

Supporting Information

Oxidative C(sp³)-H Functionalization of Acetonitrile and Alkanes with Allylic Alcohols Under Metal-Free Conditions

Xue-Qiang Chu, Hua Meng, You Zi, Xiao-Ping Xu,* Shun-Jun Ji*

*Key Laboratory of Organic Synthesis of Jiangsu Province, College of Chemistry,
Chemical Engineering and Materials Science & Collaborative Innovation Center of
Suzhou Nano Science and Technology, Soochow University, Suzhou, 215123,
People's Republic of China.
Fax : (+86)-512-65880307; phone: (+86)- 512-65880307; E-mail: xuxp@suda.edu.cn;
shunjun@suda.edu.cn*

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EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Information: Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All reactions were carried out in air and using undistilled solvent, without need of precautions to exclude air and moisture unless otherwise noted. Melting points were recorded on an Electrothermal digital melting point apparatus. IR spectra were recorded on a FT-IR spectrophotometer using KBr optics. ^1H , ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on 400 MHz spectrometers. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as internal standard for ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR. High resolution mass spectra were obtained using a commercial apparatus (ESI or EI Source).

General procedure for oxidative addition of acetonitrile to α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols:

α,α -diaryl allylic alcohol **1** (0.3 mmol), nitrile **2** (3 mL) and *tert*-butylperoxybenzoate (0.6 mmol) was stirred at 120 °C for 12 h. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography purification afforded pure product **4** with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as the eluent.

General procedure for oxidative addition of alkanes to α,α -diaryl allylic alcohols:

α,α -diaryl allylic alcohol **1** (0.3 mmol), alkane **3** (4 mL) and *tert*-butylperoxybenzoate (0.6 mmol) was stirred at 120 °C for 7 h. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography purification to afford pure product **5** with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as the eluent.

General procedure for the synthesis of 6: 5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanenitrile **4aa** (0.5 mmol), concentrated sulfuric acid (0.55 mmol) in 3 mL glacial acetic acid was stirred at refluxing over night. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), a saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated. The pure product **6** was obtained after purification (silica gel, methyl alcohol/chloroform, 1:10).

General procedure for the synthesis of 7: 0.5 mmol of 5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanenitrile **4aa** was dissolved in 10.0 mL dry THF. Then 2.5 mmol of LiAlH_4 was added at room temperature. After 10 minutes, the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1h. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), a saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated. The pure product **7** was obtained after purification (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate).

Analytical and spectral data for compounds:

5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanenitrile (4aa): Yield = 87% (65 mg). Yellow solid (M.p. 83.1–83.8 °C). IR (KBr) ν = 2938, 2246, 1667, 1595, 1448, 1263, 1199, 988, 754, 694, 661 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.98–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 1H), 4.73 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.15 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 198.4, 137.7, 136.2, 133.5, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 119.5, 52.1, 29.2, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 250.1232, found: 250.1229.

4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-5-oxopentanenitrile (4ba): Yield = 81% (72 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2955, 2924, 2246, 1684, 1595, 1507, 1257, 1222, 1152, 830, 766 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.00–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.12–6.97 (m, 4H), 4.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.31–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.20–2.09 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 196.7, 166.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 254.5 Hz), 162.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 246.1 Hz), 133.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz), 132.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.1 Hz), 131.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.4 Hz), 129.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8.1 Hz), 119.3, 116.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.5 Hz), 116.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.8 Hz), 51.2, 29.2, 15.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 286.1043, found: 286.1051.

4,5-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxopentanenitrile (4ca): Yield = 82% (79 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2969, 2926, 2246, 1679, 1587, 1489, 1399, 1091, 1031, 806, 743 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.89–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 2H), 4.67 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.31–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.08 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 196.8, 140.3, 135.9, 134.3, 134.2, 130.4, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 119.2, 51.4, 29.0, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 318.0452, found: 318.0450.

4,5-bis(4-bromophenyl)-5-oxopentanenitrile (4da): Yield = 77% (93 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2938, 2245, 1678, 1583, 1486, 1395, 1257, 1173, 1070, 1009, 802, 733 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.81–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.37 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.18–2.08 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.0, 136.4, 134.6, 132.9, 132.3, 130.5, 129.9, 129.1, 122.4, 119.2, 51.5, 28.9, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 405.9442, found: 405.9436.

5-oxo-4,5-dip-tolylpentanenitrile (4ea): Yield = 69% (58 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2942, 2867, 2244, 1673, 1605, 1510, 1261, 1174, 962, 808, 756 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.88–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 4H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 2H), 4.67 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.47–2.36 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.27–2.10 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 198.1, 144.3, 137.7, 134.9, 133.7, 130.3, 129.5, 129.1, 128.2, 119.6, 51.6, 29.2, 21.8, 21.2, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 278.1545, found: 278.1540.

4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxopentanenitrile (4fa): Yield = 58% (61 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2957, 2838, 2244, 1668, 1597, 1509, 1246, 1165, 1027, 832, 817 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.98–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.82 (m, 4H), 4.63 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.46–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.08 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.1, 163.8, 159.2, 131.4, 130.1, 129.3, 129.2, 119.7, 115.0, 114.0, 55.7, 55.5, 50.9, 29.2, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 310.1443, found: 310.1431.

5-oxo-4,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentanenitrile (4ga): Yield = 71% (83 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2970, 2901, 2248, 1687, 1327, 1252, 1164, 1119, 804, 692 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.21 (s, 1H),

8.11 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.47 (m, 5H), 4.82 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.59–2.42 (m, 2H), 2.35–2.17 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 196.5, 138.1, 136.2, 132.4, 132.1, 132.0$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 0.9$ Hz), 131.9, 131.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 0.9$ Hz), 131.6, 130.4, 130.3 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.2, 3.4$ Hz), 129.8, 125.9 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.5, 3.8$ Hz), 125.4 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.4, 3.7$ Hz), 124.9 (dd, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.2, 3.7$ Hz), 119.0, 51.94, 29.12, 15.42 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_6\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 386.0980, found: 386.0979

5-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-5-oxo-4-phenylpentanenitrile (4ha) and
4-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-5-oxo-5-phenylpentanenitrile (4ha'): Yield = 72% (3.7:1, 78 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 3029, 2931, 2244, 1671, 1597, 1508, 1248, 1165, 1002, 738, 697$ cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 3.7:1 mixture of **4ha** and its isomer **4ha'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.97\text{--}7.91$ (m, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.20 (m, 6H), 6.97–6.89 (m, 2H), 5.08–4.98 (m, 2H), 4.67 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.48–2.33 (m, 2H), 2.28–2.12 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **4ha**: $\delta = 196.8, 162.9, 138.17, 136.2, 133.4, 131.4, 129.6, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.6, 119.6, 114.8, 70.3, 51.7, 29.3, 15.4$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 356.1651, found: 356.1650.

5-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-5-oxo-4-phenylpentanenitrile (4ia) and
4-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-5-oxo-5-phenylpentanenitrile (4ia'): Yield = 73% (1.9:1, 62 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2920, 2850, 2244, 1673, 1603, 1448, 1259, 1132, 983, 731, 700$ cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 1.9:1 mixture of **4ia** and its isomer **4ia'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.99\text{--}7.93$ (m, 0.7H), 7.75–7.73 (m, 0.6H), 7.71–7.66 (m, 0.6H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 0.4H), 7.41–7.35 (m, 0.7H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 2.6H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 0.7H), 7.15–7.01 (m, 1.7H), 4.71 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 0.65H), 4.68–4.62 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 0.35H), 2.48–2.34 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.13 (m, 8H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) **4ia** and its isomer **4ia'**: $\delta = 198.5, 198.2, 143.2, 138.1, 137.9, 137.2, 136.4, 136.2, 135.0, 134.0, 133.4, 130.7, 130.1, 130.0, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.9, 126.8, 125.8, 119.6, 119.6, 51.9, 51.7, 29.2, 29.2, 20.2, 20.0, 20.0, 19.6, 15.4, 15.4$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 278.1545, found: 278.1550.

4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-oxo-5-phenylpentanenitrile (4ja) and **5-(4-bromophenyl)-5-oxo-4-phenylpentanenitrile (4ja')**: Yield = 65% (2.7:1, 65 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2923, 2851, 2245, 1678, 1582, 1486, 1477, 1258, 1072, 1009, 807, 701$ cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 2.7:1 mixture of **4ja** and its isomer **4ja'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.95\text{--}7.90$ (m, 1.4H), 7.82–7.78 (m, 0.5H), 7.55–7.49 (m, 1.2H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 1.5H), 7.43–7.38 (m, 1.5H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 0.6H), 7.28–7.25 (m, 0.9H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 1.4H), 4.72 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 0.73H), 4.65 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 0.27H), 2.52–2.36 (m, 2H), 2.32–2.11 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) **4ja** and its isomer **4ja'**: $\delta = 198.0, 197.4, 137.4, 136.7, 136.2, 135.9, 134.8, 133.8, 132.8, 132.2, 130.5, 130.0, 129.8, 129.0, 128.3, 128.2, 122.15, 119.3, 52.2, 51.4, 29.0, 15.4, 15.3$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 328.0337, found: 328.0341.

5-oxo-5-phenyl-4-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentanenitrile (4ka) and
5-oxo-4-phenyl-5-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentanenitrile (4ka'): Yield = 79% (3.5:1, 76 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2963, 2920, 2247, 1681, 1448, 1327, 1164, 1121, 1073, 802, 701, 686$ cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 3.5:1 mixture of **4ka** and its isomer **4ka'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.21\text{--}7.93$ (m, 1.9H), 7.76–7.71 (m, 0.3H), 7.60–7.51 (m, 3.3H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 2.4H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 0.5H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 0.6H), 4.85 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 0.78H), 4.70 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 0.22H), 2.58–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.34–2.13 (m, 2H). ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **4ka**: $\delta = 197.8, 138.8, 135.8, 133.9, 132.1, 131.81, 130.1, 129.9, 129.1, 129.0, 128.3, 125.0$ (m), 119.1, 51.6, 29.3, 15.5 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 318.1106, found: 318.1114.

5-oxo-5-phenyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)pentanenitrile (4la): Yield = 59% (45 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2958, 2923, 2853, 2245, 1678, 1595, 1447, 1424, 1264, 1236, 1176, 1026, 801, 705, 686 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.66 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.56–8.50 (m, 1H), 7.99–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.52 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 1H), 4.82 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.59–2.40 (m, 2H), 2.37–2.28 (m, 1H), 2.22–2.12 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.7, 149.9, 149.4, 135.7, 135.5, 134.0, 133.7, 129.1, 129.0, 124.4, 119.0, 49.2, 29.2, 15.5 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 251.1184, found: 251.1180.

5-(2-fluorophenyl)-5-oxo-4-phenylpentanenitrile (4ma) and 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-5-oxo-5-phenylpentanenitrile (4ma'): Yield = 82% (2.6:1, 65 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2969, 2926, 2245, 1681, 1608, 1481, 1449, 1275, 1227, 759, 700 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 2.6:1 mixture of **4ma** and its isomer **4ma'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.97–7.92 (m, 0.5H), 7.78–7.72 (m, 0.7H), 7.54–7.37 (m, 1.9H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1.5H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 2.1H), 7.17–7.00 (m, 2.3H), 5.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.28H), 4.64 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.72H), 2.56–2.46 (m, 1H), 2.42–2.35 (m, 1H), 2.31–2.08 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **4ma**: δ = 197.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 4.4 Hz), 161.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 253.3 Hz), 136.6, 134.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 9.0 Hz), 133.7, 131.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.5 Hz), 129.3, 128.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 0.5 Hz), 128.1, 124.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.5 Hz), 119.4, 116.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.7 Hz), 56.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 6.6 Hz), 28.9, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 268.1138, found: 268.1144.

5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxopentanenitrile (4na): Yield = 49% (47 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2967, 2919, 2246, 1697, 1490, 1432, 1091, 1014, 809, 741 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.39–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 3H), 4.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.61–2.41 (m, 2H), 2.34–2.24 (m, 1H), 2.22–2.10 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 201.4, 138.7, 134.4, 132.0, 130.8, 130.7, 130.1, 129.7, 129.2, 127.0, 119.2, 55.5, 28.0, 15.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 318.0452, found: 318.0453.

2-(2-benzoyl-2-phenyltetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)acetonitrile (4pa): Yield = 33% (35 mg). White solid (M.p. 93.2–94.8 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). IR (KBr) ν = 2924, 2853, 2245, 1674, 1274, 1222, 843, 759, 707, 631 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.90–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 2H), 3.94–3.84 (m, 1H), 3.45–3.33 (m, 1H), 3.23–3.13 (m, 1H), 2.42–2.35 (m, 1H), 2.22–2.13 (m, 1H), 2.11–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.98–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.79–1.69 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 201.9, 140.0, 135.1, 133.3, 130.6, 129.0, 128.7, 128.2, 126.0, 119.8, 86.7, 65.4, 46.1, 25.8, 25.6, 20.0 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 306.1494, found: 306.1495.

2-(2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)acetonitrile (4qa): Yield = 35% (47 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2955, 2934, 2246, 1680, 1585, 1488, 1400, 1243, 1090, 1012, 850, 751 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.85–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 4H), 3.97–3.88 (m, 1H), 3.41–3.32 (m, 1H), 3.19–3.09 (m, 1H), 2.37–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.22–2.14 (m, 1H), 2.03–1.97 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.71 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.2, 140.1, 138.3, 134.9, 132.9, 132.0, 129.4, 128.7, 127.4, 119.4, 86.2, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 65.6, 45.9, 25.7, 25.5, 19.9 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 374.0715, found: 374.0712.

2-(2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-2-p-tolyltetrahydro-2H-pyran-3-yl)acetonitrile (4ra): Yield = 29% (30 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2926, 2856, 2244, 1674, 1604, 1254, 1182, 1077, 1018, 805, 733, 618 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.12 (m, 4H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.92–3.84 (m, 1H), 3.42–3.33 (m, 1H), 3.21–3.11 (m, 1H), 2.45–2.40 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.18–2.12 (m, 1H), 2.06–1.98 (m, 1H), 1.96–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.67 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 201.6, 144.1, 138.4, 137.2, 132.6,

130.7, 129.6, 128.9, 125.9, 120.0, 86.6, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 65.4, 46.2, 25.8, 25.6, 21.9, 21.3, 20.0 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₂H₂₄NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 334.1807, found: 334.1808.

1-(3-oxo-2,3-diphenylpropyl)cyclopropanecarbonitrile (4ab): Yield = 25% (20 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2923, 2852, 2234, 1678, 1596, 1447, 1252, 1210, 757, 698 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.02–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 1H), 4.98 (dd, J = 7.9, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54–2.45 (m, 1H), 1.91–1.82 (m, 1H), 1.17–1.09 (1H), 0.99–0.92 (m, 1H), 0.91–0.84 (m, 1H), 0.39–0.32 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.8, 138.4, 136.3, 133.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 123.5, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 52.2, 38.7, 14.7, 13.8, 8.5 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO [M+H]⁺ 276.1388, found: 276.1389.

2-(3-oxo-2,3-diphenylpropyl)malononitrile (4af): Yield = 72% (70 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2918, 2854, 2255, 1677, 1596, 1447, 1262, 1175, 951, 758, 695 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.96–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 3H), 4.81 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, J = 8.6, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.87–2.77 (m, 1H), 2.62–2.53 (m, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.0, 136.0, 135.4, 134.0, 130.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.2, 112.6, 112.4, 50.7, 34.5, 20.9 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂O [M+H]⁺ 275.1184, found: 275.1181.

methyl 2-cyano-5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanoate (4ag): Yield = 71% (dr = 1:1, 67 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2956, 2901, 2250, 1746, 1678, 1447, 1258, 1176, 757, 697 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 5H), 4.91–4.79 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 1.5H), 3.73 (s, 1.5H), 3.69–3.63 (m, 0.5H), 3.30–3.24 (m, 0.5H), 2.92–2.83 (m, 0.5H), 2.69–2.55 (m, 1H), 2.41–2.32 (m, 0.5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.0, 197.7, 166.5, 166.3, 137.5, 136.7, 135.9, 135.9, 133.6, 133.5, 129.8, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.4, 128.1, 116.4, 116.4, 53.7, 53.7, 51.0, 50.9, 35.6, 35.5, 33.5, 33.4 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 308.1287, found: 308.1295.

2-benzoyl-5-oxo-4,5-diphenylpentanenitrile (4ah): Yield = 53% (dr = 1:1, 56 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2925, 2854, 2248, 1678, 1596, 1447, 1265, 1001, 757, 693 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.14–8.09 (m, 1H), 8.03–7.99 (m, 1H), 7.96–7.92 (m, 1H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 2H), 5.04–4.84 (m, 1H), 4.65–4.56 (m, 0.5H), 4.13–4.06 (m, 0.5H), 2.99–2.89 (m, 0.5H), 2.72–2.56 (m, 1H), 2.30–2.22 (m, 0.5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.8, 197.9, 190.8, 190.7, 138.0, 137.1, 136.0, 135.9, 134.9, 134.7, 133.9, 133.8, 133.8, 133.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 117.4, 117.3, 51.6, 51.3, 39.3, 38.2, 34.4, 33.9 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₄H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 354.1494, found: 354.1494.

3-cyclohexyl-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (5aa): Yield = 96% (87 mg). White solid (M.p. 64.2–65.6 °C). IR (KBr) ν = 2922, 2848, 1673, 1596, 1493, 1445, 1228, 999, 941, 758, 733, 695, 652 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.99–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.25 (m, 4H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1H), 4.72 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.17–2.07 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.60 (m, 5H), 1.26–1.10 (m, 4H), 0.99–0.88 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 200.3, 140.2, 137.2, 133.0, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 50.7, 41.9, 35.5, 33.8, 33.5, 26.7, 26.4, 26.4 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₁H₂₅O [M+H]⁺ 293.1905, found: 293.1906.

3-cyclohexyl-1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)propan-1-one (5ba): Yield = 64% (63 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2922, 2850, 1681, 1505, 1408, 1225, 1154, 831, 770 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.01–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.04 (m, 2H), 7.01–6.94 (m, 2H), 4.65 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.13–2.02 (m, 1H), 1.84–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.72–1.62 (m, 5H), 1.20–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.87 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.6, 165.8 (d, J_{C-F} = 253.6 Hz), 162.0 (d, J_{C-F} = 244.2 Hz), 135.6 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 133.3 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.1 Hz), 131.4 (d,

$J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), 129.9 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 7.9$ Hz), 116.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.7$ Hz), 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 9.2$ Hz), 49.8, 41.9, 35.4, 33.8, 33.4, 26.7, 26.3, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 329.1717, found: 329.1716.

1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexylpropan-1-one (5ca): Yield = 84% (93 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2920, 2849, 1681, 1588, 1488, 1210, 1091, 1013, 812, 744$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.91\text{--}7.85$ (m, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.19 (m, 4H), 4.62 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.11–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.72–1.60 (m, 5H), 1.21–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.99–0.86 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 198.7, 139.7, 138.3, 135.1, 133.1, 130.2, 129.7, 129.3, 129.1, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 50.0, 41.7, 35.4, 33.8, 33.3, 26.6, 26.3, 26.3$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 361.1126, found: 361.1116.

1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyclohexylpropan-1-one (5da): Yield = 88% (118 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2919, 2849, 1680, 1584, 1485, 1395, 1172, 1070, 1009, 937, 784, 734$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.82\text{--}7.77$ (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 2H), 4.60 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.09–1.99 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.71–1.59 (m, 5H), 1.20–1.06 (m, 4H), 0.99–0.84 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 198.8, 138.8, 135.5, 132.3, 132.1, 130.3, 130.1, 128.4, 121.3, 50.1, 41.6, 35.4, 33.8, 33.3, 26.6, 26.3, 26.3$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{Br}^{79}\text{Br}^{81}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 451.0095, found: 451.0093.

