

Enantioselective Michael Addition of Malononitrile to Chalcone Catalyzed by Simple Quinine-Al(O*i*Pr)₃ Complex: a Simple Method for the Synthesis of Chiral 4-(H)-Pyran Derivative

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(A) General

^1H NMR spectra were recorded on commercial instruments (400 MHz). Chemical shifts are recorded in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane and with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constants (Hz), integration. ^{13}C NMR data were collected on commercial instruments (100 MHz) with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from the tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as internal standard. Enantiomer excesses were determined by chiral HPLC analysis on Daicel Chiralcel AS-H/ IA/IB in comparison with the authentic racemates. Optical rotations were reported as follows: $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ (c: g/100 mL, in solvent, $\lambda = 589$ nm). HRMS was recorded on a commercial apparatus (ESI Source).

All the solvents were purified by usual methods before use.

(B) General procedure for chiral catalyst preparation

All of the alkaloids and metal reagents are commercially available.

(C) General procedure for the synthesis of enones (2a-2v)

The aldehyde (10 mmol) was added gradually to a solution of NaOH (0.5 g) in H_2O (10.0 mL) and ketone (10 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for overnight. At the end of this period, KHSO_4 (1 N) solution was added to the flask until $\text{PH} \approx 6$, followed by extraction with ether. The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated to give a solid which was purified by flash column chromatography using EtOAc–hexanes at last.¹ All spectroscopic data of the enones were identical to those reported in the literature.²

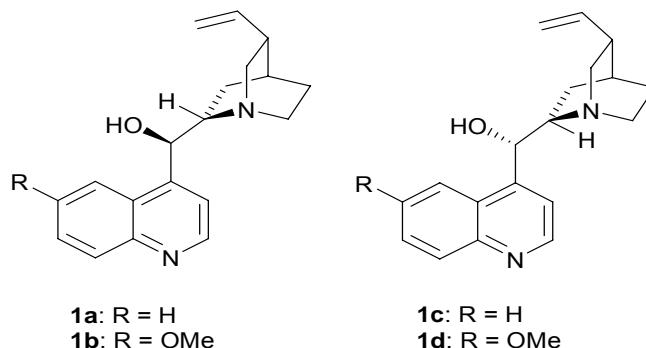
(D) General Procedure for the Asymmetric Catalytic Michael Reaction (3a-3v)

$\text{Al(O}^i\text{Pr})_3$ (0.01 mmol) was added to a dry reaction tube containing a suspension of quinine (3.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), chalcone (20.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) and 0.06 mL dry toluene. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h to give a solution under nitrogen atmosphere. Then malononitrile (6.9 mg, 0.105 mmol) dissolved in toluene (0.4 mL) (if required, heated the toluene solvent) was added at 0 °C. After being stirred for 80 h, the reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluted (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1:5) to afford the corresponding compound.

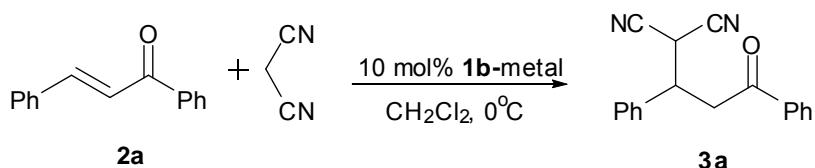
(E) General procedure for the synthesis of 4-(H)-pyran derivative

2-(3-Oxo-1,3-diphenylpropyl)malononitrile (0.274 mg, 1 mmol) was added in dry ethanol (5 mL), then piperidine (1.0 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at 30 °C for 48 h. Following, the solvent was removed. The reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluted (CH_2Cl_2 : petroleum ether = 1:2) to afford the corresponding compound.³

(F) Optimization of conditions



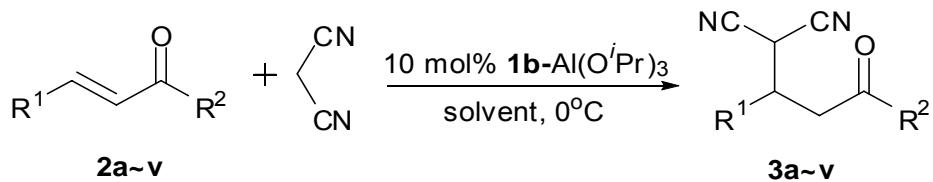
Screening of metals



Entry ^a	Metal	Yield ^b (%)	Ee ^c (%)
1	Al(O'Pr) ₃	75	77
2	AlEt ₃	80	39
3	AlEt ₂ Cl	35	18
4	AlCl ₃	N. D.	
5	Al ₂ (SO ₄) ₃	N. D.	
6	Ti(O'Pr) ₄	73	70
7	Ni(acac) ₂	68	74
8	Ni(ClO ₄) ₂ ·6H ₂ O	35	22
9	Fe(acac) ₃	70	74
10	Co(acac) ₂	54	59

^a Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was carried out with **1b** (0.01 mmol), metal (0.01 mmol), **2a** (0.1 mmol) and malononitrile (0.105 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen for 80 h. ^b Isolated yield. ^c Determined by chiral HPLC.

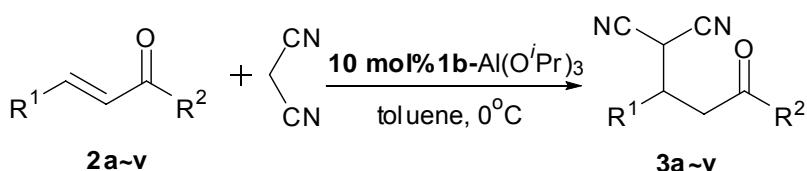
Screening of solvent



Entry ^a	Catalyst	Solvent	Yield ^b (%)	Eec (%)
1	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	CH ₂ Cl ₂	75	77
2	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	Et ₂ O	66	29
3	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	CHCl ₃	41	51
4	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	THF	55	15
5	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	MeOH	69	race
6	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	cyclohexane	43	19
7	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	toluene	92	90
8	1b + Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) ₃	o-xylene	90	89

^a Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was carried out with **1b** (0.01 mmol), metal (0.01 mmol), **2a** (0.1 mmol) and malononitrile (0.105 mmol) in solvent (1.0 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen for 80 h. ^b Isolated yield. ^c Determined by chiral HPLC.

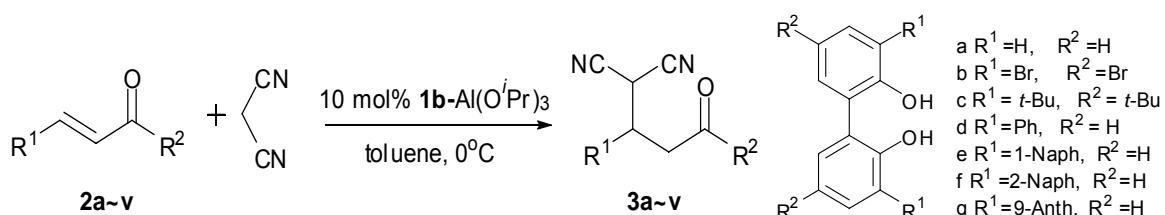
Optimization of the ratio between ligand and metal



Entry ^a	Ligand/metal	Yield ^b (%)	Ee ^c (%)
1	2:1	90	83
2	1:2	93	87
3	1:0	51	80
4	1:1	92	90

^a Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was carried out with **2a** (0.1 mmol) under nitrogen at 25°C for 1 h, then malononitrile (0.105 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 0 °C for 80 h.. ^b Isolated yield. ^d Determined by chiral HPLC.

Optimization of additive

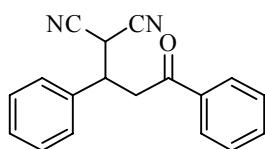


Entry ^a	Additive	Yield ^b (%)	Ee ^c (%)
1	a	71	85
2	b	67	86
3	c	74	85
4	d	73	86
5	f	77	86
6	g	76	85
7	h	70	85
8	R-binol	70	72
9	S-binol	73	-62
10	<i>o</i> -dihydroxybenzene	81	86
11	<i>m</i> -dihydroxybenzene	80	84
12	<i>p</i> -dihydroxybenzene	78	84
13	triethylanmine	92	77
14	3 Å MS	85	88
15	4 Å MS	87	88
16	5 Å MS	87	88

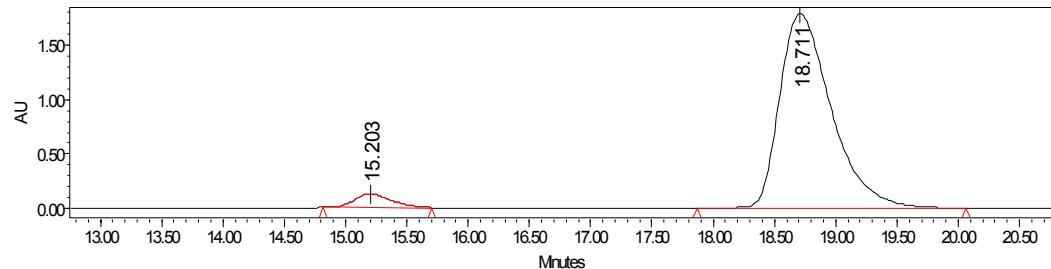
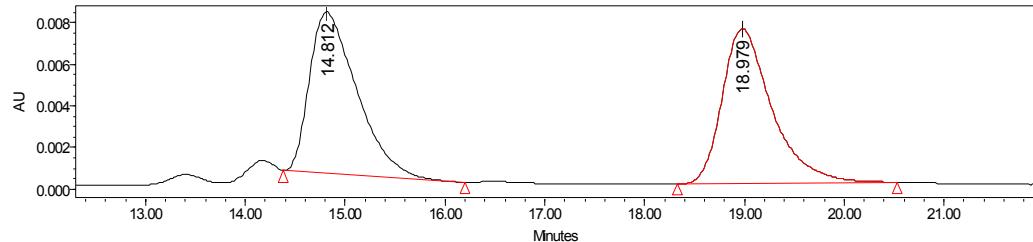
^a Unless noted otherwise, the reaction was carried out with **1b** (0.01 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)₃ (0.01 mmol), **2a** (0.1 mmol) and additive (entries 1-13, 0.01 mmol, entries 14-16, 10 mg) and malononitrile (0.105 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) at 0 °C under nitrogen for 80 h. ^b Isolated yield. ^c Determined by chiral HPLC

(G) The analytical and spectral characterization data of reaction products

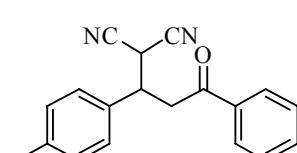
2-(3-Oxo-1, 3-diphenylpropyl)malononitrile (**3a**)



white solid; 92% yield, 90% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -12.59$ (*c* 0.270 in CH₂Cl₂); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 18.711 min (major) and 15.203 min (minor); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.69 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 3.96 (1H, dt, *J*₁ = 5.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.4 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.61 (1H, d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 7.39-7.83 (10H, m, Ar-H) ppm.

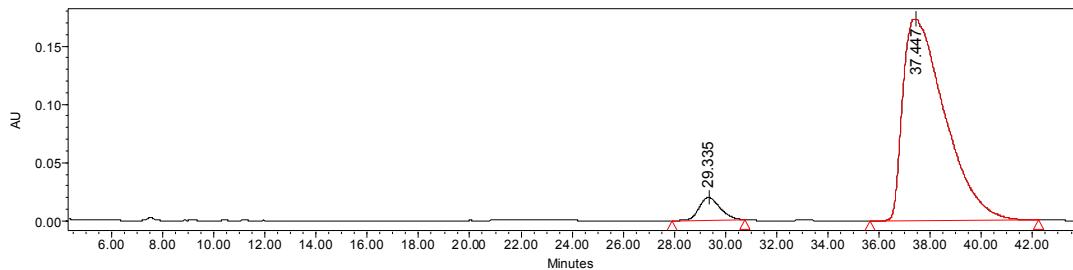
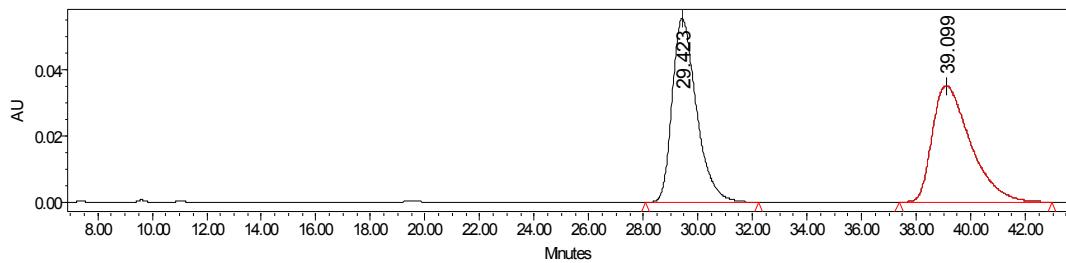


2-(1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (**3b**)



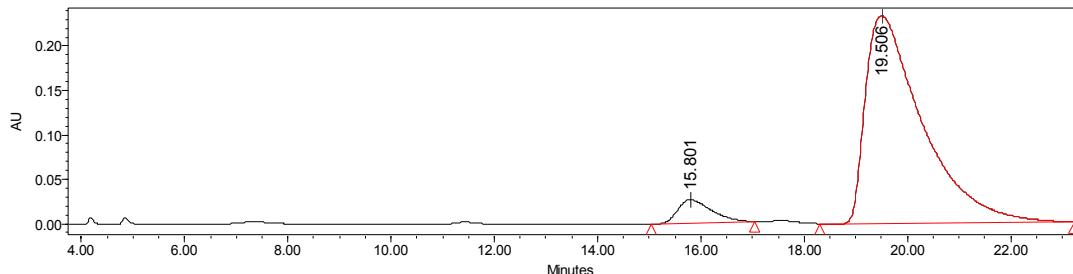
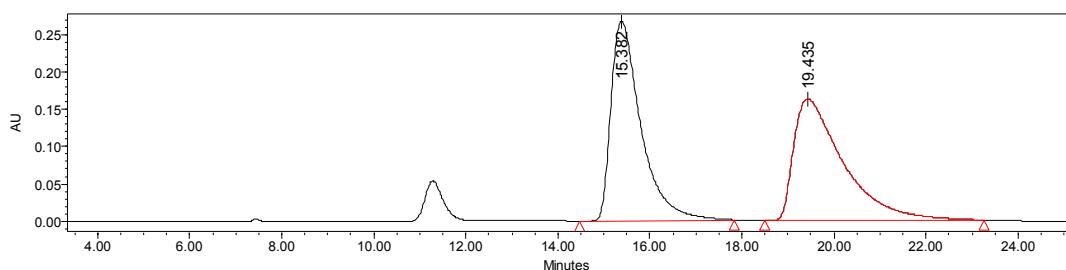
white solid; 94% yield, 89% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -5.56$ (*c* 0.288 in CH₂Cl₂); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL AS-H, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 37.447 min (major) and 29.335 min (minor);

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3), δ 3.66 (2H, m, $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$), 3.96 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 5.34 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.11-7.96 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm.



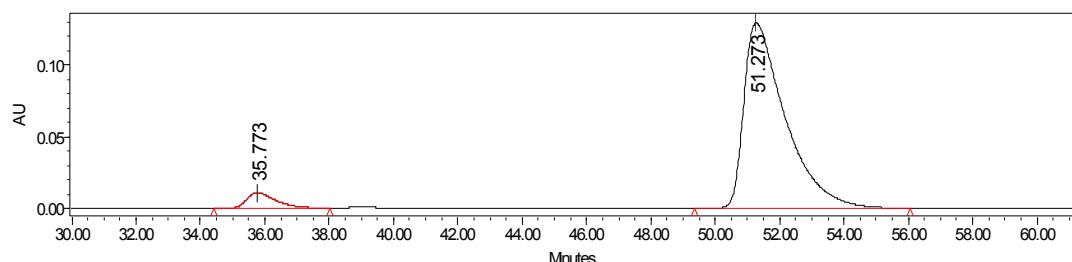
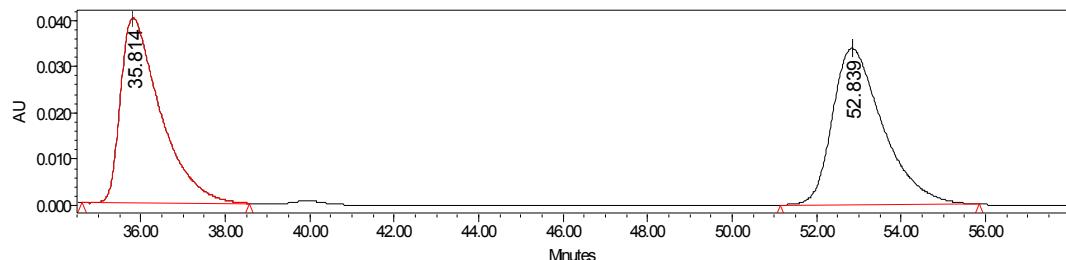
2-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3c)

white solid; 92% yield, 87% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -13.48$ (c 0.178 in CH_2Cl_2). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL AS-H, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 19.506 min (major) and 15.801 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.66 (2H, m, $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$), 3.94 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.68 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, Ar-CH), 7.35-7.98 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.5, 39.9, 40.8, 111.4, 111.5, 126.3, 128.1, 128.2, 128.9, 129.5, 130.6, 134.3, 135.2, 135.6, 138.4, 196.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}-\text{H}^+]$) = 307.0643, Found 307.0638.



