

**HBr-Catalyzed C-Si Bond Cleavage of Benzylsilanes and Subsequent Oxidation
into Benzoic Acids with Air as Terminal Oxidant**

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Supplementary Information

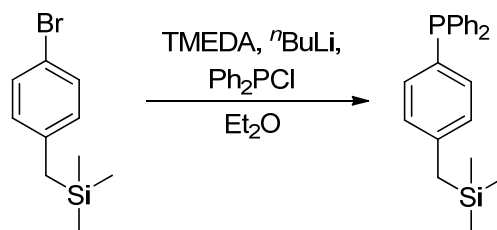
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Experimental Section

General experimental methods

All reactions were carried out using a PLS-SXE300UV reactor with Xe lamp (300 W) as the irradiation source. Melting points were determined on a WRS-2 apparatus. IR spectra were recorded on a Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrometer. ^1H (400 MHz), ^{13}C (100 MHz), ^{19}F (376 MHz), and ^{31}P (162 MHz) NMR spectra of samples in CDCl_3 (unless stated otherwise) were recorded on an AVANCE III 400 spectrometer. MS (EI, 70 eV) determinations were carried out on a HP 5973 spectrometer. HRMS (EI) determinations were carried out on a Water GCT CA176 spectrometer. HRMS (ESI) determinations were carried out on a Bruker Daltonics micrOTOF II spectrometer. Compound **1f** was commercial available. Compounds **1a**,¹ **1b**,² **1c**,³ **1d**,⁴ **1e**,⁵ **1g**,⁶ **1h**,⁷ **1j**,⁸ **1k**,⁹ **1l**,¹⁰ **1m**,¹¹ **1n**,¹² **1q**,⁵ **1r**,⁵ **1s**,⁵ **1t**,⁵ **4**,¹³ and **5**¹⁴ were prepared according to literature procedures.

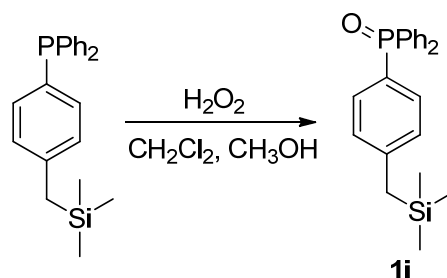
Synthesis of diphenyl(4-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)phenyl)phosphine



A solution of (4-bromobenzyl)trimethylsilane (187 mg, 0.77 mmol) in anhydrous Et₂O (20 mL) was cooled with ice-salt bath. Then TMEDA (0.4 mL, 2.7 mmol) and *n*-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 2.0 mL, 3.2 mmol) were added subsequently. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 hour, then warmed to rt, and stirred for another 1 hour at rt. After which the reaction mixture was cooled with ice-salt bath, and then chlorodiphenylphosphine (0.5 mL, 2.8 mmol) was added dropwise and stirred for 1 hour with ice-salt bath. Then the mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 13 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether) afforded a white solid (192 mg, 72%); mp 84.2-84.8 °C (*n*-hexane); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41-7.28 (m, 10 H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.01 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 2.12 (s, 2 H), 0.03 (s, 9 H); ^{13}C NMR

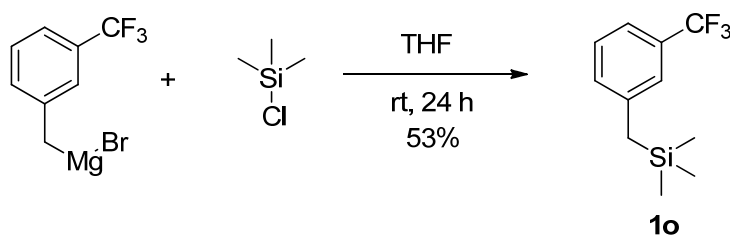
(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8, 137.9 (d, J_{PC} = 10.3 Hz), 133.9 (d, J_{PC} = 19.7 Hz), 133.7 (d, J_{PC} = 19.0 Hz), 131.4 (d, J_{PC} = 8.1 Hz), 128.5 (d, J_{PC} = 5.8 Hz), 128.4, 128.3, 27.2, -1.8; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -6.4 ppm; IR (neat) 1595, 1494, 1476, 1436 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₆PSi 349.1541, found. 349.1532.

Synthesis of diphenyl(4-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)phenyl)phosphine oxide (**1i**)



Diphenyl(4-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)phenyl)phosphine (350 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added to a solution of H₂O₂ (30%) (0.4 mL), methanol (15 mL), and dichloromethane (15 mL). After stirred for 2 hours at rt, it was quenched with saturated Na₂CO₃ solution (10 mL). The resulting mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated to dryness. Purification by silica gel chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate) afforded **1i** as a white solid (300 mg, 82%); mp 152.9-154.4 °C (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70-7.62 (m, 4 H), 7.56-7.42 (m, 8 H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2 H), 2.14 (s, 2 H), -0.02 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.7, 133.0 (d, J_{PC} = 103.6 Hz), 132.1 (d, J_{PC} = 9.5 Hz), 131.8, 128.4 (d, J_{PC} = 11.6 Hz), 128.1 (d, J_{PC} = 12.4 Hz), 127.3 (d, J_{PC} = 108.0 Hz), 27.8, -1.9; ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 29.6 ppm; IR (neat) 1601, 1473, 1433 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₆OPSi 365.1491, found. 365.1482.

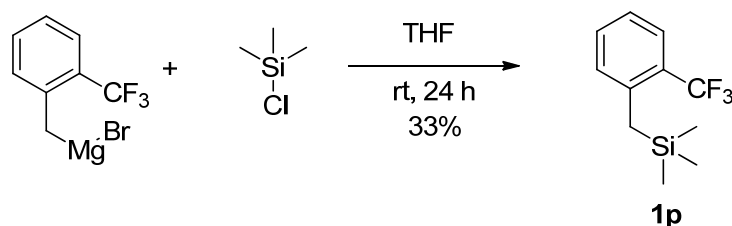
Synthesis of (3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)trimethylsilane (**1o**)



Under argon atmosphere, Mg (121 mg, 5.0 mmol), anhydrous THF (3 mL), chlorotrimethylsilane (691 μ L, 8.0 mmol), and a drop of I₂ were added into a dry 50

mL Schlenk flask. The mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min. Then a solution of 1-(bromomethyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (611 μ L, 4.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (7 mL) was added dropwise. After stirred at rt for 24 hours, the reaction was quenched by water (10 mL) and HCl (aq., 1 M) (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. Filtration, concentration, and purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether) afforded **1o** as a colorless oil (491 mg, 53%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.17 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.15 (s, 2 H), 0.00 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.7 (s), 131.3 (s), 130.5 (q, J = 31.5 Hz), 128.5 (q, J = 2.8 Hz), 124.5 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.4 (q, J = 270.8 Hz), 120.8 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 27.2 (s), -2.12 (s); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.6 ppm; IR (neat) 1593, 1491, 1445, 1424 cm⁻¹; MS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 232 (M⁺ 6.46), 140 (100); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for C₁₁H₁₅F₃Si 232.0895, found. 232.0892.

Synthesis of (2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)trimethylsilane (**1p**)

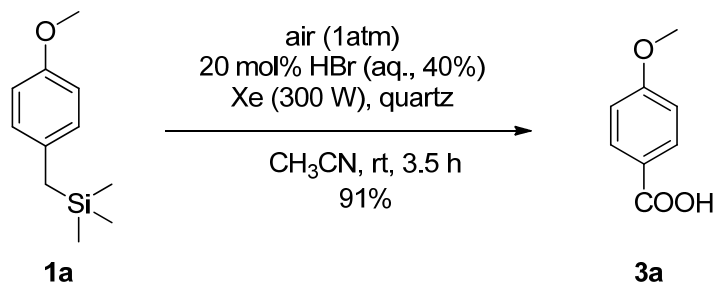


Under argon atmosphere, Mg (125 mg, 5.2 mmol), anhydrous THF (3 mL), chlorotrimethylsilane (700 μ L, 8.1 mmol), and a drop of I₂ were added into a dry 50 mL Schlenk flask. The mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min. Then a solution of 1-(bromomethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (969 mg, 3.9 mmol) in anhydrous THF (6 mL) was added dropwise. After stirred at rt for 24 hours, the reaction was quenched by water (10 mL) and HCl (aq., 1 M) (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL x 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. Filtration, concentration, and purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether) afforded **1p** as a colorless oil (302 mg, 33%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 2 H), 2.39 (s, 2 H), 0.07 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.2 (q, J = 2.2 Hz), 131.2 (q, J = 1.5 Hz), 130.5 (s), 127.3 (q, J = 29.2 Hz), 126.1 (q, J = 5.8 Hz), 124.8 (q, J = 272.1

Hz), 124.0 (s), 23.7 (q, $J = 1.5$ Hz), -1.37 (s); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -60.1 ppm; IR (neat) 1607, 1577, 1491, 1455 cm^{-1} ; MS (EI, 70 eV) m/z 232 (M^+ 1.32), 140 (100); HRMS (EI, 70 eV) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{Si}$ 232.0895, found. 232.0900.

Typical Procedure I for the photoreaction.

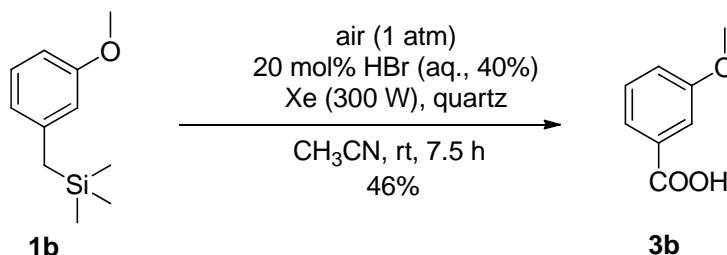
Synthesis of 4-methoxybenzoic acid (**3a**)¹⁵



(4-Methoxybenzyl)trimethylsilane (38 mg, 0.20 mmol), anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL), and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) were added to a dry quartz reaction flask which was equipped with a magnetic stirrer and a condenser. The mixture was irradiated by a Xe lamp (300 W) at rt in the open air. The photoreaction was completed after 3.5 hours as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10:1). The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 3:1 \rightarrow 1:1) to afford **3a** as a solid (27 mg, 91%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H).

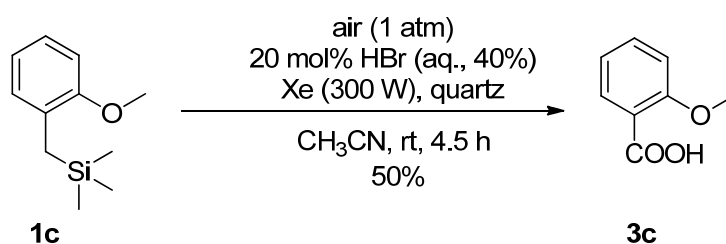
The following compounds were prepared according to typical procedure I.

(1) 3-Methoxybenzoic acid (**3b**)¹⁶



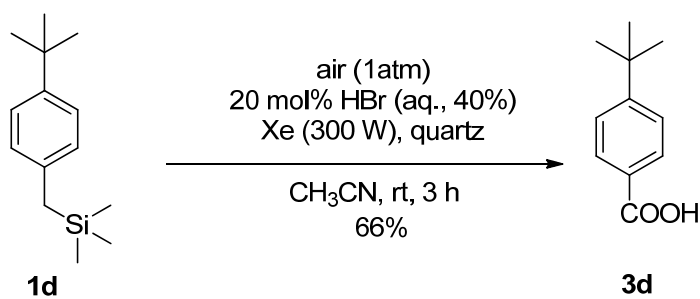
The reaction of **1b** (39 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3b** as a solid (14 mg, 46%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1 H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 1 H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 1 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H).

