
Homo-condensation of Acetophenones toward Imidazothinones

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Supporting information

1. Materials and instrumentation

All reagents and starting materials were obtained commercially from Sigma-Aldrich, Acros and Merck, and were used as received without any further purification unless otherwise noted. Gas chromatographic (GC) analyses were performed using a Shimadzu GC 2010-Plus equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID) and an SPB-5 column (length = 30 m, inner diameter = 0.25 mm, and film thickness = 0.25 μm). GC-MS analyses were analyzed on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010Ultra with a ZB-5MS column (length = 30 m, inner diameter = 0.25 mm, and film thickness = 0.25 μm). The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR were recorded on Bruker AV 500 spectrometers using residual solvent peak as a reference. HR-MS spectra were recorded by an Agilent HPLC 1200 Series coupled to Bruker micrOTOF-QII. IR spectra were obtained using a Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer.

2. Studies of reaction conditions

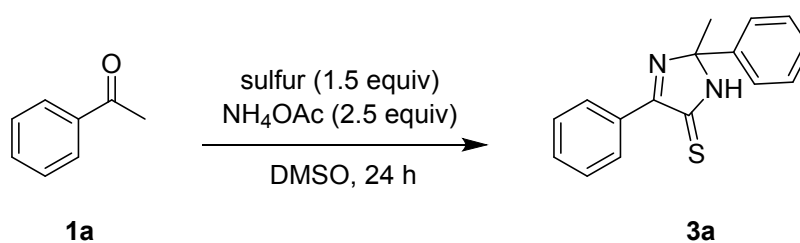
2.1. General procedure

To a dried thick-walled 8 mL glass pressure tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with acetophenone **1a** (0.1 mmol), elemental sulfur, ammonium acetate, diphenyl ether (0.1 mmol)

as internal standard and DMSO solvent. The mixture was then stirred at 60 °C. After the reaction finished as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, then diluted with water (2 mL) and ethyl acetate (2 mL). Aliquots from the reaction mixture were withdrawn and washed with water (2 ml). The organic components were then extracted into ethyl acetate (2 ml x 2). Combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and analyzed by GC with reference to diphenyl ether.

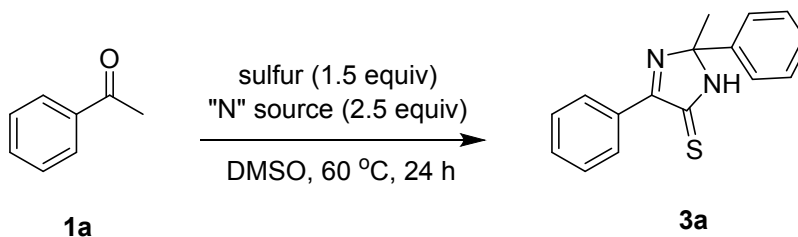
2.2 Optimization studies

2.2.1. Effect of temperature

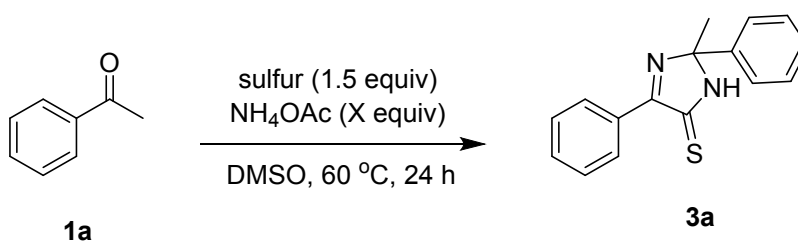


Entry	temperature	yield of 3a , %
1	r.t	3
2	50 °C	31
3	60 °C	84
4	70 °C	71
5	80 °C	20

2.2.2. Effect of nitrogen source



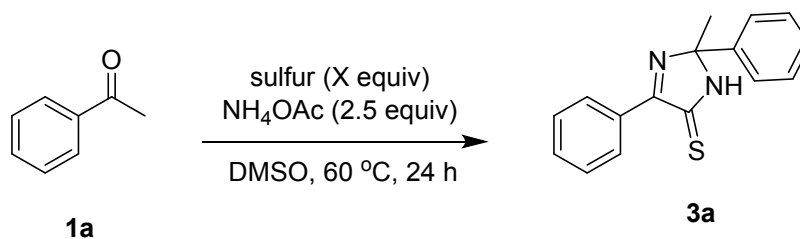
Entry	nitrogen source	yield of 3a , %
1	NH ₄ OAc	84
2	NH ₃ (28% aqueous solution)	n.d
3	Urea	n.d
4	NH ₄ HCO ₃	n.d

2.2.3. Effect of NH₄OAc amount

Entry	value of X	yield of 2a , %
1	1	5

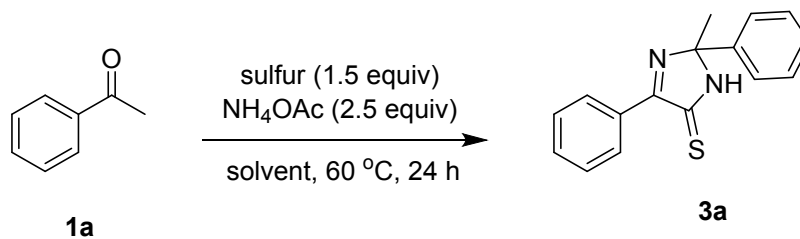
2	2	58
3	2.5	84
4	3	81
5	3.5	87
6	4	85

2.2.4. Effect of sulfur amount



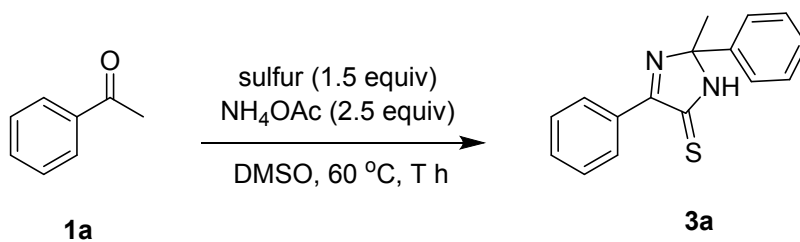
Entry	sulfur amount (equivalent)	yield of 3a , %
1	1	34
2	1.25	78
3	1.5	84
4	1.75	80
5	2	48

2.2.5. Effect of solvent



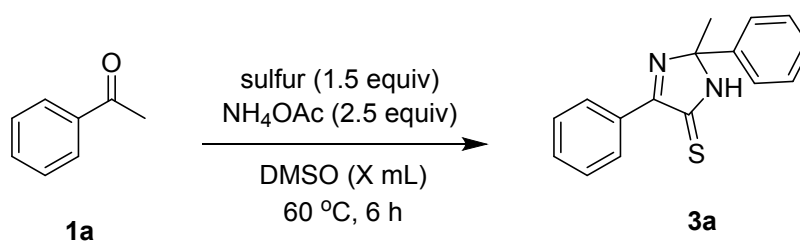
Entry	solvent	yield of 3a , %
1	1,4-dioxane	n.d
2	chlorobenzene	n.d
3	DMSO	84
4	DMF	n.d
5	dimethyl carbonate	n.d
6	ethylene glycol	n.d
7	no solvent	n.d

2.2.6. Effect of reaction time



Entry	Reaction time (h)	yield of 3a , %
1	2	38
2	4	73
3	6	84
4	8	84
5	24	84

2.2.7. Effect of DMSO amount



Entry	X (mL)	yield of 3a , %
1	0	trace
2	0.5	57
3	1	84
4	2	78

5	3	80
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2.3. Gram-scale experiment

To a 25-mL round bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar and a reflux condenser with acetophenone **1a** (2.0 mmol, 240 mg), elemental sulfur (3.0 mmol, 96 mg), ammonium acetate (5.0 mmol, 385 mg), and DMSO (10 ml) in a 25-mL round bottomed flask. The mixture was then stirred at 60 °C for 24 h in a sand bath. Upon completion, the crude mixture was slowly cooled to room temperature, then added water (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic components were then washed with water (20 ml) and extracted into ethyl acetate (3×10 mL). Combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude mixture was then purified using column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexane 1:5 eluent to afford **3a** (202 mg, 76%) as a light-yellow oil which slowly solidified under air.

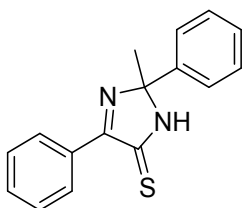
3. Synthesis of imidazothiones

3.1. General procedure

To a dried thick-walled 8 mL glass pressure tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with an acetophenone (0.2 mmol), elemental sulfur (0.3 mmol, 9.6 mg), ammonium acetate (0.5 mmol, 38.5 mg), and DMSO (1.0 ml) solvent. The mixture was then stirred at 60 °C. After the reaction finished as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, then diluted with ethyl acetate (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The organic components were then extracted into ethyl acetate (5 ml x 3), then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified using hexanes/ethyl acetate eluent to afford the desired imidazothione.

3.2. Characterization data of unknown products

2-Methyl-2,5-diphenyl-2,3-dihydro-4*H*-imidazole-4-thione (3a)



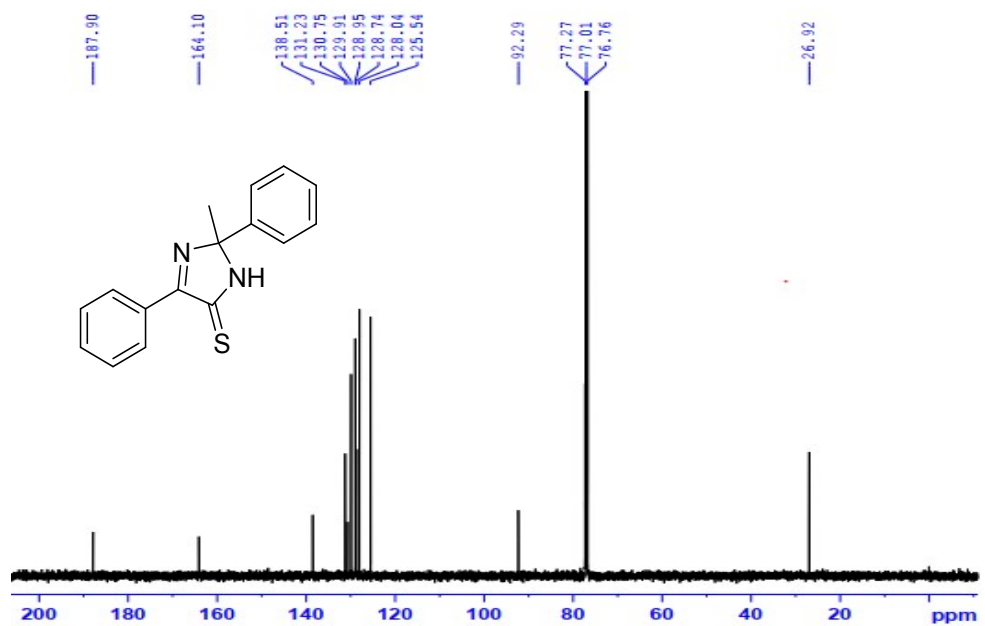
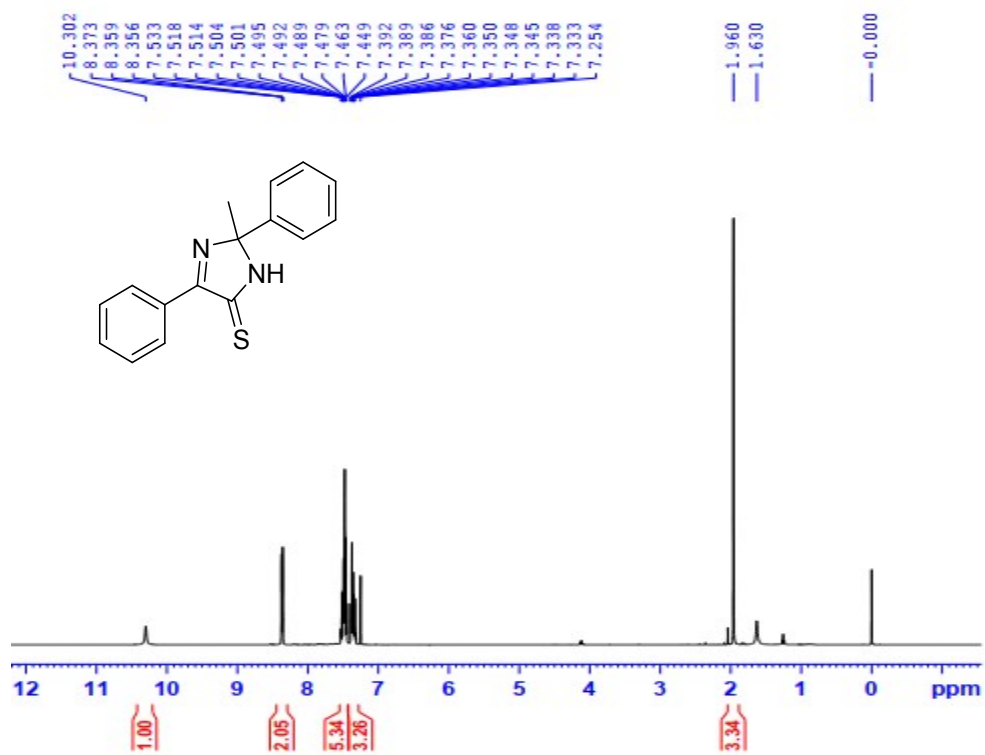
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.40): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 80% yield (21.2 mg).

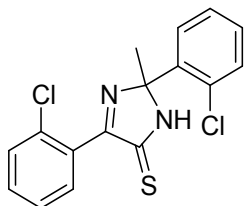
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 8.39 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 5H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 187.9, 164.1, 138.5, 131.2, 130.7, 129.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.0, 125.5, 92.3, 26.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1650, 1230.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 267.0950, found: 267.0941.



2,5-Bis(2-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3b)

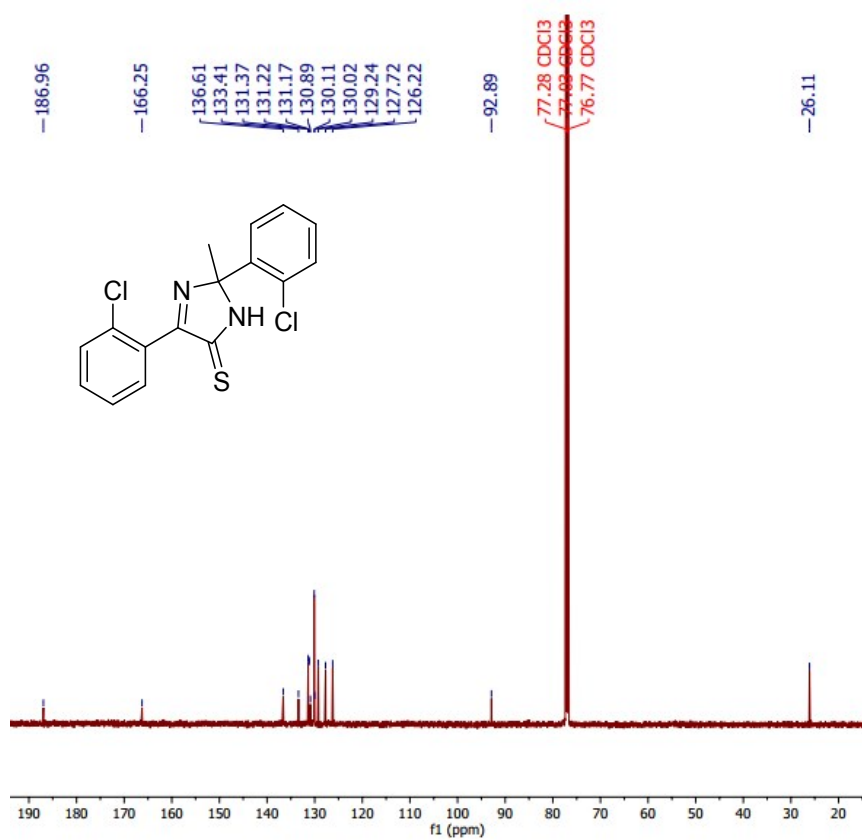
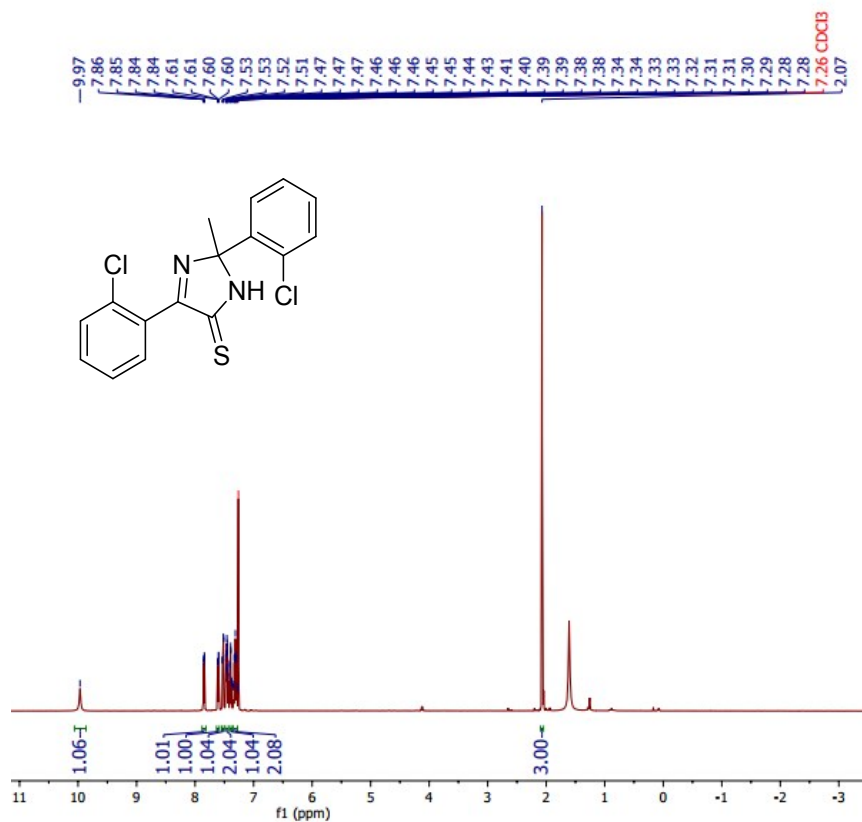
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.37): light yellow oil, 45% yield (15.2 mg).

