

Supporting Information for

Photocatalytic Direct Intermolecular Addition of 1,3-Dithianes

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1. General Information

All commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka, Alfa Aesar, TCI, Acros, AKSci, and Energy Chemicals of the highest purity grade. They were used without further purification unless specified. Hexane and ethyl acetate (EtOAc) were distilled before use. Anhydrous THF were distilled from Na. HPLC grade solvents were obtained from suppliers and used as received. All reactions were conducted in 10 cm × 2 cm, 30 mL Pyrex Schlenk tube with PTFE-lined screw cap and a side arm. All experiments were monitored by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC). TLC was performed on pre-coated plates, Merck 60 F₂₅₄. After elution, plate was visualized under UV illumination at 254 nm for UV active material. Further visualization was achieved by staining with iodine or KMnO₄ stain. Preparative TLC was performed on 0.5 mm silica gel (Merck). Solvents were removed *in vacuo* under ~30 mmHg and heated with a water bath at 40 °C using Eyela or Büchi rotary evaporator with Eyela A-3S aspirator. Columns for flash chromatography (FC) contained silica gel (32–63 μ , Merck). Columns were packed as slurry of silica gel in hexane and equilibrated with the appropriate solvent/solvent mixture prior to use. The analyte was loaded neat or as a concentrated solution using the appropriate solvent system. The elution was assisted by applying pressure with constant flow of air.

Solid reagents were weighed using AND HR-200 analytical balance, with accuracy of 0.1 mg. Liquid reagents were measured using Hamilton microsyringes. Reactions requiring temperatures up to –40 °C were stirred in Greatwall DHJF-4002 cryobath with digital temperature controller. Isopropanol was used as the bath medium. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 400-MR (400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively). The peaks were internally referenced to TMS (0.00 ppm) or residual solvent signal. The following abbreviations (or combinations thereof) were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, and br = broad. High resolution mass spectra (ESI) were recorded on a Varian 901-MS with Varian HPLC ProStar 210 solvent delivery module, ProStar 410 auto-sampler, and ProStar 335 photodiode array detector. High resolution mass spectra (EI) were recorded on a Finnigan MAT-95XL. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ALPHA Ge-ATR FTIR spectrometer. Frequencies were given in reciprocal centimeters (cm⁻¹). Fluorescence spectrum were recorded on a Hitachi F–2500 fluorescence spectrophotometer.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Standard reaction set-up

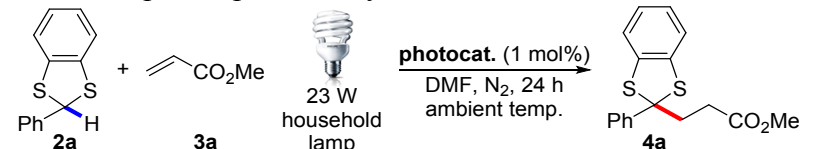
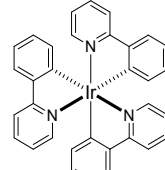
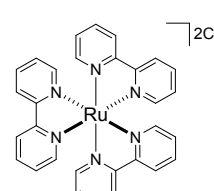
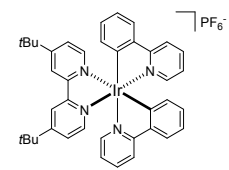
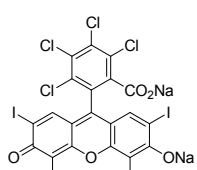
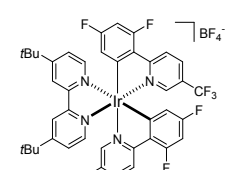
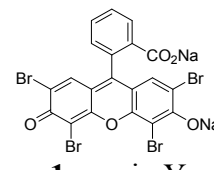
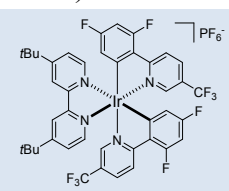
In a typical experiment, a 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb (Philips Tornado 23 W cool daylight, model 317643, 6500K color temperature, 1403 Lm) was used. The lamp was purchased from IKEA (Tertial work lamp). The reaction tubes (10 cm × 2 cm, 30 mL Pyrex Schlenk tube with PTFE-lined screw cap and a side arm) were placed approximately 2 cm from the light source. The setup was then covered with aluminum foil to reduce the glares.



Figure S1 Typical experimental set-up

2.2. Optimization studies

Table S1 Identification of optimal photocatalyst.^a

					
entry	photocat.	yield (%) ^b	entry	photocat.	yield (%) ^b
1	—	<5	5	 1d Ir(ppy)₃ $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 0.31 \text{ V vs SCE}^1$	<5
2	 1a Ru(bpy)₃Cl₂ $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 0.77 \text{ V vs SCE}^1$	<5	6	 1e Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 0.66 \text{ V vs SCE}^1$	<5
3	 1b rose bengal $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 0.99 \text{ V vs SCE}^2$	7	7	 1f [Ir(dF(CF₃)ppy)₂(dtbbpy)]BF₄ $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 1.21 \text{ V vs SCE}^1$	68
4	 1c eosin Y $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 0.79 \text{ V vs SCE}^3$	<5	8	 1g [Ir(dF(CF₃)ppy)₂(dtbbpy)]PF₆ $E_{1/2}(M^*/M^-) = 1.21 \text{ V vs SCE}^1$	75

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as followed: dithiane **2a** (0.10 mmol), methyl acrylate **3a** (0.5 mmol), **photocatalyst** (1 mol%), anhydrous DMF (1.0 mL), 24 h, ambient temperature, irradiated with 23 W 6500K compact fluorescent light under N₂ atmosphere. ^b Yield determined by ¹H NMR analysis of unpurified reaction mixture using MeNO₂ as internal standard. Abbreviations: bpy, 2,2'-bipyridyl; ppy, 2-phenylpyridinyl; dtbbpy, 4,4'-di-*tert*-butyl-2,2'-dipyridyl; dF(CF₃)ppy, 3,5-difluoro-5'-(trifluoromethyl)-2,2'-bipyridine.

Table S2 Solvent screening.^a

entry	solvent	yield (%) ^b	entry	solvent	yield (%) ^b
1	hexane	<5	6	THF	<5
2	toluene	<5	7	MeCN	<5
3	Et ₂ O	<5	8	MeOH	<5
4	EtOAc	<5	9	NMP	61
5	DCM	<5	10	DMF	75

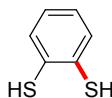
^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as followed: dithiane **2a** (0.10 mmol), methyl acrylate **3a** (0.5 mmol), **1g** (1 mol%), **solvent** (1.0 mL), 24 h, ambient temperature, irradiated with 23 W 6500K compact fluorescent light under N₂ atmosphere. ^b Yield determined by ¹H NMR analysis of unpurified reaction mixture using MeNO₂ as internal standard. Abbreviations: DCM, dichloromethane; THF, tetrahydrofuran; NMP, *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone; DMF, dimethylformamide.

Table S3 Control experiments.^a

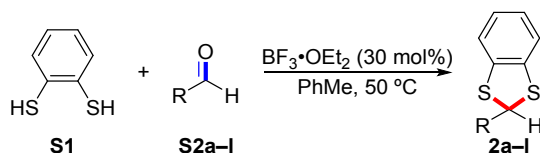
entry	atm.	additive	light	yield (%) ^b	entry	atm.	additive	light	yield (%) ^b
1	O ₂	—	23 W CFL	<5	4	N ₂	H ₂ O (1 equiv.)	23 W CFL	<5
2 ^c	N ₂	—	dark	<5	5	N ₂	Et ₃ N (1 equiv.)	23 W CFL	<5
3 ^d	N ₂	—	13 W LEDs	71	6	N ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (1 equiv.)	23 W CFL	59

^a Unless otherwise noted, the reaction conditions were as followed: dithiane **2a** (0.10 mmol), methyl acrylate **3a** (0.5 mmol), **1g** (1 mol%), **additive**, anhydrous DMF (1.0 mL), 24 h, ambient temperature, irradiated with a **light** source under **designated atmosphere**. ^b Yield determined by ¹H NMR analysis of unpurified reaction mixture using MeNO₂ as internal standard. ^c Reaction conducted in dark at 40 °C. ^d Philips LED bulb 13W E27 (UV/IR free) was used.

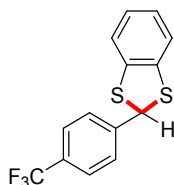
2.3. Synthesis for starting materials



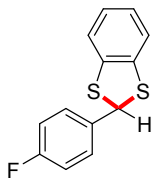
benzene-1,2-dithiol (**S1**)⁴: Synthesized according to literature procedure from thiophenol.



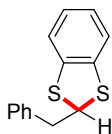
General procedure for the preparation of dithiane derivatives 2: To a solution of corresponding aldehyde **S2** (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and dithiol **S1** (2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in toluene (5.0 mL), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (30 mol%) was added at room temperature. The reaction was stirred at 50 °C and monitored by TLC. Saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 was added after completion of reaction (2 h). Organic layer was washed with saturated brine solution, dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated and purified by column chromatography using hexane and EtOAc as eluents.



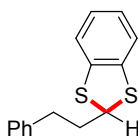
2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[d][1,3]dithiole (2c): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.5, 136.9, 130.7 (q, $J = 32.3$ Hz), 127.3, 126.0, 125.7 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J = 270.6$ Hz), 122.0, 55.3 ppm.



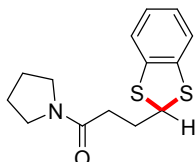
2-(4-fluorophenyl)benzo[d][1,3]dithiole (2d): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 6.96 (m, 4H), 6.15 (s, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.7 (d, $J = 246.7$ Hz), 137.3, 135.8 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 128.9 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 125.9, 121.9, 115.6 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 55.8 ppm.



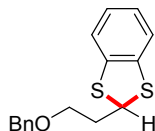
2-benzylbenzo[d][1,3]dithiole (2g): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 7H), 7.09 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 5.05 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.6, 137.2, 129.5, 128.5, 128.5, 127.1, 125.6, 122.7, 55.7, 45.1 ppm.



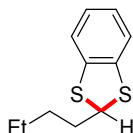
2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiole (2h): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.35 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 7.08 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.86 – 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.32 – 2.26 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 140.4, 137.3, 128.6, 126.6, 125.5, 122.6, 53.7, 40.8, 33.0 ppm.



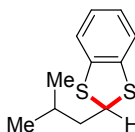
3-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (2i): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.24 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 4.98 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.44 (t, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.37 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.26 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.96 – 1.93 (m, 2H), 1.88 – 1.82 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.9, 137.1, 125.4, 122.5, 53.7, 46.5, 45.7, 34.2, 31.0, 26.0, 24.4 ppm.



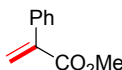
2-(2-(benzyloxy)ethyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiole (2j): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 5.03 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.60 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 2.21 – 2.16 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.1, 128.4, 127.70, 127.65, 125.4, 122.6, 73.1, 66.7, 51.3, 39.3 ppm.



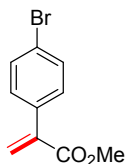
2-butylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiole (2k): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 4.85 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.97 – 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.45, 1.45, 1.44 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.4, 125.3, 122.4, 54.7, 38.8, 29.3, 22.1, 13.9 ppm.



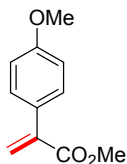
2-isobutylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiole (2l): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 4.96 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.86 – 1.84 (m, 3H), 0.93 – 0.91 (m, 6H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.5, 125.4, 122.5, 53.1, 47.4, 26.3, 22.1 ppm.



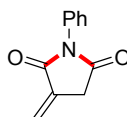
methyl 2-phenylacrylate (3d)⁵: Synthesized according to literature procedure from methyl 2-phenylacetate.



methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)acrylate (3e)⁵: Synthesized according to literature procedure from methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)acetate.



methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (3f)⁵: Synthesized according to literature procedure from methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate.

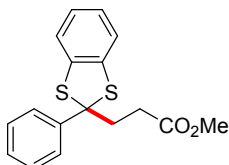


3-methylene-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3i)⁶: Synthesized according to literature procedure from itaconic anhydride and aniline.

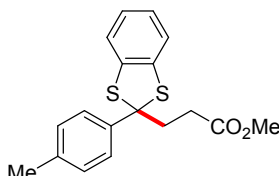
2.4. General procedure for photocatalytic direct intermolecular addition of various 1,3-dithiane derivatives with methyl acrylate



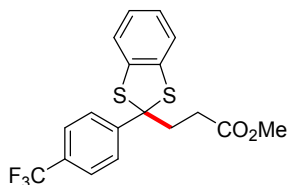
A 30 mL oven dried Schlenk tube (with PTFE-lined screw cap and a side arm) equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with dithiane **2** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), methyl acrylate (0.2 mmol), and photocatalyst **1g** (1.2 mg, 0.0010 mmol, 1.0 mol%). Dry DMF (1.0 mL) was used to wash down the solids on the sides of wall under N₂ atmosphere. The tube was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen gas repeatedly for three times. It was then placed approximately 2 cm from the light source (23 W 6500K CFL). After stirring for 24 h, the resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* at 50 °C, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography or preparative TLC using hexanes/EtOAc as the eluent.



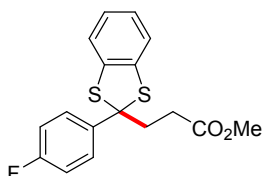
methyl 3-(2-phenylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4a): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.80 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.42 – 2.38 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 140.3, 137.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.8, 125.8, 122.6, 51.7, 39.6, 30.9 ppm; IR (film): 2965, 1734, 1541, 1445 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O₂S₂Na⁺ [M+Na⁺] 339.0489, found 339.0486.



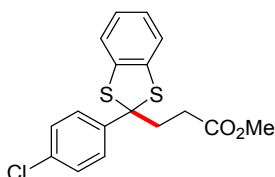
methyl 3-(2-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4b): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.78 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.42 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 138.0, 137.7, 137.1, 129.2, 126.7, 125.7, 122.6, 74.2, 51.7, 39.5, 30.9, 21.0 ppm; IR (film): 2957, 1734, 1557 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O₂S₂Na⁺ [M+Na⁺] 353.0646, found 353.0637.



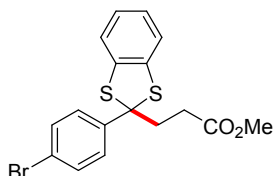
methyl 3-(2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4c): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.82 – 2.78 (m, 2H), 2.46 – 2.42 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.6, 145.3, 137.1, 130.2 (q, *J* = 28.9 Hz), 127.3, 126.0, 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.8 (q, *J* = 270.9 Hz), 122.6, 73.8, 51.8, 38.8, 31.1 ppm; IR (film): 2951, 1771, 1541, 1362, 1235 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₁₅O₂F₃S₂Na⁺ [M+Na⁺] 407.0363, found 407.0365.



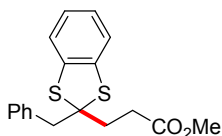
methyl 3-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4d): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.79 – 2.75 (m, 2H), 2.44 – 2.40 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 162.2 (d, $J = 247.1$ Hz), 137.5, 136.5 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 128.7 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 125.9, 122.6, 115.3 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 73.7, 51.7, 39.2, 31.0 ppm; IR (film): 2951, 1735, 1489, 1234, 1164 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{FS}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 357.0395, found 357.0386.



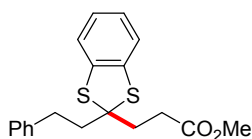
methyl 3-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4e): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.05 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.79 – 2.75 (m, 2H), 2.44 – 2.41 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 139.5, 137.3, 134.0, 128.6, 128.3, 125.9, 122.6, 73.7, 51.8, 39.0, 31.0 ppm; IR (film): 1734, 1541, 1315 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{ClNa}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 373.0100, found 373.0091.



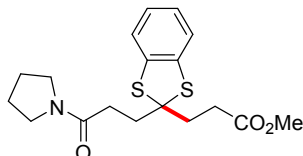
methyl 3-(2-(4-bromophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4f): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.77 – 2.73 (m, 2H), 2.43 – 2.39 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.7, 140.1, 137.3, 131.5, 128.6, 125.9, 122.6, 122.2, 73.8, 51.8, 38.9, 31.0 ppm; IR (film): 2952, 1716, 1541, 1465, 1258 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{BrNa}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 416.9595, found 416.9588.



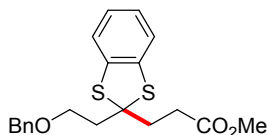
methyl 3-(2-benzylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4g): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 7.14 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 2.71 – 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.28 – 2.24 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.3, 137.8, 135.8, 130.8, 128.0, 127.3, 125.4, 122.3, 72.8, 51.7, 48.6, 35.1, 31.01 ppm; IR (film): 2951, 1734, 1541, 1197 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 353.0646, found 353.0639.



methyl 3-(2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4h): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.02 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.90 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.70 – 2.66 (m, 2H), 2.42 – 2.33 (m, 4H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.3, 141.0, 137.7, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 125.4, 122.2, 72.2, 51.8, 44.4, 36.8, 32.5, 30.8 ppm; IR (film): 2950, 1736, 1445, 1258, 1194 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 367.0802, found 367.0799.

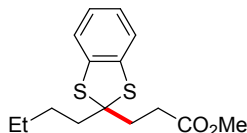


methyl 3-(2-(3-oxo-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4i): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.12 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.43 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.35 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.66 – 2.59 (m, 4H), 2.38 – 2.32 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.78 (m, 2H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.3, 170.1, 137.7, 125.4, 122.2, 72.4, 51.8, 46.5, 45.8, 38.0, 36.1, 31.6, 30.6, 26.0, 24.4 ppm; IR (film): 2951, 1734, 1636, 1436, 1225, 1194 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 366.1198, found 366.1190.



Alkene (5 equiv.) was used.

methyl 3-(2-(2-(benzyloxy)ethyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4j): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.13 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.73 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.63 – 2.59 (m, 2H), 2.43 – 2.35 (m, 4H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.2, 137.7, 128.4, 127.6, 127.6, 125.4, 122.3, 73.2, 70.7, 67.3, 51.7, 40.8, 37.2, 30.7 ppm; IR (film): 1733, 1557, 1521, 1446, 1260 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 397.0908, found 397.0903.

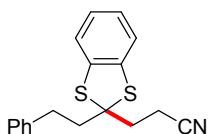


methyl 3-(2-butylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4k): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.12 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.62 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.33 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.08 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.33 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.4, 137.8, 125.3, 122.2, 72.5, 51.7, 41.7, 36.8, 30.7, 28.4, 22.7, 13.9 ppm; IR (film): 2956, 1735, 1557, 1445, 1119 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 297.0983, found 297.0976.

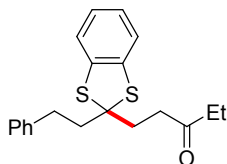
2.5. General procedure for photocatalytic direct intermolecular addition of 1,3-dithiane with various electron-deficient alkenes



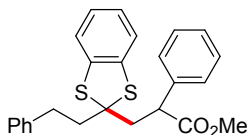
A 30 mL oven dried Schlenk tube (with PTFE-lined screw cap and a side arm) equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with dithiane **2h** (25.8 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), alkene **3** (0.2 mmol), and photocatalyst **1g** (1.2 mg, 0.0010 mmol, 1.0 mol%). Dry DMF (1.0 mL) was used to wash down the solids on the sides of wall under N₂ atmosphere. The tube was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen gas repeatedly for three times. It was then placed approximately 2 cm from the light source (23 W 6500K CFL). After stirring for 24 h, the resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* at 50 °C, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography or preparative TLC using hexanes/EtOAc as the eluent.



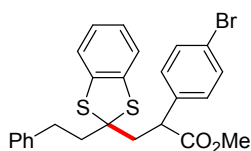
3-(2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanenitrile (4m): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 2.91 – 2.87 (m, 2H), 2.72 – 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.32 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.5, 137.0, 128.6, 128.4, 126.3, 125.8, 122.3, 119.2, 71.2, 43.9, 38.4, 32.7, 14.0 ppm; IR (film): 2946, 1734, 1535, 1258, 1008 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NS₂⁺ [M+H⁺] 321.0881, found 321.0878.



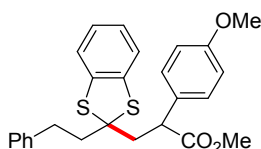
1-(2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)pentan-3-one (4n): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 2.89 – 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.80 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.43 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.35 – 2.31 (m, 4H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.2, 141.1, 137.8, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 125.4, 122.2, 72.7, 45.2, 39.0, 36.1, 34.7, 32.3, 7.9 ppm; IR (film): 2951, 1733, 1557, 1456, 1287, 1091 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₂₃OS₂⁺ [M+H⁺] 343.1190, found 343.1184.



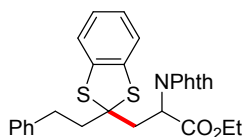
methyl 3-(2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)-2-phenylpropanoate (4o): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 7.01 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 4.23 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.85 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.36 – 2.29 (m, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.2, 141.1, 139.4, 138.0, 137.6, 128.9, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 126.0, 125.5, 122.5, 122.3, 72.8, 52.4, 49.1, 45.4, 43.3, 32.1 ppm; IR (film): 2950, 1733, 1445, 1197, 1161 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₂₅H₂₄O₂S₂Na⁺ [M+Na⁺] 443.1115, found 443.1111.



methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(2-phenethylbenzo[d][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4p): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 7H), 7.02 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 4.20 (dd, $J = 3.7, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, $J = 8.6, 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.86 – 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.33 – 2.27 (m, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.8, 140.9, 138.4, 137.8, 137.5, 131.9, 129.6, 128.4, 128.4, 126.0, 125.5, 122.5, 122.3, 121.5, 72.6, 52.5, 48.5, 45.3, 43.4, 32.1 ppm; IR (film): 2952, 1733, 1541, 1456, 1197 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2\text{BrNa}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 521.0221, found 521.0214.

