

Supporting Information

An Efficient Palladium Catalyst for the *N*-Alkylation of Amines and α -Alkylation of Ketones Using Alcohols

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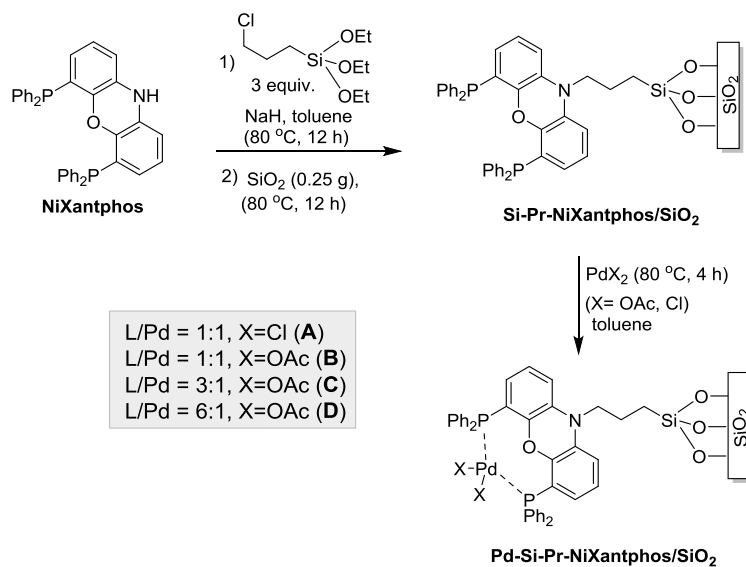
1. General information

Commercially available reagents and solvents were used as received without further purification. Dry solvents were collected from solvent dispenser system. For chromatographic purifications, technical-grade solvents were used. Reactions were magnetically stirred and monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using *Merck Silica Gel 60 F254* plates. GC analysis was carried out using Agilent 6890N GC controlled by Chemstation software. The chromatographic purification of the products was performed on *silica gel*. NMR-spectra were measured in the given solvent using a cryo-probe on a *Bruker Avance 400* (400 MHz, ^1H -NMR; 101MHz, ^{13}C -NMR). Chemical shifts δ are given in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) for ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra and also calibrated against the solvent residual peak. Multiplicities are reported as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad signal or as a combination of them. Coupling constants (J) are given in Hertz (Hz).

High-resolution mass spectrometry was run by the electrospray ionization time-of-flight (ESI-TOF) mode on an Agilent 6210 mass spectrometer.

2. Preparation and characterization of catalysts

General procedure for one-pot preparation of solid catalysts: 10 mL of dry toluene, 55.2 mg of NiXantphos (0.1 mmol), NaH (0.3 mmol) were charged under argon-atmosphere in a Schlenk tube followed by additions of (3-chloropropyl)triethoxysilane (0.3 mmol). The reaction tube was closed with the Teflon stopper and was heated to 80 °C under stirring for 12h. 250 mg of dry SiO_2 was introduced in to the reaction mixture and stirring continued at 80 °C for another 12h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the calculated amount of Pd precursor ($\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$) was introduced under argon and the reaction was stirring continued at 80 °C for another 4h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to RT and the brown solid catalyst was collected by filtration and washing with toluene (3 times, 20 mL) under argon atmosphere. The solid catalyst was dried in vacuum oven at 50 °C overnight, collected and stored under argon atmosphere.



Scheme S1: One-pot synthesis of Pd-Si-Pr-NiXantphos/SiO₂ catalyst.

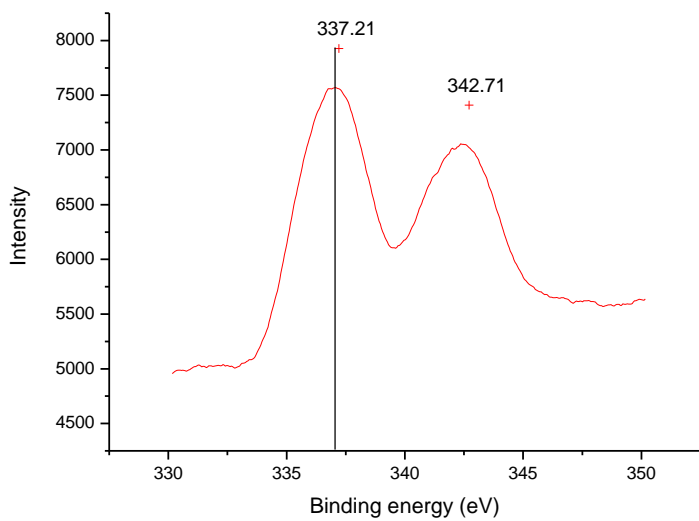


Figure S1: XPS spectra of Pd-Si-Pr-NiXantphos/SiO₂ catalyst B.

Evaluation of Pd loading on catalysts by ICP analysis

| Catalyst | Pd loading (wt.%) |
|----------|-------------------|
| A | 2.31 |
| B | 2.23 |
| C | 0.95 |
| D | 0.52 |

3. General procedure for the *N*-alkylation of amines and α -alkylation of ketones with alcohols

General procedure 1: Catalyst **B** (2-20 mg), LiOH (20.0 mol%), alcohol (6.0 mmol), and amine (2.0 mmol) were charged under argon-atmosphere in a Radleys carousel reaction tube. The reaction tube was closed with the Teflon stopper and was heated to the desired temperature under stirring. After the desired reaction time, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with toluene (10 mL). The SiO₂ (400mg) was added into the crude mixture. The organic solvent was removed under vacuum and then the product was purified by column chromatography.

General procedure 2: Catalyst **B** (20 mg), LiOH (20.0 mol%), alcohol (6.0 mmol), and ketone (2.0 mmol) were charged under argon-atmosphere in a Radleys carousel reaction tube. The reaction tube was closed with the Teflon stopper and was heated to the desired temperature under stirring. After the desired reaction time, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with toluene (10 mL). The SiO₂ (400mg) was added into the crude mixture. The organic solvent was removed under vacuum and then the product was purified by column chromatography.

4. Recycle studies

The recyclability of the silica supported palladium Ni-Xantphos catalysts B, C and D were investigated by taking *N*-alkylation of aniline using benzyl alcohol at 120 °C for 24 h as the representative reaction. 4 mg, 10mg and 17.2 mg of catalysts B, C and D, (0.042 mol% Pd) respectively were used for easy handling and the catalyst was recovered by simple filtration

under argon and reused for subsequent reactions. In order to estimate the Pd leaching, ICP analysis was carried out using the filtrate of each reaction. Results showed that after each runs, Pd leaching is less than 0.01 ppm.

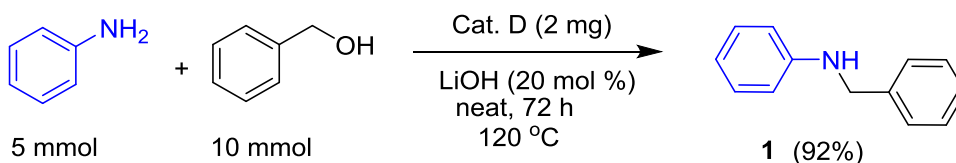
Pd leaching studies by ICP AES:

| Entry | Pd leaching of catalyst D | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | μg | ppm |
| Run 1 | 0.0019 | 0.002 |
| Run 2 | 0.0032 | 0.004 |
| Run 3 | 0.0022 | 0.003 |
| Run 4 | 0.0031 | 0.004 |
| Run 5 | 0.0008 | 0.001 |
| Run 6 | n.d. ^a | n.d. ^a |

^a Below detection limit

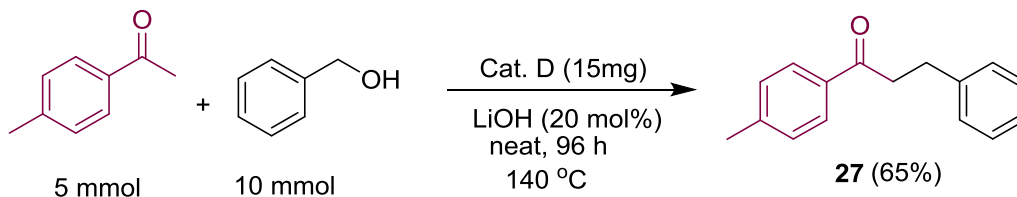
5. High TON reactions

N-alkylation of aniline using benzyl alcohol:



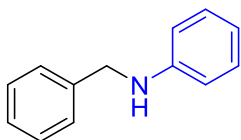
Aniline (5.0 mmol), benzyl alcohol (10 mmol), catalyst **D** (2 mg, 0.00196 mol % of Pd), and LiOH (20 mol %) were charged under argon-atmosphere in a Radleys carousel reaction tube. The reaction tube was closed with the Teflon stopper and was heated to 120 °C under stirring. After 72h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with toluene (10 mL). Then, 1 mmol of mesitylene was introduced into the reaction mixture as an internal standard for analysis. *N*-benzylaniline was achieved with 92% yield which was calculated using ¹H-NMR spectra of the crude mixture. The total amount of *N*-benzylaniline formed was 4.6 mmol (92% yield) using 0.00196 mol % of palladium corresponding to a TON of 46939.

α -alkylation of 4-methyl acetophenone:

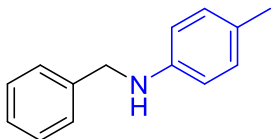


4-methylacetophenone (5.0 mmol), benzyl alcohol (10 mmol), catalyst **D** (15 mg, 0.0146 mol % of Pd), and LiOH (20 mol %), were charged under argon-atmosphere in a Radleys carrousel reaction tube. The reaction tube was closed with the Teflon stopper and was heated to 140 °C under stirring. After 4 days, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with toluene (10 mL). Then, 1 mmol of mesitylene was introduced into the reaction mixture as an internal standard. The product 3-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)propan-1-one (**27**) was formed in 65% yield as calculated using $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra of the crude reaction mixture. The total amount of ketone **27** formed was 3.25 mmol (65% yield), using 0.0146 mol % of Pd that gave a TON of 4452.

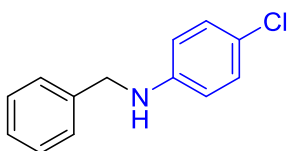
6. Characterization data of compounds 1-37.



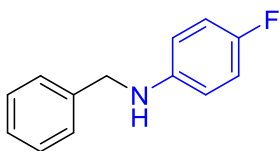
***N*-benzylaniline (1):**¹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 2 mg of catalyst B, aniline (182 μL , 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 120 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 348 mg (95%) *N*-benzylaniline as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 7.26 (s, 5H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.69 (tt, J = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 – 6.55 (m, 2H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ = 148.2, 139.5, 129.3, 128.7, 127.6, 127.3, 117.6, 112.9, 48.4.



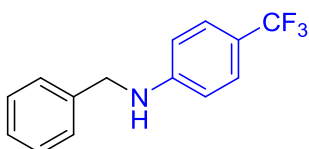
***N*-benzyl-4-methylaniline (15):**¹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, *p*-toluidine (220 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 386 mg (98%) *N*-benzyl-4-methylaniline as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.46 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.11 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.71 – 6.49 (m, 2H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 2.29 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 145.9, 145.9, 139.7, 139.7, 129.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 113.1, 48.7, 20.4.



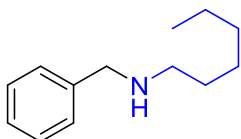
***N*-benzyl-4-chloroaniline (3):**³ Followed the general procedure 1, using 2 mg of catalyst B, 4-chloroaniline (178 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 130 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 422 mg (97%) *N*-benzyl-4-chloroaniline as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.42 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.18 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.63 – 6.52 (m, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 146.6, 146.6, 138.9, 138.9, 129.1, 128.7, 127.5, 127.4, 122.2, 114.0, 48.4.



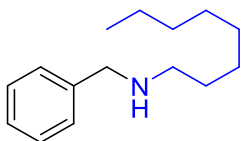
***N*-benzyl-4-fluoroaniline (4):**³ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, 4-fluoroaniline (222 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 400 mg (99%) *N*-benzyl-4-fluoroaniline as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.45 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 6.99 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.69 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 156.13 (d, J = 235.6 Hz), 144.0, 138.9, 128.7, 127.6, 127.4, 115.68 (d, J = 22.3 Hz), 114.05 (d, J = 7.4 Hz), 49.2.



***N*-benzyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (5):**⁴ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8mg of catalyst B with 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (251 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 473 mg (86%) *N*-benzyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.49 – 7.29 (m, 7H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 149.9, 138.1, 128.8, 127.6, 127.5, 126.8 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 125.0 (q, J = 270 Hz), 112.5, 48.2.



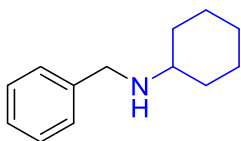
***N*-benzylhexan-1-amine (6):**⁵ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, 1-hexylamine (264 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (45% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 360 mg (94%) *N*-benzylhexan-1-amine as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.62 – 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 1H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 – 1.14 (m, 7H), 0.86 – 0.74 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ = ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.0, 53.9, 49.4, 31.8, 29.9, 27.0, 22.6, 14.0. HR-MS ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ m/z Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$: 191.1681. Found: 191.1674.



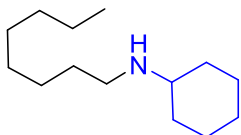
***N*-benzyloctan-1-amine (7):**⁶ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, 1-octylamine (331 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 376 mg (86%) *N*-benzyloctan-1-amine as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 7.38 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 3.86 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77 – 2.65 (m, 1H), 1.51 (dd, J = 7.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.41 – 1.27 (m, 9H), 1.11 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.96 – 0.88 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ = ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.85, 128.36, 128.12, 126.79, 52.53, 51.37, 37.09, 31.86, 29.51, 25.95, 22.62, 20.30, 14.06.



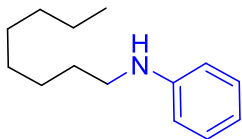
***N*-benzyloctan-2-amine (8):**⁷ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, 2-aminoctane (335 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 360 mg (82%) *N*-benzyloctan-1-amine as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 7.38 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 3.86 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77 – 2.65 (m, 1H), 1.51 (dd, J = 7.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.41 – 1.27 (m, 9H), 1.11 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.96 – 0.88 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ = ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 140.85, 128.36, 128.12, 126.79, 52.53, 51.37, 37.09, 31.86, 29.51, 25.95, 22.62, 20.30, 14.06.



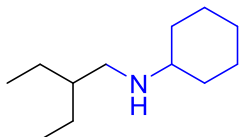
***N*-benzylcyclohexylamine (9):**⁸ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexylamine (229 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (15% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 335 mg (88%) *N*-benzylcyclohexylamine as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 2.49 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.92 – 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 2H), 1.27 – 0.95 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 140.99, 128.36, 128.07, 126.75, 56.18, 51.03, 33.56, 26.20, 25.00.