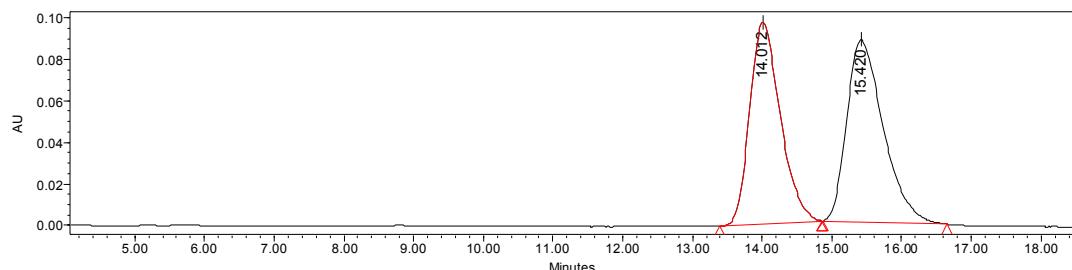
2-(1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3d)

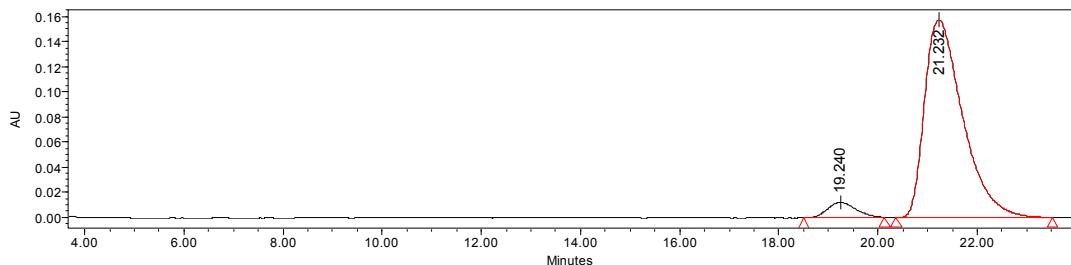
white solid; 89% yield, 89% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -5.15$ (*c* 0.194 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 51.273 min (major) and 35.773 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.65 (2H, m, O=C- CH_2), 3.95 (1H, dt, J_1 = 5.2 Hz, J_2 = 8.8 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.31 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 7.38-7.97 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 27.1, 36.7, 39.2, 111.1, 111.5, 128.13, 128.19, 128.8, 129.0, 130.4, 132.7, 134.3, 134.9, 135.5, 195.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ ([M-H⁺]) = 307.0643, Found 307.0641.



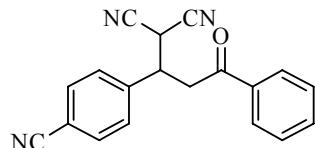
2-(1-(2, 4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3e)

white solid; 90% yield, 89% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 10.34$ (*c* 0.232 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL AS-H, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 21.232 min (major) and 19.240 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.70 (2H, m, O=C- CH_2), 4.63 (2H, m, Ar-CH and NC-CH), 7.31-7.969 (8H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 27.1, 36.7, 39.2, 111.1, 111.5, 128.13, 128.19, 128.8, 129.0, 130.4, 132.3, 134.9, 135.5, 195.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ([M-H⁺]) = 341.0254, Found 341.0256.

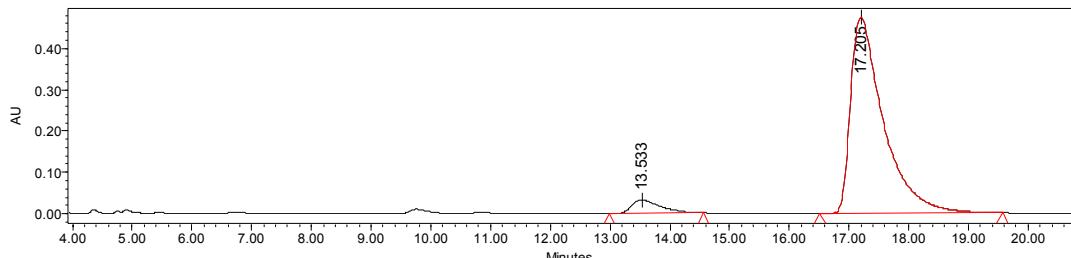
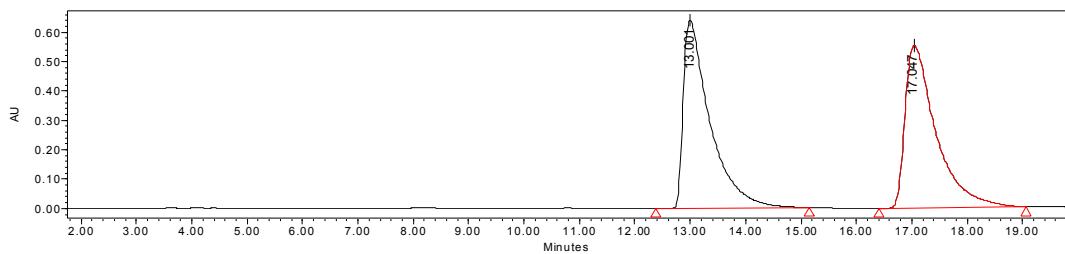




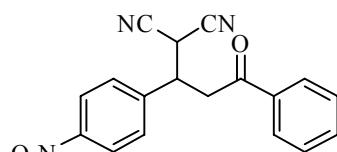
2-(1-(4-Cyanophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3f)



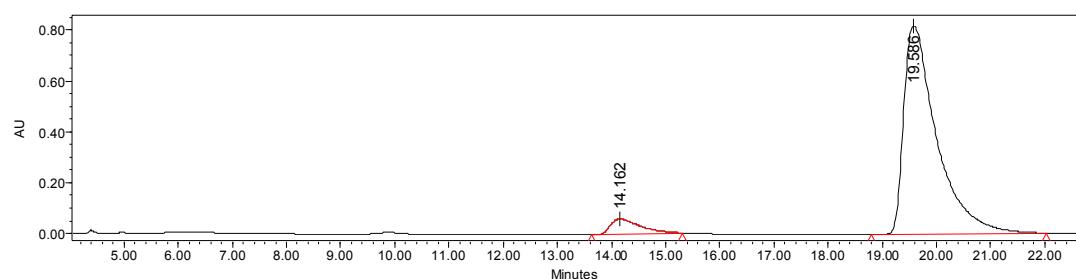
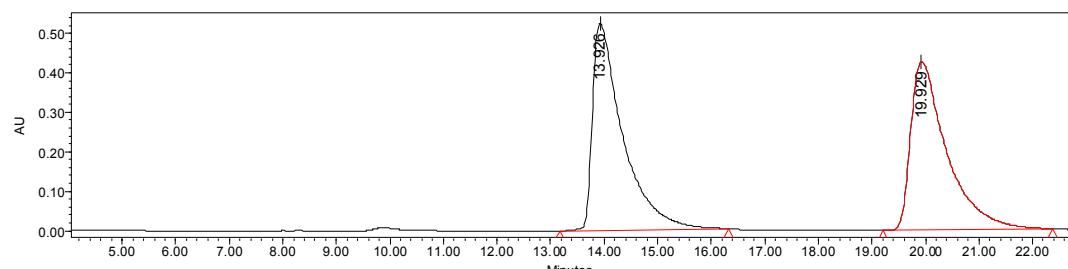
white solid; 93% yield, 89% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -5.88$ (*c* 0.170 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 25/75, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 17.205 min (major) and 13.533 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.68 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 4.03 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.66 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.49-7.97 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.3, 39.6, 41.1, 111.1, 111.3, 113.3, 118.0, 128.1, 129.04, 129.05, 133.1, 134.5, 135.4, 141.4, 195.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ ([M-H]⁺) = 298.0986, Found 298.0980.



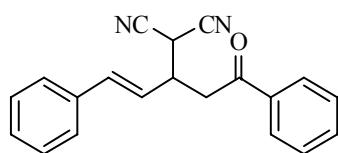
2-(1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3g)



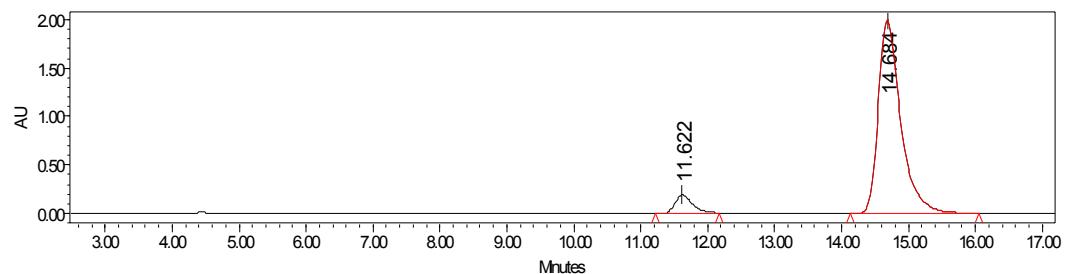
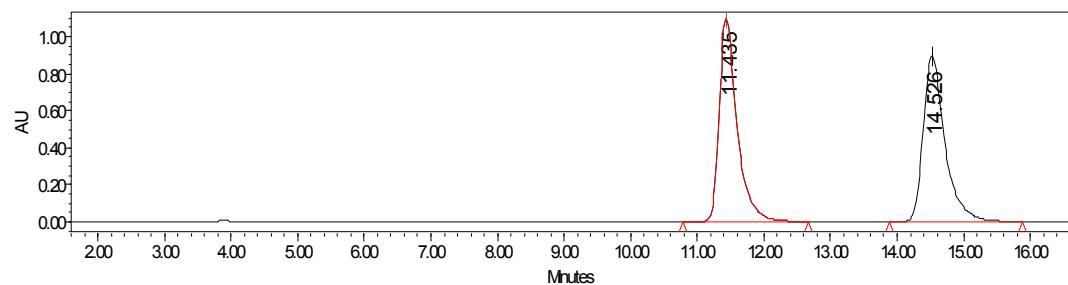
white solid; 95% yield, 89% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -7.14$ (*c* 0.042 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 25/75, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm, retention time: 19.586 min (major) and 14.162 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.71 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 4.10 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.69 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.50-7.96 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm.



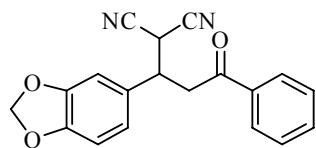
2-(Z-1-styrene -3-Oxo-1,3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3i)



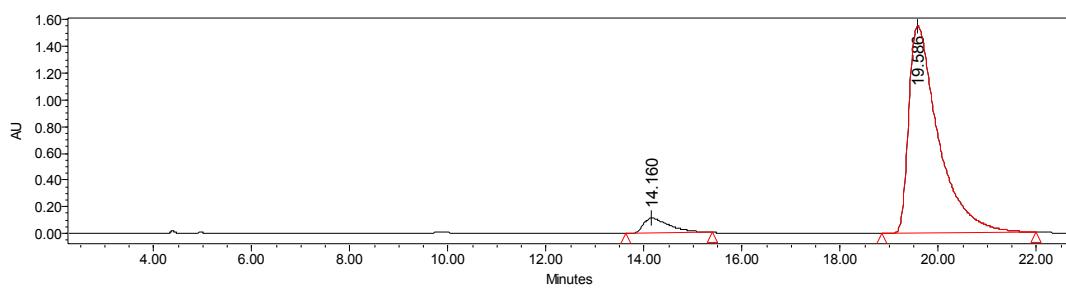
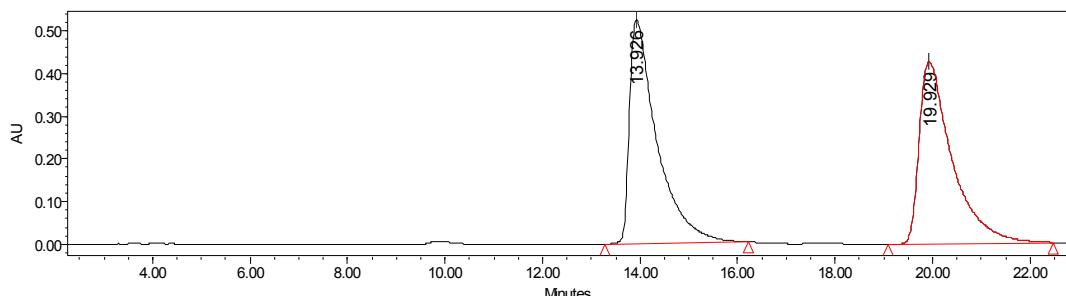
colorless liquid; 94% yield, 87% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -0.65$ (*c* 0.154 in CH_2Cl_2). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 15/85, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 14.684 min (major) and 11.622 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.45 (2H, m, $\text{OC}=\text{CH}_2$), 3.57 (1H, m, $\text{C}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}$), 4.60 (1H, d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, $\text{OC}=\text{CH}_2$), 6.26 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 9.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 15.6$ Hz, Ar- $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$), 6.81 (1H, d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, Ar- $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$), 7.30-8.00 (10H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 27.5, 39.6, 40.0, 111.6, 112.0, 123.3, 126.8, 127.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 134.2, 135.3, 135.8, 136.3, 196.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ([M-H]⁺) = 299.1190, Found 299.1186.



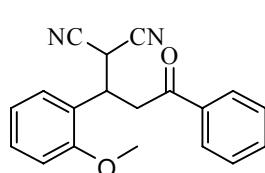
2-(1-(3, 4-Methylenedioxophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3h)



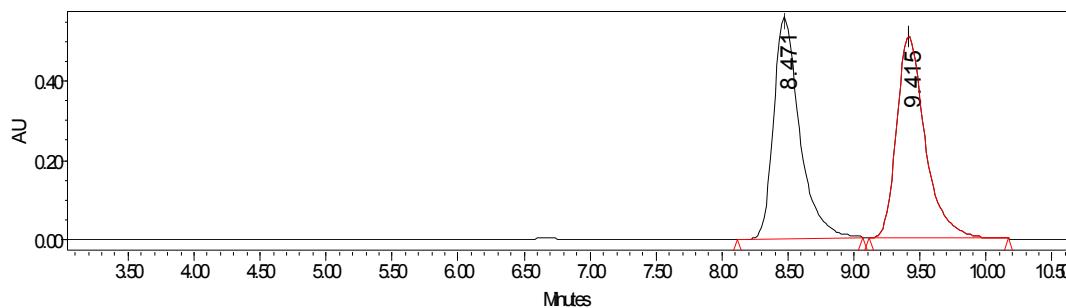
white solid; 91% yield, 88% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -11.20$ (*c* 0.116 in CH₂Cl₂); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 25/75, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 19.586 min (major) and 14.160 min (minor); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.65 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 3.90 (1H, dt, *J*₁ = 4.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.4 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.62 (1H, d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 6.02 (2H, s, O-CH₂-O), 6.85-8.00 (8H, m, Ar-H) ppm.

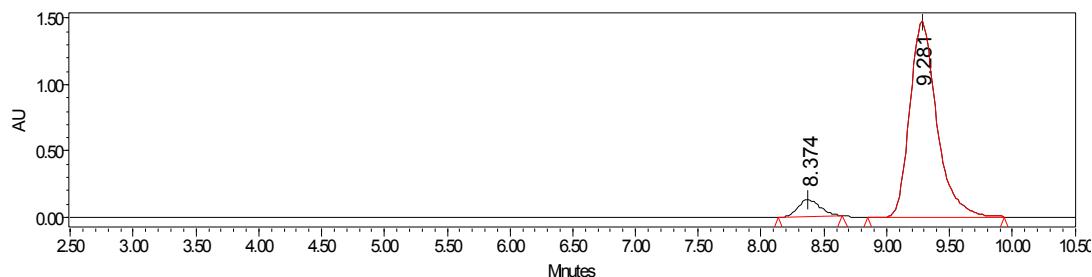


2-(1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3j)



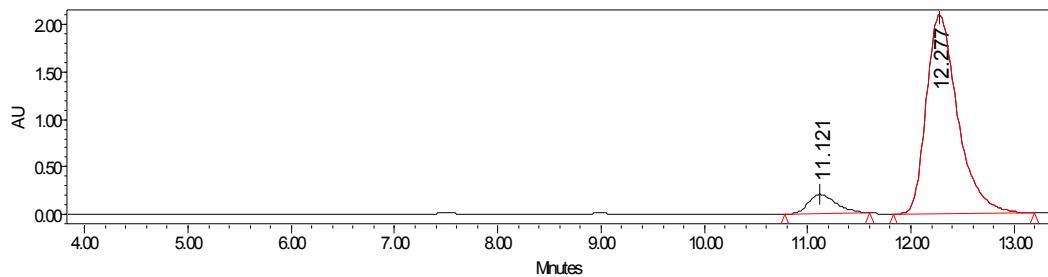
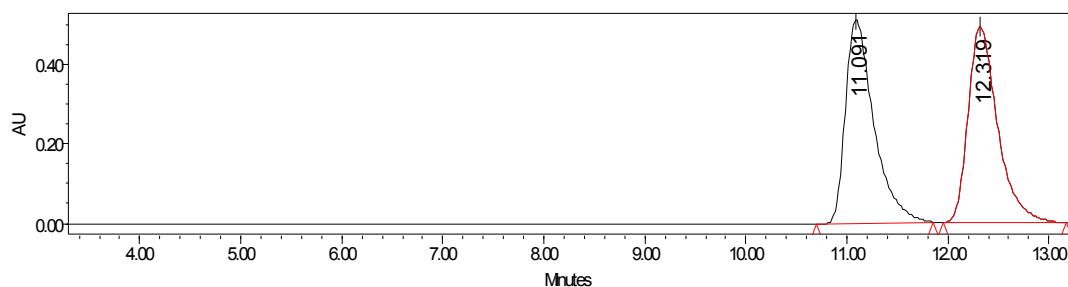
white solid; 89% yield, 87% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 24.22$ (*c* 0.194 in CH₂Cl₂); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 9.281 min (major) and 8.374 min (minor); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.72 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 3.92 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 4.47 (1H, dd, *J*₁ = 6.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 13.6 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.69 (1H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, NC-CH), 6.95-7.99 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.1, 36.0, 39.1, 55.4, 111.1, 112.1, 112.3, 121.2, 124.5, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 130.1, 133.8, 136.0, 156.8, 196.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₂ ([M-H]⁺) = 303.1139, Found 303.1150.





