

## Efficient Synthesis of Tetra- and Penta-substituted Benzenes via Domino

### Annulation Reaction of pyridinium ylide and Chalcone *o*-Enolate

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## Supporting Information

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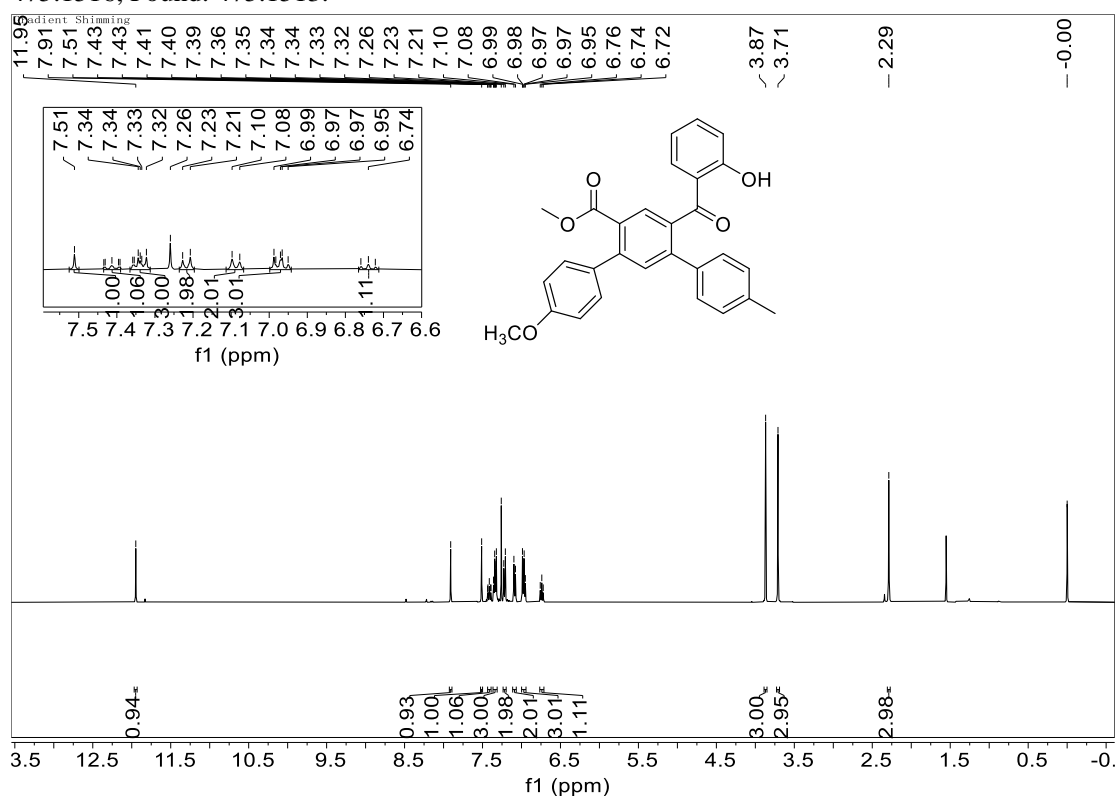
**Table S1 The single crystal data of compounds 3a and 3h**

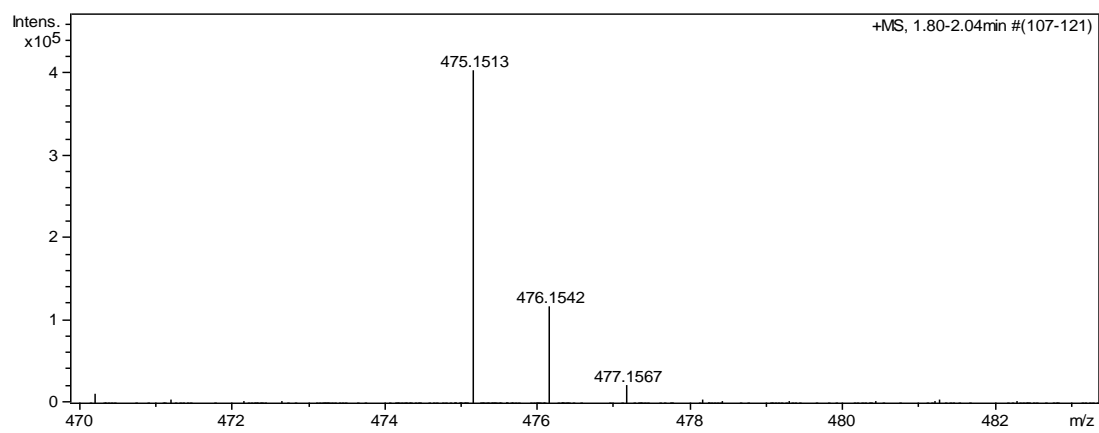
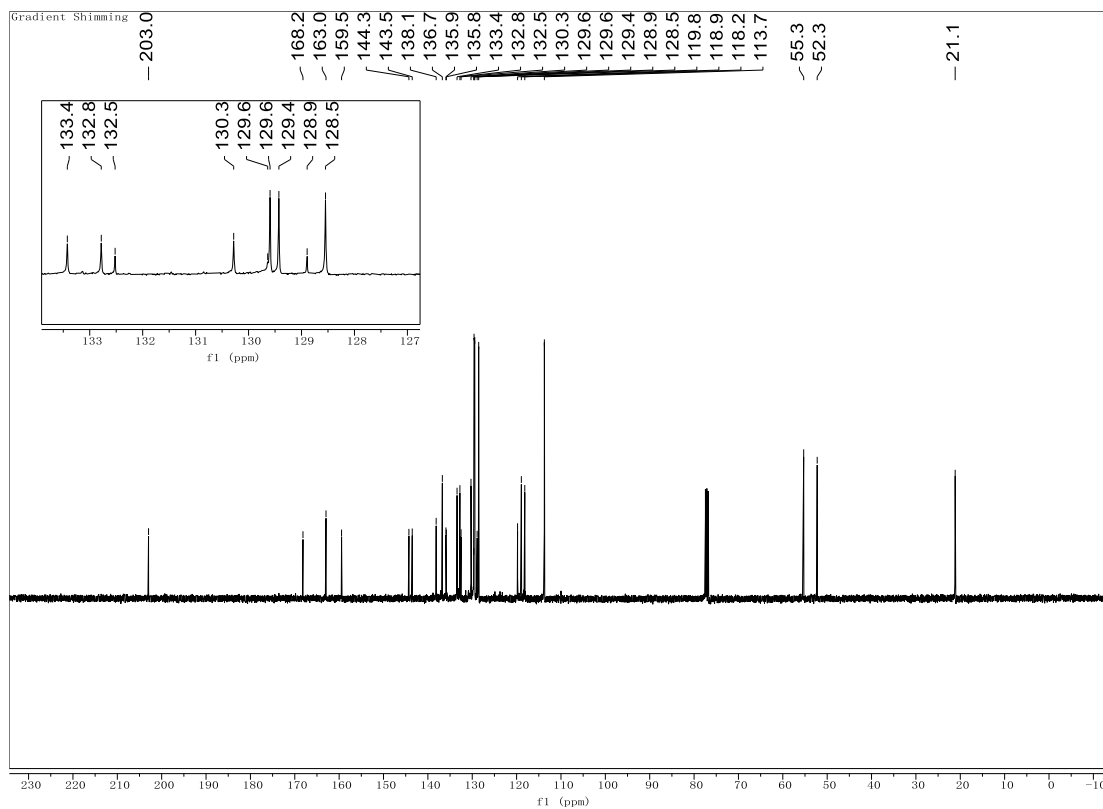
Phase	3a	3h
Empirical formula	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>21</sub> ClO <sub>5</sub>
Formula weight	452.48	472.90
Temperature/K	296(2) K	296(2) K
Wavelength/ Å	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	P-2(1)/n	P-1
<i>a</i> / Å	13.937(5)	9.6420(9)
<i>b</i> / Å	11.056(3)	9.6811(10)
<i>c</i> / Å	15.432(4)	14.0972(13)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	83.296(3)
$\beta$ (°)	94.595(10)	76.282(3)
$\gamma$ (°)	90	66.624(3)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2370.3(12)	1173.1(2)
<i>Z</i>	4	2
Calculated density (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.268	1.339
Absorption coefficient(mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.086	0.200
<i>F</i> (000)	952	492
$\theta$ range / (°)	2.354 to 26.000	1.454 to 25.999
Limiting indices	-17<= <i>h</i> <=16, -12<= <i>k</i> <=13, -19<= <i>l</i> <=18	-11<= <i>h</i> <=11, -11<= <i>k</i> <=11, -16<= <i>l</i> <=17
Reflections collected/unique	21664 / 4644 [R(int) = 0.0595]	16665 / 4586 [R(int) = 0.0307]
Completeness to theta	99.9 %	99.7 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.6878	0.7456 and 0.6578
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data/restraints/parameters	4644 / 0 / 311	4586 / 0 / 315
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.017	1.014
Final <i>R</i> indices[ <i>I</i> >2σ( <i>I</i> )]	R1 = 0.0550, wR2 = 0.1106	R1 = 0.0420, wR2 = 0.0903
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1317, wR2 = 0.1371	R1 = 0.0720, wR2 = 0.1034
Largest diff. peak and hole /(e · Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.201 and -0.184	0.178 and -0.157

## Experimental section

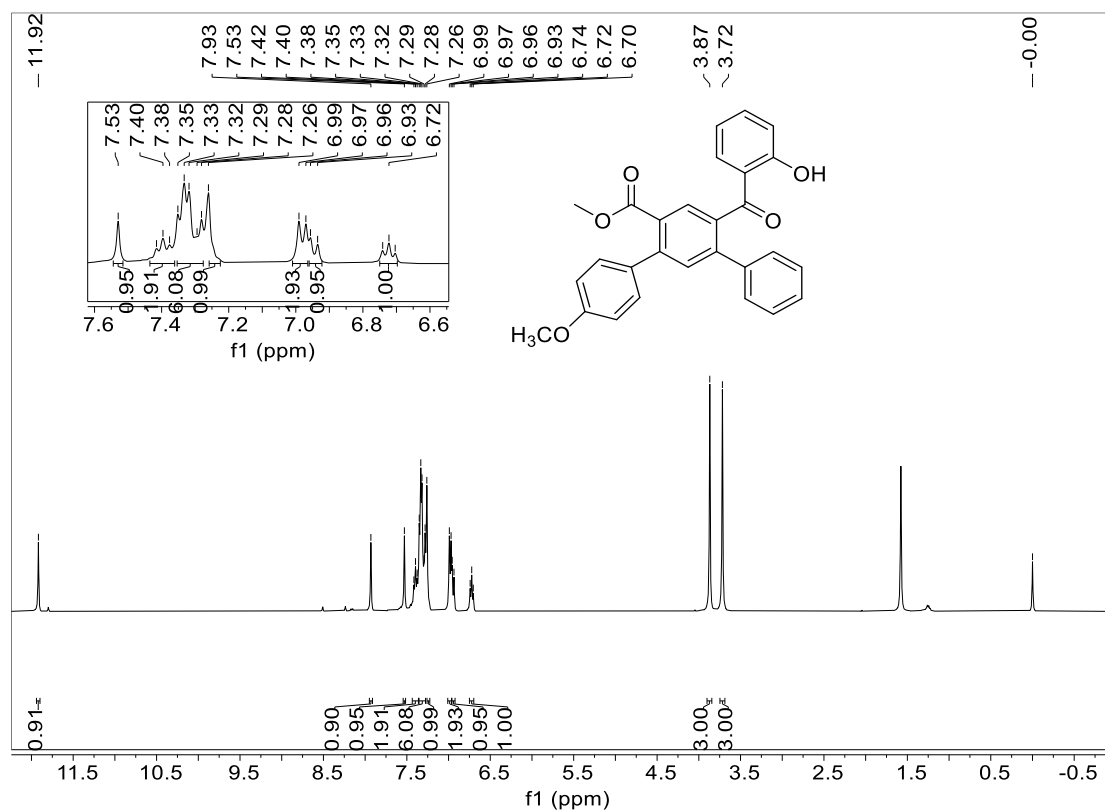
**1. General procedure for preparation of the tetra-substituted benzenes 3a-3l:** To a 50 mL round flask was added 1-phenacyl-4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridinium bromide (0.5 mmol), chalcone *o*-enolate (1.0 mmol), DMF (8.0 mL) and TMD (1.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for twelve hours. After removing the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (300 ~ 400 mesh) with mixed petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 15:1) as eluent to give the pure product for analysis.

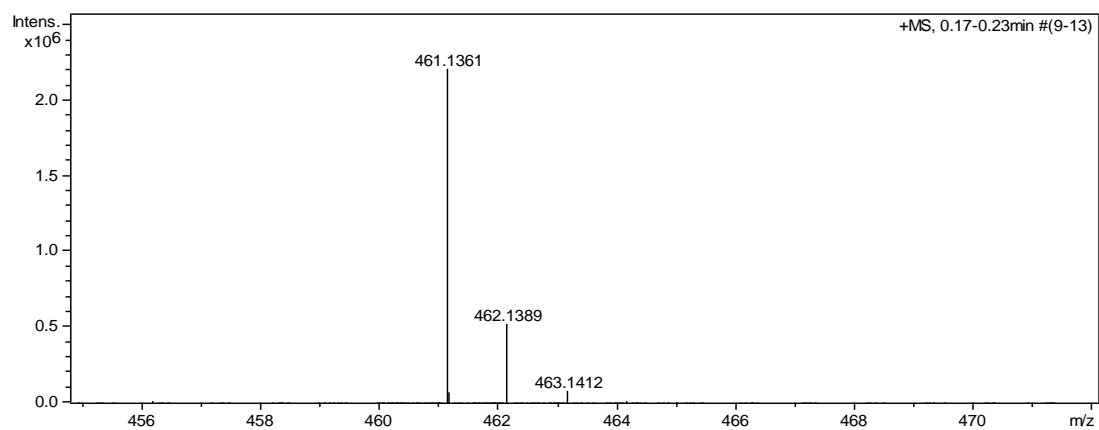
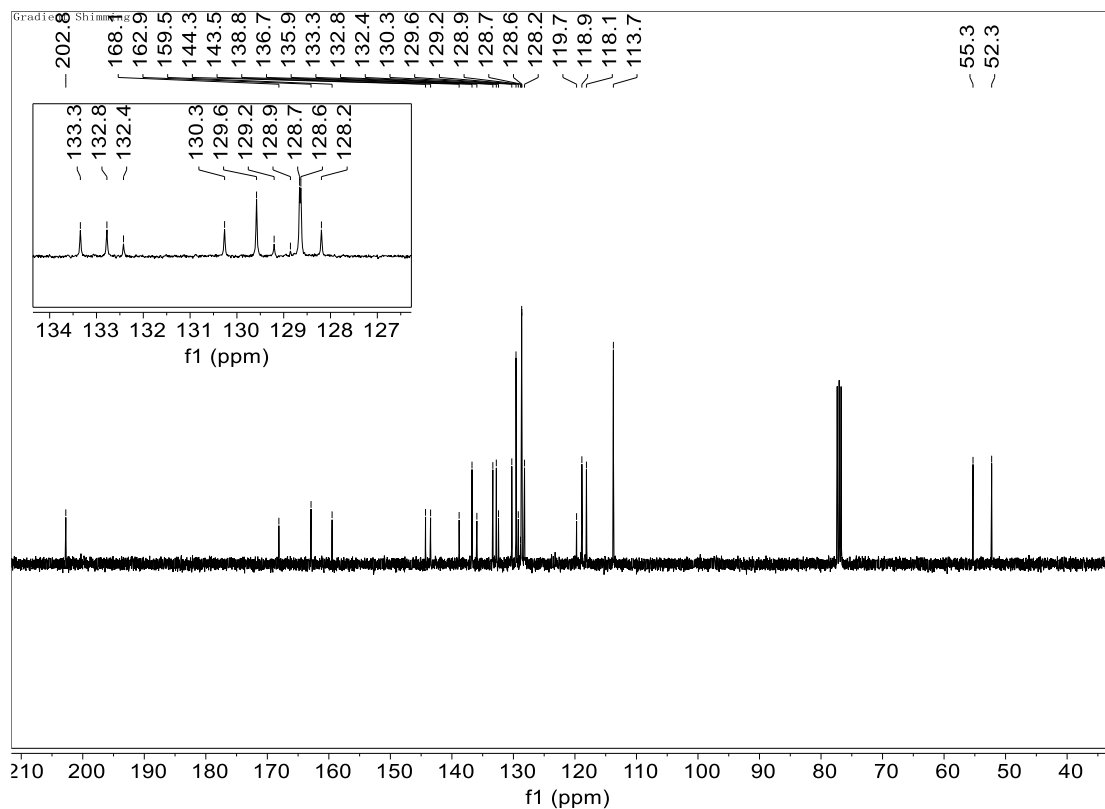
**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-4-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3a):** White solid, 71%, m.p.143-145°C.; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.95 (s, 1H, OH), 7.91 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.51 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.43 ~ 7.39 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.36 ~ 7.32 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.21 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.08 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.99-6.95 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.75 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.9, 168.1, 162.9, 159.4, 144.2, 143.5, 138.1, 136.7, 135.9, 135.8, 133.4, 132.7, 132.5, 130.2, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 119.7, 118.9, 118.1, 113.7, 55.2, 52.2, 21.1; IR (KBr) ν: 3717, 3010, 1847, 1711, 1603, 1517, 1400, 1299, 1250, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ([M+ Na]<sup>+</sup>): 475.1516, Found: 475.1513.





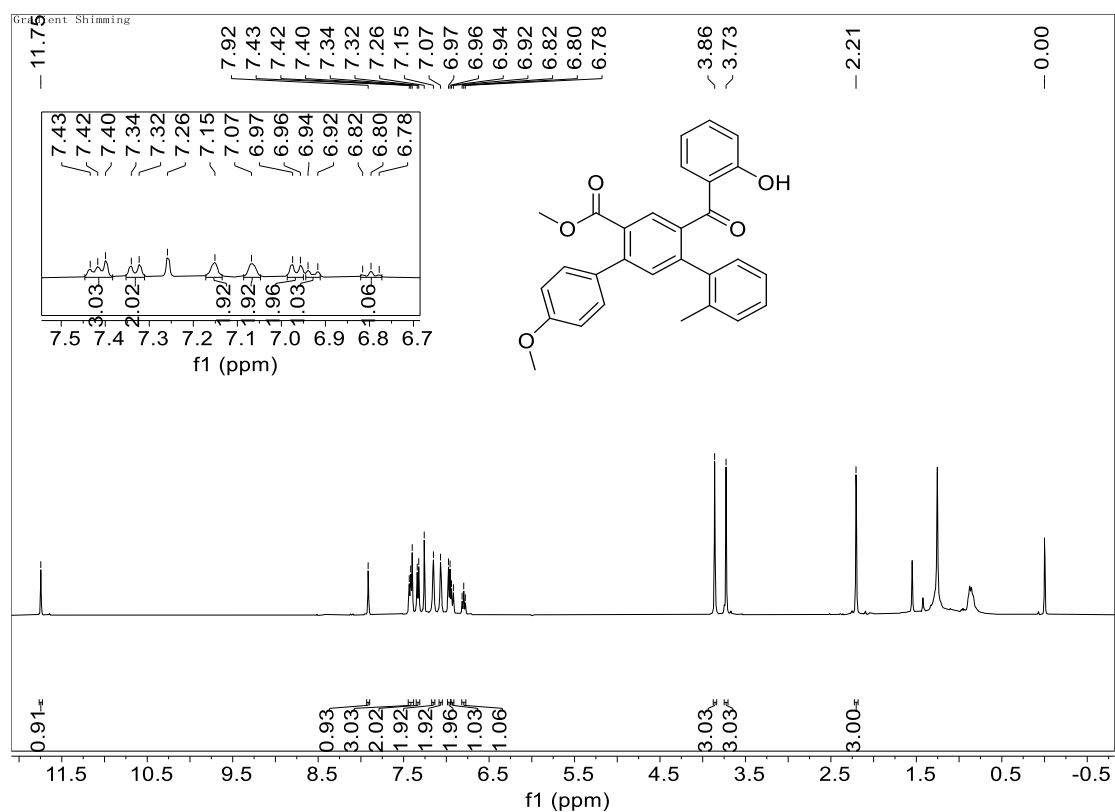
**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3b):** White, 65%, m.p. 139-141°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.92 (s, 1H, OH), 7.93 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.53 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.35-7.26 (m, 7H, ArH), 6.98(d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.94(d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.72 (t, *J*=7.6Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.7, 168.1, 162.8, 159.4, 144.2, 143.4, 138.8, 136.7, 135.9, 133.3, 132.7, 132.4, 130.2, 129.5, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 119.7, 118.8, 118.1, 113.7, 55.2, 52.2 cm<sup>-1</sup>; IR (KBr) ν: 3717, 3012, 2755, 1846, 1718, 1601, 1516, 1400, 1337, 1301, 1242, 1109, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 461.1359, Found: 461.1361.