(2) 2-Methoxybenzoic acid (3c)¹⁷



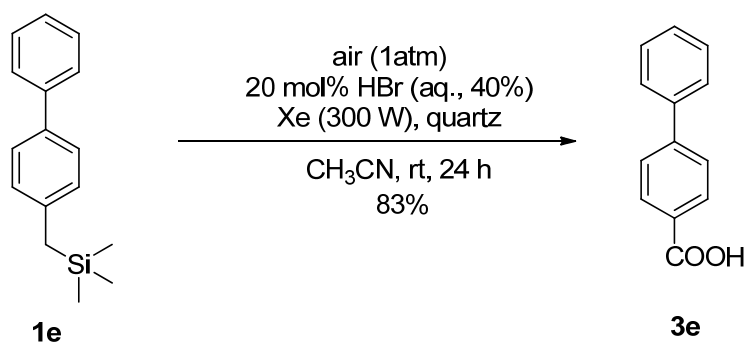
The reaction of **1c** (38 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3c** as a solid (15 mg, 50%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.88 (brs, 1 H), 8.20-8.17 (m, 1 H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 1 H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 2 H), 4.09 (s, 3 H).

(3) 4-Tert-butylbenzoic acid (3d)¹⁸



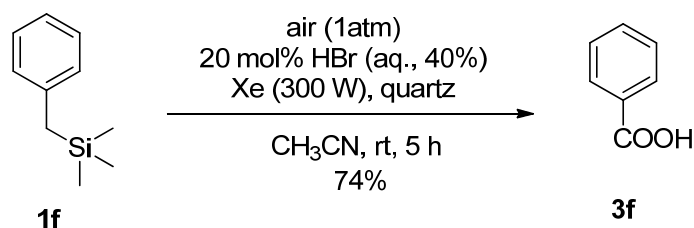
The reaction of **1d** (43 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3d** as a solid (23 mg, 66%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 1.35 (s, 9 H).

(4) 4-Phenylbenzoic acid (3e)¹⁹



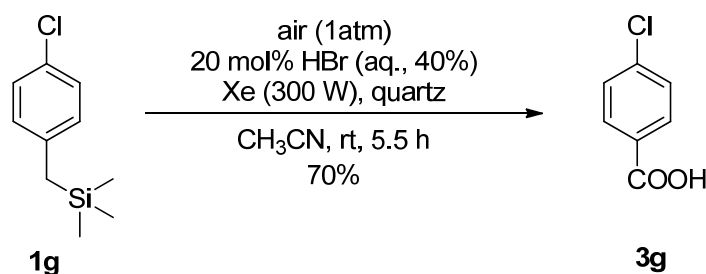
The reaction of **1e** (47 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3e** as a solid (32 mg, 83%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.99 (brs, 1 H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.74 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 2 H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 1 H).

(5) Benzoic acid (**3f**)²⁰



The reaction of **1f** (33 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (18 mg, 74%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.26 (brs, 1 H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 1 H), 7.54-7.30 (m, 2 H).

(6) 4-Chlorobenzoic acid (**3g**)¹⁶



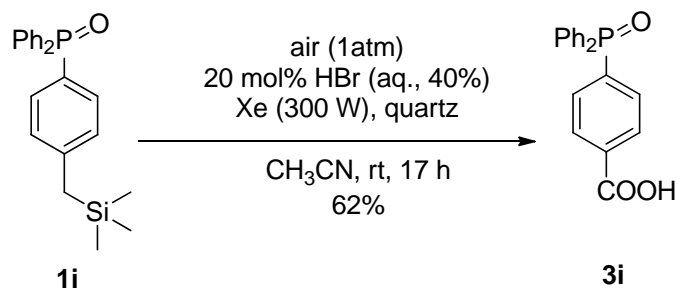
The reaction of **1g** (40 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3g** as a solid (22 mg, 70%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 13.12 (brs, 1 H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H).

(7) 4-Fluorobenzoic acid (**3h**)¹⁵



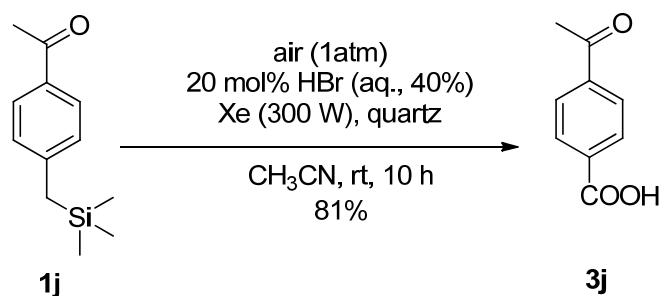
The reaction of **1h** (35 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3h** as a solid (22 mg, 82%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19-8.10 (m, 2 H), 7.20-7.09 (m, 2 H).

(8) 4-(Diphenylphosphoryl)benzoic acid (**3i**)²¹



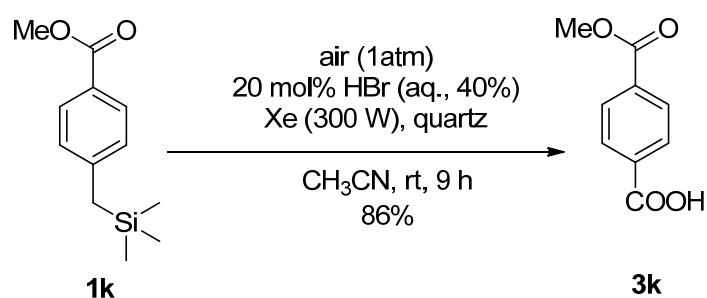
The reaction of **1i** (71 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3i** as a solid (39 mg, 62%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.11-8.05 (m, 2 H), 7.78-7.69 (m, 2 H), 7.68-7.52 (m, 10 H).

(9) 4-Acetylbenzoic acid (3j)²²



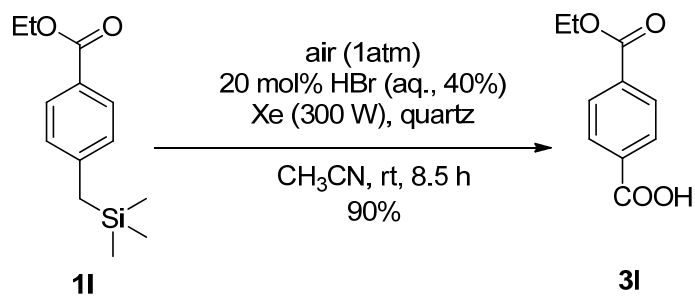
The reaction of **1j** (39 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3j** as a solid (25 mg, 81%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 13.33 (brs, 1 H), 8.06 (s, 4 H), 2.63 (s, 3 H).

(10) 4-(Methoxycarbonyl)benzoic acid (3k)²³



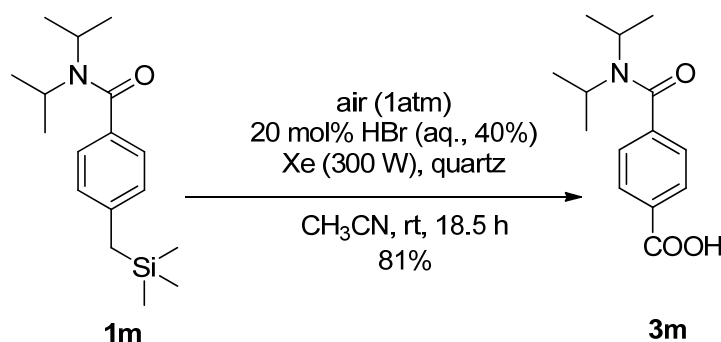
The reaction of **1k** (43 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μ L, 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3k** as a solid (30 mg, 86%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.05 (s, 4 H), 3.88 (s, 3 H).

(11) 4-(Ethoxycarbonyl)benzoic acid (3l)²⁴



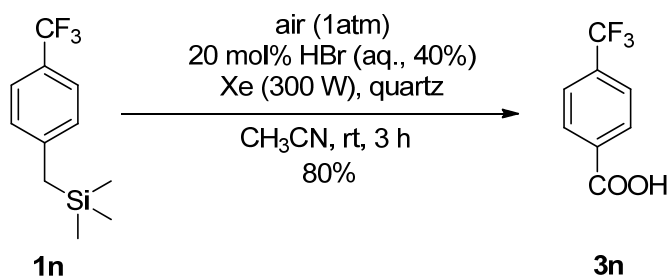
The reaction of **1l** (46 mg, 0.19 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3l** as a solid (34 mg, 90%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.22-8.12 (m, 4 H), 4.42 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 1.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H).

(12) 4-(Diisopropylcarbamoyl)benzoic acid (3m)



The reaction of **1m** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3m** as a solid (40 mg, 81%); mp 251.1-252.9 $^\circ\text{C}$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.53 (brs, 1 H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 3.75 (brs, 1 H), 3.56 (brs, 1 H), 1.56 (brs, 6 H), 1.15 (brs, 6 H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.5, 170.2, 143.4, 130.5, 129.8, 125.7, 50.7, 45.8, 20.6; IR (neat) 1705, 1632, 1473, 1439 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ 250.1443, found. 250.1433.

(13) 4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid (3n)²³



The reaction of **1n** (46 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in

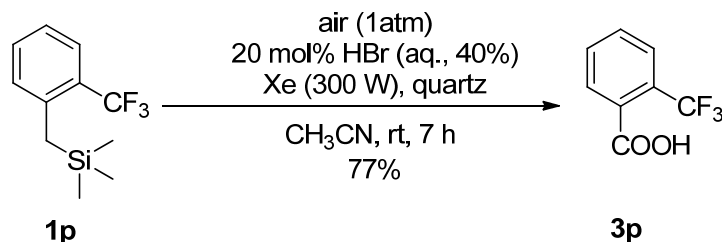
anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3n** as a solid (30 mg, 80%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H).

(14) 3-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid (3o)²³



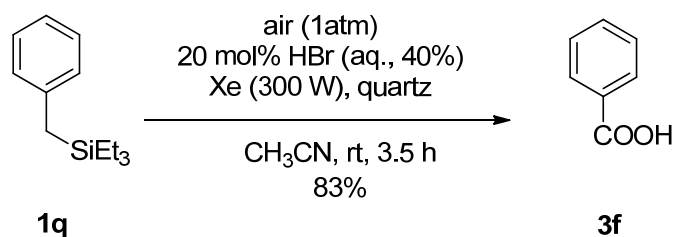
The reaction of **1o** (46 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3o** as a solid (28 mg, 74%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.40 (s, 1 H), 8.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.89 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.81-7.50 (m, 1 H).

(15) 2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid (3p)²³



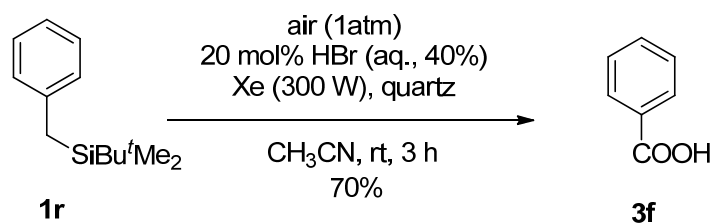
The reaction of **1p** (46 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3p** as a solid (29 mg, 77%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 13.58 (brs, 1 H), 7.85-7.69 (m, 4 H).

(16) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from **1q**



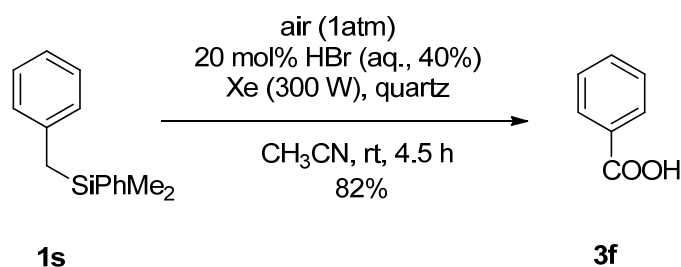
The reaction of **1q** (41 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (20 mg, 83%).

(17) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from **1r**



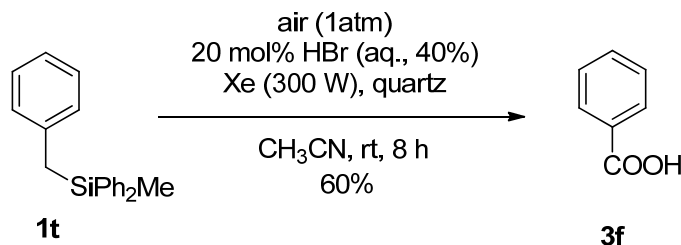
The reaction of **1r** (41 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (17 mg, 70%).

(18) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from 1s



The reaction of **1s** (45 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (20 mg, 82%).

