

Supporting Information

Electron Donor-Acceptor Complex Enabled Cascade Reaction of Unprotected o-Anilide Aryl Chlorides for Heterocycle Synthesis

Zhu-Sheng Yang,^{a,b†} Wen-Xin Tang,^{b,d†} Bei-Bei Zhang,^b De-Qun Sun,^{d*} Kun-Quan Chen^{b*} and Xiang-Yu Chen^{b,c*}

^a *School of Materials and Architectural Engineering, Guizhou Normal University, Guiyang, 550025 China.*

^b *School of Chemical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049 China. E-mail: ckq@ucas.ac.cn, chenxiangyu20@ucas.ac.cn*

^c *Binzhou Institute of Technology, Weiqiao-UCAS Science and Technology Park, Binzhou, Shandong Province, 256606 China. E-mail: chenxiangyu20@ucas.ac.cn*

^d *School of Life Science and Engineering, Southwest University of Science and Technology, Mianyang, 621010 China. E-mail: dqsun@swust.edu.cn*

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1. General Information

- Chemicals were purchased from Heowns, Innochem and Bidepharm, and they were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. The starting materials *o*-chloroanilines and *o*-chlorobenzamides were readily prepared according to the related literatures.¹ Solvents were purified using a solvent-purification system (VSPS-8, Vigor).
- Chromatographic purification of the products was performed on 200-300 mesh silica gel.
- IR spectra were taken on a Vertex 70 spectrophotometer and reported as wave numbers (cm⁻¹).
- UV/vis absorption spectra were acquired on a UV-5 spectrophotometer (METTLER TOLEDO).
- The GC-MS TQ8040 was used in the detection of the reaction mixture.
- The SGW X-4 was used to measure the melting point of solids.
- HRMS were obtained on an IonSpec FT-ICR mass spectrometer with ESI resource. The mass analysis mode of the HRMS was orbitrap.
- ¹H-, ¹⁹F- and ¹³C- NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature on JEOL JNM-LA400 Spectrometer and JEOL JNM-LA500 Spectrometer and The chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield of tetramethylsilane (TMS) and referenced to residual solvent peaks resonance as the internal standard. The order of citation in parentheses is a) multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublet, m = multiplet), b) coupling constants, c) number of protons. Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz).
- Photochemical experiments were performed magnetically stirred in 10 mL glass tubes, sealed with a rubber septum. The tubes were irradiated with blue light (450 nm) using a LED lamp (kelo-A0100s blue LED). The distance from the light source to the irradiation vessel was 1 cm and a fan was used to keep the reaction temperature at 50 ± 5 °C. (The purchase link for LED lamp is <https://item.jd.com/52714507033.html>)

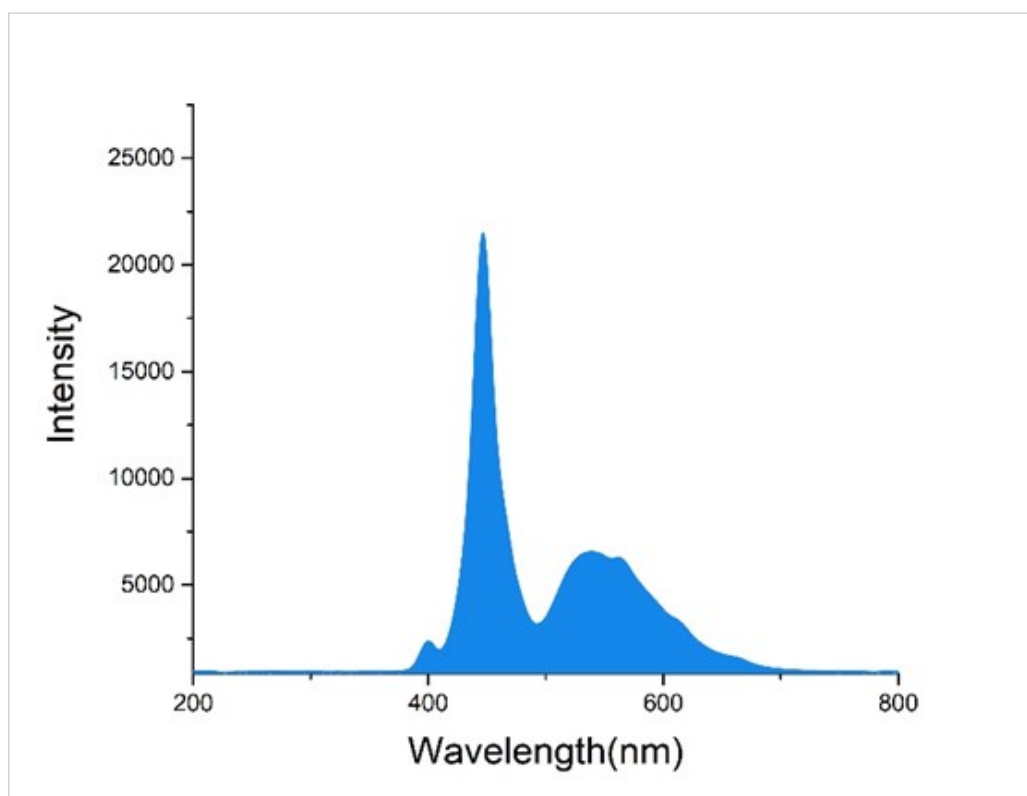
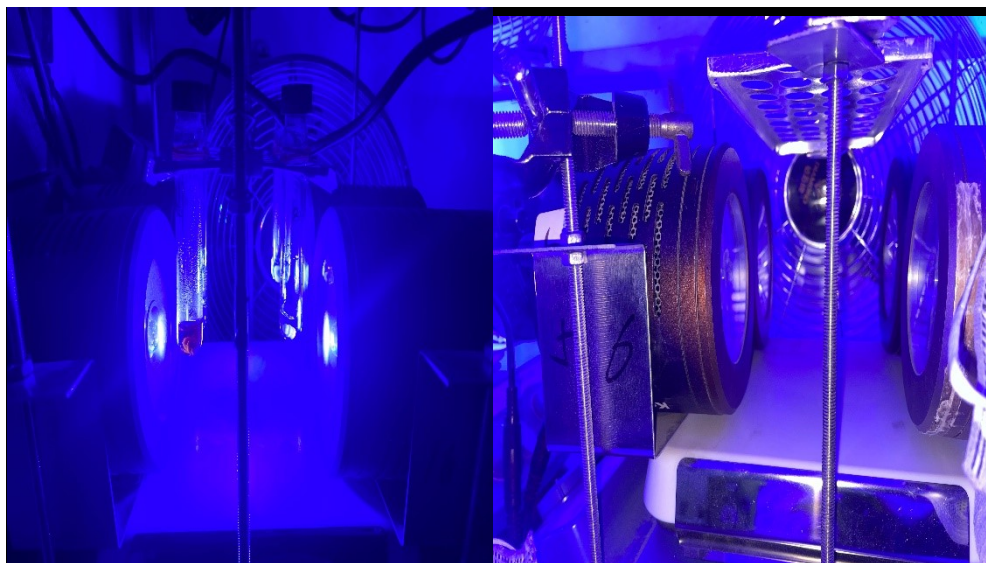
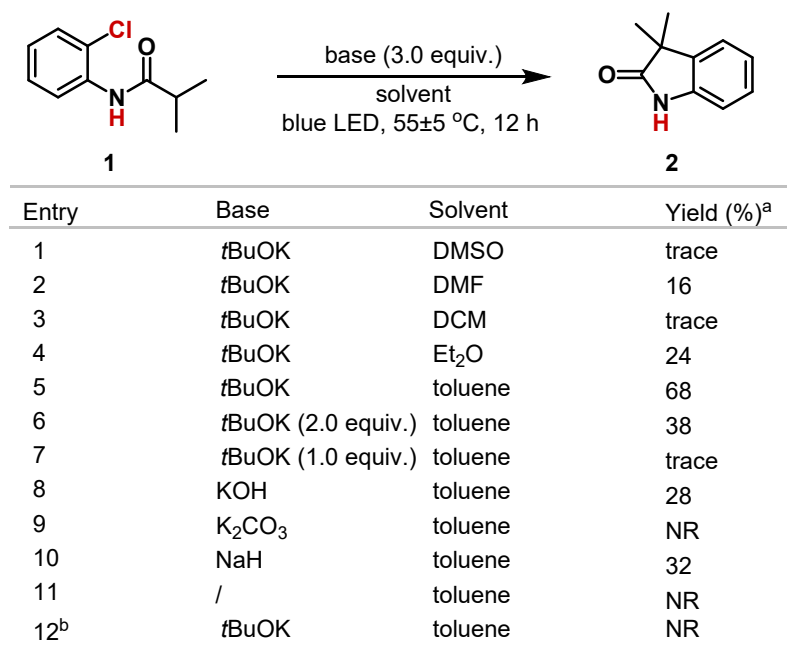


Figure S1. The spectra of blue LEDs employed in the reaction.

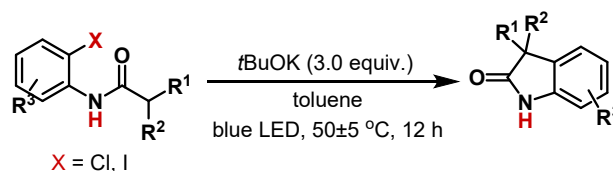
2. Experimental Procedures

Scheme S1. Optimization of the reaction conditions.



^aYield of isolated product after chromatography. ^bWithout blue LED at 60 °C

3. General Procedure



General procedure A: In a nitrogen atmosphere, to a dry tube equipped with a stirring bar, the *o*-iodobenzamides or *o*-chlorobenzamides (0.2 mmol), *t*BuOK (0.6 mmol, 67.2 mg, 3.0 equiv.) and toluene (2.0 mL) were added, the mixture was stirred under a 100 W blue LED (450 nm) lamp with an interval of 1 cm from the lamp and a fan was used to keep the reaction temperature at 50 ± 5 °C. After 12 hours, the reaction mixture was subjected to silica gel chromatography to afford the desired product (PE/EA = 3:1 – 1:1).

4. Mechanism Studies

4.1 UV/Vis absorption spectrometry

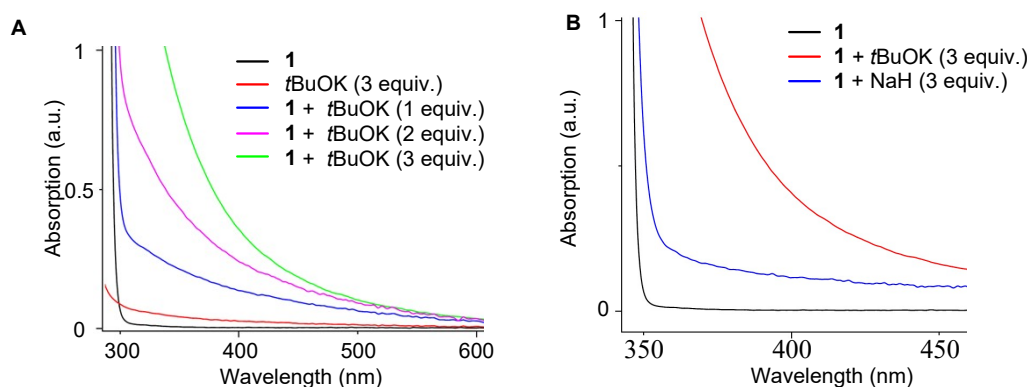
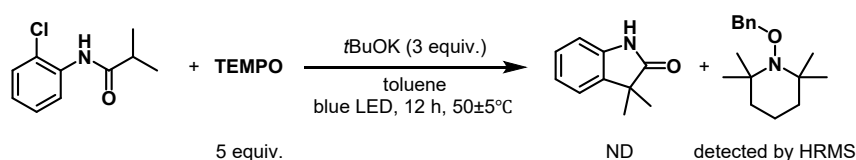
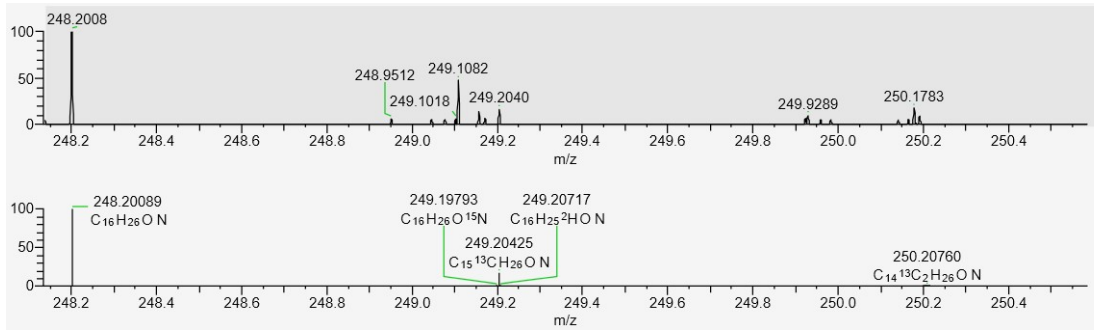


Figure S2: (A). Absorption spectra of substrate **1**, *t*BuOK and their mixture. The UV/vis spectra of *N*-(2-chlorophenyl)isobutyramide **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene), *t*BuOK (3×10^{-2} M in toluene), **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene) and *t*BuOK (10^{-2} M in toluene), **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene) and *t*BuOK (2×10^{-2} M in toluene), **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene) and *t*BuOK (3×10^{-2} M in toluene). (B). Absorption spectra of substrate **1**, mixture of **1** and *t*BuOK, and mixture of **1** and NaH. The UV/vis spectra of *N*-(2-chlorophenyl)isobutyramide **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene), **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene) and *t*BuOK (3×10^{-2} M in toluene), **1** (10^{-2} M in toluene) and NaH (3×10^{-2} M in toluene).

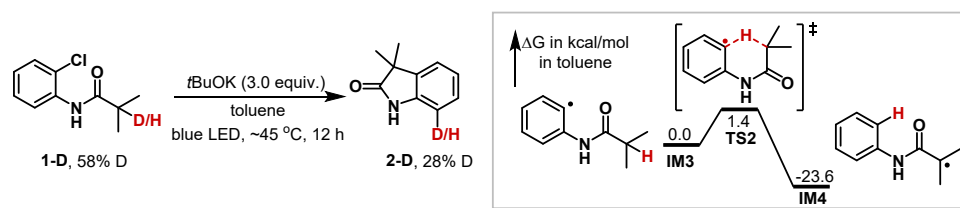
4.2 TEMPO trapping experiment



In a nitrogen atmosphere, to a dry tube equipped with a stirring bar, *N*-(2-chlorophenyl)isobutyramide **1** (0.2 mmol), TEMPO (1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv.), *t*BuOK (0.6 mmol, 67.2 mg, 3.0 equiv.) and toluene (2.0 mL) were added, the mixture was stirred under a 100 W blue LED (450 nm) lamp for 12 hours. The benzyl radical trapped by TEMPO was detected by HRMS. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{25}ON^+$: 248.2008; found: 248.2008.



4.3 Evidence for 1,5-HAT



The experiment with **1-D** as the substrate afforded the desired oxindole **2-D** with 28% deuterium incorporation at the aromatic ring.

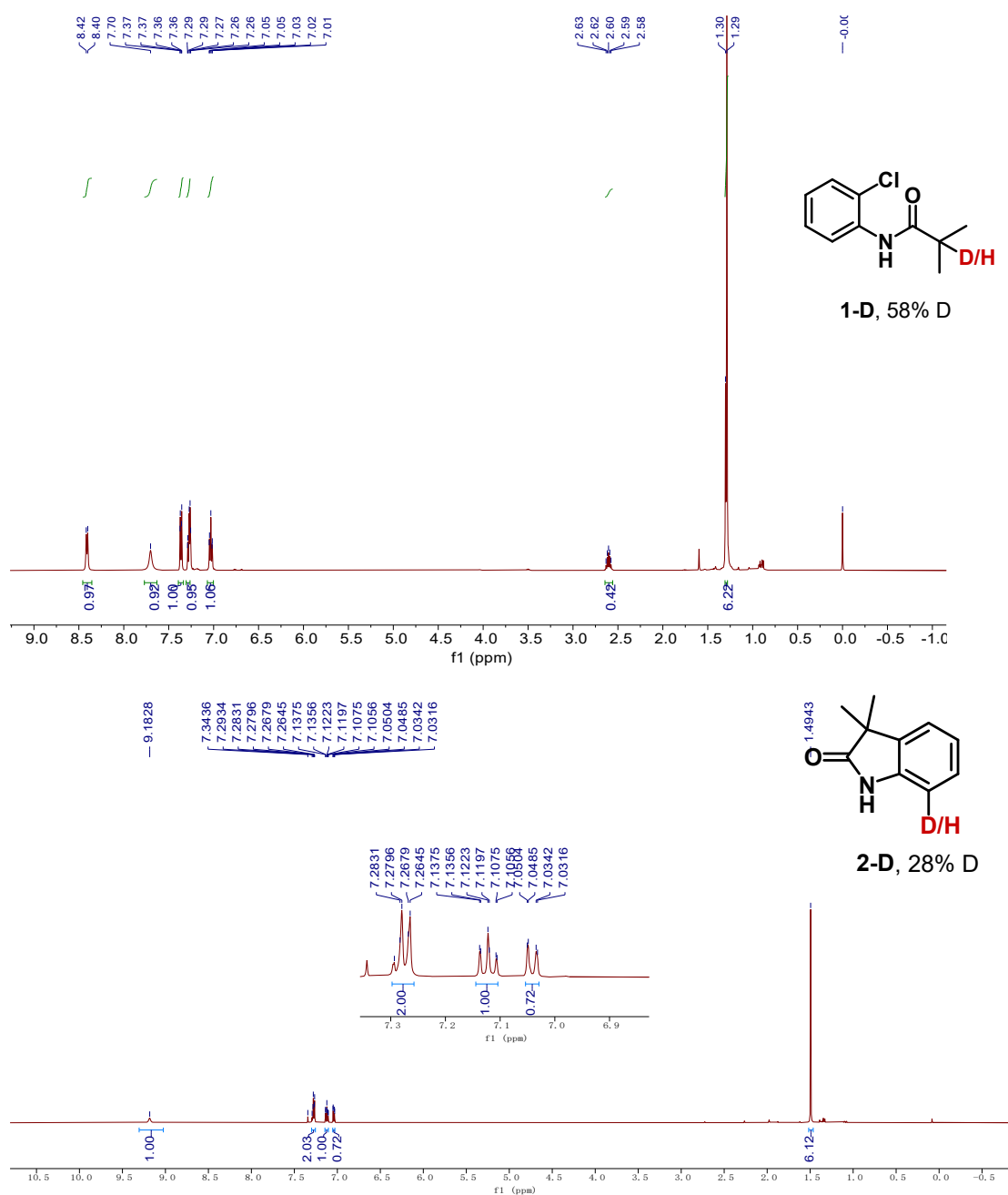


Figure S3. Evidence for 1,5-HAT.