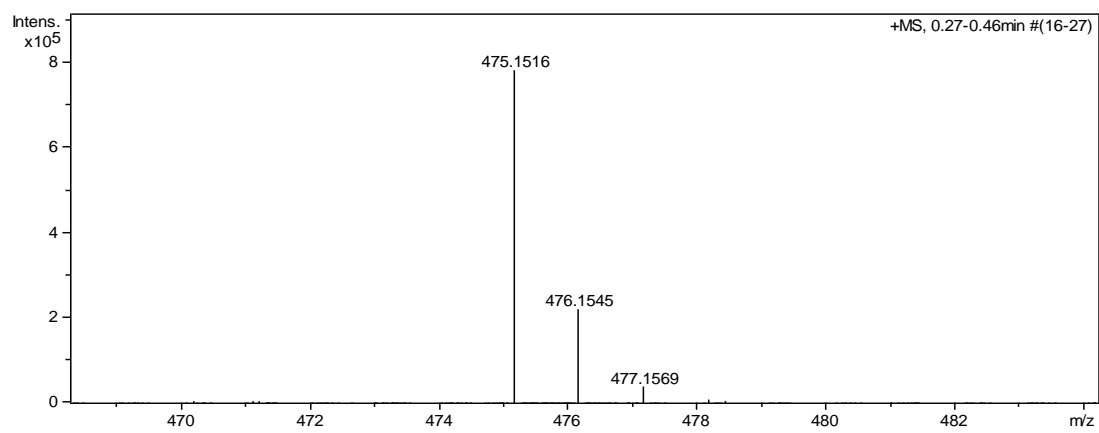
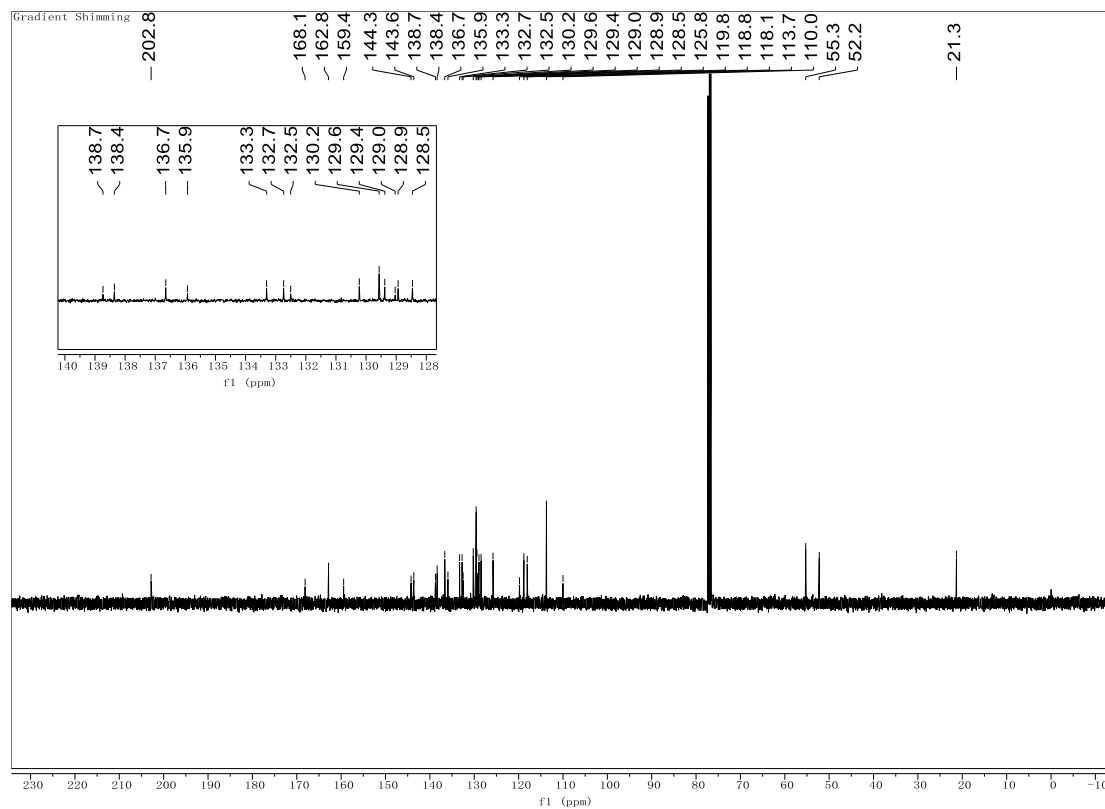




**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-2-methyl-[1,1':3,1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate**

**(3c):** White solid, 52%, m.p. 45-47°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.75 (s, 1H, OH), 7.92 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.42 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.33 (d, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.15 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.07 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.97 (d, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.94 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.80 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.80 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.21 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.8, 168.1, 162.8, 159.4, 144.2, 143.6, 138.7, 138.3, 136.6, 135.9, 133.2, 132.7, 132.4, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 125.7, 119.7, 118.8, 118.0, 113.7, 109.9, 55.2, 52.2, 21.3; IR (KBr) ν: 3718, 3451, 3010, 1844, 1576, 1518, 1400, 1293, 1246, 1096, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ([M+ Na]<sup>+</sup>): 475.1516, Found: 475.1516.

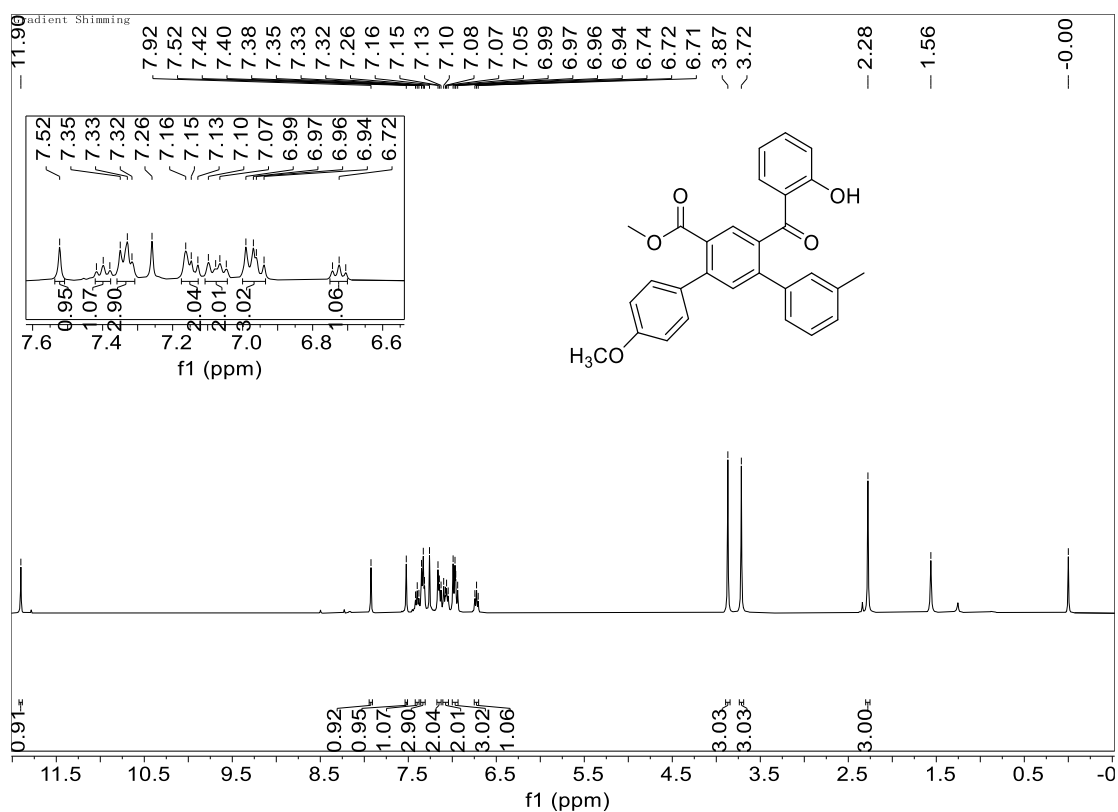


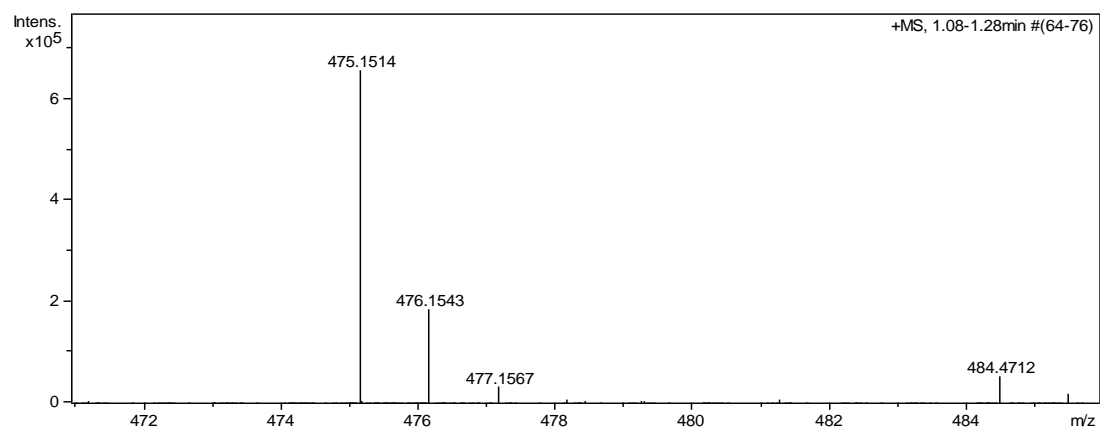
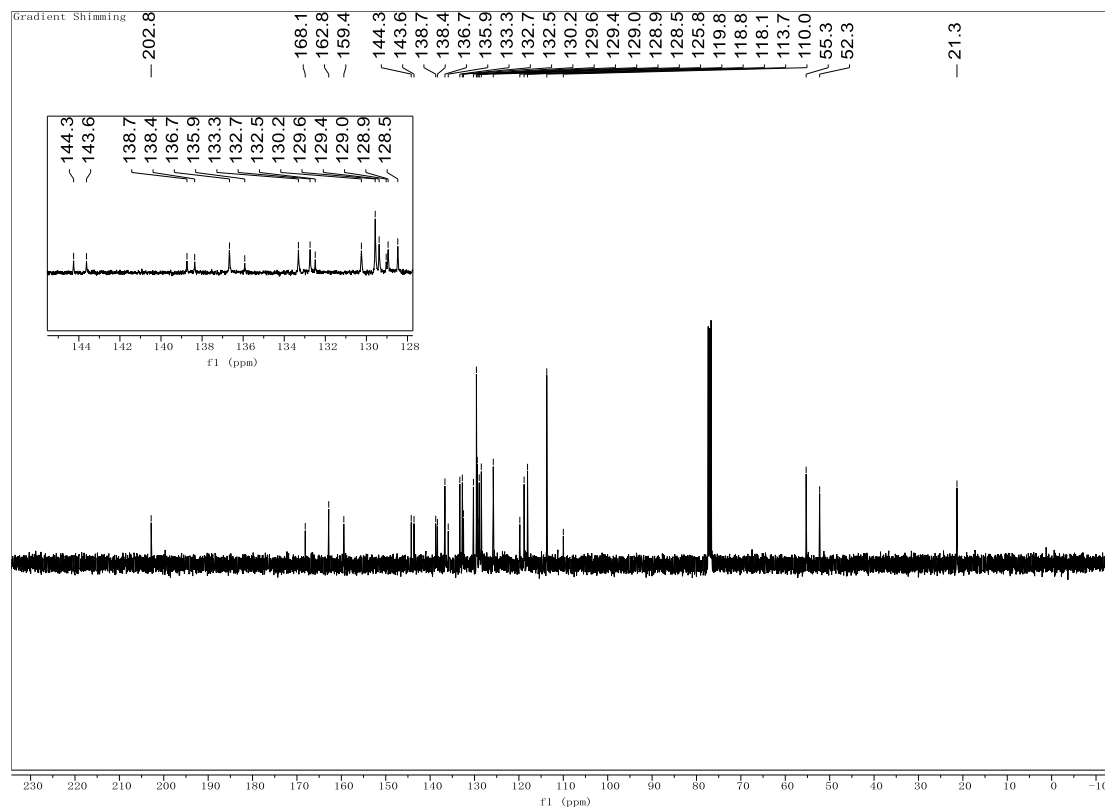




**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-3-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate**

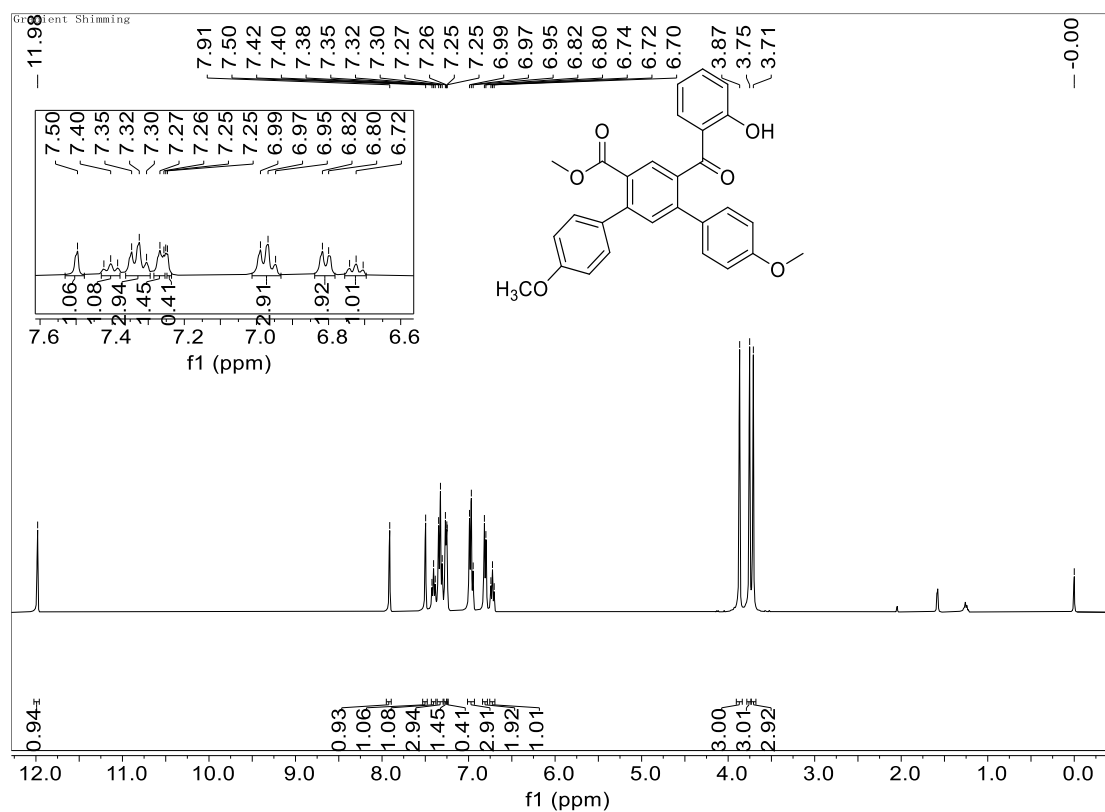
**(3d):** White solid, 63%, m.p. 48-49°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 11.90 (s, 1H, OH), 7.52 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.40 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, NH), 7.35-7.32 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.16-7.13 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.10~7.05 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.00-6.94 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.73 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.72 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.28 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 202.8, 168.1, 162.8, 159.4, 144.2, 143.6, 138.7, 138.3, 136.6, 135.9, 133.2, 132.7, 132.4, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 125.7, 119.7, 118.8, 118.0, 113.7, 109.9, 55.2, 52.2, 21.3; IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3717, 3007, 2889, 2830, 1843, 1711, 1605, 1514, 1485, 1443, 1340, 1335, 1299, 1240, 1109, 830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5$  ( $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ): 475.1516, Found: 475.1514.

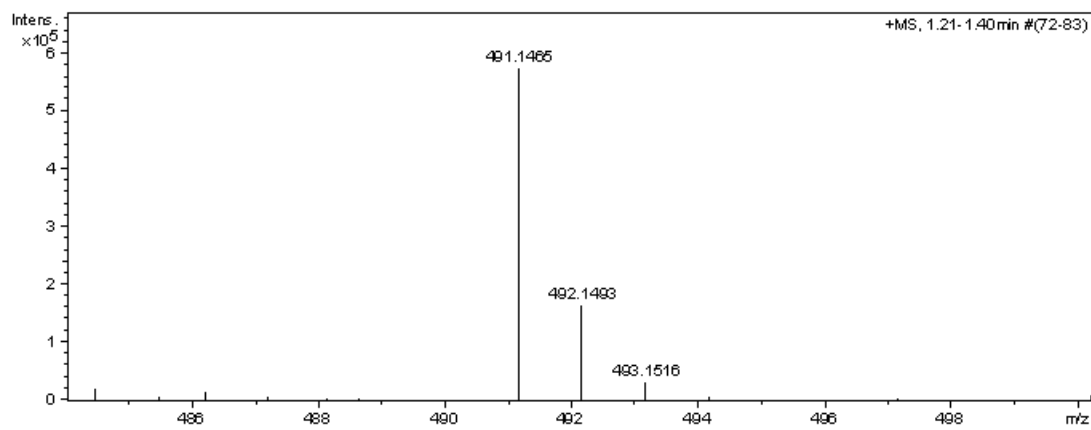
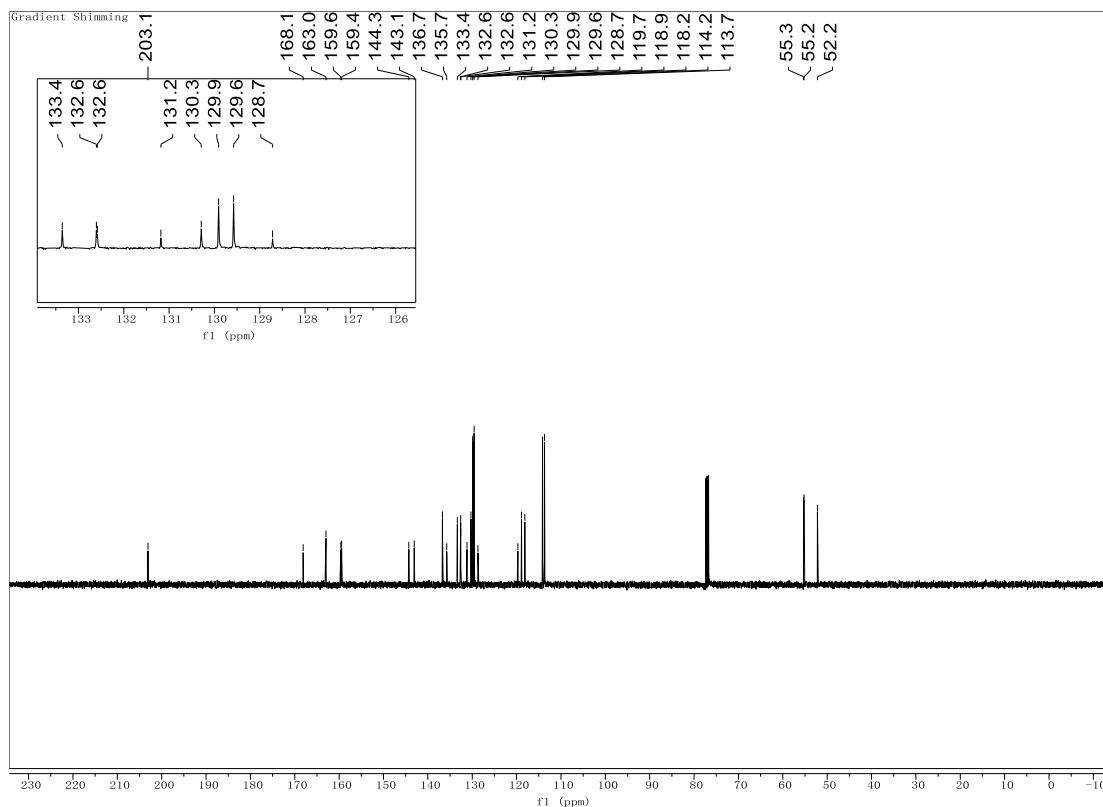




**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3e):**

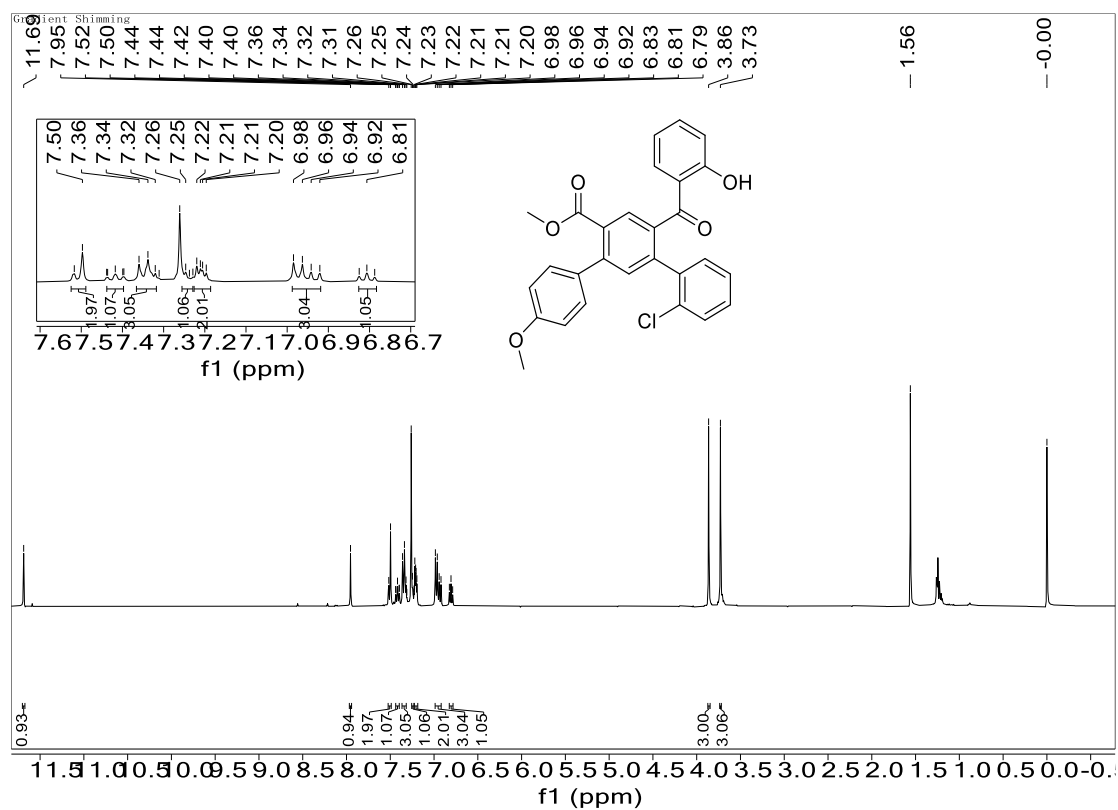
White solid, 65%, m.p. 120-122°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.98 (s, 1H, OH), 7.91 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.50 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.41 (t, *J*=7.6Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.33 (t, *J*=8.4Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.27 ~ 7.25 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H, ArH), 6.81 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.71 (t, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 203.0, 168.0, 162.9, 159.5, 159.4, 144.2, 143.0, 136.7, 135.7, 133.3, 132.6, 132.5, 131.1, 130.2, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 119.7, 118.8, 118.1, 114.1, 113.7, 55.2, 55.2, 52.1; IR (KBr) ν: 3718, 3448, 3009, 1845, 1573, 1400, 1295, 1067, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 491.1465, Found: 491.1465.