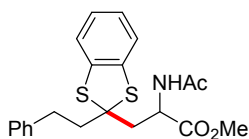


methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(2-phenethylbenzo[d][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4q): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 7.00 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.85 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 4.16 (dd, $J = 3.4, 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, $J = 8.6, 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.84 – 2.79 (m, 2H), 2.35 – 2.28 (m, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.5, 158.9, 141.1, 138.0, 137.6, 131.4, 128.9, 128.4, 126.0, 125.5, 122.5, 122.3, 114.2, 72.8, 55.3, 52.4, 48.2, 45.3, 43.4, 32.0 ppm; IR (film): 1716, 1569, 1541, 1252 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 473.1221, found 473.1213.



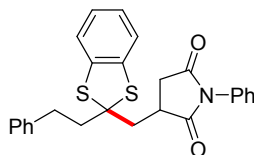
Alkene (1 equiv.) was used.

ethyl 2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-3-(2-phenethylbenzo[d][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4r): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.75 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.91 (m, 4H), 5.38 (dd, $J = 2.8, 9.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 – 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 9.8, 15.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, $J = 2.8, 15.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.43 – 2.39 (m, 2H), 1.18 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.8, 167.5, 140.7, 137.6, 137.1, 134.2, 132.0, 128.4, 128.4, 126.1, 125.5, 125.5, 123.6, 122.5, 122.2, 71.2, 62.4, 49.8, 44.0, 38.3, 32.1, 14.0 ppm; IR (film): 1733, 1541, 1386, 1258 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_4^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 504.1303, found 504.1298.



Alkene (1 equiv.) was used.

methyl 2-acetamido-3-(2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)propanoate (4s): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.10 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.91 (td, $J = 4.3, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.89 – 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.71 (dd, $J = 4.3, 15.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, $J = 11.5, 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 – 2.39 (m, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.2, 169.8, 140.6, 137.7, 136.8, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 125.7, 125.7, 122.4, 122.3, 70.6, 52.7, 50.2, 43.2, 42.5, 32.1, 23.3 ppm; IR (film): 3200, 2952, 1747, 1653, 1522, 1434, 1288, 1204 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3\text{S}_2^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}^+$] 402.1998, found 402.1993.



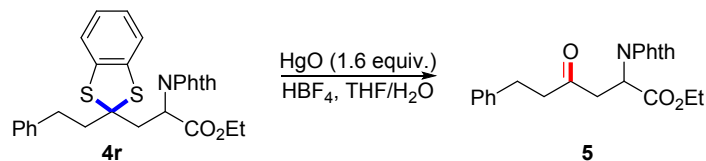
3-((2-phenethylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dithiol-2-yl)methyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (4t): ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 3.51 – 3.44 (m, 1H), 3.06 – 2.89 (m, 5H), 2.51 – 2.36 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.20 (m, 1H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 178.4, 175.4, 140.7, 137.5, 131.8, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.3, 126.2, 125.9, 125.8, 122.4, 122.3, 71.9, 45.0, 44.4, 38.6, 37.1, 32.7 ppm; IR (film): 1733, 1541, 1270, 1181 cm^{-1} ; HRMS(m/z , ESI): Calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$] 468.1068, found 468.1063.

2.6. Scalable photocatalytic direct intermolecular addition of 1,3-dithiane

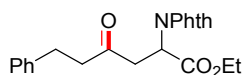


A 30 mL oven dried Schlenk tube (with PTFE-lined screw cap and a side arm) equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with dithiane **2h** (258 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), alkene **3r** (245 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and photocatalyst **1g** (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 0.5 mol%). Dry DMF (4.0 mL) was used to wash down the solids on the sides of wall under N₂ atmosphere. The tube was sealed, evacuated, and backfilled with nitrogen gas repeatedly for three times. It was then placed approximately 2 cm from the light source (23 W 6500K CFL). After stirring for 24 h, the resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* at 50 °C, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography using hexanes/EtOAc (5/1) as the eluent to give α -amino acid derivative **4r** as a yellow solid (466 mg, 92% yield).

2.7. Procedure for deprotection of 1,3-dithiane



Amino acid derivative **4r** (252 mg, 0.500 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in THF (1.0 mL). The resulting solution was added to a suspension of HgO (173 mg, 0.800 mmol, 1.6 equiv.) in H₂O (1.0 mL). This was followed by the addition of aqueous HBF₄ (0.20 mL, 0.2 M). After 15 h of stirring, solid NaHCO₃ was added until the solution turned basic on the pH scale. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and washed with diethyl ether. The filtrate was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 3 mL). The combined organic phases were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product. Purification by flash chromatography provided ketone **5** as the product (80% yield).



ethyl 2-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-4-oxo-6-phenylhexanoate (5): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.12 (m, 3H), 5.47 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 – 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.91 – 2.74 (m, 4H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.4, 168.7, 167.3, 140.6, 134.2, 131.8, 128.4, 128.2, 126.1, 123.6, 62.2, 47.5, 44.3, 41.7, 29.4, 14.0 ppm; IR (film): 2910, 1716, 1541, 1418, 1100 cm⁻¹; HRMS(*m/z*, ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NO₅Na⁺ [M+Na⁺] 402.1317, found 402.1311.

2.8. Preliminary mechanistic studies

Fluorescent quenching experiment

In a typical experiment, to a 2.0×10^{-6} M solution of photocatalyst **1g** in DMF was added the appropriate amount of quencher (dithiane **2c**) in a quartz cuvette. Then the solution was excited at 380 nm and the fluorescence emission intensity was collected at 480 nm. The readings were taken as an average of two runs.

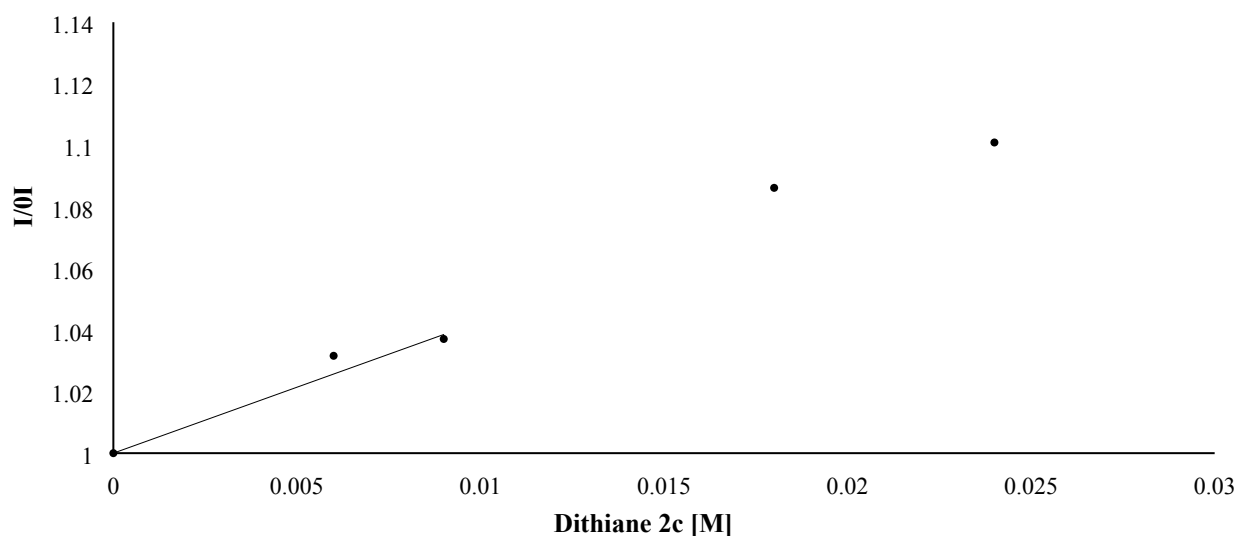


Figure S2 Plot of fluorescence intensity of photocatalyst **1g** versus concentration of dithiane **2c**.

Light/dark experiments

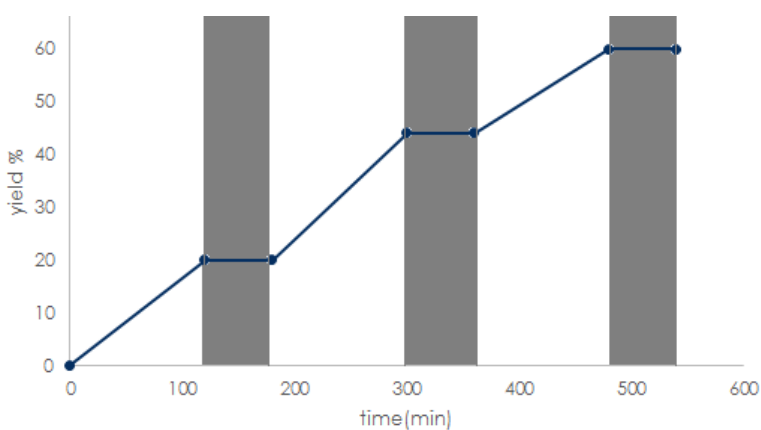
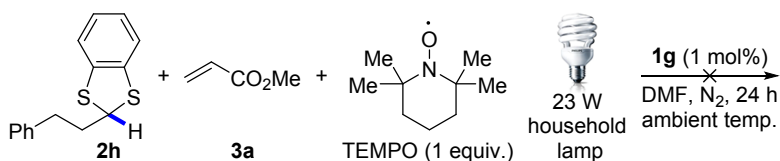


Figure S3 Light/dark experiments.

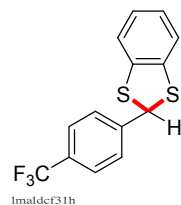
Inhibition of radical reaction by TEMPO



3. References

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- 2 D. Ravelli, M. Fagnoni and A. Albini, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2013, **42**, 97.
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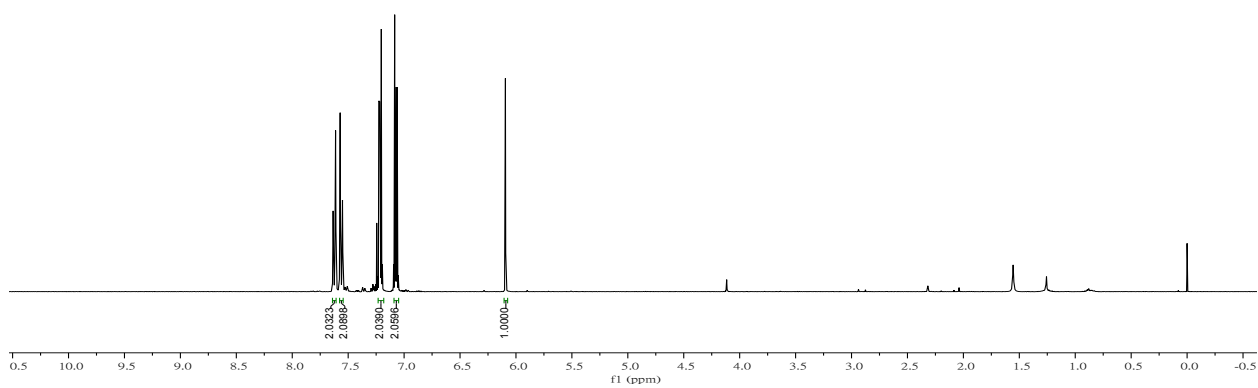
4. NMR Spectra of New Compounds



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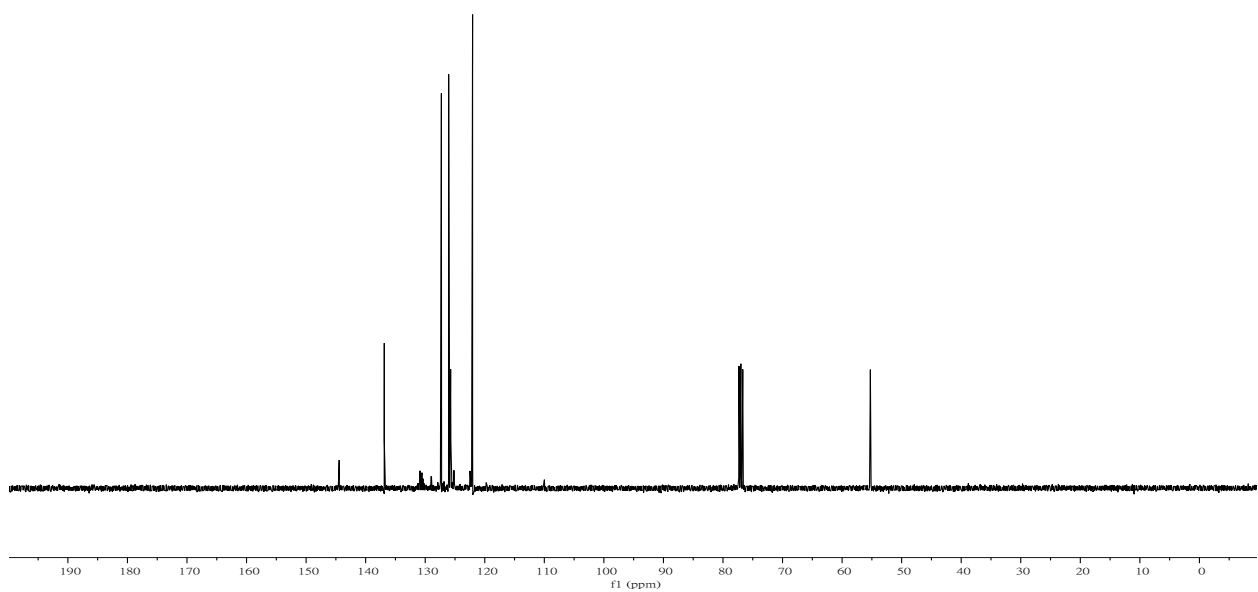
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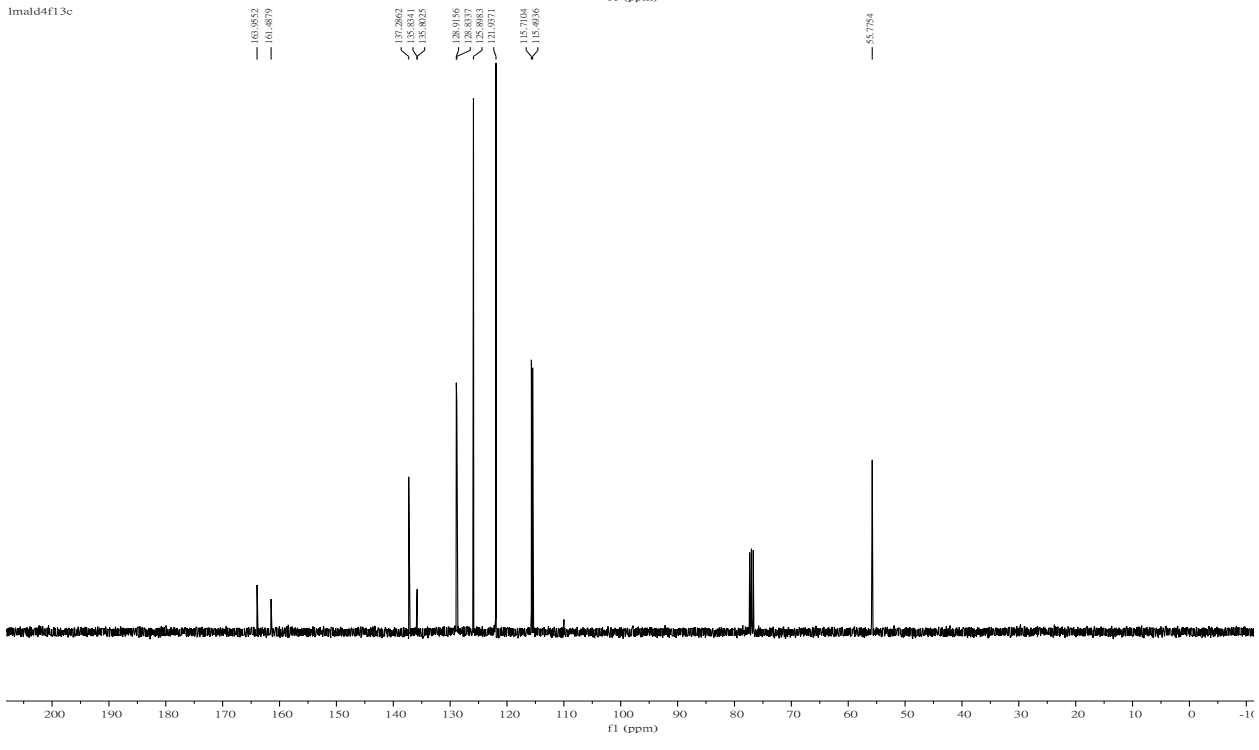
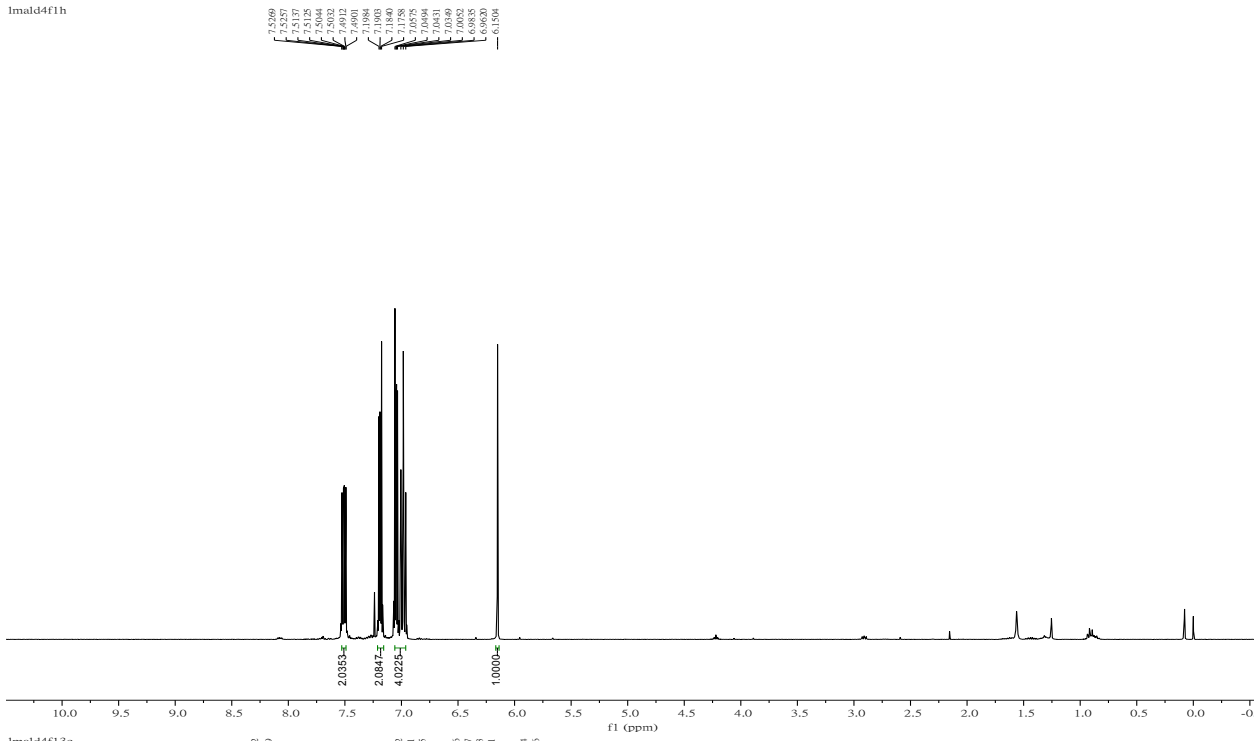
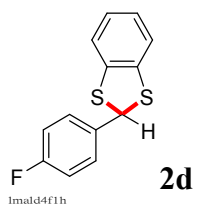
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7.5508
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7.4825
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7.4618
-6.043

