

Supporting information

An interrupted Heyns rearrangement approach to regioselective synthesis of acylindoles

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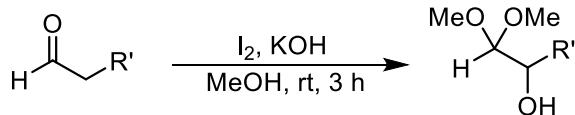
1. General Comments:

All reactions were carried out under atmospheric pressure using reaction tubes. Column chromatography was performed using Rankem Silica gel (100-200 mesh) and the solvent system used unless otherwise specified, was ethyl acetate-hexane with various percentage of polarity depending on the nature of the substrate. All chemicals and acids were purchased from either AVRA chemicals or Spectrochem and used as received. α -Amino carbonyl derivatives **2** were synthesized employing the literature procedure.¹

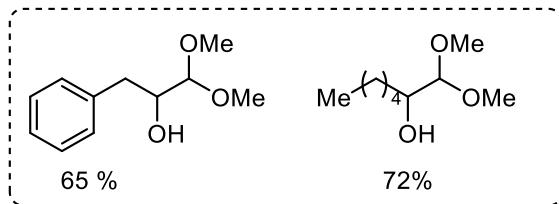
NMR data were recorded on a Bruker (400 MHz and 500 MHz) spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to signals of deuterio solvents and residual protiated solvents, respectively. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet iS10 FT and Jasco ATR-IR spectrometer. HRMS were recorded by electrospray ionization (ESI) method on a Q-TOF Micro with lock spray source. The crystal data was collected and integrated using a BrukerAxs kappa apex2 CCD diffractometer, with graphite monochromated Mo-K α radiation.

3. Synthesis of α -hydroxy dimethoxy acetal:

Approach 1:

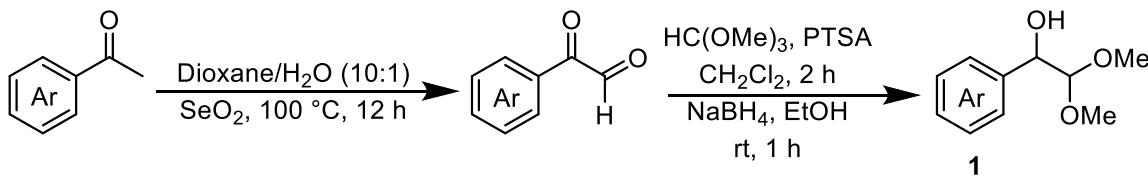


A solution of KOH (2.0 g, 35.82 mmol, 2.4 equiv) in 15 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0–5 °C. Then, the corresponding ketone (14.92 mmol, 1 equiv) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes, then I₂ (4.1 g, 16.41 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in MeOH (10 mL) was slowly added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 3 h at the same temperature. After completion of the reaction, it was quenched with saturated solution of Na₂S₂O₃ and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was suitable for further use or can be purified by column chromatography. Below derivatives were synthesized using this approach in one step from aliphatic aldehydes. α -Hydroxy dimethoxy acetal derivatives **1** were also synthesized from the corresponding phenyl acetaldehydes in one step.³



Approach 2:^{4–6}

Few of the α -hydroxy dimethoxy acetal derivatives were synthesized by following this alternative approach from acetophenone derivatives.



In an oven-dried 50 mL round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser, SeO₂ (2 g, 18.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added followed by 10 mL of Dioxane/H₂O (10:1) was introduced. After refluxing the reaction mixture for 15 min at 100 °C, the reaction mixture was cooled down to 50 °C then the corresponding acetophenone derivative (16.66 mmol, 1 equiv) was added dropwise. Subsequently, the temperature was increased to 100 °C and the stirring was continued at the same temperature for 12 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled down to

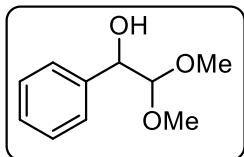
room temperature and filtered through a silica-gel bed. The filtrate was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was used for subsequent step without any further purification.

The resultant aryl glyoxal monohydrate (16.64 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in 30 mL of DCM followed by PTSA (950 mg, 4.99 mmol, 0.3 equiv) and trimethylorthoformate (5.3 g, 49.92 mmol, 3 equiv) were added to the solution dropwise at room temperature. The stirring was continued at the same temperature for 2 h. After the reaction was complete, as indicated by TLC, stirring was stopped and was washed with water. The organic layer was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give α,α -dimethoxy methyl aryl ketone. The crude product was then subjected to the next step without further purification.

α,α -dimethoxymethyl aryl ketone (16.50 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in a 100 mL round bottom flask and 30 mL of EtOH was added. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and NaBH_4 (1.25 g, 33 mmol, 2 equiv) was added portion wise. The reaction was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirring was continued for 1 h. After the completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC (KMnO_4 was used for product confirmation), it was quenched with the addition of saturated solution of NH_4Cl . The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM and then the organic layer was collected and dried over Na_2SO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was then further purified by column chromatography over silica-gel to afford the expected products in good over three steps.

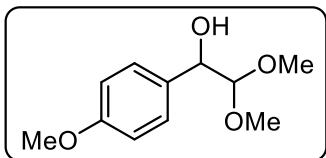
3.1: Properties of synthesized compounds 1: 2,2-Dimethoxy-1-phenylethan-1-ol (1a)

Yield: 64% (1.94 g); viscous liquid; R_f =0.3 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm^{-1}): 3445, 2899, 2831, 1452, 1194, 1061, 972, 755, 699. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C): δ 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C): δ 139.5, 128.2, 127.9, 127.1, 107.6, 74.0, 55.9, 54.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$: 205.0841; found: 205.0831.



2,2-Dimethoxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol (1b)

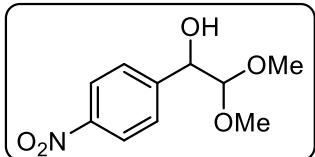
Yield: 66% (2.33 g); viscous liquid; R_f = 0.2 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{\max} , cm⁻¹): 3461, 2943, 2832,



1609, 1510, 1245, 1028, 830, 755. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.32 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 159.3, 131.6, 128.3, 113.7, 107.8, 73.6, 55.9, 55.2, 54.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O₄+Na: 235.0946; found: 235.0938.

2,2-Dimethoxy-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethan-1-ol (1c)

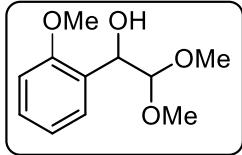
Yield: 50% (1.89 g); Solid; m.p. 65- 67 °C; R_f =0.2 in 20% EtOAc;



IR (ν_{\max} , cm⁻¹): 3422, 2943, 1602, 1518, 1343, 1073, 856, 754, 711. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.73 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.84 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 147.7, 146.8, 128.0, 123.4, 107.2, 73.2, 56.5, 55.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO₅+Na: 250.0691; found: 239.0684.

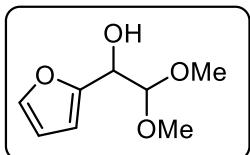
2,2-Dimethoxy-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol (1d)

Yield: 75% (2.64 g); viscous liquid; R_f =0.2 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{\max} , cm⁻¹): 3475, 2941, 1240,



1057, 974, 754. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.39 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28- 7.24 (m, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 156.9, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 120.8, 110.6, 105.9, 70.0, 55.5, 55.2, 55.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O₄+Na: 235.0946; found: 235.0947.

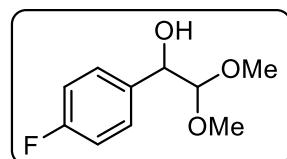
1-(Furan-2-yl)-2,2-dimethoxyethan-1-ol (1e):



Yield: 62% (1.77 g); viscous liquid; R_f =0.3 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{\max} , cm⁻¹): 3441, 2940, 2833, 1126, 1064, 970, 745. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.39 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.35-6.34 (m, 2H), 4.65 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 6.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 3H), 3.33 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 3H), 2.74 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ

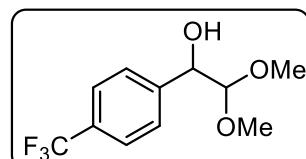
152.5, 142.4, 110.4, 108.3, 105.2, 68.0, 55.5, 55.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₈H₁₂O₄+Na: 195.0633; found: 195.0629.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,2-dimethoxyethan-1-ol(1f):



Yield: 52% (1.73 g); viscous liquid; R_f =0.3 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3453, 2941, 1509, 1221, 1065, 973, 835, 754. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.39- 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.57 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.86 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 163.7, 161.3, 135.3, 135.2, 128.8, 128.7, 115.2, 115.0, 107.7, 73.4, 56.1, 55.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃FO₃+Na: 223.0746; found: 223.0739.

2,2-Dimethoxy-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-ol (1g):



Yield: 65% (2.70 g); viscous liquid; R_f = 0.3 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3452, 2944, 1322, 1117, 1059, 974, 839, 756. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.91 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 143.5, 127.5, 125.22, 125.18, 125.14, 125.11, 107.4, 73.4, 56.3, 55.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₁H₁₃F₃O₃+Na: 273.0714; found: 273.0704.

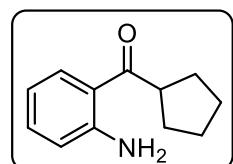
4: Properties of synthesized compounds 2:

1-(2-Aminophenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-one (2b):

Yield: 85% (0.35 g); viscous liquid; R_f = 0.5 in 5% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3463, 3341, 2971, 1640, 1578, 1217, 1153, 970, 748. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.66- 6.63 (m, 2H), 6.27 (s, 1.6 H), 3.59 (m, 1H), 1.20 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 207.1, 151.0, 134.1, 131.1, 117.6, 117.0, 115.8, 35.3, 19.7.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO+Na: 186.0895; found: 186.0884.

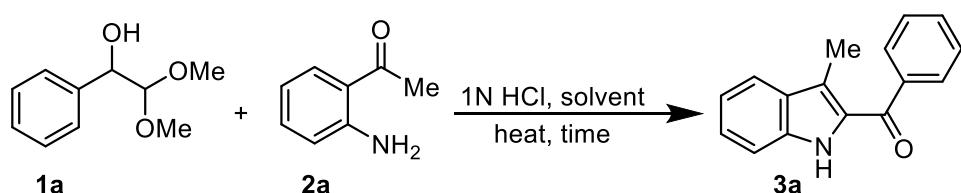
(2-Aminophenyl)(cyclopentyl)methanone(2d):

Yield: 14% (68 mg); viscous liquid; R_f = 0.5 in 5% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm^{-1}): 3465, 3341, 2949,



1639, 1571, 1213, 1156, 748. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C): δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.65- 6.62 (m, 2H), 6.27 (s, 2H), 3.74-3.66 (m, 1H), 1.92- 1.87 (m, 4H), 1.75- 1.60 (m, 4H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C): δ 205.5, 150.7, 133.9, 131.4, 117.8, 117.4, 115.7, 46.7, 30.4, 26.3.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO+Na}$: 212.1051; found: 212.1045.

Optimization: Synthesis of 3a from 1a and 2a

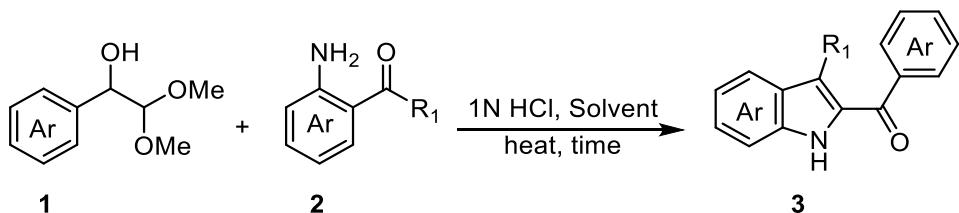


Entry	Acids (equiv)	Temp (°C)	Solvent	Yield (%)
1	-	rt	EtOH	-
2	AcOH (1)	rt	EtOH	-
3	PTSA (1)	rt	EtOH	-
4	1N HCl (2)	rt	EtOH	34
5	1N HCl (2)	60	EtOH	50
6	1N HCl (2)	80	EtOH	83
7	1N HCl (2)	90	EtOH	84
8	1N HCl (2)	90	Dioxane	90
9	1N HCl (2)	90	CH ₃ CN	87
10	1N HCl (2)	100	Dioxane	94
11	1N HCl (2)	120	Dioxane	93
12	Conc. HCl (2)	120	Toluene	65
13 ^a	Conc. HCl (2)	120	Toluene	76
14 ^b	Conc. HCl (2)	120	Toluene	79
15 ^c	Conc. HCl (2)	120	Toluene	74
16	Conc. HCl (2)	90	Toluene	29

17	Conc. HCl (2)	130	DMF	57
18	H ₂ SO ₄ (2)	80	EtOH	35
19	PTSA (1)	80	EtOH	60
20	Conc. HCl (2)	70	MeOH	36
21	1N HCl (2)	90	H ₂ O	66

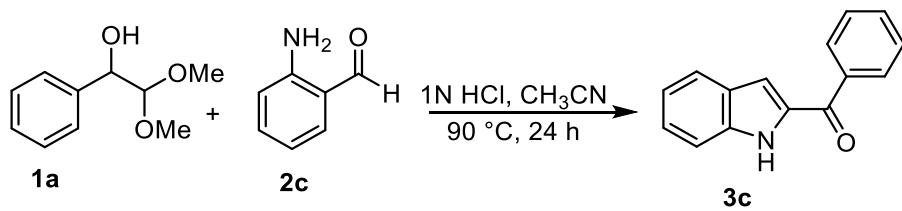
Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv), acid (equiv), solvent (3 mL for 0.23 mmol), temp, 18 h. Additive: ^a BF₃.Et₂O (0.5 equiv), ^b FeCl₃ (0.5 equiv), ^c ZnCl₂ (0.5 equiv).

5. General procedure for synthesis of 2-acyl indole derivatives **3**



In an oven dried 20 mL reaction tube, compound **1** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv), and α -aminocarbonyl derivative **2** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv) were taken in dioxane solvent (3 mL) and 0.5 mL of 1N HCl (2 equiv) was added. The reaction tube was sealed and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 100 °C and stirred at the same temperature for 18 h. After consumption of starting material as indicated by TLC, reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in rotary evaporator. The crude product was then further purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate: hexane (1:9) as an eluting solvent to afford the 2-acylindole **3** in good to excellent yields.

5.1. Synthesis of compound **3c**

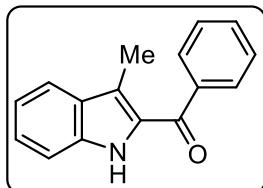


In an oven dried reaction tube, compound **2c** (50 mg, 0.41 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in 3 mL of acetonitrile and **1a** (76 mg, 0.41 mmol, 1 equiv) was added. To the reaction mixture, 0.5 mL of 1N HCl (2 equiv) was added and the reaction tube was sealed and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 90 °C and was stirred for 24 h at the same temperature. After the reaction was completed, as indicated by TLC, it was cooled down to room temperature and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was then purified by column chromatography to afford the product **3c** in 72% (65 mg) yield.

5.2. Properties of synthesized 2-acyl indoles:

(3-Methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3a**):

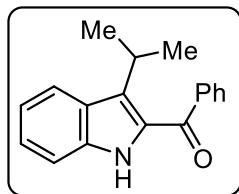
Yield: 87% (47 mg); White solid; m.p. 105-107 °C; R_f =0.5 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



3311, 3054, 1607, 1435, 1266, 945, 742, 690. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.84 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.5, 139.5, 136.7, 132.0, 131.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 126.6, 121.3, 120.6, 120.2, 112.0, 11.3.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO+Na: 258.0895; found: 258.0877.

(3-Isopropyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3b**):

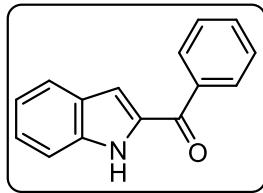
Yield: 84% (51 mg); Solid; m.p. 75-77 °C; R_f =0.5 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3335, 2969,



1618, 1524, 1322, 1256, 734, 702. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.91 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (m, 1H), 1.41 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.9, 139.7, 137.3, 132.3, 131.0, 130.3, 128.9, 128.4, 126.5, 125.8, 123.5, 119.8, 112.4, 26.3, 23.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO+Na: 286.1208; found: 286.1193

(1H-Indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3c):

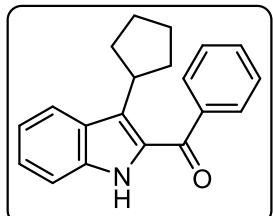
Yield: 72% (65 mg); White Solid; m.p. 130-132 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



3313, 2920, 1619, 1516, 1261, 735, 684. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.56- 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 187.3, 138.1, 137.6, 134.4, 132.4, 129.3, 128.6, 127.8, 126.6, 123.3, 121.1, 112.9, 112.3.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₁NO+Na: 244.0738; found: 244.0725.

(3-Cyclopentyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3d):

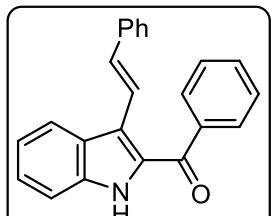
Yield: 86% (57 mg); Solid; Melting point; 105-107 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



1): 3330, 2950, 2868, 1613, 1523, 1324, 1252, 733, 695. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.24-3.15 (m, 1 H), 2.08-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.91- 1.89 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.54 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.9, 139.7, 137.3, 132.3, 131.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 126.4, 125.9, 123.0, 119.8, 112.4, 37.5, 33.7, 26.8.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO+Na: 312.1364; found: 312.1352.

(E)-Phenyl(3-styryl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3e):

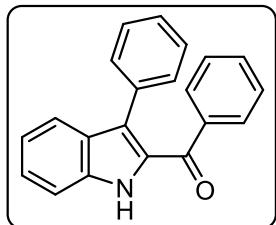
Yield: 71% (52 mg); Solid; m.p. 150-152 °C; $R_f=0.45$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3313,



3056, 1611, 1501, 1330, 1252, 736, 695. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.22 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.51- 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.08 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 188.9, 139.3, 137.7, 137.2, 132.3, 132.0, 131.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 127.6, 126.8, 126.2, 123.0, 121.9, 121.5, 112.4.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NO+Na: 346.1208; found: 346.1188.

Phenyl(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3f):

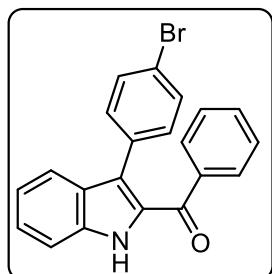
Yield: 96% (65 mg); Solid; m.p. 170-172 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3312,



3057, 1610, 1333, 1262, 743, 685. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.33 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.33 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.12- 7.09 (m, 3H), 7.05- 7.04 (m, 3H), 6.99 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.6, 137.5, 136.4, 133.7, 131.7, 130.8, 129.5, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 126.8, 126.6, 125.3, 122.1, 121.1, 112.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NO+Na: 320.1051; found: 320.1032

(3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3g):

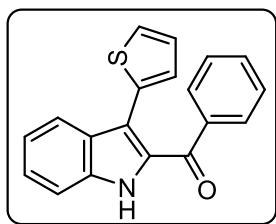
Yield: 96% (83 mg); Solid; m.p. 150-152 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3335,



2927, 1630, 805, 729, 696. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.39 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H). 7.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.4, 137.5, 136.4, 132.8, 132.4, 132.0, 131.2, 131.0, 129.5, 127.8, 127.5, 126.8, 123.9, 121.8, 121.5, 121.1, 112.2.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄BrNO+H:376.0337; found: 376.0309

Phenyl(3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3h):

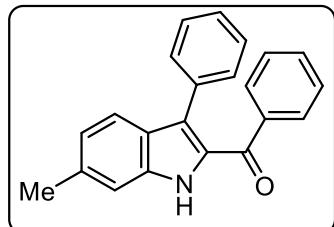
Yield: 81% (57 mg); Solid; m.p. 135- 137 °C; $R_f= 0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3293,



3054, 1617, 1323, 1250, 1000, 730, 655. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.57 (dd, $J = 8.3, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 8.2, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 4H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.83 (dd, $J = 3.4, 1.1$ Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.4, 137.7, 136.3, 134.6, 132.0, 131.6, 129.3, 128.9, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 126.8, 126.5, 122.3, 121.5, 117.2, 112.1; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃NOS+Na: 326.0616; found: 326.0598.

(6-Methyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3i):

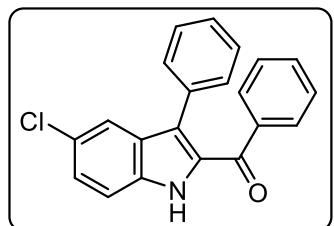
Yield: 84% (60 mg); Solid; m.p. 160-162 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3308,



2923, 1607, 1258, 734, 688. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 3H), 7.06 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.5, 137.8, 137.1, 137.0, 134.0, 131.6, 130.9, 130.6, 129.5, 127.9, 127.6, 126.8, 125.8, 125.7, 123.4, 121.9, 111.6, 22.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO+H: 312.1388; found 312.1374.

(5-Chloro-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3j):

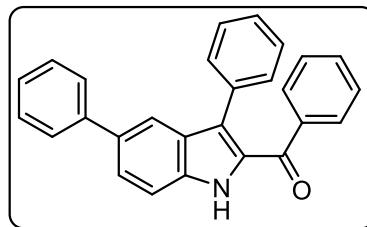
Yield: 93% (71 mg); Solid; m.p. 150-152 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3305,



2922, 1625, 1255, 798, 732, 692. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, $J = 8.8, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 5H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.5, 137.2, 134.7, 133.2, 132.0, 131.9, 130.8, 129.6, 128.7, 128.2, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 124.7, 121.4, 113.3.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄ClNO+H: 332.0842; found 332.0822.

(3,5-Diphenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3k):

Yield: 85% (73 mg); Solid; m.p. 180-182 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3308,

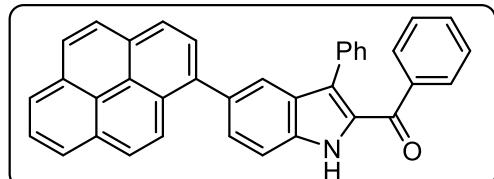


3017, 1709, 1357, 1223, 743, 695. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.56 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.54 (m, 5H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.08 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.6, 141.9, 137.6, 136.0, 134.9, 133.7, 131.8, 131.6, 131.0, 129.6, 128.8, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 127.0, 126.8, 126.7, 125.7, 120.3, 112.4.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₇H₁₉NO+H: 374.1545; found 374.1525.

Phenyl(3-phenyl-5-(pyren-1-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3l):

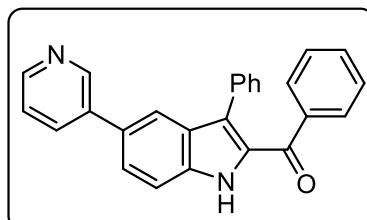
Yield: 96% (110 mg); Solid; m.p. 235- 237 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3318,



3046, 1617, 1265, 753, 697. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.46 (s, 1H), 8.19- 8.14 (m, 4H), 8.08 (s, 2H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29- 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.10- 7.07 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.6, 138.3, 137.5, 135.8, 134.5, 133.6, 131.9, 131.6, 131.1, 131.0, 130.5, 129.8, 129.6, 128.8, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.0, 126.1, 125.6, 125.5, 125.2, 125.1, 125.0, 124.8, 124.6, 123.7, 111.8.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₃₇H₂₃NO+Na:520.1677; found 520.1643.

Phenyl(3-phenyl-5-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3m):

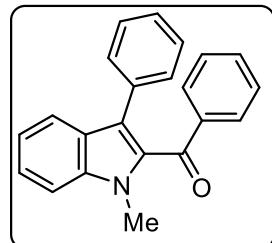
Yield: 80% (69 mg); Solid; m.p. 210- 212 °C; $R_f=0.2$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3056,



2926, 1700, 1628, 1267, 744, 701. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.69 (s, 1H), 8.87 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.15 (s, 3H), 7.08 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.6, 148.4, 147.9, 137.4, 136.2, 134.6, 133.5, 131.9, 131.8, 131.2, 130.9, 129.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.1, 126.2, 125.5, 123.6, 120.7, 112.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₁₈N₂O+H:375.1497; found 375.1491.

(1-Methyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone(3n):

Yield: 87% (63 mg); viscous liquid; $R_f=0.7$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3056, 2941, 1634,

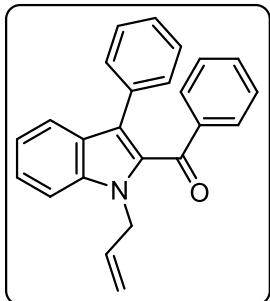


1251, 950, 730, 694. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 190.7, 138.7, 138.2, 134.0, 133.0, 132.6, 130.5, 130.2, 128.1, 127.9, 126.6, 125.9, 125.3, 123.6, 121.5,

121.0, 110.3, 31.7; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO+H: 312.1388; found 312.1371.

(1-Allyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3o):

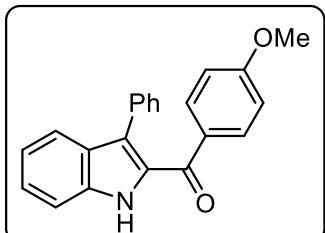
Yield: 51% (40 mg); viscous liquid; R_f =0.7 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3058, 2924, 1635,



1259, 934, 730, 699. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.14-7.09 (m, 4H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.06-5.97 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.02 (m, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 190.8, 138.2, 138.1, 134.0, 133.9, 132.6, 130.5, 130.2, 128.1, 127.8, 126.6, 126.1, 125.4, 124.2, 121.6, 121.2, 116.8, 110.7, 46.9; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO+H: 338.1545; found 338.1522.

(4-Methoxyphenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3p):

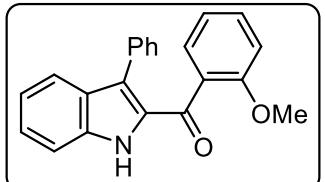
Yield: 97% (73 mg); Solid; m.p. 130-132 °C; R_f =0.3 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3308,



3056, 1596, 1250, 1161, 734, 703. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.40 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.9, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 4H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 188.3, 162.7, 136.3, 134.1, 132.1, 131.2, 131.0, 130.1, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 126.2, 124.4, 122.0, 121.1, 113.0, 112.0, 55.4.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO₂+H: 328.1338; found 328.1324.

(2-Methoxyphenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3q):

Yield: 88% (66 mg); Solid; m.p. 125-127 °C; R_f =0.3 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3319,



3058, 1610, 1250, 1025, 744, 701. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.30 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 7H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 188.4, 156.9, 136.3, 133.2, 131.9, 131.8,

130.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 127.3, 126.8, 126.7, 126.0, 122.4, 120.9, 120.0, 112.0, 110.3, 55.2.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO₂+H:328.1338 found 328.1324.

(4-Fluorophenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3r):

Yield: 96% (70 mg); Solid; m.p. 140-142 °C; R_f =0.5 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3320, 2925, 1598, 1230, 1152, 841, 741, 704. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.75 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58- 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 6H), 6.75 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 188.3, 166.1, 163.6, 136.6, 133.8, 133.7, 132.2, 132.1, 131.0, 130.8, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 126.7, 125.5, 122.2, 121.3, 114.8, 114.6, 112.2.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄FNO+H: 316.1138 found 316.1121.

(3-Phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (3s):

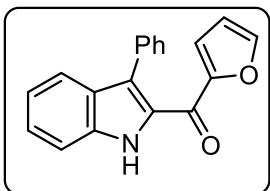
Yield: 84% (71 mg); Solid; m.p. 190-192 °C; R_f =0.5 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3323, 1737, 1614, 1324, 1119, 1066, 751. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.41 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51- 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 188.4, 140.9, 136.7, 133.3, 130.9, 130.6, 129.5, 128.1, 127.7, 127.3, 126.6, 124.6, 124.59, 124.56, 124.52, 122.4, 121.5, 112.2; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₄F₃NO+H: 366.1106 found 366.1086.

(4-Nitrophenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3t):

Yield: 84% (66 mg); Solid; m.p. 195-197 °C; R_f =0.4 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3332, 1719, 1519, 1345, 1222, 783, 732. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.34 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16- 7.09 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 187.5, 149.0, 143.2, 136.9, 133.1, 131.0, 130.4, 130.2, 128.2, 127.7, 127.66, 127.62, 126.9, 122.7, 122.5, 121.6, 112.2.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄N₂O₃+Na: 365.0902 found 365.0882.

Furan-2-yl(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone (3u):

Yield: 85% (56 mg); Solid; m.p. 160-162 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3315,

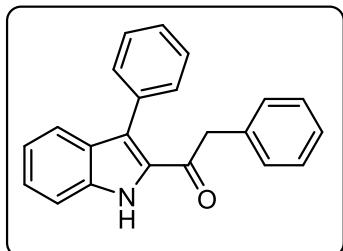


2924, 1590, 1454, 1267, 754, 693. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.33 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.21 (dd, $J = 3.5, 1.3$ Hz, 1H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 174.7, 151.9, 146.2, 136.4, 134.5, 130.5, 130.3, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 126.5, 124.8, 122.1, 121.3, 119.9, 112.1, 112.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃NO₂+H: 288.1025 found 288.1013.

2-Phenyl-1-(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)ethan-1-one (3v):

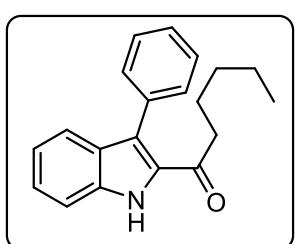
Yield: 88% (63 mg); Solid; m.p. 155-160 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3443,



3056, 1647, 1265, 740, 462. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.38 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.95 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 191.6, 135.9, 134.4, 134.2, 131.5, 130.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 126.7, 126.6, 124.6, 122.1, 120.9, 111.8, 46.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO+H: 312.1388 found 312.1387.

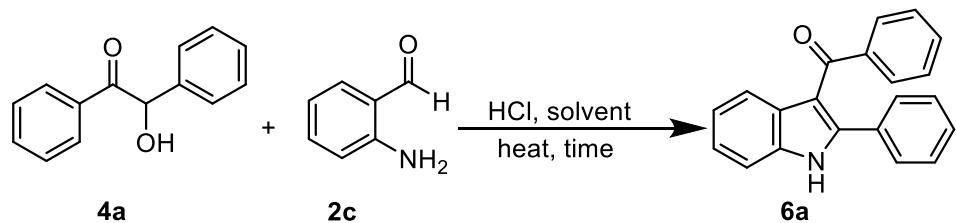
1-(3-Phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)hexan-1-one (3w):

Yield: 89% (56 mg); Solid; m.p. 60-65 °C; $R_f=0.6$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3439, 2929,



1643, 1487, 1265. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 7H), 7.35 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.57-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.03 (m, 4H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 194.8, 135.6, 134.4, 131.8, 130.5, 128.9, 128.4, 127.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.1, 120.7, 111.8, 40.0, 31.3, 24.5, 22.3, 13.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO+H: 292.1701 found 292.1710.

6. Optimization: Synthesis of 3-Acylinole 6a



Entry	Acid (equiv)	Temp (°C)	Solvent	Yield (%)
1	PTSA (0.5)	100	Dioxane	36
2	MSA (0.5)	100	Dioxane	22
3	TFA (0.5)	100	Dioxane	29
4	H ₂ SO ₄ (0.5)	100	CH ₃ CN	15
5	Conc.HCl (2)	100	CH ₃ CN	40
6	Conc.HCl (2)	80	THF	44
7	1N HCl (2)	100	Dioxane	32
8	1N HCl (2)	100	EtOH	20
9	Conc.HCl (2)	100	Dioxane	55
10	Conc.HCl (2)	120	Dioxane	65
11	Conc.HCl (2)	100	EtOH	20

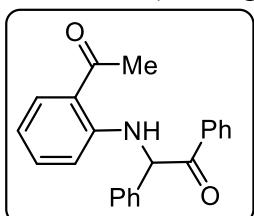
Reaction conditions: **4a** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv), **2c** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv), Conc. HCl (11.5 M, 0.5 mmol, 2 equiv), Dioxane (3 mL for 0.23 mmol), 120 °C, 24 h.

General procedure for synthesis of 3-acyl indoles 6:

In a 20 mL reaction tube, benzoin **4a** (0.23 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2-aminobenzaldehyde **2c** (28 mg, 0.23 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in 3 mL of dioxane. Conc. HCl (11.5 M, 20 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2 equiv) was added to the reaction mixture and the tube was sealed and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 120 °C and was then stirred for 24 h. After the completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC, it was cooled down to room temperature and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was then further purified by silica gel chromatography using ethyl acetate:hexane as an eluent to afford 3-acylindole **6** in good yield.

2-((2-Acetylphenyl)amino)-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one (5):

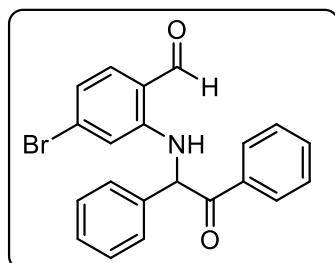
Yield: 87% (168 mg); Solid; m.p. 105-110 °C; R_f =0.6 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3456,



3288, 1683, 1639, 1570, 1510, 1452, 1246, 1169, 964, 753, 698. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 10.21 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 - 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 4H), 6.63-6.57 (m, 2H), 6.10 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 200.7, 195.7, 148.8, 137.1, 135.0, 134.8, 133.4, 132.8, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 118.6, 115.0, 112.5, 62.4, 28.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NO₂: 330.1494 found 330.1507.

4-bromo-2-((2-oxo-1,2-diphenylethyl)amino)benzaldehyde (5'):

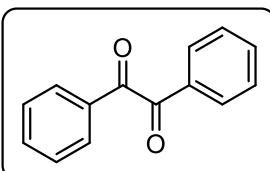
Yield: 39% (36 mg); Yellow solid; m.p. 160-165 °C; R_f = 0.6 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



1671, 1592, 1208, 870, 754. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.85-9.80 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.83-6.81 (m, 2H), 6.06 (d, 6.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 194.7, 193.0, 148.8, 137.9, 136.2, 134.4, 133.7, 131.1, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 119.1, 118.3, 114.6, 61.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆BrNO₂+H: 394.0443 found 394.0452.

Benzil:

Yield: 20% (20 mg); Liquid; R_f = 0.8 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3063, 2924, 1672, 1589,

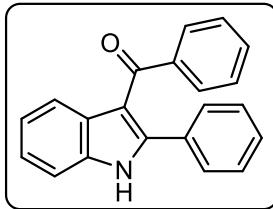


1210, 874, 715.; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 7.97 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.5 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 194.6, 134.9, 133.0, 129.9, 129.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀O₂+H: 211.0759 found 211.0758.

6.1. Properties of synthesized 3-acyl indoles:

Phenyl(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone (**6a**):

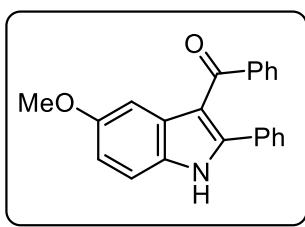
Yield: 65% (45 mg); Solid; m.p. 190-192 °C; R_f = 0.5 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3289,



2992, 1765, 1245, 1067, 978, 752, 696. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.15 (m, 11H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 193.3, 143.7, 139.7, 135.5, 131.8, 131.6, 129.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 123.7, 122.3, 121.8, 113.9, 111.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₅NO+H: 298.1232 found 298.1251.

