

Supporting Information

Copper-Assisted Wittig-Type Olefination of Aldehydes with *p*-Toluenesulfonylmethyl Isocyanide

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I. General information

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without treatment unless otherwise indicated. The products were purified by column chromatography over silica gel. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Varian spectrometer at 400 MHz, 101 MHz and 376 MHz, respectively, and TMS was used as the internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on BRUKER AutoflexIII Smartbeam MS-spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Bruck microTof using the ESI-TOF method.

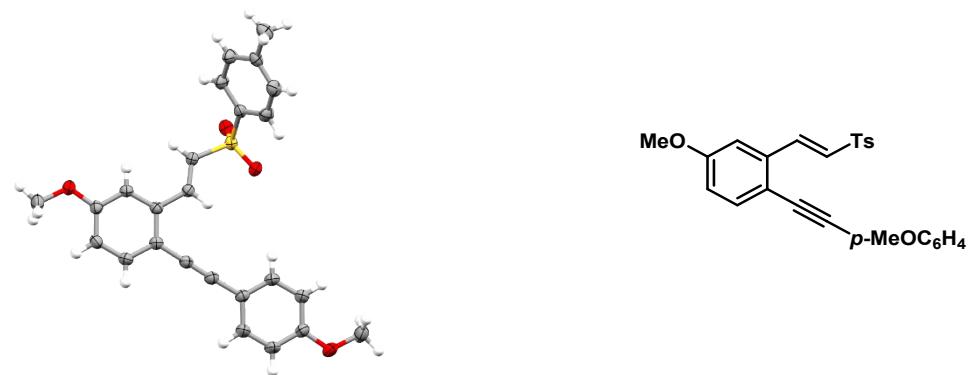
II. Computational details

All the calculations in this work were performed based on density functional theory (DFT) in the Gaussian G16 package (Revision B.01).¹ Geometry optimizations and frequencies were calculated with the B3LYP,² dispersion-corrected with the D3 version of Grimme's dispersion with Becke-Johnson damping (B3LYP-D3(BJ))³ and Stuttgart-Dresden effective core potential SDD⁴ for Cu and basis set 6-31+G(d, p) for rest of the atoms.⁵ All of the optimized geometries had been characterized as minima (zero imaginary frequencies) or transition state structures (a single imaginary frequency) at the same level of theory. Intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC)⁶ calculations were also carried out to inspect whether the transition structures connected the proposed reactant and product.

III. Crystallography

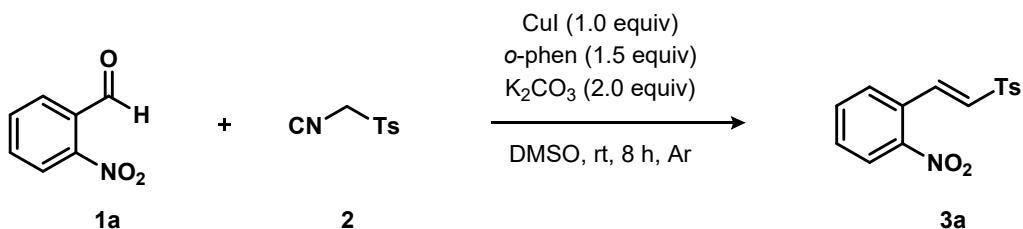
The structures of the *N*-fused heterocyclic scaffolds were further established by X-ray diffraction. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for the reported compounds was recorded at a temperature of 296(2) K on an Oxford Diffraction Gemini R Ultra diffractometer using a ω scan technique with Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). The structures were solved by the Direct Method of SHELXS-97 and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques using the SHELXL-97 program.⁷ Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic temperature parameters, and hydrogen atoms of the ligands were refined as rigid groups. Basic information pertaining to crystal parameters and structure refinement are summarized in Table S1.

Table S1. Crystal structure and refinement data for compound **3aa** (thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability).



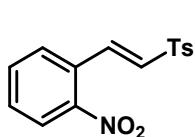
Empirical formula	$C_{18} H_{17} NO_3$
Temperature	296(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Space group	P2(1)/c
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 15.137(2)$ Å $b = 16.348(2)$ Å $c = 8.7649(13)$ Å $\alpha = 90.00$ deg. $\beta = 97.271(2)$ deg. $\gamma = 90.00$ deg.
Volume	2151.5(5) Å ³
Z	4
Calculated density	1.292 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.179 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	880
Crystal size	0.122 x 0.103 x 0.092 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.65 to 25.00 deg.
Reflections collected / unique	10685 / 3788 [R(int) = 0.0203]
Data / restraints / parameters	3788 / 0 / 271
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.052
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0421, wR2 = 0.1197
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0545, wR2 = 0.1285

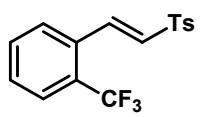
IV. Synthesis and analytical data of compound 3



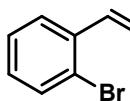
Typical synthetic procedure (with 3a as an example): To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added 2-nitrobenzaldehyde **1a** (91 mg, 0.6 mmol), TosMIC **2** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), DMSO (2.0 mL), K₂CO₃ (138 mg, 1.0 mmol), CuI (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *o*-phen (135 mg, 0.75 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for about 10 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) afforded **3a** as pale yellow solid in 88% yield (133 mg).

Gram-scale synthesis: To a 50 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added 2-nitrobenzaldehyde **1a** (0.91 g, 6 mmol), TosMIC **2** (0.98 g, 5 mmol), CuI (0.95 g, 5 mmol), DMSO (20 mL), K₂CO₃ (1.38 g, 10 mmol), and *o*-phen (1.35 g, 7.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for about 10 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) afforded **3a** as pale yellow solid in 79% yield (1.2 g).

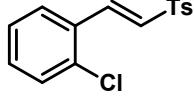




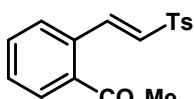
(*E*)-1-(2-Tosylvinyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzen (3b): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 12:1); yield: 91% (148 mg); white solid, mp 106–107 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.02 (dd, J = 15.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.7, 137.8 (q, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 2.3 Hz), 137.0, 132.2, 131.4 (q, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 2.0 Hz), 130.3, 130.0, 129.5, 128.9 (q, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 30.5 Hz), 128.3, 127.9, 126.3 (q, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 5.5 Hz), 123.7 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}}$ = 272 Hz), 21.6; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz): δ_{F} –58.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ [M + Na]⁺: 349.0481, found 349.0469.



(*E*-1-Bromo-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3c):⁹ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 12:1); yield: 82% (137 mg); white solid, mp 119–120 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.15–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 147.8, 144.9, 138.6, 136.8, 133.9, 132.5, 130.9, 130.1, 129.5, 129.1, 128.0, 125.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaO}_2\text{S}$ [M + Na]⁺: 358.9712, found 358.9716.

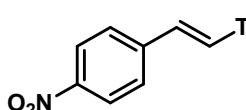


(*E*-1-Chloro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3d):¹⁰ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 79% (115 mg); white solid, mp 105–106 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.04 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.6, 137.9, 137.3, 135.3, 131.8, 130.8, 130.4, 130.35, 130.0, 128.2, 127.9, 127.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNaO}_2\text{S}$ [M + Na]⁺: 315.0217, found 315.0219.

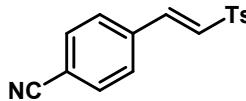


(*E*-Methyl 2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzoate (3e): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:1); yield: 88% (139 mg); white solid, mp 115–116 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.43 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.42 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 166.7, 144.4, 142.0, 137.5, 134.4, 132.5, 131.0, 130.1, 130.0,

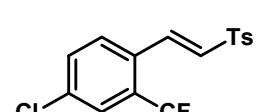
129.9, 128.2, 127.9, 52.5, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 339.0662, found 339.0675.



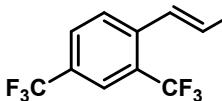
(*E*)-1-Methyl-4-((4-nitrostyryl)sulfonyl)benzene (3f):⁸ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 83% (126 mg); pale yellow solid, mp 185–186 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 147.9, 144.0, 137.7, 137.5, 135.7, 131.0, 129.1, 128.1, 126.9, 123.2, 20.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 326.0457, found 326.0463.

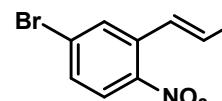


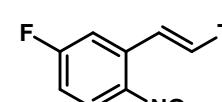
(*E*-4-(2-Tosylvinyl)benzonitrile (3g):¹¹ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 9:1); yield: 72% (102 mg); yellow solid, mp 123–125 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.73–7.53 (m, 5H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 145.0, 139.2, 136.8, 136.7, 132.7, 131.3, 130.1, 128.8, 127.9, 118.0, 114.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 306.0559, found 306.0563.

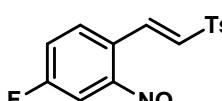


(*E*-4-Chloro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3h): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 85% (153 mg); white solid, mp 151–152 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 7.92 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (*J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 145.0, 138.6, 137.6, 136.2, 133.5, 133.3, 130.1, 128.4, 127.9, 127.9 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 11.1 Hz), 127.2 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 31 Hz), 123.2 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 273 Hz), 119.2, 21.6; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ_F -58.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂ClF₃NaO₂S [M + Na]⁺: 383.0091, found 383.0099.

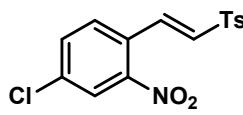

(E)-1-(2-Tosylvinyl)-2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene (3i): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 68% (142 mg); white solid, mp 164–165 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.00 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.84–7.82 (m, 3H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 145.2, 136.4, 136.1, 135.2, 134.7, 132.8, 131.8, 131.1 (q, J_{C-F} = 213 Hz), 129.2, 129.1 (d, J_{C-F} = 212 Hz), 126.9, 123.6 (q, J_{C-F} = 10 Hz), 122.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 212 Hz), 118.8, 21.7; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ_F -59.4, -63.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₇H₁₂F₆NaO₂S [M + Na]⁺: 417.0354, found 417.0366.


(E)-4-Bromo-1-nitro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3j): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 92% (175 mg); pale yellow solid, mp 171–172 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.07 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.73–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (q, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 146.4, 145.1, 137.2, 136.5, 133.8, 133.6, 132.4, 131.0, 130.2, 128.9, 128.1, 126.7, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂BrNNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 403.9563, found 403.9571.

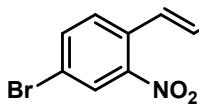

(E)-4-Fluoro-1-nitro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3k): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 86% (138 mg); pale yellow solid, mp 132–133 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.19 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.17 (m, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 164.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 258 Hz), 145.1, 137.5, 136.5, 133.6, 132.5, 132.4, 130.2, 128.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 9.6 Hz), 128.1, 117.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 23 Hz), 116.6 (d, J_{C-F} = 24 Hz), 21.7; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ_F -101.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂FNNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 344.0363, found 344.0377.


(E)-4-Fluoro-2-nitro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3l): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 81% (130 mg); pale yellow solid, mp 149–150 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.07 (d, J = 19.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98–7.80 (m, 3H), 7.62–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.32 (m, 3H), 6.74 (d, J = 19.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR

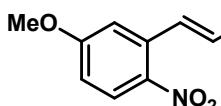
(CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 162.9 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 254 Hz), 145.0, 137.4, 136.6, 132.8, 131.3 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 8.0 Hz), 130.1, 128.1, 125.4 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 4.0 Hz), 121.5, 121.3, 113.0 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 27 Hz), 21.7; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ_F – 105.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂FNNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 344.0363, found 344.0372.



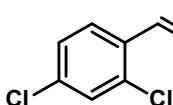
(E)-4-Chloro-2-nitro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3m): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 80% (134 mg); pale yellow soild, mp 157–158 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.10 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.21 (dd, *J* = 2.0 and 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 148.1, 145.0, 137.2, 137.0, 136.5, 134.0, 133.1, 130.6, 130.1, 128.1, 127.5, 125.4, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClNNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 360.0068, found 360.0083.



(E)-4-Bromo-2-nitro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3n): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 93% (176 mg); pale yellow soild, mp 173–174 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (dd, *J* = 1.6 and 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 2.0 and 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 148.1, 145.1, 137.3, 136.9, 136.5, 133.1, 130.7, 130.2, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 124.5, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂BrNNaO₄S [M + Na]⁺: 403.9563, found 403.9567.

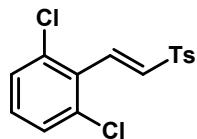


(E)-4-Methoxy-1-nitro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3o): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:1); yield: 95% (158 mg); pale yellow soild, mp 164–165 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 8.23–8.15 (m, 2H), 7.92–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.8 and 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 163.7, 144.9, 140.6, 140.0, 136.8, 132.3, 132.2, 130.1, 128.1, 127.9, 115.4, 114.5, 56.2, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅NNaO₅S [M + Na]⁺: 356.0563, found 356.0573.

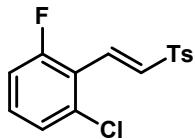


(E)-2,4-Dichloro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3p):¹² Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 89% (145 mg); white

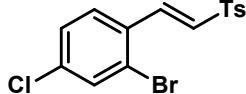
soild, mp 139–140 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.98 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.46–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.7, 137.2, 137.1, 136.6, 135.9, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 129.4, 128.9, 127.9, 127.7, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{NaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 348.9827, found 348.9839.



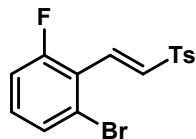
(E)-1,3-Dichloro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3q):¹³ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 67% (109 mg); white soild, mp 127–128 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.85 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.7, 137.0, 135.7, 135.23, 135.2, 130.6, 130.0, 129.7, 128.9, 127.9, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{Cl}_2\text{NaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 348.9827, found 348.9836.



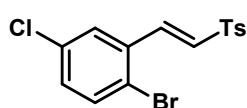
(E)-1-Chloro-3-fluoro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3r): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 73% (117 mg); white soild, mp 112–113 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.89 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 161.7 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 256.6$ Hz), 144.6, 137.1, 134.40 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 15.5$ Hz), 134.38 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 2.2$ Hz), 132.1 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 10.2$ Hz), 130.0, 129.5 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 3.4$ Hz), 127.9, 126.5 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 3.8$ Hz), 121.3 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 15.4$ Hz), 115.6 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 23.0$ Hz), 21.6; ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz): δ_{F} –106.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{FNNaO}_4\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 344.0363, found 344.0369.



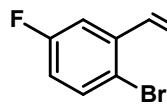
(E)-2-Bromo-4-chloro-1-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3s): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 81% (149 mg); white soild, mp 144–145 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.95 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.7, 139.0, 137.2, 137.0, 133.2, 131.1, 130.9, 130.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 125.7, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrClNaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 392.9322, found 392.9339.



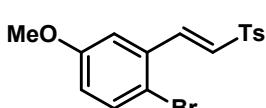
(*E*)-1-Bromo-3-fluoro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3t): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 84% (149 mg); white solid, mp 131–132 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.89 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 161.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 256.0$ Hz), 144.6, 137.1, 136.3 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 4.8$ Hz), 134.2 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 15.1$ Hz), 131.8 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 10.6$ Hz), 131.6 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 1.5$ Hz), 130.0, 127.9, 126.1 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 3.4$ Hz), 119.6 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 13.5$ Hz), 114.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 23.0$ Hz), 21.6; ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz): δ_{F} -105.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrFNaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 376.9618, found 376.9619.



(*E*)-1-Bromo-4-chloro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3u): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 80% (148 mg); white solid, mp 140–141 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.93 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 147.8, 144.9, 138.6, 136.8, 133.9, 132.5, 130.9, 130.1, 129.5, 129.1, 128.0, 125.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrClNaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 392.9322, found 392.9336.

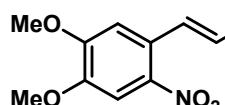


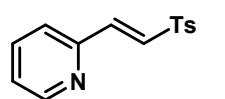
(*E*)-1-Bromo-4-fluoro-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3v): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 85% (150 mg); white solid, mp 128–129 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.94 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd, $J = 8.8, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.03–6.97 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 161.8 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 247.0$ Hz), 144.9, 139.3, 136.8, 134.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 12.0$ Hz), 134.3, 134.2, 131.7, 129.0 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 213$ Hz), 119.7, 119.2 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 22.0$ Hz), 119 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 24.0$ Hz), 21.6; ^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz): δ_{F} -113.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrFNaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 376.9618, found 376.9624.

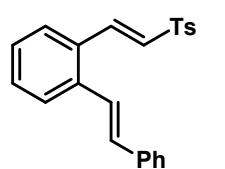


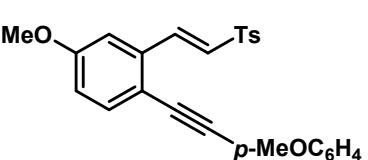
(*E*)-1-Bromo-4-methoxy-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3w): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 9:1); yield: 90% (165 mg); white solid, mp 153–154 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.95 (d,

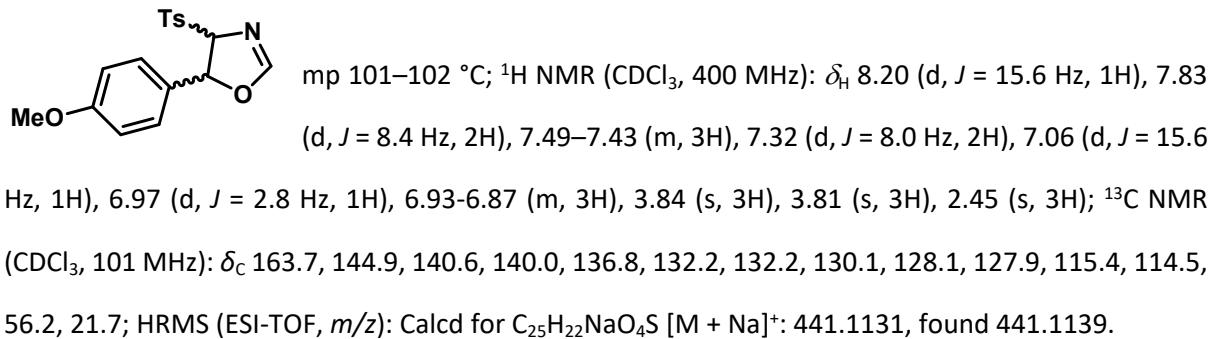
$J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.85–6.77 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 159.0, 144.6, 140.6, 137.2, 134.2, 133.2, 130.6, 130.0, 127.9, 118.3, 116.1, 113.0, 55.6, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNaO}_3\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 388.9817, found 388.9834.


(E)-1,2-Dimethoxy-4-nitro-5-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3x): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:1); yield: 91% (165 mg); pale yellow solid, mp 169–170 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.18 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.70 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 153.4, 150.2, 144.8, 140.8, 139.5, 136.9, 131.2, 130.1, 128.0, 123.5, 110.3, 107.9, 56.7, 56.6, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 386.0669, found 386.0673.

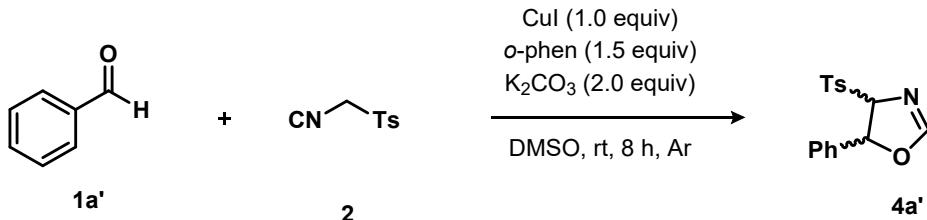

(E)-2-(2-Tosylvinyl)pyridine (3y):¹⁰ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 9:1); yield: 93% (120 mg); white solid, mp 92–93 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.60 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 151.1, 150.3, 144.6, 140.0, 137.2, 137.0, 132.1, 130.0, 127.9, 125.4, 124.9, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{NaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 282.0559, found 282.0567.


1-((E)-Styryl)-2-((E)-2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3z): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 82% (157 mg); white solid, mp 109–110 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 8.05 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.23 (m, 9H), 6.94 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 144.4, 139.8, 138.0, 137.6, 136.7, 133.5, 130.7, 130.6, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.3, 127.74, 127.7, 127.3, 126.8, 124.9, 21.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaO}_2\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 383.4602, found 383.4619.


(E)-4-Methoxy-1-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-2-(2-tosylvinyl)benzene (3aa): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:1); yield: 87% (181 mg); white solid,



V. Synthesis and analytical data of compound 4

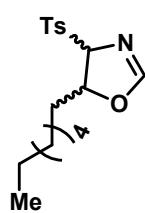


Typical synthetic procedure (with benzaldehyde as an example): To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added benzaldehyde $\mathbf{1a}'$ (61 μL , 0.6 mmol), TosMIC $\mathbf{2}$ (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), DMSO (2.0 mL), K_2CO_3 (138 mg, 1.0 mmol), CuI (95 mg, 0.5 mmol) and *o*-phen (135 mg, 0.75 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for about 10 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1) afforded 5-phenyl-4-tosyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole $\mathbf{4a}'$ as a white solid in 91% yield (137 mg).

5-Phenyl-4-tosyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole ($\mathbf{4a}'$):¹⁴ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1); yield: 91% (137 mg); white solid, mp 172–173 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.29 (m, 7H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 6.05 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ_{C} 160.2, 159.5, 145.7, 133.2, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.1, 126.9, 114.5, 92.4, 79.4, 55.3, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3\text{S} [\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 302.0845, found 302.0856.

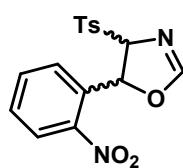
5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-tosyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole ($\mathbf{4b}'$):¹⁴ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:1); yield: 87% (144 mg); white solid, mp 156–157 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.90

(d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.99 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.02 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 160.3, 159.6, 145.7, 133.3, 130.0, 129.96, 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 127.0, 126.9, 114.6, 114.1, 92.5, 79.5, 55.5, 21.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$ [$\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$: 332.0951, found 332.0958.



5-Heptyl-4-tosyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole (4c'): ¹⁵ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1); yield: 92% (148 mg); white solid, mp 125–127 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.81 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 5.03 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.63–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.18 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 159.6, 145.5, 133.1, 129.8, 129.5, 89.7, 79.1, 35.0, 31.6, 29.0, 24.3, 22.5, 21.7, 14.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_3\text{SNa}$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 346.1447, found 346.1452.

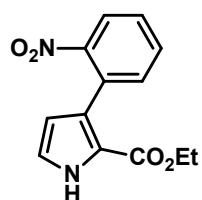
To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added 2-nitrobenzaldehyde **1a** (91 mg, 0.6 mmol), TosMIC **2** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), CuI (95 mg, 0.5 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL) and K_2CO_3 (138 mg, 1.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for about 10 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1) afforded **4a** as yellow solid in 84% yield (154 mg).



5-(2-Nitrophenyl)-4-tosyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole (4a): ¹⁶ Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1); yield: 84% (145 mg); yellow solid, mp 187–188 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ_{H} 7.91 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.49 (m, 4H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.37–5.27 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ_{C} 159.0, 148.1, 145.9, 133.4, 132.8, 130.7, 130.4, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 125.2, 91.7, 76.9, 21.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{SNa}$ [$\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$: 369.0516, found 369.0531.