4.4 Density functional theory (DFT) studies

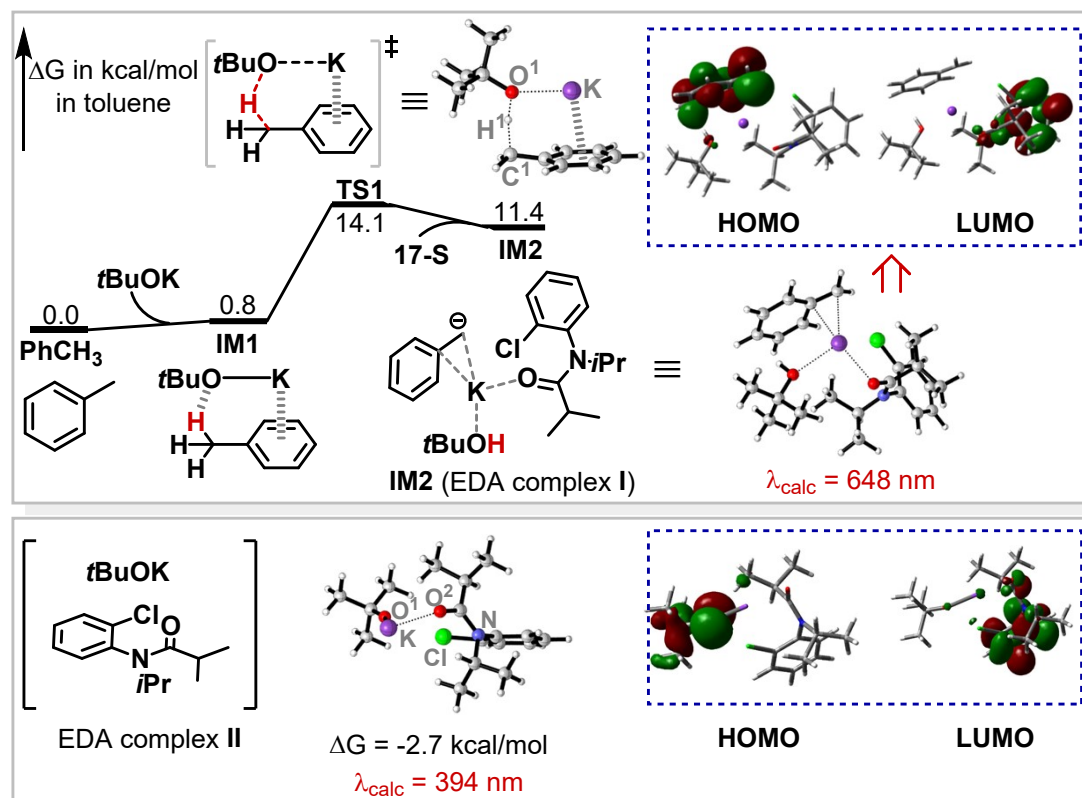


Figure S4. DFT studies.

We carried out density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) calculations to further study the possible EDA complexes. We successfully located the possible EDA complexes **I** and **II**, showing that complex **I** has a $\lambda_{\text{calc}} = 648$ nm, much longer than complex **II** ($\lambda_{\text{calc}} = 394$ nm).

4.5 Quantum yield determination

According to the procedure of Xu²: To an oven-dried 10 mL glass tubes sealed with rubber septum, *N*-(2-chlorophenyl)isobutyramide **1** (0.2 mmol) were combined in toluene (2 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred and irradiated ($\lambda = 450$ nm, PLS-LED100C) for 2.0 h. After irradiation, the solution was measured the unit area photon flux (MQ-500 photosynthetic active radiation meter). And the yield of product formed was isolated. The quantum yield is calculated using the following equation:

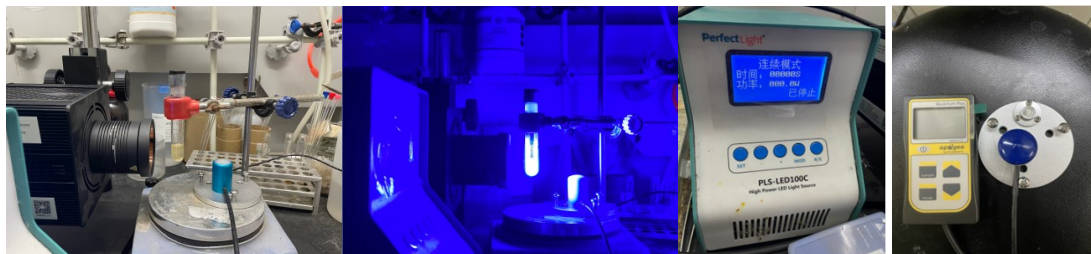
$$\phi = \frac{\text{mol product}}{\text{flux} \cdot S \cdot t}$$

Where, Φ is quantum yield, S (m²) is the irradiation area and t (s) is the photoreaction time.

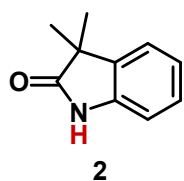
Experiment: the unit photon flux was 665 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ (average of three experiments), the irradiation area was 2.2×10^{-4} m², and the product yield was 9% after 2.0 h (7200 s).

Quantum yield calculation:

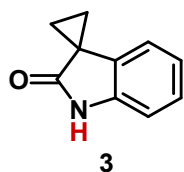
$$\phi = \frac{\text{mol product}}{\text{flux} \cdot S \cdot t} = \frac{0.09 \times 0.2 \times 10^3}{665 \times 2.2 \times 10^{-4} \times 7200} = 0.017$$



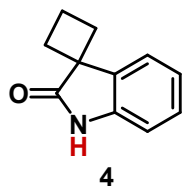
5. Compound Characterization Data



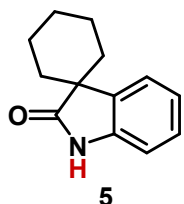
3,3-Dimethylindolin-2-one (2): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (36 mg, 0.177 mmol, 88%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.98 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.03 – 7.06 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.4, 140.0, 136.4, 127.7, 122.7, 122.5, 110.0, 44.8, 24.4. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³



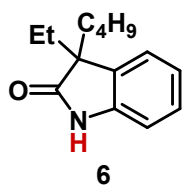
Spiro[cyclopropane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (3): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (29 mg, 0.166 mmol, 83%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 7.21 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.04 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.72 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.53 (m, 2H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 179.6, 140.7, 131.4, 126.9, 122.1, 118.7, 109.9, 27.6, 19.6. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.⁴



Spiro[cyclobutane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (4): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (31 mg, 0.166 mmol, 83%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.32 (m, 3H), 2.28 – 2.21 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.0, 140.3, 135.0, 127.9, 122.8, 122.7, 109.6, 48.7, 31.4, 16.9. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.⁵

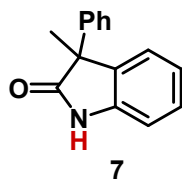


Spiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (5): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (33 mg, 0.142 mmol, 71%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.94 – 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.71 (m, 3H), 1.64 – 1.58 (m, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.4, 140.1, 135.9, 127.5, 124.4, 122.0, 109.8, 48.1, 33.0, 25.3, 21.2. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³



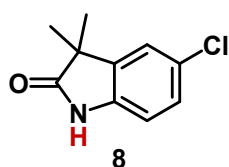
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3-Butyl-3-ethylindolin-2-one (6): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid M.P. 95 – 96 °C. (42 mg, 0.144 mmol, 72%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.00 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.13 (m, 2H), 1.11 – 0.99 (m, 1H), 0.89 – 0.80 (m, 1H), 0.76 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.63 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.9, 141.4, 133.0, 127.6, 123.2, 122.5, 109.6, 54.4, 37.7, 31.2, 26.5, 23.0, 14.0, 8.7. **IR (ATR)** ν 3205, 2959, 2929, 1700, 1619, 1470, 1192, 748, 652 cm⁻¹. **HRMS (ESI):** *m/z* [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₂₀ON⁺: 218.1539; found: 218.1532.



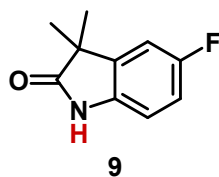
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3-Methyl-3-phenylindolin-2-one (7): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid M.P. 132 – 133 °C. (27 mg, 0.126 mmol, 63%). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.1, 140.6, 140.4, 135.7, 128.7, 128.2, 127.4, 126.7, 124.5, 122.9, 110.2, 52.8, 23.5. **IR (ATR)** ν 3213, 2928, 1706, 1619, 1472, 1215, 715, 696 cm⁻¹. **HRMS (ESI):** *m/z* [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₄ON⁺: 224.1069; found: 224.1062.



8

5-Chloro-3,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (8): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a colorless oil (36 mg, 0.166 mmol, 83%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.7, 138.4, 138.1, 128.0, 127.8, 123.4, 111.0, 45.2, 24.3. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³

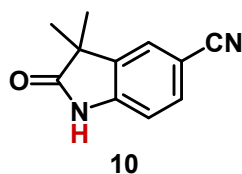


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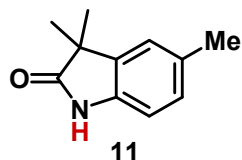
5-Fluoro-3,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (9): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (29 mg, 0.124 mmol, 62%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.52 (s, 1H), 6.94 – 6.82 (m, 3H), 1.39 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.6, 159.4 (d, *J* = 239.9 Hz), 138.0 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 114.0 (d, *J* = 23.6 Hz), 110.8 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 110.6 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 45.5, 24.3. **¹⁹F NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -

120.6 (q, $J = 7.3$ Hz). These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.

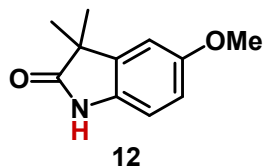
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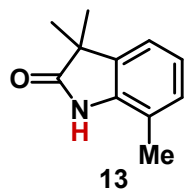
3,3-Dimethyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (10) Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a yellow solid (22 mg, 0.114 mmol, 57%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.30 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.8, 144.1, 137.3, 133.1, 126.4, 119.3, 110.6, 105.9, 44.8, 24.2. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.⁷



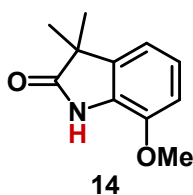
3,3,5-Trimethylindolin-2-one (11): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (35 mg, 0.150 mmol, 75%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 7.01 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.3, 137.5, 136.5, 132.0, 128.0, 123.5, 109.7, 44.8, 24.5, 21.3. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³



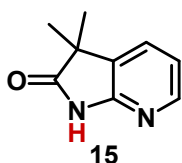
5-Methoxy-3,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (12): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (33 mg, 0.142 mmol, 71%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.71 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.1, 156.0, 137.9, 133.3, 112.0, 110.3, 110.2, 55.9, 45.3, 24.5. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³



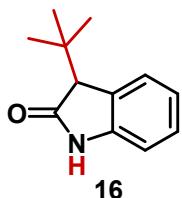
3,3,7-Trimethylindolin-2-one (13): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (25 mg, 0.116 mmol, 58%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.77 (s, 1H), 7.04 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.3, 138.7, 136.0, 129.1, 122.5, 120.1, 119.3, 45.1, 24.5, 16.6. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.⁸



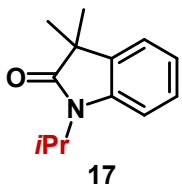
7-Methoxy-3,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (14): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a yellow solid M.P. 120 – 121 °C. (30 mg, 0.124 mmol, 62%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.05 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.6, 143.8, 137.1, 128.3, 123.1, 115.1, 110.1, 55.7, 45.4, 24.4. **IR (ATR)** ν 3219, 2965, 2927, 1703, 1461, 1260, 1053, 731 cm^{-1} . **HRMS (ESI):** m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{N}^+$: 192.1019; found: 192.1012.



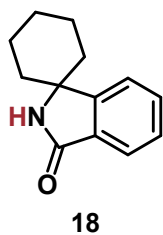
3,3-Dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-2-one (15): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a colorless oil (45 mg, 0.167 mmol, 84%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.84 (s, 1H), 8.17 – 8.16 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.2, 155.6, 146.3, 130.59, 130.56, 118.3, 44.8, 24.0. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.³



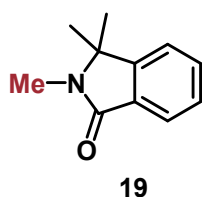
3-(tert-Butyl)indolin-2-one (16): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (32 mg, 0.119 mmol, 59%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 1.12 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 179.0, 142.1, 128.4, 128.0, 126.6, 121.7, 109.3, 56.0, 35.1, 27.5. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.⁹



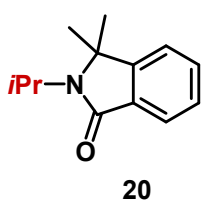
1-Isopropyl-3,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (17): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (32 mg, 0.112 mmol, 57%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 4.71 – 4.61 (m, 1H), 1.46 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6H), 1.33 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 181.2, 141.3, 136.5, 127.5, 122.7, 122.0, 110.0, 44.0, 43.5, 24.6, 19.6. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰



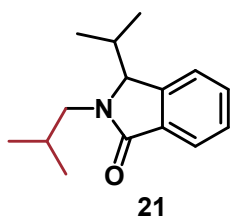
Spiro[cyclohexane-1,1'-isoindolin]-3'-one (18): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (33 mg, 0.142 mmol, 71%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.84 (m, 5H), 1.60 – 1.56 (m, 4H), 1.44 – 1.41 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.3, 153.2, 131.9, 131.1, 128.1, 124.1, 121.4, 62.0, 36.8, 25.2, 23.4. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰



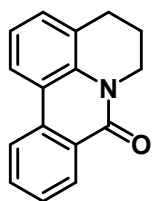
1'-Methylspiro[cyclobutane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (19): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) a colorless oil (29 mg, 0.155 mmol, 78%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.4, 151.6, 131.6, 131.0, 128.1, 123.7, 120.8, 62.2, 25.0, 24.0. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰



2-Isopropyl-3,3-dimethylisoindolin-1-one (20): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (18 mg, 0.090 mmol, 45%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 1.56 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.48 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.3, 151.4, 132.1, 131.3, 127.9, 123.2, 120.7, 63.3, 44.6, 25.5, 20.6. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰



2-Isobutyl-3-isopropylisoindolin-1-one (21): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (23 mg, 0.106 mmol, 53%). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 4.47 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (dd, $J = 14.0, 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, $J = 14.0, 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.24 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.86 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H), 0.48 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.8, 143.4, 133.5, 130.8, 128.1, 123.8, 123.2, 64.3, 47.1, 28.8, 27.4, 20.7, 19.9, 19.2, 14.9. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰

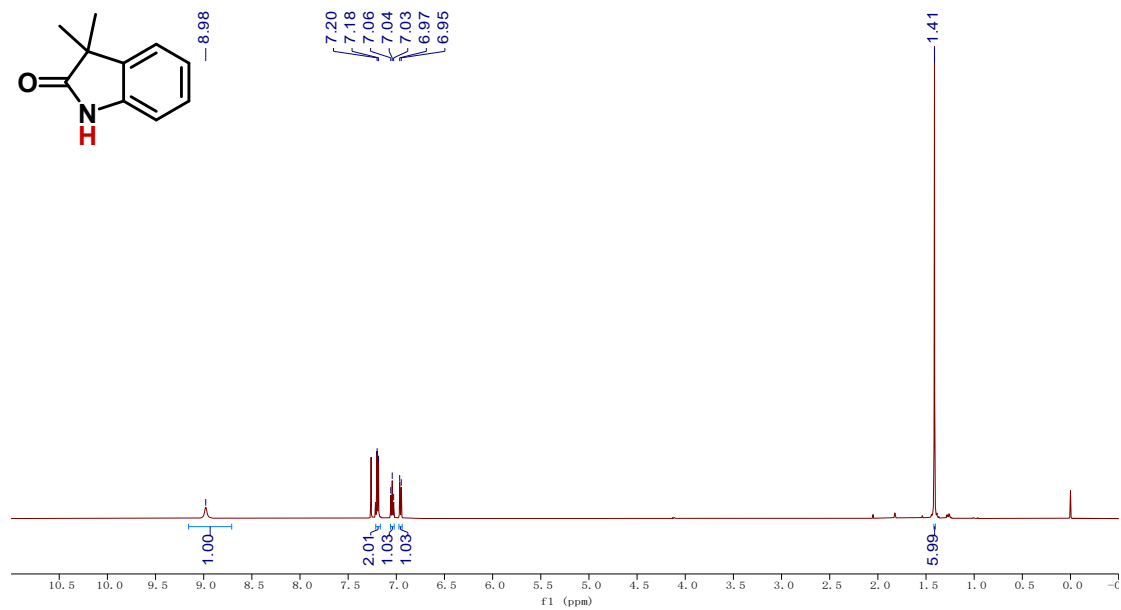


22

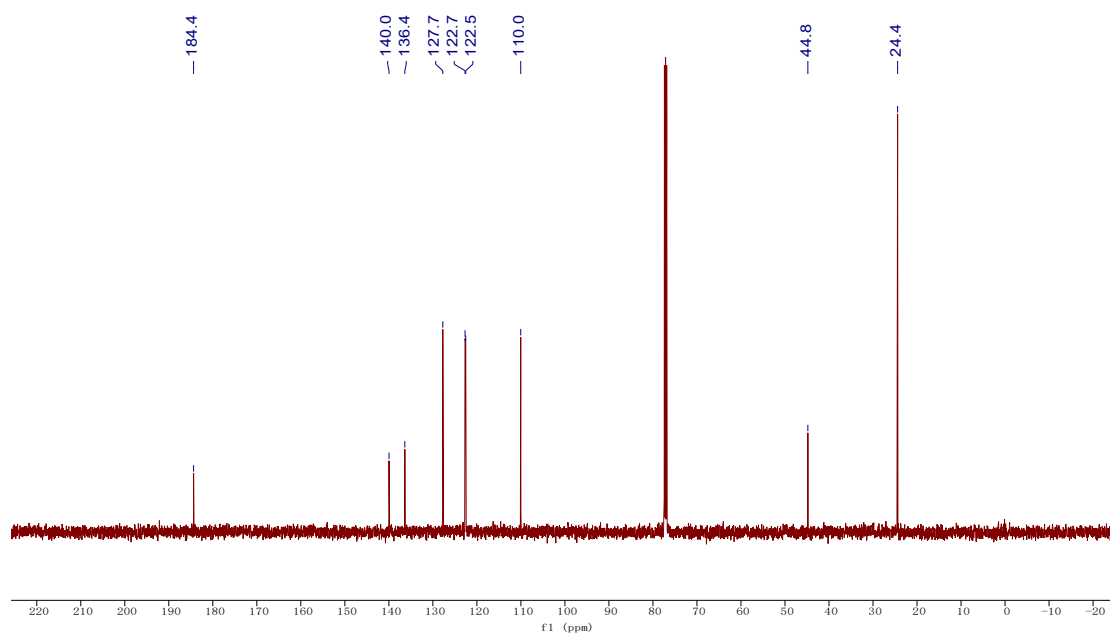
5,6-Dihydro-4H,8H-pyrido[3,2,1-de]phenanthridin-8-one (22): Following the general procedure, the title product was obtained after purification by column chromatography (PE/EA = 3:1-1:1) as a white solid (34 mg, 0.156 mmol, 78%). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 4.35 – 4.29 (m, 2H), 3.05 – 2.99 (m, 2H), 2.20 – 2.10 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.3, 134.6, 133.7, 132.4, 129.6, 128.6, 127.9, 125.7, 125.4, 122.0, 121.9, 121.4, 119.2, 42.9, 28.3, 20.8. These data are in agreement with those reported previously in the literature.¹⁰

