

# **Bifunctional acidic ionic liquids-catalyzed decarboxylative cascade synthesis of quinoxalines in water under ambient conditions**

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## **Supporting Information**

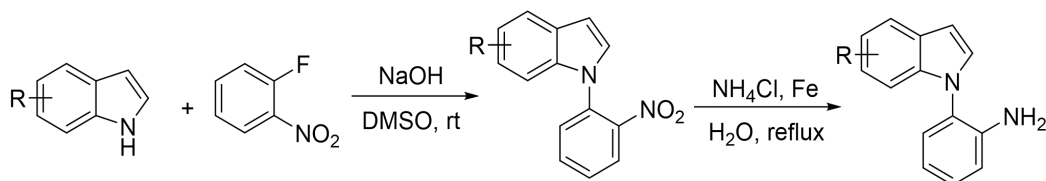
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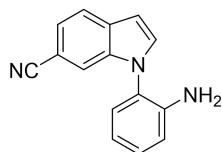
## 1. General Information

All purchased reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed with 0.25 mm coated commercial silica gel plates (TLC Silica Gel 60 F254); visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by fluorescence.  $^1\text{H}$  nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR) data were acquired at 400 MHz on a Bruker Ascend 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer, and chemical shifts are reported in delta ( $\delta$ ) units, in parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane. Splitting patterns are designated as s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet, coupling constants  $J$  are quoted in Hz. Carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR) data were acquired at 100 MHz on a Bruker Ascend 400 spectrometer, chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the center line of a triplet at 77.0 ppm for  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Infrared spectra (IR) data were recorded on a TENSOR 27 FT-IR spectrometer and recorded in wave numbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). High resolution mass spectra were acquired on a Bruker Daltonics MicroTof-Q II mass spectrometer. **1a–1p** were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>1</sup> **2b–2j** and **2m–2p** were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Preparation of Substrates

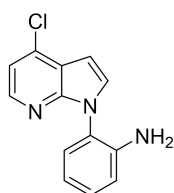


To a stirred solution of indole (1.0 mmol) and 2-nitro-benzene (1.0 mmol) in DMSO (1.0 mL), NaOH (1.0 mmol) was added portion wise and is stirred vigorously at room temperature for 1.5 h. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted by H<sub>2</sub>O, and extracted by EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried by anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was evaporated and the residue was added NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (0.5 eq) and Fe (8 eq) in H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL), and then refluxed for 4 h. Subsequently, the reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted by EtOAc. The organic layer was dried by anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Finally, the solution was evaporated and the mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the product.



### 1-(2-Aminophenyl)-1H-indole-6-carbonitrile (1f)

Pale yellow solid (179.0 mg, 63% yield). petroleum ether (PE)/ethyl acetate (EA) = 10:1,  $R_f = 0.37$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.49 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34 (q,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd,  $J = 19.3, 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.9, 135.3, 132.4, 131.7, 130.0, 128.5, 123.4, 123.1, 121.8, 120.5, 118.8, 116.6, 115.9, 104.8, 104.0 ppm. IR (KBr): 3463, 3371, 2208, 1618, 1498, 1454, 1330, 1218, 921, 864, 810, 752. HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 234.1026, found 234.1020.



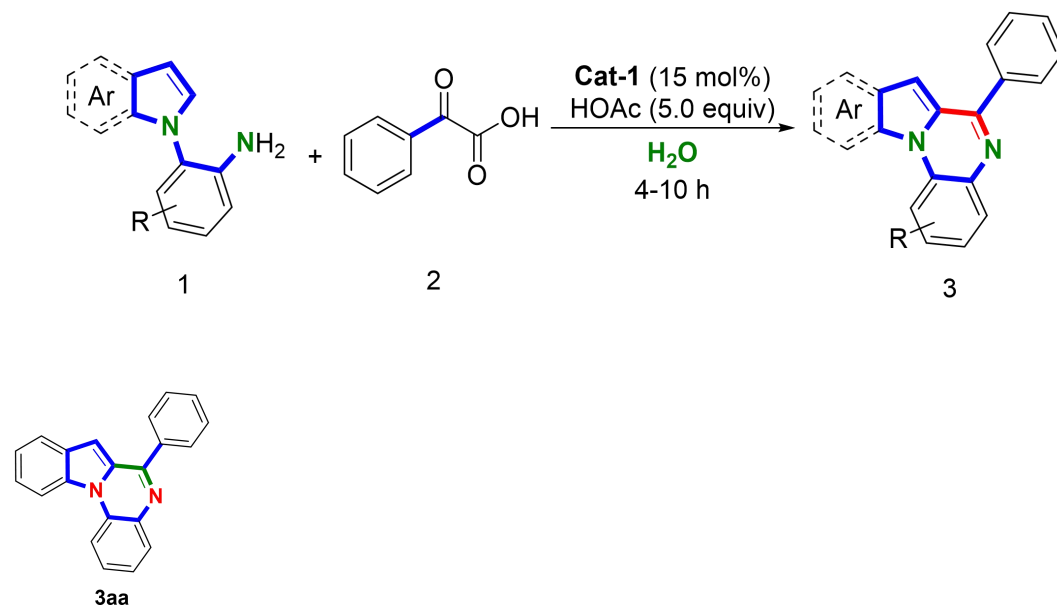
### 2-(4-Chloro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl)aniline (1k)

Pale yellow solid (161.0 mg, 68% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.29 (s, 1H),

7.43 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 4H), 3.86 (s, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.3, 144.1, 142.8, 136.6, 130.1, 129.5, 128.4, 124.4, 120.3, 119.1, 117.4, 116.6, 100.2 ppm. IR (KBr): 3442, 3352, 3110, 1616, 1504, 1404, 1263, 1081, 1022, 897, 804, 733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClN}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  244.0636, found 244.0630.

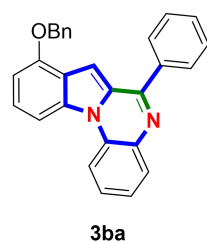
### 3. Reaction Results

General Procedure for the synthesis of quinoxalines (**GP**): A pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), 2-(1H-indol-1-yl)anilines **1** (1 mmol), 2-oxoacetic acids **2** (1.2 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6–12h under air condition. After cooling to room temperature, the target product **3** was obtained by filtration and washing with H<sub>2</sub>O or *i*PrOH.



#### 6-Phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (**3aa**)

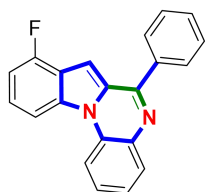
Yellow solid (90%, 26.5 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3aa** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.56 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.12 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 5H), 7.50 (td, *J* = 7.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.3, 138.3, 136.3, 133.1, 130.6, 130.2, 130.0, 129.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.7, 128.4, 124.4, 124.2, 122.8, 122.7, 114.7, 114.6, 102.5 ppm.



#### 8-(Benzyloxy)-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (**3ba**)

Yellow solid (96%, 38.4 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ba** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H),

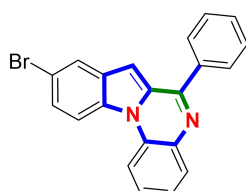
8.31 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 5H), 7.55 (dd,  $J = 20.8, 7.9$  Hz, 4H), 7.44 (dt,  $J = 11.2, 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.4, 153.6, 138.2, 136.8, 136.5, 134.3, 130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 126.5, 125.4, 124.3, 121.2, 114.7, 107.7, 102.9, 100.0, 70.2 ppm.



3ca

### 8-Fluoro-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ca)

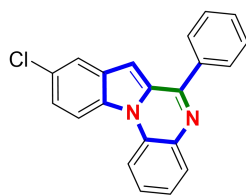
Yellow solid (90%, 28.1 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ca** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.58 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.14 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.74 (ddd,  $J = 8.6, 7.3, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (p,  $J = 3.5, 3.1$  Hz, 3H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.20 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 7.9$  Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.9 (d,  $J = 249.0$  Hz), 135.8, 135.0, 134.0, 133.2, 130.7, 130.6, 130.3, 130.1, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 124.7, 124.4, 122.8, 115.8 (d,  $J = 21.5$  Hz), 114.7 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 113.7, 102.8 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -78.32 ppm.



3da

### 9-Bromo-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3da)

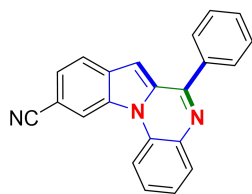
Yellow solid (92%, 34.2 mg), mp 260–261°C. According to the **GP**, the product **3da** is obtained by washing filtration and with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.41 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.29 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 8.11 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.06 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 3.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.0, 137.9, 136.3, 132.5, 132.0, 131.5, 131.5, 130.8, 130.2, 129.8, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 124.6, 116.3, 114.6, 101.3, 86.8 ppm. IR (KBr): 3701, 3110, 3055, 1720, 1539, 1444, 1379, 1326, 1207, 1124, 1062, 1018, 748, 688  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  373.0335, found 373.0329.



3ea

### 9-Chloro-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ea)

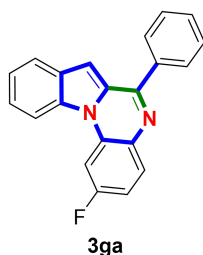
Yellow solid (91%, 29.9 mg), mp 230–231°C. According to the **GP**, the product **3ea** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.50 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.10 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 2.1 Hz, 3H), 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.0, 147.3, 137.9, 136.3, 135.2, 131.3, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 129.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 124.6, 121.8, 119.9, 115.6, 114.5, 101.7 ppm. IR (KBr): 3058, 2916, 2858, 1604, 1531, 1446, 1384, 1211, 1076, 1070, 908, 854, 738, 684 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 329.0840, found 329.0836.



3fa

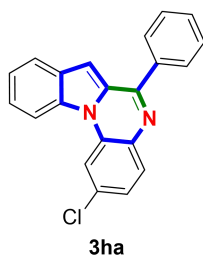
### 6-Phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline-10-carbonitrile (3fa)

Yellow solid (89%, 28.4 mg). PE/EA = 30:1, *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.26, mp 279–280°C. According to the **GP**, The product **3fa** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 – 8.16 (m, 1H), 8.09 – 8.01 (m, 3H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.35 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 155.8, 137.6, 137.1, 136.4, 131.7, 131.6, 131.2, 130.4, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 125.4, 124.8, 123.6, 120.1, 119.7, 114.6, 106.5, 102.5. IR (KBr): 3699, 3124, 3044, 2918, 2217, 1729, 1515, 1442, 1373, 1303, 1215, 821, 744, 694 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 320.1182, found 320.1178.



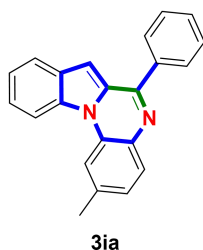
### 2-Fluoro-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ga)

Yellow solid (93%, 29.0 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ga** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.44 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J = 10.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd,  $J = 23.6, 7.3$  Hz, 3H), 7.98 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.59 (m, 4H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.1 (d,  $J = 246.2$  Hz), 155.3, 138.0, 132.9 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 132.0 (d,  $J = 9.9$  Hz), 130.8, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 124.9, 123.1, 122.9, 114.2, 111.5 (d,  $J = 22.6$  Hz), 102.9, 102.1, 101.8 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  –106.73 ppm.



### 2-Chloro-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ha)

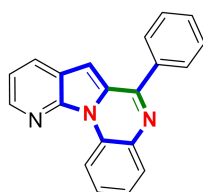
Yellow solid (95%, 31.2 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ha** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.45 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd,  $J = 6.5, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.3, 137.8, 134.7, 133.7, 132.9, 131.3, 130.6, 130.3, 129.3, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 124.9, 124.4, 123.1, 122.9, 114.7, 114.3, 103.3 ppm.



### 2-Methyl-6-phenylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ia)



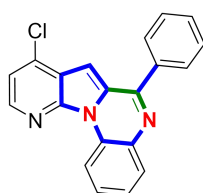
Yellow solid (94%, 29.0 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ia** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.57 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (q,  $J = 7.0, 6.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.72 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  154.7, 140.7, 134.1, 133.6, 131.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.2, 127.8, 127.2, 126.6, 126.4, 125.1, 123.6, 123.4, 121.9, 115.3, 114.9, 107.8, 22.4 ppm.



**3ja**

### **6-Phenylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ja)**

Yellow solid (87%, 25.7 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ja** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and  $i$ PrOH.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.95 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.76 (dd,  $J = 4.5, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (ddd,  $J = 10.1, 6.8, 1.7$  Hz, 3H), 7.77 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.63 (dd,  $J = 5.1, 1.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.7, 145.5, 144.9, 137.9, 135.6, 130.5, 130.2, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.1, 127.5, 124.8, 121.2, 118.6, 117.6, 99.2 ppm.

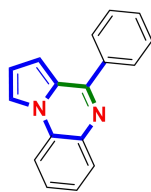


**3ka**

### **8-Chloro-6-phenylpyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ka)**

Yellow solid (55%, 18.1 mg). mp 190–191 °C. According to the **GP**, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, PE/EA = 30:1,  $R_f = 0.24$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.91 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.64 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.10 (ddq,  $J = 10.7, 5.6, 3.6, 2.6$  Hz, 3H), 7.77 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.66 (tt,  $J = 6.2, 3.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.6, 145.8, 144.8, 137.7, 137.6, 135.8, 131.5, 130.3, 129.9, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 125.3, 120.7, 118.5, 117.6, 97.4 ppm. IR (KBr): 3683, 3149, 3053, 2923, 1913,

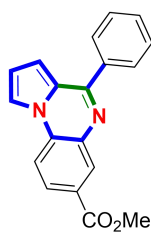
1720, 1581, 1537, 1460, 1407, 1342, 1128, 817, 752, 702  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : calculated for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  330.0793, found 330.0789.



3la

#### 4-Phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3la)

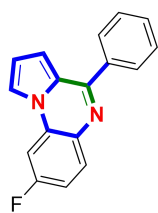
Gray white solid (90%, 22.0 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3la** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 2.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.50 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  154.5, 138.5, 136.3, 130.3, 129.8, 128.6, 128.6, 127.5, 127.2, 125.4, 125.3, 114.6, 114.0, 113.6, 108.7.



3ma

#### Methyl 4-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline-7-carboxylate (3ma)

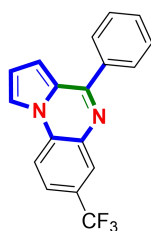
Gray white solid (85%, 25.7 mg), mp 184–185  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . According to the **GP**, the product **3ma** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.73 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.03 – 7.97 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 1.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.04 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd,  $J = 4.0, 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 155.2, 135.8, 132.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.1, 125.5, 115.3, 114.9, 113.7, 109.6, 52.3 ppm. IR (KBr): 3095, 2929, 1710, 1602, 1483, 1417, 1369, 1292, 1193, 1097, 756, 721, 686  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  303.1128, found 303.1124.



3na

#### 8-Fluoro-4-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3na)

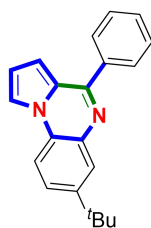
Gray white solid (88%, 23.1 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3na** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 – 8.00 (m, 3H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.5 (d,  $J = 246.6$  Hz), 153.6, 138.2, 132.9, 132.0 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz), 129.9, 128.6, 128.6, 127.8 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz), 125.1, 114.8, 114.5, 113.2 (d,  $J = 22.9$  Hz), 108.9, 100.5 (d,  $J = 26.8$  Hz) ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  –110.86 ppm.



3oa

#### 4-Phenyl-7-(trifluoromethyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3oa)

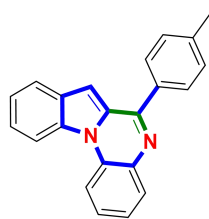
Gray white solid (84%, 26.2 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3oa** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and *i*PrOH.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.39 (s, 1H), 8.11 – 7.98 (m, 4H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 – 6.98 (m, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.7, 137.9, 136.0, 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7–127.8 (m), 127.2, 125.5, 123.8 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz), 122.6, 115.3, 114.9, 114.3, 109.8 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  –203.27 ppm.



3pa

#### 7-(*tert*-Butyl)-4-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3pa)

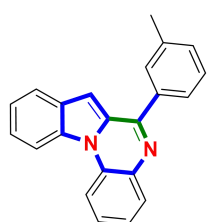
Gray white solid (80%, 24.0 mg), mp 166–167 °C. According to the **GP**, the product **3pa** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and <sup>i</sup>PrOH. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 9H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.4, 148.6, 138.7, 136.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 126.7, 125.4, 125.2, 124.9, 114.4, 113.8, 113.3, 108.5, 34.8, 31.5 ppm. IR (KBr): 2960, 2869, 1583, 1483, 1446, 1415, 1365, 1271, 808, 713, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 301.1699, found 301.1696.



**3ab**

#### **6-(3-Methoxyphenyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ab)**

Yellow solid (90%, 27.8 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ab** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.57 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.78 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.3, 140.2, 136.4, 135.5, 133.1, 130.9, 130.5, 129.3, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 124.3, 124.2, 122.8, 122.6, 114.7, 114.6, 102.5, 21.5 ppm.

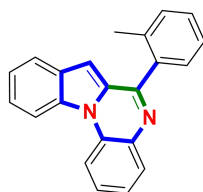


**3ac**

#### **6-(2-Tolyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ac)**

Yellow solid (88%, 27.1 mg), mp 138–139 °C. According to the **GP**, the product **3ac** is obtained by filtration and washing with water. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.62 – 8.43 (m, 2H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.2, 138.9, 136.1, 133.9, 133.6, 131.8, 129.9, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 126.0, 125.5, 124.7, 123.1, 114.8, 114.6,

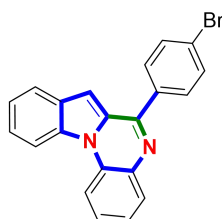
105.2, 21.5 ppm. IR (KBr): 3683, 3049, 1714, 1600, 1527, 1448, 1377, 1244, 1022, 794, 732, 626  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : calculated for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  309.1386, found 309.1382.



3ad

### 6-(*o*-Tolyl)indolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline (3ad)

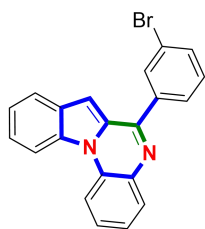
Yellow solid (80%, 24.7 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ad** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and  $i$ PrOH.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62 (dd,  $J = 17.2, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.50 (dh,  $J = 20.8, 7.4$  Hz, 5H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  157.6, 137.3, 136.5, 136.1, 133.1, 130.9, 130.6, 130.4, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.5, 125.8, 124.4, 124.2, 122.9, 122.7, 114.8, 114.7, 102.5, 19.7 ppm.



3ae

### 6-(4-Bromophenyl)indolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline (3ae)

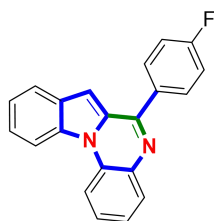
Yellow solid (88%, 32.8 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ae** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.56 (t,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.11 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.98 (t,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 3H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.1, 137.2, 136.7, 136.2, 134.8, 133.2, 131.9, 130.6, 130.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 124.6, 124.5, 124.4, 122.9, 114.8, 114.9, 102.3 ppm.



3af

### 6-(3-Bromophenyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3af)

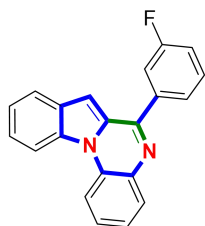
Yellow solid (80%, 29.9 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3af** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and *i*PrOH.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.54 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.00 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50 (td,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 3H), 7.26 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  154.6, 140.1, 136.0, 133.1, 133.1, 131.6, 130.6, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.3, 126.5, 124.7, 124.4, 122.9, 122.9, 114.7, 114.6, 102.4 ppm.



3ag

### 6-(4-Fluorophenyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ag)

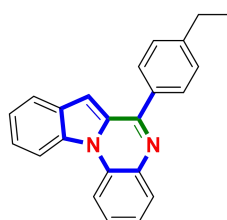
Yellow solid (82%, 27.8 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ag** is obtained by filtration and washing with water and *i*PrOH.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.55 (dd,  $J = 12.2, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.18 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.10 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 5.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dt,  $J = 19.7, 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (td,  $J = 7.6, 2.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.9 (d,  $J = 248.9$  Hz), 155.0, 135.8, 134.0, 133.2, 130.7, 130.6, 130.3, 130.1, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 124.7, 124.4, 122.8, 115.8 (d,  $J = 21.5$  Hz), 114.7 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz), 113.7, 102.8 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -76.11 ppm.



3ah

### 6-(3-Fluorophenyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ah)

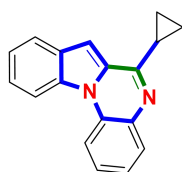
Yellow solid (84%, 26.2 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ah** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.55 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.12 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dt,  $J = 9.6, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.66 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.50 (ddd,  $J = 8.7, 7.3, 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.0 (d,  $J = 245.1$  Hz), 154.8, 140.3 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 136.1, 133.1, 130.6, 130.3 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 130.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.7, 124.6, 124.4, 124.4, 124.3, 122.9 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz), 116.9 (d,  $J = 21.1$  Hz), 115.8 (d,  $J = 22.6$  Hz), 114.7, 114.6, 102.3 ppm.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -112.24 ppm.



3ai

### 6-(4-Ethylphenyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ai)

Yellow solid (90%, 29.0 mg). PE/EA = 30:1,  $R_f = 0.28$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.54 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd,  $J = 17.1, 7.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.62 (dt,  $J = 20.3, 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 2.84 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.3, 146.5, 136.4, 135.8, 133.1, 130.5, 130.2, 129.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.2, 128.2, 124.3, 124.2, 122.8, 122.6, 114.6, 114.6, 102.5, 28.9, 15.6 ppm.

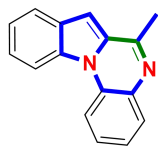


3aj

### 6-Cyclopropylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3aj)

Yellow solid (50%, 13.0 mg). According to the **GP**, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography, PE/EA = 30:1,  $R_f = 0.28$ . mp 154–155°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.51 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 2.57 (tt,  $J = 8.3, 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.45 (dt,  $J = 6.6, 3.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.19 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 3.1$  Hz,

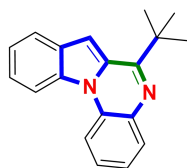
2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.1, 136.1, 132.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.6, 129.2, 127.1, 124.0, 123.9, 122.6, 122.5, 114.6, 114.6, 99.3, 14.3, 9.2 ppm. IR (KBr): 3685, 3095, 2947, 2929, 1712, 1527, 1409, 1265, 1205, 1076, 1029, 806  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ : calculated for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  259.1230, found 259.1227.



3ak

### 6-Methylindolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ak)

Yellow solid (90%, 20.9 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ak** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.50 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.00 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.48 (q,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.3, 135.8, 132.97, 130.3, 129.8, 129.6, 129.1, 127.8, 124.3, 124.1, 122.7, 122.6, 114.6, 114.6, 100.1, 22.4 ppm.

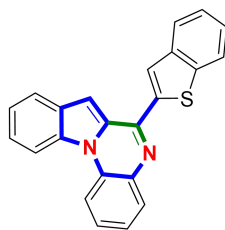


3al

### 6-(*tert*-Butyl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3al)

Pale yellow solid (68%, 18.7 mg), mp 126–127°C. According to the **GP**, the crude product **3al** was purified by flash column chromatography. PE/EA = 40:1,  $R_f = 0.28$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.57 (tt,  $J = 7.8, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 10.6, 6.7, 2.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.71 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 1.75 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 9H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.0, 135.5, 131.9, 130.4, 130.0, 128.8, 127.9, 127.4, 123.9, 123.8, 122.5, 122.5, 114.6, 114.4, 102.0, 39.7, 29.5 ppm. IR (KBr): 3679, 3132, 3053, 2958, 1722, 1448, 1357, 1058, 800, 742  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  275.1543, found 275.1538.

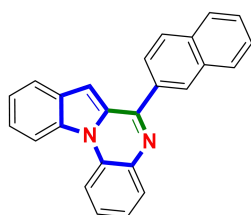




3am

### 6-(Benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)indolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline (3am)

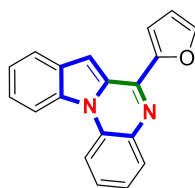
Yellow solid (92%, 32.2 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3am** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.48 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 5.9$  Hz, 2H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.09 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (ddd,  $J = 9.1, 5.9, 3.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.68 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 4H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.9, 142.4, 140.7, 140.1, 135.7, 132.9, 130.5, 130.0, 129.3, 128.7, 127.7, 125.8, 125.4, 124.7, 124.6, 124.5, 124.3, 122.9, 122.8, 122.4, 121.1, 114.6, 101.5 ppm.



3an

### 6-(Naphthalen-1-yl)indolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline (3an)

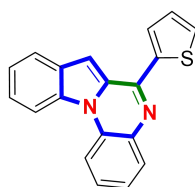
Yellow solid (88%, 30.3 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3an** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.63 – 8.52 (m, 3H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.12 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.99 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.52 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  156.1, 136.1, 135.8, 134.9, 134.4, 133.4, 133.1, 130.1, 129.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.4, 126.7, 125.8, 125.2, 124.6, 123.1, 123.0, 114.8, 114.7, 104.3 ppm.



3ao

### 7-(Furan-2-yl)indolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline (3ao)

Yellow solid (90%, 25.6 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3ao** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 – 8.47 (m, 2H), 8.05 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.58 (dddd,  $J = 18.2, 8.5, 7.1, 1.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 6.68 (dd,  $J = 3.5, 1.7$  Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  152.2, 144.9, 144.7, 135.8, 132.8, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 128.3, 126.9, 124.4, 124.2, 122.9, 122.8, 114.7, 114.6, 113.3, 112.1, 102.1 ppm.