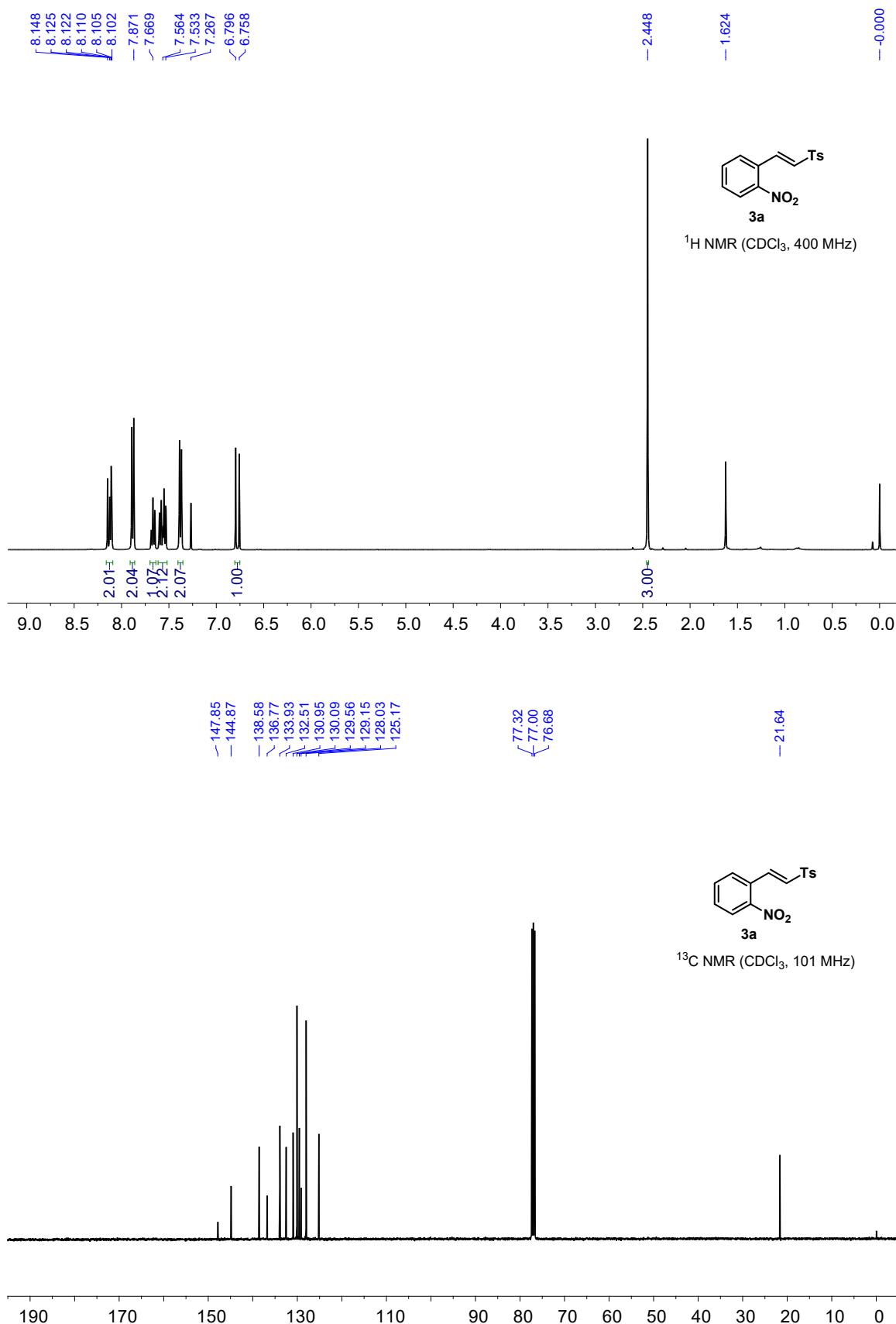
VI. Synthesis and analytical data of pyrrole 5

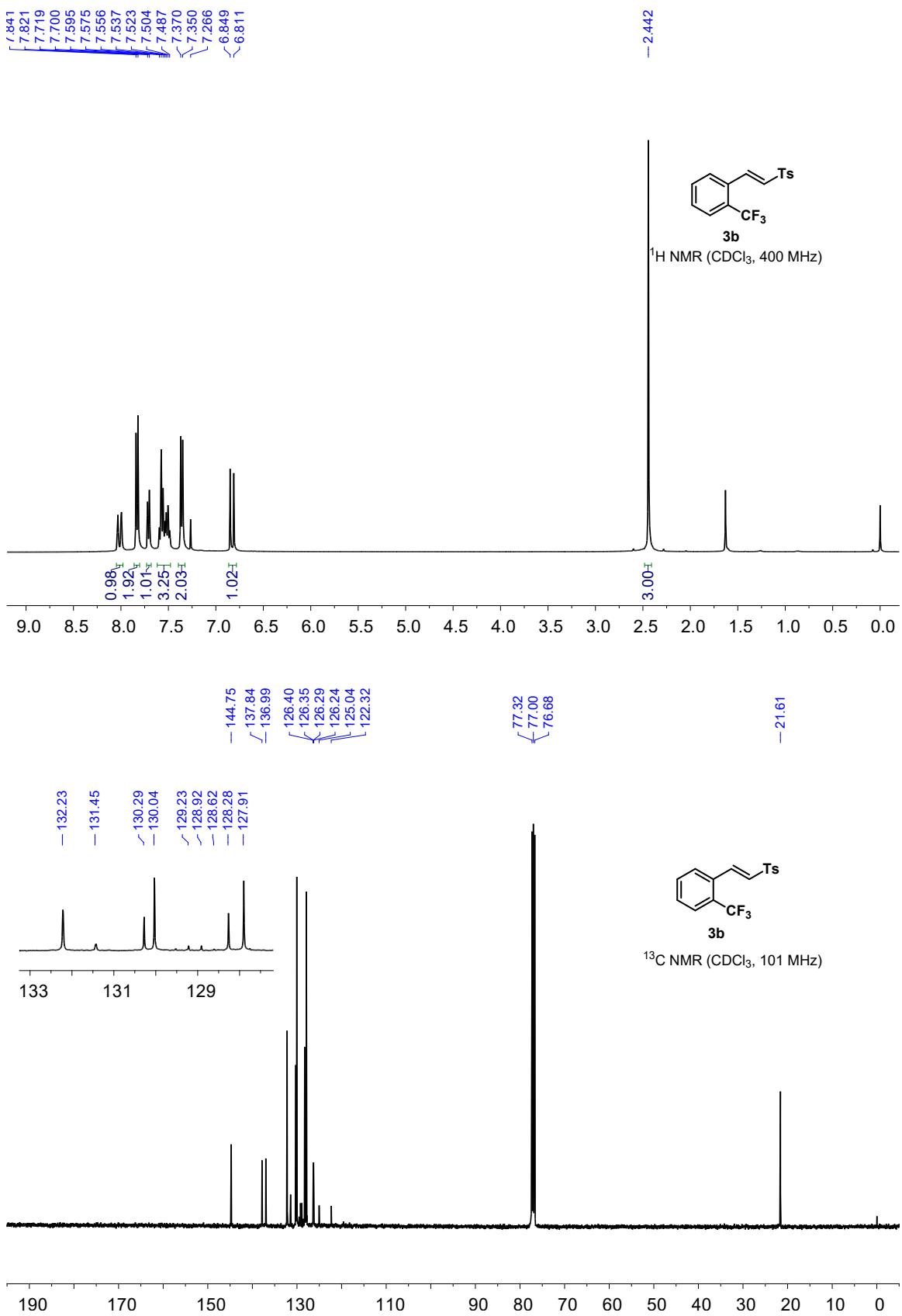
To a 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added **3a** (1.2 g, 3.96 mmol), ethyl isocyanate (5.94 mmol, 0.65 mL), 1,4-dioxane (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for about 6 h. The resulting mixture was concentrated and the residue was taken up in CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product by column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:2) afforded **5a** as yellow solid in 83% yield (0.86 g).



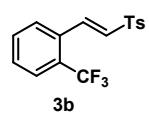
Ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (5): Column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1); yield: 82% (107 mg); yellow solid, mp 141–142 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ_H 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ_C 160.9, 149.1, 131.8, 131.2, 128.7, 127.3, 123.8, 123.6, 121.4, 120.9, 114.4, 60.7, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF, *m/z*): Calcd for C₁₃H₁₂N₂NaO₄ [M + Na]⁺: 283.0689, found 283.0689.

VII. NMR spectra



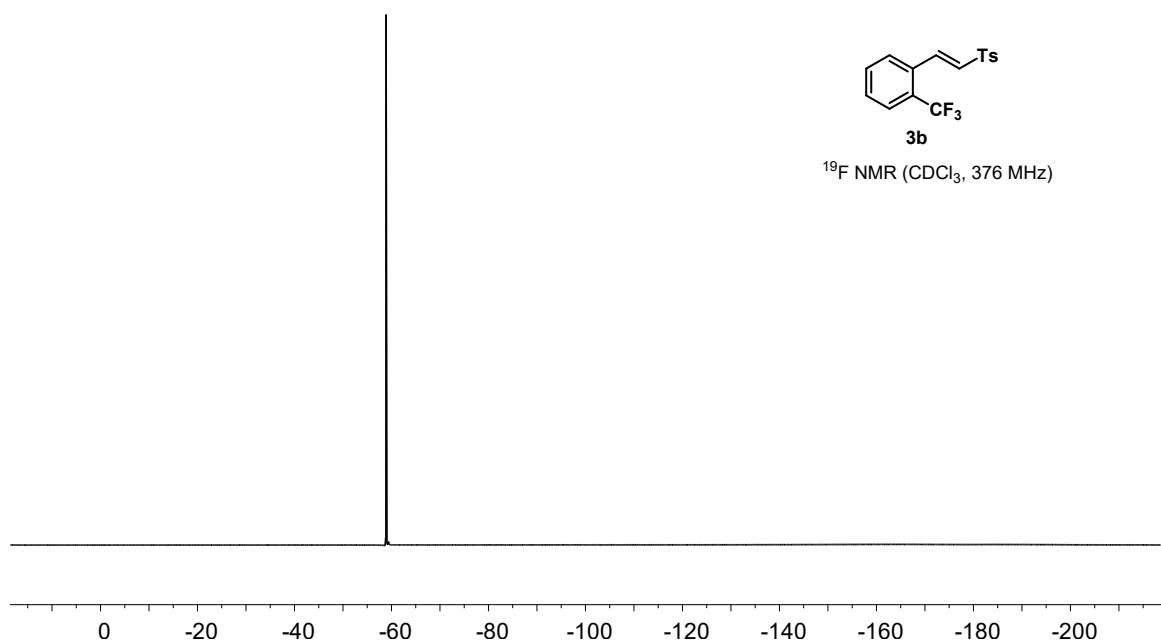


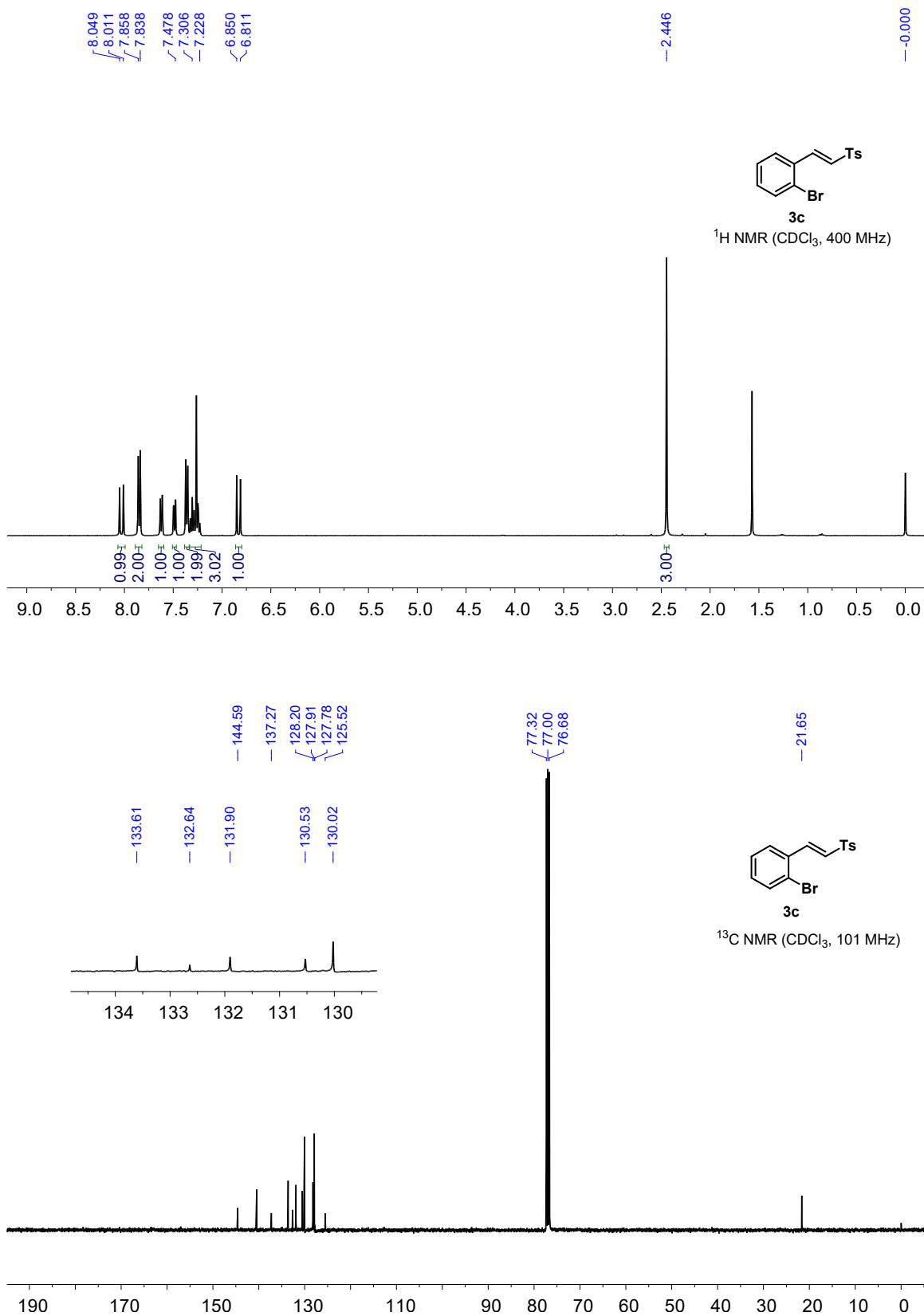
— -58.887



3b

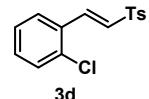
^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz)



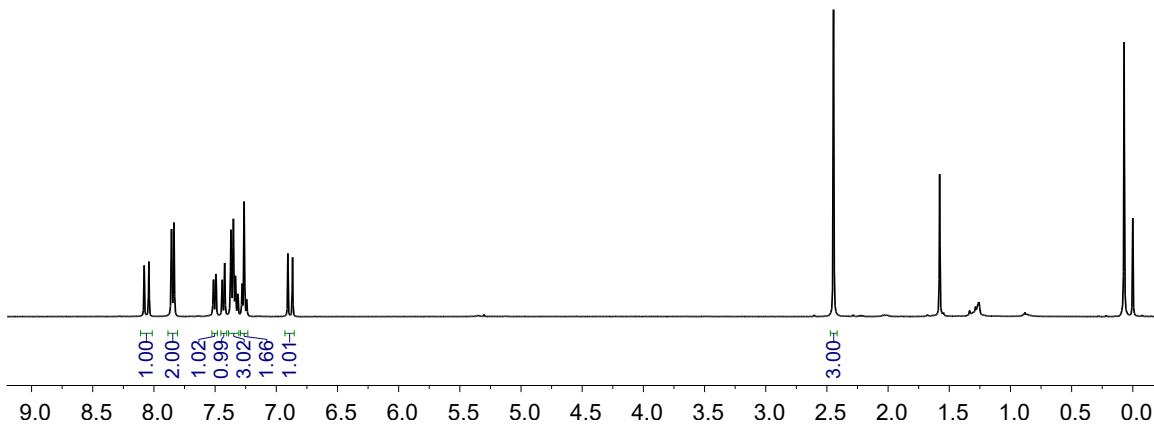


8.080
8.041
7.856
7.836
7.371
7.315
7.242
6.905
6.867

—2.446



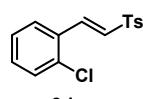
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



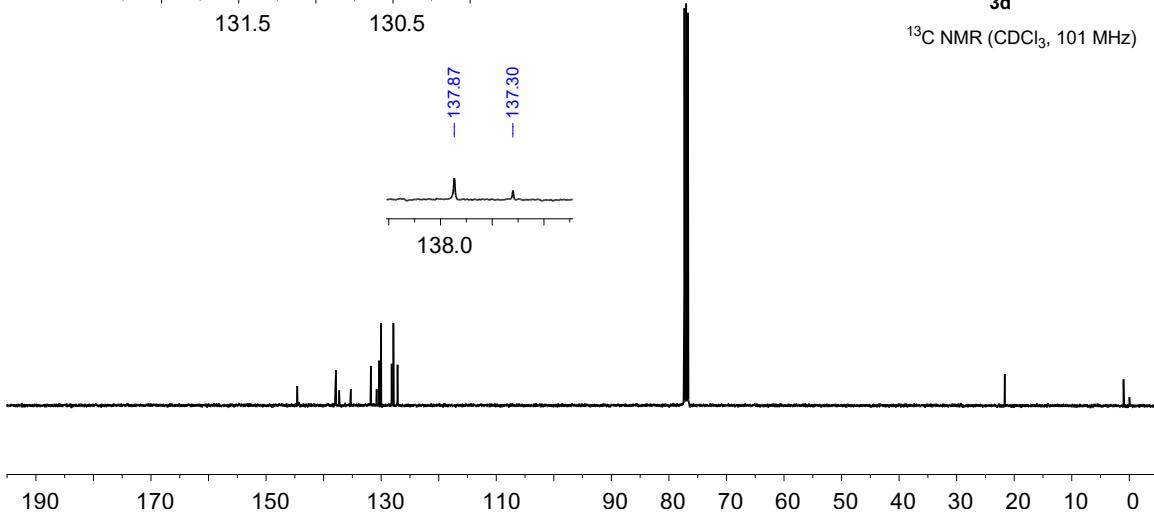
—131.79
—144.58
—130.78
—135.28
—128.18
—127.88
—127.16
—130.37
—130.02

