

Supplementary Information

Iron(III) Halide or Iodine-Promoted Synthesis of 3-Haloindene Derivatives from *o*-Alkynylarene Chalcones

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Experimental details and products characterization:

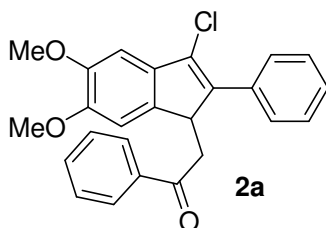
General remarks:

Melting points were determined using an apparatus by the open capillary tube method and are uncorrected. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz NMR spectrometer. HRMS (ESI) were recorded on Q-TOF mass spectrometers. Low resolution mass spectra (ESI) were recorded on LC-MS spectrometers. Elemental analyses were performed on a CHN analyzer. X-ray crystallographic data were collected on a CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated alumina sheets and detected under UV light. Silica gel (100-200 mesh) was used for column chromatography.

General procedure for the Synthesis of 3-haloindenes:

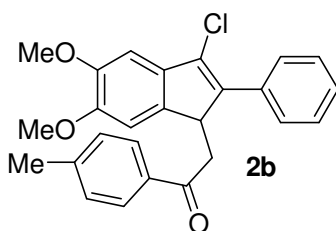
To a solution of *o*-alkynylarene chalcone **1** (0.25 mmol) in dichloroethane (3 mL) was added ferric chloride, ferric bromide or iodine (0.25 mmol) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux. After completion of the reaction (2 h), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layer was washed with water (when iodine was used as the reagent, it was washed with sodium thiosulphate solution first), dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product obtained was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 ; EtOAc: hexane, 1:9 v/v) to afford the pure product **2**, **3** or **4**.

2-(3-Chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (2a):



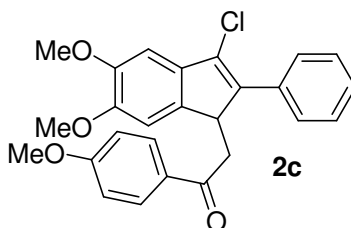
Brown oil. Yield: 86% (87 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 -7.39 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.77 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H) 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 18.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.8$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.3, 149.1, 148.4, 140.7, 137.6, 136.9, 134.7, 133.4, 133.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 126.6, 108.0, 102.6, 56.21, 56.17, 45.0, 41.0 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 405$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClO}_3$: C 74.16, H 5.23; found: C 74.25, H 5.36.

2-(3-Chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-p-tolyl-ethanone (2b):



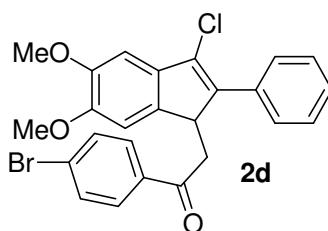
Yellow oil. Yield: 78% (82 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.7 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.77 (dd, $J = 10.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 17.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, $J = 18.4, 10.8$ Hz, 1H) 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.9, 149.1, 148.5, 144.3, 140.8, 137.7, 134.7, 134.5, 133.2, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.64, 126.56, 108.1, 102.7, 56.23, 56.19, 45.1, 40.9, 21.6. ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 441$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClO}_3$: C 74.55, H 5.53; found: C 74.80, H 5.63.

2-(3-Chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-ethanone (2c):



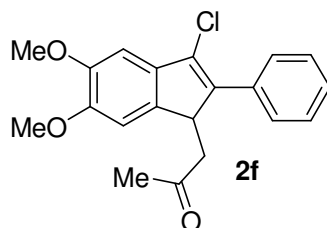
Yellow oil. Yield: 75% (81 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.7 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.77 (dd, $J = 10.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.18 (dd, $J = 17.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.8$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 197.7, 163.7, 149.1, 148.5, 140.9, 137.8, 134.7, 133.3, 130.5, 130.1, 128.63, 128.60, 127.6, 126.5, 113.8, 108.1, 102.6, 56.24, 56.16, 55.5, 45.2, 40.6 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 457$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClO}_4$: C 71.80, H 5.33; found: C 71.66, H 5.47.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(3-chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-ethanone (2d):



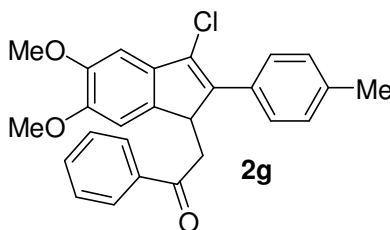
Brown oil. Yield: 80% (96 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 4.73 (dd, $J = 10.4, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 18.0, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.2, 149.3, 148.6, 140.6, 137.4, 135.6, 134.8, 133.1, 132.0, 129.6, 128.7, 128.62, 128.58, 127.7, 126.8, 108.1, 102.8, 56.3, 56.2, 45.0, 41.0 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 482$ $[\text{M}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrClO}_3$: C 62.07, H 4.17; found: C 62.25, H 4.02.

1-(3-Chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-propan-2-one (2f):



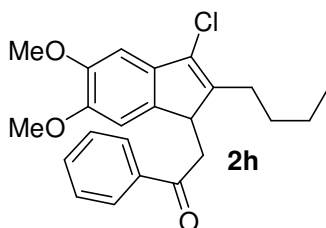
Yellow oil. Yield: 74% (63 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 2H), 4.52 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.82 (dd, $J = 18.4, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 207.6, 149.2, 148.6, 140.6, 137.4, 134.7, 133.2, 128.64, 128.57, 127.7, 126.6, 107.8, 102.7, 56.4, 56.2, 45.7, 44.7, 30.6 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 343$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClO}_3$: C 70.07, H 5.59; found: C 70.25, H 5.41

2-(3-Chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-2-p-tolyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (2g):



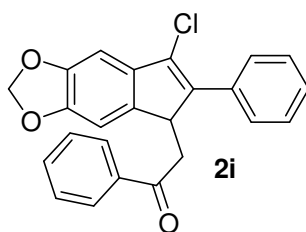
Yellow oil. Yield: 72% (75 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.41 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 10.8, 2.4$, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.25 (dd, $J = 18.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.130 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.3, 149.1, 148.3, 140.8, 137.6, 137.5, 136.9, 134.8, 133.4, 130.3, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 125.9, 108.1, 102.5, 56.22, 56.16, 44.9, 41.2, 21.3 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 441$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClO}_3$: C 74.55, H 5.53; found: C 74.73, H 5.66.

2-(2-Butyl-3-chloro-5,6-dimethoxy-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (2h):



Brown oil. Yield: 68% (65 mg). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.17 (dd, $J = 9.6, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 17.2, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, $J = 17.6, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.73-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.66 - 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.60- 1.42 (m, 2H) 1.41- 1.31 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.0, 149.0, 147.7, 143.7, 137.3, 137.1, 134.5, 133.4, 128.8, 128.2, 126.6, 108.2, 102.3, 56.3, 56.2, 44.4, 39.9, 31.1, 26.3, 22.6, 13.8 ppm MS (ESI): $m/z = 407$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{ClO}_3$: C 71.77, H 6.55; found: C 71.95, H 6.75.

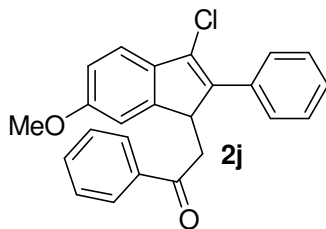
2-(7-Chloro-6-phenyl-5H-indeno[5,6-d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (2i):



Orange solid. Yield: 72% (70 mg). M.p.: 210-212 $^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.87 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 - 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H) 6.96 (s, 1H) 5.96 (dd, $J = 11.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 18.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 198.8, 147.5, 147.1, 141.1, 139.4, 136.7, 136.1, 133.4, 133.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5,

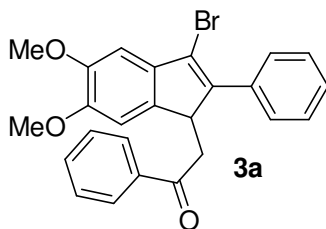
128.1, 127.7, 126.5, 105.6, 101.3, 100.5, 44.7, 41.0 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 389$ $[M+H]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{24}H_{19}ClO_3$: C 74.13; H 4.41; found: C 74.32, H 4.57.

2-(3-Chloro-6-methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (2j):



Orange solid. Yield: 78% (73 mg). M.p.: 195-197 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 - 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, $J = 2$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H) 4.83 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H) 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 17.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.9, 159.2, 146.8, 139.9, 136.8, 135.0, 133.3, 133.2, 128.64, 126.61, 128.60, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 120.1, 113.1, 110.4, 55.6, 45.0, 40.9 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 375$ $[M+H]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{24}H_{19}ClO_2$: C 76.90; H 5.11; found: C 76.75, H 5.20.

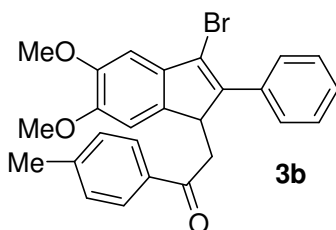
2-(3-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (3a):



Brown oil. Yield: 77% (86 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 - 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 10.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H) 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd, $J = 18.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 199.2, 149.19, 149.16, 148.49, 148.46, 144.5, 137.7, 136.92, 136.89, 135.9, 133.9, 133.4, 128.8, 128.7,

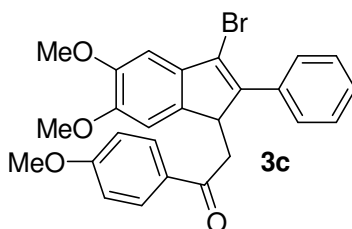
128.6, 128.1, 127.8, 116.6, 107.9, 104.0, 56.3, 56.2, 46.6, 40.9 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 449$ $[M+H]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{25}H_{21}BrO_3$: C 66.83, H 4.71; found: C 66.99, H 4.66.

2-(3-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-p-tolyl-ethanone (3b):



Brown oil. Yield: 70% (81 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.76 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, $J = 17.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.8$ Hz, 1H) 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.8, 149.1, 148.4, 144.6, 144.3, 137.7, 135.9, 134.5, 133.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.8, 116.5, 107.9, 103.9, 56.24, 56.21, 46.6, 40.7, 21.6. ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 485$ $[M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{26}H_{23}BrO_3$: C 67.39; H 5.00; found: C 67.51, H 5.15.

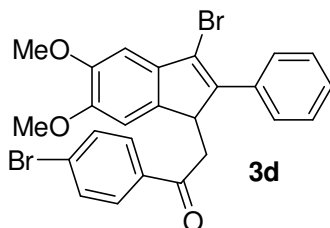
2-(3-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethanone (3c):



Yellow oil. Yield: 73% (87 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.77 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.66 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.06 (dd, $J = 17.2, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, $J = 17.2, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 197.6, 163.7, 149.1, 148.4, 144.7, 137.8, 135.9, 134.0, 130.5, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6,

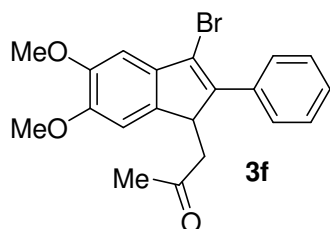
127.8, 116.4, 113.8, 108.0, 103.9, 56.3, 56.2, 55.5, 46.7, 40.4 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 501$ $[M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{26}H_{23}BrO_4$: C 65.14, H 4.84; found: C 65.30, H 4.76.

2-(3-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-(4-bromo-phenyl)-ethanone (3d):



Brown oil. Yield: 80% (105 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 4.71 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, $J = 17.6, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.1, 149.2, 148.5, 144.3, 137.4, 135.9, 135.5, 133.8, 131.9, 129.6, 128.7, 128.62, 126.60, 127.9, 116.7, 107.8, 104.0, 56.3, 56.2, 46.4, 40.8 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 527$ $[M+H]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{25}H_{20}Br_2O_3$: C 56.84; H 3.82; found: C 56.75, H 3.91.

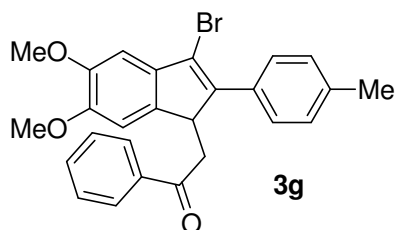
1-(3-bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)propan-2-one (3f):



Brown oil. Yield: 69% (66 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.59 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 4.45 (dd, $J = 10.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.78 (dd, $J = 18.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.38 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 207.6, 149.2, 148.5, 144.3, 137.5, 135.9, 133.9, 128.7,

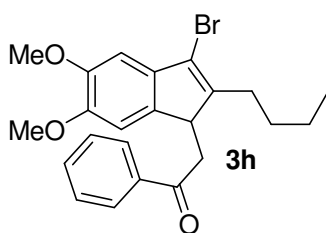
128.6, 127.9, 116.5, 107.6, 104.0, 56.4, 56.2, 46.2, 45.5, 30.6 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 409$ $[M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{20}H_{19}BrO_3$: C 62.03; H 4.95; found: C 62.21, H 5.04.

2-(3-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-p-tolyl-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (3g):



Brown oil. Yield: 71% (82 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.71 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 17.6, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 199.2, 149.1, 148.3, 144.5, 137.8, 137.5, 136.9, 136.0, 133.3, 130.9, 129.3, 128.6, 128.1, 115.9, 107.9, 103.8, 56.22, 56.17, 46.4, 41.0, 21.3 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 485$ $[M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{26}H_{23}BrO_3$: C 67.39; H 5.00; found: C 67.58, H 4.98.

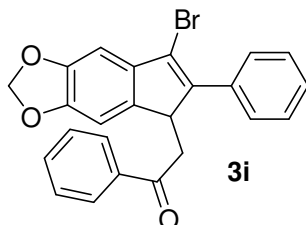
2-(3-Bromo-2-butyl-5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (3h):



Brown oil. Yield: 65% (70 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.17 (dd, $J = 9.2, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.35 (dd, $J = 17.6, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, $J = 17.2, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 - 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.28 - 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.57 - 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.39 - 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 199.0, 148.9, 147.7, 147.3, 137.4, 137.1, 135.5,

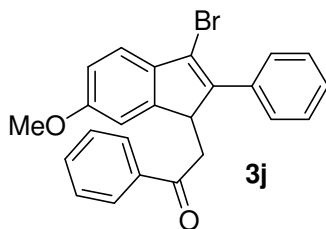
133.4, 128.8, 128.2, 116.9, 108.0, 103.4, 56.3, 56.2, 45.5, 39.9, 31.1, 27.9, 22.6, 13.9. ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 451 [M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{23}H_{25}BrO_3$: C 64.34, H 5.87; found: C 64.52, H 5.68.

2-(7-Bromo-6-phenyl-5H-indeno[5,6-d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (3i):



Orange solid. Yield: 70% (76 mg). M.p.: 199-201 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 5.95 (dd, $J = 11.6, 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.73 (dd, $J = 10.0, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, $J = 18.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, $J = 18.0, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.7, 147.5, 147.1, 144.9, 139.5, 137.3, 136.7, 133.8, 133.4, 128.7, 128.63, 128.60, 128.1, 127.9, 116.3, 105.4, 101.8, 101.3, 46.1, 40.8 ppm. MS (ESI): $m/z = 455 [M+Na]^+$. Anal. calcd. for $C_{24}H_{17}BrO_3$: C 66.53, H 3.95; found: C 66.65, H 4.09.

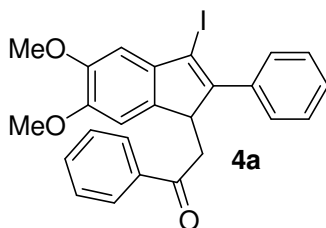
2-(3-Bromo-6-methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (3j):



Orange solid. Yield: 70% (73 mg). M.p.: 165-167 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 18, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.0$, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100

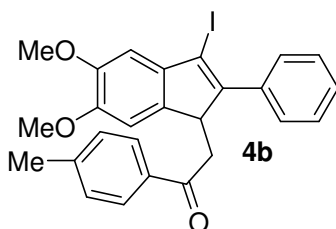
MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.8, 159.3, 146.9, 143.7, 136.8, 136.2, 134.0, 133.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 121.3, 116.6, 113.2, 110.2, 55.6, 46.6, 40.8 ppm. MS (ESI): m/z = 441 [M+Na]⁺. Anal. calcd. for C₂₄H₁₉BrO₂: C 68.75, H 4.57; found: C 68.85, H 4.75.

2-(3-Iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (4a):



Yellow oil. Yield: 90% (112 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, J = 10.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H) 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 199.1, 151.8, 149.1, 148.4, 138.2, 137.7, 136.9, 135.5, 133.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 107.7, 106.4, 92.8, 56.3, 56.2, 48.3, 40.8. ppm. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for C₂₅H₂₁IO₃: 497.0608 [M+H]⁺; found 497.0613.

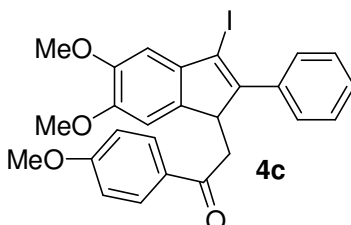
2-(3-Iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-p-tolyl-ethanone (4b):



Yellow oil. Yield: 83% (106 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.74 (dd, J = 10.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, J = 17.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H) 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

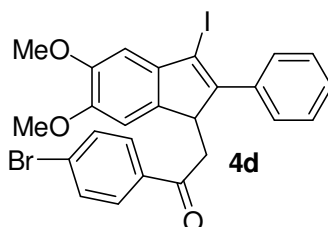
CDCl₃): δ 198.6, 151.9, 149.1, 148.4, 144.2, 138.2, 137.8, 135.5, 134.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 107.8, 106.4, 92.7, 56.30, 56.25, 48.4, 40.6, 21.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₆H₂₃IO₃: 511.0765 [M+H]⁺; found 511.0770.

2-(3-Iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethanone (4c):



Yellow oil. Yield: 85%. (112 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.73 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.5, 163.7, 152.0, 149.1, 148.4, 138.2, 137.8, 135.5, 130.5, 130.0, 128.9, 128.5, 128.0, 113.8, 107.8, 106.3, 92.6, 56.3, 56.2, 55.5, 48.5, 40.3. ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₆H₂₃IO₄: 527.0714 [M+H]⁺; found 527.0720.

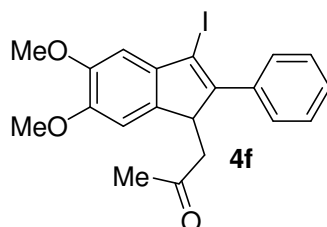
1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(3-iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-ethanone (4d):



Brown oil. Yield: 83% (119 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

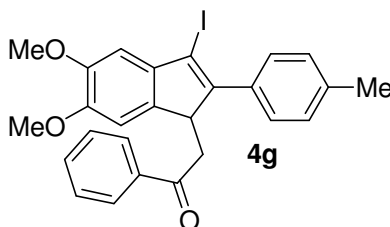
198.0, 151.6, 149.2, 148.4, 138.2, 137.4, 135.6, 135.4, 131.9, 129.6, 128.9, 128.62, 128.55, 128.1, 107.6, 106.4, 93.0, 56.33, 56.25, 48.2, 40.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{25}H_{20}BrIO_3$: 574.9713 $[M+H]^+$; found 574.9717.

1-(3-Iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-phenyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-propan-2-one (4f):



Brown oil. Yield: 74% (80 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.52 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 4.46 (dd, $J = 9.6, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.71 (dd, $J = 18, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.0$ Hz, 1H) 2.04 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 207.3, 151.6, 149.2, 148.5, 138.2, 137.5, 135.5, 128.9, 128.5, 128.0, 107.5, 106.4, 92.7, 56.4, 56.3, 48.0, 45.4, 30.6. ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{20}H_{19}IO_3$: 457.0271 $[M+Na]^+$; found 457.0277.

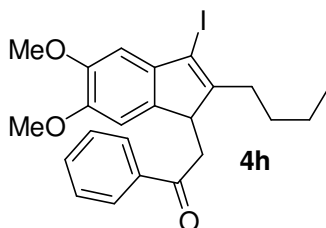
2-(3-Iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-p-tolyl-1H-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (4g):



Yellow oil. Yield: 78% (99 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, $J = 8$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.71 (dd, $J = 10.4, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.15 (dd, $J = 17.6, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, $J = 17.6, 10.4$ Hz, 1H) 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 199.1, 151.8, 149.1, 148.3, 138.3, 137.9, 137.6, 136.9, 133.3, 132.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 107.1, 106.3,

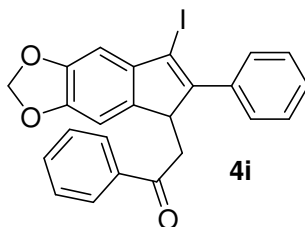
92.0, 56.3, 56.2, 48.2, 40.9, 21.3. ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{26}H_{23}IO_3$: 511.0765 $[M+H]^+$; found 511.0770.

2-(2-Butyl-3-iodo-5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (4h):



Yellow oil. Yield: 72% (86 mg). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.96 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.35 (dd, J = 17.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J = 17.2, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.66-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.36- 2.29 (m, 2H), 1.58- 1.45 (m, 2H) 1.43- 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.9, 154.2, 148.9, 147.7, 137.7, 137.6, 137.1, 133.5, 128.8, 128.2, 107.8, 105.6, 93.5, 56.3, 56.2, 46.6, 40.0, 31.3, 31.0, 22.6, 13.9. ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{23}H_{25}IO_3$: 477.0921 $[M+H]^+$; found 477.0924.

