

## Supplementary Information

### **Direct use of dioxygen as oxygen source: catalytic oxidative synthesis of amides**

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## 1. General Information

All commercially available reagent grade chemicals were purchased from Aldrich, Acros and Alfa Aesar Chemical Company and used as received without further purification unless otherwise stated. All solvents were dried according to standard procedures. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on a Bruker Avance 600 spectrometer with TMS as internal standard (600 MHz <sup>1</sup>H, 150 MHz <sup>13</sup>C) at room temperature, and the chemical shifts (δ) were expressed in ppm and *J* values were given in Hz. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br (broad). All first order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted were designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer. Mass analyses and HRMS were obtained on a Finnigan-LCQDECA mass spectrometer and a Bruker Daltonics Bio-TOF-Q mass spectrometer by the ESI method, respectively. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200 - 300 mesh).

## 2. Optimization of reaction conditions

**Table S1.** The reaction of **1a** and **2a** in different conditions<sup>a</sup>

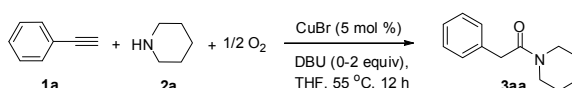
Reaction scheme: **1a** + **2a** + 1/2 O<sub>2</sub>  $\xrightarrow[\text{DBU, solvent, 55 °C, 12 h}]{\text{catalyst (5 mol \%)}}$  **3aa**

entry	catalyst	solvent	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	RuCl <sub>3</sub> , or RhCl <sub>3</sub> , or Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , or AuBr <sub>3</sub> , or AgOTf, or NiCl <sub>2</sub> , or Ti(O <sup>i</sup> Pr) <sub>4</sub> , or (C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ZrCl <sub>2</sub> , or FeBr <sub>3</sub>	THF	0
2	CuI	THF	46
3	(CH <sub>3</sub> CN) <sub>4</sub> CuPF <sub>6</sub>	THF	60
4	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	THF	34
5	CuCl	THF	55
6	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	THF	53
7	CuBr <sub>2</sub>	THF	51
8	CuBr	THF	68
9	CuBr	DME	63
10	CuBr	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	53
11	CuBr	Toluene	55
12	CuBr	1,4-dioxane	56
13	CuBr	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	31 <sup>c</sup>
14	CuBr	THF:H <sub>2</sub> O (10:1)	43
15	CuBr	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	0
16	CuBr	THF	31 <sup>d</sup>
17	CuBr	THF	55 <sup>e</sup>
18	CuBr	THF	69 <sup>f</sup>
19	CuBr	THF	67 <sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alkyne **1a** (2.5 mmol), piperidine **2a** (0.5 mmol), catalyst (5 mol %), DBU (0.6 mmol), solvent (1.0 mL), 55 °C, 12 h, O<sub>2</sub> (balloon). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields based on **2a**. <sup>c</sup> 40 °C. <sup>d</sup> alkyne **1a** (1 mmol). <sup>e</sup> alkyne **1a** (2 mmol). <sup>f</sup> alkyne **1a** (3 mmol). <sup>g</sup> alkyne **1a** (2.5 mmol), 65 °C.

**Table S2.** The effects of different amount of DBU on the reaction of **1a** with **2a**<sup>a</sup>

To investigate the yield or rate of this reaction affected by the amount of DBU, several control experiments were performed between phenylacetylene **1a** and piperidine **2a** under different conditions. As shown in Table S2, the reaction was conducted slowly and a low yield was obtained in the absence of DBU or when the loading of DBU was less than 1 equiv. When the amount of DBU was increased to 1.2 equiv, a good yield was obtained. Further increase of the amount of DBU, the yield of amide did not obviously improve.



entry	DBU (equiv.)	<b>3aa</b> yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	-	4%
2	0.2	36%
3	0.2	36.5% <sup>c</sup>
4	0.5	45%
5	1.2	68%
6	2	69%

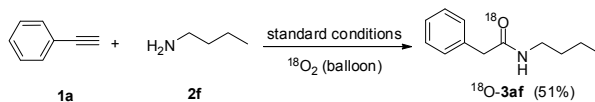
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: alkyne **1a** (2.5 mmol), piperidine **2a** (0.5 mmol), CuBr (5 mol %), DBU (0-2 equiv), THF (1.0 mL), 55 °C, 12 h, O<sub>2</sub> (balloon). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields based on **2a**. <sup>c</sup> Time: 24h.

### 3. General Procedure for Copper-Catalyzed Oxidative Amidation of Alkynes

Alkyne (2.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of amine (0.5 mmol), CuBr (5 mol %), and DBU (0.6 mmol) in THF (1 mL) (or without solvent) at room temperature under O<sub>2</sub> (balloon). The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 4-24 h. After cooling down to room temperature and concentrating in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a short silica gel to give the desired products.

## 4. Labeling Experiments.

### 4.1 Oxidative Amidation of Phenylacetylene with *n*-butylamine under $^{18}\text{O}_2$ .



Phenylacetylene (2.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of *n*-butylamine (0.5 mmol), CuBr (5 mol %), and DBU (0.6 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at room temperature under  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  (balloon). The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 4 h. After cooling down to room temperature and concentrating in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a short silica gel to give the  $^{18}\text{O}$ -labelled product **3af** in 51% yield.

The HRMS spectrum of  $^{18}\text{O}$ -**3af** for the reaction under  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  (97%).

#### Elemental Composition Report

Page 1

#### Single Mass Analysis

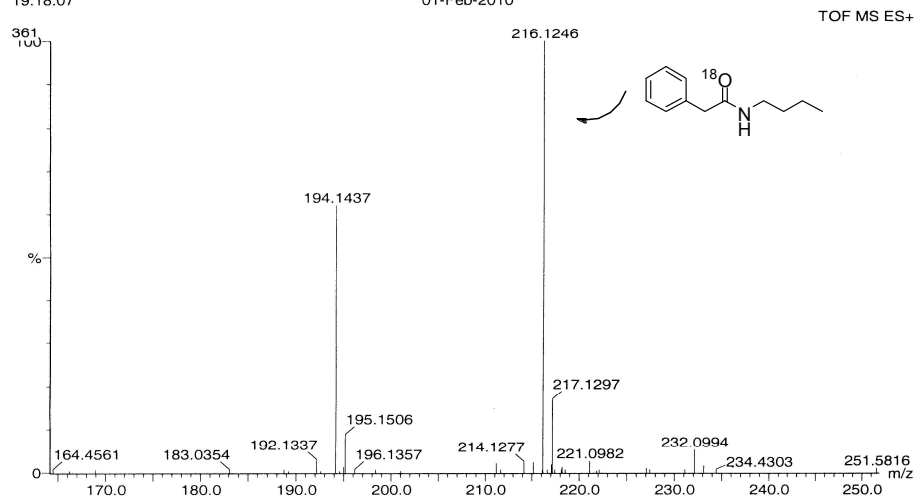
Tolerance = 100.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0  
Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions

1193 formula(e) evaluated with 38 results within limits (up to 1 closest results for each mass)

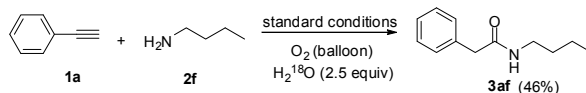
Elements Used:

C: 0-100 H: 0-100 N: 0-4  $^{16}\text{O}$ : 0-10  $^{18}\text{O}$ : 0-10 Na: 0-1  
19:18:07 01-Feb-2010



Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula
216.1246	216.1250	-0.4	-1.9	4.5	13.1	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sup>18</sup> O
194.1437	194.1431	0.6	3.1	4.5	5.4	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sup>18</sup> O

## 4.2 Oxidative Amidation of Phenylacetylene with *n*-butylamine in the presence of H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O under O<sub>2</sub>.



Phenylacetylene (2.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of *n*-butylamine (0.5 mmol), H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O (1.25 mmol), CuBr (0.025 mmol), and DBU (0.6 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at room temperature under O<sub>2</sub> (balloon). The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 4 h. After cooling down to room temperature and concentrating in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a short silica gel to give the product **3af** in 46% yield.

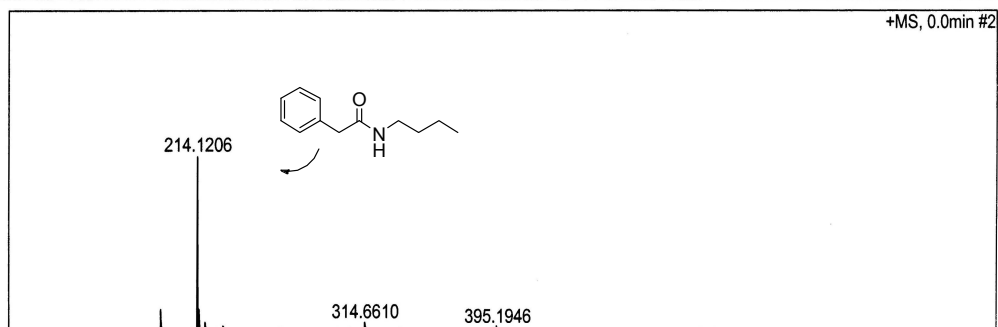
The HRMS spectrum of **3af** for the reaction in the presence of H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O.

### Mass Spectrum SmartFormula Report

Analysis Info		Acquisition Date	12/17/2009 11:46:56 AM
Analysis Name	E:\Data\micrOTOFQ\Chengdu_WZJ\20091216WU\WW091201-1.d	Operator	Pu Hai
Method	tune_low_20090830.m	Instrument / Ser#	micrOTOF-Q II 10203
Sample Name	WW091201-1		
Comment			

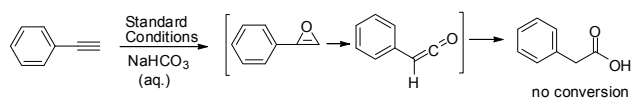
#### Acquisition Parameter

Source Type	ESI	Ion Polarity	Positive	Set Nebulizer	0.4 Bar
Focus	Not active	Set Capillary	3500 V	Set Dry Heater	180 °C
Scan Begin	50 m/z	Set End Plate Offset	-500 V	Set Dry Gas	4.0 l/min
Scan End	2000 m/z	Set Collision Cell RF	100.0 Vpp	Set Divert Valve	Source



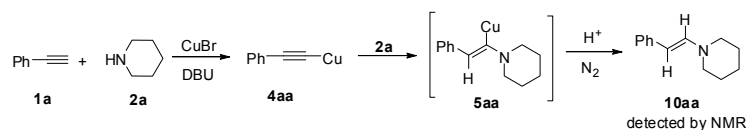
Meas. <i>m/z</i>	#	Formula	Score	<i>m/z</i>	err [mDa]	err [ppm]	mSigma	rdb	e <sup>-</sup>	Conf	N-Rule
214.1206	1	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N Na O	100.00	214.1202	-0.4	-1.7	3.1	4.5	even		ok

### 5. Reaction of Phenylacetylene with Aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>



Phenylacetylene (2.5 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuBr (5 mol %), DBU (0.6 mmol), and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mmol) in a solution of THF (1 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL) at room temperature under O<sub>2</sub> (balloon). The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 12 h, and then the resulting mixture was quenched by saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution (1 mL), acidified with dilute HCl solution, and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The solution was concentrated in vacuum, no phenylacetic acid product was detected by TLC and MS.

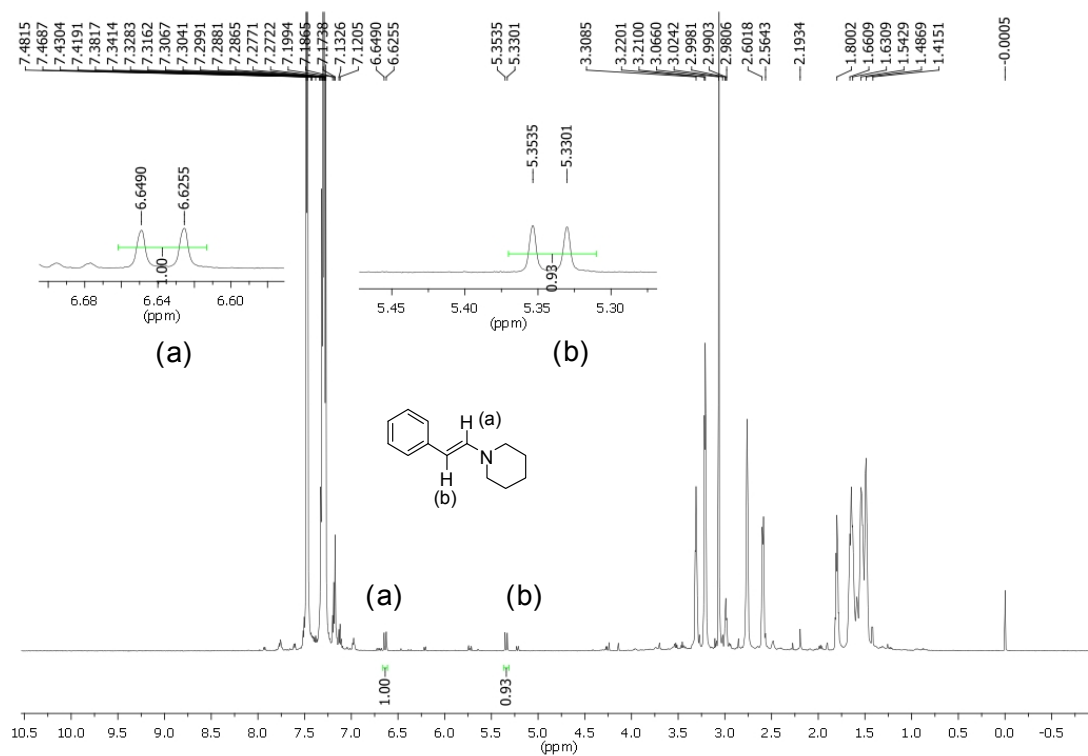
## 6. Reaction of Phenylacetylene with Piperidine in the absence of Dioxigen



Phenylacetylene (4 mmol) was added to a mixture of piperidine (1 mmol), DBU (1.2 mmol), and CuBr (5 mol %) at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 2 h, and then the solution was quickly transferred to the NMR tube, and made <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) monitoring experiment immediately, thus the enamine intermediate **10aa** was detected<sup>1-3</sup>.

