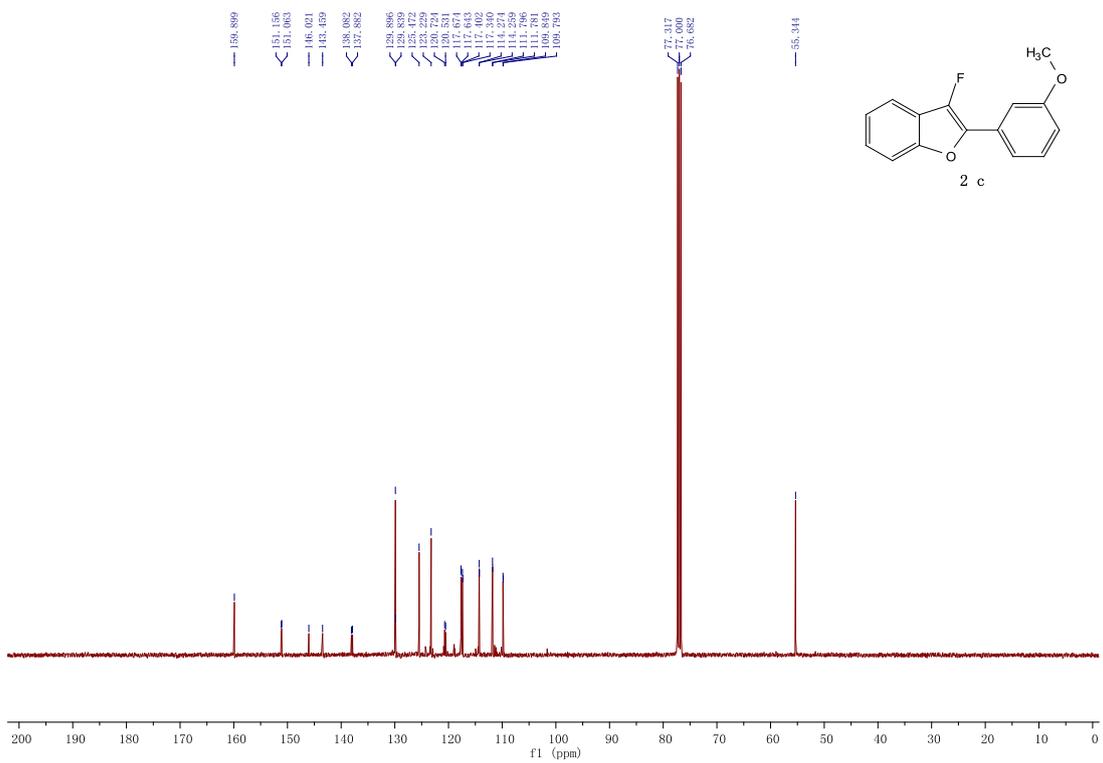
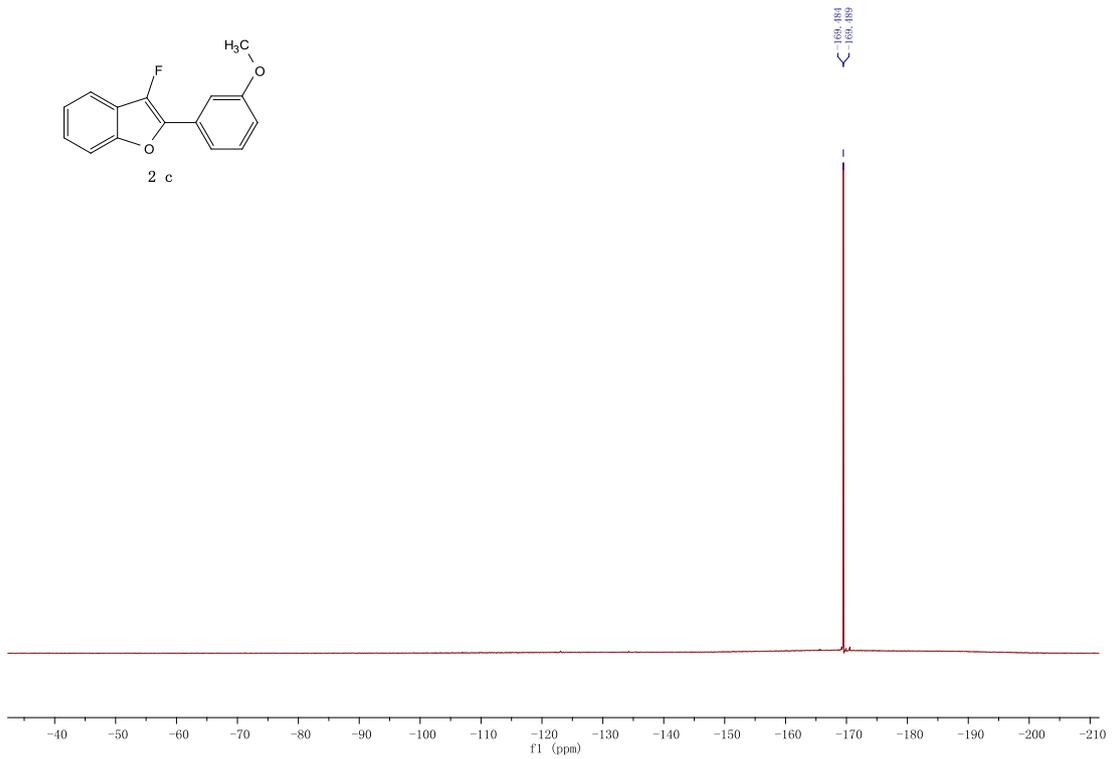


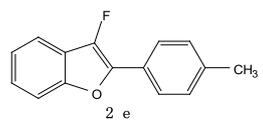
