

Supporting Information

Highly efficient and eco-friendly protocol to functionalized imidazoles via Ring-Opening of α -Nitro Epoxides

Xiao Guo, Jiaan Shao, Huan Liu, Binhui Chen, Wenteng Chen, Yongping Yu*

Zhejiang Province Key Laboratory of Anti-Cancer Drug Research, College of Pharmaceutical Science, Zhejiang University, 866 Yuhangtang Road, Zijing Campus, Hangzhou 310058, China

*Corresponding authors: E-mail: yyu@zju.edu.cn

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General Information:

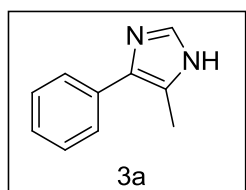
All solvents were purified according to standard methods prior to use. Melting points were recorded on a BÜCHI B-540 melting point apparatus. NMR spectra were recorded for ^1H NMR at 500 MHz and ^{13}C NMR at 125 MHz. For ^1H NMR, tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as internal standard ($\delta=0$) and data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet, m=multiplet), and coupling constant(s) in Hertz. For ^{13}C NMR, TMS ($\delta=0$) or DMSO ($\delta=40.45$) was used as internal standard and spectra were obtained with complete proton decoupling. IR spectra were recorded with a BRUKER VEC TOR 22 FT-IR spectrometer. LC-MS and HRMS data was obtained using Agilent Technologies 6224 TOF LC/MS. The starting material α -nitro epoxides were prepared according to literature methods. [1, 2] The starting material amines and amidine were commercially available.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3a-3u:

A mixture of amidines (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), base (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 3 mL of solvent was stirred at 25 °C for 0.5h, nitroepoxide 1 (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added, then the mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 8h. After the completeness of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with water and extracted three times with CHCl_3 (3×10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (DCM/MeOH) on silica gel to afford 3a-3u.

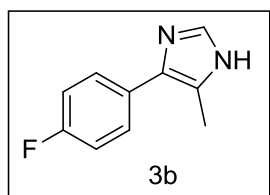
Characterization Data of 3a-3u:

5-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3a)



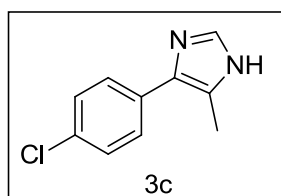
Yellow solid; m.p. 186.6-188.5 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.08 (s, 1H), 7.61 (dd, $J = 8.1, 0.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 10.7, 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 134.2, 128.9, 126.3, 126.0, 12.5; IR (KBr) ν : 3438, 3274, 3127, 3074, 3006, 2918, 2850, 2805, 2746, 2691, 2637, 2368, 1956, 1742, 1663, 1599, 1518, 1479, 1438, 1304, 1130, 1071, 951, 810, 767, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 159.0917, found: 159.0915.

4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole (3b)



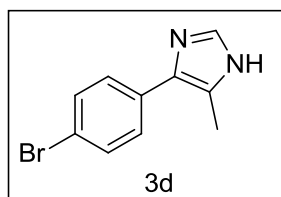
Yellow solid; m.p.156.8-158.6 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.11 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 161.9, 160.0, 134.2, 128.1, 115.7, 12.1; .HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd.for C₁₀H₁₀FN₂ [M+H]⁺: 177.0828, found: 177.0827.

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole (3c)



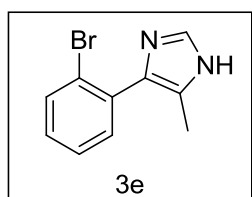
Yellow solid; m.p. 202.5-204.6 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.11 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 134.4, 130.4, 128.8, 127.8, 12.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd.for C₁₀H₁₀ClN₂ [M+H]⁺:193.0527, found: 193.0537.

4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole (3d)



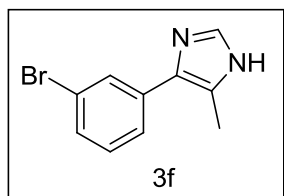
White solid; m.p. 215.1-216.2 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.49 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD) δ 133.8, 132.9, 131.2, 128.1, 119.7, 10.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀BrN₂ [M+H]⁺:237.0022 found: 237.0018.

4-(2-bromophenyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole (3e)



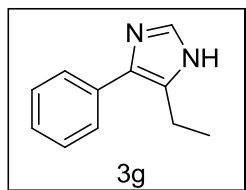
Yellow viscous oil; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.43 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.34 -7.30 (m, 2H), 7.19 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 6.6, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 134.0, 133.3, 133.1, 132.3, 131.7, 129.3, 127.9, 127.2, 124.0, 11.4; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrN}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 237.0022 found: 237.0020.

4-(3-bromophenyl)-5-methyl-1H-imidazole (3f)



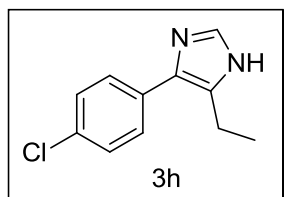
White solid; m.p. 189.2-191.5 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.10 (s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.60 (s, 2H), 7.36 (dt, $J = 15.5, 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 134.5, 131.0, 128.5, 124.9, 122.4, 11.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrN}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 237.0022 found: 237.0022.

5-ethyl-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3g)



White solid; m.p. 172.3-173.1 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.10 (s, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.58 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 10.7, 4.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 2.76 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 135.1, 134.5, 128.9, 126.6, 126.2, 19.5, 14.6; IR (KBr) ν : 3440, 3071, 3005, 2964, 2861, 2807, 2759, 2686, 2637, 1825, 1638, 1600, 1518, 1478, 1320, 1262, 1131, 1068, 957, 912, 819, 770, 700 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 173.1073, found: 173.1071.

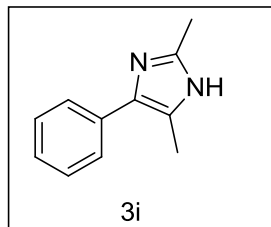
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-1H-imidazole (3h)



Yellow solid; m.p. 178.2-179.6 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 2H), 2.76 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz,

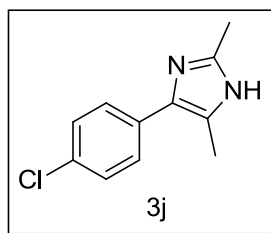
DMSO) δ 160.9, 134.7, 130.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 19.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{11}H_{12}ClN_2$ $[M+H]^+$:207.0684, found: 207.0692.

2,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3i)



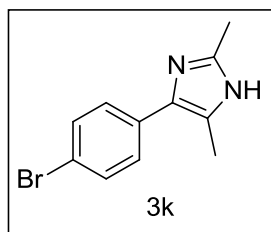
Yellow viscous oil; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 11.45 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 142.9, 130.9, 130.1, 128.7, 127.3, 126.8, 125.2, 12.2, 11.1; IR (KBr) ν : 3441, 3144, 2926, 2855, 1967, 1810, 1638, 1600, 1559, 1443, 1402, 1384, 1261, 1122, 1070, 955, 776, 765, 702 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{11}H_{13}N_2$ $[M+H]^+$:173.1073, found: 173.1073.

4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazole (3j)



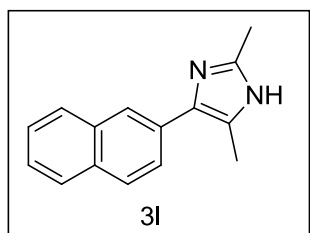
Yellow solid; m.p. 203.5-204.6 $^{\circ}C$; 1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.74 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 142.9, 131.7, 130.0, 128.7, 127.5, 14.2, 11.8; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{11}H_{12}ClN_2$ $[M+H]^+$:207.0684, found: 207.0682.

4-(4-bromophenyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazole (3k)



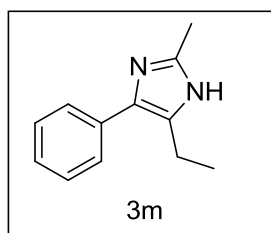
Yellow solid; m.p.202.2-203.8 $^{\circ}C$; 1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.53 (s, 4H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 142.8, 131.7, 127.9, 118.5, 14.1, 12.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $C_{11}H_{12}BrN_2$ $[M+H]^+$:251.0178, found: 251.0180.

2,5-dimethyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (3l)



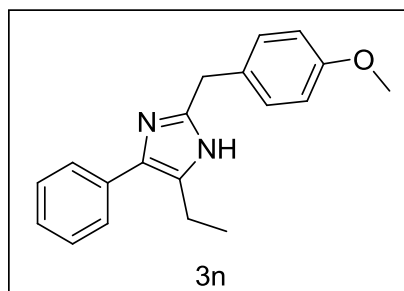
Yellow solid; m.p.236.3-238.6 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.91 (ddd, *J* = 21.6, 10.5, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 4H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, MeOD) δ 143.2, 134.0, 132.2, 130.0, 129.5, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 125.8, 125.6, 125.5, 124.9, 11.8, 9.74; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺:223.1230, found: 223.1225.

5-ethyl-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (3m)



Yellow viscous oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.28 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 131.4, 131.3, 129.9, 128.7, 127.3, 127.1, 18.7, 14.1, 12.5; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₂H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 187.1230, found: 187.1236.

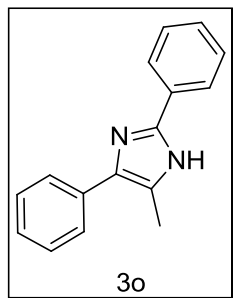
5-ethyl-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole (3n)



Yellow viscous oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.78 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.70 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 146.1, 130.0, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.1, 127.0, 114.1, 55.2, 32.6, 18.9, 14.1; IR

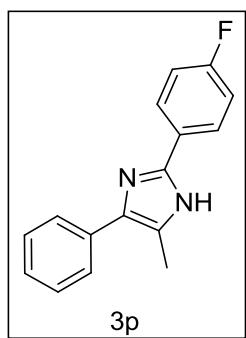
(KBr) ν : 3436, 3144, 2963, 2928, 2363, 1953, 1602, 1558, 1512, 1453, 1381, 1248, 1125, 1072, 1033, 823, 761, 699 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 293.1648, found: 293.1646.

5-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (3o)



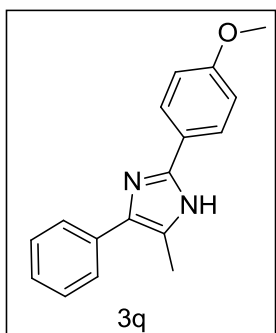
White solid; m.p. 180.2-182.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Lit.^[3] 180-184 $^{\circ}\text{C}$); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.2, 131.1, 129.2, 128.9, 128.3, 126.6, 126.3, 125.1, 12.1; IR (KBr) ν : 3441, 3075, 3030, 2960, 2772, 2691, 2634, 2588, 1934, 1880, 1643, 1496, 1460, 1408, 1326, 1280, 1159, 1128, 975, 917, 768, 695 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 235.1230, found: 235.1235.

2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (4p)



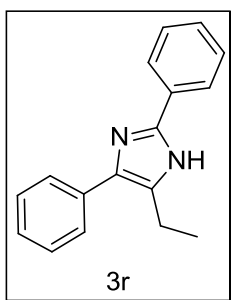
Yellow solid; m.p. 78.6-81.2 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (dd, $J = 8.6, 5.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.8, 161.8, 144.5, 132.9, 128.6, 127.2, 126.9, 126.7, 126.4, 115.8, 115.7, 12.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 253.1136, found: 253.1146.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (3q)



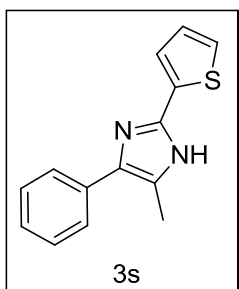
Yellow solid; m.p. 72.1-73.6 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.39 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 145.6, 133.3, 133.0, 128.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.4, 123.2, 114.1, 55.3, 12.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 265.1335, found: 265.1335

5-ethyl-2,4-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (3r)



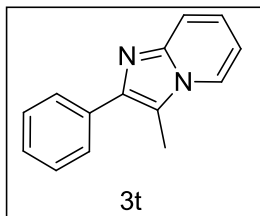
Light yellow solid; m.p. 188.1-189.2 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 12.34 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 2H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 16.7, 8.9$ Hz, 4H), 7.33 (ddd, $J = 44.7, 19.7, 18.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.84-2.64 (m, 2H), 1.28 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.2, 136.3, 136.0, 131.1, 130.8, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 126.7, 126.3, 125.2, 18.9, 14.9; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 249.1386, found: 249.1380.

5-methyl-4-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (3s)



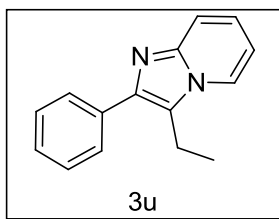
Light yellow solid; m.p. 211.6-213.7 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 4.7, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.9, 133.5, 132.7, 128.6, 127.7, 126.9, 126.6, 125.5, 124.0, 12.4; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₂S [M+H]⁺: 241.0794, found: 241.0795.

3-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (3t)



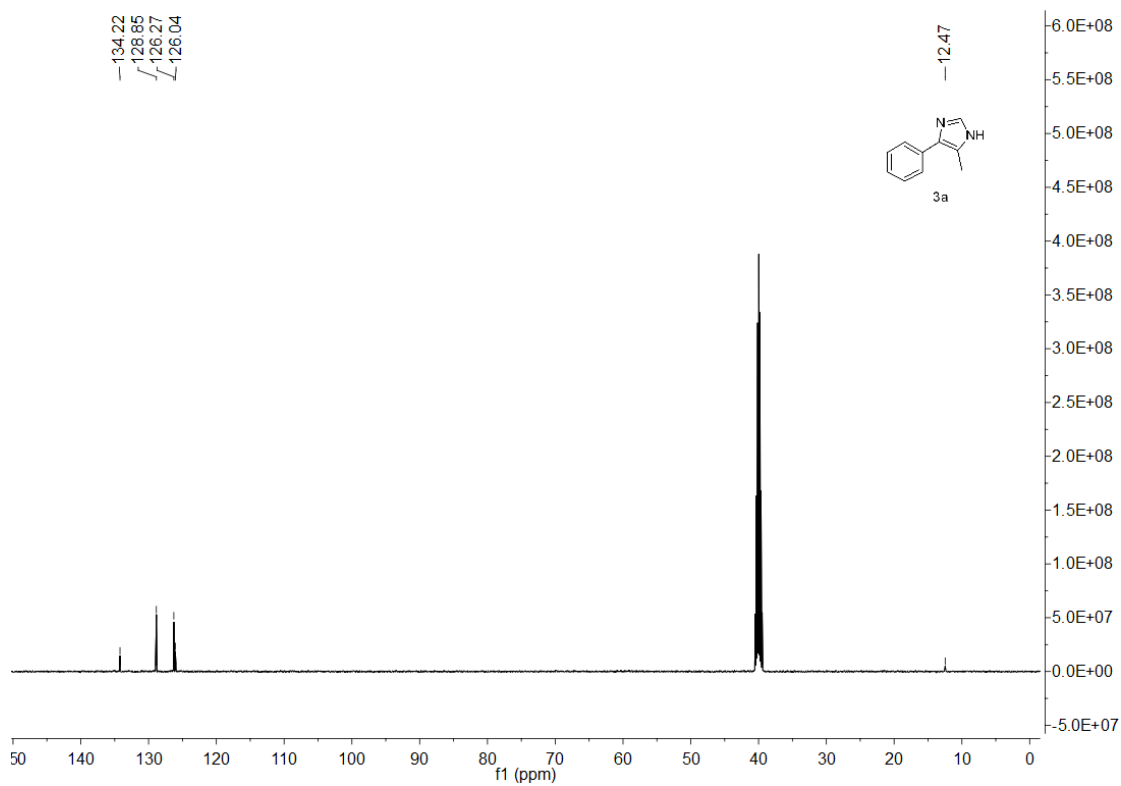
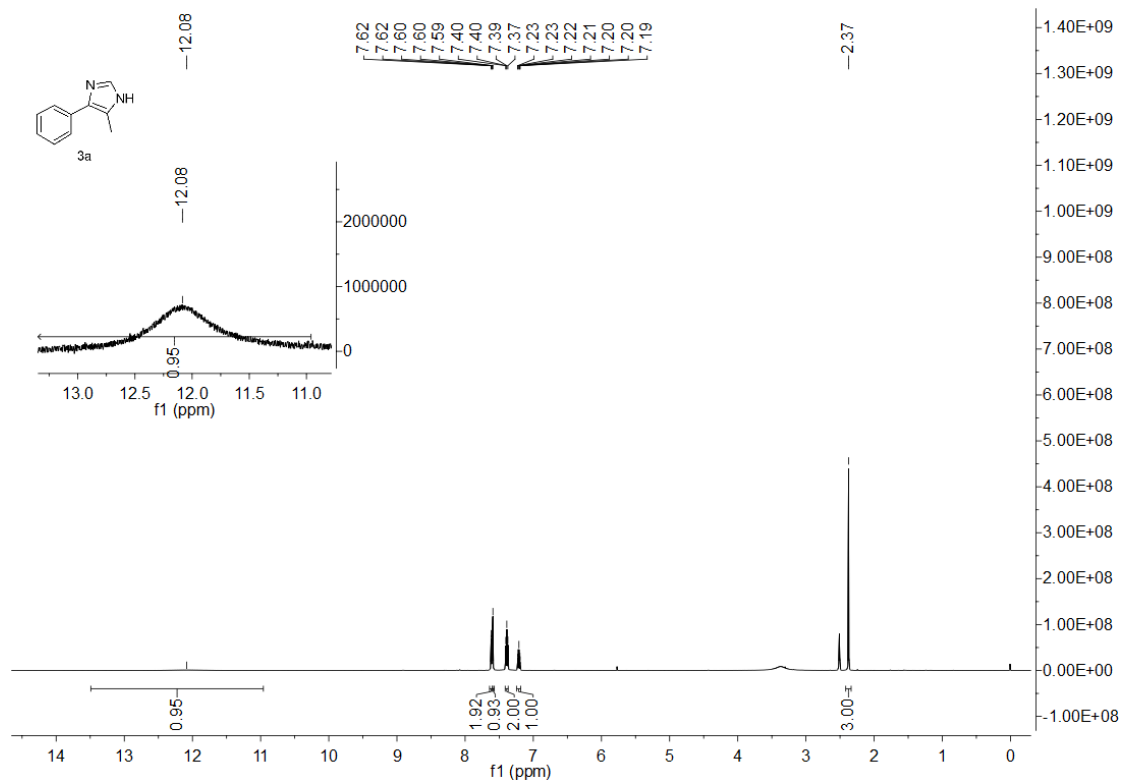
Yellow solid; m.p. 157.2-158.3 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.26 (dt, *J* = 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.24 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 6.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (td, *J* = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 144.1, 140.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.4, 124.8, 123.9, 121.2, 116.9, 112.6, 14.4; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 209.1073, found: 209.1079.