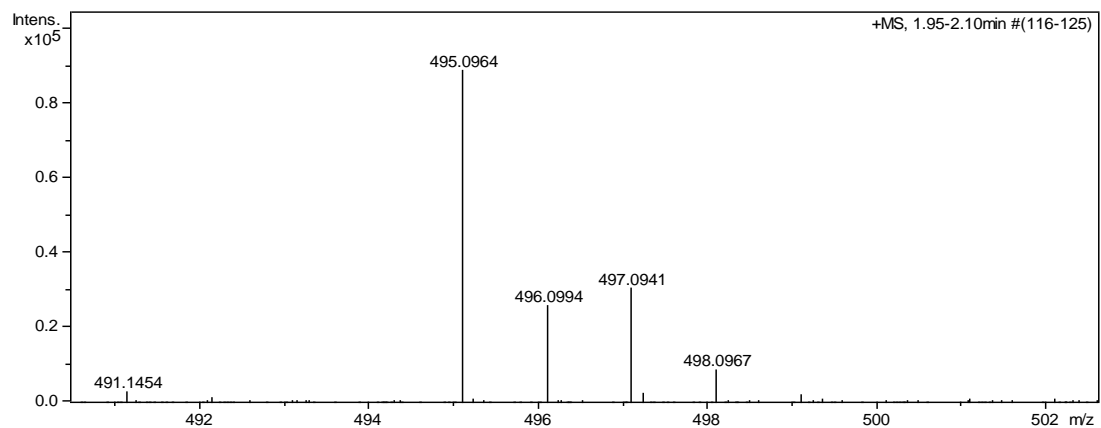
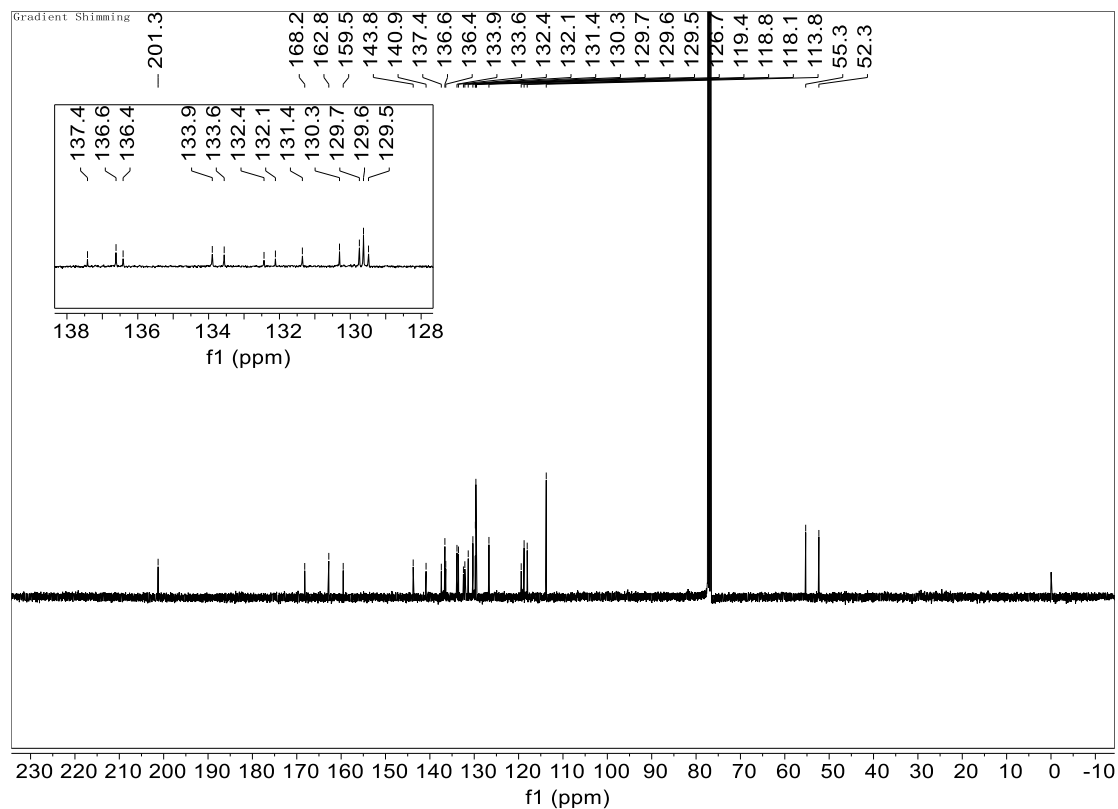




**Methyl 2-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3f):**

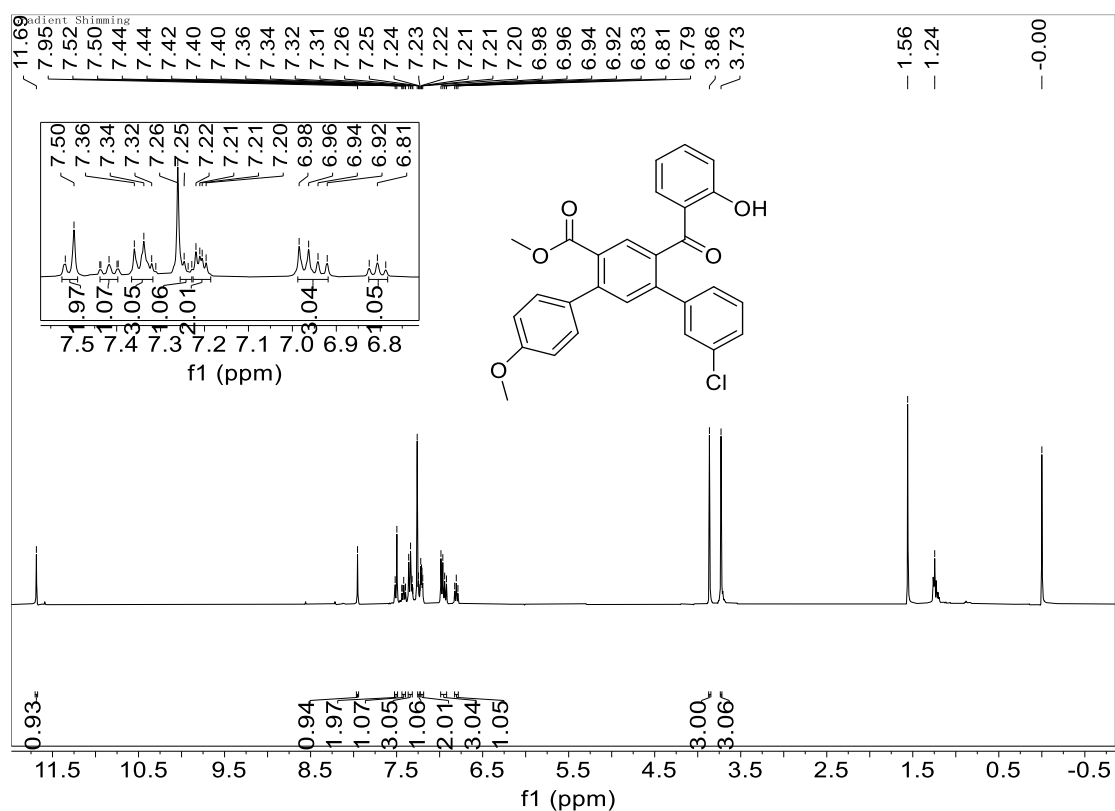
White solid, 54%, m.p. 55 -57 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.69 (s, 1H, OH), 7.95 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.36 ~ 7.31 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.25 ~ 7.24 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.23 ~ 7.20 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.97 (d, 2H, ArH), 6.93 (d, 1H, ArH); 6.81 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 201.2, 168.1, 162.7, 159.5, 143.7, 140.8, 137.4, 136.6, 136.4, 133.8, 133.5, 132.4, 132.1, 131.3, 130.2, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 126.6, 119.4, 118.7, 118.0, 113.7, 55.2, 52.3; IR (KBr) ν: 3718, 3448, 3009, 1845, 1573, 1400, 1295, 1067, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup> HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 495.0970, Found: 495.0964.

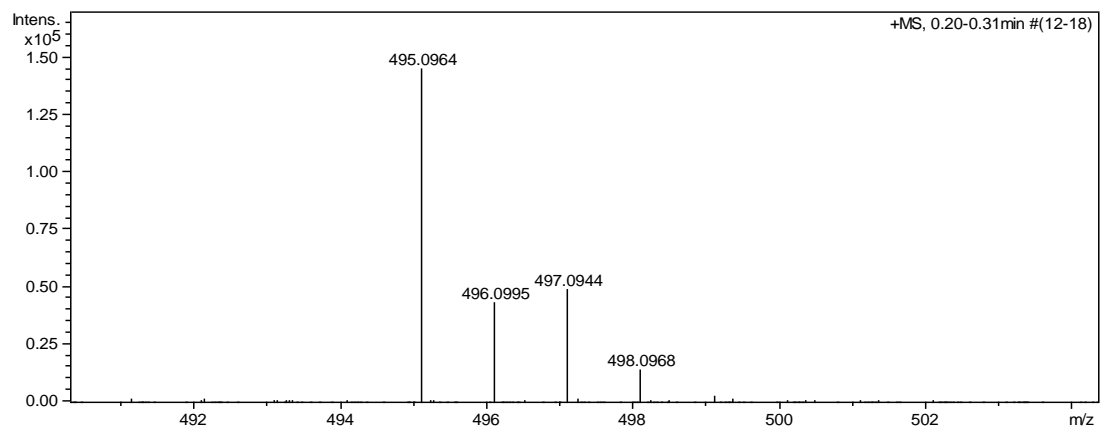
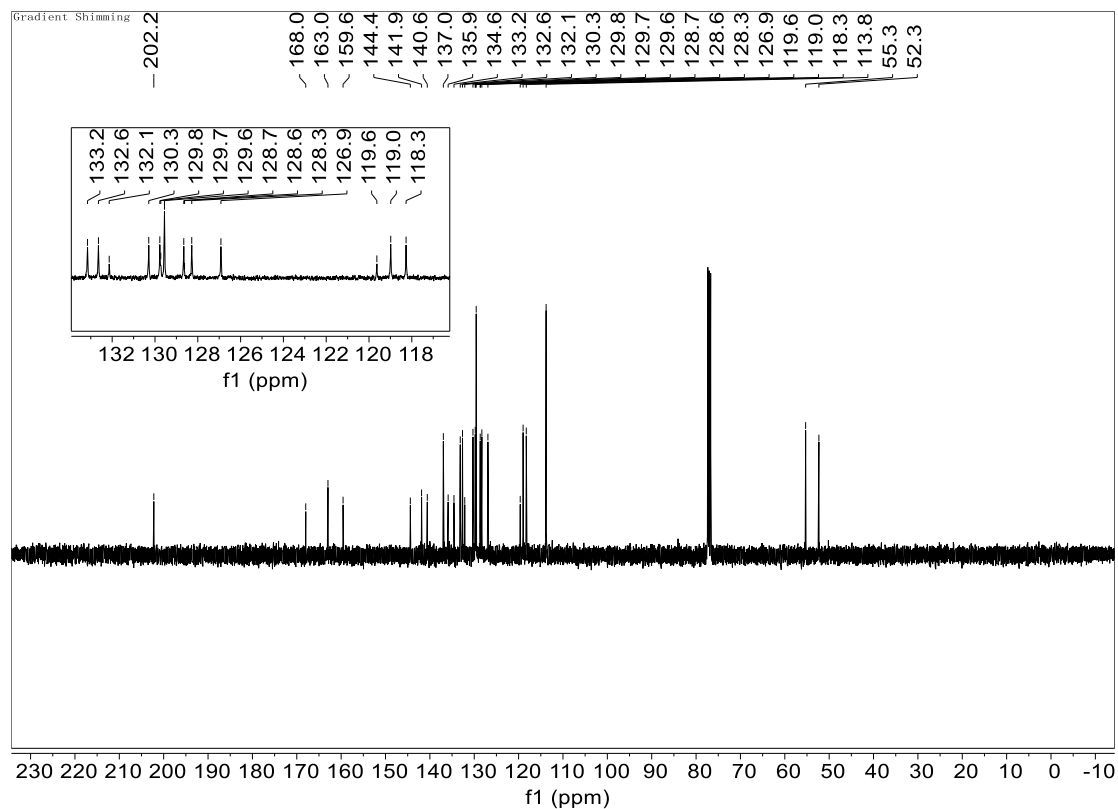




**Methyl 3-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-[1,1':3,1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate**

**(3g):** White solid, 58%, m.p. 55-57 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.85 (s, 1H, OH), 7.93 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.49 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.45 ~ 7.41 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.37 ~ 7.30 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.25 ~ 7.22 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.17 ~ 7.15 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.70 ~ 6.96 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.1, 167.9, 162.9, 159.5, 144.3, 141.8, 140.5, 136.9, 135.8, 134.5, 133.1, 132.6, 132.1, 130.2, 129.7, 129.7, 129.5, 128.6, 128.6, 128.2, 126.9, 119.6, 118.9, 118.2, 113.7, 55.3, 52.3; IR (KBr) ν: 3716, 3455, 3020, 2892, 2835, 1737, 1607, 1571, 1400, 1243, 1107, 841 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 495.0975, Found: 495.0964.

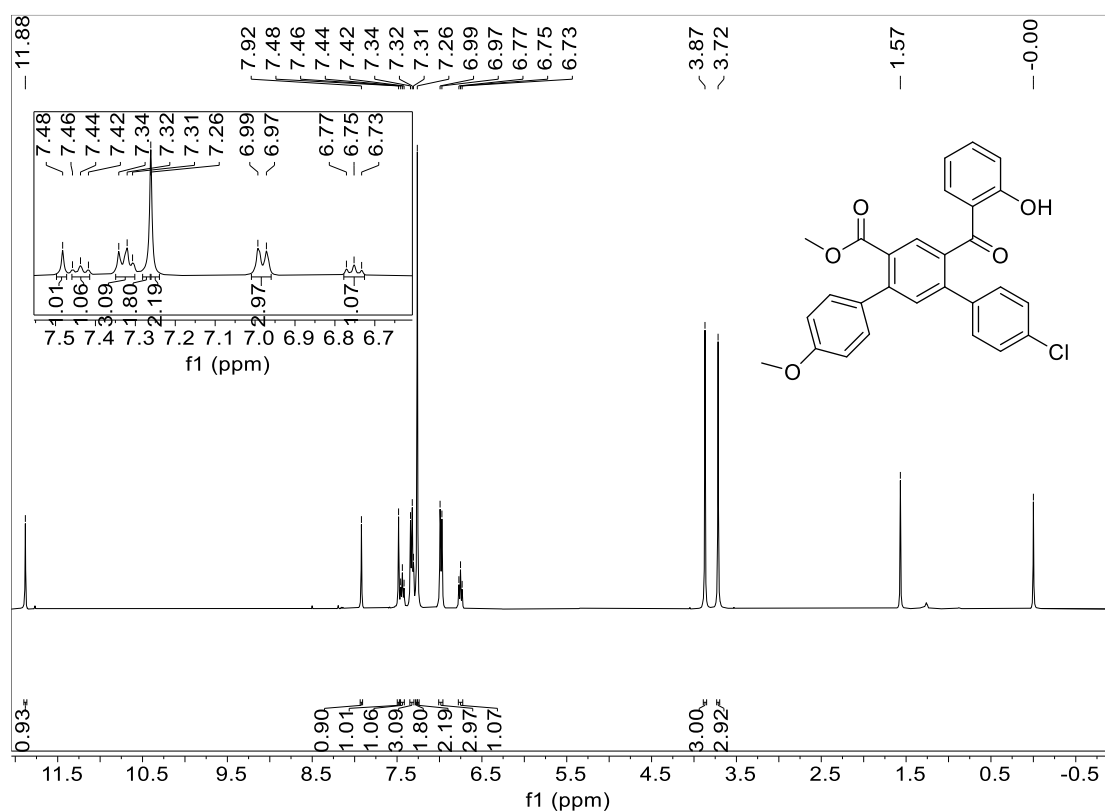


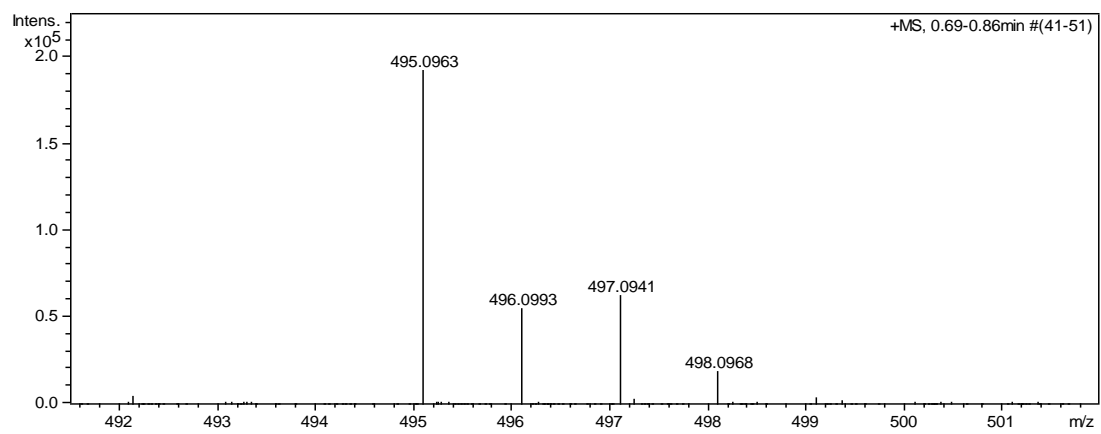
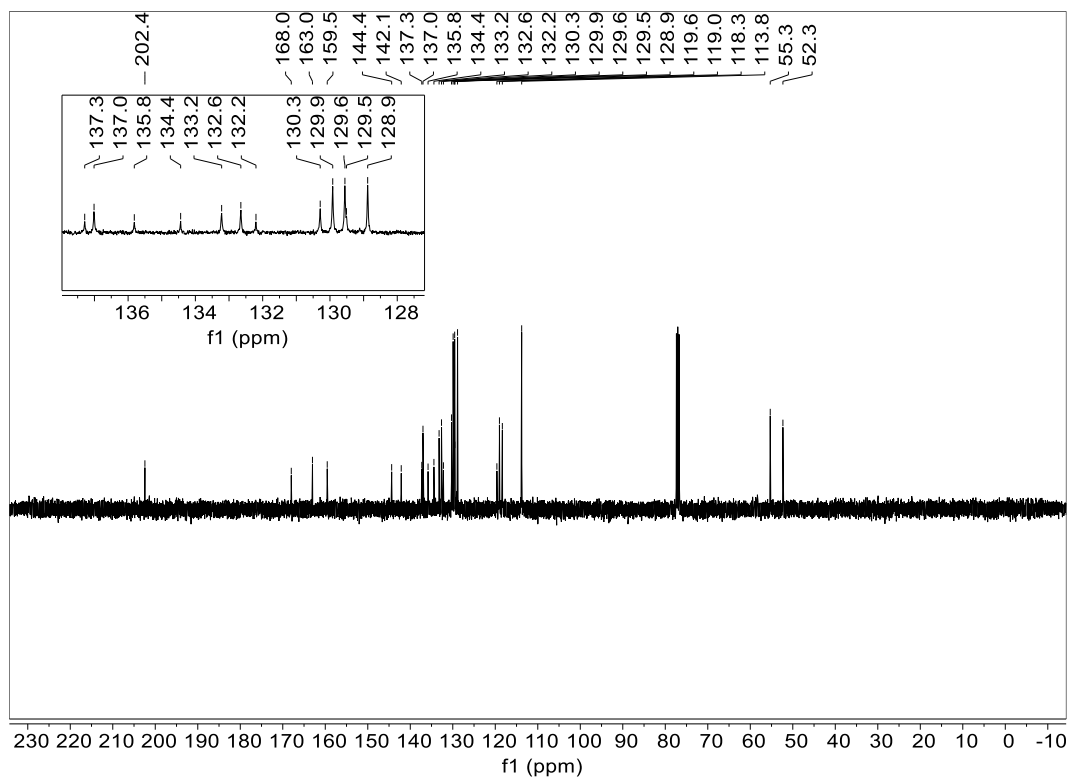