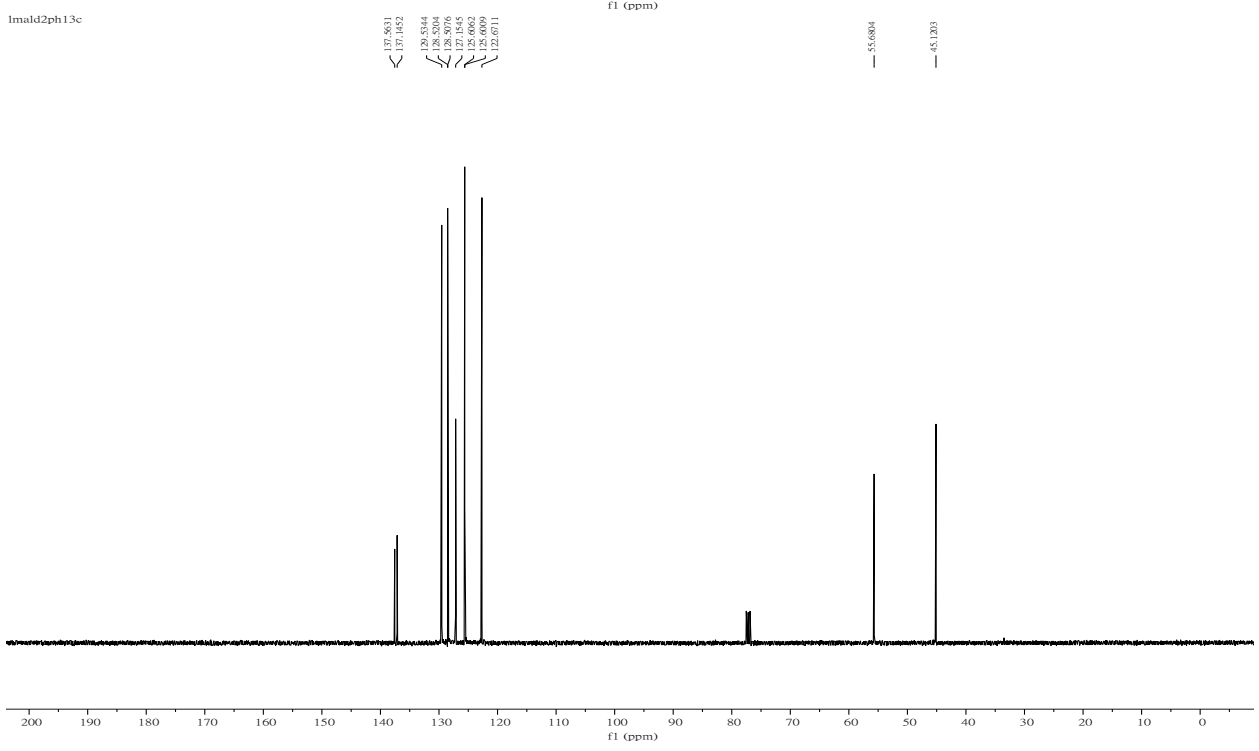
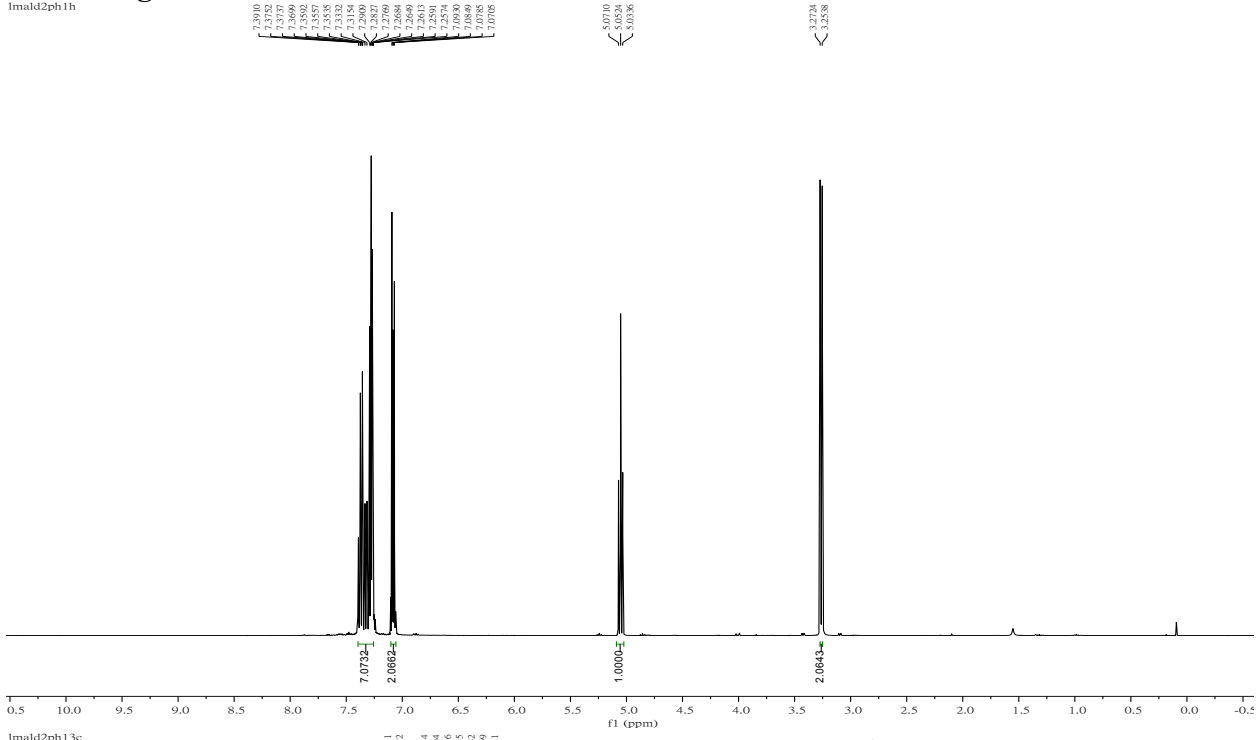
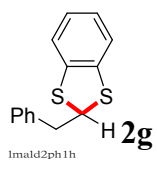


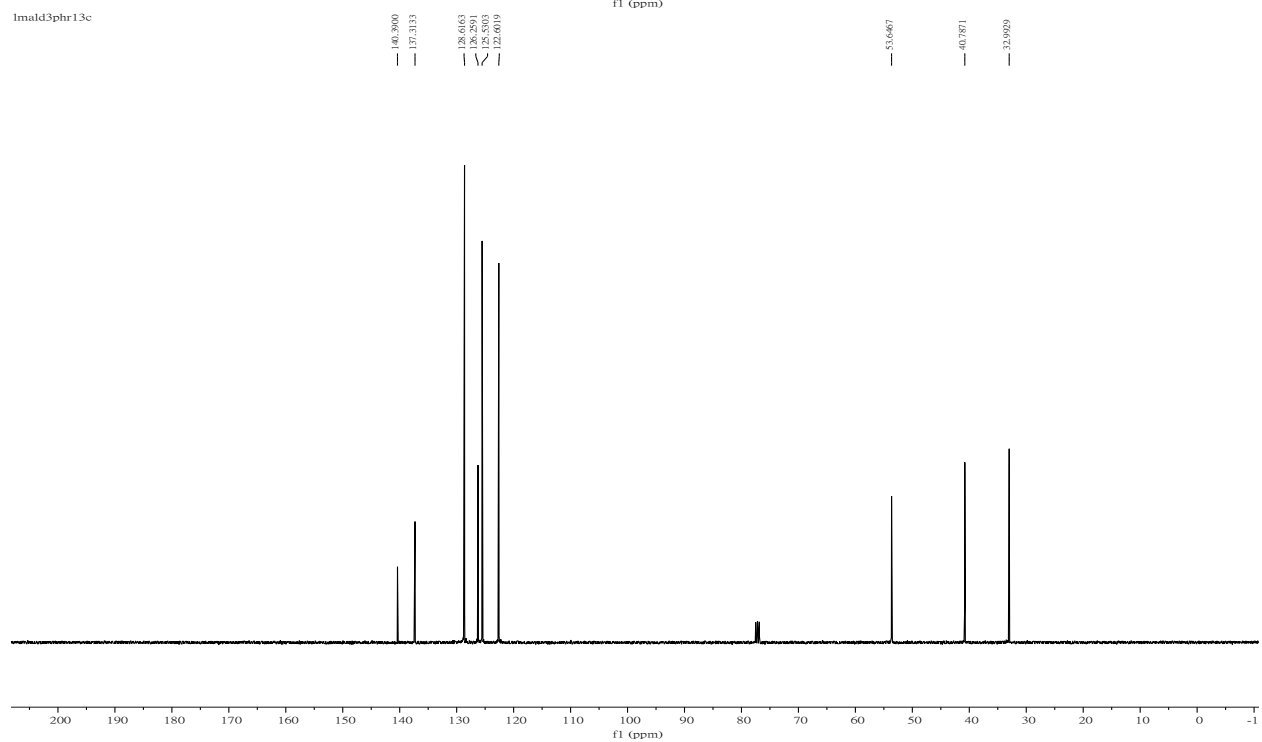
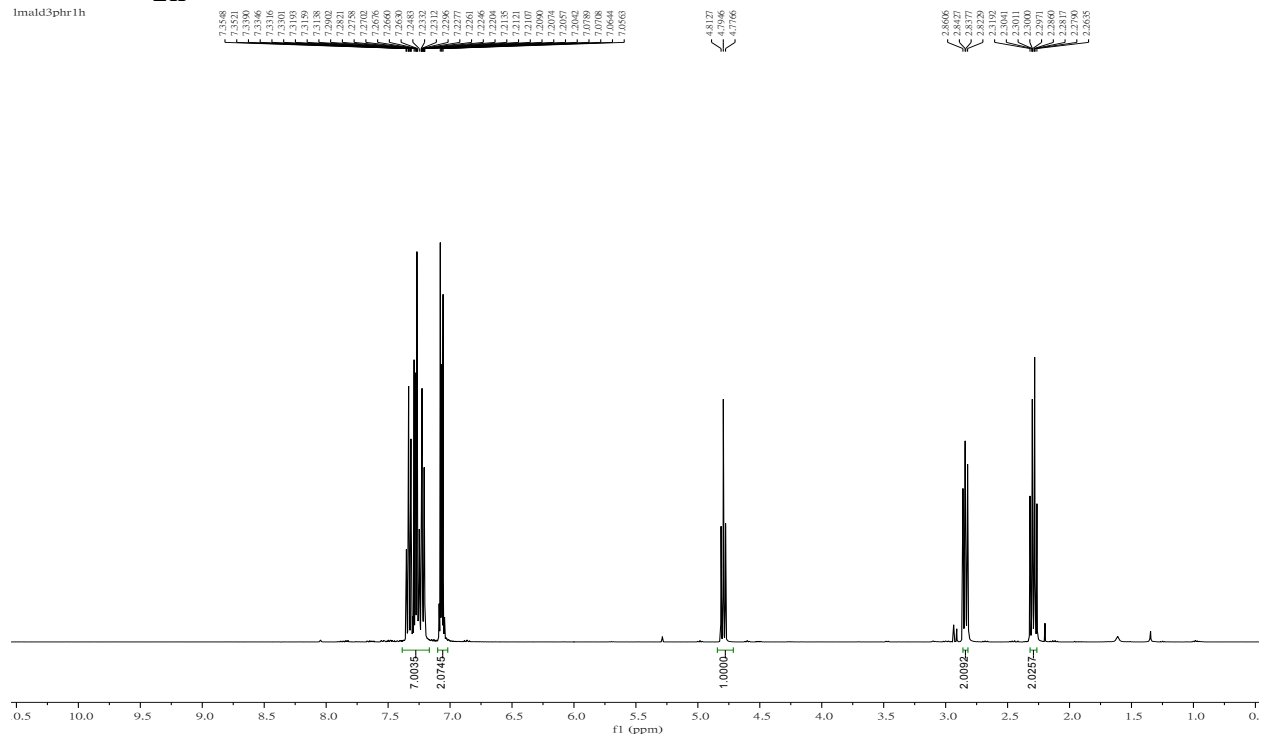
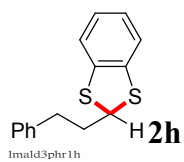
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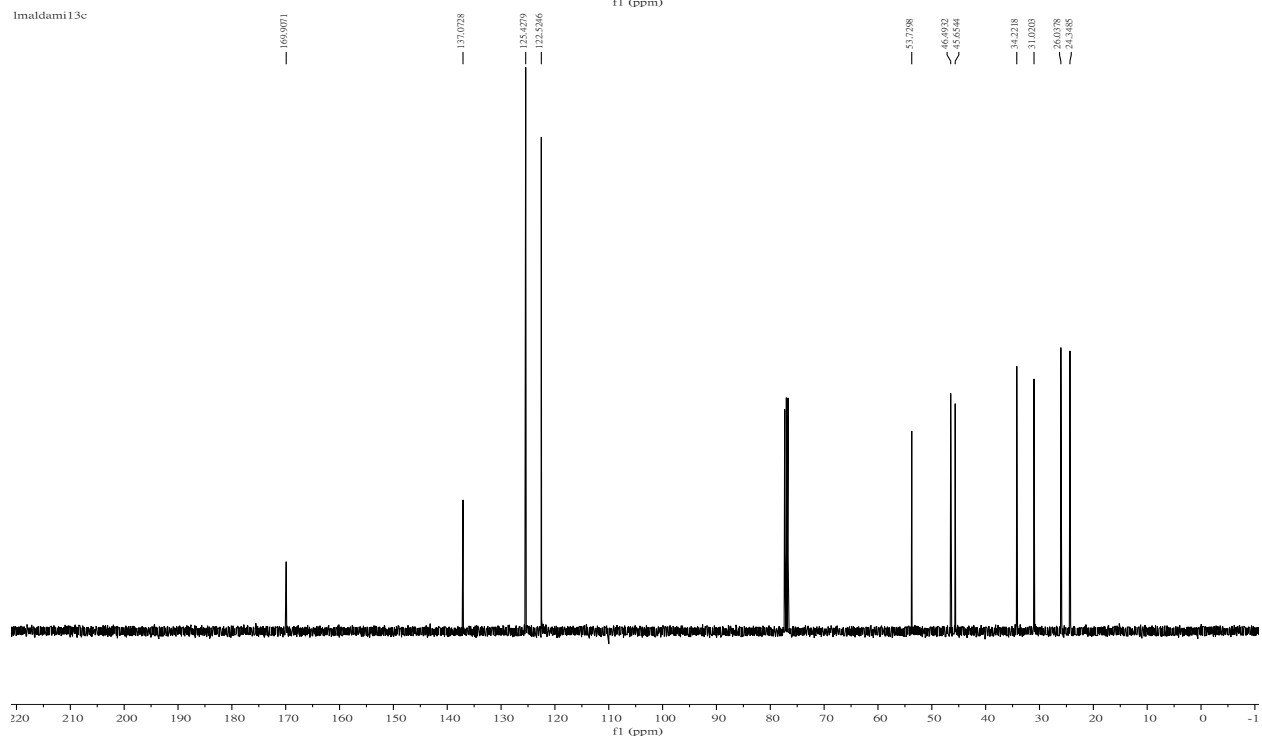
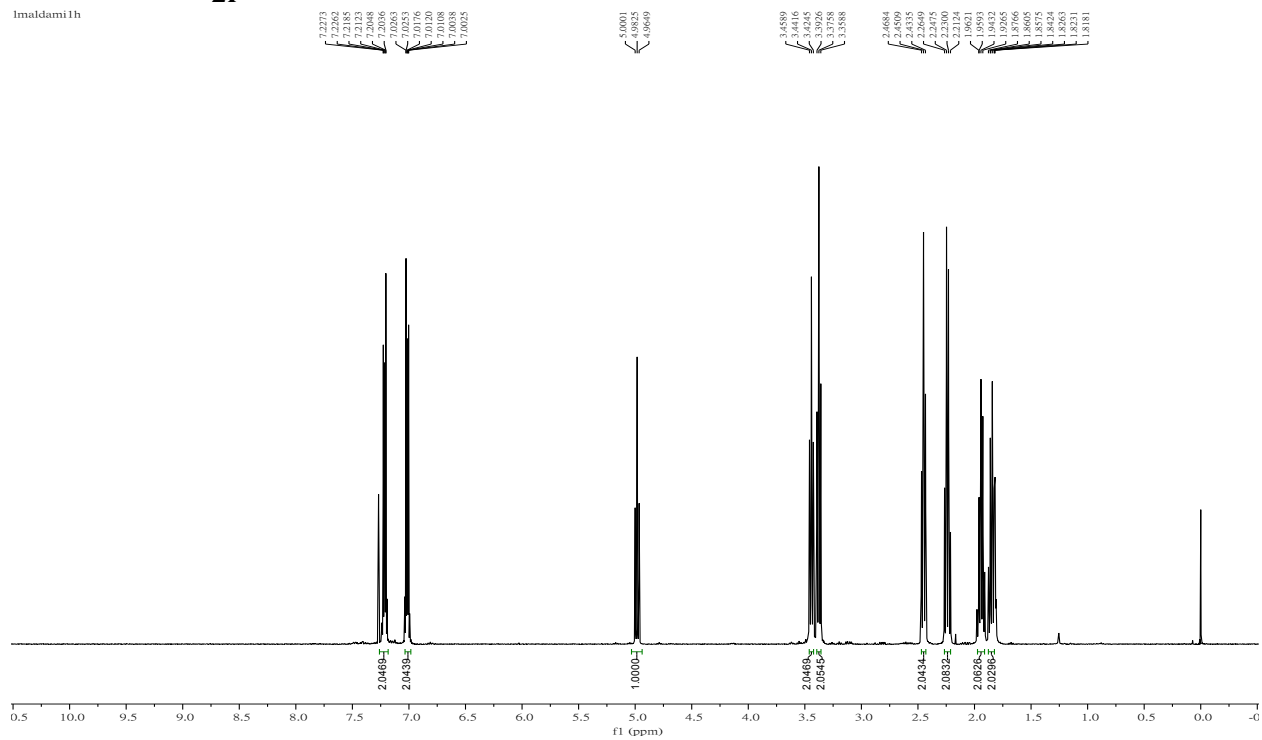
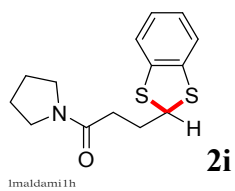
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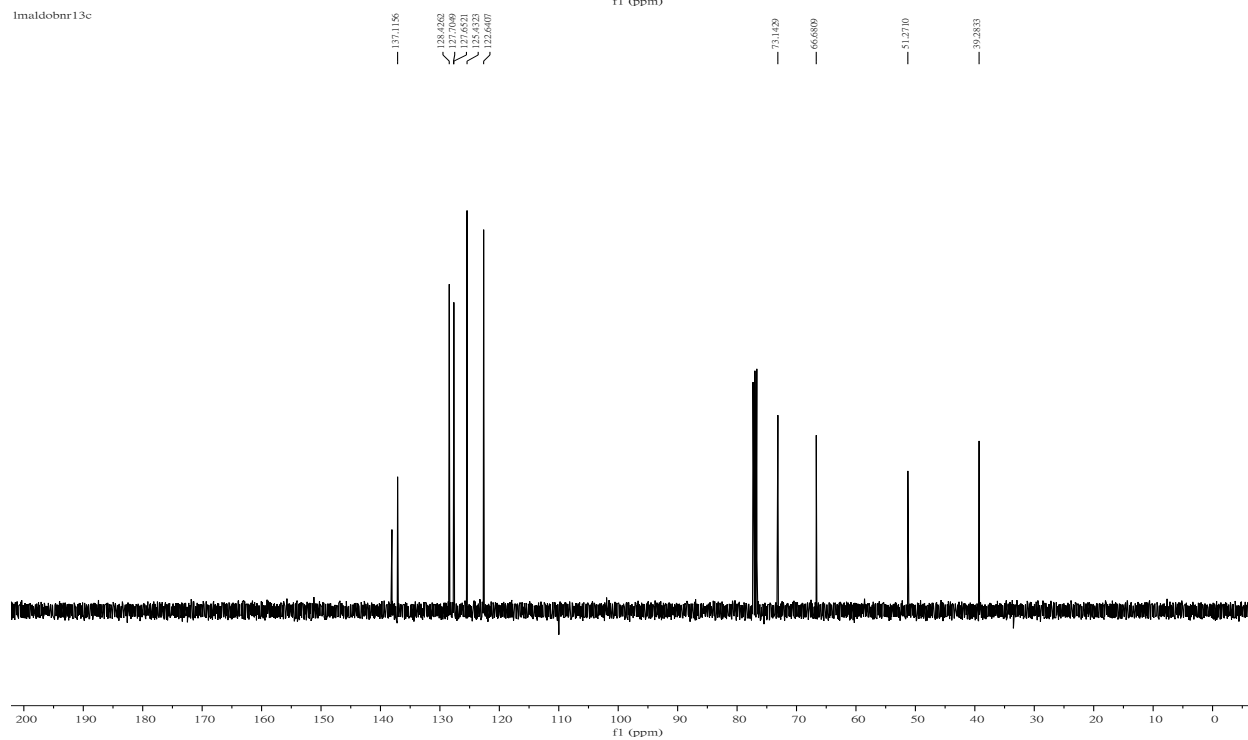
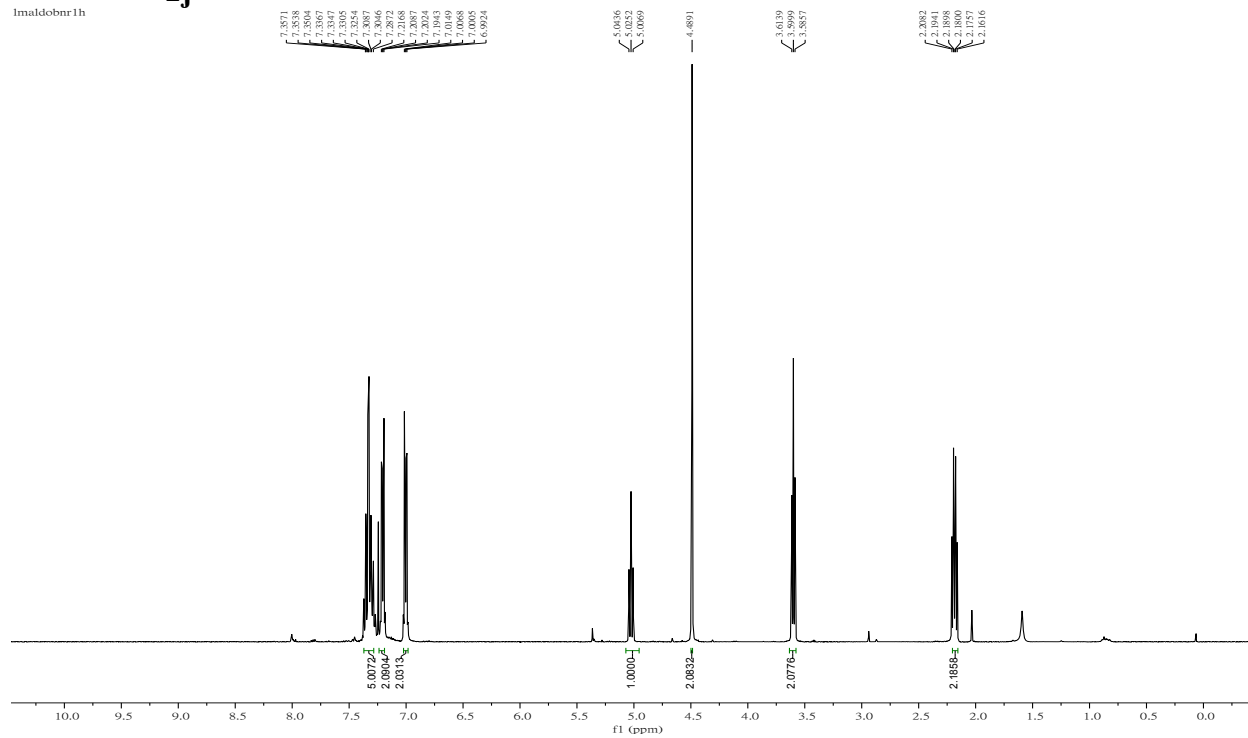
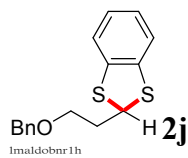