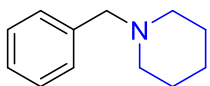
***N*-octylcyclohexylamine (10)**⁹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexylamine (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6 mmol) for 48h at 140 $^{\circ}$ C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 351 mg (83%) *N*-octylcyclohexylamine as yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ = 2.60 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (m, 1H), 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.38 – 0.97 (m, 15H), 0.92 – 0.73 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ = 57.1, 47.2, 33.7, 32.0, 30.6, 29.7, 29.4, 27.6, 26.3, 25.3, 22.8 14.2.



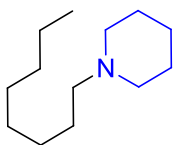
N-octylaniline (11):¹⁰ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, aniline (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6 mmol) for 48h at 140 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 316 mg (77%) *N*-octylaniline as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ= 7.16 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.61 (tt, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.56 – 6.48 (m, 2H), 3.50 (s, 1H), 3.03 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.60 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.40 – 1.14 (m, 11H), 0.88 – 0.75 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ= 148.6, 129.2, 117.1, 112.7, 44.0, 31.8, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 29.3, 27.2, 22.7, 14.1, 14.1.



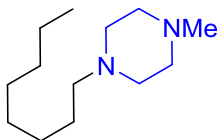
N-(2-ethylbutyl)cyclohexanamine(12)¹¹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexyl amine (2 mmol) and 2-ethylbutanol (6 mmol) for 48h at 140 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 274 mg (75%) of **12** as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ= 2.53 – 2.43 (m, 2H), 2.36 (m, 1H), 1.90 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.75 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.39 – 0.96 (m, 10H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ= 57.3, 49.9, 41.2, 33.8, 26.4, 25.3, 24.2, 11.0.



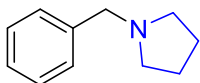
1-benzylpiperidine (13):¹² Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, piperidine (198 μL, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 130 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 288 mg (82%) 1-benzylpiperidine as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ= 7.26 (s, 5H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 2.49 – 2.31 (m, 4H), 1.59 (p, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 1.49 – 1.40 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ= 138.6, 129.2, 128.1, 126.8, 63.9, 54.5, 26.0, 24.4. HR-MS (M+H)⁺ *m/z* Calcd for C₁₂H₁₇N: 175.1360. Found: 175.1361.



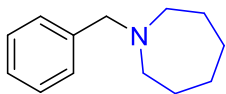
1-octylpiperidine (14):¹³ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, piperidine (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6.0 mmol) for 48h at 140 °C. After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound was isolated as a yellow liquid (327 mg, 1.66 mmol, 83 %). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.31-2.47 (m, 3H), 2.22-2.31 (m, 2H), 1.59 (m, 3H), 1.34-1.53 (m, 3H), 1.15-1.34 (m, 12H), 0.86 (t, 3H, CH₃, *J* = 6.4 Hz). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 59.8, 54.6, 32.0, 29.7, 29.4, 27.9, 26.9, 26.0, 24.6, 22.8, 14.2.



1-methyl-4-octylpiperazine (15):¹⁴ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, N-methylpiperazine (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound was isolated as a yellow liquid 350 mg (83 %). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.62 – 2.34 (m, 8H), 2.34 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.51 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.33 – 1.15 (m, 10H), 1.33 – 1.15 (m, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 58.9, 55.3, 53.4, 46.2, 31.9, 29.7, 29.3, 27.7, 27.0, 22.7, 14.2.

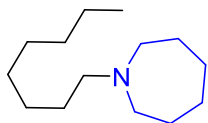


1-benzylpyrrolidine (16):¹² Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, pyrrolidine (164 μL, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 130 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (2% MeOH/DCM) gave 298 mg (92%) 1-benzylpyrrolidine as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ= 7.28 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.44 (ddd, *J* = 6.7, 3.9, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 1.71 (p, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ= 139.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.2, 128.2, 126.9, 60.7, 54.1, 23.4. HR-MS (M+H)⁺ m/z Calcd for C₁₁H₁₅N: 161.1207. Found: 161.1204.

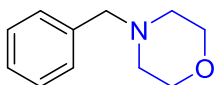


1-benzylazepane (17):¹⁵ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, azepane (226 μL, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24 h at 120 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (5% MeOH/DCM) gave 336 mg (89%) 1-benzylazepane as yellow oil. ¹H

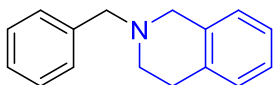
NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.33 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.55 (dd, J = 6.3, 3.9 Hz, 4H), 1.55 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 8H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 27.0, 28.2, 55.6, 62.7, 126.7, 128.1, 128.8, 140.1



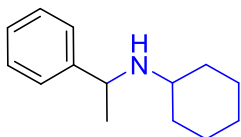
1-octylazepane (18):¹⁶ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, azepane (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6.0 mmol) for 48h at 140 °C. After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound was isolated as a yellow liquid (332 mg, 79%). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.62 (m, 4H), 2.44 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.72 (m, 8H), 1.34-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.15-1.34 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, 3H, CH₃, J = 6.4 Hz). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 57.6, 54.7, 31.0, 28.6, 28.5, 27.0, 26.8, 26.7, 26.2, 21.8, 13.2.



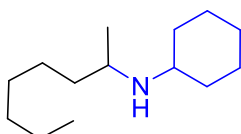
4-benzylmorpholine (19):¹² Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, morpholine (174 μ L, 2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 140 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (5% MeOH/DCM) gave 322 mg (91%) 4-benzylmorpholine as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 3.76 – 3.67 (m, 4H), 3.50 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 2H), 2.50 – 2.41 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 137.7, 129.2, 128.3, 127.1, 67.0, 63.5, 53.6.



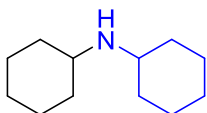
2-benzyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (20):¹⁷ Followed the general procedure 1 using 8 mg of catalyst B, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (250 μ L, 0.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol) for 24h at 140 °C. Purification by flash chromatography (3% EtOAc/Hexane) gave 378 mg (85%) 2-benzyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.33 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 6.82 (m, 4H), 3.59 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 3.56 – 3.50 (m, 2H), 2.79 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (dt, J = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 137.3, 137.3, 133.8, 133.8, 133.3, 133.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.2, 126.1, 125.5, 125.0, 124.5, 61.7, 61.7, 55.1, 55.0, 49.6, 49.6, 28.1, 28.1.



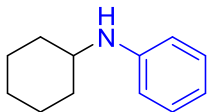
***N*-(1-phenylethyl)cyclohexanamine (21)**¹⁸ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexylamine (2.0 mmol) and 1-methylbenzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **21** was isolated as a yellow liquid (329 mg, 81%). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.38 – 6.87 (m, 5H), 3.87 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.26 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.93 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.70 – 1.50 (m, 3H), 1.50 – 1.39 (m, 1H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.12 – 0.84 (m, 5H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 146.2, 128.5, 126.9, 126.7, 54.7, 53.9, 34.6, 33.2, 26.3, 25.4, 25.1, 25.0.



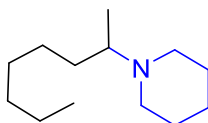
***N,N*-cyclohexyl-2-octylamine (22)**¹⁹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexylamine (2.0 mmol) and 2-octanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **22** was isolated as a yellow liquid (367 mg, 87%). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.65-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.38-2.55 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.63 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 0.88-1.50 (m, 15 H), 0.86 (m, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 53.7, 49.5, 37.8, 34.7, 34.1, 32.0, 29.7, 26.3, 25.5, 25.4, 22.8, 21.2, 14.2.



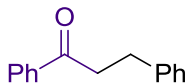
Dicyclohexylamine (23)⁹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, cyclohexylamine (2.0 mmol) and cyclohexanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **23** was isolated as a yellow liquid (304 mg, 84%). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.51 (tt, *J* = 10.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.88 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.61 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.37 – 1.06 (m, 4H), 1.05 – 0.92 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 53.2, 34.4, 26.3, 25.4.



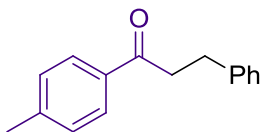
N-cyclohexylaniline (24):⁹ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, aniline (2.0 mmol) and cyclohexanol (2.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **24** was isolated as a yellow liquid (185 mg, 53%). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.53-6.76 (m, 3 H), 3.28 (m, 1H), 2.08 (dt, J = 12.3, 3.7 Hz, 2H), 1.61 – 1.85 (m, 3H), 1.05 – 1.5 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 147.5, 129.4, 117.0, 113.3, 51.9, 33.6, 26.1, 25.2.



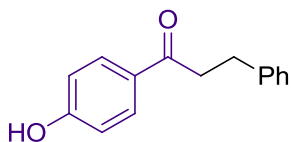
N-2-octylpiperidine (25):¹⁶ Followed the general procedure 1 using 20 mg of catalyst B, piperidine (2.0 mmol) and 2-octanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **25** was isolated as a yellow liquid (256 mg, 65%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.32-2.53 (m, 5H). 1.59 – 1.45 (m, 5H), 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.13 (m, 9H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.89 – 0.81 (m, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 59.9, 49.6, 33.6, 32.0, 29.7, 27.3, 26.7, 25.1, 22.8, 14.2, 14.2.



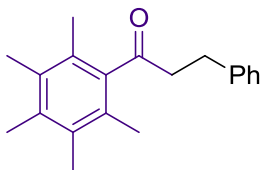
1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one(26):²¹ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, acetophenone (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **26** was isolated as a colorless liquid (349 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.61 (m, 5H), 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 3.36 (m, 2H), 3.13 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 199.3, 141.4, 137.1, 133.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 126.3, 40.6, 30.3.



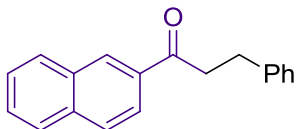
3-phenyl-1-(p-tolyl)propan-1-one (27):²² Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **27** was isolated as a colorless liquid (439 mg, 98%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 6.91 (m, 5H), 3.31 (m, 2H), 3.11 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 198.9, 143.9, 141.5, 134.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.2, 40.4, 30.3, 21.7.



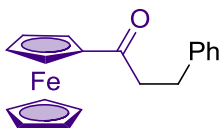
1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (28)²³ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **28** was isolated as a colorless liquid (366 mg, 81%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.07 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 199.4, 161.0, 141.3, 131.0, 129.7, 128.7, 128.5, 126.3, 115.7, 40.3, 30.7.



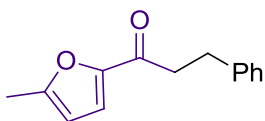
1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (29): Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **29** was isolated as a colorless liquid (538 mg, 96%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.18 (s, 6H), 2.30 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 3.14 (m, 2H), 3.20 (m, 5H), 7.49 – 7.21 (m, 5H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 16.0, 16.8, 17.2, 47.2, 126.2, 127.5, 128.5, 128.6, 133.2, 135.5, 140.6, 141.2, 210.9. HR-MS (ESI) (M+H)⁺ m/z Calcd for C₂₀H₂₅O: 281.1905. Found: 281.1896.



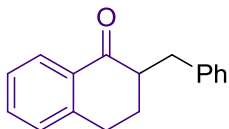
1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (30):⁷ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 1-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **30** was isolated as a colorless liquid (405 mg, 78%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 8.48 – 8.44 (m, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.85 (m, 3H), 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 3.45 (m, 2H), 3.14 (m, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 199.3, 141.5, 135.8, 134.4, 132.7, 129.8, 129.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 127.9, 126.9, 126.3, 124.0, 40.7, 30.5.



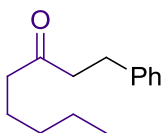
1-(ferrocenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (31):²² Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, acetylferrocene (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **31** was isolated as a red solid (623 mg, 98%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.14 – 7.45 (m, 5H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.11 (s, 5H), 3.07 (s, 4H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 203.1, 141.7, 128.7, 128.6, 126.2, 79.1, 72.3, 69.8, 69.4, 41.6, 30.2.



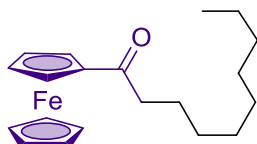
1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (32):²⁵ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **32** was isolated as a colorless liquid (316 mg, 74%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.41 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.34 – 2.67 (m, 4H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 187.8, 157.7, 151.5, 141.2, 128.5, 128.4, 126.2, 119.1, 108.9, 39.9, 30.3, 14.1.



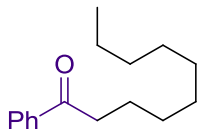
2-benzyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (33):⁷ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **33** was isolated as a colorless liquid (387 mg, 82%). – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 1.83 (m, 1H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.78 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 2.87 (m, 2H), 3.53 (dd, J = 13.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.49 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 199.6, 144.3, 140.3, 133.5, 132.7, 129.5, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 126.9, 126.4, 49.7, 35.9, 28.9, 27.9.



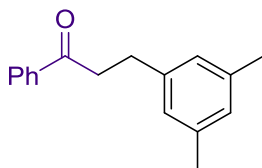
1-phenyloctan-3-one (34):²⁴ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, heptan-2-one (2.0 mmol) and benzyl alcohol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **34** was isolated as a colorless liquid (396 mg, 97%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.09 (m, 3H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.56 – 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.31 – 1.04 (m, 4H), 0.80 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 210.3, 141.3, 128.6, 128.4, 126.2, 44.3, 43.1, 31.5, 29.9, 23.6, 22.5, 14.0.



Compound (35):²⁶ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, acetylferrocene (2.0 mmol) (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **35** was isolated as a dark red solid (453 mg, 67%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 4.78 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 4.48 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (s, 5H), 2.69 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.90 – 1.10 (m, 14H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 5H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 79.5, 72.2, 69.9, 69.5, 39.9, 32.0, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.5, 24.8, 22.8, 14.2.

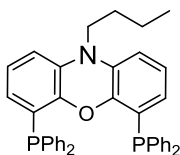


1-phenyldecan-1-one (36):²⁷ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, acetophenone (2.0 mmol) and 1-octanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **36** was isolated as a colorless liquid (339 mg, 73%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.99 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.17 (m, 12H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 5H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 200.7, 137.3, 132.9, 128.7, 128.2, 38.8, 32.0, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 24.6, 22.8, 14.2.



3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (37):²⁸ Followed the general procedure 2 using 20 mg of catalyst B, acetophenone (2.0 mmol) and (3,5-dimethylphenyl)methanol (6.0 mmol). After purification by column chromatography (silica, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1-1:1) the desired compound **37** was isolated as a colorless liquid (357 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 2.35 (s, 6H), 3.04 (dd, J = 8.5, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (s, 2H), 6.92 (s, 2H), 7.49 (dd, J = 8.3, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 8.01 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ = 21.4, 30.2, 40.7, 126.4, 127.9, 128.2, 128.7, 133.1, 137.1, 138.1, 141.3.