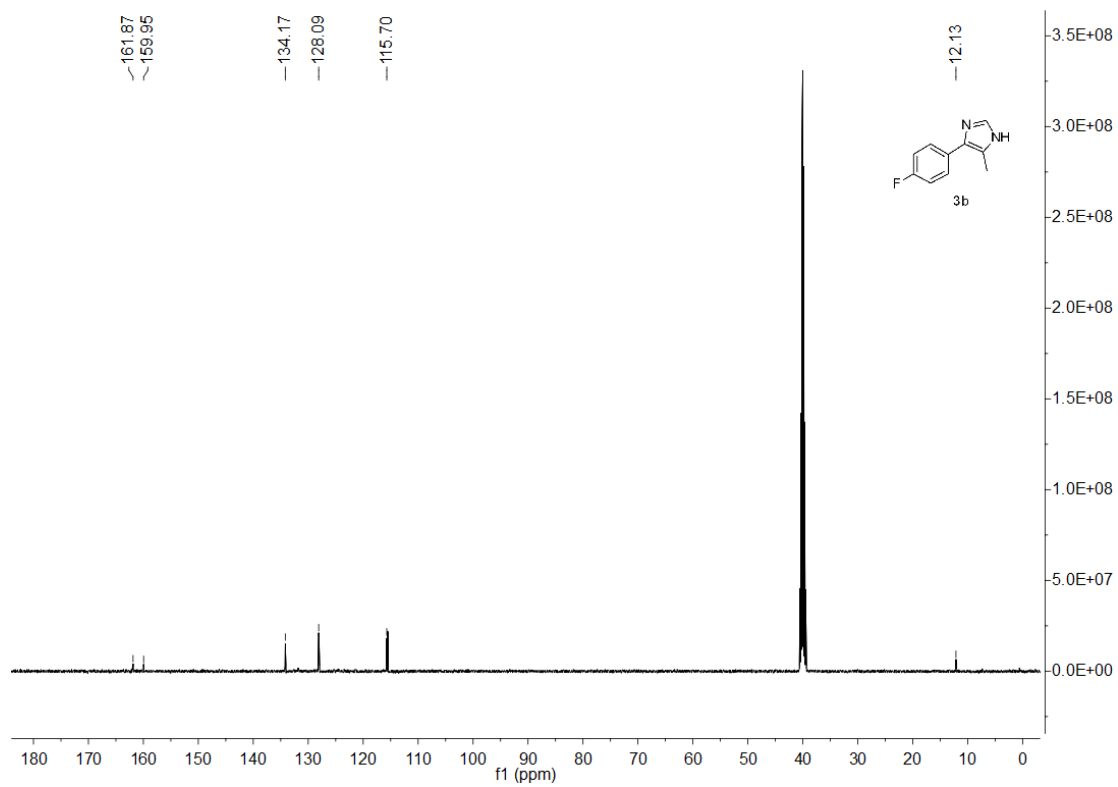
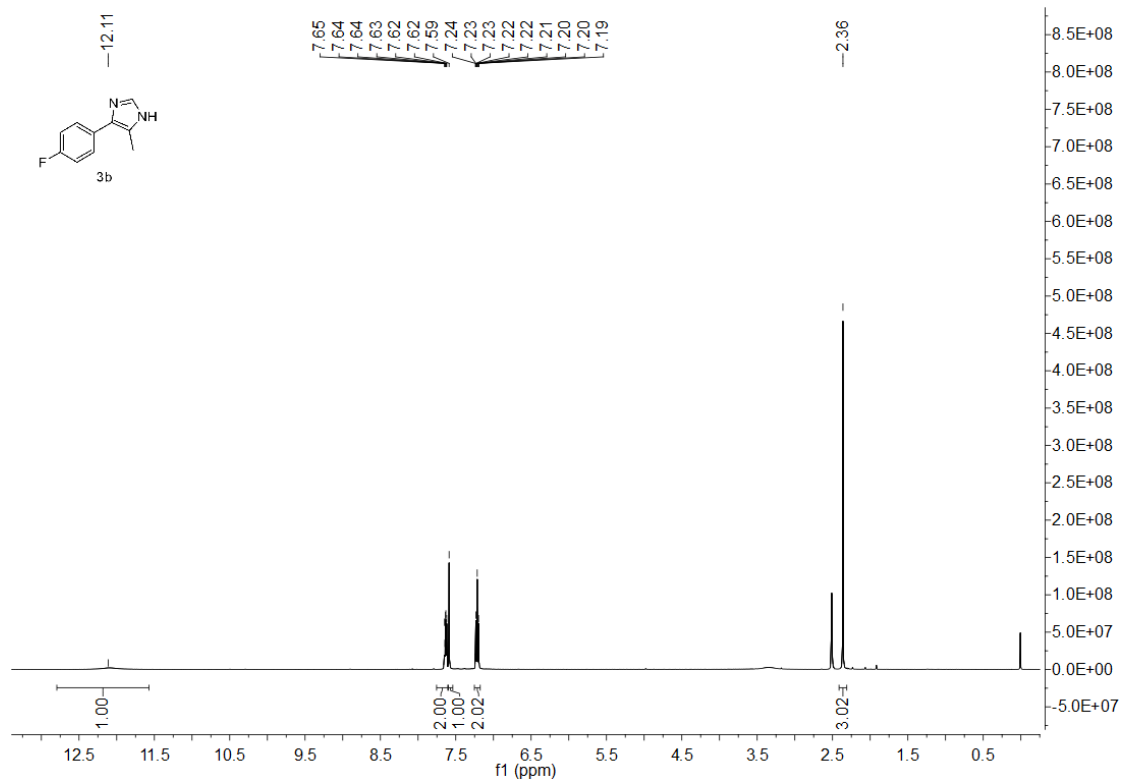
3-ethyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (3u)

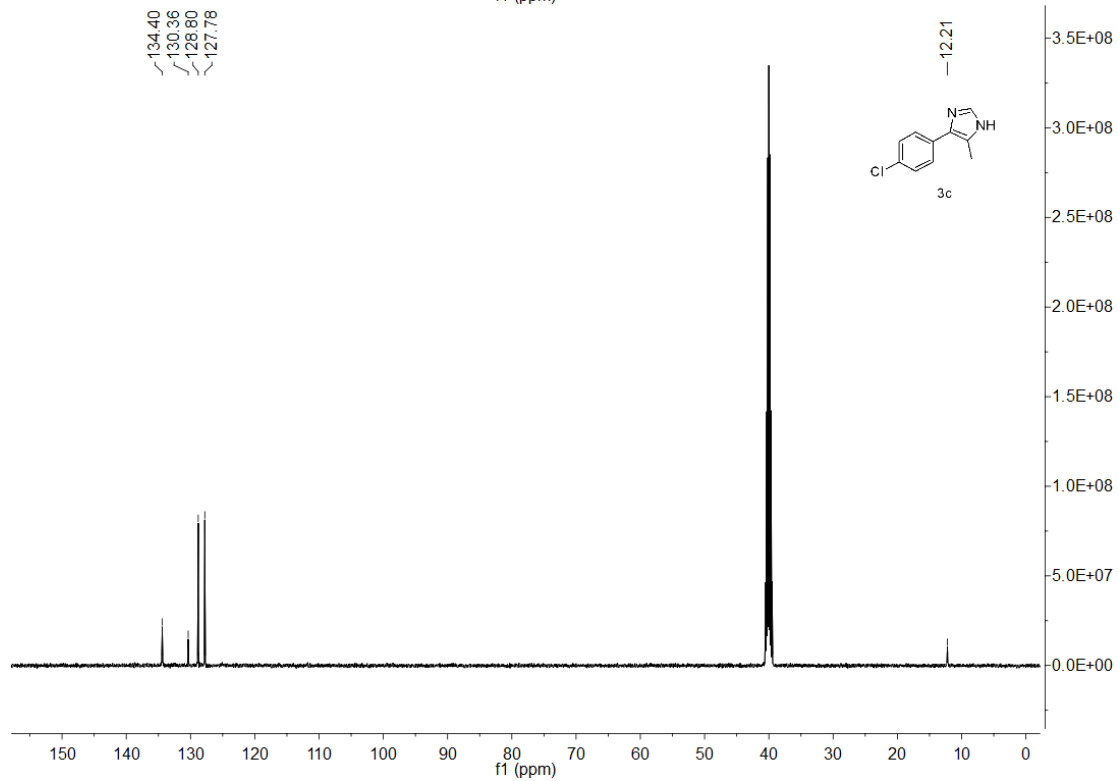
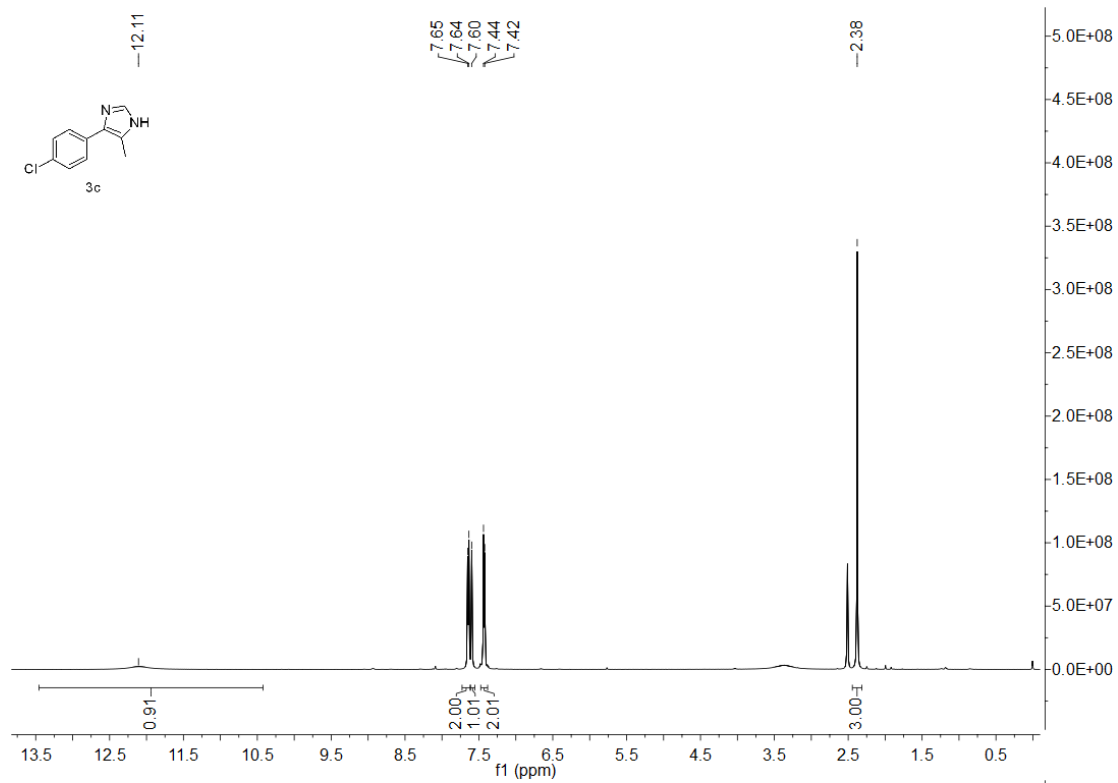


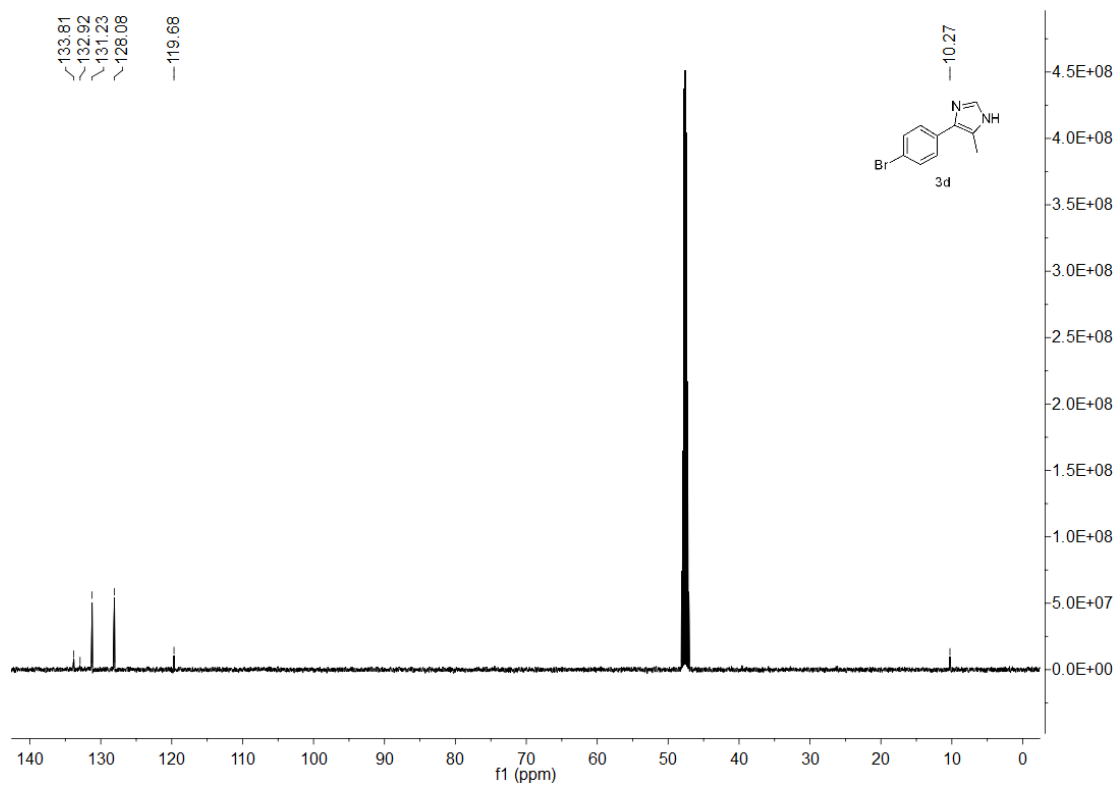
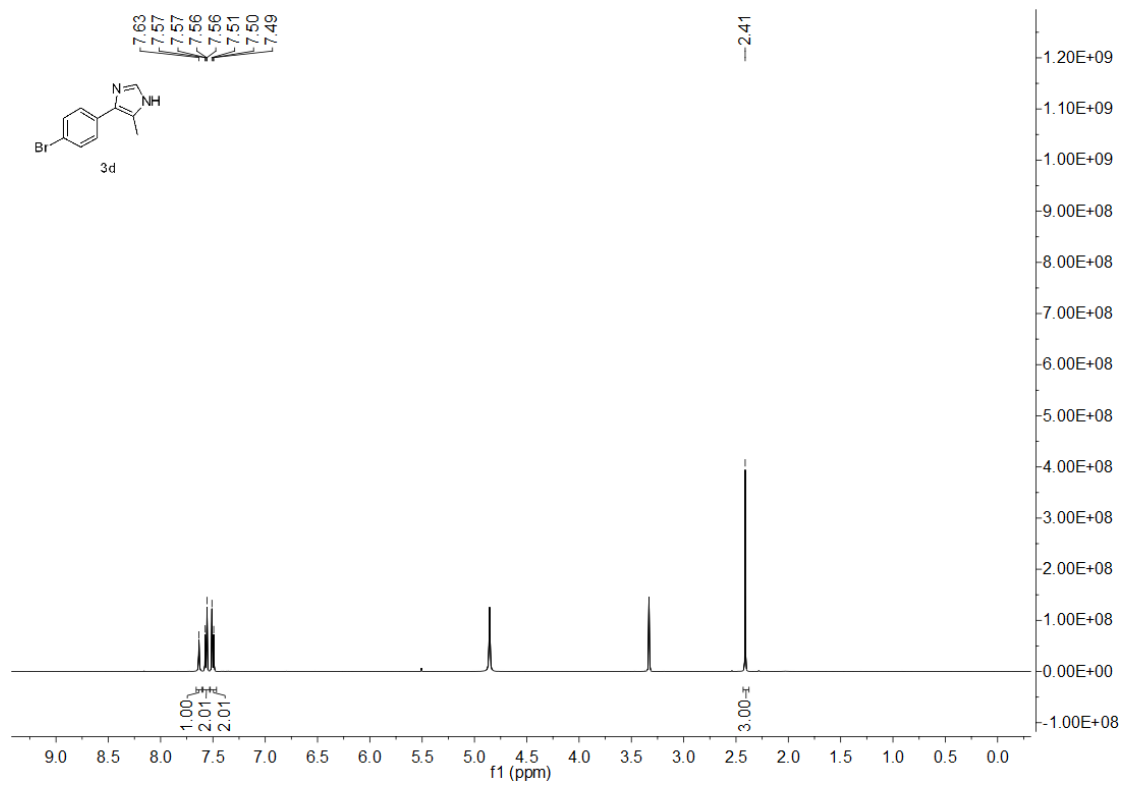
Yellow viscous oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 5.3, 1.2 Hz, 3H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (td, *J* = 6.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.5, 144.6, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 128.2, 126.2, 124.0, 123.1, 117.1, 111.9, 21.1, 14.5; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 223.1230, found: 223.1236.