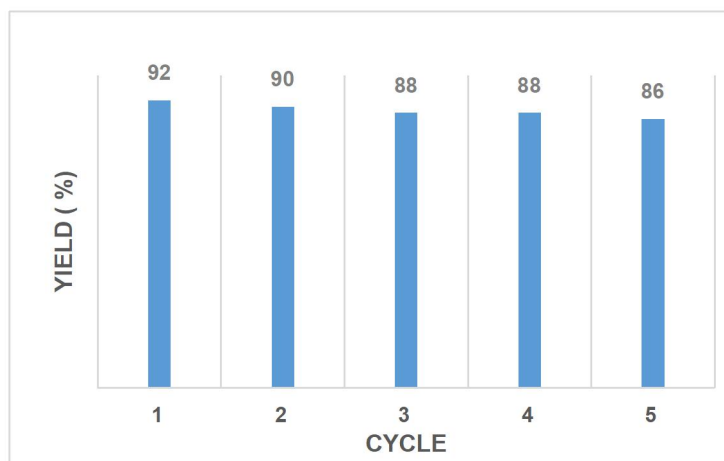
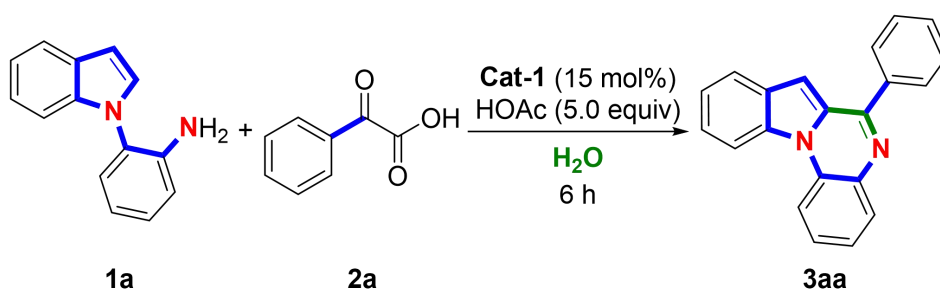
**3ap**

### **6-(Thiophen-2-yl)indolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (3ap)**

Yellow solid (92%, 27.6 mg), mp 146–147°C. According to the **GP**, the product **3ap** is obtained by filtration and washing with water.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.48 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.10 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.99 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td,  $J = 13.4, 12.7, 6.3$  Hz, 4H), 7.47 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (q,  $J = 3.7, 2.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.9, 142.0, 135.8, 132.9, 132.2, 130.9, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 124.5, 124.2, 122.8, 114.6, 101.7 ppm. IR (KBr): 3051, 2916, 1600, 1515, 1429, 1365, 1203, 1116, 1051, 842, 744, 713  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  301.0794, found 301.0785.

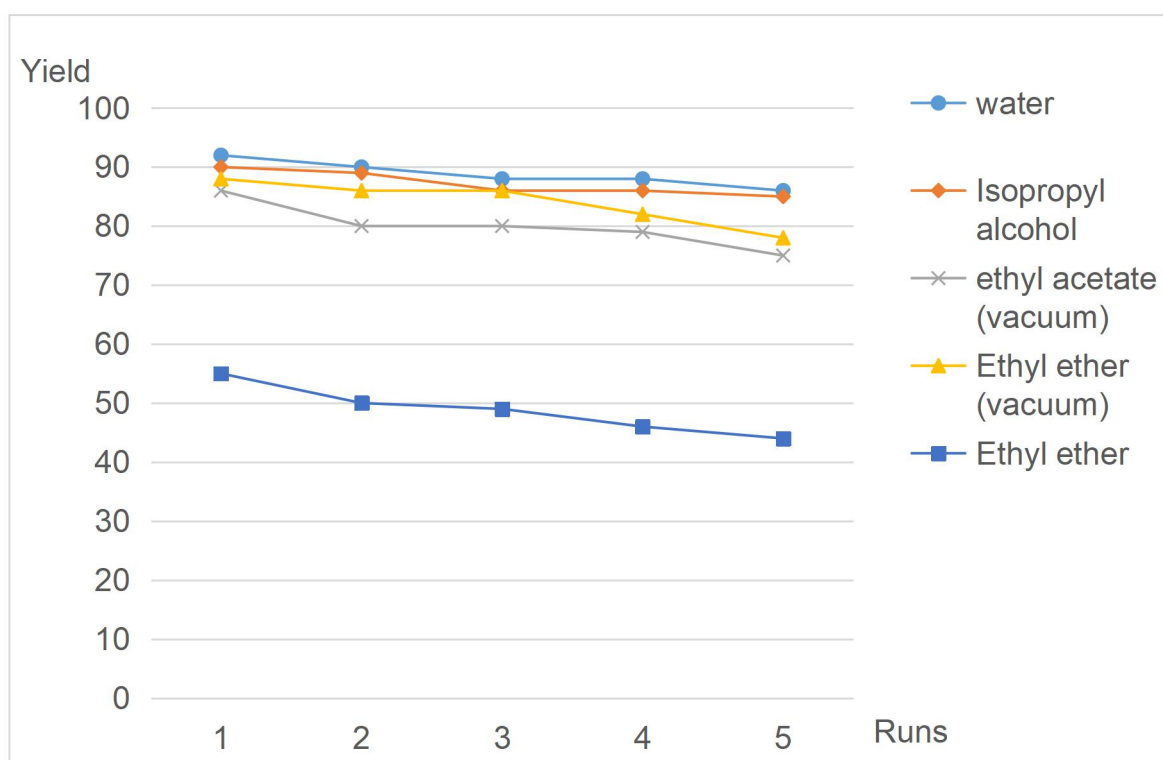
## 4. Catalyst Recovery

The feasibility of recycling the catalyst system was studied under the optimized reaction condition according to **GP**. To a pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), 2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)anilines **1a** (1 mmol), phenylglyoxylic acid **2a** (1.2 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h under Air. After completion of the reaction, the target product was obtained by filtration and washed by *i*PrOH. The remains were further subjected to the subsequent reactions. The following reactions can conduct smoothly and need to add nothing but new substrates, affording the pure product **3aa** (27 mg, 92%), (26 mg, 90%), (26 mg, 88%), (26 mg, 88%), and (25 mg, 86%) in five cycles, respectively.

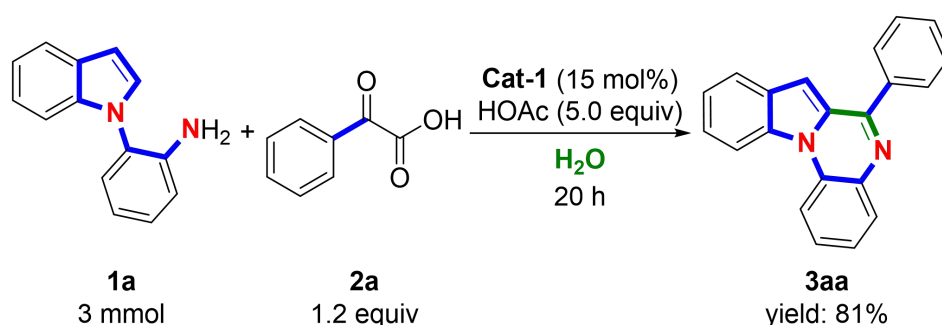


The product was separated either by filtration or by extraction owing to the different solubility of the product and catalyst by using different solvent. In this respect, the impact of reaction solvents and extraction solvents on recycling were tested. On one hand, the reaction solvents were tested. After completion of the reaction, the product was facile separated by filtration with the filtrate reused directly when H<sub>2</sub>O or *i*PrOH was used as solvent. A comparable results were obtained when H<sub>2</sub>O or *i*PrOH was used as solvent. On the other hand, the extraction solvents (ethyl ether and ethyl acetate) were tested when H<sub>2</sub>O was used as reaction solvent, the product was simply separated by extraction and the remains reused in subsequent reactions. The results showed ethyl ether is the better solvent.

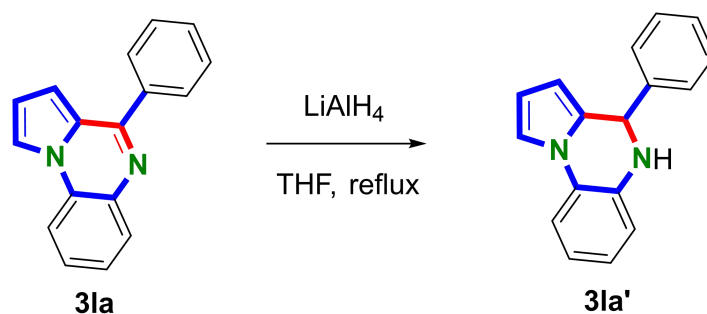
The purity of the ILs was also investigated by using ethyl ether as extraction solvent. After the extraction, the control experiments were set for the remains used directly and subjected to vacuum to remove the rest of solvents. The data showed the remains subjected to vacuum gave the better yields on recycling. It means the higher purity of the ILs, the better results were obtained on recycling.



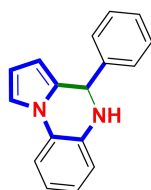
## 5. Large-Scale Transformation and Synthetic Utility



A pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), 2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)aniline **1a** (3 mmol), phenylglyoxylic acid **2a** (3.6 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h under air. After completion of the reaction, the target product **3aa** was obtained by solid filtration and washing with H<sub>2</sub>O.

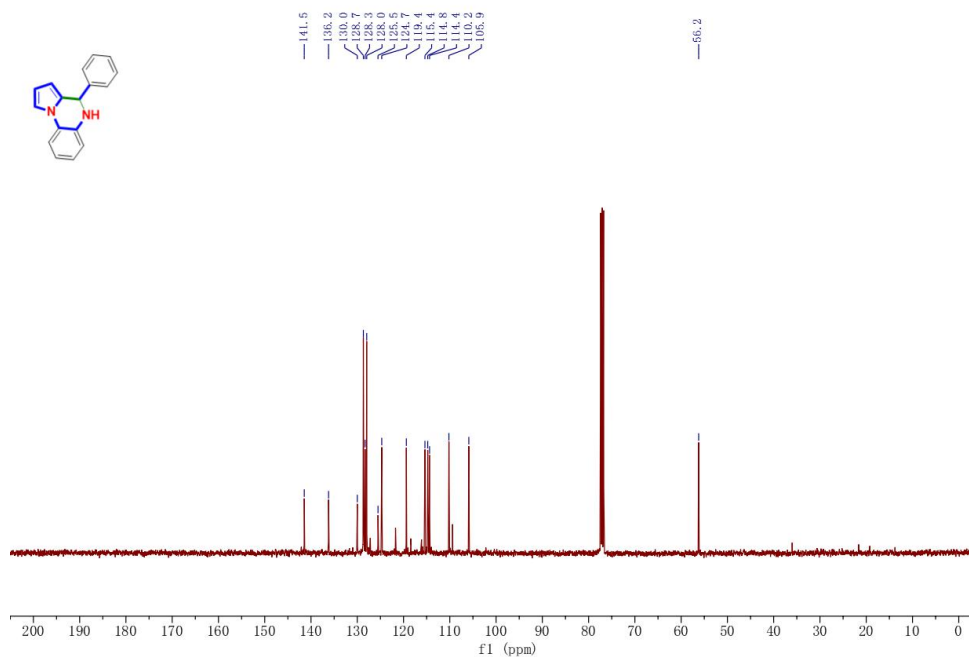
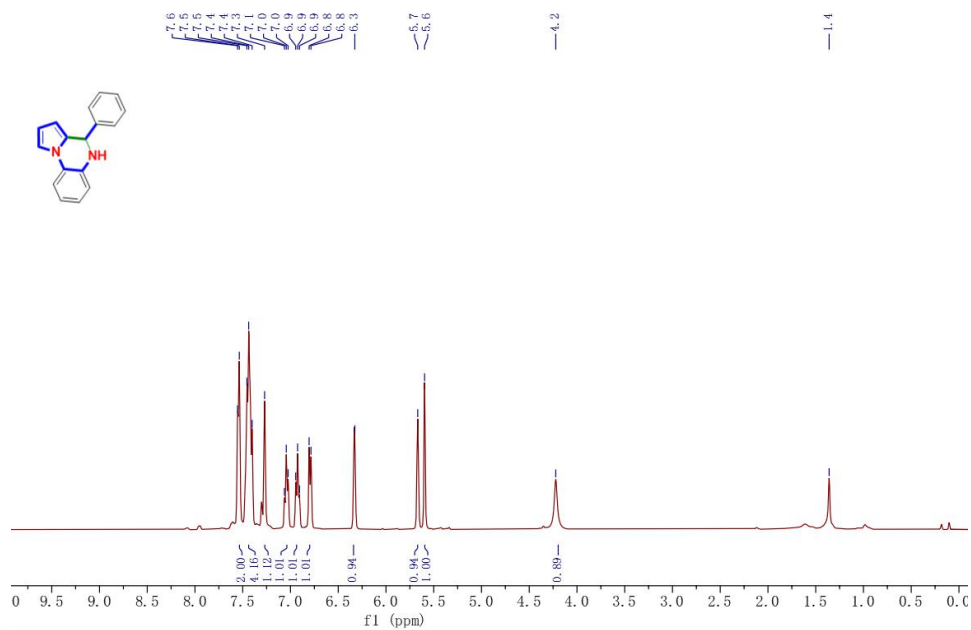


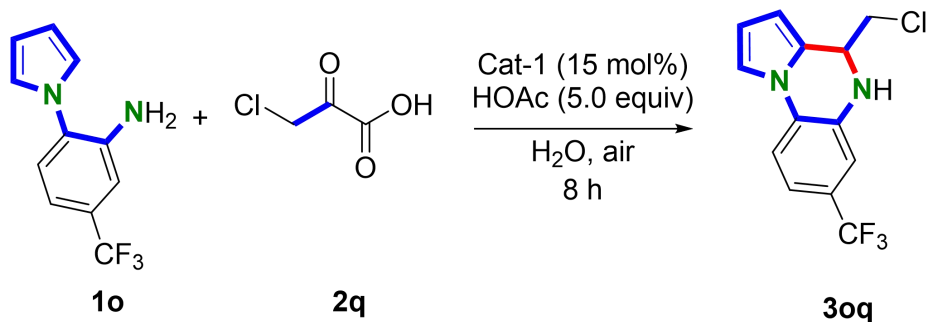
To a stirred solution of 4-phenylpyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline **3la** (0.1 mmol) in anhydrous THF (1 mL), LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.4 mmol) was added portion wise. The reaction was refluxed with stirring for 17 h under Ar condition. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was quenched with ethyl acetate and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the product **3la'** in 50% yield.



**(R)-4-Phenyl-4,5-dihydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoxaline 3la'**

Pale white solid (50%, 12.0 mg). According to the **GP**, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography. PE/EA = 30:1,  $R_f = 0.28$ .  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.03 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (td,  $J = 7.0, 6.3, 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.31 (t,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 4.23 (s, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.4, 136.2, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 125.5, 124.7, 119.4, 115.4, 114.8, 114.4, 110.2, 105.9, 56.2 ppm.



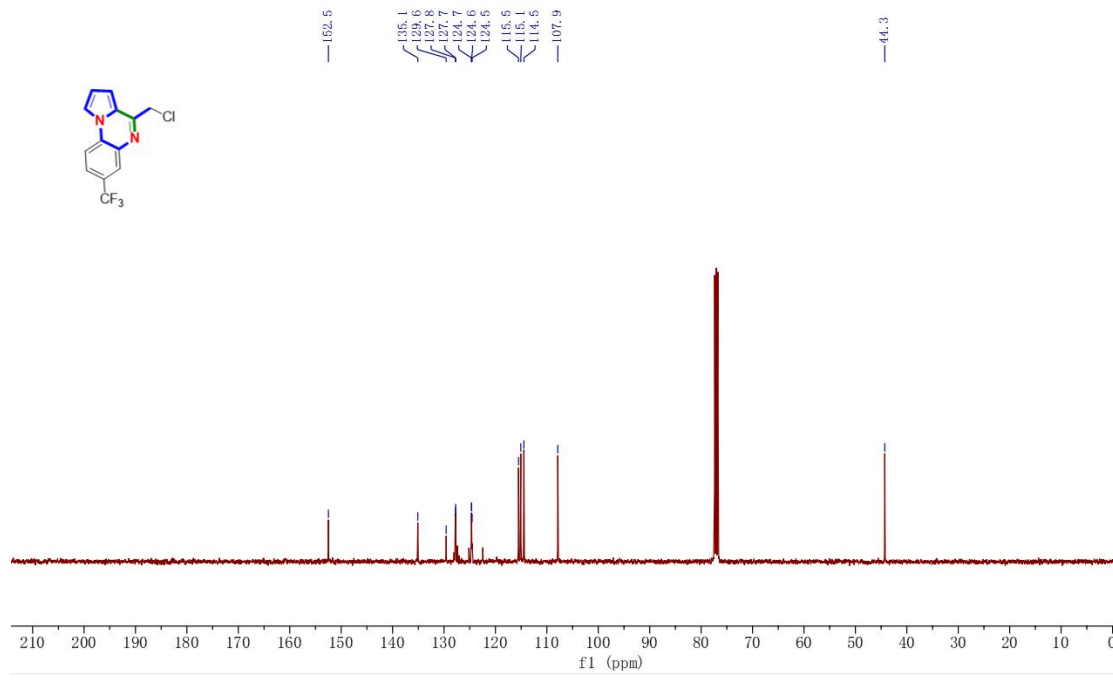
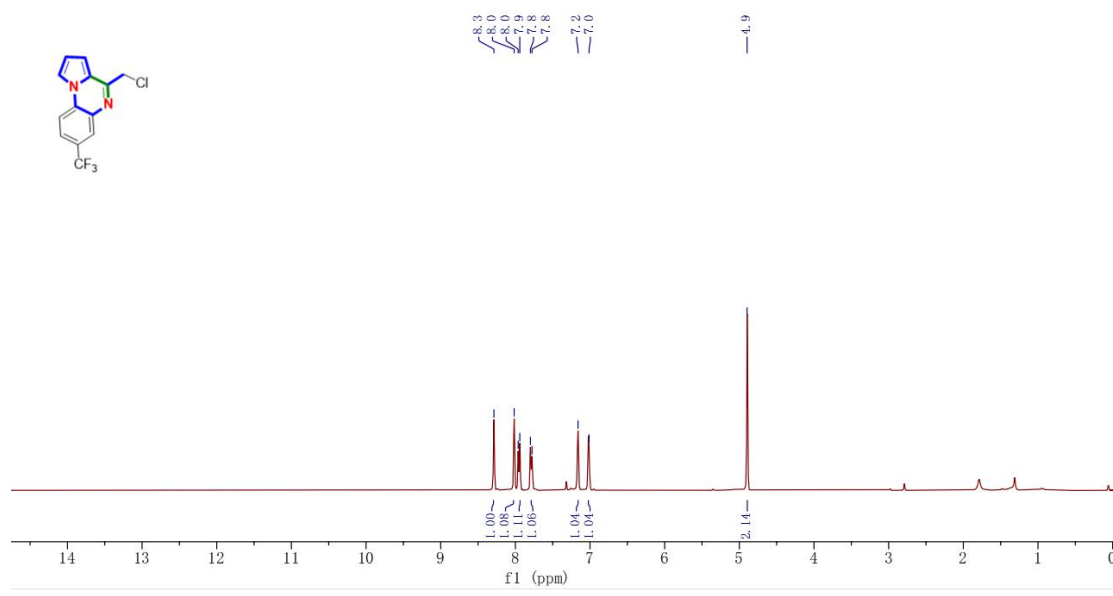


A pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), 2-(1H-pyrrol-1-yl)aniline **1o** (0.1 mmol), 2-chloroacetaldehyde (0.12 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h under Air. The product was then extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 3 times). The organic layers were combined, washed with water (10 mL × 3 times) and brine solution (10 mL). Finally, the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated under reduced pressure to dryness. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the product **3oq** in 80% yield.



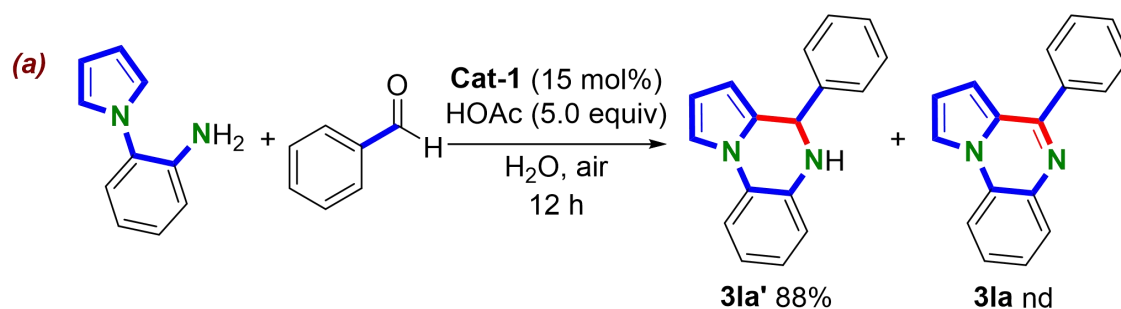
### 3-(Chloromethyl)-7-(trifluoromethyl)pyrrolo[1,2-a]quinoxaline (**3oq**)

Pale white solid (80%, 23.2 mg). PE/EA = 30:1,  $R_f = 0.30$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.29 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  152.5, 135.1, 129.6, 127.8, 127.7, 124.7, 124.6, 124.5, 115.5, 115.1, 114.5, 107.9, 44.3 ppm.

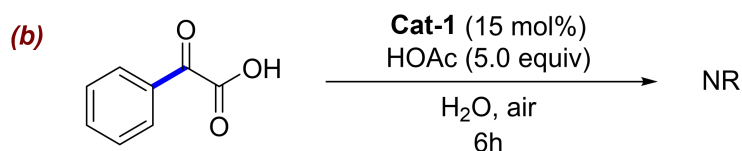




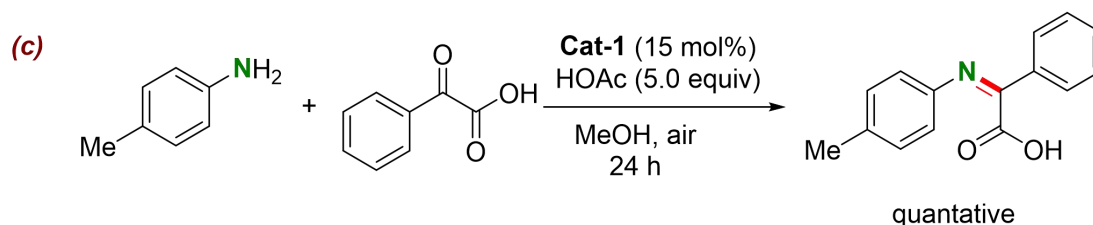
## 6. Mechanistic Studies



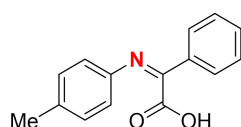
According to the **GP**, 2-(1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)aniline (0.1 mmol) and benzaldehyde (0.12 mmol) was employed under standard reaction conditions. However, the dihydroquinoxaline **3la'** was obtained in 88% yield rather than quinoxaline **3la**.



Phenylglyoxylic acid (0.1 mmol) was subjected to the reaction, no conversion was observed under standard conditions.

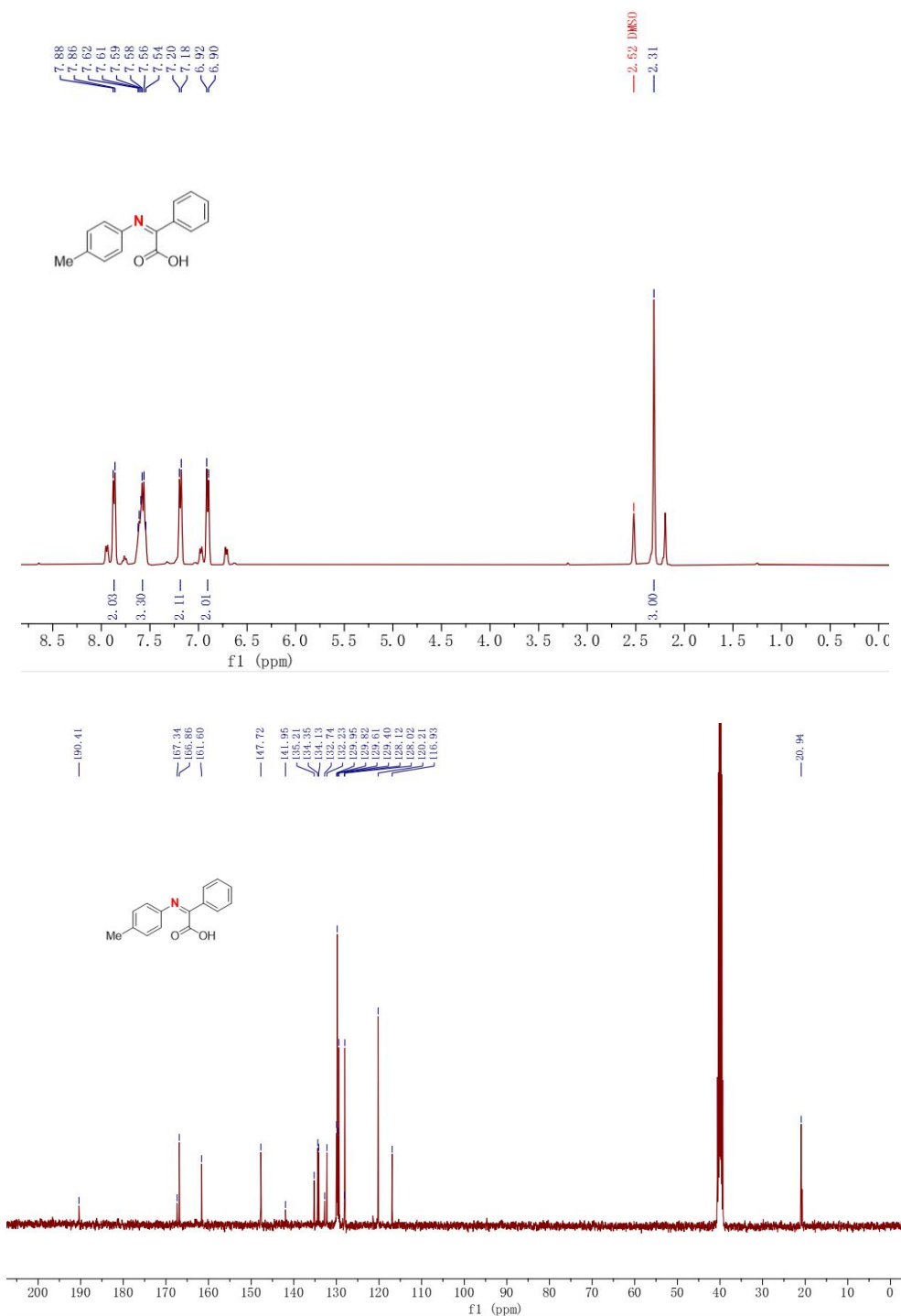


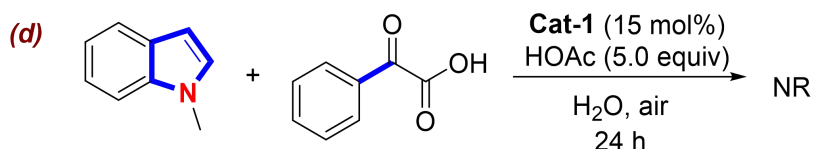
A pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), *p*-toluidine (0.1 mmol), phenylglyoxylic acid (0.12 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and MeOH (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h under Air. After completion of the reaction, a large amount of solid was precipitated, filtered and washed with methanol to obtain imine acid in quantitative yield.