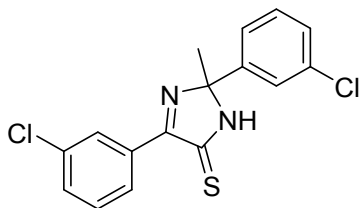
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 9.97 (s, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J = 7.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 186.9, 166.2, 136.6, 133.4, 131.4, 131.22, 131.17, 130.9, 130.1, 130.0, 129.2, 127.7, 126.2, 92.9, 26.1. One carbon signal could not be located.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1642, 1250, 828, 825.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 335.0171, found: 335.0173.



2,5-Bis(3-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3c)

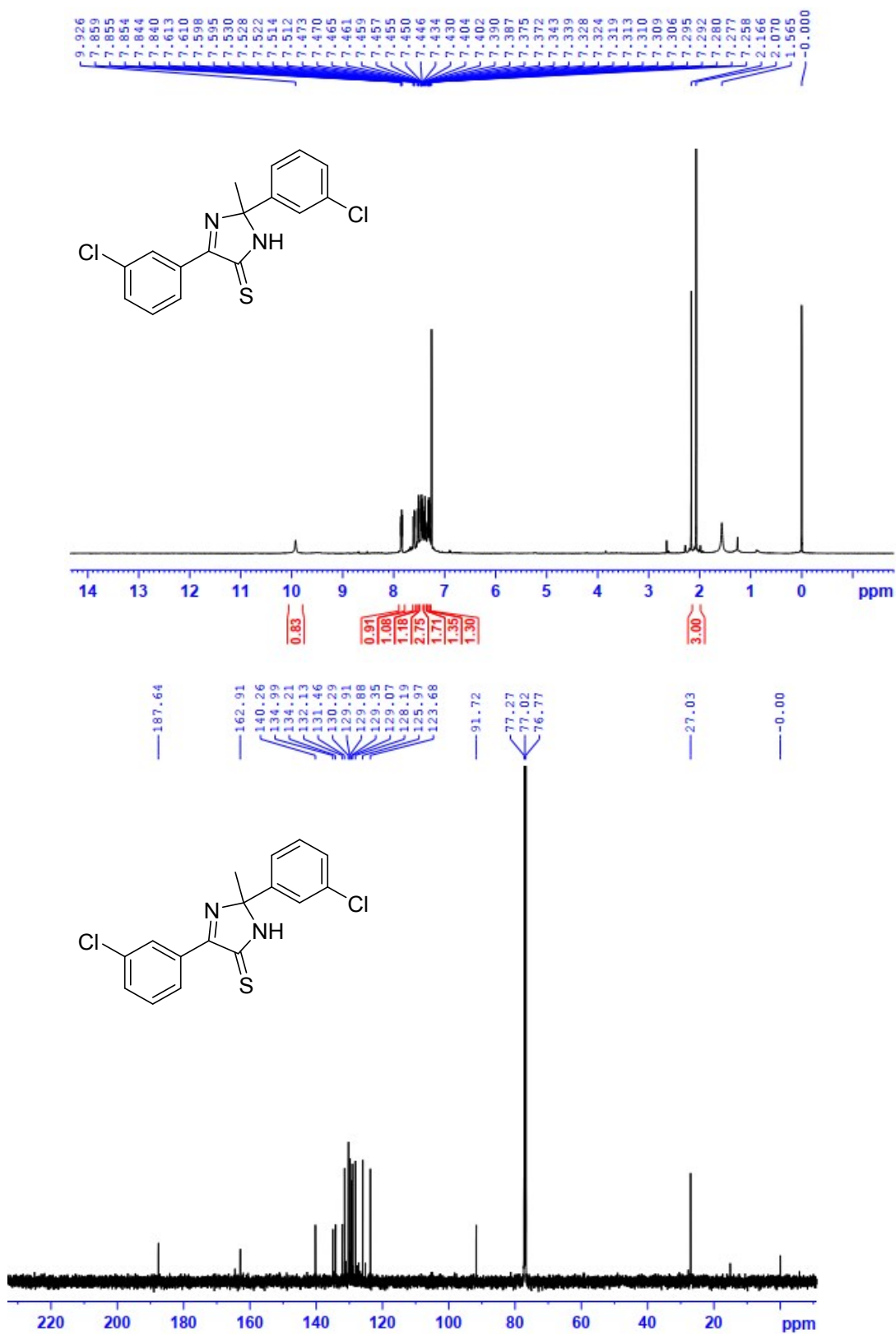
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.48): light yellow oil, 69% yield (23.3 mg).

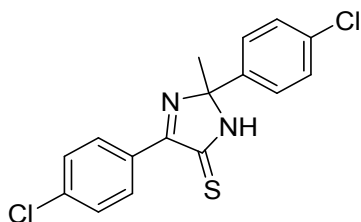
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.06 (s, 1H), 8.42 – 8.32 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.6, 162.9, 140.3, 135.0, 134.2, 132.1, 131.5, 130.3, 129.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.2, 126.0, 123.7, 91.7, 27.0.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1638, 1241, 819, 812.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 335.0171, found: 335.0174.



2,5-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3d)

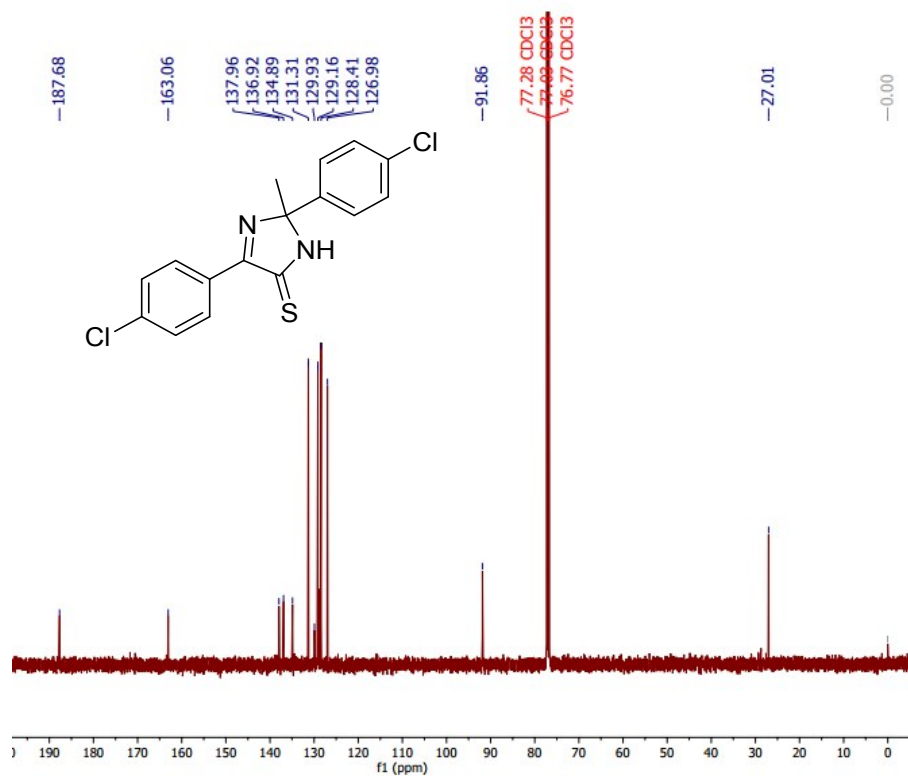
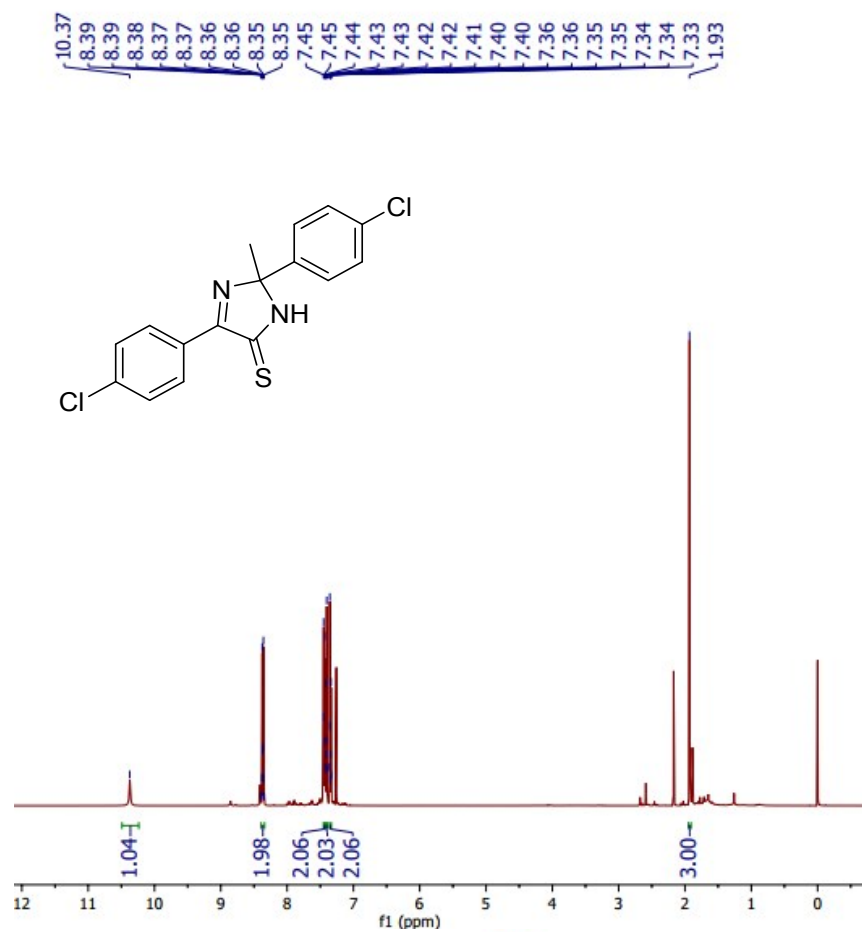
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.46): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 80% yield (27.0 mg).

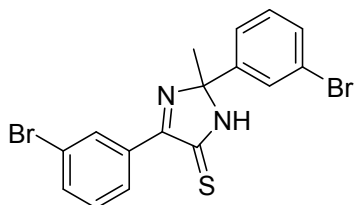
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.37 (s, 1H), 8.39 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 1.93 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.7, 163.1, 138.0, 136.9, 134.9, 131.3, 129.9, 129.2, 128.4, 127.0, 91.9, 27.0.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1640, 1208, 830, 822.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}^{35}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 335.0176, found: 335.0179.



2,5-Bis(3-bromophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3e)

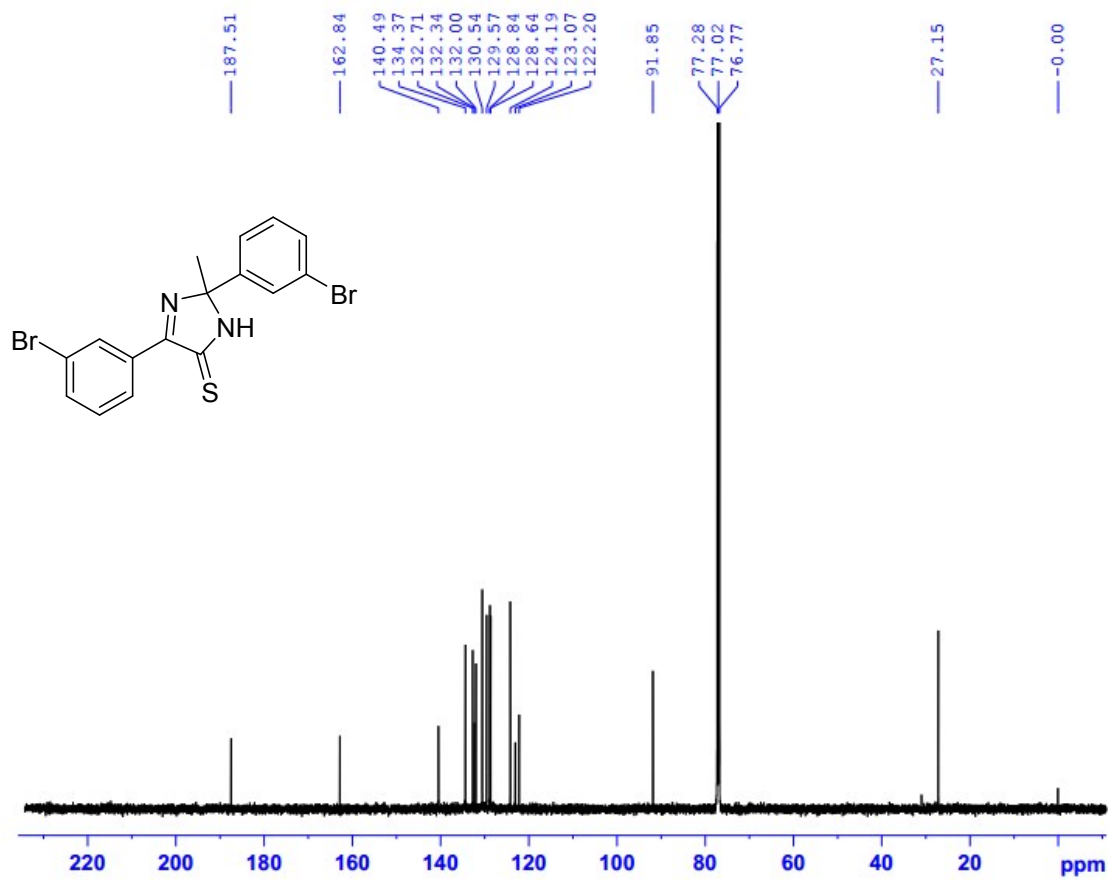
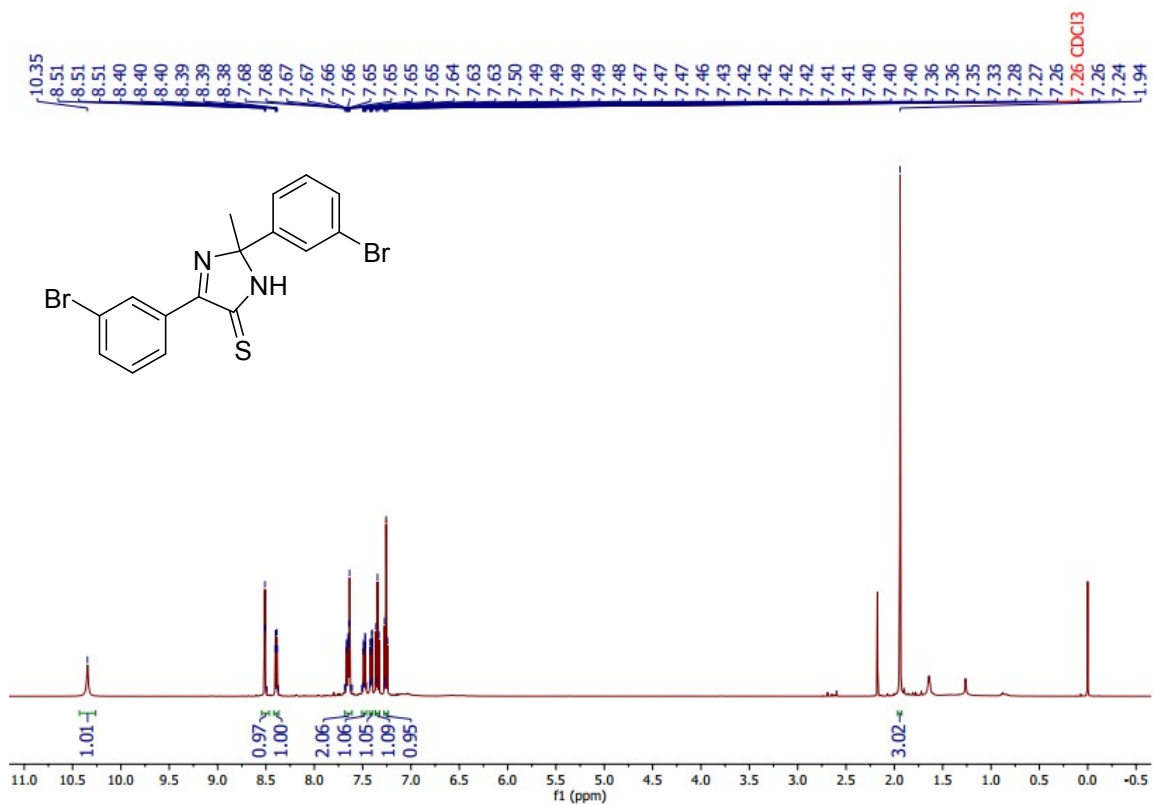
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.20): light orange liquid, 80% yield (33.9 mg).

