

The “ η -sweet-spot” (η_{max}) in liquid-assisted mechanochemistry: the liquid additive as a catalyst and an inhibitor in resonant acoustic mixing (RAM)

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1. Materials and methods

The ^1H and ^{13}C nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) analyses were performed using a Bruker 800 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. The NMR chemical shifts are reported relative to d_6 -DMSO (δ 2.50) and the data is presented as chemical shifts and integration. The molecular weights of the purified products were obtained using high-resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS). Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) analysis was performed over the 2θ -range from 4° to 40° , using a Bruker D2 PHASER X-ray diffractometer equipped with a $\text{CuK}\alpha$ ($\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$) source, LinxEye detector, and a nickel filter. Single crystal X-Ray Diffraction (SCXRD) data was measured on a Bruker D8 Venture diffractometer equipped with a Photon 200 detector, and an $I\mu\text{S}$ microfocus X-ray source (Bruker AXS, $\text{CuK}\alpha$ source). All measurements were carried out at 298(2) K on crystals coated with a thin layer of amorphous oil. Structure solution was carried out using the SHELXTL package from Bruker.¹ The parameters were refined for all data by full-matrix-least-squares on F^2 using SHELXL² within the OLEX2³ and/or SHELXLE⁴ environment. All the non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. All other hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions and allowed to ride on the carrier atoms. All hydrogen atom thermal parameters were constrained to ride on the carrier atom.

2. General procedure for the RAM synthesis of compounds 1-10

In a typical experiment, the sulfonamide (0.5 mmol, 1 eq), carbodiimide (0.5 mmol, 1 eq) and CuCl (5 mol%) were added to a 2.5 mL polypropylene vial. 2-Butanone ($\eta = 0.0251 \mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$) was added to the vial and the mixture mixed using the LabRAM II instrument between 15 minutes and 2 hours, at an acceleration between 30 and 90 g. The conversion was evaluated by ^1H NMR analysis of a solution obtained by dissolving the entire crude reaction mixture in d_6 -DMSO. The sulfonyl-ureas 1–10 were isolated by mixing of the reaction mixture for additional 10 min at 60 g in the presence of a saturated aqueous solution of EDTA (1 mL), followed by filtration. Recrystallization of the product from hot ethanol removed remaining brown-colored residues, and the resulting white to yellow solid was then filtered and dried in air.

3. Reaction conversion data for studies illustrated in the manuscript

Table S1. Conversion of *p*-toluenesulfonamide and DCC to the sulfonylguanidine **1**, following RAM in the presence of 5 mol% CuCl and different amounts (given as η , in $\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$) of EtOAc, MeOBz, acetone, 2-butanone, DMF and MeNO_2 as the liquid additive. All reactions were performed on 0.5 mmol scale and the deviations from the mean value were established by performing each reaction in triplicate. No reaction was observed at $\eta = 0 \mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$.

η ($\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$)	EtOAc	MeOBz	acetone	2-butanone	DMF	MeNO_2
0.25	21 ± 3	23 ± 3	10 ± 2	41 ± 3	92 ± 2	21 ± 2
0.50	4 ± 1	13 ± 2	5 ± 1	17 ± 2	93 ± 1	12 ± 2
0.75	4 ± 1	8 ± 1	3 ± 1	15 ± 2	91 ± 2	11 ± 2
1.0	3 ± 1	7 ± 1	3 ± 1	10 ± 1	90 ± 2	10 ± 1

Table S2. Conversion of different sulfonamide reactants to corresponding sulfonylguanidines **1-5** upon RAM in the presence of one equivalent DCC, 5 mol% CuCl catalyst and different amounts of 2-butanone liquid additive, in the η range 0 to 1 $\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$. All reactions were performed on 0.5 mmol scale and the deviations from the mean value were established by performing each reaction in triplicate.

η ($\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$)	1	2	3	4	5
0	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0	0 \pm 0
0.01	9 \pm 1	15 \pm 2	11 \pm 2	12 \pm 2	9 \pm 2
0.025	70 \pm 3	64 \pm 3	61 \pm 3	66 \pm 3	27 \pm 3
0.05	66 \pm 2	59 \pm 2	50 \pm 2	64 \pm 2	25 \pm 2
0.07	55 \pm 3	53 \pm 3	43 \pm 3	50 \pm 3	22 \pm 2
0.10	47 \pm 4	48 \pm 2	35 \pm 3	39 \pm 3	20 \pm 3
0.17	45 \pm 3	44 \pm 3	25 \pm 2	34 \pm 1	19 \pm 2
0.25	41 \pm 2	29 \pm 3	22 \pm 3	26 \pm 4	18 \pm 2
0.37	23 \pm 2	18 \pm 2	17 \pm 1	24 \pm 2	14 \pm 1
0.50	17 \pm 2	15 \pm 2	14 \pm 2	17 \pm 2	12 \pm 2
0.75	15 \pm 2	11 \pm 2	6 \pm 1	12 \pm 2	10 \pm 2
1.00	10 \pm 1	7 \pm 2	5 \pm 1	10 \pm 2	8 \pm 1

Table S3. Conversion of different sulfonamide reactants to corresponding sulfonylguanidines **6-10** upon RAM by reaction with DIC, in the presence of 5 mol% CuCl catalyst and 2-butanone liquid additive in the η range 0 to 0.75 $\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$. All reactions were performed on 0.5 mmol scale and the deviations from the mean value were established by performing each reaction in triplicate.

η ($\mu\text{L}/\text{mg}$)	6	7	8	9	10
0	60 \pm 2	60 \pm 2	45 \pm 2	64 \pm 2	26 \pm 3
0.07	75 \pm 3	66 \pm 3	55 \pm 3	66 \pm 3	30 \pm 2
0.10	90 \pm 2	81 \pm 2	65 \pm 3	70 \pm 2	35 \pm 3
0.25	72 \pm 2	49 \pm 4	44 \pm 2	53 \pm 2	33 \pm 2
0.50	47 \pm 3	34 \pm 3	25 \pm 2	29 \pm 3	17 \pm 2
0.75	22 \pm 2	18 \pm 2	12 \pm 2	18 \pm 2	7 \pm 1

4. Crystallographic data for compound 1

Table S4. Crystallographic data for compound 1 polymorphs Form I and II.

	Form I (CSD code: KOPPOW)	Form II
Molecular formula	C ₂₀ H ₃₁ N ₃ O ₂	C ₂₀ H ₃₁ N ₃ O ₂
M _r	377.54	377.54
Crystal system	Triclinic	Trigonal
Crystal colour	Colorless	Colorless
Space group	P-1	R-3
Temperature (K)	293	298
Unit cell dimensions (\AA , $^\circ$)		
<i>a</i>	12.075(3)	23.2800(4)
<i>b</i>	12.703(3)	23.2800(4)
<i>c</i>	15.167(4)	19.9119(4)
α	92.220(3)	90
β	109.140(3)	90
γ	106.008(3)	120
Volume (\AA^3)	2091.2(9)	9345.6(4)
Z	4	18
ρ_{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	1.199	1.207
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.173	1.525
F(000)	816	3672.0
Refl. Collected/independent	19658/7231	49799/3921
No. observed refl. [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]*	5001	2775
No. restraints/No. parameters	0/475	0/236
<i>R</i> / <i>wR</i> [all data]	0.0816/0.1601	0.0783/0.1595
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.049	1.137

* $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum F_o$, $w = 1 / [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (g_1 P)^2 + g_2 P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2) / 3$, $S = \sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / (N_{\text{obs}} - N_{\text{param}})]^{1/2}$.

5. DSC analysis of 1, polymorph Form I and II

DSC analysis was performed to determine the melting point of pure compound **1** Form II and II. A DSC 2500 equipment (TA instrument) was used. All analyses were performed at 10 °C/min from 25 to 300 °C.

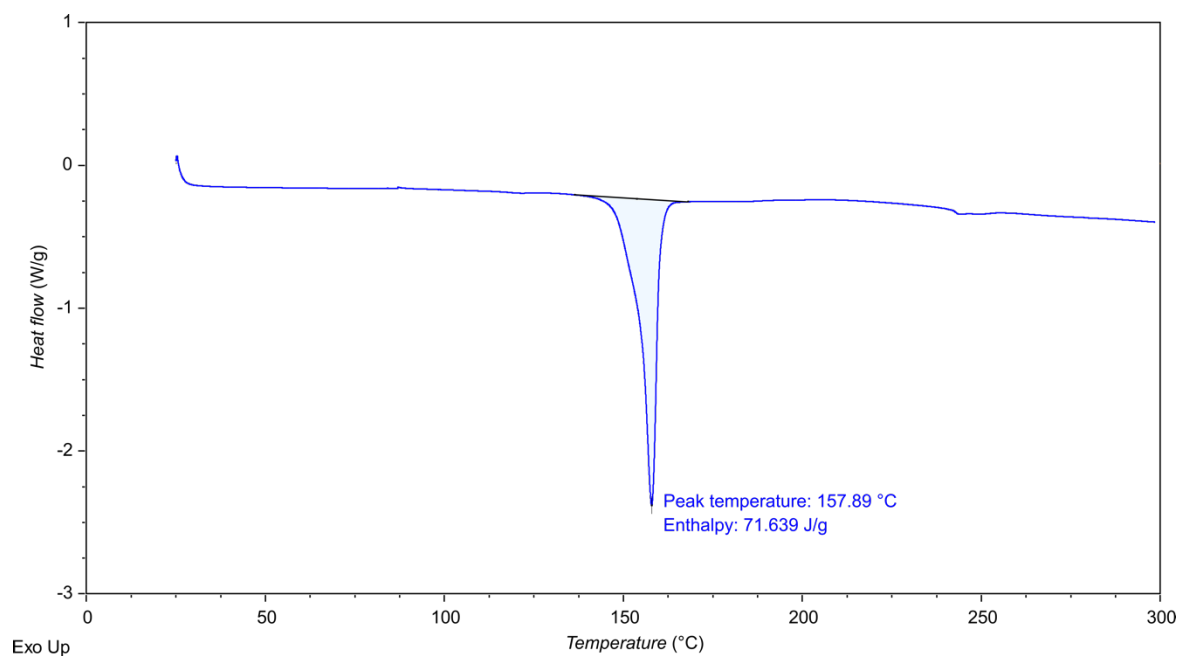


Figure S1. DSC thermograms for isolated compound **1**, polymorph Form I.

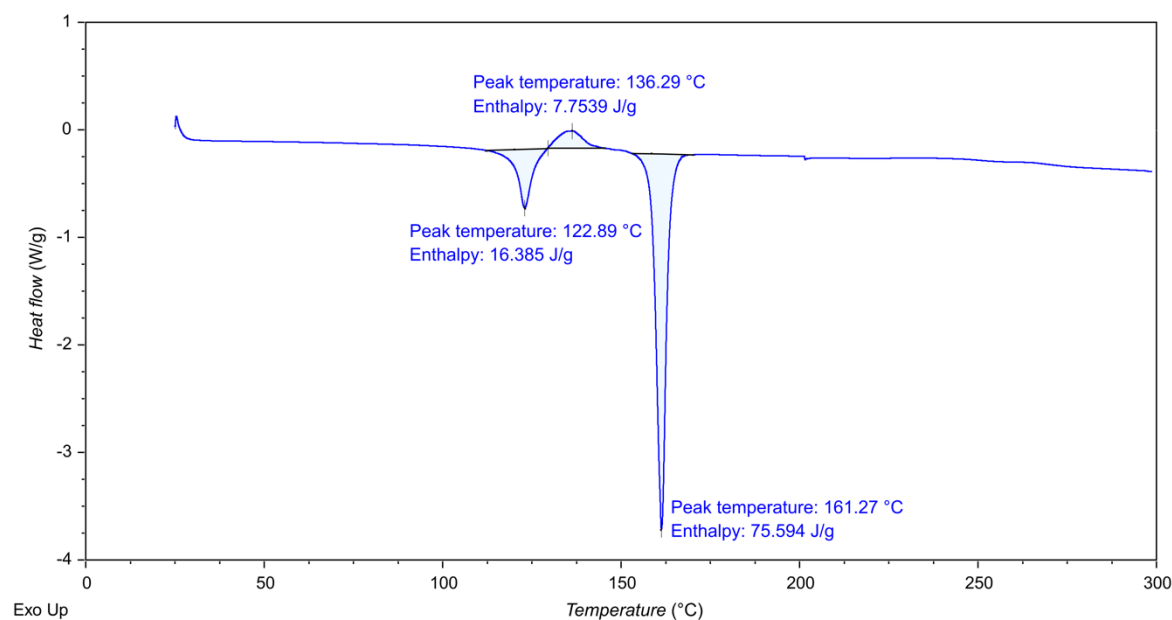
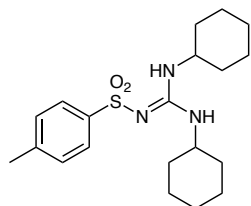


Figure S2. DSC thermograms for isolated compound **1**, polymorph Form II.

