

## Supporting Information

### Iodine-Catalyzed Convergent Aerobic Dehydro-Aromatization toward Benzazoles and Benzazines

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## 1. General information.

All reactions were carried out under the standard conditions unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (100-200 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) or chloroform signals. Mass spectra were measured on Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). High-resolution mass spectra were recorded at Keecloud (Shanghai) Biotechnology co. LTD. HRMS was conducted using electrospraying ionization (ESI) and was performed on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR data and MS data with those of literature. All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

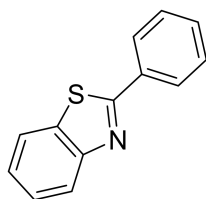
## 2. General procedure for the 2-phenylbenzo[*d*]thiazole synthesis

2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1a**, 43.0 μL, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg), *o*-DCB (0.8 mL), toluene (0.2 mL) were added to a 10 mL reaction vessel. The sealed reaction vessel under oxygen atmosphere was stirred at 160 °C for 30 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4a** as white solid (31.6 mg, 75% yield).

**6 mmol scale:** 2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1a**, 1290.0 mg, 6 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (304.6 mg, 1.2 mmol), *o*-DCB (8 mL), toluene (2 mL), were added to a 50 mL reaction vessel. The sealed reaction vessel under oxygen atmosphere was stirred at 160 °C for 30 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product as white solid (860.8 mg, 68% yield).

### 3. Characterization data of products

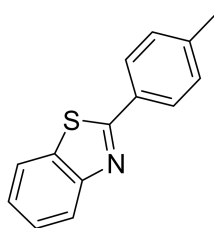
#### 2-Phenylbenzo[*d*]thiazole (**4a**, CAS: 833-93-2)<sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1a**, 43.0  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4a** as white solid (31.6 mg, 75% yield), mp 113-116 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.11-8.06 (m, 3H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.0, 154.1, 135.0, 133.5, 130.9, 129.0, 127.5, 126.3, 125.1, 123.1, 121.6.

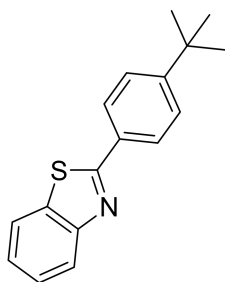
#### 2-(*p*-Tolyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4b**, CAS: 16112-21-3)<sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(*p*-tolyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1b**, 45.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4b** as pale white solid (33.3 mg, 74% yield), mp 84-86 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.3, 154.2, 141.5, 135.0, 131.0, 129.8, 127.5, 126.3, 125.0, 123.1, 121.6, 21.6.

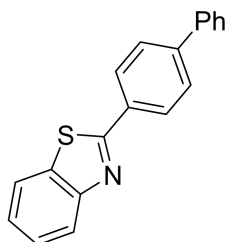
#### 2-(4-(*t*-Butyl)phenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4c**, CAS: 1242329-99-2)<sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(4-(*t*-butyl)phenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1c**, 57.2  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4c** as pale yellow solid (37.9 mg, 71% yield), mp 106-107 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 1.36 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.1, 154.5, 154.2, 135.0, 130.9, 127.3, 126.2, 126.0, 125.0, 123.0, 121.6, 35.0, 31.1.

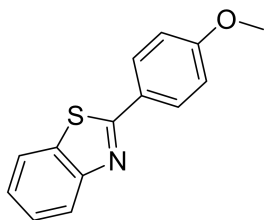
#### 2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4d**, CAS: 67362-98-5)<sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1d**, 58.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4d** as pale yellow solid (36.7 mg, 64% yield), mp 191-192 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  167.7, 154.2, 143.7, 140.1, 135.1, 132.5, 128.9, 128.0, 128.0, 127.6, 127.1, 126.3, 125.2, 123.2, 121.6.

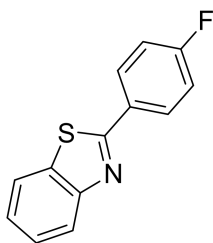
#### 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4e**, CAS: 6265-92-5)<sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1e**, 49.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 60:1) to yield the desired product **4e** as pale white solid (29.4 mg, 61% yield), mp 122-124 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 3H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.8, 161.9, 154.1, 134.8, 129.0, 126.3, 126.2, 124.7, 122.8, 121.5, 114.3, 55.4.

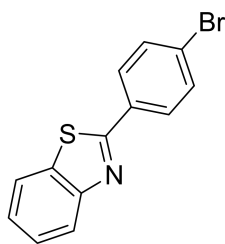
#### 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4f**, CAS: 1629-26-1)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1f**, 46.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4f** as pale yellow solid (27.0 mg, 59% yield), mp 99-100 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.09-8.05 (m, 3H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.2 (d, *J* = 105.6 Hz), 163.2, 153.9, 134.9, 129.8 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz), 129.5 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 126.4, 125.2, 123.1, 121.6, 116.1 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz).

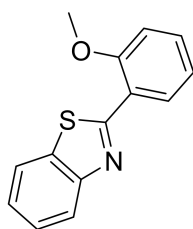
#### 2-(4-Bromophenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4g**, CAS: 19654-19-4)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(4-bromophenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1g**, 58.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4g** as pale yellow solid (33.6 mg, 58% yield), mp 125-127 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7, 154.0, 135.0, 132.6, 132.3, 128.9, 126.5, 125.4, 125.4, 123.3, 121.6.

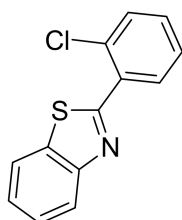
#### 2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4h**, CAS: 6269-47-2)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1h**, 49.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4h** as white solid (28.4 mg, 59% yield), mp 90-91 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.9, 160.0, 154.0, 135.0, 134.8, 130.0, 126.3, 125.2, 123.2, 121.6, 120.2, 117.3, 111.9, 55.5.

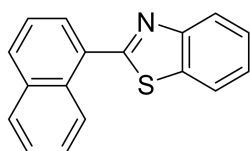
#### 2-(2-Chlorophenyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4i**, CAS: 6269-46-1)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1i**, 49.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4i** as pale white solid (27.4 mg, 56% yield), mp 85-86 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.23-8.21 (m, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.1, 152.5, 136.1, 132.6, 132.2, 131.7, 131.1, 130.8, 127.1, 126.3, 125.4, 123.4, 121.3.

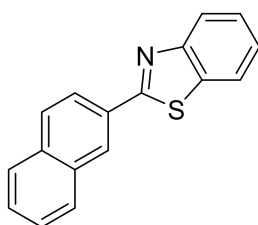
### 2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4j**, CAS: 56048-50-1)<sup>[3]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1j**, 53.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 80:1) to yield the desired product **4j** as pale white solid (37.0 mg, 71% yield), mp 123-126 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.92 (m, 4H), 7.66-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.6, 154.2, 135.5, 134.0, 131.1, 130.8, 130.6, 129.4, 128.4, 127.7, 126.5, 126.3, 125.9, 125.3, 125.0, 123.7, 121.4.

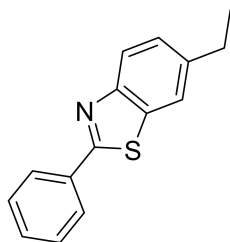
### 2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (**4k**, CAS: 56048-51-2)<sup>[3]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1k**, 53.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 80:1) to yield the desired product **4k** as pale white solid (34.4 mg, 66% yield), mp 98-100 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.55 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.1, 154.2, 135.1, 134.6, 133.1, 131.0, 128.8, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 126.4, 125.2, 124.4, 123.2, 121.6.

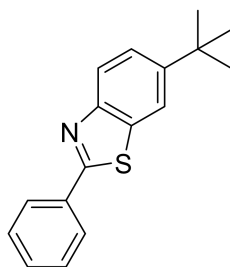
**6-Ethyl-2-phenylbenzo[*d*]thiazole (4l, CAS: 124-303-5)<sup>[3]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with 6-ethyl-2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1l**, 48.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4l** as pale white solid (29.6 mg, 62% yield), mp 58-60 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.09-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 1H), 2.78 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  167.1, 152.4, 141.2, 135.2, 133.8, 130.7, 128.9, 127.4, 126.8, 122.8, 120.1, 28.9, 15.8.

**6-(*t*-Butyl)-2-phenylbenzo[*d*]thiazole (4m, CAS: 1242329-99-2)<sup>[3]</sup>**

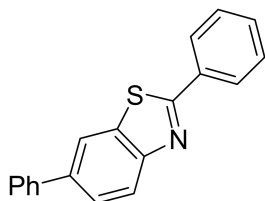


The reaction was conducted with 6-(*t*-butyl)-2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1m**, 54.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4m** as pale white solid (35.7 mg, 67% yield), mp 105-106 °C.



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.09-8.06 (m, 2H), 8.00 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.47 (m, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  167.4, 152.1, 148.7, 135.1, 133.8, 130.7, 129.0, 127.4, 124.6, 122.5, 117.7, 35.0, 31.5.

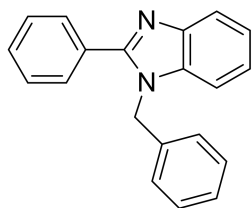
#### 2,6-Diphenylbenzo[*d*]thiazole(4n)<sup>[4]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2,6-diphenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]thiazole (**1n**, 58.2 mg, 0.2 mmol),  $\text{I}_2$  (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100:1) to yield the desired product **4n** as pale white solid (42.5 mg, 74% yield), mp 185-186 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.13-8.10 (m, 4H), 7.75-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.2, 153.5, 140.6, 138.6, 135.8, 133.6, 131.0, 129.0, 128.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.4, 126.0, 123.3, 119.9.

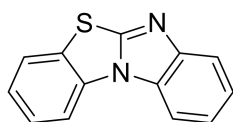
#### 1-benzyl-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[*d*]imidazole (4o, CAS: 739-88-8)<sup>[5]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 1-benzyl-2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-benzo[*d*]imidazole (**1o**, 57.6 mg, 0.2 mmol),  $\text{I}_2$  (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1) to yield the desired product **4o** as white solid (31.8 mg, 56% yield), mp 133-135 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  154.1, 143.2, 136.4, 136.0, 130.0, 129.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.7, 126.0, 123.0, 122.6, 119.9, 110.5, 48.3.

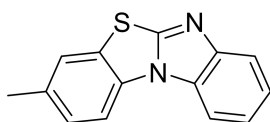
**Benzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5a, CAS: 206-80-4 )<sup>[6]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with 7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2a**, 45.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5a** as white solid (31.8 mg, 71% yield), mp 138-139 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.4, 148.2, 133.3, 130.5, 129.0, 126.7, 124.4, 124.3, 123.6, 122.0, 119.5, 112.4, 110.6.

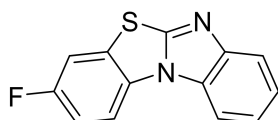
**3-Methylbenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5b, CAS: 1611489-26-9)<sup>[6]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with 3-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2b**, 48.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5b** as white solid (29.9 mg, 63% yield), mp 140-142 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.93-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.3, 148.1, 134.4, 131.0, 130.4, 129.0, 127.5, 124.4, 123.3, 121.7, 119.4, 111.9, 110.4, 21.3.

**3-Fluorobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5c, CAS: 1611489-29-0 )<sup>[6]</sup>**

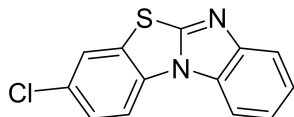


The reaction was conducted with 3-fluoro-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2c**, 49.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5c** as white solid (33.8 mg, 70% yield), mp 145-146 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.92-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz,

1H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.4 (d, *J* = 245.4 Hz), 155.0, 148.0, 130.5, 130.4 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 129.7, 123.6, 122.2, 119.7, 114.1 (d, *J* = 24.5 Hz), 112.8 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 111.6 (d, *J* = 27.3 Hz), 110.2.

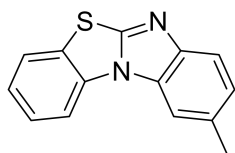
**3-Chlorobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5d, CAS: 1403604-83-0 )**<sup>[6]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 3-chloro-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2d**, 52.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5d** as white solid (35.1 mg, 68% yield), mp 206-208 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.5, 148.2, 133.8, 132.7, 130.2, 127.3, 124.9, 124.5, 123.9, 122.3, 119.6, 112.7, 110.5.

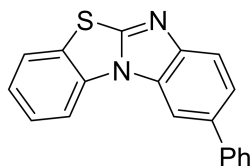
**9-Methylbenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5e, CAS: 1611489-29-2 )**<sup>[6]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 9-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2e**, 48.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5e** as white solid (30.4 mg, 64% yield), mp 212- 213 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 3H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 154.7, 154.6, 146.3, 133.2, 131.9, 129.0, 126.6, 124.9, 124.2, 124.2, 118.9, 112.3, 110.7, 21.8.

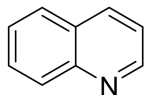
**9-Phenylbenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (5f)**



The reaction was conducted with 9-phenyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*]benzo[4,5]imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazole (**2f**, 60.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent = dichloromethane) to yield the desired product **5f** as pale white solid (42.6 mg, 71% yield), mp 175-177 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.7, 147.7, 141.5, 135.8, 133.2, 131.1, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 124.5, 124.4, 123.3, 119.5, 112.4, 109.2. HRMS calcd. for. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 301.0794, found 301.0799.

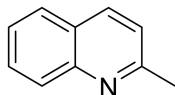
#### Quinoline (**6a**, CAS: 91-22-5)<sup>[7]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3a**, 26.8 μL, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20 :1) to yield the desired product **6a** as colourless liquid (17.2 mg, 67% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.93-8.92 (m, 1H), 8.14 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.4, 148.3, 136.0, 129.5, 129.5, 128.3, 127.8, 126.6, 121.1.

#### 2-Methylquinoline (**6b**, CAS: 91-62-4)<sup>[7]</sup>

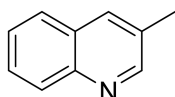


The reaction was conducted with 2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3b**, 29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to yield the desired product **6b** as colourless oil (20.3 mg, 71%

yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.04 (t,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  158.9, 147.7, 136.1, 129.3, 128.5, 127.4, 126.4, 125.6, 121.9, 25.3.

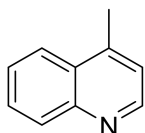
### 3-Methylquinoline (6c, CAS: 612-58-8)<sup>[7]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 3-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3c**, 29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol),  $\text{I}_2$  (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to yield the desired product **6c** as pale colourless oil (19.7 mg, 69% yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.76 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  152.2, 146.3, 134.5, 130.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.0, 126.4, 18.5.

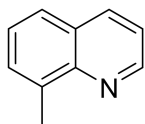
### 4-Methylquinoline (6d, CAS: 491-35-0)<sup>[7]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3d**, 29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol),  $\text{I}_2$  (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to yield the desired product **6d** as colourless oil (20.3 mg, 71% yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.77 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  150.1, 147.9, 144.2, 129.8, 129.0, 128.2, 126.2, 123.7, 121.8, 18.6.

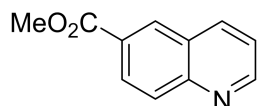
### 8-Methylquinoline (6e, CAS: 611-32-5)<sup>[7]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 8-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3e**, 29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to yield the desired product **6e** as pale yellow liquid (21.1 mg, 74% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.93 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  149.1, 147.2, 137.0, 136.2, 129.5, 128.2, 126.2, 125.8, 120.7, 18.1.

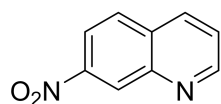
#### Methyl quinoline-6-carboxylate (**6f**, CAS: 6931-19-7)<sup>[7]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with methyl 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline-6-carboxylate (**3f**, 38.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6f** as pale yellow liquid (27.3 mg, 73% yield), mp 141-143 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  9.01 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.26 (m, 2H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (q, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  166.6, 152.5, 150.0, 137.3, 131.0, 129.8, 128.9, 128.1, 127.4, 121.8, 52.4.

#### 7-Nitroquinoline (**6g**, CAS: 91-22-5)<sup>[8]</sup>

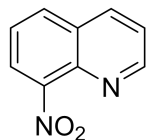


The reaction was conducted with 7-nitro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3g**, 35.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6g** as pale yellow solid (25.7 mg, 74% yield), mp 127-129 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  9.10 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 8.35-8.32 (m, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  152.7, 148.0, 147.1, 136.0, 131.3, 129.5, 125.8, 123.9, 120.1.

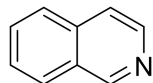
**8-Nitroquinoline (6h, CAS: 607-35-2)**<sup>[9]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 8-nitro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**3h**, 35.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6h** as pale yellow solid (26.8 mg, 77% yield), mp 89-91 °C .

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  9.08 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  152.6, 139.5, 136.1, 132.0, 129.0, 125.3, 123.8, 122.8.

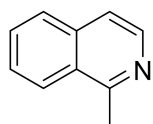
**Isoquinoline (6i, CAS: 119-65-3)**<sup>[9]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**3i**, 26.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6i** as colourless liquid (17.3 mg, 67% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  9.26 (s, 1H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.58 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  152.4, 142.9, 135.7, 130.2, 128.6, 127.5, 127.1, 126.4, 120.4.