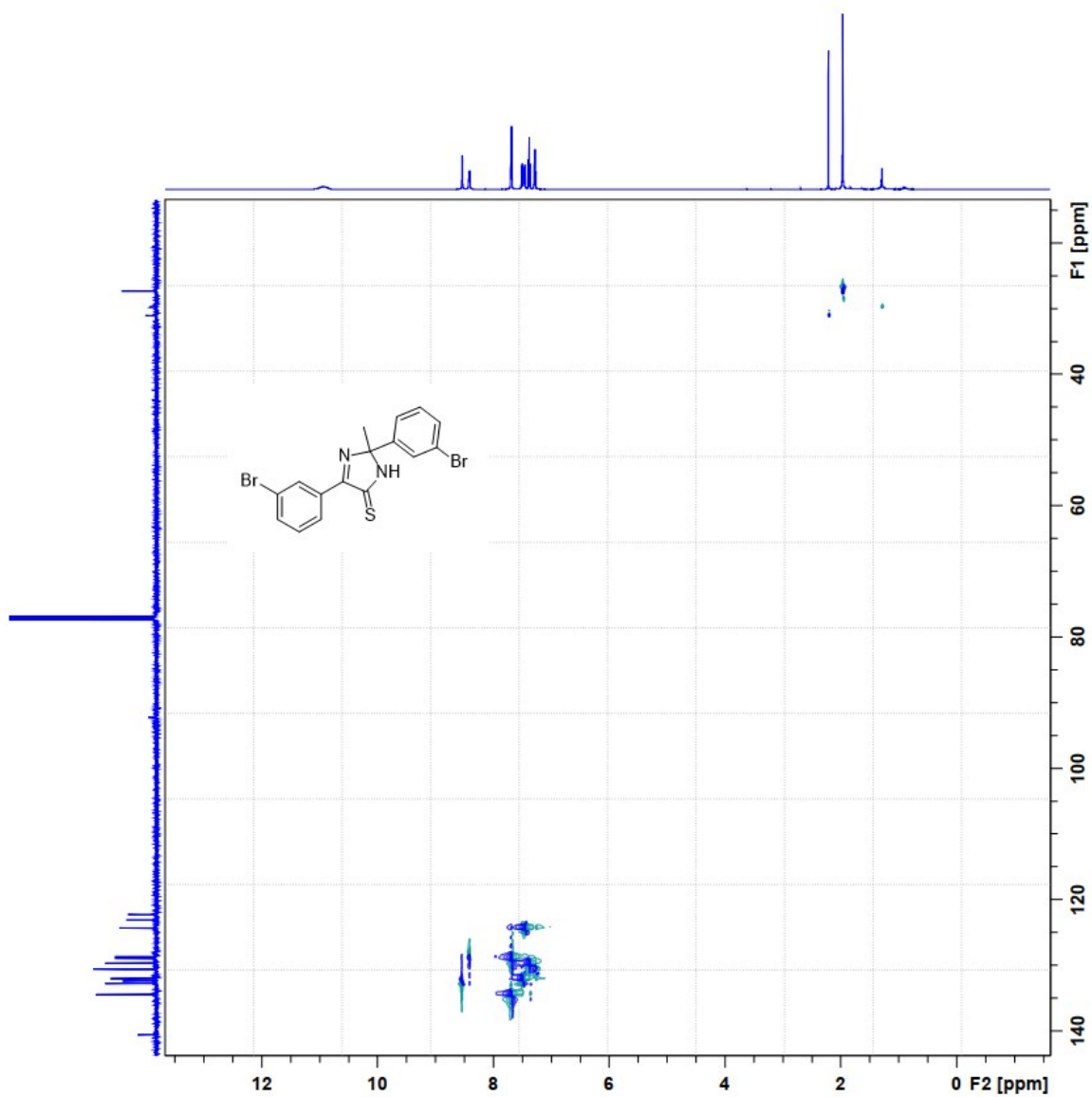
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.35 (s, 1H), 8.51 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.48 (ddd, J = 8.0, 2.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (ddd, J = 7.8, 1.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H).

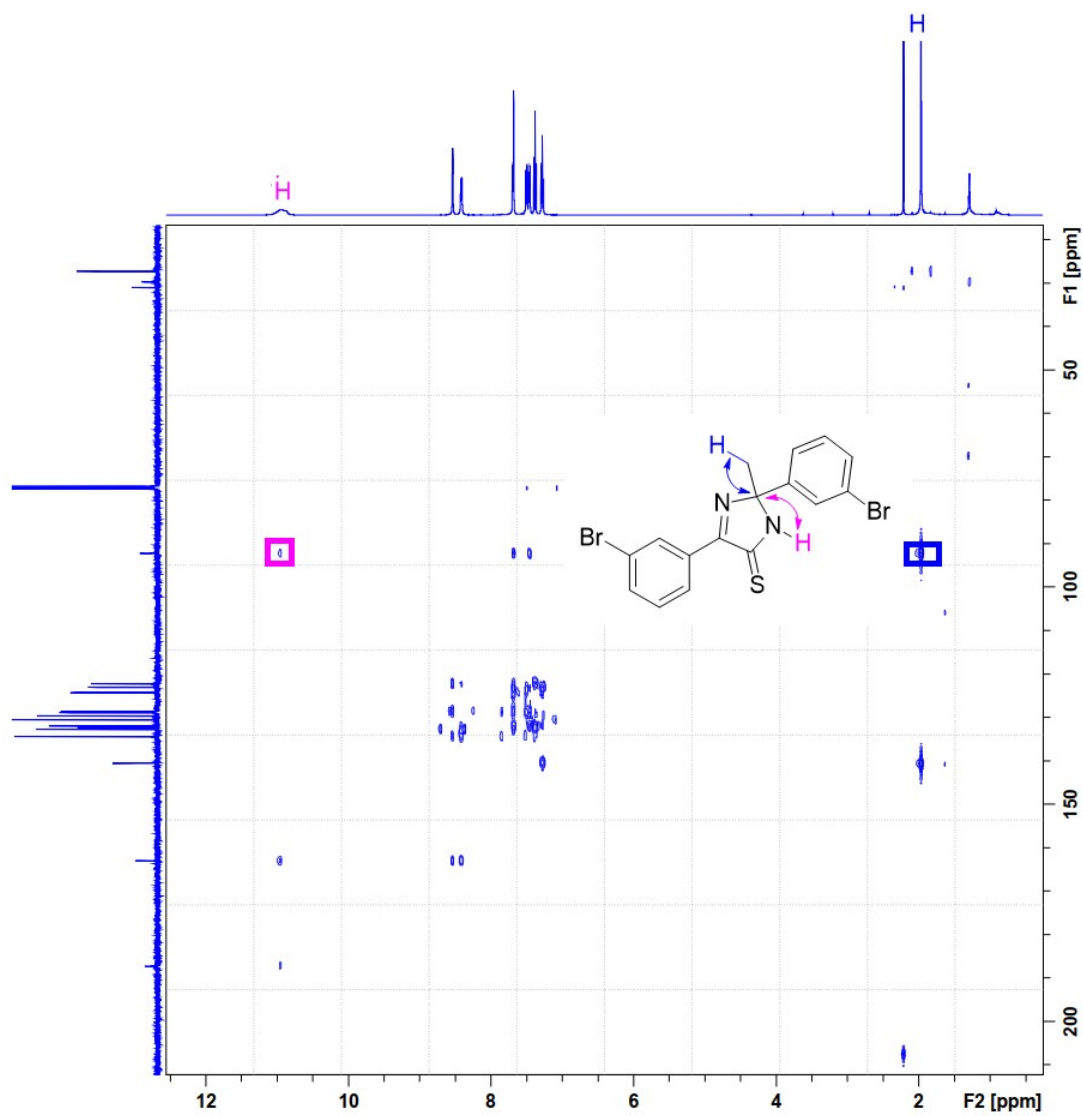
^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) 187.5, 162.8, 140.5, 134.4, 132.7, 132.3, 132.0, 130.5, 129.6, 128.8, 128.6, 124.2, 123.1, 122.2, 91.8, 27.1.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1638, 1252, 838, 815.

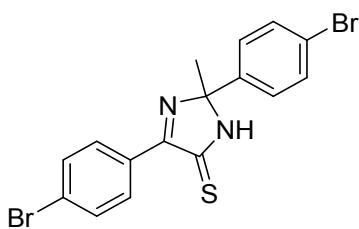
HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}^{79}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 424.9140, found: 424.9133.







2,5-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4*H*-imidazole-4-thione (3f)



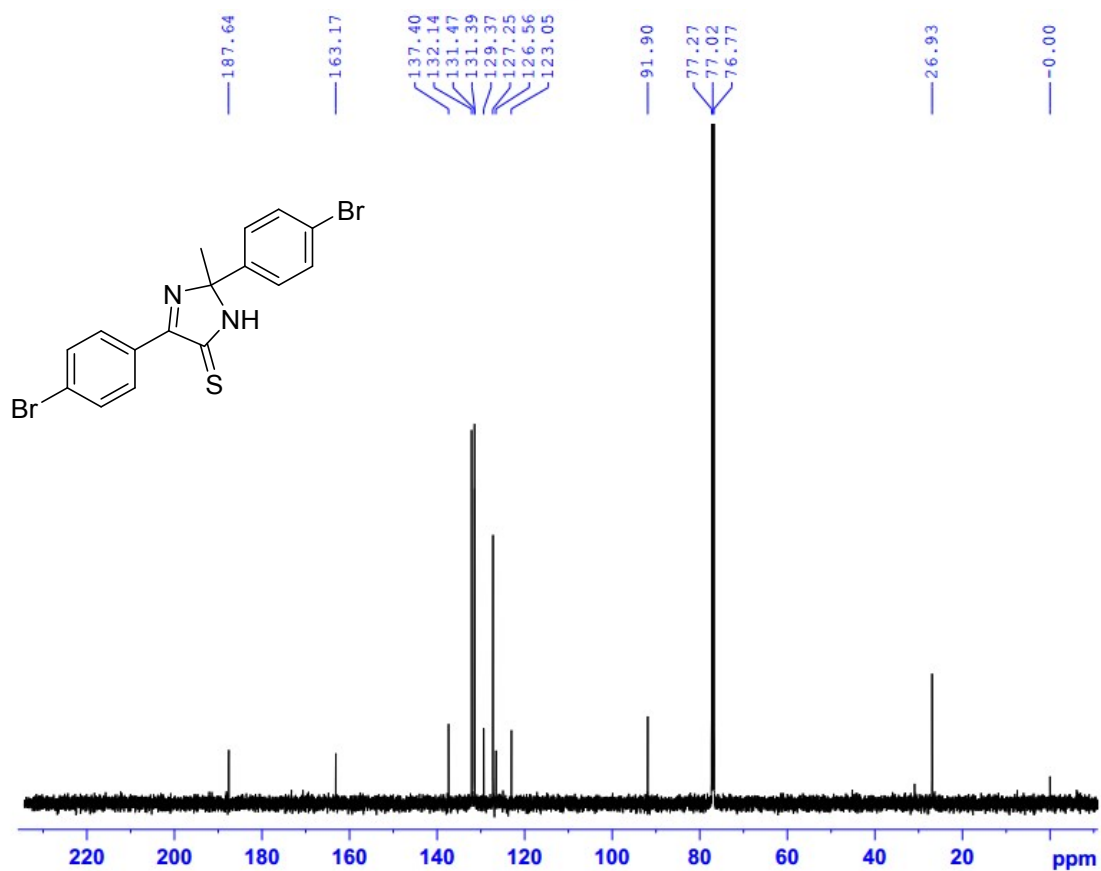
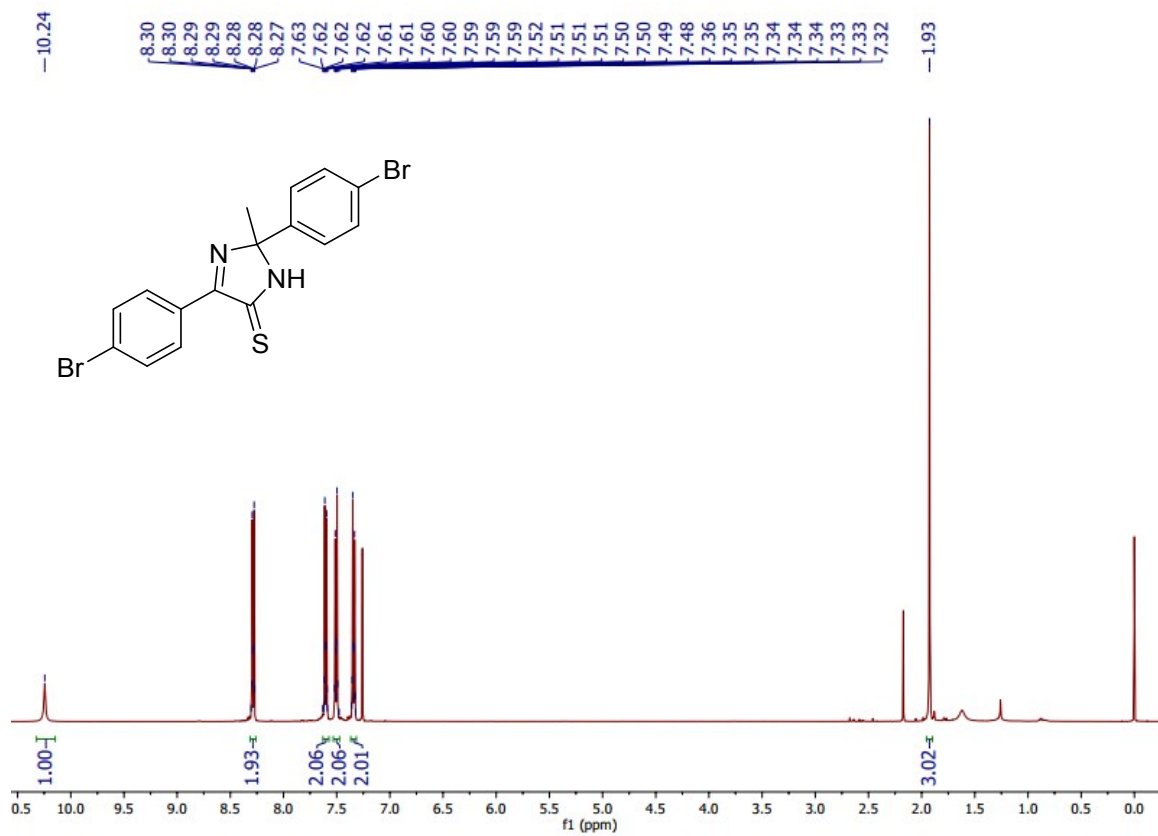
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.58): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 75% yield (31.9 mg).

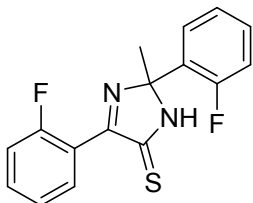
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.24 (s, 1H), 8.34 – 8.22 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) 187.6, 163.2, 137.4, 132.1, 131.5, 131.4, 129.4, 127.3, 126.6, 123.0, 91.9, 26.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1648, 1248, 818, 810.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}^{79}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 424.9140, found: 424.9141.