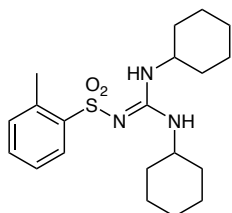
6. Summary of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR and HR-MS Data

N-(bis(cyclohexylamino)methylene)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide 1



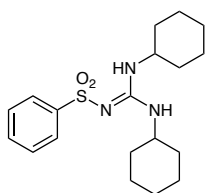
^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.59 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 126.1 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.73 – 1.52 (m, 10H), 1.28 – 1.04 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.83, 142.06, 141.59, 129.55, 125.89, 40.46, 32.68, 25.43, 21.34. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 378.22097; measured: 378.22221.

N-(bis(cyclohexylamino)methylene)-2-methylbenzenesulfonamide 2



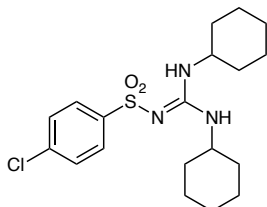
^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 1.72 – 1.46 (m, 10H), 1.20 – 1.04 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.61, 142.59, 136.55, 132.45, 131.76, 127.16, 125.93, 50.46, 32.76, 25.41, 24.17, 20.08. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 378.22097; measured: 378.21986.

N-(bis(cyclohexylamino)methylene)benzenesulfonamide 3



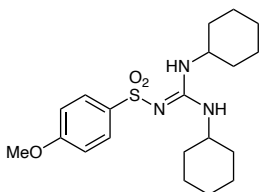
^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.71 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 1.73 – 1.50 (m, 10H), 1.27 – 0.95 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.88, 144.77, 131.66, 129.16, 125.84, 40.46, 33.82, 32.72, 25.79, 25.43, 25.12. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 364.20532; measured: 364.20419.

N-(bis(cyclohexylamino)methylene)-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide 4



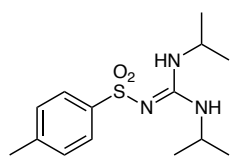
^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.72 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 1.71 – 1.49 (m, 10H), 1.29 – 1.07 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.79, 143.66, 136.35, 129.31, 127.85, 40.46, 32.66, 25.40, 24.66. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{ClS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 398.16635; measured: 398.16581.

N-(bis(cyclohexylamino)methylene)-4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide 5



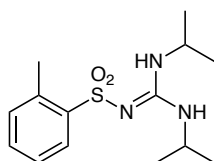
^1H NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.64 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 138.4 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 1.69 – 1.49 (m, 10H), 1.28 – 1.04 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (800 MHz, DMSO) δ 161.64, 153.79, 136.91, 127.83, 114.23, 55.95, 40.46, 32.74, 25.45, 24.08. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_3\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 394.21589; measured: 394.21557.

***N*-(bis(isopropylamino)methylene)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide 6**



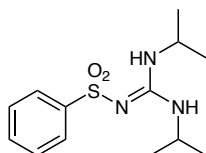
^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.62 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.95, 142.08, 141.58, 129.53, 125.97, 43.00, 22.84, 21.34. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 298.15837; measured: 298.15944.

***N*-(bis(isopropylamino)methylene)-2-methylbenzenesulfonamide 7**



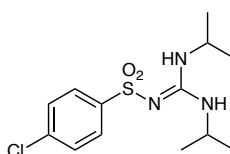
^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.81 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.79, 142.65, 136.54, 132.45, 131.76, 127.28, 125.92, 43.01, 22.85, 20.14. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 298.15837; measured: 298.15817.

***N*-(bis(isopropylamino)methylene)benzenesulfonamide 8**



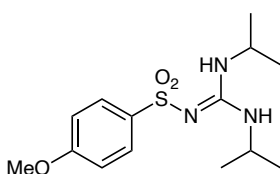
^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.74 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 154.00, 144.80, 131.66, 129.13, 125.91, 43.05, 22.82. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 284.14272; measured: 284.14232.

***N*-(bis(isopropylamino)methylene)-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide 9**



^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.75 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 1.04 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 153.90, 143.69, 136.35, 129.27, 127.93, 43.12, 22.80. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{ClS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 318.10375; measured: 318.10331.

***N*-(bis(isopropylamino)methylene)-4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide 10**



^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.67 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) δ 161.64, 153.91, 136.94, 127.92, 114.19, 55.93, 42.98, 22.85. HRMS ESI (+): Calculated for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3\text{N}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 314.15329; measured: 314.15274.

7. Fourier-Transform Infrared Attenuated Total Reflectance (FTIR-ATR) Spectra for Isolated Products 1-10

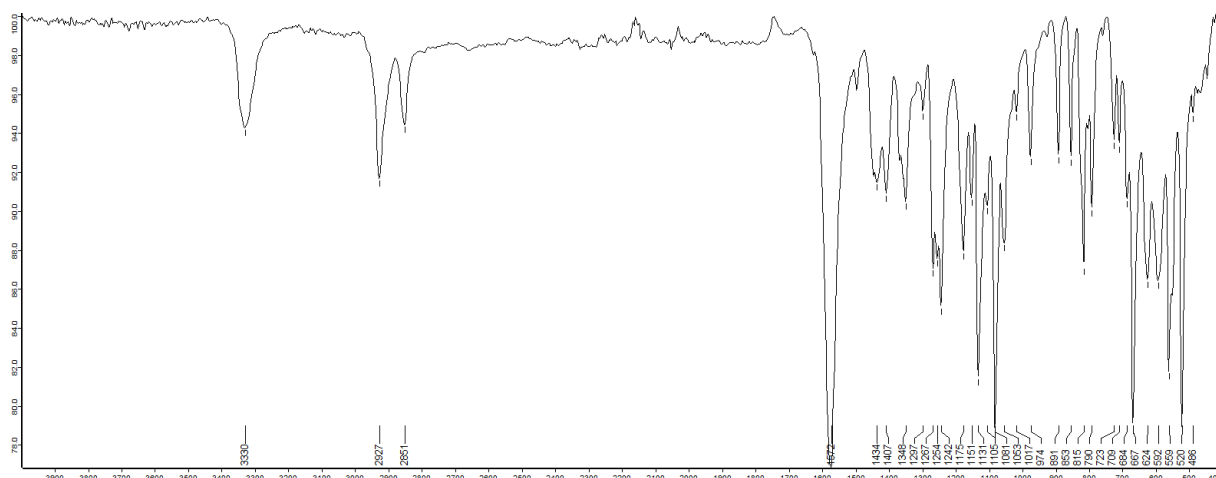


Figure S3. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 1 Form I, synthesized by LA-RAM.

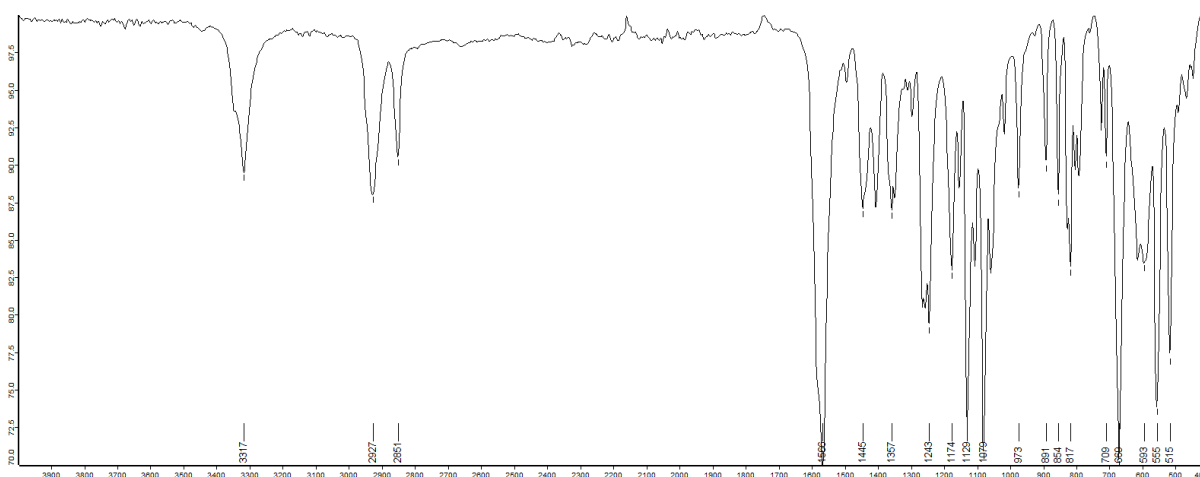


Figure S4. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 1 Form II, synthesized by LA-RAM.

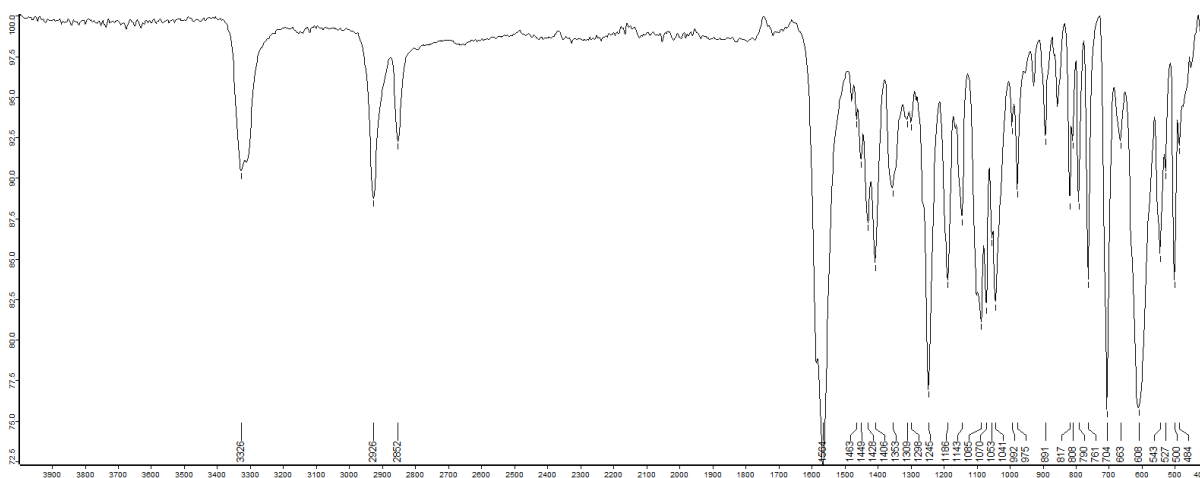


Figure S5. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 2, synthesized by LA-RAM.

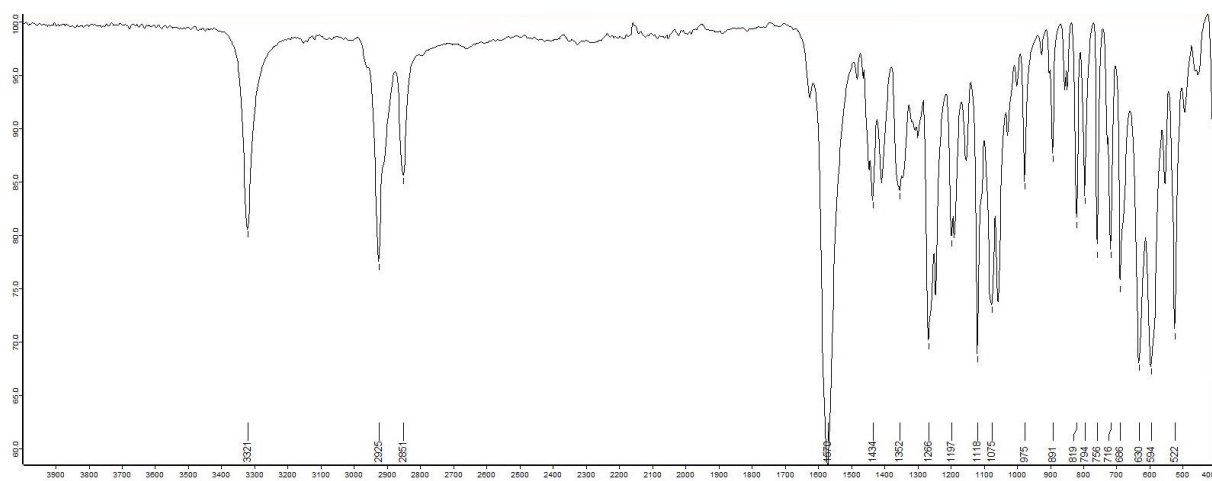


Figure S6. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 3, synthesized by LA-RAM.