3-cyclohexyl-1,2-dip-tolylpropan-1-one (5ea): Yield = 83% (85 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2919, 2849, 1676, 1606, 1447, 1258, 1175, 936, 791, 760$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.88$ (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 4H), 7.08 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.66 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.13–2.03 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.78 (m, 1H), 1.70–1.61 (m, 5H), 1.20–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.86 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 200.0, 143.7, 137.4, 136.6, 134.6, 129.7, 129.4, 129.0, 128.2, 50.1, 41.8, 35.5, 33.8, 33.5, 26.7, 26.4, 26.3, 21.8, 21.2$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 321.2218, found: 321.2220.

3-cyclohexyl-1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)propan-1-one (5fa): Yield = 75% (103 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2920, 2847, 1670, 1598, 1508, 1248, 1165, 1030, 828, 712$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.98\text{--}7.91$ (m, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.82 (m, 4H), 4.63 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.46–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.08 (m, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 197.1, 163.8, 159.2, 131.4, 130.1, 129.3, 129.2, 119.7, 115.0, 114.0, 55.7, 55.5, 50.9, 29.2, 15.4$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 353.2117, found: 353.2107.

3-cyclohexyl-1,2-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-one (5ga): Yield = 87% (111 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 2924, 2853, 1688, 1449, 1326, 1164, 1122, 1072, 803, 702$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.23$ (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 1H), 4.78 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.19–2.10 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.78 (m, 1H), 1.77–1.62 (m, 5H), 1.23–1.10 (m, 4H), 1.01–0.91 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 198.3, 140.5, 137.2, 131.8$ (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 0.5$ Hz), 131.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 1.0$ Hz), 131.7, 131.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 2.7$ Hz), 131.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 1.2$ Hz), 129.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.6$ Hz), 129.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.1$ Hz), 125.6 (m), 125.2 (m), 124.4 (m), 122.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 34.2$ Hz), 50.7, 41.9, 35.5, 33.7, 33.4, 26.6, 26.3, 26.2 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_6\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 429.1653, found: 429.1652.

1-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-phenylpropan-1-one (5ha) and **2-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-phenylpropan-1-one (5ha')**: Yield = 59% (7.6:1, 71 mg). White solid (mixture). IR (KBr) $\nu = 2920, 2850, 1665, 1600, 1452, 1251, 1172, 1020, 834, 743, 697$ cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 7.6:1 mixture of **5ha** and its isomer **5ha'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.00\text{--}7.94$ (m, 2H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.29 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.15 (m, 1H), 6.97–6.88 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 1.7H), 4.99 (s, 0.3H), 4.67 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.15–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.62 (m, 1H),

1.21–1.10 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.87 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **5ha**: δ = 198.8, 162.6, 140.6, 136.4, 131.1, 130.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 127.7, 127.0, 114.7, 70.3, 50.3, 42.0, 35.5, 33.8, 33.5, 26.7, 26.4, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 399.2324, found: 399.2322.

3-cyclohexyl-1-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylpropan-1-one (5ia) and
3-cyclohexyl-2-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (5ia'): Yield = 80% (2.3:1, 76 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2849, 1676, 1604, 1405, 1242, 1122, 735, 699 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 2.3:1 mixture of **5ia** and its isomer **5ia'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.00–7.95 (m, 0.6H), 7.77–7.75 (s, 0.6H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 0.7H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 0.3H), 7.41–7.35 (m, 0.6H), 7.32–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.11 (m, 1.4H), 7.05–7.02 (m, 0.8H), 4.70 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.7H), 4.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.3H), 2.26 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 1H), 2.18 (s, 1H), 2.16–2.06 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.72–1.59 (m, 5H), 1.25–1.09 (m, 4H), 0.97–0.86 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) **5ia** and its isomer **5ia'**: δ = 200.4, 200.1, 142.6, 140.5, 137.6, 137.2, 137.1, 135.3, 135.0, 132.9, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 126.9, 126.6, 125.9, 50.4, 50.3, 42.0, 41.9, 35.6, 35.5, 33.8, 33.7, 33.5, 33.5, 26.7, 26.4, 26.3, 20.1, 20.0, 19.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 321.2218, found: 321.2213.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-phenylpropan-1-one (5ja) and
1-(4-bromophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-phenylpropan-1-one (5ja'): Yield = 87% (3.2:1, 120 mg). White solid (mixture). IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2849, 1676, 1582, 1446, 1070, 1010, 973, 823, 718, 685 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 3.2:1 mixture of **5ja** and its isomer **5ja'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.98–7.91 (m, 1.5H), 7.85–7.80 (m, 0.5H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1.3H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1.7H), 4.69 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 0.76H), 4.63 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.24H), 2.14–2.02 (m, 1H), 1.81 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.72–1.60 (m, 5H), 1.22–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.88 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **5ja**: δ = 199.9, 139.1, 136.8, 133.2, 132.1, 130.2, 128.8, 128.8, 121.1, 50.0, 41.7, 35.4, 33.8, 33.3, 26.6, 26.3, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{BrO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 371.1011, found: 371.1003.

3-cyclohexyl-1-phenyl-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-one (5ka) and
3-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-one (5ka'): Yield = 90% (4:1, 104 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2922, 2852, 1682, 1447, 1326, 1163, 1096, 700, 686 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 4:1 mixture of **5ka** and its isomer **5ka'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.25–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.48–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.18 (m, 1H), 4.81 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.8H), 4.68 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.2H), 2.20–2.07 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.62 (m, 6H), 1.21–1.08 (m, 4H), 1.00–0.88 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **3ka**: δ = 199.7, 141.1, 136.8, 133.4, 131.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 0.8 Hz), 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 125.2 (m), 124.1 (m), 50.3, 42.1, 35.6, 33.7, 33.4, 26.6, 26.3, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 361.1779, found: 361.1765.

3-cyclohexyl-1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)propan-1-one (5la): Yield = 52% (46 mg). White solid (M.p. 92.4–93.7 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2850, 1670, 1446, 1232, 1057, 1027, 742, 707, 692 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.59 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.16–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.76–1.60 (m, 5H), 1.22–1.08 (m, 4H), 1.00–0.90 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 199.6, 150.1, 148.5, 136.6, 135.7, 135.7, 133.5, 128.9, 128.7, 124.0, 47.7, 41.76, 35.4, 33.8, 33.2, 26.6, 26.3, 26.2 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 294.1858, found: 294.2863.

3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-phenylpropan-1-one (5ma) and

3-cyclohexyl-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (5ma'): Yield = 86% (2.5:1, 80 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2921, 2850, 1682, 1608, 1448, 1273, 1212, 939, 757, 696 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 2.5:1 mixture of **5ma** and its isomer **5ma'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.01–7.97 (m, 0.6H), 7.71–7.65 (m, 0.7H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 0.4H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 1.3H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2.9H), 7.21–7.15 (m, 1.1H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 0.8H), 7.06–7.00 (m, 1.2H), 5.13 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.3H), 4.64 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.7H), 2.15–2.06 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.60 (m, 5H), 1.20–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.87 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **5ma**: δ = 199.74, 199.70, 161.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 252.1Hz), 160.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 242.9 Hz), 139.2, 136.7, 134.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8.9 Hz), 133.2, 131.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.8Hz), 129.3 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7Hz), 128.8, 128.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 0.5Hz), 127.1, 126.6 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 12.8Hz), 124.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.6Hz), 124.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.4 Hz), 116.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.7 Hz), 115.7 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.8 Hz), 55.0, 54.9, 41.4, 40.9, 35.6, 35.4, 33.8, 33.7, 33.4, 33.2, 26.7, 26.7, 26.4, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{FO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 311.1811, found: 311.1806.

1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexylpropan-1-one (5na): Yield = 90% (108 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2921, 2850, 1698, 1589, 1489, 1432, 1263, 1090, 1014, 810, 742 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.37–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.12 (m, 3H), 7.11–7.06 (m, 1H), 4.52 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.07–1.98 (m, 1H), 1.81–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.59 (m, 4H), 1.18–1.08 (m, 4H), 0.99–0.88 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 203.7, 139.9, 136.9, 133.3, 131.5, 130.6, 130.5, 130.2, 129.1, 129.1, 126.9, 54.6, 40.2, 35.0, 34.1, 32.9, 26.7, 26.3, 26.2 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 361.1126, found: 361.1110.

3-cyclopentyl-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (5ab): Yield = 52% (43 mg). Yield solid (M.p. 72.8–74.1 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). IR (KBr) ν = 2950, 2903, 1667, 1491, 1446, 1271, 1200, 1029, 743, 694, 666 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.01–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 4H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1H), 4.63 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.23–2.15 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.79 (m, 2H), 1.71–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.61–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.41 (m, 2H), 1.19–1.09 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.4, 140.0, 137.2, 133.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 52.8, 40.6, 38.0, 33.1, 32.8, 25.3, 25.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 279.1749, found: 279.1748.

3-cycloheptyl-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (5ac): Yield = 80% (74 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2919, 2851, 1680, 1492, 1271, 1112, 755, 696 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.00–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.25 (m, 4H), 7.21–7.16 (m, 1H), 4.68 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.18–2.09 (m, 1H), 2.02–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.82–1.73 (m, 2H), 1.59–1.39 (m, 9H), 1.27–1.20 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.4, 140.1, 137.2, 133.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 51.3, 42.3, 36.8, 35.0, 34.5, 28.8, 28.7, 26.4, 26.3 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 307.2062, found: 307.2061.

3-cyclooctyl-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (5ad): Yield = 79% (78 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2914, 2853, 1681, 1446, 1210, 1073, 756, 696 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.92–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 4H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 1H), 4.61 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.10–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.30 (m, 15H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.4, 140.1, 137.2, 133.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 51.3, 42.1, 34.9, 32.5, 32.1, 27.6, 27.5, 26.3, 25.4, 25.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 321.2218, found: 321.2223.

Product (5ae-1) and product (5ae'-2): Yield = 88% (**5ae-1**/**5ae'-2** = 5/1, 96 mg). White solid (mixture). IR (KBr) ν = 2893, 2845, 1670, 1493, 1447, 1270, 1100, 959, 756, 694 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) major product **5ae-1**: δ = 7.95–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 1H),

4.72–4.67 (m, 1H), 2.49–2.41 (m, 1H), 1.83–1.46 (m, 14H), 1.34–1.27 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) major product **5ae-1**: δ = 200.0, 141.5, 137.1, 133.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 126.9, 48.6, 47.7, 43.0, 37.1, 33.3, 28.8 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 345.2218, found: 345.2224.

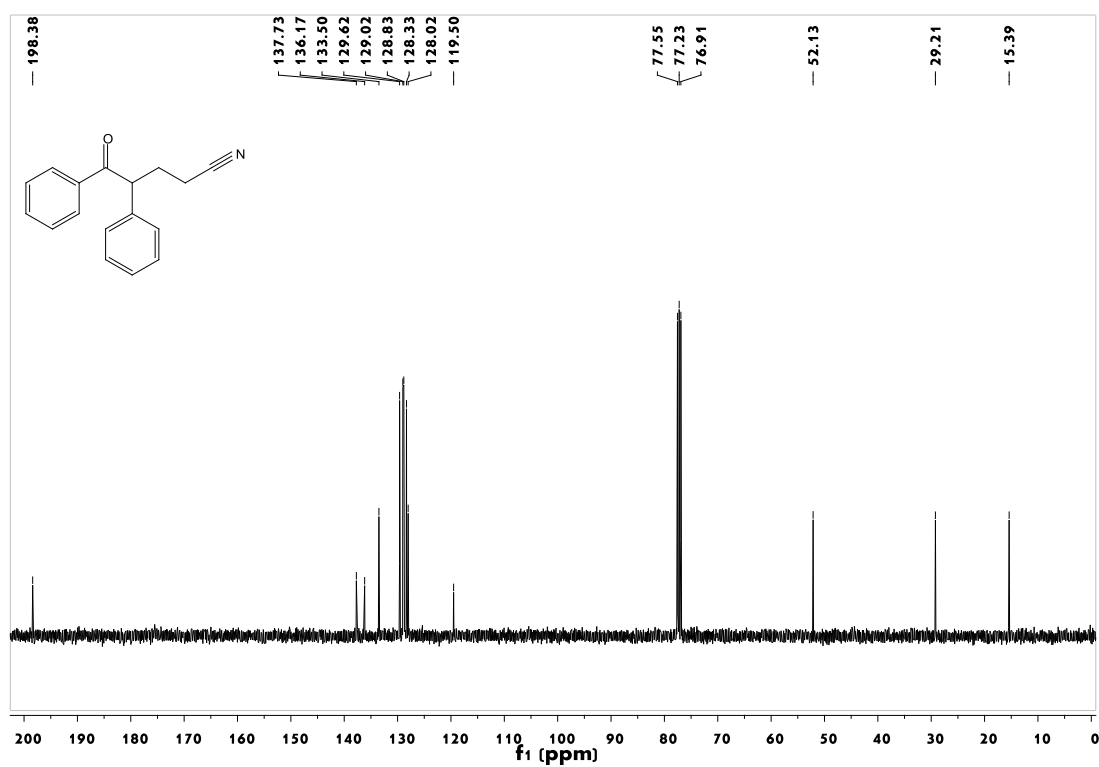
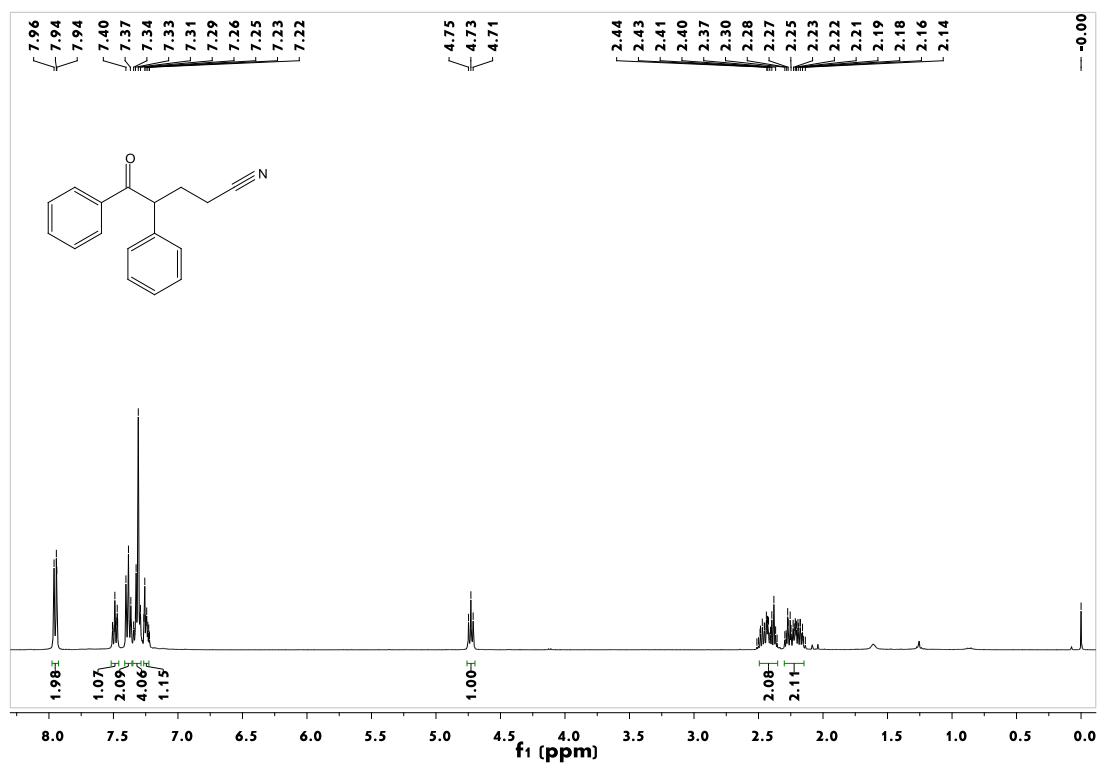
product (5af): Yield = 28% ($2/3 = 8/3$, 26 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2956, 2926, 2870, 1680, 1447, 1205, 1175, 756, 696 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a mixture. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.94–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 4H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 1H), 4.69–4.43 (m, 1H), 2.26–2.17 (m, 0.4H), 2.11–2.02 (m, 0.4H), 1.85 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 0.6H), 1.74–1.64 (m, 0.4H), 1.53–1.44 (m, 0.6H), 1.36–1.00 (m, 5.6H), 0.87–0.83 (m, 1H), 0.82–0.76 (m, 3H), 0.74–0.68 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.5, 200.4, 200.2, 140.4, 140.2, 139.8, 137.3, 137.2, 137.2, 137.1, 133.0, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 127.1, 127.1, 51.3, 51.2, 51.2, 41.9, 41.1, 39.8, 39.5, 38.0, 37.7, 30.6, 30.3, 25.5, 25.4, 20.1, 20.0, 19.8, 14.6, 14.5, 10.7, 10.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1905, found: 281.1902.

