

Synthesis of 1,3,5-trisubstituted pyrazoles via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of nitrile imines with ninhydrin-derived Morita–Baylis–Hillman carbonates

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1. General methods

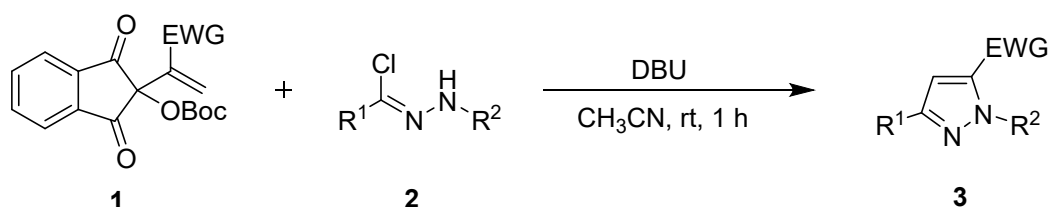
NMR data were obtained for ¹H at 400 MHz, and for ¹³C at 100 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in

ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in CDCl₃ solution. ESI HRMS was recorded on a Waters SYNAPT G2. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) eluting with ethyl acetate/petroleum ether. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. UV light, I₂, and solution of potassium permanganate were used to visualize products. All chemicals were used without purification as commercially available unless otherwise noted. Petroleum ether and ethyl acetate were distilled. THF was freshly distilled from sodium/benzophenone. Unless otherwise noted, experiments involving moisture and/or air sensitive components were performed under a positive pressure of argon in oven-dried glassware equipped with a rubber septum inlet. Dried solvents and liquid reagents were transferred by oven-dried syringes. The ninhydrin-derived Morita–Baylis–Hillman carbonates **1**¹ and hydrazoneyl chloride **2**² were prepared according to the literature procedures.

(1) (a) Lu, Z.; Jia, Y.; Chen, X.; Li, P., Organocatalytic Regio- and Enantioselective [3 + 2]-Annulations of Ninhydrin-Derived Morita–Baylis–Hillman Carbonates with 3-Methyleneoxindoles. *J. Org. Chem.* **2022**, *87*, 3184-3194. (b) Tang, X.; Wu, Y.; Jiang, J.; Fang, H.; Zhou, W.-J.; Huang, W.; Zhan, G., Formal (3 + 1) Carboannulation of Morita–Baylis–Hillman Carbonates with Pyridinium Ylides: Access to Spiro-Cyclopentadiene Oxindoles. *Org. Lett.* **2021**, *23*, 8937-8941.

(2) (a) Wang, G.; Liu, X.; Huang, T.; Kuang, Y.; Lin, L.; Feng, X., Asymmetric Catalytic 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reaction of Nitrile Imines for the Synthesis of Chiral Spiro-Pyrazoline-Oxindoles. *Org. Lett.* **2013**, *15*, 76-79. (b) Garve, L. K. B.; Petzold, M.; Jones, P. G.; Werz, D. B., [3 + 3]-Cycloaddition of Donor–Acceptor Cyclopropanes with Nitrile Imines Generated in Situ: Access to Tetrahydropyridazines. *Org. Lett.* **2016**, *18*, 564-567.

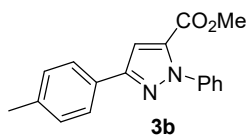
2. General procedure for synthesis of the 1,3,5-trisubstituted pyrazoles **3**.



To a solution of ninhydrin-derived Morita–Baylis–Hillman carbonates **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), hydrazoneyl chloride **2** (0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and DBU (0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in CH₃CN (1.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After completion, product **3** was obtained by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15:1 to 5:1).

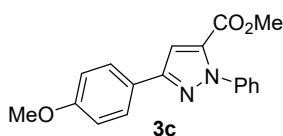
Methyl 1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3a). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (50.6 mg, 91% yield); m.p. 106-107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.41 (m, 7H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.6, 151.5, 140.3,

134.2, 132.1, 128.75, 128.73, 128.6, 128.4, 126.1, 125.8, 109.5, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{17}H_{15}N_2O_2$ 279.1128, found 279.1121.



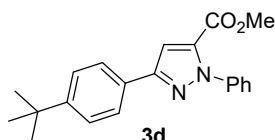
Methyl 1-phenyl-3-(p-tolyl)-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3b). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (53.7 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 58-59 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.76 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.29

(s, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.6, 151.6, 140.3, 138.3, 134.1, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 126.1, 125.7, 109.3, 52.0, 21.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{18}H_{17}N_2O_2$ 293.1285, found 293.1276.



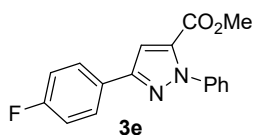
Methyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3c). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) gave a white solid (55.4 mg, 90% yield); m.p. 72-73 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz,

2H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.9, 159.6, 151.4, 140.3, 134.1, 128.63, 128.61, 127.1, 126.1, 124.9, 114.1, 109.0, 55.3, 52.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{18}H_{17}N_2O_3$ 309.1234, found 309.1227.



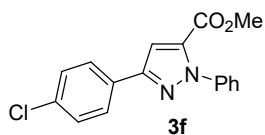
Methyl 3-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3d). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (60.1 mg, 90% yield); m.p. 53-54 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.85 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H),

7.55 – 7.47 (m, 7H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.7, 151.60, 151.56, 140.4, 134.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 126.1, 125.7, 125.6, 109.4, 52.1, 34.7, 31.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{21}H_{23}N_2O_2$ 335.1754, found 335.1744.



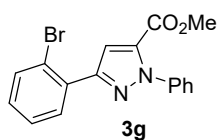
Methyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3e). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (62.8 mg, 94% yield); m.p. 88-89 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.84 (dd, $J = 7.2, 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s,

5H), 7.26 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.0 (d, $J = 246.1$ Hz), 159.5, 150.6, 140.2, 134.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 127.5 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 126.0, 115.7 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 109.3, 52.1 ppm. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -113.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{17}H_{14}FN_2O_2$ 297.1034, found 297.1030.

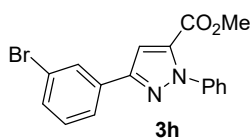


Methyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3f). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (57.4 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 92-93 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H),

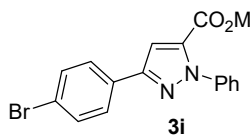
7.48 (s, 5H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.4, 150.4, 140.1, 134.4, 134.2, 130.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 127.1, 126.0, 109.4, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{17}H_{14}ClN_2O_2$ 313.0738, found 313.0735.



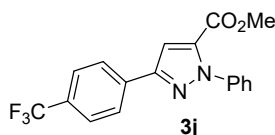
Methyl 3-(2-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3g). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (66.2 mg, 93% yield); m.p. 85-86 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.6, 150.6, 140.1, 133.6, 133.23, 133.15, 131.2, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 127.5, 126.0, 122.0, 113.4, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₇H₁₄BrN₂O₂ 357.0233(⁷⁹Br) and 359.0213(⁸¹Br), found 357.0224, 359.0203.



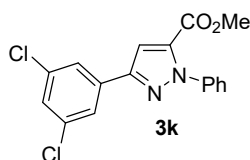
Methyl 3-(3-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3h). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (64.8 mg, 91% yield); m.p. 91-92 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 6H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 150.0, 140.1, 134.4, 134.2, 131.3, 130.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 126.0, 124.3, 123.0, 109.6, 52.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₇H₁₄BrN₂O₂ 357.0233(⁷⁹Br) and 359.0213(⁸¹Br), found 357.0223, 359.0202.



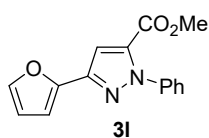
Methyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3i). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (66.9 mg, 94% yield); m.p. 79-80 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s, 5H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 150.4, 140.1, 134.4, 131.9, 131.1, 128.9, 128.7, 127.3, 126.0, 122.4, 109.4, 52.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₇H₁₄BrN₂O₂ 357.0233(⁷⁹Br) and 359.0213(⁸¹Br), found 357.0223, 359.0204.



Methyl 1-phenyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3j). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (64.4 mg, 93% yield); m.p. 76-77 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (s, 5H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.3, 150.1, 140.1, 135.6, 134.6, 130.2 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz), 129.0, 128.7, 128.23 (s), 126.0 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 125.7 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.2 (q, *J* = 270.4 Hz), 109.8, 52.2 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₈H₁₄F₃N₂O₂ 347.1002, found 347.0997.

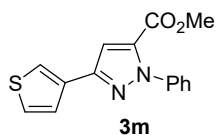


Methyl 3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3k). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (65.7 mg, 95% yield); m.p. 153-154 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (s, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 5H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 149.0, 140.0, 135.4, 135.0, 134.6, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 126.0, 124.1, 109.7, 52.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₇H₁₃Cl₂N₂O₂ 347.0349, found 347.0341.



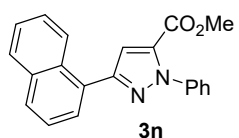
Methyl 3-(furan-2-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3l). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) gave a white solid (45.6 mg, 85% yield); m.p. 56-57

°C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 – 7.46 (m, 6H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.49 – 6.48 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.3, 147.5, 144.1, 142.4, 140.0, 134.0, 128.9, 128.6, 126.1, 111.5, 109.1, 106.8, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ 269.0921, found 269.0916.



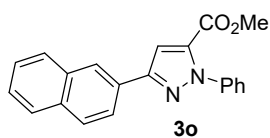
3m

Methyl 1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3m). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (51.2 mg, 90% yield); m.p. 66–67 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.38 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 147.9, 140.2, 133.94, 133.88, 128.7, 128.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 121.5, 109.8, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$ 285.0692, found 285.0683.



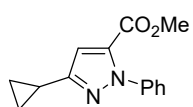
3n

Methyl 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3n). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (59.7 mg, 91% yield); m.p. 134–135 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.45 (m, 8H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 151.4, 140.2, 133.9, 133.6, 131.2, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 127.4, 126.6, 126.1, 125.9, 125.7, 125.3, 113.3, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ 329.1285, found 329.1276.



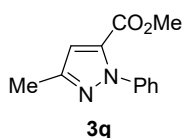
3o

Methyl 3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3o). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (59.0 mg, 90% yield); m.p. 67–68 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.83 (m, 3H), 7.55 – 7.45 (m, 8H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.6, 151.5, 140.3, 134.4, 133.5, 133.4, 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 126.4, 126.2, 126.1, 124.6, 123.8, 109.8, 52.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ 329.1285, found 329.1276.



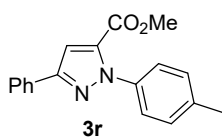
3p

Methyl 3-cyclopropyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3p). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (41.4 mg, 85% yield); m.p. 41–42 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 0.97 (dt, $J = 9.2, 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 0.82 – 0.78 (m, 2H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.6, 155.5, 140.3, 133.3, 128.5, 128.4, 125.9, 108.8, 51.9, 9.0, 8.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ 243.1128, found 243.1125.

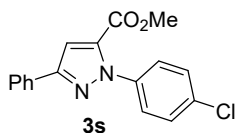


3q

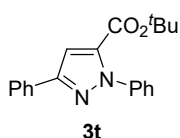
Methyl 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3q). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 5:1) gave colourless oil (37.2 mg, 86% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 148.9, 140.3, 133.4, 128.5, 128.4, 125.9, 112.1, 51.9, 13.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for: $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ 217.0972, found 217.0968.



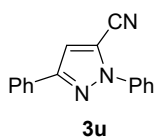
Methyl 3-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3r). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (53.7 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 94-95 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.6, 151.3, 138.8, 137.8, 134.1, 132.2, 129.2, 128.7, 128.3, 125.9, 125.8, 109.3, 52.0, 21.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₈H₁₇N₂O₂ 293.1285, found 293.1277.



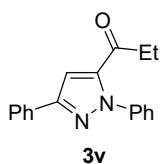
Methyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3s). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (59.3 mg, 95% yield); m.p. 157-158 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 6H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.5, 151.8, 138.7, 134.6, 134.2, 131.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.4, 125.8, 109.8, 52.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₇H₁₄ClN₂O₂ 313.0738, found 313.0731.



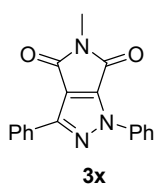
tert-Butyl 1,3-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (3t). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (59.5 mg, 93% yield); m.p. 57-58 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 7H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.4, 151.3, 140.8, 136.4, 132.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.2, 125.8, 109.3, 82.5, 27.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₂₀H₂₁N₂O₂ 321.1598, found 321.1589.



1,3-Diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-5-carbonitrile (3u). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a tawny solid (46.1 mg, 94% yield); m.p. 98-99 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.30 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.7, 138.6, 131.1, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 125.9, 122.8, 115.0, 113.1, 111.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₆H₁₂N₃ 246.1026, found 246.1018.

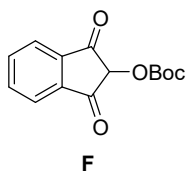


1-(1,3-Diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)propan-1-one (3v). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) gave a yellow solid (52.4 mg, 95% yield); m.p. 45-46 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 7H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 2.93 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.2, 151.4, 140.8, 140.7, 132.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.0, 125.8, 108.8, 34.1, 7.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: C₁₈H₁₇N₂O 277.1335, found 277.1330.

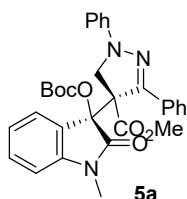


5-Methyl-1,3-diphenylpyrrolo[3,4-*c*]pyrazole-4,6(1*H*,5*H*)-dione (3x). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 5:1) gave a white solid (57.6 mg, 95% yield); m.p. 129-130 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.38 (m, 6H), 3.14 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.2, 157.9, 147.5, 142.7, 138.1,

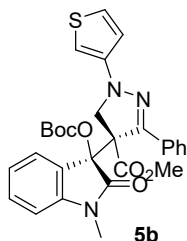
130.0, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 127.4, 121.2, 120.2, 24.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{18}H_{14}N_3O_2$ 304.1081, found 304.1074.



tert-Butyl (1,3-dioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl) carbonate (F). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 2:1) gave a white solid (47.2 mg, 90% yield); m.p. 112-113 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.01 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.90 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 192.9, 152.2, 139.7, 136.4, 123.8, 84.6, 76.1, 27.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{14}H_{15}O_5$ 263.0914, found 263.0910.

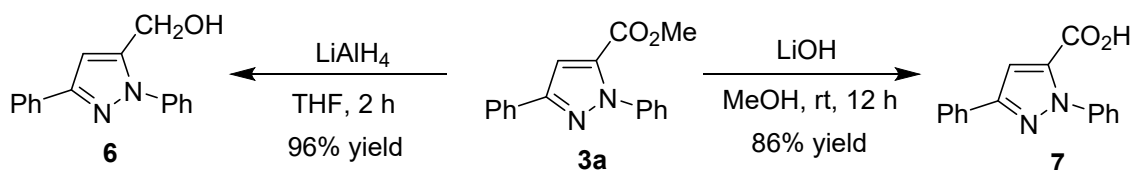


rac-methyl (S)-4-((S)-3-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)-1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate (5a). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (99.5 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 132-133 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.91 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.62 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.32 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 172.5, 169.5, 150.1, 149.0, 146.0, 143.5, 131.6, 130.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.0, 126.2, 125.8, 122.3, 120.4, 116.6, 107.8, 83.8, 80.4, 75.8, 52.6, 44.7, 27.6, 26.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{31}H_{32}N_3O_6$ 542.2286, found 542.2277.



rac-Methyl (S)-4-((S)-3-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)-3-phenyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate (5b). Purification by flash chromatography (PE/EA = 15:1) gave a white solid (99.6 mg, 91% yield); m.p. 145-146 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.65 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.02 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.84 – 6.77 (m, 5H), 4.67 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 172.8, 169.8, 150.1, 145.8, 145.6, 134.0, 130.8, 128.0, 127.0, 126.2, 126.1, 124.4, 124.2, 122.2, 120.7, 116.3, 108.0, 83.2, 81.7, 79.4, 52.6, 44.7, 27.4, 26.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M + H]^+$ calcd for: $C_{29}H_{30}N_3O_6S$ 548.1850, found 548.1847.

3. Transformations of product 3a

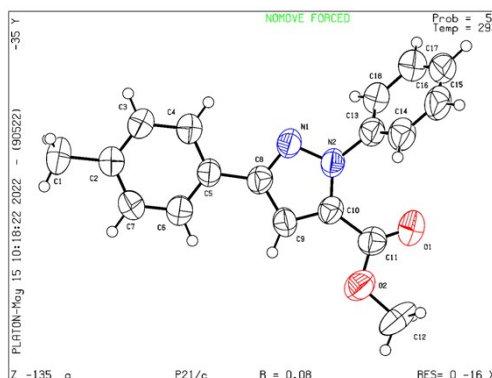
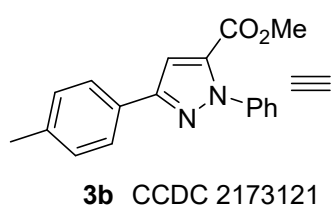


To a stirred suspension of **3a** (0.3 mmol, 83.4 mg) in 3 mL of anhydrous THF was added in portions 22.8 mg (0.6 mmol) of lithium aluminum hydride at 0°C, after stirring for 2 h from 0°C to room temperature until the

reaction was completed as monitored by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture is stirred for another 15 min, diluted with ether (5 mL), and quenched by dropwise addition of water (5 mL). It was extracted with ether (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE /EA = 2:1) to give the product **(1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methanol (6)** (72.0 mg, 96% yield) as a white solid. m.p. 91-92 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.31 (m, 6H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 2.12 (br, 1H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.7, 143.3, 139.5, 132.9, 129.3, 128.7, 128.03, 127.92, 125.8, 124.5, 104.9, 55.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅N₂O 251.1179, found 251.1176.

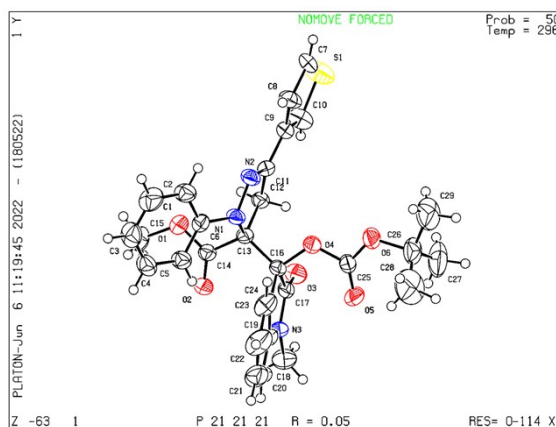
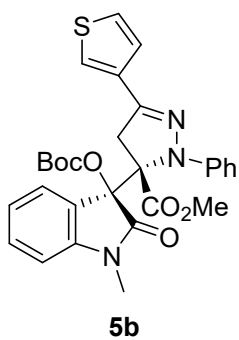
To a solution of compound **3a** (0.3 mmol, 83.4 mg) in MeOH (2 ml) at 0°C was slowly added aqueous LiOH (1M, 2 ml) over 15 min. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight with stirring. The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residual aqueous solution was partitioned with Et₂O, then the organic phase was extracted with H₂O (two times). The combined aqueous extract was acidified to pH 2 with 1N HCl. The aqueous phase was extracted with CHCl₃ (three times). The combined organic extract was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to afford the desired acid **7** (68.2 mg, 86%). m.p. 137-138 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.25 (br, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 8H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 145.1, 143.3, 139.3, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 125.6, 110.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃N₂O₂ 265.0972, found 265.0970.