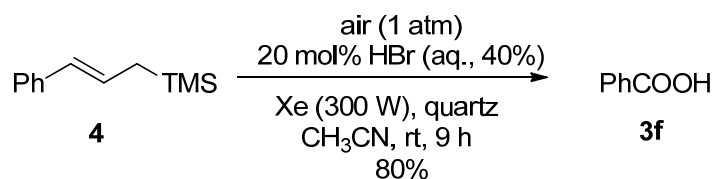
(19) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from 1t



The reaction of **1t** (59 mg, 0.20 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (15 mg, 60%).

(20) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from 4

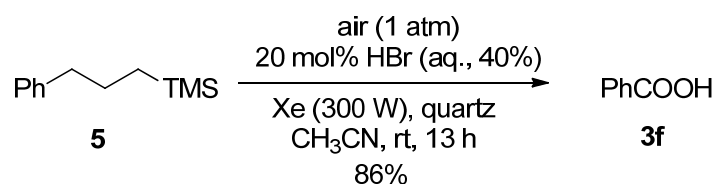
The reaction of **4** (39 mg, 0.21 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (20 mg, 80%).



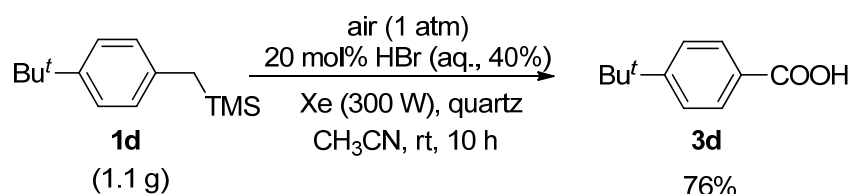
(21) Synthesis of benzoic acid (3f)²⁰ from 5

The reaction of **5** (42 mg, 0.22 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL , 0.04 mmol) in

anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) afforded **3f** as a solid (23 mg, 86%).

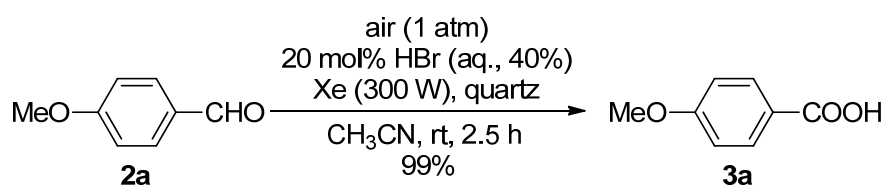


Gram-scale synthesis of **3d**



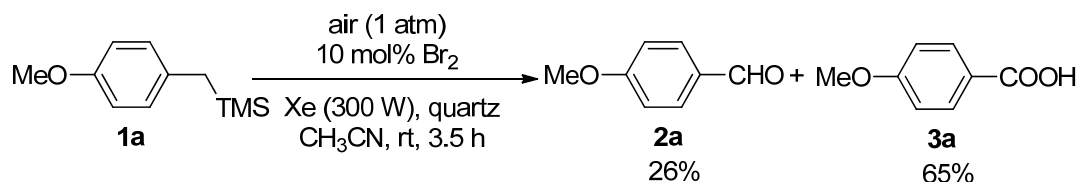
The reaction of **1d** (1.10 g, 5.0 mmol) and HBr (aq., 40%) (148 μL, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous acetonitrile (60 mL) afforded **3d** as a solid (677 mg, 76%).

The conversion of **2a** to **3a** under Conditions A



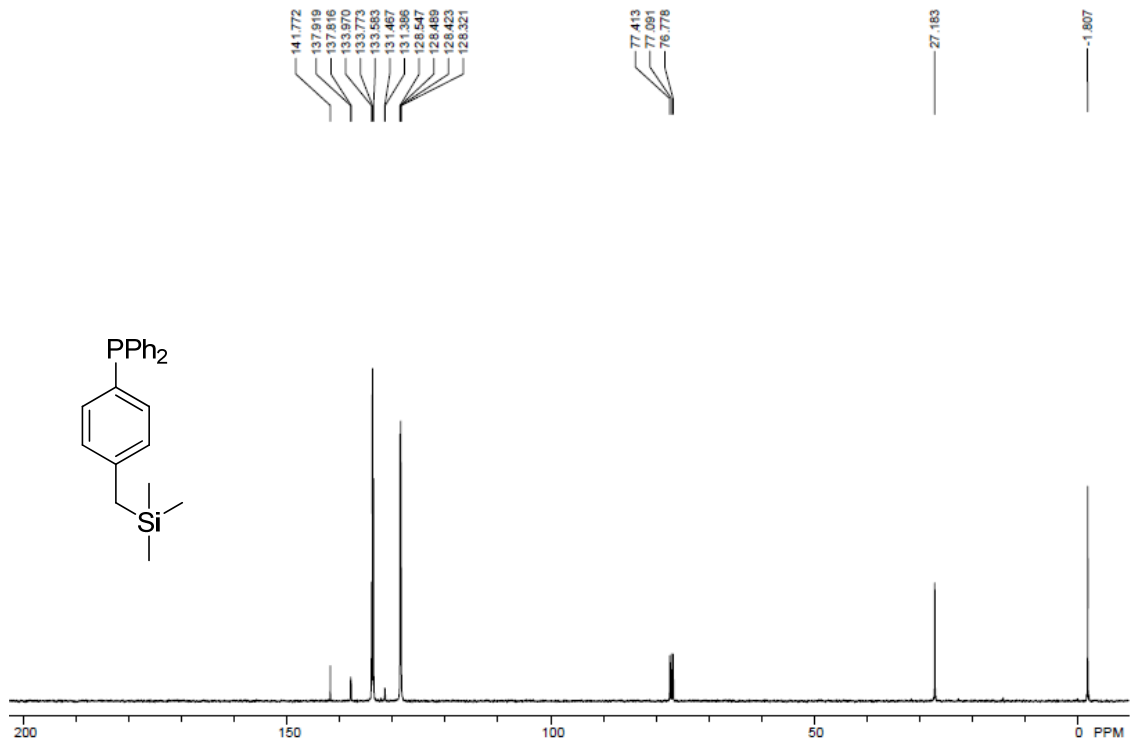
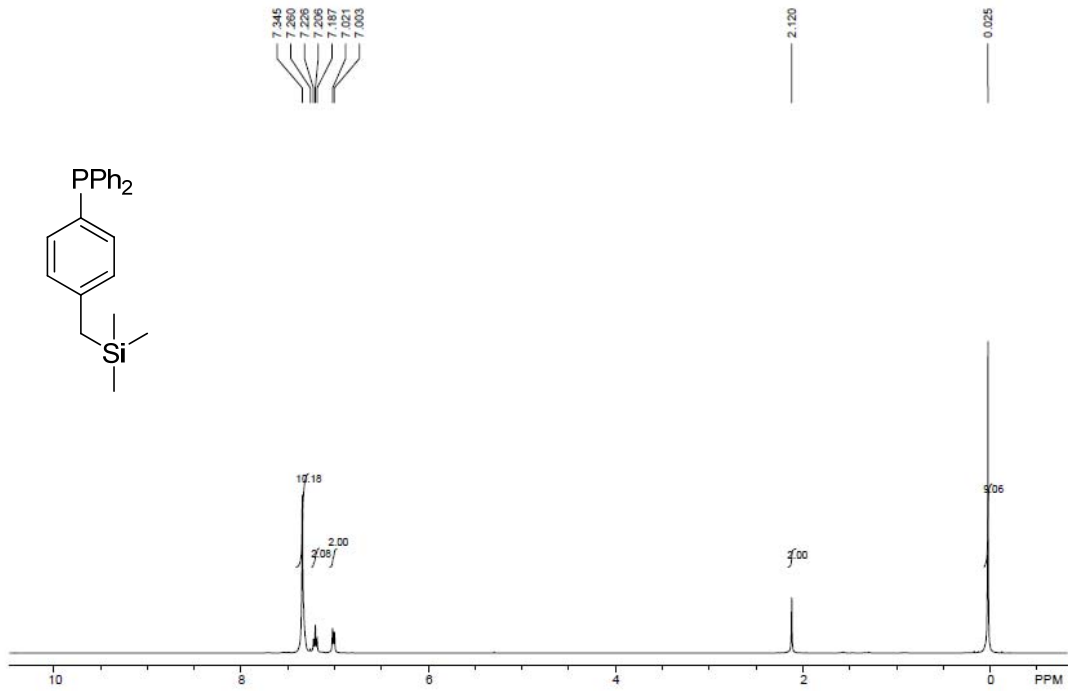
2a (29 mg, 0.21 mmol), anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL), and HBr (aq., 40%) (5.9 μL, 0.04 mmol) were added to a dry quartz reaction flask which was equipped with a magnetic stirrer and a condenser. The mixture was irradiated by a Xe lamp (300 W) at rt in the open air. The photoreaction was completed after 2.5 hours as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10:1). The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 3:1) to afford **3a** as a solid (32 mg, 99%).

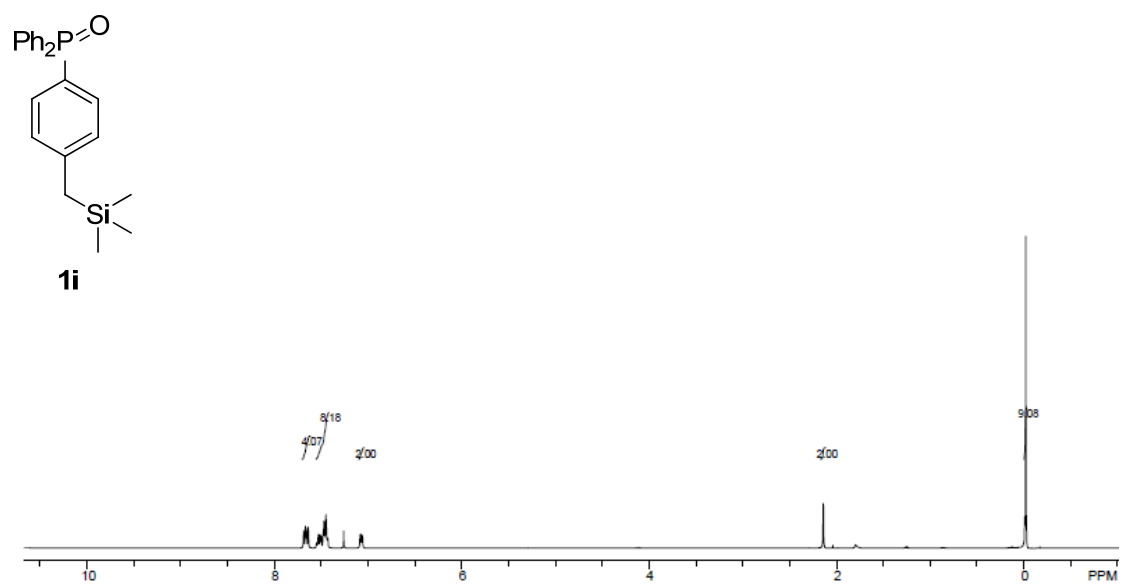
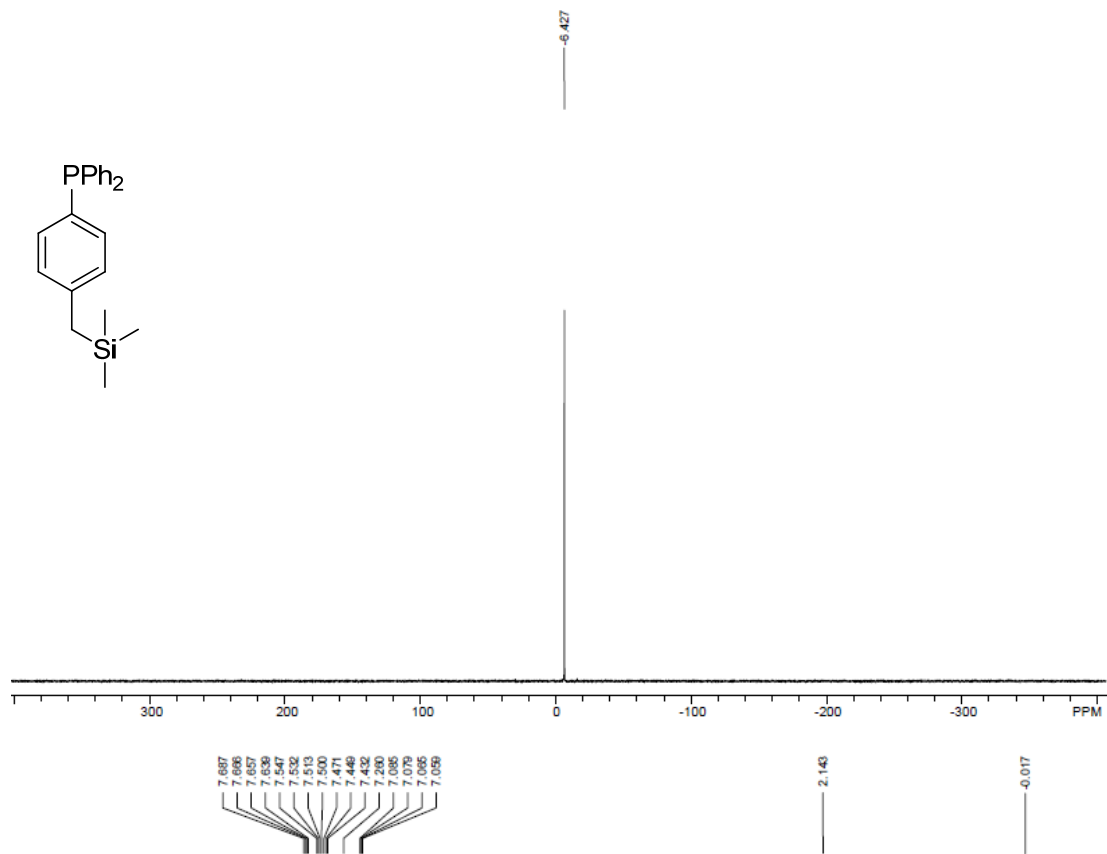
The photooxidation of **1a** under the catalysis of Br₂