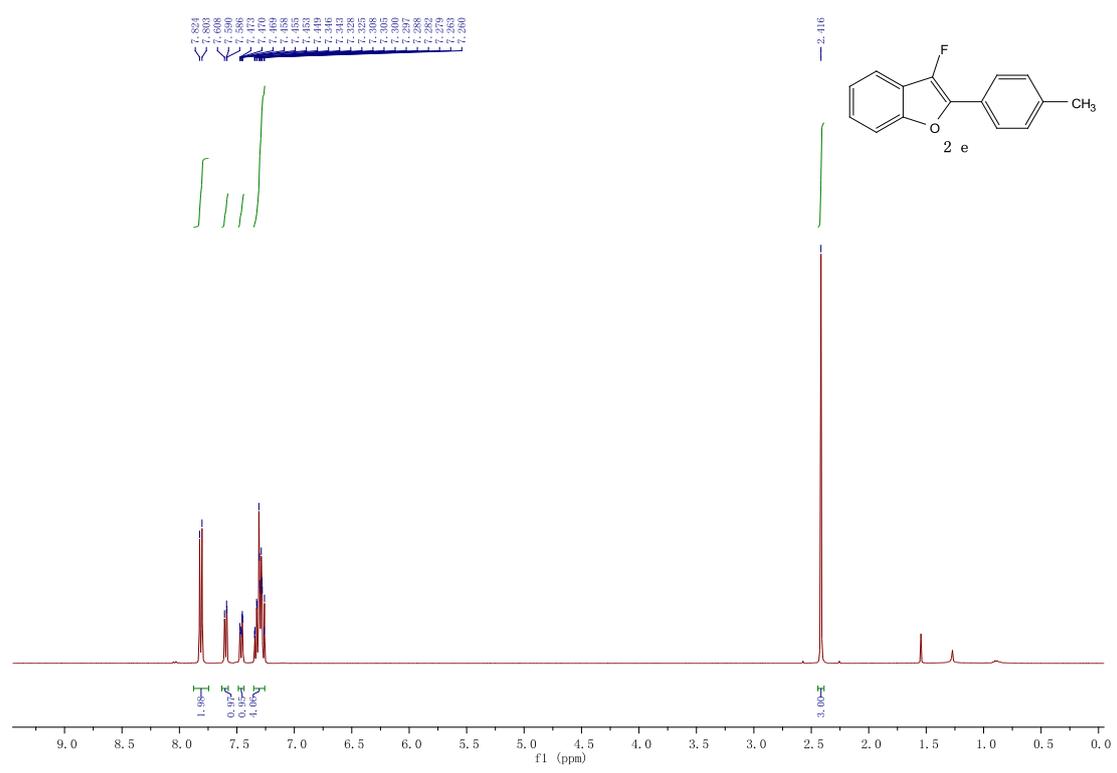
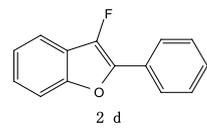
