

***tert*-Butyl Hypochlorite Mediated Diastereoselective Oxidative**

Coupling: Access to 1-Functionalized Tetrahydrocarbazoles

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Supporting Information – Table of Contents

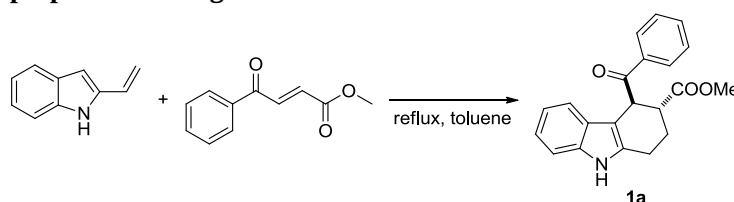
Materials and Methods	S1
Experimental Procedures	
A. Substrates preparation using thermal Diels-Alder reaction	S1
B. General procedure for the <i>tert</i>-butyl hypochlorite mediated oxidative coupling	S3
C. The chloroindolenine and bromoindolenine intermediates	S12
NMR Spectra	S14

Materials and Methods

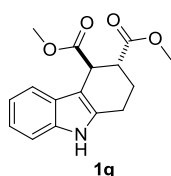
Unless stated otherwise, reactions were conducted in dry glassware using anhydrous solvents (passed through activated alumina columns). All commercially available reagents were used as received unless otherwise specified. Reaction temperatures were controlled using an IKA Mag temperature modulator, and unless stated otherwise, reactions were performed at room temperature (rt, approximately 23 °C). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted on plates (GF254) supplied by Yantai Chemicals (China) and visualized using a combination of UV, anisaldehyde, iodine, and potassium permanganate staining. Silica gel (200-300 mesh) supplied by Tsingtao Haiyang Chemicals (China) was used for flash column chromatography. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers (at 400 MHz) and are reported relative to deuterated solvent signals. Data for ¹H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz) and integration. ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift. High resolution mass spectra were obtained from the Tsinghua University Mass Spectrometry Facility.

Experimental Procedures

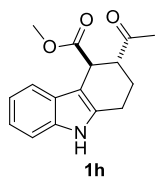
A. Substrates preparation using thermal Diels-Alder reaction



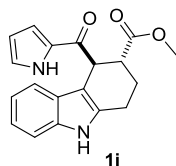
General procedure: a solution of 2-vinyl indole (1.43 g, 10 mmol) and the α , β -unsaturated ketone (1.90 g, 10 mmol) in toluene (5.0 mL) was heated to 120 °C in a sealed pressure tube and stirred for overnight. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was purified directly by silica gel column (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether =1/3) to afford the desired product **1a** (1.90 g, 57% yield) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.21 (d, J =7.7, 2H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.66 (t, J =7.3, 1H), 7.56 (t, J =7.7, 2H), 7.20 (d, J =8.1, 1H), 7.04 (t, J =7.0, 1H), 6.91-6.84 (m, 2H), 5.36 (d, J =7.1, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.34-3.30 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.74 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.10(m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 202.3, 174.3, 137.5, 136.1, 134.9, 133.4, 129.0, 126.5, 121.5, 119.6, 118.3, 110.8, 107.1, 52.1, 44.2, 43.2, 24.1, 21.6. IR (film): 3388, 2949, 1740, 1671, 743. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$, 334.1443; found, 334.1446.



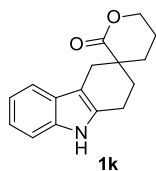
The reaction was purified by silica gel column (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether =1/3) to afford the desired product **1g** (1.10 g, 40% yield) as a brown solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J =7.6, 2H), 7.15-7.07 (m, 2H), 4.32 (d, J =6.6, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.32 (m, 1H), 2.81 (t, J =6.4, 2H), 2.43-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.11(m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 174.5, 174.2, 136.0, 134.4, 126.9, 121.7, 119.8, 118.8, 110.7, 105.8, 52.6, 42.7, 41.6, 23.6, 21.5. IR (film): 3377, 1731, 751. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4$, 288.1236; found, 288.1222.



The reaction was purified by silica gel column (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether =1/3) to give the desired product **1h** (2.30 g, 84% yield) as a brown solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J =7.7, 1H), 7.27 (d, J =7.6, 1H), 7.14 (t, J =7.1, 1H), 7.09 (t, J =7.5, 2H), 4.24 (d, J =6.5, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.28-3.24 (m, 1H), 2.90-2.75 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.15 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 209.8, 174.2, 136.1, 134.5, 126.7, 121.6, 119.8, 118.2, 110.8, 105.9, 52.1, 49.9, 42.3, 28.1, 23.3, 21.2. IR (film): 3357, 2923, 1738, 1686, 743. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$, 272.1287; found, 272.1285.

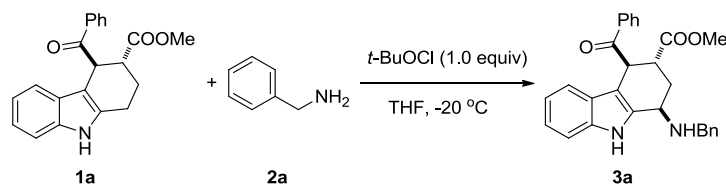


The reaction was purified by silica gel column (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether =1/3) to give the desired product **1i** (2.51 g, 78% yield) as a brown solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 9.67 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.00 (m, 3H), 7.89 (t, $J=7.4$, 1H), 6.35-6.34 (m, 1H), 5.01 (d, $J=7.4$, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.28-3.23 (m, 1H), 2.79 (t, $J=6.1$, 2H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.20-2.11 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 191.6, 174.5, 136.1, 134.9, 132.3, 126.6, 125.8, 121.5, 119.6, 118.5, 117.6, 111.2, 110.8, 107.2, 52.0, 44.6, 43.9, 24.5, 21.7. IR (film): 3314, 2950, 1716, 1629, 741. HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 323.1396; found, 323.1400.



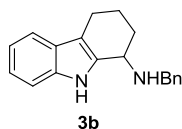
The reaction was purified by silica gel column (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether =1/3) to give the desired product **1k** (2.40 g, 95% yield) as a brown solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J=7.8$, 1H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 2H), 4.66-4.60 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.41-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.07 (m, 2H), 2.04-1.80 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 176.6, 136.0, 135.3, 125.3, 121.2, 119.5, 117.8, 112.6, 111.2, 70.9, 43.3, 34.4, 33.0, 22.6, 21.1, 18.8. IR (film): 3270, 2943, 1713, 745. HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$, 256.1338; found, 256.1328.

B. General procedure for the *tert*-butyl hypochlorite mediated oxidative coupling

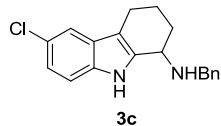


To a solution of **1a** (50.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added *t*-BuOCl (16.2 mg, 0.15 mmol) dropwisely. After being stirred at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min, benzyl amine (**2a**) (48.0 mg, 0.45 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for additional 2 hours and then quenched by the addition of aqueous sodium bicarbonate (5 mL). After warmed to room temperature, the reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to yield the desired product **3a** (53.3 mg, 81% yield) as a light yellow solid. ^1H NMR

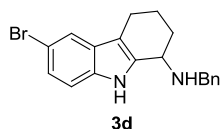
(400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J*=7.7, 2H), 7.67 (t, *J*=7.2, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J*=7.7, 2H), 7.45-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.24 (d, *J*=8.1, 1H), 5.42 (d, *J*=5.3, 2H), 4.13 (t, *J*=5.7, 1H), 3.99 (dd, *J*=13.2, 48.2, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.52-3.47 (m, 1H), 2.49-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.27-2.21 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 201.3, 174.0, 140.5, 137.0, 136.9, 136.2, 133.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.2, 126.4, 122.1, 119.6, 118.7, 111.2, 107.8, 52.3, 50.6, 48.8, 42.6, 41.9, 29.5. IR (film): 3365, 1705, 1594, 740 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₂₇N₂O₃, 439.2022; found, 439.2022.



Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3b** (79.1 mg, 98% yield) as a light yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J*=7.7, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J*=7.4, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J*=7.7, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J*=7.2, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J*=7.7, 1H), 4.05-3.87 (m, 3H), 2.78-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.37-3.31 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.66 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.8, 136.2, 135.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 127.2, 121.6, 119.2, 118.4, 111.4, 110.9, 52.0, 50.5, 30.6, 21.9, 21.1. IR (film): 3185, 2920, 2852, 1600, 1496, 1467 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₂, 277.1705; found, 277.1708.

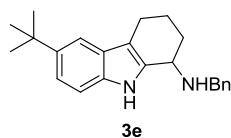


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3c** (66.5 mg, 88% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 11.26 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J*=7.3, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J*=1.2, 1H), 7.39-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.07 (dd, *J*=1.8, 8.6, 1H), 4.29 (s, 1H), 4.06 (dd, *J*=13.3, 25.0, 2H), 2.67-2.57 (m, 2H), 2.18-1.97 (m, 3H), 1.75-1.70 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 134.4, 129.1, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 123.1, 121.3, 117.4, 112.8, 51.0, 48.9, 27.3, 20.4, 20.2. IR (film): 3226, 2918, 2850, 1589, 1453, 1443, 696 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₀N₂Cl, 311.1315; found, 311.1310.

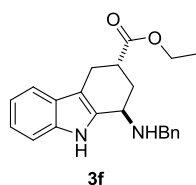


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3d** (59.0 mg, 83% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 11.26 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J*=7.4, 1H), 7.37-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.16 (dd, *J*=1.1, 8.5, 1H), 4.12 (s, 1H), 3.97 (dd, *J*=13.0, 29.5, 2H), 2.62-2.59 (m, 2H), 2.13-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 1H); ¹³C

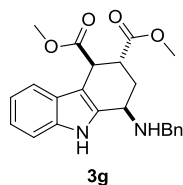
NMR (100 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 134.6, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 123.4, 120.2, 113.2, 110.9, 51.1, 49.3, 28.1, 20.5, 20.4. IR (film): 2933, 2849, 1651, 1453 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₀N₂Br, 355.0810; found, 355.0803.



Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3e** (54.1 mg, 74% yield) as a light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 9.61 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.19 (t, *J*=6.3, 1H), 3.88 (dd, *J*=13.0, 47.3, 2H), 2.81-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.29-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.72 (m, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 142.5, 134.8, 133.1, 129.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.2, 126.5, 121.2, 115.5, 114.4, 111.3, 51.2, 47.2, 34.8, 32.1, 26.7, 21.7, 20.8. IR (film): 3254, 2953, 1457, 1457 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₉N₂, 333.2331; found, 333.2318.

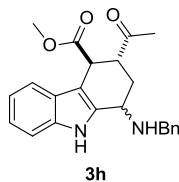


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3f** (63.7 mg, 89% yield) as a light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J*=7.8, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J*=7.2, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J*=7.2, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J*=7.6, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J*=7.3, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J*=7.6, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J*=7.2, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J*=4.7, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J*=13.1, 11.6, 1H), 3.14-3.03 (m, 2H), 2.93-2.87 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.15 (m, 1H), 1.30 (t, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 175.1, 137.8, 136.5, 132.1, 128.8, 127.9, 126.8, 122.5, 119.5, 118.6, 111.3, 111.2, 60.9, 50.0, 49.2, 37.2, 30.3, 23.9, 14.1. IR (film): 3231, 2927, 1731, 1494 cm⁻¹. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₂, 349.1916; found, 349.1917.

