

## Supporting Information

### Photocatalytic Intramolecular Radical Cyclization involved

### Synergistic SET & HAT: Synthesis of 3,3-Difluoro- $\gamma$ -Lactams

Xiaohui Zhuang,<sup>‡</sup> Xiayue Shi,<sup>†</sup> Rui Zhu,<sup>†</sup> Bin Sun,<sup>\*,‡</sup> WeiKe Su<sup>\*,‡</sup> and Can Jin<sup>\*,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup> College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310014, P. R. China.

<sup>‡</sup> Collaborative Innovation Center of Yangtze River Delta Region Green Pharmaceuticals, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310014, P. R. China.

[jincan@zjut.edu.cn](mailto:jincan@zjut.edu.cn); [sunbin@zjut.edu.cn](mailto:sunbin@zjut.edu.cn)

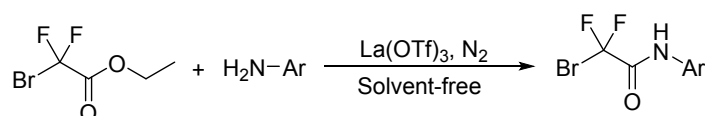
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## I. General Information

All reactions were run in a sealed tube with a Teflon plug valve under an ambient N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. All commercially available reagent grade chemicals and solvents were used as received without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) and <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz) spectra are reported relative to chemical shift of tetramethylsilane (TMS). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations are used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. For HRMS (ESI) measurements, the mass analyzer is micrOTOF-Q.

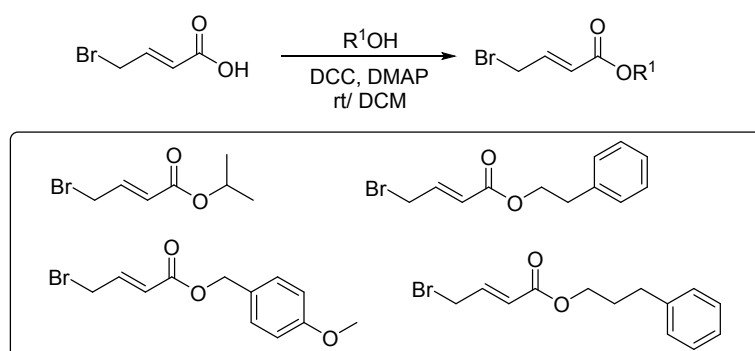
## II. Preparation of substrates

### (1) Preparation of the *N*-substituted-2-bromo-2,2-difluoroacetamide<sup>[1]</sup>



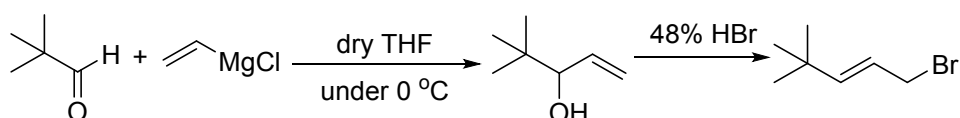
A 10 mL Schlenk bomb was charged with lanthanum trifluoromethanesulfonate (La(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, 0.25 mmol, 5 mol%), ethyl bromodifluoroacetate (6.0 mmol) and amine (5.0 mmol) in an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> at the room temperature. The mixture was monitored by TLC. After the amine was exhausted, purification by chromatography on silica gel afforded the target amides.

### (2) Preparation of the 4-bromocrotonates<sup>[2]</sup>



To a solution of 4-bromocrotonic acid (1.0 equiv.) in DCM, alcohol (R<sup>1</sup>OH, 1.0 equiv.) and DMAP (0.1 equiv.) was added. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C and DCC was added portionwise. Then, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. After the 4-bromocrotonic was exhausted, the mixture was filtered through short celite-pad and the residue was washed with DCM. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure, and the resulted residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 30: 1) to afford the desired 4-bromocrotonates as colorless oil.

### (3) Preparation of the 1-bromo-4,4-dimethylpent-2-ene<sup>[3]</sup>

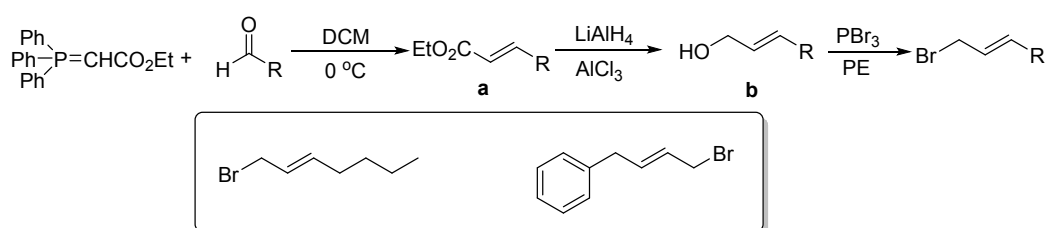


A 100 mL two necked round bottomed flask was charged with the appropriate aldehyde (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), which was dissolved in 35 mL of dry THF in an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C. The

vinyl magnesium chloride 2M solution in THF (30 mL, 30 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After completion by TLC, the round bottomed flask was placed into an ice bath and 30 mL of saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride was added. Then 30 mL of ether was added and the aqueous phase was extracted two times. The combined organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude which was used in the next step without further purification.

The tertiary alcohol (1.0 equiv., 10 mmol) was diluted in a mixture of pentane: ether = 9:1 and HBr (48% aq., 5 mL) was added under vigorous stirring. After 10 min, the water phase was removed using a separation funnel. The organic phase was washed with saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate and then dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated and the desired product was afforded as colorless oil.

#### (4) Preparation of the 1-substituted-3-bromopropene <sup>[4-5]</sup>

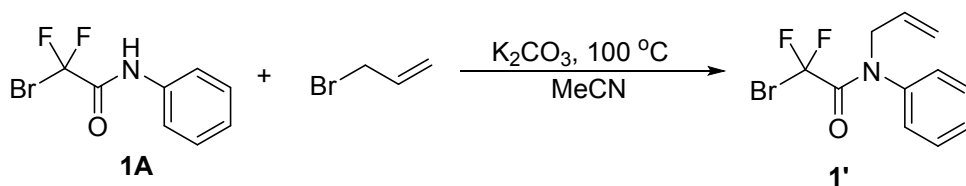


A 100 mL single necked round bottomed flask was charged with the [(ethoxycarbonyl)methylene]triphenylphosphorane (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DCM (20 mL) at 0 °C. The Pentanal or Phenylacetaldehyde (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (20 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. Then the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, and petroleum ether (200 mL) was added into the residue. The resulting solid material was collected by filtration and washed with the same solvent. After the combined extract solution was concentrated, the residual oil was distilled to give desired crude **a** as colorless oil.

To an ice-cold, stirred suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (1.5 equiv.) in ether (20 mL) was added dropwise a solution of AlCl<sub>3</sub> (1.5 equiv.) in ether (10 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and ice-cooled again. To this cold mixture was added dropwise a solution of **a** (1.0 equiv.) in ether (20 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of ether saturated with water followed by 10% NaOH. The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the ethereal solution was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was distilled to give the desired crude **b** as colorless oil.

To a stirred solution of **b** (1.0 equiv.) in petroleum ether (30 mL) was added dropwise a solution of PBr<sub>3</sub> (1.7 equiv.) in the same solvent (20 mL) at -10 °C. After 2 h, the mixture was poured into ice-water (100 mL) and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with ether, and the combined organic phase was washed with 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was distilled to give the desired crude 1-substituted-3-bromopropene.

#### (5) Preparation of *N*-allyl(but-3-en-1-yl/ propargyl)-2-bromo-2,2-difluoro-*N*-arylacamide (**1'** as an example)<sup>[6]</sup>

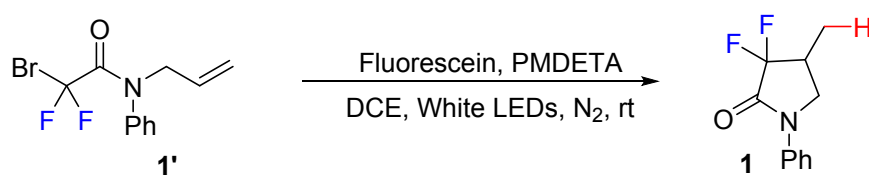


To a solution of the 2-bromo-2,2-difluoro-*N*-phenylacetamide **1A** (1.25 g, 5.0 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (25 mL), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.07 g, 15 mmol) and 3-bromopropene (1.21 g, 10 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C and monitored by TLC. After the amide was exhausted, the mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give the desired product **1'**.

### III. Reference

- [1] C. P. Chen, R. S. Zeng, J. Y. Zhang, Y. S. Zhao, *Org. Lett.*, 2018, **20**, 888.
- [2] A. D. G. Yamagata, S. Datta, K. E. Jackson, L. Stegbauer, R. S. Paton, D. J. Dixon, *Angew. Chem.*, 2015, **127**, 4981.
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- [5] N. B. Kondekar, S. R. V. Kandula, P. Kumar, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2004, **45**, 5477.
- [6] K. Sun, S. N. Wang, R. R. Feng, Y. X. Zhang, X. Wang, Z. G. Zhang, B. Zhang, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 2052.

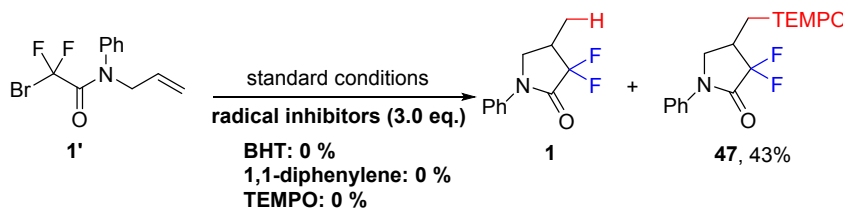
### IV. General procedure for the synthesis of intramolecular cyclization product (**1** as an example)



A 10mL Schlenk bomb was charged with Fluorescein (8.3 mg, 10 mol%), **1'** (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and PMDETA (87.0 mg, 2.0 equiv.) in DCE (2 mL). Then the reaction was stirred under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere upon irradiation of 3W white LEDs at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After completed, the mixture was quenched with water (15 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL × 3). The combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to leave a residue, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (60:1) as an eluent to give pure products **1** as a white solid.

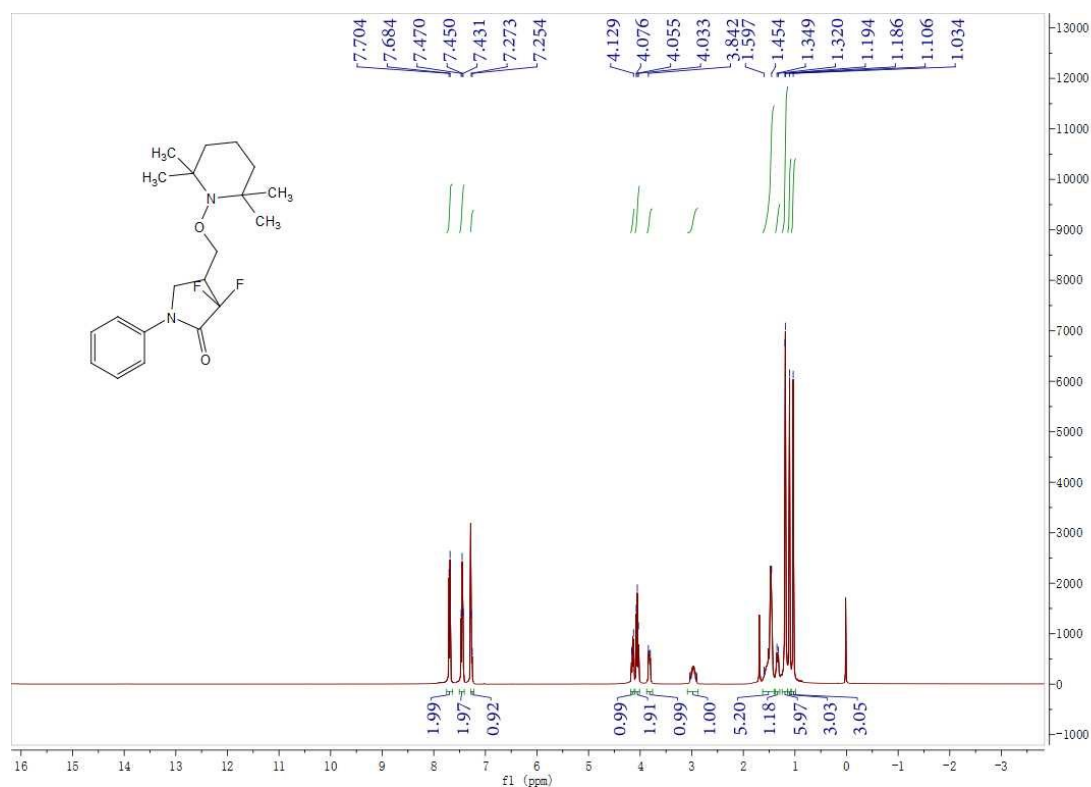
### V. Control experiment

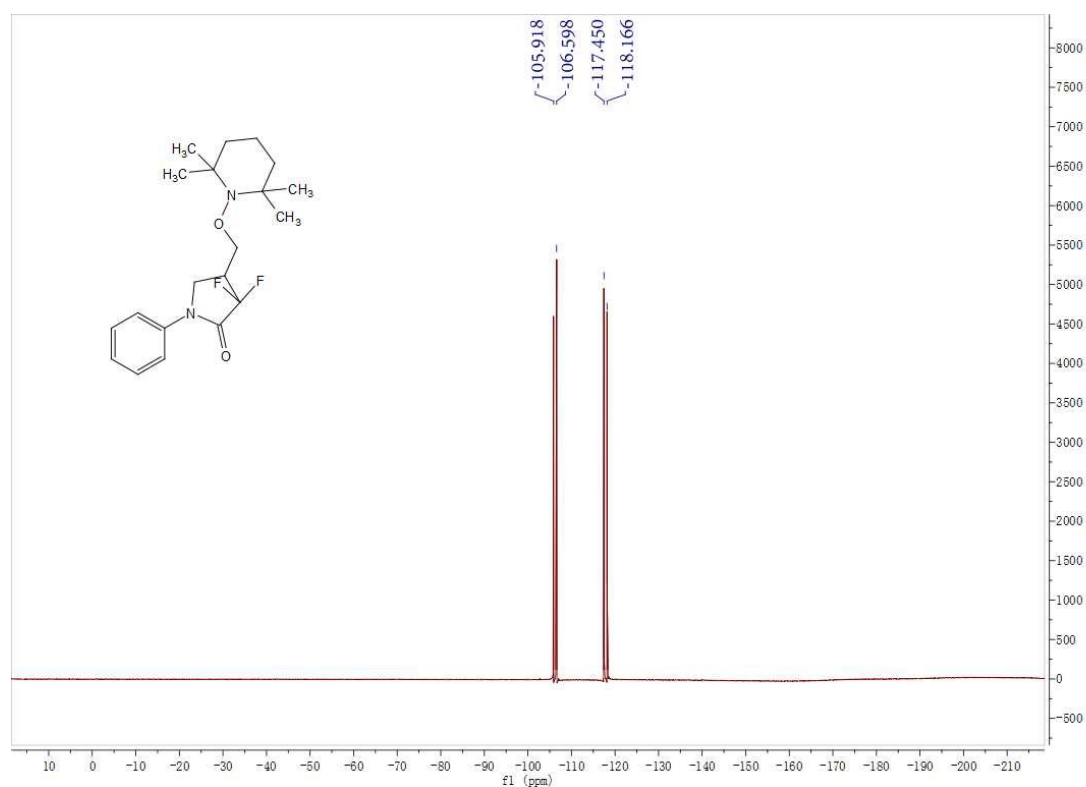
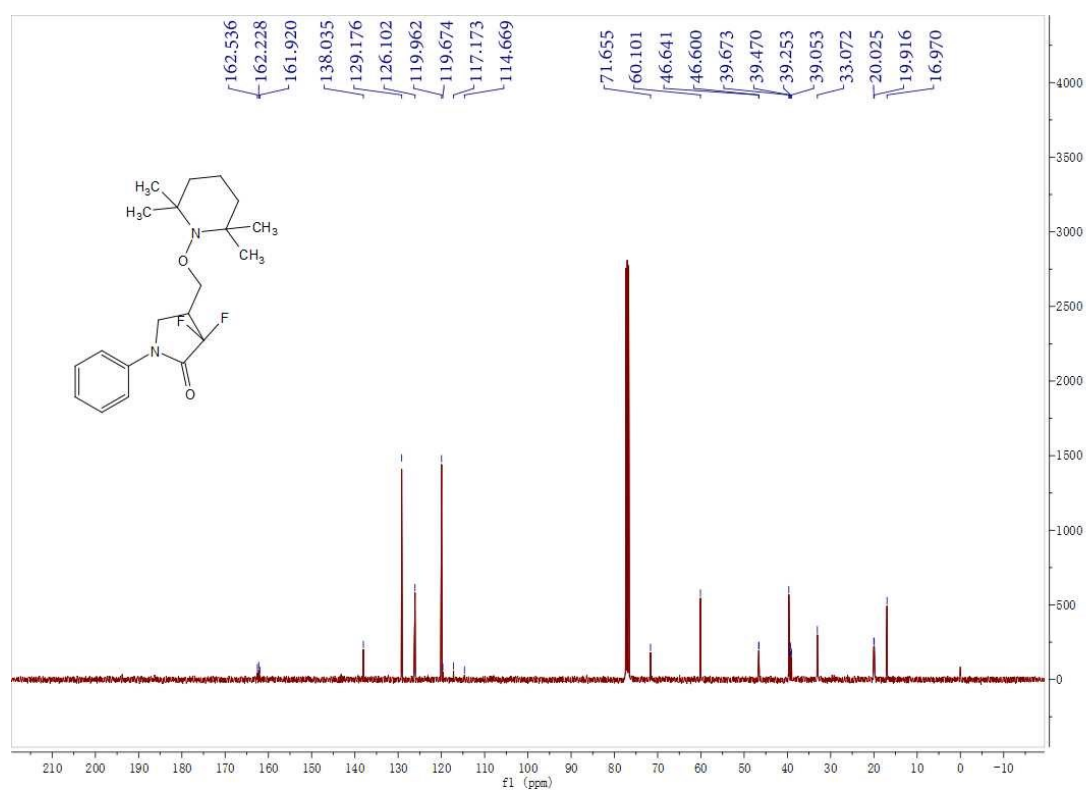
#### (1) Radical trapping



The radical trapping experiment were conduct with *N*-allyl-2-bromo-2,2-difluoro-*N*-phenylacetamide **1'** under the standard conditions with three different trapping agents to capture the radical intermediates expected in our system. After the reaction was completed, no desired product **1** was

detected by TLC, indicating that the reaction was completely inhibited. Meanwhile, it was found that TEMPO, the most common trapping agent, captured alkyl radical and the adduct **47** was isolated in a yield of 43%, the structure of which was confirmed by NMR (Figure S1). White solid, m. p. 123.4-124.5 °C, 43% (39 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.16-4.12 (m, 1H), 4.05 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.84-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.03-2.90 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.45 (m, 5H), 1.33 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 6H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 162.22 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 30.8$  Hz) 138.03, 129.17, 126.10, 119.96, 117.17 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 250.1$  Hz), 71.65, 60.10, 46.62 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 4.1$  Hz), 39.67, 39.25 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 21.7$  Hz), 33.07, 19.97 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 10.9$  Hz), 16.97.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : -106.25 (d,  $J = 255.6$  Hz), -117.80 (d,  $J = 269.2$  Hz). HRMS:  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , found: 367.2191, calculated: 367.2192.



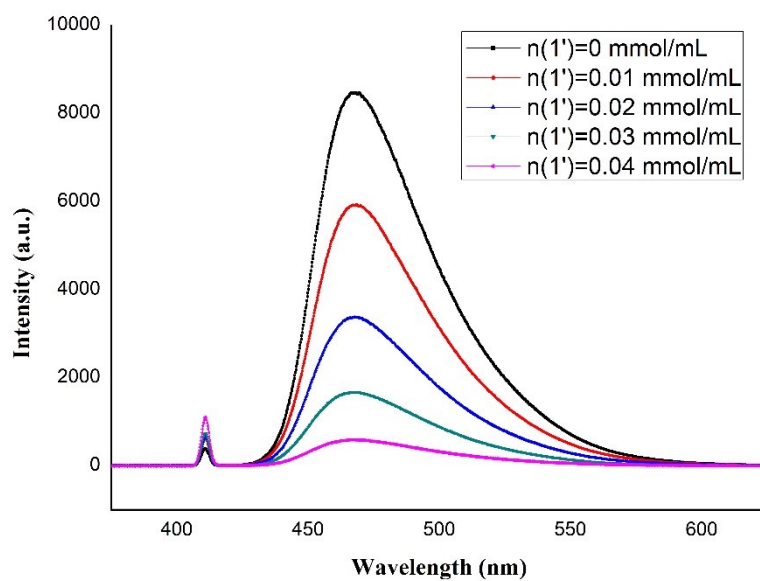


**Figure S1:** NMR of the adduct **47** of functionalized alkyl radical with TEMPO

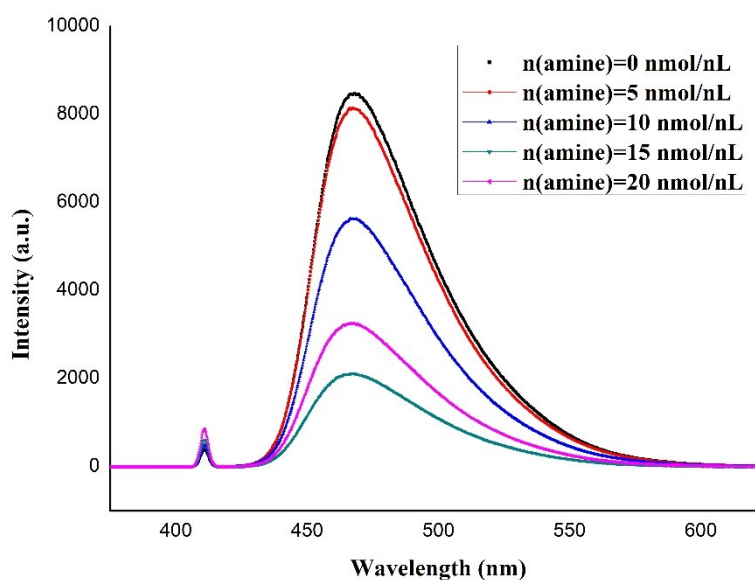
## (2) Luminescence quenching screening studies

All Fluorescein solution were irradiated 410 nm approximately and the emission intensity from 350 nm to 650 nm was recorded by F-7000 FL Spectrophotometer. A 4 mL solution of Fluorescein in MeCN (0.001 mmol/mL) was added **1'** (0.04 mmol, 0.08 mmol, 0.16 mmol, 0.32 mmol in turn)

or PMDETA (0.020  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.040  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.060  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.080  $\mu\text{mol}$  in turn). Then the emission intensity was collected and the results were presented in Figure S2-S3.

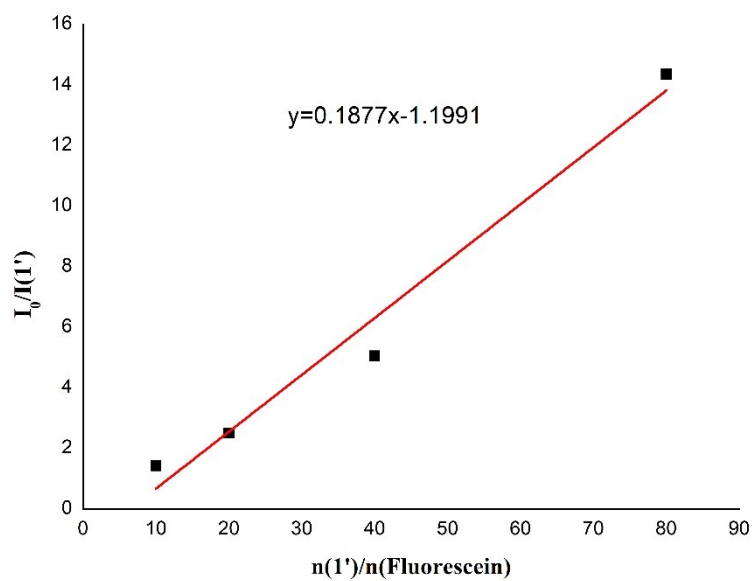


**Figure S2:** Fluorescence quenching of Fluorescein by 1'

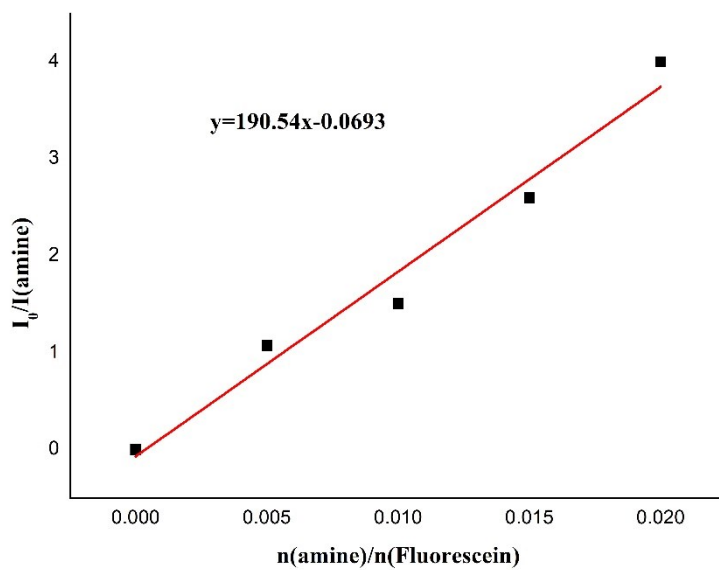


**Figure S3:** Fluorescence quenching of Fluorescein by PMDETA

An indeed fluorescence quenching phenomenon of fluorescein under various concentrations of 1' or PMDETA was demonstrated in a curve of  $[I_0/I]$  vs  $[C/C_0]$ , as shown in Figure S4-S5.



**Figure S4:** Stern-Volmer plot of Fluorescein by 1'

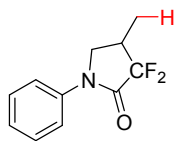


**Figure S5:** Stern-Volmer plot of Fluorescein by PMDETA



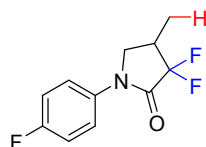
## VI. Characterization data for the products (reactions was conducted at 0.25 mmol scale).

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (1)



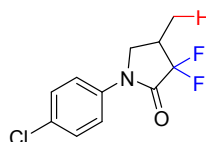
White solid, m. p. 93.2-95.4 °C, 80% (43 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85-2.72 (m, 1H), 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.56 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz) 138.04, 129.18, 126.08, 119.88, 117.70 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 250.8 Hz), 49.87 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 34.75 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 10.02 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.03 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz), -119.51 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 212.0866, calculated: 212.0881.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (2)



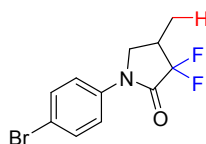
White solid, m. p. 73.5-75.5 °C, 79% (45mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.66-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.34 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.49 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.5 Hz), 160.33 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.0 Hz), 134.11 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.8 Hz), 121.72 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz), 117.59 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.1 Hz), 116.01 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 22.5 Hz), 50.10 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 10.01 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.04 (d, *J* = 266.2 Hz), -115.21, -119.45 (d, *J* = 266.2 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 230.0782, calculated: 230.0787.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (3)



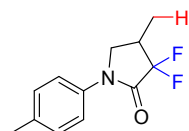
White solid, m. p. 97.4-98.9 °C, 70% (43 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.55 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.6 Hz), 136.58, 131.37, 129.25, 120.95, 117.46 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 251.2 Hz), 49.78 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.69 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 9.97 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.08 (d, *J* = 266.6 Hz), -119.41 (d, *J* = 266.2 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, found: 268.0315, calculated: 268.0311.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4)



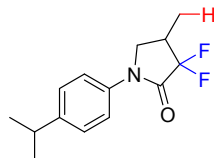
White solid, m. p. 111.9-113.5 °C, 73% (53 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.59-7.54 (m, 4H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.57 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.8 Hz), 137.07, 132.22, 121.22, 119.13, 117.47 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.8 Hz), 49.70 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.66 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 9.97 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.11 (d, *J* = 266.2 Hz), -119.38 (d, *J* = 266.2 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 311.9808, calculated: 311.9806.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (5)



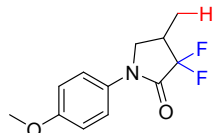
White solid, m. p. 72.8-74.4 °C, 77% (43 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.39 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.5 Hz), 135.95, 135.54, 129.69, 119.88, 117.76 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 248.9 Hz), 49.98 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.6 Hz), 20.93, 10.05 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.88 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -119.43 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 226.1034, calculated: 226.1038.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (6)



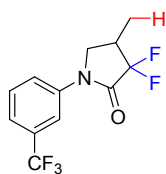
White solid, m. p. 116.5-118.3 °C, 65% (41 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.97-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.69 (m, 1H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.42 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.1 Hz), 146.97, 135.74, 127.12, 120.01, 117.78 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 250.3 Hz), 50.00 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 34.80 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 33.69, 23.93, 10.09 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.90 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -119.51 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 276.1168, calculated: 276.1170.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (7)



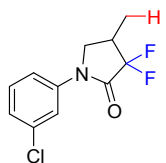
White solid, m. p. 112.0-113.7 °C, 75% (45 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.58-7.54 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.93 (m, 2H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.82-2.69 (m, 1H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.25 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 157.62, 131.14, 121.61, 117.79 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 250.6 Hz), 114.43, 55.50, 50.26 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.82 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 10.88 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.78 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz), -119.37 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 242.0981, calculated: 242.0987.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (8)



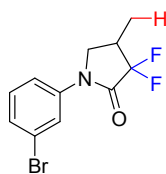
White solid, m. p. 71.2-73.8 °C, 81% (56 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.98 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.51 (m, 2H), 4.01 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.56 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.88-2.71 (m, 1H), 1.36 (dd,  $J = 6.8$  Hz,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 162.82 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 32.0$  Hz), 138.55, 131.65 (q,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 32.6$  Hz), 129.86, 123.63 (q,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 270.8$  Hz), 122.93, 122.55 (q,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 3.7$  Hz), 117.35 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 249.4$  Hz), 116.20 (q,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 3.8$  Hz), 49.68 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 6.1$  Hz), 34.73 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 21.7$  Hz), 9.93 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : -62.76, -111.32 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz), -119.50 (d,  $J = 266.9$  Hz). HRMS:  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_5\text{NNaO}$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$ ; found: 302.0568, calculated: 302.0575.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-chlorophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (9)



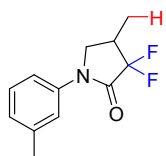
White solid, m. p. 79.9-81.4 °C, 83% (51 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.70 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 162.66 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 31.7$  Hz), 139.10, 134.96, 130.21, 126.08, 119.84, 117.73, 117.43 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 251.1$  Hz), 49.73 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 6.1$  Hz), 34.69 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 21.7$  Hz), 9.96 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : -111.19 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz), -119.47 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz). HRMS:  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClF}_2\text{NNaO}$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$ ; found: 268.0307, calculated: 268.0311.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-bromophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (10)



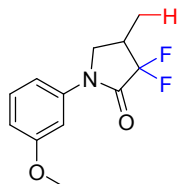
White solid, m. p. 82.6-84.7 °C, 82% (59 mg);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.83 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.34 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 162.64 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 31.6$  Hz), 139.23, 130.48, 129.03, 122.86, 122.63, 118.28, 117.39 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 250.6$  Hz), 49.73 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 6.2$  Hz), 34.70 (t,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 21.8$  Hz), 9.98 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.0$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : -111.19 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz), -119.46 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz). HRMS:  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrF}_2\text{NO}$  [ $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ] $^+$ ; found: 289.9978, calculated: 289.9987.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-methylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (11)



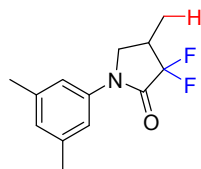
White solid, M. P. 63.8-65.5 °C, 64% (36 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.33 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.52 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.2 Hz), 139.19, 137.97, 128.98, 126.92, 120.66, 117.73 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.1 Hz), 117.03, 50.00 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 34.78 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.6 Hz), 21.57, 10.04 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.96 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -119.56 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 226.1030, calculated: 226.1038.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (12)



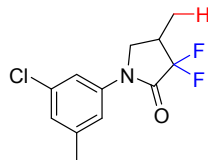
White solid, m. p. 55.1-56.5 °C, 52% (31 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.82-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.62 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 160.15, 139.21, 129.87, 117.69 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.4 Hz), 111.77, 111.71, 106.01, 55.43, 49.96 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.69 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.6 Hz), 10.01 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.01 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -119.48 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 242.0984, calculated: 242.0987.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (13)



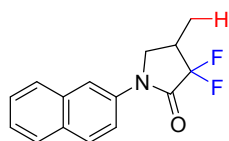
White solid, m. p. 55.5-57.0 °C, 69% (33 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.27 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.67 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 1.32 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.49 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.2 Hz), 138.94, 137.91, 127.87, 117.87, 117.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.1 Hz), 50.14 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 34.79 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 21.45, 10.04 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.92 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -119.59 (d, *J* = 266.0 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 240.1190, calculated: 240.1194.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-chloro-5-dimethylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (14)



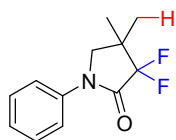
White solid, m. p. 52.5-54.1 °C, 80% (52 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.33 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.62 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 140.73, 138.87, 134.56, 126.79, 118.63, 117.46 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 251.0 Hz), 117.01, 49.85 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz), 34.69 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.7 Hz), 21.46, 9.96 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.14 (d, *J* = 266.5 Hz), -119.50 (d, *J* = 266.5 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 282.0464, calculated: 282.0468.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one (15)



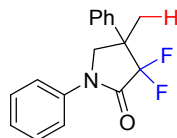
White solid, m. p. 157.9-159.7 °C, 82% (54mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.97-7.83 (m, 5H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.74 (m, 1H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.73 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.5 Hz) 135.68, 133.29, 131.37, 129.10, 127.86, 127.63, 126.84, 126.04, 118.99, 117.71 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 250.4 Hz), 117.50, 50.15 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz), 34.84 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.6 Hz), 10.42 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.83 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz), -119.35 (d, *J* = 265.8 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup> found:262,1043, calculated: 262.1038.

### 3,3-difluoro-4,4-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (16)



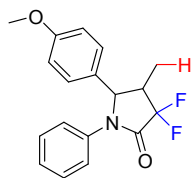
White solid, m. p. 51.4-53.6 °C, 71% (40 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 1.31 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.58 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.4 Hz), 138.24, 129.19, 125.97, 119.79, 118.50 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 253.3 Hz), 56.68 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.9 Hz), 38.38 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 19.74 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 4.4 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -120.69 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 226.1033, calculated: 226.1038.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1,4-diphenylpyrrolidin-2-one (17)



Colorless oil, 45% (32 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.36 (m, 7H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 9.6 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.29 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 32.8 Hz), 138.07, 137.94 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 129.34, 128.96, 127.91, 126.24, 126.20, 120.01, 118.03 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 259.4 Hz), 54.74 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.9 Hz), 46.09 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 18.5 Hz), 24.06 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.9 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.3 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.79 (d, *J* = 261.6 Hz), -120.58 (d, *J* = 262.0 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 288.1185, calculated: 288.1194.

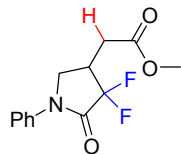
### 3,3-difluoro-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (18)



White solid, m. p. 84.2-86.6 °C, 40% (32 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.33-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 3H), 6.83-6.81 (m, 2H), 4.73 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.58-2.43 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 163.42 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.8 Hz), 159.68, 135.85, 128.81, 128.29, 126.44, 123.48, 117.33 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 237.14 Hz), 114.45, 65.18 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.0 Hz), 55.25, 45.51 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 20.9 Hz), 8.27 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -111.78 (d, *J* = 266.9

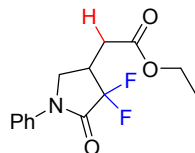
Hz), -119.00 (d,  $J = 266.5$  Hz). HRMS:  $C_{18}H_{18}F_2NO$  [ $M + H$ ] $^+$ ; found: 318.1299, calculated: 318.1300.

**methyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (19)**



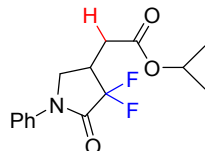
White solid, m. p. 75.7-77.6 °C, 72% (48mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.63 (t,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.21-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.96 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 171.00, 161.71 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 31.4$  Hz), 137.77, 129.22, 126.29, 119.97, 117.01 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 248.4$  Hz), 52.30, 48.54 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 5.9$  Hz), 36.32 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 20.0$  Hz), 30.38 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 7.5$  Hz).  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : -109.99 (d,  $J = 267.7$  Hz), -116.75 (d,  $J = 267.7$  Hz). HRMS:  $C_{13}H_{13}F_2NNaO_3$  [ $M + Na$ ] $^+$ ; found: 292.0752, calculated: 292.0756.

**ethyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (20)**



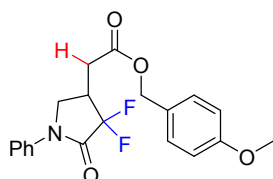
White solid, m. p. 66.1-67.6 °C, 77% (54mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.18 (m, 3H), 3.64 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.21-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.94 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 170.52, 161.77 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 30.4$  Hz), 137.81, 129.21, 126.27, 119.97, 117.05 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 248.5$  Hz), 61.36, 48.55 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 5.8$  Hz), 36.33 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 20.0$  Hz), 30.67 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 7.3$  Hz), 14.15.  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : -109.89 (d,  $J = 270.7$  Hz), -116.74 (d,  $J = 268.0$  Hz). HRMS:  $C_{14}H_{15}F_2NNaO_3$  [ $M + Na$ ] $^+$ ; found: 306.0898, calculated: 306.0912.

**isopropyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (21)**



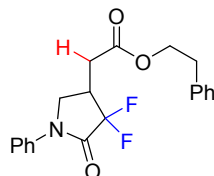
White solid, m.p. 80.5-82.3 °C, 60% (45mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 5.11-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.20 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.64 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.21-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.92 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.62 (dd,  $J = 17.2$  Hz,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : 169.97, 161.79 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 31.5$  Hz), 137.85, 129.19, 126.24, 119.98, 117.06 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 249.6$  Hz), 69.01, 48.55 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 5.9$  Hz), 36.38 (t,  $J_{F-C} = 20.1$  Hz), 31.03 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 7.2$  Hz), 21.75.  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$ : -109.85 (d,  $J = 254.1$  Hz), -116.67 (d,  $J = 267.7$  Hz). HRMS:  $C_{15}H_{17}F_2NNaO_3$  [ $M + Na$ ] $^+$ ; found: 320.1060, calculated: 320.1069.

**4-methoxybenzyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (22)**



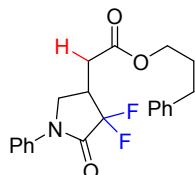
White solid, m. p. 86.9-88.2 °C, 55% (52mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.20-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 170.44, 161.73 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.6 Hz), 159.90, 137.75, 130.38, 129.22, 127.30, 126.28, 119.92, 117.01 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 248.5 Hz), 114.07, 67.02, 55.33, 48.44 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.9 Hz), 36.32 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 20.1 Hz), 30.70 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.3 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -109.93 (d, *J* = 267.3 Hz), -116.59 (d, *J* = 267.3 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 398.1168, calculated: 398.1174.

### 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (23)



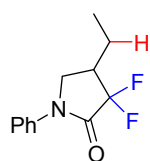
White solid, m. p. 77.7-79.3 °C, 73% (66mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.21 (m, 6H), 4.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.12-2.98 (m, 3H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 16.0 Hz, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 170.38, 161.73 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 137.74, 137.46, 129.19, 128.88, 128.62, 126.78, 126.28, 119.99, 117.02 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 252.5 Hz), 65.63, 48.40 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.8 Hz), 36.26 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 20.9 Hz), 34.97, 30.62 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.4 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.06 (d, *J* = 267.7 Hz), -116.76 (d, *J* = 267.3 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 382.1216, calculated: 382.1225.

### 3-phenylpropyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (24)



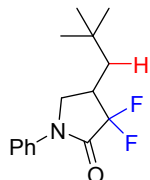
Colorless oil, 69% (65mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.21 (m, 6H), 4.22-4.15 (m, 3H), 3.62 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (dd, *J* = 17.2 Hz, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.07-2.00 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 170.57, 161.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 140.95, 137.80, 129.24, 128.53, 128.40, 126.29, 126.16, 119.95, 117.10 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 248.6 Hz), 64.83, 48.53 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.8 Hz), 36.22 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 32.23, 30.59 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.4 Hz), 30.00. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.09 (d, *J* = 267.3 Hz), -116.71 (d, *J* = 267.3 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 396.1378, calculated: 396.1382.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-ethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (25)



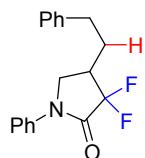
White solid, m. p. 72.7-74.5 °C, 48% (27 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.64-2.52 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 138.04, 129.18, 126.09, 119.93, 117.75 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 248.2 Hz), 48.46 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.9 Hz), 41.25 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.0 Hz), 18.94 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.2 Hz), 11.35. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.27 (d, *J* = 267.7 Hz), -118.75 (d, *J* = 267.7 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 248.0858, calculated: 248.0857.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-neopentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (26)



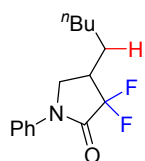
White solid, m. p. 110.8-112.7°C, 50% (28 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.73-2.60 (m, 1H), 1.93 (dd, *J* = 14.8 Hz, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (dd, *J* = 14.4 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.54 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.5 Hz), 137.93, 129.21, 126.14, 119.94, 117.74 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 253.1 Hz), 50.46 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.6 Hz), 39.06 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.3 Hz), 36.99 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.0 Hz), 30.22, 29.73. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -110.79 (d, *J* = 265.4 Hz), -116.90 (d, *J* = 233.8 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 290.1345, calculated: 290.1327.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-phenethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (27)



White solid, m. p. 83.2-84.8 °C, 42% (32 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 4H), 3.86 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.78 (m, 2H), 2.71-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.22 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.89 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.53 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.5 Hz), 140.41, 137.96, 129.18, 128.69, 128.40, 126.48, 126.12, 119.90, 117.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 248.1 Hz), 48.51 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.1 Hz), 38.92 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 20.9 Hz), 32.88, 27.28 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.6 Hz), 29.73. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.43 (d, *J* = 266.9 Hz), -117.99 (d, *J* = 266.9 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 302.1352, calculated: 302.1351.

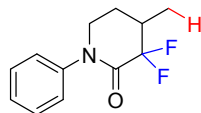
### 3,3-difluoro-4-pentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (28)





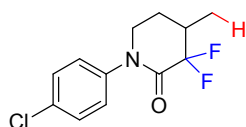
White solid, m. p. 52.7-54.9 °C, 39% (26 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70-2.58 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.36 (m, 7H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.80 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 32.2 Hz), 137.99, 129.21, 126.12, 119.89, 117.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 247.9 Hz), 48.65 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.1 Hz), 39.75 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.0 Hz), 31.71, 26.51, 25.45 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.5 Hz), 22.45, 14.05. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.77 (d, *J* = 266.9 Hz), -118.50 (d, *J* = 266.9 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 290.1321, calculated: 290.1327.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-phenylpiperidin-2-one (29)



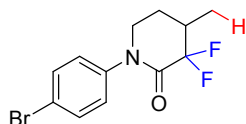
White solid, m. p. 98.7-101.1 °C, 75% (42 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.84-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.70-3.64 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.71 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.2 Hz), 141.29, 129.39, 127.62, 125.62, 113.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.6 Hz), 49.78, 36.27 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.9 Hz), 26.70 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.4 Hz), 11.88 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.85 (d, *J* = 278.2 Hz), -113.28 (d, *J* = 277.8 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 248.0857, calculated: 248.0857.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (30)



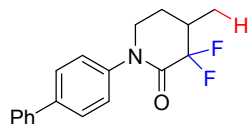
White solid, m. p. 121.6-123.3 °C, 68% (44 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.82-3.74 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.62 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.76 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.4 Hz), 139.69, 133.21, 129.51, 126.96, 113.64 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.0 Hz), 49.62, 36.26 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 26.66 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.3 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.4 Hz), 11.82 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.3 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.80 (d, *J* = 278.6 Hz), -113.27 (d, *J* = 278.6 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 282.0472, calculated: 282.0468.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (31)



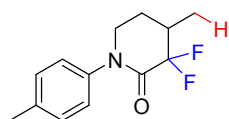
White solid, m. p. 138.9-140.6 °C, 64% (49 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.57-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.63 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.12-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.71 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.4 Hz), 140.22, 132.48, 127.28, 121.13 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.8 Hz), 113.64 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 246.2 Hz), 49.55, 36.24 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 26.65 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.2 Hz), 11.82 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.2 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.9 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.84 (d, *J* = 278.6 Hz), -113.21 (d, *J* = 278.6 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 304.0151, calculated: 304.0143.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (32)



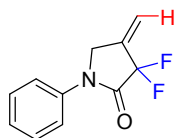
White solid, m. p. 182.8-184.4 °C, 62% (47 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.66-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 3.88-3.81 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.69 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.79 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 140.57, 140.39, 140.21, 128.83, 128.05, 127.58, 127.13, 125.86, 113.78 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.5 Hz), 49.69, 36.29 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 26.75 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.2 Hz), 11.88 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.69 (d, *J* = 278.2 Hz), -113.21 (d, *J* = 278.2 Hz). HRMS: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 302.1351, calculated: 302.1351.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-2-one (33)



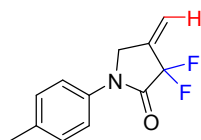
White solid, m. p. 121.6-123.3 °C, 61% (36 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.81-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.62 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.08-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.76 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.2 Hz), 138.63, 137.60, 130.04, 125.48, 113.77 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.7 Hz), 49.92, 36.26 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 21.8 Hz), 26.69 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.4 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.3 Hz), 21.12, 11.90 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 6.1 Hz, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -108.75 (d, *J* = 277.8 Hz), -113.38 (d, *J* = 277.8 Hz). HRMS C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 262.1013, calculated: 262.1014.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (34)



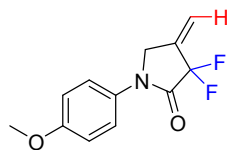
White solid, m. p. 114.1-115.6 °C, 75% (39 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 4.52 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.96 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.5 Hz), 137.57, 132.68 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 129.30, 126.43, 120.10, 118.30 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 110.84 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.9 Hz), 48.39 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.90. HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 210.0720, calculated: 210.0725.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (35)



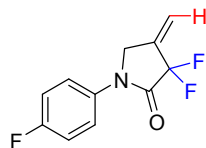
White solid, m. p. 132.5-134.2 °C, 70% (39 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.78 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 136.36, 135.05, 132.80 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 129.81, 120.08, 118.17 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 110.90 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.8 Hz), 48.48 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz), 20.97. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.79. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 224.0874, calculated: 224.0881.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (36)



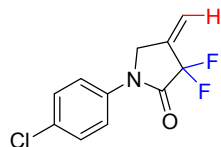
White solid, m. p. 125.3-126.9 °C, 66% (39 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.63 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.48 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.64 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.3 Hz), 157.84, 132.86 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.9 Hz), 130.60, 121.87, 118.09 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 114.43, 110.91 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.7 Hz), 55.52, 48.75 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.76. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 240.0828, calculated: 240.0831.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (37)



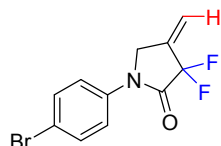
White solid, m. p. 115.7-117.8 °C, 42% (24 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.73-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.89 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.7 Hz), 161.66 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.6 Hz), 133.63 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.6 Hz), 132.42 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 20.0 Hz), 122.02 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.2 Hz), 118.52 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 116.15 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 22.5 Hz), 110.74 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.0 Hz), 48.62 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.83, -114.59. HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 228.0621, calculated: 228.0631.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (38)



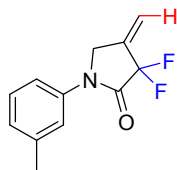
White solid, m. p. 143.8-145 °C, 44% (27 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 4.50 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.96 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.1 Hz), 136.12, 132.24 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 131.74, 129.38, 121.16, 118.65 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 110.64 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.0 Hz), 48.32 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.81. HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 244.0325, calculated: 244.0335.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (39)



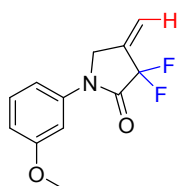
White solid, m. p. 149.1-150.5 °C, 43% (31 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.66-7.56 (m, 4H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.97 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.0 Hz), 136.63, 132.34, 121.41, 119.53, 118.68, 110.63 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.3 Hz), 99.99, 48.25 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.3 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.79. HRMS: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found: 287.9822, calculated: 287.9830.

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-(*m*-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (40)



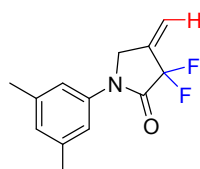
White solid, m. p. 97.7-99.6 °C, 58% (32 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.92 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 139.33, 137.49, 132.79 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 129.09, 127.28, 120.09, 118.17 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 117.26, 110.86 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.8 Hz), 48.53 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz), 21.59. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.92. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 224.0878, calculated: 224.0881.

### 3,3-difluoro-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylenepyrrrolidin-2-one (41)



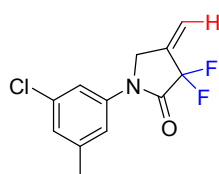
White solid, m. p. 78.3-80.2 °C, 55% (33 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.47 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 4.50 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.02 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.6 Hz), 160.20, 138.73, 132.57 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 129.97, 118.34 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 112.11, 111.88, 110.84 (t *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.8 Hz), 106.25, 55.46, 48.52 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.3 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.82. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 240.0827, calculated: 240.0831.

### 1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3,3-difluoro-4-methylenepyrrrolidin-2-one (42)



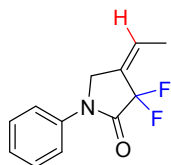
White solid, m. p. 91.4-93.6 °C, 47% (28 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.32 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.49 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 161.91 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.4 Hz), 139.08, 137.41, 132.89 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 128.26, 118.11, 118.07, 110.91 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.7 Hz), 48.68 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 12.1 Hz), 21.49. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.91. HRMS: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 238.1027, calculated: 238.1038.

### 1-(3-chloro-5-methylphenyl)-3,3-difluoro-4-methylenepyrrrolidin-2-one (43)



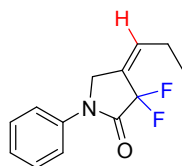
White solid, m. p. 81.6-83.0 °C, 55% (36 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 4.49 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.02 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.8 Hz), 140.87, 138.42, 134.69, 132.30 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.8 Hz), 127.13, 118.83, 118.57, 117.24, 110.64 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245.1 Hz), 48.41 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.3 Hz), 21.46. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -102.85. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClF<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 258.0484, calculated: 258.0492.

#### 4-ethylidene-3,3-difluoro-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (44)



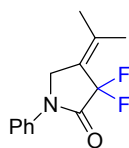
White solid, m. p. 99.2-100.9 °C, 89% (50 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.74 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.57-6.50 (m, 1H), 6.27-6.20 (s, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 2.11-2.08 (m, 3H), 1.92-1.89 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.58 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.8 Hz), 162.48 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.0 Hz), 137.77, 137.65, 133.62, 130.60, 129.26, 129.24, 126.33, 126.30, 124.91 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.7 Hz), 123.14 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 18.4 Hz), 120.19, 120.08, 112.42 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 243.6 Hz), 111.28 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 242.8 Hz), 48.40 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 46.60 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.2 Hz), 14.38, 14.18 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.1 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -99.29, -100.67. HRMS: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 224.0874, calculated: 224.0881.

#### 3,3-difluoro-1-phenyl-4-propylidenepyrrolidin-2-one (45)



White solid, m. p. 91.3-92.7 °C, 82% (49 mg); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.47-6.42 (m, 1H), 6.17-6.12 (s, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 2.56-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.12 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.56 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.9 Hz), 162.49 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 140.29, 137.77, 137.66, 137.03, 129.26, 129.25, 126.32, 126.30, 123.37 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 19.6 Hz), 121.79 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 18.6 Hz), 120.17, 120.10, 112.40 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 244.1 Hz), 111.41 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 243.0 Hz), 48.33 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 46.54 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.3 Hz), 22.18 22.11 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.0 Hz), 13.65 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.4 Hz), 12.84 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.0 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -99.29, -99.99. HRMS: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO [M + H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 238.1032, calculated: 238.1038.