(5-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**6b**):

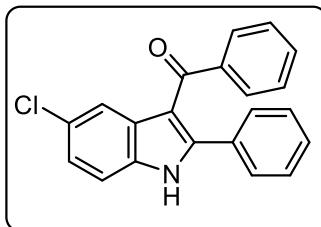
Yield: 51% (39 mg); Solid; m.p. 160-165 °C; R_f =0.4 in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3435,



1624, 1457, 1421, 1269, 1211, 696. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.11 (m, 5H), 6.94 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 193.3, 156.0, 144.3, 139.7, 131.8, 131.3, 130.4, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 114.3, 113.6, 111.8, 102.9, 55.7.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO₂+H: 328.1338 found 328.1337.

(5-Chloro-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**6c**):

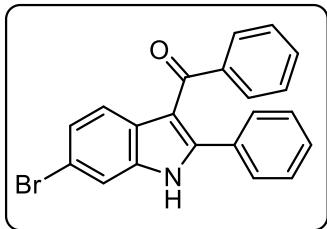
Yield: 42% (32 mg); Solid; m.p. 250-255 °C; R_f =0.6 in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3338,



2946, 2832, 1662, 1452, 1024, 651. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 12.42 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 192.3, 146.1, 139.9, 134.8, 131.9, 131.5, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.5, 128.2, 126.5, 123.4, 120.1, 113.9, 112.1.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄ClNO+H: 332.0842 found 332.0853.

(5-Bromo-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone (6d):

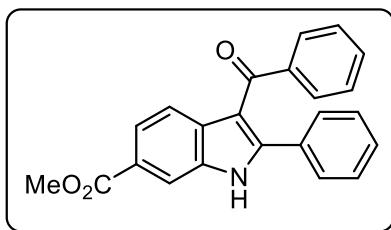
Yield: 35% (31 mg); Solid; m.p. 255-260 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3358,



2944, 2832, 1661, 1451, 1113, 1025, 646. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 12.37 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.18 (m, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 192.4, 145.2, 139.8, 137.1, 132.0, 131.5, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.6, 124.8, 122.7, 115.7, 114.8, 112.5.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄BrNO+H: 376.0337 found 376.0346.

Methyl 3-benzoyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylate (6e):

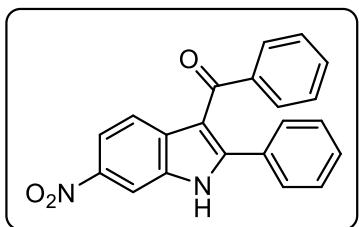
Yield: 48% (40 mg); Solid; m.p. 165-170 °C; $R_f=0.6$ in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3430,



2075, 1633, 1016, 766, 502. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 12.57 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 192.4, 167.2, 147.3, 139.7, 135.6, 132.2, 132.1, 131.4, 130.0, 129.5, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 124.2, 122.4, 120.8, 114.0, 112.8, 52.4.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NO₃+H: 356.1287 found 356.1288.

(6-Nitro-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone (6f):

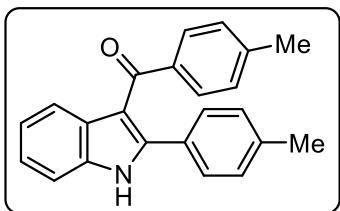
Yield: 46% (37 mg); Solid; m.p. 245-250 °C; $R_f=0.4$ in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3446,



1631, 1510, 1334, 725, 693. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.21 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 192.2, 149.2, 143.3, 139.3, 134.9, 133.4, 132.4, 130.9, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 128.7, 128.4, 121.2, 116.9, 113.1, 108.7.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄N₂O₃+H: 343.1083 found 343.1096.

p-Tolyl(2-(p-tolyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone (6g)

Yield: 56% (42 mg); Solid; m.p. 185-187 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3342,

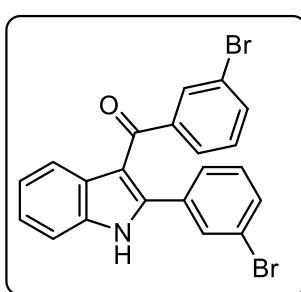


2989, 1763, 1376, 1241, 1053. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 4H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$

NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 193.2, 143.4, 142.3, 138.8, 137.2, 135.5, 130.0, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 123.3, 121.9, 121.6, 113.7, 111.1, 21.6, 21.3.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₃H₁₉NO+H: 326.1545 found 326.1558.

(3-bromophenyl)(2-(3-bromophenyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone (6h):

Yield: 70% (73 mg); Solid; m.p. 190-195 °C; $R_f=0.6$ in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3363,

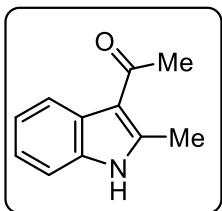


2945, 2832, 1661, 1448, 1029, 702. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 12.41 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 190.6, 143.8, 142.3, 136.3, 134.1, 134.0, 132.6, 132.0, 131.8, 130.4, 129.2, 128.2, 128.1, 123.9, 122.4, 121.7, 121.6, 121.3, 112.7, 112.5.; HRMS (ESI/Q-

TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₁H₁₃Br₂NO+H: 453.9442 found 453.9450.

1-(2-Methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (6i)

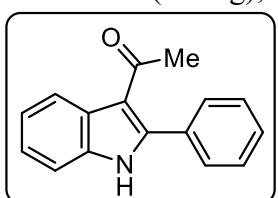
Yield: 50% (20 mg); Solid; m.p. 185- 187 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 3630,



2988, 1764, 1712, 1374, 1237, 1044. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 194.7, 143.6, 134.6, 127.1, 122.5, 122.2, 121.0, 114.9, 110.9, 31.3, 15.5.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₁H₁₁NO+H: 174.0919 found 174.0923.

1-(2-Phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (6j)

Yield: 62% (35 mg); Solid; m.p. 210-202 °C; $R_f=0.5$ in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 2989,

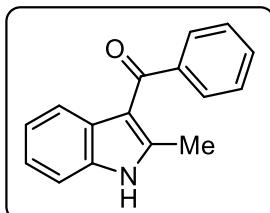


1762, 1375, 1240, 1050. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.48-8.46 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.49-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR

(125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 195.4, 144.3, 135.2, 132.9, 129.9, 129.8, 128.8, 127.5, 123.8, 122.8, 122.7, 115.9, 110.8, 30.4.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO+H: 236.1075 found 236.1085.

(2-Methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone (6j')

Yield: 25% (14 mg); Solid; m.p. 175 -178 °C; R_f=0.3 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max}, cm⁻¹): 2990,



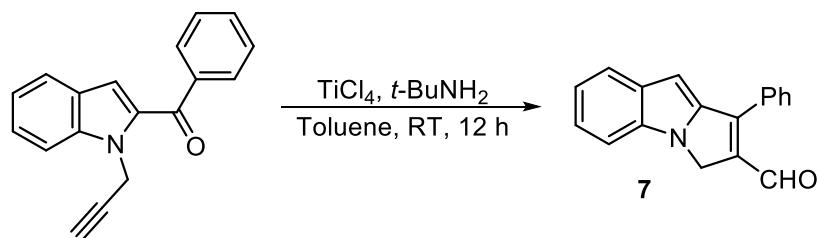
1763, 1377, 1242, 1058. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.04 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 193.5, 143.9, 141.4, 134.8, 131.6, 128.9, 128.4, 127.7, 122.5, 121.6, 121.0, 114.0, 110.8, 14.6; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO+H: 236.1075 found 236.1166.

7. Synthetic application:

7.1. Gram scale synthesis

In an oven dried reaction tube compound, **1a** (0.92 g, 5.07 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2-amino benzophenone (1 g, 5.07 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in 10 mL of dioxane. 5 mL of 1 N HCl was added to the reaction mixture and the reaction mixture was sealed and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 100 °C and stirred for 18 h at the same temperature. After completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC, it was cooled down to room temperature and the reaction mixture was extracted with DCM. The solvent was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude was further purified by column chromatography to afford the product **3f** in 94% yield (1.54 g).

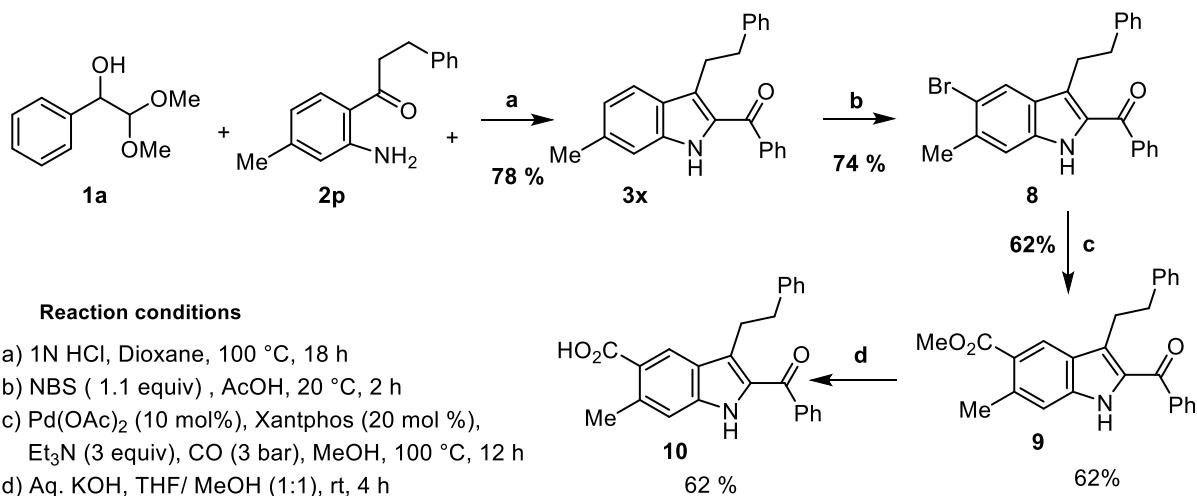
7.5. Synthesis of 1-Phenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole-2-carbaldehyde (**7**)⁹



In an oven dried Schlenk tube, a solution of *N*-alkylated product (95 mg, 0.37 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in 3 mL of dry toluene under nitrogen atmosphere and *t*-BuNH₂ (1.4 mL, 3.30 mmol,

9 equiv) was added. When the starting materials were completely dissolved, TiCl₄ (0.1 mL, 0.55 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was dissolved in 2 mL of dry toluene and was added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until starting material was completely consumed, as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was then quenched with saturated solution of NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate:hexane as an eluent to afford the product **10** in 66 % (62 mg) yield as yellow solid. m.p. 150–152 °C *R*_f=0.5 in 20% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹): 2989, 1762, 1375, 1239, 1048. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.97, 1H), 7.57 (s, 3H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.97, 1H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 187.1, 150.1, 145.5, 137.3, 134.9, 132.4, 130.6, 129.5, 129.2, 123.9, 122.7, 120.4, 109.9, 98.6, 48.5.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₈H₁₃NO+H: 260.1075 found 260.1066.

7.6. Synthesis of anti-tumor agent: **10**



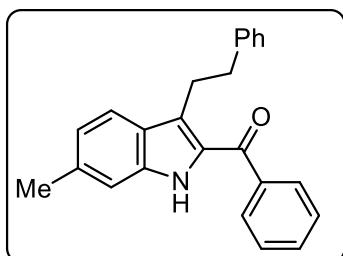
Step-b: **3x** was synthesized employing the general procedure mentioned earlier. **3x** (50 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in 3 mL of glacial acetic acid and the reaction mixture was kept at 20 °C. N-Bromosuccinimide (29 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added portion wise and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. After the completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was extracted with DCM and the organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ and was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude was then purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the corresponding brominated product **8** in 74% (45 mg) yield.

Step-c: The brominated product **8** (0.21 mmol, 1 equiv) was taken in dry MeOH (3 mL). Pd (OAc)₂ (10 mol %), Xantphos (20 mol%), and 3 equiv of Et₃N were added and pressurized 3 bar with CO. The reaction was continued for 12 h at 100 °C. After the completion of reaction, as indicated by TLC, the reaction was cooled down to room temperature and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was then dried with Na₂SO₄ and was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction mixture was then purified by column chromatography to afford the corresponding ester **9** in 62% yield.

Step-d: The ester **9** (75 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 2 mL of THF/MeOH (1:1). 2 mL of saturated aq. KOH was added and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. After the completion of reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with DCM and the water layer was collected separately. The water layer was then acidified with 1N HCl and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of solvent followed by purification of crude product using column chromatography gave the desired product **10** as a white solid in 62% (45 mg) yield.

(6-Methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**3x**):

Yield: 56% (43 mg); Yellow Solid; m.p. 120-125 °C; R_f =0.6 in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):

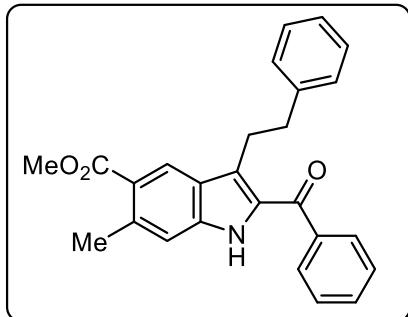


3447, 3055, 1624, 1265, 744. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 4 H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.1, 141.6, 139.6, 137.1, 136.9, 131.7, 130.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 122.6, 120.9, 111.6, 37.5, 27.6, 22.1; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺

⁺ Calcd for C₂₄H₂₁NO+H: 340.1701 found 340.1708.

Methyl 2-benzoyl-6-methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indole-5-carboxylate (9):

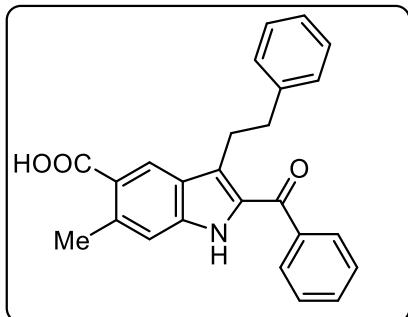
Yield: 62% (25 mg); White Solid; 105-110 °C; m.p. $R_f = 0.5$ in 15% EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



3434, 1716, 1627, 1264, 1062, 741, 702. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 9.01 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 3 H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.06 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C): δ 189.1, 168.3, 141.2, 139.1, 138.5, 138.3, 132.2, 132.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7, 125.6, 122.8, 113.9, 51.8, 37.5, 27.3, 22.9.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₆H₂₃NO₃+H: 398.1756 found 398.1763.

2-Benzoyl-6-methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indole-5-carboxylic acid (10):

Yield: 63% (45 mg); White Solid; m.p. 210-215 °C; $R_f = 0.2$ in 20 % EtOAc; IR (ν_{max} , cm⁻¹):



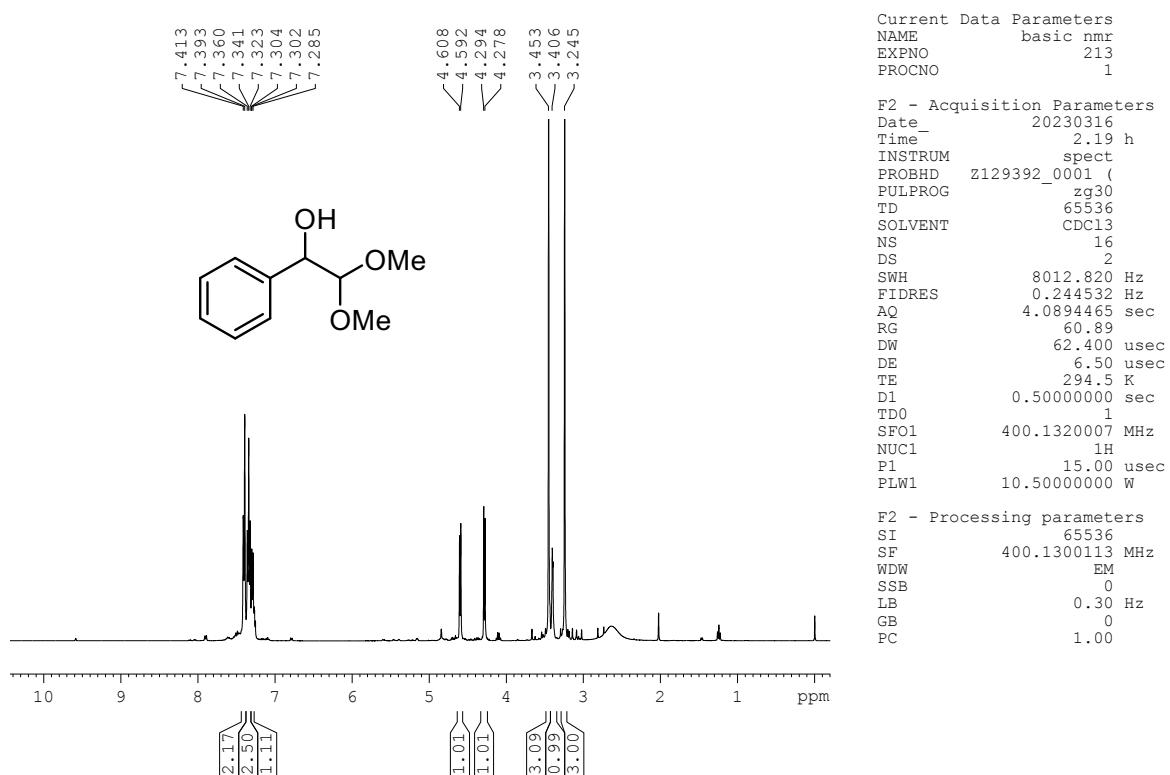
3438, 3212, 1695, 1627, 1571, 1441, 1211, 789, 748, 693. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 11.6 (s, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.70-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C): δ 189.0, 169.5, 141.6, 139.5, 139.0, 132.7, 132.6, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.3, 125.4, 124.5, 114.7, 37.4, 27.2, 23.0.; HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₅H₂₁NO₃+H: 384.1600 found 398.384.1607.

8. References

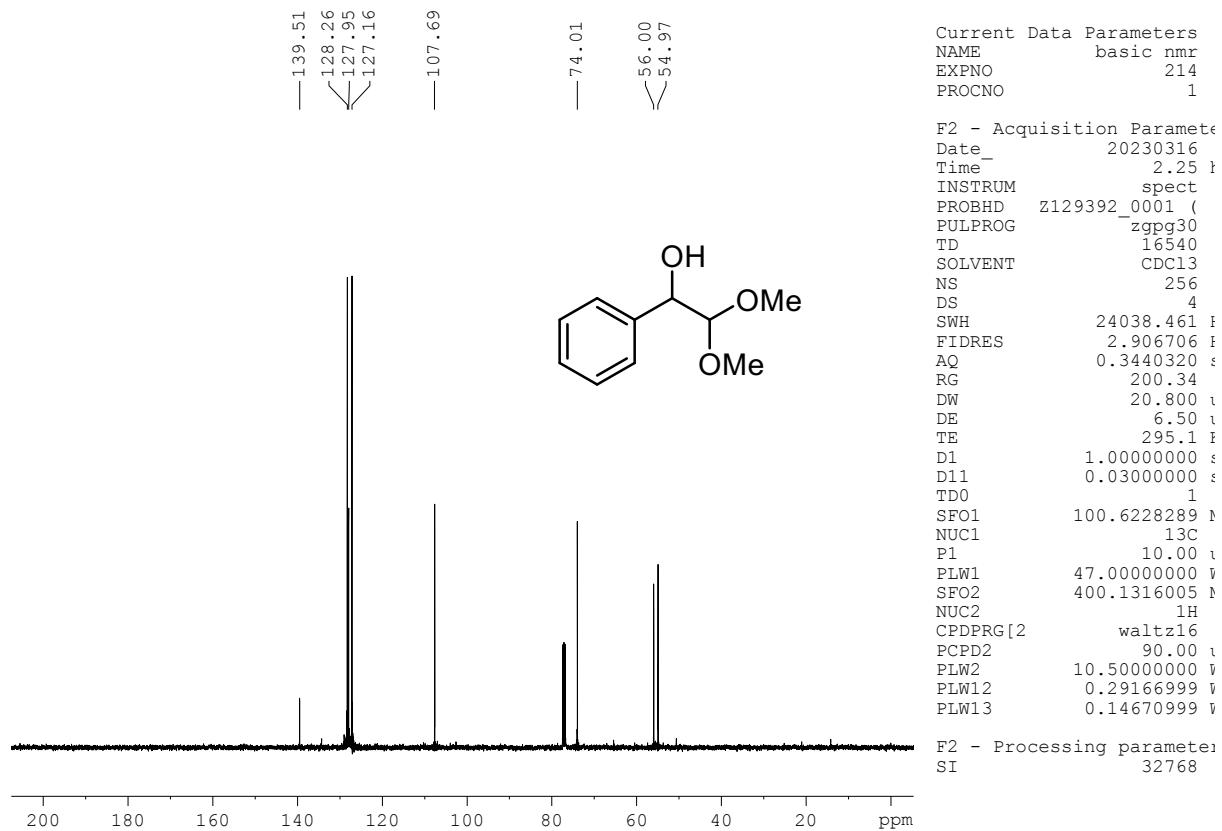
- 1 X. Li, H. Li, W. Song, P.-S. Tseng, L. Liu, I. A. Guzei and W. Tang, *Angew. Chem.*, 2015, **127**, 13097–13100.
- 2 K. Matsuo and M. Shindo, *Org Lett.*, 2010, **12**, 5346–5349.
- 3 M. J. Zacuto and D. Cai, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2005, **46**, 447–450.
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- 5 A. R. Choudhury, M. S. Manna and S. Mukherjee, *Chem. Sci.*, 2017, **8**, 6686–6690.
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- 7 A. Banerjee, A. Guin, S. Saha, A. Mondal and M. S. Maji, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2019, **17**, 1822–1826.
- 8 D. H. Dethé and R. Boda, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2016, **22**, 106–110.
- 9 G. Abbiati, A. Casoni, V. Canevari, D. Nava and E. Rossi, *Org. Lett.*, 2006, **8**, 4839–4842.

9. Spectral data

2,2-dimethoxy-1-phenylethan-1-ol: 1a

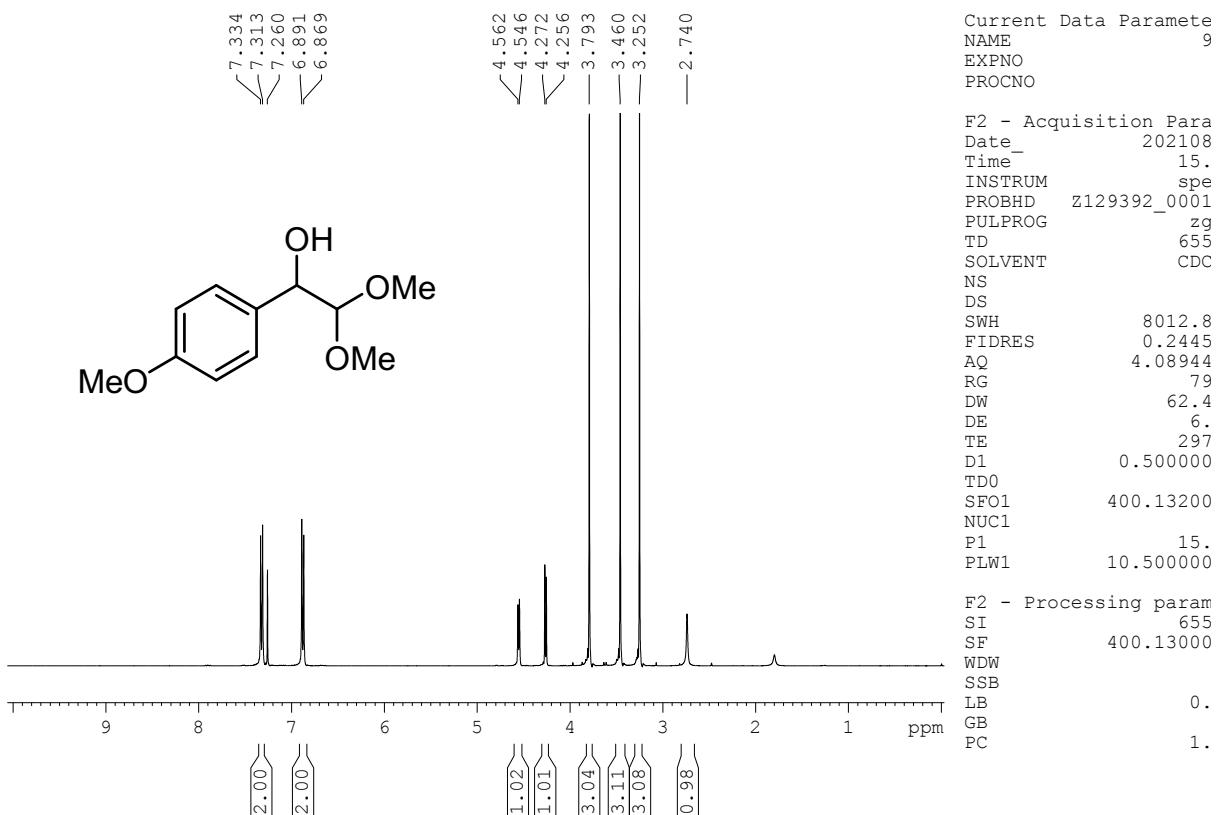


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 1a

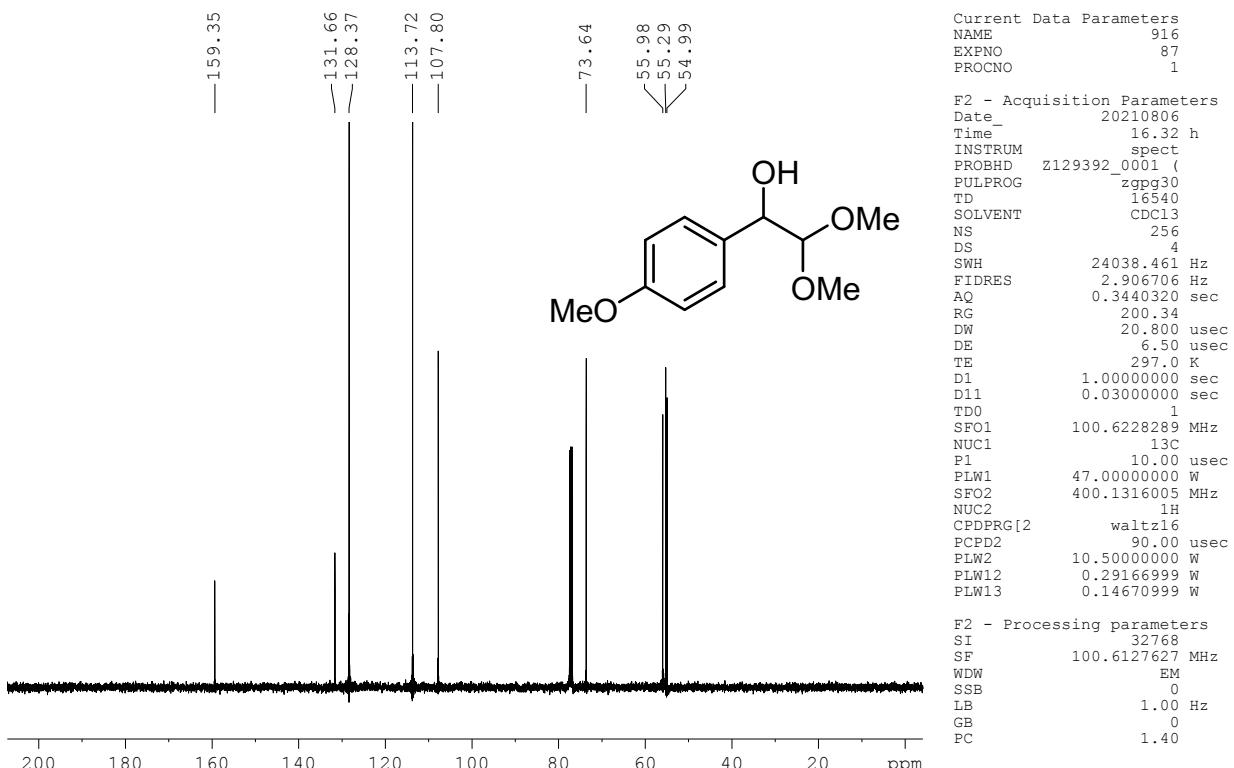


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 1a

2,2-dimethoxy-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol: 1b

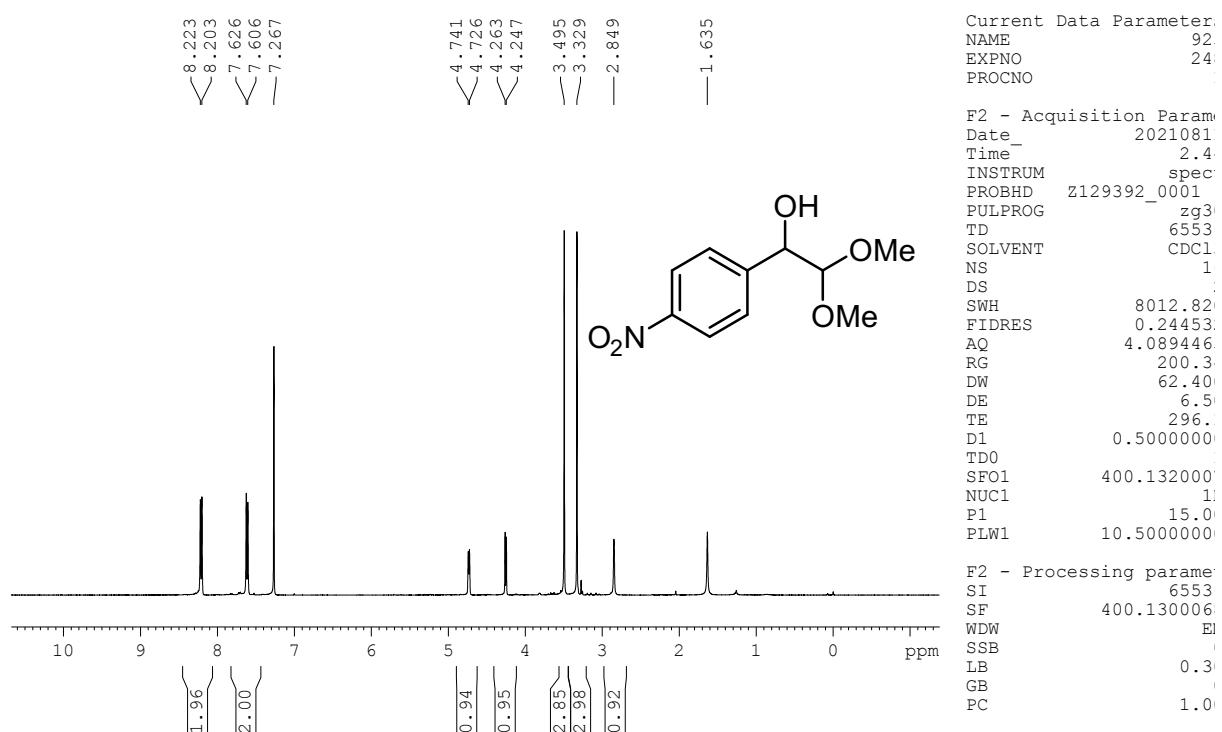


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 1b

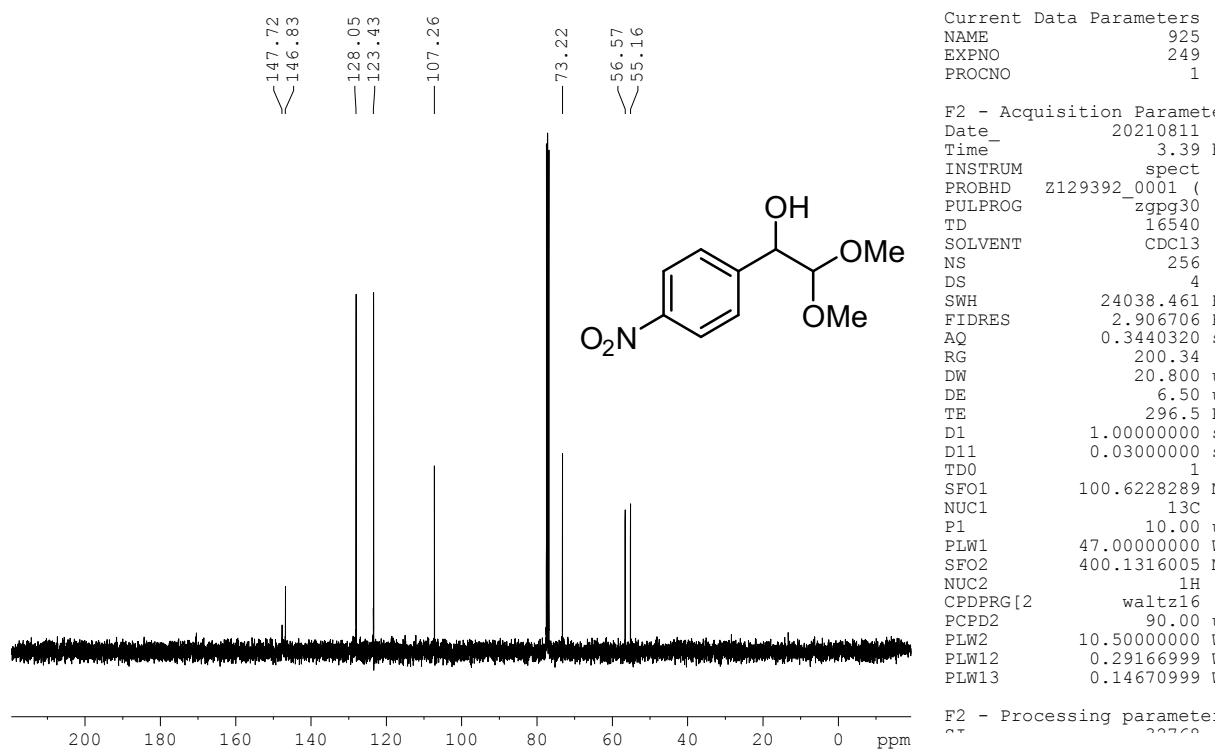


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2,2-dimethoxy-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethan-1-ol: 1c