The preparation of BuNiXantphos



BuNiXantphos: 10 mL of dry toluene, 55.2 mg of NiXantphos (0.1 mmol), NaH (0.3 mmol) were charged under argon-atmosphere in a schlenk tube followed by additions of 2 mmol of *n*-BuBr. The reaction mixture was heated at 80 °C overnight under stirring. Crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (Hexane) gave 48 mg (79%) N-BuNiXantphos as white

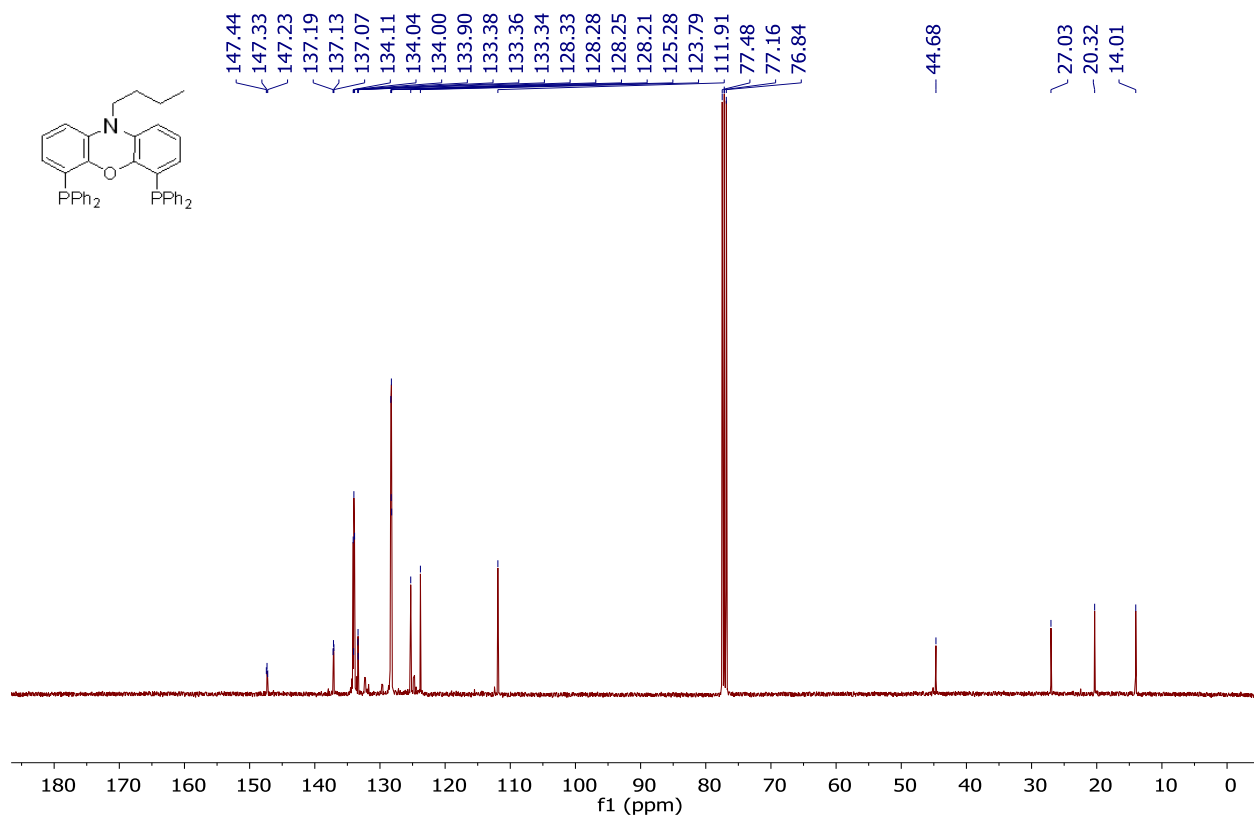
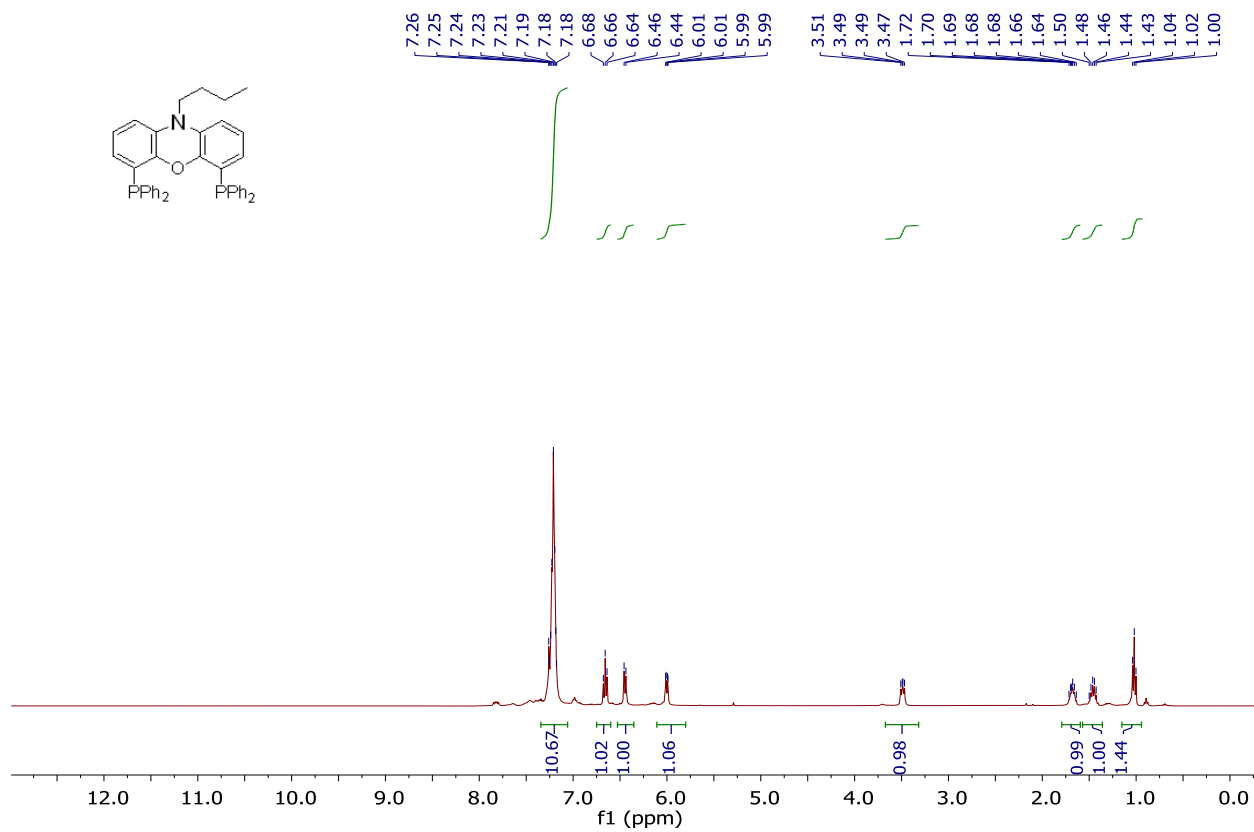
solid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.39 - 7.01$ (m, 20H), 6.66 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.00 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 9.6, 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.76 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.45 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): $\delta = 147.4, 147.3, 147.2, 137.2, 137.1, 137.1, 134.1, 134.0, 134.0, 133.9, 133.4, 133.4, 133.3, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 125.3, 123.8, 111.9, 44.7, 27.0, 20.3, 14.0$. HR-MS (ESI) ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ m/z Calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{36}\text{NOP}_2$: 608.2272. Found: 608.2275.

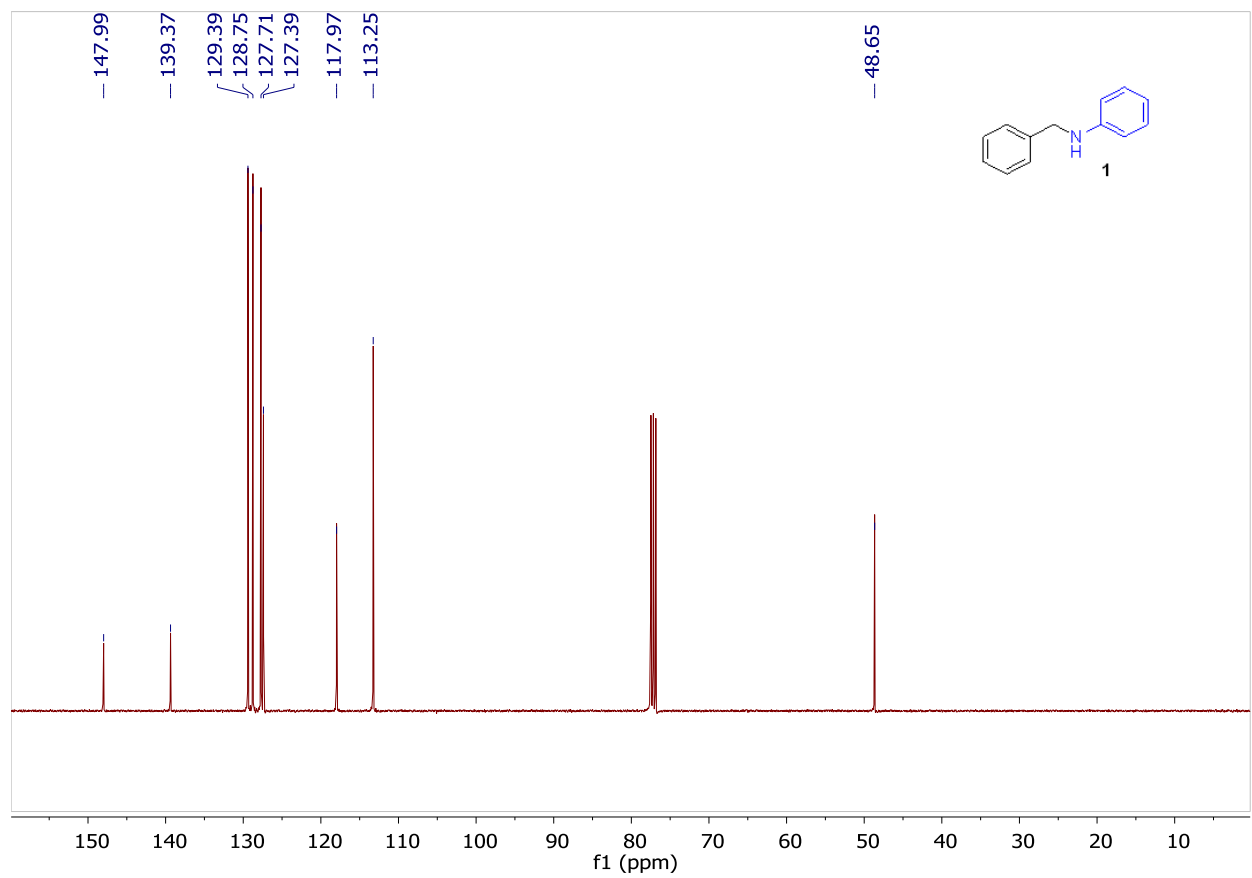
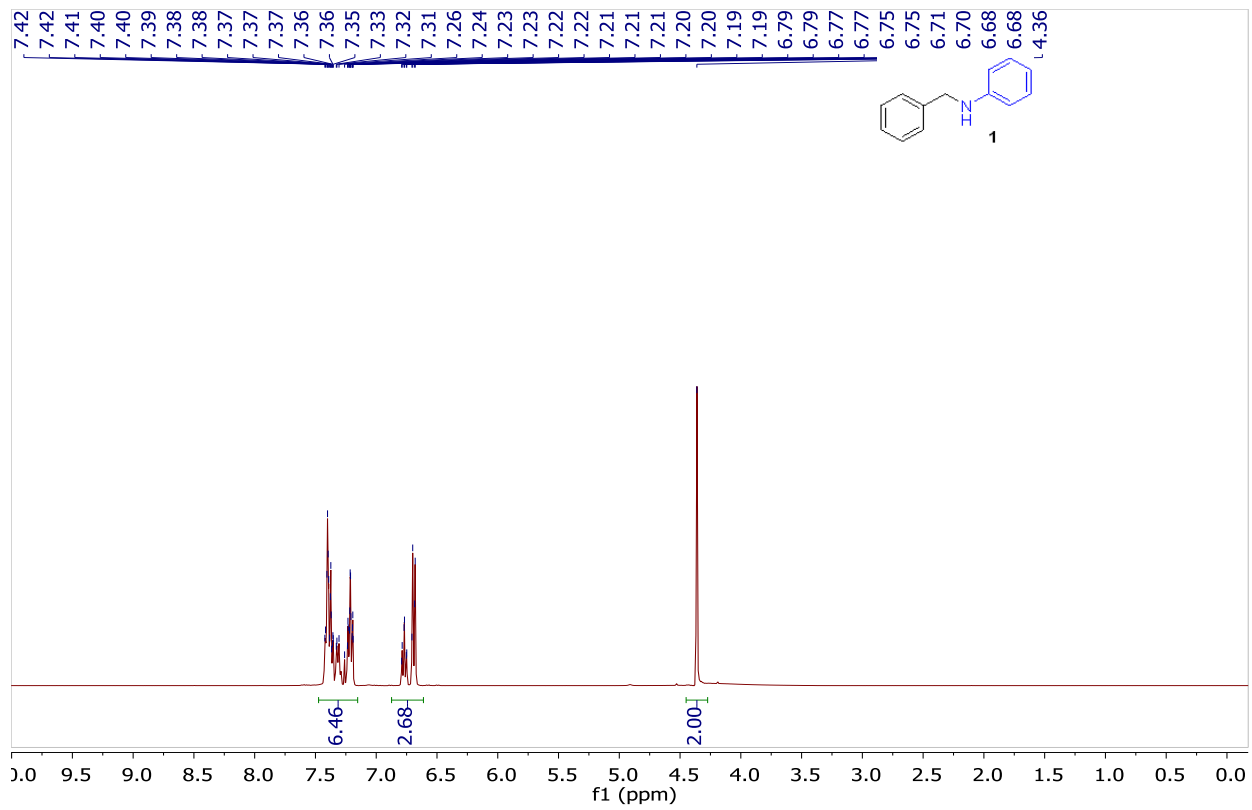
7. References:

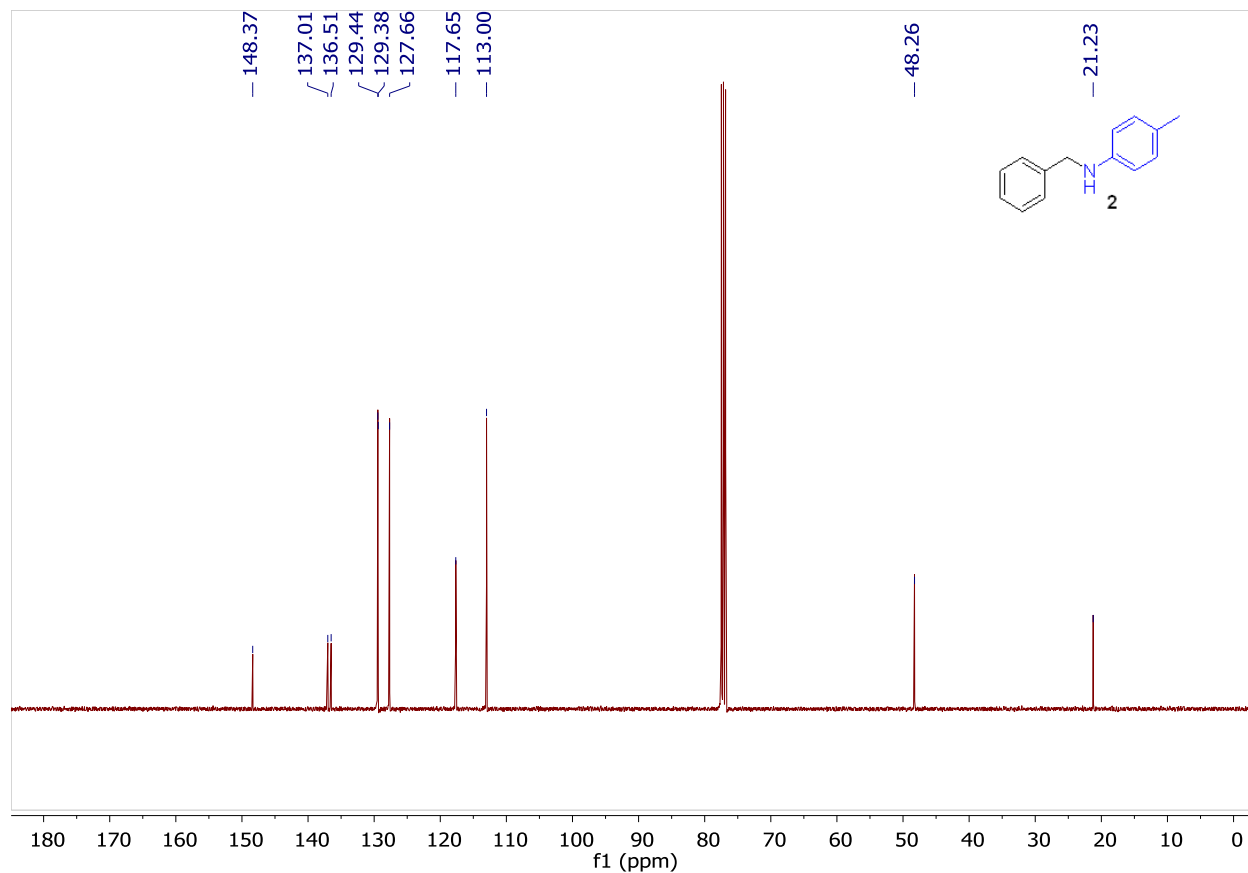
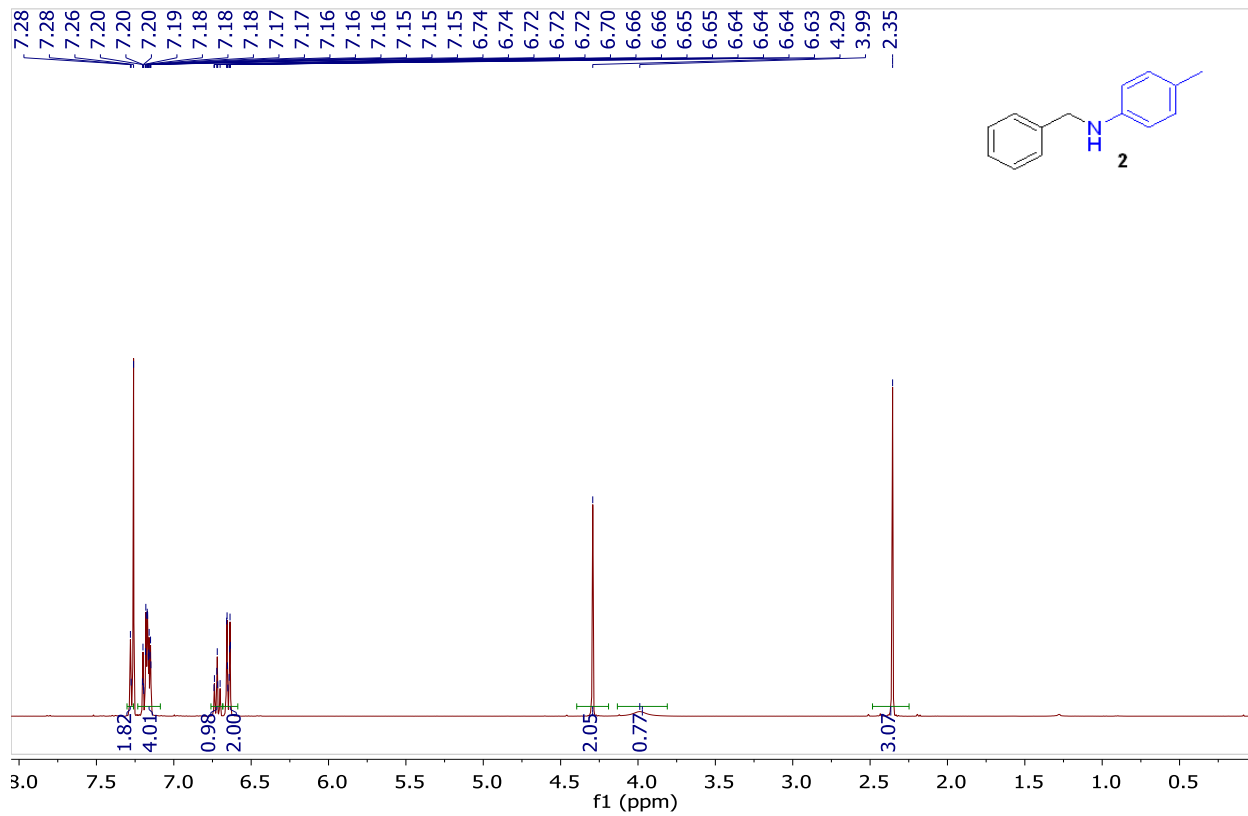
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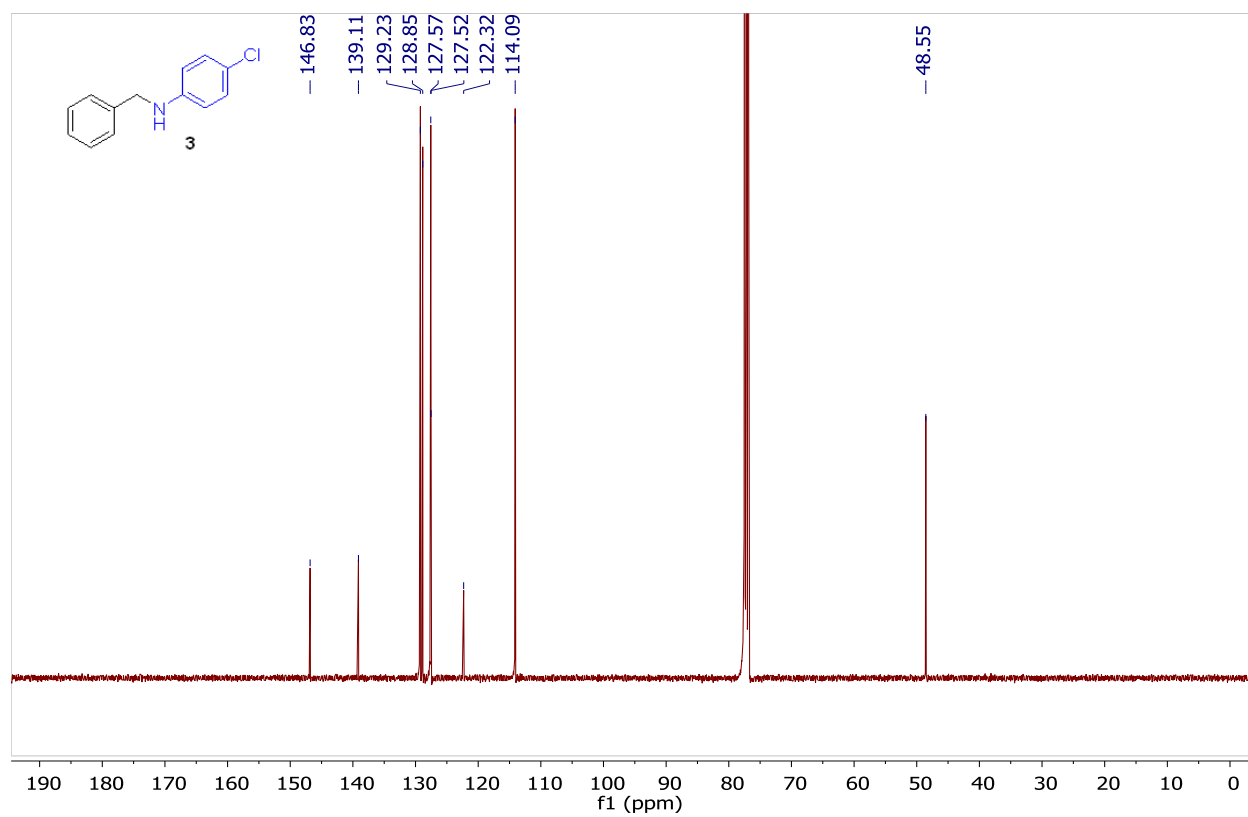
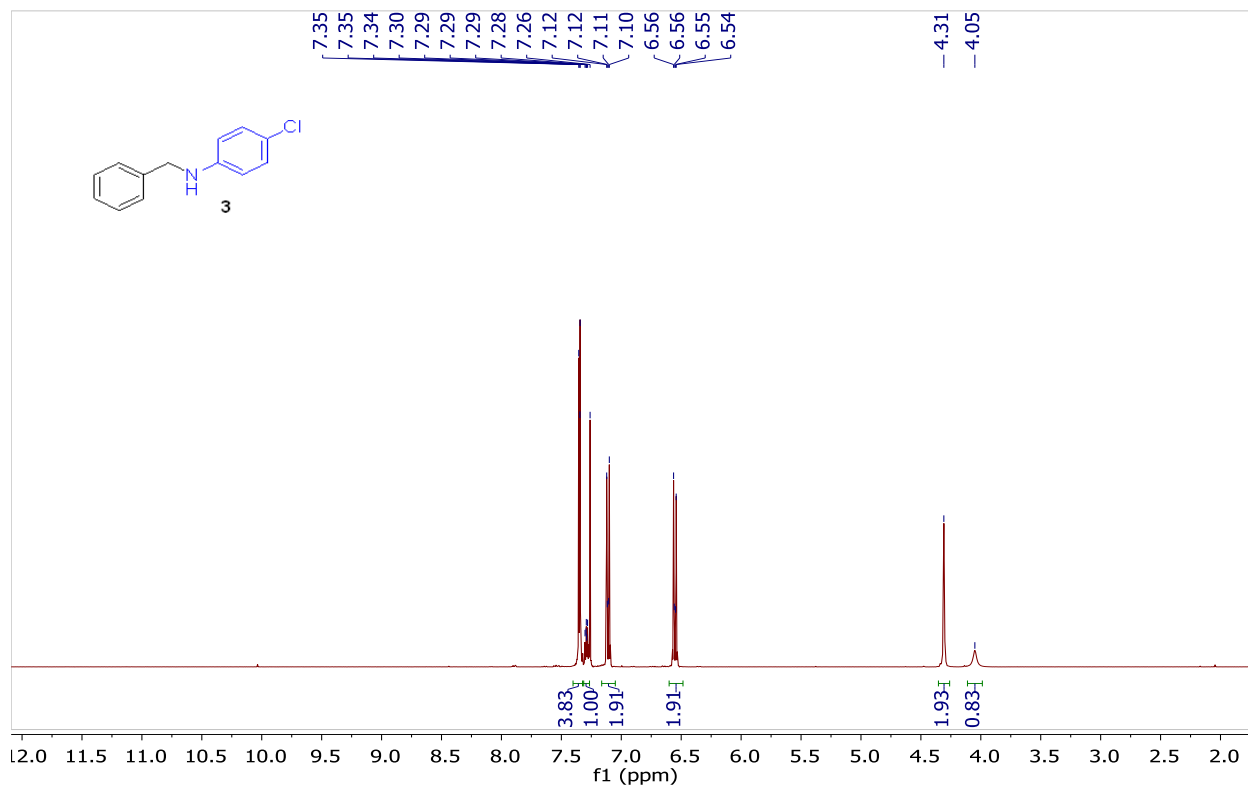
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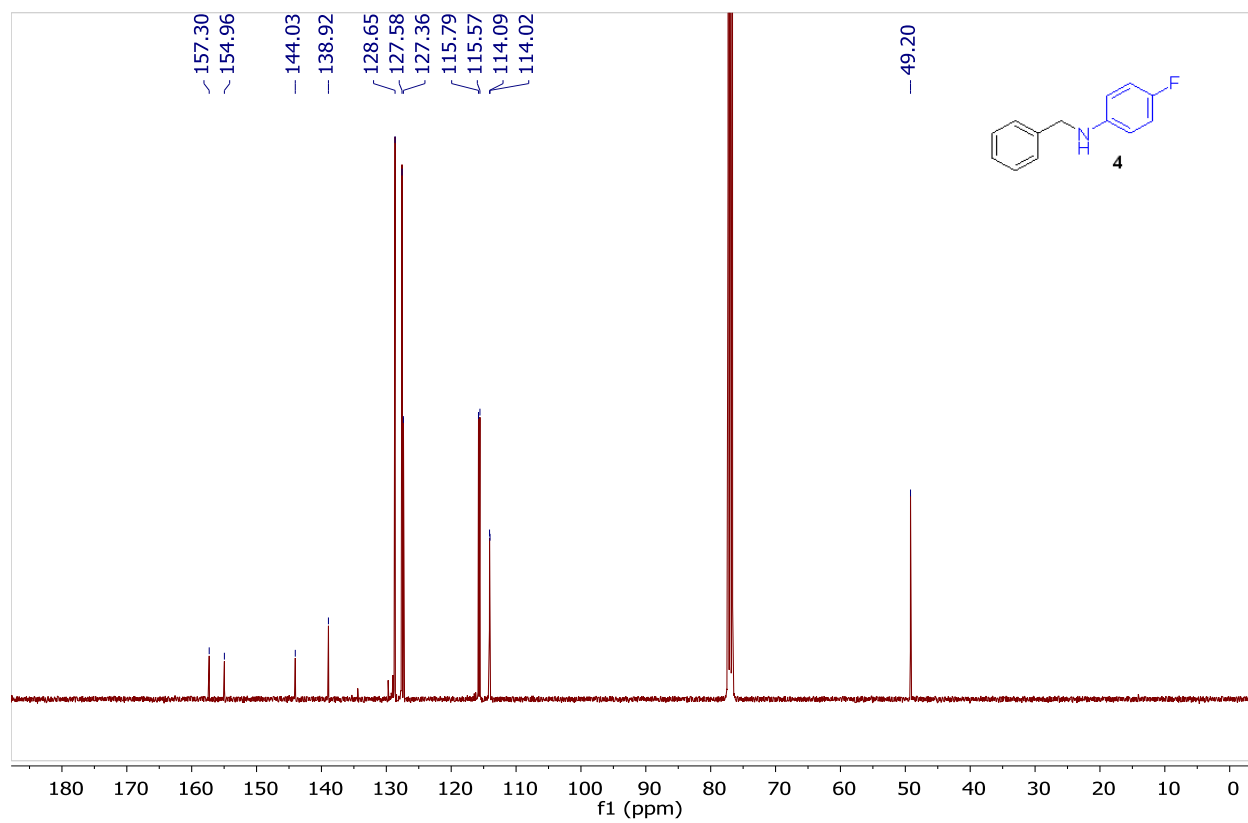
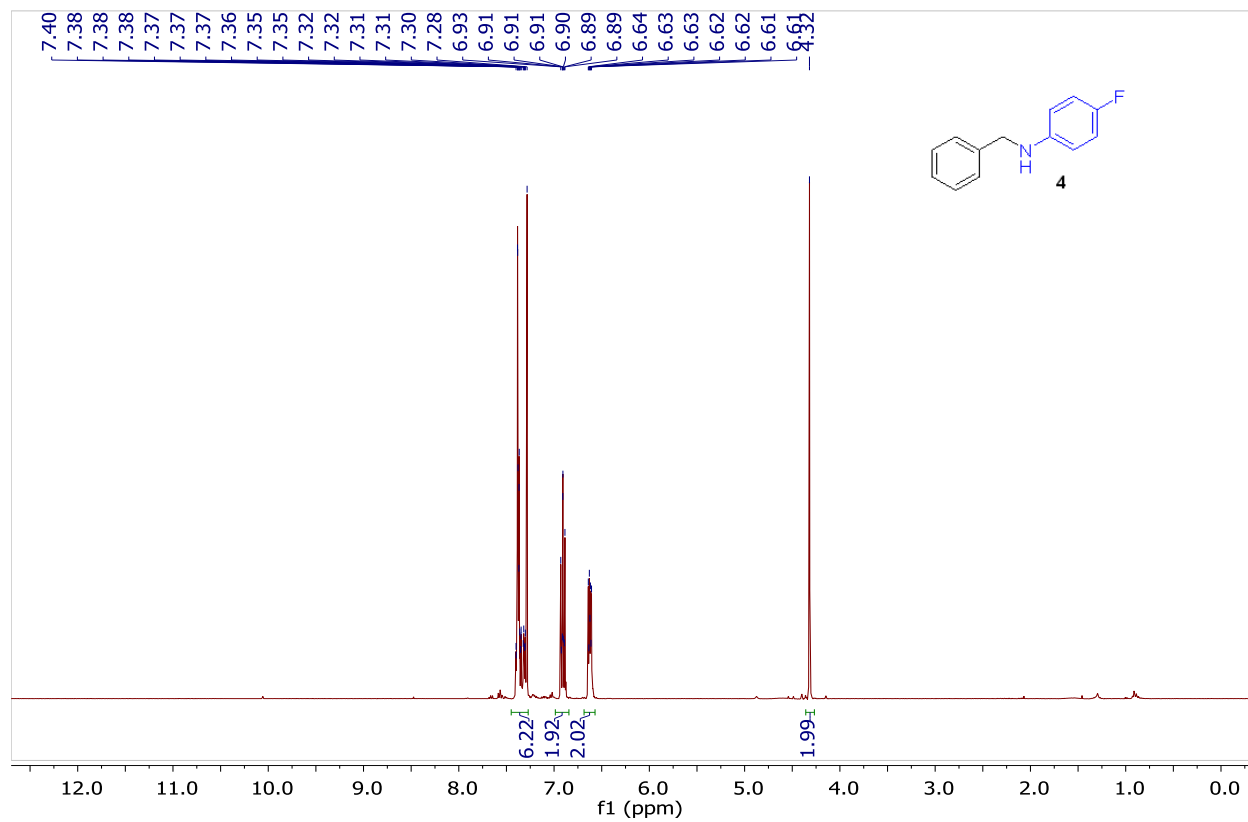
8. NMR Spectra of compounds