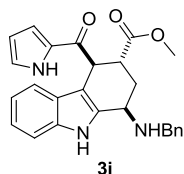


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3g** (53.3 mg, 78% yield, dr=10:1) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J*=7.7, 1H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.43 (d, *J*=4.8, 1H), 4.10 (t, *J*=6.2, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J*=13.0, 44.8, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.59 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 1H), 1.88 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 174.1, 173.9, 140.3, 136.2, 136.1, 128.5, 128.3, 127.2, 126.7, 122.1, 119.7, 119.3, 111.1, 106.5, 52.2, 50.4, 48.8, 40.9, 40.8, 29.5. IR (film):

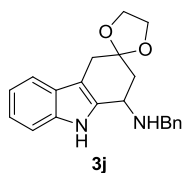
3383, 2927, 1731, 1494 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$, 393.1814; found, 393.1806.



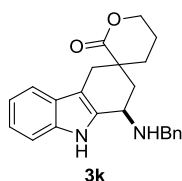
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50: 1) to afford the above compound **3h** (51.3 mg, 74% yield, dr=7:3) as a brown oil. 1st isomer: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, $J=7.8$, 1H), 7.40-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.17 (t, $J=7.5$, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J=7.8$, 1H), 4.28 (d, $J=4.6$, 1H), 4.17 (t, $J=6.6$, 1H), 3.92 (dd, $J=13.0$, 41.8, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.59-3.56 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 209.0, 174.2, 140.3, 136.4, 136.3, 128.7, 128.3, 127.4, 126.7, 122.3, 120.0, 118.9, 111.3, 107.1, 52.2, 50.6, 49.0, 40.8, 29.8, 29.6, 28.8. IR (film): 3373, 2918, 2849, 1704, 1455 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 377.1865; found, 377.1871. 2nd isomer: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.84 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.17 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 7.08 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 4.17 (d, $J=8.3$, 2H), 4.00 (dd, $J=13.0$, 60.1, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.25-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.76-3.70 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 209.3, 174.2, 139.3, 136.1, 128.7, 128.3, 127.5, 126.3, 122.2, 120.0, 118.6, 111.3, 106.5, 52.3, 51.1, 50.8, 50.1, 42.8, 31.1, 27.4. IR (film): 3384, 2924, 2854, 1705, 1494 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 377.1865; found, 377.1866.



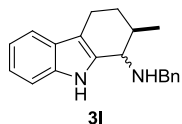
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3i** (58.4 mg, 88% yield, dr=20:1) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 9.78 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J=7.9$, 1H), 7.08 (t, $J=7.4$, 1H), 6.95-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.34-6.33 (m, 1H), 5.05 (d, $J=5.5$, 1H), 4.11 (t, $J=5.6$, 1H), 3.94 (dd, $J=13.1$, 50.8, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.45-3.41 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.40 (m, 1H), 3.31-3.26 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 191.1, 174.2, 140.5, 136.8, 136.2, 131.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.3, 126.5, 125.8, 122.1, 119.6, 118.9, 117.6, 111.2, 107.8, 52.2, 50.7, 48.8, 43.2, 42.3, 29.8. IR (film): 3283, 2847, 1731, 1616 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$, 428.1974; found, 428.1964.



Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/Methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3j** (54.7 mg, 75% yield) as a light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J=7.7$, 1H), 7.45-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.22 (t, $J=7.1$, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J=7.6$, 1H), 4.26 (t, $J=6.5$, 1H), 4.15-4.06 (m, 4H), 3.96 (dd, $J=12.9$, 54.6, 2H), 3.08 (dd, $J=15.8$, 5.1, 2H), 2.46-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.09 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.4, 136.5, 134.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.2, 127.1, 121.8, 119.2, 118.2, 111.0, 109.8, 108.2, 64.64, 64.54, 51.13, 50.36, 38.18, 32.19. IR (film): 3323, 1602, 909 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$, 335.1760; found, 335.1755.

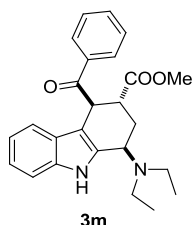


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50: 1) to afford the above compound **3k** (54.4 mg, 77% yield, dr=8:1) as a light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 9.51 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 7.07 (t, $J=7.4$, 1H), 4.61-4.58 (m, 2H), 4.43 (br, 1H), 4.03 (t, $J=5.9$, 1H), 3.90 (dd, $J=13.3$, 23.1 2H), 2.60-2.53 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.02 (m, 3H), 1.96-1.79 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 175.3, 136.8, 136.3, 133.4, 128.9, 128.7, 127.8, 124.7, 122.3, 119.7, 118.7, 114.6, 111.9, 111.6, 70.9, 49.9, 49.1, 42.8, 33.3, 32.8, 23.8, 20.7. IR (film): 2942, 2856, 1714, 1494 cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$, 361.1916; found, 361.1911. The stereochemistry was not fully elucidated because several key proton peaks were overlapped.

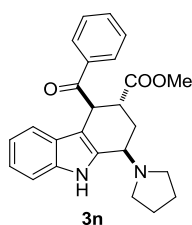


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3l** (60.3 mg, 77% yield, dr=1:1) as a colourless oil. 1st isomer: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.74 (s, 1H), 7.51(d, $J=7.7$, 1H), 7.42-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.18 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J=7.6$, 1H), 4.33 (br, 1H), 3.88-3.69 (m, 3H), 3.77 (t, $J=5.9$, 2H), 2.30-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.16 (d, $J=6.8$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 136.4, 128.8, 127.7, 127.3, 121.9, 119.3, 118.4, 112.9, 111.2, 58.4, 48.2, 32.5, 30.1, 19.7, 18.4. IR (film): 2922, 2847, 1494 1454, cm^{-1} . HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$, 291.1861; found, 291.1862. 2nd isomer:

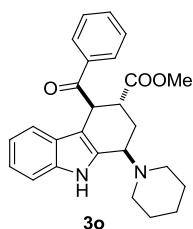
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.90 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 7.09 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 4.14 (d, $J=5.2$, 1H), 3.93 (dd, $J=13.0$, 49.5, 2H), 2.82-2.77 (m, 1H), 2.73-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.44 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.14 (d, $J=7.0$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 136.0, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.2, 121.7, 119.1, 118.3, 111.1, 54.6, 50.0, 30.3, 28.6, 18.1, 13.4. IR (film): 2922, 1455, 741. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$, 291.1861; found, 291.1853.



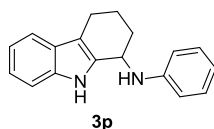
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3m** (50.4 mg, 83% yield) as a light yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d, $J=7.4$, 2H), 7.65 (t, $J=7.4$, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J=7.8$, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 7.14-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.95 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 4.48-4.44 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.35-3.33 (m, 1H), 3.30-2.71 (m, 2H), 2.55-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.33-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.34 (t, $J=7.1$, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 200.1, 173.6, 137.7, 136.4, 136.0, 133.5, 129.1, 128.8, 127.3, 121.7, 119.4, 118.1, 111.0, 108.1, 52.5, 51.5, 44.1, 42.6, 41.5, 19.7, 14.7. IR (film): 3348, 2966, 1721, 1686, 742. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 405.2178; found, 405.2176.



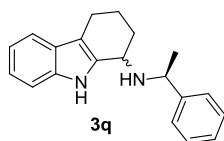
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50: 1) to afford the above compound **3n** (53.1 mg, 88% yield) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO): 11.1 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J=7.7$, 2H), 7.66 (t, $J=7.2$, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J=7.6$, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J=8.1$, 1H), 6.98(t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 6.77-6.69(m, 2H), 5.03(d, $J=9.3$, 1H), 3.79-3.73(m, 1H), 3.68-3.66(m, 1H), 3.51(s, 3H), 2.83-2.81(m, 2H), 2.55-2.53(m, 2H), 2.46-2.42(m, 1H), 2.05-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.72 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): 201.6, 174.2, 136.9, 136.0, 135.5, 133.2, 128.7, 128.6, 125.3, 121.1, 118.5, 118.1, 111.4, 107.2, 54.6, 51.7, 51.2, 45.2, 29.2, 23.3. IR (film): 3301, 1727, 1661, 739. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 403.2022; found, 403.2015.



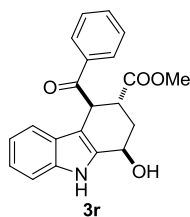
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3o** (55.0 mg, 88% yield) as a white solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d, $J=7.4$, 2H), 7.65 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J=7.8$, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J=8.4$, 1H), 7.13-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.94 (t, $J=7.7$, 1H), 5.45 (d, $J=2.9$, 1H), 4.25 (t, $J=6.7$, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.40-3.37 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.66 (m, 2H), 2.62-2.54 (m, 2H), 2.32-2.20 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.48 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 200.4, 173.8, 136.6, 136.2, 133.4, 129.0, 128.8, 126.9, 121.9, 119.4, 118.4, 111.1, 108.4, 56.4, 52.4, 49.9, 42.8, 41.9, 26.8, 24.9, 20.2. IR (film): 3304, 2935, 1724, 1665, 739. HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$, 417.2178; found, 417.2170.



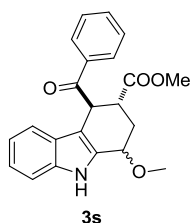
Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether=1/3) to afford the above compound **3p** (74.3 mg, 97% yield) as a light yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J=7.5$, 4H), 7.35-7.19 (m, 5H), 6.89 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J=8.0$, 2H), 4.87 (t, $J=6.0$, 1H), 3.84 (br, 1H), 2.91-2.77 (m, 2H), 2.33-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.90 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 147.2, 135.9, 134.8, 129.7, 127.2, 122.1, 119.4, 118.5, 118.1, 113.5, 112.2, 111.0, 47.6, 30.2, 21.2, 21.0. IR (film): 3385, 2921, 2850, 1598, 1503, 752.



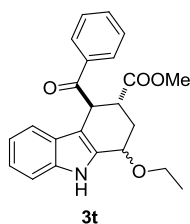
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3q** (62.7 mg, 74% yield, dr=2:3) as a colorless oil. Isomer mixture ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.20-8.16 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.20-7.08 (m, 2H), 4.21-4.13 (m, 1H), 4.06-3.70 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.17 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 146.5, 145.6, 136.7, 135.8, 128.7, 127.6, 127.22, 127.19, 127.0, 126.6, 121.5, 121.4, 119.1, 119.0, 118.3, 118.2, 110.93, 110.86, 110.79, 110.76, 55.3, 54.6, 49.8, 49.5, 31.2, 30.5, 29.8, 25.8, 23.7, 21.8, 21.4, 21.0. IR (film): 2920, 1601, 739. HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$, 291.1861; found, 291.1859.



