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*Supporting information*

**Regioselective Synthesis of Indenones via Nickel-Catalyzed Larock Annulations**

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**Table of Content**

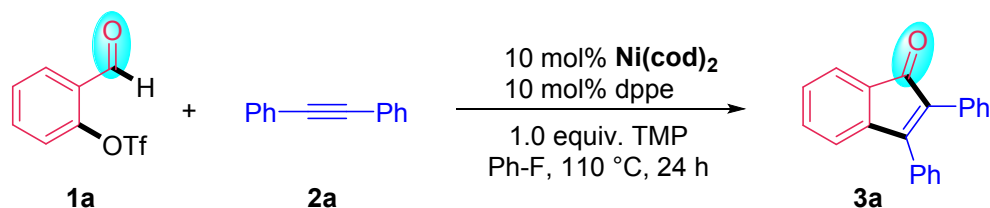
1. General Information.....	2
2. Optimization of Ni-catalyzed Indenone synthesis.....	3
3. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data .....	4
3.1. Preparation of aryl triflates (1): .....	4
3.2. Preparation of alkyne (2):.....	4
3.3 General Procedure of Ni-Catalyzed Annulation Reaction.....	4
4. References .....	18
5. NMR Spectra .....	19

## 1. General Information

Unless noted otherwise, all solvents were dried by filtration through a Pure-Solv MD-5 Solvent Purification System (Innovative Technology). Fluorobenzene(Ph-F) was carefully freeze-pump-thawed and dried by 4A molecular sieves(activated at 350 °C for 8h). Reaction temperatures were reported as the temperatures of the bath surrounding vial. Sensitive reagents and solvents were transferred under nitrogen into a nitrogen-filled glovebox with standard techniques. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using 0.2 mm commercial silica gel plates (silica gel 60, F254, Leyan chemical). Vial (26 x 109 mm (15 mL) with PTFE lined cap attached) were purchased from Synthware. High resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were recorded on an Agilent 6530 LC Q-TOF mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization with fragmentation voltage set at 115 V and processed with an Agilent MassHunter Operating System. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR) were recorded with a Bruker DMX 400 (400 MHz,  $^1\text{H}$  at 400 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  at 101 MHz) or Bruker Model DMX 500 (500 MHz,  $^1\text{H}$  at 500 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  at 126 MHz,). Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$ ), downfield from tetramethylsilane (TMS,  $\delta=0.00\text{ppm}$ ) and were referenced to residual solvent ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta=7.26$  ppm ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 77.00 ppm ( $^{13}\text{C}$ )). All the  $^{19}\text{F}$  chemical shifts were not referenced. Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm, referenced to protium, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quin = quintet, dd = doublet of doublets, td = triplet of doublets, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublets, m = multiplet, coupling constant (Hz), and integration). All other materials were obtained from Rhawn Corporation, Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology or Energy chemical and were used as received.

## 2. Optimization of Ni-catalyzed Indenone synthesis

Table S1 Optimization of Ni-catalyzed annulation reaction between **1a** and **2a**<sup>a</sup>



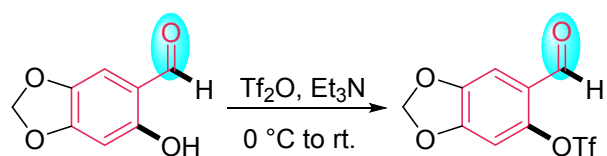
entry	Variation from standard conditions	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>89</b>
2	w/o [Ni]	< 5%
3	w/o ligand	< 5%
4	w/o TMP	10
5	5 mol% Ni(cod) <sub>2</sub>	79%
6	NiBr <sub>2</sub> instead of Ni(cod) <sub>2</sub>	< 5%
7	Ni(OTf) <sub>2</sub> instead of Ni(cod) <sub>2</sub>	6
8	Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub> instead of Ni(cod) <sub>2</sub>	< 5%
9	NiCl <sub>2</sub> . glyme instead of Ni(cod) <sub>2</sub>	11
10	IPr instead of dppe	< 5%
11	IMes instead of dppe	< 5%
12	2,2'-bipyridine instead of dppe	< 5%
13	PCy <sub>3</sub> instead of dppe	< 5%
14	dppp instead of dppe	64
15	dppb instead of dppe	75
16	dcype instead of dppe	49
17	Xantphos instead of dppe	8
18	1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine instead of TMP	86
19	1-methylpiperidine instead of TMP	18
20	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> instead of TMP	32
21	toluene instead of Ph-F	61
22	chlorobenzene instead Ph-F	57
23	THF instead of Ph-F	5
24	2-Bromobenzaldehyde instead of <b>1a</b>	29 <sup>c</sup>
25	2-Iodo benzaldehyde instead of <b>1a</b>	54 <sup>c</sup>
26	1,4-dioxane instead of Ph-F	6
27	0.05 M instead of 0.1 M	80%
28	0.2 M instead of 0.1 M	86%

<sup>a</sup>Reaction condition: **1a**(0.2mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), TMP (1.0 equiv.), Ni(cod)<sub>2</sub> catalyst (10 mol%), in Ph-F (2.0 mL) at 110 °C under N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h. <sup>b</sup>Yields was isolated. <sup>c</sup>2-(1,2-diphenylvinyl)benzaldehyde byproduct was founded.

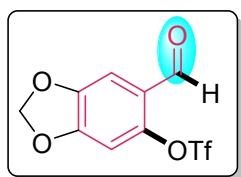
### 3. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

#### 3.1. Preparation of aryl triflates (1):

Aryl triflates **1a-1k** and **4** were known compounds and were synthesized according to the reported procedures.<sup>1</sup>



To a solution of salicylaldehyde (830.7 mg, 5.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (15 mL),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (2.0 mL, 15 mmol) and  $\text{Tf}_2\text{O}$  (1.4 mL, 7.5 mmol) were successively added at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . After being stirred for 3 h at room temperature, the reaction was stopped by adding saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The crude product was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the combined organic extracts were washed with 1 M aqueous HCl, brine, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, PE/EtOAc = 10/1) to give **11** (1.4 g, 91%) as a colorless oil.

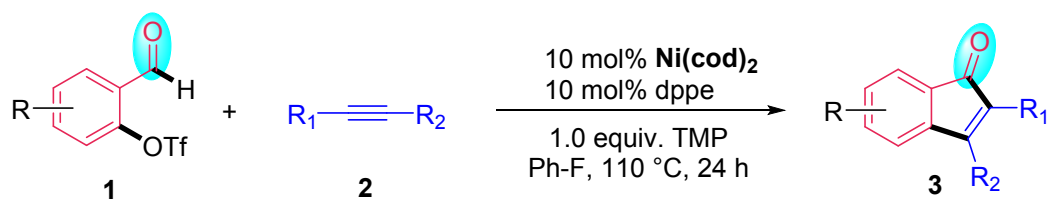


**11**:  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.11 (s, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.17 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  184.8, 153.5, 148.1, 146.6, 123.4, 118.6 (q,  $J = 320.8$  Hz), 106.9, 103.6, 103.4.  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$  (471 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -72.7. **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{O}_6\text{S}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 298.9832, found: 298.9825.

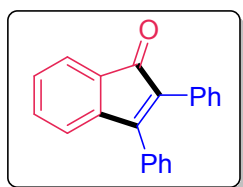
#### 3.2. Preparation of alkyne (2):

Alkenes **2** are commercially available from Rhawn Corporation, Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology and Energy chemical, or synthesized according to the reported procedures.<sup>2</sup>

#### 3.3 General Procedure of Ni-Catalyzed Annulation Reaction

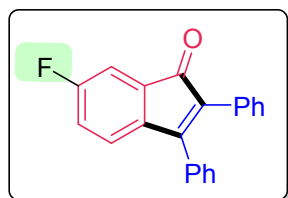


A flame-dried 15.0 mL vial were charged with 2-formylphenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate **1** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and substituted alkyne **2** (0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). The vial was directly transferred into a nitrogen-filled glovebox without caps. Then,  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (8.3 mg, 0.03 mmol, 10 mol%), dppe (12.0 mg, 0.03 mmol, 10 mol%), TMP (42.4 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 3.0 mL dry Ph-F were added. The vial was tightly sealed, transferred out of glovebox and stirred at 100 °C for 24 hours. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a thin pad of silica gel and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired indenone product.



CAS: 1801-42-9

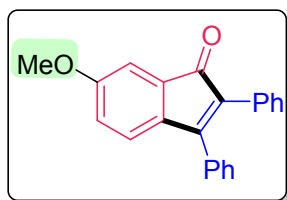
**3a**: Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 75.3 mg, 89%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.59 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.34 (m, 6H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.5, 155.3, 145.2, 133.4, 132.7, 132.4, 130.7, 130.7, 130.0, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 123.0, 121.2. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



CAS: 1632479-36-7

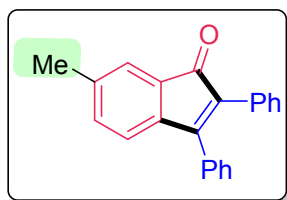
**3b**: Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 87.4 mg, 97%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.28 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.09 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.01 (td,  $J = 8.5, 2.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.9, 163.7(d,  $J = 250.4$  Hz), 155.4, 140.6(d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz), 133.2(d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 132.7(d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz), 132.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 122.4(d,  $J = 8.0$

Hz), 118.6 (d,  $J = 23.0$  Hz), 111.6(d,  $J = 24.8$  Hz). Both the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



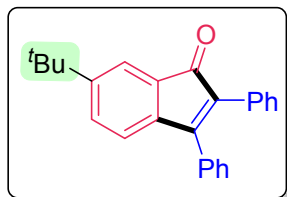
CAS: 70603-19-9

**3c:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 66.5 mg, 71%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.02 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.2, 161.1, 156.4, 137.0, 133.0, 132.9, 131.4, 131.0, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 122.3, 116.3, 110.7, 55.8. Both the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR match the literature reported data.<sup>4</sup>

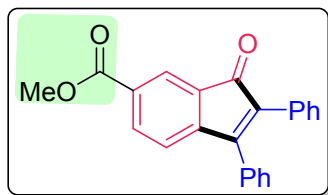


CAS: 34665-58-2

**3d:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 53.8 mg, 77.3%).  $R_f = 0.40$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 5H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.8, 155.6, 142.4, 139.3, 133.3, 132.9, 131.8, 131.1, 130.9, 129.9, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.6, 124.1, 121.1, 21.4. Both the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>

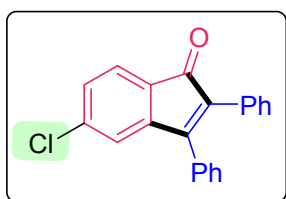


**3e:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 88.4 mg, 87%). Melting point: 141-143 °C.  $R_f = 0.40$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.70 (s, 1H), 7.42 (m, 6H), 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.9, 155.4, 152.9, 142.4, 132.9, 132.3, 131.0, 130.9, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.6, 121.0, 120.8, 35.1, 31.1. **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 339.1743, found: 339.1740.



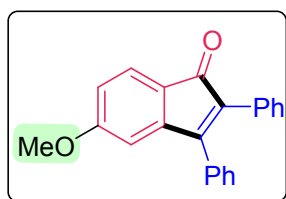
CAS: 2324882-81-5

**3f:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 67.3 mg, 66%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.21 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.35 (m, 6H), 7.28 (s, 4H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.1, 166.1, 154.4, 149.6, 135.6, 134.6, 132.2, 130.9, 130.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.2, 128.2, 123.6, 121.0, 52.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



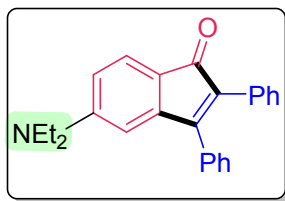
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**3g:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 91.1 mg, 96%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.36 (dd,  $J = 6.7, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 6H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.0, 154.0, 147.2, 139.7, 133.5, 132.2, 130.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.13, 128.06, 123.9, 122.0. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



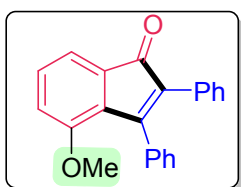
CAS: 65908-33-0

**3h:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 62.9 mg, 67%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dt,  $J = 6.0, 2.6$  Hz, 3H), 7.39 (dd,  $J = 6.8, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (mz, 5H), 6.73 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.0, 164.4, 153.1, 147.9, 133.8, 132.7, 130.8, 130.0, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 124.9, 123.4, 110.4, 110.3, 55.7. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>5</sup>



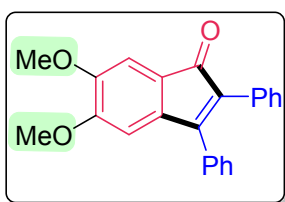
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**3i:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 76.3 mg, 72%).  $R_f = 0.25$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 6.47 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.42 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 4H), 1.21 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.4, 152.0, 151.7, 148.5, 134.3, 133.2, 131.5, 130.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.8, 127.3, 125.6, 117.1, 107.5, 106.2, 44.9, 12.6. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>5</sup>



CAS: 70603-18-8

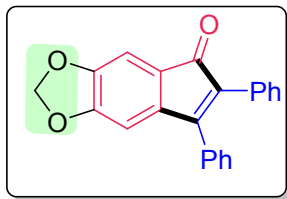
**3j:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 74.0 mg, 79%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.36 (m, 5H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.01 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.5, 157.0, 154.0, 134.9, 132.6, 132.2, 131.0, 130.9, 130.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 119.6, 116.0, 55.7. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>6</sup>



CAS: 1629016-39-2

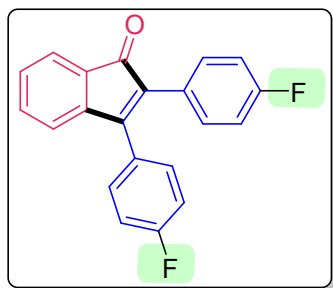
**3k:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 72.9 mg, 71%).  $R_f = 0.25$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 6H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.0, 154.0, 152.7, 149.1, 139.6, 132.9, 131.3, 130.9, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3, 128.0, 127.4, 123.0, 107.6, 105.9, 56.4, 56.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>





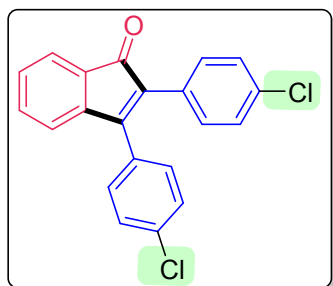
CAS: 1300636-00-3

**3l:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 75.4 mg, 77%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.4 (m, 3H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.01 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.1, 153.7, 151.6, 147.7, 141.8, 132.7, 131.4, 130.8, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.4, 128.0, 127.5, 124.7, 105.2, 104.0, 102.1. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>



CAS: 1264166-21-3

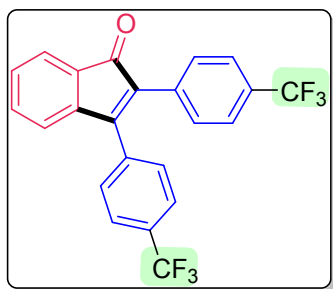
**3m:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 83.1 mg, 87%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.01 – 6.93 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.2, 163.1 (d,  $J = 250.6$  Hz), 162.4 (d,  $J = 248.7$  Hz), 154.1, 144.9, 133.6, 131.7 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 131.5, 130.5 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 129.1, 128.5 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 126.5 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 123.1, 121.1, 116.2 (d,  $J = 21.6$  Hz), 115.4, 115.3 (d,  $J = 21.9$  Hz). Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>4</sup>



CAS: 96286-65-6

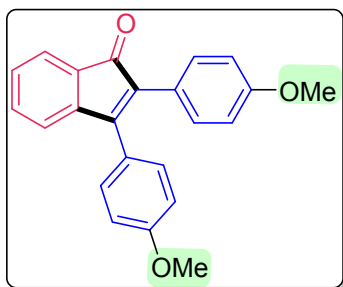
**3n:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 100.8 mg, 96%).  $R_f = 0.15$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m,

2H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.8, 154.3, 144.6, 135.5, 134.0, 133.7, 131.5, 131.2, 130.8, 130.5, 129.8, 129.3, 128.5, 123.3, 121.2. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>8</sup>



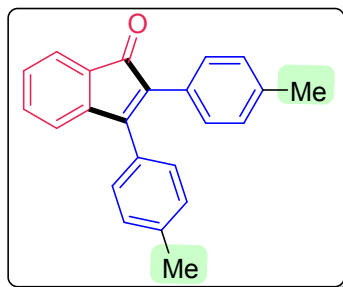
CAS: 1198576-71-4

**3o:** Yellow solid (0.3 mmol scale, 101.6 mg, 81%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd,  $J = 18.5, 8.0$  Hz, 4H), 7.43 (td,  $J = 7.5, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 3H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.3, 155.0, 144.3, 136.0, 133.9, 133.8, 131.7 (q,  $J = 21.6$  Hz), 130.2, 130.19 (q,  $J = 21.6$  Hz), 130.15, 129.9, 129.8, 128.8, 126.1 (q,  $J = 3.9$  Hz), 125.2 (q,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 124.0 (q,  $J = 272.6$  Hz), 123.7 (q,  $J = 272.9$  Hz), 123.6, 121.4. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  and  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>4</sup>