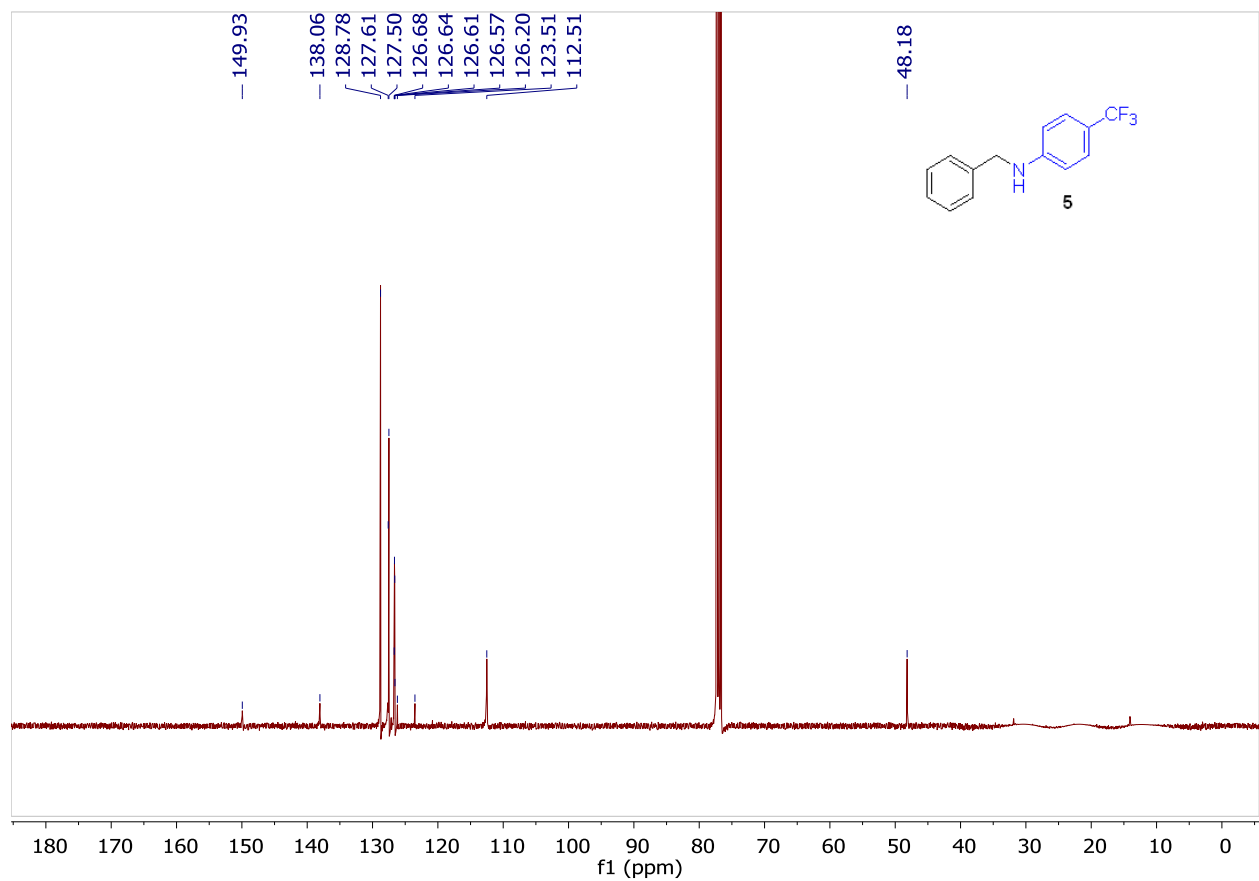
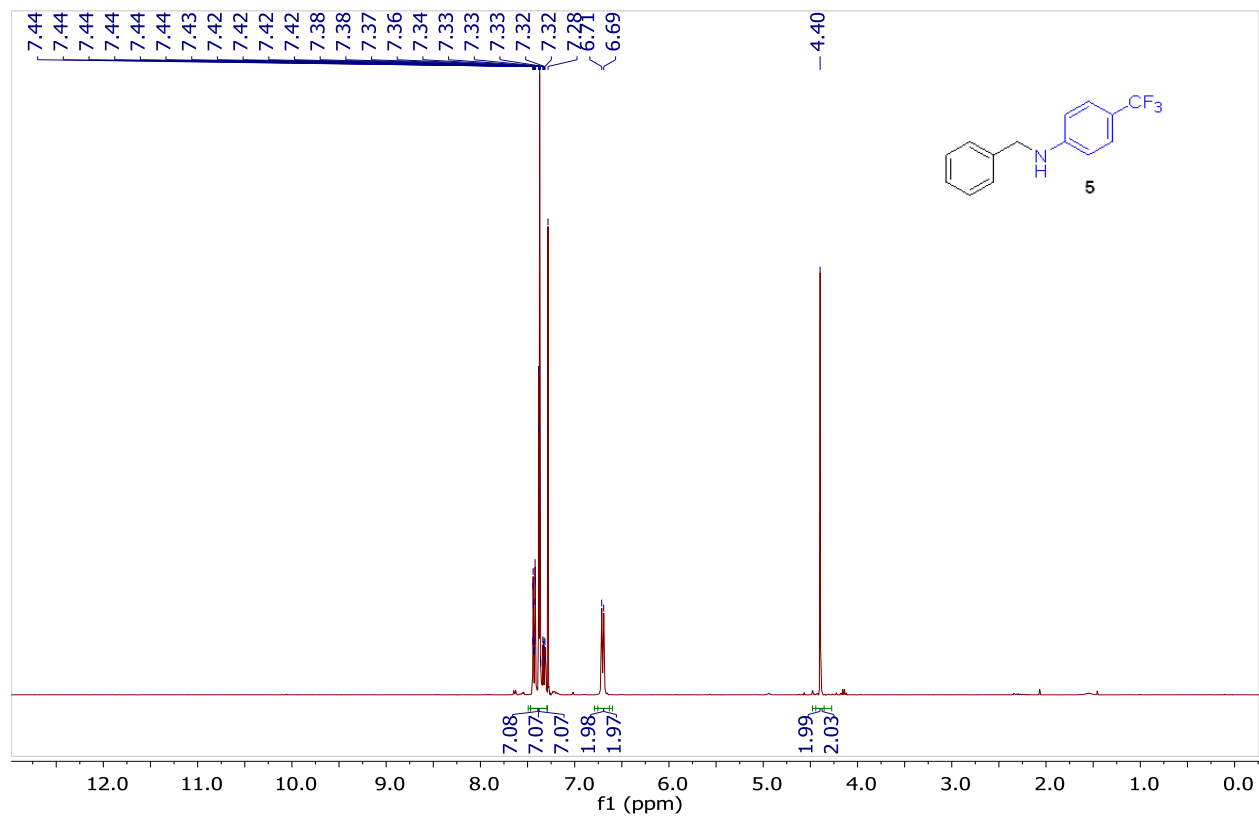


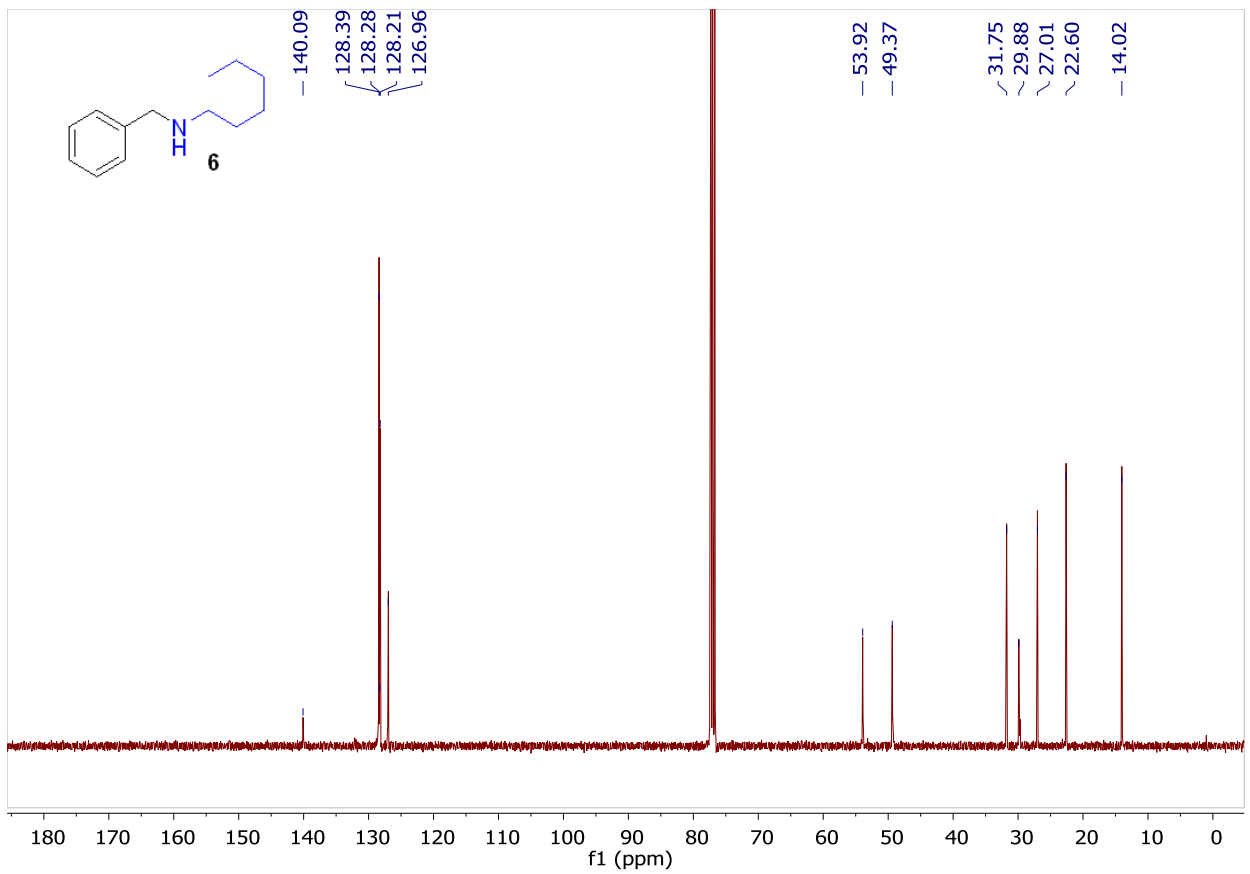
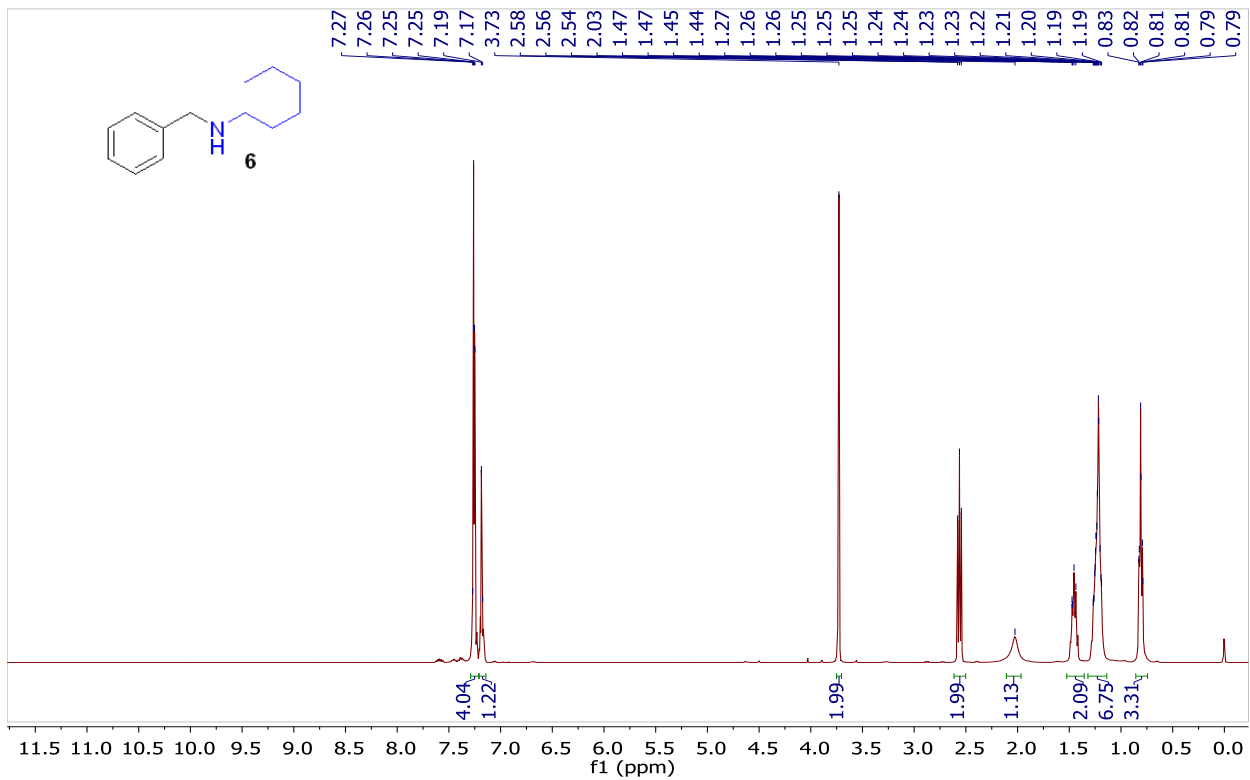