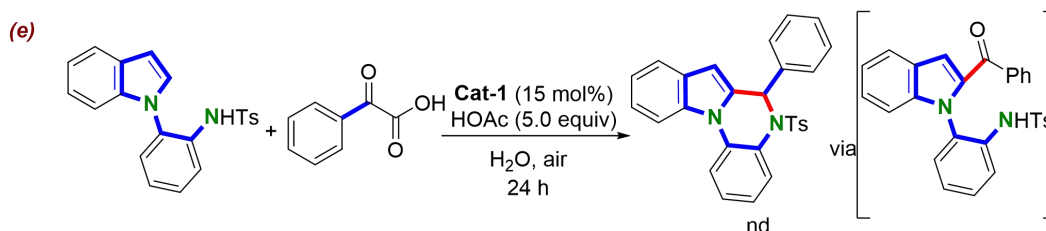
**(Z)-2-Phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylimino)acetic acid**

White solid (100%, 24 mg). According to the **GP**, the product **3aa** is obtained by filtration and washing with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dt,  $J = 15.0, 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}$ )  $\delta$  166.9, 161.6, 147.7, 134.4, 132.2, 129.8, 129.4, 128.0, 120.2, 116.9, 20.9 ppm.

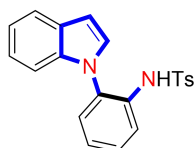




According to the **GP**, 1-methyl-1*H*-indole (0.1 mmol) and phenylglyoxylic acid (0.12 mmol) was employed under standard reaction conditions, no conversion was observed under standard conditions.

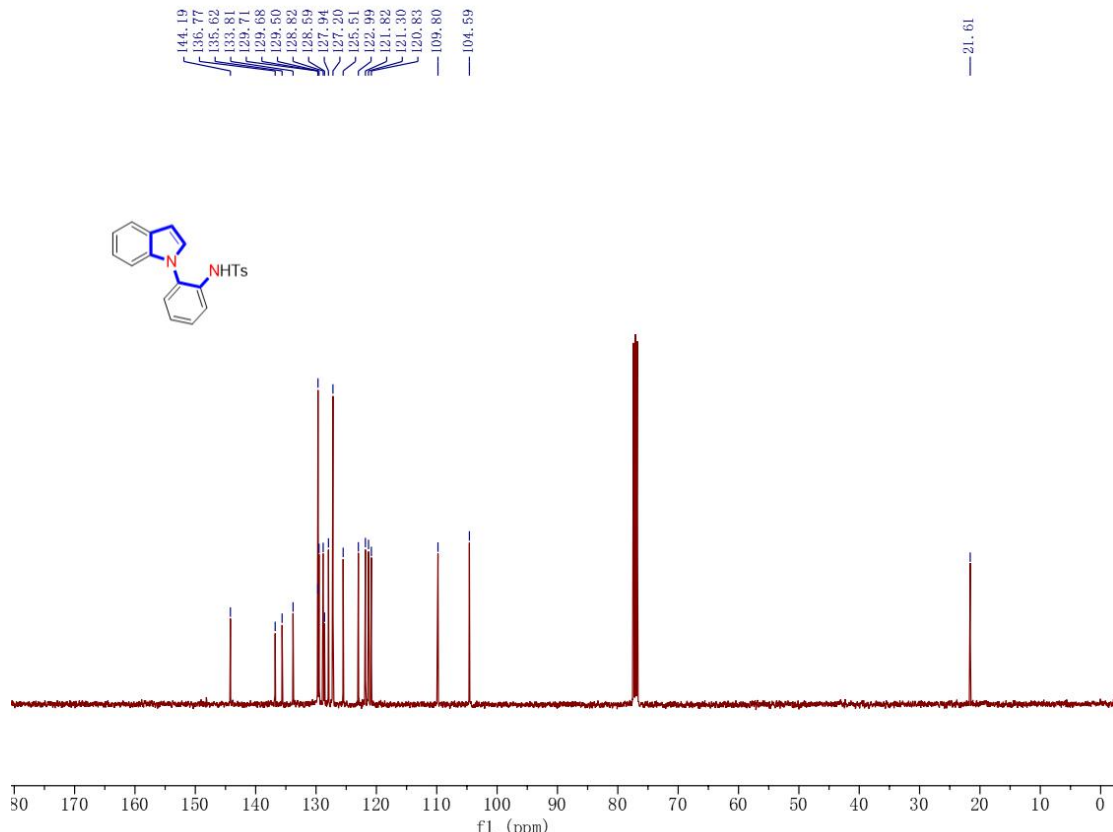
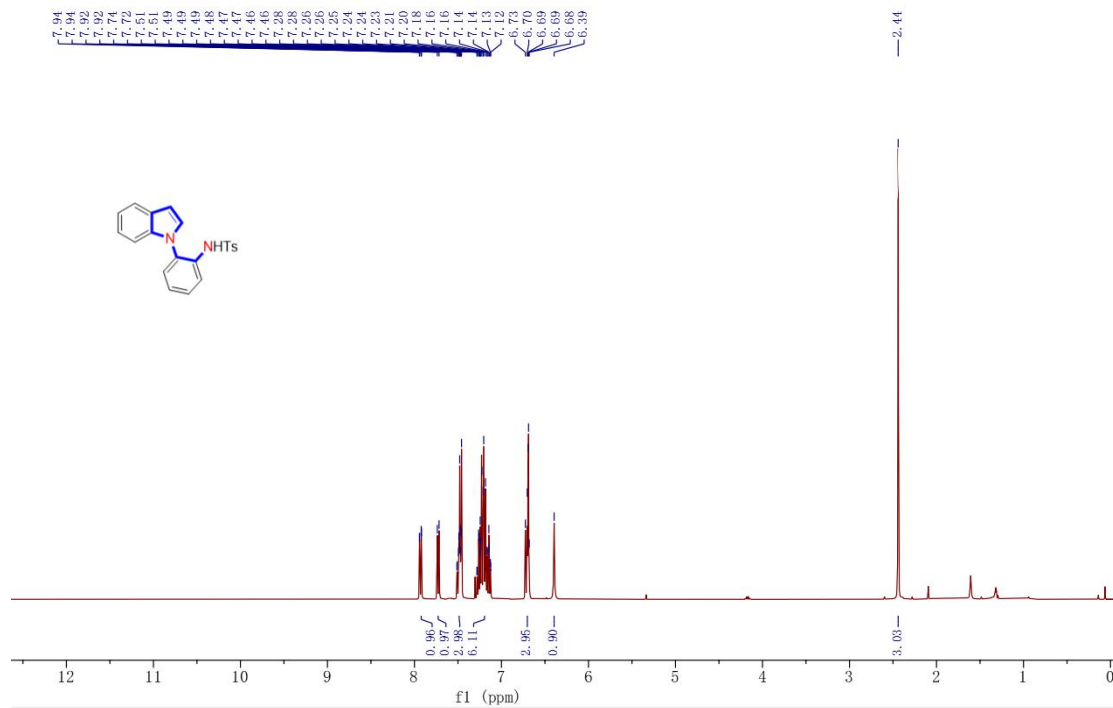


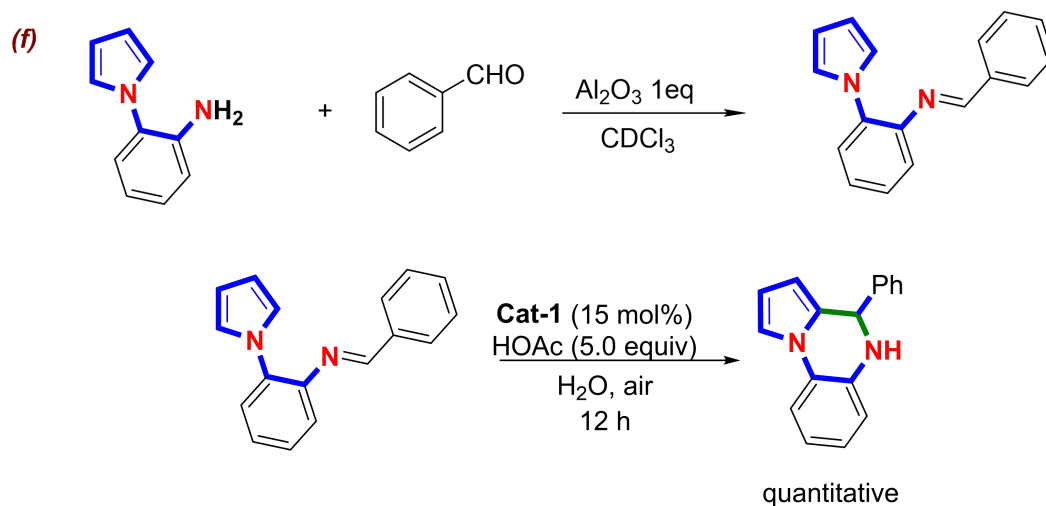
According to the **GP**, *N*-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (0.12 mmol) was employed under standard reaction conditions. However, no desired cyclic product was observed, which exclude the reaction underwent acetylated process.



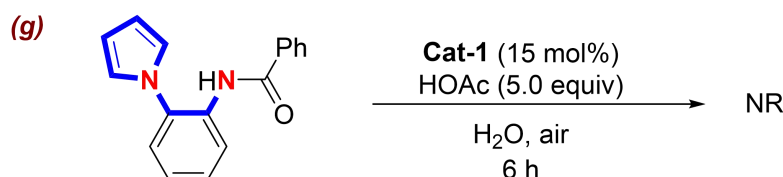
### ***N*-(2-(1*H*-indol-1-yl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide**

Pale white solid (70 % 25 mg). According to the **GP**, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography. PE/EA = 40:1,  $R_f$  = 0.26. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.93 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.14 (td,  $J$  = 7.6, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.75 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  144.19, 136.77, 135.62, 133.81, 129.71, 129.68, 129.50, 128.82, 128.59, 127.94, 127.20, 125.51, 122.99, 121.82, 121.30, 120.83, 109.80, 104.59, 21.61 ppm.

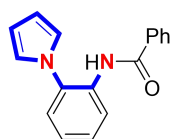




A pressure tube was charged with 2-(1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)aniline (0.1 mmol), benzaldehyde (0.12 mmol), Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1 eq) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h under Ar condition. The product formation was detected by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, the reaction mixture was then evaporated. Afterwards, **Cat-1** (15 mol%), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 12 h in the air, dihydroquinoxaline was generated in quantitative yield.



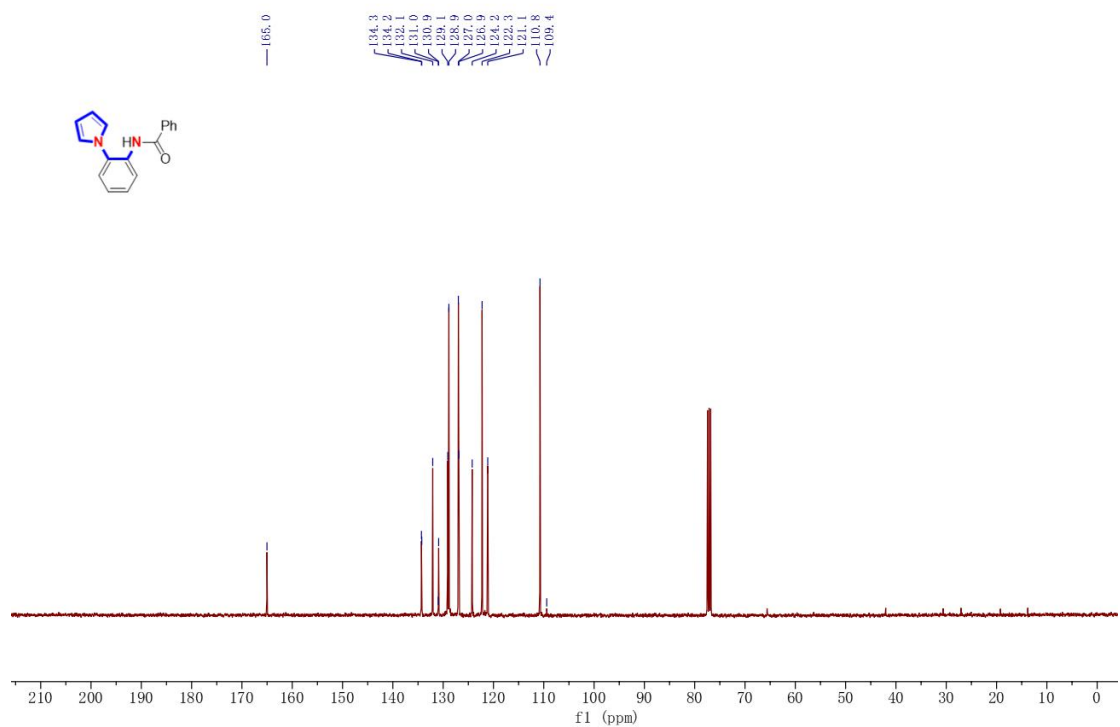
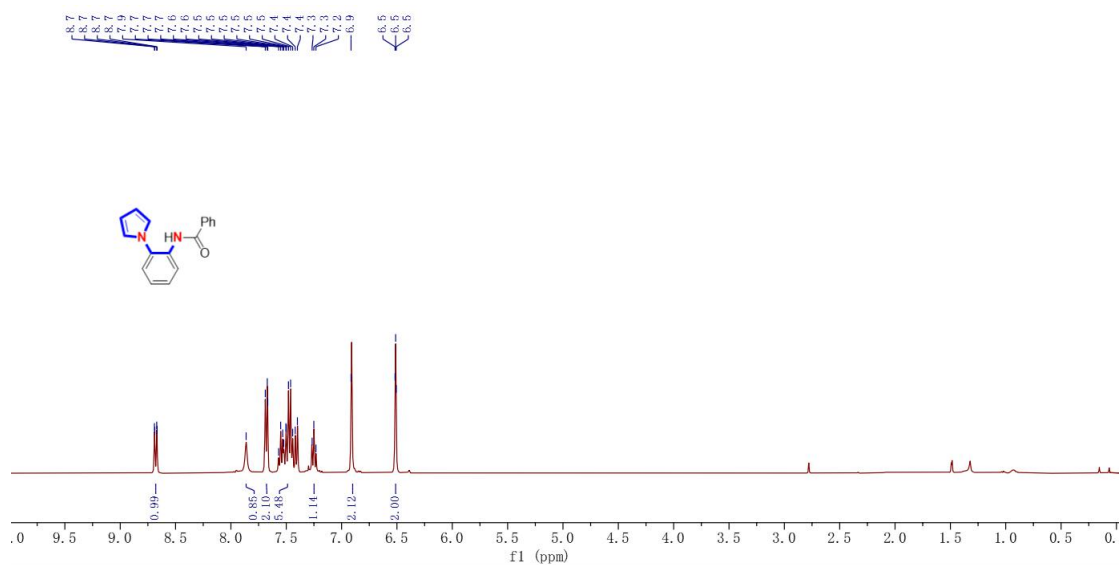
*N*-(2-(2,3-Dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl)benzamide **B** was subjected to the reaction under standard conditions, however, no reaction occurred.

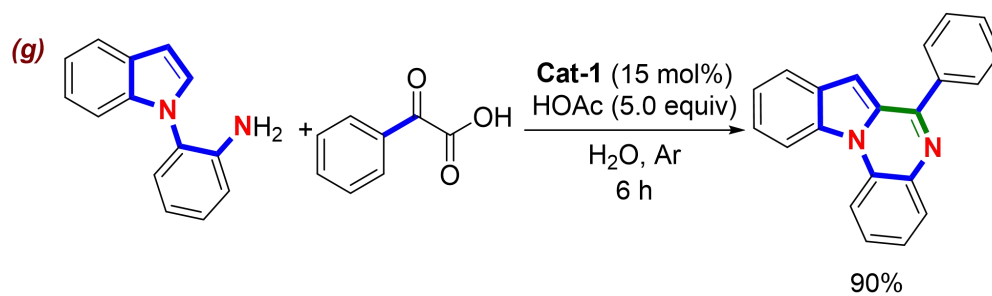


#### ***N*-(2-(1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)phenyl)benzamide**

Pale white solid (70 %, 25 mg). According to the **GP**, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography. PE/EA = 40:1, *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.28. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.68 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.54 (q, *J* = 6.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (q, *J* = 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz,

$\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.0, 134.3, 134.3, 132.1, 130.9, 130.9, 129.1, 128.9, 126.9, 126.8, 124.2, 122.3, 121.1, 110.75, 109.4 ppm.





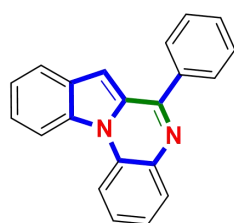
A pressure tube was charged with **Cat-1** (15 mol%), 2-(1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)aniline **1a** (0.1 mmol), phenylglyoxylic acid **2a** (0.12 mmol), HOAc (5 eq) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL), The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h under Ar, affording **1aa** in 90 % yield.

## 7. Comparison of Representative Reported Methods with This Work

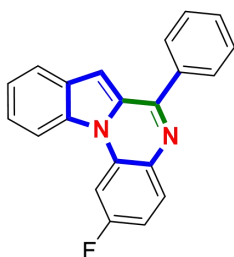
### Green metrics of the target compounds 3aa, 3ga, 3ha, 3ah.

Quantitative green metrics of the products **3aa**, **3ga**, **3ha**, **3ah**, including atom economy (AE), E-factor, carbon efficiency (CE), reaction mass efficiency (RME), mass intensity (MI), and mass productivity (MP), were calculated in the present protocol and representative references.

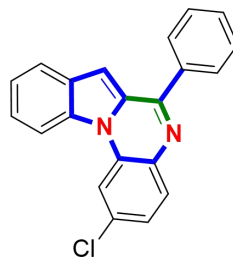
Entry	Year	Group	Solvent	Catalyst/Reagen	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%)	Purification	E-factor
1	2015	Nath <sup>3</sup>	EtOH	p-DBSA(10 %), KMnO <sub>4</sub> (1eq)	25	0.5	40–75	Chromatography	6.9–17.6
2	2016	Ma <sup>4</sup>	DMSO	TsOH·H <sub>2</sub> O(0.25eq)	120	12	96–34	Chromatography	13.2–48.9
3	2017	Ma <sup>5</sup>	DCE/H <sub>2</sub> O	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (0.9eq)	80	10	33–95	Chromatography	37.9–172.4
4	2017	Jiang <sup>6</sup>	-	O <sub>2</sub>	160	12	53–93	Chromatography	46.1–64.9
5	2020	Ma <sup>7</sup>	DMSO	KI(0.5eq)	120	8	40–88	Chromatography	21.0–57.7
6	2020	Huang <sup>8</sup>	<i>t</i> AmOH	[Ru(p-cymene)Cl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> (2.5mol% ), AgNTf <sub>2</sub> (20 mol% )	100	12	44–92	Chromatography	32.7–57.3
7	2020	Jung <sup>9</sup>	DCE	TBHP(4eq)	80	12	38–84	Chromatography	72.0–166.2
8	2021	Ma <sup>2</sup>	<i>i</i> PrOH	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) <sub>3</sub> ][SbF <sub>6</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> (5 mol% )	120	15	15–93	Chromatography	18.4–121.5
9	2021	Ji <sup>10</sup>	toluene/1, 4-dioxane	Pd(dba) <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), AgSbF <sub>6</sub> (25 mol% )	130	24	38–85	Chromatography	42.1–75.5



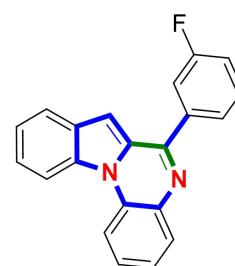
3aa



3ga



3ha



3ah



This work

	<b>3aa</b>	<b>3ga</b>	<b>3ha</b>	<b>3ah</b>
AE	82	83	84	83
E-factor	1.71	1.54	1.41	1.83
CE	80	83	85	75
RME	68	73	74	64
MI	2.71	2.54	2.41	2.83
MP	36	39	41	35

Ma<sup>2</sup> Group

	<b>3aa</b>	<b>3ga</b>	<b>3ha</b>	<b>3ah</b>
AE	68	69	70	60
E-factor	16.7	16.1	14.6	15.98
CE	51	50	52	60
RME	48	48	52	52
MI	17.7	17.1	15.6	16.98
MP	6	6	6	6

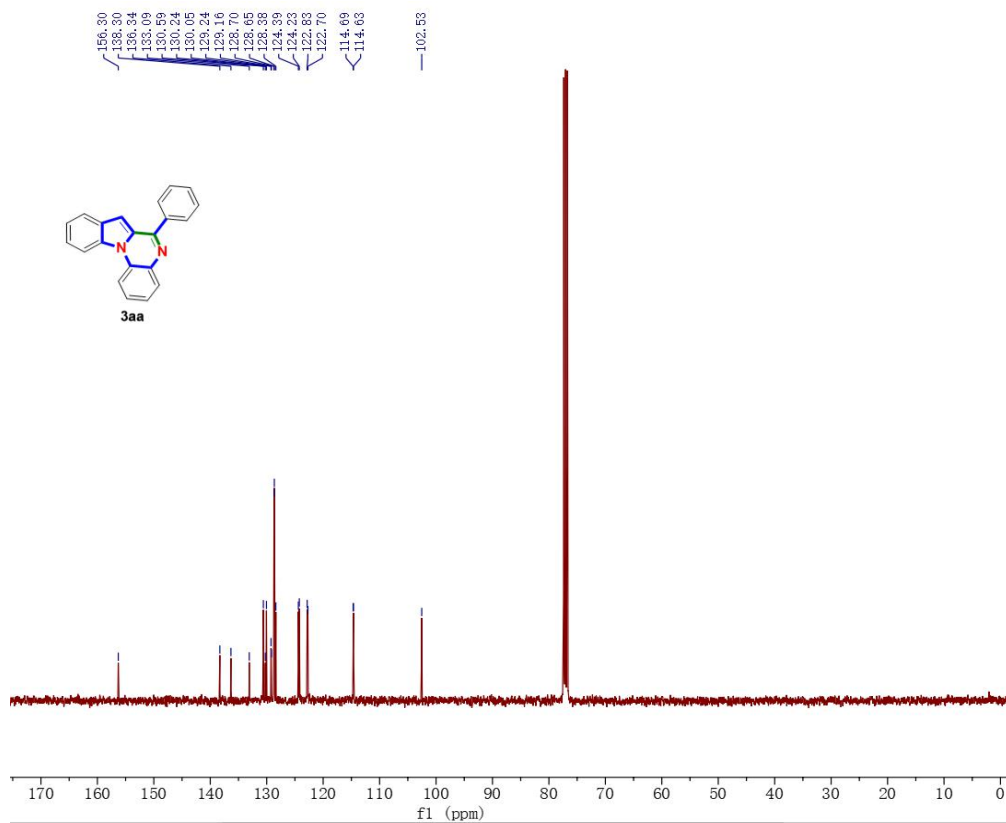
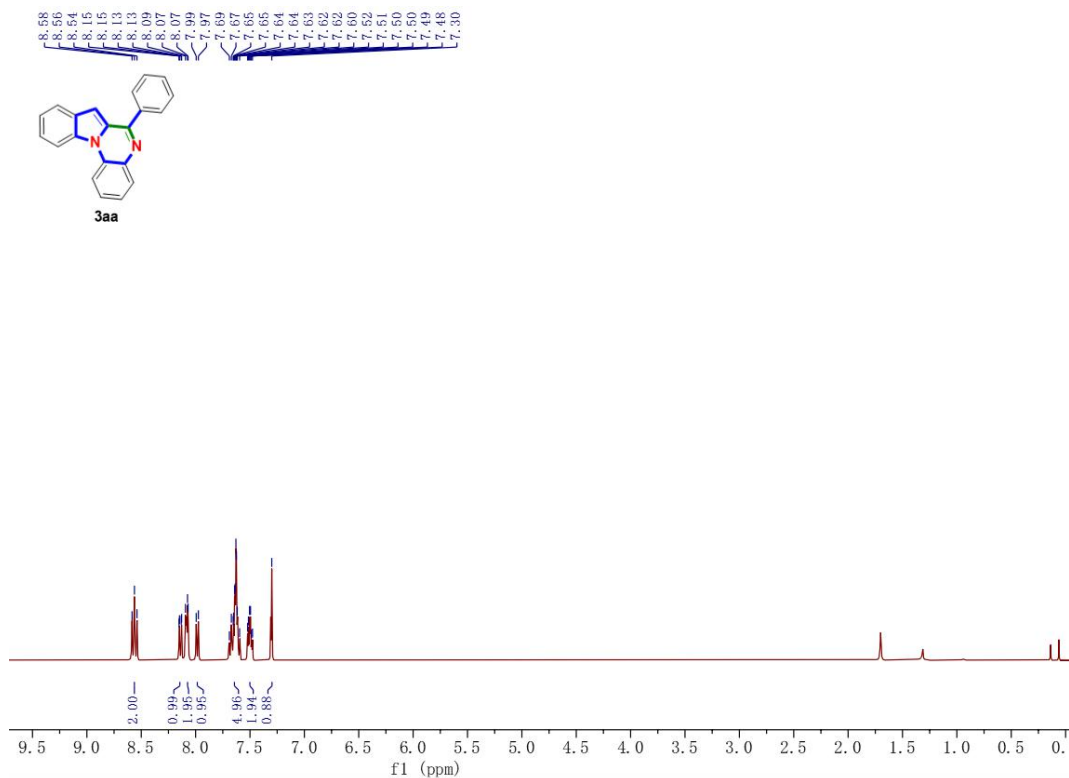
Ji<sup>1</sup> Group