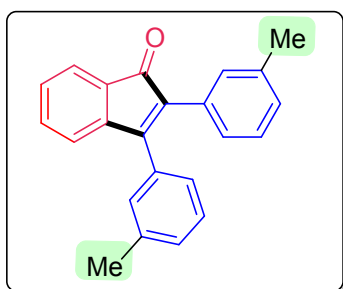
CAS: 41099-25-6

**3p:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 80.3 mg, 78%).  $R_f = 0.20$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.8, 154.8, 145.4, 139.3, 137.5, 133.3, 132.0, 130.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 122.7, 121.1, 21.5, 21.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



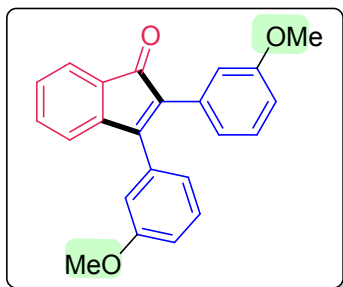
CAS: 41099-26-7

**3q:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 66.4 mg, 71%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.59 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.8, 154.8, 145.4, 139.3, 137.5, 133.3, 132.0, 130.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 122.8, 121.1, 21.5, 21.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



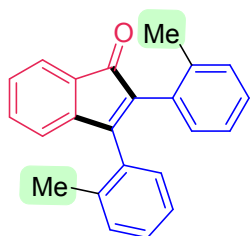
CAS: 112818-89-0

**3r:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 68.0 mg, 73%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.15 (m, 8H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.6, 155.4, 145.4, 138.3, 137.5, 133.3, 132.7, 132.3, 130.8, 130.7, 130.6, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.0, 125.6, 122.8, 121.2, 21.4 (s). Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>



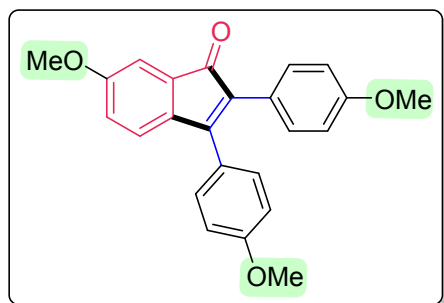
CAS: 1264166-23-5

**3s:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 78.1 mg, 76%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.14 (m, 8H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.3, 159.7, 159.1, 155.4, 145.1, 134.0, 133.5, 132.2, 131.9, 130.7, 129.9, 129.01, 128.96, 122.9, 122.4, 121.3, 120.8, 115.1, 114.9, 114.0, 113.7, 55.2, 55.0. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



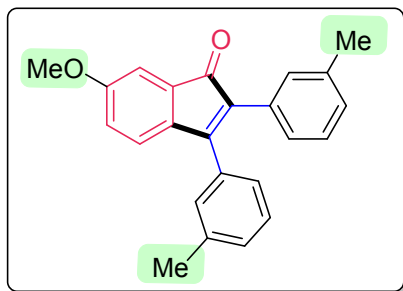
CAS: 1380243-16-2

**3t:** Orange oil (0.3 mmol scale, 36.4 mg, 39%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 7.07 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.3, 157.6, 145.9, 137.1, 135.9, 135.8, 133.5, 131.0, 130.7, 130.6, 130.3, 128.9, 128.9, 128.2, 125.8, 125.4, 122.9, 121.5, 20.7, 20.2. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>9</sup>



CAS: 114095-38-4

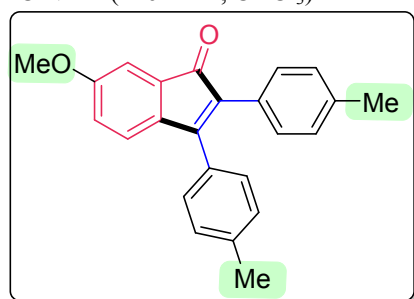
**3u:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 83.8 mg, 75%).  $R_f = 0.15$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 6H), 3.78 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.5, 160.8, 160.3, 158.8, 154.8, 137.1, 133.2, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 125.3, 123.7, 121.9, 116.1, 114.1, 113.6, 110.3, 55.8, 55.3, 55.1. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>



CAS: 2241766-18-5

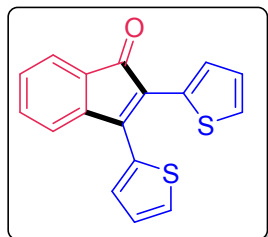
**3v:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 87.8 mg, 86%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.21 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 4.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.3, 160.9, 156.4, 138.2, 137.4, 137.0, 132.9, 132.9, 131.3, 130.9, 130.4, 130.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8, 126.8, 125.6, 122.2, 116.1, 110.5, 55.7, 21.4. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



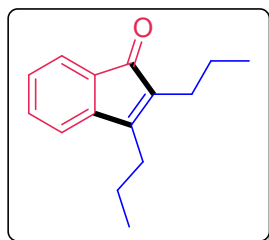
CAS: 2241766-17-4

**3w:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 79.7 mg, 71%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.4, 160.8, 155.8, 139.3, 137.1, 137.1, 133.1, 131.0, 130.0, 129.6, 129.6, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 122.0, 116.1, 110.4, 55.7, 21.5, 21.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>7</sup>



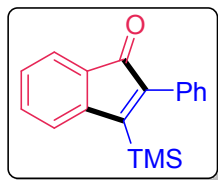
CAS: 131269-31-3

**3x:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 60.0 mg, 68%).  $R_f = 0.25$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd,  $J = 3.7, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 3.7$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.0, 146.0, 145.6, 133.9, 133.1, 132.0, 130.1, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 127.7, 127.3, 127.0, 123.0, 121.3. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>8</sup>



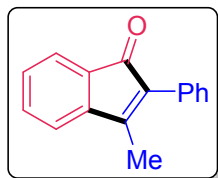
CAS: 147730-15-2

**3y:** Yellow oil (0.3 mmol scale, 34.7 mg, 54%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.54 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 2.26 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.67 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.52 (q,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.6, 157.7, 145.7, 134.8, 133.1, 131.1, 127.9, 121.7, 119.0, 28.3, 24.9, 22.5, 21.2, 14.4, 14.2. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>3</sup>



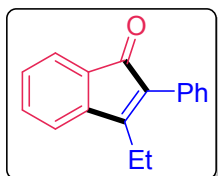
CAS: 182224-30-2

**3z:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 56.1 mg, 67%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.7, 156.8, 148.6, 147.9, 134.0, 133.3, 130.0, 129.7, 128.2, 129.0, 128.0, 123.14, 123.11. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>8</sup>



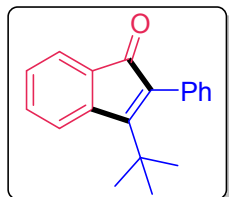
CAS: 10408-73-8

**3aa:** Orange oil (0.3 mmol scale, 45.0 mg, 68%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.4, 154.6, 145.9, 133.6, 133.4, 131.2, 130.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 122.1, 119.4, 12.6 (major:minor 5.8:1). Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>10</sup>

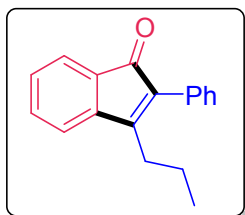


CAS: 13304-50-2

**3ab:** Orange solid (0.3 mmol scale, 42.7 mg, 61%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.29 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.76 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.8, 159.9, 144.9, 133.5, 132.8, 131.2, 130.8, 129.3, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 122.3, 119.8, 20.0, 12.8 (major:minor 14:1). Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>11</sup>

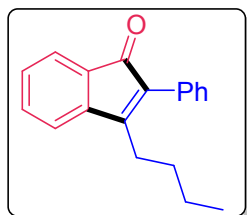


**3ac:** Yellow solid (0.3 mmol scale, 42.5 mg, 54%). Melting point: 124–126 °C.  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.43 (td,  $J = 7.7, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.0, 164.3, 145.1, 134.2, 133.9, 133.2, 131.4, 130.2, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 123.9, 122.4, 36.2, 30.4. **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 263.1430, found: 263.1429.



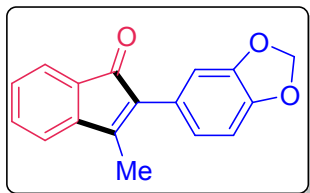
CAS: 13304-58-0

**3ad:** Yellow oil (0.3 mmol scale, 52.9 mg, 71%).  $R_f = 0.40$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.73 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.7, 158.6, 145.2, 133.49, 133.46, 131.3, 130.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 122.3, 119.9, 28.8, 21.6, 14.5. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>12</sup>



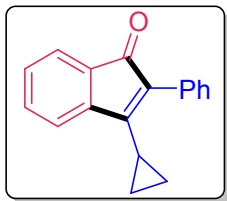
CAS: 5041-48-5

**3ae:** Orange oil (0.3 mmol scale, 61.4 mg, 78%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 6H), 7.28 (td,  $J = 7.3, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.74 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 1.78 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.48 (dt,  $J = 14.9, 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.7, 158.9, 145.2, 133.5, 133.3, 131.3, 130.7, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 122.3, 119.9, 30.3, 26.5, 23.0, 13.8. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>13</sup>



**3af:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 57.9 mg, 73%). Melting point: 121-123 °C.  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.49 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 6.01 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.5, 153.7, 147.5, 147.2, 145.9, 133.6, 133.0, 130.3, 128.7, 124.9, 123.5, 122.1, 119.3, 109.9, 108.3, 101.1, 12.6. **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}^+$ ): 265.0859, found: 265.0859.

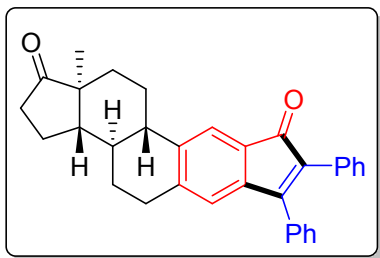




CAS: 2139334-97-5

**3ag:** Orange oil (0.3 mmol scale, 48.0 mg, 65%).  $R_f = 0.35$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.67 – 7.42 (m, 5H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.27 (td,  $J = 7.6, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd,  $J = 7.4, 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.21 – 0.97 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.3, 159.6, 144.1, 133.8, 133.4, 131.2, 131.1, 129.9, 128.7, 128.0, 127.6, 122.2, 120.5, 11.3, 8.1. Both the  $^1\text{H NMR}$  and  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  match the literature reported data.<sup>14</sup>

### 3.4 Synthesis of Estrone-derived indenone



A flame-dried 15.0 mL vial were charged with **4** which was prepared from estrone according to the reported procedure (0.3 mmol, 120.6 mg, 1.0 equiv.) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (0.6 mmol, 106.8mg, 2.0 equiv). The vial was directly transferred into a nitrogen-filled glovebox without caps. Then,  $\text{Ni}(\text{cod})_2$  (8.3 mg, 0.03 mmol, 10 mol%),  $\text{dppe}$  (12.0 mg, 0.03 mmol, 10 mol%),  $\text{TMP}$  (42.4 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 3.0 mL dry Ph-F were added. The vial was tightly sealed, transferred out of glovebox and stirred at 100 °C for 24 hours. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was filtered through a thin pad of silica gel and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired indenone **5**.

**5:** Red solid (0.3 mmol scale, 114.0 mg, 83%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1). Melting point: 231-233 °C.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.59 (s, 1H), 7.41 (m, 5H), 7.32 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.90 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 4.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.59 – 2.48 (m, 2H), 2.32 (t,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 1.98 (m, 3H), 1.73 – 1.47 (m, 6H), 0.95 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.4, 155.0, 142.7, 142.4, 140.4, 132.9, 132.6, 130.91, 129.88, 129.1,

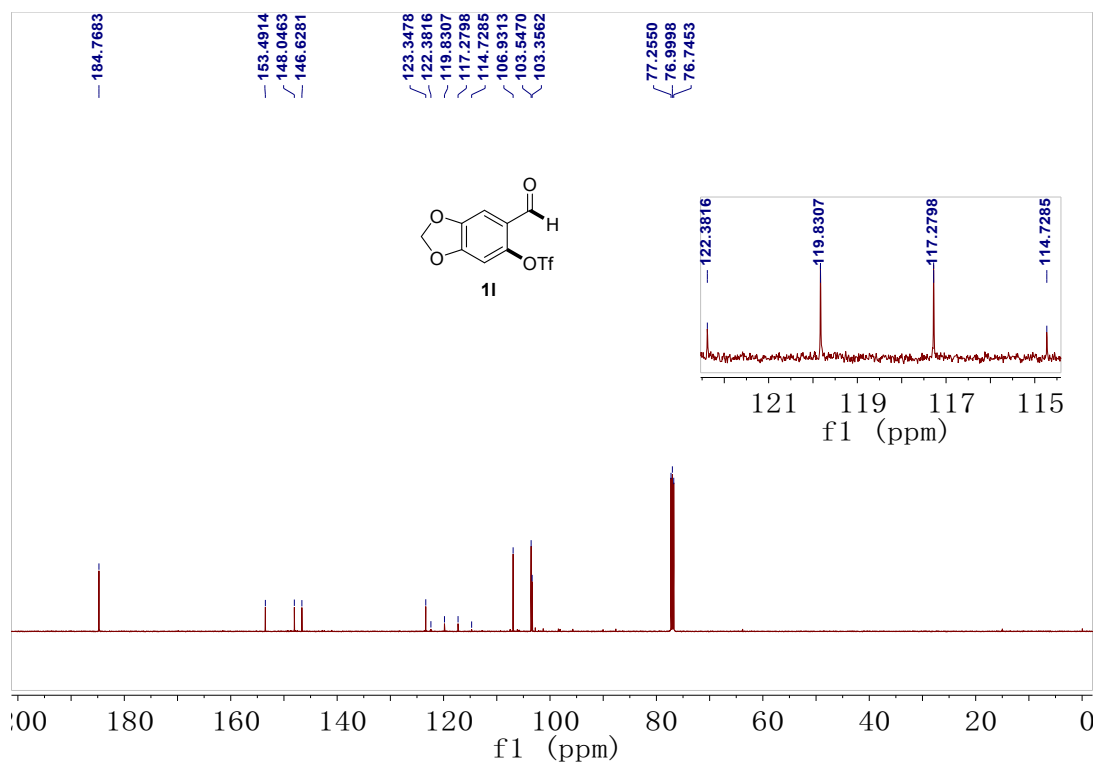
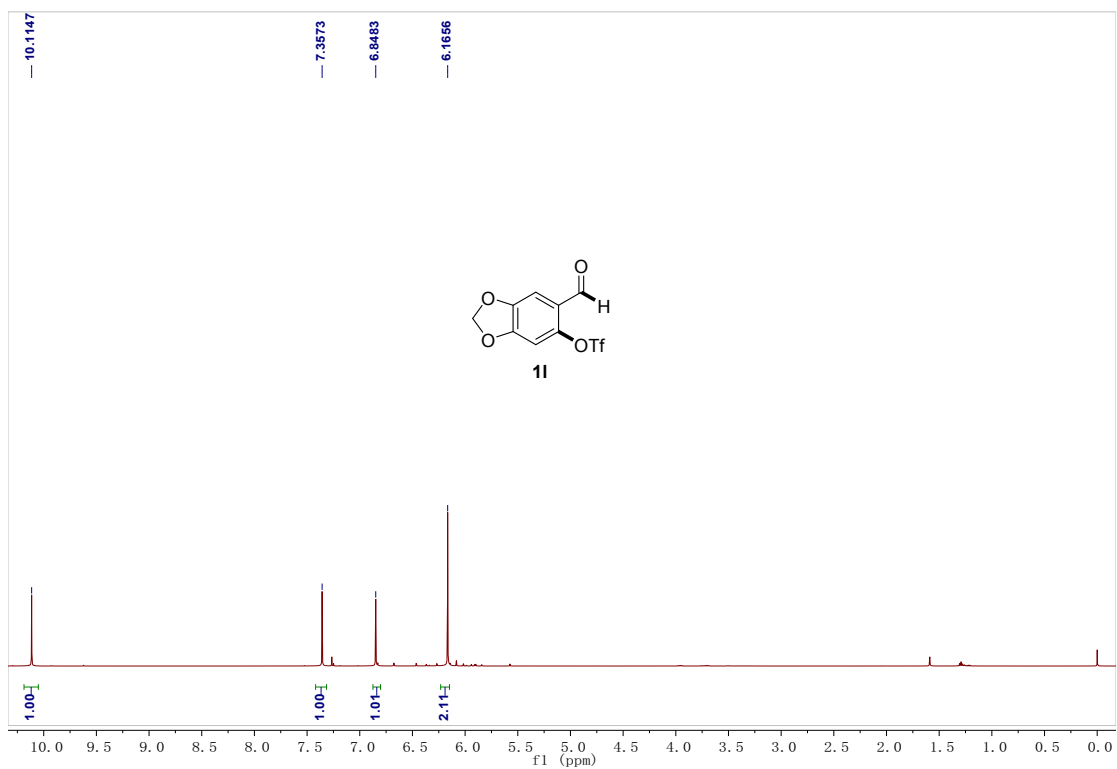
128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 127.6, 122.3, 120.7, 50.3, 47.9, 44.5, 38.0, 35.8, 31.5, 30.3, 26.1, 25.8, 21.5, 13.8.