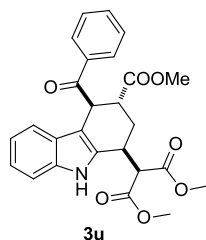
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol=50:1) to afford the above compound **3r** (40.3 mg, 77% yield) as a yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J=7.7$, 2H), 7.67 (t, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J=7.7$, 2H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.85 (m, 2H), 5.33 (d, $J=7.5$, 1H), 4.94 (t, $J=4.4$, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.56-3.53 (m, 1H), 2.34-2.31 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 202.7, 174.2, 137.1, 136.6, 135.9, 133.9, 129.10, 129.06, 125.5, 122.7, 119.9, 119.2, 111.7, 108.7, 61.6, 52.3, 43.2, 41.6, 33.7. IR (film): 3246, 2924, 2854, 1720, 1683, 743. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}$, 372.1212; found, 372.1207.



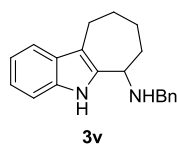
Methanol (0.5 mL) was used as the coupling partner. Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether=1/3) to afford the above compound **3s** (46.0 mg, 84% yield, dr=1:2). 1st isomer: light yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.20-8.18 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t, $J=7.8$, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J=8.2$, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.79 (m, 2H), 5.35 (dd, $J=1.9$, 9.0, 1H), 4.80-4.76 (m, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.80-2.75 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.03 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 202.15, 173.9, 137.8, 136.6, 135.1, 133.6, 129.0, 128.9, 125.8, 122.4, 119.8, 119.4, 111.4, 109.1, 72.9, 56.1, 52.1, 43.7, 41.2, 31.4. IR (film): 3355, 2930, 1727, 1672, 746. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4$, 364.1549; found, 364.1541. 2nd isomer: light yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.17-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, $J=7.8$, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J=8.2$, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J=8.0$, 1H), 6.89-6.85 (m, 1H), 5.22 (d, $J=7.6$, 1H), 4.67 (t, $J=4.5$, 1H), 3.72-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.23 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 201.1, 174.3, 137.3, 136.6, 133.7, 133.4, 128.9, 125.8, 122.8, 119.9, 119.5, 111.3, 109.9, 70.2, 56.1, 52.2, 44.1, 41.5, 29.1. IR (film): 3385, 2924, 2853, 1723, 1687, 750. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4\text{Na}$, 386.1368; found, 386.1352.



Ethanol (0.5 mL) was used as the coupling partner. Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether=1/3) to afford the above compound **3t** (42.5 mg, 75% yield, dr=1:2). 1st isomer: light yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.20-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.66 (t, *J*=7.4, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J*=7.9, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J*=8.2, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.83-6.77 (m, 2H), 5.34 (dd, *J*=1.9, 9.1, 1H), 4.92-4.88 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.50-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.80-2.75 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.32 (t, *J*=7.0, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 202.3, 173.9, 137.9, 136.6, 135.4, 133.6, 129.02, 128.95, 125.9, 122.3, 119.8, 119.4, 111.4, 109.0, 71.6, 64.1, 52.1, 43.9, 43.3, 31.3, 15.8. IR (film): 3360, 2950, 1720, 1661, 1595, 747. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [*M*+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₄NO₄, 378.1705; found, 378.1703. 2nd isomer: colorless oil ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.23 (s, 1H), 8.17-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.62 (t, *J*=7.3, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J*=8.2, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J*=8.0, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J*=8.0, 1H), 7.87 (t, *J*=7.8, 1H), 5.19 (d, *J*=7.7, 1H), 4.74 (t, *J*=4.4, 1H), 3.79-3.63 (m, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.53-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.23 (m, 1H), 1.29 (t, *J*=7.0, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 201.0, 174.3, 137.2, 136.4, 134.0, 133.2, 128.82, 128.78, 125.7, 122.6, 119.8, 119.3, 111.2, 109.4, 68.6, 63.8, 52.1, 44.1, 41.4, 29.7, 15.7. IR (film): 3365, 2951, 1733, 1682, 1595, 743. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [*M*+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₃NO₄Na, 400.1525; found, 400.1512.



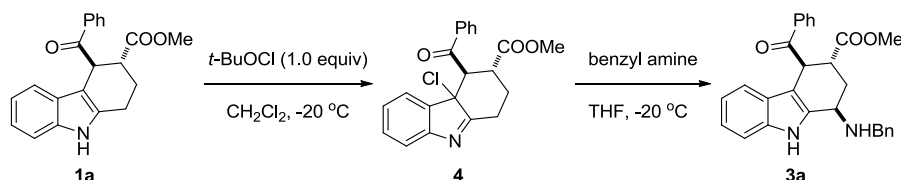
The sodium salt of dimethyl malonate (1.2 equiv, prepared by the reaction of dimethyl malonate with sodium hydride) was used as the coupling partner. Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether=1/3) to afford the above compound **3u** (49.4 mg, 71% yield) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J*=7.5, 2H), 7.66 (t, *J*=7.3, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J*=8.3, 1H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.88-6.80 (m, 2H), 5.36 (d, *J*=7.8, 1H), 3.96-3.87 (m, 2H), 3.85(s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.52-3.46 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.20 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 201.8, 174.1, 170.2, 169.1, 137.6, 135.9, 134.4, 133.5, 129.0, 128.9, 125.8, 122.2, 119.6, 118.8, 111.2, 108.6, 56.6, 53.3, 53.0, 52.2, 43.3, 41.5, 31.8, 28.6. IR (film): 3390, 1728, 1688, 1597, 740. HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [*M*+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₆NO₇, 464.1709; found, 464.1712.



Purification by preparative silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/Methanol= 50: 1) to afford the above compound **3v** (55.6 mg, 71% yield) as a light yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.73 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J*=7.4, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J*=7.2, 2H), 7.31

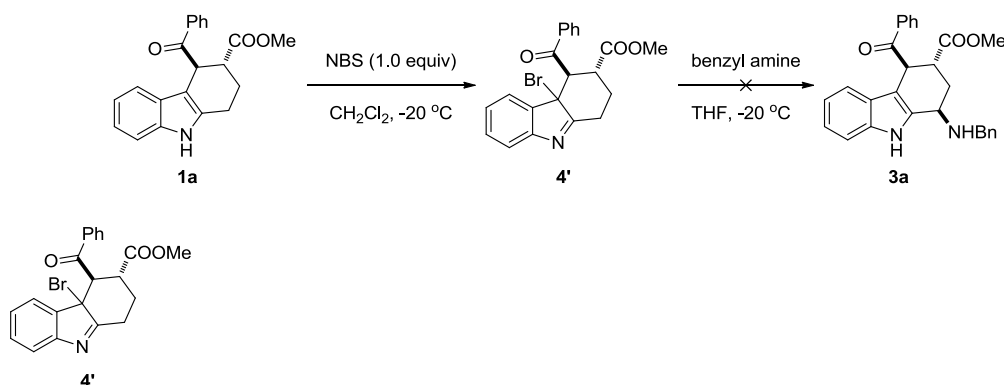
(t, $J=7.2$, 2H), 7.13-7.06 (m, 2H), 4.03-3.87 (m, 3H), 3.03-2.97 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.59 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.5, 139.2, 133.6, 129.5, 128.7, 128.2, 127.3, 120.9, 119.0, 118.0, 111.5, 110.7, 56.8, 51.8, 34.3, 28.5, 28.1, 24.6. IR (film): 2924, 1845, 740. HRMS-ESI (m/z) $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2$, 291.1861; found, 291.1858.

C. The chloroindolenine and bromoindolenine intermediates



To a solution of **1a** (50.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 mL) at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added $t\text{-BuOCl}$ (16.2 mg, 0.15 mmol) dropwisely. After being stirred at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min, the reaction was quenched with aqueous sodium bicarbonate (5 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (3x10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (dichloromethane/Methanol =50/1) to yield the desired product **4** (37.5 mg, 68% yield) as a colourless oil, which was unstable and decomposed completely after a day. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.90 (d, $J=7.6$, 2H), 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.7$, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J=7.6$, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J=7.3$, 1H), 7.03 (t, $J=7.5$, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.44-3.34 (m, 1H), 2.95-2.89 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.55 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.90 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): 195.8, 180.4, 172.7, 154.0, 139.2, 134.8, 134.1, 130.3, 129.2, 128.6, 126.1, 121.8, 121.2, 68.3, 55.2, 52.8, 39.3, 24.6, 23.2.

To a solution of **4** (36.7 mg, 0.10 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) at $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was added benzyl amine (**2a**) (32.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). **3a** was formed smoothly as evidenced by TLC analysis and NMR analysis of the isolated product.

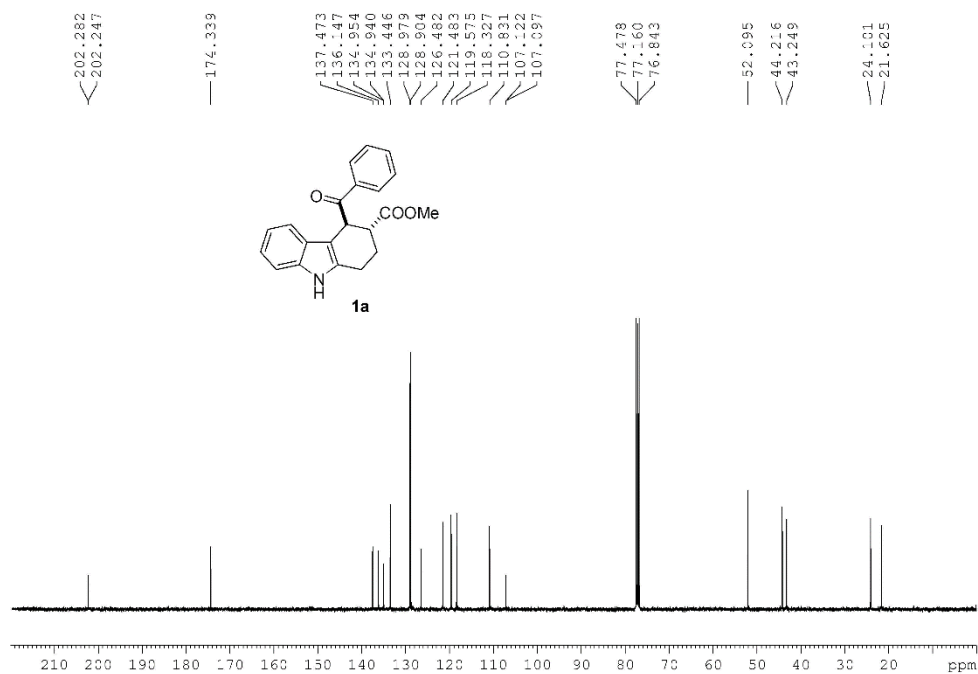
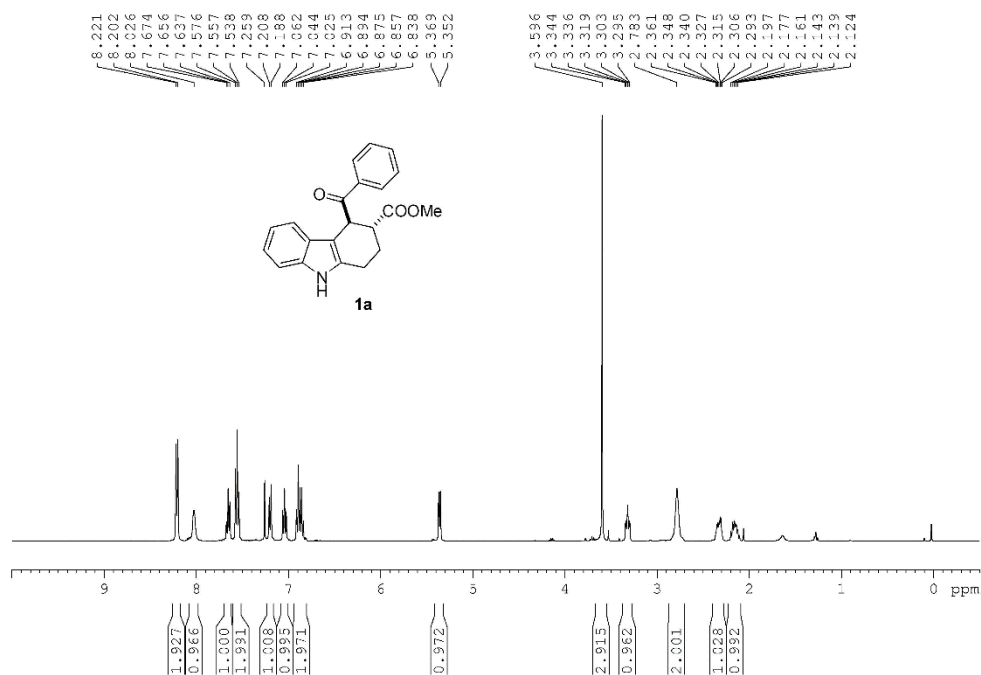