### Copy of <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra for the monitoring experiment of enamine intermediate

Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: mw 0915 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



### Reference:

- (1) A. Tillack, H. Trauthwein, C. G. Hartung, M. Eichberger, A. Jansen and M. Bellar, *Monatsh. Chemie*, 2000, **131**, 1327-1334.
- (2) C. R. V. Reddy, S. Uргаonkar and J. G. Verkade, *Org. lett.* 2005, **7**, 4427-4430.
- (3) K. Sakai, T. Kochi and F. Kakiuchi. *Org. lett.* 2011, **13**, 3928-3931.



## 7. Control experiment of the isolated copper(I) acetylide with piperidine

Piperidine (1 mmol) was added to a mixture of phenylacetylene (1 mmol) and CuBr (1 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL) at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 20 mins. Then the resulting mixture was quickly filtered and washed by diethyl ether and n-hexane. The bright yellow solid was vacuum-dried, and 104 mg (64% yield) of copper(I) acetylide was obtained. Copper(I) acetylide **4aa** was determined by IR spectroscopy.<sup>1-3</sup> IR (KBr)  $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : (C≡C) 1929 (w), 1584 (m), 1481 (s), 1440 (s), 745 (s), 682 (s), 549 (m).

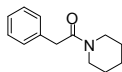
When the reaction of isolated copper(I) acetylide **4aa** (0.25 mmol) with piperidine **2a** (0.5 mmol) was conducted at 55 °C in the presence of DBU (0.3 mmol) under O<sub>2</sub>, the yellow solid copper(I) acetylide **4aa** was dissolved and the desired product **3aa** was obtained in 11% yield (The low yield of amide might be caused by the side reaction of oxidative dimerization of copper(I) acetylide). This result indicated that copper(I) acetylide might be a key intermediate in the present reaction system and supported the proposed mechanism.

Furthermore, the reaction of copper(I) acetylide **4aa** (0.25 mmol) with piperidine **2a** (0.25 mmol) was performed at 55 °C in the presence of DBU (0.3 mmol) and N<sub>2</sub>. The yellow solid copper(I) acetylide **4aa** was completely dissolved. Unfortunately, no useful information for  $\alpha$ -aminovinylcopper(I) complex **5aa** was obtained by NMR and HRMS analysis of reaction mixture, which might be caused by the high instability of intermediate **5aa**.

### Reference:

- (1) I. A. Garbusova, V. T. Alexanjan, L. A. Leites, I. R. Golding and A.M. Sladkov, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1973, **54**, 341-344.
- (2) W. M. Khairul, M. A. Fox, N. N. Zaitseva, M. Gaudio, D. S. Yufit, B. W. Skelton, A. H. White, J. A. K. Howard, M. I. Bruce and P. J. Low, *Dalton Trans.*, 2009, 610–620.
- (3) C. Shao, G. Cheng, D. Su, J. Xu, X. Wang and Y. Hua, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2010, **352**, 1587–1592.

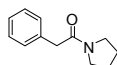
## 8. Characterization Data of Amides 3aa-3ma



### 2-Phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (**3aa**)

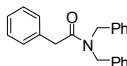
Compound **3aa** was obtained in 68% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v): R<sub>f</sub> = 0.38; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 3H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.57 (br.t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (br.t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 1.58-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.34 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.3, 135.4, 128.6, 128.5, 126.6, 47.3, 42.9, 41.2, 26.2, 25.5, 24.4; HRMS calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NONa (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>, 226.1202; found, 226.1210.

**2-Phenyl-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethanone (3ab)**



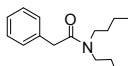
Compound **3ab** was obtained in 65% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 1:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.22$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.32-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.42 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.81 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.5, 134.9, 128.9, 128.6, 126.7, 46.9, 45.9, 42.3, 26.1, 24.3; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 212.1046; found, 212.1051.

**N,N-Dibenzyl-2-phenylacetamide (3ac)**



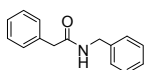
Compound **3ac** was obtained in 60% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 4:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.53$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.35 (br.t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.23 (m, 9H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.62 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  171.6, 137.3, 136.4, 135.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.4, 126.9, 126.5, 50.3, 48.3, 41.0; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 338.1515; found, 338.1519.

**N,N-Dibutyl-2-phenylacetamide (3ad)**



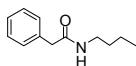
Compound **3ad** was obtained in 50% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 5:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.28$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.30 (br.t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 3H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.32 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 1.54-1.44 (m, 4H), 1.32-1.24 (m, 4H); 0.92-0.89 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  170.4, 135.6, 128.7, 128.6, 126.6, 48.1, 45.7, 41.0, 31.1, 29.7, 20.2, 20.1, 13.8, 13.7; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{NONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 270.1828; found, 270.1834.

**N-Benzyl-2-phenylacetamide (3ae)**



Compound **3ae** was obtained in 55% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 3:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.21$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.34 (br.t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 6H), 7.17 (br.d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.72 (br.s, 1H), 4.41 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  170.9, 138.2, 134.8, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.4, 43.8, 43.6; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{NONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 248.1046; found, 248.1043.

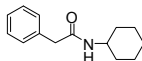
**N-Butyl-2-phenylacetamide (3af)**



Compound **3af** was obtained in 53% yield according to the general procedure (4 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.25$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.36 (br.t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (br.t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (br.d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 5.32 (br.s, 1H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.22-3.19 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.22 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  170.9,

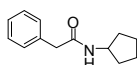
135.1, 129.4, 129.0, 127.3, 43.9, 39.4, 31.5, 20.0, 13.7; HRMS calc. for  $C_{12}H_{17}NONa$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, 214.1202; found, 214.1208.

**N-Cyclohexyl-2-phenylacetamide (3ag)**



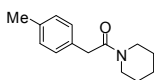
Compound **3ag** was obtained in 63% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 3:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.32; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm): δ 7.35 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (br.d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (br.s, 1H), 3.79-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 1.84-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.54 (m, 3H), 1.36-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.14-1.07 (m, 1H), 1.04-0.98 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm): δ 170.0, 135.2, 129.4, 128.9, 127.2, 48.2, 44.0, 32.9, 25.5, 24.7; HRMS calc. for  $C_{14}H_{19}NONa$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, 240.1359; found, 240.1358.

**N-Cyclopentyl-2-phenylacetamide (3ah)**



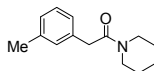
Compound **3ah** was obtained in 60% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 3:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.30; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm): δ 7.35 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (br.d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (br.s, 1H), 4.21-4.15 (m, 1H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 1.95-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.27-1.23 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm): δ 170.5, 135.2, 129.3, 128.9, 127.2, 51.3, 43.9, 33.0, 23.6; HRMS calc. for  $C_{13}H_{17}NONa$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, 226.1202; found, 226.1208.

**1-(Piperidin-1-yl)-2-*p*-tolylethanone (3ba)**



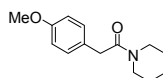
Compound **3ba** was obtained in 63% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.32; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm): δ 7.14-7.10 (m, 4H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.56 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.35 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm): δ 169.5, 136.1, 132.3, 129.3, 128.4, 47.2, 42.9, 40.8, 26.2, 25.5, 24.4, 21.0; HRMS calc. for  $C_{14}H_{19}NONa$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, 240.1359; found, 240.1363.

**1-(Piperidin-1-yl)-2-*m*-tolylethanone (3ca)**



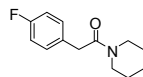
Compound **3ca** was obtained in 61% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.36; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm): δ 7.19 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 7.03 (br.d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.57 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.37 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.60-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.34 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm): δ 169.4, 138.3, 135.3, 129.3, 128.5, 127.4, 125.6, 47.3, 42.9, 41.1, 26.2, 25.5, 24.5, 21.4; HRMS calc. for  $C_{14}H_{19}NONa$  ( $M+Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, 240.1359; found, 240.1363.

**2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3da)**



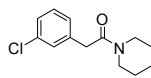
Compound **3da** was obtained in 40% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane :

EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.24$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.16 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 3.56 (br.t,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 2H), 3.37 (br.t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.60-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.34 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.6, 158.3, 129.6, 127.5, 114.1, 55.3, 47.2, 42.9, 40.2, 26.2, 25.5, 24.4; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{Na}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 256.1308; found, 256.1304.



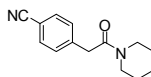
**2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3ea)**

Compound **3ea** was obtained in 57% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.38$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.00 (br.t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.56 (br.t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.37 (br.t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.37 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.0, 162.5, 160.9, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 115.5, 115.4, 47.2, 42.9, 40.1, 26.3, 25.5, 24.4; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 244.1108; found, 244.1131.



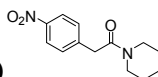
**2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3fa)**

Compound **3fa** was obtained in 64% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.52$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.25-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 3.57 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.37 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.39 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  168.2, 137.8, 134.3, 129.8, 128.8, 126.9, 47.2, 43.0, 40.5, 26.3, 25.5, 24.4; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 260.0813; found, 260.0818.



**2-(4-cyanophenyl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3ga)**

Compound **3ga** was obtained in 46% yield according to the general procedure (24 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 1:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.40$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 3.57 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.37 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.63-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.41 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  167.8, 141.0, 132.3, 129.8, 118.8, 110.7, 47.2, 43.0, 40.7, 26.3, 25.4, 24.3; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$ , 229.1341; found, 229.1337.

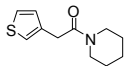


**2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3ha)**

Compound **3ha** was obtained in 25% yield according to the general procedure (24 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 1:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.32$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  8.18 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.57 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.40 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.63-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.42 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  167.7, 146.9, 143.0,

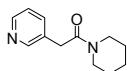
129.9, 123.8, 47.2, 43.1, 40.5, 26.4, 25.4, 24.3; HRMS calc. for  $C_{13}H_{17}N_2O_3$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup>, 249.1239; found, 249.1244.

**1-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(thiophen-3-yl)ethanone (3ia)**



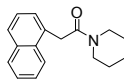
Compound **3ia** was obtained in 61% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.46; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.28-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.06 (t,  $J$  = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d,  $J$  = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 3.57 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.41-1.37 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.2, 134.7, 127.5, 125.0, 121.3, 47.3, 42.7, 35.8, 25.9, 25.0, 24.4; HRMS calc. for  $C_{11}H_{15}N_2O_2Na$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>, 232.0767; found, 232.0775.

**1-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(pyridin-3-yl)ethanone (3ja)**



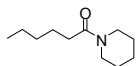
Compound **3ja** was obtained in 60% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 1:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.20; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  8.49 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.57 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.42 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 1.64-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.43 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  168.2, 150.0, 148.2, 136.5, 130.7, 122.8, 47.2, 43.0, 37.8, 26.4, 25.4, 24.4; HRMS calc. for  $C_{12}H_{16}N_2ONa$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>, 227.1155; found, 227.1166.

**2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethanone (3ka)**

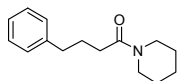


Compound **3ka** was obtained in 64% yield according to the general procedure (12 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 2:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.46; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.63 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 1.59-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.37 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  169.4, 128.8, 127.5, 126.3, 126.2, 125.7, 125.5, 123.5, 47.3, 43.0, 38.5, 26.3, 25.6, 24.5; HRMS calc. for  $C_{17}H_{19}NONa$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>, 276.1359; found, 276.1371.

**1-(Piperidin-1-yl)hexan-1-one (3la)**



Compound **3la** was obtained in 33% yield according to the general procedure (neat conditions, 24 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 3:1 v/v):  $R_f$  = 0.34; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  3.54 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (br.t,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (br.t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.65-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.53 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.31 (m, 4H), 0.90 (br.t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  171.5, 46.7, 42.6, 33.4, 31.7, 26.6, 25.6, 25.2, 24.6, 22.5, 13.9; HRMS calc. for  $C_{11}H_{21}NONa$  (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>, 206.1515; found, 206.1534.

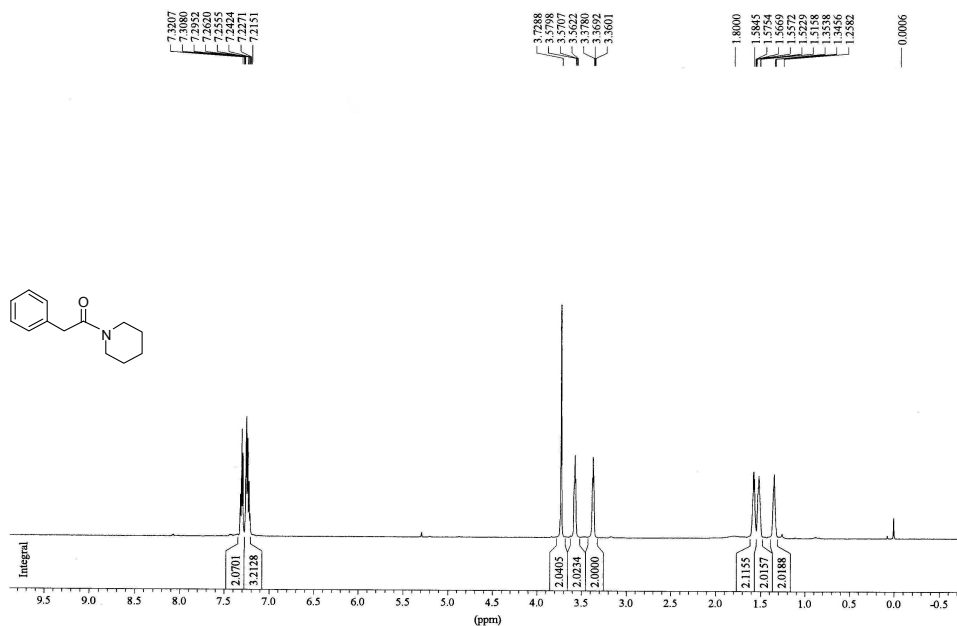


**4-Phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one (3ma)**

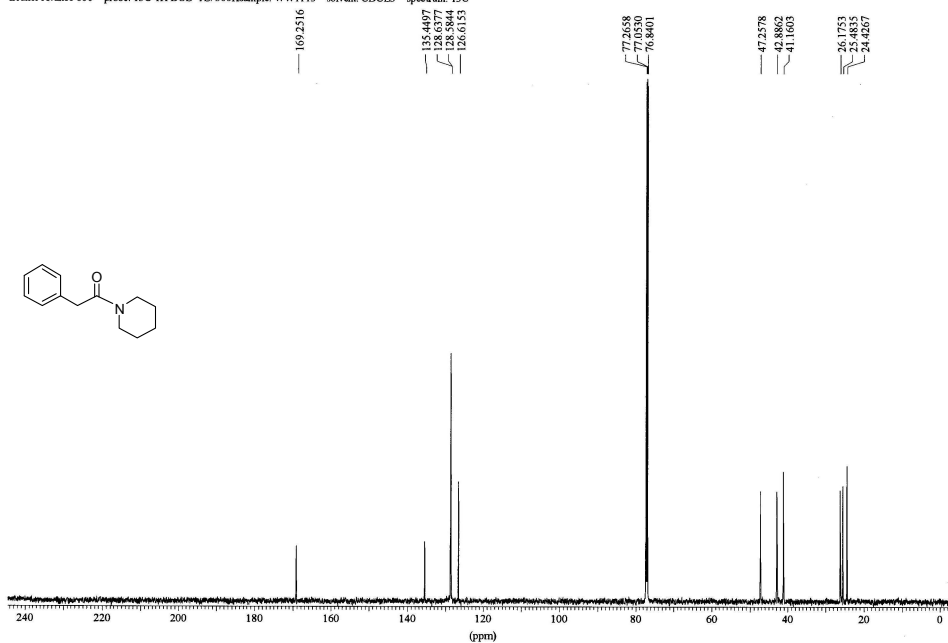
Compound **3ma** was obtained in 31% yield according to the general procedure (neat conditions, 24 h). TLC (*n*-hexane : EtOAc, 3:1 v/v):  $R_f = 0.40$ ;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 3H), 3.54 (br.t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.32 (br.t,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.32 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.99-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.51 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  171.0, 141.8, 128.5, 128.3, 125.9, 46.6, 42.6, 35.4, 32.5, 26.8, 26.5, 25.6, 24.6; HRMS calc. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{NONa}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$ , 254.1515; found, 254.1519.