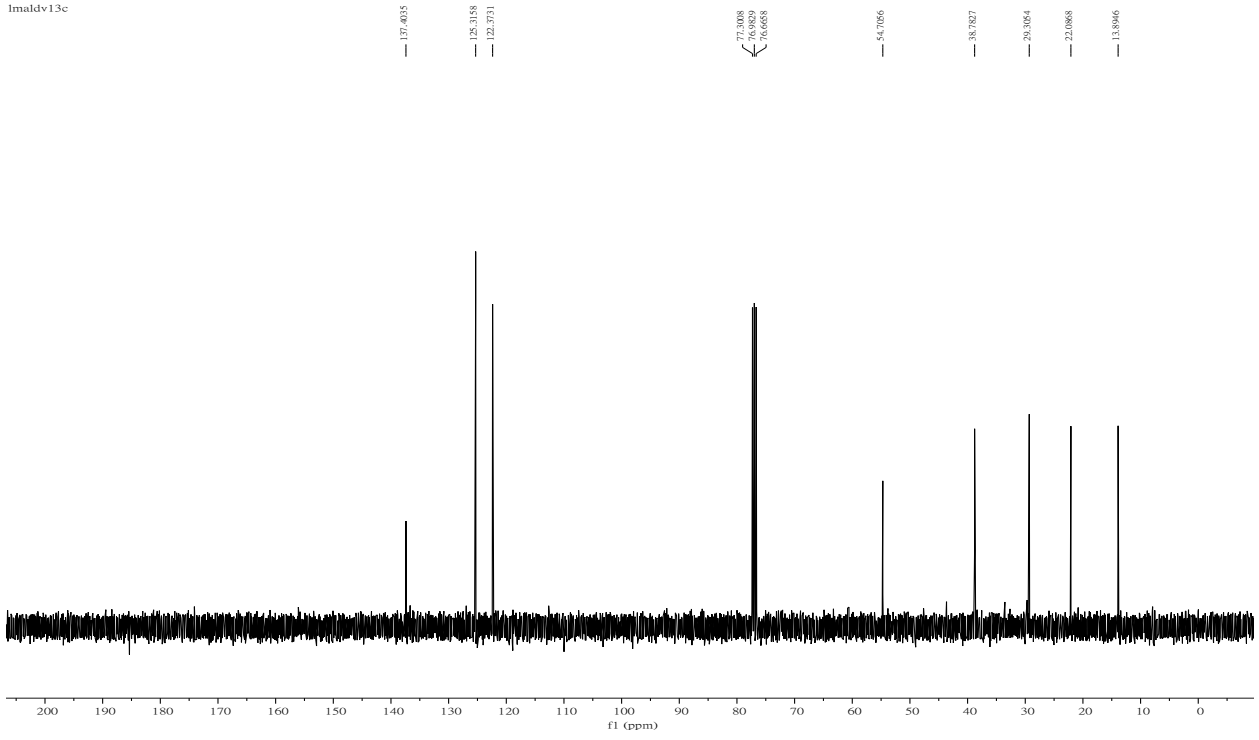
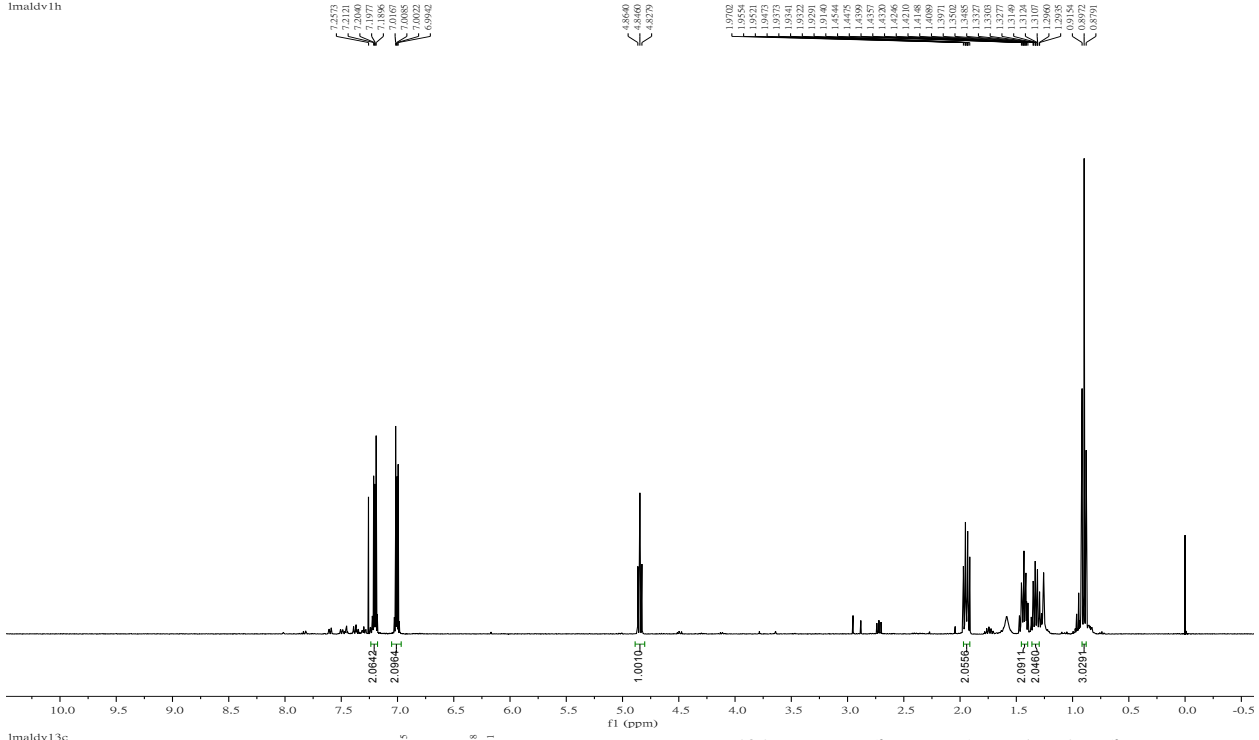
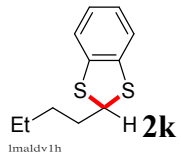


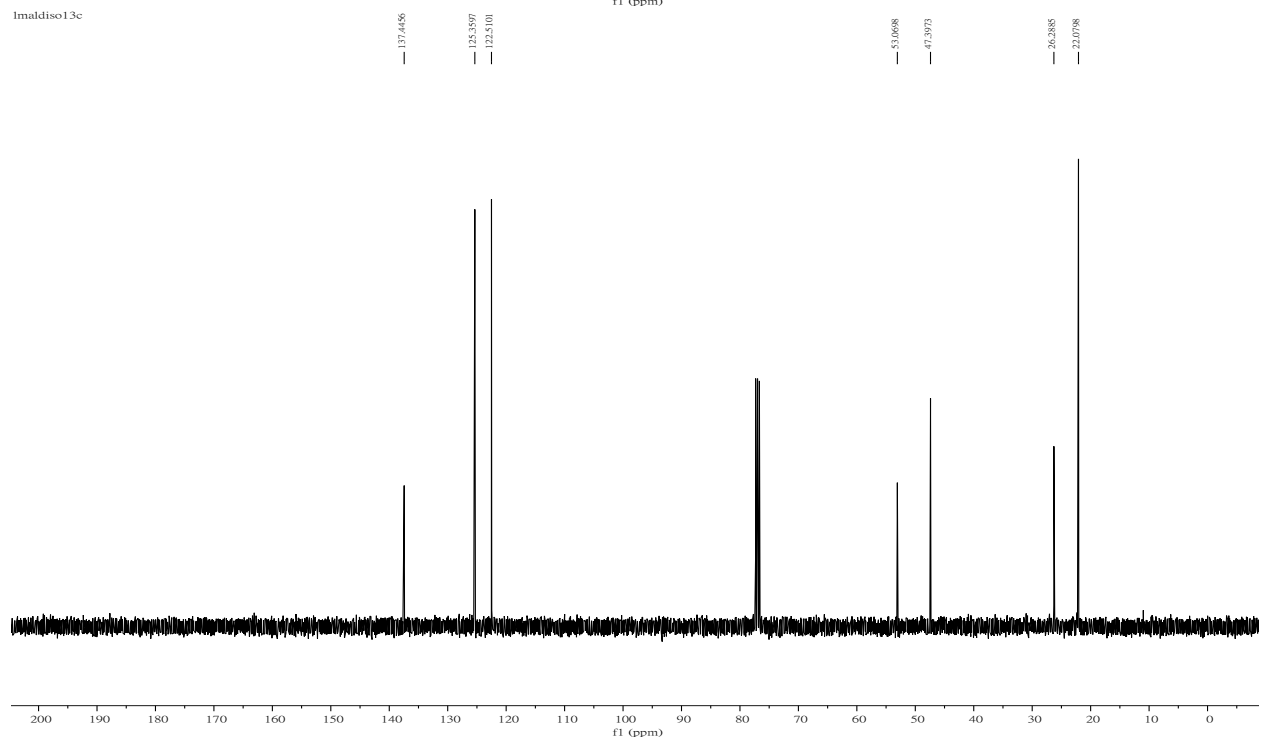
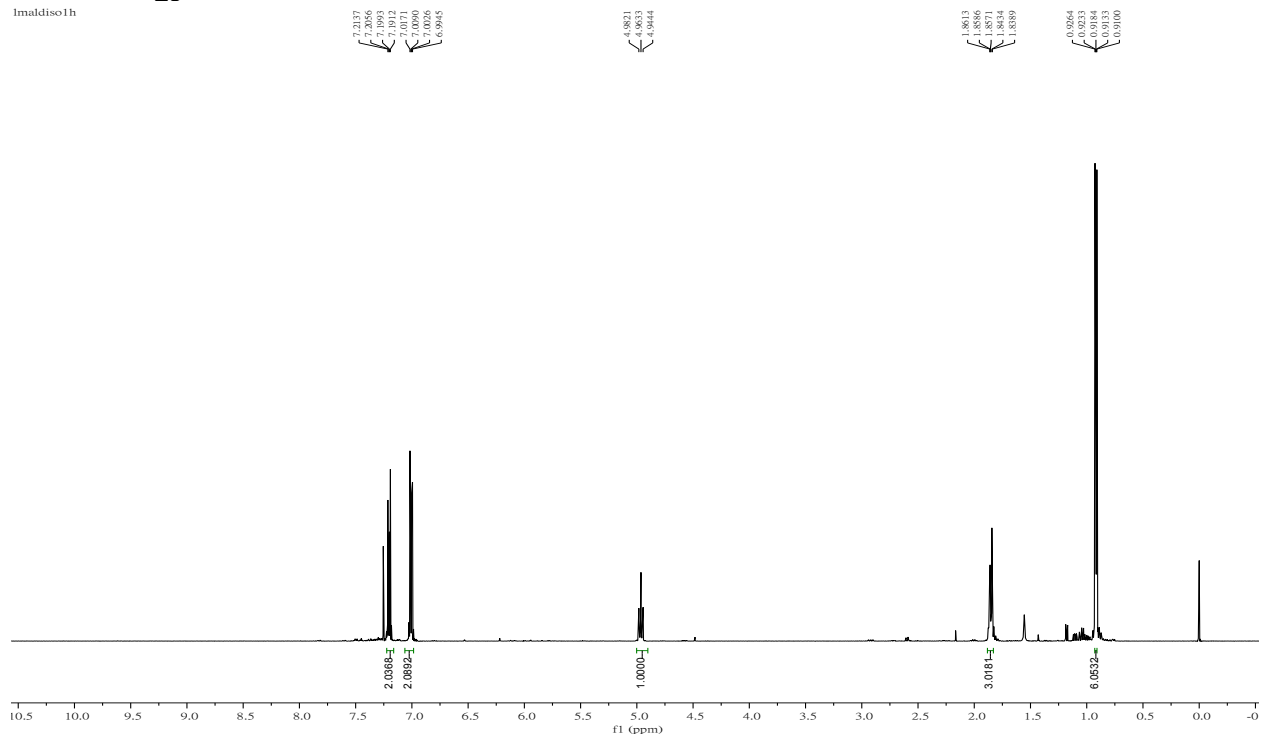
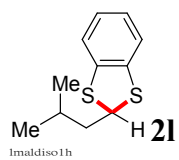


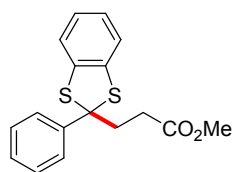




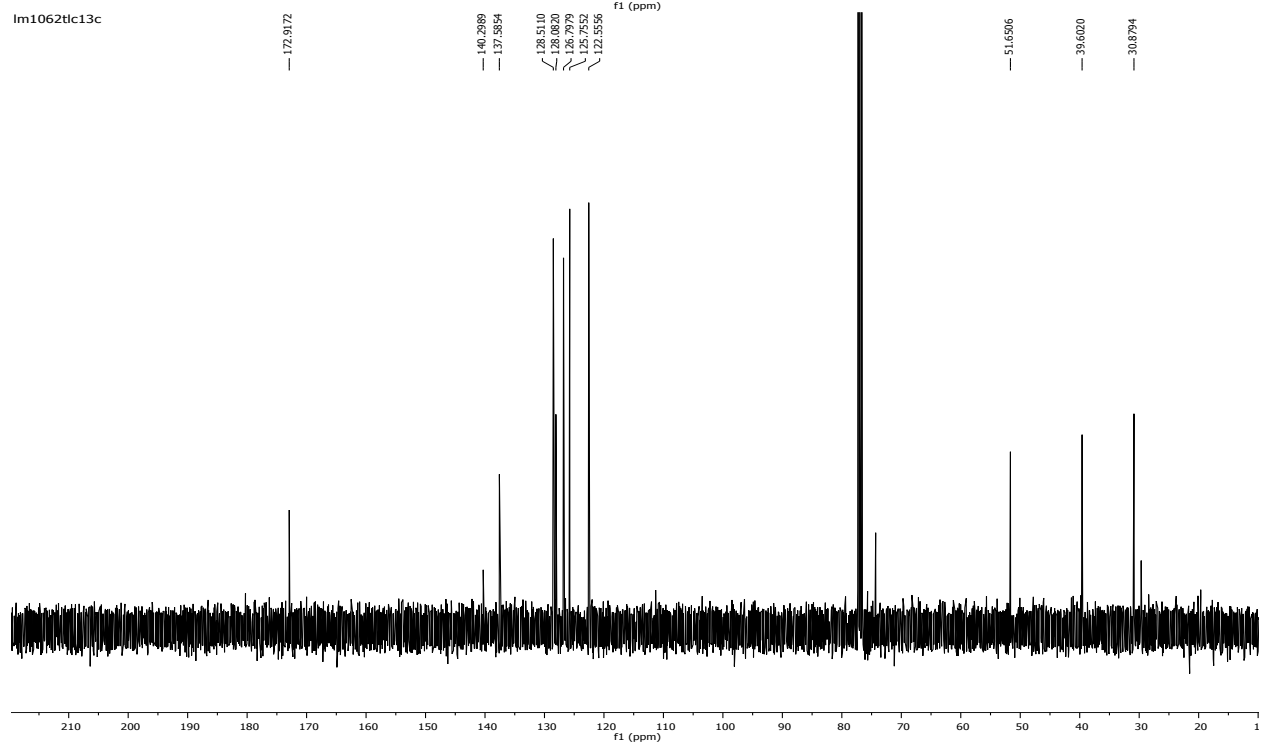
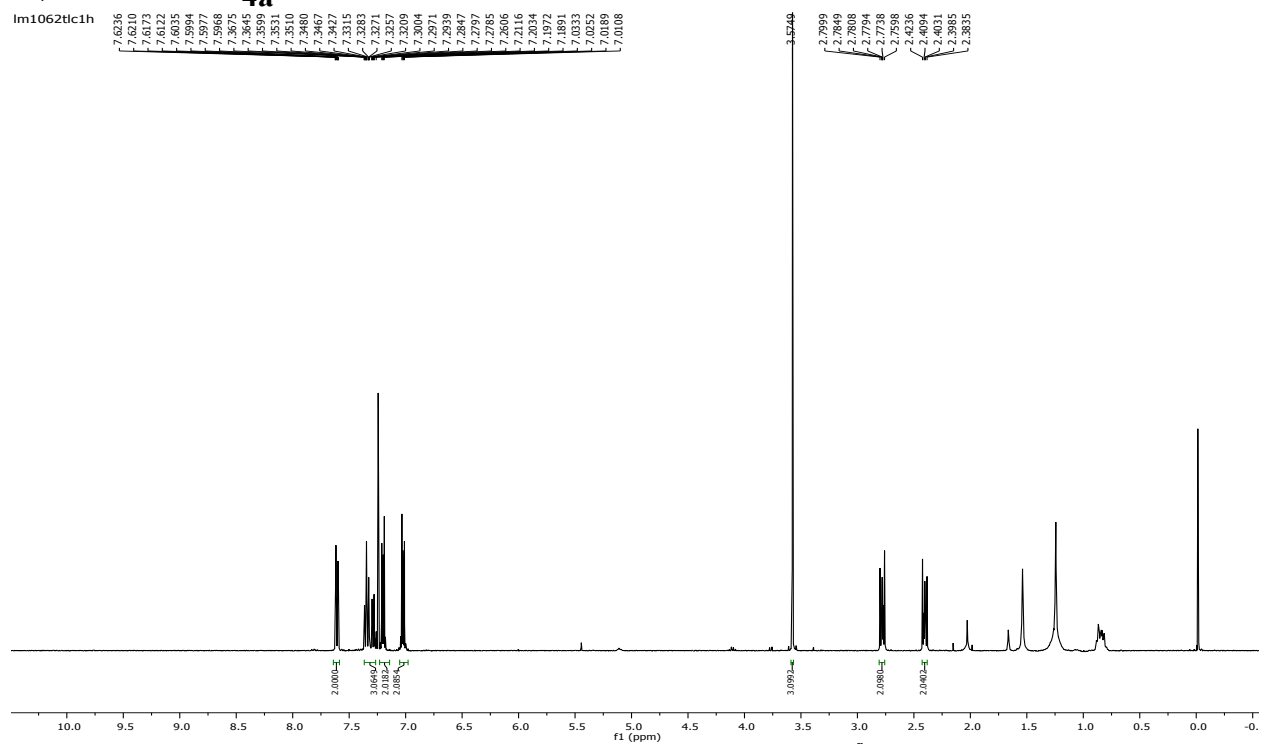


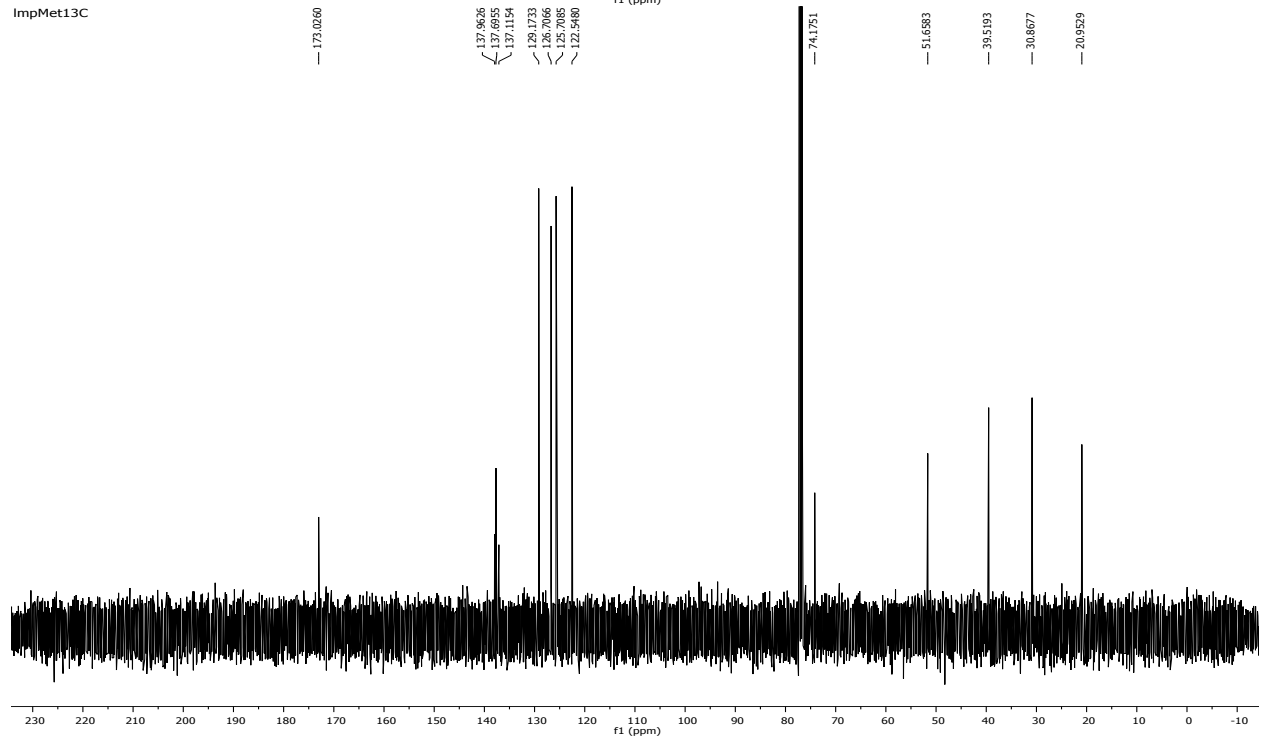
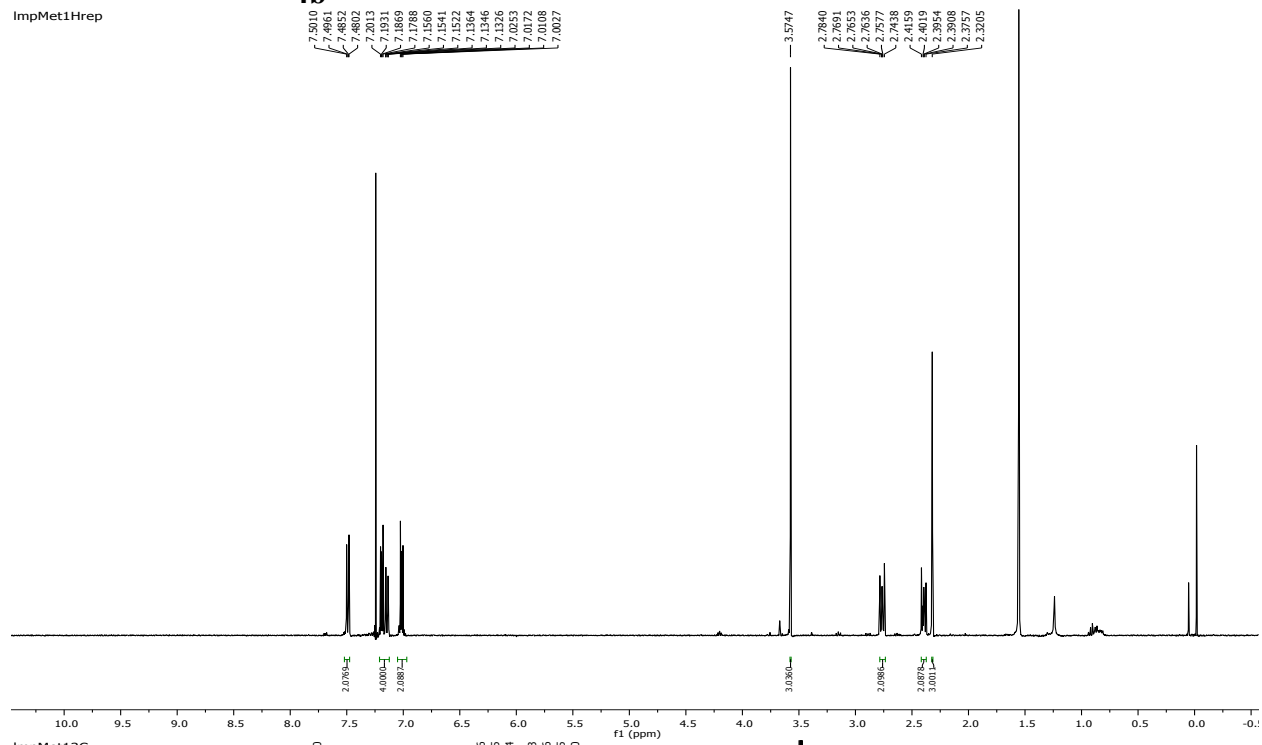
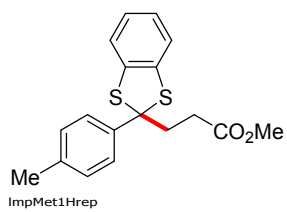