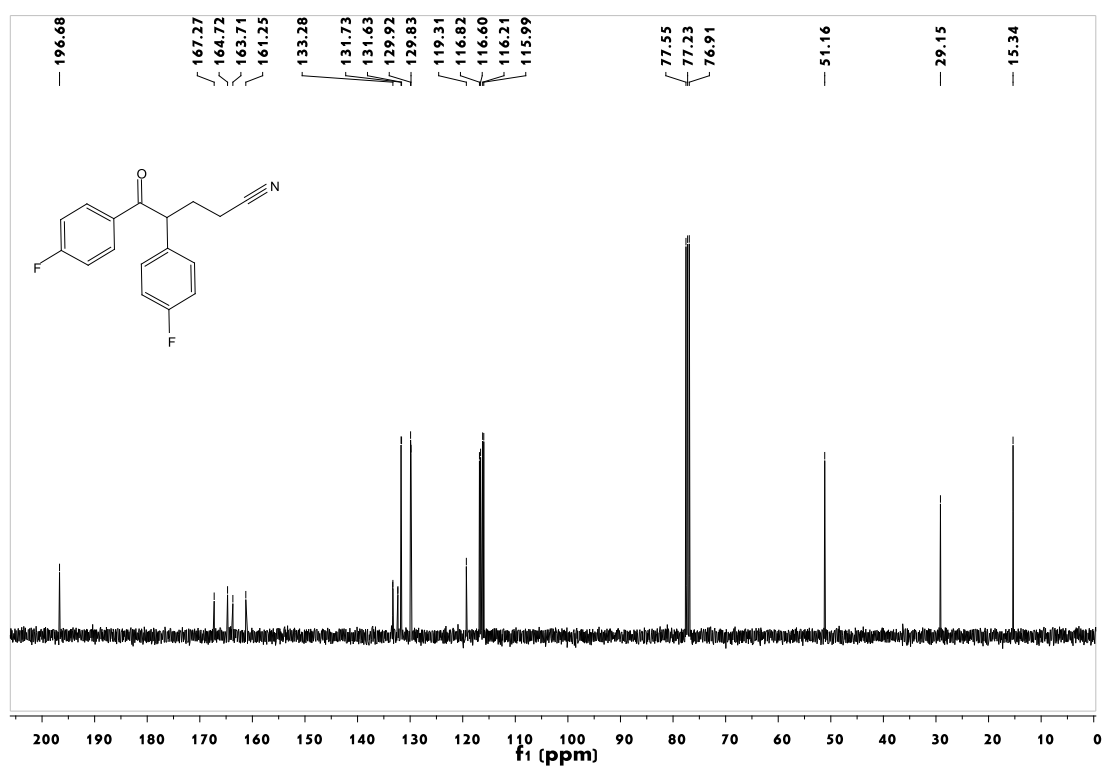
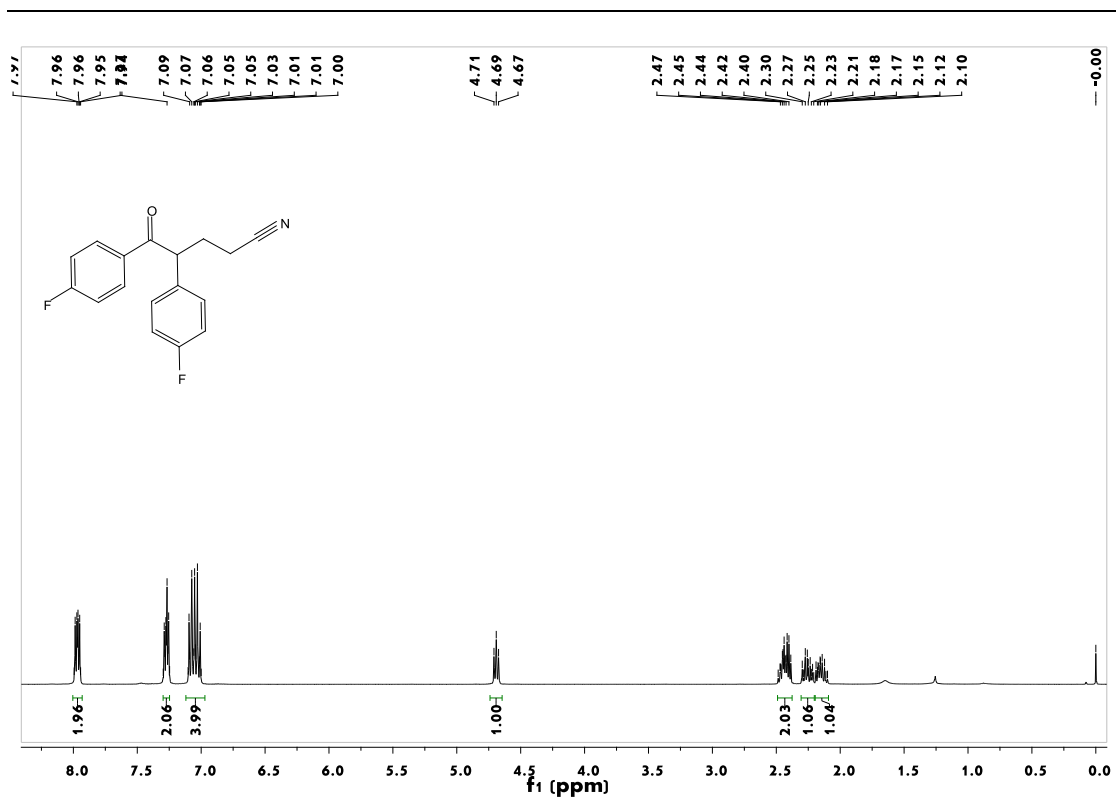
product (5ag): Yield = 76% ($2/3 = 6/4$, 70 mg). Colorless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2955, 2925, 1681, 1493, 1447, 1206, 1002, 756, 696 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a mixture. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.93–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.16 (m, 4H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 1H), 4.68–4.43 (m, 1H), 2.27–2.17 (m, 0.4H), 2.13–1.99 (m, 0.4H), 1.85 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 0.6H), 1.74–1.62 (m, 0.5H), 1.52–1.44 (m, 0.5H), 1.33–1.03 (m, 7.6H), 0.87–0.68 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 200.4, 200.4, 200.3, 200.2, 140.4, 140.2, 140.1, 139.8, 137.3, 137.3, 137.2, 137.1, 133.0, 133.0, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 127.1, 127.1, 51.3, 51.3, 51.2, 51.2, 42.0, 41.1, 38.2, 38.0, 37.2, 36.9, 36.4, 36.3, 35.6, 35.6, 30.9, 30.5, 29.2, 29.1, 26.0, 23.2, 23.1, 20.1, 19.9, 19.6, 14.7, 14.6, 14.4, 14.3, 10.6, 10.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 295.2062, found: 295.2062.

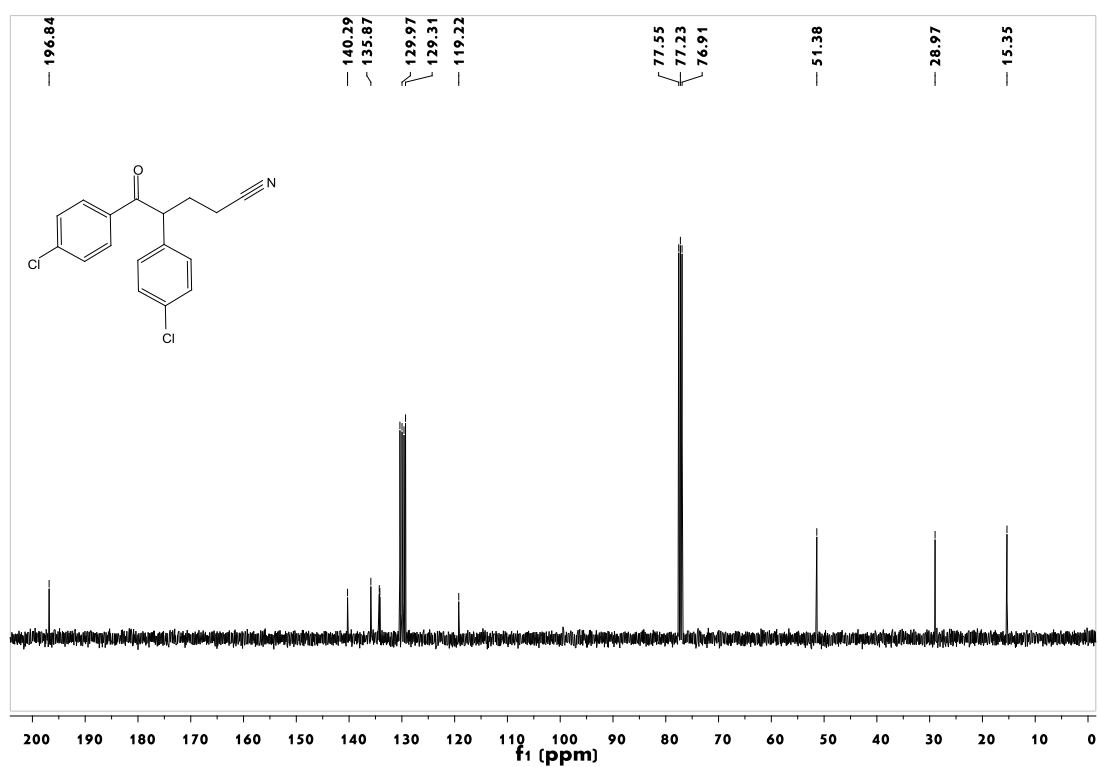
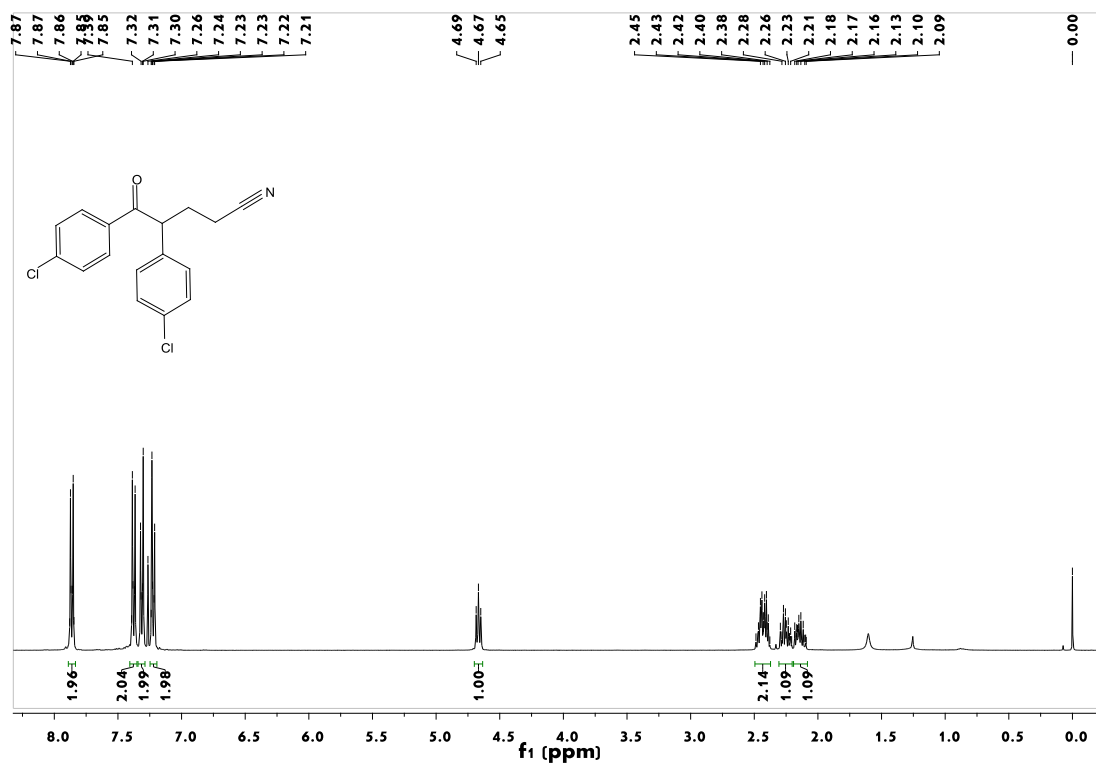
5,6-diphenyl-3,4-dihydropyridin-2(1H)-one (6): Yield = 50% (63 mg). White solid (M.p. 224.7–226.3 $^{\circ}\text{C}$). IR (KBr) ν = 3195, 3080, 1665, 1638, 1384, 1291, 1215, 824, 759, 653 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.26–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 3H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 2.91–2.84 (m, 2H), 2.74–2.67 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 171.2, 140.1, 135.8, 133.0, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.7, 128.2, 126.4, 115.4, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 31.0, 28.1 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 250.1232, found: 250.1238.

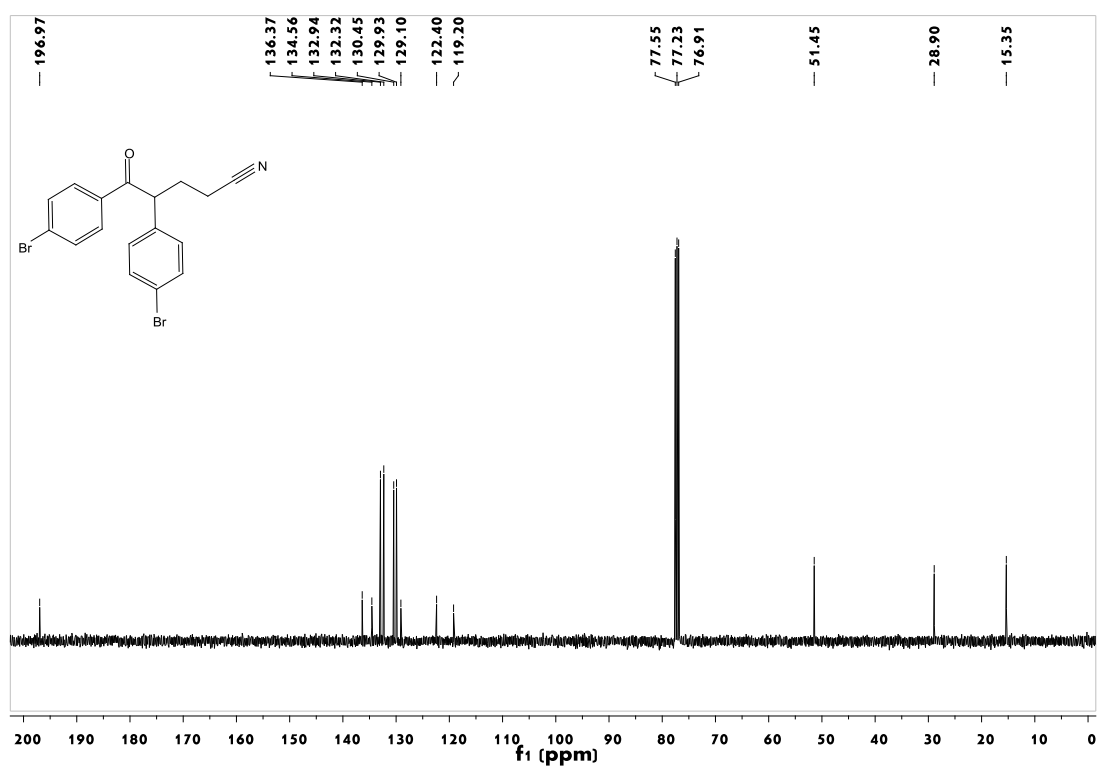
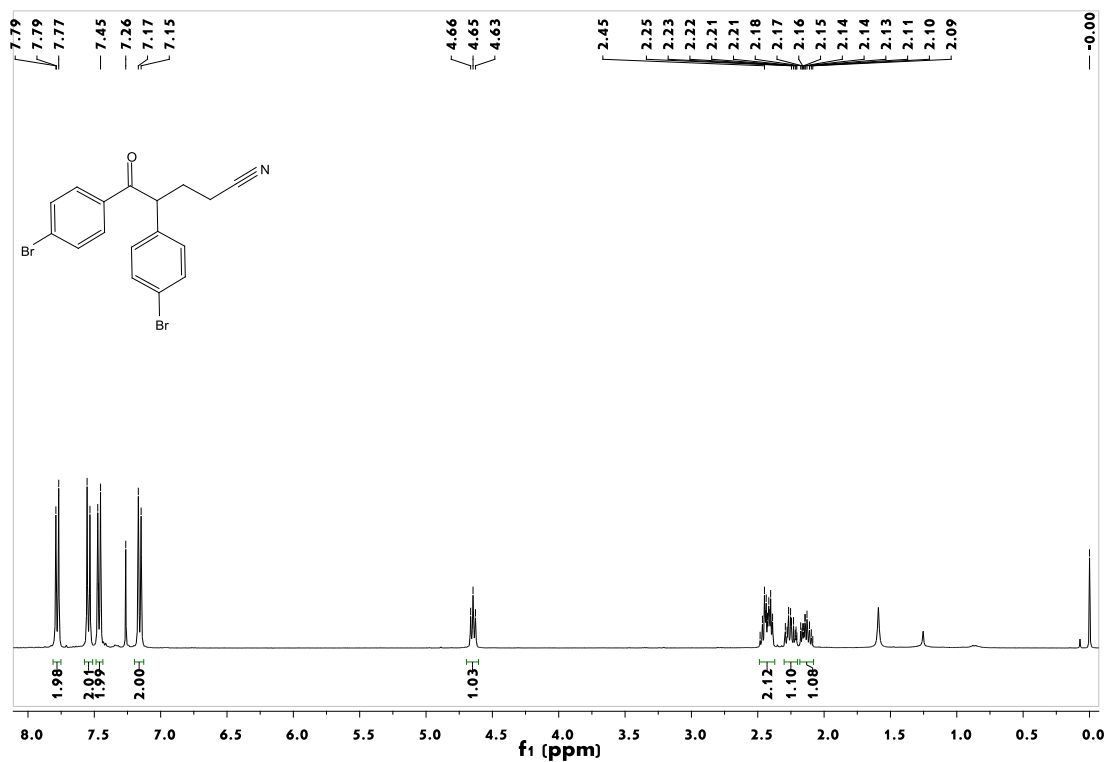
2,3-diphenylpiperidine (7): Yield = 79% (78 mg). Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 3289, 3026, 2935, 2866, 1678, 1451, 1043, 758, 699 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.35–7.20 (m, 8H), 7.19–7.12 (m, 2H), 4.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.88–2.77 (m, 1H), 2.54–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 1H), 1.59–1.39 (m, 2H), 1.20–1.11 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 142.8, 141.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.1, 127.1, 78.5, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 54.1, 41.5, 30.4, 29.0 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 238.1596, found: 238.1594.

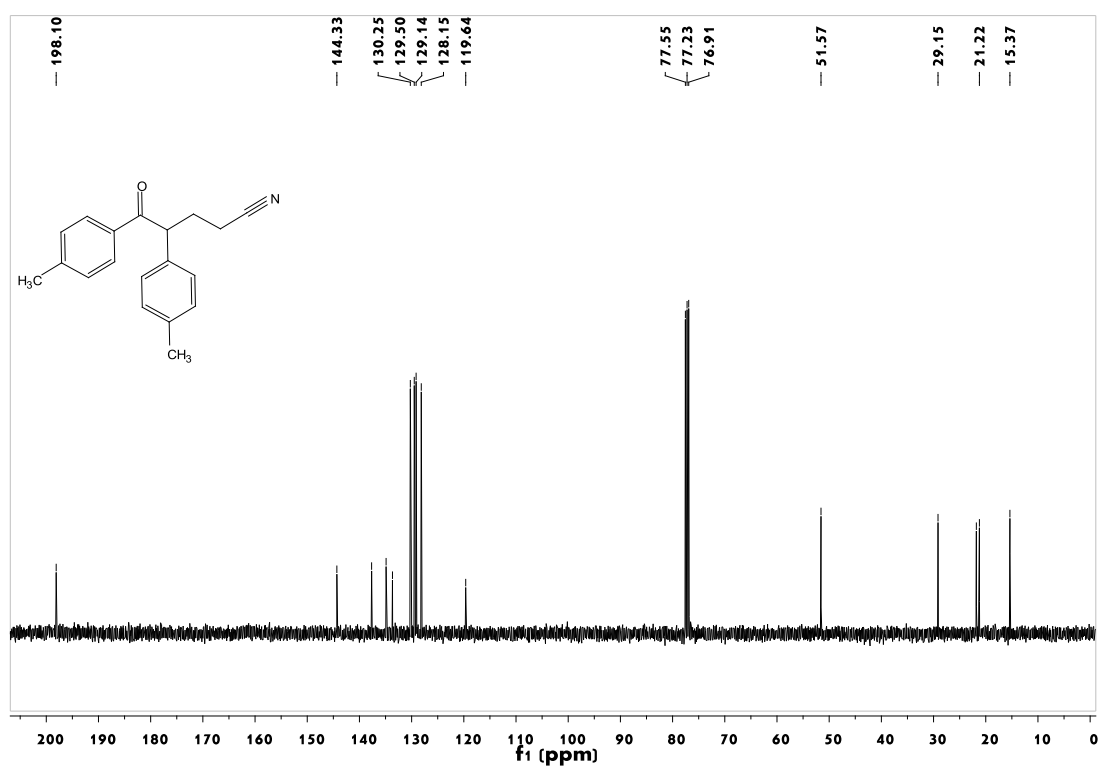
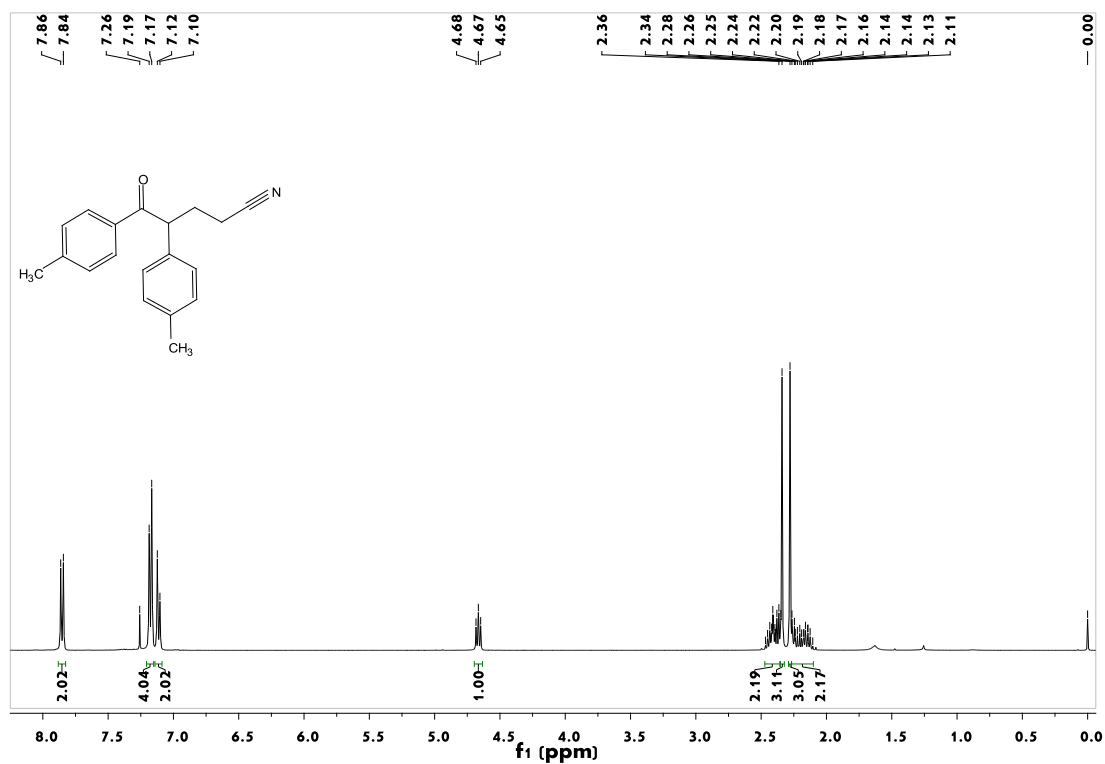
The ^1H , ^{13}C spectra of compounds:

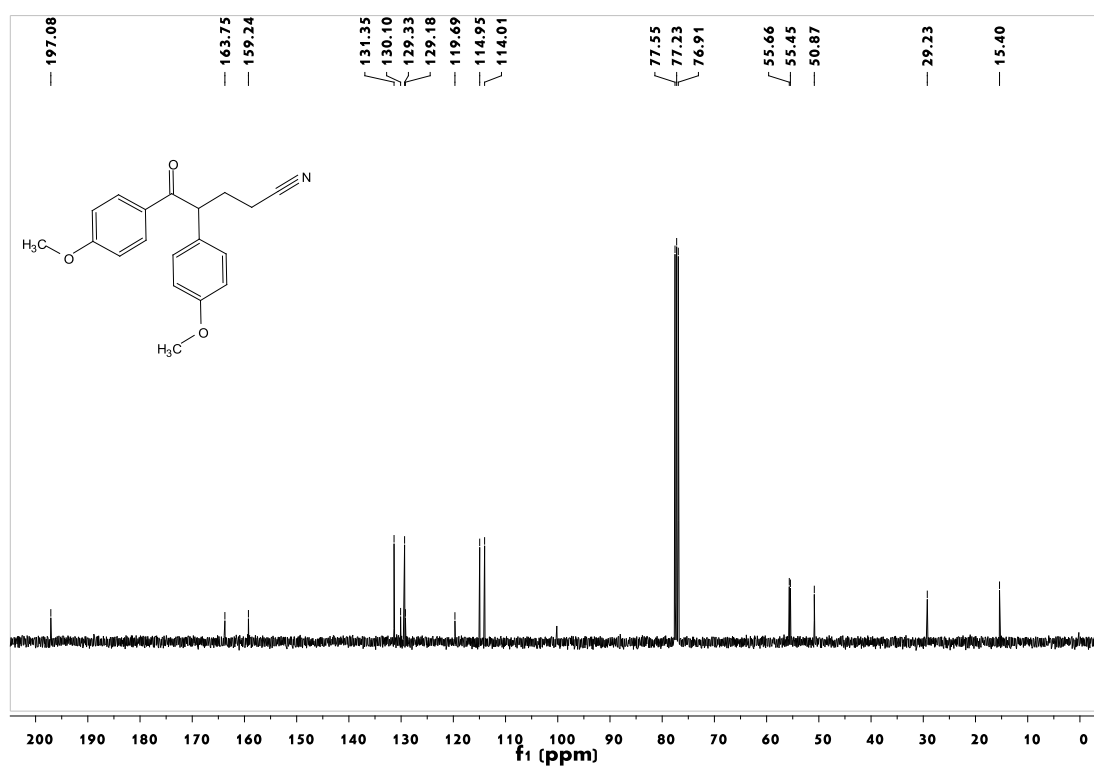
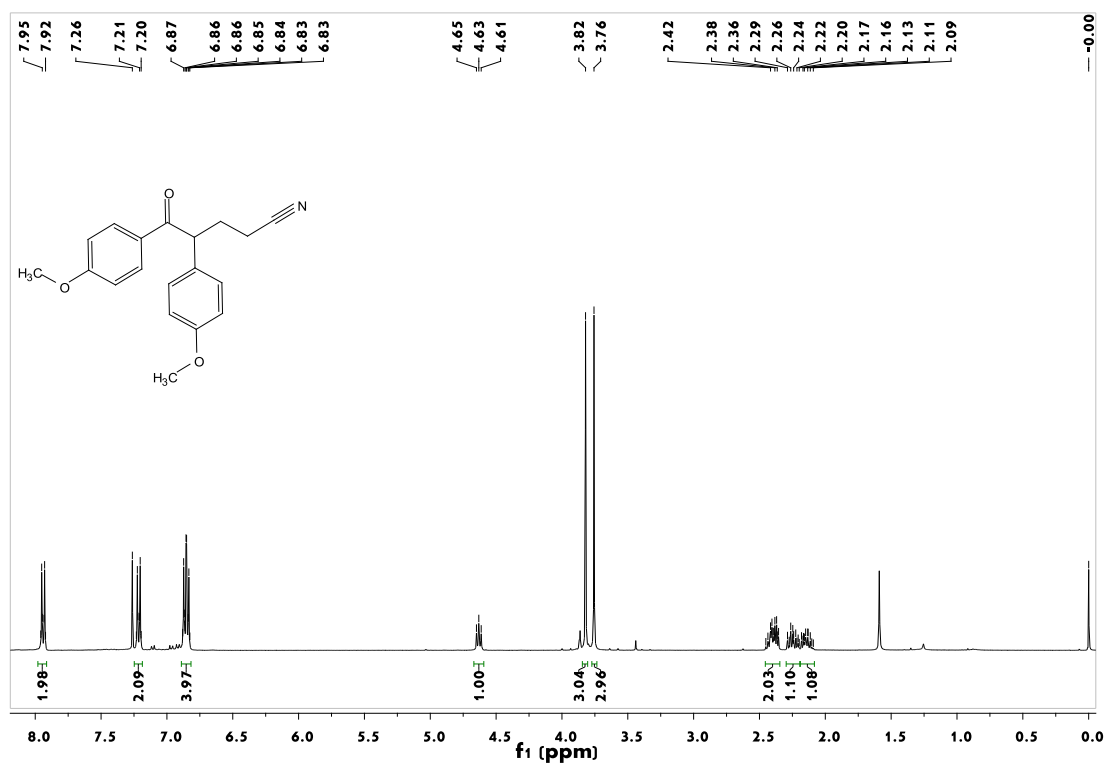


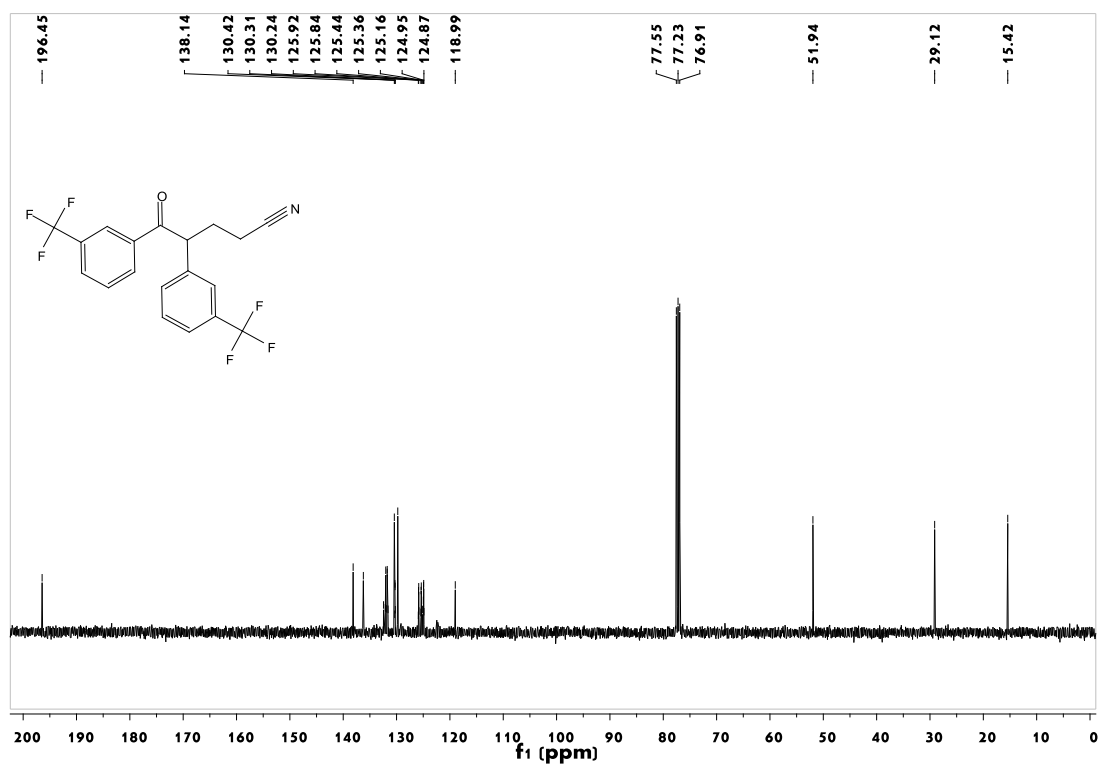
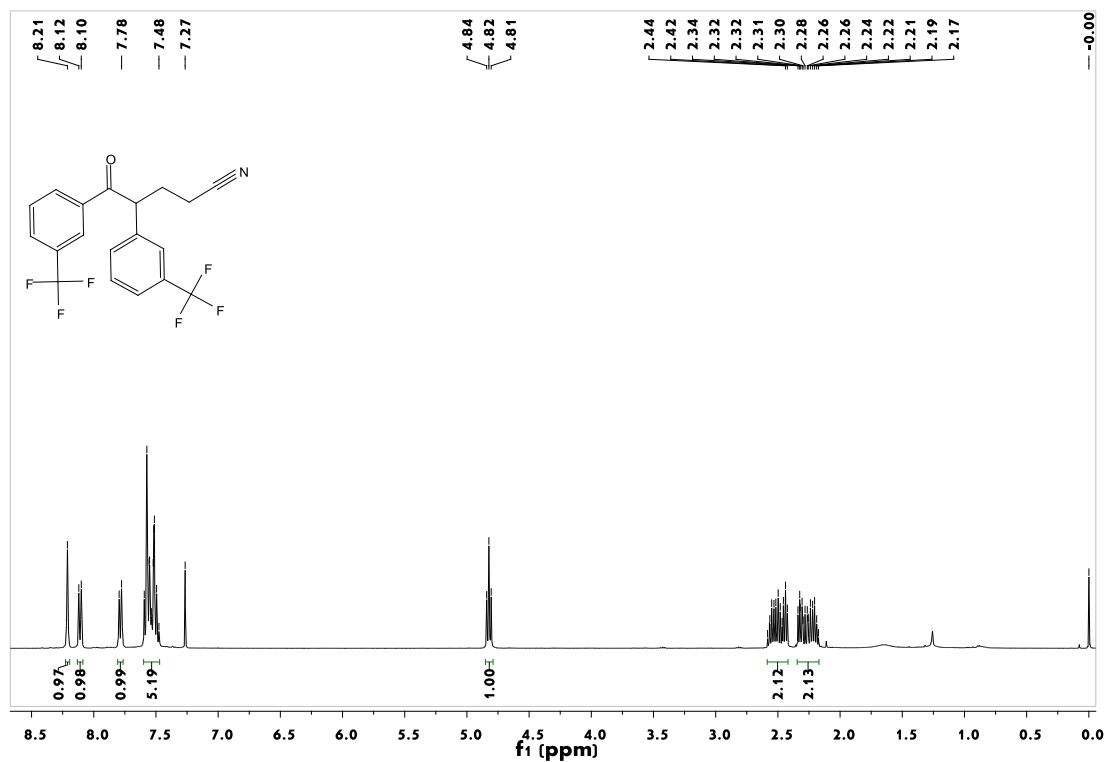


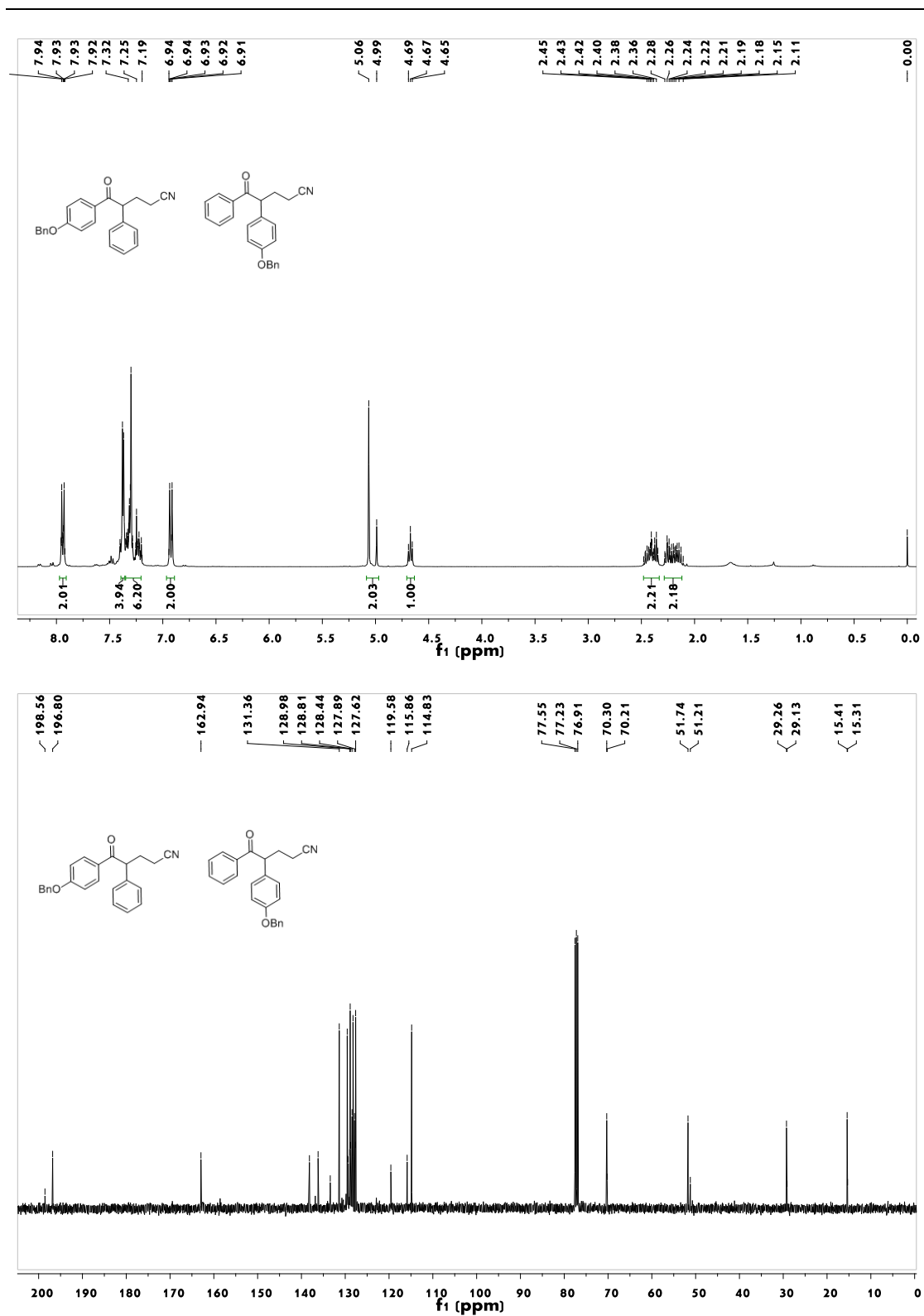


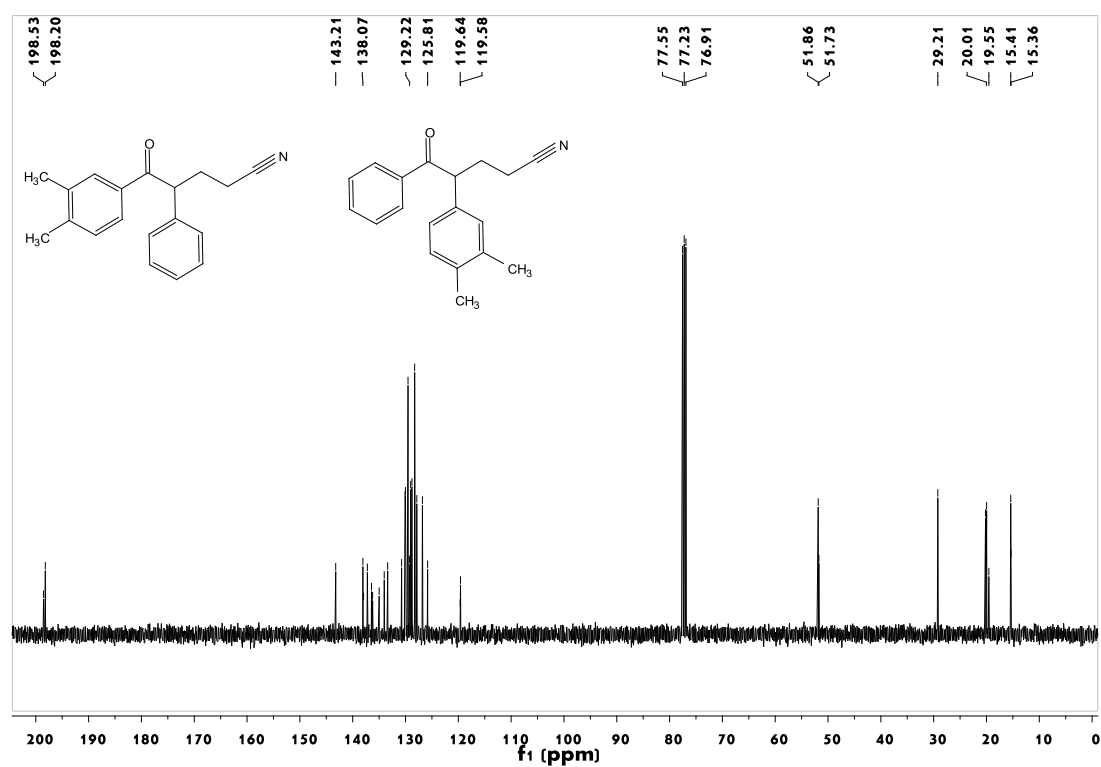
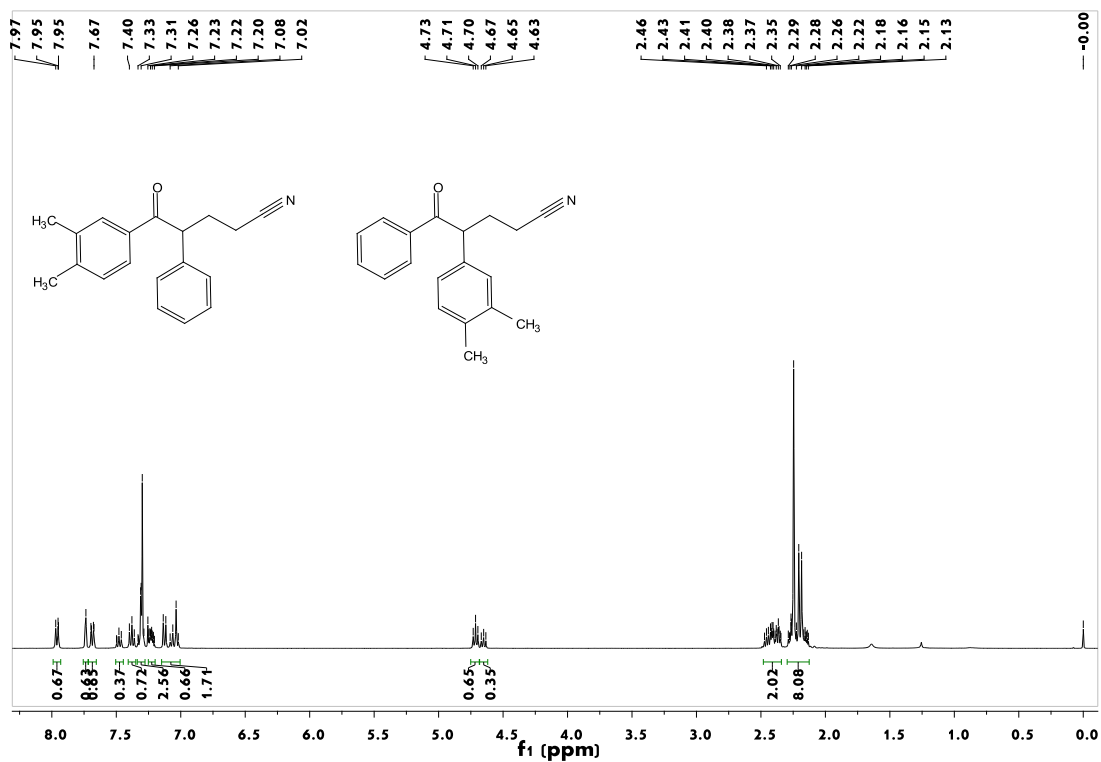