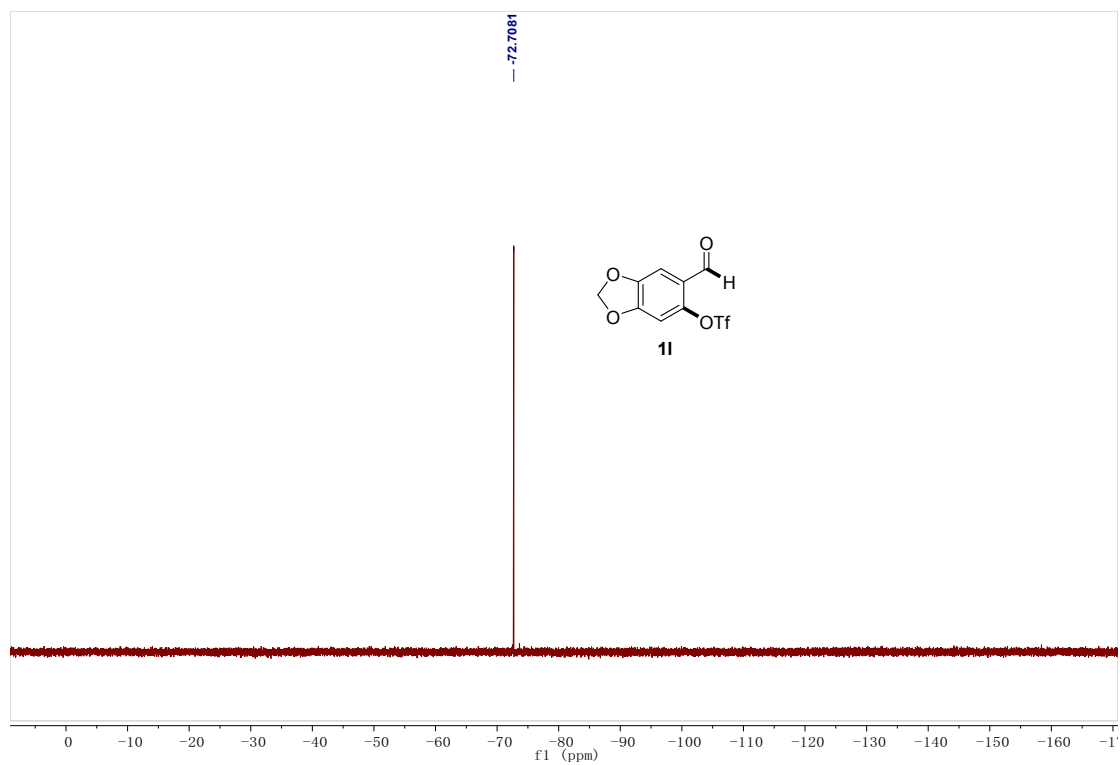
**HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $C_{33}H_{31}O_2$  ( $M+H^+$ ): 459.2319, found: 459.2319.

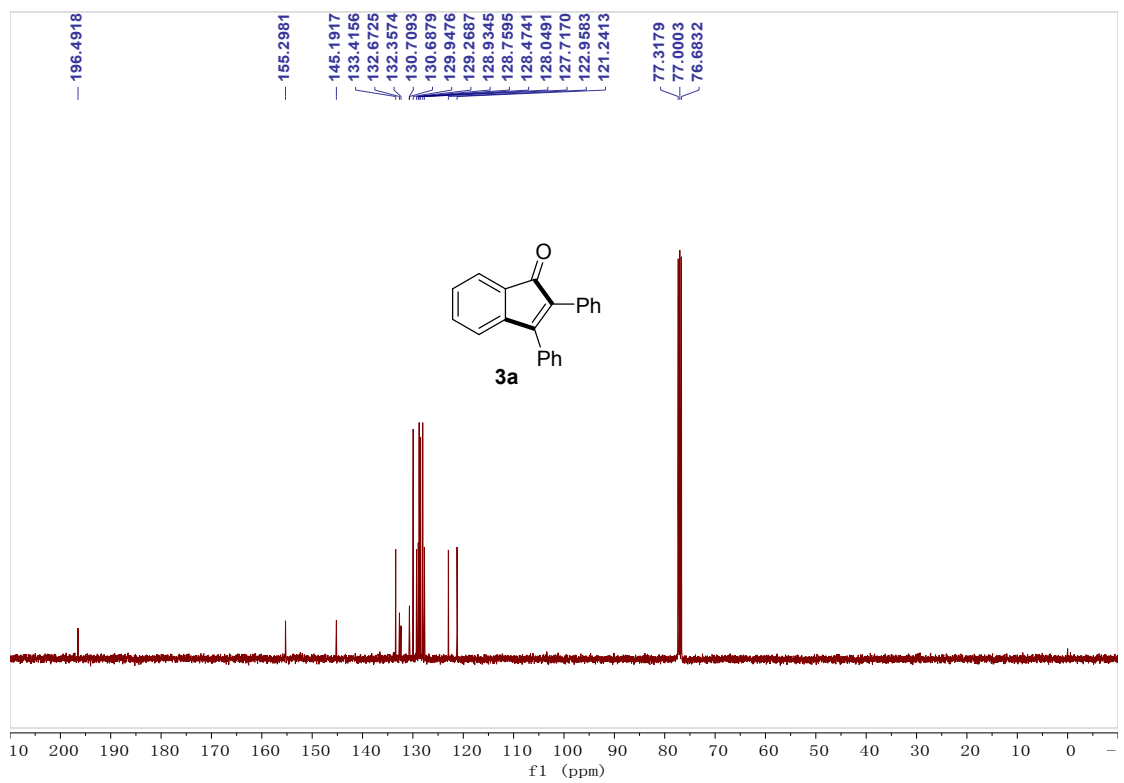
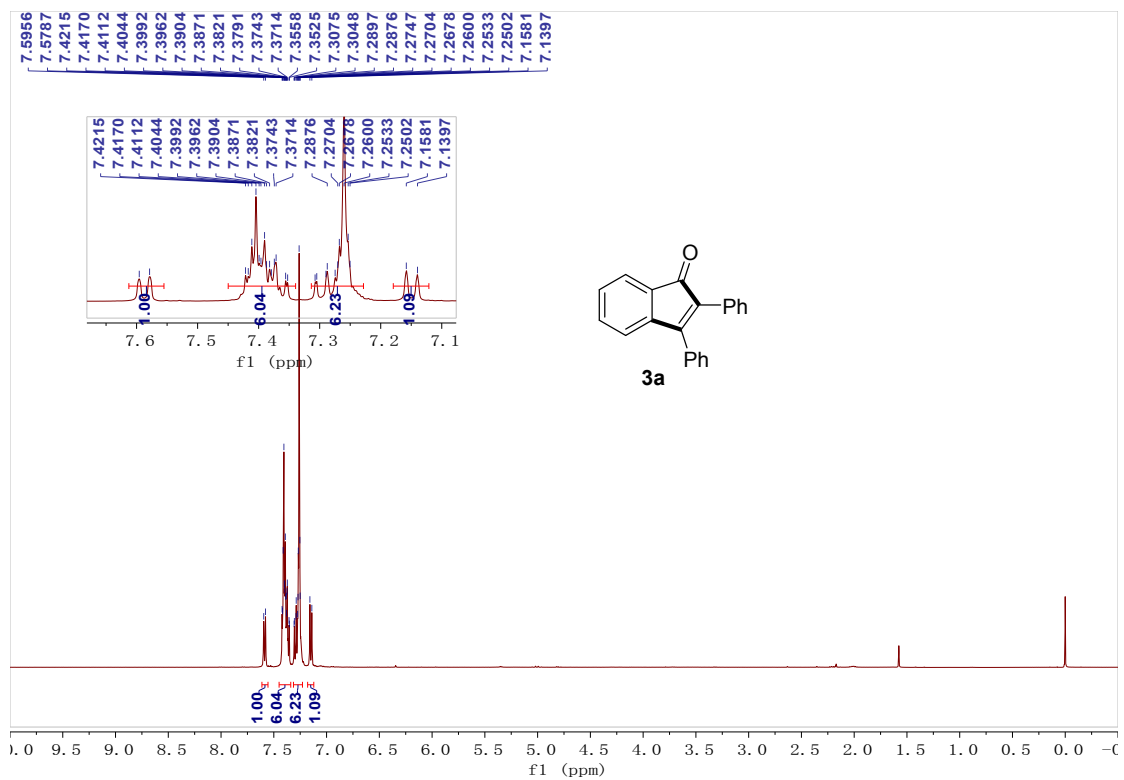
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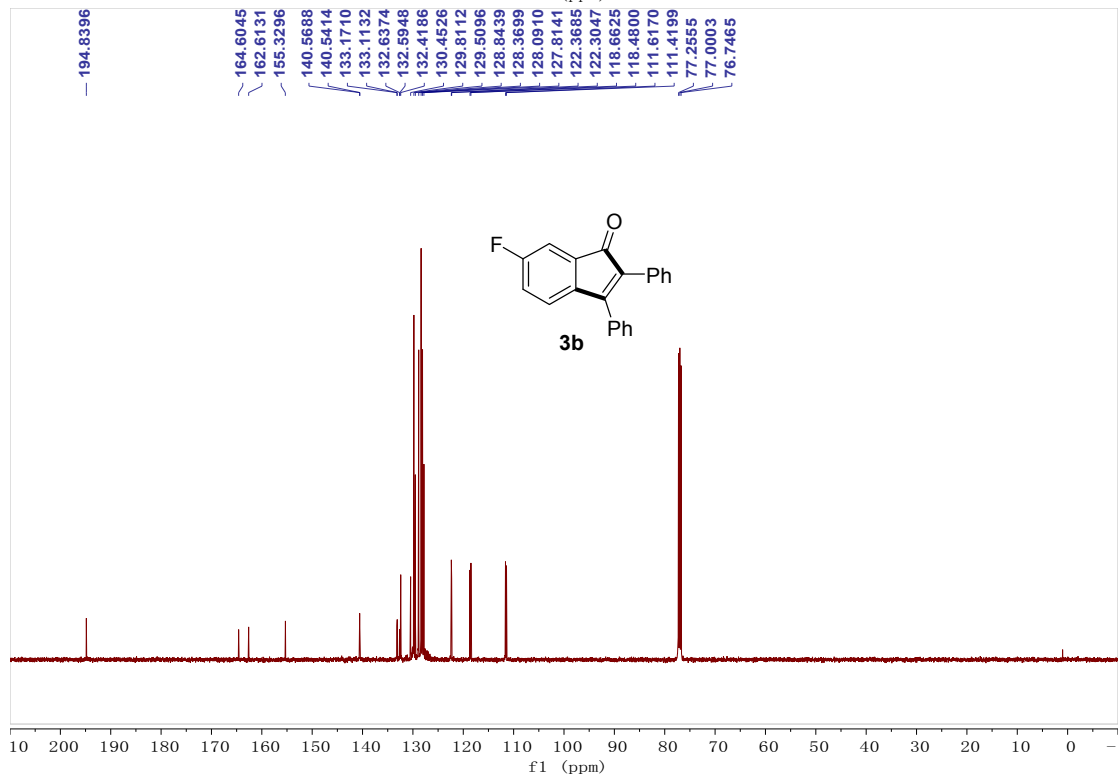
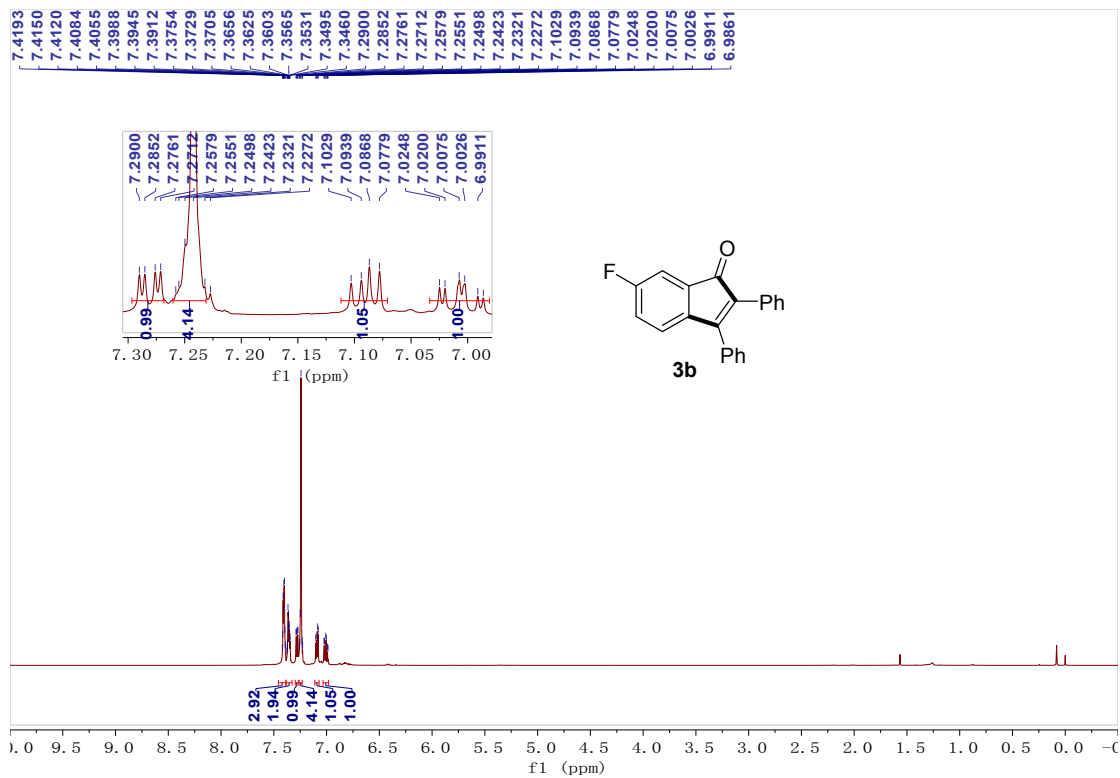
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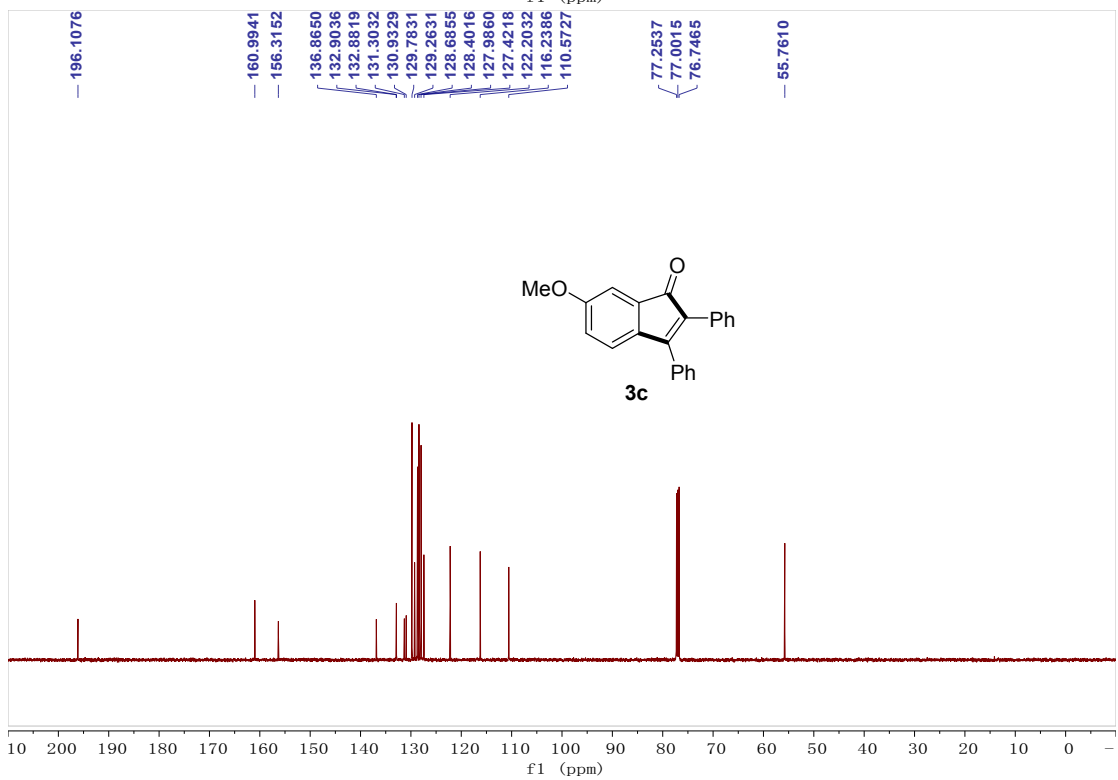
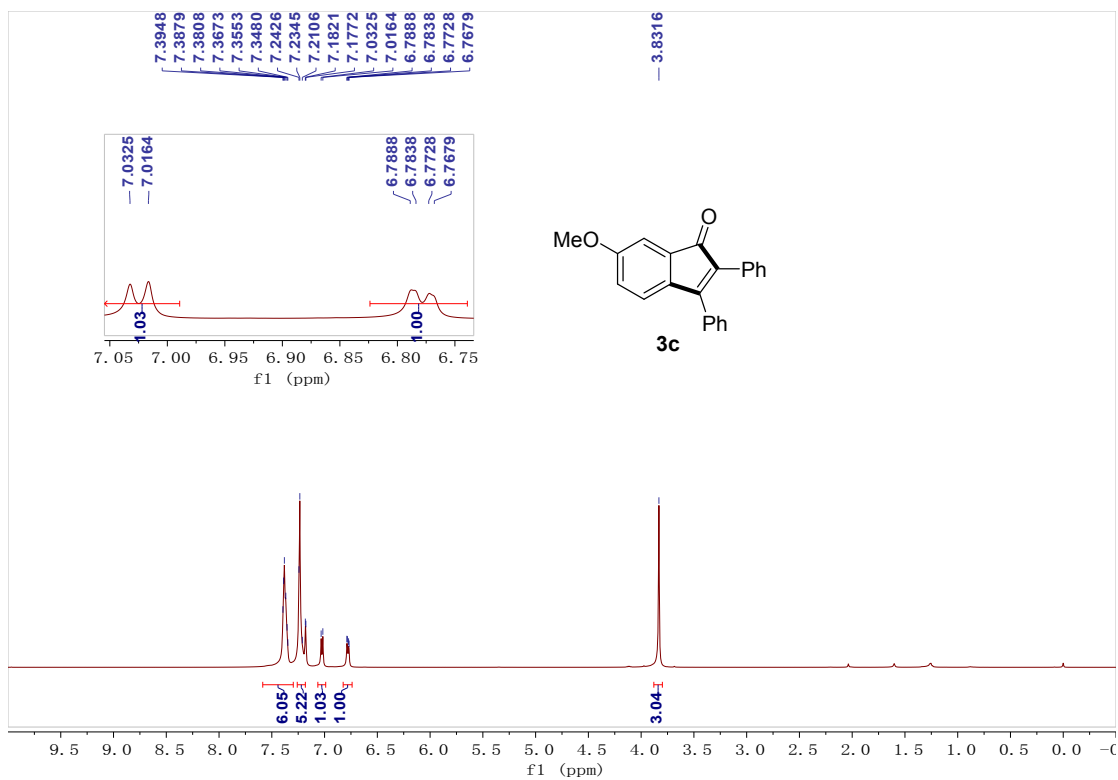
## 5. NMR Spectra