4. Crystal data and structural refinement for **3b** and **5b**



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Identification code | 3b |
| Empirical formula | C ₁₈ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₂ |
| Formula weight | 292.33 |
| Temperature/K | 293(2) |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P21/c |

| | |
|--|--|
| a/Å | 5.8340(10) |
| b/Å | 18.3400(9) |
| c/Å | 14.5000(11) |
| α /° | 90 |
| β /° | 97.21(3) |
| γ /° | 90 |
| Volume/Å ³ | 1539.2(3) |
| Z | 4 |
| ρ_{calc} /g/cm ³ | 1.262 |
| μ /mm ⁻¹ | 0.083 |
| F(000) | 616 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.32 × 0.25 × 0.21 |
| Radiation | MoK α (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2 Θ range for data collection/° | 1.80 to 24.99 |
| Index ranges | -6 ≤ h ≤ 6, -21 ≤ k ≤ 13, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17 |
| Reflections collected | 7344 |
| Independent reflections | 948 [R_{int} = 0.0786] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 2694 / 0 / 200 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 0.825 |
| Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$] | R_1 = 0.0786, wR_2 = 0.1681 |
| R indices (all data) | R_1 = 0.2123, wR_2 = 0.2139 |
| Largest diff. peak and hole/ 1-sigma level | 0.202 / -0.187 / 0.053 |

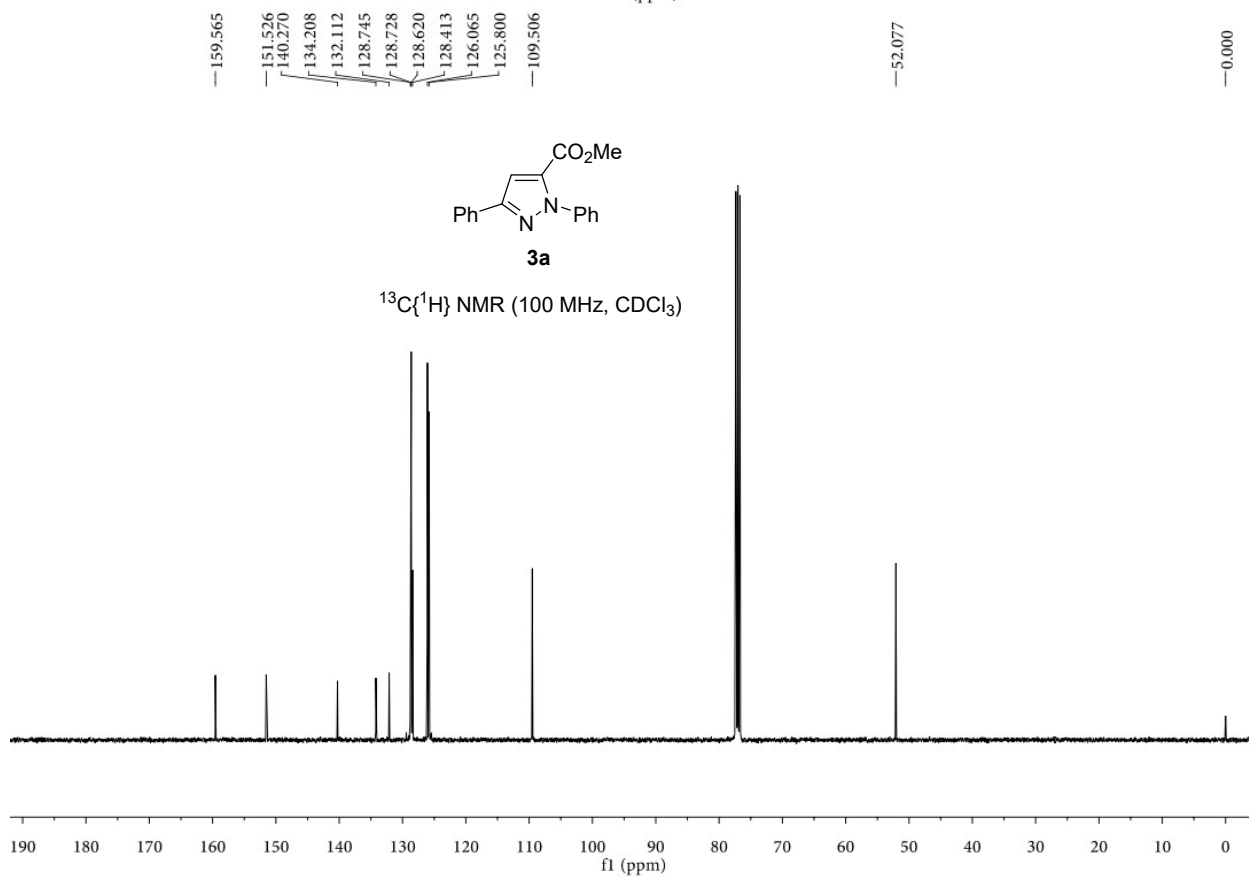
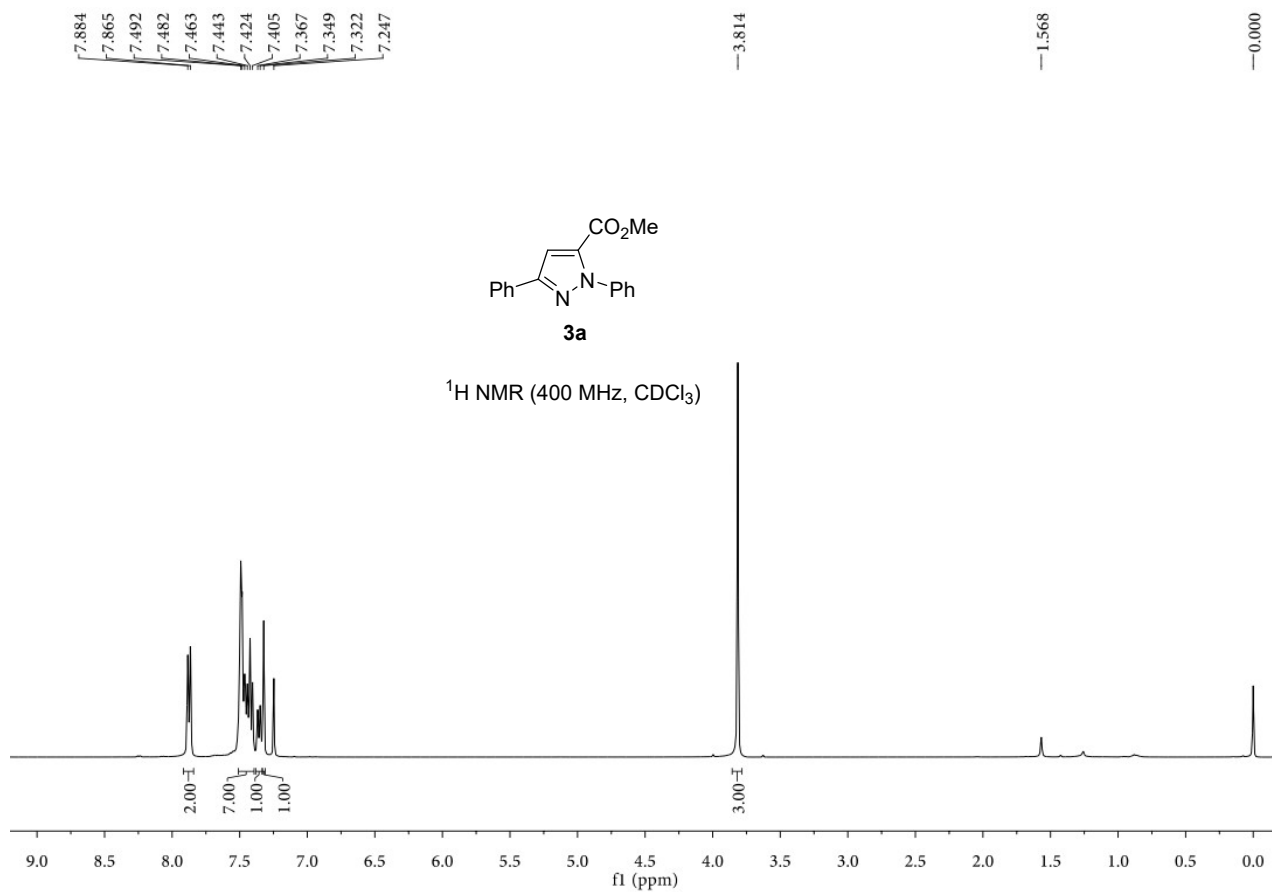


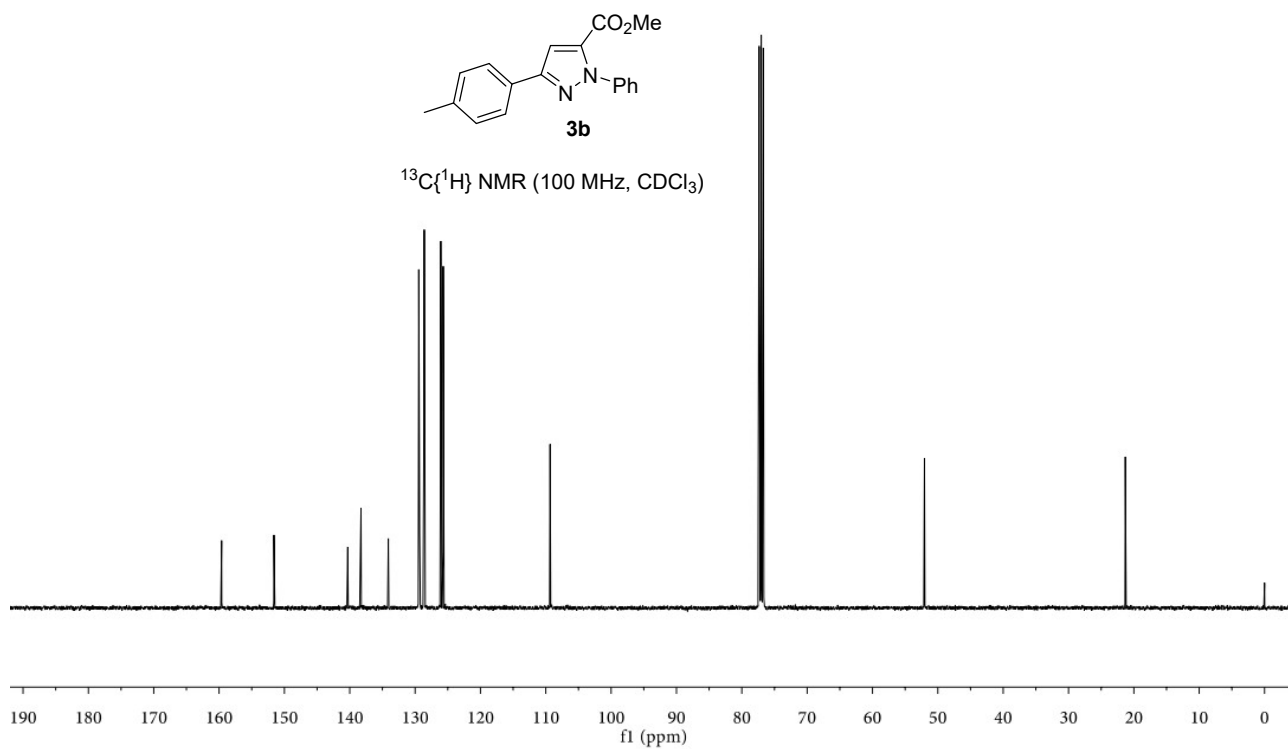
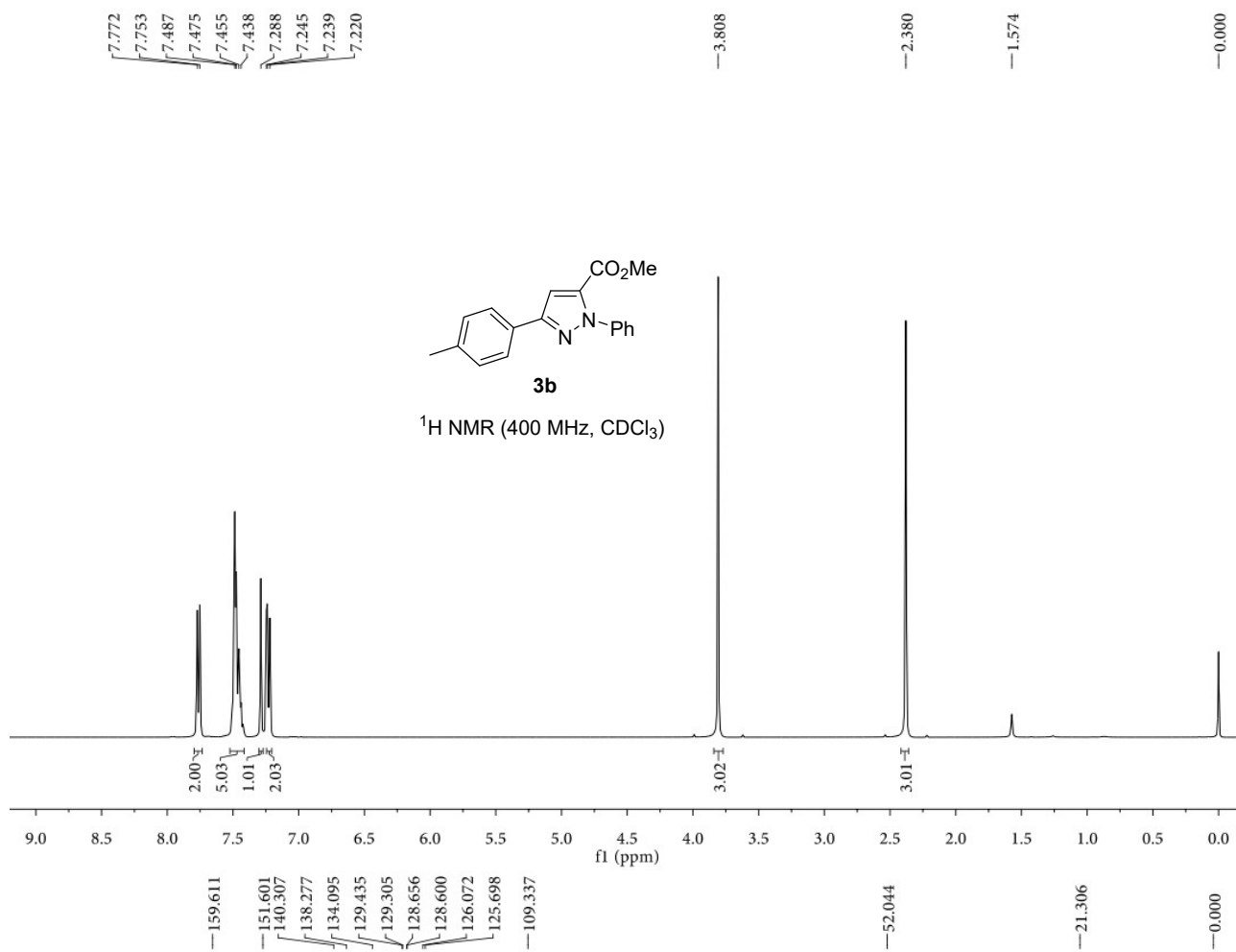
CCDC 2177446

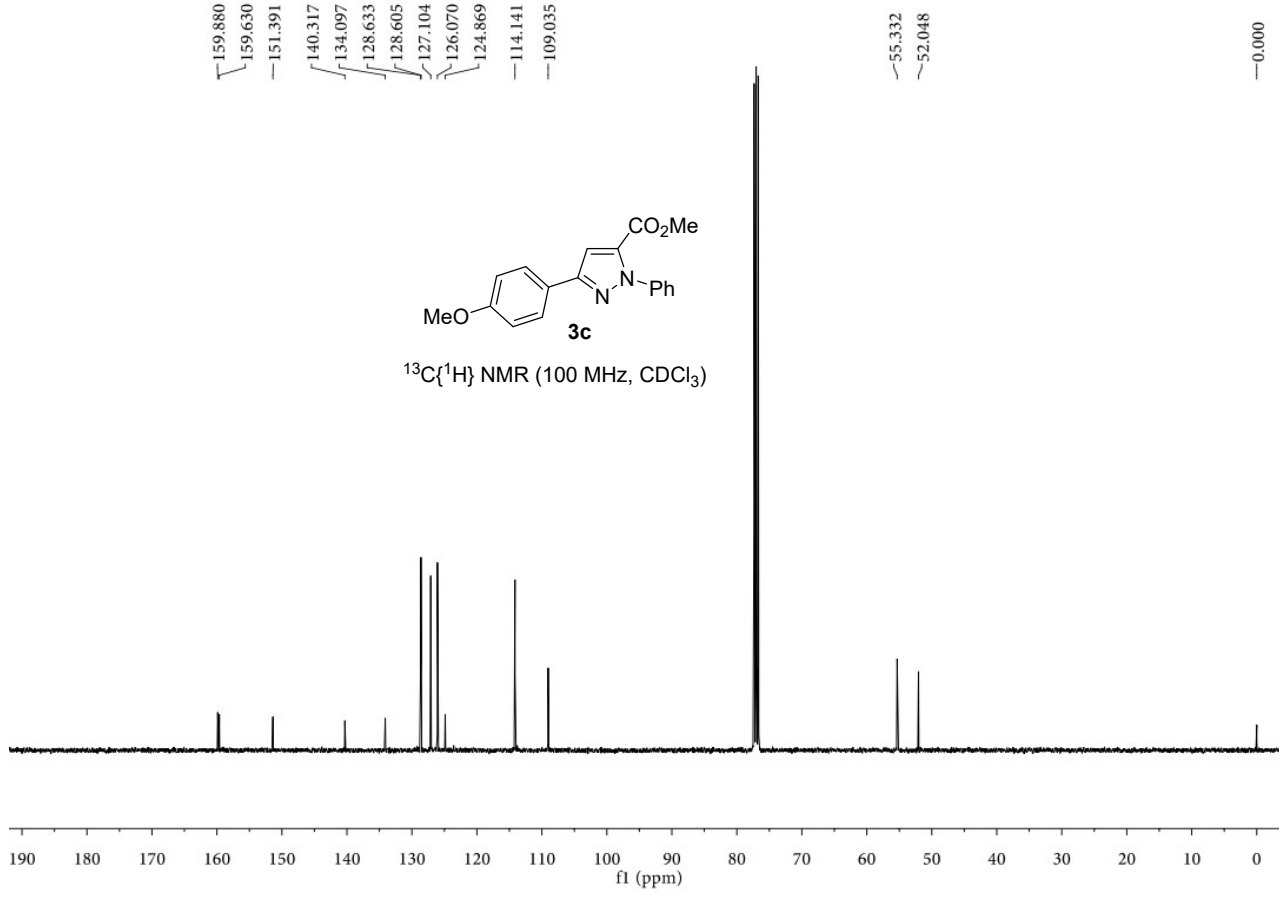
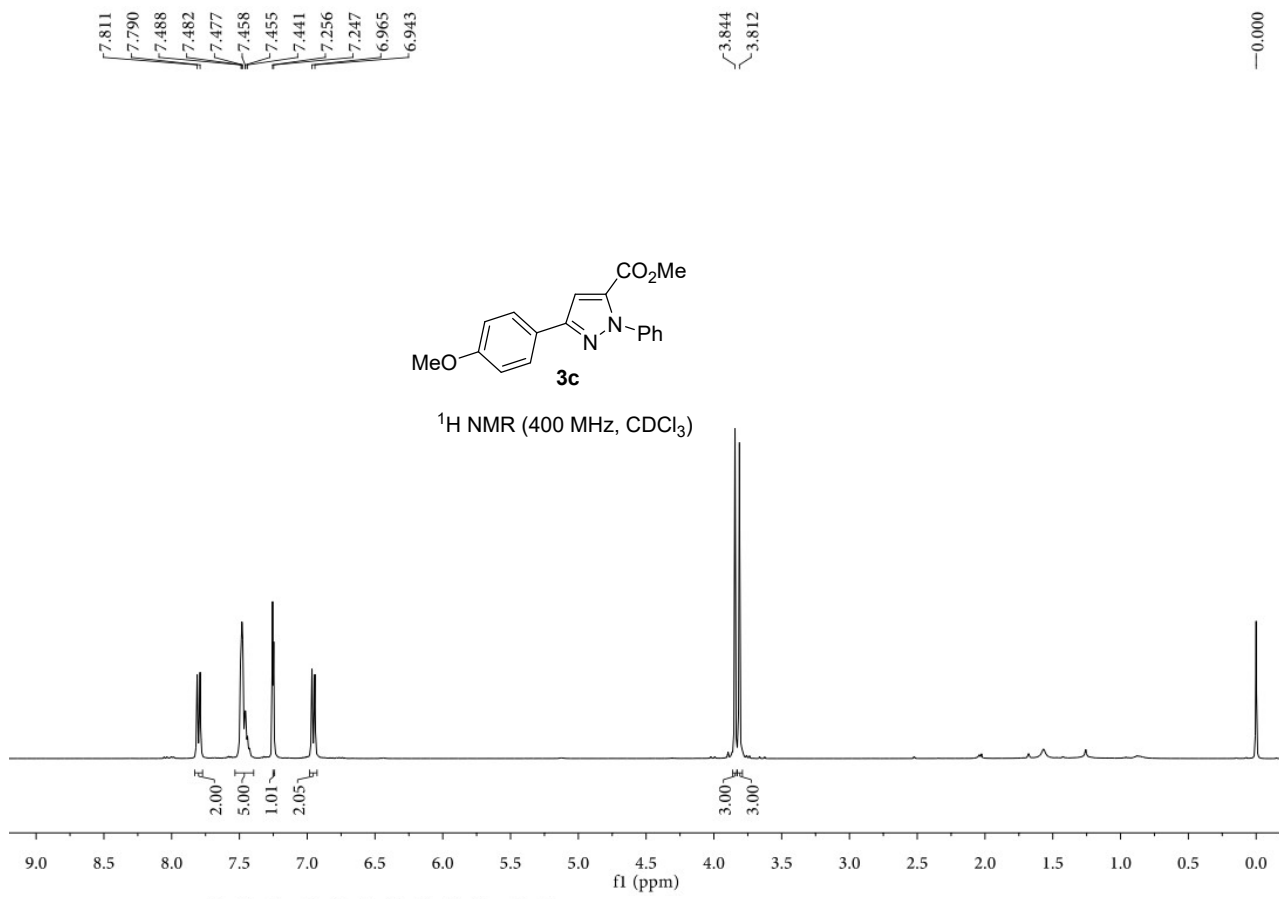
| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Identification code | 5b |
| Empirical formula | C ₂₉ H ₂₉ N ₃ O ₆ S |
| Formula weight | 547.61 |
| Temperature/K | 293 |
| Crystal system | orthorhombic |
| Space group | P 21 21 21 |
| a/Å | 11.1944(15) |
| b/Å | 12.3535(17) |
| c/Å | 20.244(3) |
| α/° | 90 |
| β/° | 90 |
| γ/° | 90 |
| Volume/Å ³ | 2799.5(7) |
| Z | 4 |
| ρ _{calc} /cm ³ | 1.299 |
| μ/mm ⁻¹ | 0.163 |
| F(000) | 1152.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.26 × 0.25 × 0.22 |
| Radiation | MoKα (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2θ range for data collection/° | 2.46 to 22.67 |