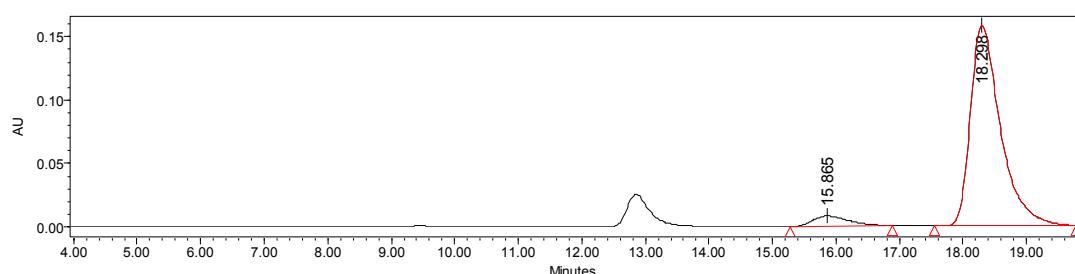
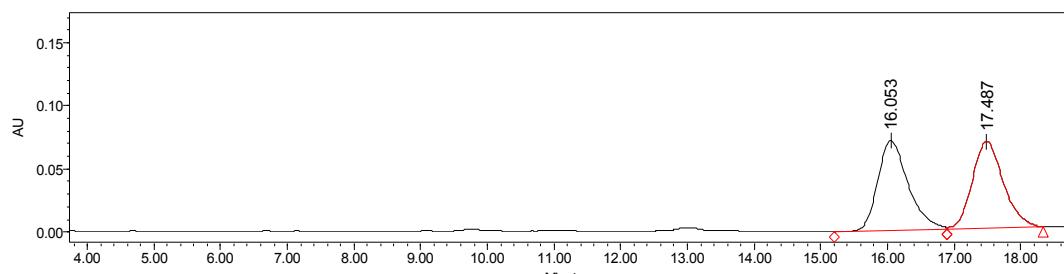
2-(1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3k)

white solid; 84% yield, 84% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -8.33$ (*c* 0.144 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 12.277 min (major) and 11.121 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.69 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 3.85 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.94 (1H, dt, J_1 = 5.6 Hz, J_2 = 8.0 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.66 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 6.94-7.98 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.7, 40.1, 41.1, 55.3, 111.7, 111.8, 113.9, 114.3, 120.0, 128.1, 128.9, 130.4, 134.1, 135.7, 138.0, 160.1, 196.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ([M-H⁺]) = 303.1139, Found 303.1142.



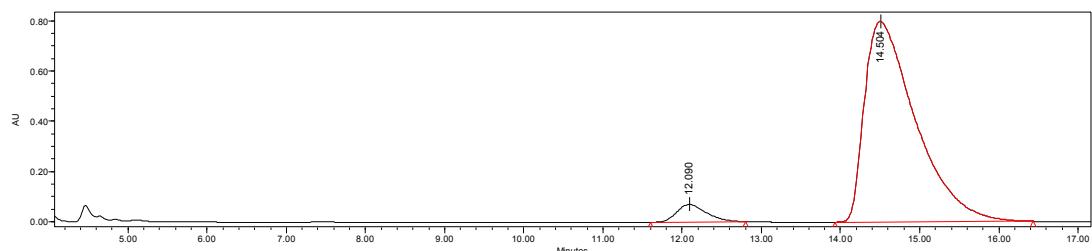
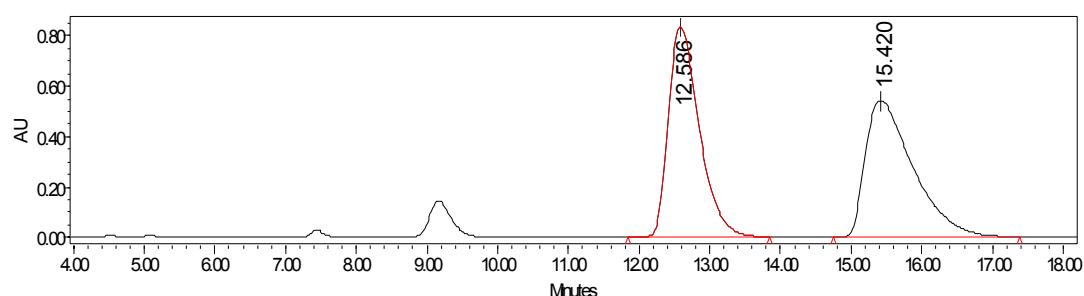
2-(1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3l)

white solid; 89% yield, 88% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -0.48$ (*c* 0.208 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 18.298 min (major) and 15.865 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.68 (2H, m, OC=CH₂), 3.82 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.92 (1H, dt, J_1 = 5.2 Hz, J_2 = 8.4 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.61 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 6.93-7.98 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm.

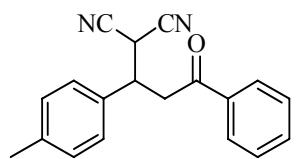


2-(1-(3-Methylphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3m)

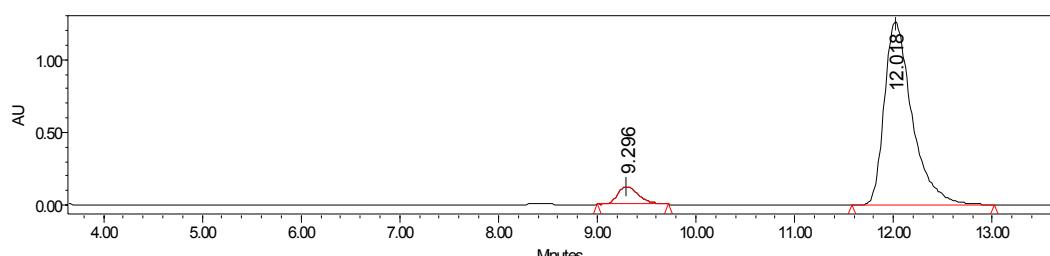
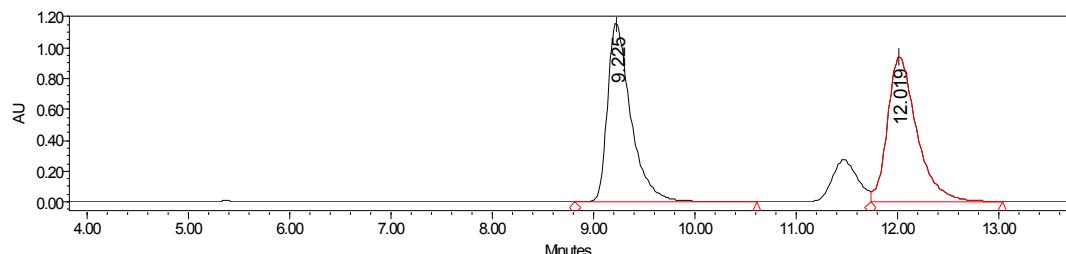
white solid; 84% yield, 90% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -20.83$ (c 0.240 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL AS-H, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 210 nm, retention time: 14.504 min (major) and 12.050 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.41 (3H, s, $-\text{CH}_3$), 3.69 (2H, m, $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$), 3.94 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.66 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.22-8.01 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.5, 28.7, 40.1, 41.1, 111.7, 111.9, 124.9, 128.1, 128.6, 128.9, 129.2, 129.5, 134.1, 135.8, 136.5, 139.1, 196.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}-\text{H}^+]$) = 287.1190, Found 287.1191.



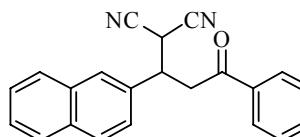
2-(1-(4-Methylphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3n)



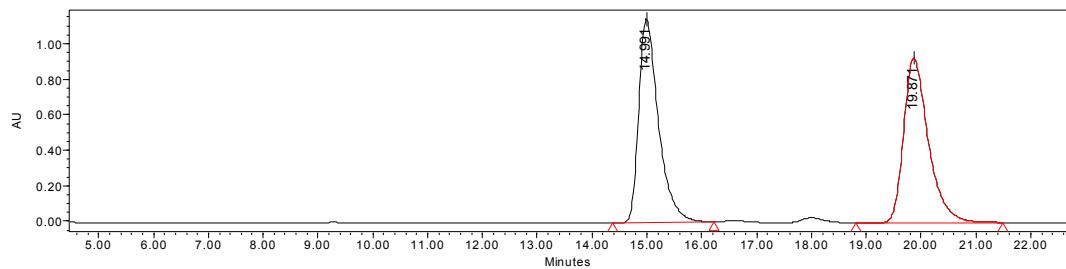
white solid; 84% yield, 87% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -2.41$ (c 0.166 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 210 nm, retention time: 12.018 min (major) and 9.296 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.39 (3H, s, - CH_3), 3.68 (2H, m, O=C- CH_2), 3.95 (1H, dt, J_1 = 5.2 Hz, J_2 = 8.4 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.65 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 7.25-8.00 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.2, 28.9, 40.2, 40.9, 111.8, 111.9, 127.9, 128.1, 128.1, 128.9, 130.0, 133.5, 134.1, 135.8, 139.1, 139.1, 196.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$) = 311.1155, Found 311.1165

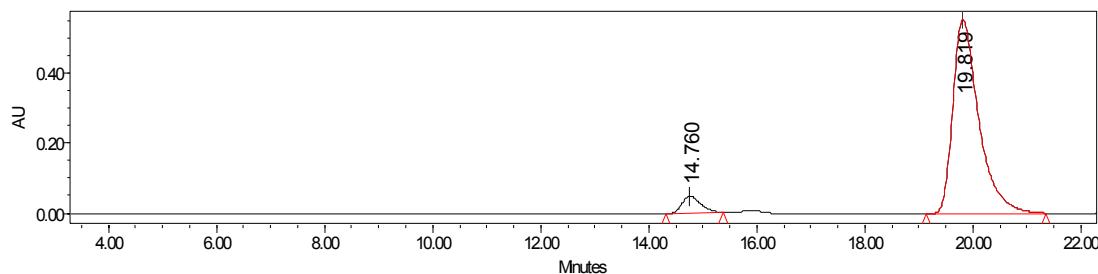


2-(1-(2-naphthyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3o)



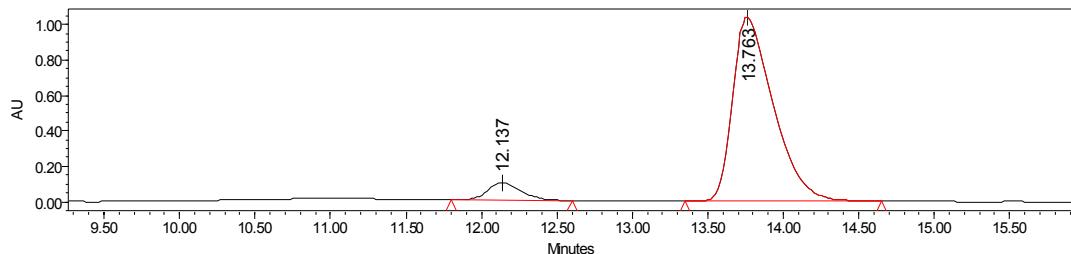
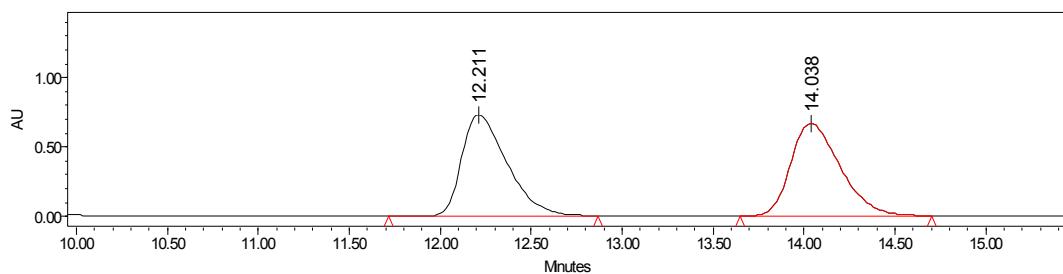
white solid; 86% yield, 88% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -4.55$ (c 0.198 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 15/85, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 210 nm, retention time: 19.819 min (major) and 14.760 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.72 (2H, m, O=C- CH_2), 4.07 (1H, dt, J_1 = 5.2 Hz, J_2 = 8.4 Hz, Ar-CH), 4.66 (1H, d, J = 5.2 Hz, NC-CH), 7.41-7.93 (12H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.8, 40.3, 41.3, 111.79, 111.9, 125.2, 126.83, 126.87, 127.5, 127.7, 128.15, 128.19, 129.3, 133.4, 133.9, 134.1, 135.8, 196.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}-\text{H}^+]$) = 323.1190, Found 323.1176.





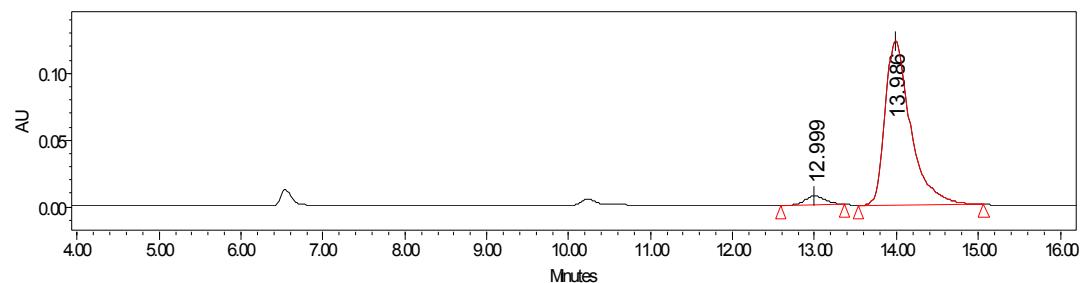
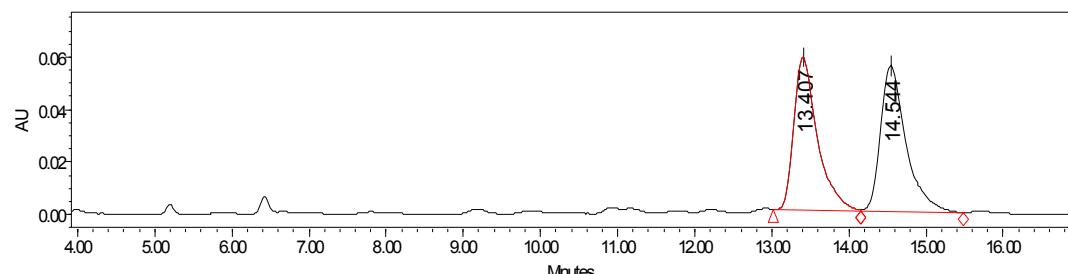
2-(1-(2-thienyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3p)

white solid; 83% yield, 86% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -1.47$ (*c* 0.068 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IB, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 25/75, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 13.763 min (major) and 12.137 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.73 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 4.32 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 4.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.71 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.03-8.01 (8H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 29.5, 37.2, 41.4, 111.4, 111.7, 126.0, 127.1, 127.4, 128.1, 128.9, 134.3, 135.6, 138.5, 196.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{OS}$ ([M-H⁺]) = 279.0597, Found 279.0600.

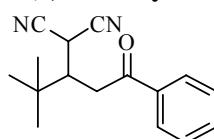


2-(1-cyclohexyl-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3q)

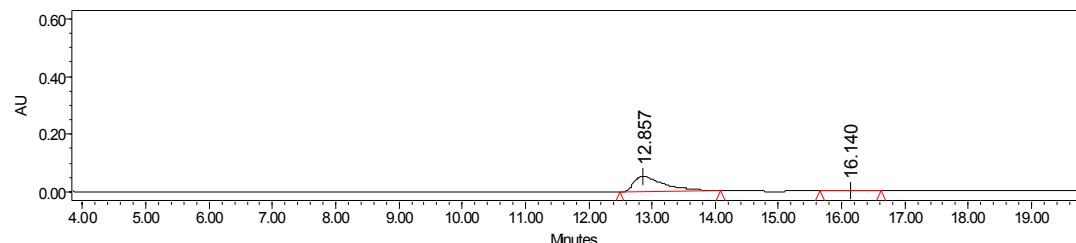
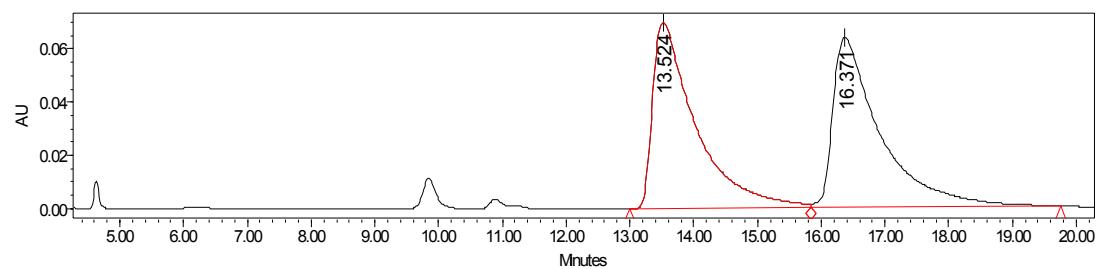
colorless liquid; 80% yield, 92% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 37.21$ (*c* 0.086 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm, retention time: 13.986 min (major) and 12.999 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.26 (5H, m, cyclohexyl-H), 1.79 (6H, m, cyclohexyl-H), 2.73 (1H, m, cyclohexyl-CH), 3.17 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.0$ Hz, O=C-CH), 3.36 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 3.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.4$ Hz, OC=CH), 4.37 (1H, d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.49-7.99 (5H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.3, 25.9., 26.1, 26.2, 29.3, 31.2, 36.9, 40.0, 40.2, 112.4, 112.5, 128.1, 128.9, 134.0, 136.0, 197.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ([M+Na⁺]) = 303.1468, Found 303.1468.