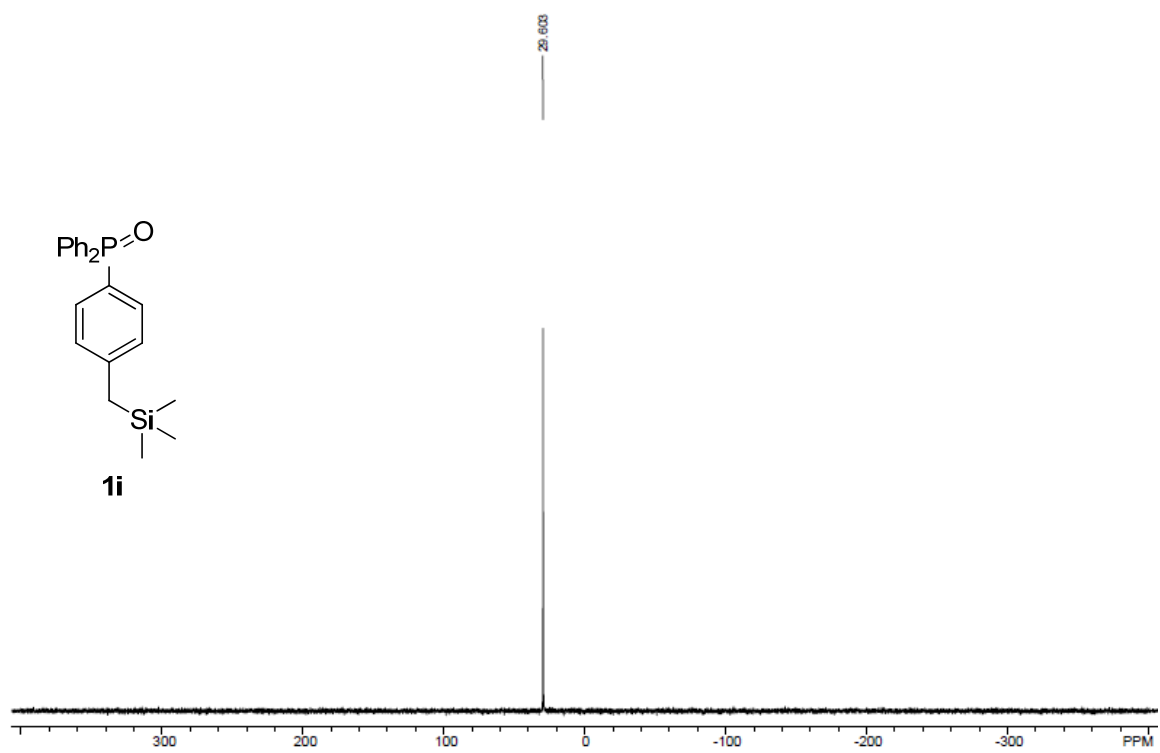
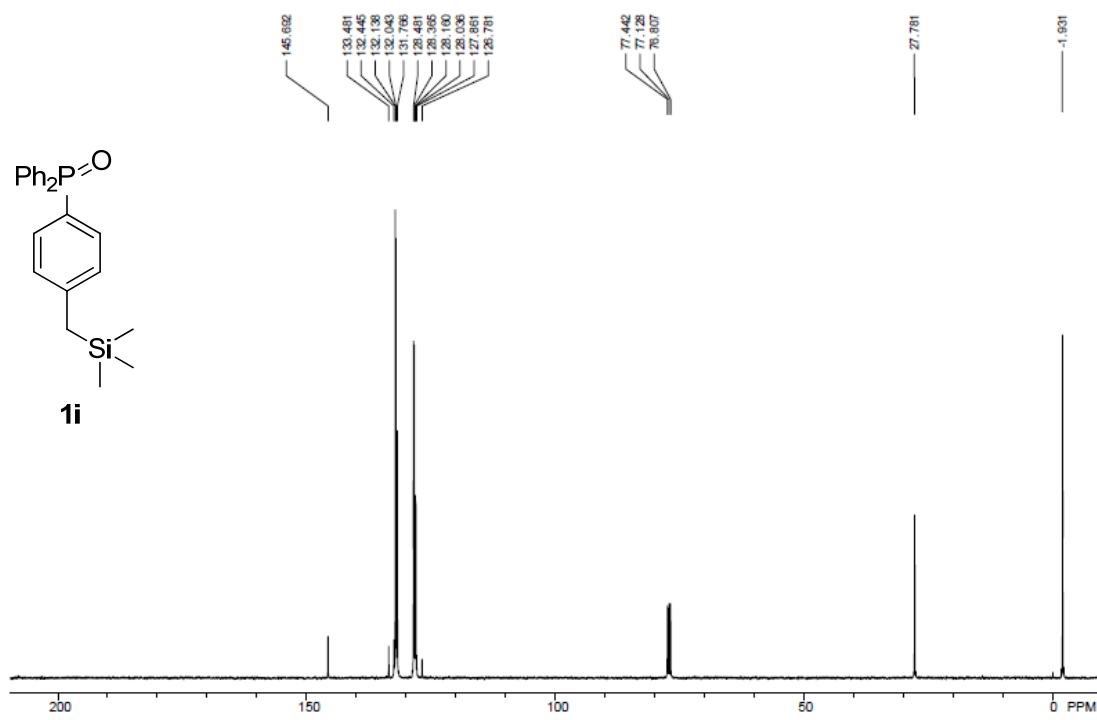


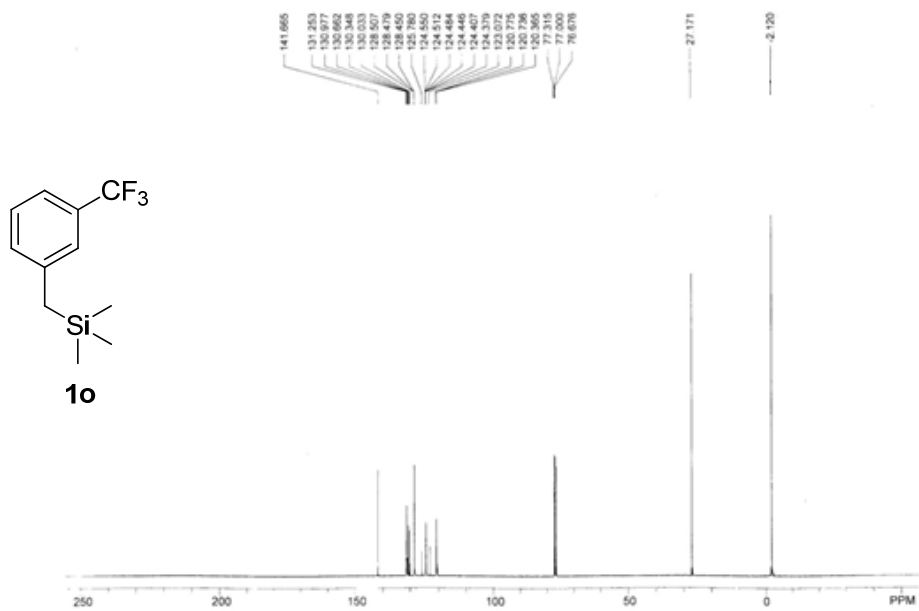
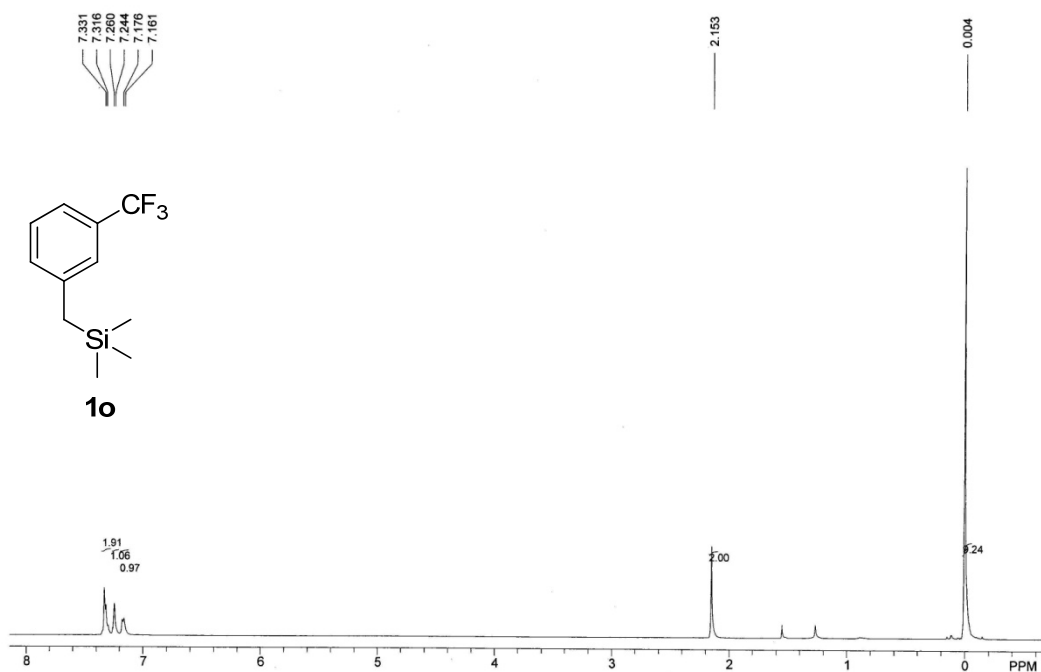
1a (39 mg, 0.20 mmol), anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL), and Br₂ (6.4 mg/mL in CH₃CN) (0.5 mL, 0.02 mmol) were added to a dry quartz reaction flask which was equipped with a magnetic stirrer and a condenser. The mixture was irradiated by a Xe