**1-Methylisoquinoline (6j, CAS: 1721-93-3)**<sup>[9]</sup>

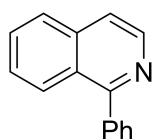


The reaction was conducted with 1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**3j**, 29.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel

(petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6j** as pale yellow liquid (21.7 mg, 76% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.39 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  149.1, 147.2, 137.0, 136.2, 129.5, 128.2, 126.2, 125.8, 120.7, 18.1.

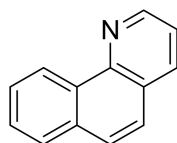
### 1-Phenylisoquinoline (**6k**, CAS: 3297-72-1)<sup>[9]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (**3k**, 41.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6k** as white solid (35.7 mg, 87% yield), mp 94-95 °C .

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.61 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  160.7, 142.1, 139.4, 136.8, 130.0, 129.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 126.6, 120.0.

### Benzo[*h*]quinoline (**6l**, CAS: 85-02-9)<sup>[10]</sup>



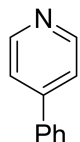
The reaction was conducted with 1,2,3,4-tetrahydrobenzo[*h*]quinoline (**3l**, 36.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6l** as pale yellow solid (25.4 mg, 71% yield), mp 211-213 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  9.31-9.29 (m, 1H), 9.00 (q, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.18-8.15 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.66 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  148.8, 146.5, 135.8, 133.6, 131.5, 128.2, 127.8, 127.7, 127.1, 126.4,



125.3, 124.3, 121.8.

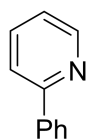
#### 4-Phenylpyridine (**6m**, CAS: 939-23-1)<sup>[11]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 4-phenylpiperidine (**3m**, 31.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1) to yield the desired product **6m** as pale yellow solid (17.3 mg, 56% yield), mp 76-78 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.95 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  152.3, 145.0, 136.1, 133.6, 130.4, 129.5, 127.5, 127.2, 122.8.

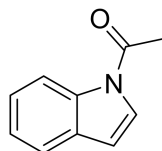
#### 2-Phenylpyridine (**6n**, CAS: 1008-89-5)<sup>[11]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 2-phenylpiperidine (**3n**, 31.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1) to yield the desired product **6n** as pale white solid (17.0 mg, 55% yield), mp 147-149 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.68 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.74-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  157.4, 149.6, 139.3, 136.7, 128.9, 128.7, 126.8, 122.0, 120.5.

#### 1-(5-Nitro-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (**6o**, CAS: 576-15-8)<sup>[12]</sup>



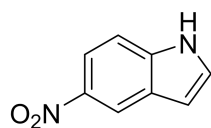
The reaction was conducted with 1-(indolin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (**3o**, 21.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to yield the desired product **6o** as pale white solid (20.3 mg, 64% yield), mp

99-101 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  168.6, 135.5, 130.4, 125.2, 125.1, 123.6, 120.8, 116.5, 109.2, 24.0.

**5-Nitro-1*H*-indole (6p, CAS: 6146-52-7)<sup>[13]</sup>**



The reaction was conducted with 5-nitroindoline (**3p**, 33.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), I<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%, 10.2 mg).

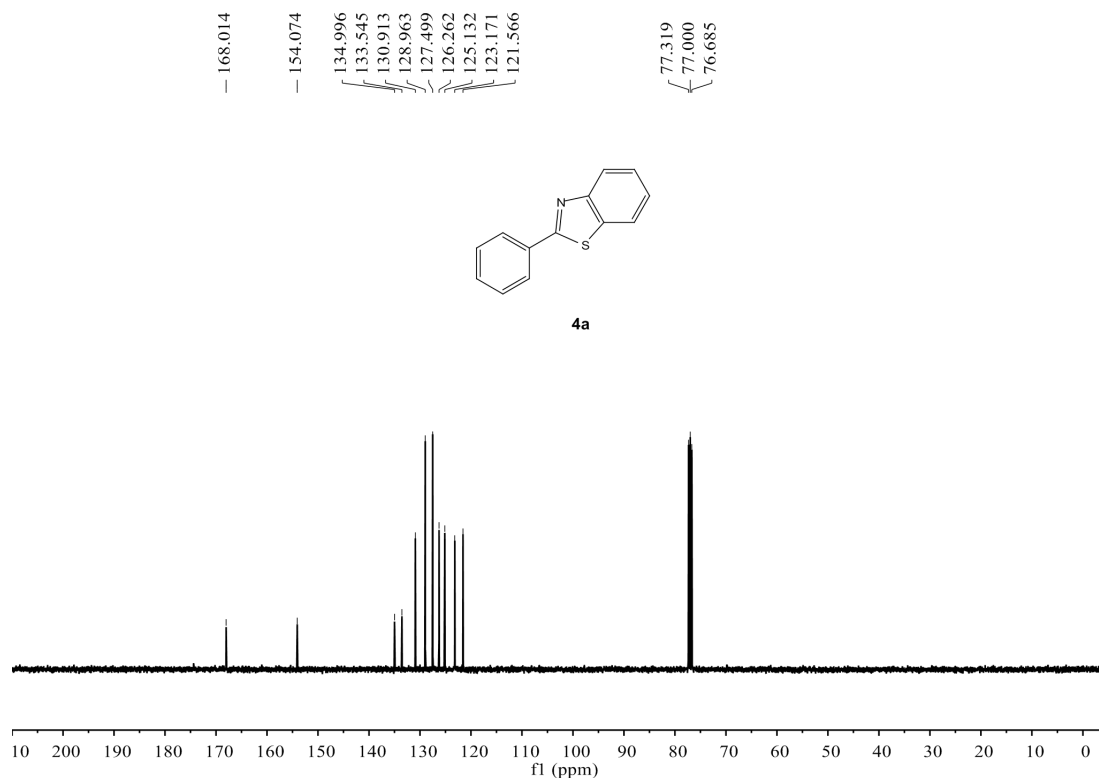
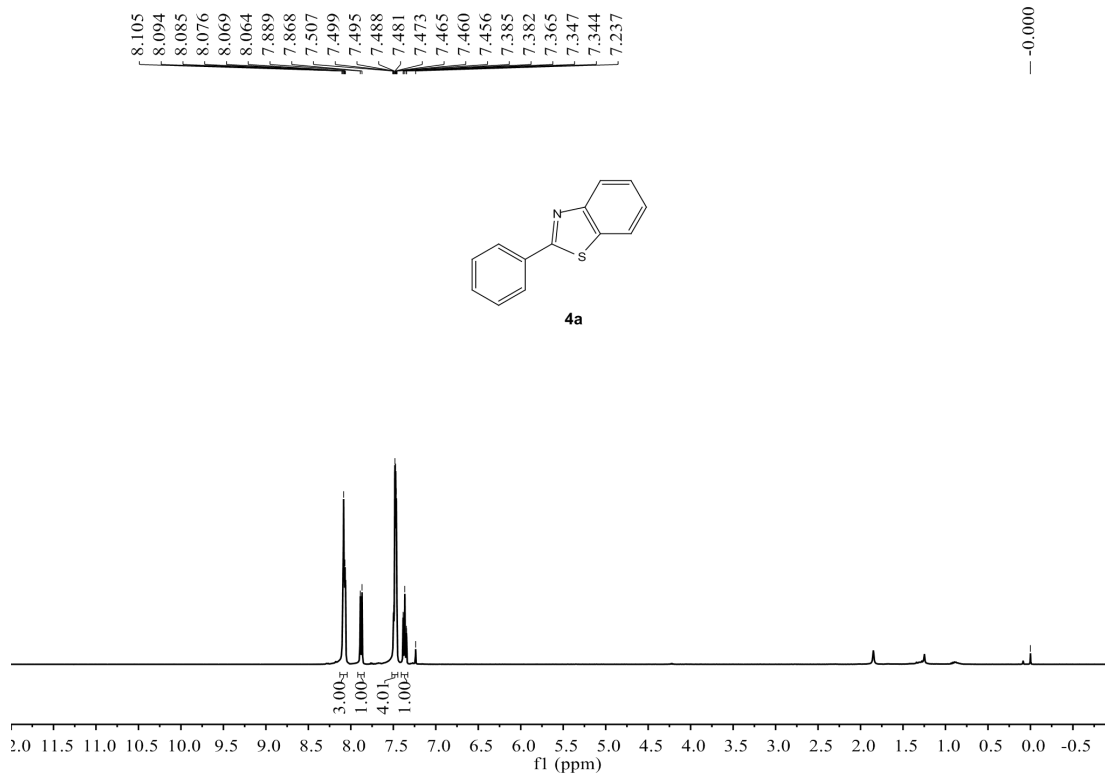
The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/dichloromethane = 1:1) to yield the desired product **3p** as pale white solid (18.5 mg, 57% yield), mp 142-144 °C.

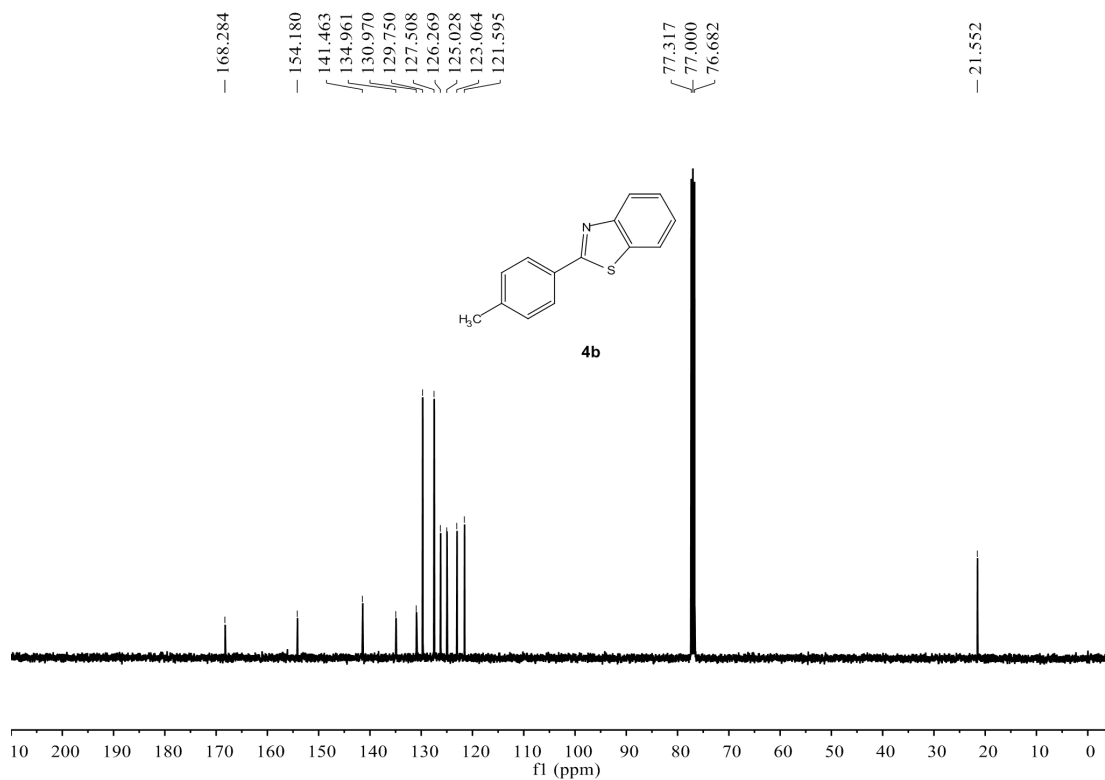
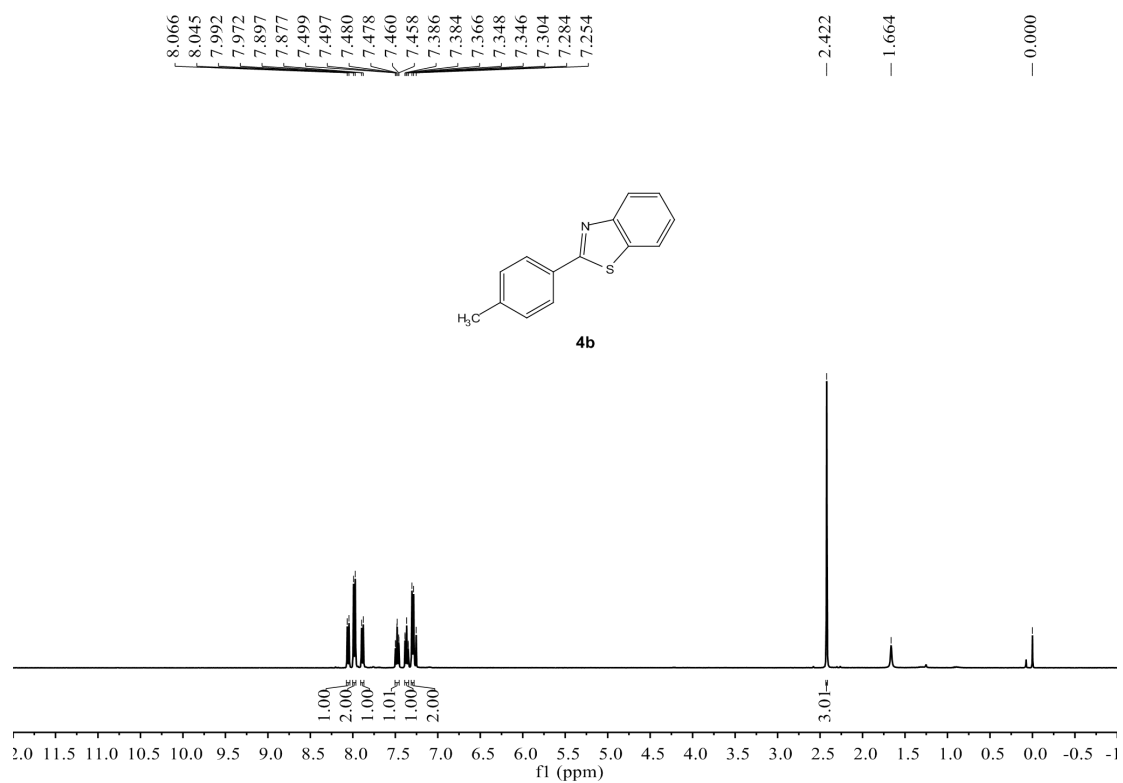
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.82 (s, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 1H), 6.74-6.73 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  141.8, 138.9, 127.5, 127.2, 118.0, 117.6, 111.1, 105.0.