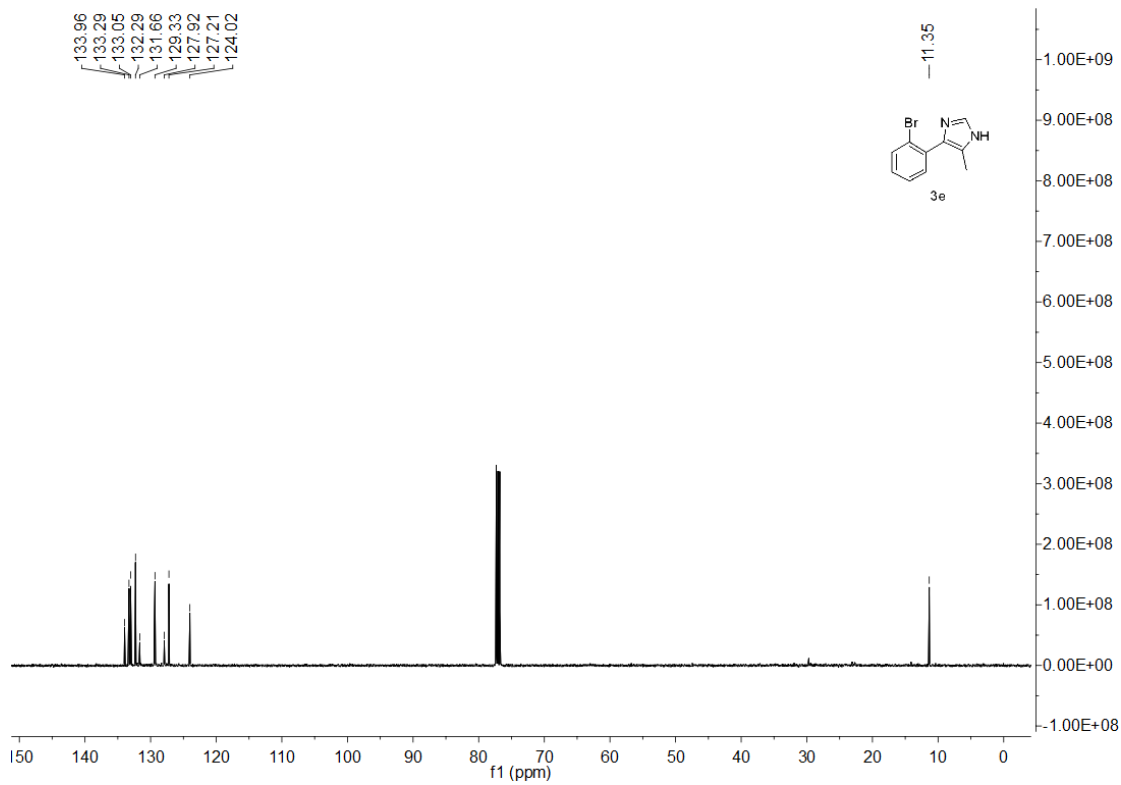
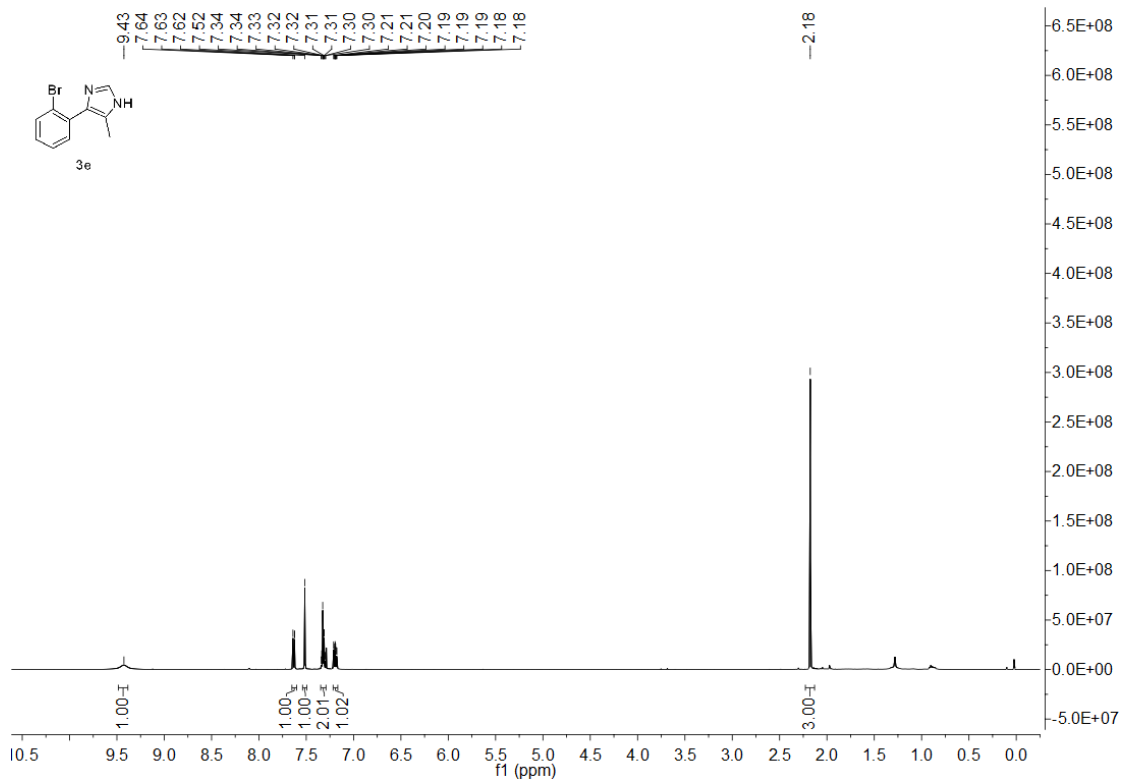
¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) Spectra of 3a-3u:

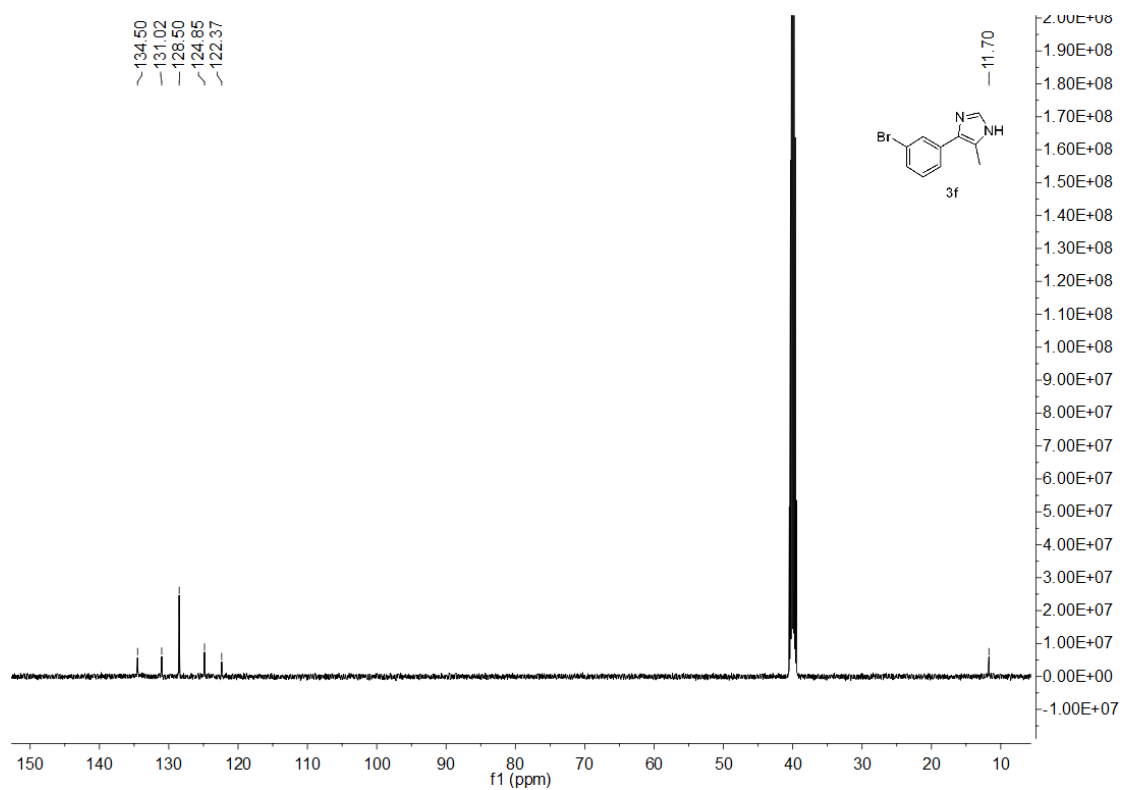
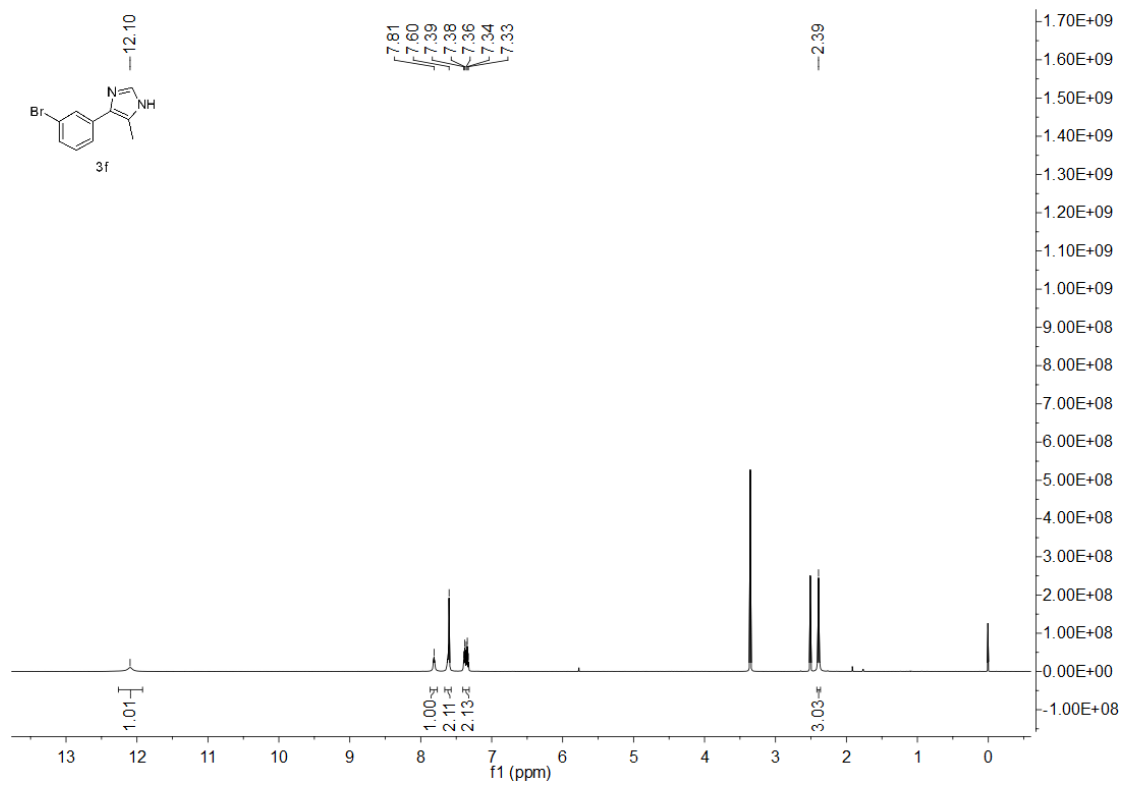