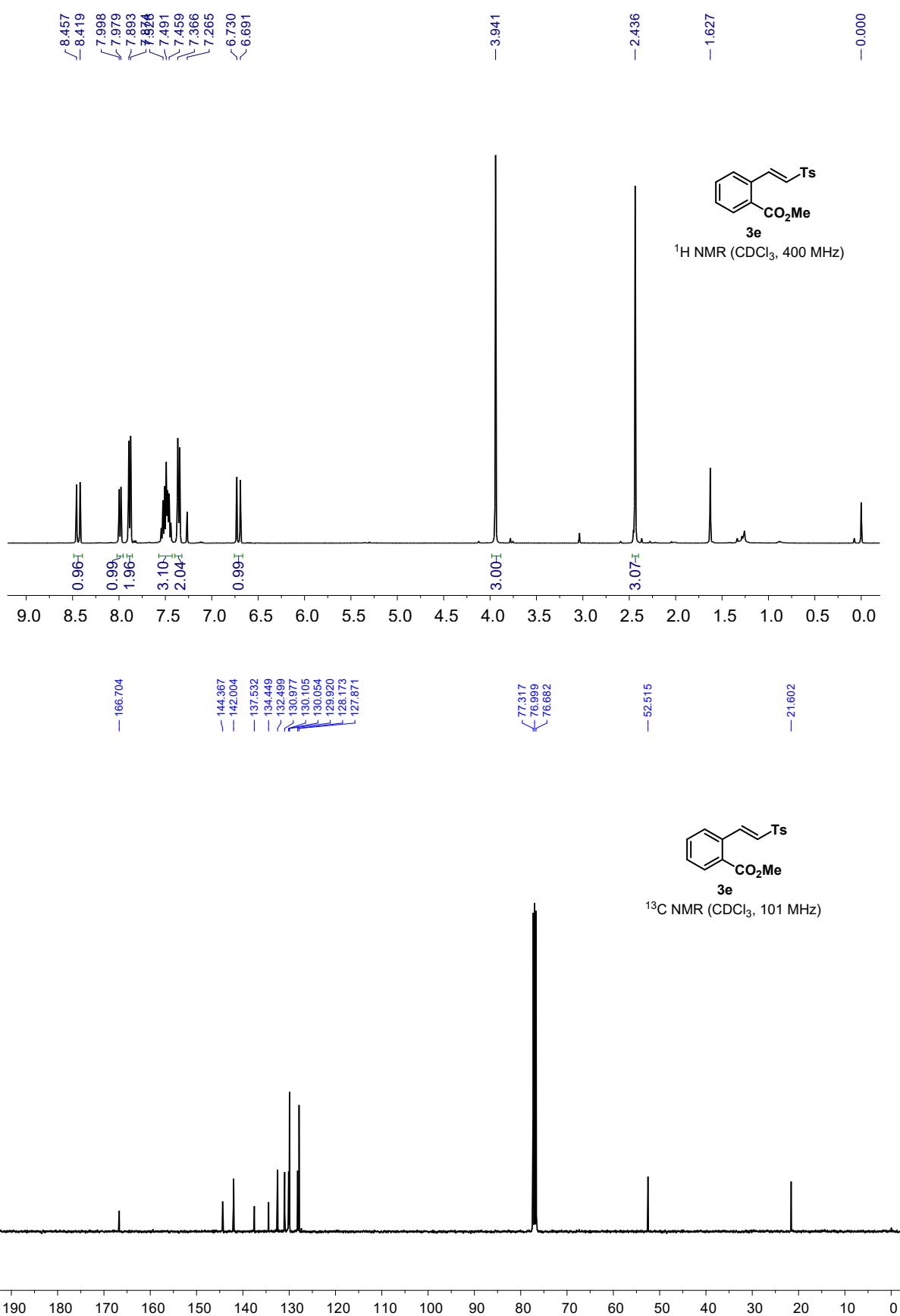
77.32
77.00
76.68

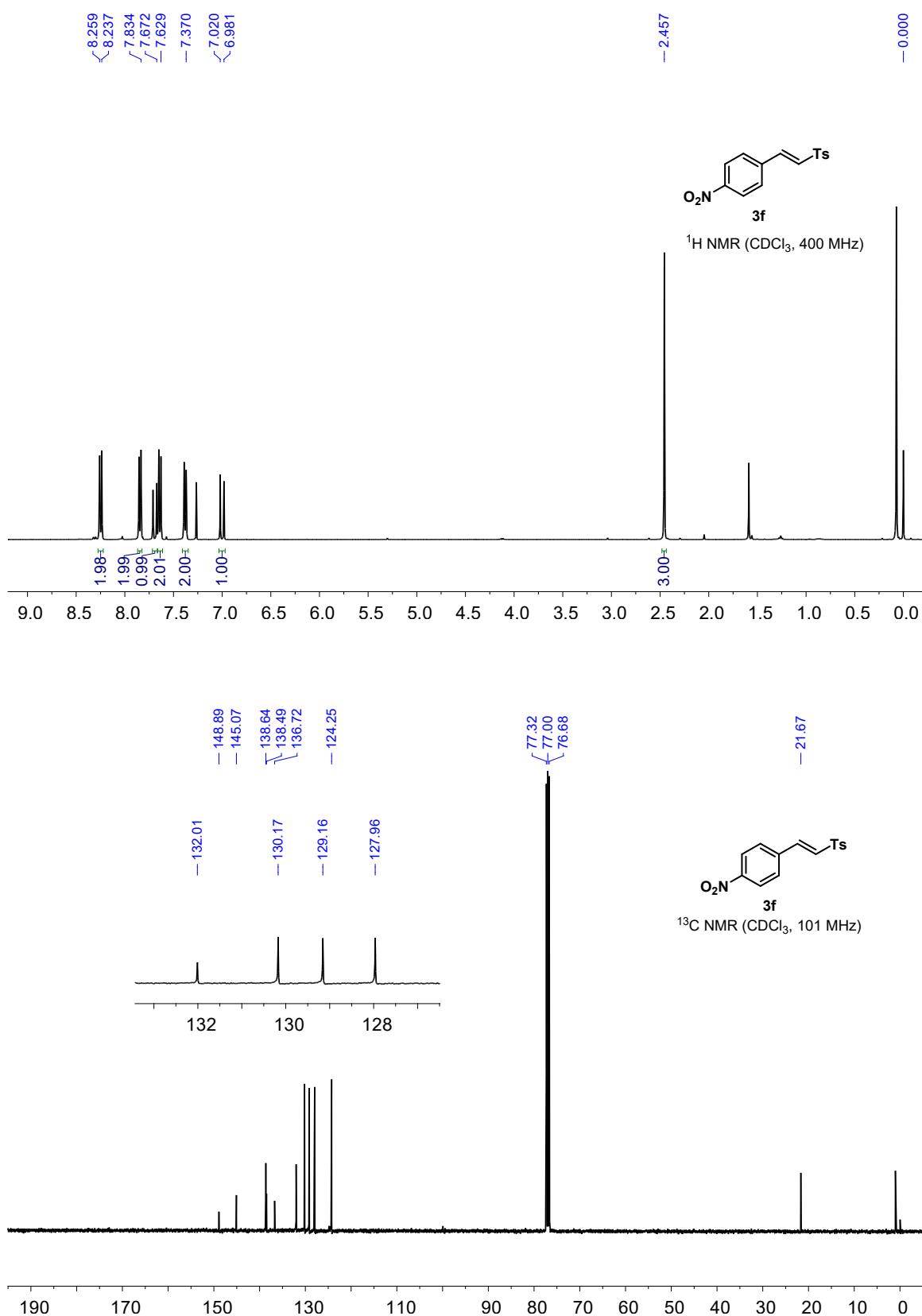
—21.64

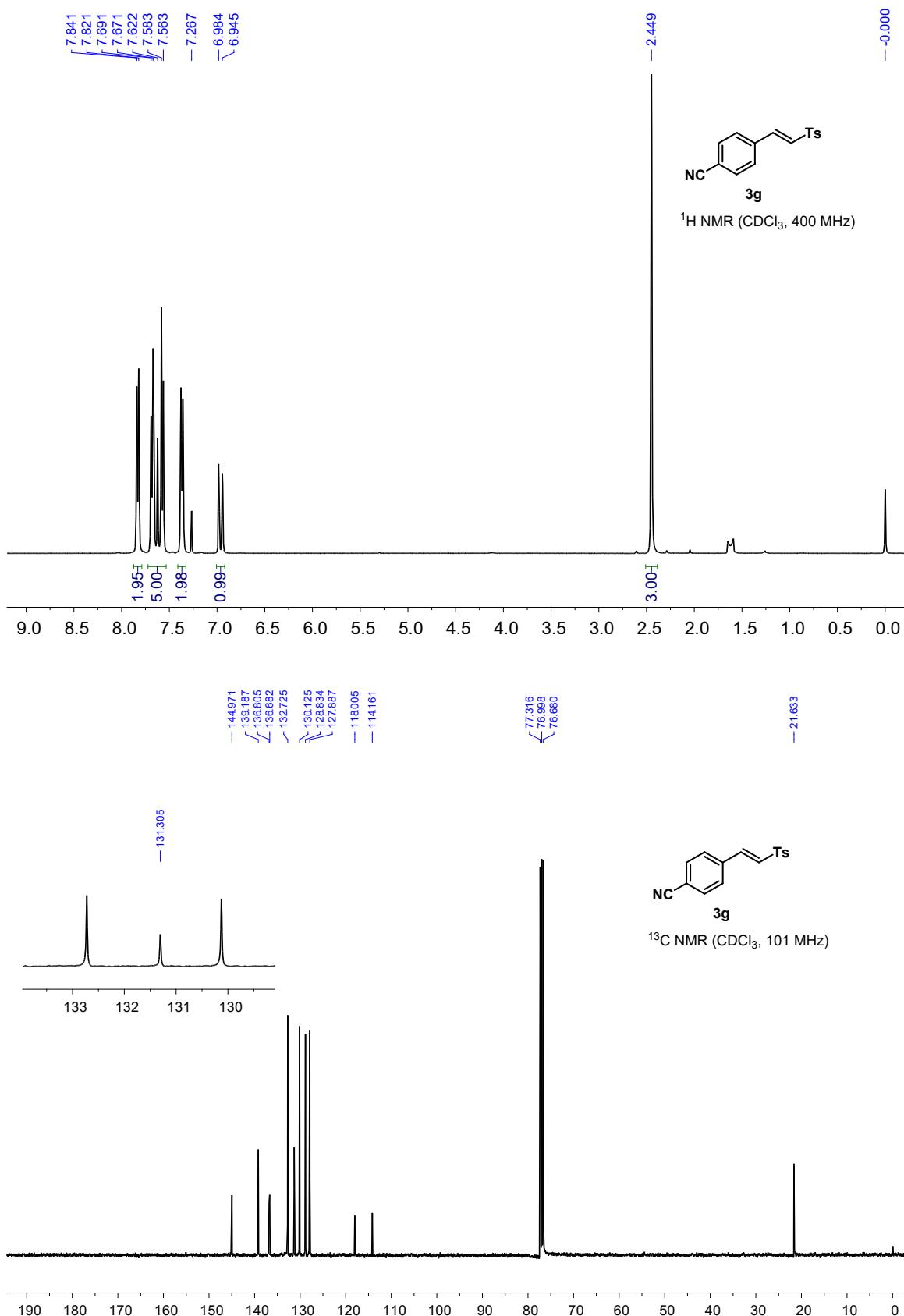


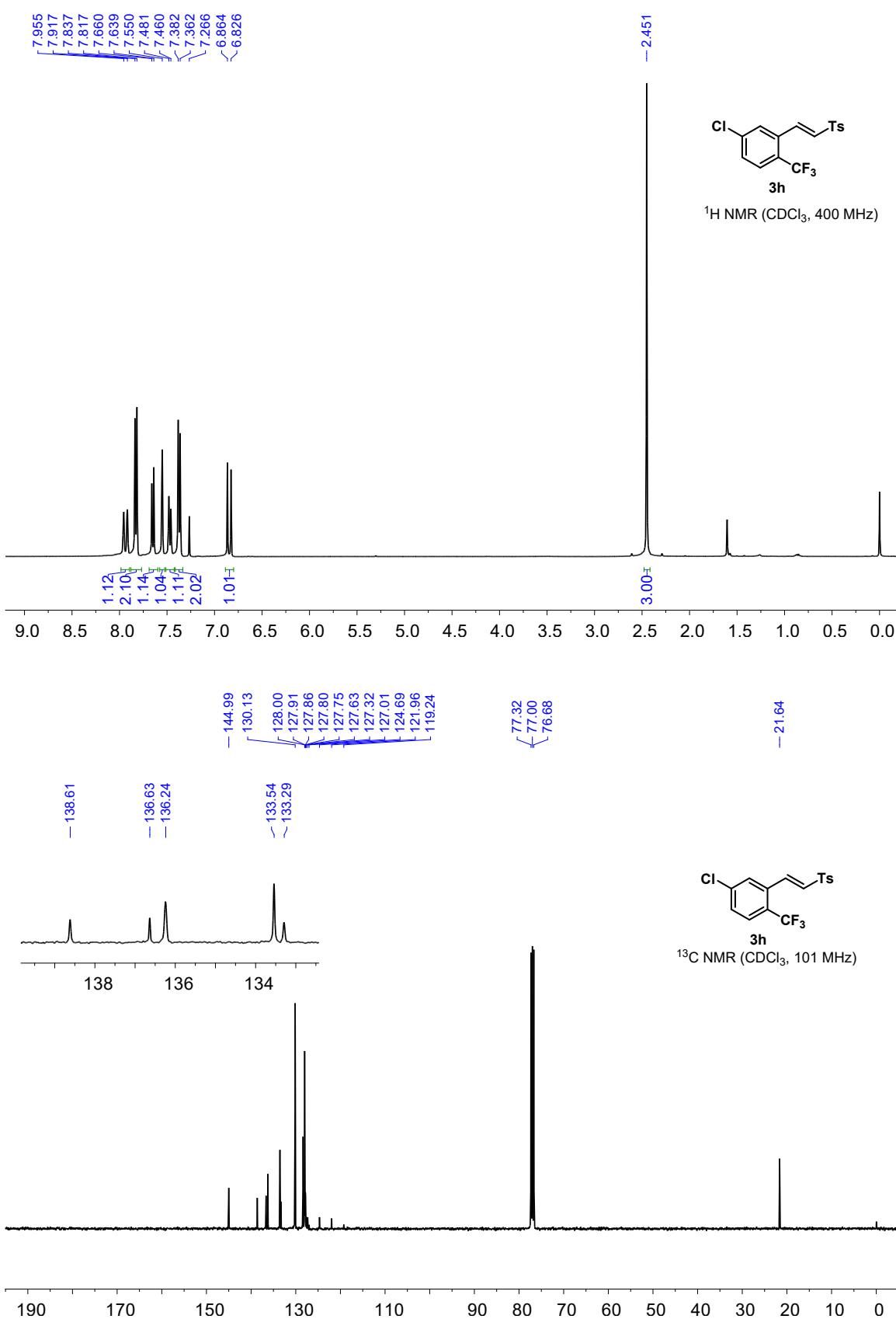
¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz)



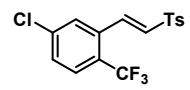




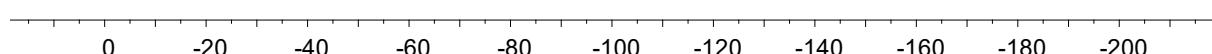


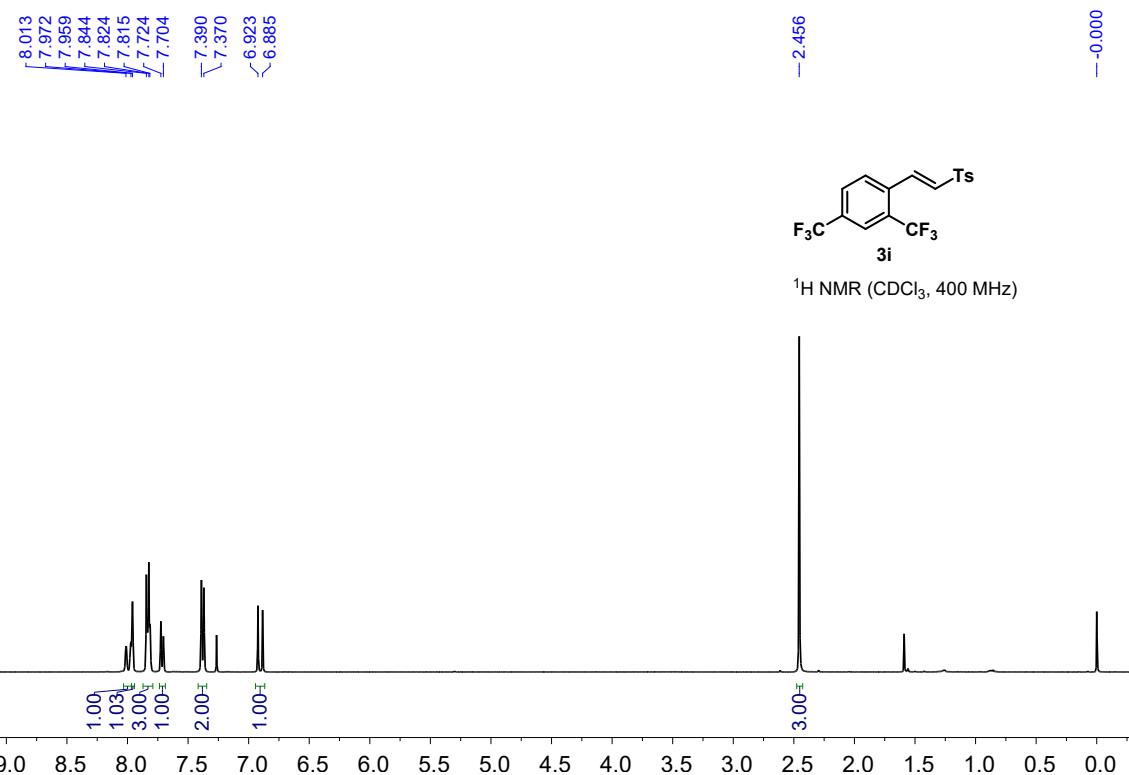


-58.849

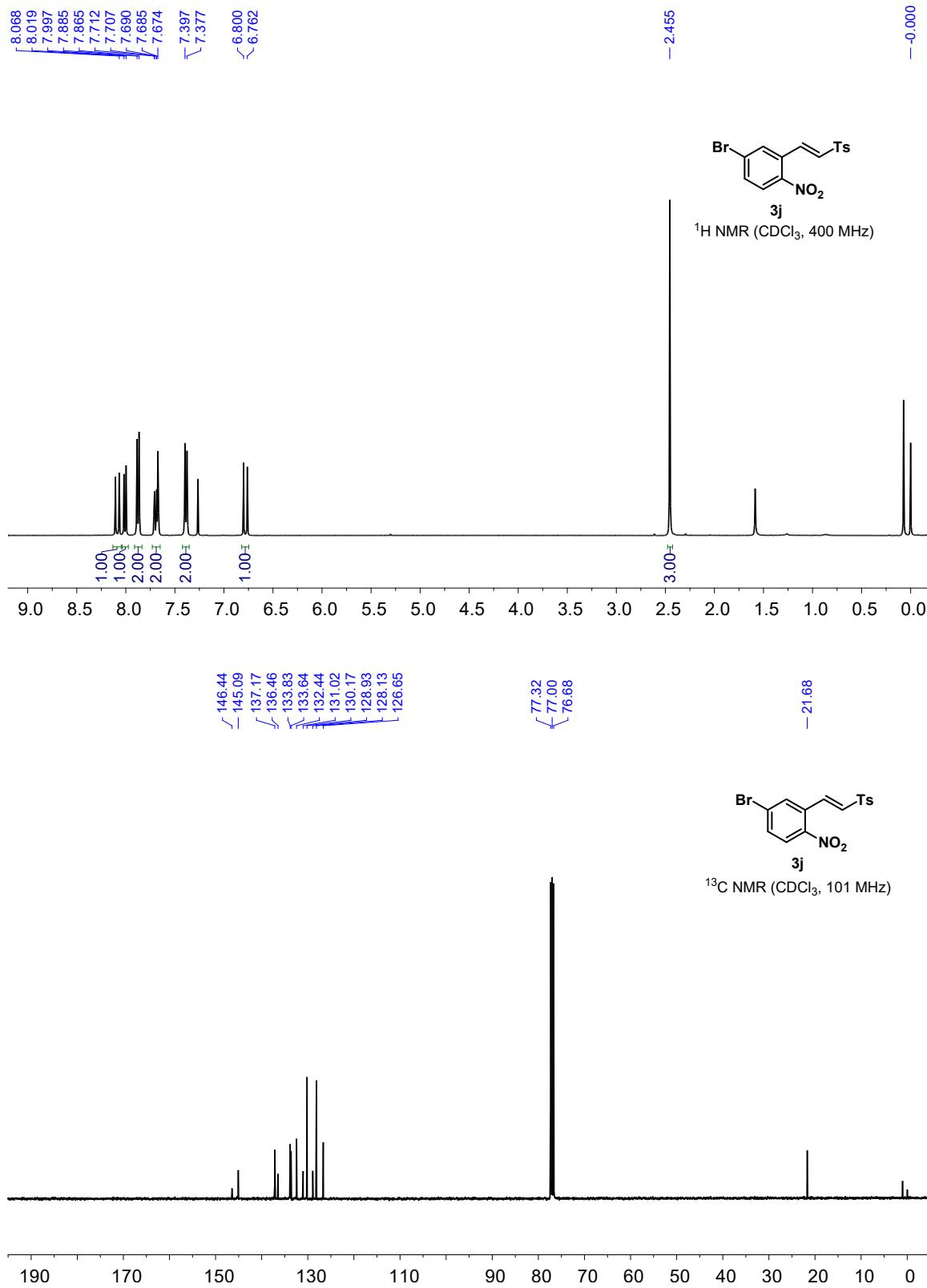


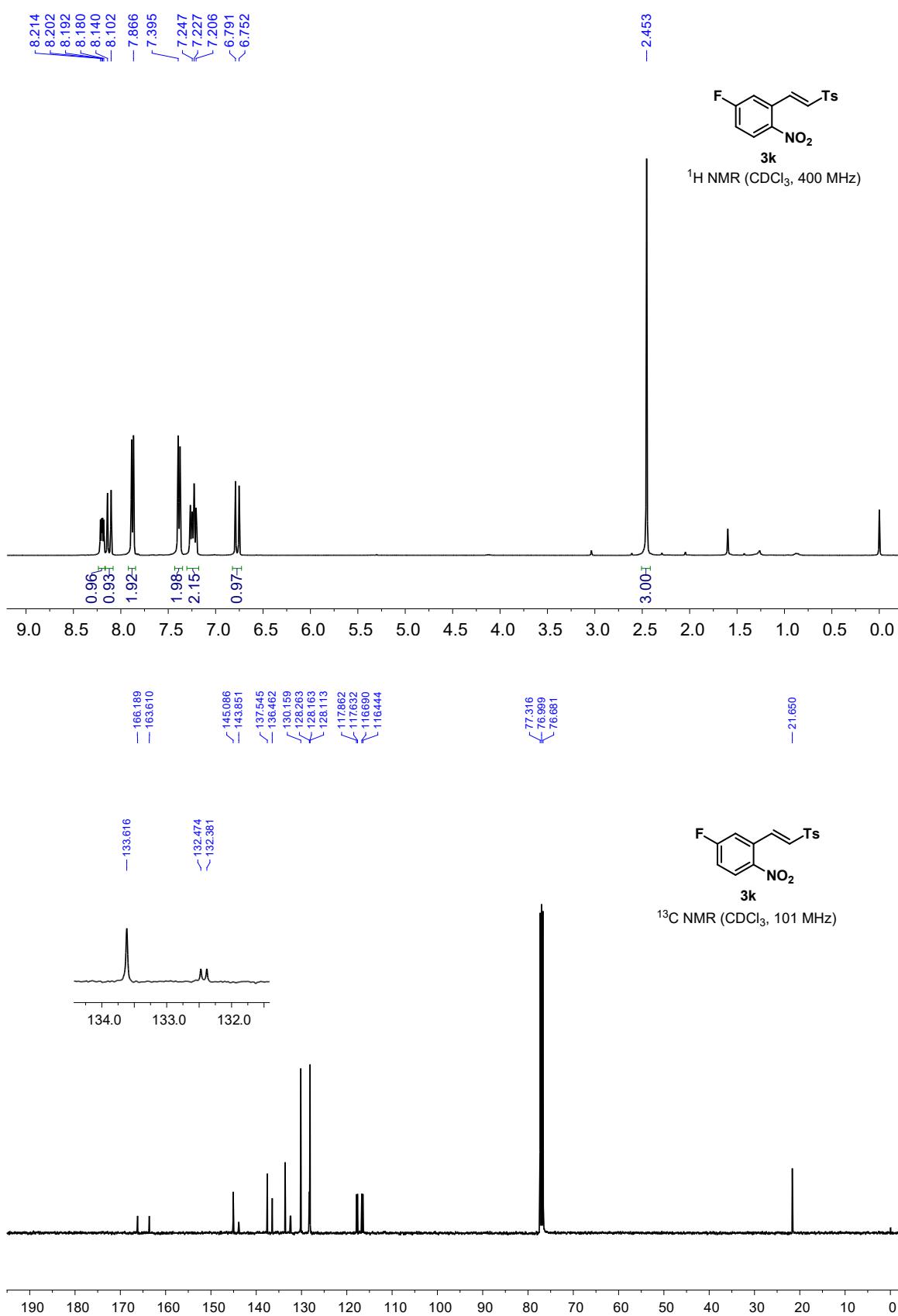
¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz)