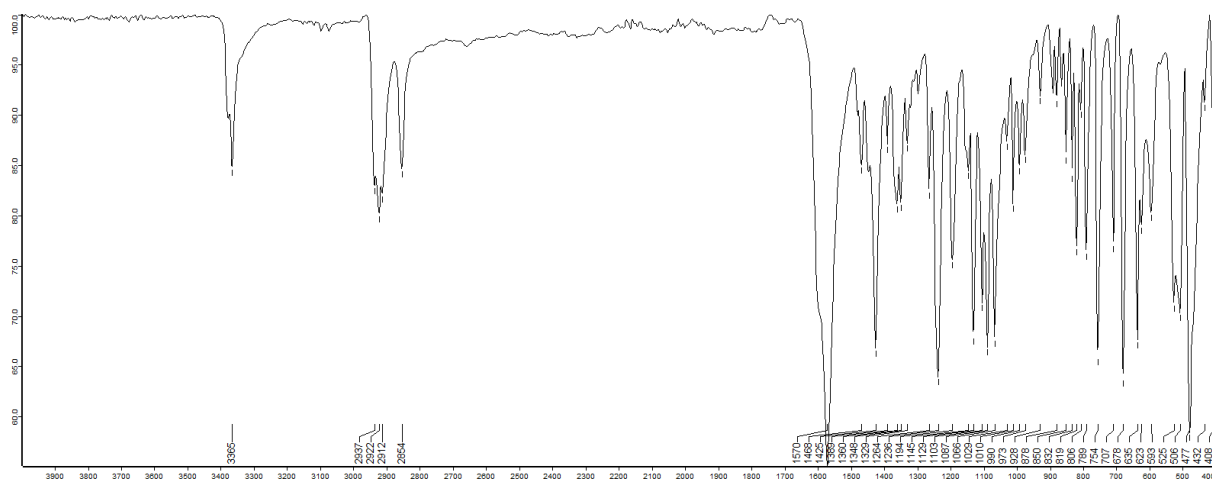


Figure S7. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 4, synthesized by LA-RAM.

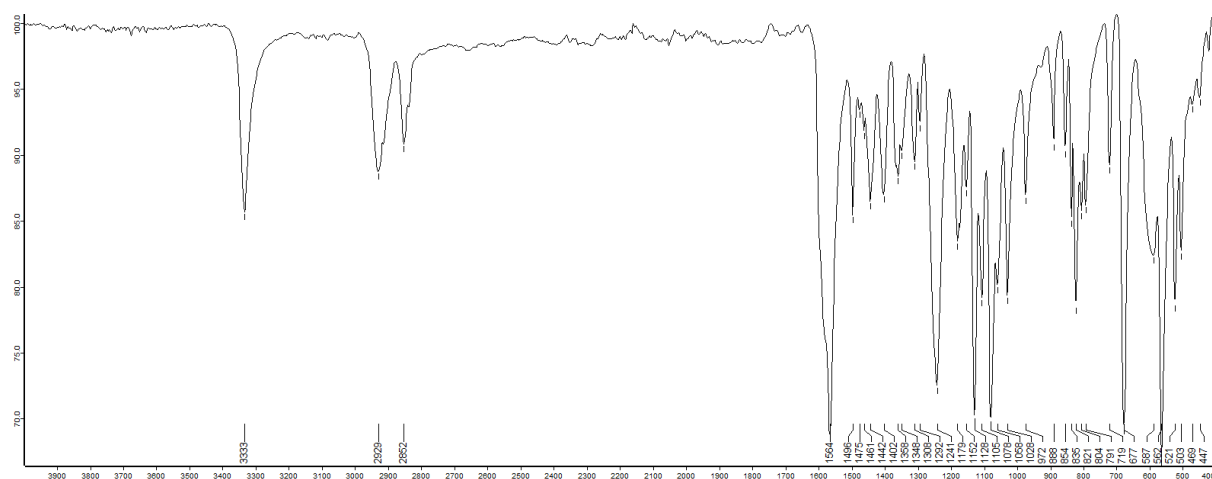


Figure S8. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound 5, synthesized by LA-RAM.

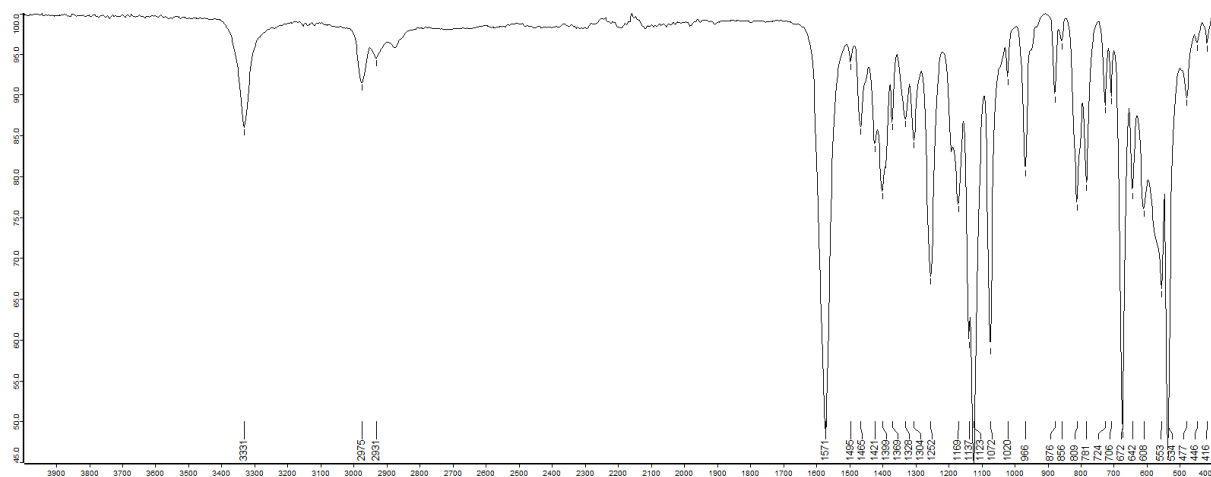


Figure S9. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound **6**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

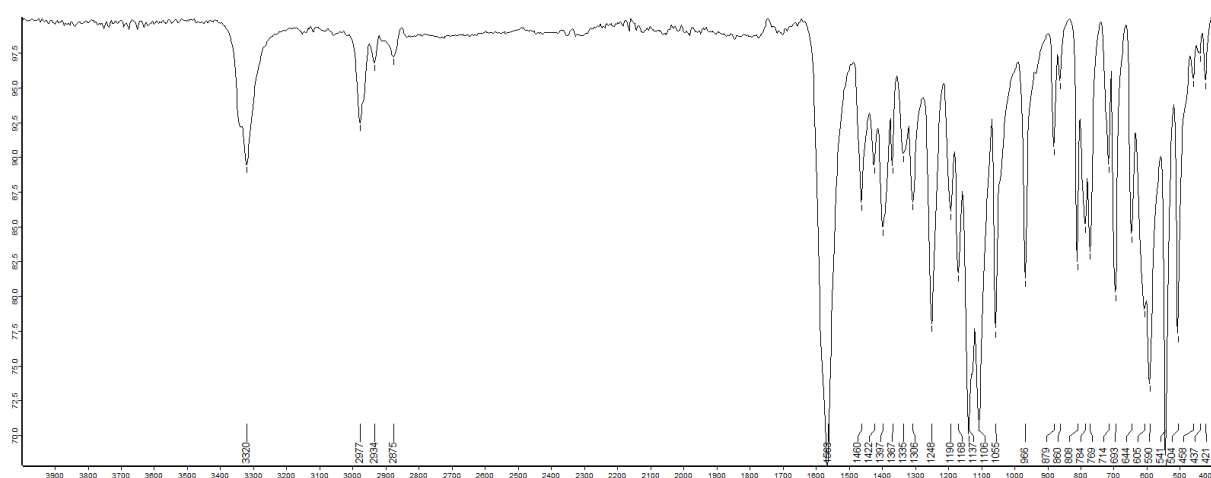


Figure S10. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound **7**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

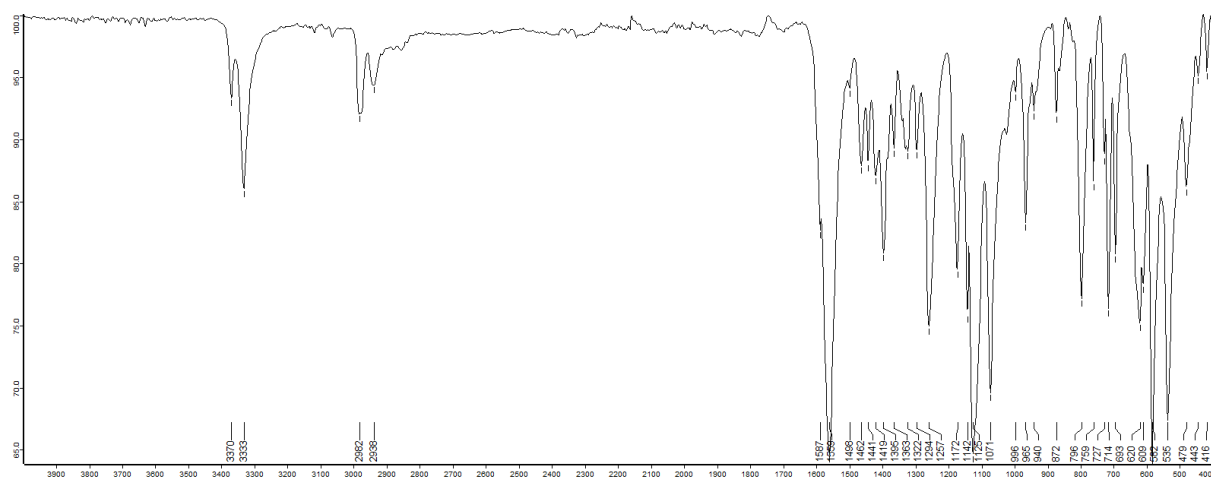


Figure S11. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound **8**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

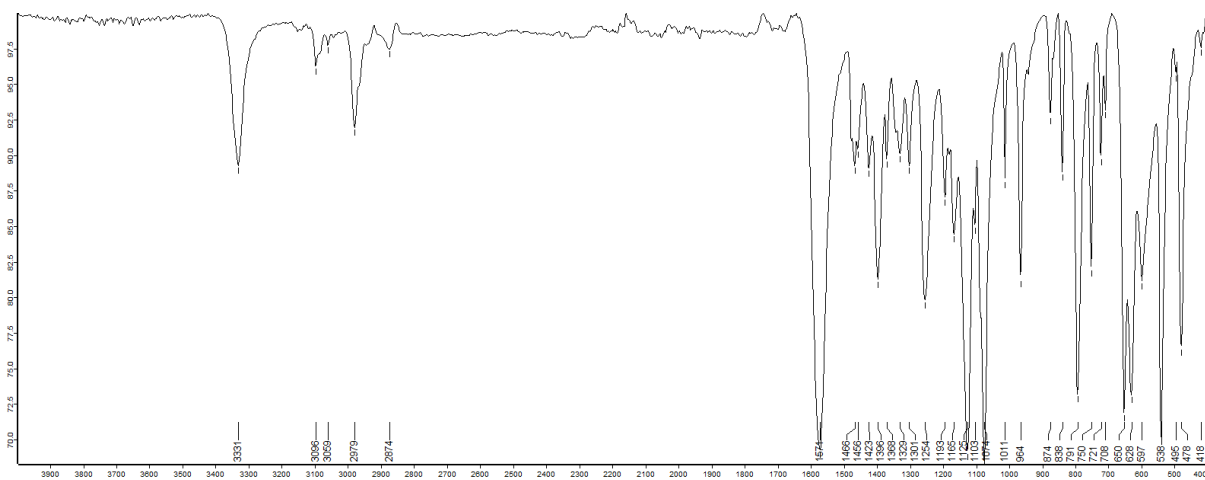


Figure S12. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound **9**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

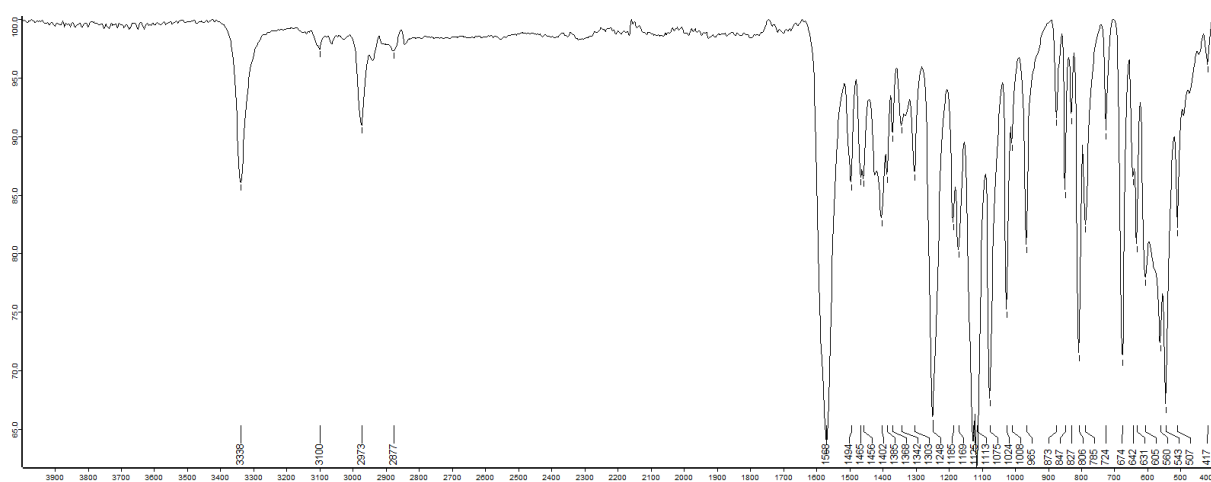


Figure S13. FTIR-ATR spectrum of isolated compound **10**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

8. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Data for Isolated Products 1-10

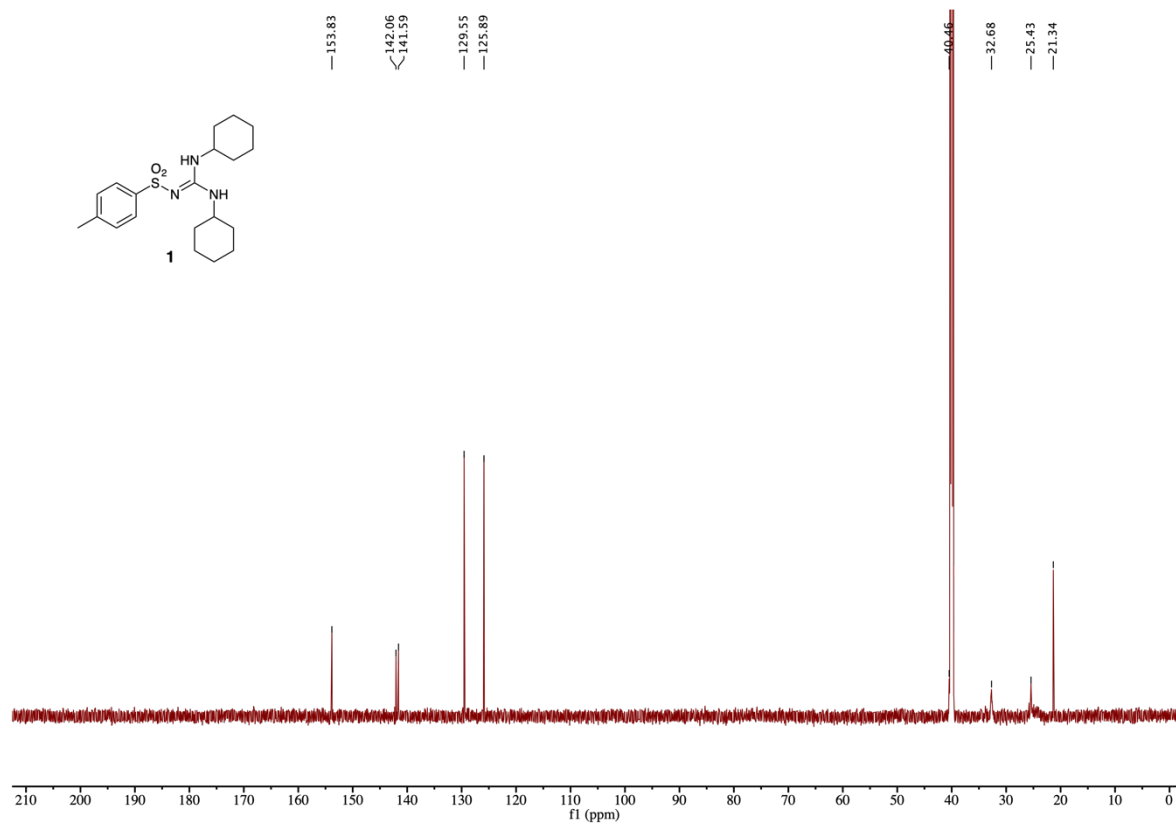
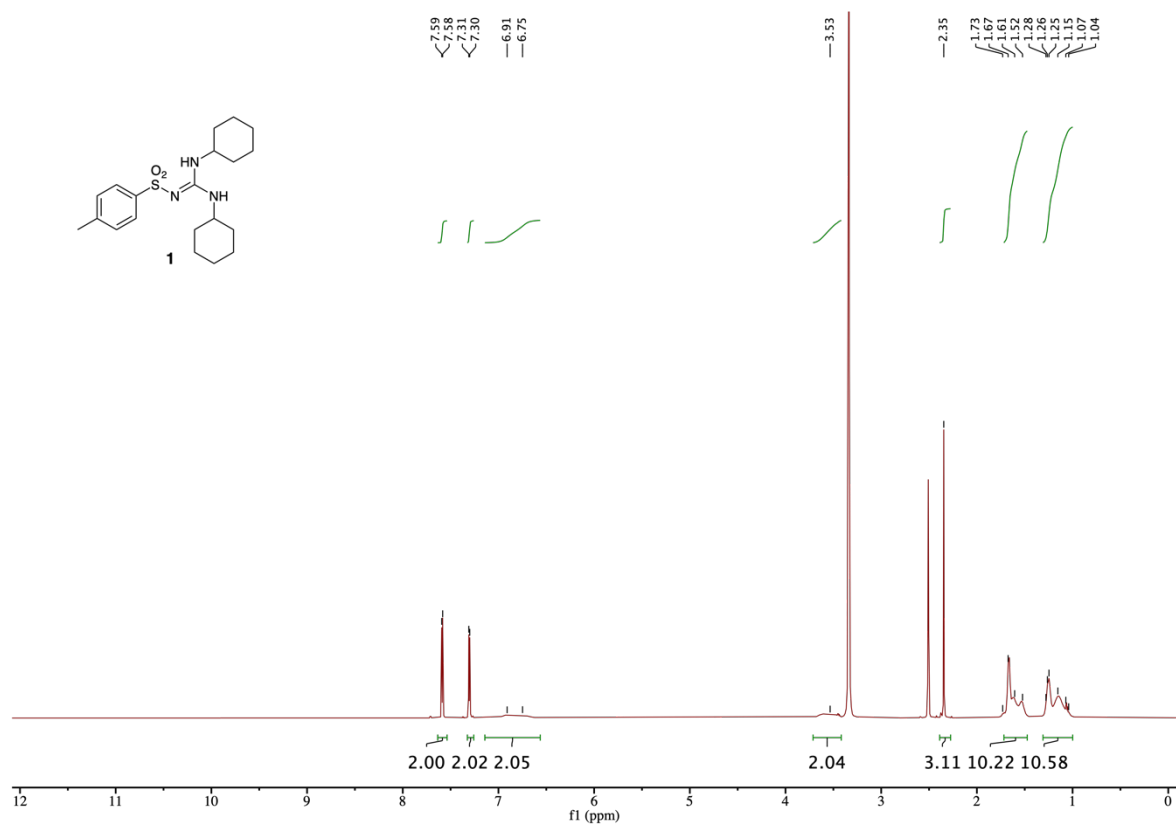


Figure S14. (top) ^1H and (bottom) ^{13}C NMR spectra for isolated compound **1**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

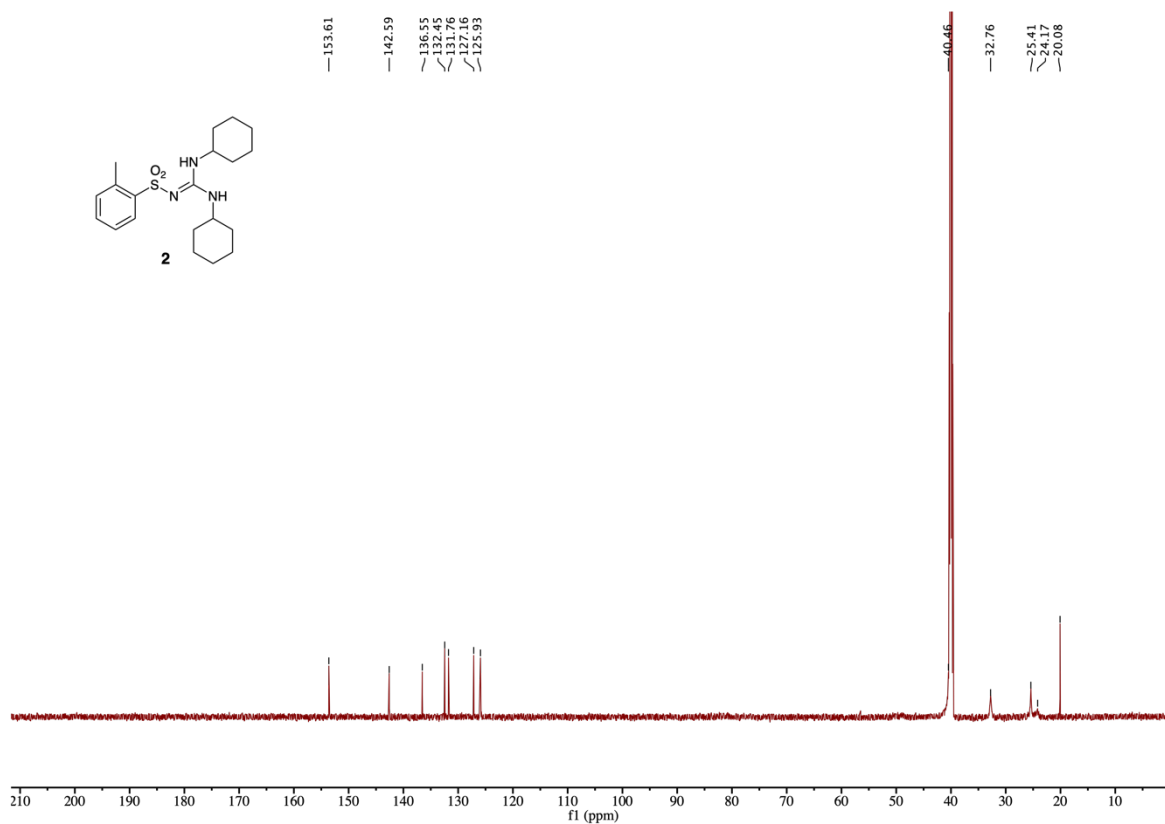
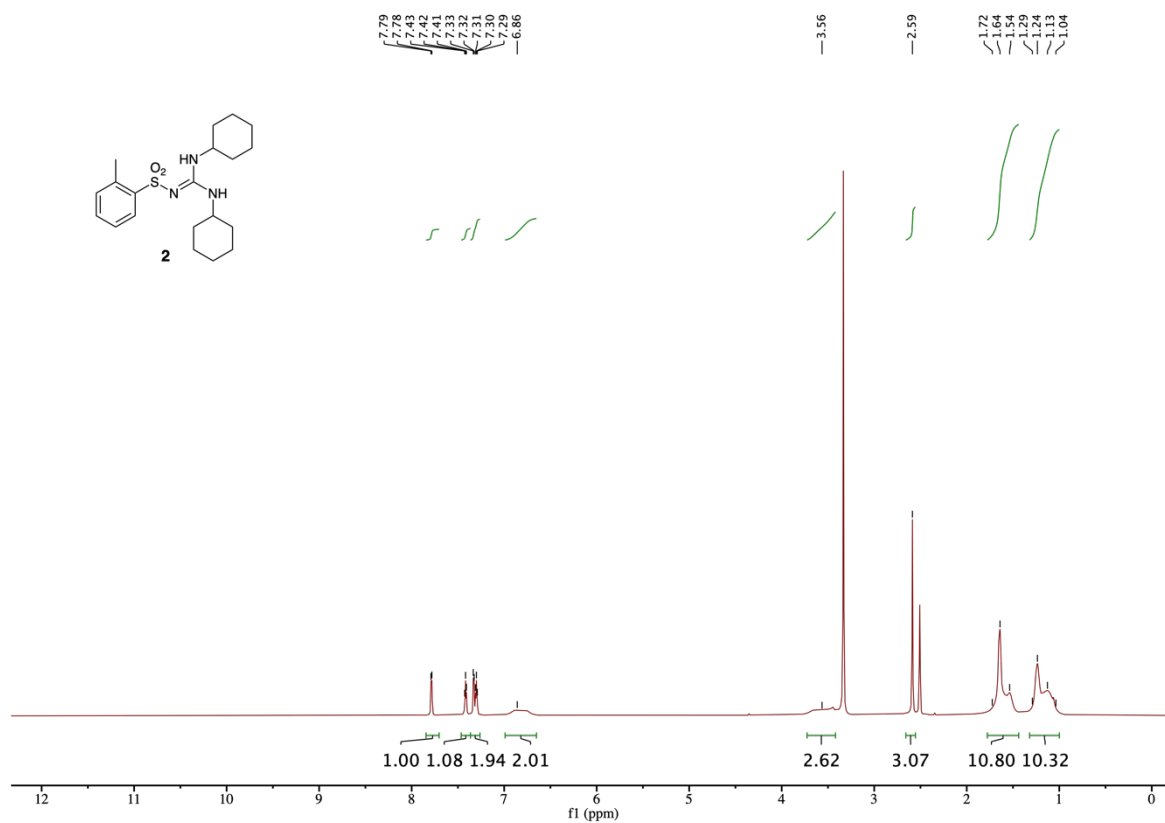


Figure S15. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **2**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