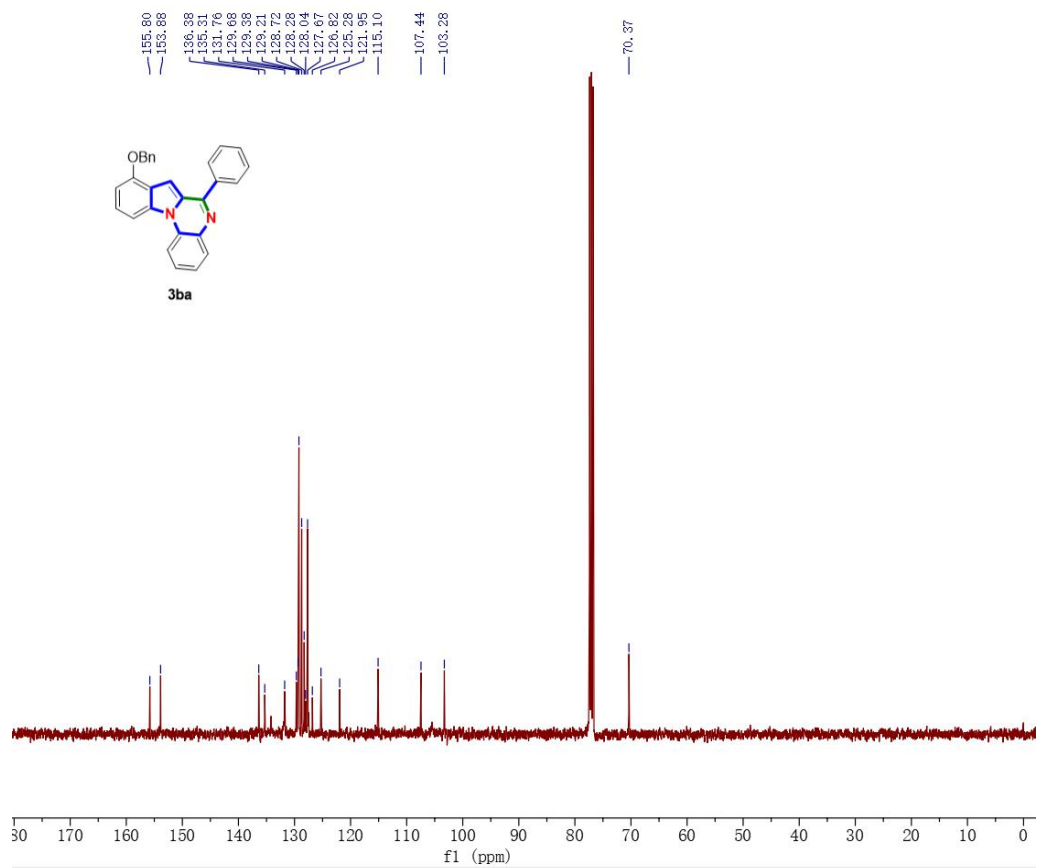
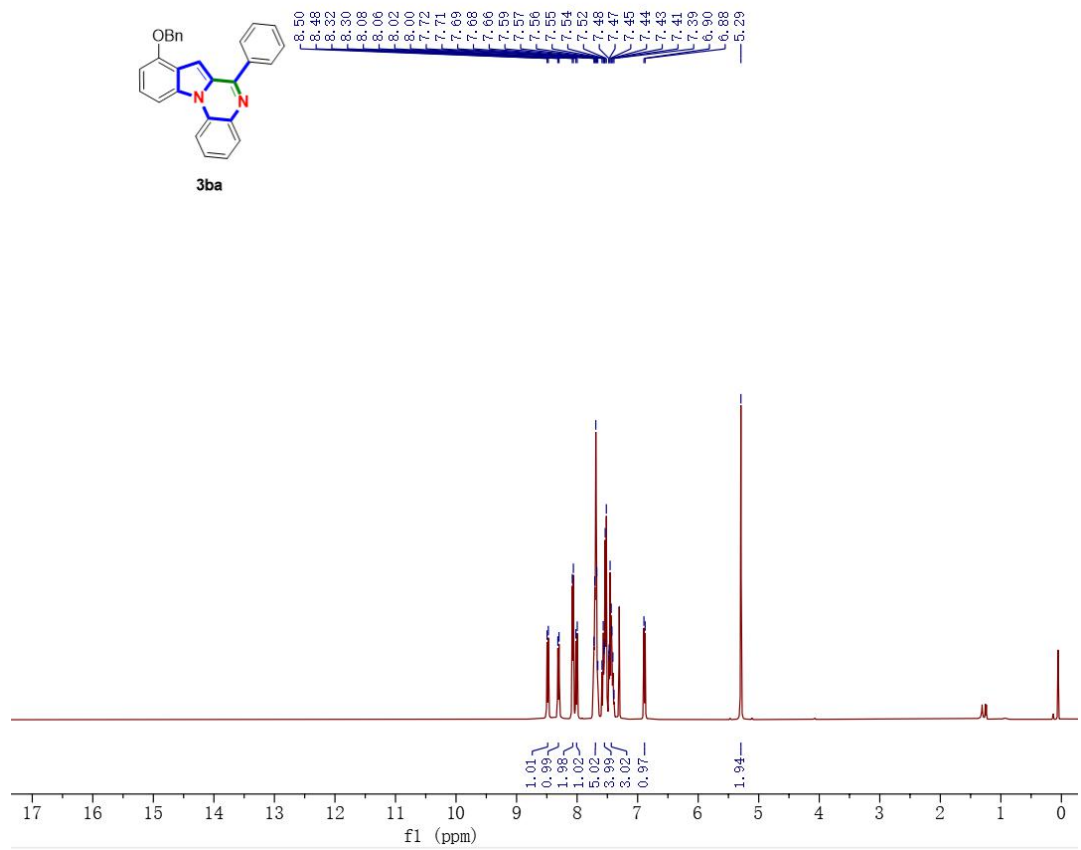
	<b>3aa</b>	<b>3ga</b>	<b>3ha</b>	<b>3ah</b>
AE	82	83	84	83
E-factor	40.31	46.7	40.7	39.15
CE	60	49	53	57
RME	51.4	54	59	47
MI	41.31	47.7	41.7	40.15
MP	2	2	2	2

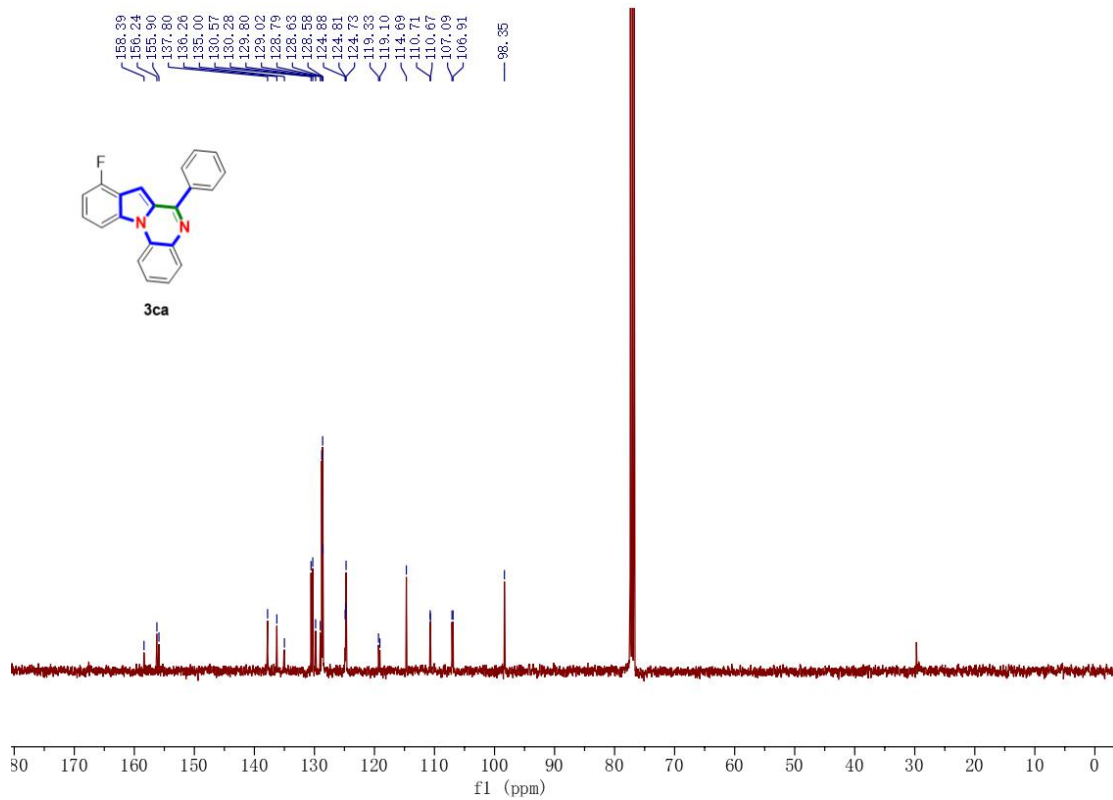
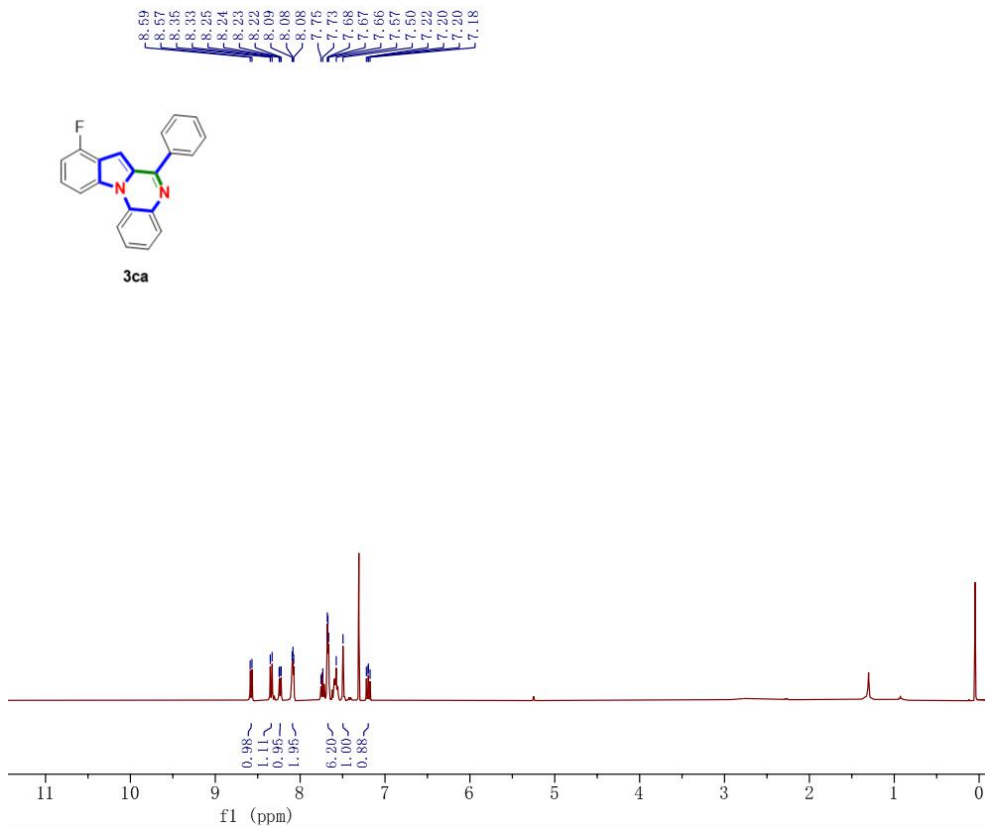
## 8. References

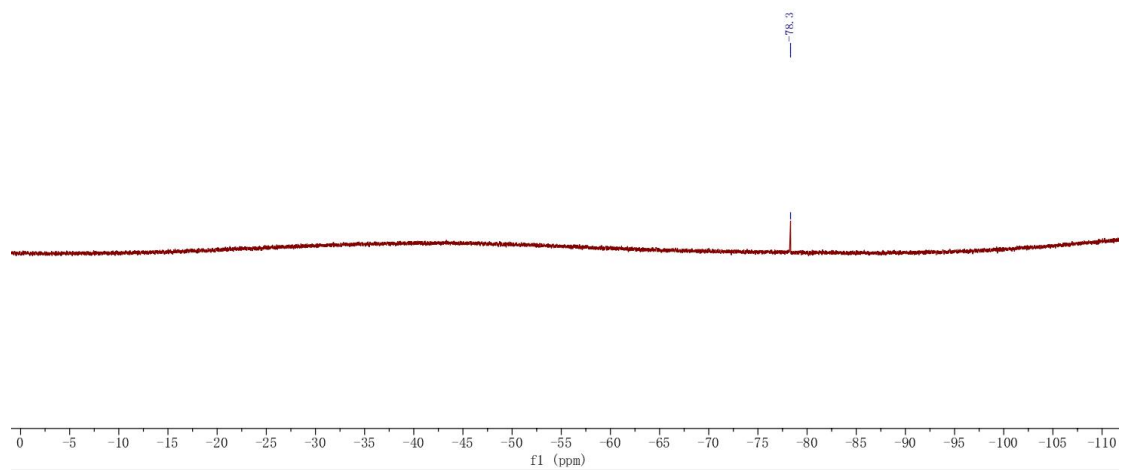
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## 9. NMR Spectra

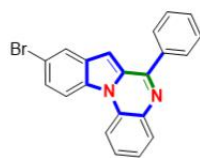




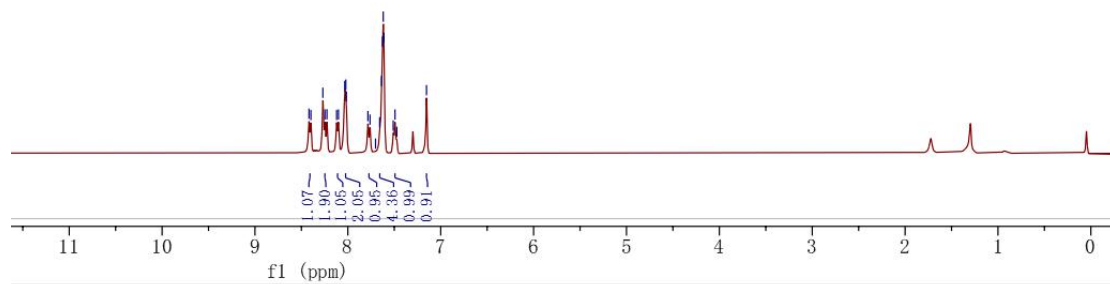


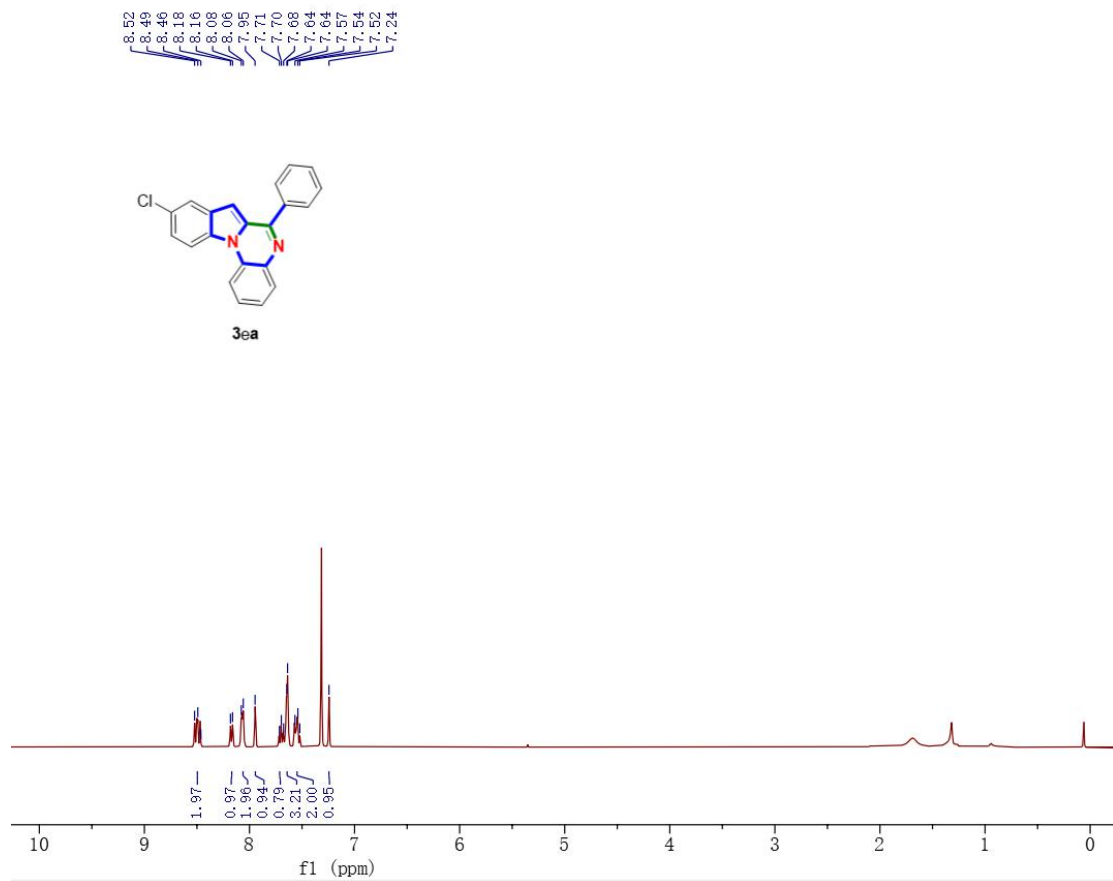
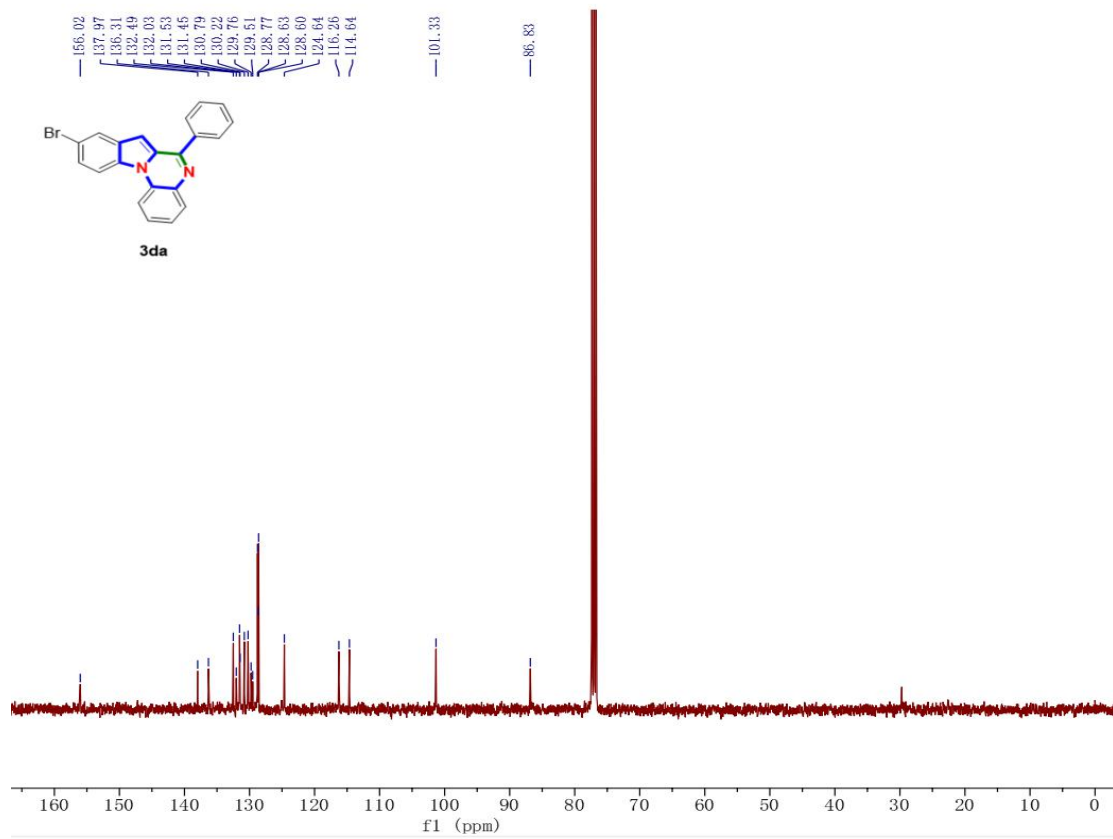


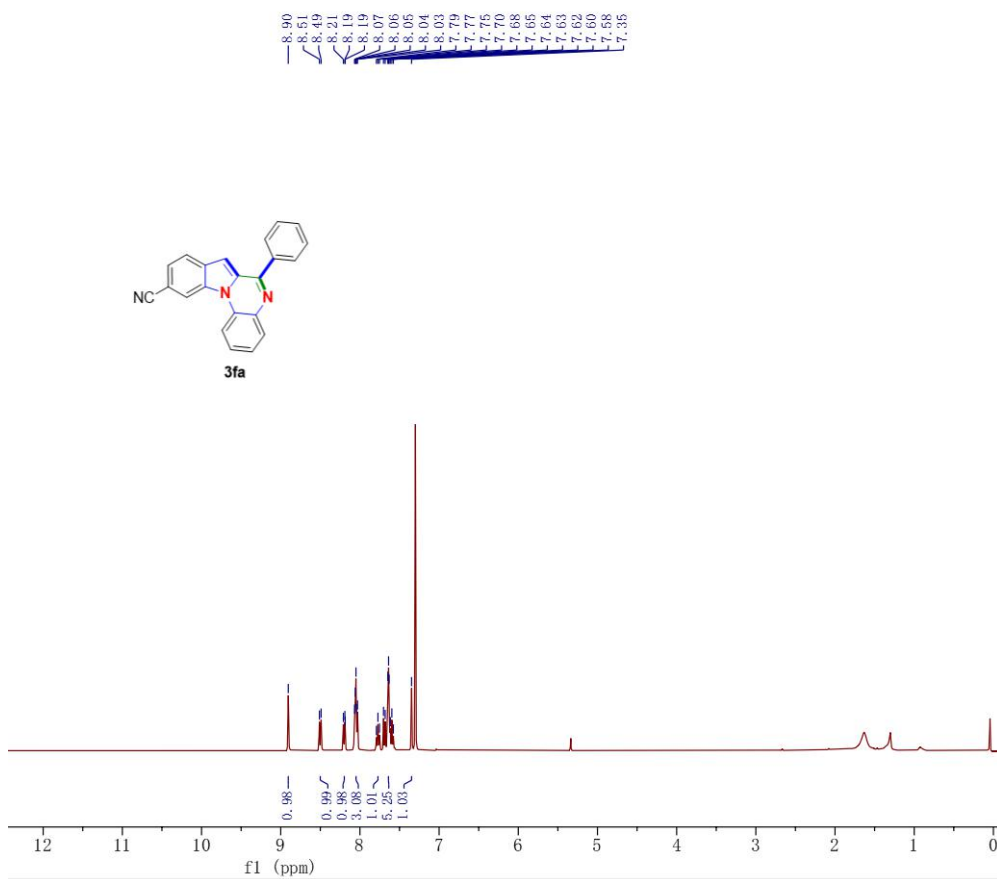
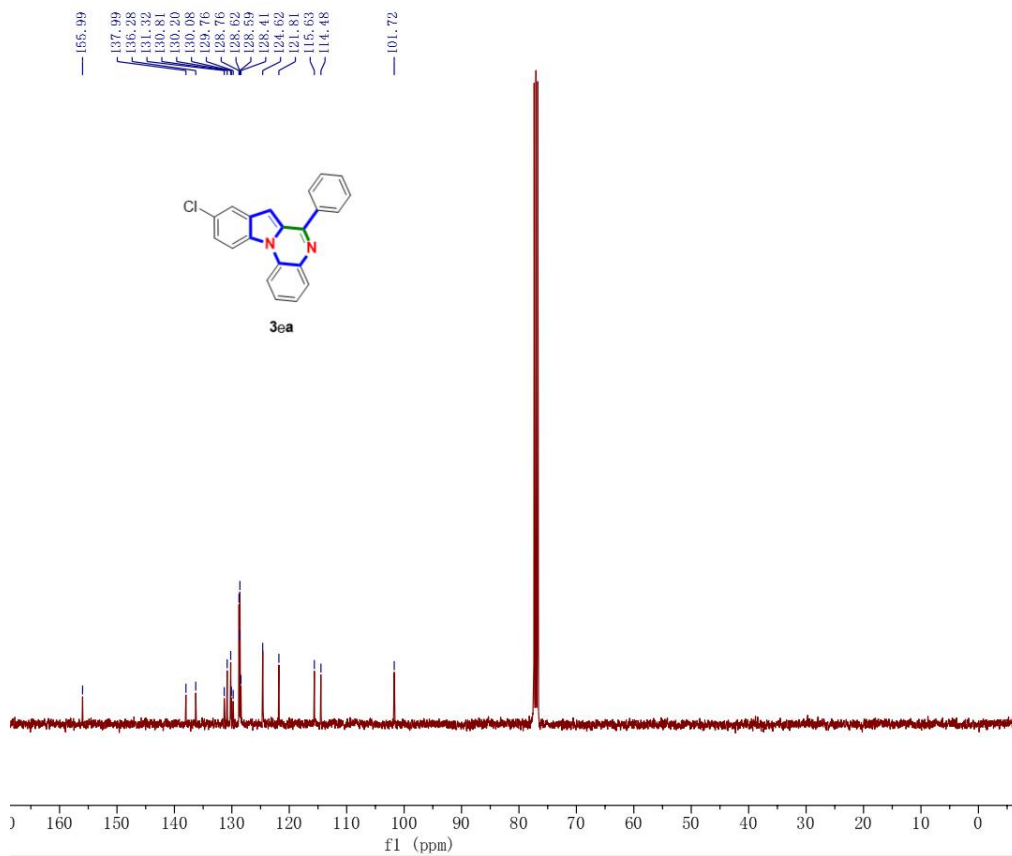
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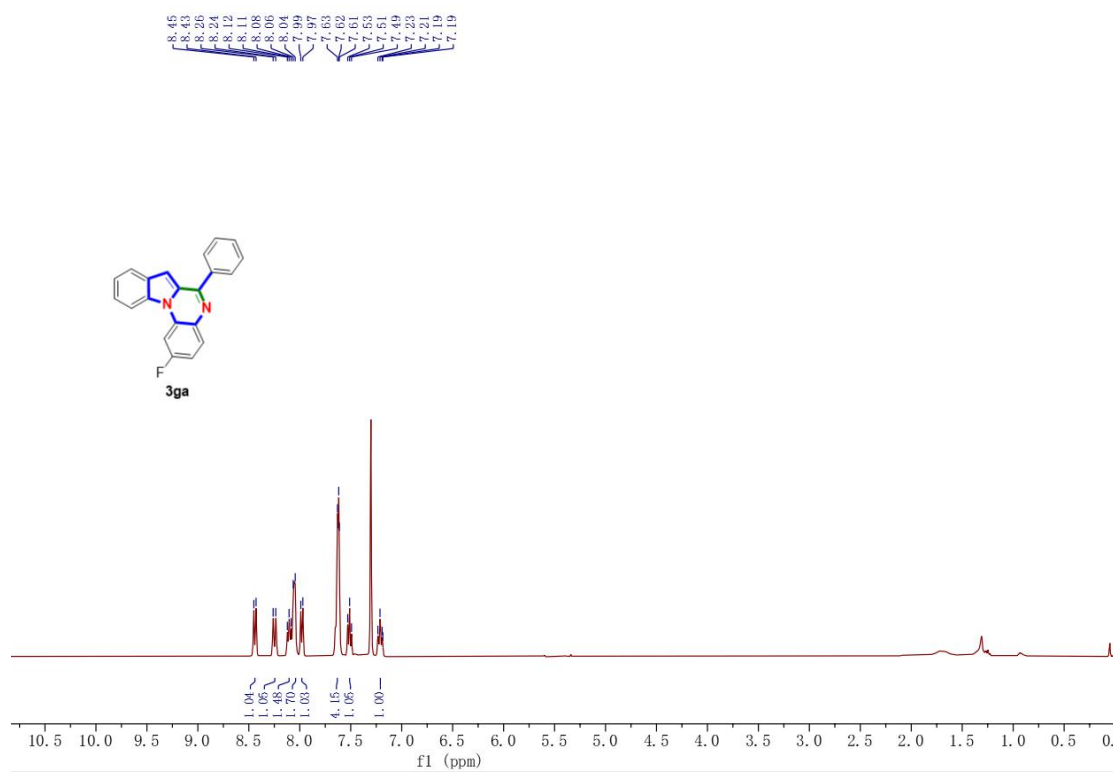
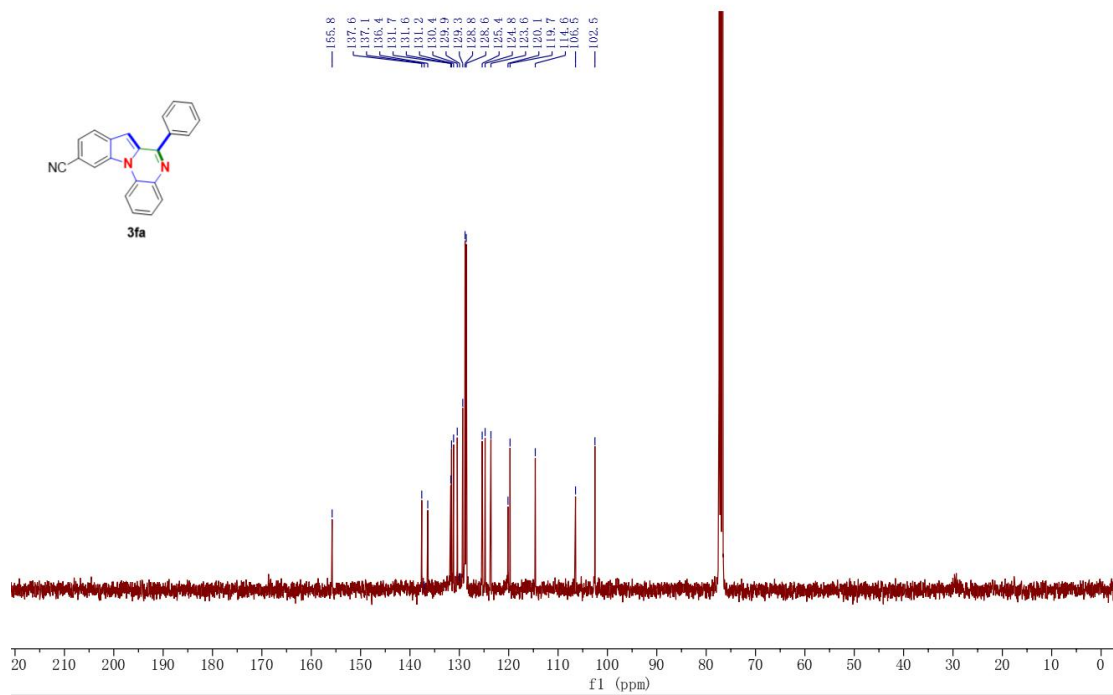
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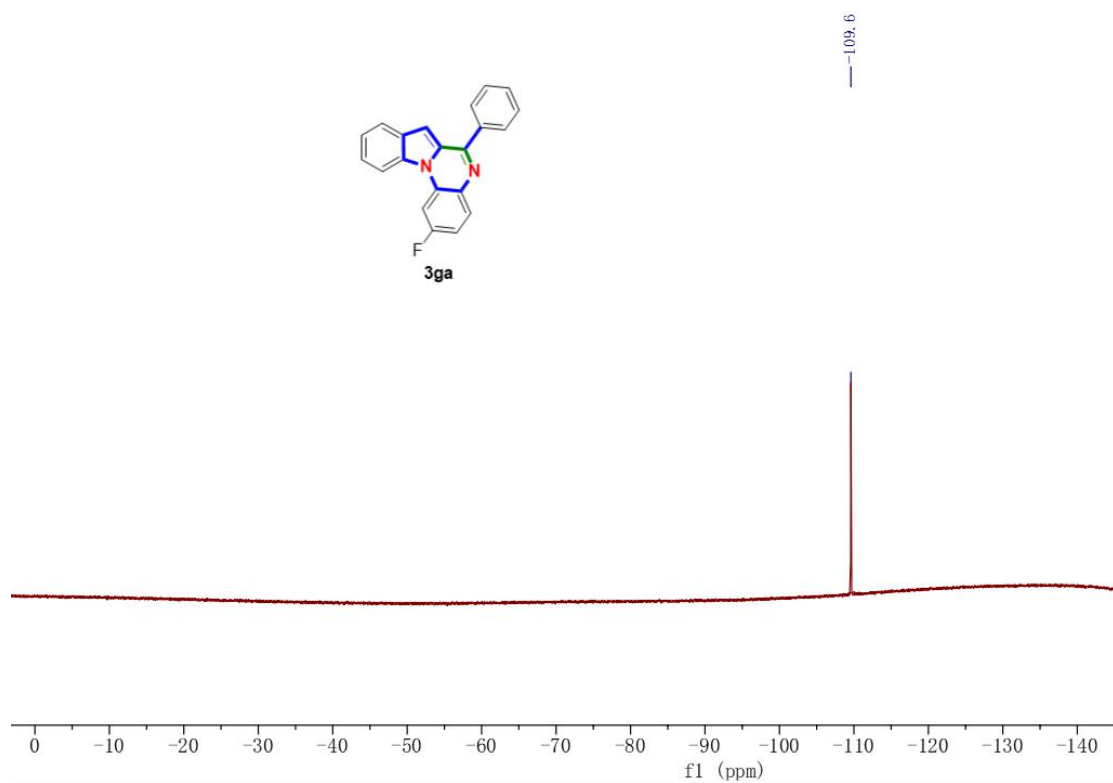
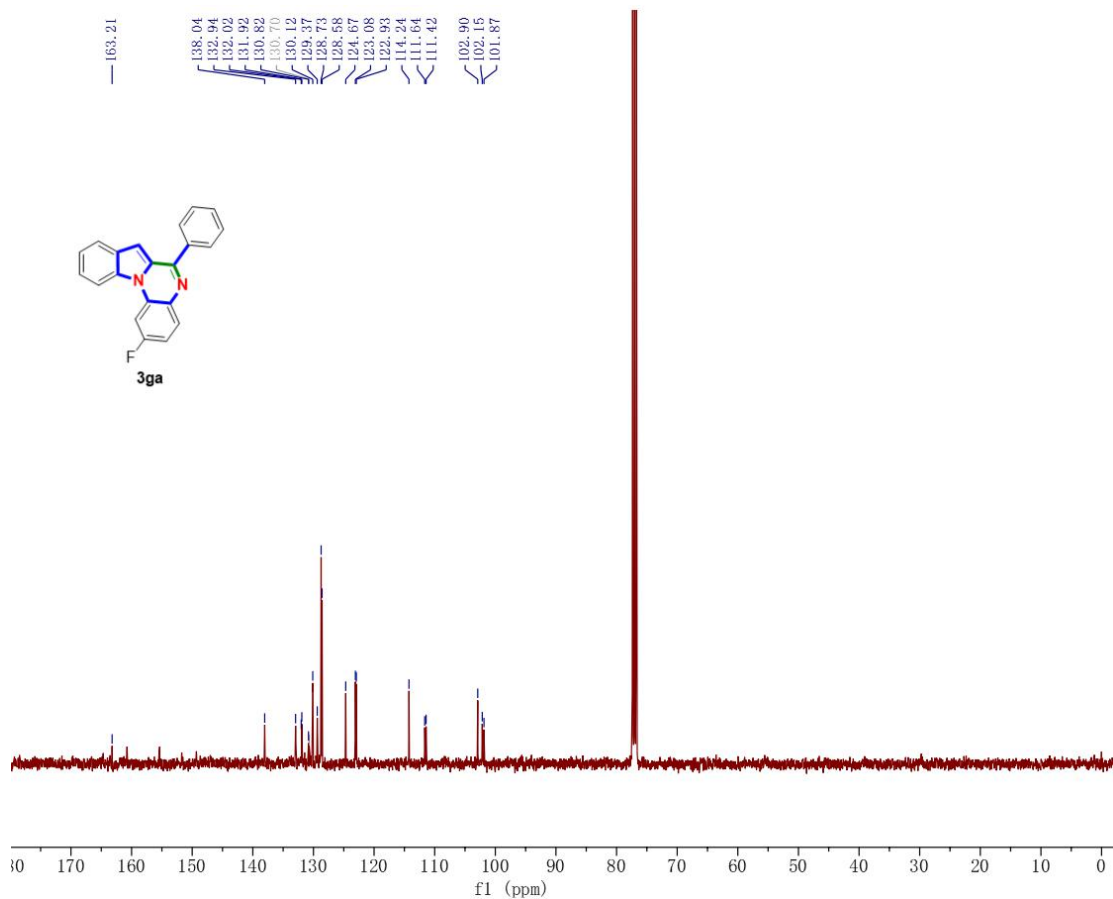


