

Supporting Information for

**Autocatalytic methylthiomethylation of carboxylic acid/phenol
involving the formation of DMSO enolate: convenient synthesis of
methylthiomethyl ester/ether**

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1. General information

Reagents, catalysts and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Column Chromatography was performed with silica gel (200-300 mesh). Melting points were determined using a X-4 melting point apparatus with microscope. The IR spectra were recorded with Mattson FTIR spectrometer 5000. Absorption maxima were measured in cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (600 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz) spectra were achieved in CDCl_3 , CD_3OD and $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ on a Bruker AVANCE 600 MHz spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were measured on a ThermoFisch QE Focus facility.

2. Preparation of methylthiomethyl esters/ethers

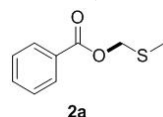
General procedure for preparation of MTM esters (2a-2aa)

To a solution of DMSO (1 mL) was added carboxylic acids **1** (0.3 mmol) in 5 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 15 min. The solution was quenched with water and the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The resulting crude compound was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate mixtures to afford corresponding products.

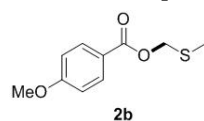
General procedure for preparation of MTM ethers (4a-4g)

To a solution of DMSO (1 mL) was added phenols **3** (0.3 mmol) in 5 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 60 min. The solution was quenched with water and the organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. The resulting crude compound was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexanes/ethyl acetate mixtures to afford MTM phenyl ethers.

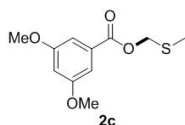
3. Analytical data of the products



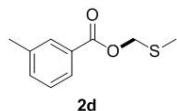
methylthiomethyl benzoate (2a). Colorless oil; Yield: 85%; IR (cm^{-1}) 2923, 1721, 1601, 1412, 1332, 1260; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.10 – 8.09 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.59 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.47 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.27, 133.27, 129.84, 129.75, 128.45, 68.83, 15.51; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 205.02937; found: 205.02905.



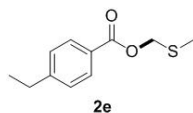
methylthiomethyl 4-methoxybenzoate (2b). Colorless oil; Yield: 83%; IR (cm^{-1}) 2923, 1714, 1606, 1510, 1435, 1356, 1255, 1167; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.05 – 8.04 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.94 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.99, 163.63, 131.83, 122.22, 113.70, 68.48, 55.47, 15.47; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 235.03994; found: 235.03928.



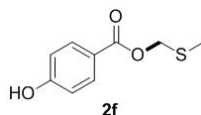
methylthiomethyl 3,5-dimethoxybenzoate (2c). Colorless oil; Yield: 88%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2942, 1725, 1595, 1428, 1323, 1205, 1156; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 – 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 – 6.69 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.05, 160.69, 131.68, 107.35, 105.94, 69.01, 55.61, 15.55; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄O₄NaS [M+Na]⁺: 265.05050; found: 265.05020.



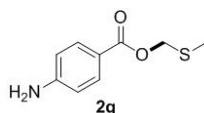
methylthiomethyl 3-methylbenzoate (2d). Colorless oil; Yield: 85%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2922, 1720, 1589, 1414, 1344, 1268, 1189; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.85 – 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 166.34, 138.34, 133.78, 129.80, 129.62, 128.18, 126.38, 68.52, 19.90, 14.08; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀O₂NaS [M+Na]⁺: 219.04502; found: 219.04422.



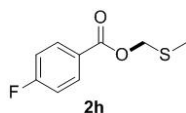
methylthiomethyl 4-ethylbenzoate (2e). Colorless oil; Yield: 96%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2966, 1721, 1609, 1557, 1436, 1318, 1260, 1178; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.98 – 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 2.76 – 2.73 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.30 – 1.27 (td, *J* = 7.6, 0.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 166.28, 150.39, 129.40, 127.77, 127.32, 68.39, 28.50, 14.34, 14.03; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₁H₁₄O₂NaS [M+Na]⁺: 233.06067; found: 233.06030.



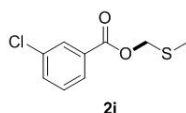
methylthiomethyl 4-hydroxybenzoate (2f). White solid; Yield: 75%; Mp: 74.2-82.3 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 3253, 2898, 1676, 1604, 1514, 1423, 1346, 1261, 1165; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 – 8.0 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.09, 160.17, 132.16, 122.31, 115.30, 68.62, 15.48; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₁₀O₃NaS [M+Na]⁺: 221.02429; found: 221.02377.



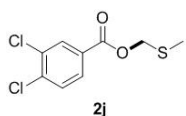
methylthiomethyl 4-aminobenzoate (2g). White solid; Yield: 86%; Mp: 101.6-106.0 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 3432, 3335, 2917, 1693, 1595, 1452, 1325, 1260, 1266, 1170; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 – 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.23, 151.14, 131.88, 119.27, 113.80, 68.11, 15.42; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₁₁O₂NNaS [M+Na]⁺: 220.04027; found: 220.03987.



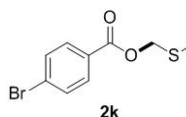
methylthiomethyl 4-fluorobenzoate (2h). Colorless oil; Yield: 82%; IR (cm⁻¹) 3399, 2359, 1587, 1412, 1349; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 – 8.09 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.95(253.68), 165.30, 132.33(9.06), 126.08(3.02), 115.64(22.65), 69.02, 15.55. HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₁₀O₂FS [M+H]⁺: 201.03801; found: 201.03723.



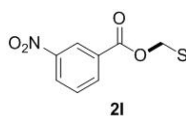
methylthiomethyl 3-chlorobenzoate (2i). Colorless oil; Yield: 64%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2923, 1731, 1682, 1557, 1412, 1362, 1246, 1069; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.03 – 8.03 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.01 – 7.99 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.67 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 164.89, 134.35, 133.02, 131.82, 130.02, 128.99, 127.54, 69.14, 14.10. HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₁₀O₂ClS [M+H]⁺: 217.00845; found: 217.00789.



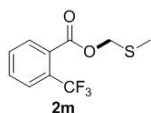
methylthiomethyl 3,4-dichlorobenzoate (2j). Colorless oil; Yield: 65%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2924, 1729, 1603, 1534, 1429, 1361, 1237; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.17 – 8.17 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.96 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 164.20, 137.37, 132.56, 131.02, 130.72, 130.16, 128.74, 69.40, 14.13. HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₉O₂Cl₂S [M+H]⁺: 250.96948; found: 250.96878.



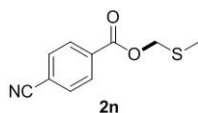
methylthiomethyl 4-bromobenzoate (2k). Colorless oil; Yield: 83%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2921, 1720, 1589, 1442, 1366, 1258, 1081; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.57, 131.83, 131.26, 128.71, 128.47, 69.17, 15.59. HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₉O₂BrNaS [M+Na]⁺: 282.93988; found: 282.93884.



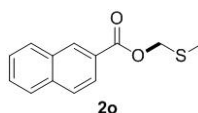
methylthiomethyl 3-nitrobenzoate (2l). Colorless oil; Yield: 74%; IR (cm⁻¹) 3648, 2923, 1731, 1616, 1533, 1441, 1345, 1251, 1121; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.92 (s, 1H), 8.48 – 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 – 8.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.69 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.23, 135.42, 131.63, 129.75, 127.71, 125.74, 124.73, 70.01, 15.76; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₉O₄NNaS [M+Na]⁺: 250.01445; found: 250.01424.



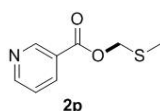
methylthiomethyl 2-(trifluoromethyl) benzoate (2m). Colorless oil; Yield: 74%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2927, 1742, 1584, 1428, 1343, 1261, 1143; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.83 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.78 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.62 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 161.66, 127.03, 126.68, 125.97(1.51), 125.64, 124.06(32.71), 122.01(5.03), 118.56(273.81), 65.32, 10.83; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₀H₉O₂F₃NaS [M+Na]⁺: 273.01676; found: 273.01590.



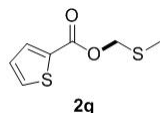
methylthiomethyl 4-cyanobenzoate (2n). Colorless oil; Yield: 95%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2924, 2231, 1726, 1540, 1449, 1338, 1259, 1176 (m); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.22 – 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 – 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 164.65, 133.79, 132.27, 129.84, 117.48, 116.38, 69.46, 14.11; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₀H₉NO₂NaS [M+Na]⁺: 230.02934; found: 230.02902.



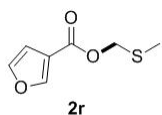
methylthiomethyl 2-naphthoate (2o). White solid; Yield: 75%; Mp: 47.3-52.1 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 2924, 1713, 1606, 1459, 1344, 1272, 1192; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.08 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.99 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 166.34, 135.78, 132.57, 130.78, 129.05, 128.30, 128.06, 127.48, 127.07, 126.62, 124.58, 68.75, 14.12; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₃H₁₂O₂NaS [M+Na]⁺: 255.04502; found: 255.04469.



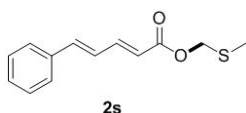
methylthiomethyl nicotinate (2p). Colorless oil; Yield: 85%; IR (cm⁻¹) 3566, 2923, 1731, 1653, 1591, 1427, 1336, 1267, 1100; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 9.18 – 9.17 (m, 1H), 8.81 – 8.80 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 8.47 – 8.45 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 165.96, 154.30, 151.17, 138.98, 127.86, 125.36, 70.71, 15.51; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₈H₉NO₂NaS [M+H]⁺: 184.04268; found: 184.04259.



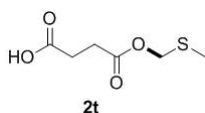
(methylthio)methyl thiophene-2-carboxylate (2q). Colorless oil; Yield: 81%; IR (cm⁻¹) 3383, 3108, 3098, 2945, 1708; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 – 7.86 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.61 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.13 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.83, 133.93, 133.30, 132.92, 127.87, 68.97, 15.51; HRMS Exact mass calcd for C₇H₈O₂NaS₂ [M+Na]⁺: 210.98579; found: 210.98524.



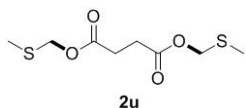
(methylthio)methyl furan-2-carboxylate (2r). Colorless oil; Yield: 78%; IR (cm⁻¹) 3580, 3132, 3074, 1721; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 – 8.07 (dd, *J* = 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.45 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.78 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.69, 148.09, 143.87, 119.03, 109.81, 68.32, 15.49; HRMS Exact mass calcd for C₇H₉O₃S [M+H]⁺: 173.02669; found: 173.02620.



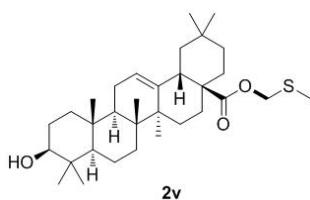
methylthiomethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-5-phenylpenta-2,4-dienoate (2s). Yellow solid; Yield: 77%; Mp: 71.7-75.4 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 2925, 1704, 1622, 1418, 1331, 1231, 1126; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 6.97 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.06 – 6.03 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.63, 145.62, 141.14, 135.92, 129.23, 128.86, 127.29, 126.08, 120.45, 68.18, 15.47; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₃H₁₄O₂NaS [M+Na]⁺: 257.06067; found: 257.05981.



4-(methylthiomethoxy)-4-oxobutanoic acid (2t). White solid; Yield: 91%; Mp: 62.9-75.3 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 2956, 1727, 1421, 1375, 1251, 1165; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.18 (s, 2H), 2.74 – 2.68 (m, 4H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.94, 171.89, 68.65, 28.94, 28.78, 15.38; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₆H₁₀O₄NaS [M+Na]⁺: 201.01920; found: 201.01840.

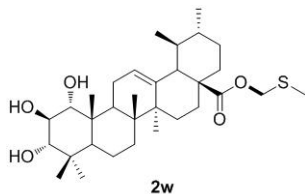


bis(methylthiomethyl) succinate (2u). Colorless oil; Yield: 78%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2924, 1737, 1419, 1364, 1142; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.18 (s, 4H), 2.72 (s, 4H), 2.26 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.87, 68.59, 29.09, 15.43; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₈H₁₄O₄NaS₂ [M+Na]⁺: 261.02257; found: 261.02209.

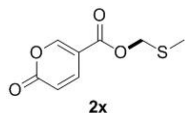


methylthiomethyl oleanolate (2v). White solid; Yield: 80%; Mp: 106.2-132.2 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 3384, 2942, 1732, 1510, 1443, 1356, 1255, 1154; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.33 – 5.32 (t, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 – 5.16 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.08 – 5.06 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 3.22 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.91 – 2.88 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.98 (td, *J* = 14.7, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.93 – 1.86 (m, 2H), 1.76 – 1.70 (td, *J* = 13.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.68 – 1.62 (m, 6H), 1.60 – 1.58 (td, *J* = 4.8, 4.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.56 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.49 – 1.47 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.45 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.40 – 1.38 (m, 1H), 1.36 – 1.33 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.32 – 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.25 – 1.17 (m, 2H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.12 – 1.09 (dt, *J* = 13.5, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s,

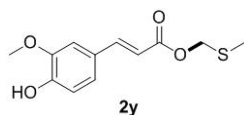
3H), 0.92 (s, 6H), 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.78 (s, 3H), 0.76 – 0.74 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.28, 143.60, 122.52, 79.03, 67.95, 55.21, 47.62, 46.89, 45.90, 41.75, 41.23, 39.39, 38.76, 38.45, 37.03, 33.86, 33.09, 32.76, 32.27, 30.71, 28.11, 27.59, 27.20, 25.82, 23.61, 23.43, 23.06, 18.34, 17.13, 15.60, 15.46, 15.36; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_3\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 539.35294; found: 539.35278.



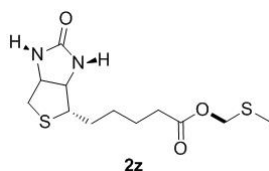
methylthiomethyl 1,2-dihydroxyursolate (2w). White solid; Yield: 73%; Mp: 98.6-110.2 °C; IR (cm^{-1}) 3445, 2924, 1731, 1652, 1557, 1436, 1332, 1134; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 5.30 – 5.29 (t, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.15 – 5.09 (m, 2H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 3.97 – 3.96 (dd, $J = 4.2, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.66 – 3.65 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.49 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 – 2.40 (dd, $J = 10.4, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.27 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.14 – 2.09 (td, $J = 13.5, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.03 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.87 (td, $J = 13.8, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.74 – 1.72 (dd, $J = 5.7, 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.72 – 1.69 (q, $J = 4.8, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 – 1.62 (td, $J = 13.4, 4.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.60 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.56 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.40 – 1.39 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.38 – 1.37 (t, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 1H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.25 – 1.22 (m, 2H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.15 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 1H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 177.31, 137.90, 126.12, 76.12, 74.01, 73.54, 67.87, 52.94, 48.29, 48.24, 42.48, 40.15, 39.35, 39.06, 38.98, 38.07, 37.98, 36.48, 32.49, 30.31, 28.80, 27.68, 23.98, 22.82, 22.79, 20.13, 17.69, 17.13, 16.48, 16.21, 14.05, 13.63; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_5\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 571.34277; found: 571.34271.



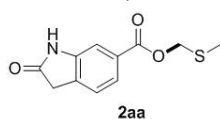
methylthiomethyl 2-oxo-2H-pyran-5-carboxylate (2x). Yellow solid; Yield: 75%; Mp: 81.7-98.2 °C; IR (cm^{-1}) 2902, 1731, 1557, 1412, 1354, 1102; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.37 – 8.37 (dd, $J = 2.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.81 (dd, $J = 9.8, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.38 (dd, $J = 9.8, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.37 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.73, 159.64, 158.52, 141.46, 115.42, 111.82, 69.76, 15.72; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}_4\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 223.00355; found: 223.00316.



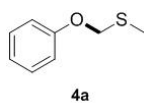
methylthiomethyl (*E*)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl) acrylate (2y). White solid; Yield: 63%; Mp: 65.3-72.7 °C; IR (cm^{-1}) 3423, 2923, 1708, 1632, 1594, 1421, 1322, 1269, 1146; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 – 7.67 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.10 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 7.06 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 – 6.94 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.35 – 6.33 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.86, 148.19, 146.79, 145.77, 126.84, 123.29, 114.83, 114.77, 109.39, 68.20, 55.96, 15.47; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 277.05050; found: 277.05020.



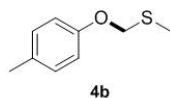
methylthiomethyl 5-((4*S*)-2-oxohexahydro-1*H*-thieno[3,4-*d*]imidazole-4-yl)pentanoate (2z). Yellow solid; Yield: 62%; Mp: 98.7-112.4 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 3437, 3325, 2917, 1429, 1361, 1236, 1140; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.55 – 4.53 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.34 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.21 – 3.18 (dt, *J* = 10.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.93 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.76 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.39 (t, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 1H), 1.76 – 1.70 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.24, 173.26, 68.15, 62.05, 60.20, 55.34, 40.56, 33.93, 28.31, 24.65, 21.00, 15.49; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₂H₂₀O₃N₂NaS₂ [M+Na]⁺: 327.08076; found: 327.08072.



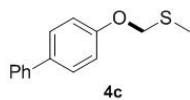
methylthiomethyl 2-oxoindoline-6-carboxylate (2aa). Yellow solid; Yield: 97%; Mp: 75.3-76.8 °C; IR (cm⁻¹) 3209, 2903, 1715, 1596, 1421, 1363, 1262, 1199; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.81 – 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.73, 165.83, 142.68, 130.89, 129.85, 124.60, 124.41, 110.33, 69.15, 36.23, 15.59; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₁₁H₁₁O₃NNaS [M+Na]⁺: 260.03519; found: 260.03458.



methylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4a). Colorless oil; Yield: 62%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2923, 2893, 1601, 1497, 825, 613; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.33 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.05 – 7.03 (tt, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.06, 129.49, 121.78, 115.98, 72.38, 14.62; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₈H₉OS [M-H]⁻: 153.03686; found: 153.03661.

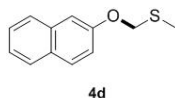


4-methyl-methylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4b). Colorless oil; Yield: 69%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2901, 2889, 1621, 1503, 824, 623; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13 – 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.82, 131.21, 129.95, 116.01, 72.65, 20.55, 14.55; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for C₉H₁₂ONaS [M+Na]⁺: 191.03765; found: 191.03751.

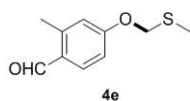


4-phenyl-methylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4c). Colorless oil; Yield: 72%; IR (cm⁻¹) 2923, 2837, 1632, 1507, 835, 633; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 – 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.0, 1.8 Hz, 4H), 7.46 – 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.07 – 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H),

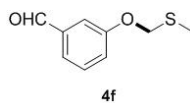
2.31(s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.51, 140.70, 134.90, 128.74, 128.19, 126.83, 116.22, 72.46, 14.63; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ONaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 253.02937; found: 253.02905.



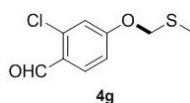
methylthiomethyl naphthol ether (4d). Colorless oil; Yield: 70%; IR (cm^{-1}) 3010, 2918, 2899, 1609, 1554, 853, 642; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 – 7.79 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.76 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.46 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.37 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.25 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.21 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.95, 134.25, 129.60, 129.41, 127.66, 126.98, 126.47, 124.08, 119.12, 109.03, 72.44, 14.76; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{ONaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 227.02765; found: 227.02745.



3-methyl-4-formylmethylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4e). Colorless oil; Yield: 65%; IR (cm^{-1}) 2913, 2879, 1689, 1594, 873, 662; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 7.79 – 7.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 – 6.90 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.81 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.23, 161.07, 143.23, 134.52, 128.58, 118.63, 113.06, 72.19, 19.90, 14.69; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 219.04938; found: 219.04912.



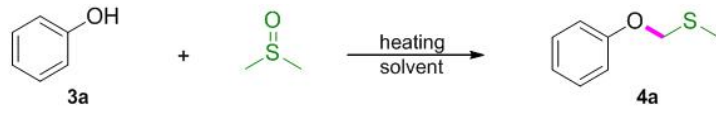
3-formyl methylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4f). Colorless oil; Yield: 62%; IR (cm^{-1}) 2890, 2487, 1690, 1664, 846, 637; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 7.55 – 7.53 (dt, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.47 (dd, J = 2.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.25 (ddd, J = 8.1, 2.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.90, 157.57, 137.76, 130.17, 124.18, 122.91, 114.83, 72.51, 14.59; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 205.02947; found: 205.02915.