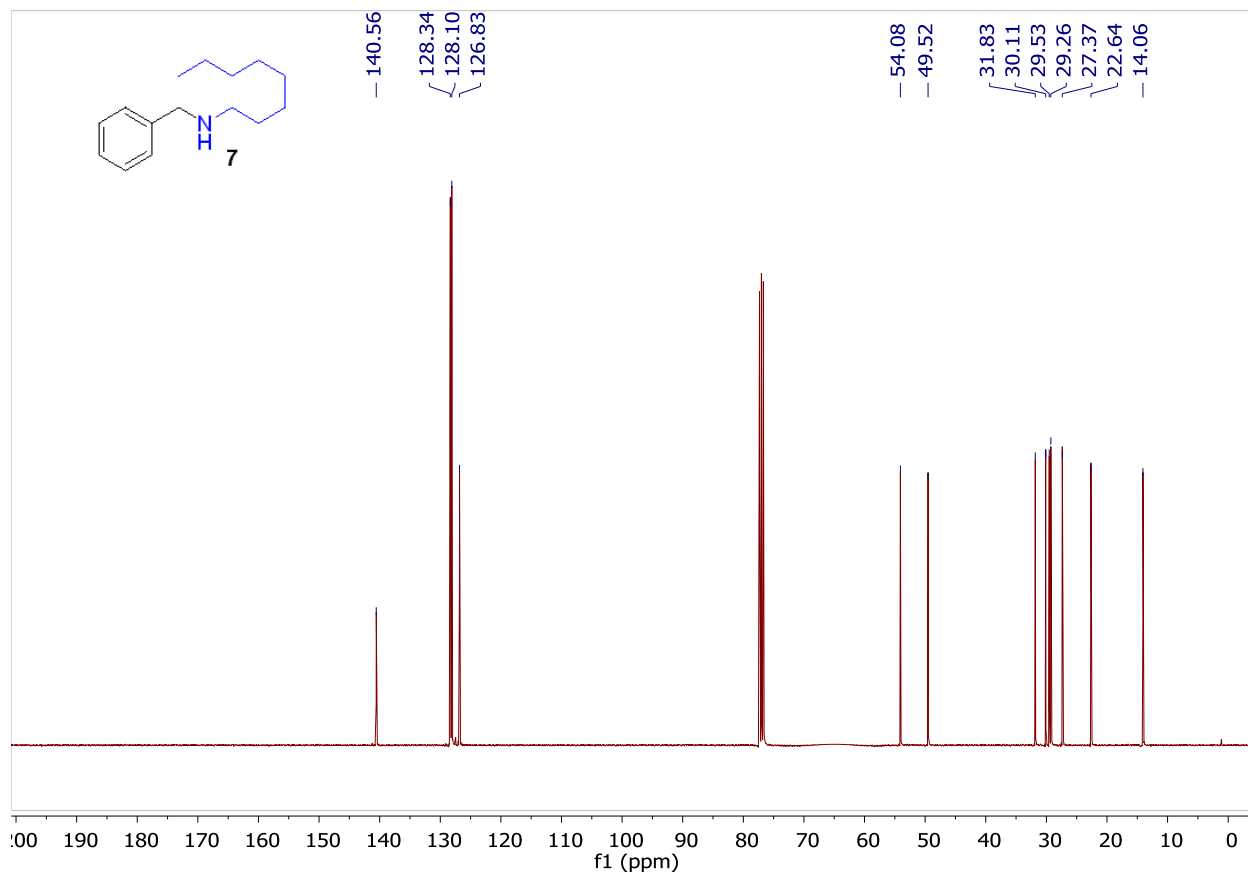
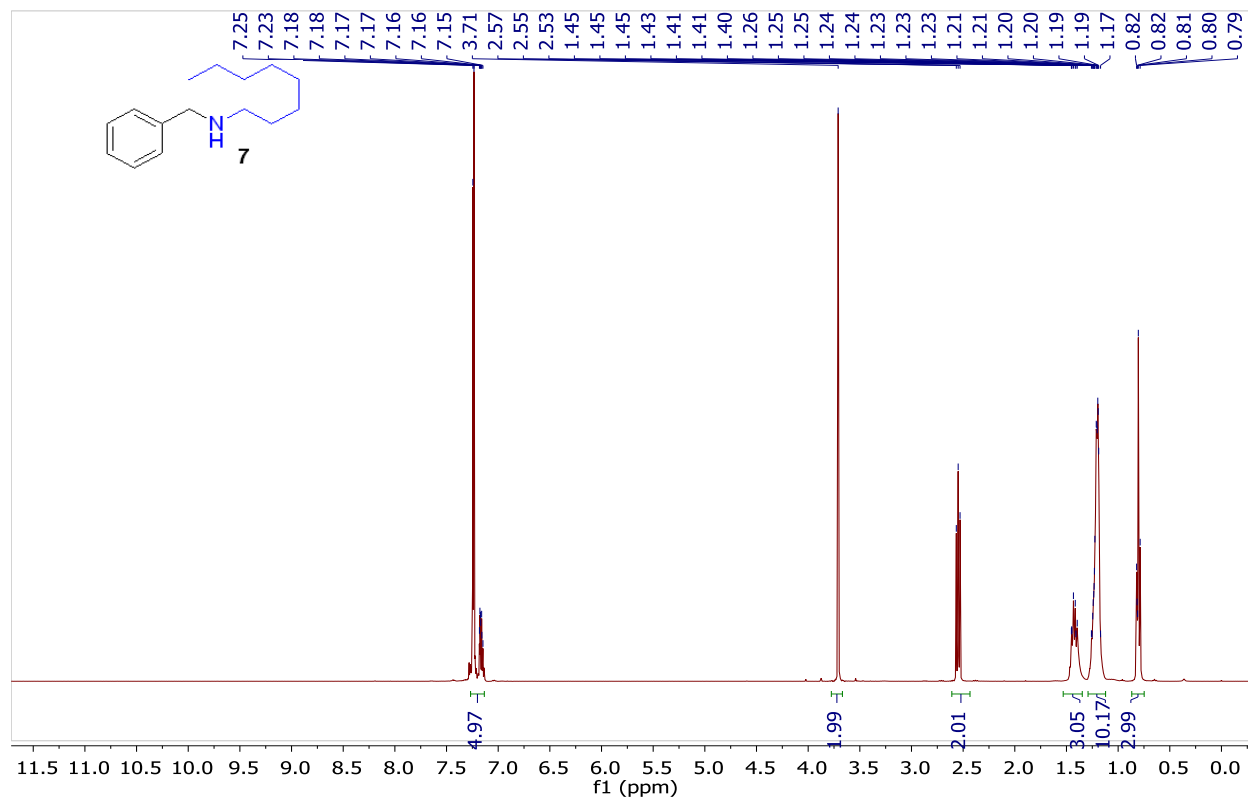


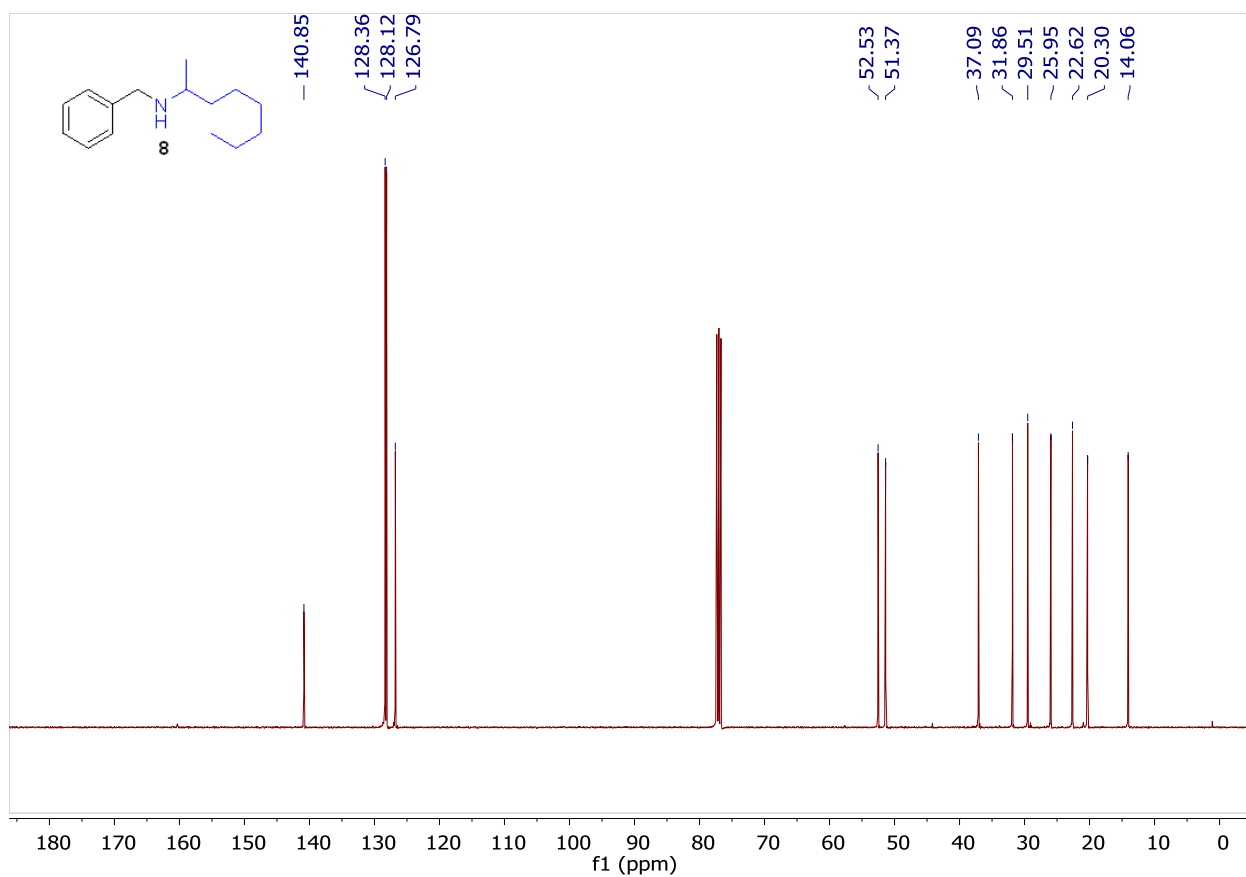
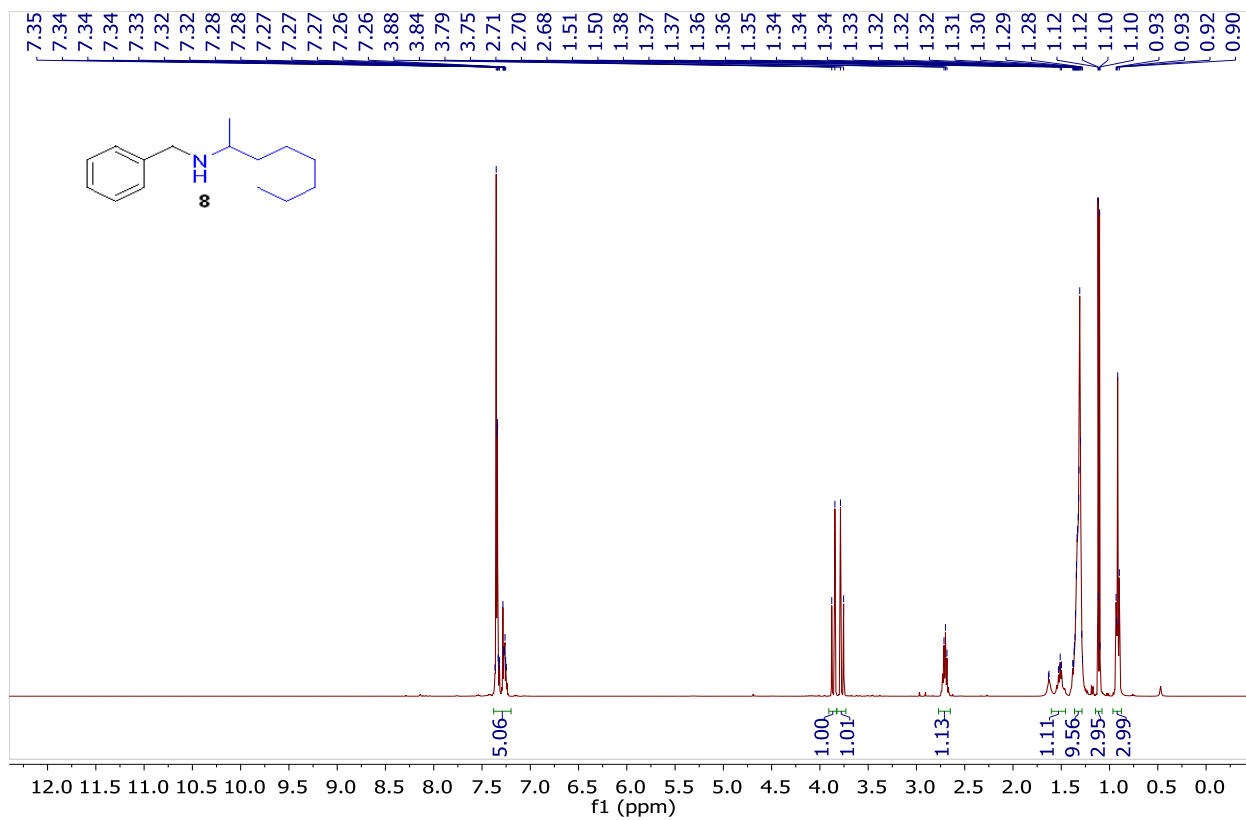