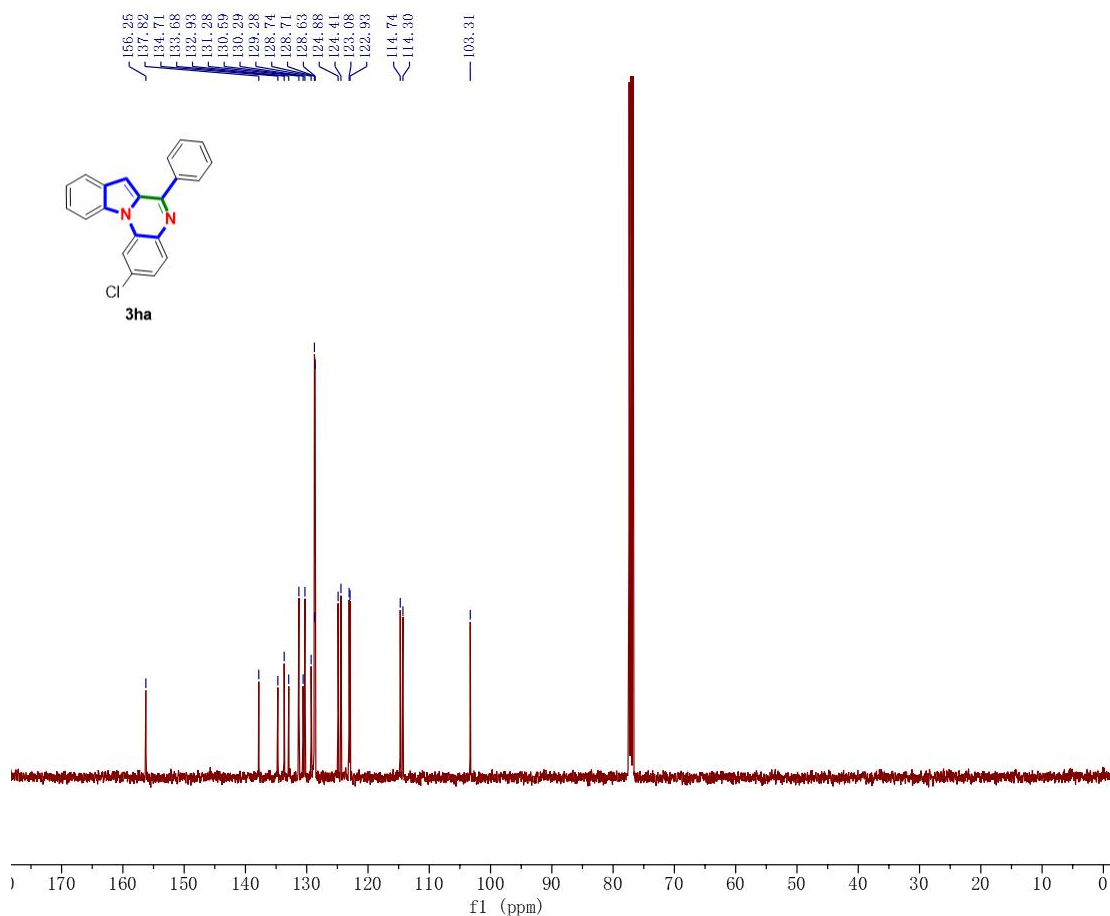
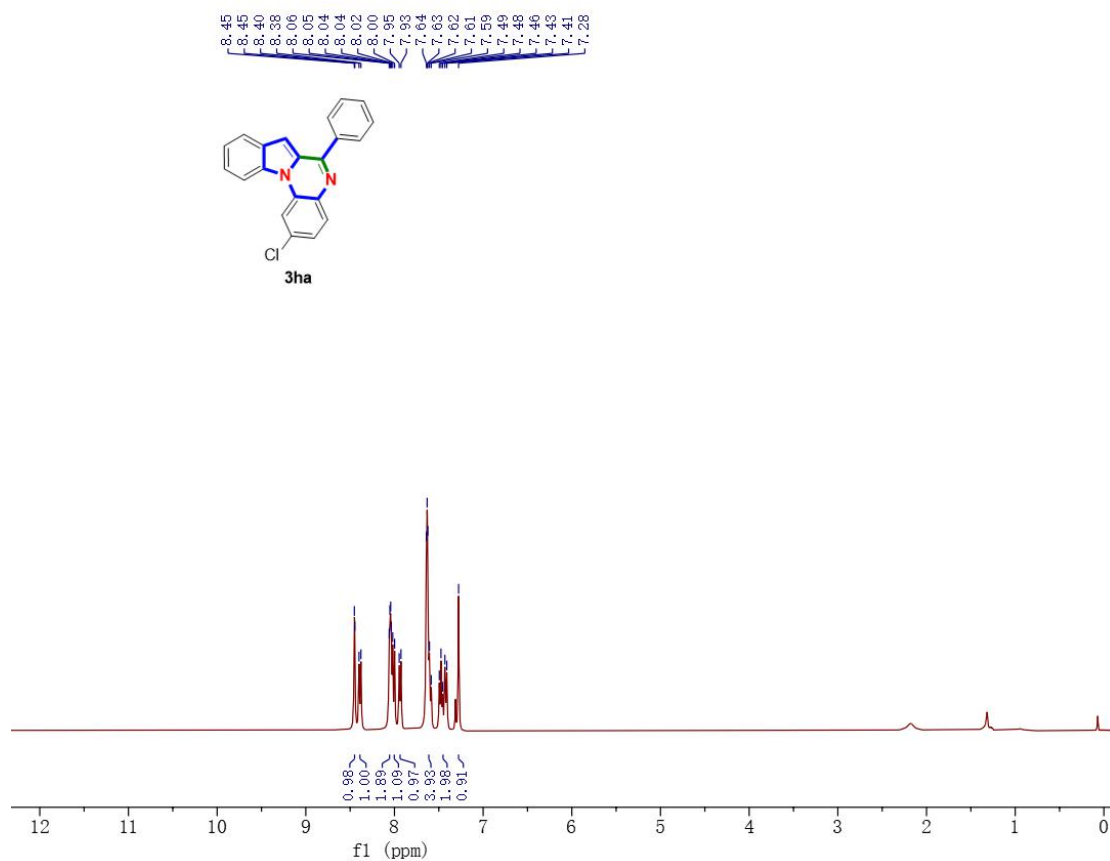


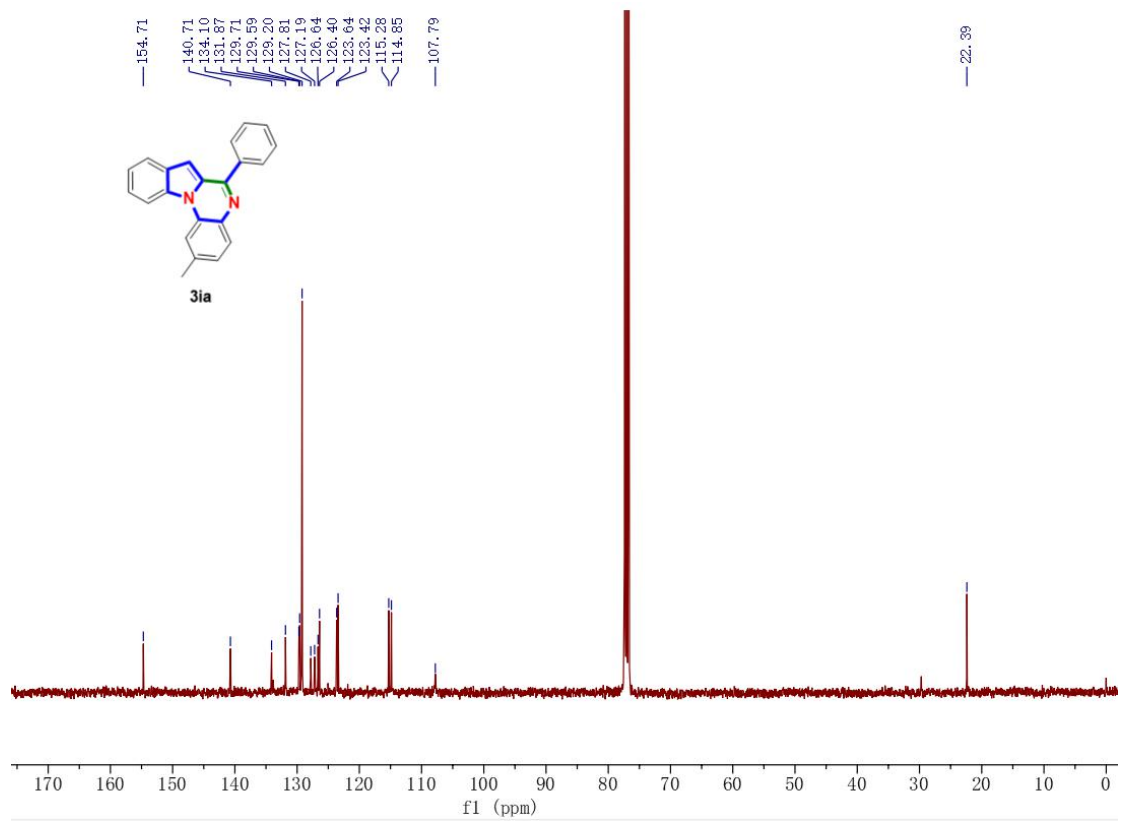
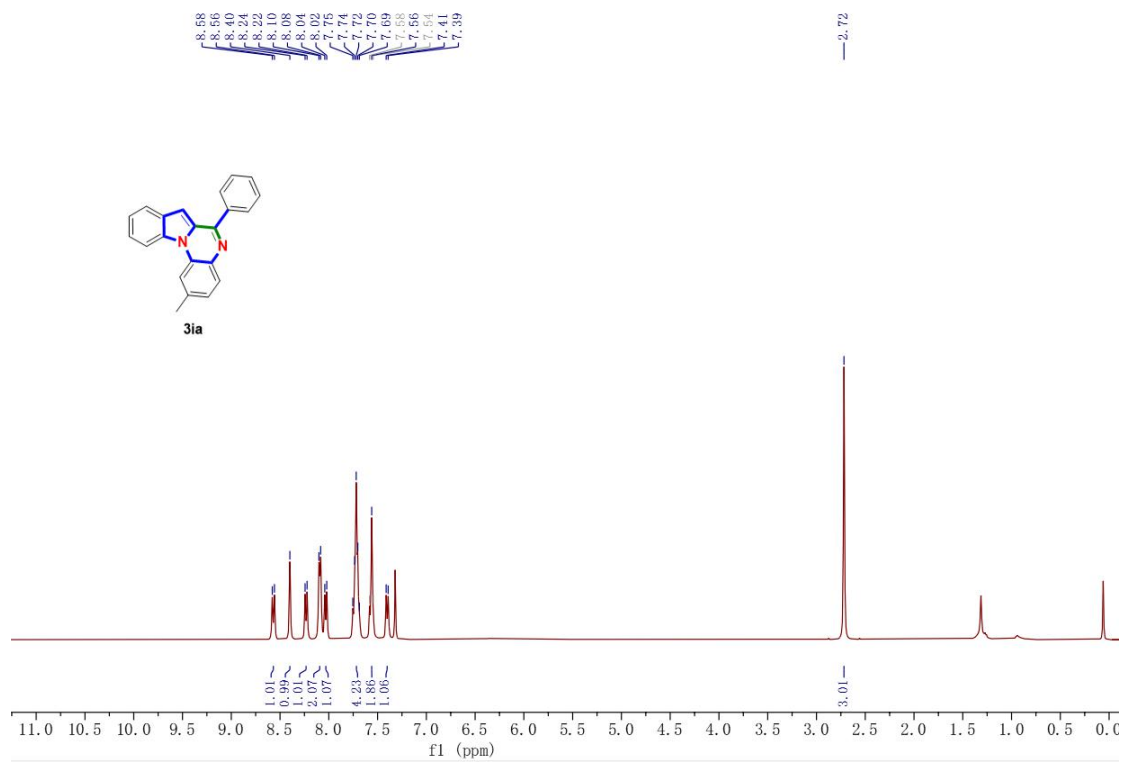


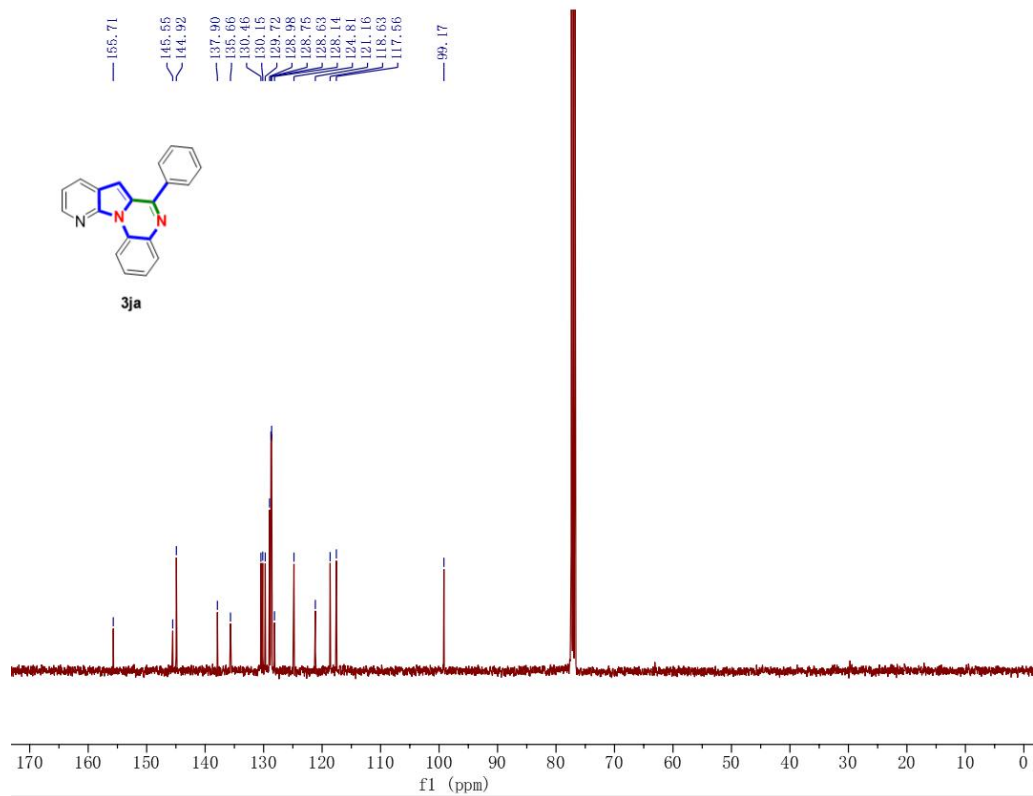
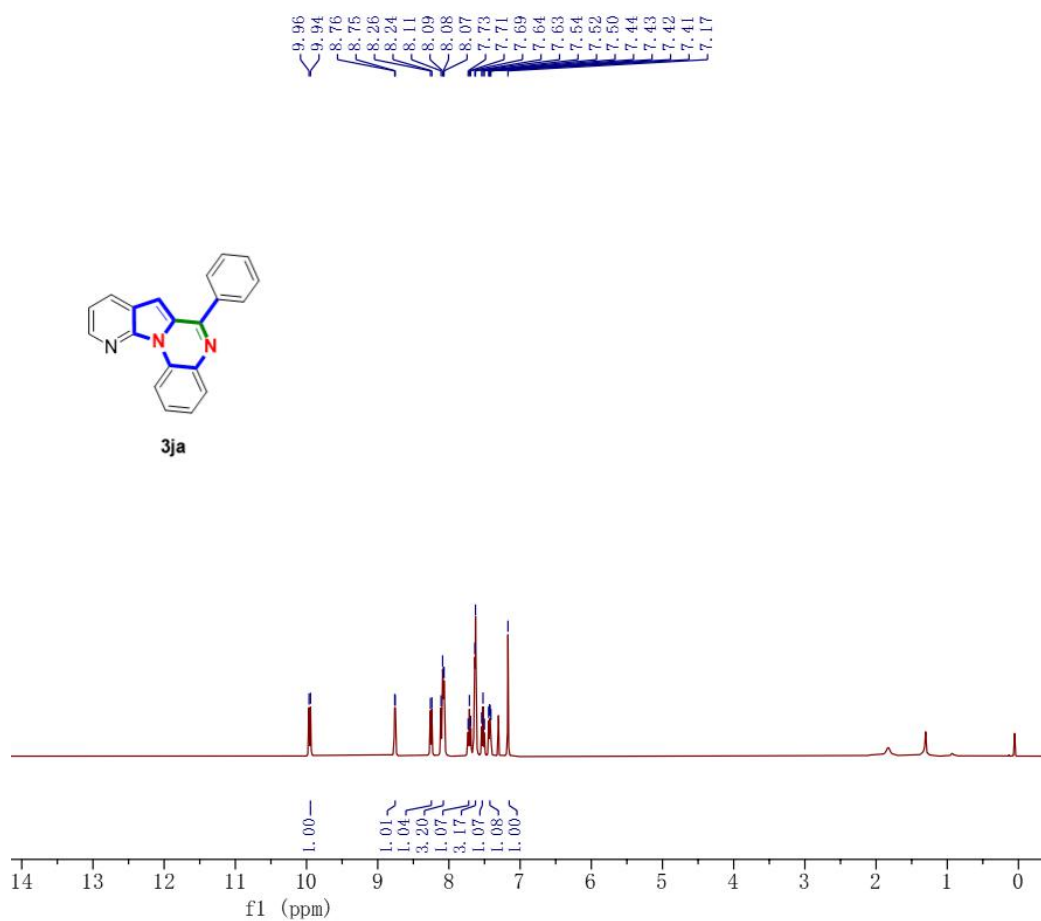