2,5-Bis(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3g)

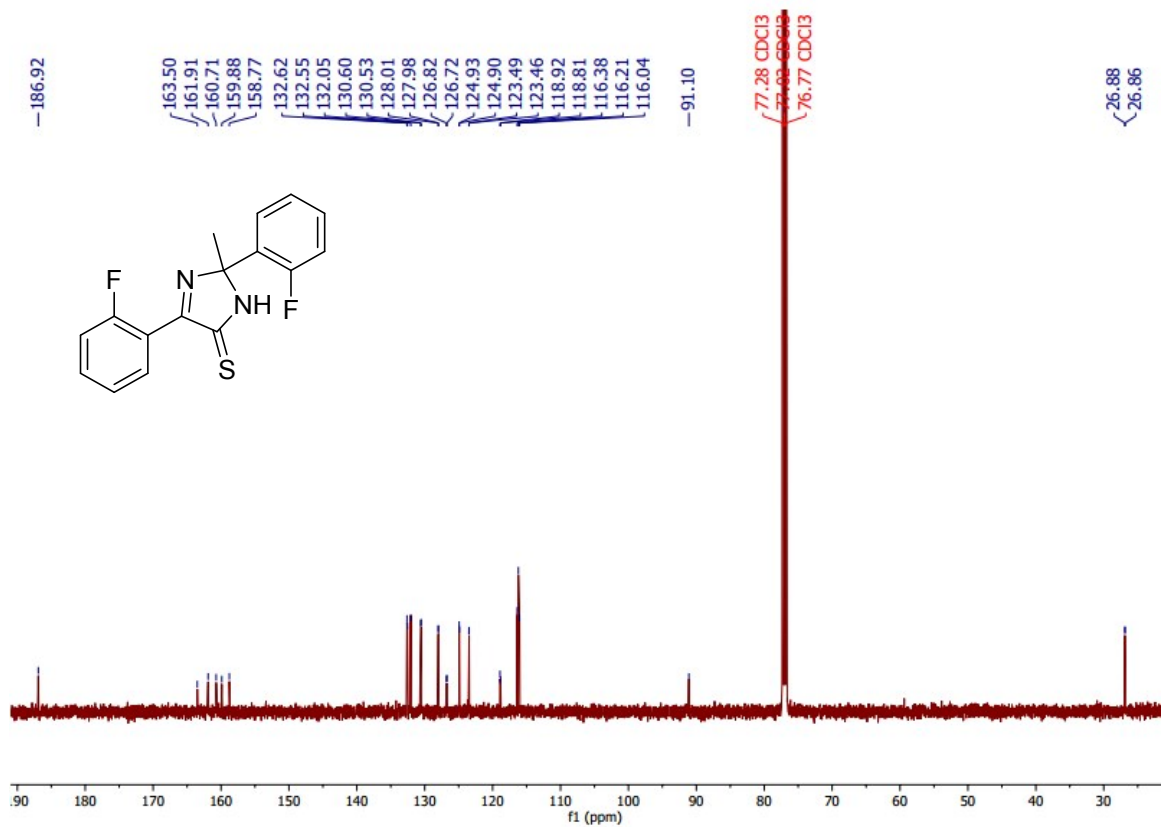
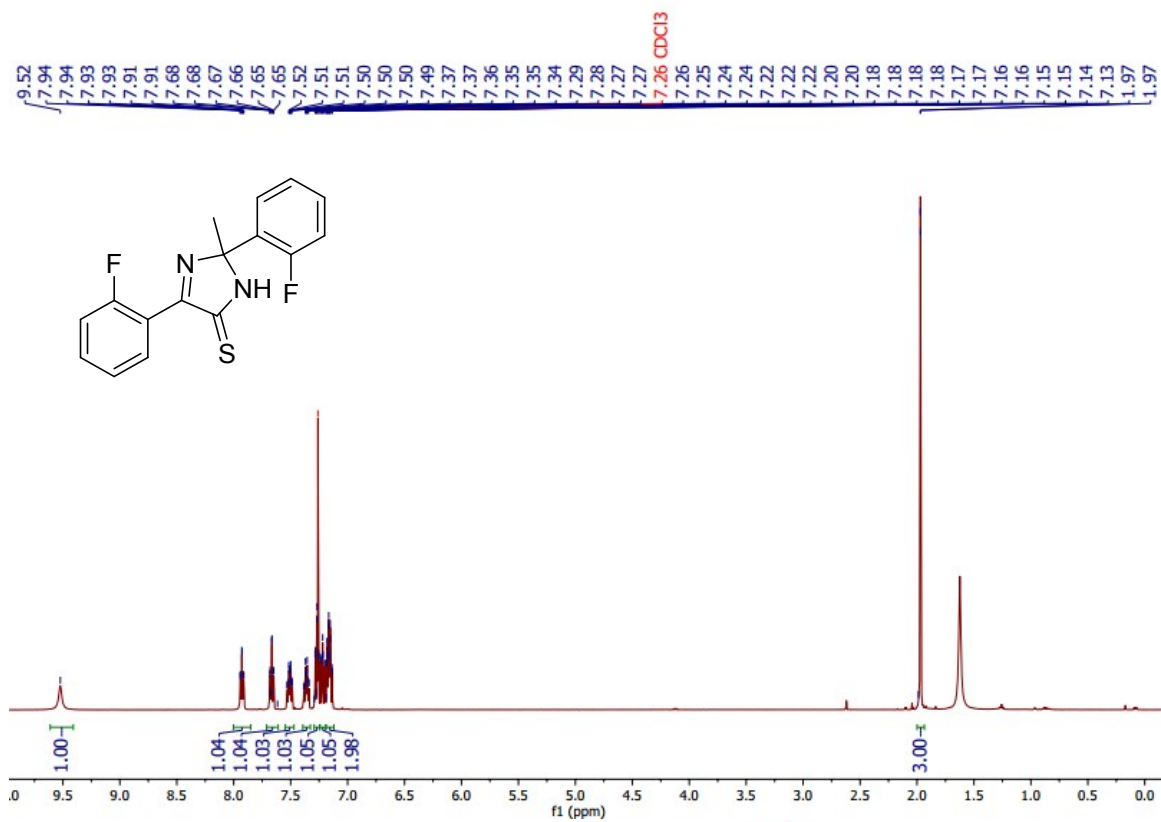
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.18): light yellow oil, 58% yield (17.5 mg).

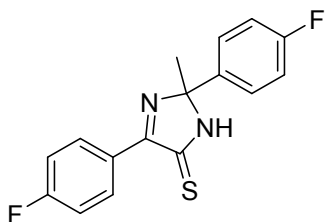
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 9.52 (s, 1H), 7.93 (td, J = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td, J = 7.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.36 (tdd, J = 7.6, 5.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (ddd, J = 9.7, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 2.00 – 1.94 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm, possible peaks are listed due to overlapping of two different fluoroarenes) δ 186.9, 163.5, 161.9, 160.7, 159.9, 158.8, 132.6, 132.5, 132.0, 130.6, 130.5, 128.01, 127.98, 126.8, 126.7, 124.93, 124.90, 123.49, 123.46, 118.9, 118.8, 116.4, 116.2, 116.0, 91.1, 26.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1642, 1238, 825, 820.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 303.0762, found: 303.0765.



2,5-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3h)

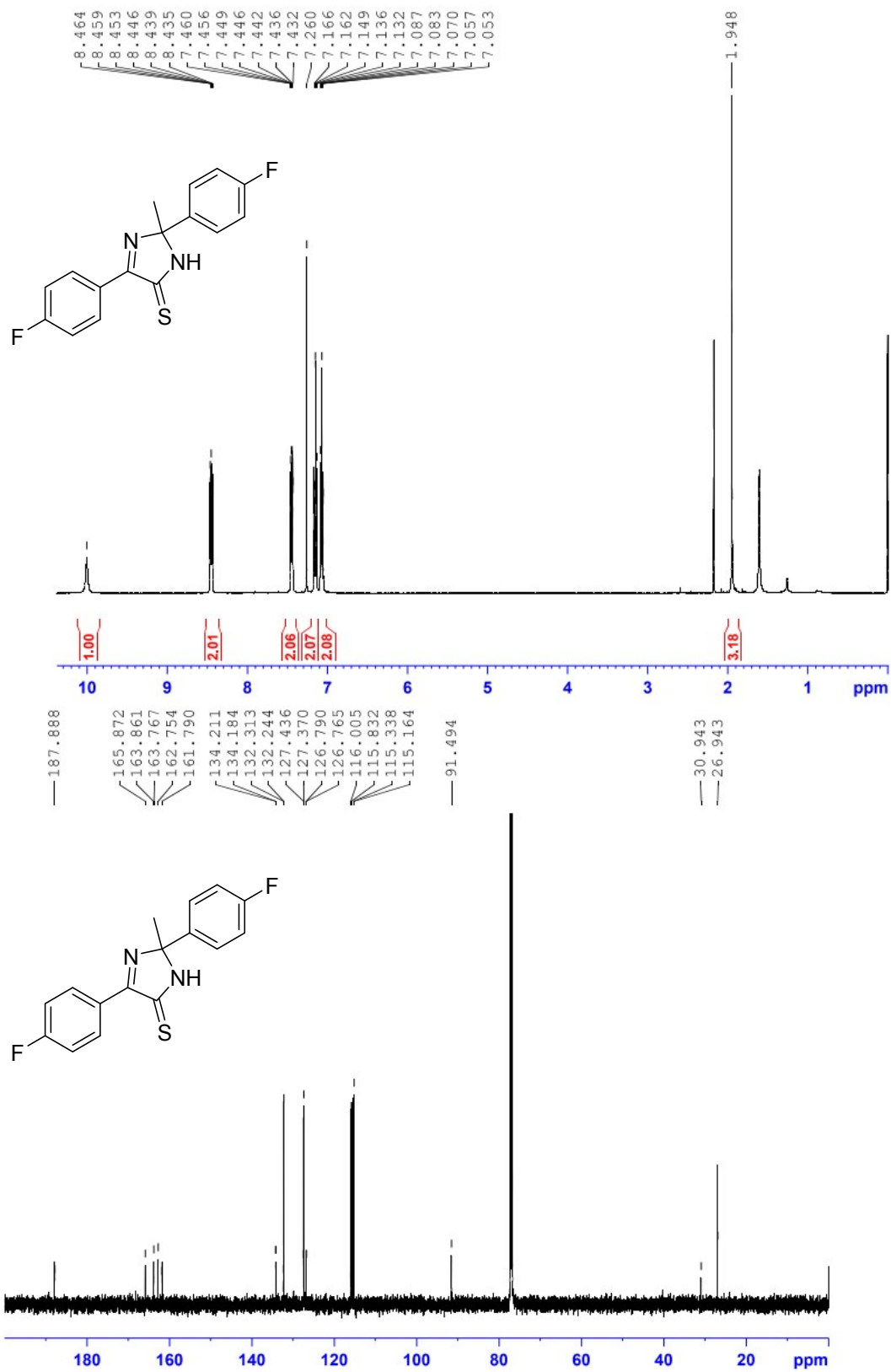
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:6 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.50): white foam, 57% yield (17.2 mg).

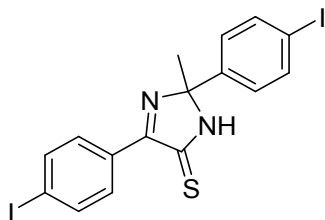
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.54 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 1.95 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm, possible peaks are listed due to overlapping of two different fluoroarenes) δ 187.9, 165.9, 163.9, 163.8, 162.8, 161.8, 134.2, 132.2, 127.4, 126.8, 115.8, 115.2, 91.5, 26.9.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1654, 1275, 816, 805.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 303.0762, found: 303.0762.



2,5-Bis(4-iodophenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3i)

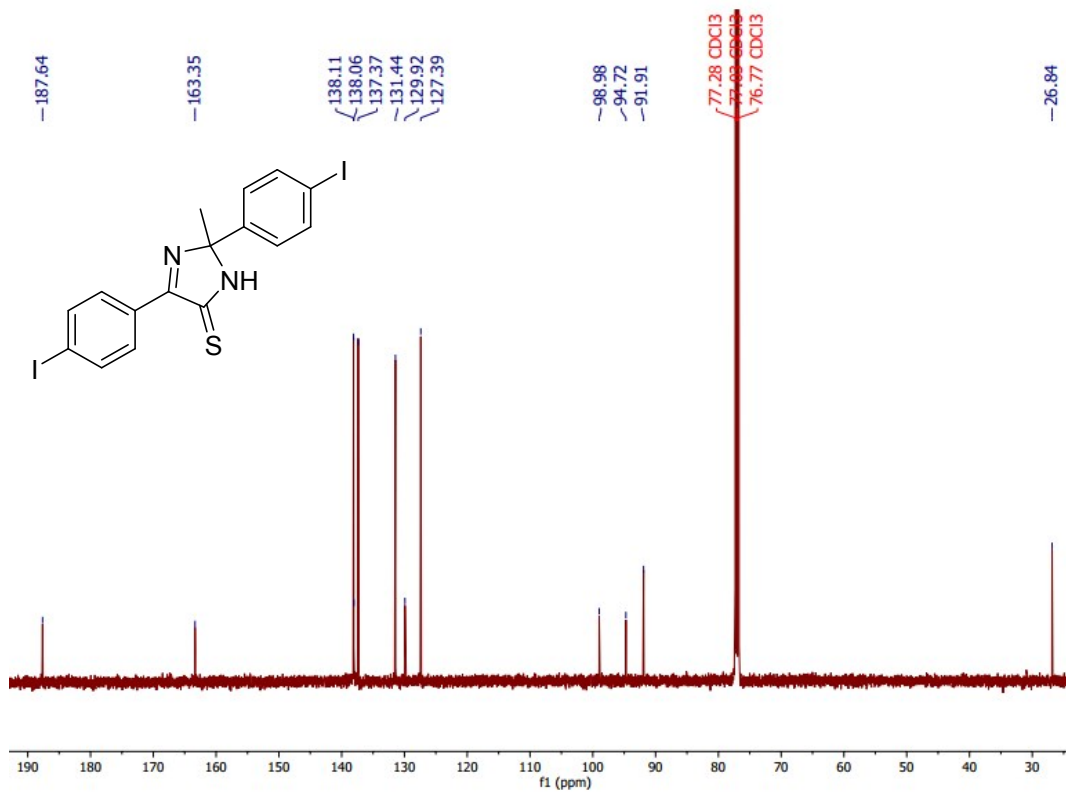
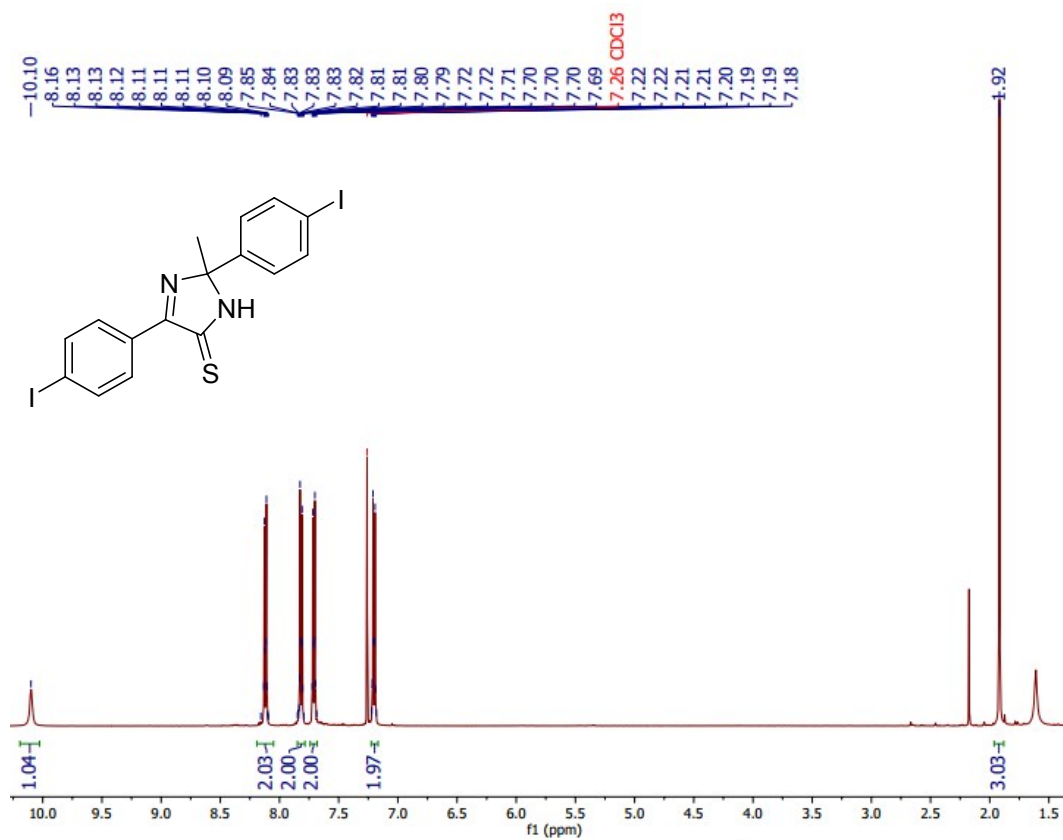
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:8 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.20): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 50% yield (26.0 mg).

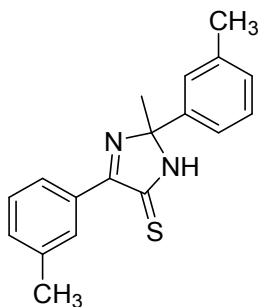
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.10 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 1.92 (s, 3H)

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.6, 163.3, 138.11, 138.06, 137.4, 131.4, 129.9, 127.4, 99.0, 94.7, 91.9, 26.8.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1632, 1265, 822, 815.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{I}_2\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 518.8883, found: 518.8854.