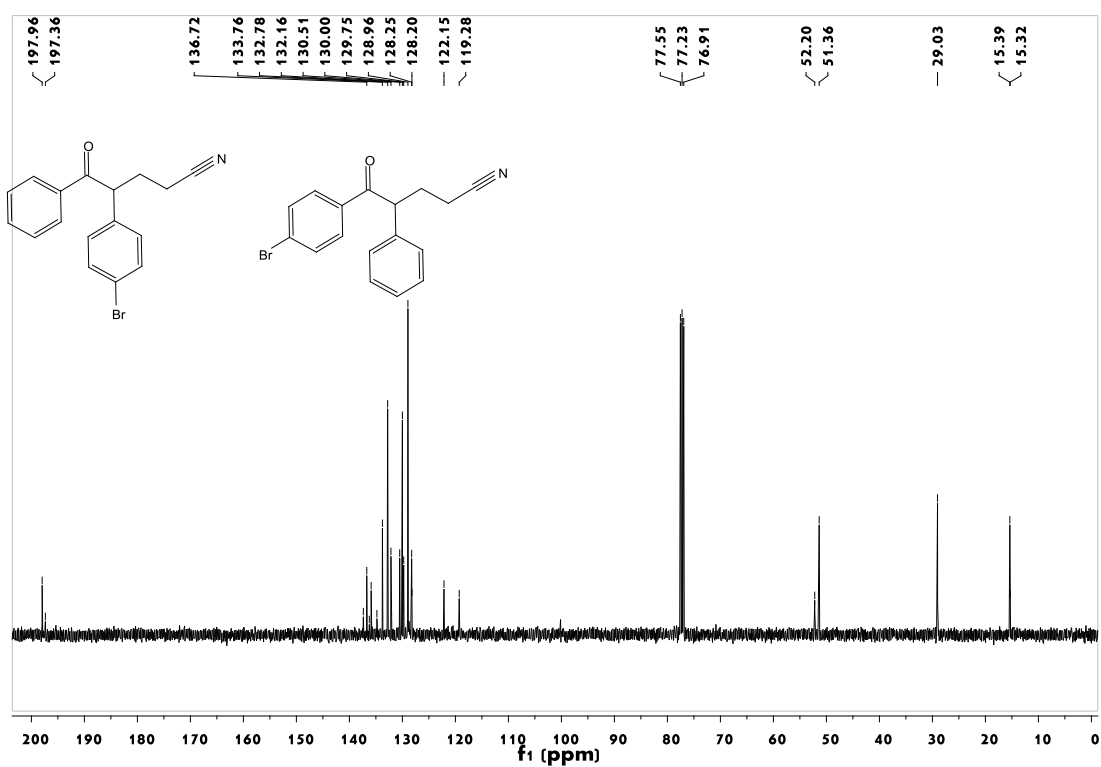
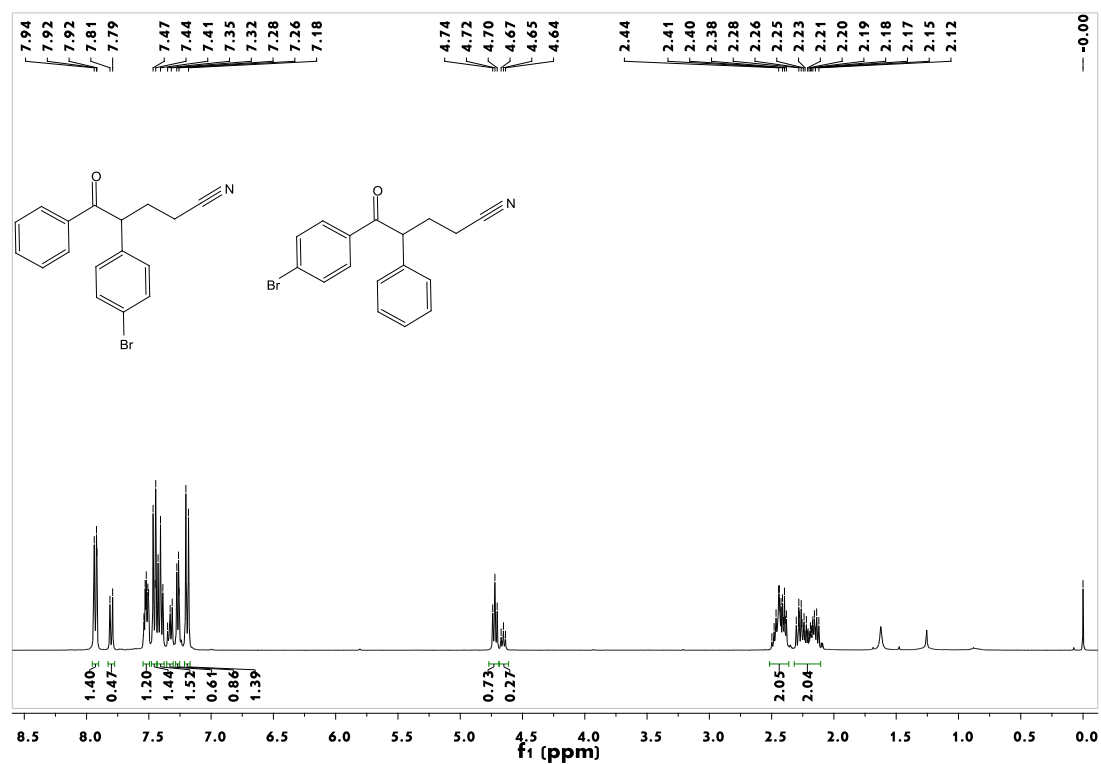


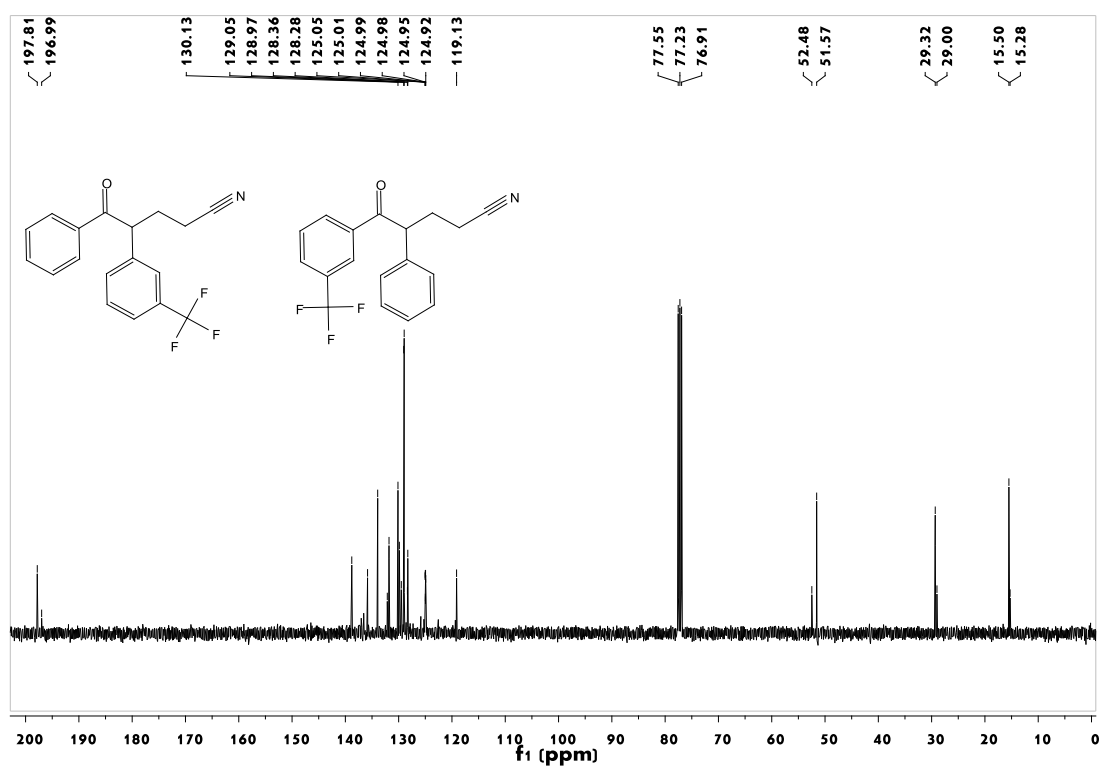
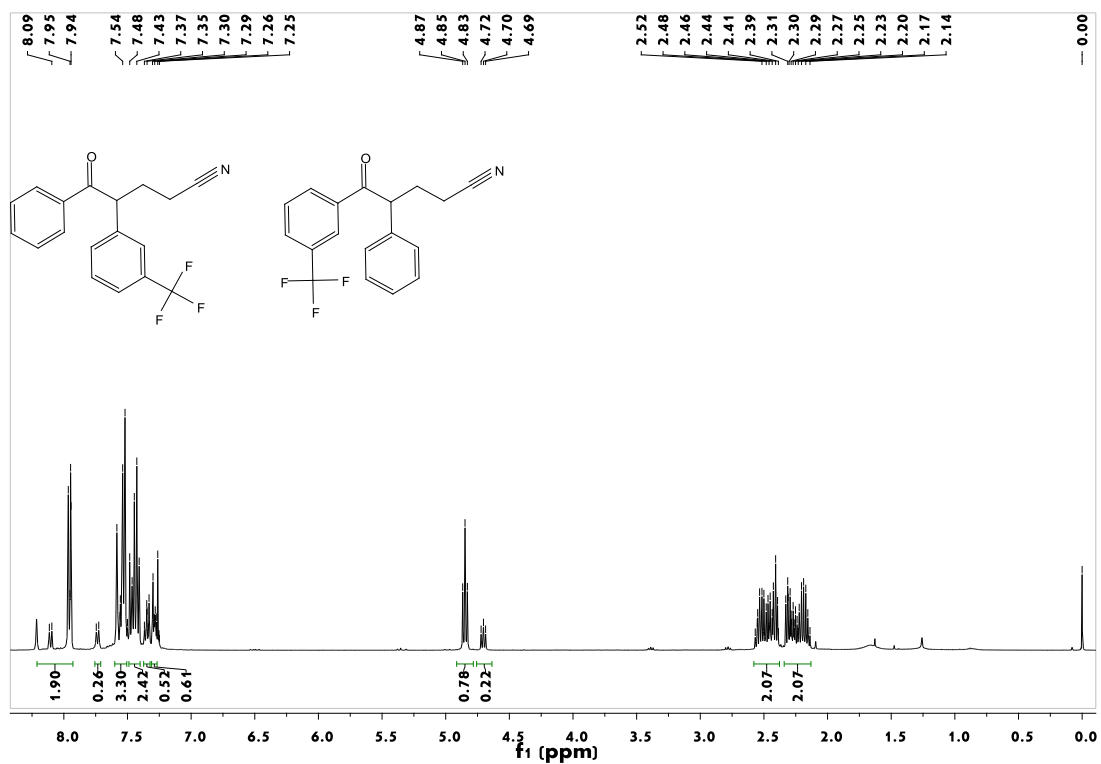


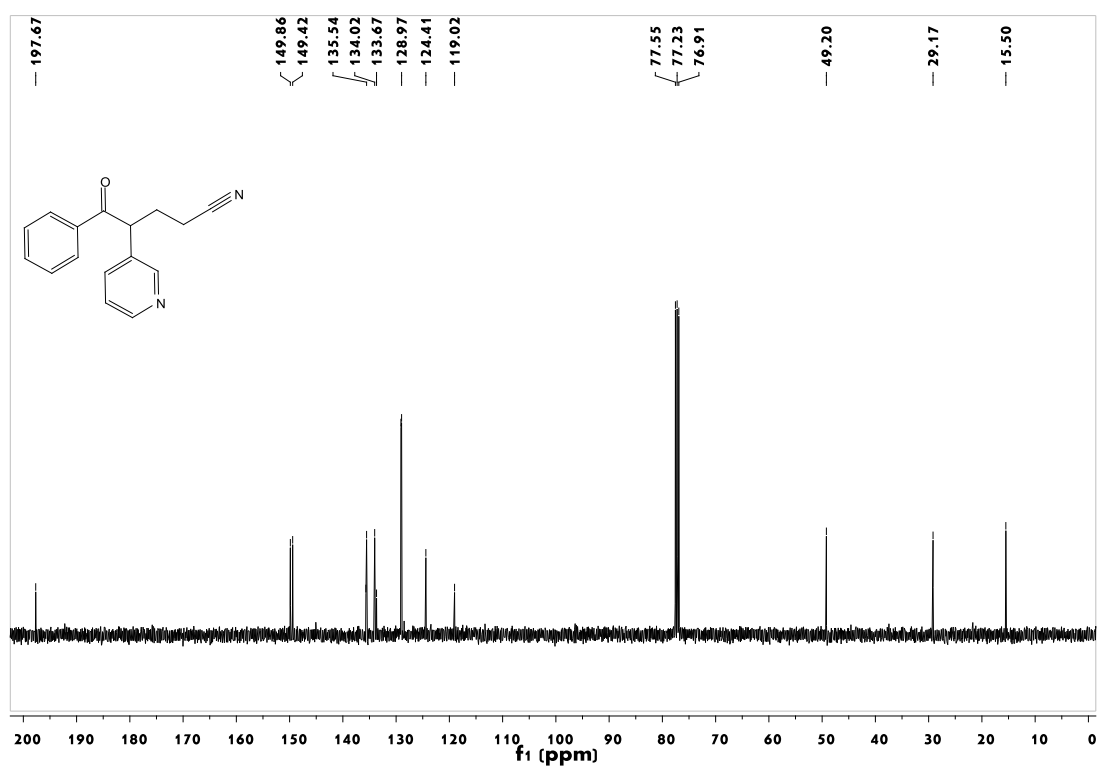
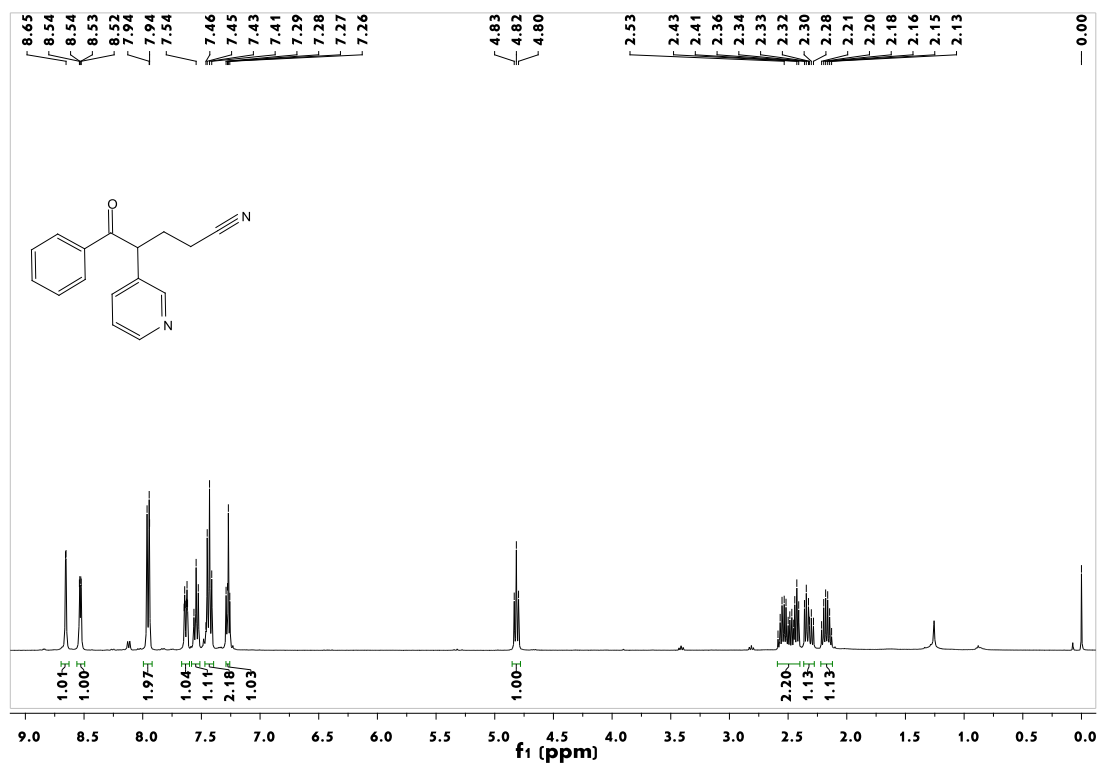