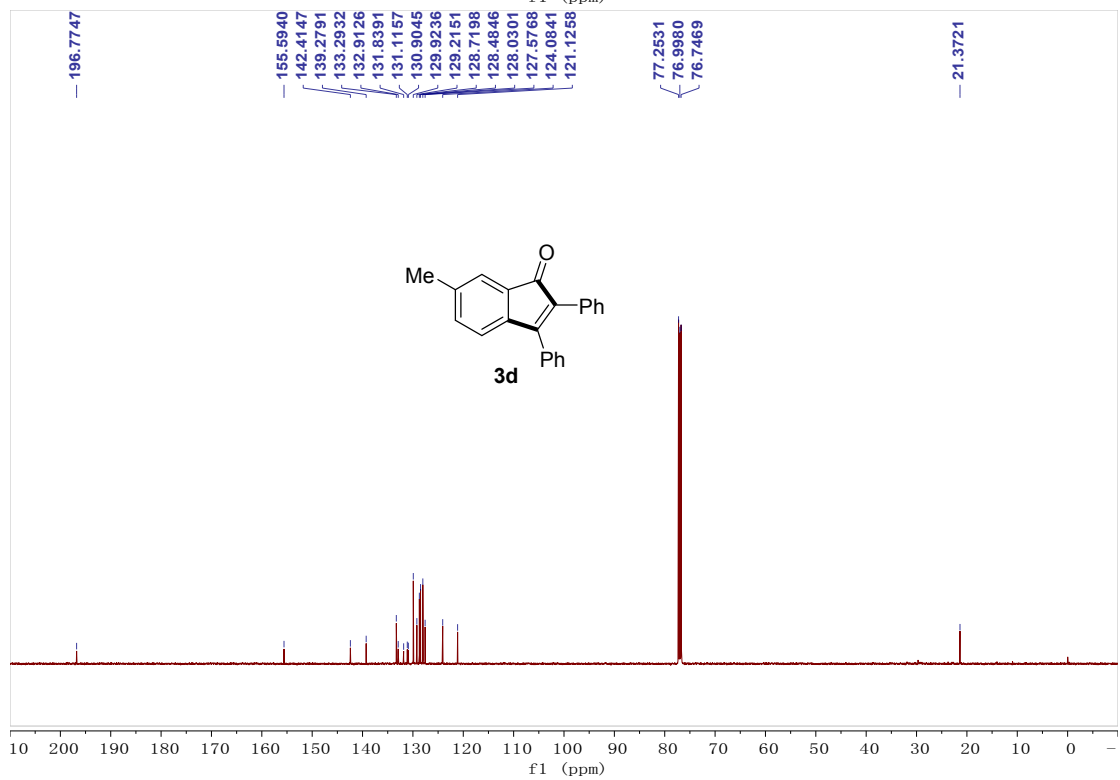
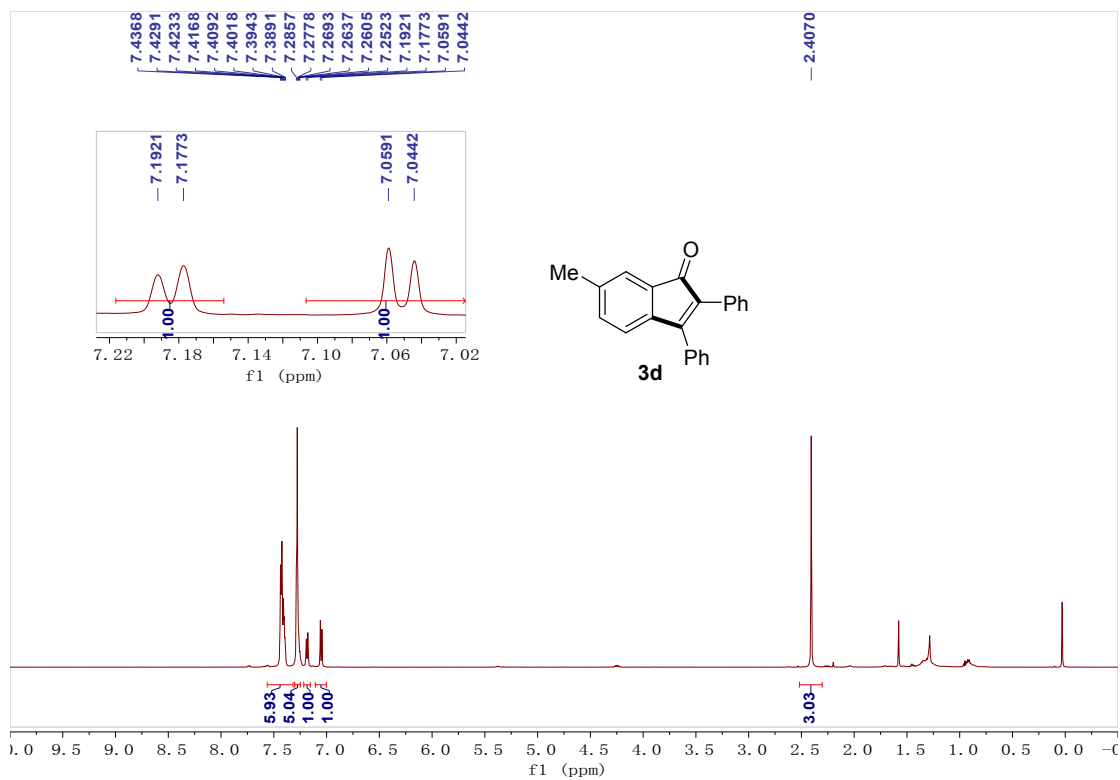




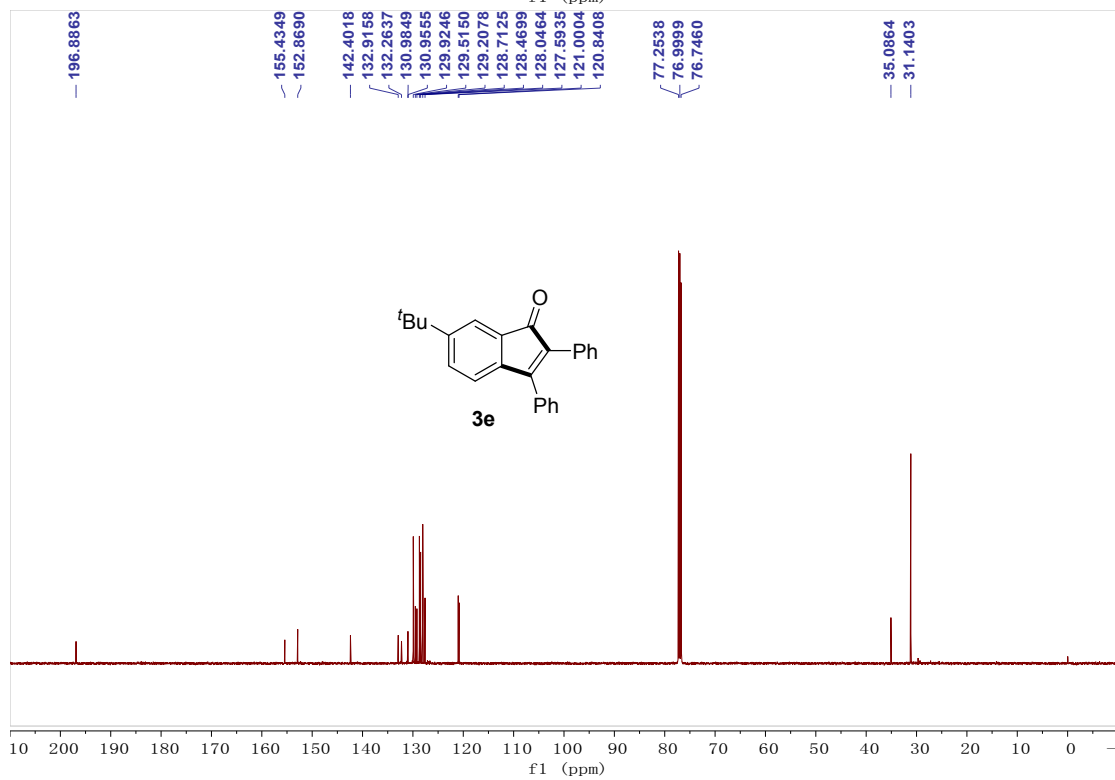
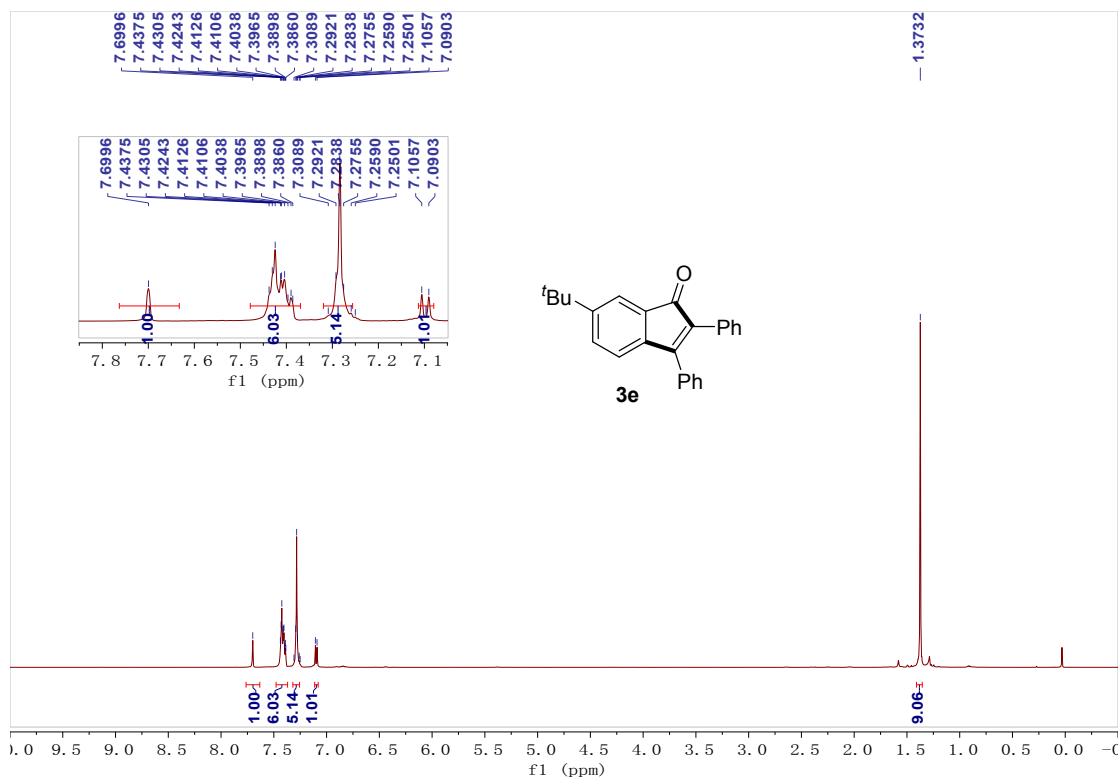


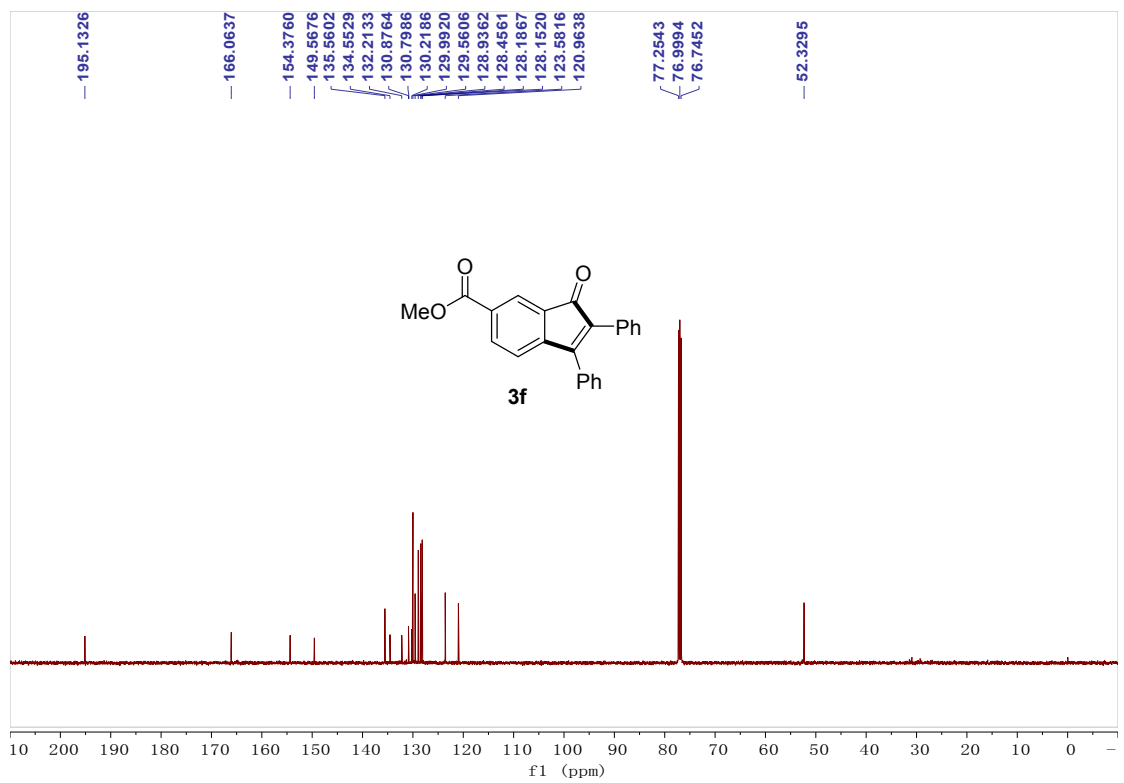
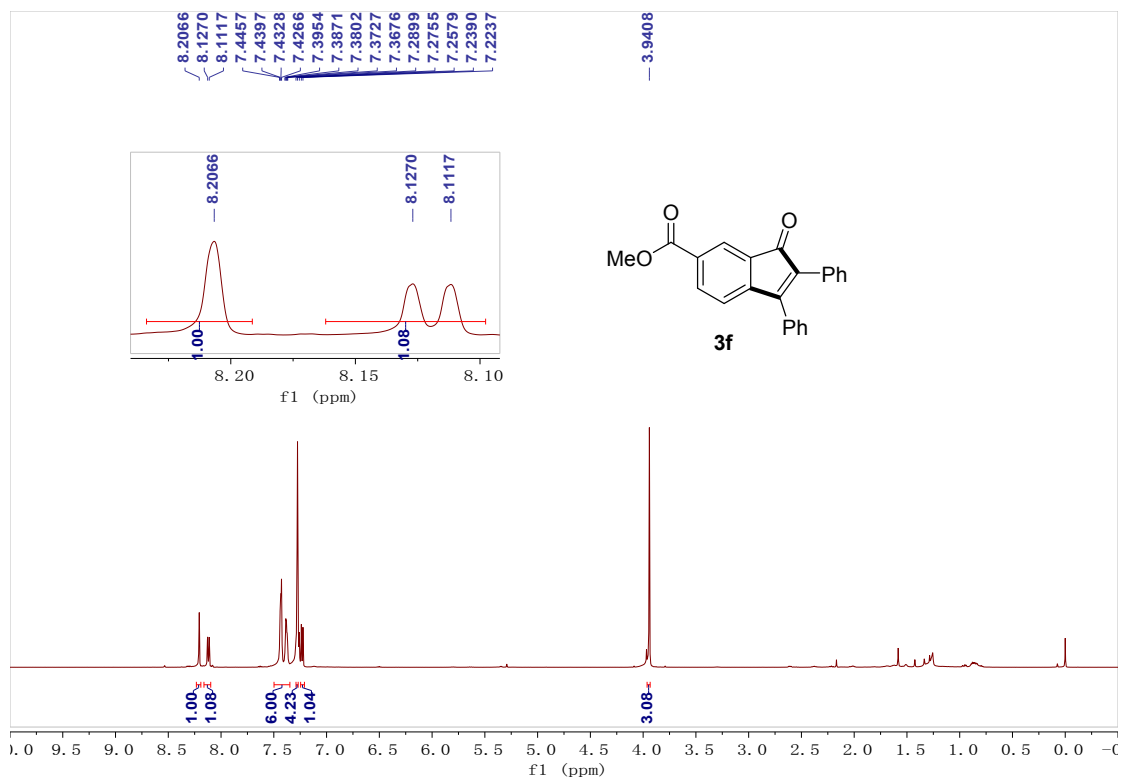