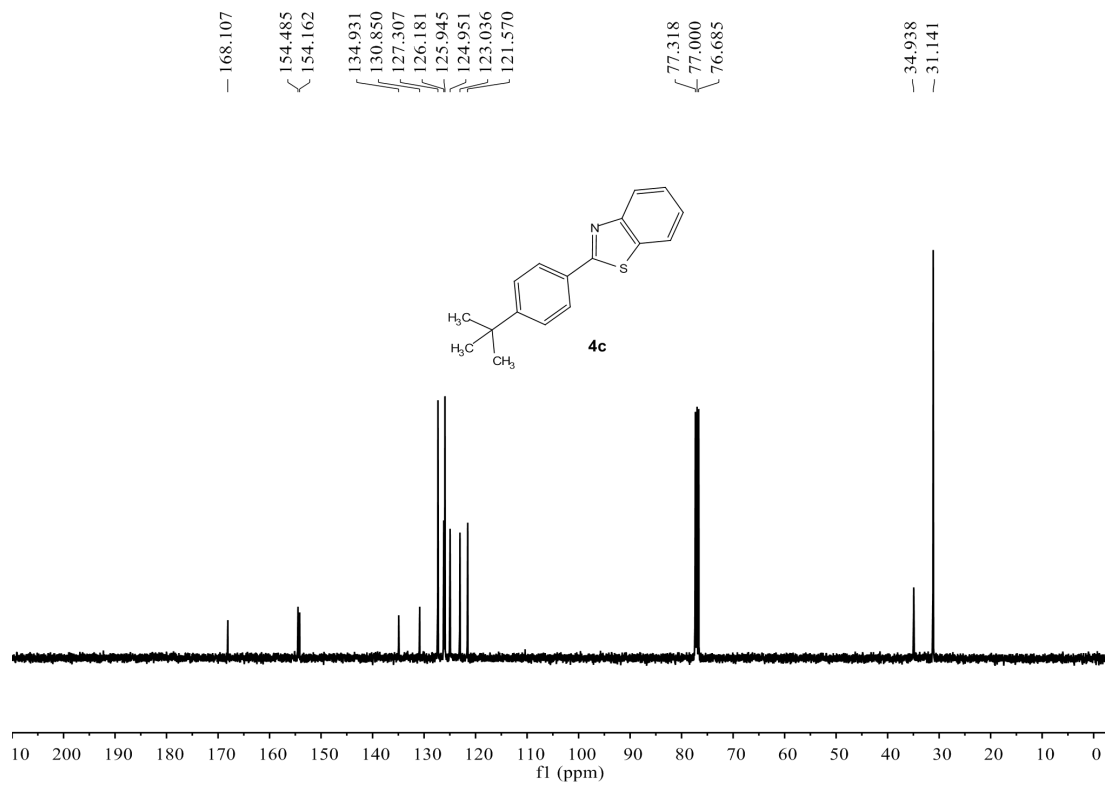
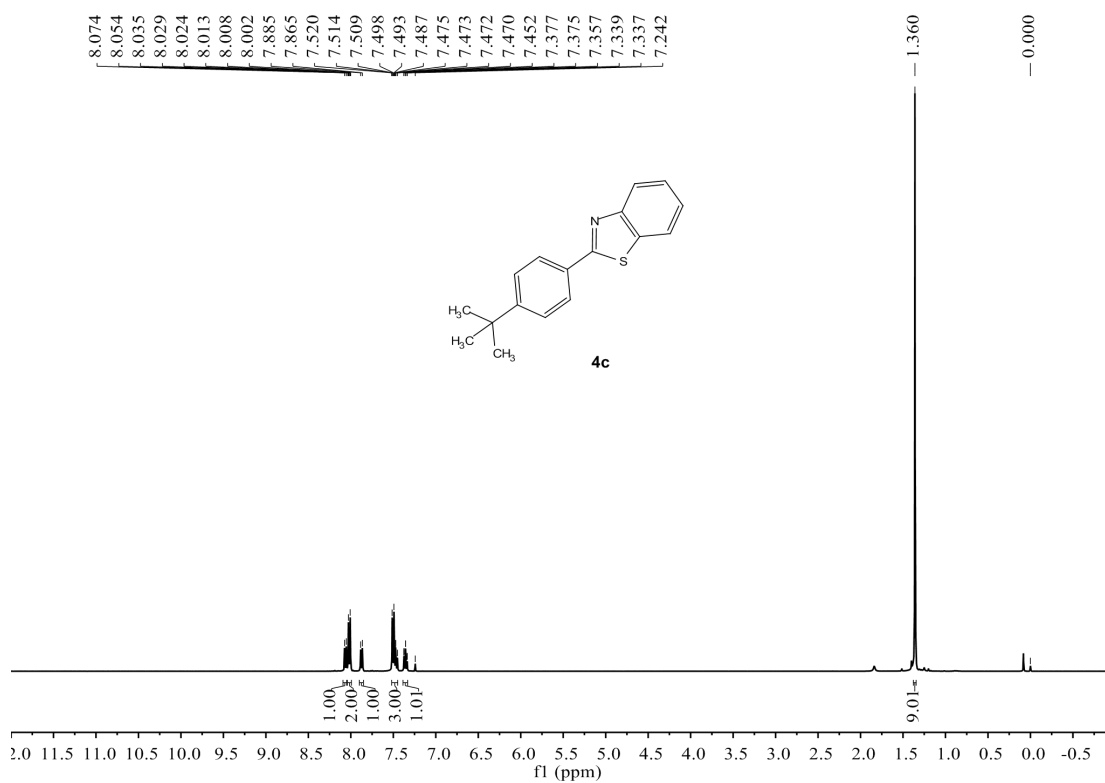
#### 4. References

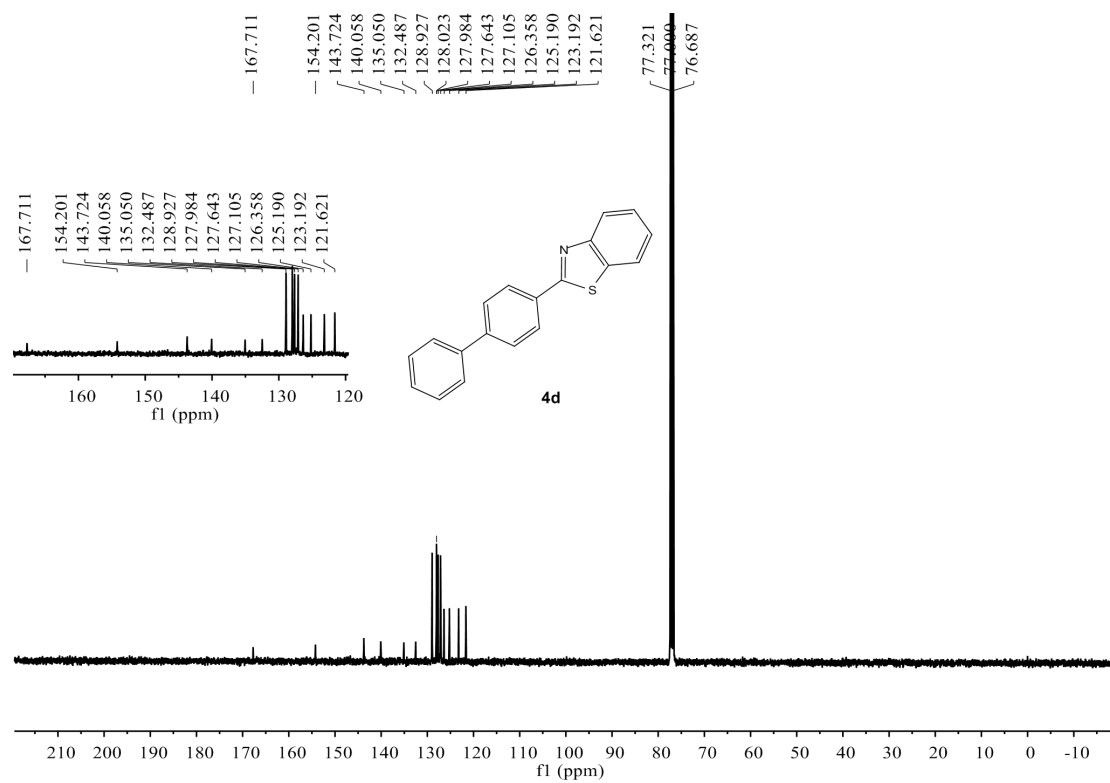
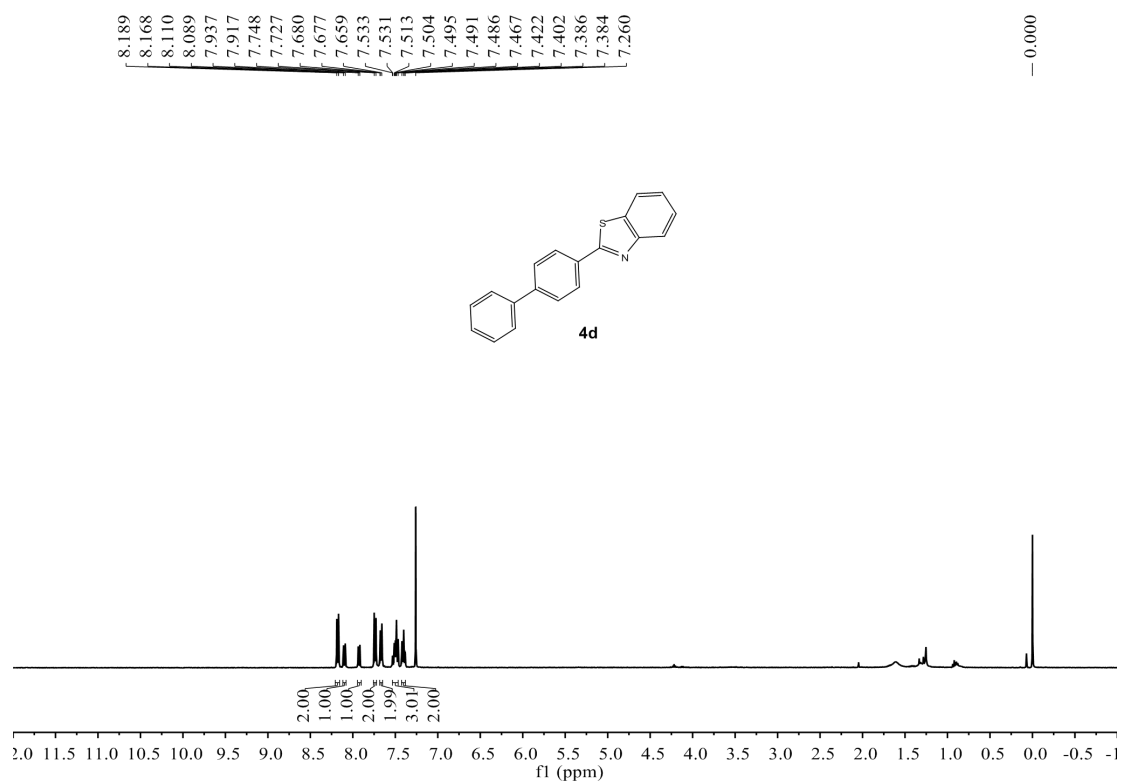
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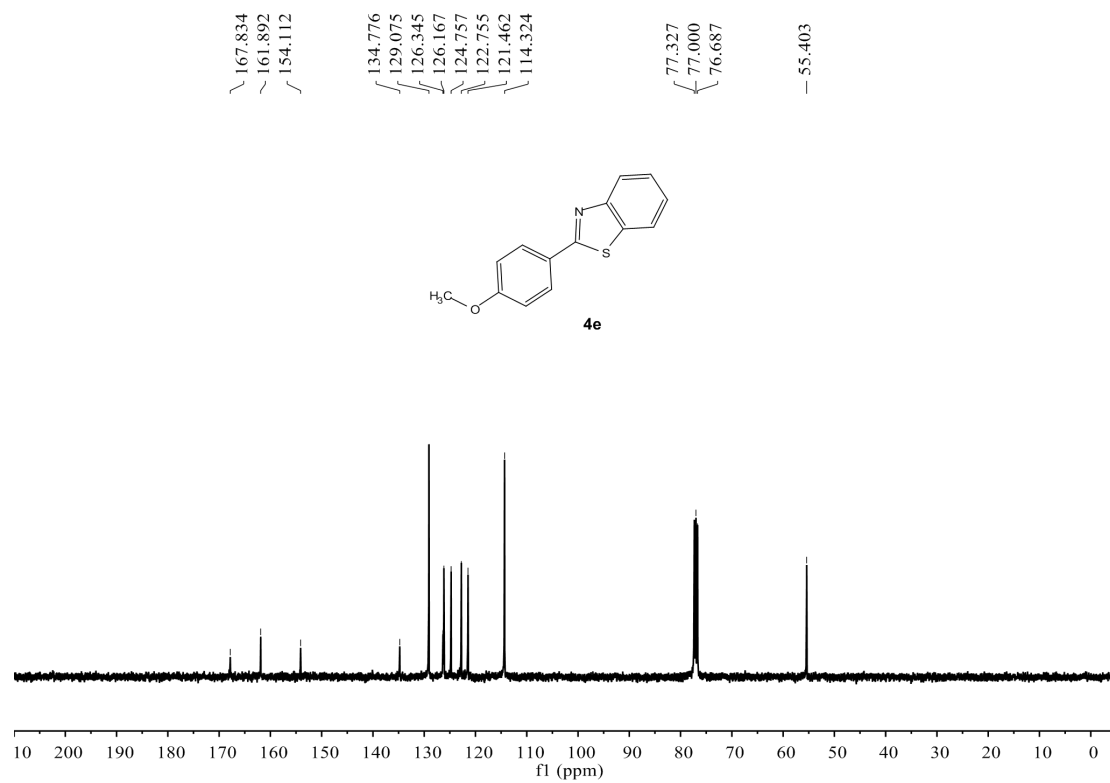
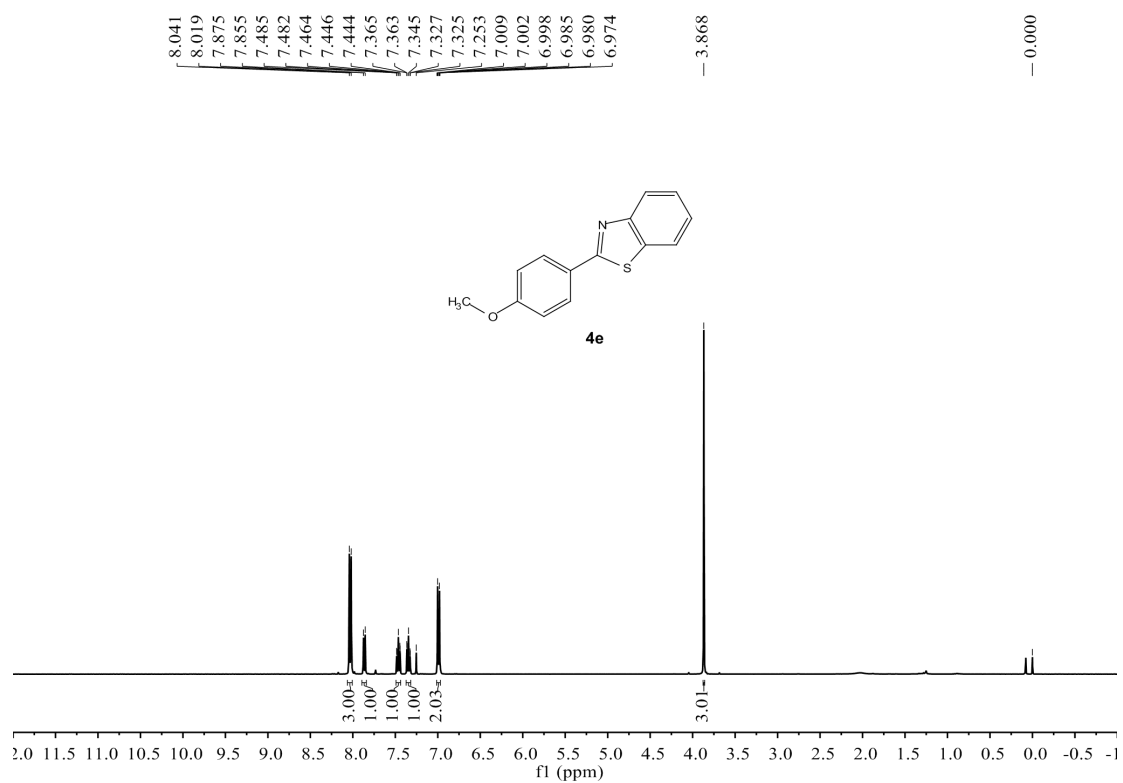
## 5. $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of products



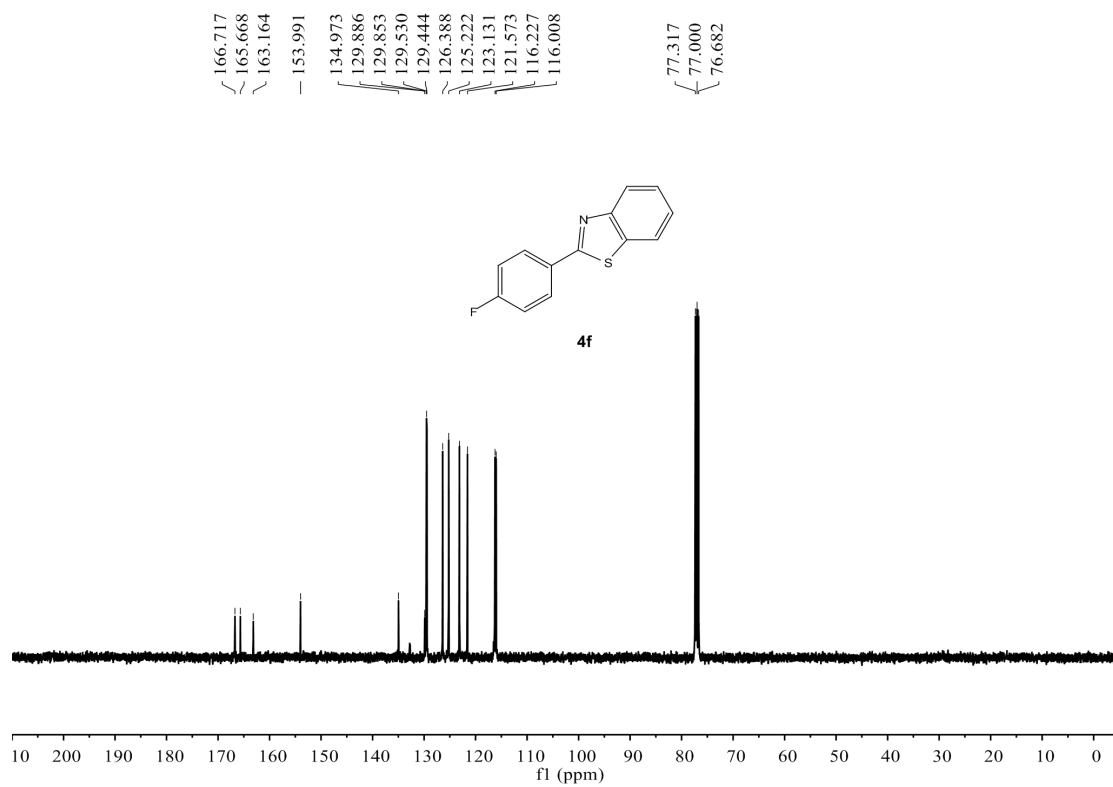
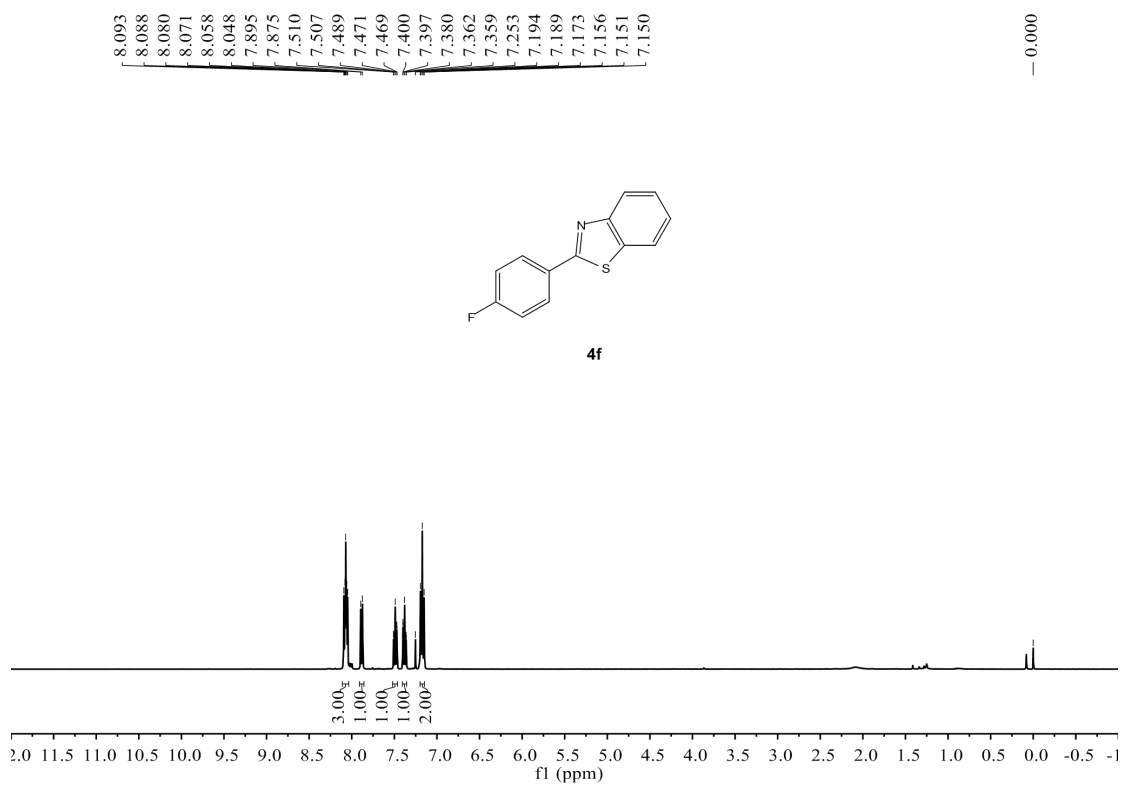