2,5-Bis(3-methylphenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3j)

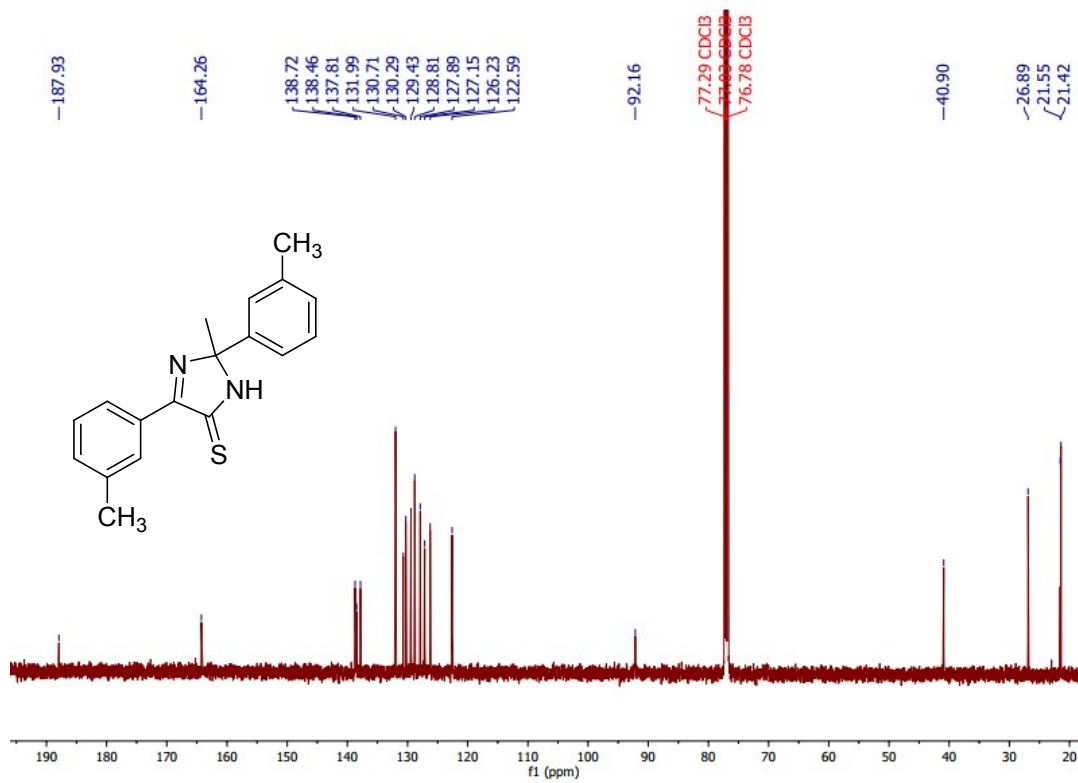
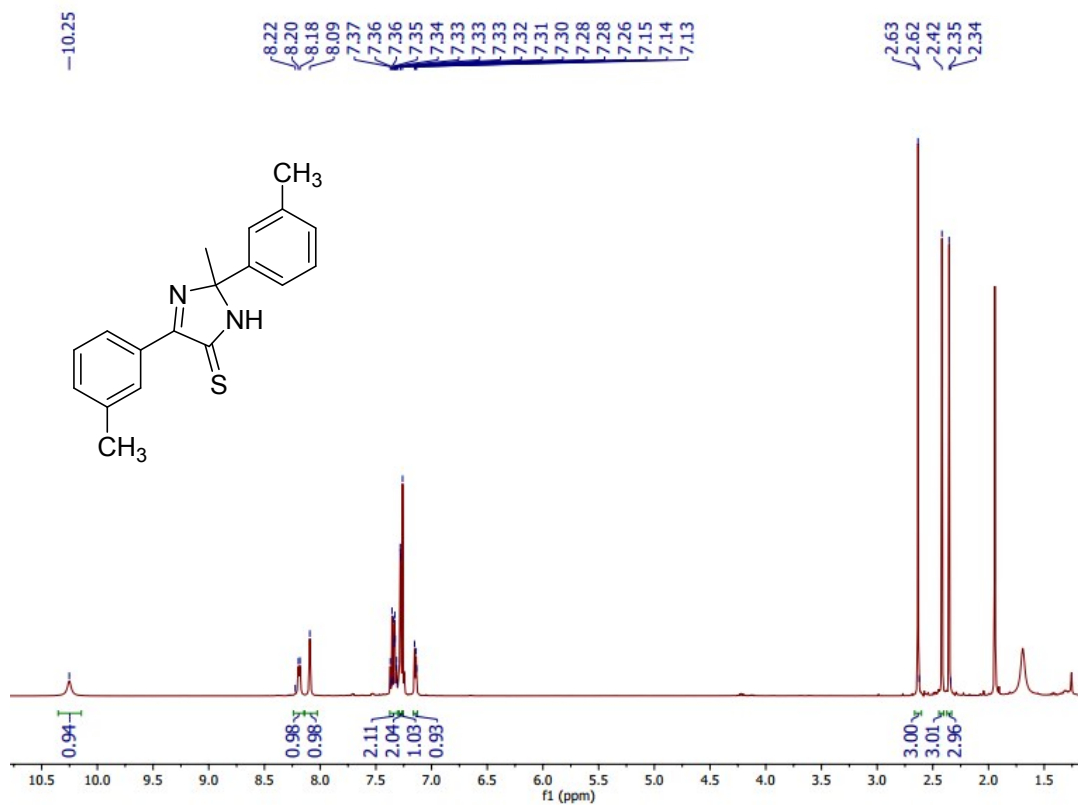
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:10 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.14): light yellow oil, 79% yield (23.2 mg).

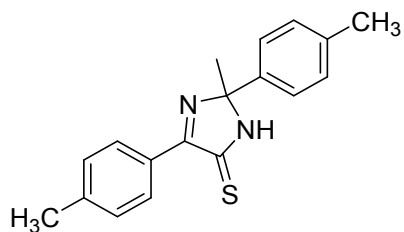
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.25 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.9, 164.3, 138.7, 138.5, 137.8, 132.0, 130.7, 130.3, 129.4, 128.8, 127.9, 127.1, 126.2, 122.6, 92.16, 40.9, 26.9, 21.5.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1651, 1257.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 295.1263, found: 295.1268.



2,5-Bis(4-methylphenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3k)

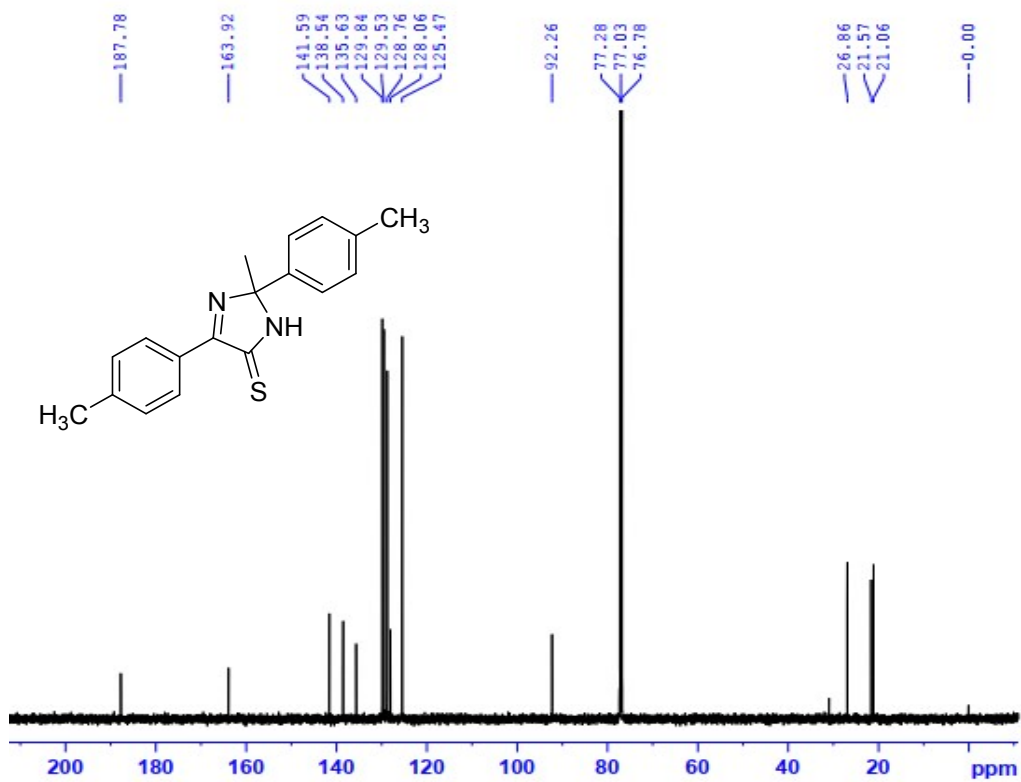
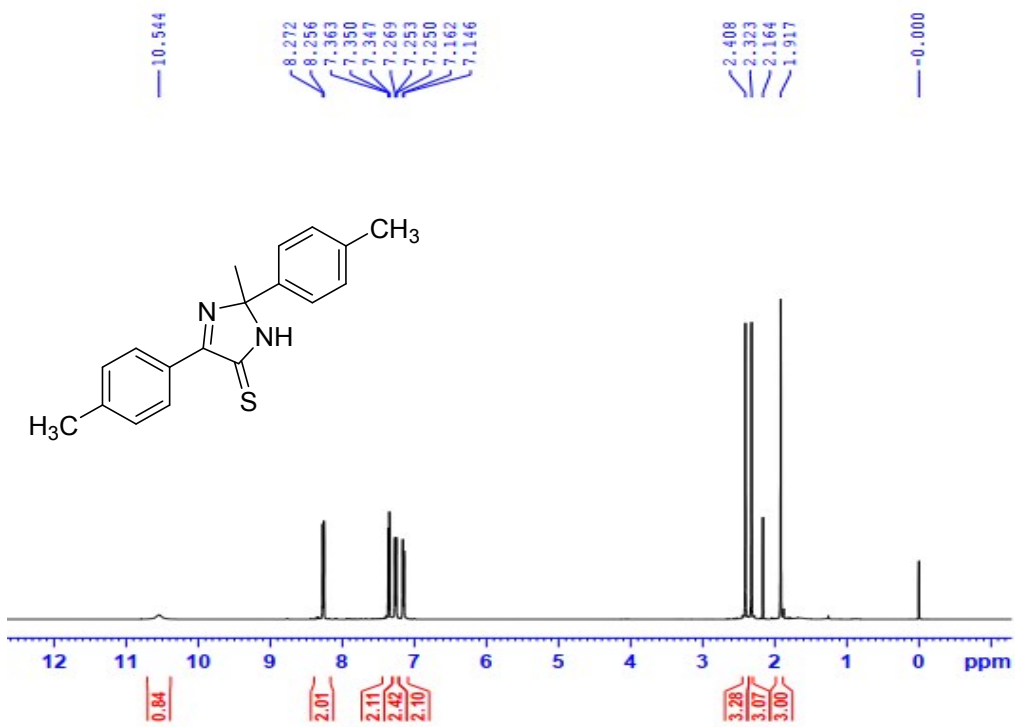
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.44): light yellow oil, 83% yield (24.6 mg).

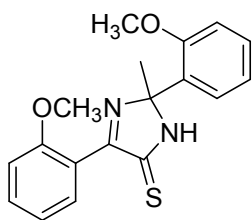
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.54 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.8, 163.9, 141.6, 138.5, 135.6, 129.8, 129.5, 128.8, 128.1, 125.5, 92.3, 26.9, 21.6, 21.1.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1652, 1248.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 295.1263, found: 295.1255.



2,5-Bis(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3l)

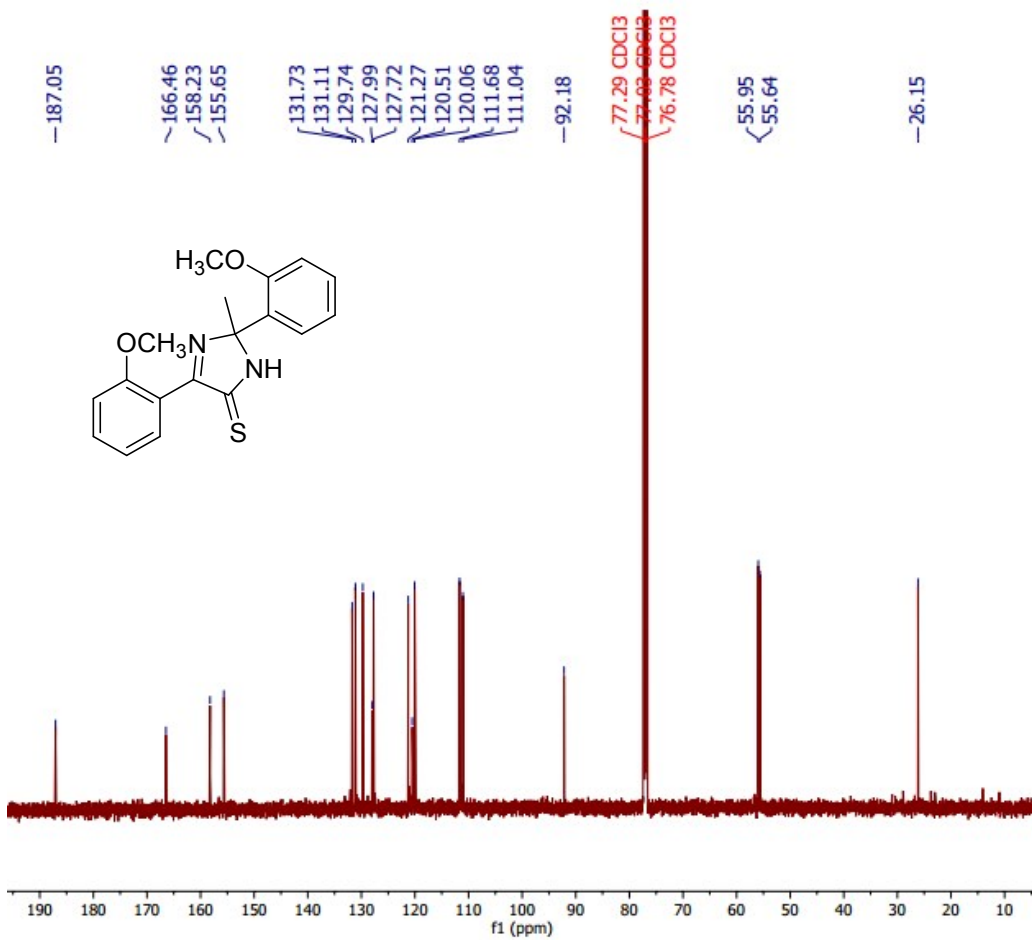
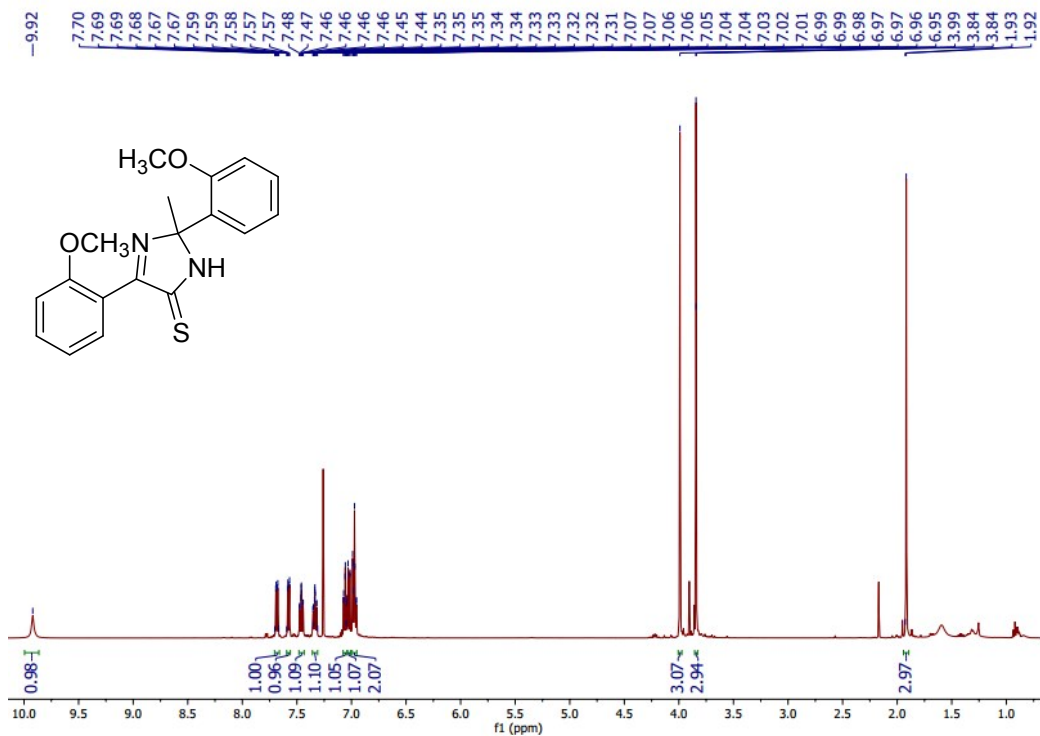
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:4 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.25): light yellow foam, 70% yield (22.8 mg).

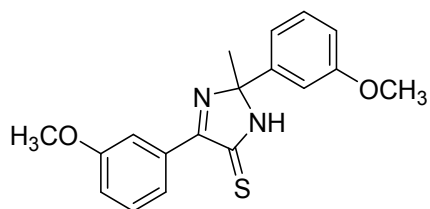
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 9.92 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.10 – 6.91 (m, 4H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.0, 166.5, 158.2, 155.6, 131.7, 131.1, 129.7, 128.0, 127.7, 121.3, 120.5, 120.1, 111.7, 111.0, 92.2, 55.9, 55.6, 26.1.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1644, 1311, 1305, 1251.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 327.1162, found: 327.1161.