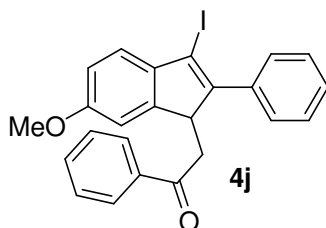
2-(7-Iodo-6-phenyl-5*H*-indeno[5,6-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (4i):



Orange solid. Yield: 78% (94 mg). M.p.: 185-187 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.56 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 5.95 (dd, J = 11.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H) 4.72 (dd, J = 10.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, J = 18.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 198.5, 152.2, 147.4, 147.0, 139.7, 139.5, 136.7, 135.4, 133.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5,

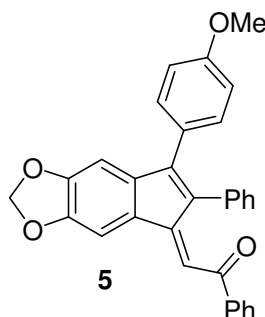
128.1, 128.0, 105.1, 104.2, 101.3, 92.4, 47.8, 40.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{24}H_{17}IO_3$: 481.0295[M+H]⁺; found 481.0288.

2-(3-Iodo-6-methoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-inden-1-yl)-1-phenyl-ethanone (4j):



Orange solid. Yield: 85% (99 mg). M.p.: 182-184 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 10.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.6, 159.2, 150.9, 146.9, 138.5, 136.8, 135.5, 133.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 123.6, 113.1, 110.0, 92.6, 55.6, 48.3, 40.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{24}H_{19}IO_2$: 489.0322 [M+Na]⁺; found 489.0328.

Procedure for the Synthesis of 2-[7-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-6-phenyl-indeno[5,6-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylidene]-1-phenyl-ethanone (5):



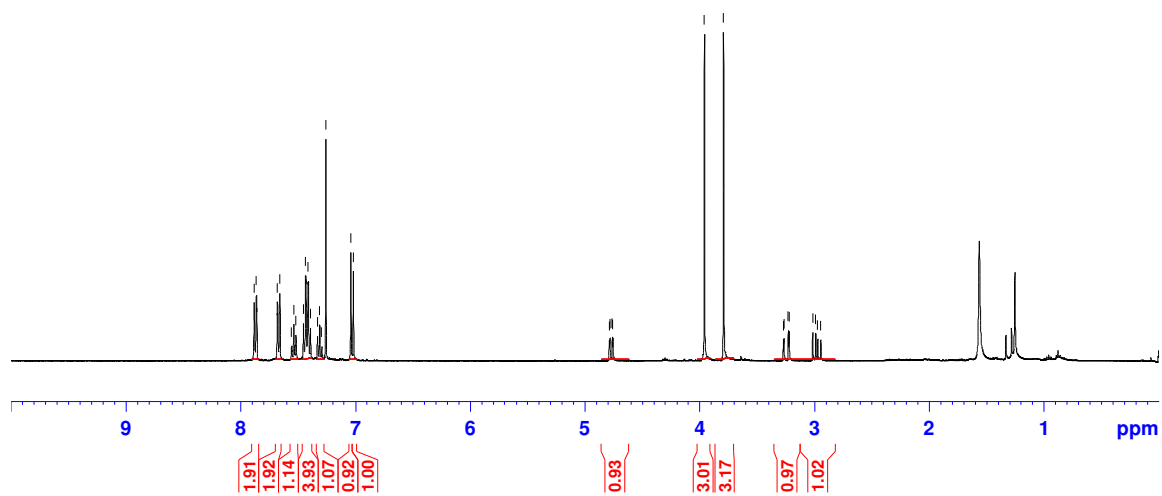
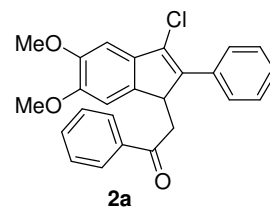
To a solution of **4i** (48 mg; 0.1 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) were added 4-methoxyphenyl boronic acid (23 mg; 0.15 mmol), K₃PO₄ (42 mg, 0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (1 mg, 5 mol%) and

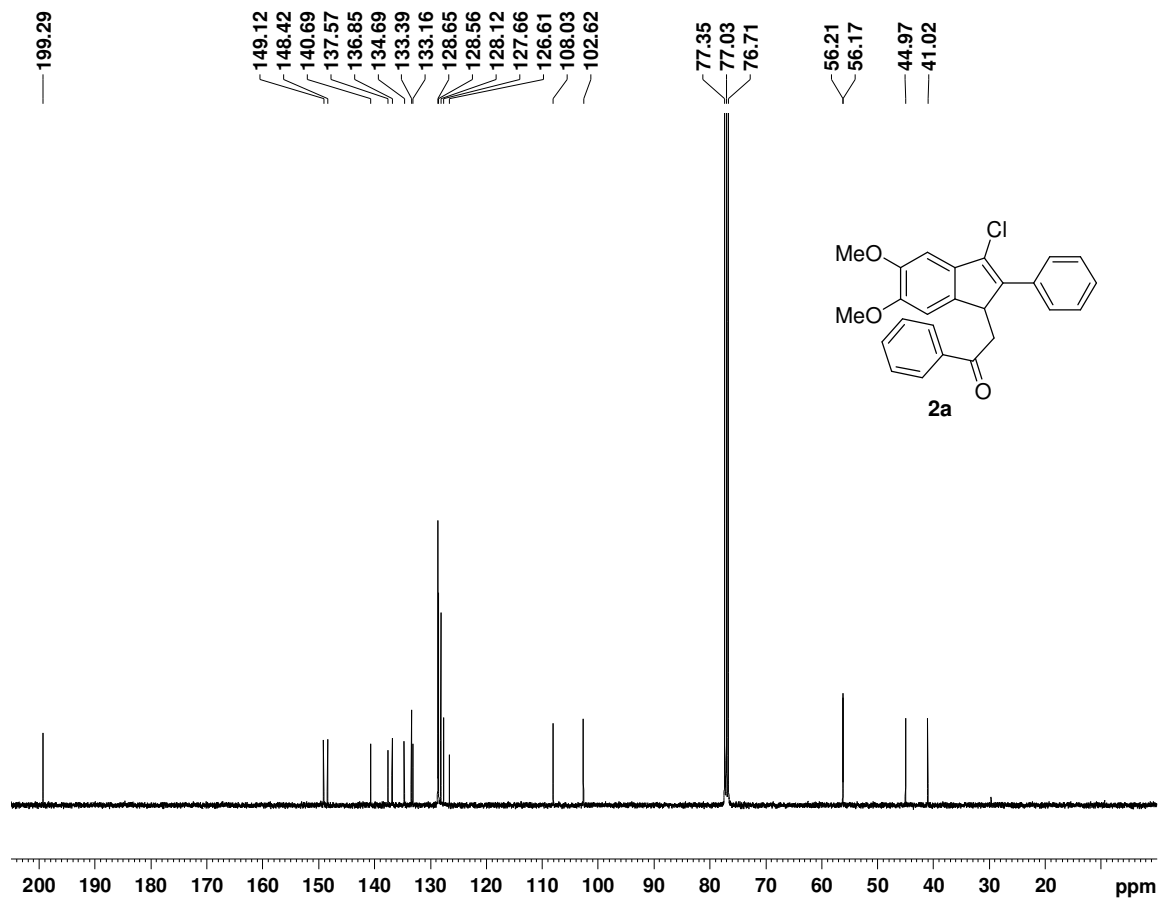
SPhos (4 mg, 10 mol%). The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C and stirred for 4 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂; EtOAc: hexane, 0.5:9.5 v/v) to afford the pure product **5**. Purple oil. Yield: 76% (35 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.6 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.17 (m, 7H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.81 (m, 3H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.1, 159.3, 149.9, 148.8, 146.6, 143.8, 140.1, 138.1, 137.5, 133.3, 131.0, 130.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 126.2, 124.9, 113.8, 107.9, 102.4, 101.4, 55.2 ppm. MS (ESI): *m/z* = 481 [M+Na]⁺. Anal. calcd. for. C₃₁H₂₂O₄: C 81.21, H 4.84; found: C 81.40, H 4.98.

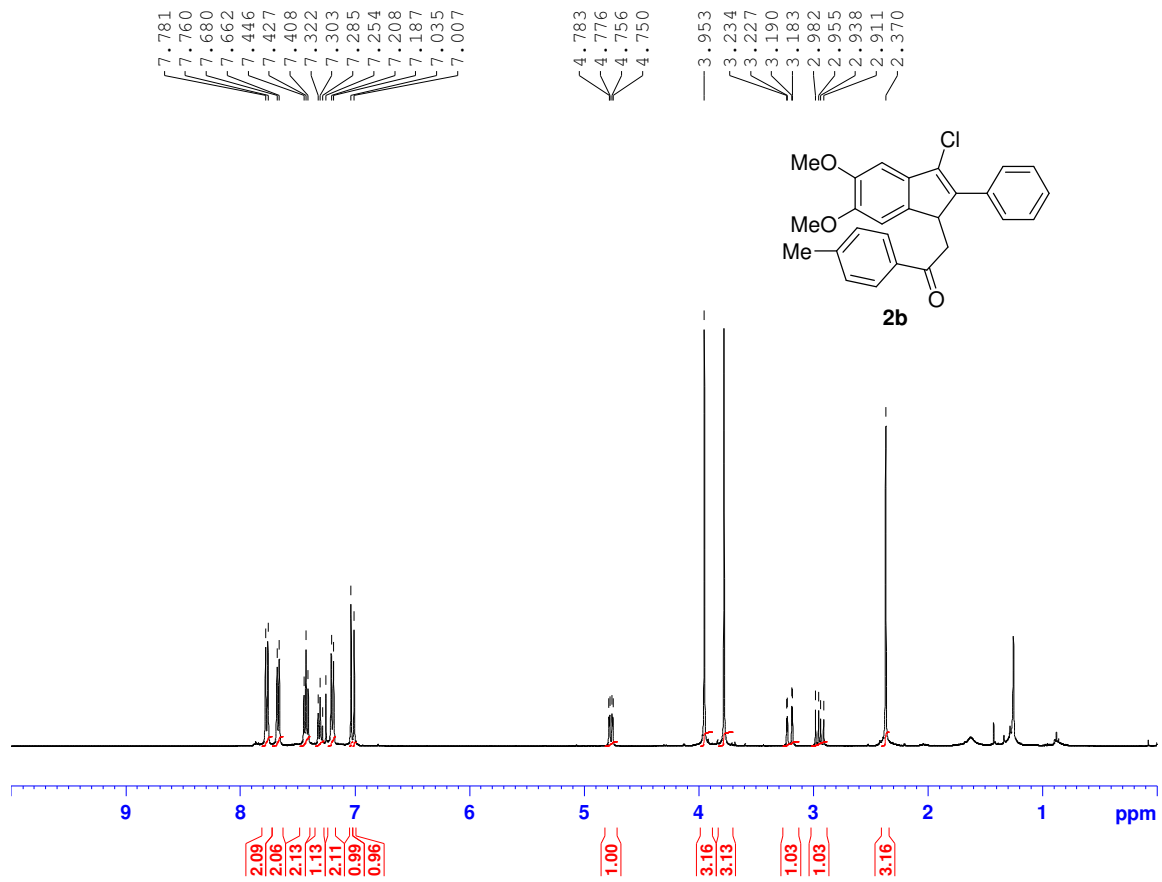
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7.865
7.680
7.662
7.557
7.539
7.520
7.455
7.436
7.412
7.393
7.332
7.313
7.295
7.260
7.041
7.019

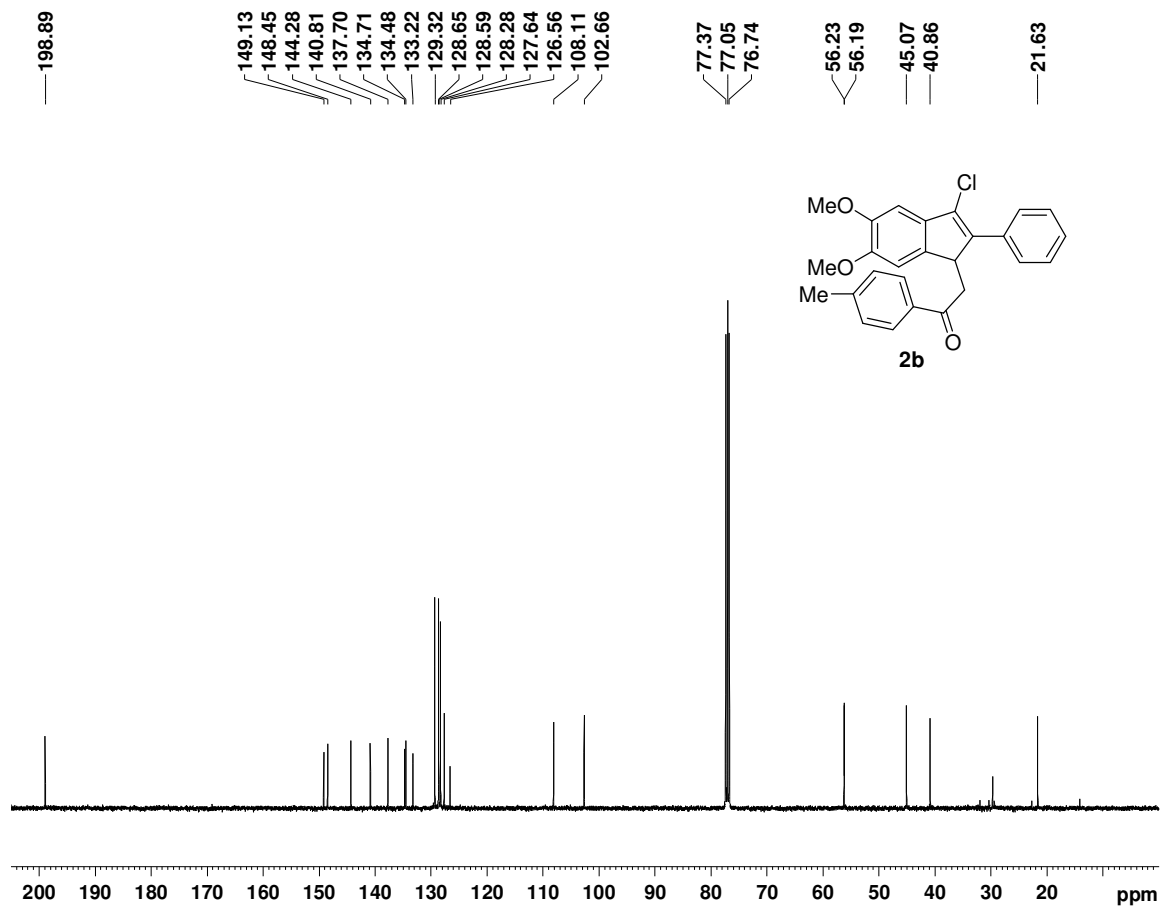
4.790
4.784
4.764
4.757

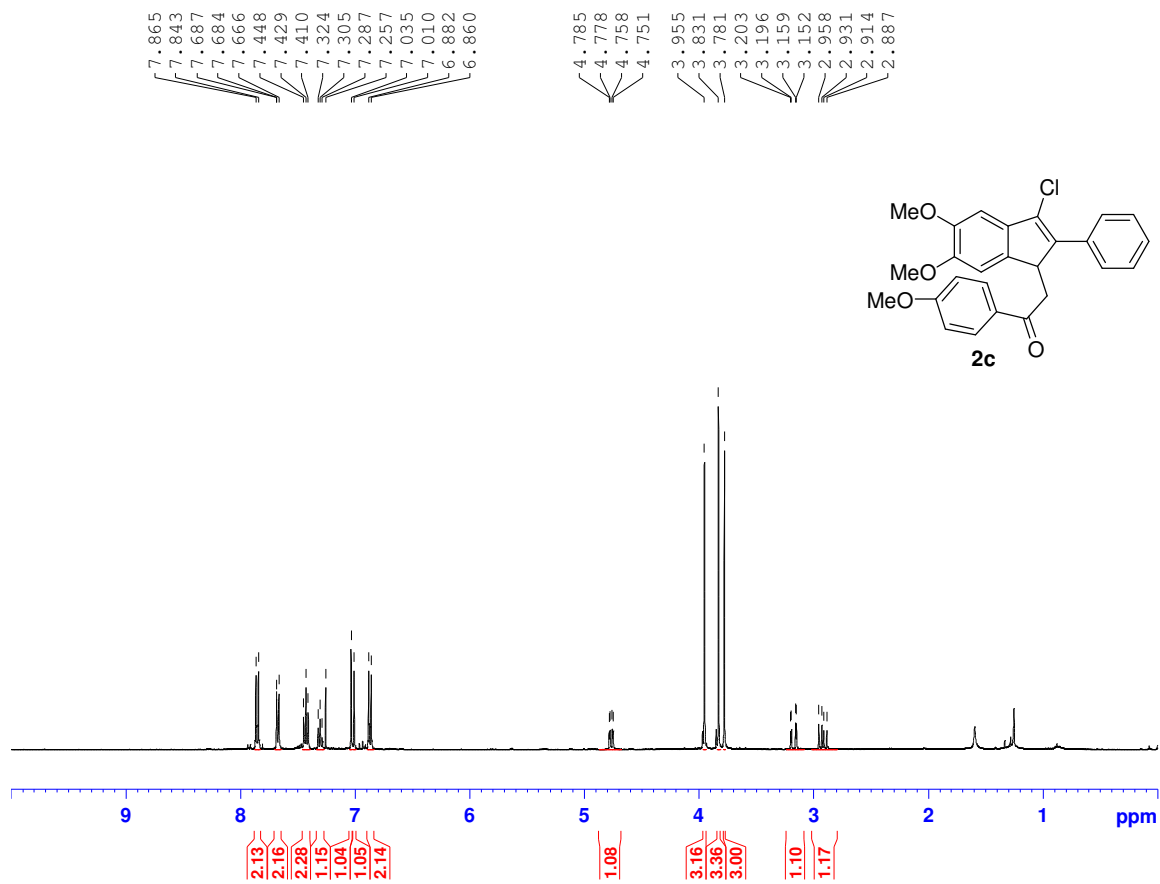
3.961
3.794
3.274
3.267
3.229
3.222
3.018
2.973
2.947