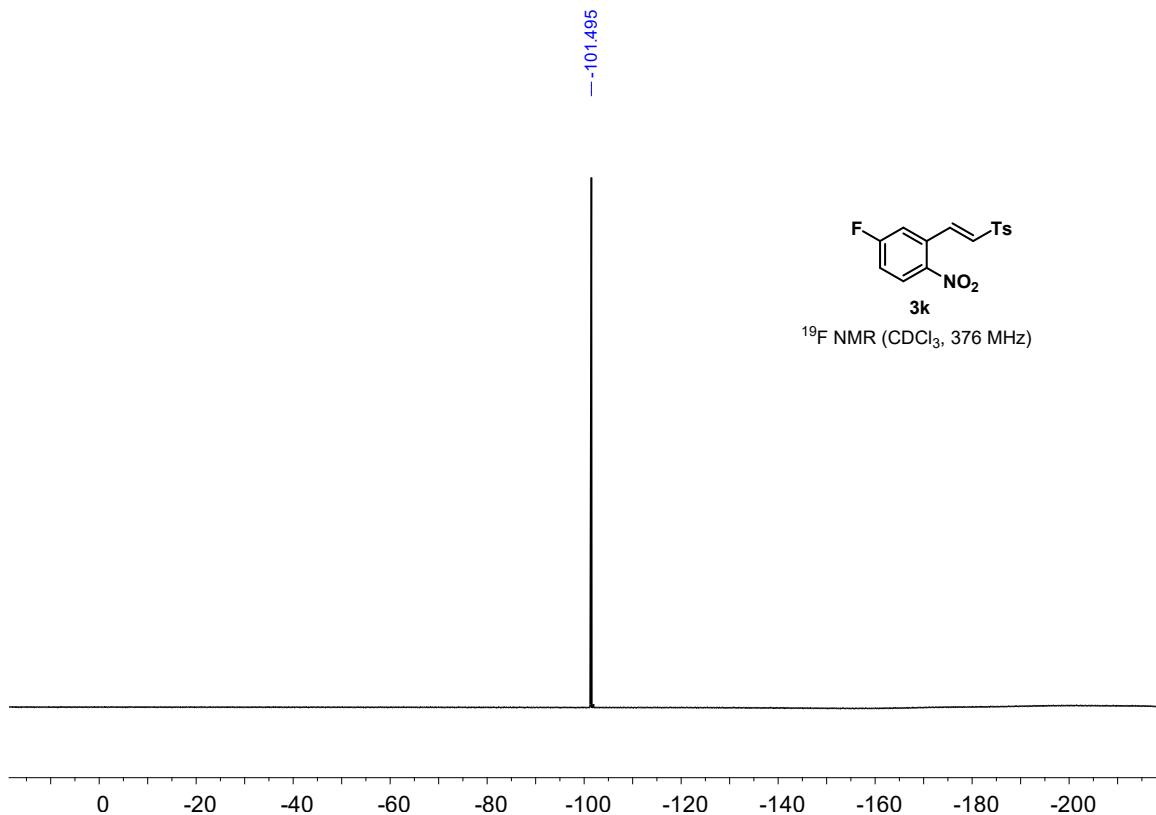


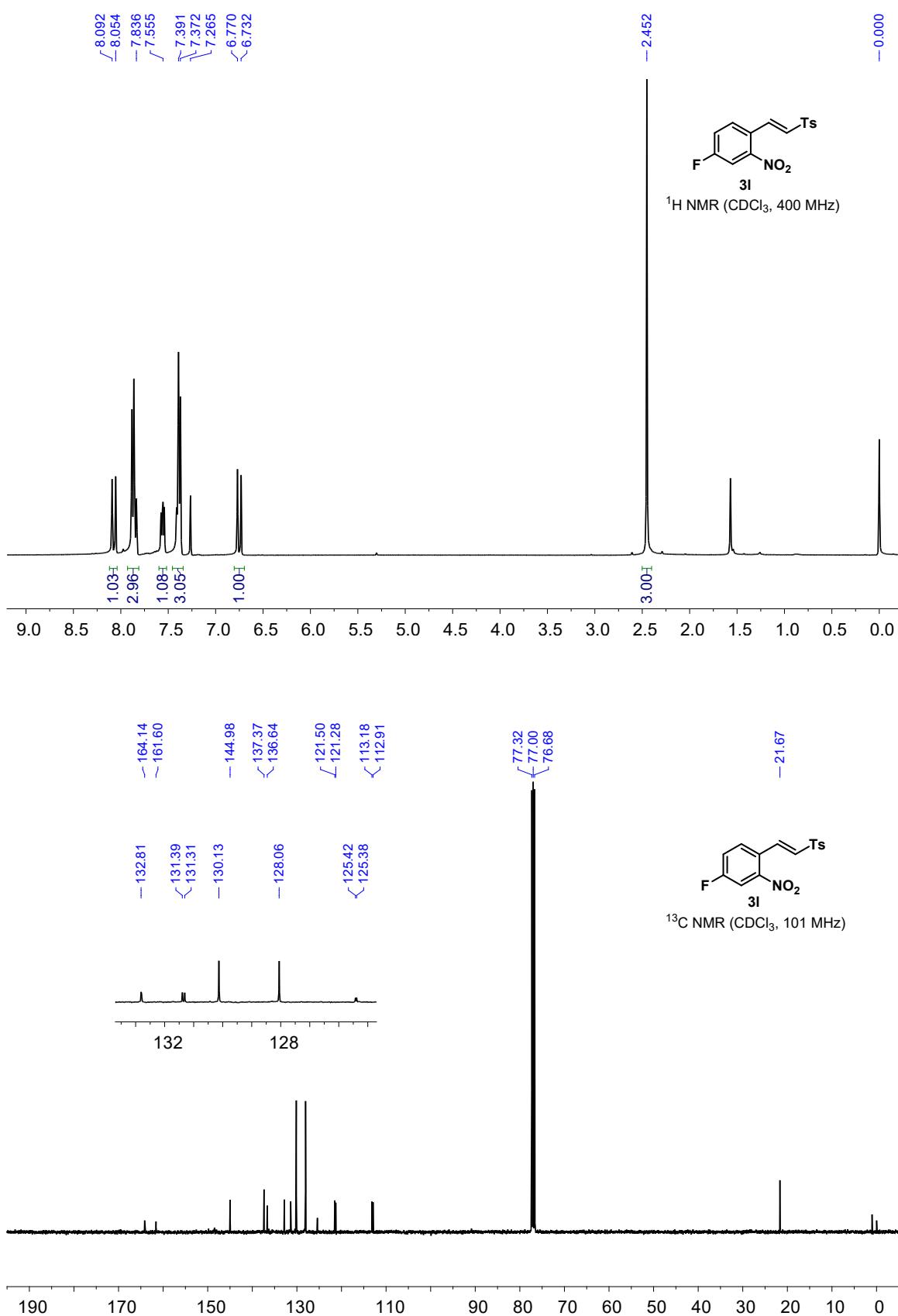




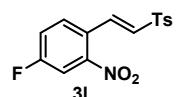




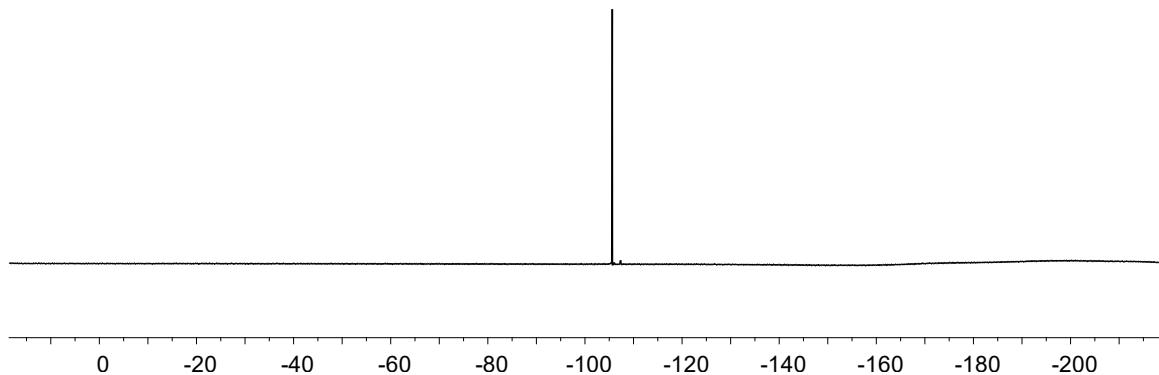


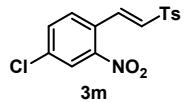
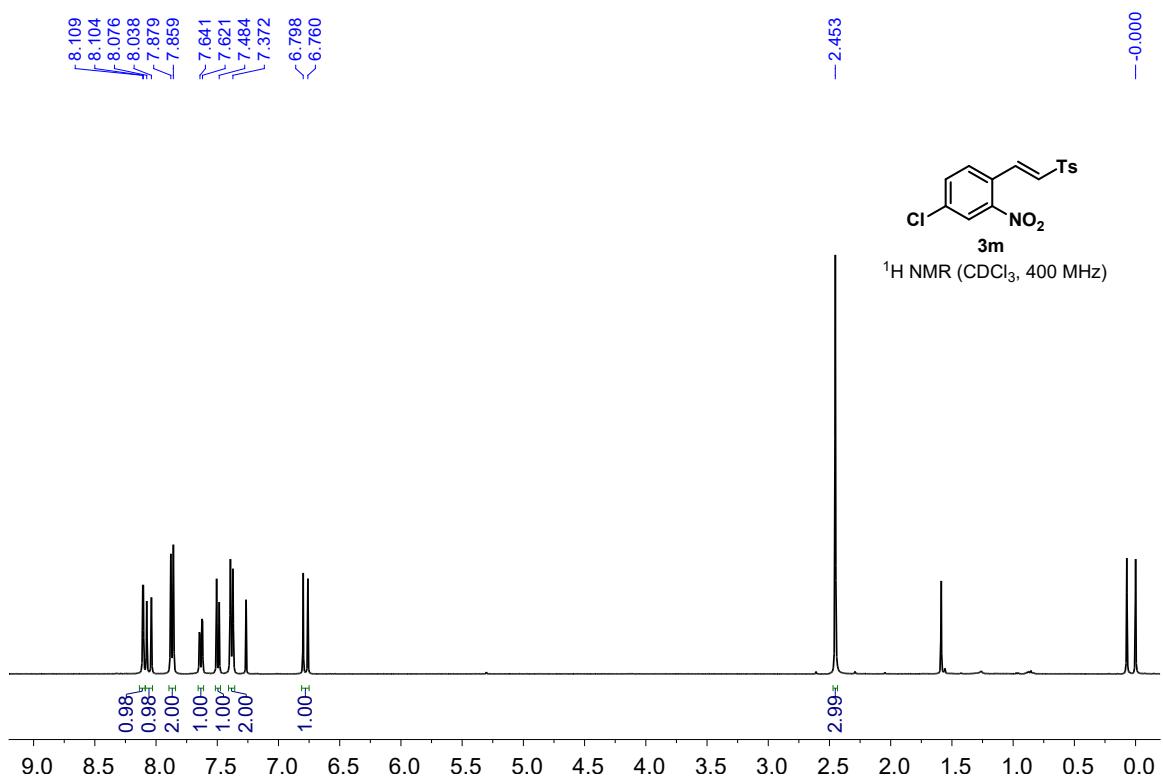


— -105.621

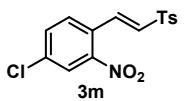
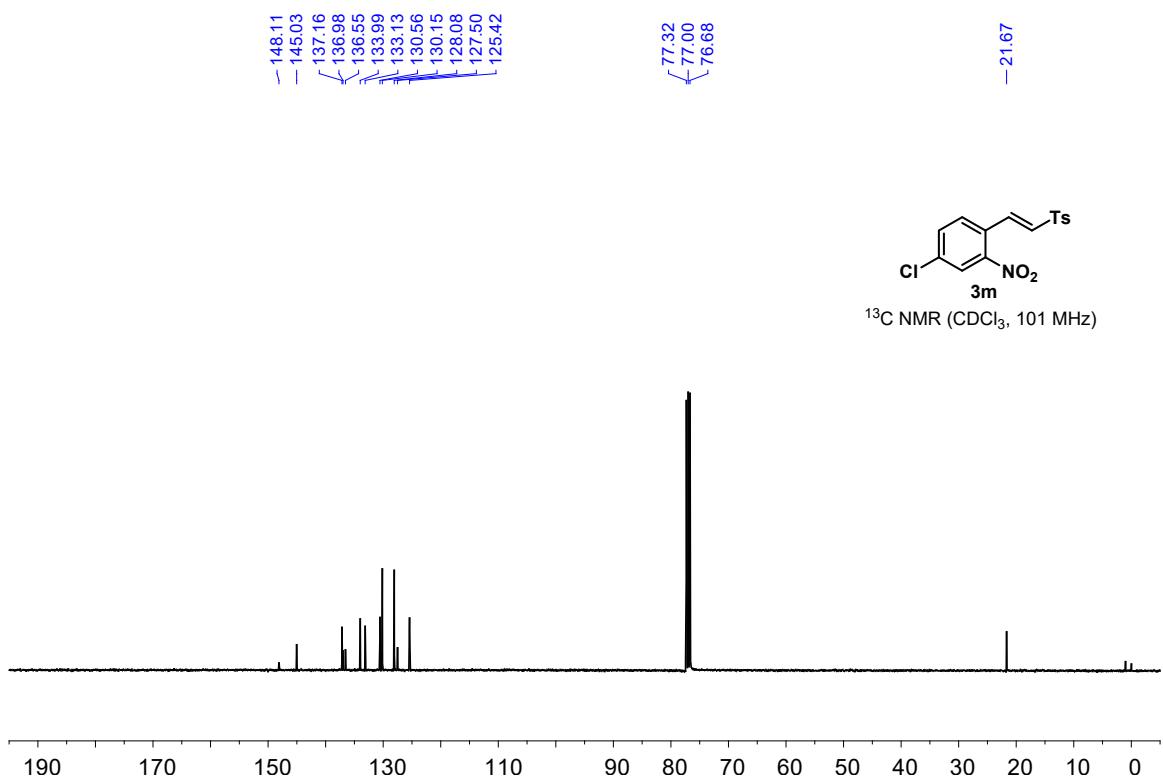


^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz)

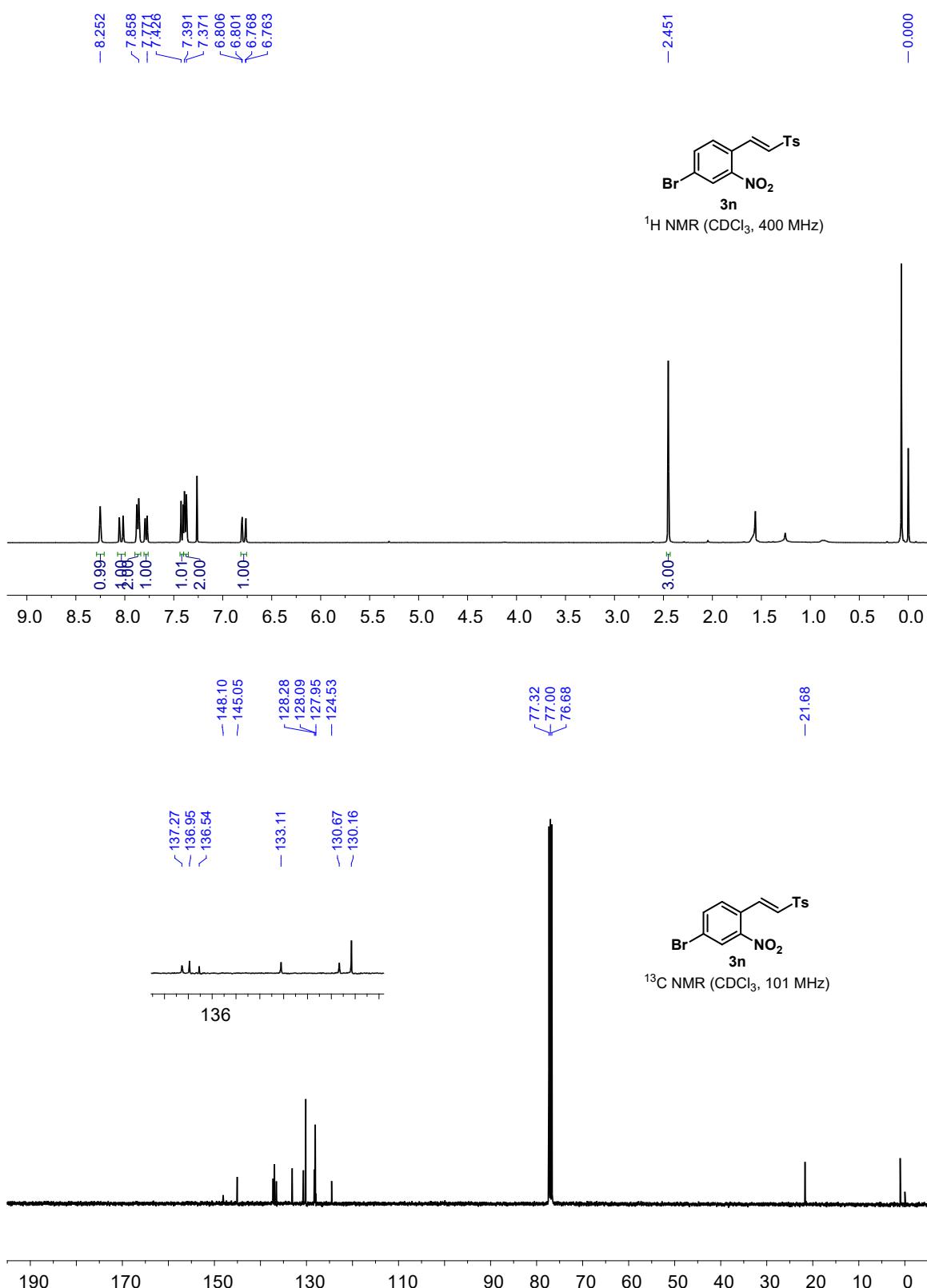


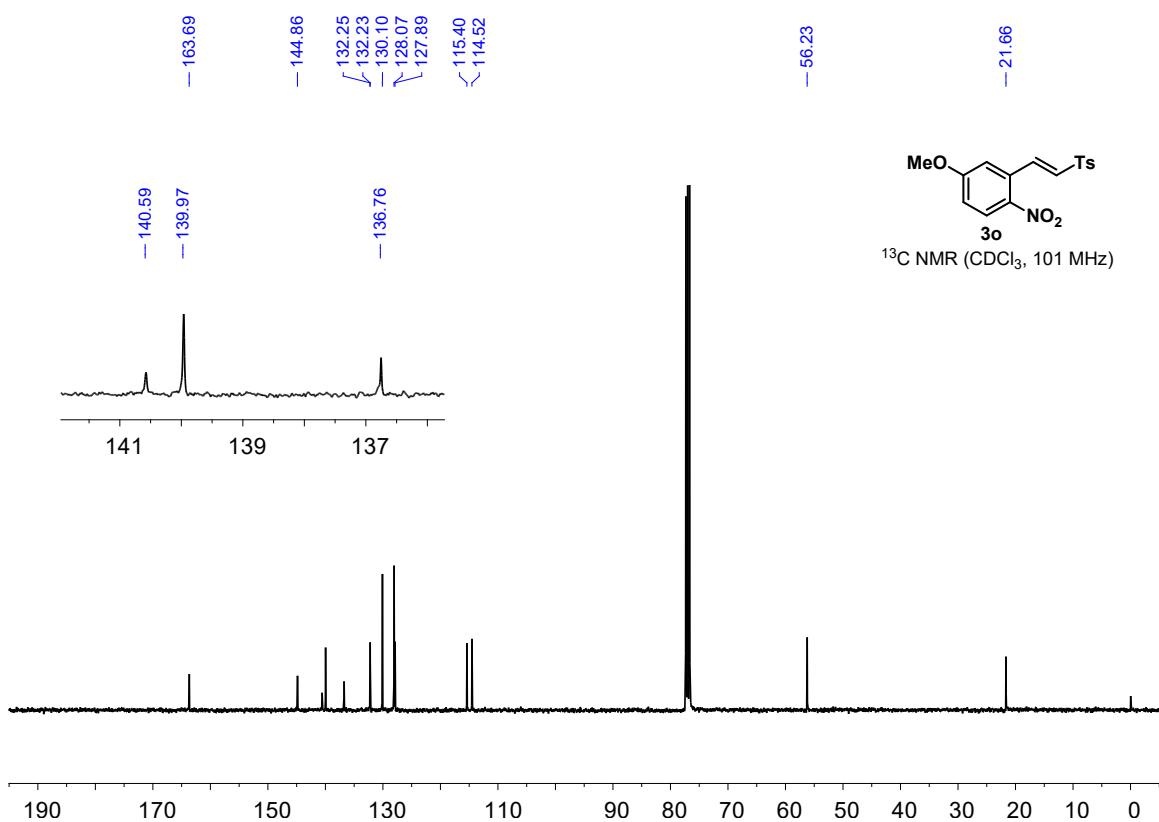
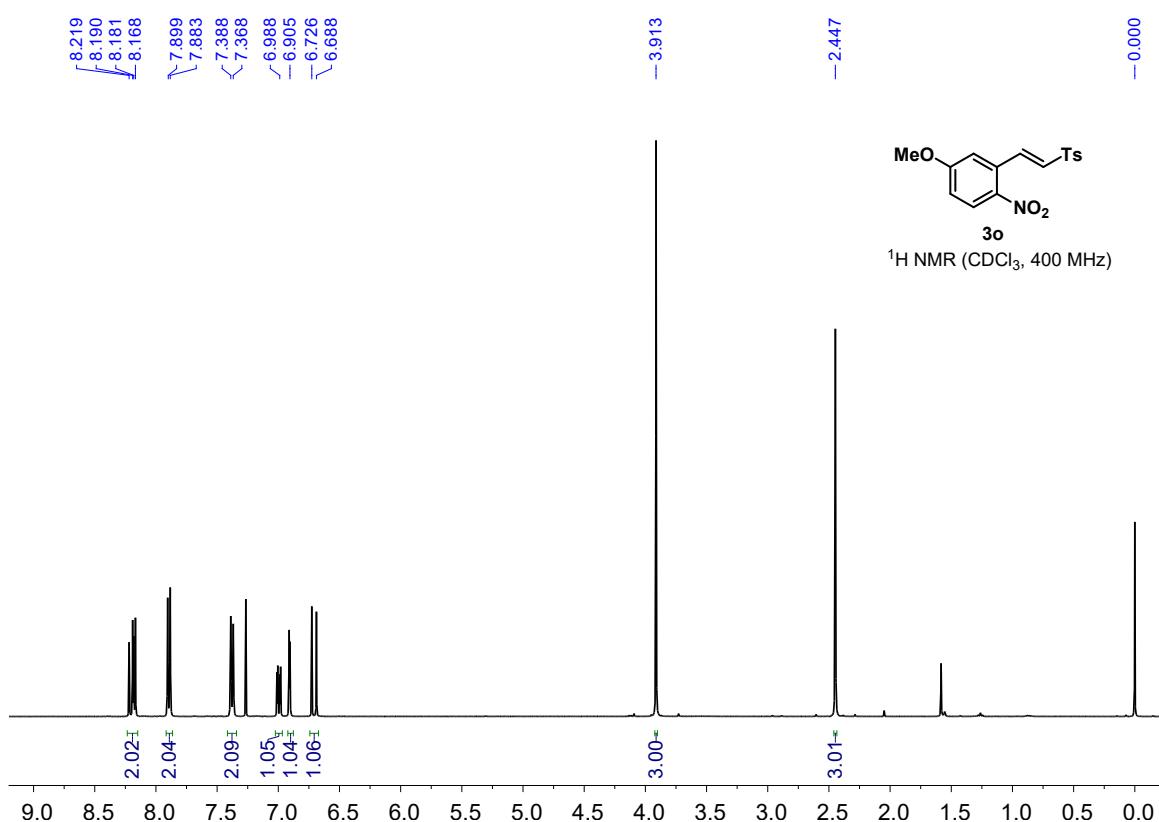


¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



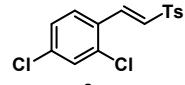
¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz)



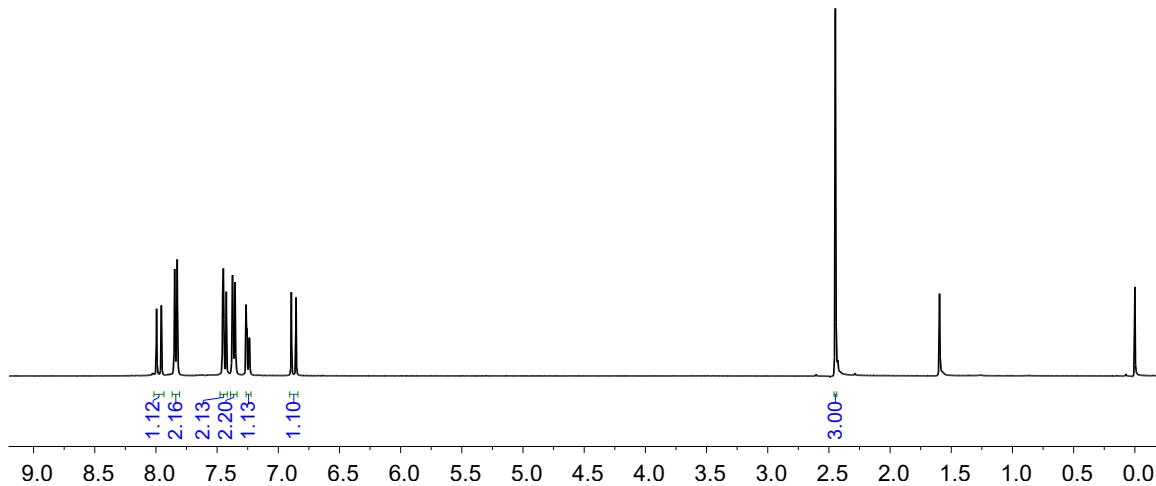


7.995
7.956
7.847
7.826
7.425
7.261
7.235

—2.448



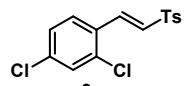
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



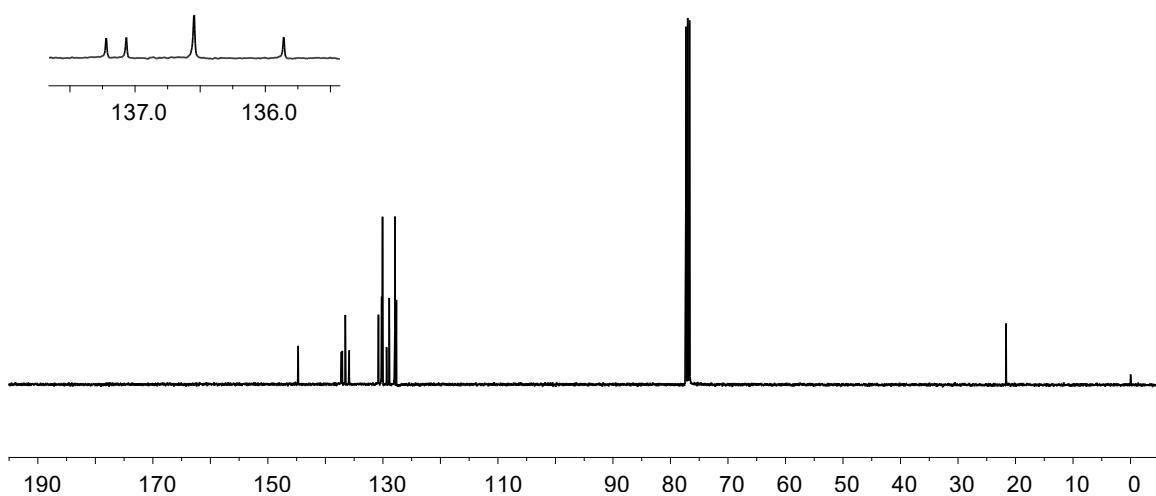
—137.22
—137.07
—136.55
—135.86
—144.74
—130.21
—130.06
—129.36
—128.90
—127.90
—127.66