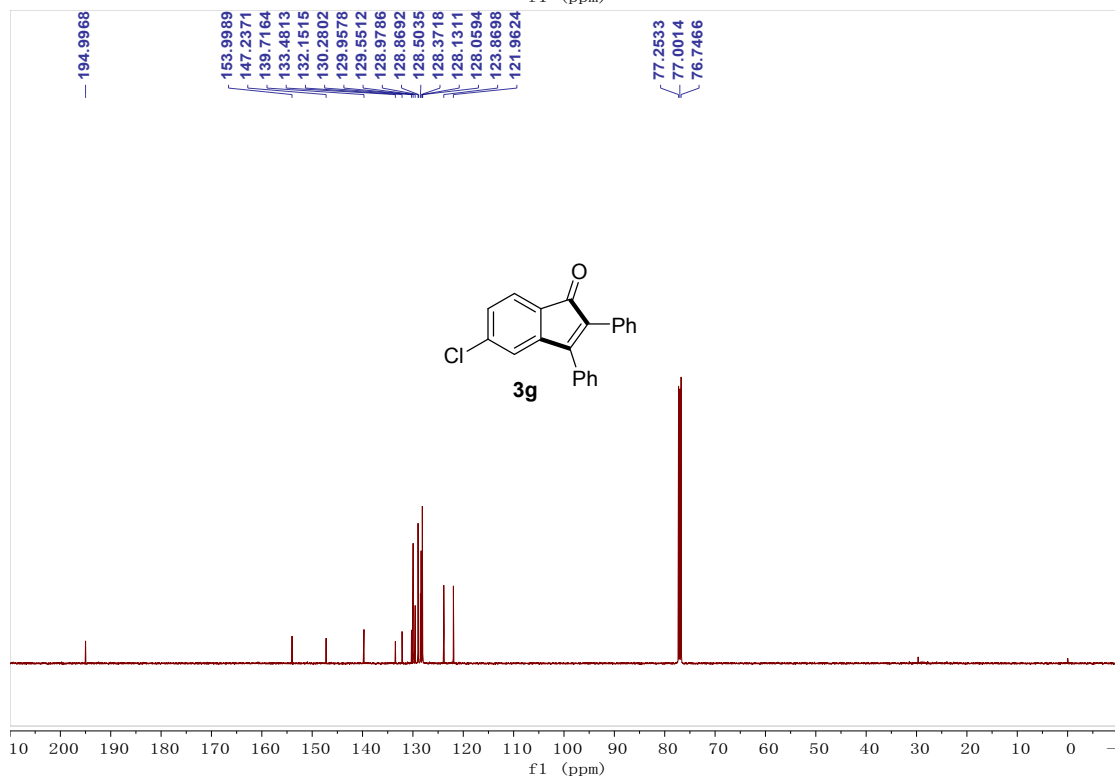
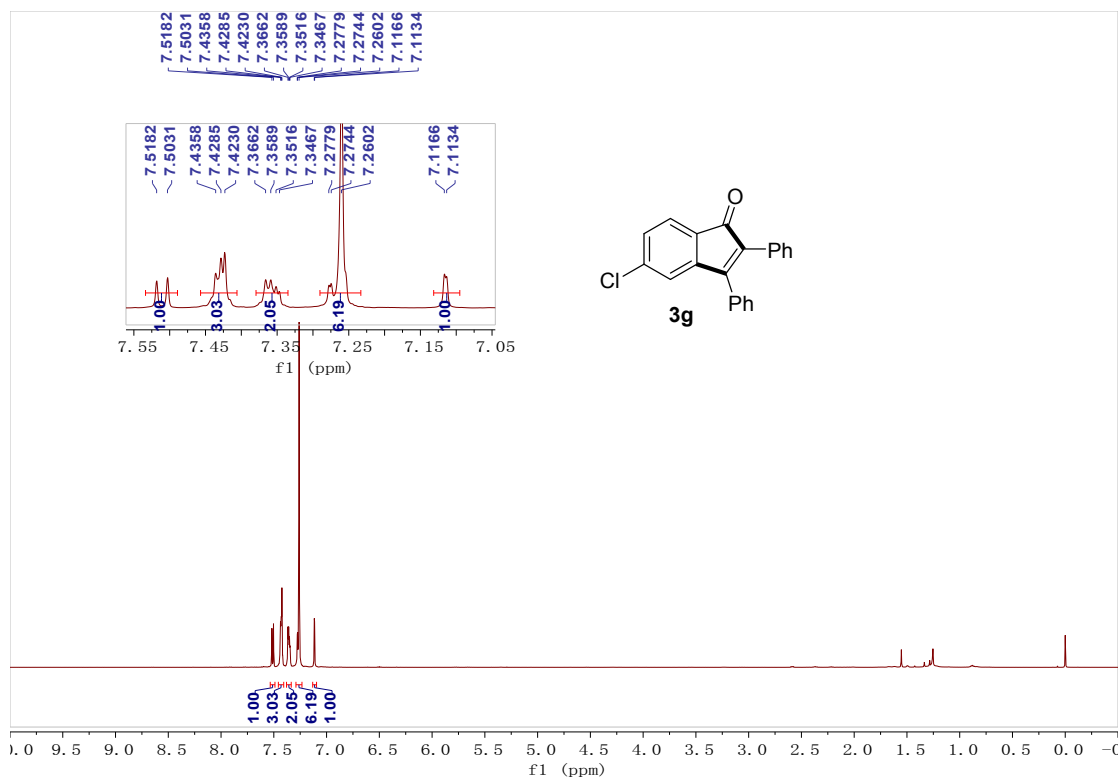


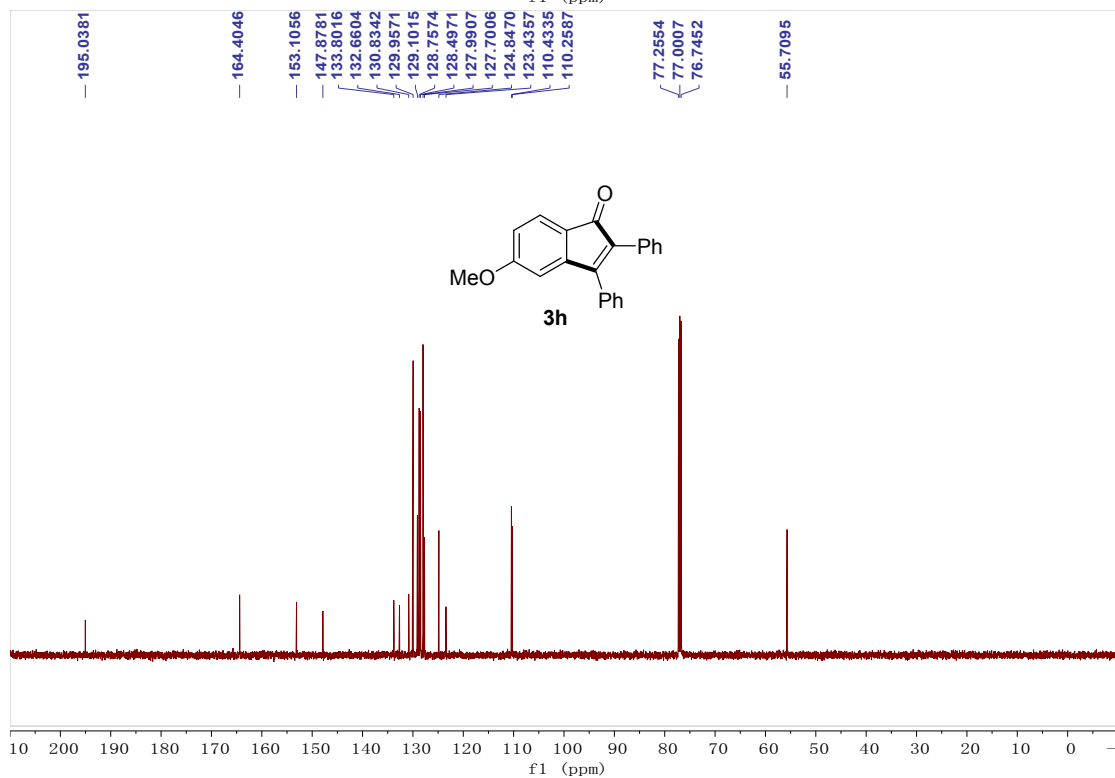
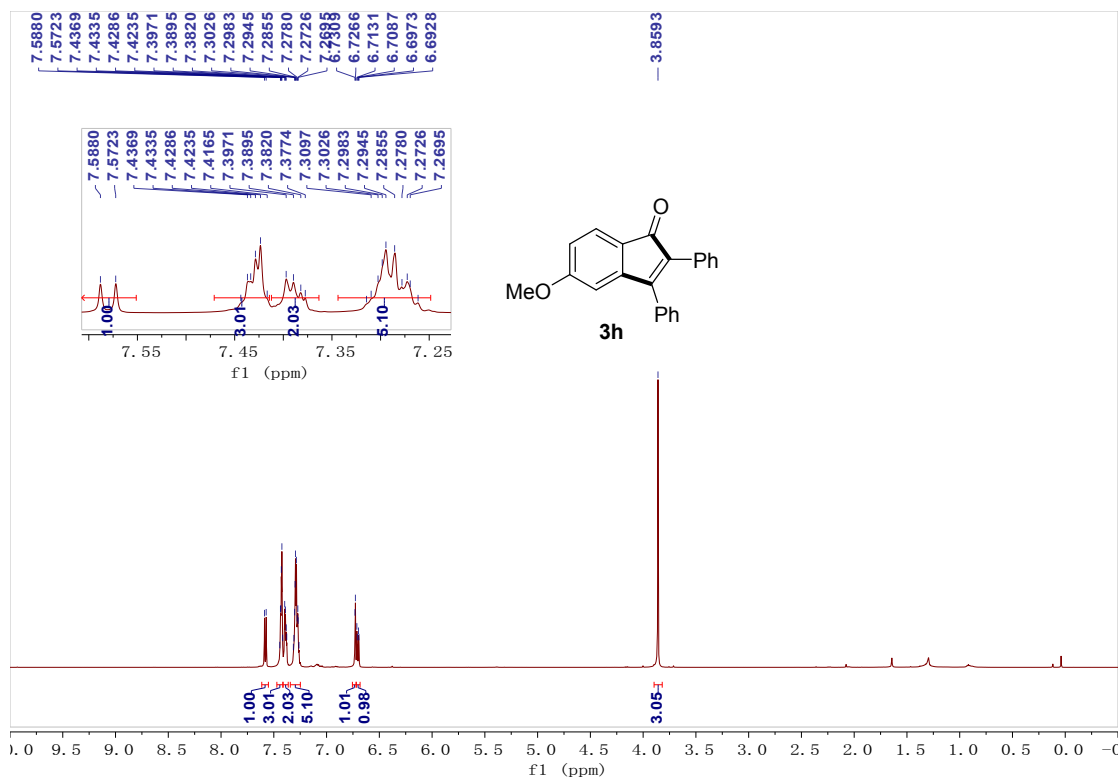


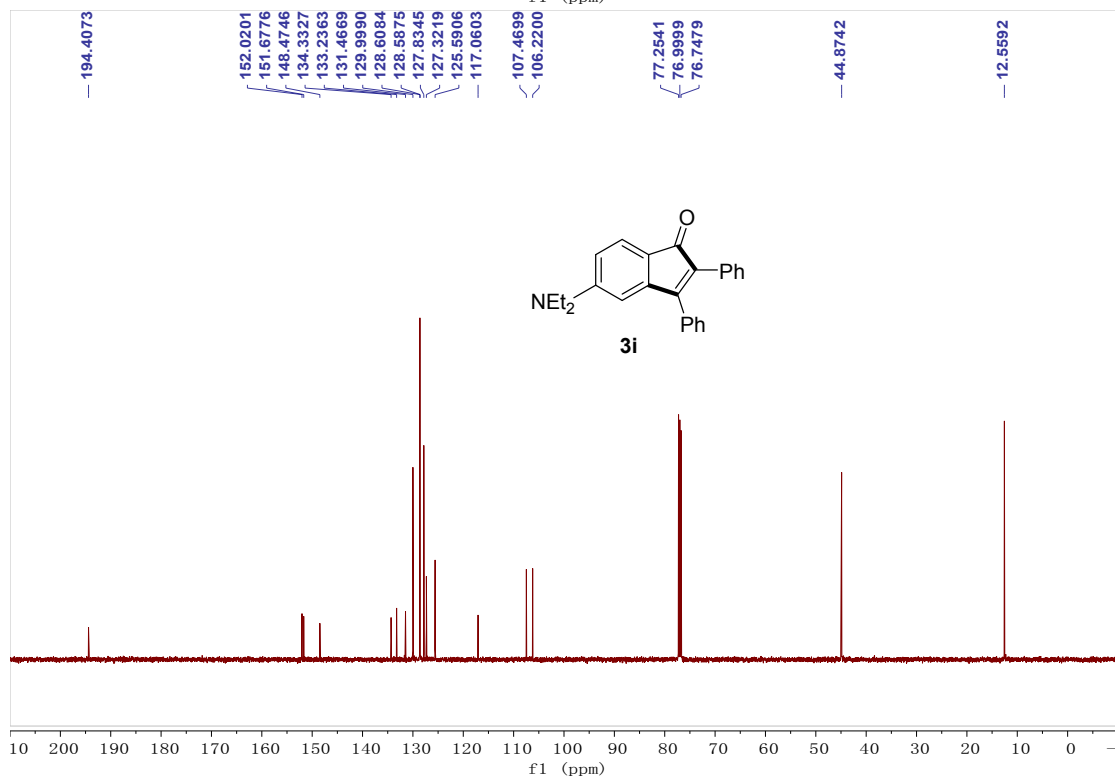
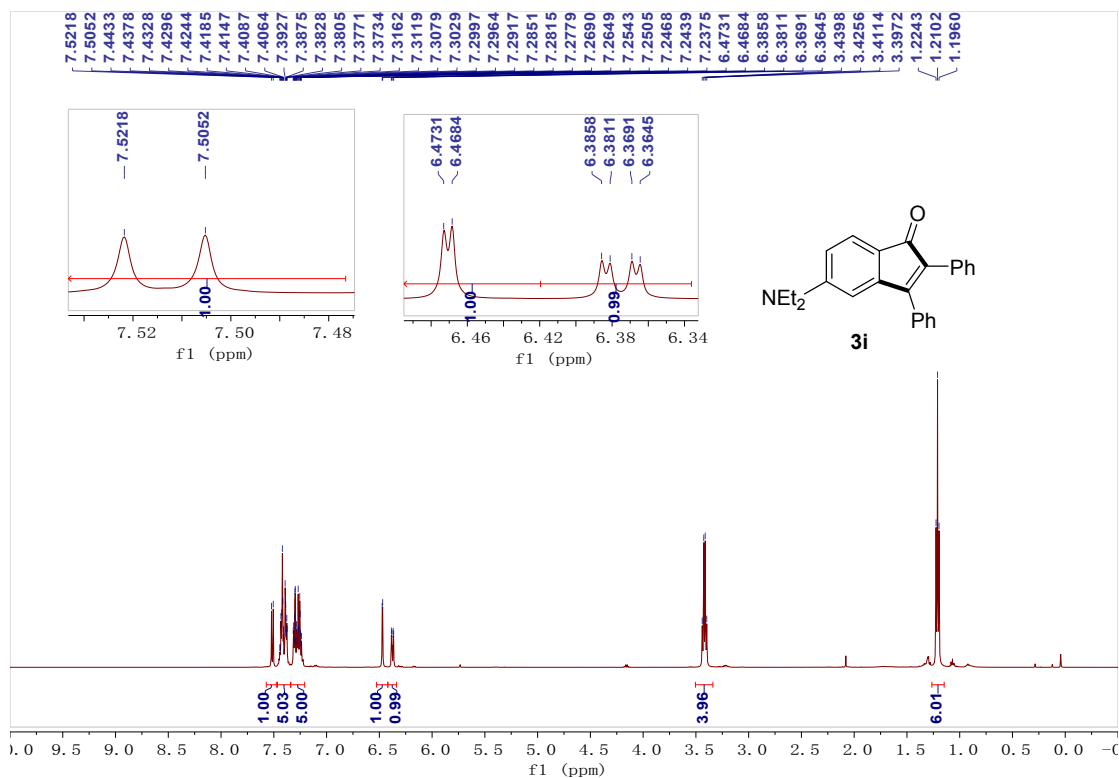