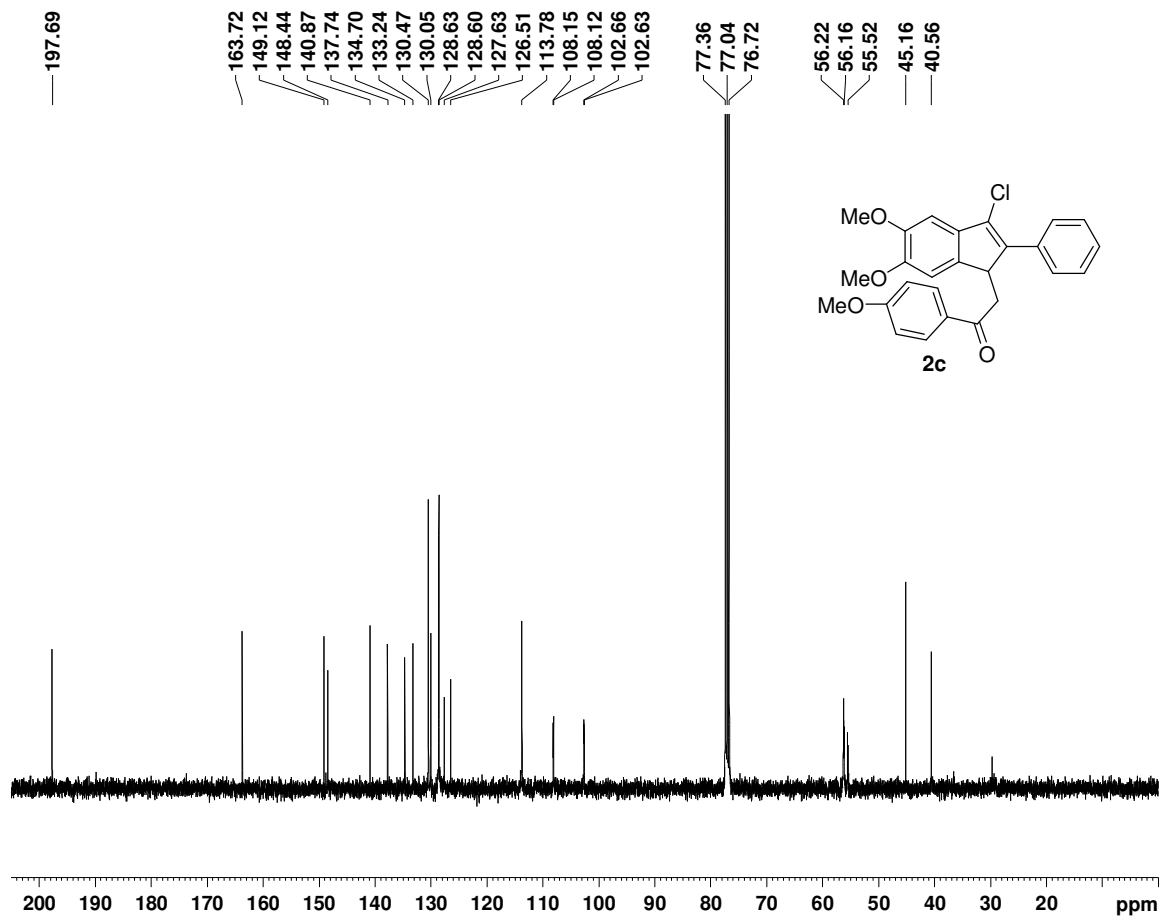


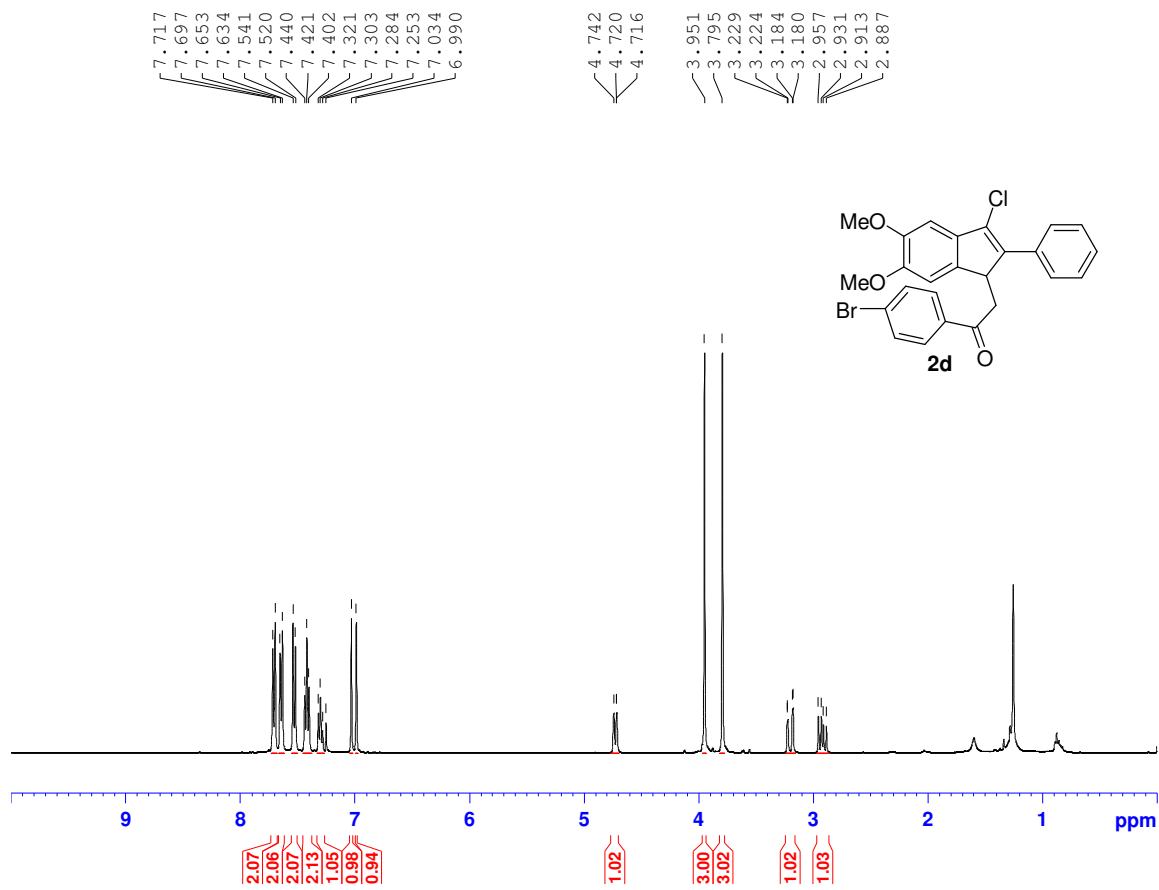


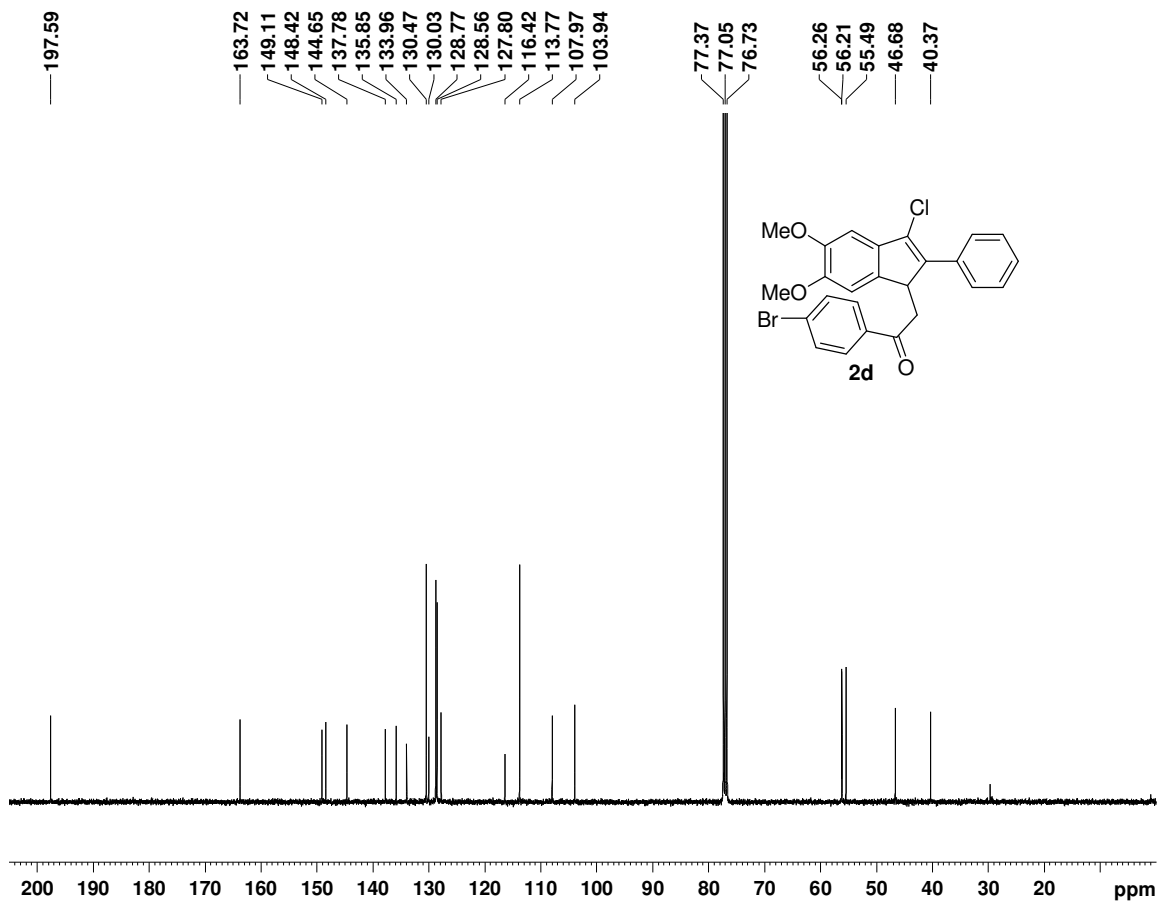


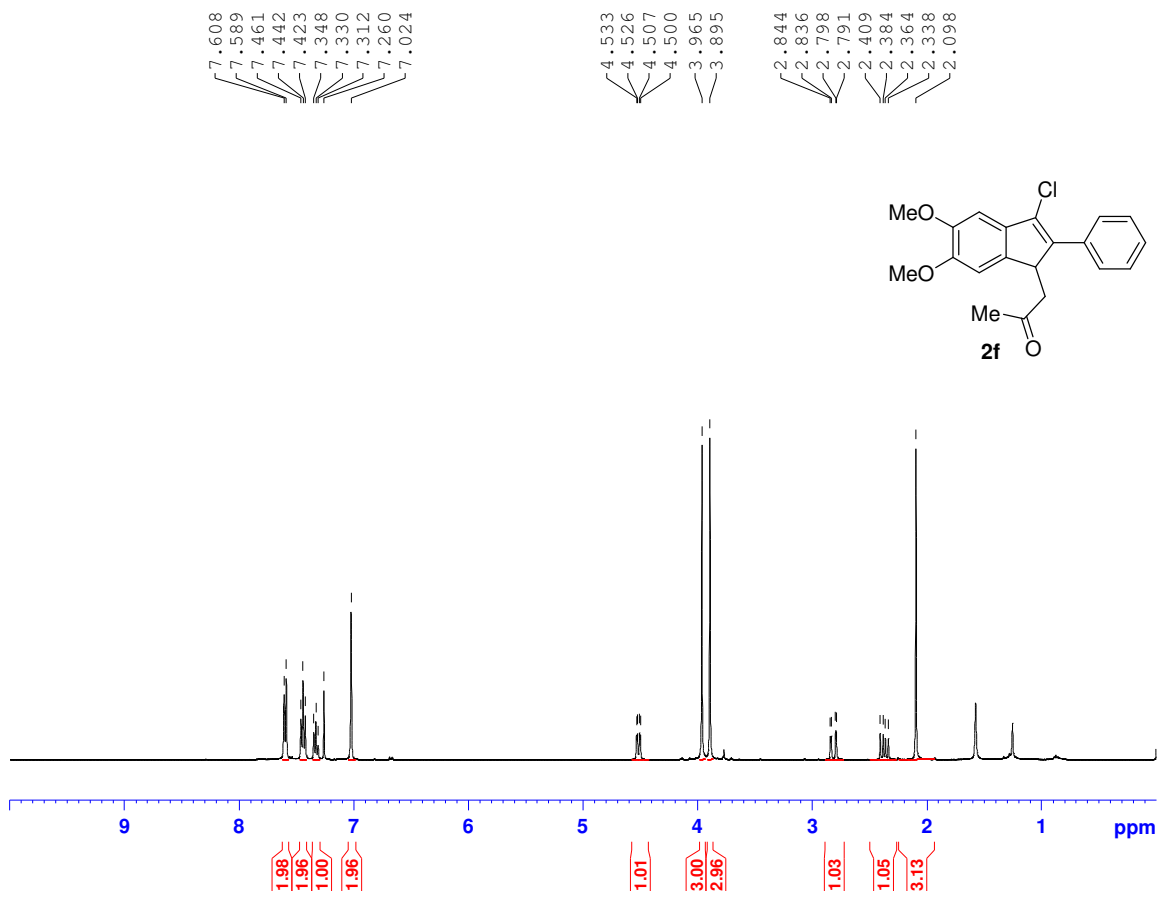


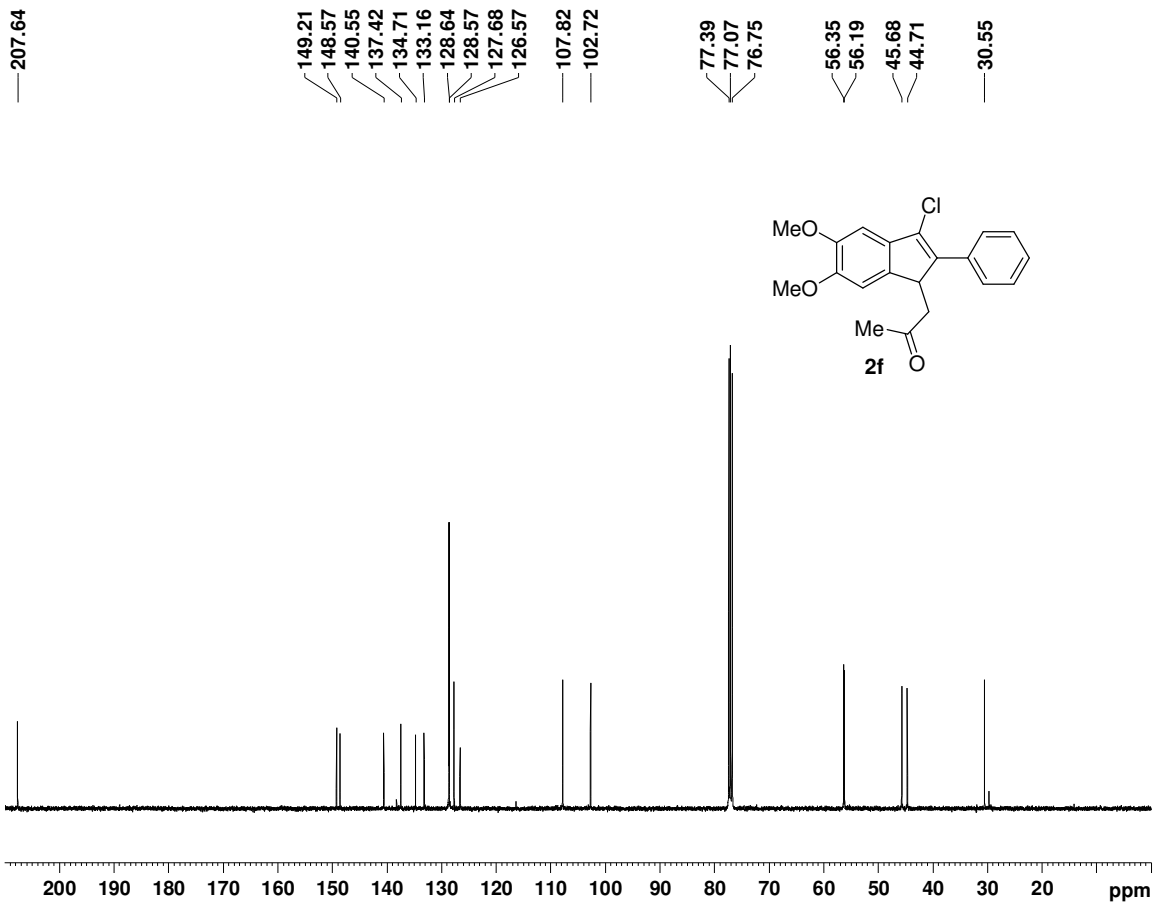


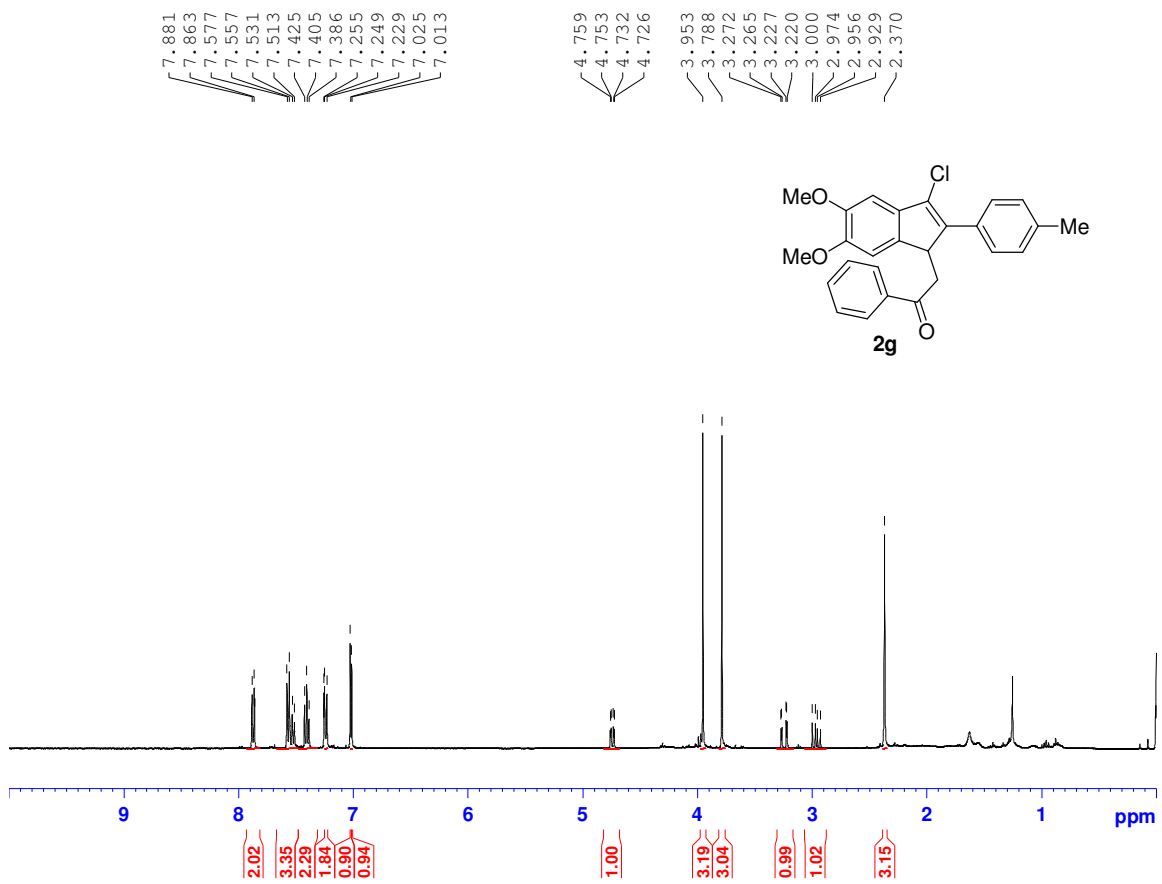


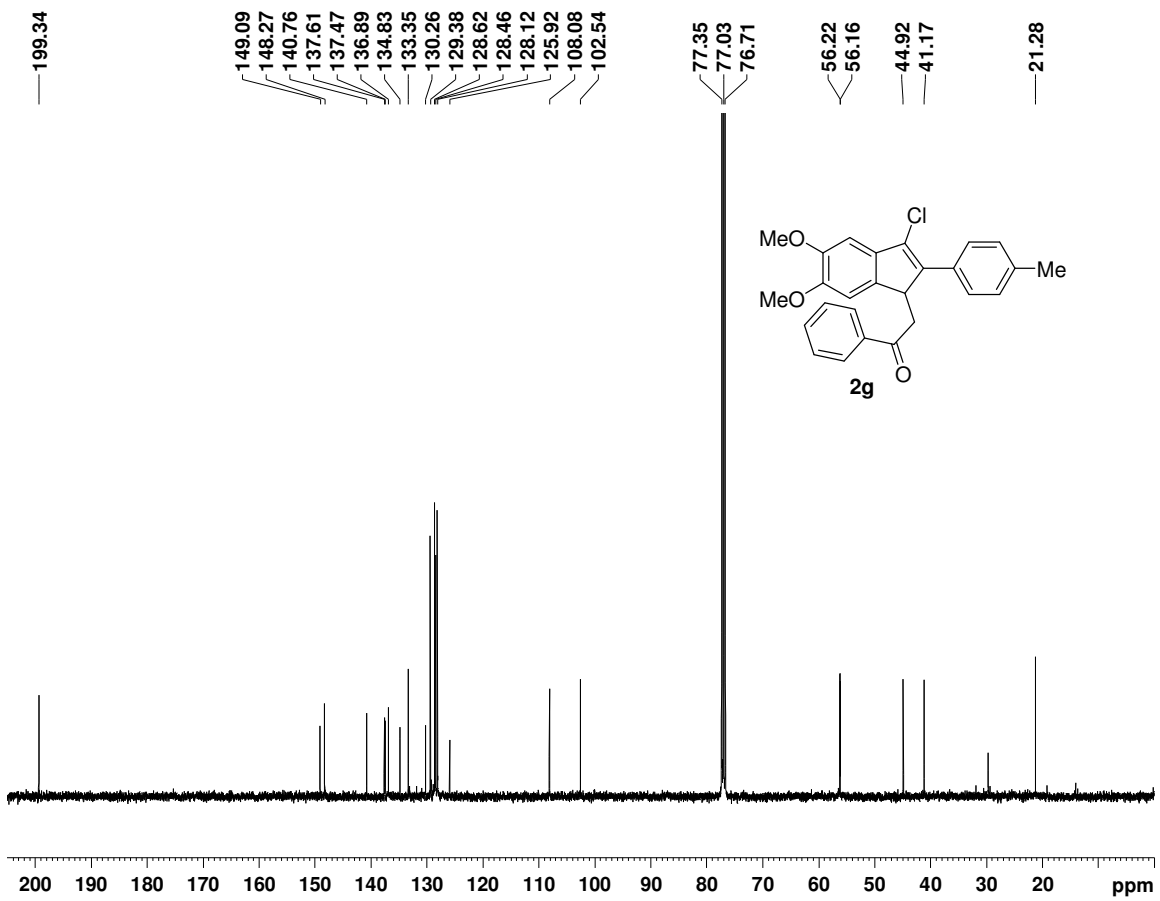