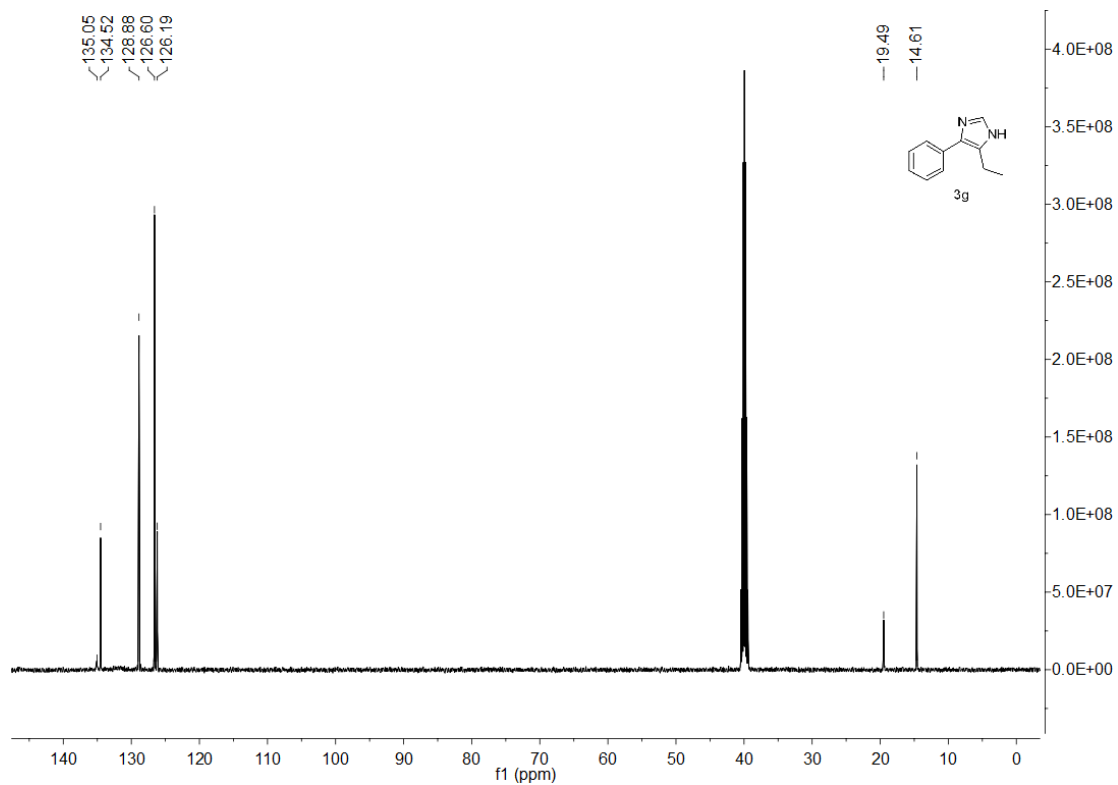
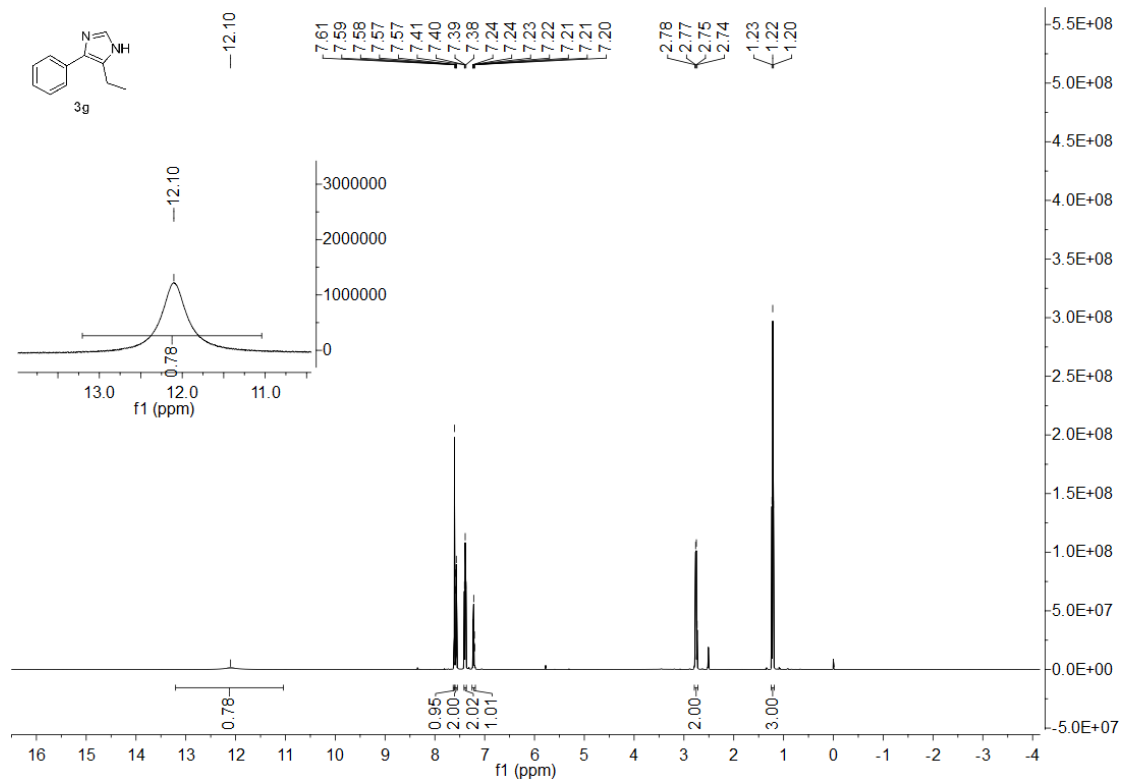


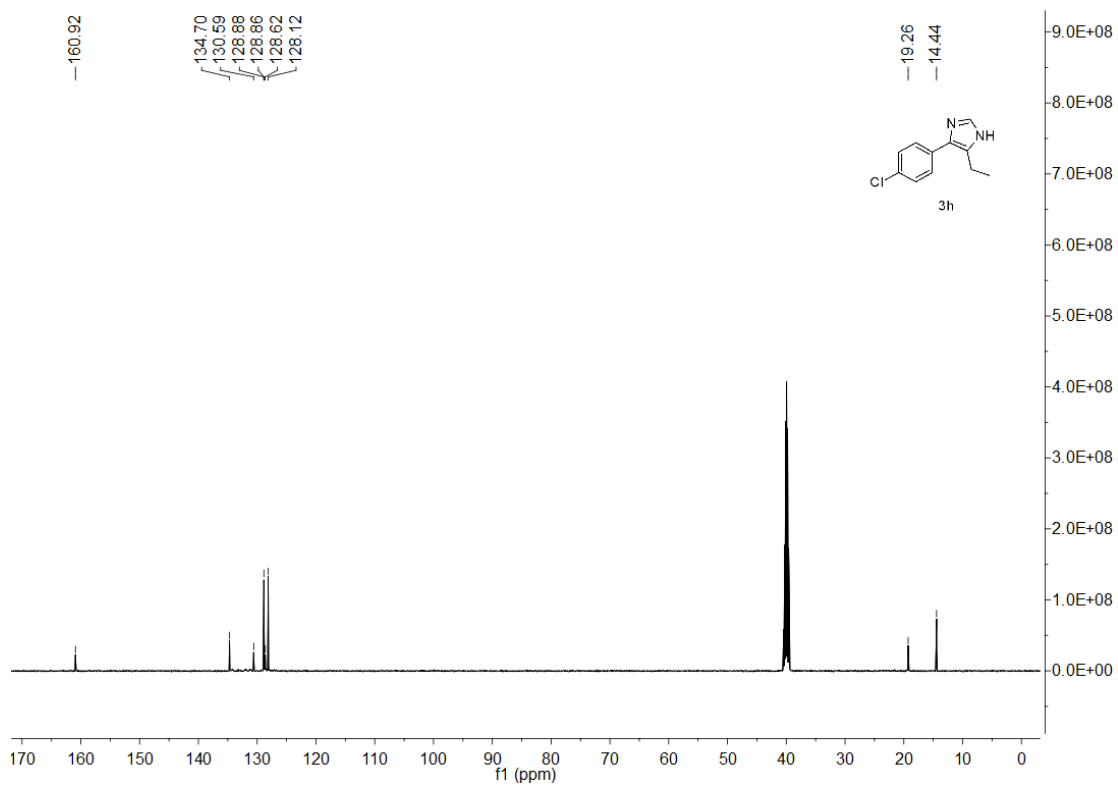
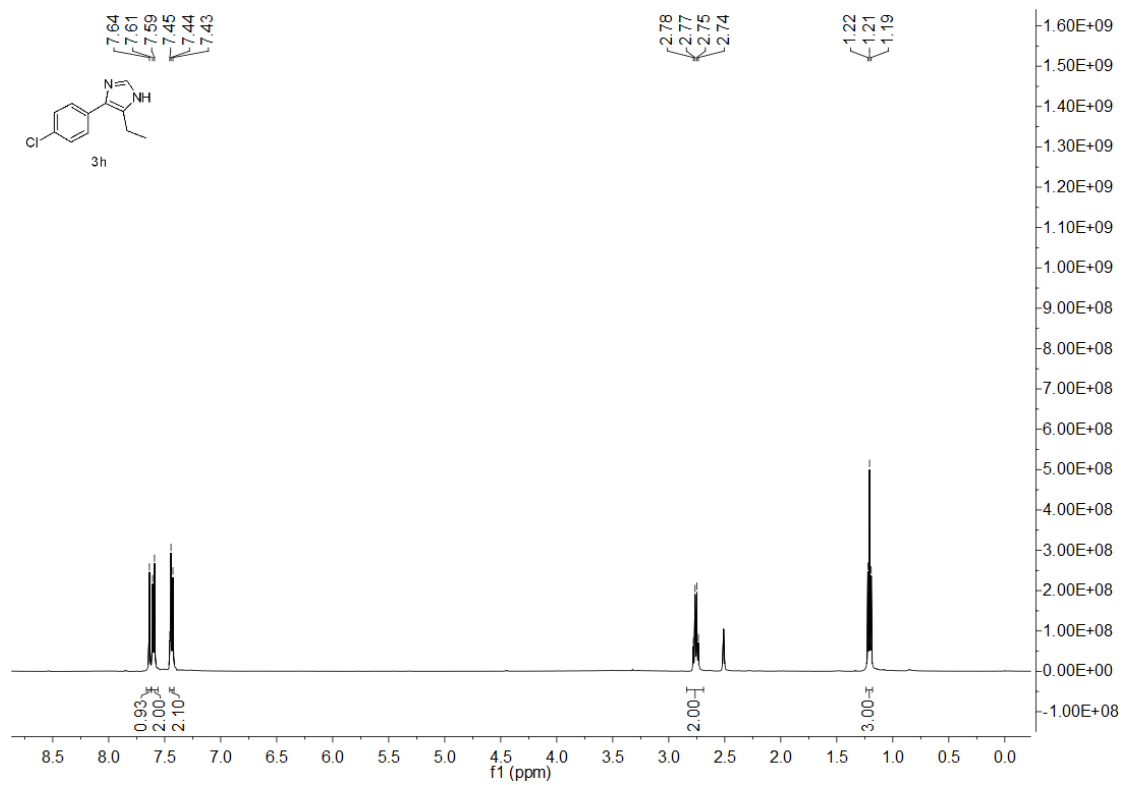


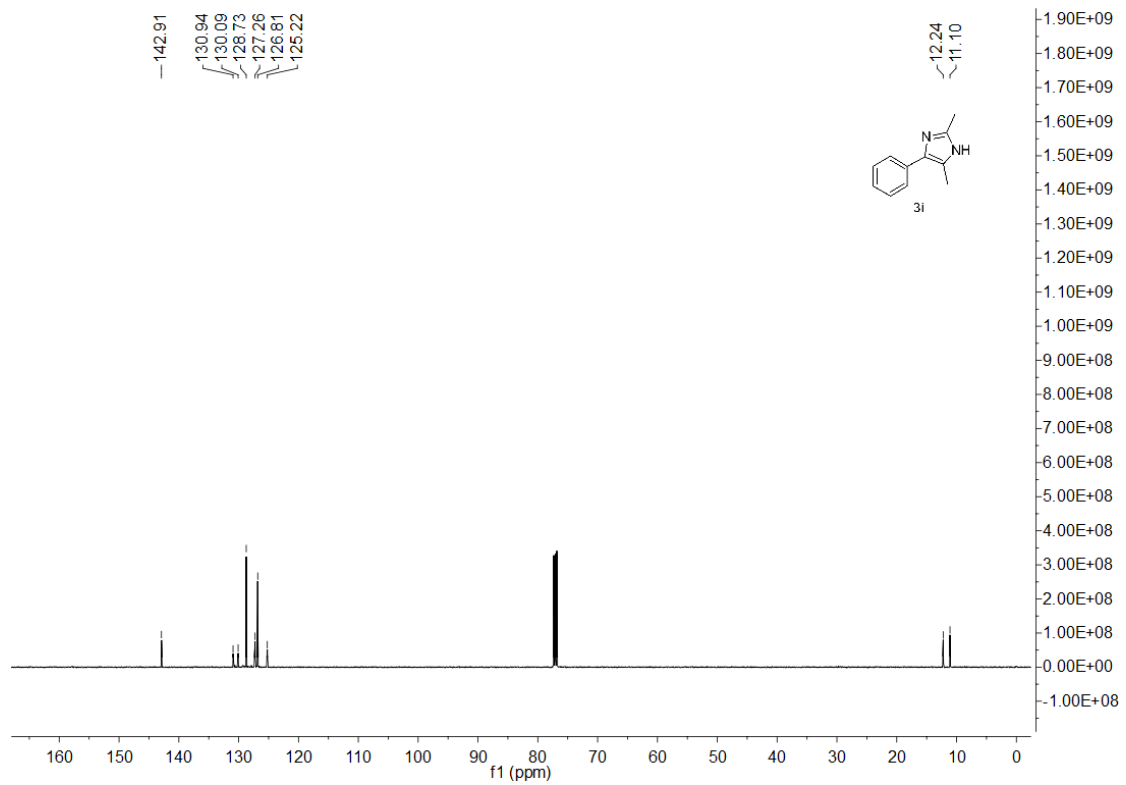
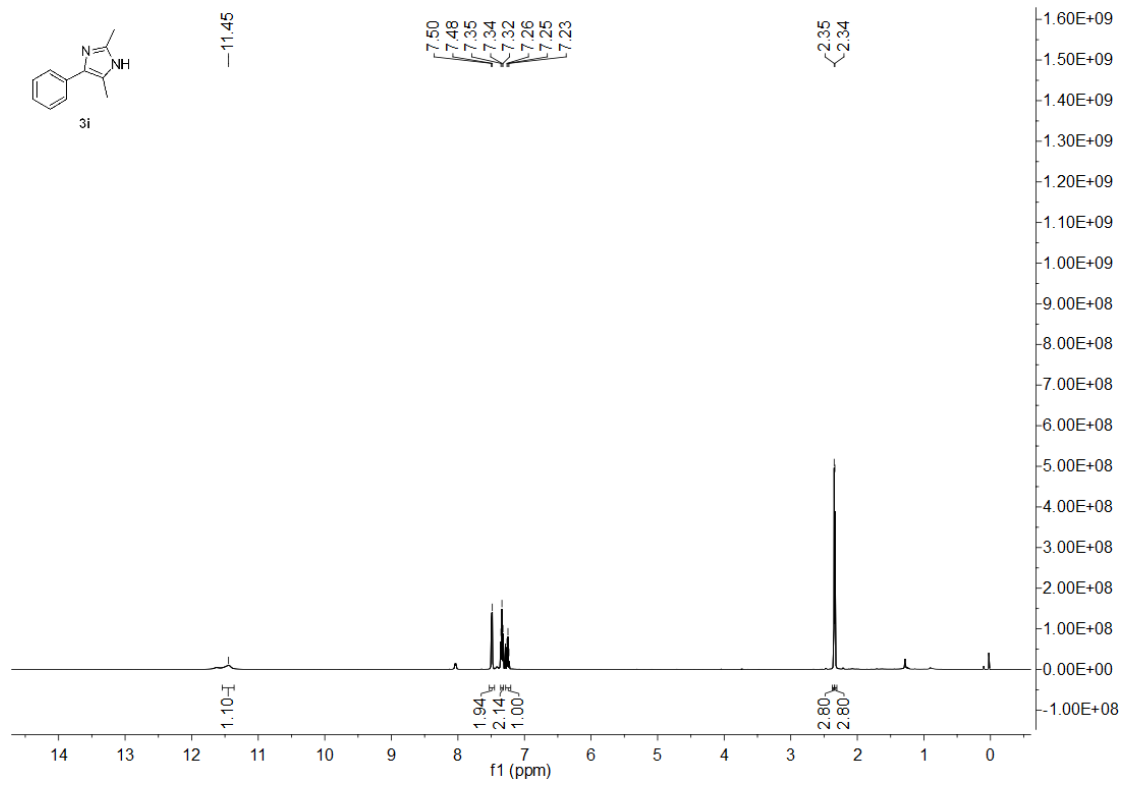