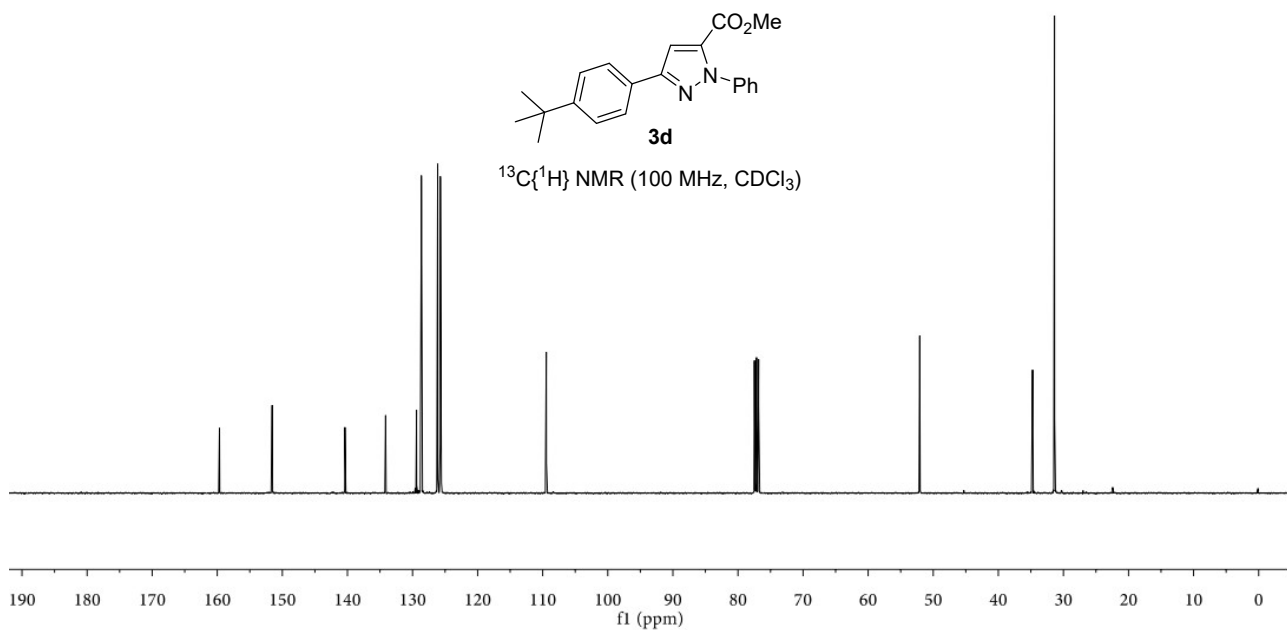
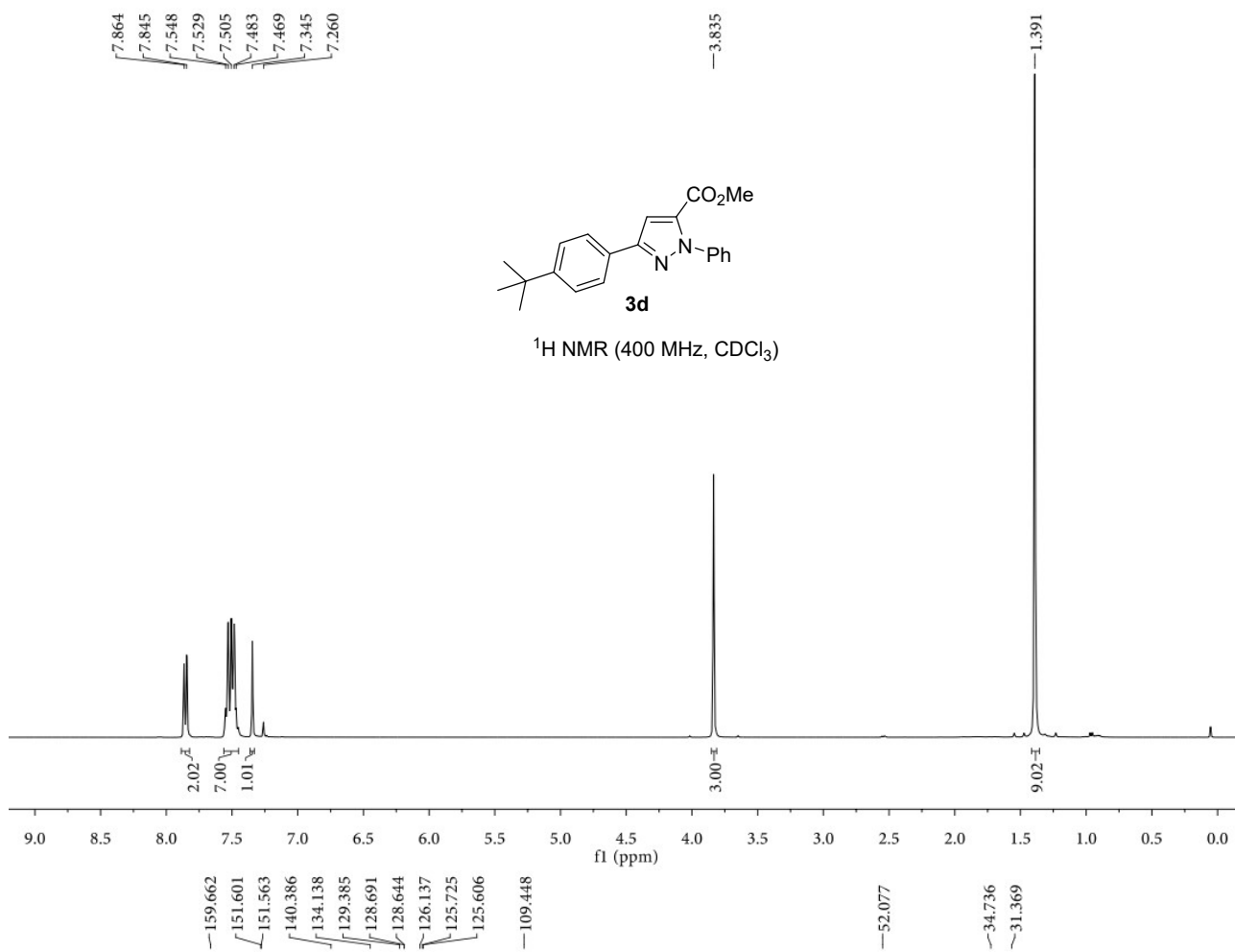
| | |
|--|---|
| Index ranges | $-8 \leq h \leq 13, -14 \leq k \leq 14, -22 \leq l \leq 24$ |
| Reflections collected | 14358 |
| Independent reflections | 4004 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0339$] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 4918 / 2 / 357 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F^2 | 1.067 |
| Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$] | $R_1 = 0.0622, wR_2 = 0.1327$ |
| R indices (all data) | $R_1 = 0.0472, wR_2 = 0.1252$ |
| Largest diff. peak and hole/ 1-sigma level | 0.431 / - 0.373 / 0.050 |

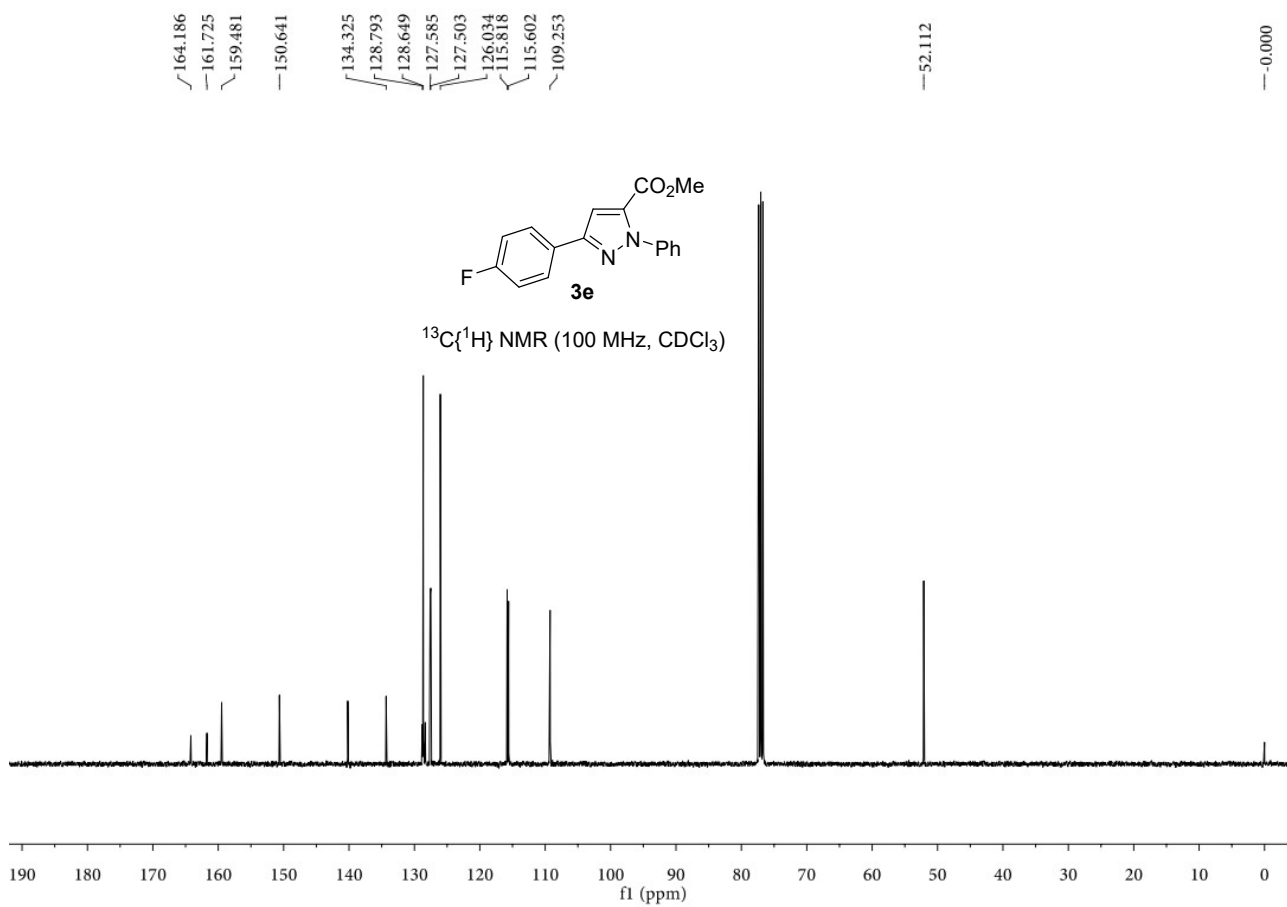
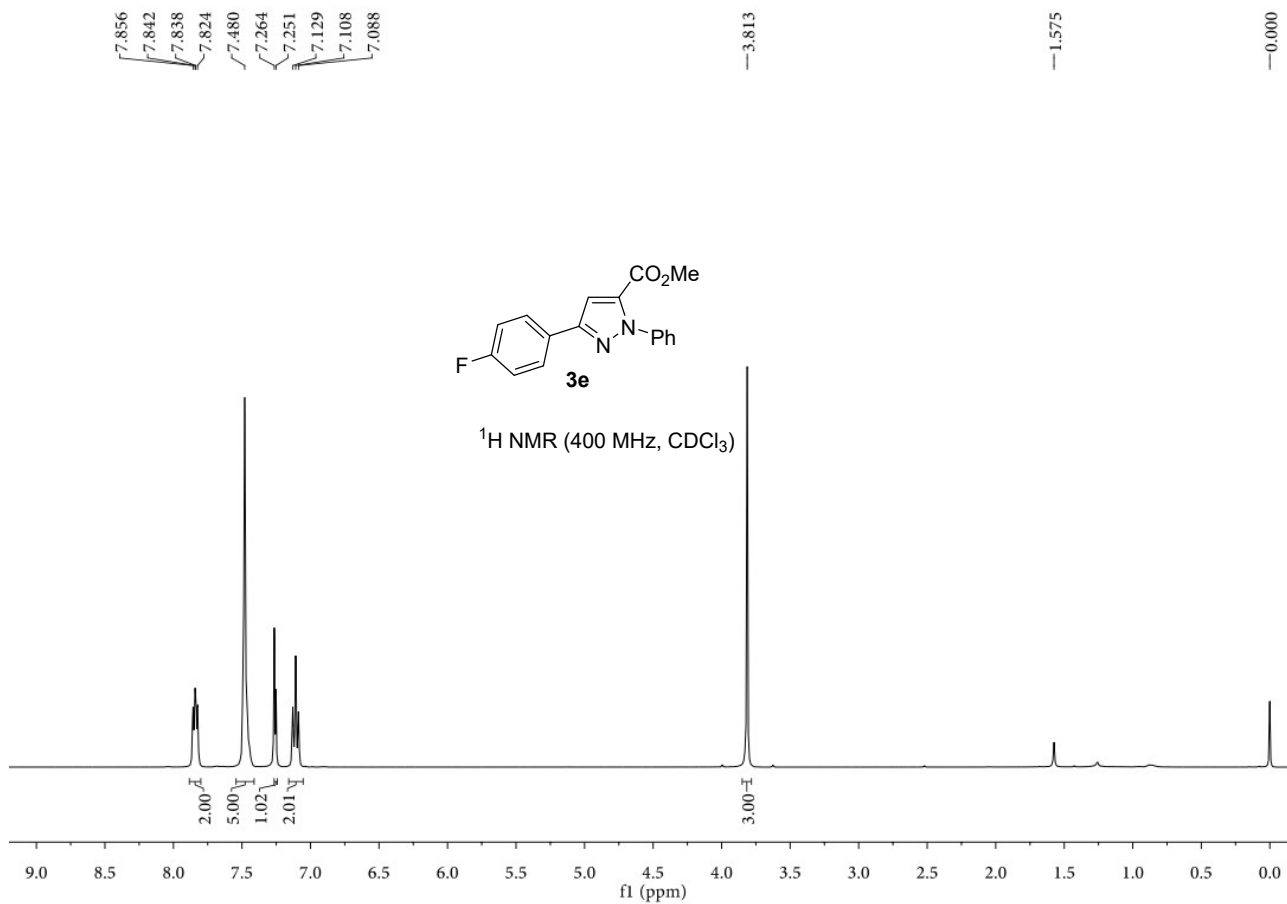
5. NMR spectra

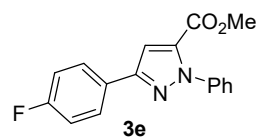




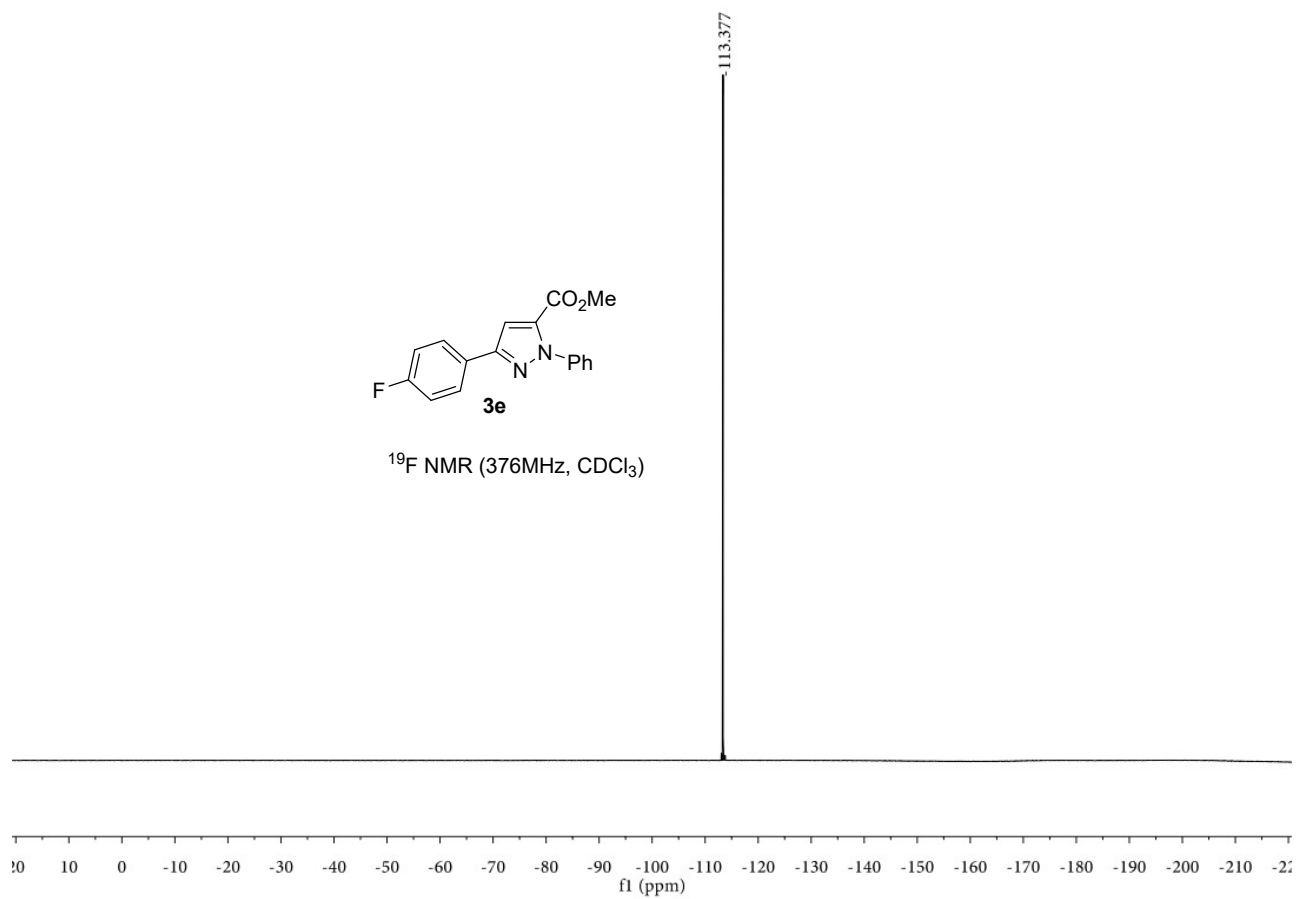








¹⁹F NMR (376MHz, CDCl₃)

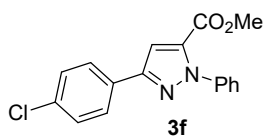


7.815
7.795
7.483
7.403
7.383
7.291
7.256

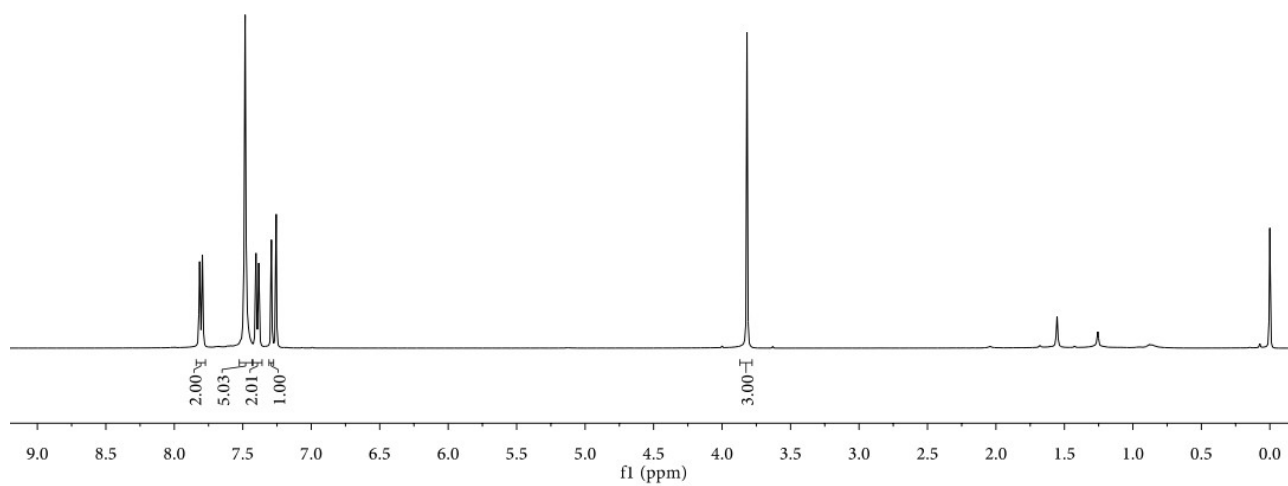
-3.818

-1.554

-0.000



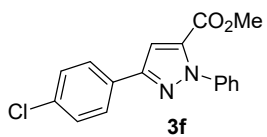
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