3-chloro-4-formylmethylthiomethyl phenyl ether (4g). Colorless oil; Yield: 47%; IR (cm^{-1}) 2896, 2479, 1709, 1654, 859, 667; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.37 – 10.37 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.02 – 7.02 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 – 6.95 (ddd, J = 8.7, 2.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 188.58, 162.04, 139.53, 130.94, 126.65, 117.09, 114.96, 72.72, 14.70; HRMS Exact mass calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{ClO}_2\text{NaS}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 239.04768; found: 239.04747.

4. Optimization of the reaction conditions

Table S1 Optimization of the reaction conditions: synthesis of MTM phenyl ethers^a



The reaction scheme shows phenol (3a) reacting with a sulfur-containing reagent (a sulfur atom double-bonded to an oxygen atom and single-bonded to two methyl groups) under heating in a solvent to produce the MTM phenyl ether (4a).

Entry	<i>T</i> (°C)	<i>t</i> (min)	Solvent	Yield 4a (%) ^b
1	reflux	15	/	11
2	180	15	/	/
3	reflux	30	/	30
4	reflux	60	/	62
5	reflux	90	/	59
6	reflux	60	DMF	6
7	reflux	60	DMA	/
8	reflux	60	1,4-dioxane	/
9	reflux	60	THF	/
10	reflux	60	DCE	/
11	reflux	60	CCl ₄	/
12	reflux	60	EtOH	/
13 ^[c]	reflux	60	/	24
14 ^[d]	190	60	/	63

^a Reaction conditions: **3a** (0.3 mmol), DMSO (1 mL), solvent (1 mL). ^b Isolated yield. ^c Under microwave irradiation. ^d Reaction carried out in a pressure-resistant reaction bottle.

5. HRMS of DMSO enolate **5**

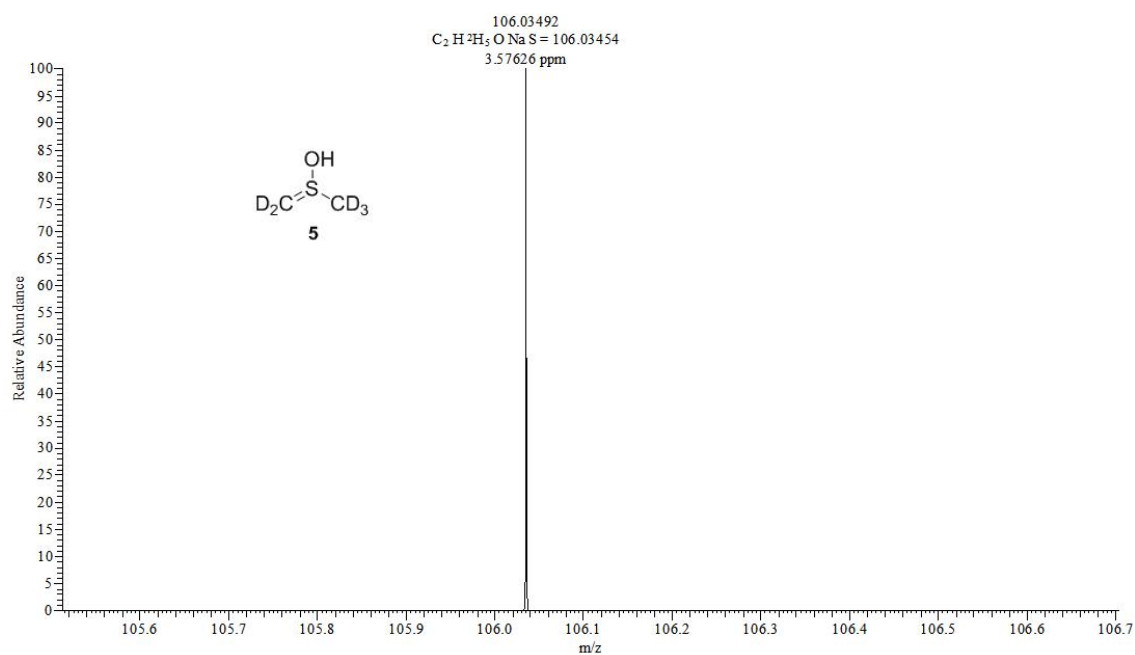
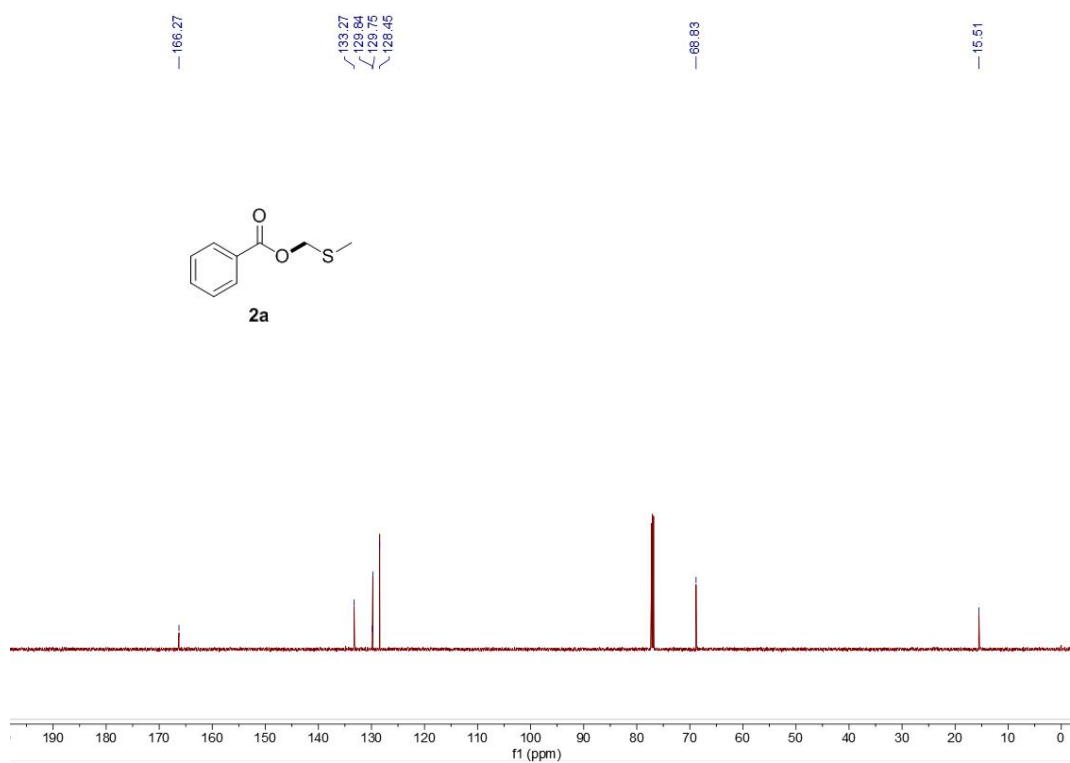
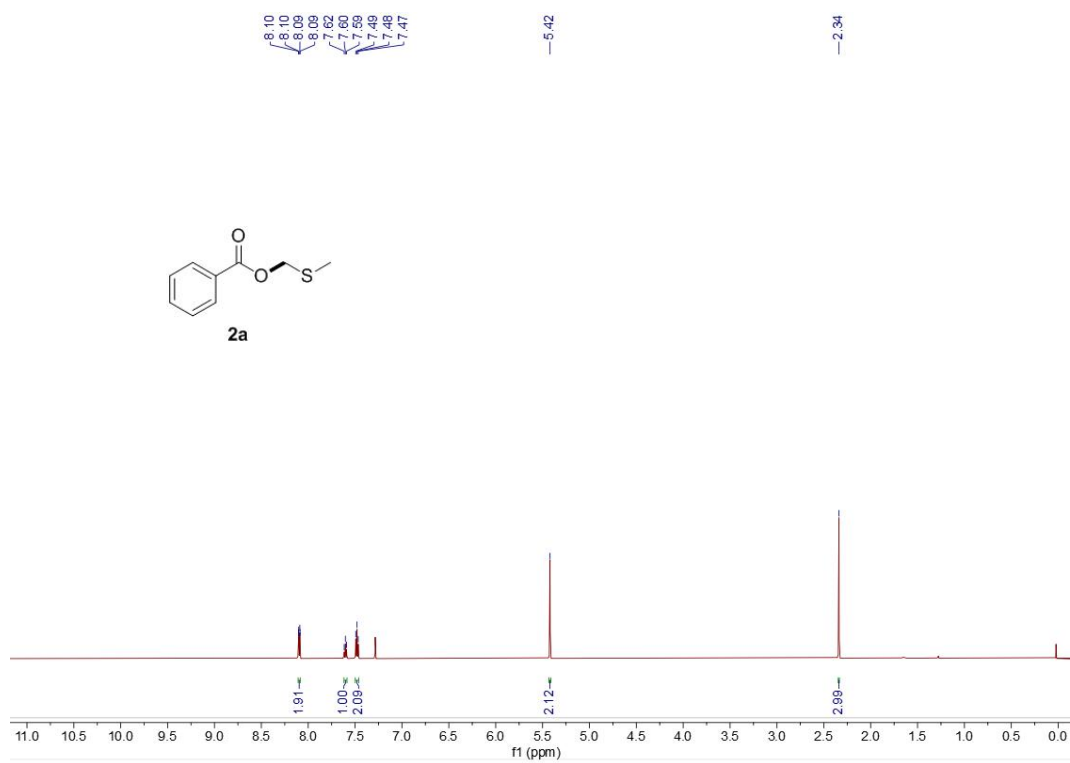
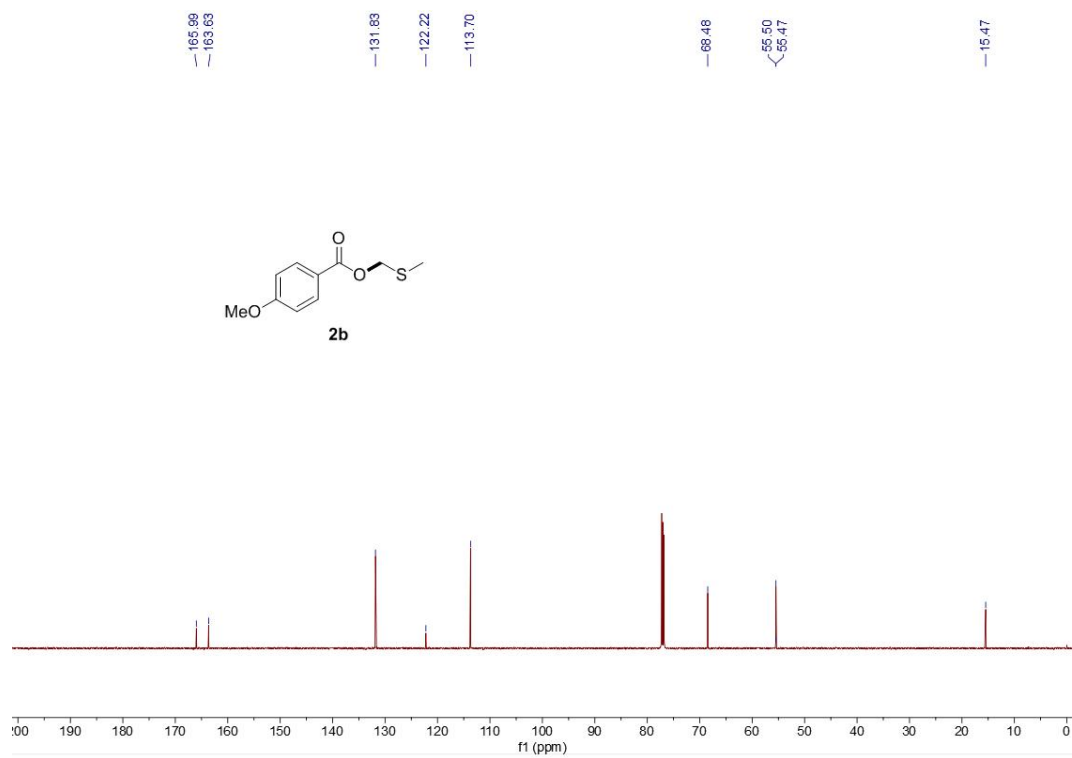
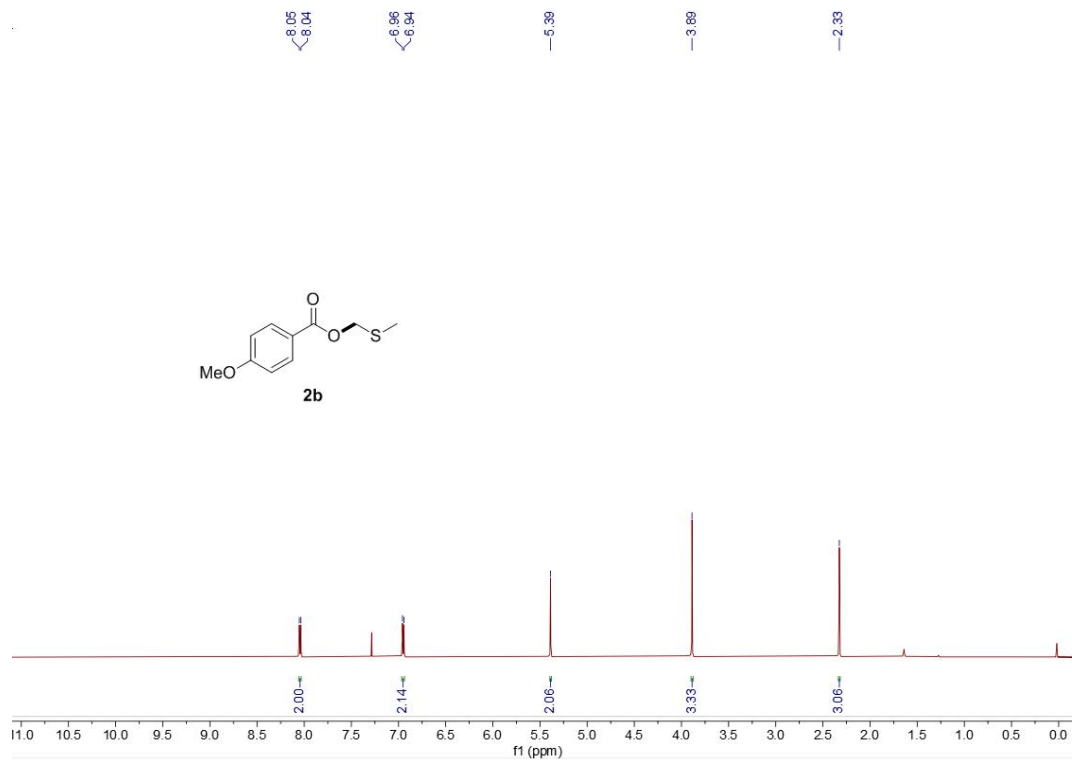
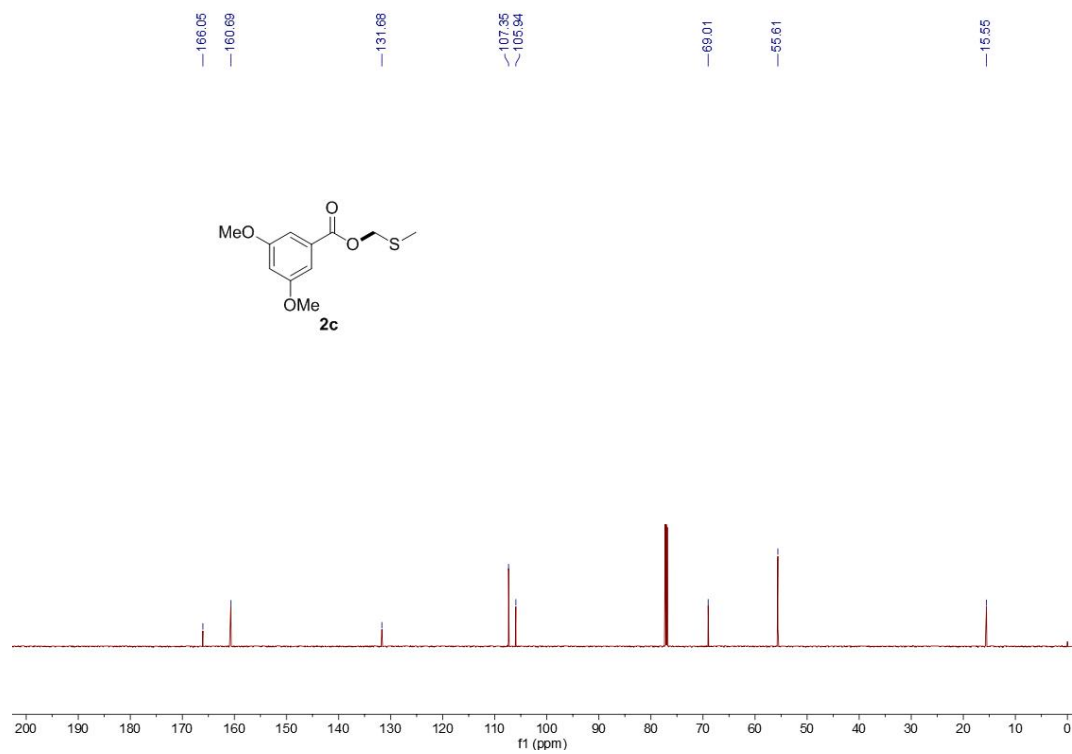
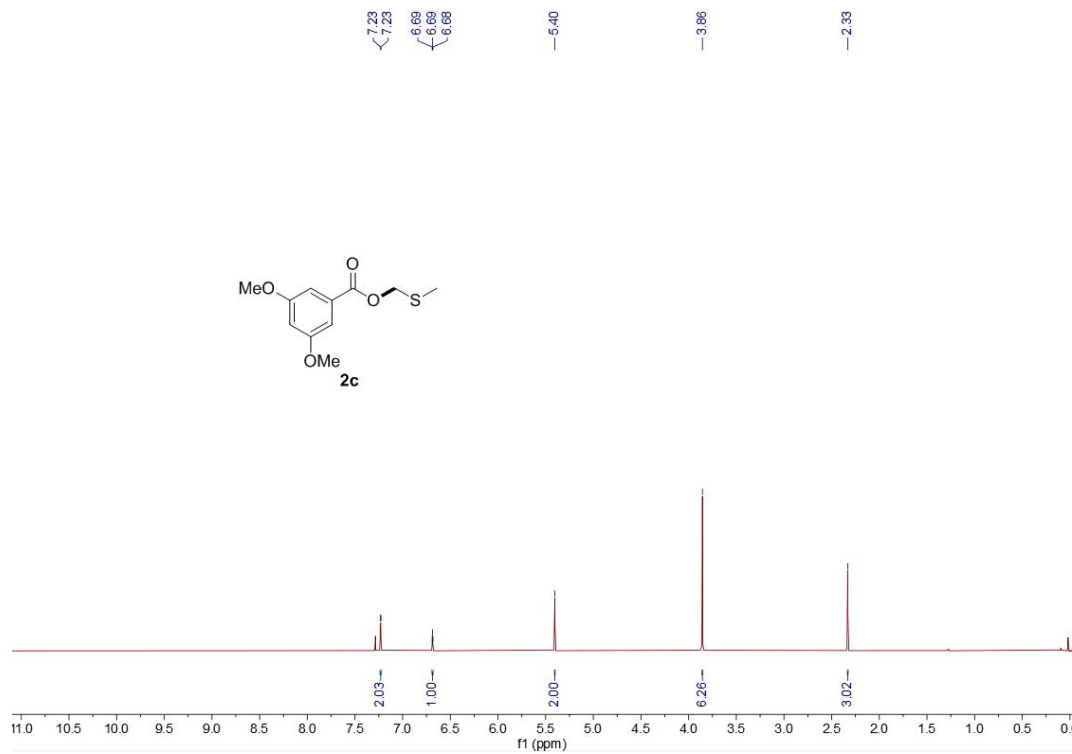