**Methyl 4-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-[1,1':3,1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate**

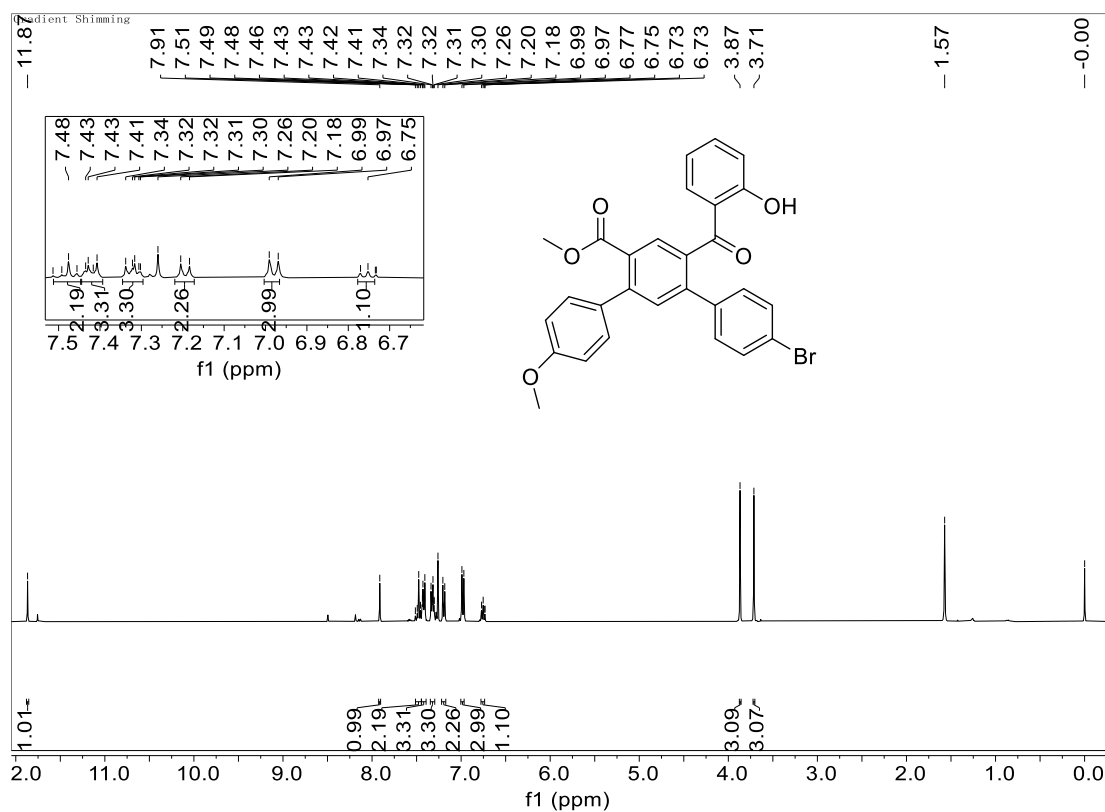
**(3h):** White solid, 63%, m.p. 95-97 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.88 (s, 1H, OH), 7.92 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.48 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.34 ~ 7.31 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.26 (s, 4H, ArH), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H, ArH), 6.76 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.4, 167.9, 162.9, 159.5, 144.3, 142.1, 137.2, 136.9, 135.8, 134.4, 133.2, 132.6, 132.1, 130.2, 129.9, 129.5, 129.4, 128.8, 119.6, 119.0, 118.3, 113.7, 55.3, 52.3; IR (KBr) ν: 3717, 3452, 3029, 2888, 2833, 1738, 1603, 1518, 1479, 1442, 1310, 1285, 1240, 1186, 1093, 837, 758 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO<sub>5</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 495.0970, Found: 495.0963.

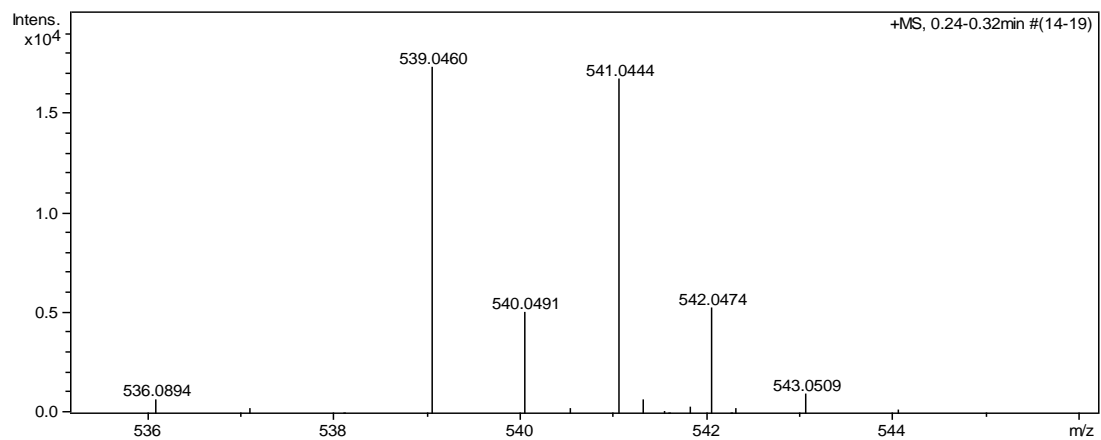
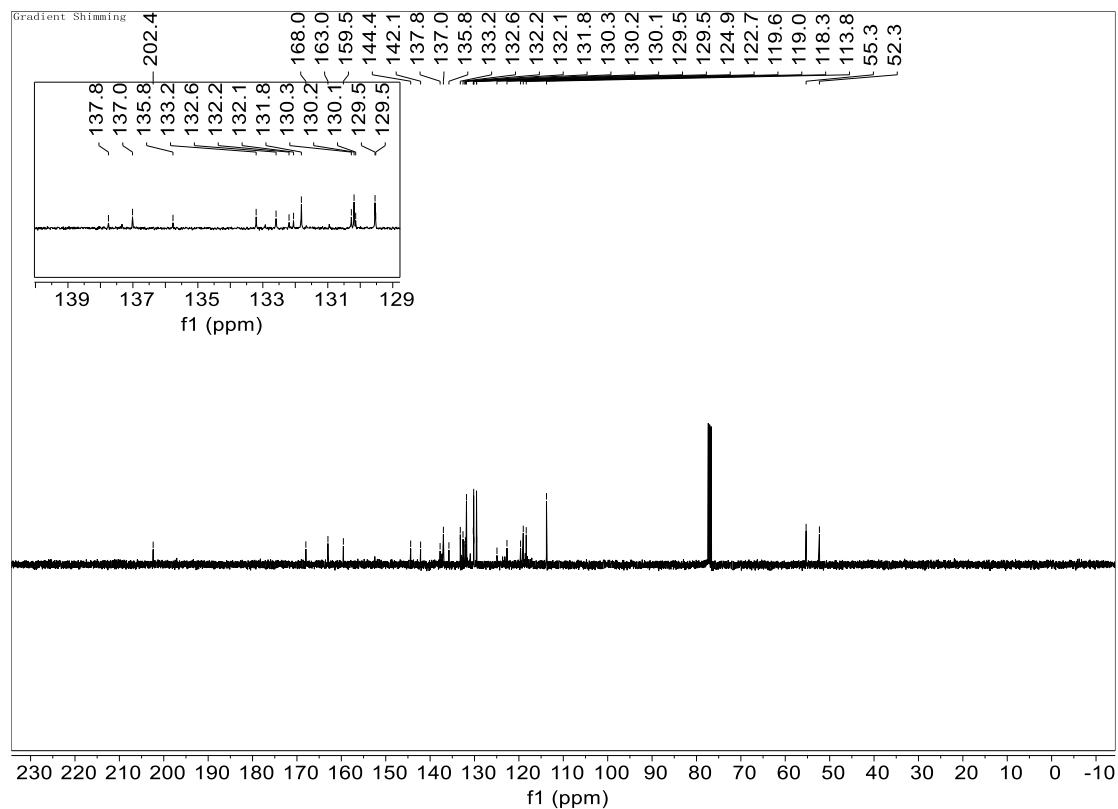




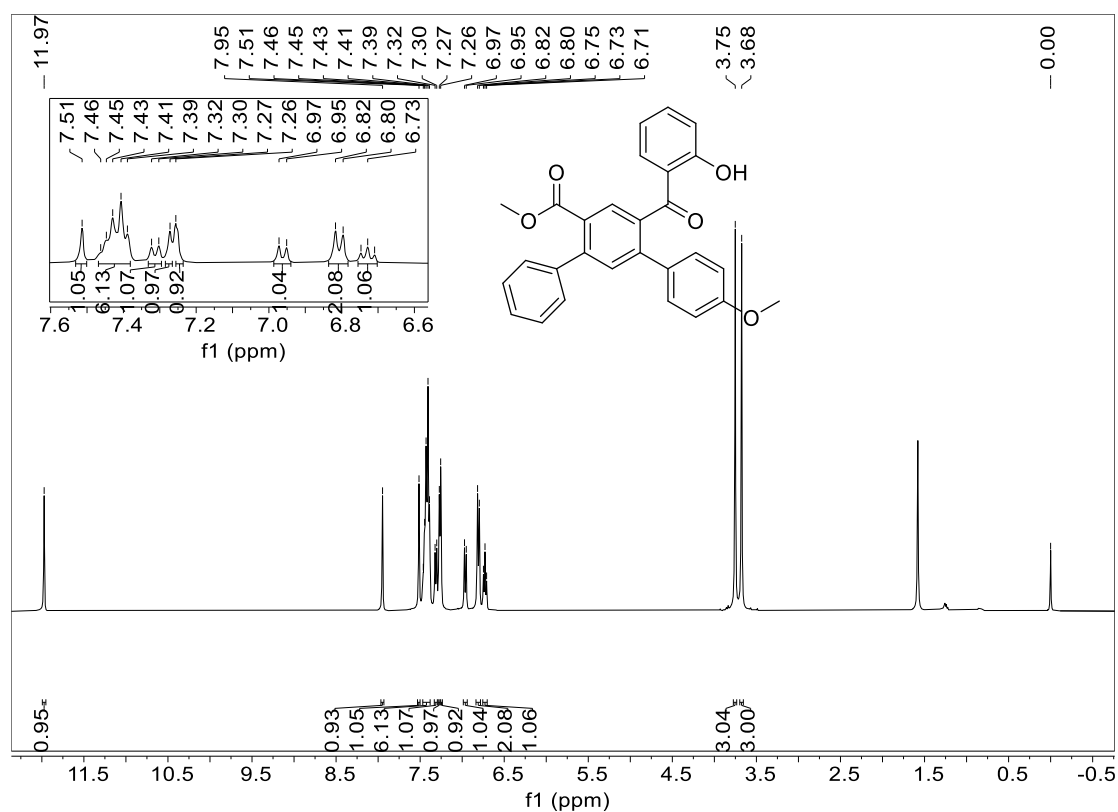
**Methyl 4-bromo-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4''-methoxy-[1,1':3,1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate**

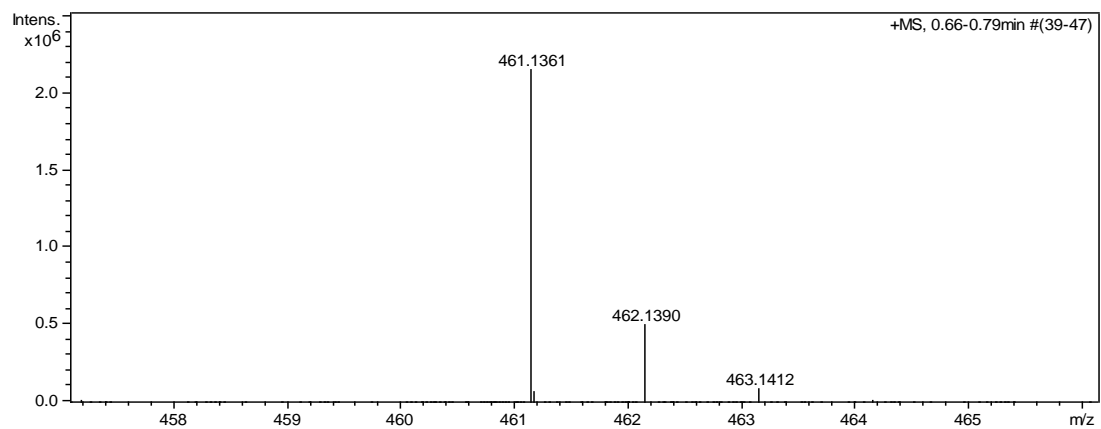
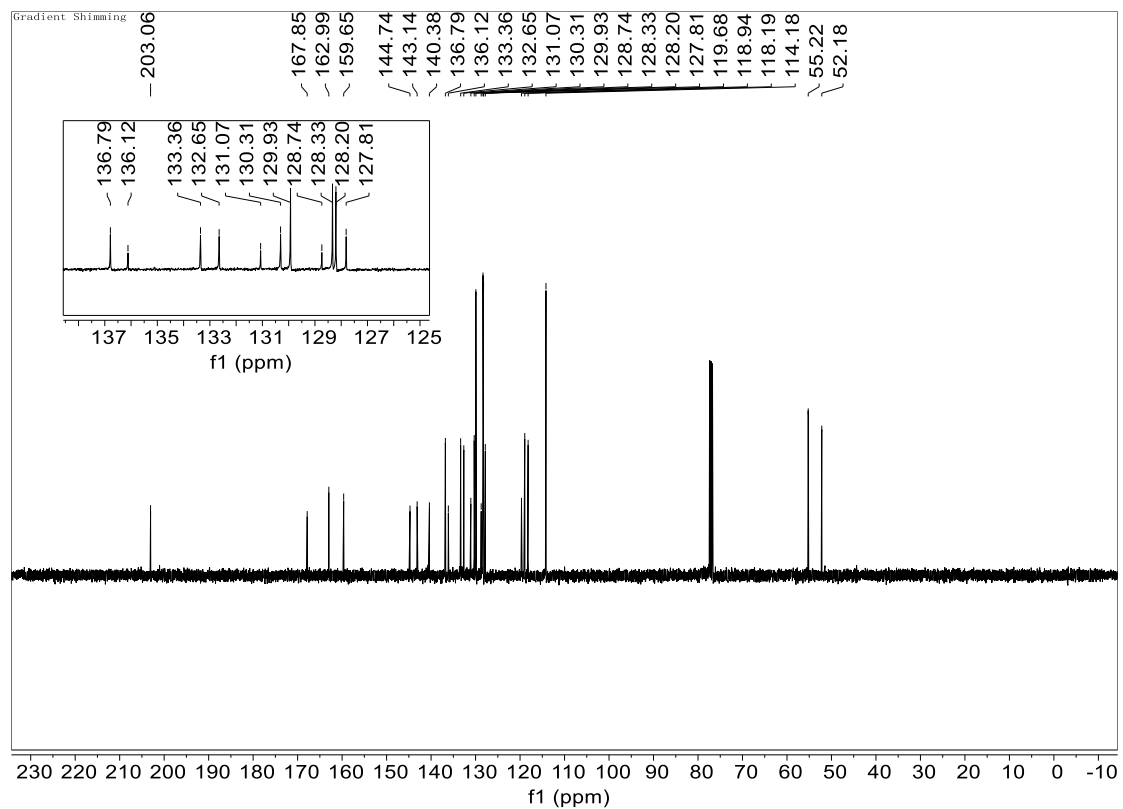
**(3i):** White solid, 72%, m.p. 160 - 161 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.87 (s, 1H, OH), 7.91 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.51 ~ 7.46 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.44 ~ 7.41 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.34 ~ 7.30 (m, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H, ArH), 6.77 ~ 6.73 (m, 1H, ArH), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.3, 167.9, 163.0, 159.5, 144.3, 142.1, 137.7, 136.9, 135.7, 133.1, 132.5, 132.1, 132.0, 131.8, 130.2, 130.1, 130.1, 129.5, 129.5, 124.9, 122.6, 119.6, 119.0, 118.3, 113.7, 55.3, 52.3; IR (KBr) ν: 3645, 3027, 2945, 2835, 1735, 1606, 1518, 1477, 1238, 1184, 1105, 833, 758, 611 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrO<sub>5</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 539.0645, Found: 539.0460.





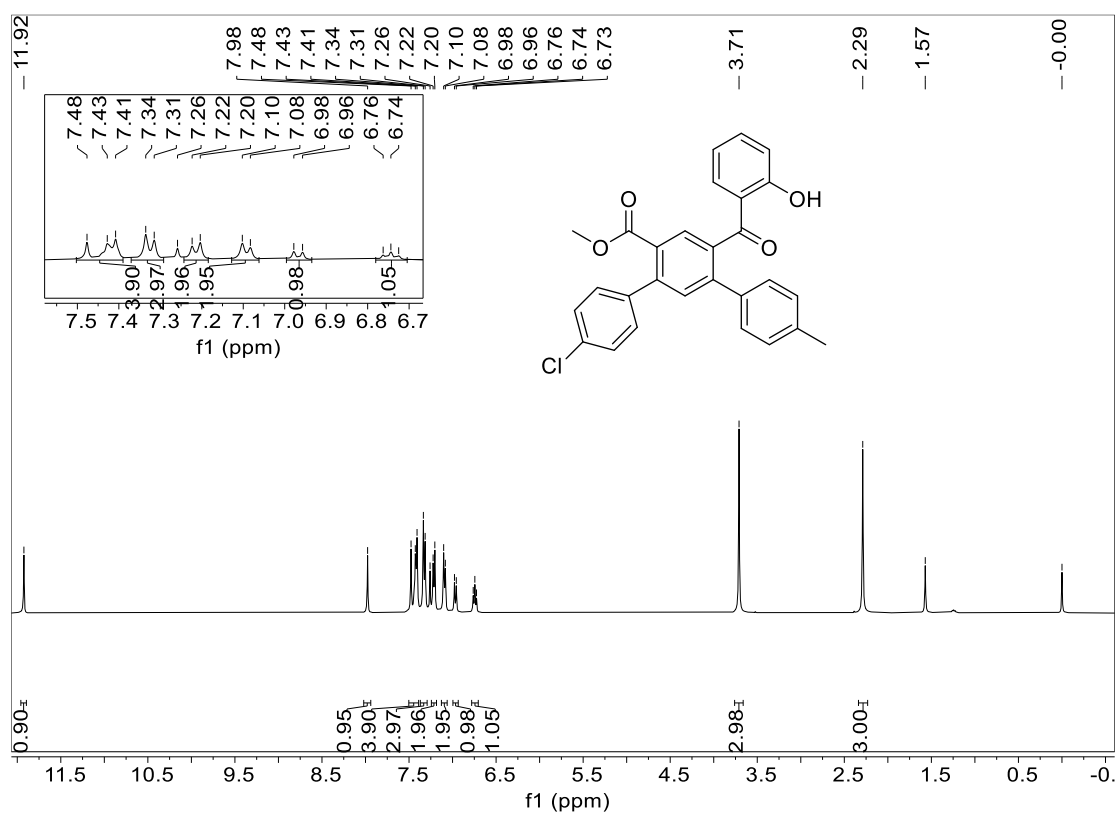
**Methyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3j):** White solid, 68%, m.p. 143-145°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.97(s, 1H, OH), 7.95 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.51 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.46 ~ 7.39 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.31 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.27 ~ 7.26 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.96 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.81 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.73 (t, *J*=7.6Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 203.0, 167.8, 162.9, 159.6, 144.7, 143.1, 140.3, 136.7, 136.1, 133.3, 132.6, 131.0, 130.2, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 119.6, 118.9, 118.1, 114.1, 55.2, 52.1.; IR (KBr) ν: 3717, 3006, 2831, 1926, 1710, 1605, 1513, 1484, 1442, 1399, 1335, 1299, 1238, 1108, 829 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS(ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 461.1359, Found: 461.1361.