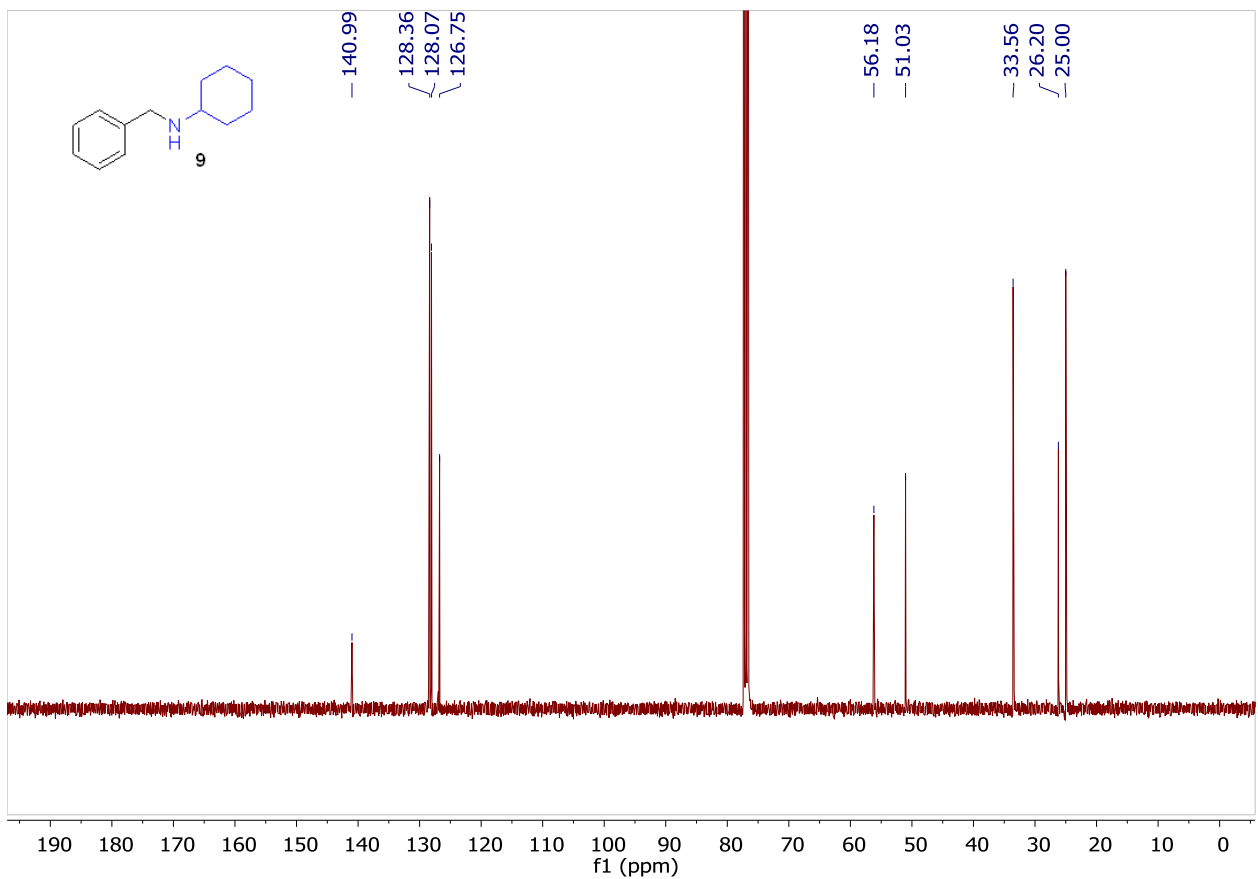
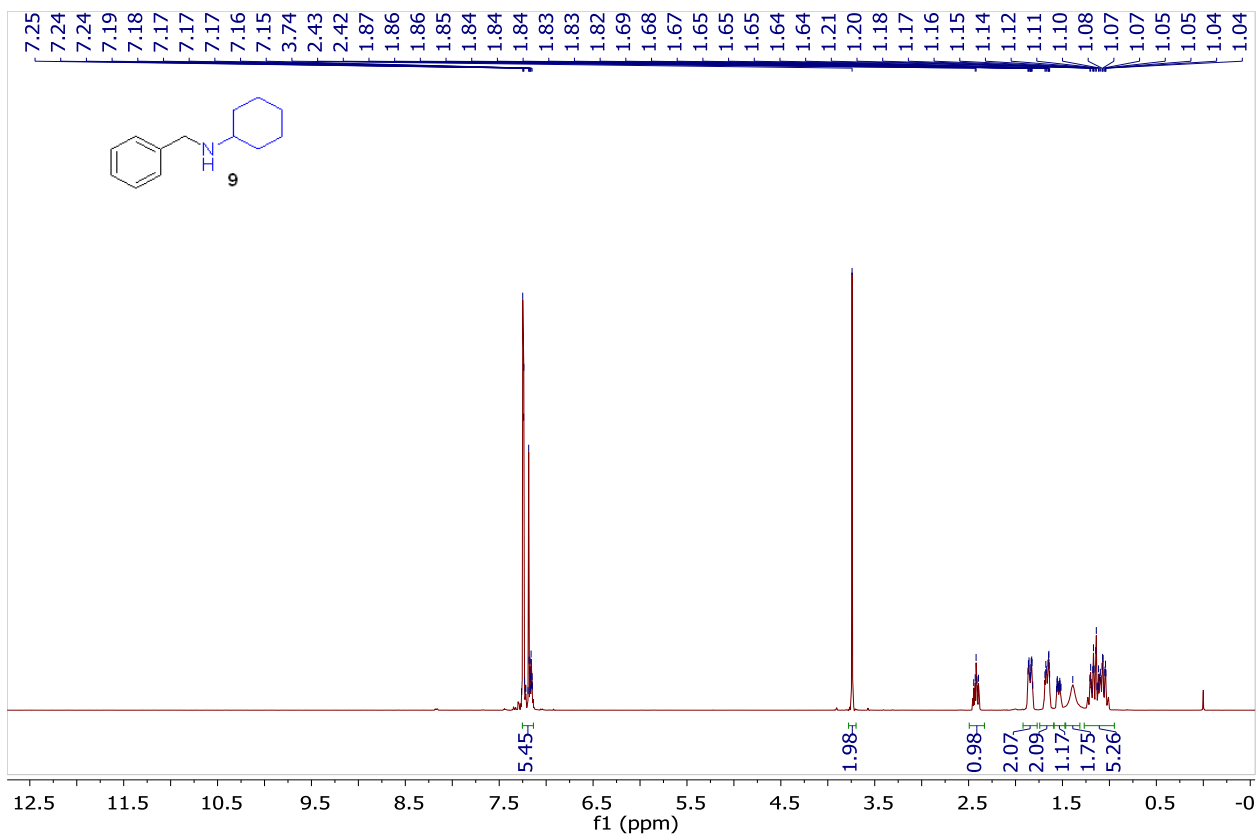


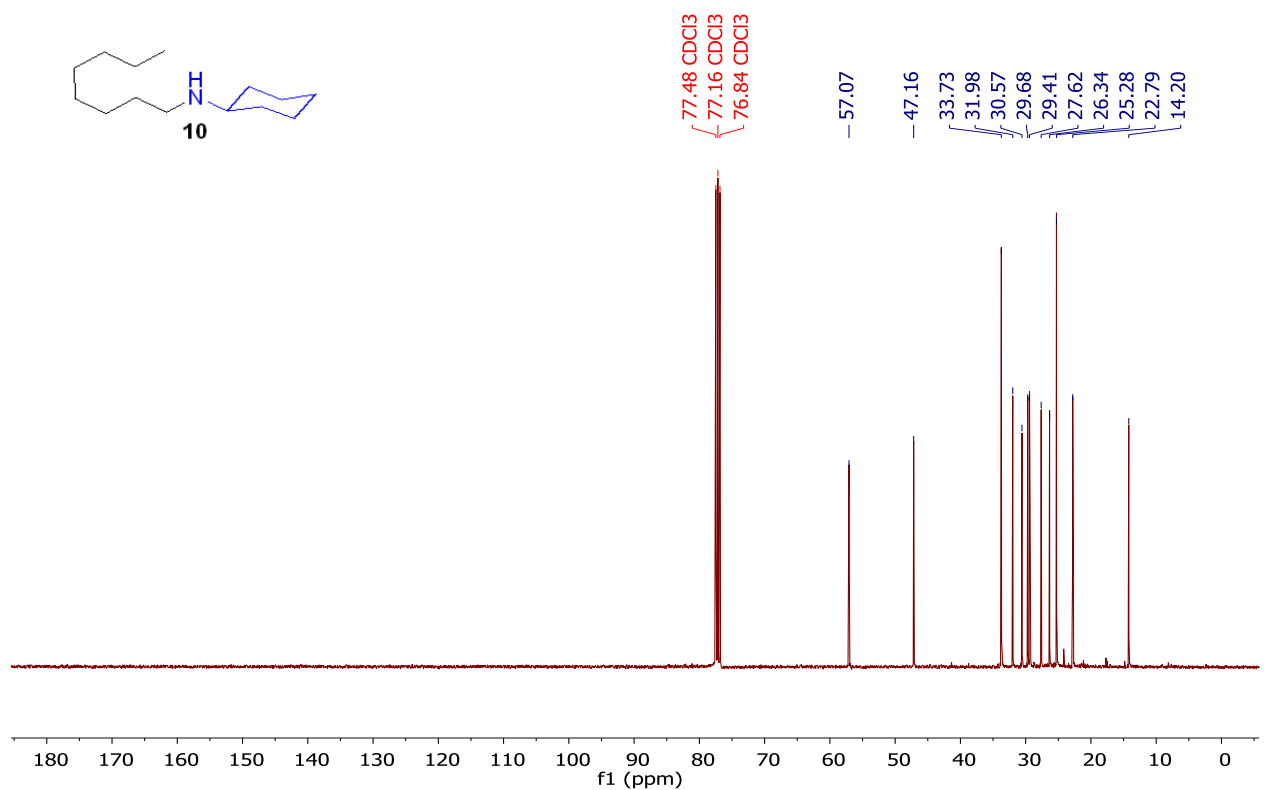
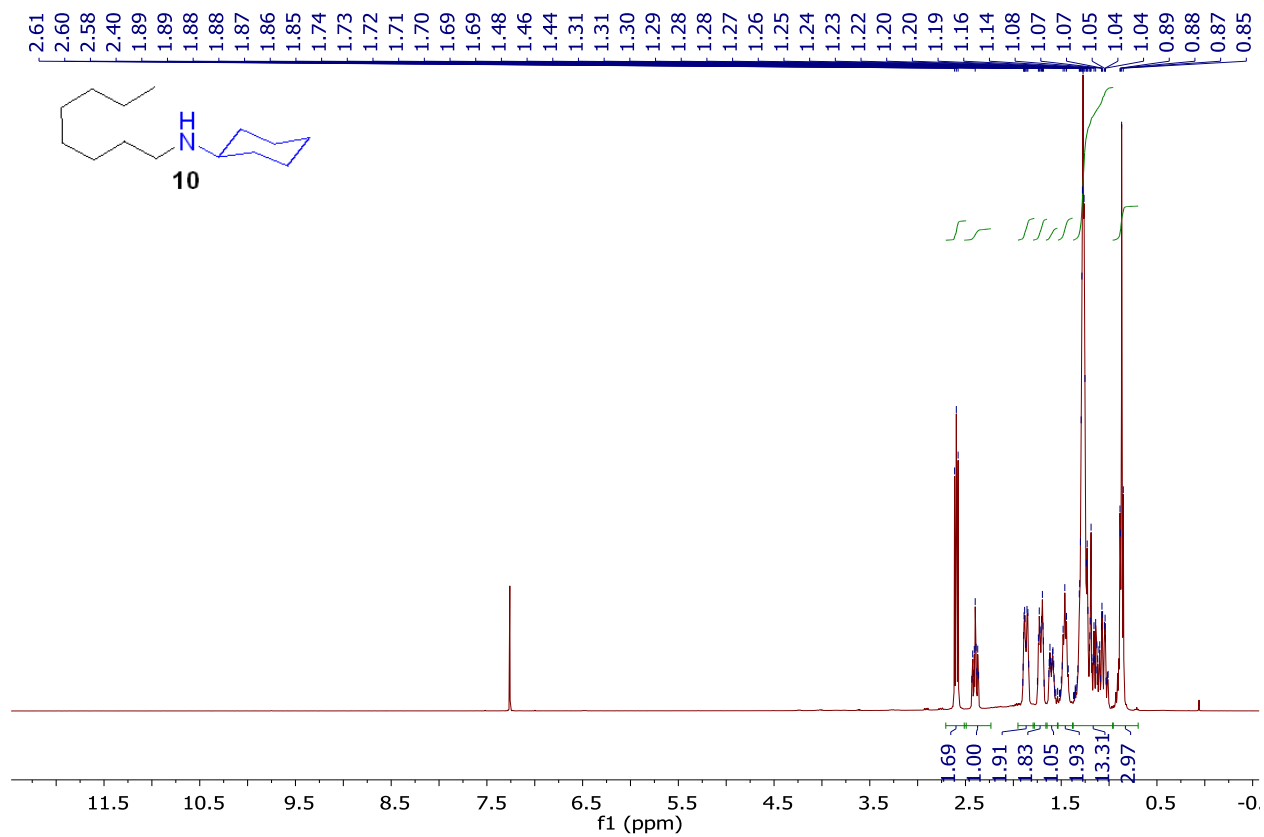