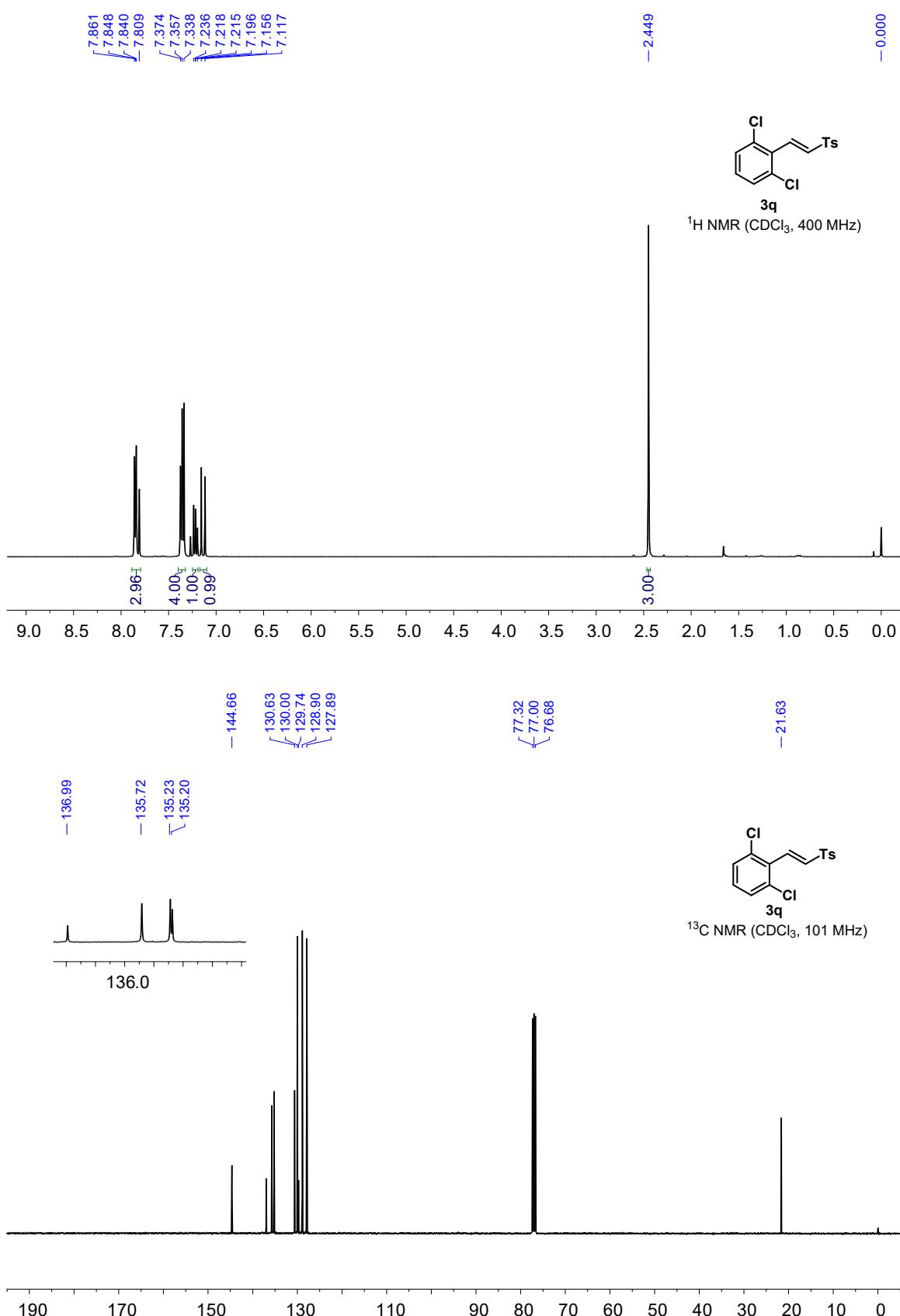
77.32
77.00
76.68

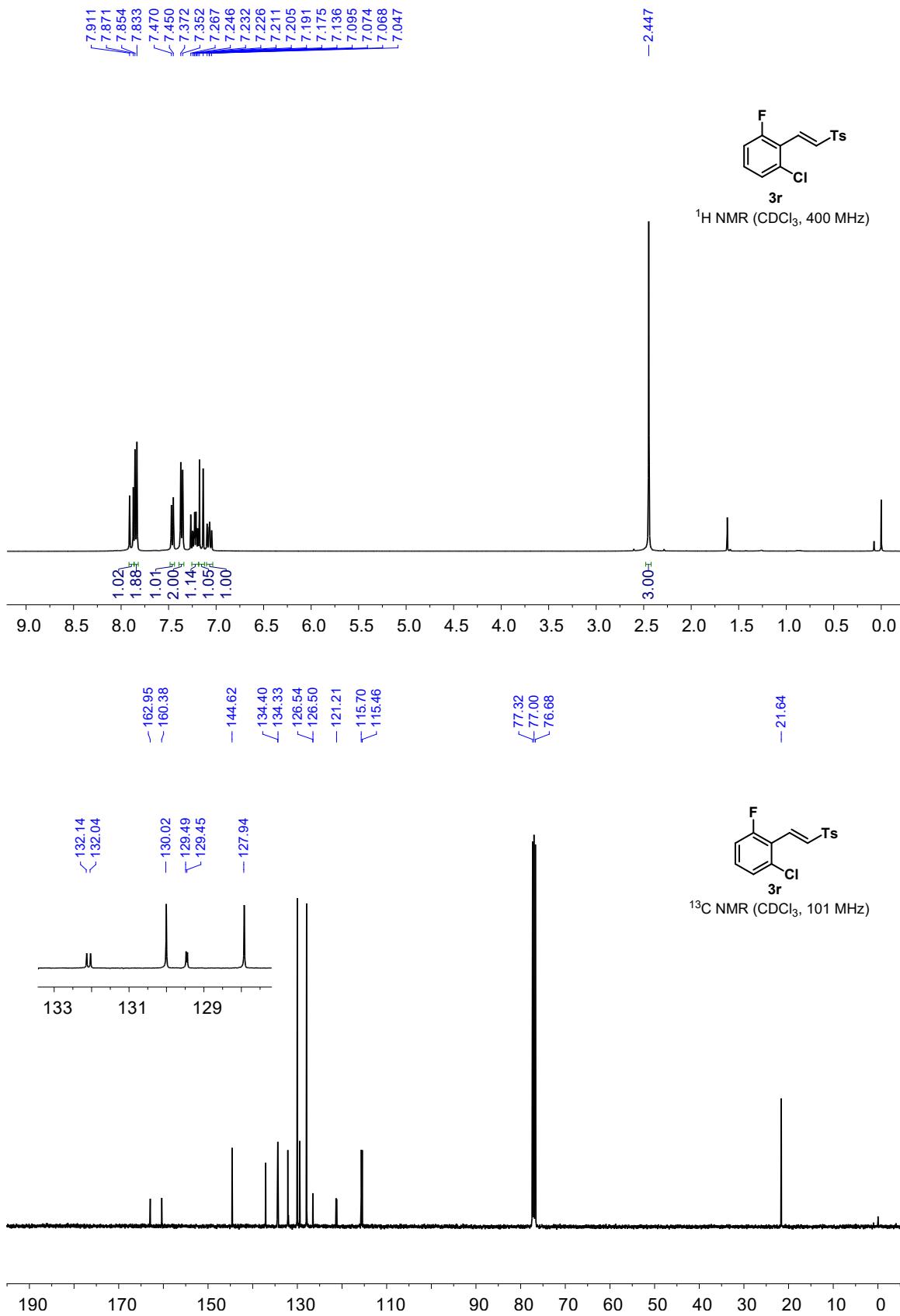
—21.64



¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz)



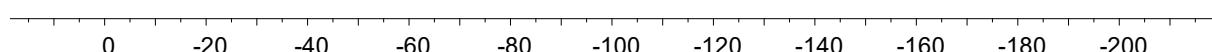


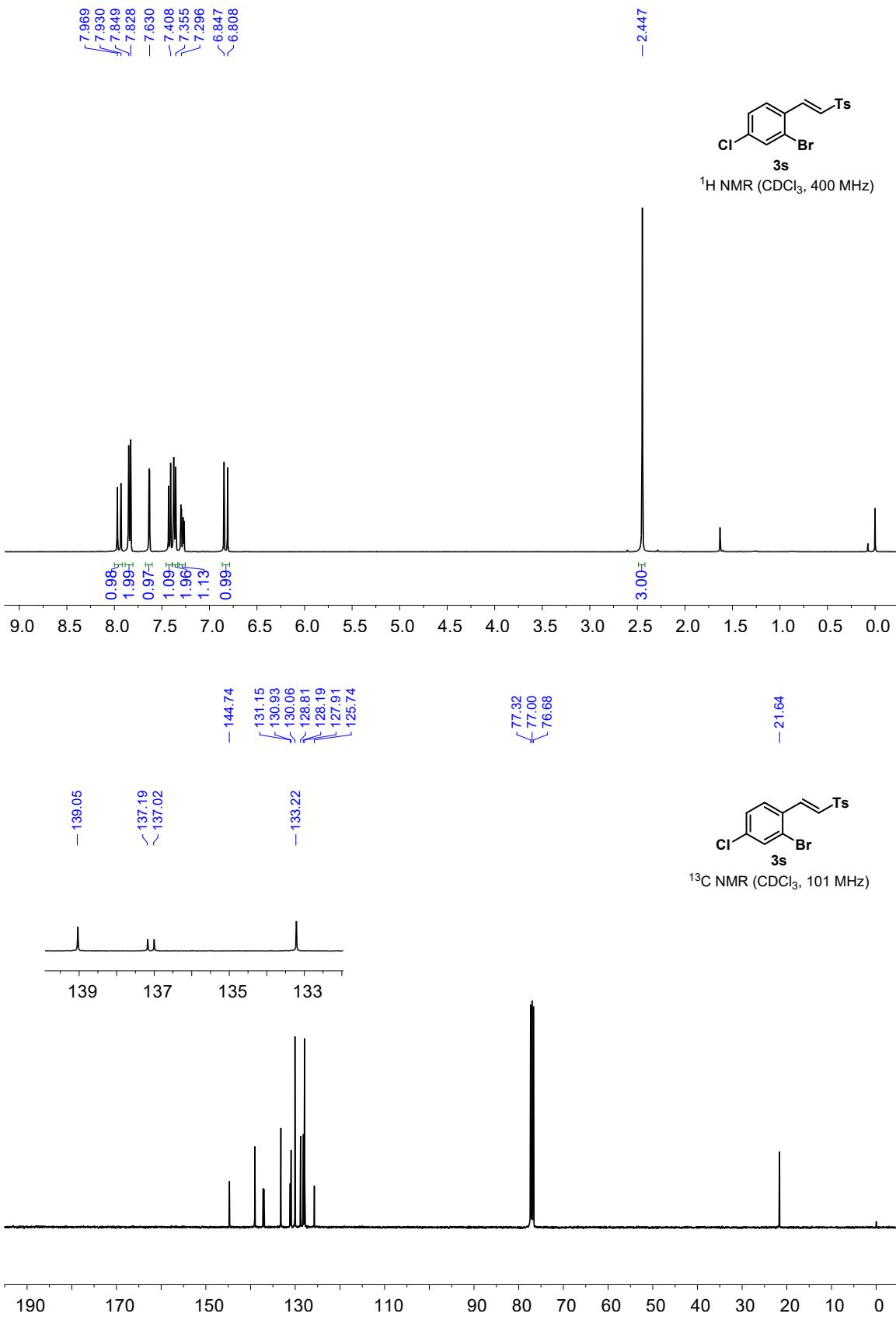


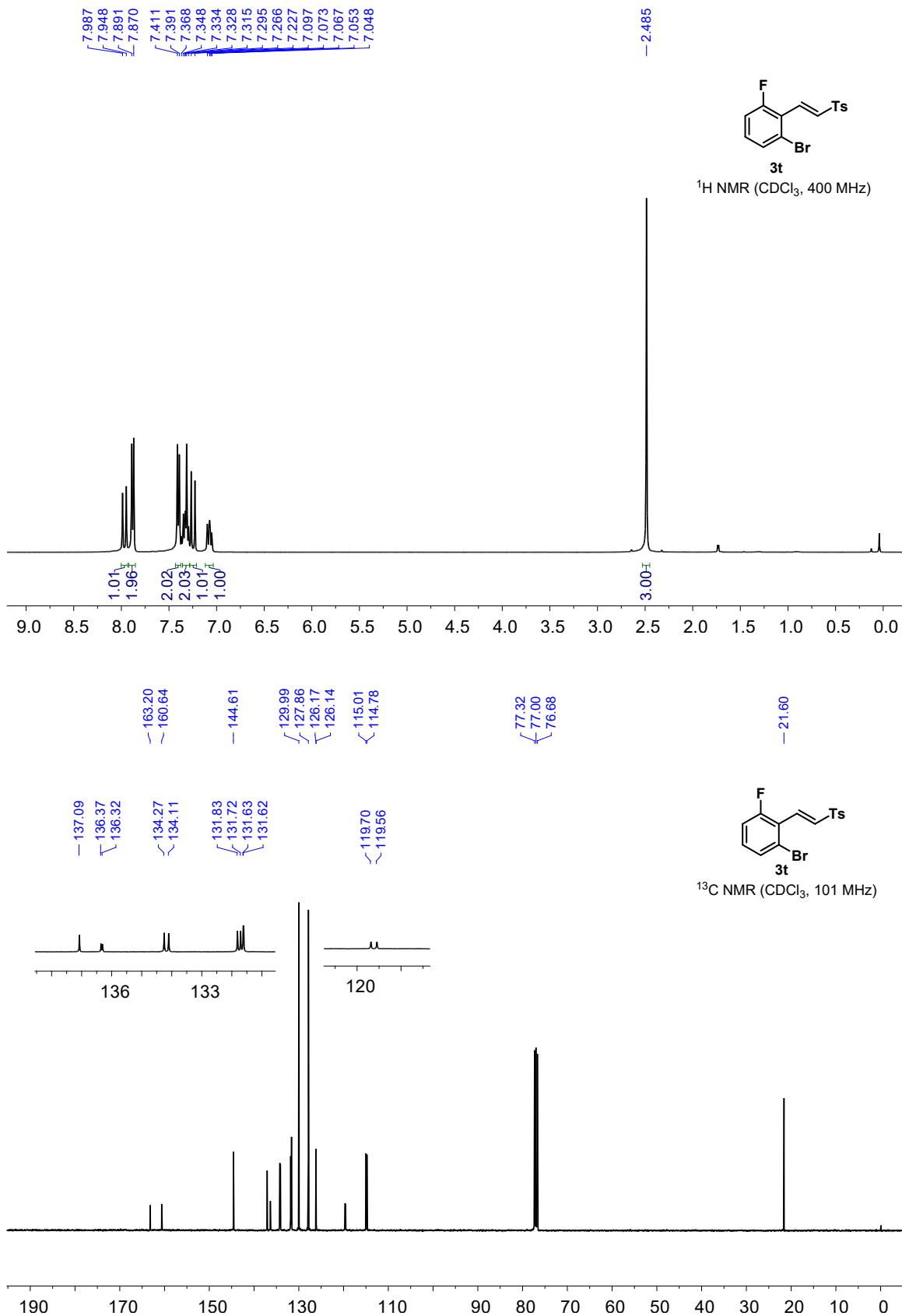
— -106.518

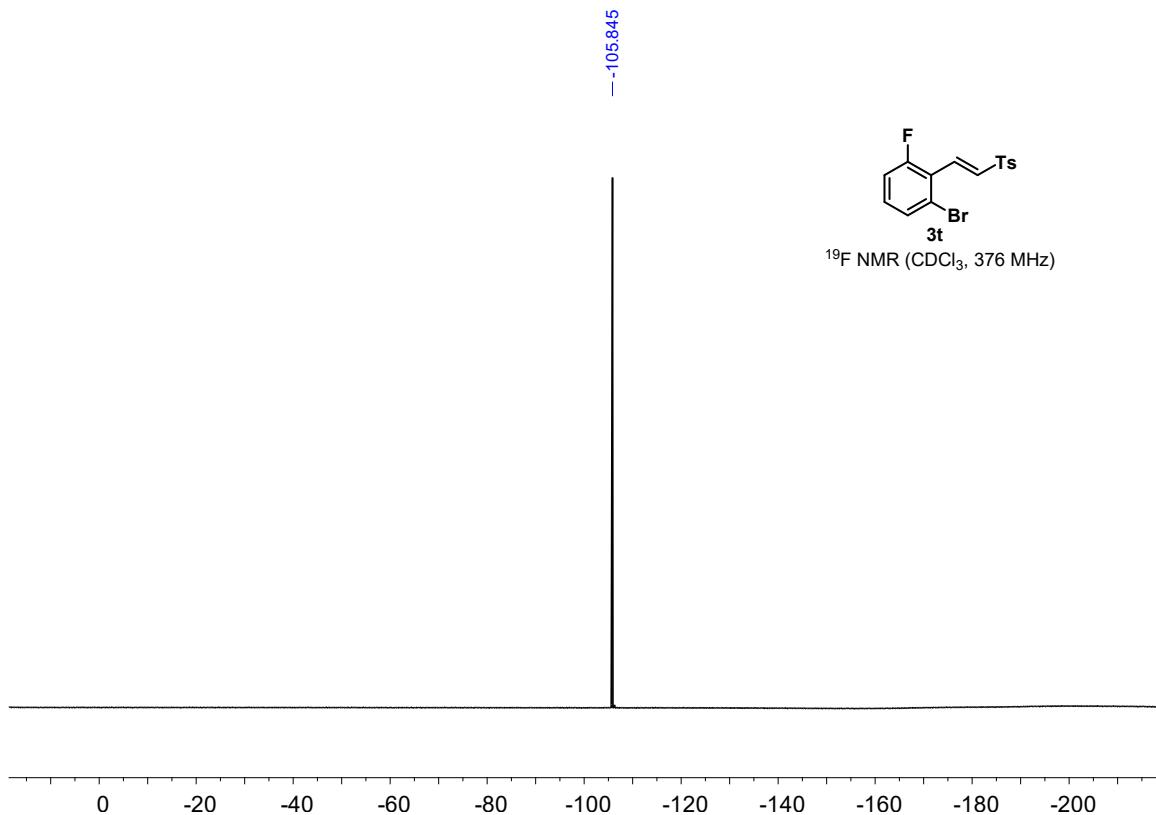


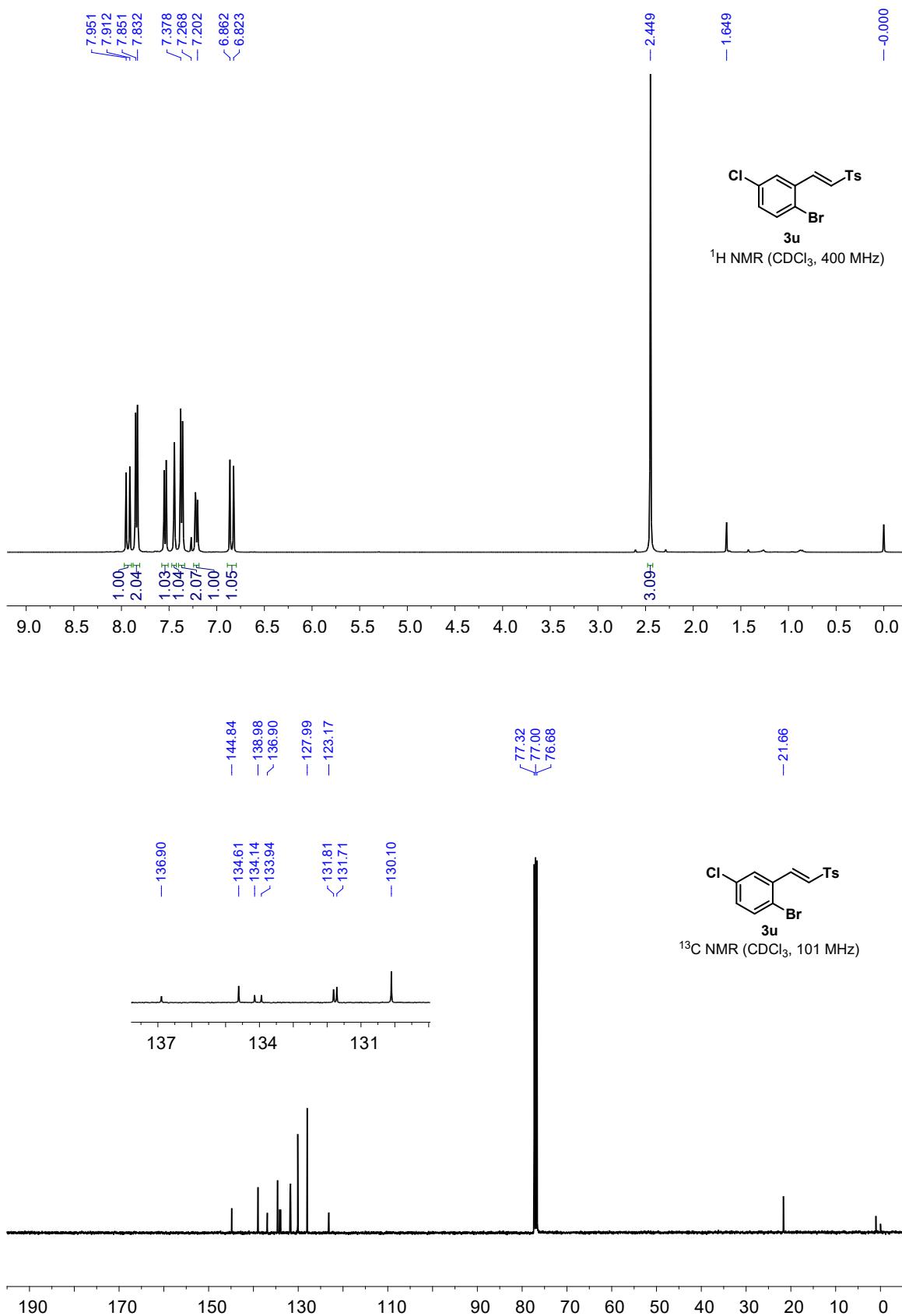
^{19}F NMR (CDCl_3 , 376 MHz)