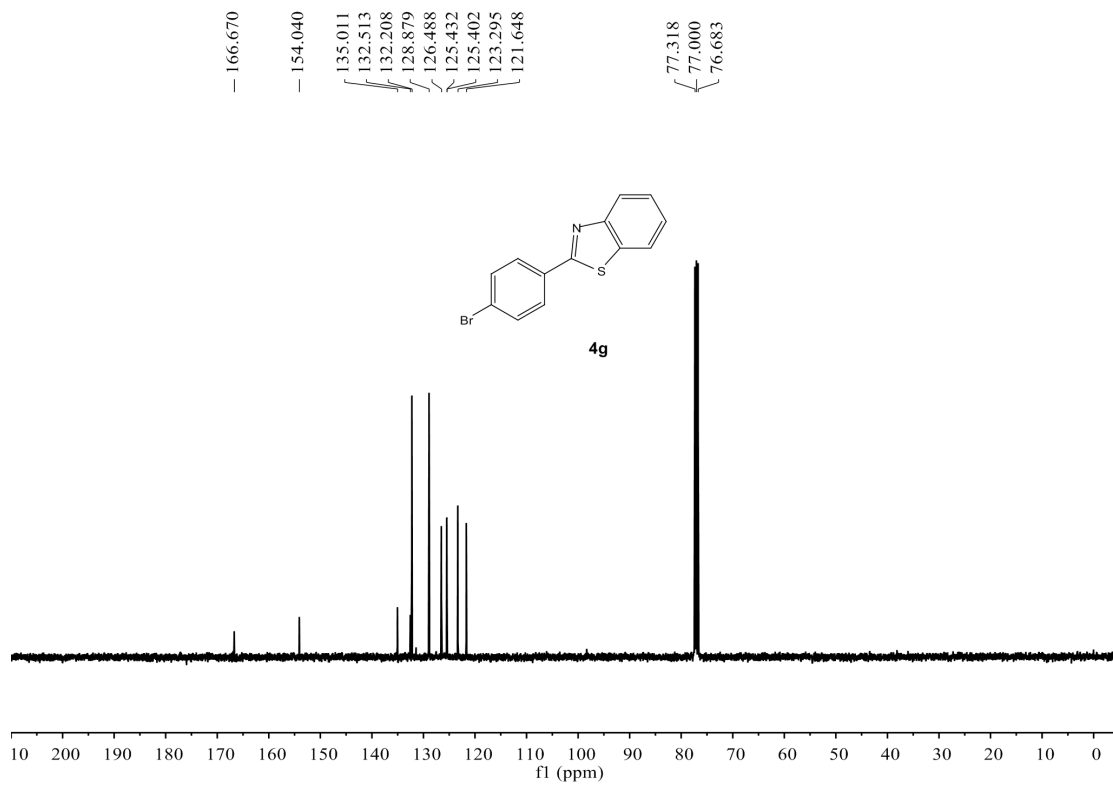
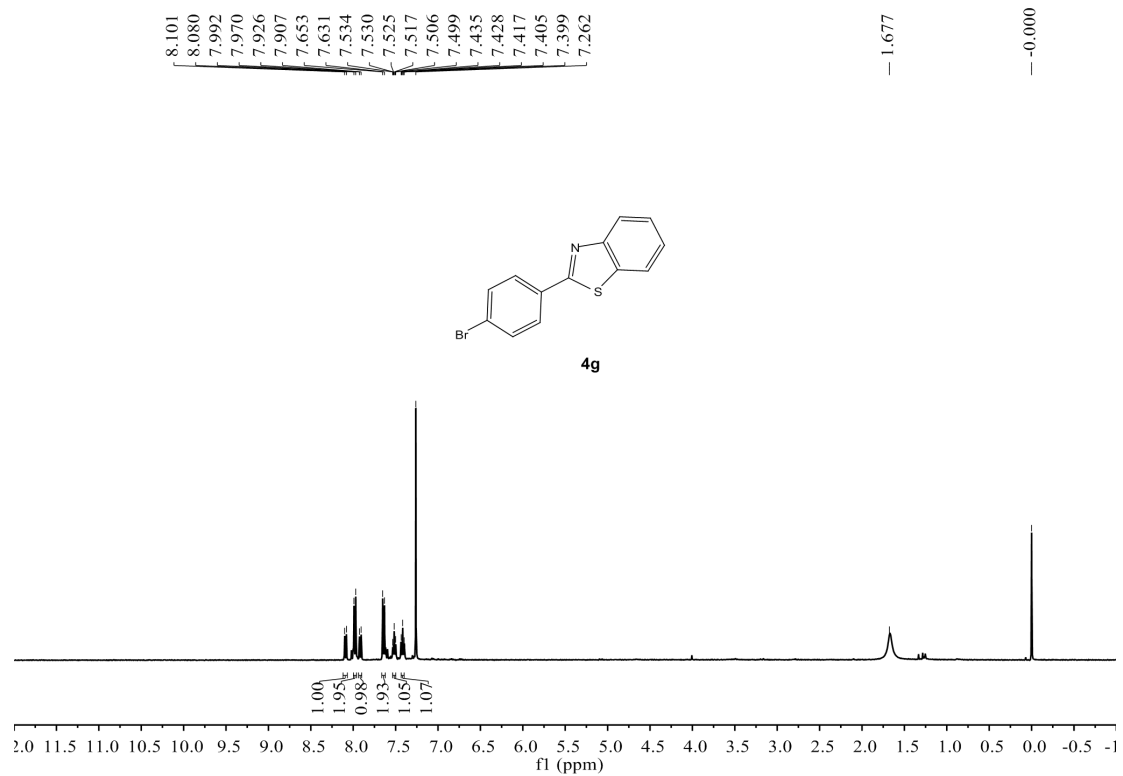


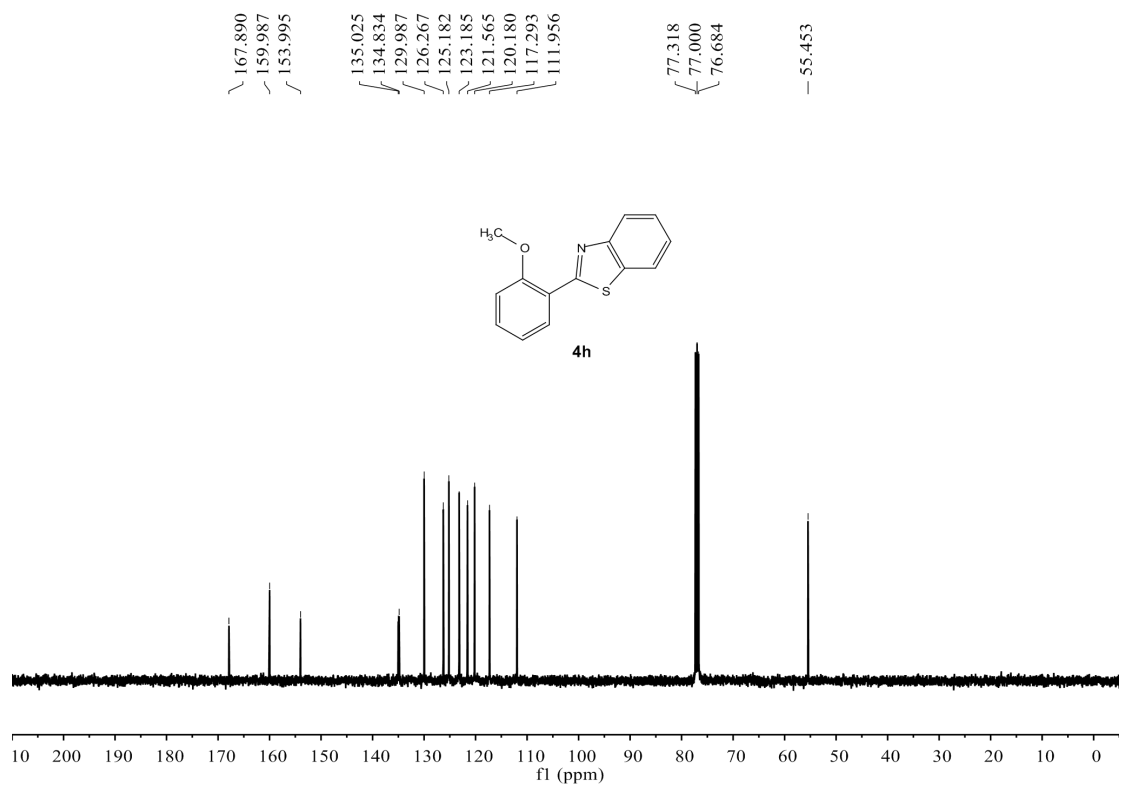
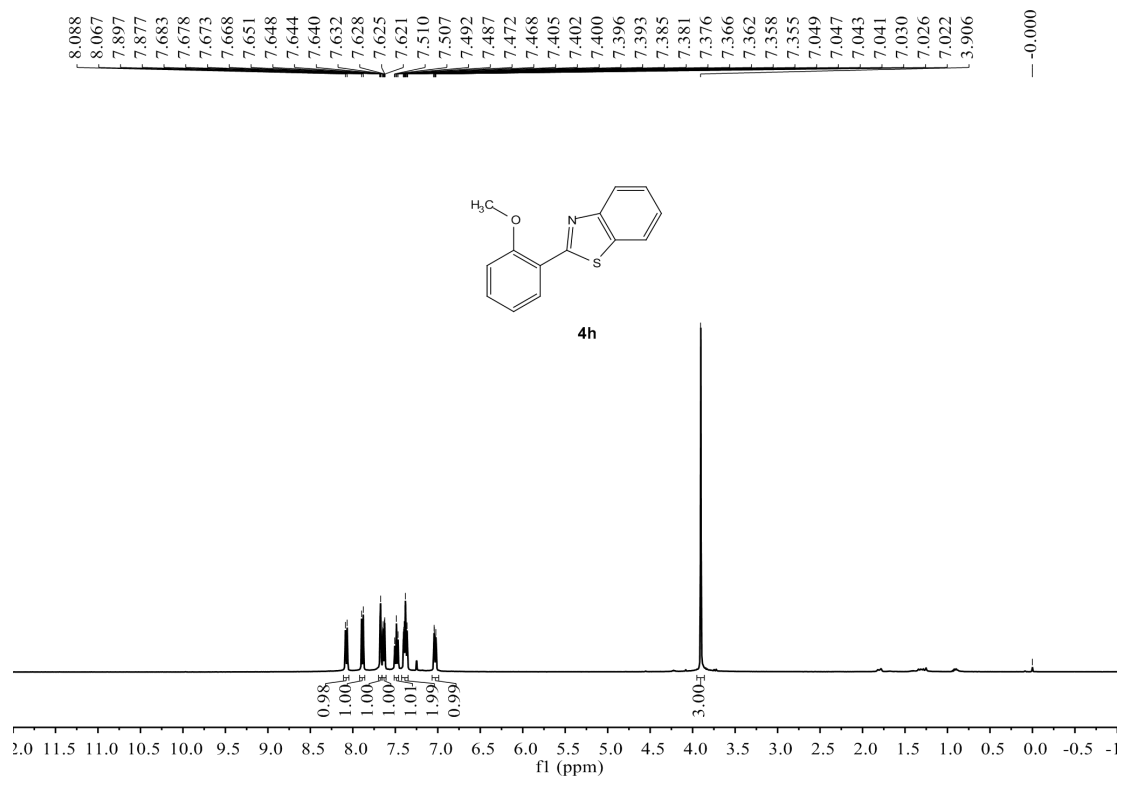


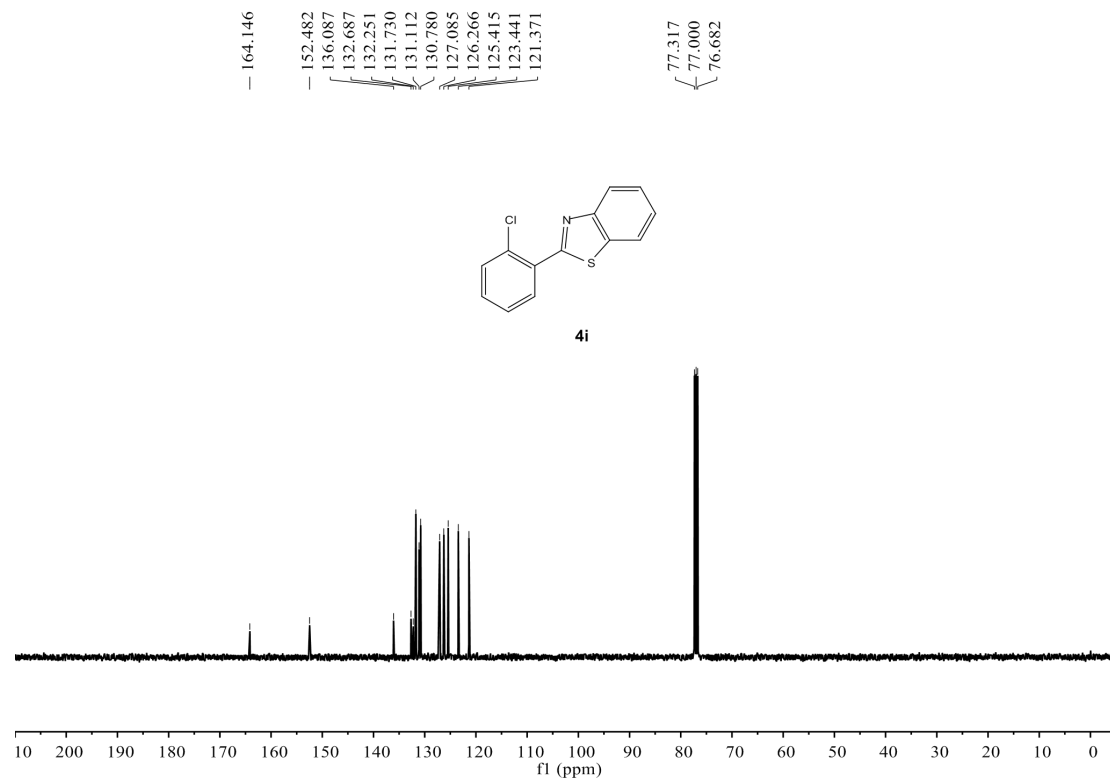
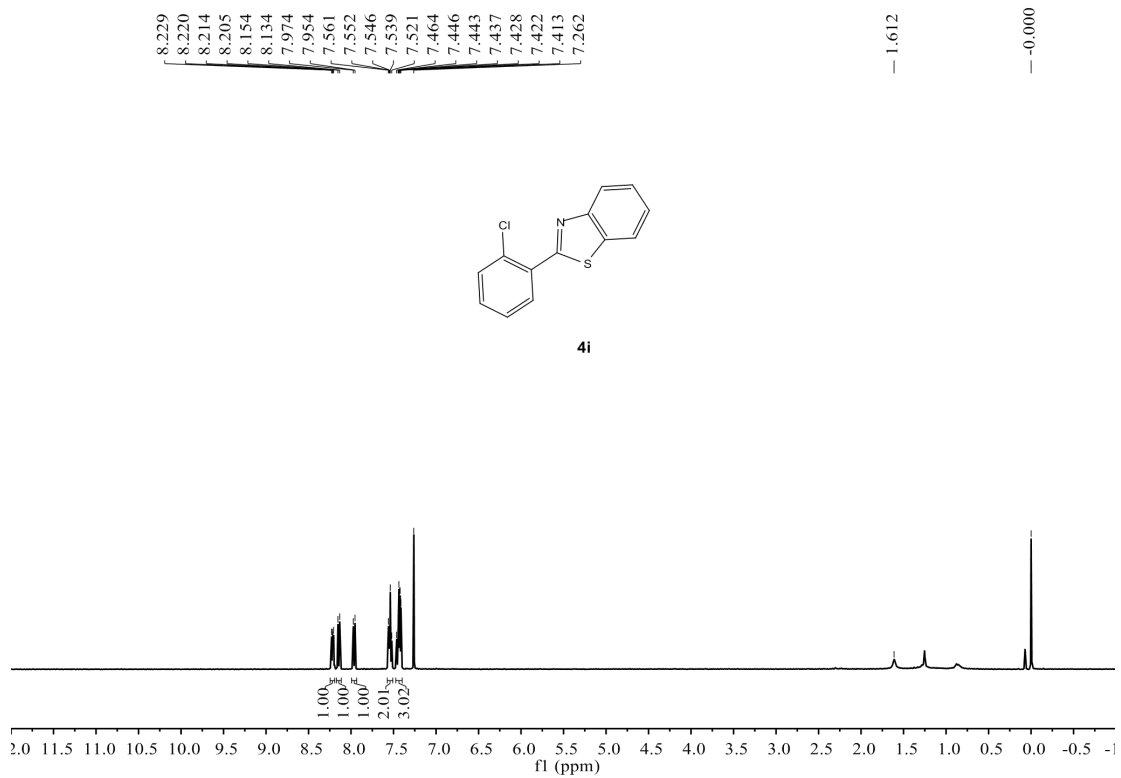