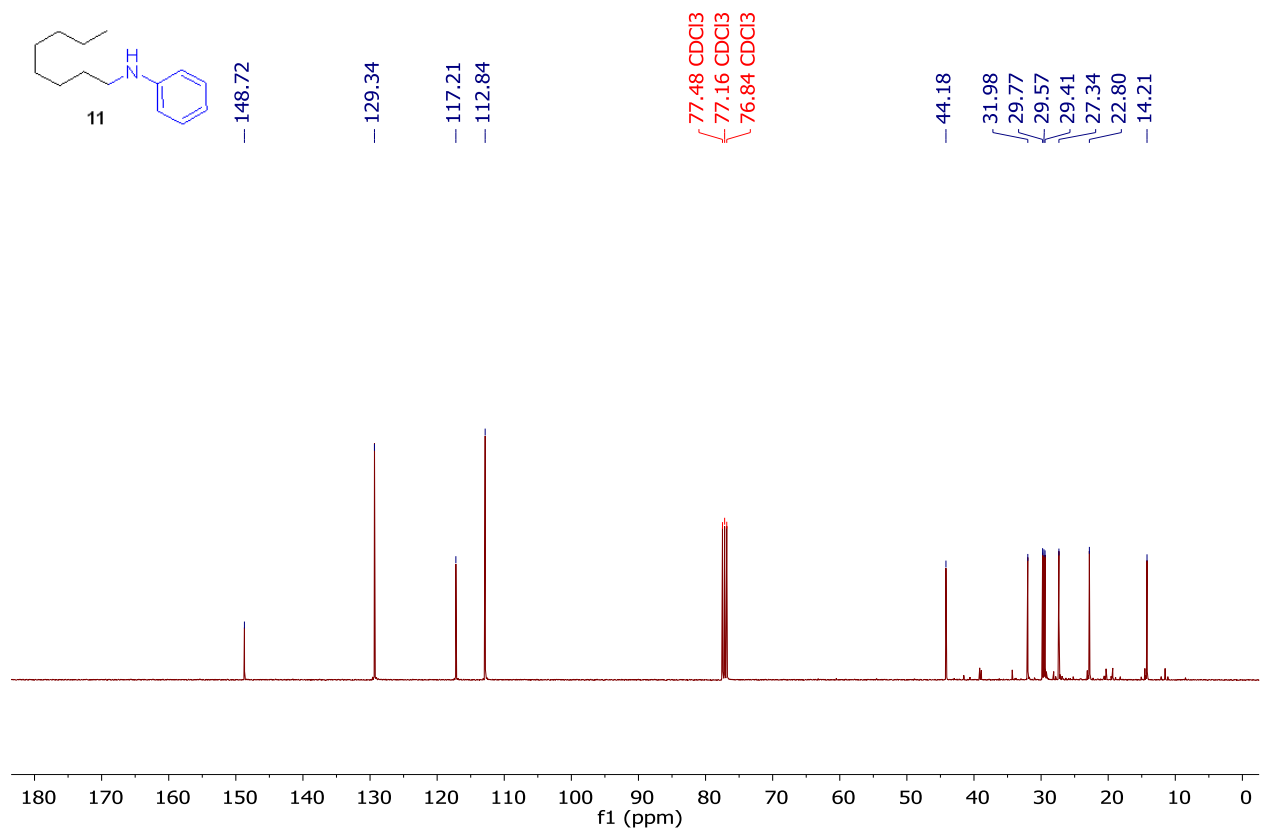
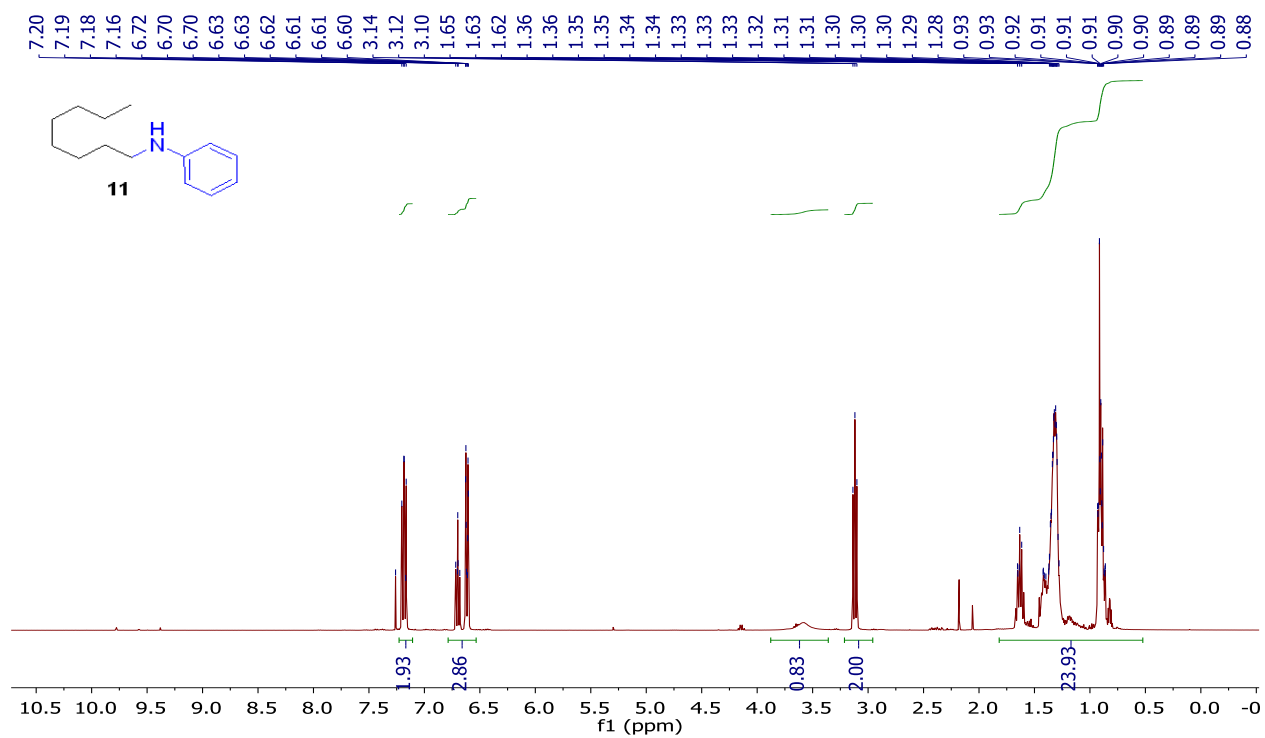


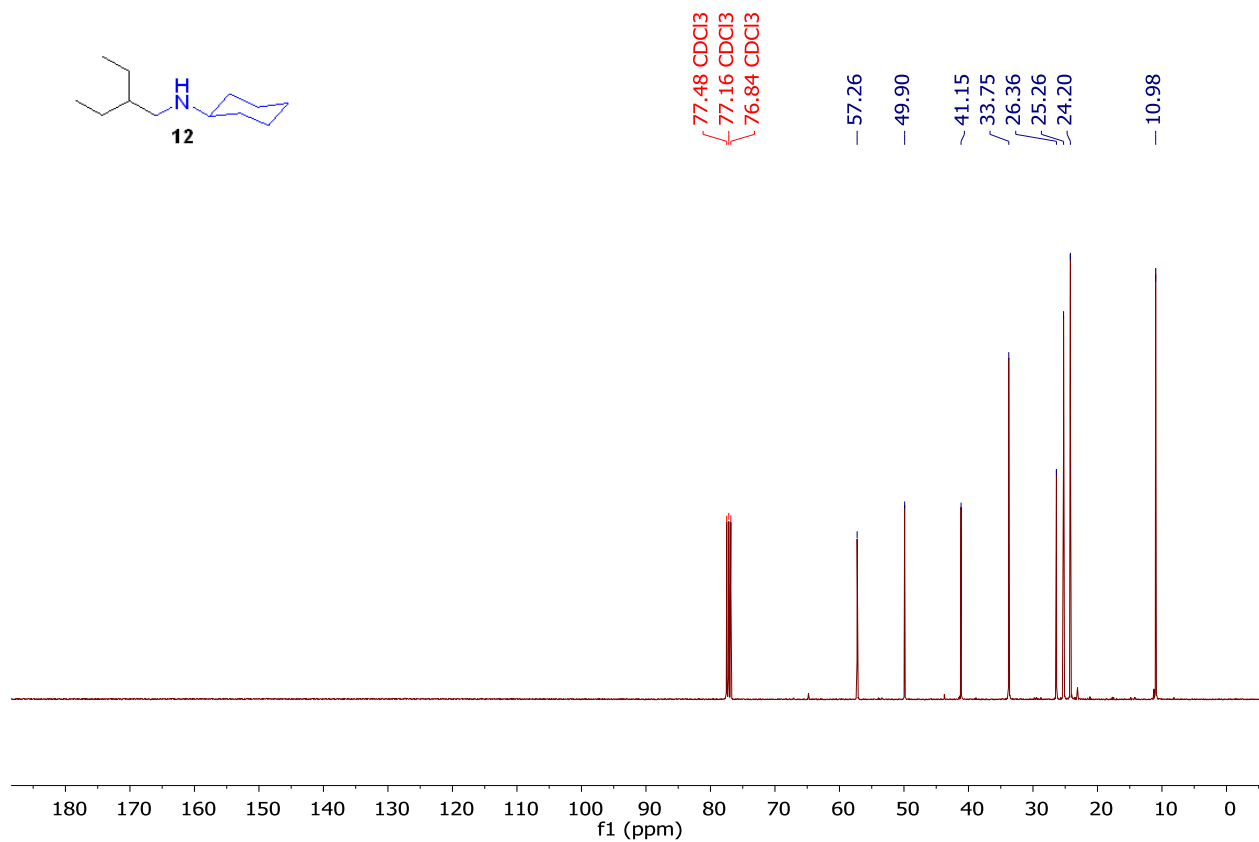
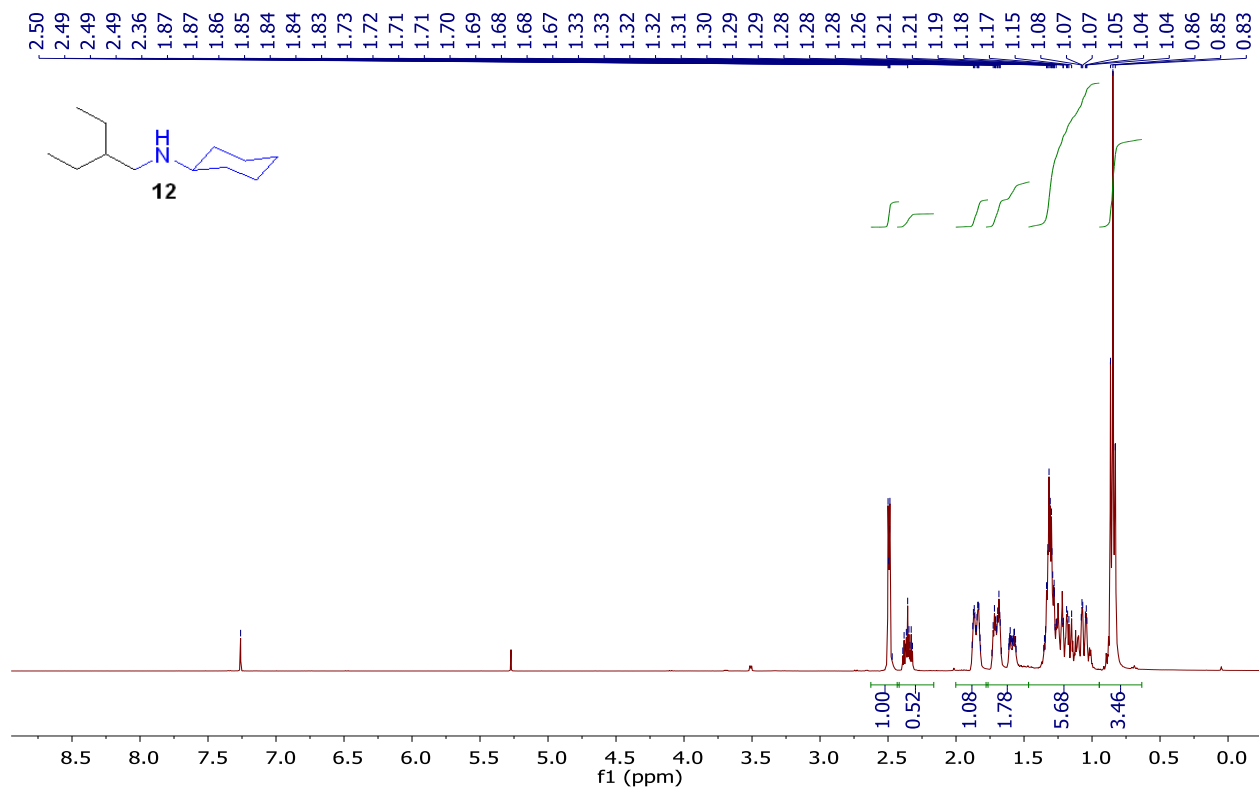


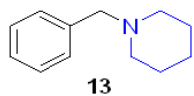










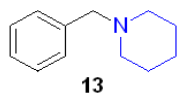
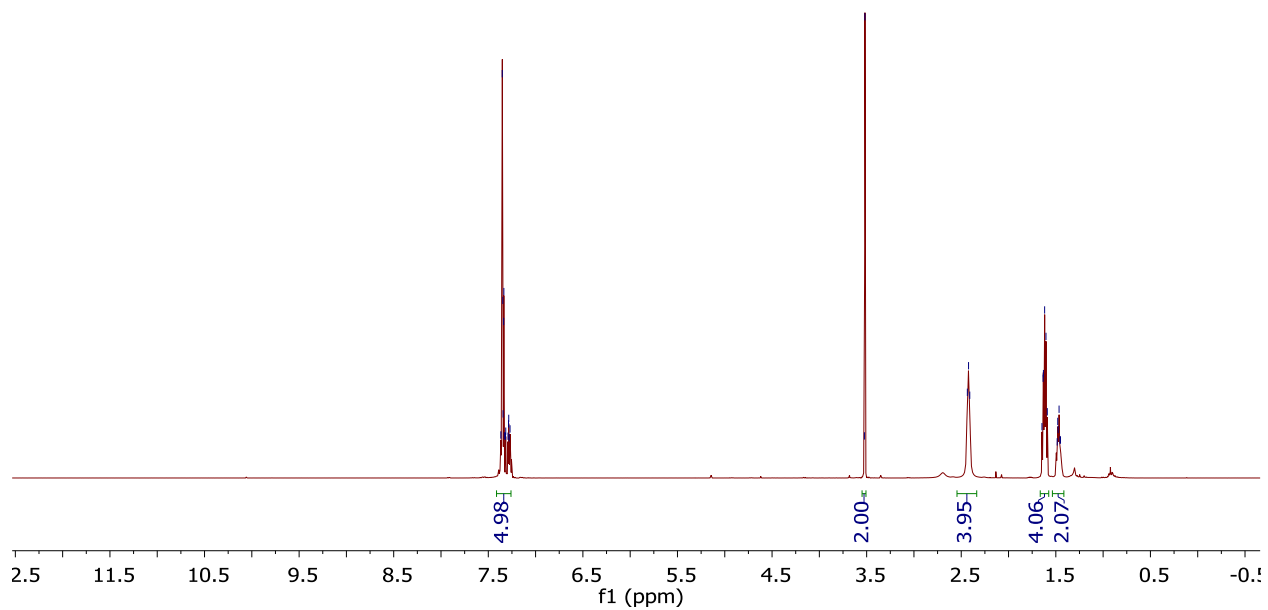


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