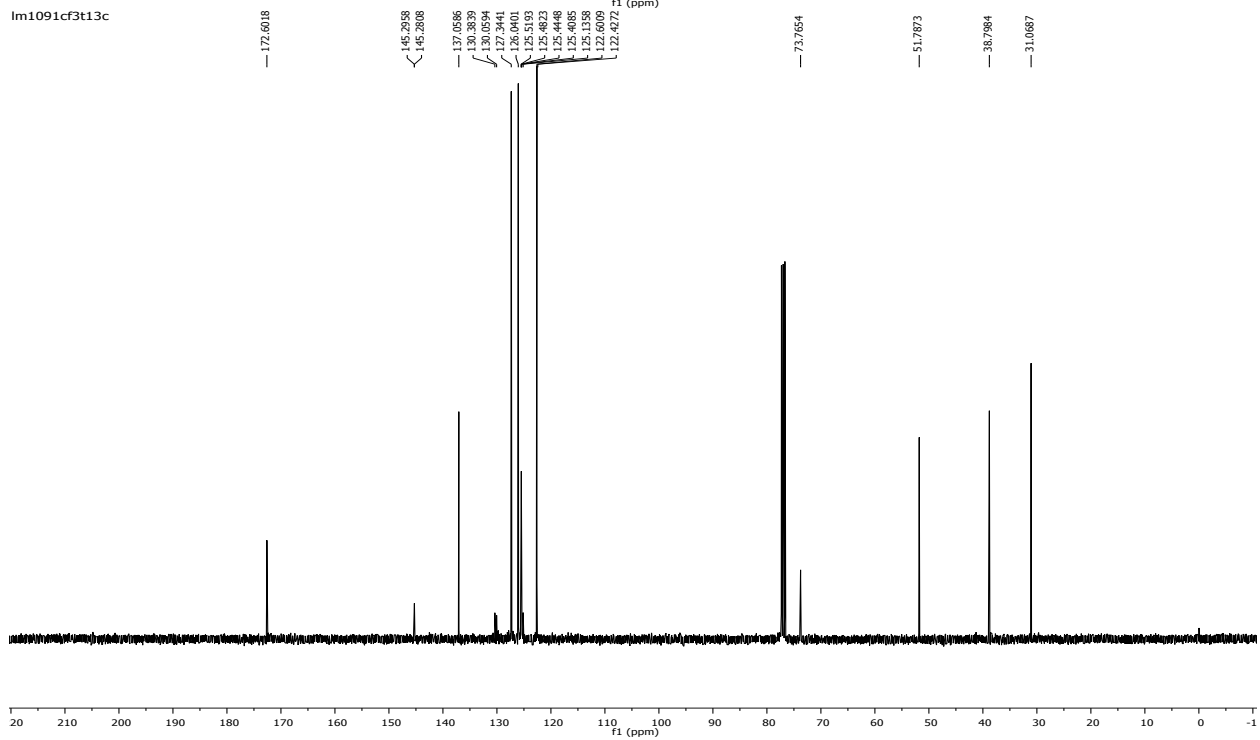
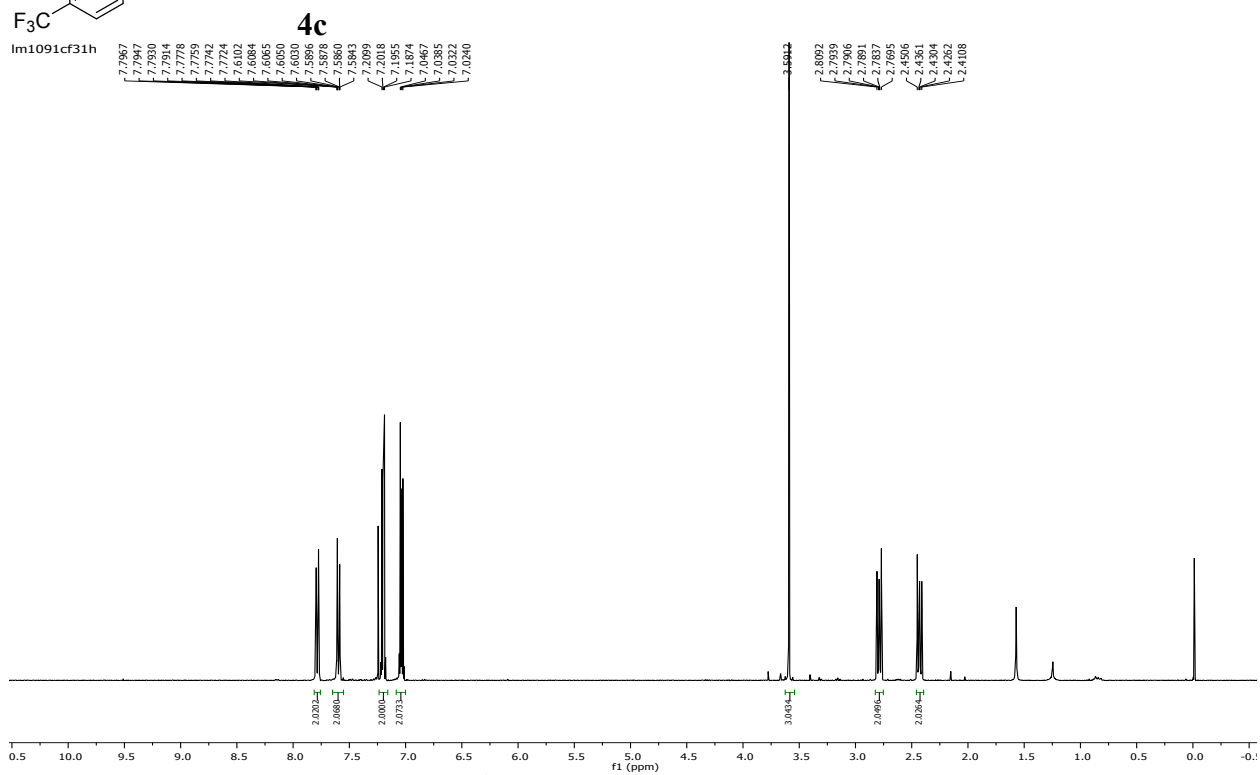
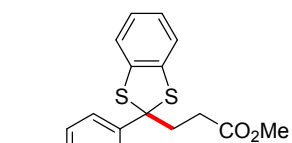


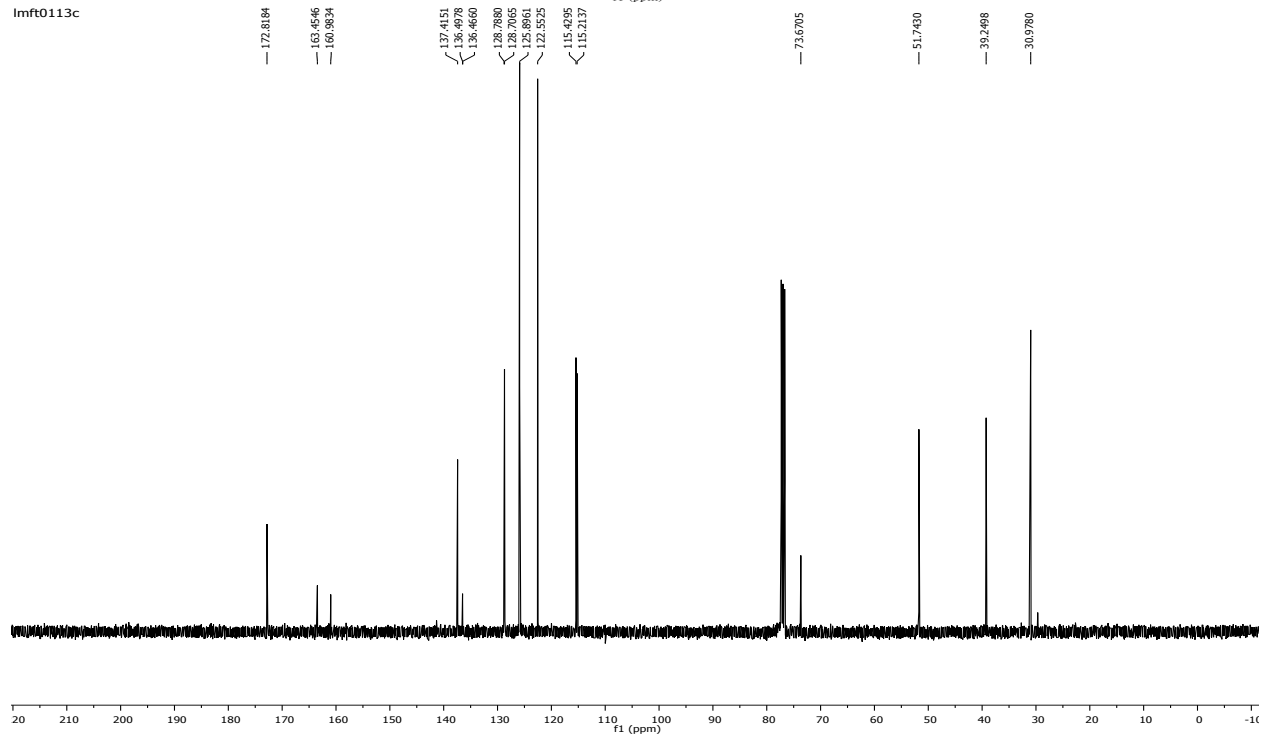
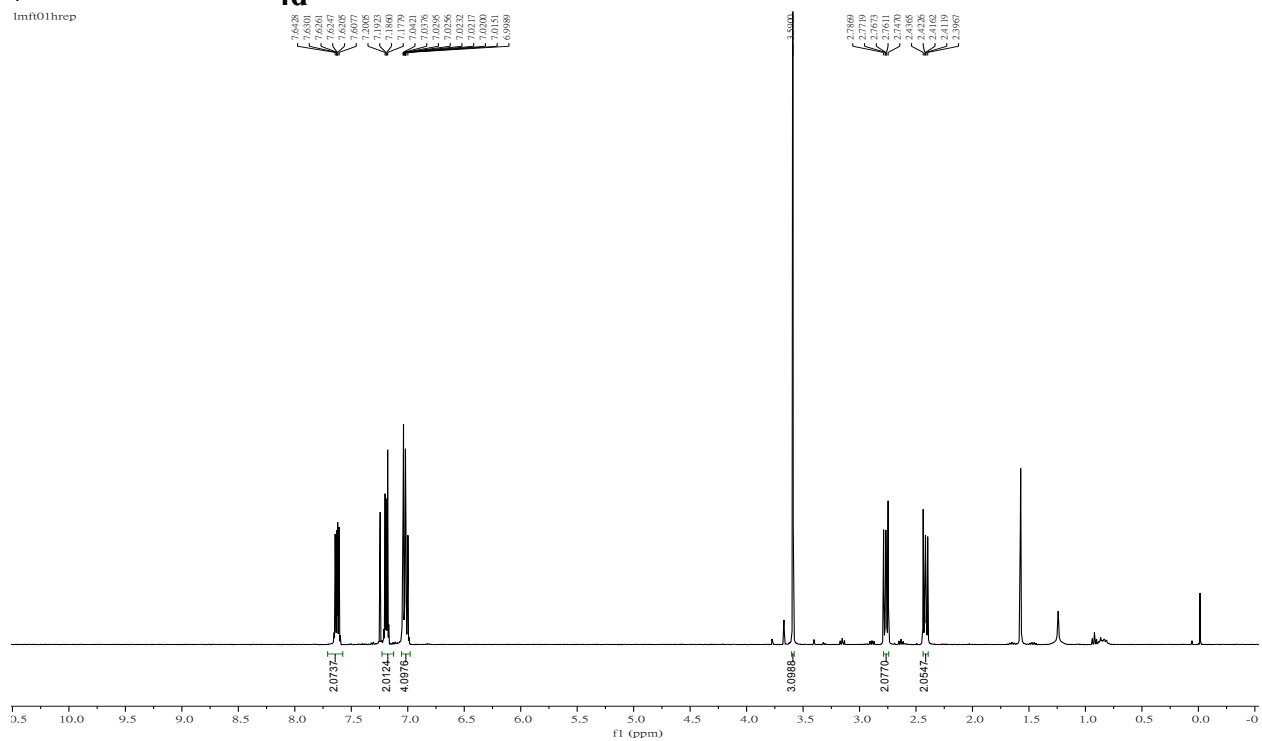
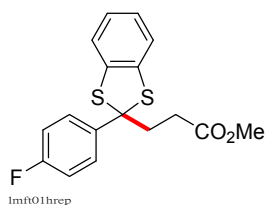


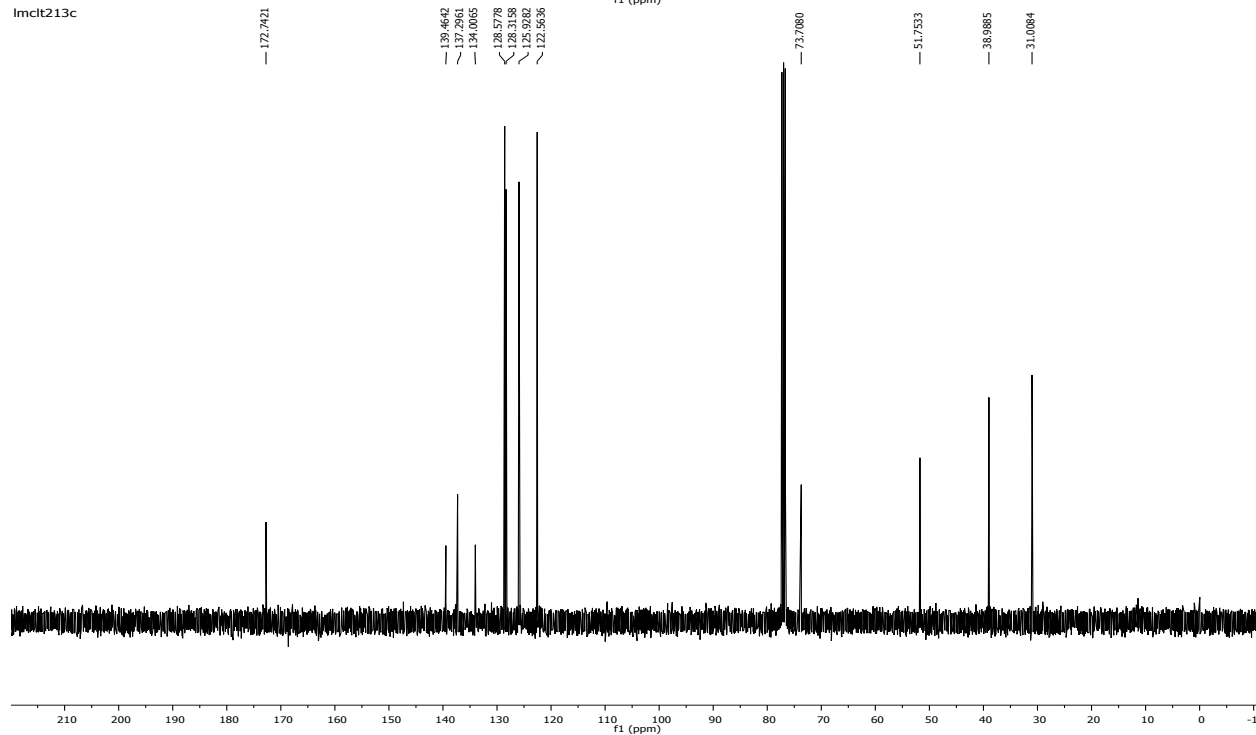
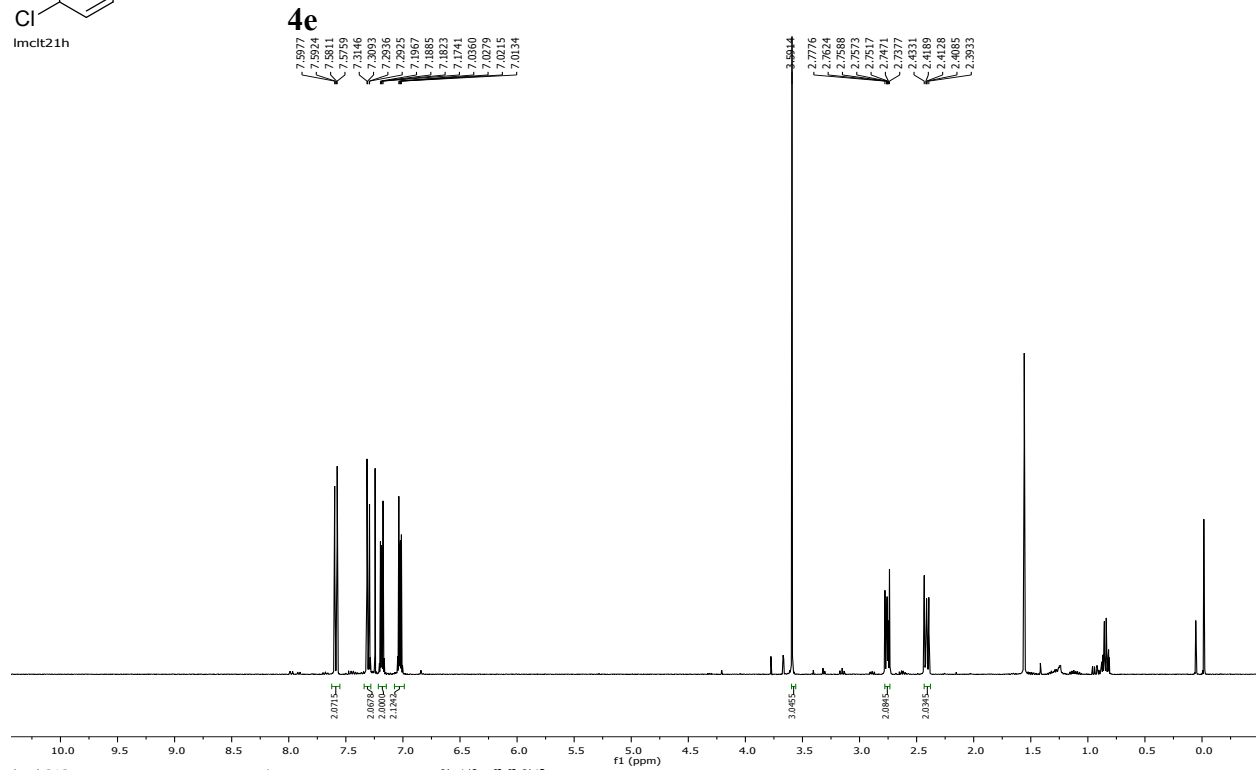
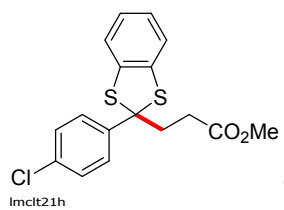
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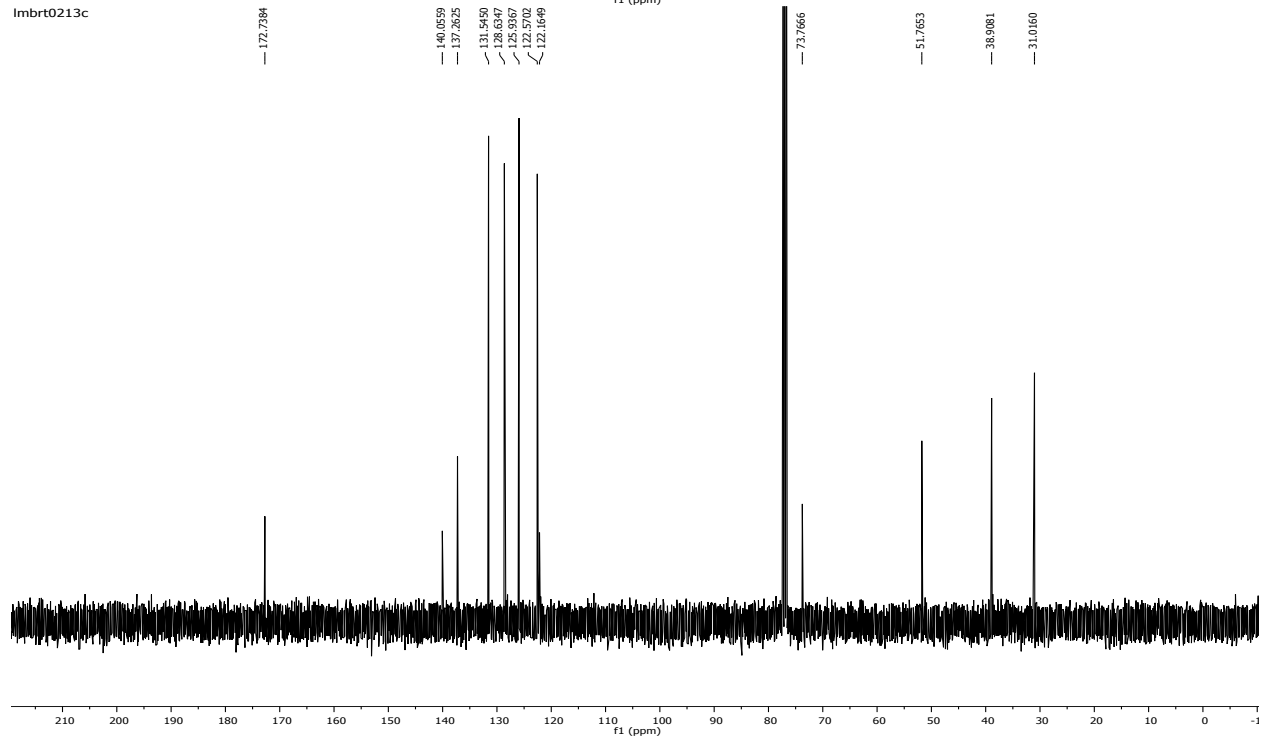
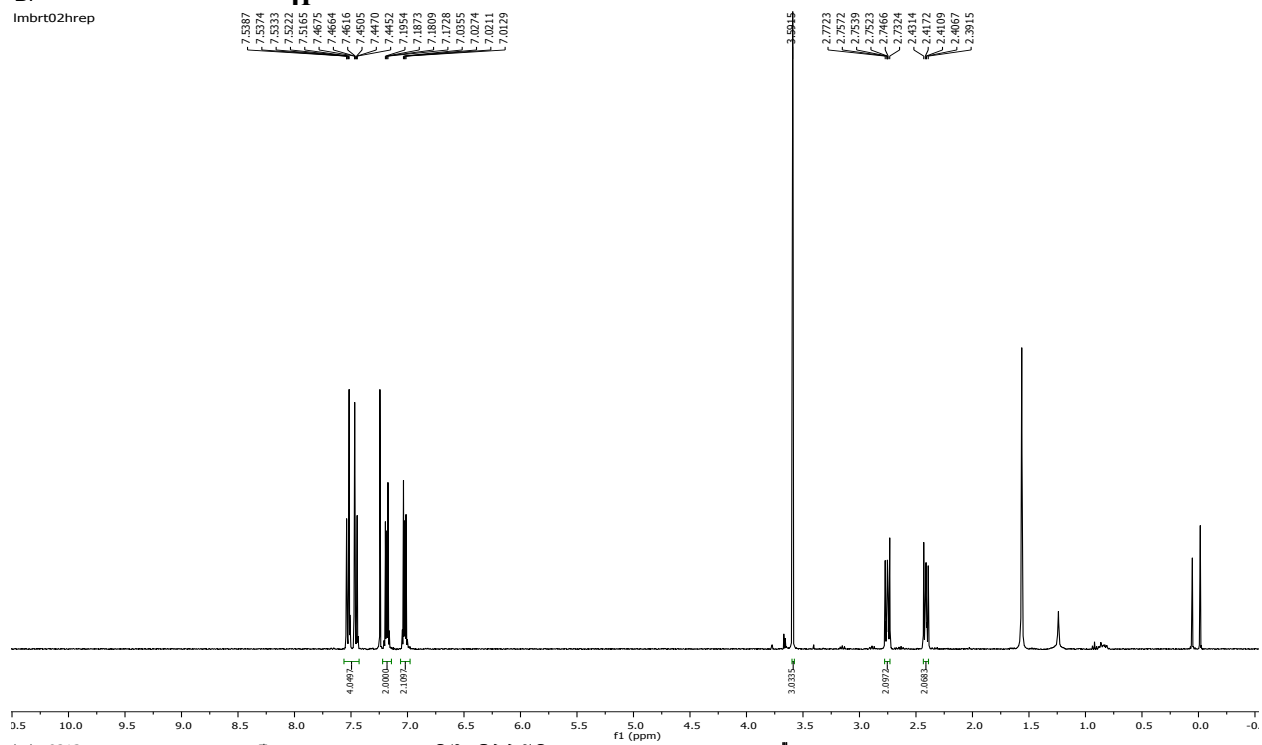
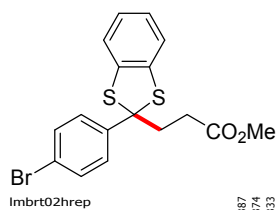