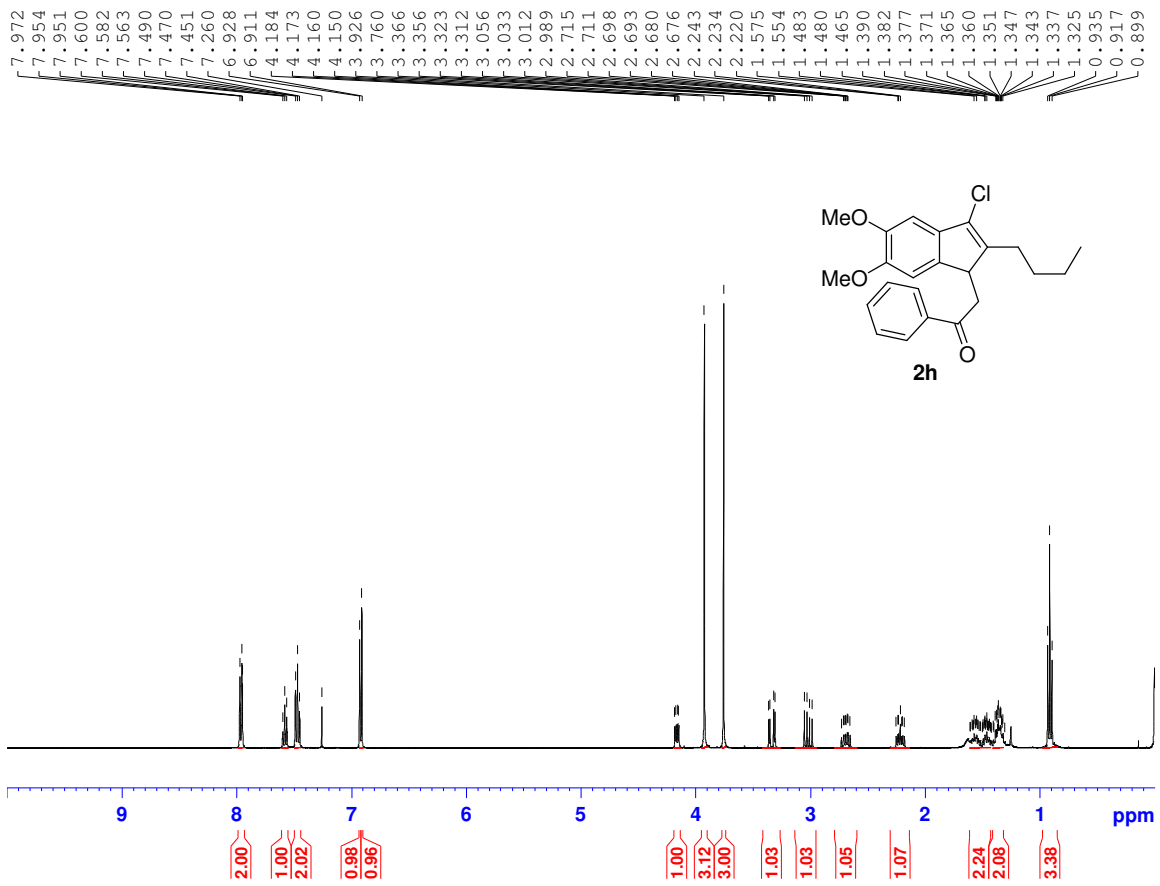


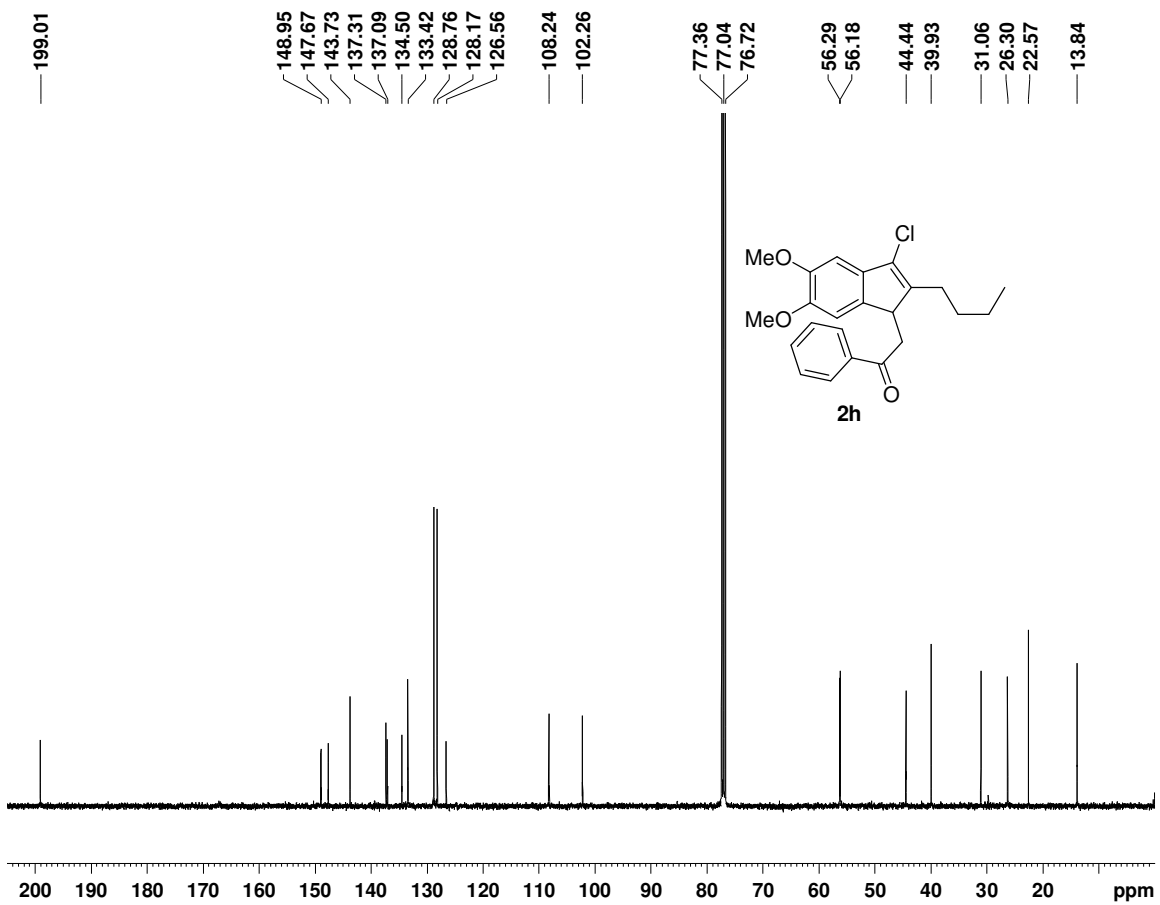


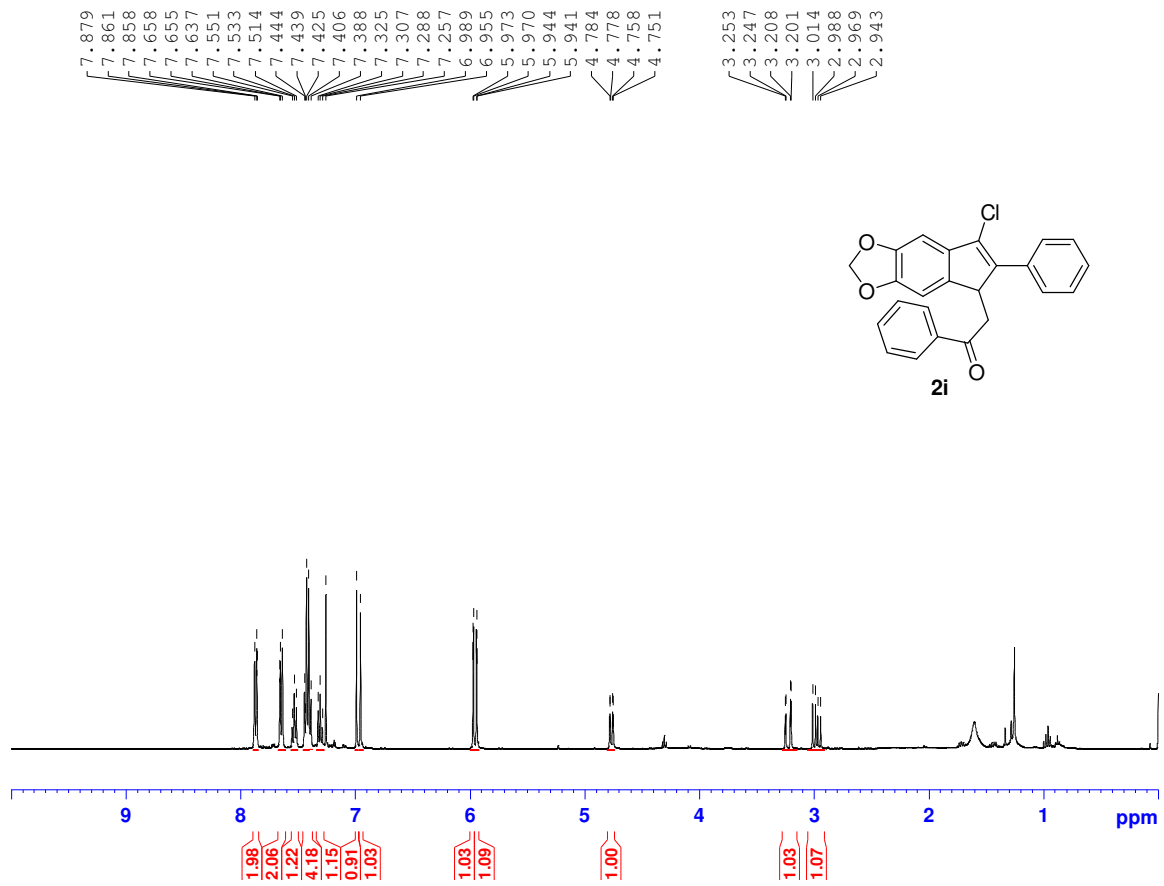


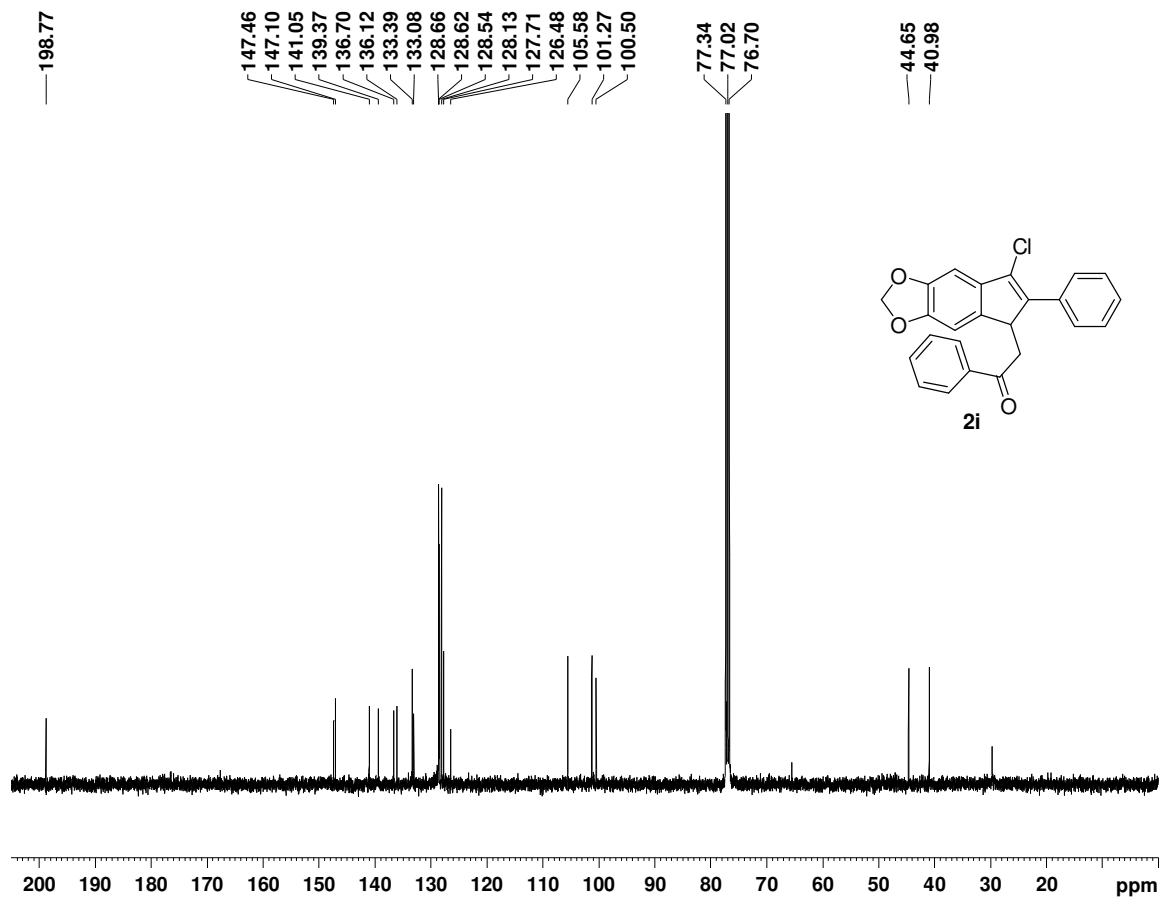


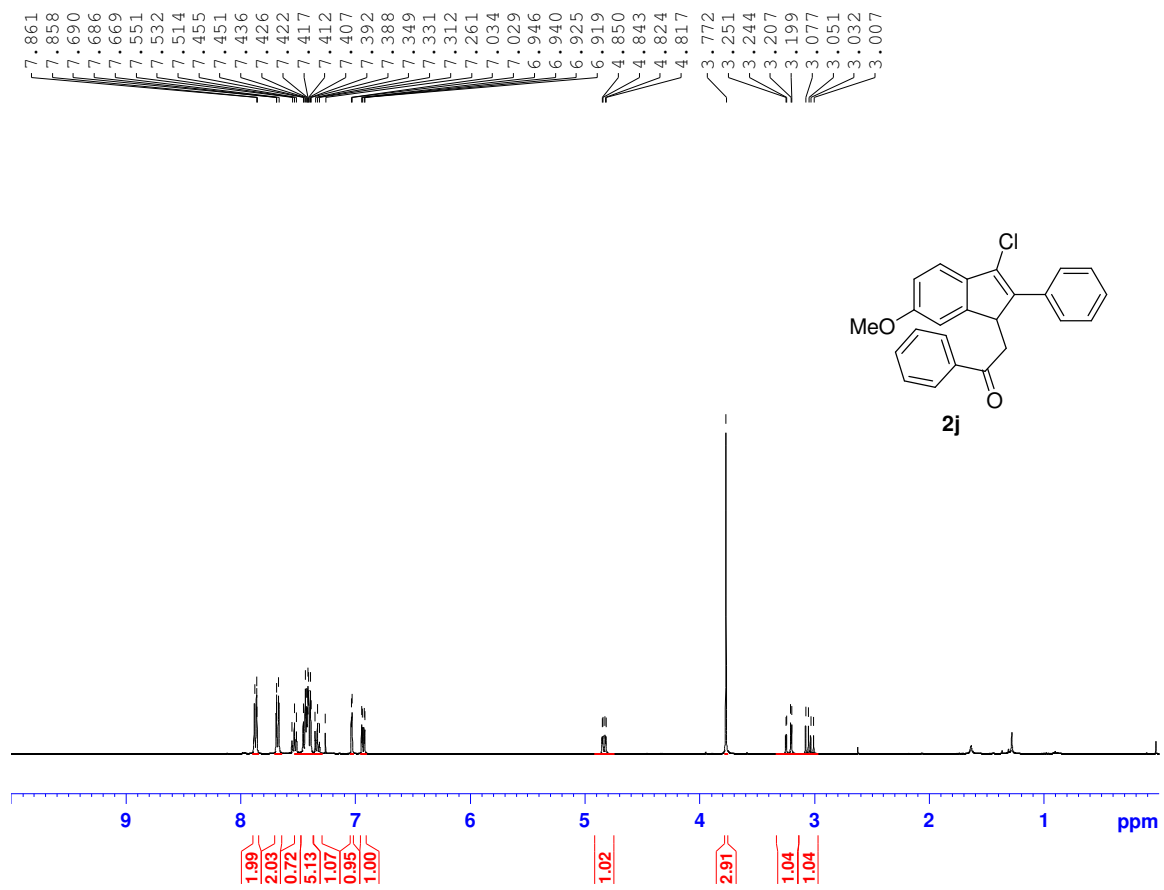


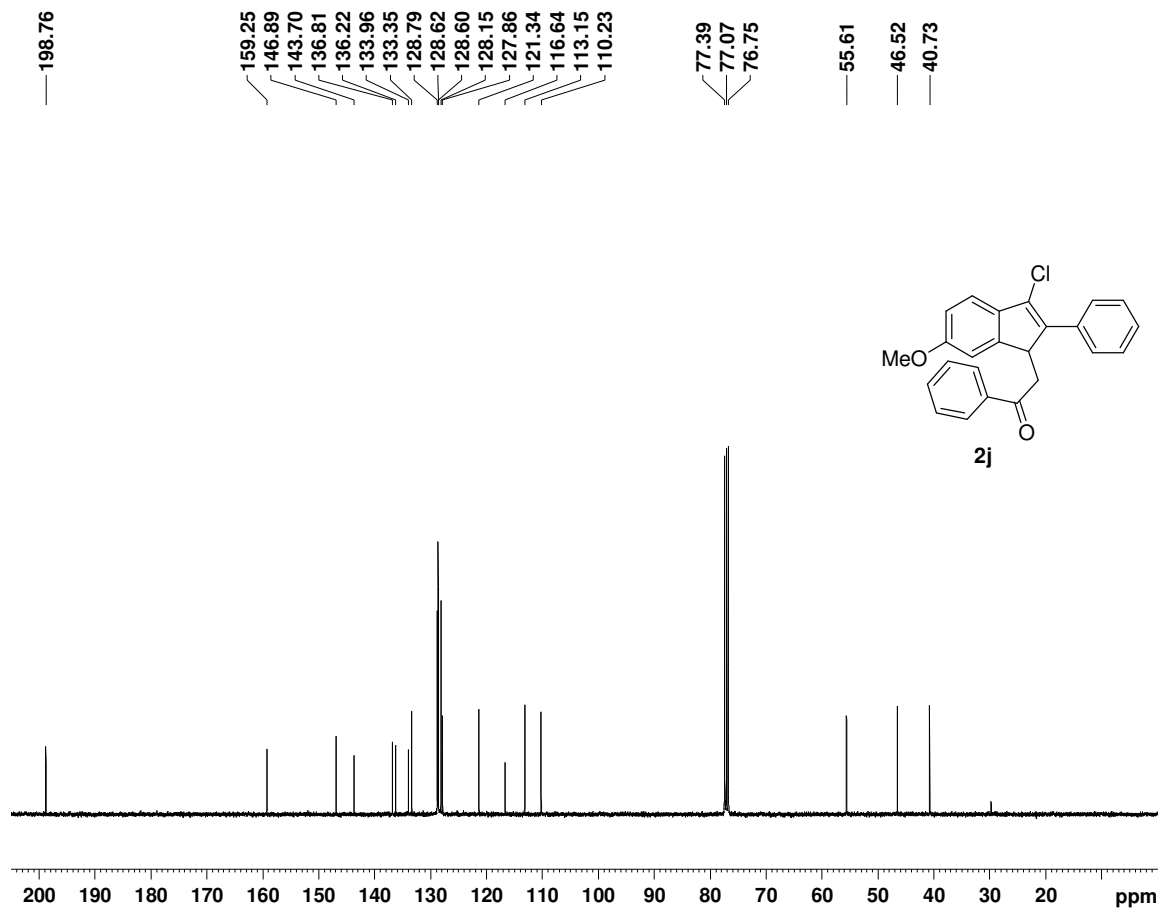


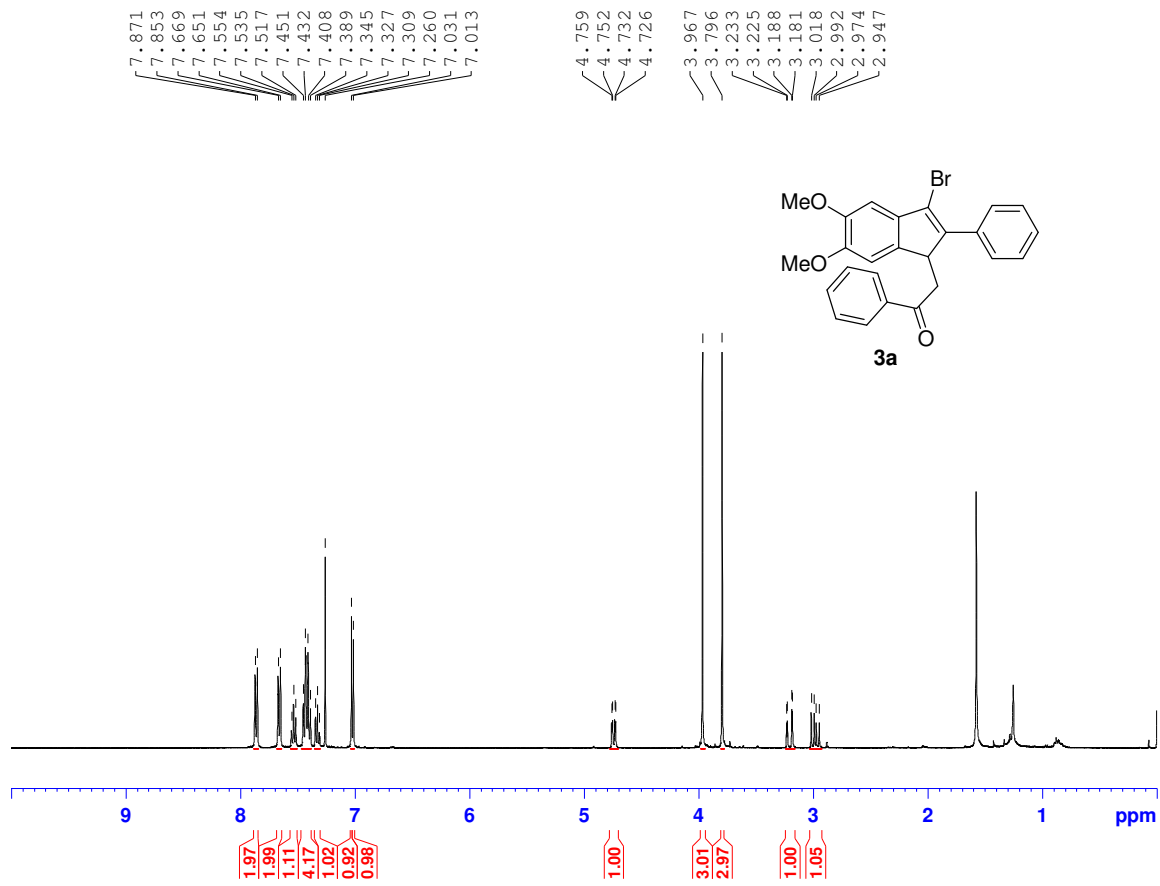


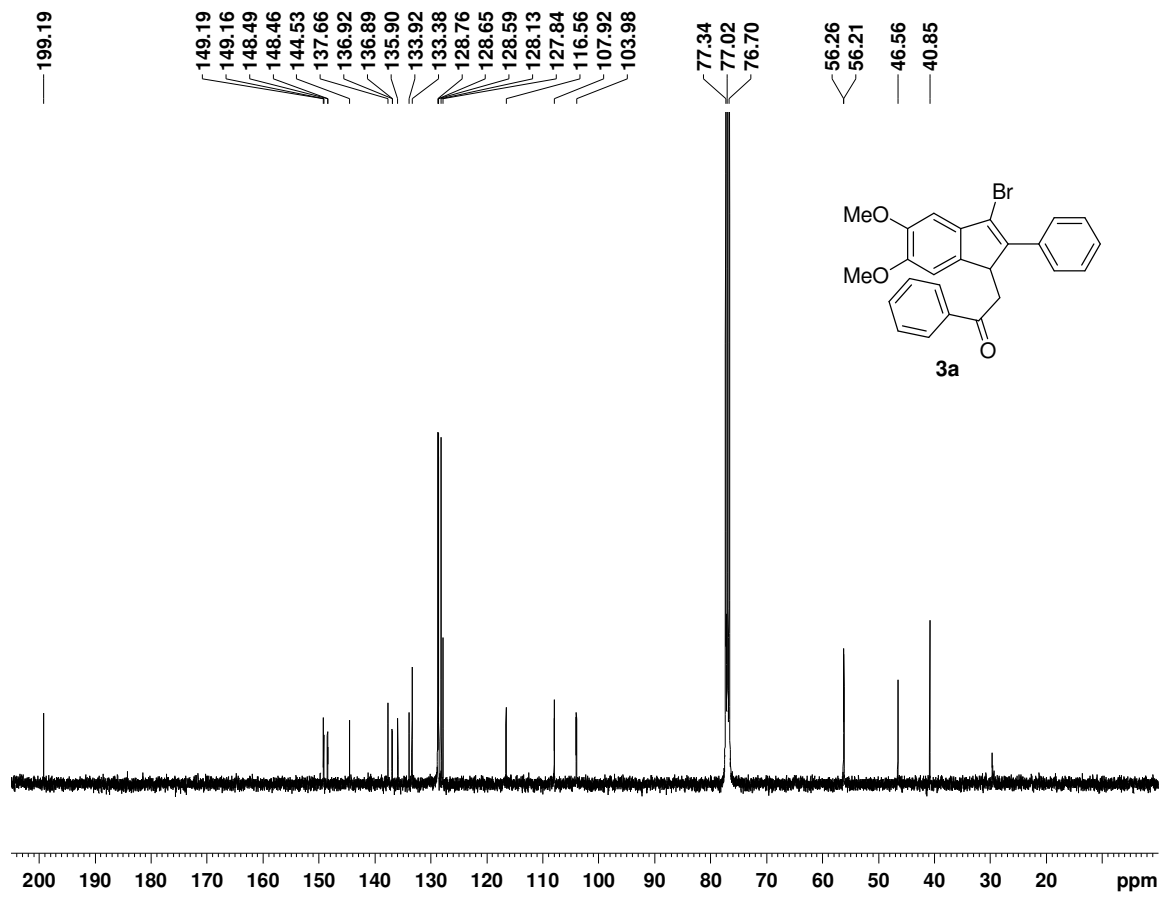