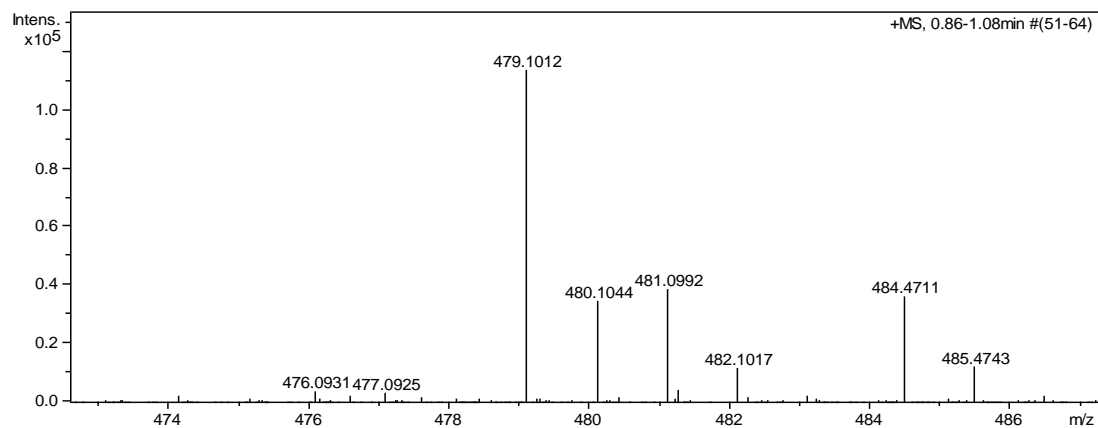
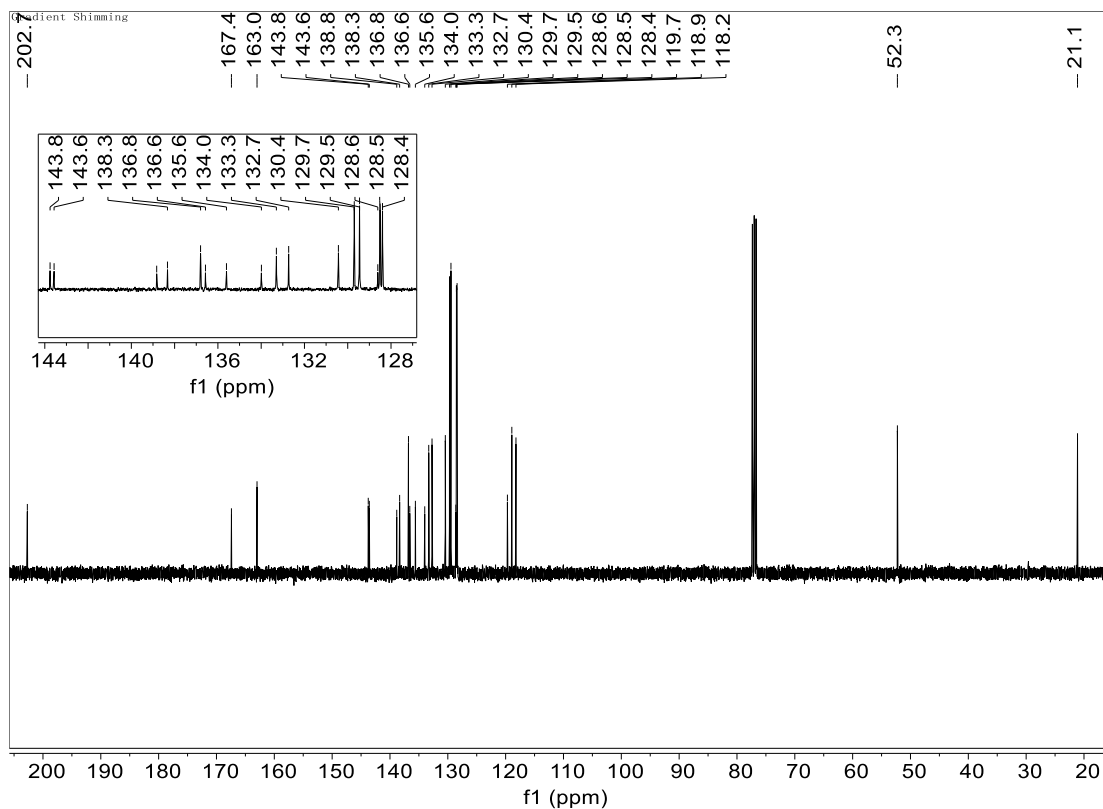




**Methyl 4''-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3k):**

White solid, 67%, m.p. 164-167°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.92 (s, 1H, OH), 7.98 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.48 ~ 7.41 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.6, 167.3, 162.9, 143.7, 143.5, 138.8, 138.3, 136.7, 136.5, 135.5, 133.9, 133.2, 132.7, 130.4, 129.6, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 119.6, 118.9, 118.2, 52.2, 21.1; IR (KBr) ν: 3717, 3023, 2884, 2780, 1841, 1724, 1626, 1601, 1484, 1400, 1337, 1303, 1237, 1110, 827, 753, 660 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClO<sub>4</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 479.1021, Found: 479.1012.

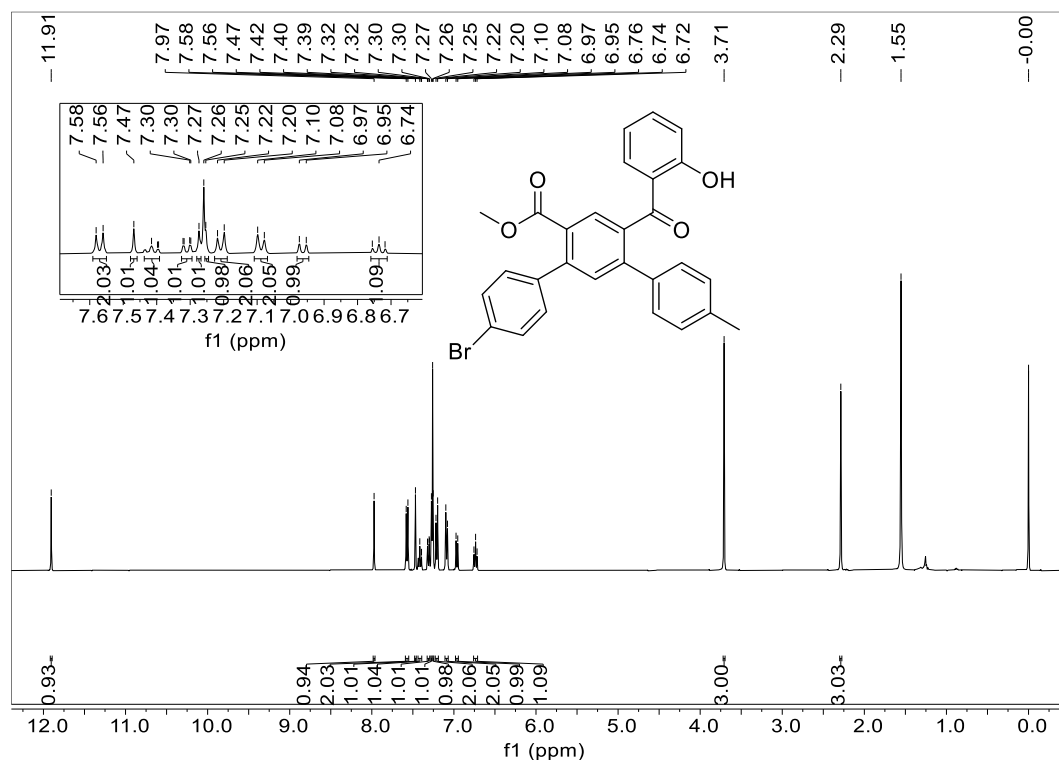


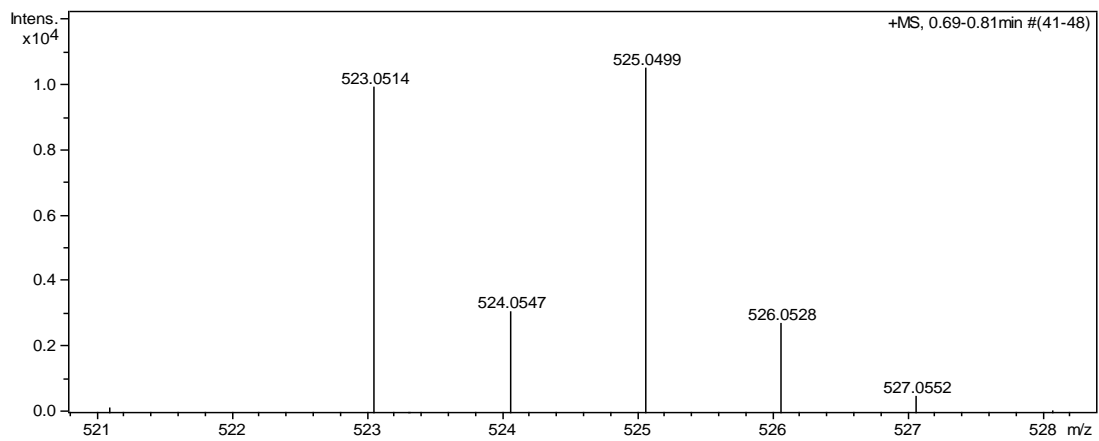
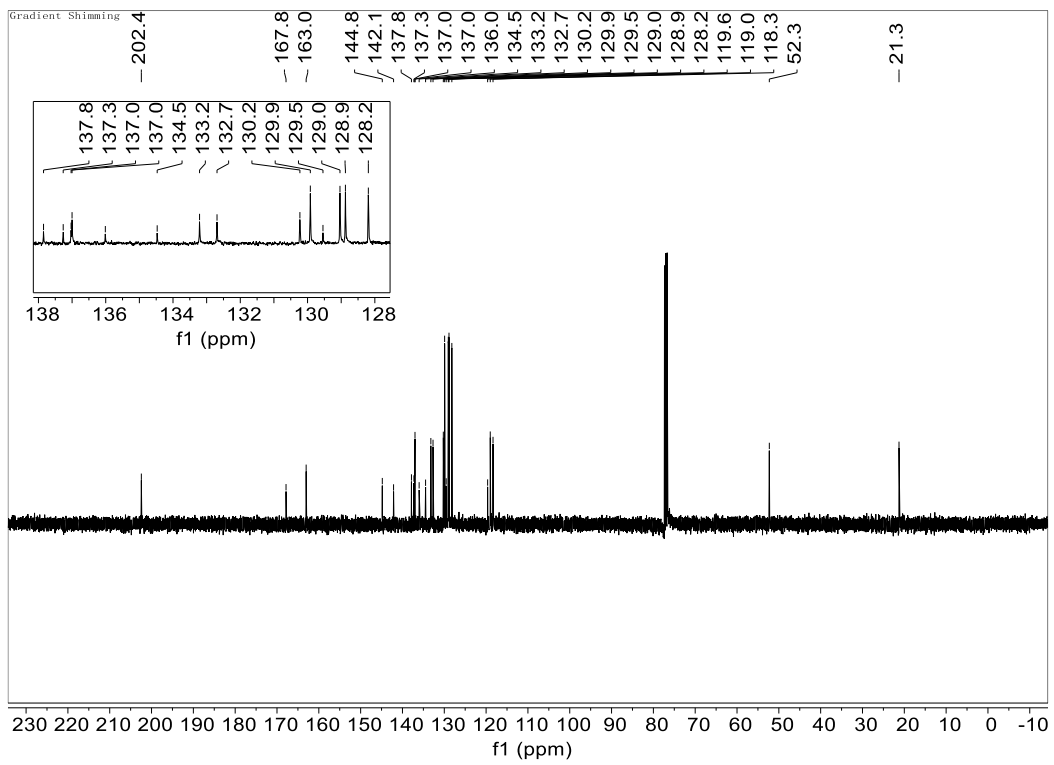




**Methyl 4''-bromo-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4'-carboxylate (3I):**

White solid, 65%, m.p. 180-181 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.91 (s, 1H, OH), 7.97 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.47 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.31 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.27 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.25 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.74 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H, ArH), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.4, 167.8, 163.0, 144.8, 142.1, 137.8, 137.2, 137.0, 136.9, 135.9, 134.4, 133.1, 132.6, 130.2, 129.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 119.6, 118.9, 118.3, 52.2, 21.2; IR (KBr) ν: 3615, 3330, 3023, 2945, 1724, 1628, 1519, 1435, 1336, 1330, 1068, 992, 870, 788, 695 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrO<sub>4</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 523.0515, Found: 523.0514.

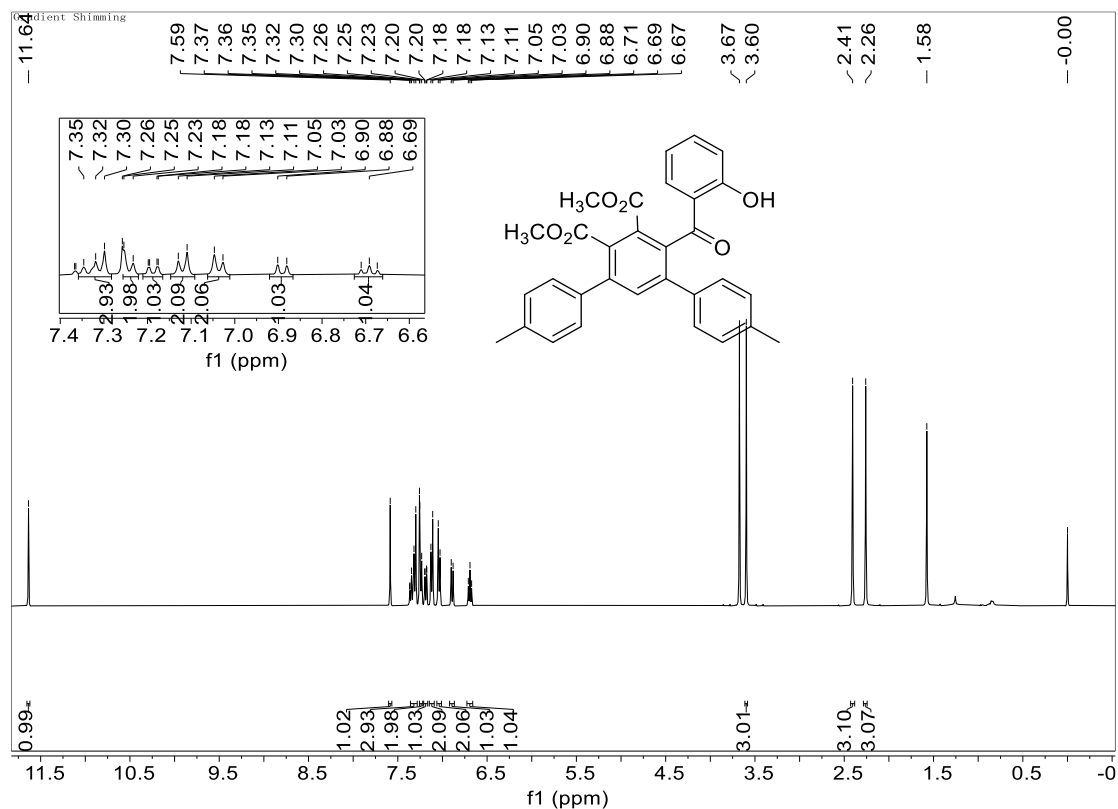


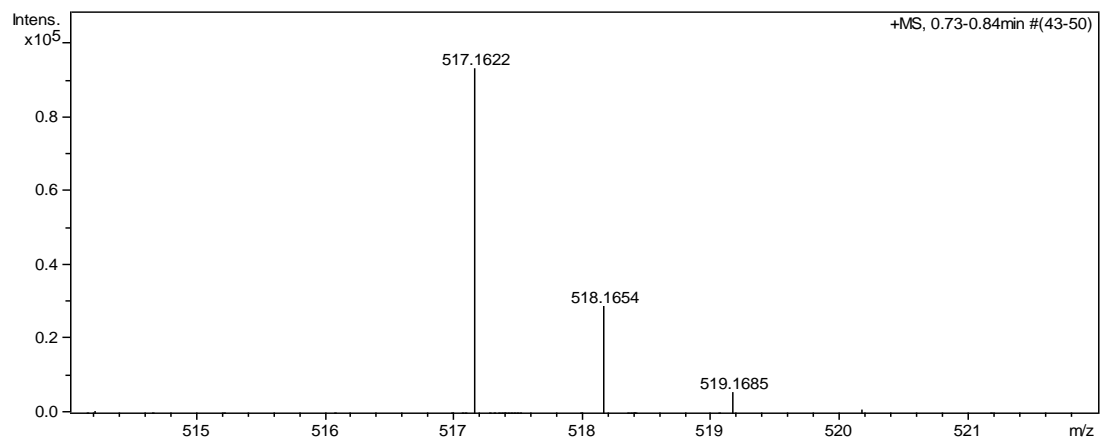
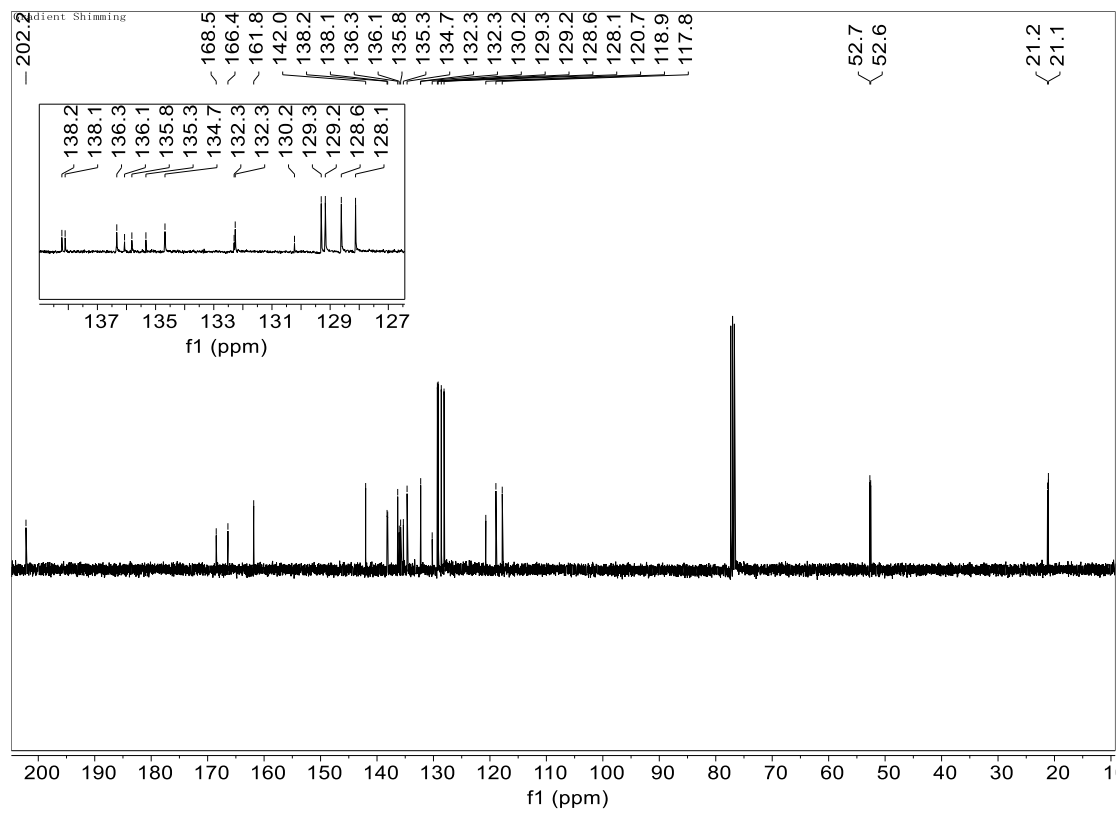


**1. General procedure for preparation of the tetra-substituted benzenes 5a-5g:** To a 50 mL round flask was added 1-phenacyl-4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridinium bromide (0.5 mmol), chalcone *o*-enolate (1.0 mmol), DMF (8.0 mL) and TMD (1.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for twelve hours. After removing the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (300 ~ 400 mesh) with mixed petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 15:1) as eluent to give the pure product for analysis.

**Dimethyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4,4''-dimethyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-dicarboxylate (5a):**

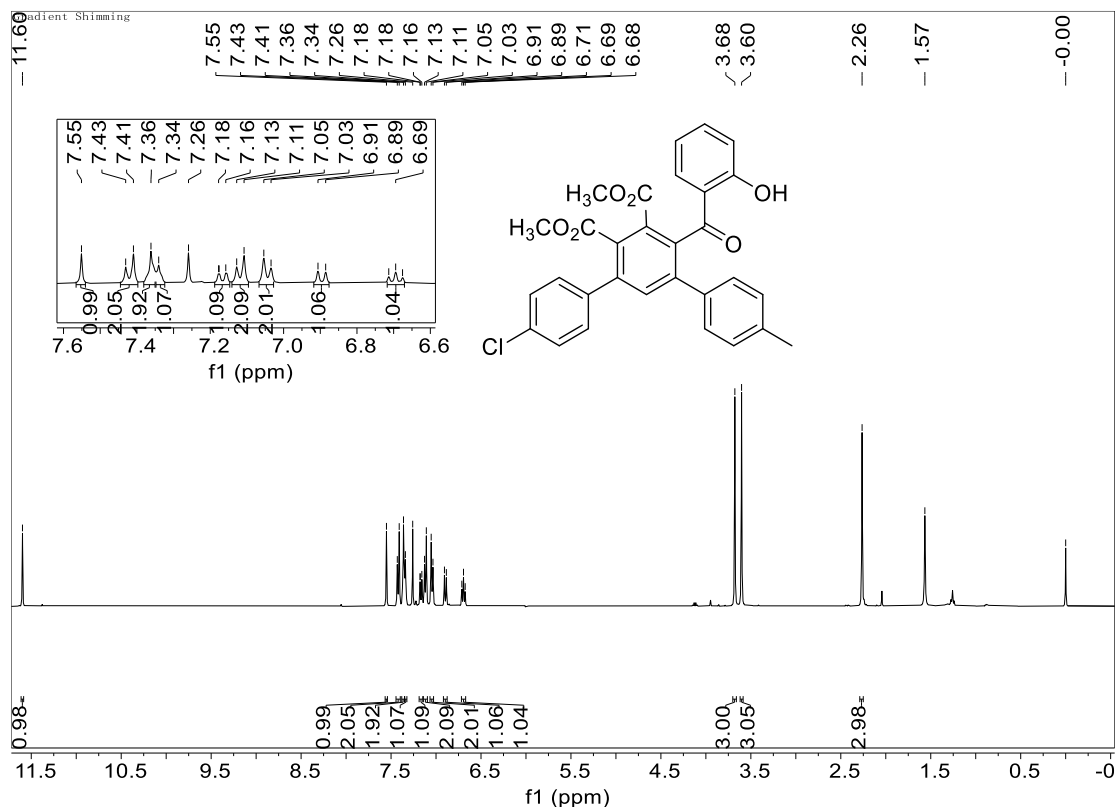
White solid, 58%, m.p. 208 – 209 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.64 (s, 1H, OH), 7.59 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.37 ~ 7.32 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.19 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 7.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.69 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.67 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.41 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.26 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.1, 168.4, 166.3, 161.8, 141.9, 138.2, 138.0, 136.3, 136.0, 135.8, 135.3, 134.6, 132.2, 132.2, 130.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 120.7, 118.9, 117.8, 52.7, 52.5, 21.2, 21.0; IR (KBr) ν: 3672, 2945, 1915, 1729, 1628, 1581, 1515, 1479, 1471, 1431, 1385, 1345, 1303, 1277, 1244, 1063, 964, 944, 912, 873, 833, 75, 762, 698, 672, 653 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 517.1622, Found: 517.1622.