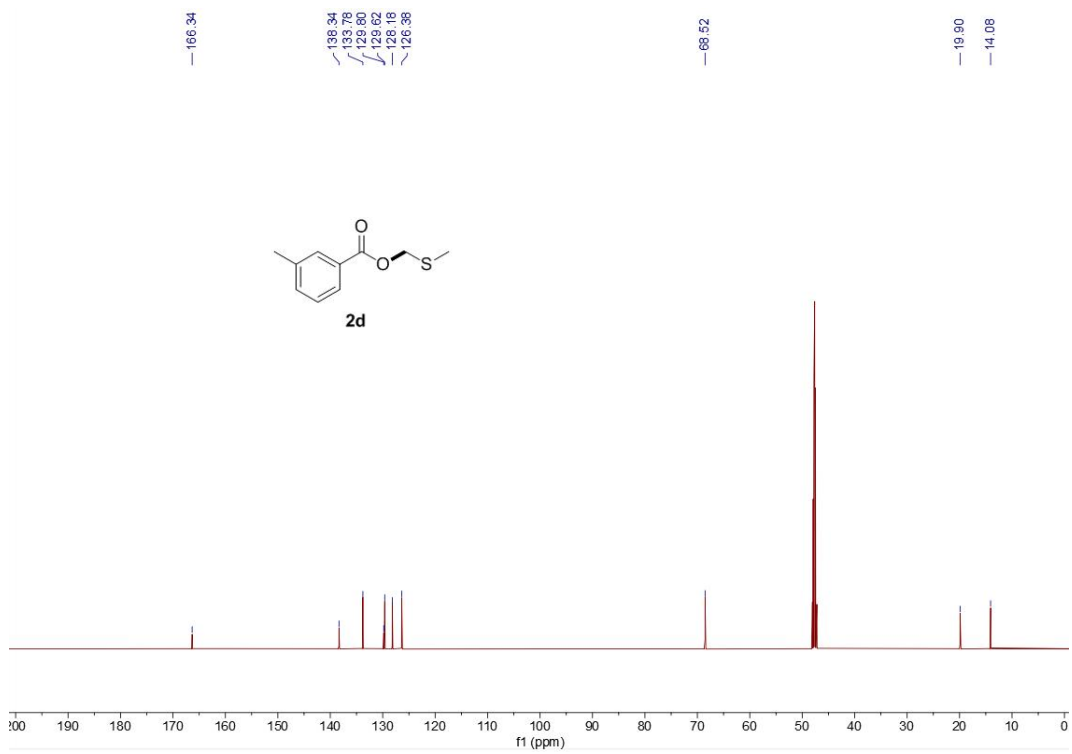
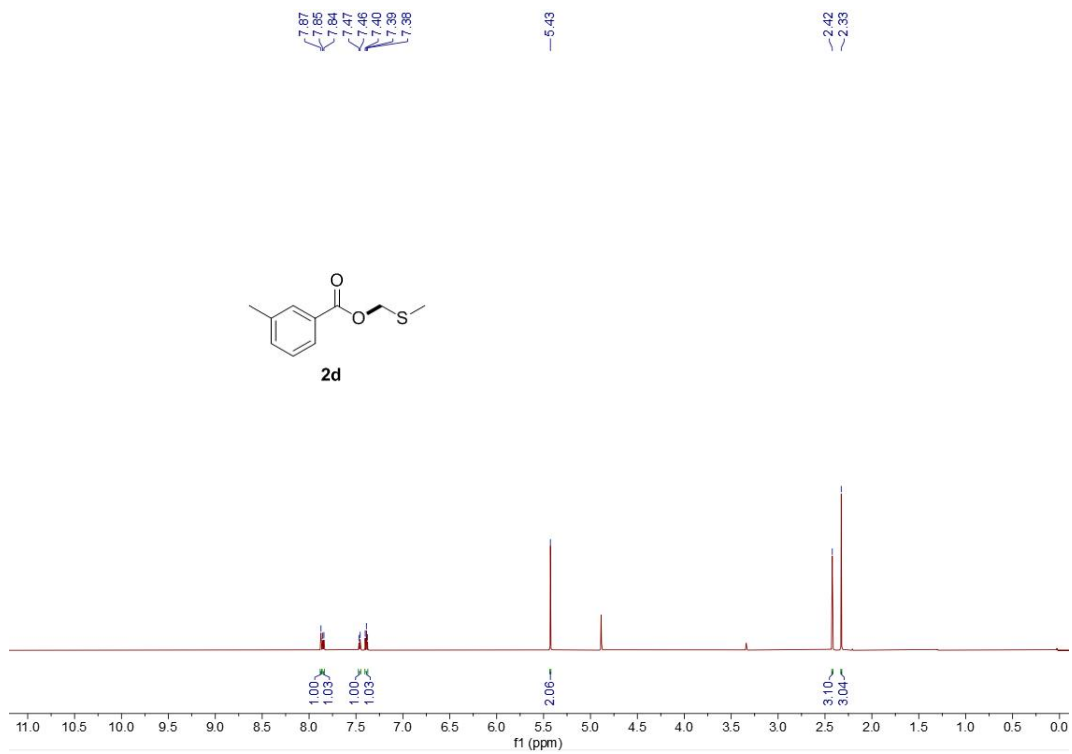
Fig. S1 HRMS of enolate **5**.

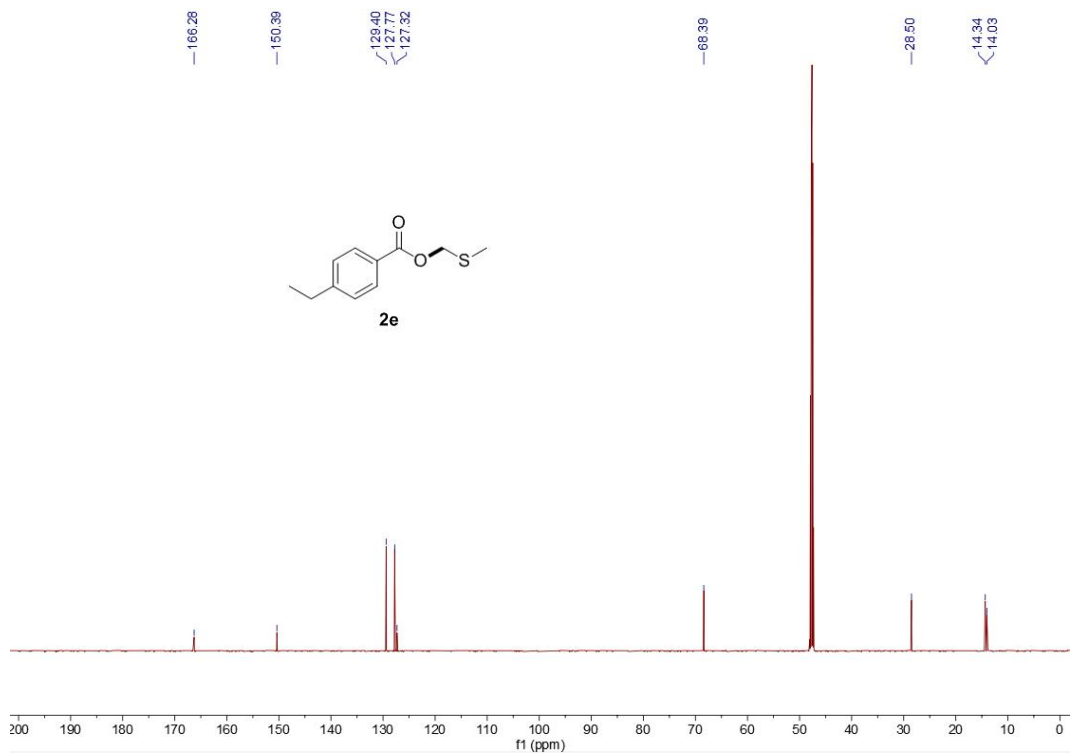
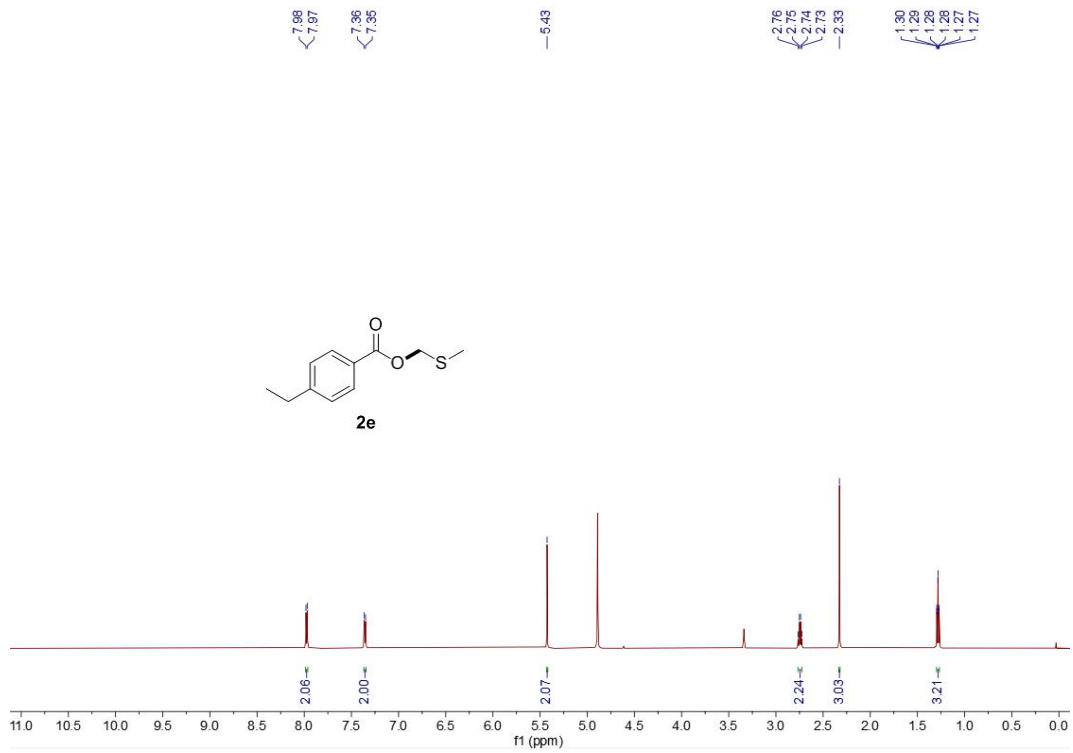
6. ^1H NMR & ^{13}C NMR spectra of the products



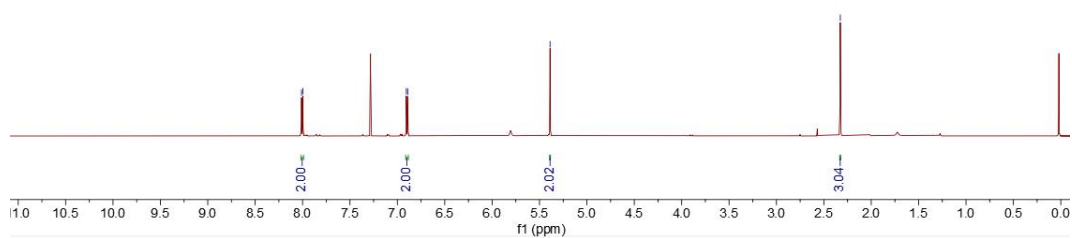
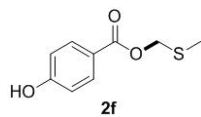




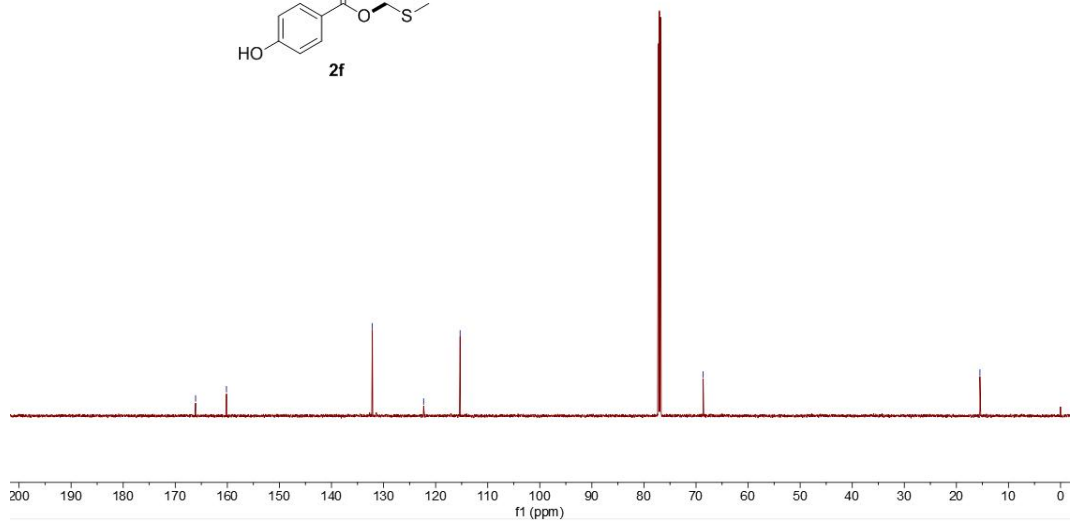
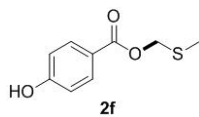


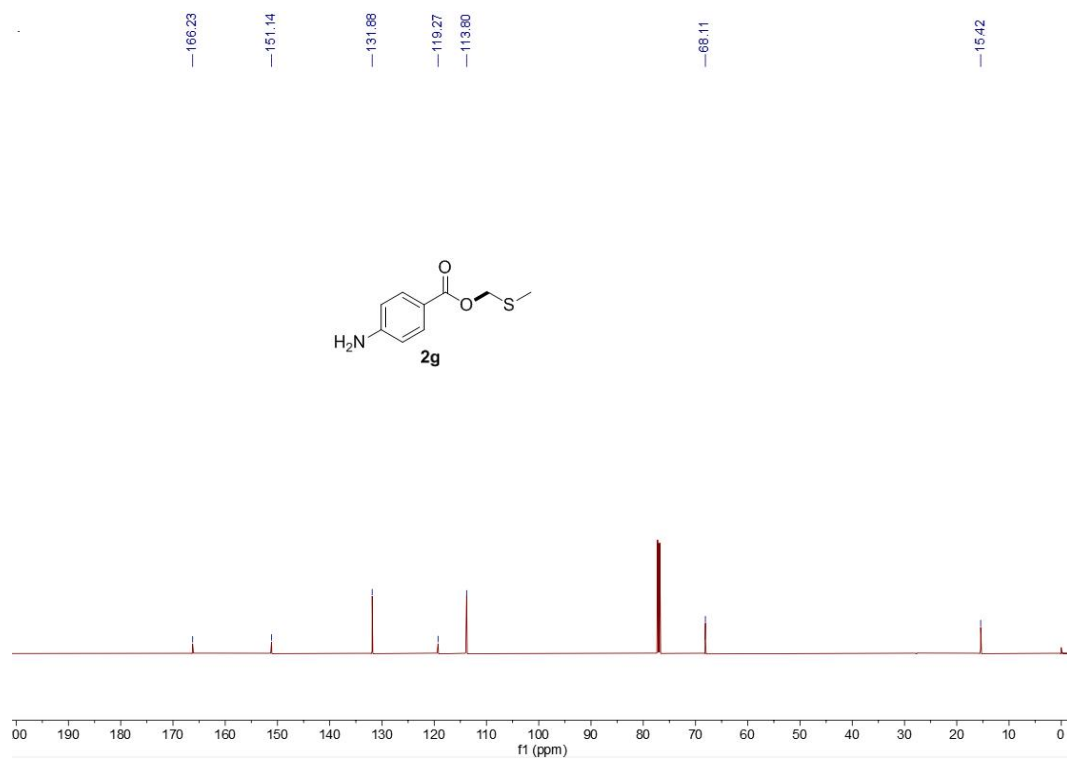
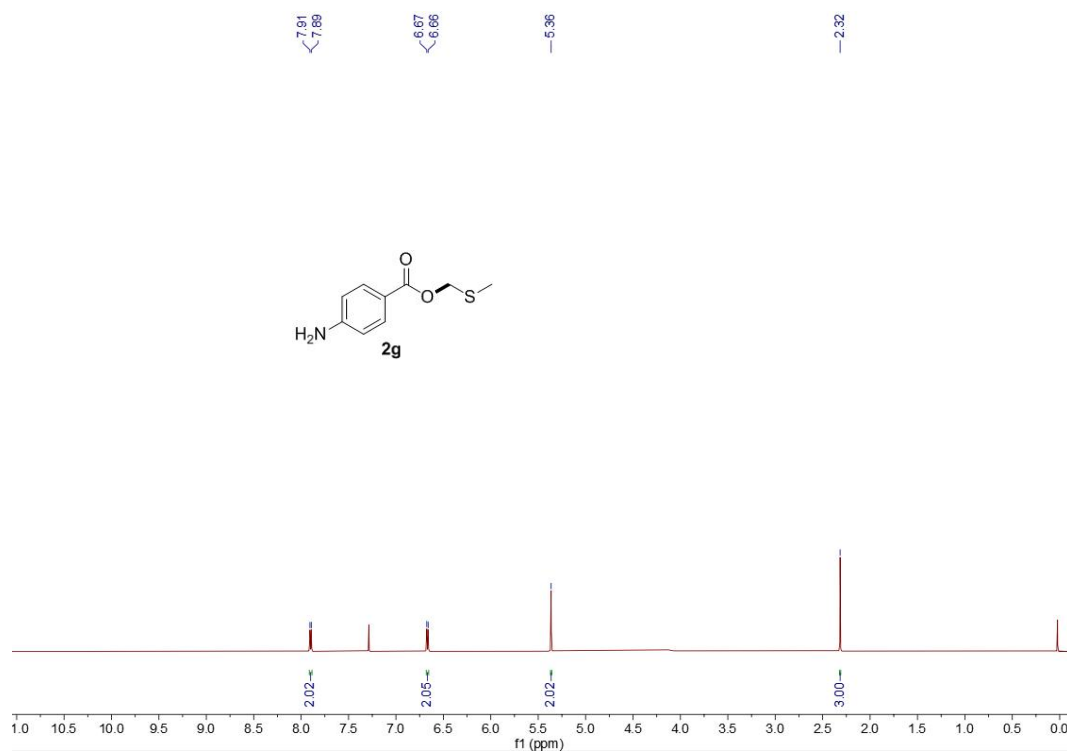


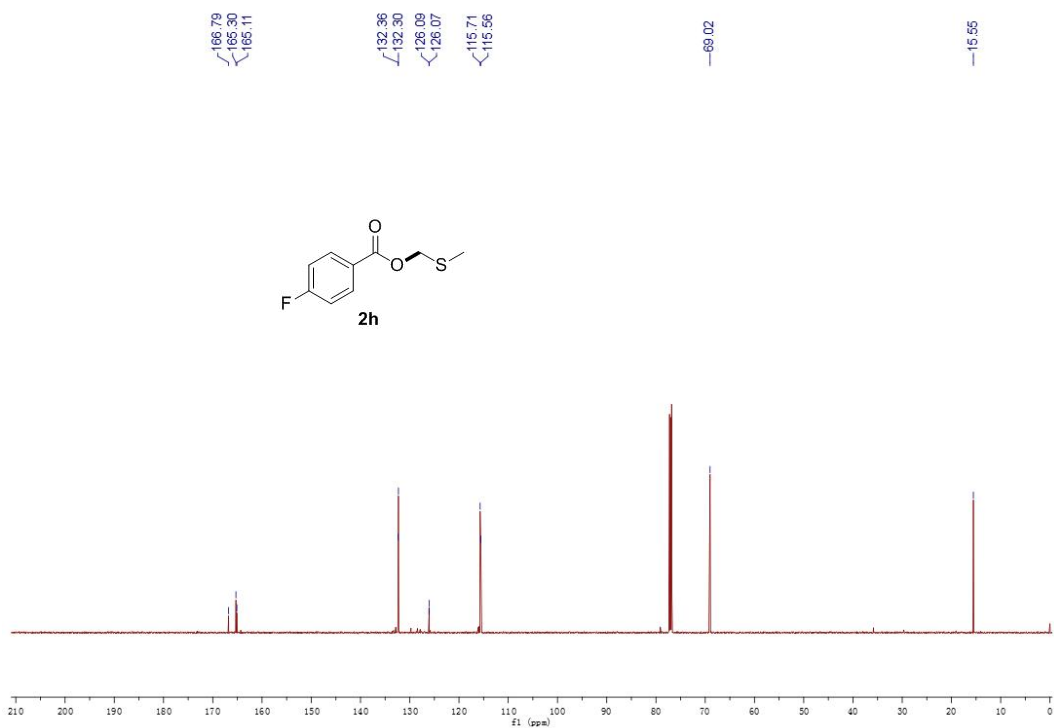
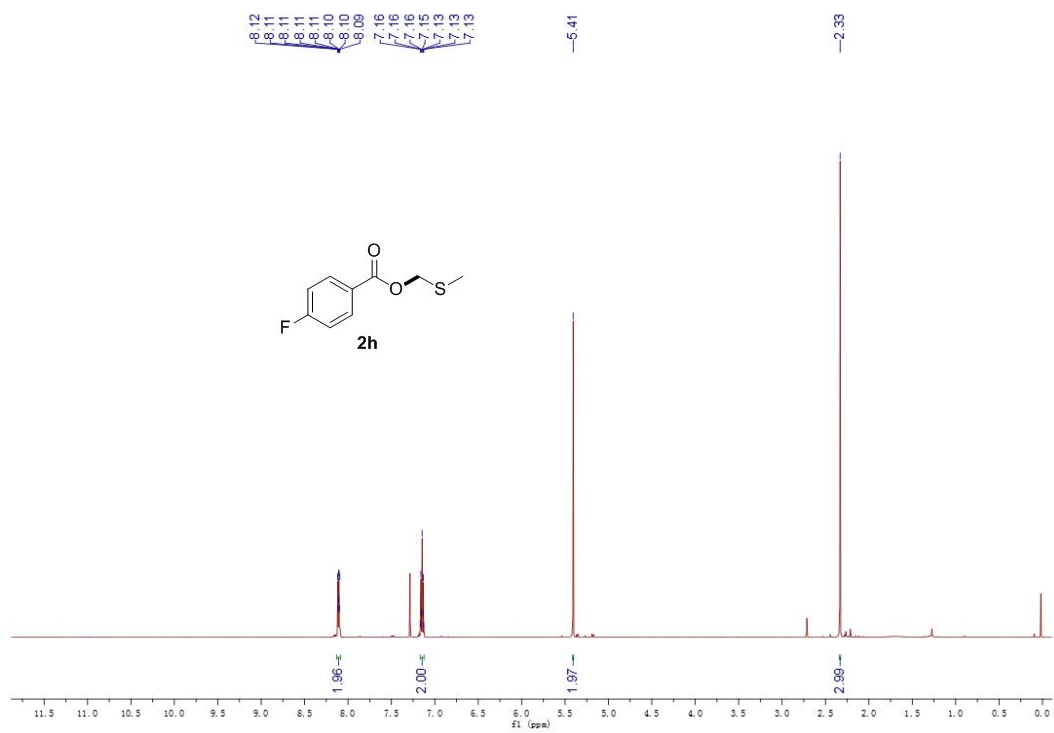
8.01
8.00
6.81
6.88
5.39
2.33