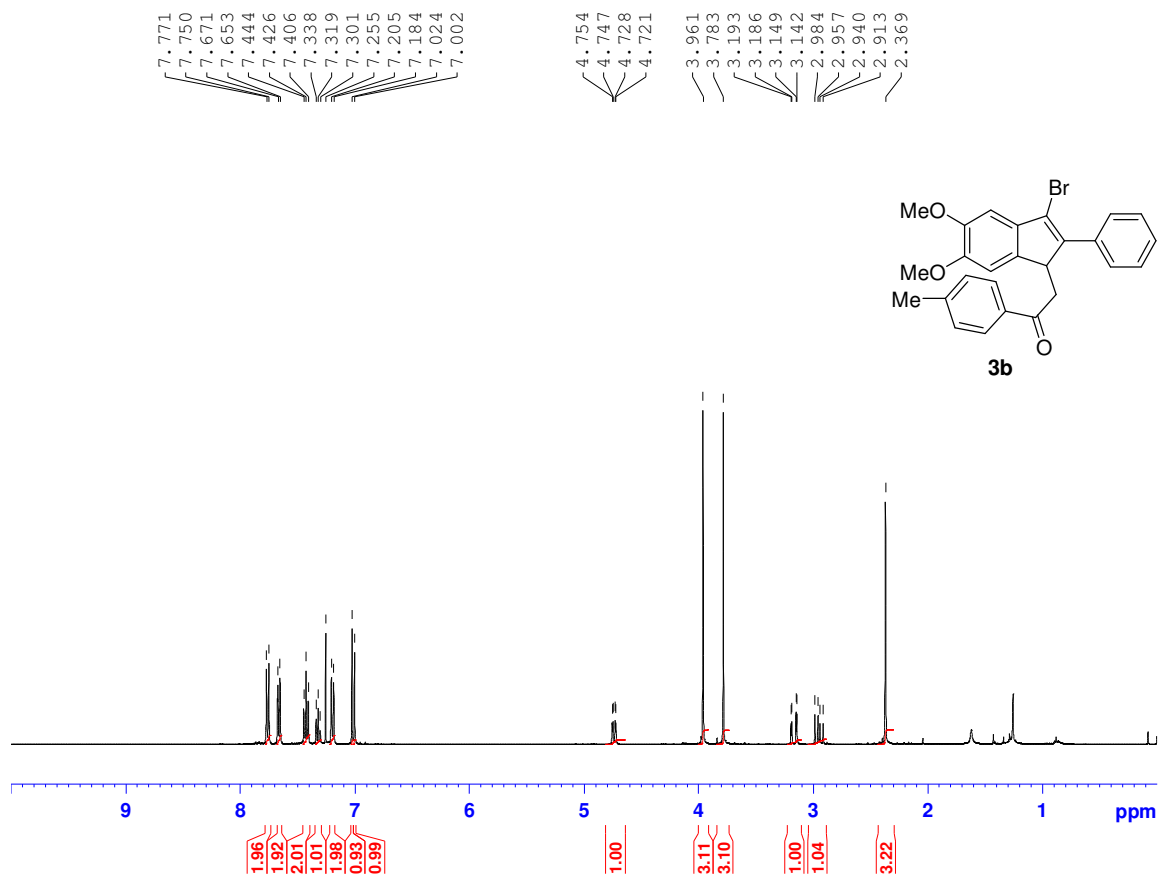


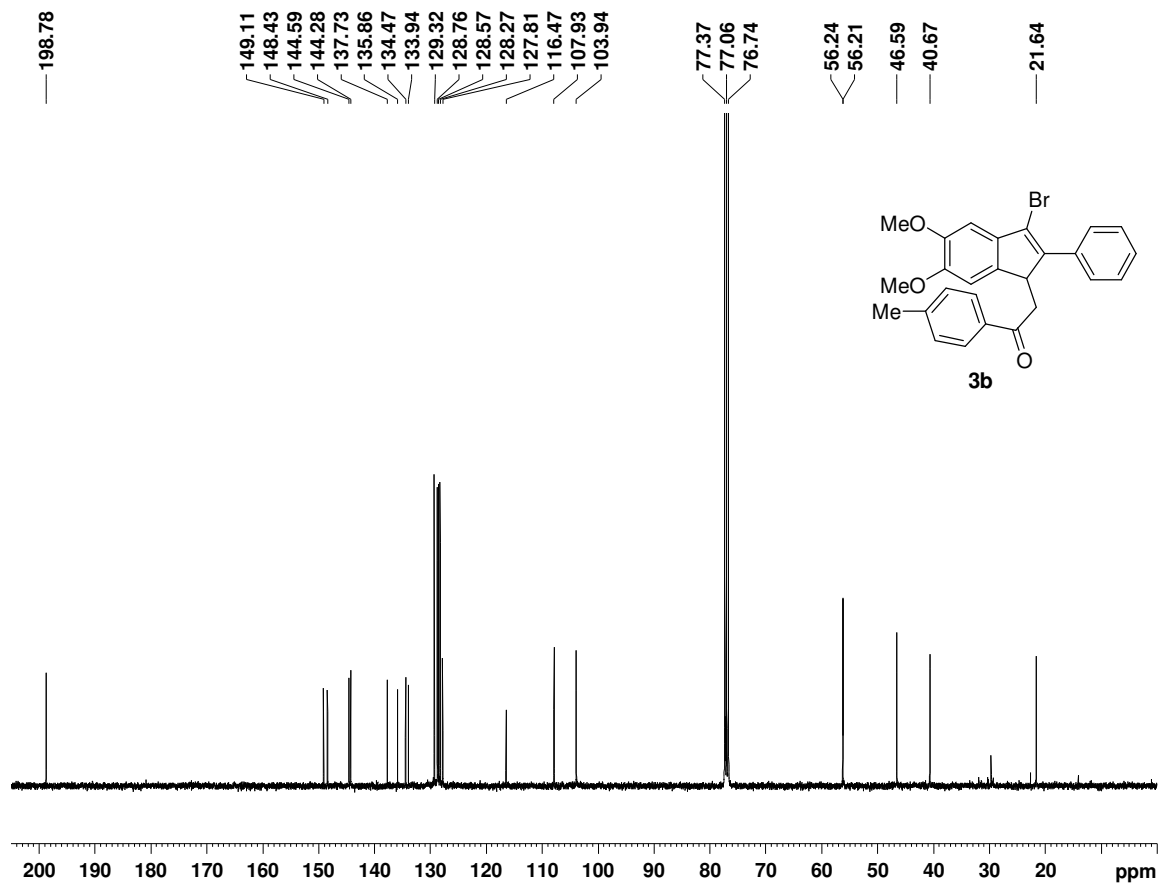


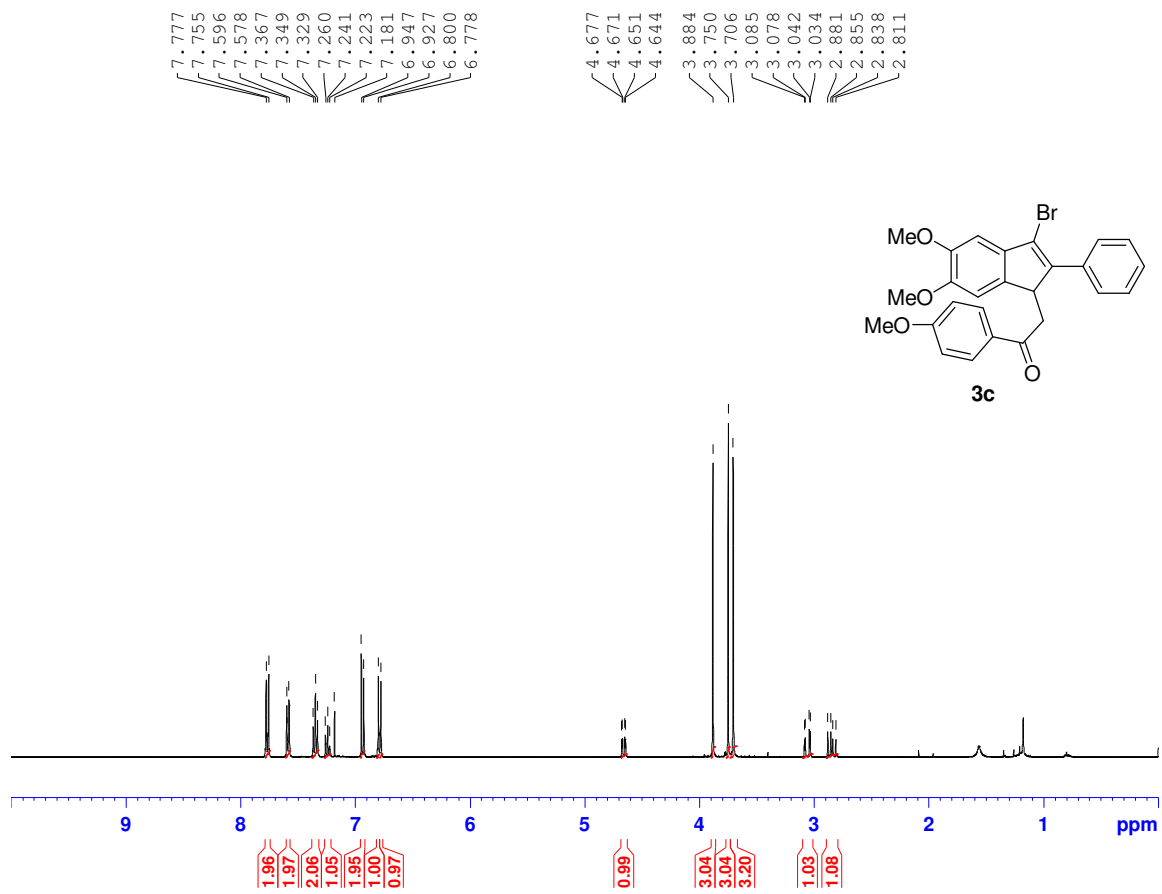


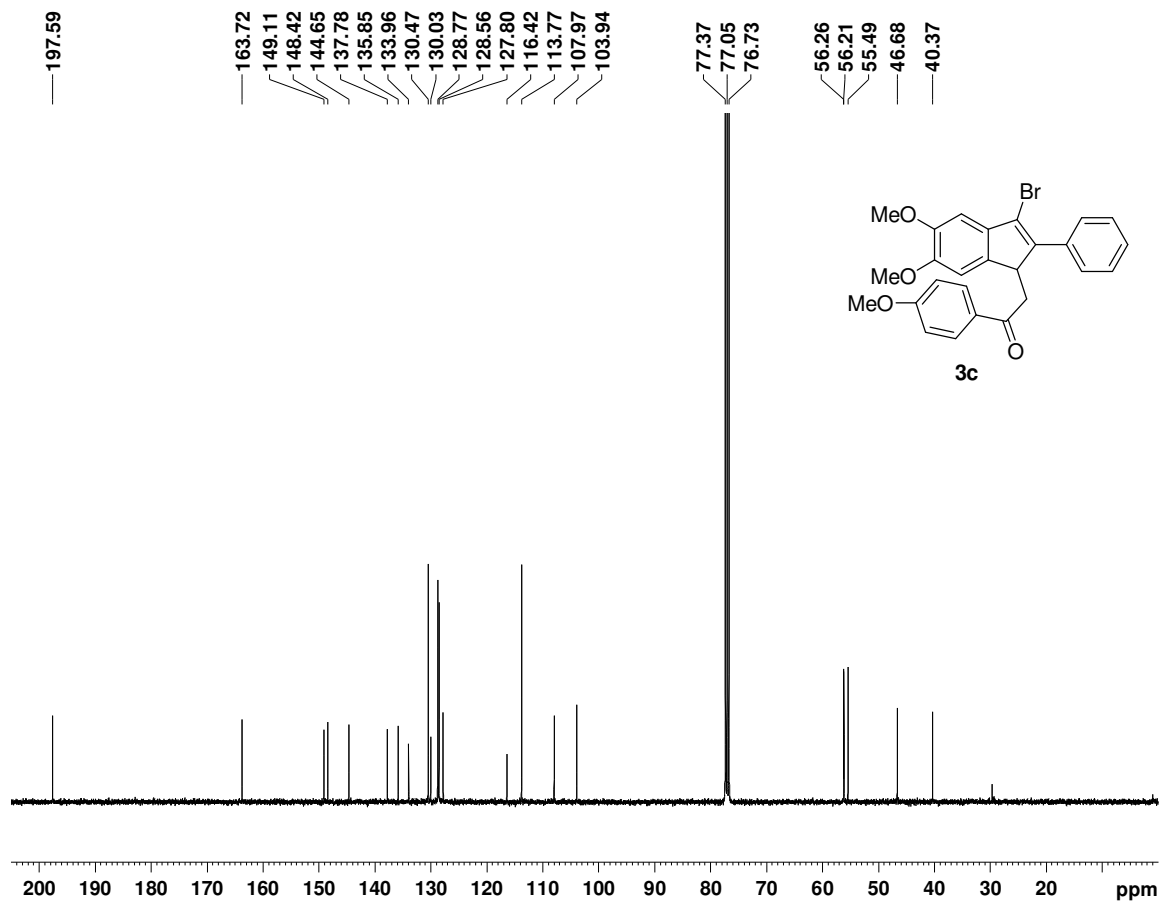


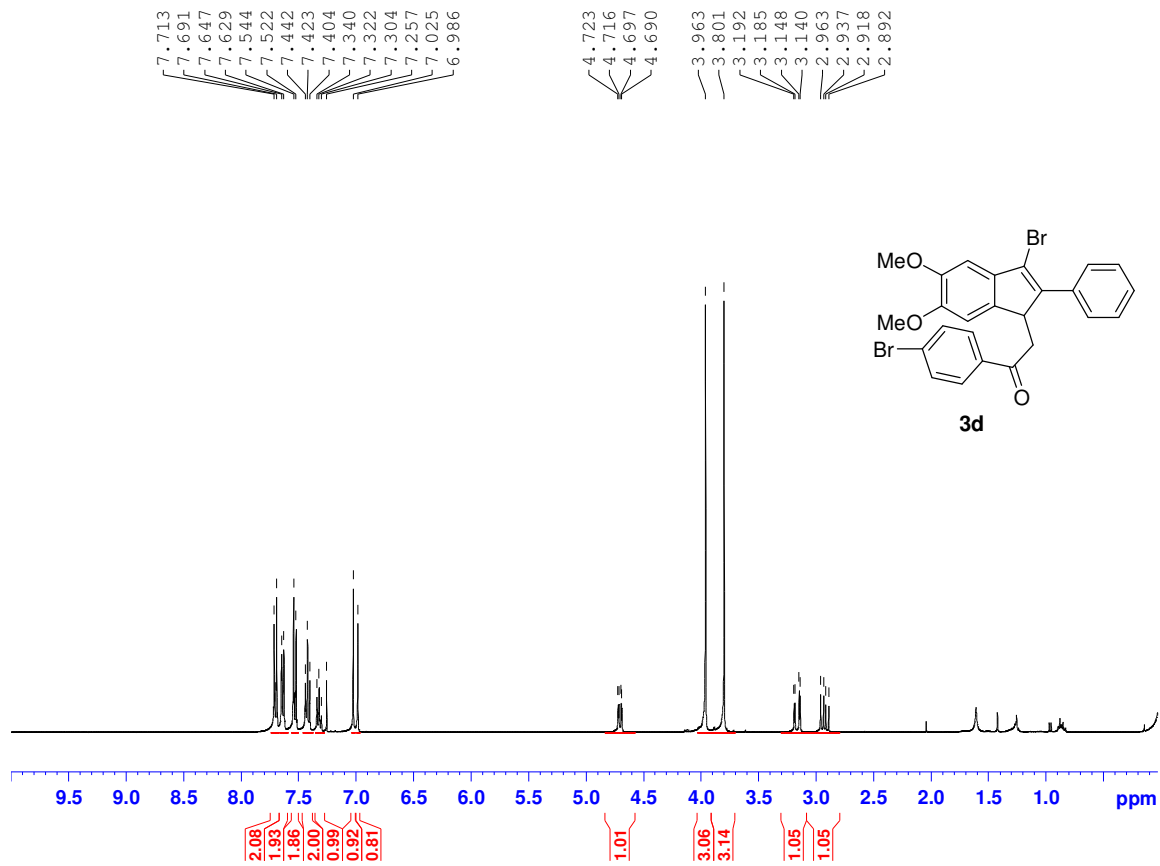


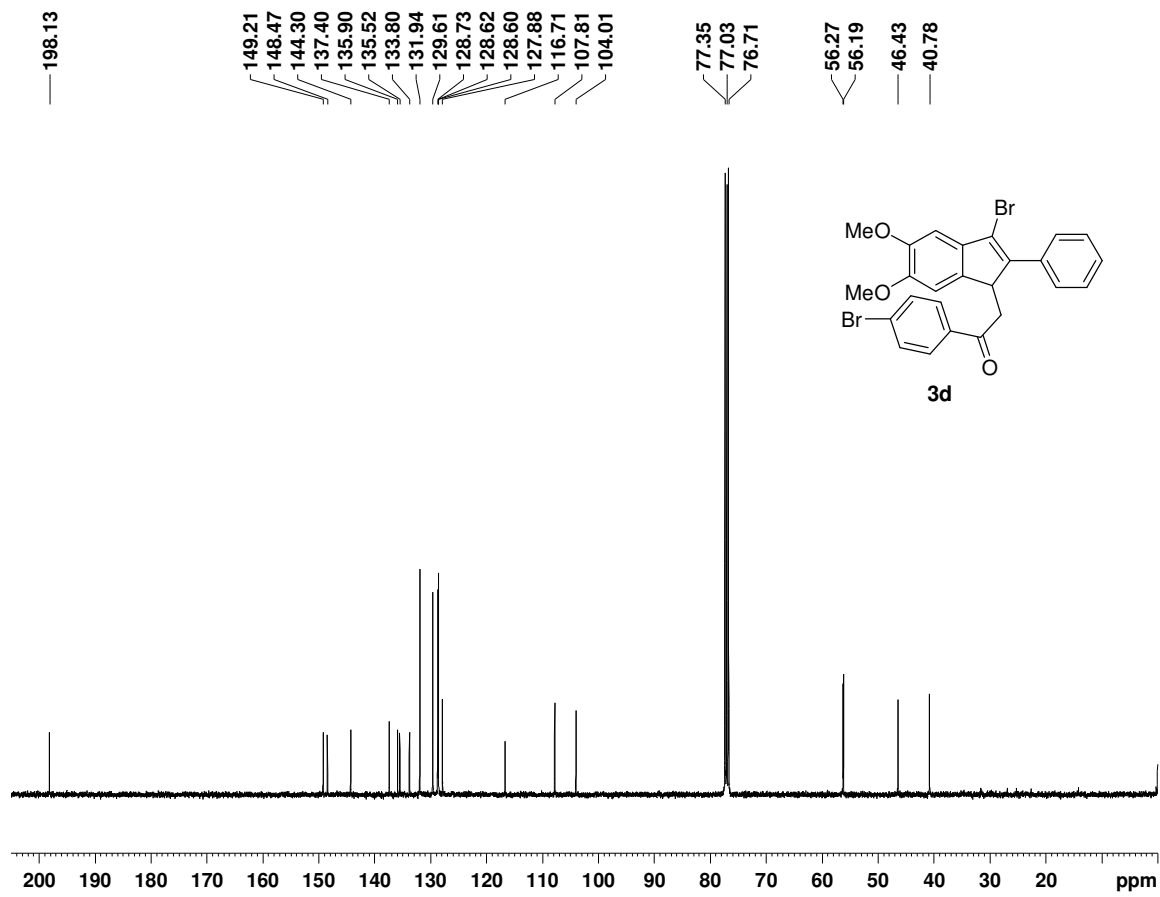


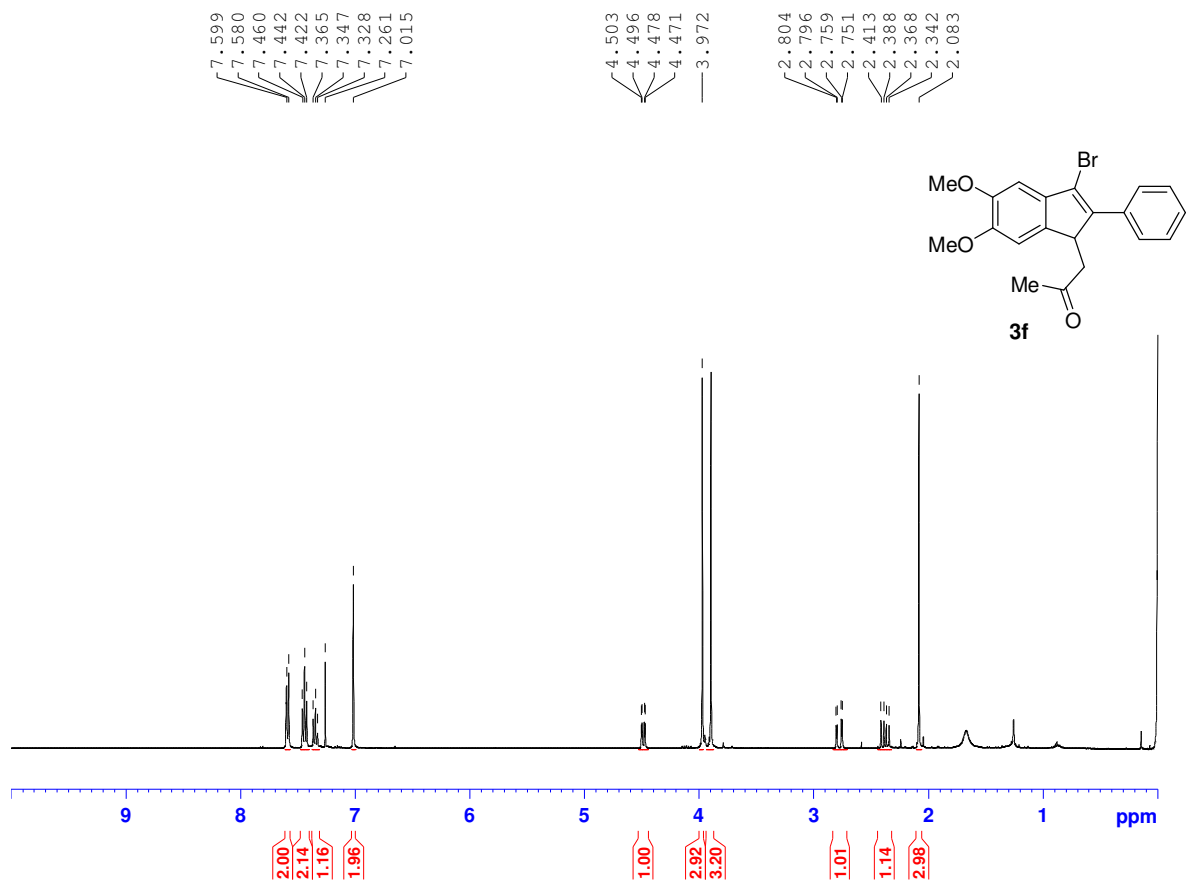