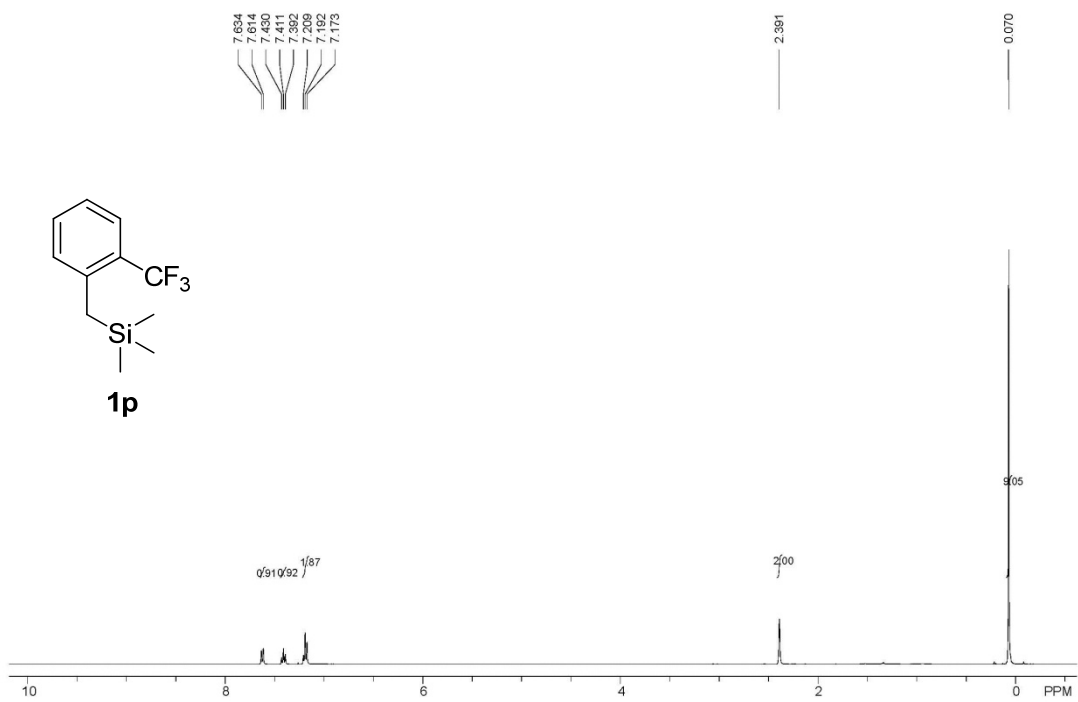
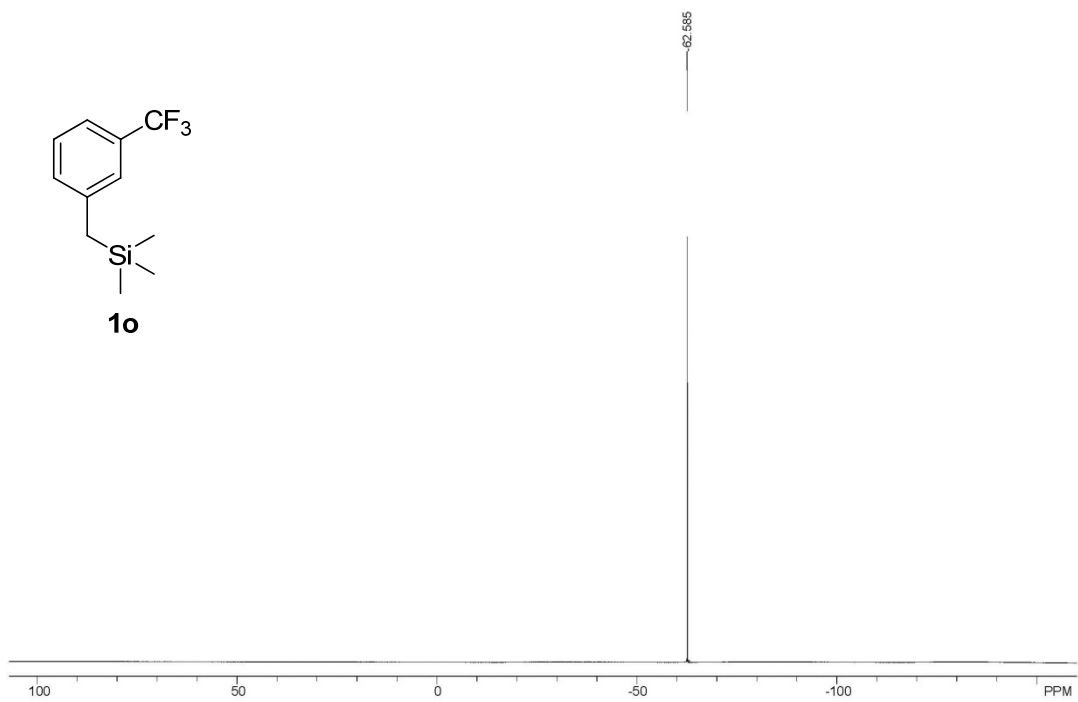
lamp (300 W) at rt in the open air. The photoreaction was completed after 3.5 hours as monitored by TLC (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 10:1). The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 3:1→ethyl acetate) to afford **2a** (7 mg, 26%) and **3a** (20 mg, 65%).

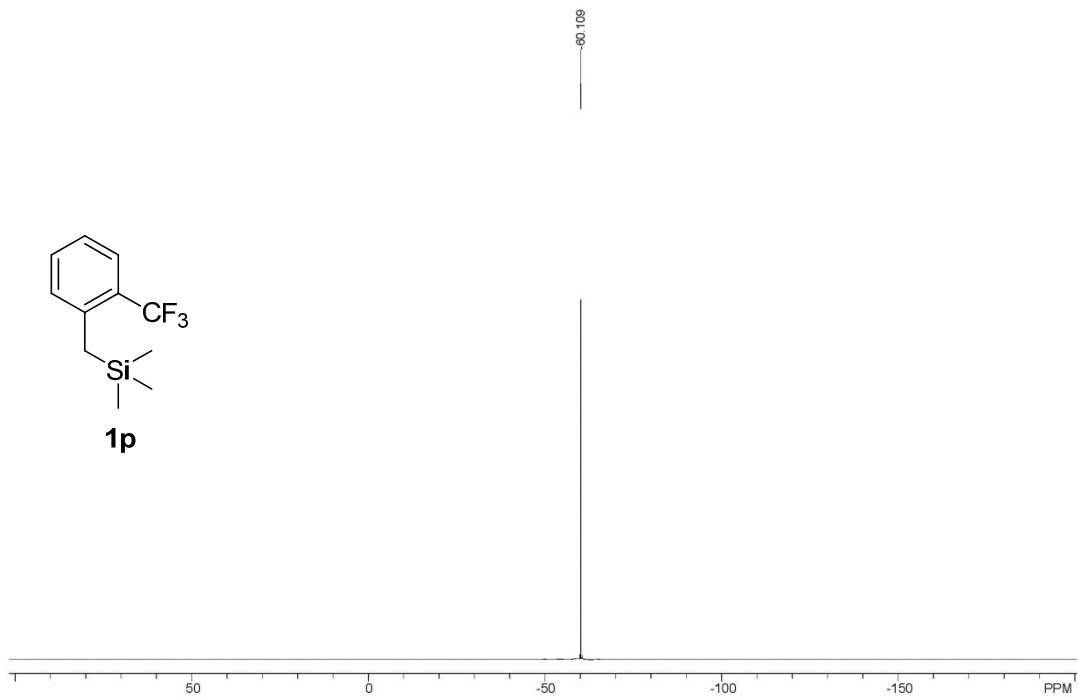
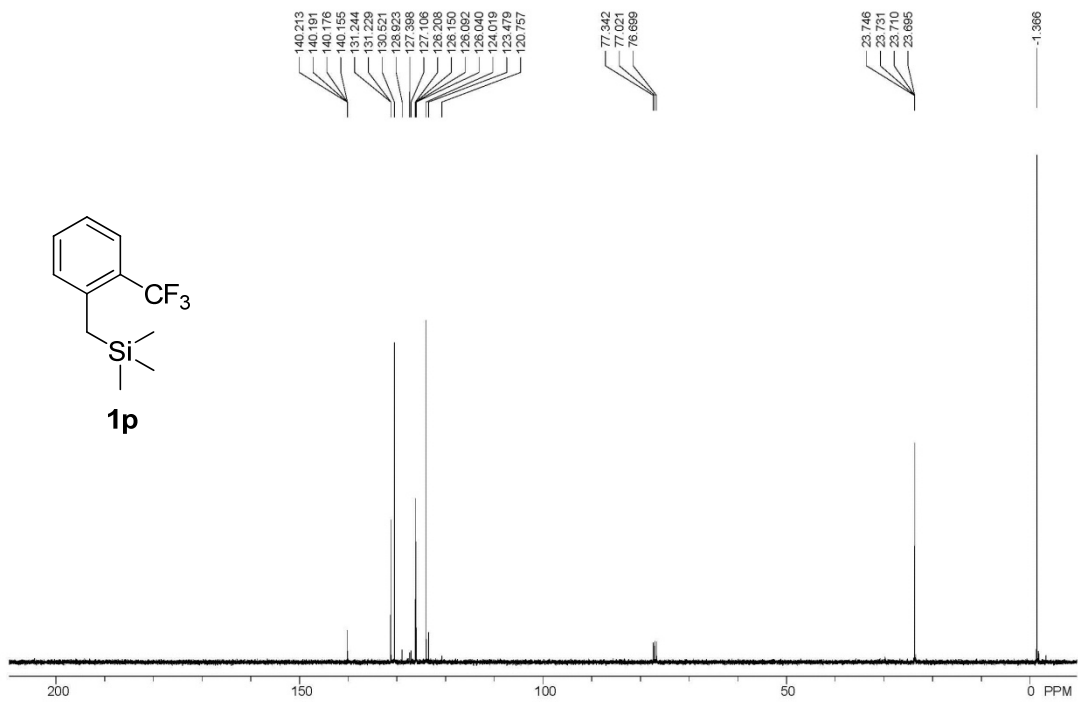


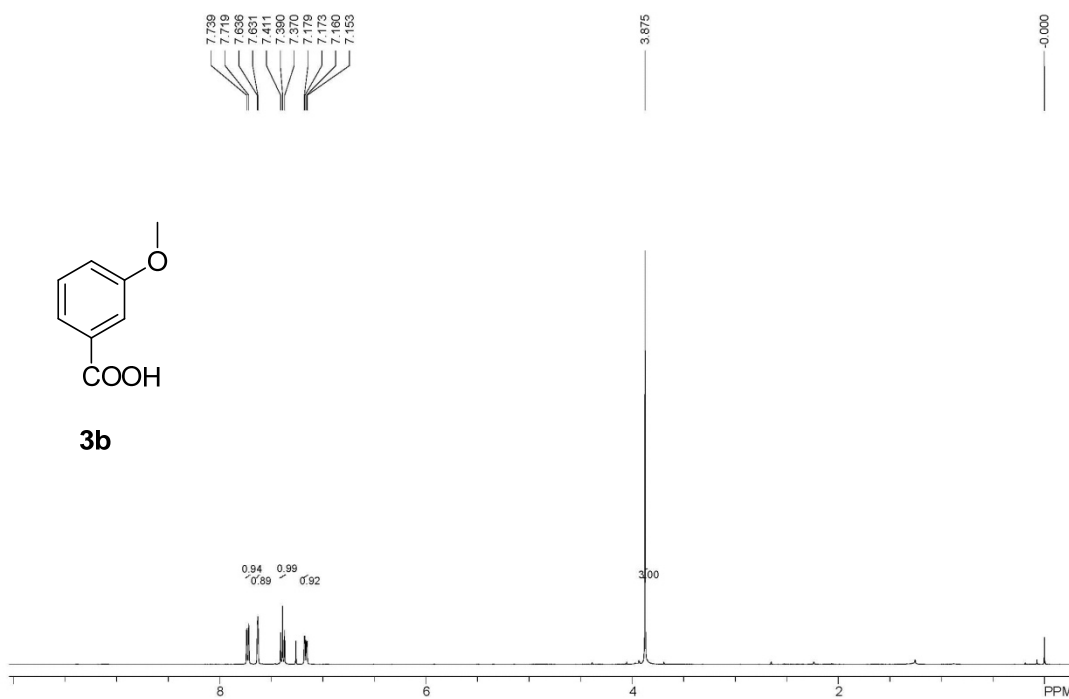
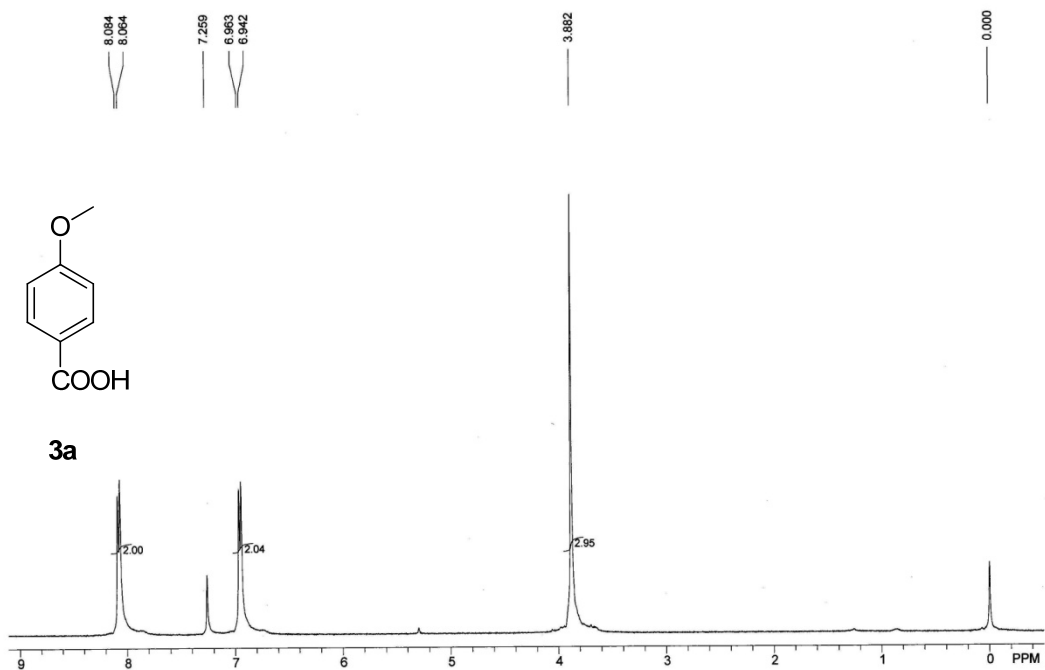