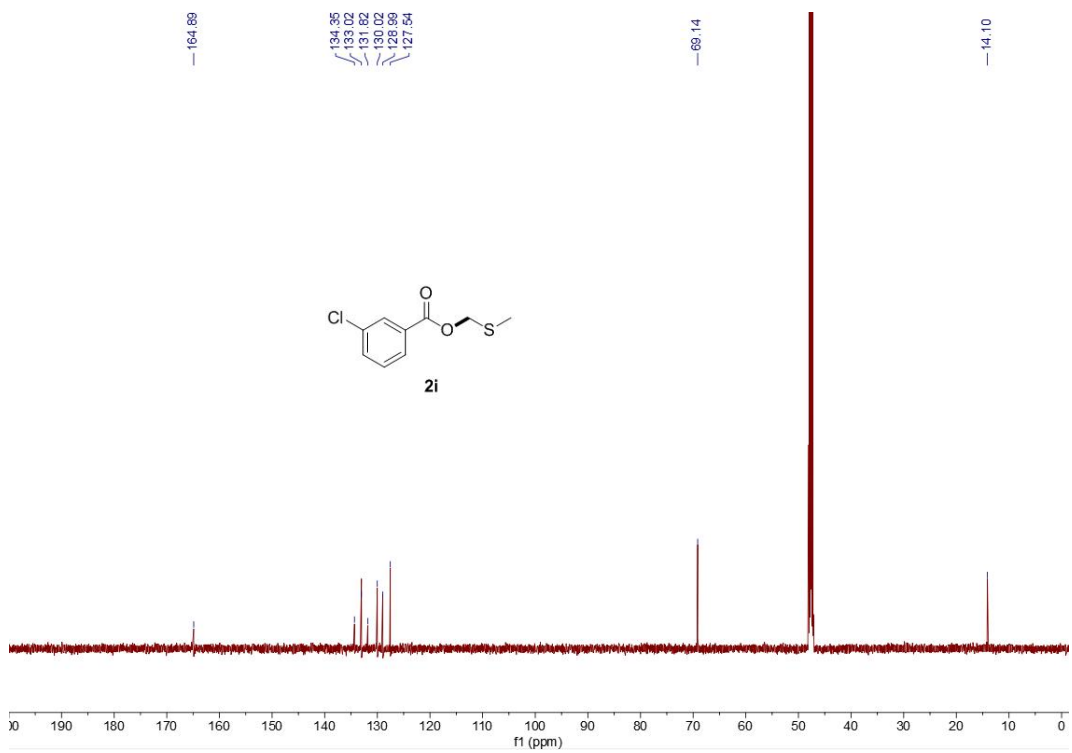
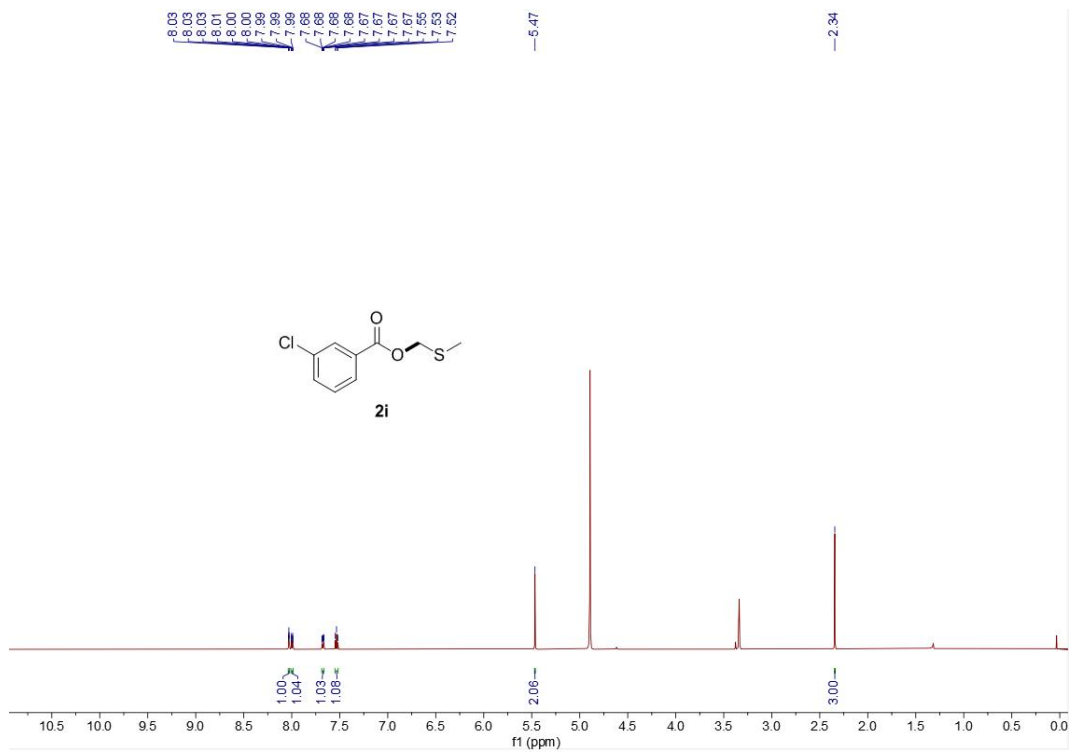


166.09
160.17
132.16
122.31
115.30
68.62
15.48





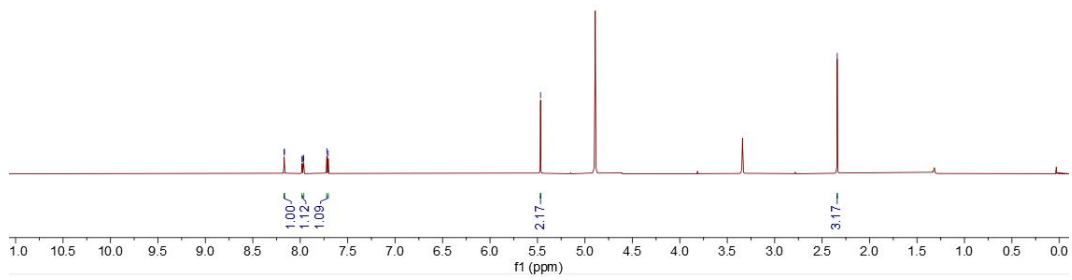
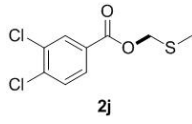




8.17
8.17
7.98
7.98
7.97
7.96
7.72
7.71

-5.47

-2.34

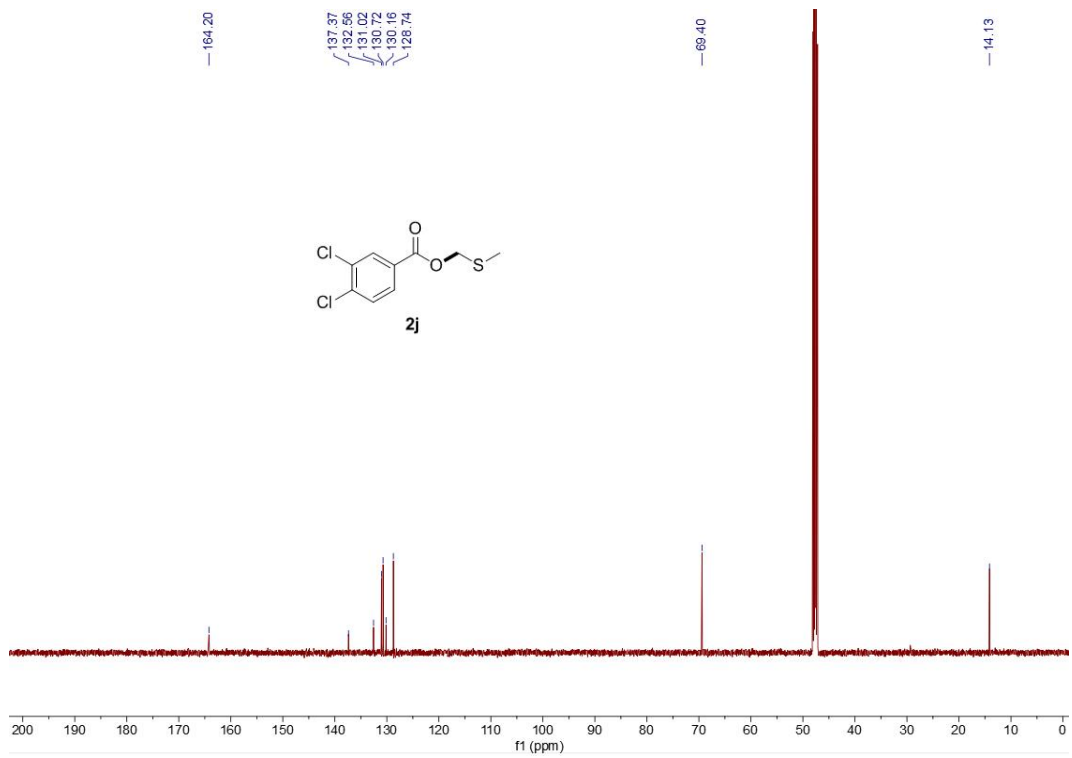
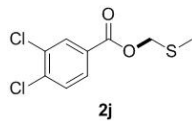


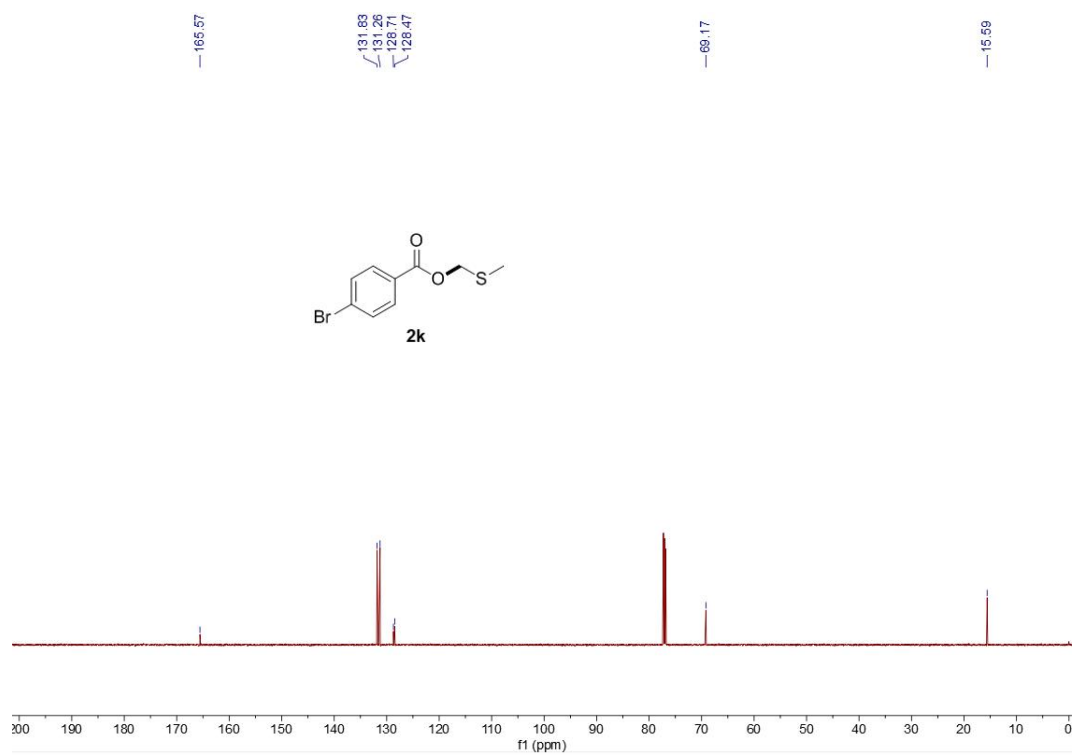
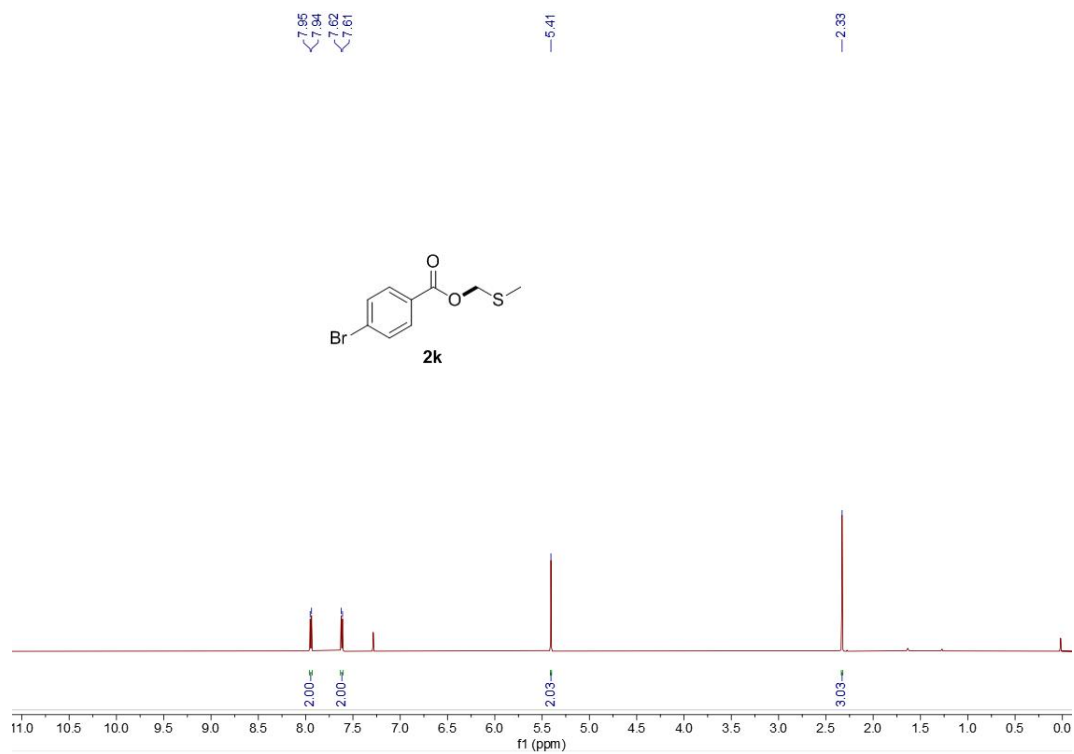
-164.20

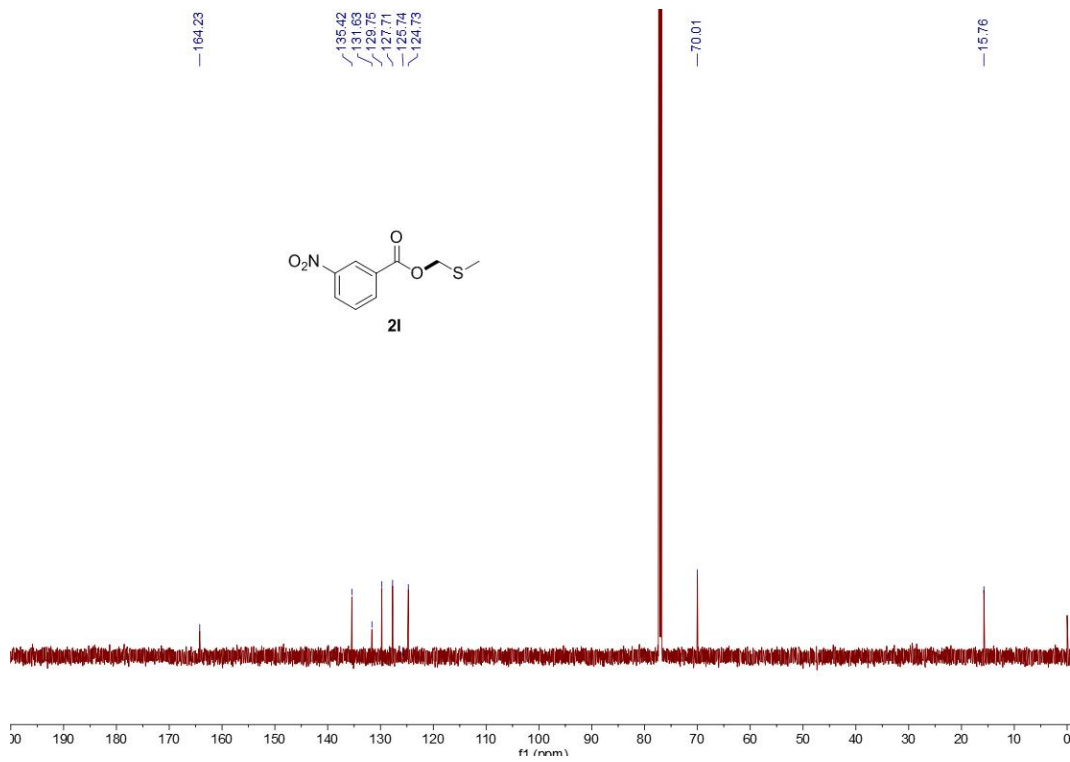
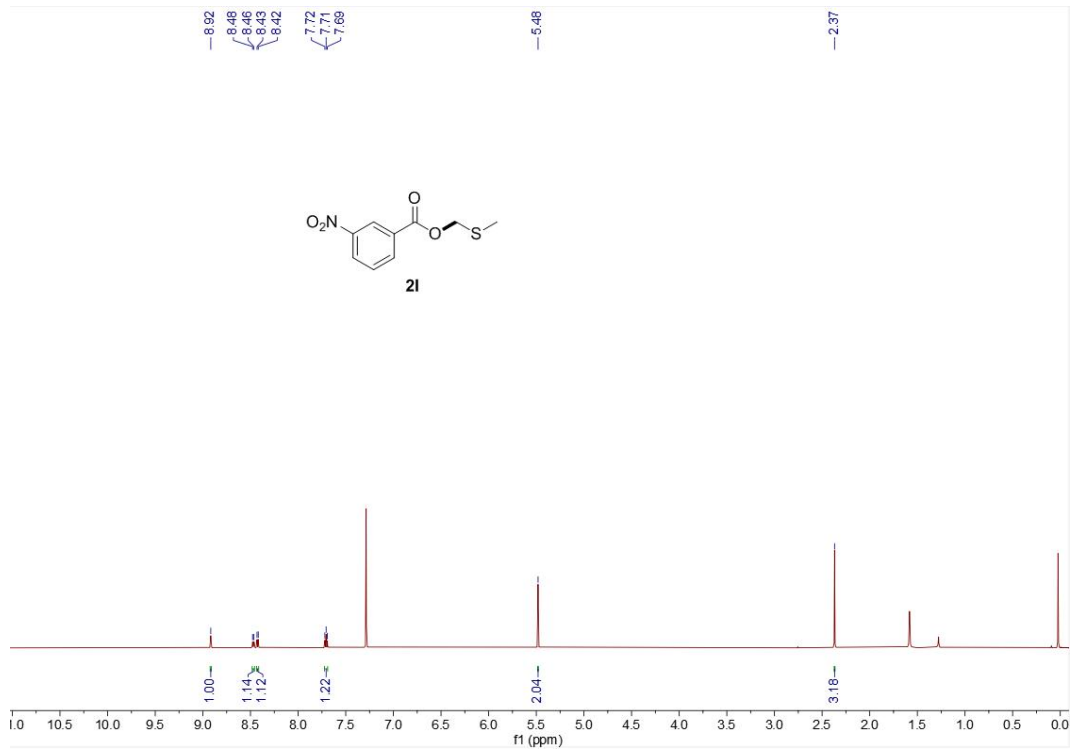
137.37
132.56
131.02
130.72
130.16
128.74