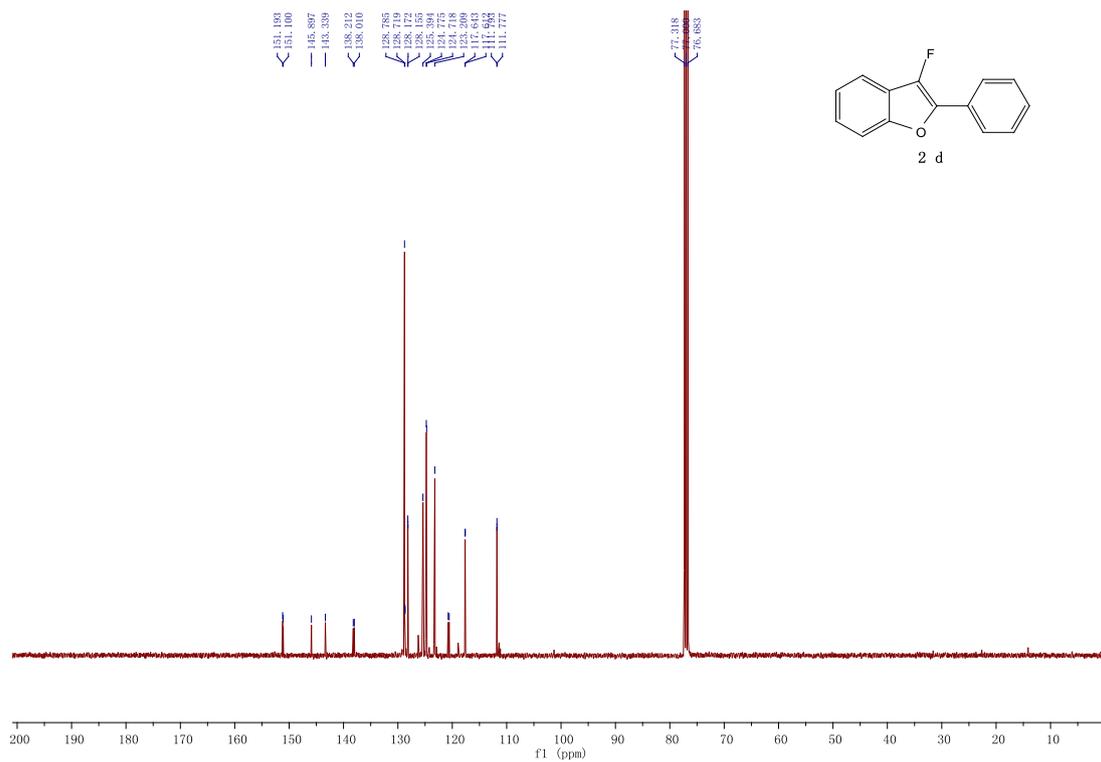


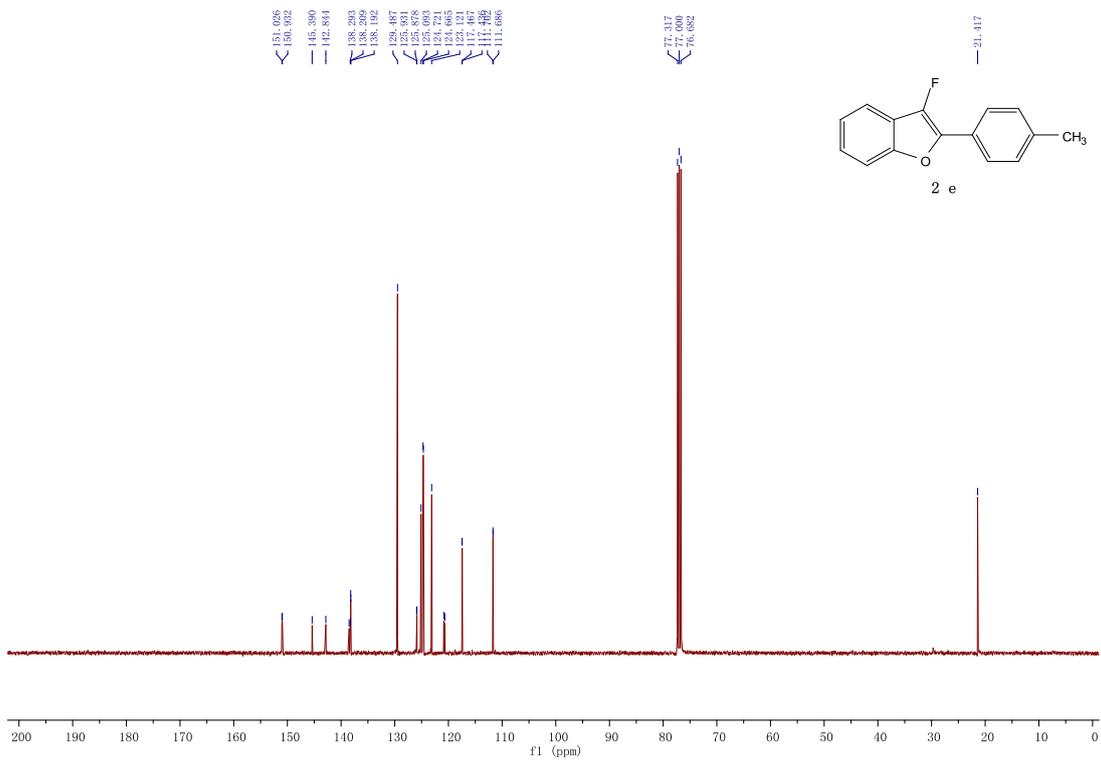
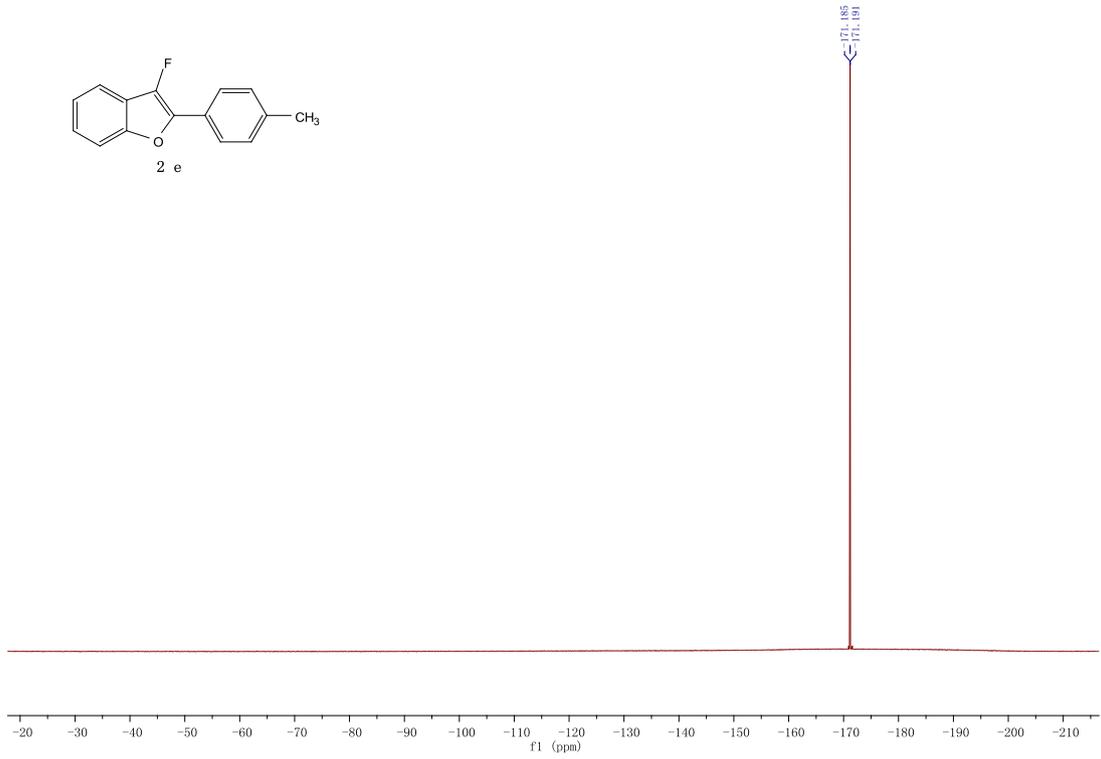