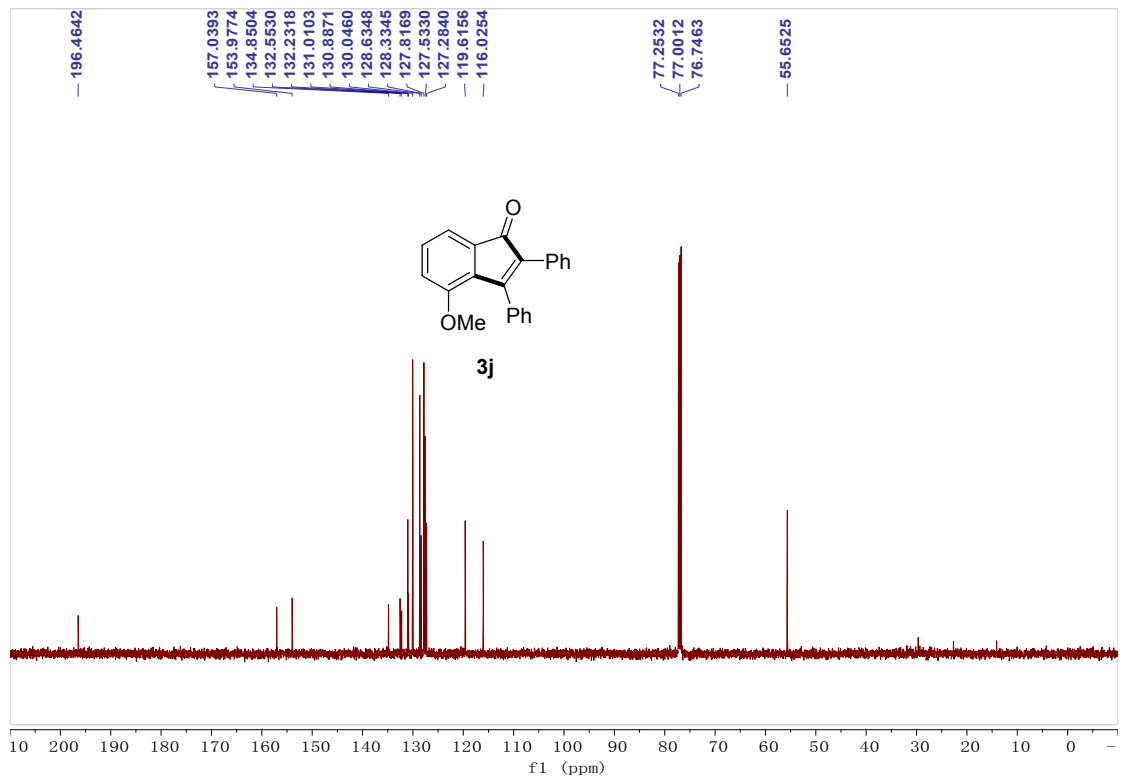
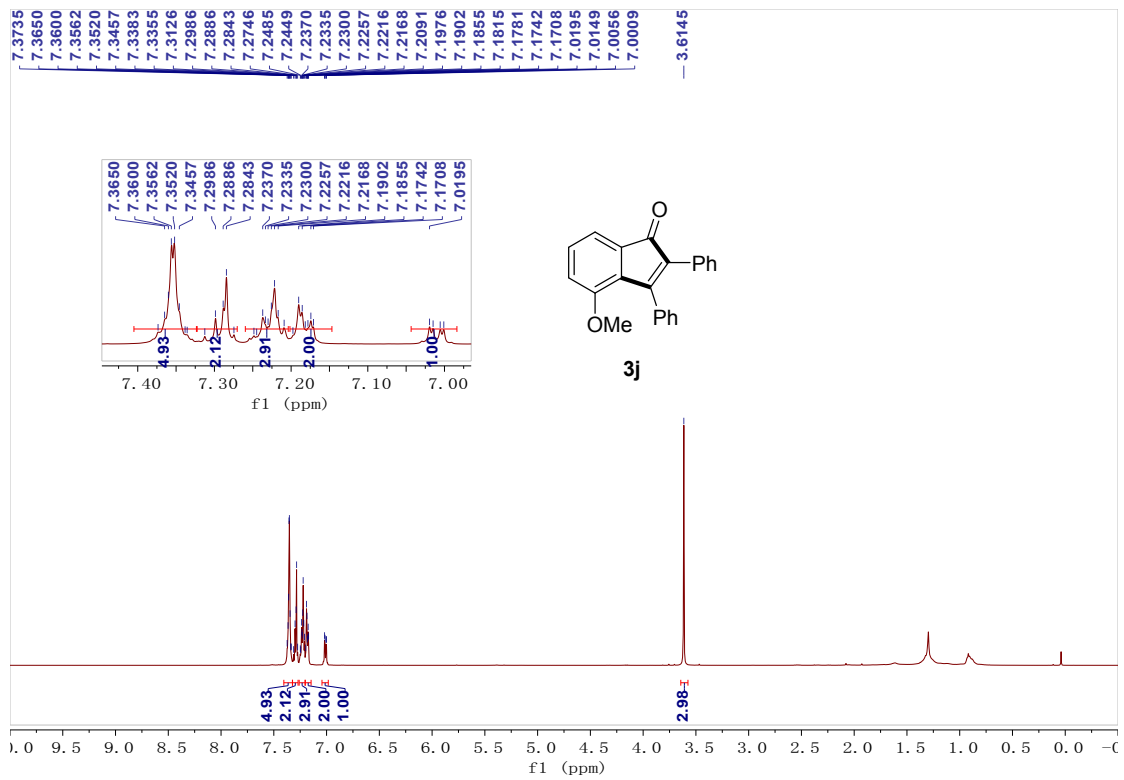


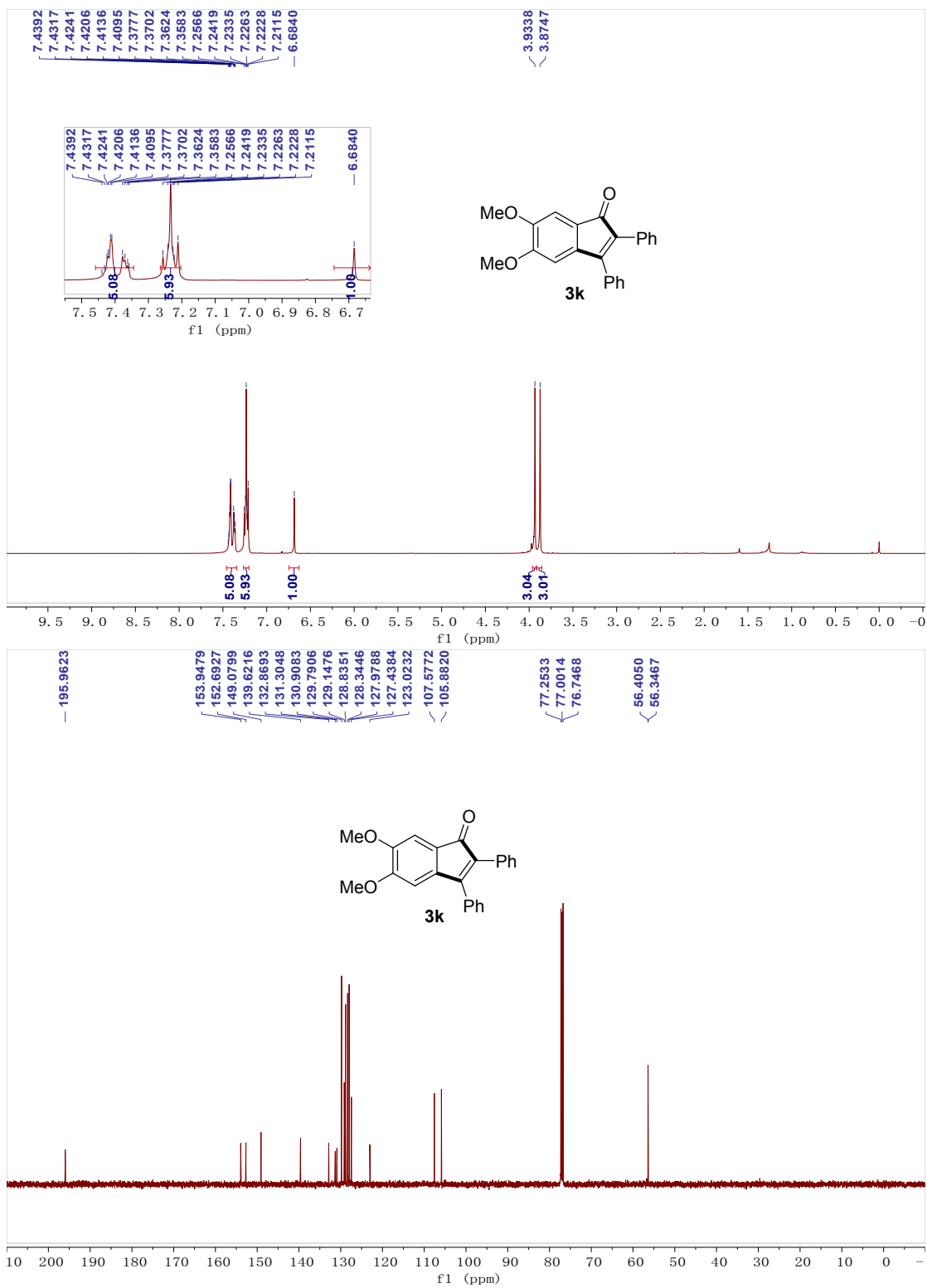


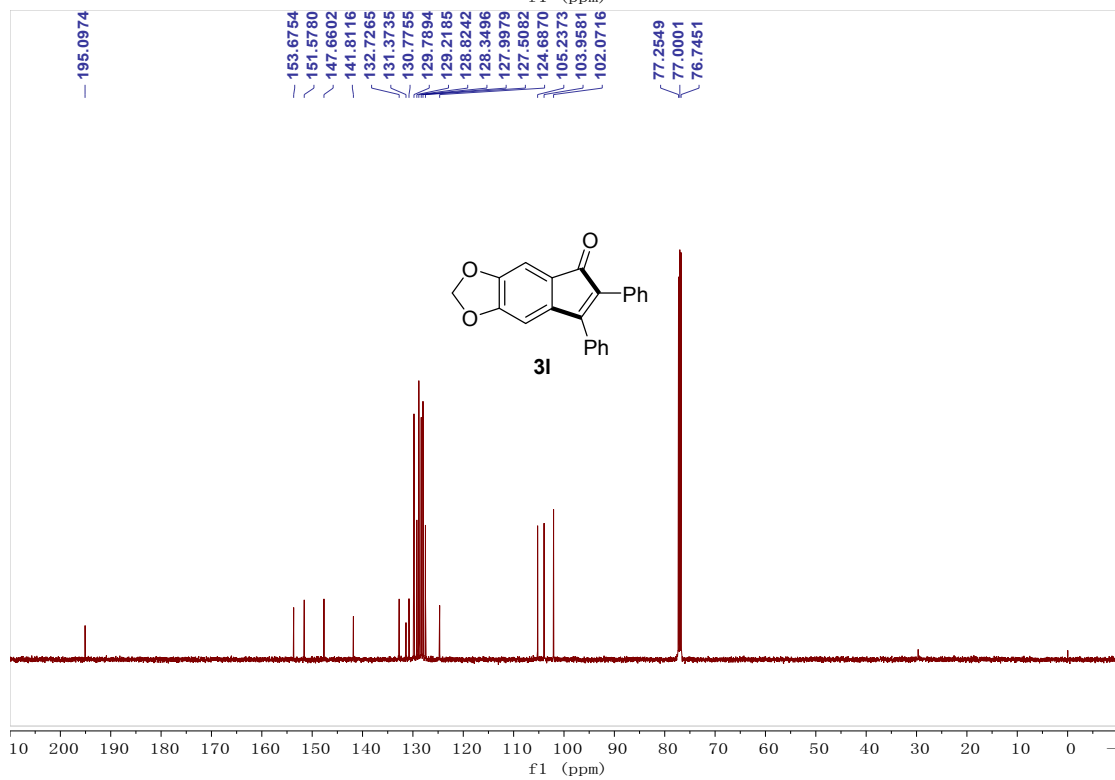
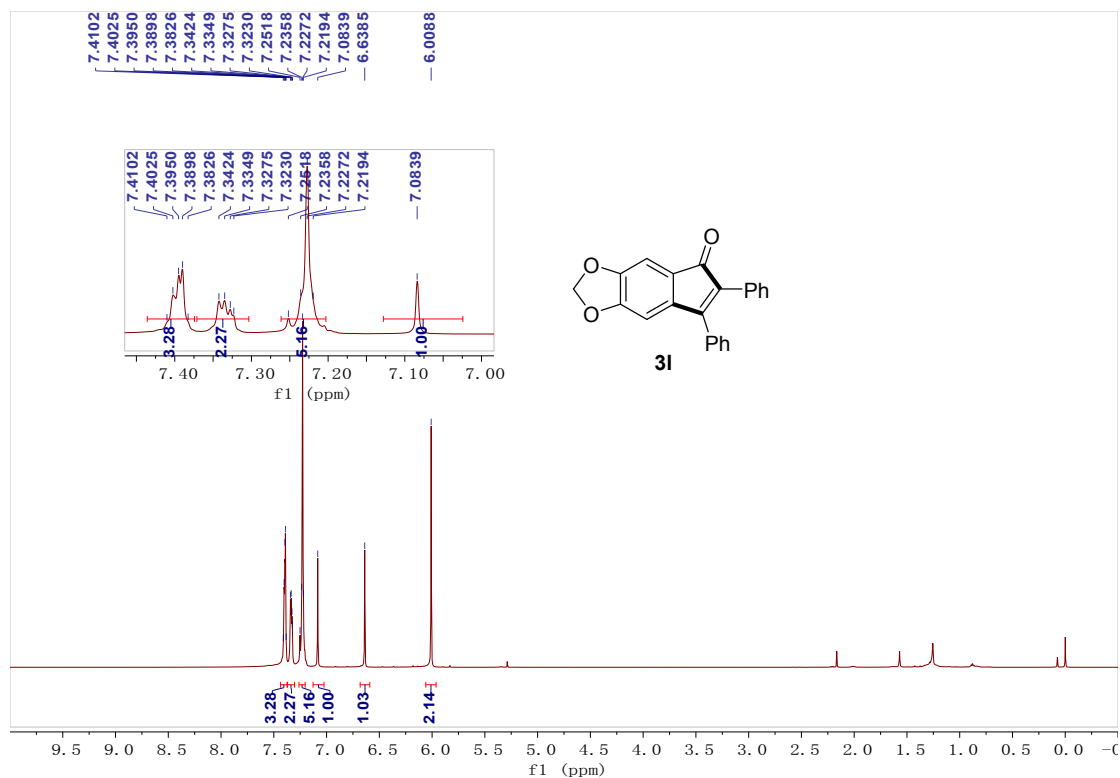