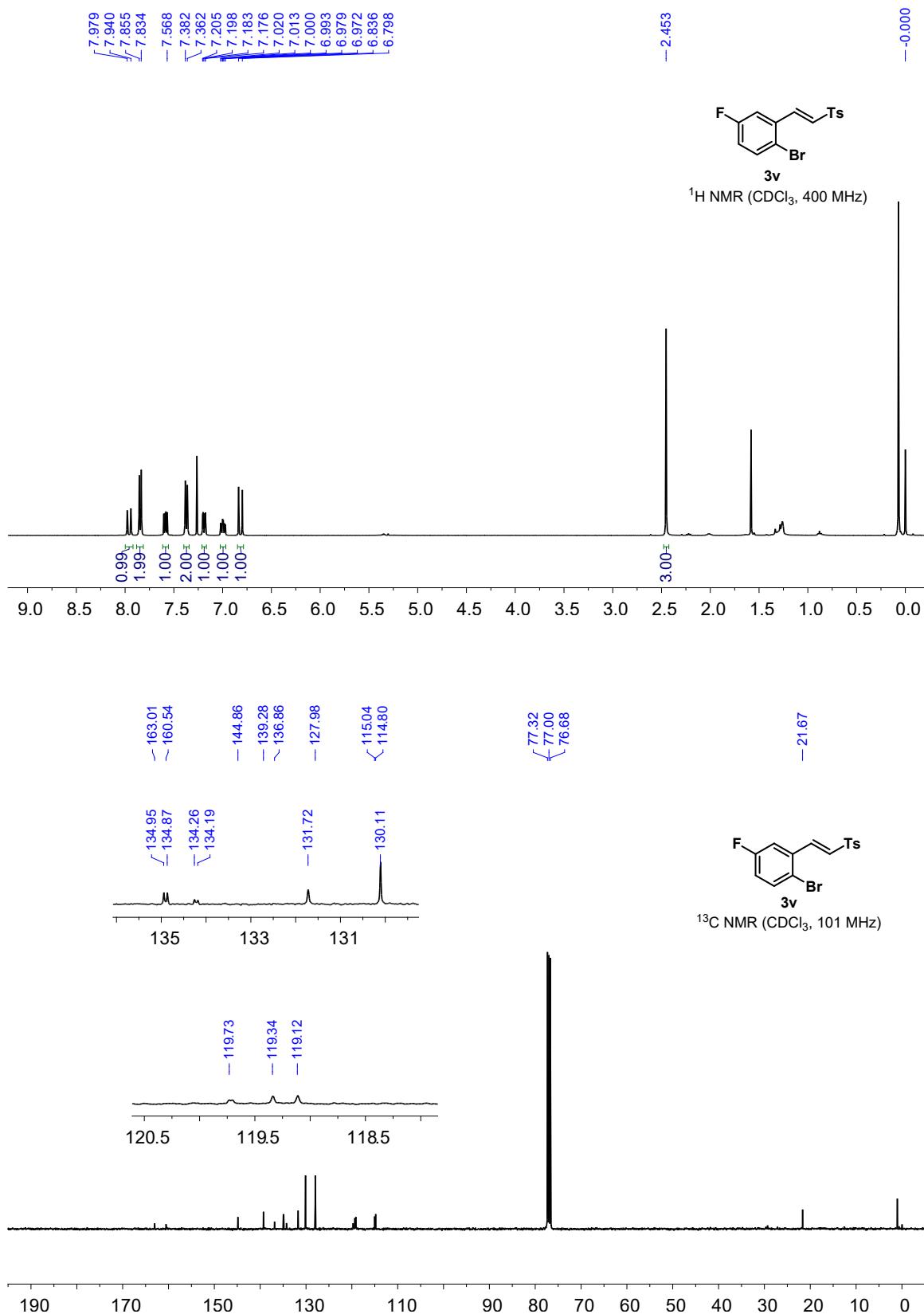




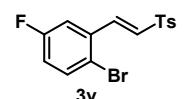




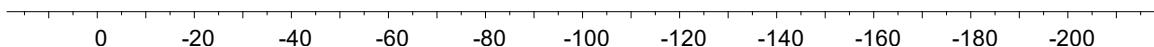


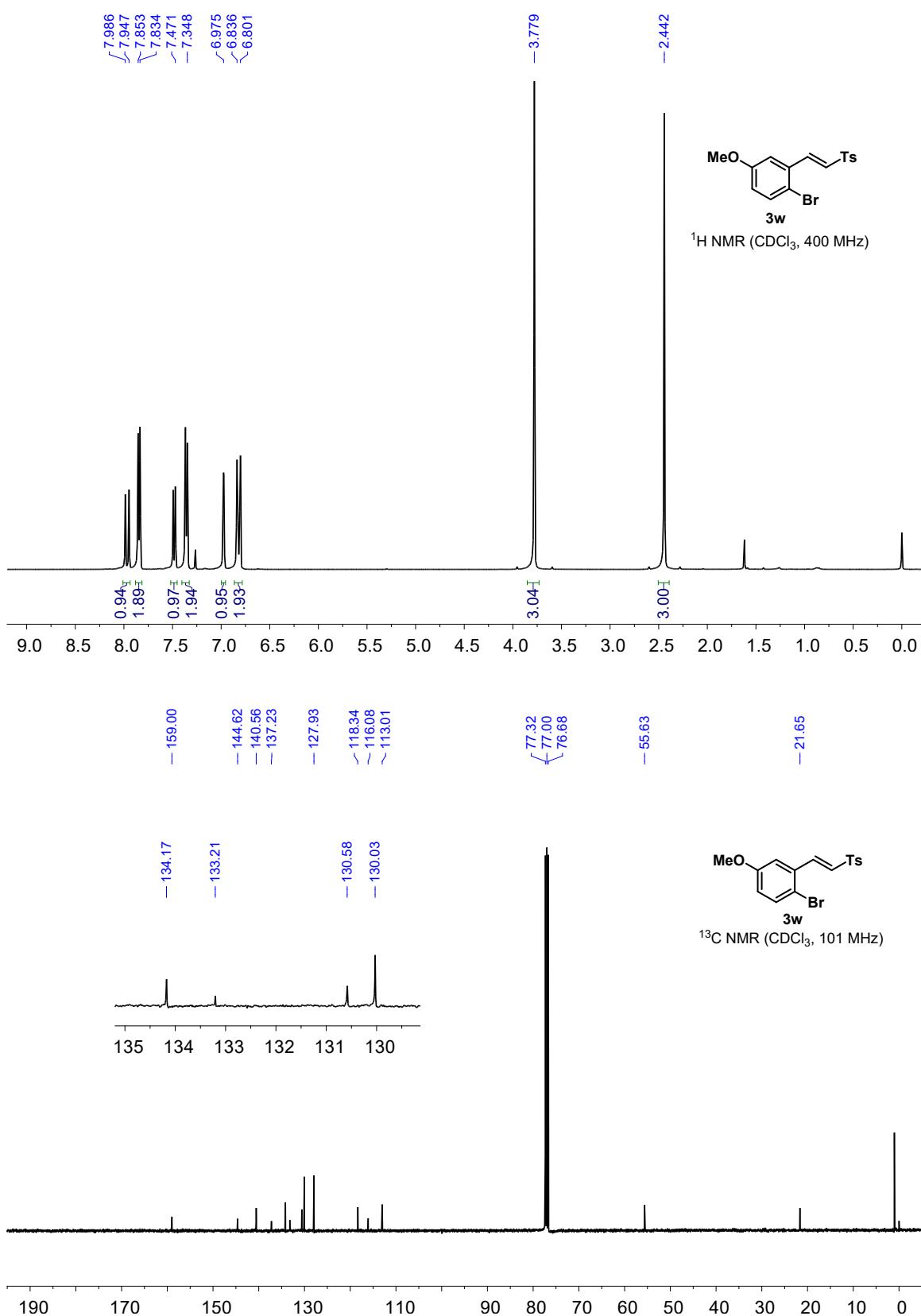


-113.249

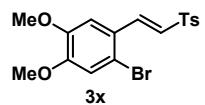


¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz)

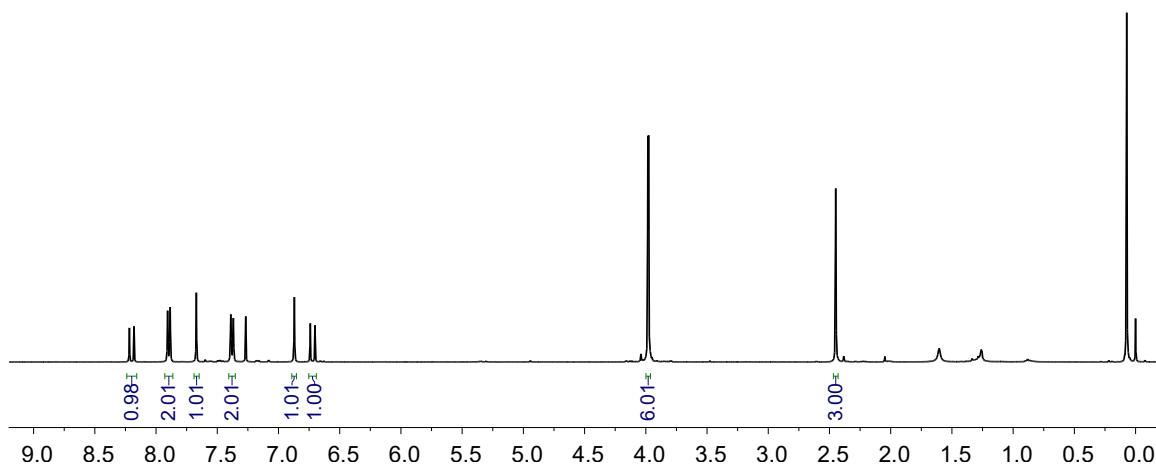




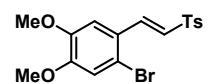
¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm): 8.218, 8.180, 7.885, 7.671, 7.267, 6.871, 6.740, 6.702, 3.977, 2.449, 0.000.



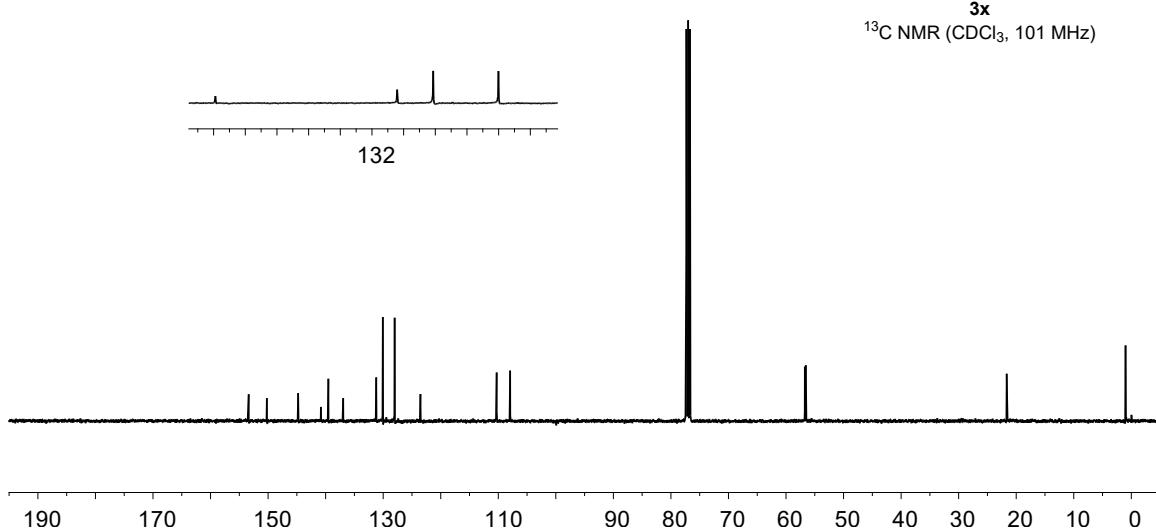
¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz)

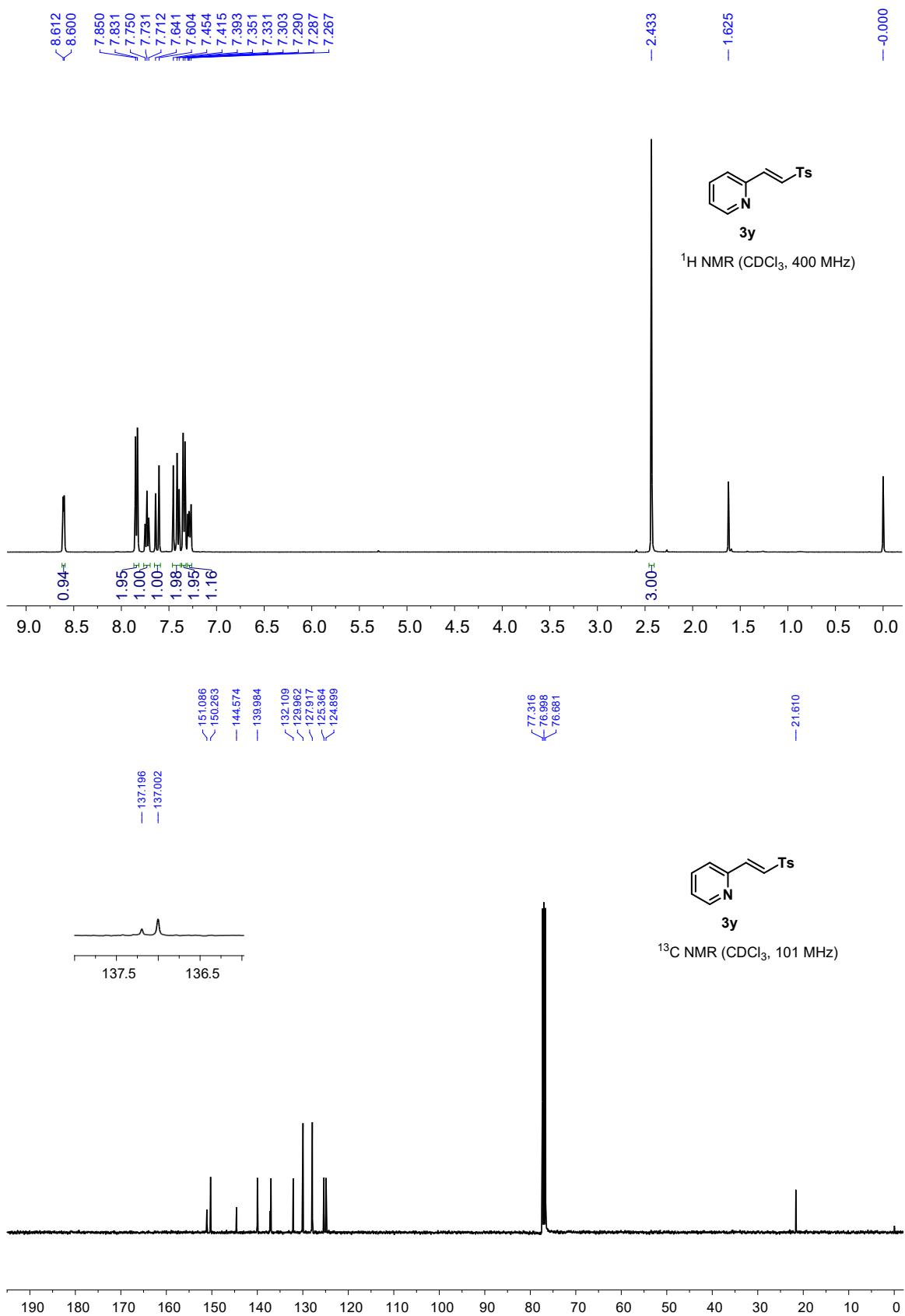


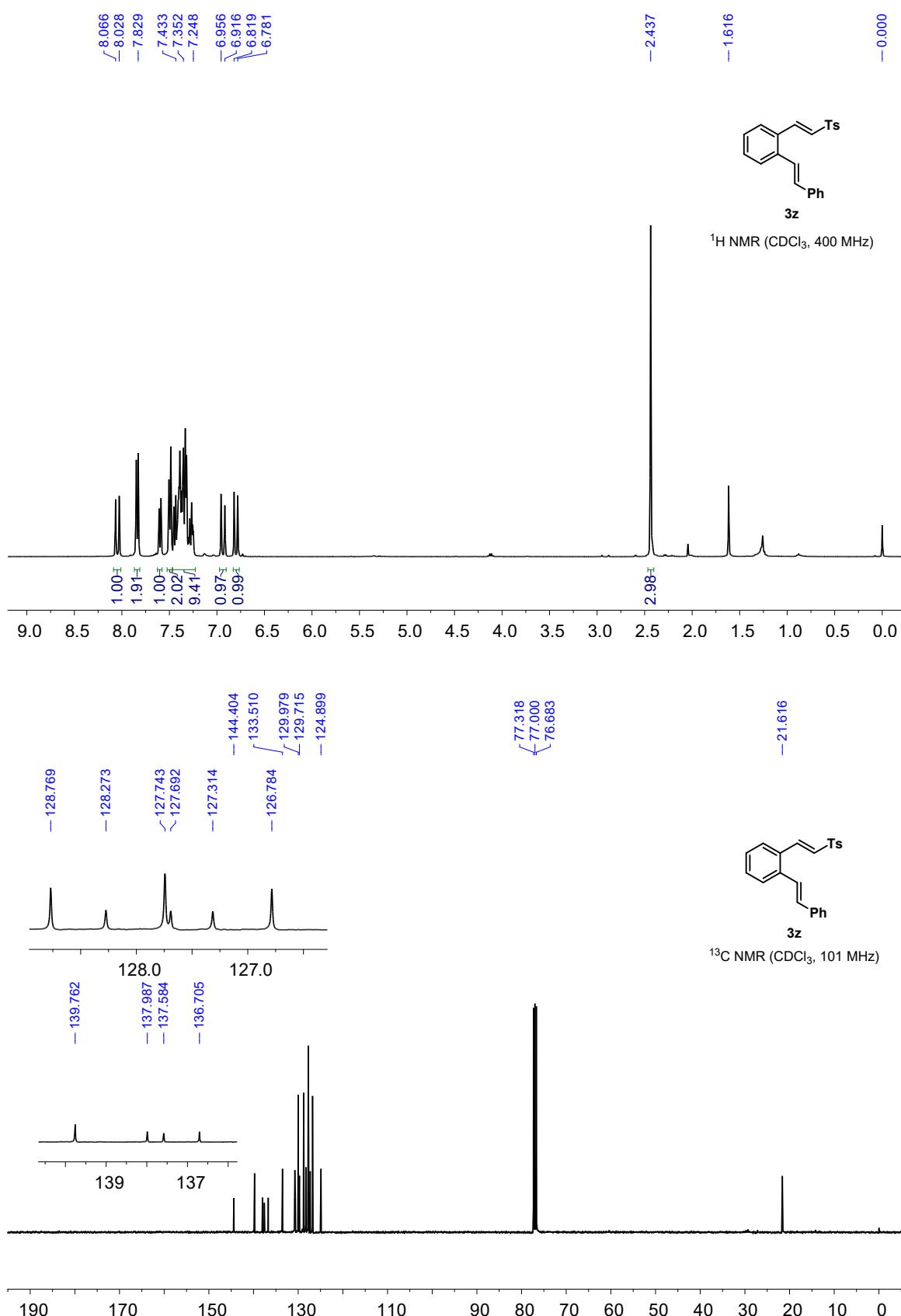
¹³C NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm): 153.37, 150.22, 144.77, 140.83, 139.53, 136.95, 131.21, 128.01, 123.53, 110.28, 107.93, 77.32, 76.68, 56.74, 56.57, 21.66.

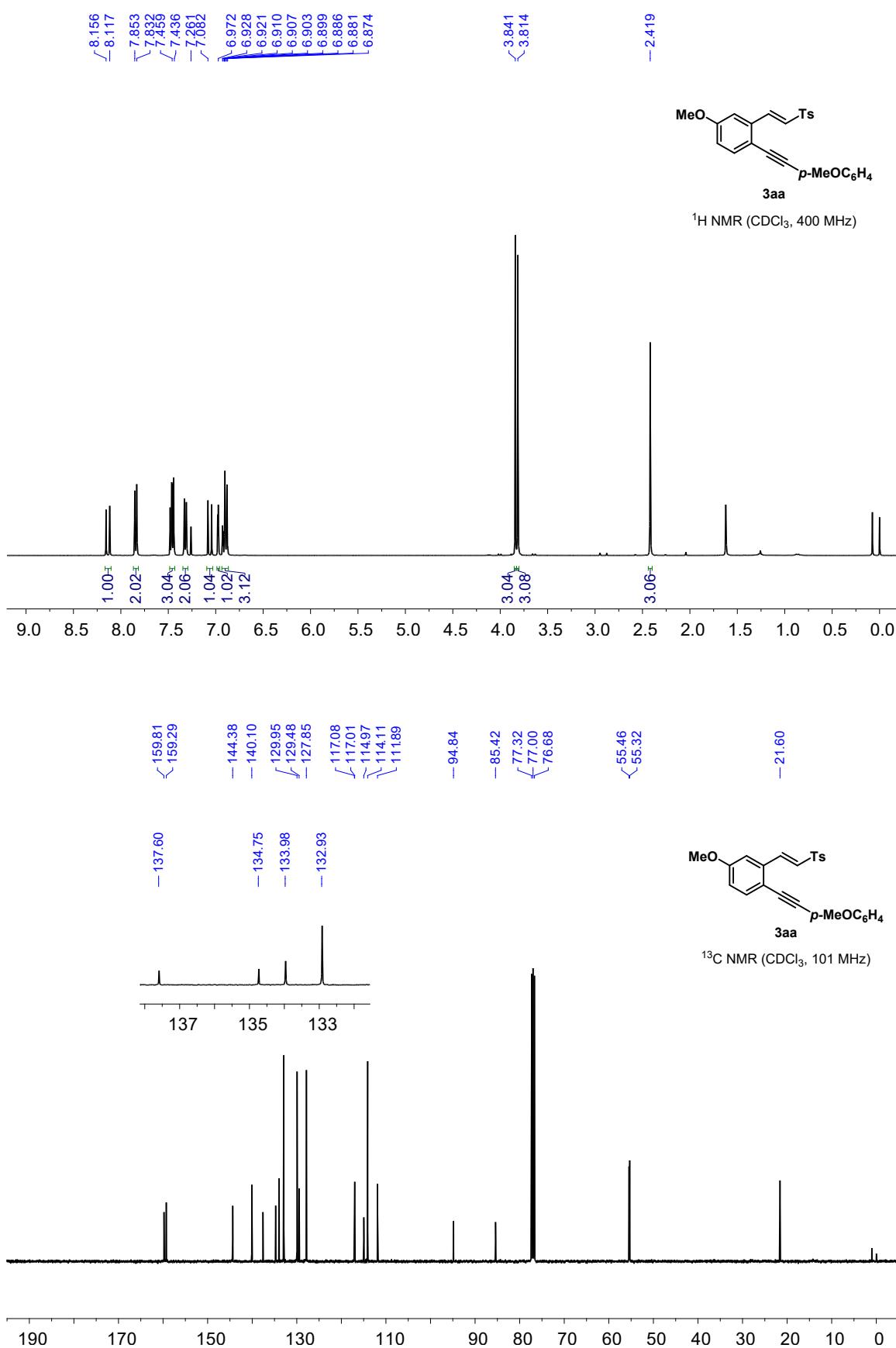


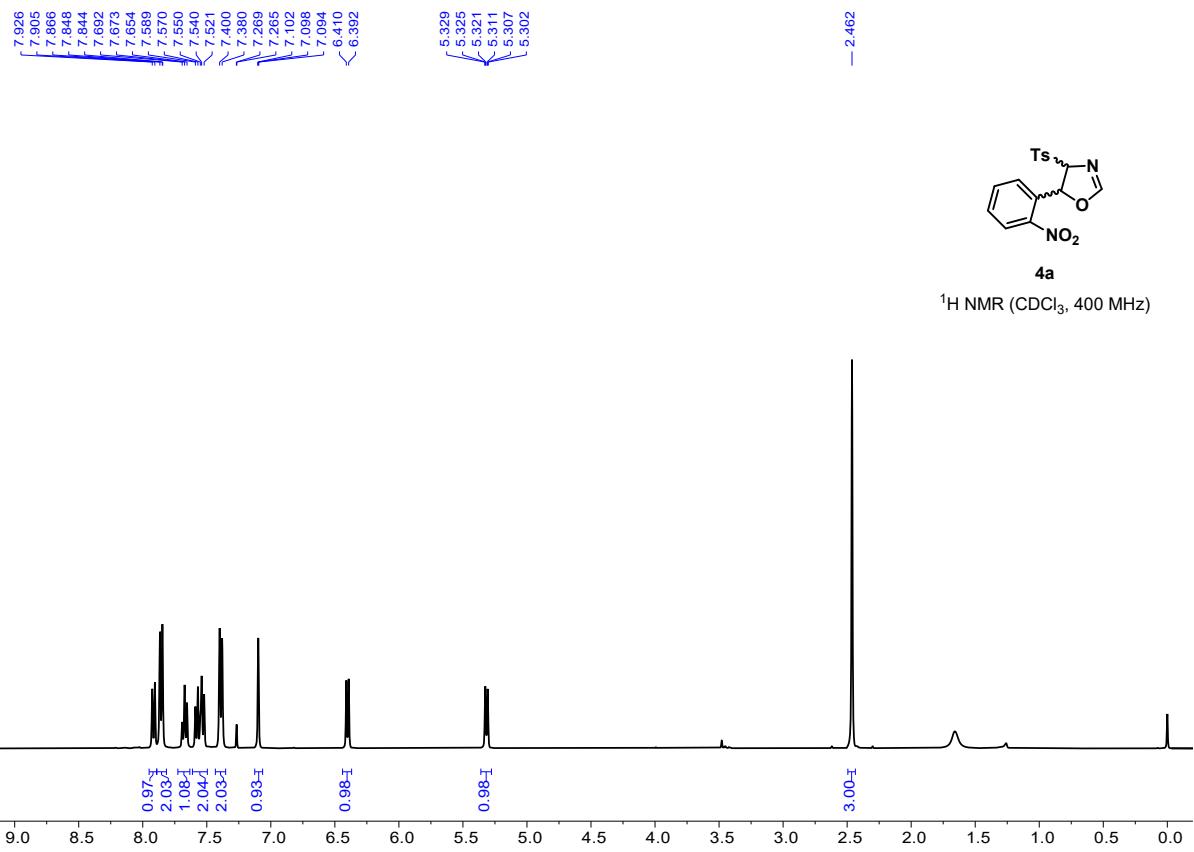
¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz)