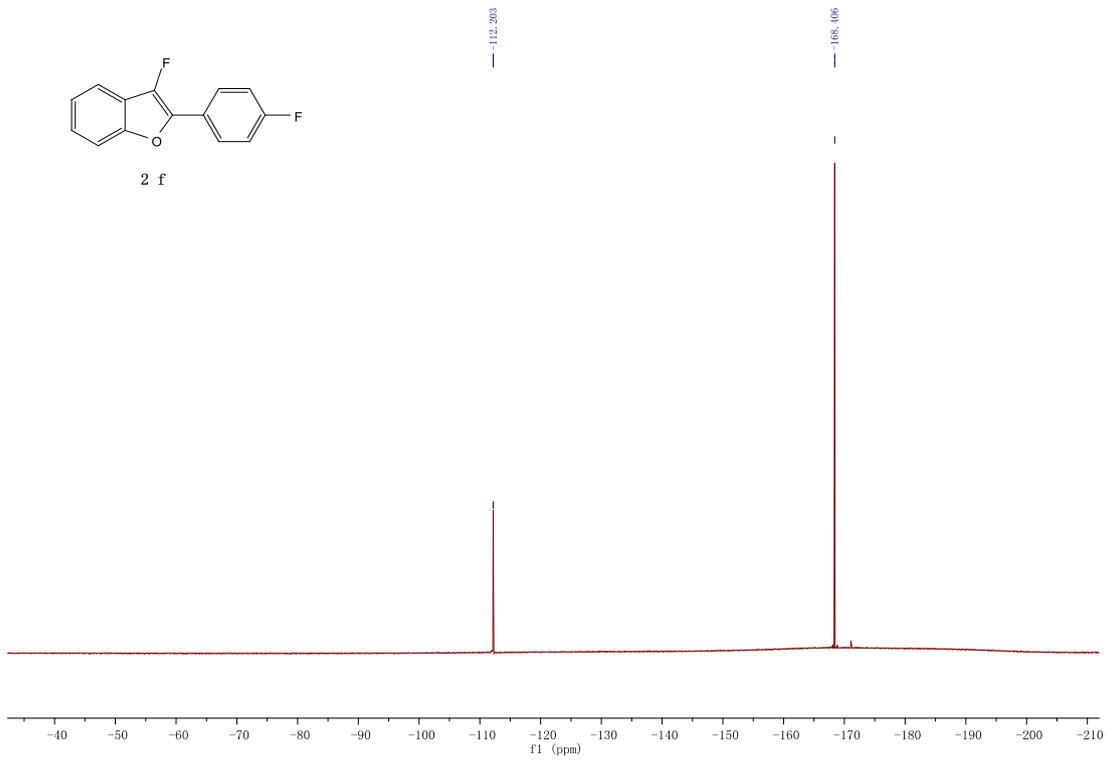
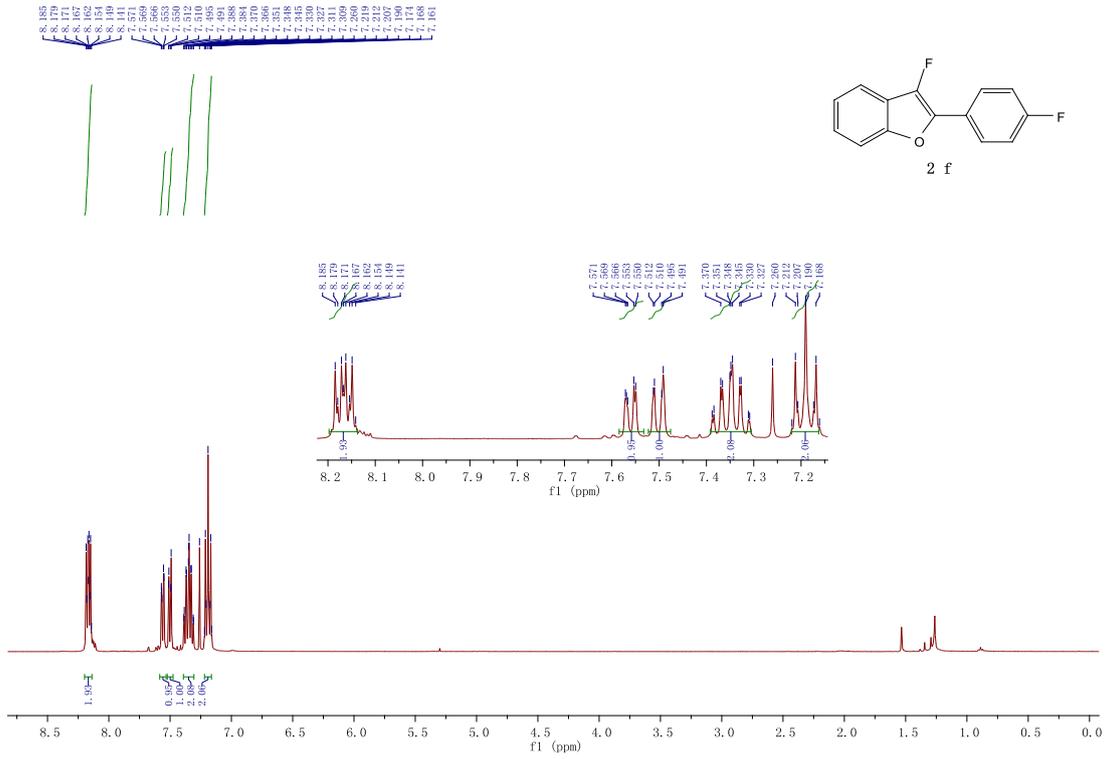