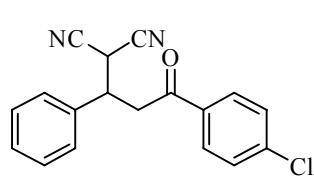
3-(2, 2-Methyl-5-Oxo-5-phenylpentyl)malononitrile (3r)



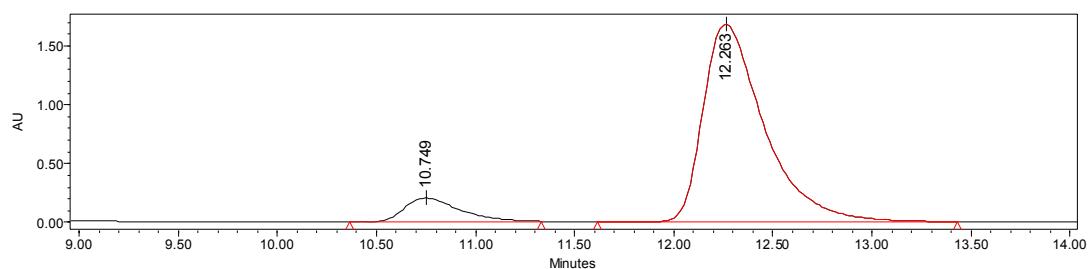
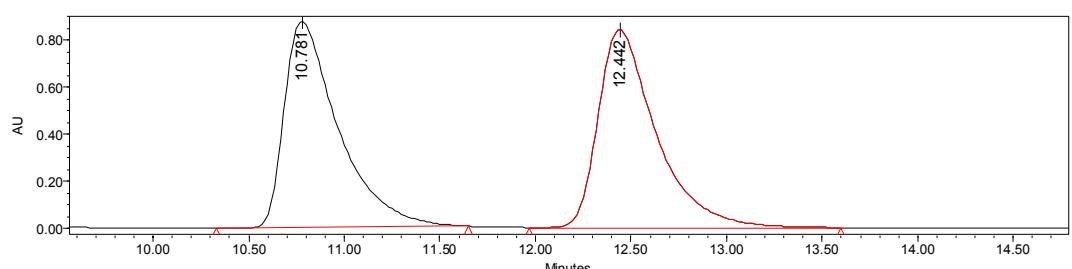
colorless liquid; 72% yield, 93% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 38.10$ (*c* 0.042 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm, retention time: 12.857 min (major) and 16.140 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (9H, s, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C}$), 2.93 (1H, m, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C-CH}$), 3.19 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 4.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.4$ Hz, OC=CH), 3.41 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 3.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.4$ Hz, O=C-CH), 4.09 (1H, d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.50-8.02 (5H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 24.0, 27.7, 34.3, 37.2, 44.4, 113.00, 113.04, 128.2, 128.9, 133.9, 136.1, 196.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$) = 277.1311, Found 277.1319.



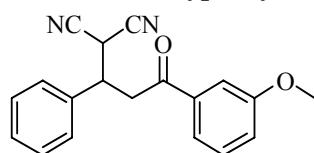
2-(3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3s)



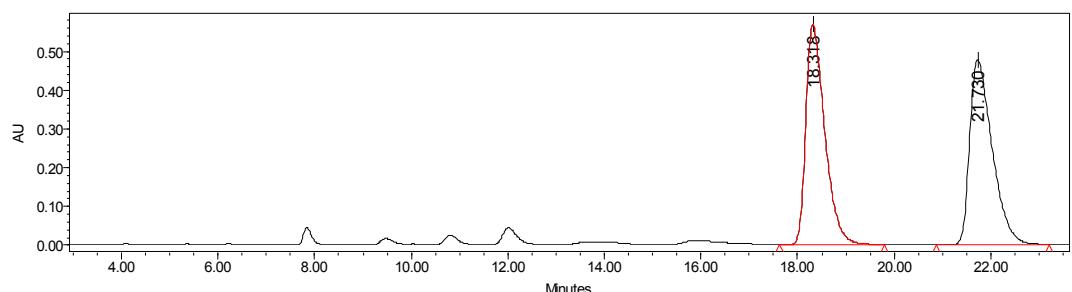
white solid; 88% yield, 80% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 7.87$ (*c* 0.254 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 12.263 min (major) and 10.749 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.64 (2H, m, $\text{OC}=\text{CH}_2$), 3.95 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.62 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.40-7.92 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm.

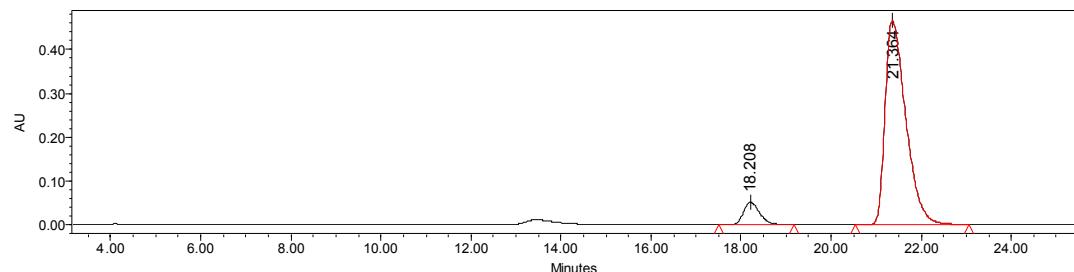


2-(3-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3t)



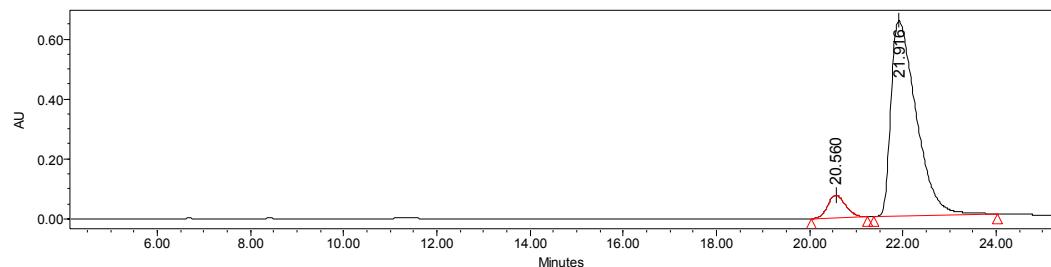
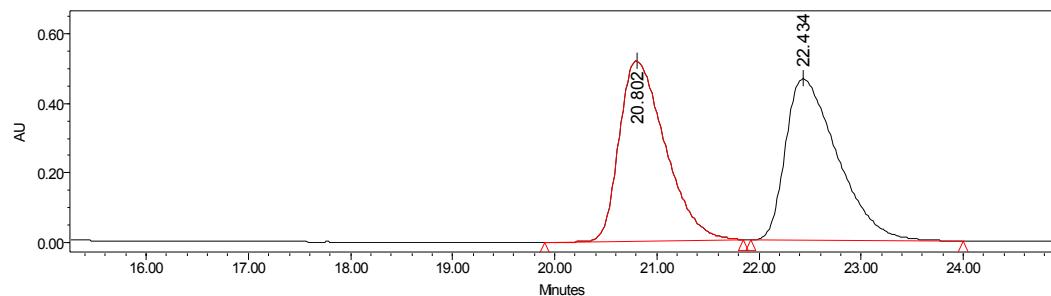
white solid; 84% yield, 84% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -4.17$ (*c* 0.120 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IB, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 21.364 min (major) and 18.208 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.64 (2H, m, $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$), 3.91 (3H, s, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 3.96 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 9.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 4.72 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 6.96-7.98 (9H, m, Ar-H) ppm. HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ ([M-H⁺]) = 303.1139, Found 303.1132.





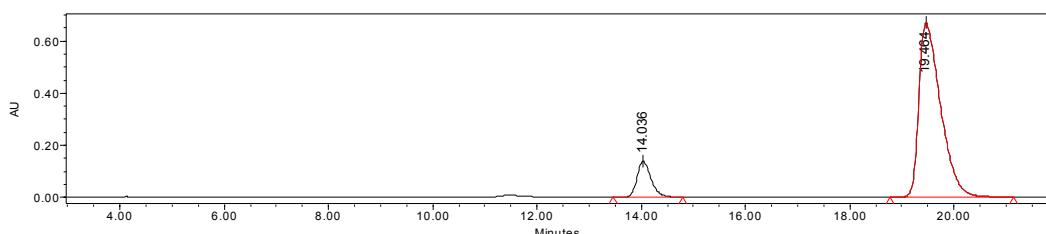
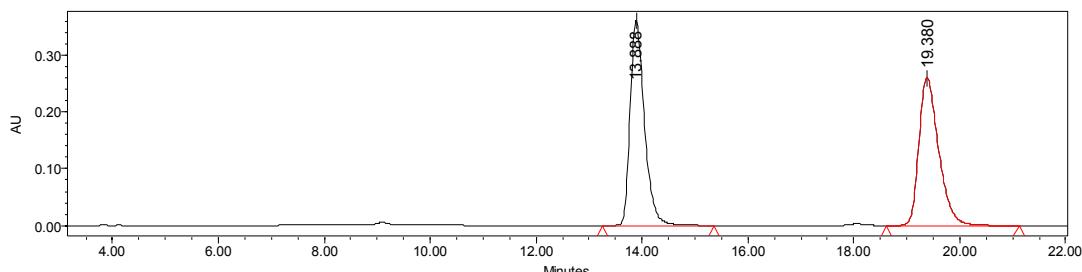
2-(3-(2-naphthyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3u)

white solid; 97% yield, 85% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 26.70$ (*c* 0.206 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IB, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 20/80, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 21.916 min (major) and 20.560 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.87 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 4.04 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.72 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.43-8.52 (12H, m, Ar-H) ppm; ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.8, 40.1, 41.3, 111.7, 111.9, 123.3, 127.2, 127.8, 128.0, 128.9, 129.1, 129.2, 129.3, 129.7, 130.1, 132.3, 133.1, 136.0, 136.6, 196.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ([M-H⁺]) = 323.1190, Found 323.1183.

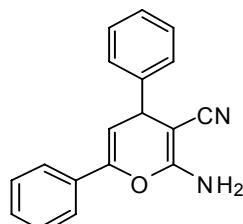


2-(3-(2-thienyl)-3-Oxo-3-phenylpropyl)malononitrile (3v)

white solid; 92% yield, 77% ee; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -1.80$ (*c* 0.278 in CH_2Cl_2); HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IB, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 25/75, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm, retention time: 19.464 min (major) and 14.036 min (minor); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.64 (2H, m, O=C-CH₂), 3.95 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-CH), 4.67 (1H, d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, NC-CH), 7.18-7.80 (8H, m, Ar-H) ppm.

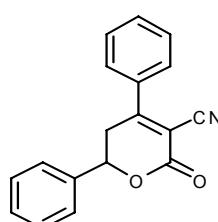


2-amino-4,6-diphenyl-4H-pyran-3-carbonitrile (4a)



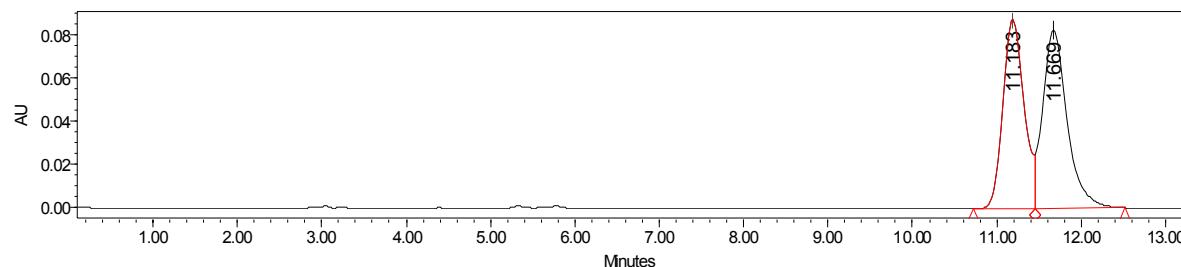
white solid; 51% yield; IR 3478.18, 3377.45 (-NH₂), 3226.99 (C=C), 2215.84 (-CN), 1635.64 (-O-C=CH); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₈H₁₄N₂O ([M-H⁺]) = 273.1033, Found 273.1028.

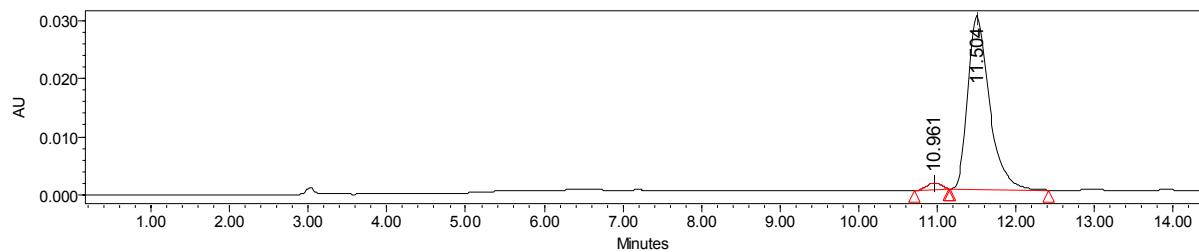
2-oxo-4,6-diphenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-carbonitrile (5e)



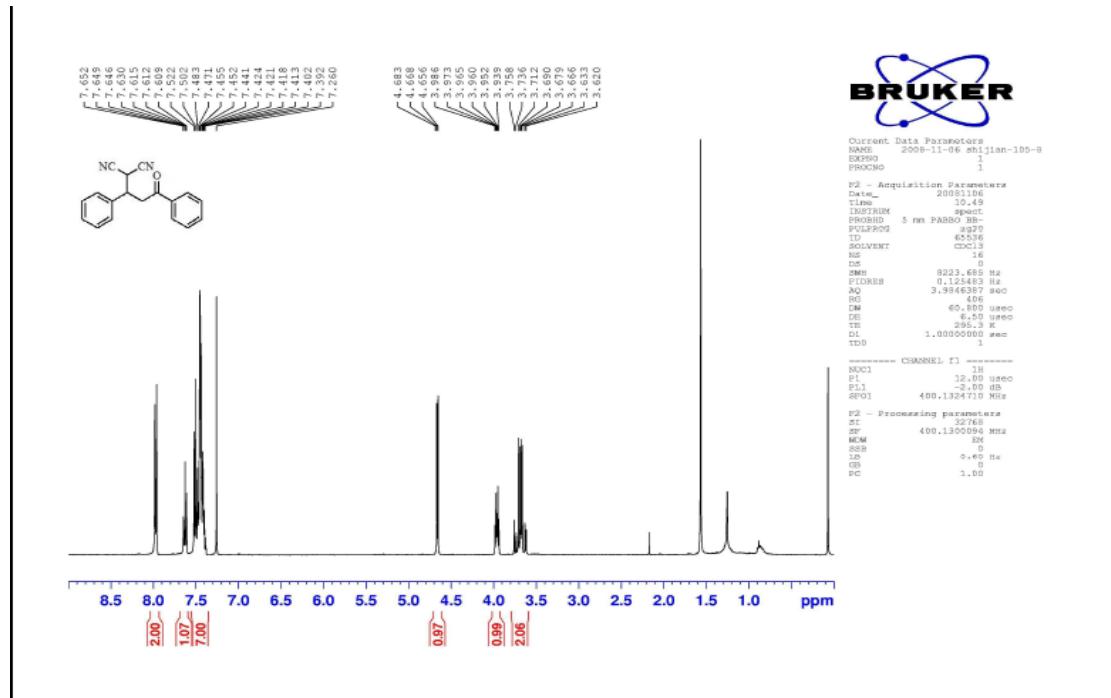
2-amino-4,6-diphenyl-4(H)-pyran-3-carbonitrile (0.274 mg, 1 mmol) was added in 99% ethanol (5 mL), then triethylamine (0.5 mL) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 48 h. Following, the solvent was removed. The reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluted (CH₂Cl₂: petroleum ether = 1:3) to afford the corresponding compound.