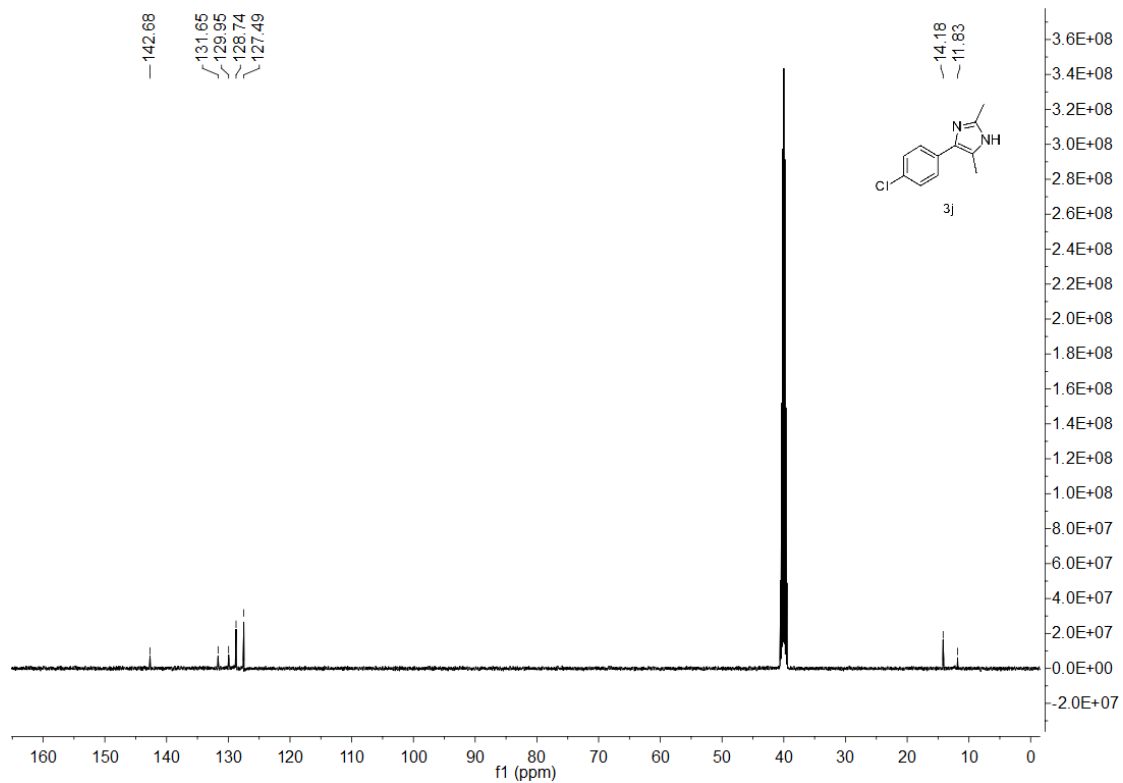
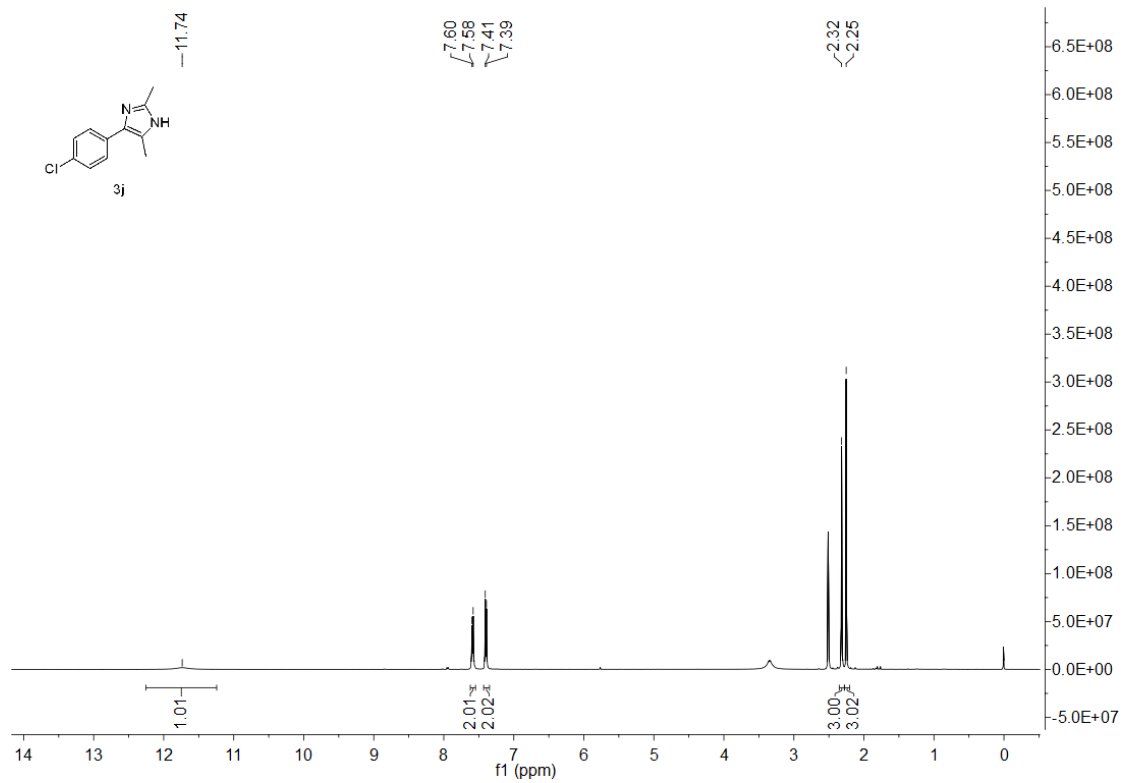


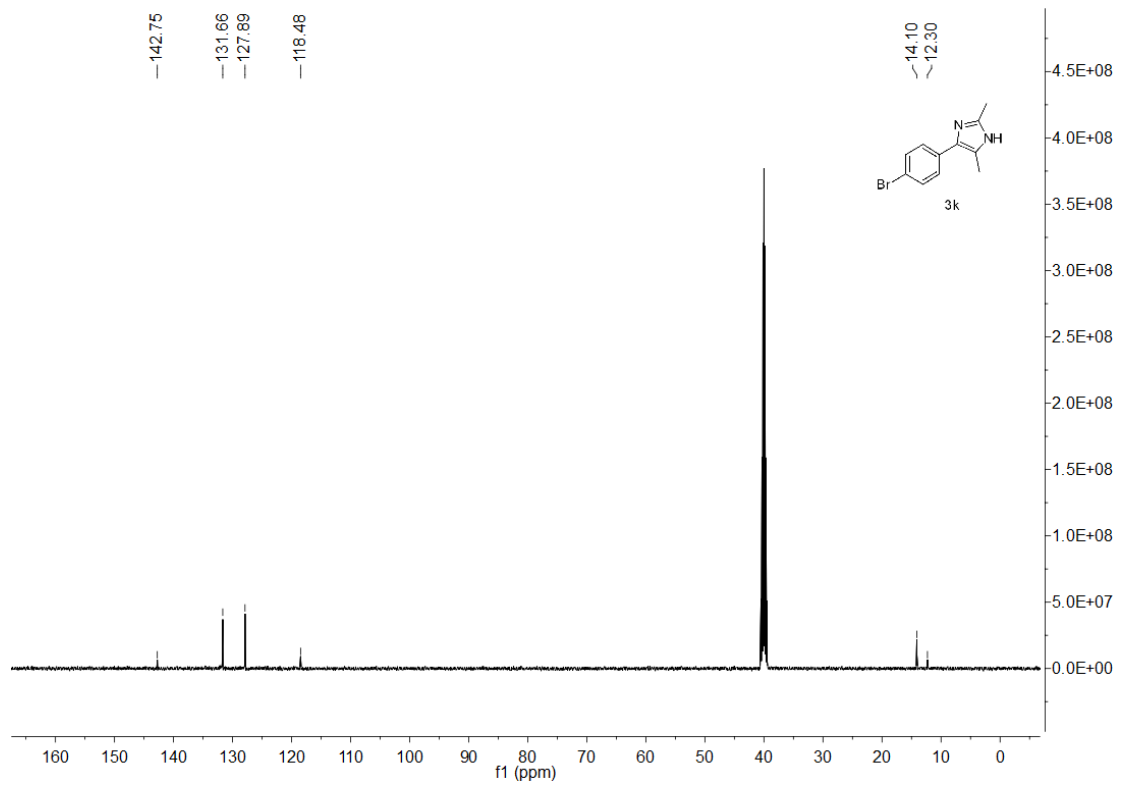
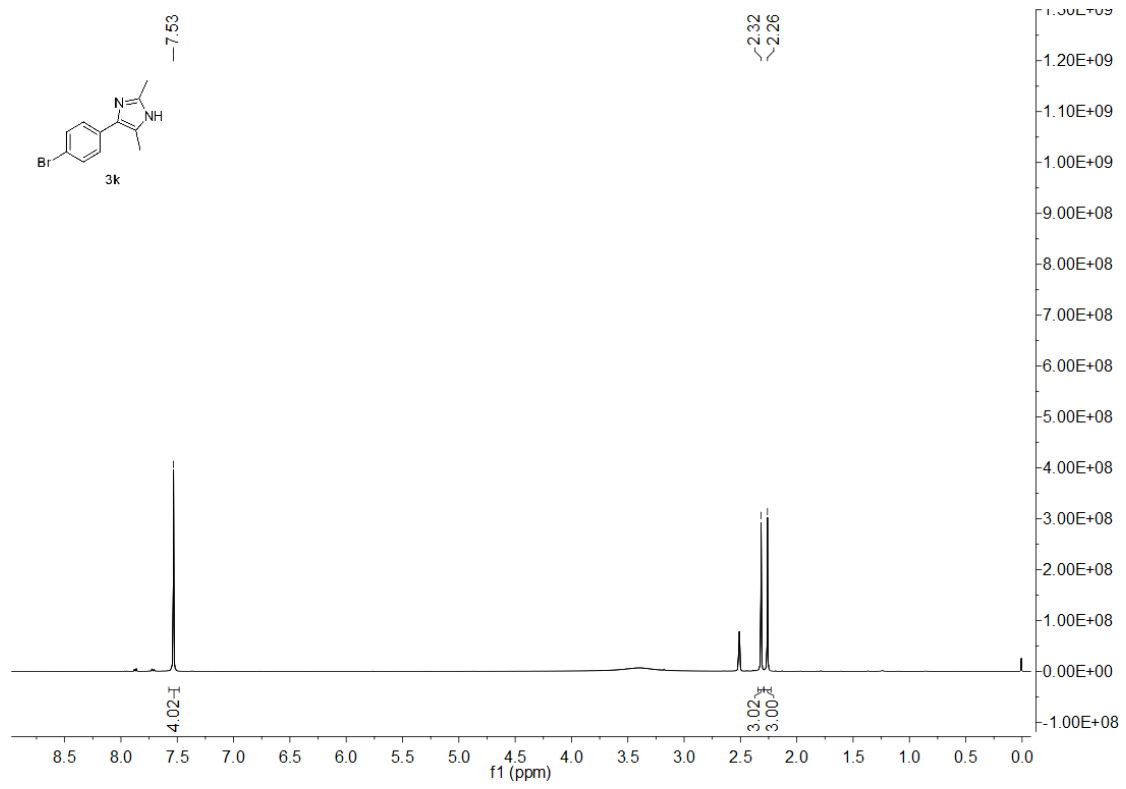


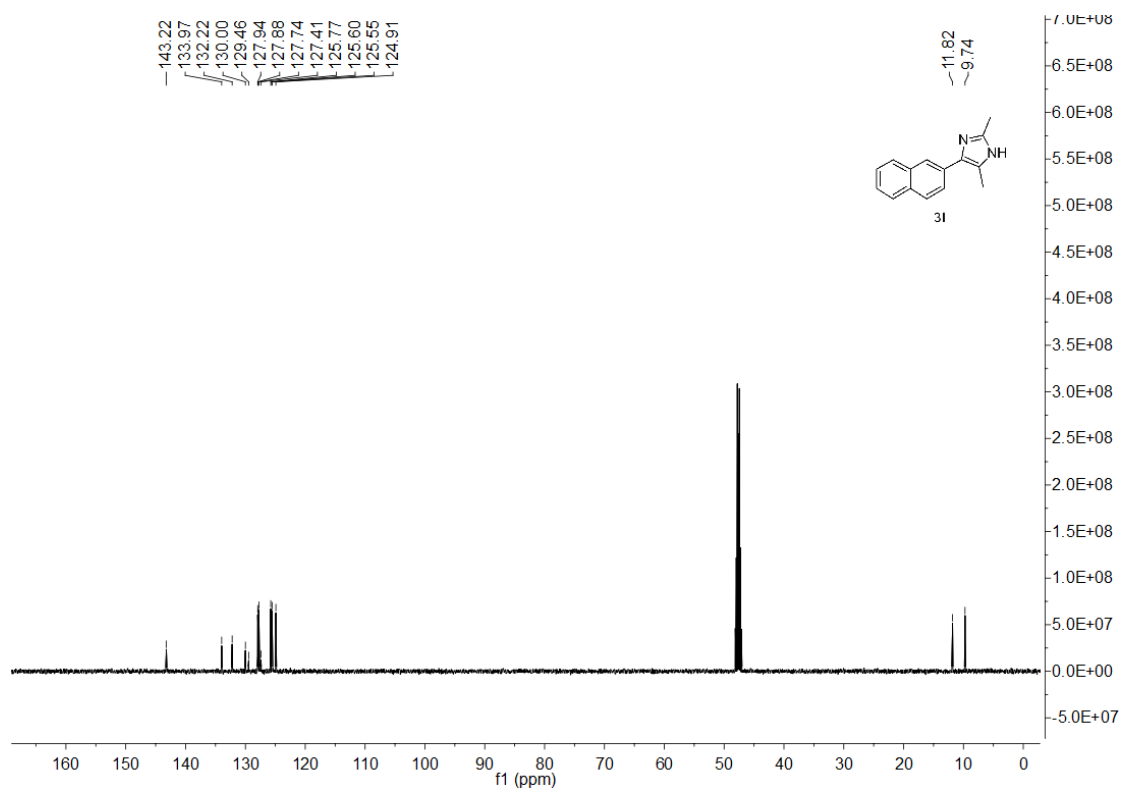
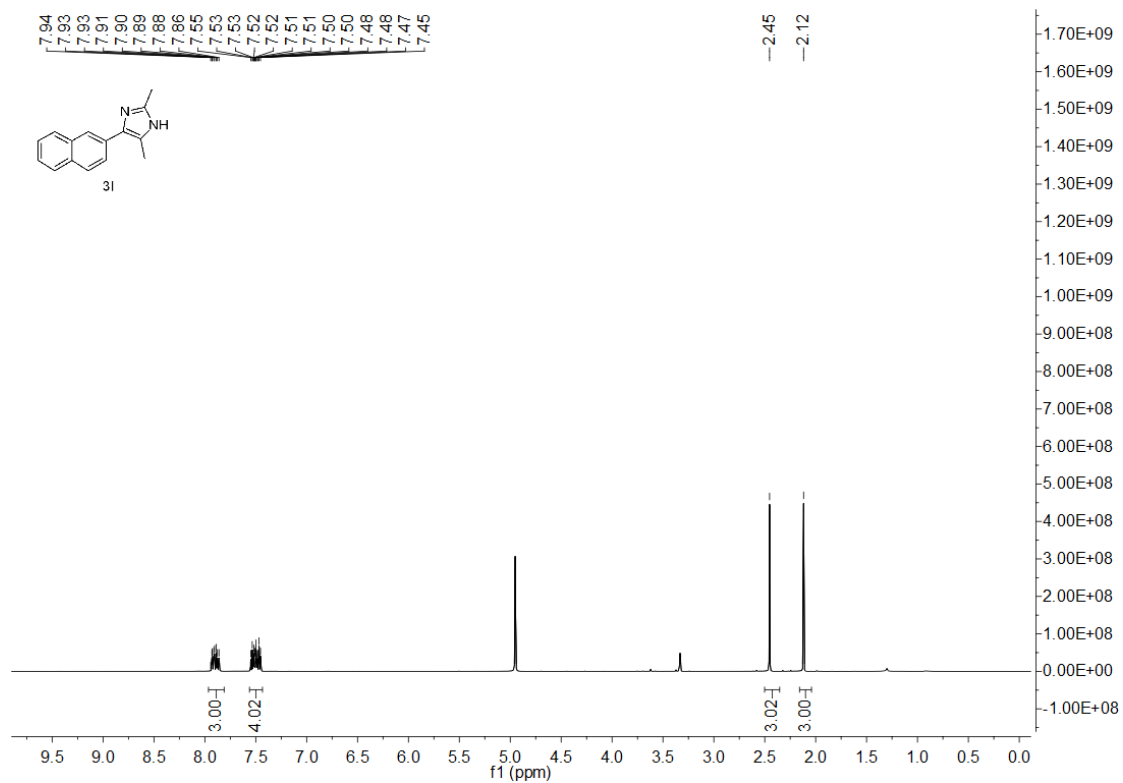