## 9. Copies of NMR Spectra for 3aa–3ma

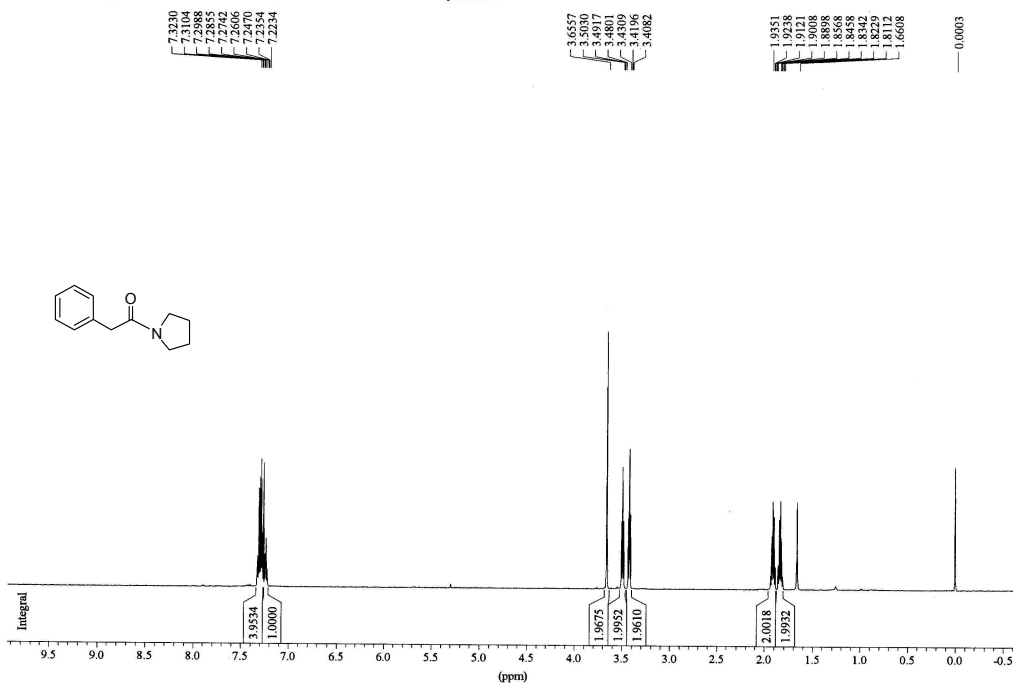
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300Ksample: WW1113 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



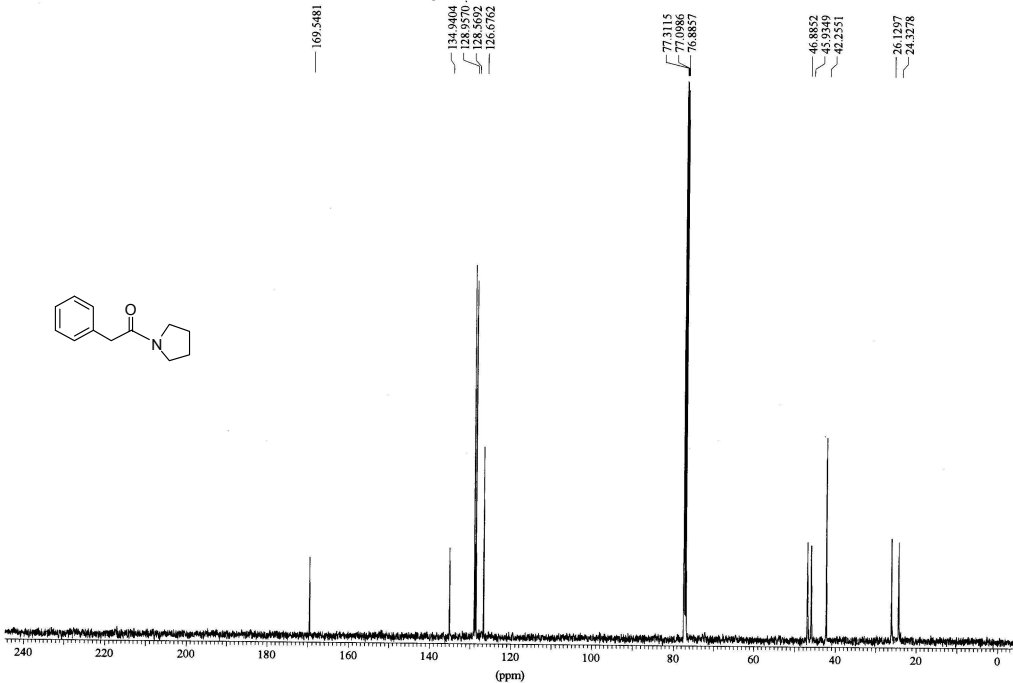
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300Ksample: WW1113 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C



Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1205-1 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H

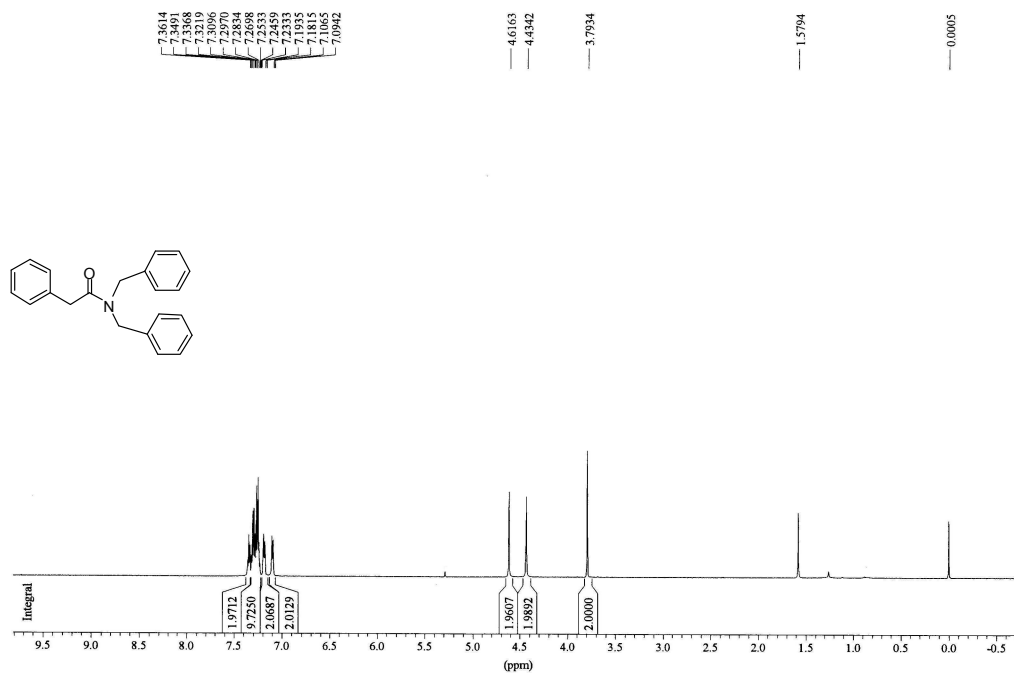


Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1205-1 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C

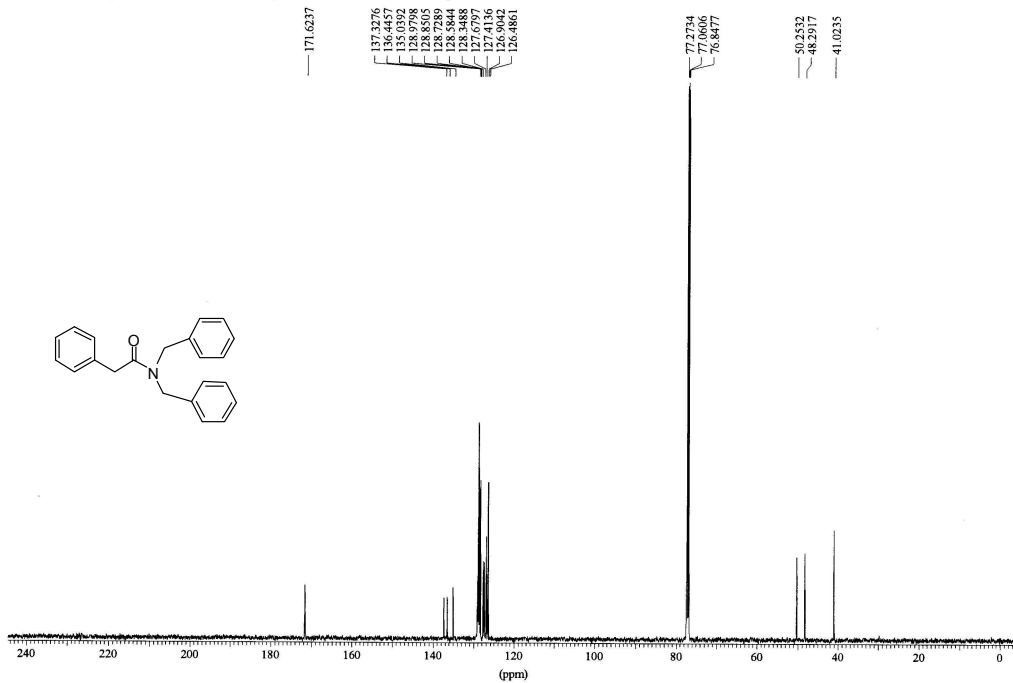




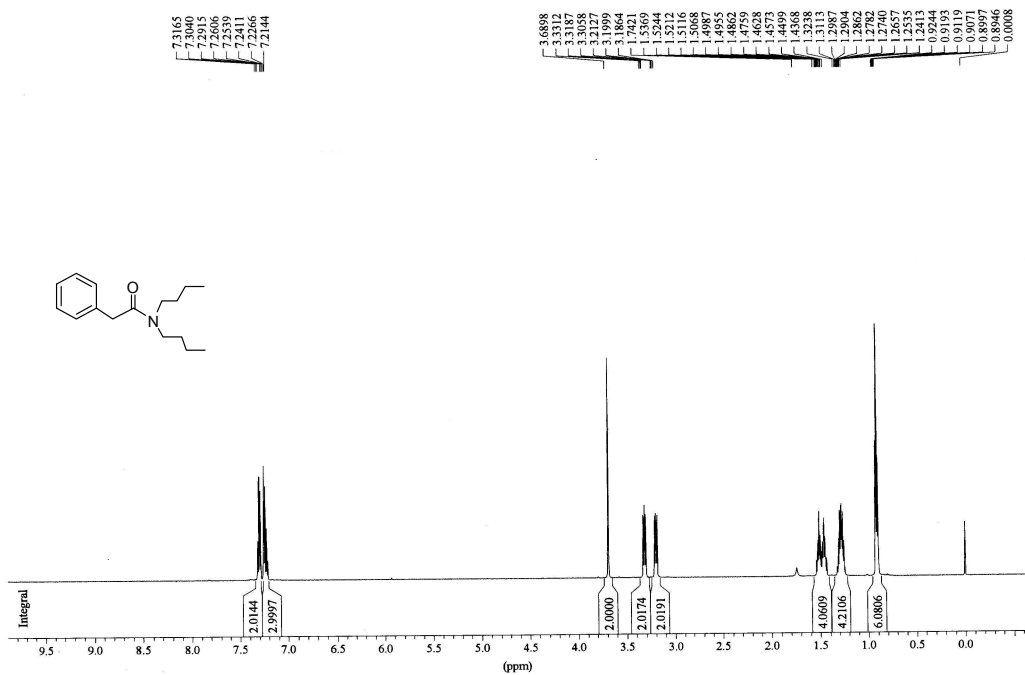
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1206-5 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