The above compound was prepared according to the same procedure as that of **4**, but using NBS. Purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (dichloromethane/Methanol =100/3) to yield the desired product **4'** (51 mg, 82% yield) as a colourless oil, which was unstable and decomposed fast. ^1H NMR (400 MHz,

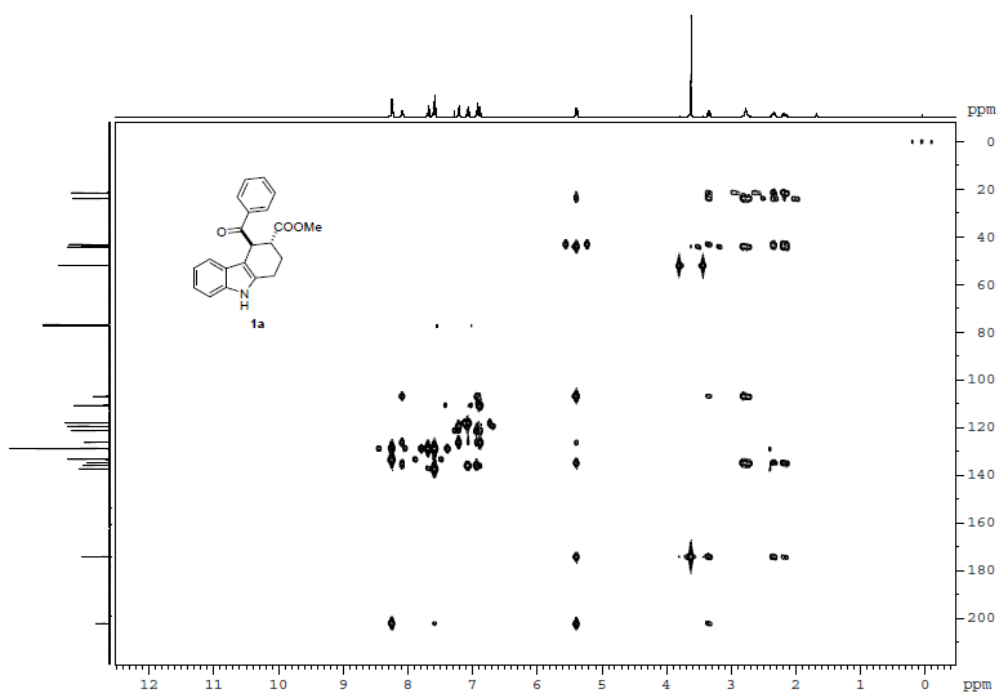
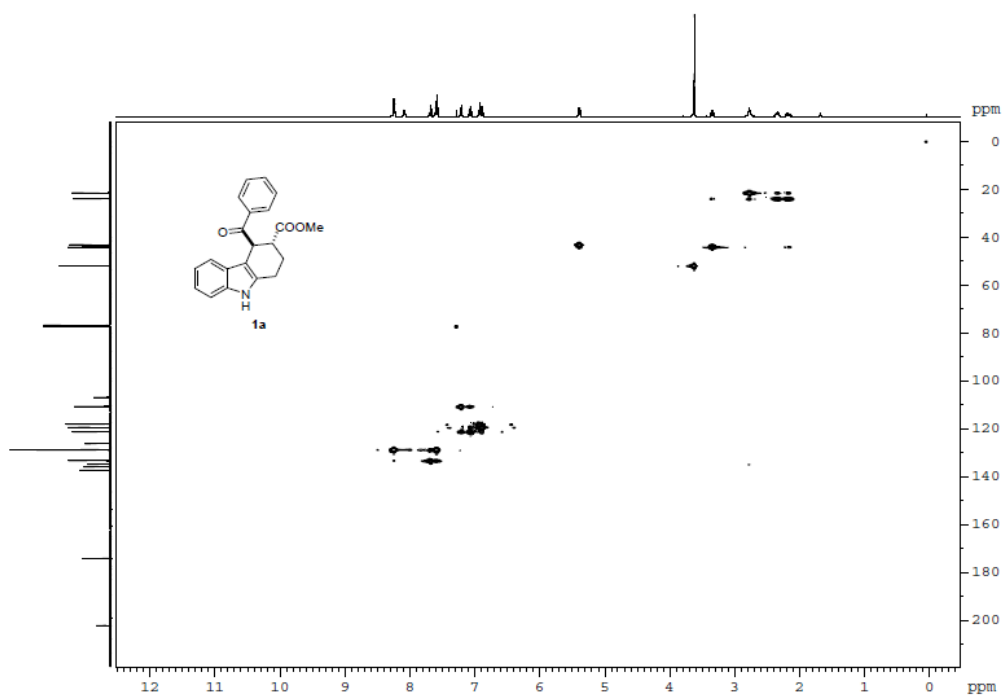
CDCl₃): 7.90 (d, *J*=7.8, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J*=7.4, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 6.9, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J*=7.4, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J*=7.3, 1H), 7.03 (t, *J*=7.4, 1H), 5.55 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.61-3.52 (m, 1H), 2.98-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.58-2.55 (m, 1H), 1.96-1.89 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 195.8, 180.6, 172.7, 153.2, 140.3, 134.8, 134.2, 130.1, 129.2, 128.6, 126.2, 122.0, 121.4, 59.3, 55.3, 52.9, 39.5, 24.7, 23.1.

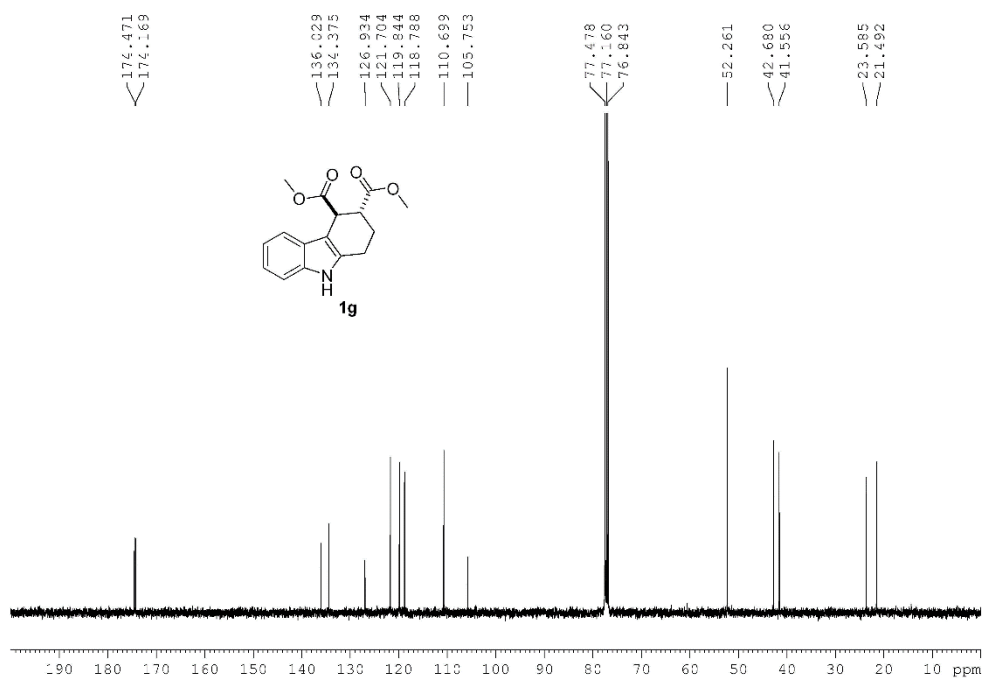
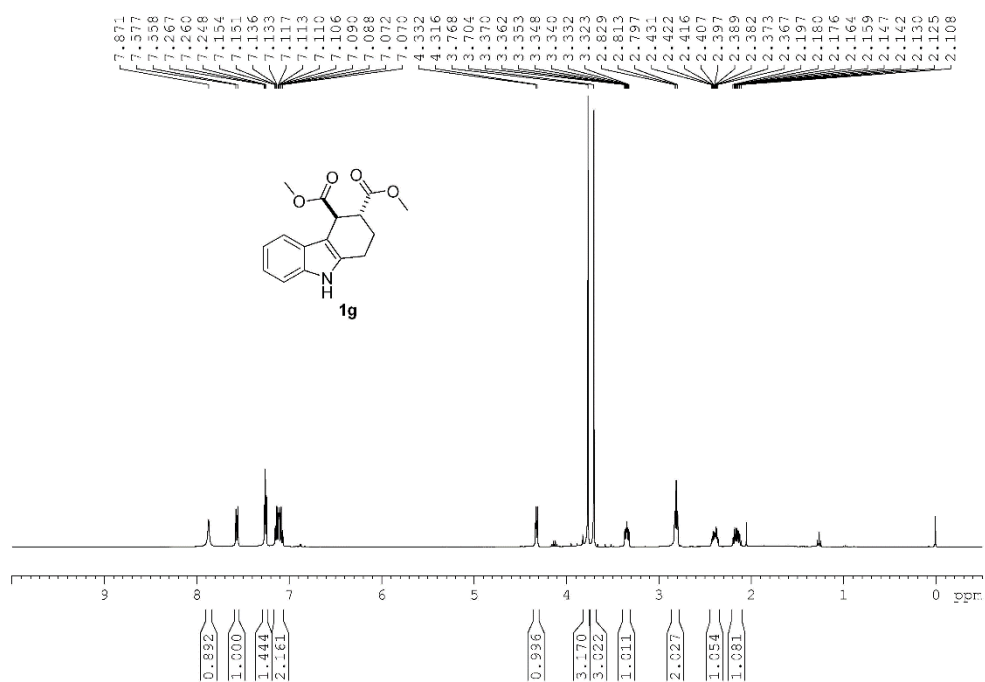
To a solution of **4'** (41.0 mg, 0.10 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) at -20 °C was added benzyl amine (**2a**) (32.0 mg, 0.3 mmol). The transformation to **3a** was not observed by TLC analysis.