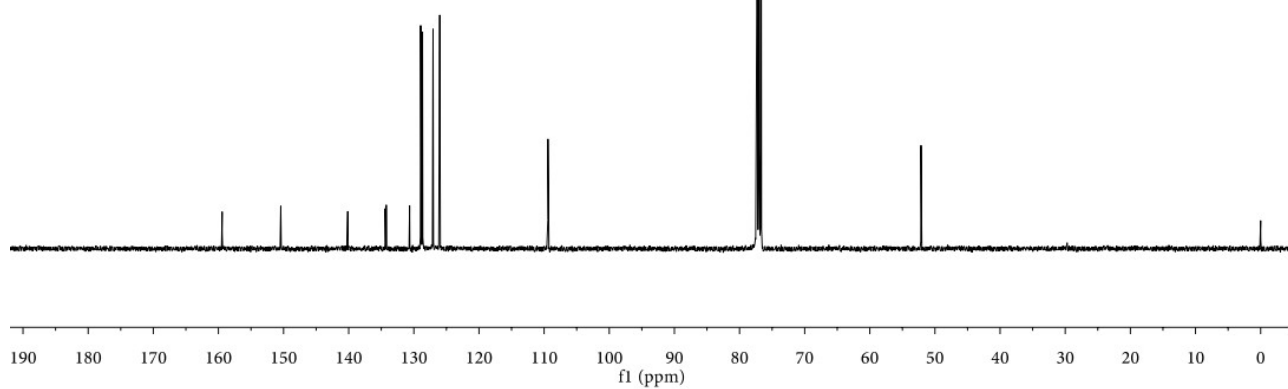
159.428
150.429
134.397
134.239
130.650
128.952
128.855
128.667
127.050
126.025
109.408

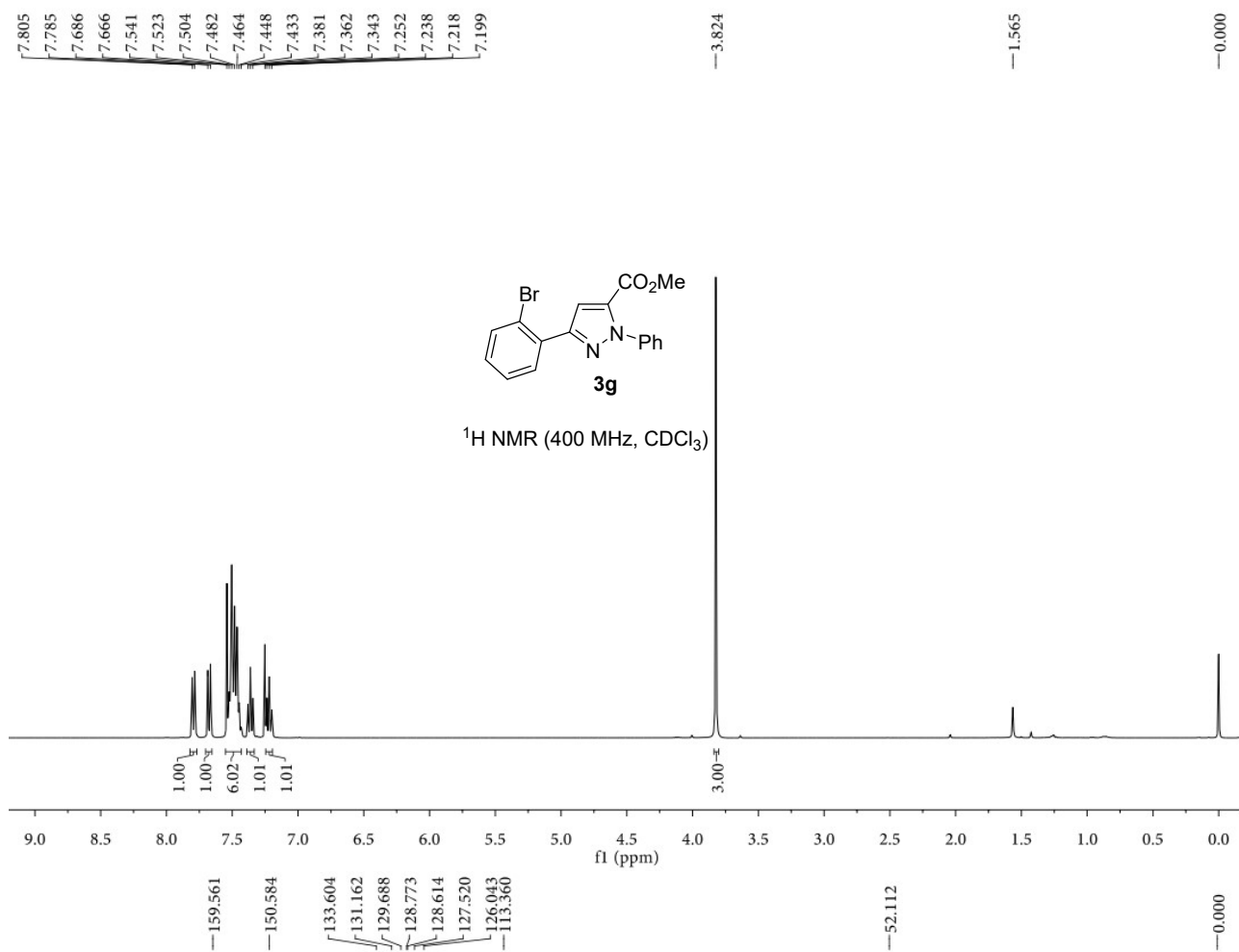
-52.141

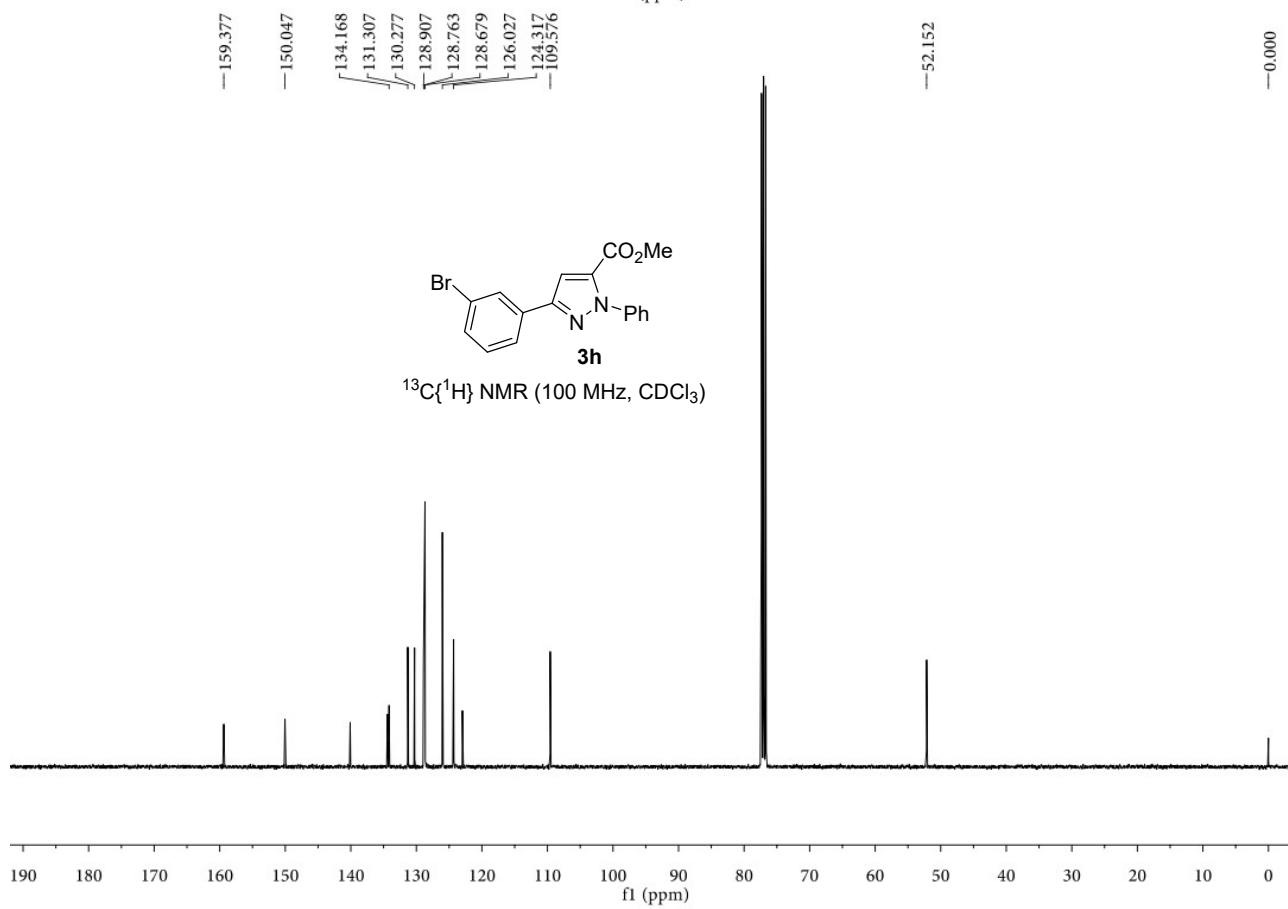
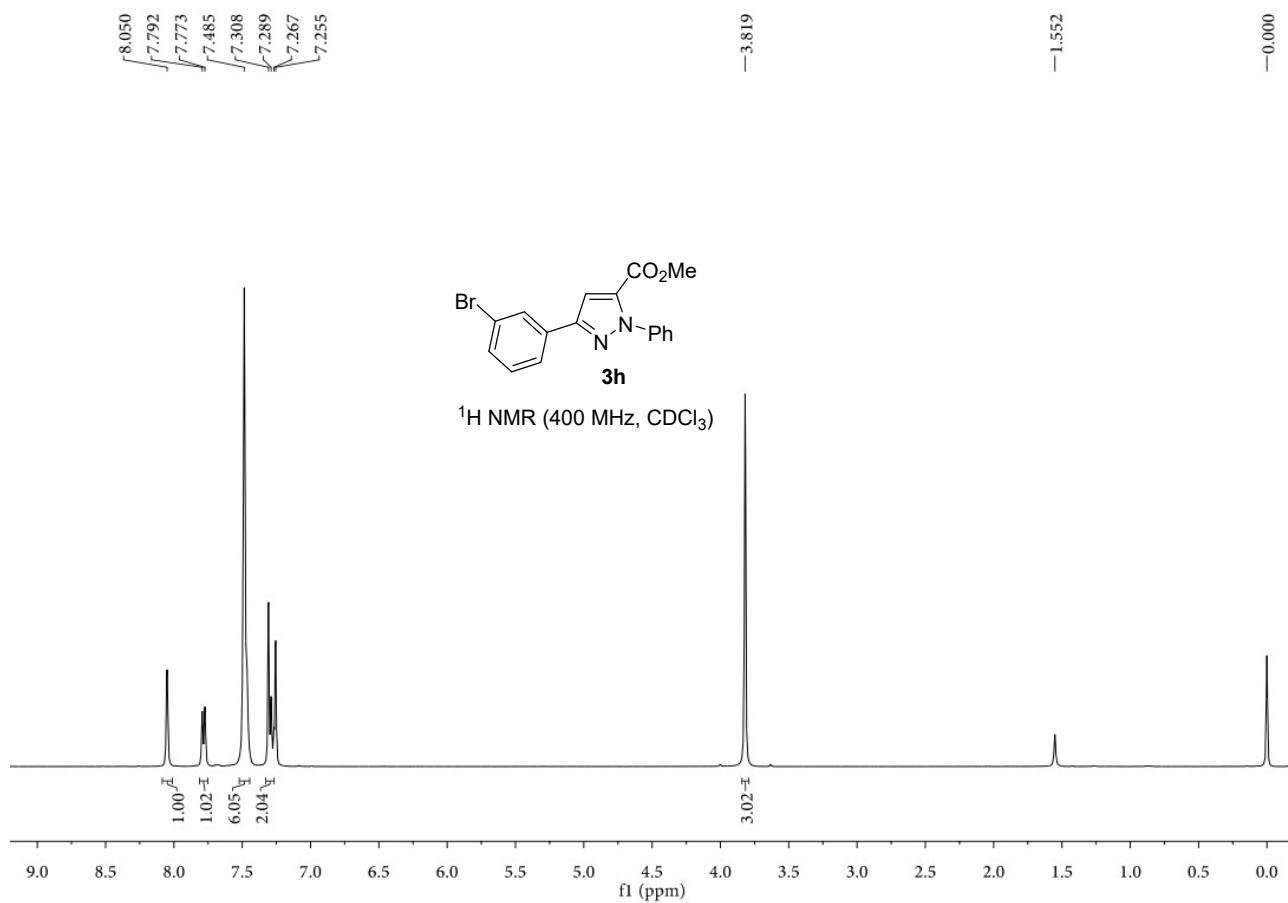
-0.000

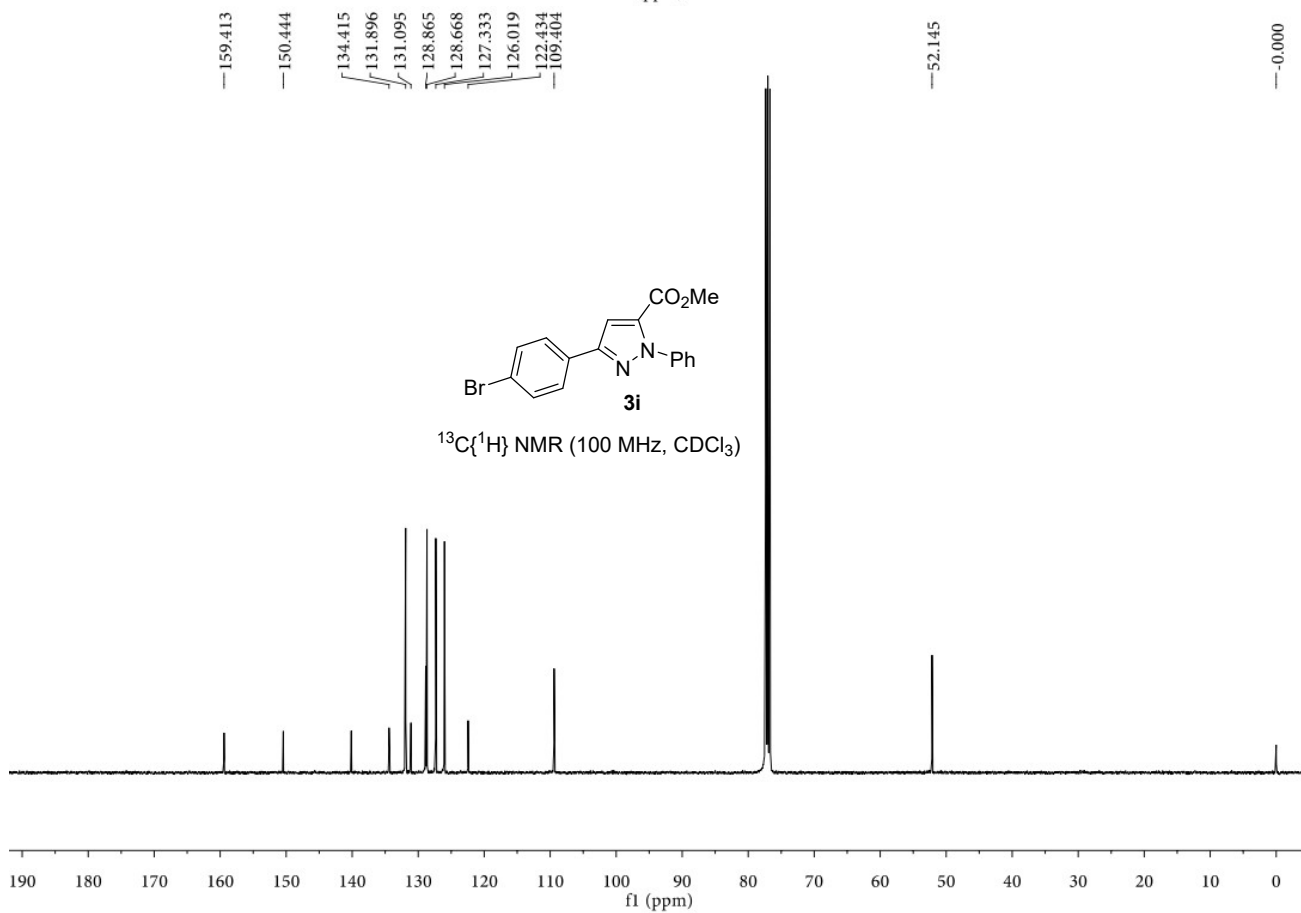
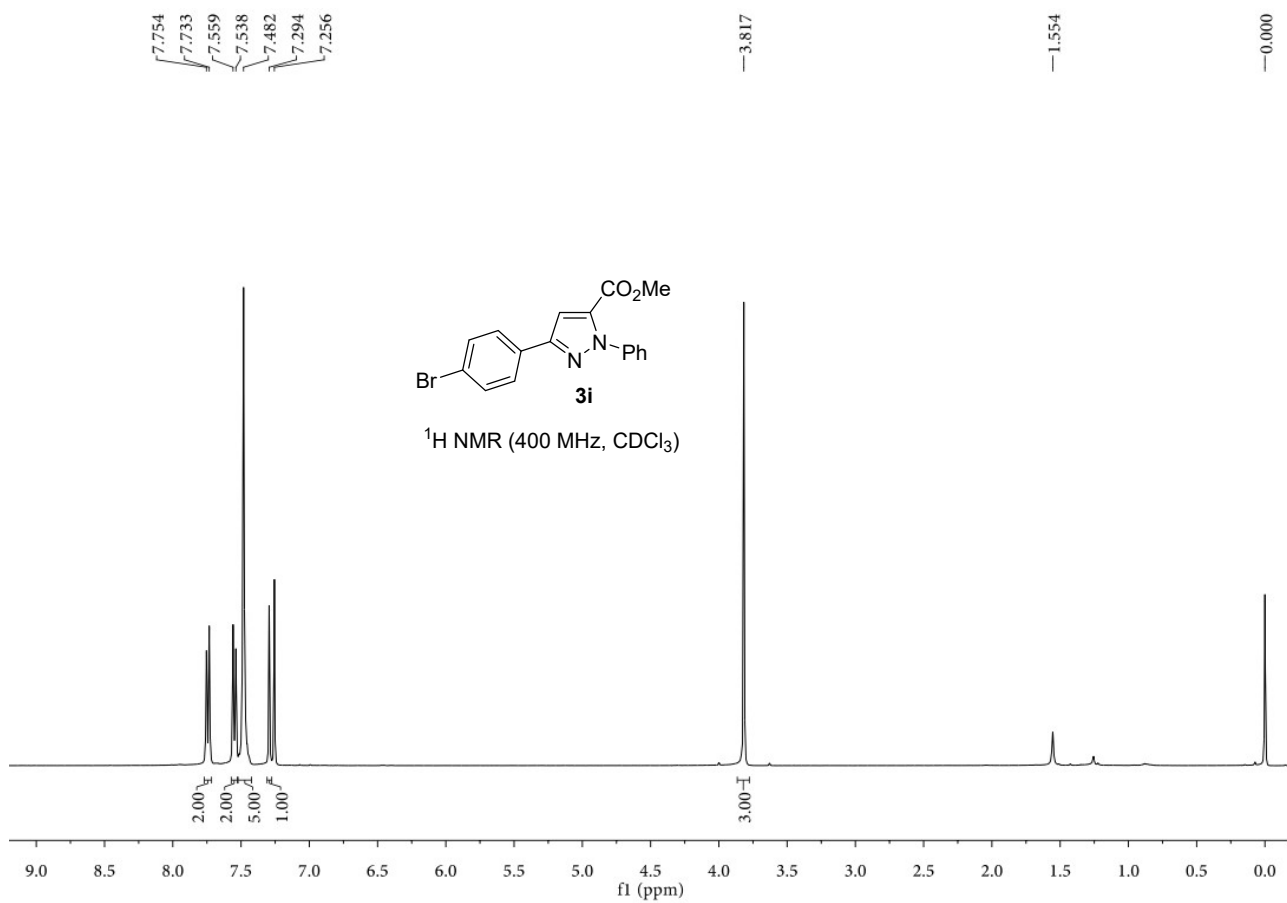