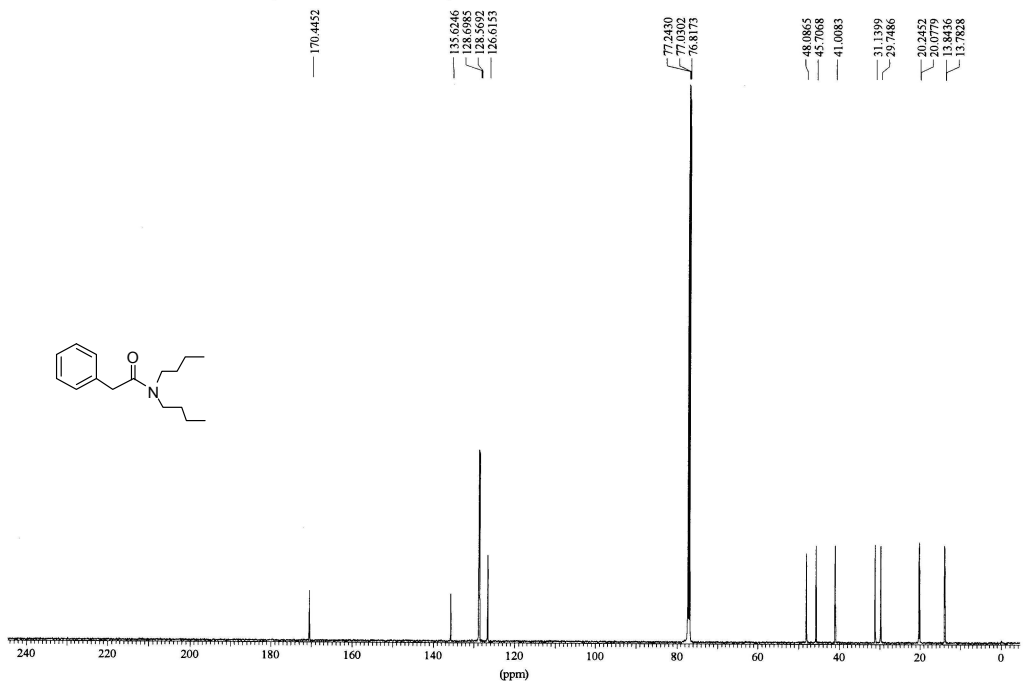
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1206-5 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C

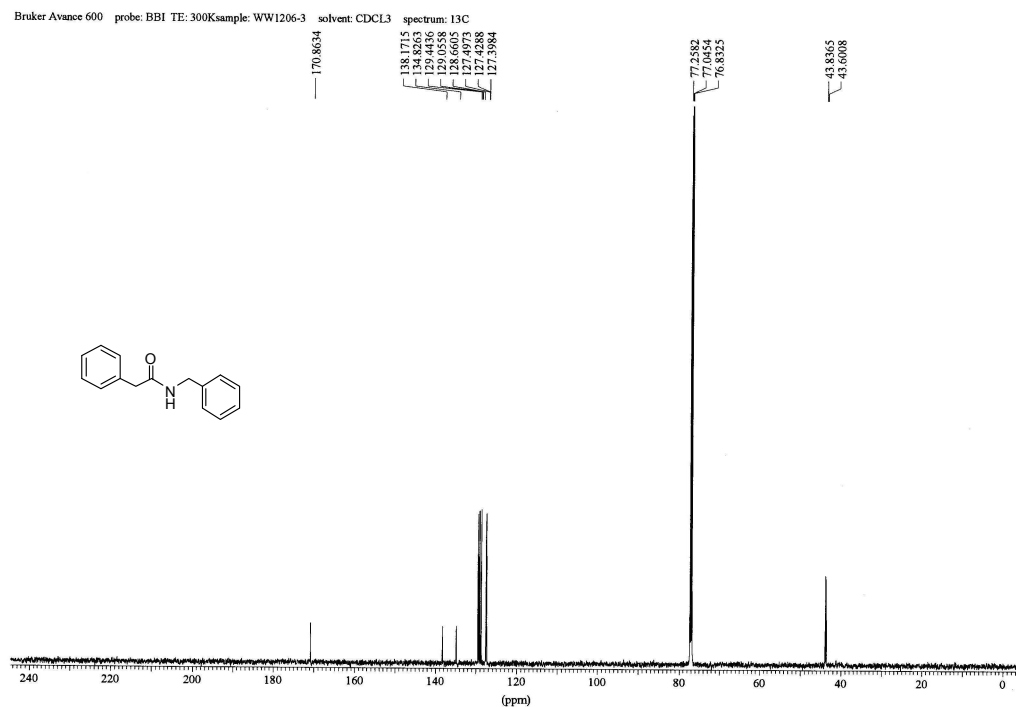
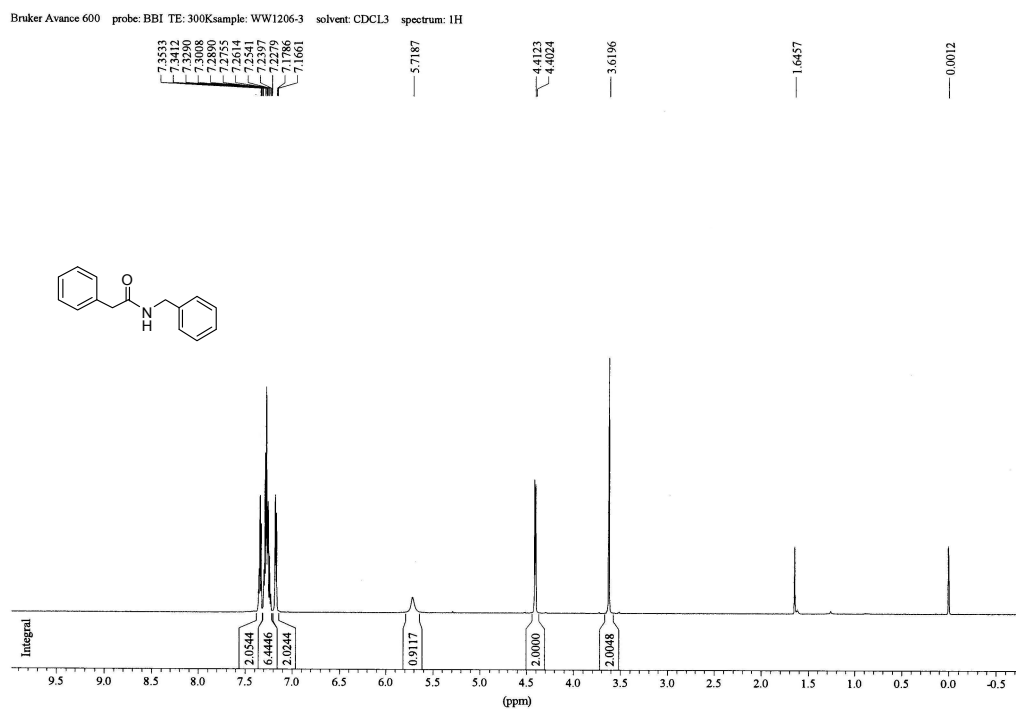


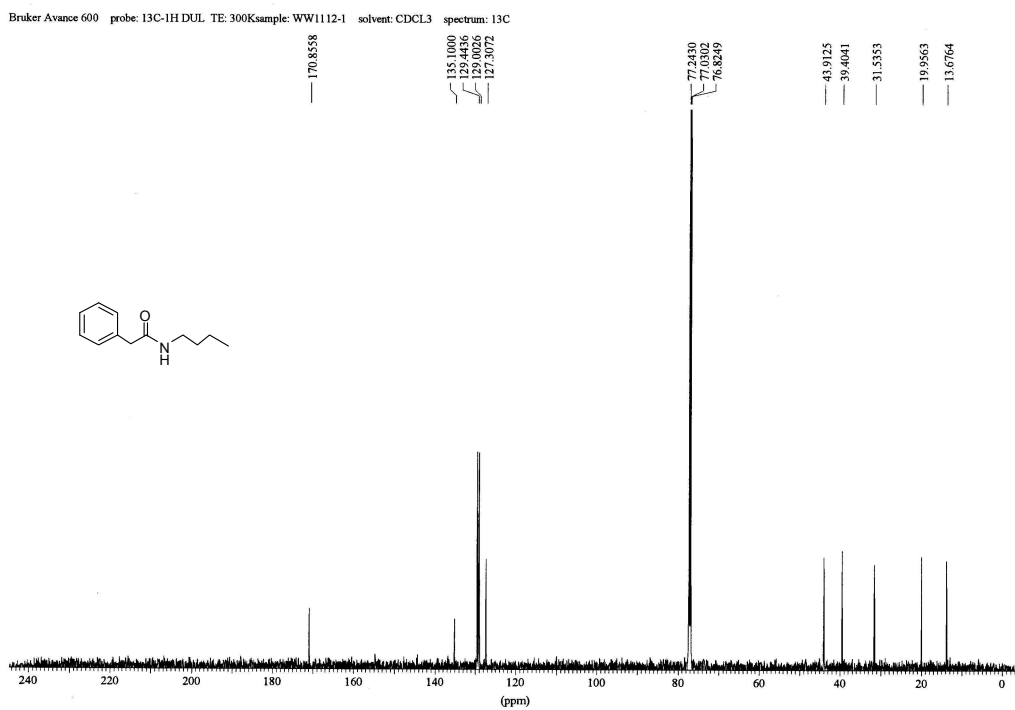
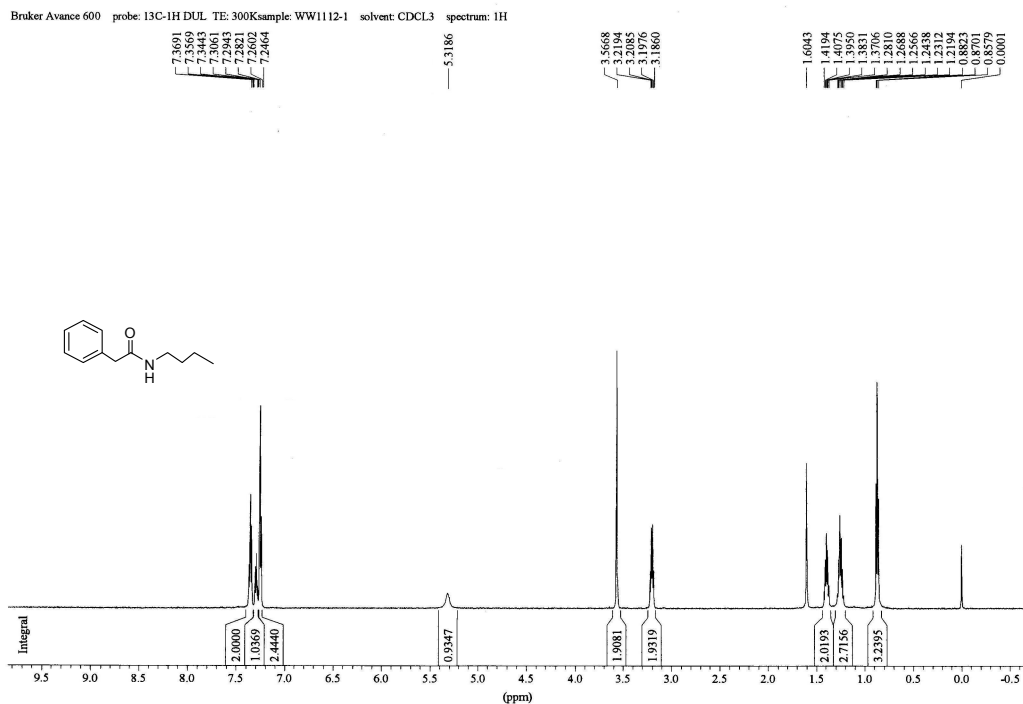
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300Ksample: WW1205-4 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



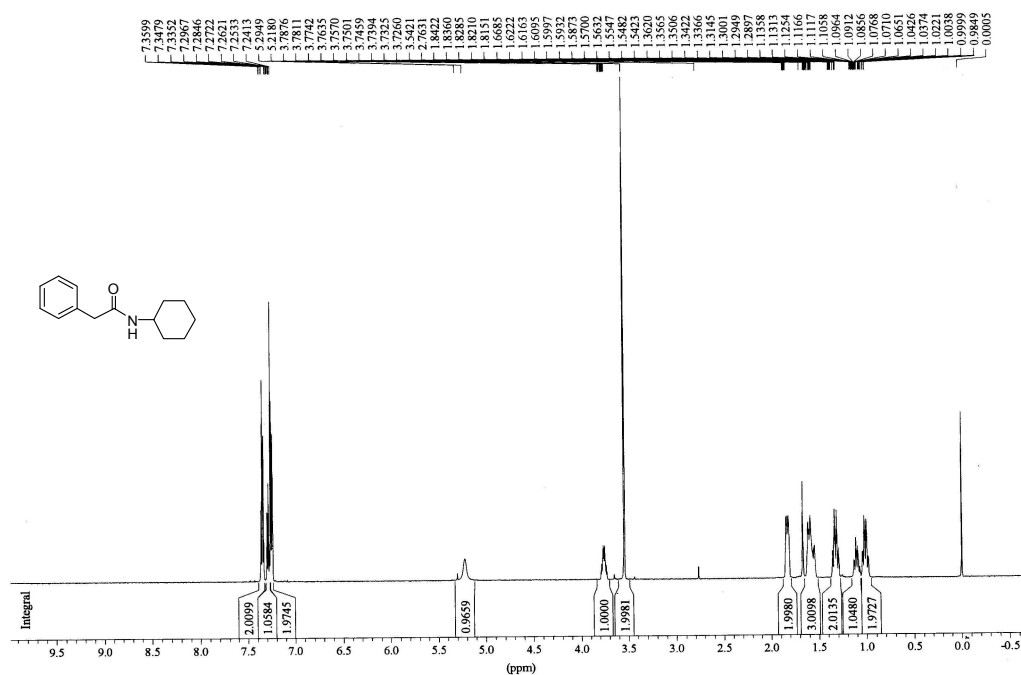
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300Ksample: WW1205-4 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C