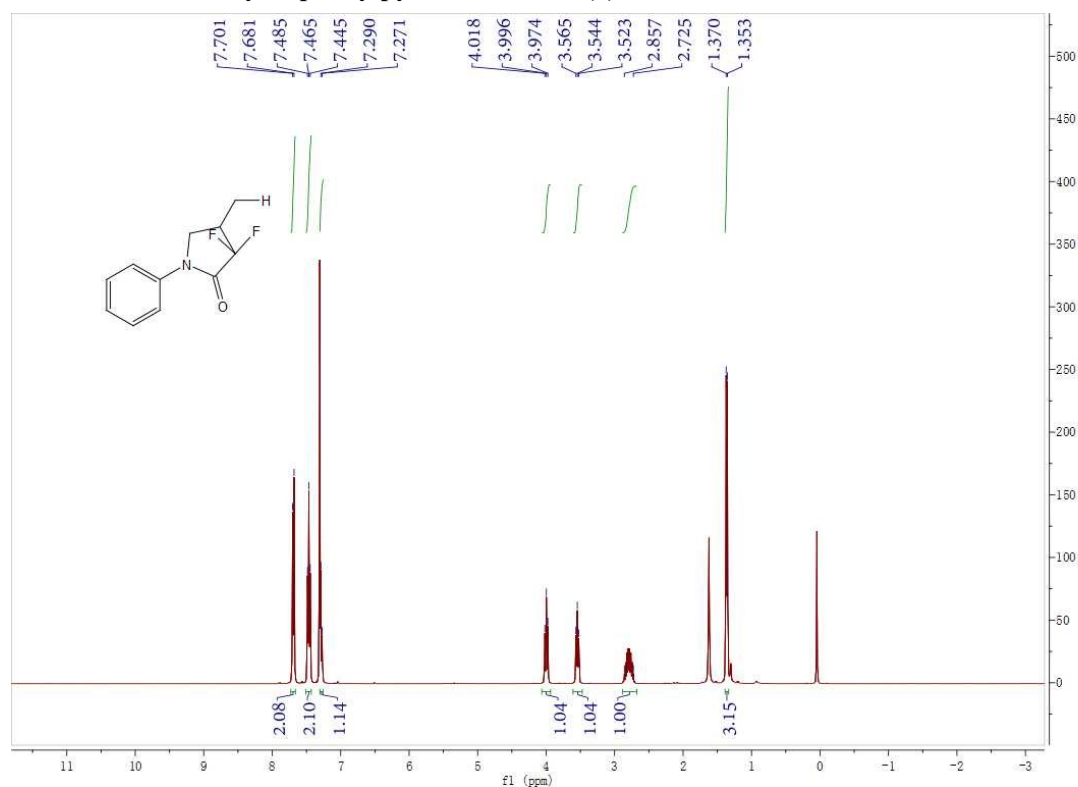
#### 3,3-difluoro-1-phenyl-4-(propan-2-ylidene)pyrrolidin-2-one (46)

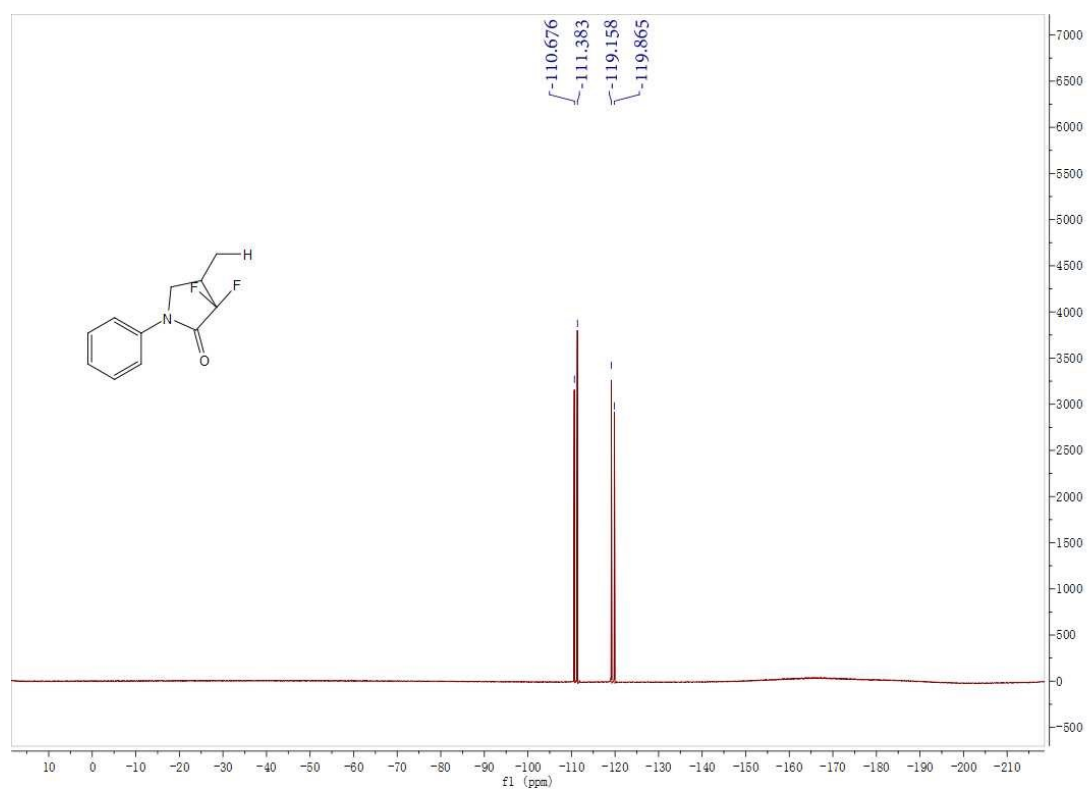
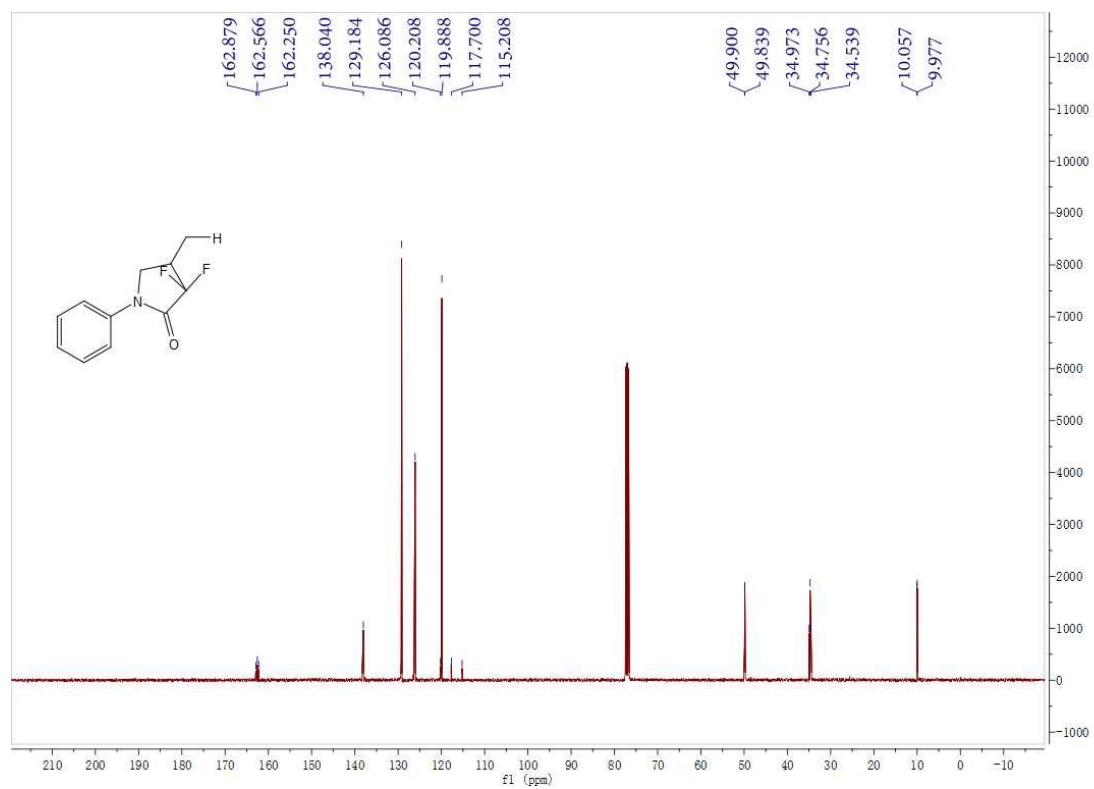


White solid, m. p. 139.2-141.7 °C, 68% (40mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.89 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 162.86 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 143.64, 137.78, 129.23, 126.26, 120.23, 116.90 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 18.4 Hz), 112.59 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 242.2 Hz), 47.81 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.9 Hz), 21.27 (t, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.4 Hz), 20.61. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: -97.70. HRMS: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NNaO [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 260.0847, calculated: 260.0857.

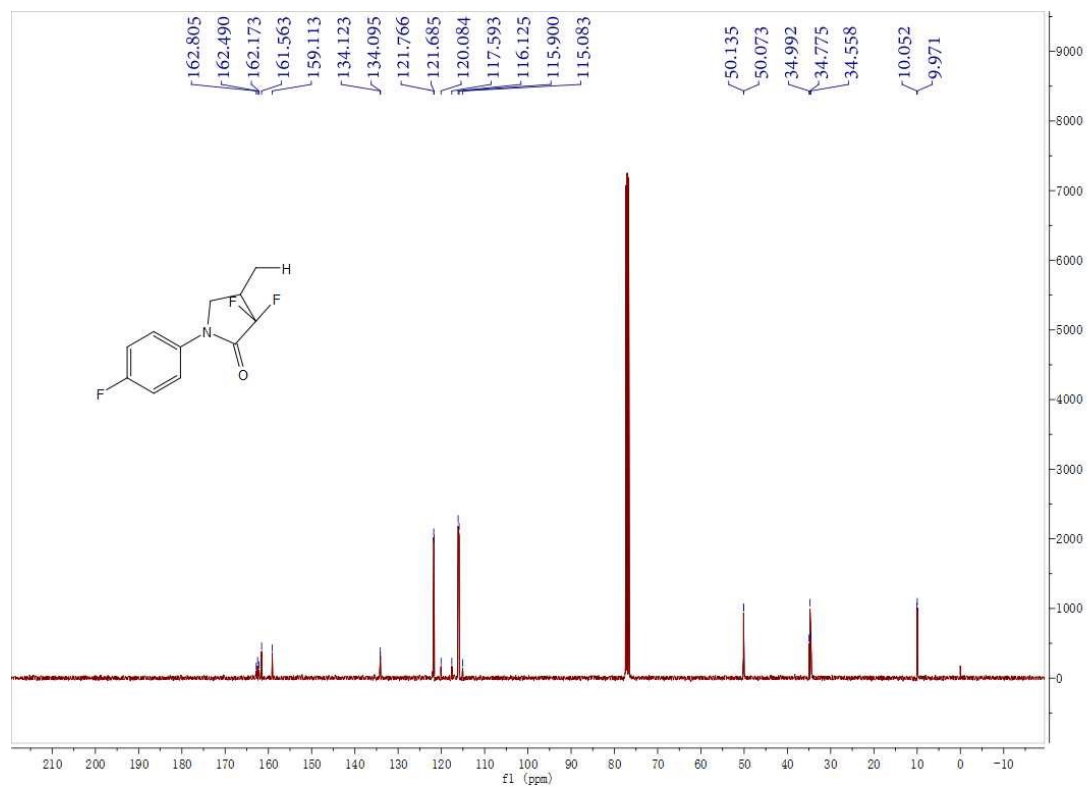
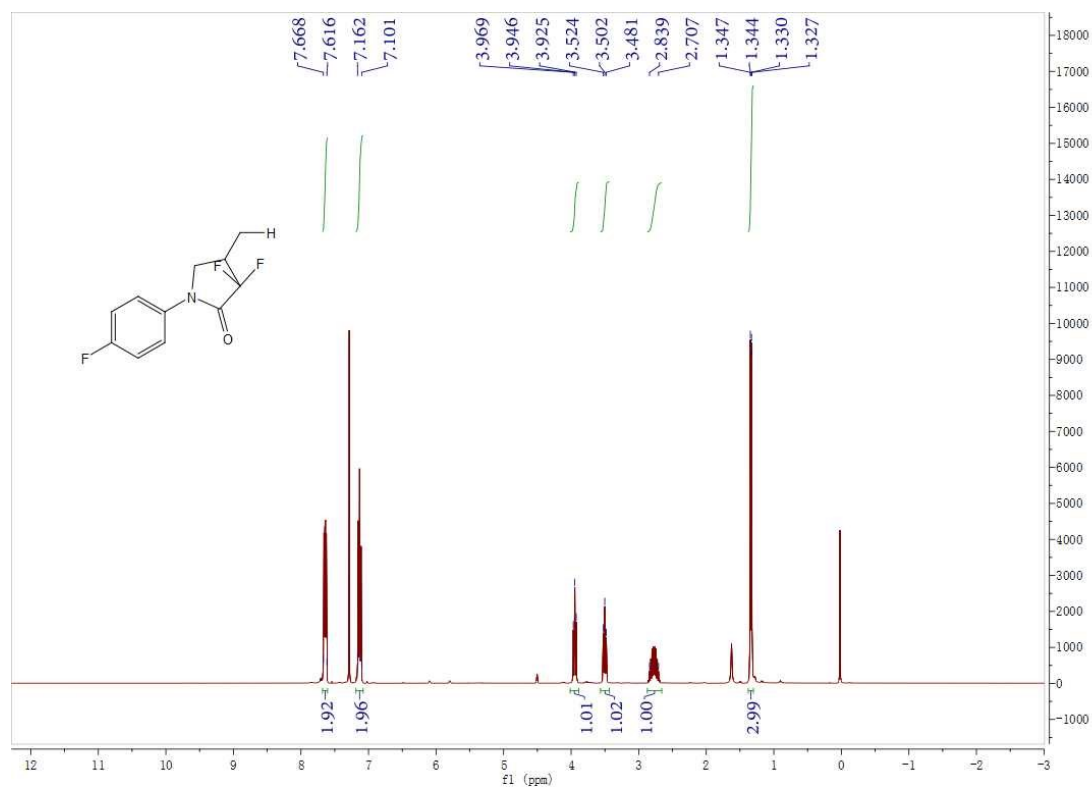
## VII. Copies of NMR Spectra

### 3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (1)

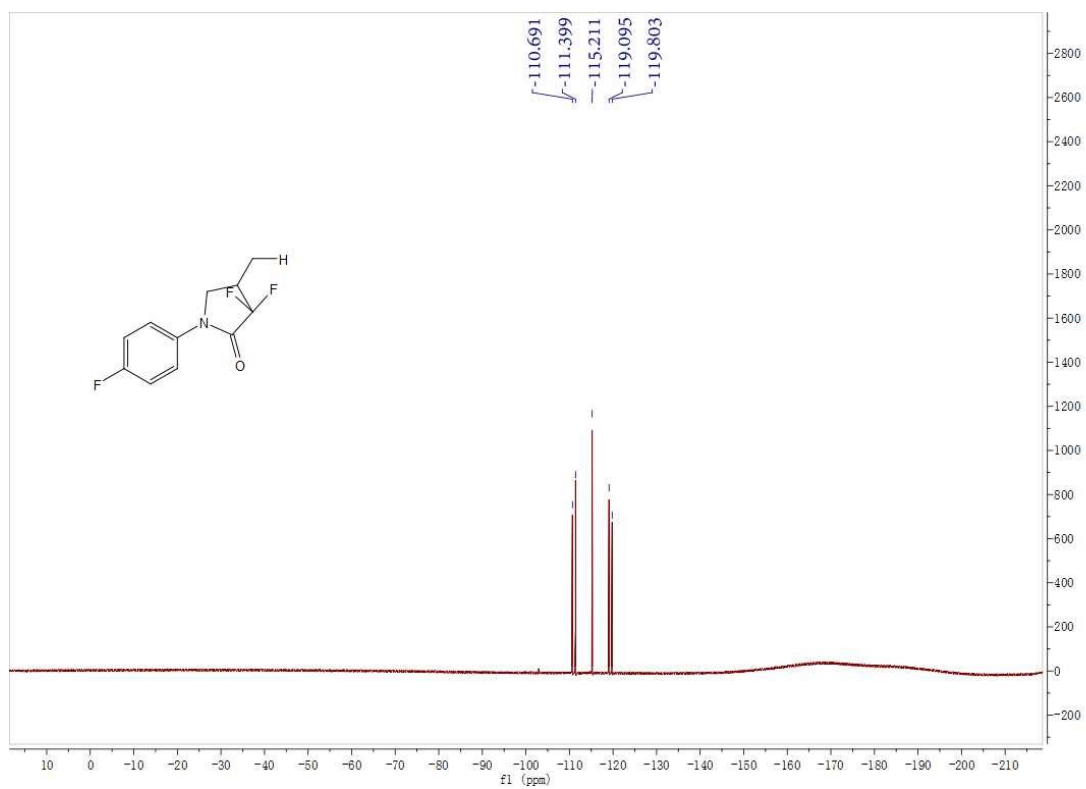




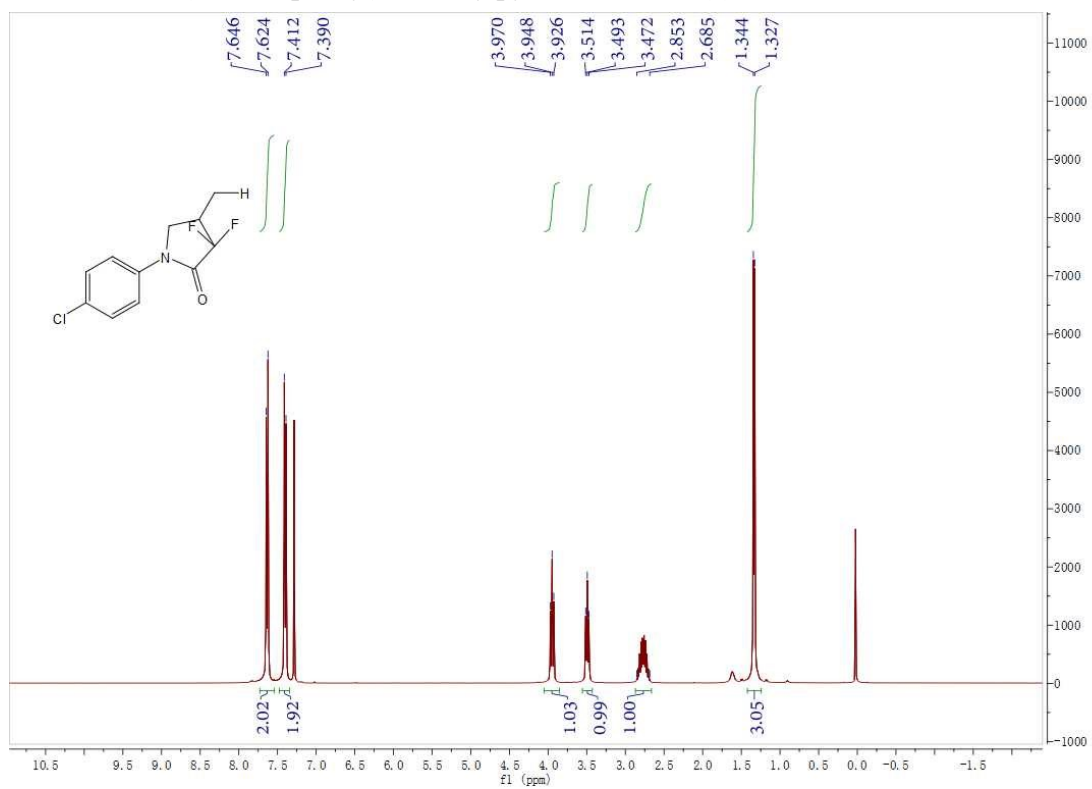
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (2)**

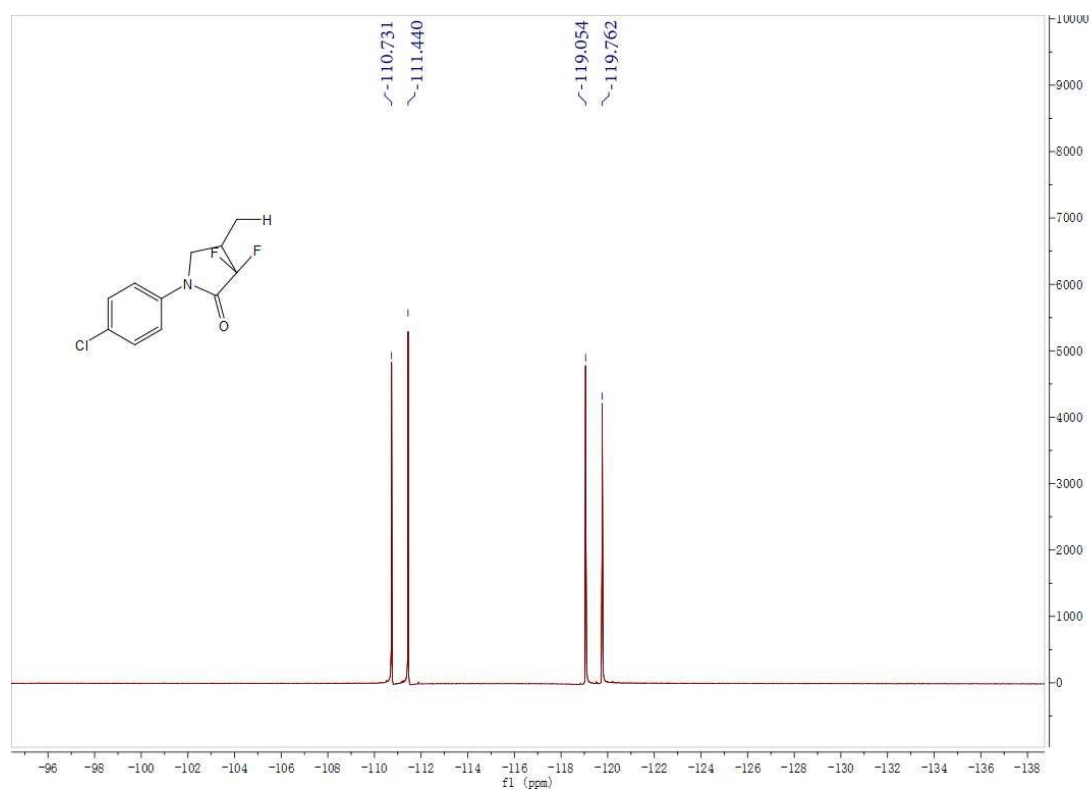
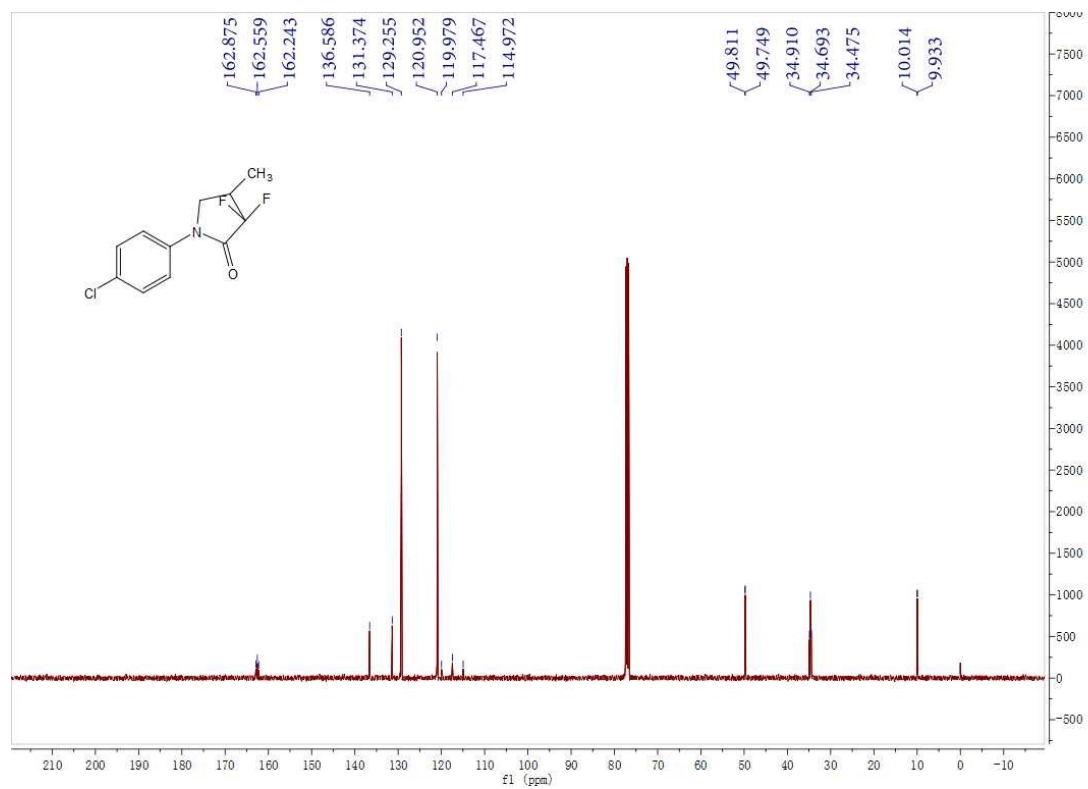




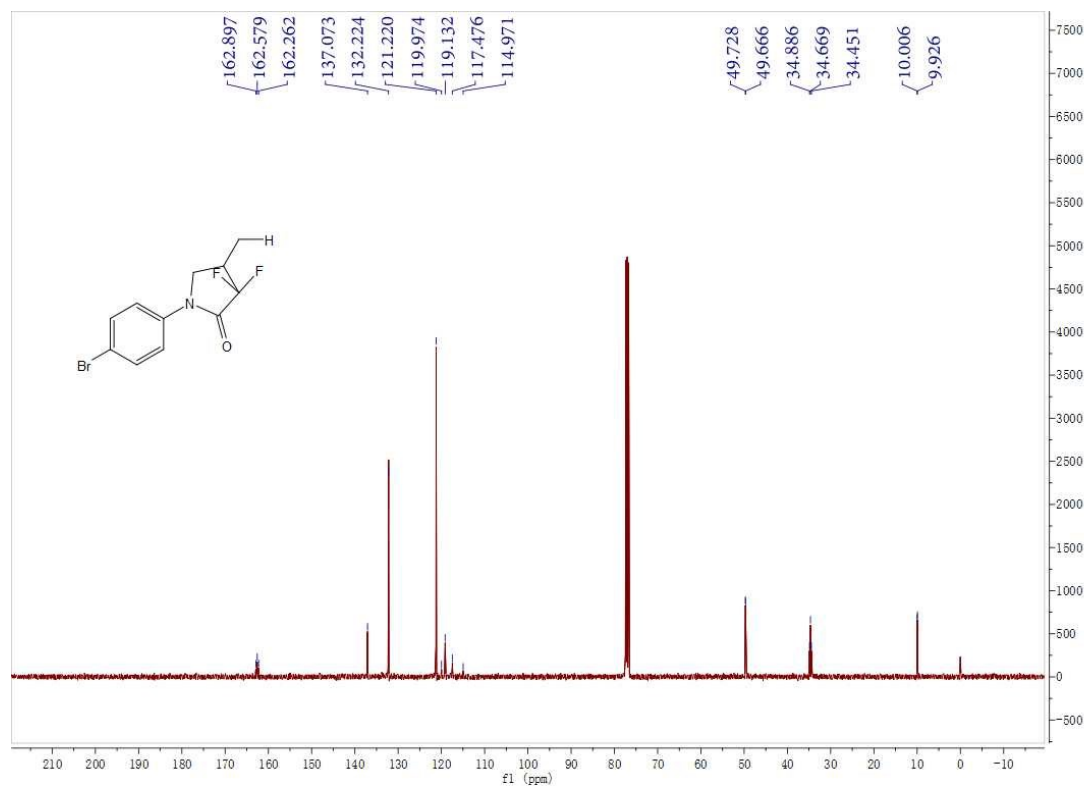
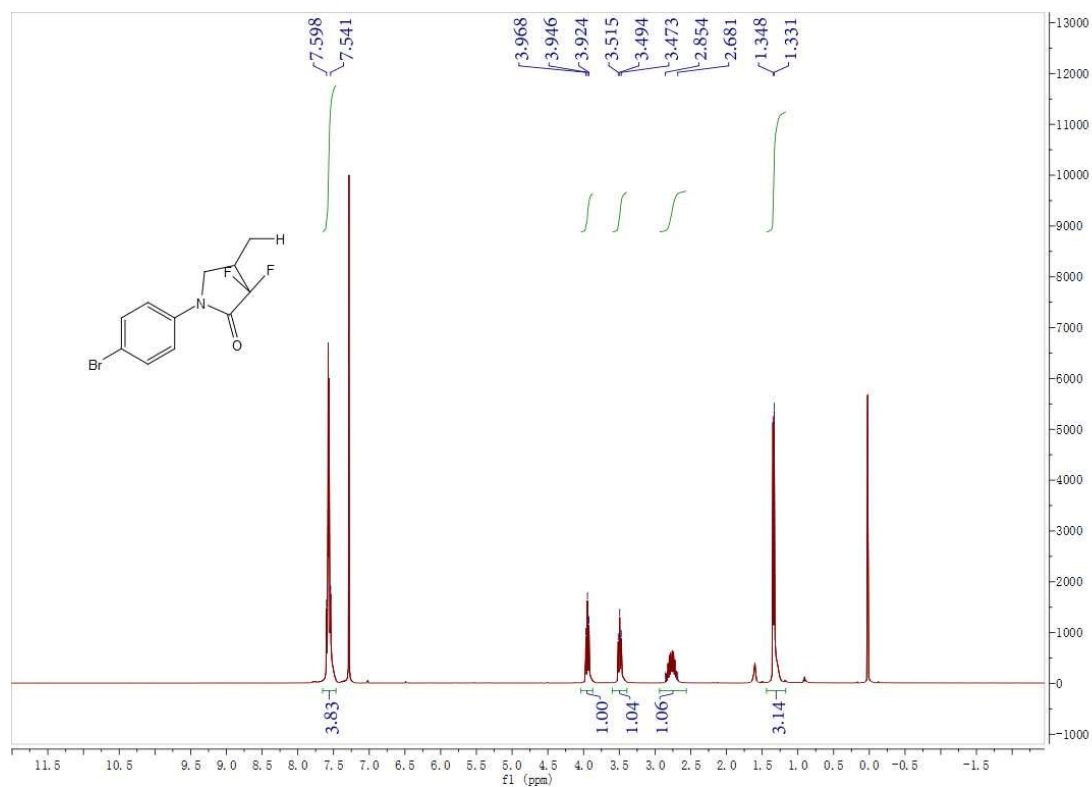


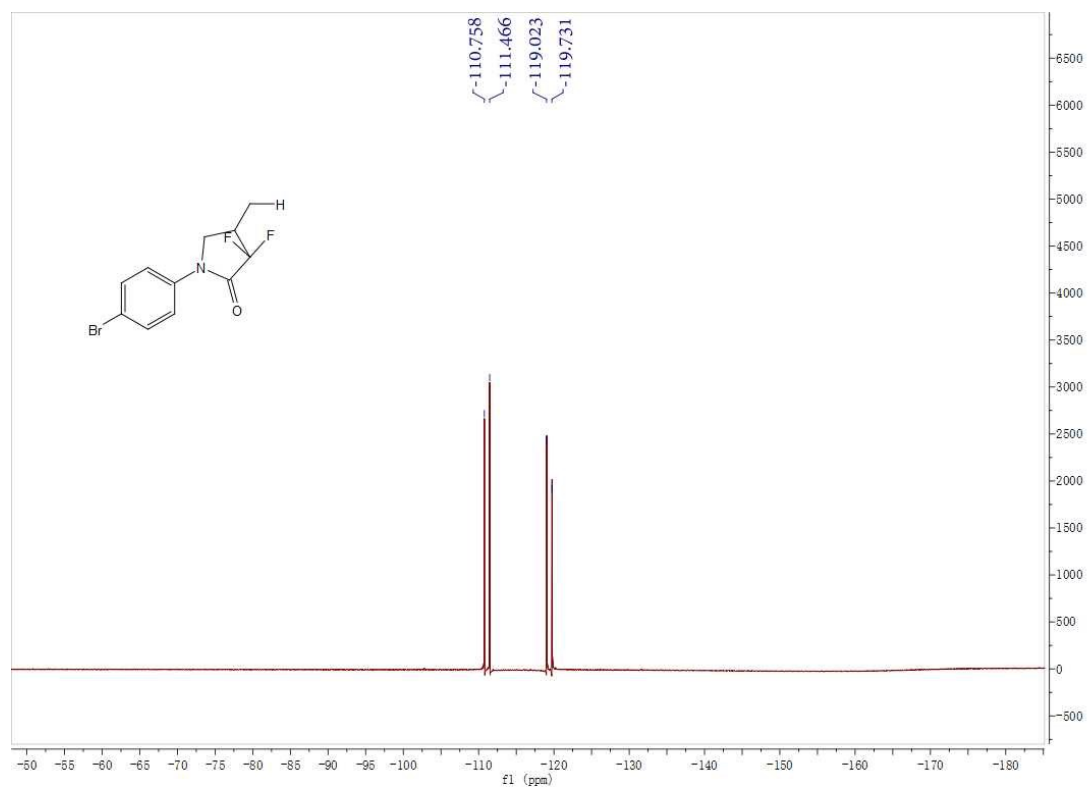
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (3)**



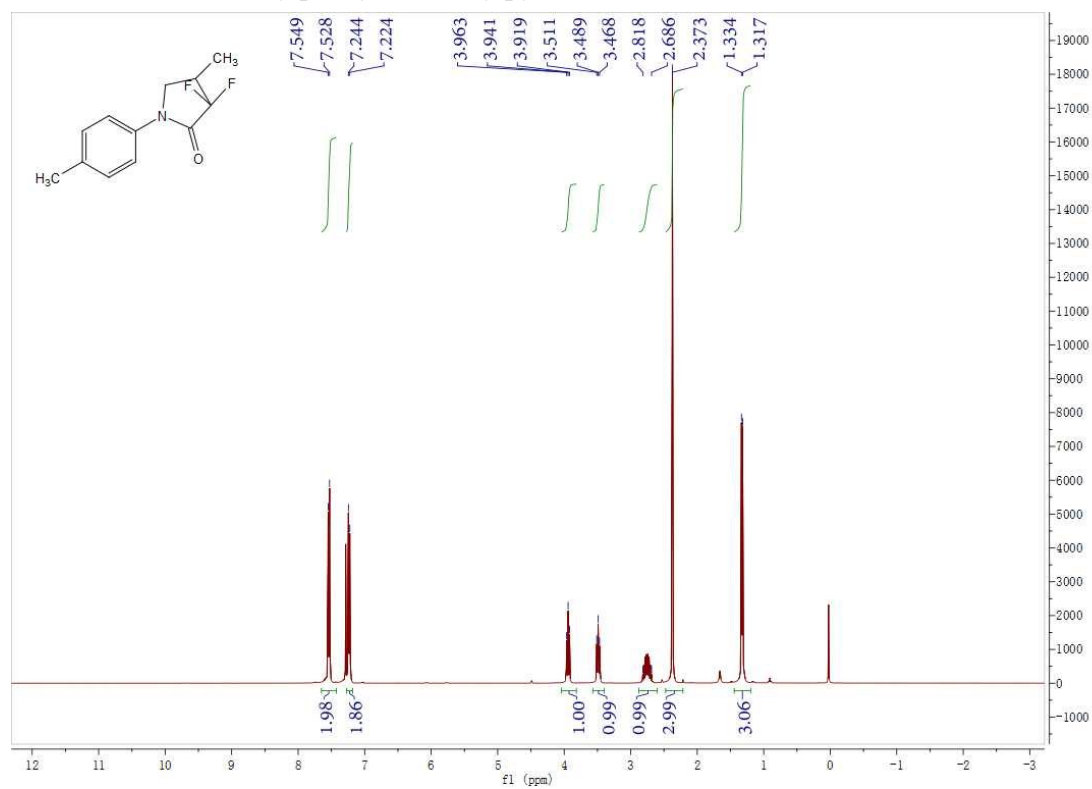


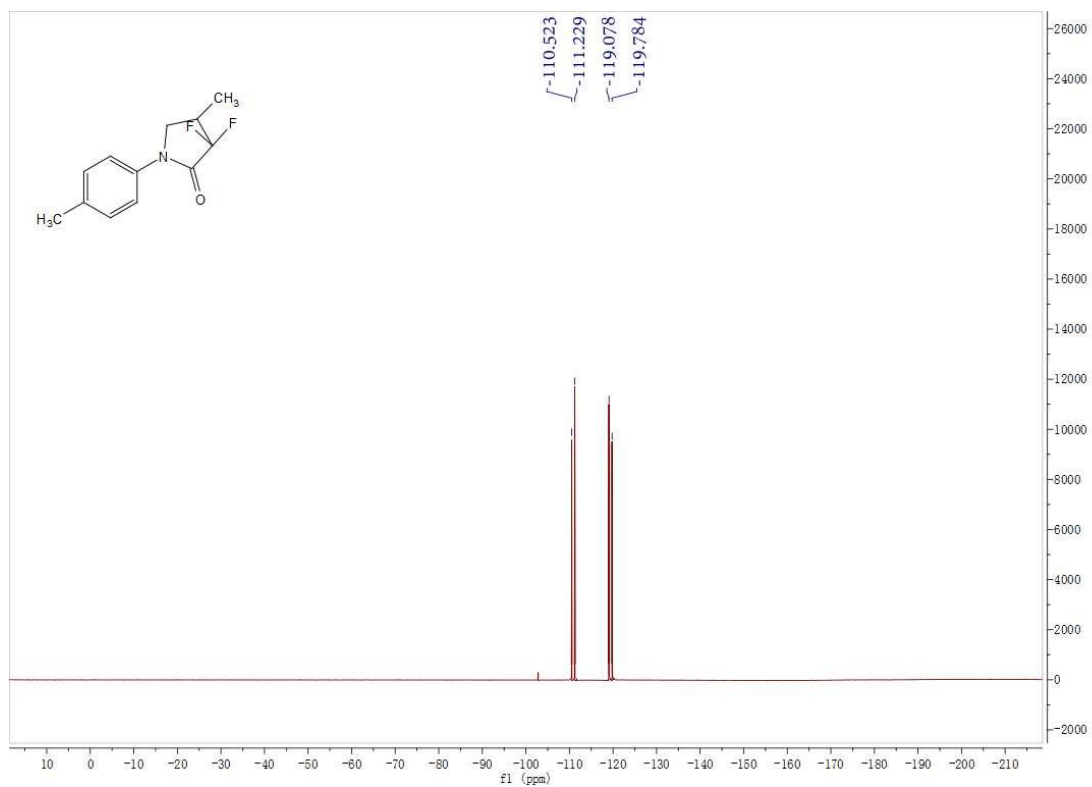
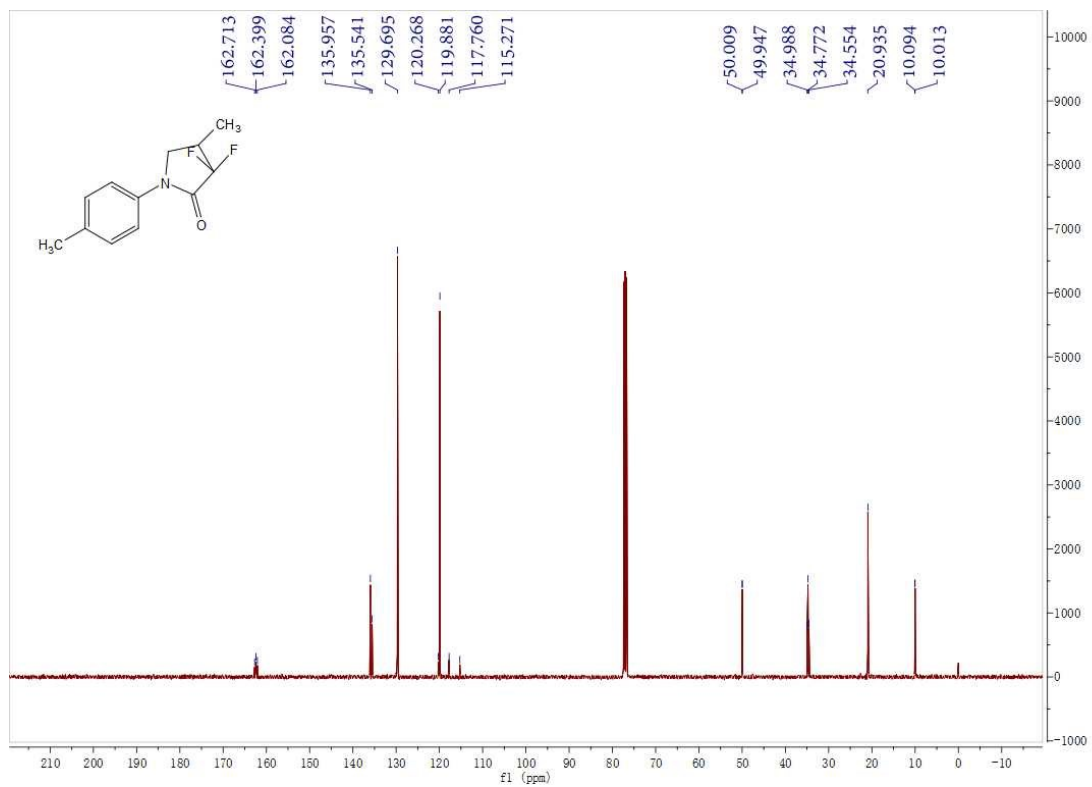
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4)**



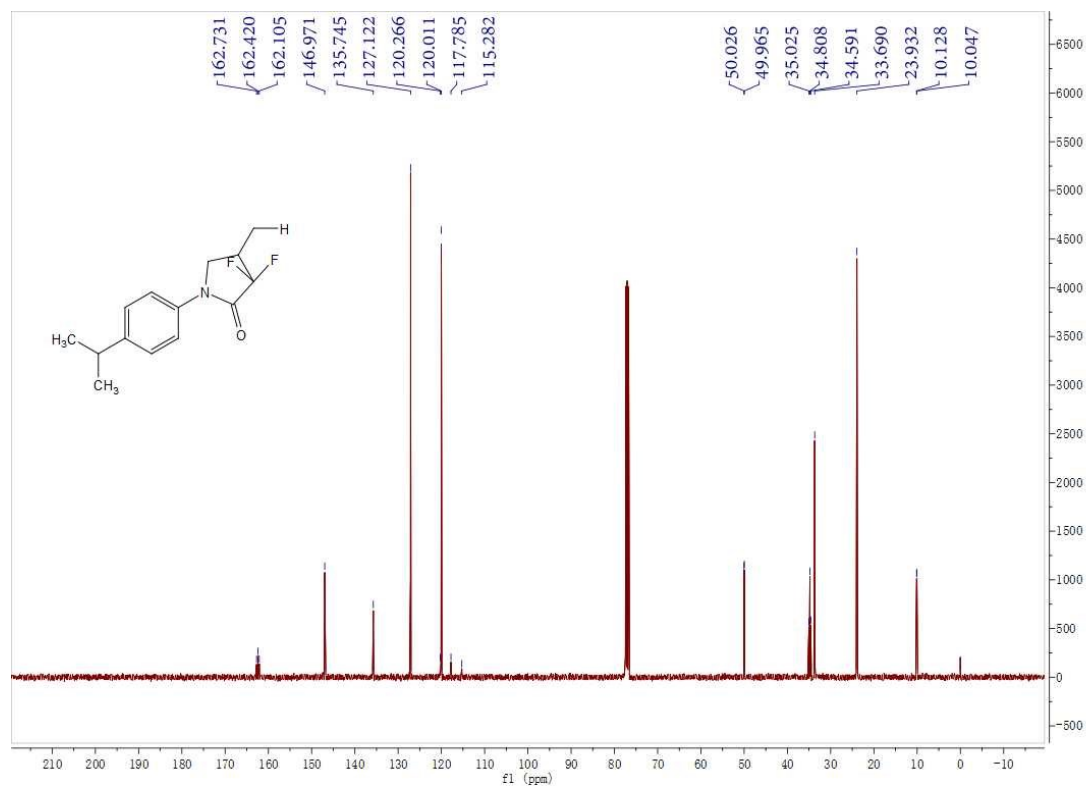
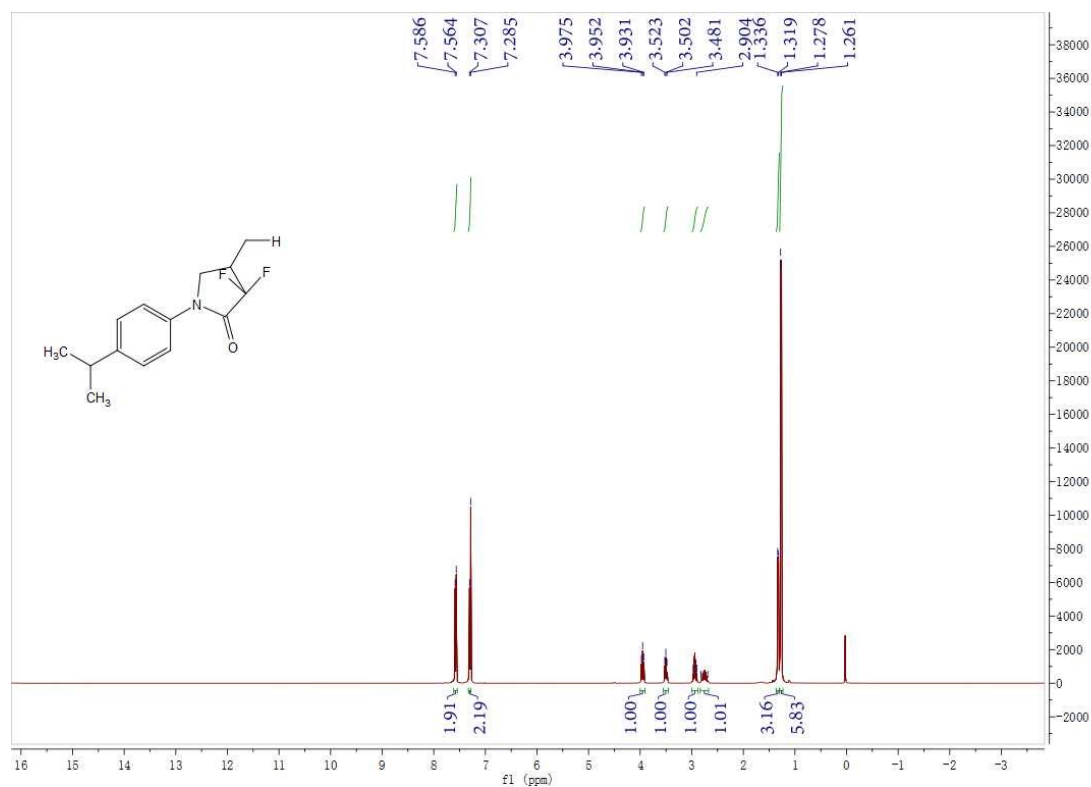


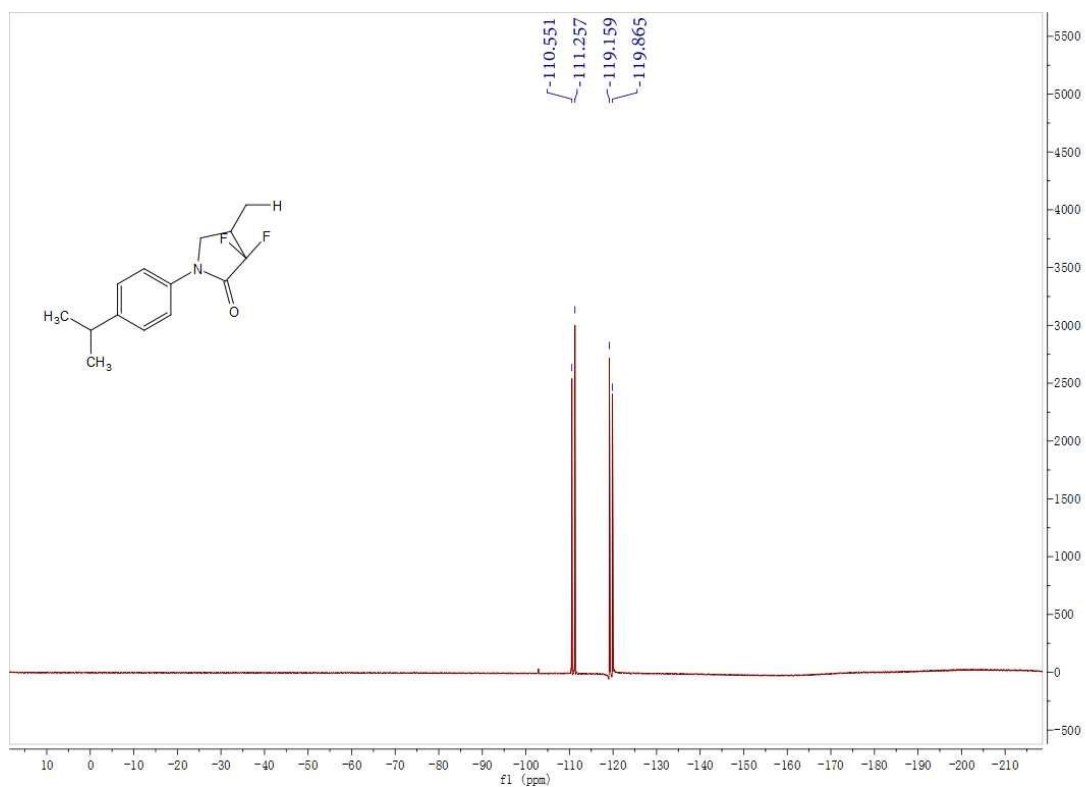
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (5)**