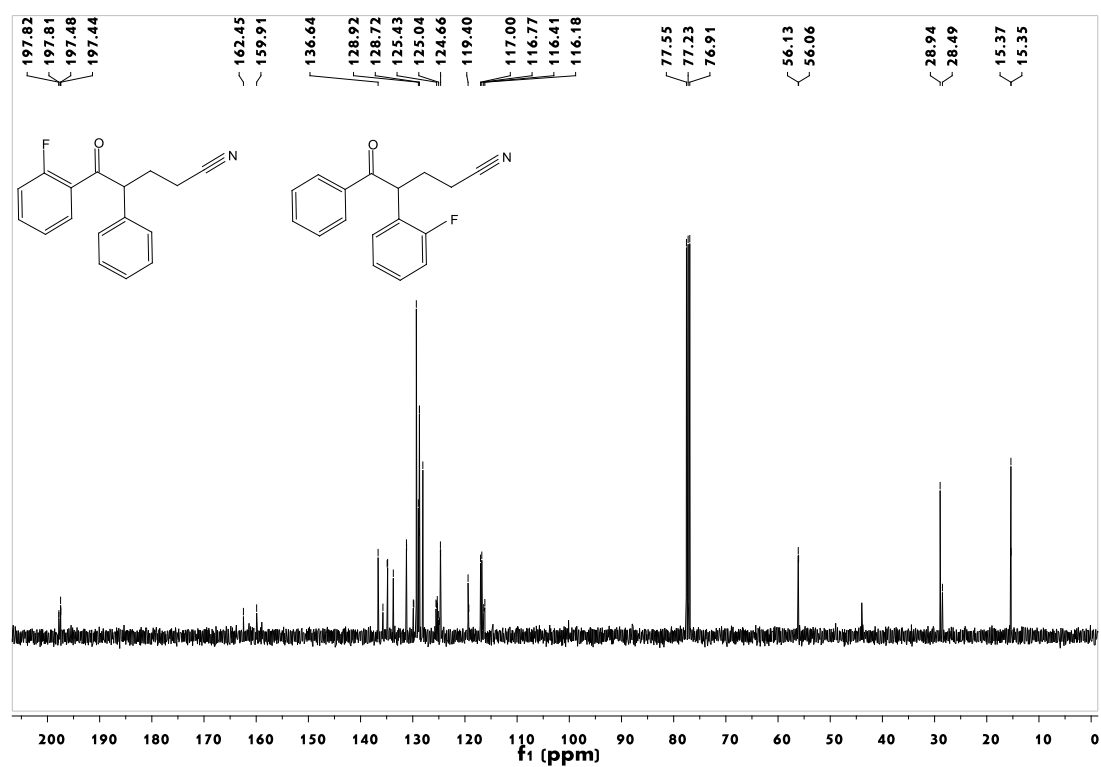
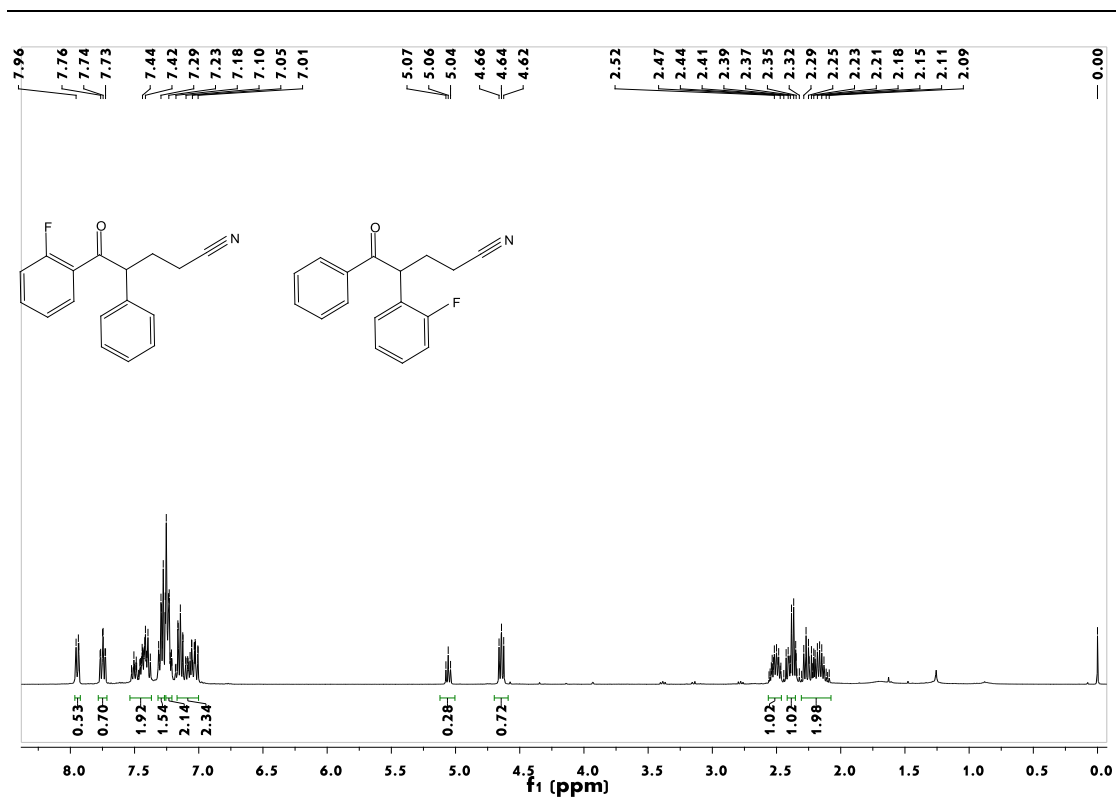


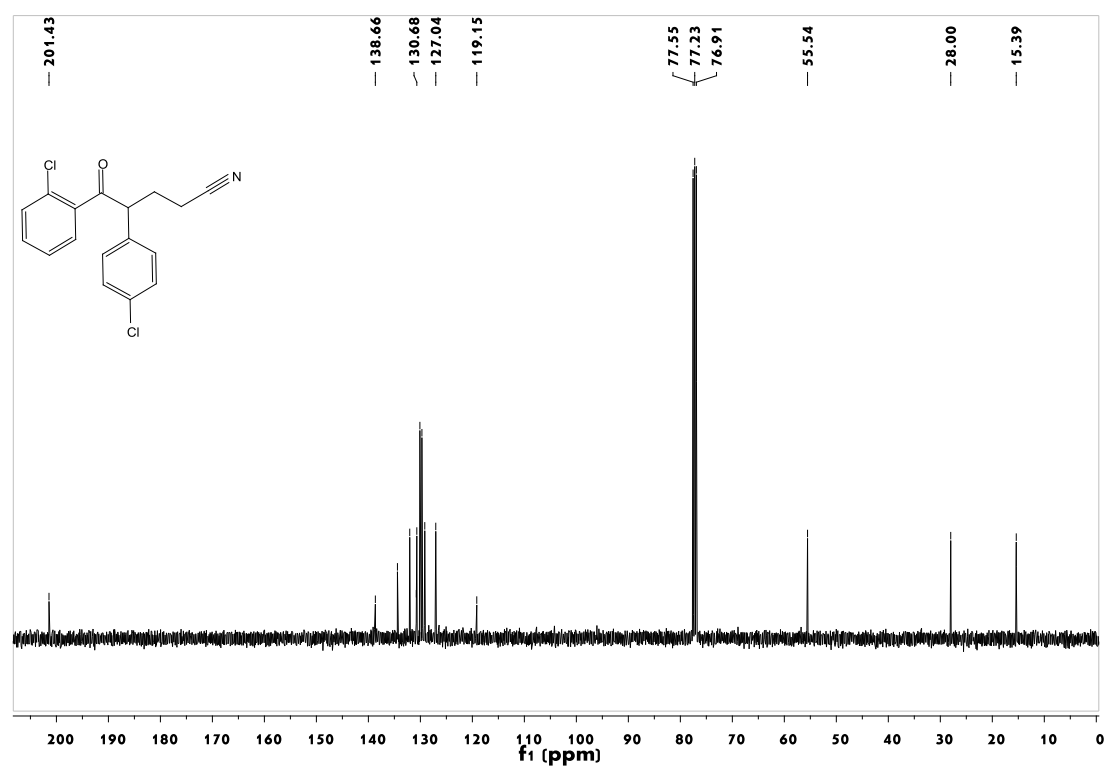
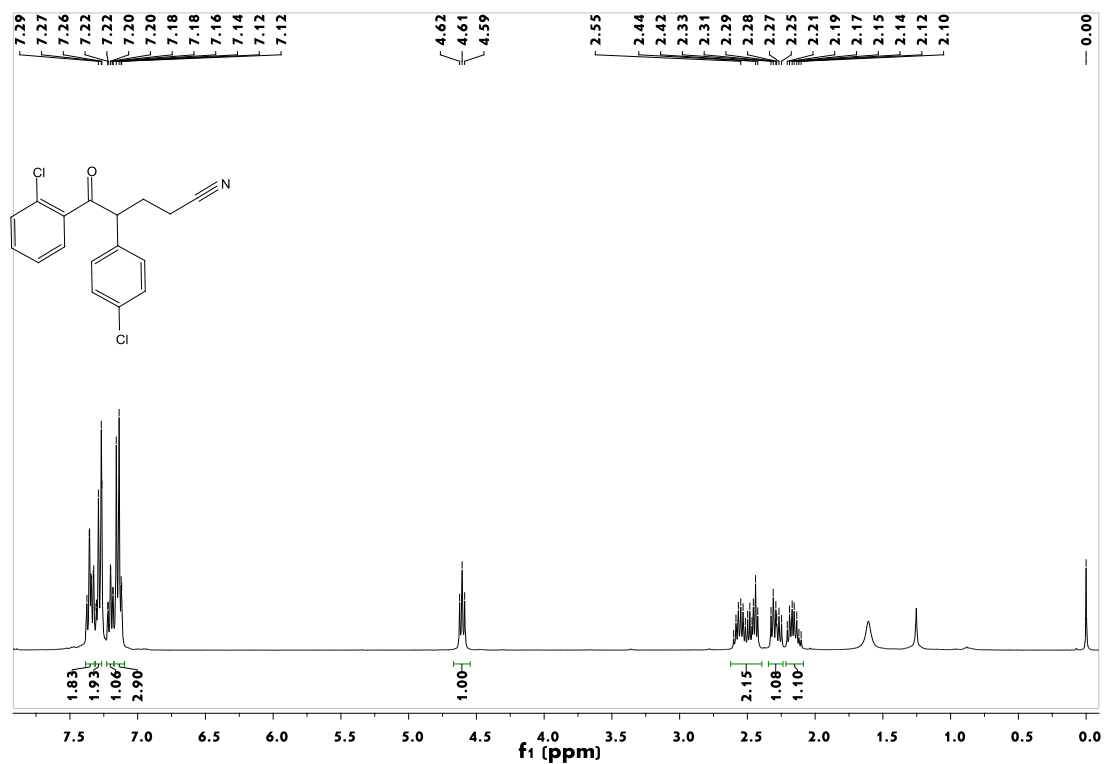


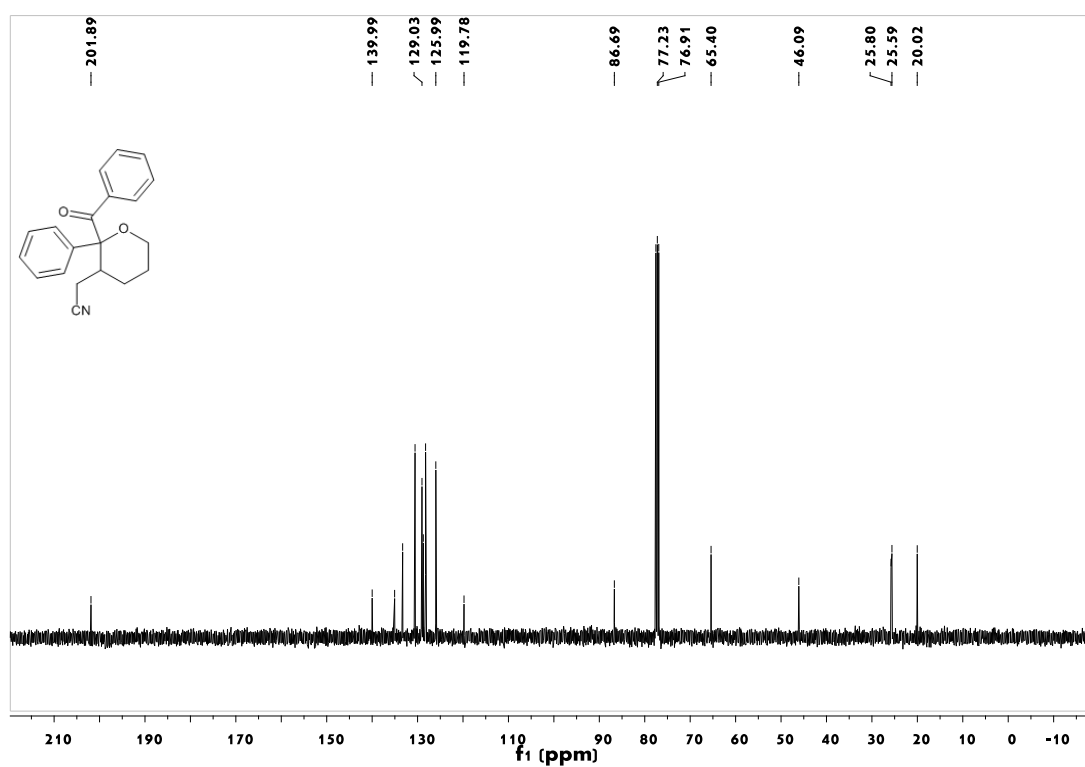
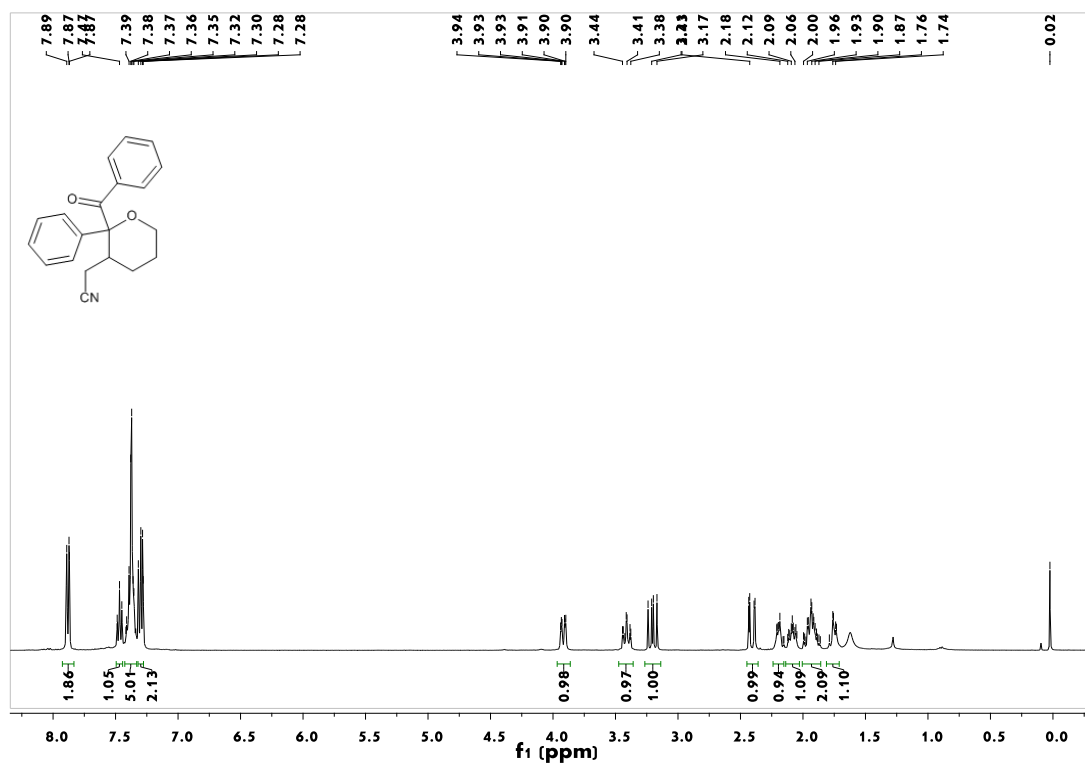


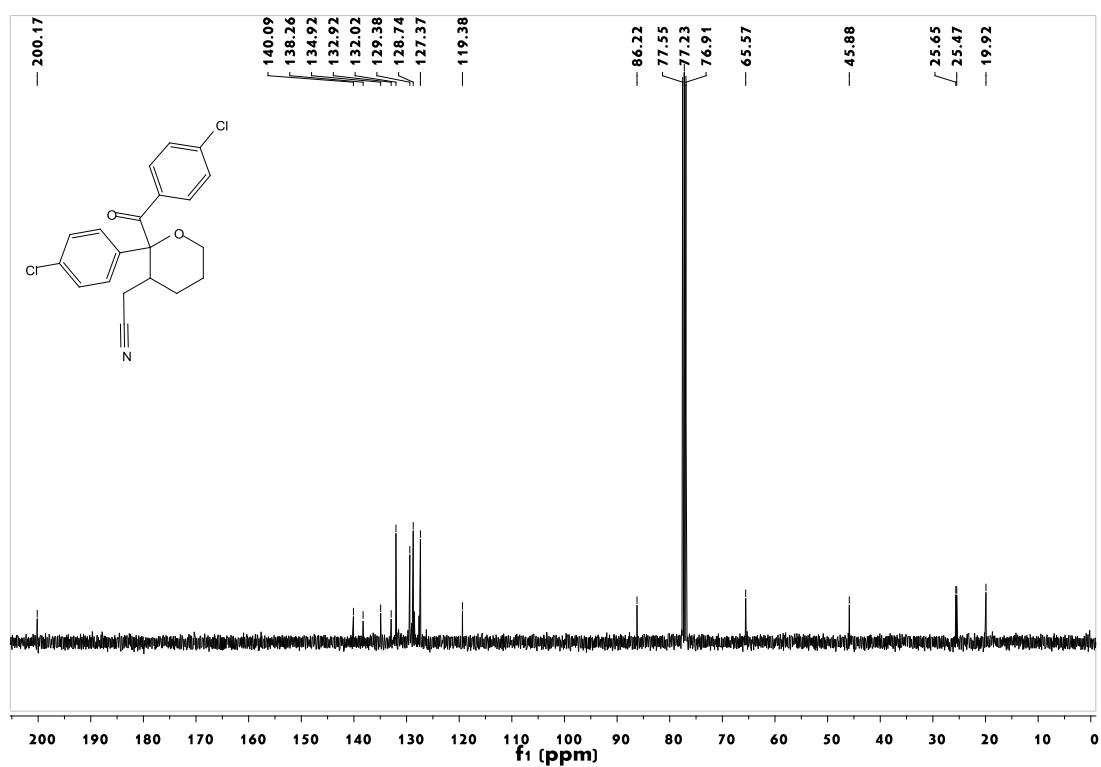
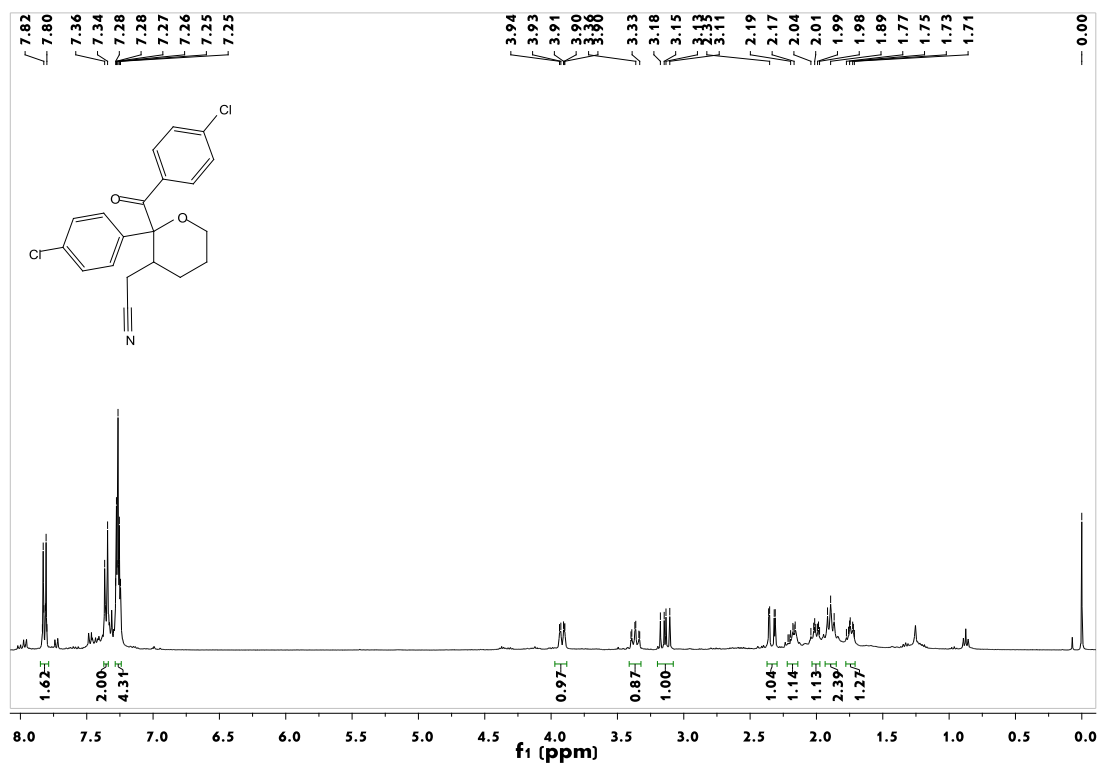