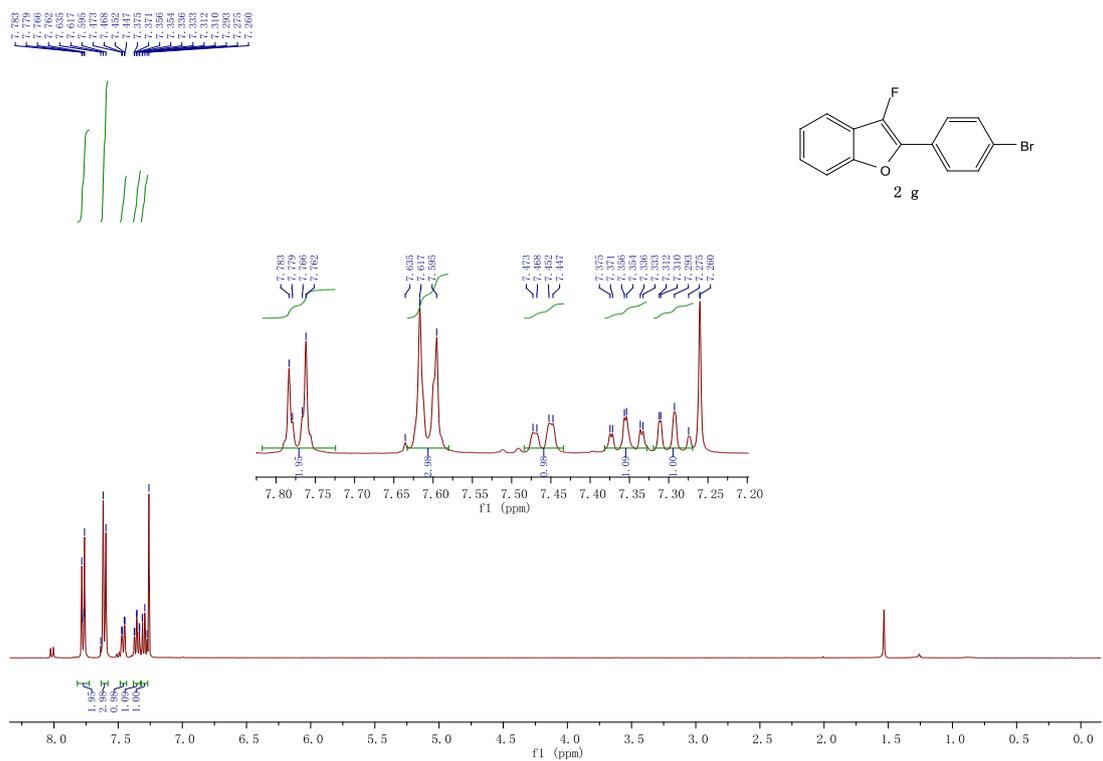
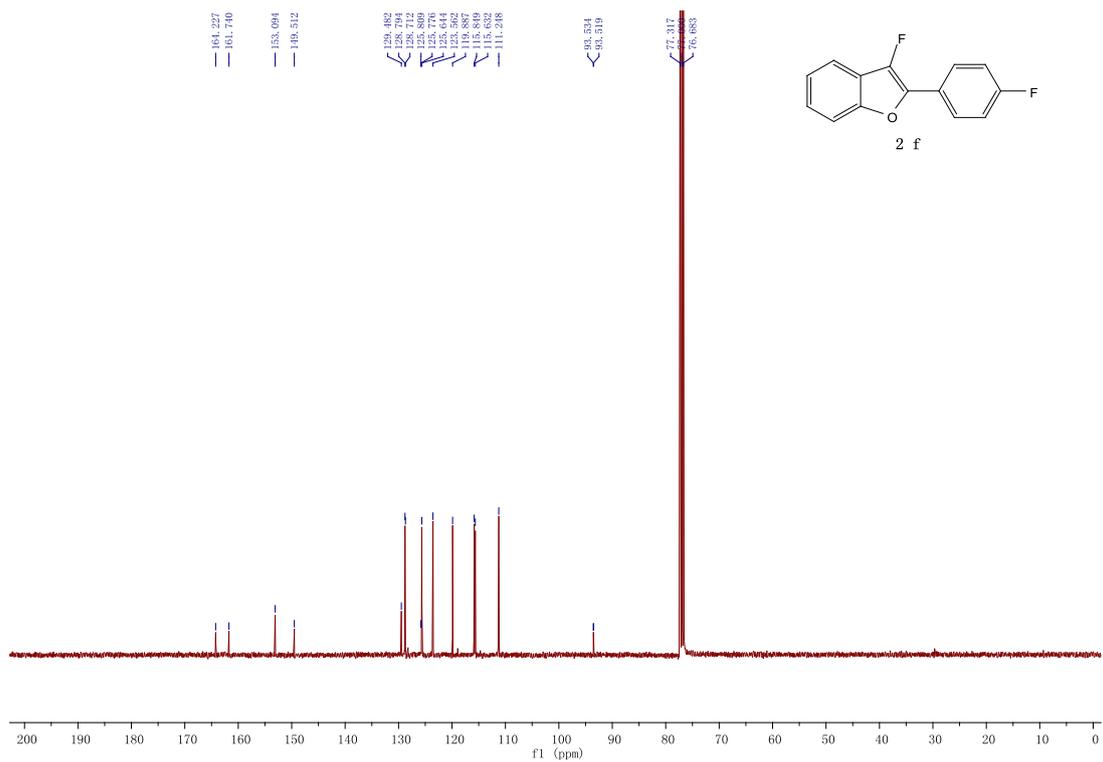


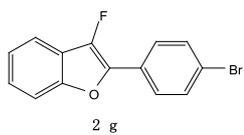