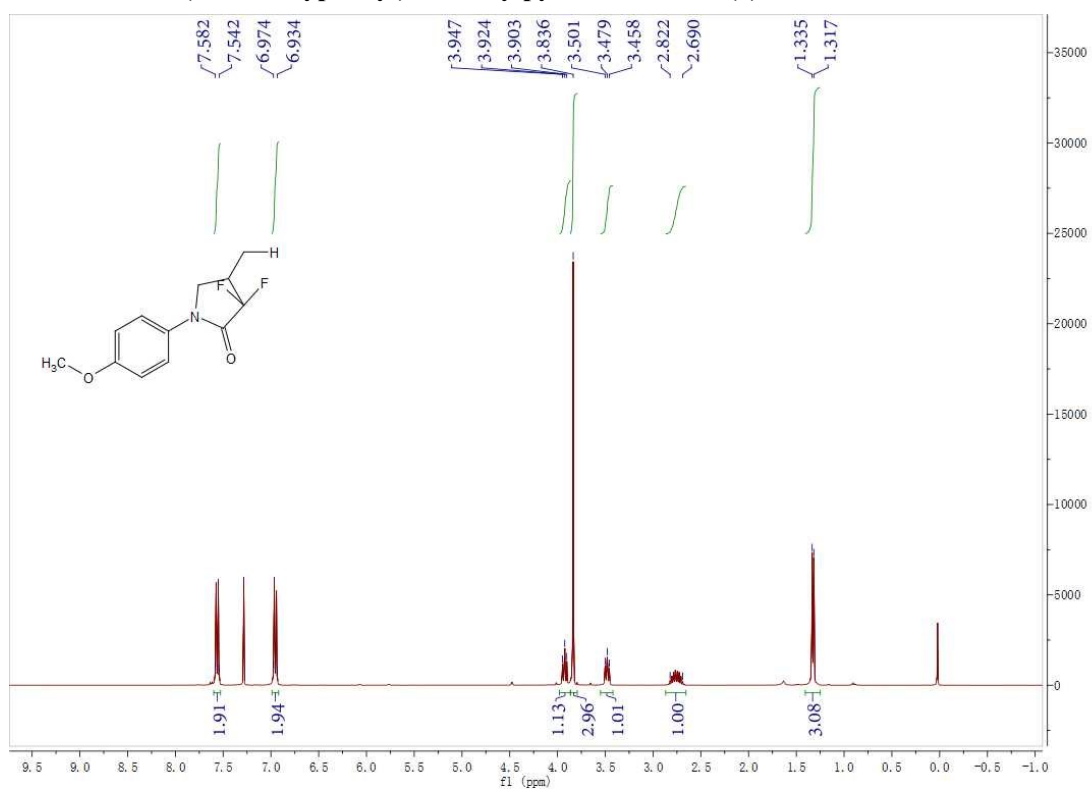


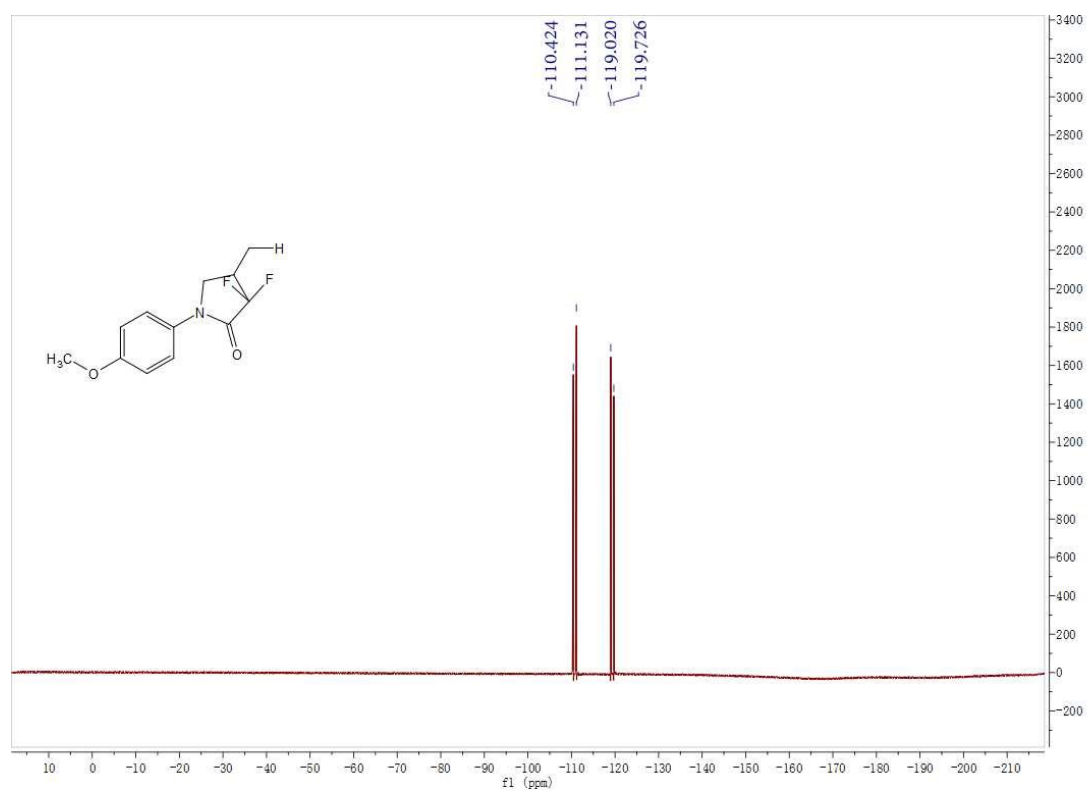
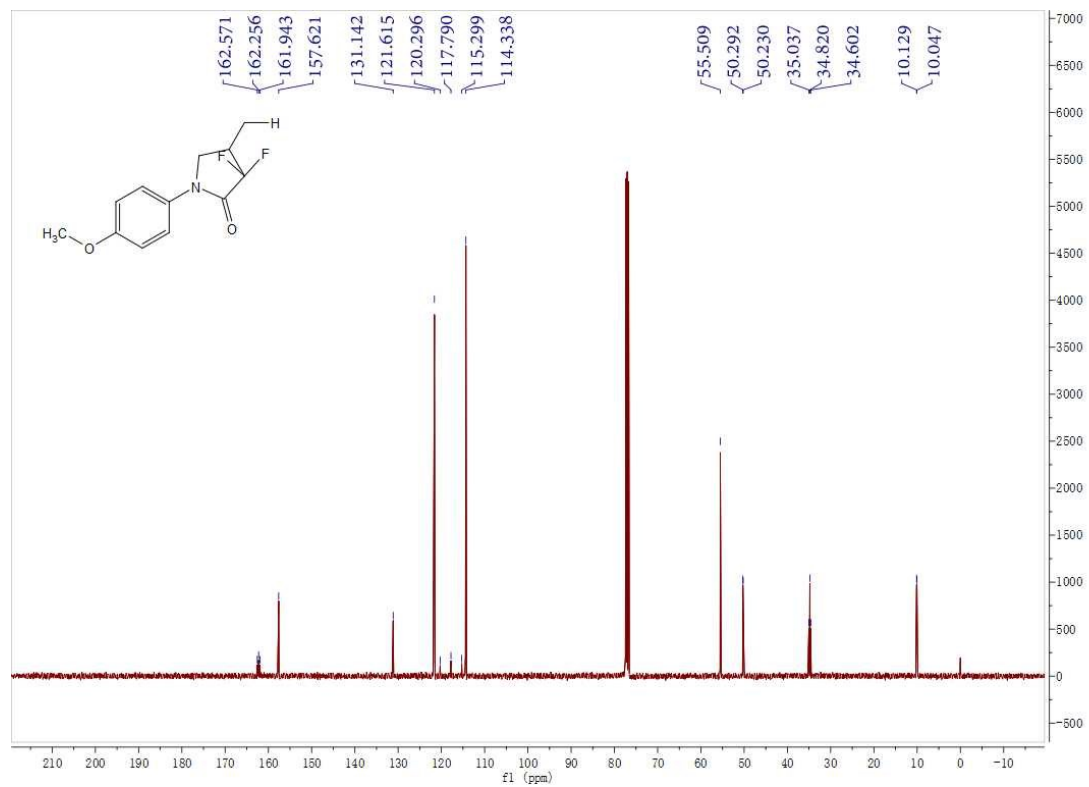
### 3,3-difluoro-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (6)





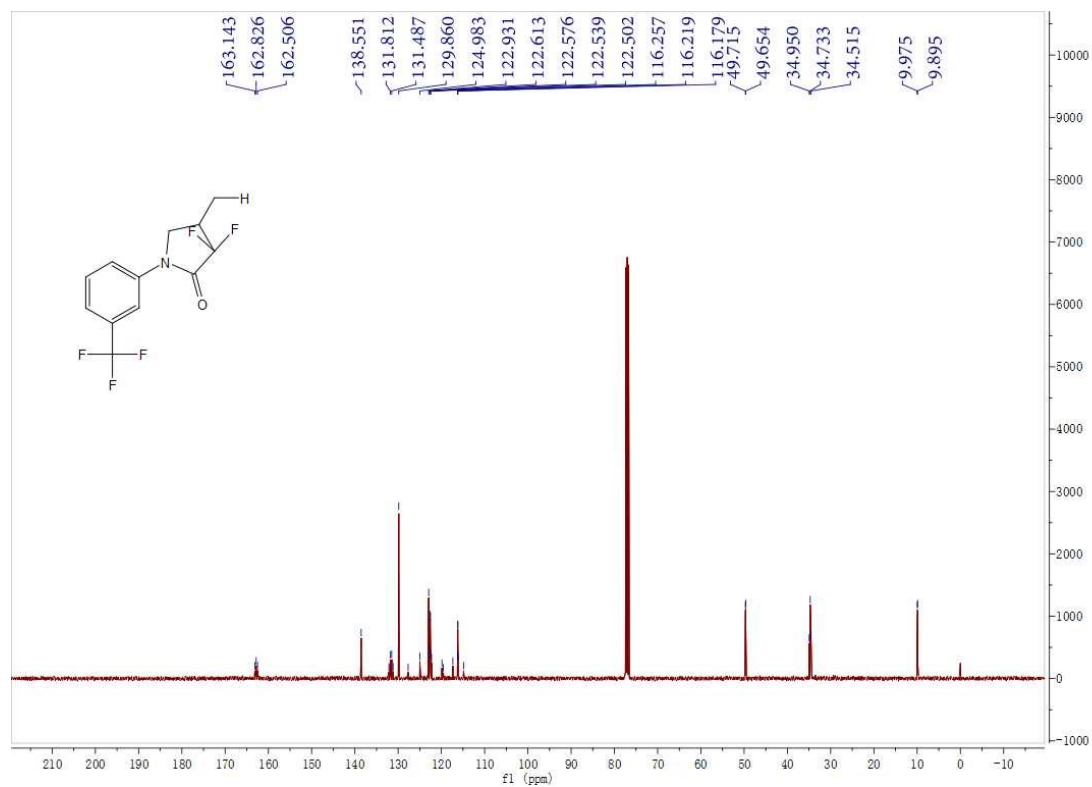
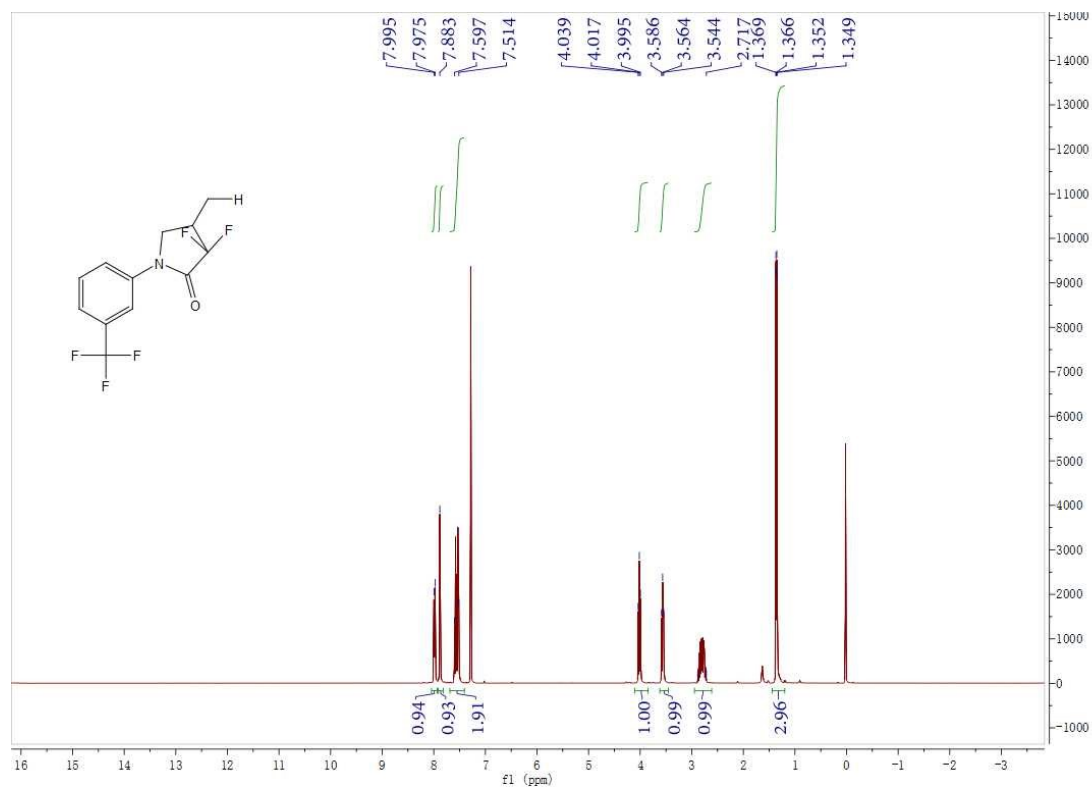
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (7)**

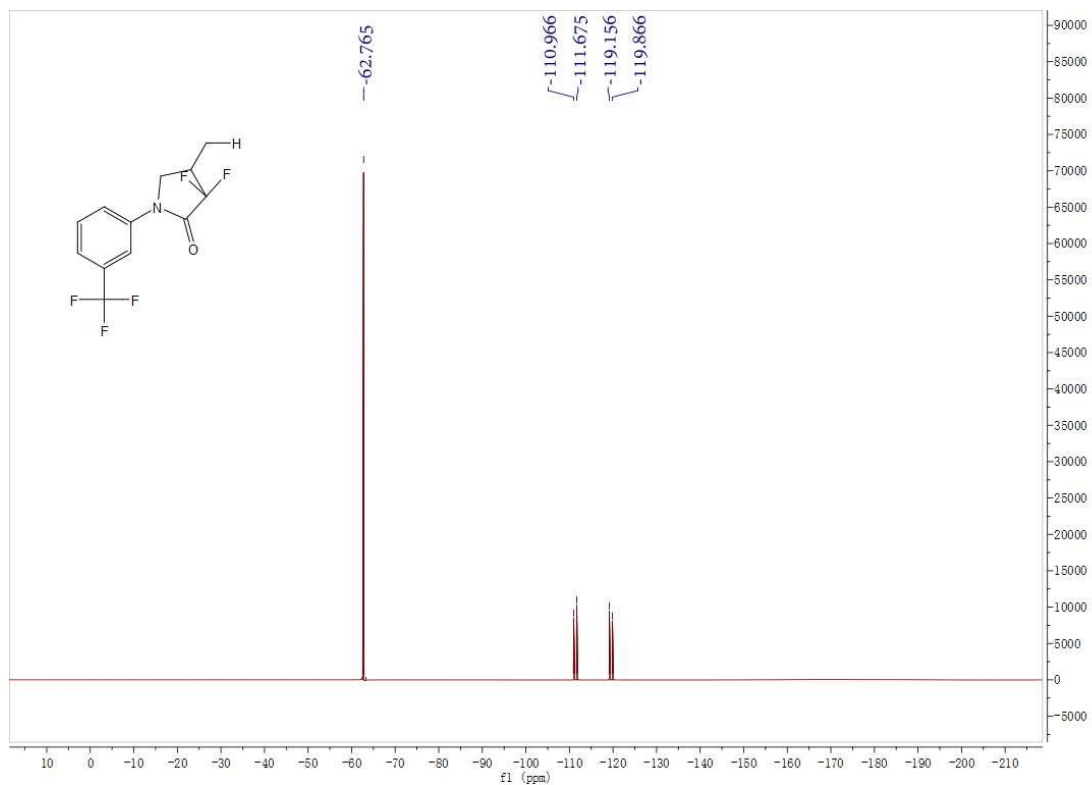




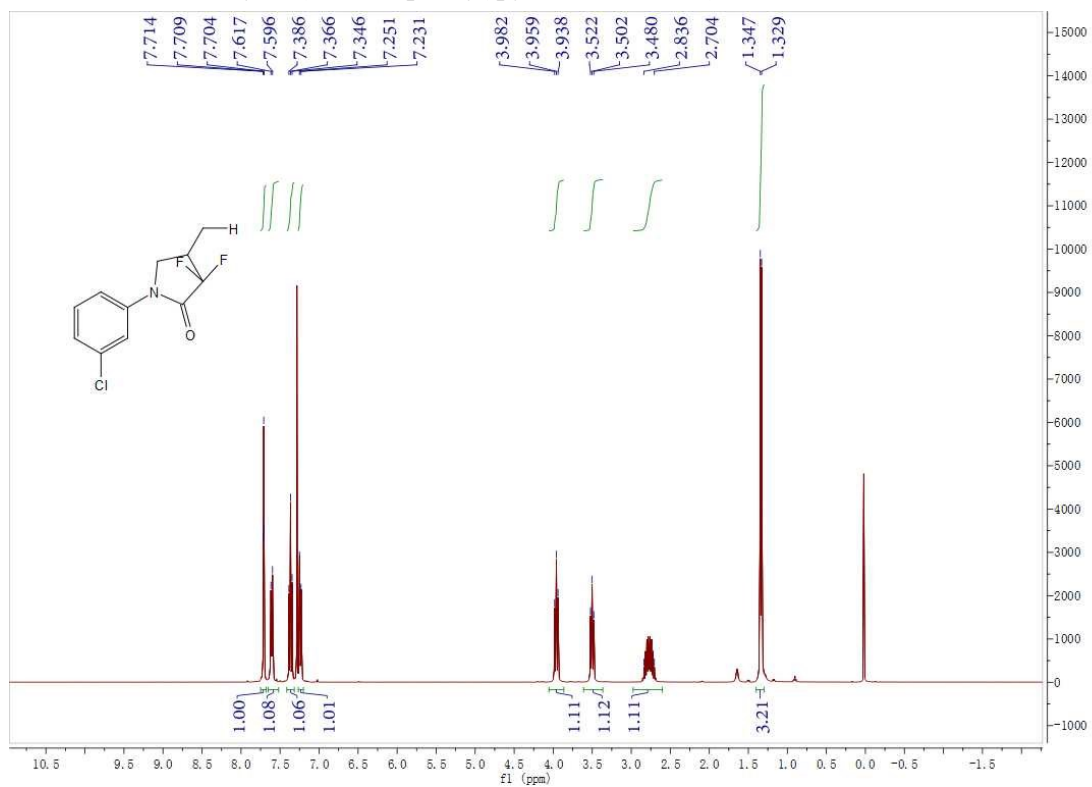


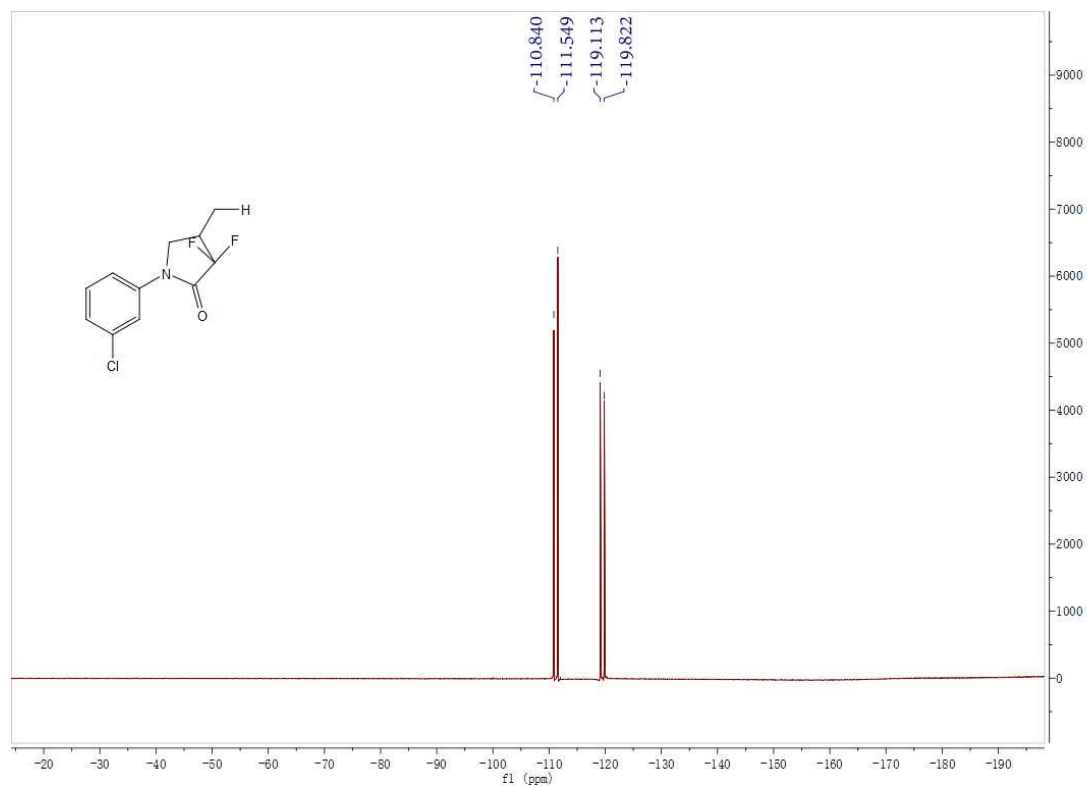
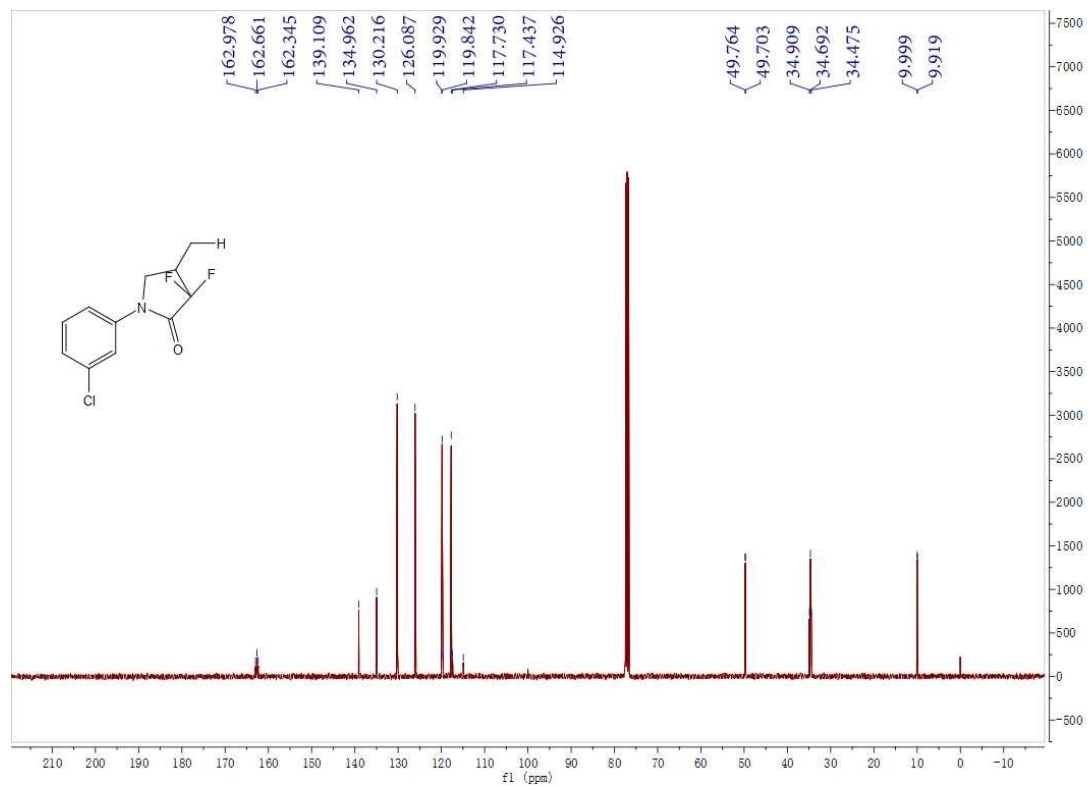
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (8)**



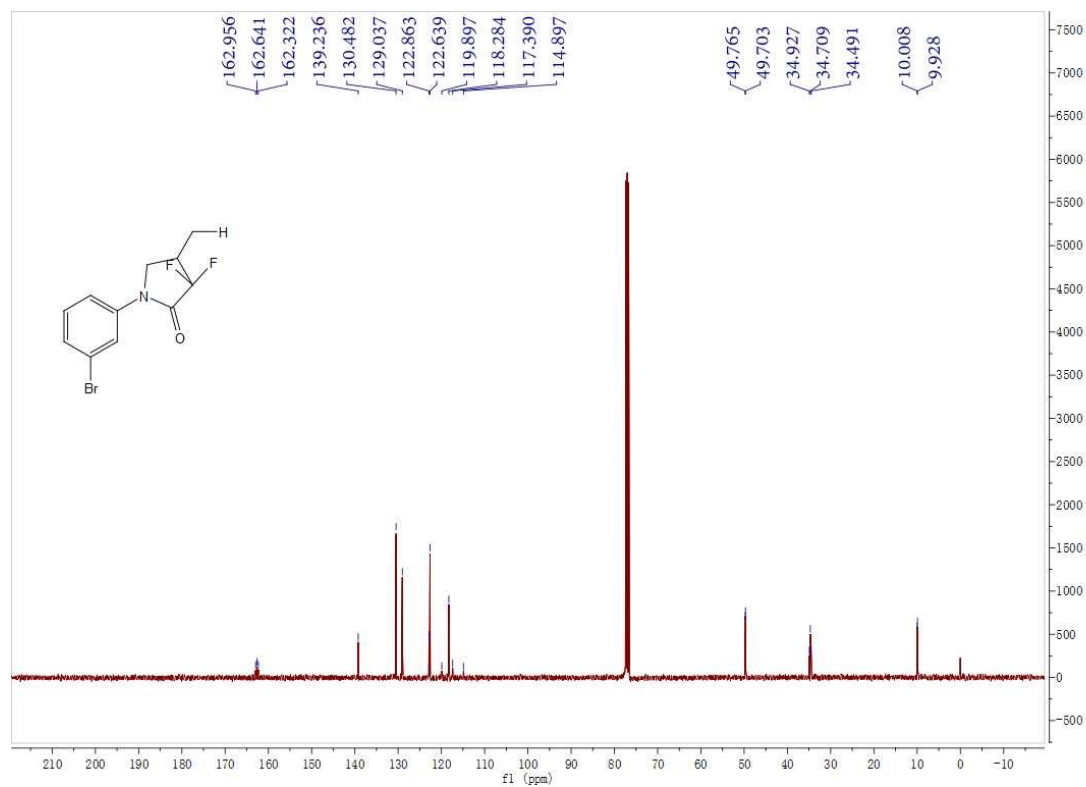
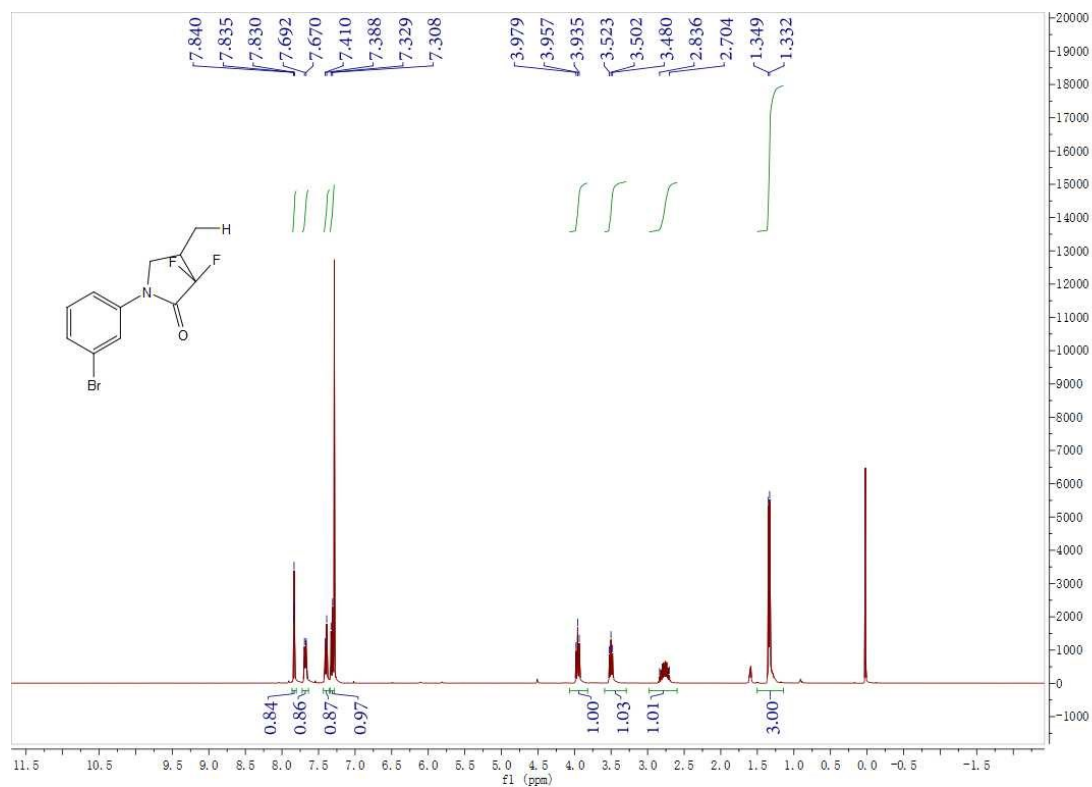


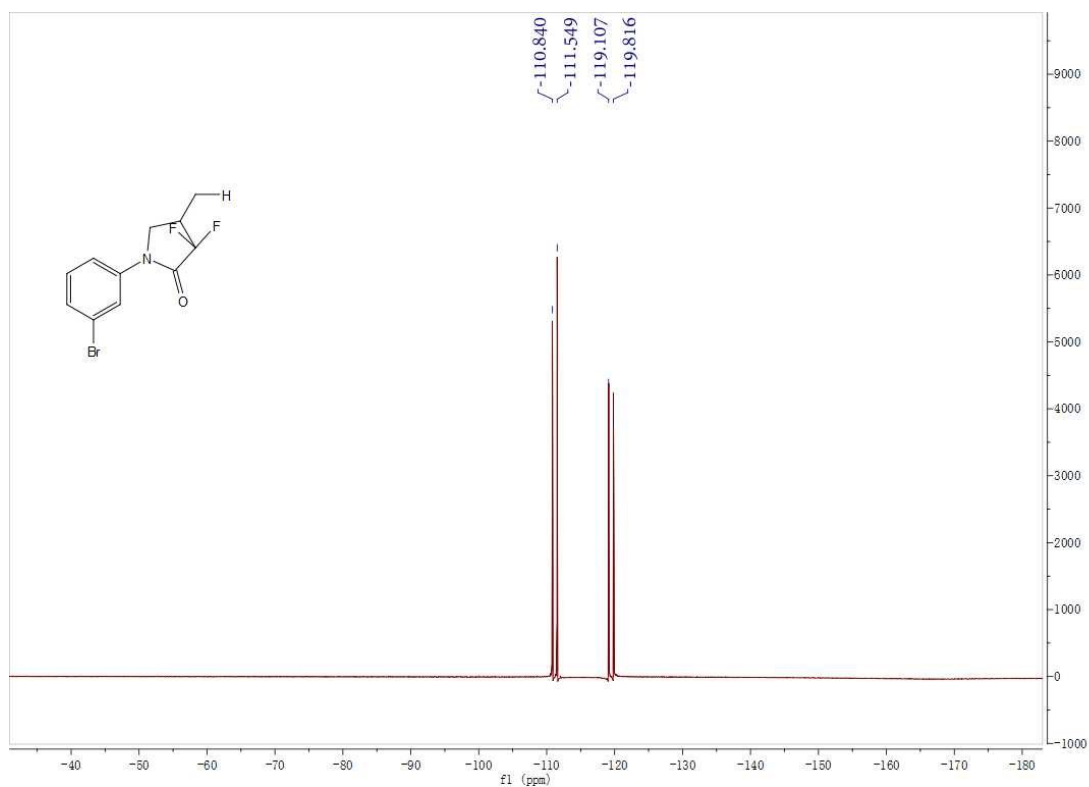
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-chlorophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (9)**



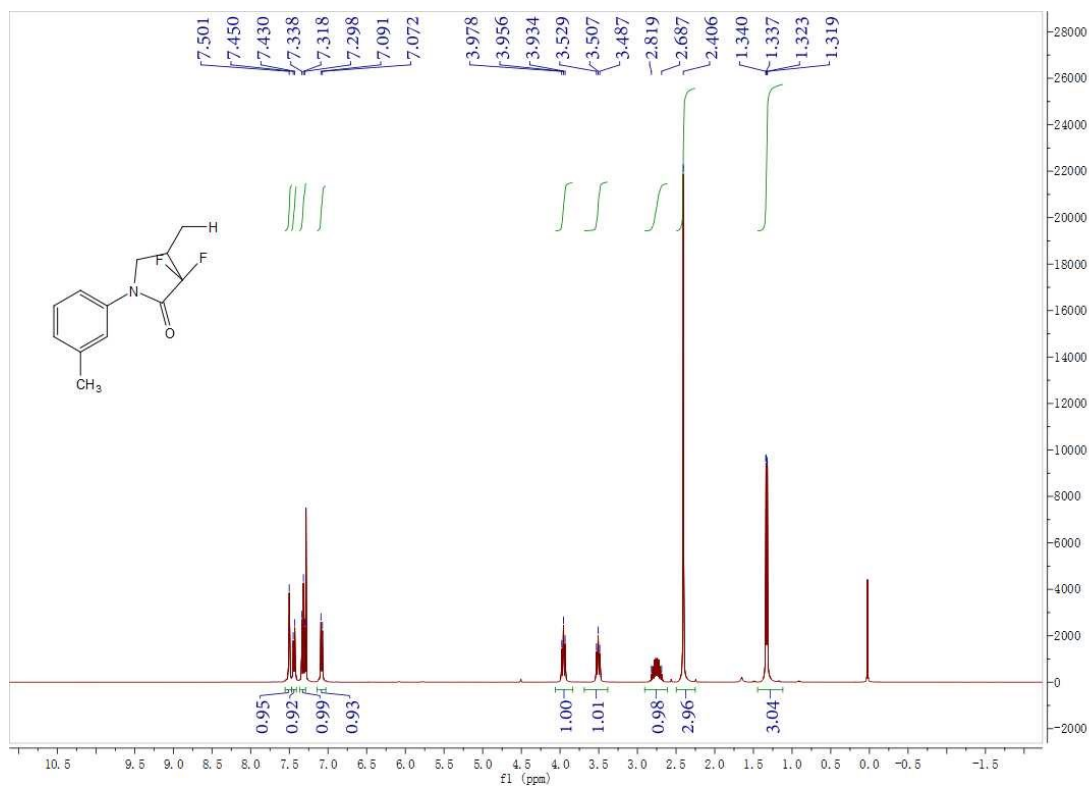


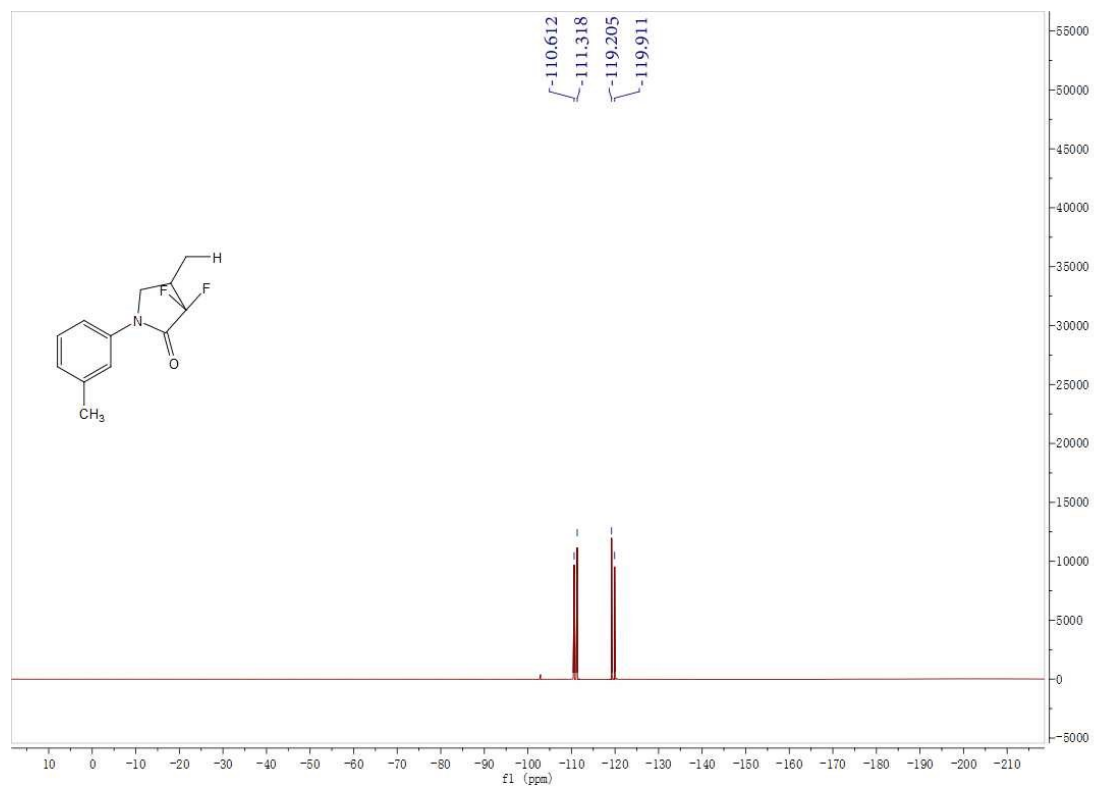
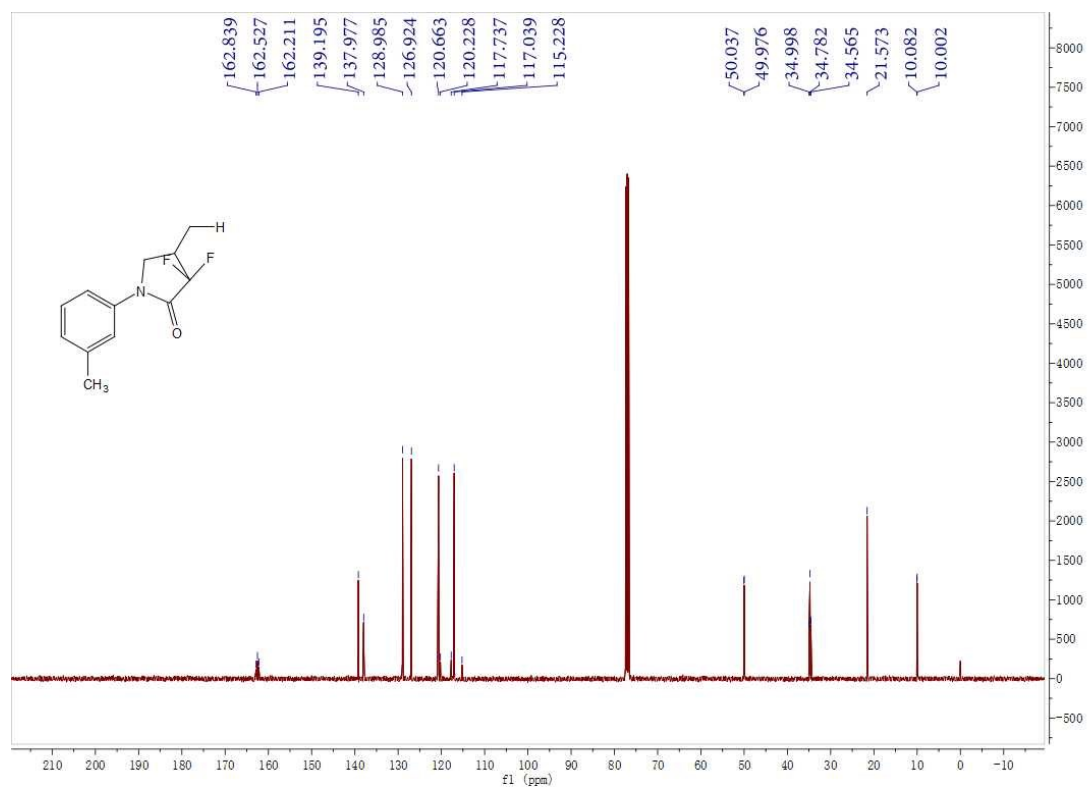
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-bromophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (10)**



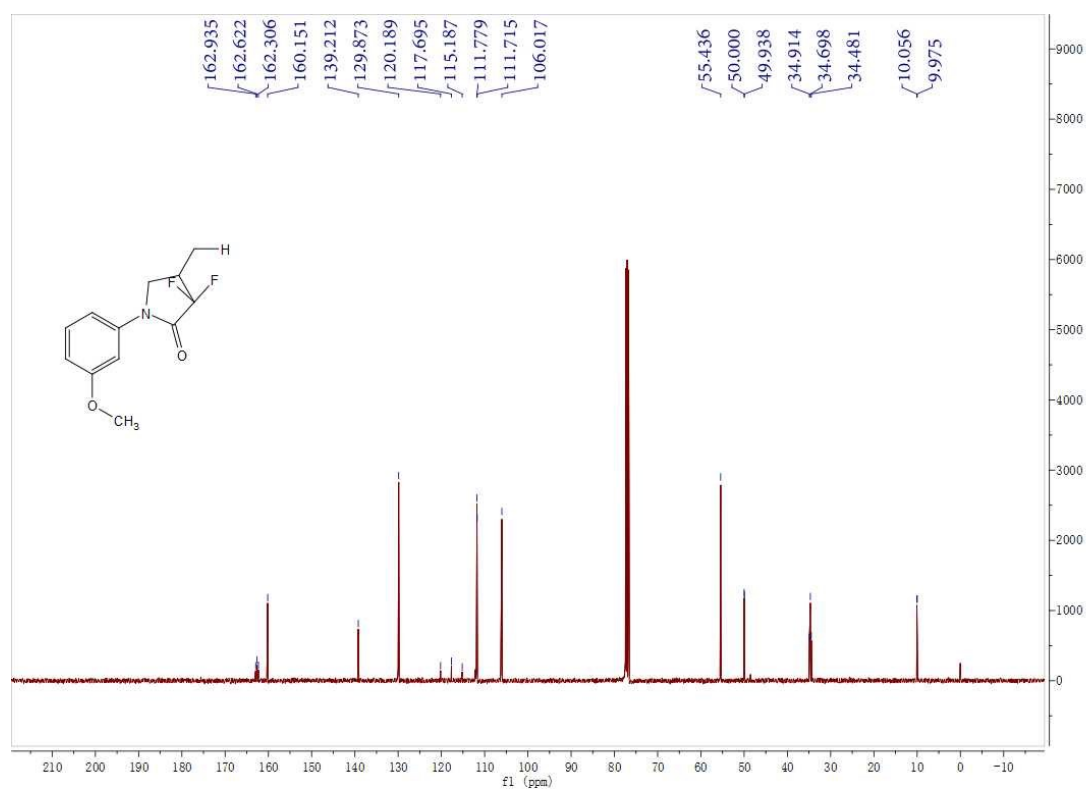
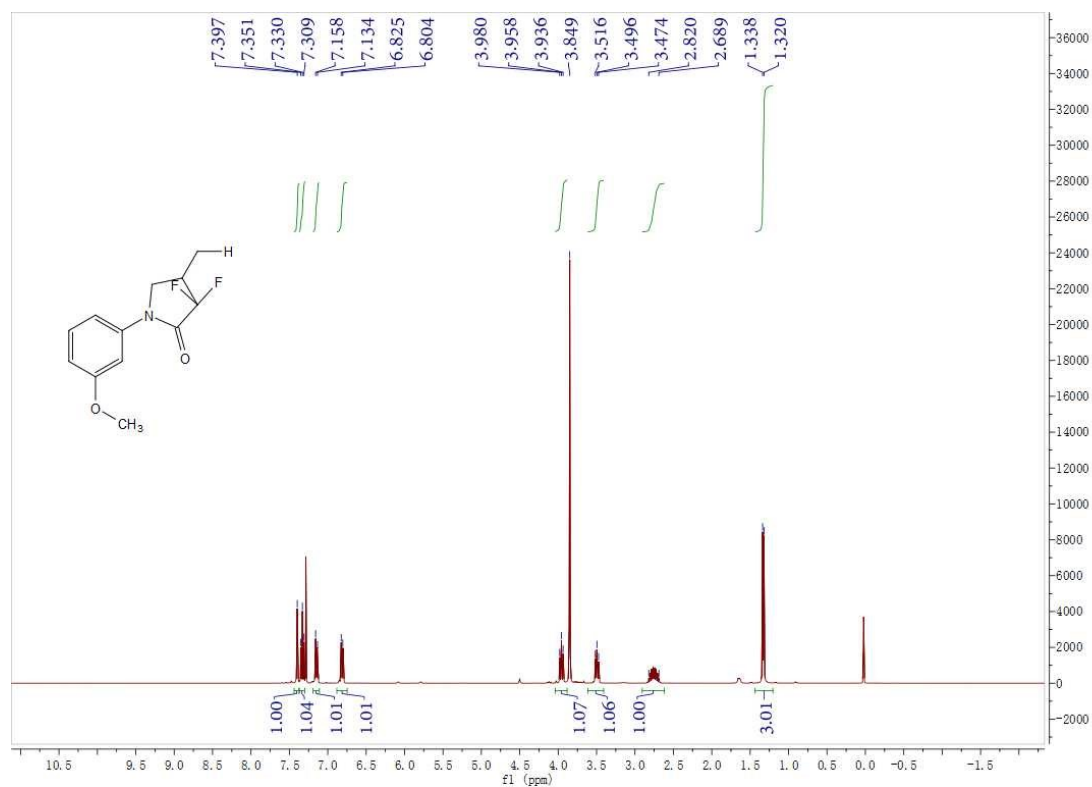


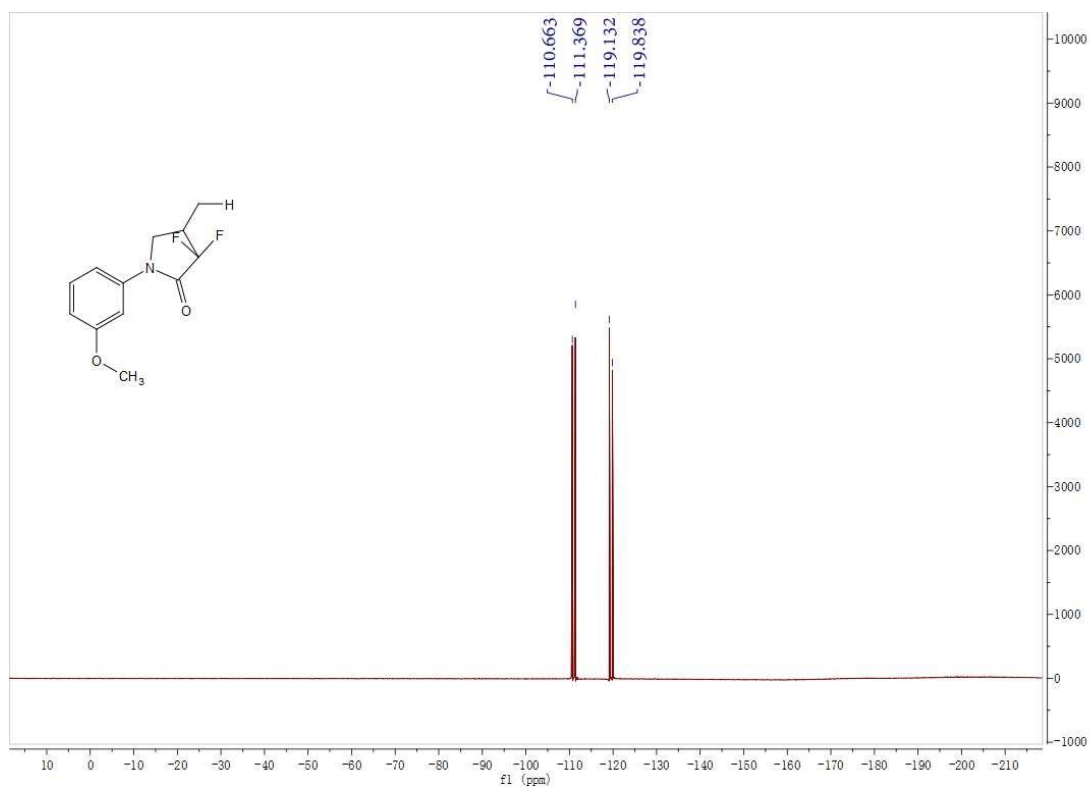
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-methylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (11)**



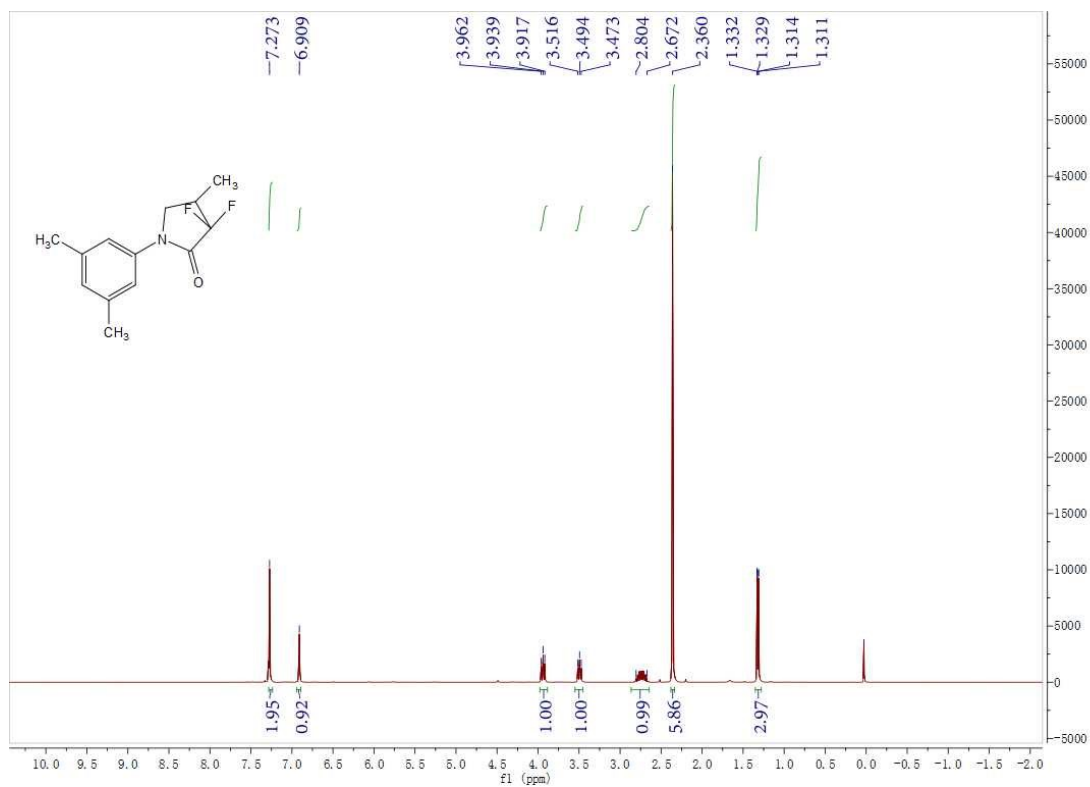


**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (12)**

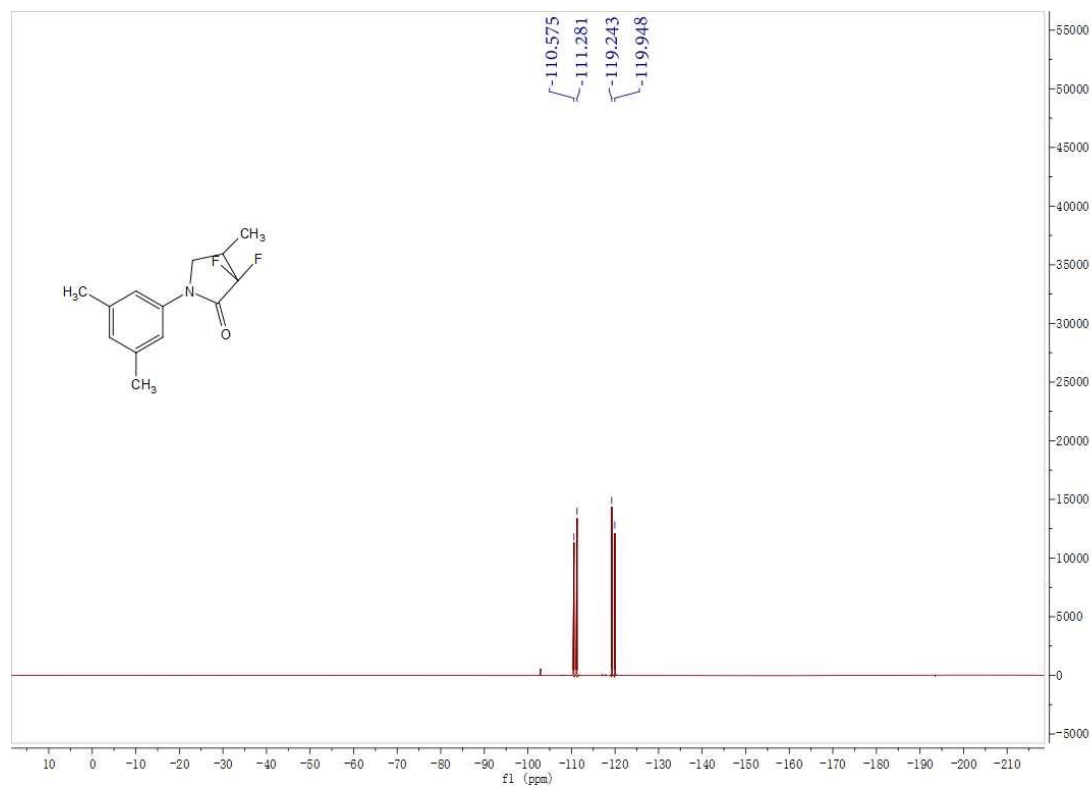
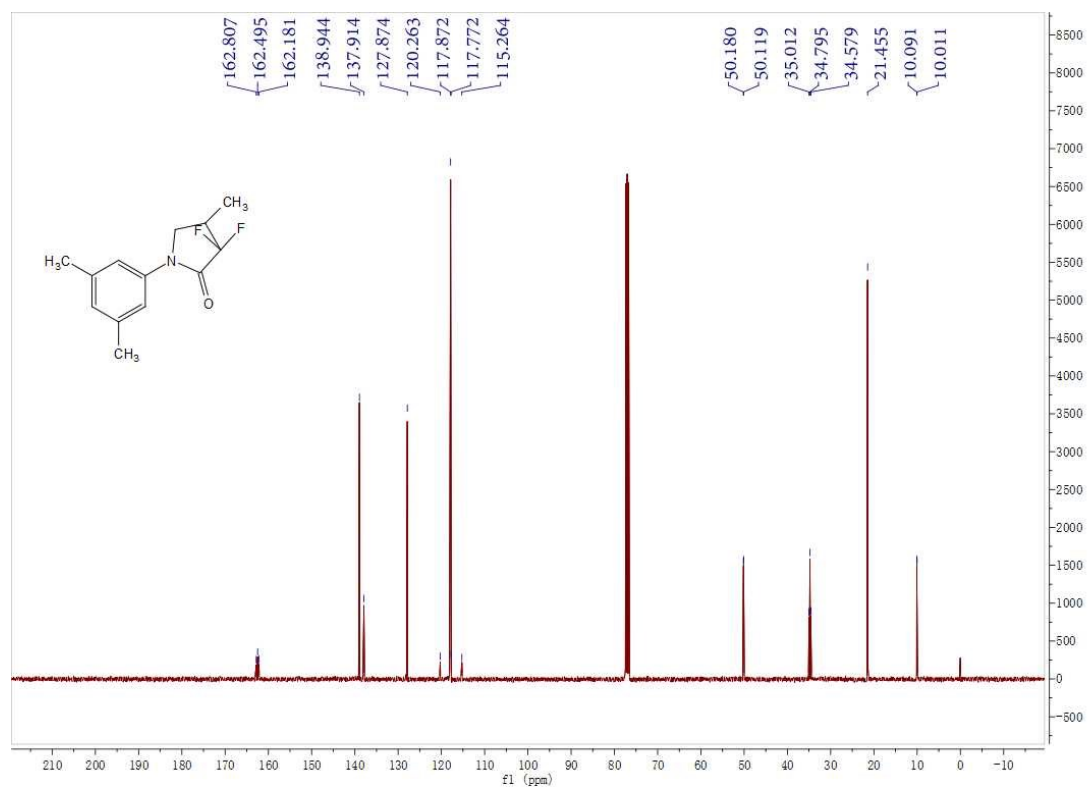