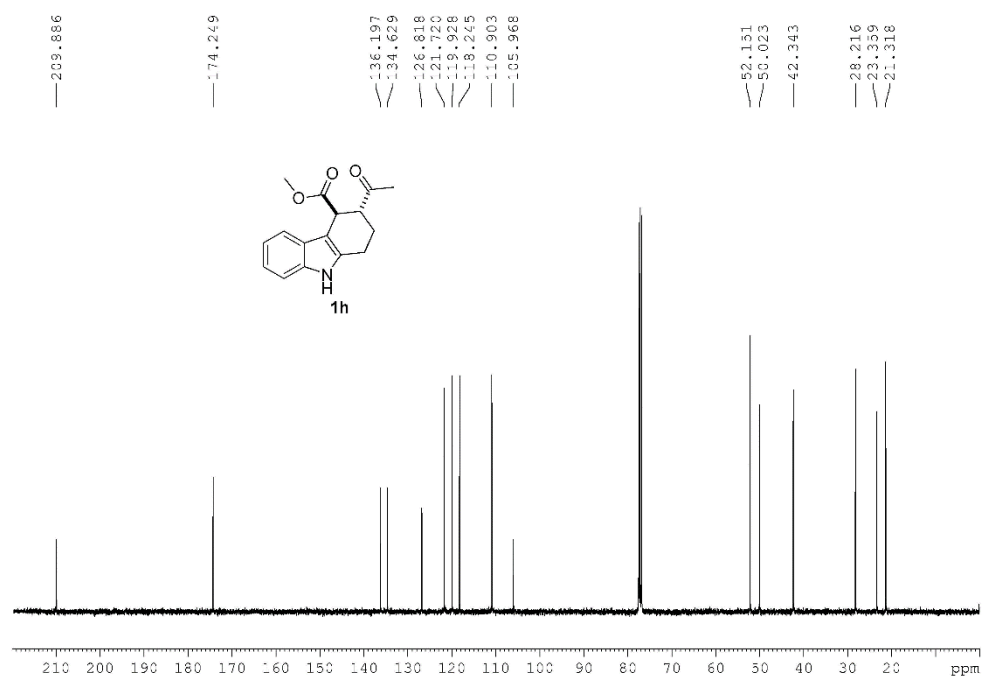
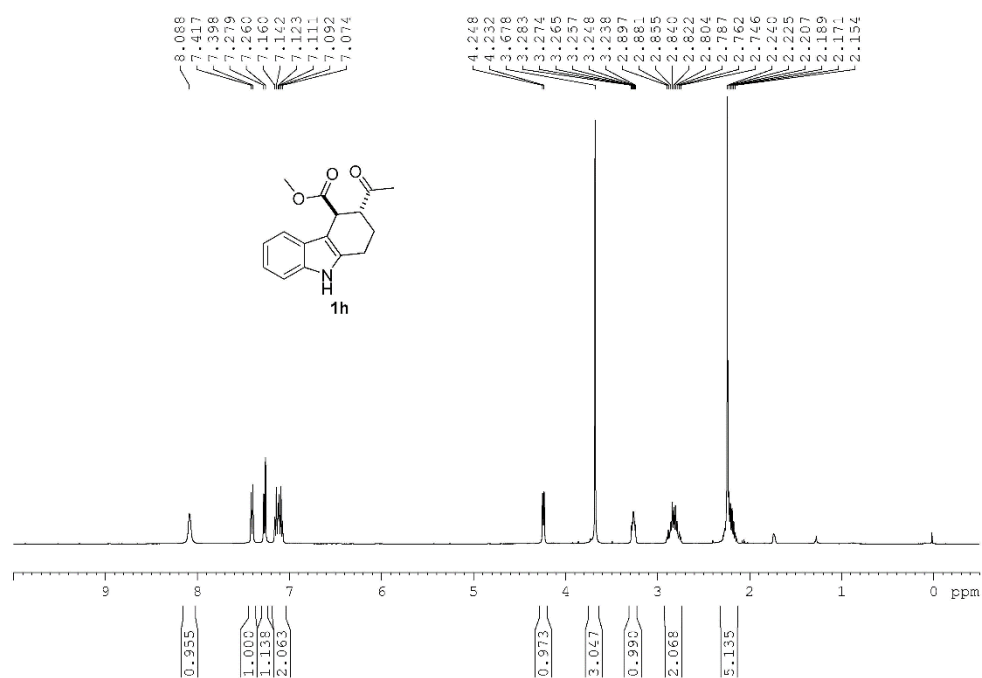
NMR Spectra

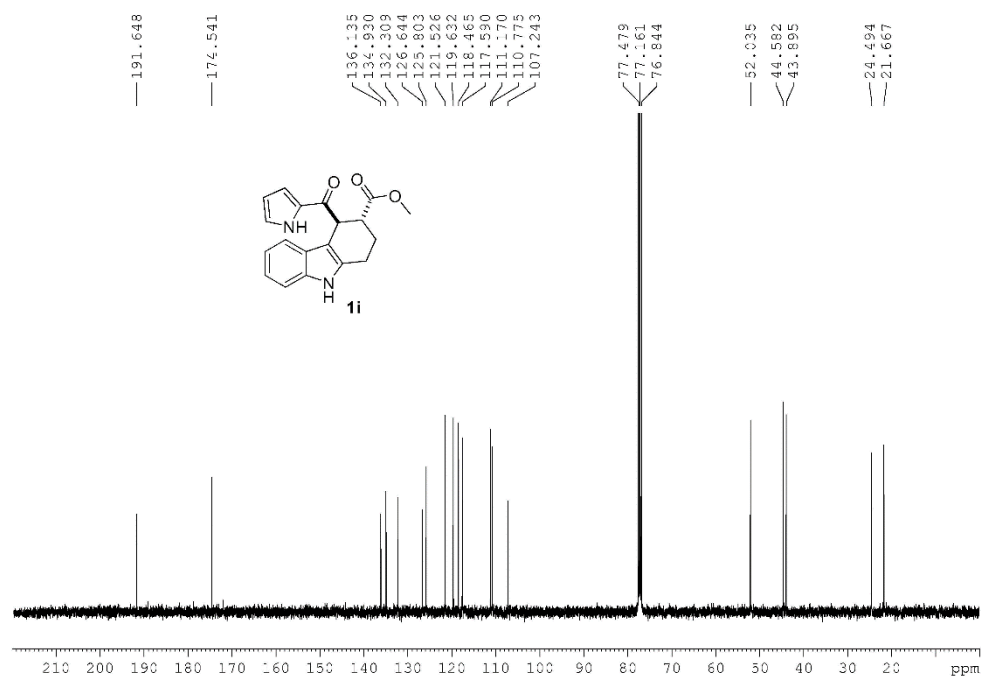
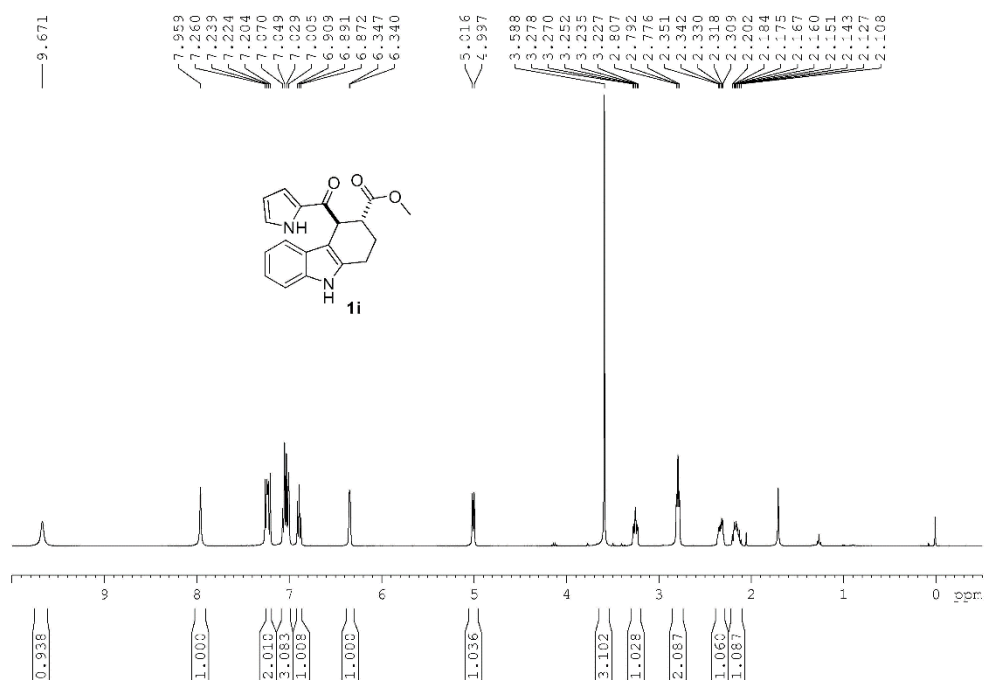