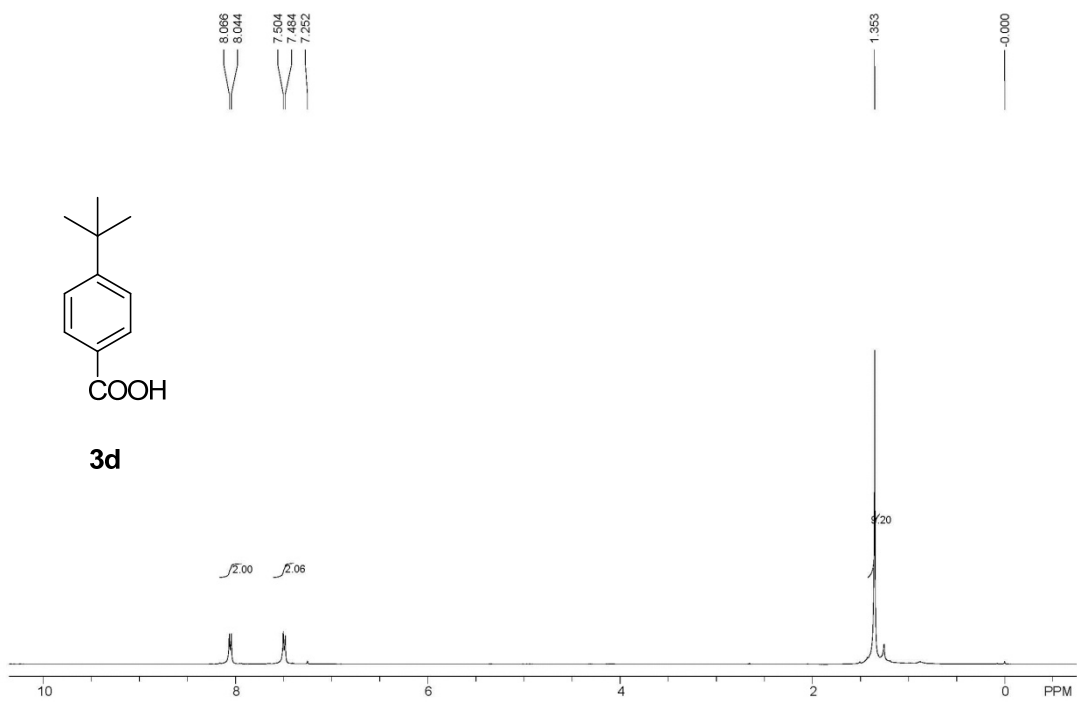
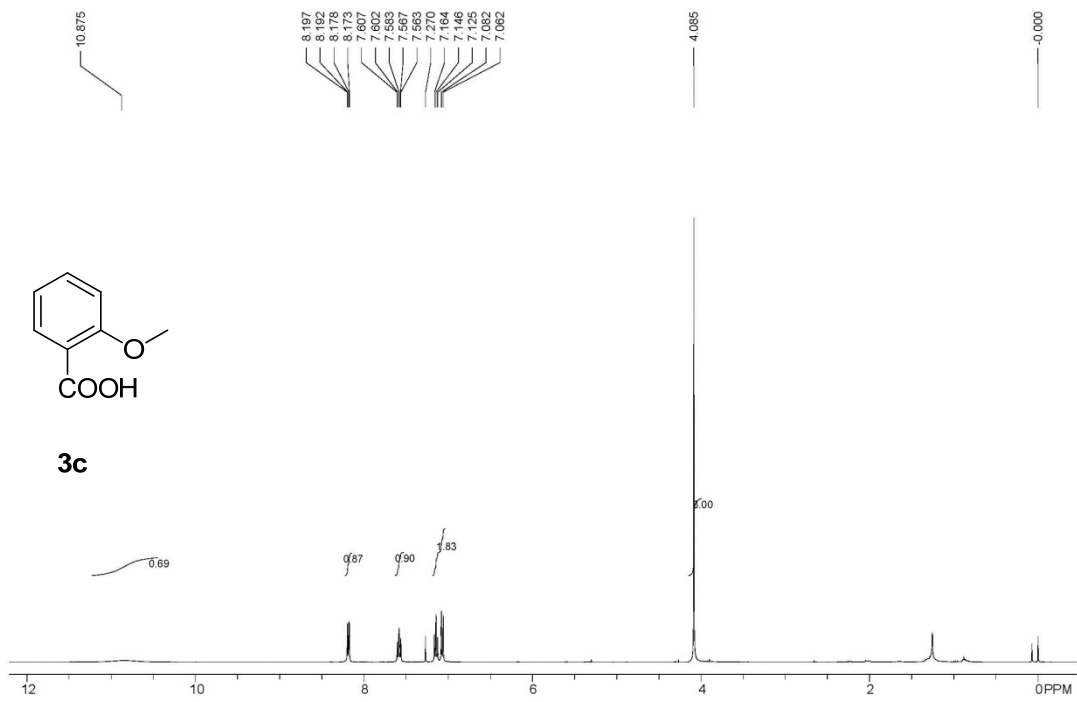


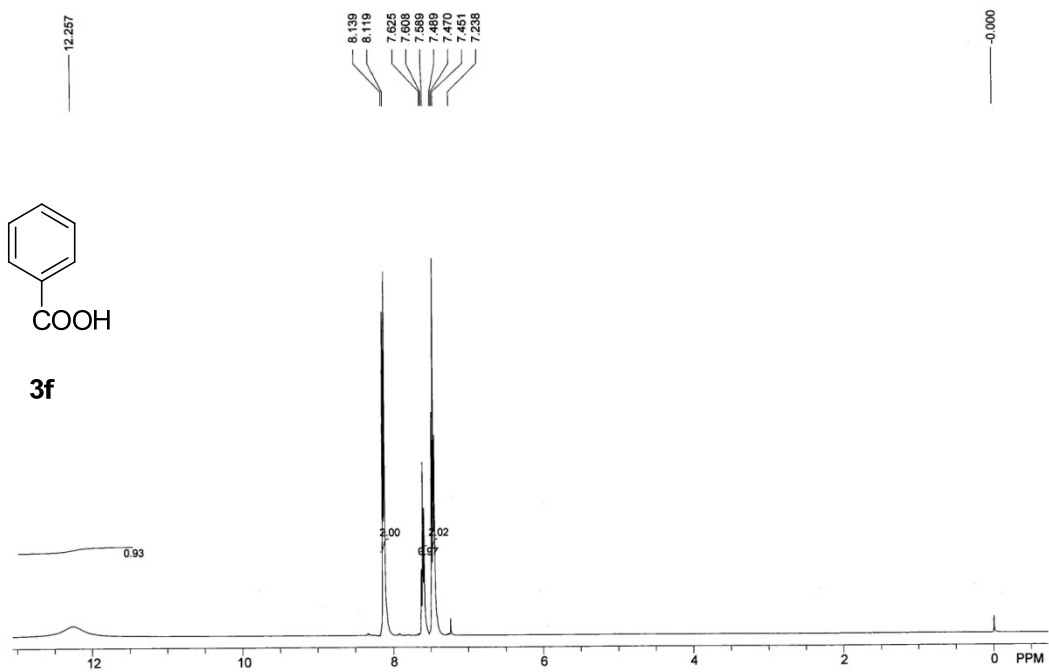
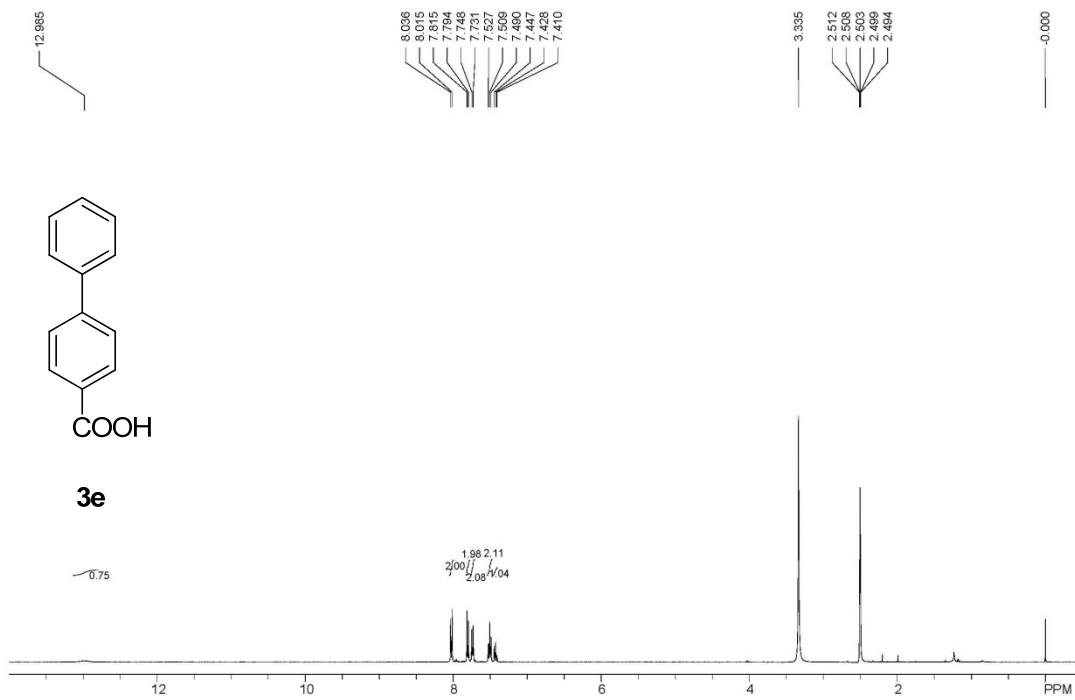