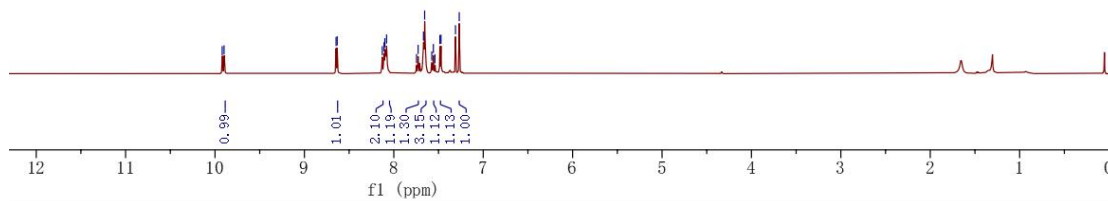




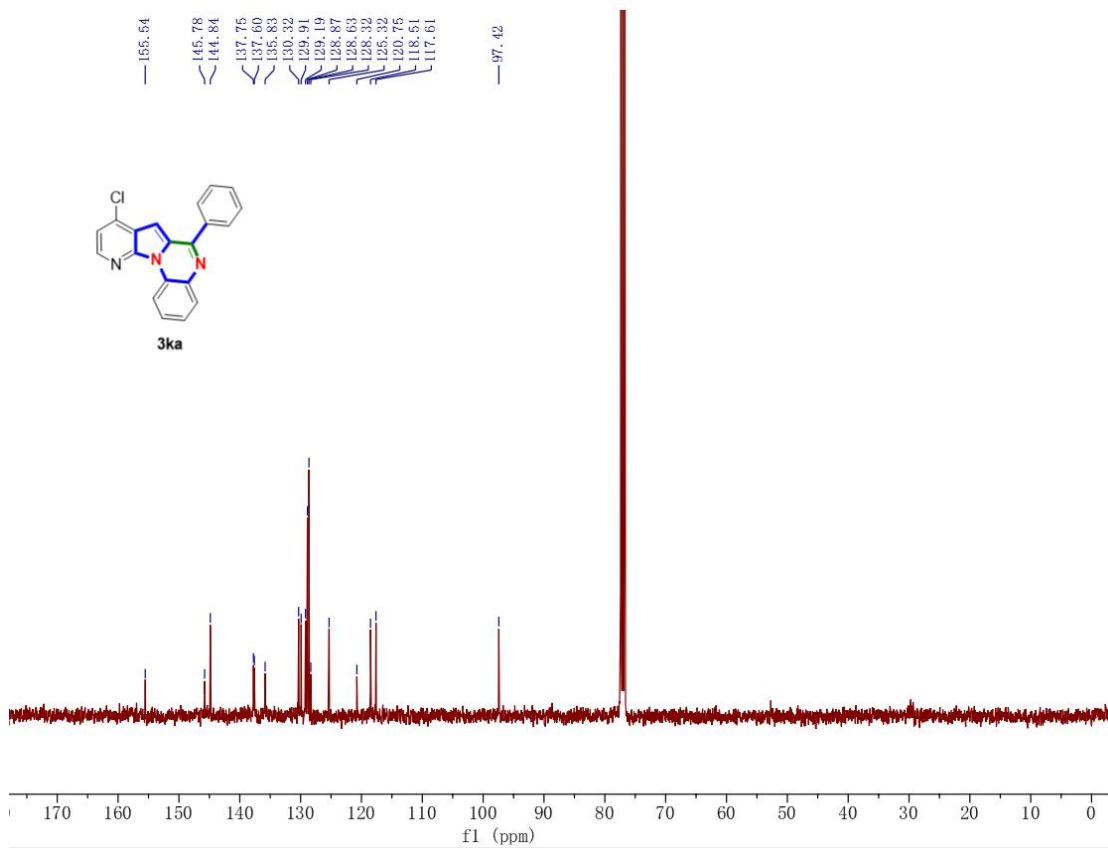


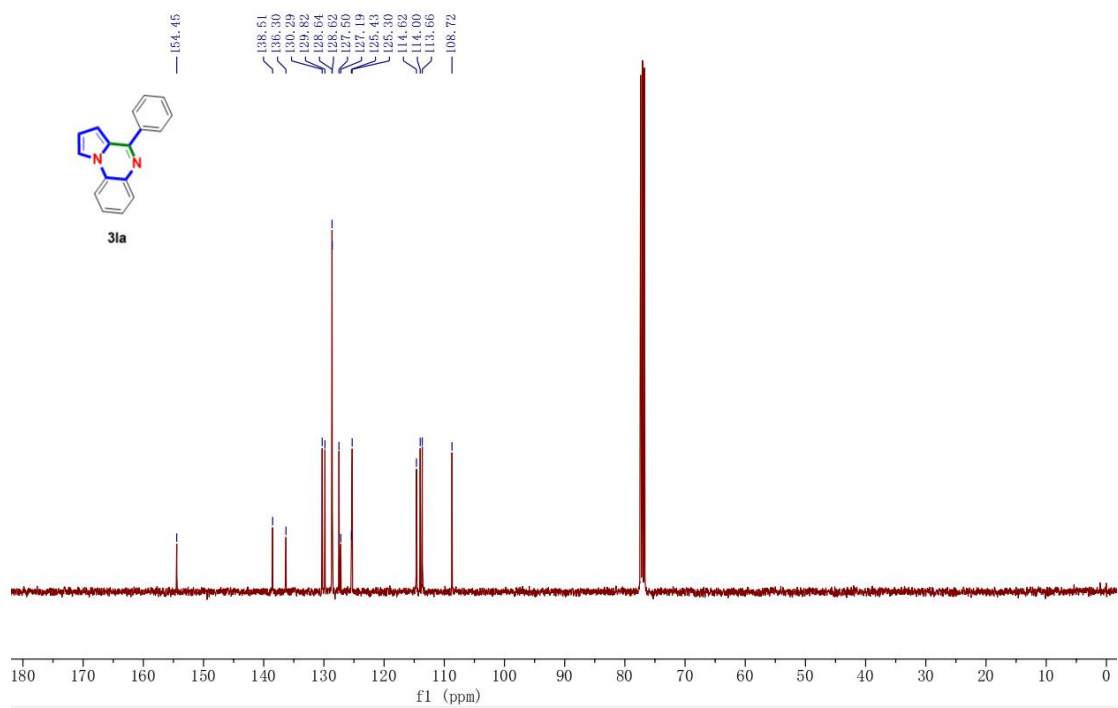
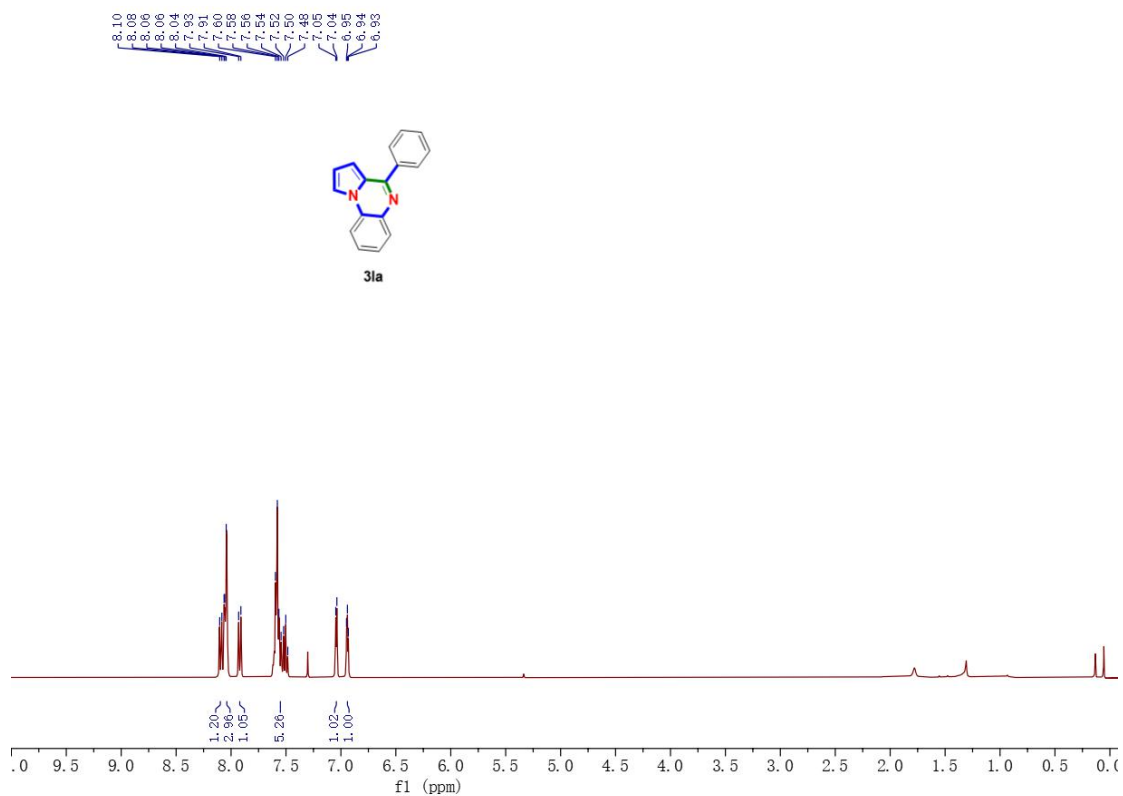


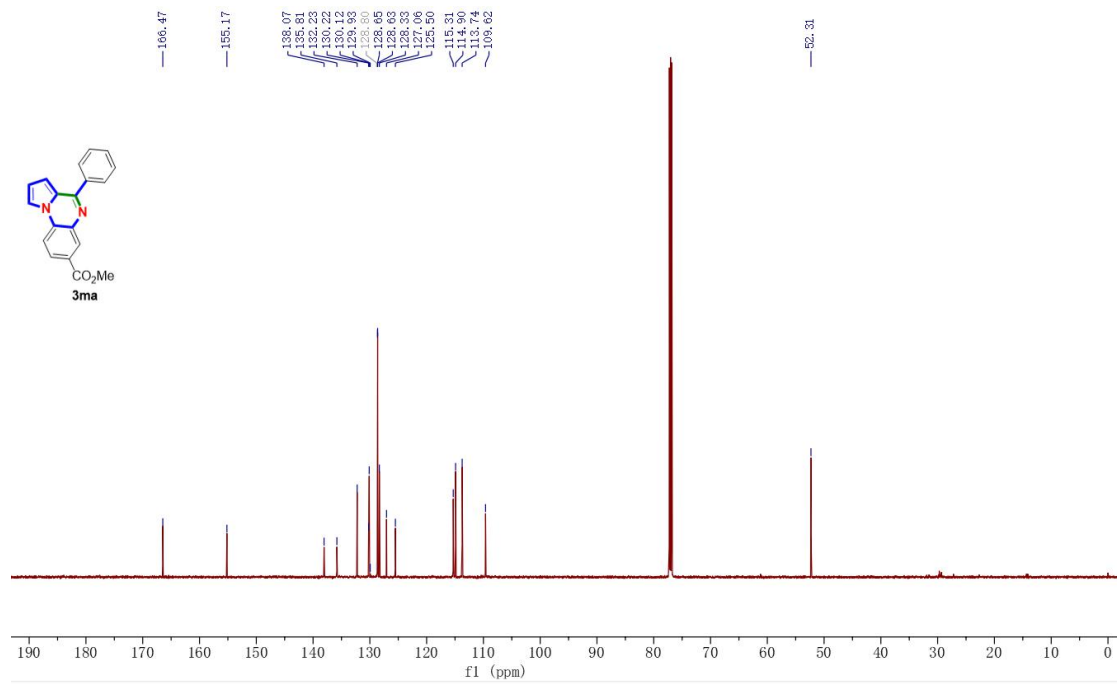
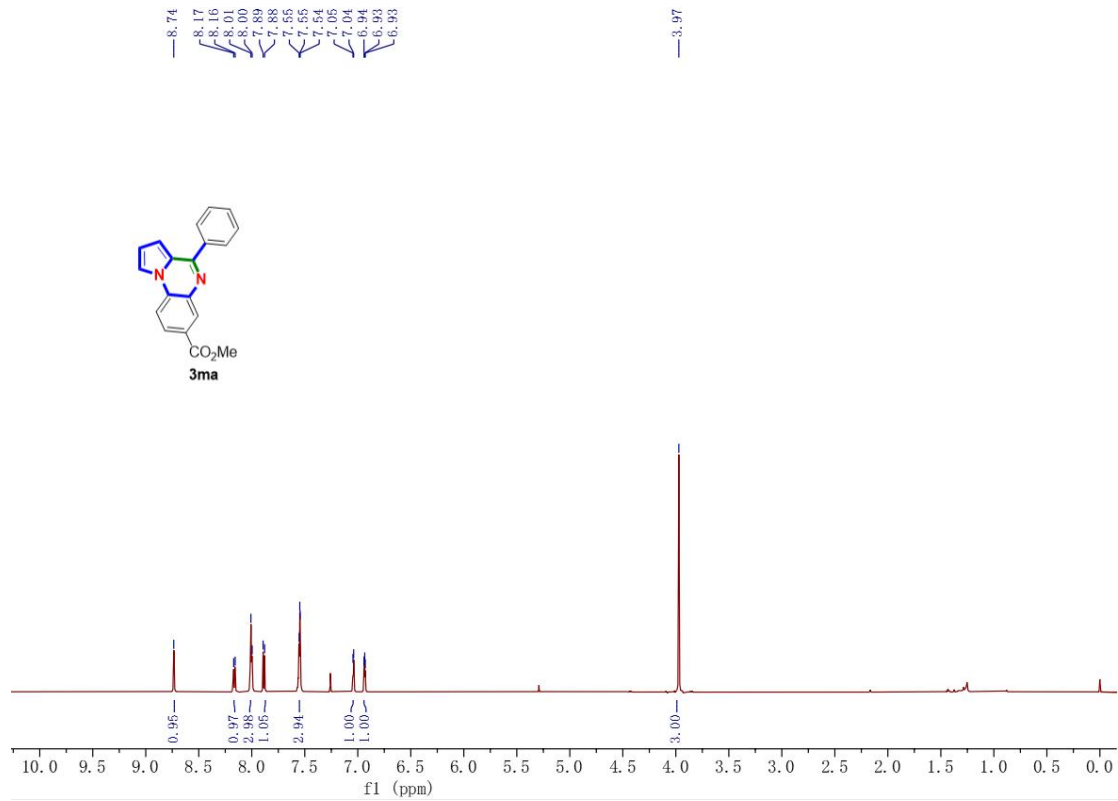
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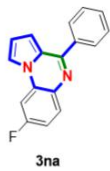
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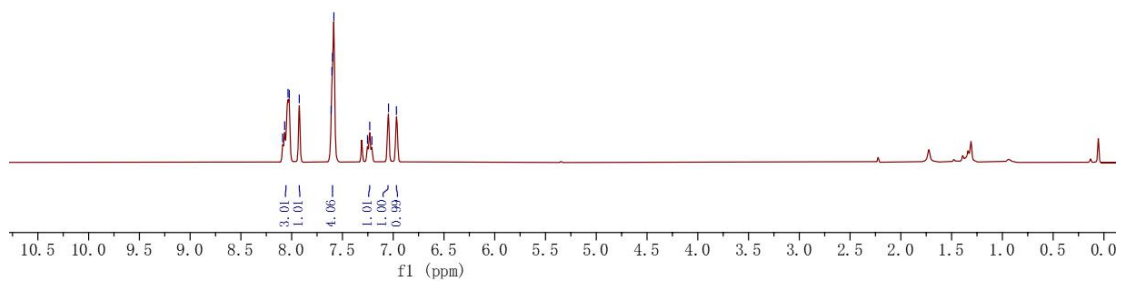




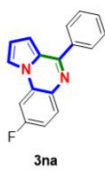




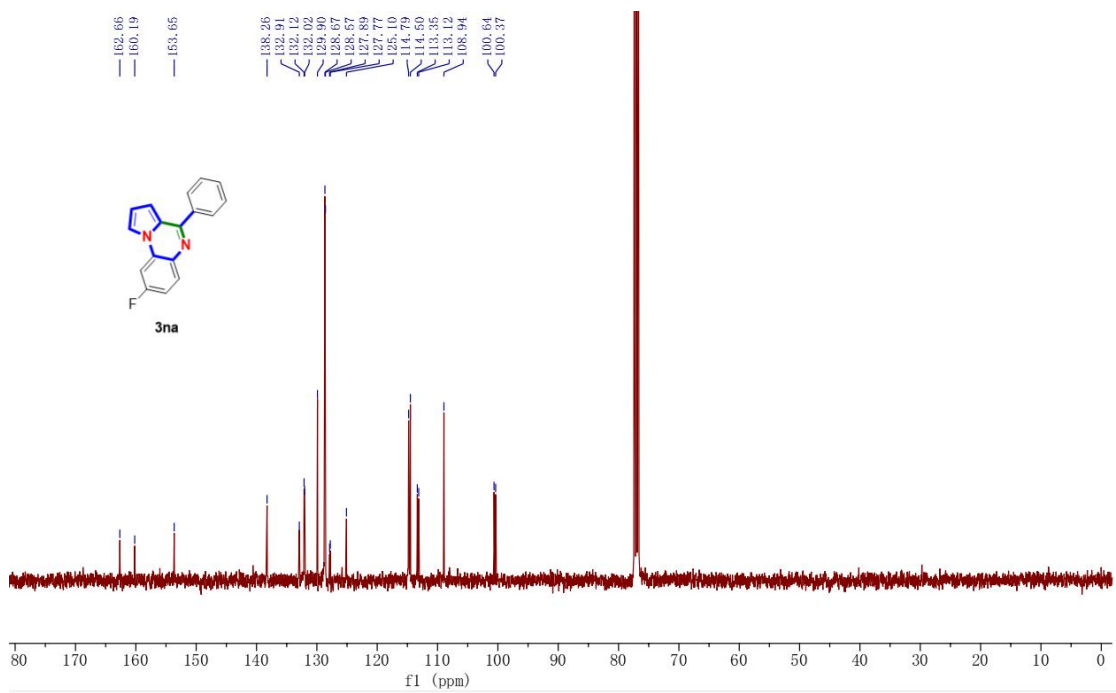
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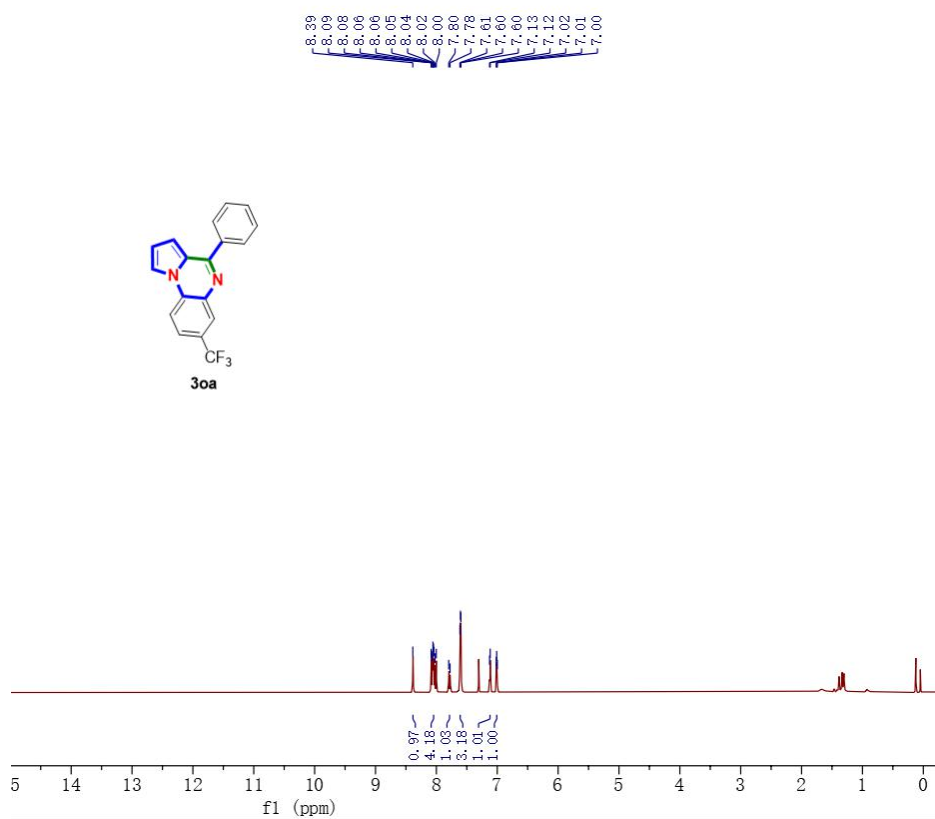
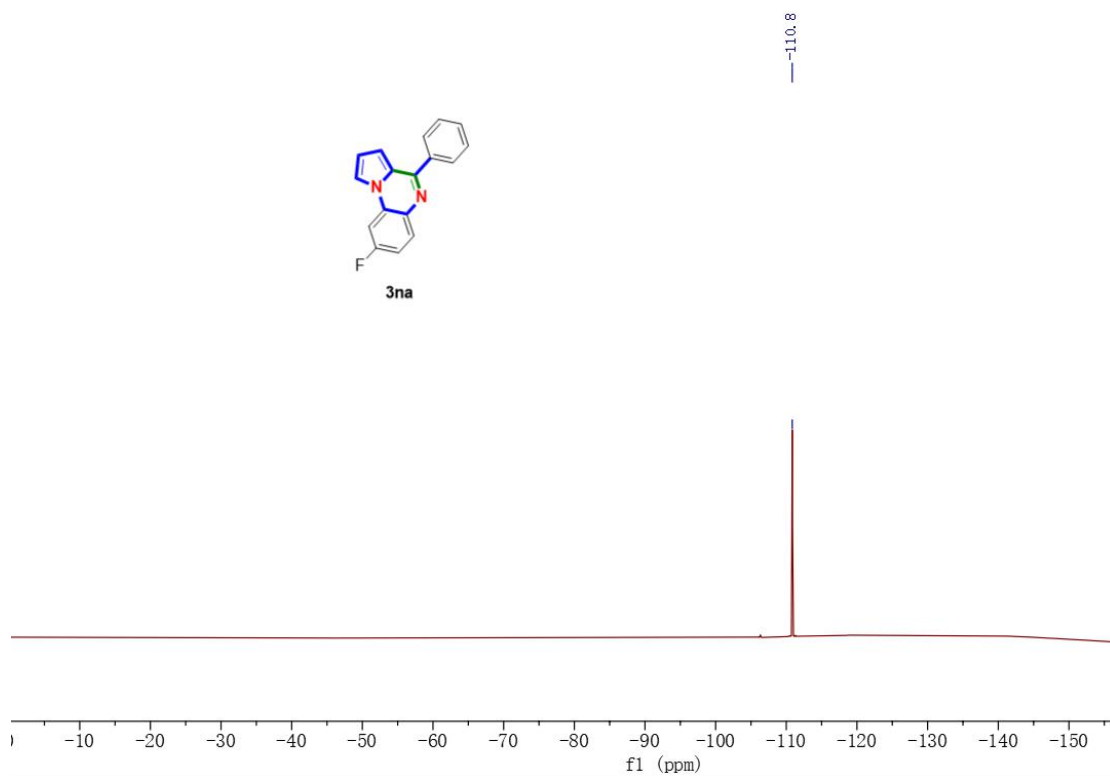