6. NMR Spectra

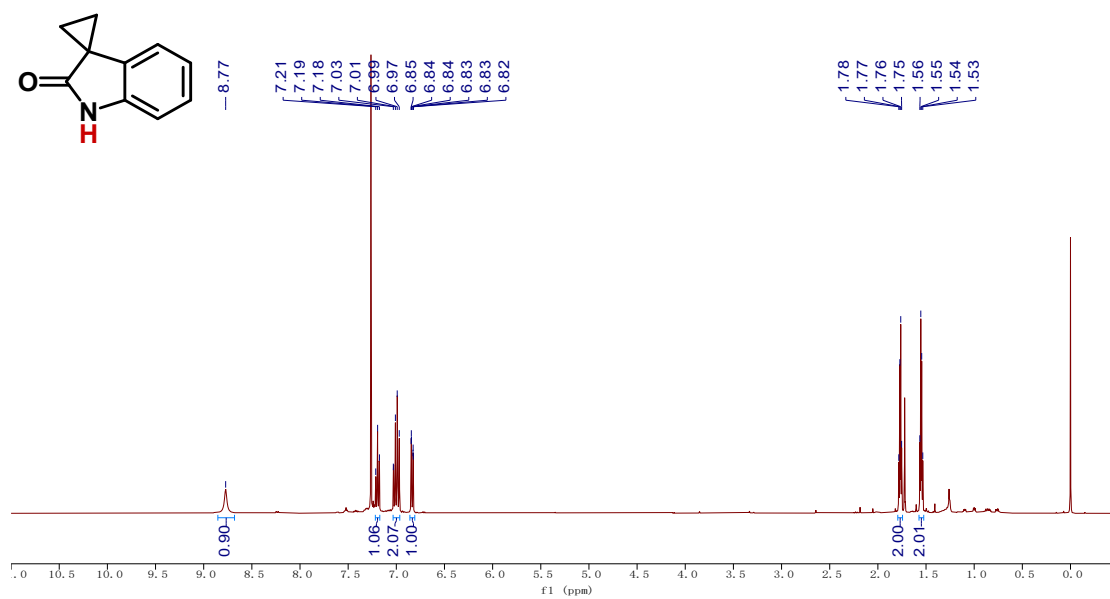
^1H NMR of compound **2** (500 MHz in CDCl_3)



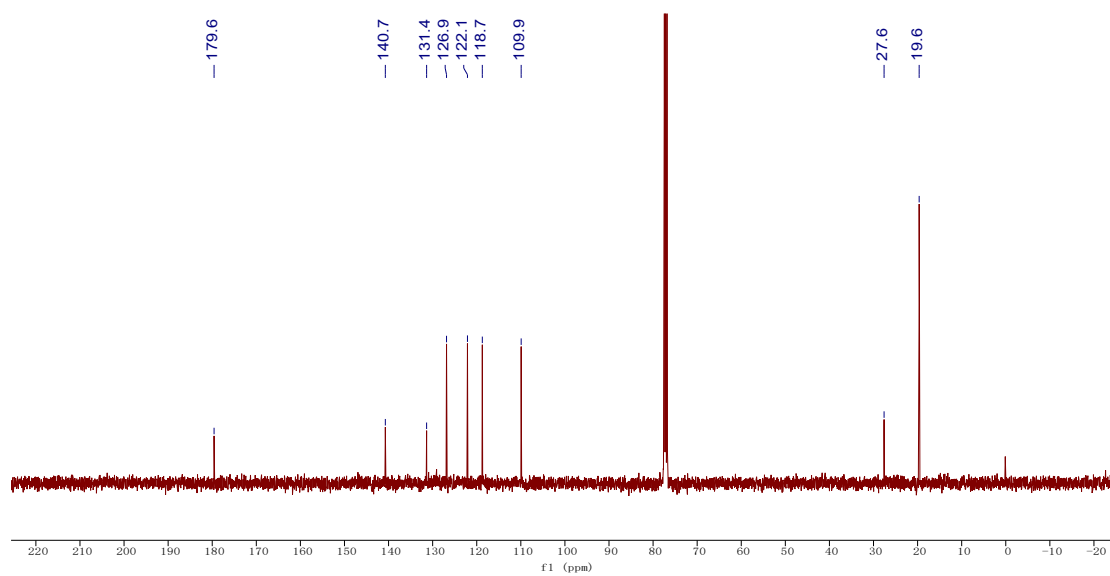
^{13}C NMR of compound **2** (126 MHz in CDCl_3)



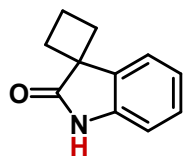
¹H NMR of compound 3 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR of compound 3 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)

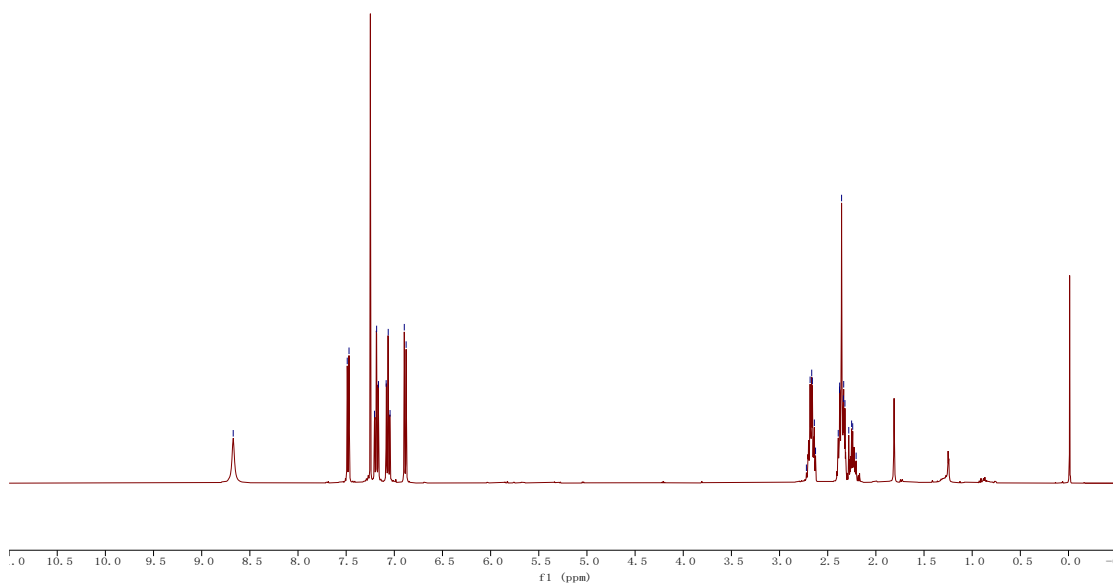


¹H NMR of compound 4 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



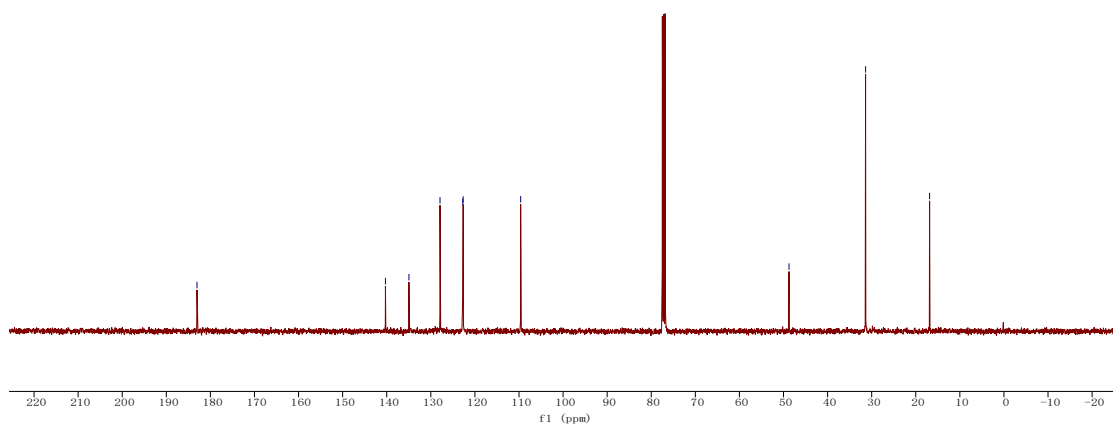
8.67
7.49
7.47
7.21
7.18
7.16
7.08
7.06
7.04
6.90
6.88

2.72
2.68
2.67
2.66
2.64
2.63
2.39
2.38
2.38
2.36
2.34
2.33
2.32
2.28
2.25
2.24
2.21

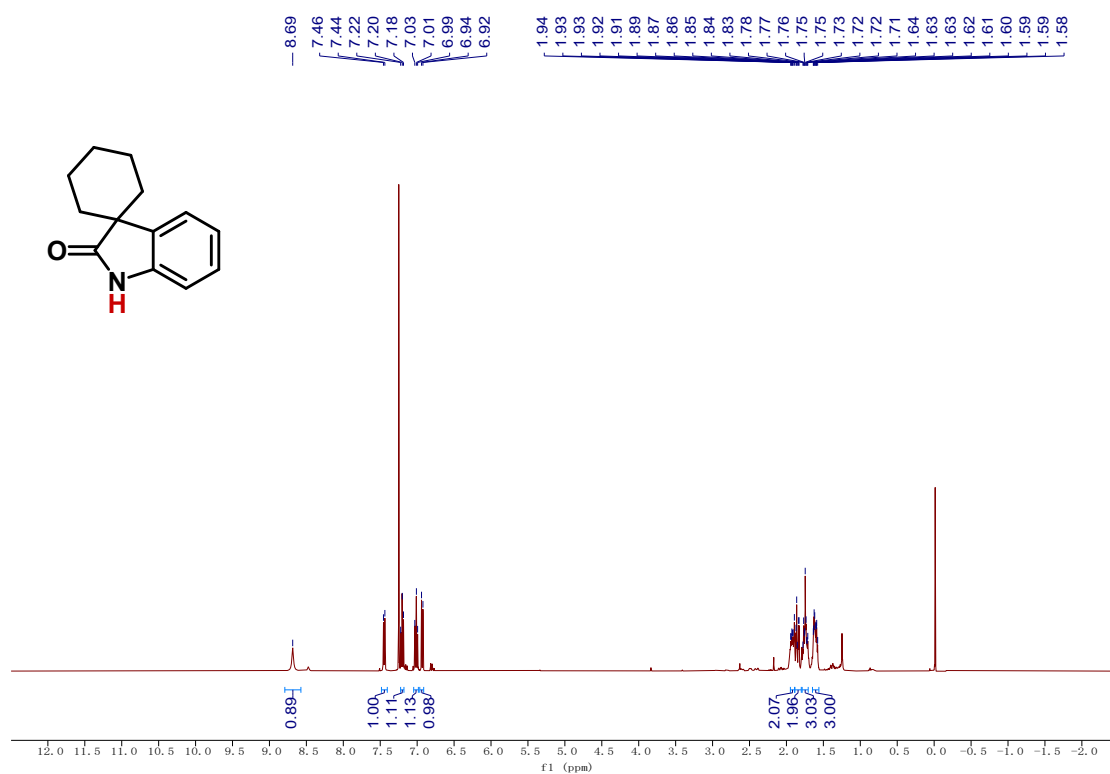


¹³C NMR of compound 4 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)

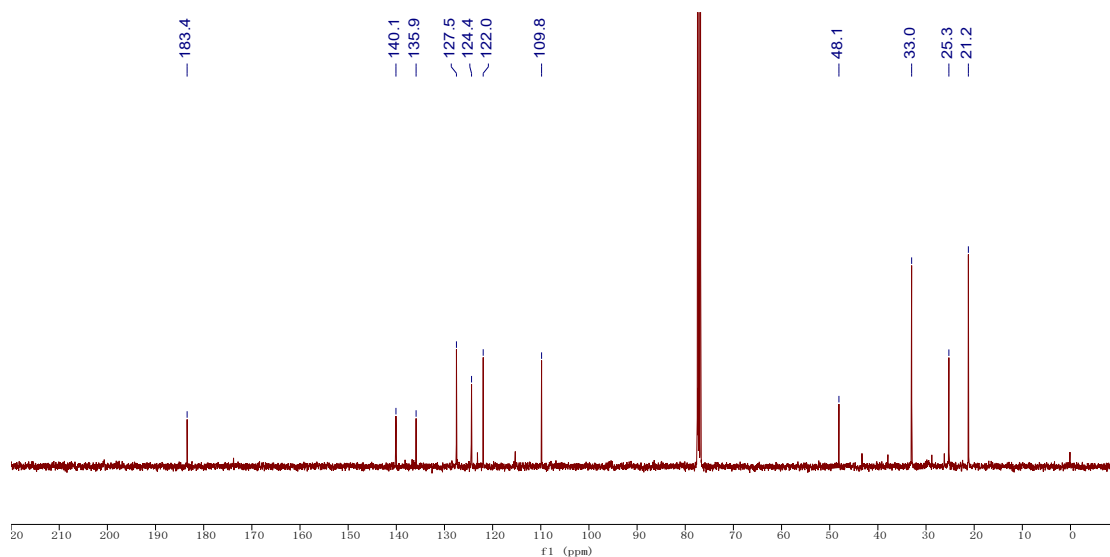
183.0
140.3
135.0
127.9
122.8
122.7
109.6
48.7
31.4
16.9



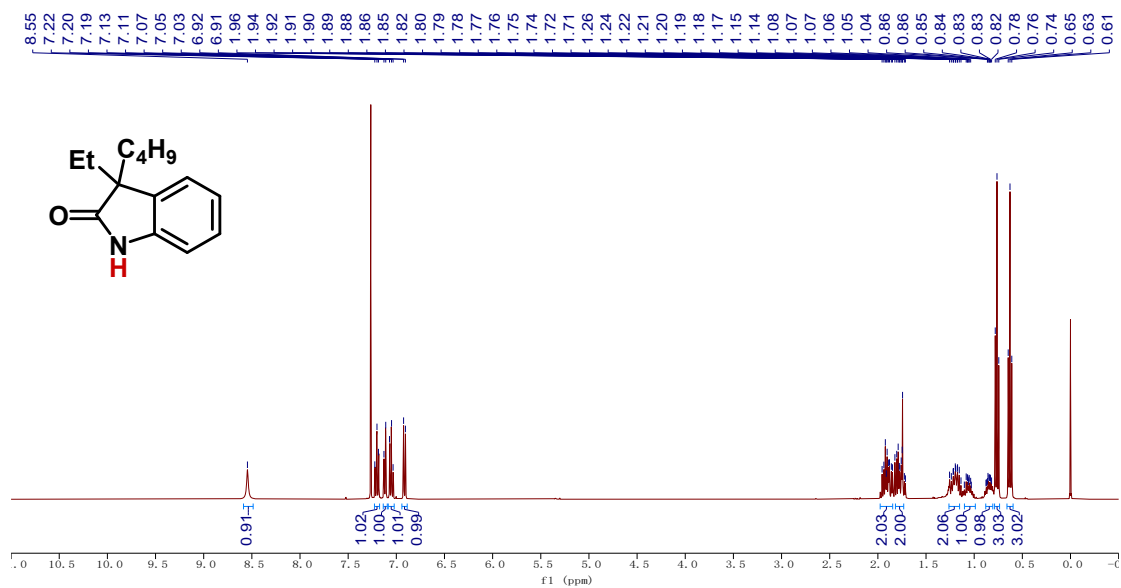
¹H NMR of compound 5 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