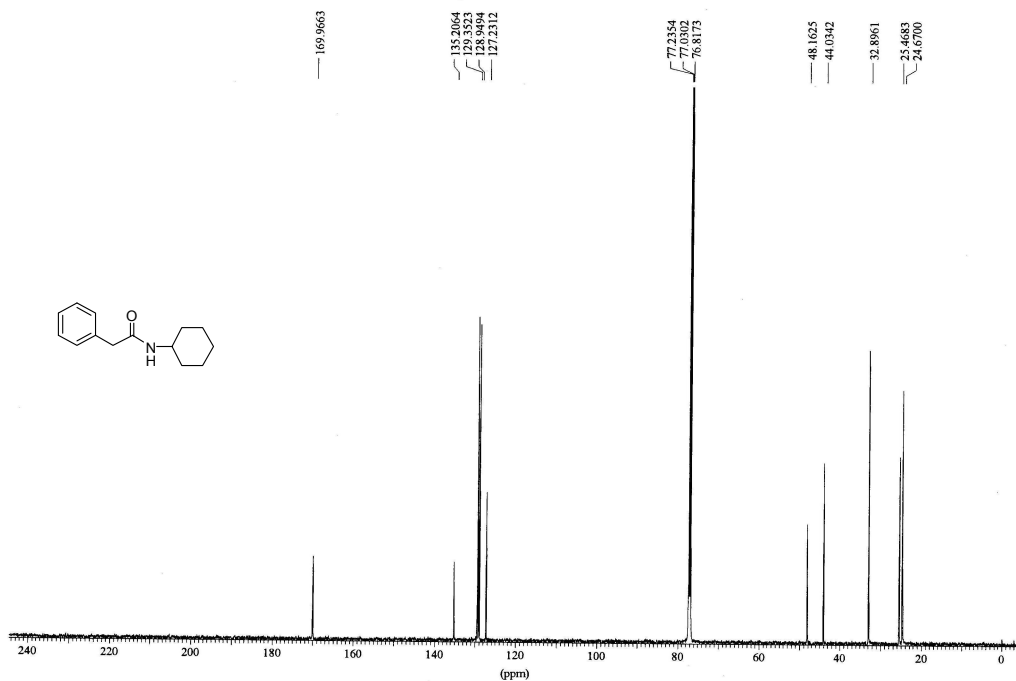


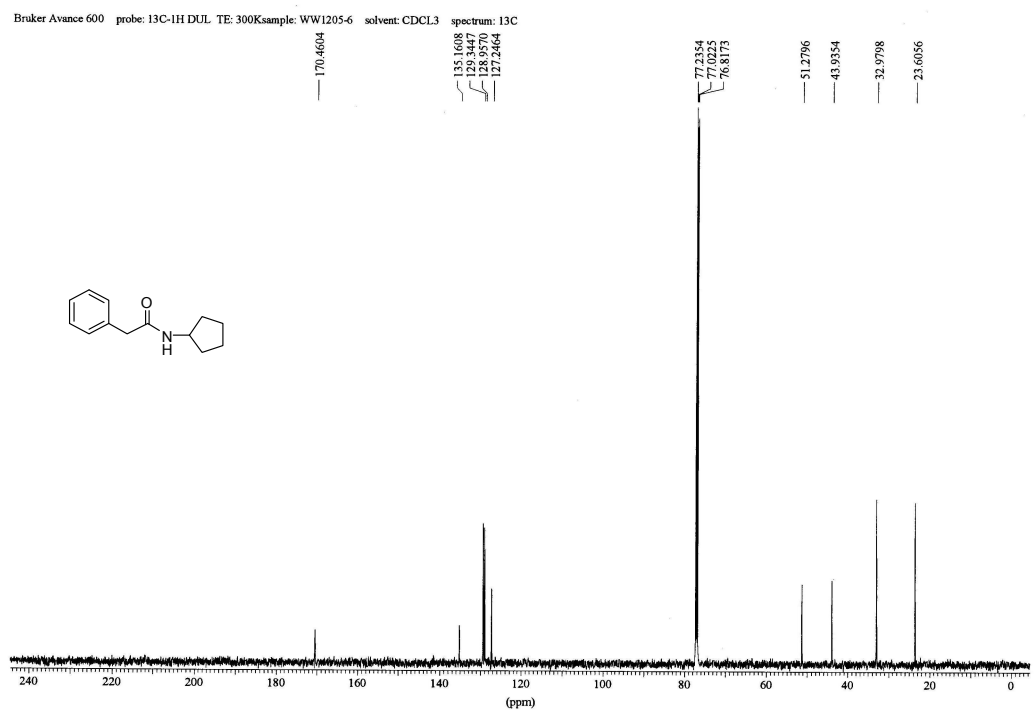
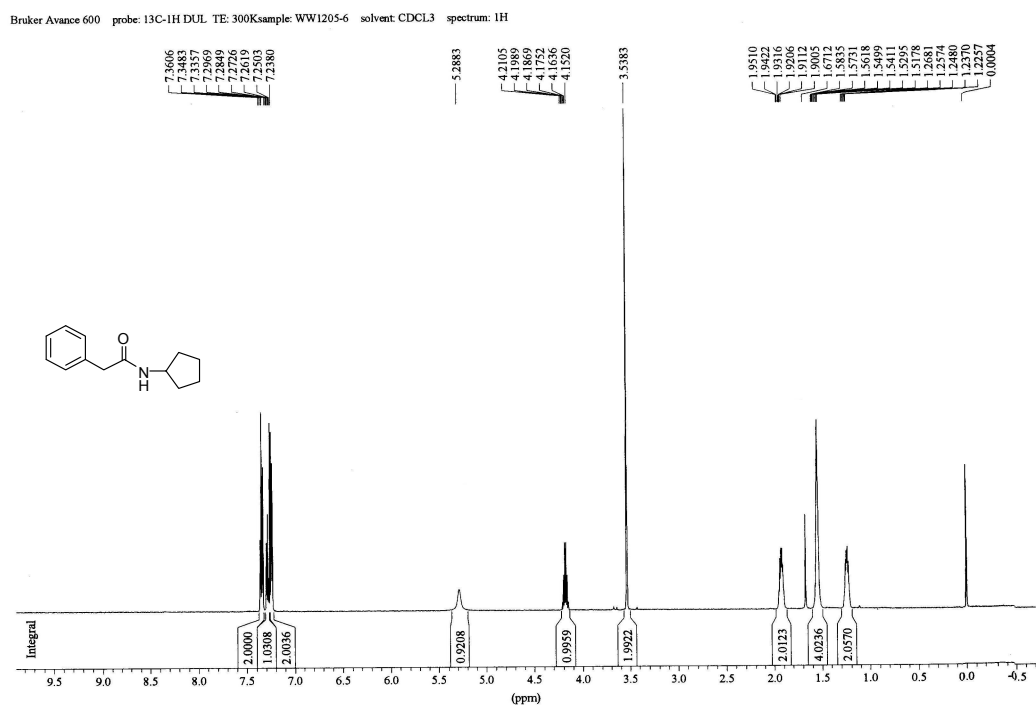


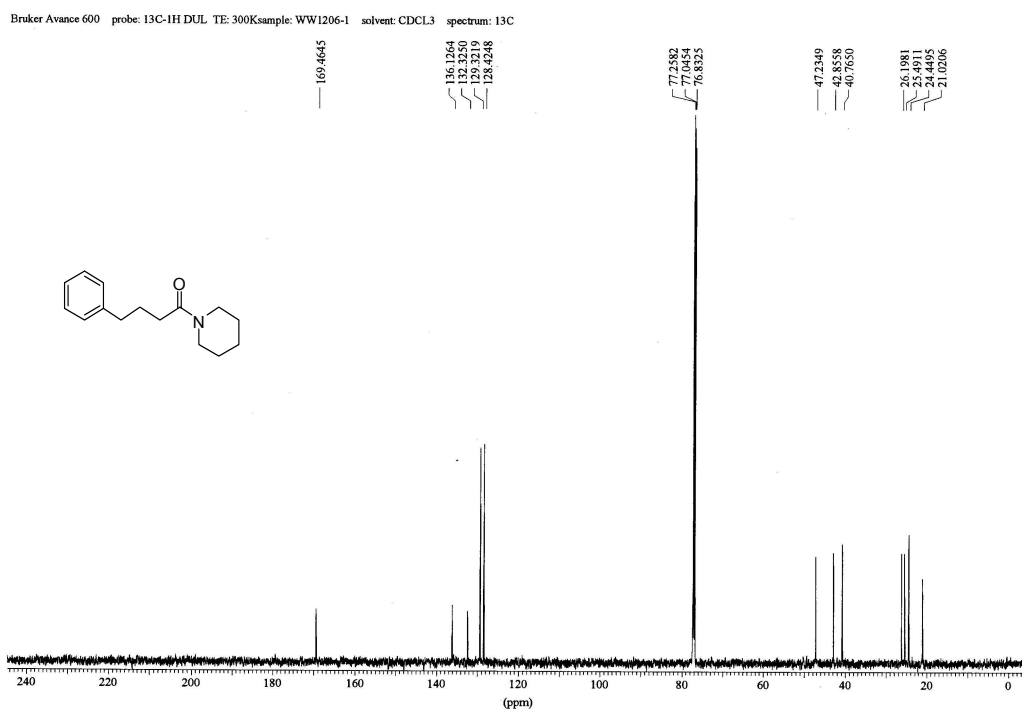
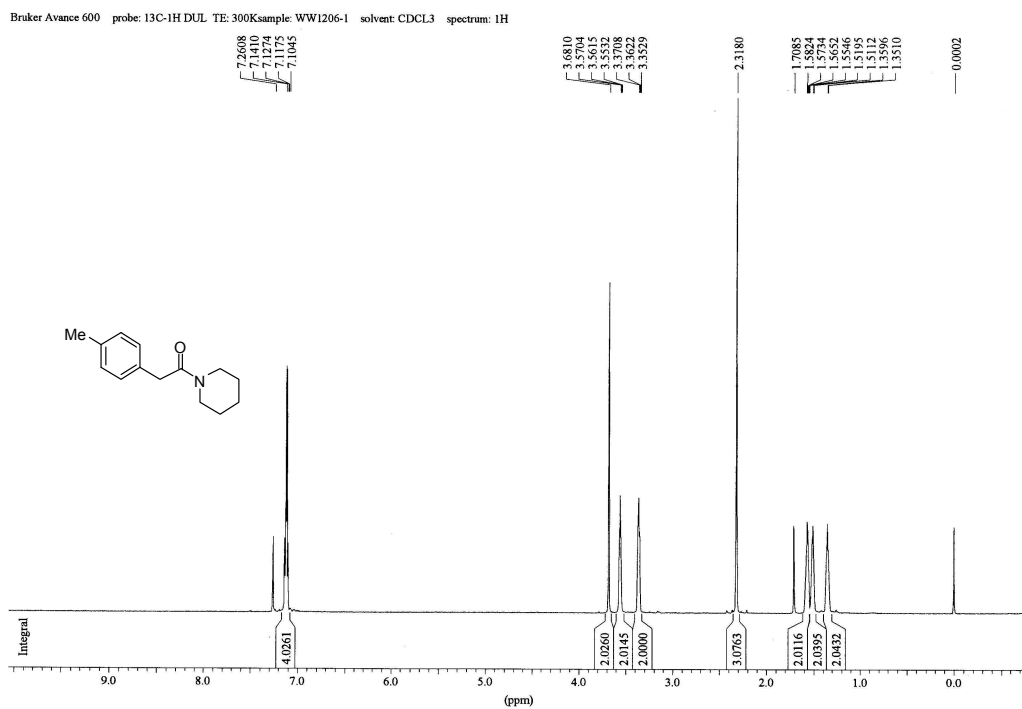
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1205-5B solvent: CDCl3 spectrum: 1H

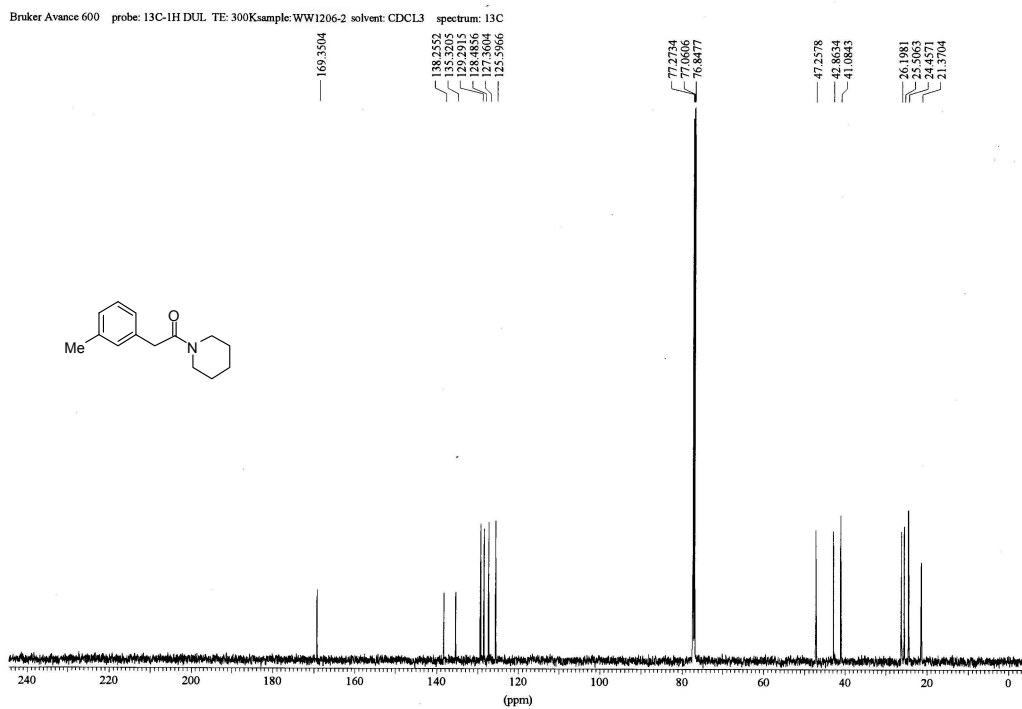
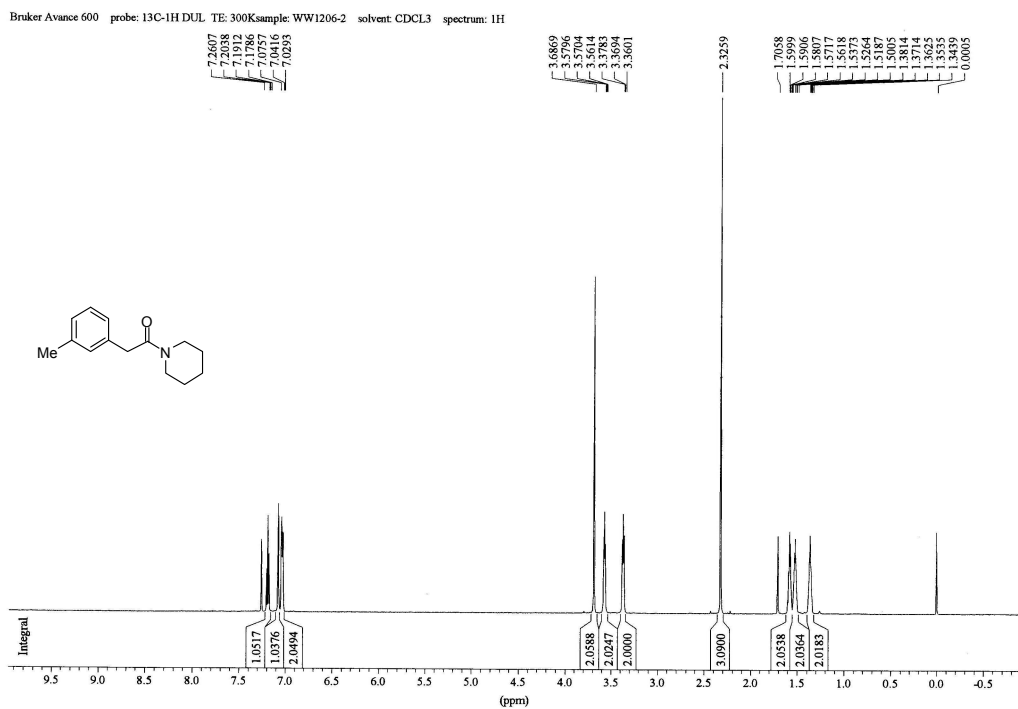


Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1205-5B solvent: CDCl3 spectrum: 13C

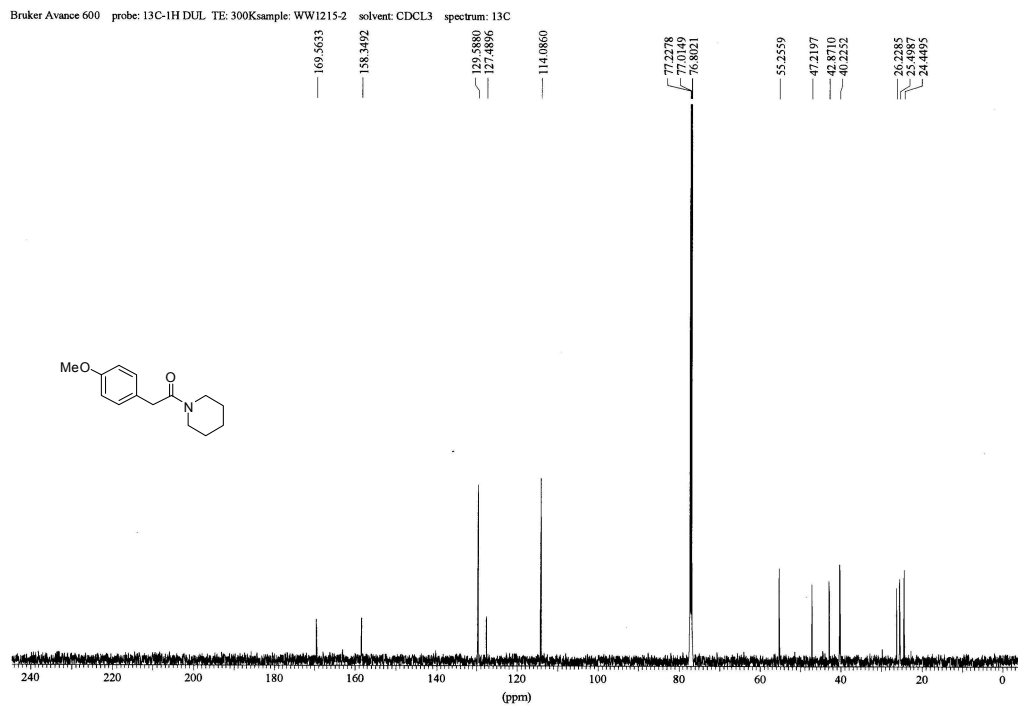
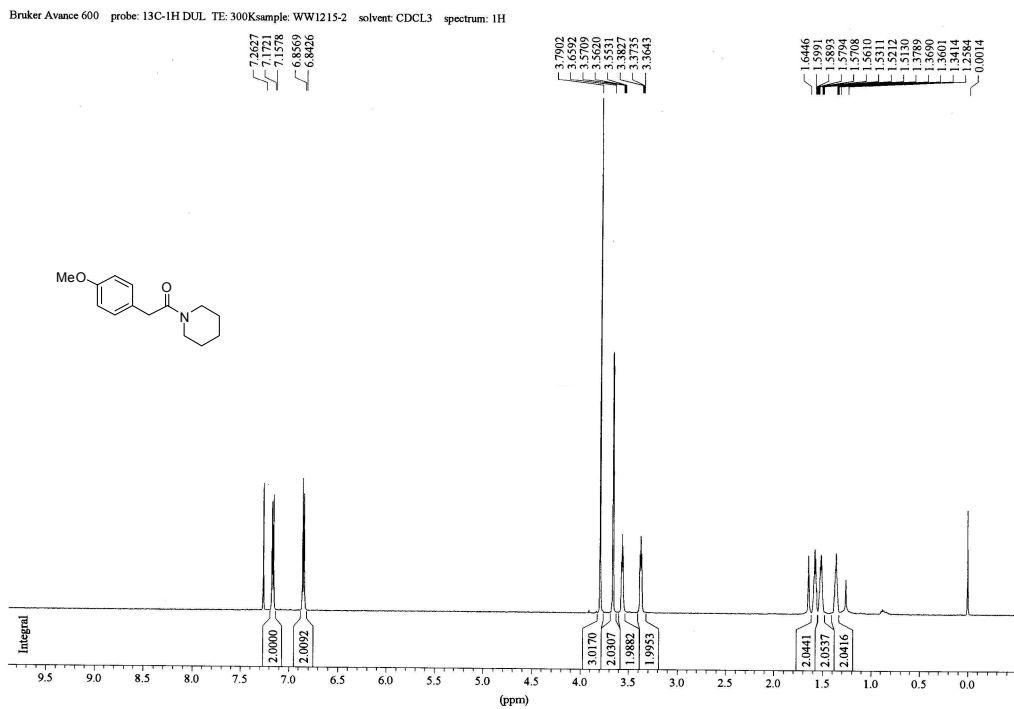