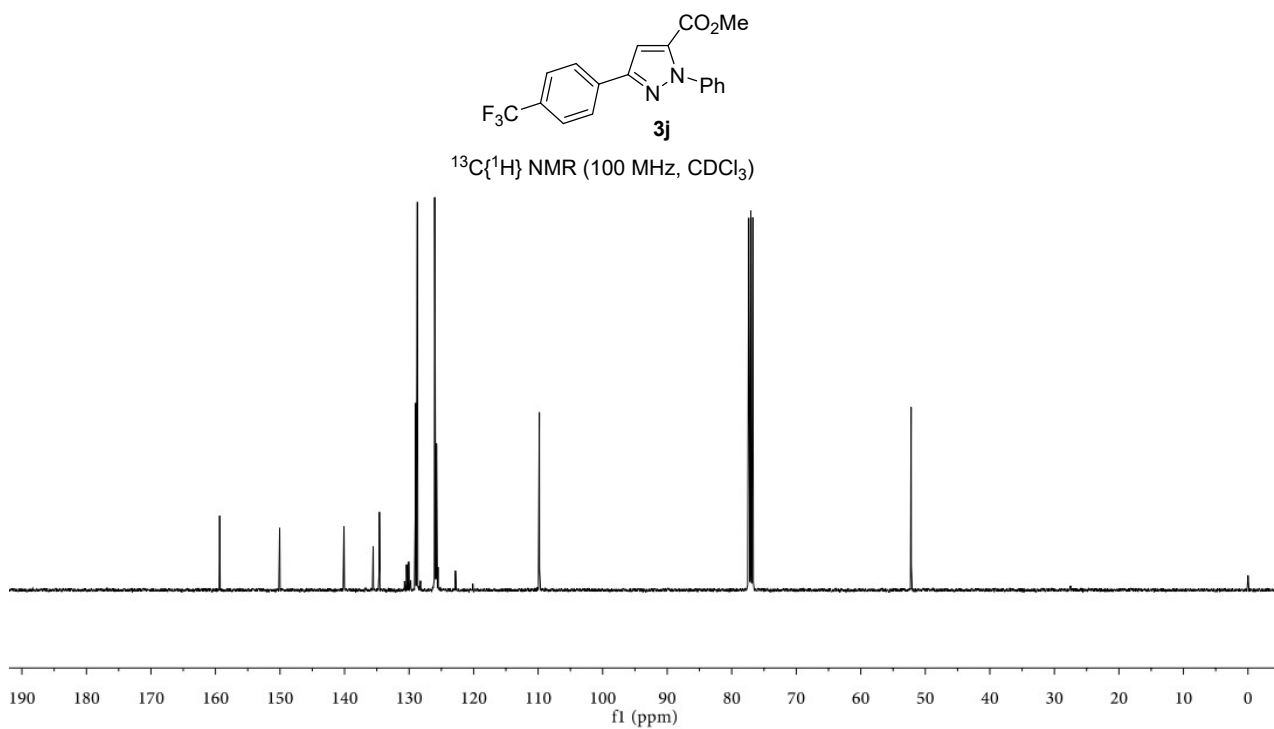
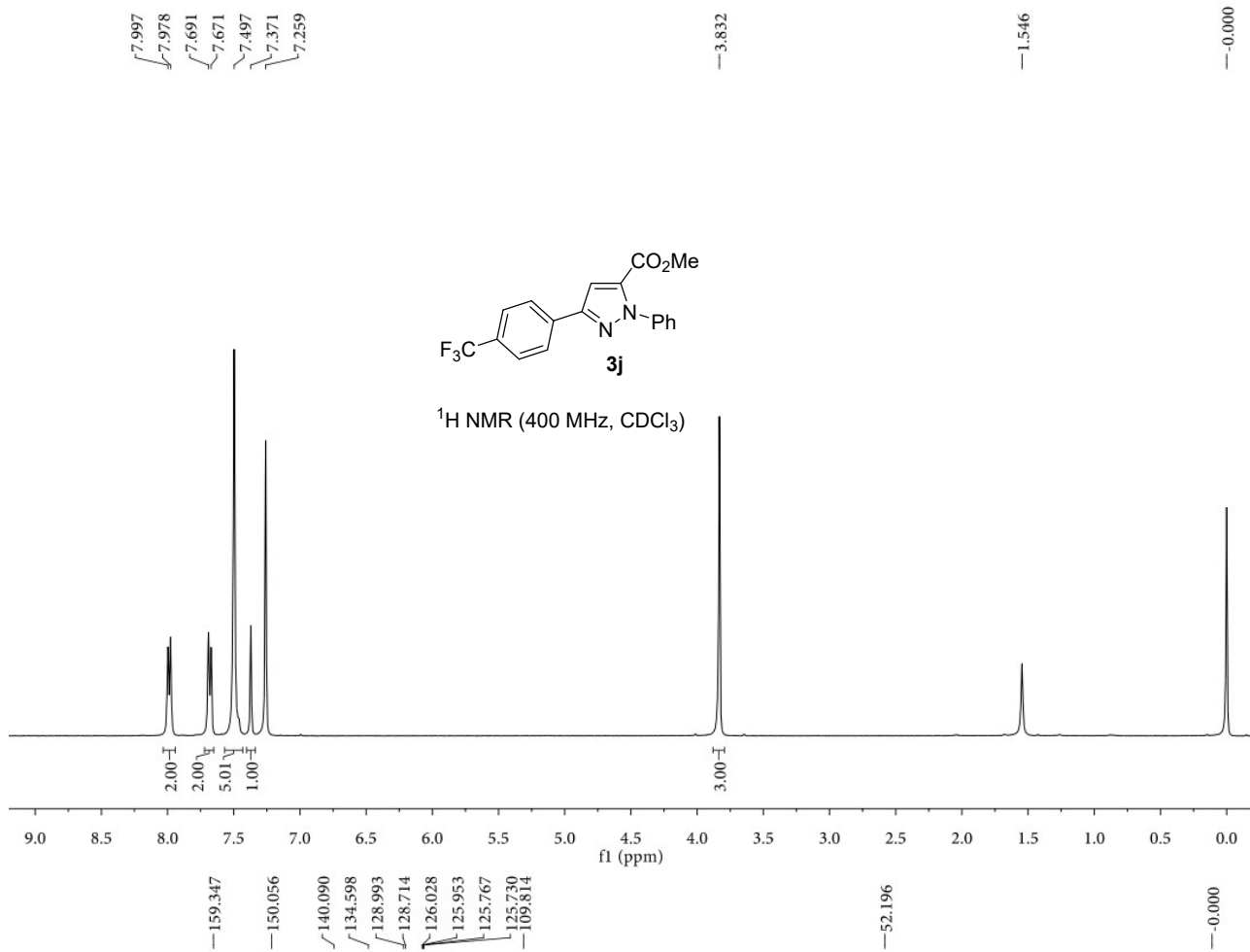
¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

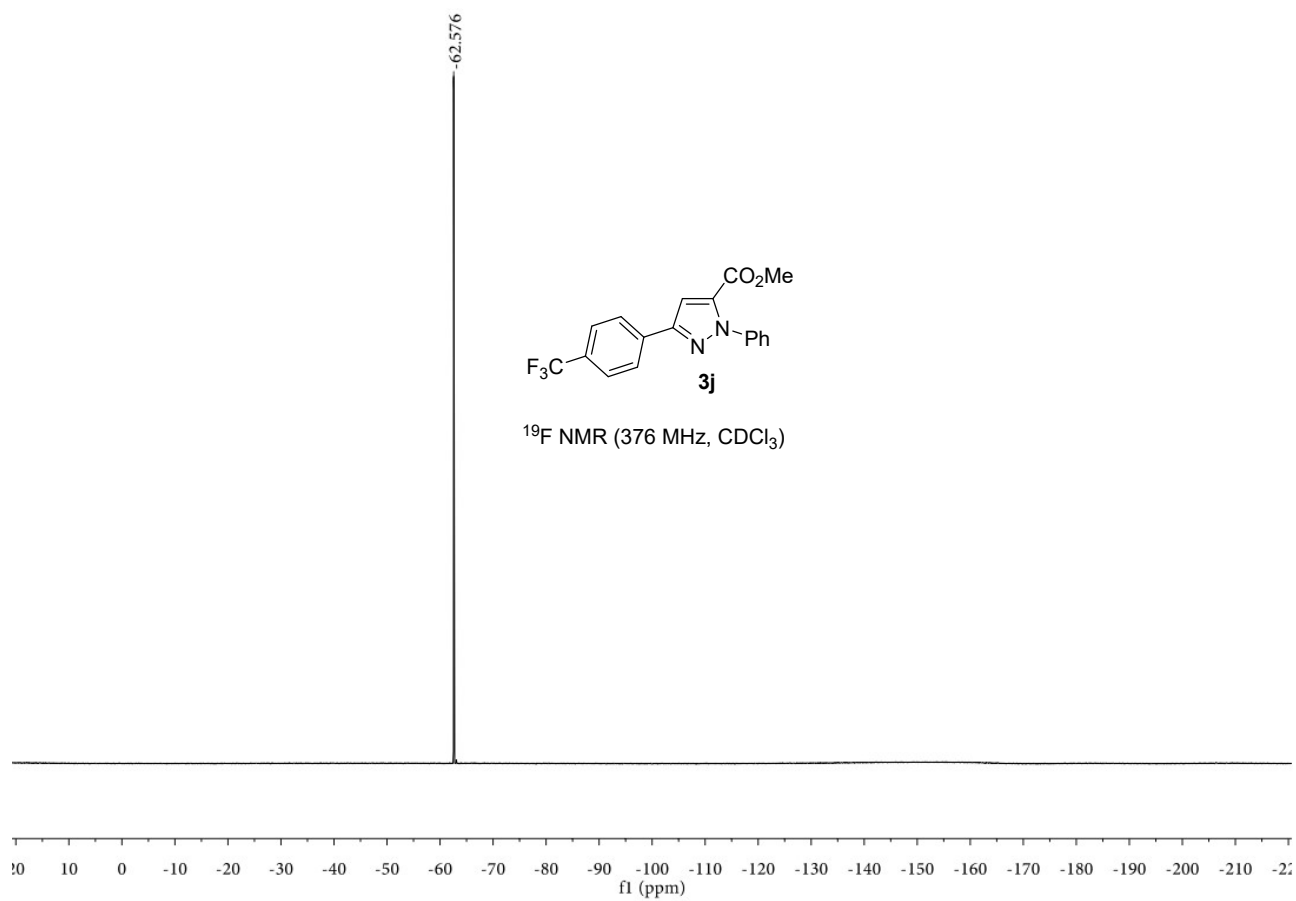


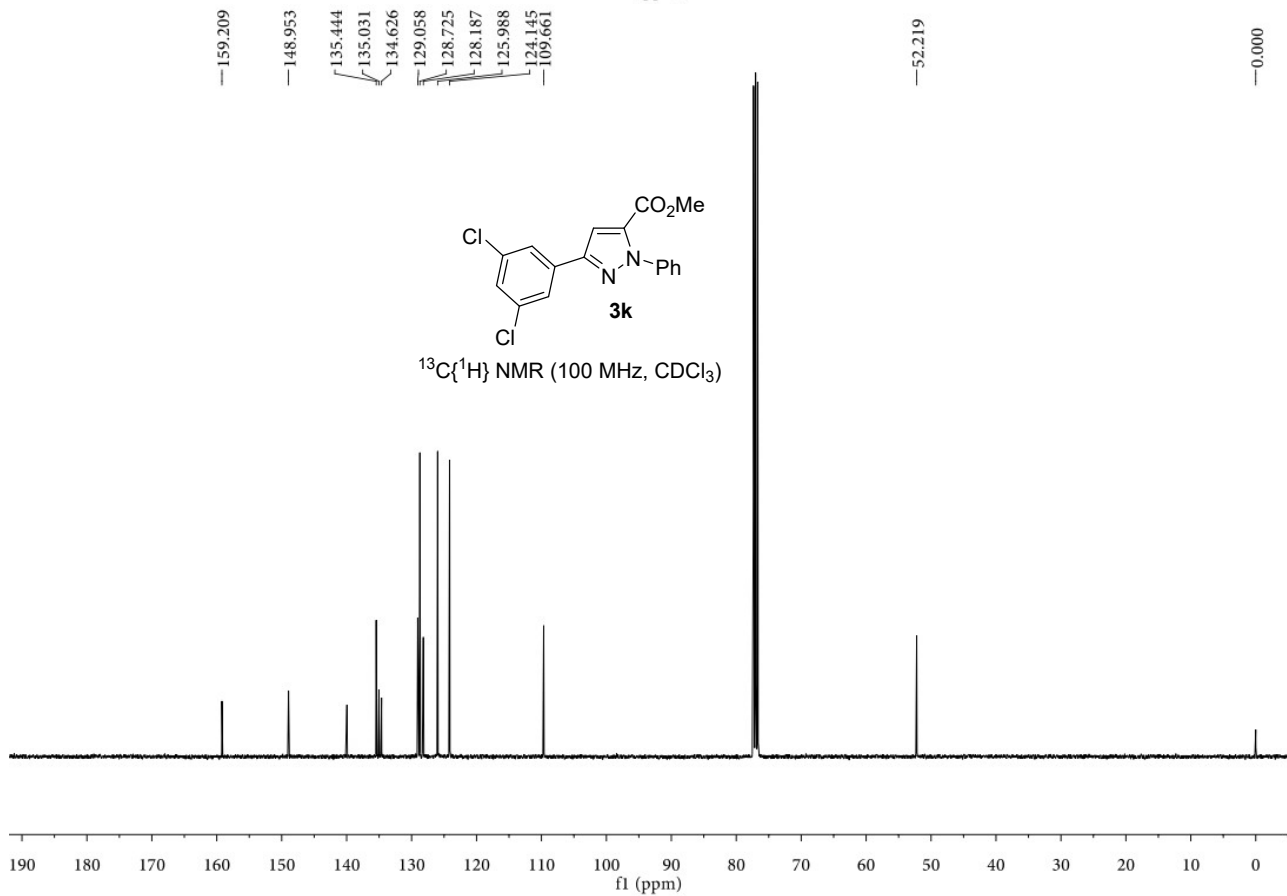
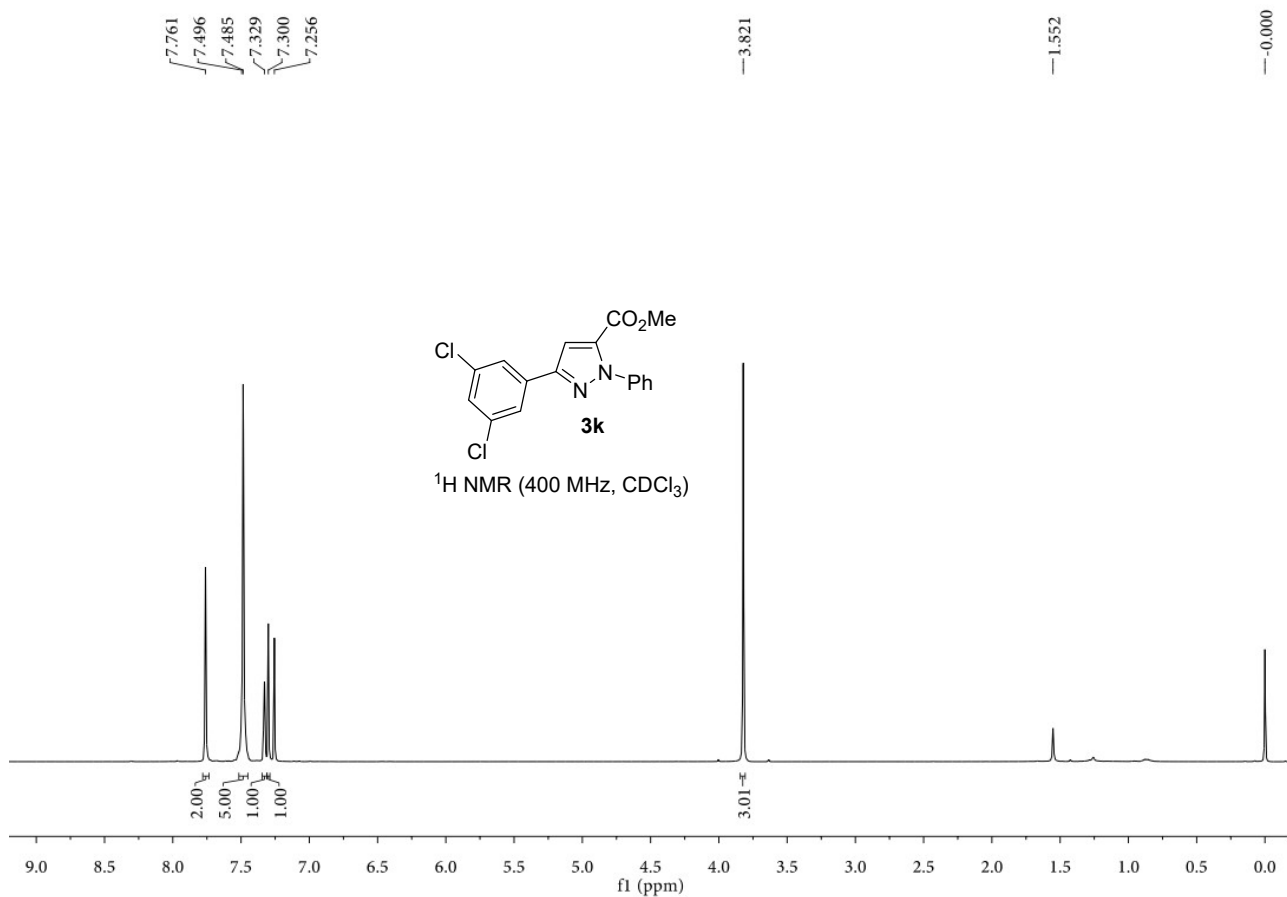








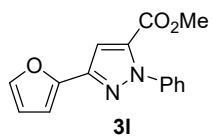




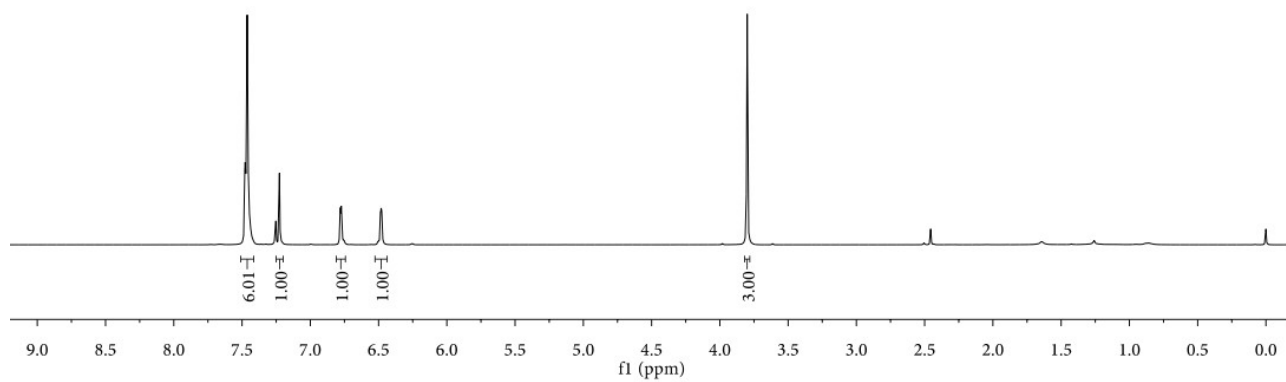
7.477
7.475
7.462
7.252
7.226
6.781
6.773
6.485
6.481
6.478