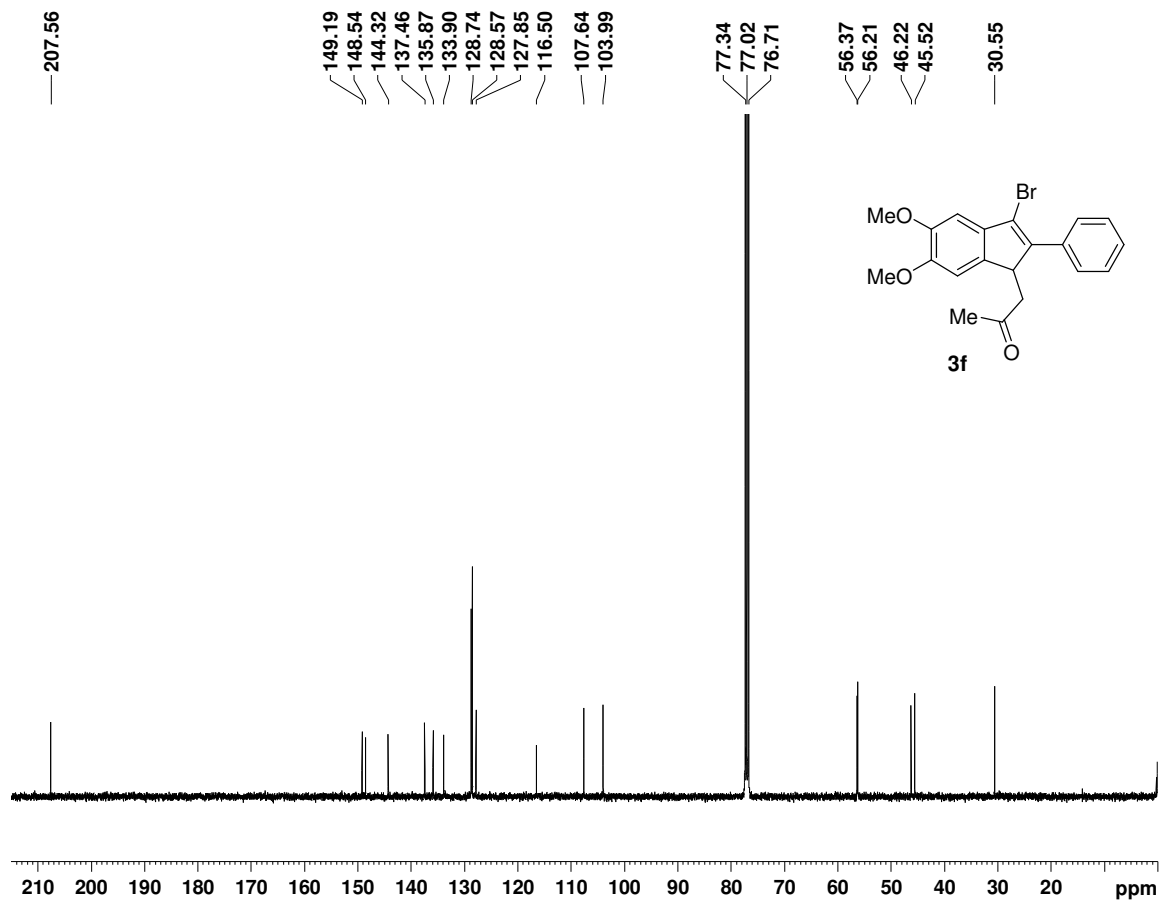


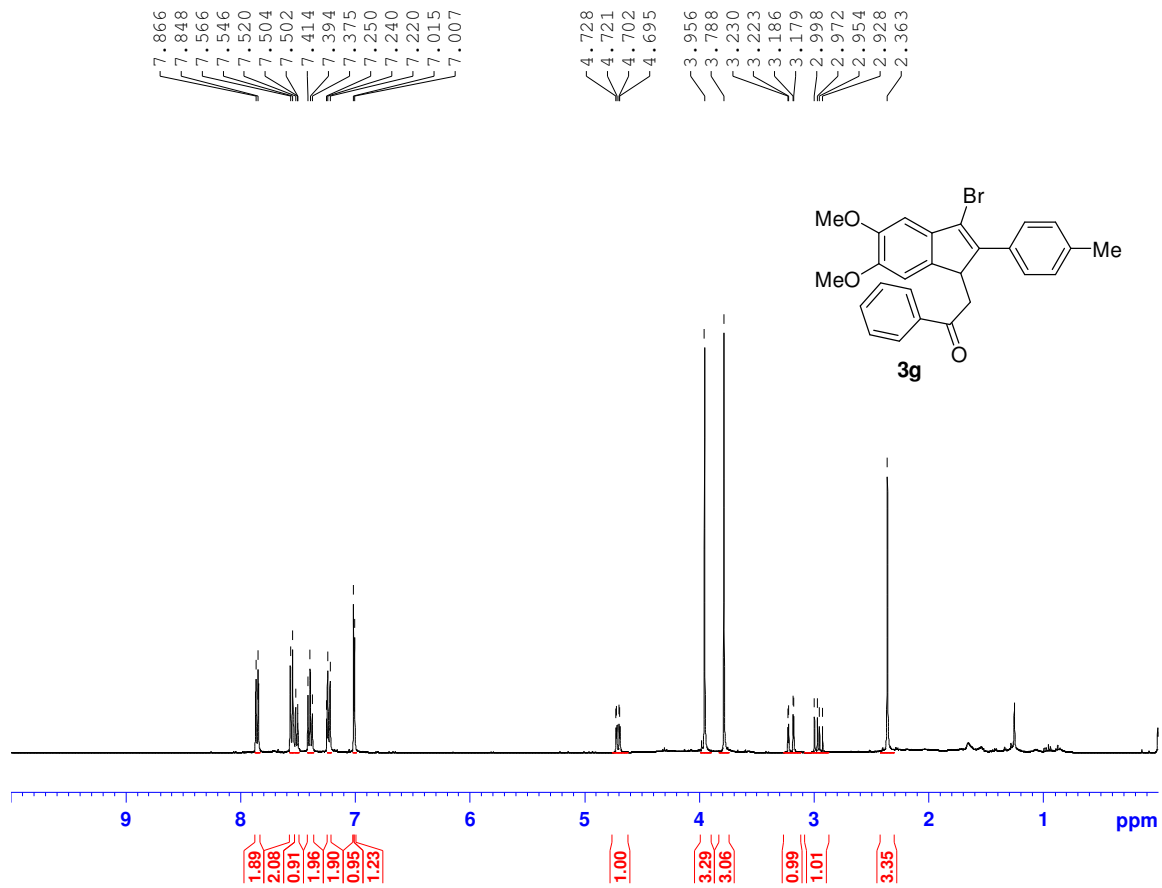


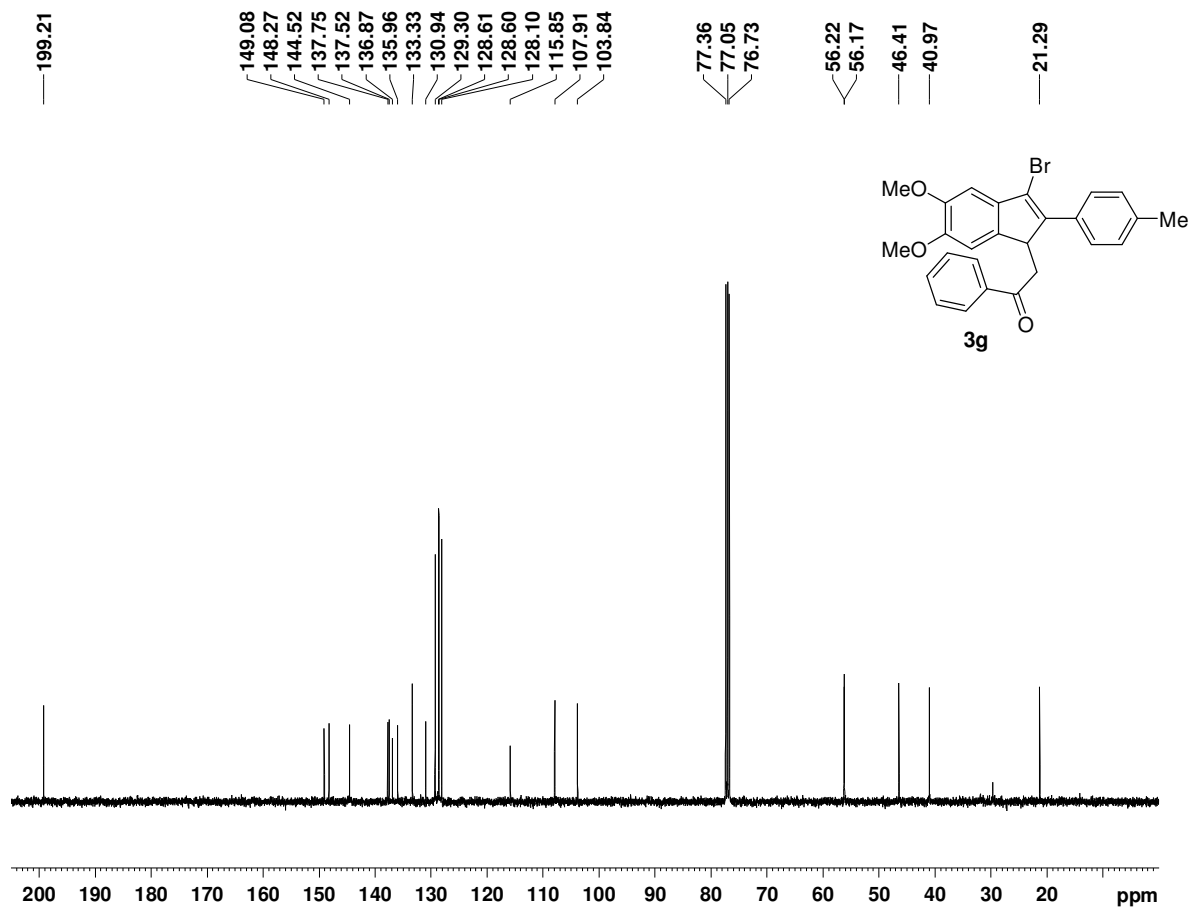


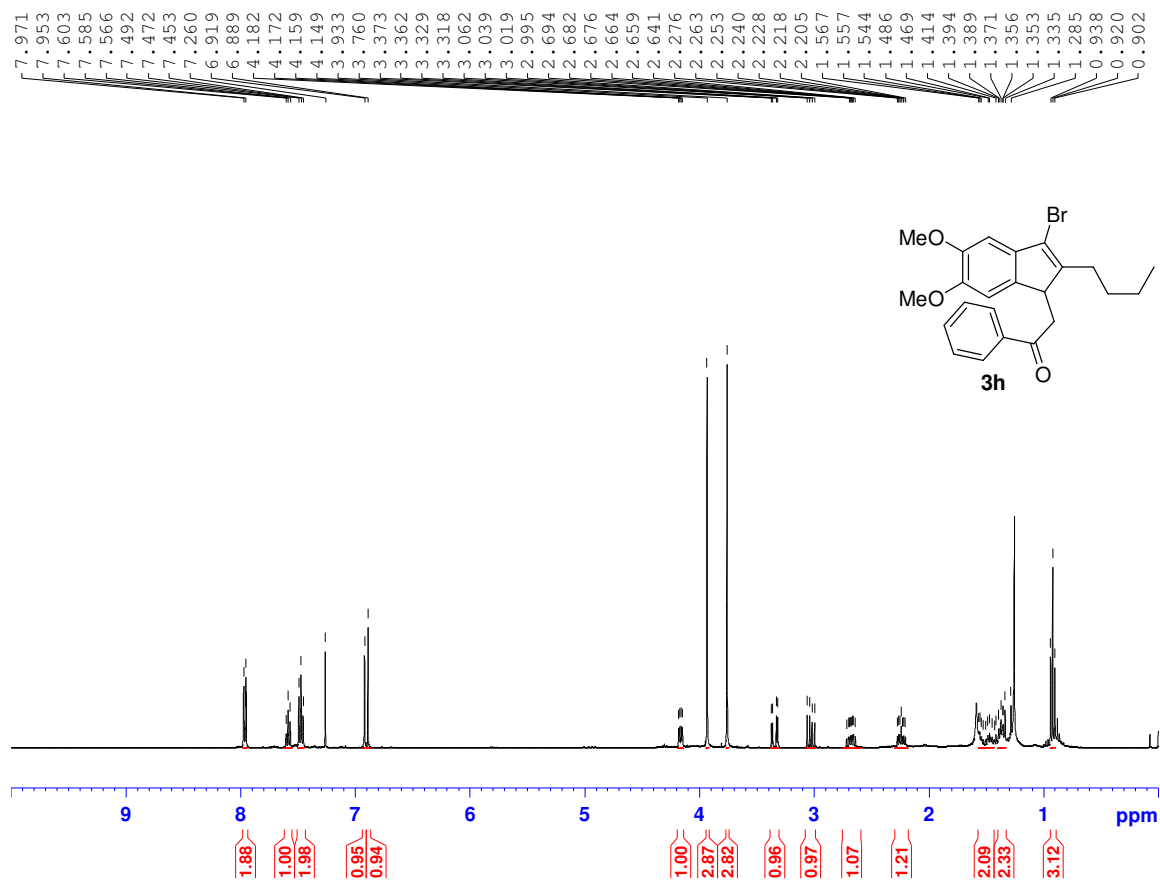


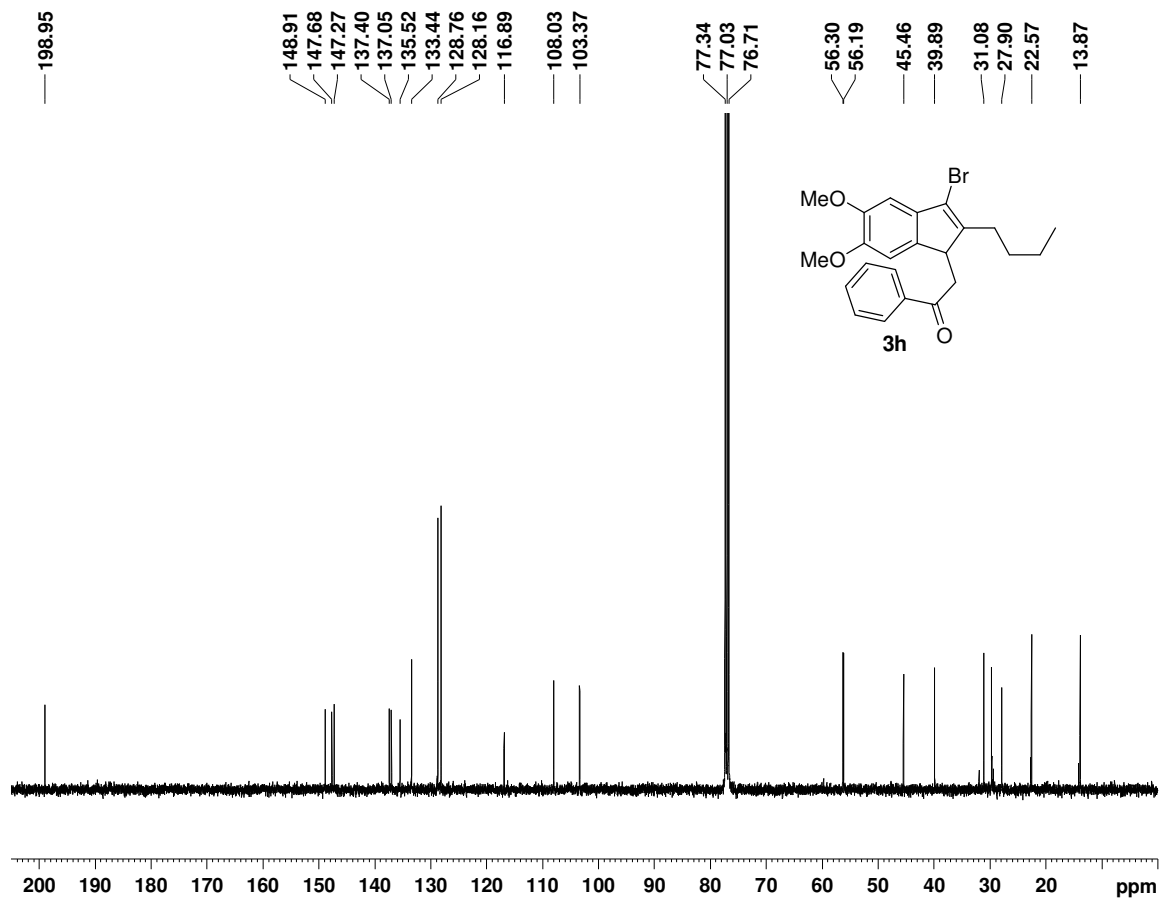


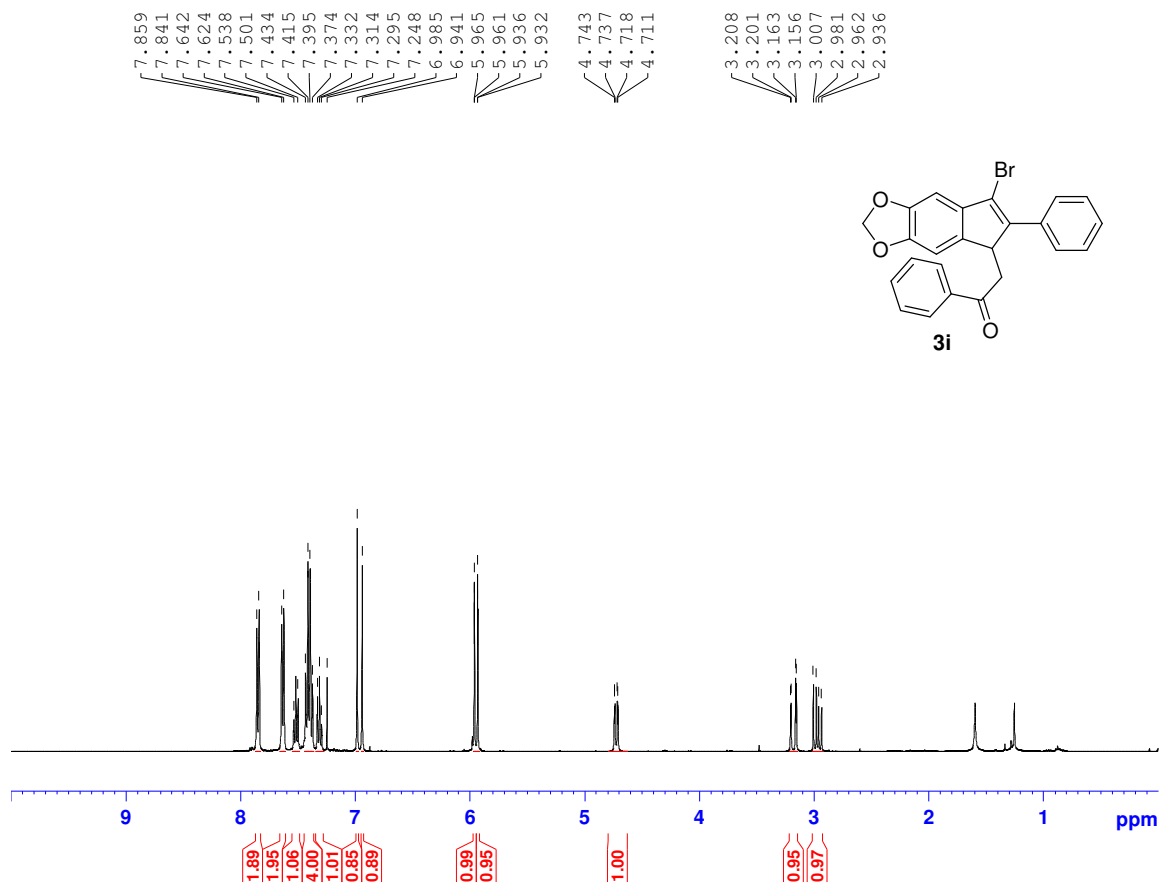


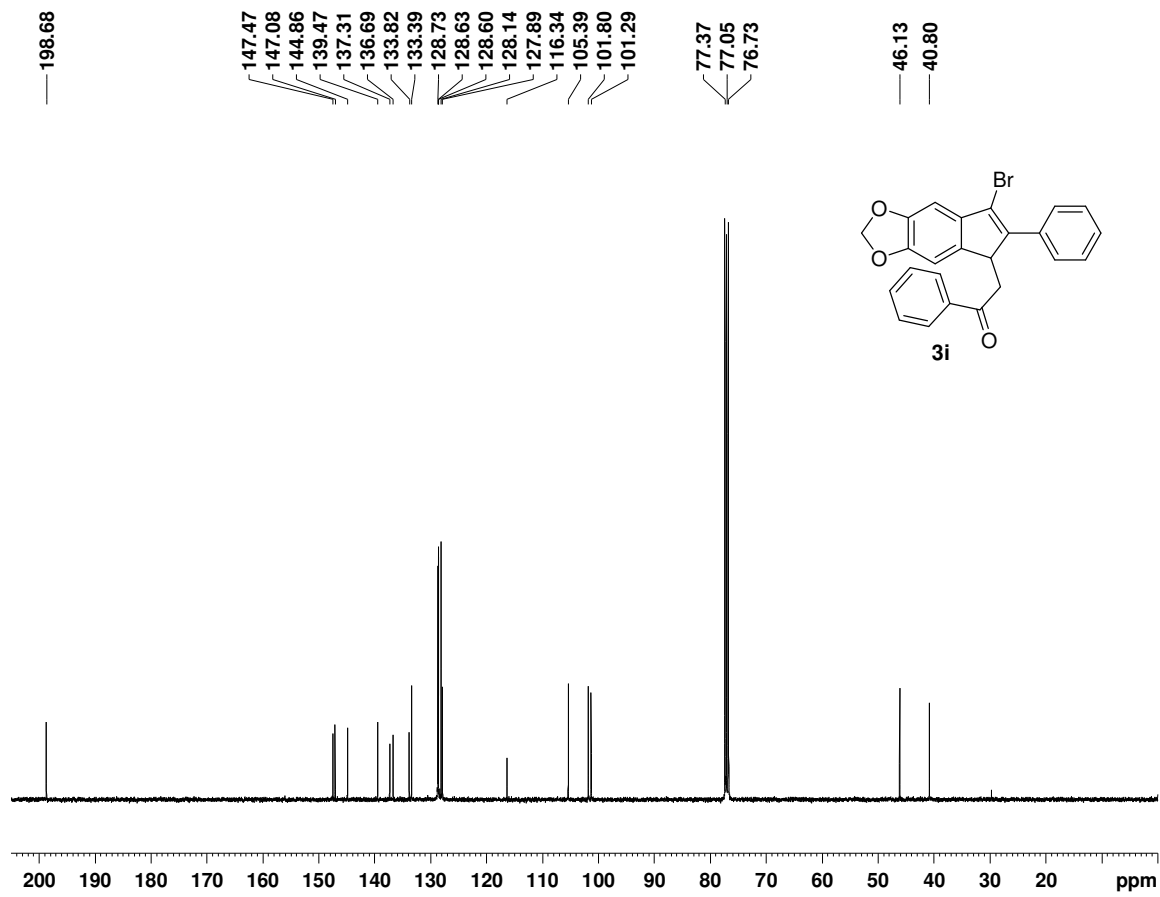


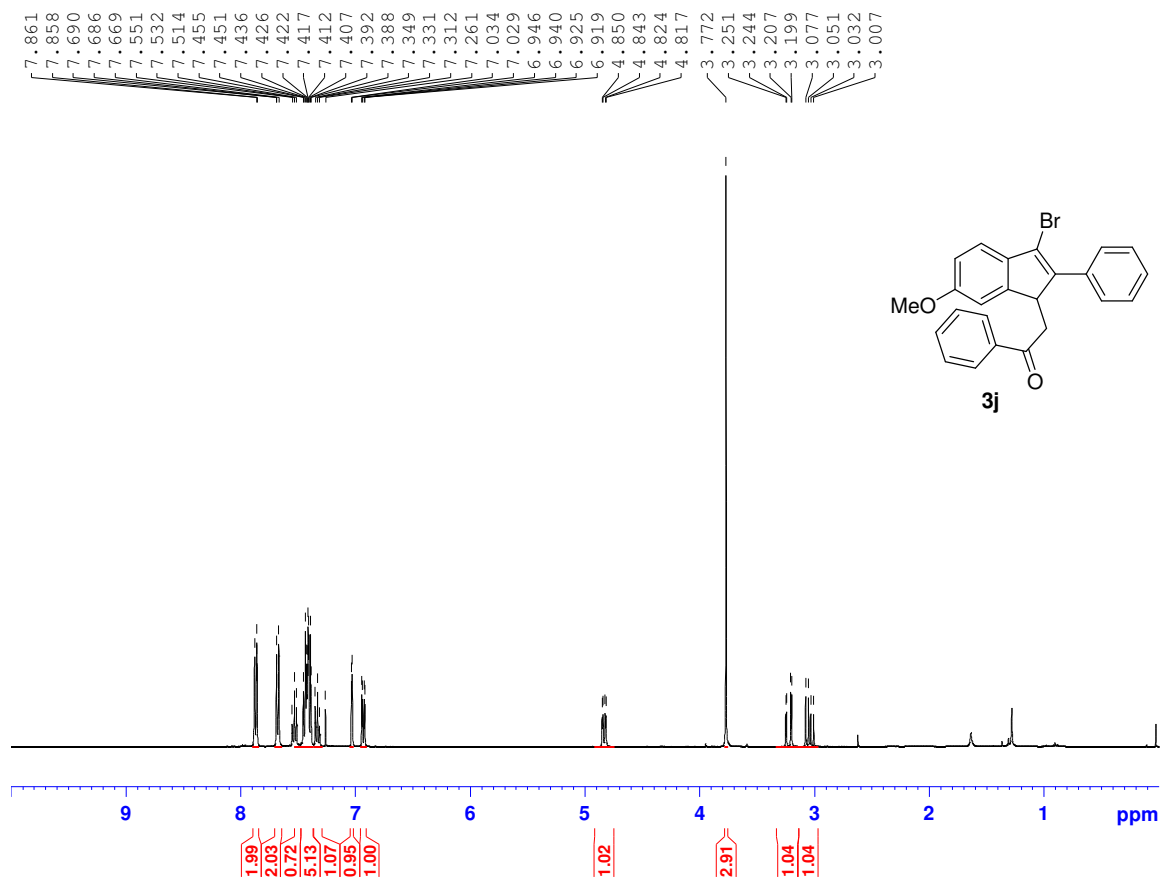