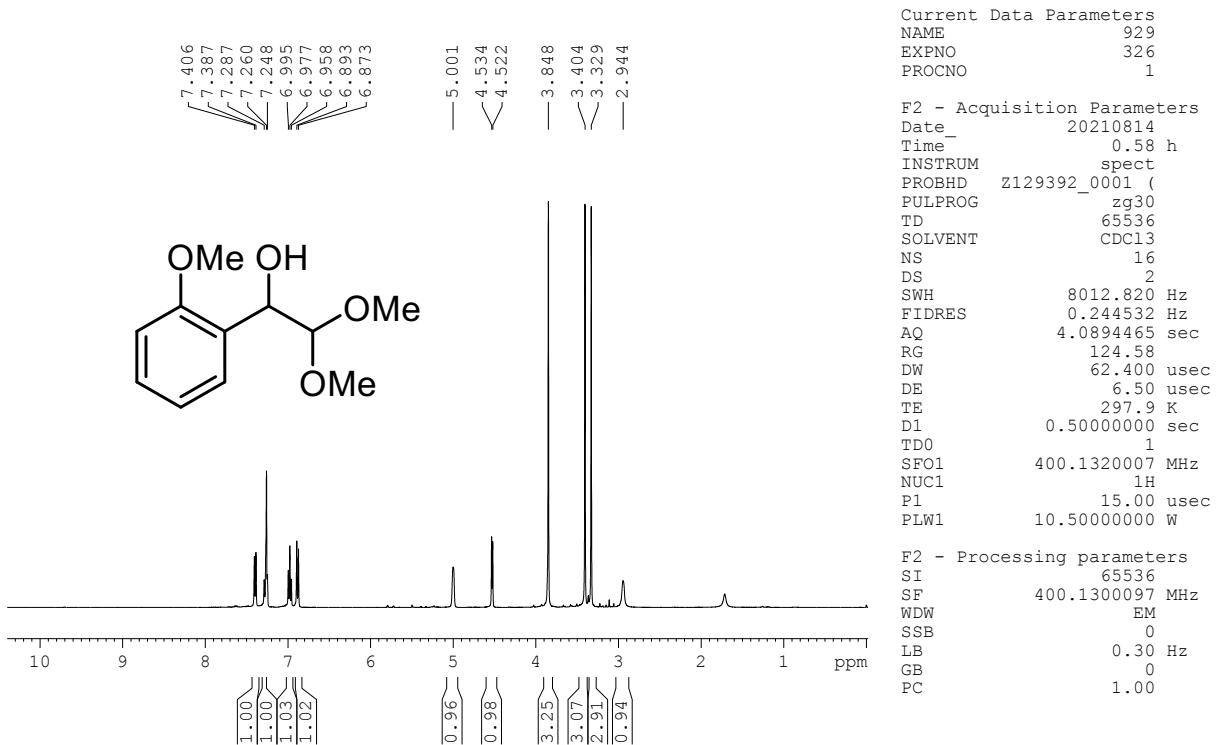


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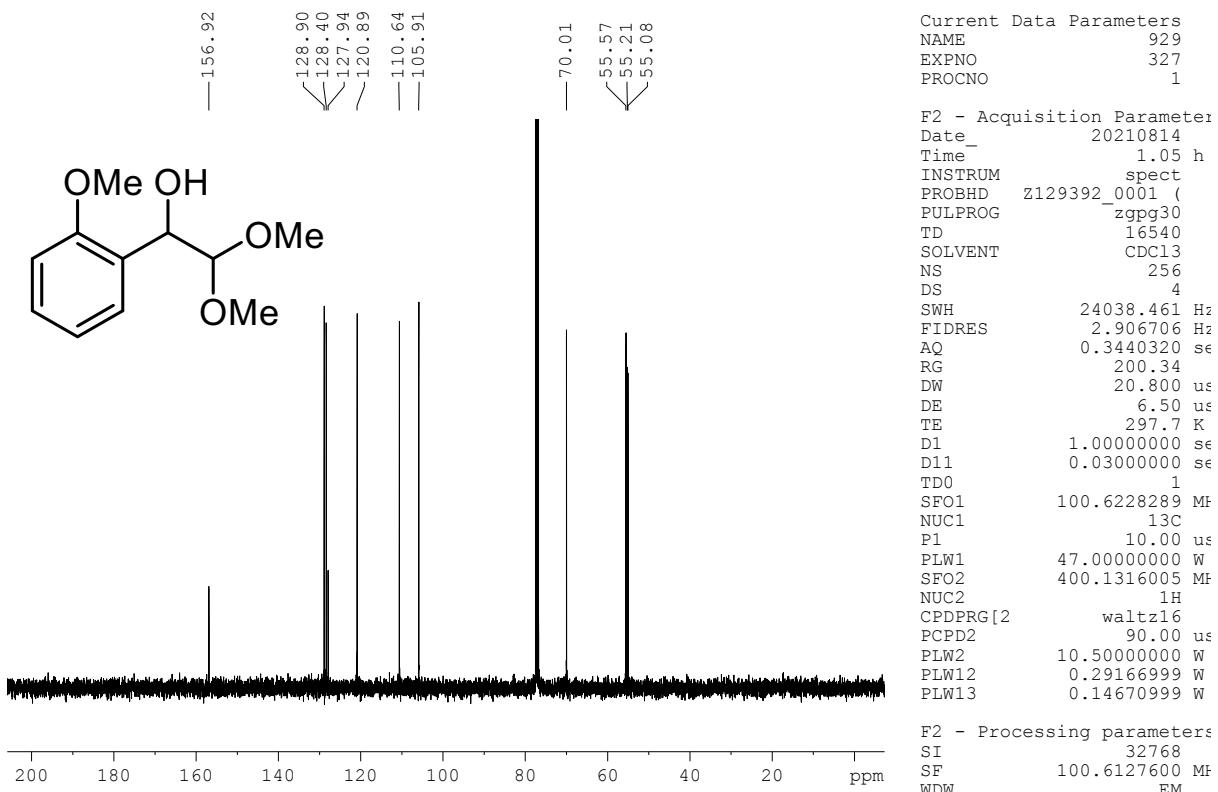


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2,2-dimethoxy-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol: 1d

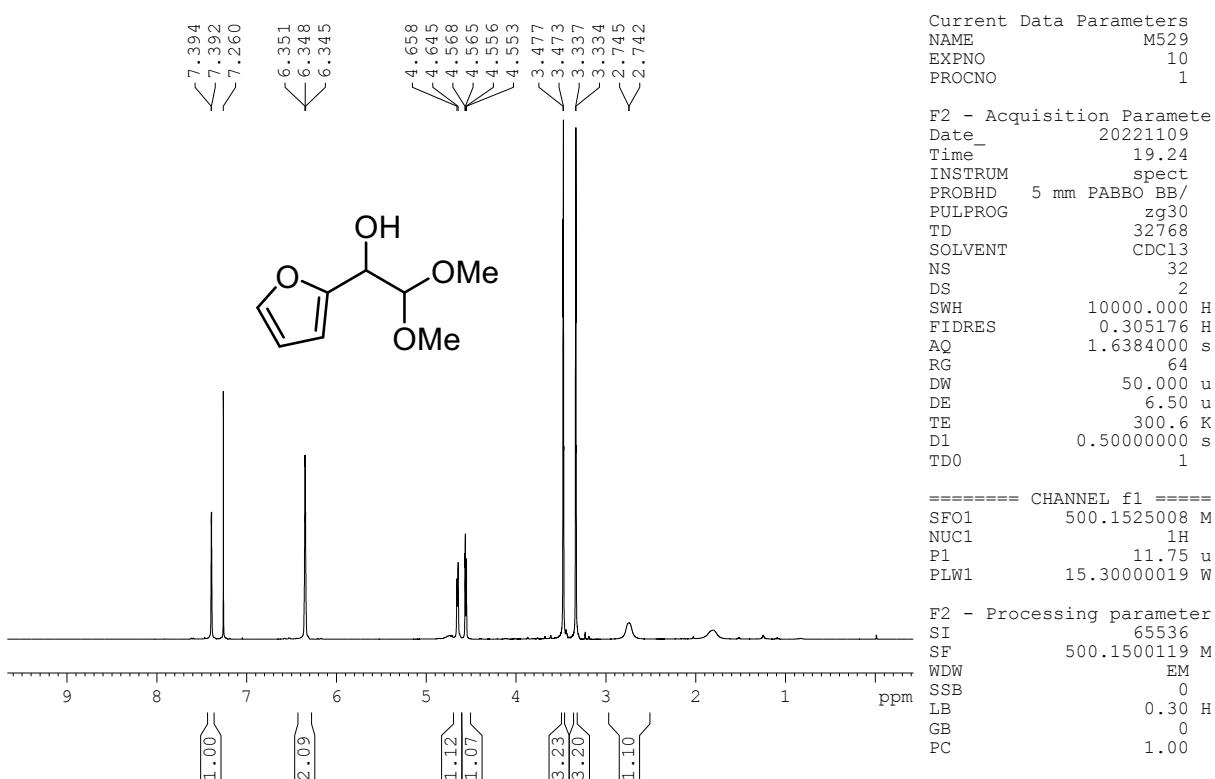


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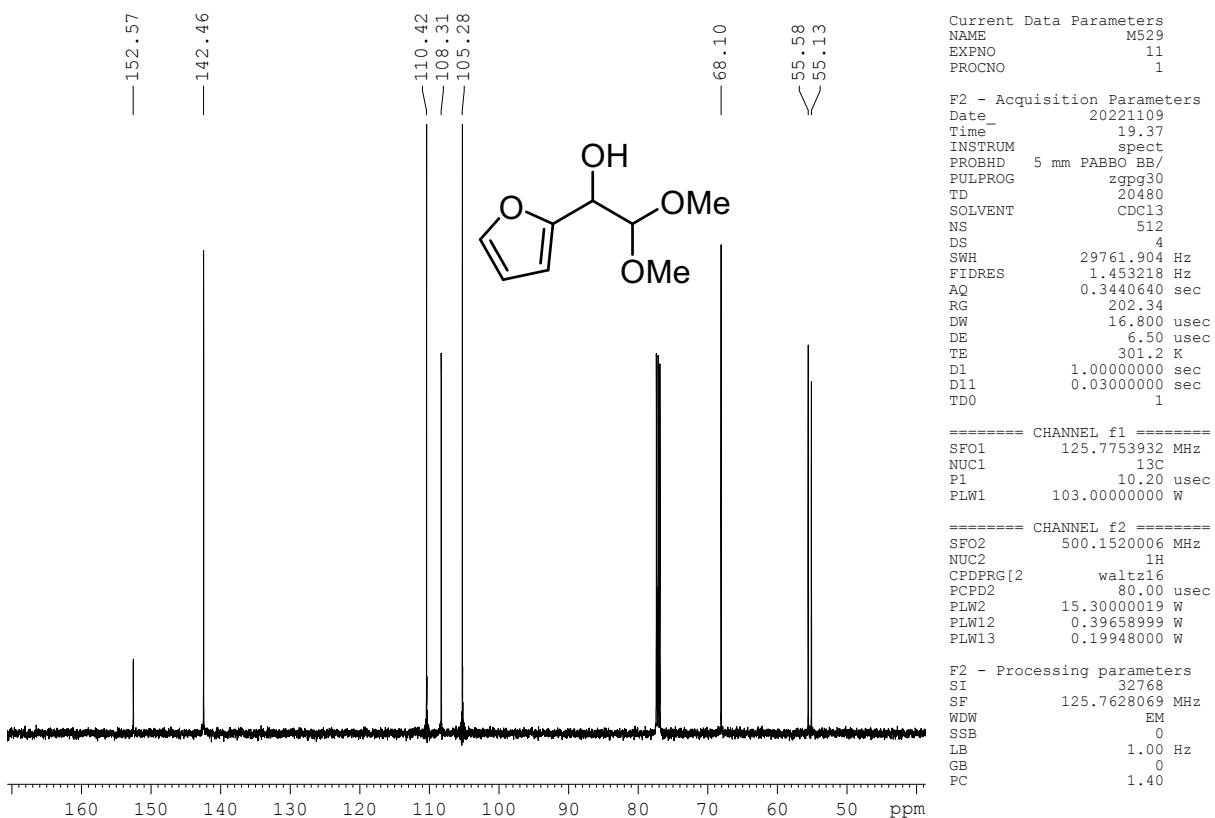


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 1d

1-(furan-2-yl)-2,2-dimethoxyethan-1-ol:1e

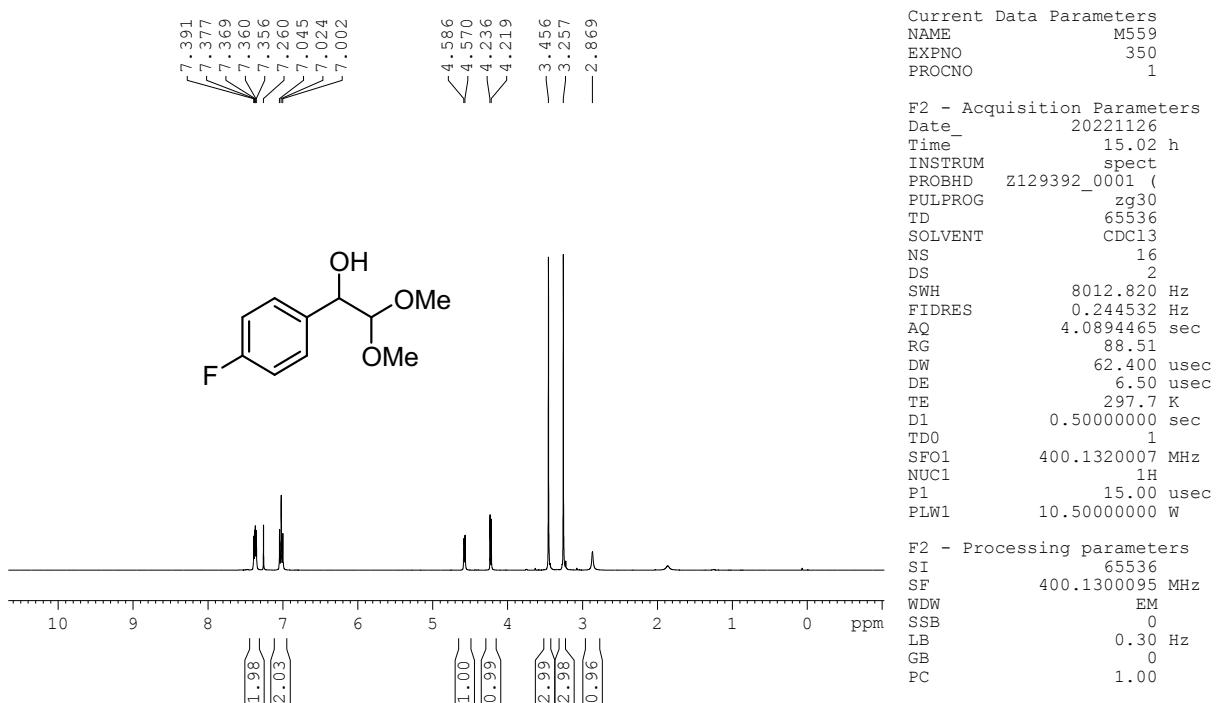


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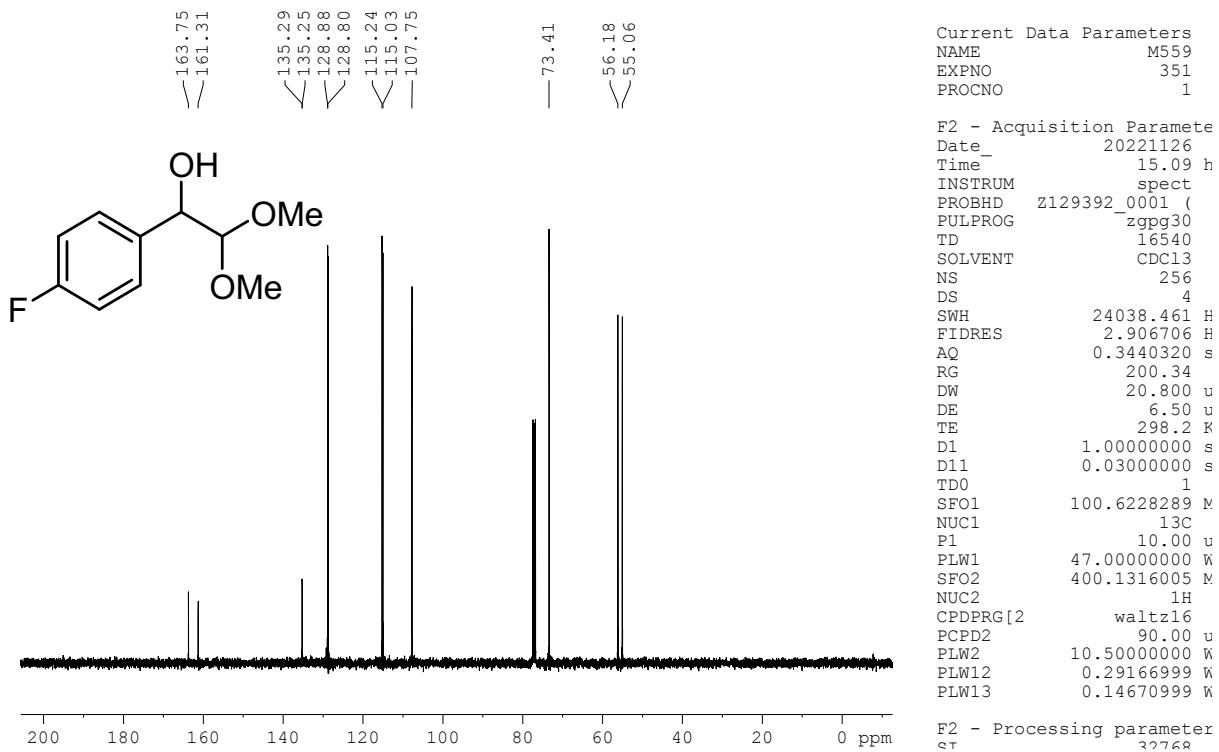


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **1e**

1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,2-dimethoxyethan-1-ol: 1f

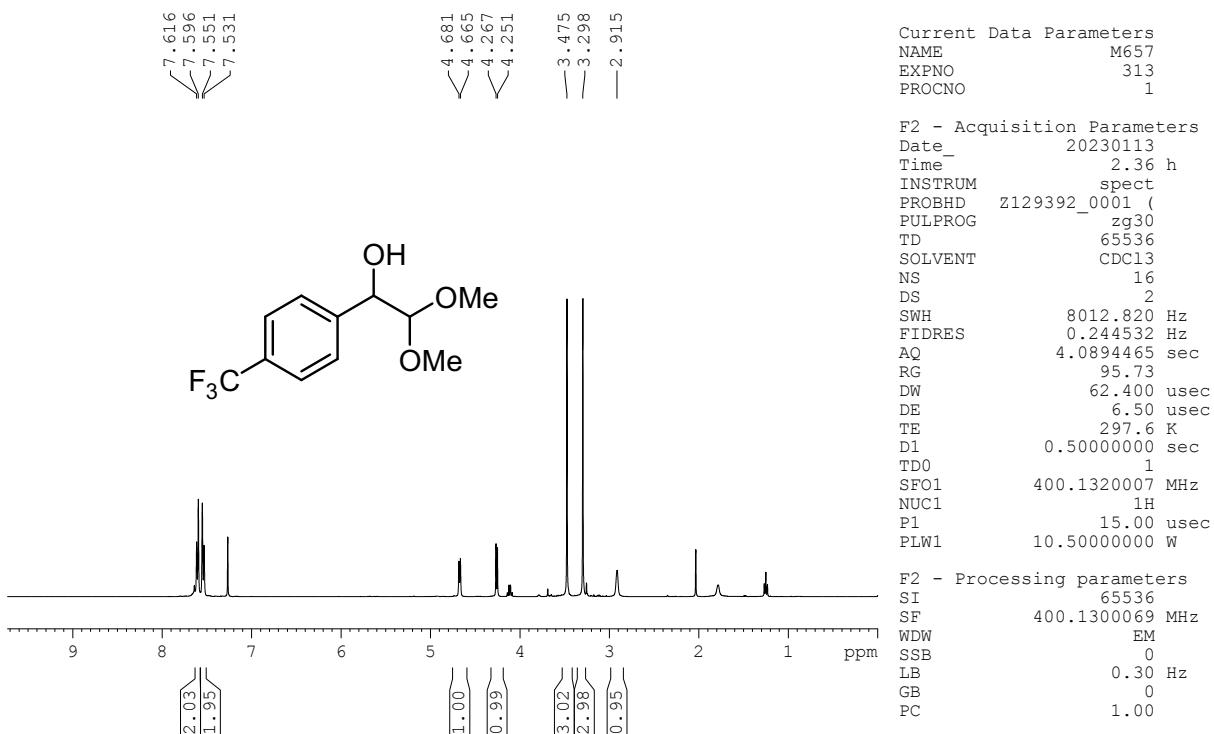


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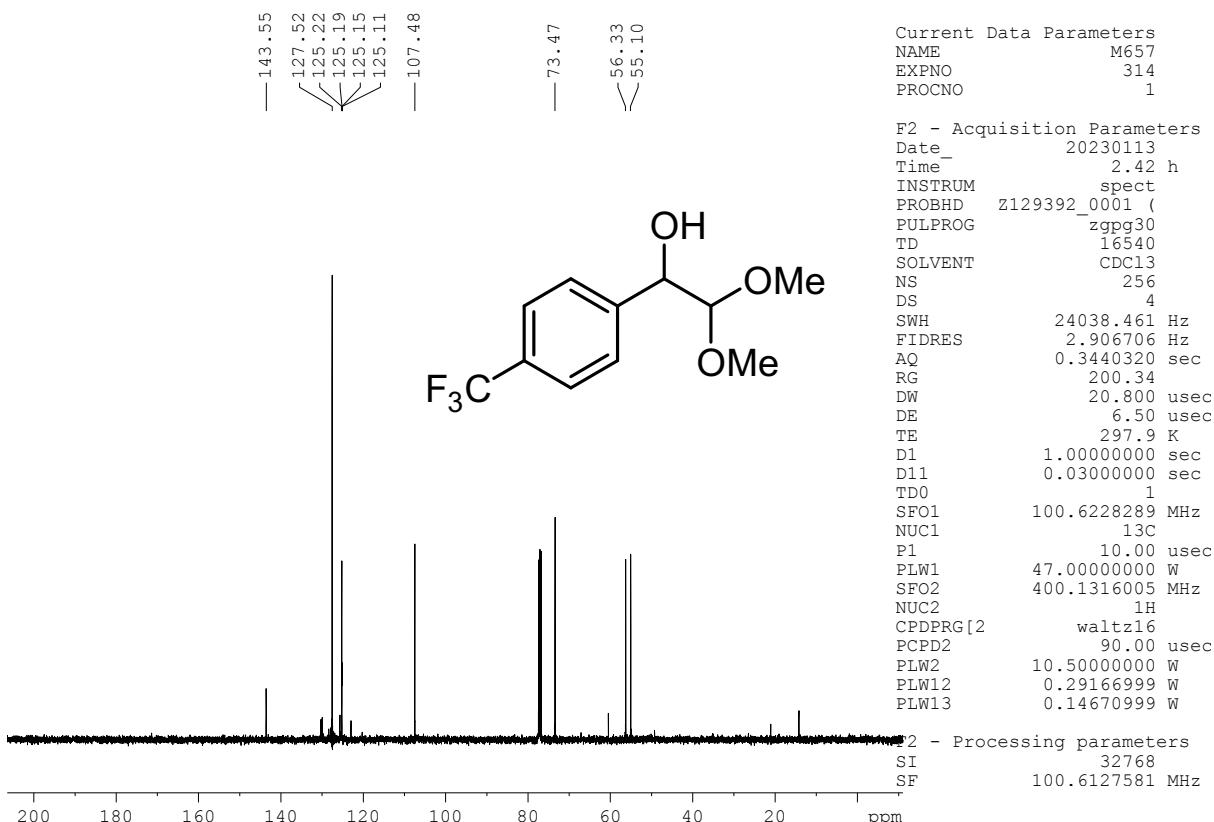