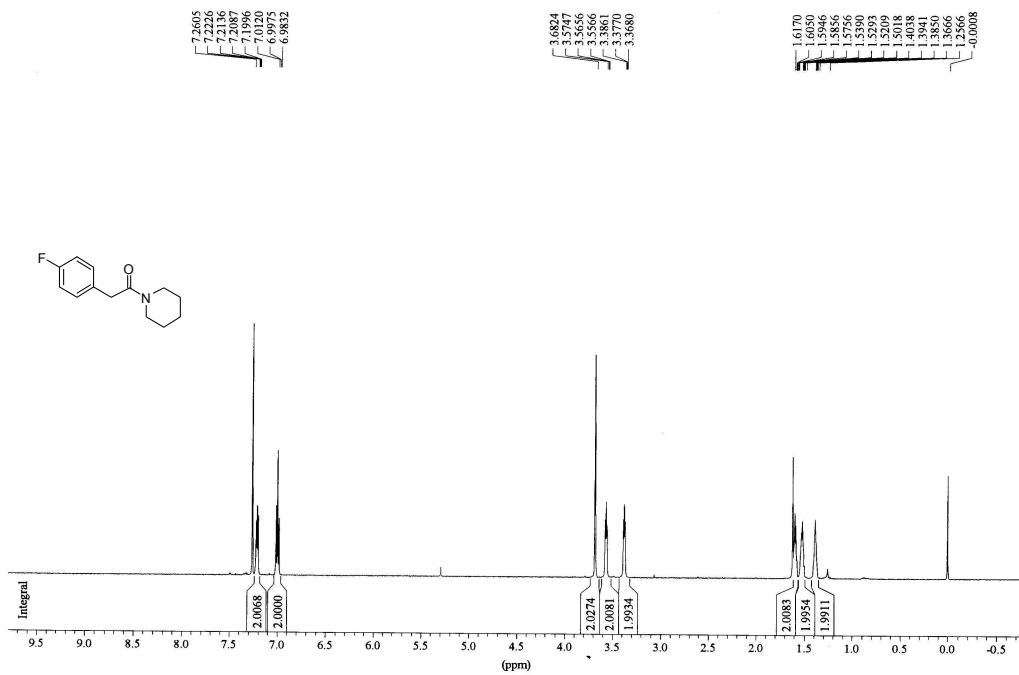




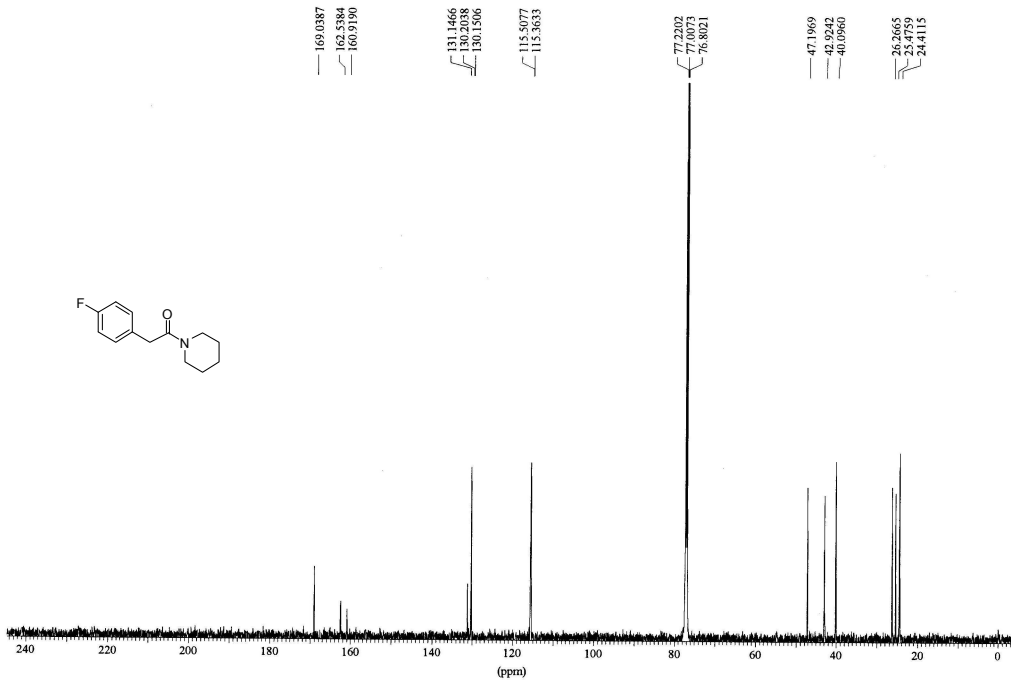




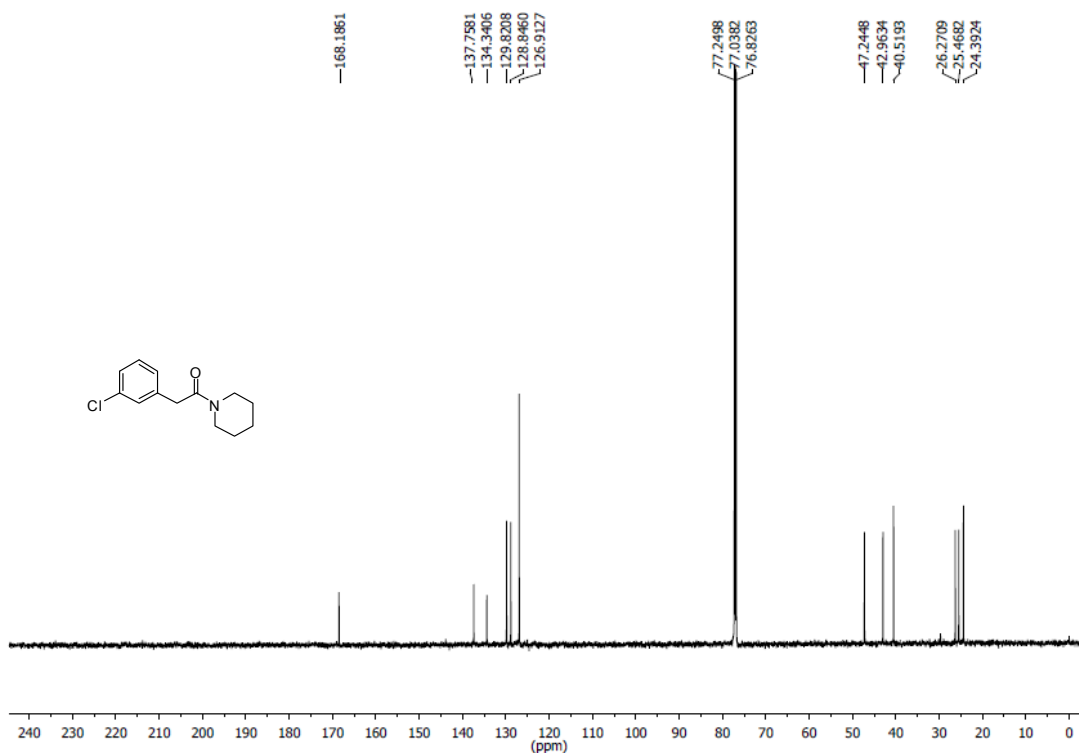
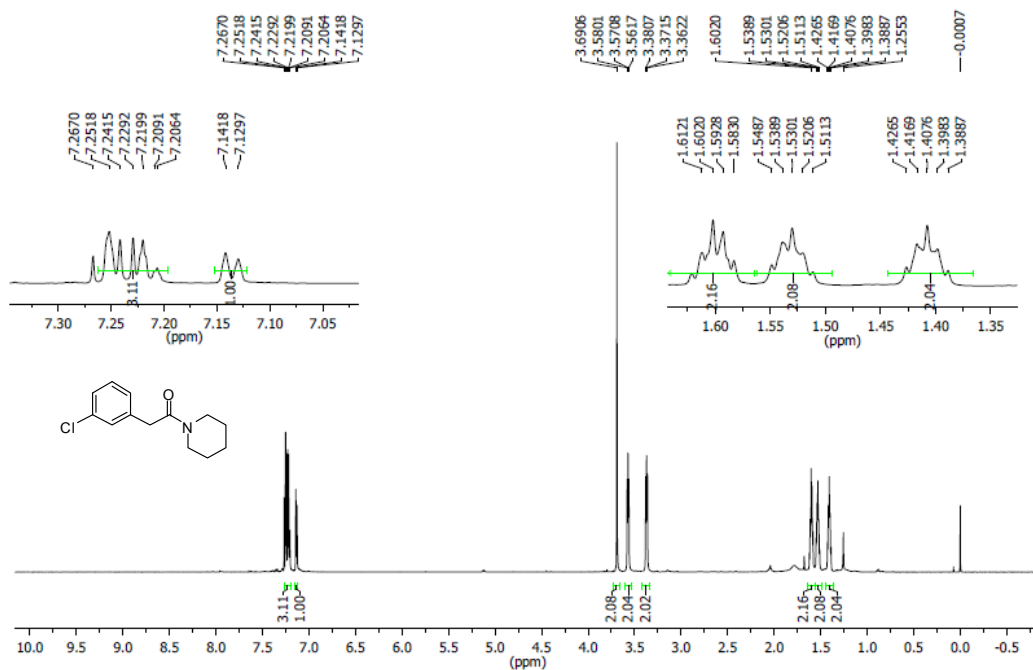
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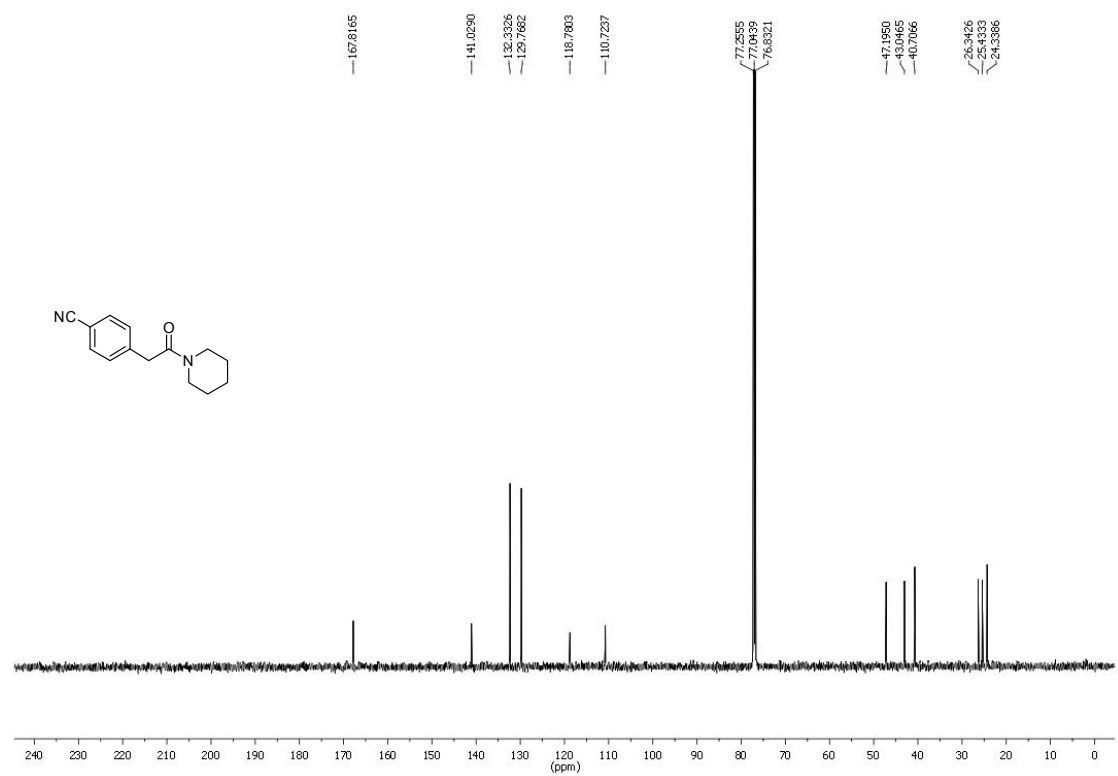
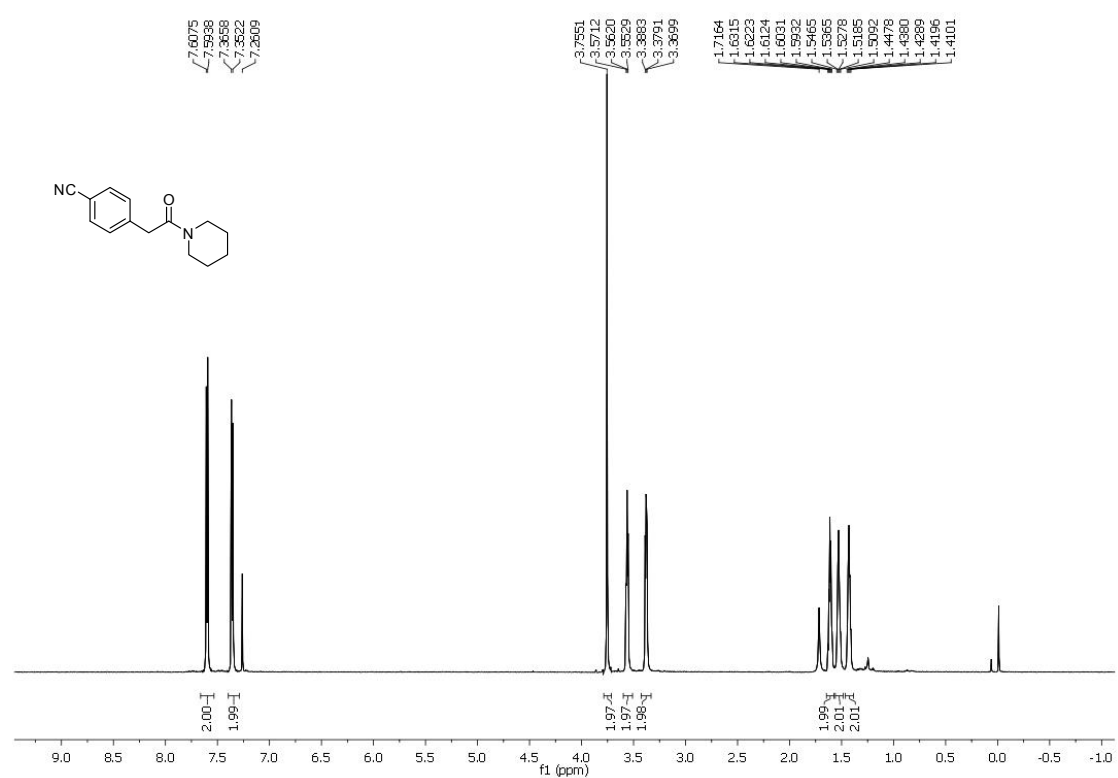


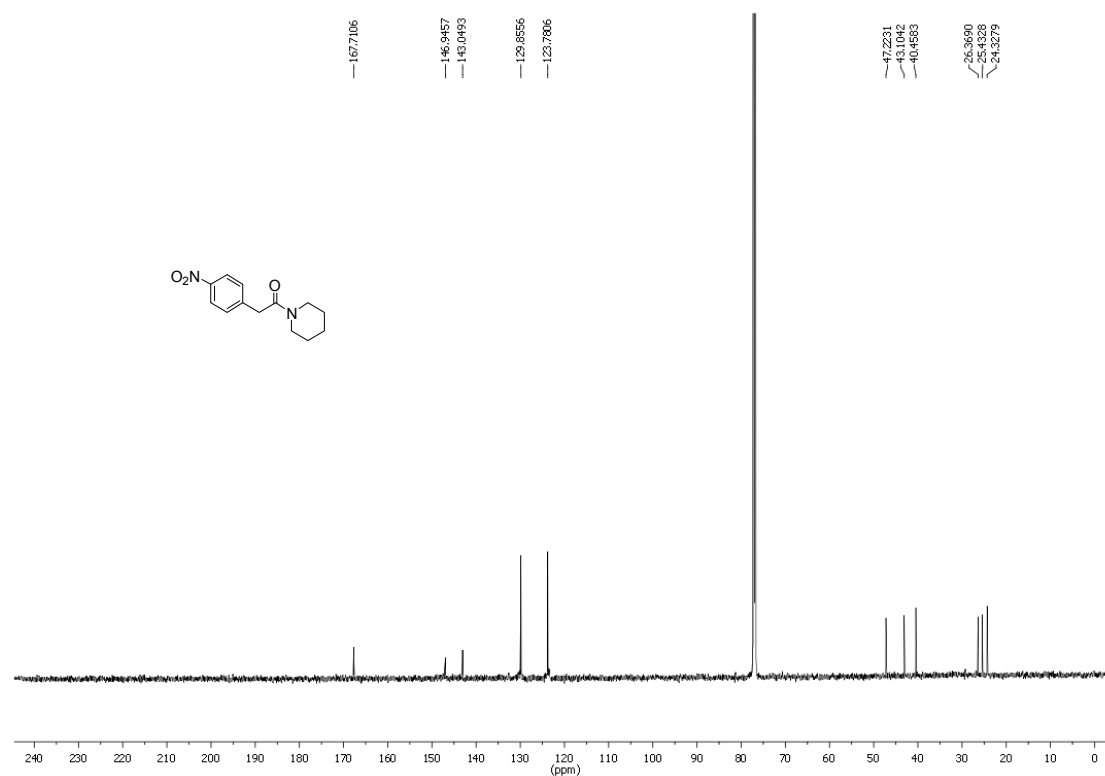
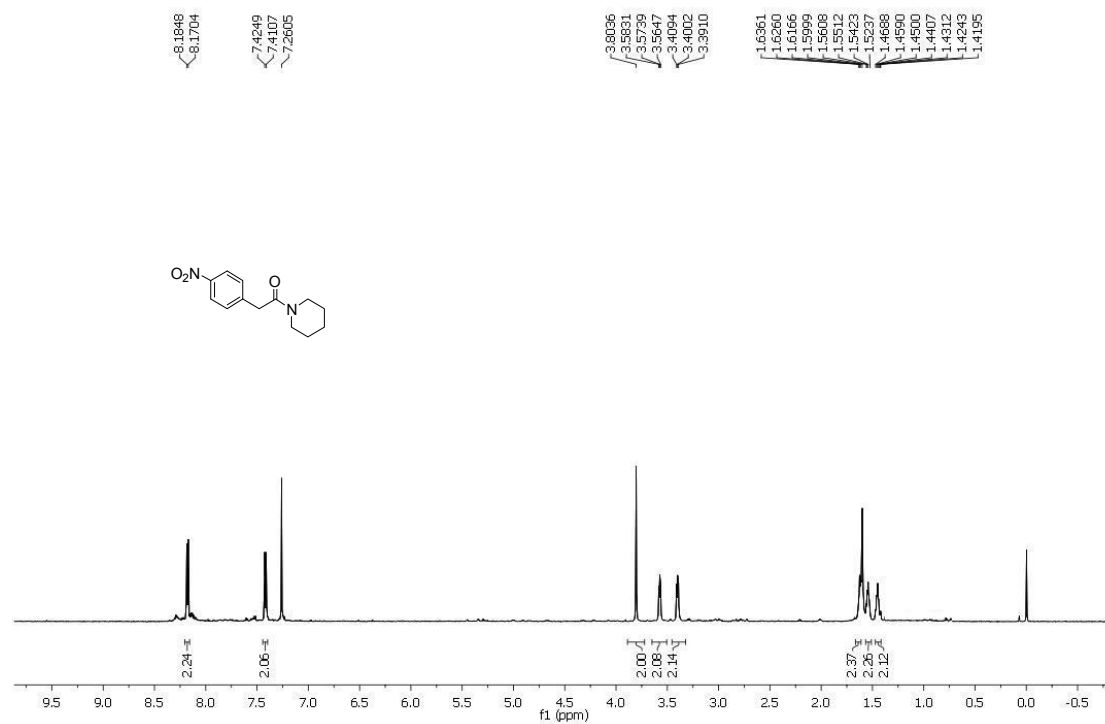
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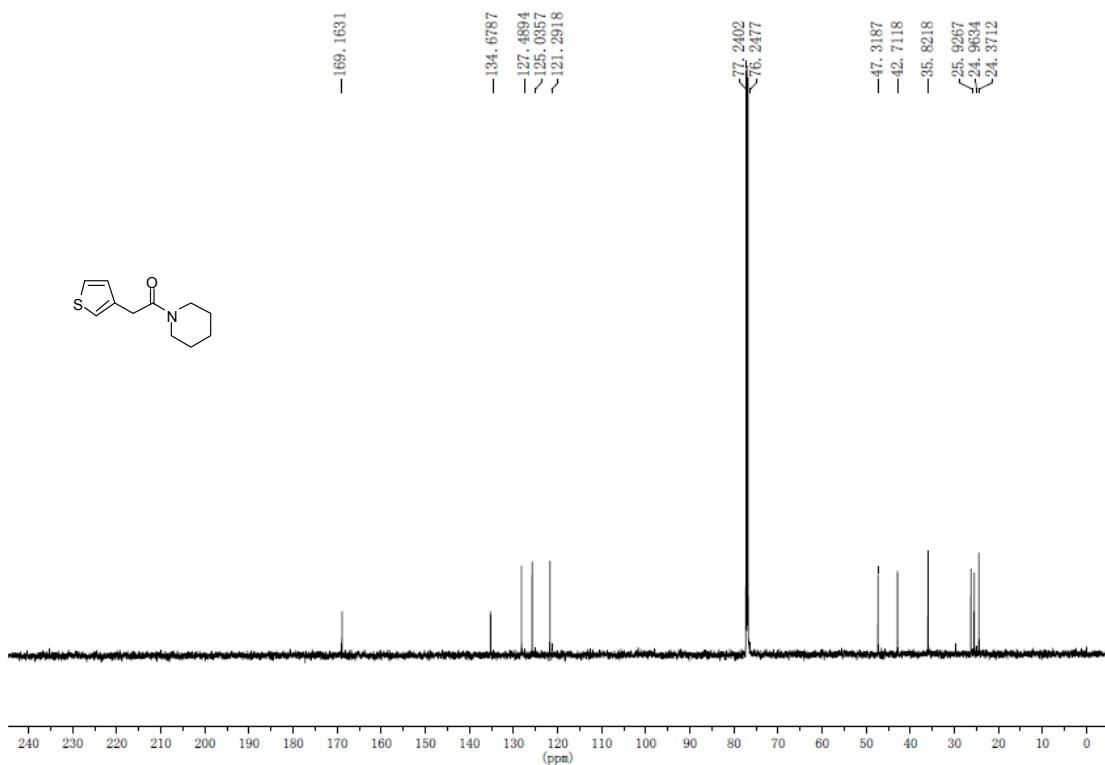
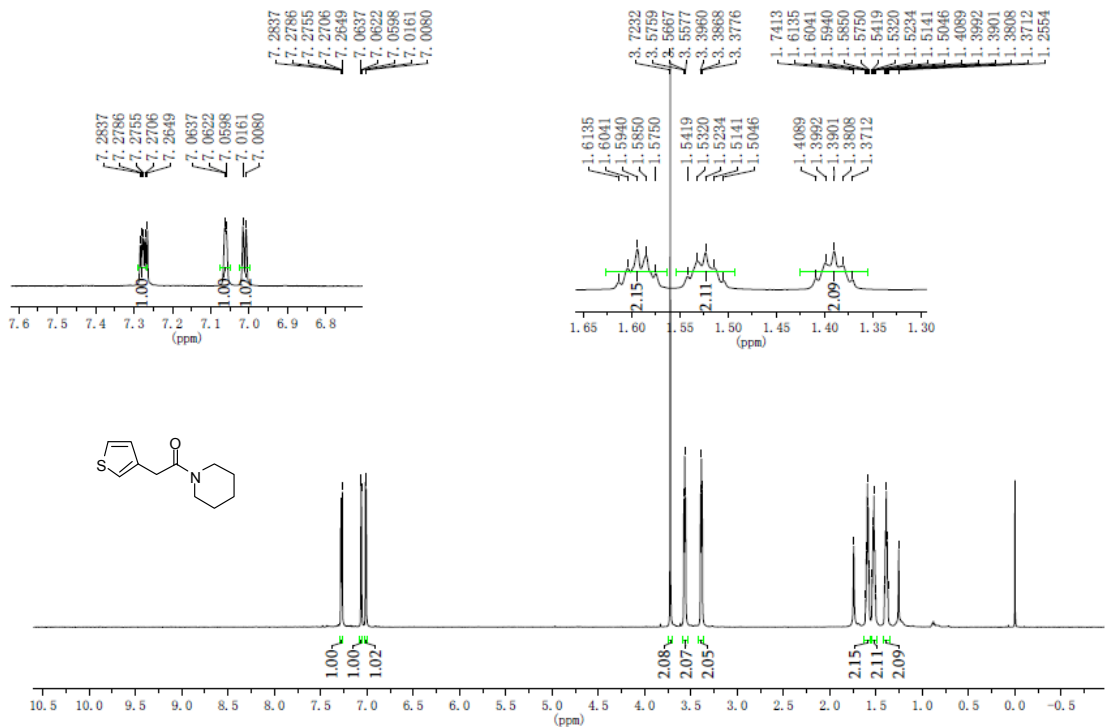
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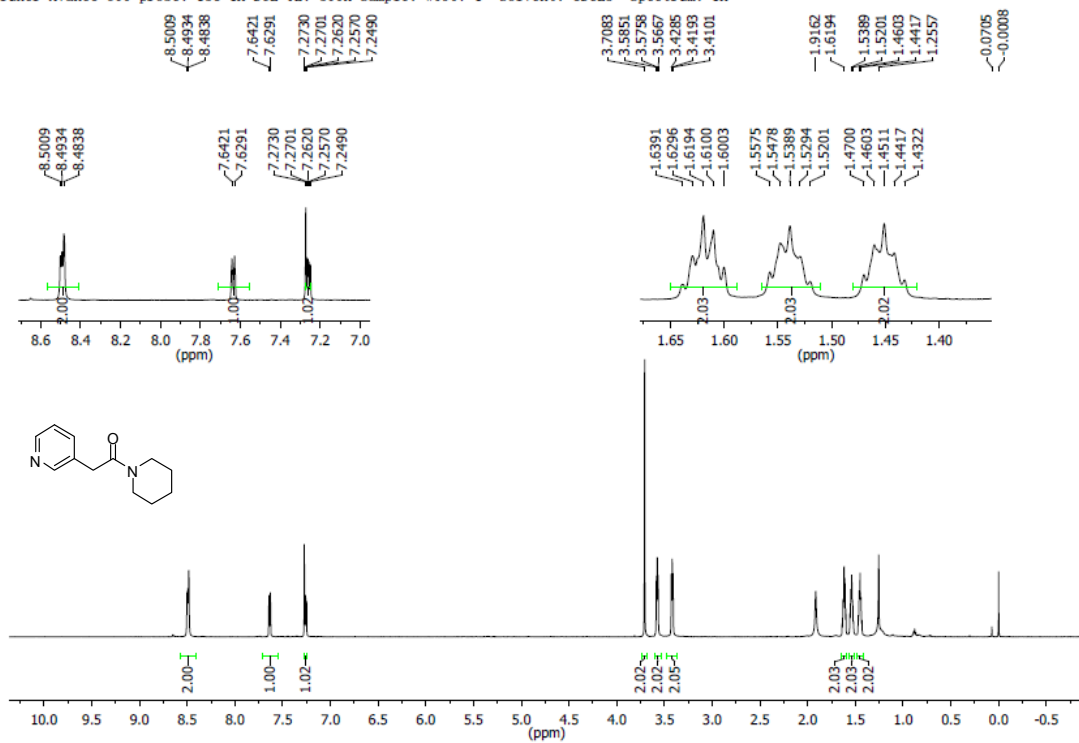