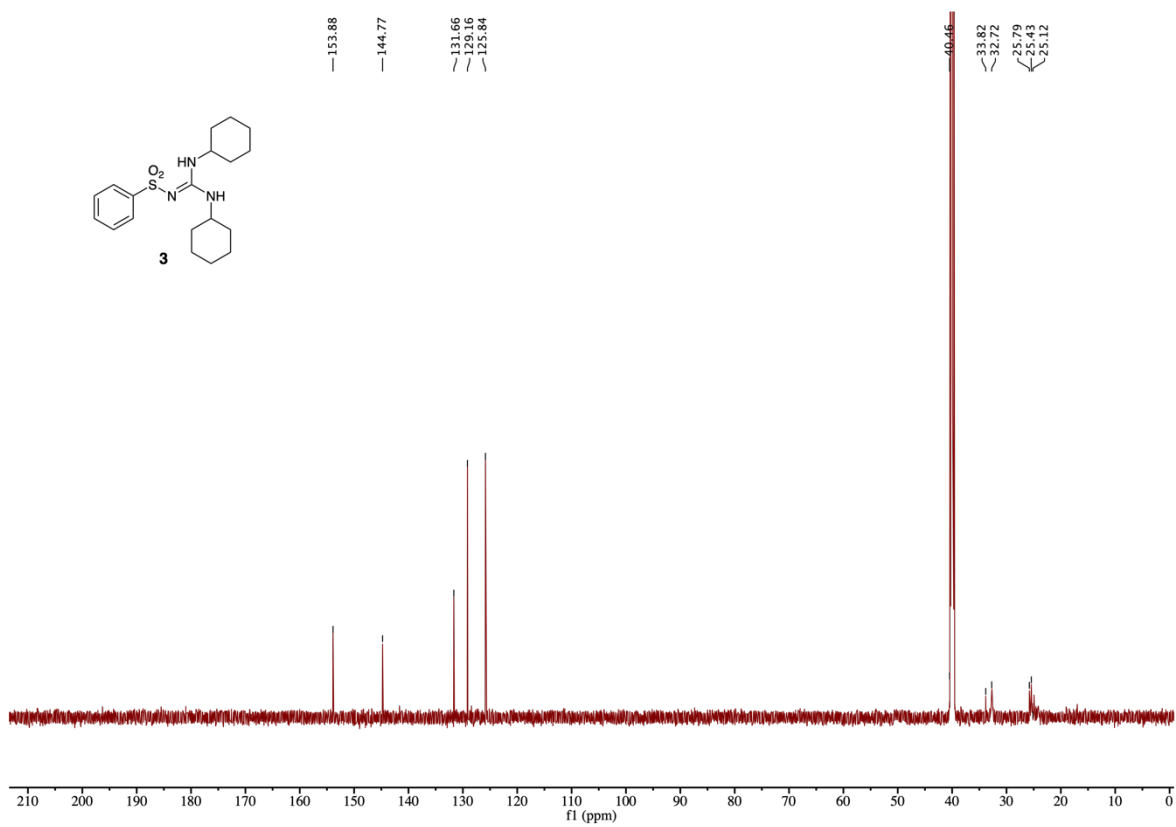
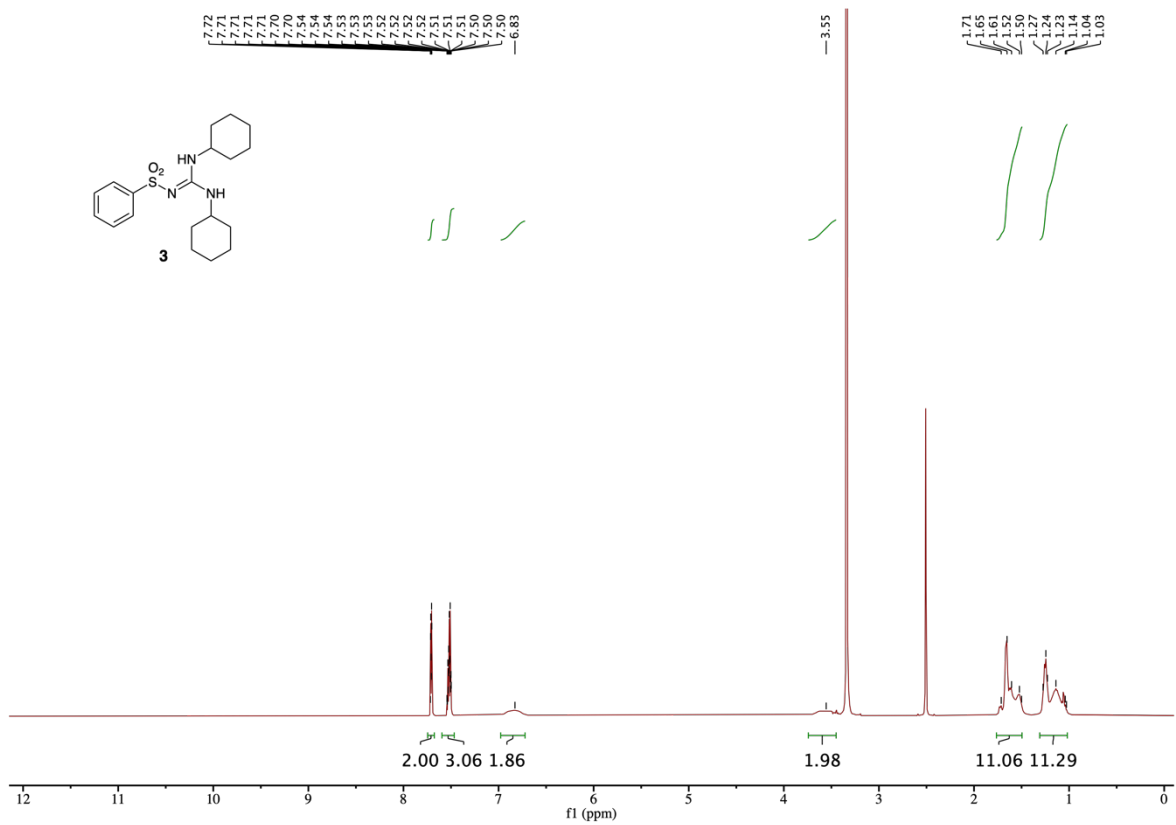


Figure S16. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **3**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

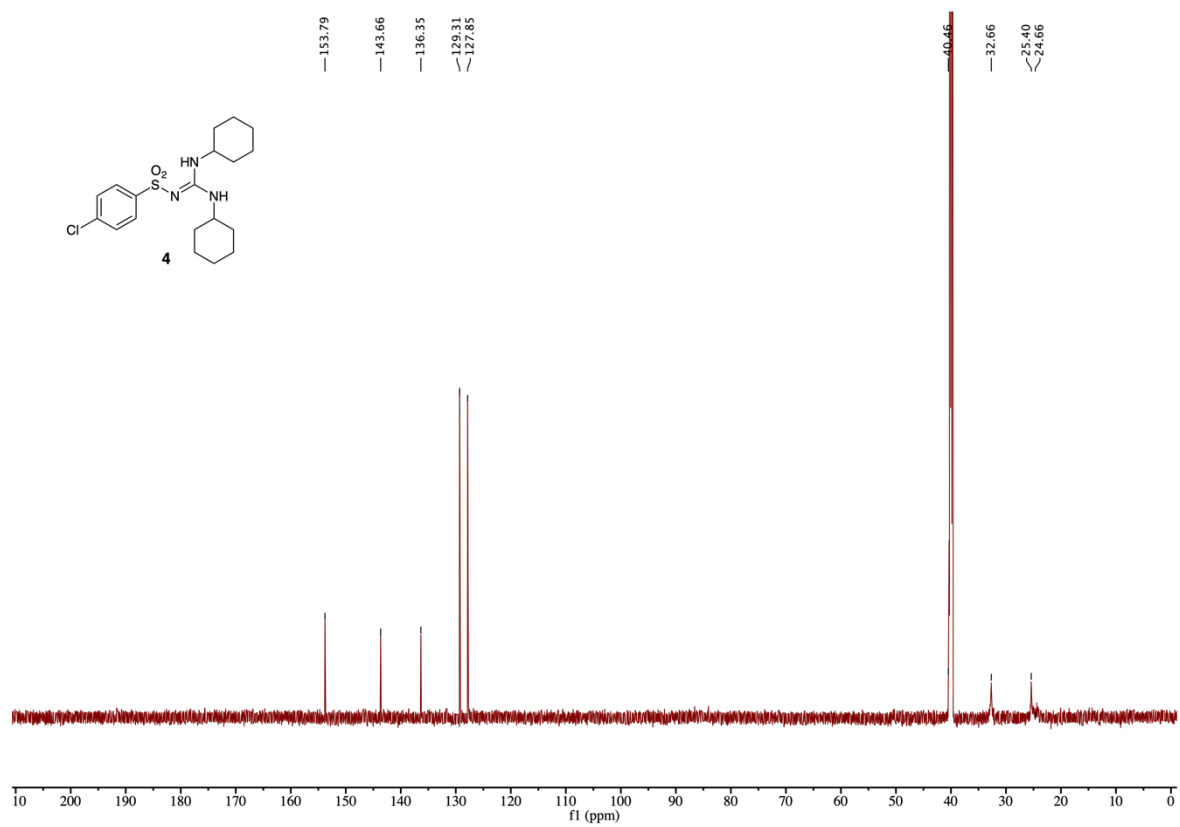
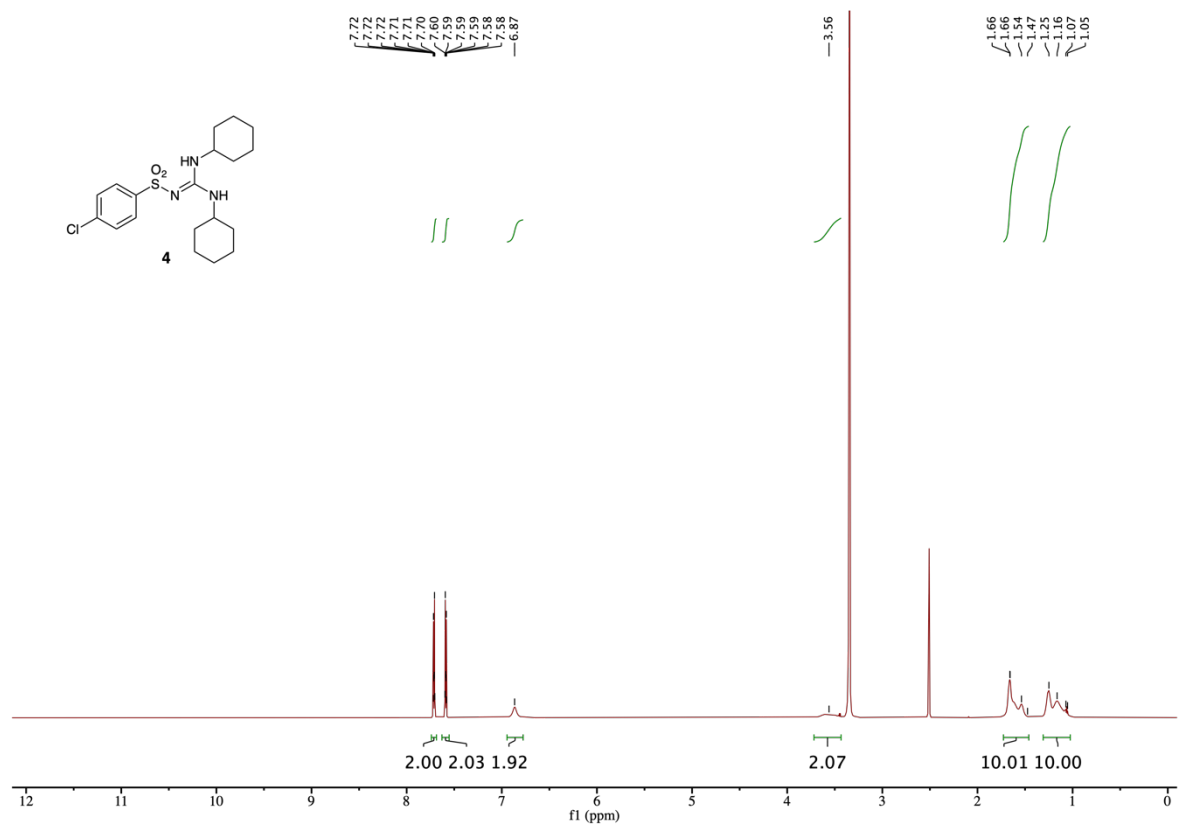


Figure S17. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **4**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