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 1f

2,2-dimethoxy-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-ol: 1g

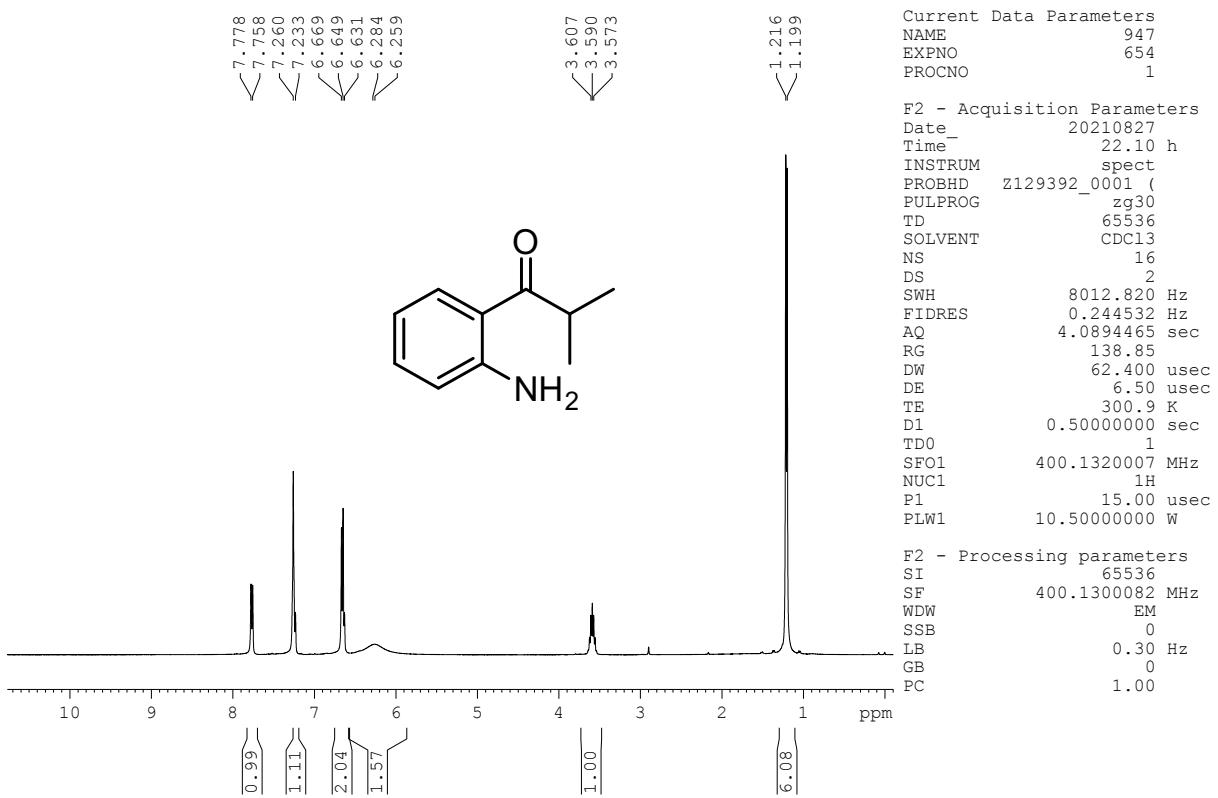


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **1g**

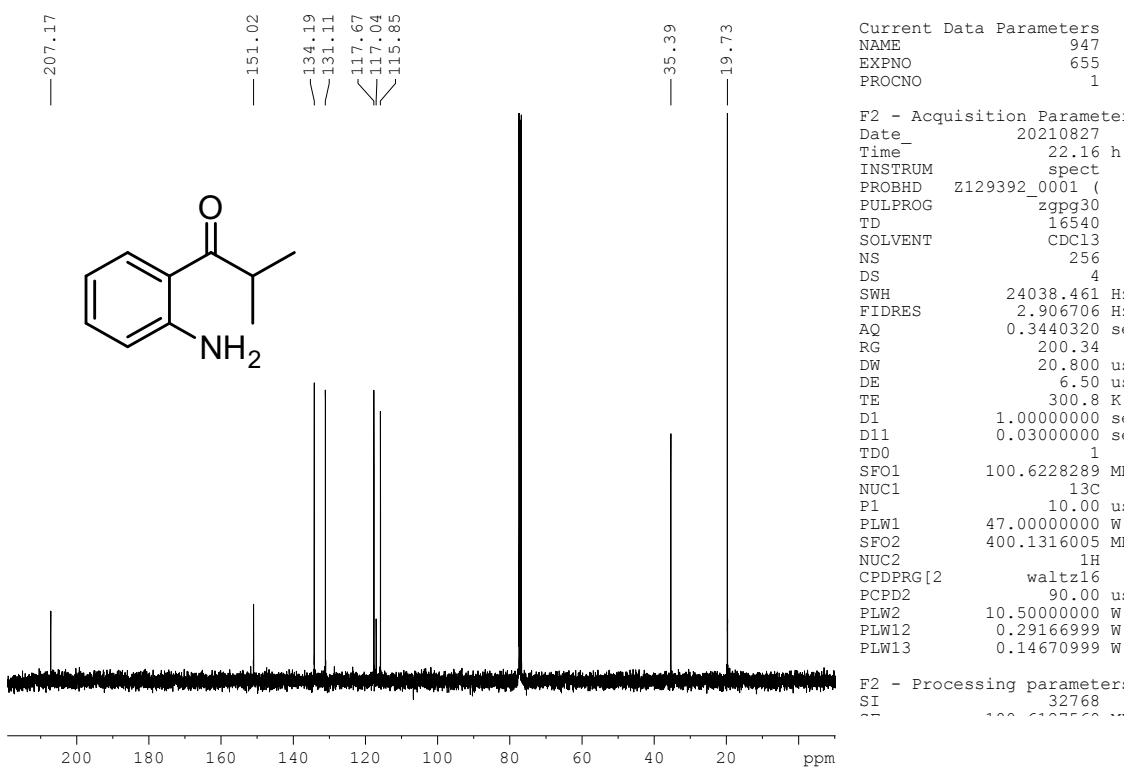


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **1g**

1-(2-aminophenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-one: 2b

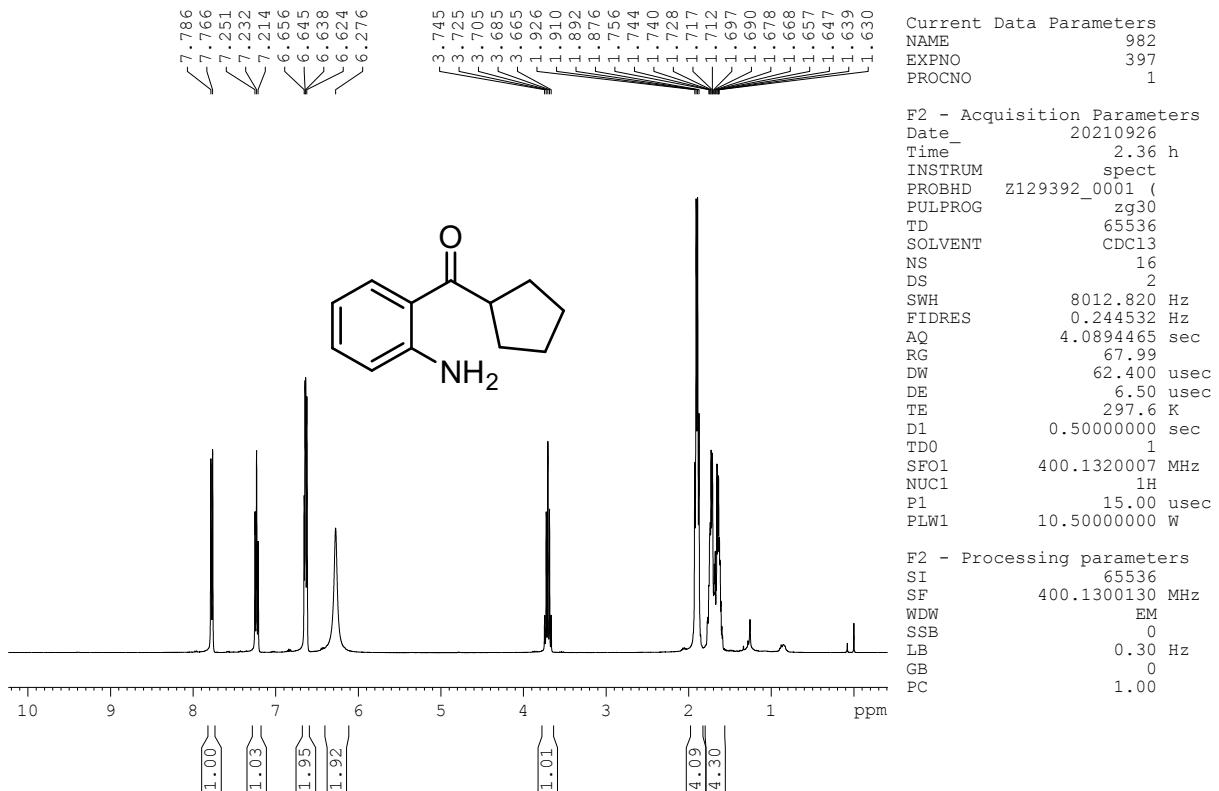


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **2b**

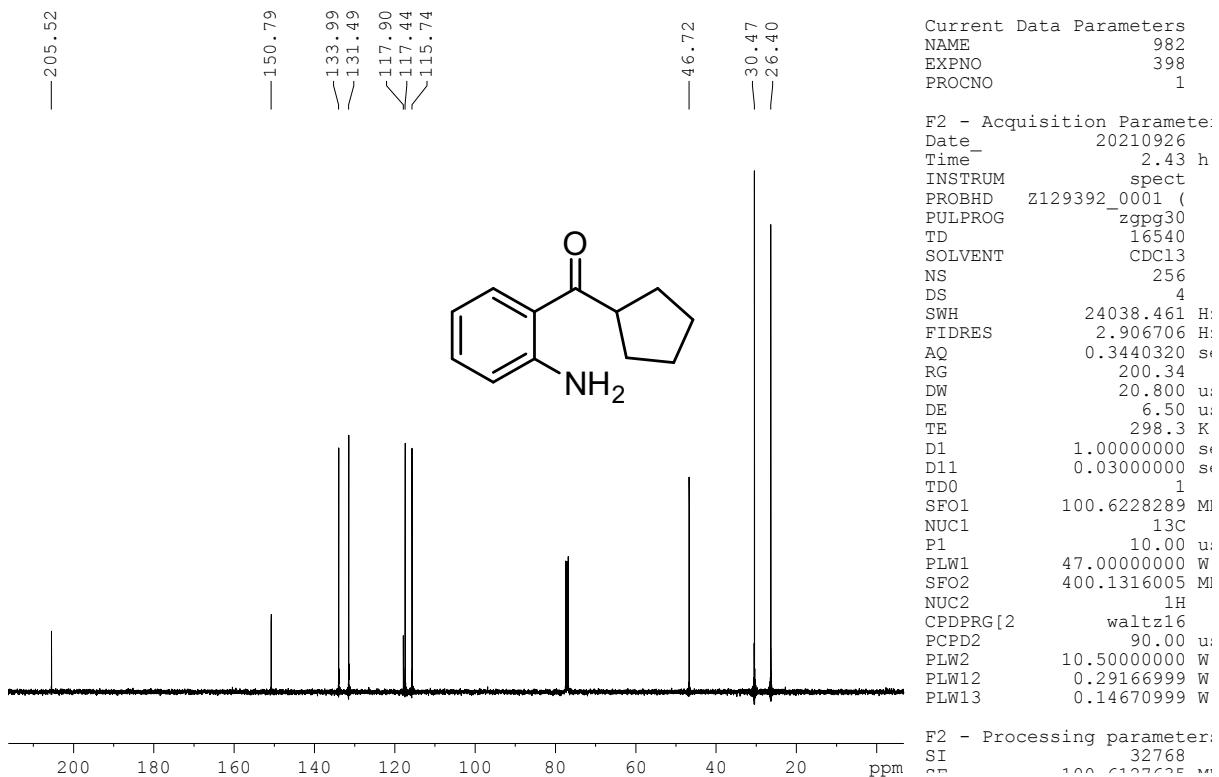


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **2b**

(2-aminophenyl)(cyclopentyl)methanone: 2d

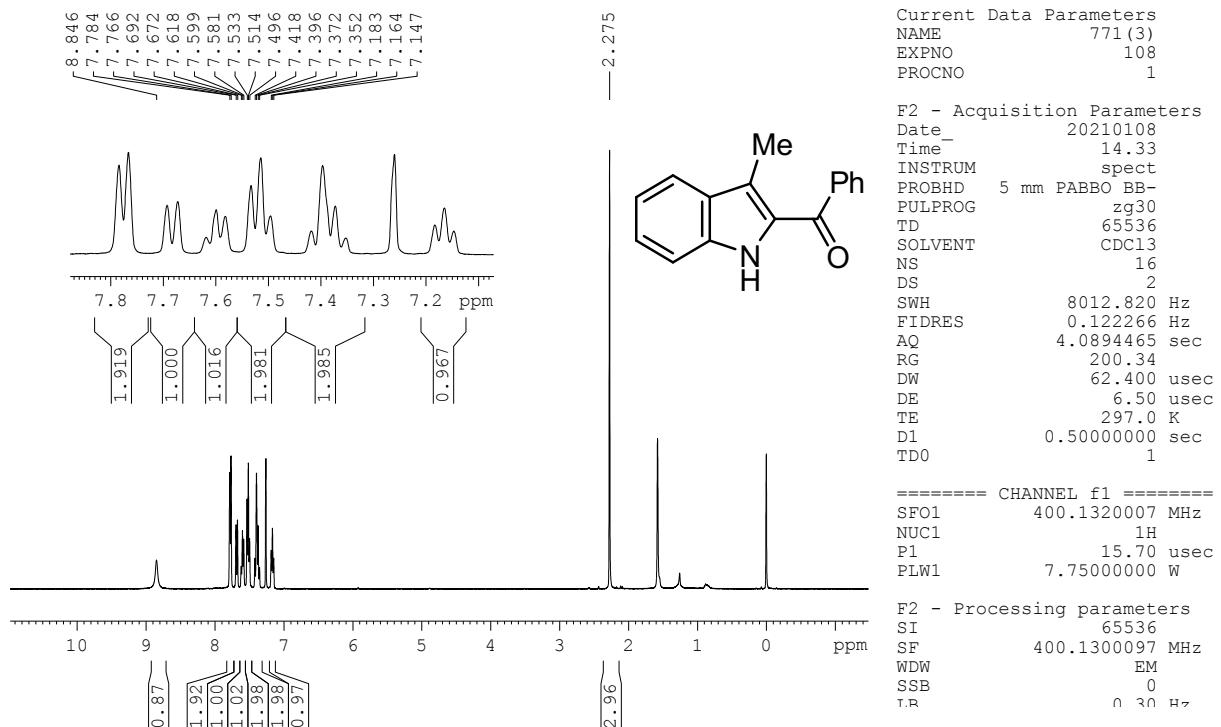


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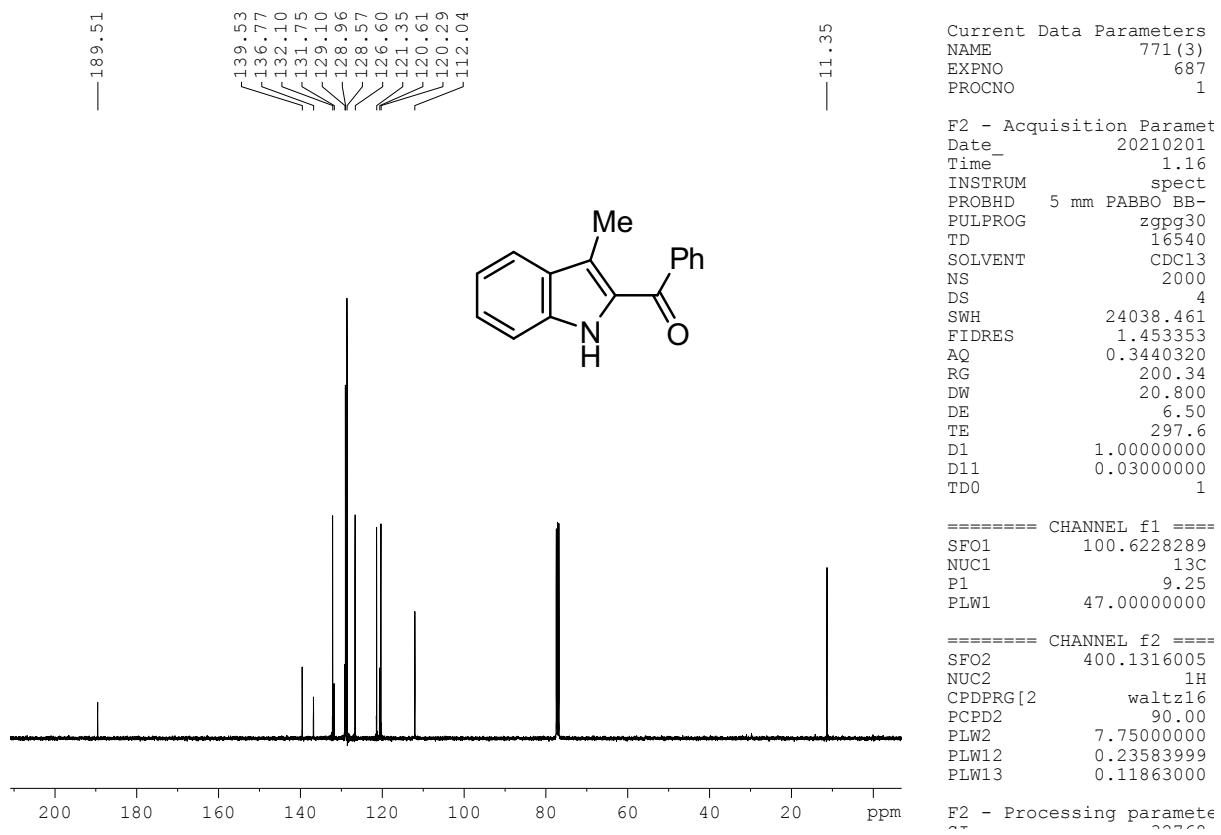


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 2d

(3-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3a

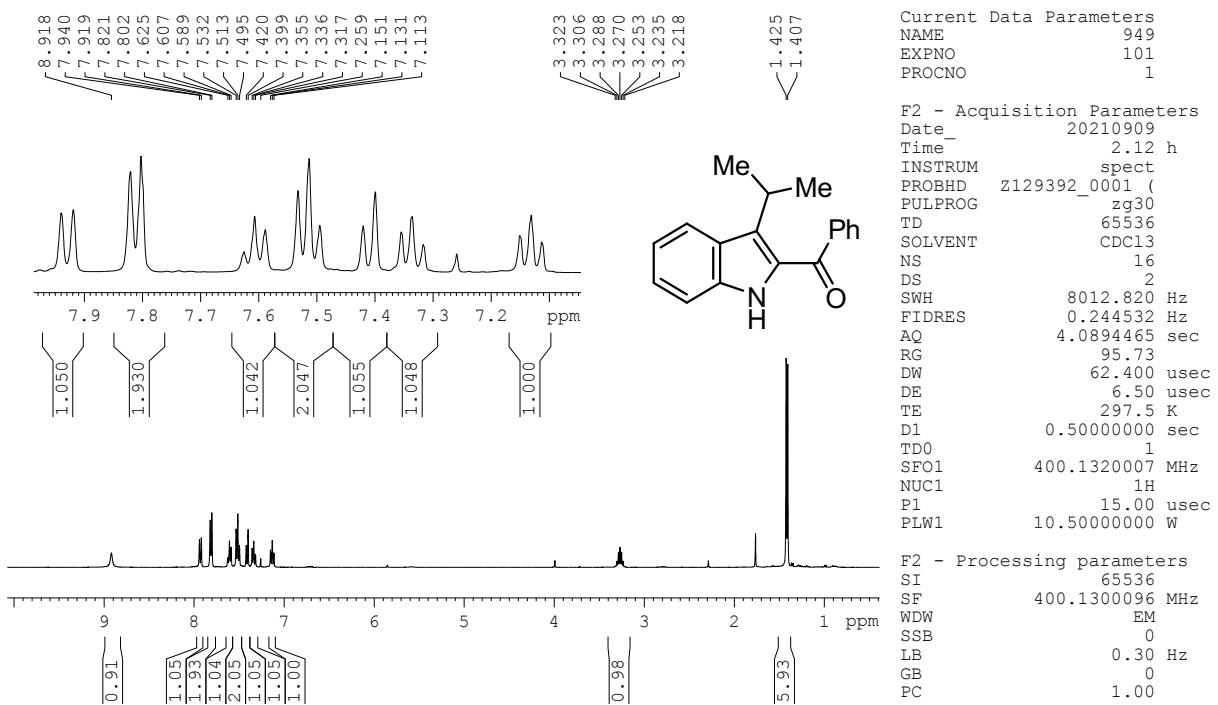


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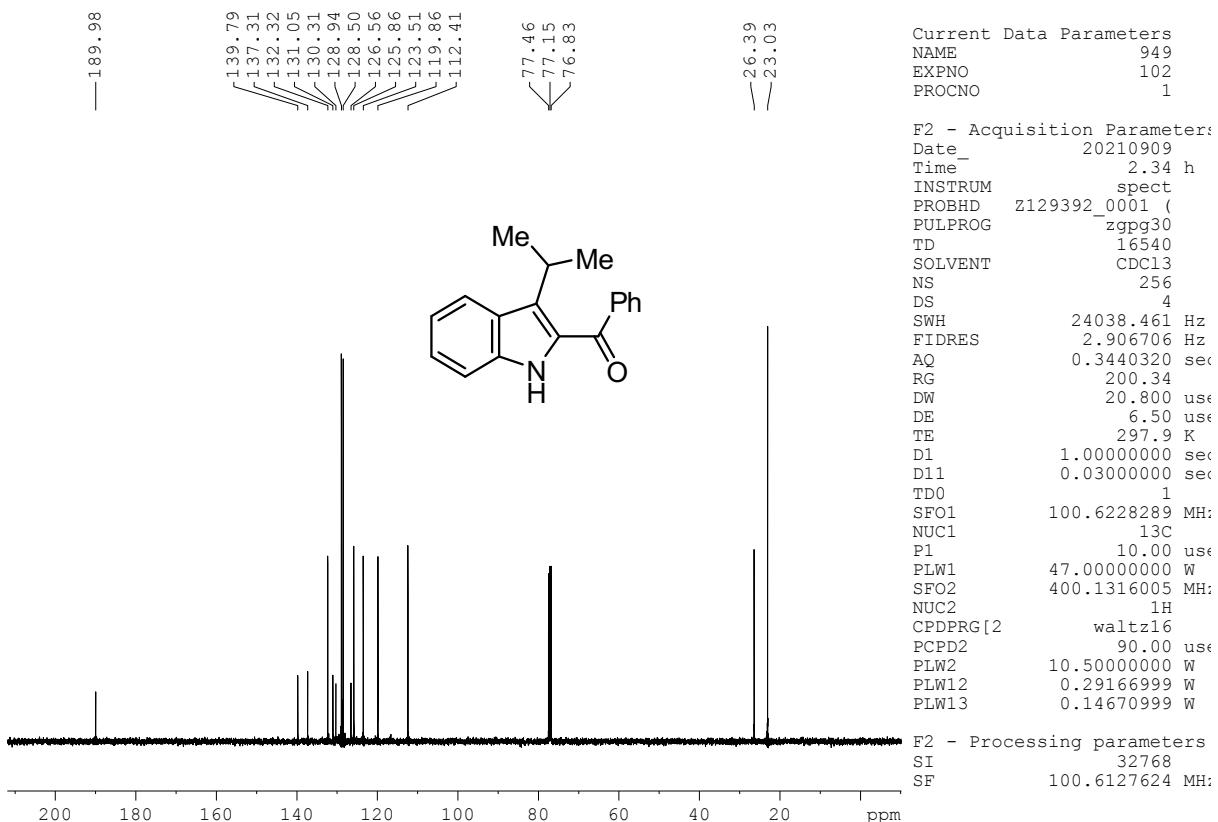


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3a

(3-isopropyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3b

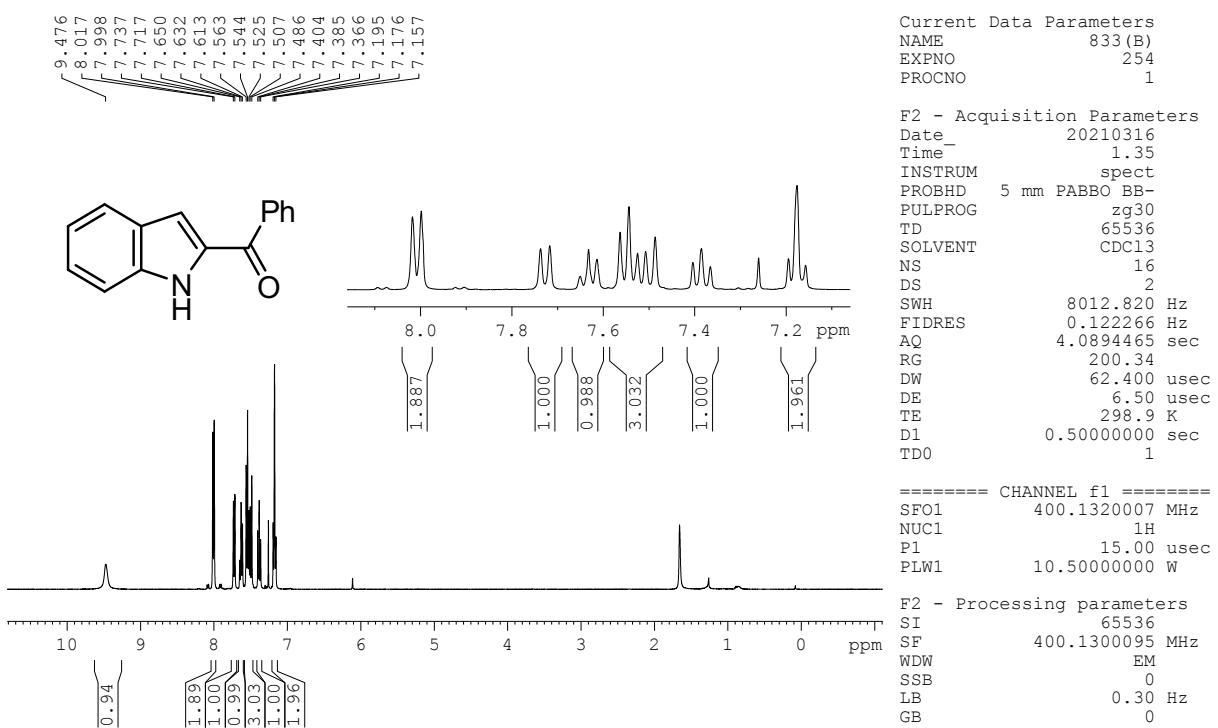


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound **3b**

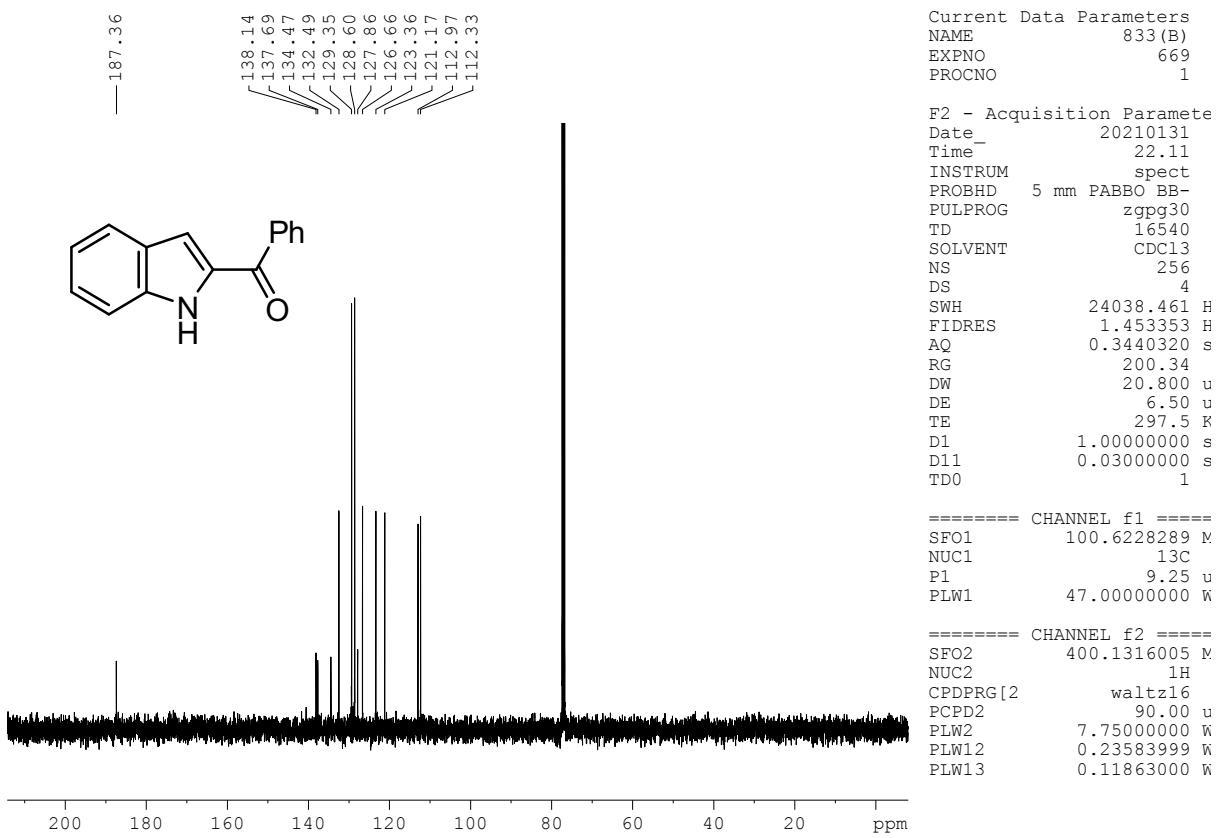


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3b**

(1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3c

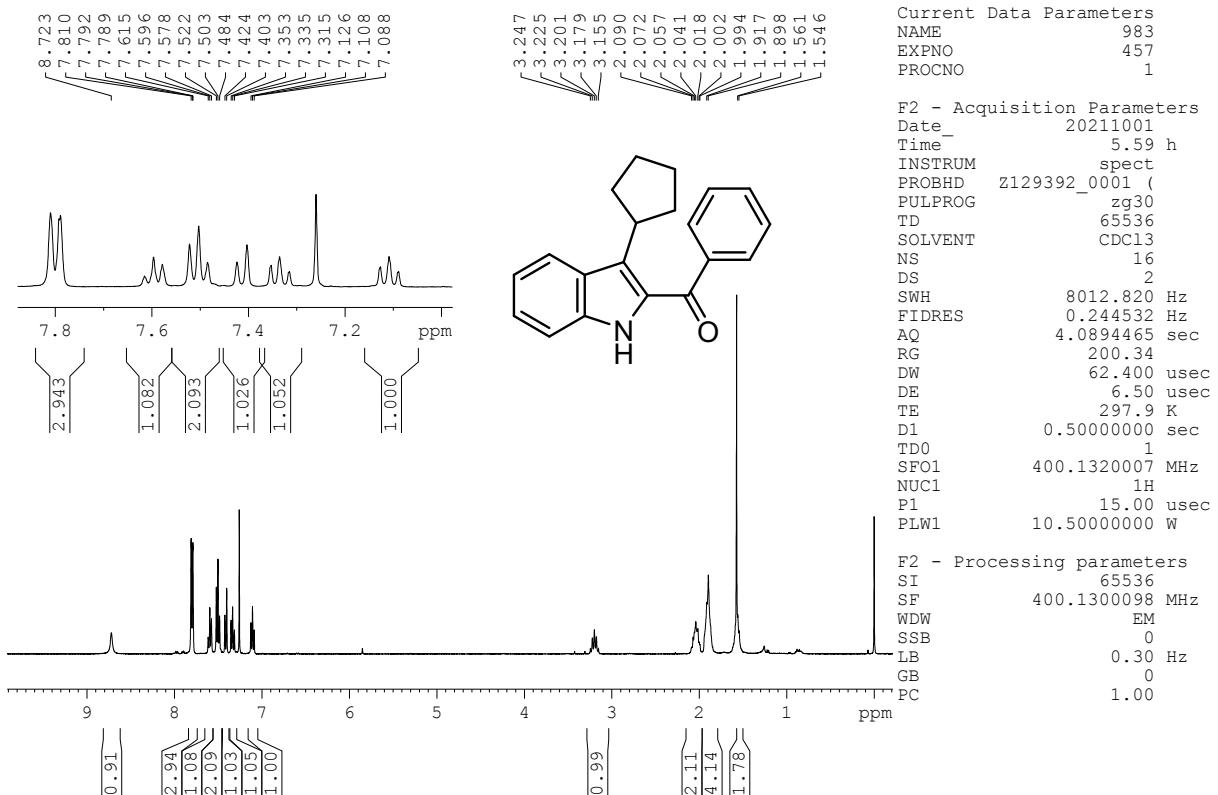


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3c

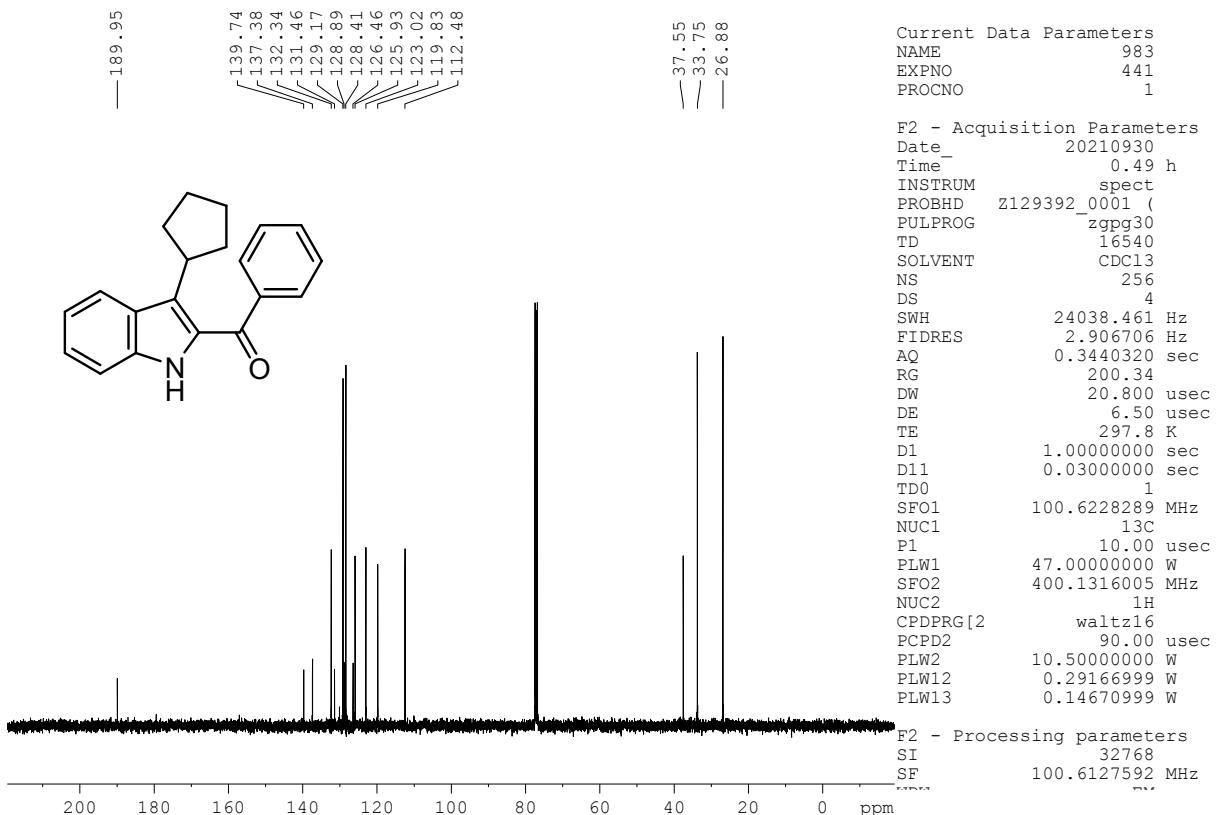


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3c**

(3-cyclopentyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3d

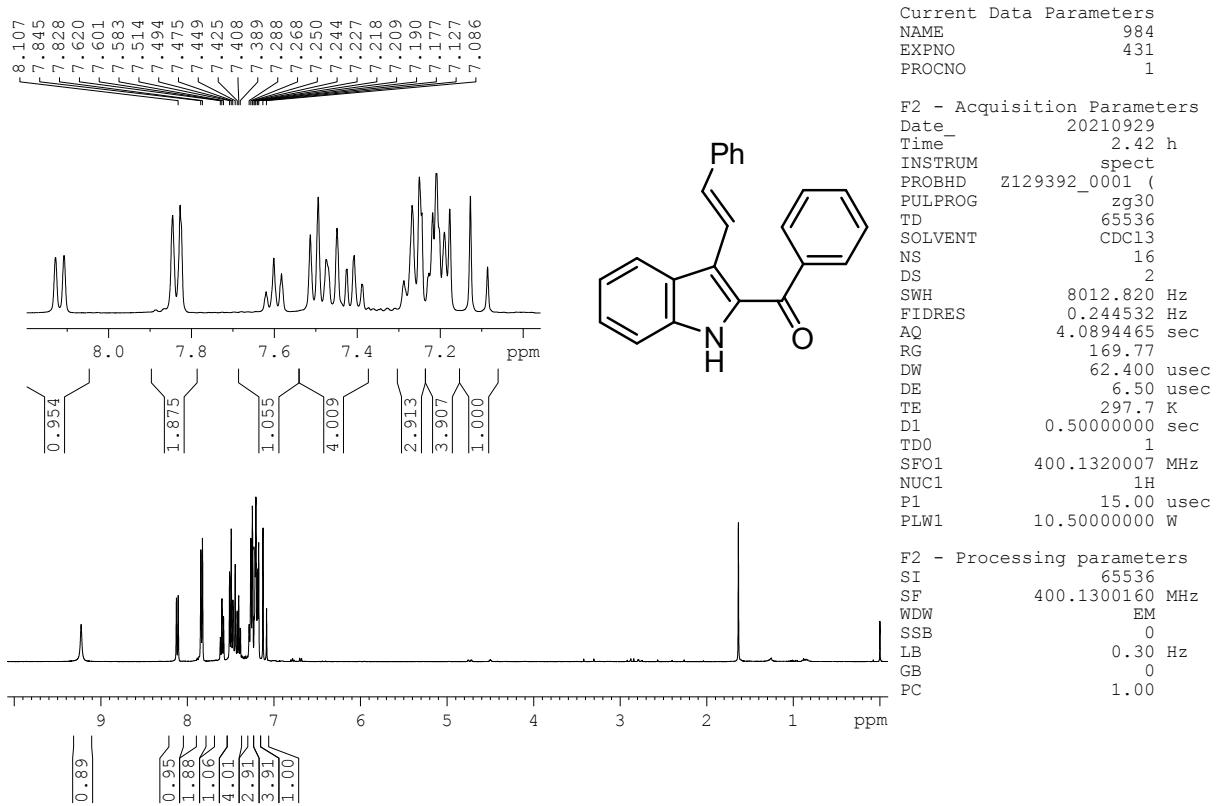


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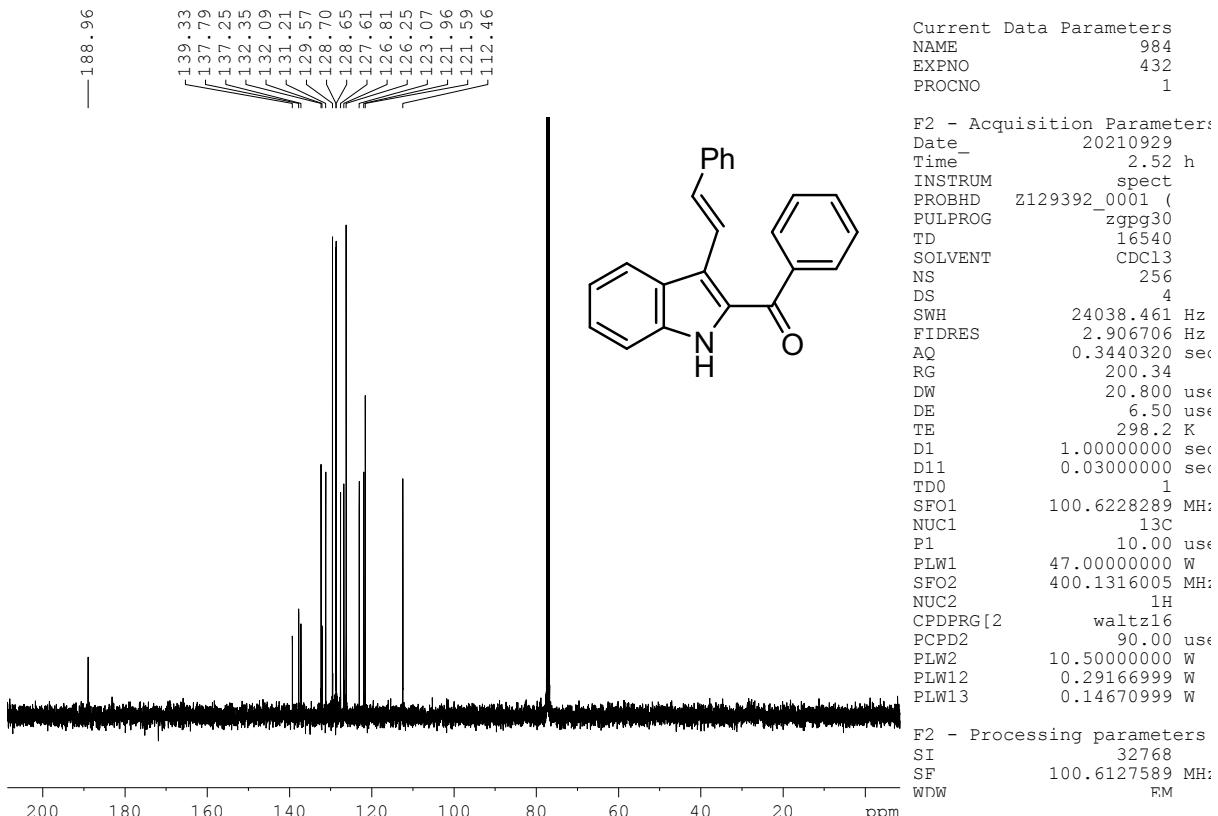


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3d

(E)-phenyl(3-styryl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3e

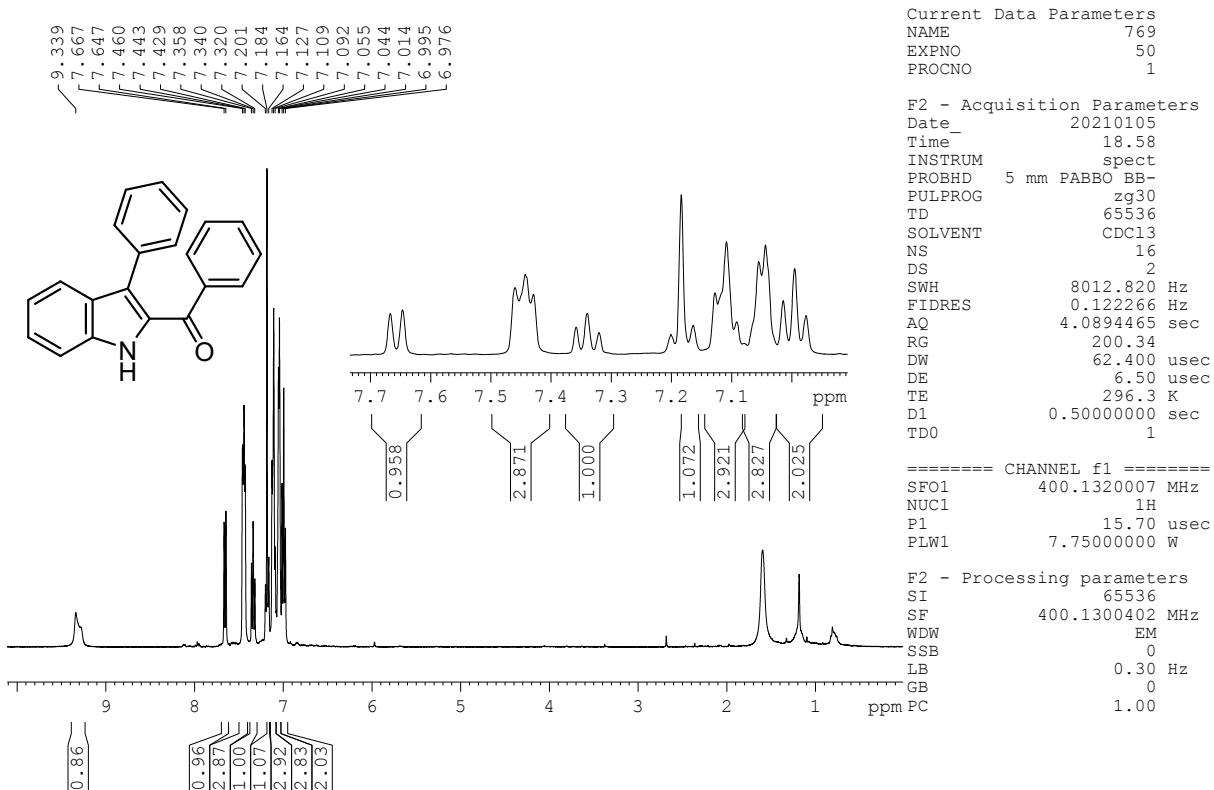


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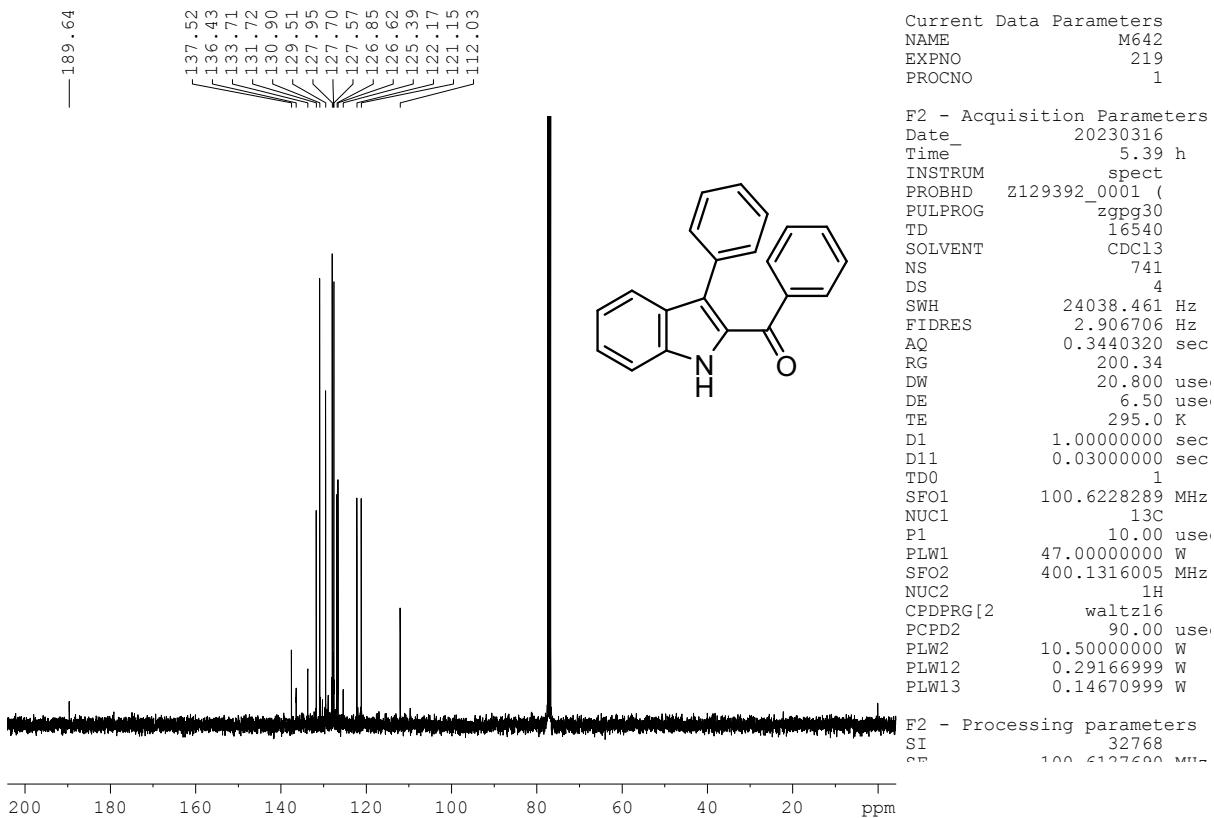