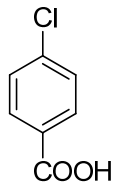




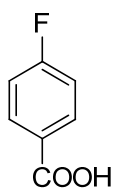
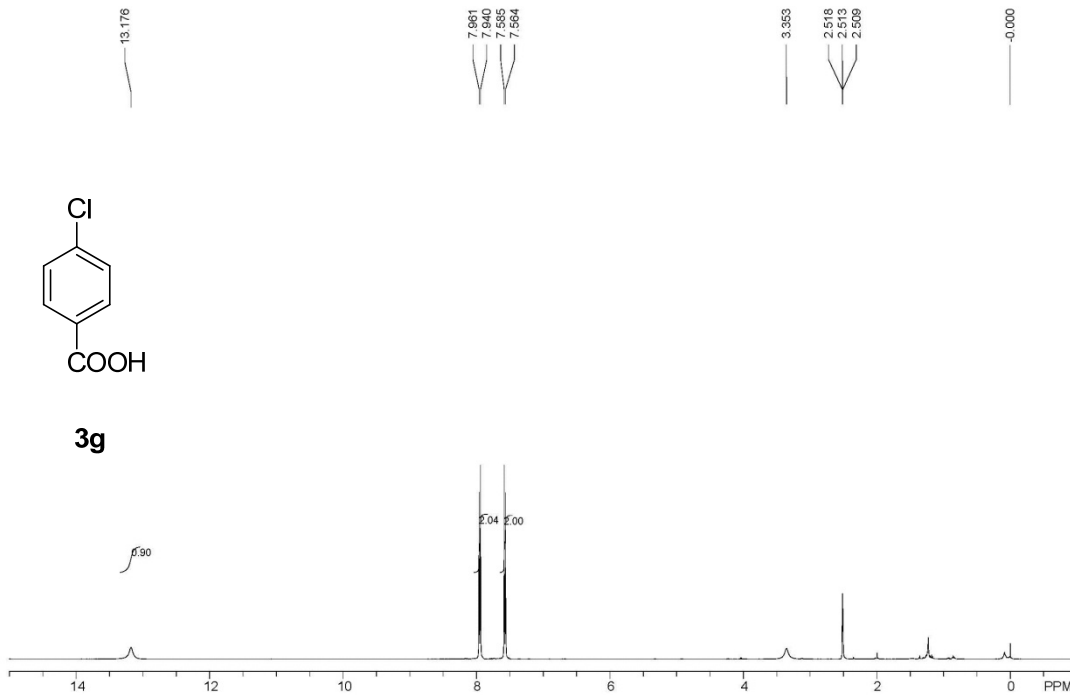




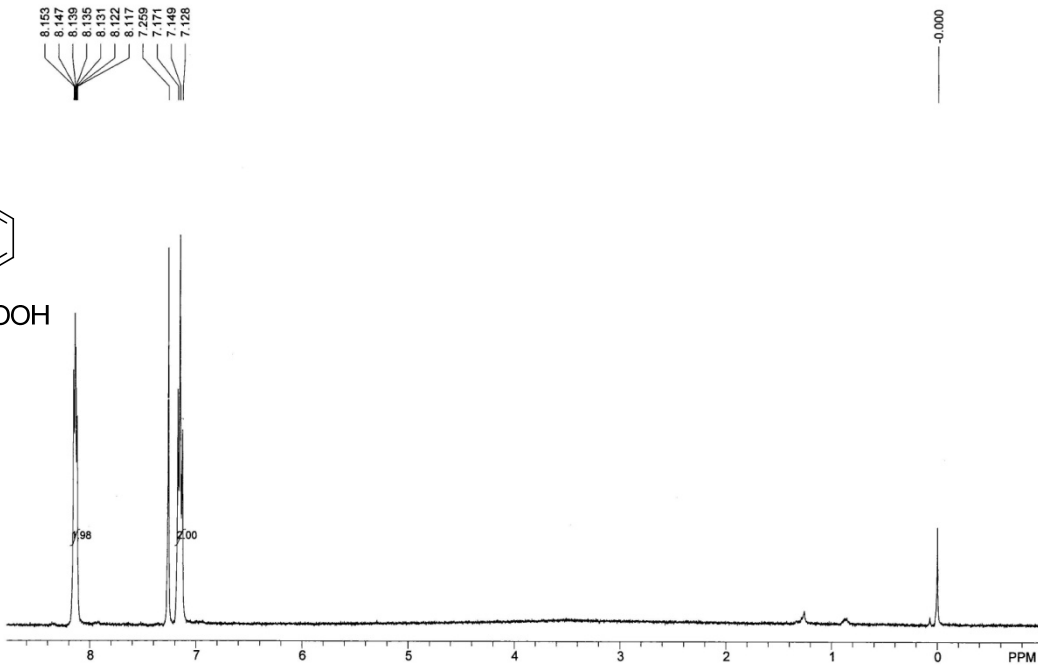


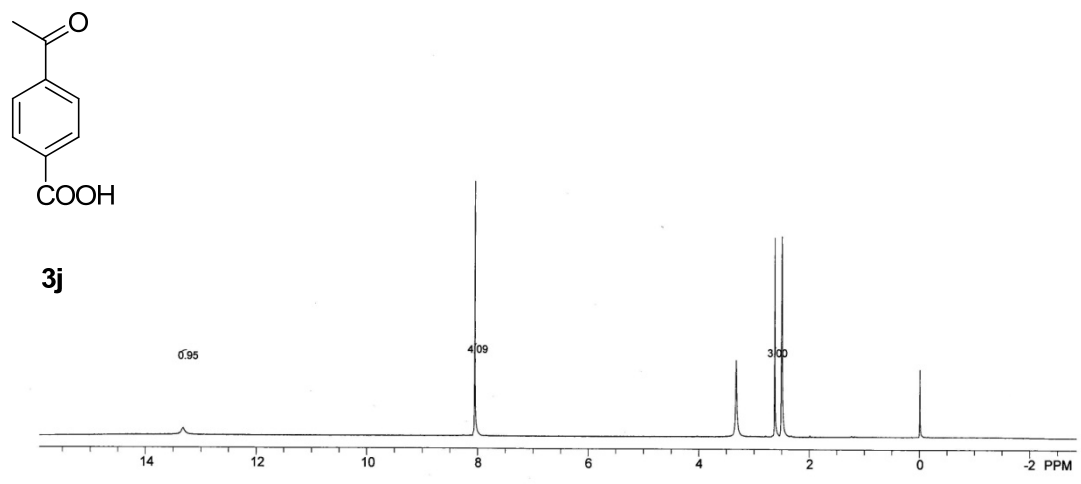
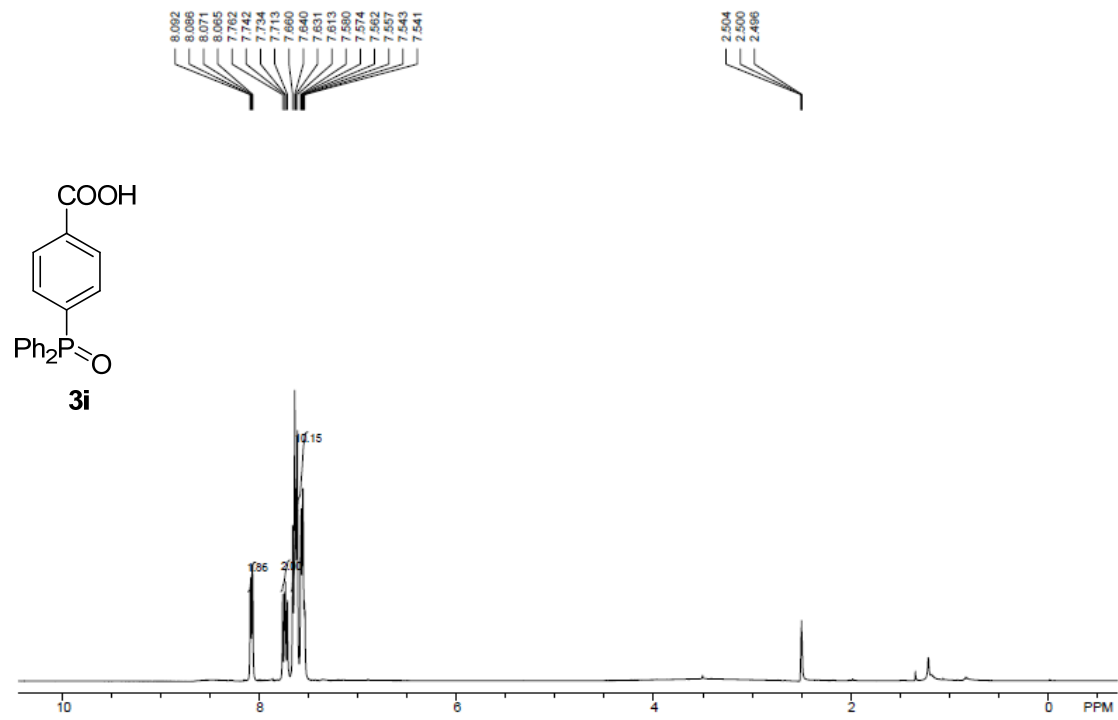


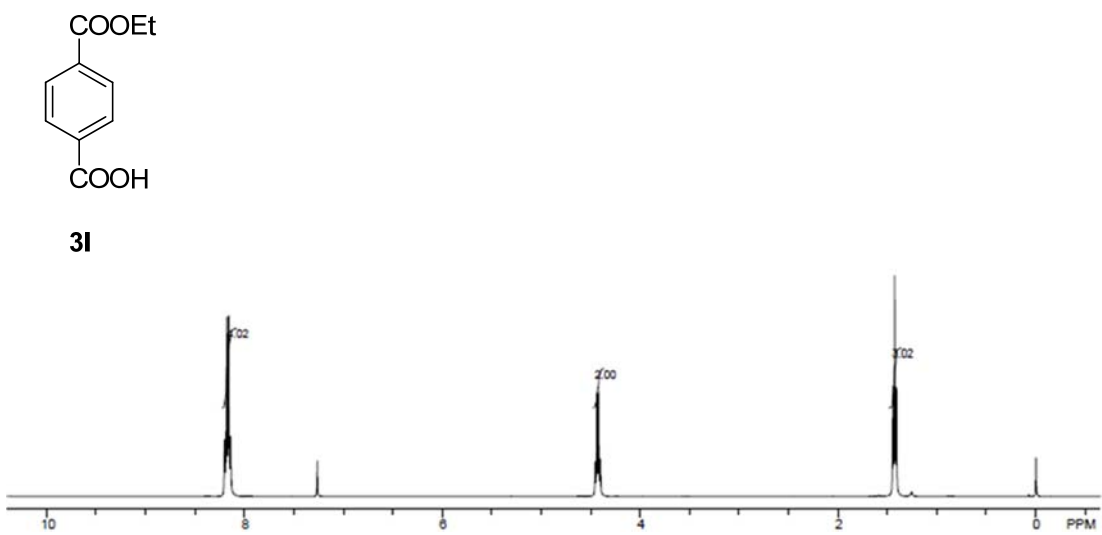
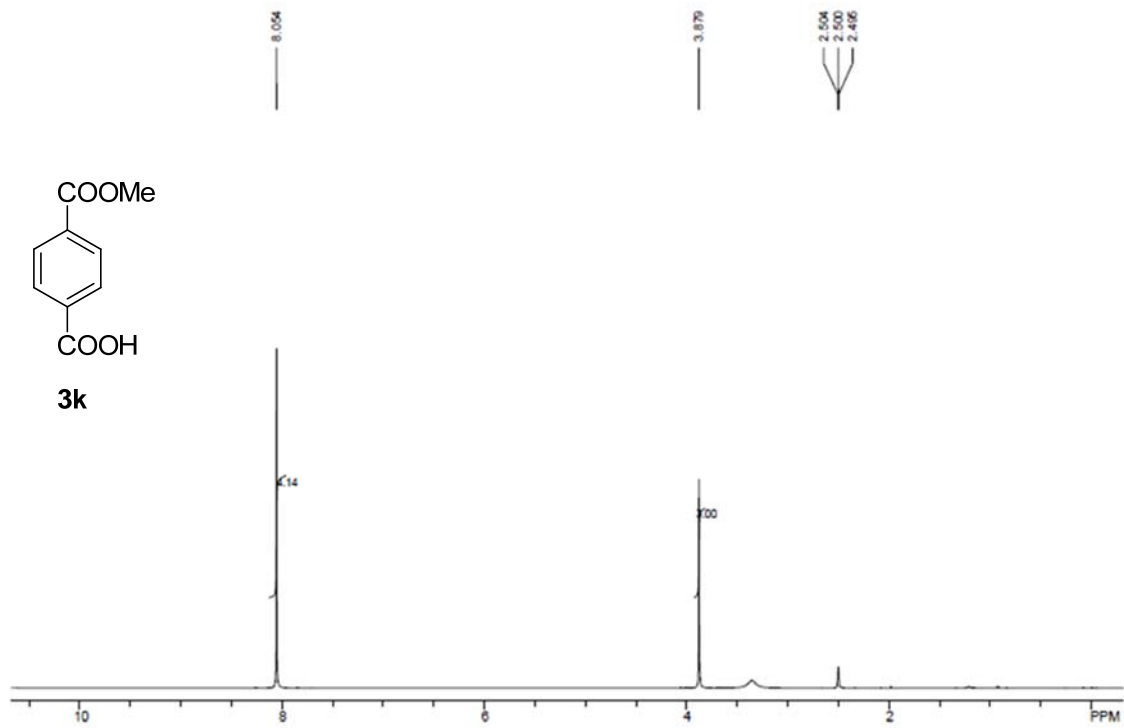
3g