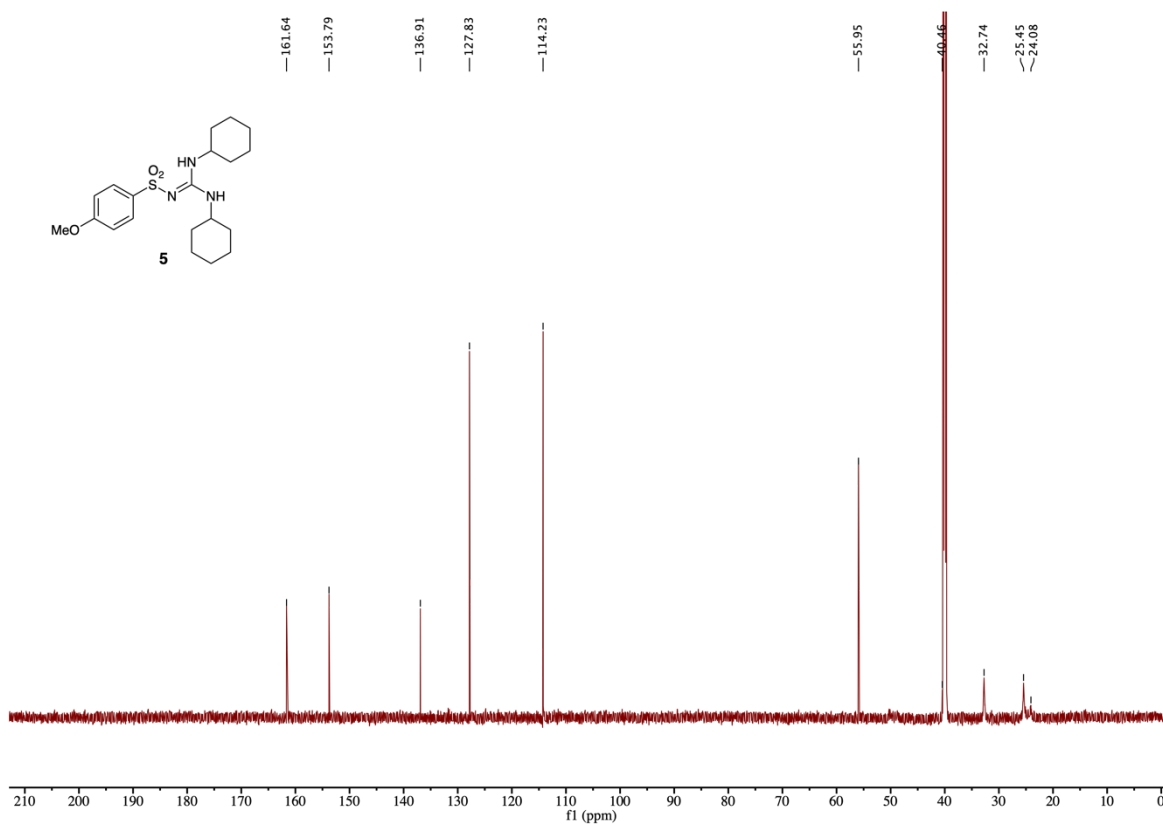
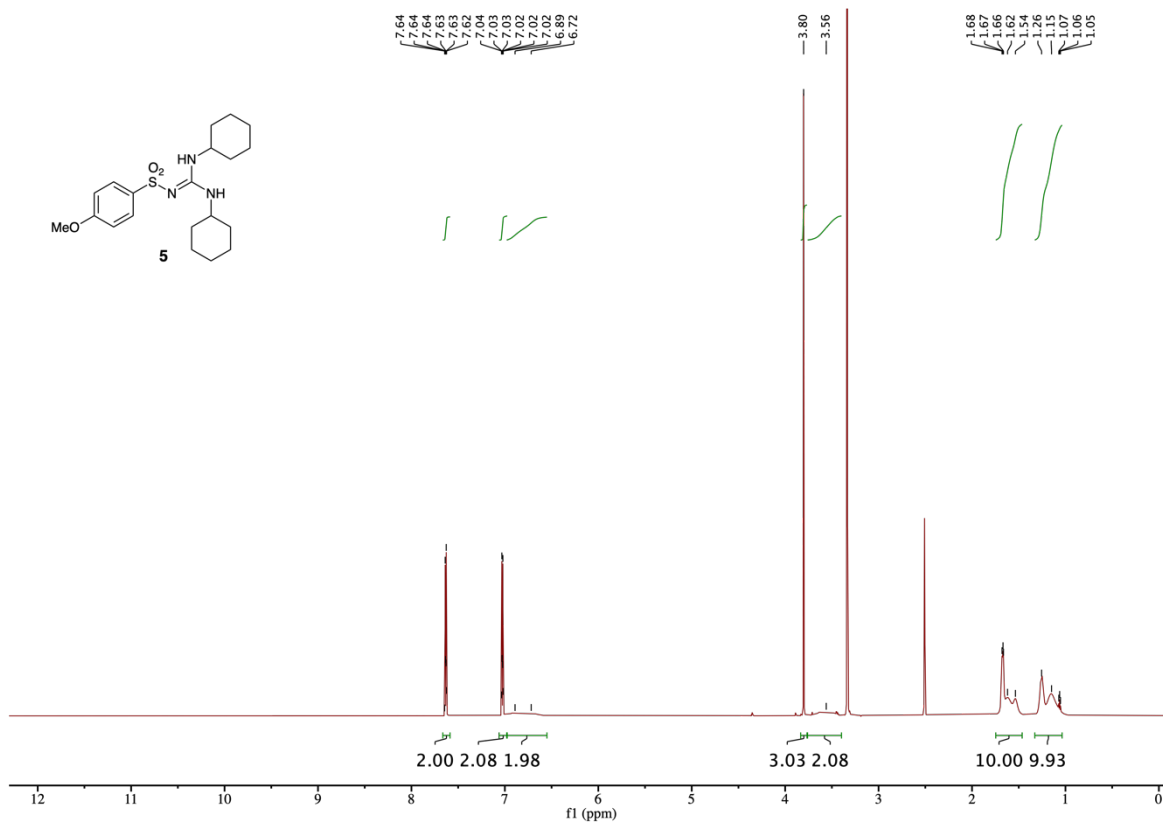


Figure S18. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound 5, synthesized by LA-RAM.

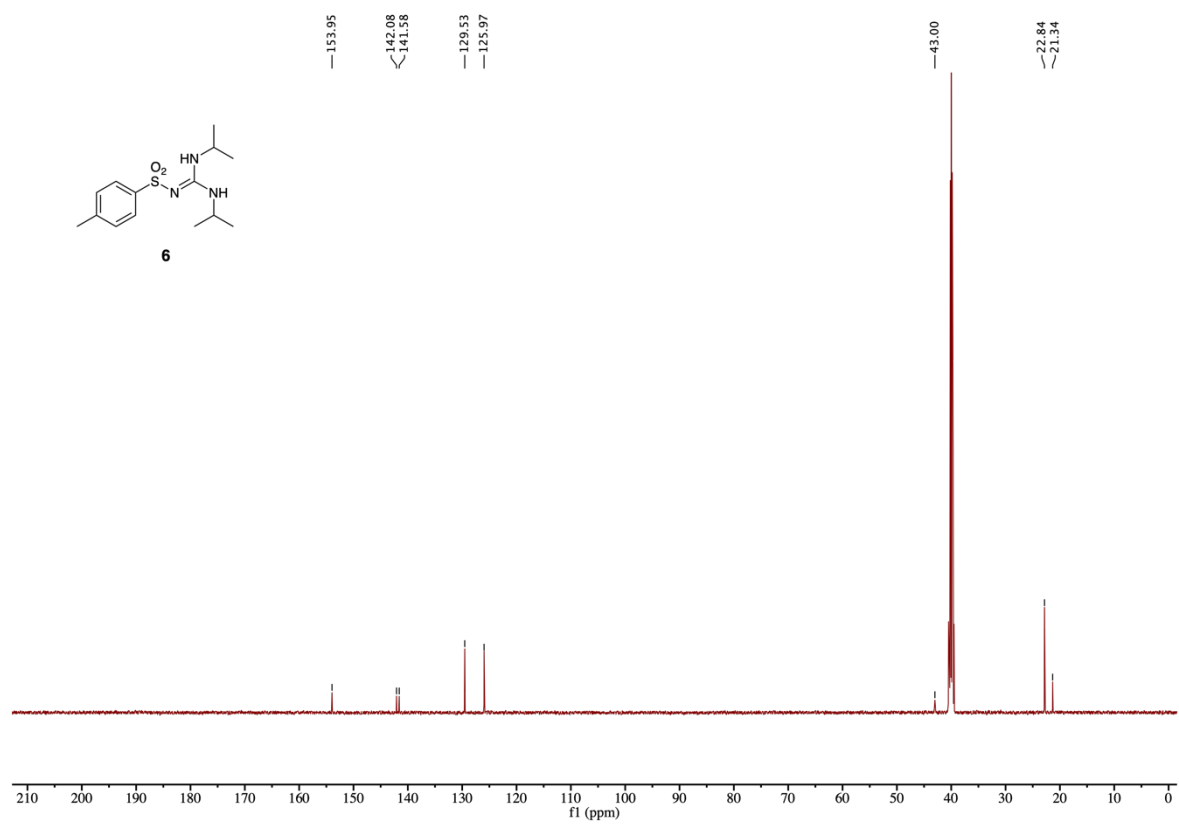
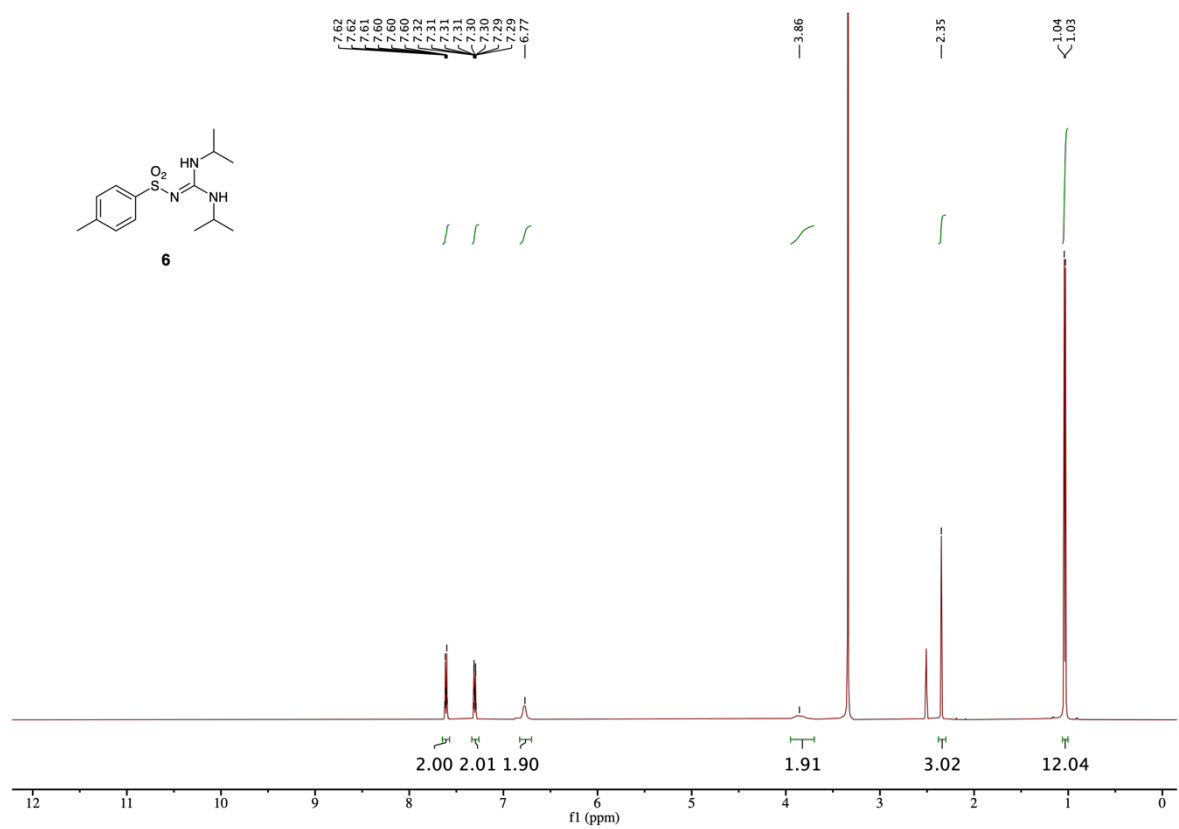


Figure S19. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **6**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