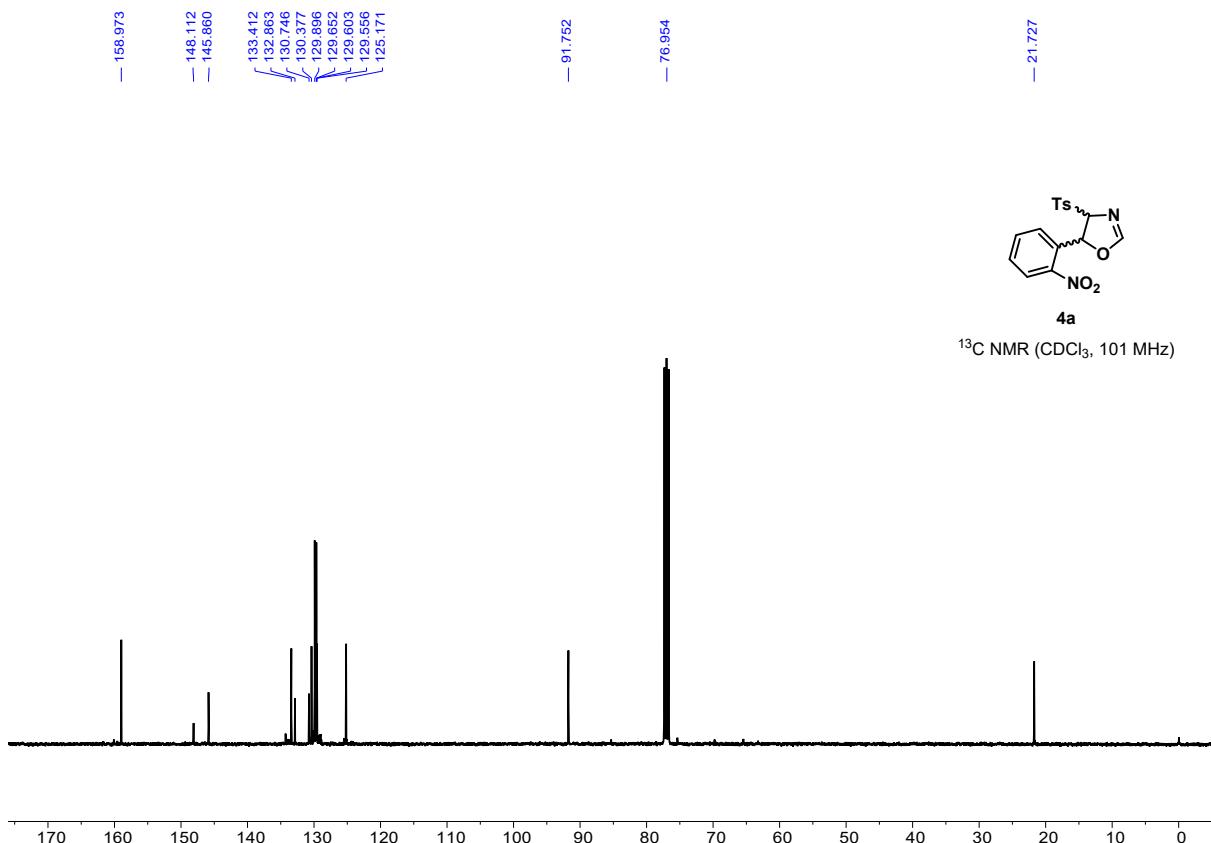


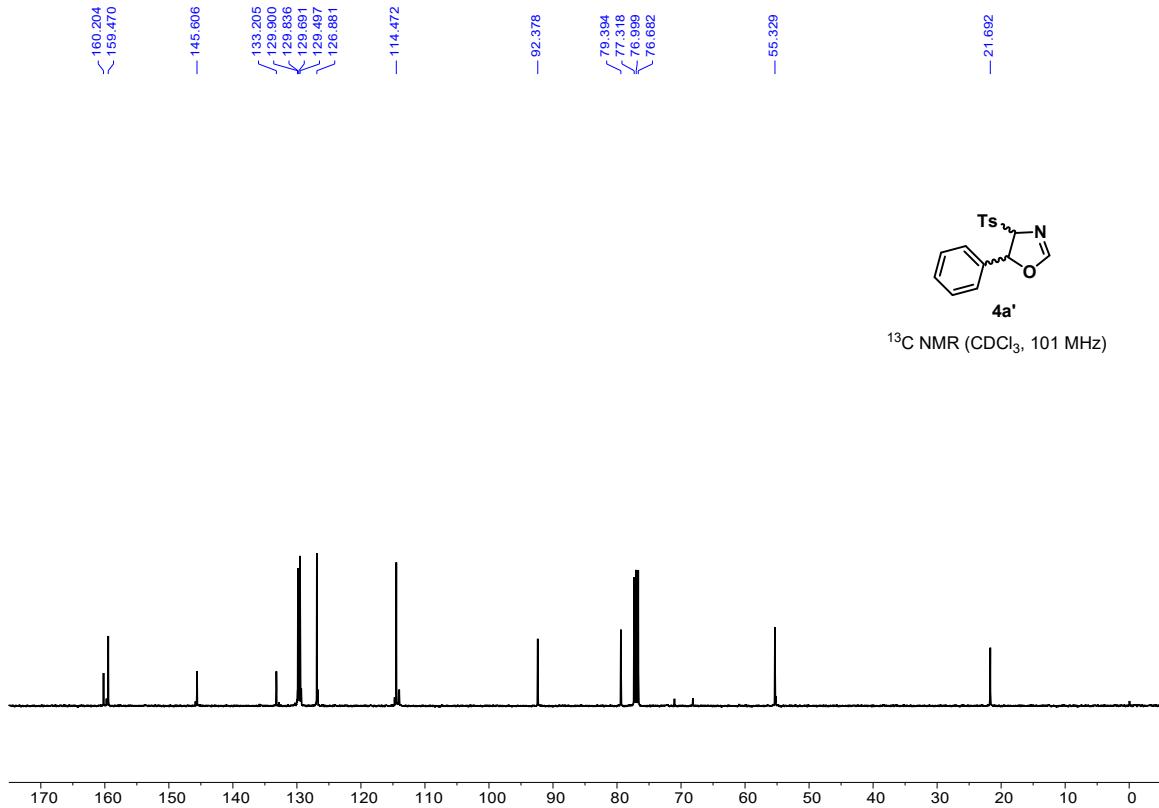
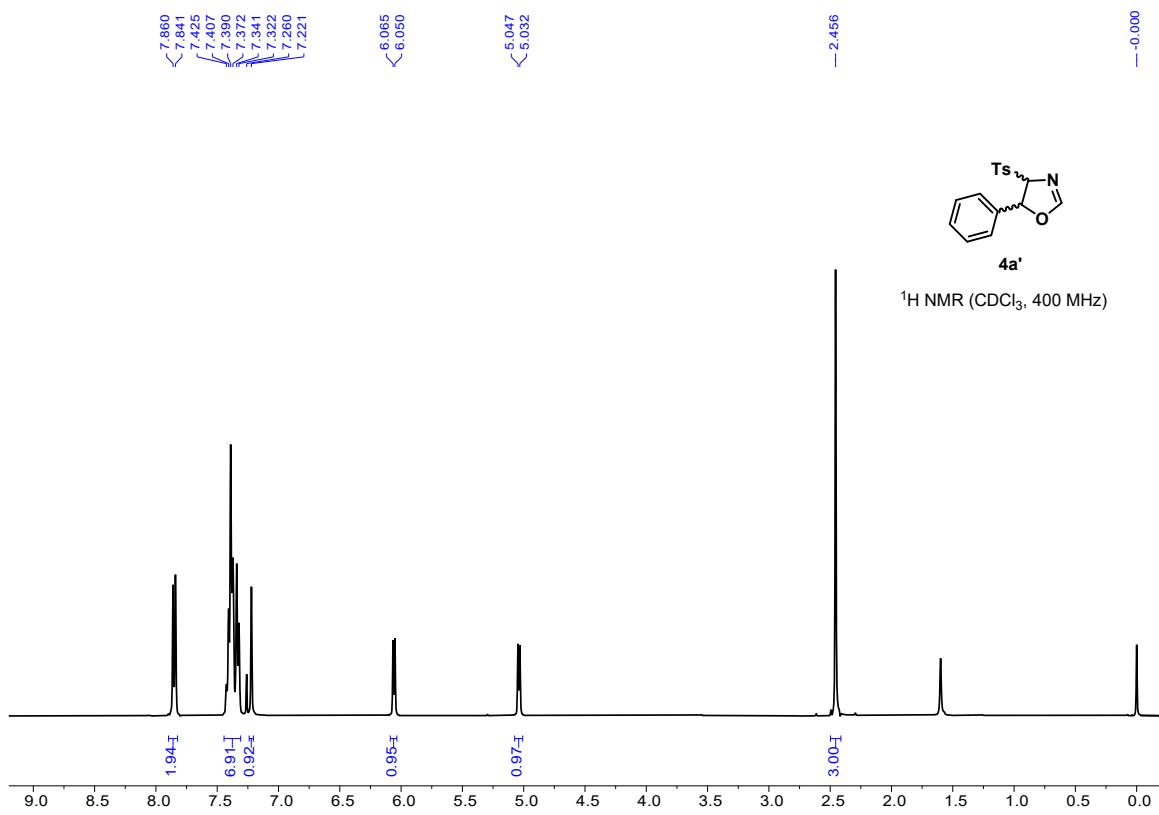


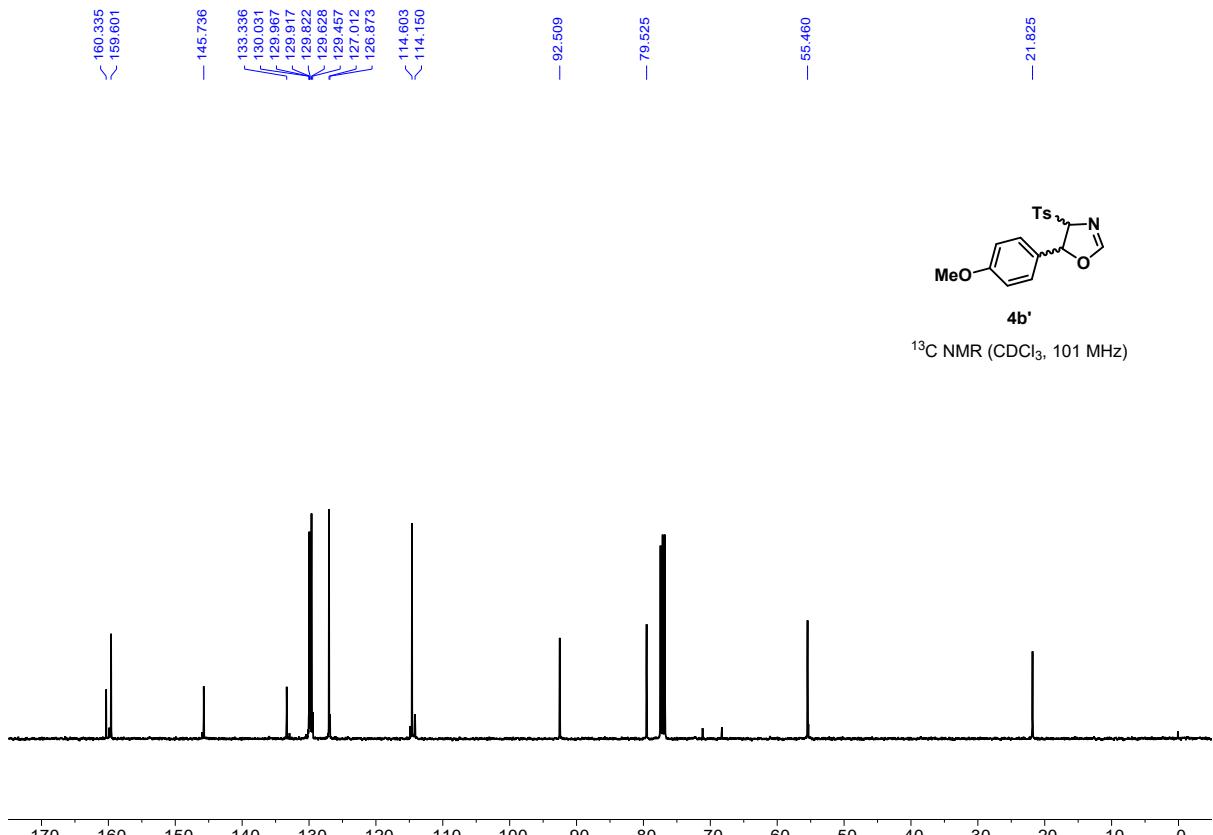
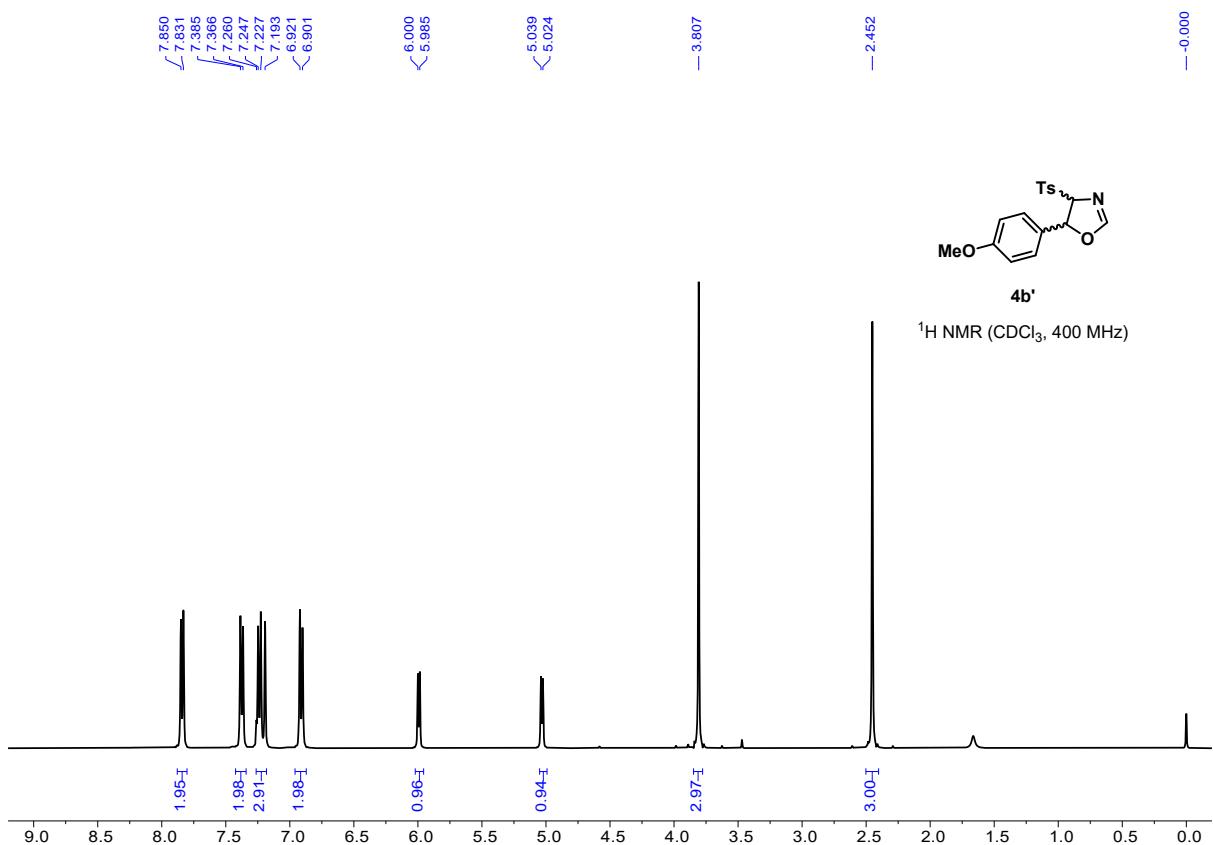


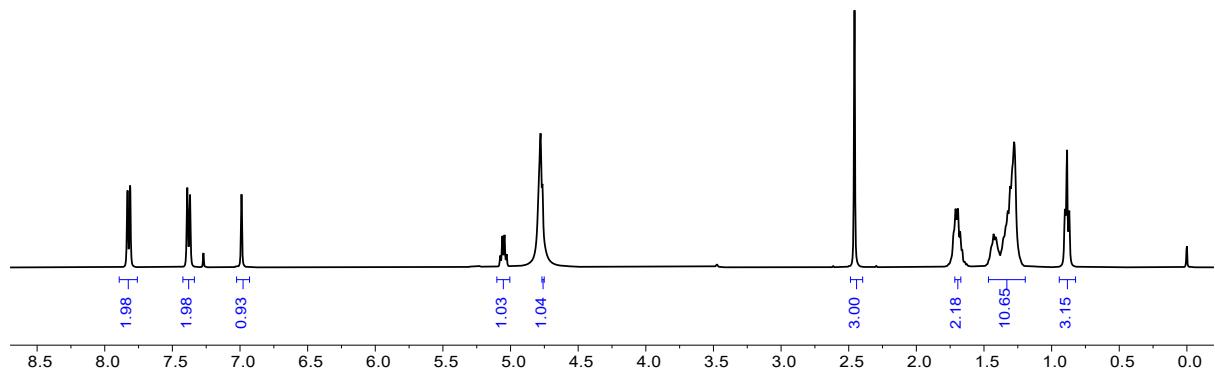


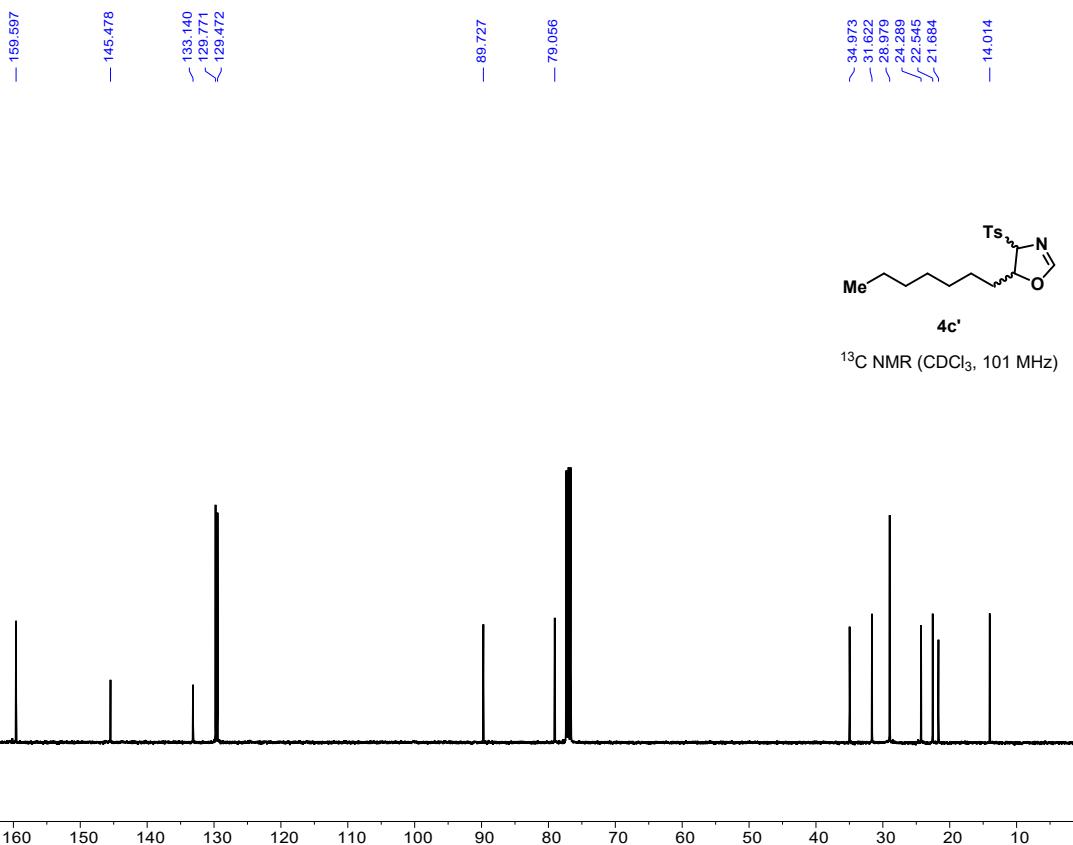


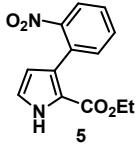




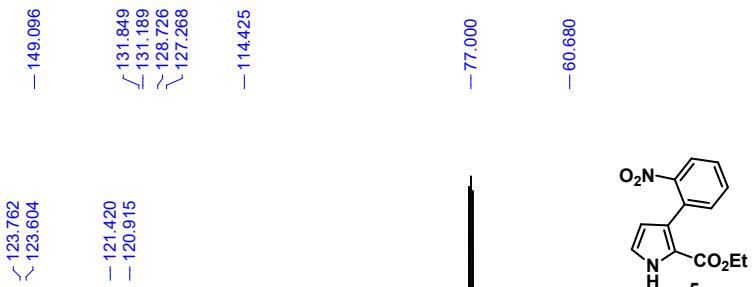
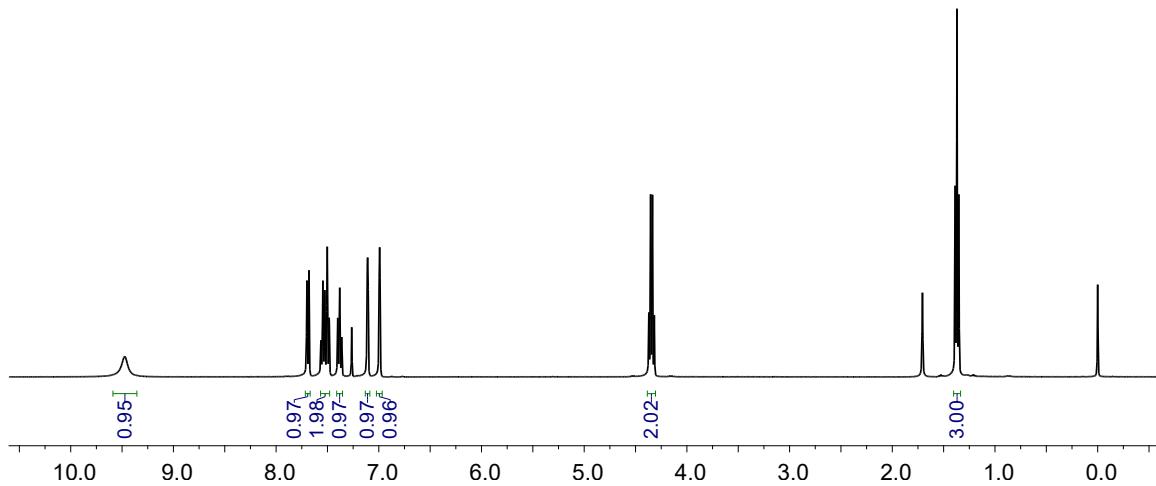