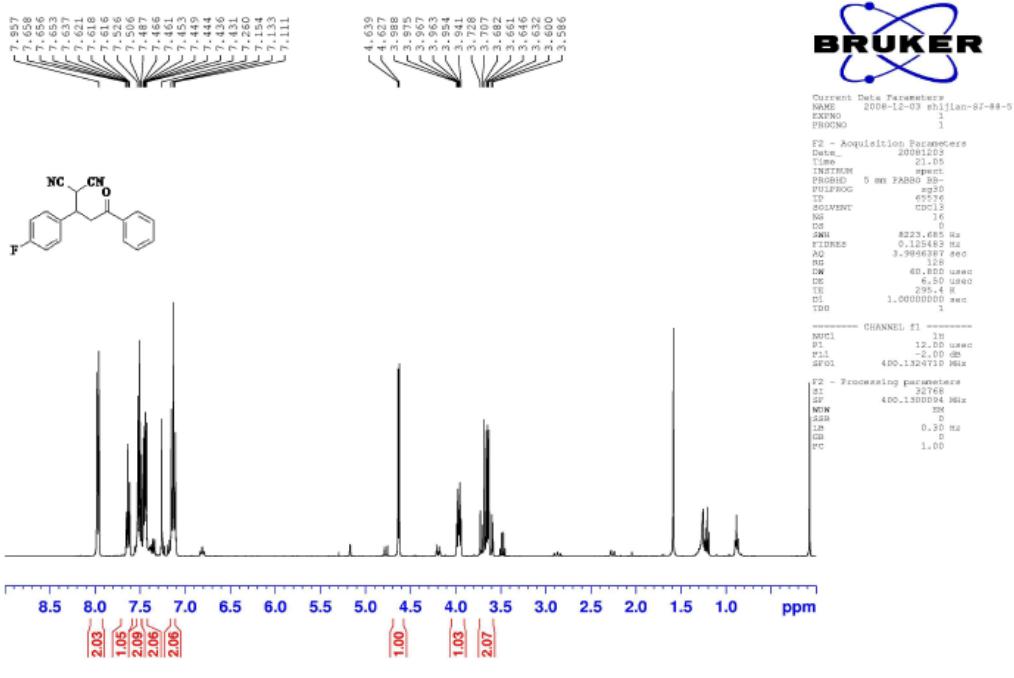
white solid; 22% yield; HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm, retention time: 11.504 min (major) and 10.961 min (minor); IR 3226.99 (C=C), 2215.84 (-CN), 1730.19 (C=O); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.62 (dd, 1H, J₁ = 10.0 Hz, J₂ = 25.2 Hz, Ar-CH), 3.946 (dd, 2H, J₁ = 10.4 Hz, J₂ = 24.8 Hz, C=C-CH₂), 7.32-7.87 (m, 10H, Ar-H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 42.3, 44.7, 48.0, 115.2, 128.0, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.3, 133.6, 135.8, 136.1, 194.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₁₈H₁₃N₂O ([M-H⁺]) = 274.0873, Found 274.0865.

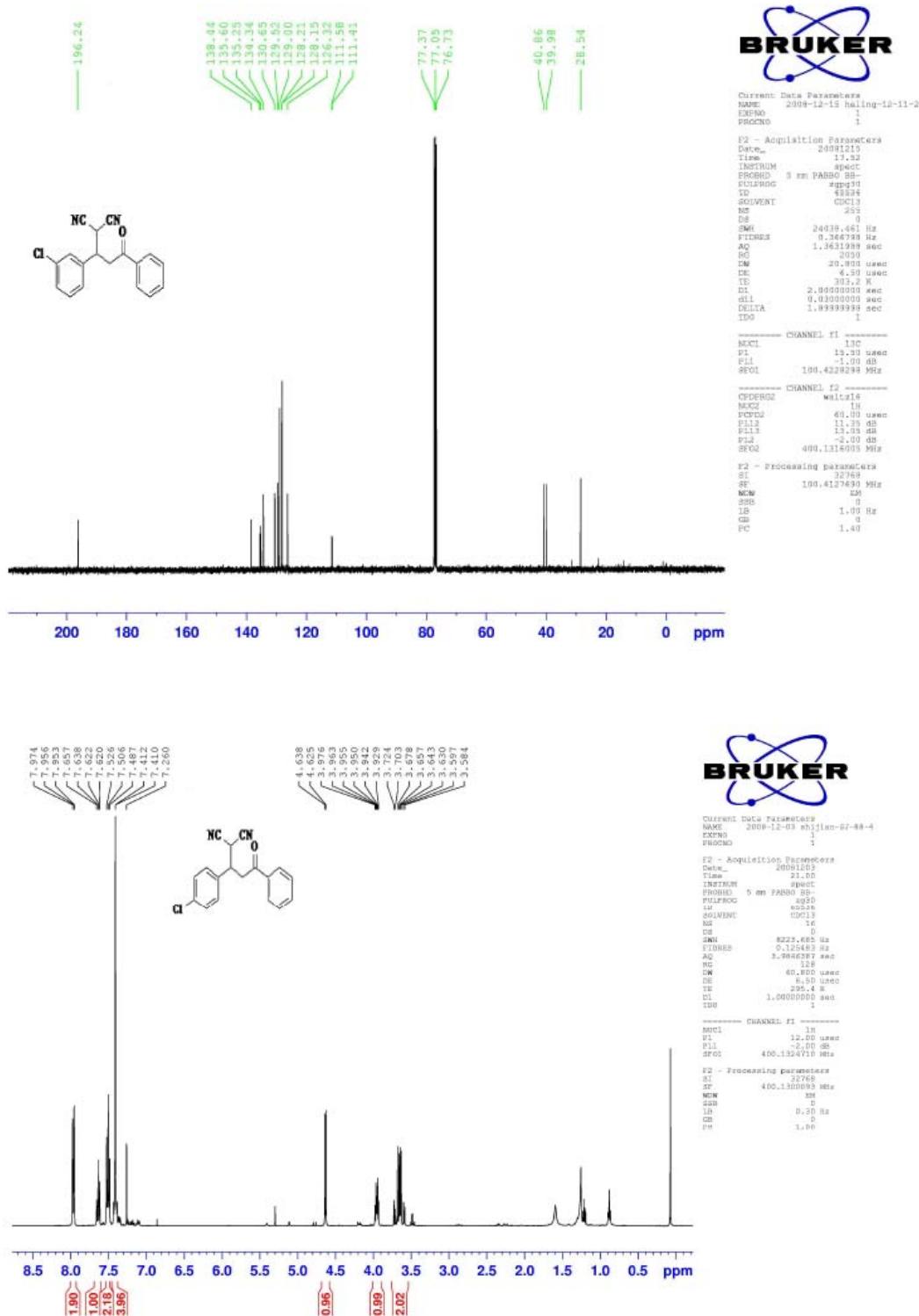


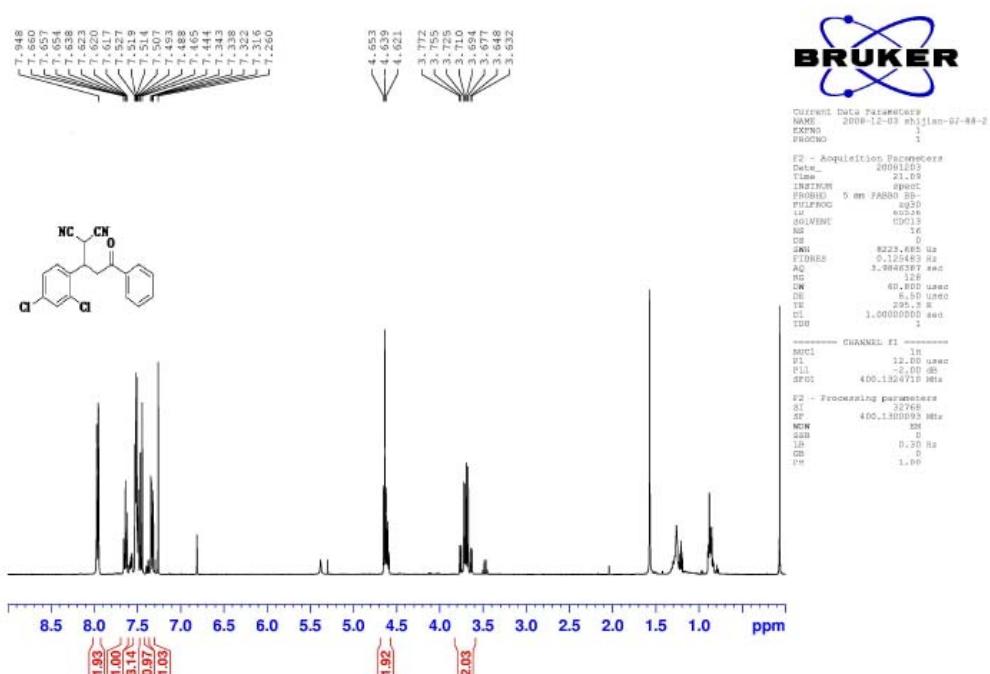
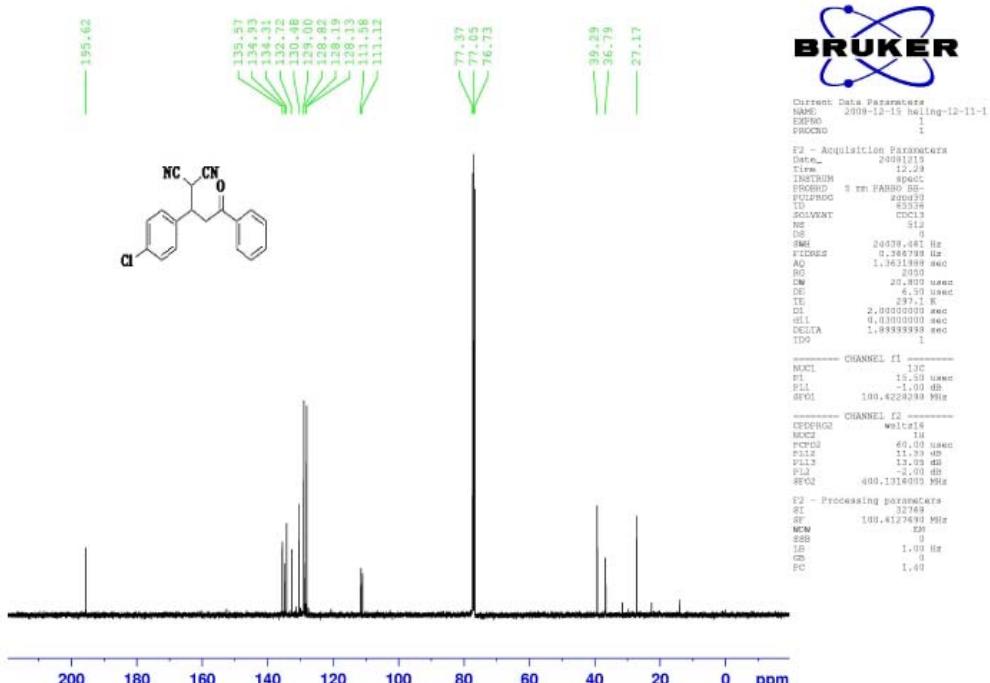


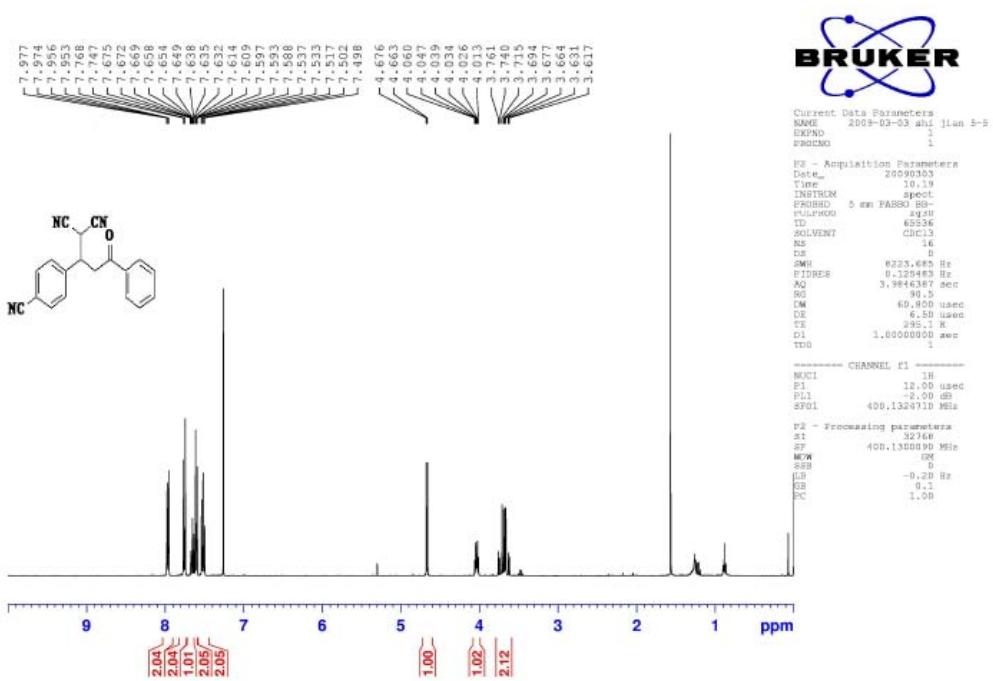
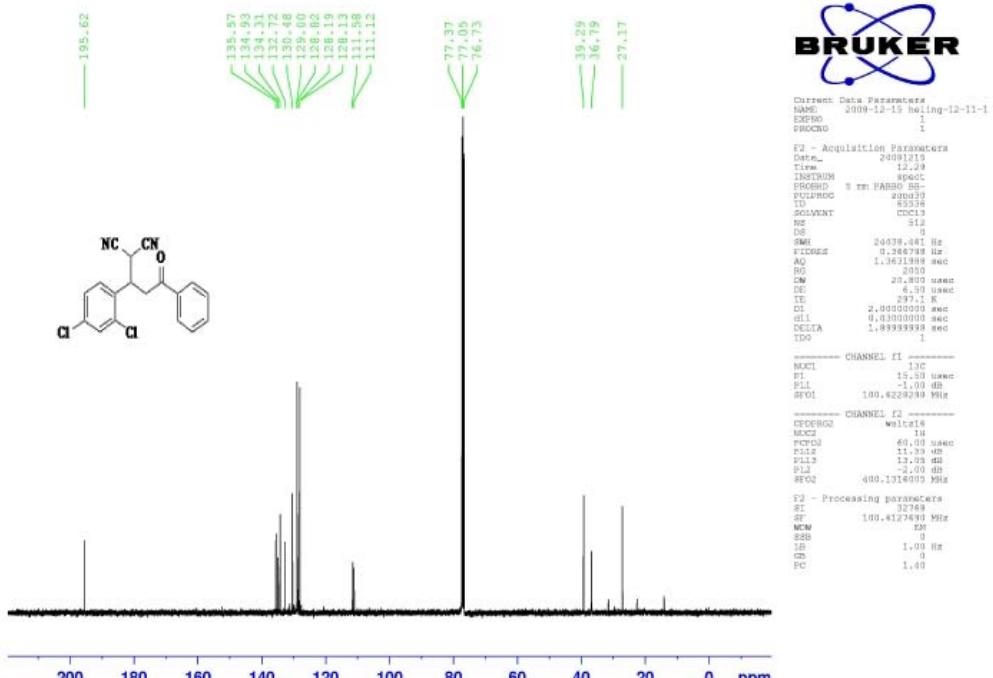
(H) Copies of NMR spectra for all compounds