2,5-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3m)

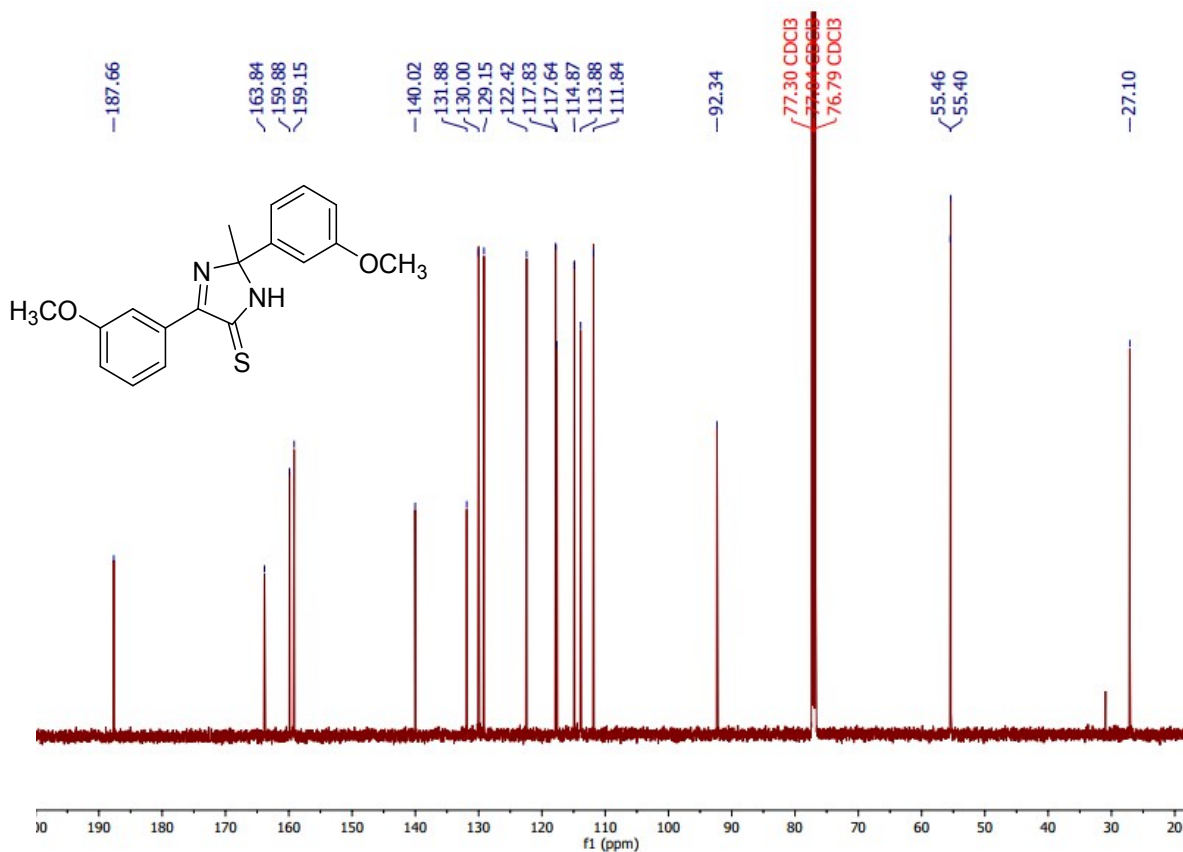
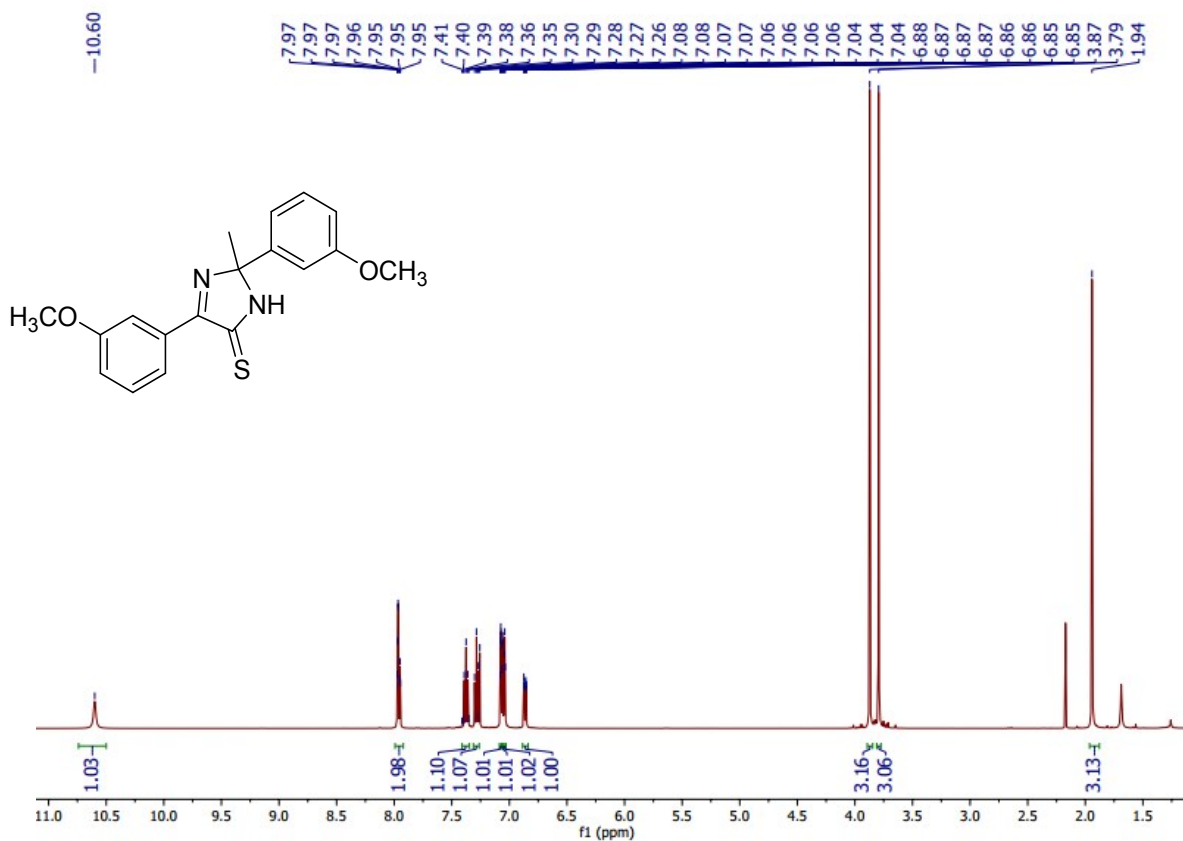
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.40): light yellow oil, 86% yield (28.0 mg).

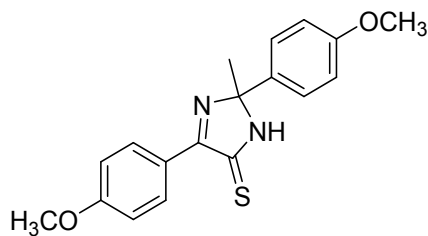
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.60 (s, 1H), 7.99 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.07 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.7, 163.8, 159.9, 159.1, 140.0, 131.9, 130.0, 129.1, 122.4, 117.8, 117.6, 114.9, 113.9, 111.8, 92.3, 55.5, 55.4, 27.1.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1648, 1292, 1278, 1247.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 327.1162, found: 327.1159.



2,5-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3n)

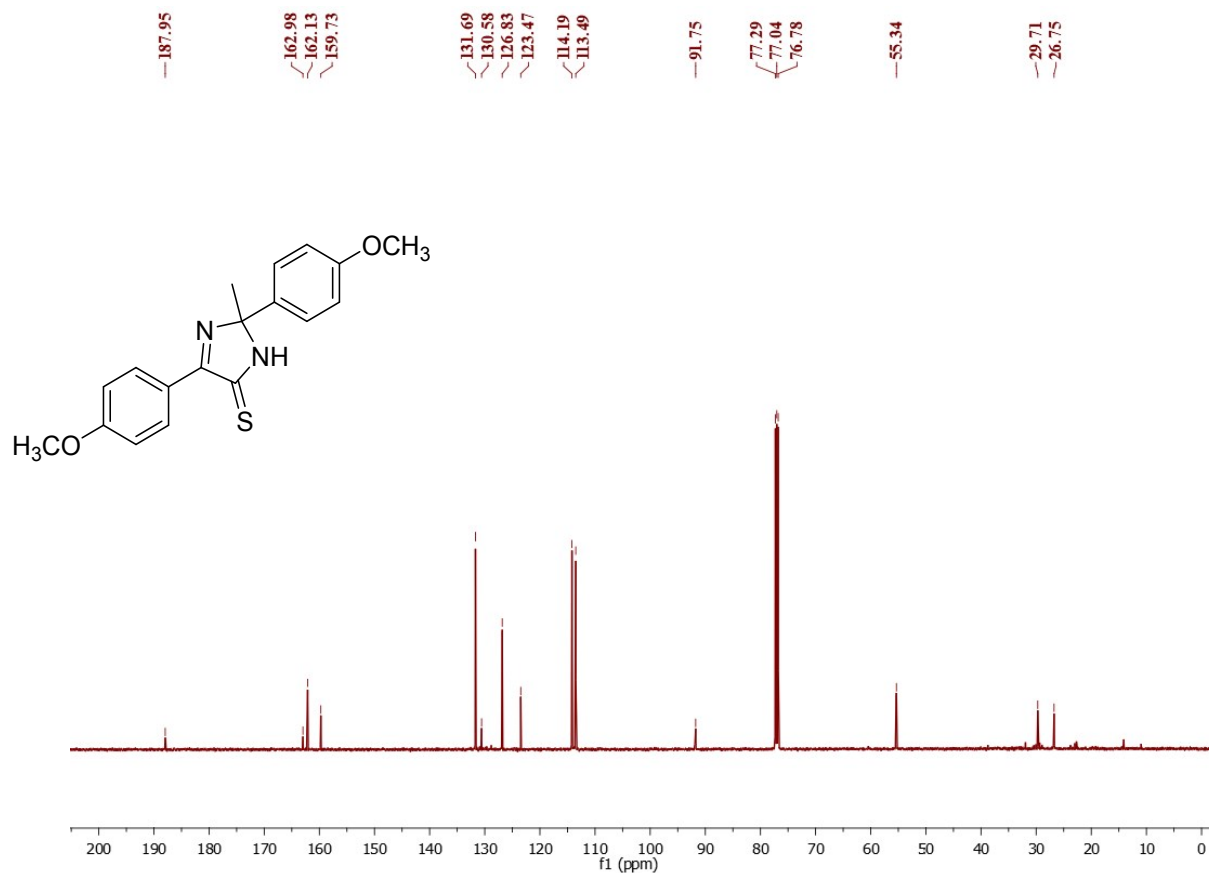
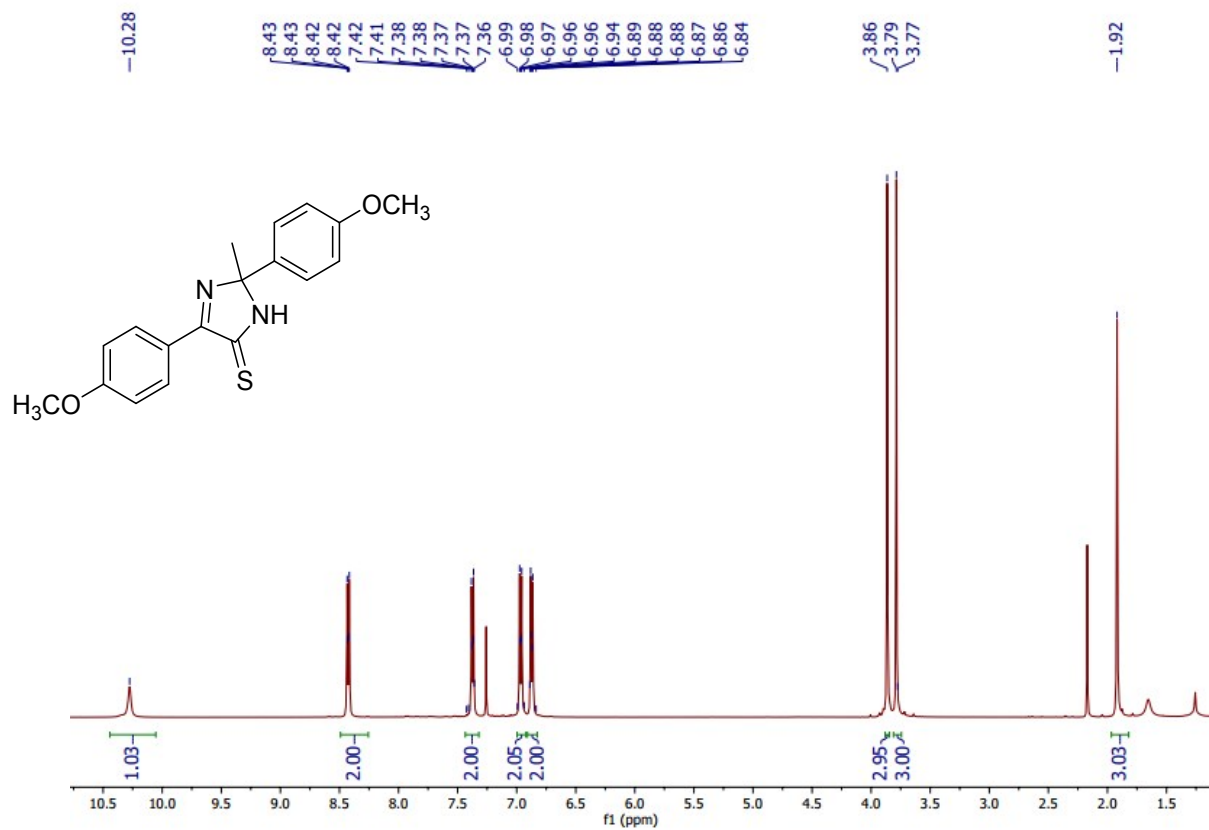
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.26): light yellow oil, 82% yield (26.7 mg).

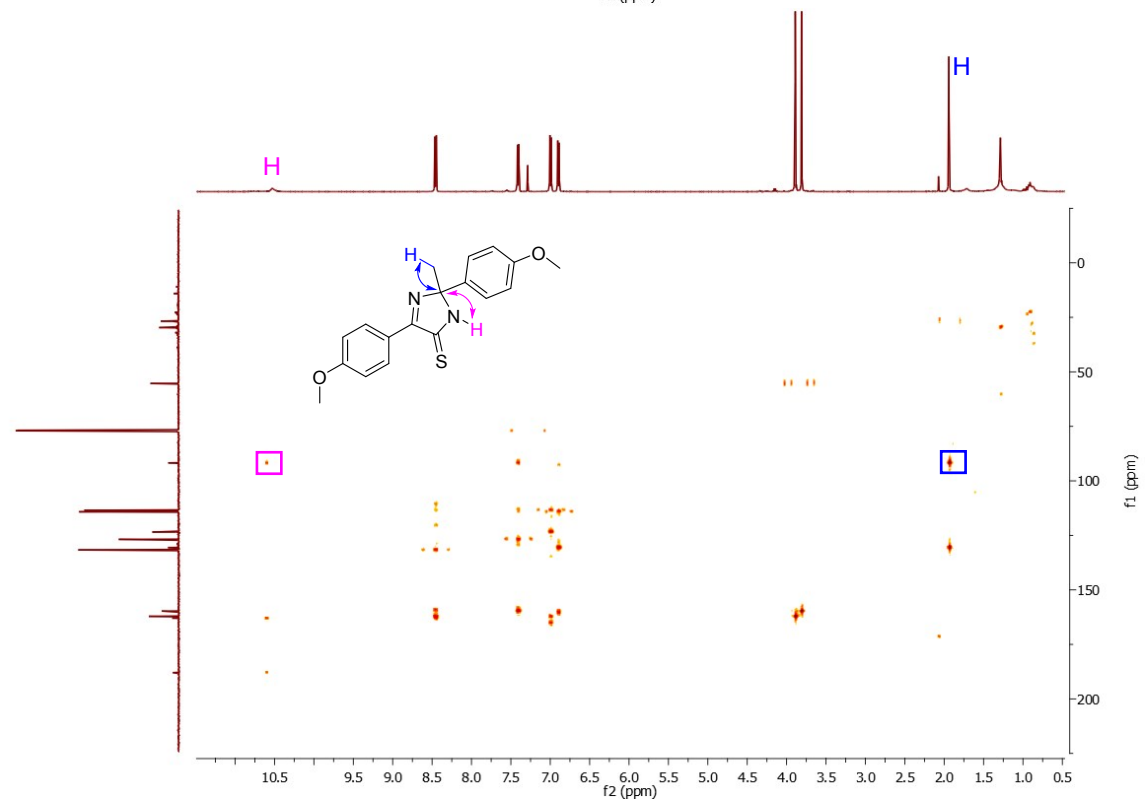
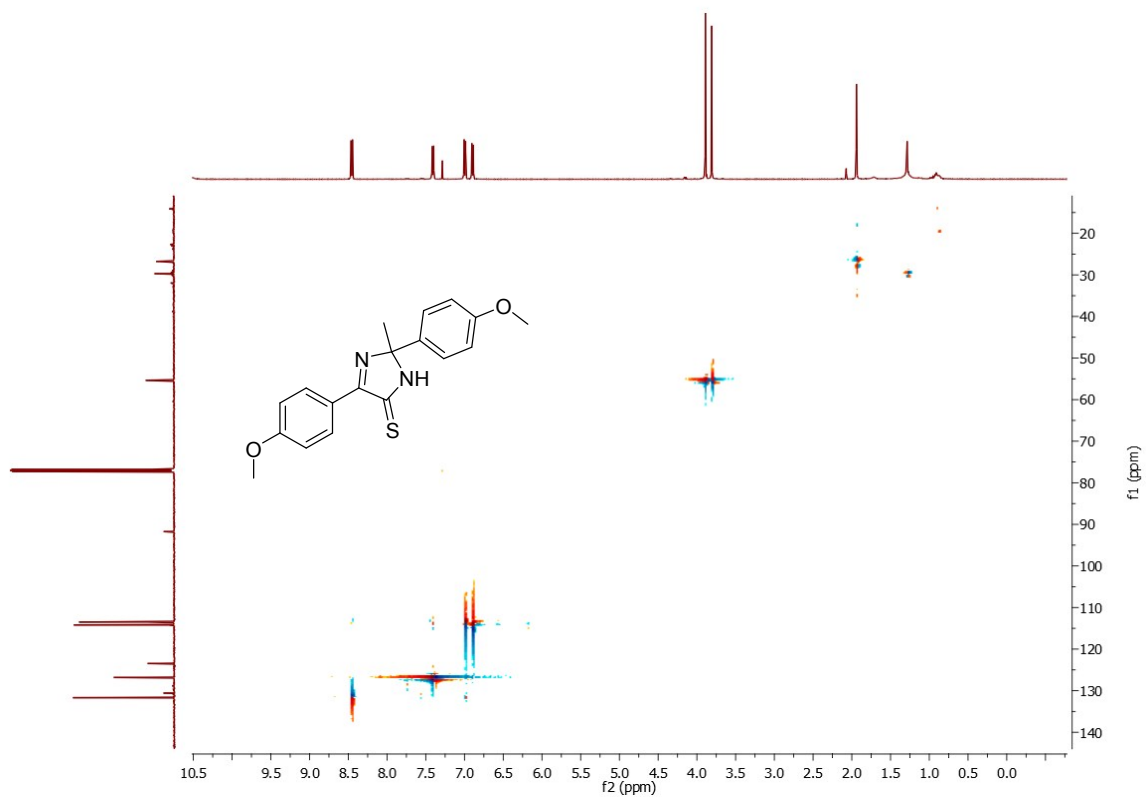
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.28 (s, 1H), 8.49 – 8.26 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.91 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H).