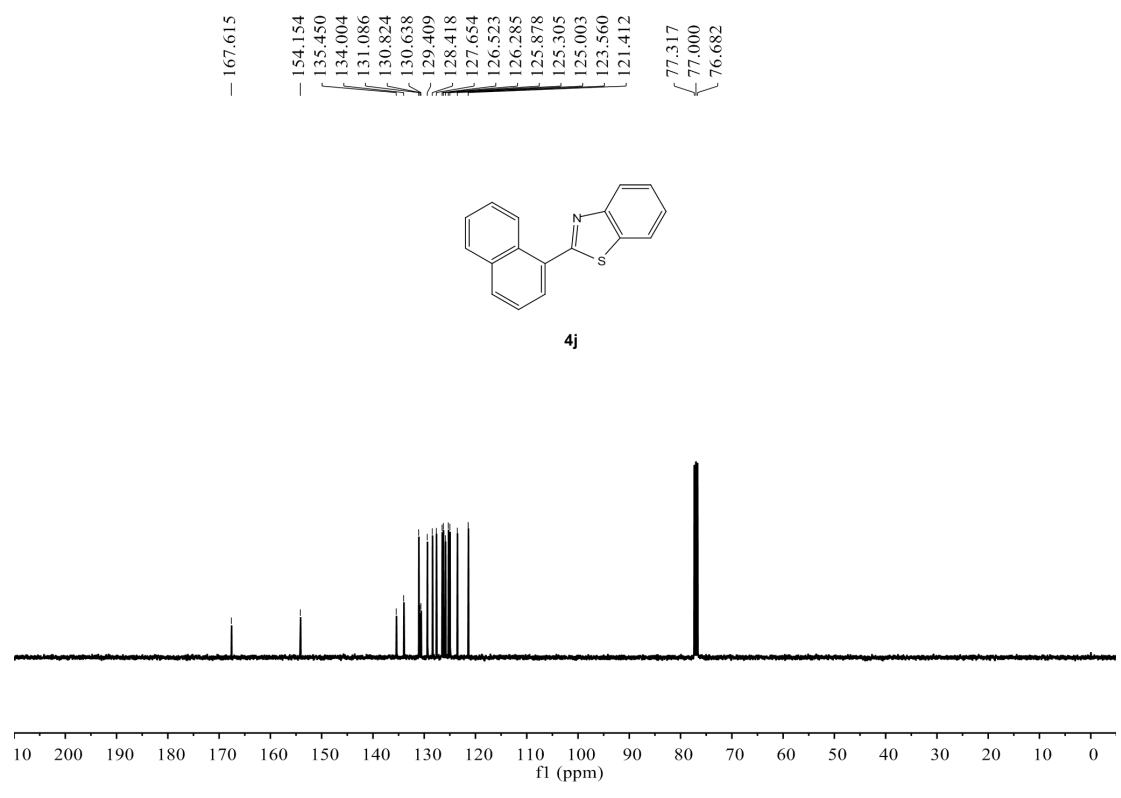
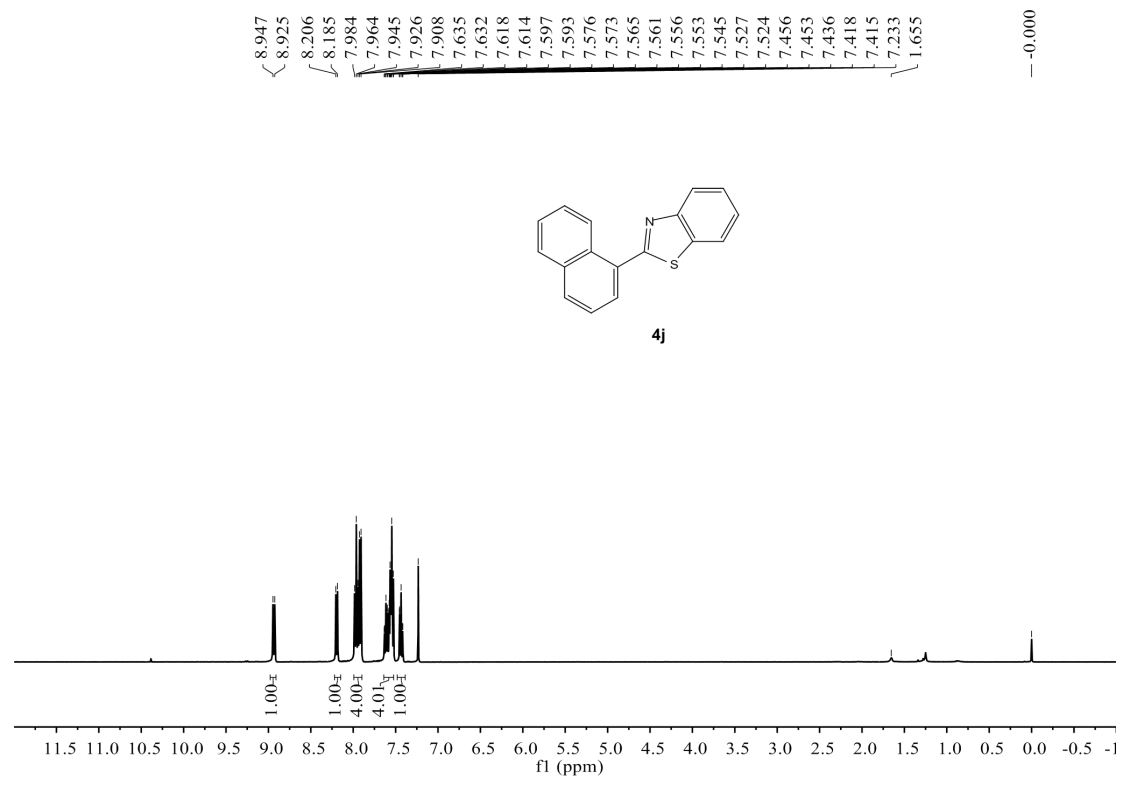


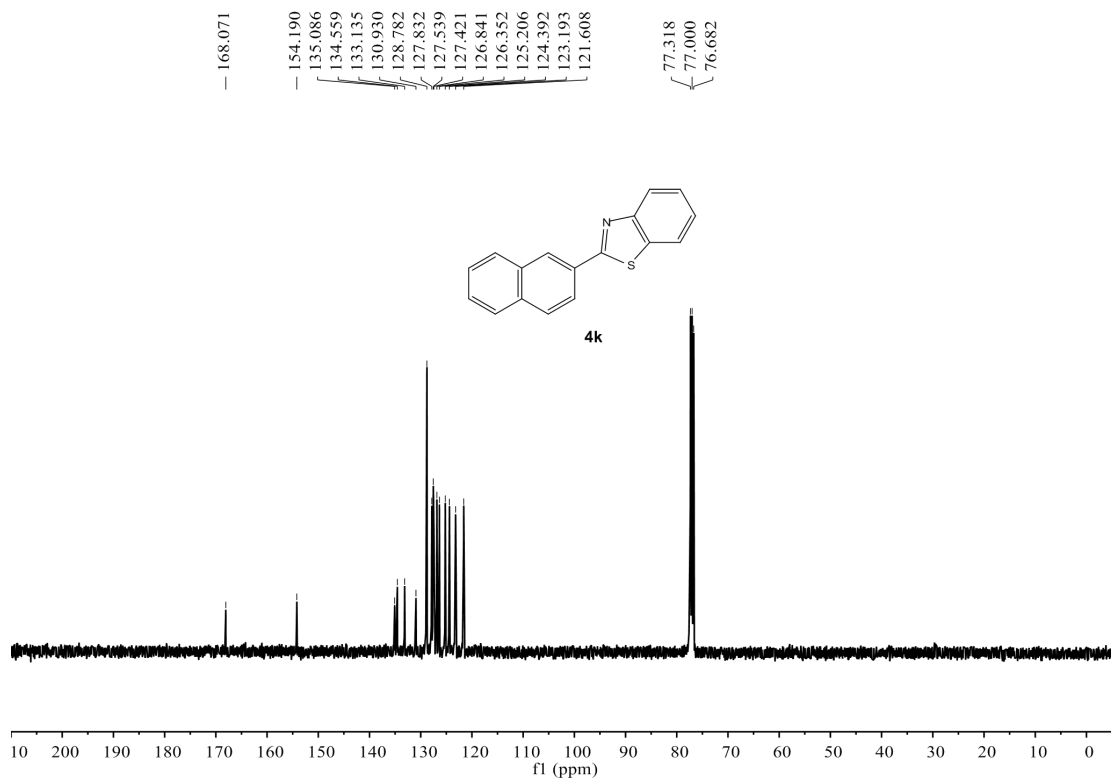
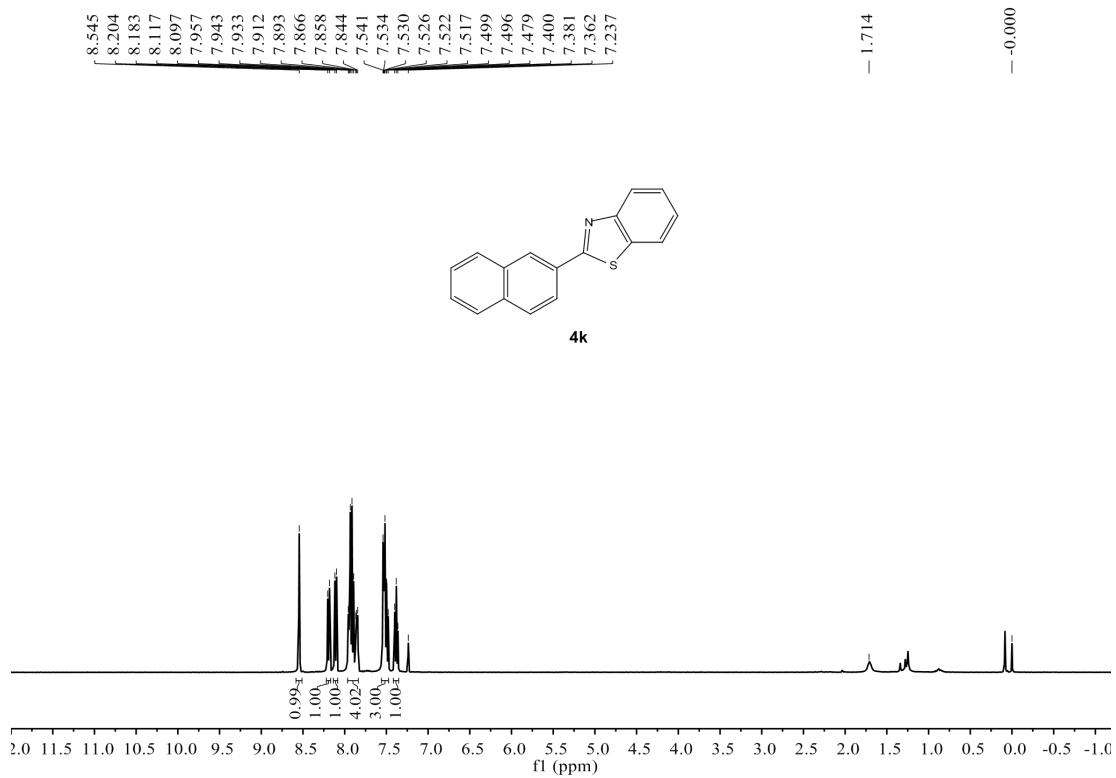


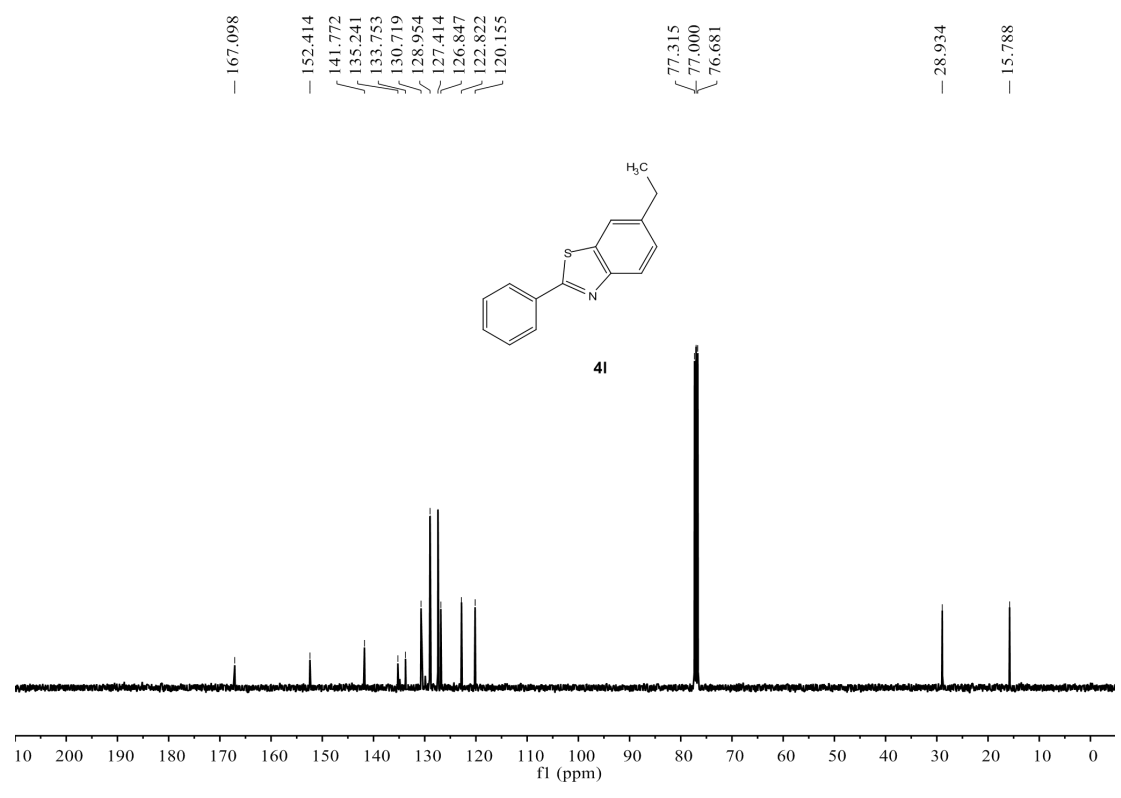
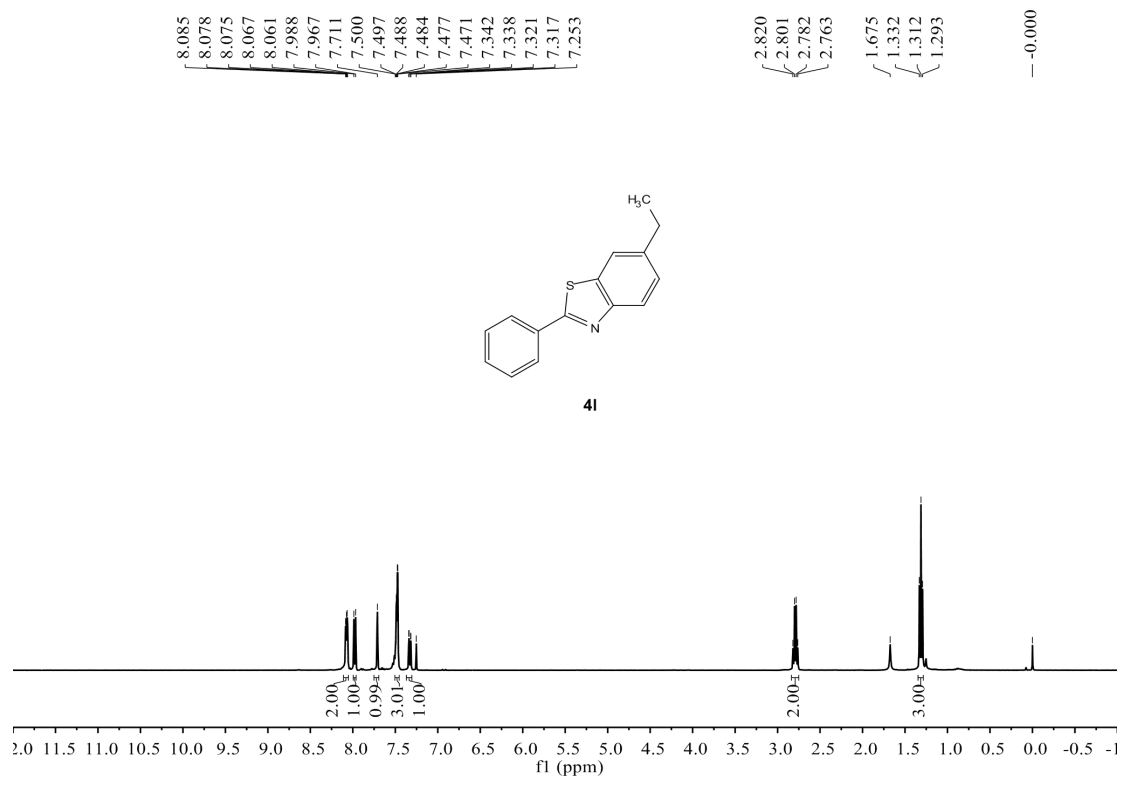