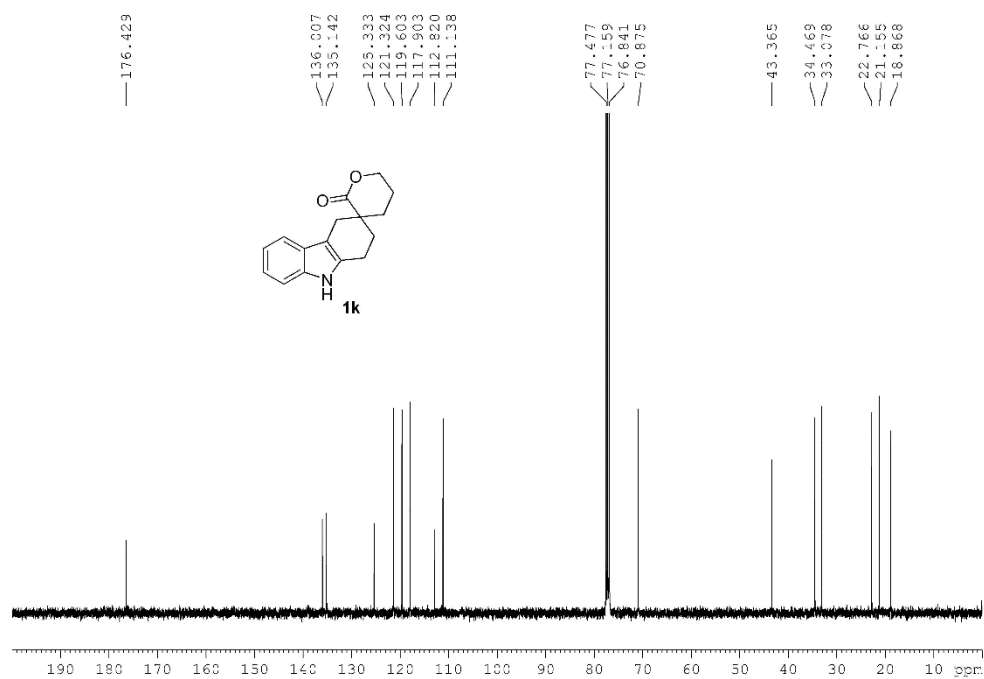
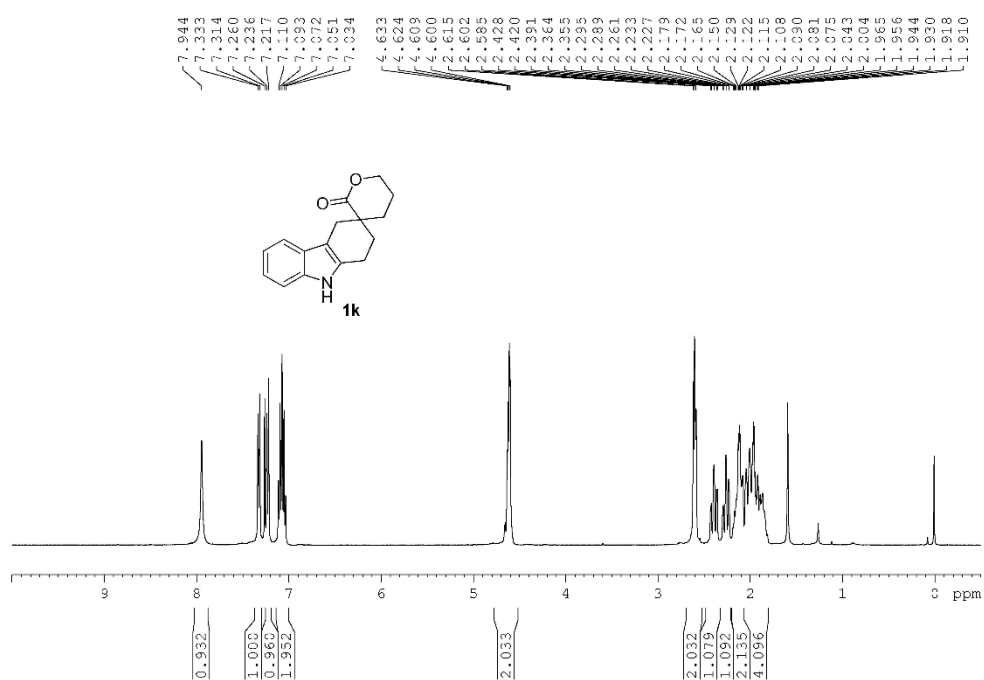
HMQC and HMBC Spectra of compound **1a**

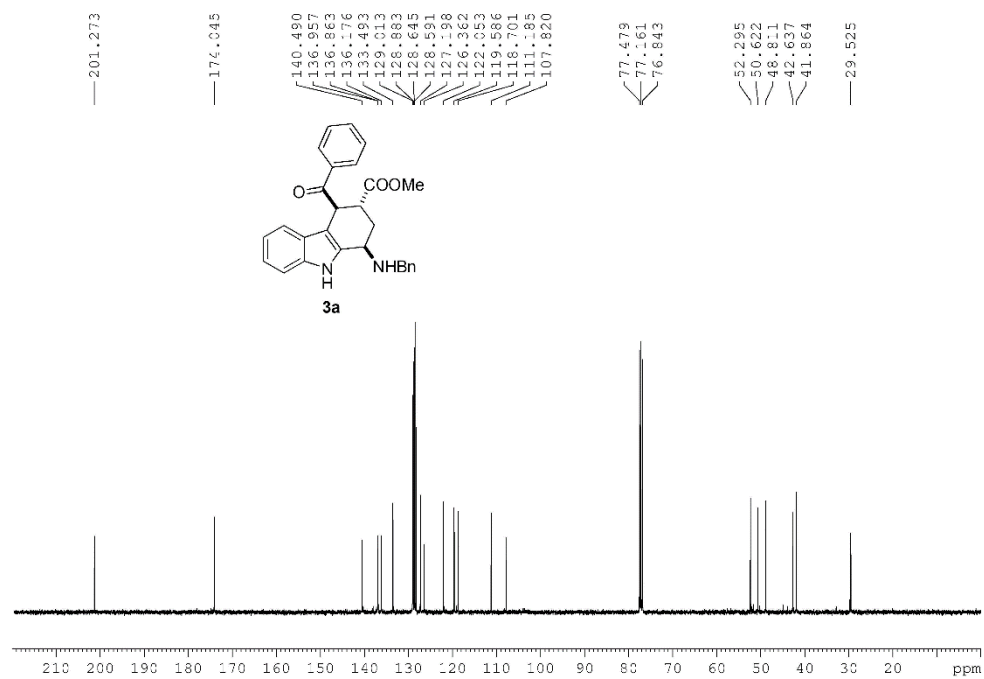
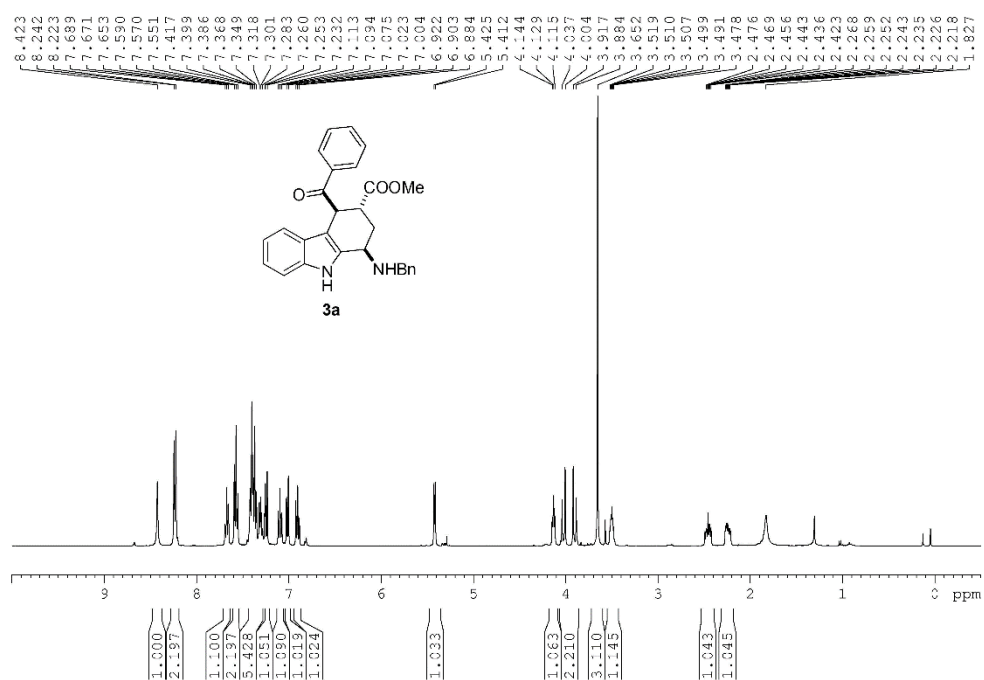




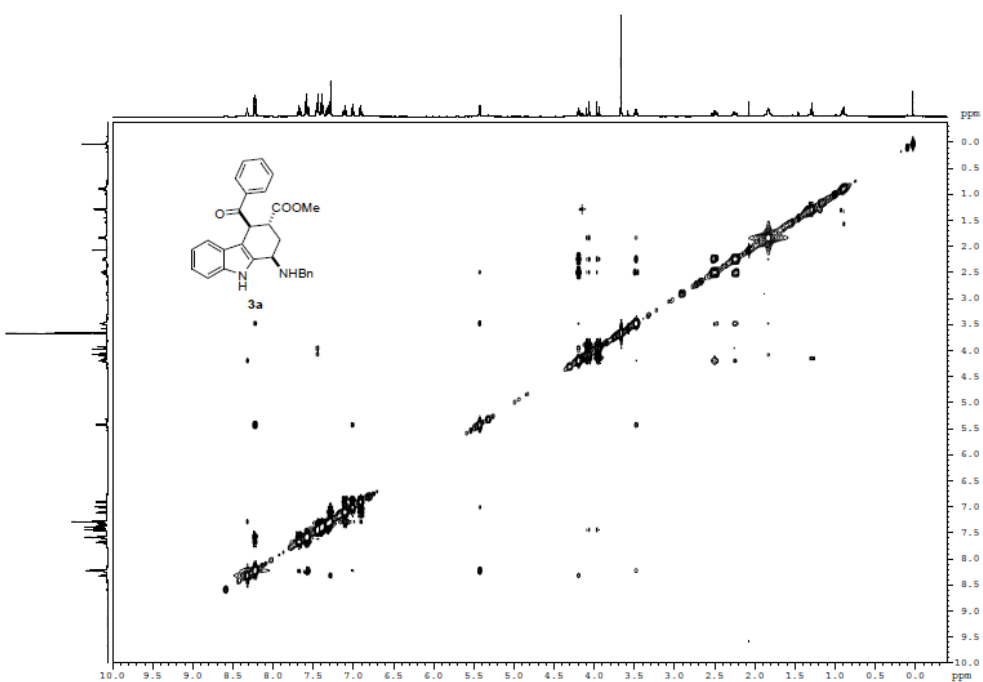
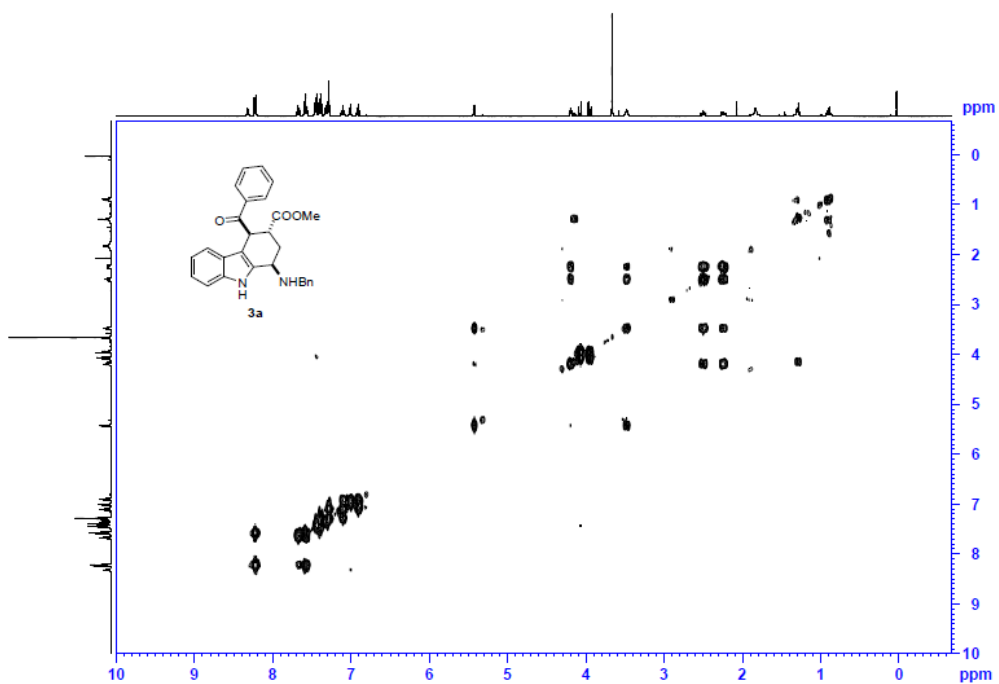