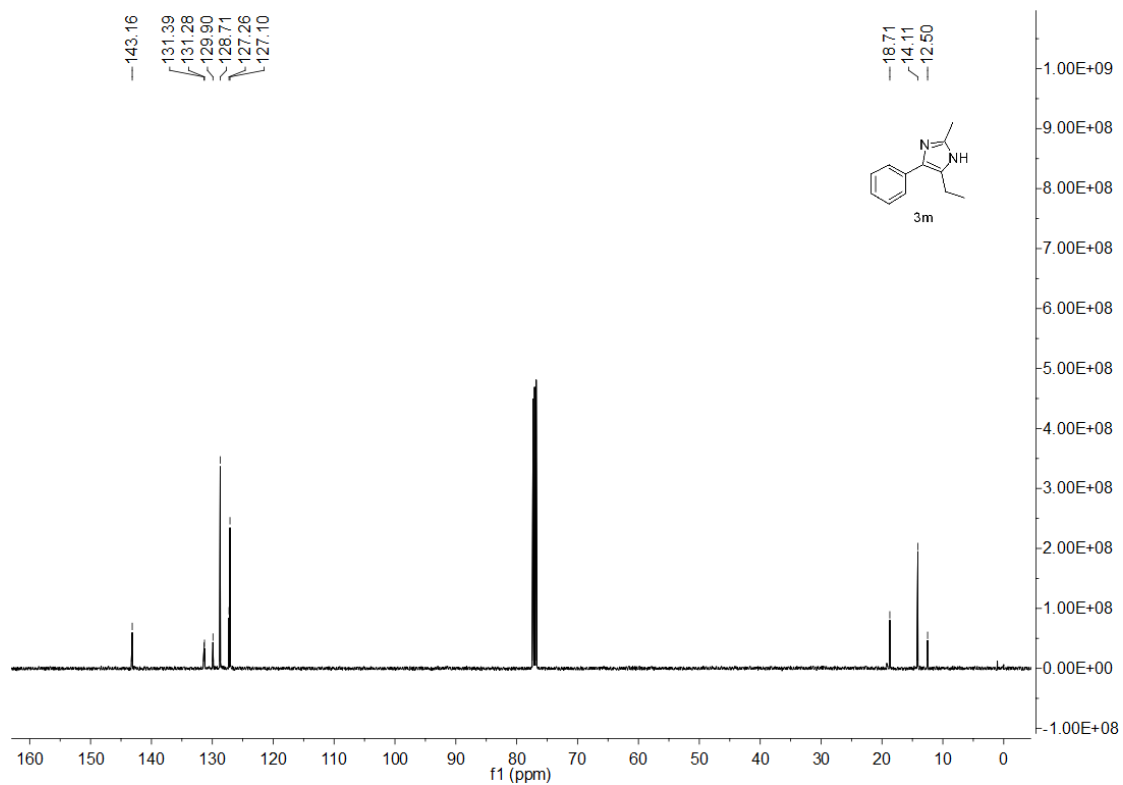
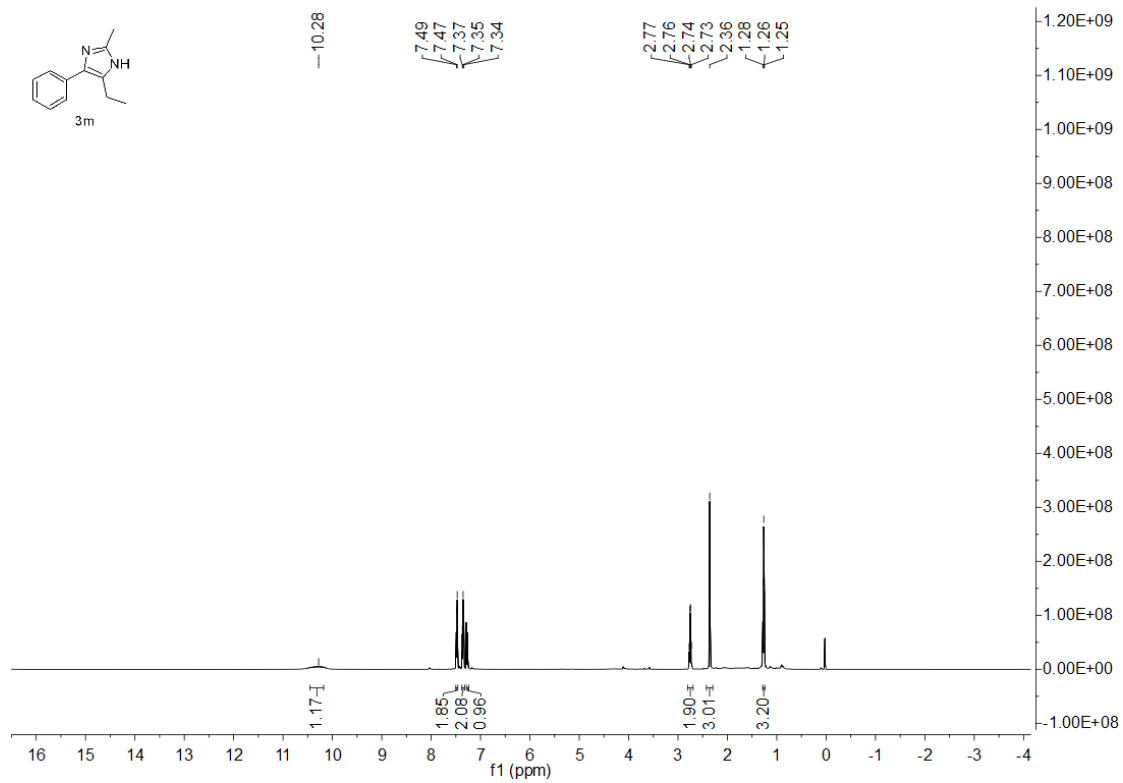


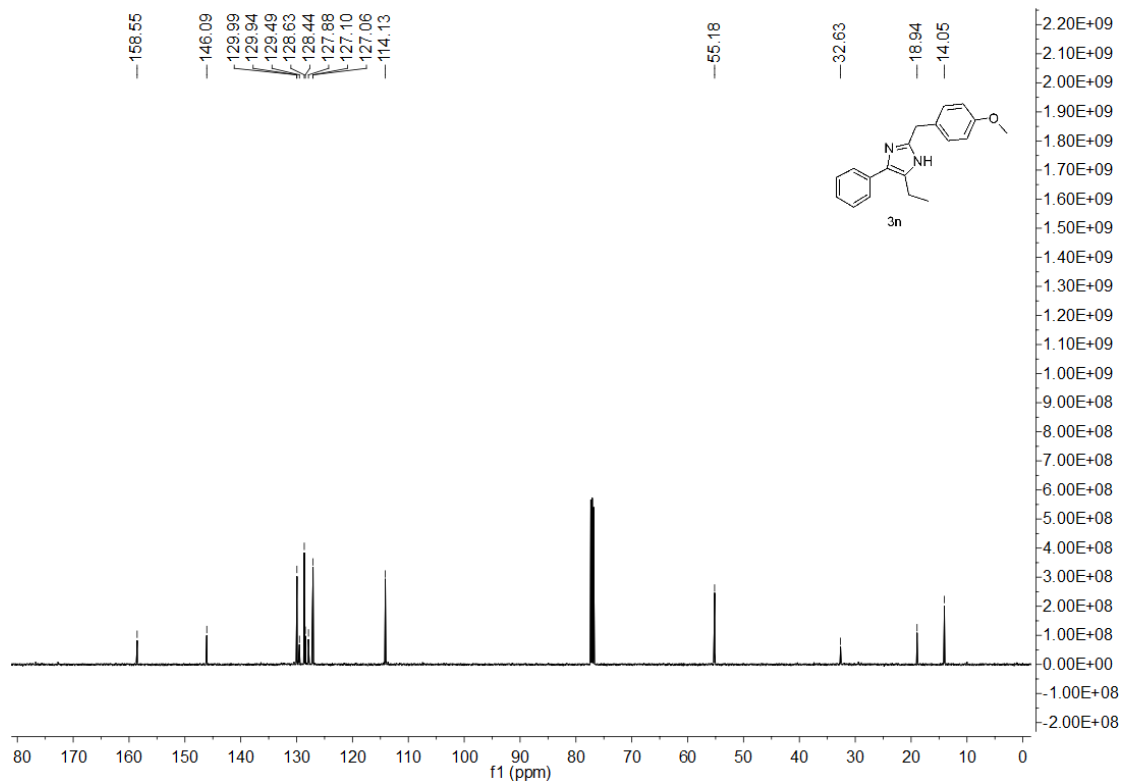
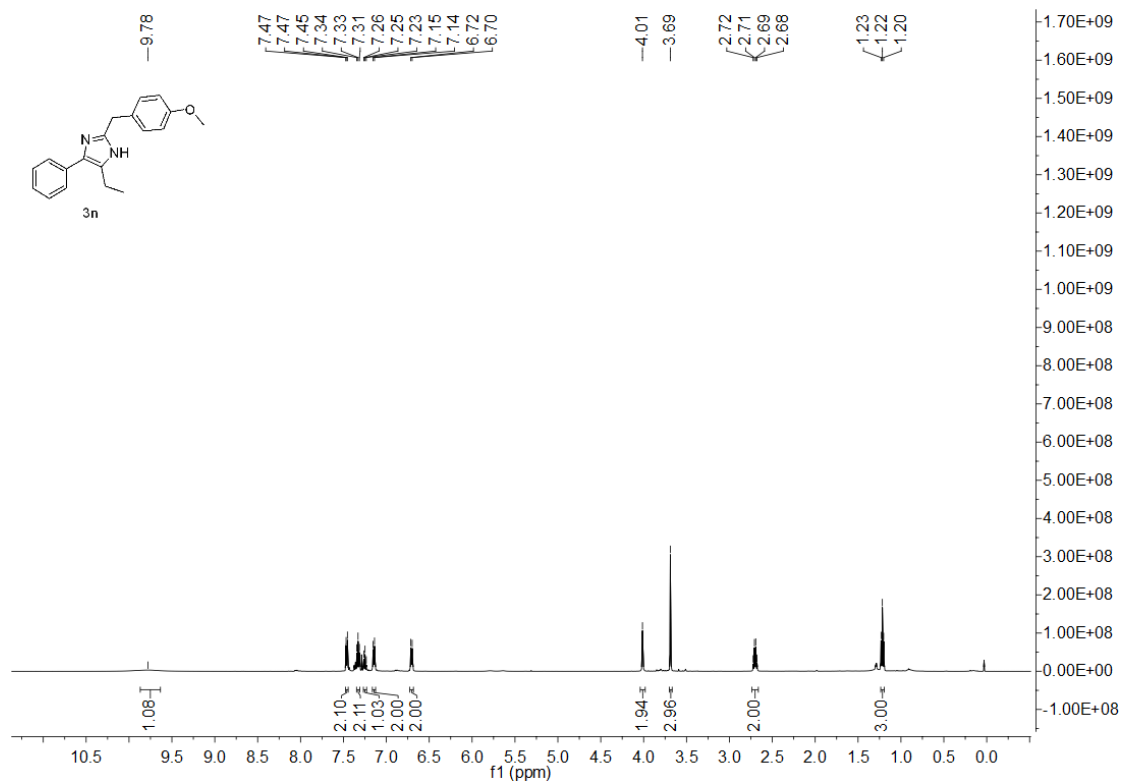


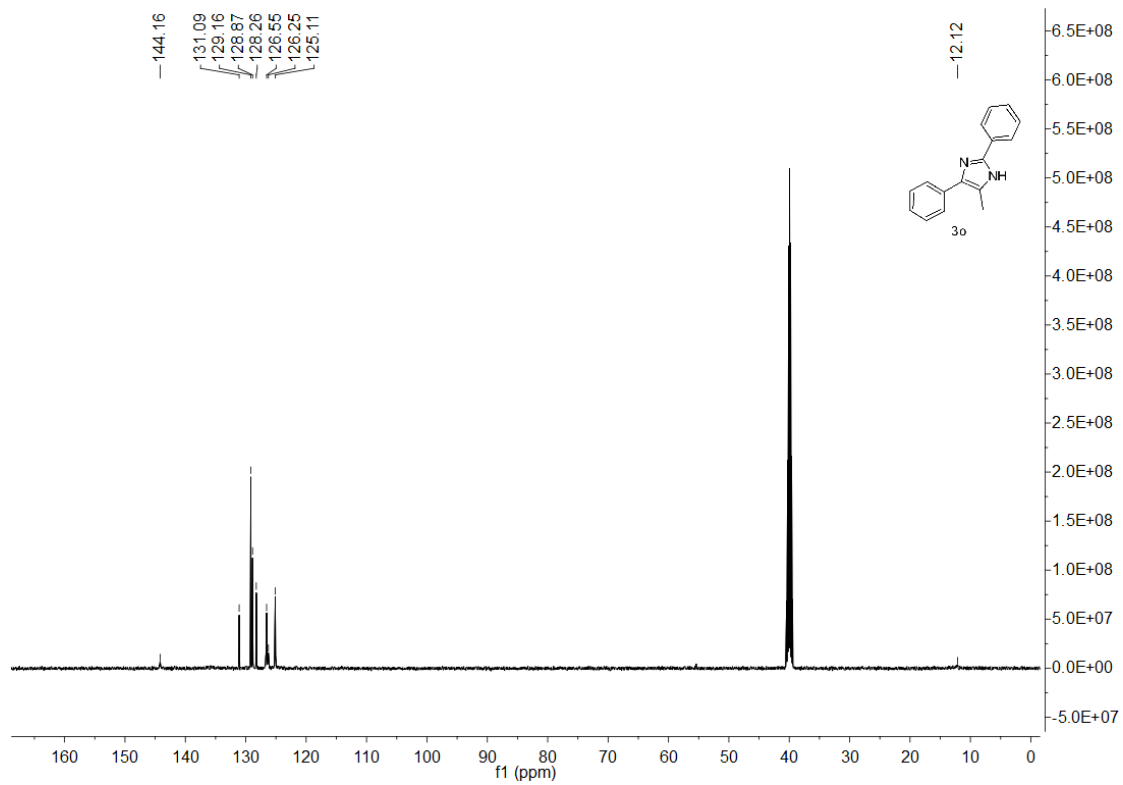
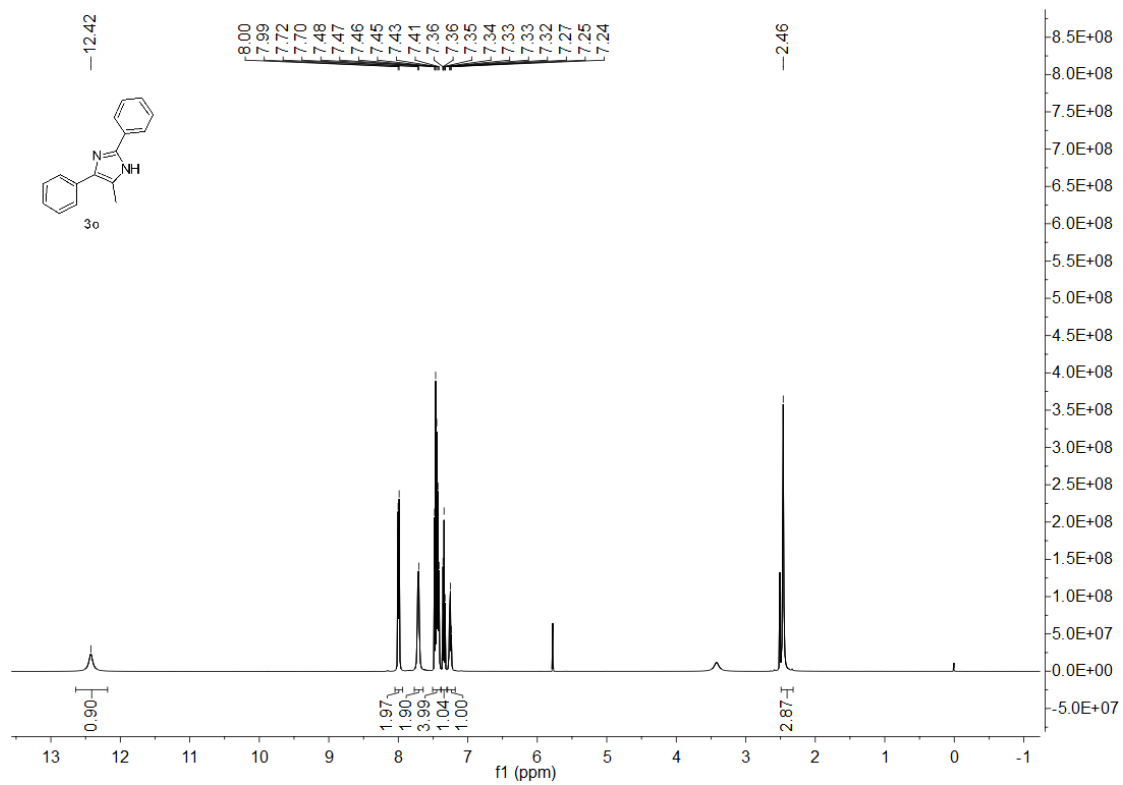