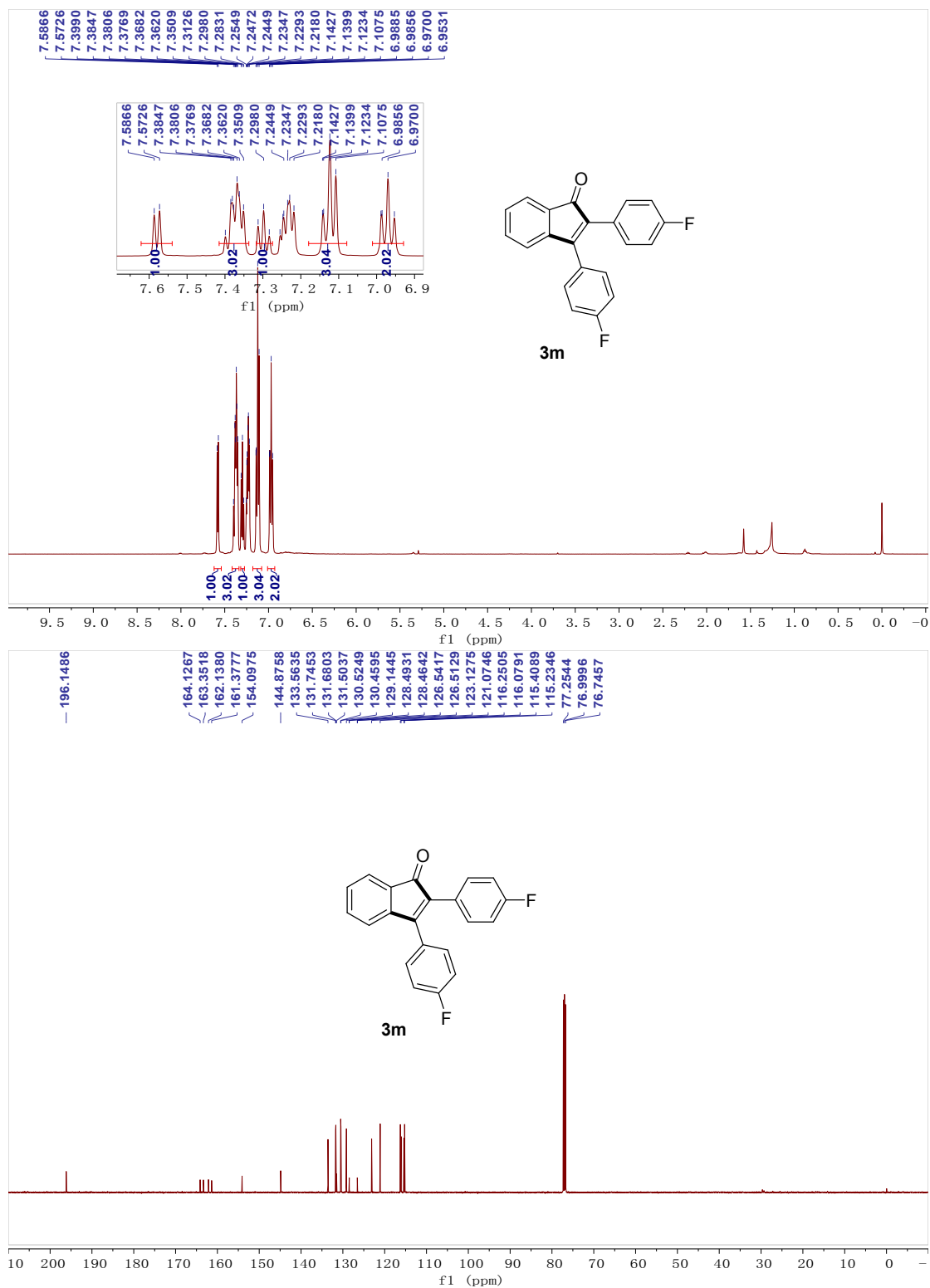


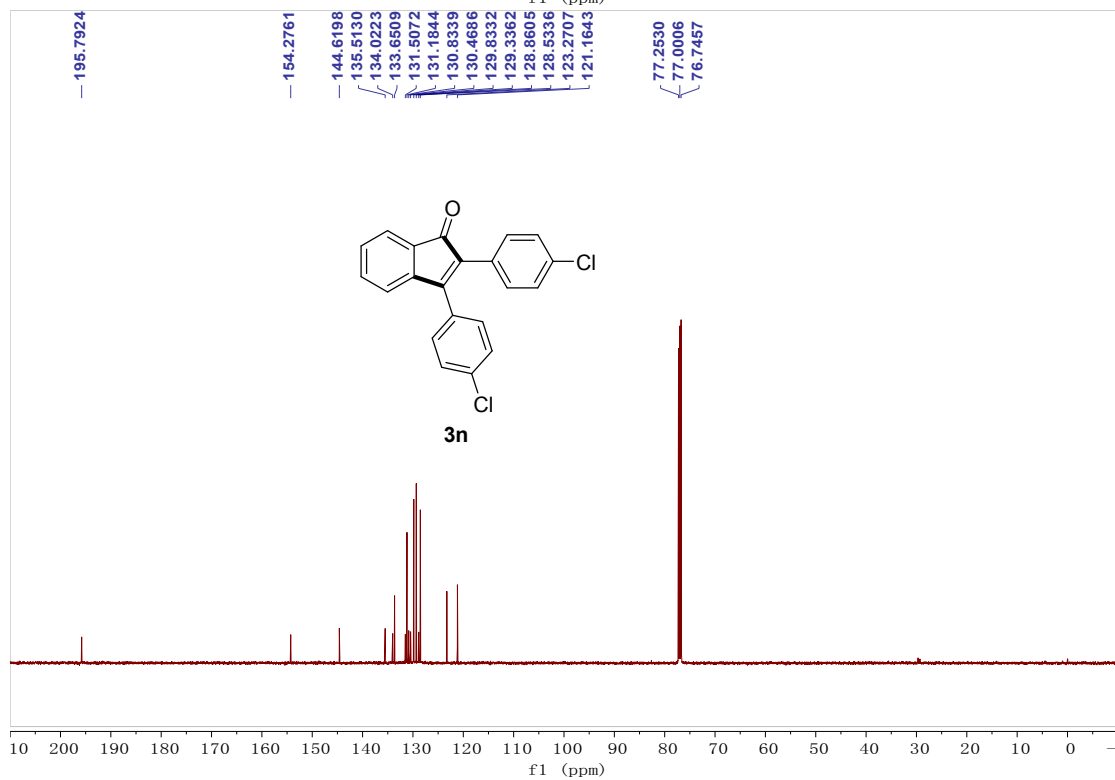
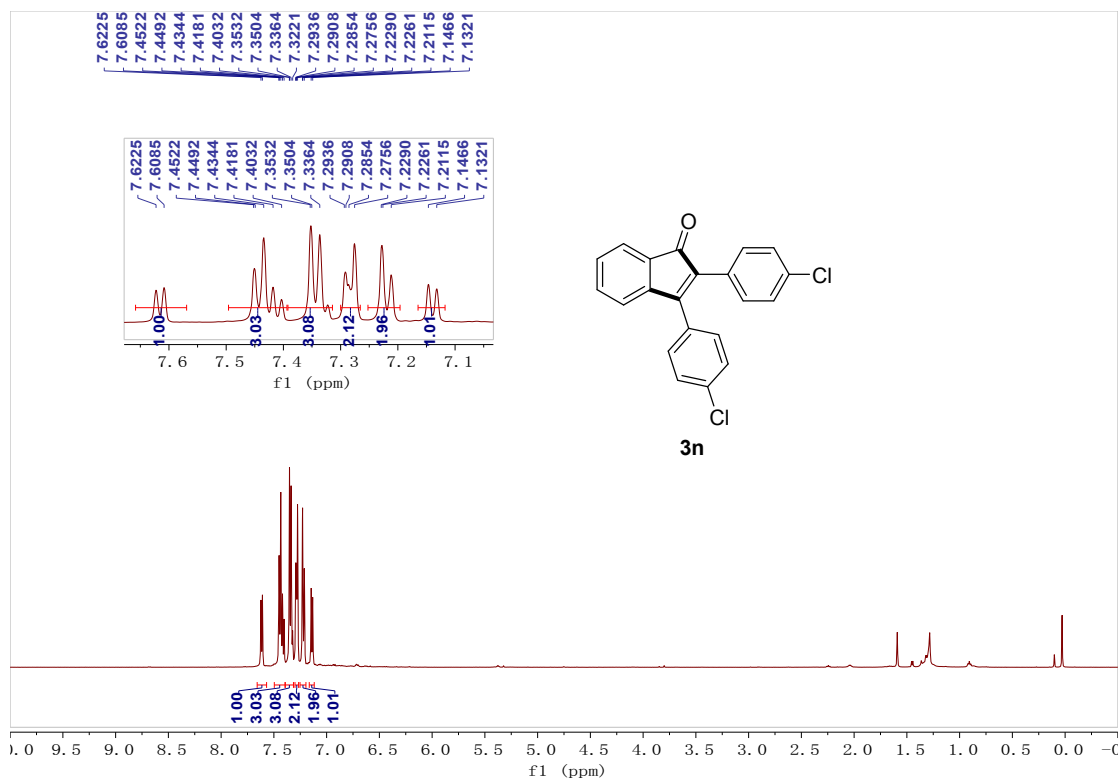


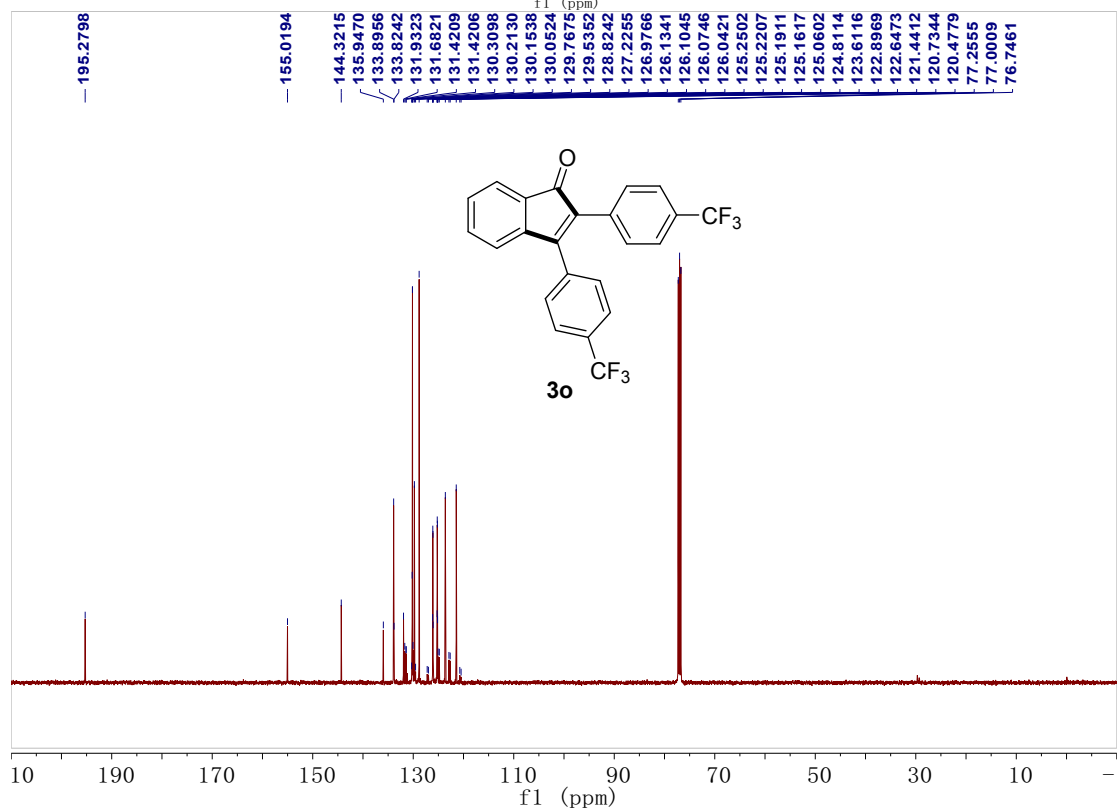
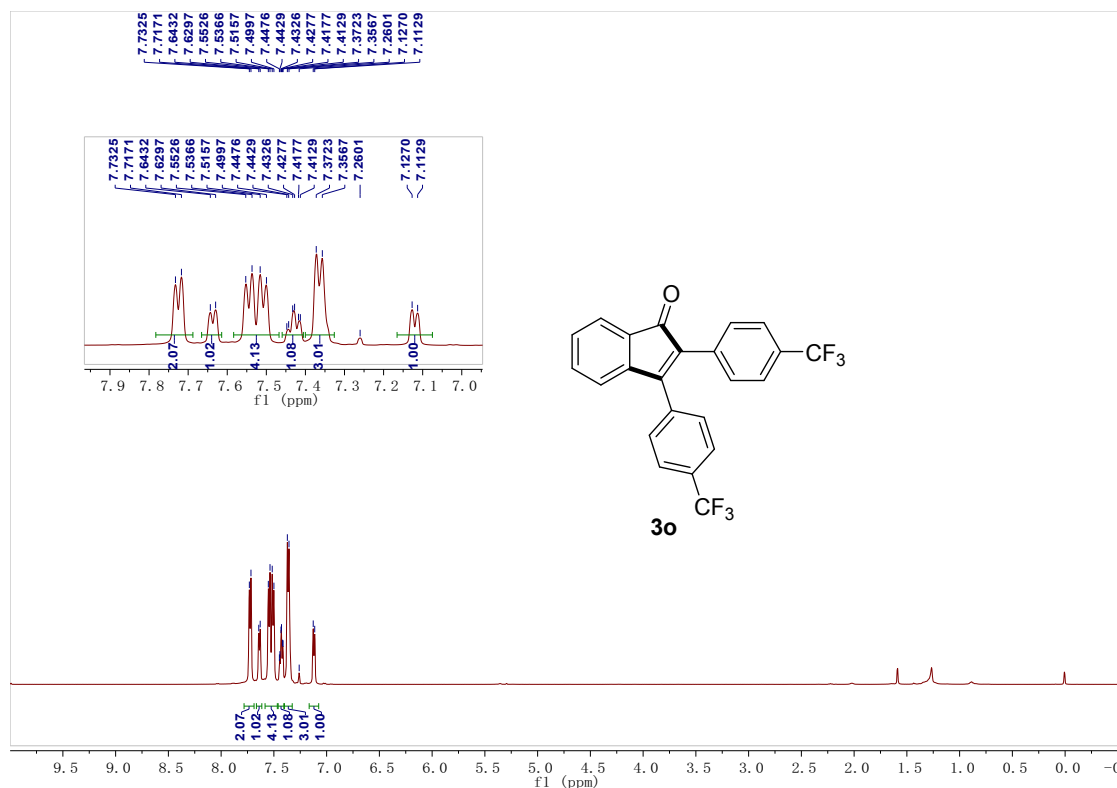


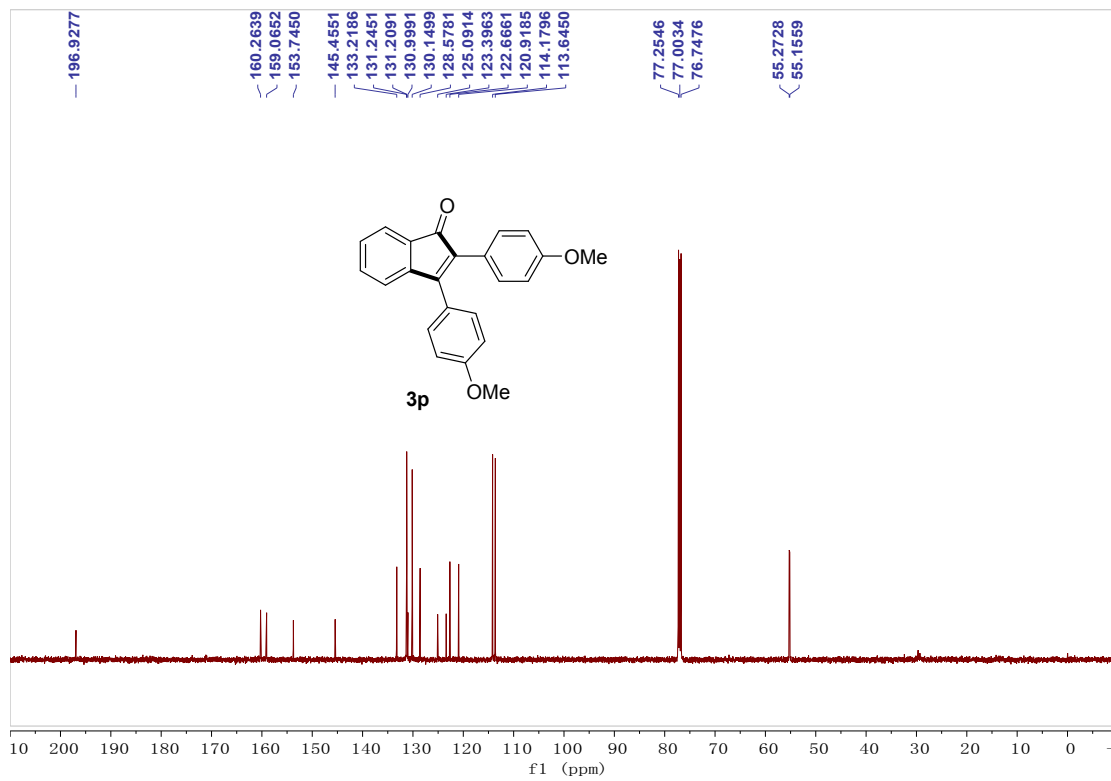
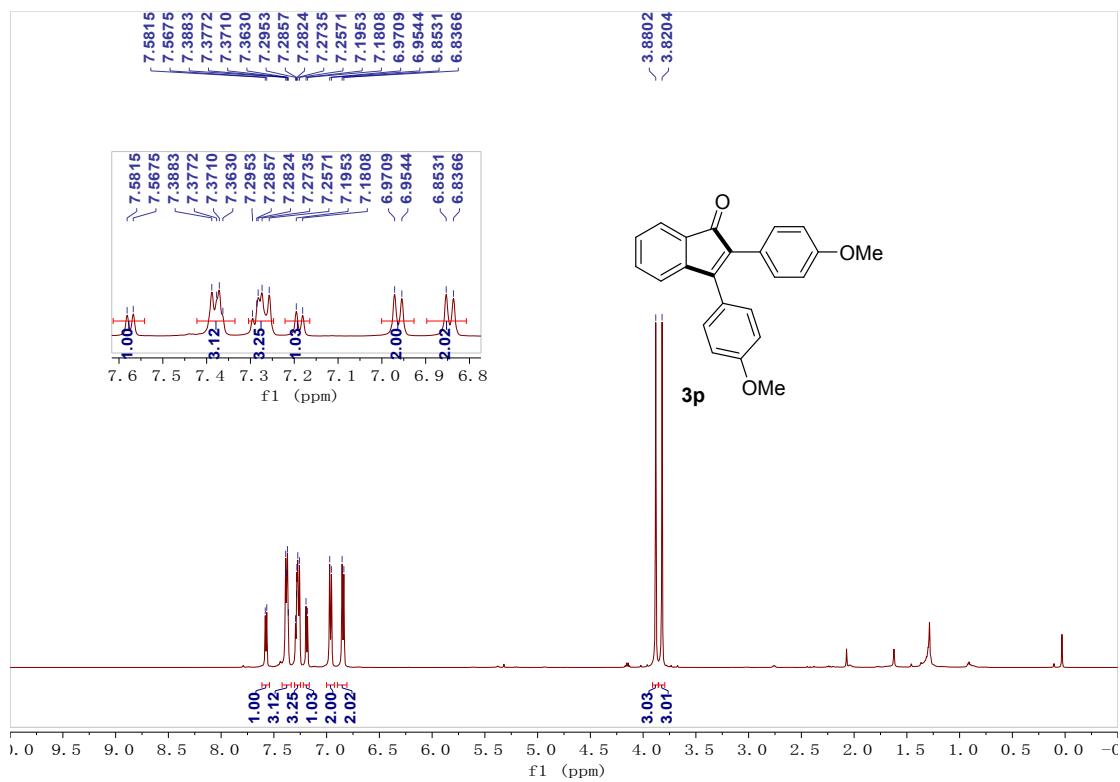