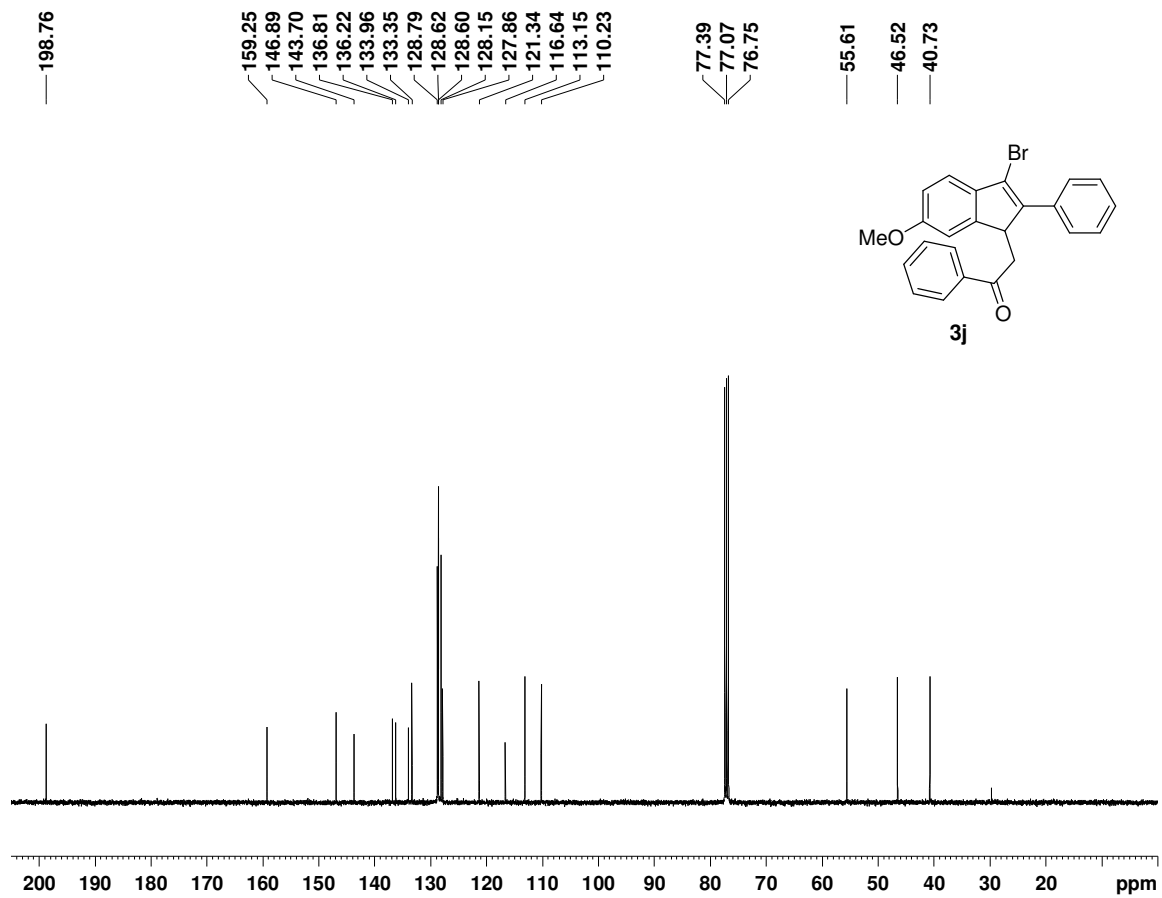


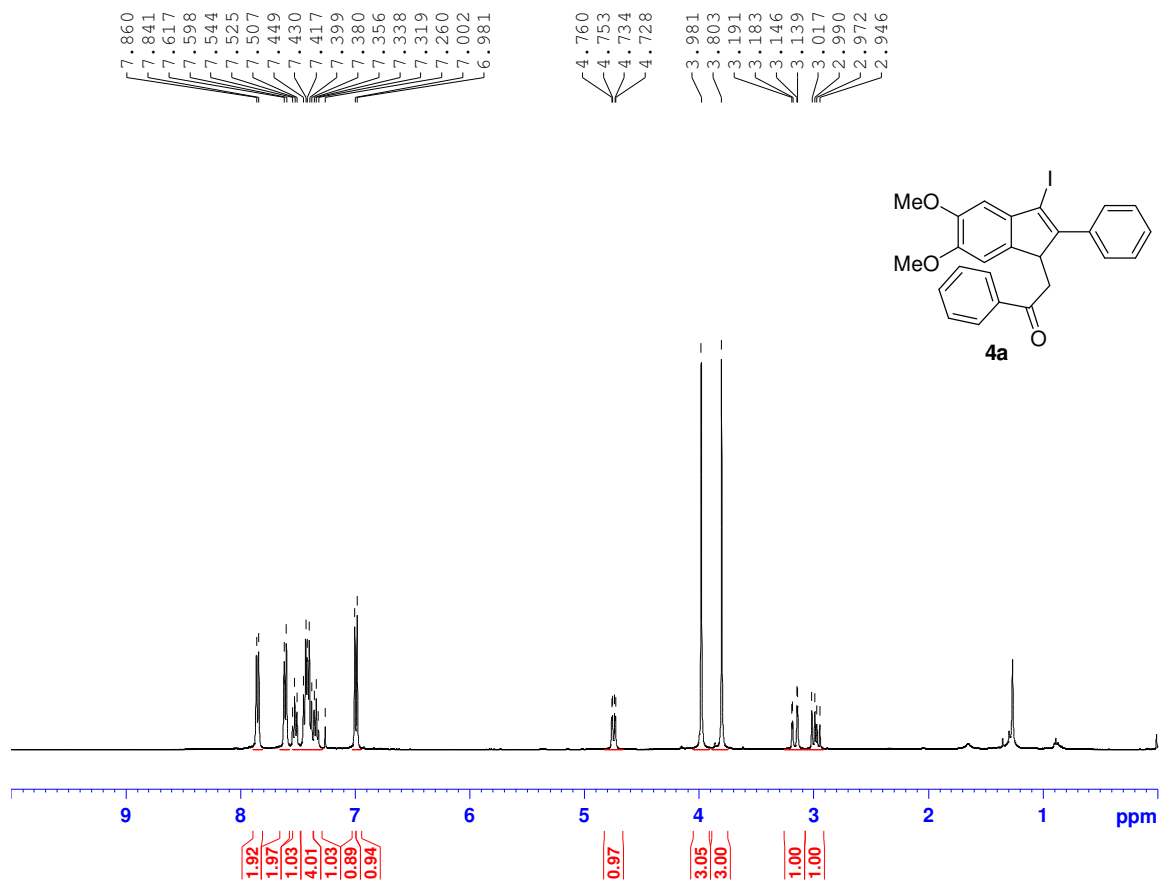


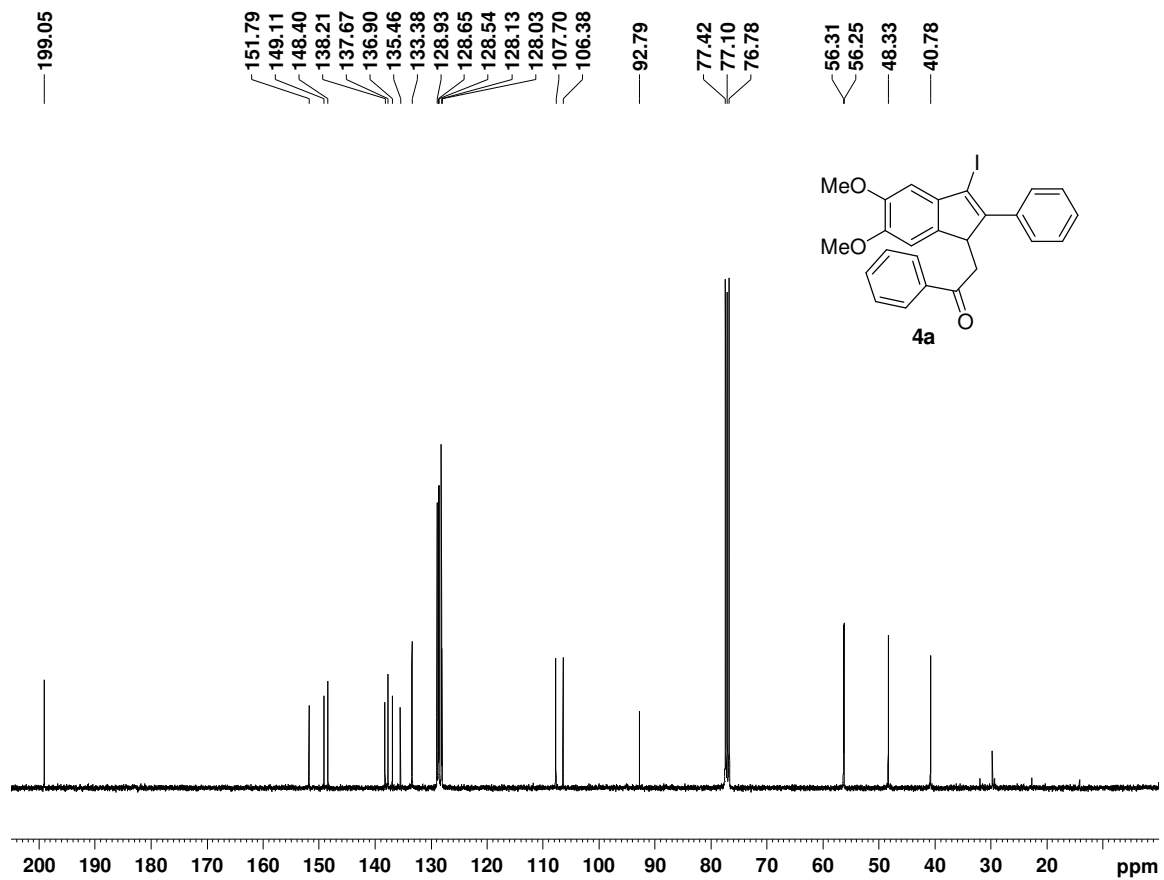


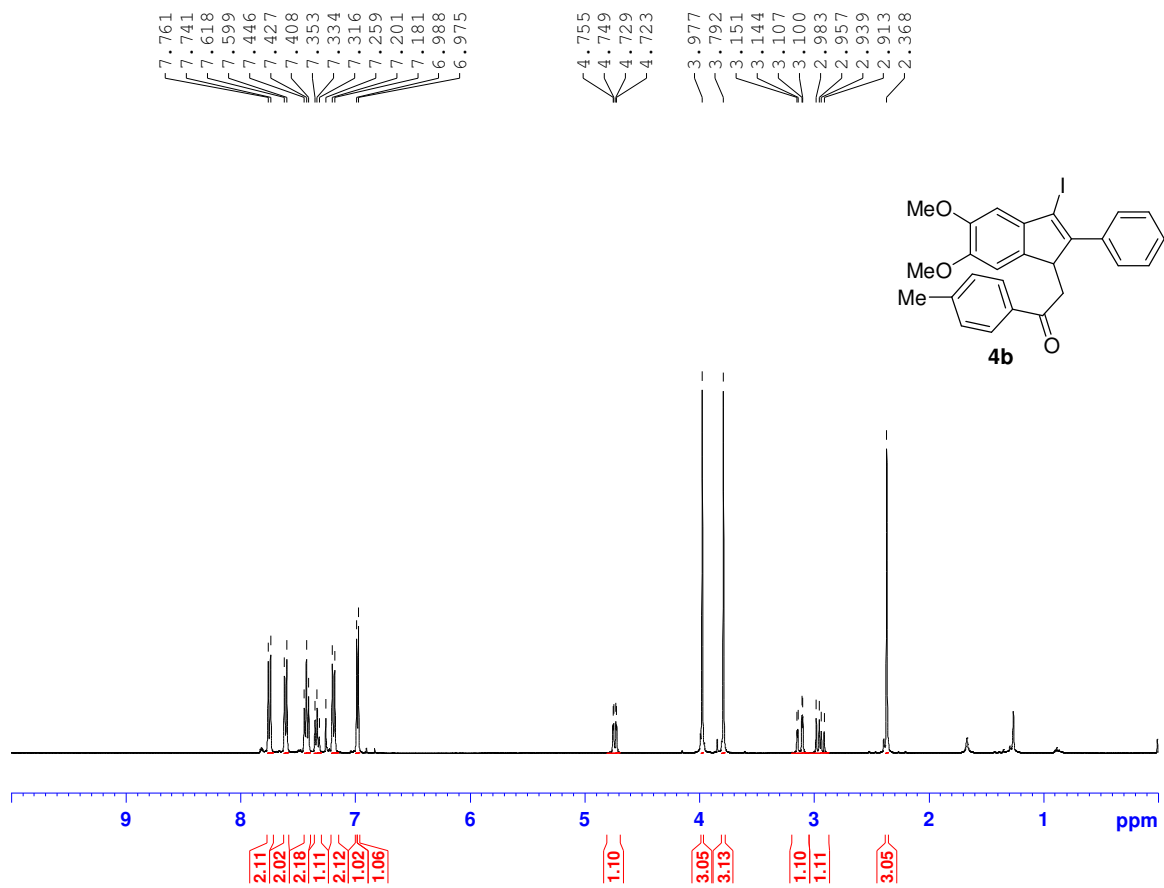


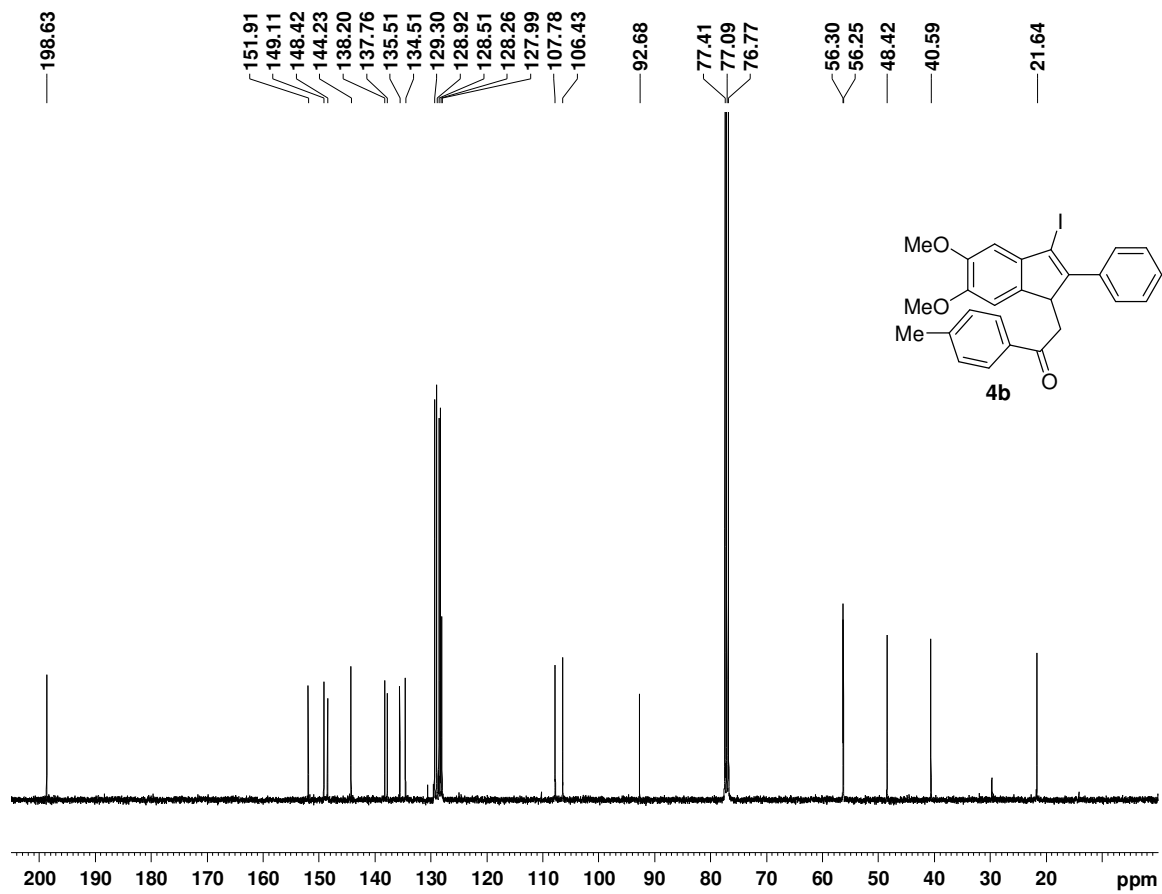


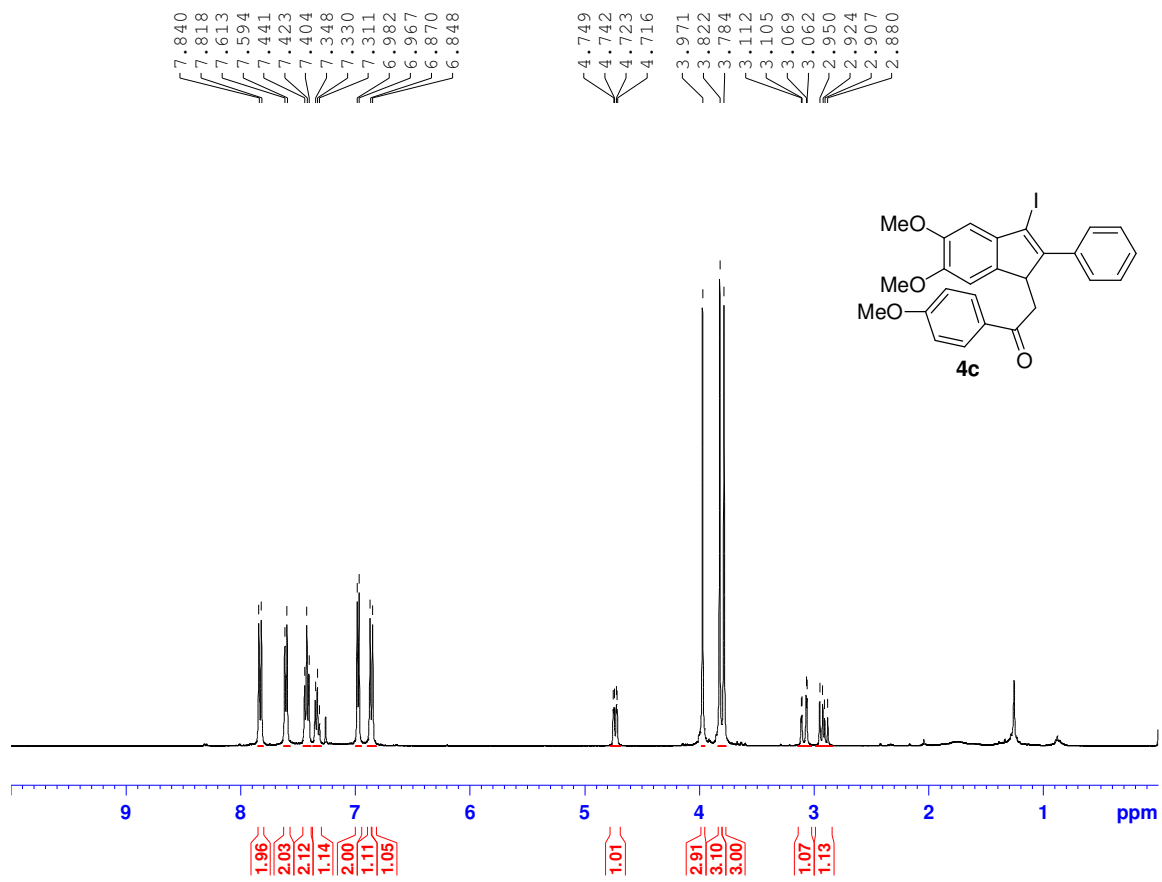


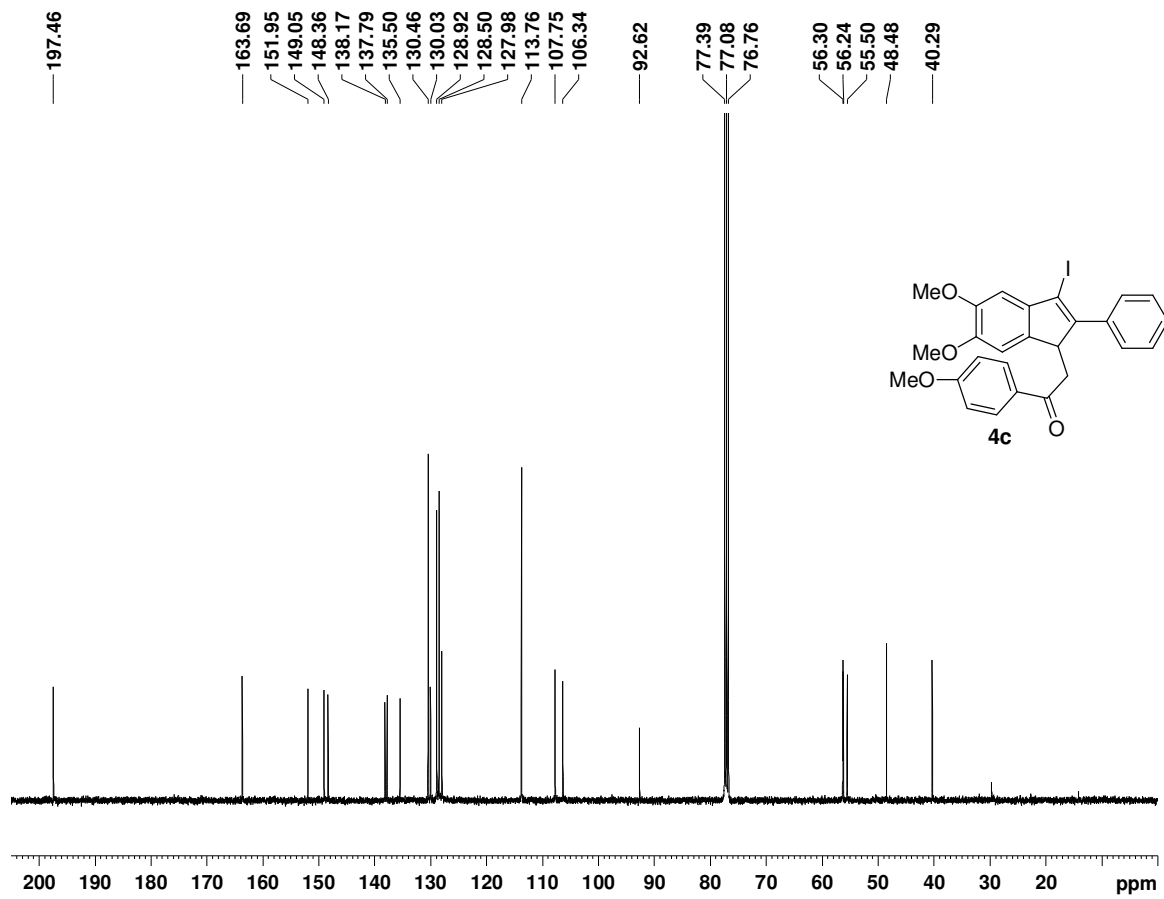