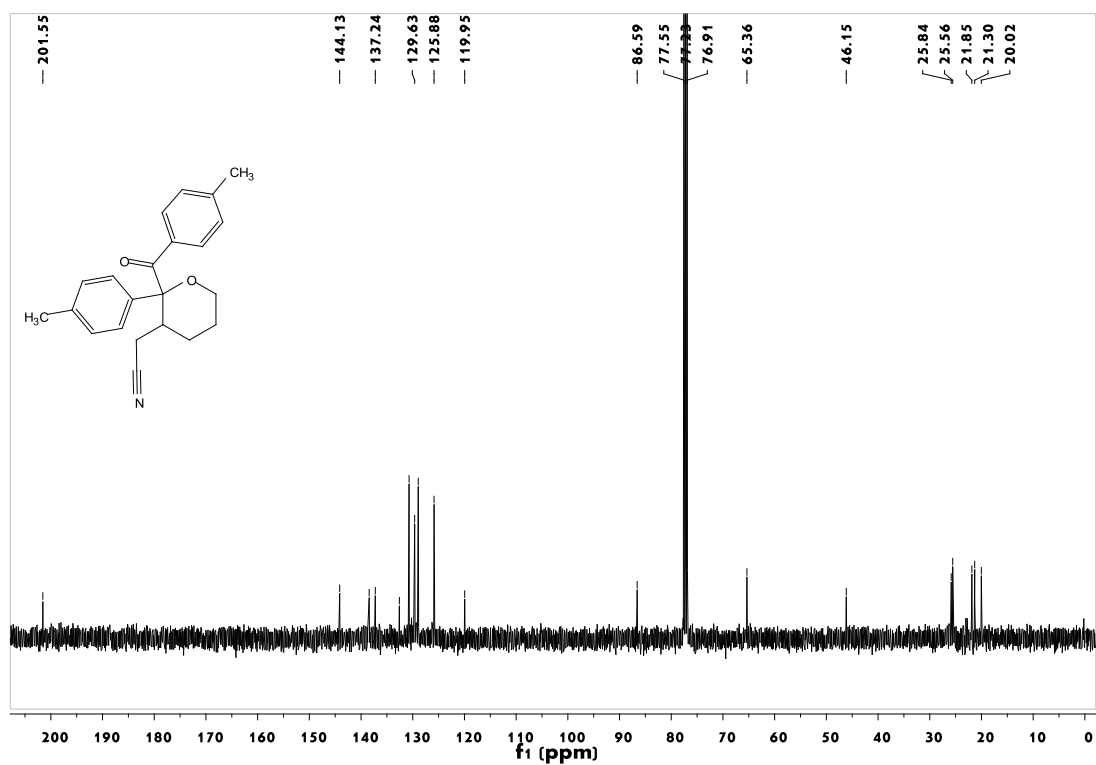
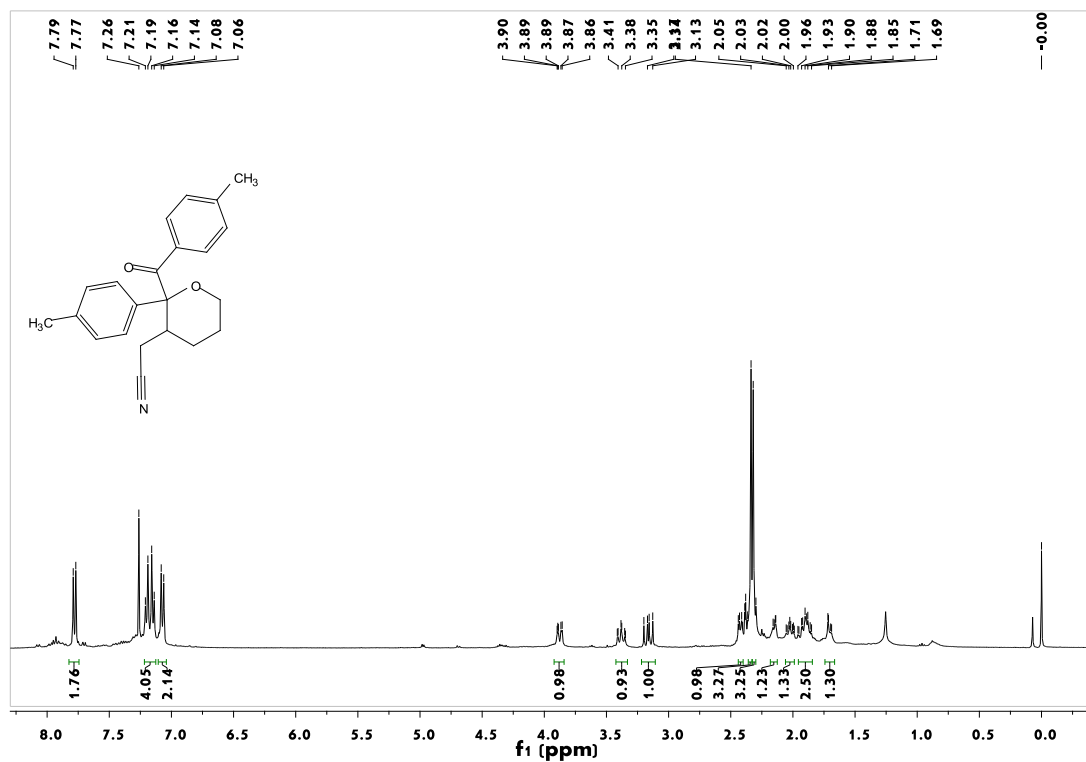


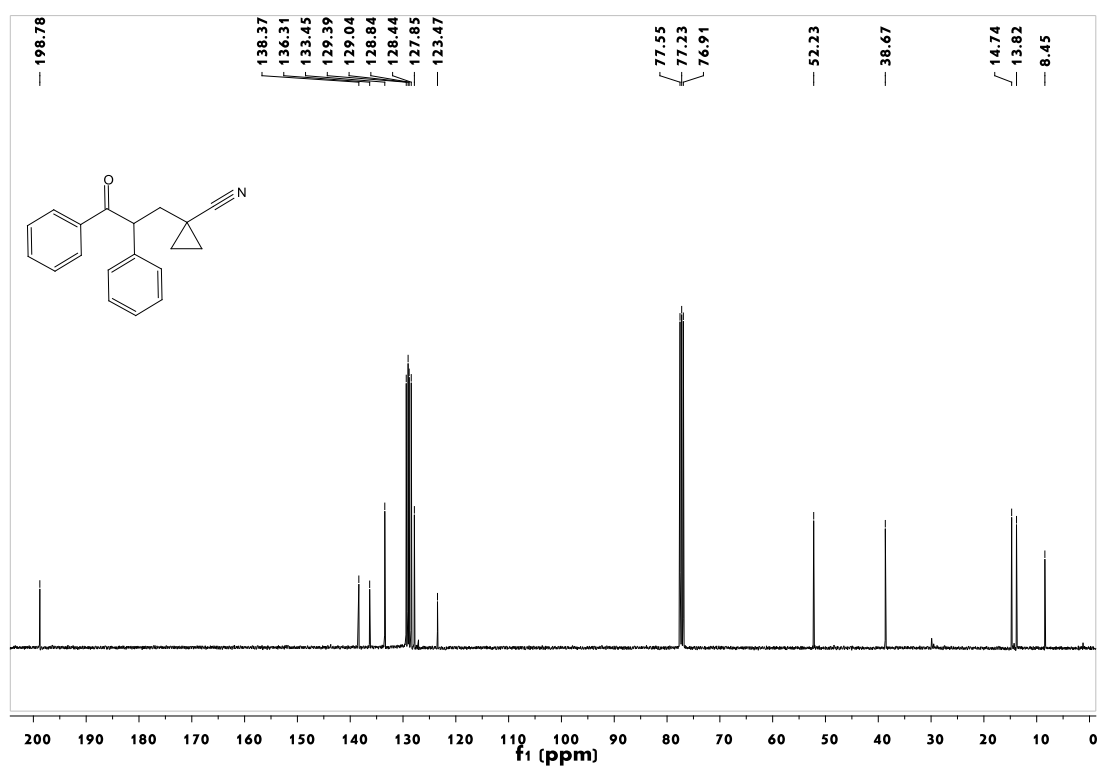
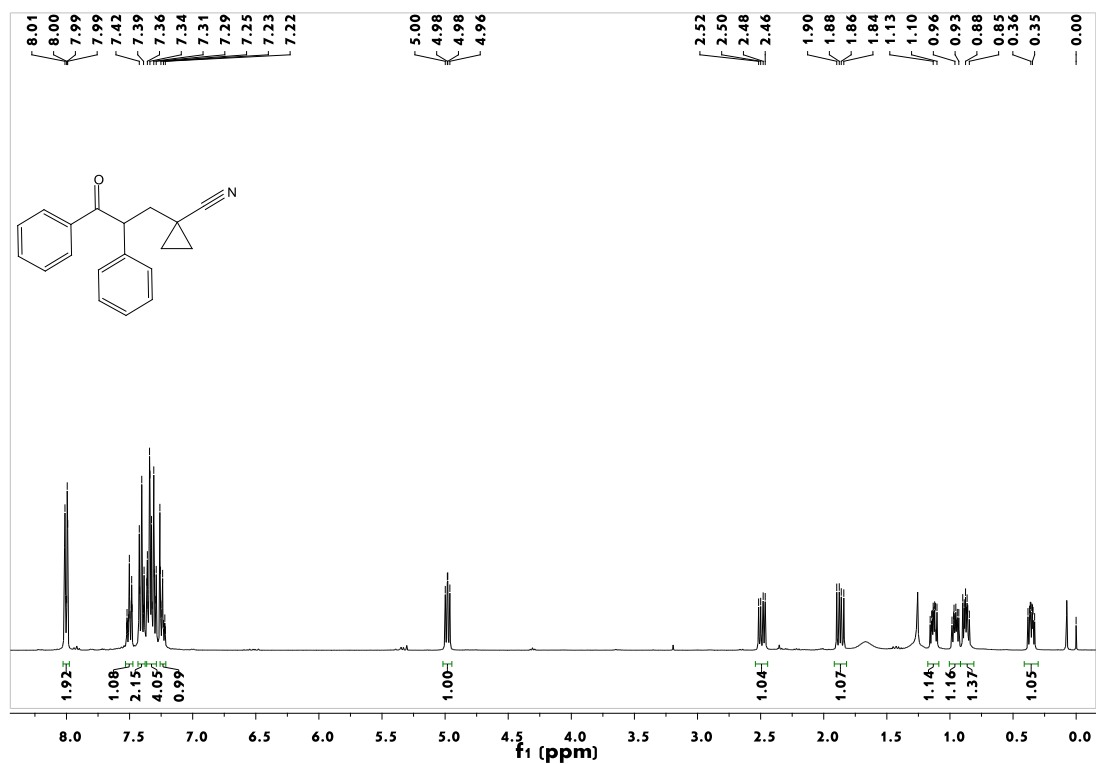


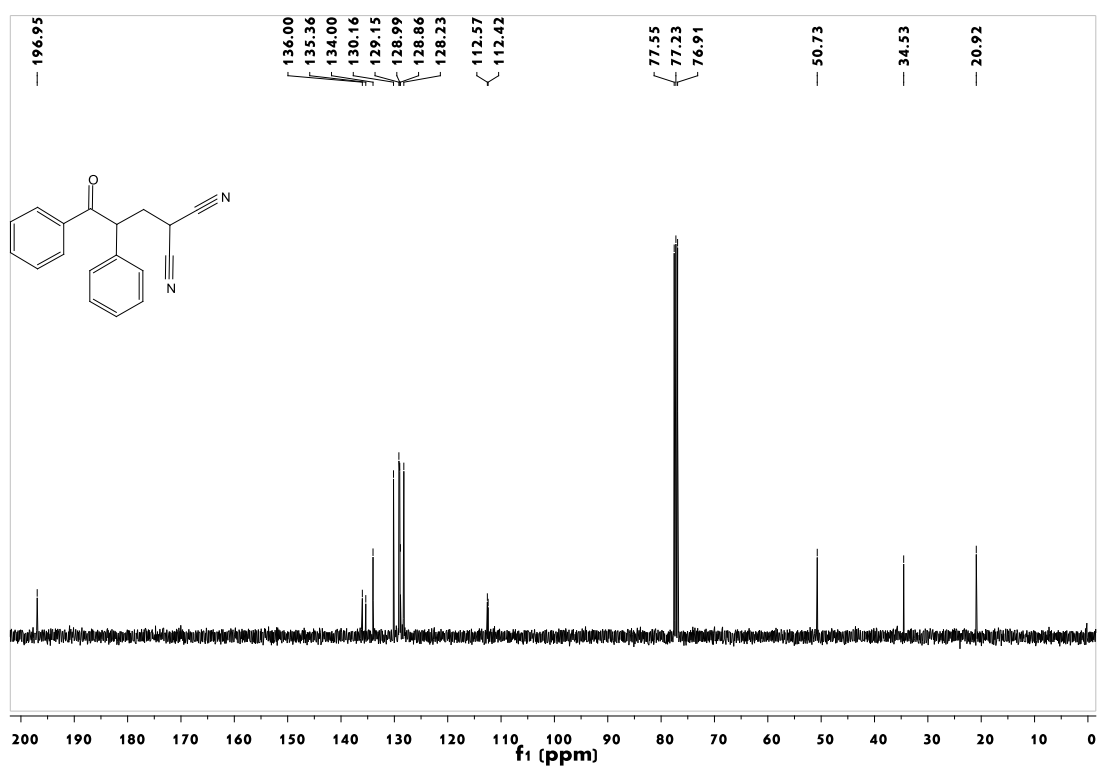
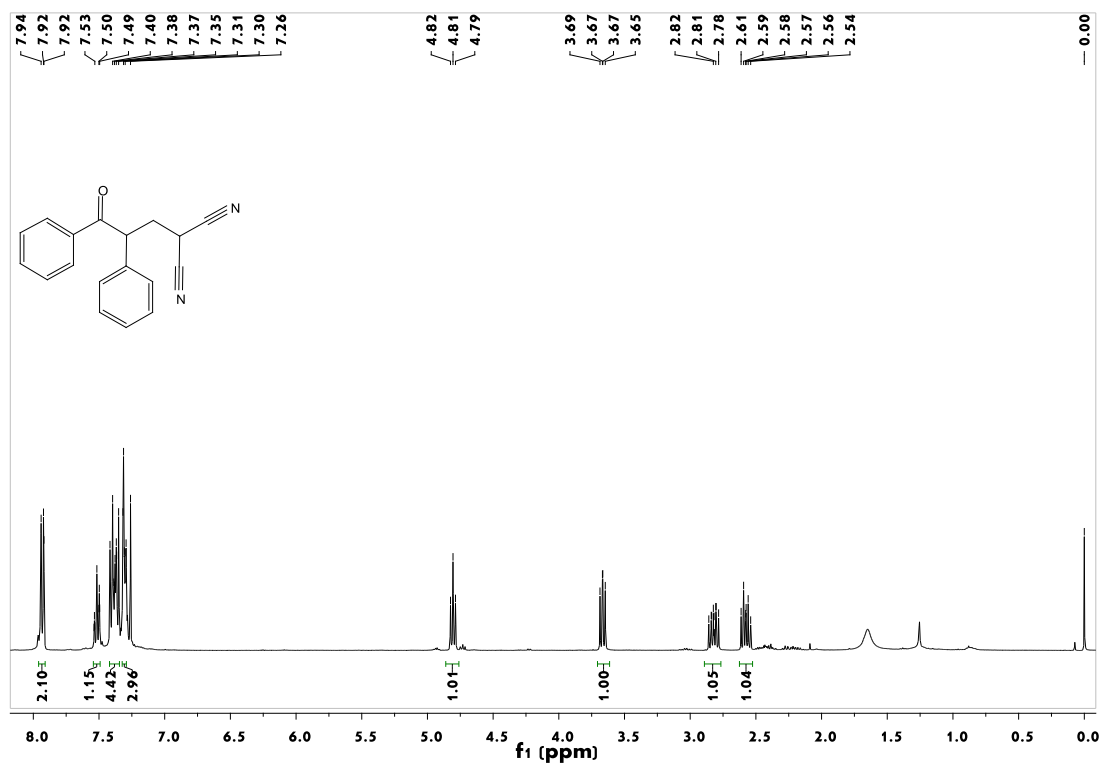