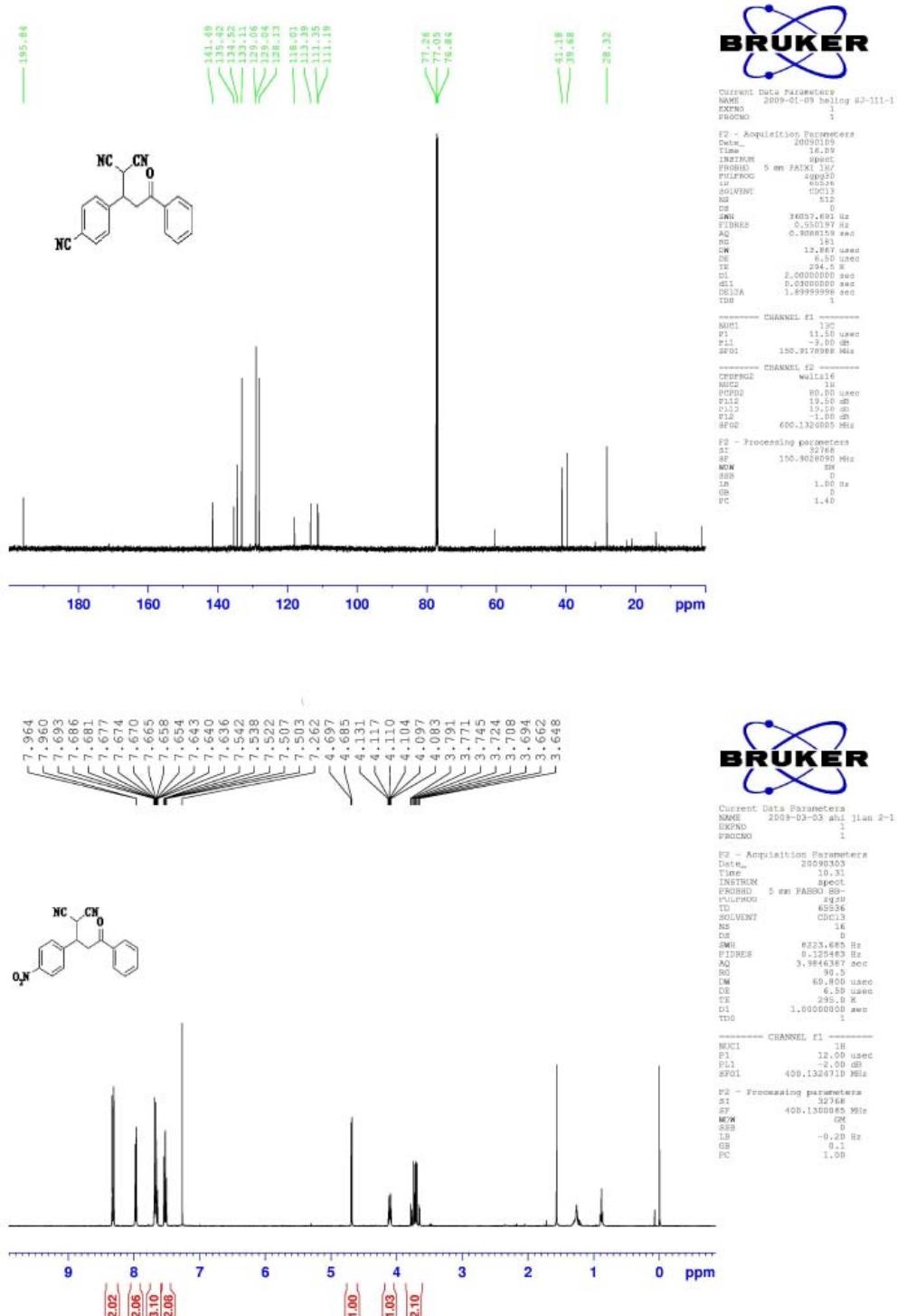


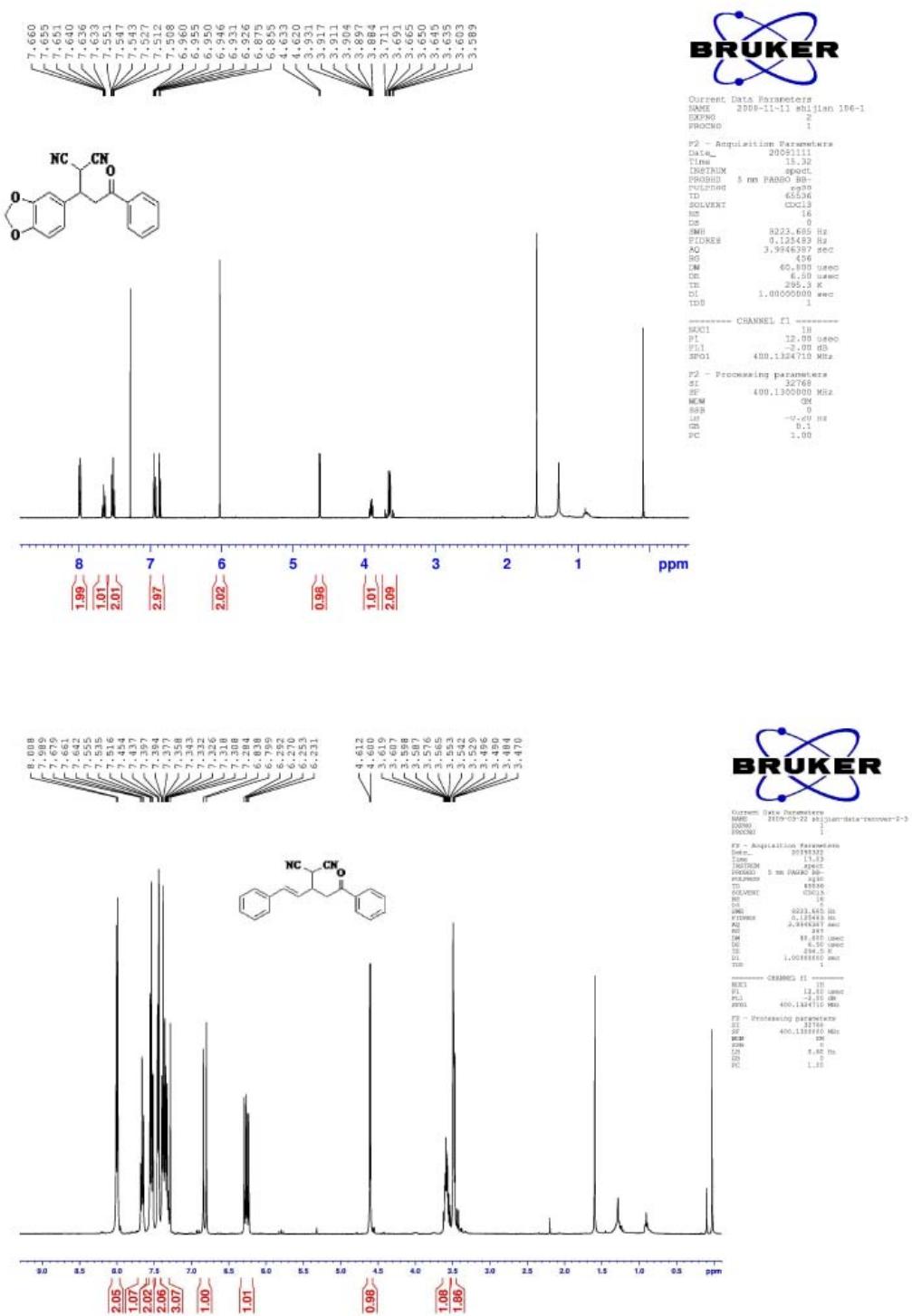


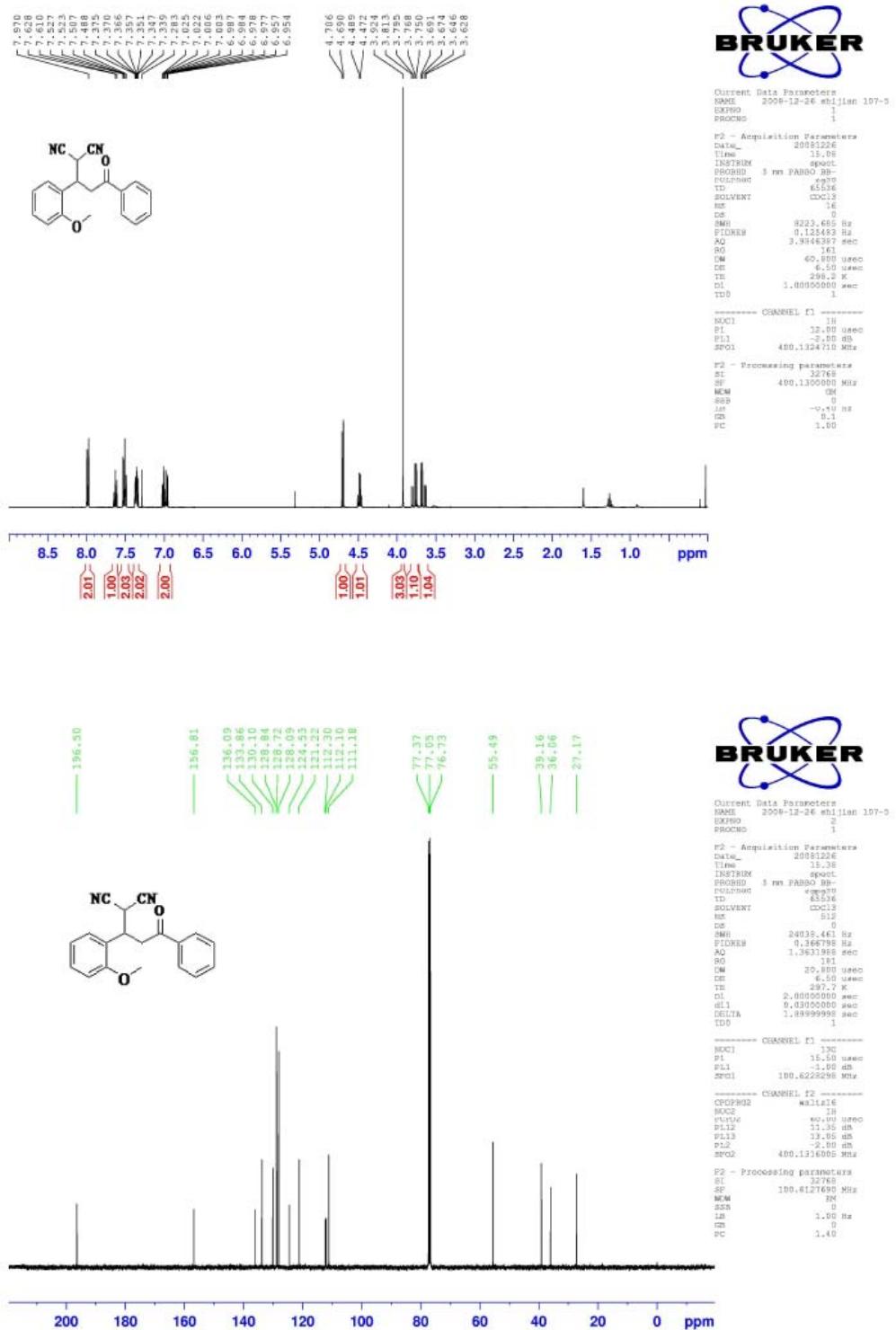


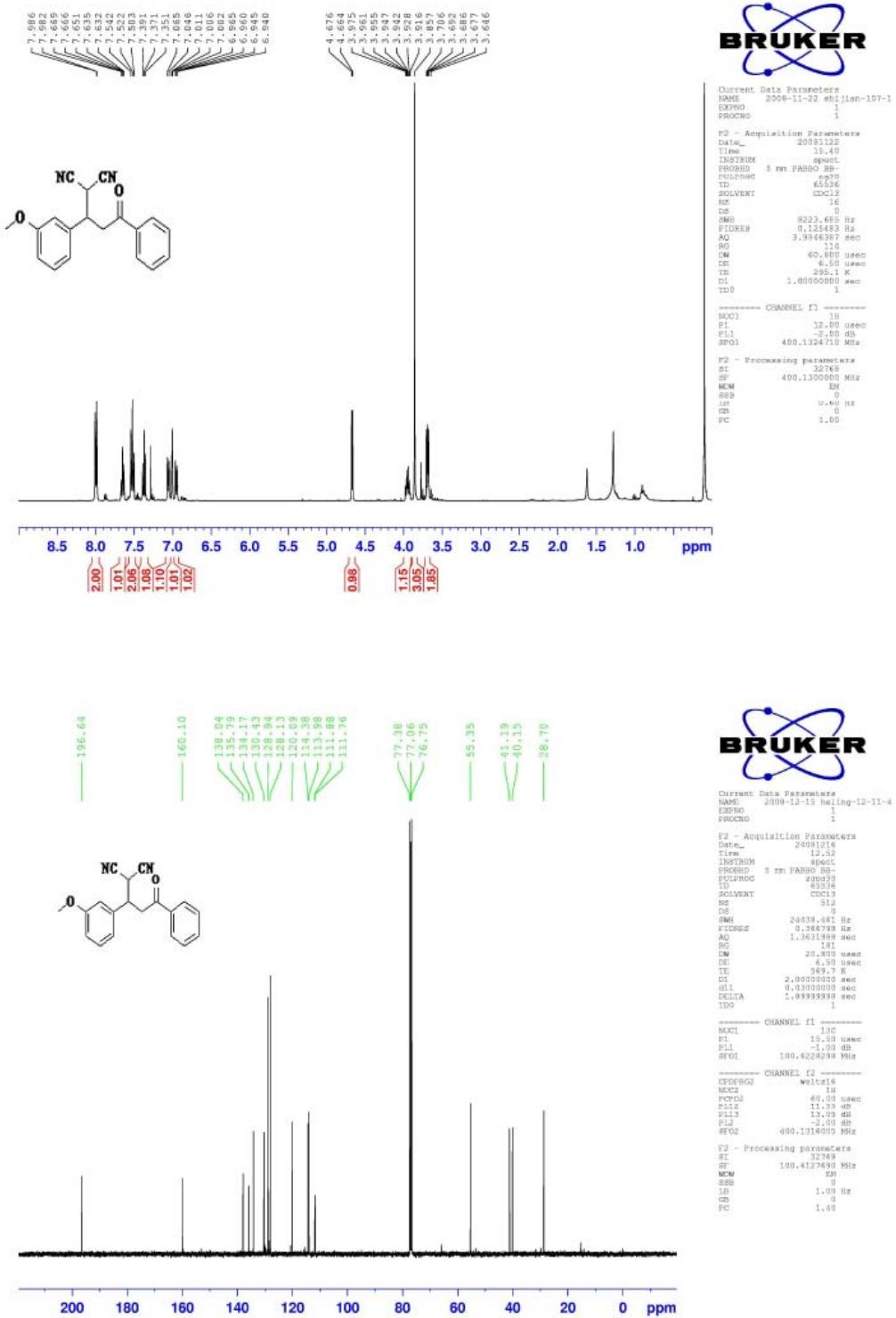


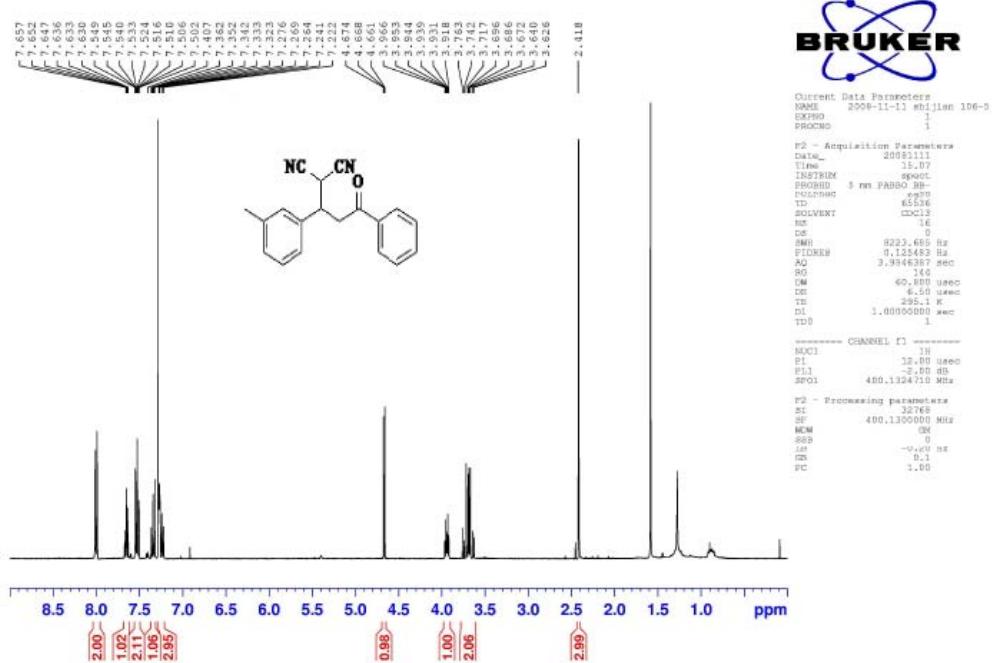
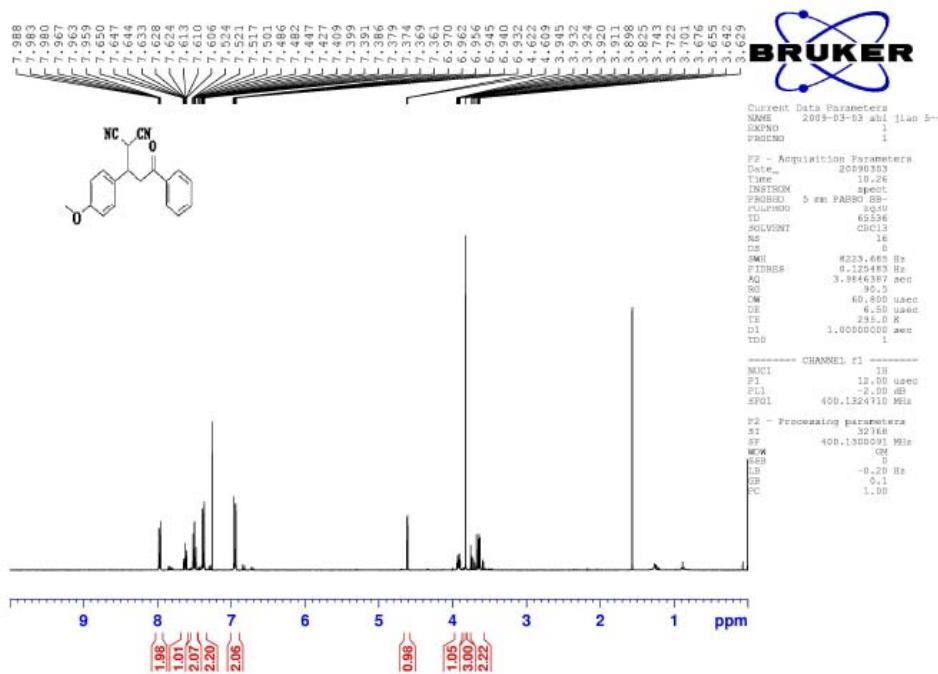