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3e

phenyl(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3f

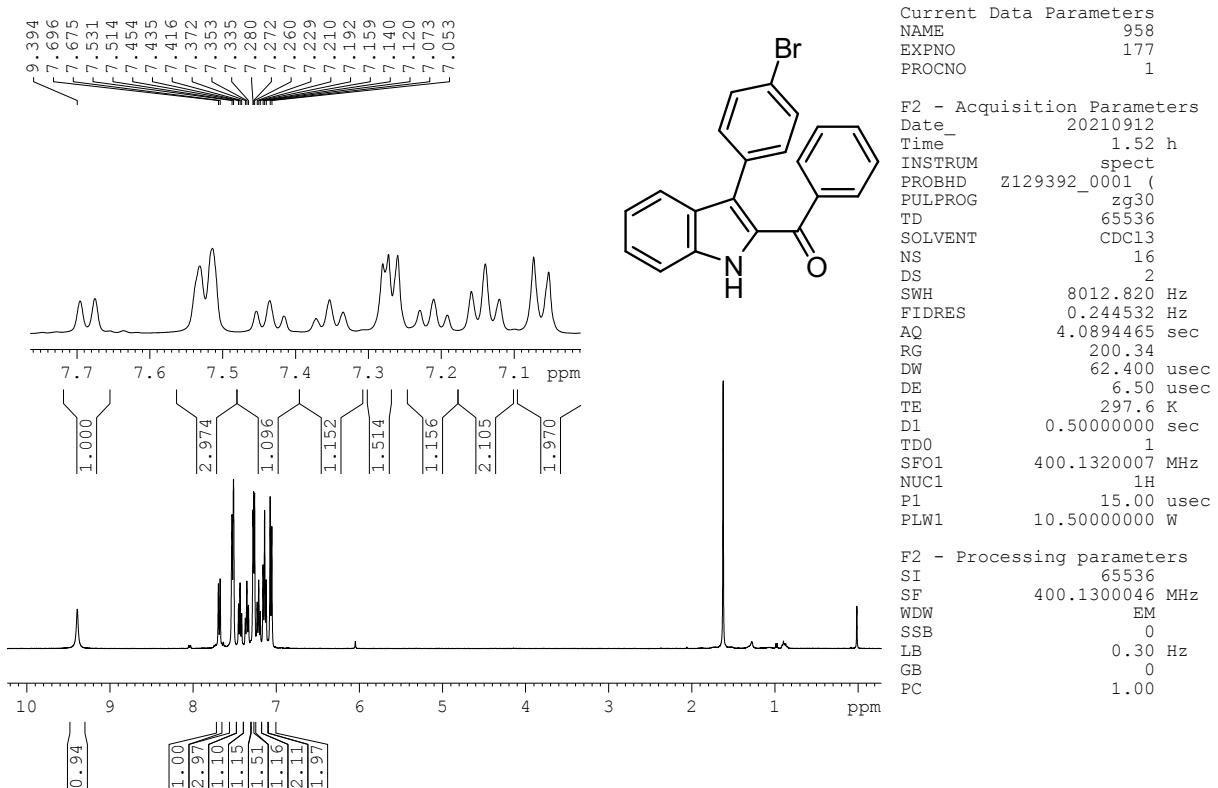


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3f

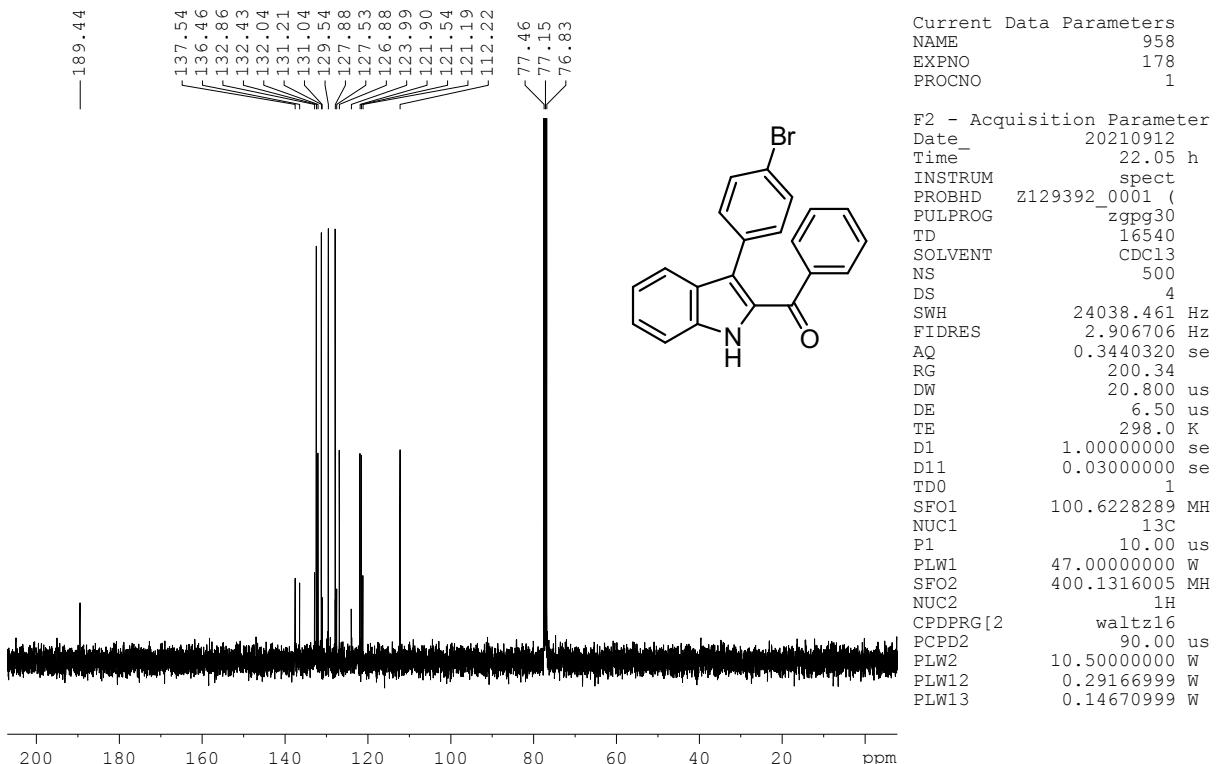


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3f

(3-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3g

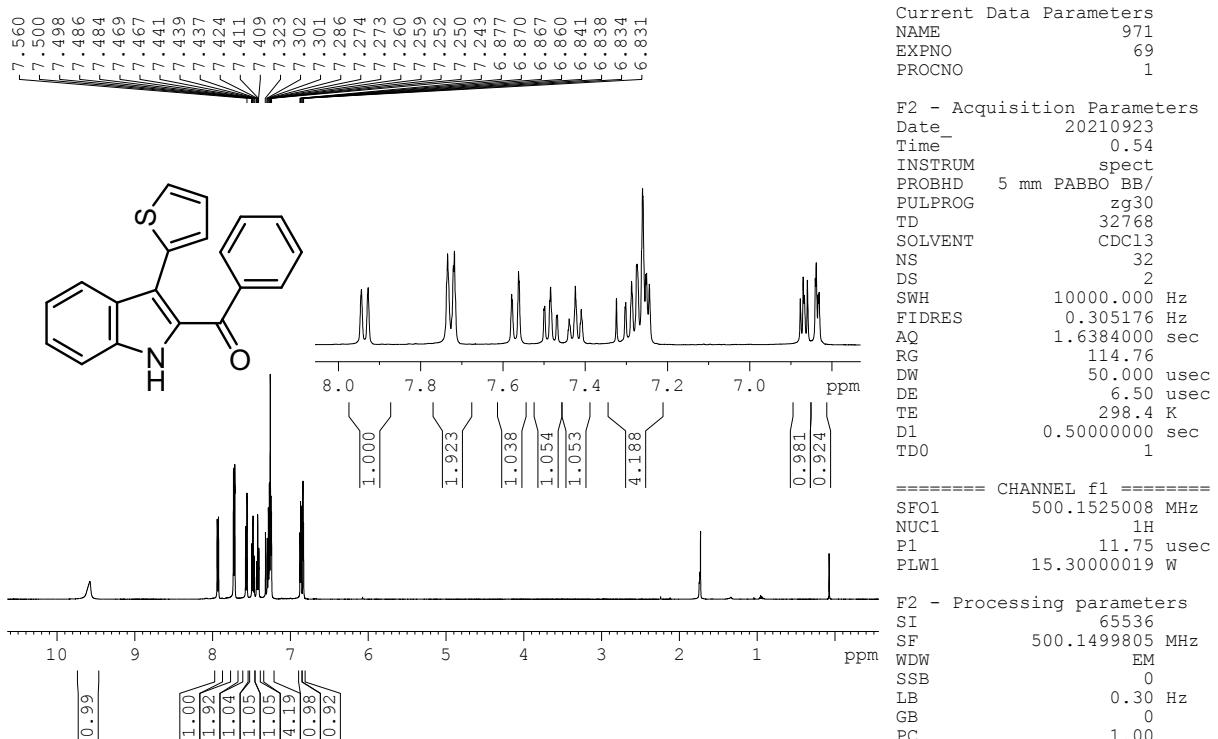


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3g

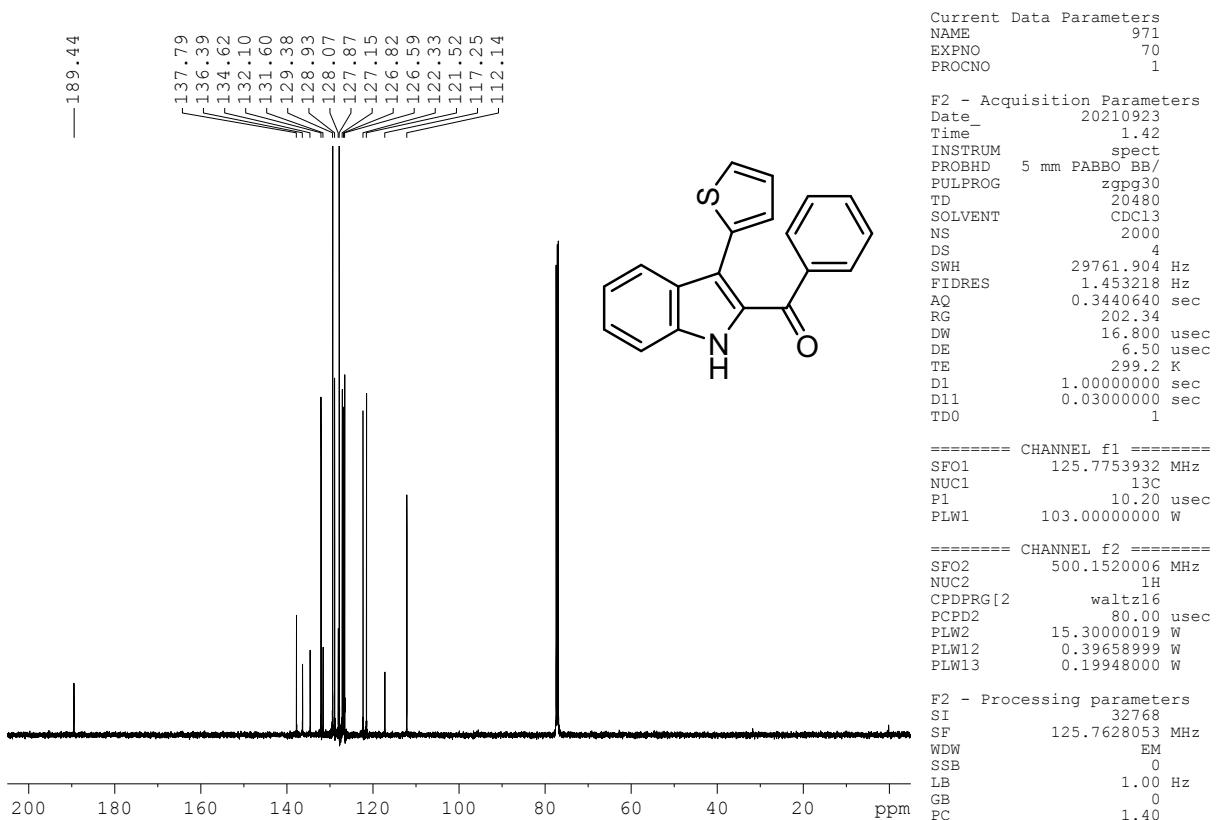


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3g

phenyl(3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3h

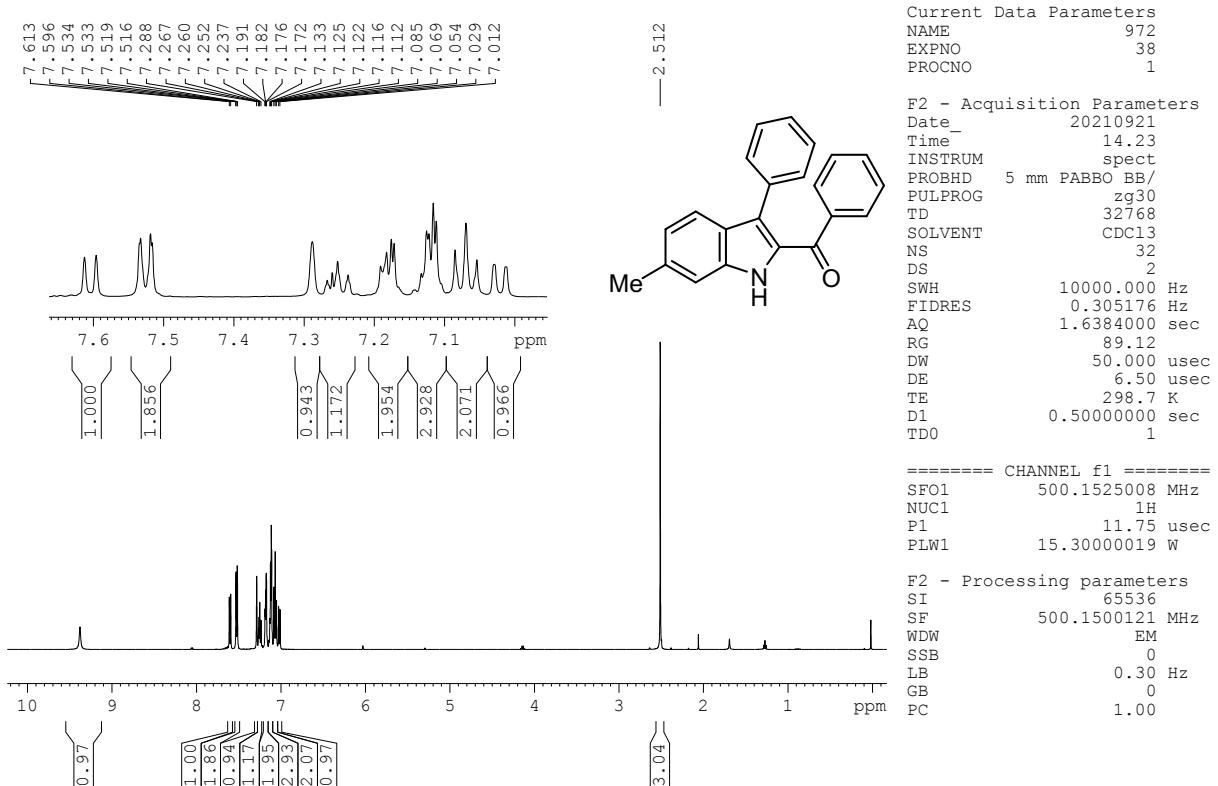


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3h

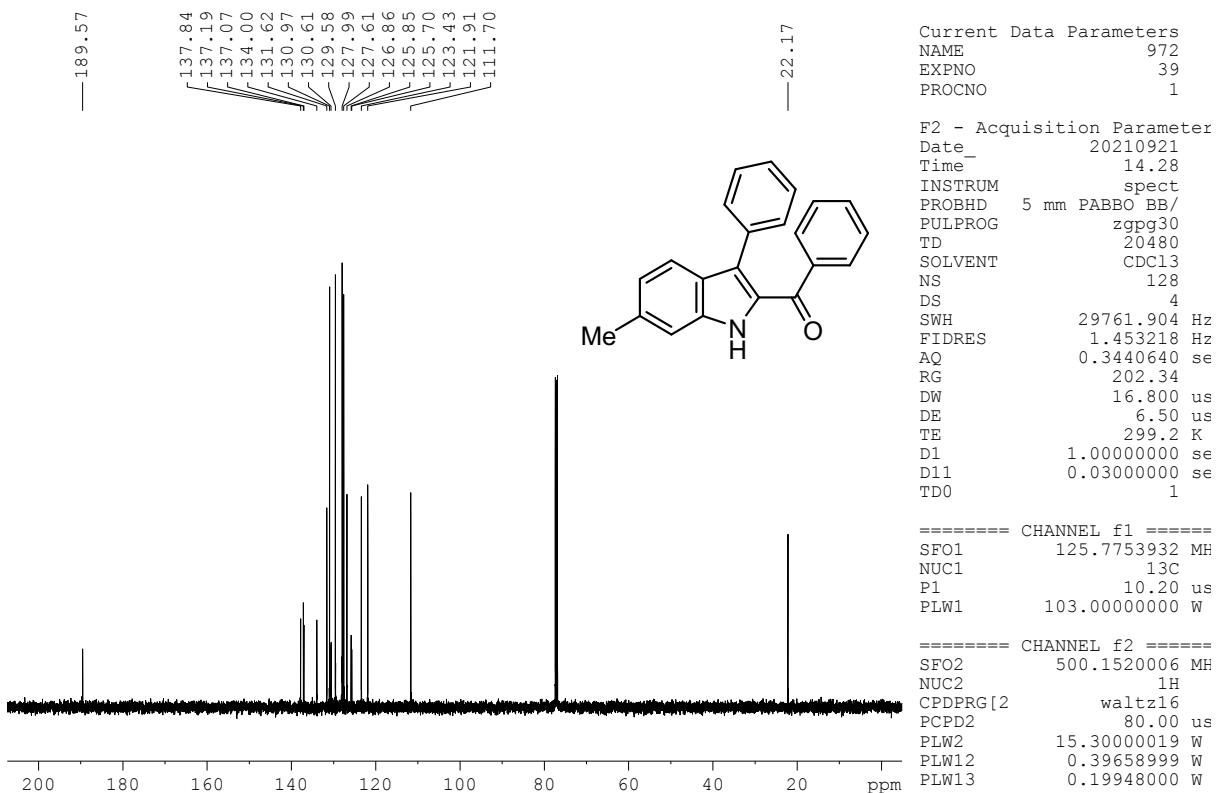


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3h**

(6-methyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3i

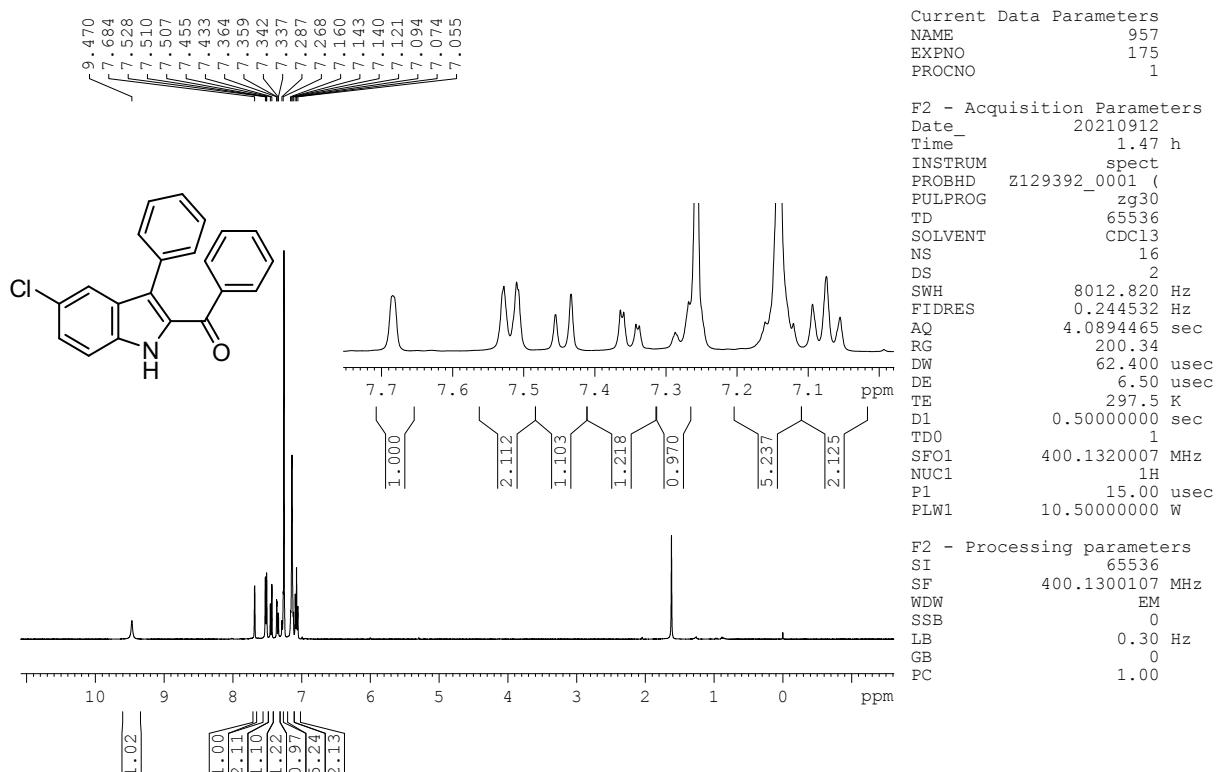


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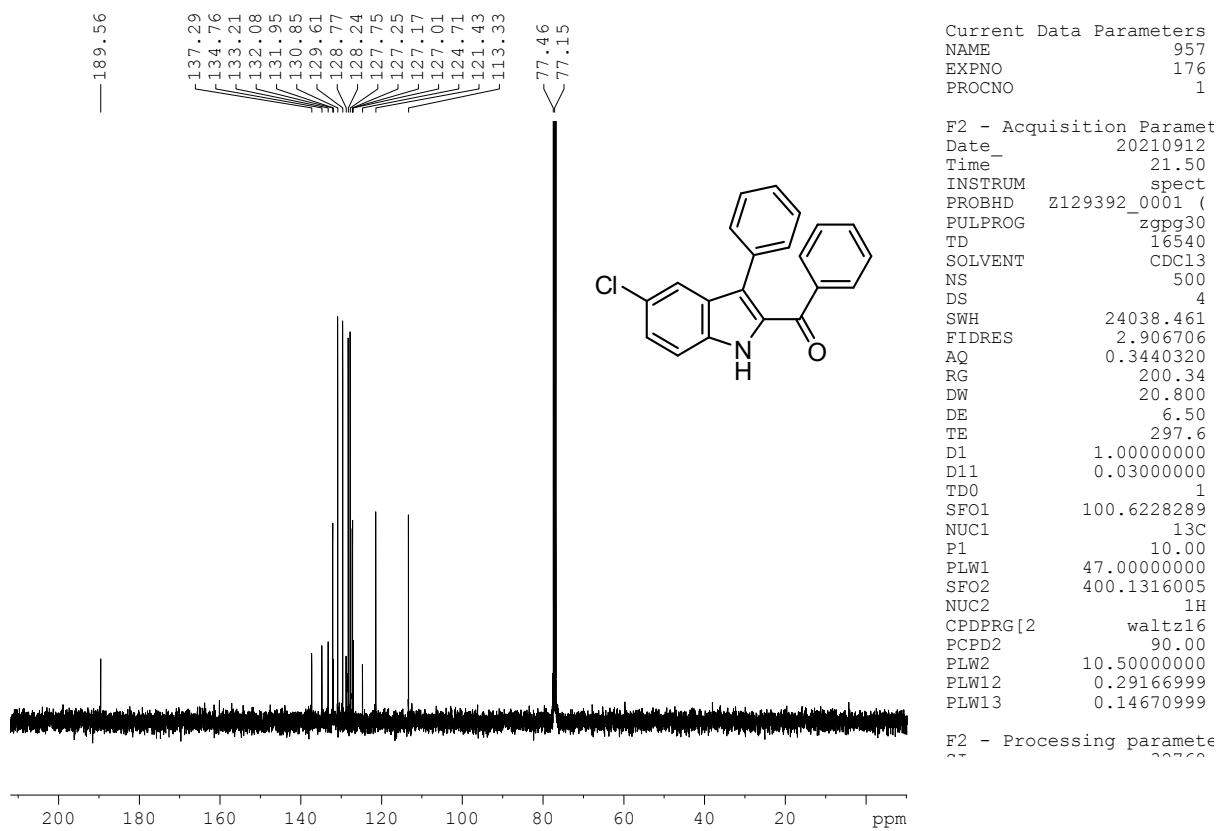


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3i

(5-chloro-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3j

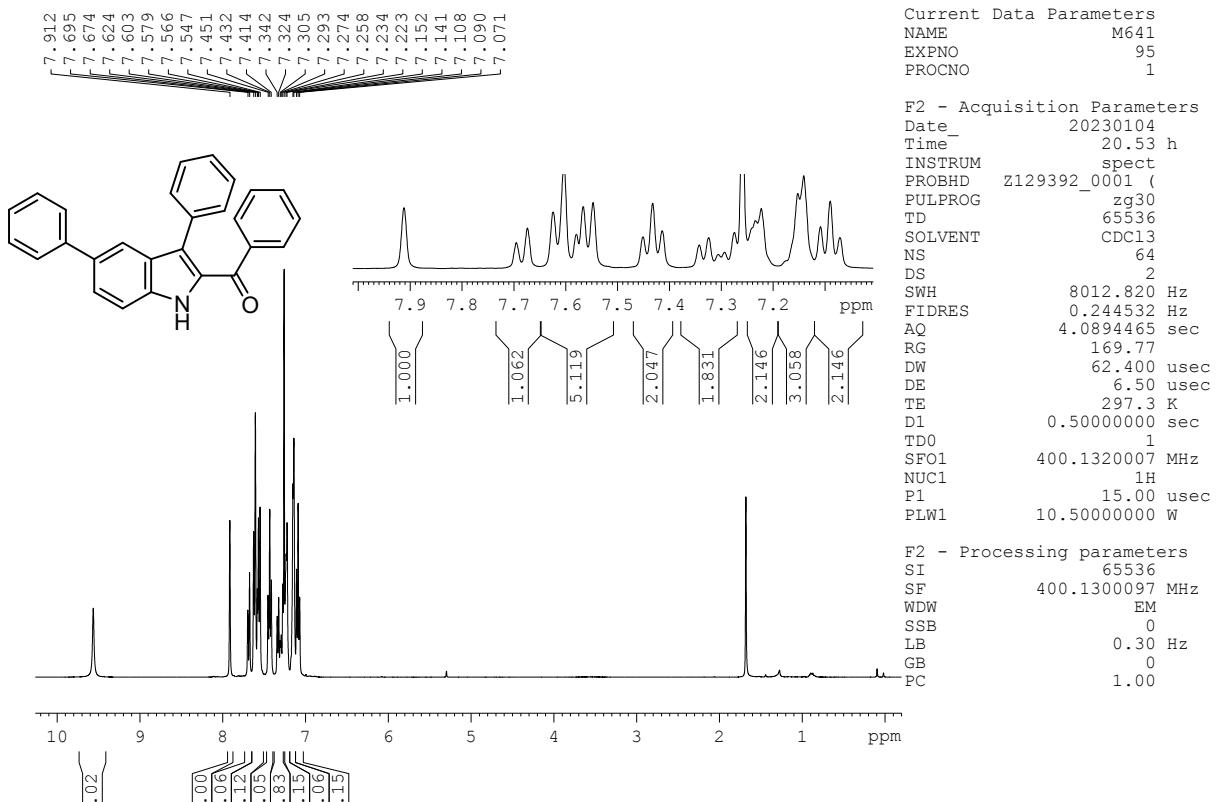


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3j

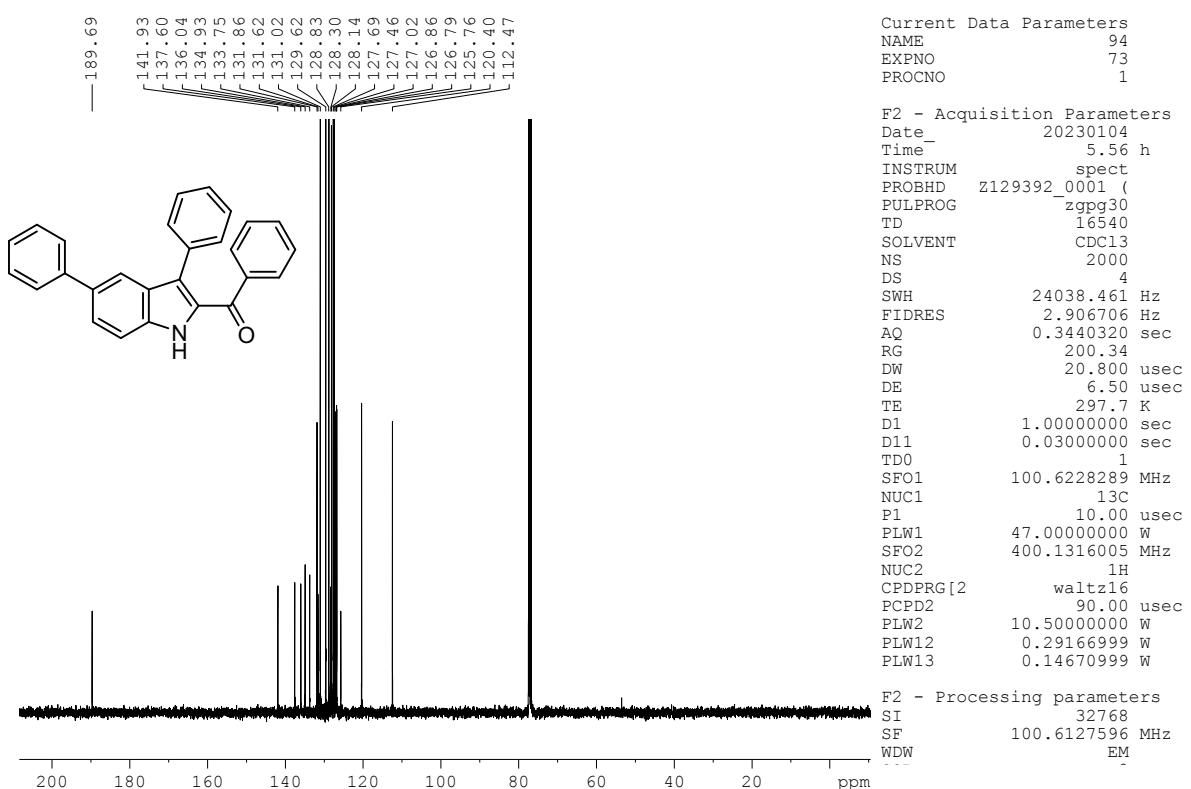


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3j

(3,5-diphenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3k

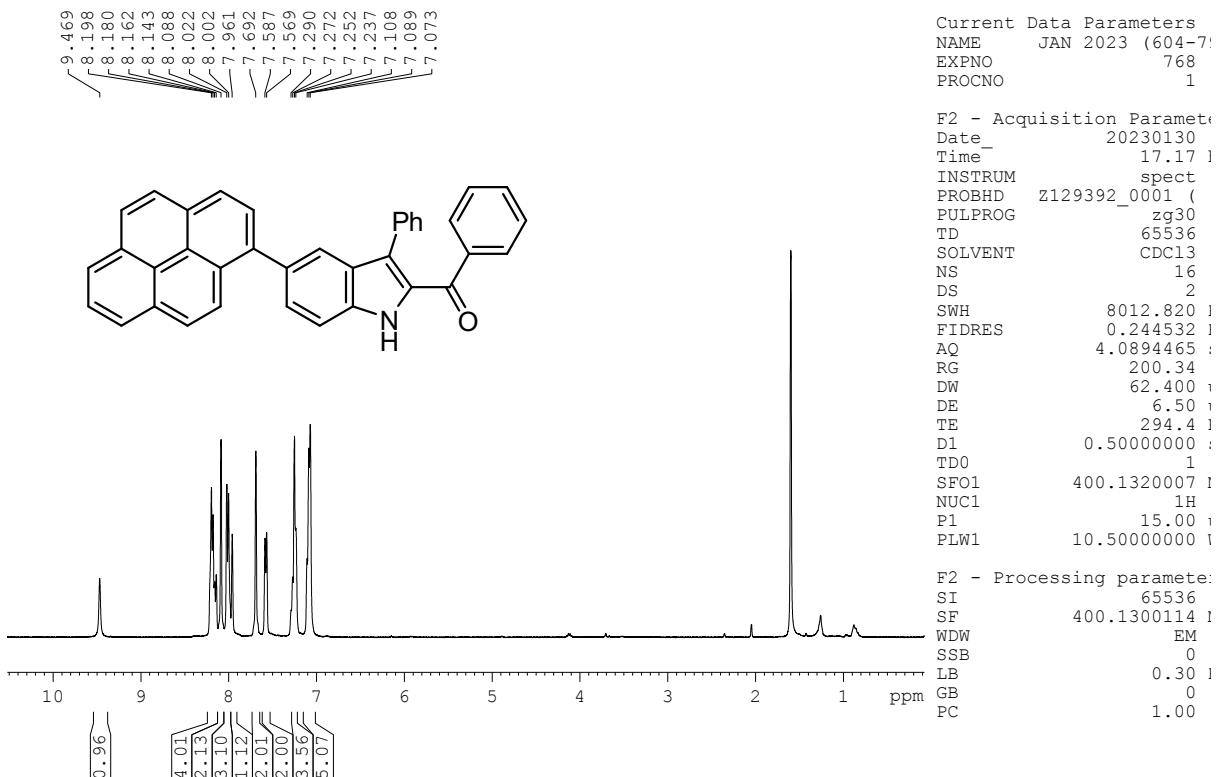


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3k

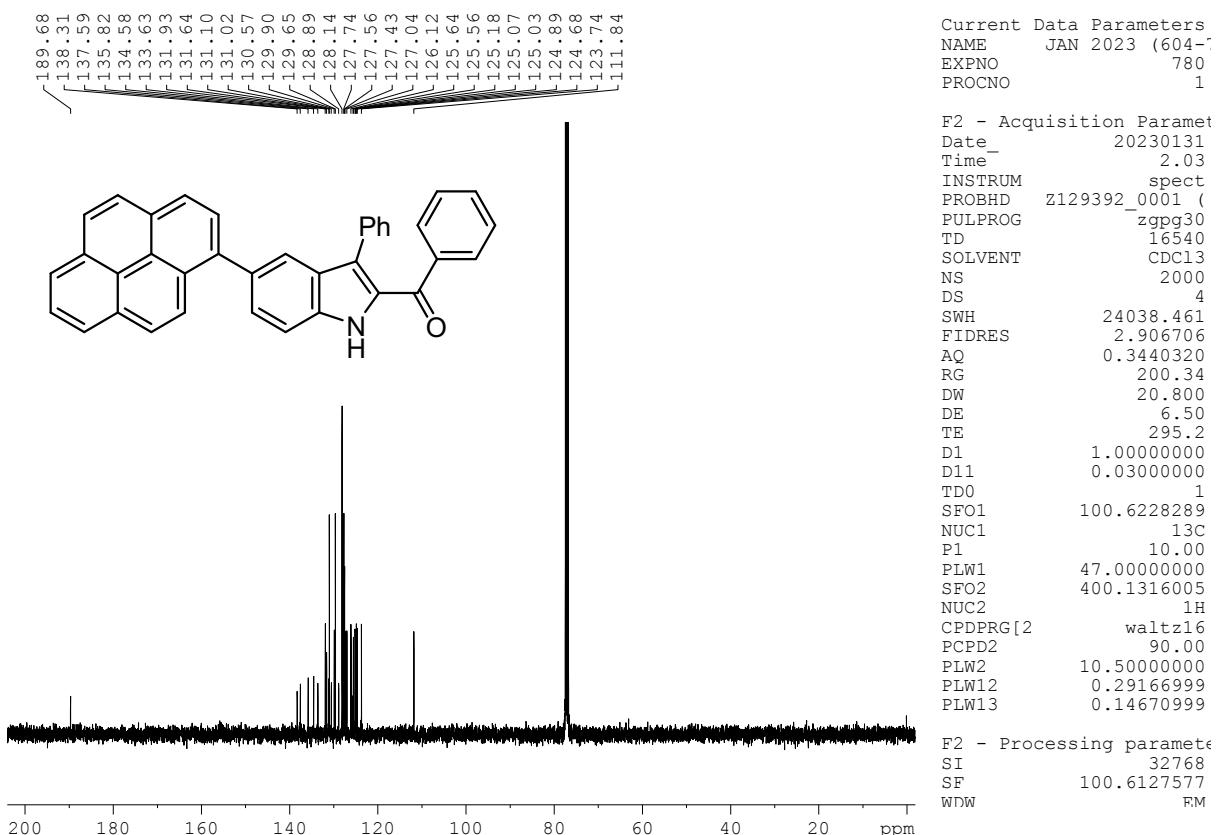


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3k**

phenyl(3-phenyl-5-(pyren-1-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3l