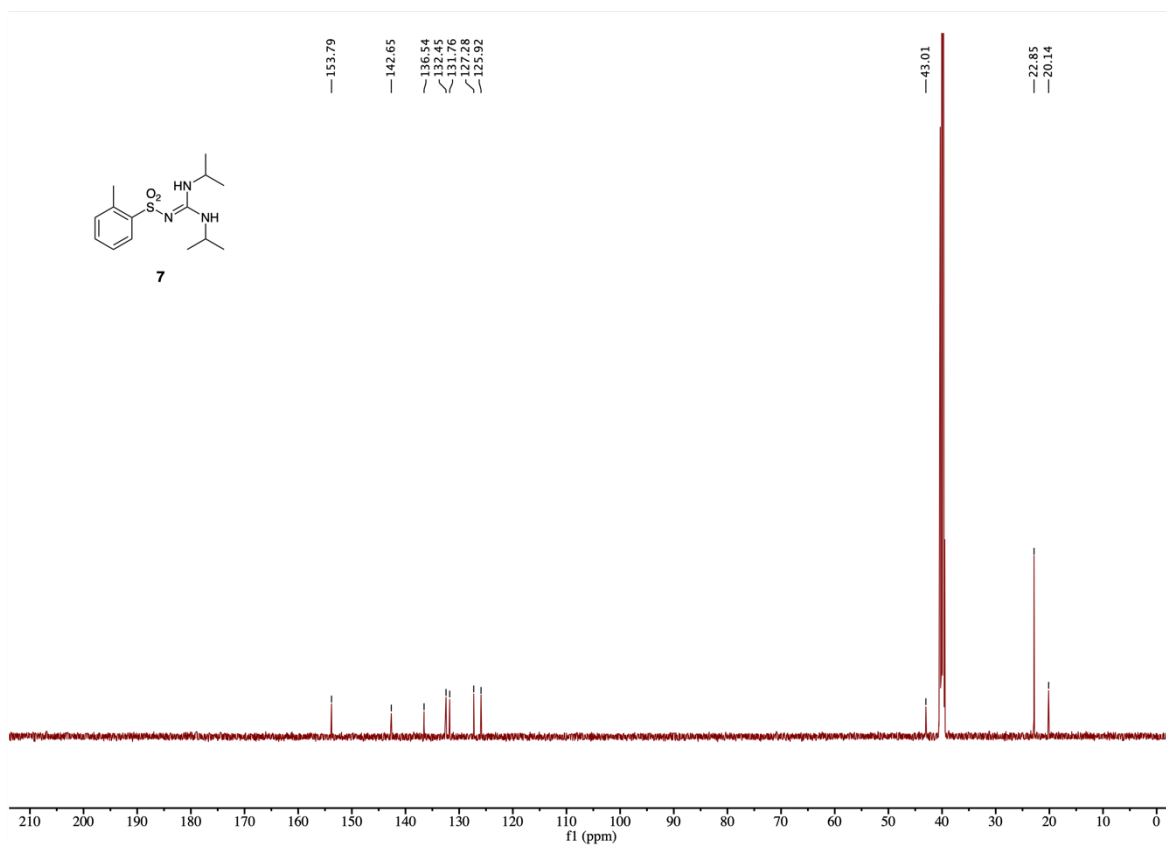
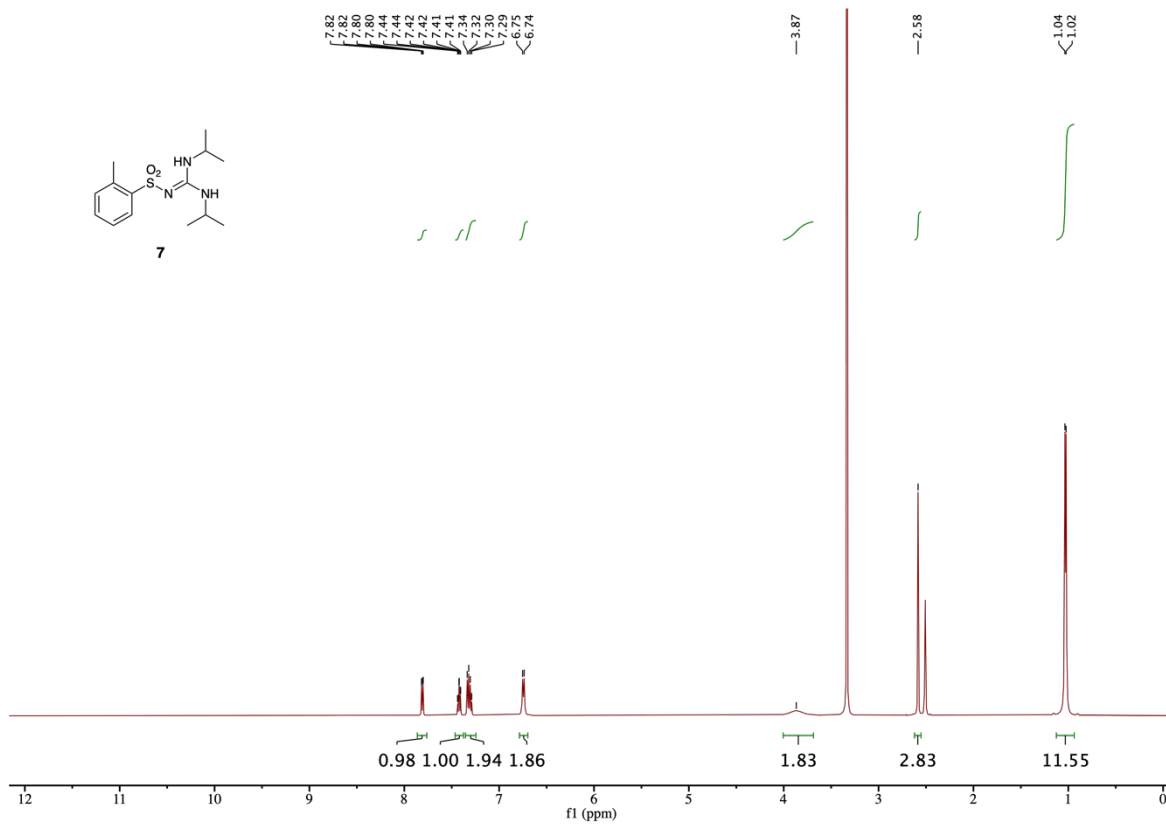


Figure S20. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **7**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

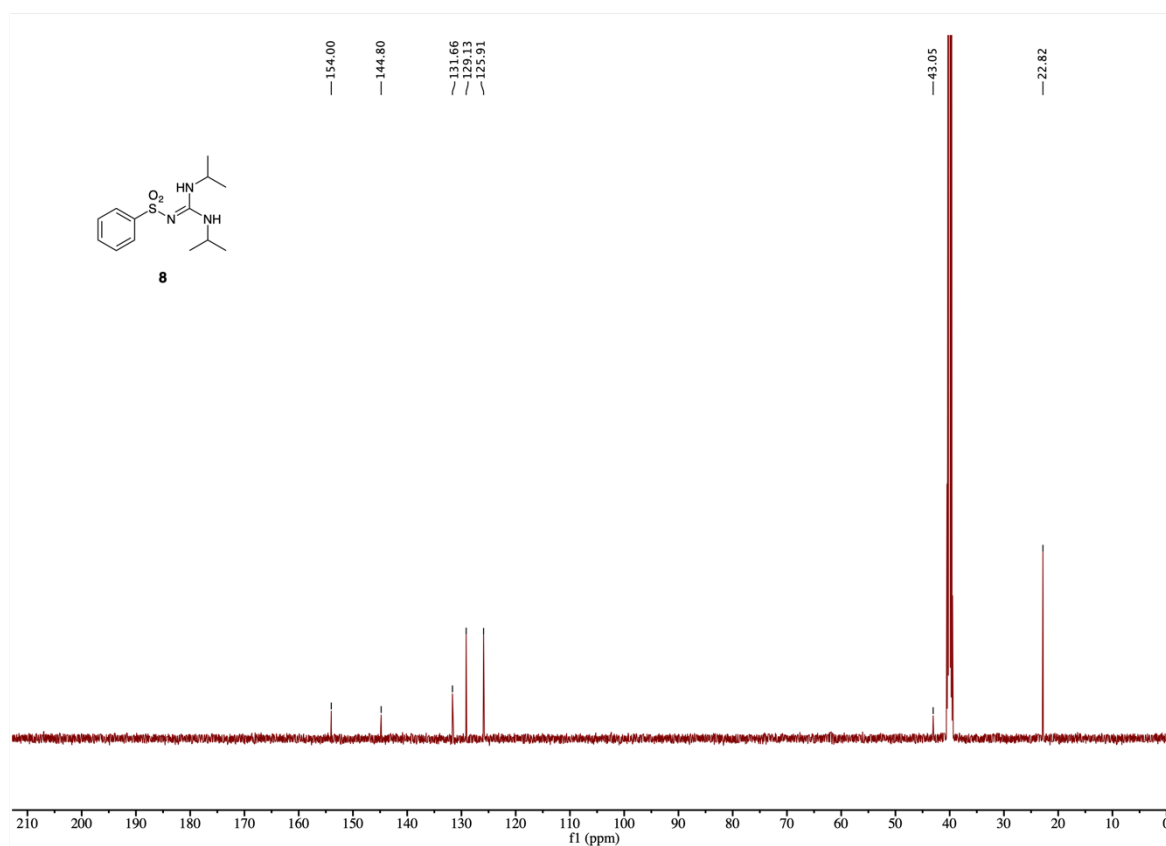
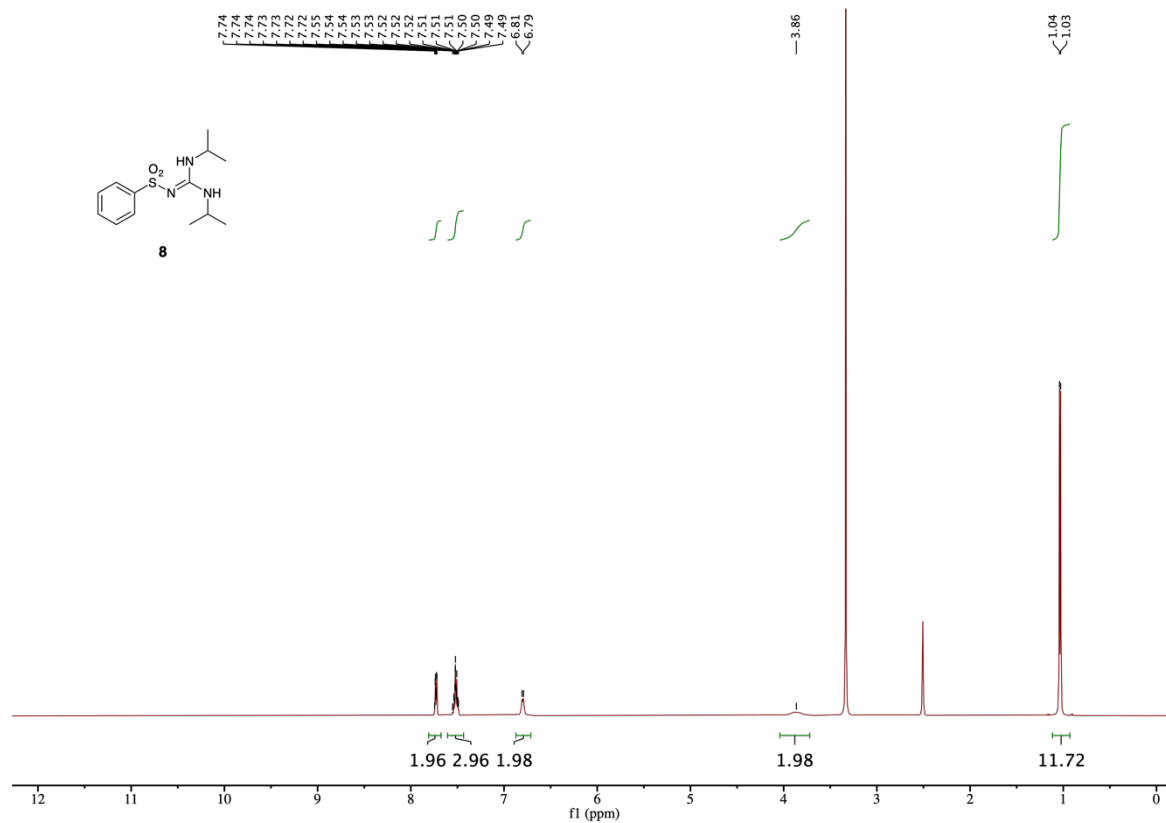


Figure S21. (top) ¹H and (bottom) ¹³C NMR spectra for isolated compound **8**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