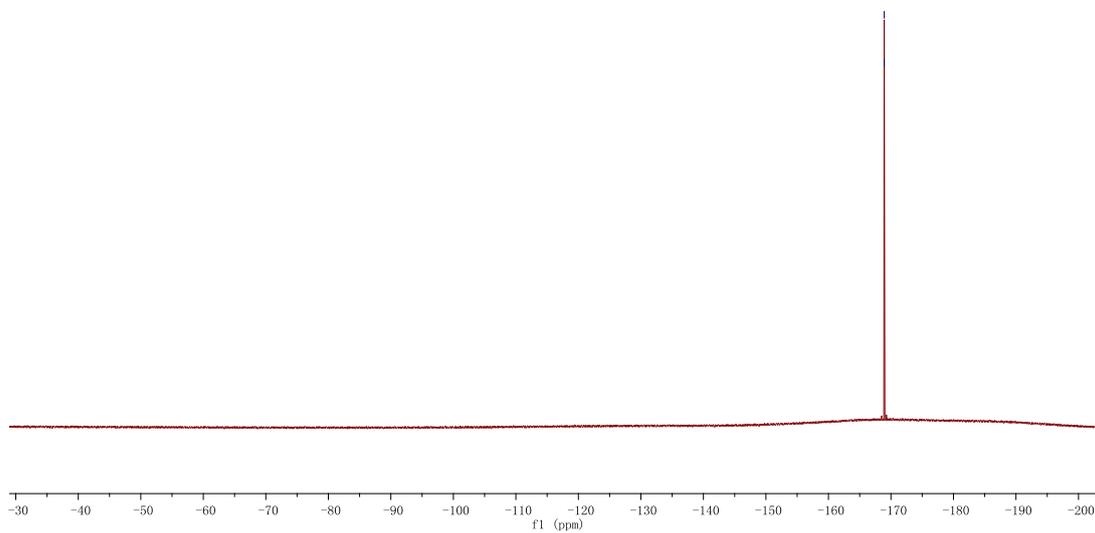




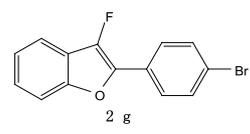




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168.917



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