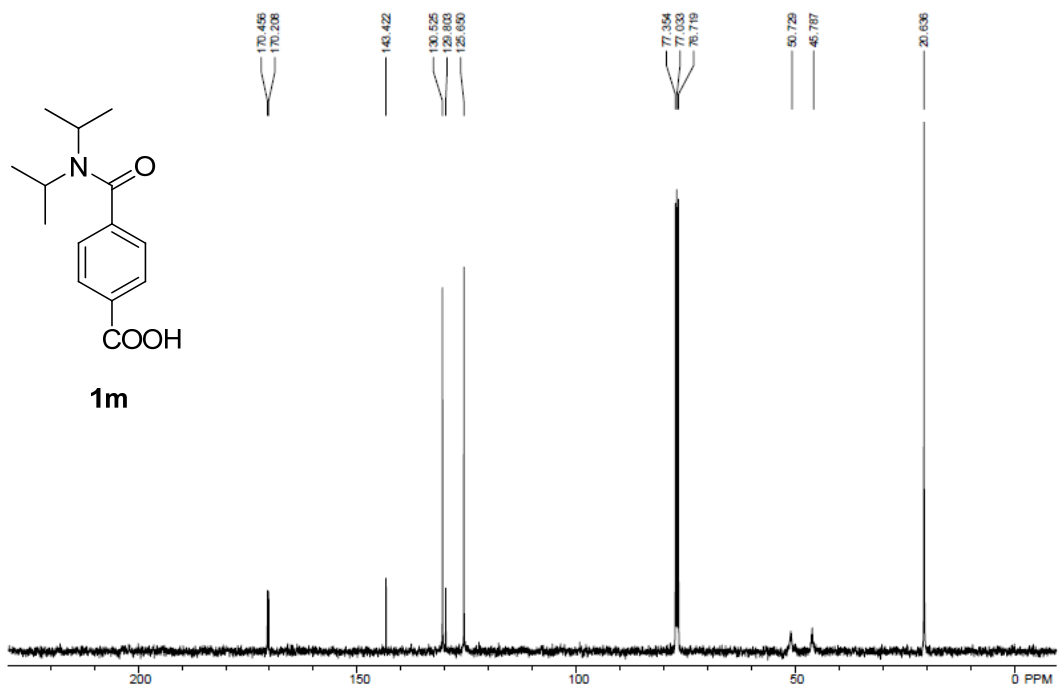
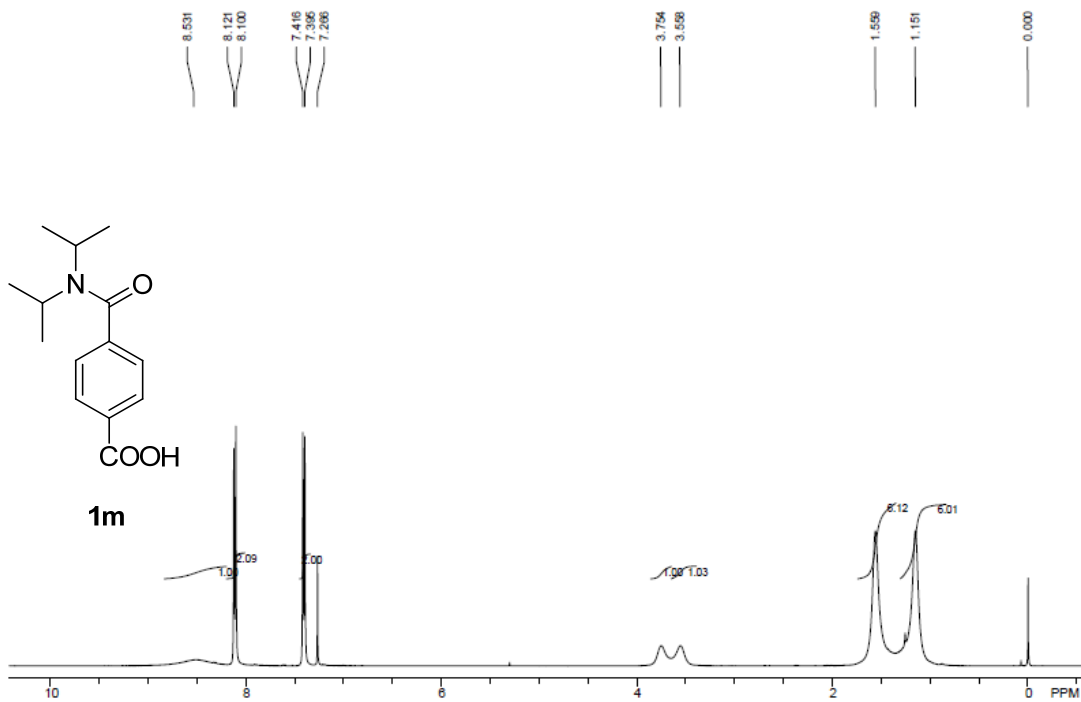


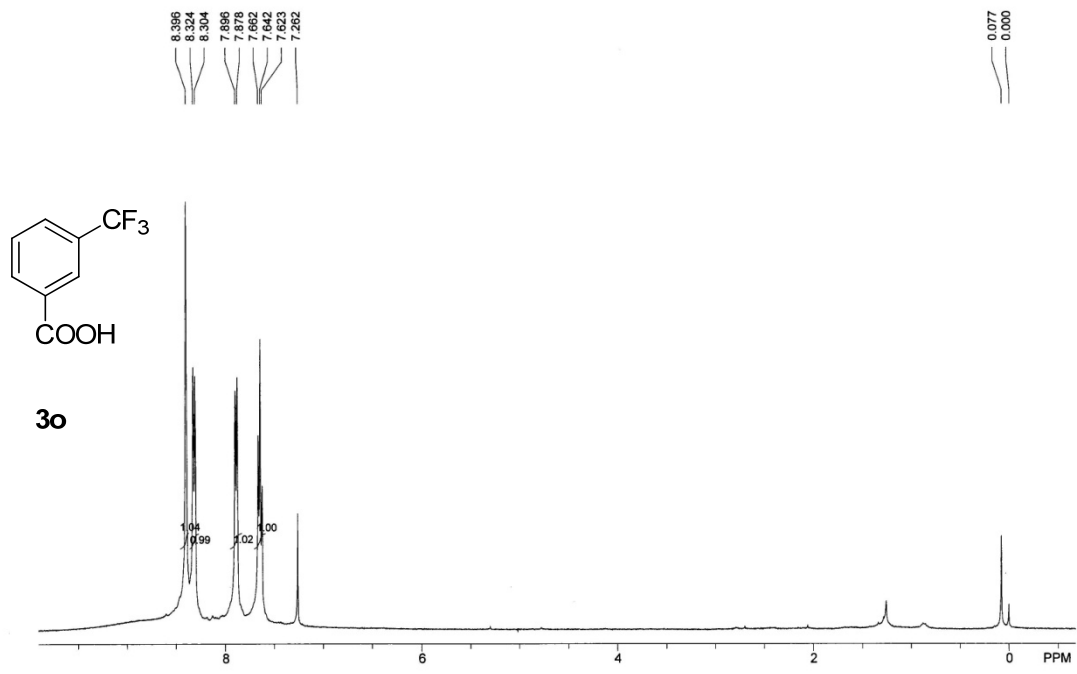
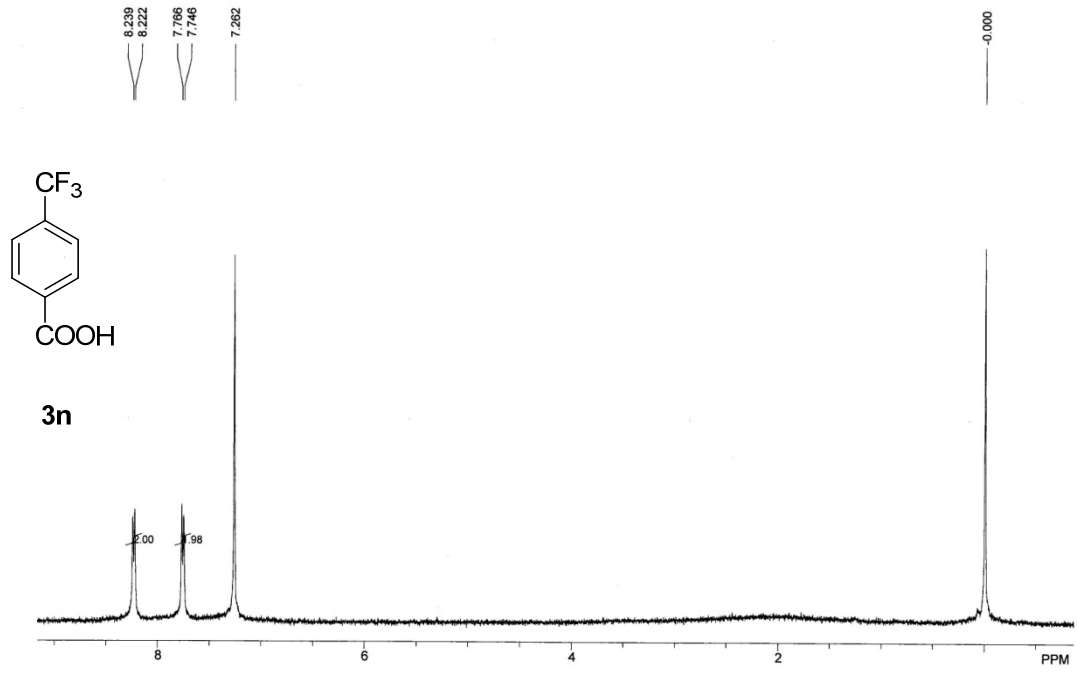
3h

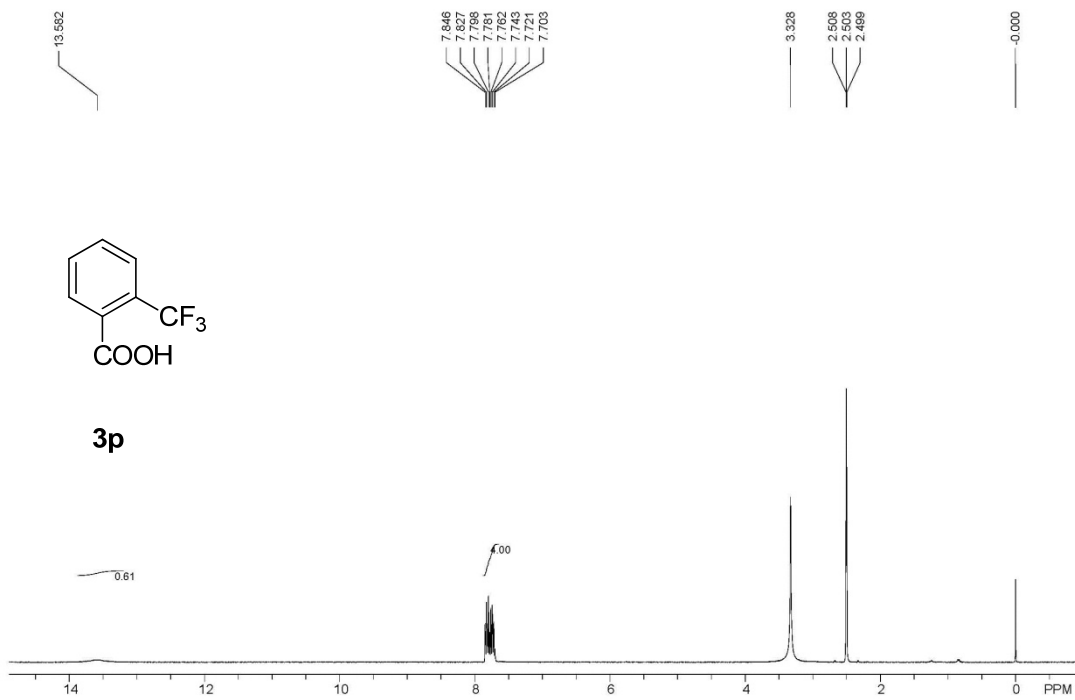












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