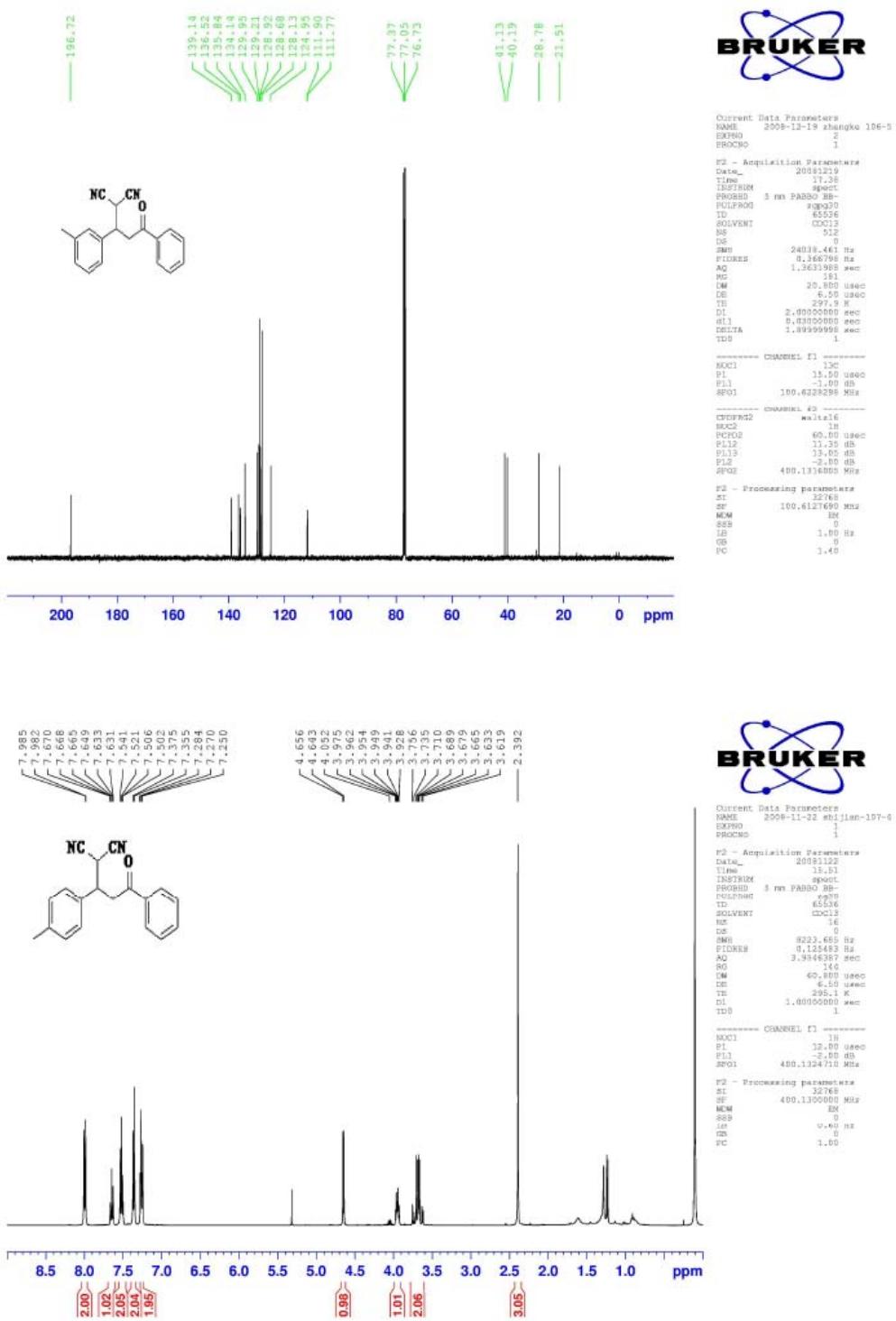


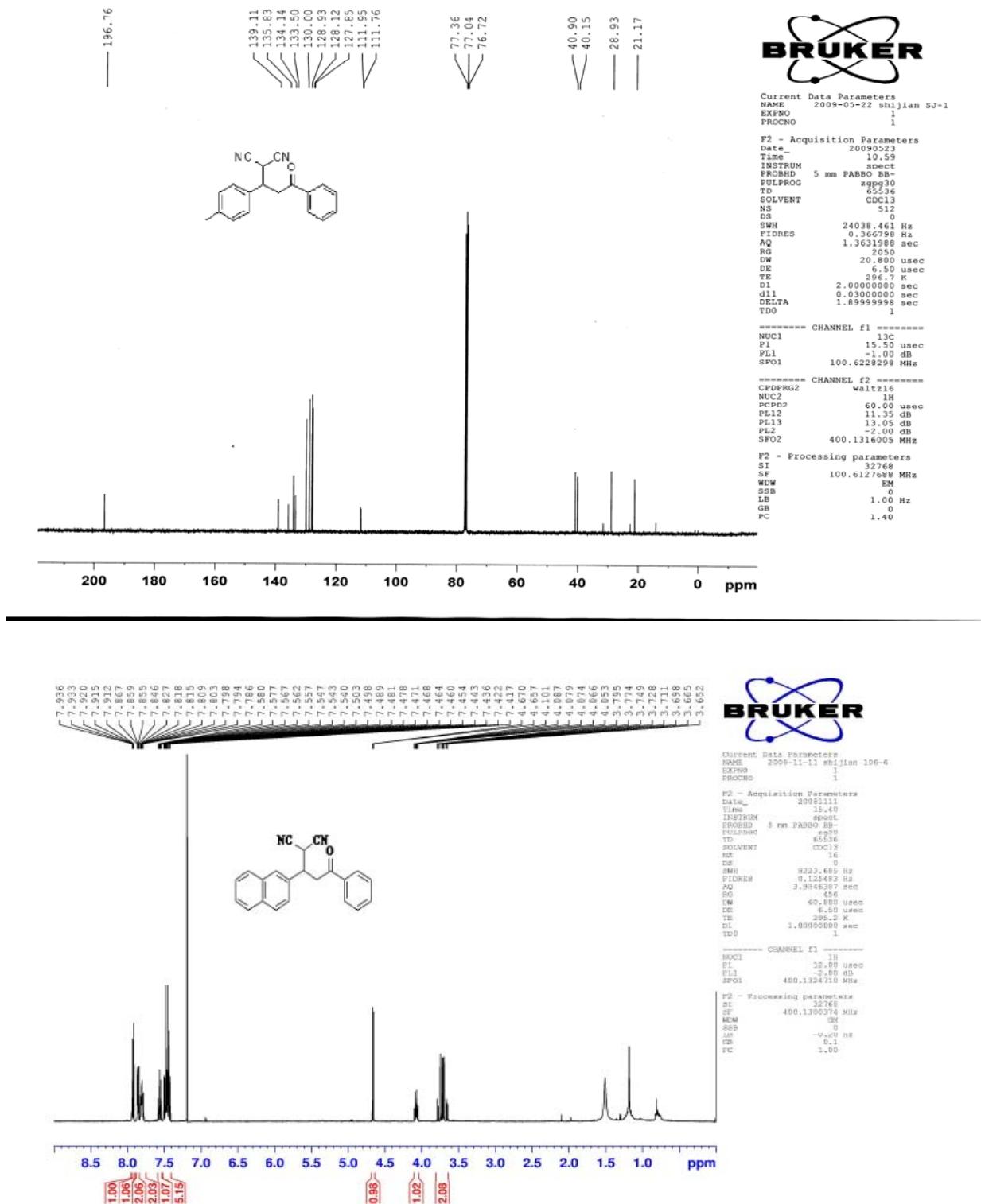


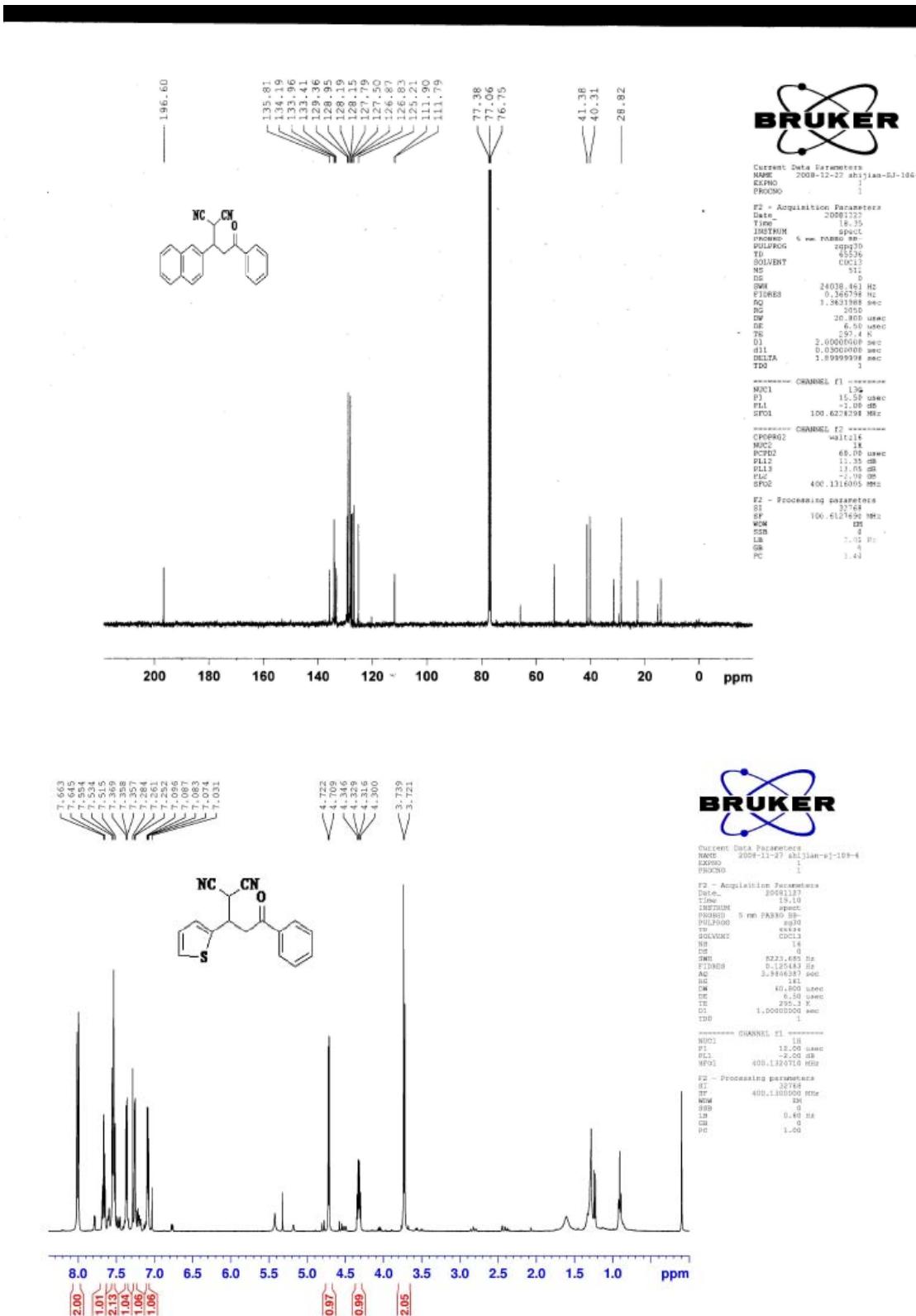


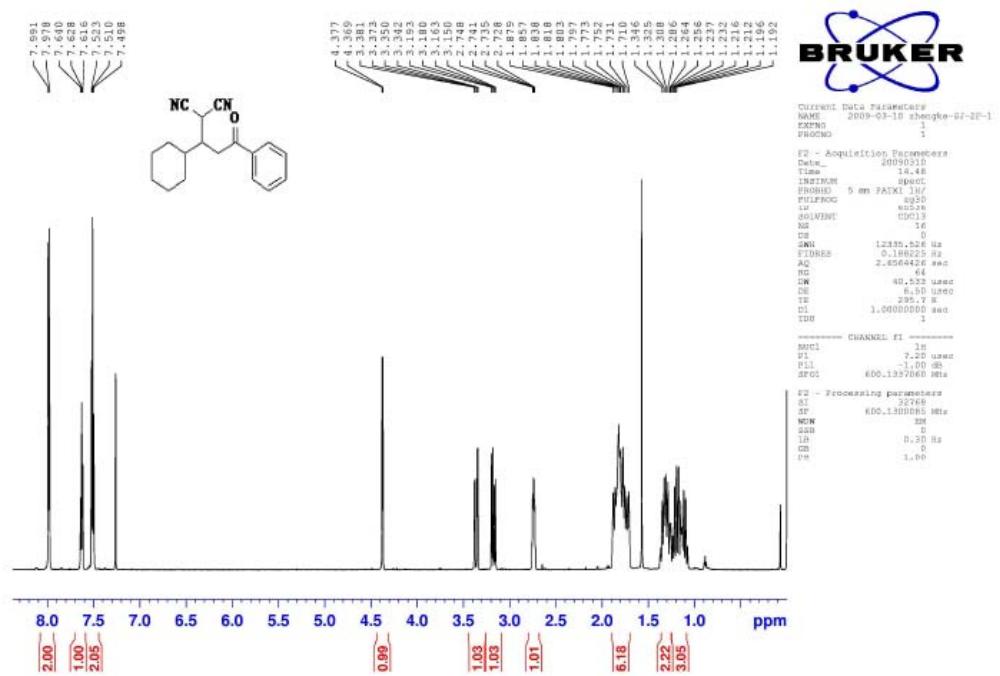
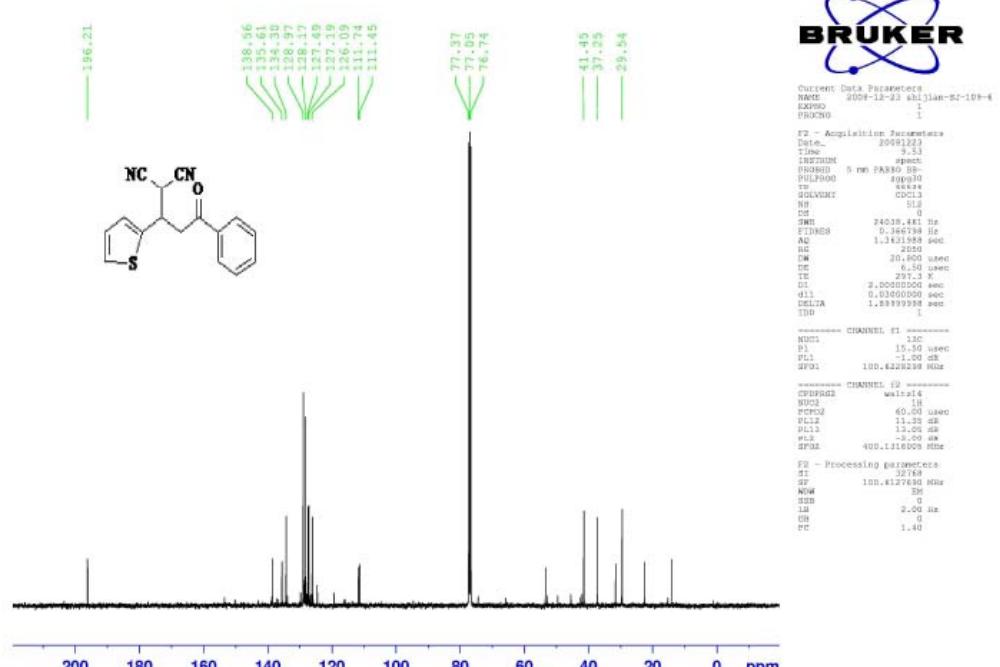