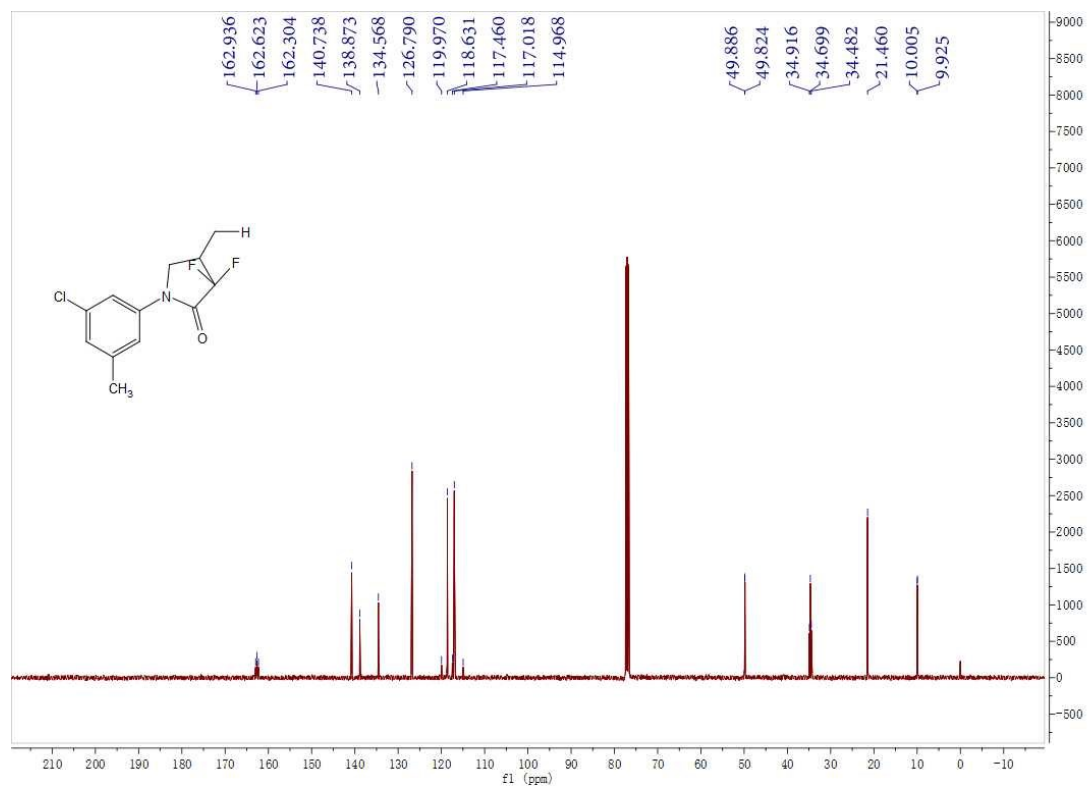
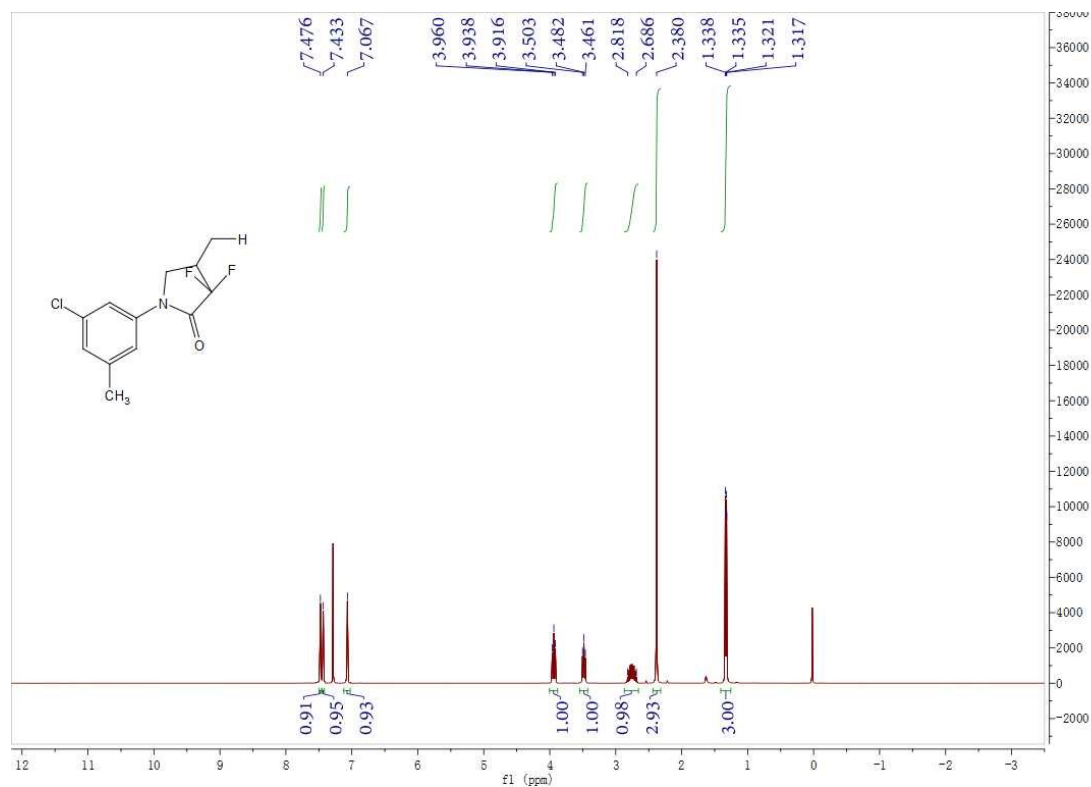
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (13)**

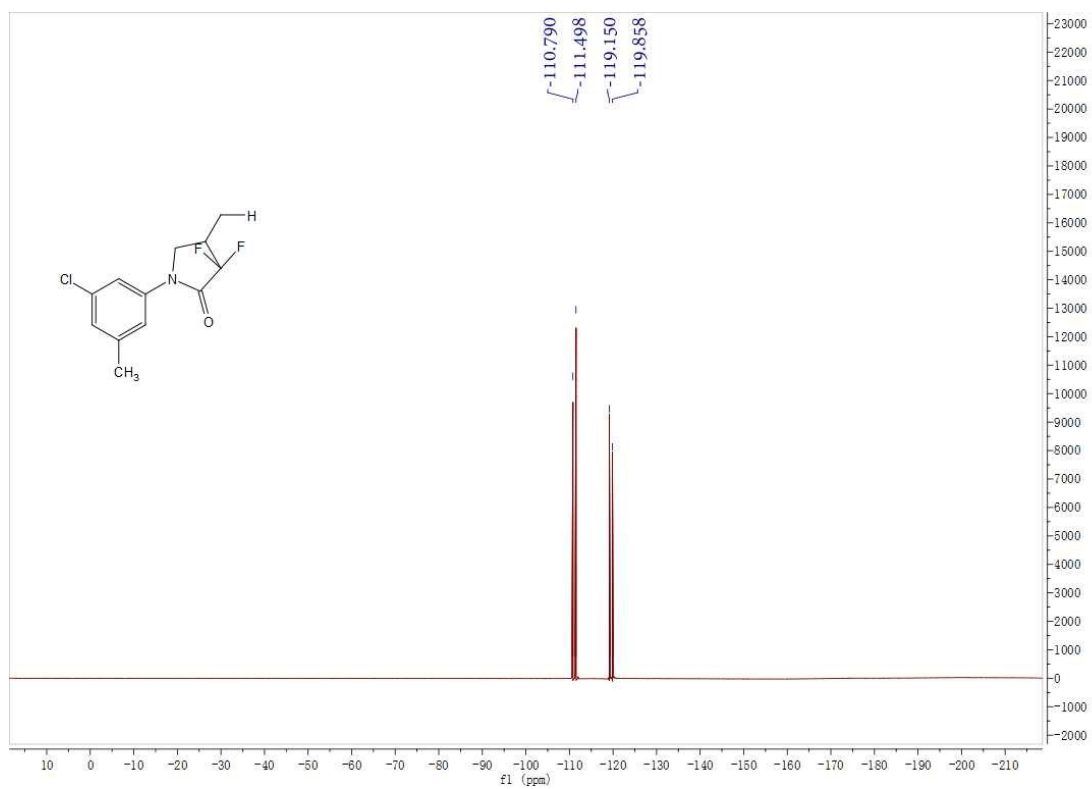




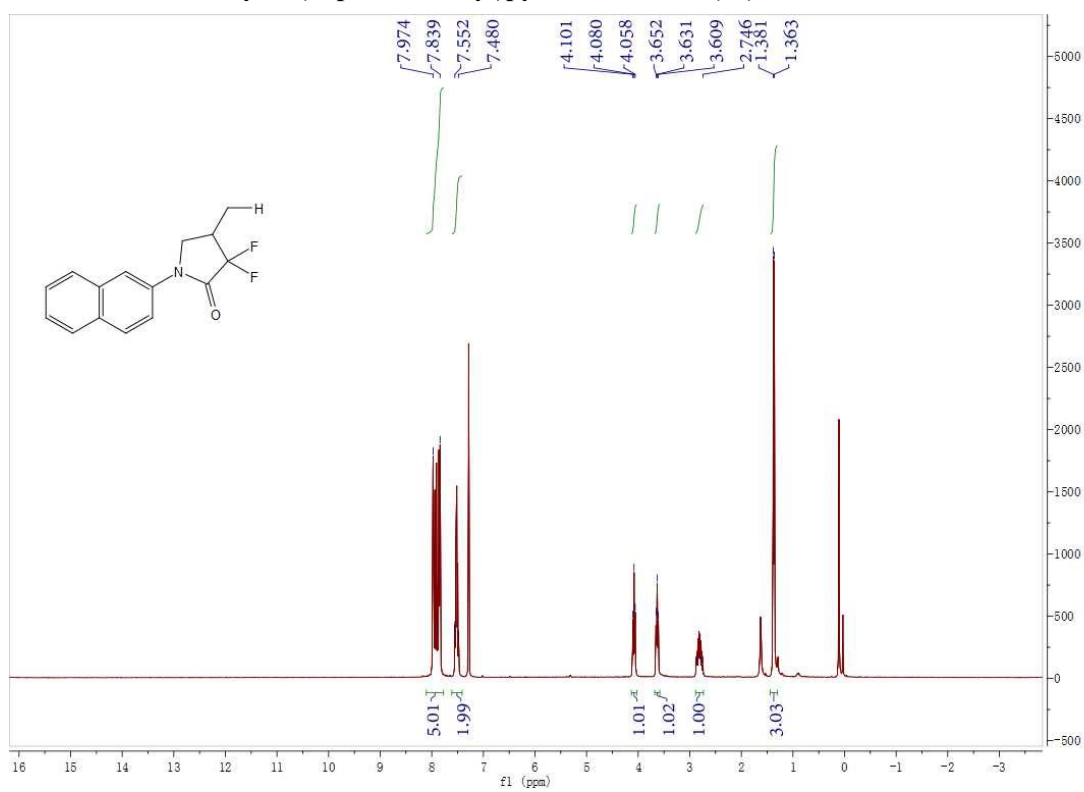


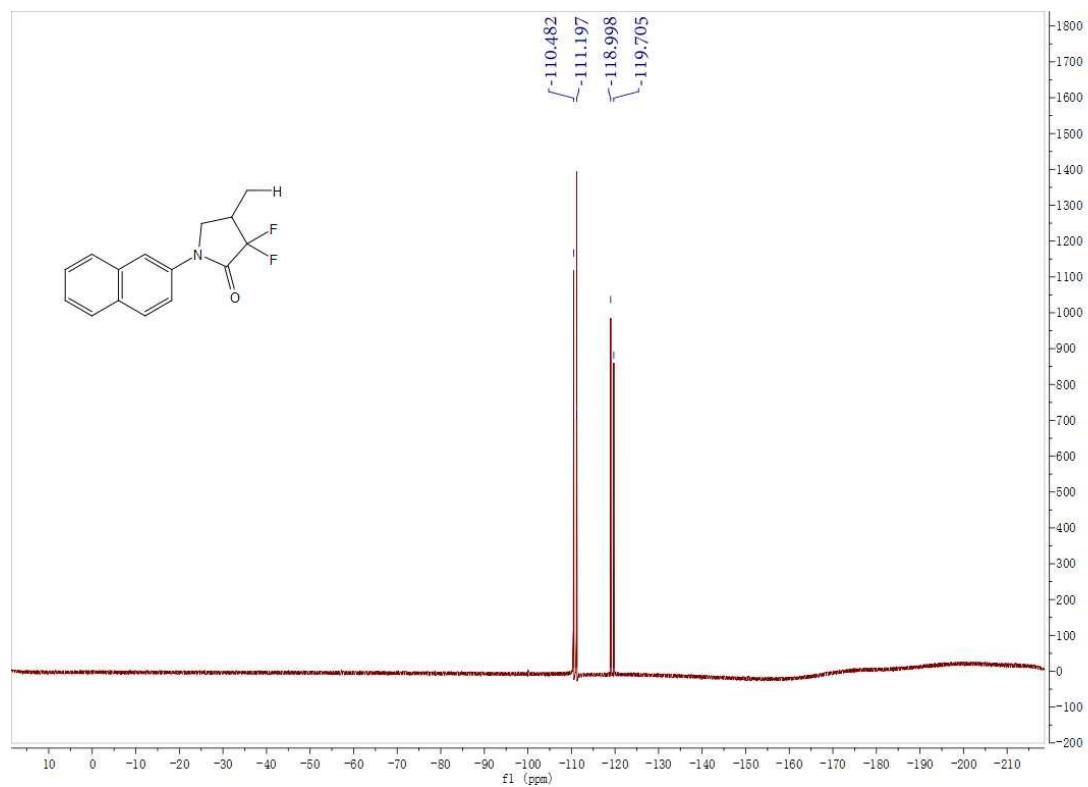
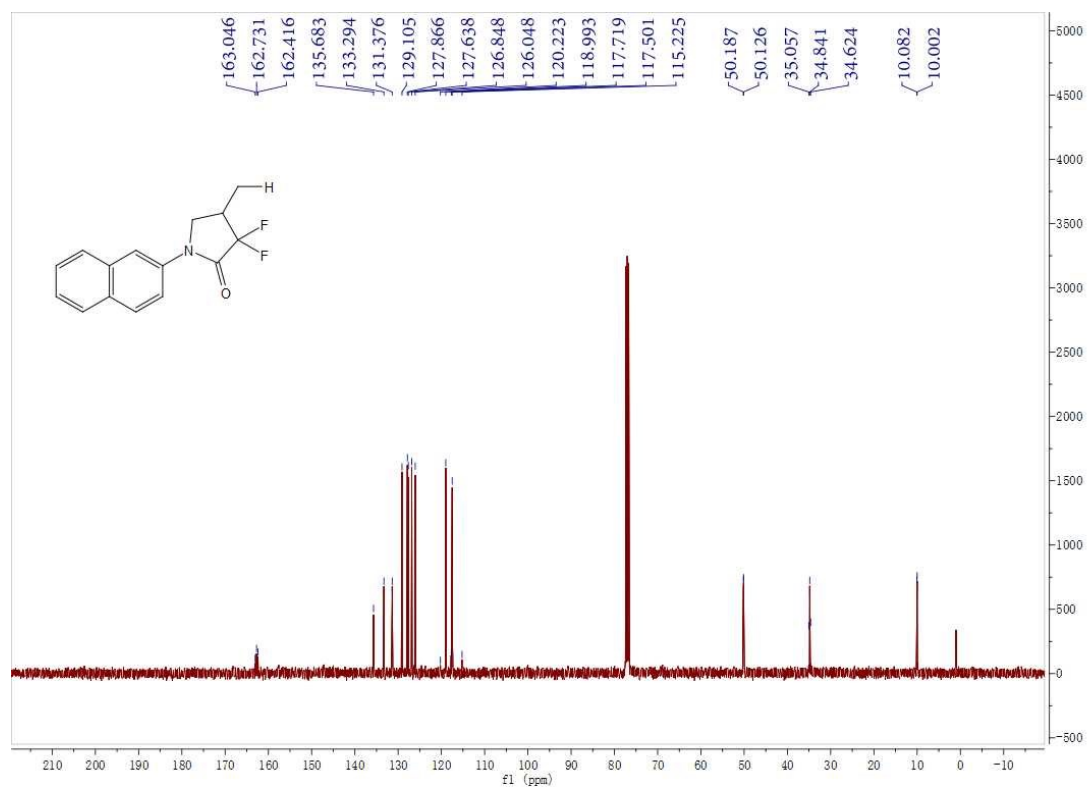
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(3-chloro-5-dimethylphenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (14)**



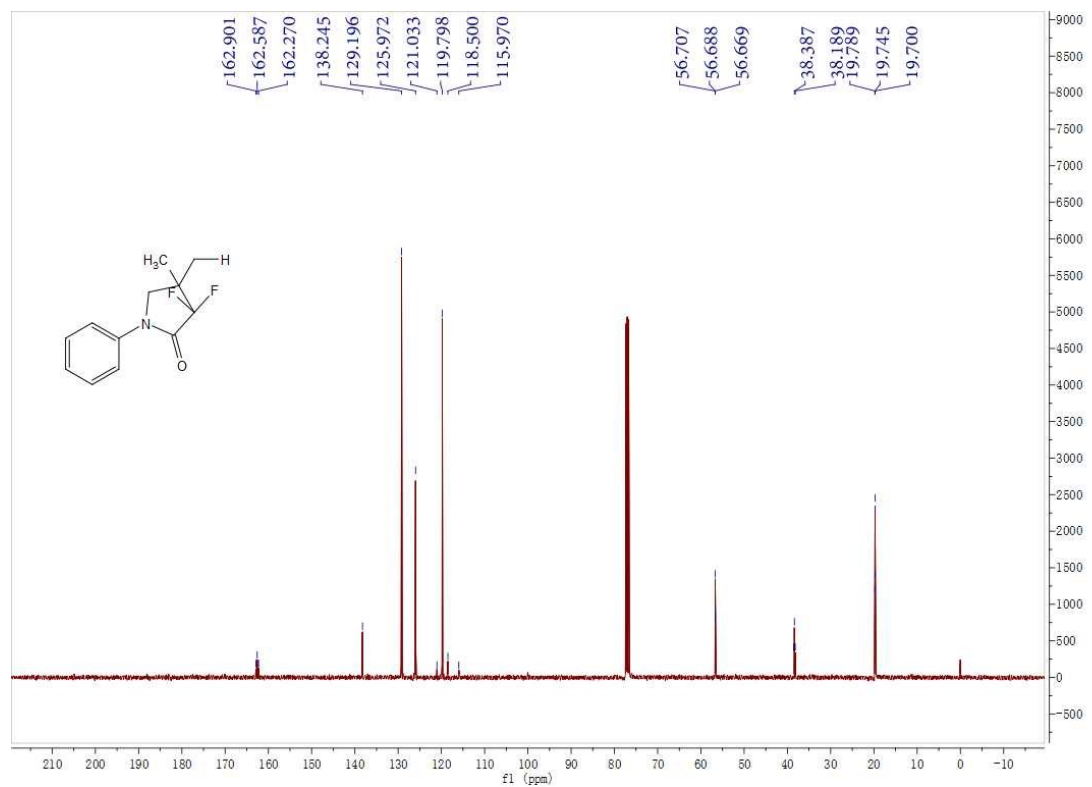
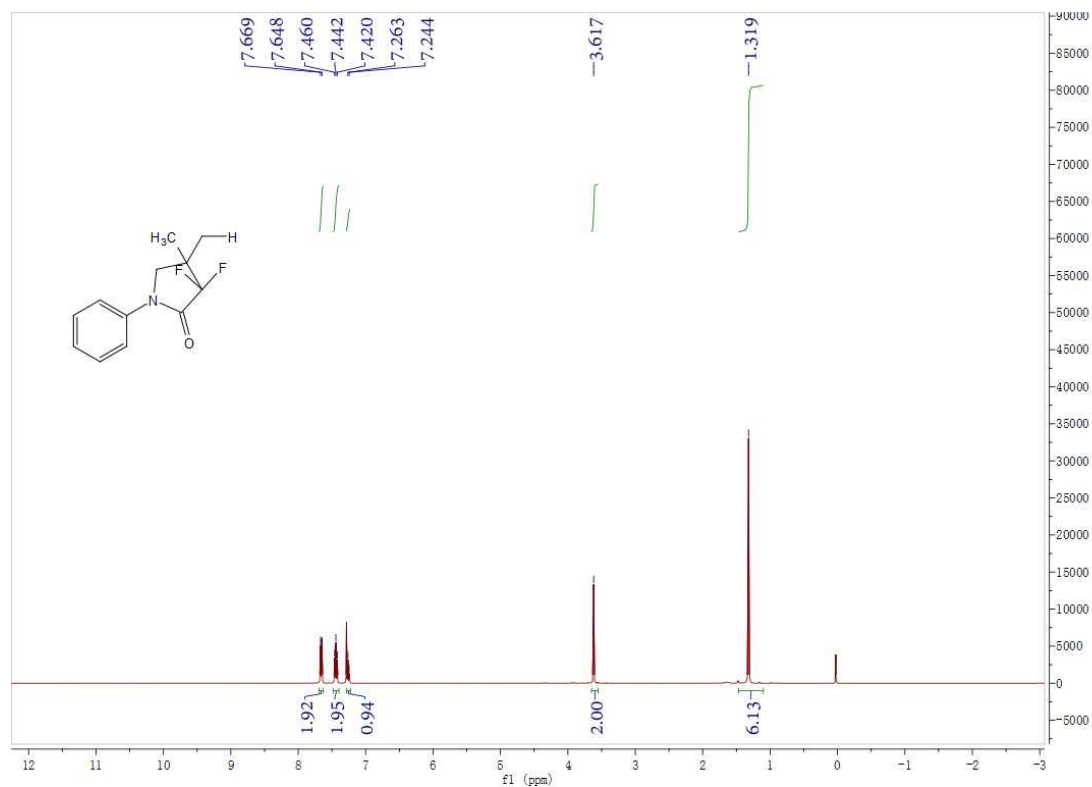


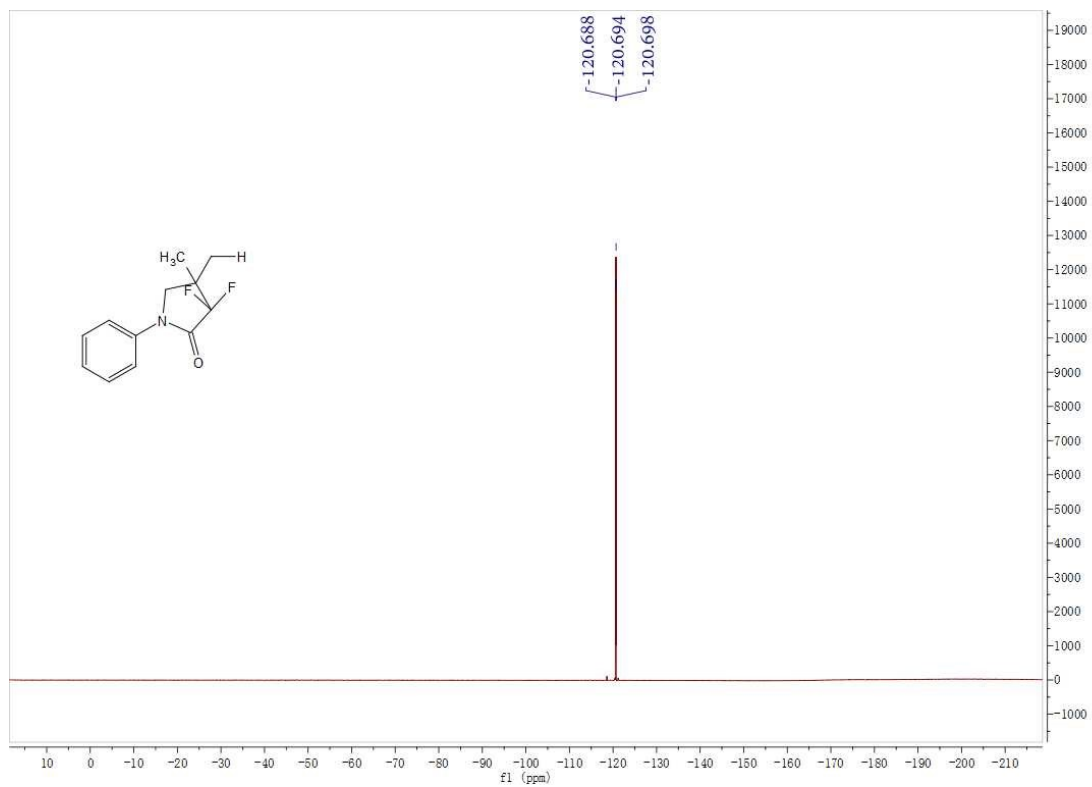
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one (15)**



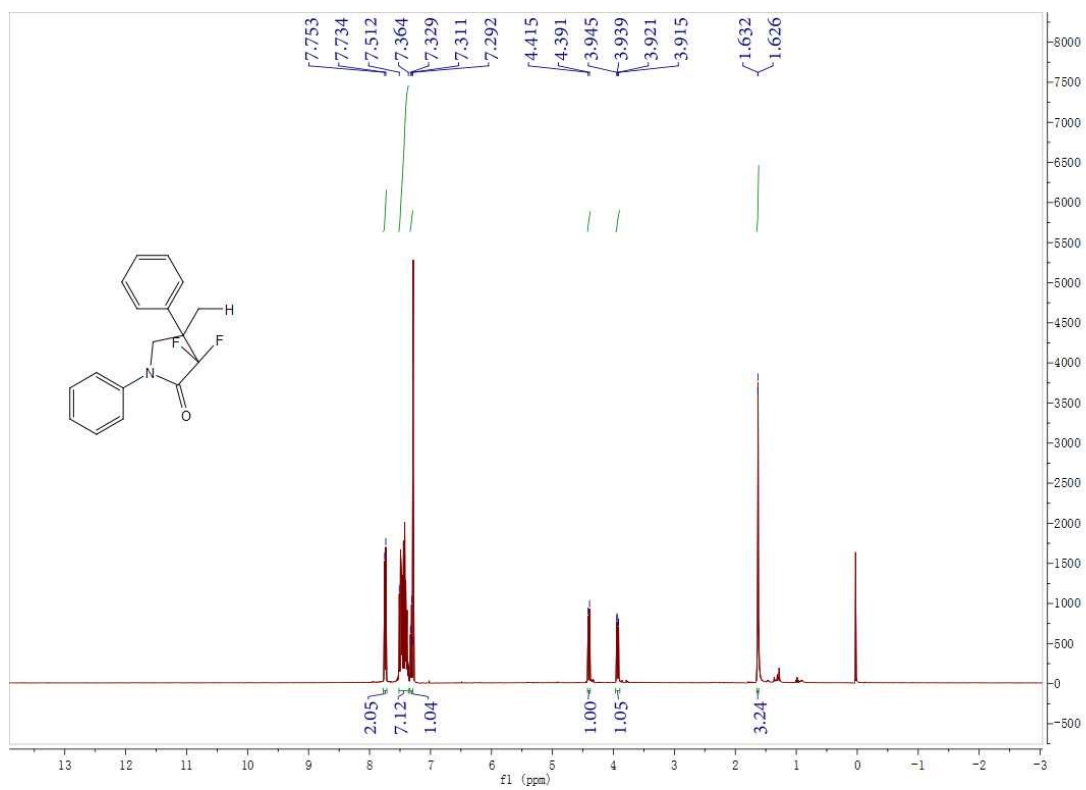


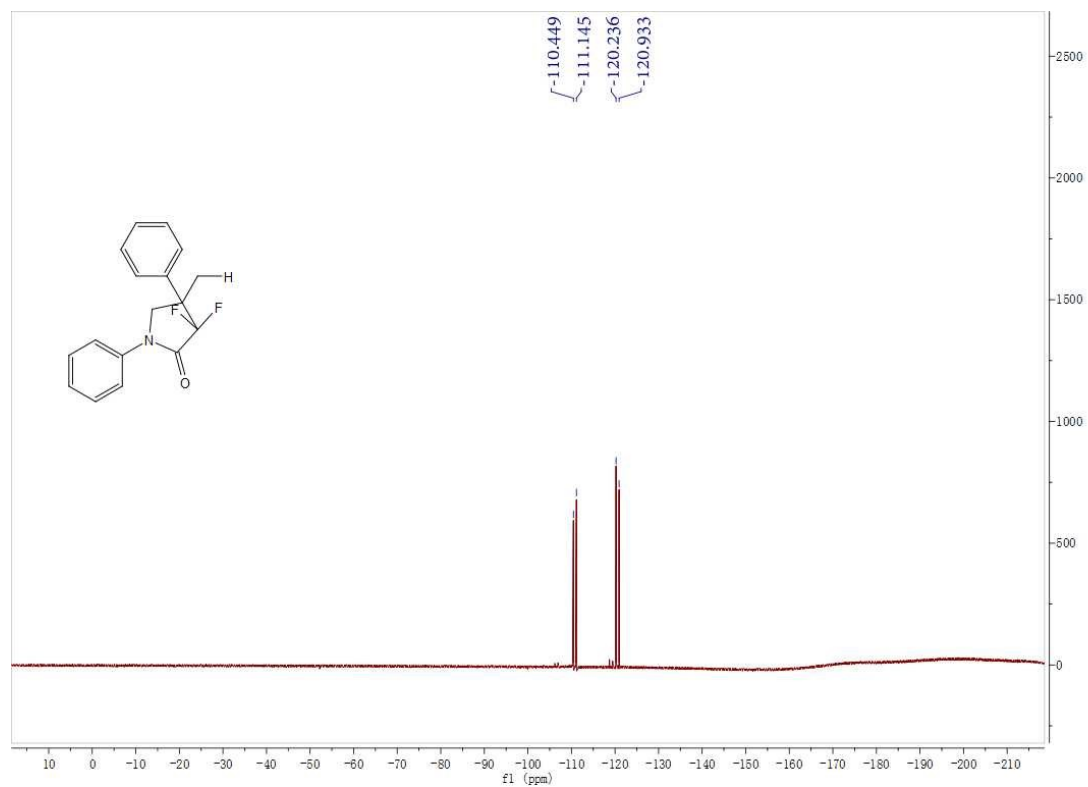
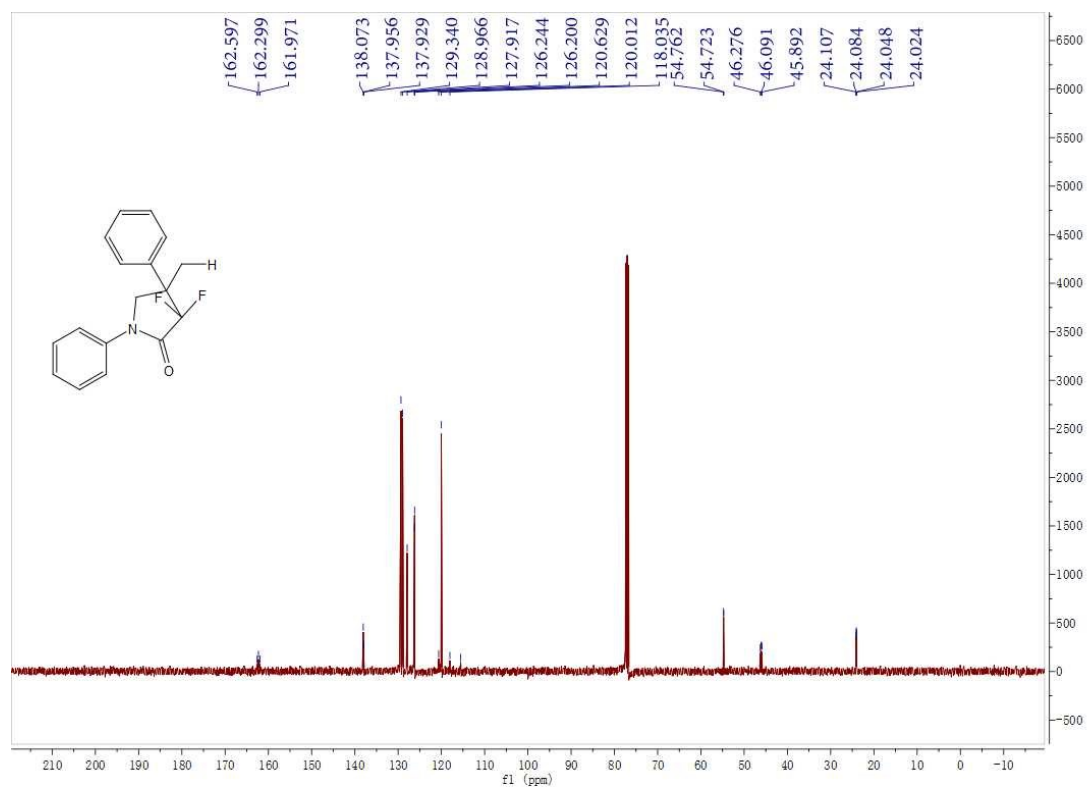
3,3-difluoro-4,4-dimethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (16)



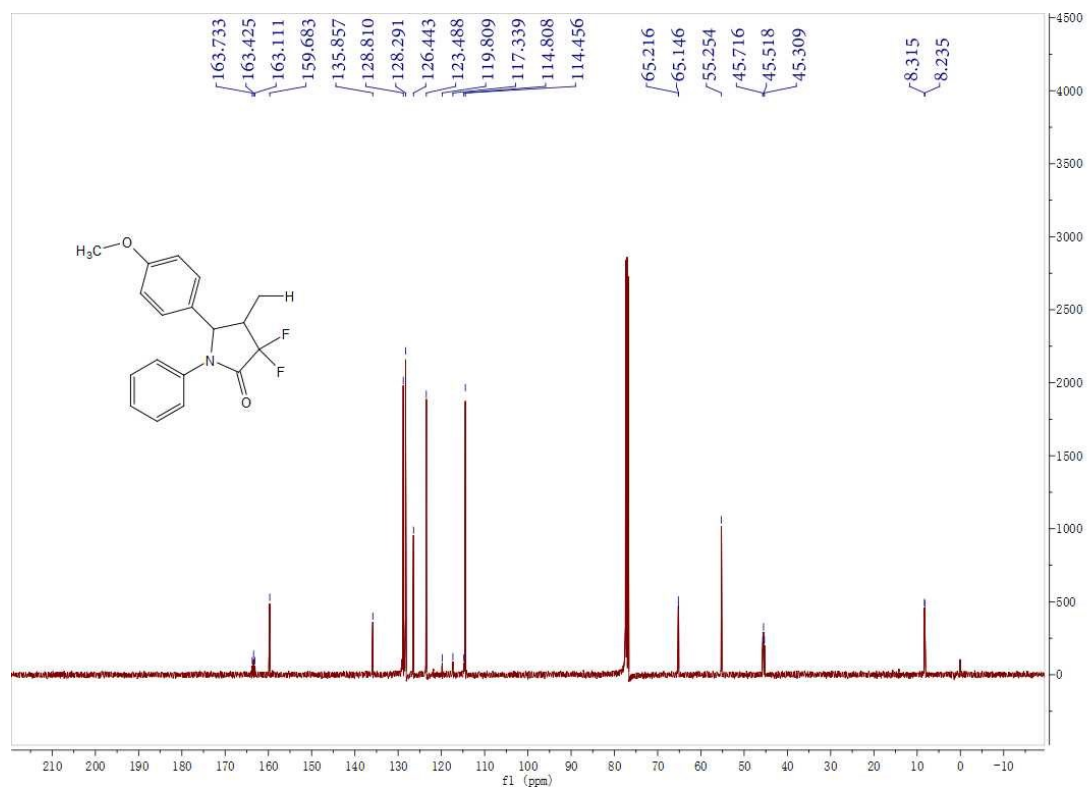
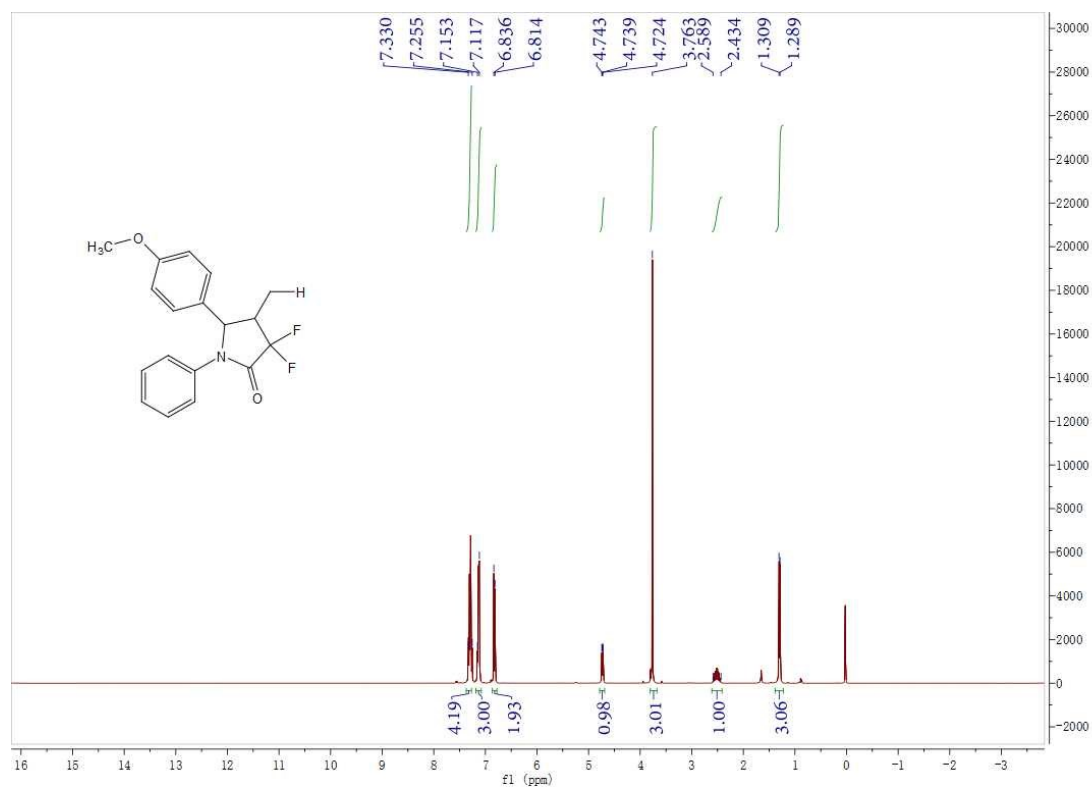


**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1,4-diphenylpyrrolidin-2-one (17)**

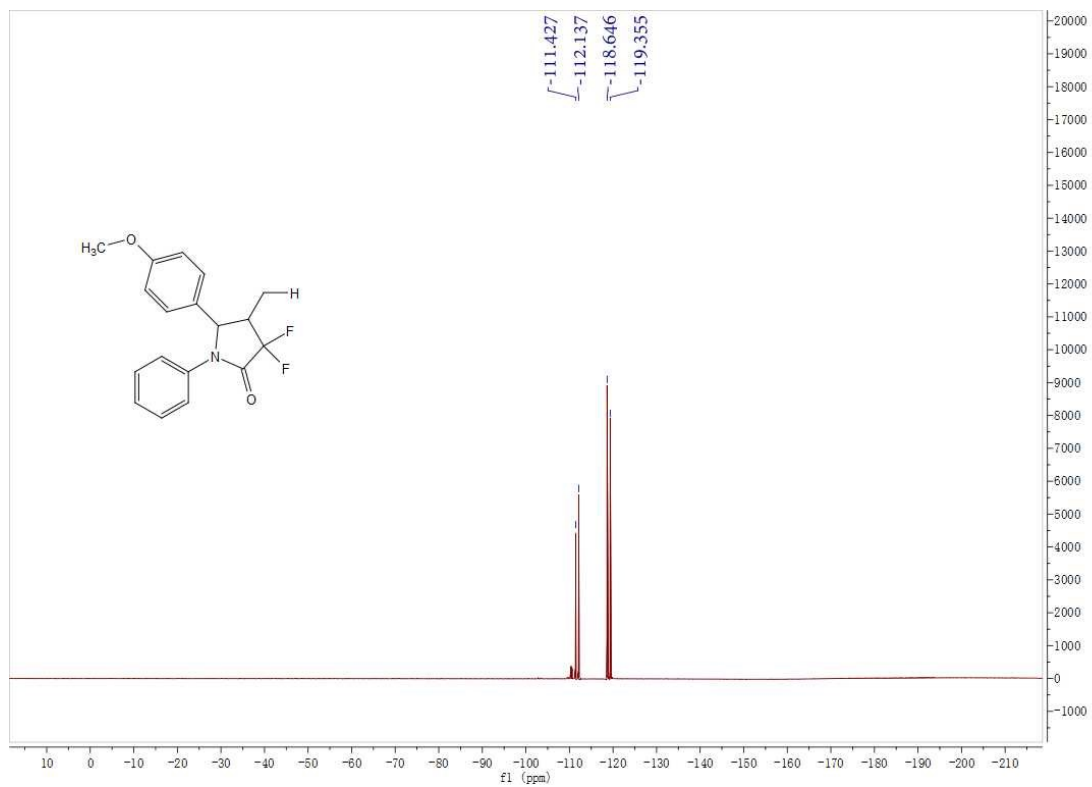




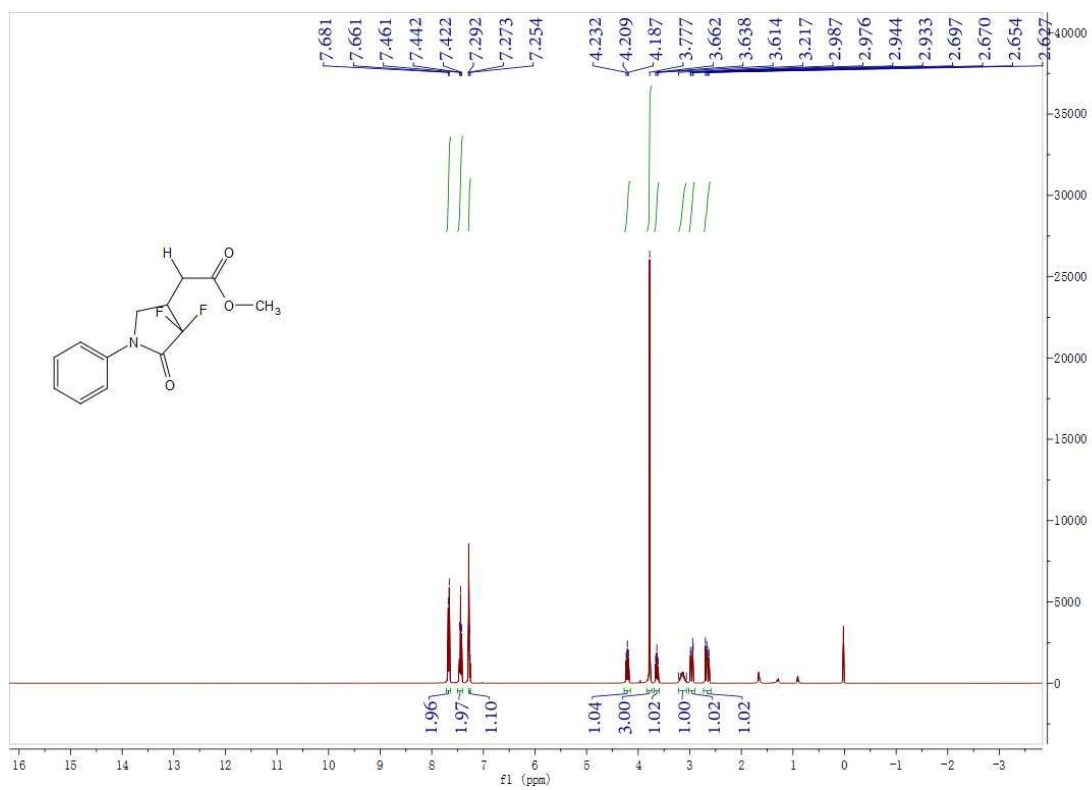
3,3-difluoro-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (18)

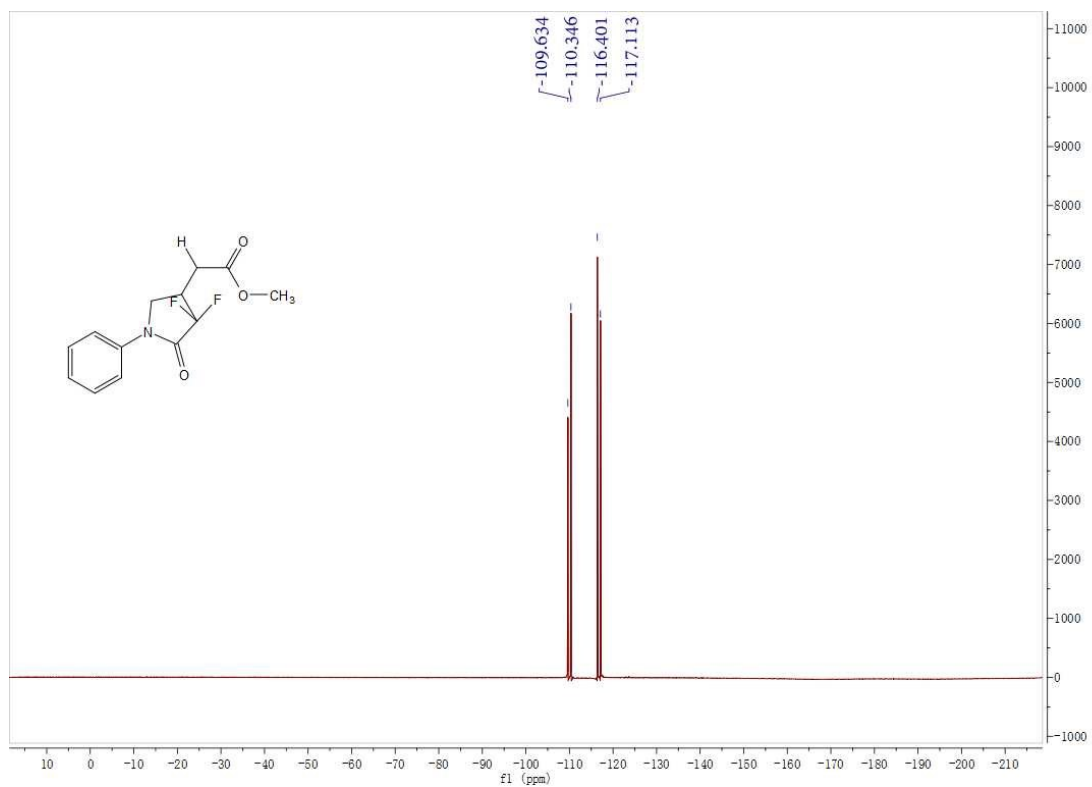
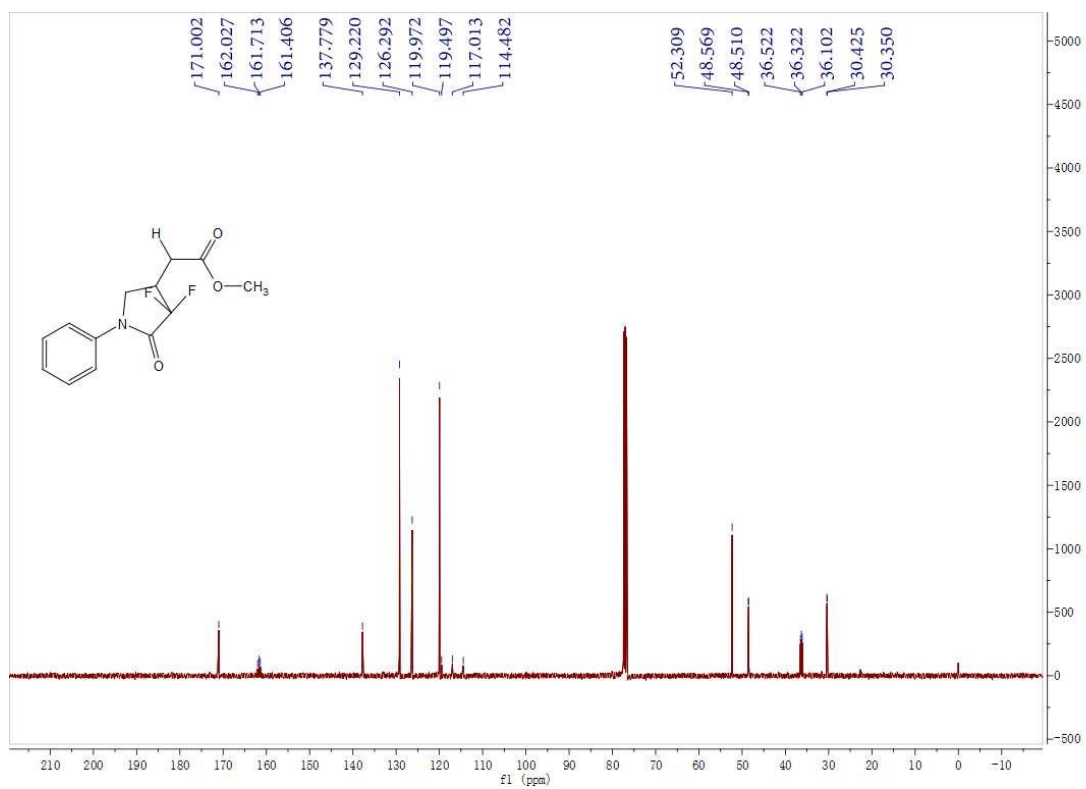




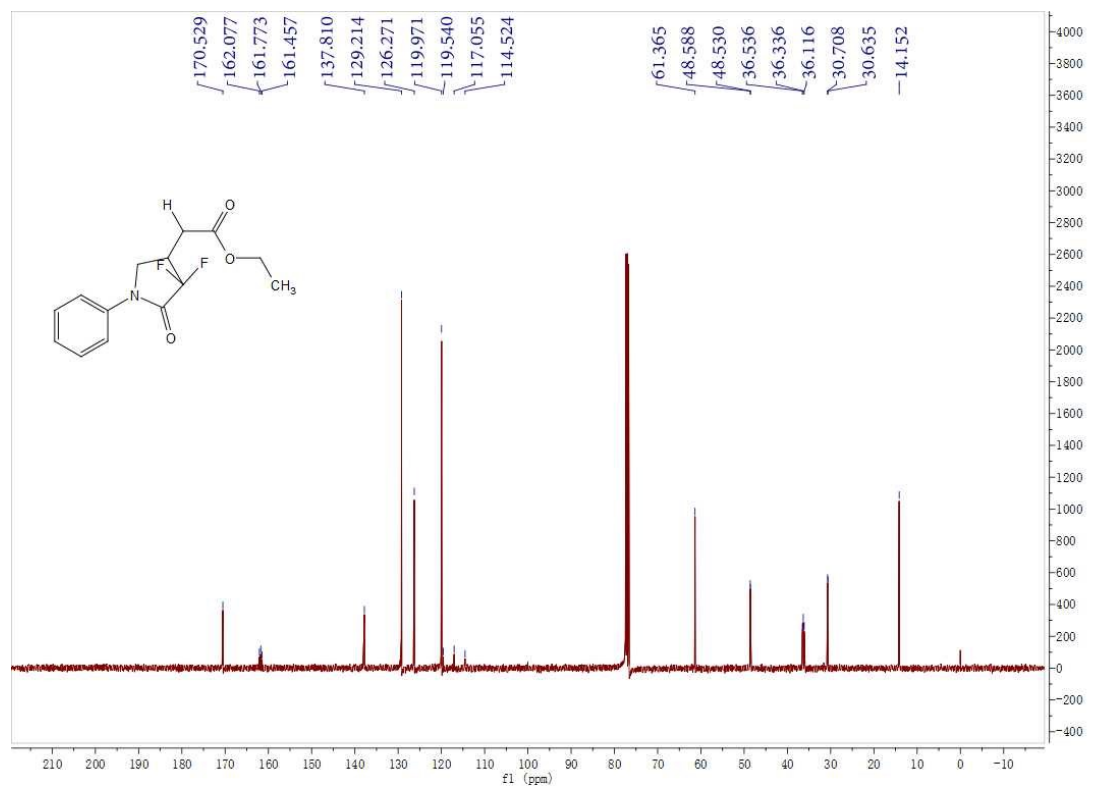
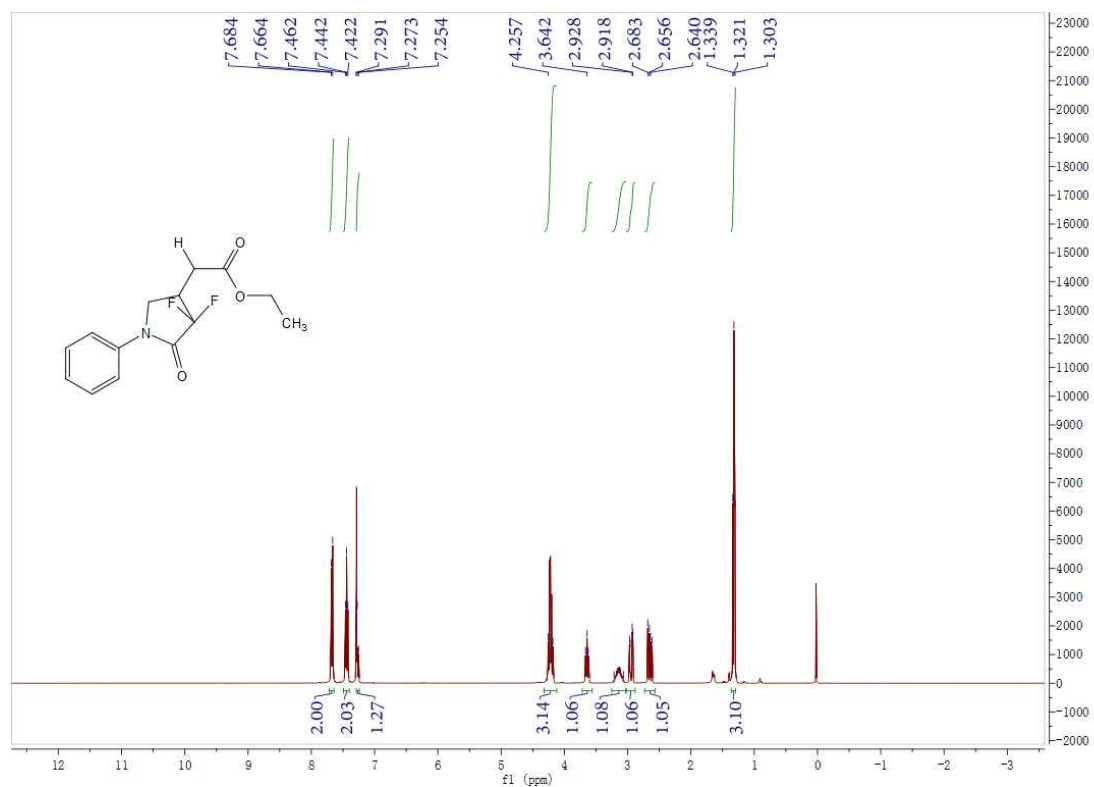