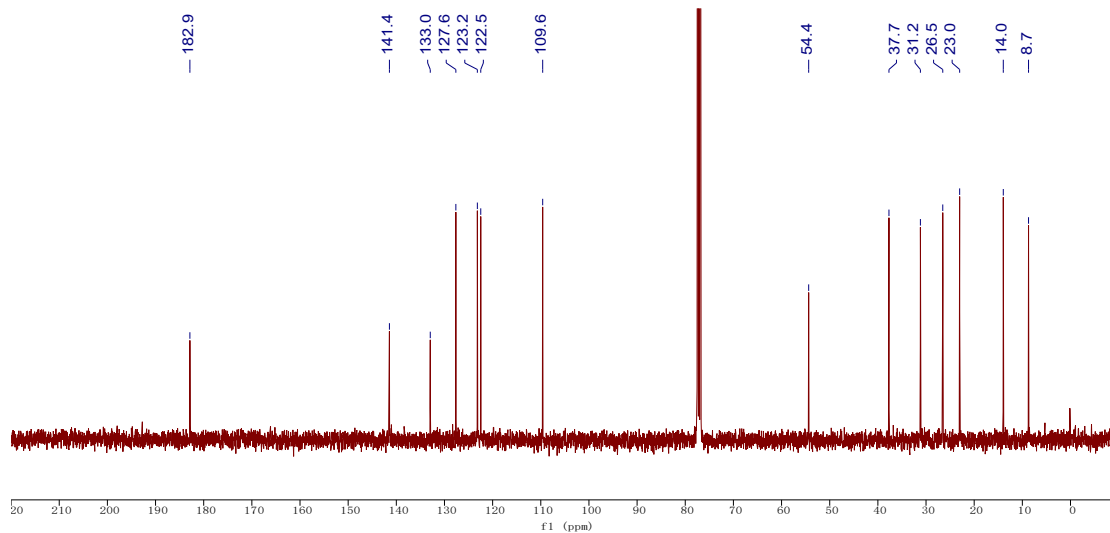
¹³C NMR of compound 5 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



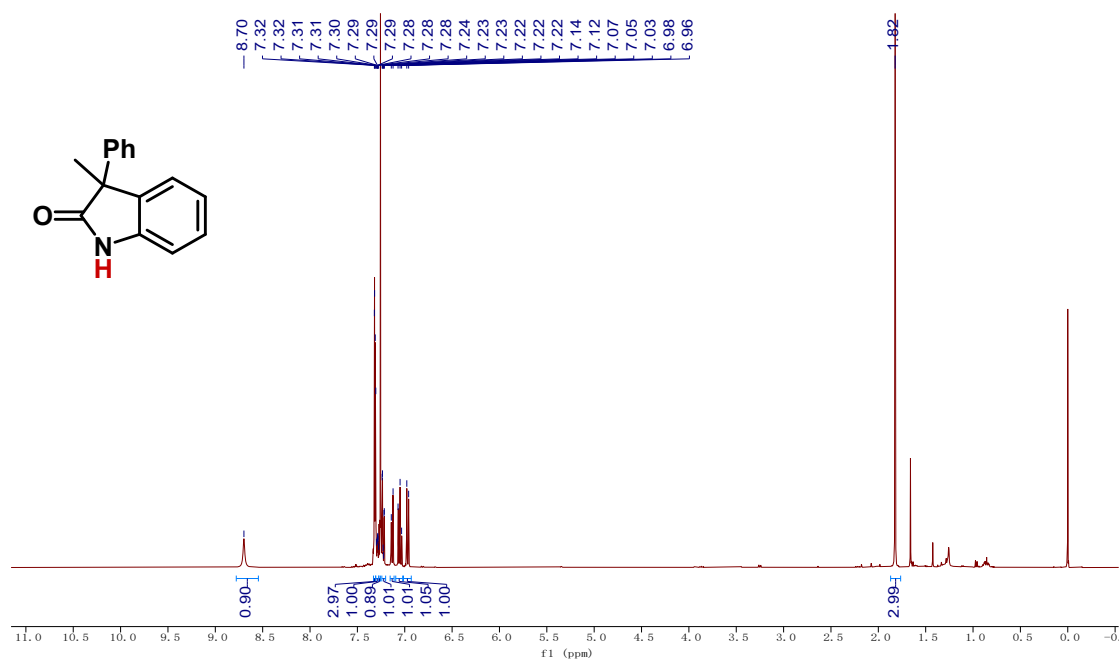
¹H NMR of compound 6 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



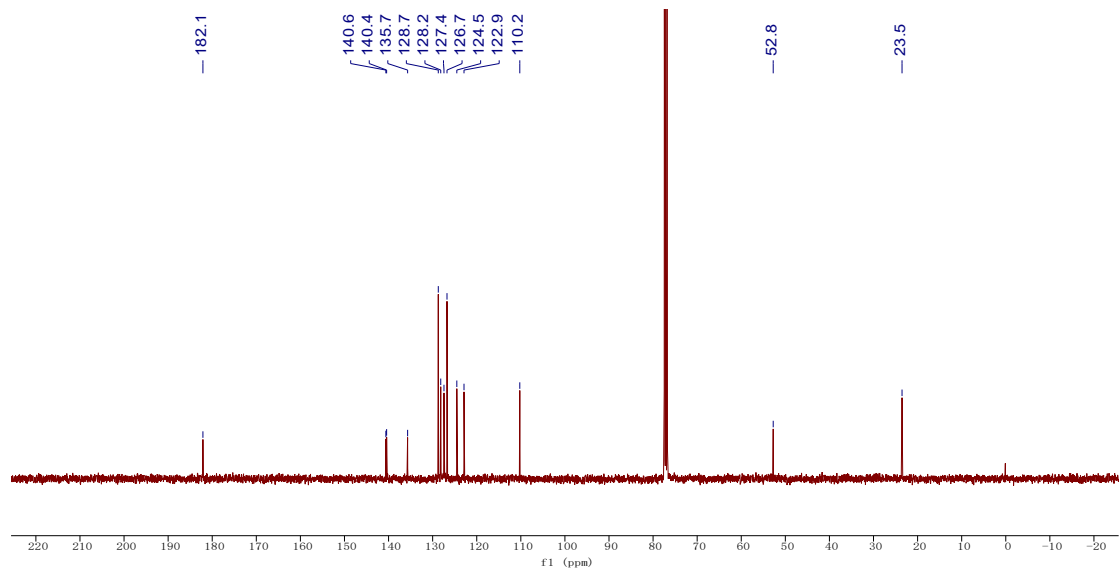
¹³C NMR of compound 6 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



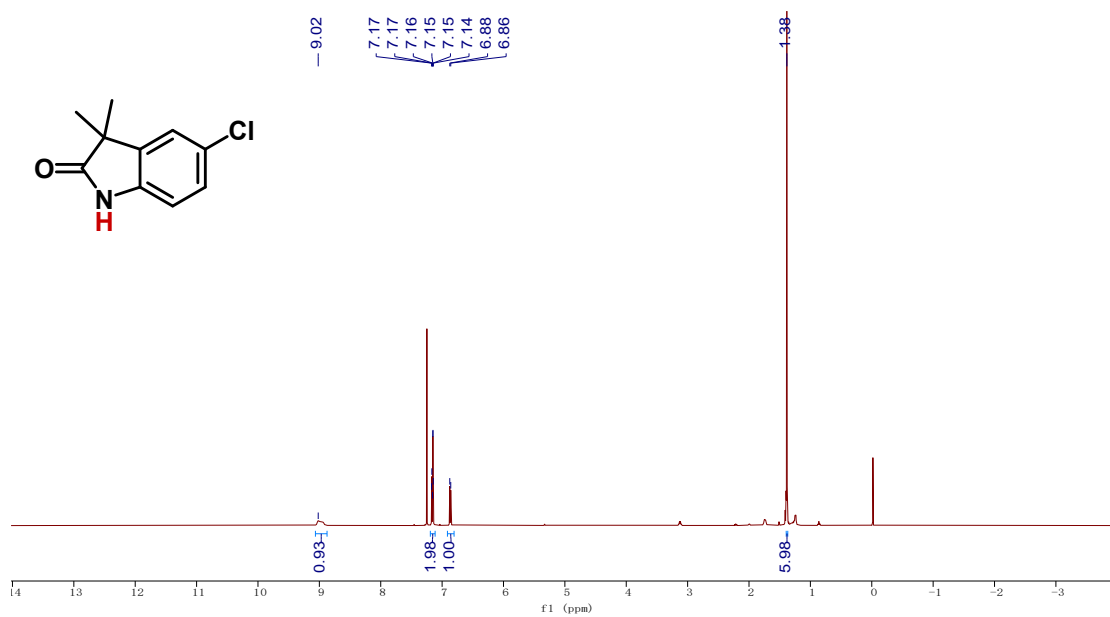
¹H NMR of compound 7 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



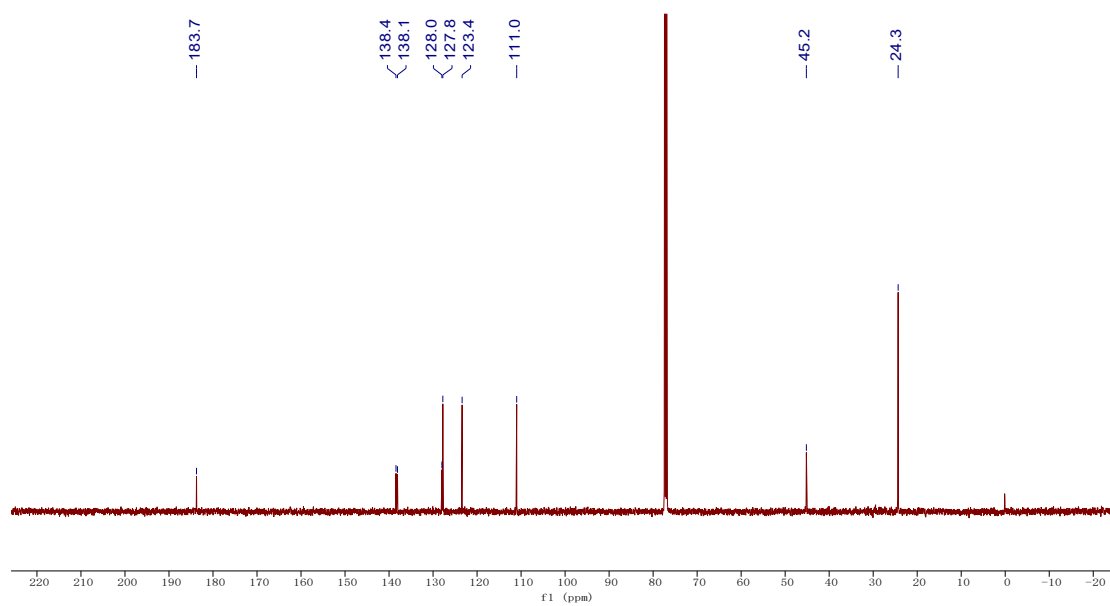
¹³C NMR of compound 7 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



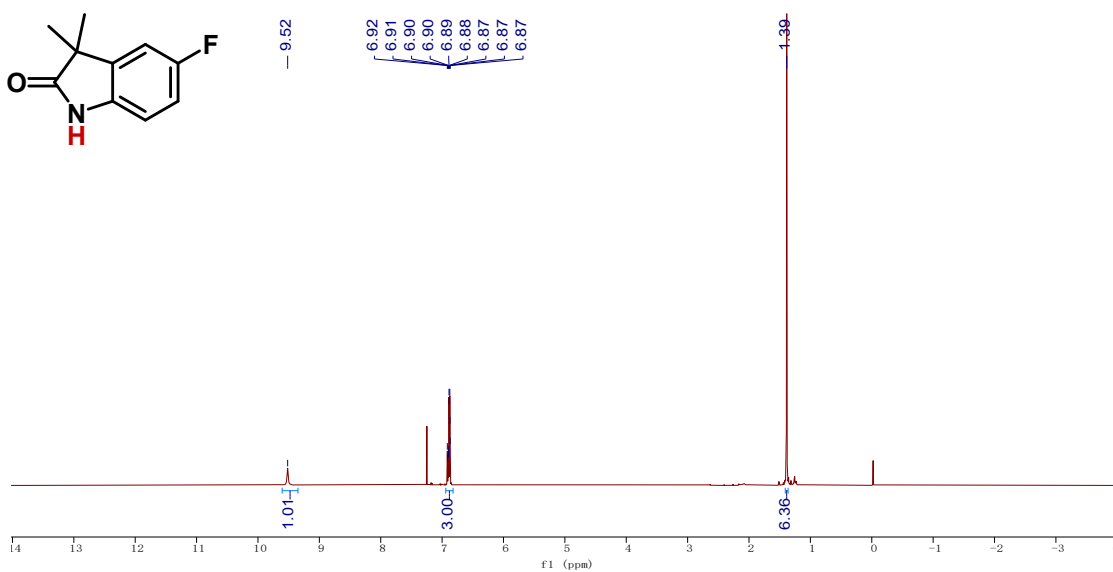
¹H NMR of compound 8 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



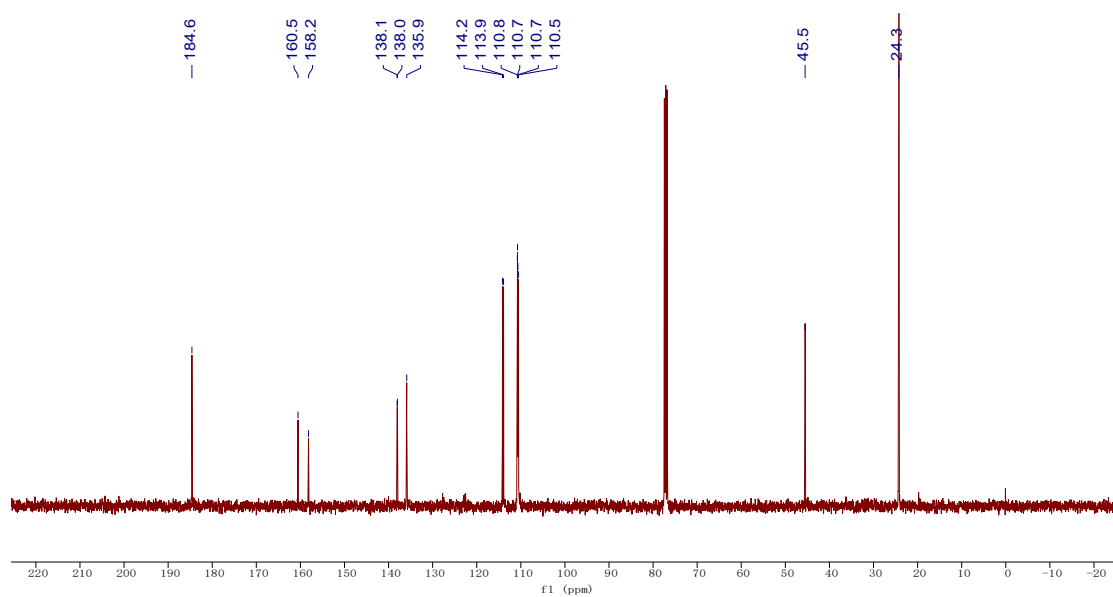
¹³C NMR of compound 8 (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



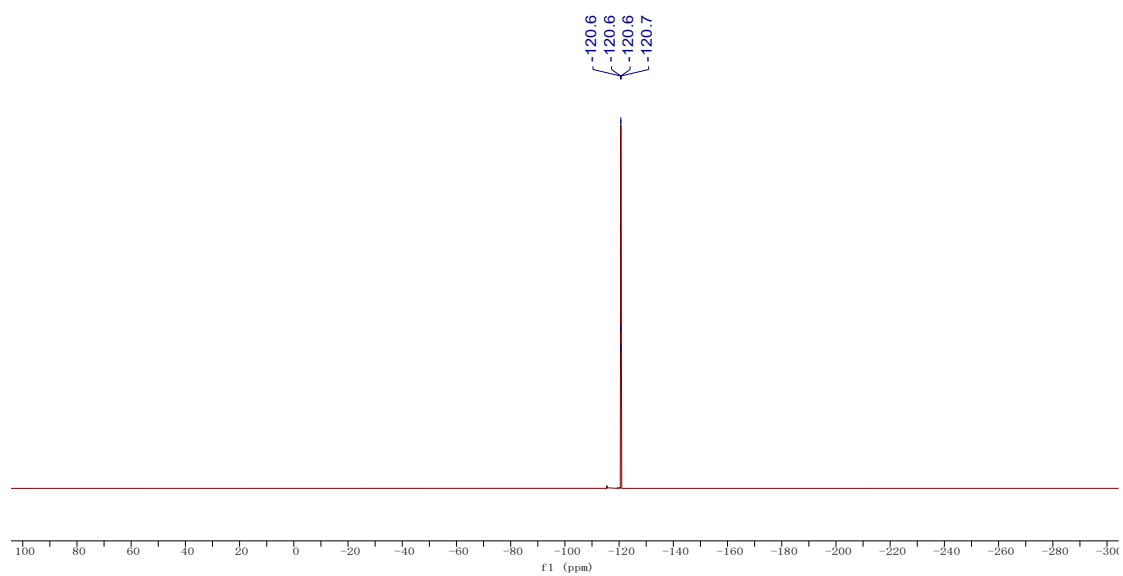
¹H NMR of compound **9** (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



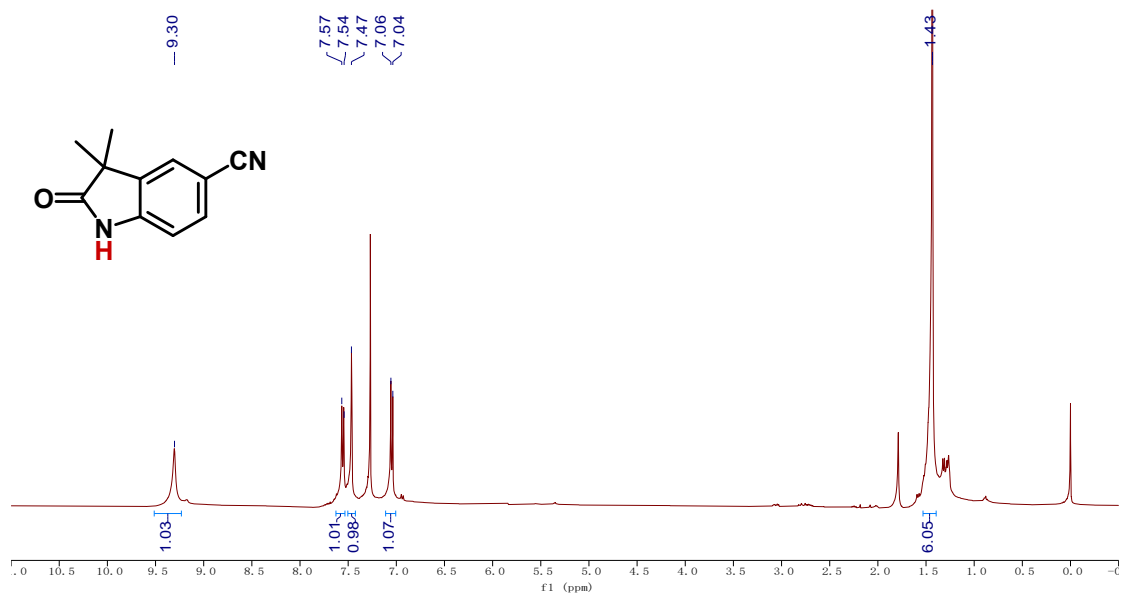
¹³C NMR of compound **9** (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