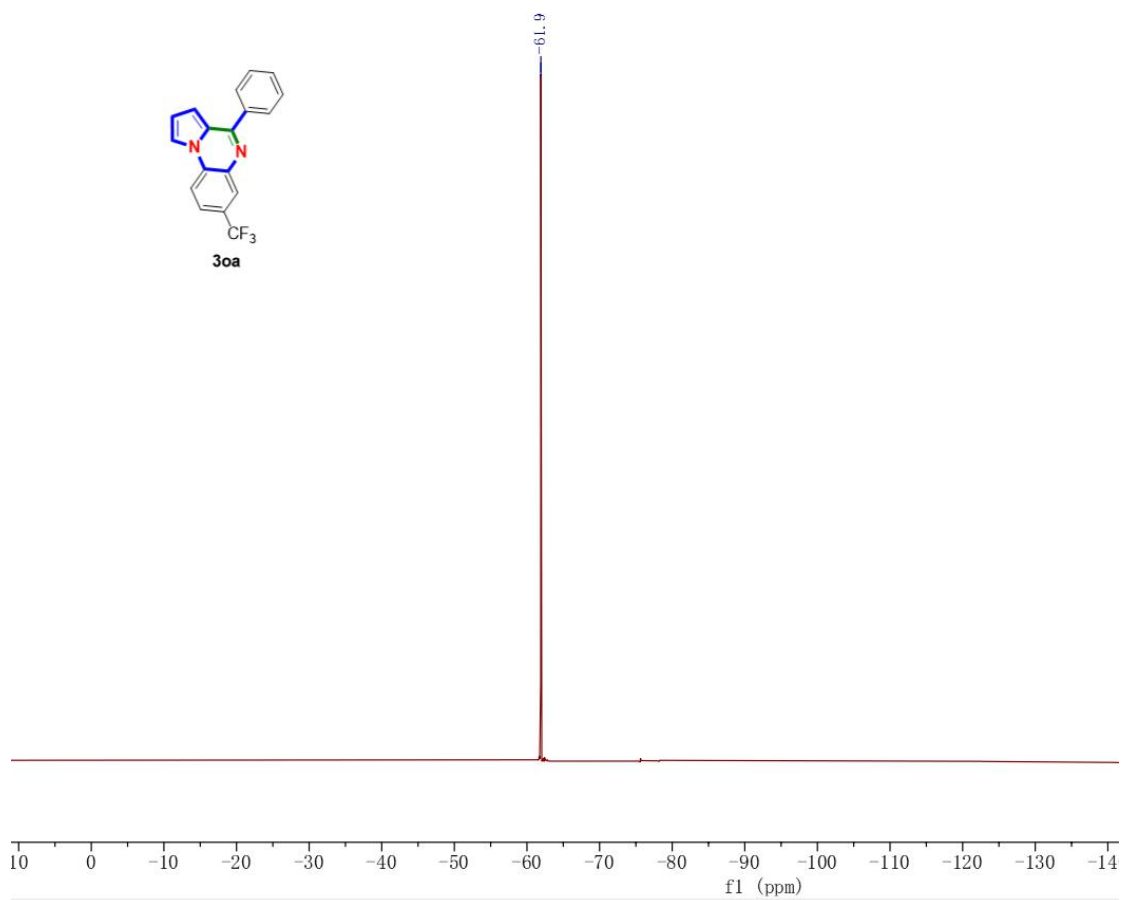
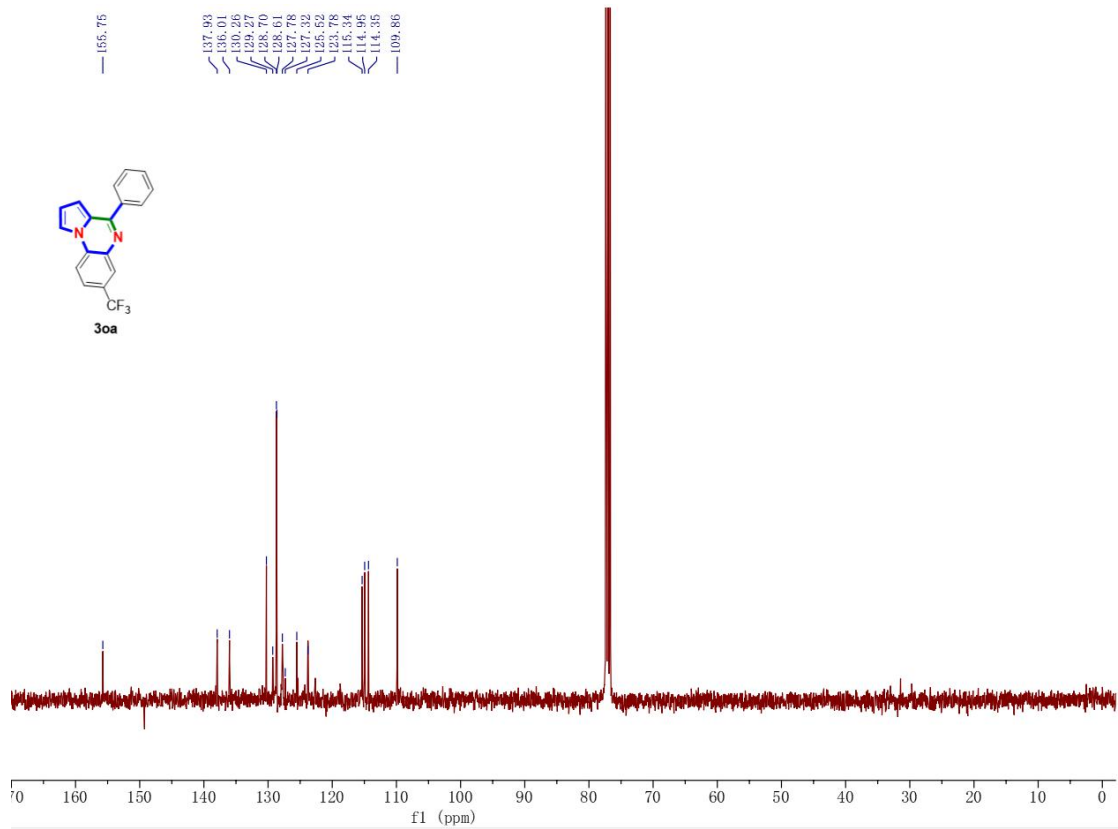
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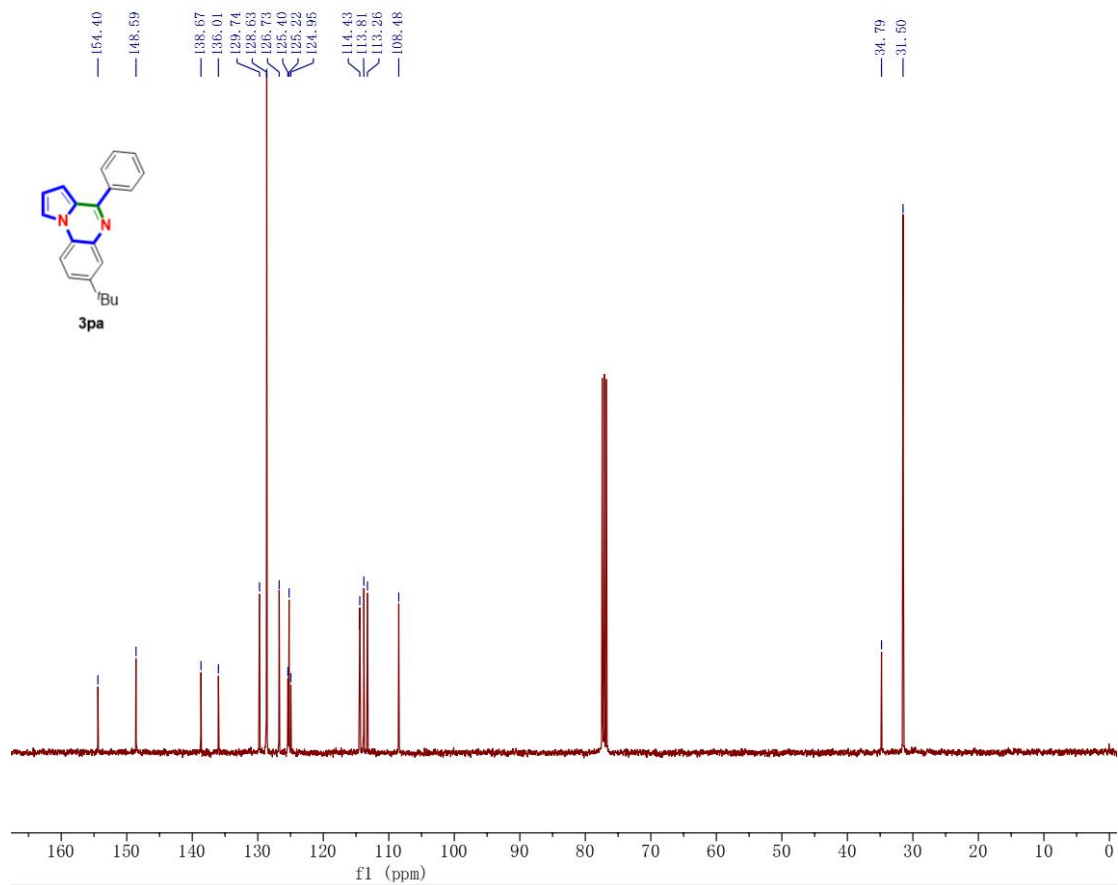
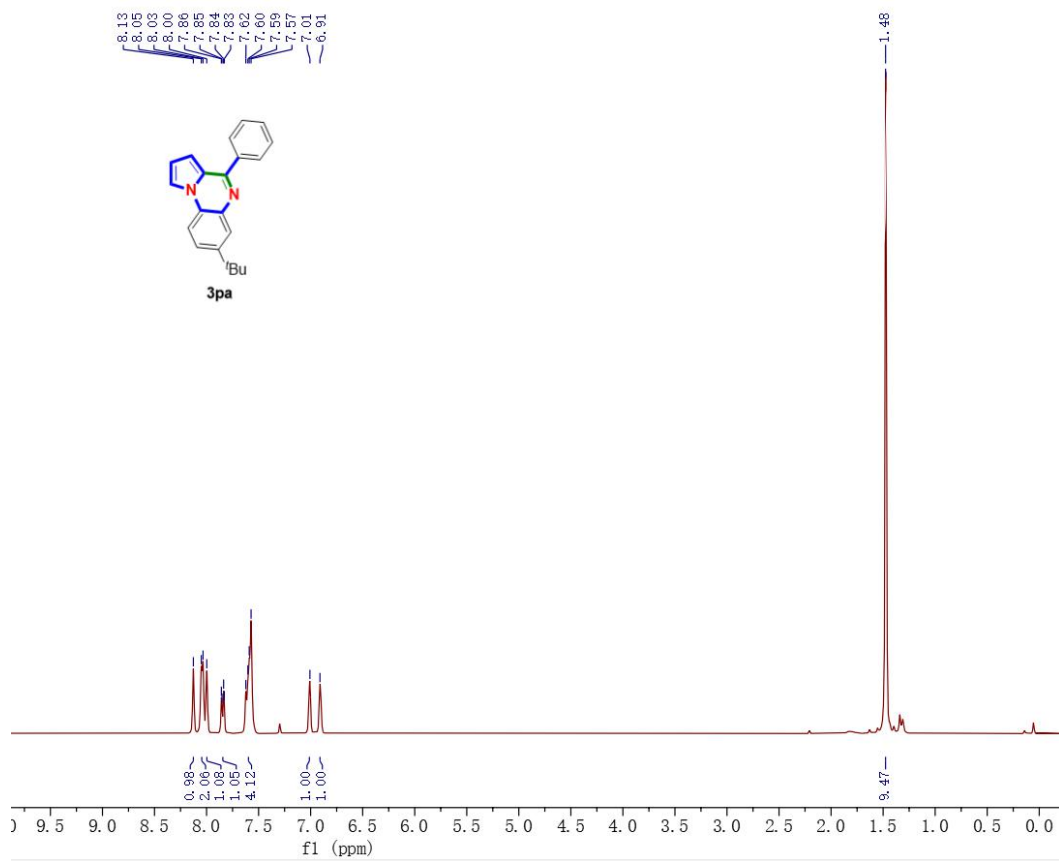


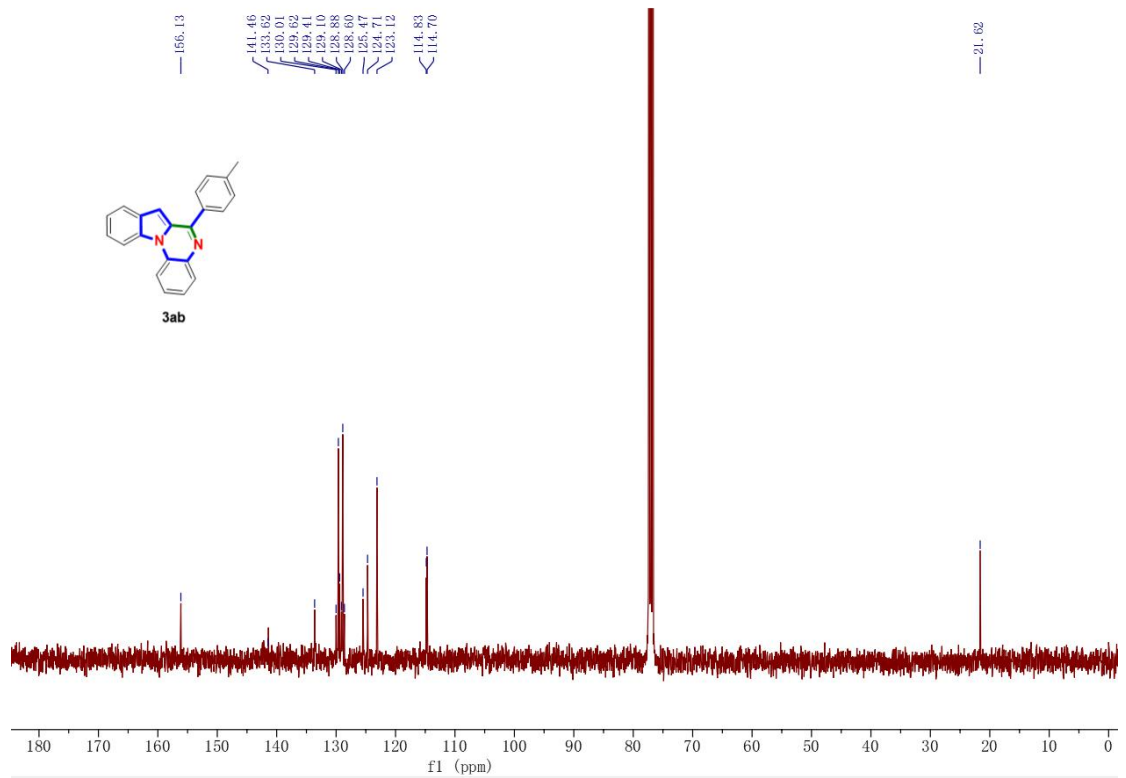
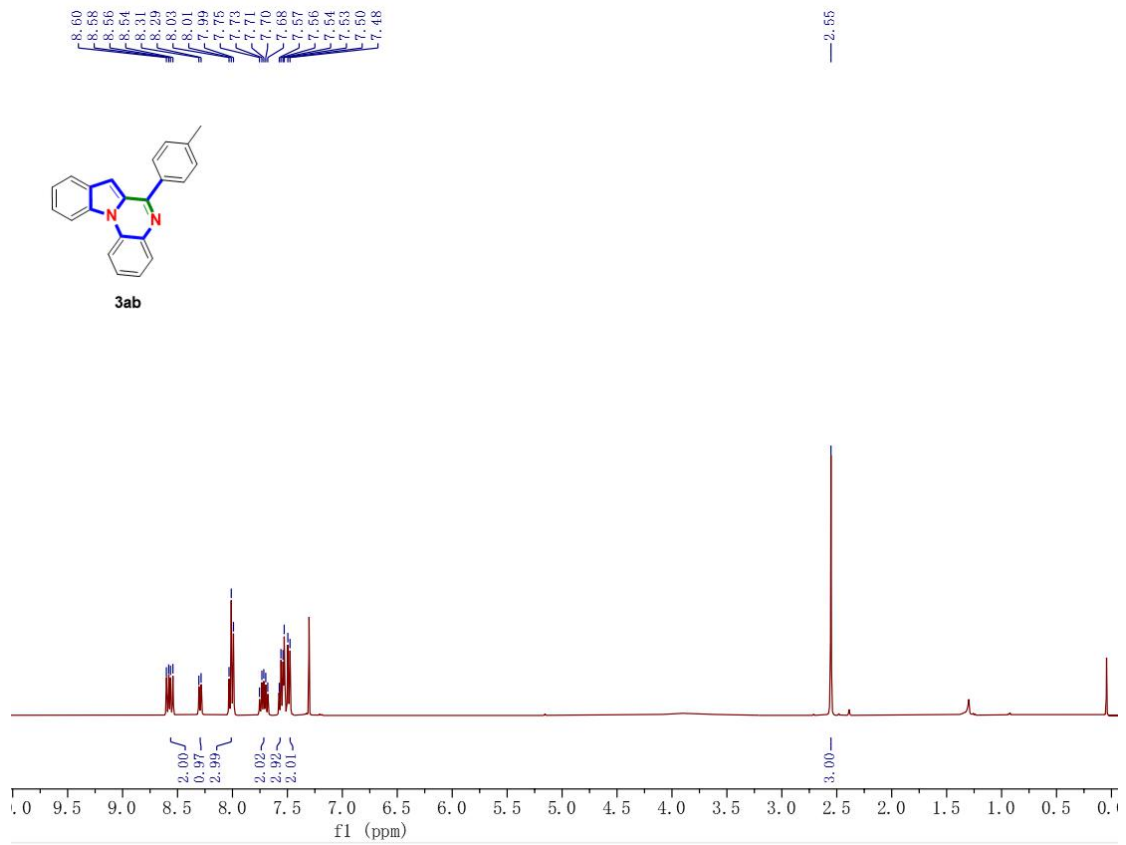
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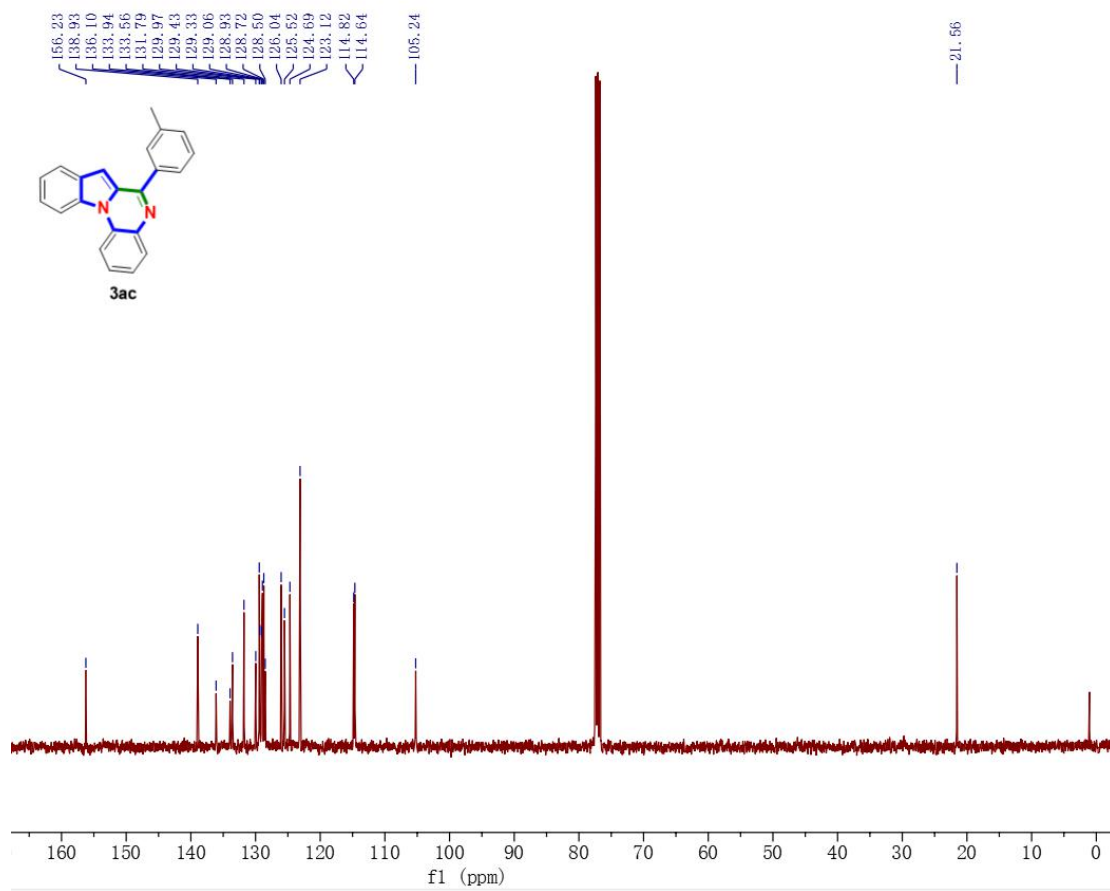
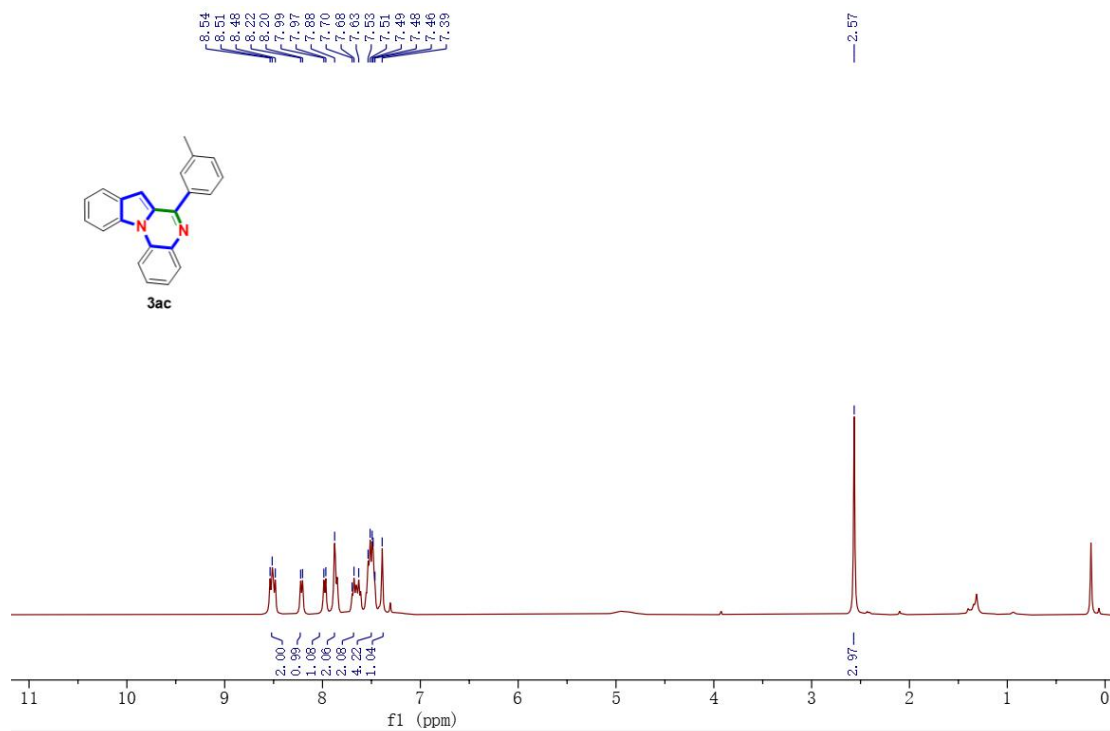


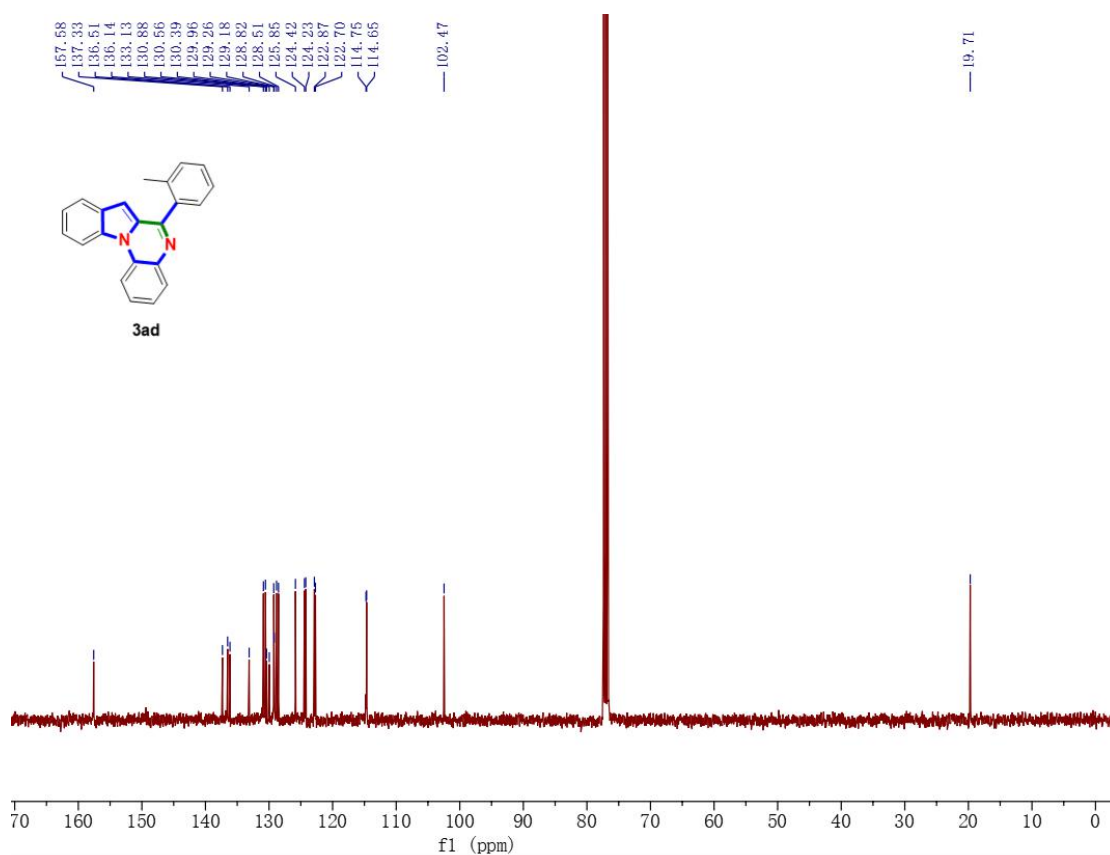
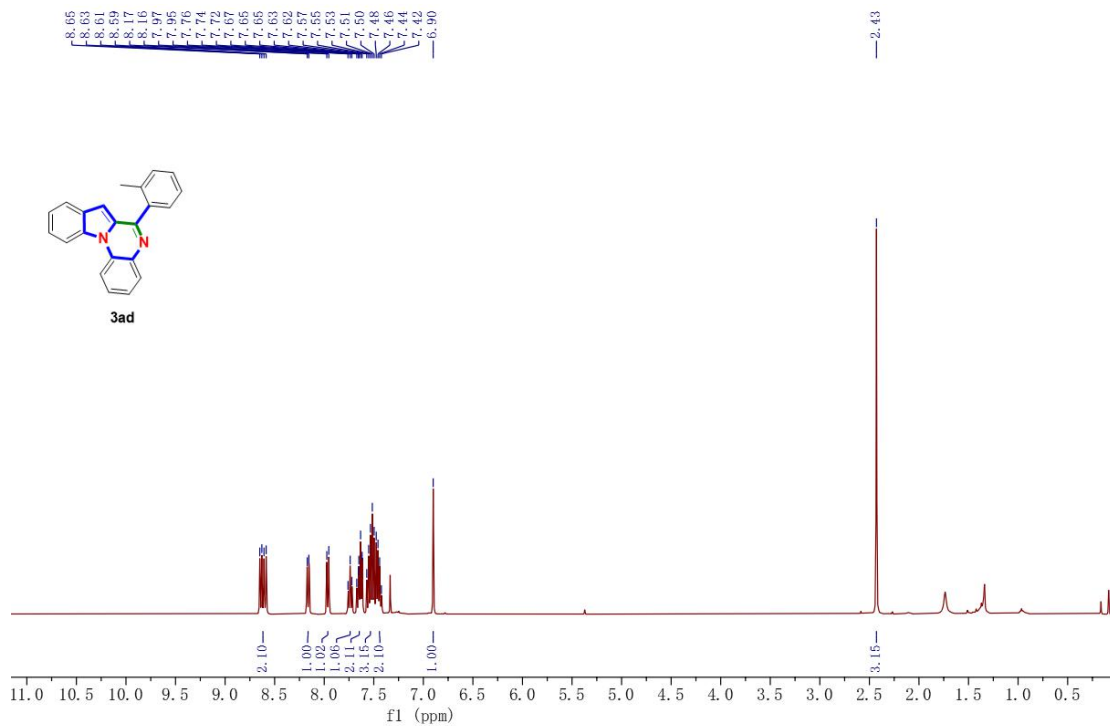


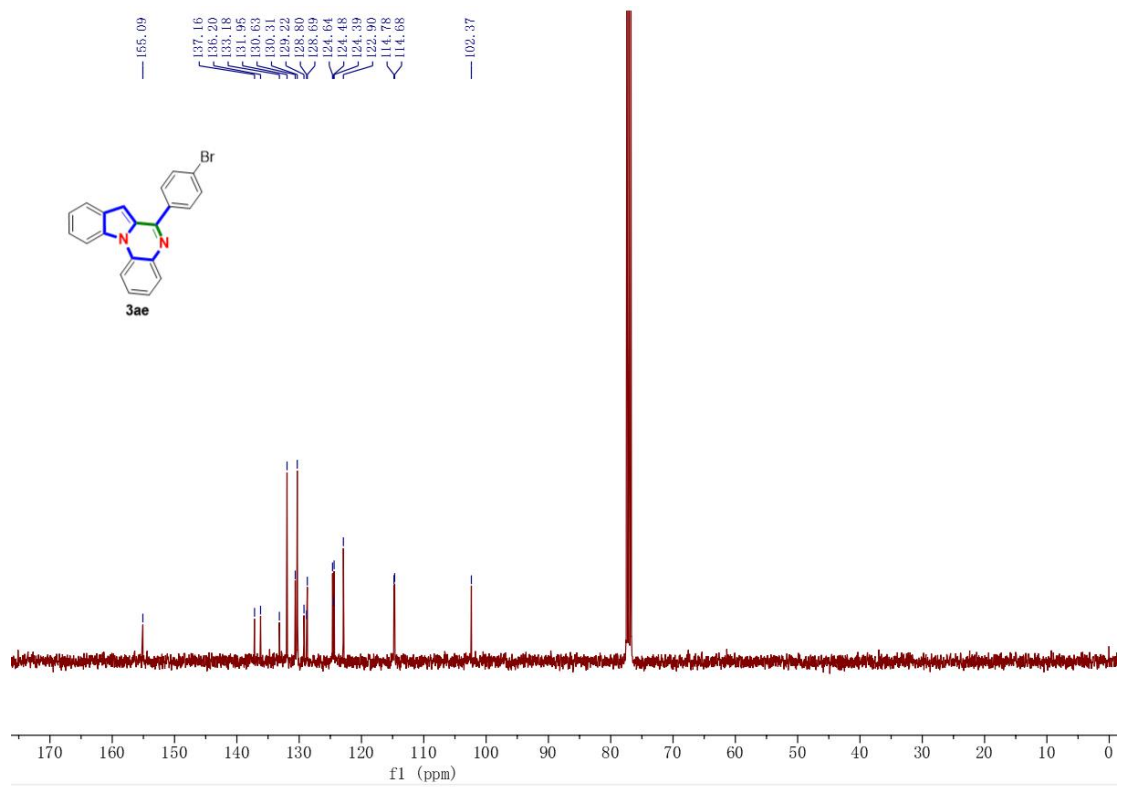
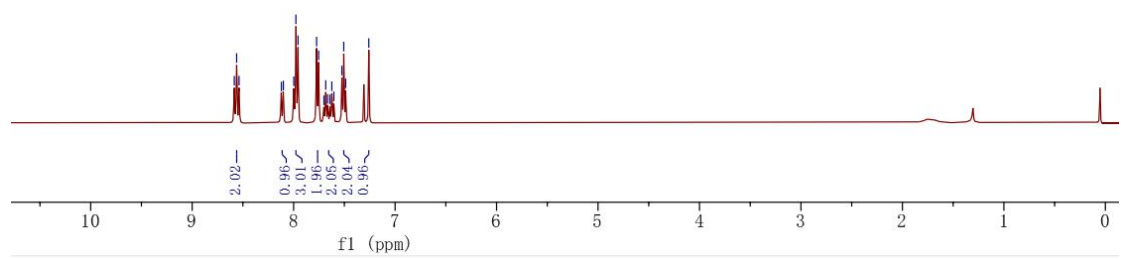
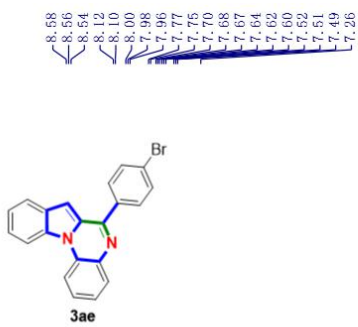