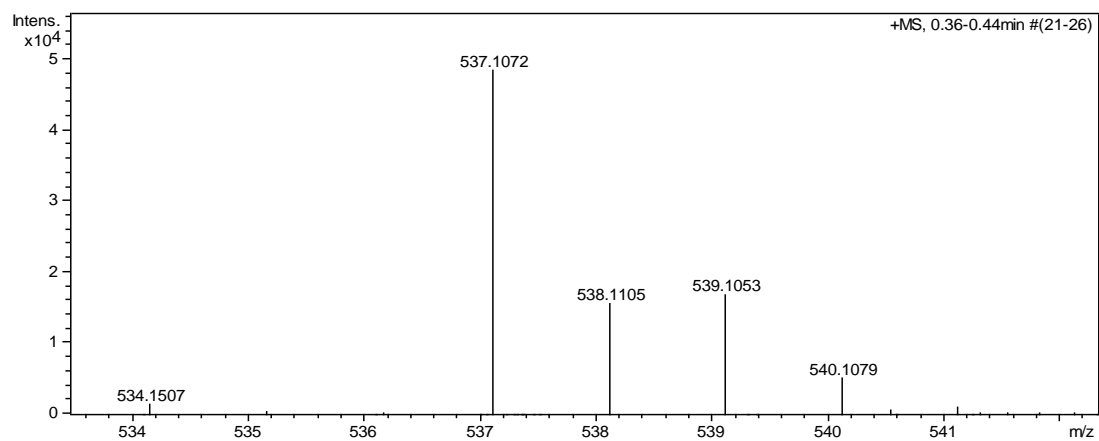
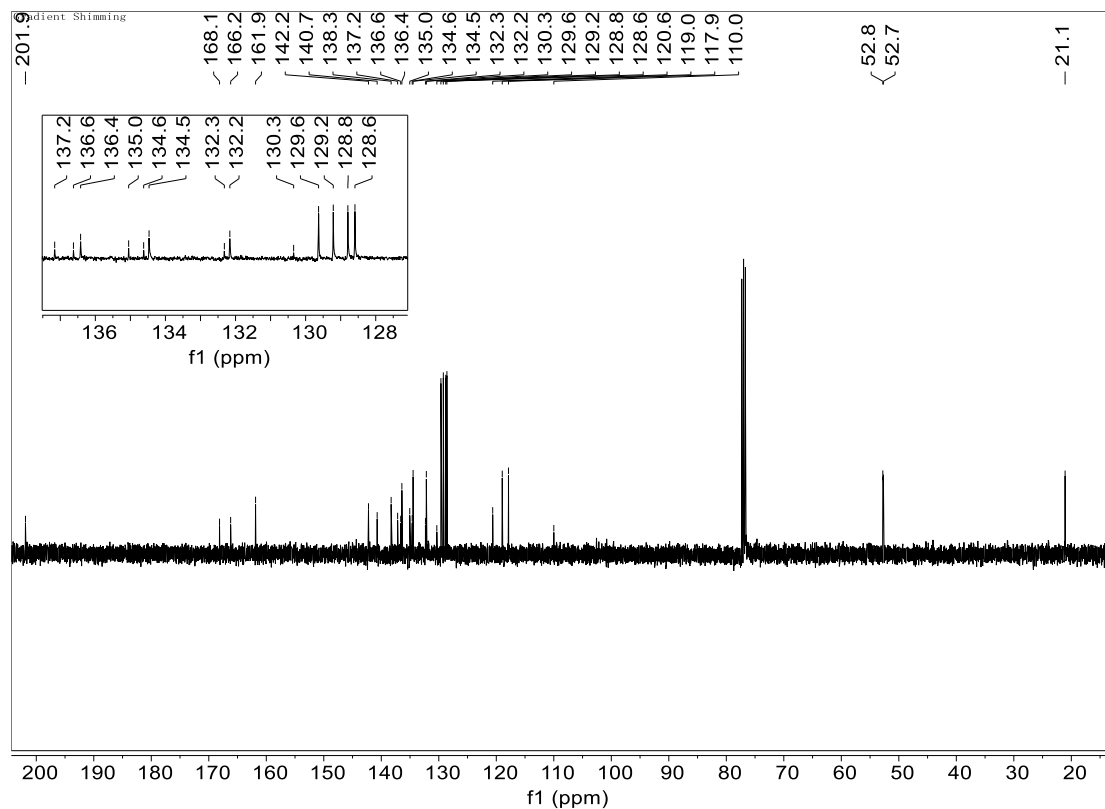




**Dimethyl4''-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-**

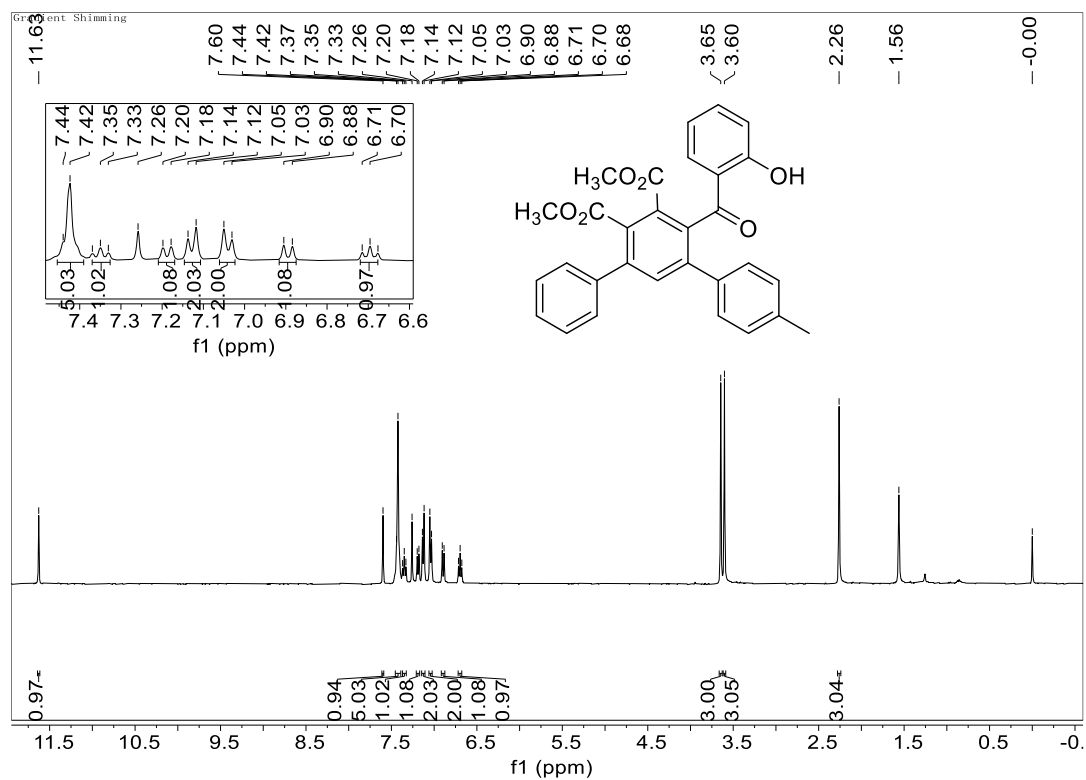
**dicarboxylate (5b):** White solid, 65%, m.p. 213 - 215 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.60 (s, 1H, OH), 7.55 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.36 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.34 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.18 ~ 7.16 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.26 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 201.8, 168.1, 166.1, 161.8, 142.2, 140.7, 138.2, 137.1, 136.6, 136.4, 135.0, 134.6, 134.4, 132.3, 132.1, 130.3, 129.6, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 120.6, 118.9, 117.8, 109.9, 52.7, 52.6, 21.0; IR (KBr) ν: 3673, 2947, 1914, 1729, 1630, 1514, 1492, 1451, 1432, 1383, 1344, 1303, 1279, 1239, 1218, 1188, 1063, 962, 942, 913, 874, 842, 784, 763, 698, 672, 618 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 537.1072, Found: 537.1072.

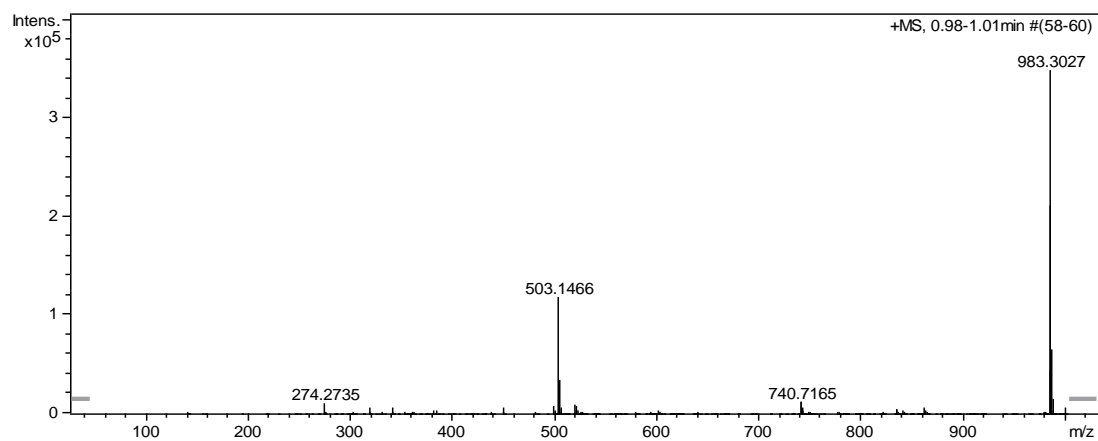
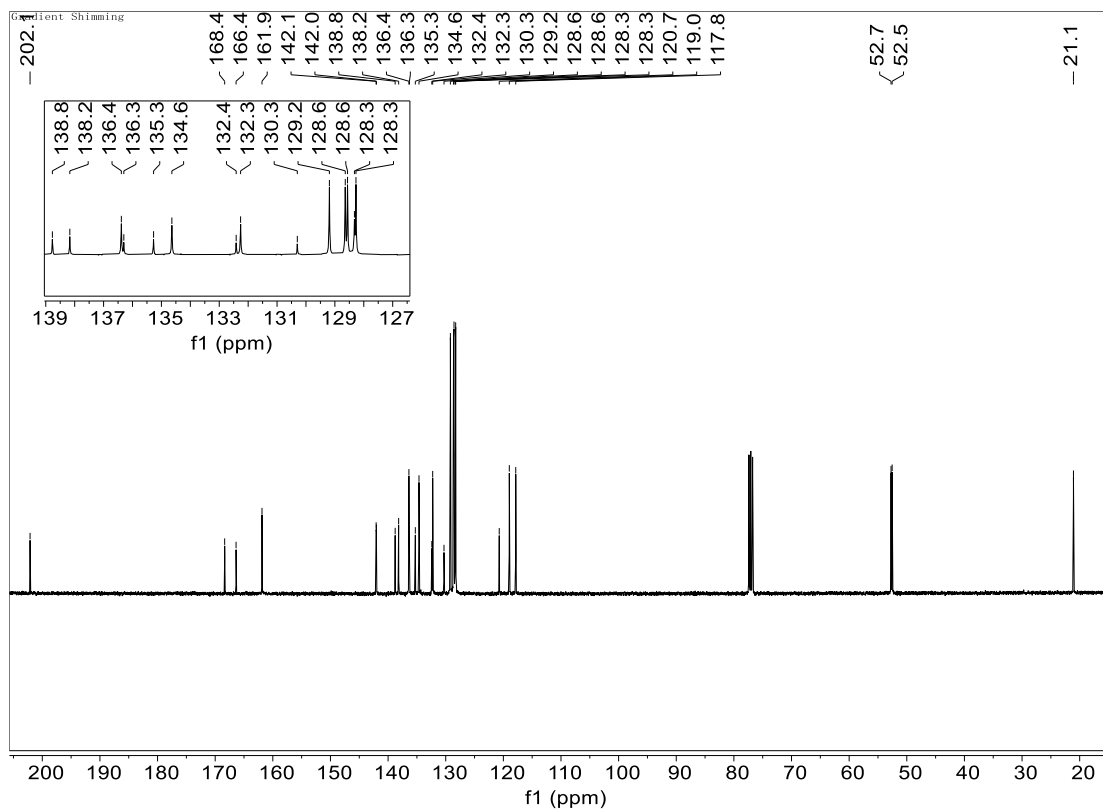




**Dimethyl 6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-[1,1':3,1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-dicarboxylate (5c):**

White solid, 72%, m.p. 179 – 181 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.63 (s, 1H, OH), 7.60 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.44 ~ 7.42 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.35 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.18 (d, *J*= 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.70 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.65 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.26 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.0, 168.3, 166.3, 161.8, 142.0, 142.0, 138.7, 138.1, 136.3, 136.2, 135.2, 134.6, 132.4, 132.2, 130.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 120.7, 118.9, 117.8, 52.7, 52.5, 21.0; IR (KBr) ν: 3672, 2946, 1729, 1628, 1581, 1479, 1346, 1187, 1003, 963, 939, 909, 870, 840, 822, 763, 740, 665, 619 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 503.1465, Found: 503.1466.

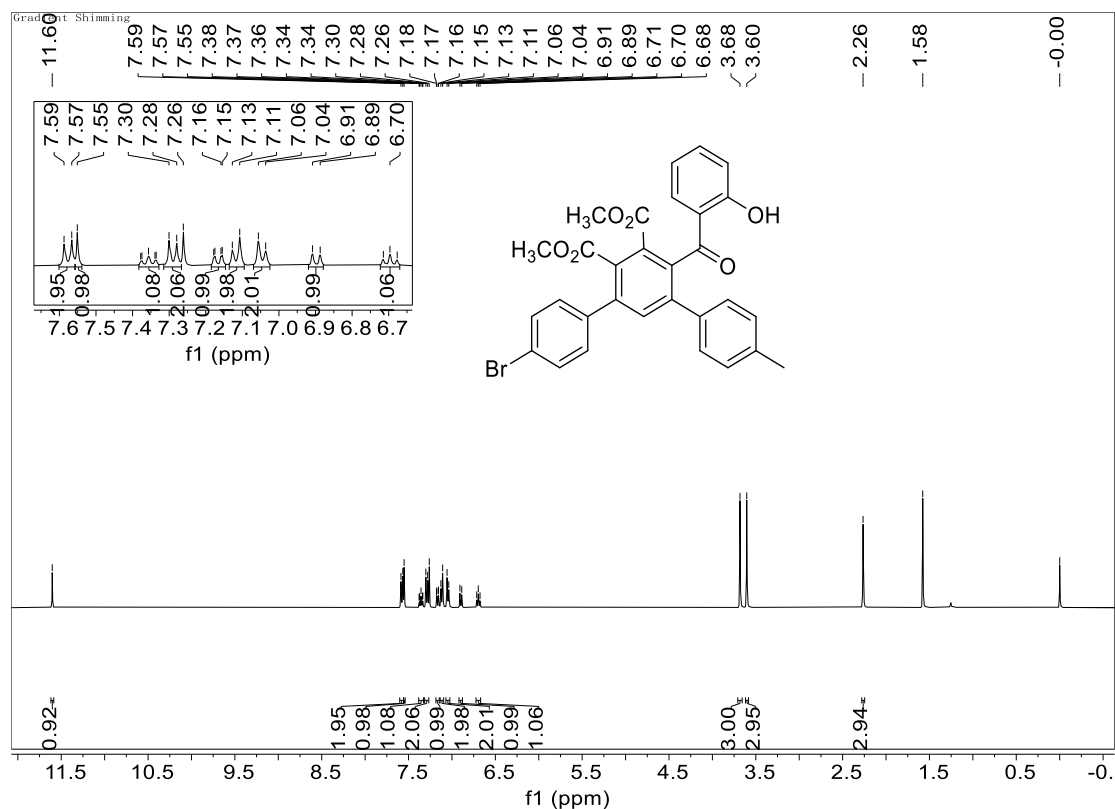


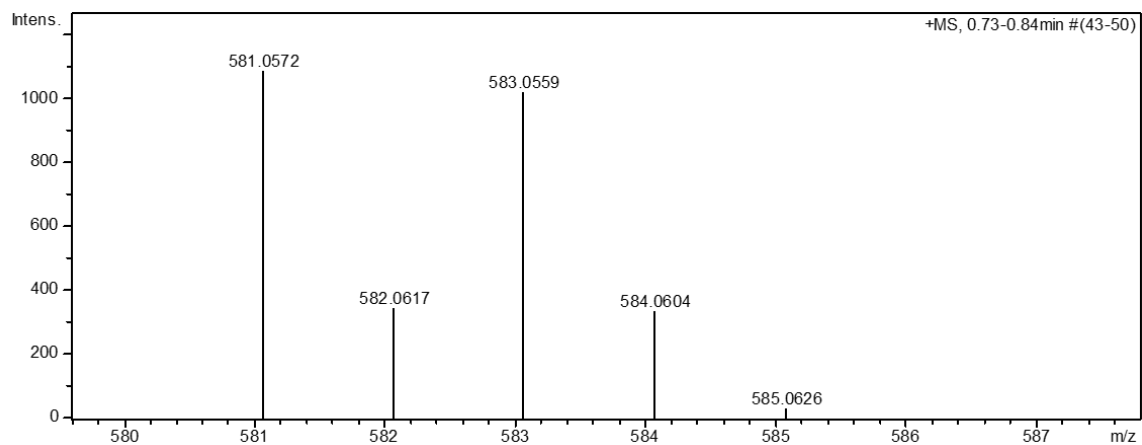
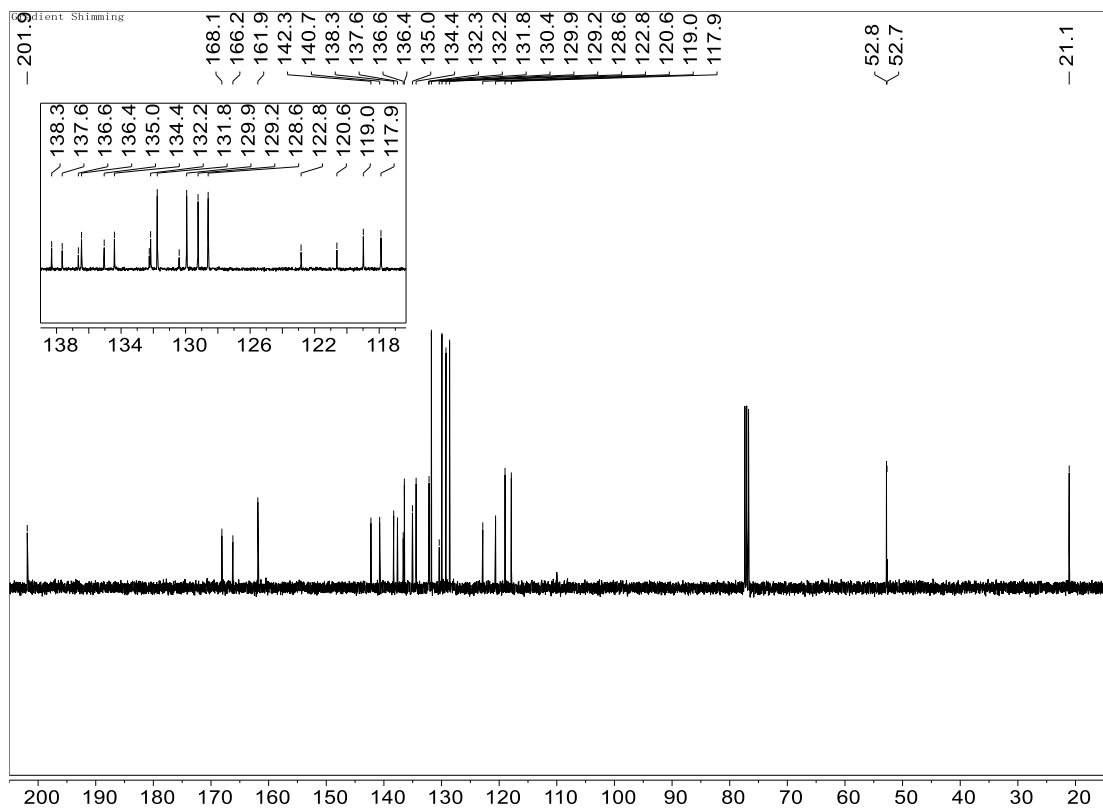




**Dimethyl****4''-bromo-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methyl-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-**