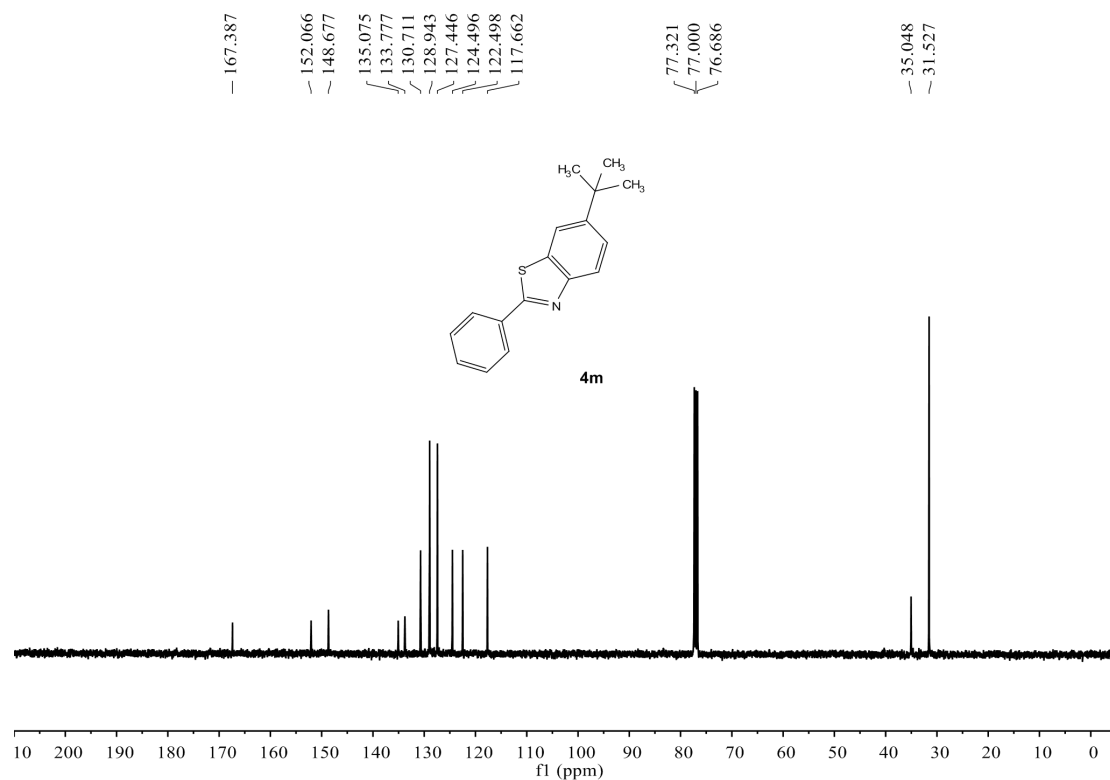
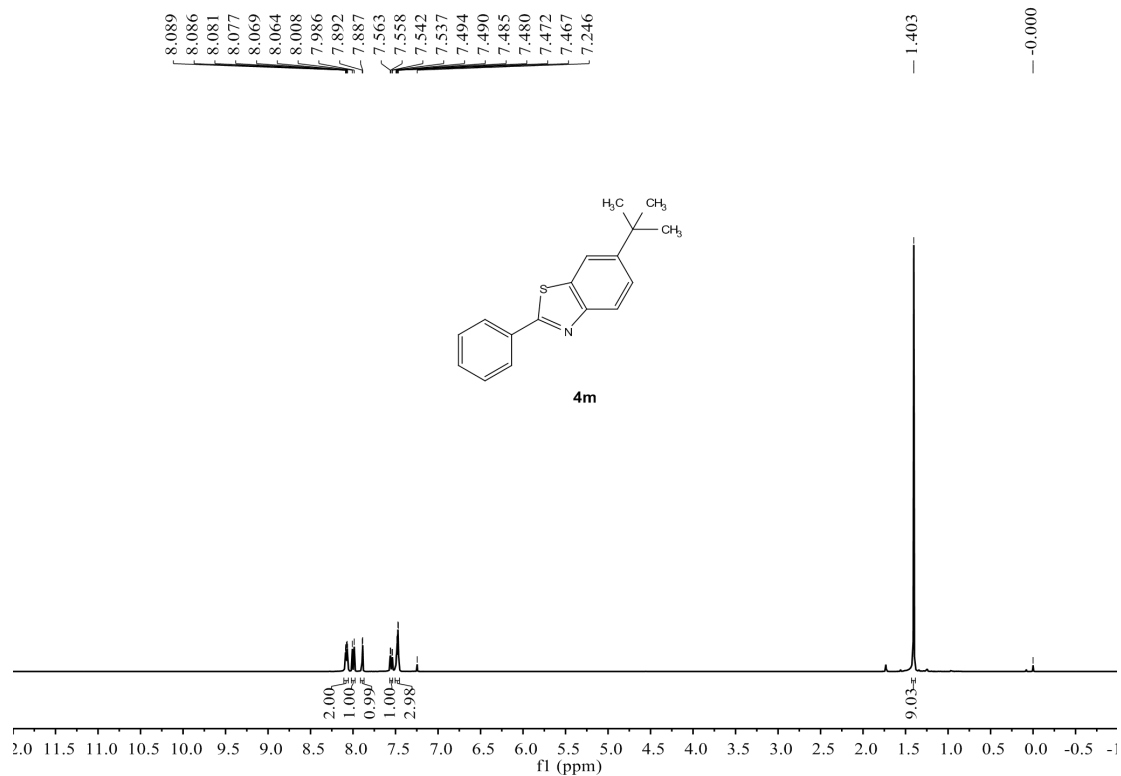




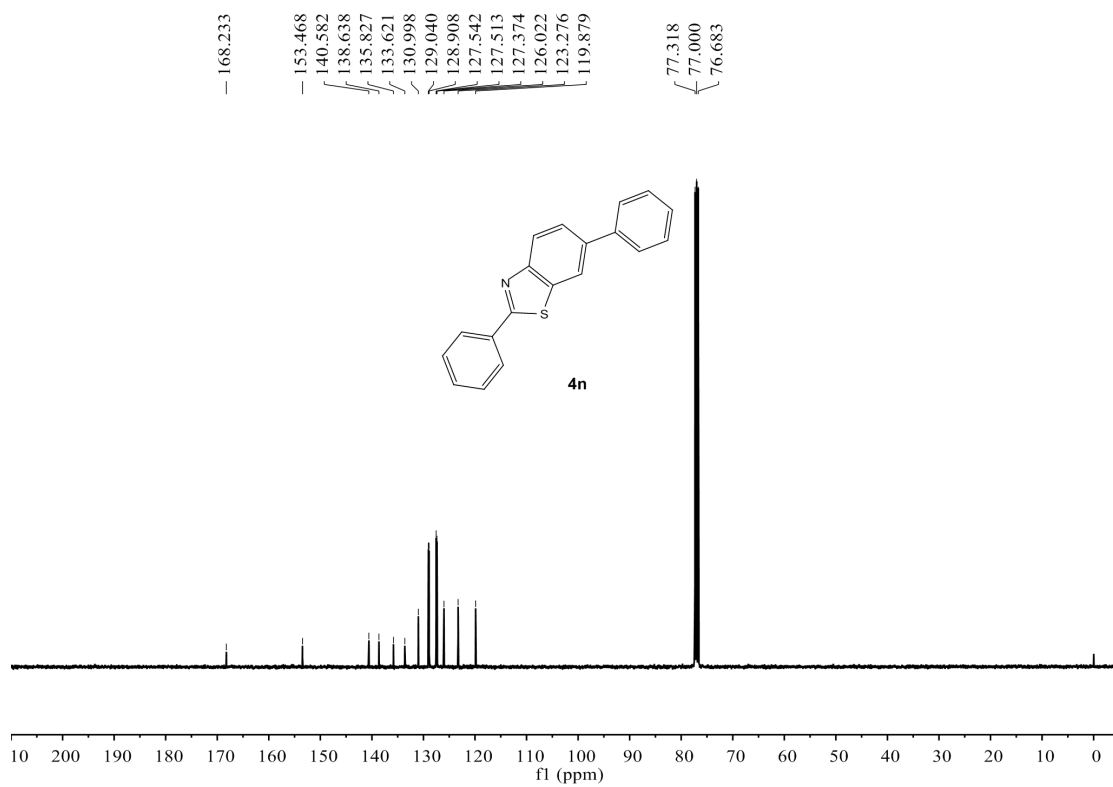
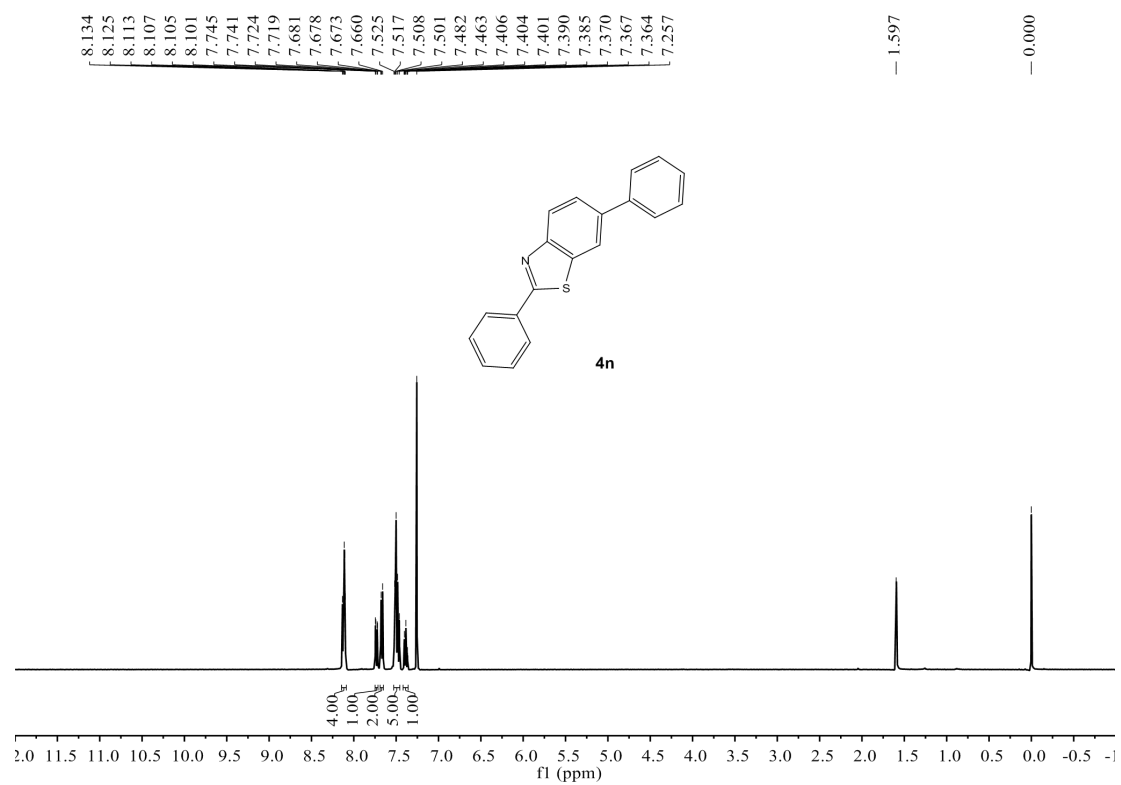


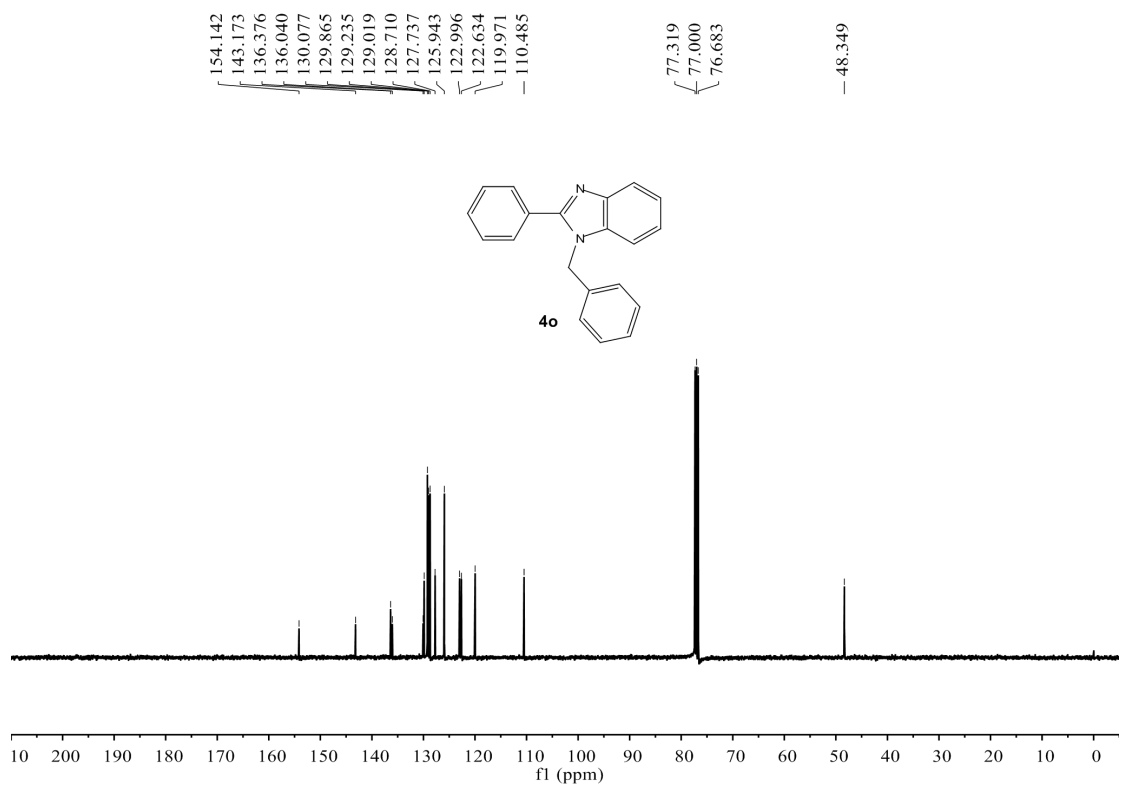
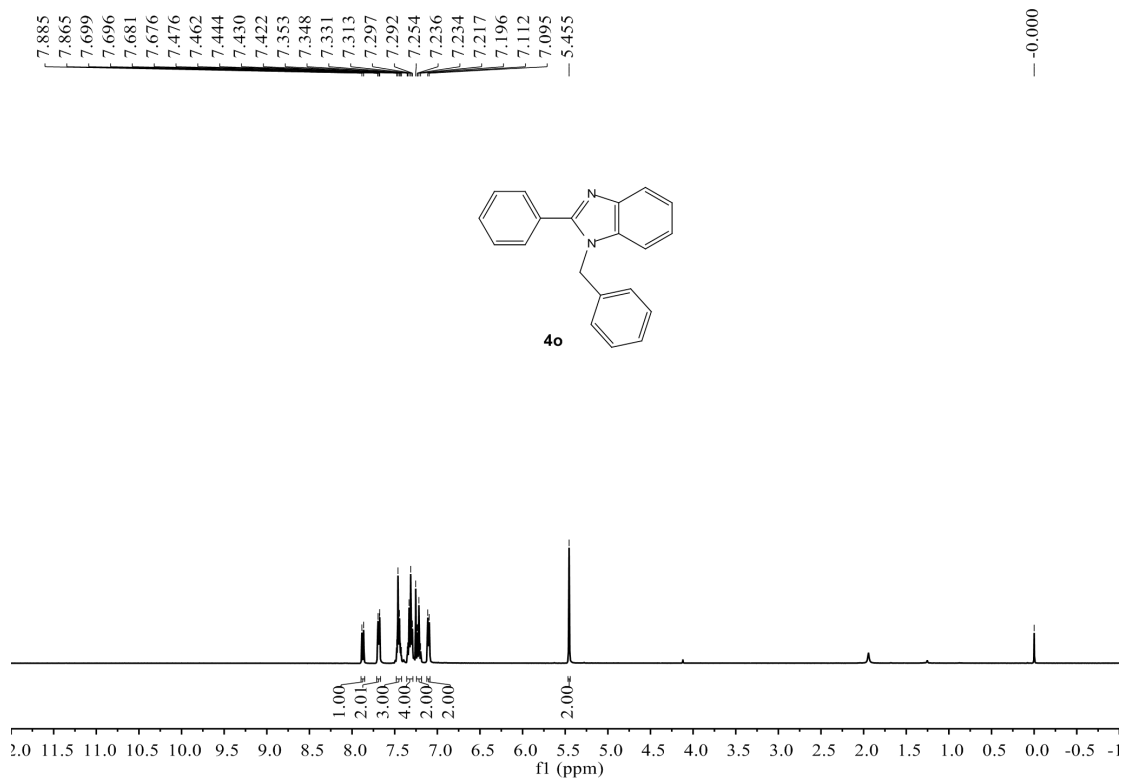