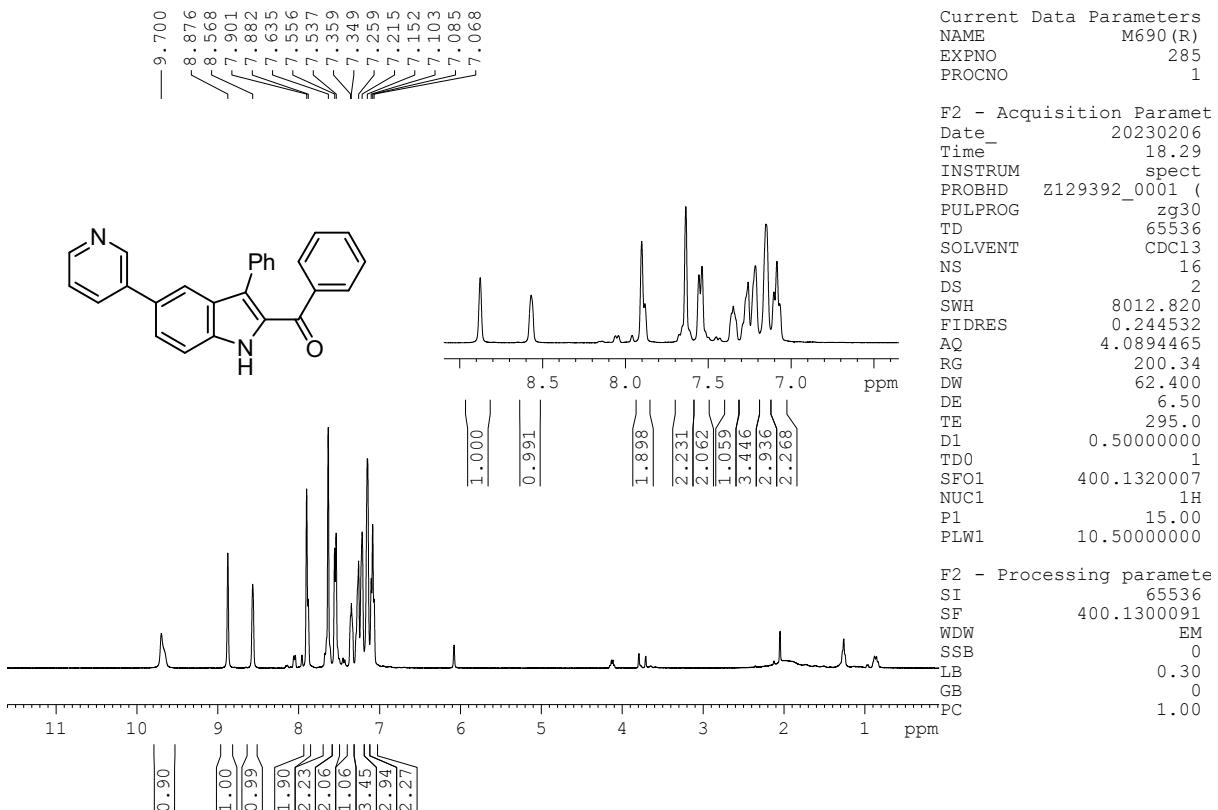


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3l

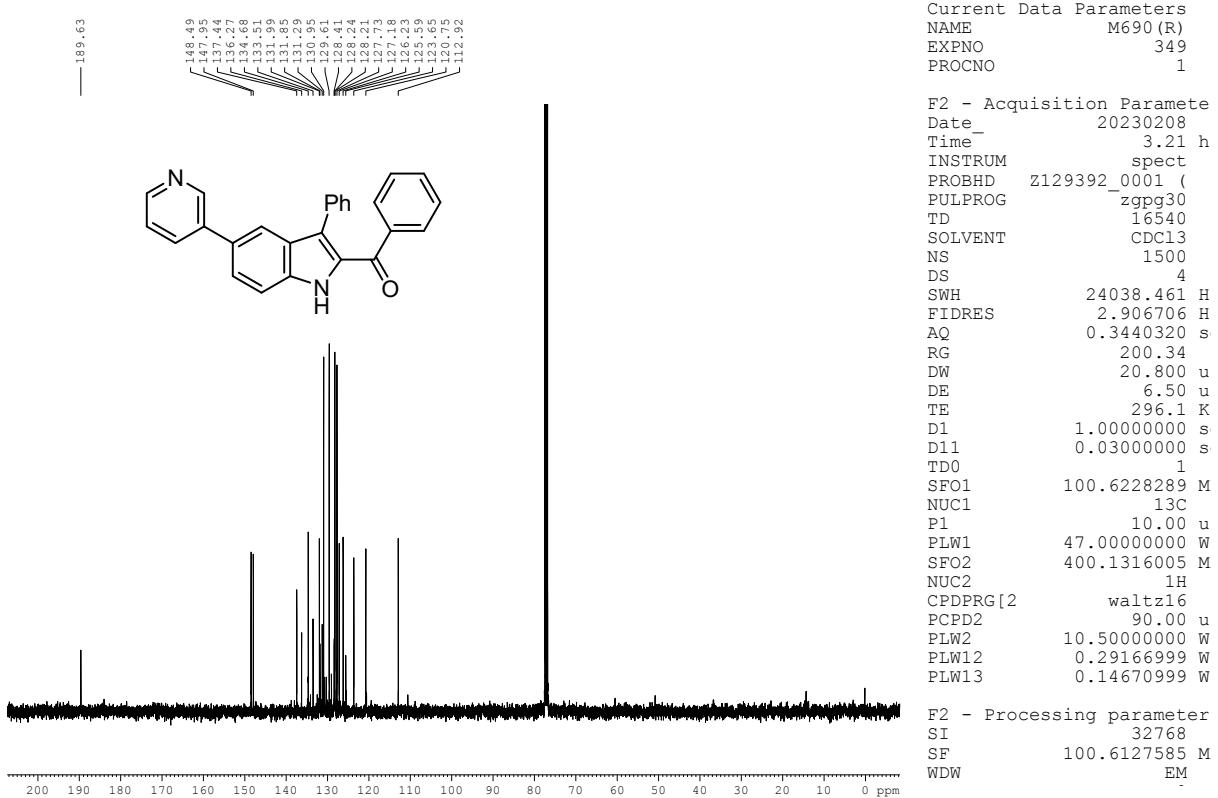


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3l

phenyl(3-phenyl-5-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone : 3m

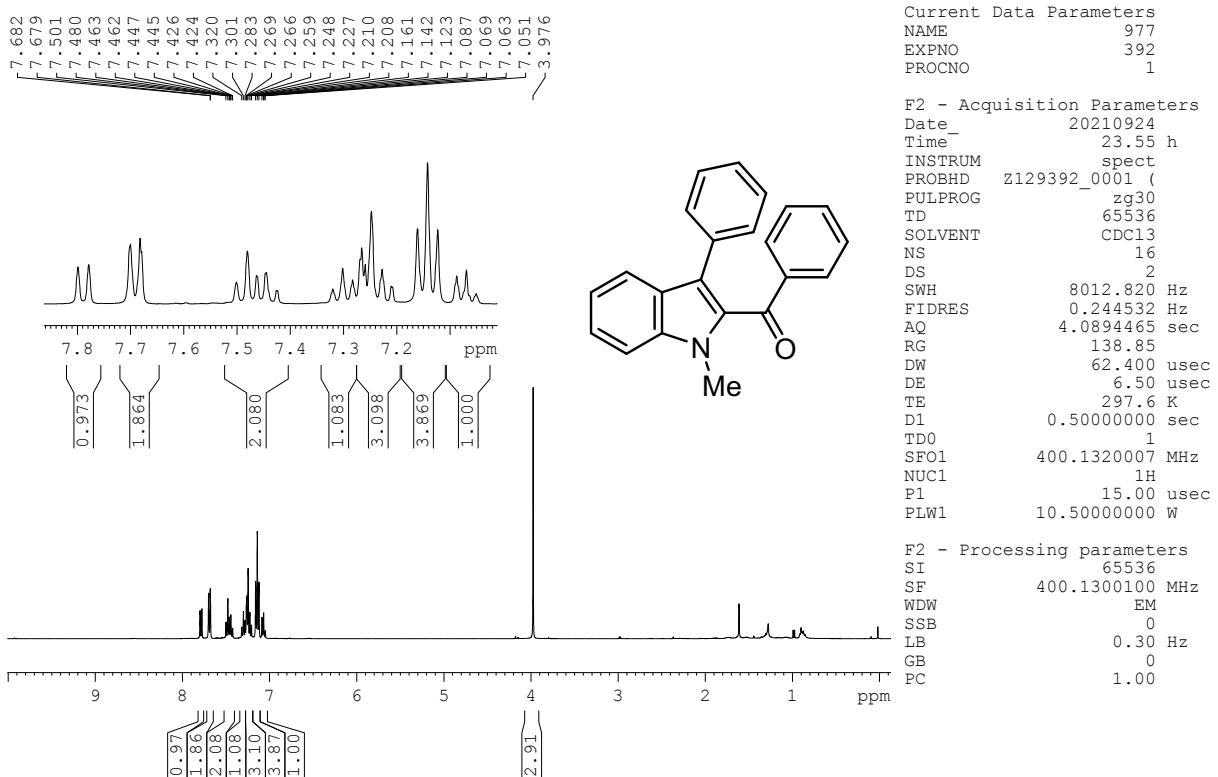


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3m

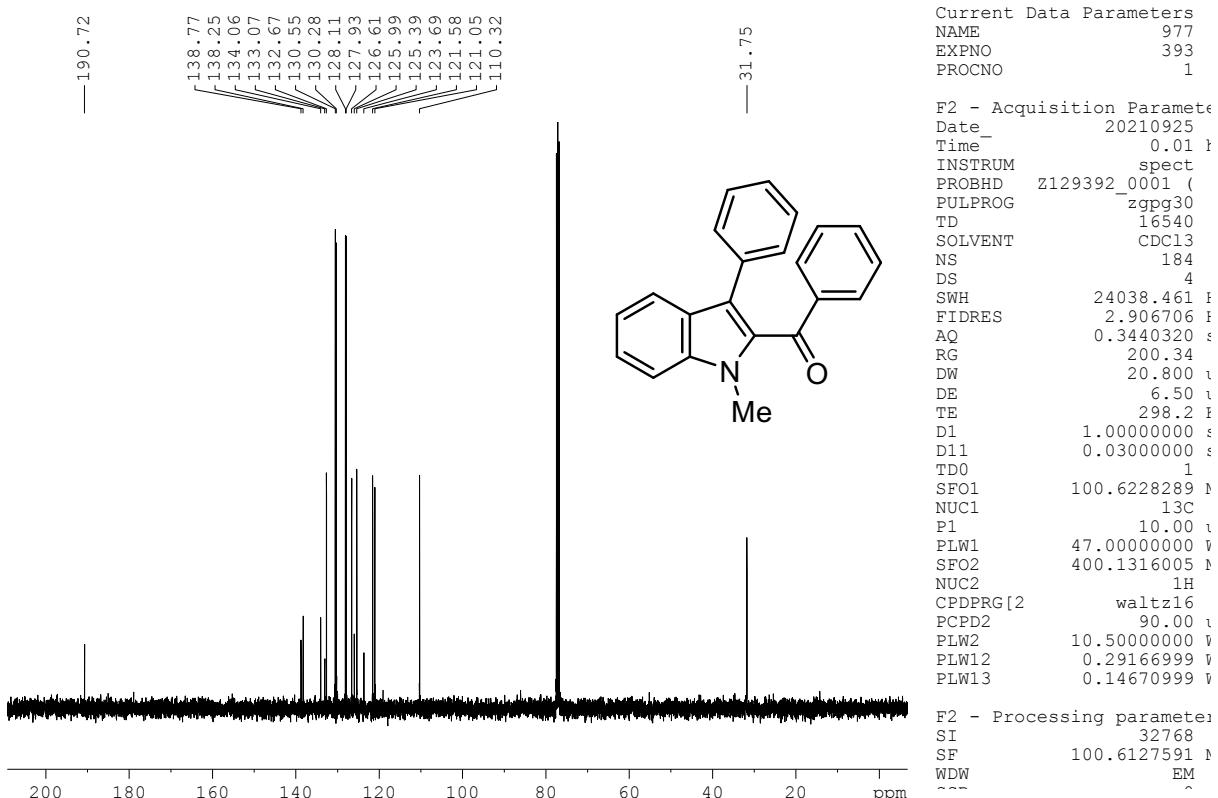


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{1H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3m