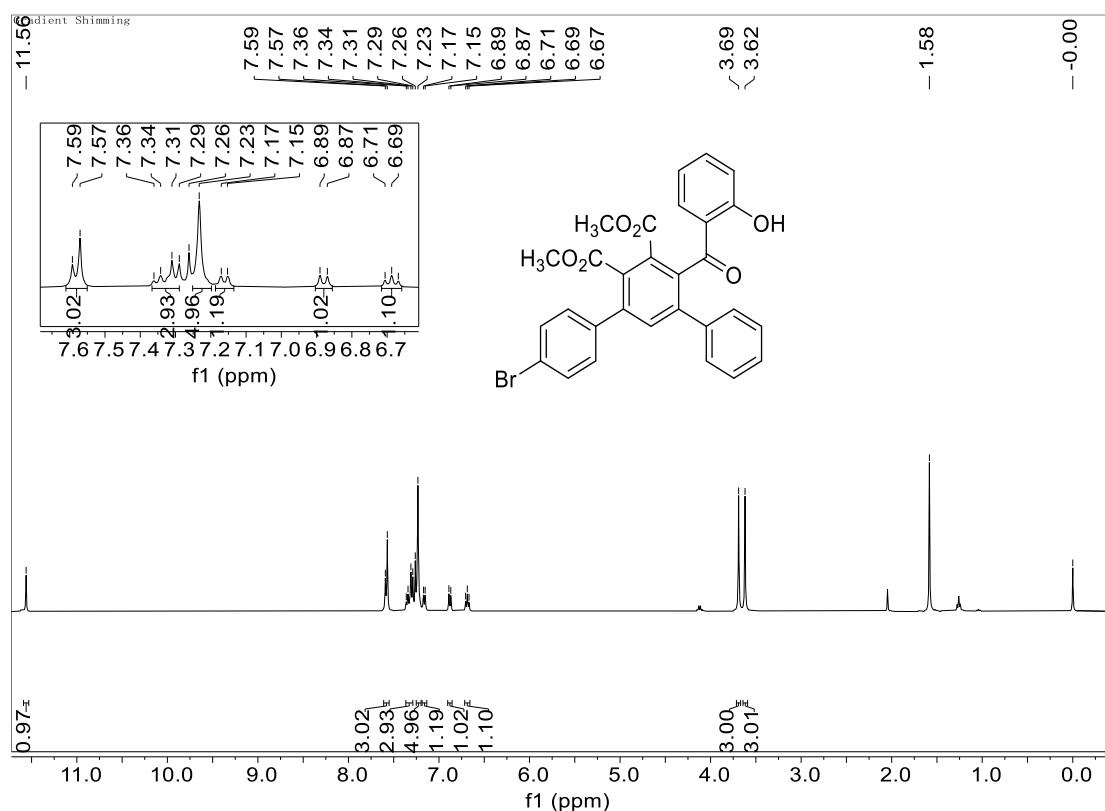
**dicarboxylate (5d):** White solid, 78%, m.p. 207 -208 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.60 (s, 1H, OH), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.55 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38 ~7.34 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.17 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 1.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.70 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.61 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.27 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 201.8, 168.0, 166.1, 161.8, 142.2, 140.7, 138.2, 137.6, 136.6, 136.4, 135.0, 134.3, 132.2, 132.1, 131.7, 130.3, 129.9, 129.2, 128.5, 122.8, 120.6, 118.9, 117.8, 52.7, 52.7, 21.0; IR (KBr) ν: 3672, 3046, 2950, 1748, 1728, 1628, 1606, 1487, 1382, 1300, 1187, 1280, 1003, 963, 939, 909, 870, 840, 822, 763, 740, 665, 619 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 581.0570, Found: 581.0572.

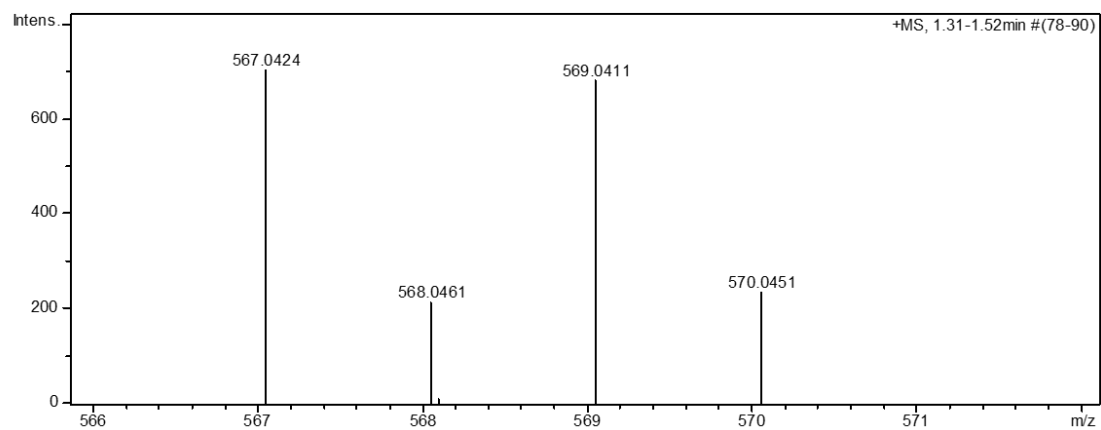
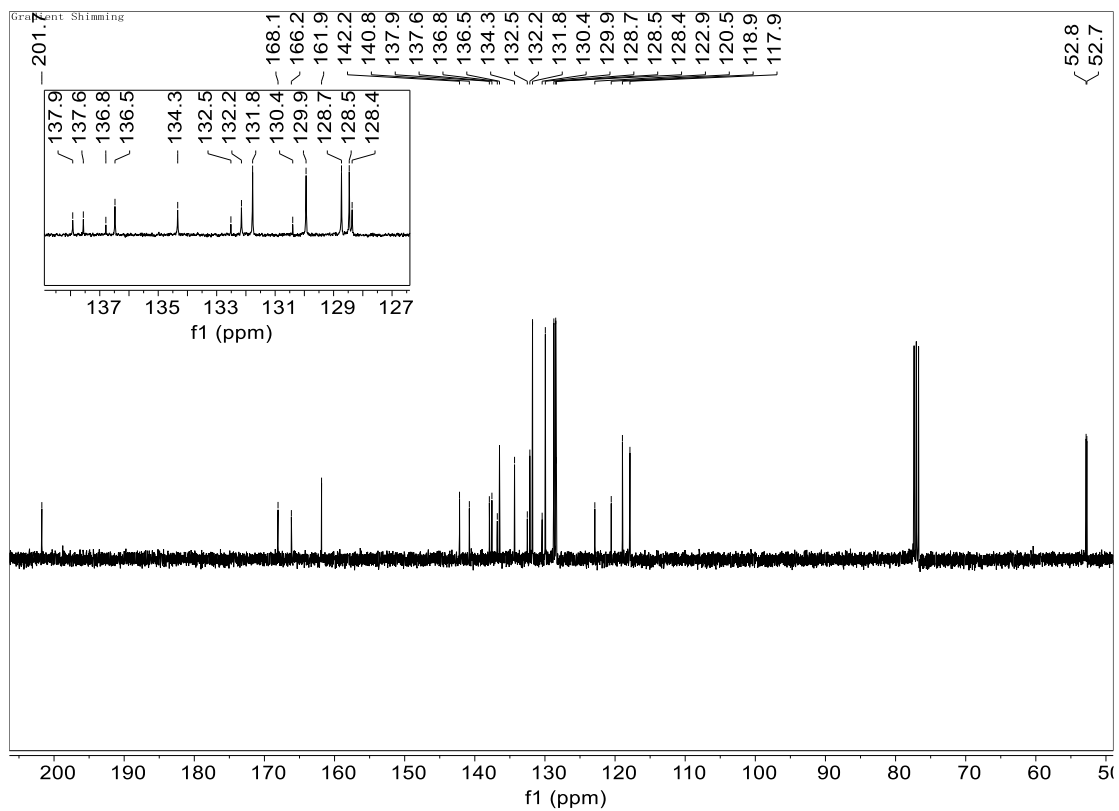




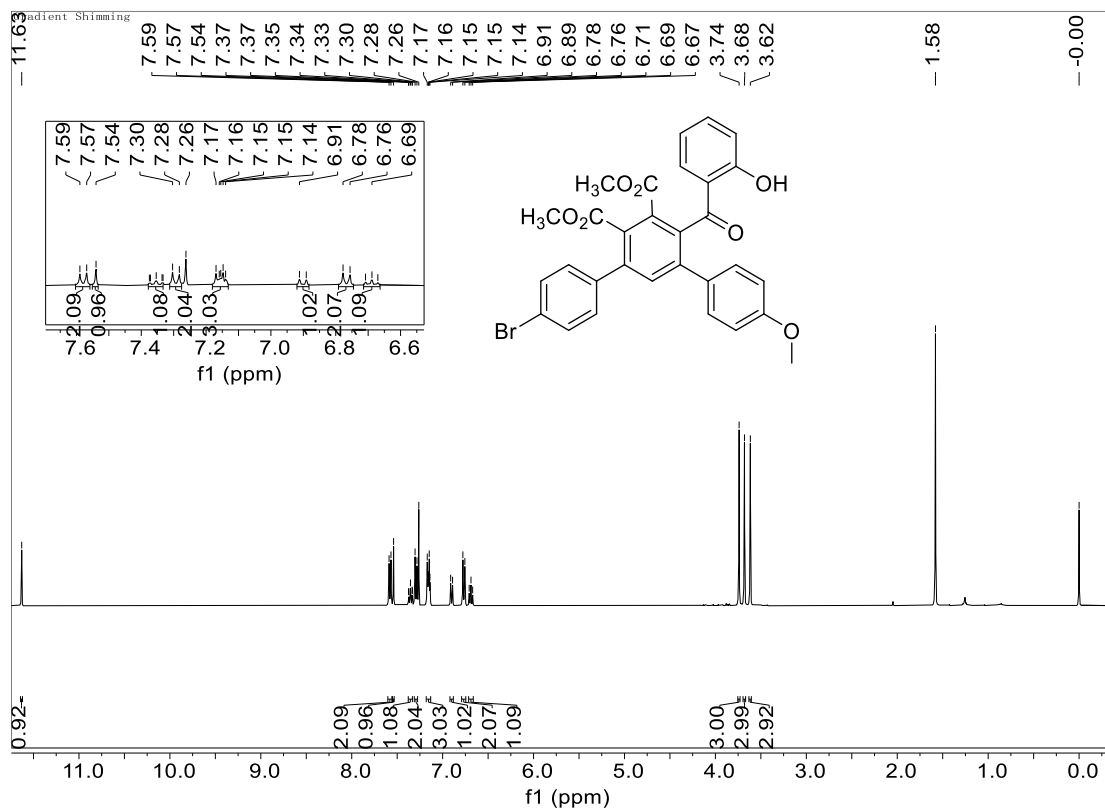
**Dimethyl 4''-bromo-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-dicarboxylate (5e):**

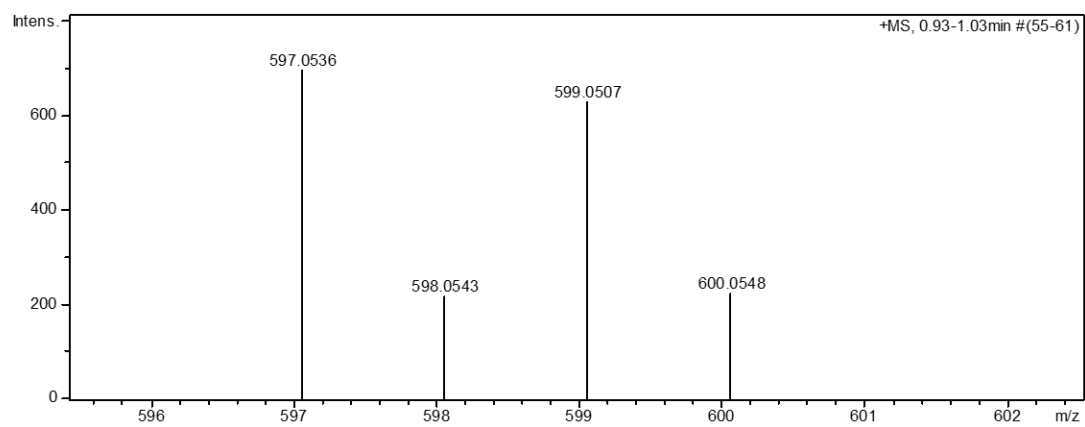
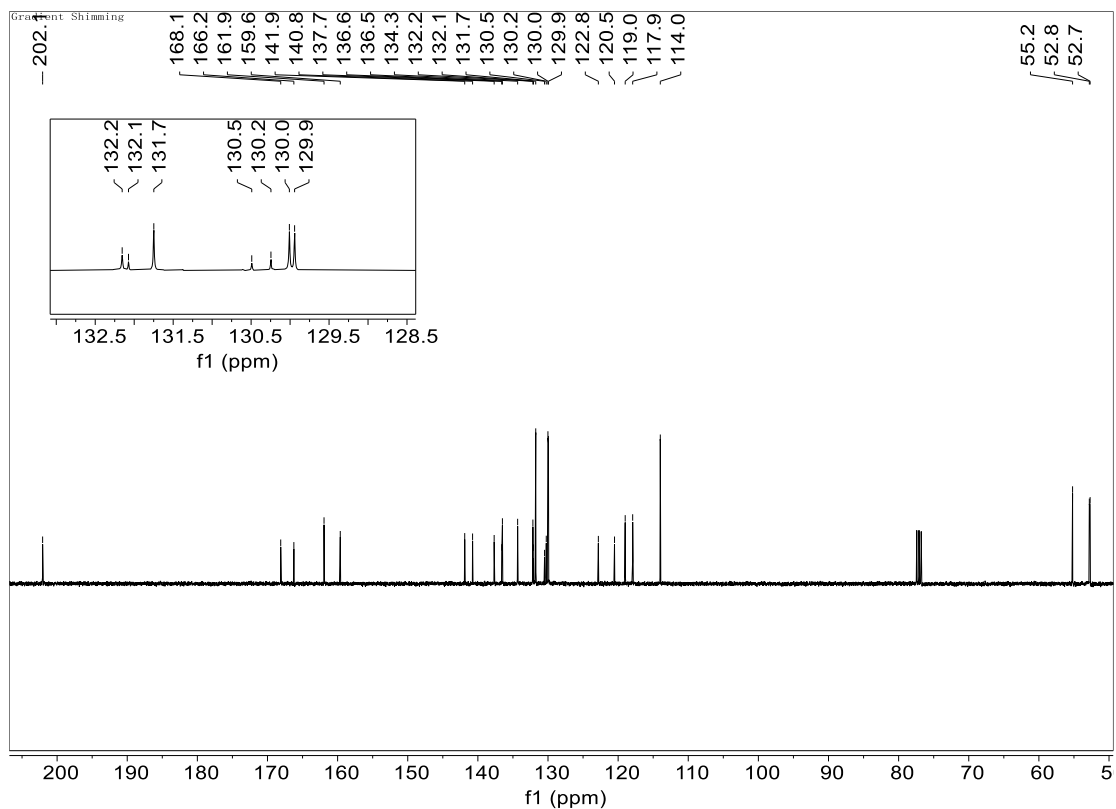
White solid, 62%, m.p. 240 – 243 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.56 (s, 1H, OH), 7.60 ~ 7.57 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.36 ~ 7.29 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.23 (s, 5H, ArH), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 201.7, 168.0, 166.1, 161.8, 142.1, 140.7, 137.9, 137.5, 136.7, 136.4, 134.3, 132.5, 132.1, 131.7, 130.3, 129.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 122.8, 120.5, 118.9, 117.8, 52.8, 52.7; IR (KBr) ν: 3672, 3059, 2948, 1740, 1632, 1595, 1579, 1488, 1437, 1384, 1345, 1303, 1277, 1244, 1063, 963, 941, 904, 868, 839, 765, 698, 672, 653 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 567.0414, Found: 567.0424.



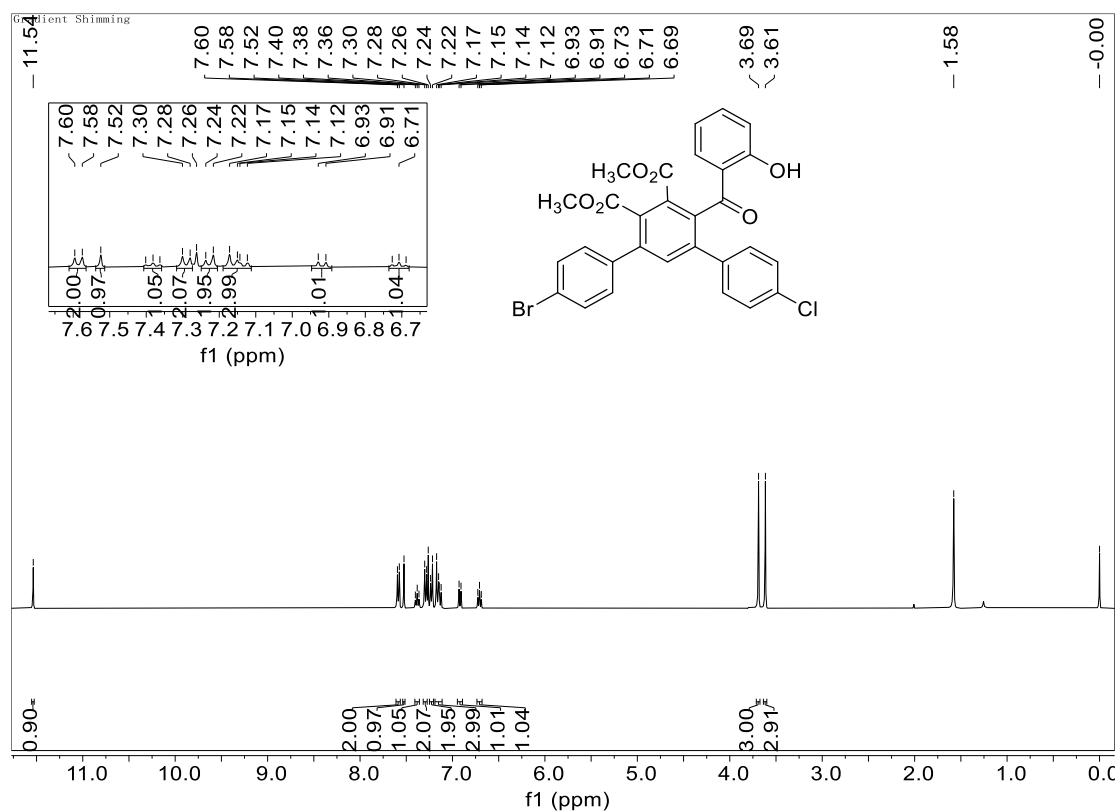


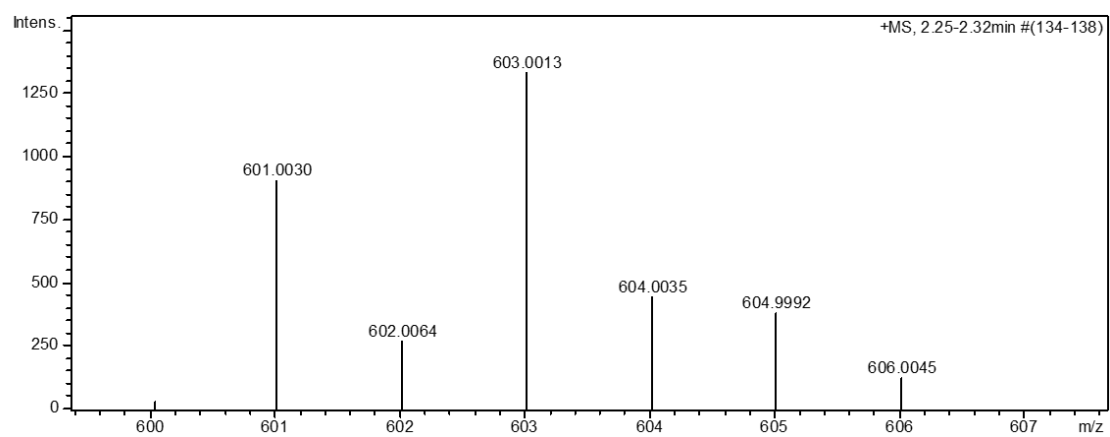
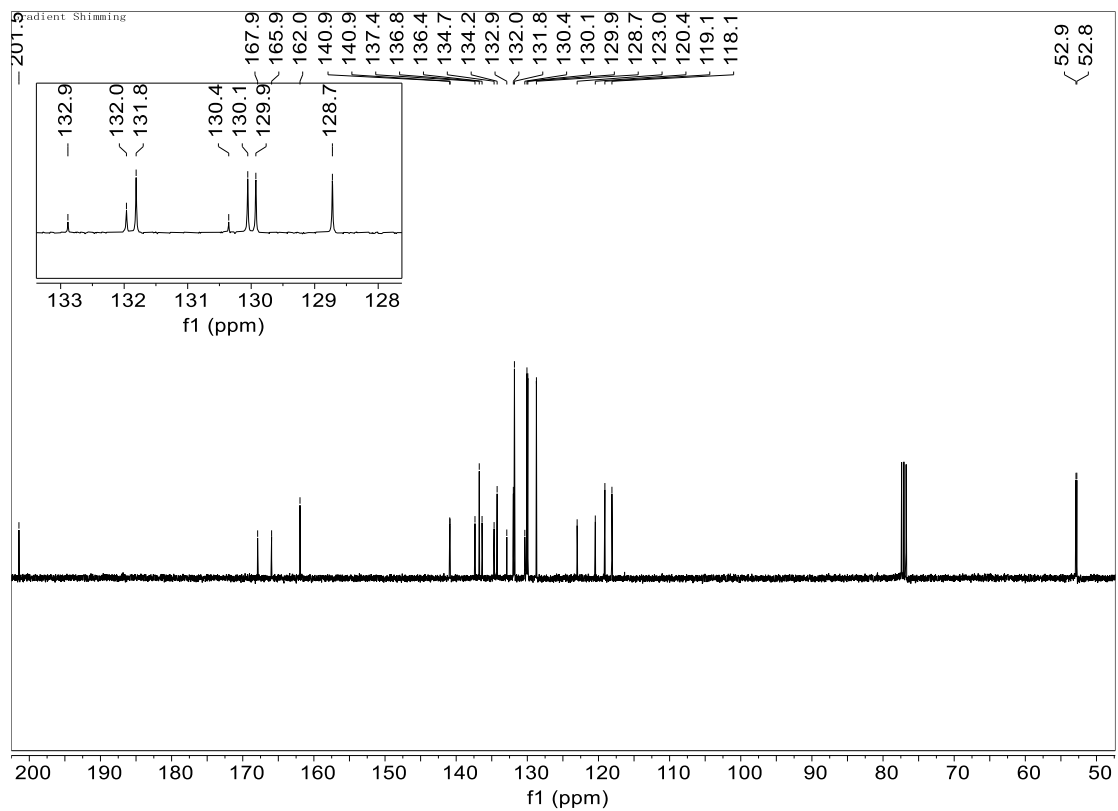
**Dimethyl 4''-bromo-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-methoxy-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-dicarboxylate (5f):** White solid, 77%, m.p. 198 – 201 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.63 (s, 1H, OH), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.54 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38 ~ 7.33 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.17 ~ 7.14 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.62 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 202.0, 168.0, 166.2, 161.9, 159.6, 141.8, 140.7, 137.6, 136.5, 136.4, 134.3, 132.1, 132.0, 131.7, 130.4, 130.2, 129.9, 129.9, 122.8, 120.5, 118.9, 117.9, 113.9, 55.1, 52.8, 52.6; IR (KBr) ν: 3675, 3058, 2945, 1742, 1632, 1595, 1579, 1488, 1435, 1382, 1346, 1305, 1277, 1244, 1063, 963, 940, 903, 868, 839, 765, 697, 672, 653 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrO<sub>7</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 597.0519, Found: 597.0536.