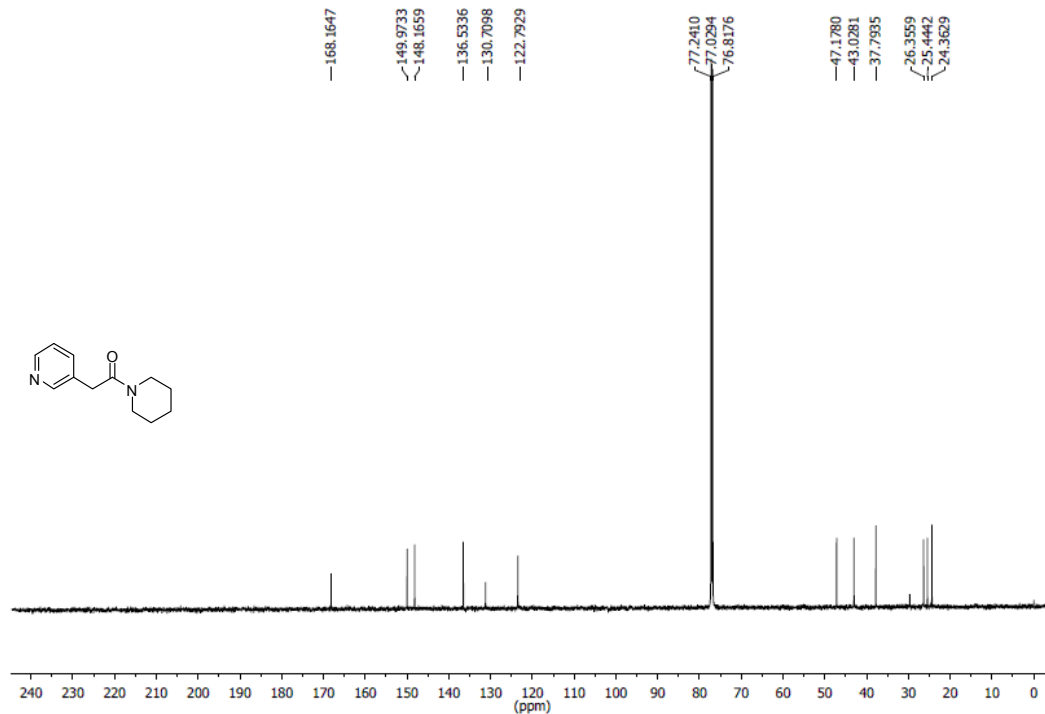
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Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: W0907-1 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



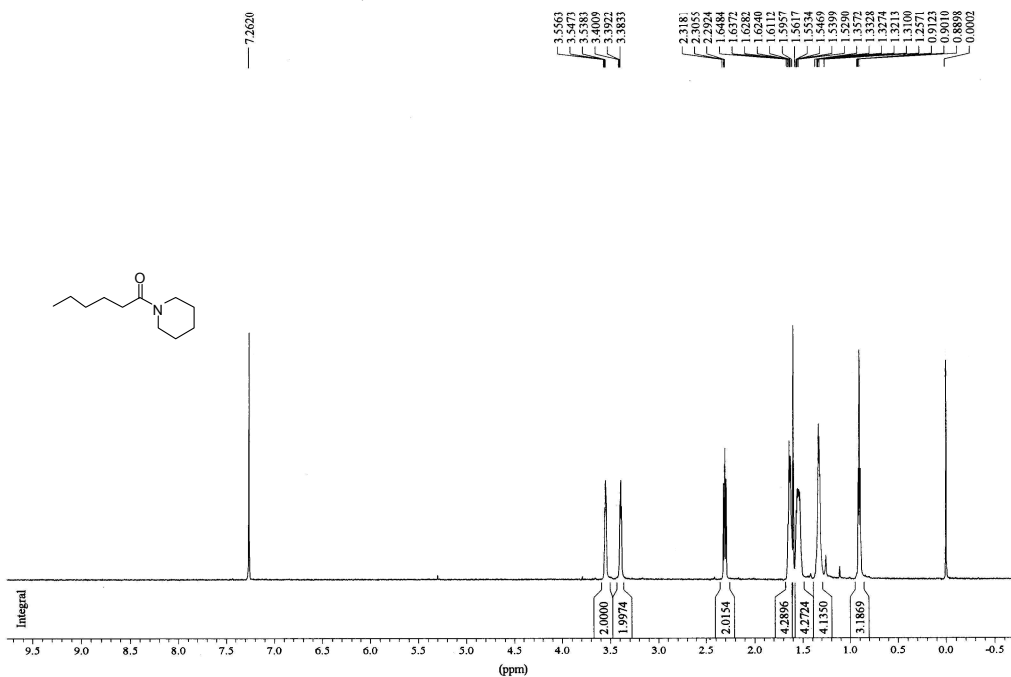
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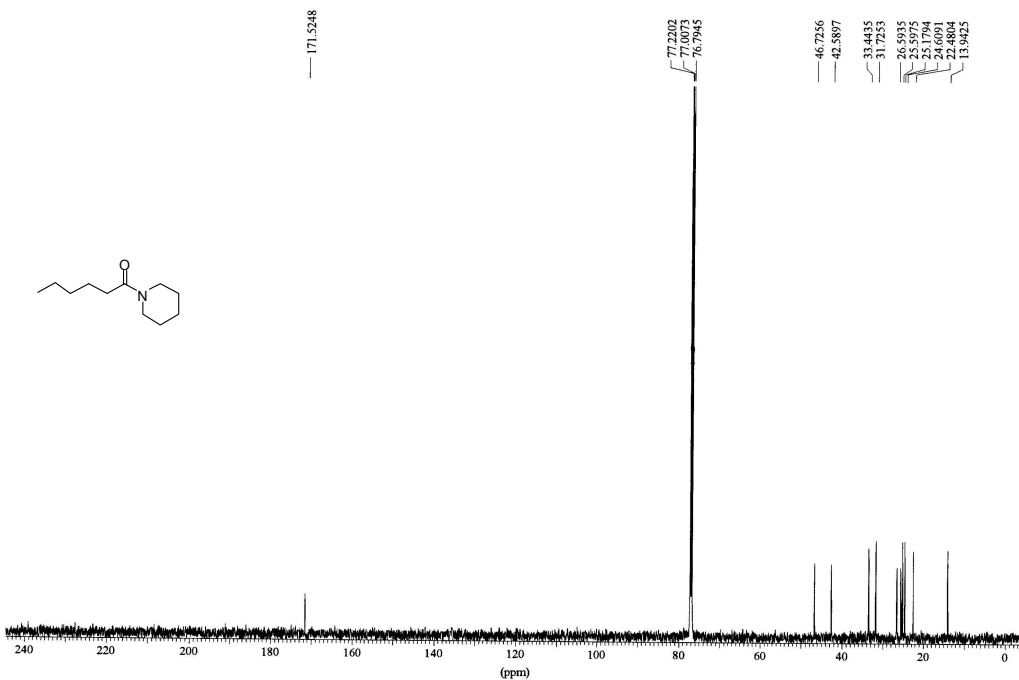




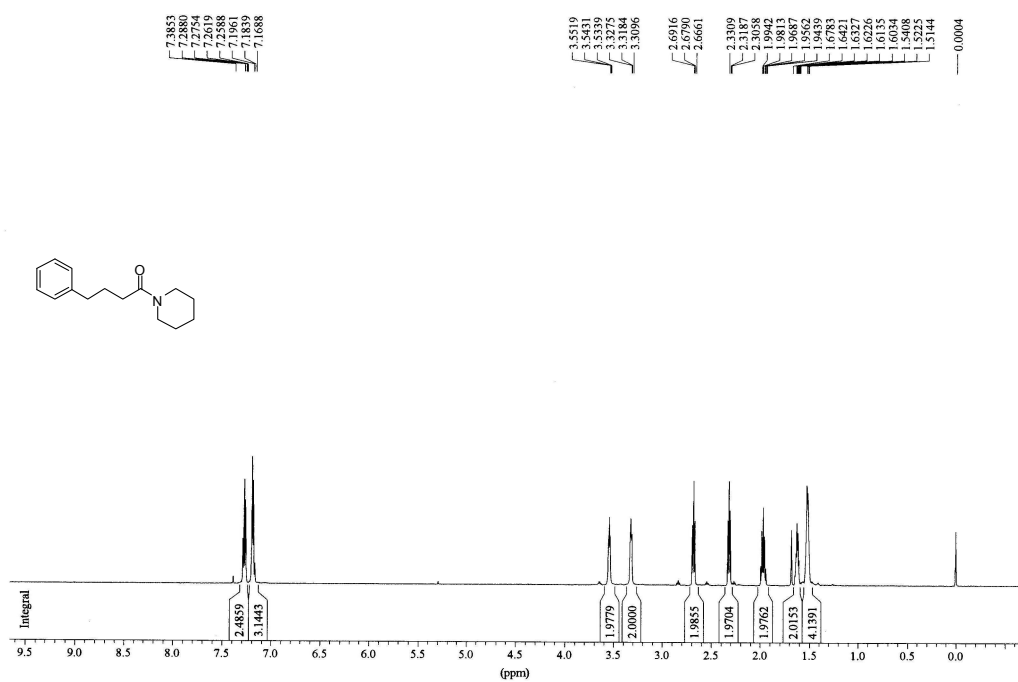
Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1206-4A solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1206-4 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C



Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1210-6 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 1H



Bruker Avance 600 probe: 13C-1H DUL TE: 300K sample: WW1210-6 solvent: CDCL3 spectrum: 13C