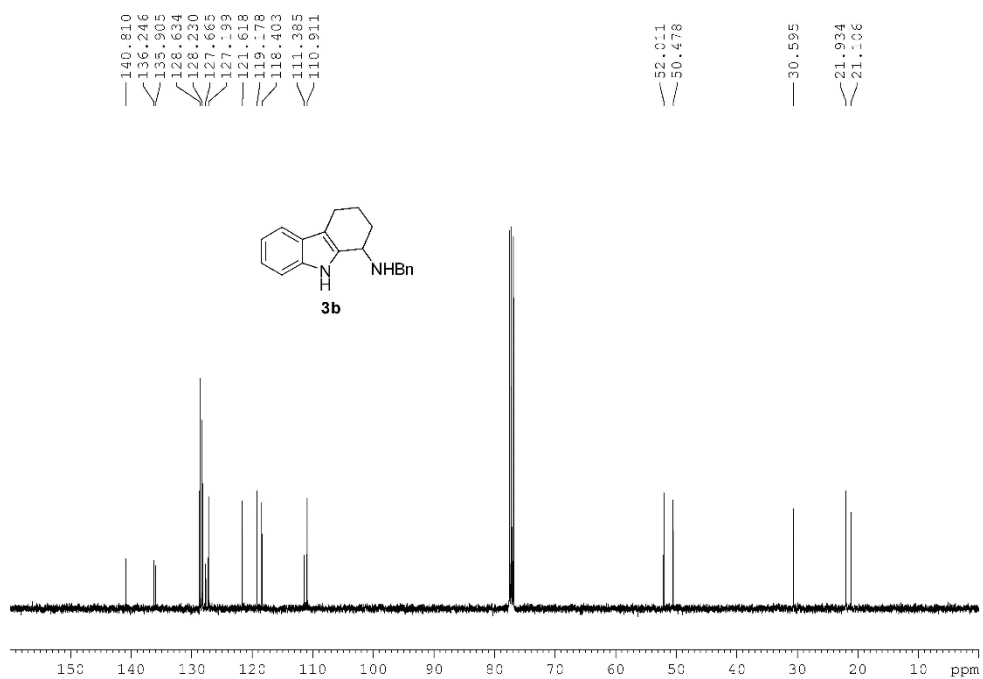
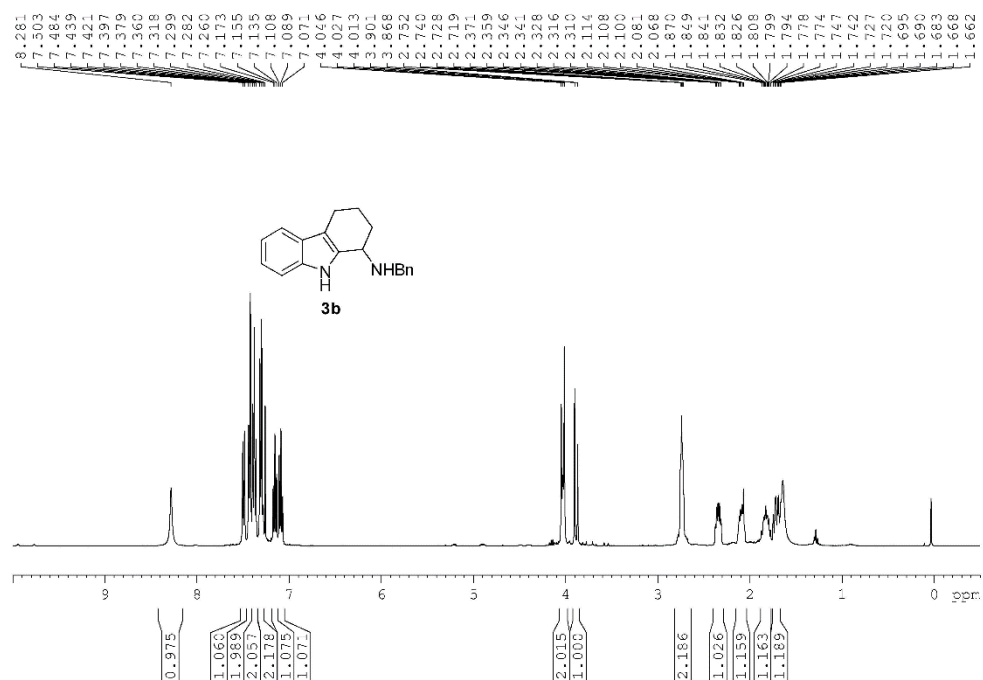


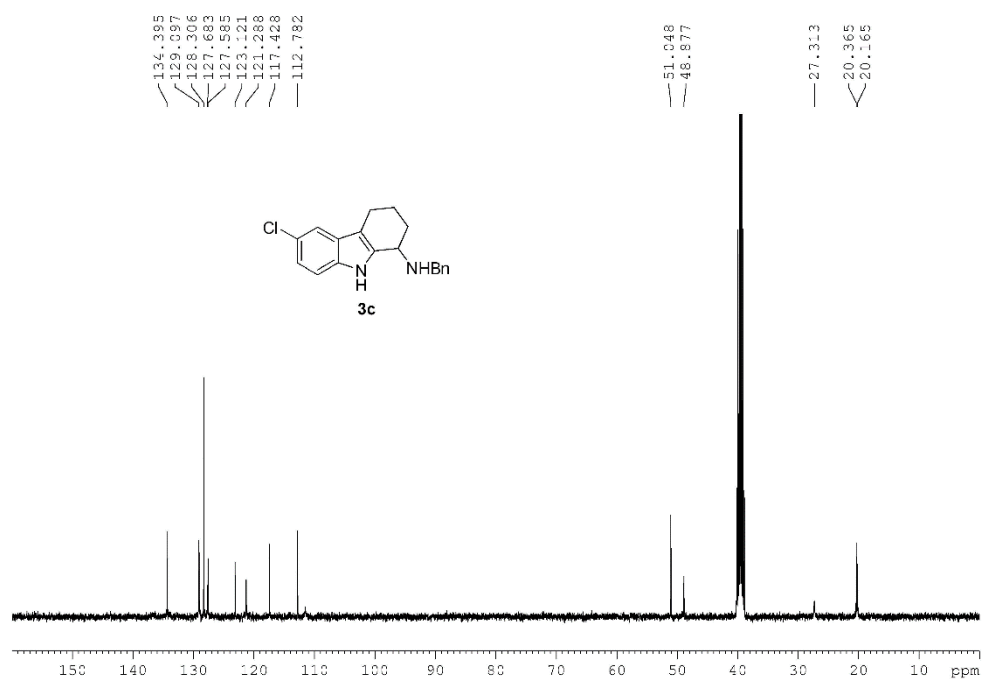
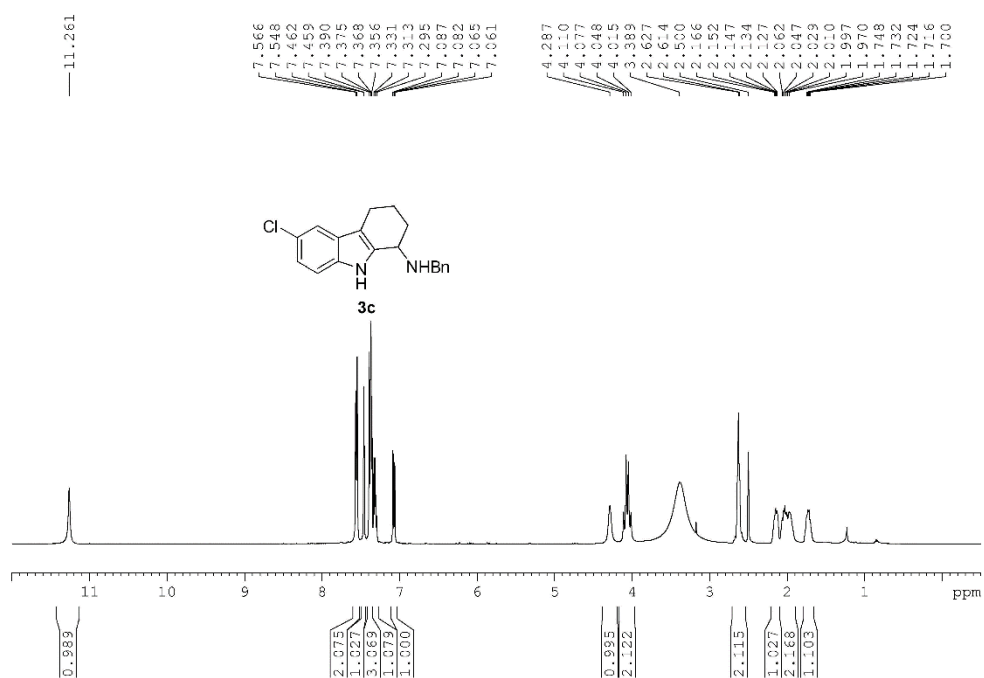