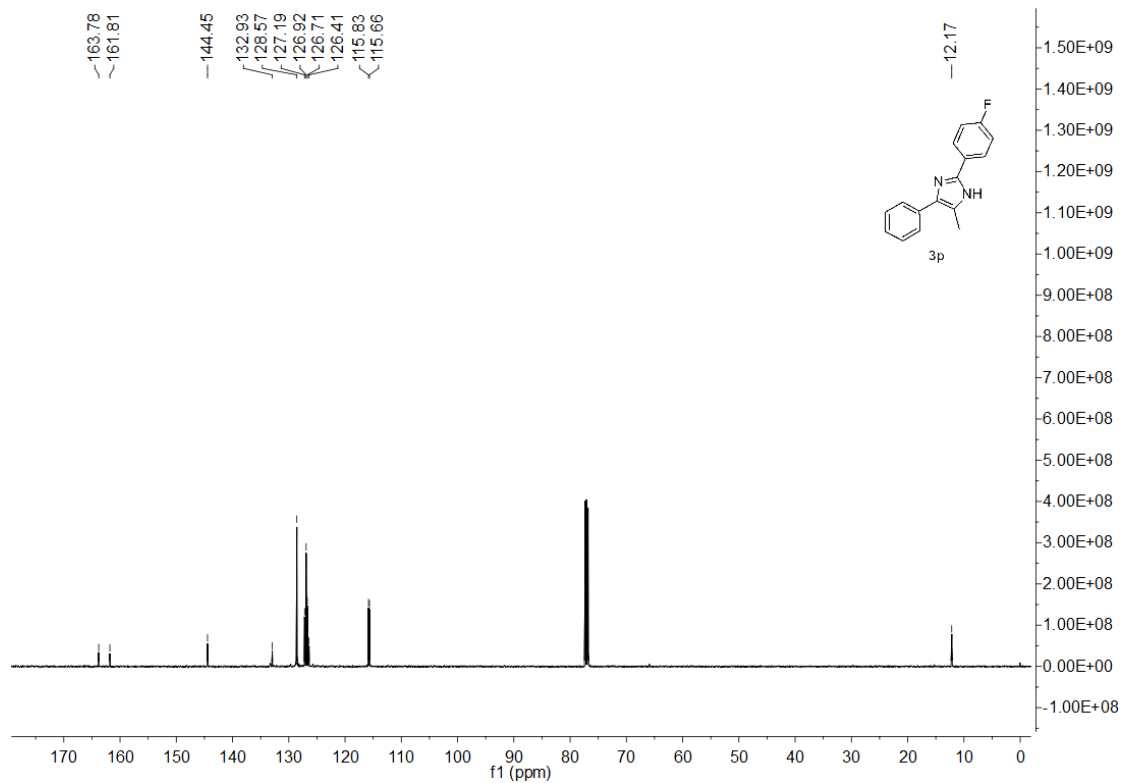
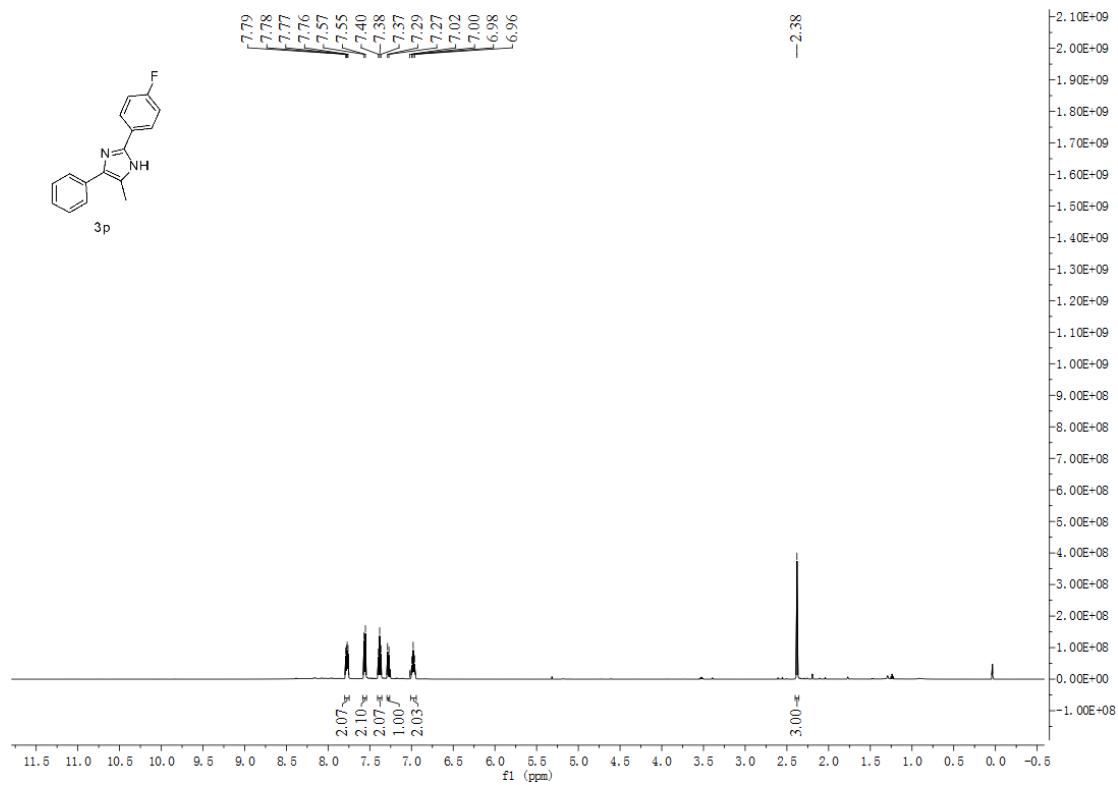


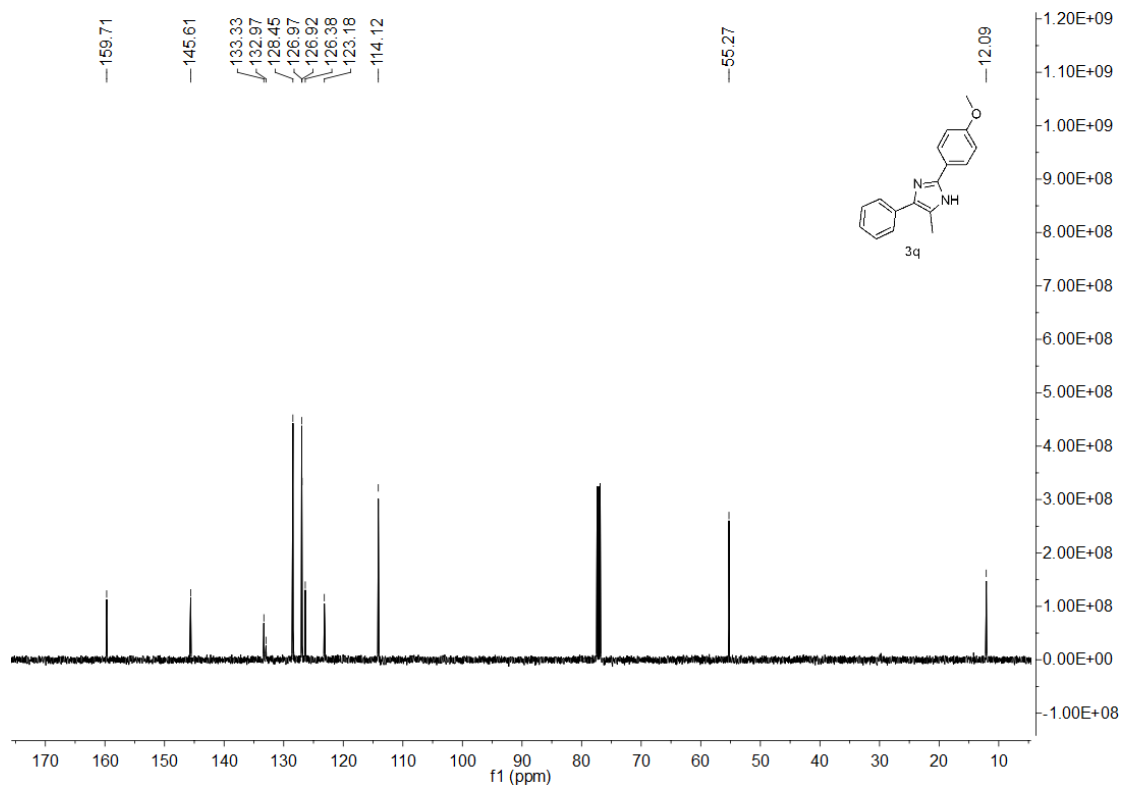
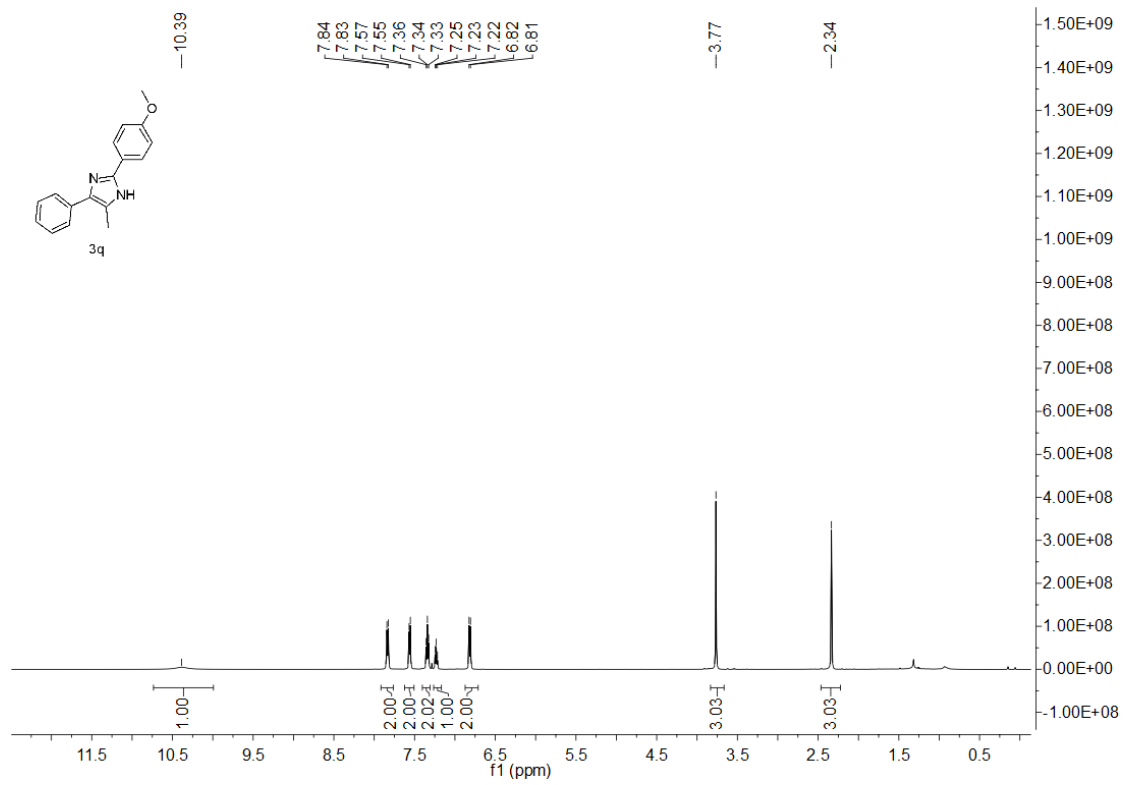


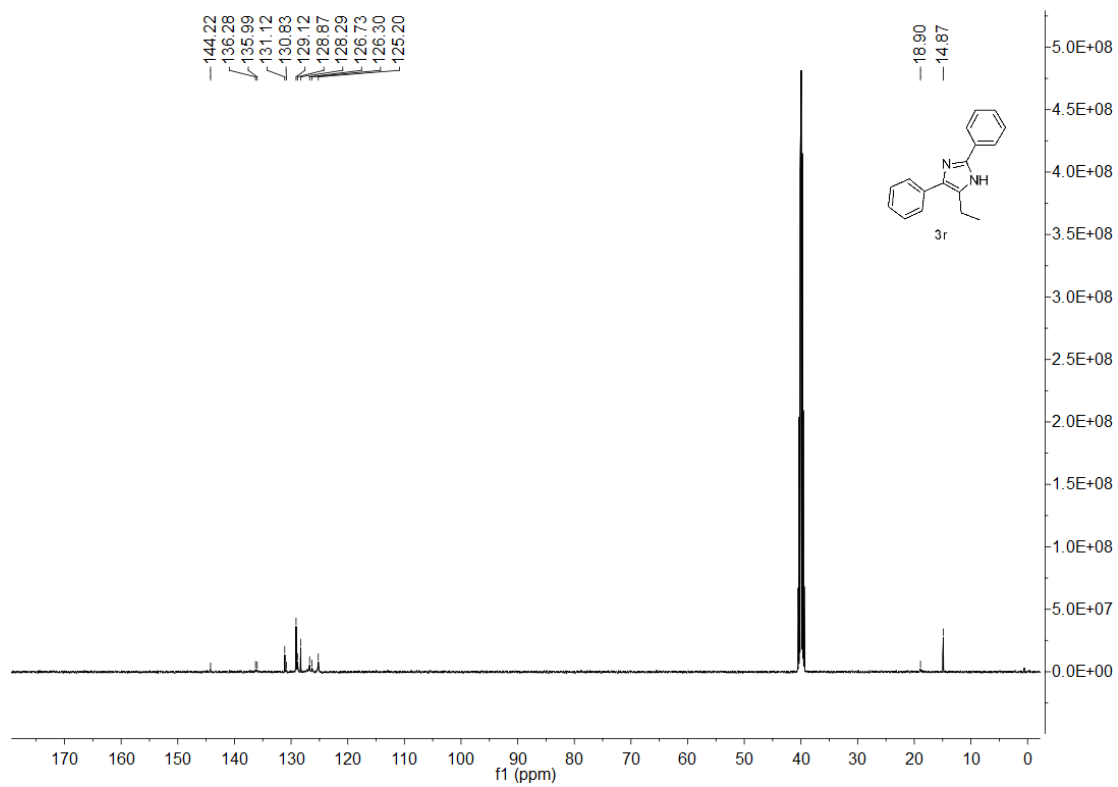
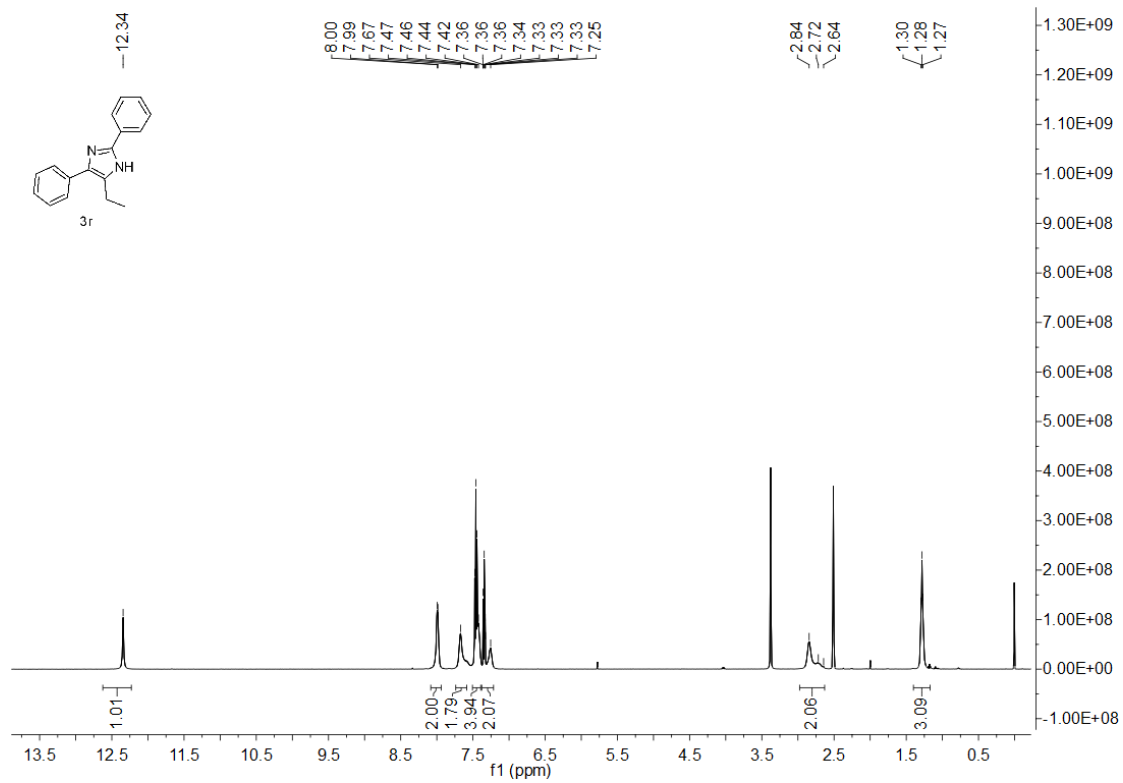