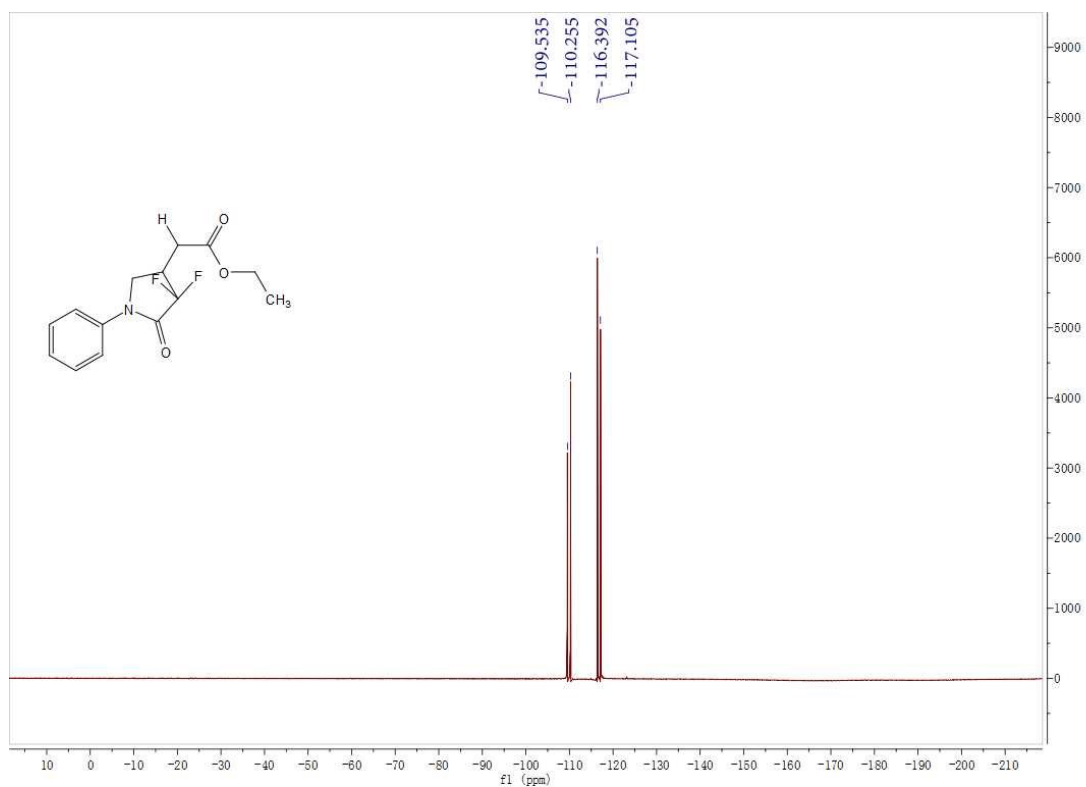
**methyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (19)**



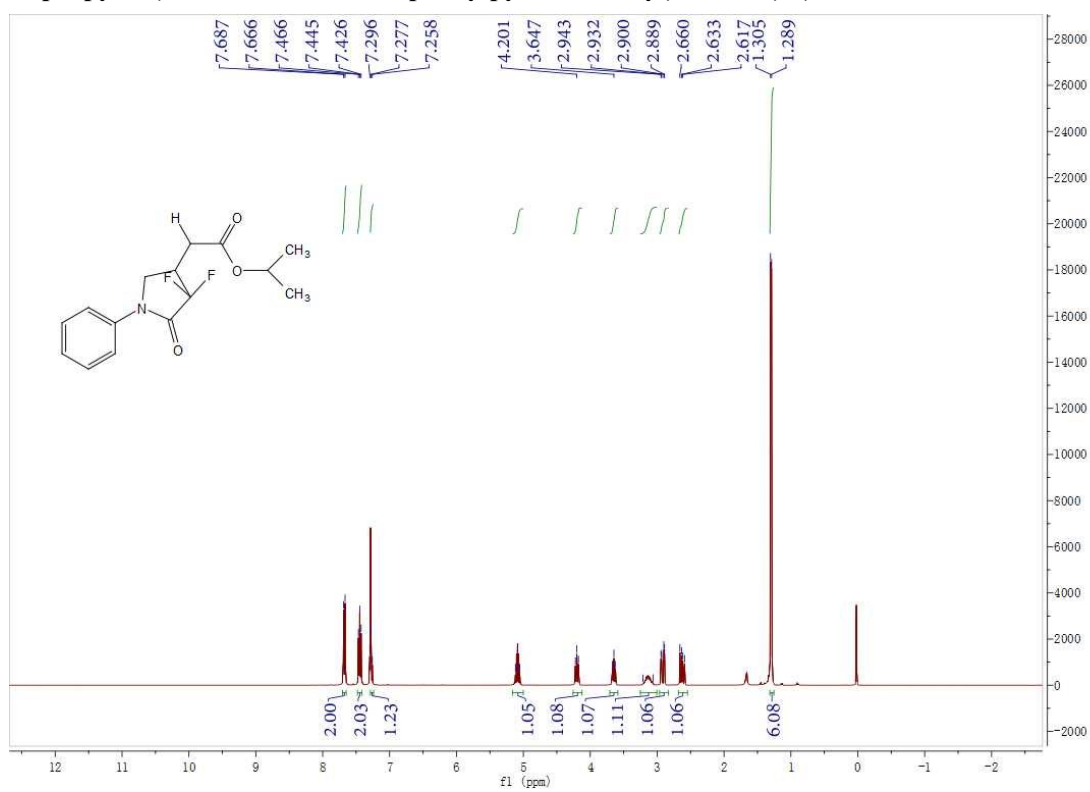


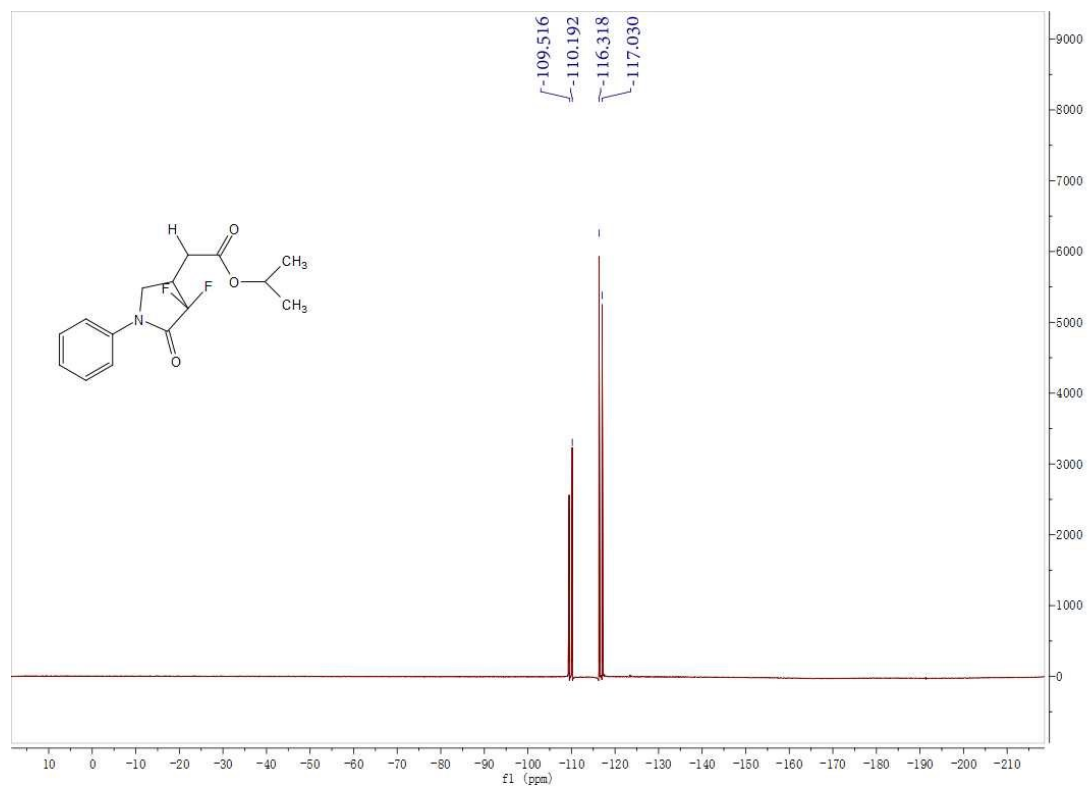
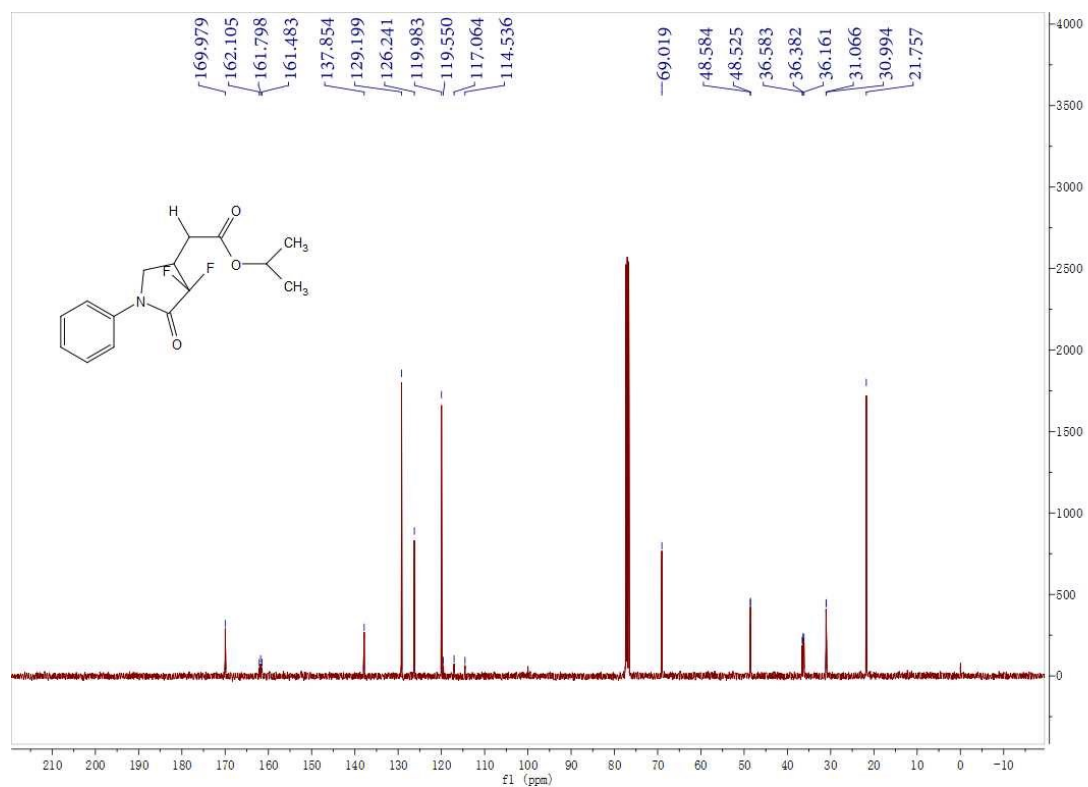
ethyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (20)



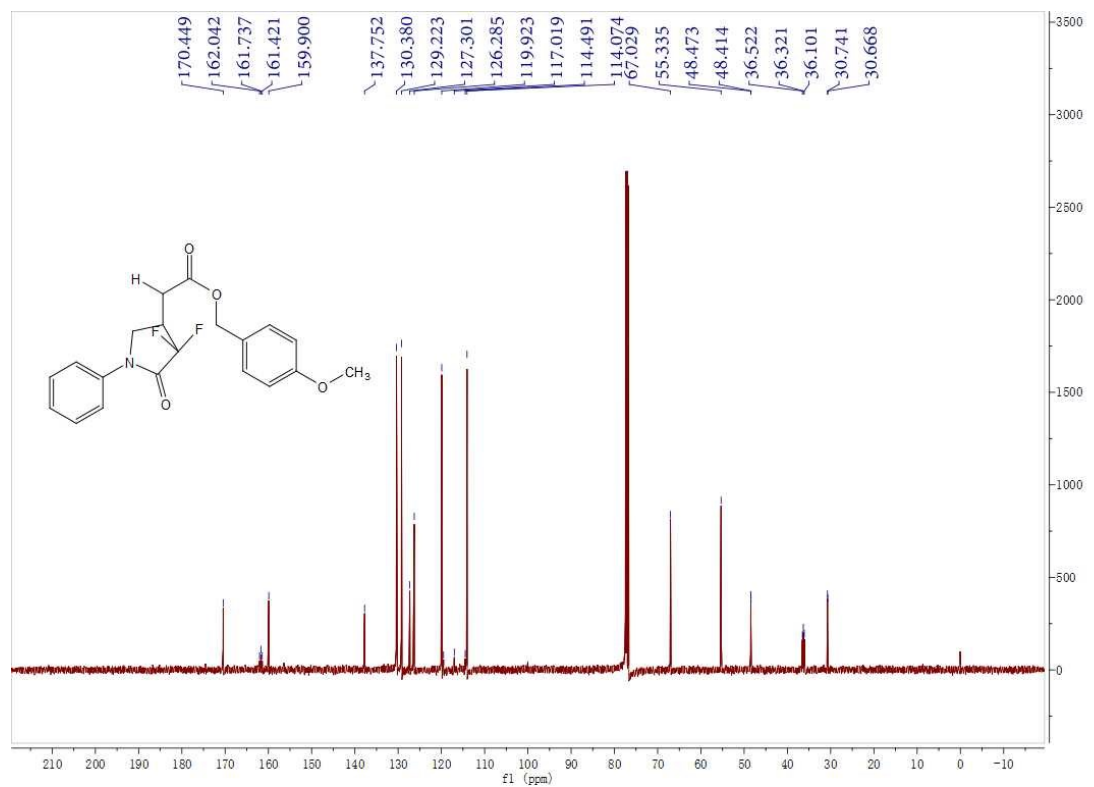
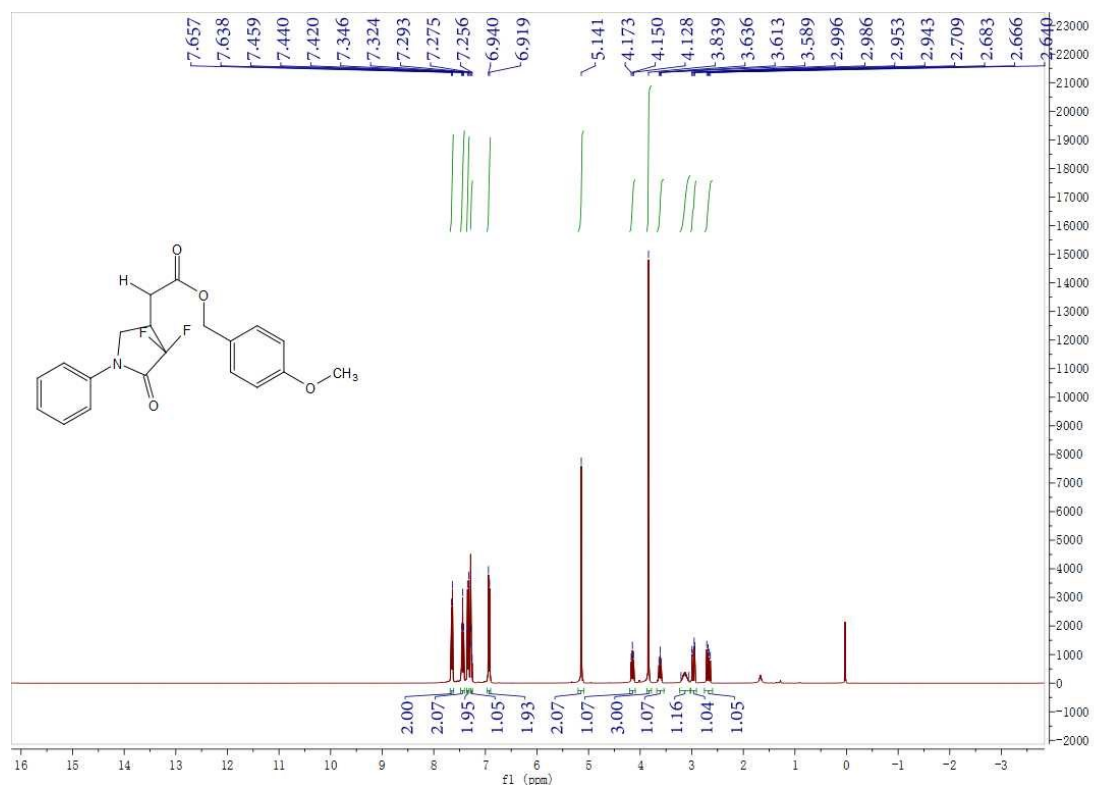


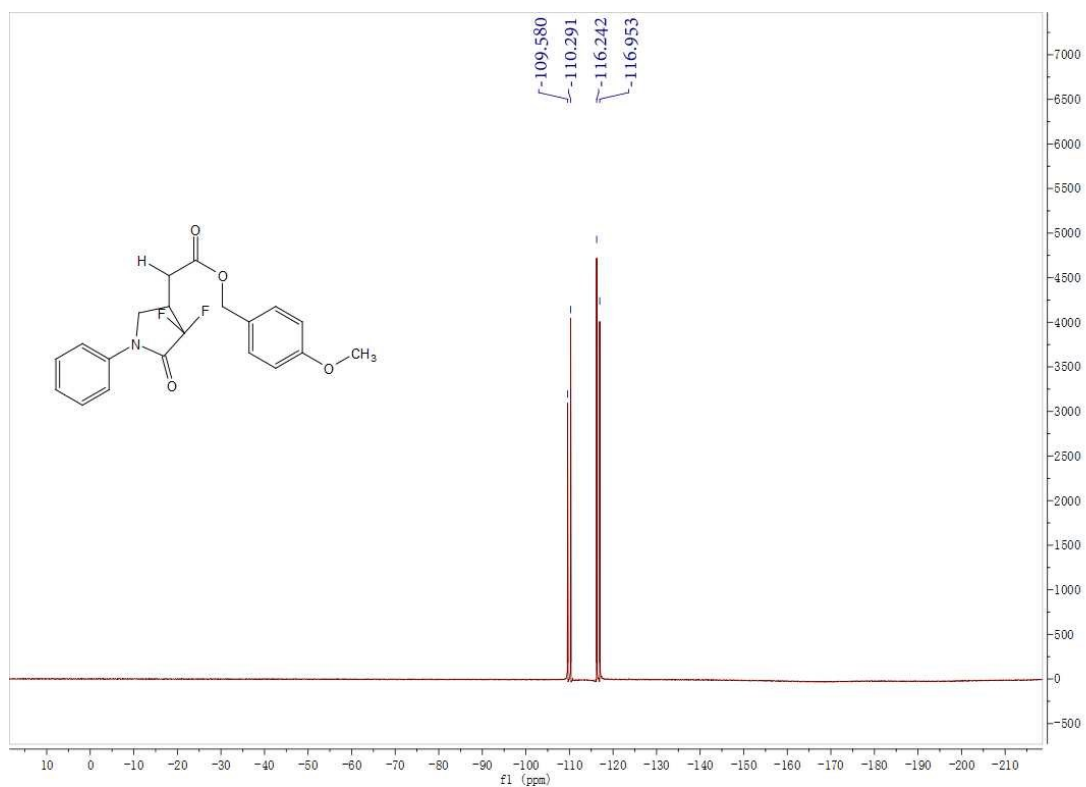
**isopropyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (21)**



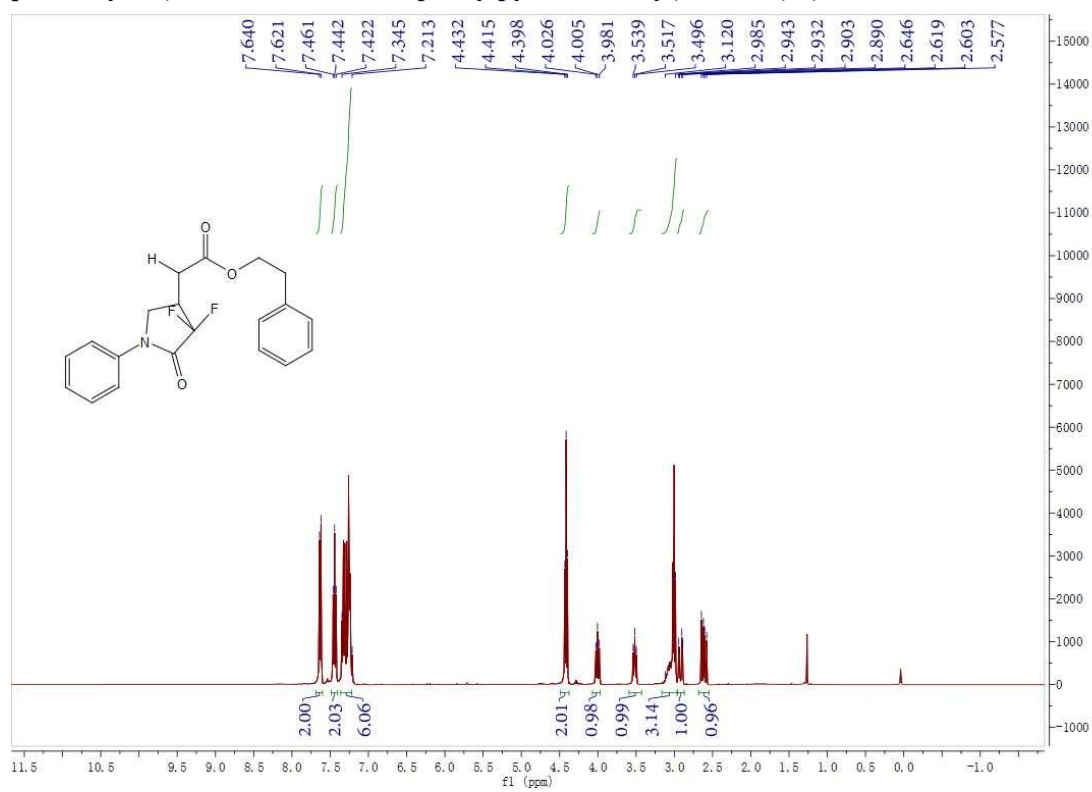


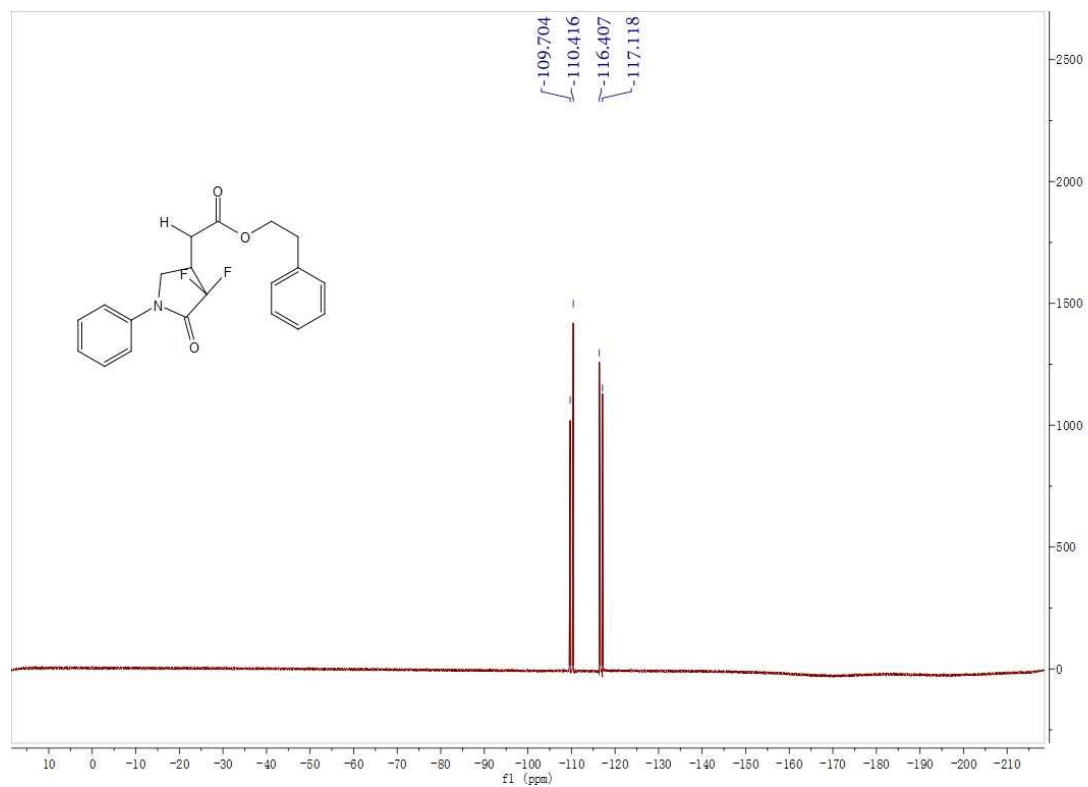
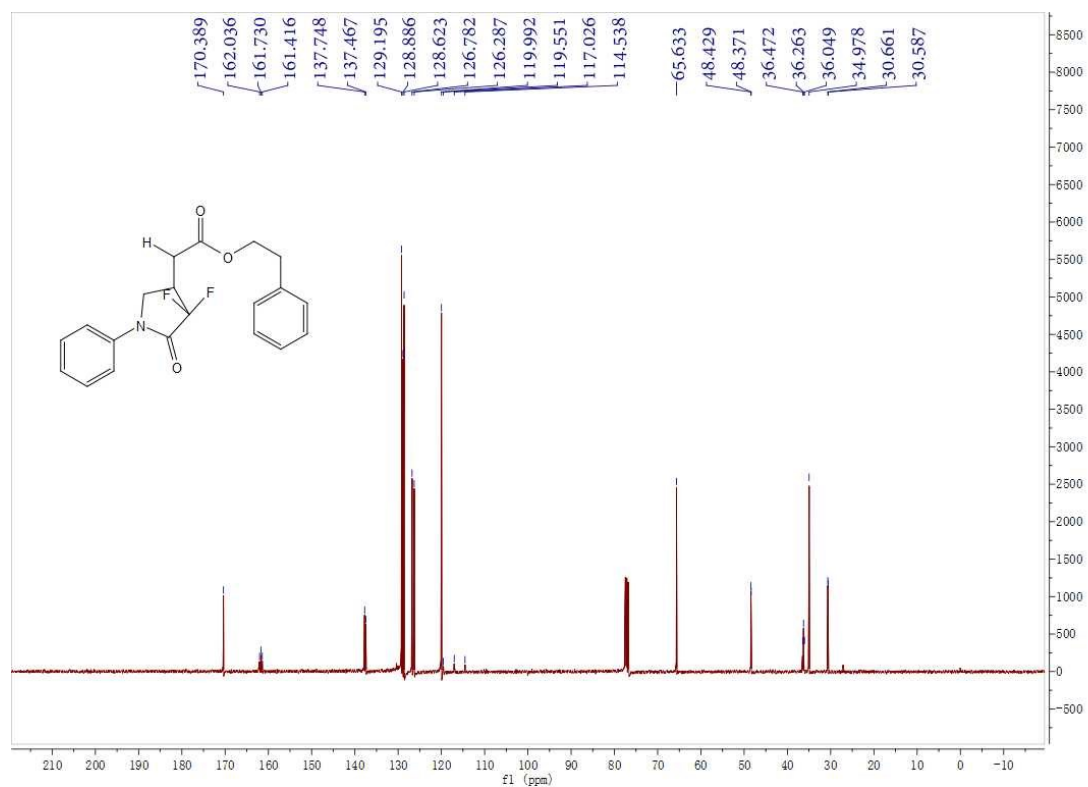
4-methoxybenzyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (22)





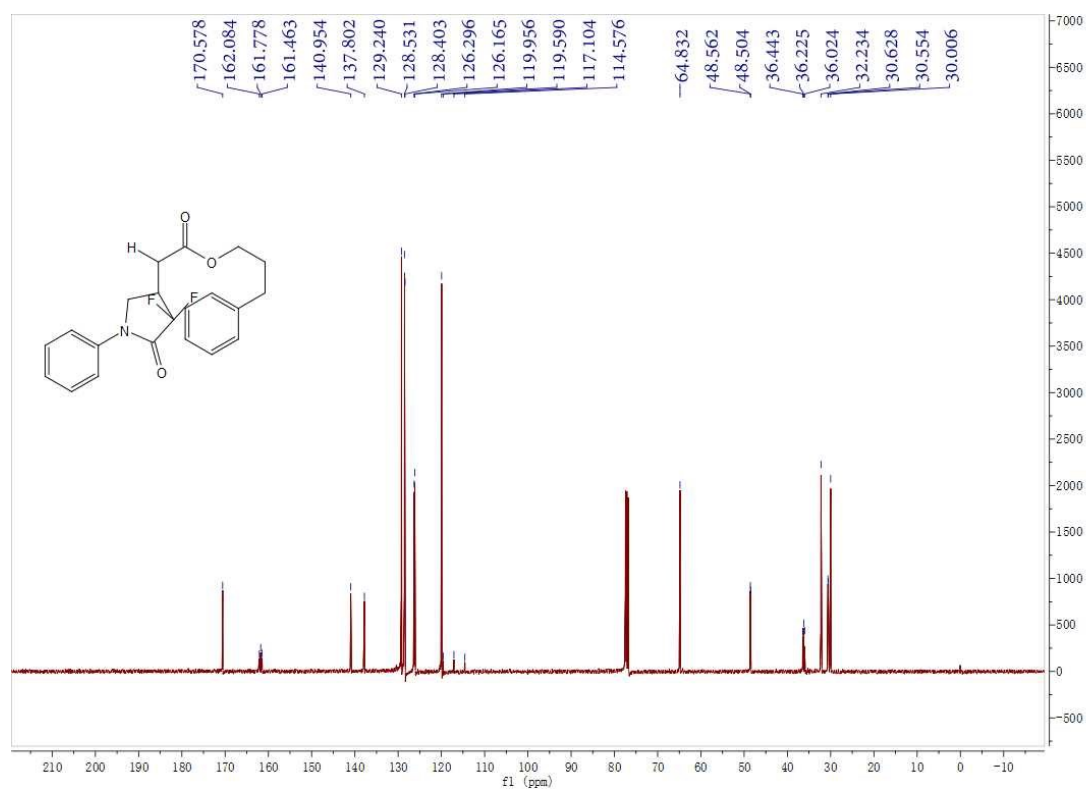
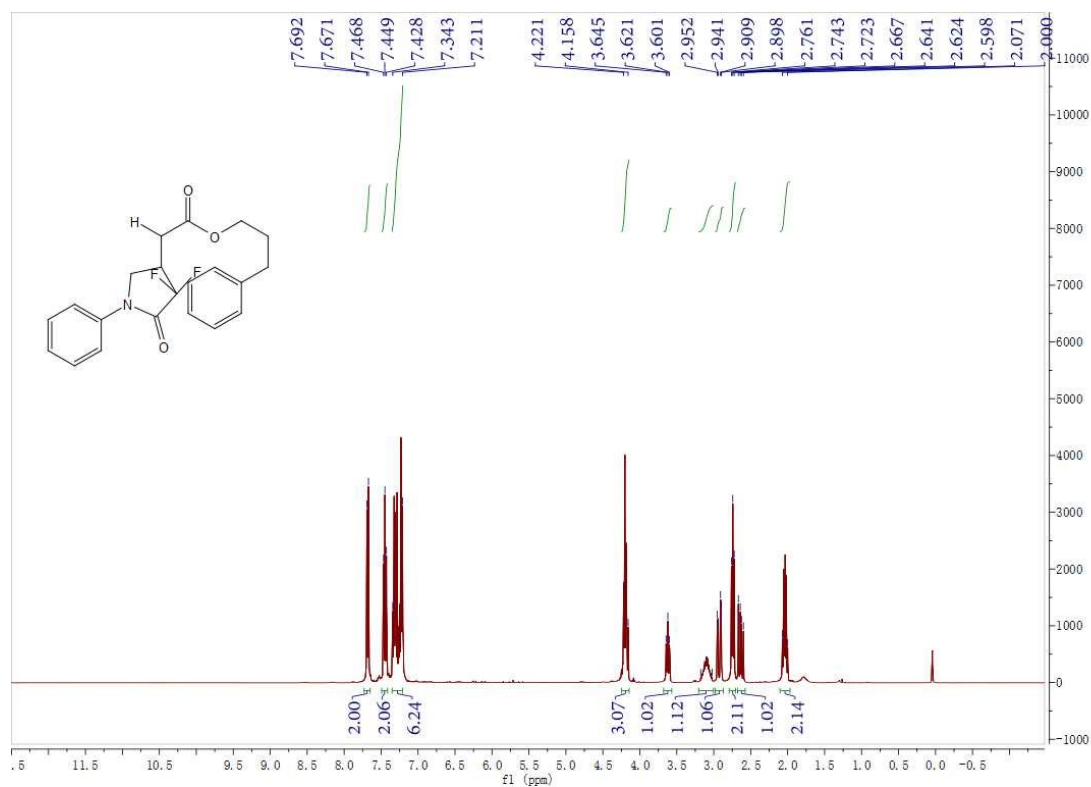
**phenethyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (23)**

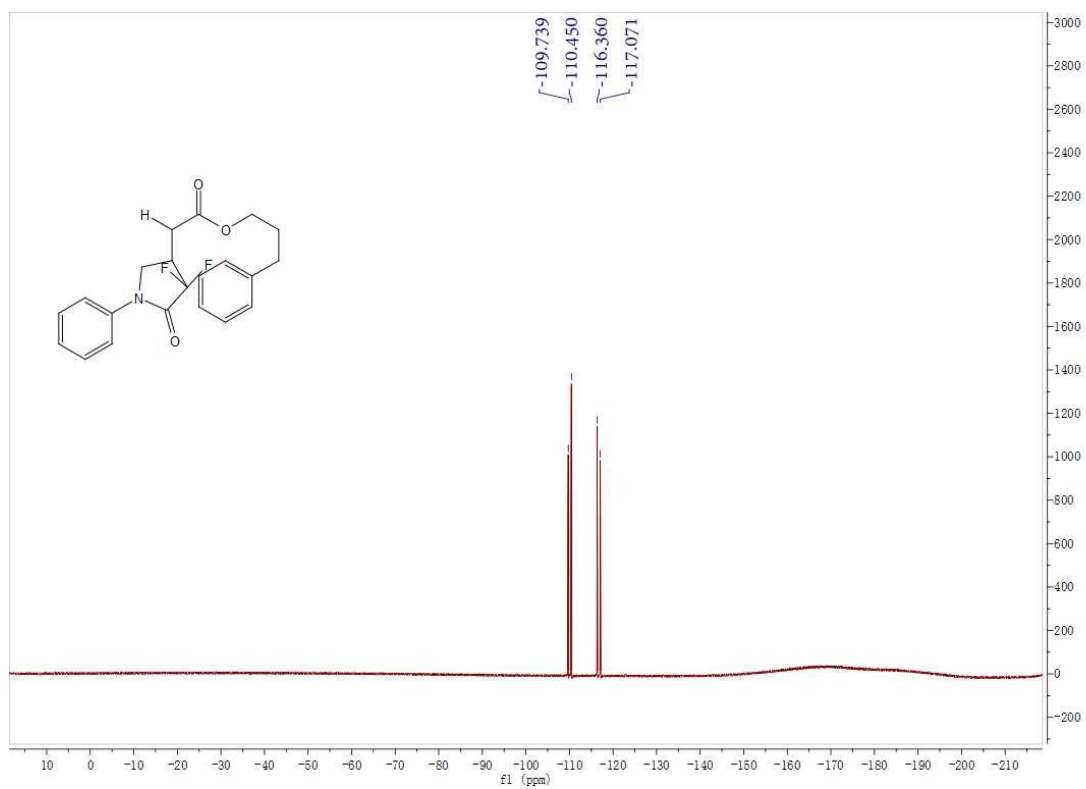




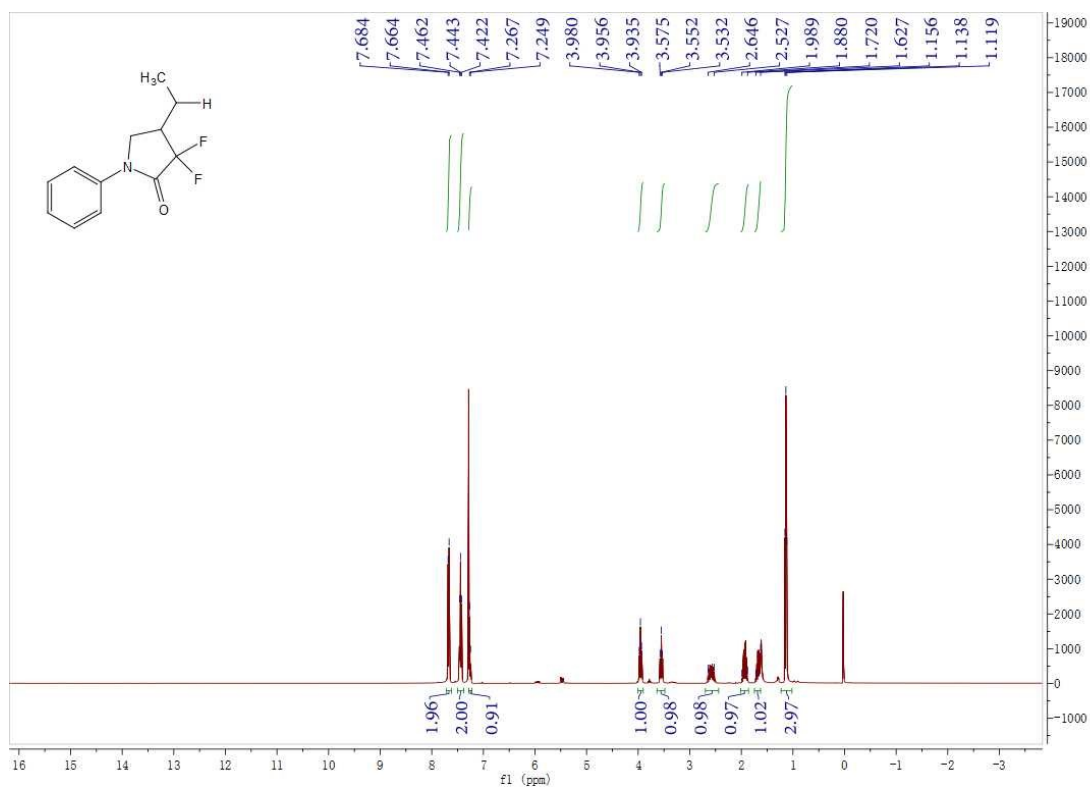


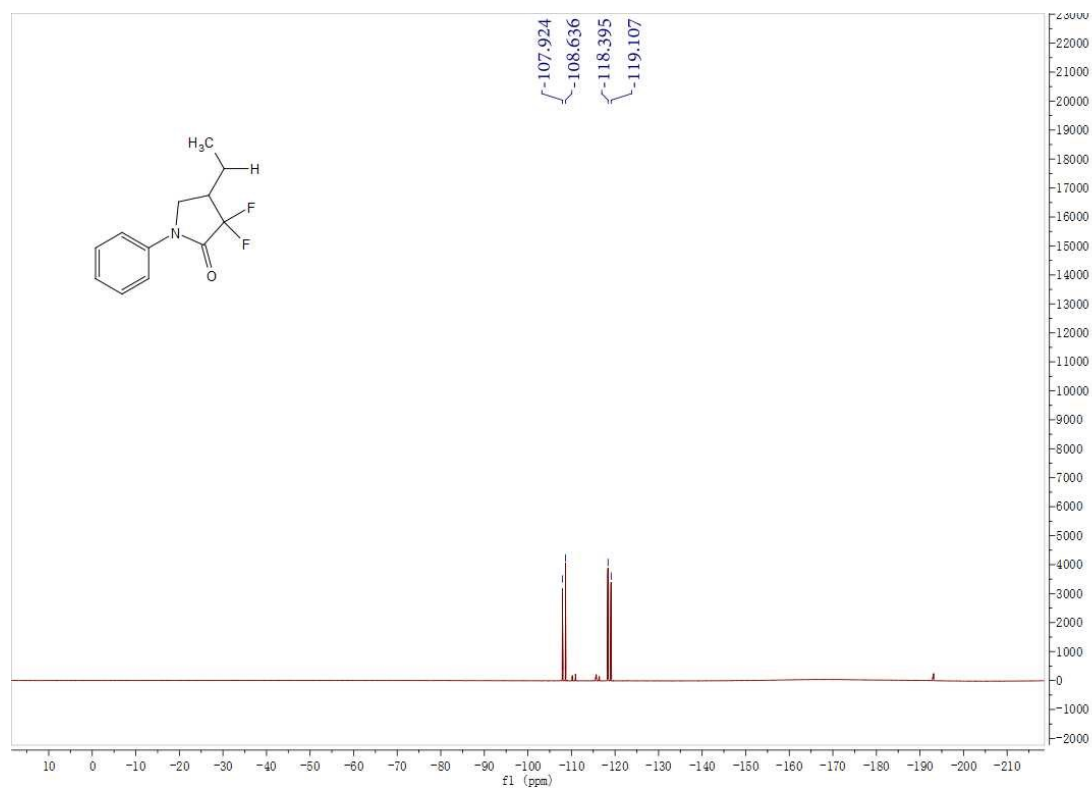
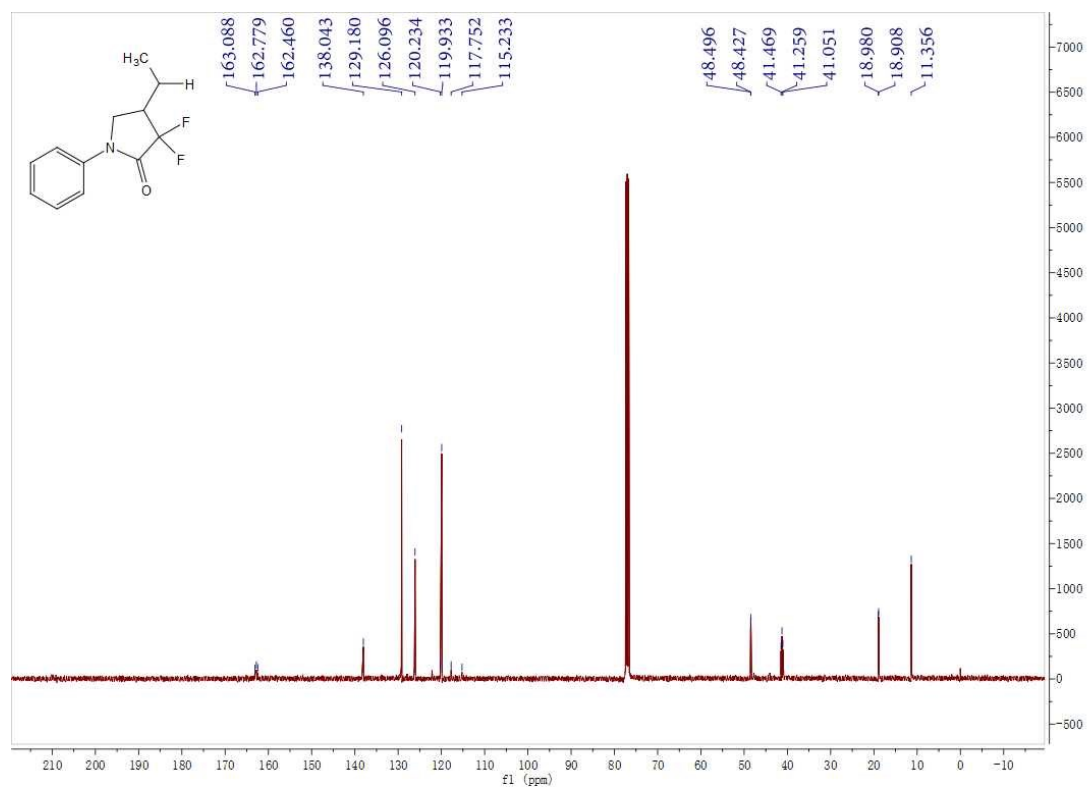
**3-phenylpropyl 2-(4,4-difluoro-5-oxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (24)**



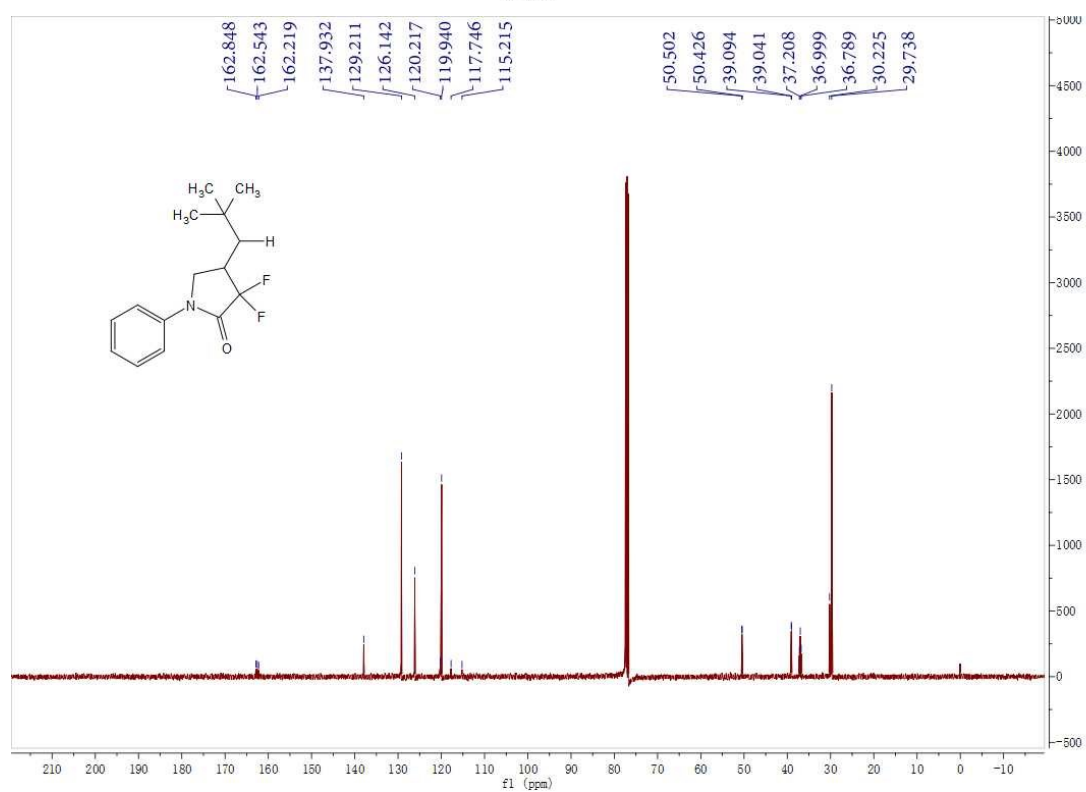
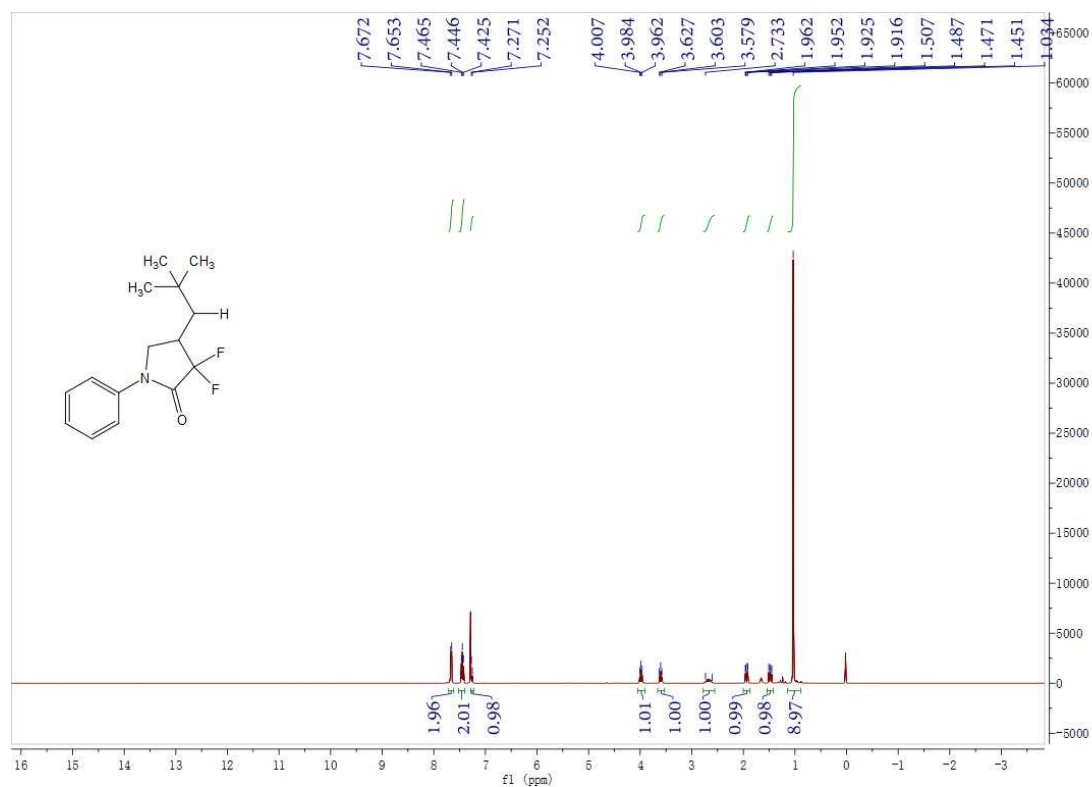