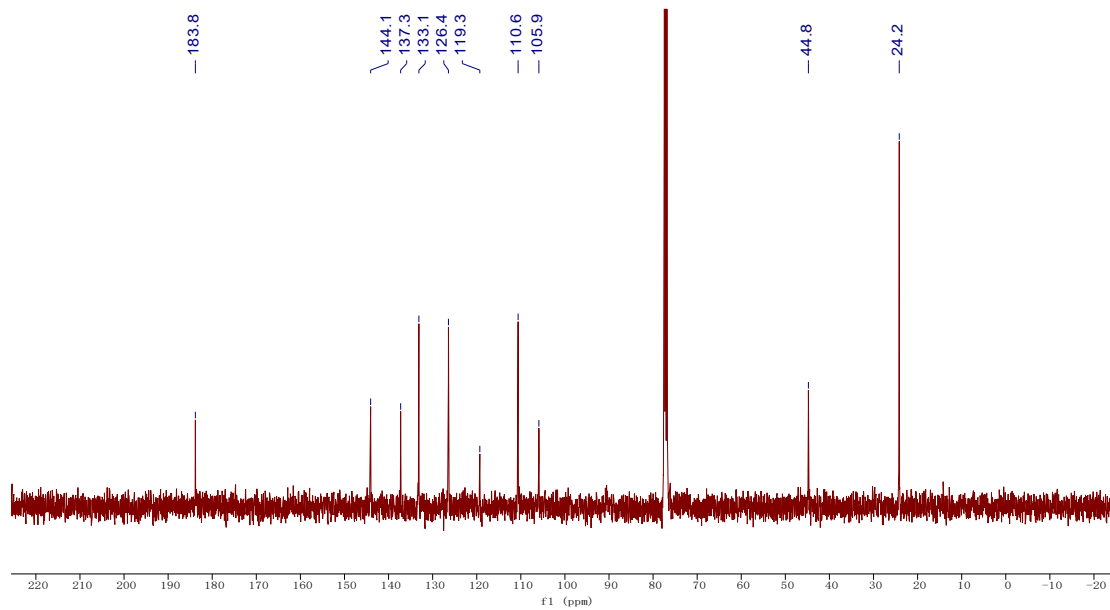
¹⁹F NMR of compound **9** (471 MHz in CDCl₃)



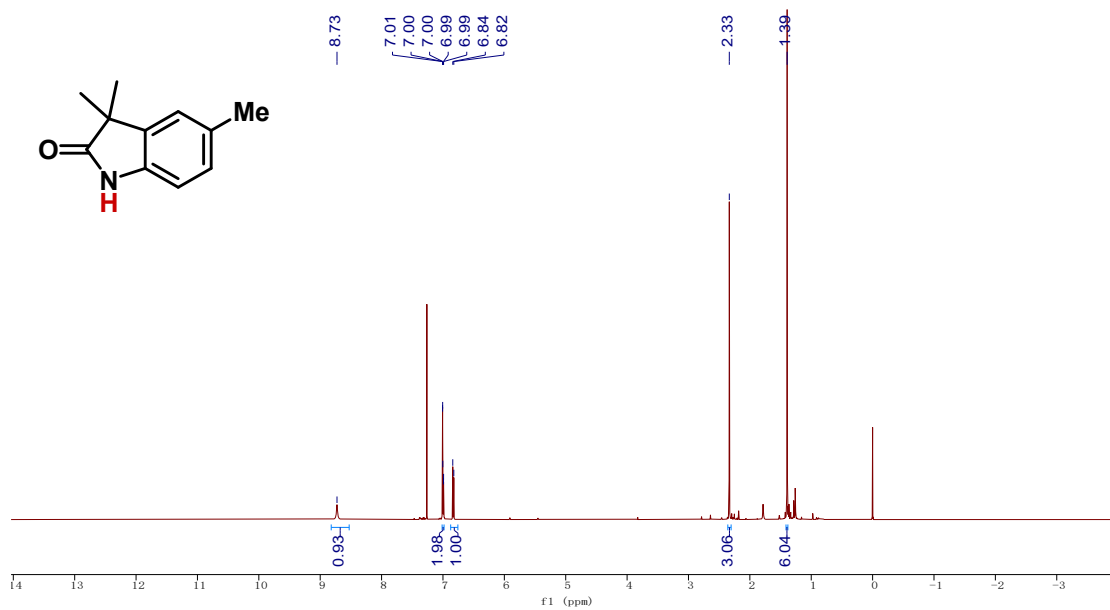
¹H NMR of compound 10 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



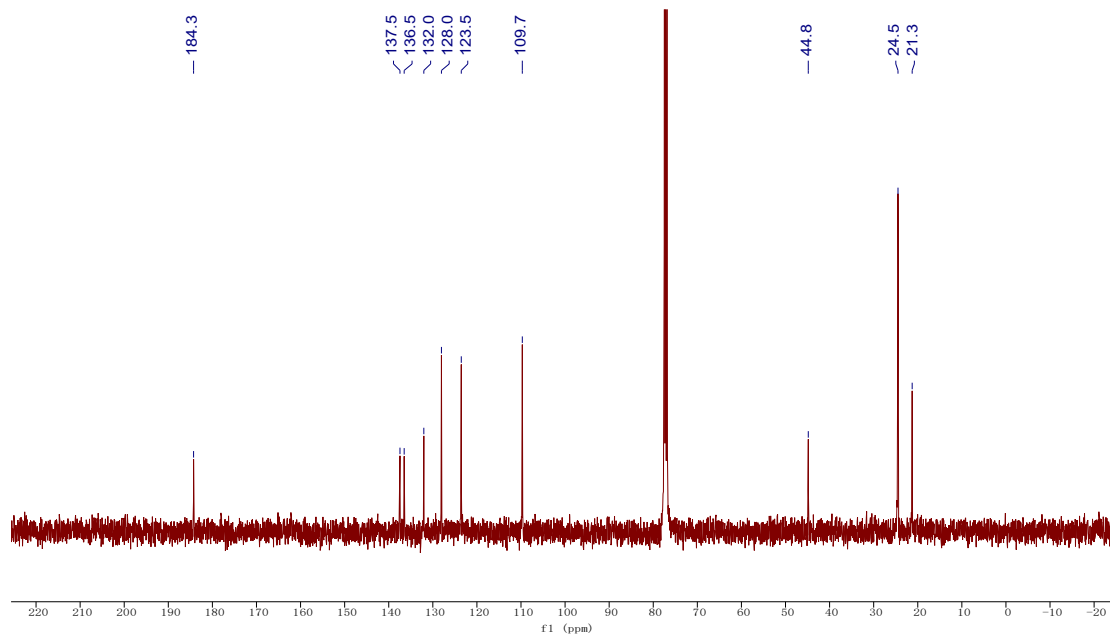
¹³C NMR of compound 10 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



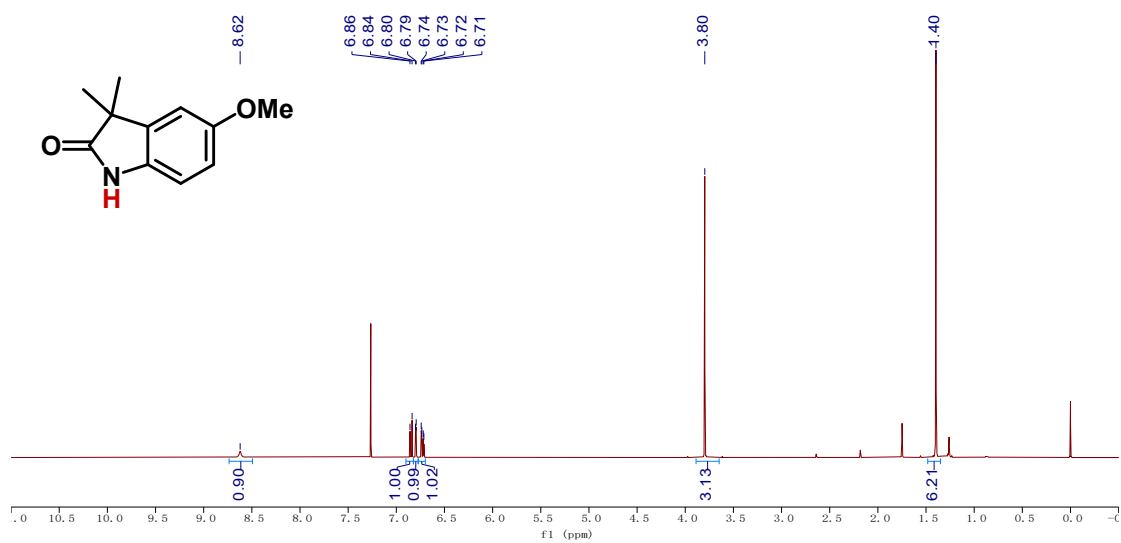
¹H NMR of compound 11 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



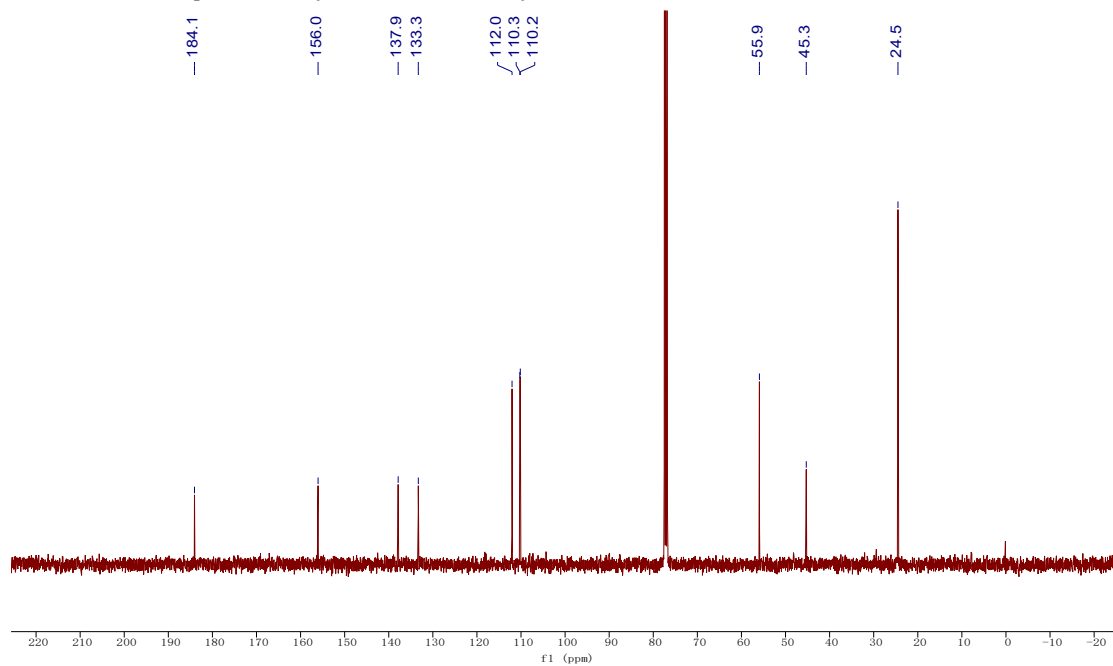
¹³C NMR of compound 11 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



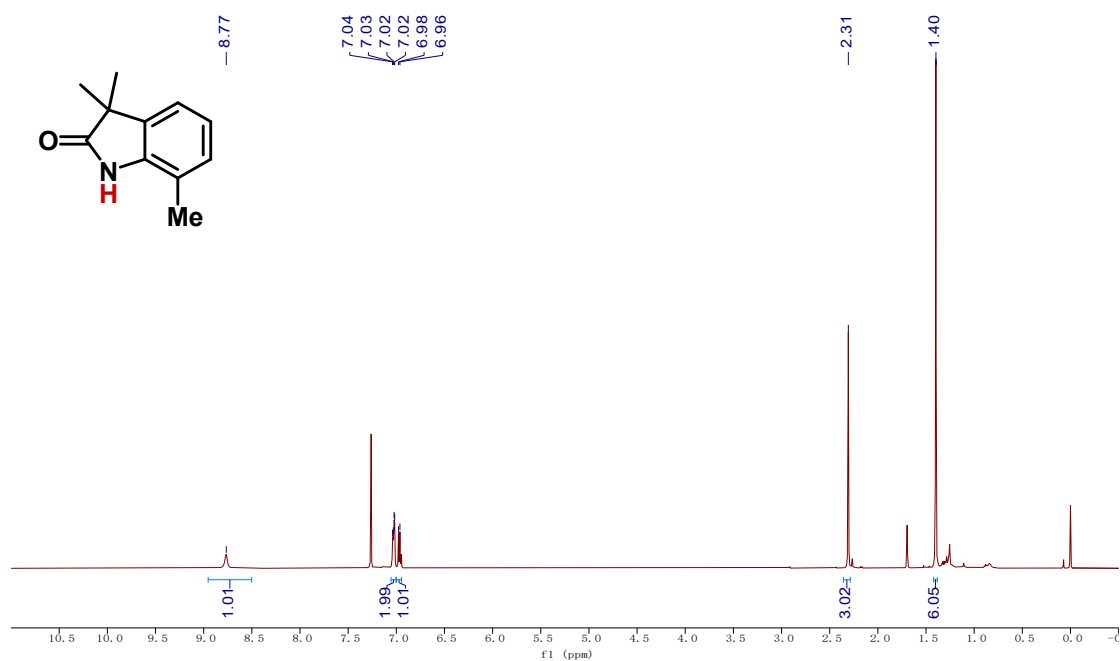
¹H NMR of compound **12** (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



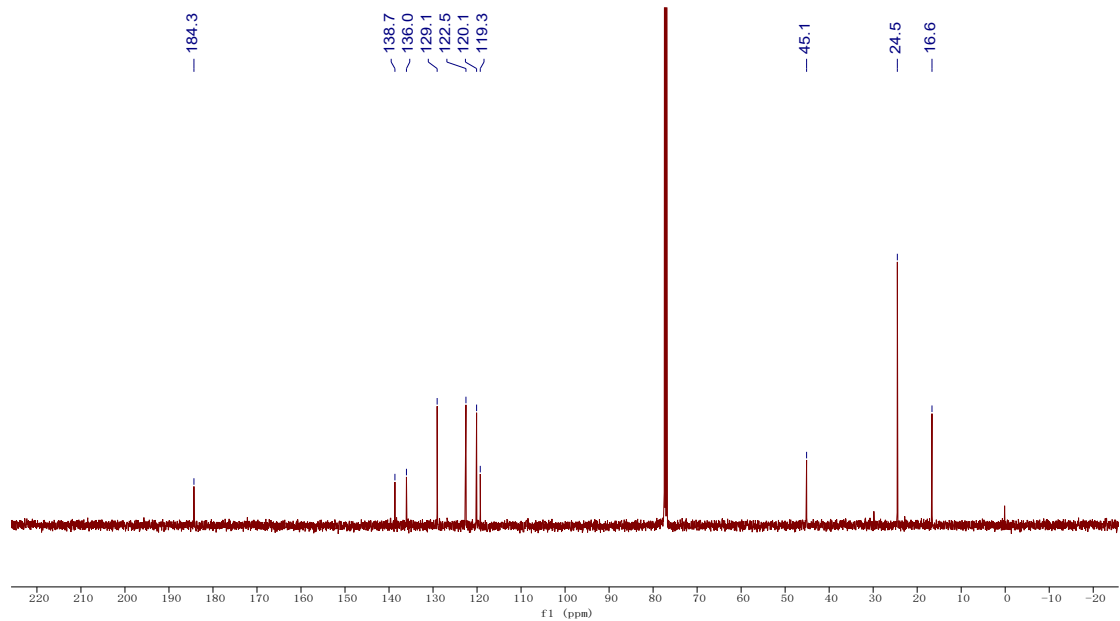
¹³C NMR of compound **12** (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



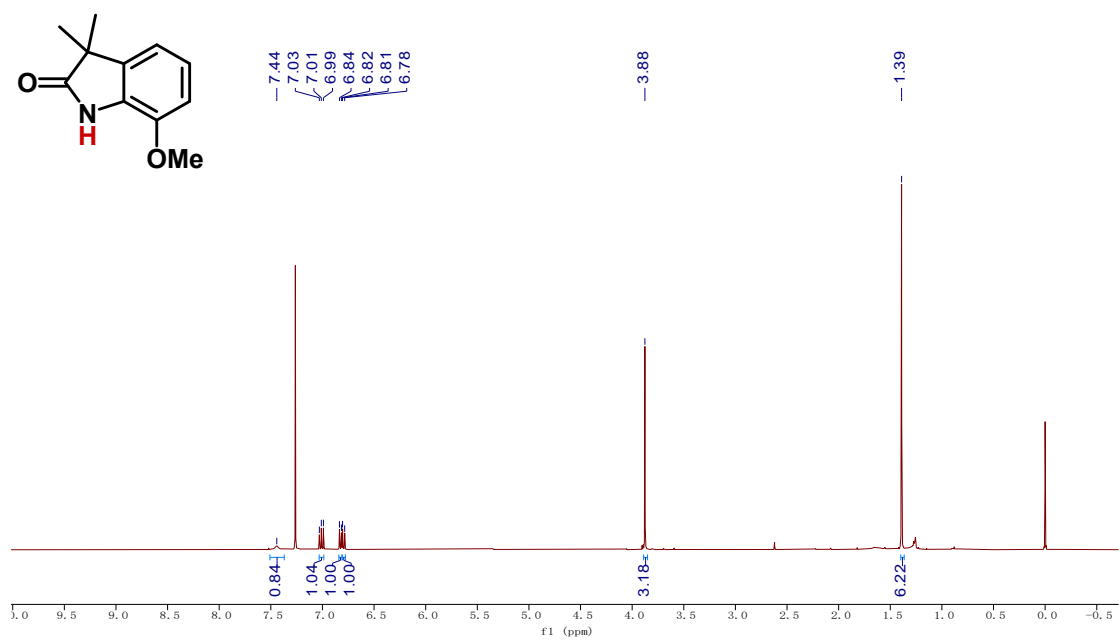
¹H NMR of compound 13 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