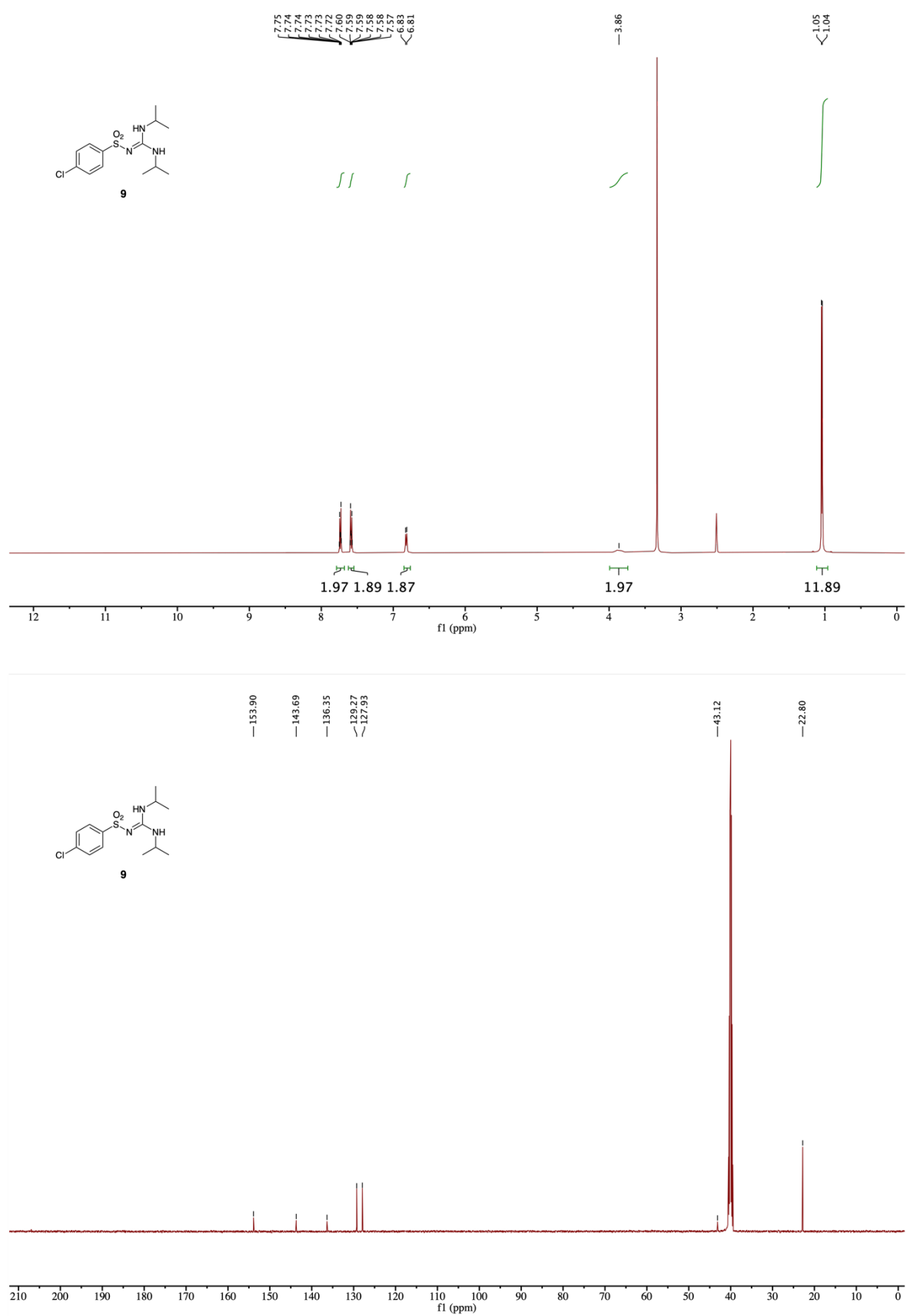


Figure S22. (top) ^1H and (bottom) ^{13}C NMR spectra for isolated compound **9**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

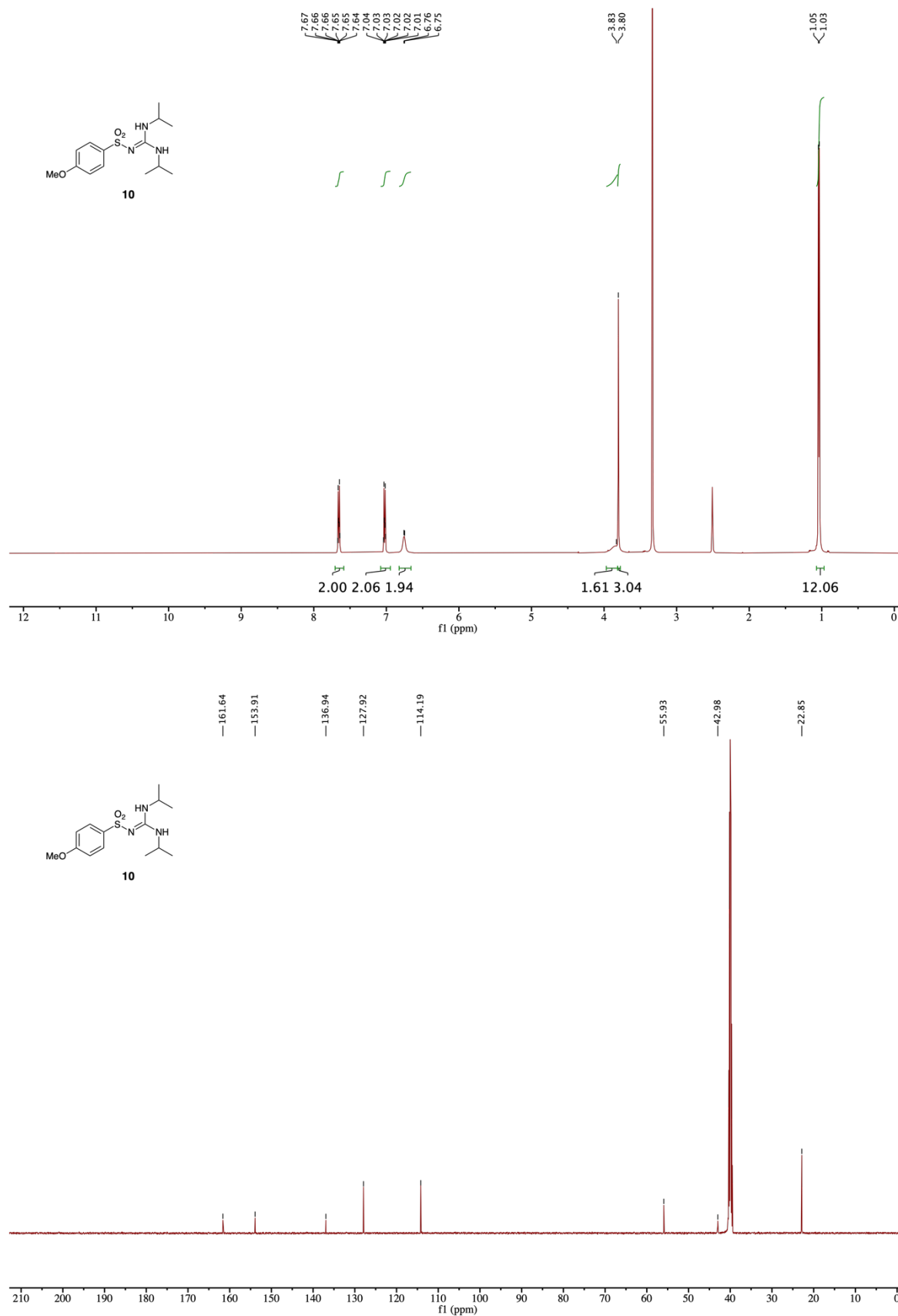


Figure S23. (top) ^1H and (bottom) ^{13}C NMR spectra for isolated compound **10**, synthesized by LA-RAM.

9. Theoretical modelling

The plane-wave basis set was truncated at 650 eV cutoff and the 1st electronic Brillouin zone was sampled with $2\pi \times 0.07 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ Monkhorst-Pack grid k-point spacing.⁵ Tight convergence criteria were used in the optimisation, namely: $5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ eV atom}^{-1}$ for total energy; 0.01 eV \AA^{-1} for atomic forces; $5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ \AA}$ for atomic displacement and 0.02 GPa for residual stress.

The validity of the three approaches (PBE+TS, PBE+D3 and PBE+D3+BJ) was evaluated by exploring the variation between measured and calculated crystallographic unit cell parameters (unit cell edges and volume, V) for each method (Table S5, Figures S24, S25). Comparing the variation between calculated crystallographic parameters and the measured parameters indicate that both PBE+D3 and PBE+D3+BJ provide accurate structural models of Form I and Form II, whereas PBE+TS deviates substantially from the observed values.

Table S5. Overview of the crystallographic unit cell parameters that were experimentally determined for Form I and II of compound **1**, to the corresponding values after optimisation using periodic DFT methods PBE-TS, PBE-D3 and PBE-D3-BJ.

Form I								
method	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	α (°)	β (°)	γ (°)	V (Å ³)	% change of V
experiment	12.075(3)	12.703(3)	15.167(4)	92.220(3)	109.140(3)	106.008(3)	2091.14	0
PBE+TS	11.9028	12.5658	14.7976	92.3639	108.2007	105.9205	2002.26	-4.2503
PBE+D3	12.0033	12.6045	15.1228	92.3827	109.056	106.101	2055.69	-1.6952
PBE+D3-BJ	11.9912	12.605	14.989	92.344	108.624	105.993	2043.11	-2.2968
Form II								
experiment	23.2800(4)	23.2800(4)	19.9119(4)	90	90	120	9345.65	0
PBE+TS	22.9287	22.987	19.5264	90	90	120	8890.23	-4.8731
PBE+D3	23.1187	23.1187	19.7085	90	90	120	9112.44	-2.4954
PBE+D3-BJ	23.0809	23.0809	19.6763	90	90	120	9077.78	-2.8663

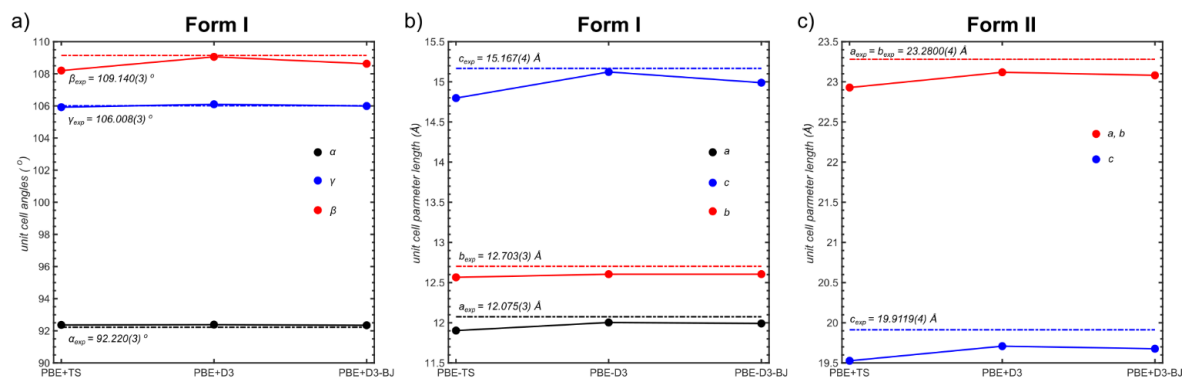


Figure S24. Graphical comparison of the crystallographic unit cell parameters measured for Form I and Form II of compound **1** (dashed line) to the corresponding parameters optimised using periodic DFT approaches PBE-TS, PBE-D3 and PBE-D3-BJ (full circles and line): a) the unit cell angles α , β , and γ for Form I; b) the unit cell edges a , b and c for Form I; c) unit cell edges a and c for Form II. The experimentally determined values are designated α_{exp} , β_{exp} , γ_{exp} , a_{exp} , b_{exp} and c_{exp} .

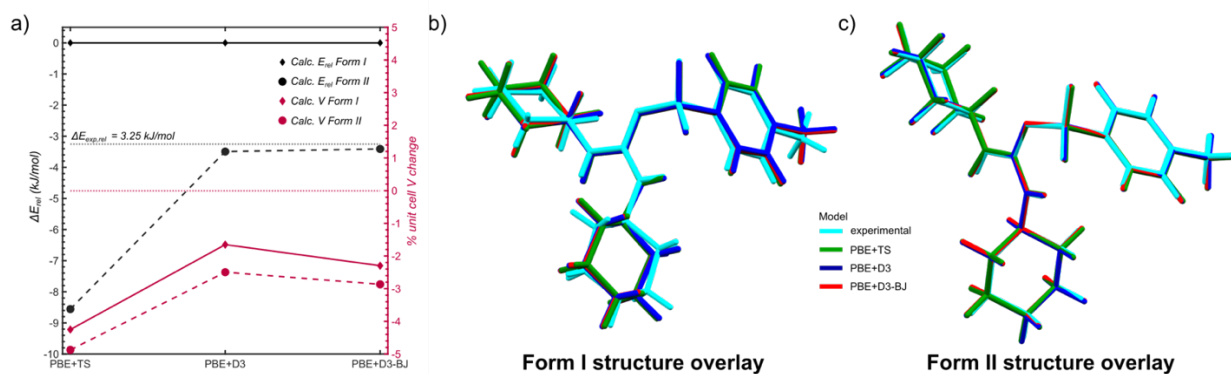


Figure S25. a) Comparison of the % difference of calculated crystallographic unit cell volumes (V) of Form I (red diamonds) and II (red circles) from the experimentally measured values, and a comparison of the calculated % difference in crystal energy between Form I and II (E_{rel}) to the value estimated from DSC data ($\Delta E_{exp, rel}$). As a guide, a value of 0% difference from experimentally determined unit cell volume, and the value of experimentally determined $\Delta E_{exp, rel}$ are shown as dotted horizontal black and red lines, respectively. Comparison of the experimentally observed molecular conformation for **1** to the conformations obtained from the optimised crystal structures using PBE+TS, PBE+D3 and PBE+D3+BJ methods for: b) Form I and c) Form II.

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