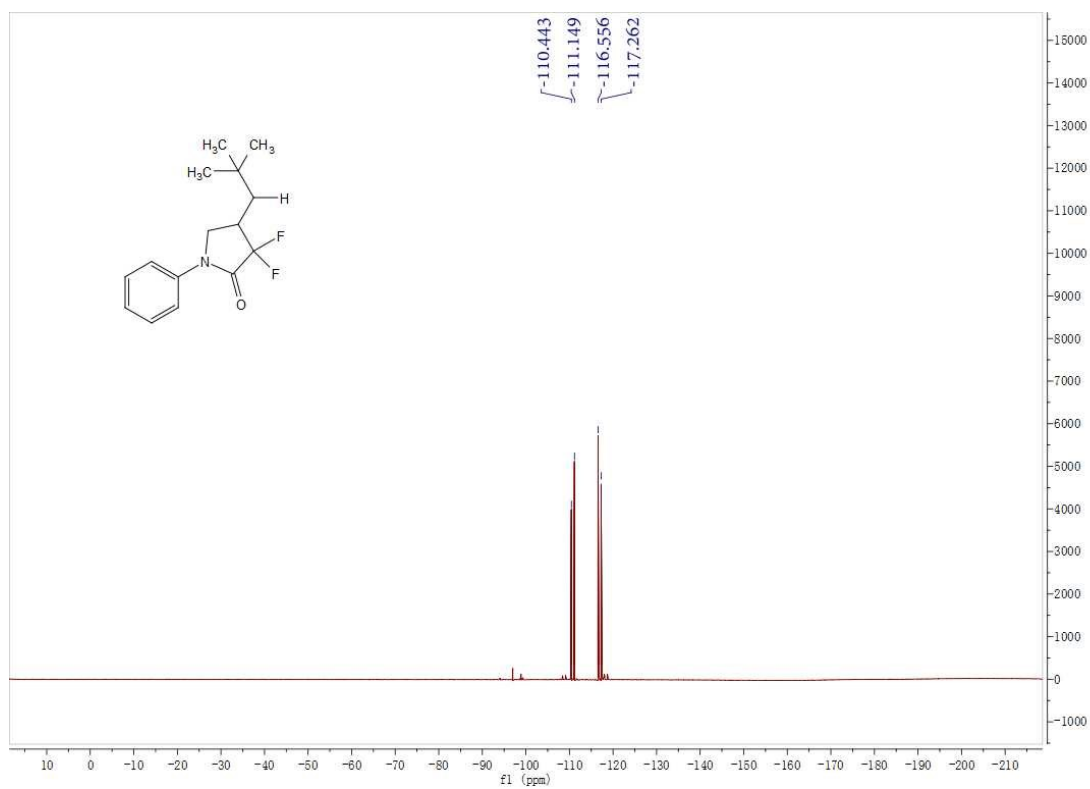
### 3,3-difluoro-4-ethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (25)



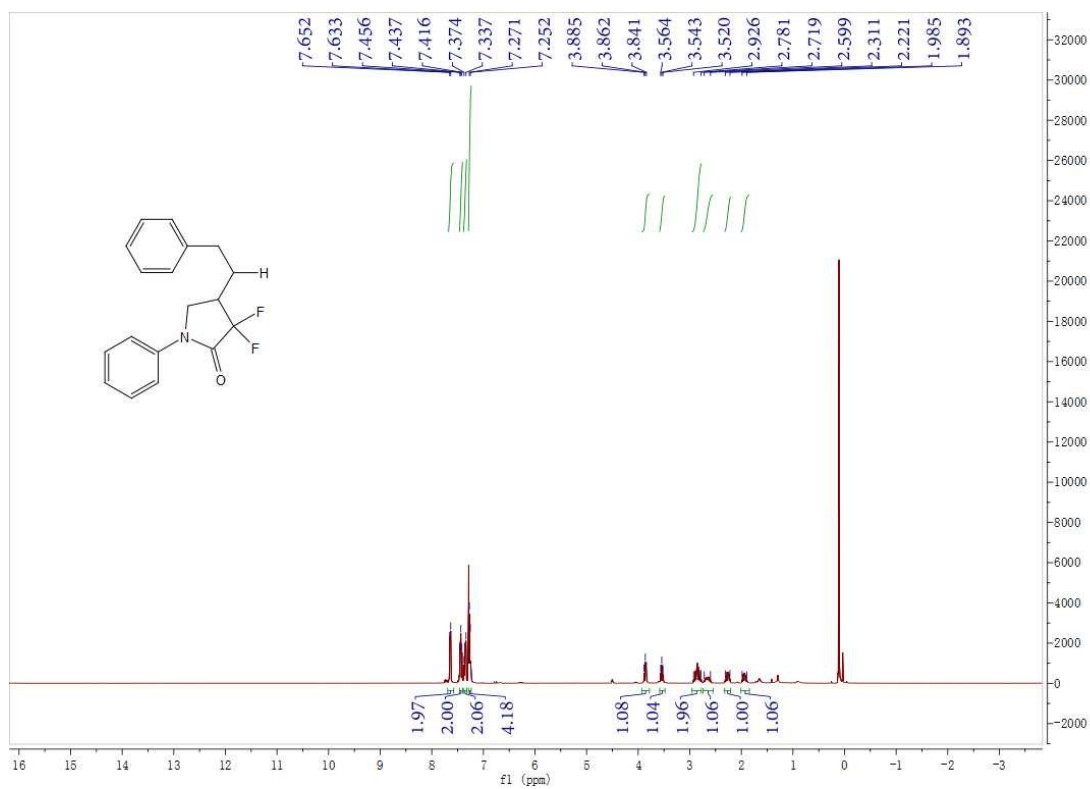


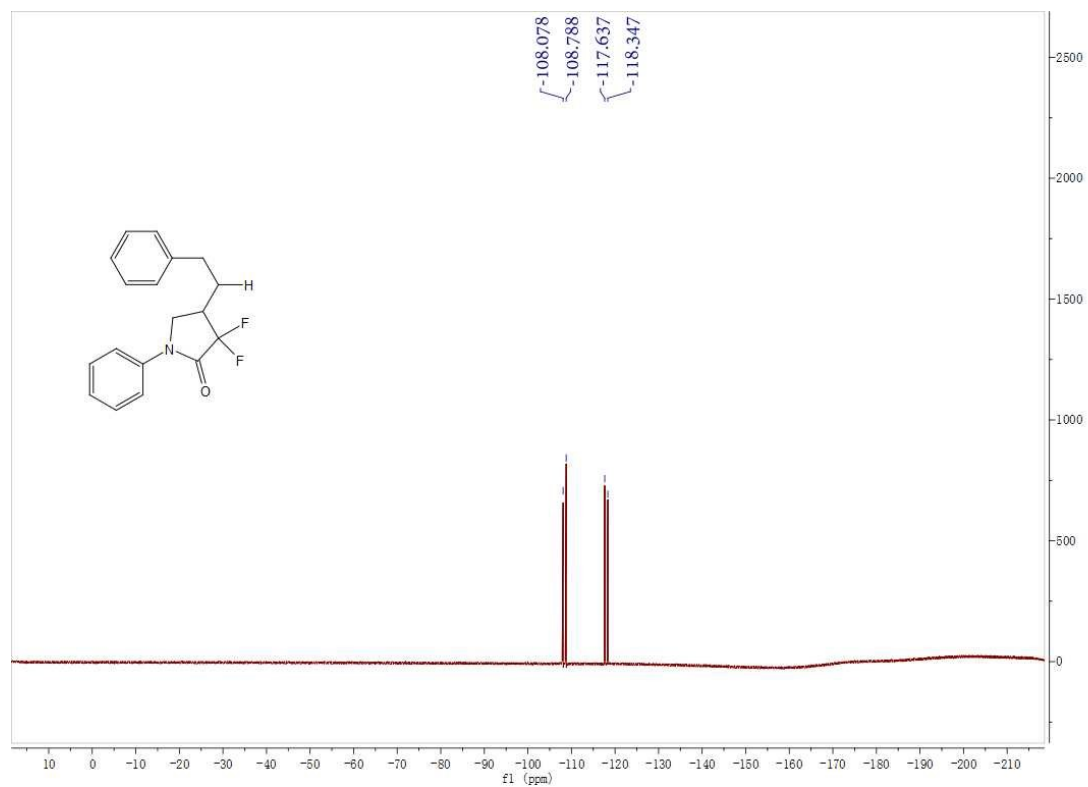
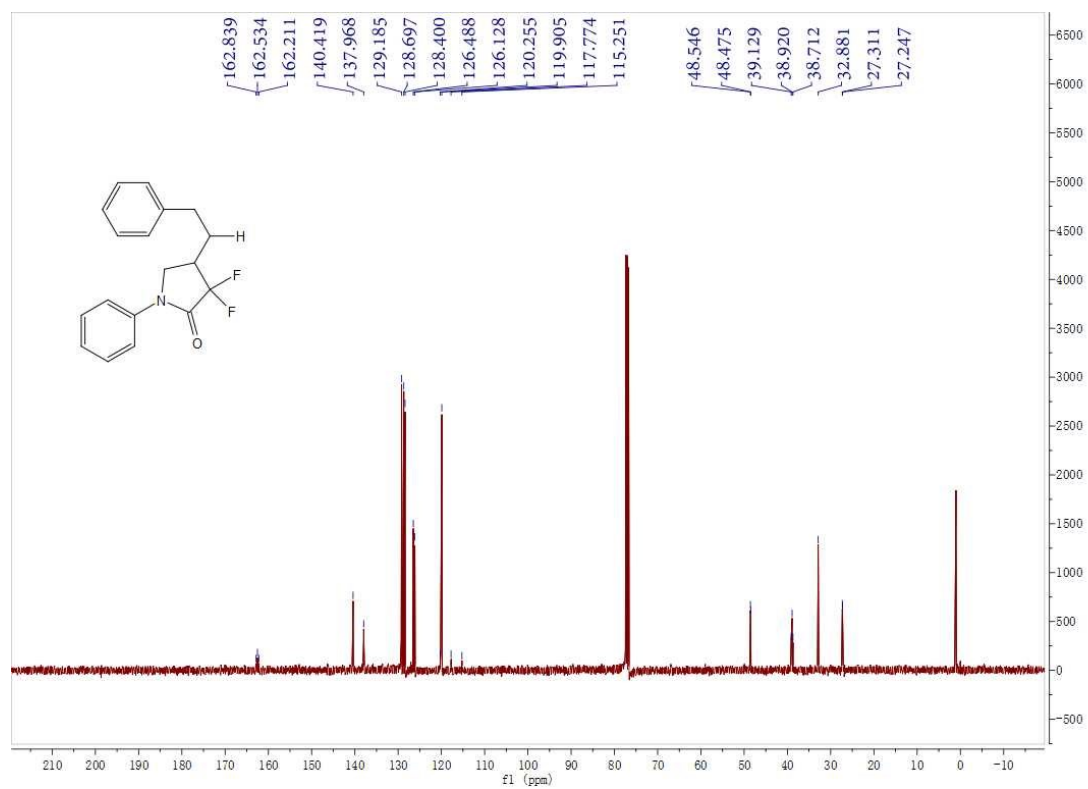
**3,3-difluoro-4-neopentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (2x) (26)**



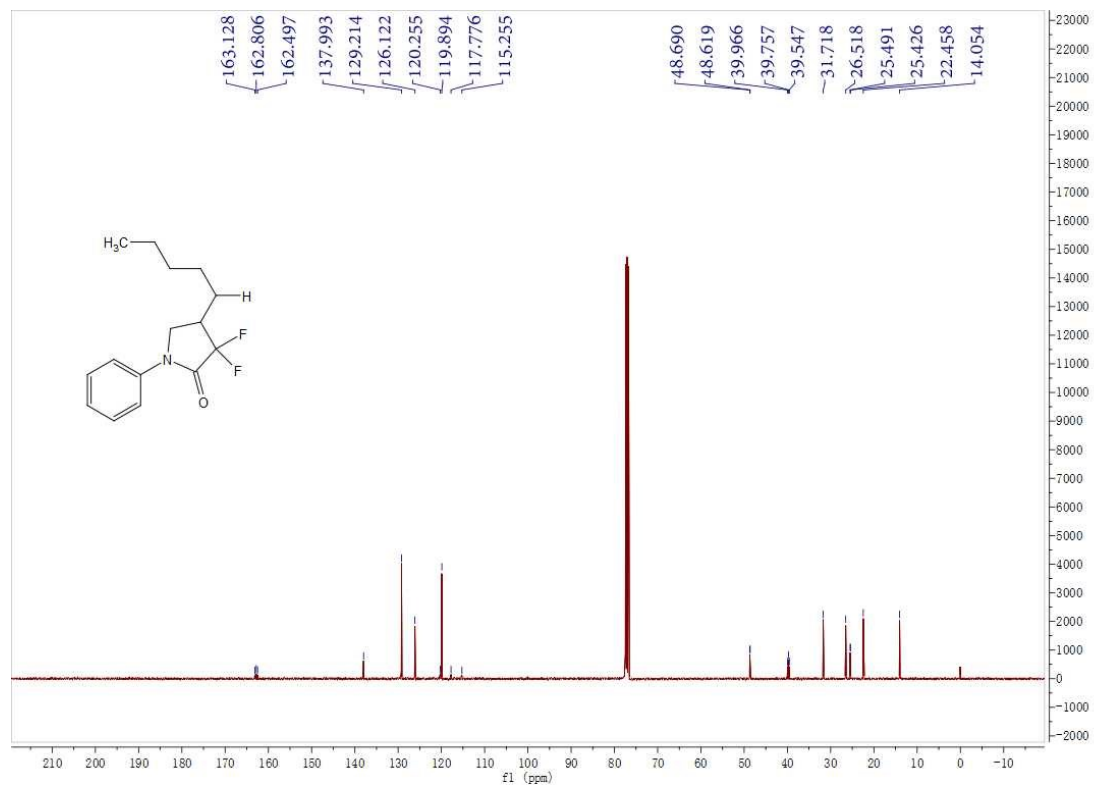
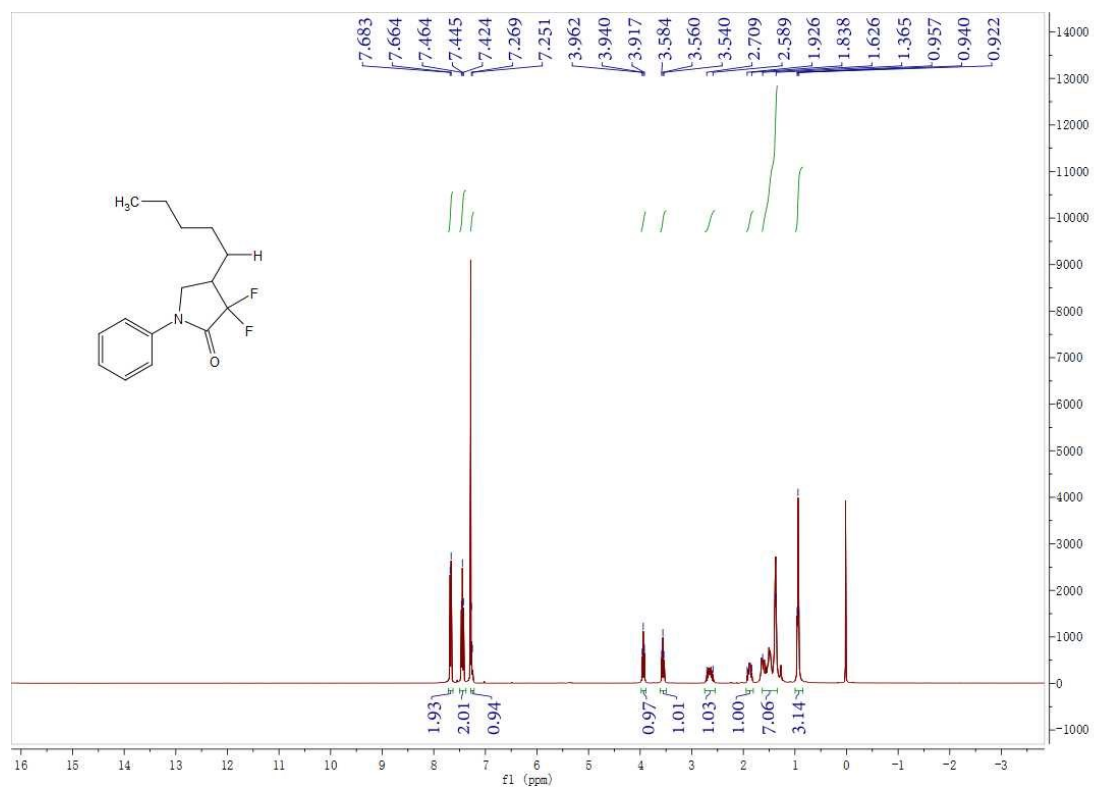


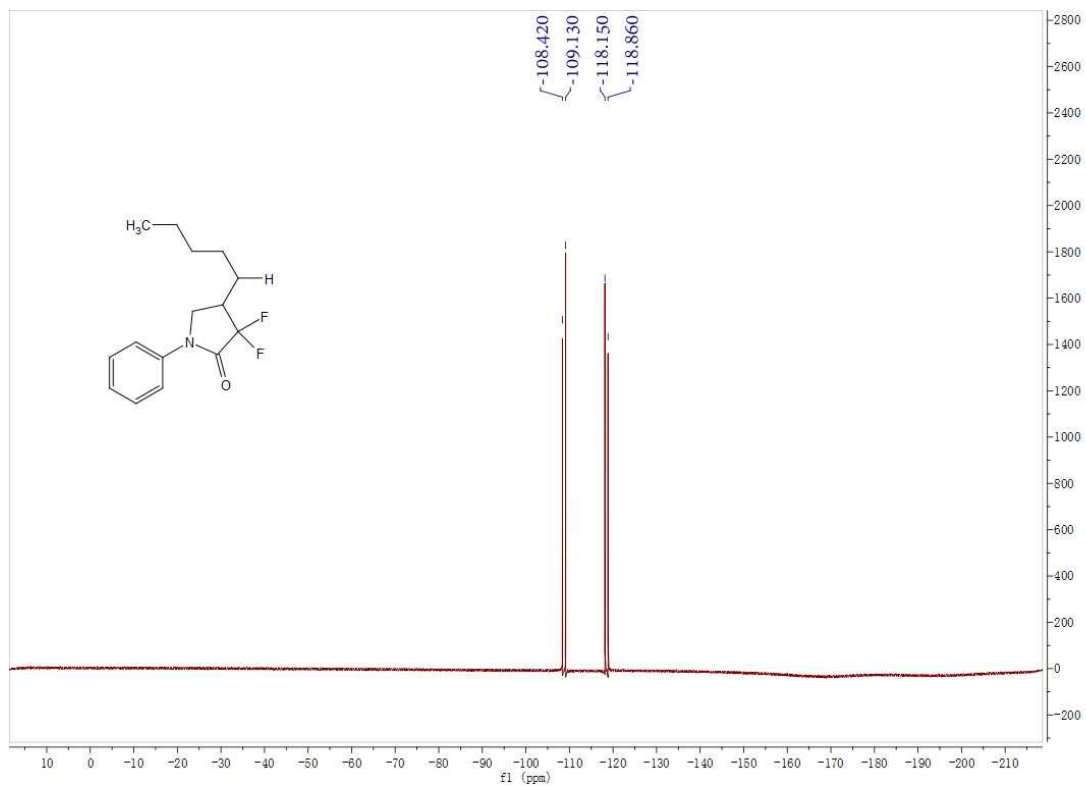
**3,3-difluoro-4-phenethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (27)**



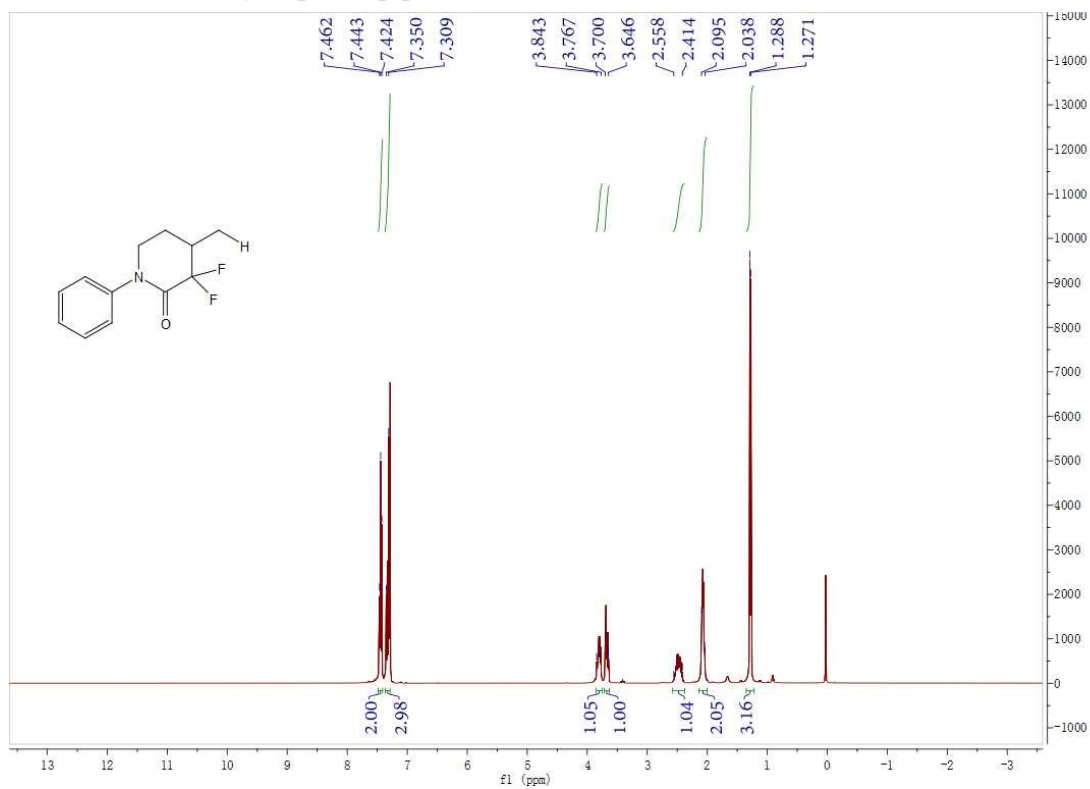


### 3,3-difluoro-4-pentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (28)

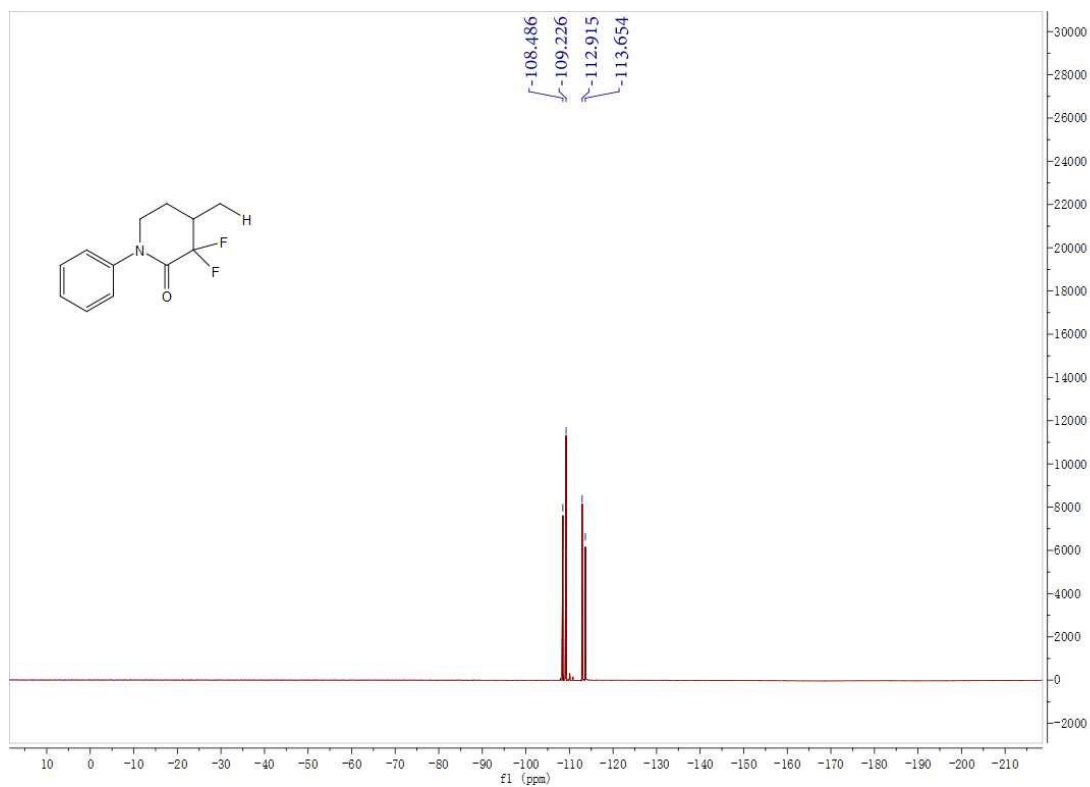
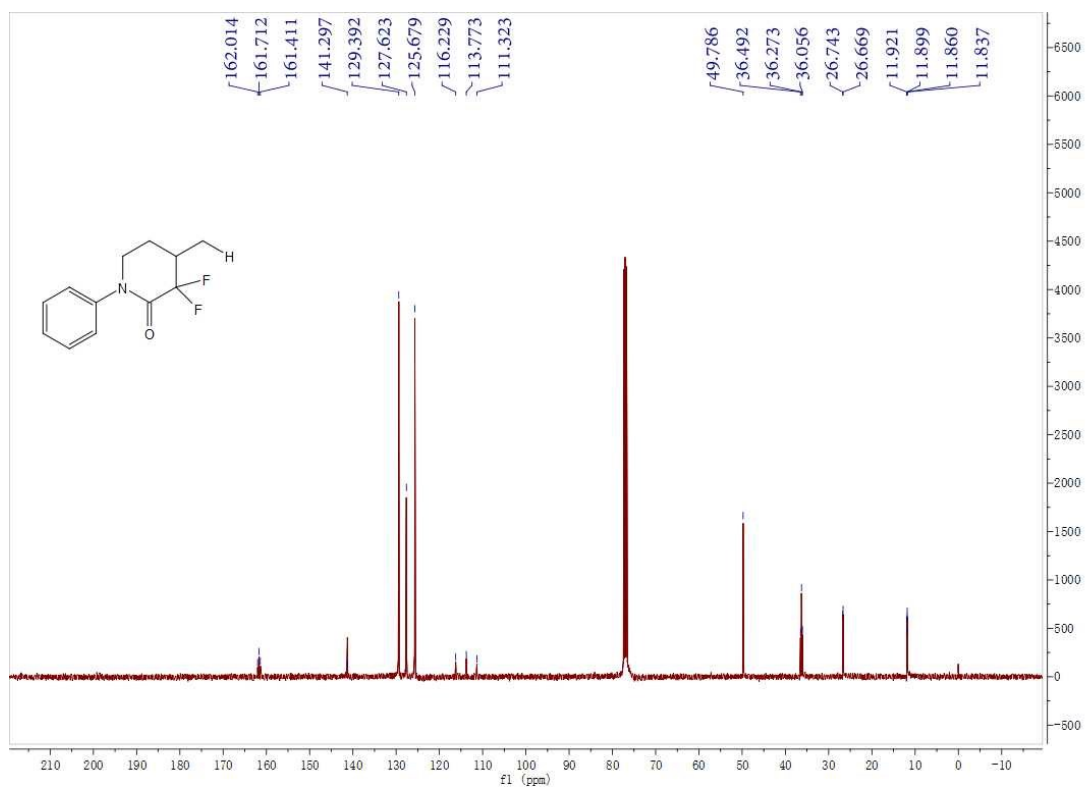




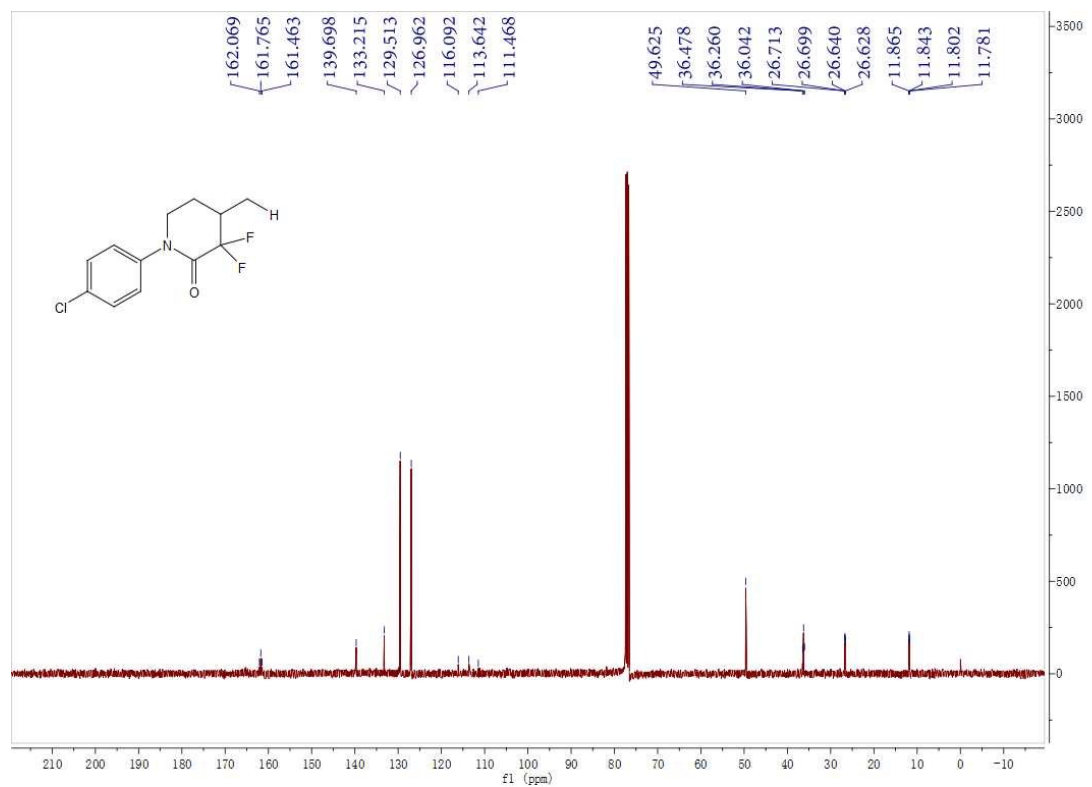
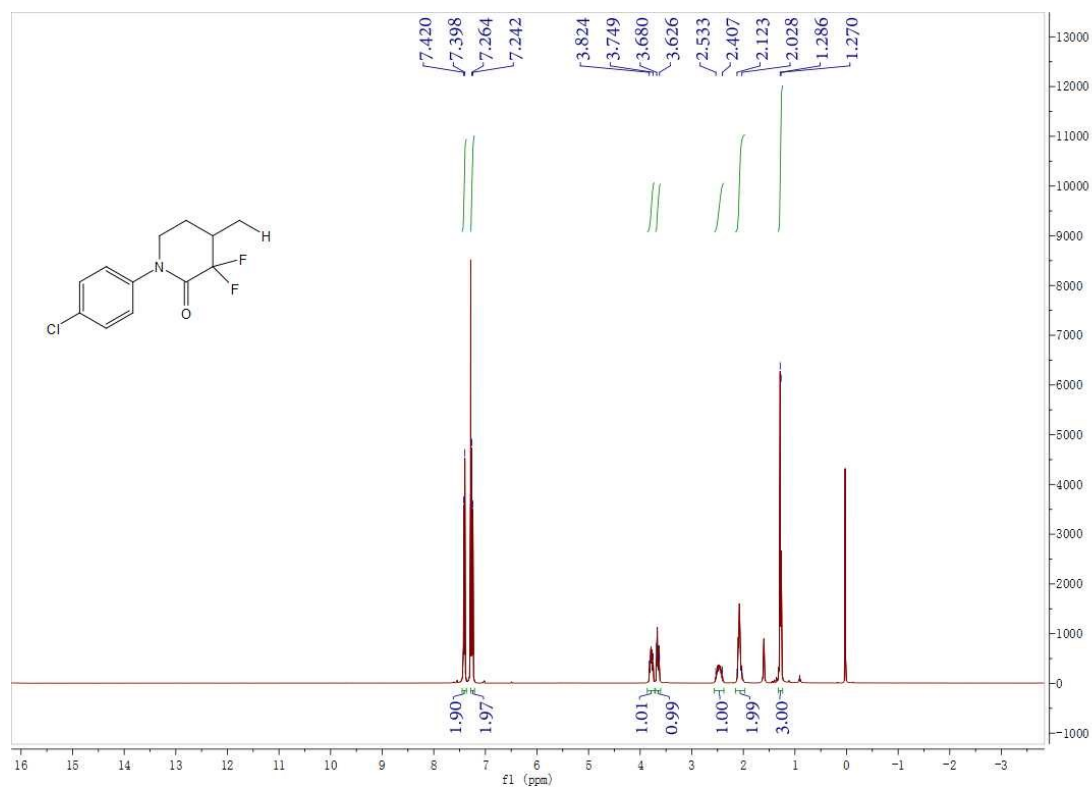
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-phenylpiperidin-2-one (29)**

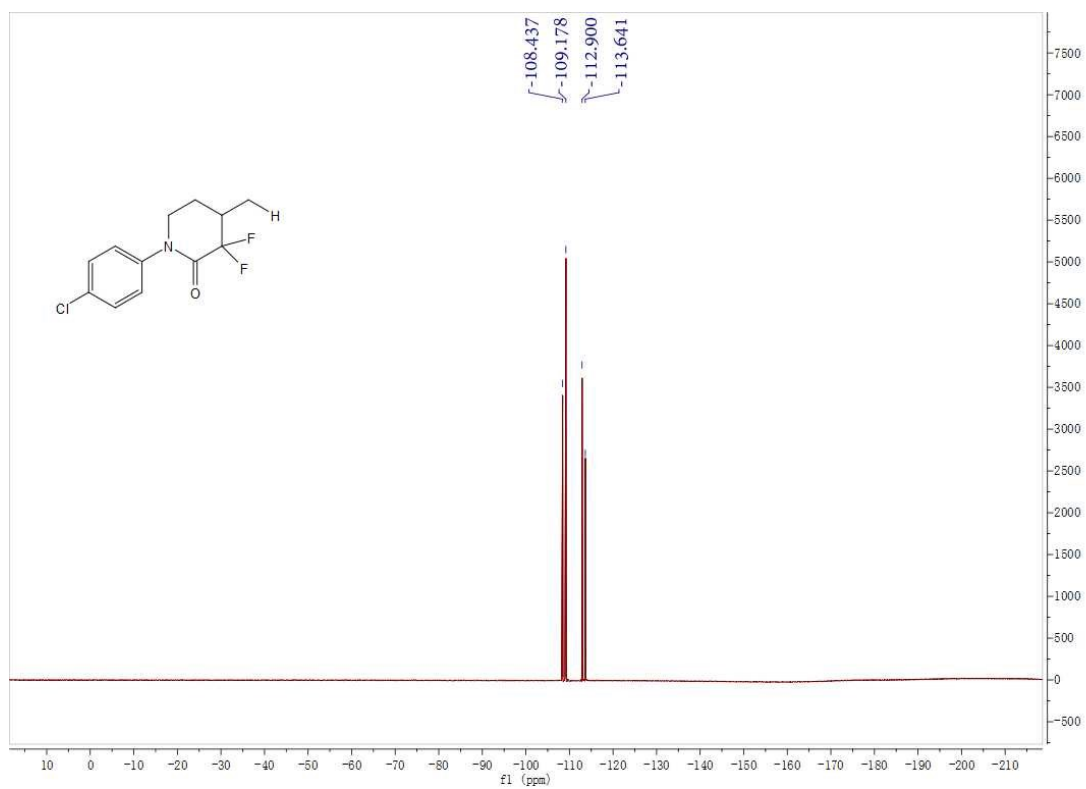




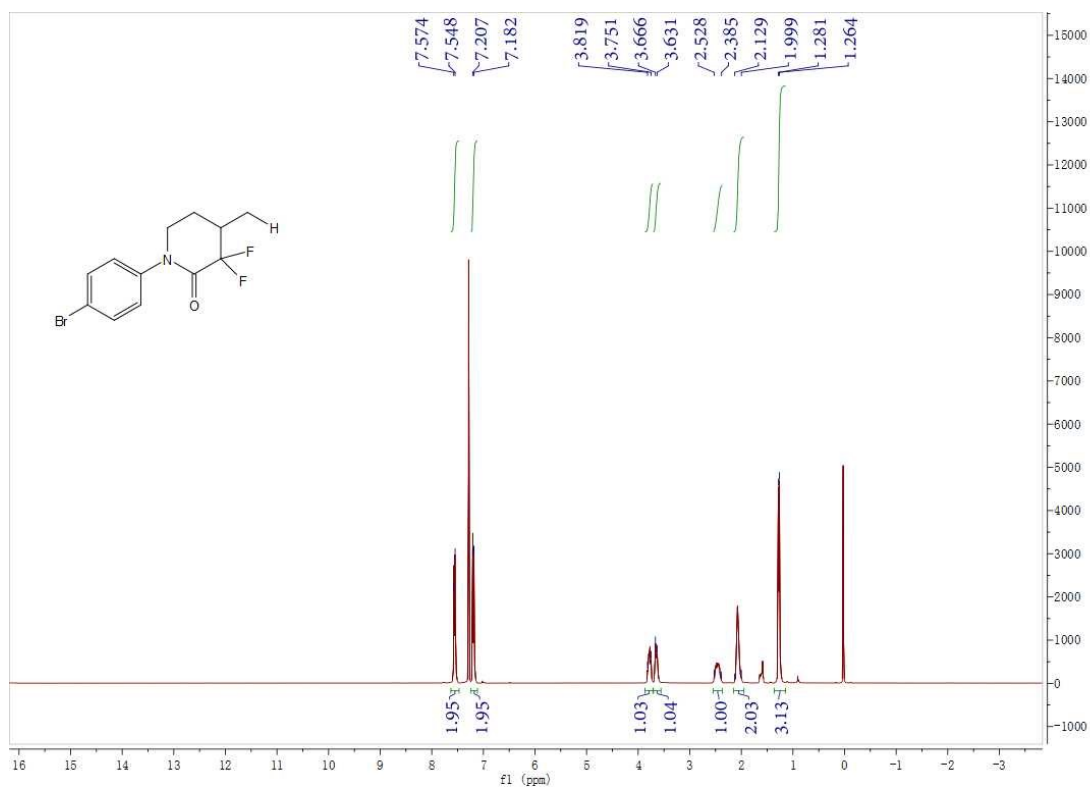


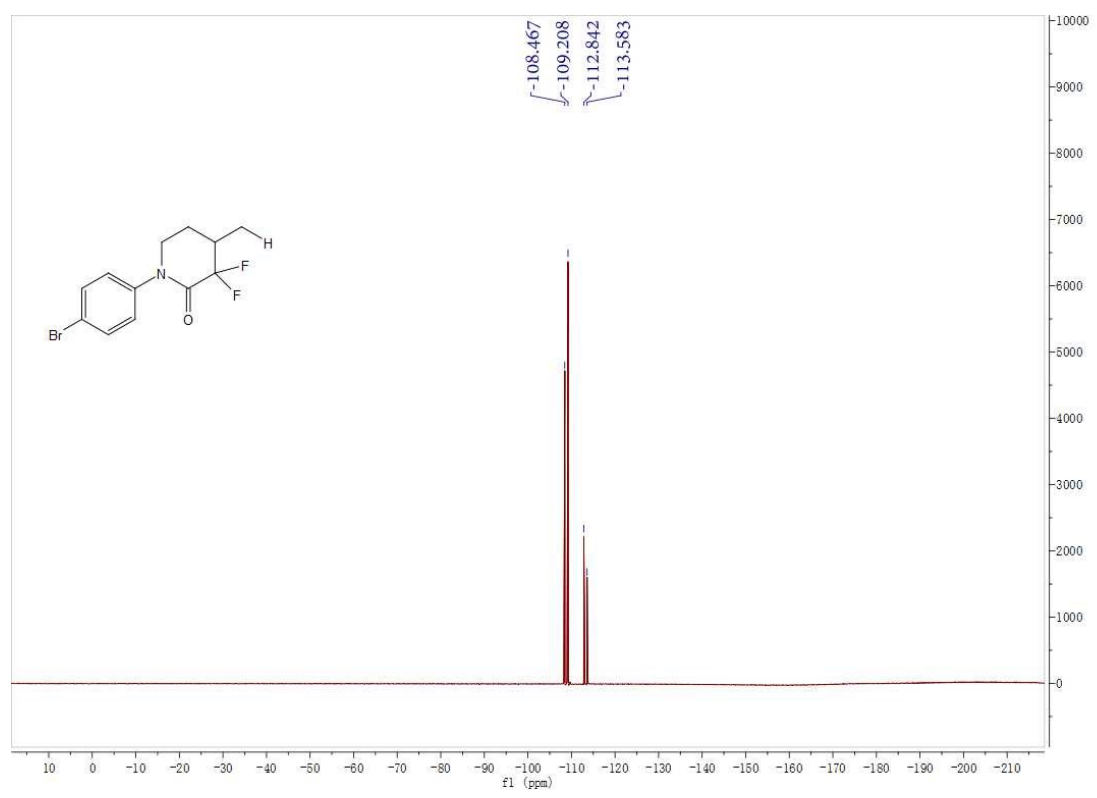
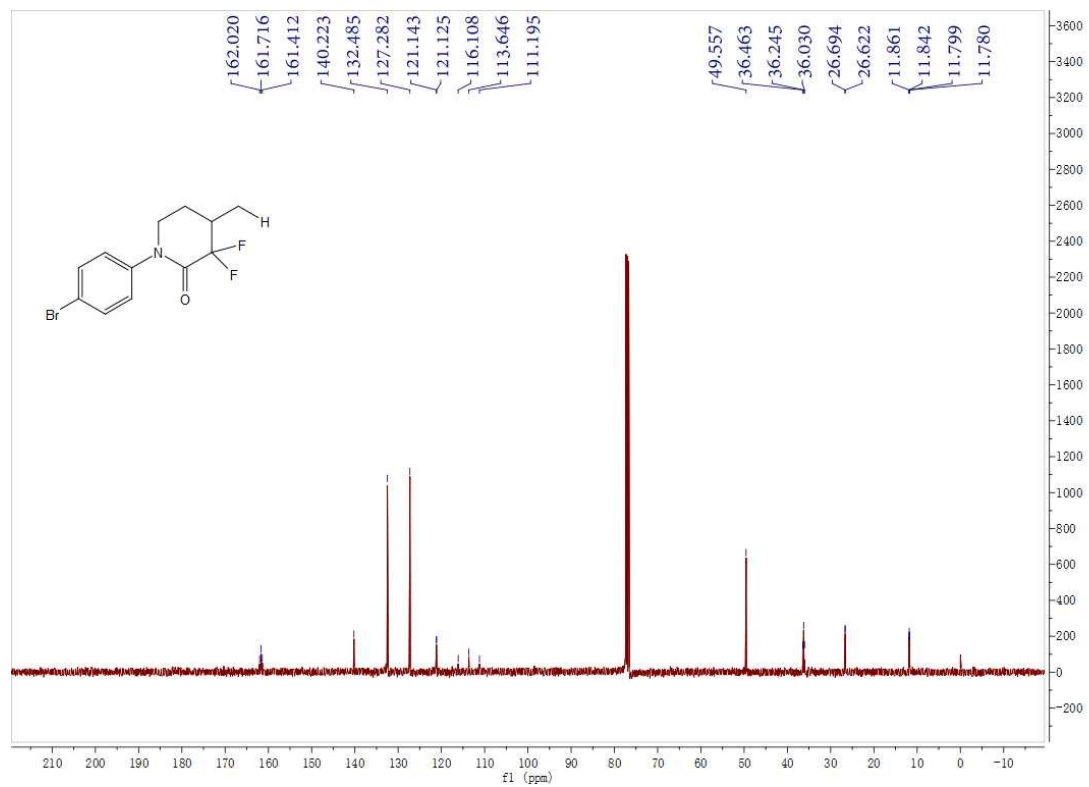
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (30)**



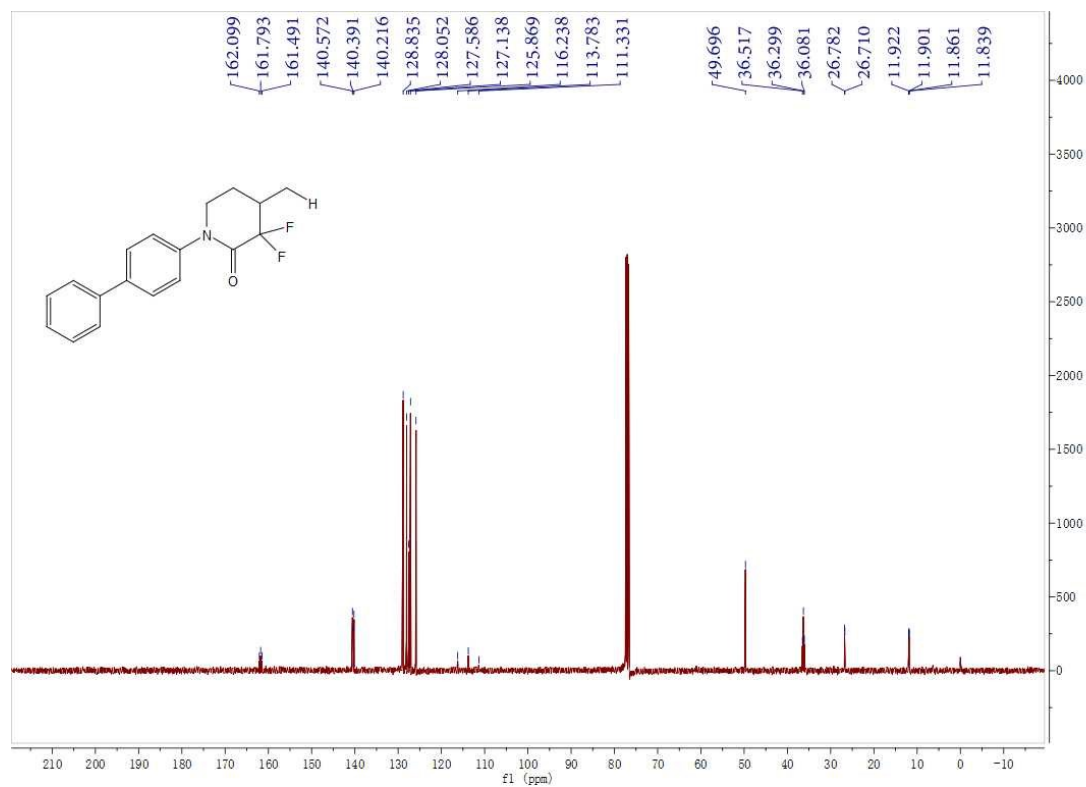
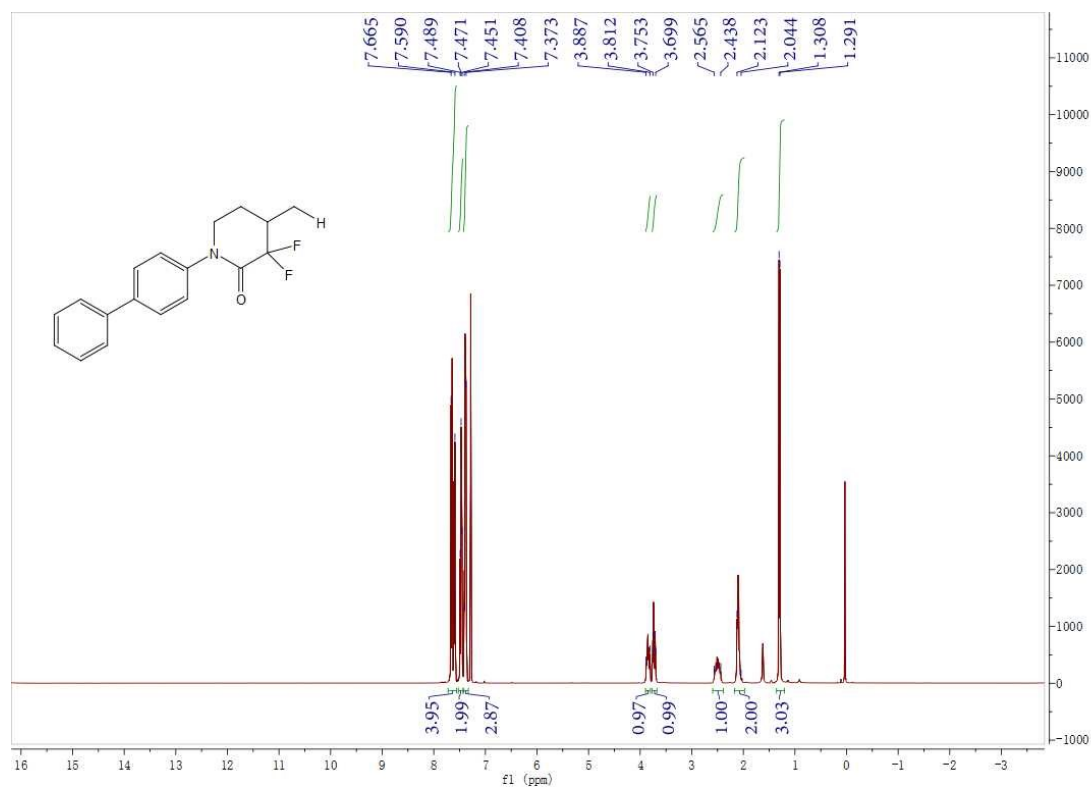


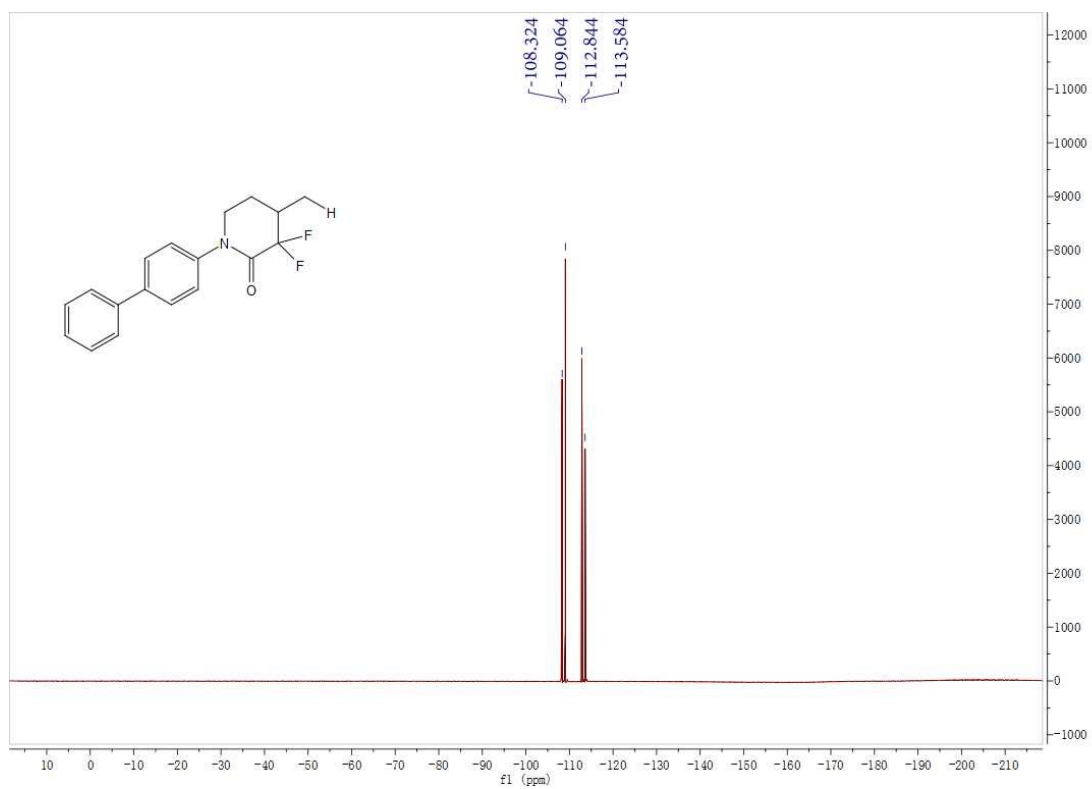
**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-bromophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (31)**