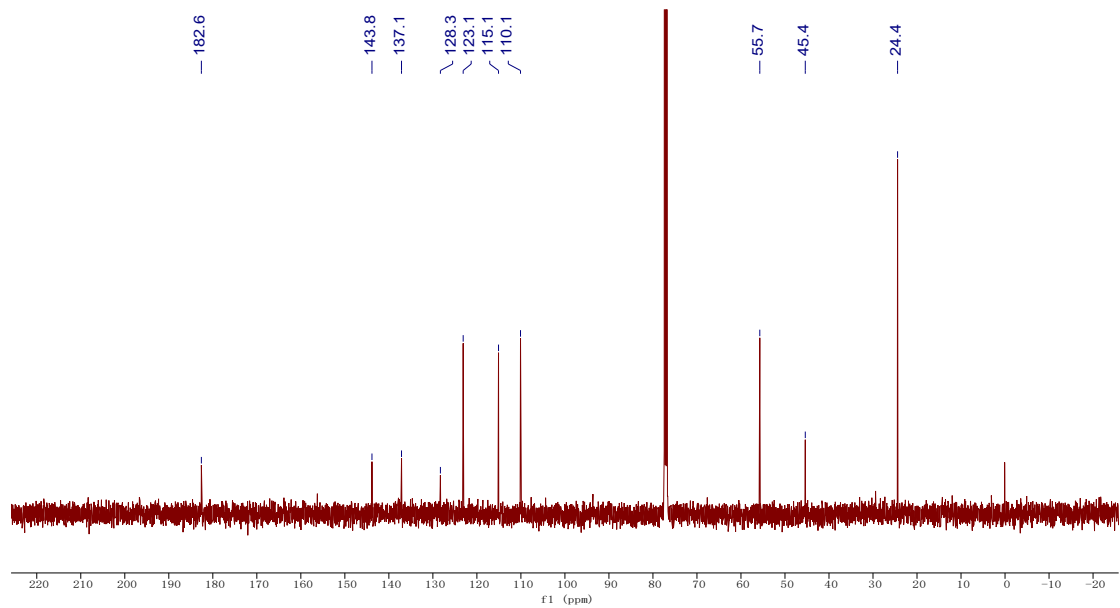
¹³C NMR of compound 13 (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



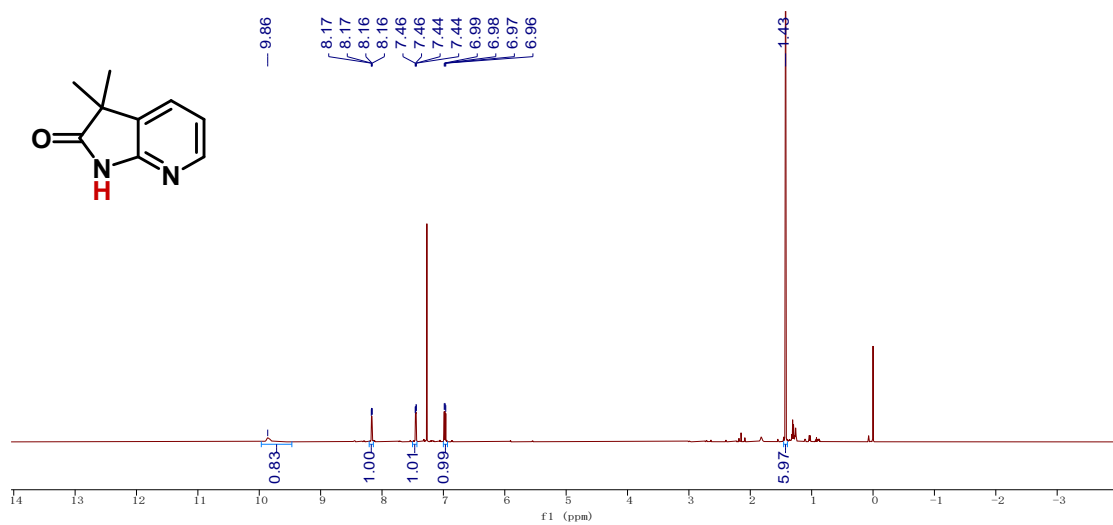
¹H NMR of compound **14** (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



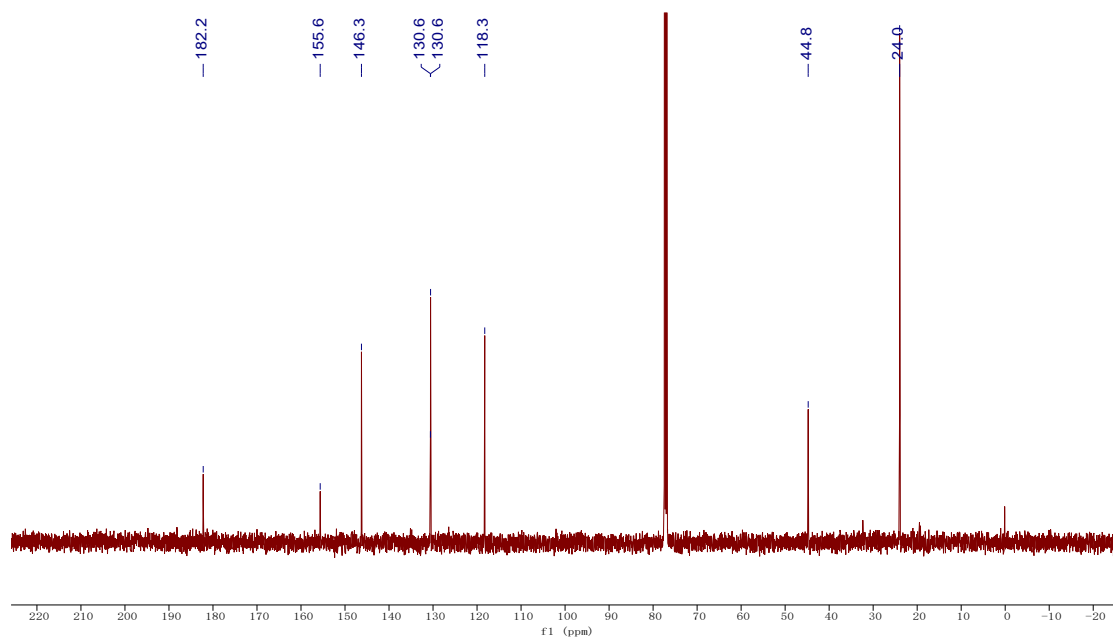
¹³C NMR of compound **14** (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



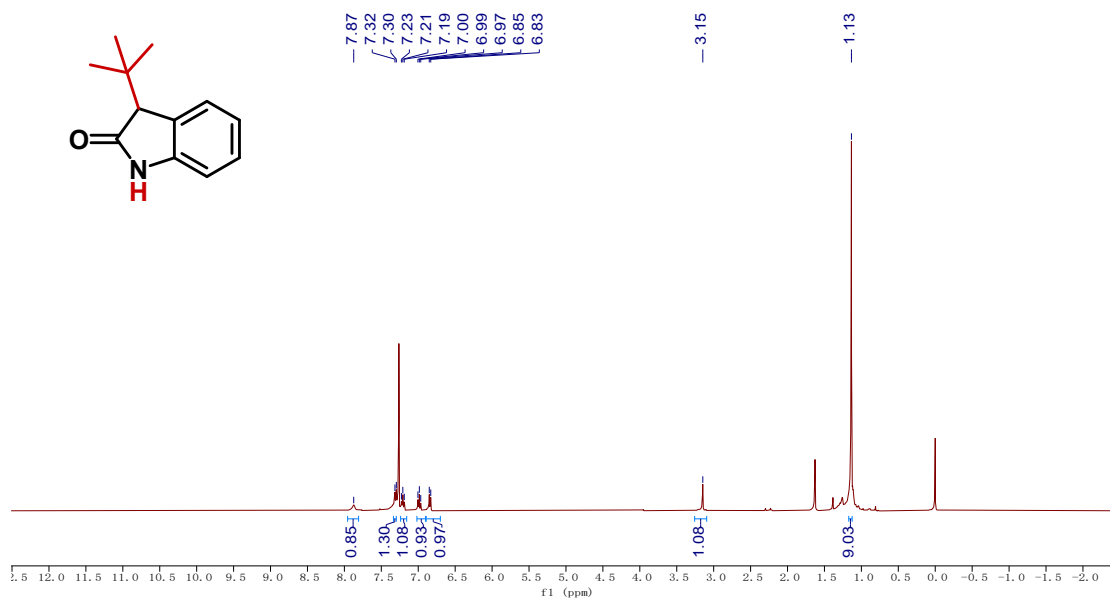
¹H NMR of compound 15 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



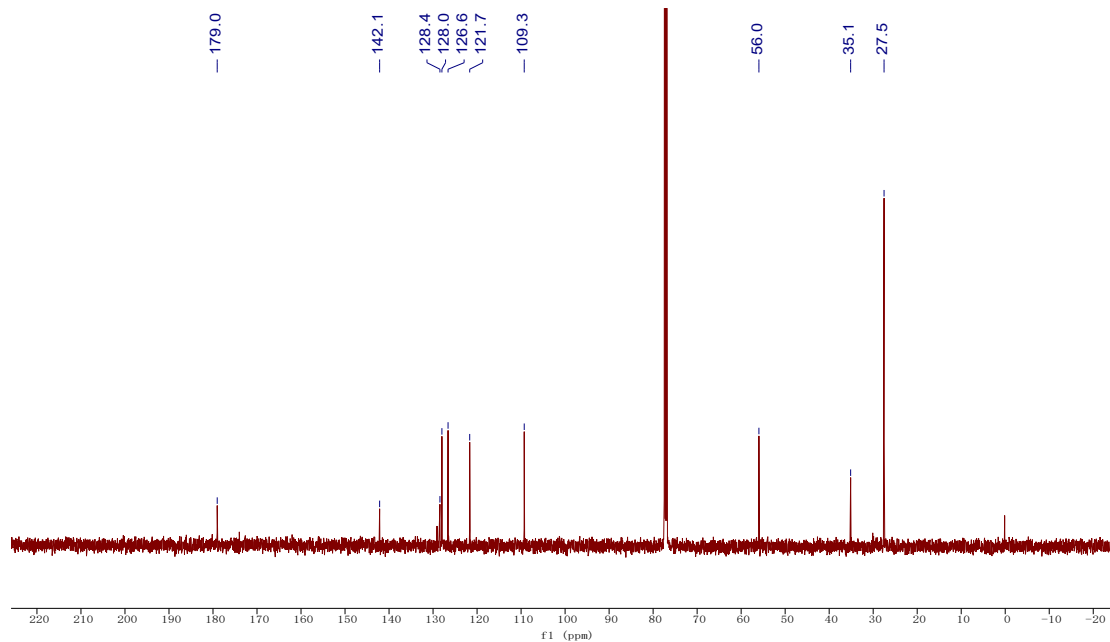
¹³C NMR of compound 15 (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



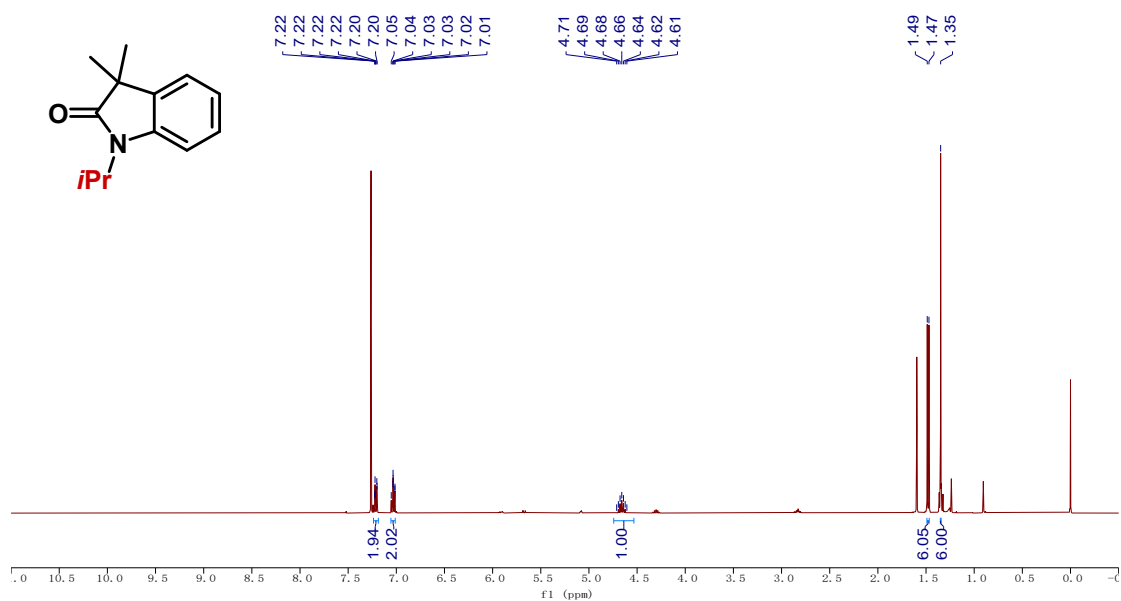
¹H NMR of compound 16 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



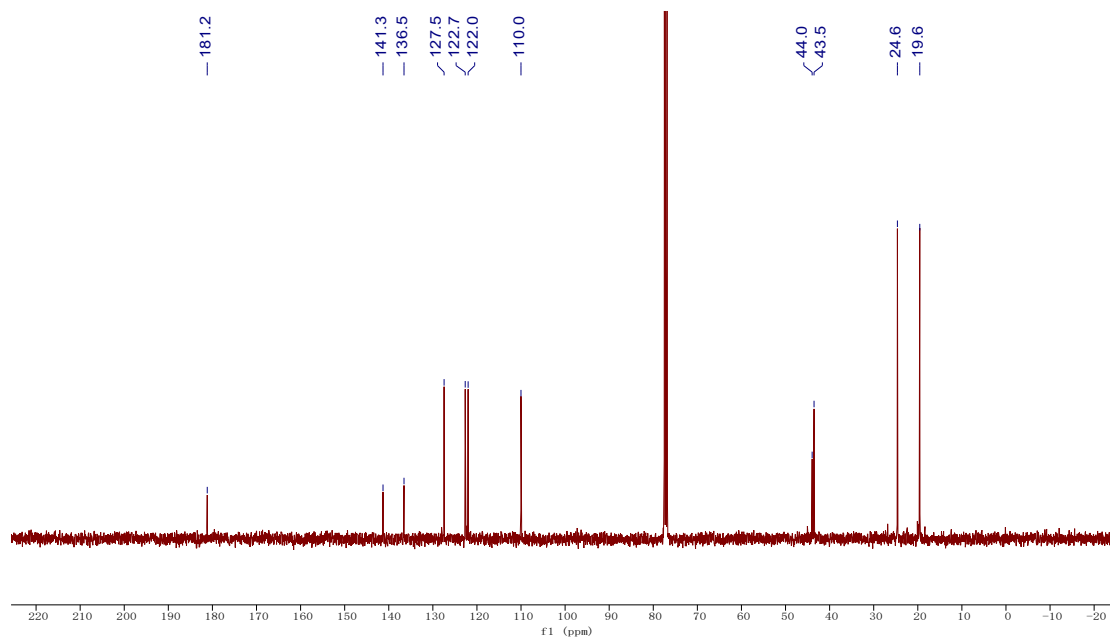
¹³C NMR of compound 16 (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



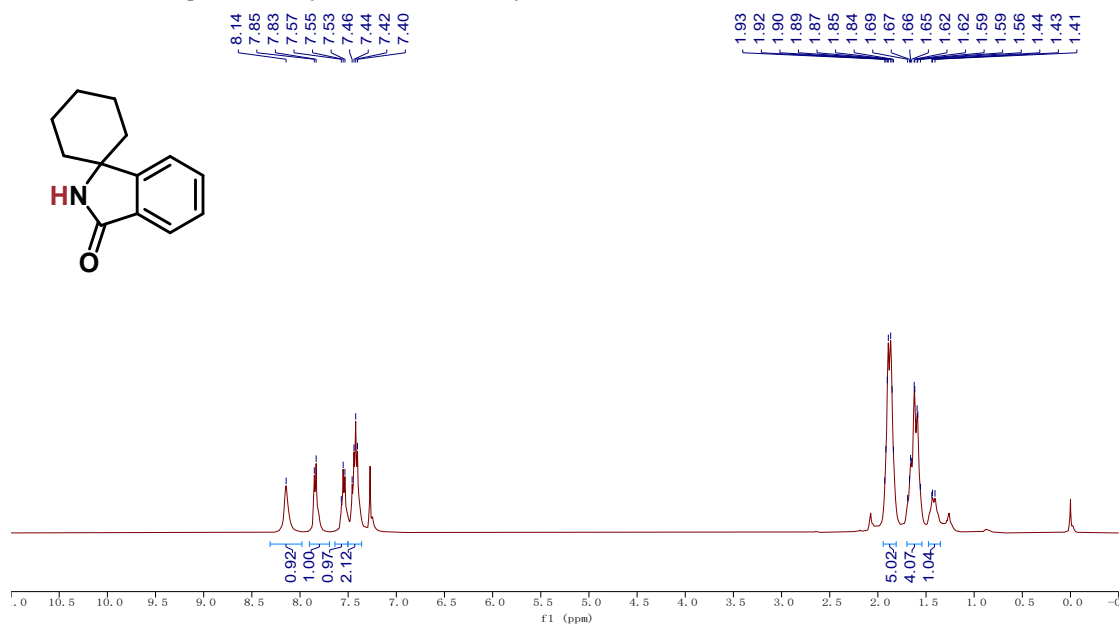
¹H NMR of compound 17 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