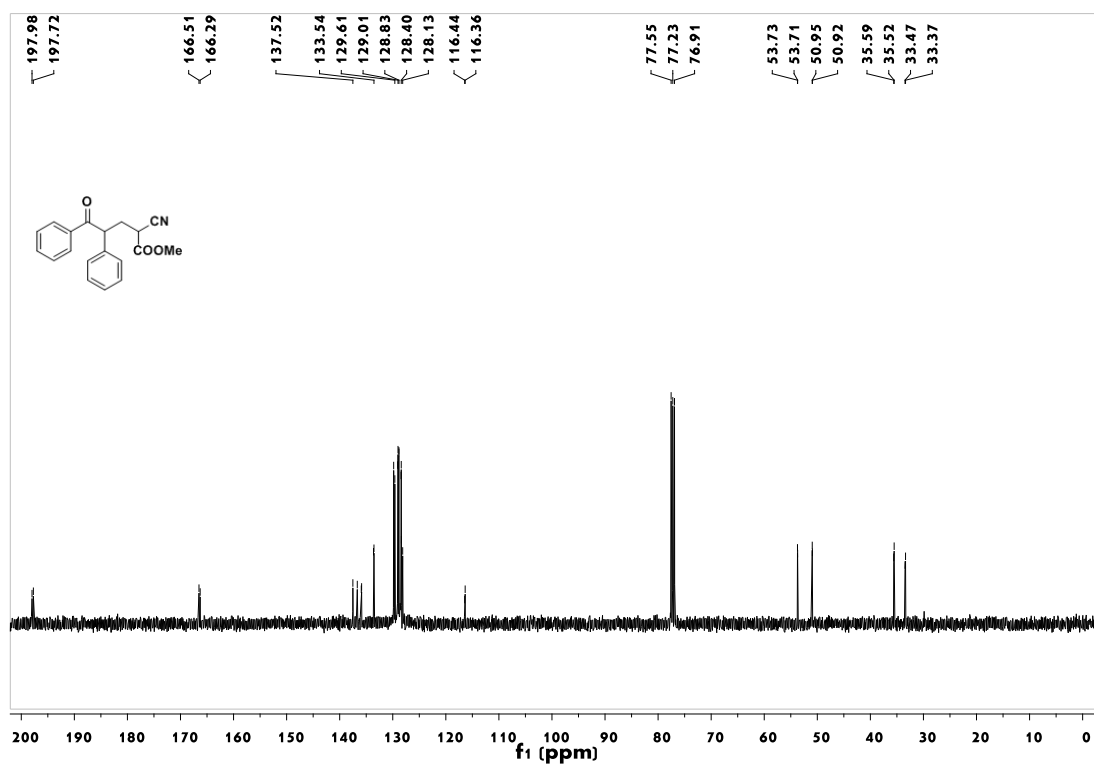
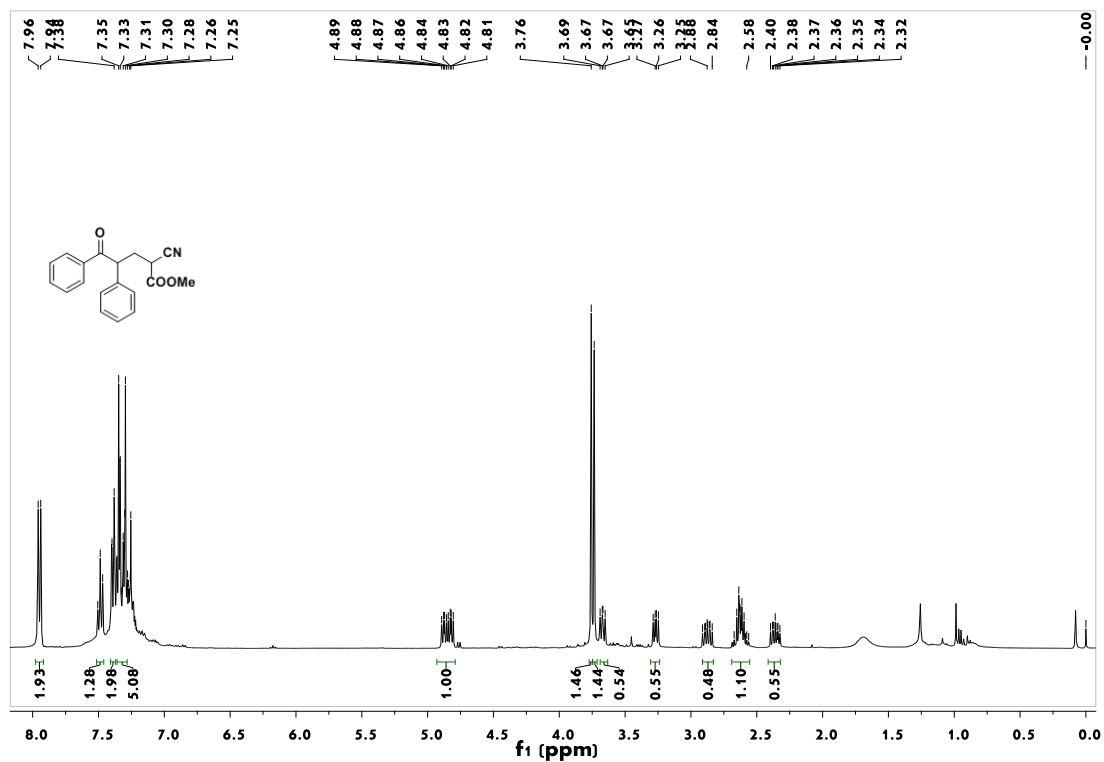


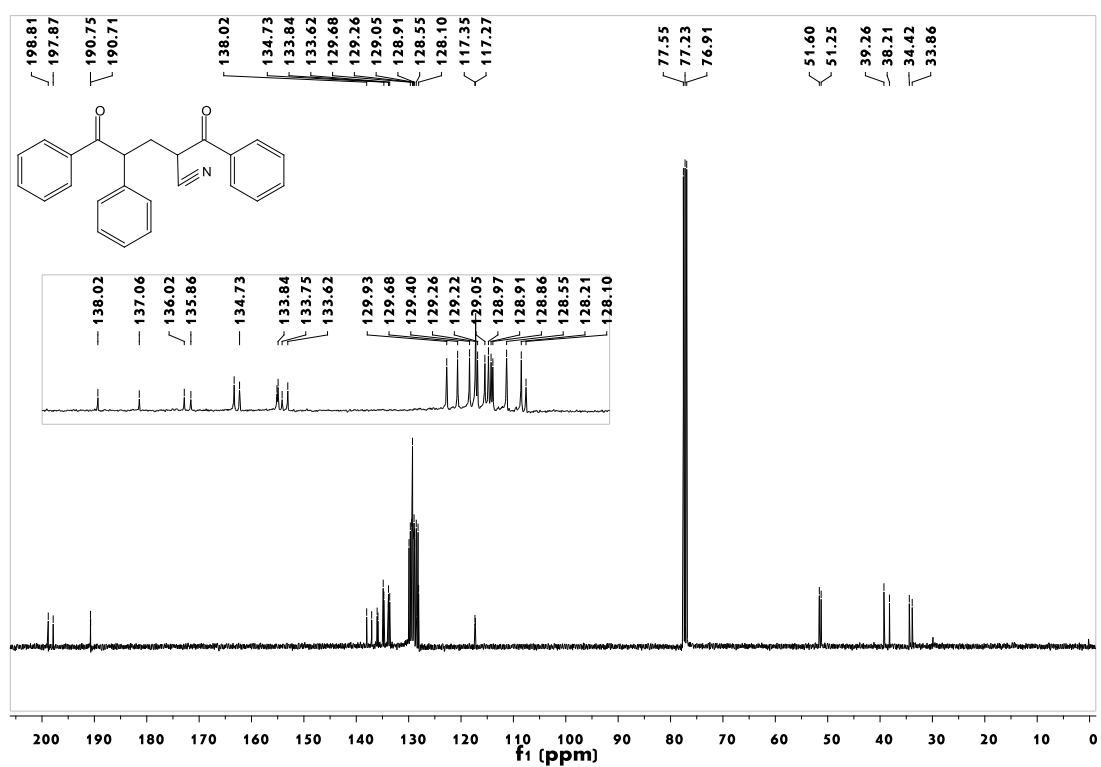
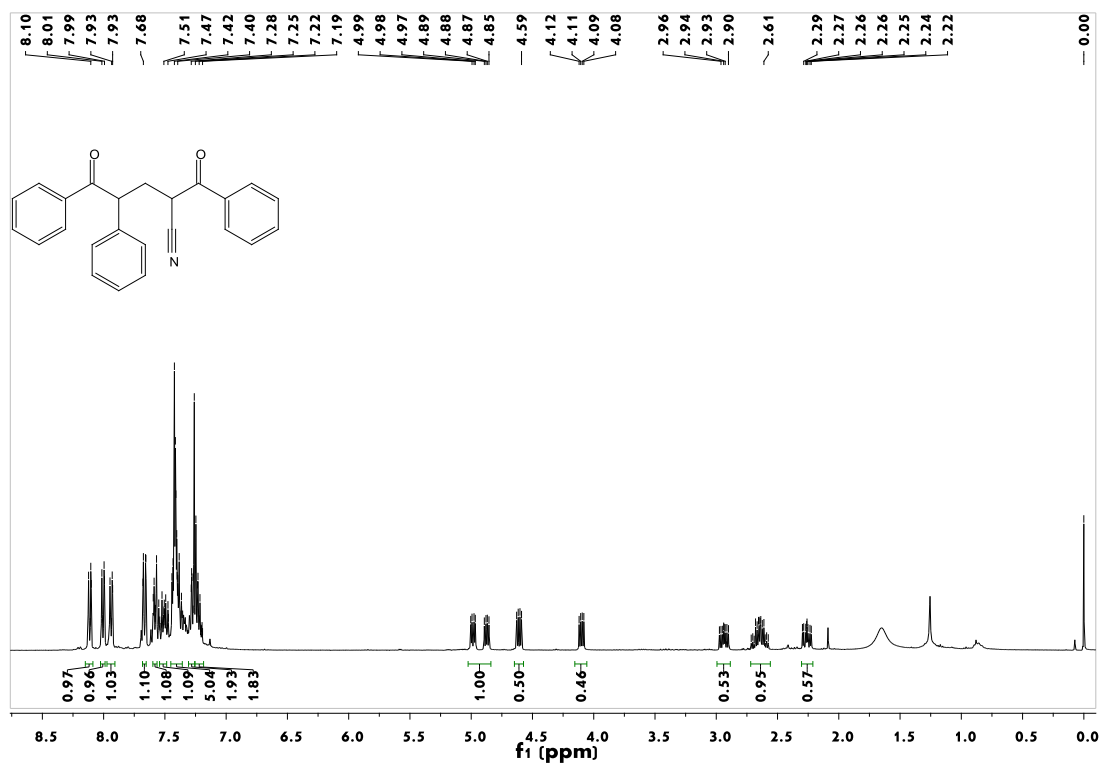


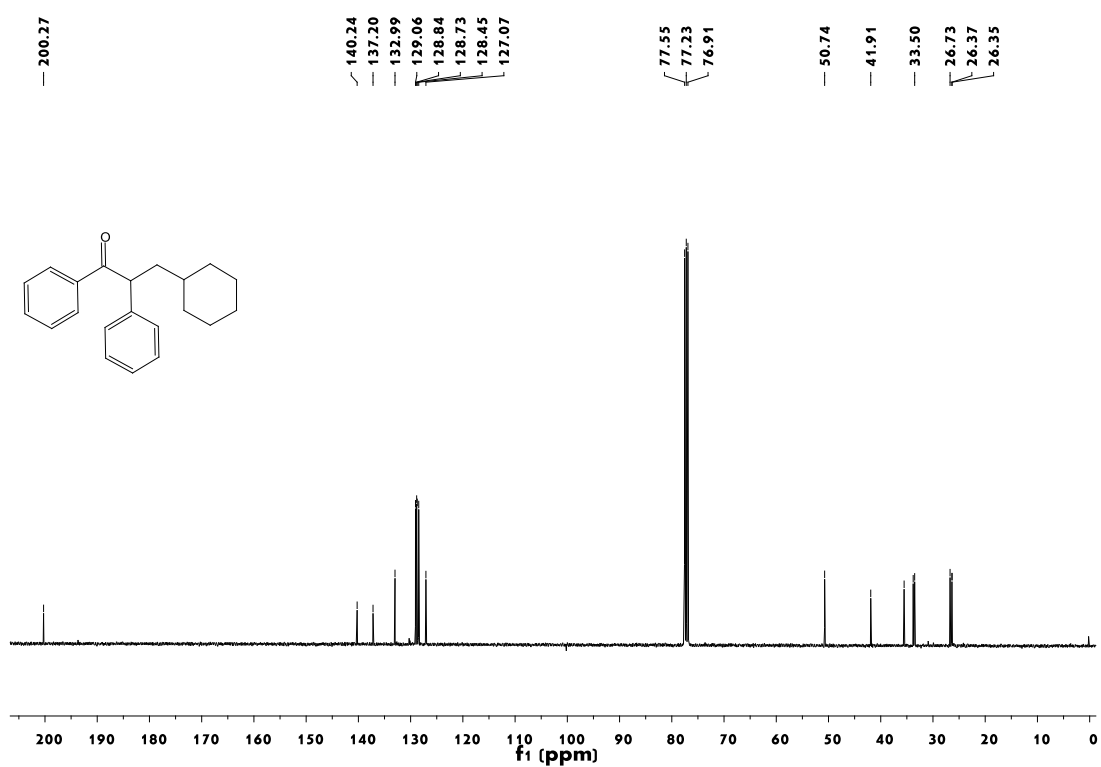
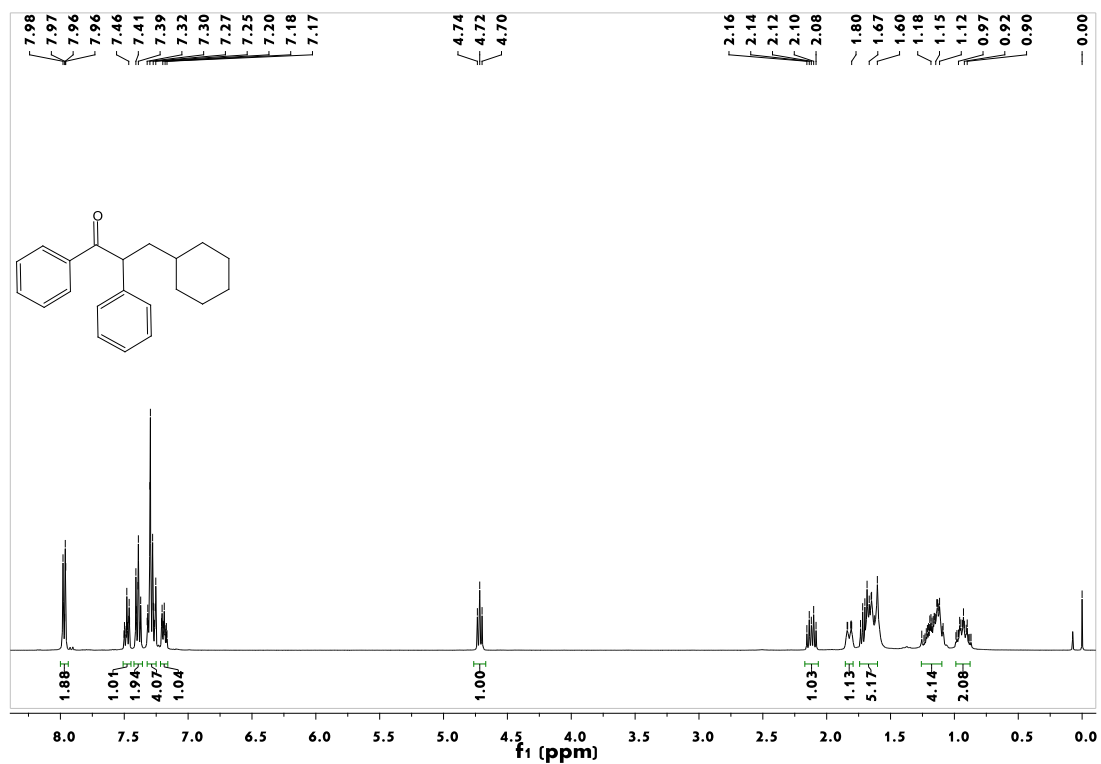


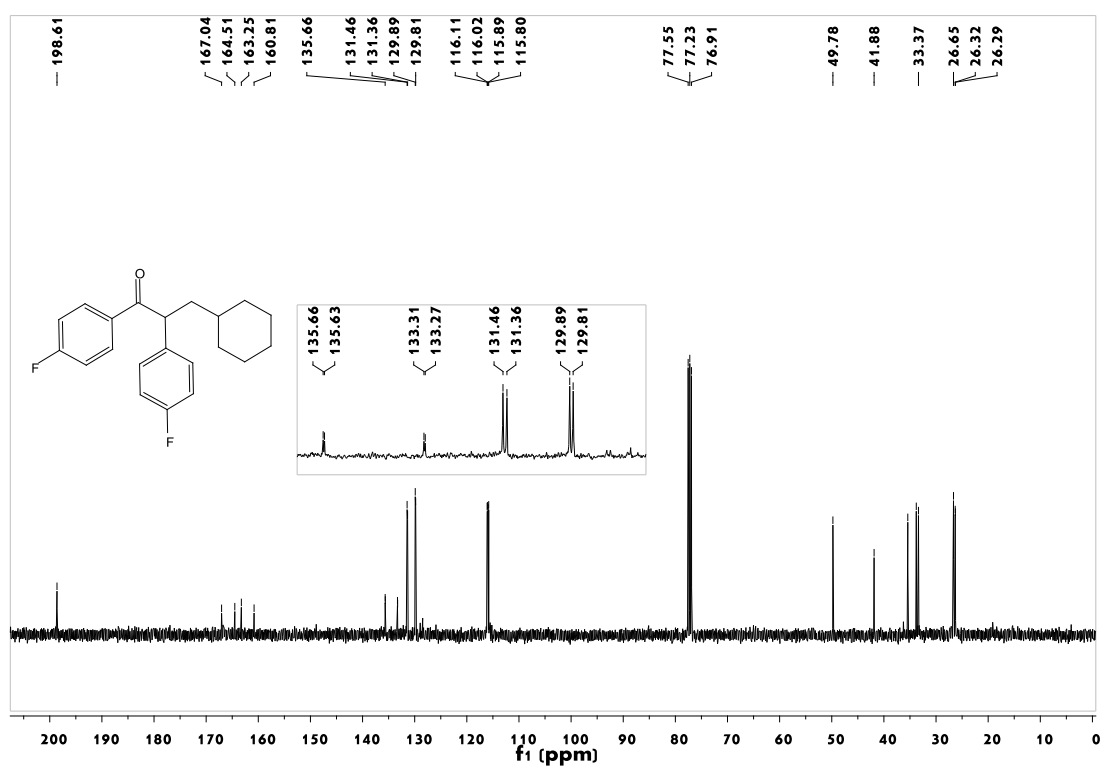
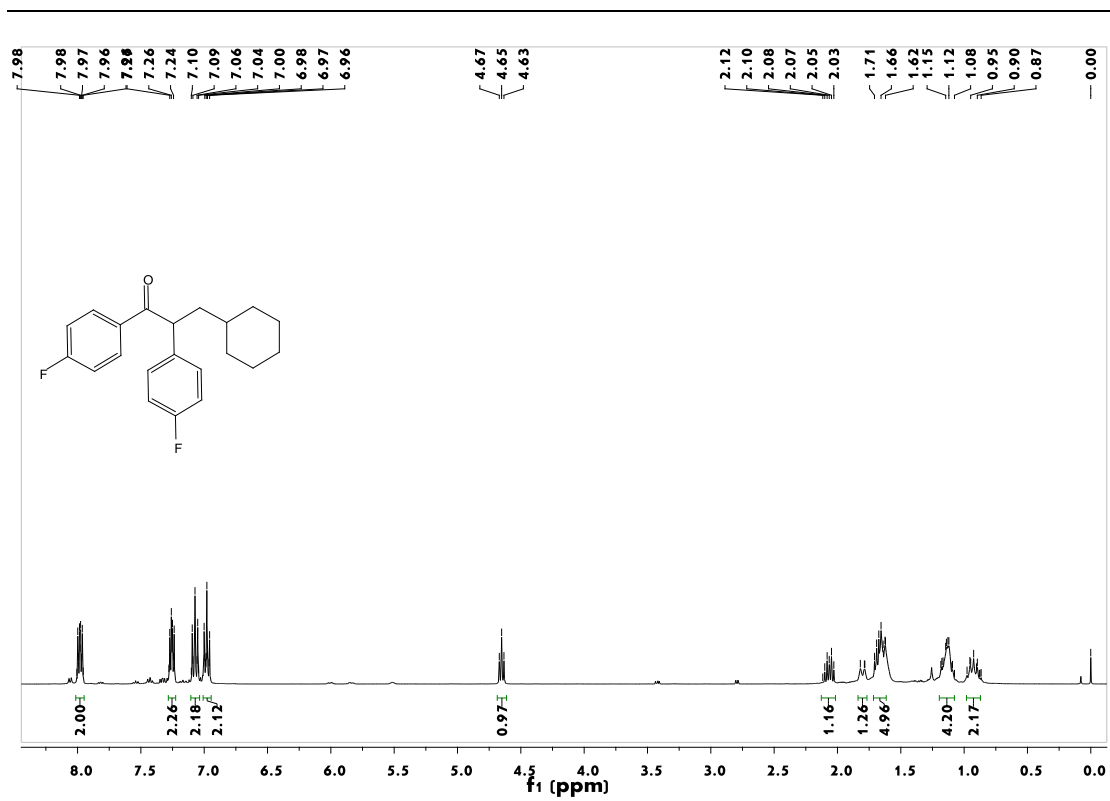












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