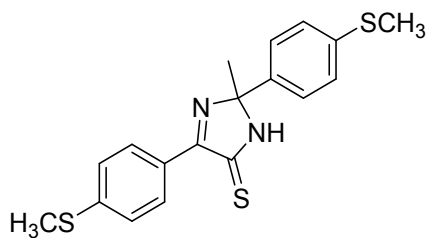
^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 188.0, 163.0, 162.1, 159.7, 131.7, 130.6, 126.8, 123.5, 114.2, 113.5, 91.7, 55.3, 29.7, 26.7.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1645, 1310, 1297, 1285.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 327.1162, found: 327.1160.





2,5-Bis(4-(methylthio)-phenyl)-2-methyl-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3o)

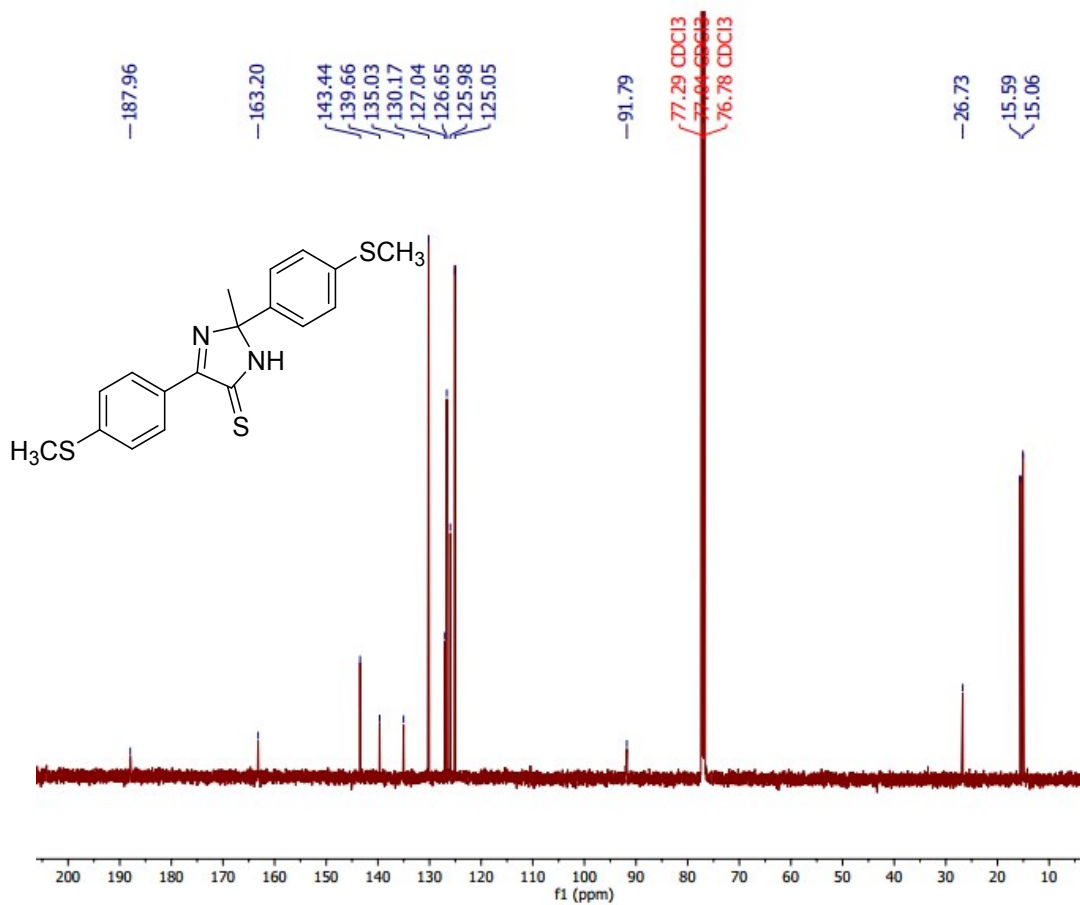
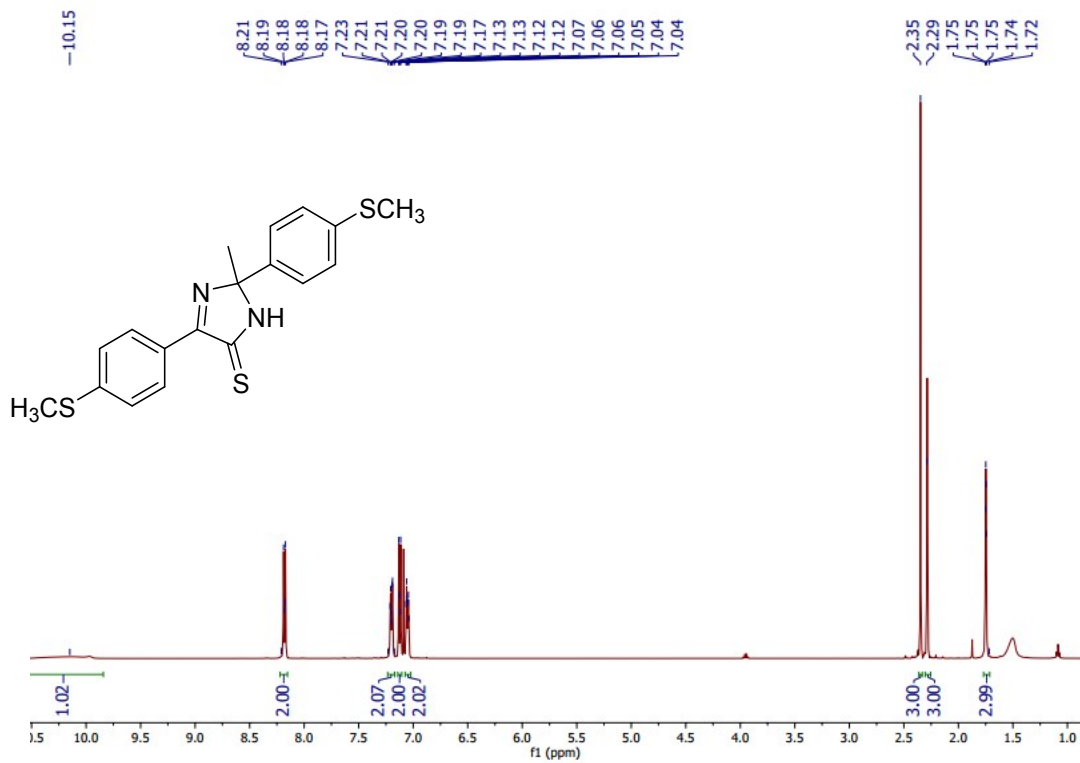
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:10 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.29): yellow liquid, 74% yield (26.5 mg).

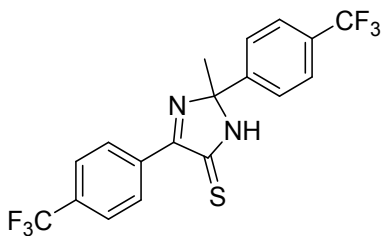
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 8.22 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dt, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 188.0, 163.2, 143.4, 139.7, 135.0, 130.2, 127.0, 126.6, 126.0, 125.0, 91.8, 26.7, 15.6, 15.1.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1656, 1252, 662.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{S}_3$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 359.0705, found: 359.0698.



2-Methyl-2,5-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3p)

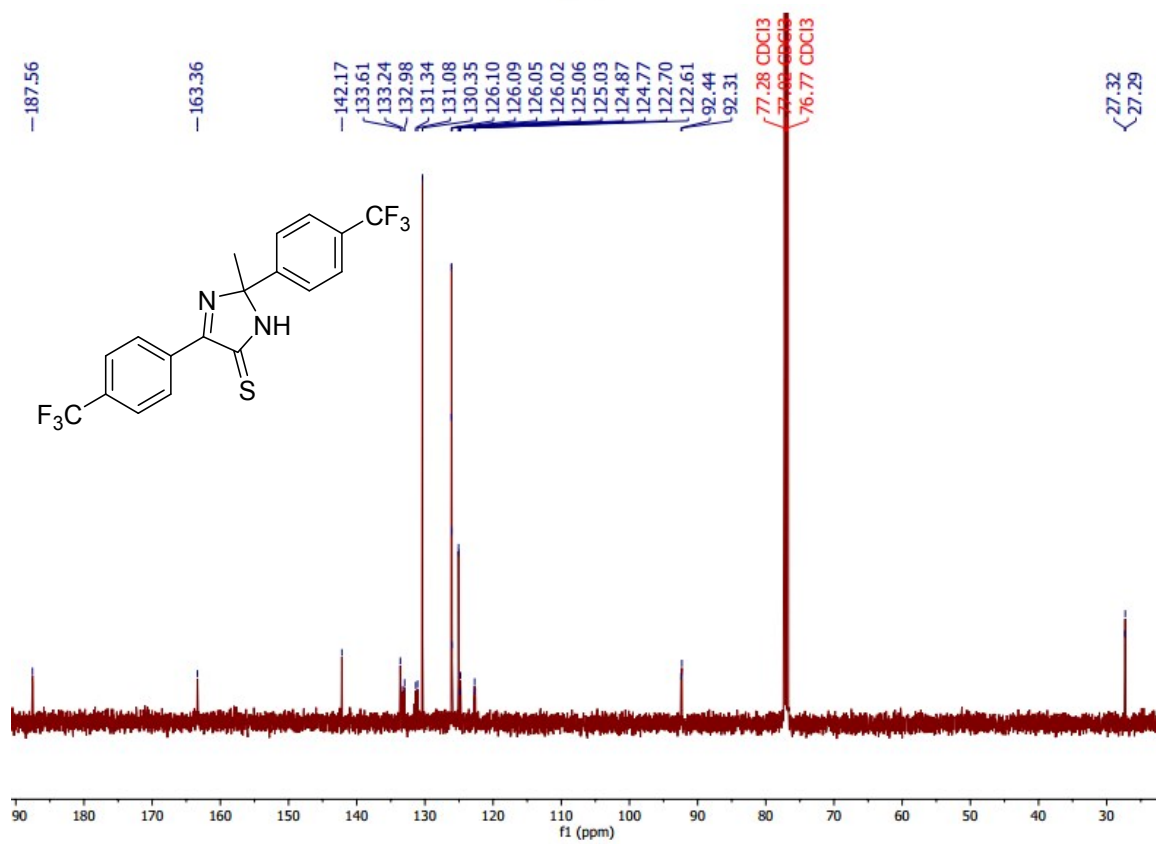
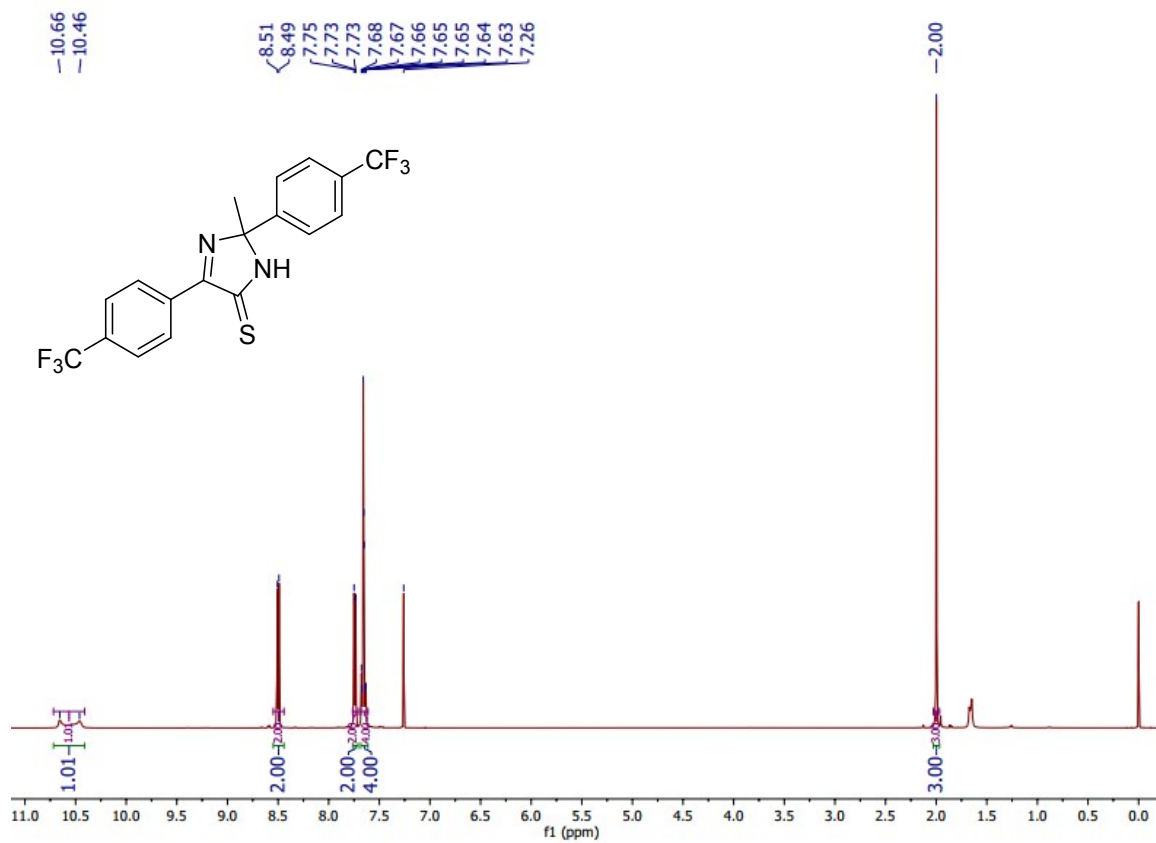
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.43): light yellow oil, 79% yield (31.8 mg).

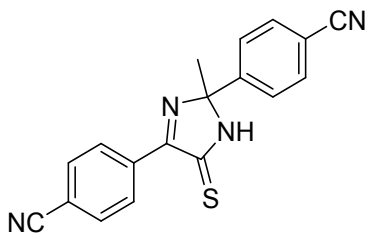
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.56 (d, J = 97.4 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 4H), 2.00 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.6, 163.4, 142.2, 133.6, 133.1 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 131.2 (q, J = 33.1 Hz), 130.3, 126.1 (q, J = 2.8 Hz), 125.0 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.8 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 272.2 Hz), 92.4, 27.3.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1650, 1247.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{F}_6\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 403.0698, found: 403.0704.



4,4'-(2-Methyl-5-thioxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-imidazole-2,4-diyl)dibenzonitrile (3q)