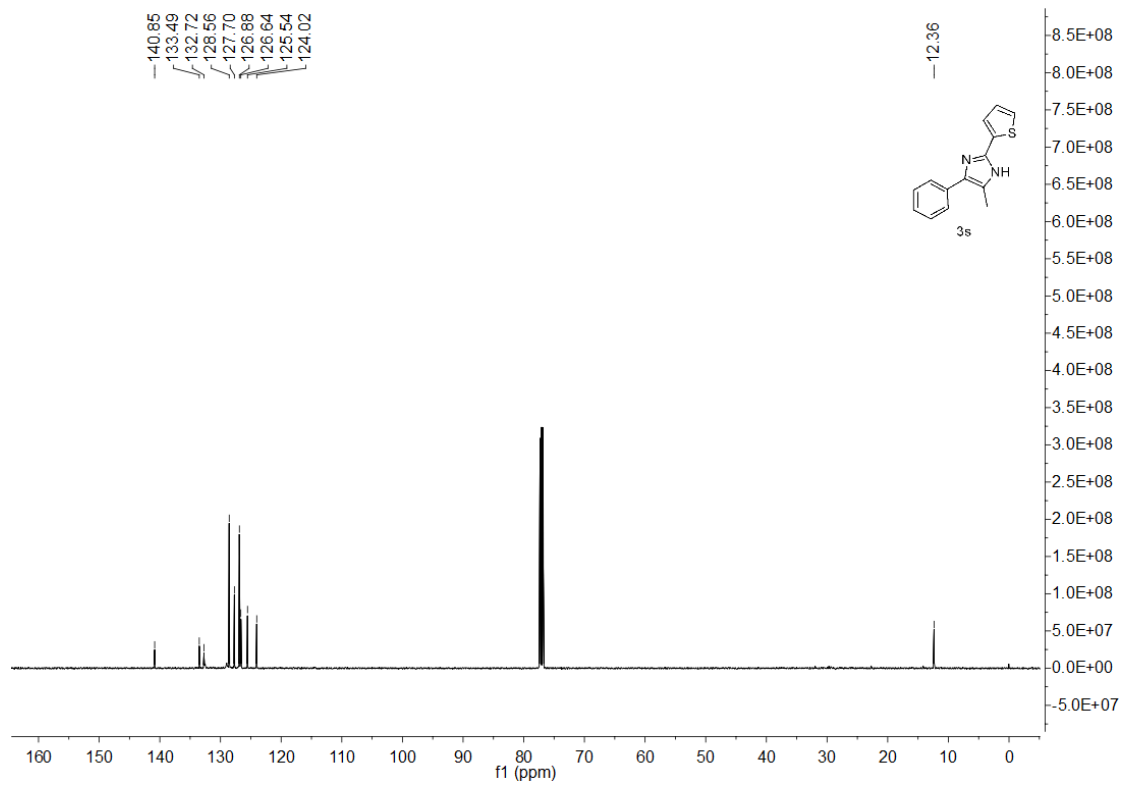
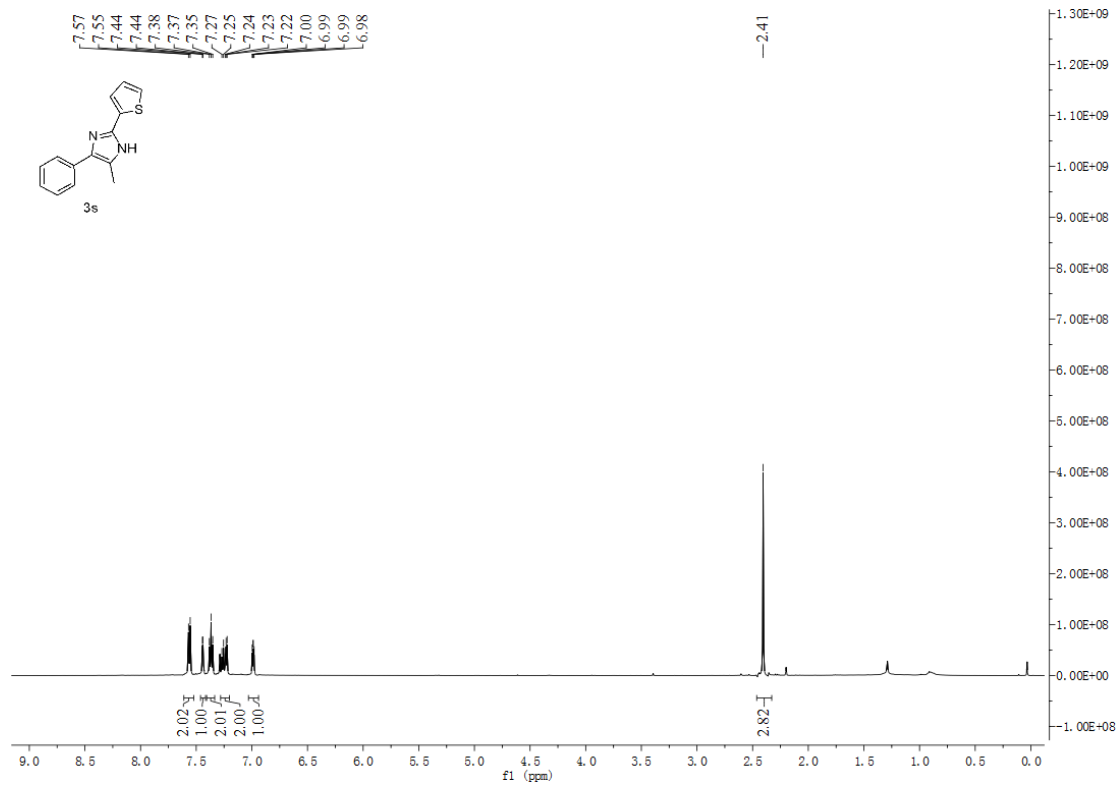


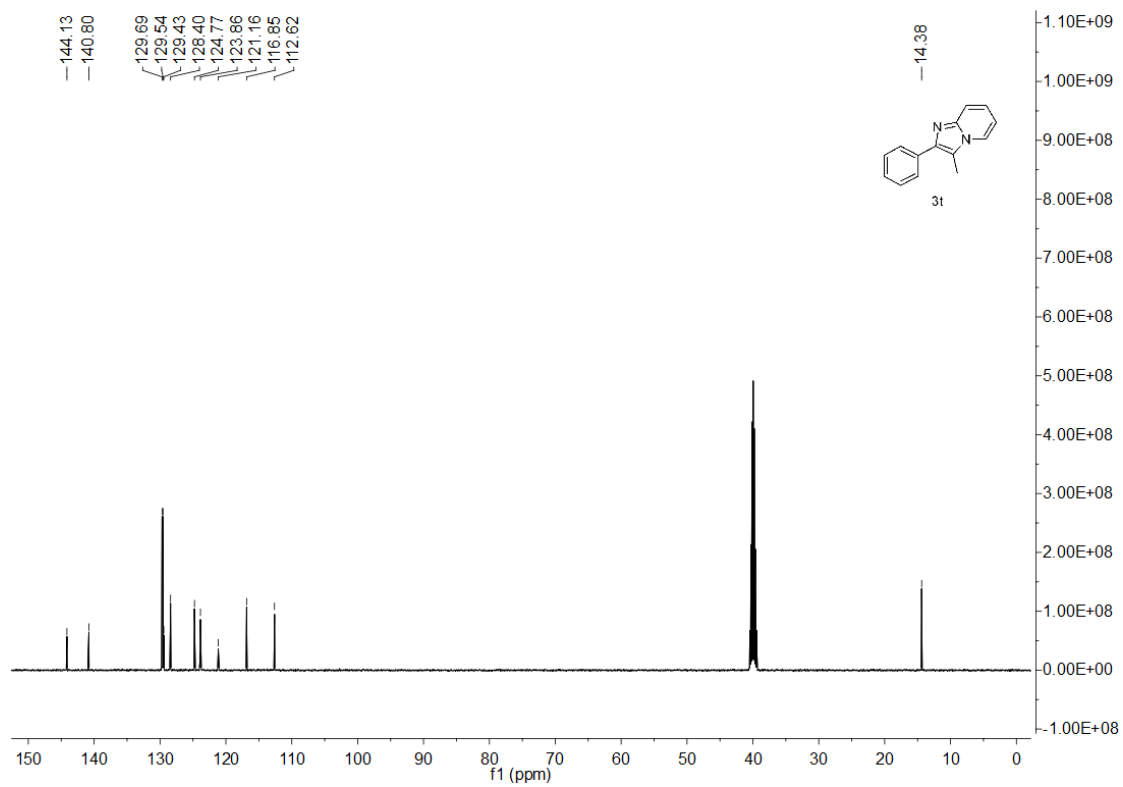
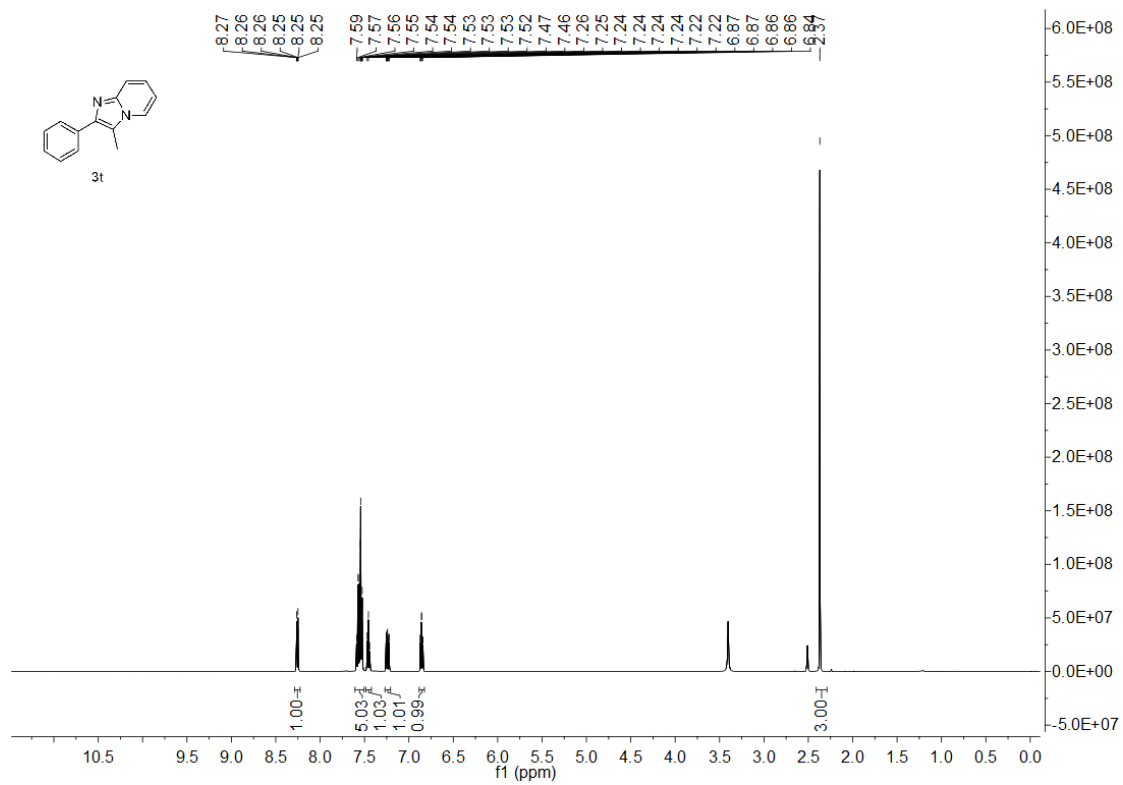


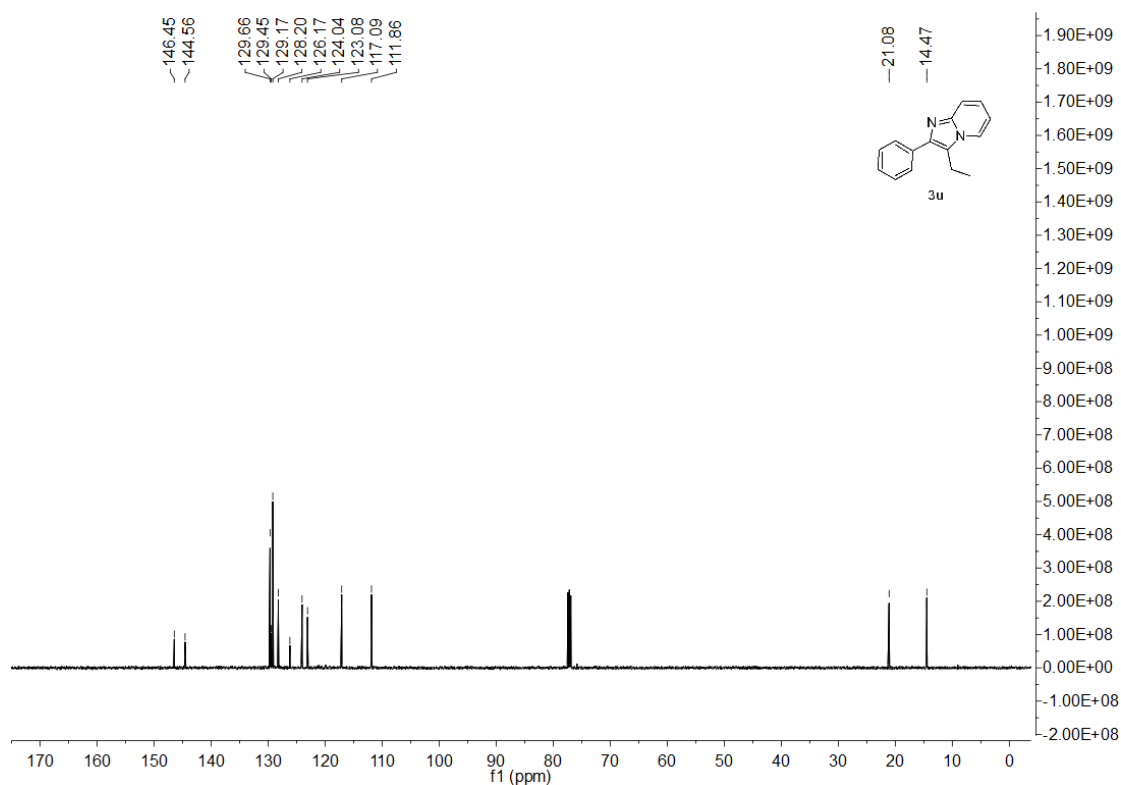
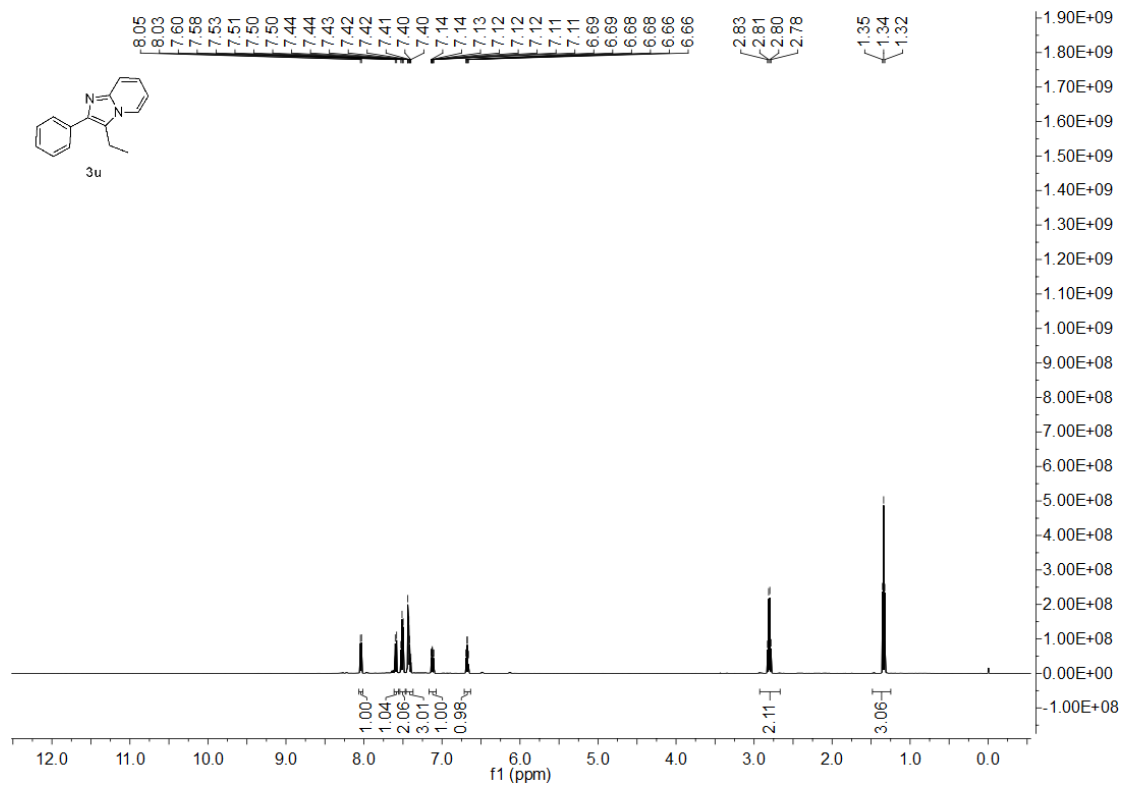












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2. A. Vidal-Albalat, S. Rodríguez and F. V. González, *Org Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 1752.
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