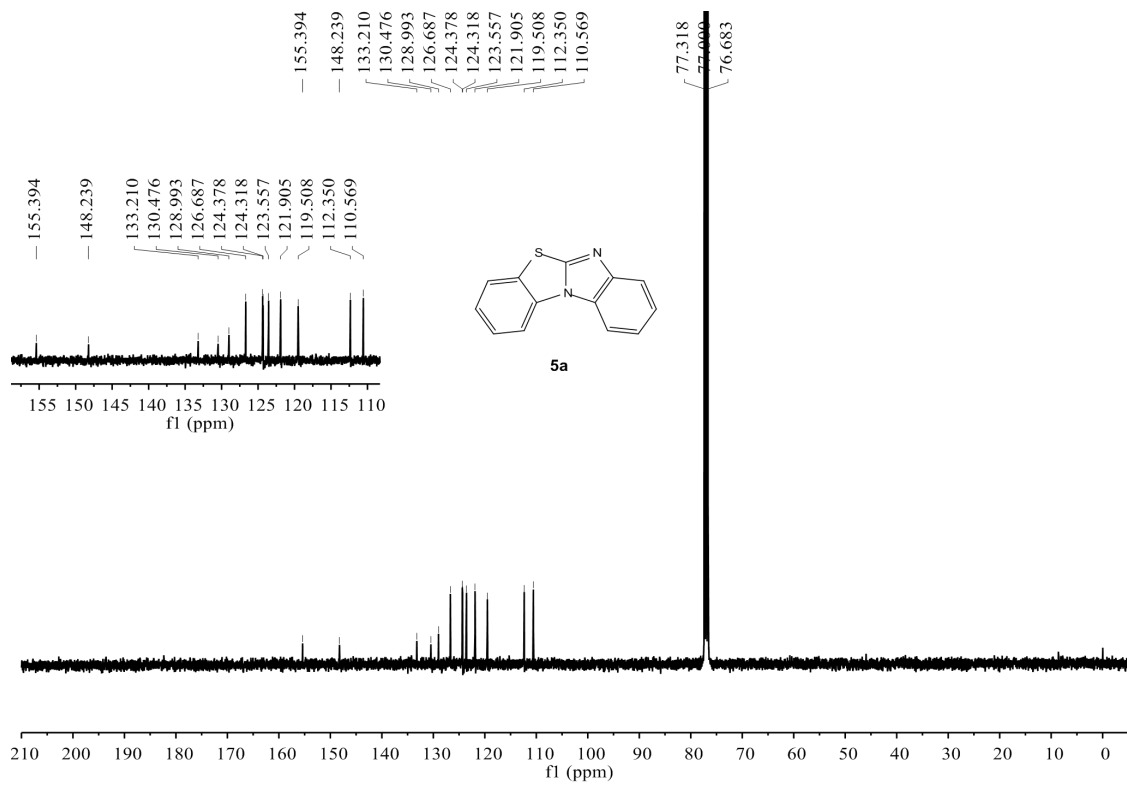
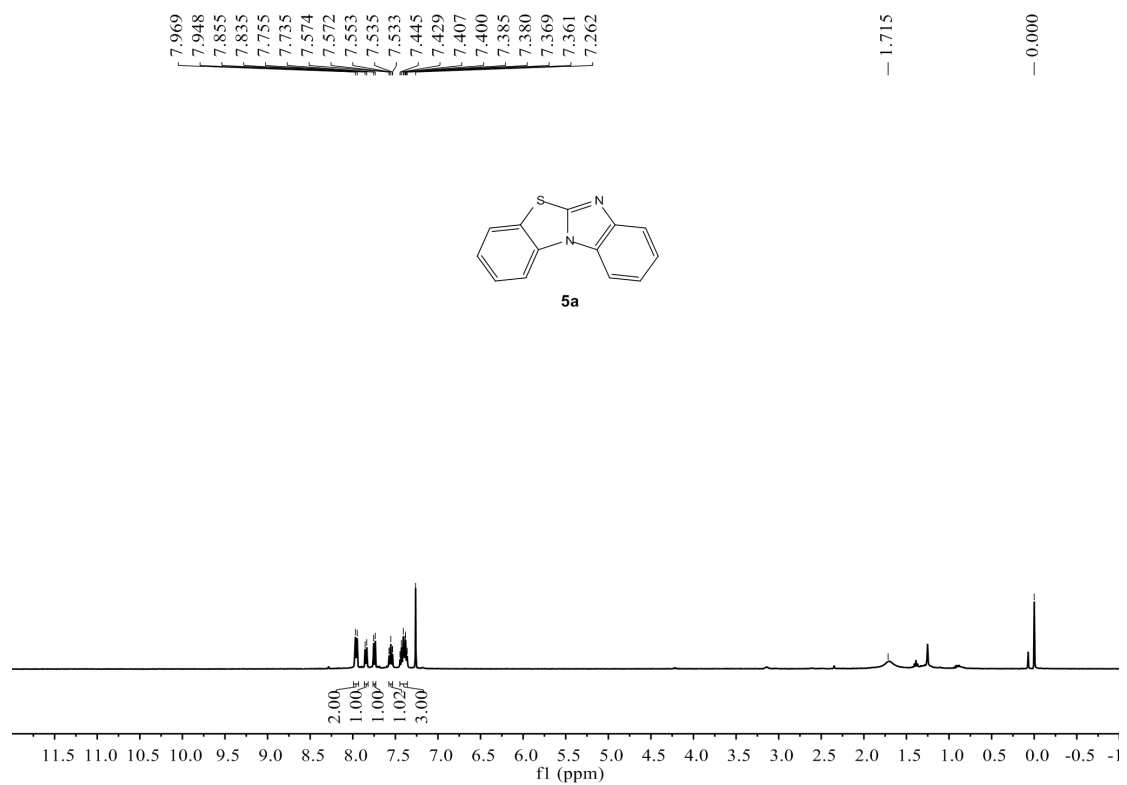


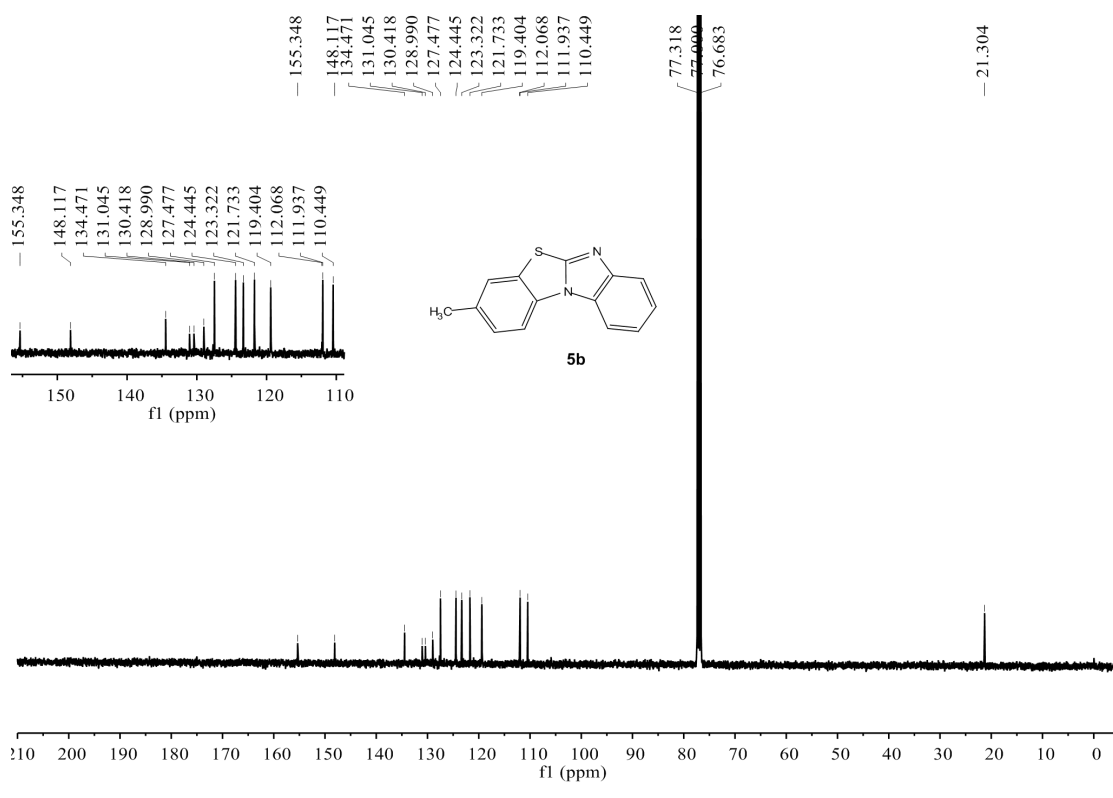
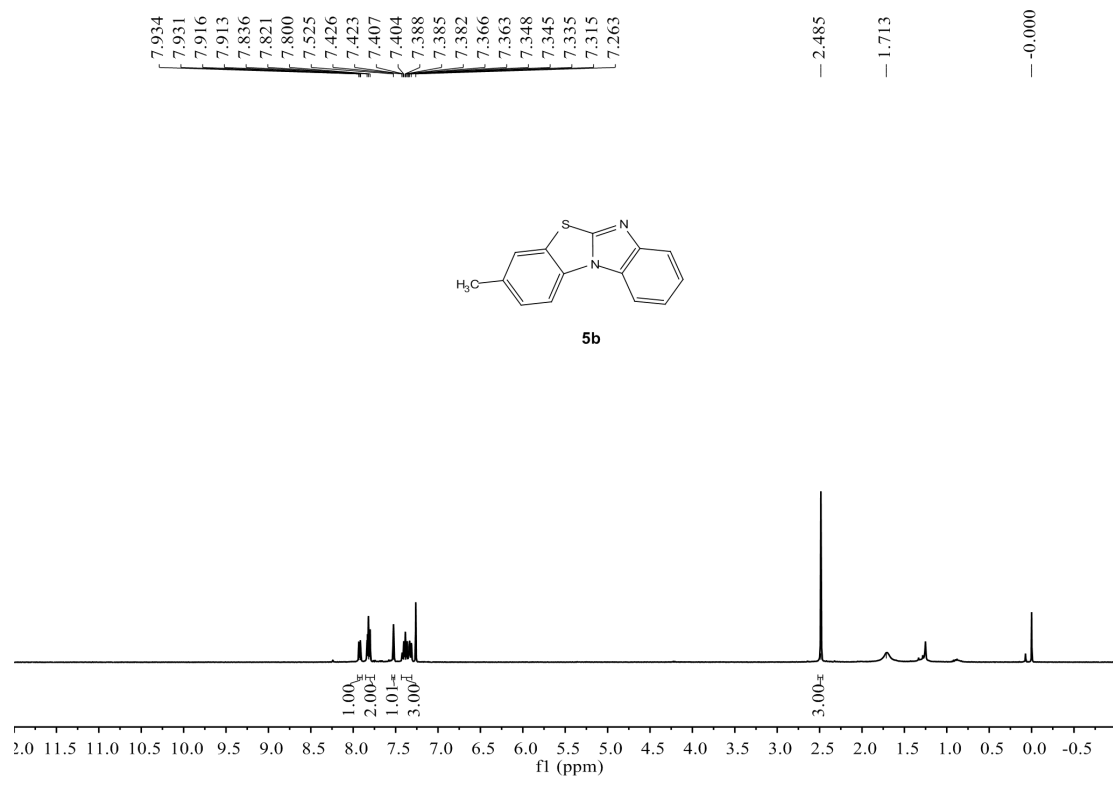


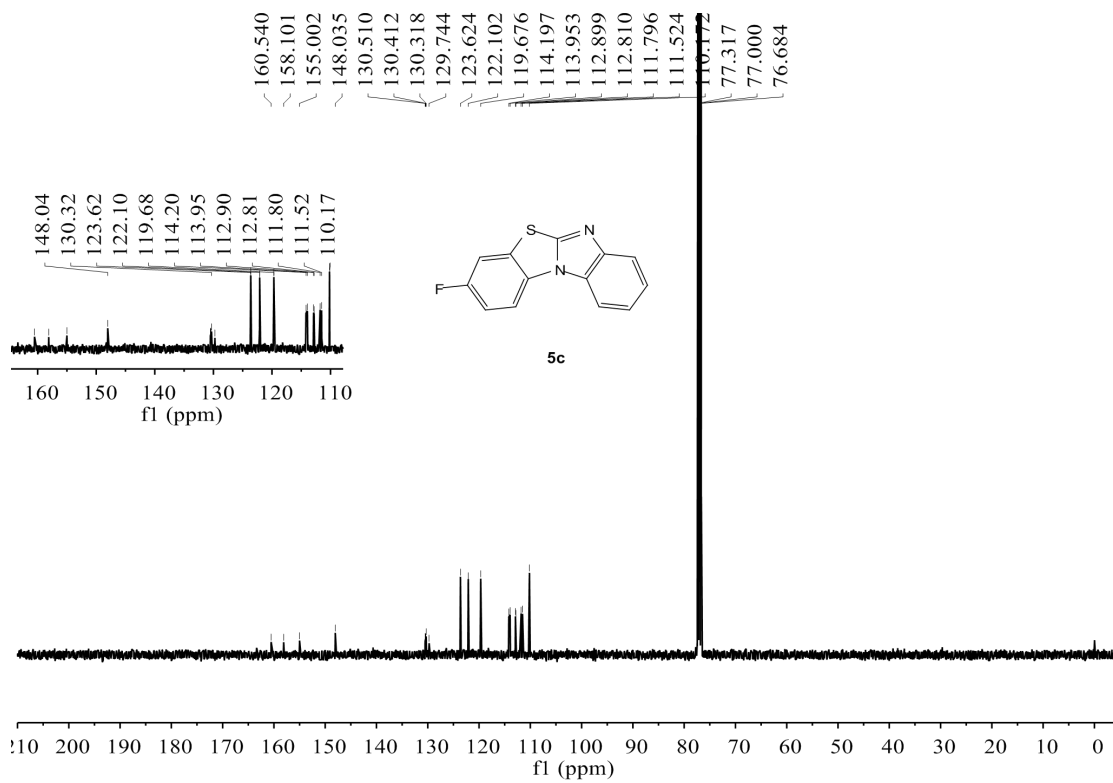
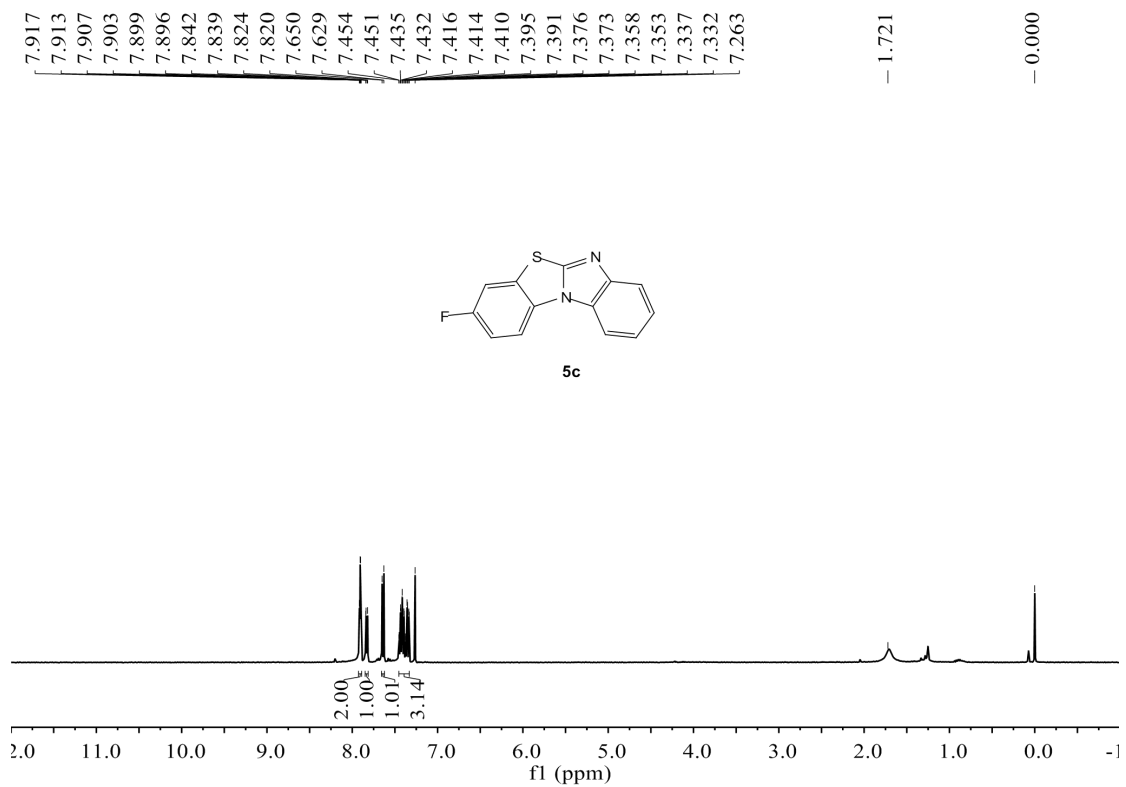