3.800

0.000



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



159.324

147.536

144.135

142.441

140.017

133.953

128.853

128.620

126.125

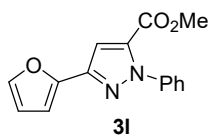
111.460

109.137

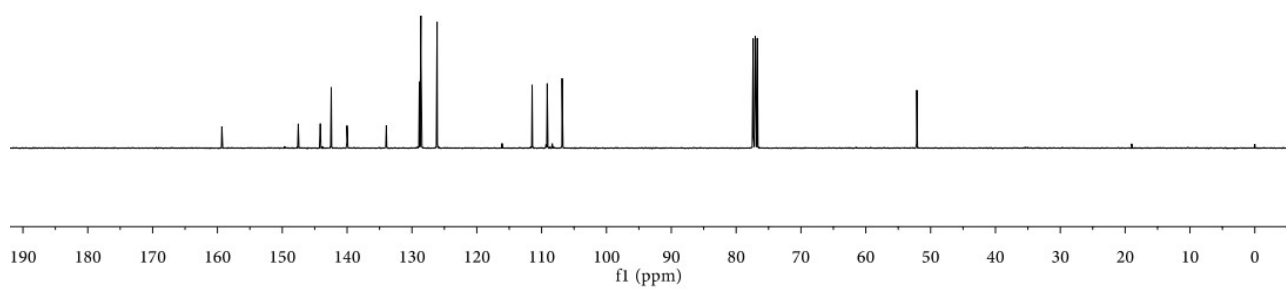
106.840

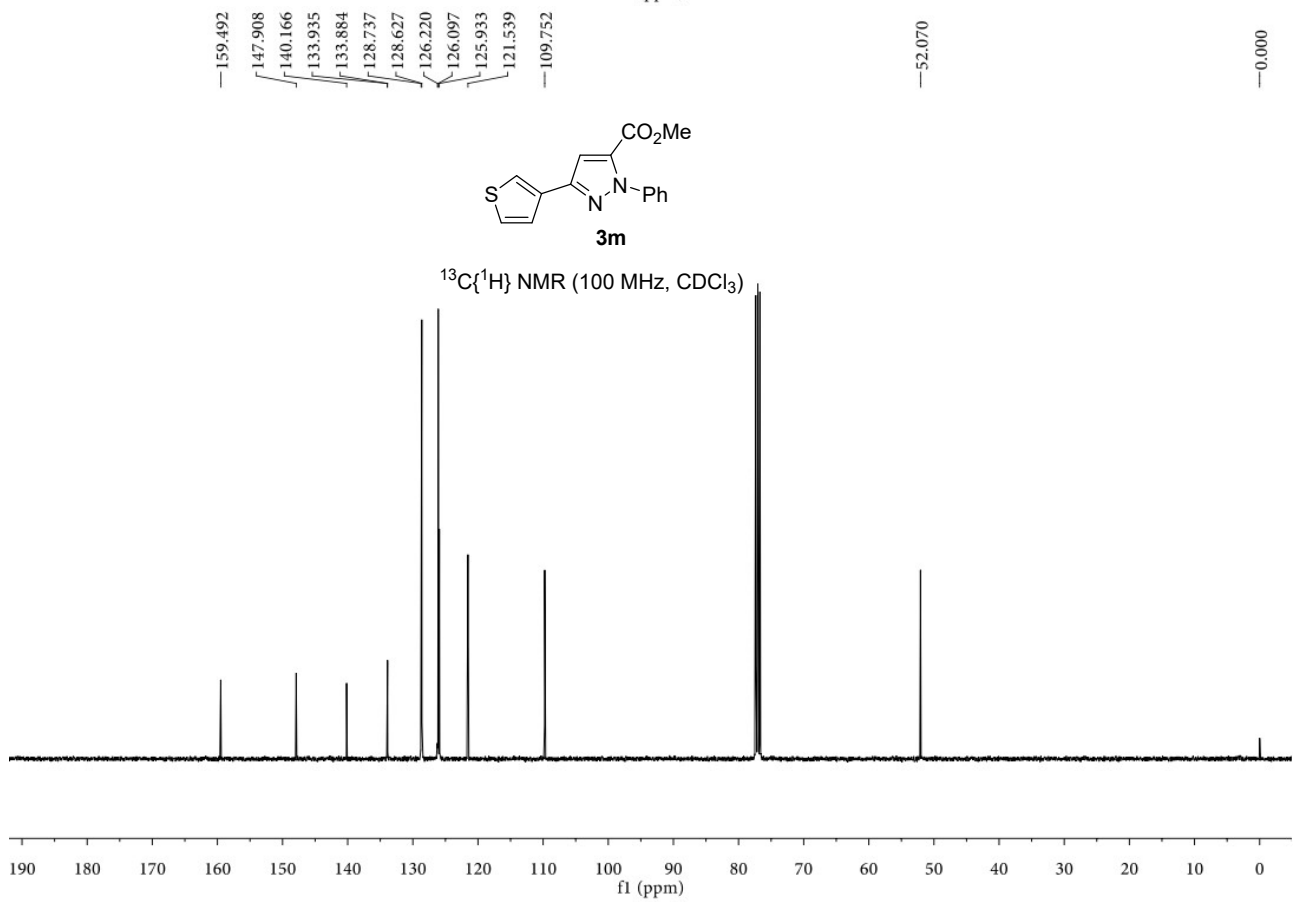
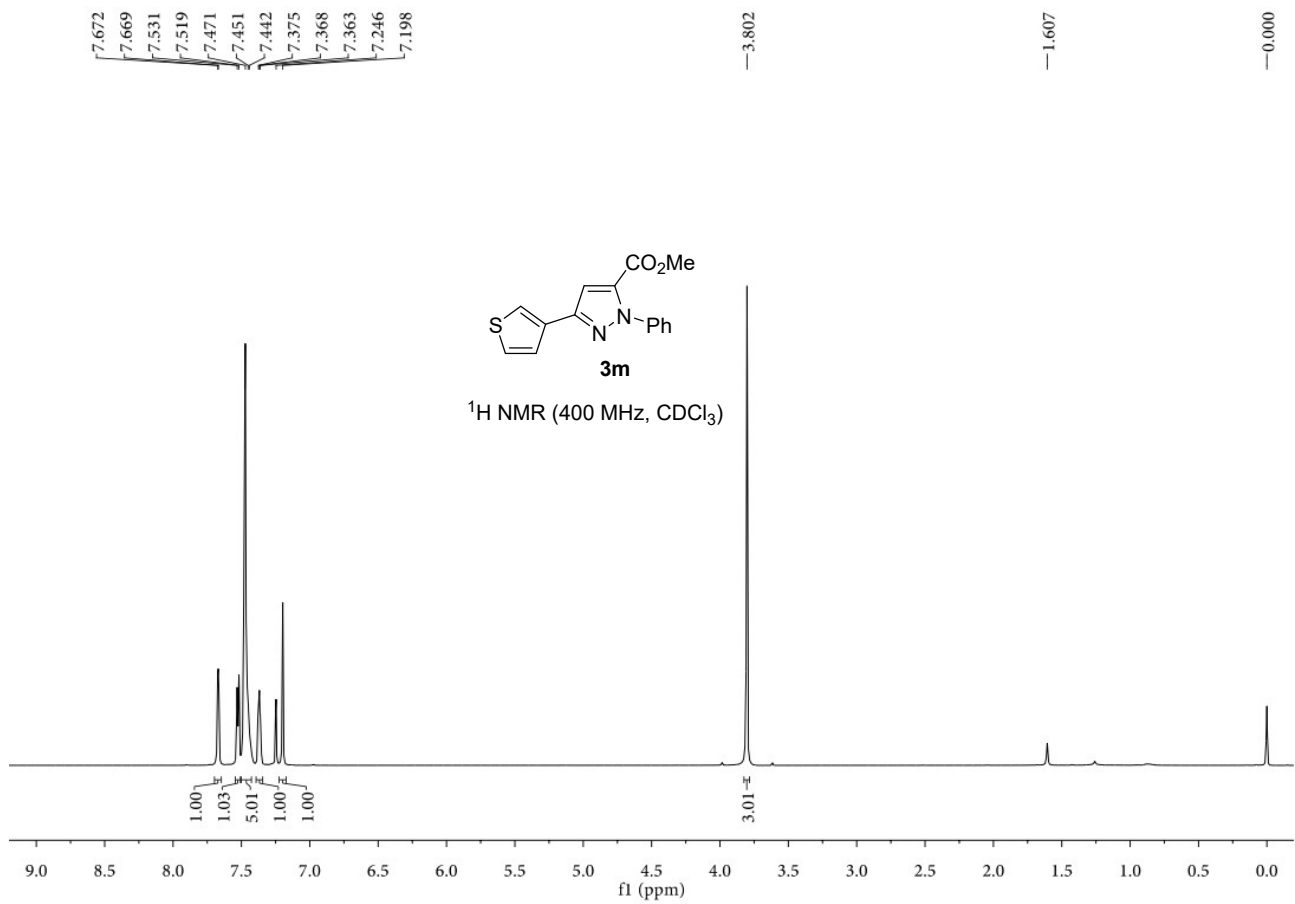
52.130

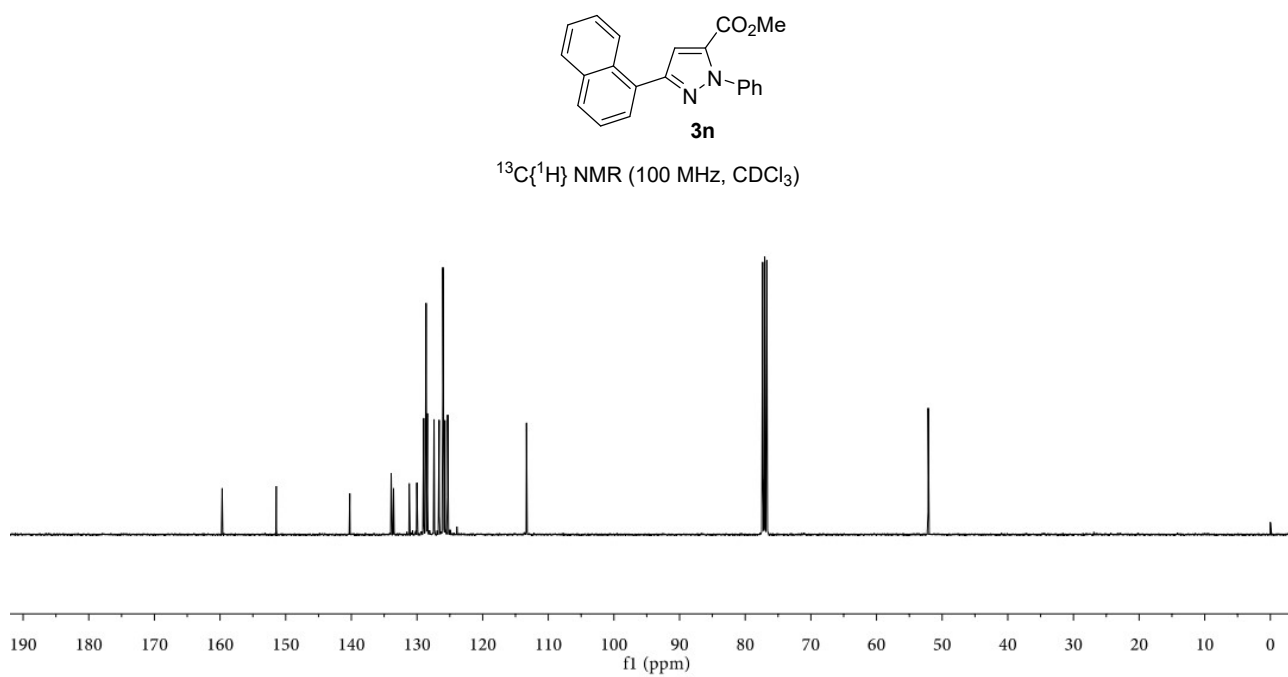
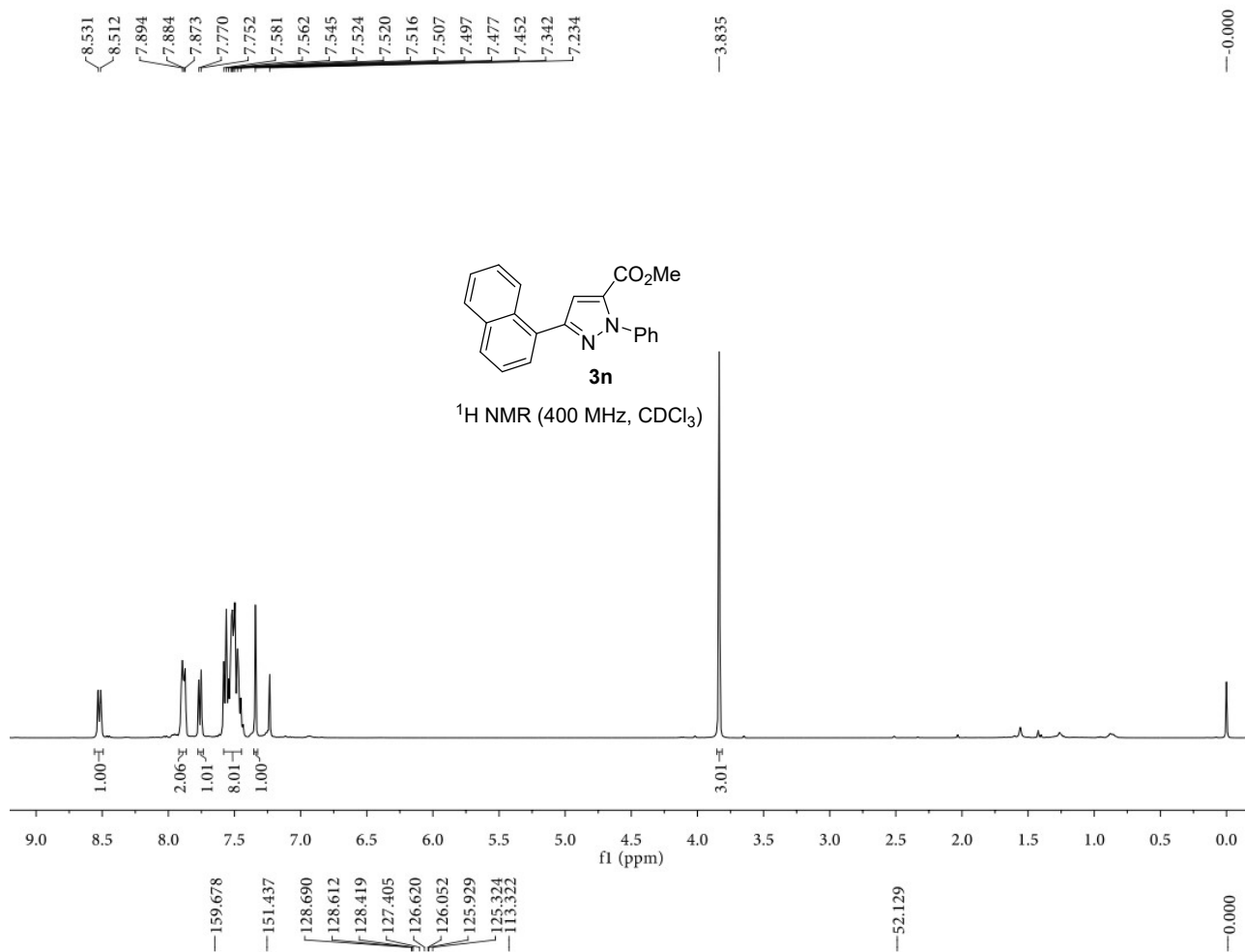
0.000

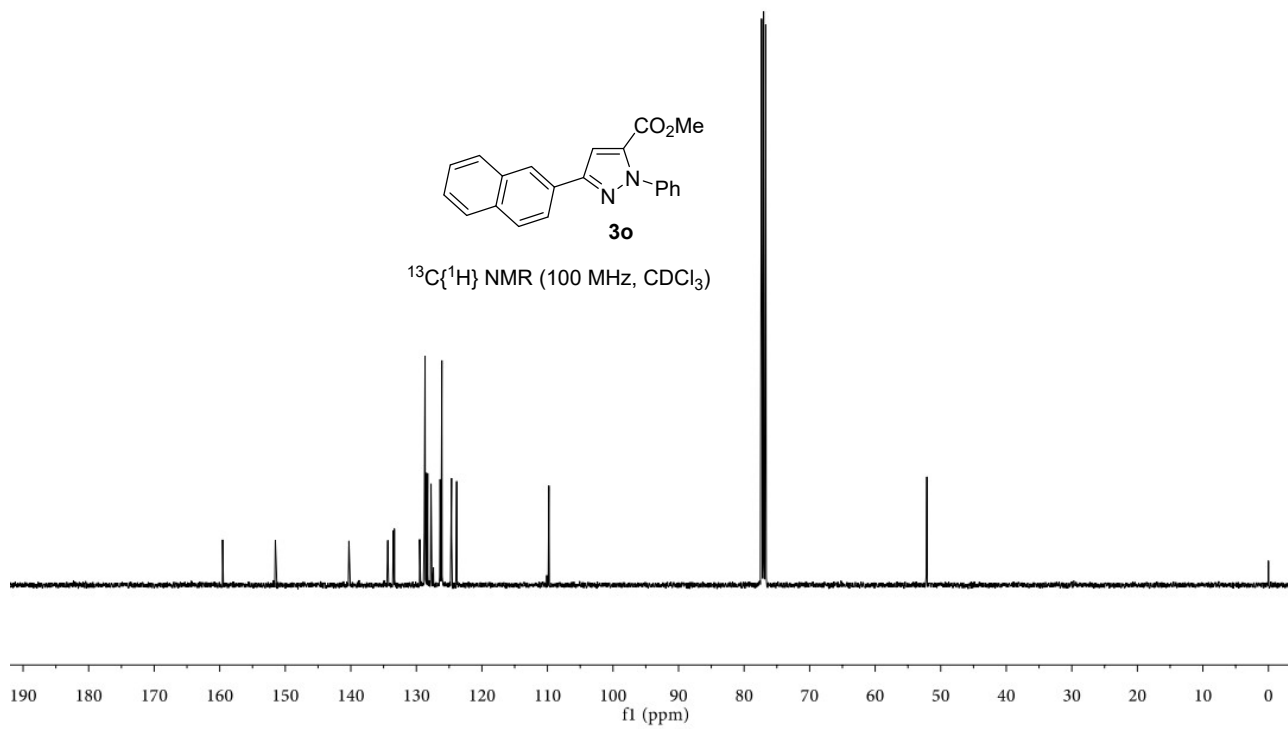
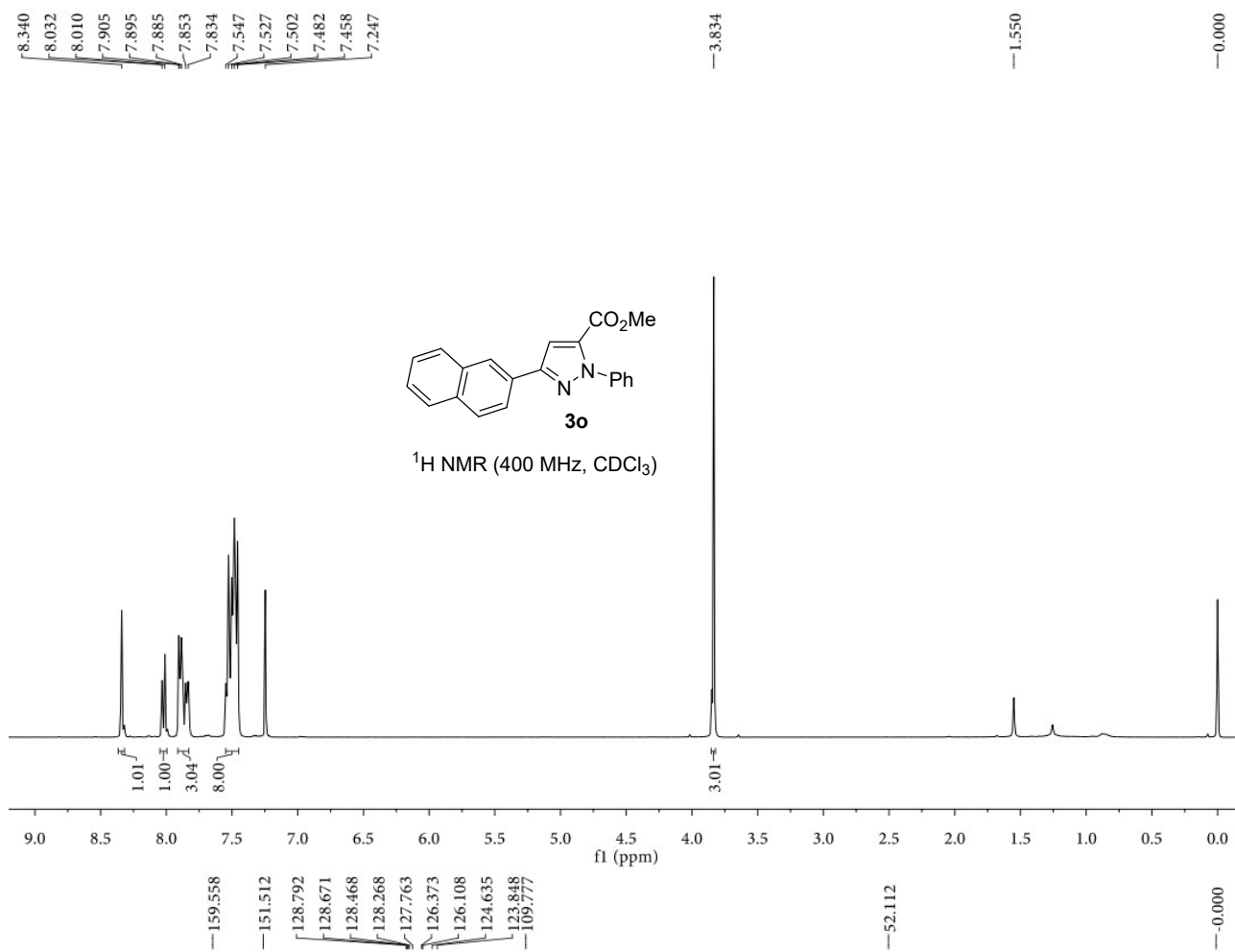