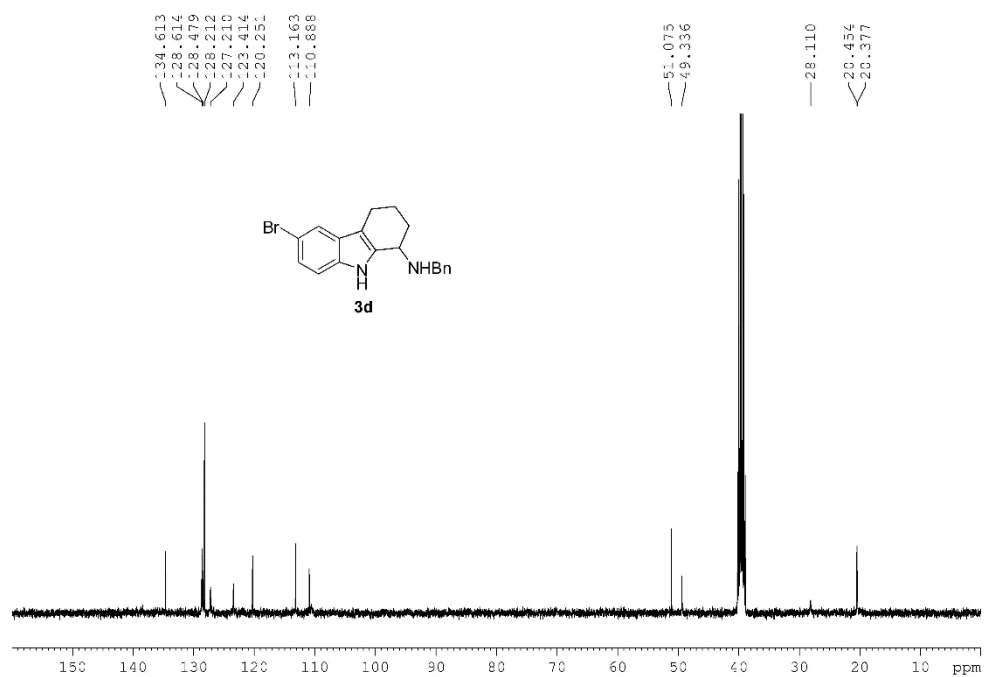
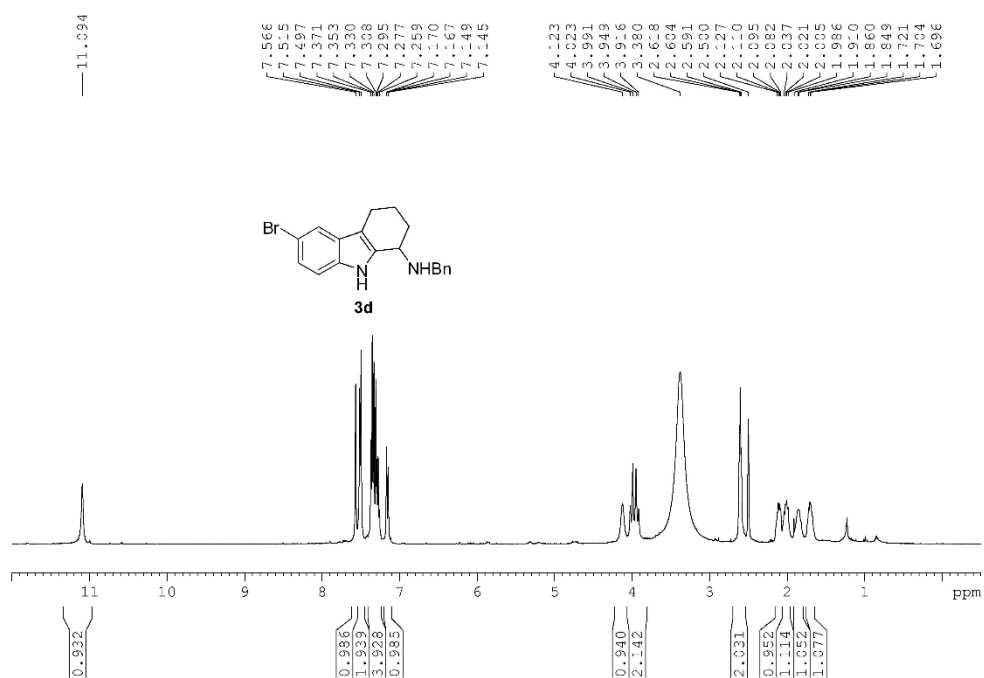


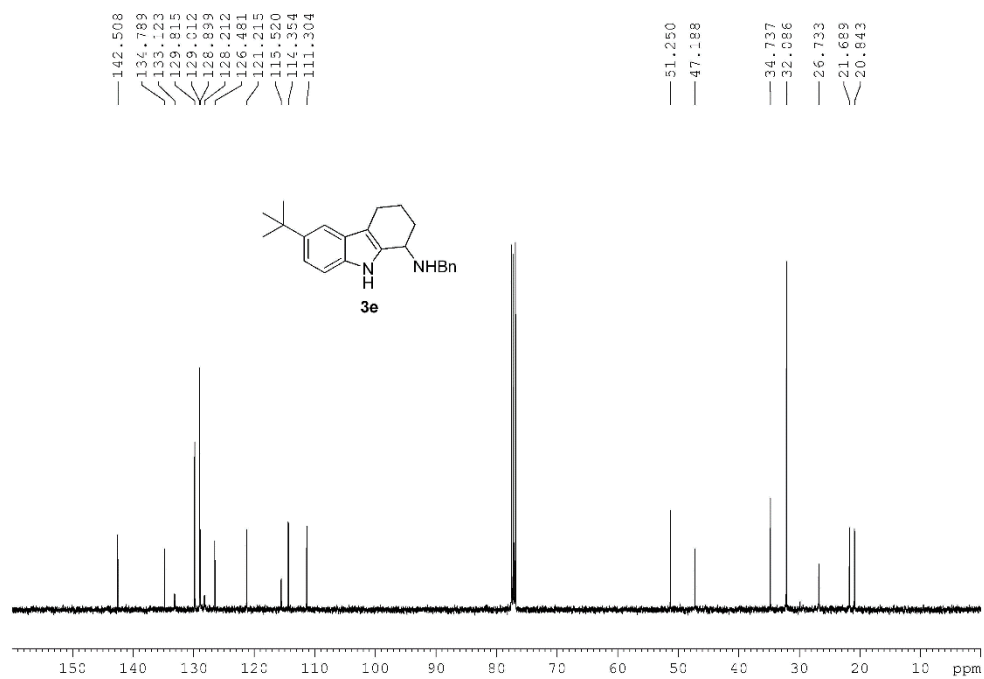
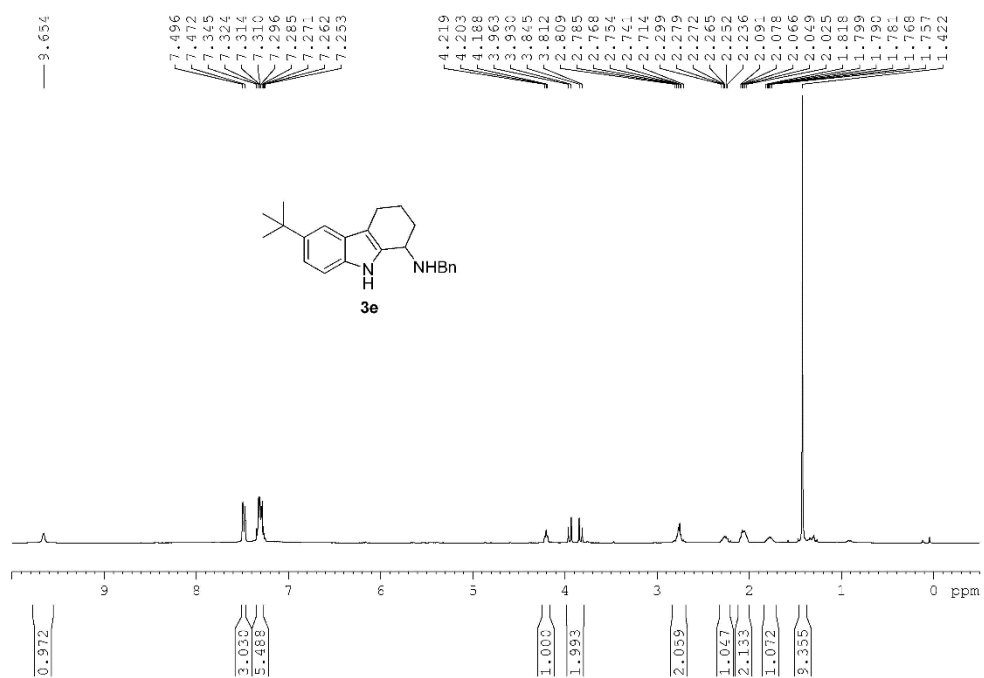
COSY and NOESY Spectra of compound **3a**

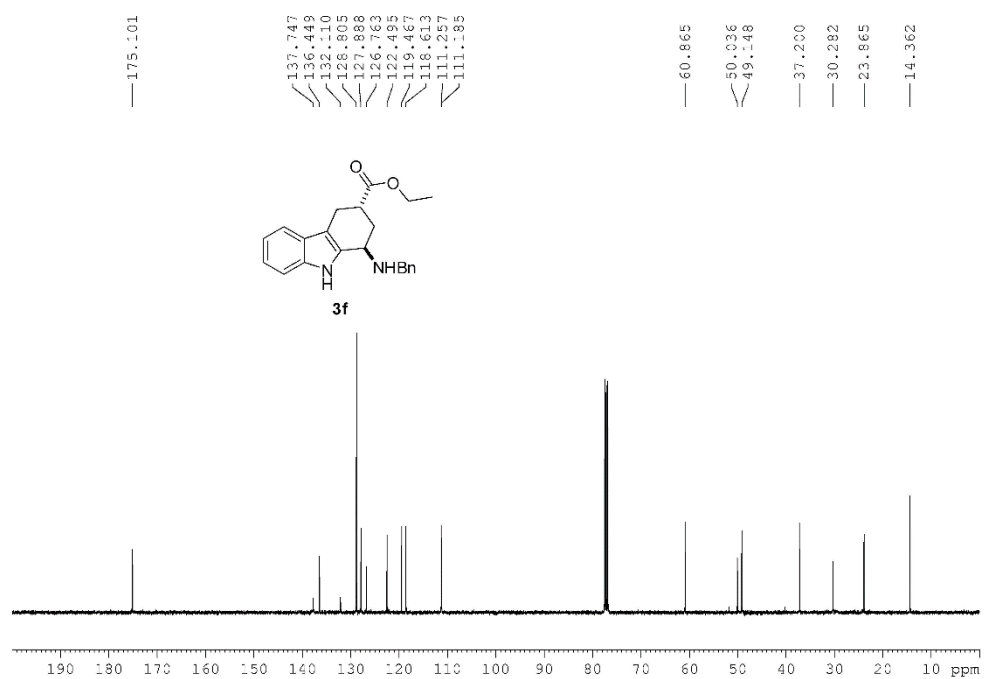
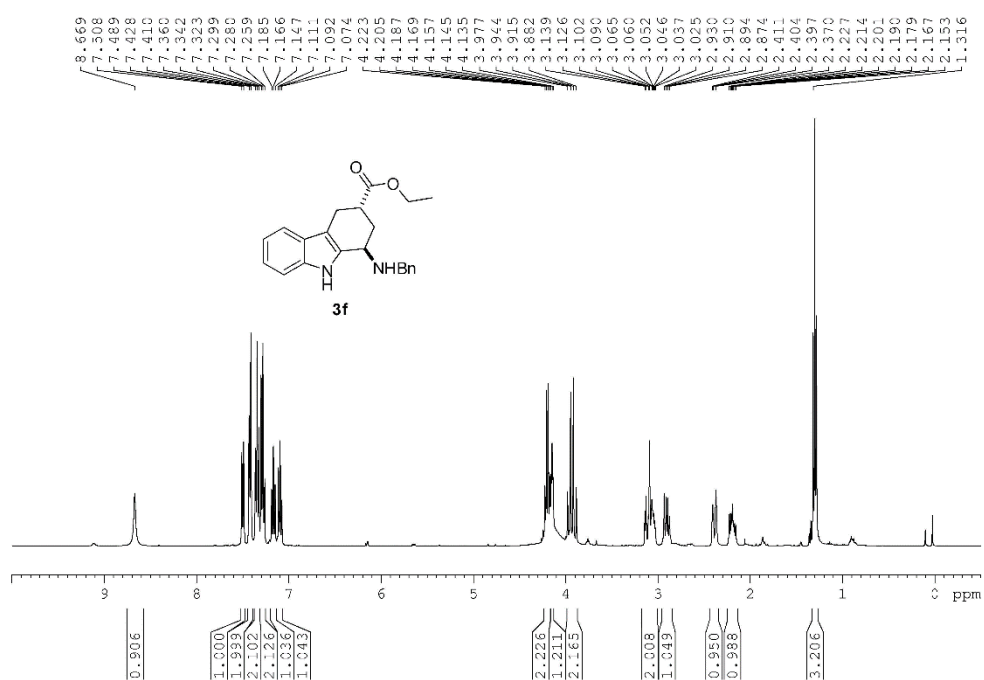












COSY and NOESY Spectra of compound **3f**