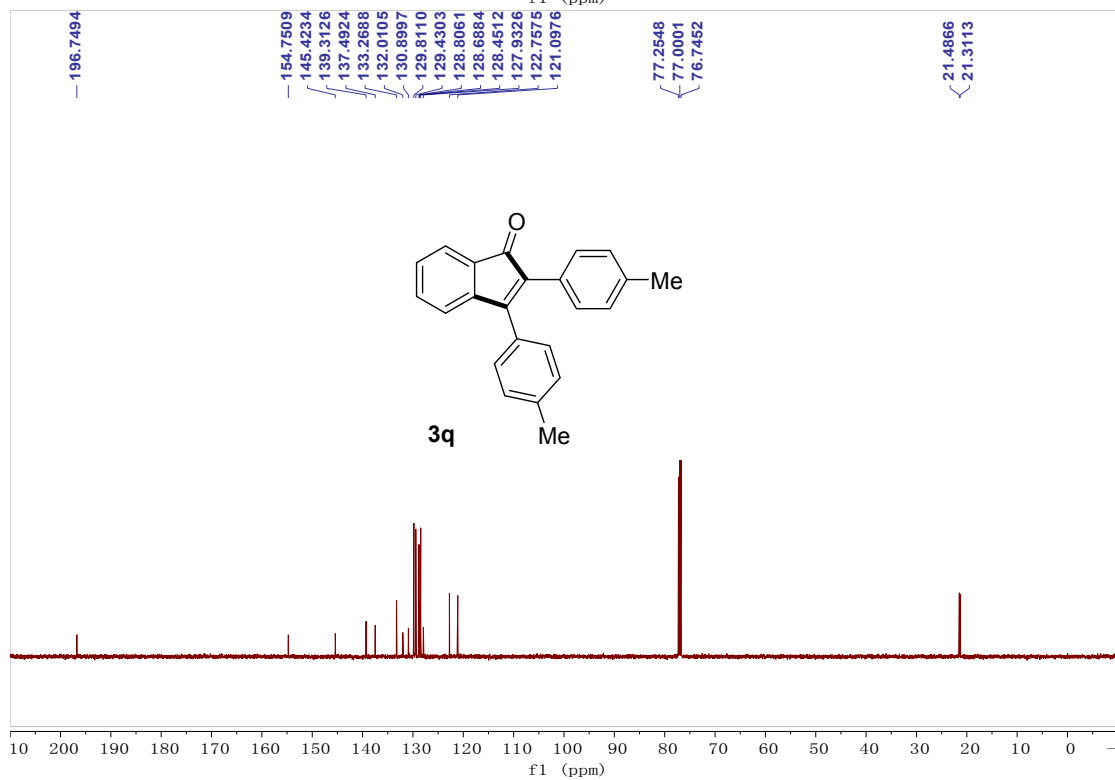
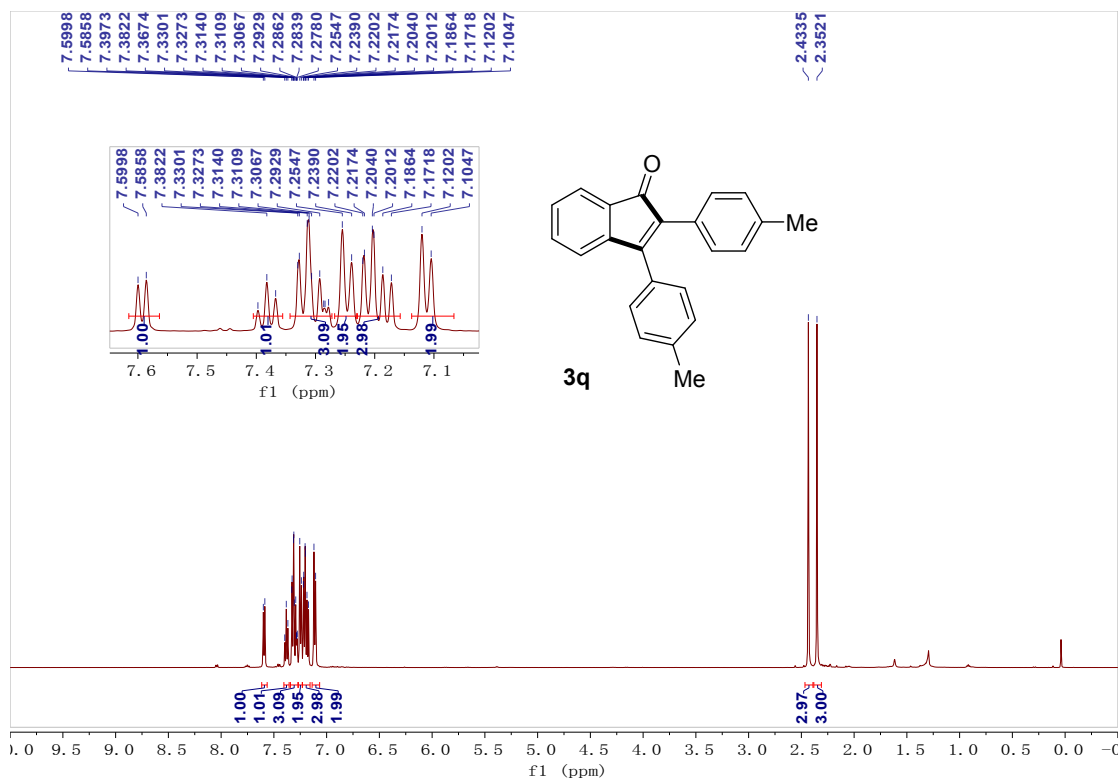


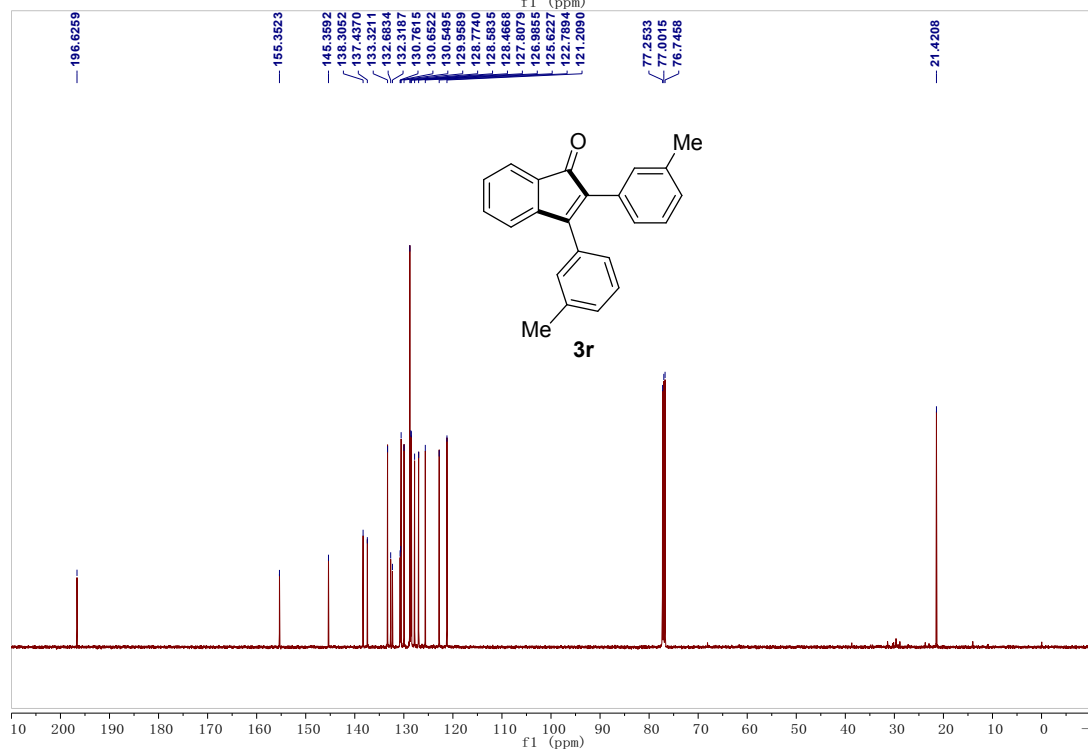
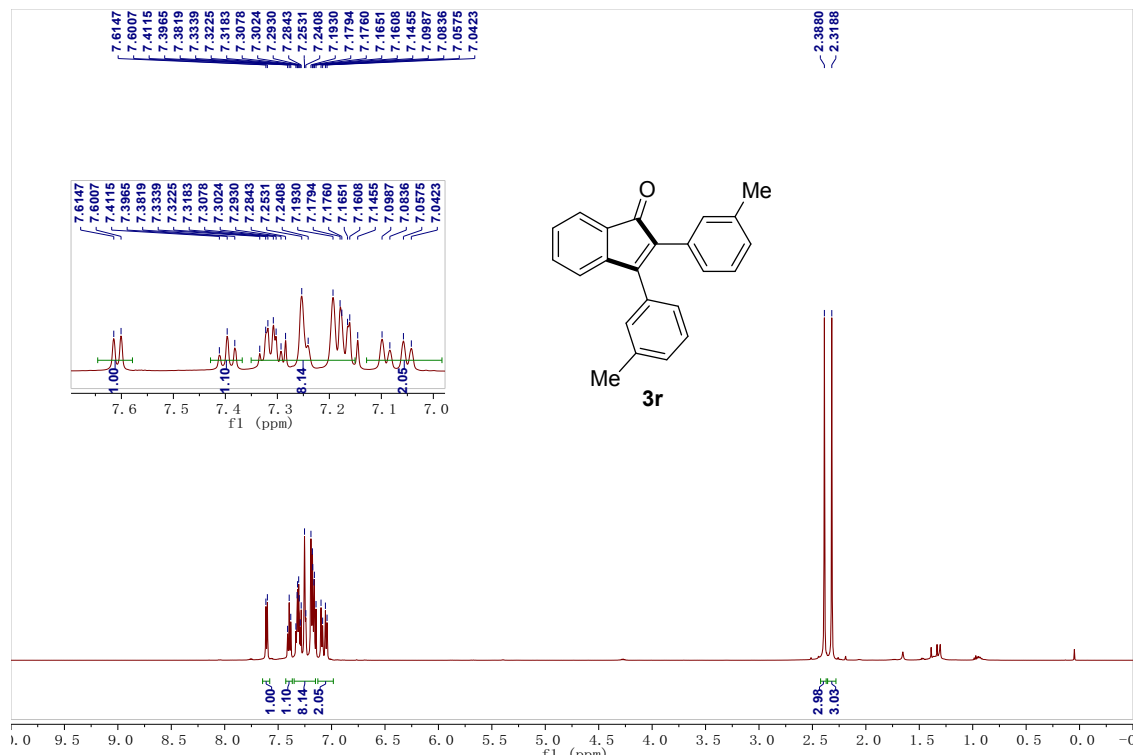


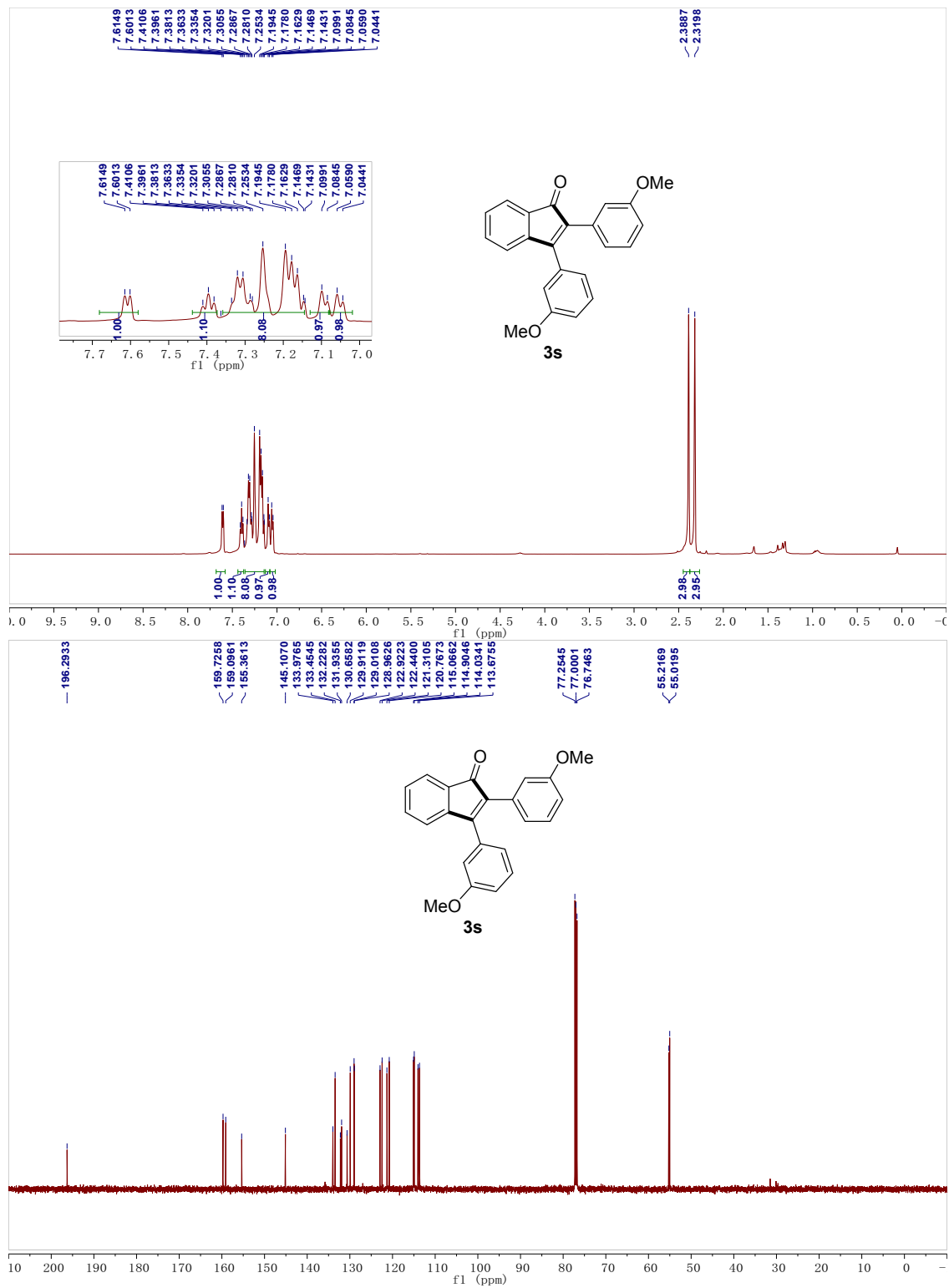






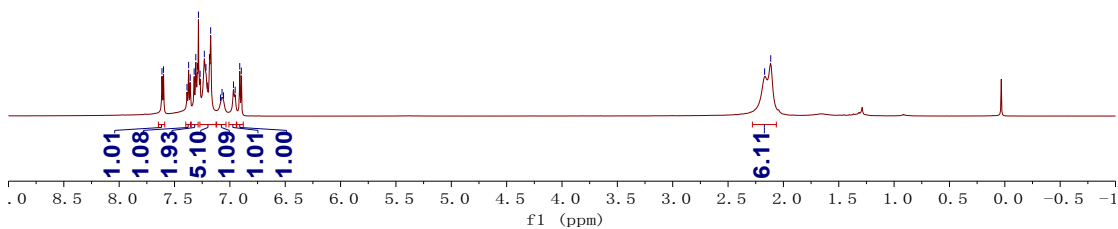
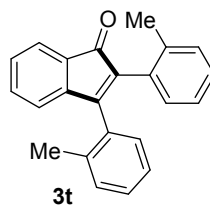
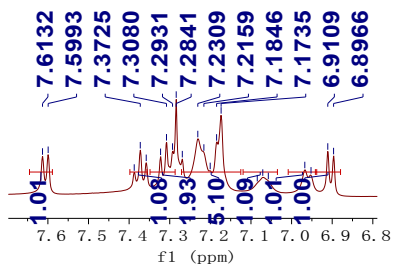






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