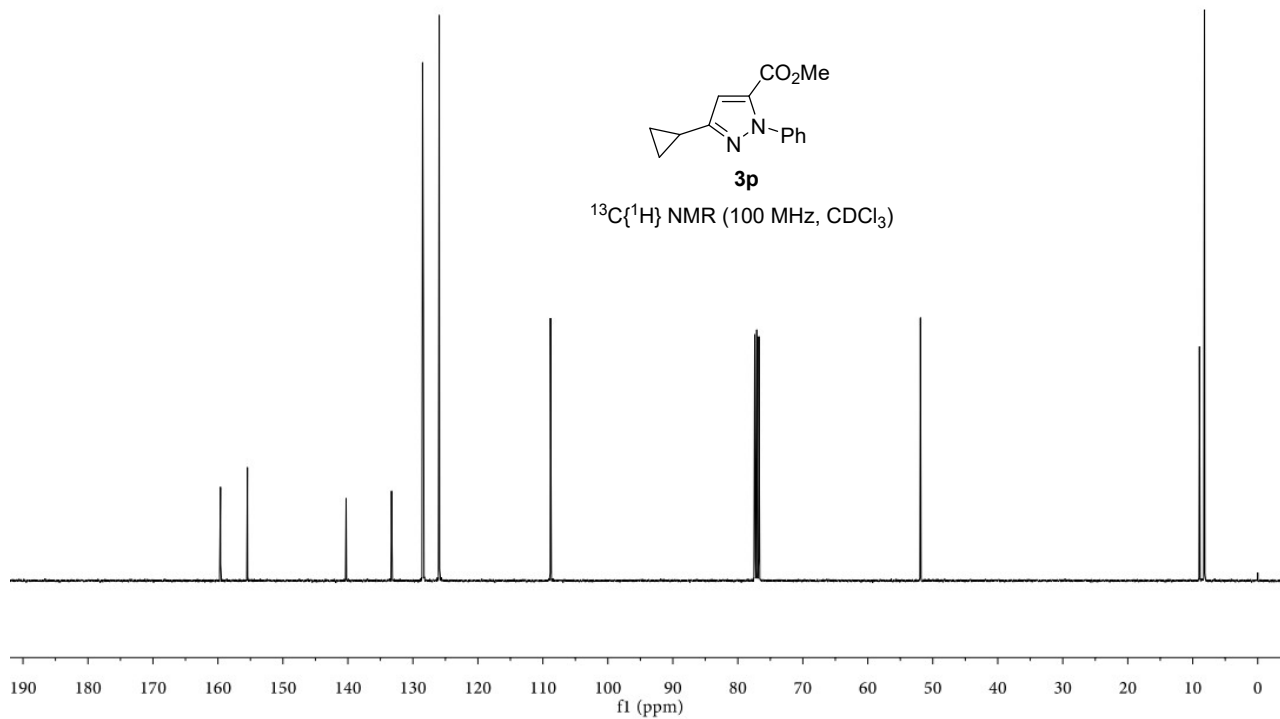
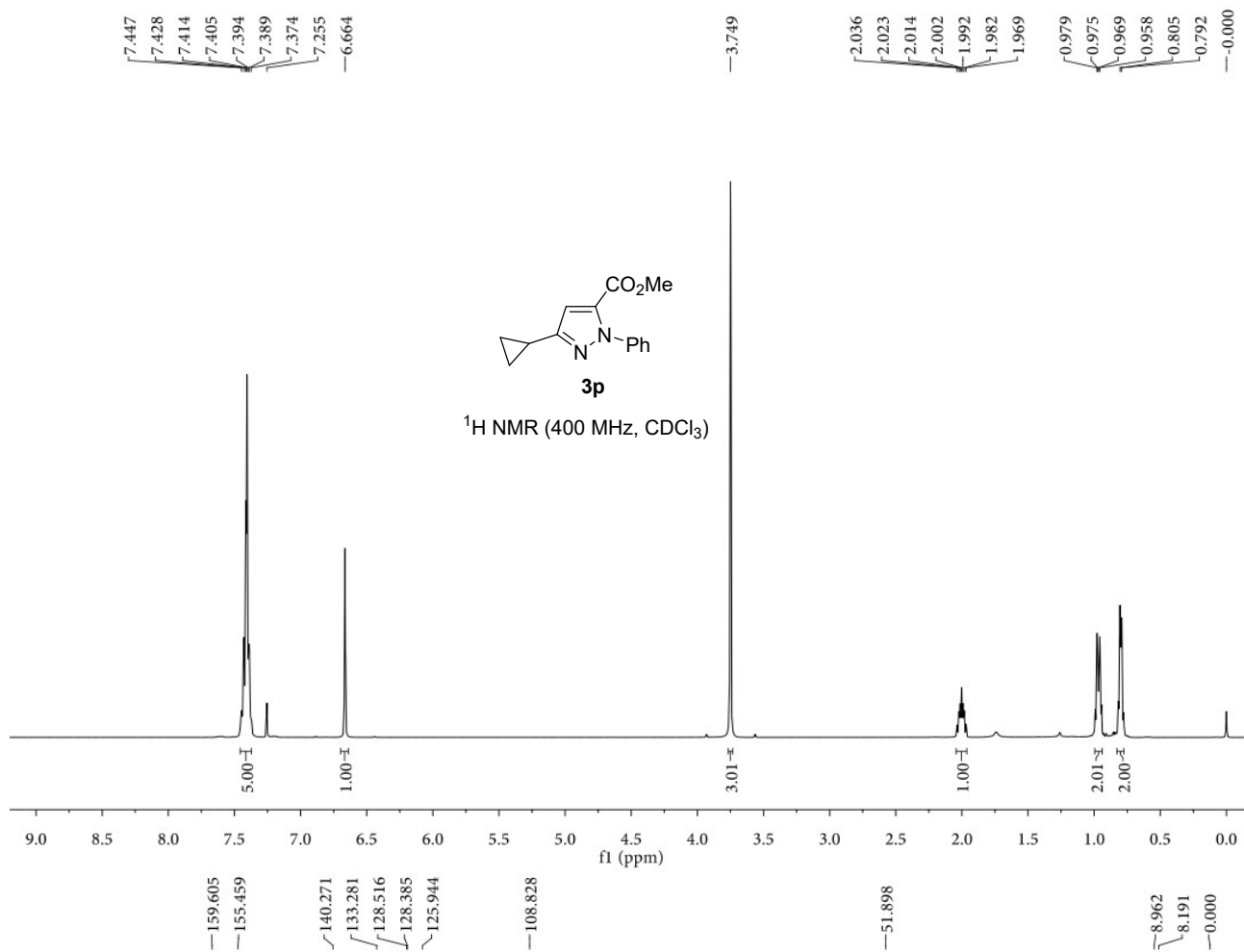
¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

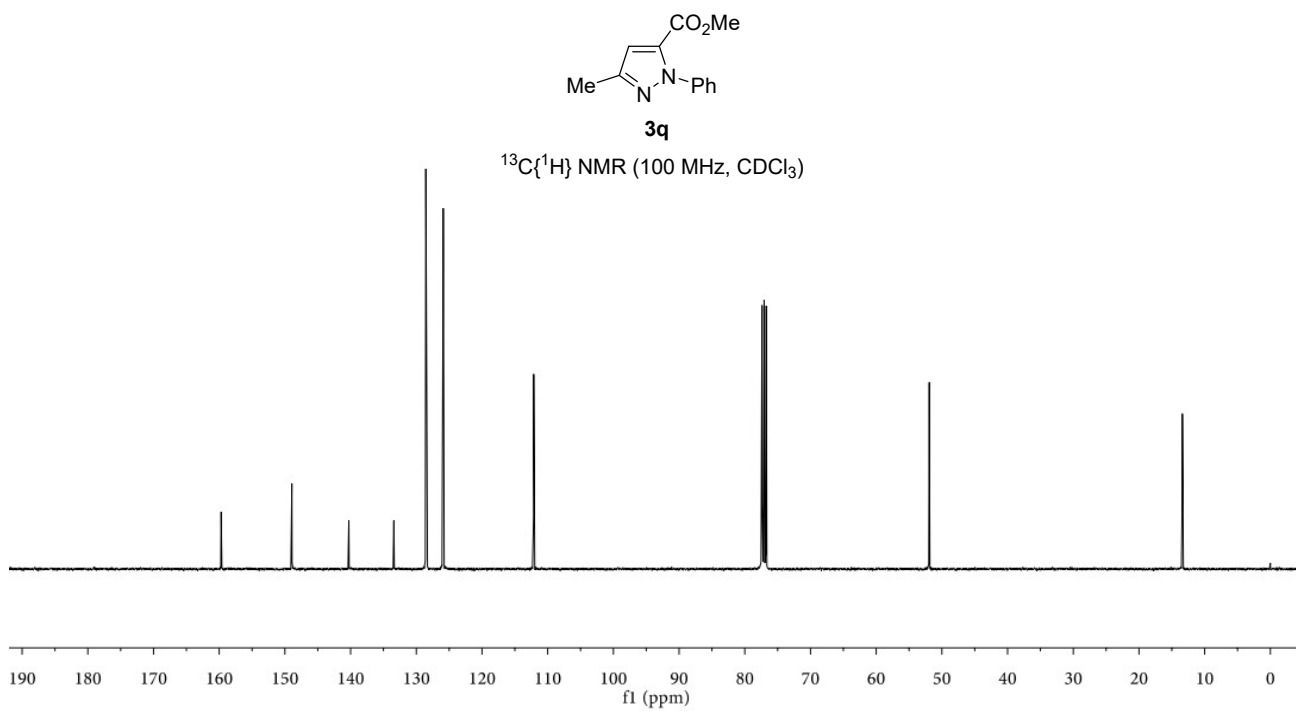
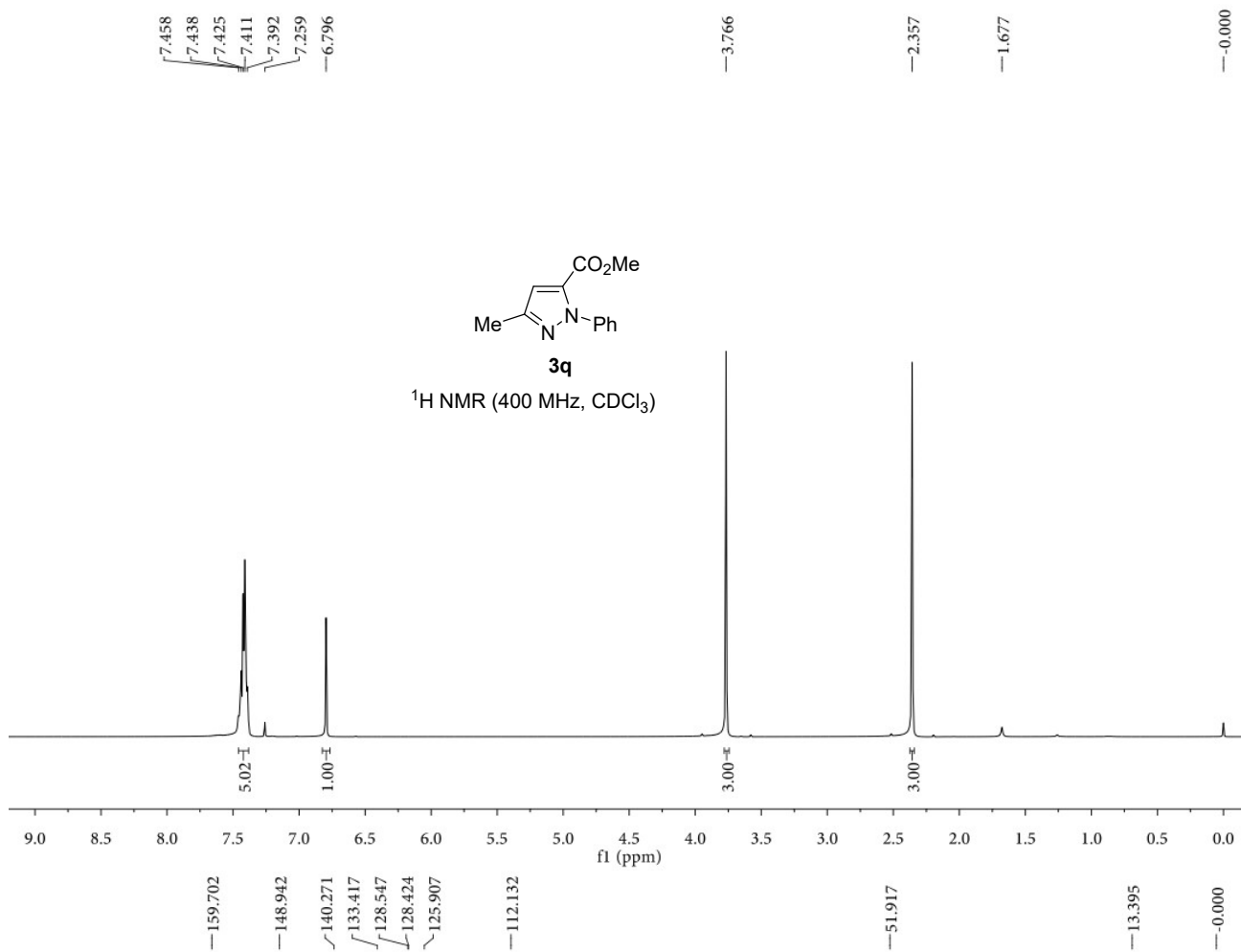


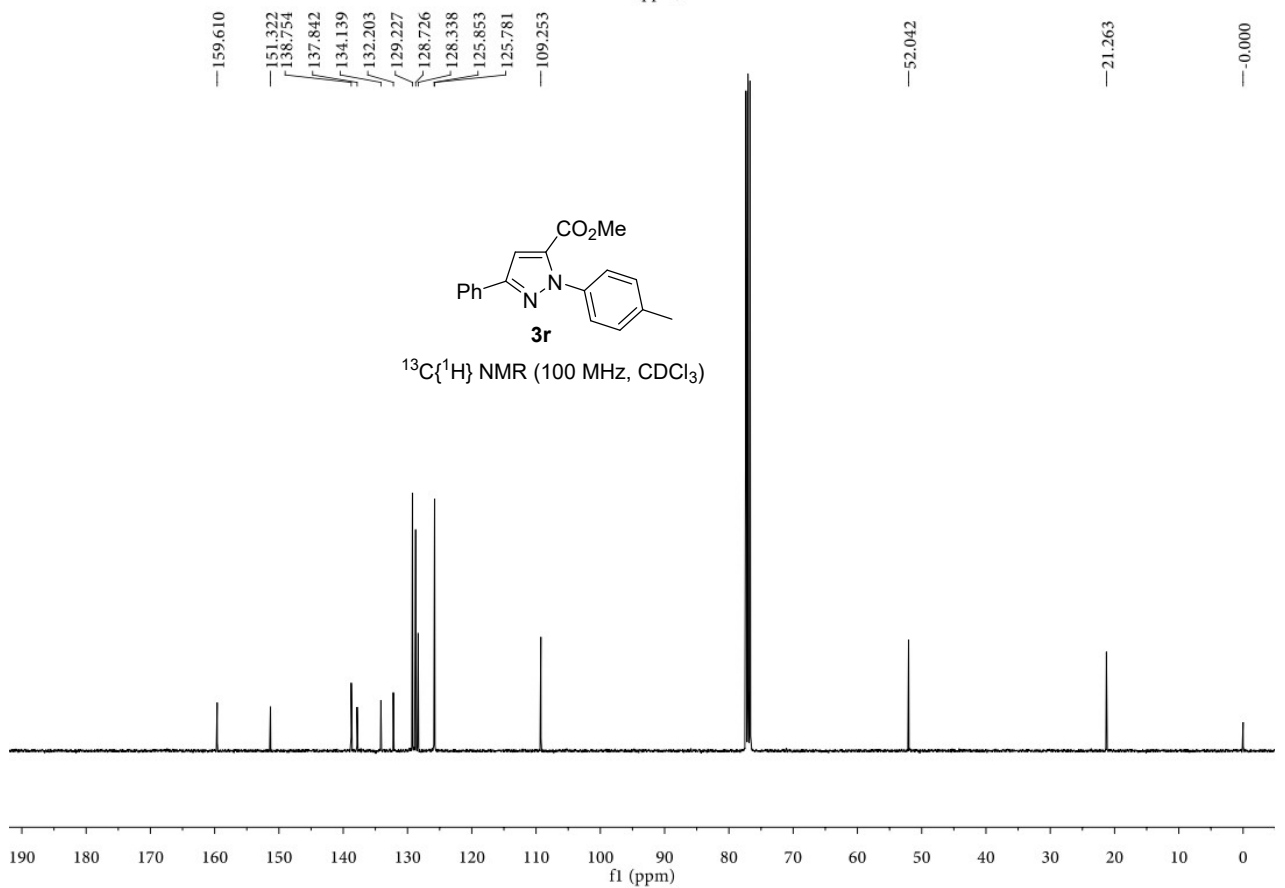
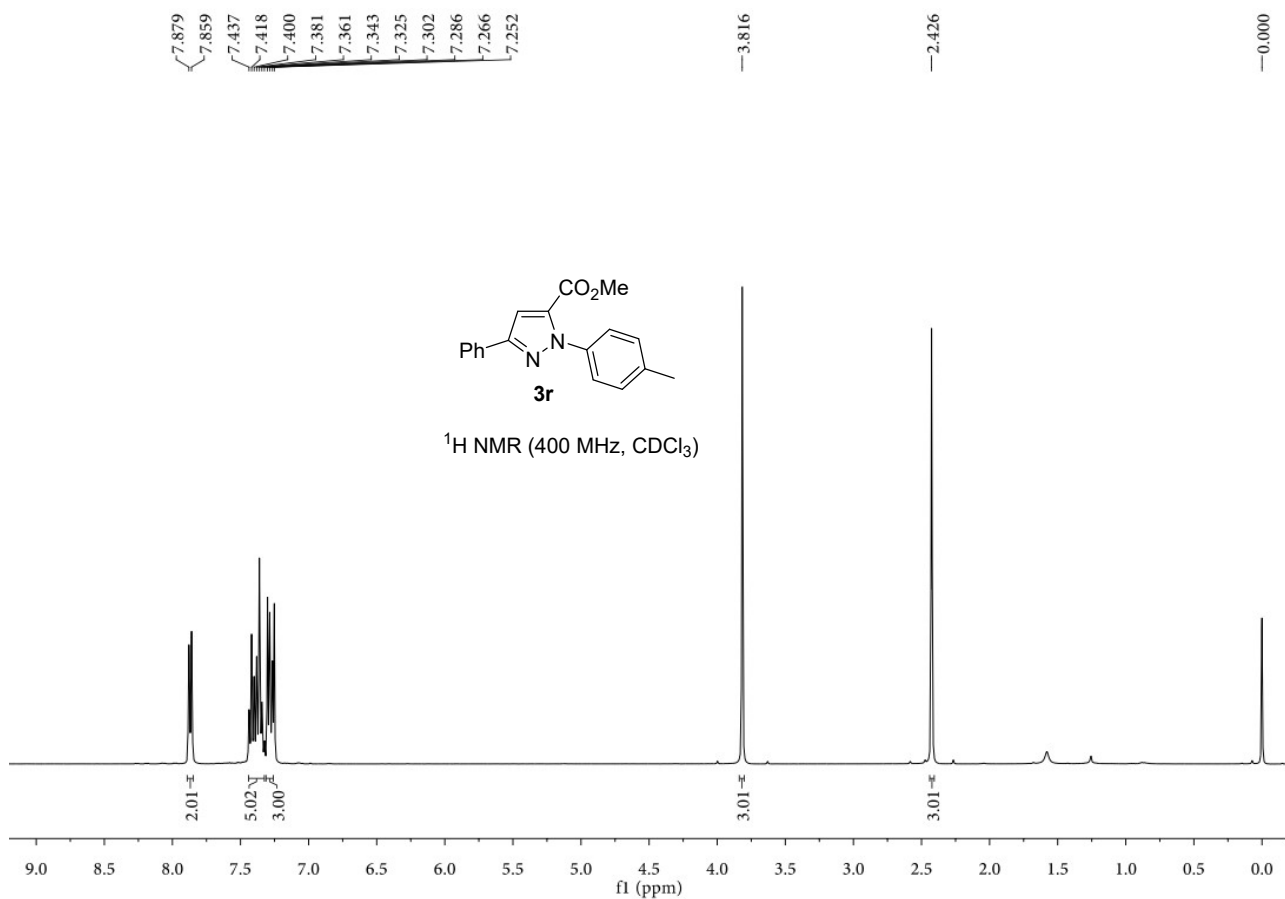