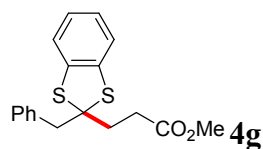




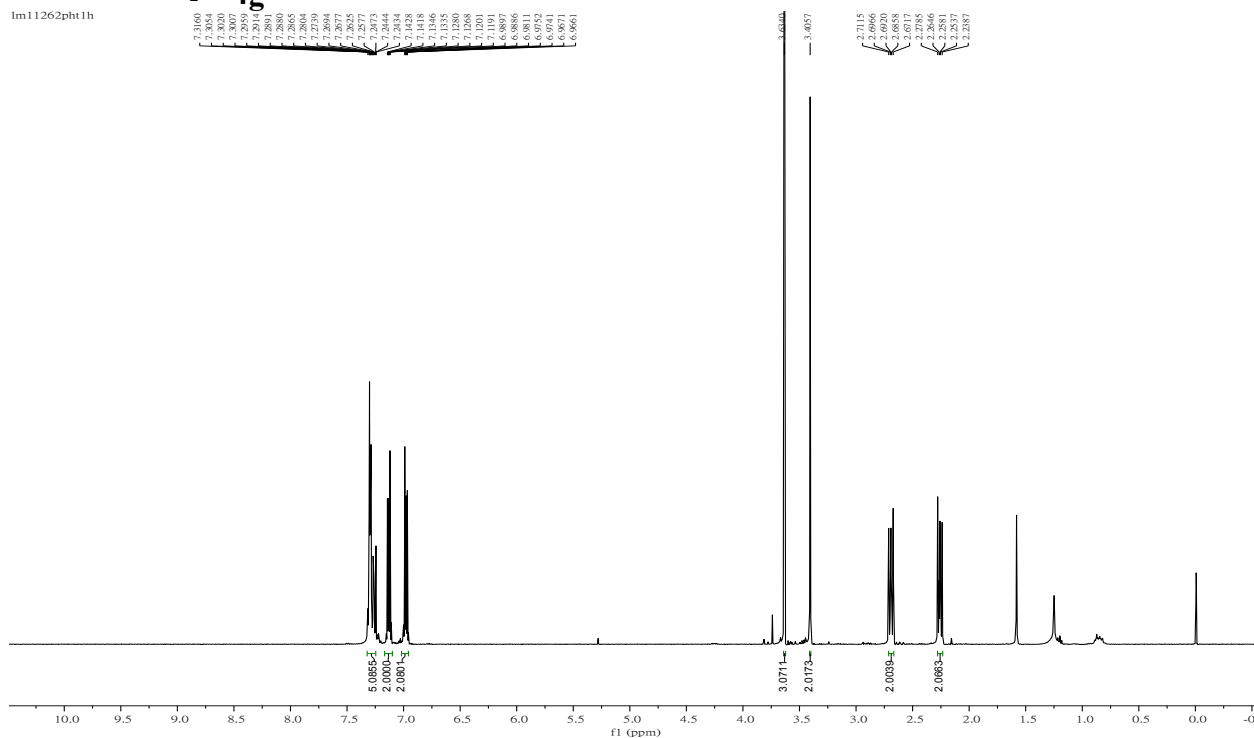




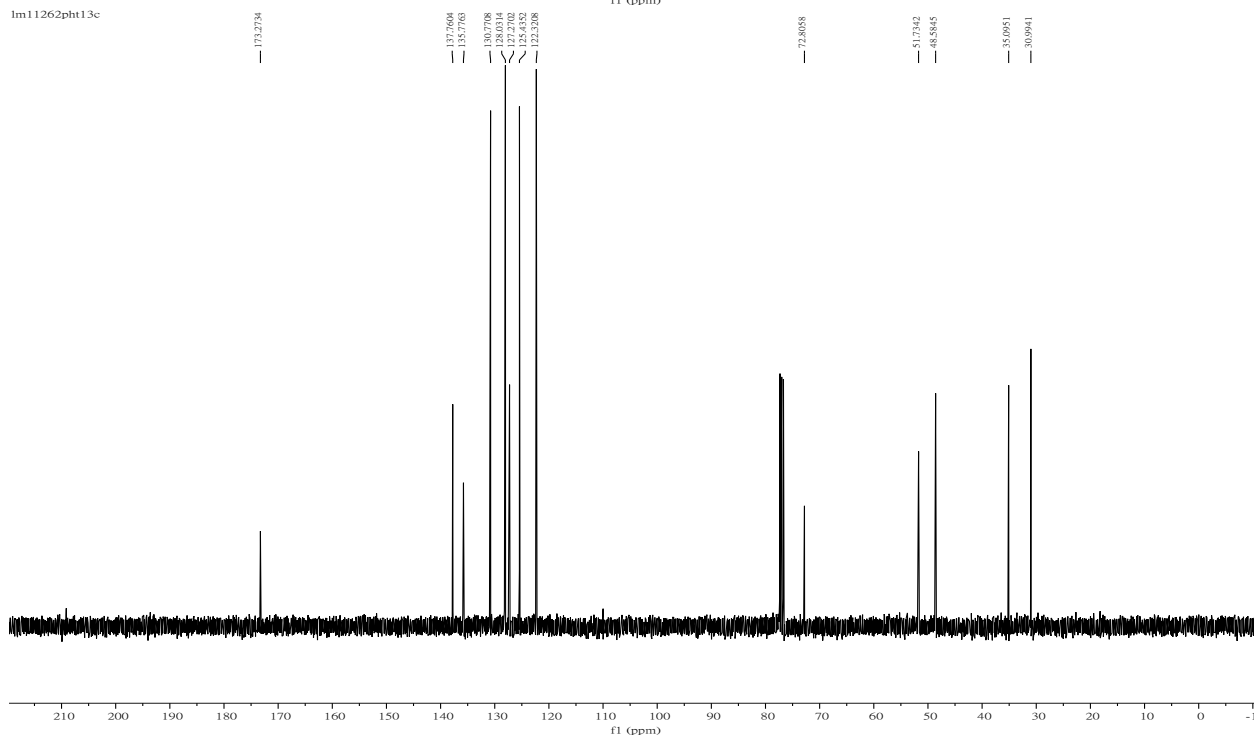


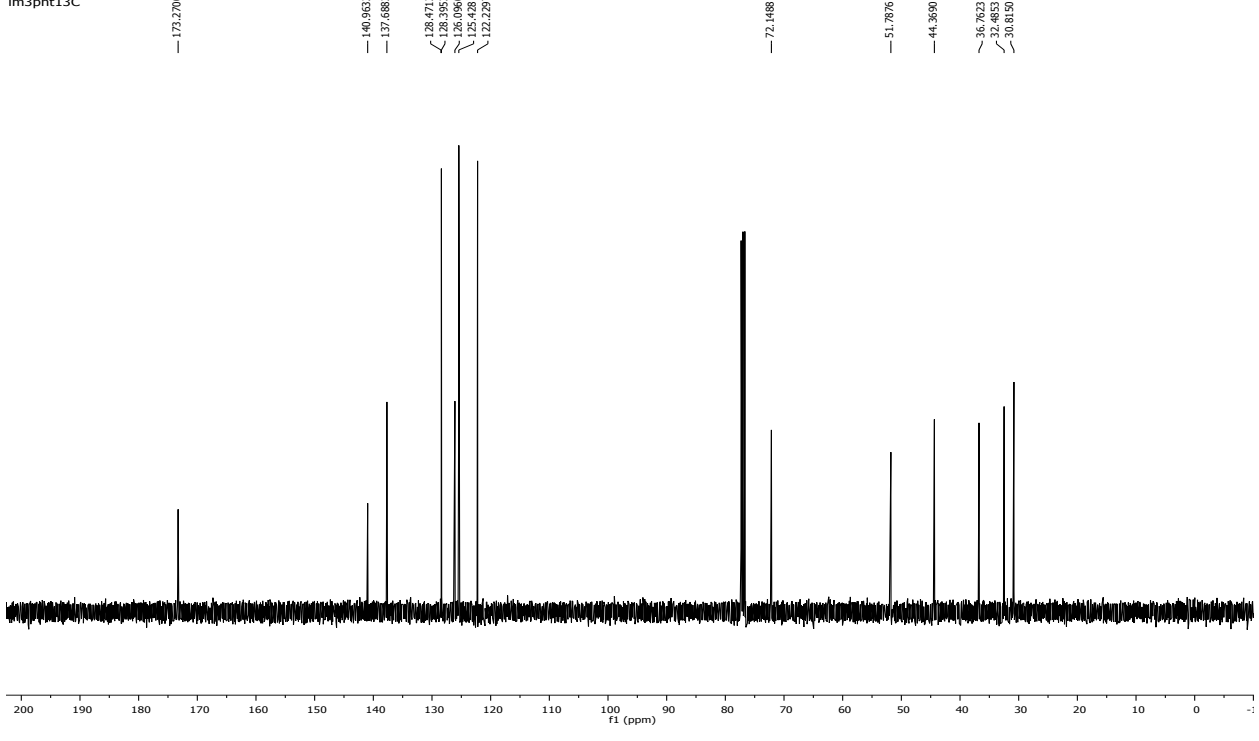
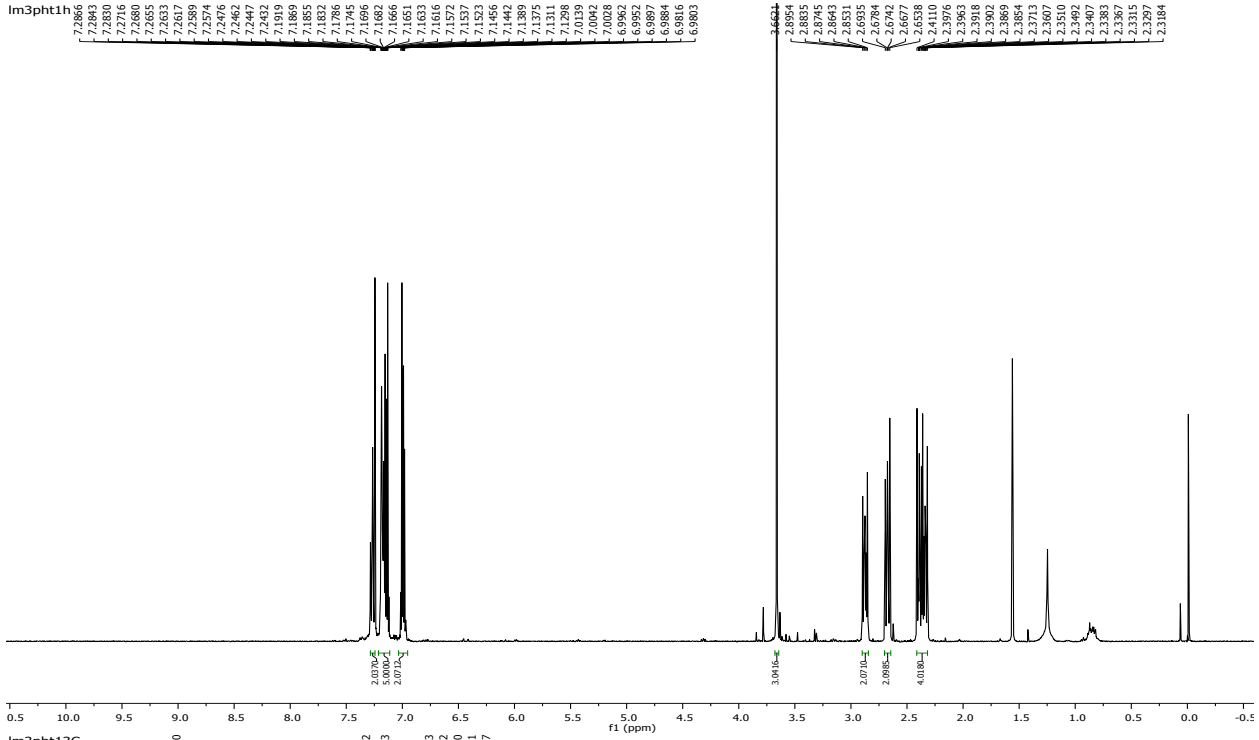
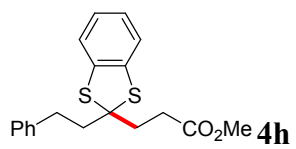