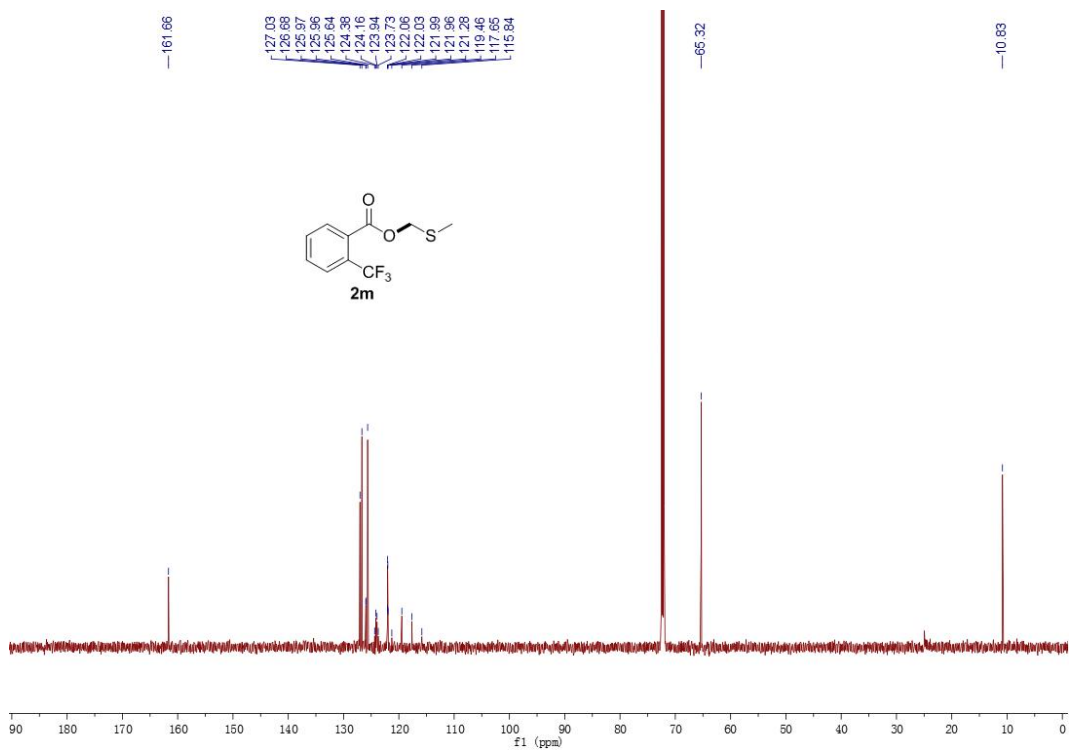
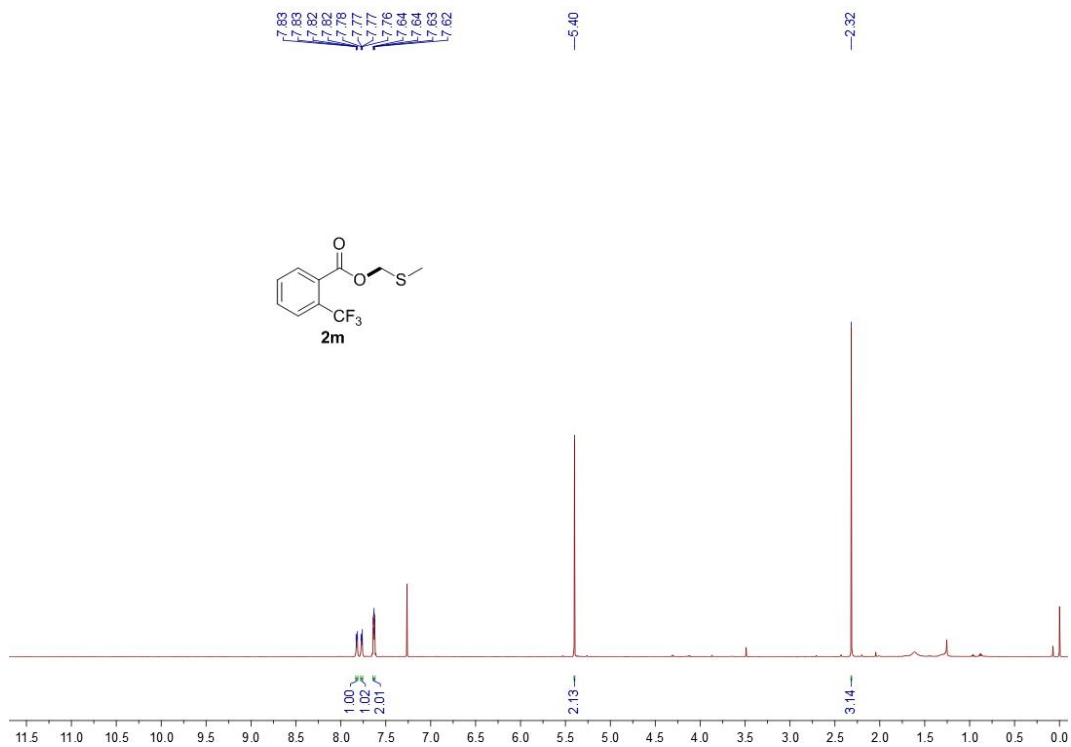
-69.40

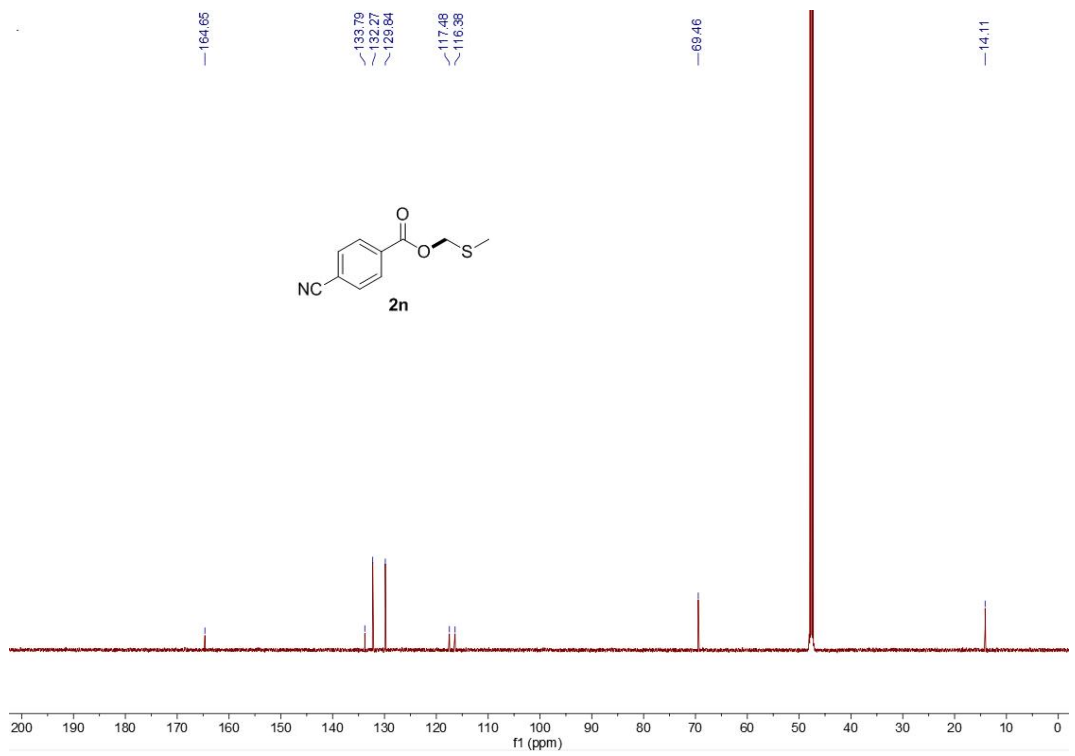
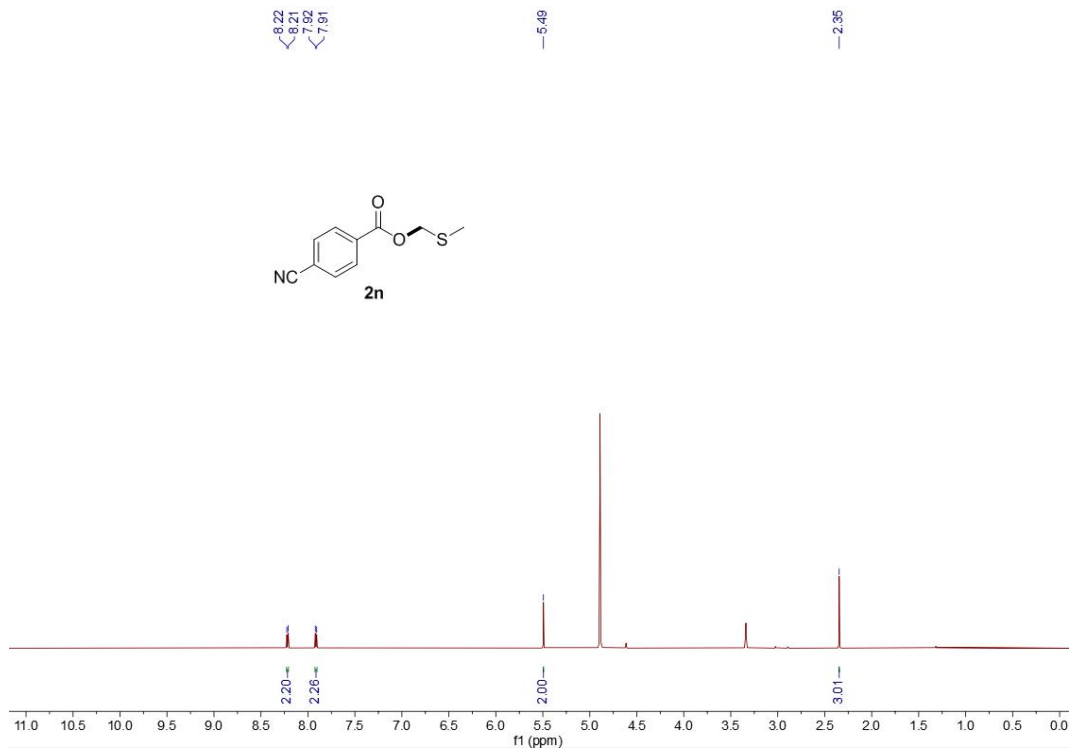
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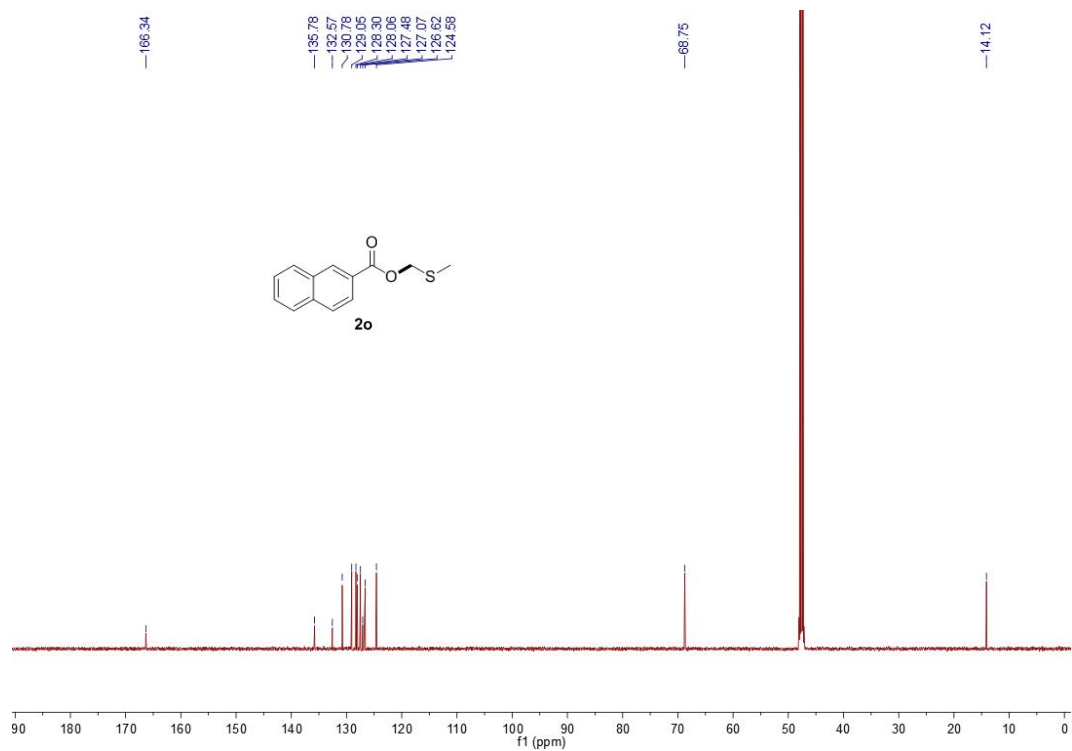
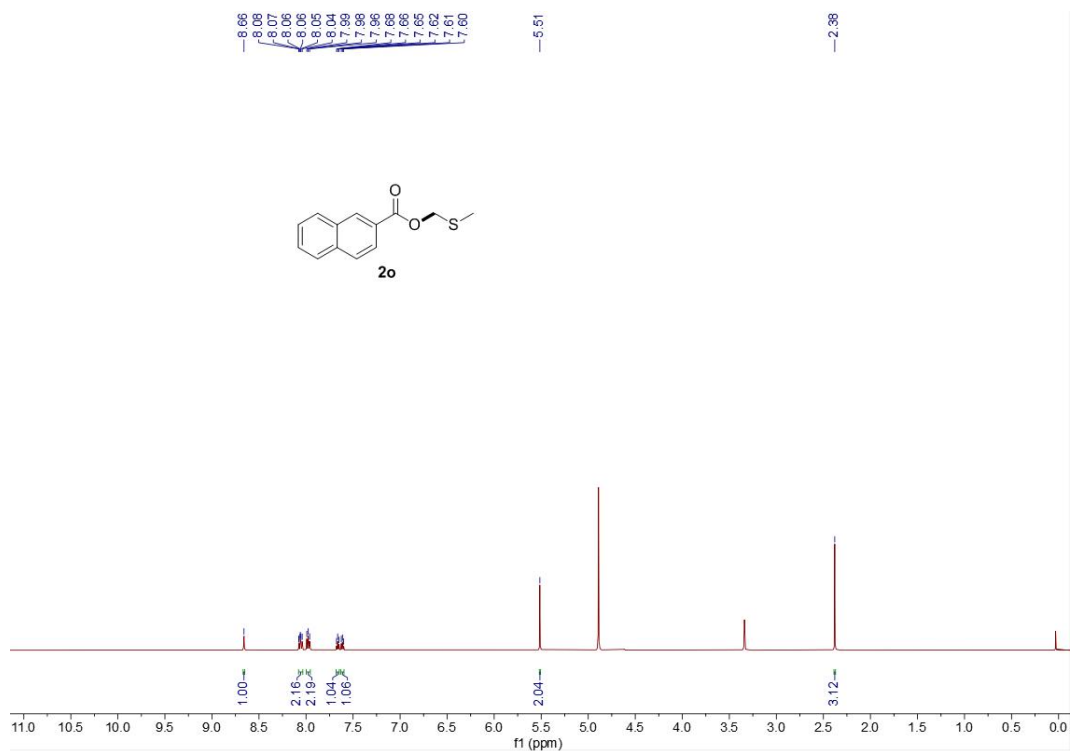


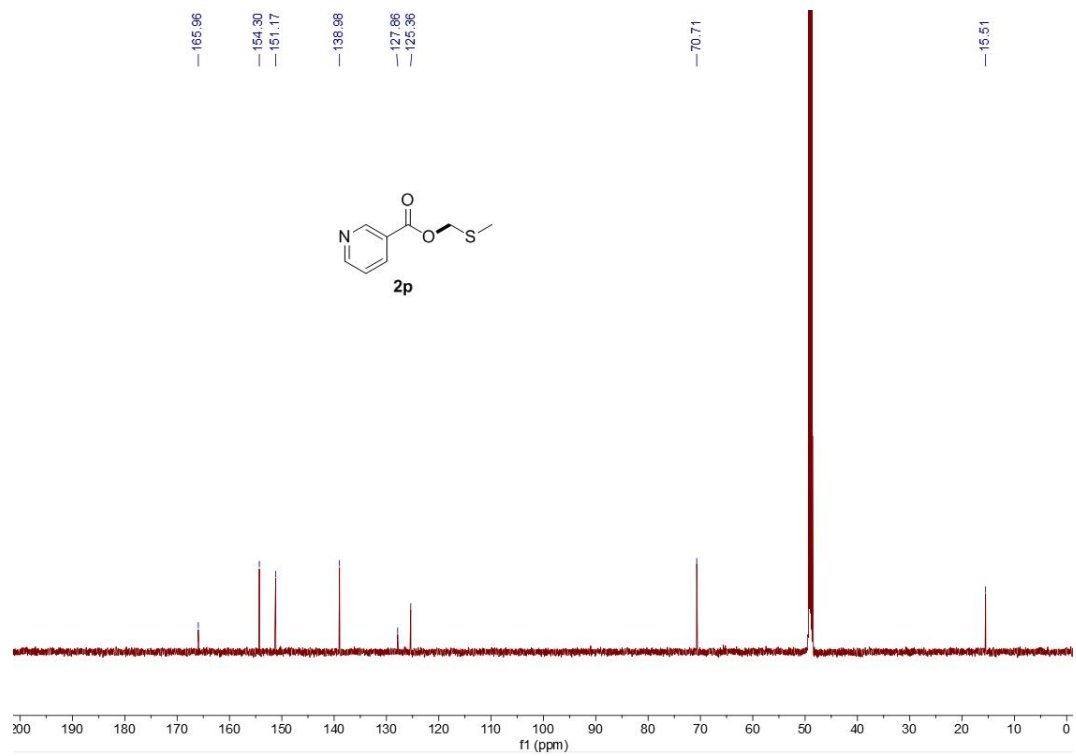
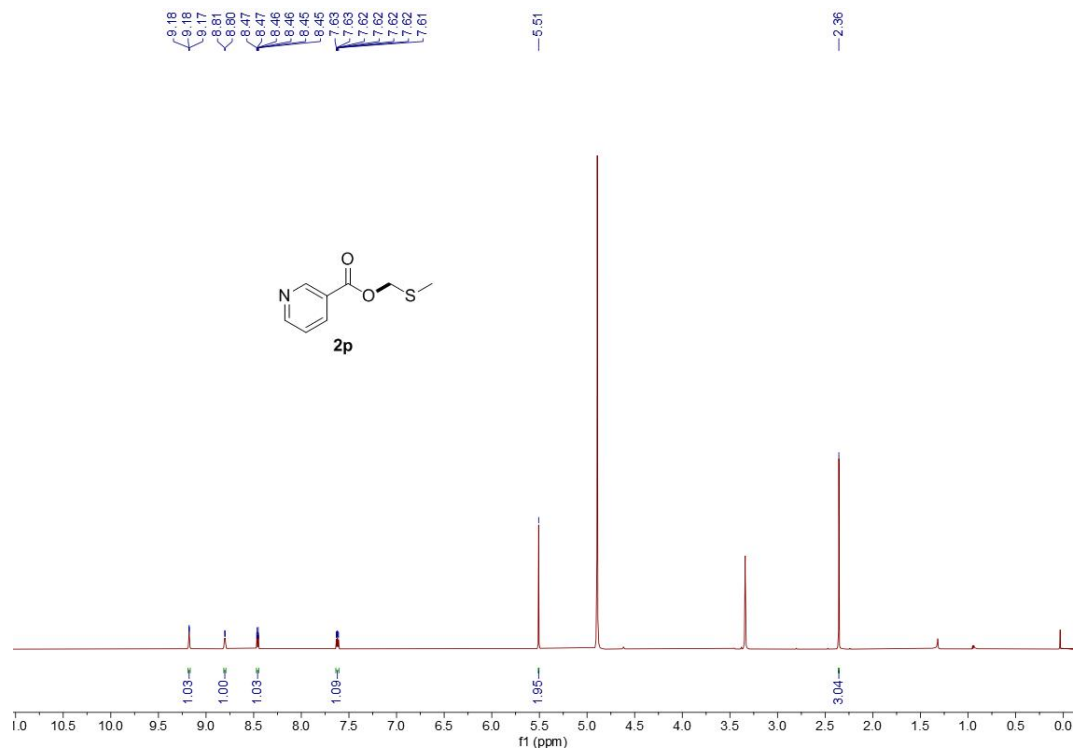