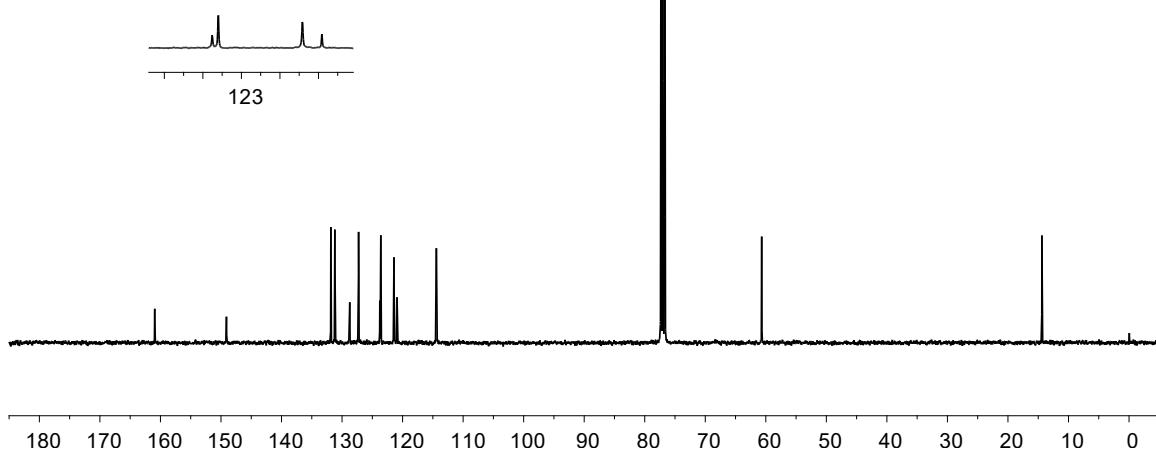




¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz)



¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz)



VIII. Optimized geometries, cartesian coordinates and energies for calculated species

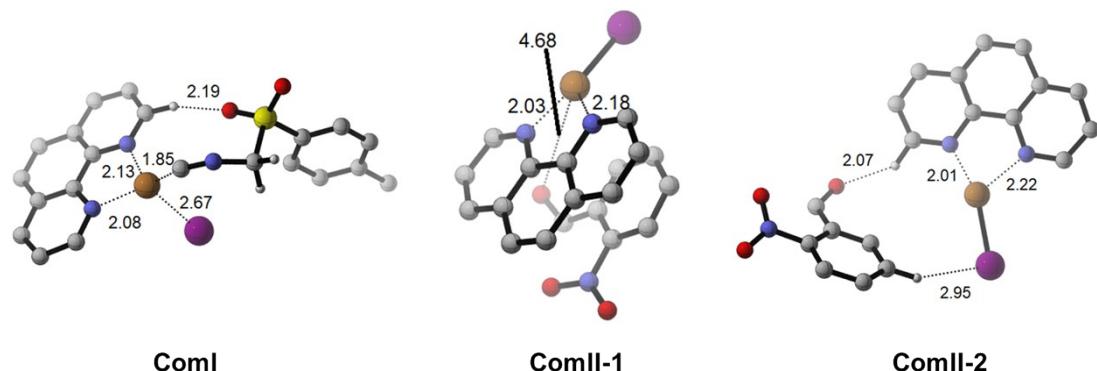


Figure S1. Optimized geometries of potential complexes generated between the copper catalyst, TosMIC and substrate **1a**.

Three stable complexes (**ComI**, **ComII-1** and **ComII-2**) can be formed by the copper catalyst, TosMIC and substrate **1a**. In **ComI**, a strong coordination interaction (1.85 Å) was found between TosMIC and the copper center. However, in complexes **ComII-1** (4.68 Å) and **ComII-2** there is no coordination interaction between **1a** and the copper center. Furthermore, the interaction energies were calculated to be 13.6, 7.6 and 1.5 kcal·mol⁻¹ in **ComI**, **ComII-1** and **ComII-2**, respectively. Thus, the copper catalyst preferentially coordinates and activates TosMIC to produce complex **ComI**.

Int1-H

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2065.525813 hartree

C	0.26106500	1.03634000	0.07250200
C	-1.62085700	-0.00352300	0.64586900
C	-1.98555300	1.06528000	-0.41610200
O	-0.69351300	1.63874900	-0.72444100
H	-2.23312100	0.04214000	1.55168300
N	-0.21181900	0.14771200	0.89680700
H	-2.37112700	0.62119700	-1.33728800
S	-1.90089200	-1.73416300	0.01974000
C	-3.67151700	-1.74052300	-0.27785000
C	-4.14892200	-1.60848800	-1.58154800
C	-4.54740400	-1.78711800	0.80881700
C	-5.52524800	-1.51711200	-1.79437600
H	-3.44504300	-1.58055200	-2.40642300
C	-5.91815300	-1.68714400	0.57987500
H	-4.15827300	-1.90477200	1.81474500

C	-6.42744900	-1.55005000	-0.72130300
H	-5.90312800	-1.41323100	-2.80790100
H	-6.60403600	-1.71490000	1.42225100
C	-7.91528700	-1.47052900	-0.95871200
H	-8.35598200	-2.47431700	-1.00003000
H	-8.41854600	-0.92580200	-0.15402200
H	-8.14234200	-0.97182500	-1.90527900
O	-1.22803700	-1.88924700	-1.28642200
O	-1.60755800	-2.67086500	1.12496900
C	-2.95385400	2.09419900	0.11019500
C	-4.33031500	1.89939100	-0.06329800
C	-2.50347800	3.20681600	0.82935300
C	-5.24562200	2.80248000	0.48112100
H	-4.68642400	1.03817400	-0.62097300
C	-3.41950900	4.11156000	1.37080000
H	-1.43629800	3.36137600	0.94867600
C	-4.79274200	3.91186600	1.20089100
H	-6.31057900	2.64201800	0.33863100
H	-3.06034500	4.97440900	1.92448900
H	-5.50342700	4.61733000	1.62152800
Cu	2.13695600	1.20187700	-0.11656100
C	2.96380300	-3.17976400	1.12479400
C	4.32929100	-3.23370500	0.91866900
C	5.01711000	-2.07787100	0.47714500
C	4.23875700	-0.91302600	0.26697300
C	2.27861000	-1.96509300	0.89418400
C	6.43144400	-2.03229100	0.23836100
C	4.87334400	0.30194200	-0.19576800
C	6.27394600	0.31242900	-0.41816000
C	7.03436700	-0.88478200	-0.18835400
C	6.85703200	1.51820400	-0.86585300
H	7.92758500	1.56103300	-1.04529100
C	6.05802500	2.62677000	-1.07132500
C	4.67614000	2.52598300	-0.83271200
H	7.01702700	-2.93207000	0.40463600
H	2.40899900	-4.04973800	1.45908100
H	4.88392700	-4.15234500	1.08973800
H	1.20735400	-1.86011700	1.05029400
H	8.10533300	-0.85667200	-0.36607400
H	6.47373700	3.56732700	-1.41515600
H	4.01950600	3.37457500	-0.99101900
N	4.09496800	1.40344100	-0.40905200
N	2.90805900	-0.87595600	0.47941200

TS1-H

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2065.492465 hartree

C	0.45323200	2.42166500	1.49438100
C	1.47171000	0.76998800	0.18127200
C	2.58535400	1.05263800	1.07003900
O	1.53107700	2.49798800	2.08922400
H	1.68957900	0.90150600	-0.87987600
N	0.18876300	1.64235300	0.49750000
H	2.68624800	0.42027800	1.94494400
S	0.89014400	-0.96185800	0.31007800
C	2.27672400	-1.89902900	-0.32419900
C	3.25225200	-2.36311600	0.56037900
C	2.39263900	-2.10175800	-1.69878400
C	4.36161400	-3.03292100	0.05104700
H	3.12967900	-2.20691900	1.62616000
C	3.51309400	-2.77189200	-2.19175800
H	1.60961500	-1.75275600	-2.36325100
C	4.51431000	-3.23959100	-1.32954700
H	5.12291900	-3.40031600	0.73397600
H	3.60870700	-2.93663300	-3.26145900
C	5.74128000	-3.93254500	-1.86813800
H	5.58242400	-4.29081500	-2.88902900
H	6.59687500	-3.24633700	-1.88575400
H	6.02181600	-4.78747500	-1.24469300
O	0.70370400	-1.32263700	1.73259800
O	-0.23548200	-1.12680500	-0.64324900
C	3.79650200	1.70479100	0.59920400
C	5.01343200	1.49608100	1.28084600
C	3.80942500	2.56338400	-0.52110900
C	6.19368200	2.10072500	0.85271100
H	5.02216500	0.84765200	2.15300900
C	4.98999000	3.16464100	-0.94898400
H	2.88080800	2.78018000	-1.04109700
C	6.19228300	2.93600500	-0.26890700
H	7.11761800	1.91993900	1.39520200
H	4.97234200	3.82544700	-1.81136800
H	7.11058500	3.40928300	-0.60321400
Cu	-1.52657600	1.19866000	-0.18027600
C	-3.34906500	-1.74448700	2.90836800
C	-4.60032400	-1.92011100	2.35010300
C	-4.93668000	-1.22957400	1.16253400
C	-3.94697100	-0.37706600	0.61190700
C	-2.43528200	-0.86719300	2.28417000

C	-6.20602800	-1.35695300	0.50539800
C	-4.22284300	0.33662700	-0.61586700
C	-5.48732300	0.18617200	-1.24010500
C	-6.47116800	-0.67537400	-0.64591000
C	-5.71656600	0.89738000	-2.43815600
H	-6.67485300	0.80452300	-2.94116900
C	-4.71777200	1.70049200	-2.95441700
C	-3.49228000	1.78924600	-2.27189000
H	-6.95473800	-2.01108800	0.94308800
H	-3.05697300	-2.26941400	3.81149900
H	-5.32807500	-2.585559800	2.80622800
H	-1.43217700	-0.72140300	2.67373200
H	-7.43336200	-0.77619700	-1.13919100
H	-4.85996000	2.26059000	-3.87190900
H	-2.68804900	2.41080500	-2.64994200
N	-3.24496800	1.13047100	-1.13909300
N	-2.73529700	-0.20202300	1.17941300

3-H + CuNCO-L

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2065.580500 hartree

C	1.88619400	-1.17639000	2.91459200
C	0.36795500	-0.87670000	-1.02452900
C	-0.48813500	-1.67688700	-1.67091300
O	3.02105700	-1.34453700	3.27932900
H	0.57115000	-0.91426500	0.04198000
N	0.76080000	-1.02636700	2.53748200
H	-0.62209200	-1.53162200	-2.74155600
S	1.24446300	0.41840900	-1.85991600
C	2.91890600	0.10110600	-1.32673500
C	3.86400300	-0.36072200	-2.23972800
C	3.22595100	0.25092200	0.02994100
C	5.14684700	-0.66544700	-1.77947500
H	3.59105600	-0.47878800	-3.28273000
C	4.50089900	-0.08202600	0.47457200
H	2.47395500	0.59746000	0.73020100
C	5.47998200	-0.54009100	-0.42364300
H	5.89467400	-1.02097300	-2.48295900
H	4.72379100	-0.01479500	1.53483100
C	6.85906900	-0.89112000	0.07632400
H	6.80248900	-1.58060800	0.92529400
H	7.46224400	-1.35880500	-0.70659100
H	7.38976200	0.00417900	0.42123100
O	1.14718200	0.21809800	-3.31925000
O	0.80461100	1.70011600	-1.26944100
C	-1.29704500	-2.71670800	-1.02772900
C	-2.41124100	-3.23199700	-1.71217800
C	-1.01947000	-3.19047600	0.26968200
C	-3.24979100	-4.17014500	-1.10912800
H	-2.62623800	-2.87836200	-2.71700700
C	-1.85564900	-4.13018100	0.86826000
H	-0.16036100	-2.82005200	0.81871700
C	-2.97721500	-4.61847400	0.18656100
H	-4.10971600	-4.55414000	-1.65010400
H	-1.62892200	-4.48244100	1.86991800
H	-3.62468100	-5.35221600	0.65746000
Cu	-0.76499100	-0.17701900	1.94184900
C	0.57515900	4.13150400	1.16169500
C	-0.37122100	4.49128200	0.22244500
C	-1.41832300	3.59643100	-0.08879000
C	-1.43462100	2.35775600	0.59682800
C	0.46220600	2.87828800	1.79566400

C	-2.42989500	3.87627700	-1.06574800
C	-2.45271200	1.38263400	0.28379300
C	-3.44150700	1.69238400	-0.68209600
C	-3.40428700	2.96451900	-1.34693400
C	-4.41986400	0.71068300	-0.95569400
H	-5.19101200	0.91534900	-1.69292000
C	-4.37785600	-0.49733800	-0.28777000
C	-3.34765300	-0.73131200	0.63883600
H	-2.39931900	4.82865600	-1.58675900
H	1.40013700	4.78991000	1.41115200
H	-0.31277300	5.44619200	-0.29181400
H	1.18816200	2.55927900	2.53944200
H	-4.16527000	3.17971200	-2.09111100
H	-5.10572800	-1.27747900	-0.47772800
H	-3.26779800	-1.68395100	1.14859100
N	-2.40863400	0.17382900	0.91591700
N	-0.51460800	2.02549700	1.52857000

Int1-NO₂

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2270.031134 hartree

C	0.45534100	0.90384300	0.39234800
C	-1.43486600	0.04800100	1.19799800
C	-1.80143600	0.85571500	-0.06961800
O	-0.49124800	1.24444100	-0.56503300
H	-2.07924000	0.24428700	2.05873300
N	-0.03730900	0.31233500	1.43907000
H	-2.29128600	0.26525700	-0.83772000
S	-1.56745400	-1.81302000	0.98310300
C	-3.21625700	-2.10256600	0.35124800
C	-3.38821800	-2.46233900	-0.98513300
C	-4.30832800	-1.95497800	1.20755000
C	-4.67816900	-2.67208500	-1.46726500
H	-2.51849100	-2.57792100	-1.62229300
C	-5.59217100	-2.15415300	0.70385800
H	-4.15282600	-1.70983600	2.25305400
C	-5.79628500	-2.50663400	-0.63865000
H	-4.82056400	-2.94994100	-2.50792100
H	-6.44870300	-2.03907100	1.36258600
C	-7.19002100	-2.66740800	-1.19087900
H	-7.90781600	-2.91530200	-0.40351700
H	-7.52180000	-1.73414600	-1.66268700
H	-7.23021800	-3.45187100	-1.95278300
O	-0.61747700	-2.22400900	-0.07795400
O	-1.47733100	-2.40945600	2.33051200
C	-2.57723500	2.11747500	0.26476600
C	-2.00398700	3.00000400	1.19741200
C	-3.78056600	2.53632600	-0.32564700
C	-2.60579300	4.20747200	1.53651300
H	-1.05892400	2.72435700	1.65288600
C	-4.38404200	3.76213700	-0.02115900
C	-3.80354300	4.59529200	0.92592200
H	-2.13532900	4.85139500	2.27319400
H	-5.30142900	4.03286100	-0.52893700
H	-4.27689800	5.53745700	1.18205200
Cu	2.30750300	1.00980100	0.03354900
N	-4.49370100	1.71255900	-1.31241100
O	-5.12100000	2.29823400	-2.19850700
O	-4.45092300	0.48678400	-1.18988500
C	6.13686800	2.86715500	-0.56427600
C	7.00320200	1.79089000	-0.59587400
C	6.49205500	0.48123500	-0.46036700

C	5.09094600	0.33845300	-0.29895700
C	4.76081100	2.63243800	-0.39171400
C	7.32237000	-0.69111000	-0.47574400
C	4.52205700	-0.98310100	-0.16273800
C	5.36923900	-2.11749100	-0.17419700
C	6.78415900	-1.93742900	-0.33523400
C	4.74747800	-3.38000300	-0.02296600
H	5.35678600	-4.27967800	-0.02329400
C	3.37557700	-3.45099300	0.12385100
C	2.61431000	-2.25968300	0.11518200
H	8.39364500	-0.56292500	-0.59915300
H	6.49677200	3.88493900	-0.66579900
H	8.07192400	1.93858400	-0.72276000
H	4.05433600	3.45469300	-0.35573700
H	7.42265700	-2.81621700	-0.34420500
H	2.87055800	-4.40333100	0.24377900
H	1.53105600	-2.27248600	0.21569700
N	3.18187900	-1.06947600	-0.02658800
N	4.24774900	1.40976000	-0.26124400

TS1-NO₂

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2270.007527 hartree

C	-0.70859100	-0.66570200	1.51658700
C	-1.46510700	-0.58982600	-0.69406000
C	-2.75843000	-0.57930400	-0.01062500
O	-1.89282500	-0.62760700	1.85429900
H	-1.33996600	-1.38904600	-1.42750500
N	-0.26750700	-0.68219800	0.29690000
H	-3.23905500	0.36891400	0.15042500
S	-1.21796000	0.92829700	-1.72241800
C	-1.44061800	2.28491300	-0.58459800
C	-0.36453000	2.71705300	0.19236100
C	-2.70885400	2.85455900	-0.45122300
C	-0.57153500	3.73396100	1.12204500
H	0.61234000	2.26675000	0.06255900
C	-2.89584300	3.86858900	0.48535800
H	-3.52745200	2.50767800	-1.07154300
C	-1.83675600	4.31699300	1.28871000
H	0.26039200	4.07826500	1.73025900
H	-3.88128700	4.31141600	0.59774600
C	-2.06346800	5.38614900	2.32818800
H	-1.13099600	5.89471100	2.58938300
H	-2.77887200	6.13663000	1.97848800
H	-2.47188000	4.94814200	3.24728400
O	0.19551700	0.93070300	-2.17798800
O	-2.29559300	0.96060400	-2.72822800
C	-3.60253300	-1.75513500	-0.00736600
C	-2.99850300	-3.03527200	-0.11591800
C	-5.02102000	-1.75725700	0.10848400
C	-3.72923200	-4.21038500	-0.11240400
H	-1.91612700	-3.08671300	-0.16642600
C	-5.76368000	-2.94721200	0.10168700
C	-5.12812000	-4.17415200	-0.00148400
H	-3.21205500	-5.16267200	-0.18434900
H	-6.84065200	-2.87835900	0.18028400
H	-5.70891900	-5.09029500	0.00883600
Cu	1.53740700	-0.49039400	-0.20361200
N	-5.81375700	-0.53000000	0.20556100
O	-7.03020300	-0.61082300	-0.00765800
O	-5.25447000	0.53398300	0.50137100
C	4.17743700	-1.30273400	3.48101200
C	5.42877900	-1.19165500	2.90326900
C	5.53873300	-0.86691000	1.53115200

C	4.32942800	-0.67644000	0.81762200
C	3.03326100	-1.08581900	2.68375100
C	6.79124100	-0.71874000	0.84467700
C	4.37232200	-0.34227900	-0.58774300
C	5.62332600	-0.18897900	-1.23204000
C	6.83070500	-0.39036200	-0.47940800
C	5.61041400	0.16098700	-2.60147100
H	6.55030000	0.28690700	-3.13134400
C	4.40153200	0.34499200	-3.24539900
C	3.20266400	0.16742600	-2.52921700
H	7.71099700	-0.86938200	1.40233800
H	4.06345200	-1.54875500	4.53129000
H	6.32940500	-1.34852600	3.49027700
H	2.02875700	-1.15483900	3.09543700
H	7.78221200	-0.27474700	-0.98994400
H	4.35757100	0.62300800	-4.29253200
H	2.23092800	0.31601000	-2.98835500
N	3.18985900	-0.17731500	-1.24109900
N	3.11225300	-0.78278000	1.39646400

3a-NO₂ + CuNCO-L

[B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p)-SDD (Cu)] G: -2270.086622 hartree

C	-4.79751600	0.02858100	-1.21122700
C	-0.23262600	0.21430500	-1.75184800
C	0.02389300	1.38956300	-1.16130300
O	-5.62427200	0.82125000	-1.58962500
H	-1.21591700	-0.21073100	-1.93755600
N	-3.95608400	-0.73204900	-0.84446800
H	1.05163600	1.68382700	-1.00853400
S	1.07137800	-0.85032600	-2.34567400
C	2.56240000	-0.12431800	-1.68112200
C	2.93851000	-0.43748900	-0.37470000
C	3.27625100	0.80305200	-2.43987900
C	4.04301100	0.20146000	0.18152000
H	2.37592000	-1.17003800	0.18889000
C	4.38239200	1.43035100	-1.86768700
H	2.96467300	1.02150200	-3.45554300
C	4.77280300	1.15215900	-0.54923800
H	4.33961000	-0.03666800	1.19932100
H	4.94458700	2.15513900	-2.44951900
C	5.92995700	1.88441000	0.08092600
H	5.57910600	2.80512300	0.56313300
H	6.41973000	1.27581600	0.84667800
H	6.67824900	2.16750000	-0.66483900
O	0.87558900	-2.16788400	-1.70892000
O	1.10546100	-0.74890400	-3.81529300
C	-0.99830700	2.32459600	-0.67484900
C	-2.33531400	2.19544500	-1.09131300
C	-0.73426100	3.34425200	0.27116700
C	-3.35124400	3.00687200	-0.59471900
H	-2.58693300	1.43096100	-1.81384500
C	-1.74522300	4.15760300	0.78880200
C	-3.05603400	3.99313100	0.35173100
H	-4.36694000	2.84638500	-0.94203200
H	-1.48611000	4.91039300	1.52272000
H	-3.83975700	4.63300400	0.74351700
Cu	-2.59061500	-1.66507000	-0.06703900
N	0.61174100	3.59675400	0.80892600
O	0.68874900	4.02649100	1.96432900
O	1.59513500	3.38906100	0.09297300
C	0.06801600	-4.94317700	-0.01414600
C	1.07595300	-4.53330300	0.83401900
C	0.97442500	-3.28080600	1.47725900

C	-0.17427900	-2.49508700	1.21509000
C	-1.03551300	-4.09934800	-0.22052400
C	1.99028600	-2.77741000	2.35915000
C	-0.30487000	-1.19927400	1.84311400
C	0.72542400	-0.72597300	2.69585900
C	1.87467100	-1.54898200	2.94119200
C	0.55332400	0.55738100	3.26439200
H	1.32623400	0.96811100	3.90757200
C	-0.59364800	1.27671600	2.99149400
C	-1.56245800	0.71178500	2.13580300
H	2.86316400	-3.39643200	2.54412000
H	0.11737300	-5.89224400	-0.53538200
H	1.94987400	-5.15467700	1.00619400
H	-1.83424200	-4.38582000	-0.89516100
H	2.65220500	-1.17322800	3.60001300
H	-0.74414500	2.26834300	3.40123600
H	-2.47217900	1.25179900	1.88762100
N	-1.41890900	-0.48048700	1.57895800
N	-1.16186100	-2.91348400	0.37441900

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