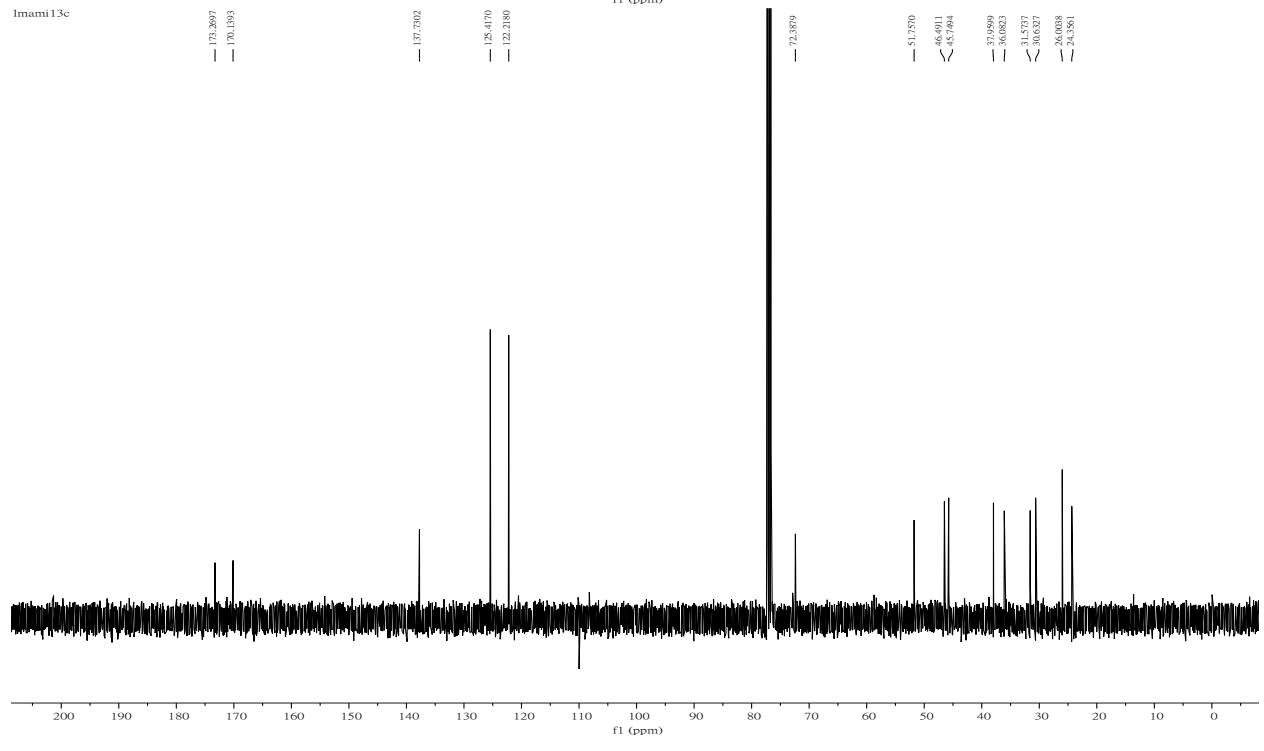
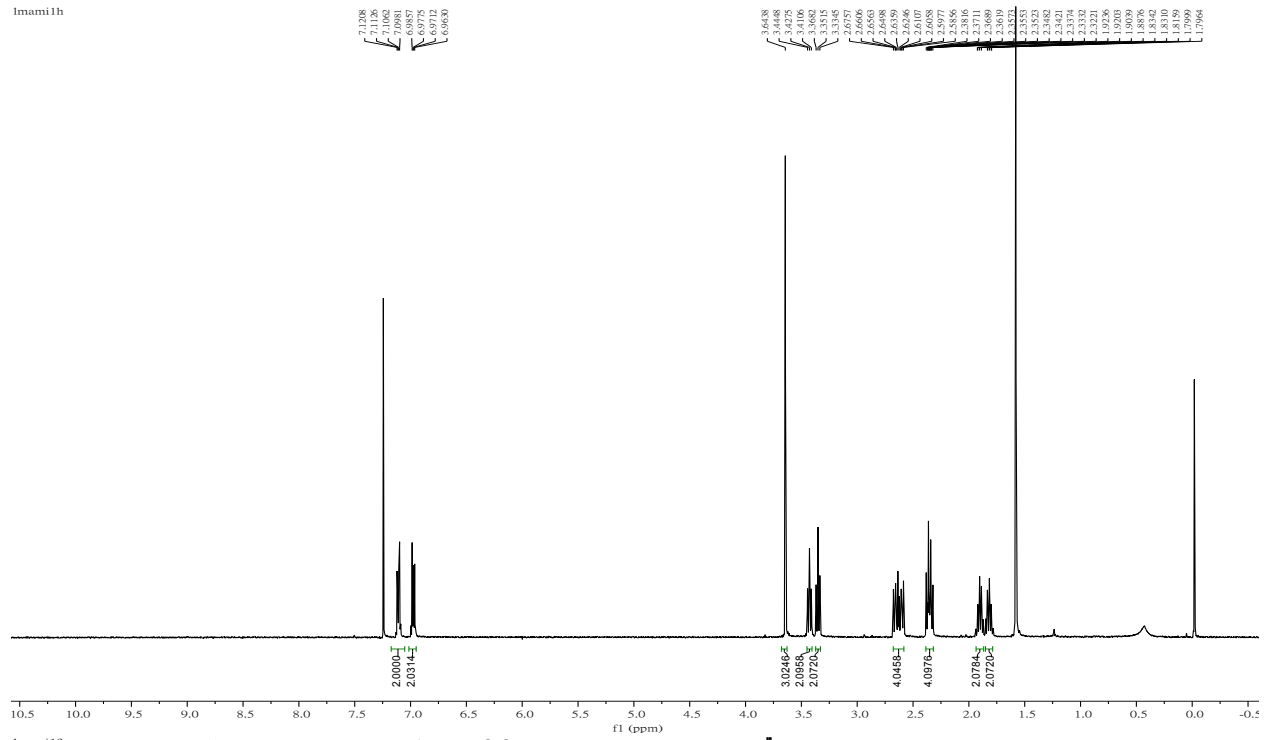
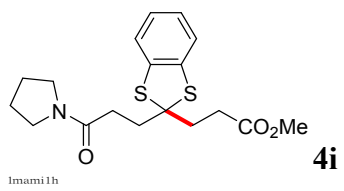
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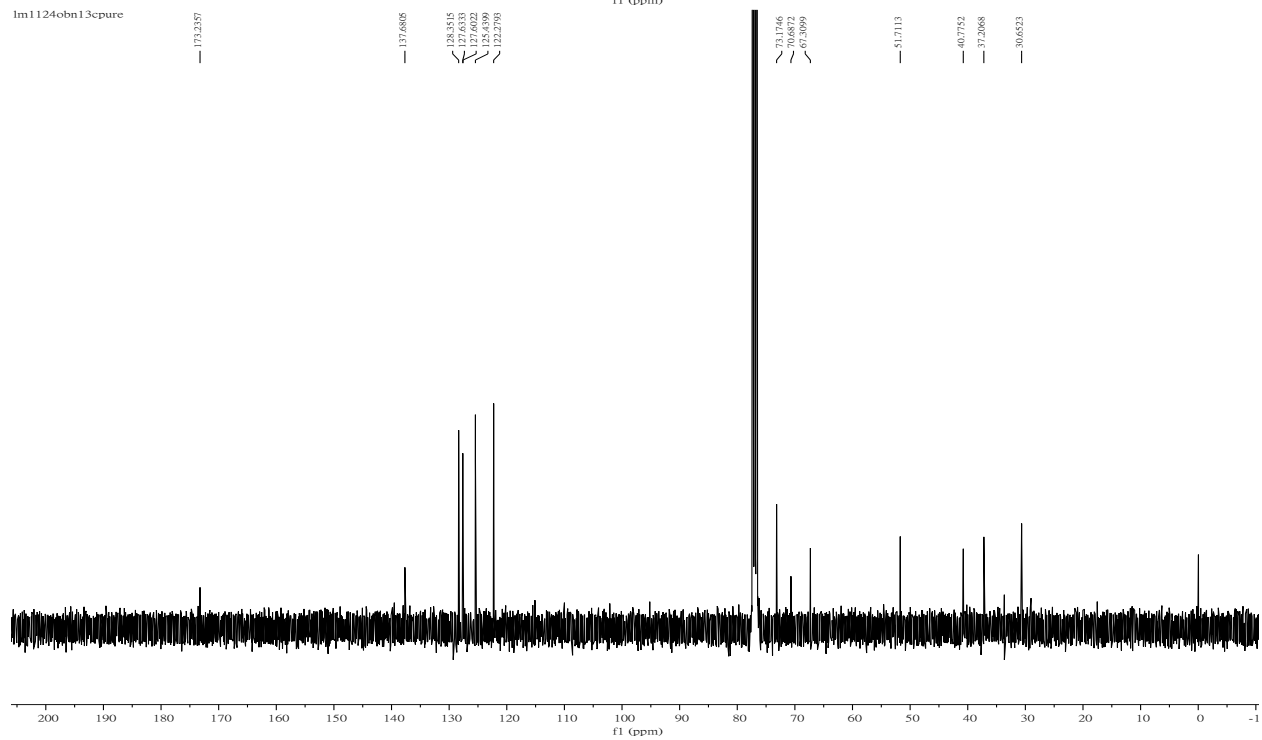
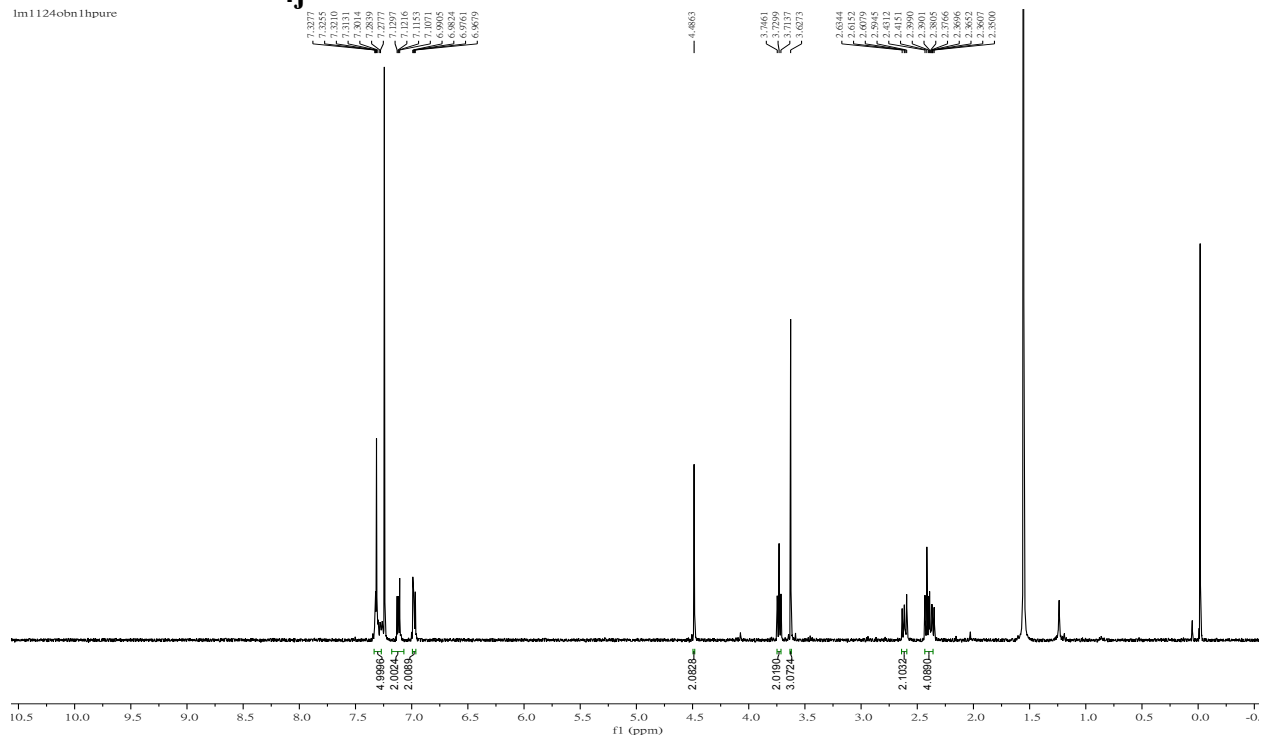
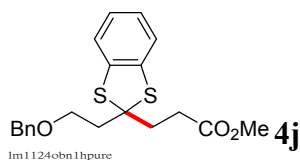


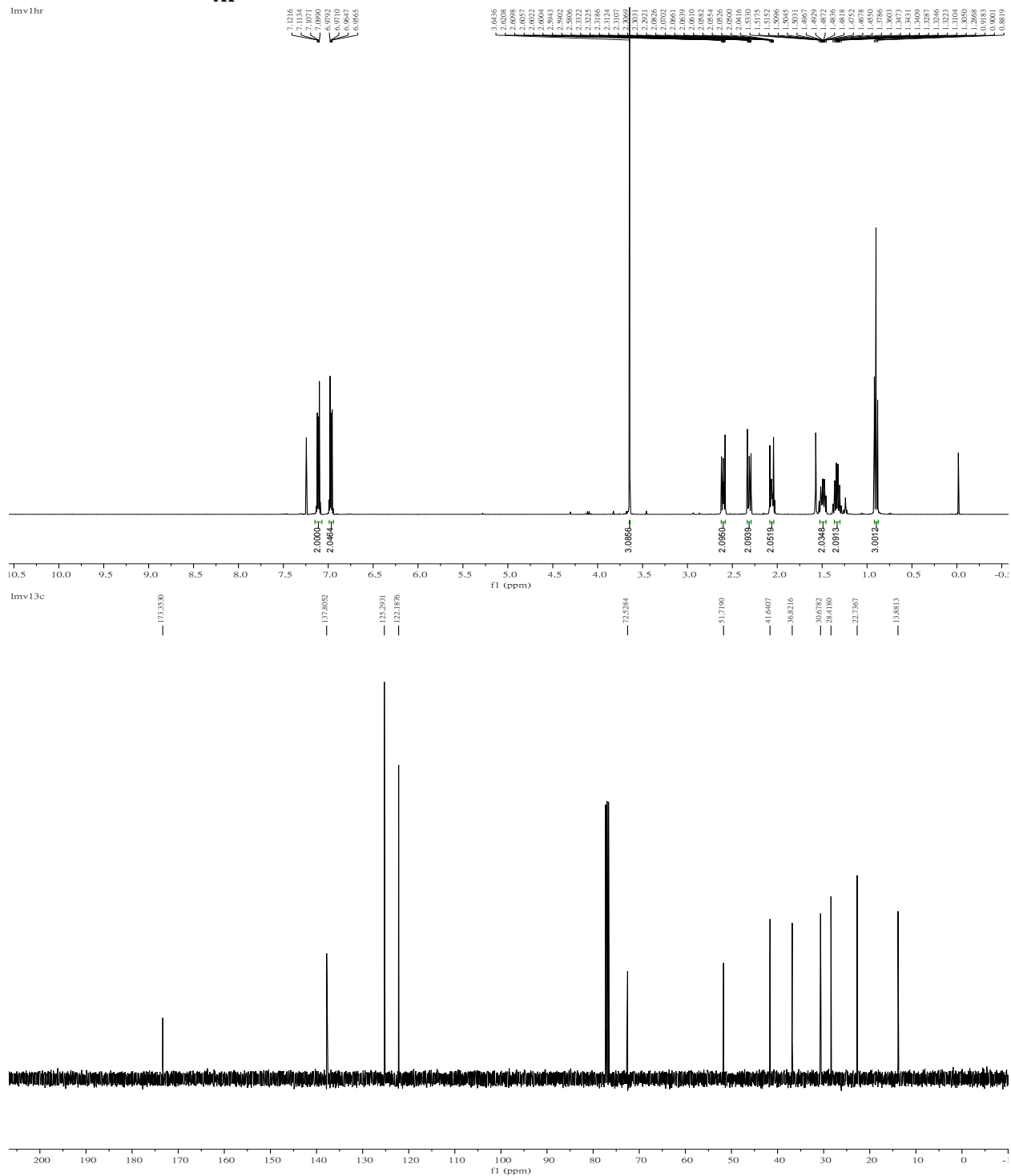
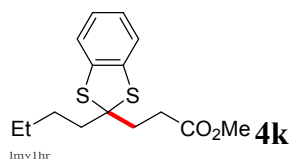
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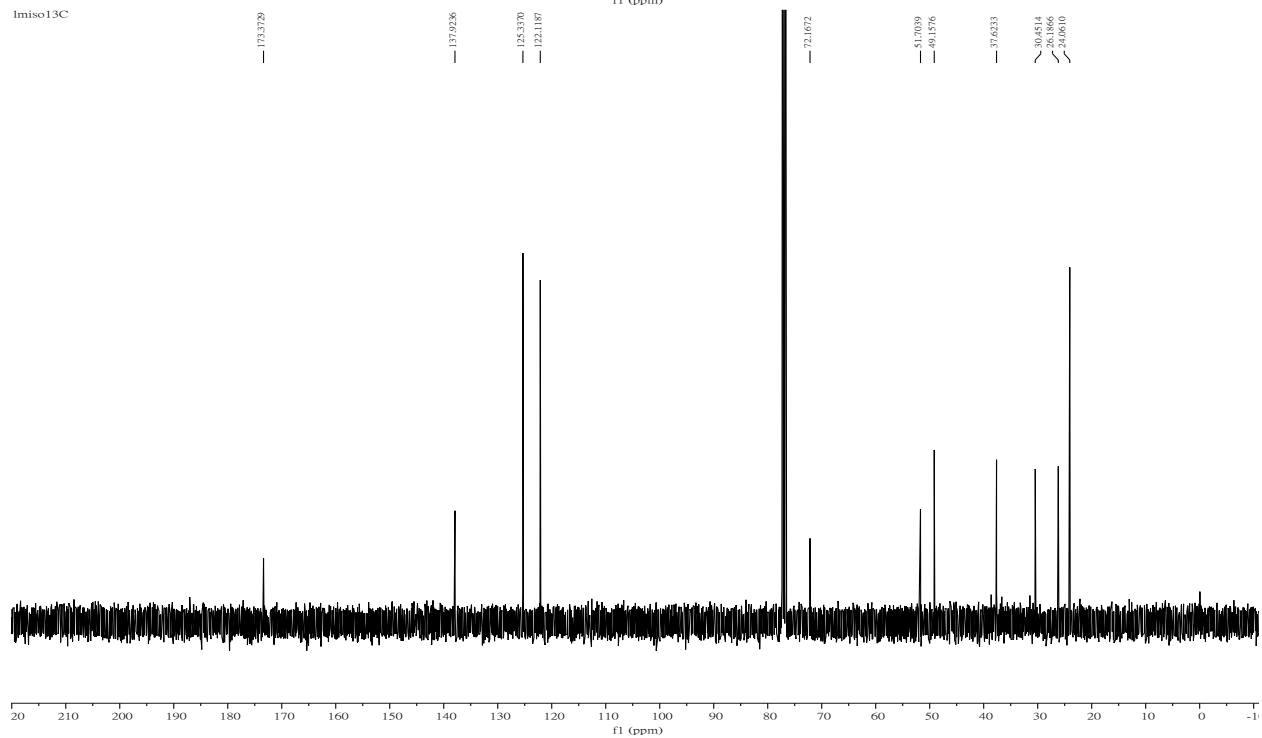
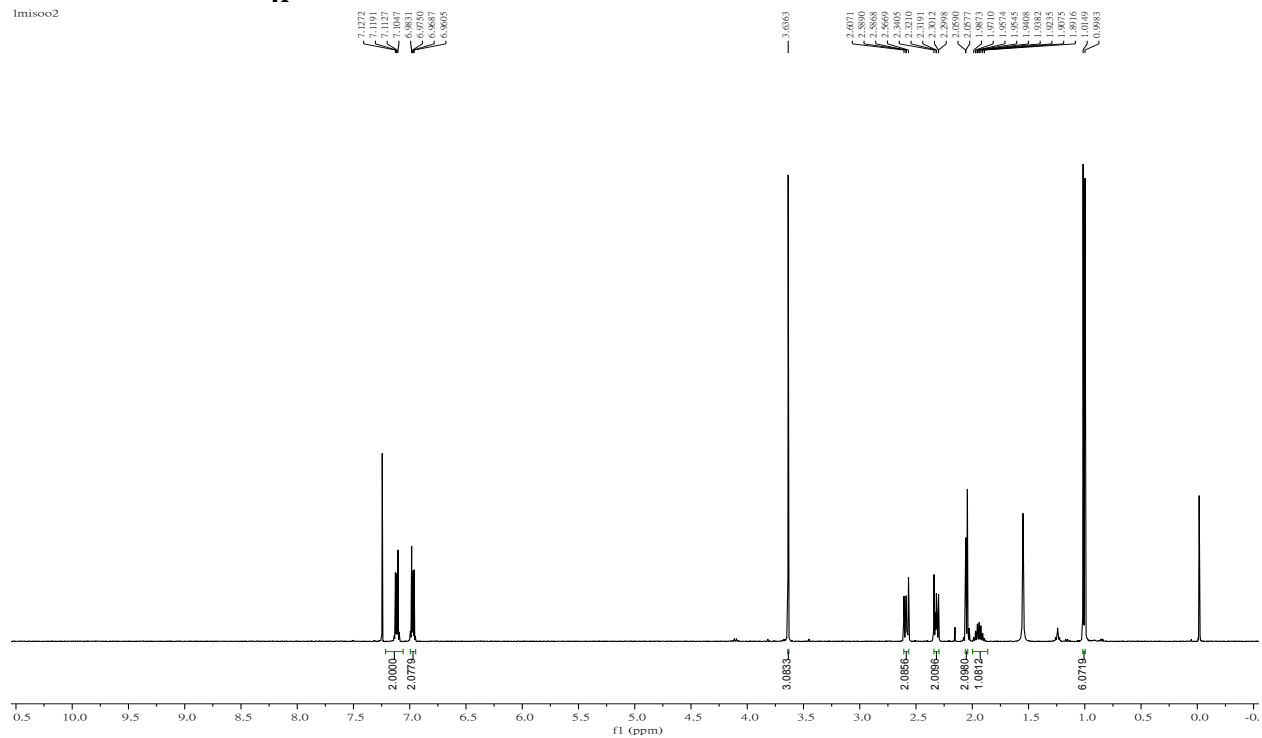
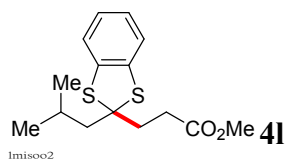