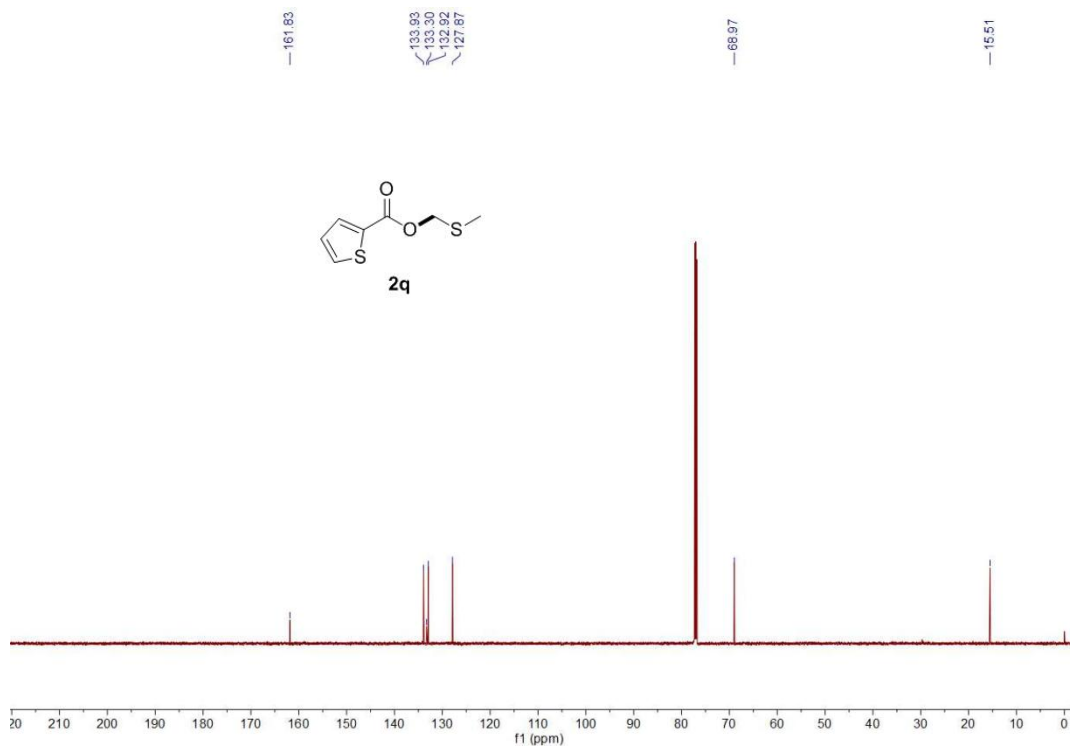
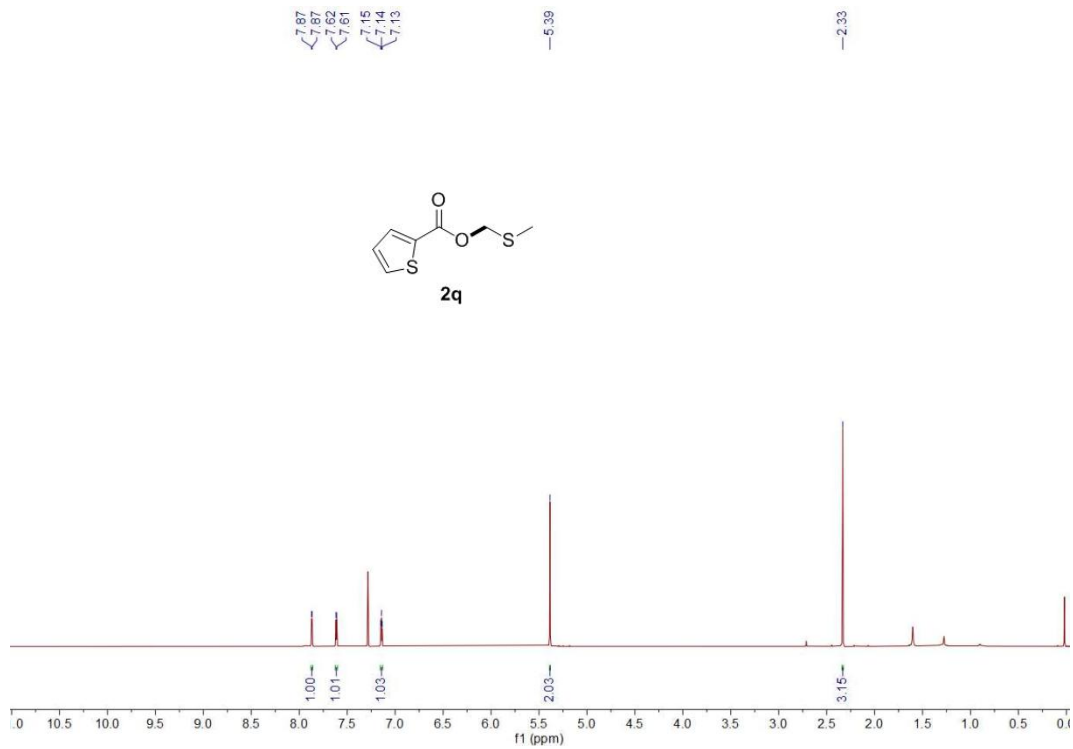


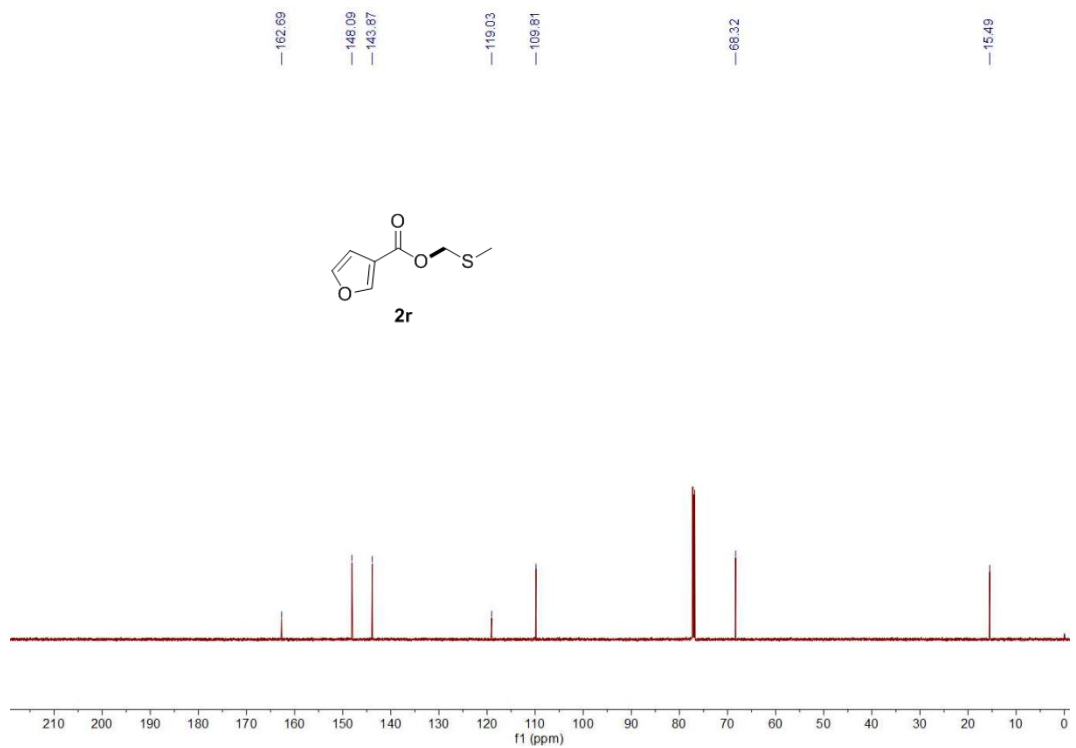
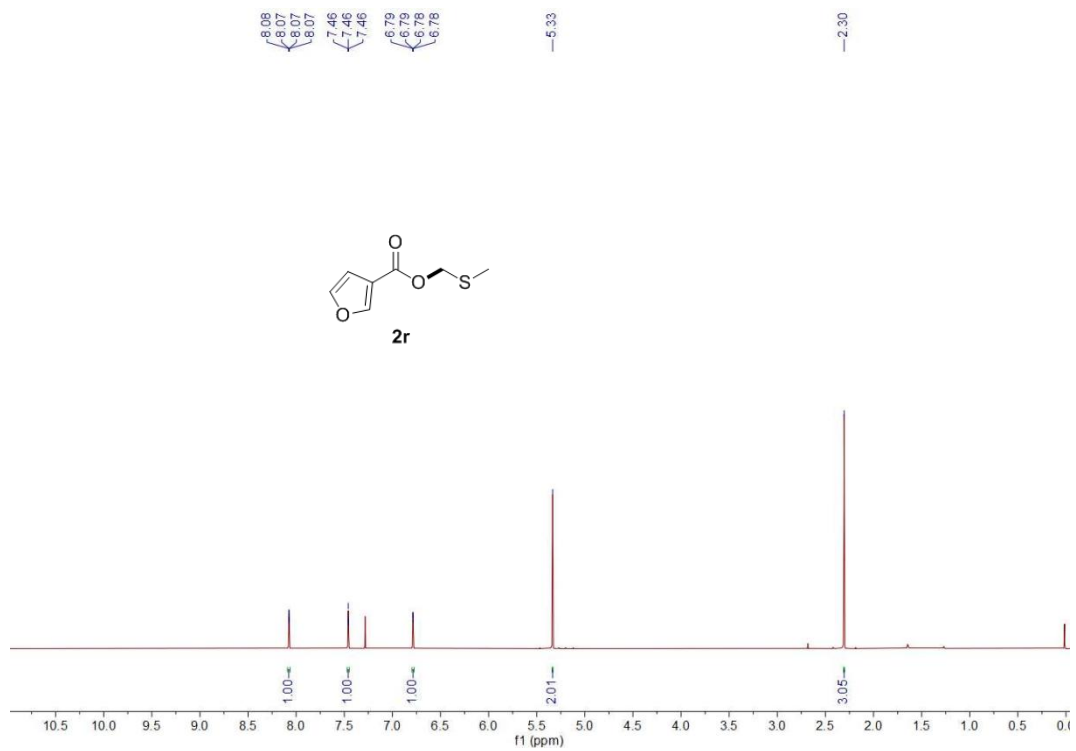


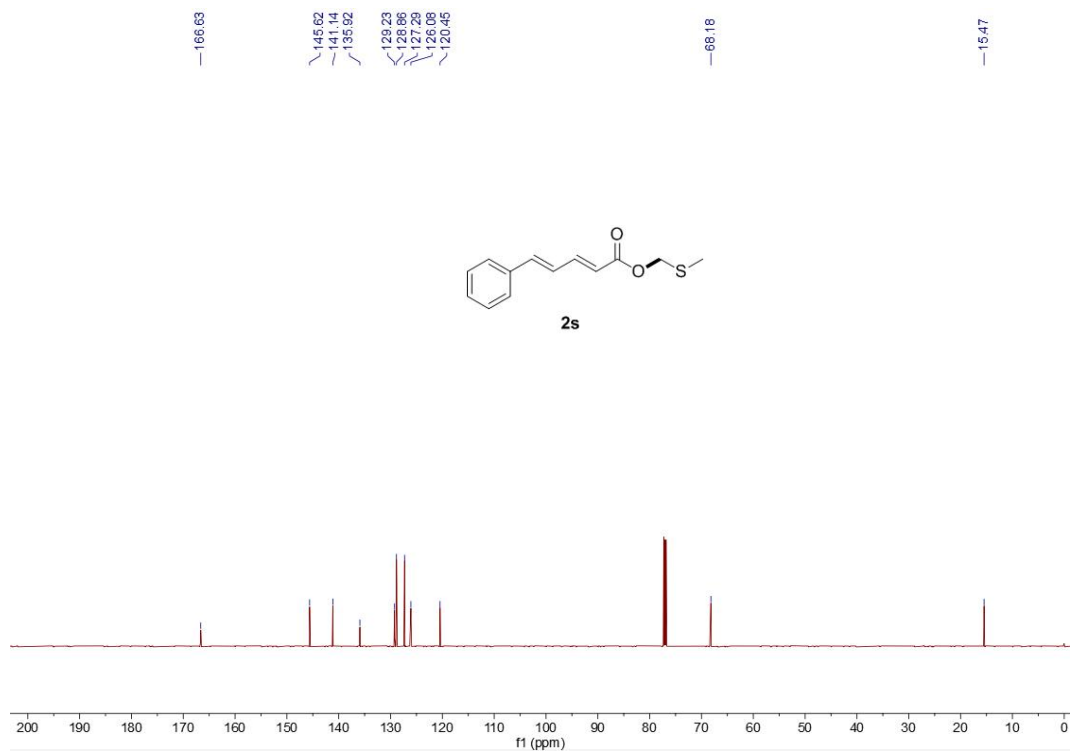
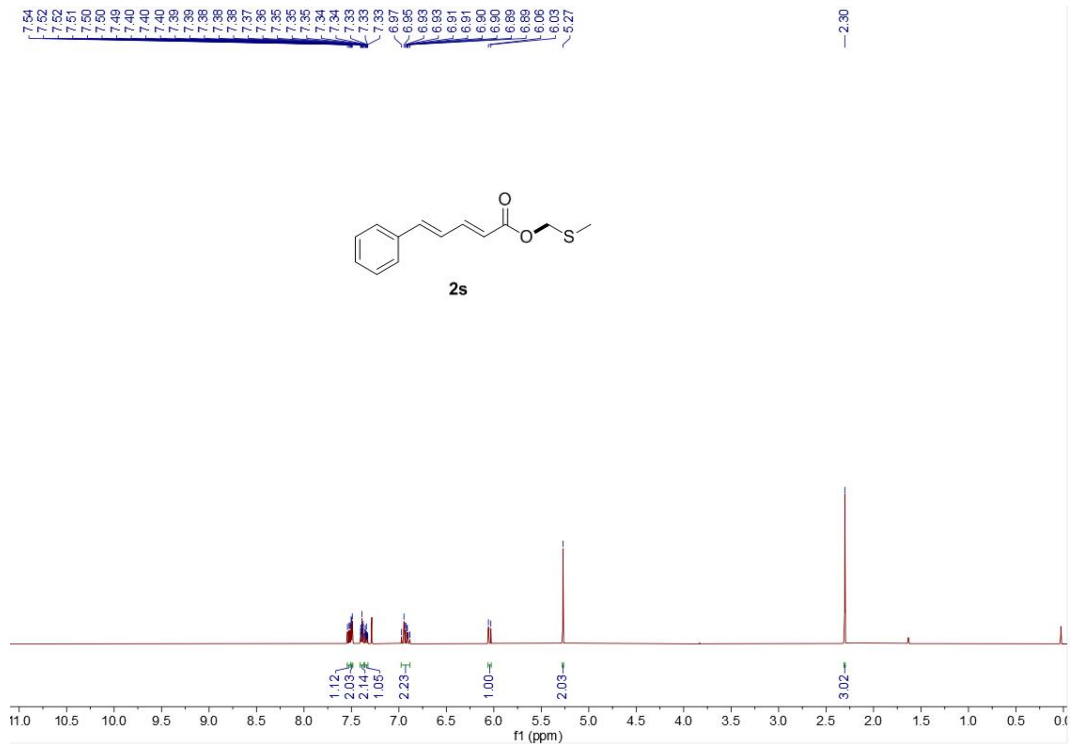


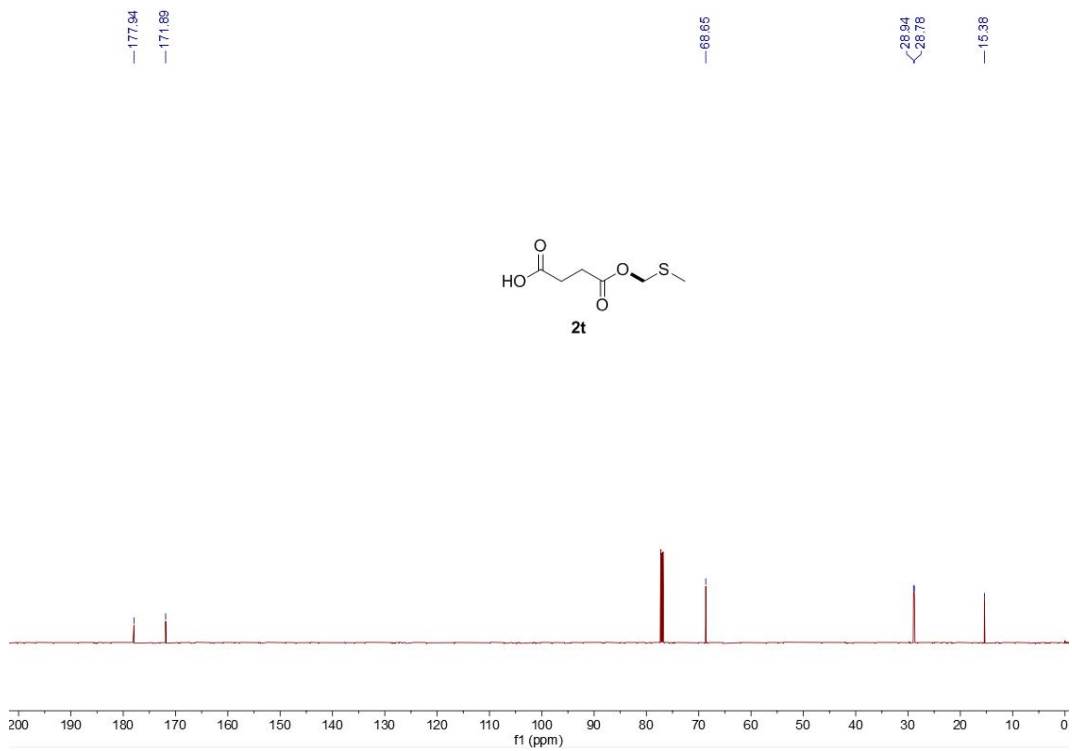
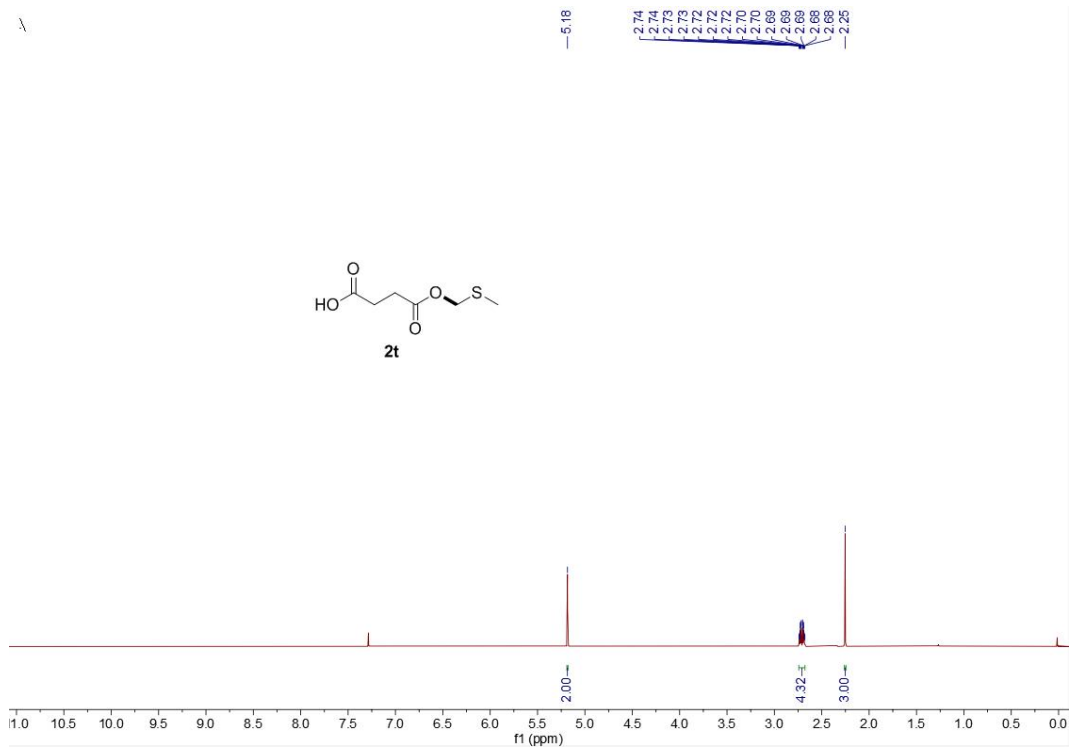