**Dimethyl 4''-bromo-4-chloro-6'-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4',5'-dicarboxylate (5g):** White solid, 75%, m.p. 172 -173 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 11.54 (s, 1H, OH), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.53 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.17 ~ 7.12 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.71 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 201.4, 167.8, 165.9, 161.9, 140.8, 140.8, 137.3, 136.7, 136.3, 134.6, 134.2, 132.8, 131.9, 131.7, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 128.7, 122.9, 120.4, 119.0, 118.0, 52.8, 52.7; IR (KBr) ν: 3675, 3057, 2946, 1742, 1629, 1594, 1578, 1487, 1437, 1384, 1345, 1303, 1276, 1245, 1063, 963, 941, 902, 868, 839, 765, 696, 672, 653 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrClO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 601.0024, Found: 601.0030.



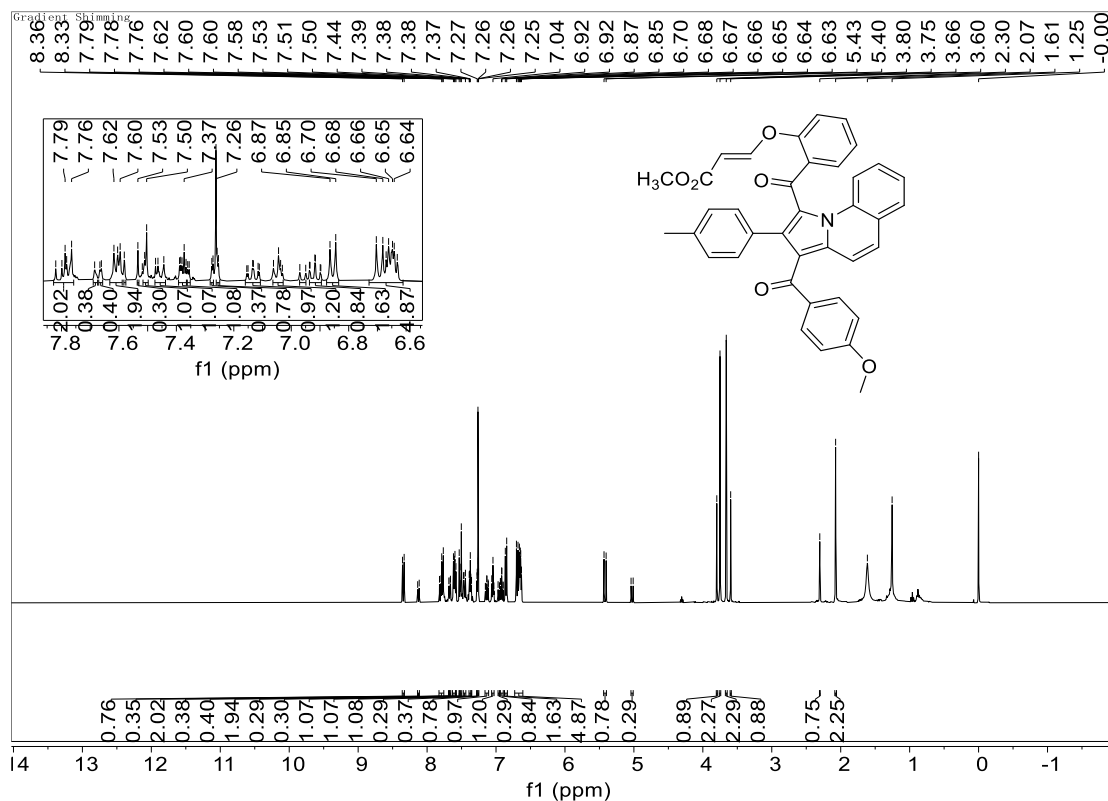


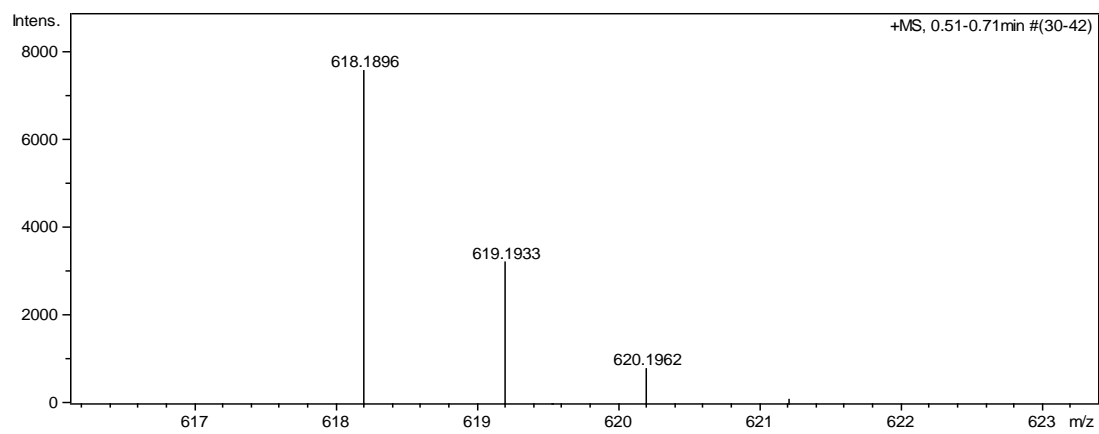
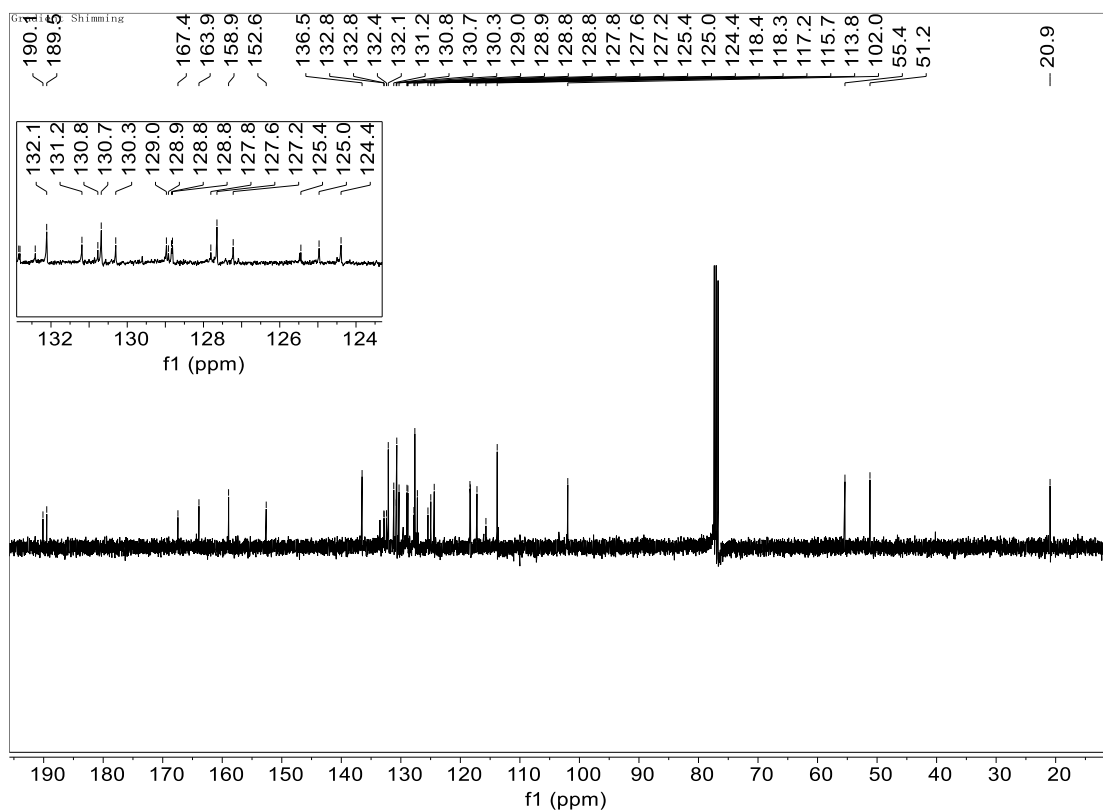


### 3. Practical procedure for the synthesis of the compound 6a:

To a 50 mL round flask was added quinolinium bromide (0.5 mmol), chalcone *o*-enolate (0.5 mmol), acetonitrile (4.0 mL) and TMD (0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for three hours. Then, DDQ (0.6 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. After removing the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (300 ~ 400 mesh) with mixed petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 10:1) as eluent to give the pure product for analysis.

**Methyl 3-(2-(1-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline-3-carbonyl)phenoxy)acrylate (6a):** Yellow solid, 62%, m.p. 154-156 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: major 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.82 ~ 7.77 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.62 ~ 7.58 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.52 ~ 7.50 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.47 ~ 7.44 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.39 ~ 7.36 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.25 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.16 ~ 7.11 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.66 ~ 7.03 (m, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.94 ~ 6.90 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.70 ~ 6.63 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.70 ~ 6.63 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.42 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.66 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); δ: minor 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.69 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.66 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.58 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.53 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.35 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.27 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.02 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 190.0, 189.4, 167.4, 163.8, 158.9, 152.5, 136.4, 132.8, 132.7, 132.4, 132.0, 131.1, 130.7, 130.6, 130.2, 128.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 125.4, 124.9, 124.3, 118.3, 118.3, 117.2, 115.6, 113.8, 101.9, 55.3, 51.1, 20.9; IR (KBr) ν: 3321, 3022, 2949, 1716, 1677, 1646, 1599, 1382, 1169, 1028, 947, 840 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 618.1887, Found: 618.1896.

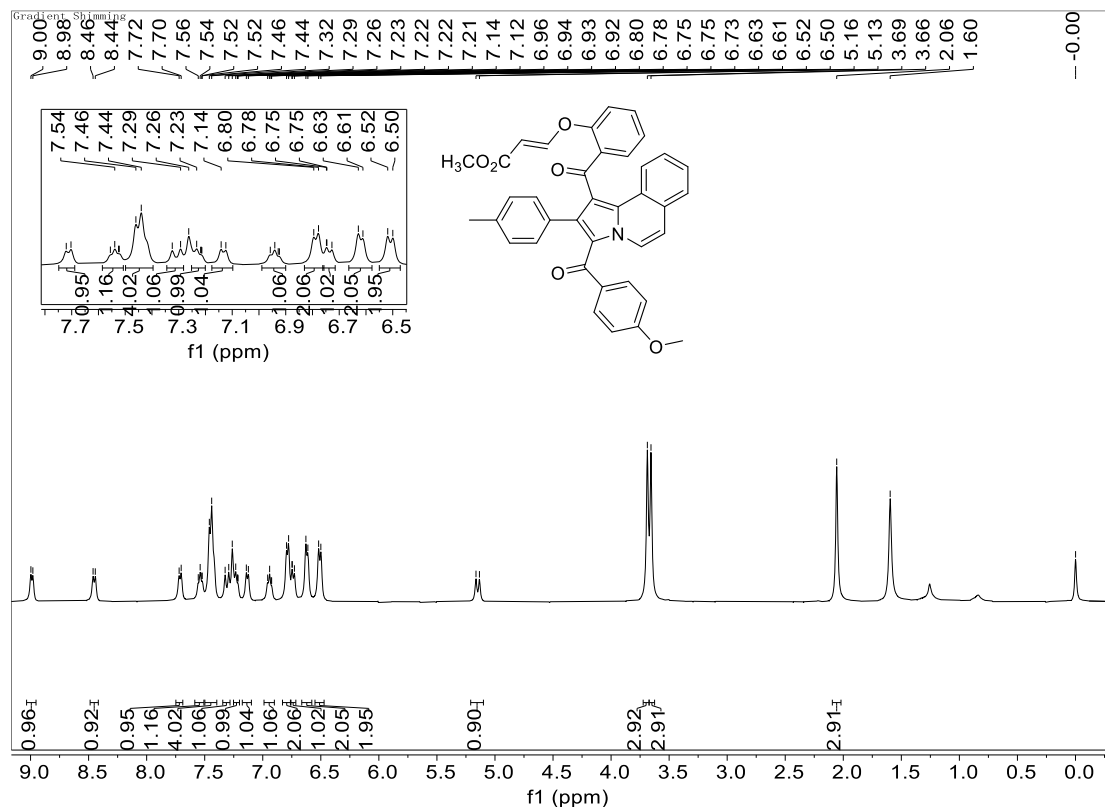


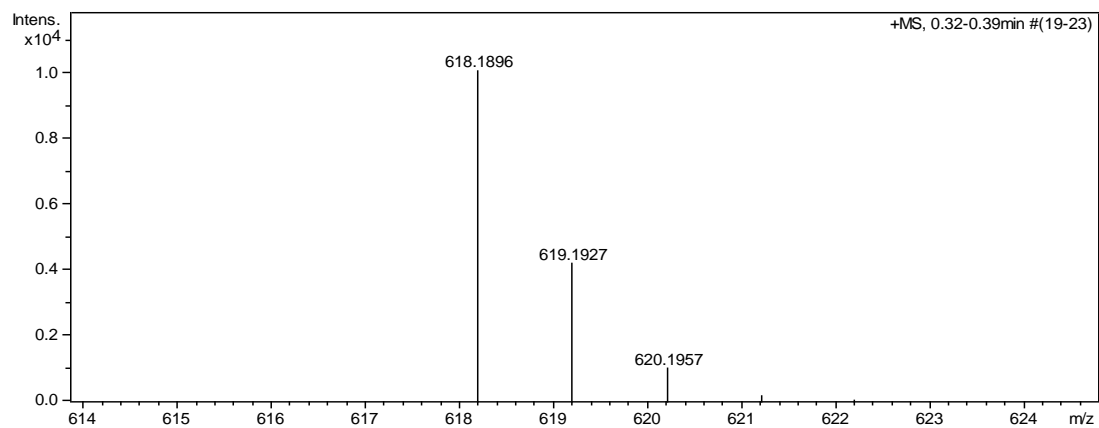
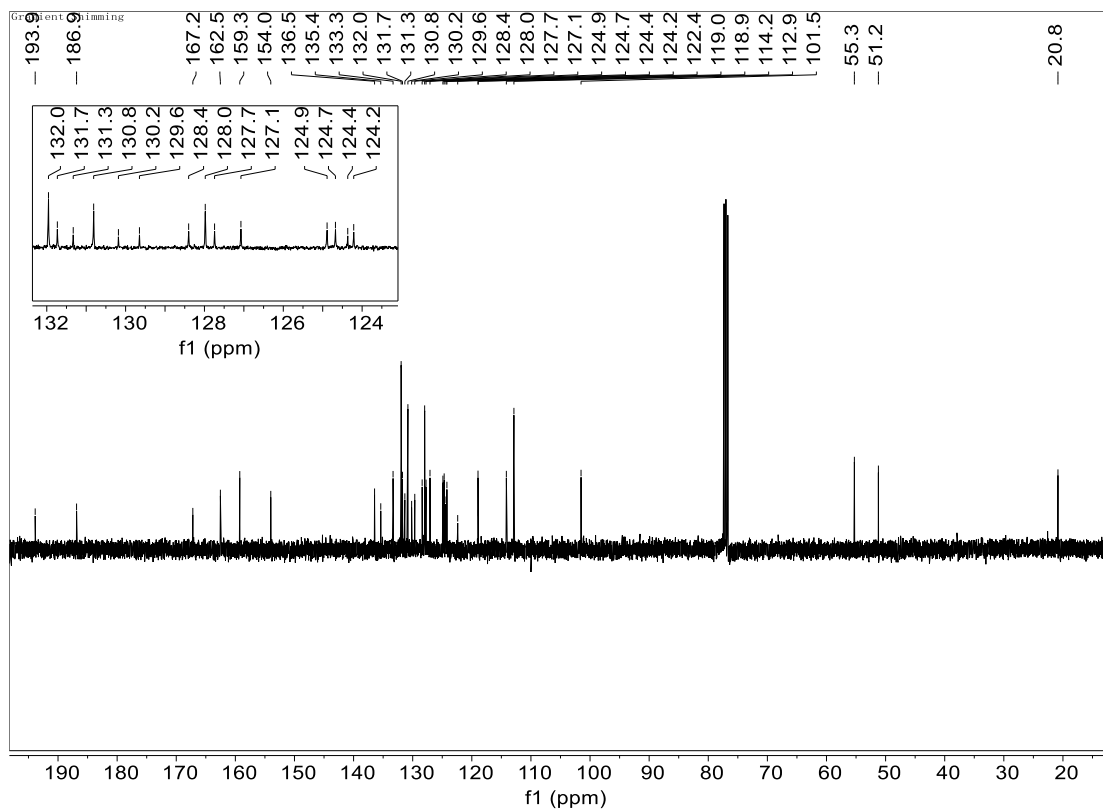


#### 4. Practical procedure for the synthesis of the compound 6b:

To a 50 mL round flask was added isoquinolinium bromide (0.5 mmol), chalcone *o*-enolate (0.5 mmol), acetonitrile (4.0 mL) and TMD (0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for three hours. Then, DDQ (0.6 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. After removing the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (300 ~ 400 mesh) with mixed petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 10:1) as eluent to give the pure product for analysis.

**Methyl-3-(2-(3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1-carbonyl)phenoxy)acrylate (6b):** Yellow solid, 64%, m.p. 157- 159 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.97 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.55 ~ 7.52 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.31 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.23 ~ 7.21 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.96 ~ 6.92 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.79 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.75 ~ 6.73 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.62 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 5.15 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.69 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.66 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.06 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 234.3, 193.8, 186.8, 167.1, 162.5, 159.2, 153.9, 136.4, 135.3, 133.3, 131.9, 131.7, 131.3, 130.7, 130.1, 129.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 127.0, 124.8, 124.6, 124.3, 124.2, 122.3, 118.9, 118.9, 114.1, 112.8, 101.5, 55.2, 51.2, 20.8; IR (KBr) ν: 3024, 2919, 1734, 1616, 1596, 1480, 1452, 1373, 1208, 1108, 970, 896, 789, 662 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 618.1887, Found: 618.1896.





### 3. Practical procedure for the synthesis of the compound 6c:

To a 50 mL round flask was added isoquinolinium bromide (0.5 mmol), chalcone o-enolate (0.5 mmol), acetonitrile (8.0 mL) and TMD (0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 85 °C for twelve hours. After removing the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (300 ~ 400 mesh) with mixed petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (V/V = 10:1) as eluent to give the pure product for analysis.

**(1-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-2-(p-tolyl)pyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-3-yl)(p-tolyl)methanone (6c):** Yellow solid, 56%, m.p. 184-186 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 12.31 (s, 1H, OH), 9.12 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.89 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.50 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.52 ~ 7.42 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.13 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.93 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.88 ~ 6.83 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.68 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.53 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 2.21 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.08 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 201.9, 187.9, 162.7, 142.3, 136.8, 136.7, 136.0, 135.3, 133.5, 130.4, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 128.2, 128.1, 128.1, 127.9, 127.1, 124.5, 124.4, 123.8, 122.4, 121.1, 118.9, 117.7, 115.6, 113.9, 21.3, 20.8. IR (KBr)  $\nu$ : 3652, 2946, 1710, 1667, 1646, 1574, 1513, 1485, 1360, 1308, 1020, 908, 834, 771, 656  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ): 518.1727, Found: 518.1751.