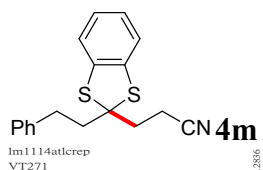






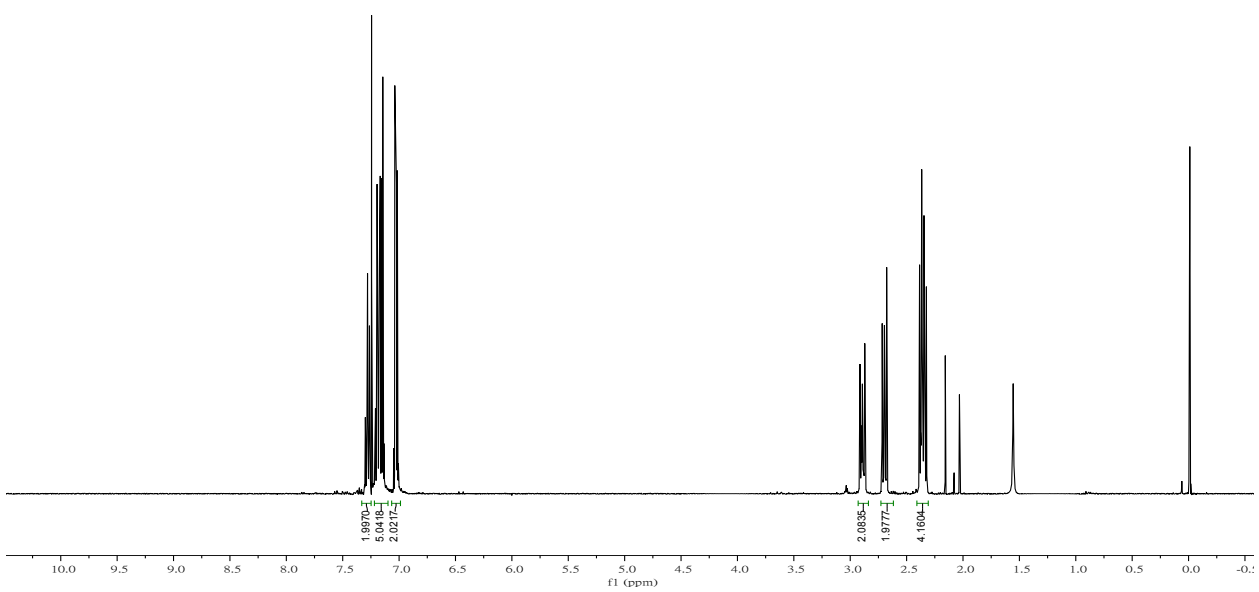






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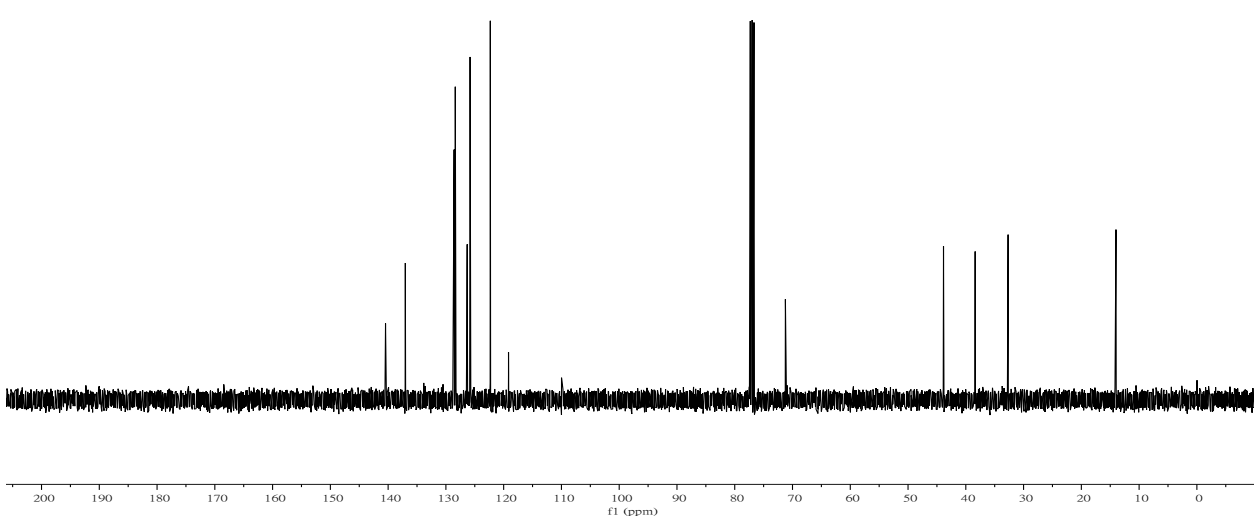
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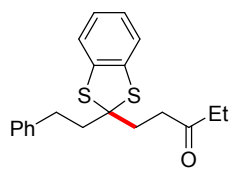
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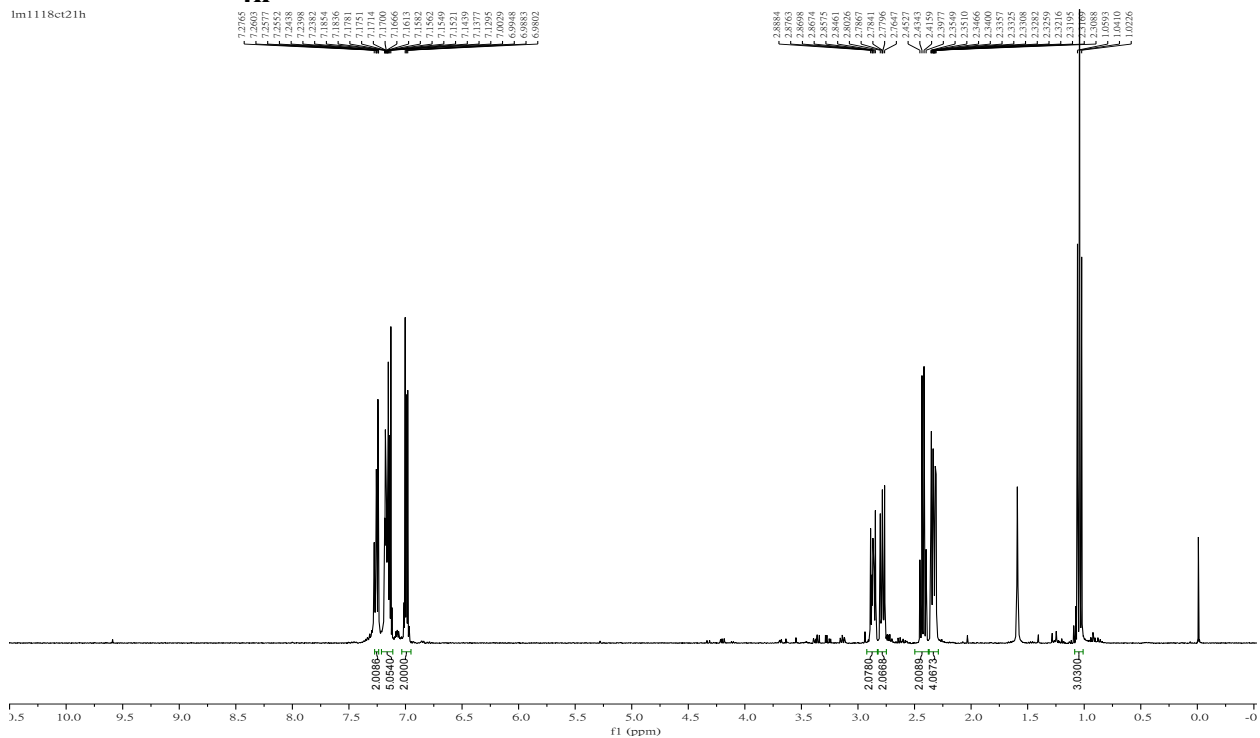
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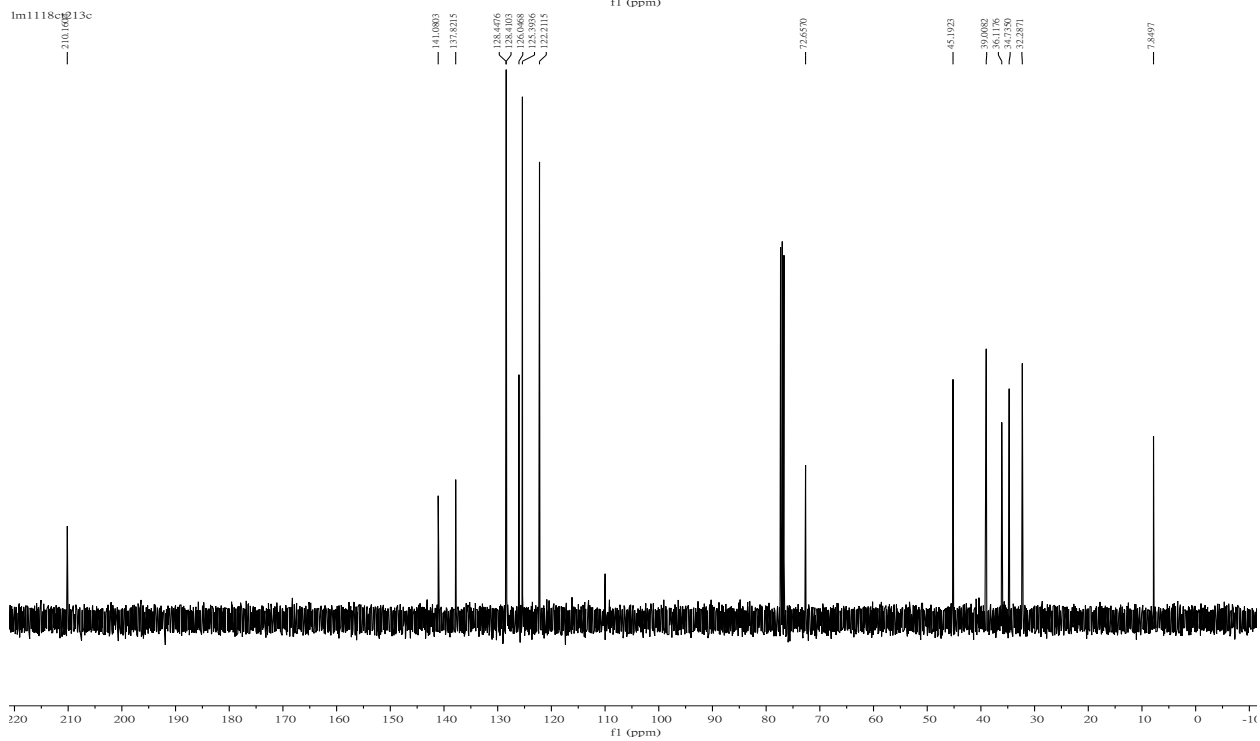


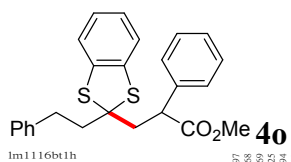
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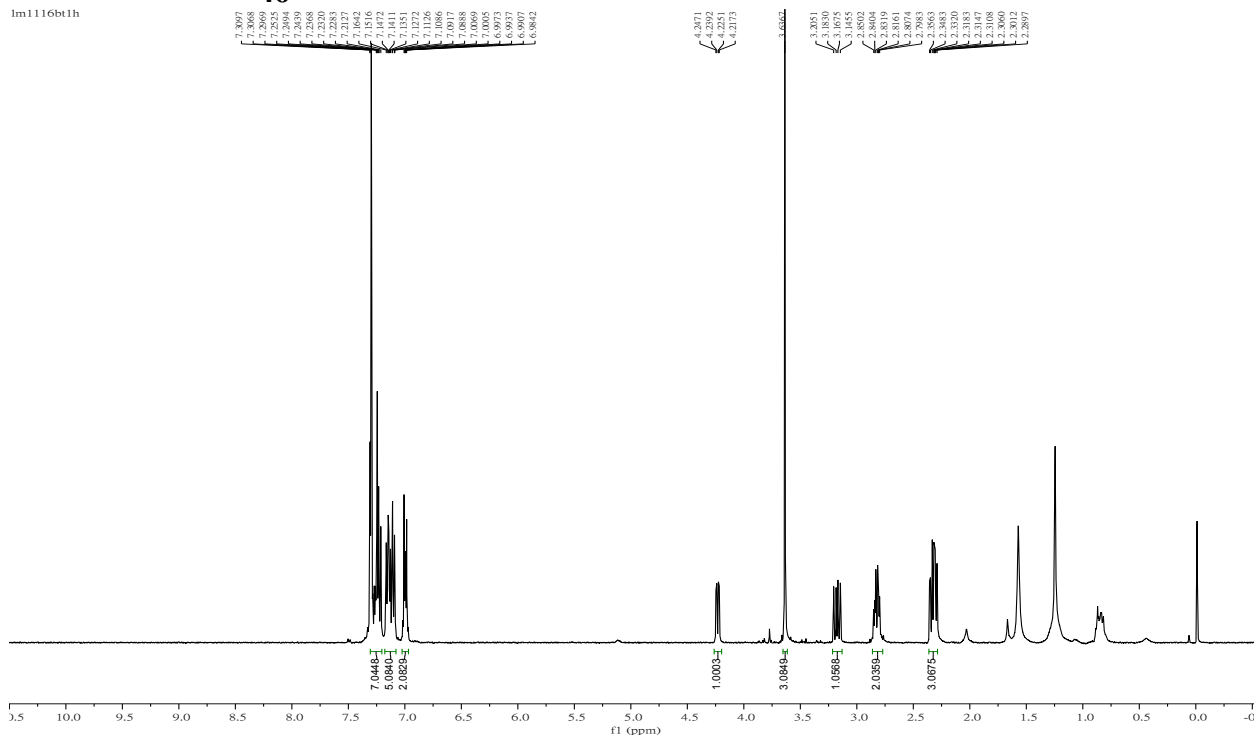


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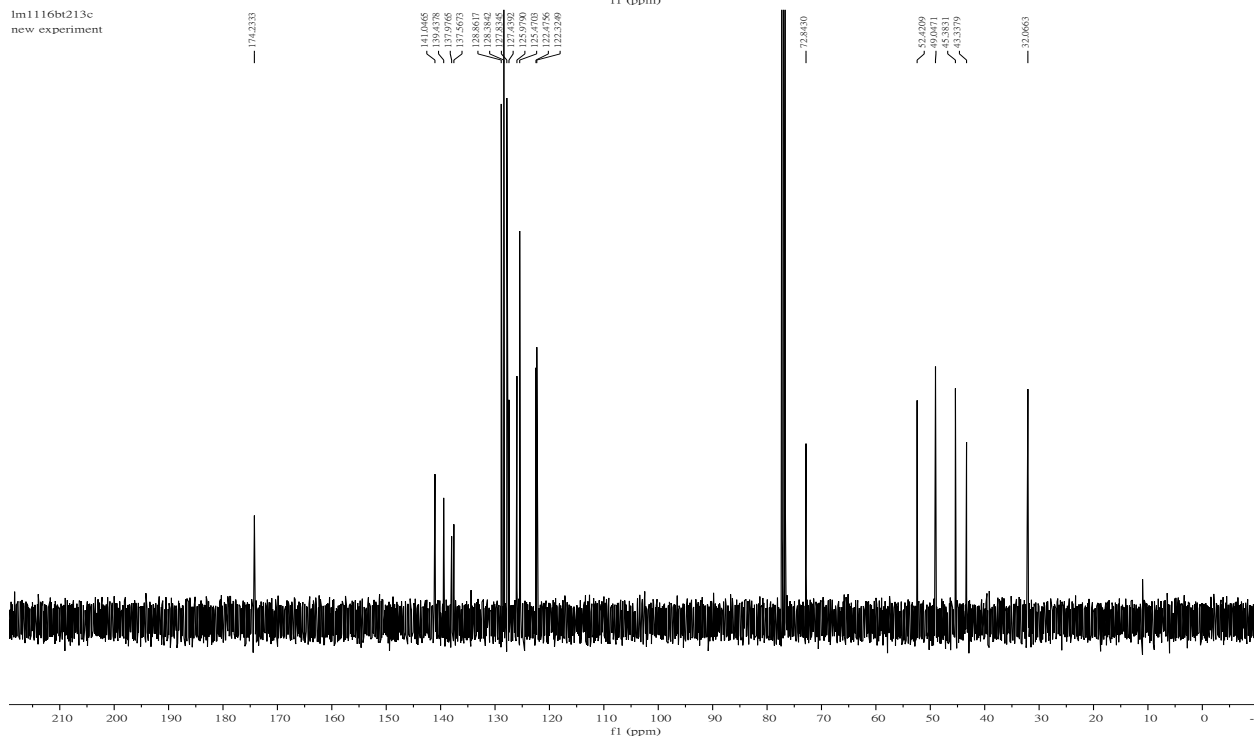


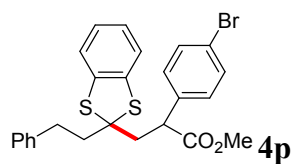


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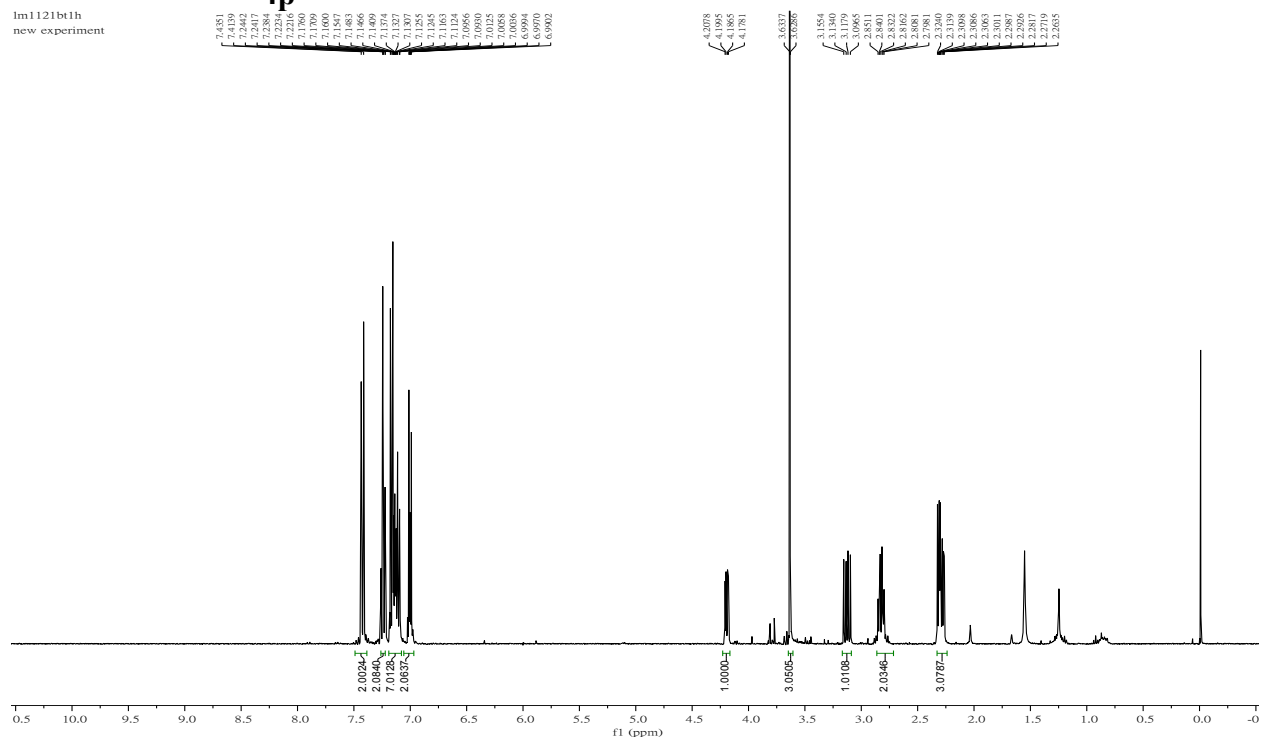


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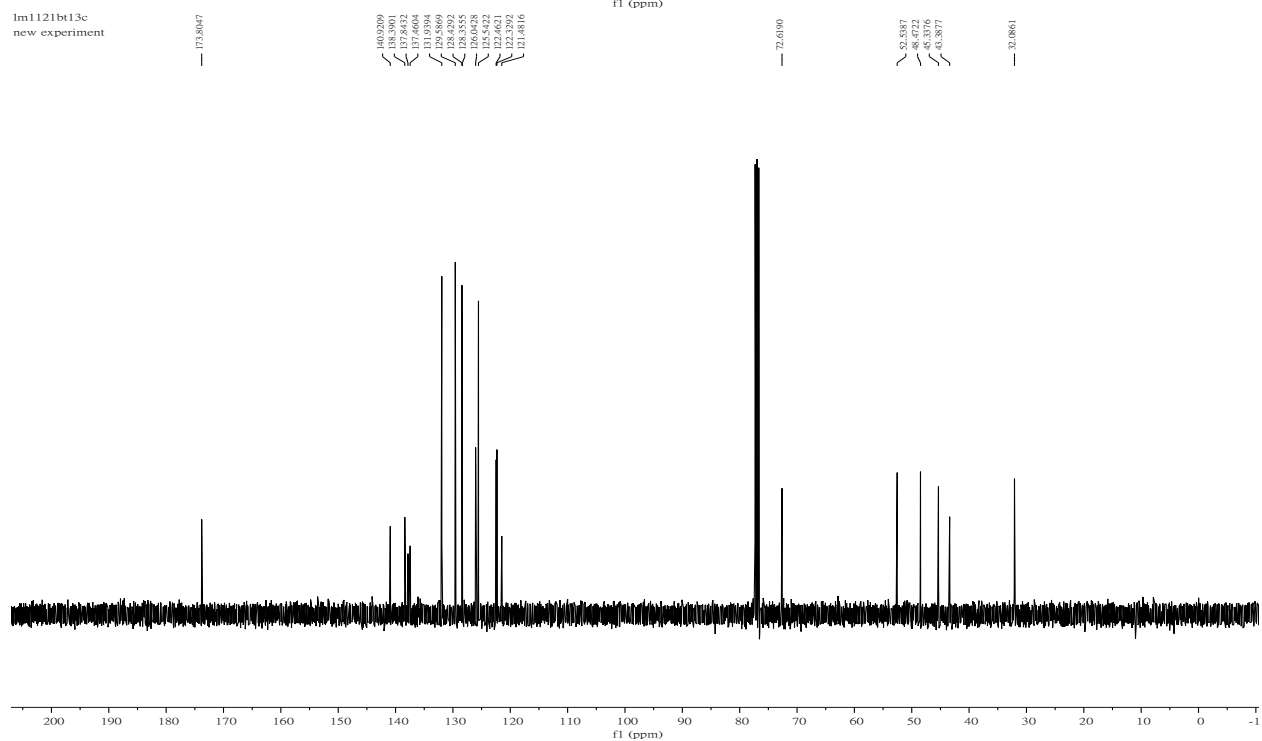


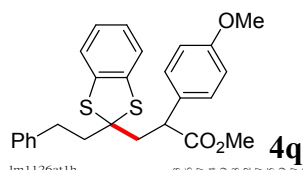


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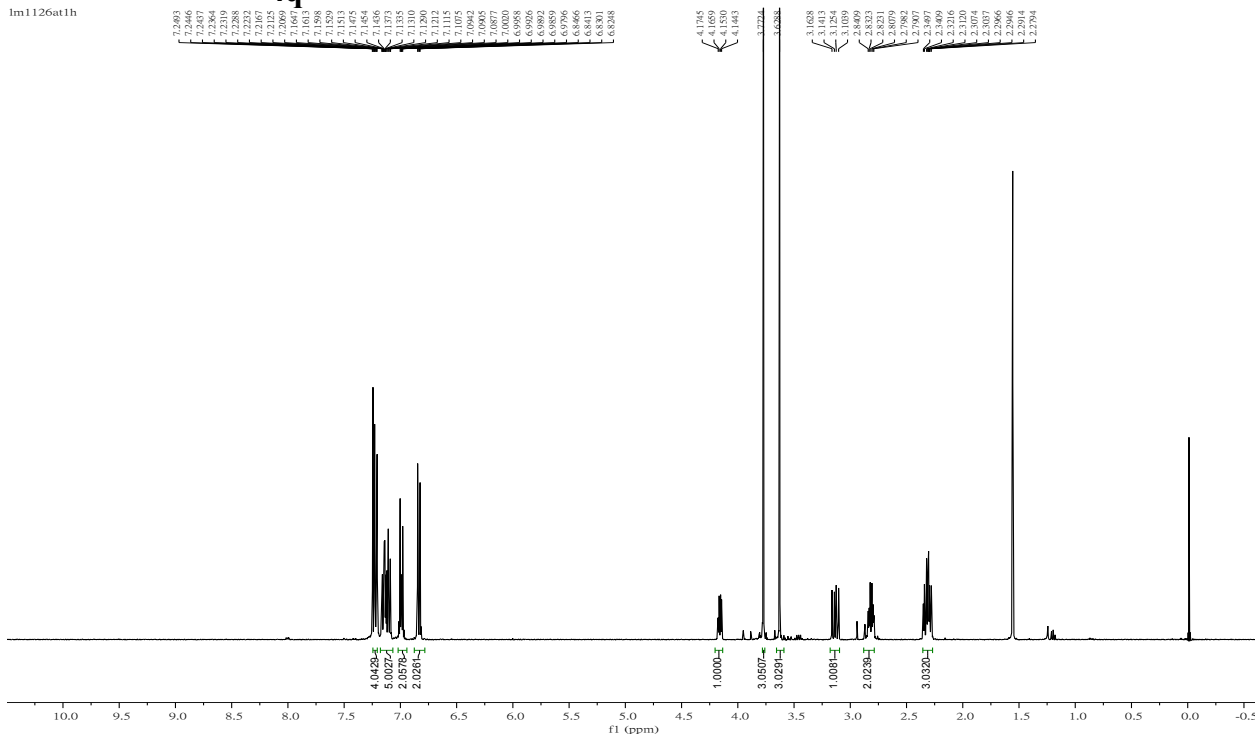


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new experiment





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