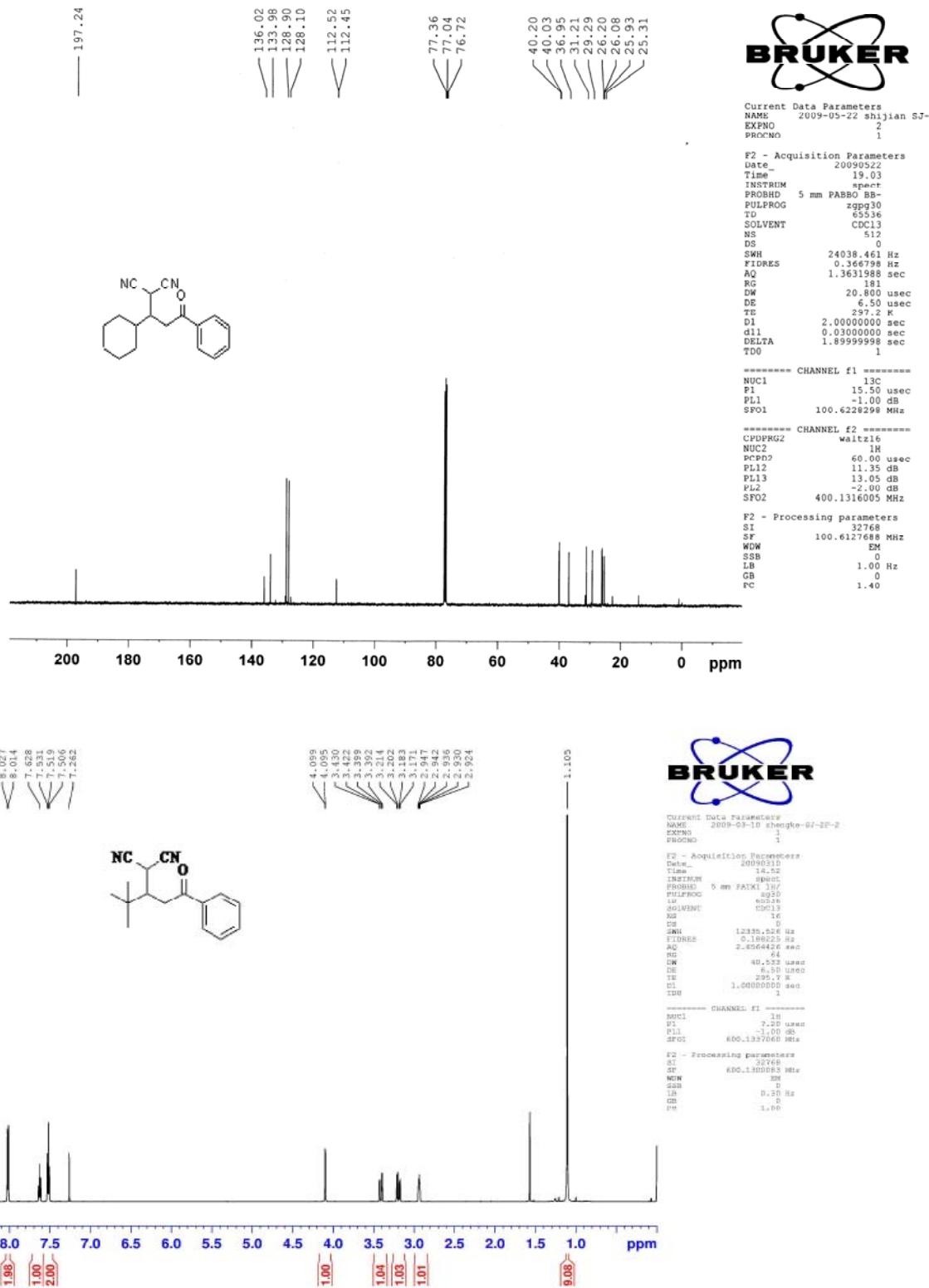


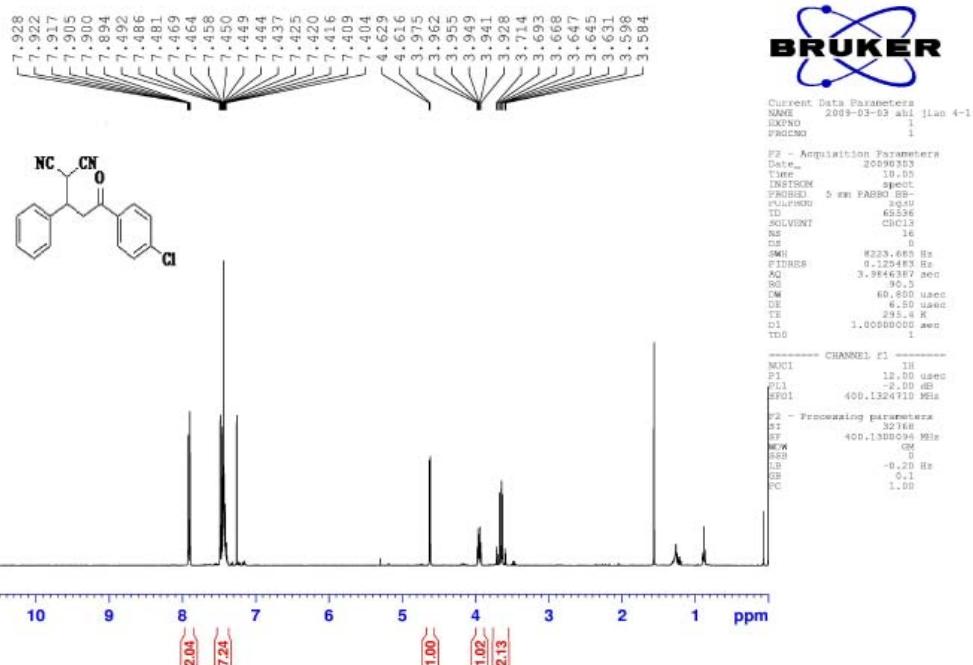
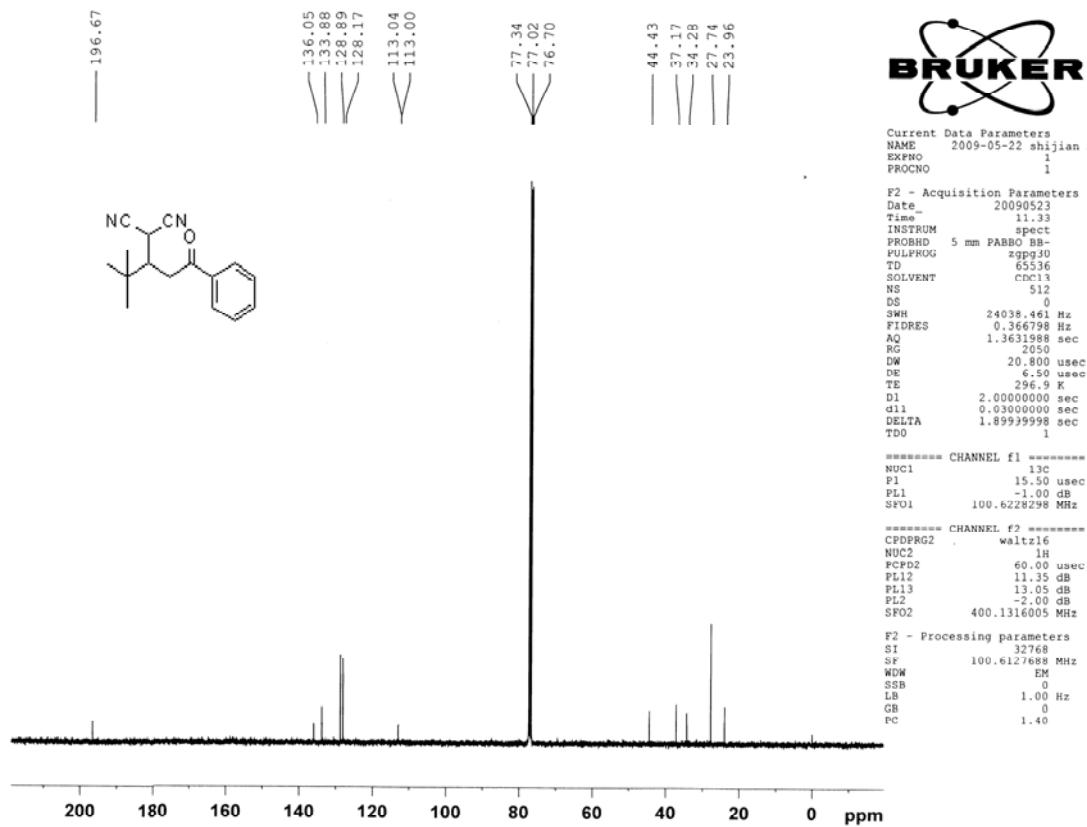


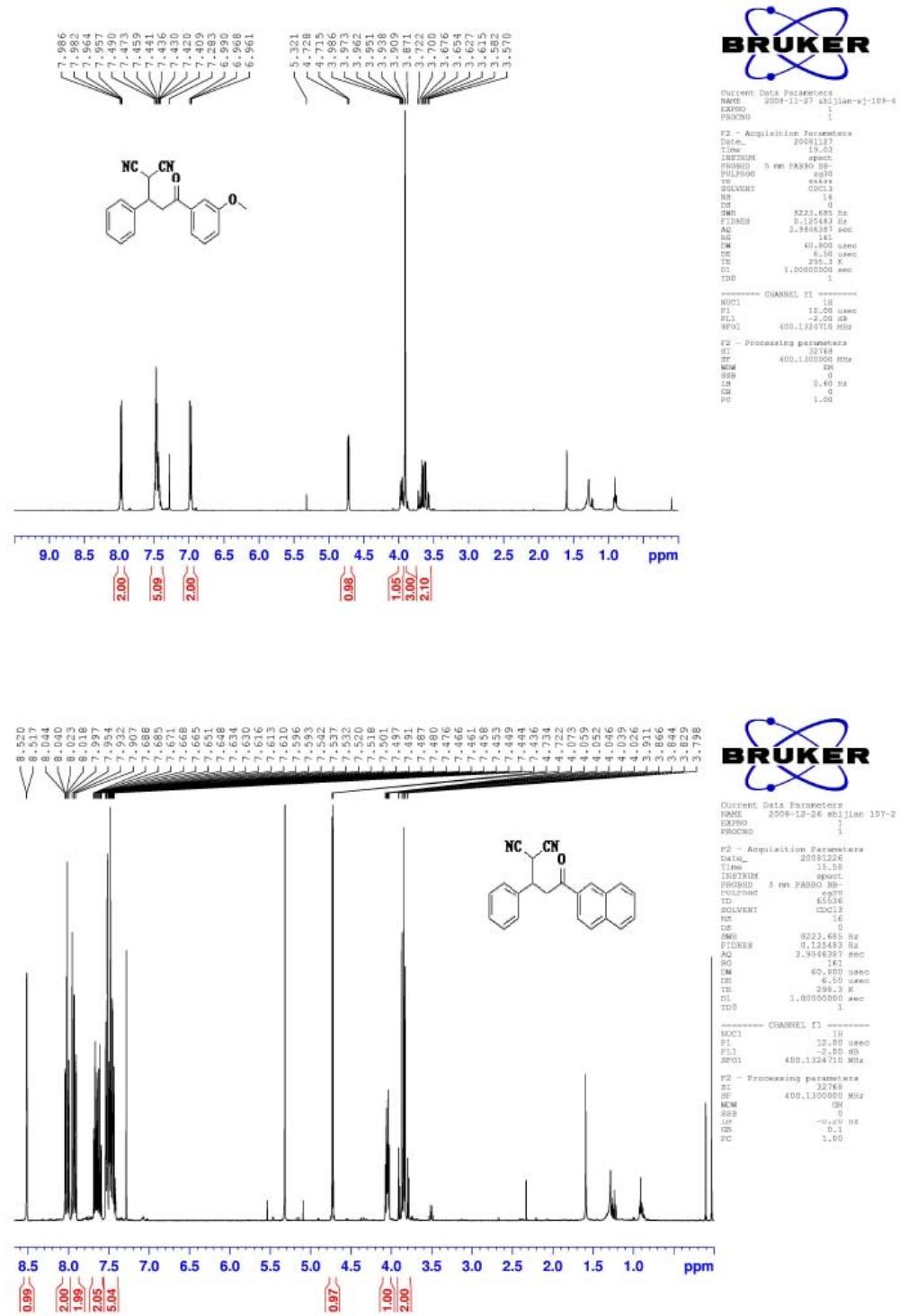


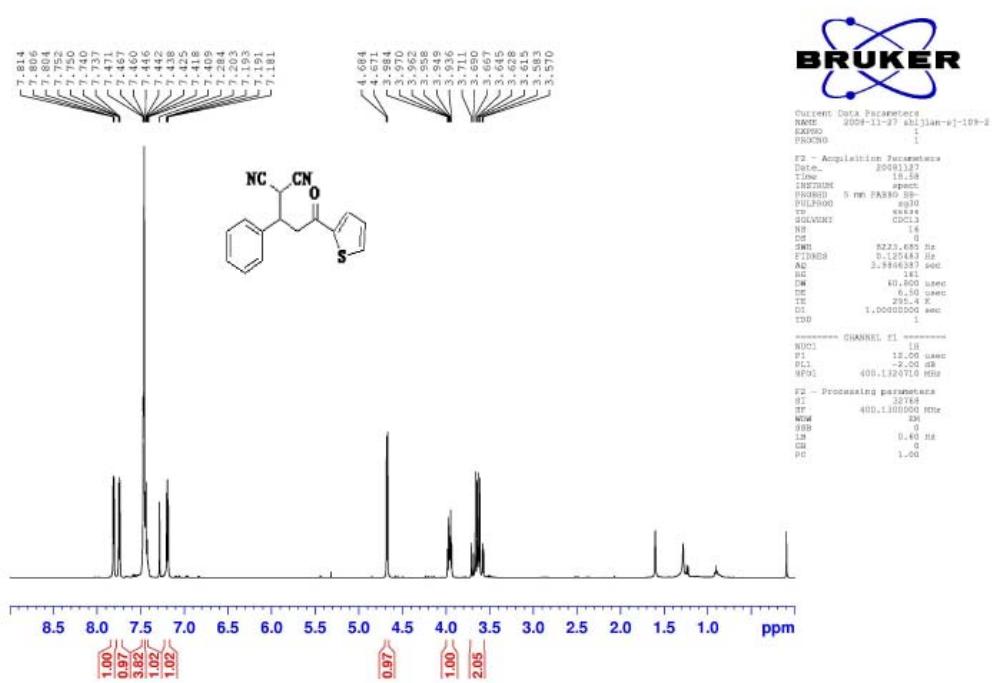
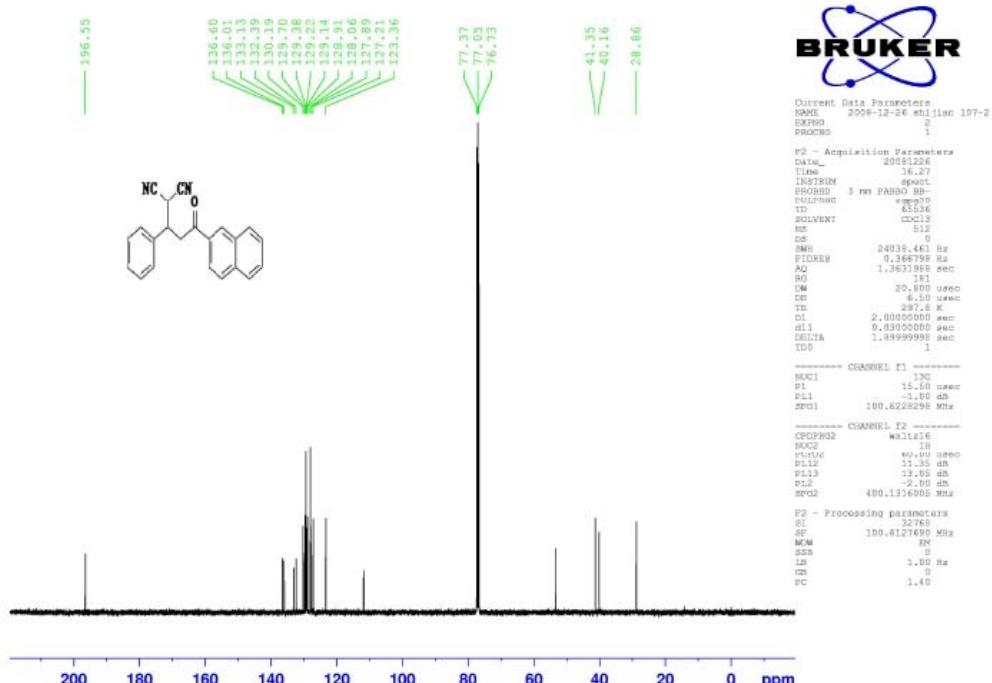


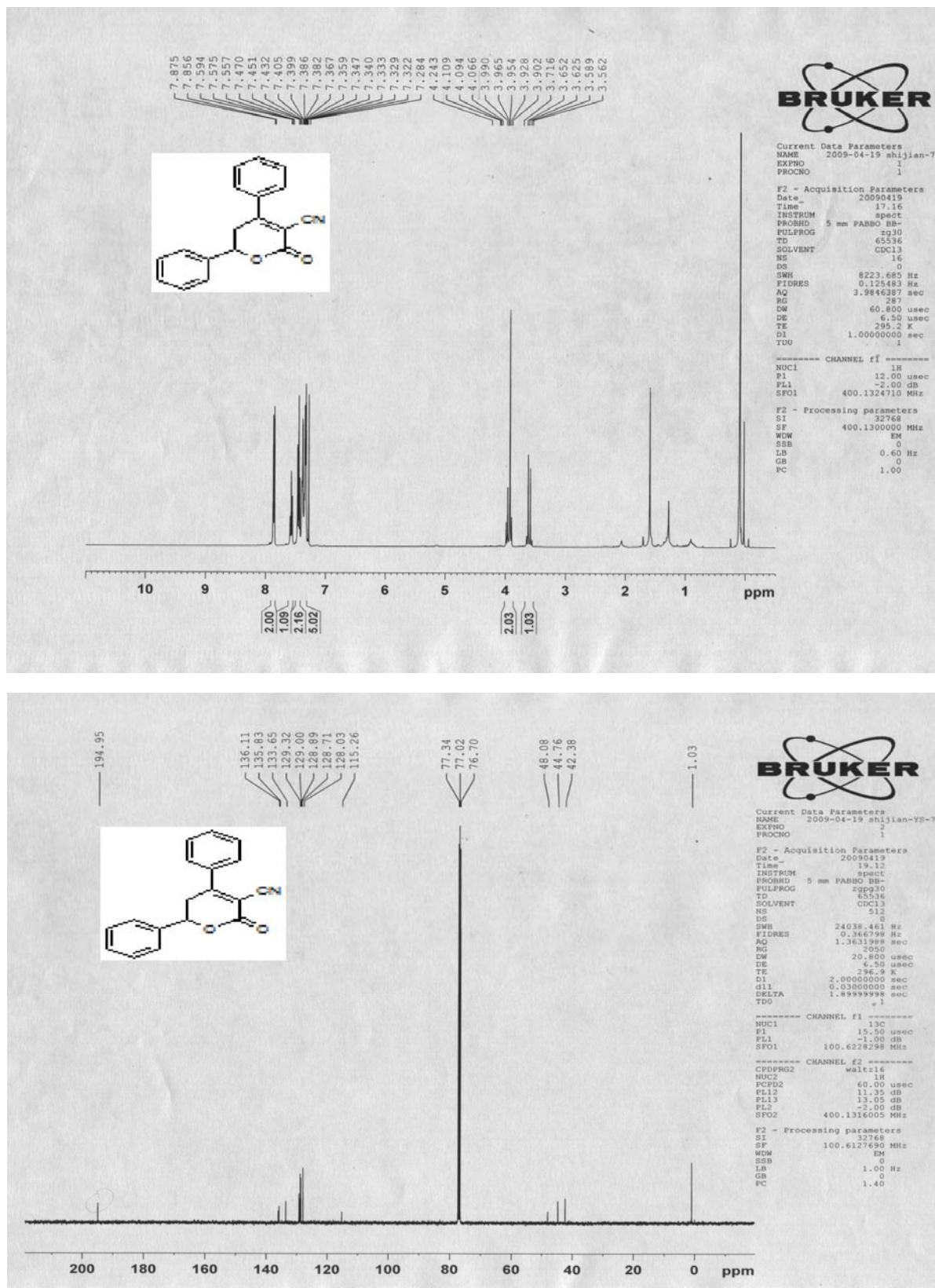












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