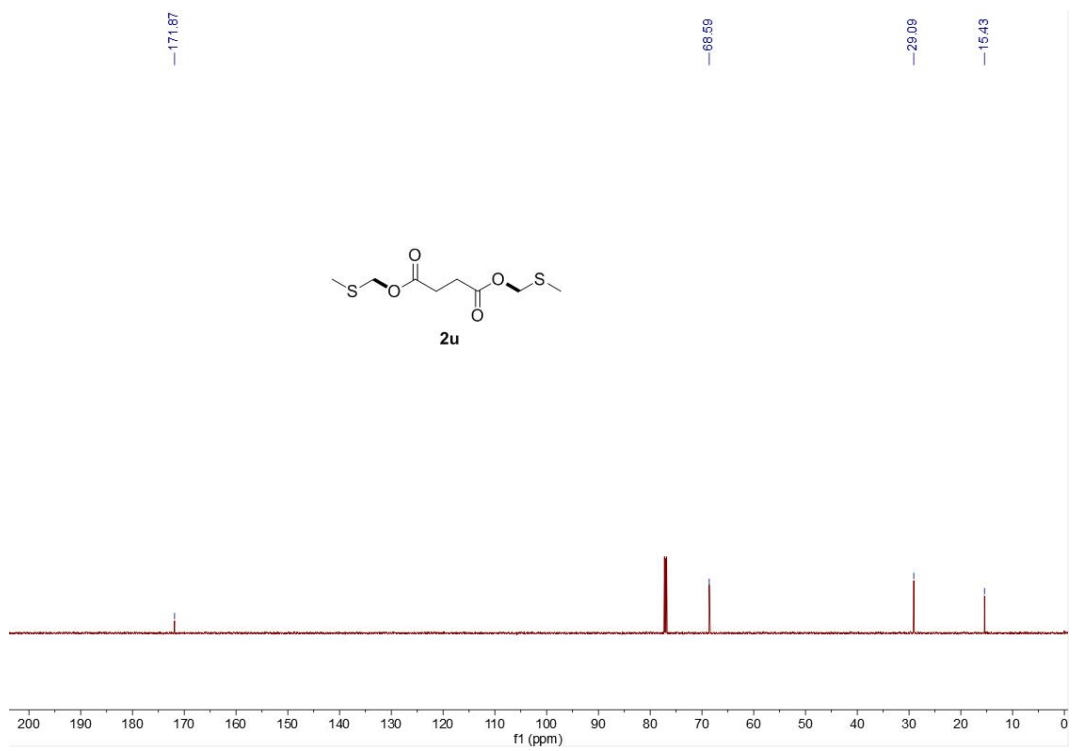
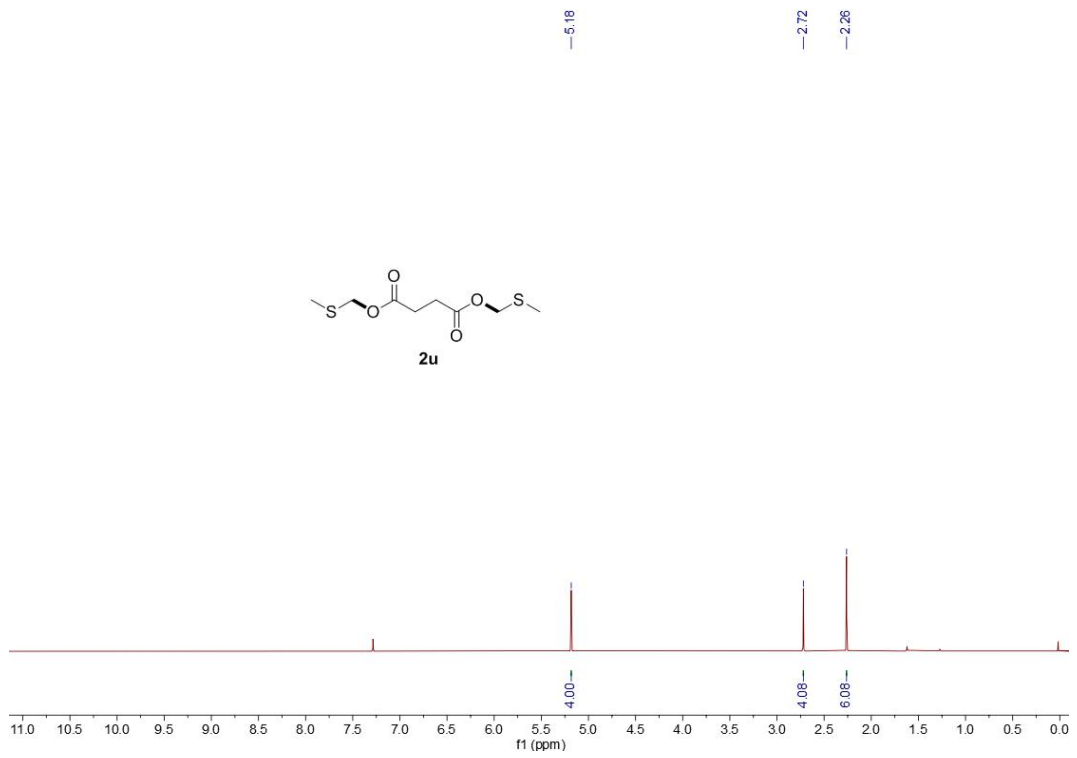


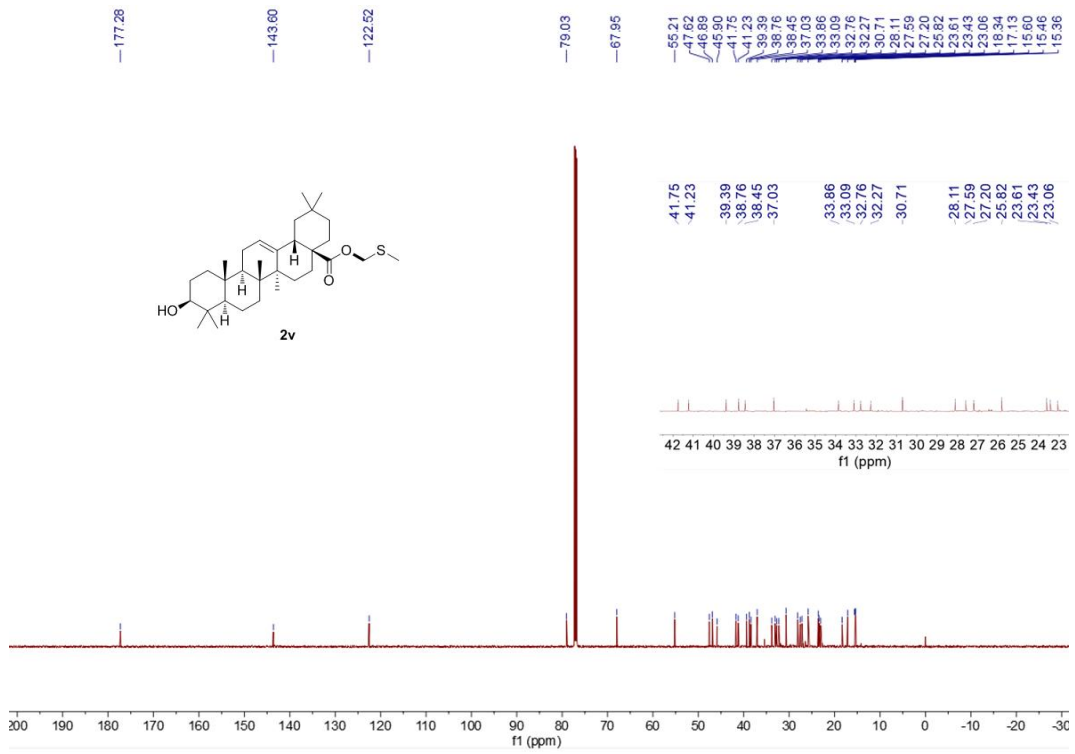
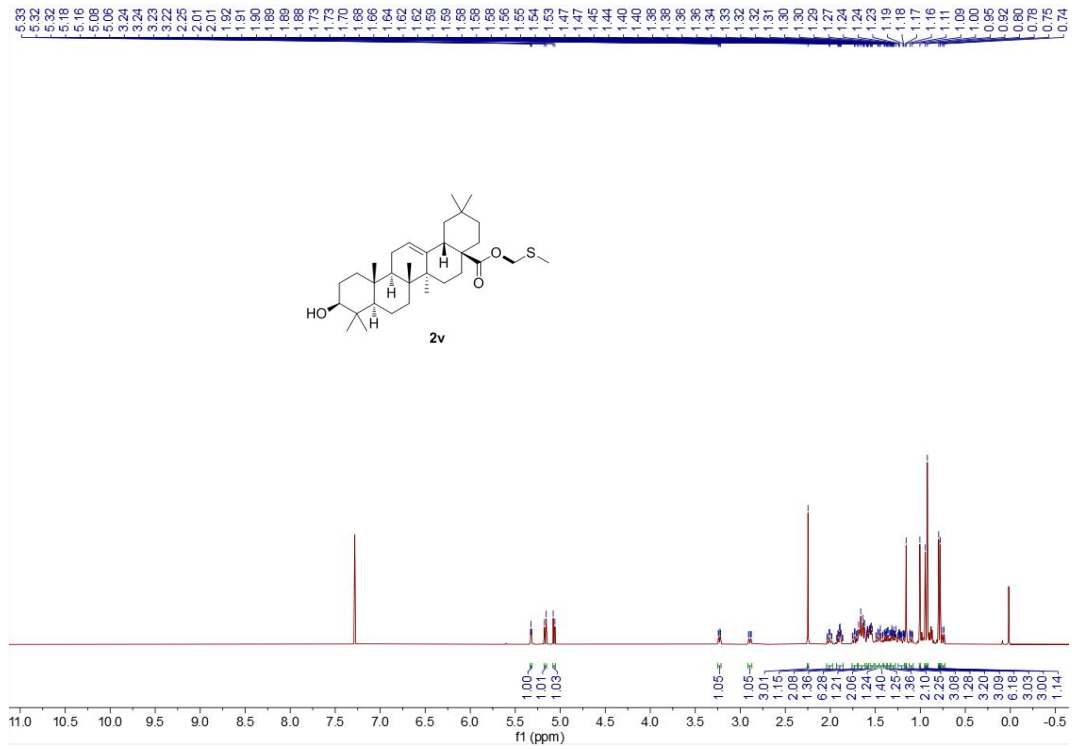


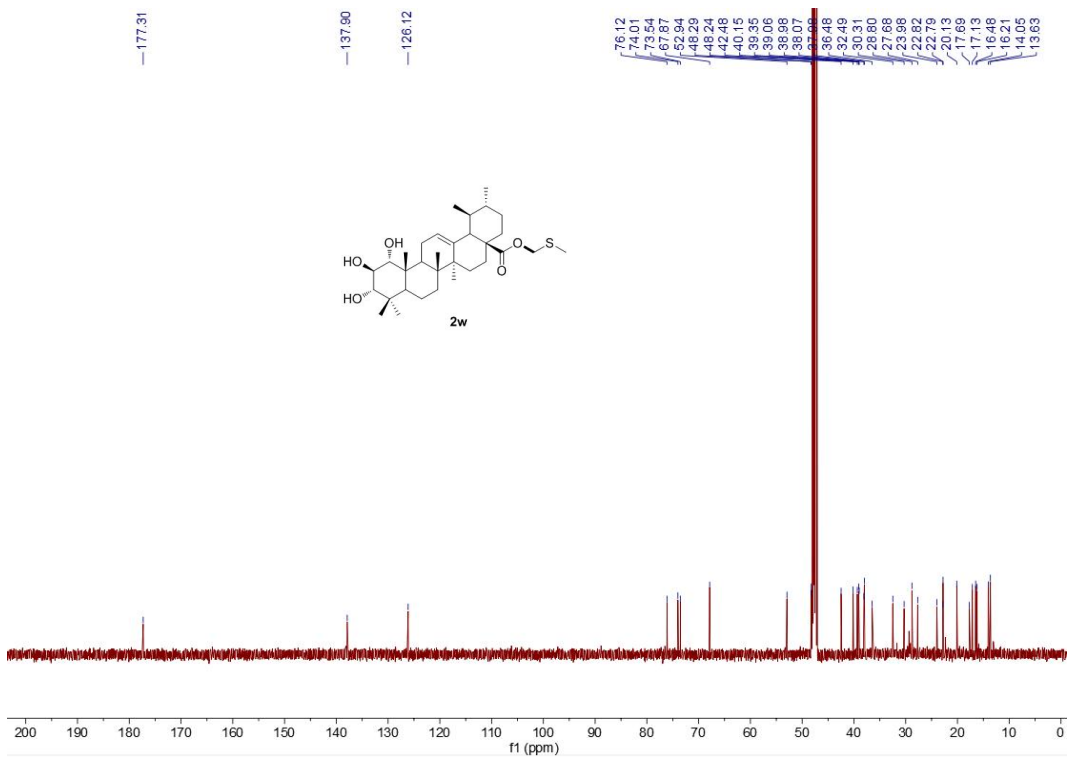
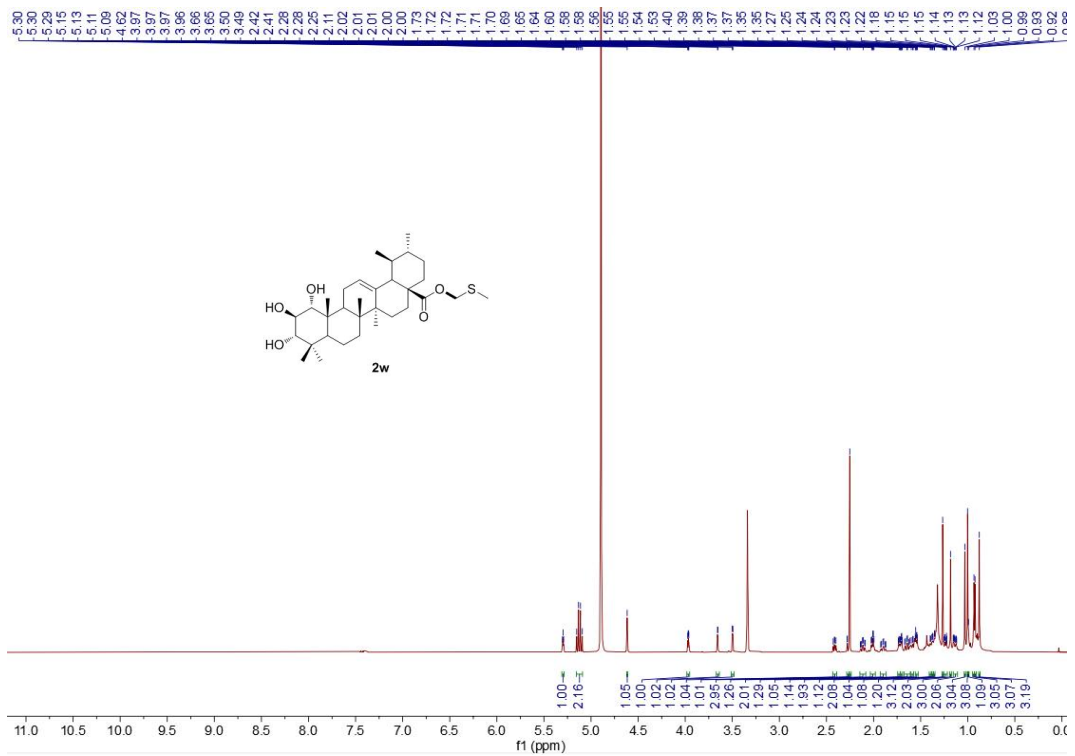


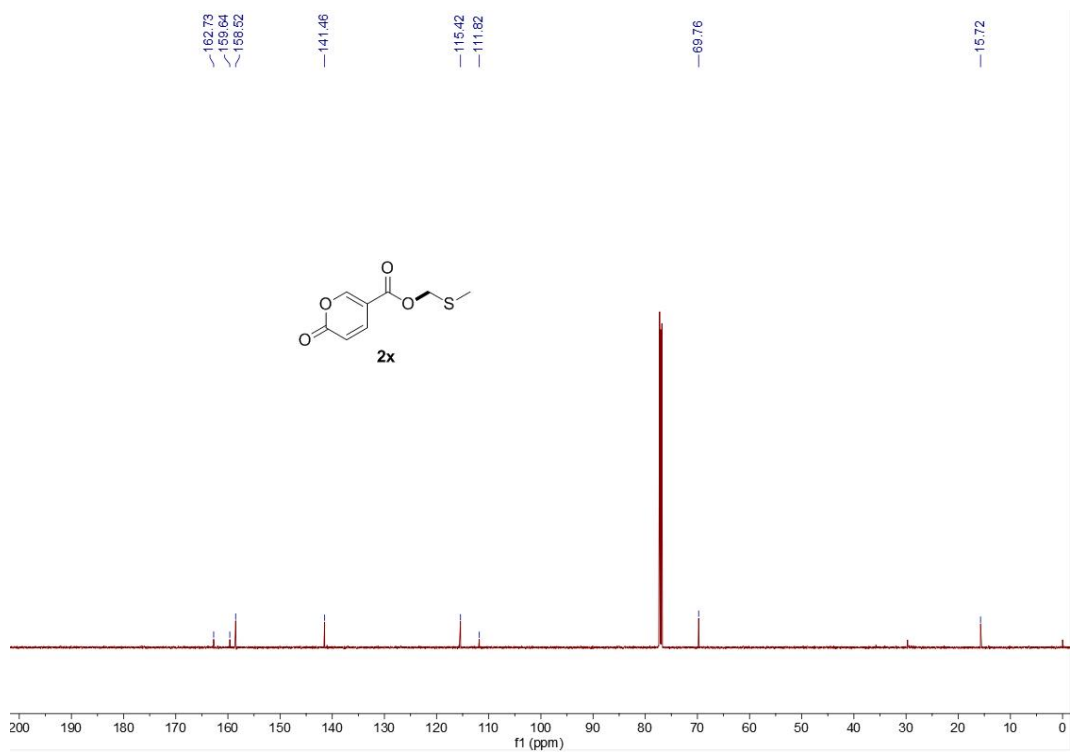
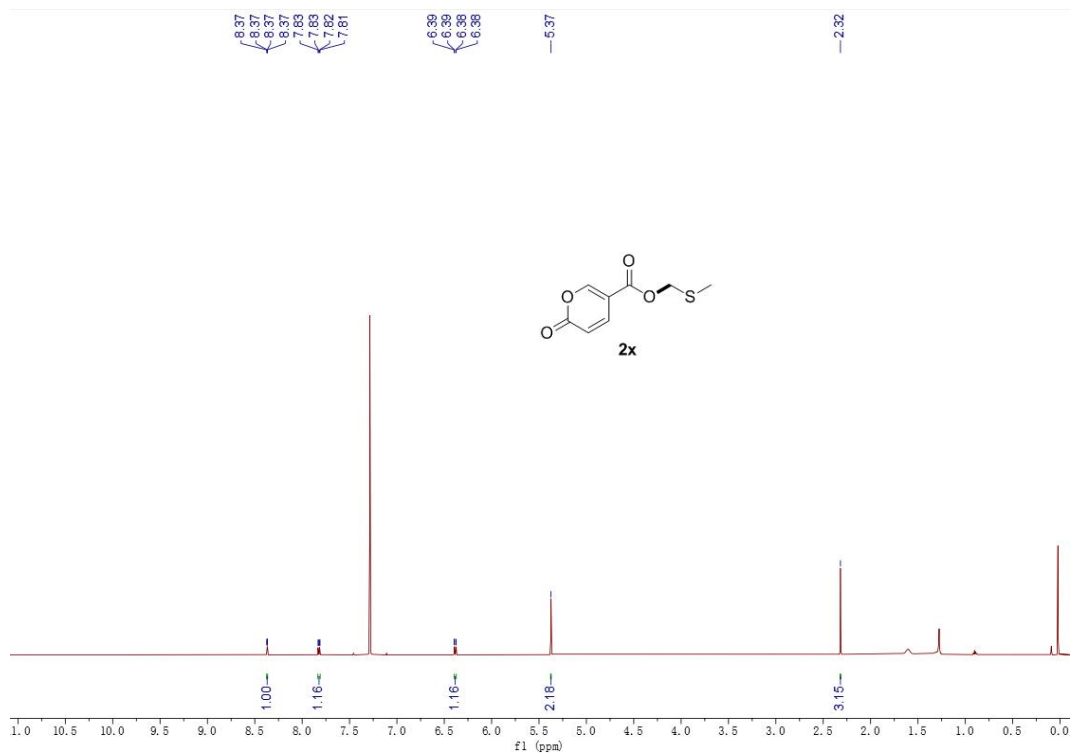