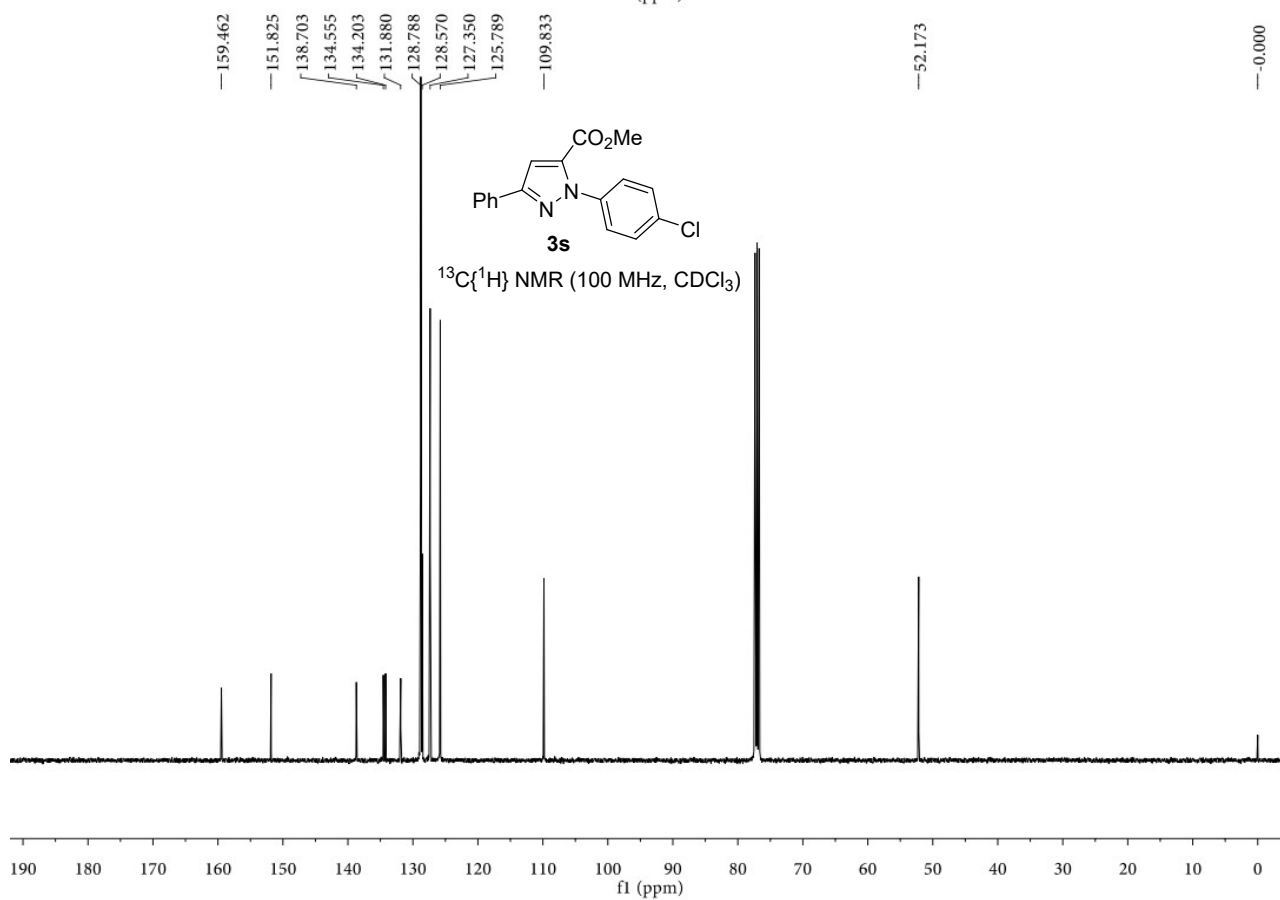
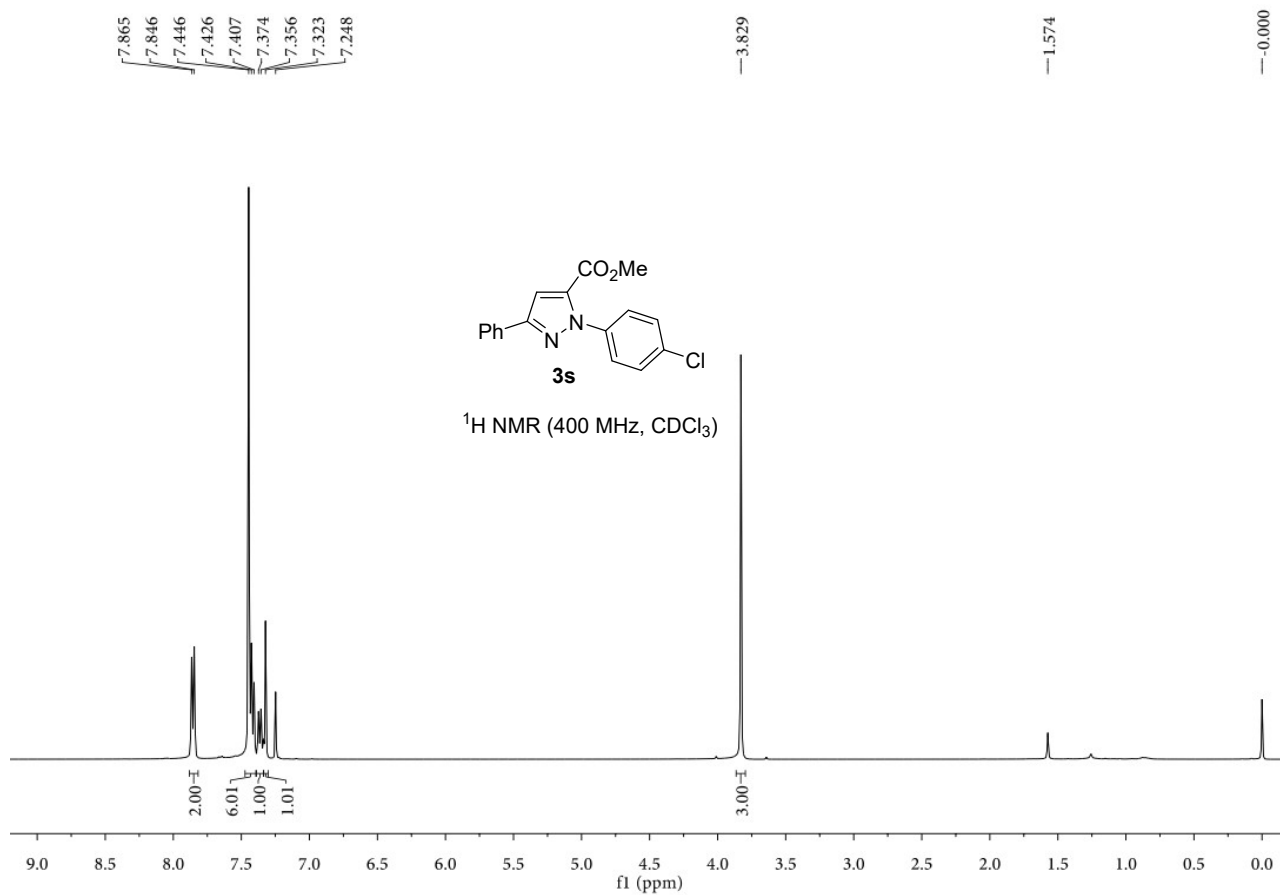


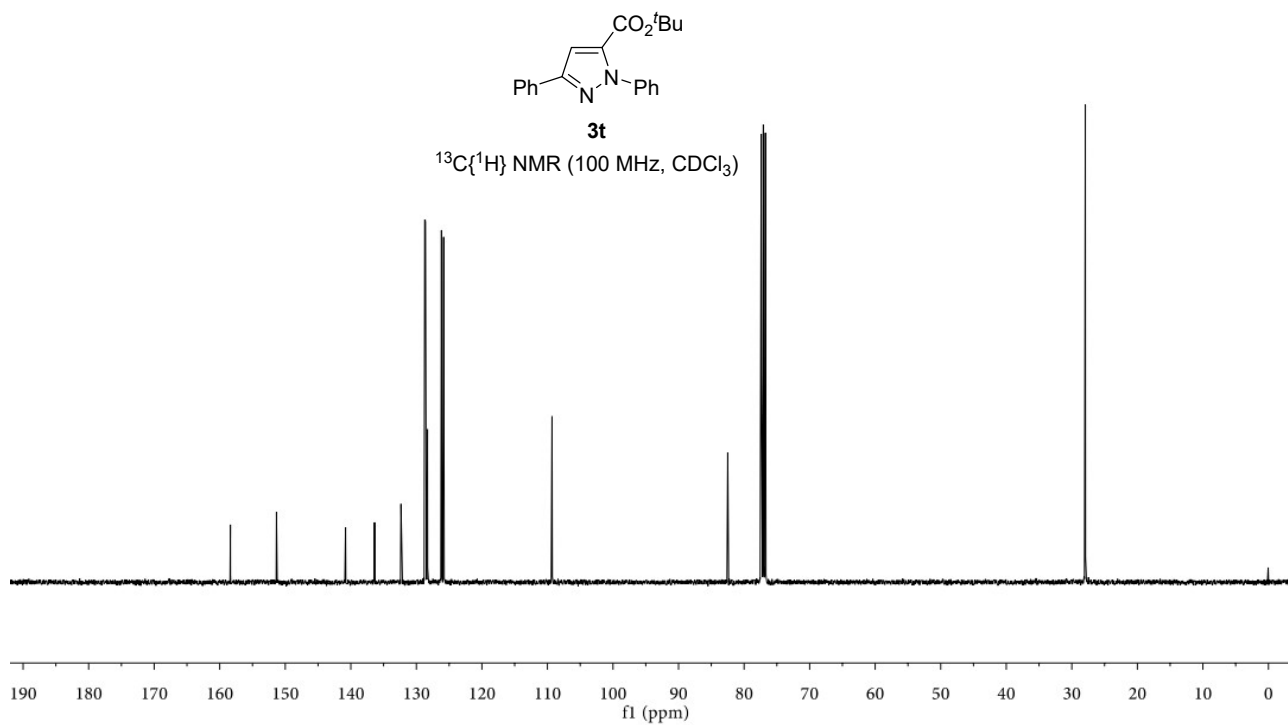
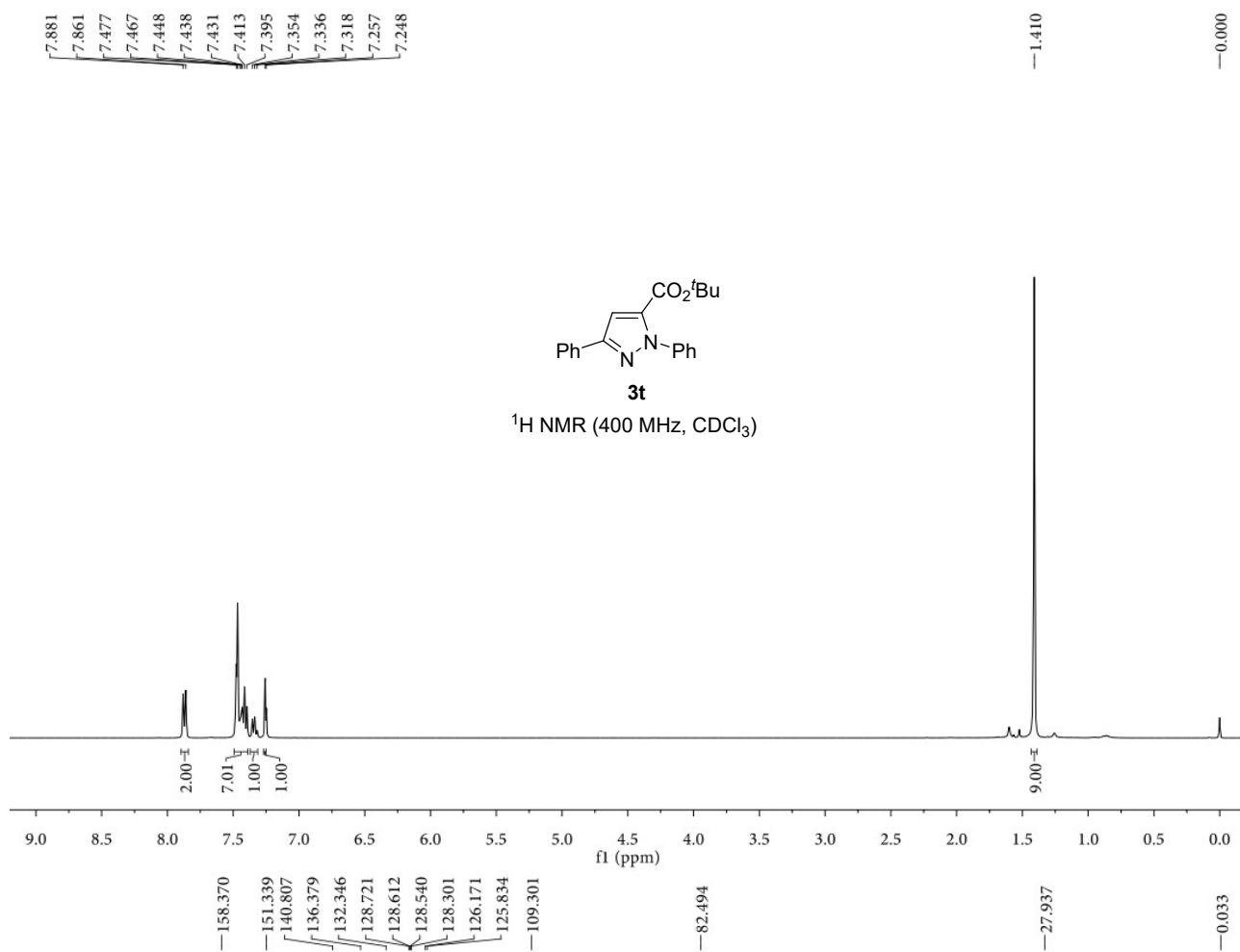








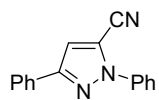




7.885
7.866
7.812
7.792
7.580
7.561
7.543
7.496
7.480
7.465
7.448
7.424
7.407
7.303
7.260

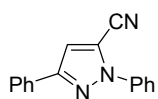
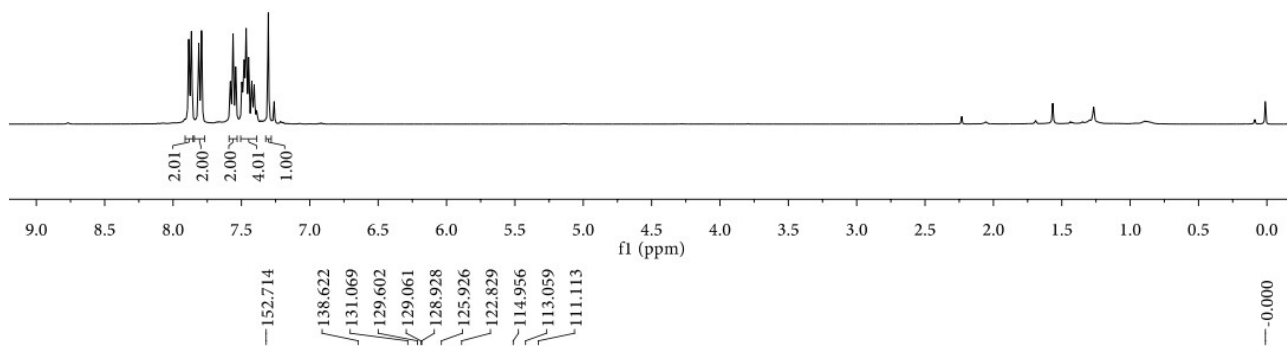
-1.566

-0.012



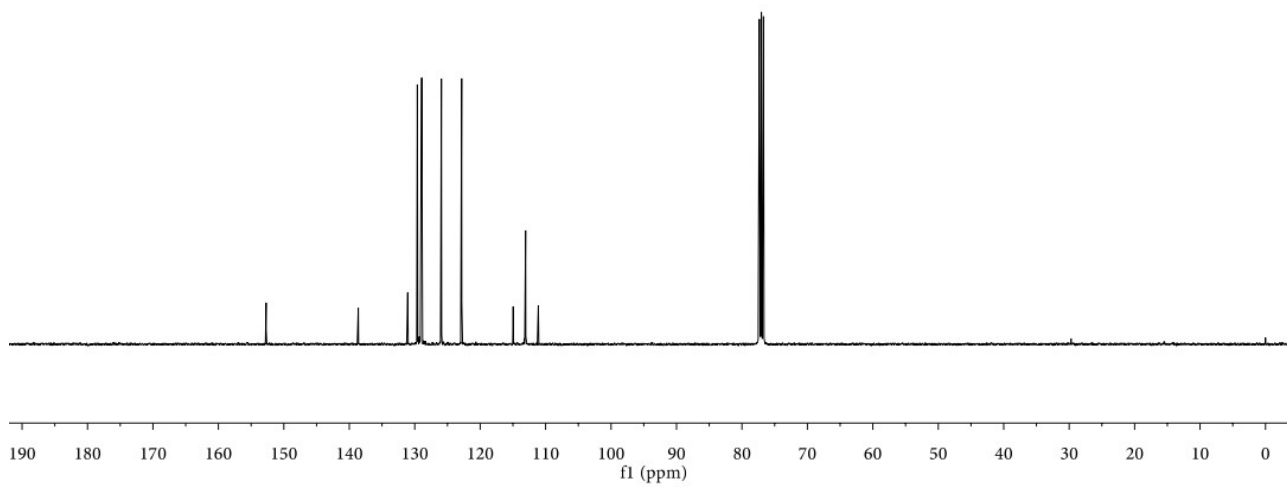
3u

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



3u

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3)

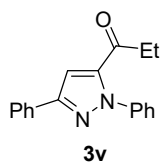


7.903
7.884
7.501
7.482
7.468
7.459
7.444
7.426
7.388
7.370
7.351
7.274
7.260

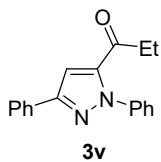
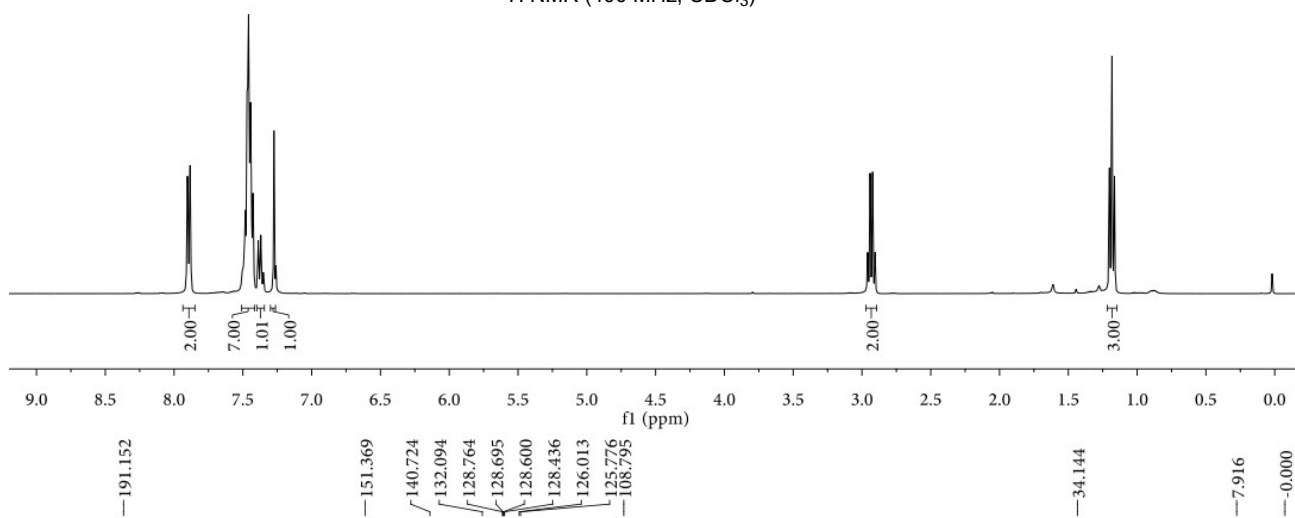
2.959
2.941
2.923
2.905

1.201
1.183
1.165

-0.019



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