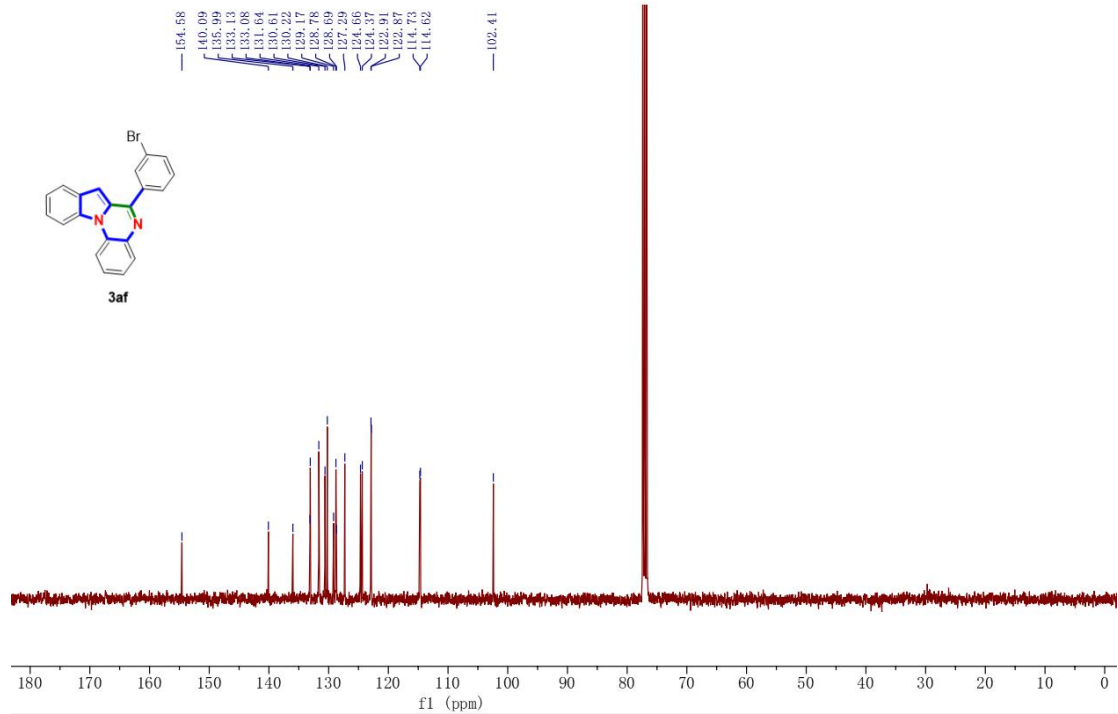
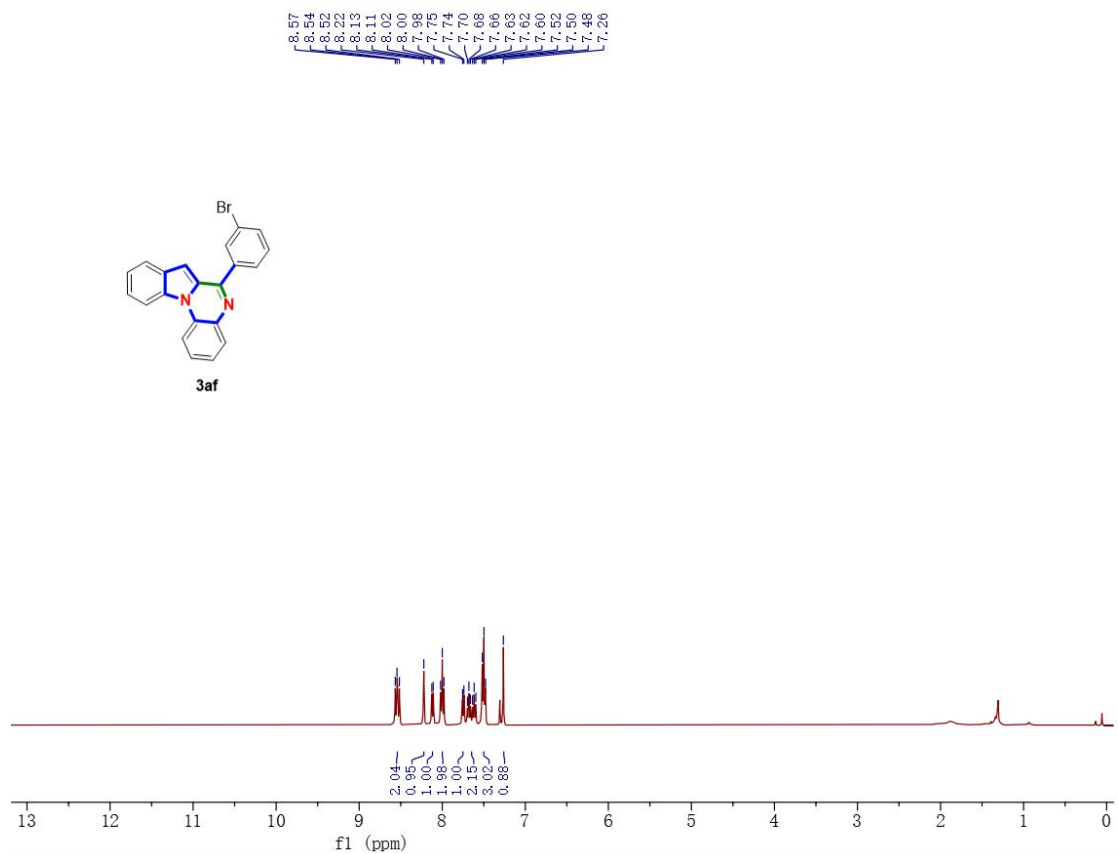




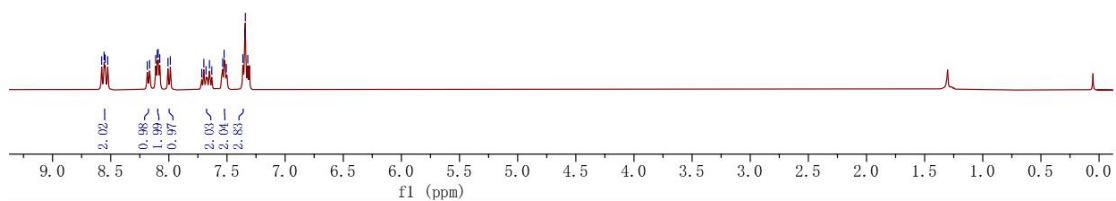
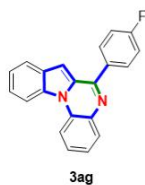




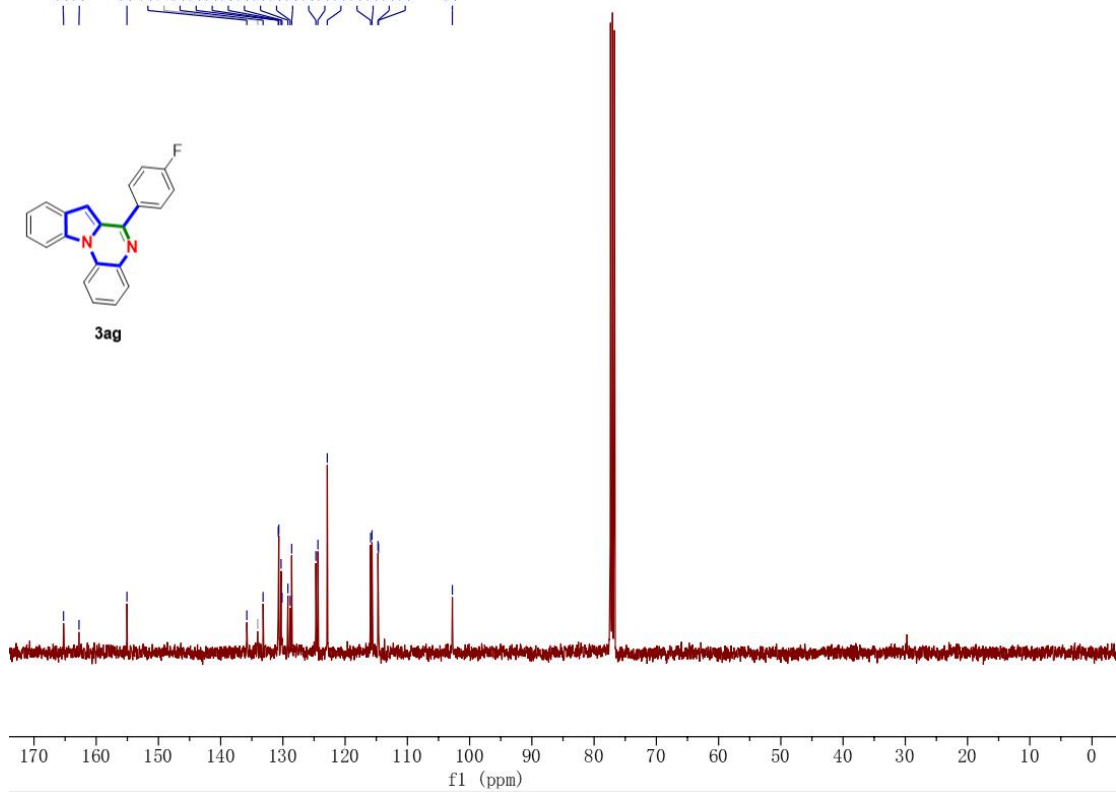
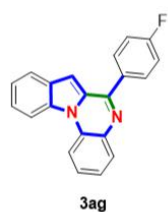


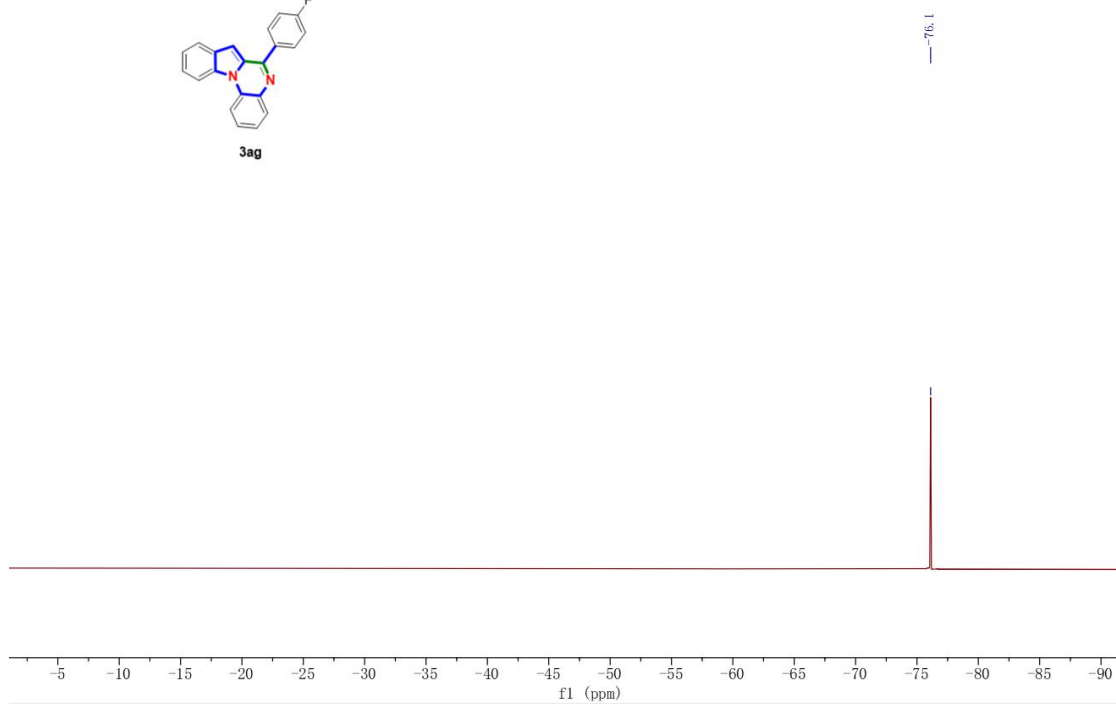
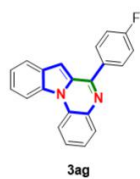


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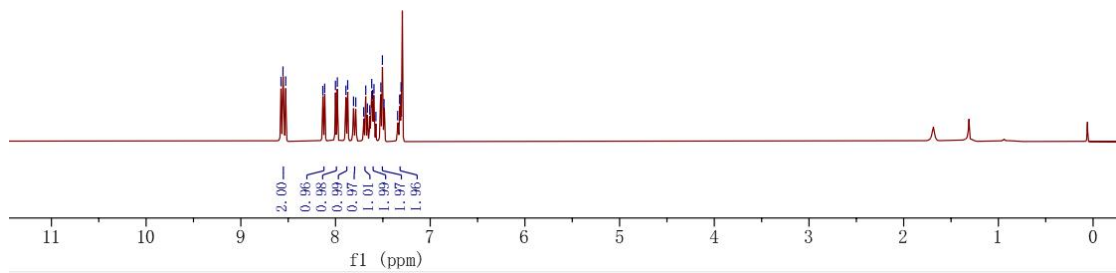
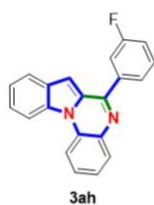


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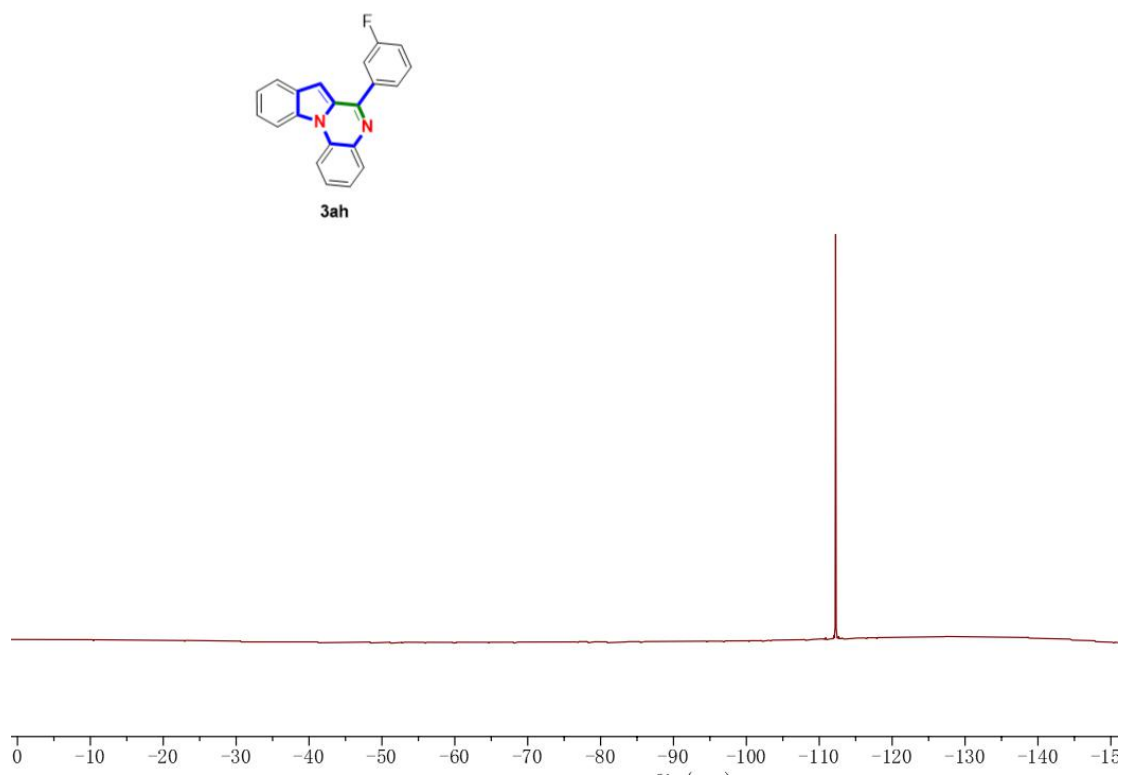
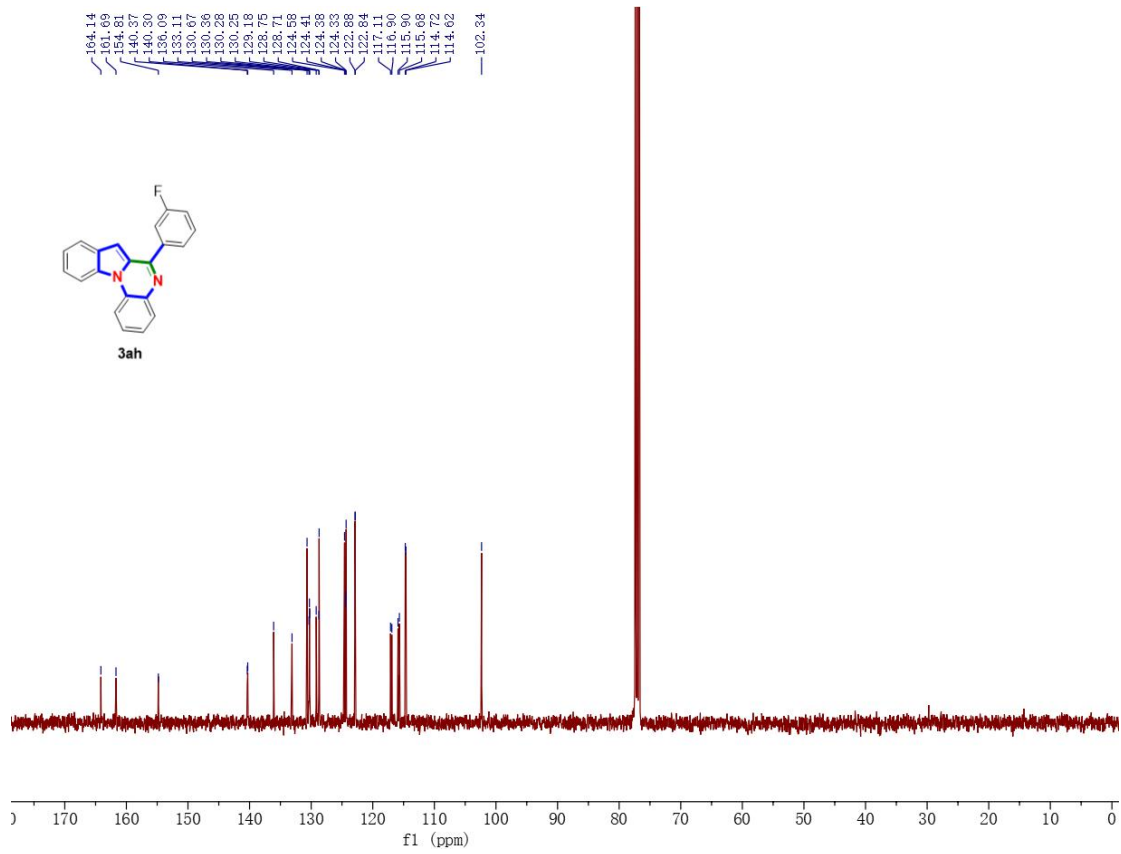


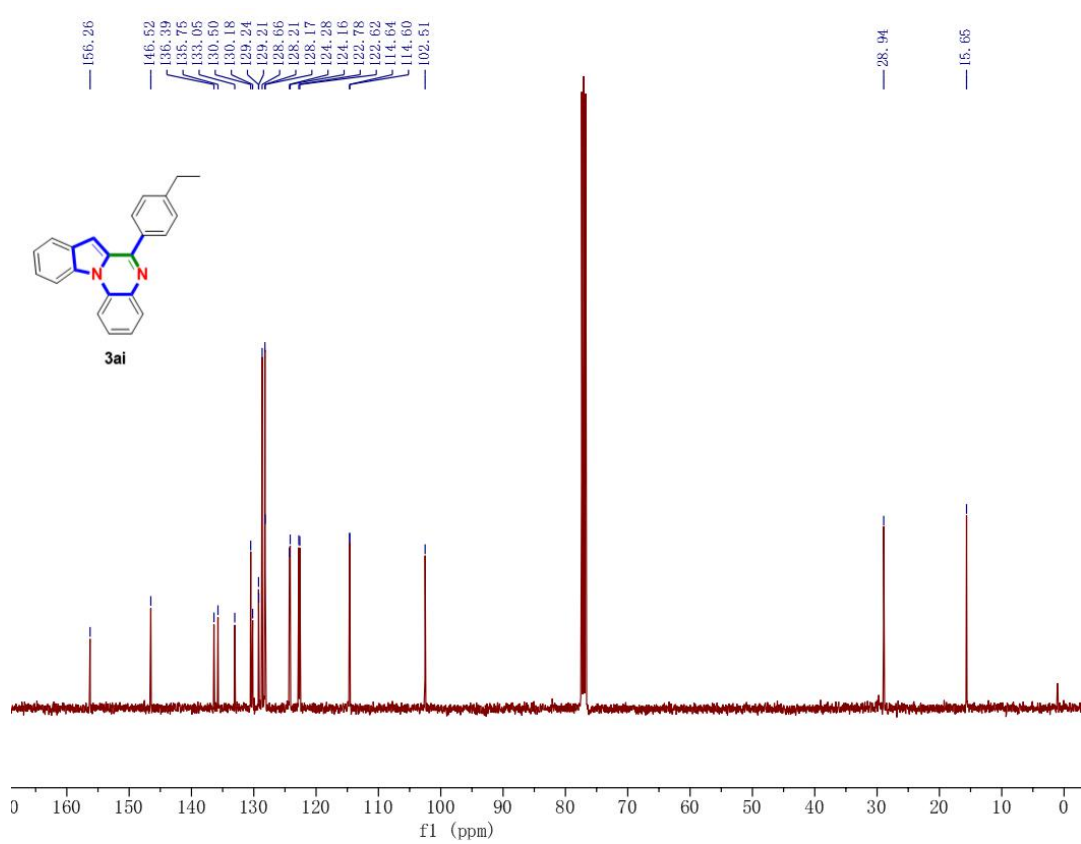
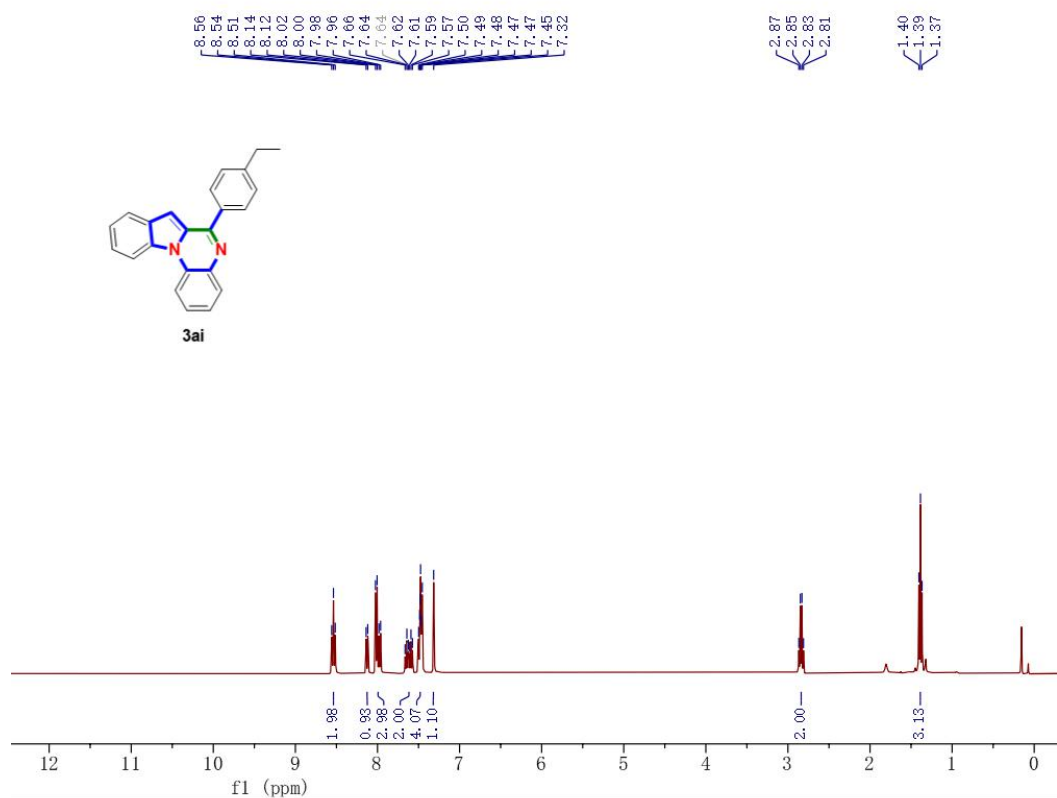


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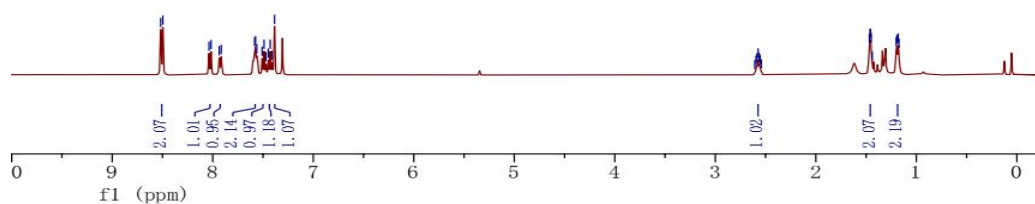
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