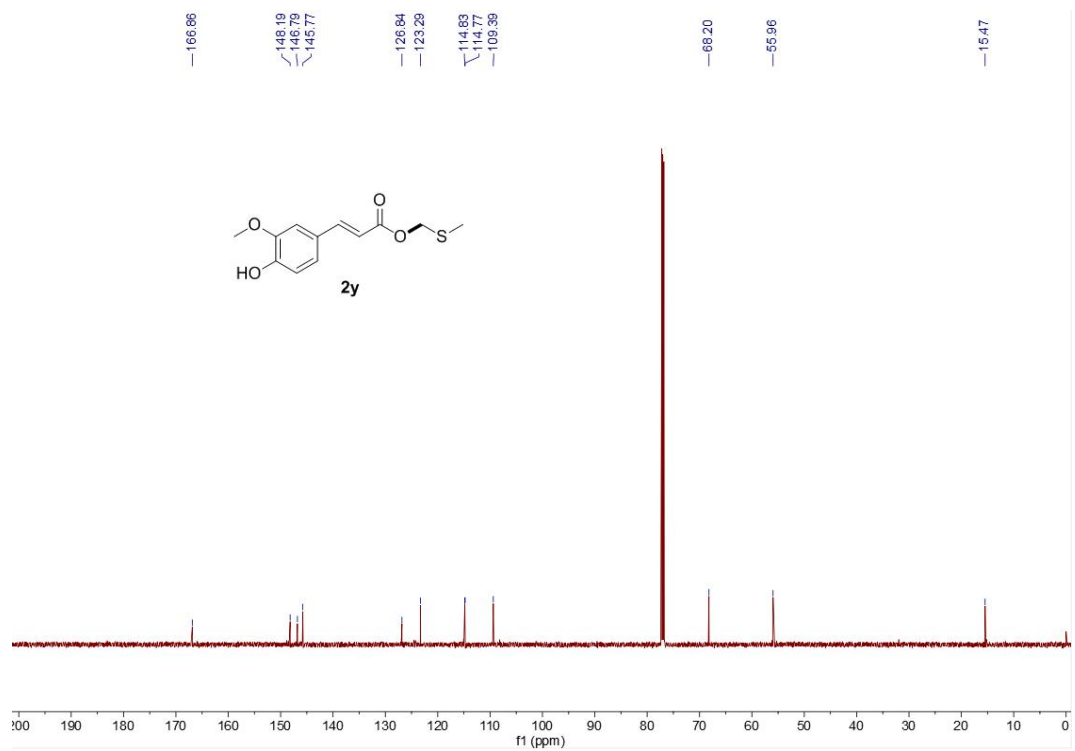
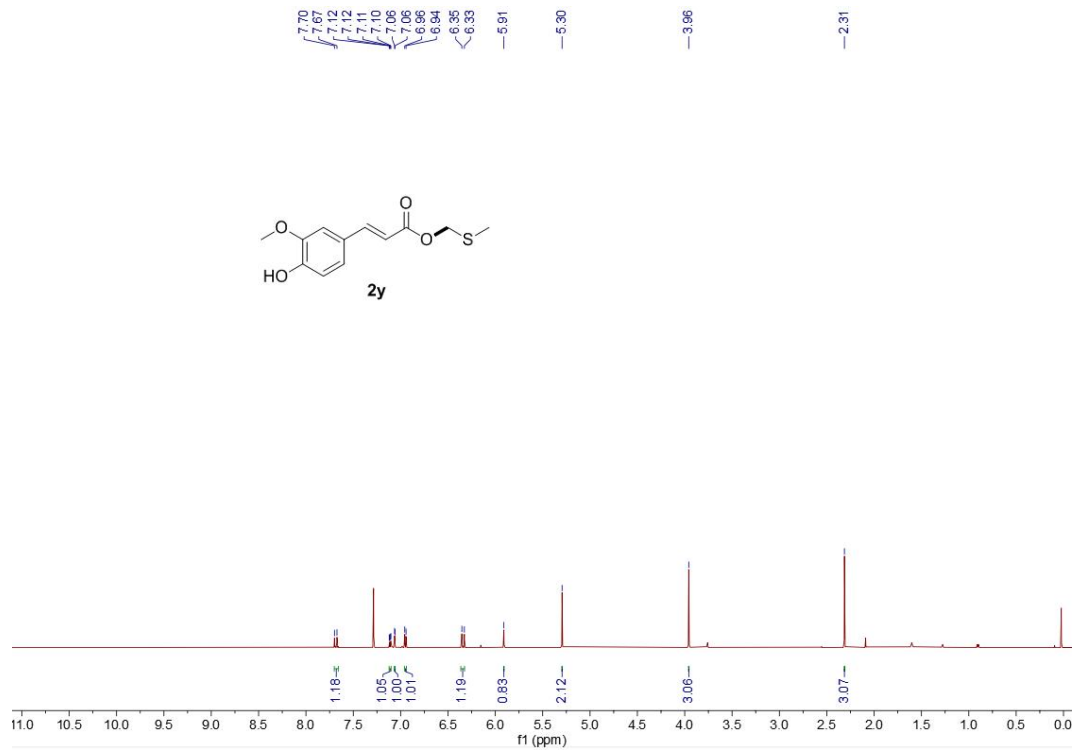


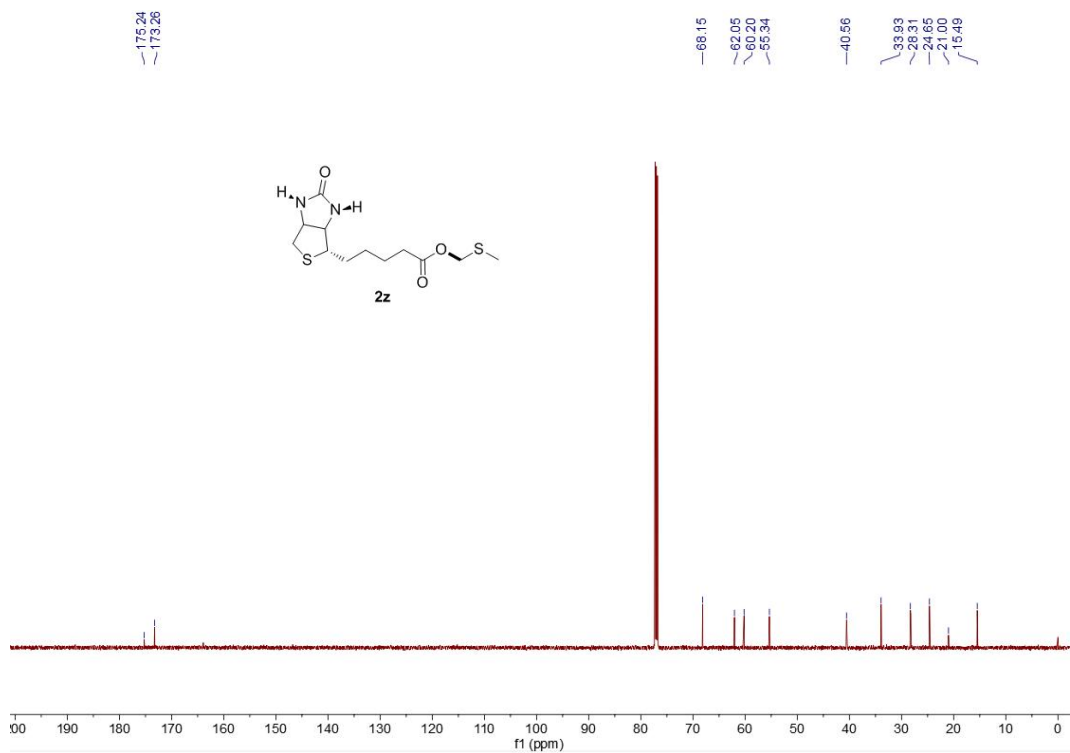
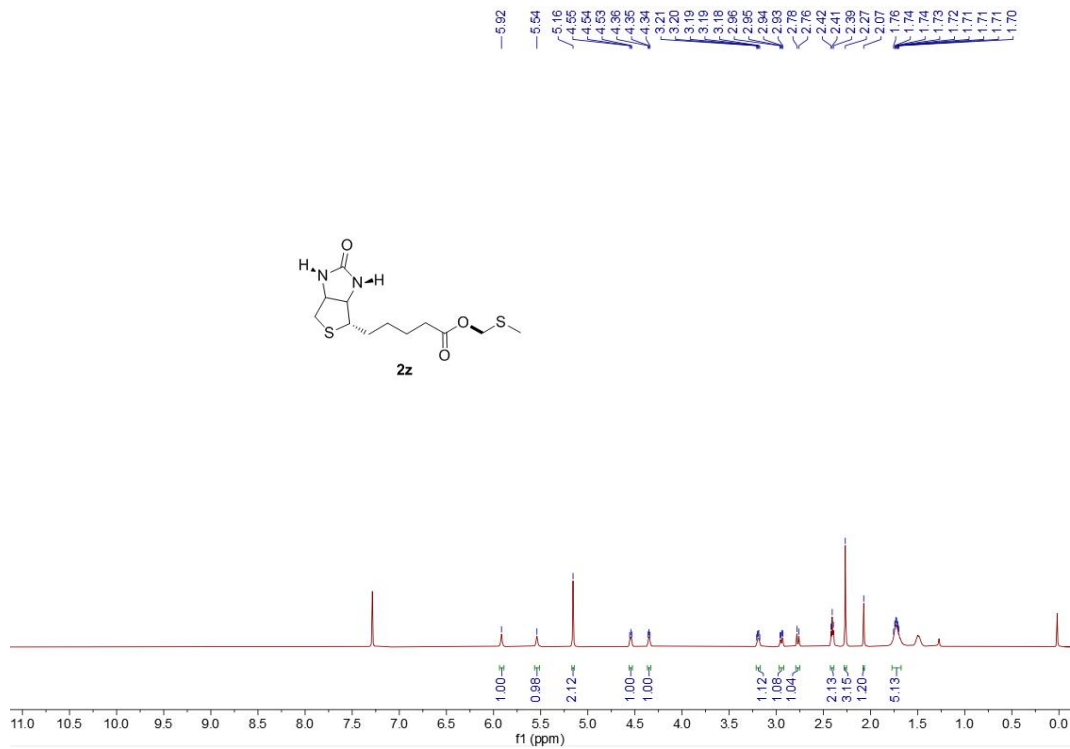


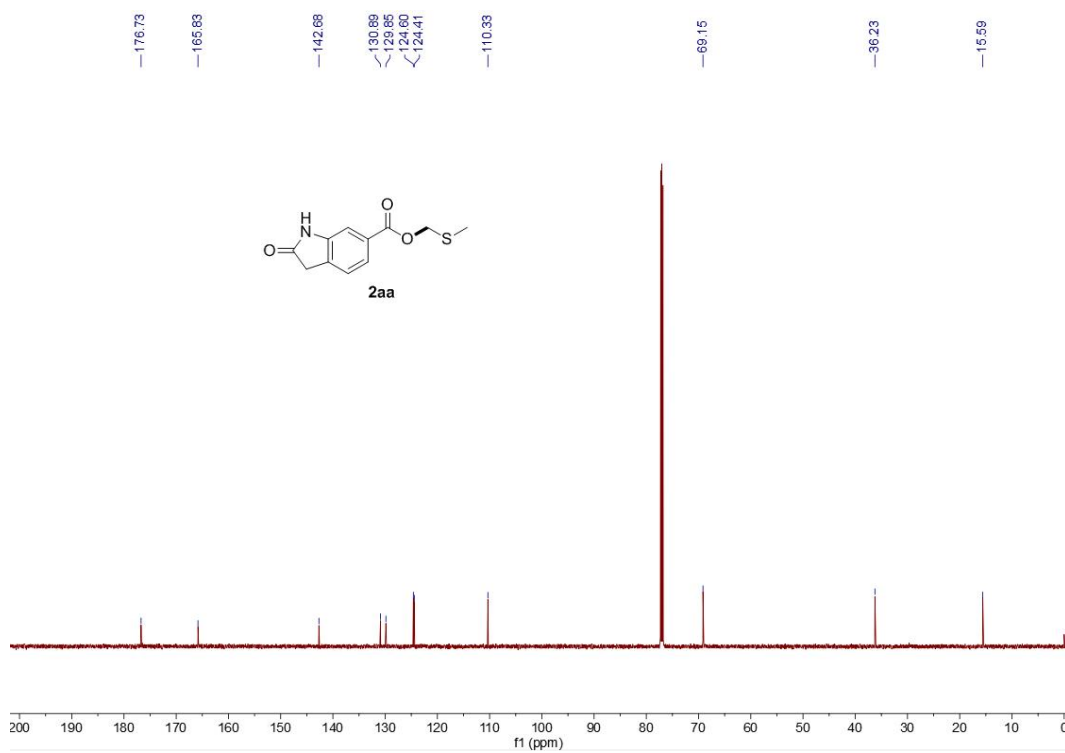
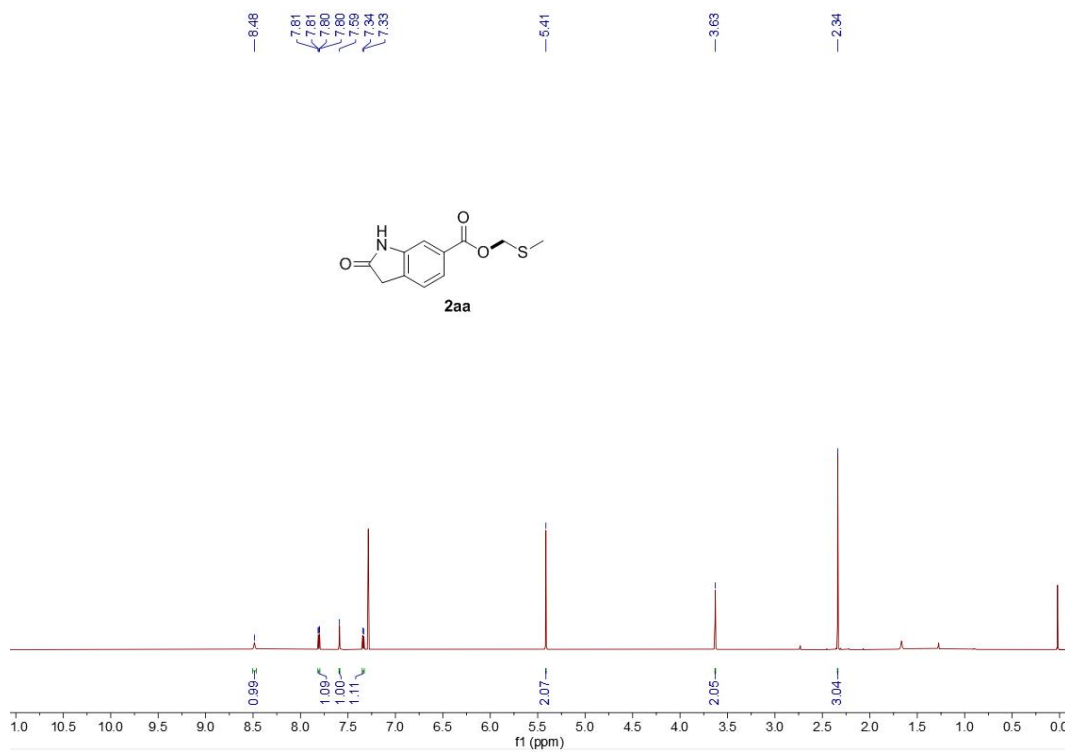


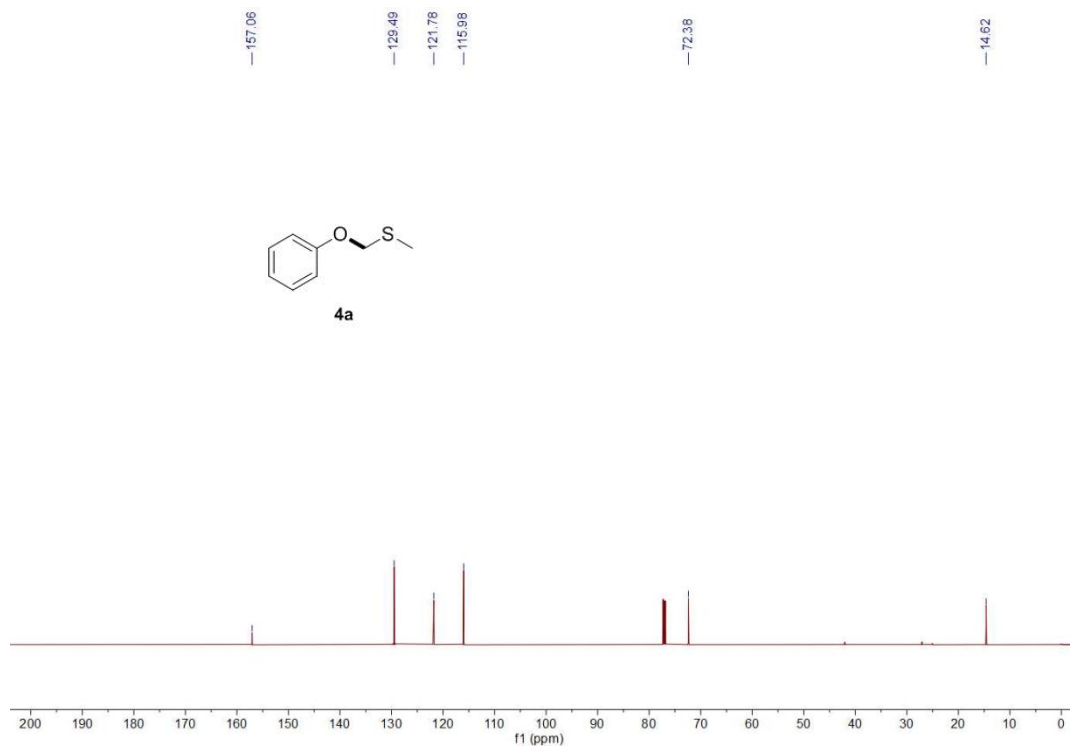
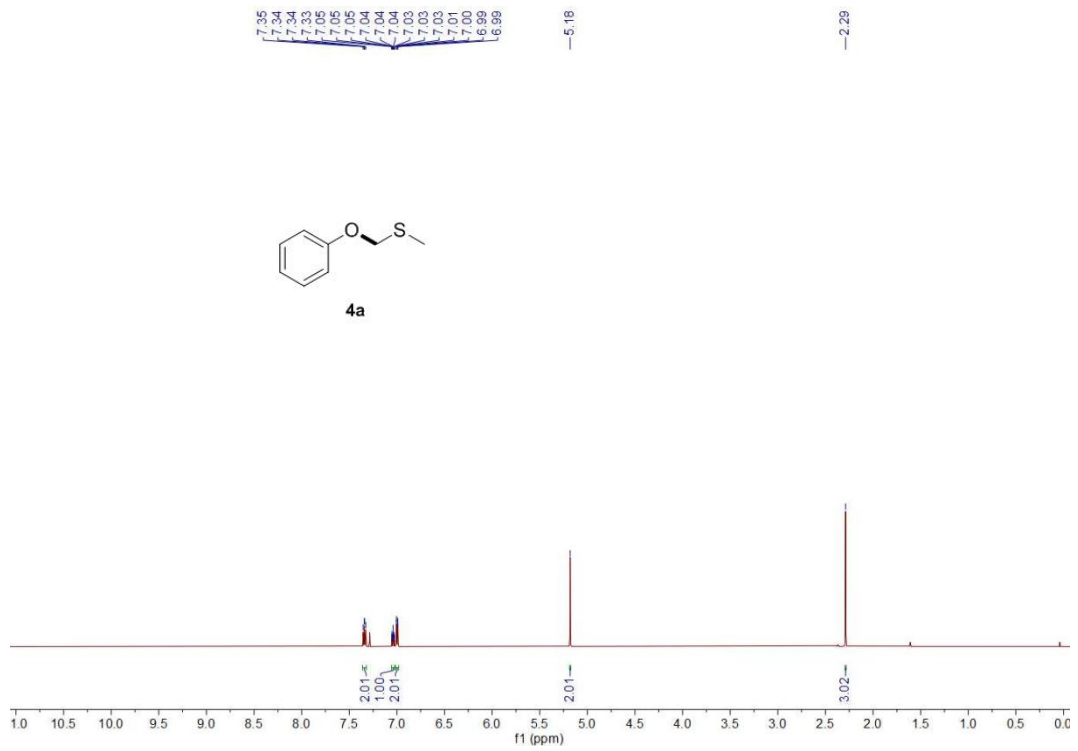








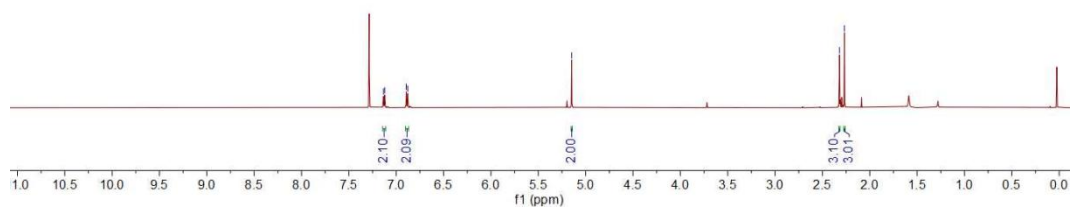
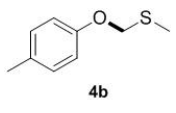




7.13
7.12
6.89
6.88

5.15

2.32
2.27



154.62

131.21
129.95

116.01

72.65

20.55

14.55