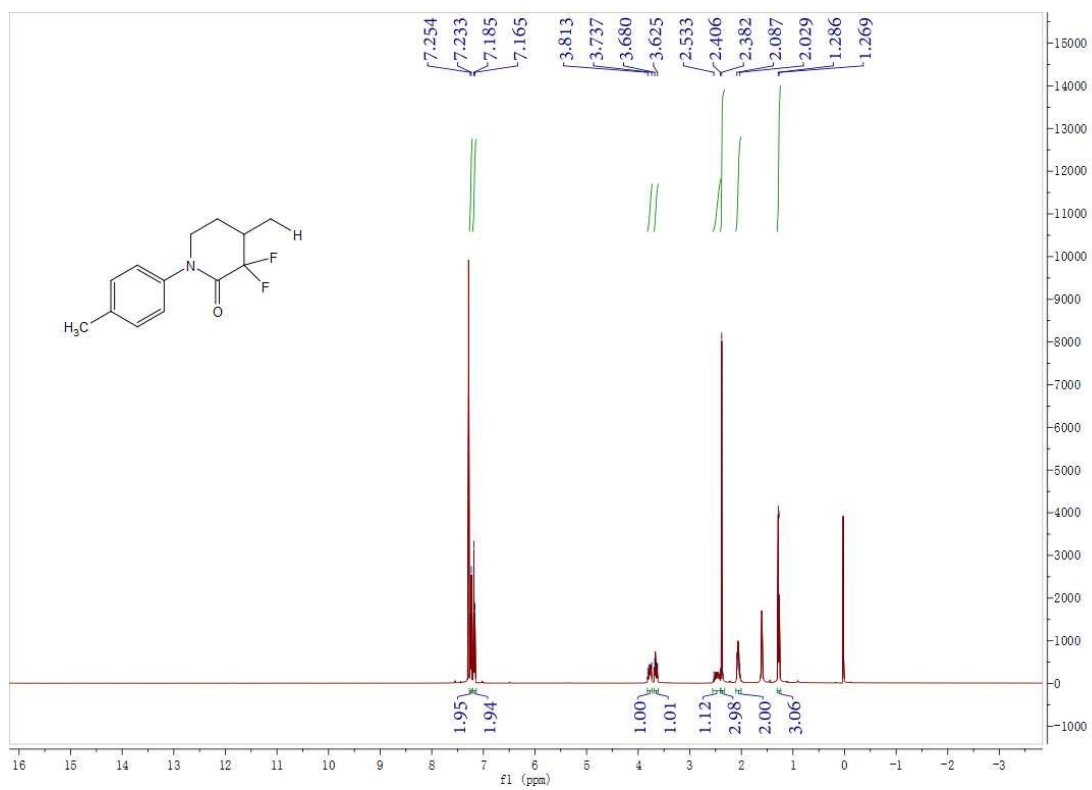


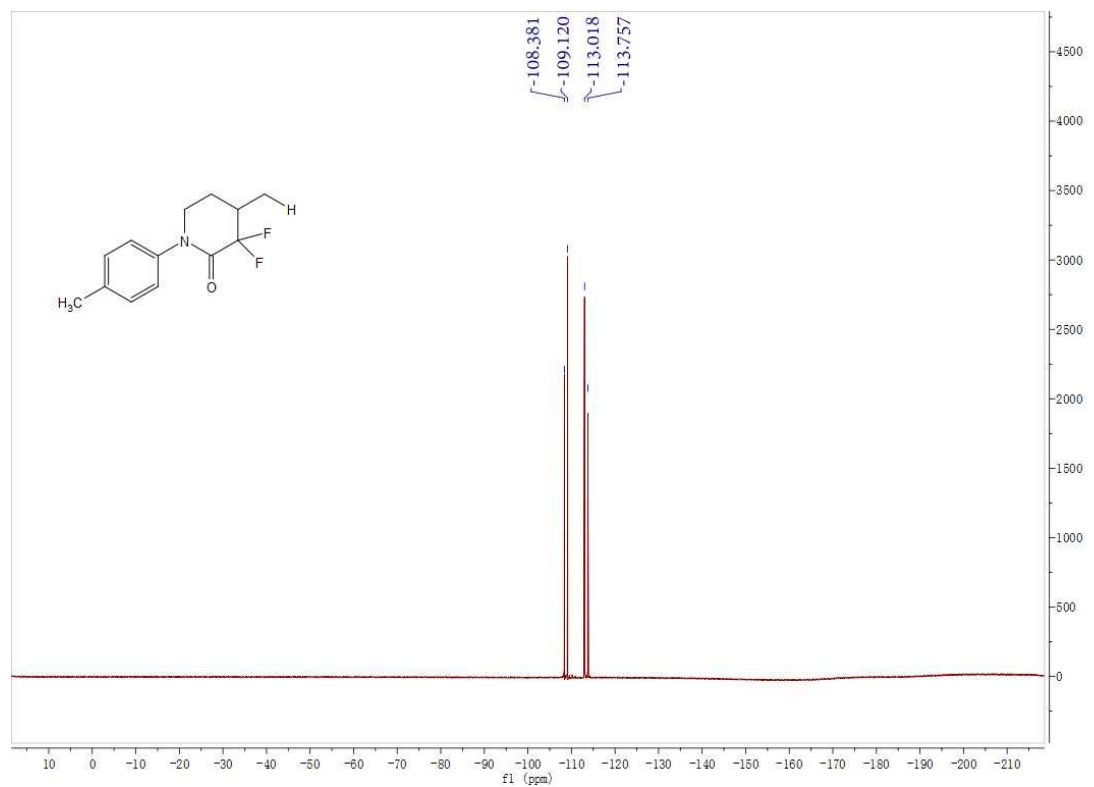
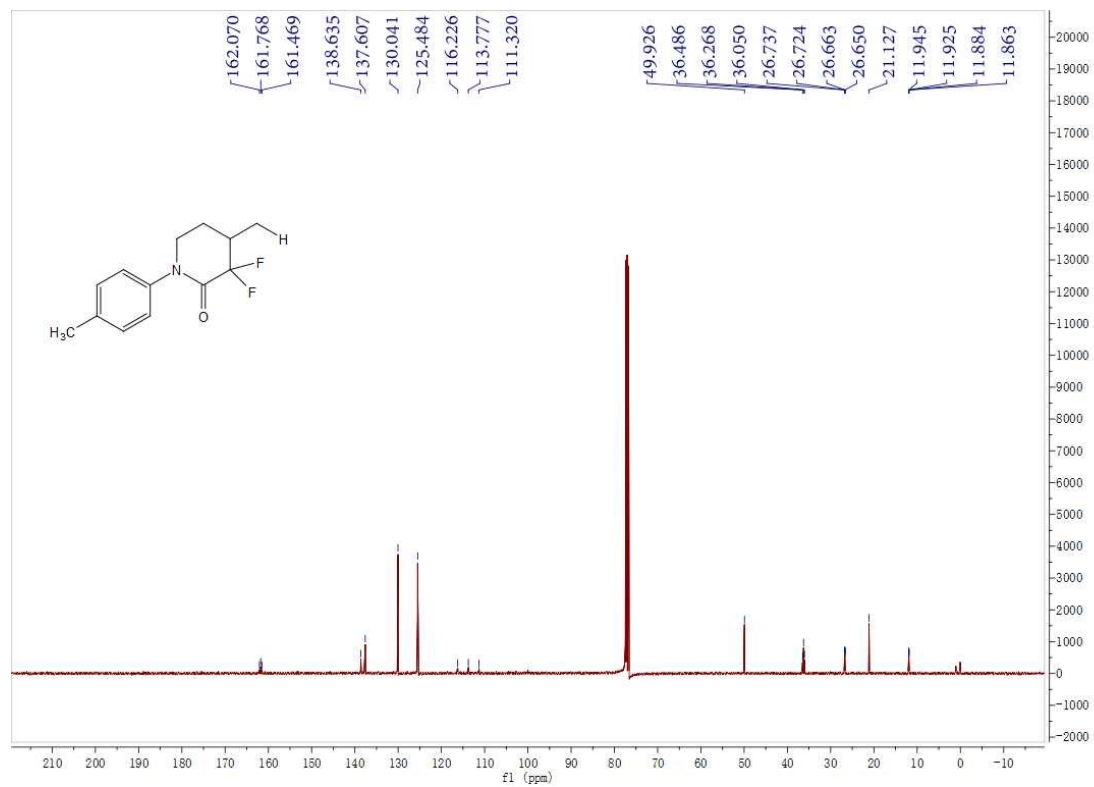
3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (32)



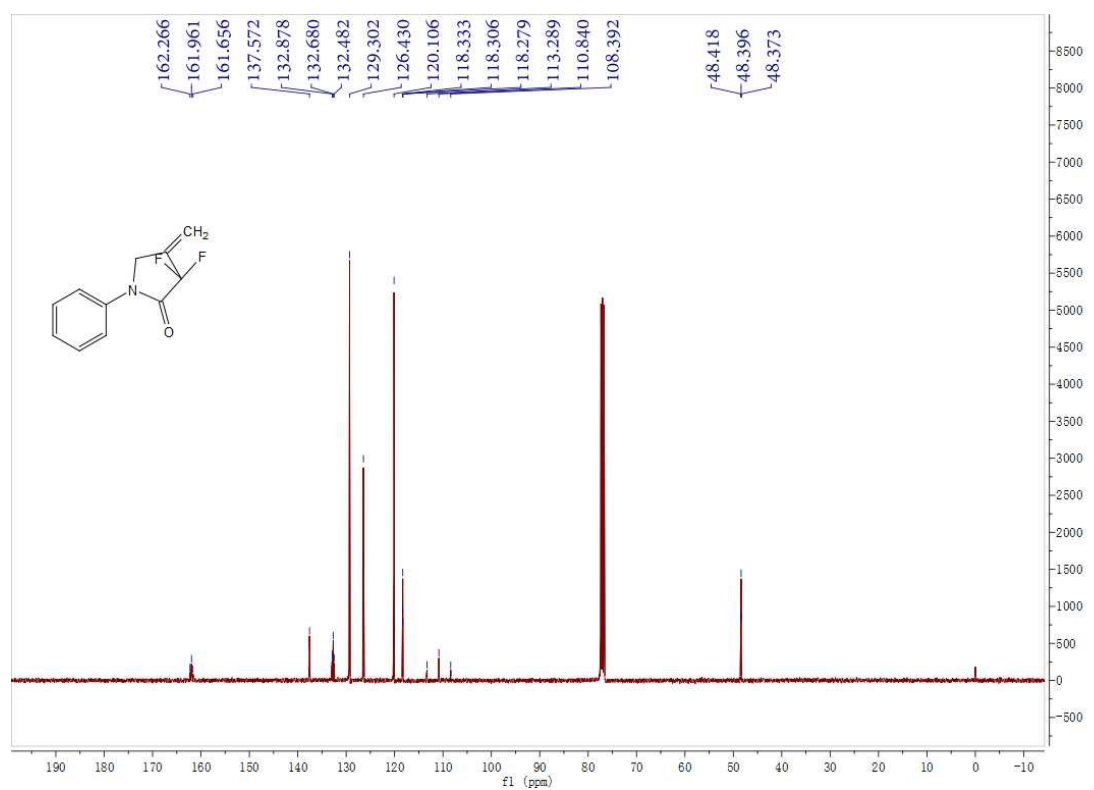
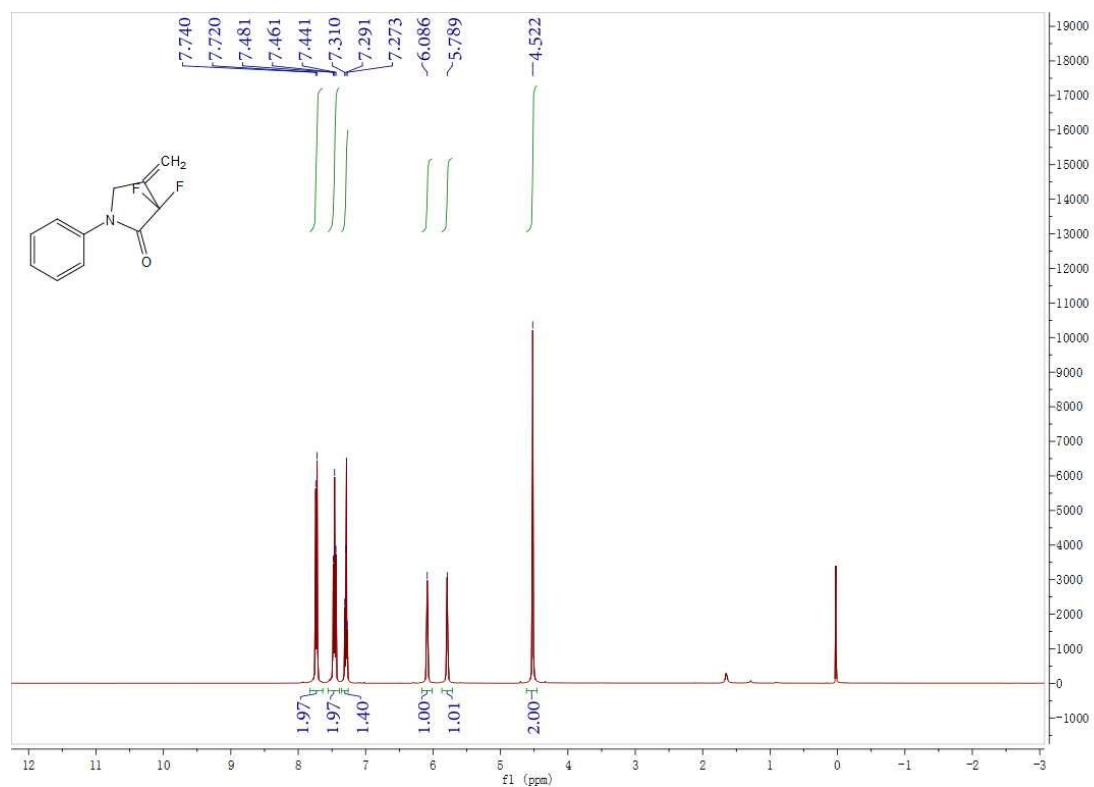


**3,3-difluoro-4-methyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-piperidin-2-one (33)**

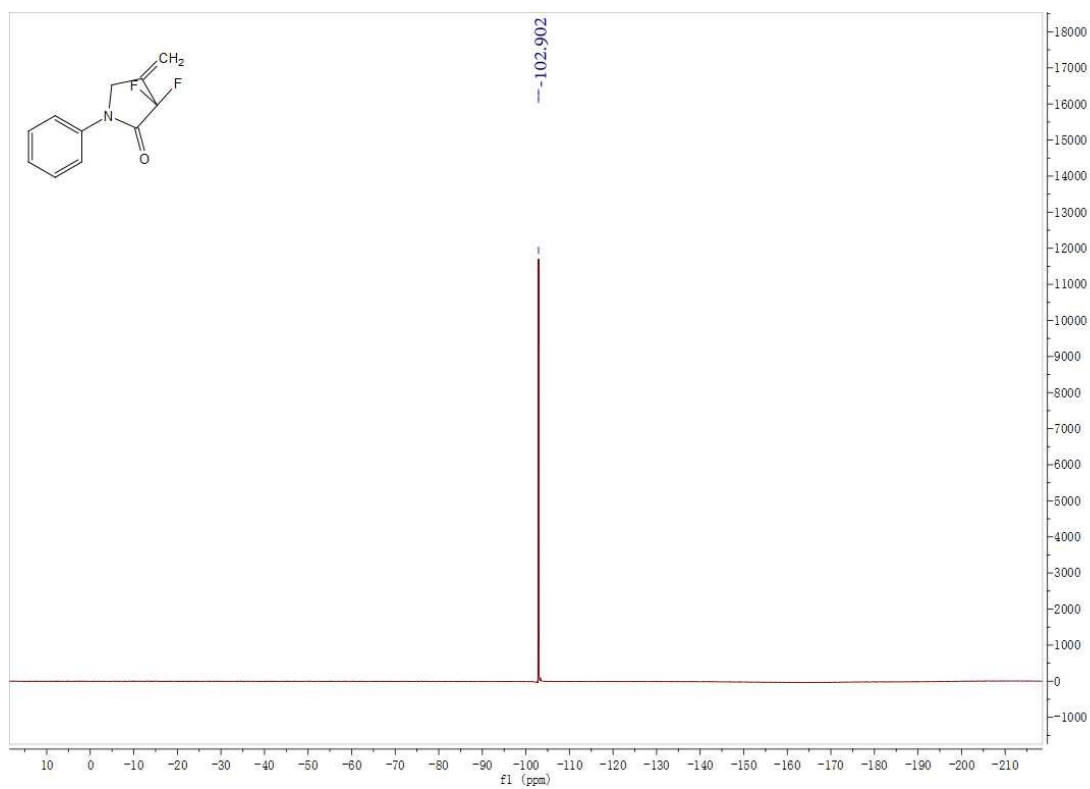




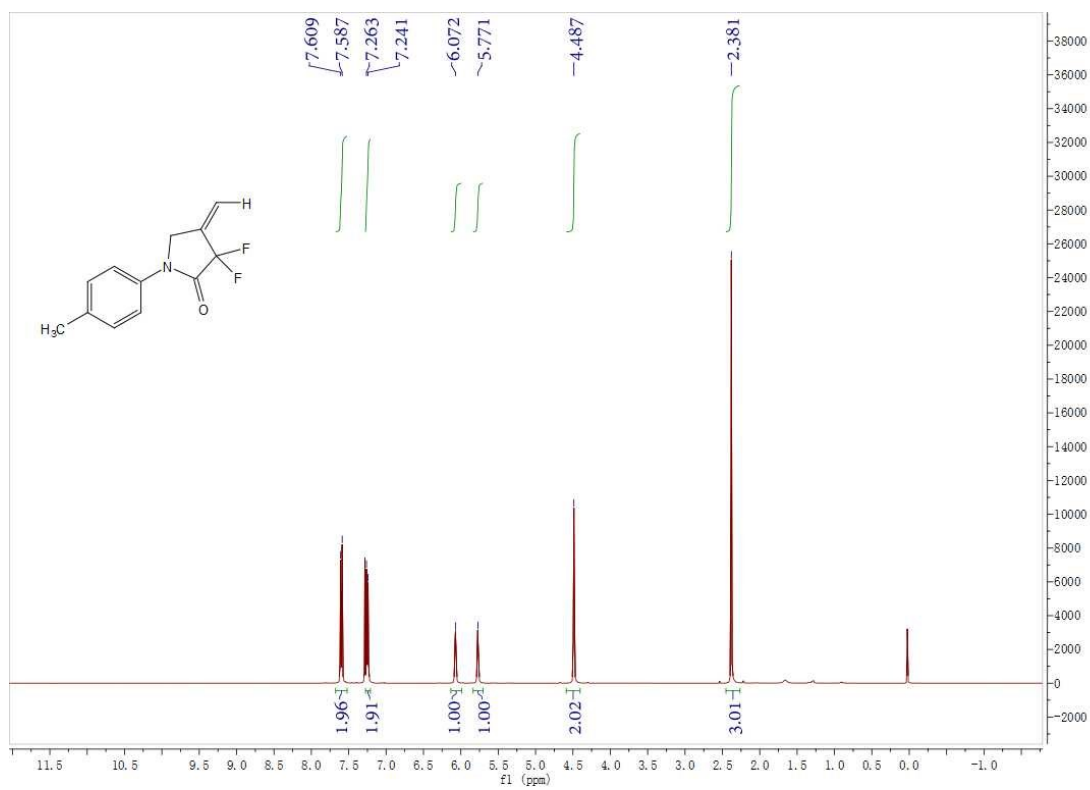
**3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (34)**

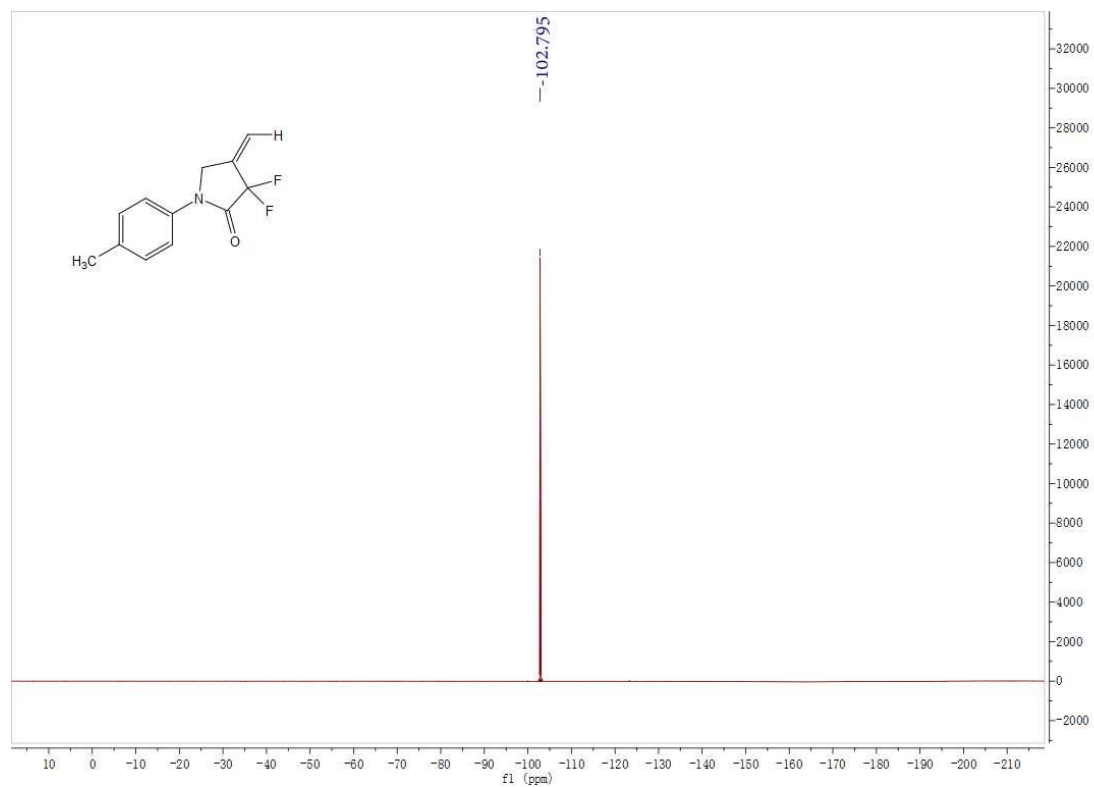
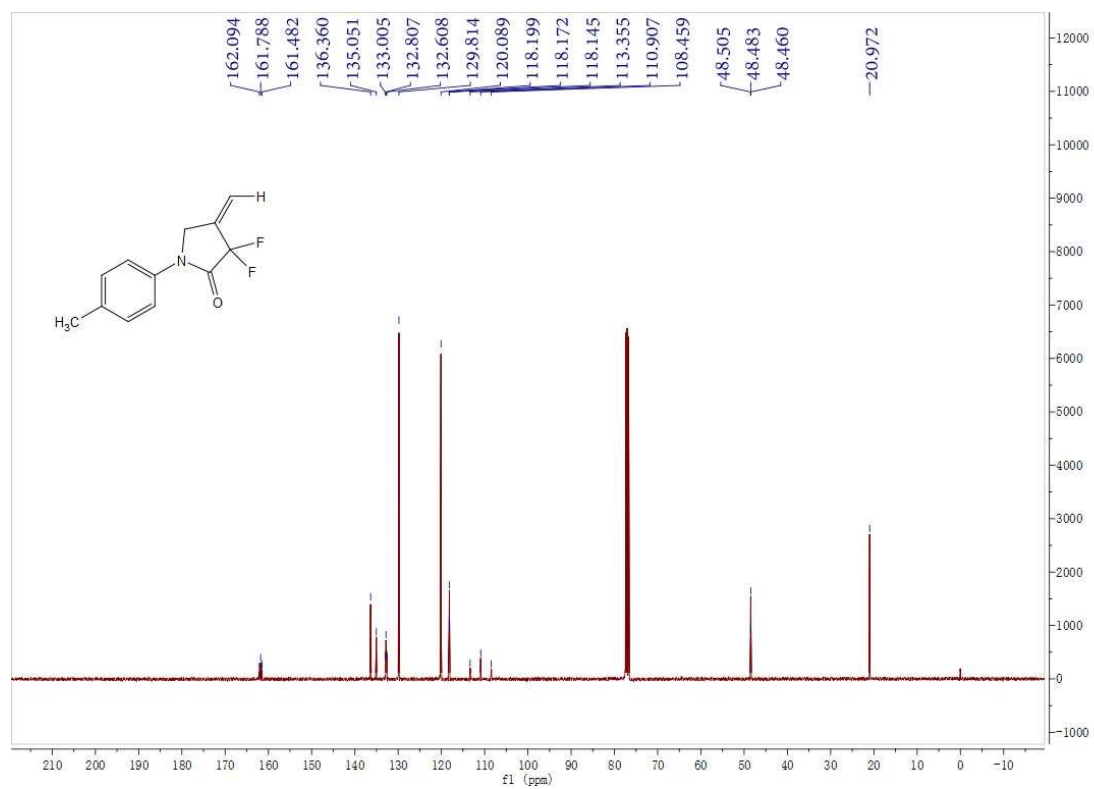




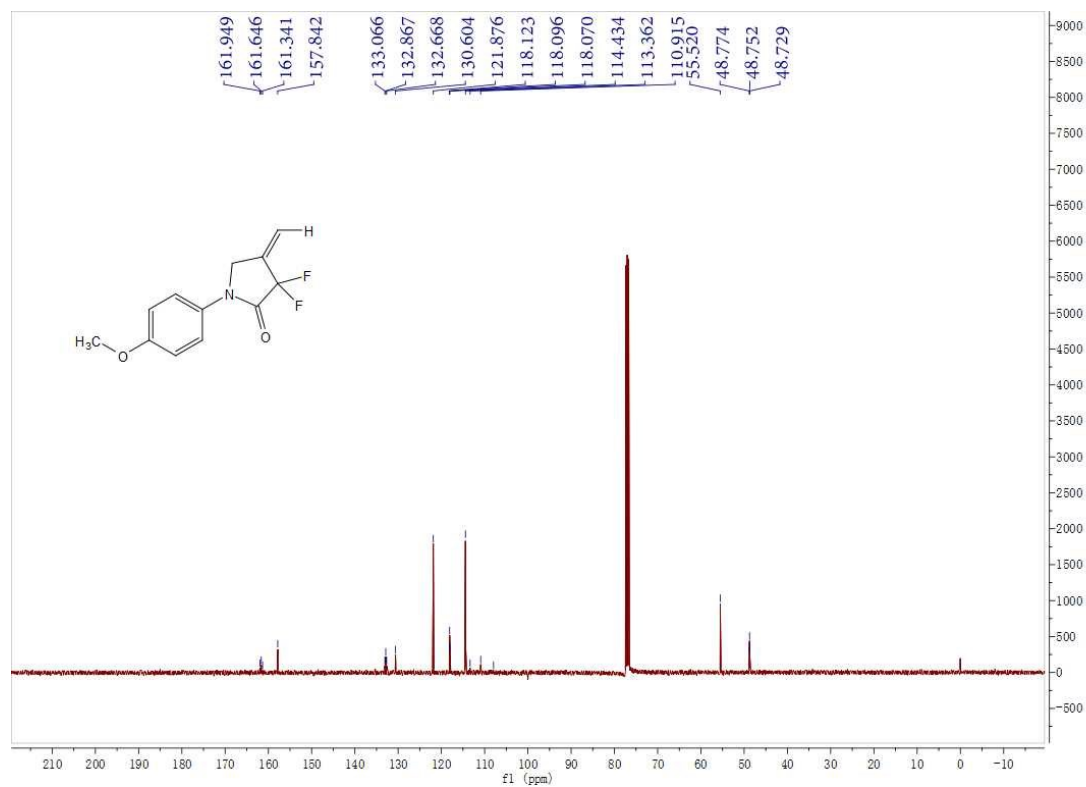
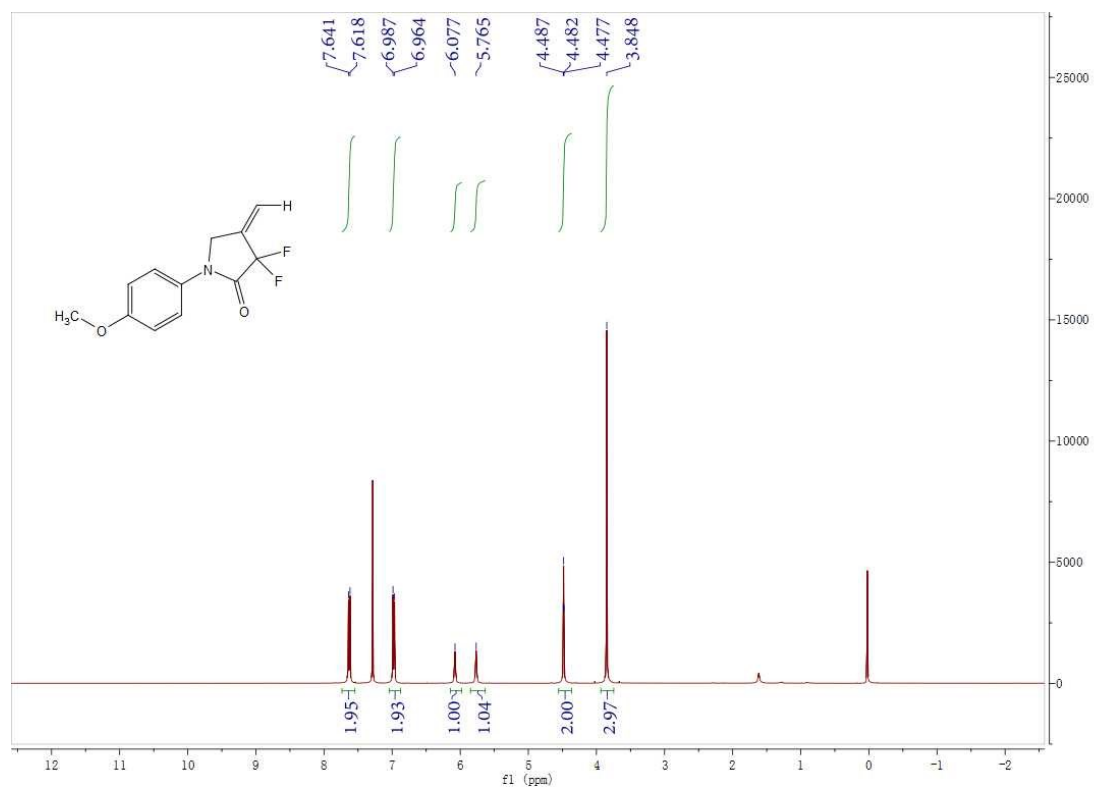


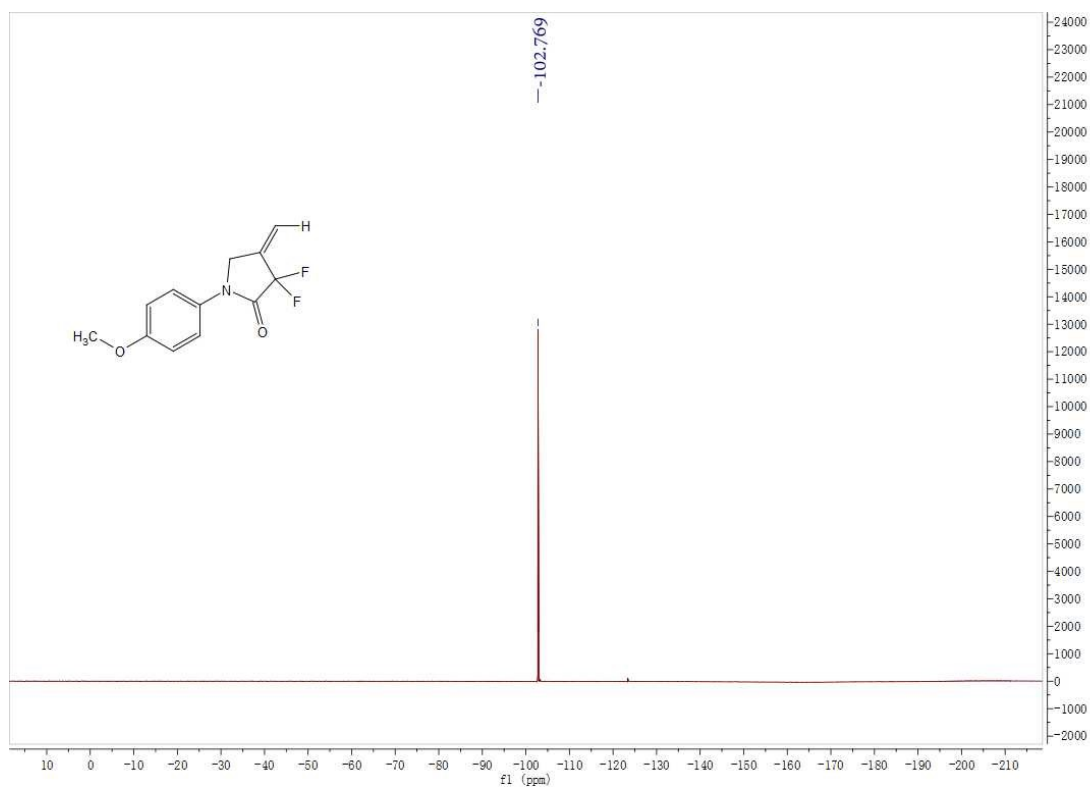
**3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (35)**



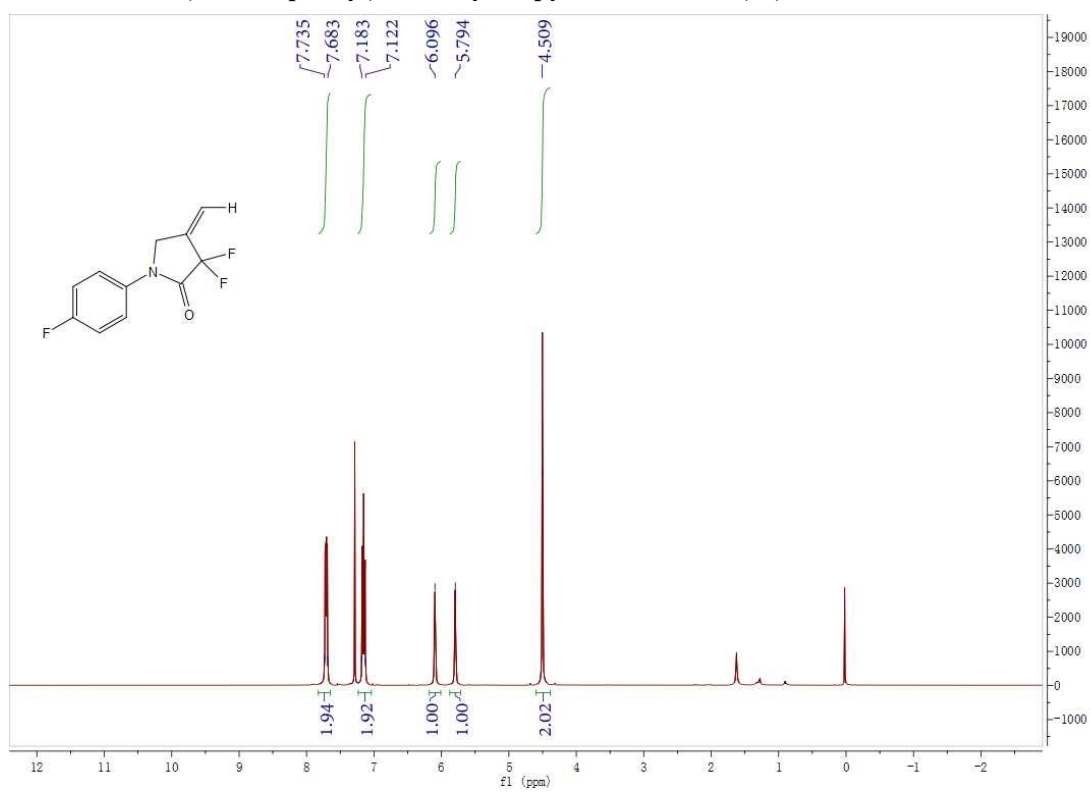


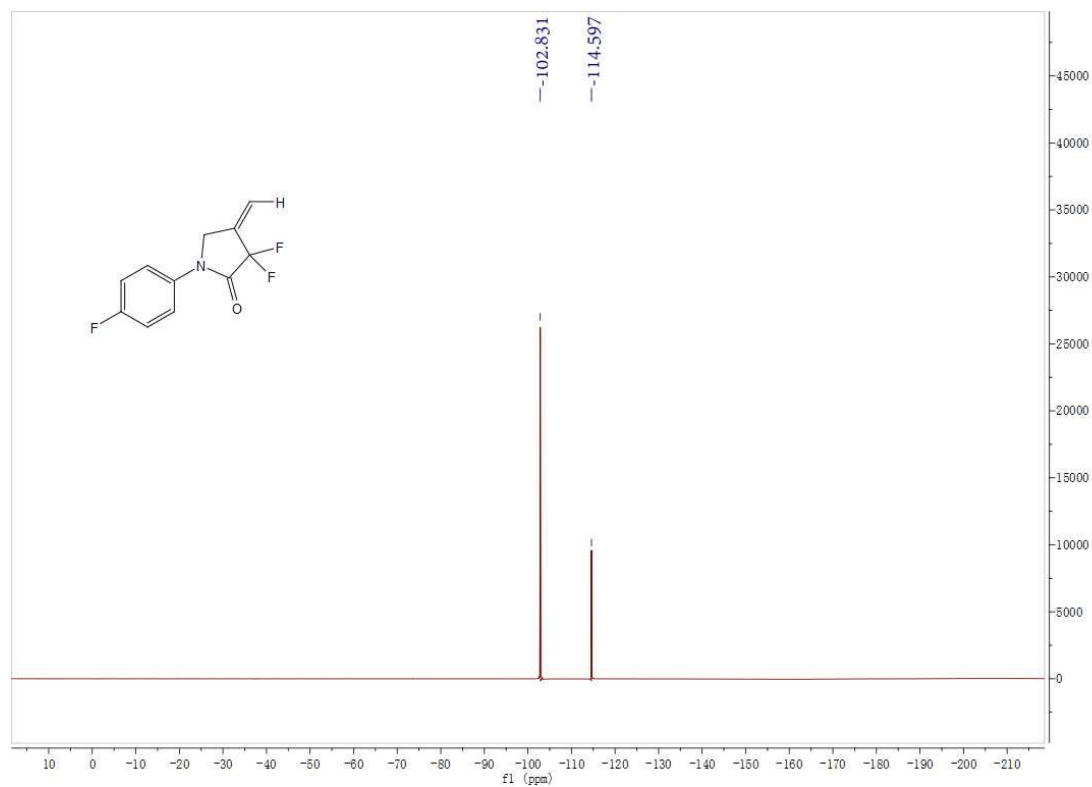
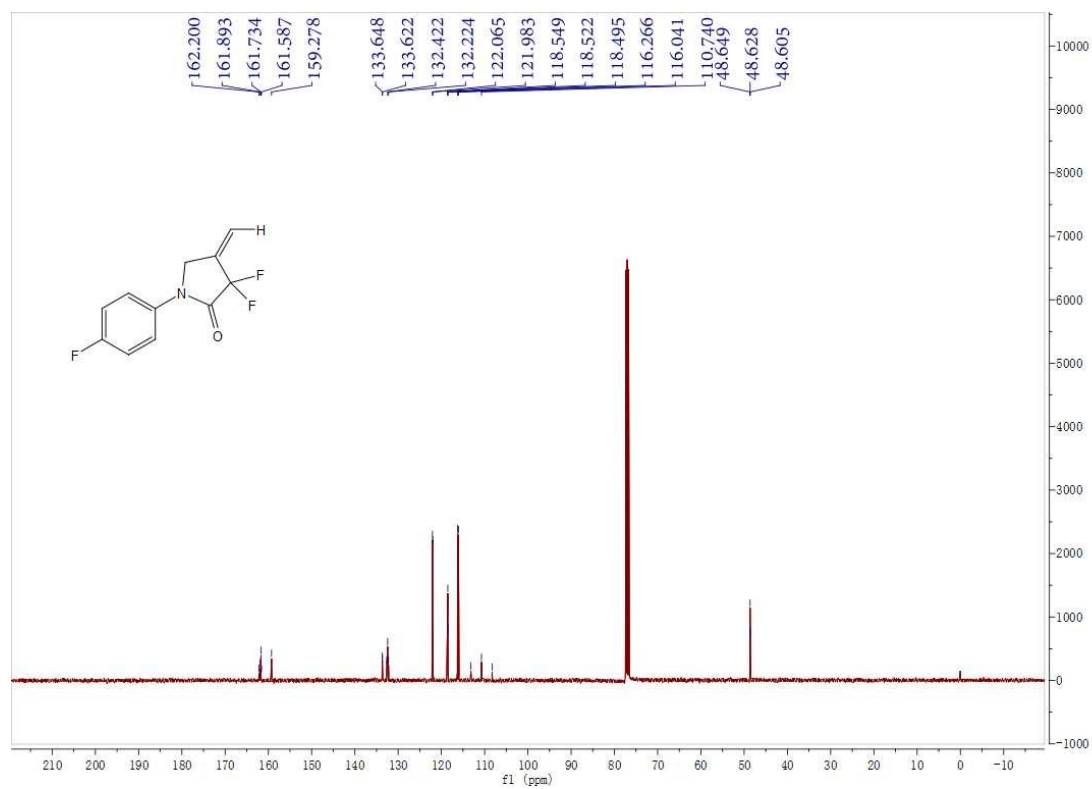
3,3-difluoro-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (36)<sup>[3]</sup>



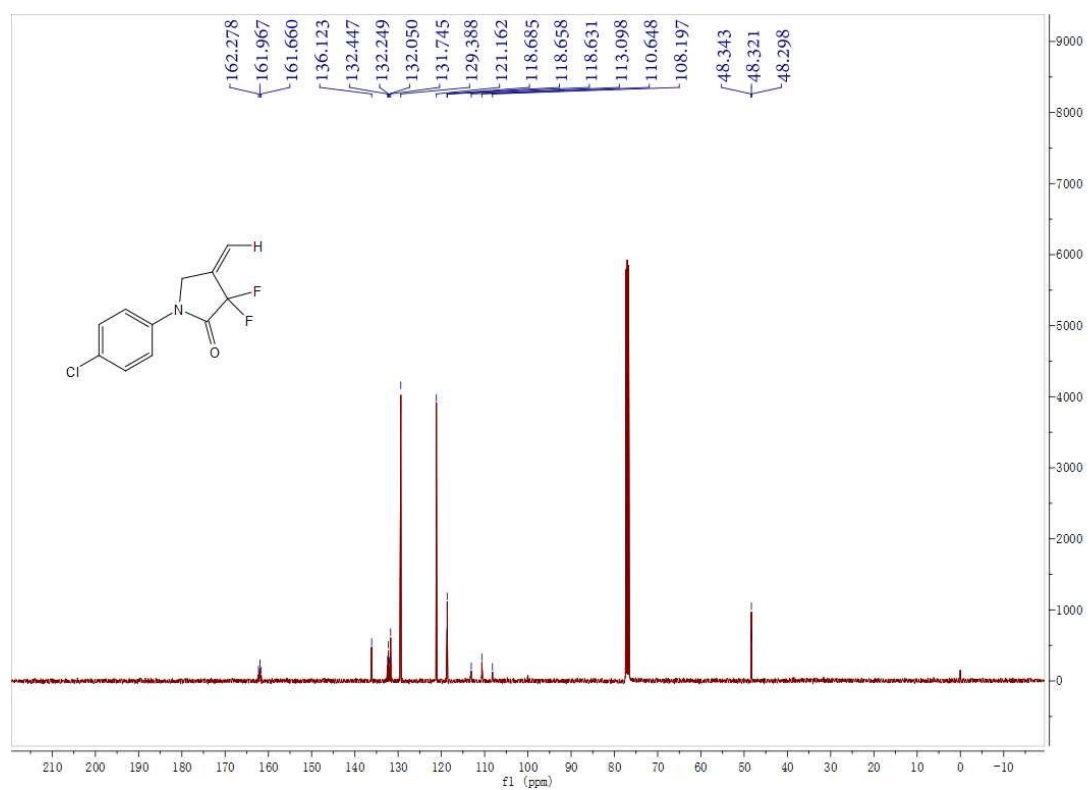
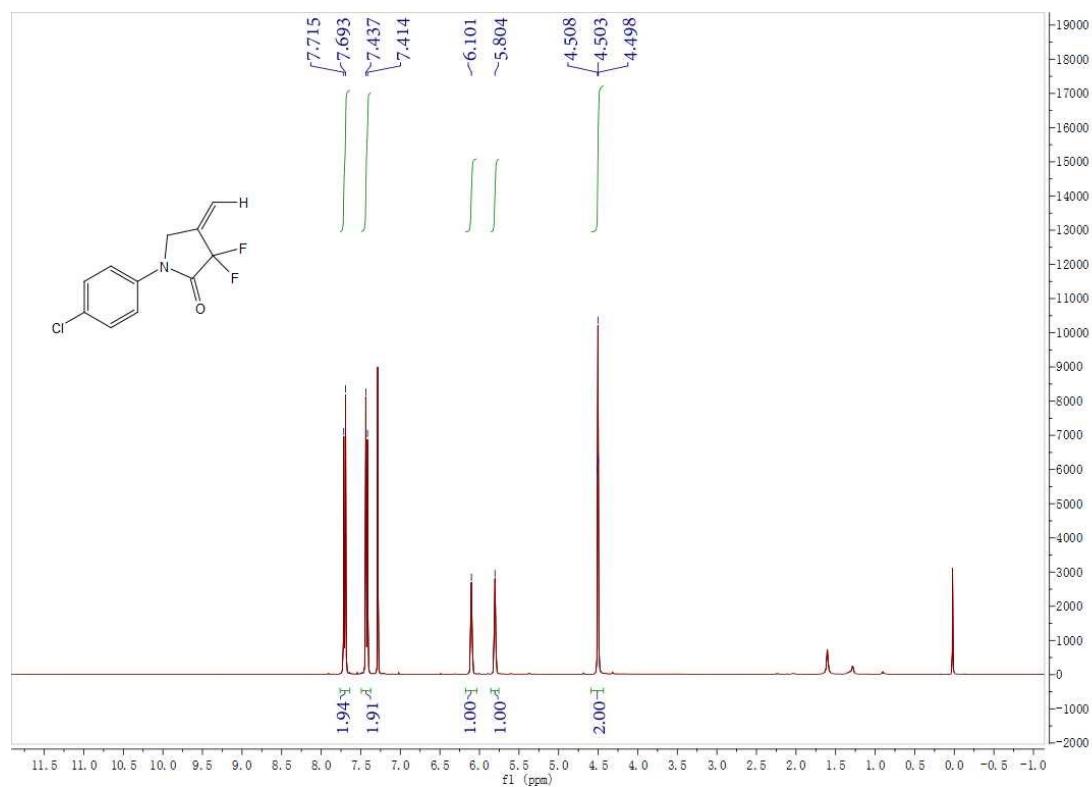


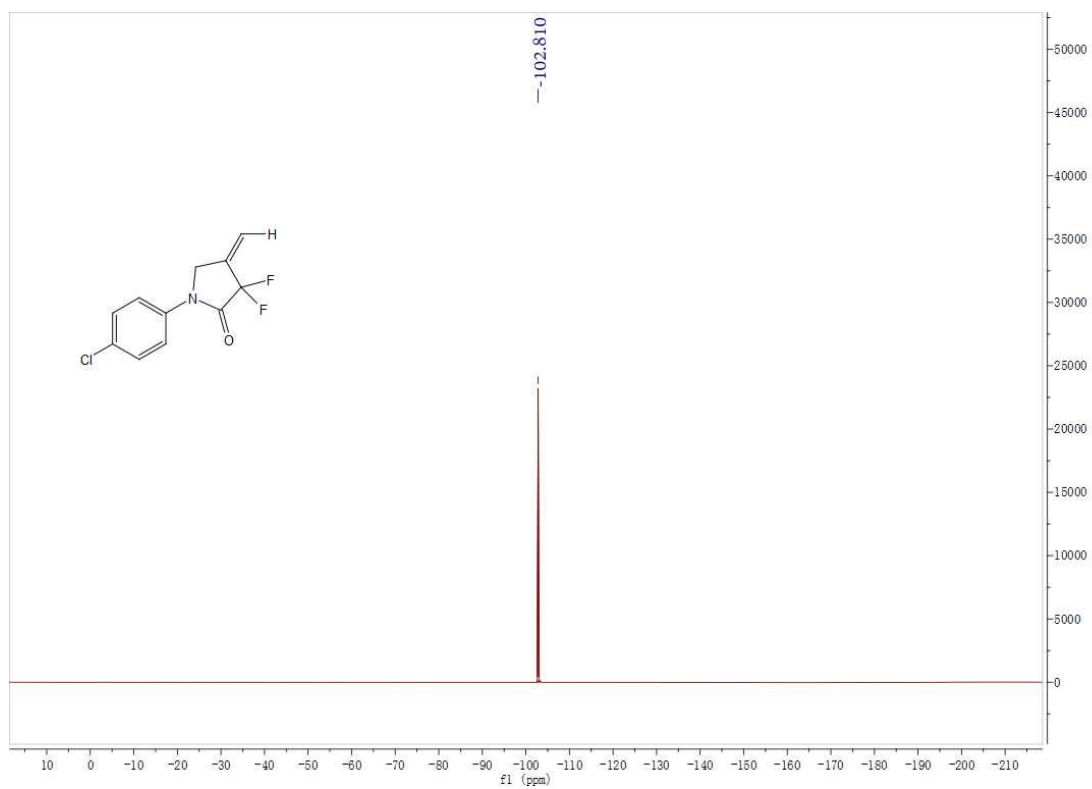
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (37)<sup>[3]</sup>**



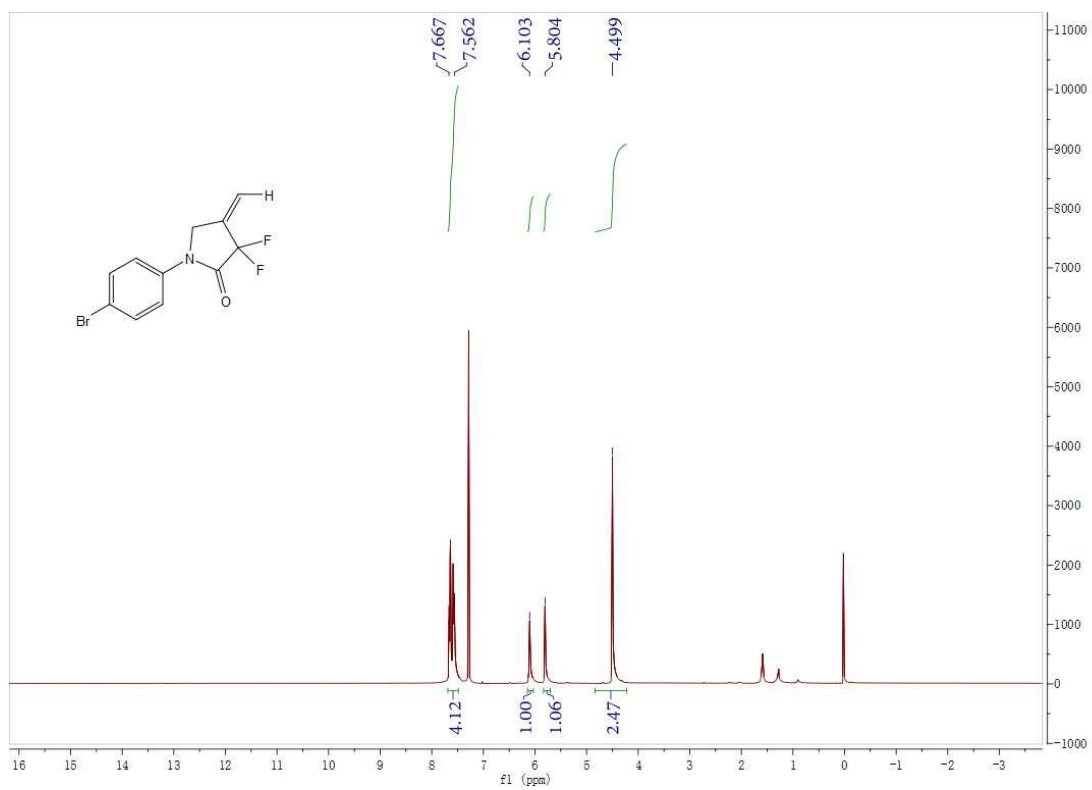


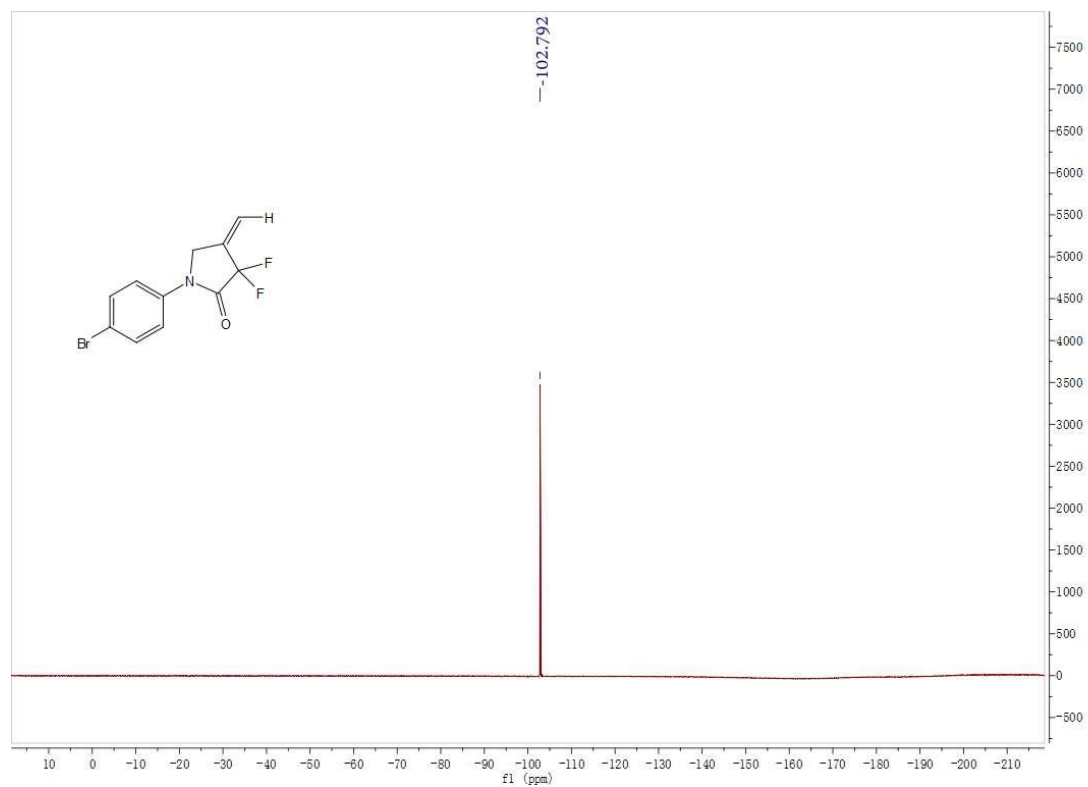
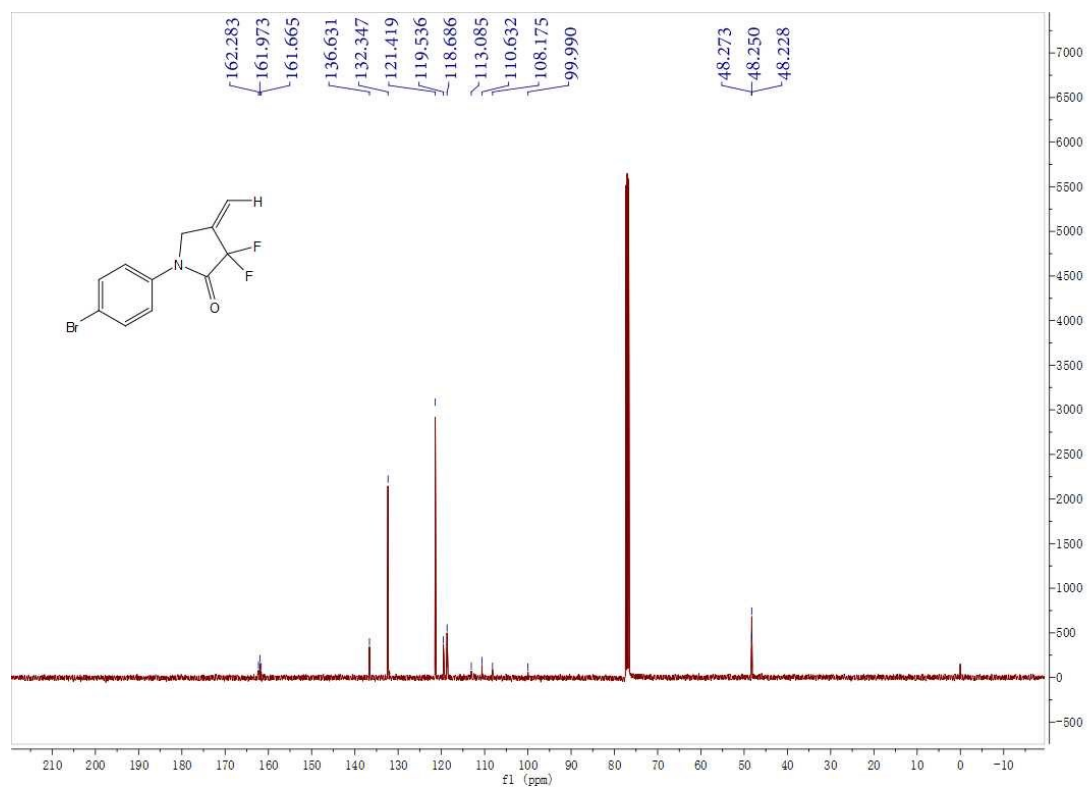
3,3-difluoro-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (38)