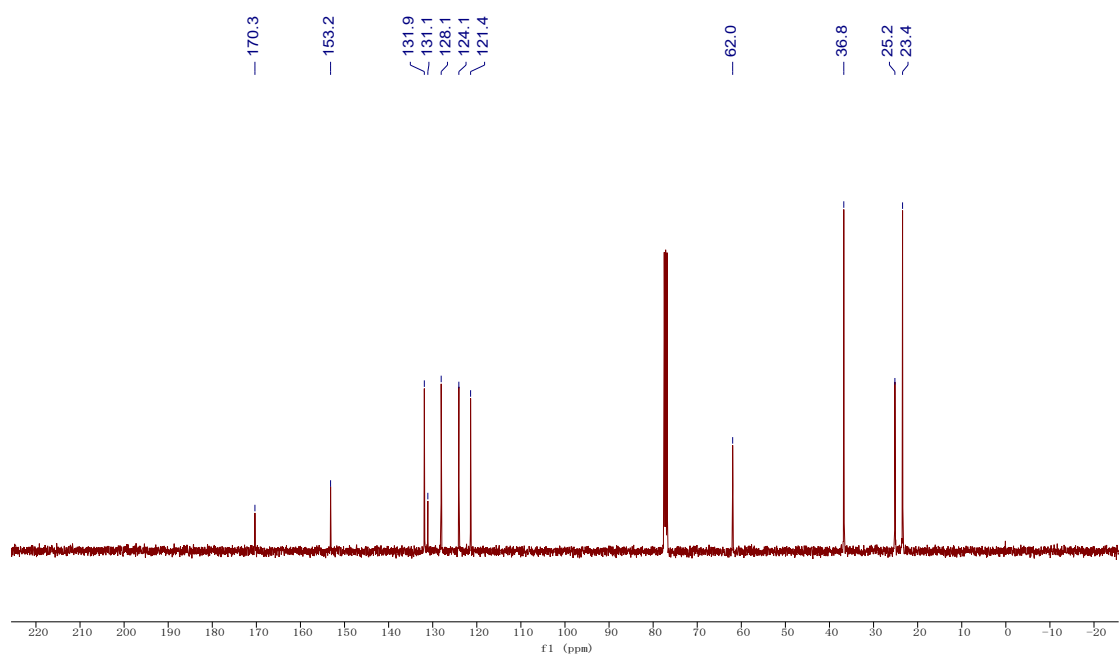
¹³C NMR of compound 17 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



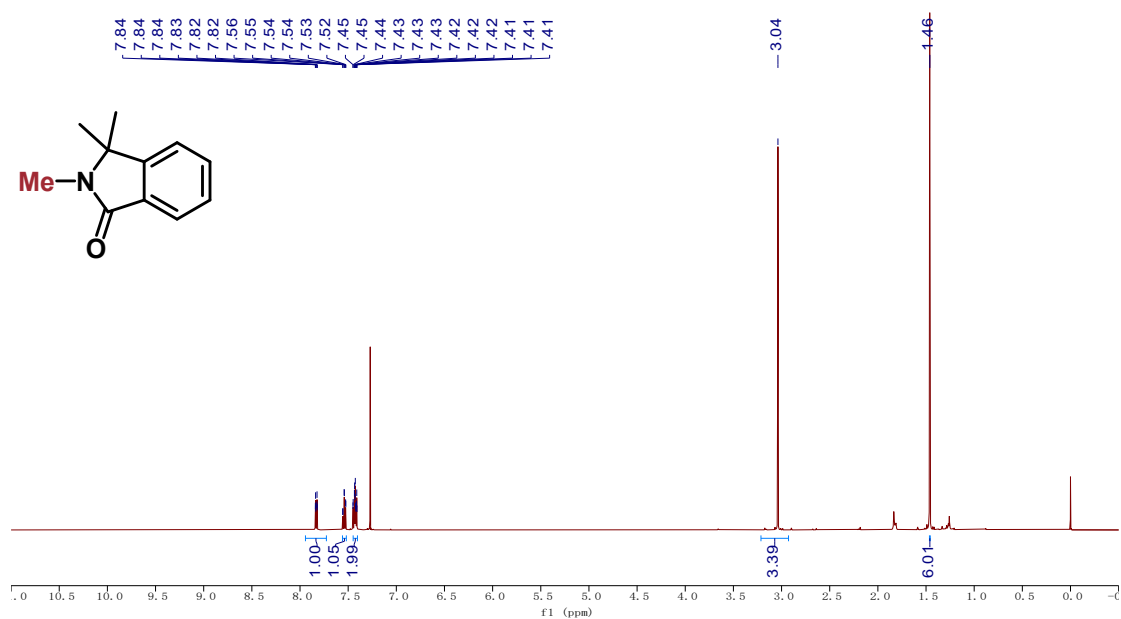
¹H NMR of compound 18 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



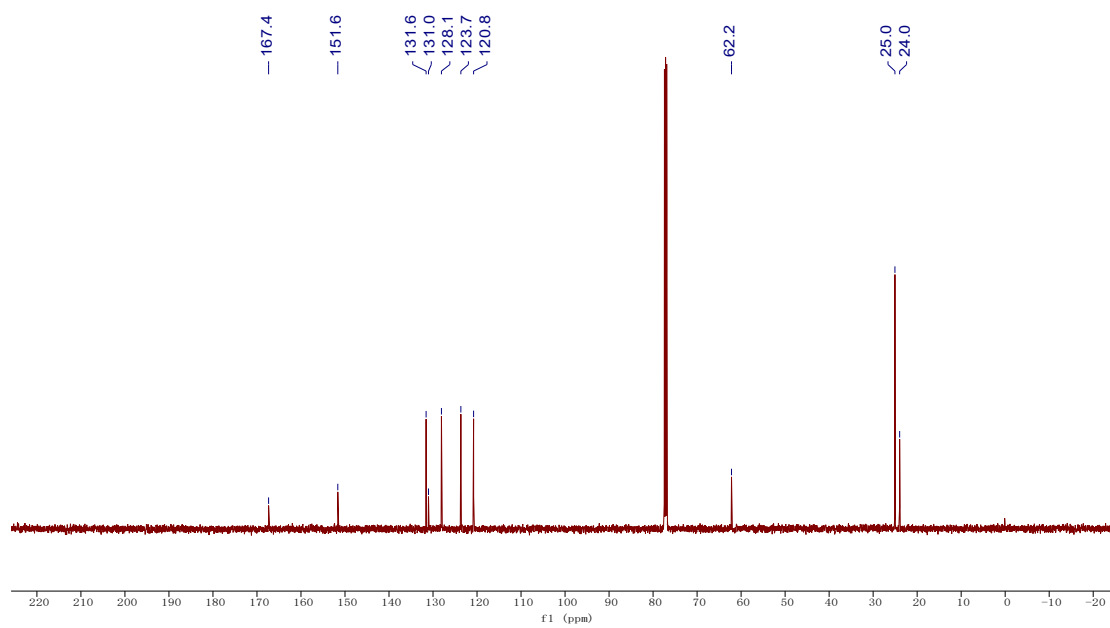
¹³C NMR of compound 18 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



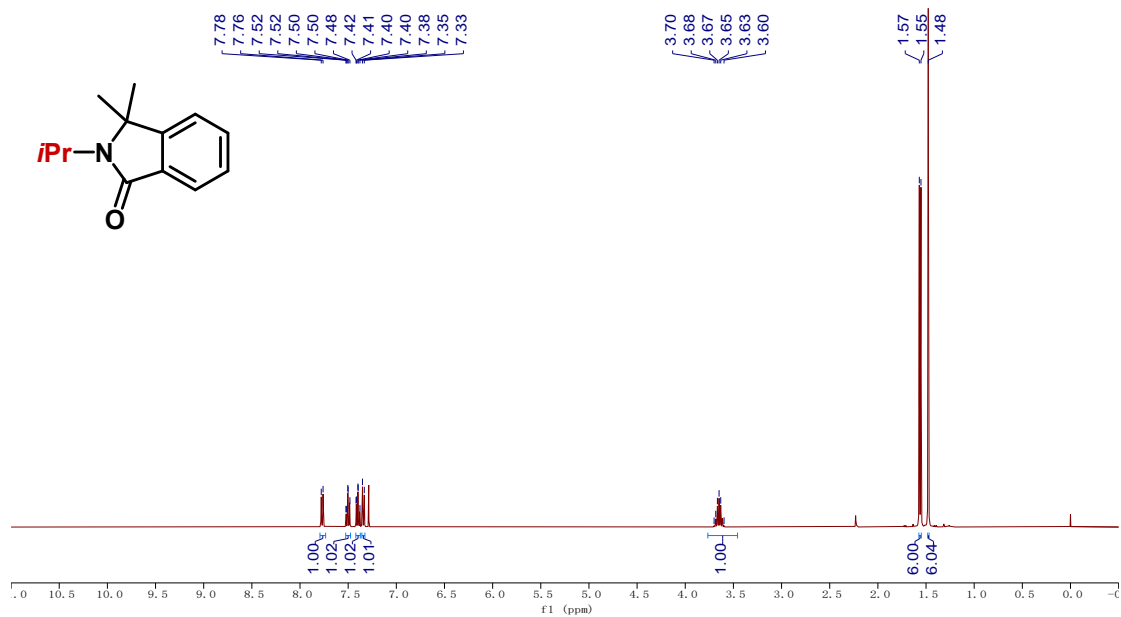
¹H NMR of compound 19 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



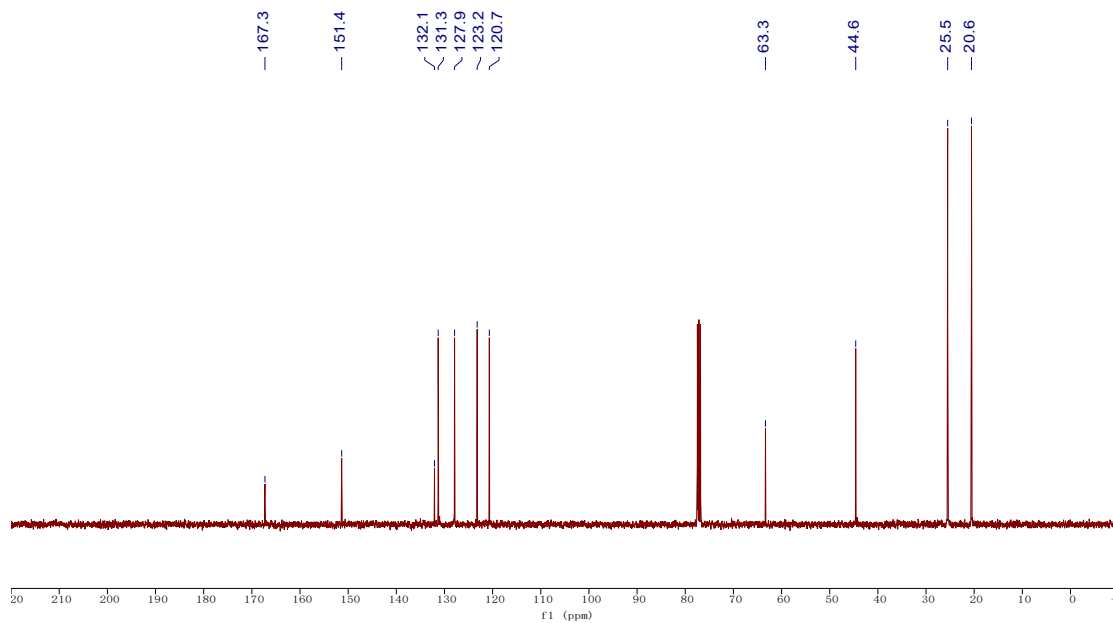
¹³C NMR of compound 19 (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



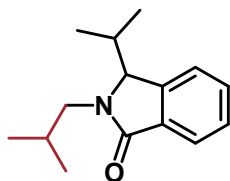
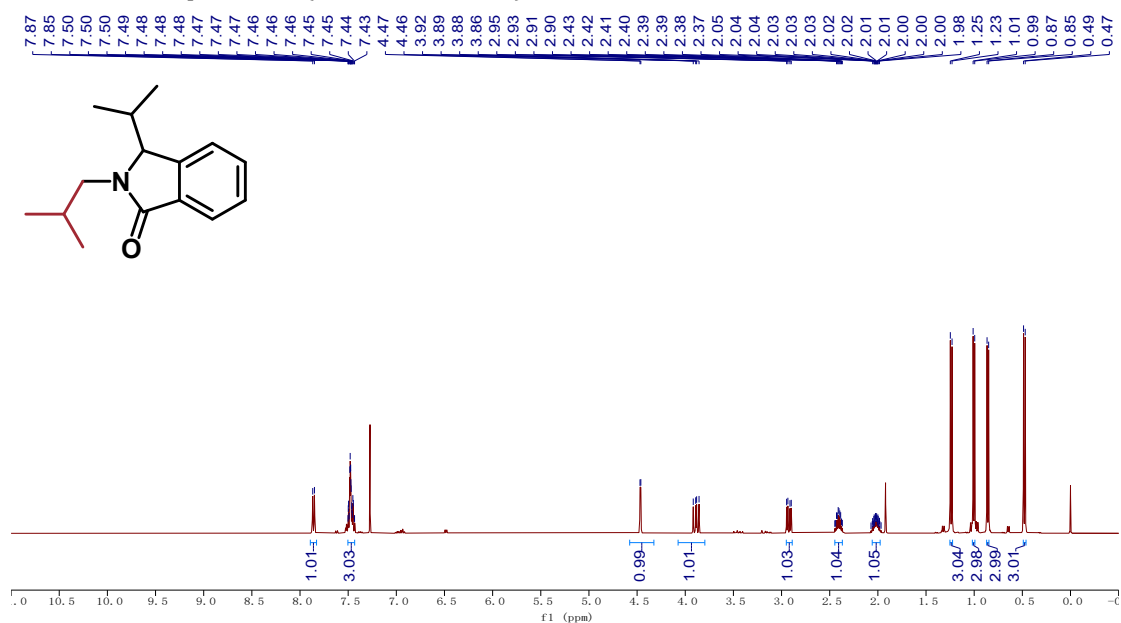
¹H NMR of compound 20 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



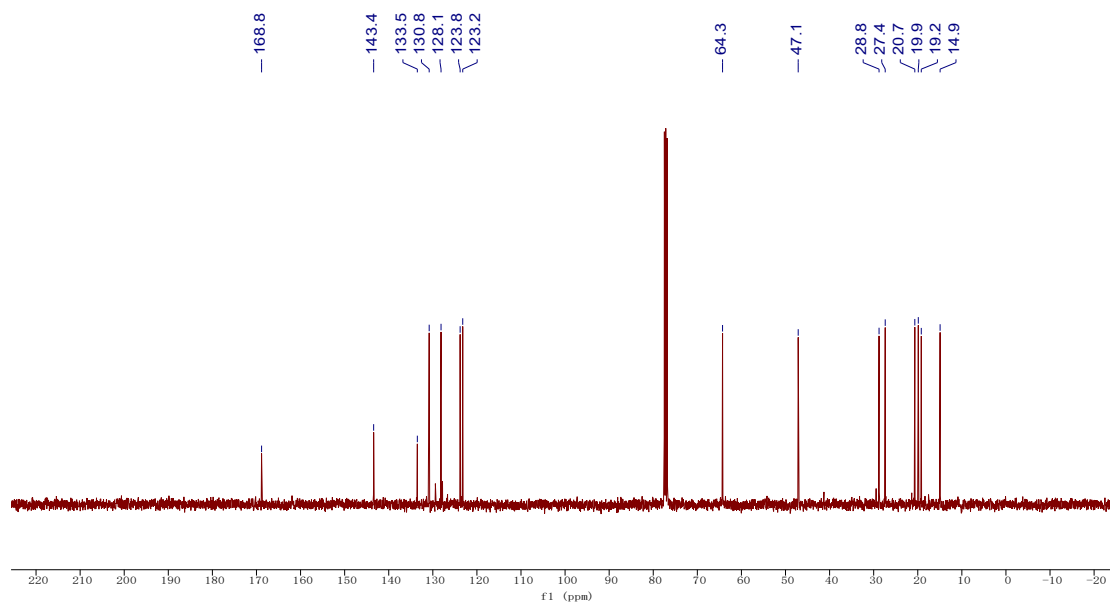
¹³C NMR of compound 20 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



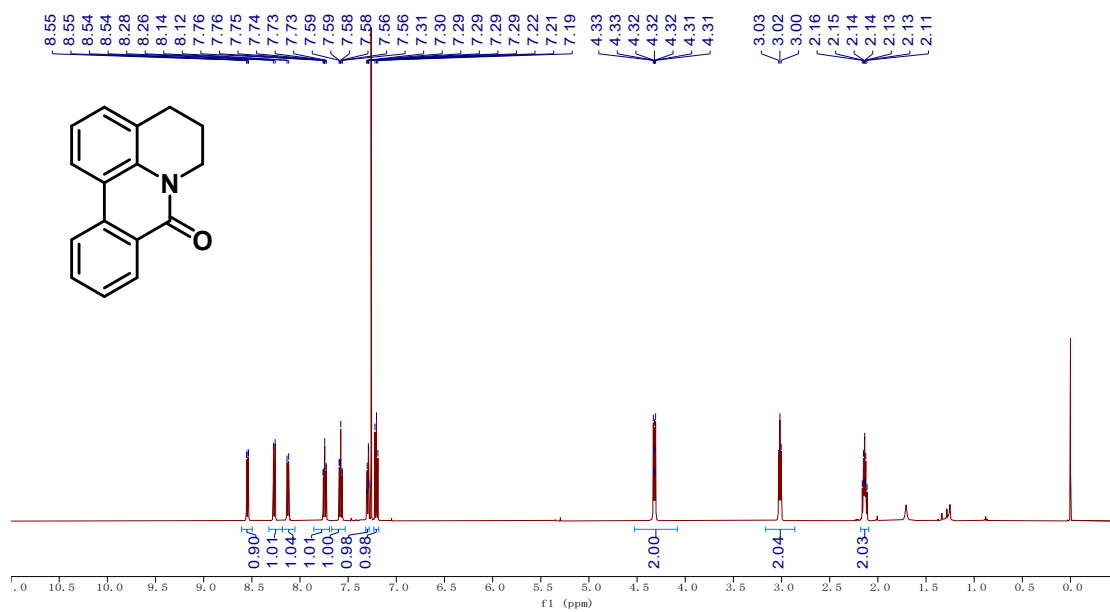
¹H NMR of compound 21 (400 MHz in CDCl₃)