(1-methyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3n

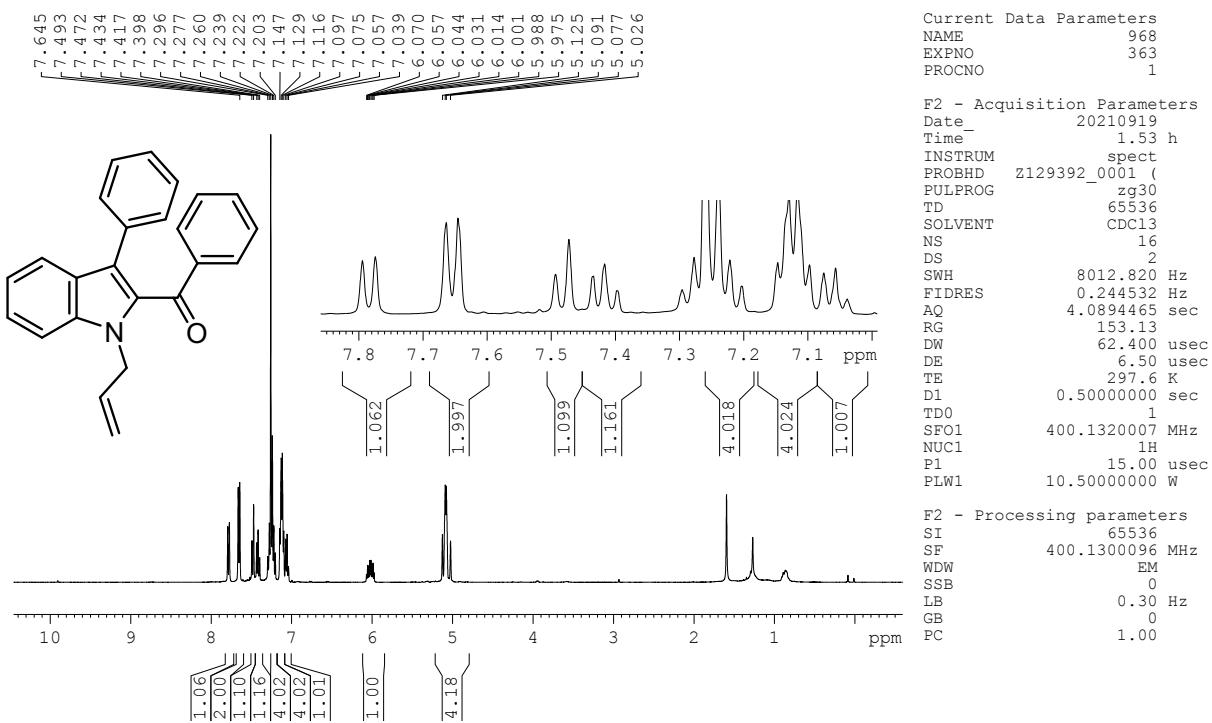


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3n**

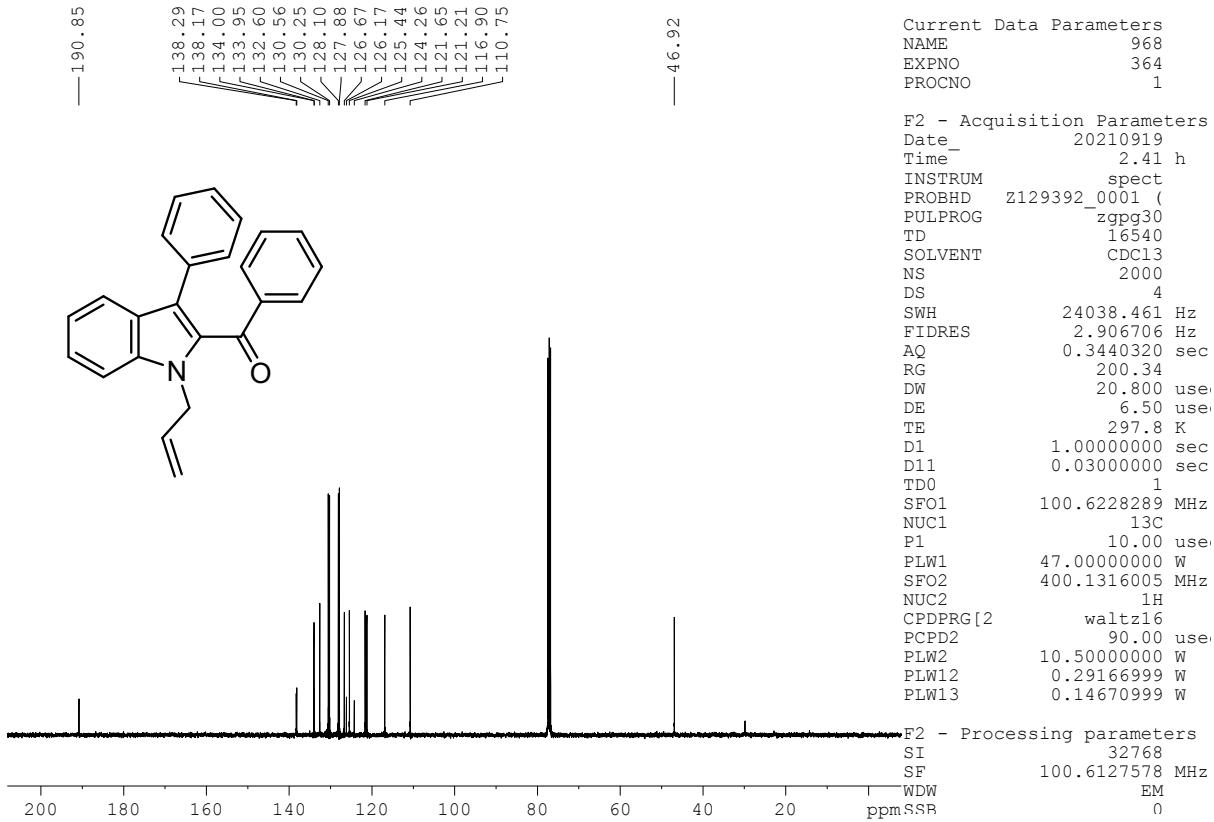


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3n**

(1-allyl-3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3o

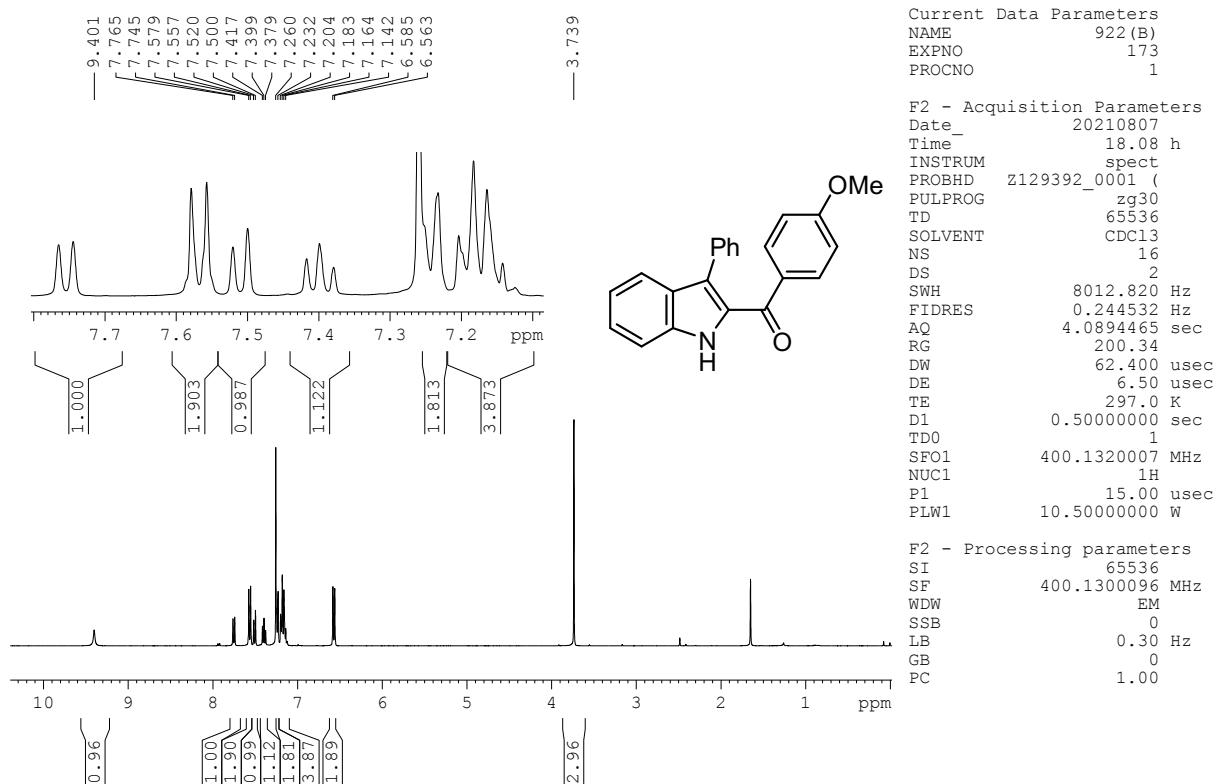


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound **3o**

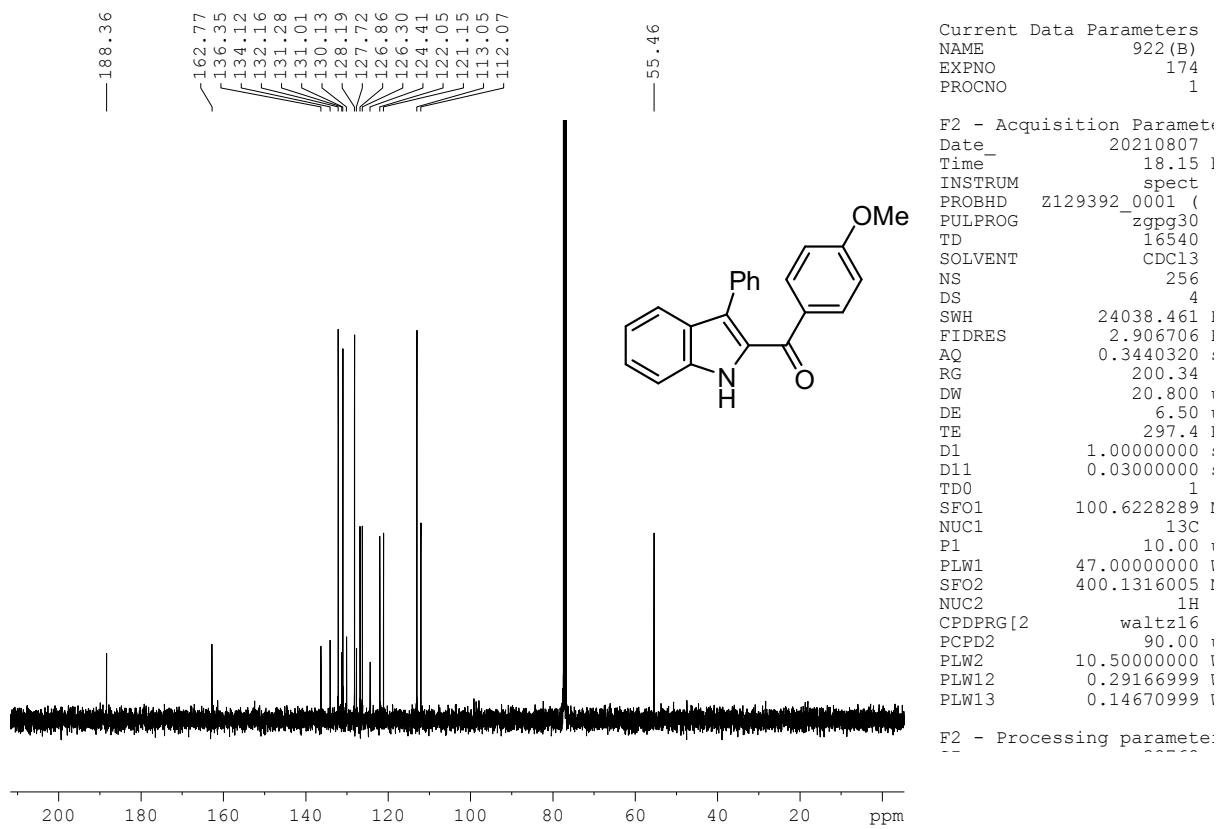


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3o**

(4-methoxyphenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3p

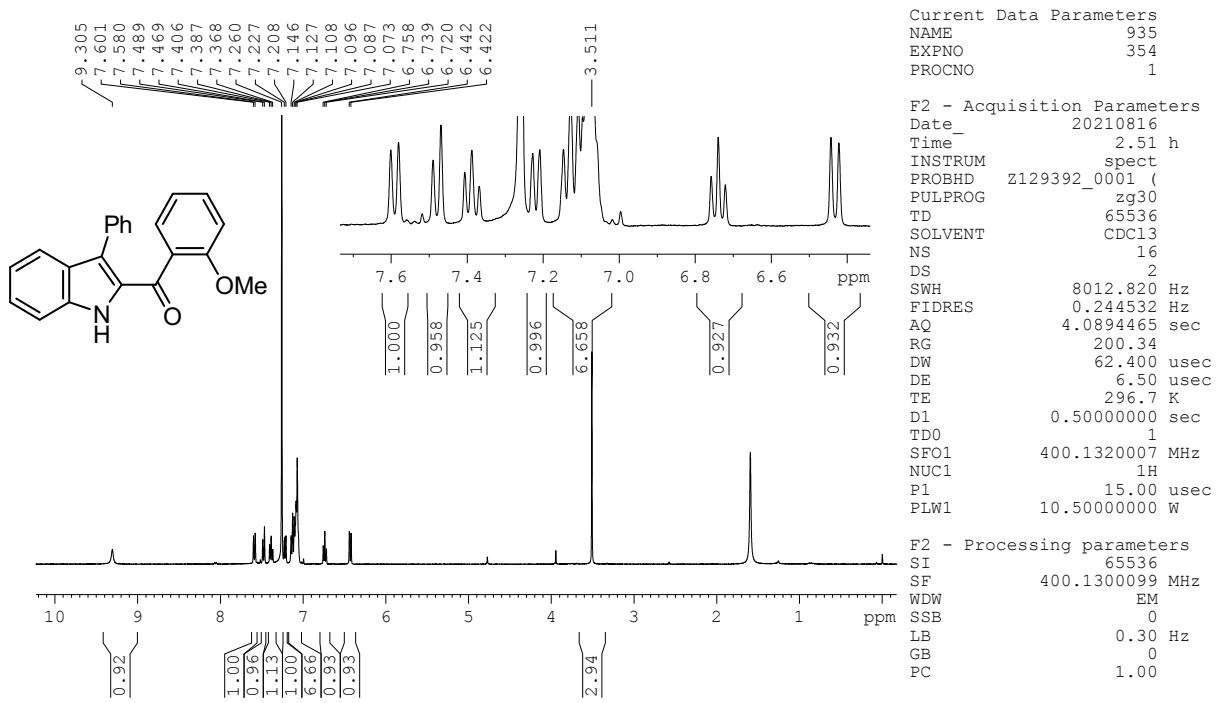


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3p

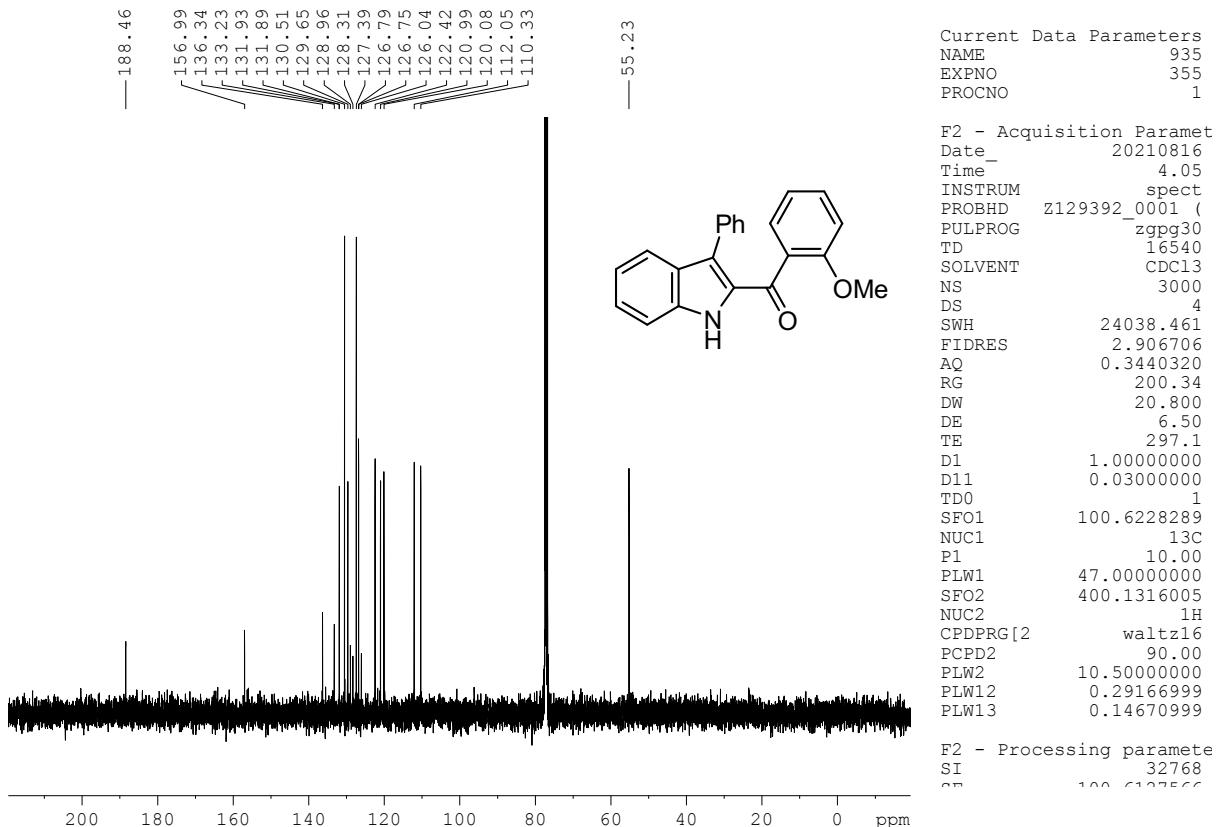


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3p

(2-methoxyphenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3q

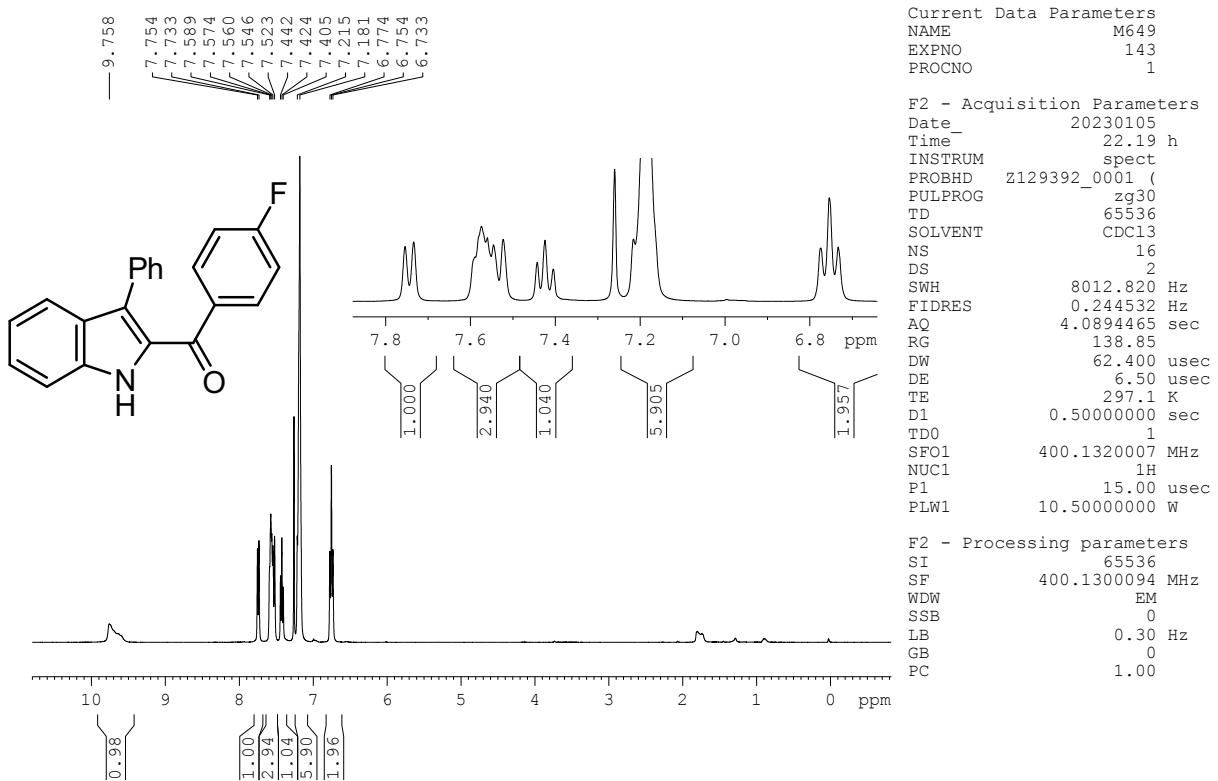


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3q

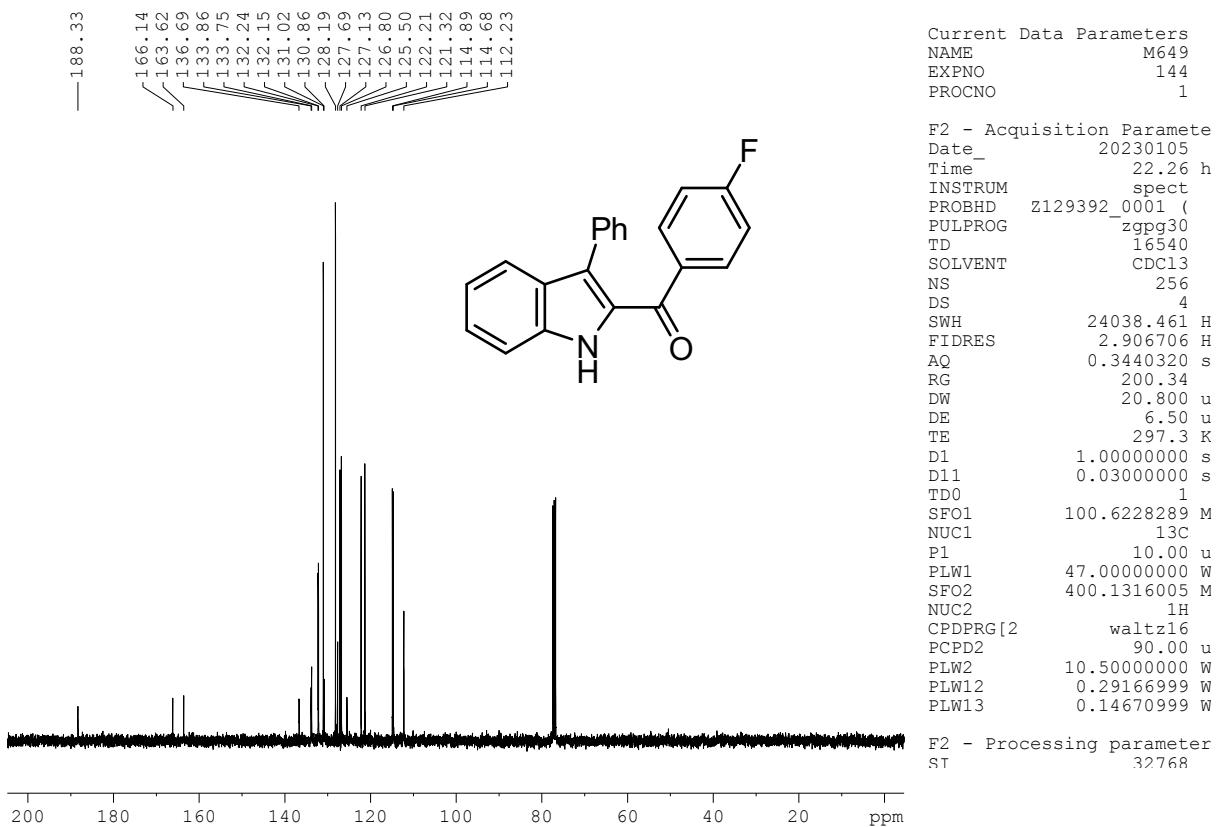


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3q

(4-fluorophenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3r

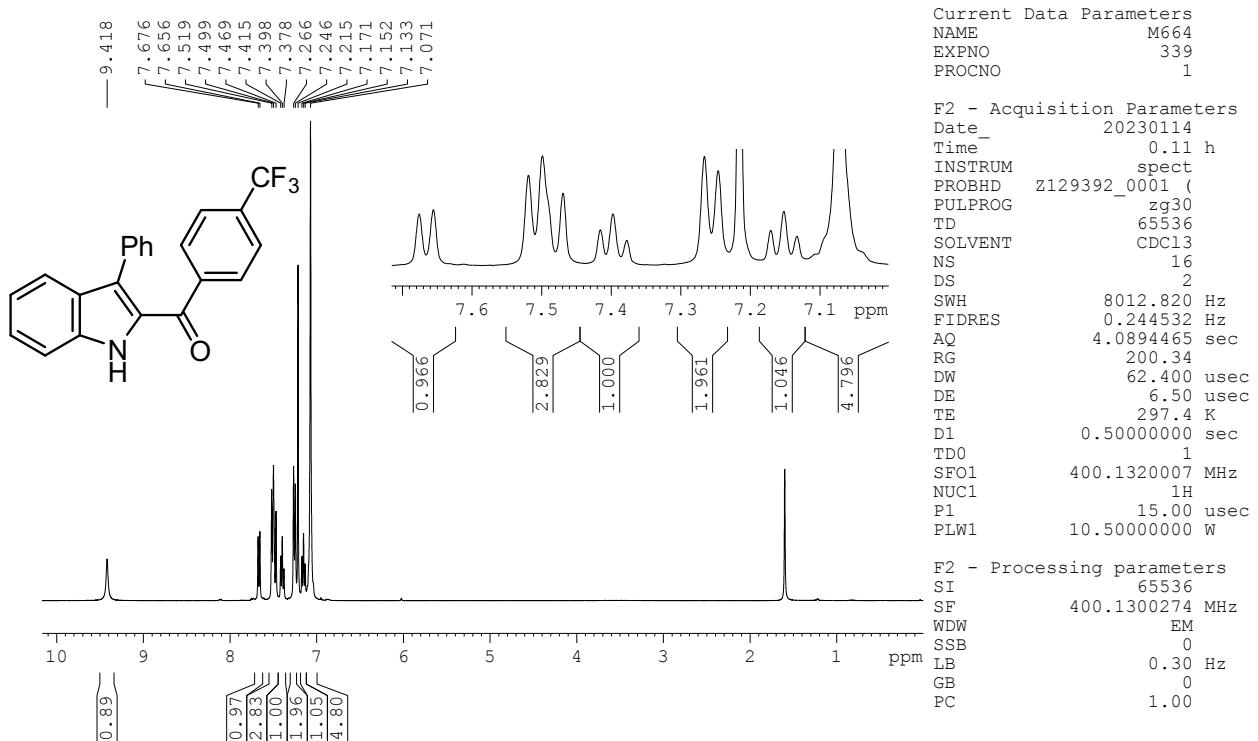


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3r

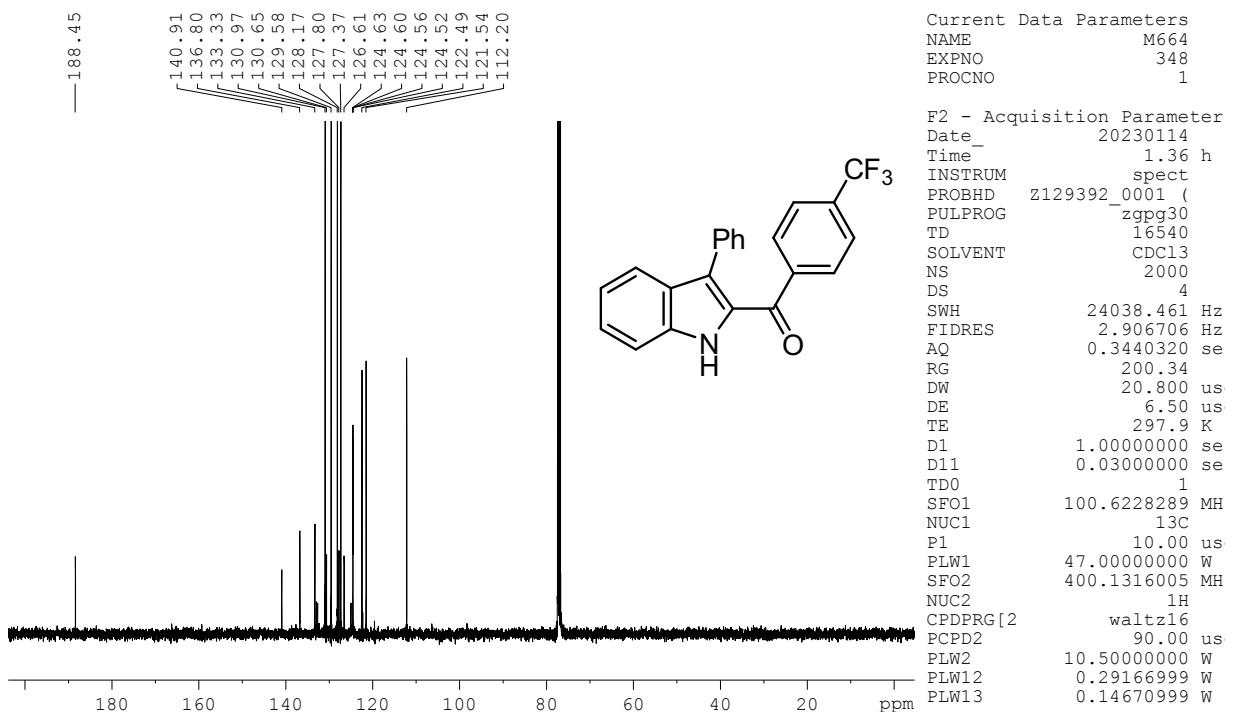


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3r

(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone: 3s

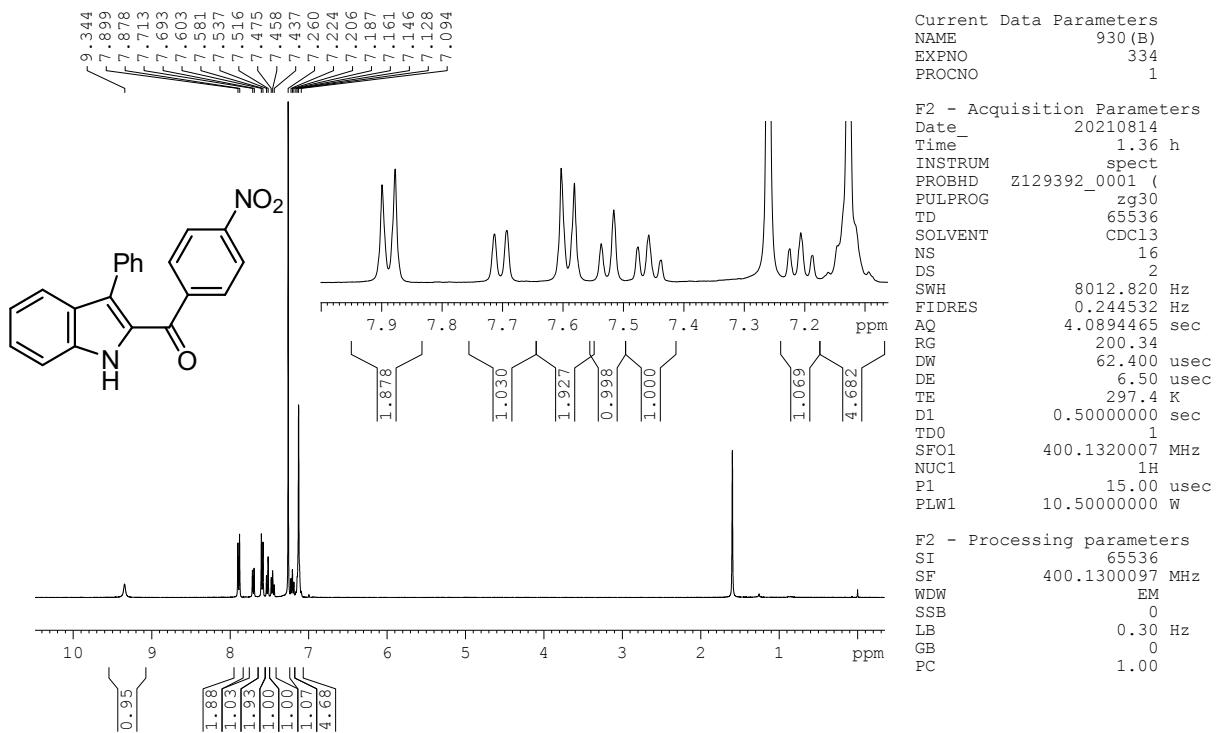


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3s

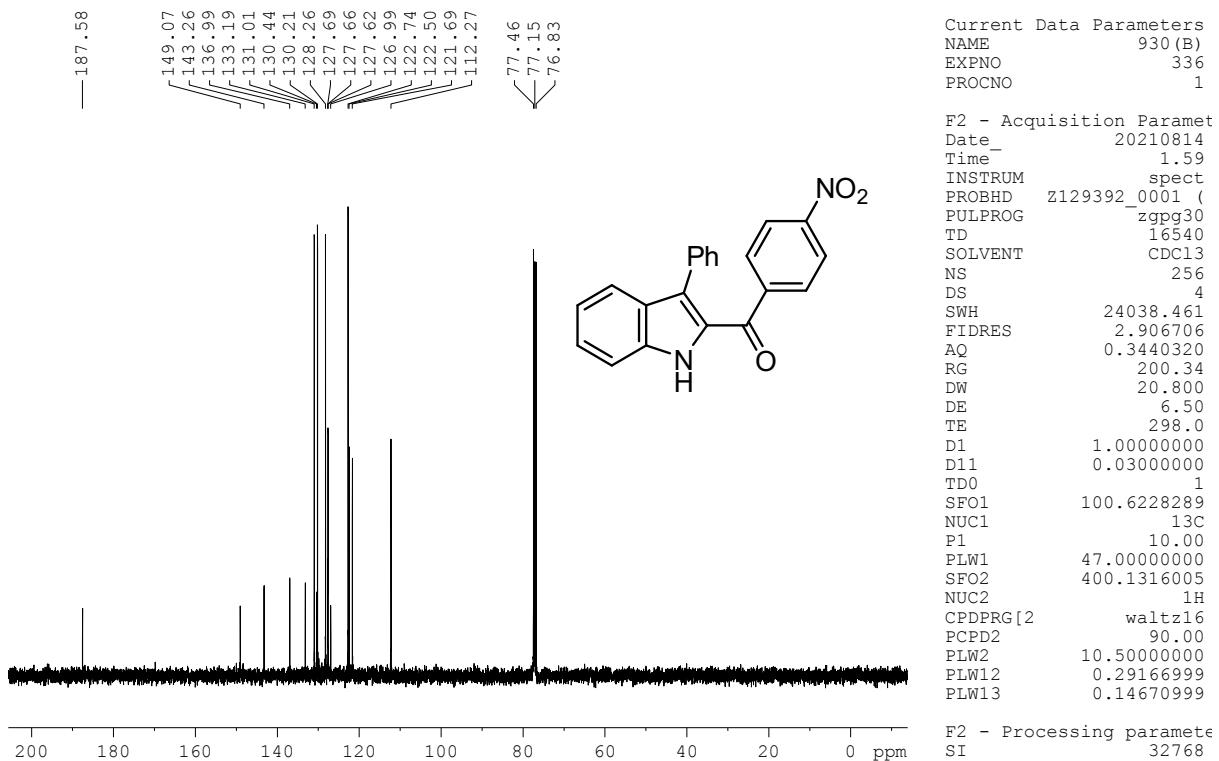


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3s

(4-nitrophenyl)(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3t

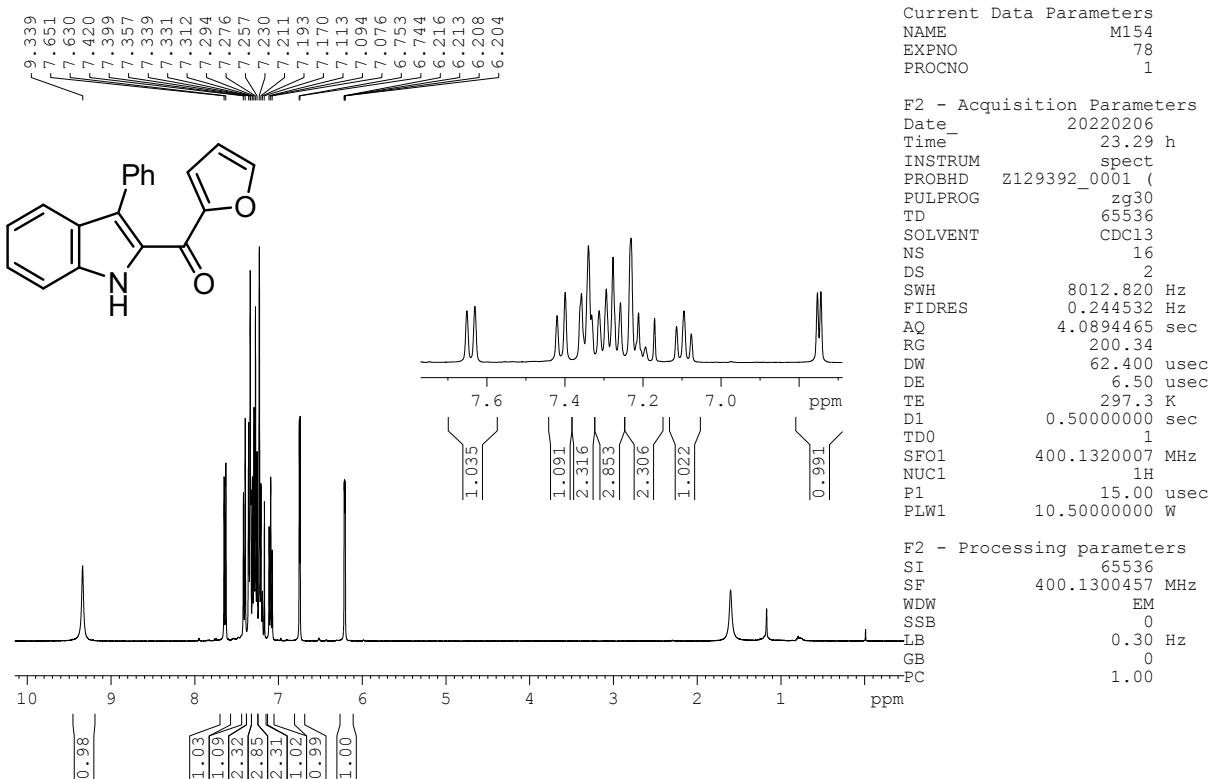


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3t

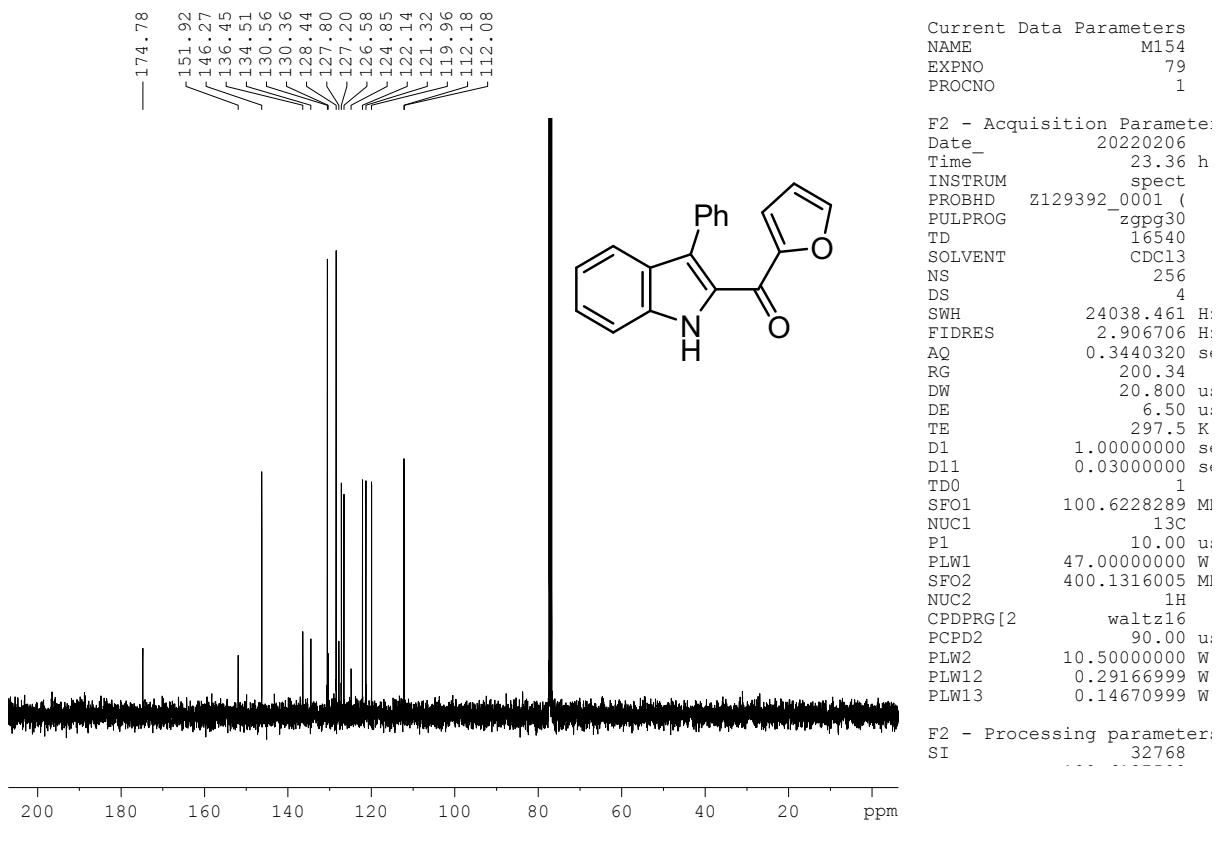


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3t

furan-2-yl(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methanone: 3u

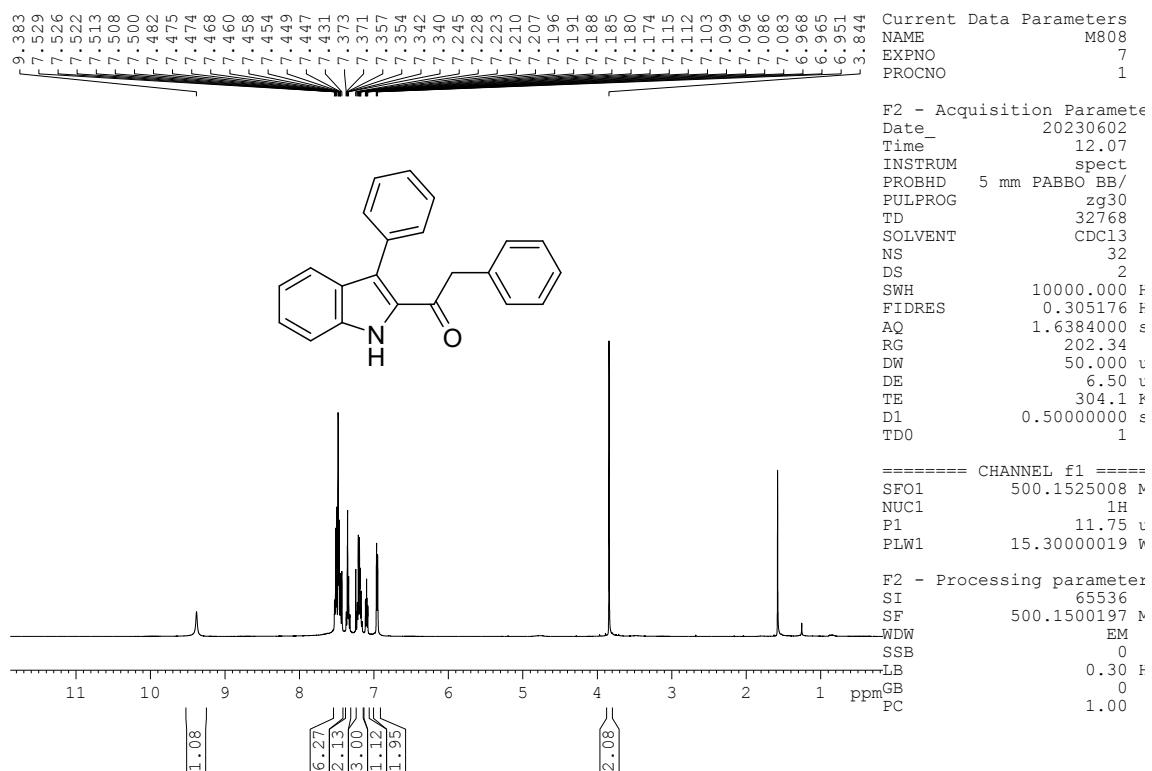


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3u

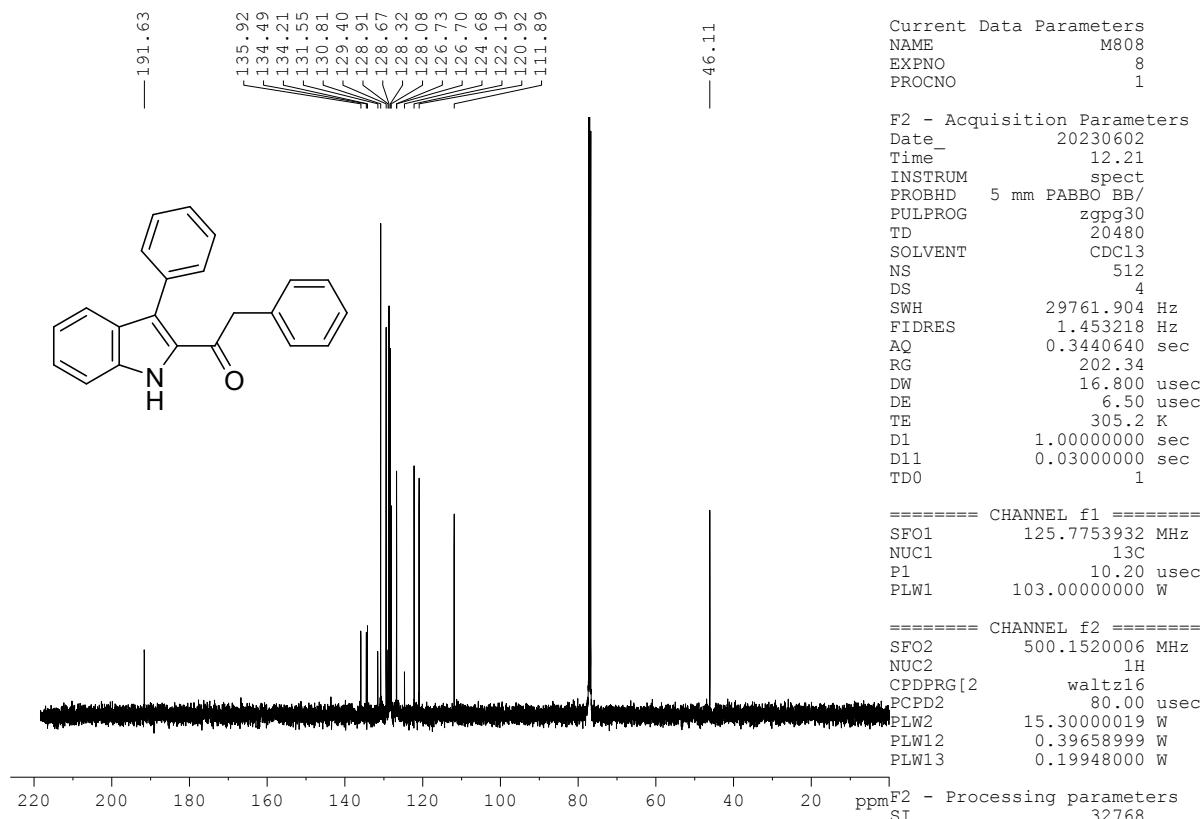


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 3u

2-phenyl-1-(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)ethan-1-one:3v

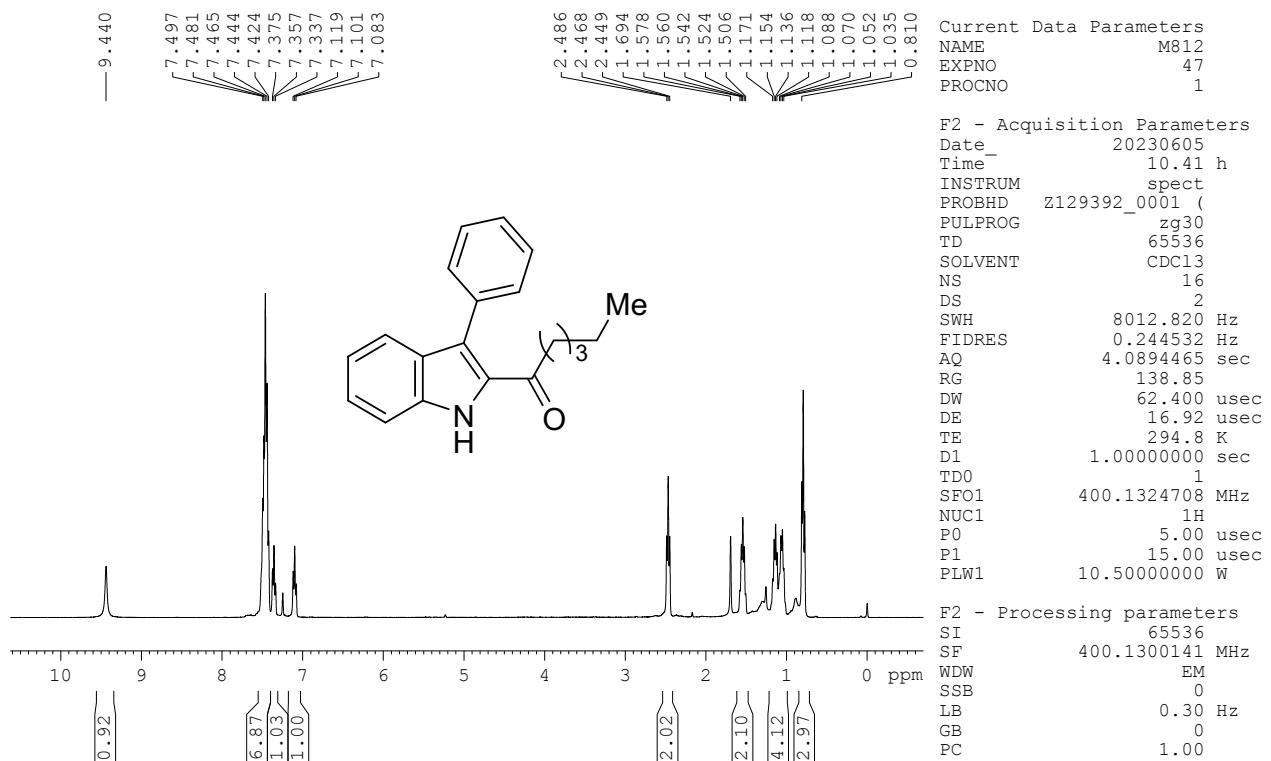


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3v

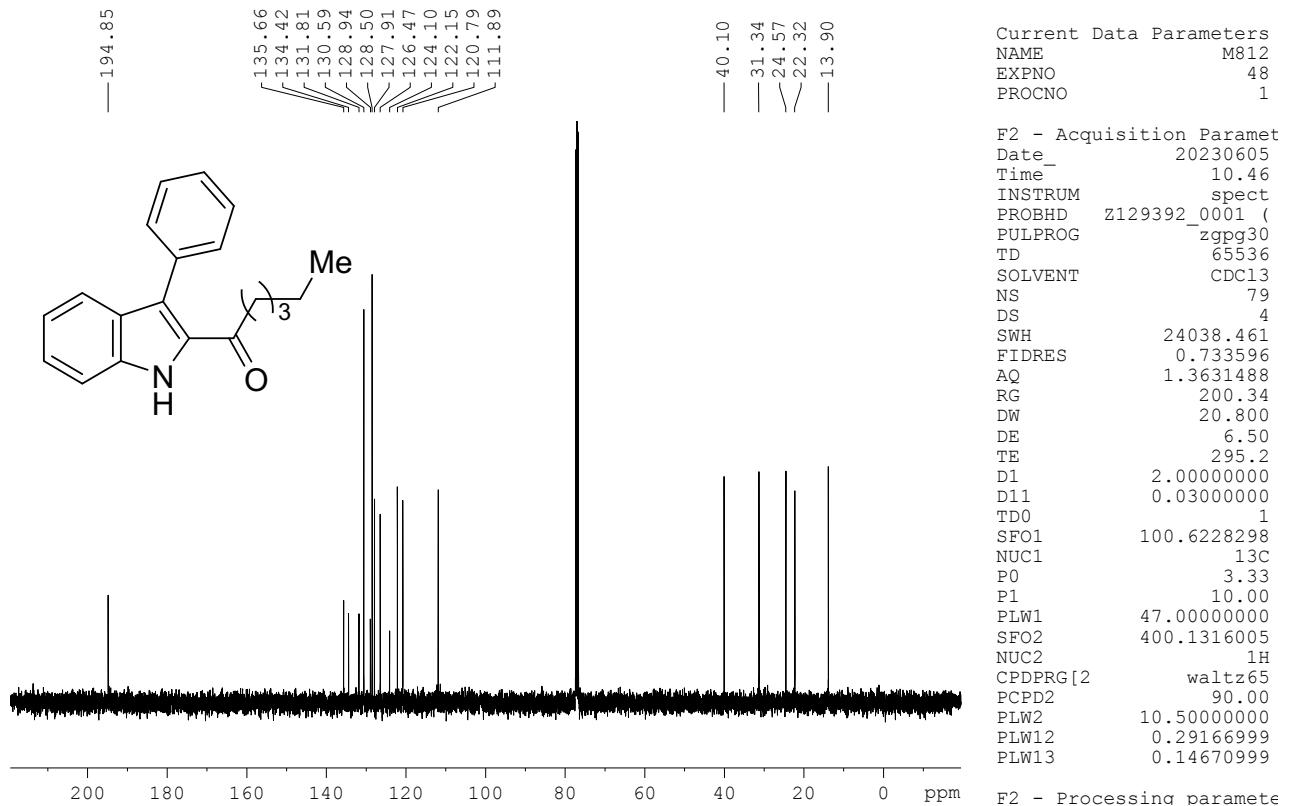


¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3v

1-(3-phenyl-1H-indol-2-yl)hexan-1-one: 3w