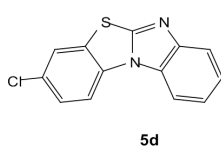
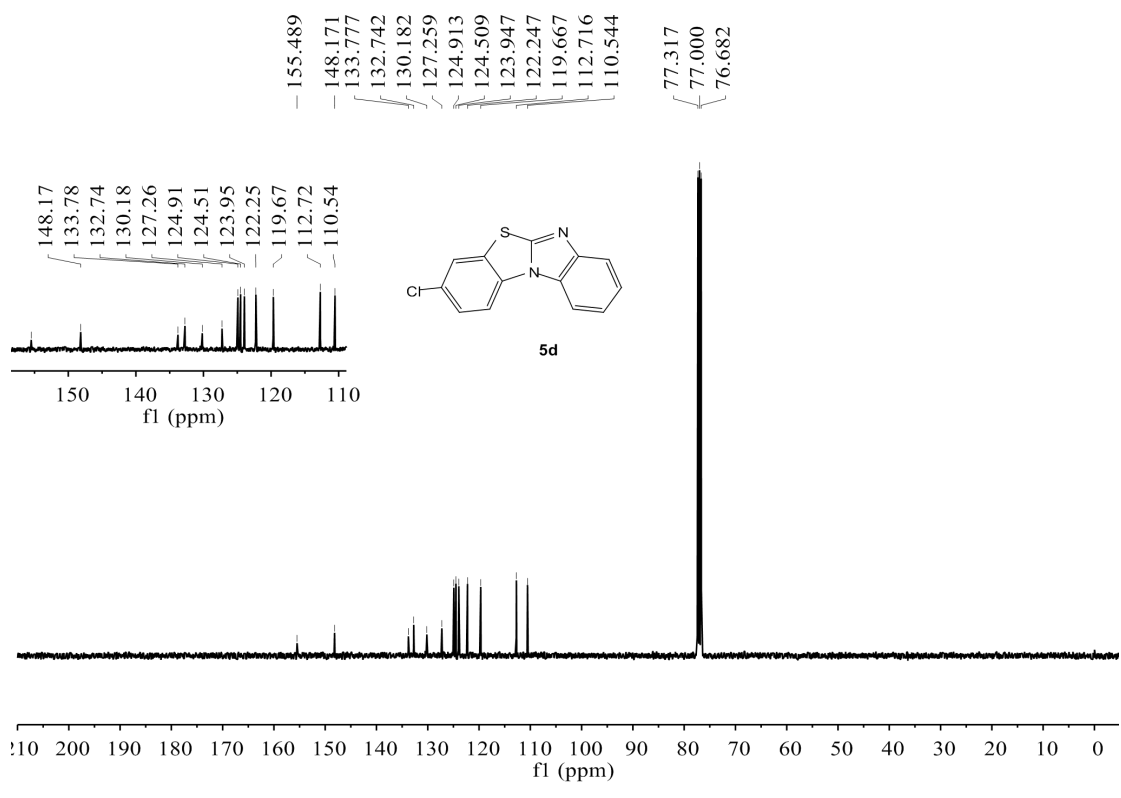
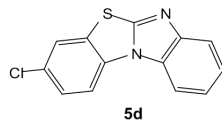
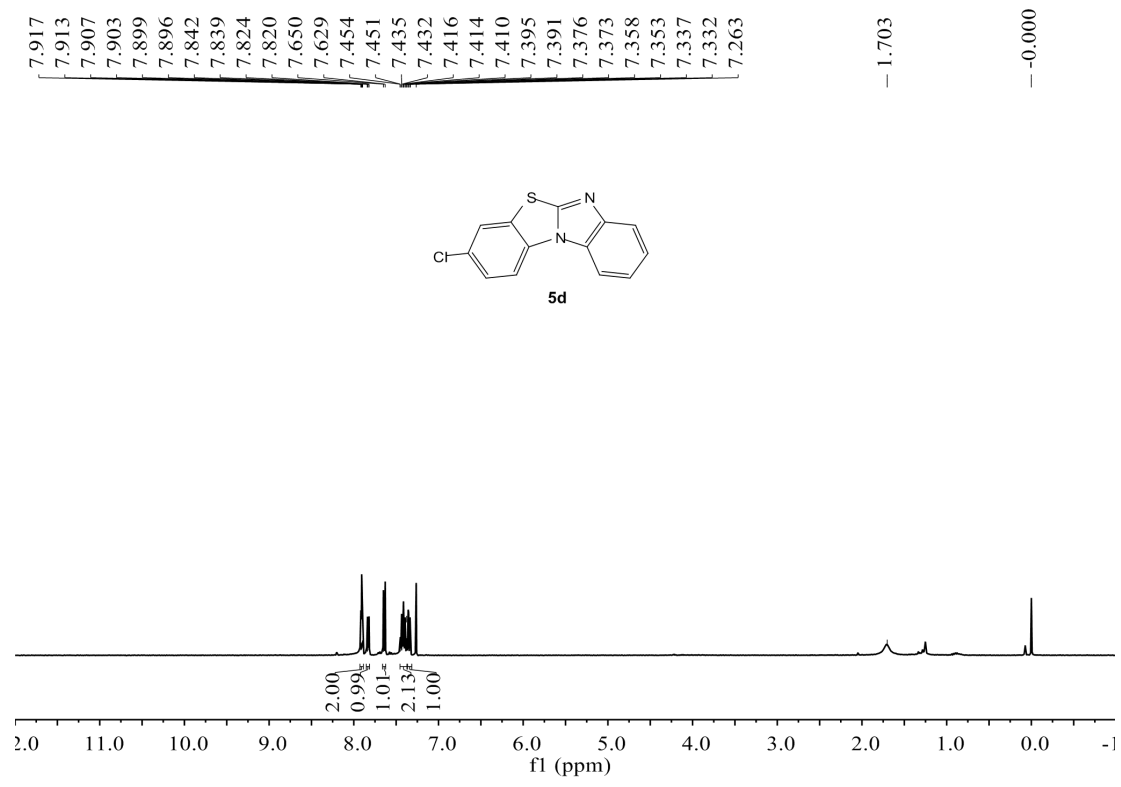


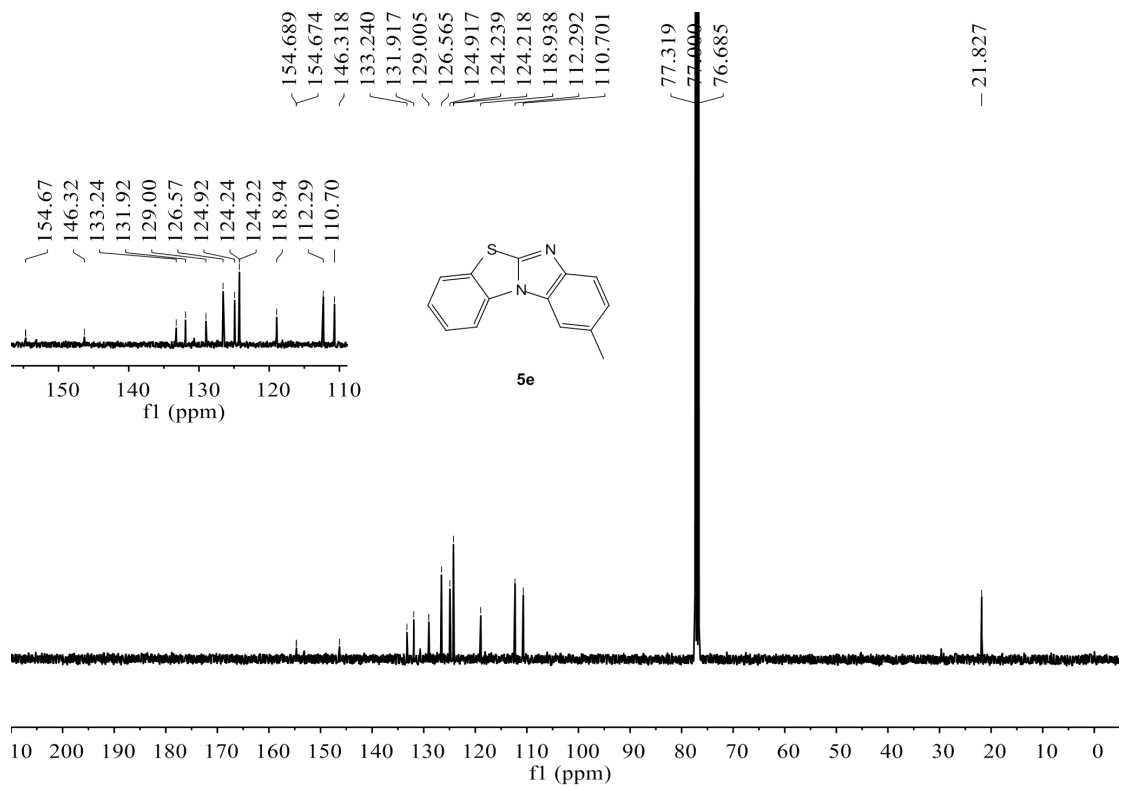
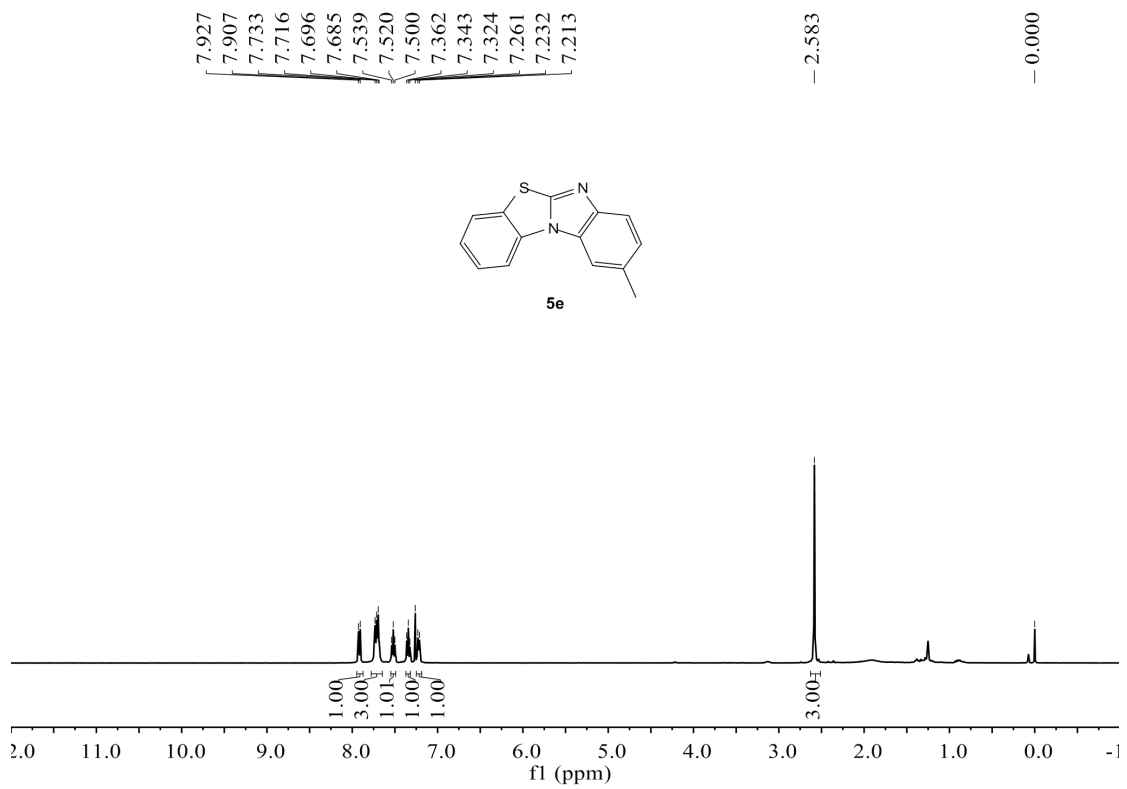


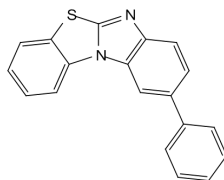
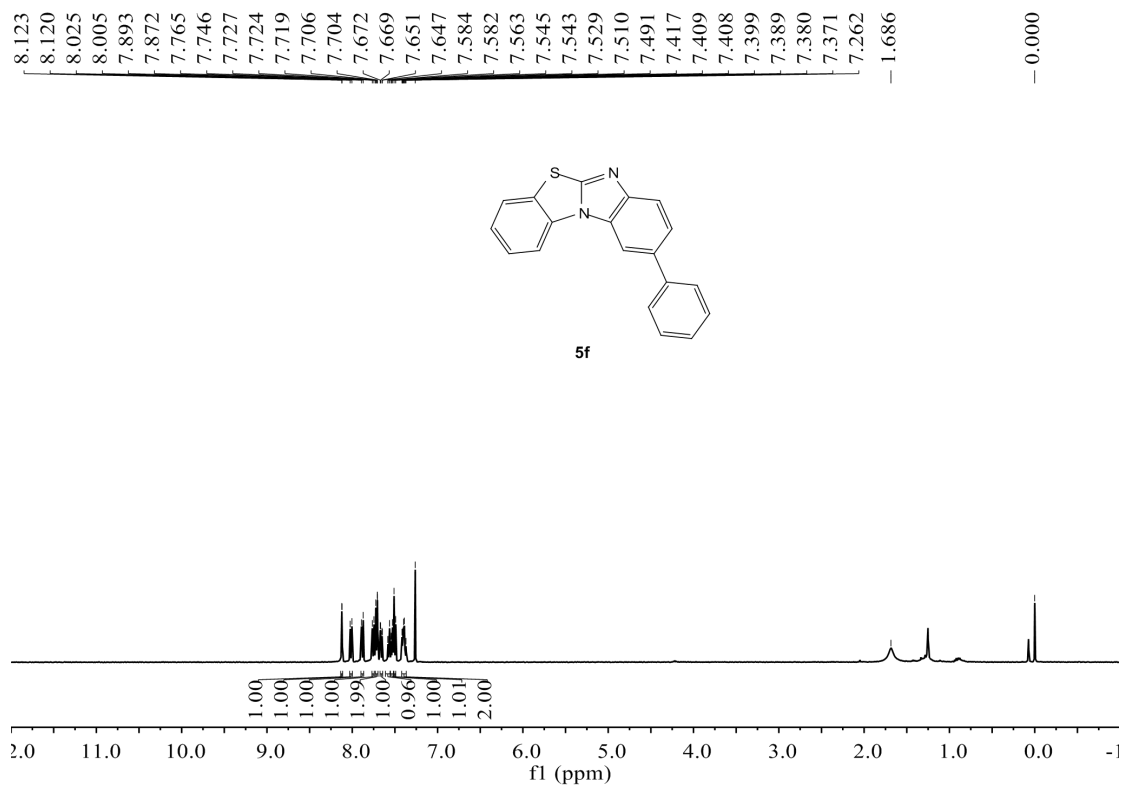












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