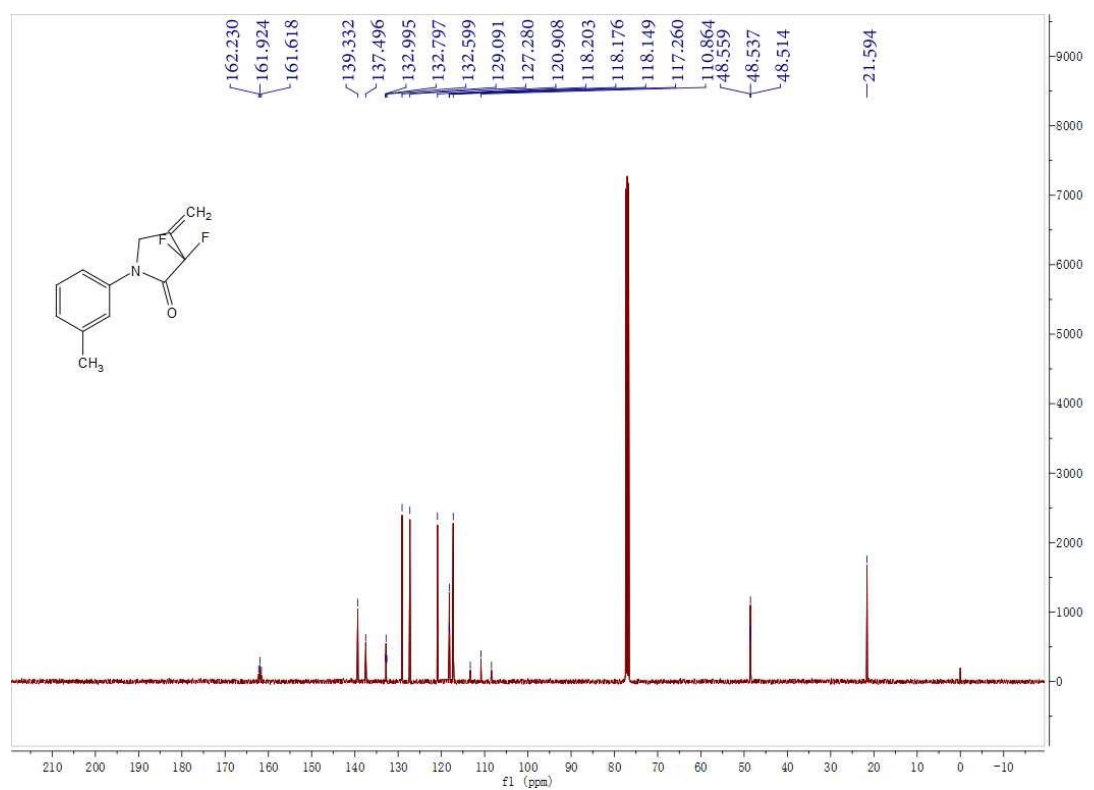
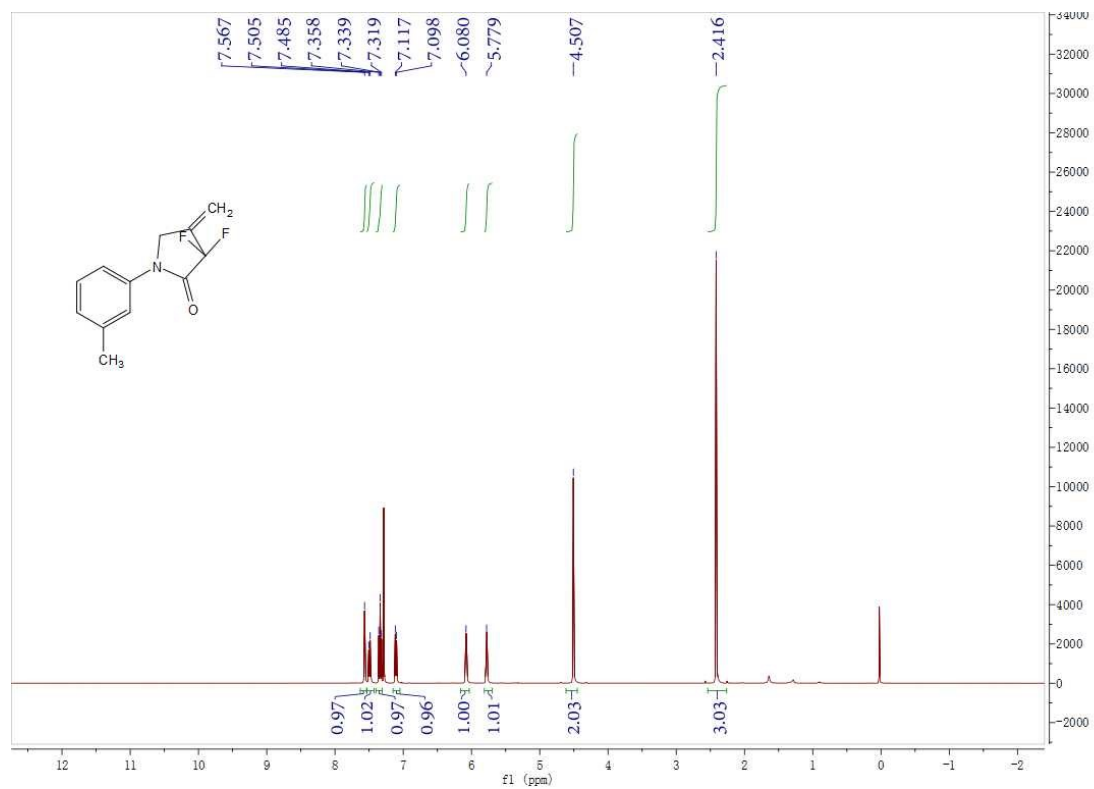
**3,3-difluoro-1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (39)**

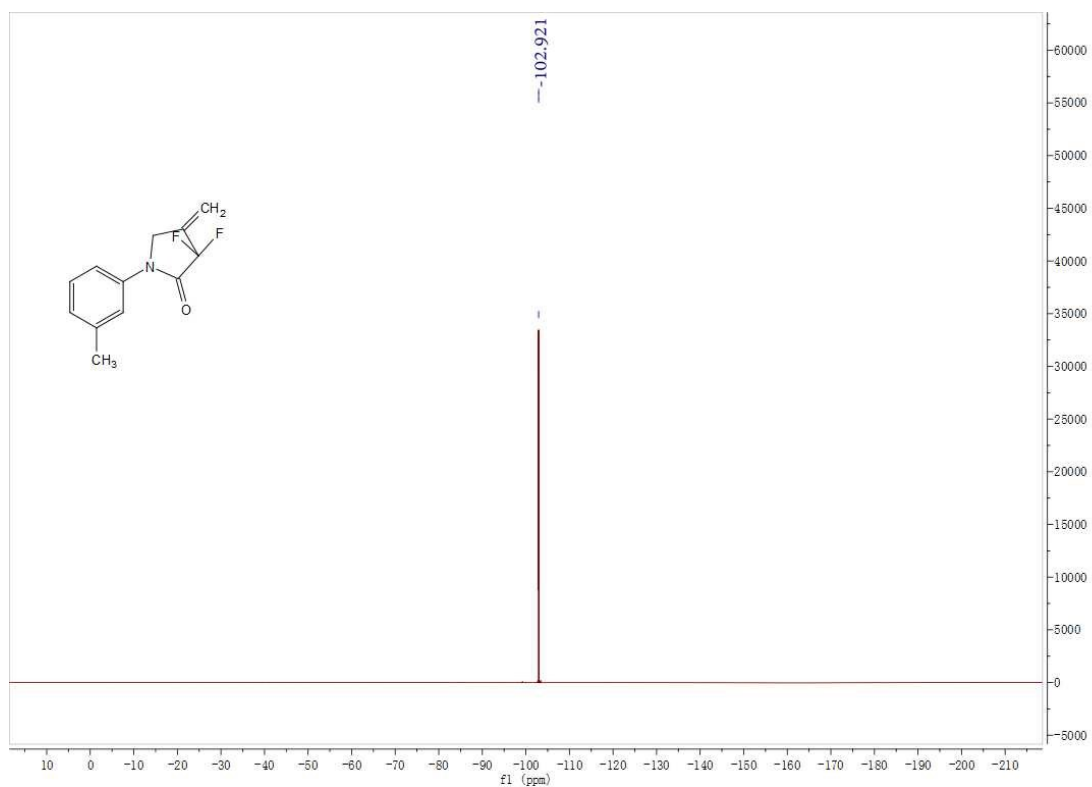




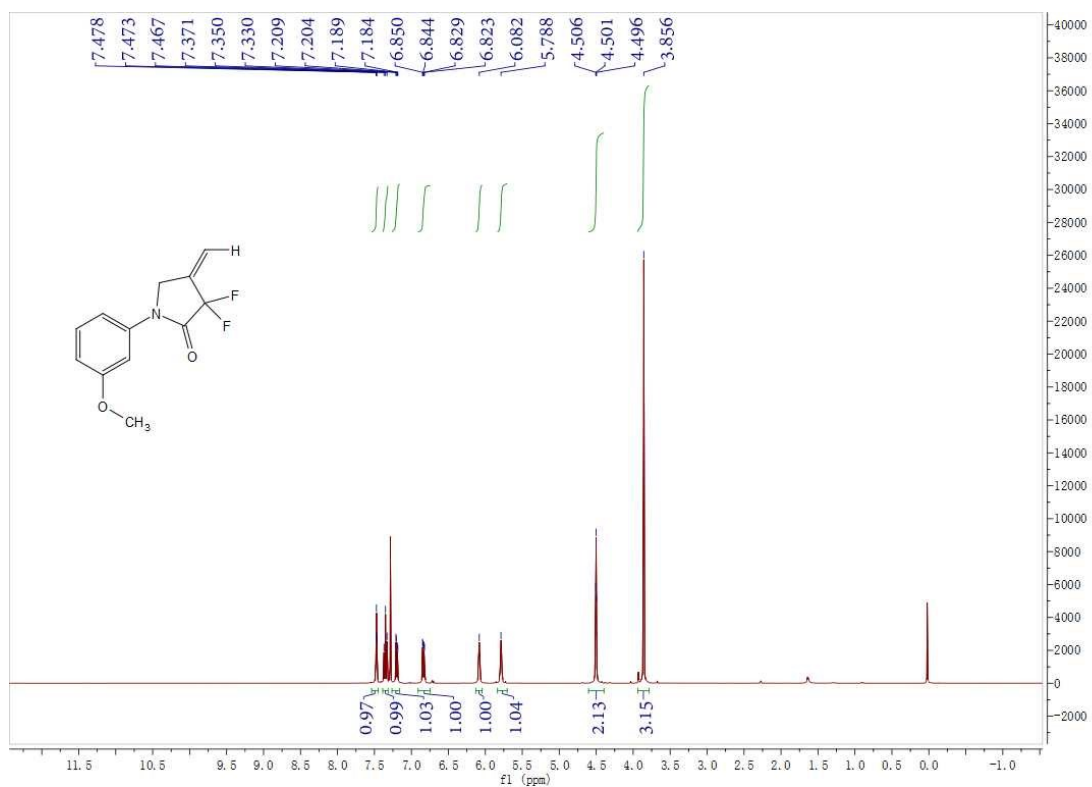


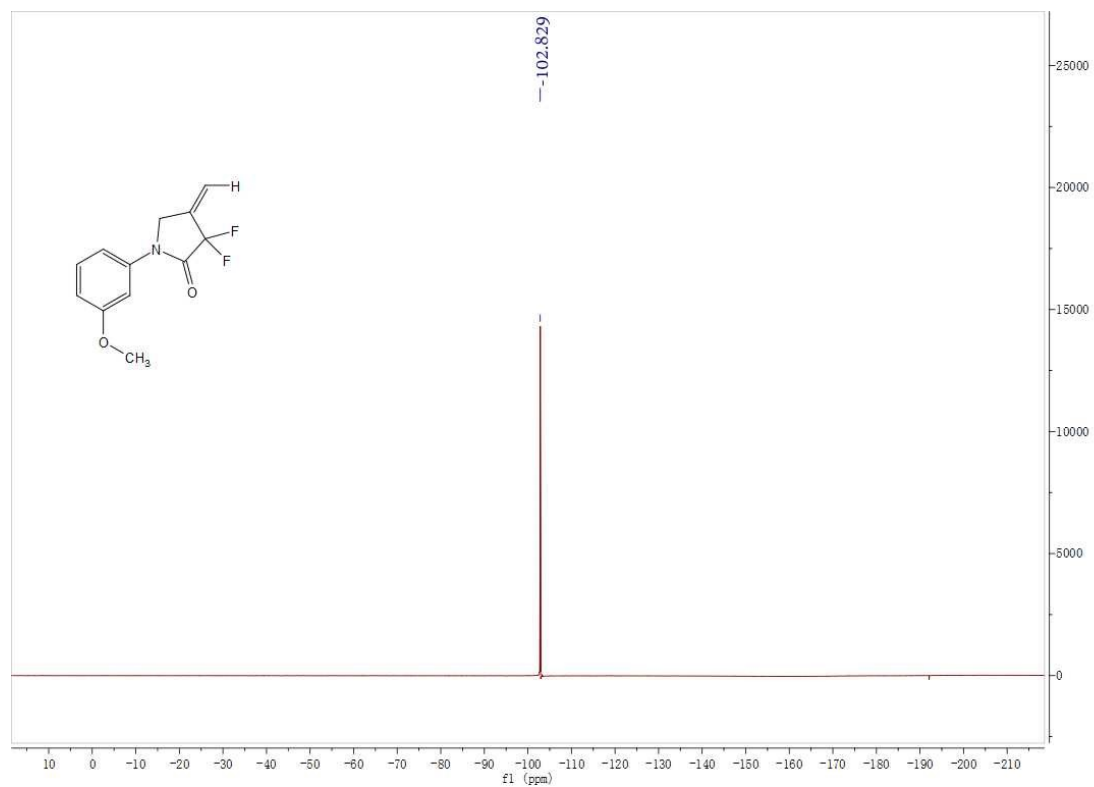
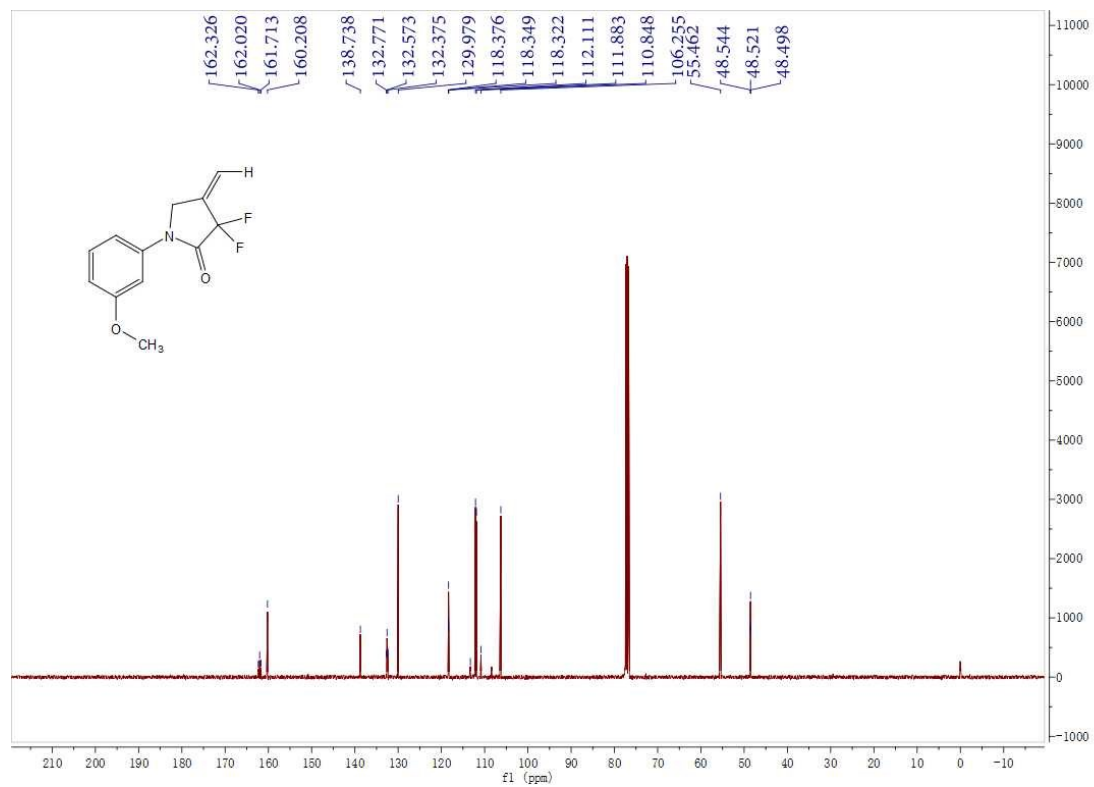
**3,3-difluoro-4-methylene-1-(m-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (40)**



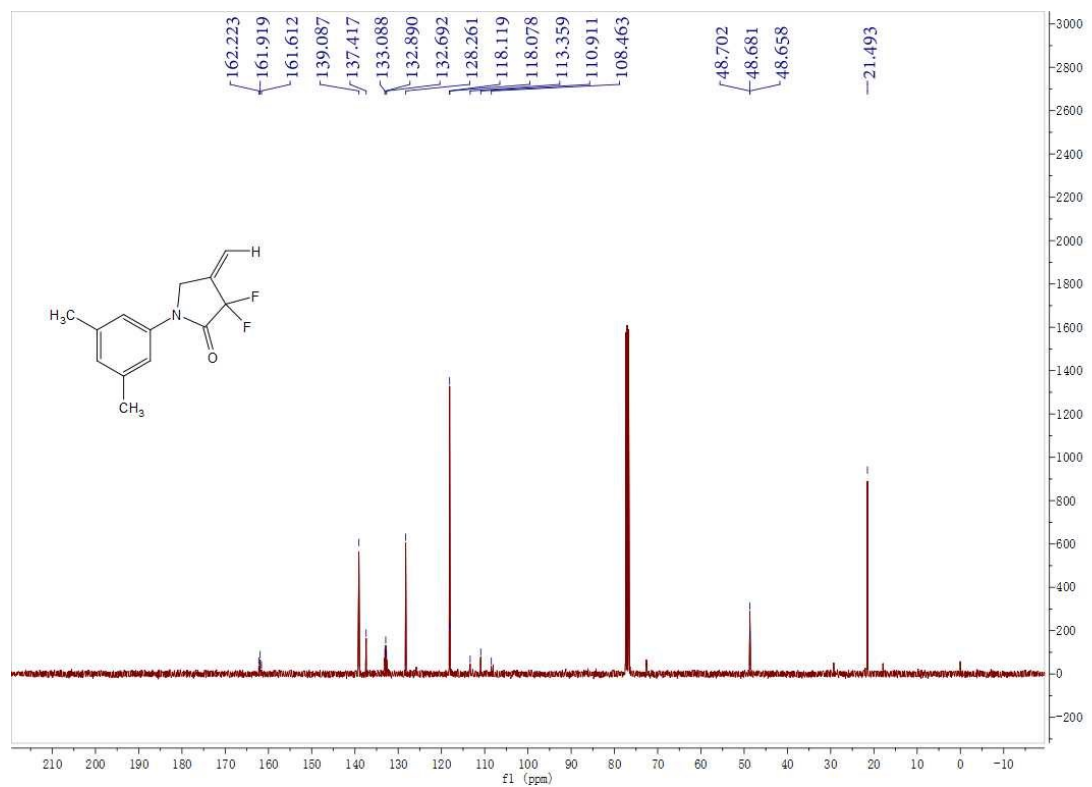
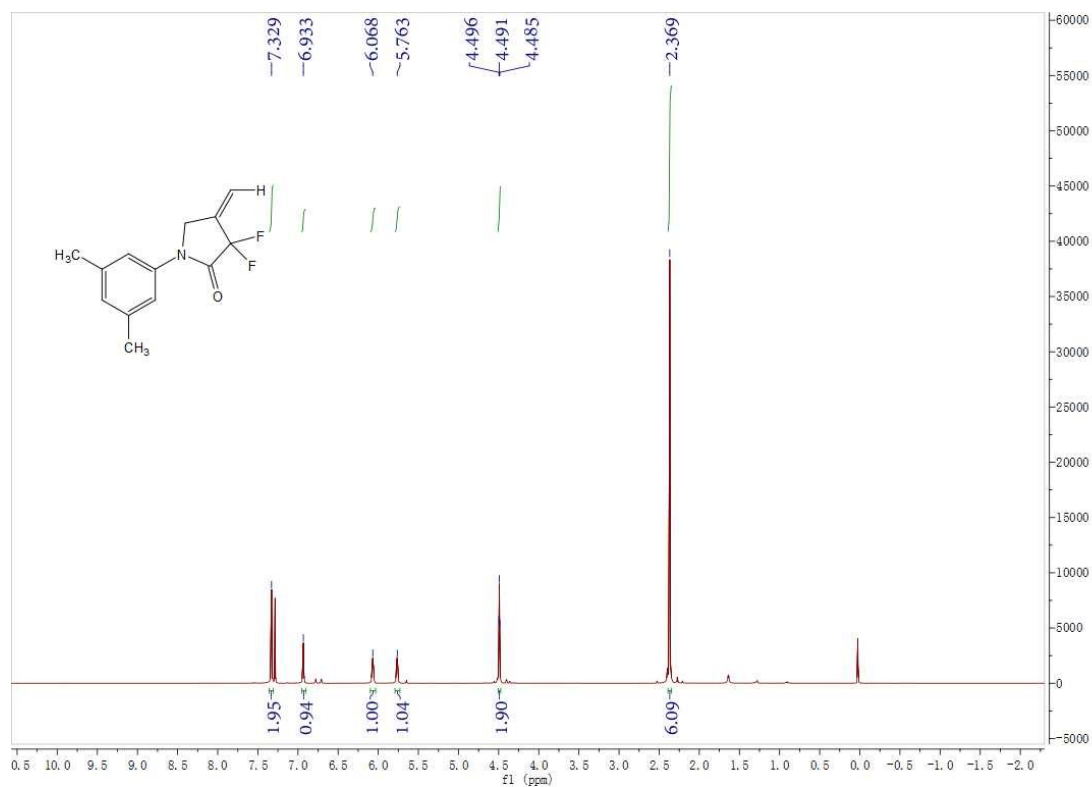


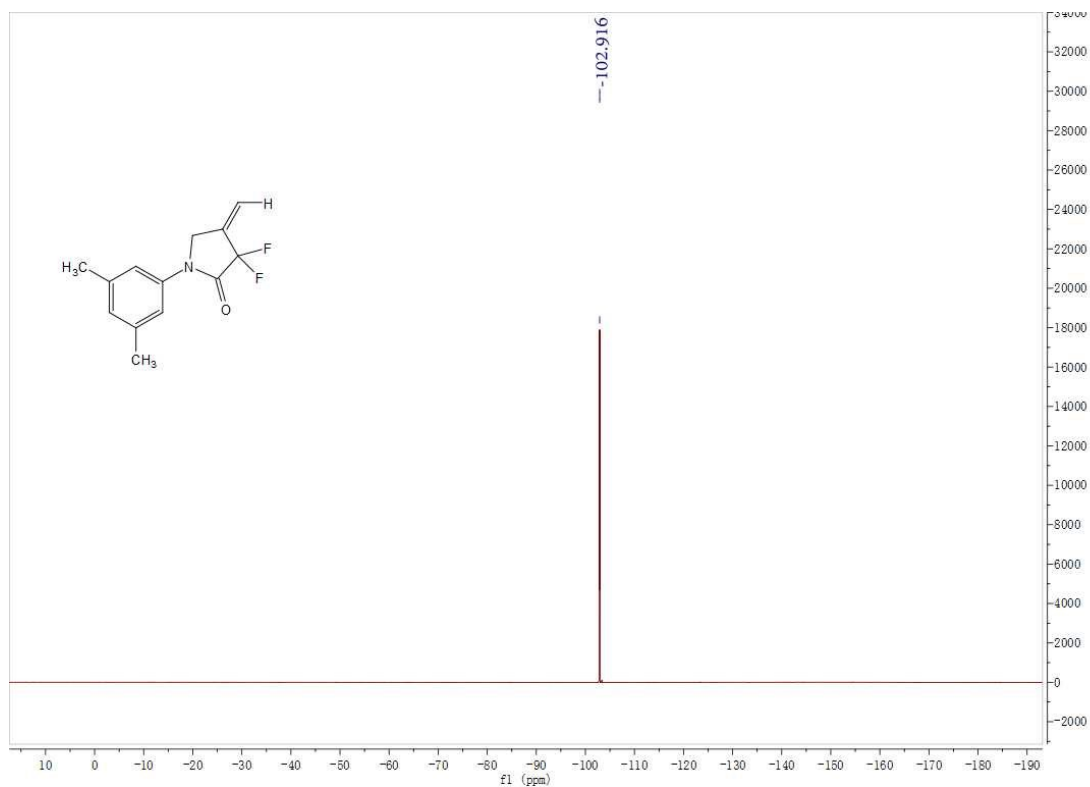
**3,3-difluoro-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (41)**



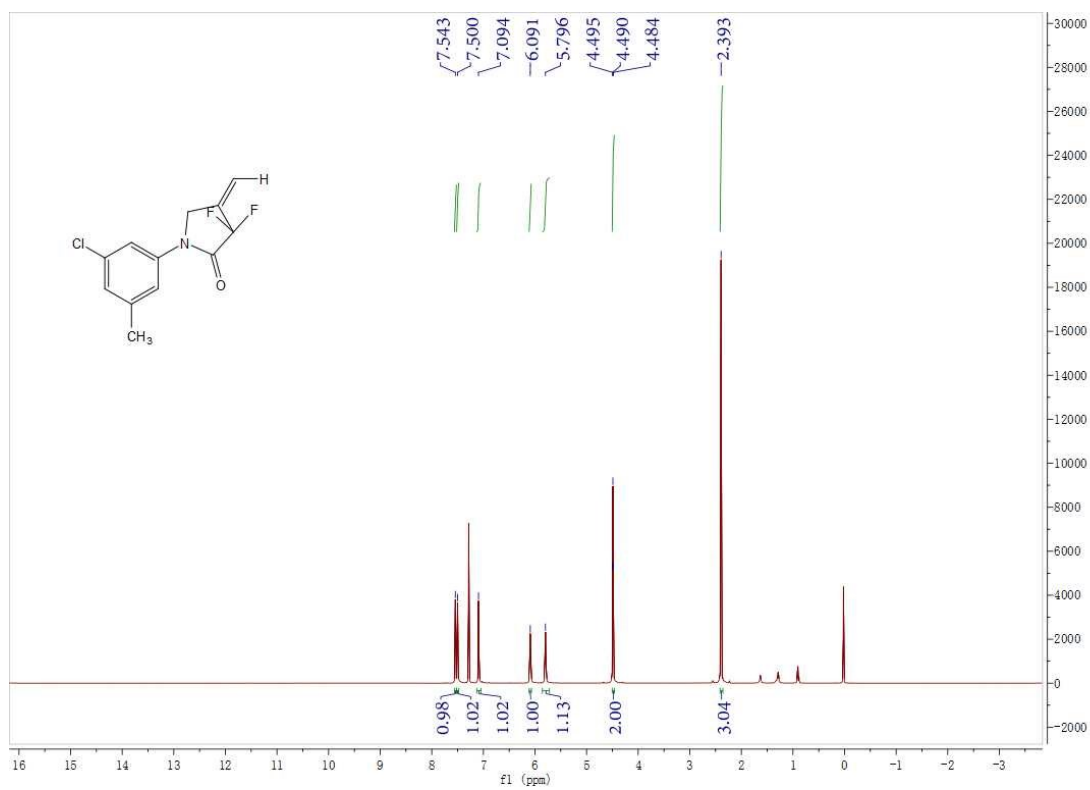


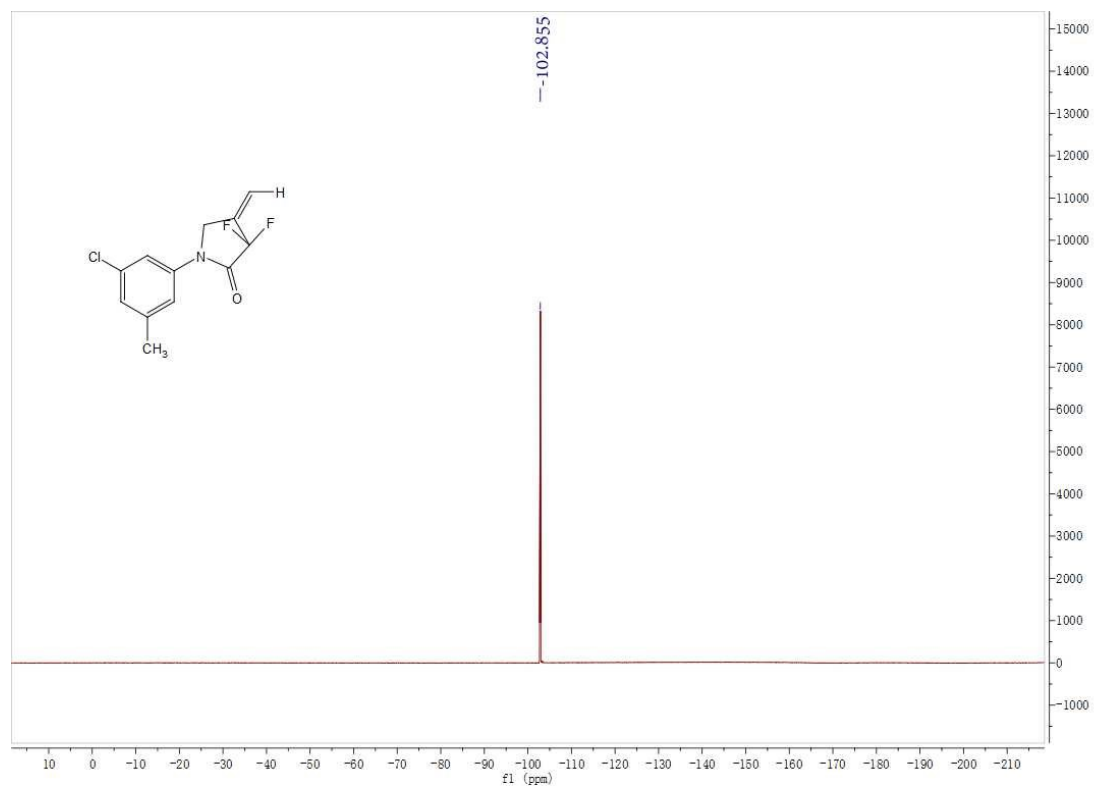
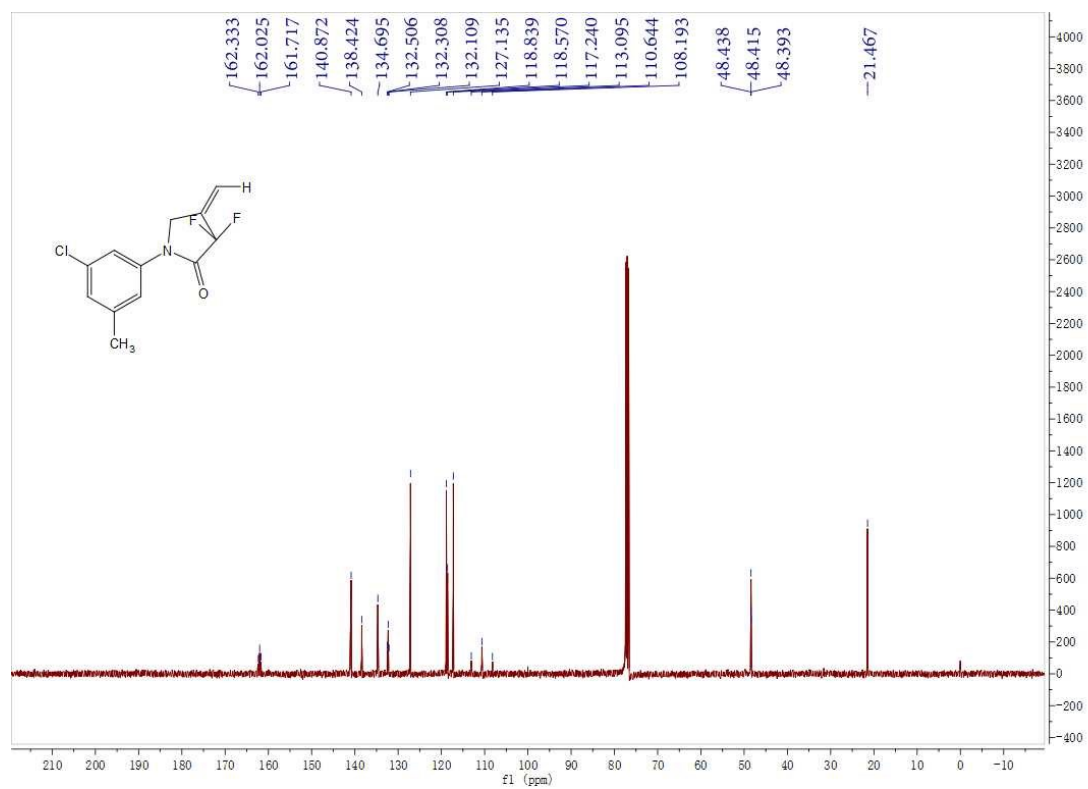
1-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3,3-difluoro-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (42)



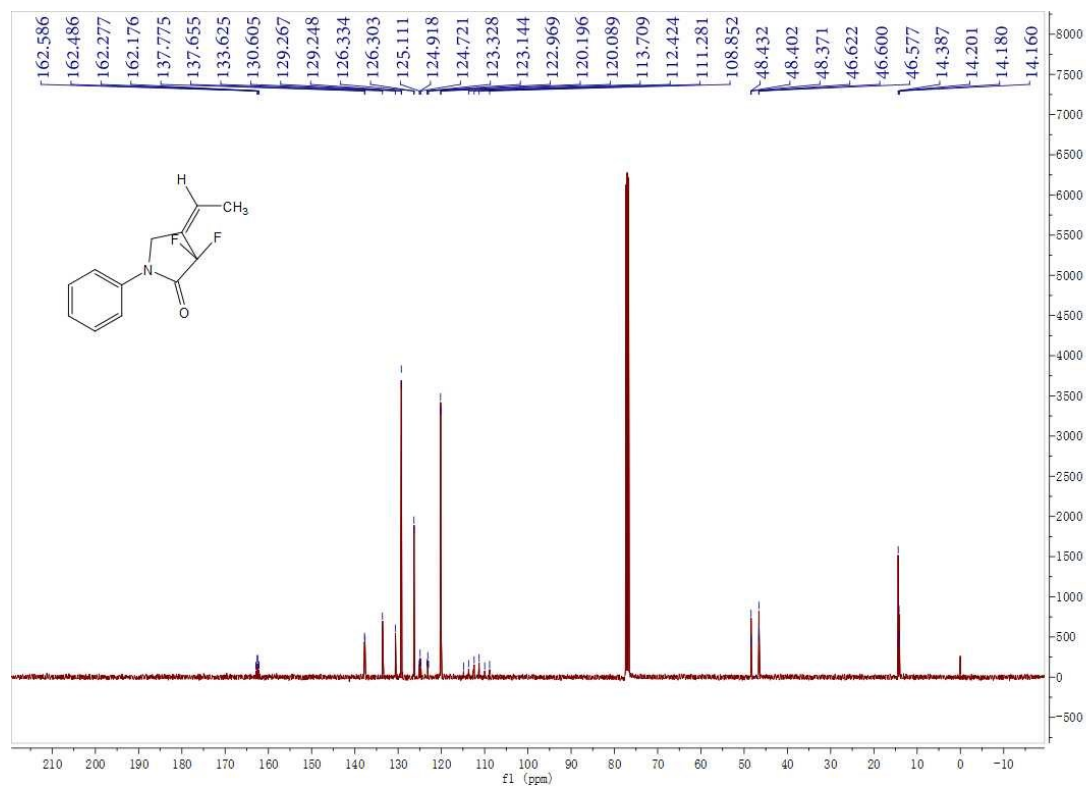
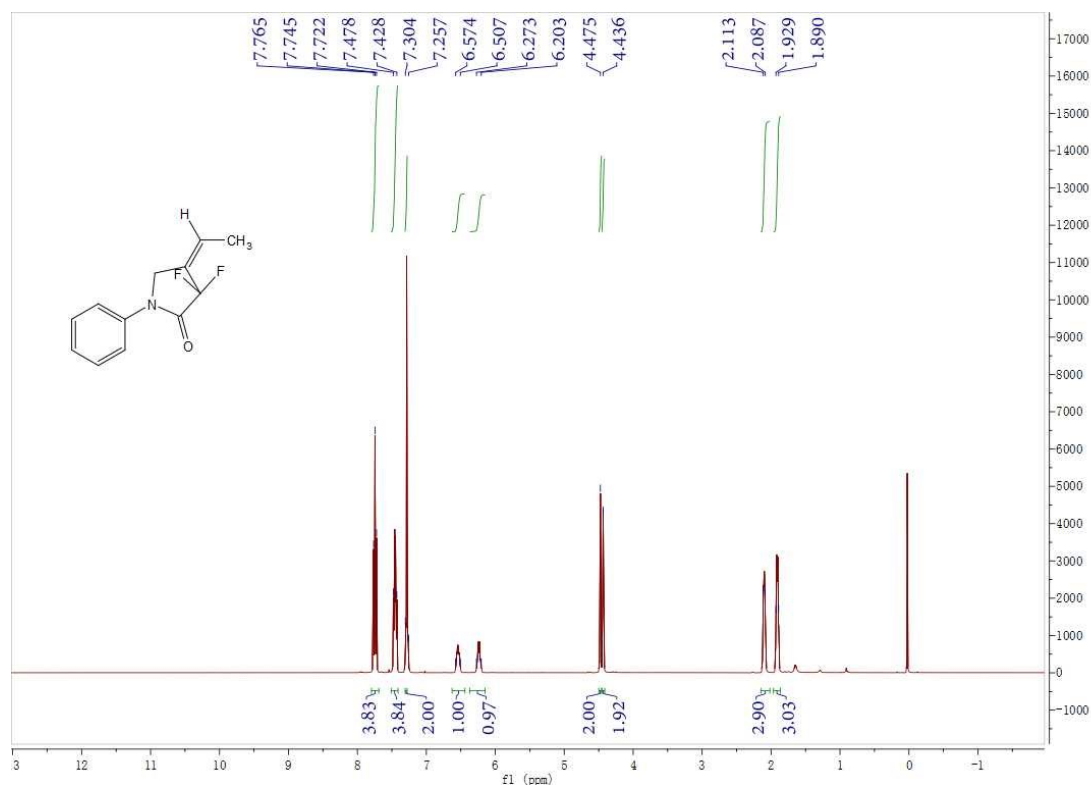


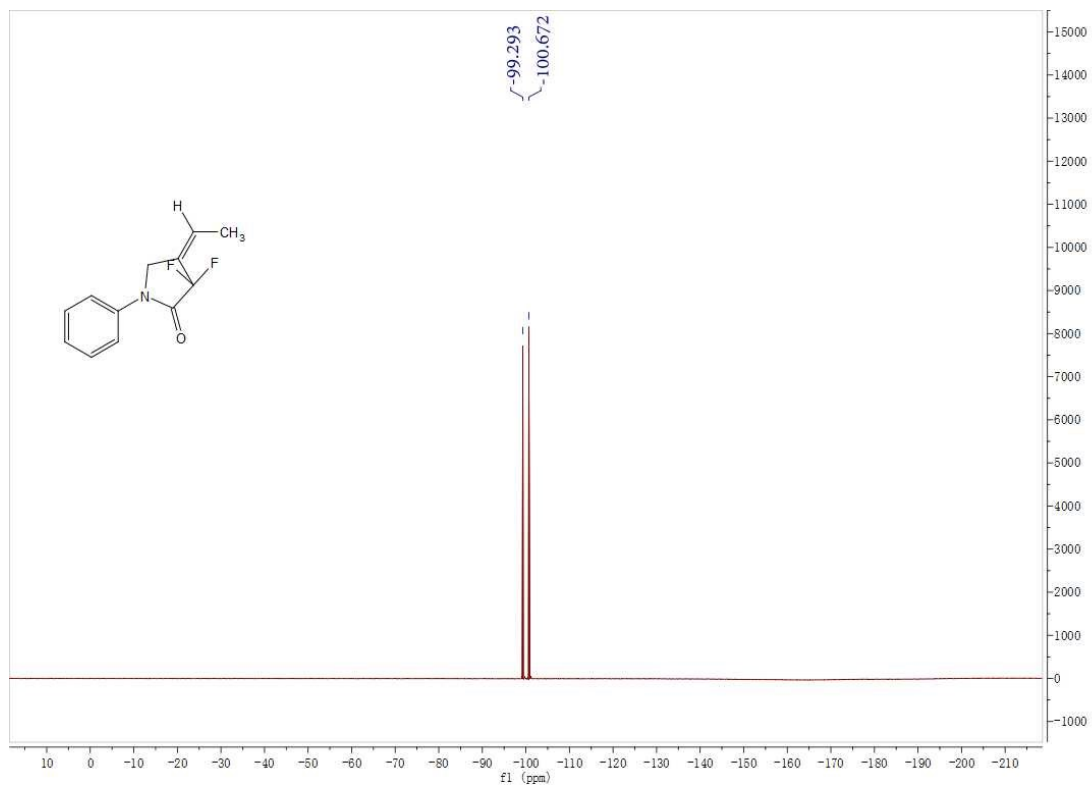
**1-(3-chloro-5-methylphenyl)-3,3-difluoro-4-methylenepyrrolidin-2-one (43)**



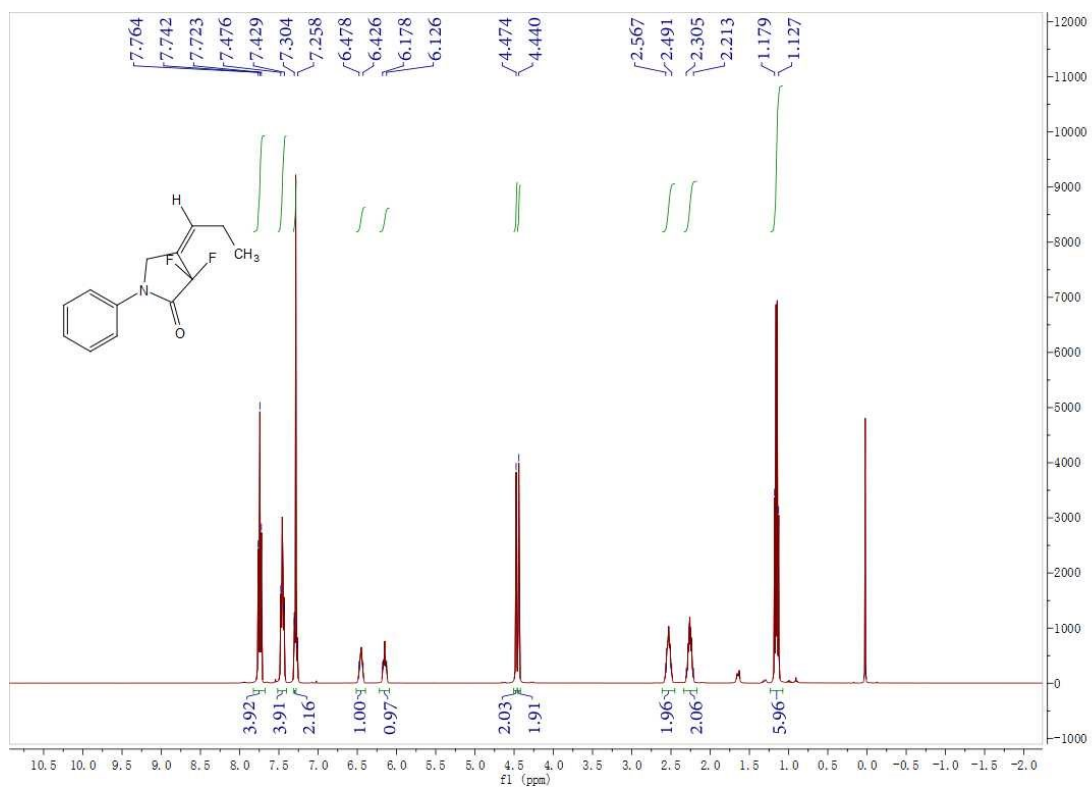


4-ethylidene-3,3-difluoro-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (44)

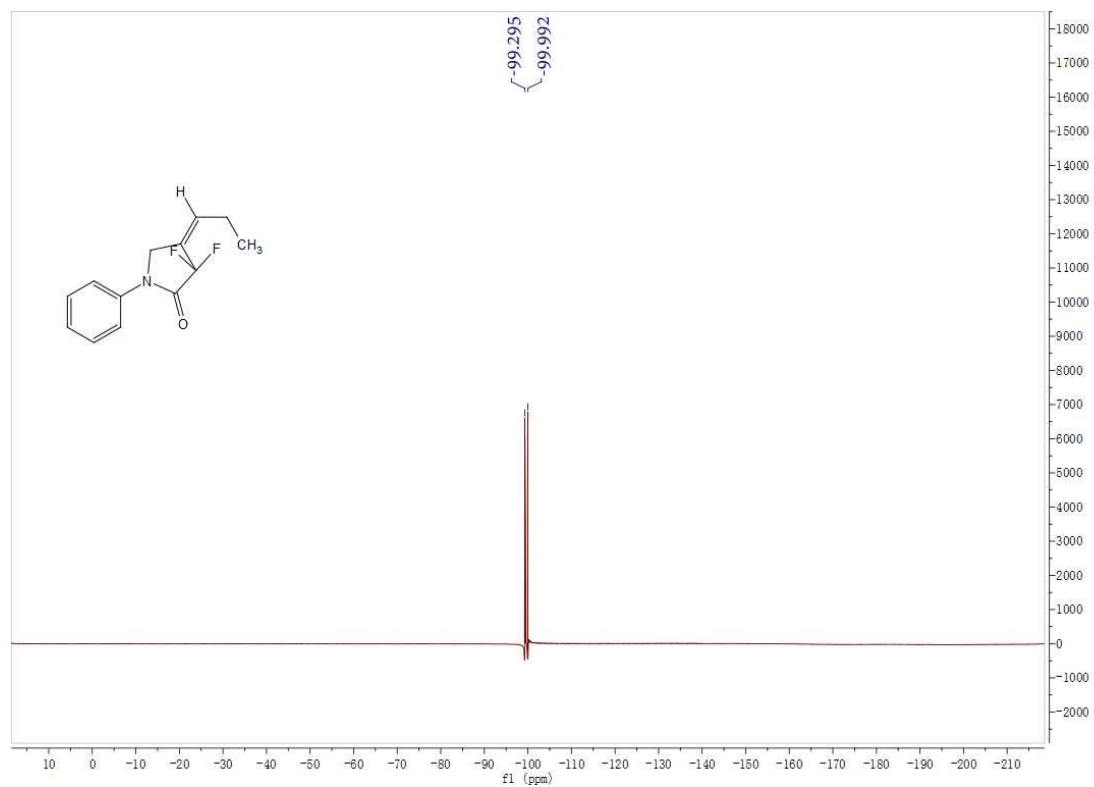
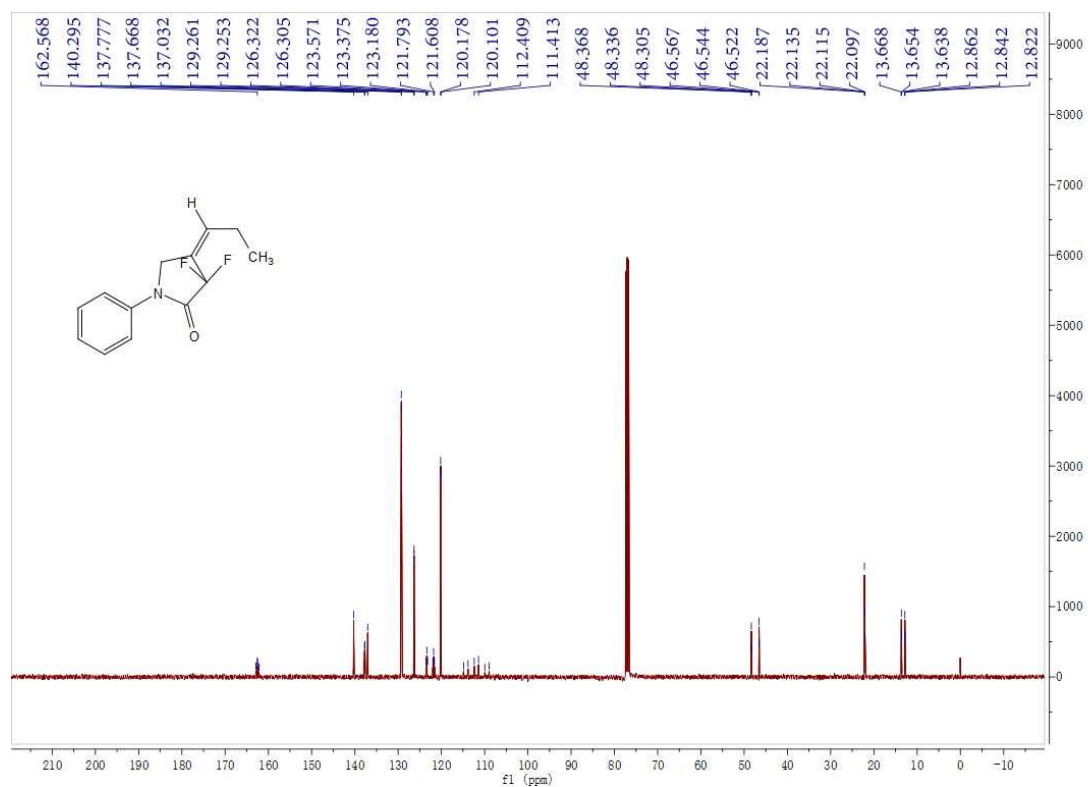




**3,3-difluoro-1-phenyl-4-propylenepyrrolidin-2-one (45)**







3,3-difluoro-1-phenyl-4-(propan-2-ylidene)pyrrolidin-2-one (46)