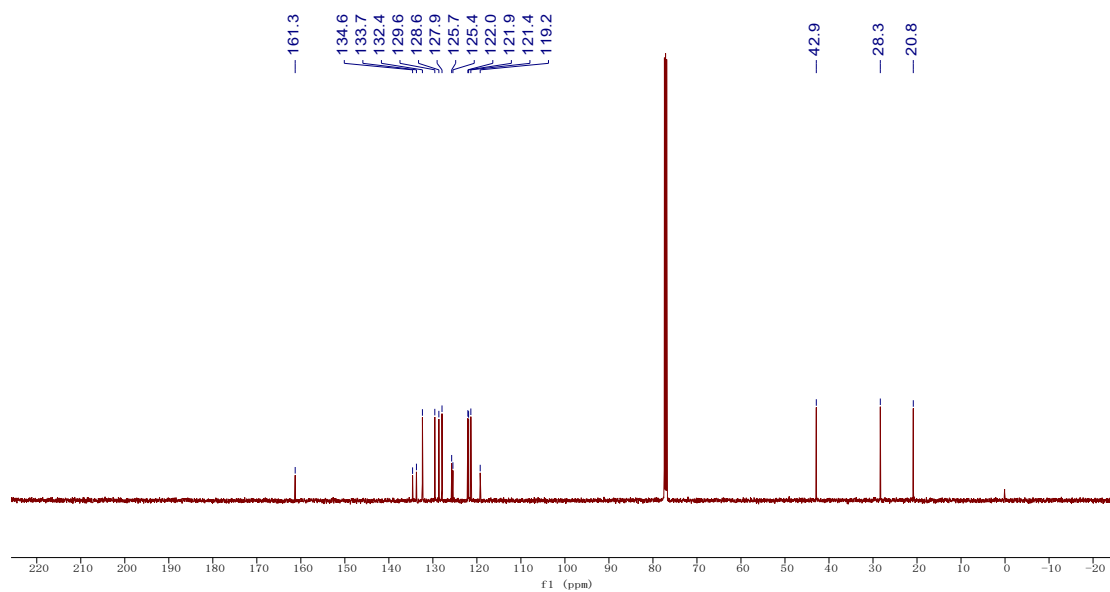
¹³C NMR of compound 21 (101 MHz in CDCl₃)



¹H NMR of compound 22 (500 MHz in CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR of compound 3e (126 MHz in CDCl₃)



7. Computational Details

All calculations were carried out by using Gaussian 16 program.¹¹ The structures were optimized at B3LYP¹²-D3(BJ)¹³/6-31G(d,p) level in toluene solvent with SMD¹⁴ solvation model. To confirm that the minima have no imaginary frequency and the transition states have unique one imaginary frequency, harmonic frequency analysis calculations were performed at the same level. Using the optimized geometries, the energies were further refined by single-point energy calculations at B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p) level with SMD solvation model. A correction factor of 1.89 kcal/mol was employed for the standard state change from 1 atm to 1 M. The vertical excitation energies were calculated at TD¹⁵-B3LYP-D3(BJ)/6-311++G(d,p) level with the optimized geometries in the ground state. Selected structures were illustrated by using the CYLview¹⁶ visualization software.

Cartesian Coordinates in Å, SCF Energies and Free Energies (in a.u.) at 298.15 K for the Optimized Structures [BSI=6-31G(d,p), BSII=6-311++G(d,p)]

PhCH ₃				tBuOK			
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:				B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:			
-271.605318 a.u.				-833.022658 a.u.			
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:				B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:			
-271.671546 a.u.				-833.142665 a.u.			
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:				B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:			
-271.570993 a.u.				-833.050769 a.u.			
C	-1.200535	1.205388	0.002262	C	1.617211	-1.437286	0.211126
C	0.194797	1.202908	-0.009144	C	1.074103	0.000016	0.000164
C	0.913785	0.000301	-0.012267	H	1.245286	-1.832654	1.164344
C	0.195165	-1.202688	-0.009145	H	1.244234	-2.090059	-0.587627
C	-1.200032	-1.205665	0.002261	H	2.714376	-1.497915	0.219259
C	-1.903915	-0.000213	0.008445	C	1.615472	0.534423	-1.351219
H	-1.738408	2.149281	0.002119	C	1.621072	0.901740	1.137164
H	0.735745	2.145928	-0.017207	H	1.241615	1.552119	-1.517851
H	0.736491	-2.145511	-0.017223	H	2.712581	0.557932	-1.409243
H	-1.737629	-2.149716	0.002117	H	1.242755	-0.094451	-2.169025
H	-2.989964	-0.000449	0.014041	H	2.718406	0.938114	1.182683
C	2.422349	0.000120	0.009371	H	1.249949	1.925201	1.003288
H	2.802687	-0.013031	1.038908	H	1.250343	0.537840	2.103228
H	2.830718	-0.879567	-0.497825	O	-0.292385	0.001035	0.002621
H	2.830676	0.892162	-0.475627	K	-2.570927	0.000118	0.000346

IM1

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-1104.651761 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-1104.828735 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-1104.620562 a.u.

C	-3.232132	0.178018	1.276075
C	-2.189388	-0.751528	1.211225
C	-1.711453	-1.224853	-0.024116
C	-2.328615	-0.748122	-1.194361
C	-3.372113	0.181609	-1.135665
C	-3.823577	0.656241	0.101023
H	-3.584110	0.526734	2.243023
H	-1.729164	-1.111380	2.127772
H	-1.978672	-1.106186	-2.159160
H	-3.834156	0.532240	-2.054415
H	-4.636341	1.374810	0.149180
C	-0.498280	-2.110727	-0.093700
H	-0.430681	-2.767966	0.778812
H	-0.502966	-2.728644	-0.996888
H	0.399467	-1.463719	-0.112888
C	3.380746	-0.841647	-1.217983
C	2.937804	-0.014151	0.015200
H	2.793982	-1.765934	-1.276108
H	3.186931	-0.267498	-2.132043
H	4.445036	-1.114102	-1.202667
C	3.812533	1.264352	0.083295
C	3.201914	-0.852344	1.291970
H	3.519295	1.863129	0.954911
H	4.889353	1.059036	0.158131
H	3.643867	1.872460	-0.814297
H	4.258196	-1.122877	1.427003
H	2.877688	-0.286536	2.173969
H	2.615886	-1.778276	1.257916
O	1.610351	0.317460	-0.077578
K	-0.309529	1.648628	-0.093653

TS1

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-1104.632431 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-1104.805562 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-1104.599295 a.u.

C	3.075160	0.037056	-1.204915
C	1.996406	-0.844705	-1.206575
C	1.391911	-1.309080	0.000138
C	1.996968	-0.844637	1.206543
C	3.075728	0.037120	1.204326
C	3.621360	0.512110	-0.000435
H	3.499677	0.359506	-2.153271
H	1.586933	-1.186491	-2.154427
H	1.587948	-1.186375	2.154608
H	3.500706	0.359602	2.152465
H	4.470243	1.188554	-0.000651
C	0.140205	-2.030196	0.000446
H	-0.049006	-2.612902	0.906027
H	-0.800037	-0.892897	0.000526
H	-0.049395	-2.613019	-0.904980
C	-3.216162	-0.731353	1.260390
C	-2.760091	0.025514	-0.000067
H	-2.789032	-1.739072	1.273356
H	-2.868671	-0.207602	2.157896
H	-4.307617	-0.821947	1.314302
C	-3.358054	1.440280	0.000006
C	-3.215298	-0.730851	-1.261142
H	-3.027730	1.990839	-0.889095
H	-4.454344	1.424293	-0.000548
H	-3.028602	1.990397	0.889699
H	-4.306742	-0.820909	-1.316150
H	-2.866659	-0.207044	-2.158169
H	-2.788636	-1.738774	-1.273950
O	-1.356829	0.154207	0.000446
K	0.581936	1.690139	0.000343

17-S

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-1096.513931 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-1096.705402 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-1096.460219 a.u.

C	2.745381	0.330156	-1.815252
C	1.379643	0.514693	-1.610664
C	0.806472	0.338983	-0.345595
C	1.650016	-0.024267	0.717001
C	3.015941	-0.222046	0.522530
C	3.562599	-0.040787	-0.747299
H	3.167147	0.469574	-2.805347
H	0.729311	0.796345	-2.431965
H	3.639972	-0.510472	1.360794
H	4.626912	-0.192040	-0.896572
Cl	0.980623	-0.267739	2.321187
N	-0.584309	0.583356	-0.155429
C	-1.516906	-0.429505	-0.101882
O	-2.713550	-0.194556	0.053940
C	-1.025591	-1.864066	-0.317068
H	0.033610	-1.940749	-0.062330
C	-1.821288	-2.824081	0.569998
H	-2.890338	-2.741104	0.359530
H	-1.505643	-3.856828	0.389980
H	-1.669097	-2.601442	1.630725
C	-1.188084	-2.207007	-1.808446
H	-0.580860	-1.551428	-2.440650
H	-0.878415	-3.239802	-1.997955
H	-2.234548	-2.101369	-2.111915
C	-1.002329	2.014314	-0.069721
C	-1.640781	2.342934	1.282323
C	-1.887631	2.414331	-1.252829
H	-0.064052	2.571344	-0.143434
H	-0.972810	2.068363	2.102988
H	-1.834130	3.419339	1.342929
H	-2.583686	1.808827	1.403627
H	-1.390089	2.202171	-2.204764
H	-2.834358	1.873214	-1.225307
H	-2.095612	3.488671	-1.212604

IM2 (I)

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-2201.175146 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-2201.535067 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-2201.063805 a.u.

C	-4.442992	2.101493	-0.417370
C	-3.563319	2.699526	0.469560
C	-2.152579	2.851061	0.181841
C	-1.762232	2.377826	-1.128785
C	-2.654439	1.775491	-1.996205
C	-4.014029	1.589464	-1.659737
H	-5.492393	2.017126	-0.138856
H	-3.937413	3.078132	1.420156
H	-0.721895	2.491789	-1.425371
H	-2.292582	1.430917	-2.963761
H	-4.719663	1.176266	-2.373435
C	-1.231773	3.315551	1.129126
H	-0.217311	3.557132	0.819824
H	-3.482402	-0.160058	-0.642472
H	-1.591312	3.824531	2.022026
C	-3.525779	-2.609869	-1.625680
C	-3.869800	-2.070984	-0.232561
H	-3.799913	-1.881133	-2.396018
H	-2.452317	-2.802851	-1.706018
H	-4.062368	-3.541667	-1.833703
C	-3.378791	-3.023976	0.856511
C	-5.374601	-1.813205	-0.101802
H	-3.633323	-2.636810	1.849679
H	-3.838528	-4.011299	0.750102
H	-2.292015	-3.141142	0.797803
H	-5.946954	-2.739284	-0.219923
H	-5.604272	-1.386590	0.879826
H	-5.712265	-1.105955	-0.866469
O	-3.158321	-0.842460	-0.012532
K	-1.665104	0.394545	1.705943
C	5.667550	-0.830801	-1.176944
C	4.430860	-1.302032	-0.741263
C	3.348341	-0.432264	-0.576123
C	3.533089	0.930066	-0.863709
C	4.769675	1.412095	-1.289620
C	5.835505	0.527226	-1.448927
H	6.496254	-1.520775	-1.297571
H	4.283530	-2.354106	-0.520446
H	4.888873	2.469591	-1.496596
H	6.795801	0.904829	-1.784986

Cl	2.206786	2.056039	-0.649666	H	3.267709	4.307608	0.291007
N	2.076465	-0.948718	-0.181389	Cl	-0.382945	1.176346	-0.515673
C	1.576357	-0.767826	1.074624	N	1.880912	-0.807942	-0.144031
O	0.430479	-1.139431	1.369595	C	0.993124	-1.441754	0.686699
C	2.485168	-0.161231	2.144707	O	0.502796	-2.541680	0.381407
H	3.248617	0.460049	1.673888	C	0.666795	-0.807161	2.034857
C	1.671265	0.709087	3.106733	H	0.874444	0.263178	1.997114
H	0.923633	0.108387	3.634564	C	-0.811885	-1.015372	2.384119
H	2.331711	1.156085	3.856113	H	-1.034858	-2.083545	2.476540
H	1.164046	1.525197	2.580305	H	-1.031523	-0.543357	3.347264
C	3.193027	-1.313983	2.880056	H	-1.480930	-0.572464	1.635263
H	3.817056	-1.900250	2.198418	C	1.599749	-1.437149	3.085680
H	3.836117	-0.917814	3.671907	H	2.652974	-1.251782	2.850234
H	2.459462	-1.985938	3.337432	H	1.392589	-1.012562	4.072768
C	1.286495	-1.646233	-1.246791	H	1.444786	-2.519552	3.138393
C	0.024214	-0.875974	-1.643668	C	-3.743852	1.651868	1.144622
C	0.999492	-3.100060	-0.868418	C	-3.971217	0.768509	-0.108256
H	1.962362	-1.646627	-2.105622	H	-3.592813	1.014650	2.023982
H	0.241457	0.181921	-1.800213	H	-2.839873	2.256168	1.012840
H	-0.361298	-1.282931	-2.584649	H	-4.583186	2.329452	1.353613
H	-0.764235	-0.964969	-0.897129	C	-4.205416	1.696092	-1.326573
H	1.924036	-3.636910	-0.632493	C	-5.254045	-0.072594	0.119385
H	0.335398	-3.152008	-0.004408	H	-4.365215	1.088249	-2.225740
H	0.518983	-3.608380	-1.710588	H	-5.069886	2.363832	-1.207169
				H	-3.316905	2.314633	-1.497413
II				H	-6.149047	0.533028	0.318849
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:				H	-5.453032	-0.689575	-0.766315
-1929.573538 a.u.				H	-5.100359	-0.746229	0.971365
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:				O	-2.894892	-0.055613	-0.326629
-1929.872846 a.u.				K	-1.801227	-2.085021	-0.838476
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:				C	2.273854	-1.477911	-1.415758
-1929.515230 a.u.				C	3.790350	-1.635031	-1.530350
				C	1.685984	-0.767849	-2.636990
C	3.916085	2.259474	0.482889	H	1.828152	-2.469244	-1.332069
C	3.538882	0.920702	0.389172	H	4.204162	-2.119079	-0.640645
C	2.235871	0.567699	0.025139	H	4.024309	-2.261786	-2.396864
C	1.297822	1.589481	-0.218444	H	4.291654	-0.673379	-1.672804
C	1.671901	2.929164	-0.118287	H	0.597017	-0.689763	-2.578087
C	2.983165	3.262449	0.219969	H	2.084808	0.245784	-2.742266
H	4.931728	2.515158	0.766799	H	1.942380	-1.324900	-3.543632
H	4.249283	0.131689	0.606497				
H	0.932396	3.701526	-0.299294	IM3			
				B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:			

-518.269038 a.u.				C	-0.899100	0.643793	0.000017
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:				C	-0.850365	-0.747173	0.000223
-518.405681 a.u.				C	-1.985820	-1.532623	0.000282
B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:				C	-3.239054	-0.901060	0.000139
-518.242331 a.u.				H	-4.277071	0.985643	-0.000166
				H	-2.215136	2.359339	-0.000283
				H	-1.916668	-2.617231	0.000450
C	-3.358733	0.588565	0.029090	H	-4.148162	-1.495124	0.000186
C	-2.136889	1.255330	0.090924	N	0.291842	1.388598	-0.000059
C	-0.922076	0.544731	-0.012969	H	0.224567	2.399268	-0.000010
C	-1.045676	-0.825871	-0.175682	C	1.577577	0.896925	0.000147
C	-2.224825	-1.526608	-0.242201	O	2.543167	1.653237	0.000337
C	-3.419724	-0.797172	-0.137060	C	1.738075	-0.614708	-0.000020
H	-4.276116	1.163196	0.111823	H	0.552578	-1.037477	0.000276
H	-2.107509	2.334854	0.222558	C	2.392248	-1.104514	-1.282181
H	-2.237794	-2.605284	-0.371833	H	3.395080	-0.671799	-1.381336
H	-4.376033	-1.308835	-0.184943	H	2.487116	-2.194679	-1.275583
N	0.284622	1.249270	0.054881	H	1.812023	-0.814460	-2.164191
H	0.202887	2.253188	0.165392	C	2.393198	-1.104819	1.281523
C	1.604966	0.845067	-0.038812	H	1.813606	-0.815032	2.164036
O	2.484358	1.697717	0.013721	H	2.488121	-2.194977	1.274565
C	1.907694	-0.642053	-0.152605	H	3.396077	-0.672076	1.380068
H	1.107142	-1.119931	-0.732104				
C	3.245944	-0.859529	-0.859615				
H	4.053768	-0.365899	-0.313429				
H	3.468247	-1.929317	-0.923460				
H	3.232635	-0.451691	-1.874911				
C	1.904943	-1.257273	1.259944				
H	0.941162	-1.124163	1.759769				
H	2.110048	-2.330798	1.203216				
H	2.680607	-0.793076	1.877902				

IM4

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-518.304335 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-518.441994 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-518.279913 a.u.

TS2

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSI SCF energy in toluene:

-518.261352 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII SCF energy in toluene:

-518.398184 a.u.

B3LYP-D3BJ/BSII free energy in toluene:

-518.240169 a.u.

C -3.308904 0.493958 -0.000057

C -2.151249 1.273976 -0.000121

C -3.179228 0.457024 0.515580

C -1.953404 1.111778 0.608332

C -0.829486 0.606681 -0.061636

C -0.957327 -0.556569 -0.834565

C -2.181534 -1.219566 -0.899621

C -3.298605 -0.718598 -0.228907

H -4.041359 0.861442 1.037788

H -1.851956 2.013009 1.206199

H -2.265392 -2.122412 -1.497525

H -4.252090 -1.233453 -0.291597

N 0.390057 1.308235 0.039470

H	0.335389	2.311531	-0.090272	H	3.141880	-2.164072	-0.512461
C	1.682278	0.826323	-0.163077	H	3.702938	-0.551970	-1.047965
O	2.543513	1.584831	-0.631087	C	1.248632	-1.270546	1.322839
C	2.016050	-0.522843	0.280654	H	0.510532	-0.650216	1.833373
H	-0.103218	-0.928702	-1.389800	H	0.717518	-2.133375	0.896519
C	3.291960	-1.118469	-0.211555	H	1.942774	-1.673728	2.072099
H	4.048472	-1.135637	0.587784				

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