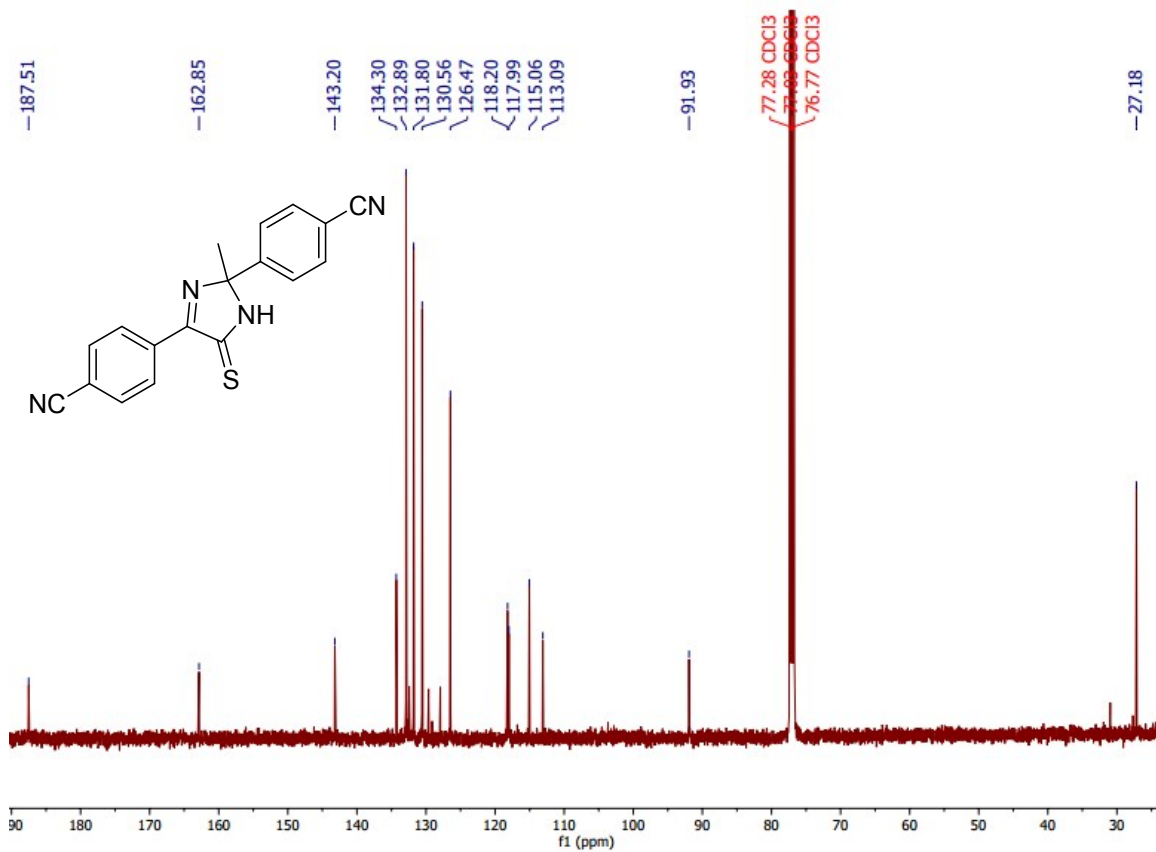
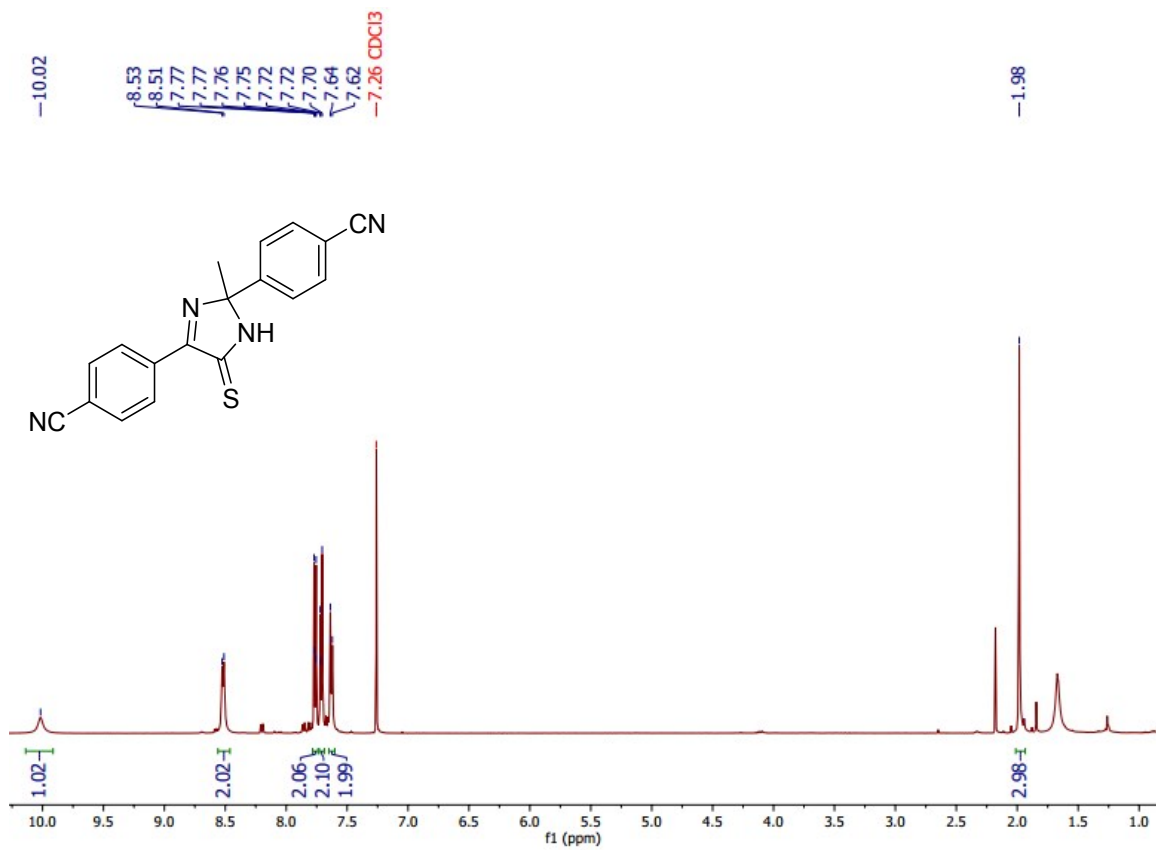
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.17): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 78% yield (24.6 mg).

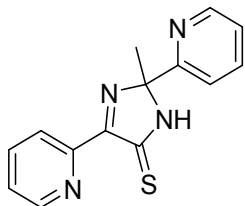
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.02 (s, 1H), 8.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 187.5, 162.8, 143.2, 134.3, 132.9, 131.8, 130.6, 126.5, 118.2, 118.0, 115.1, 113.1, 91.9, 27.2.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 2238, 1645, 1252.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 317.0855, found: 317.0850.



2-Methyl-2,5-di(pyridin-2-yl)-2,3-dihydro-4H-imidazole-4-thione (3r)

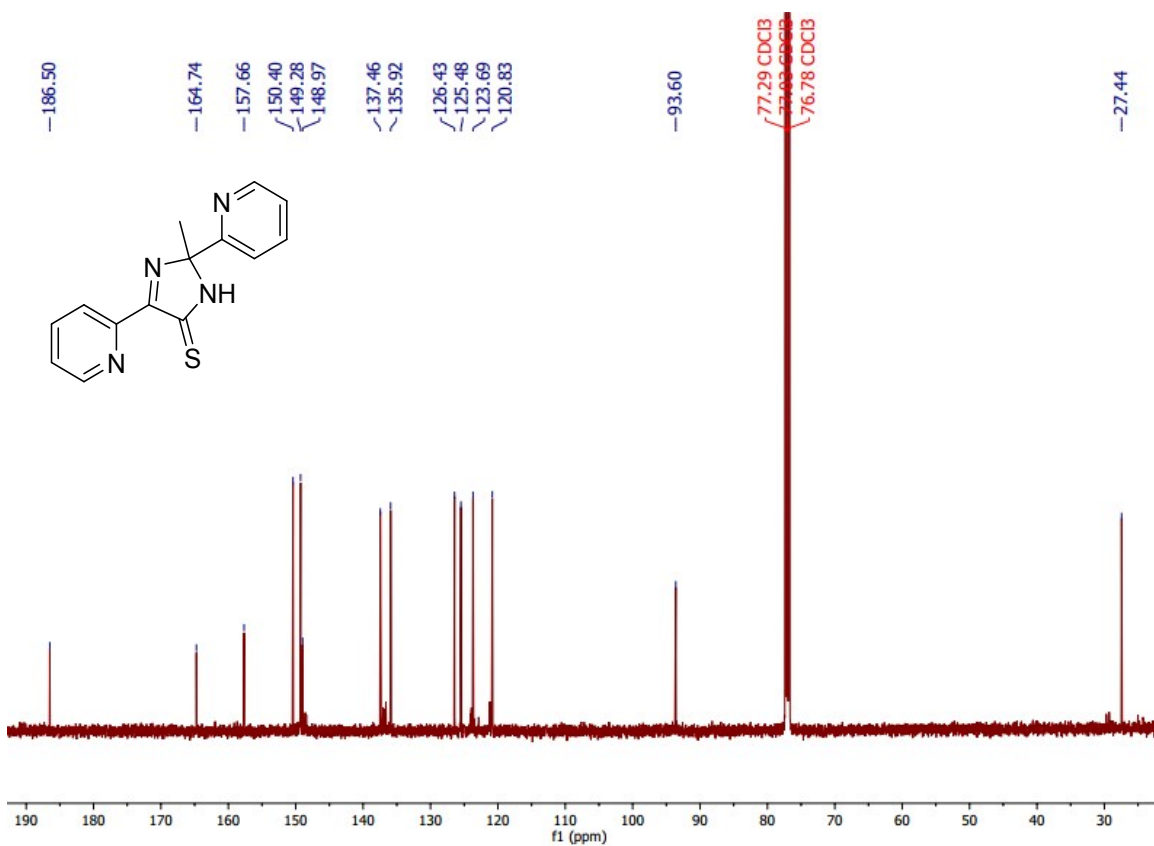
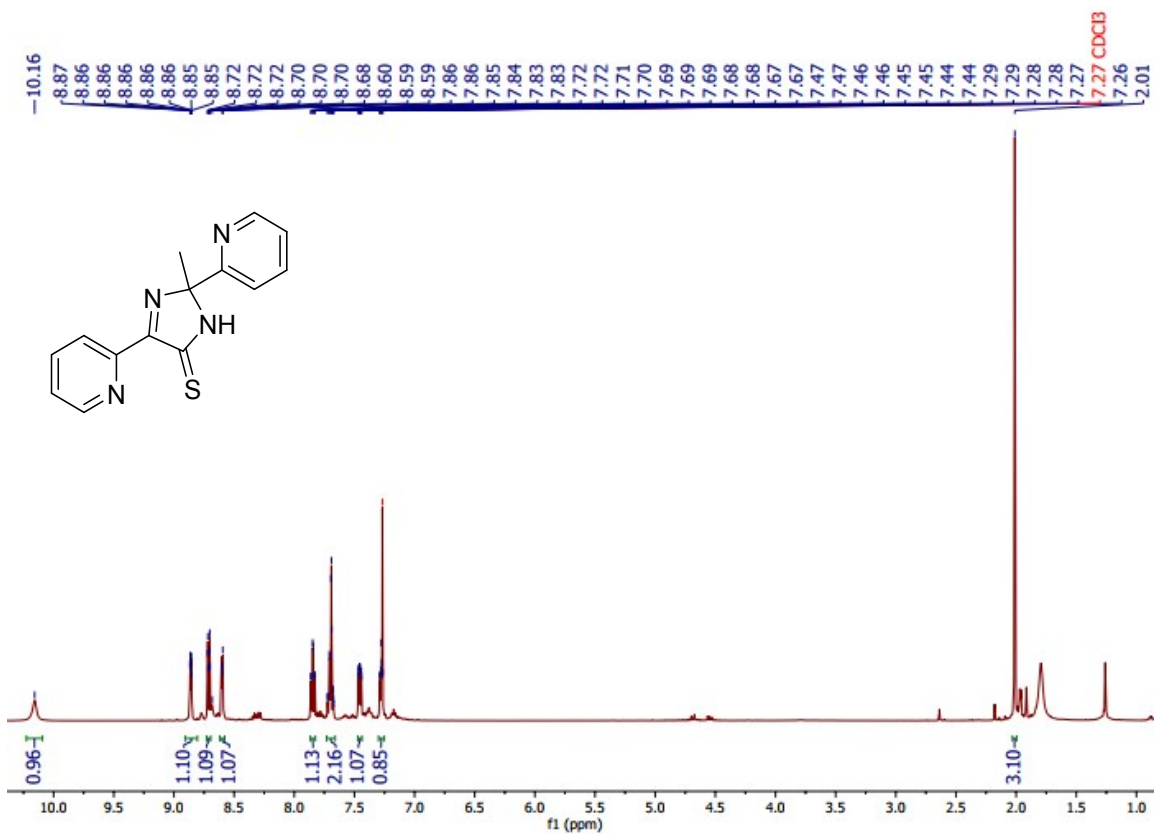
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f = 0.14): light yellow oil, 74% yield (19.8 mg).

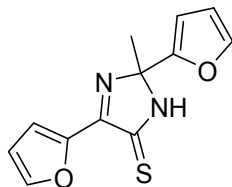
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 10.16 (s, 1H), 8.86 (ddd, J = 4.8, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (td, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.45 (ddd, J = 7.7, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 2.01 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 186.5, 164.7, 157.7, 150.4, 149.3, 149.0, 137.5, 135.9, 126.4, 125.5, 123.7, 120.8, 93.6, 27.4.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1642, 1251.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4\text{S}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 269.0855, found: 269.0861.



2-Methyl-2,5-di(pyridin-2-yl)-2,3-dihydro-4*H*-imidazole-4-thione (3s)

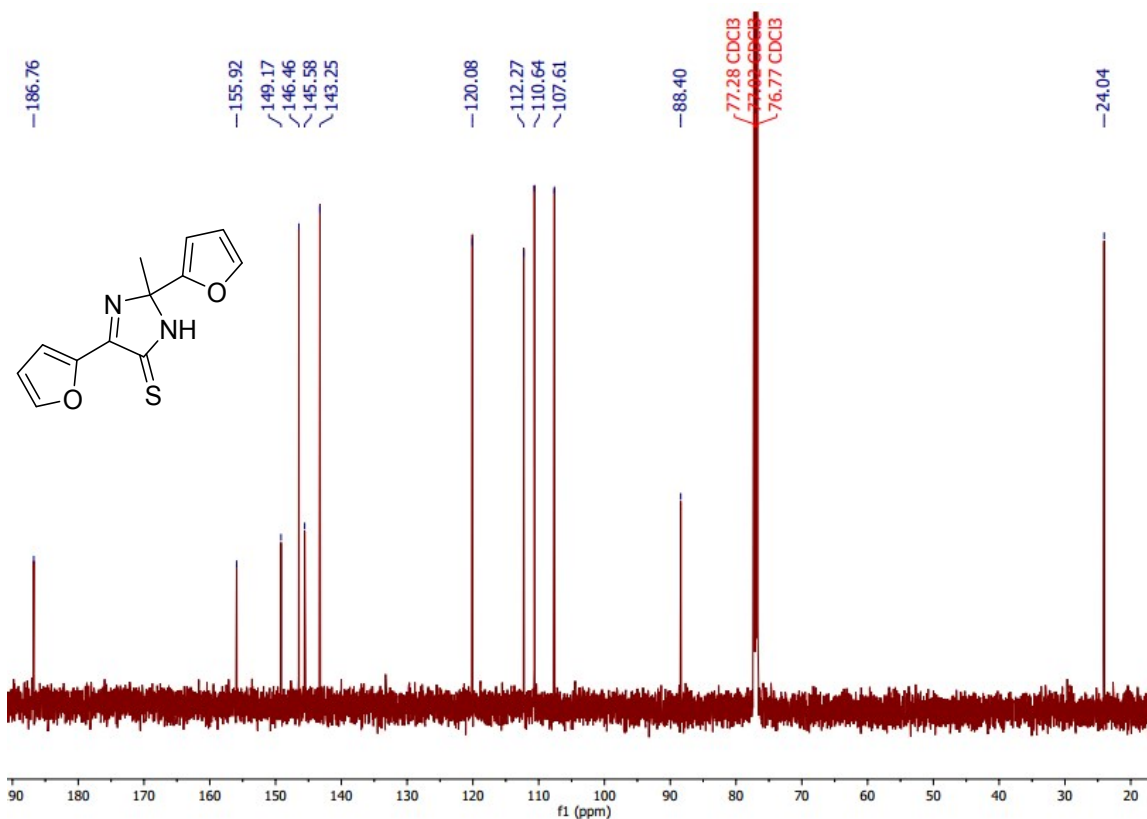
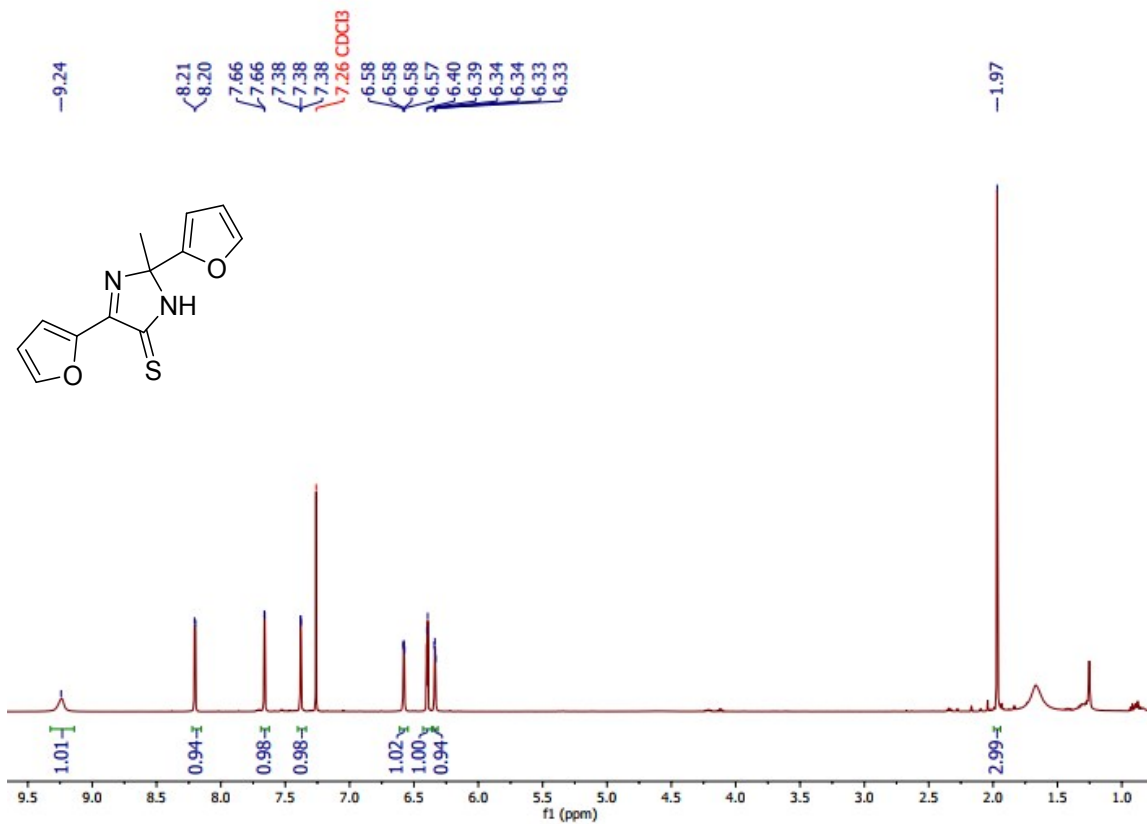
Prepared as shown in the general procedure and purified on silica gel (230-400 mesh or 37-63 μm , ethyl acetate/cyclohexane = 1:5 (v./v.), TLC silica gel 60 F254, R_f =0.14): light yellow oil which slowly solidified, 60% yield (14.8 mg).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 9.24 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.58 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ 186.8, 155.9, 149.2, 146.5, 145.6, 143.2, 120.1, 112.3, 110.6, 107.6, 88.4, 24.0.

FT-IR (neat, cm^{-1}) ν 1653, 1530, 1249.

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{OS}$: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 247.0536, found: 247.0541.



4. Plausible mechanism