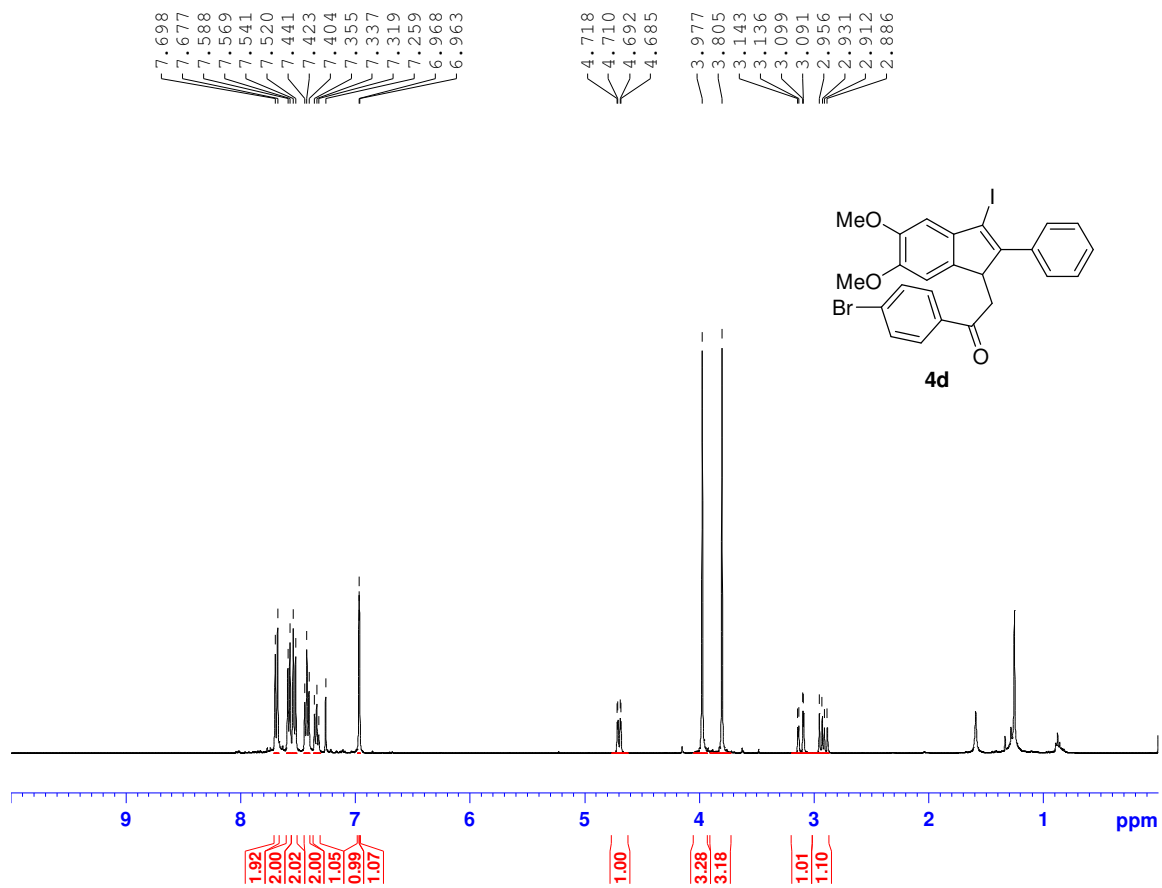


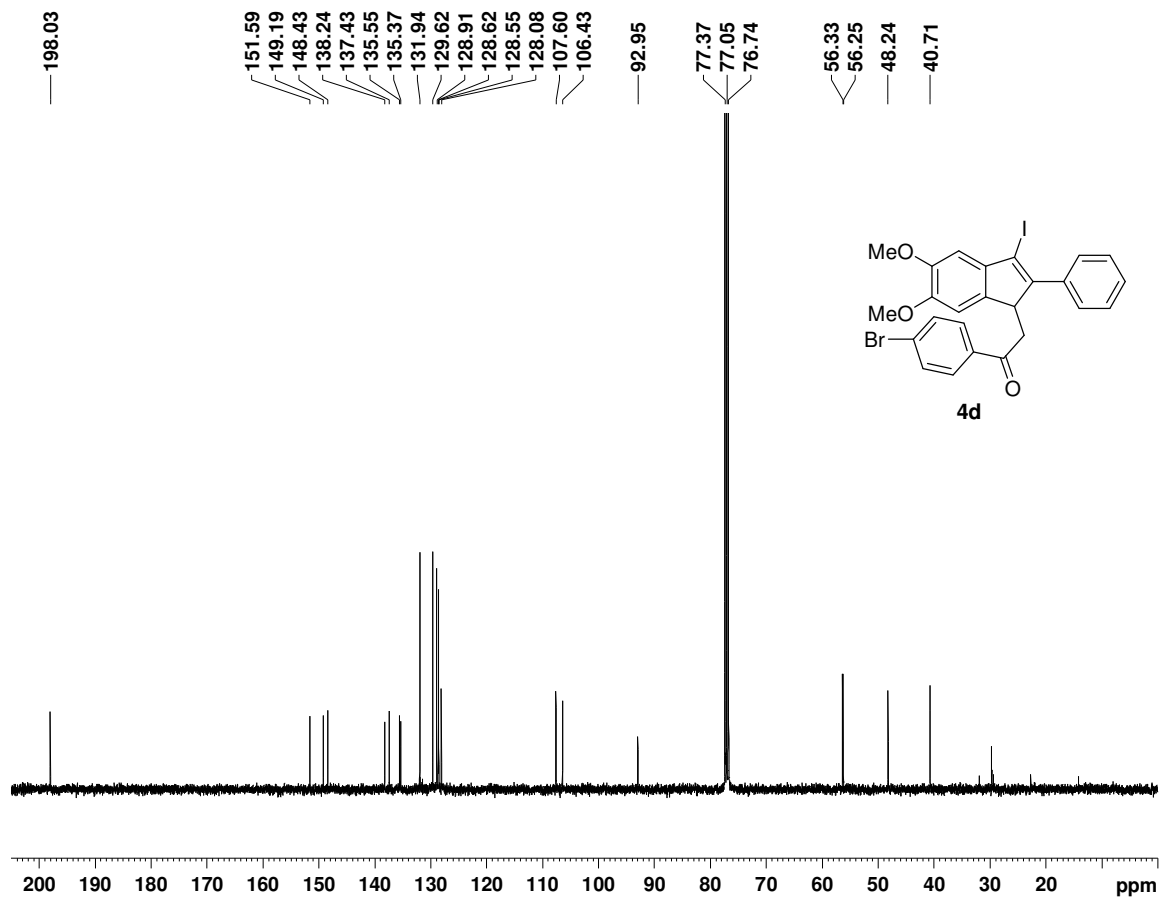


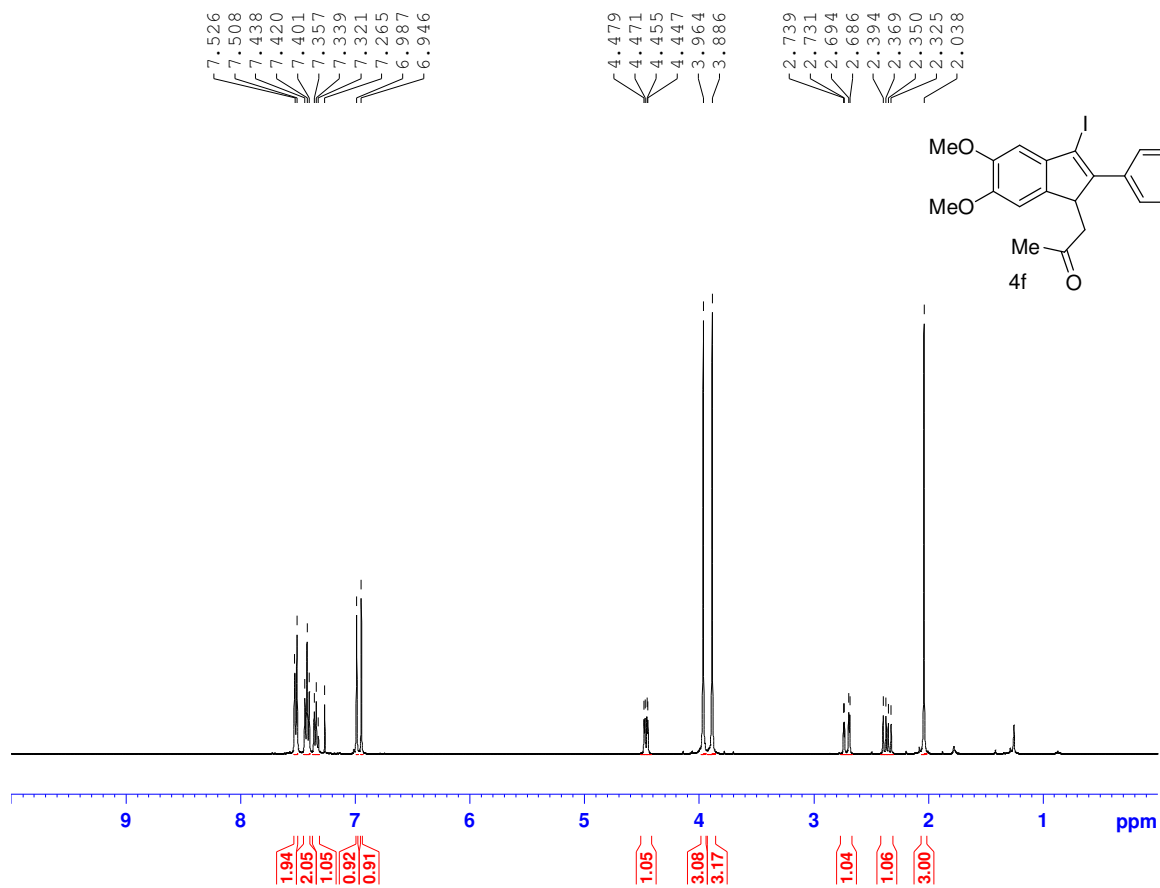












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— 92.72

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56.43
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29.70