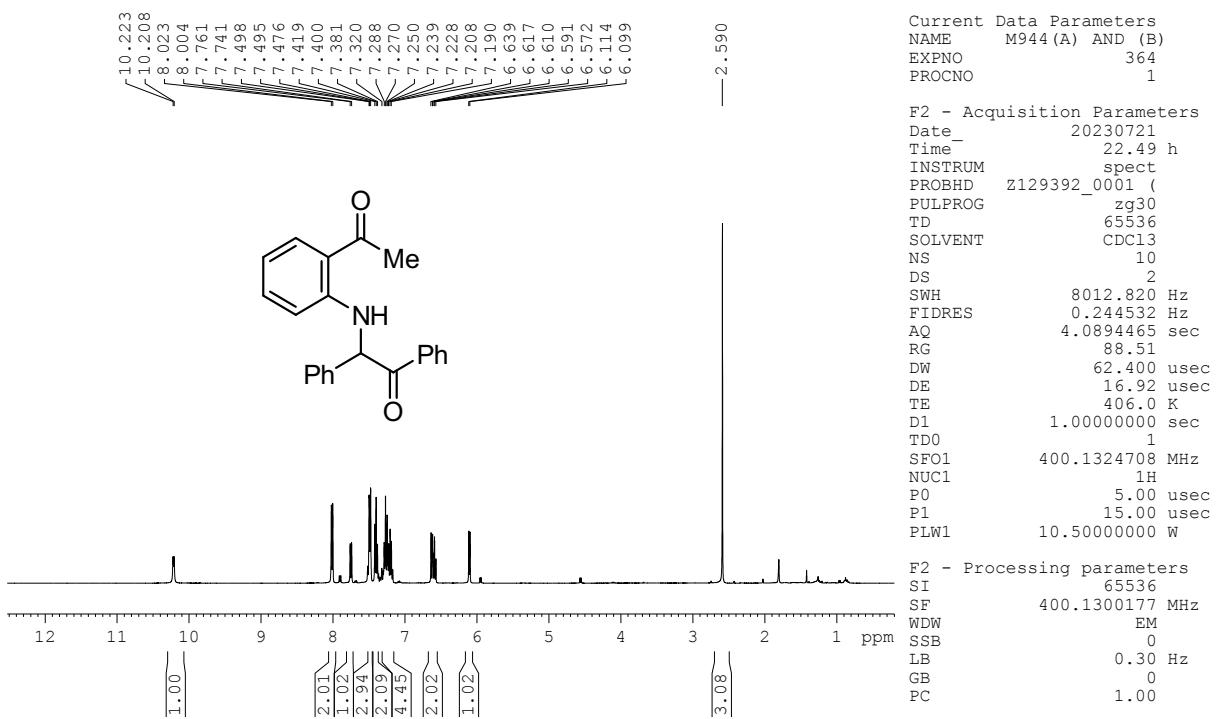


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3w

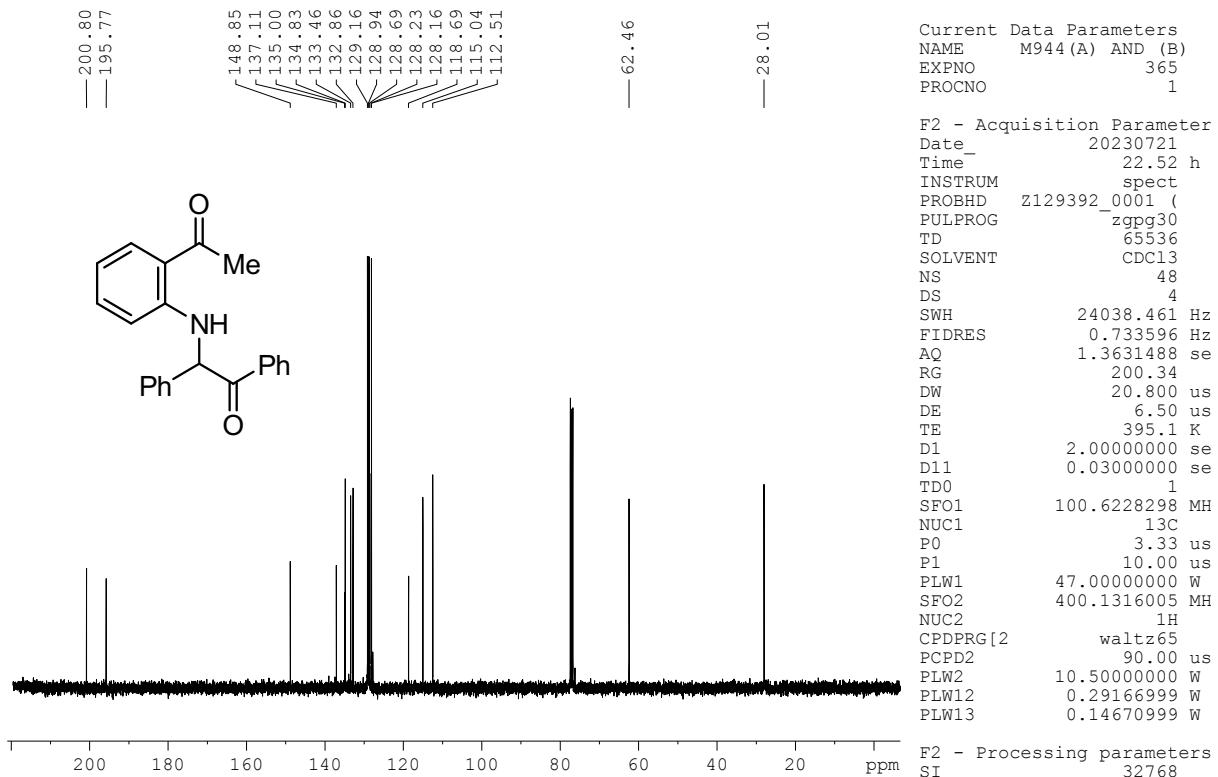


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 3w

2-((2-acetylphenyl)amino)-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one: 5

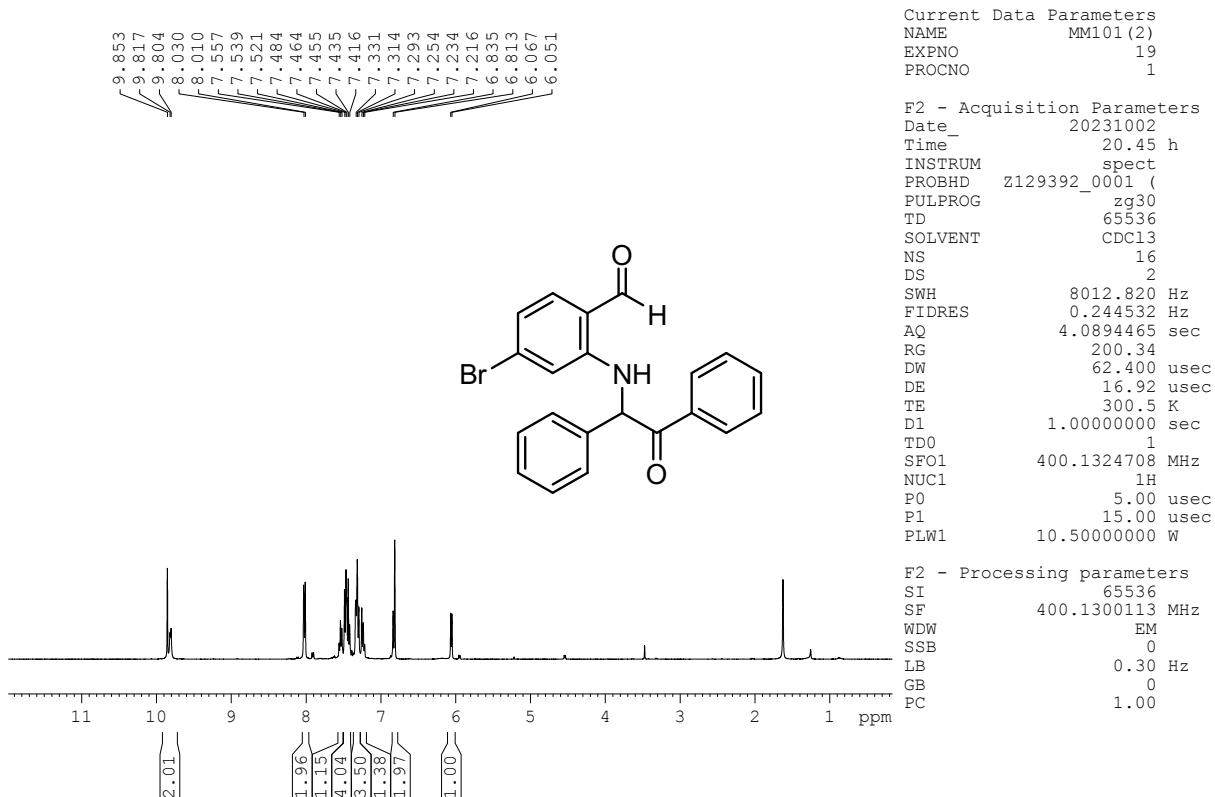


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 5

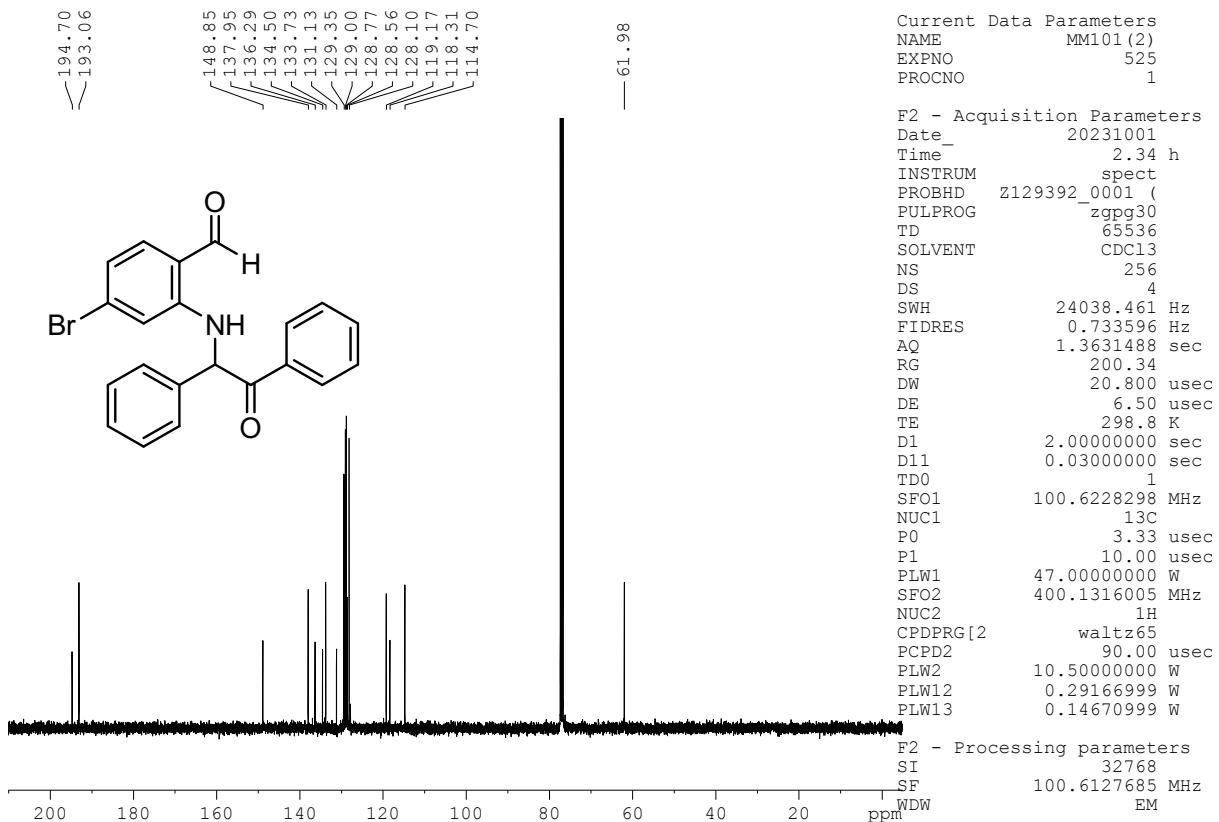


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 5

4-bromo-2-((2-oxo-1,2-diphenylethyl)amino)benzaldehyde: 5'

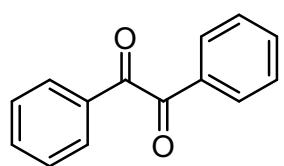
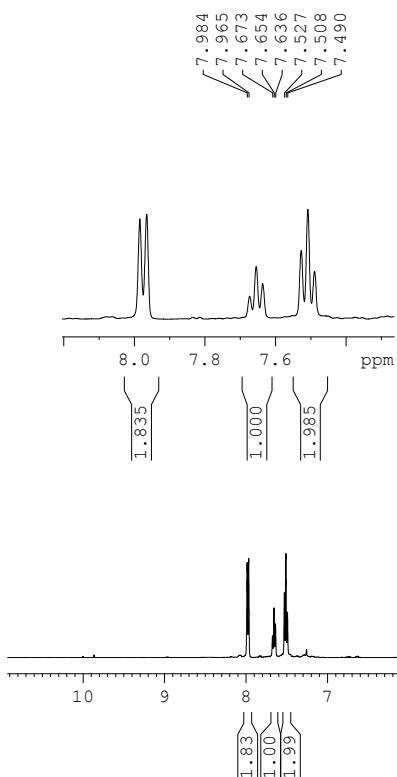


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of **5'**



$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of **5'**

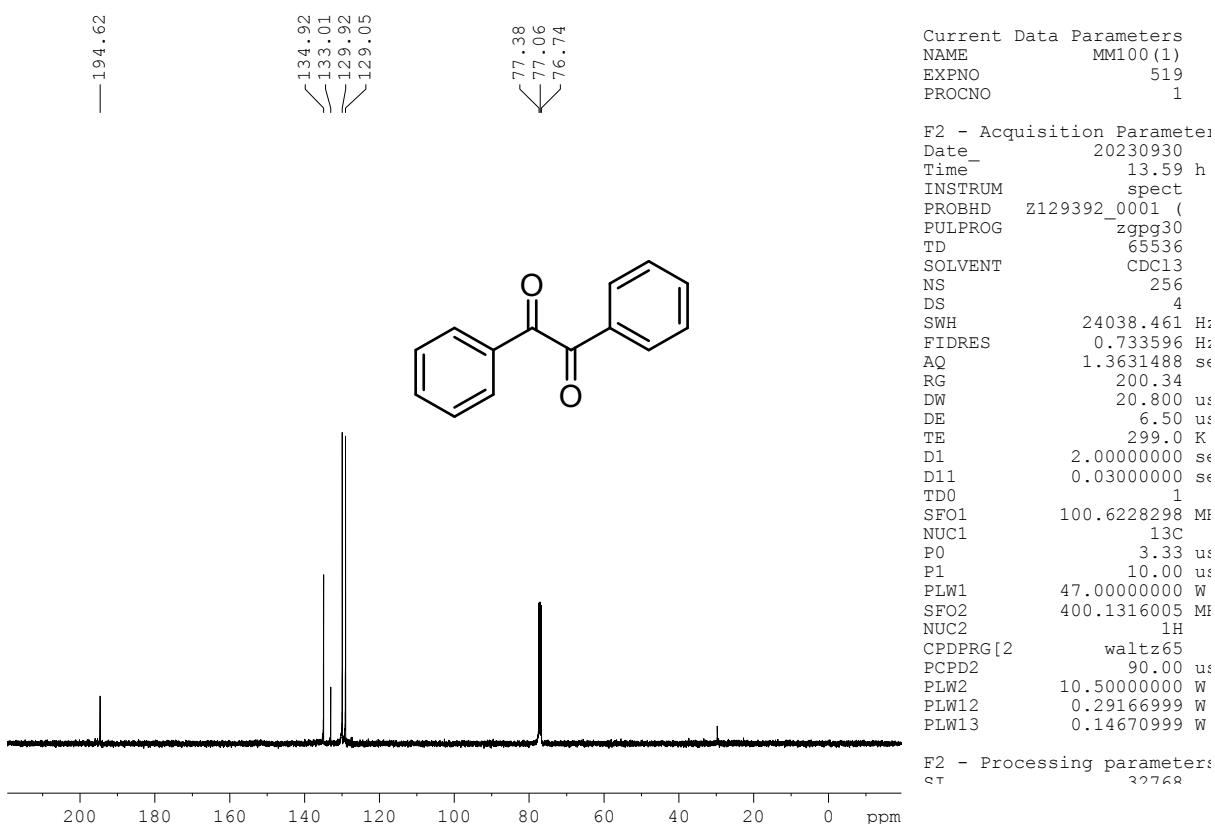
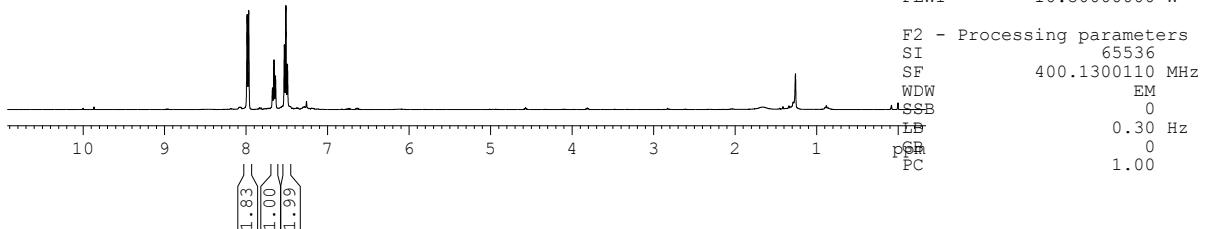
Benzil



Current Data Parameters
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EXPNO 18
PROCNO 1

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TD 65536
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NS 5
DS 2
SWH 8012.820 Hz
FIDRES 0.244532 Hz
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RG 153.13
DW 62.400 usec
DE 16.92 usec
TE 300.6 K
D1 1.0000000 sec
TD0 1
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NUC1 1H
P0 5.00 usec
P1 15.00 usec
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F2 - Processing parameters
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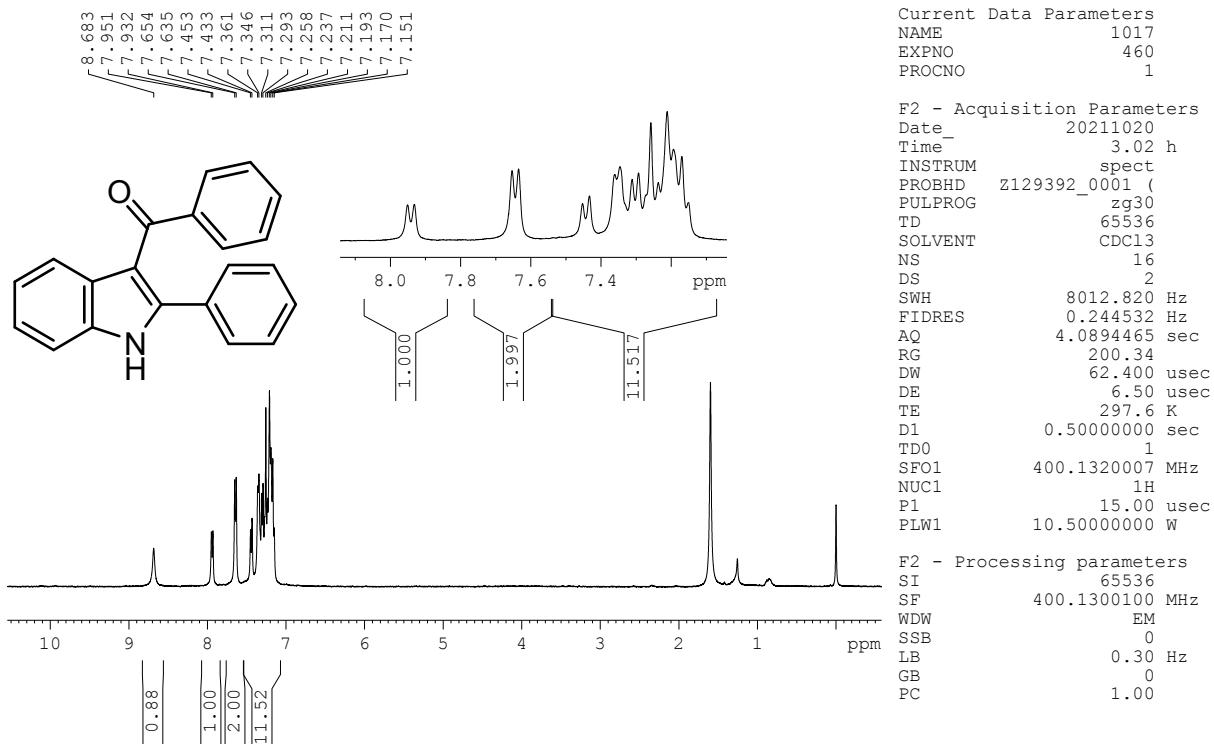


Current Data Parameters
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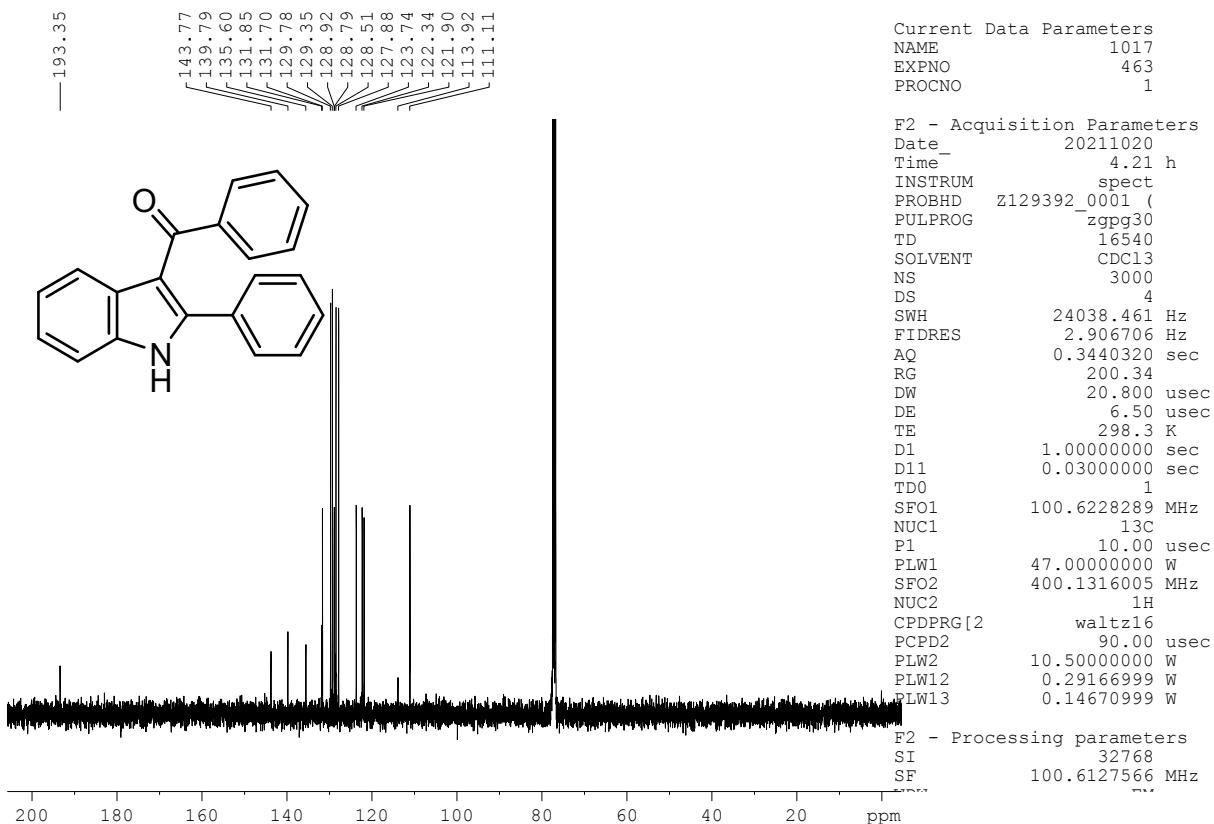
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RG 200.34
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DE 6.50 usec
TE 299.0 K
D1 2.00000000 sec
D11 0.03000000 sec
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SFO1 100.6228298 MHz
NUC1 ¹³C
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P1 10.00 usec
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F2 - Processing parameters
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phenyl(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone: 6a

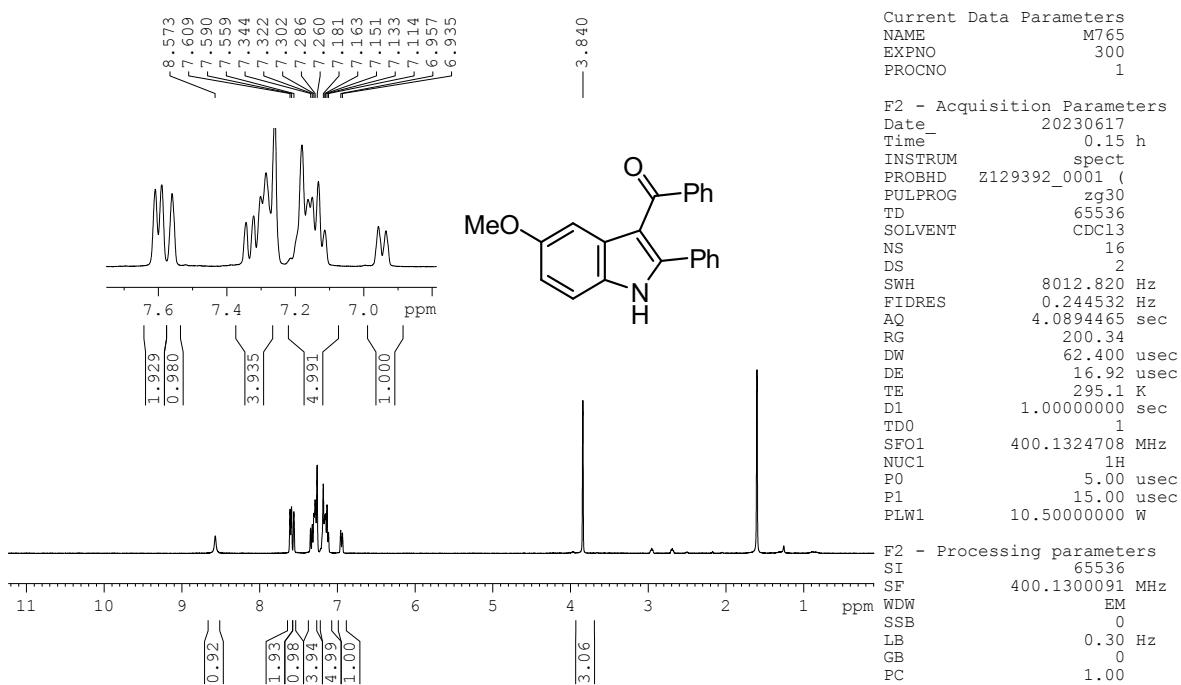


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6a

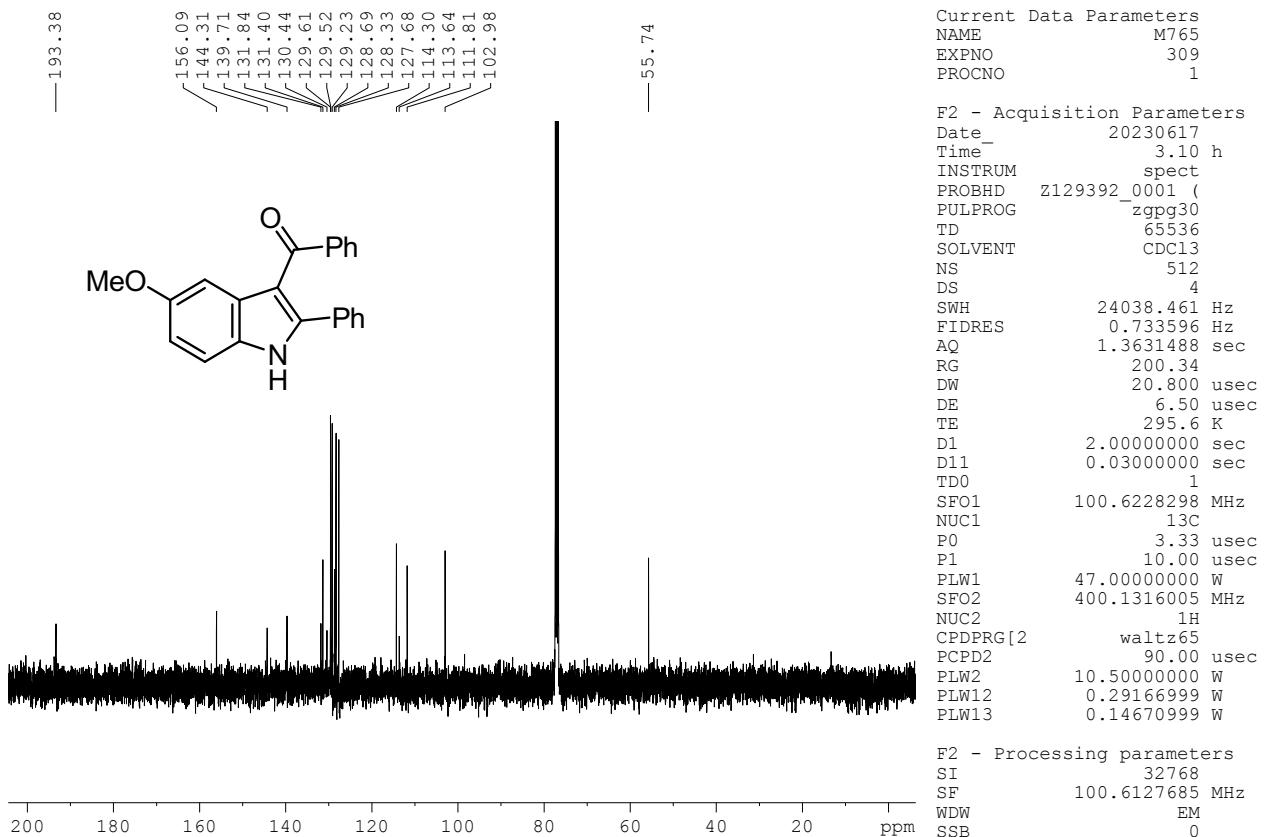


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6a

(5-methoxy-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 6b

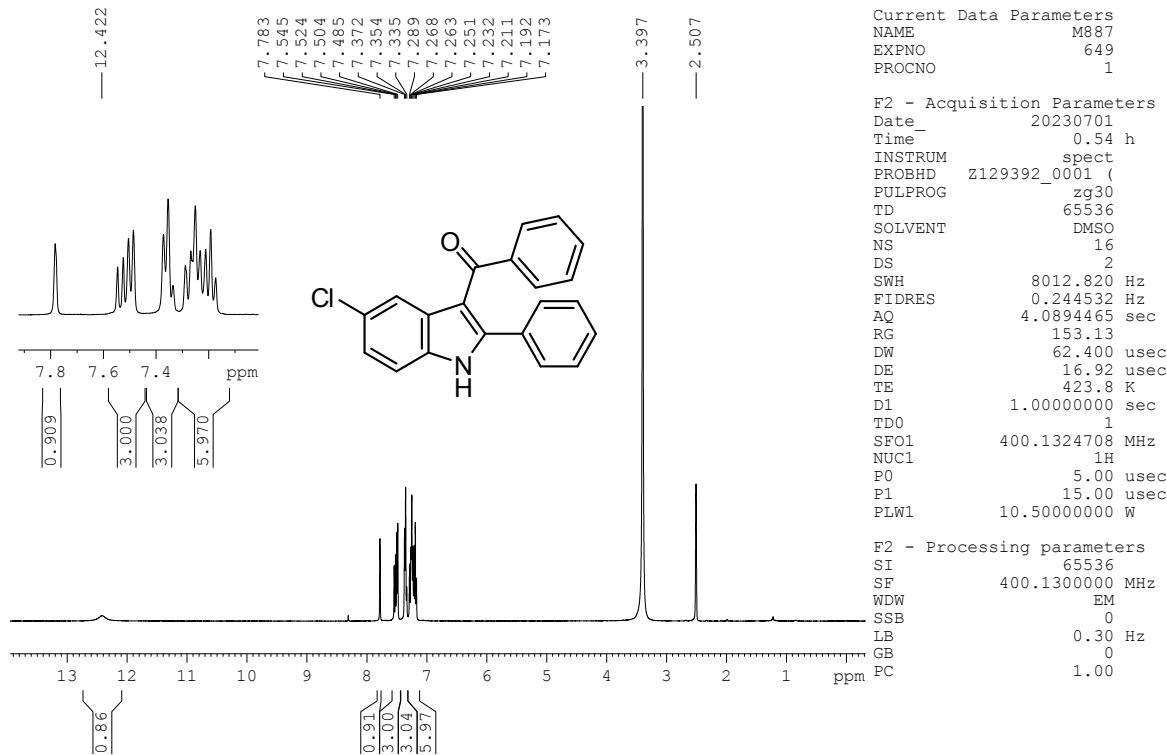


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **6b**

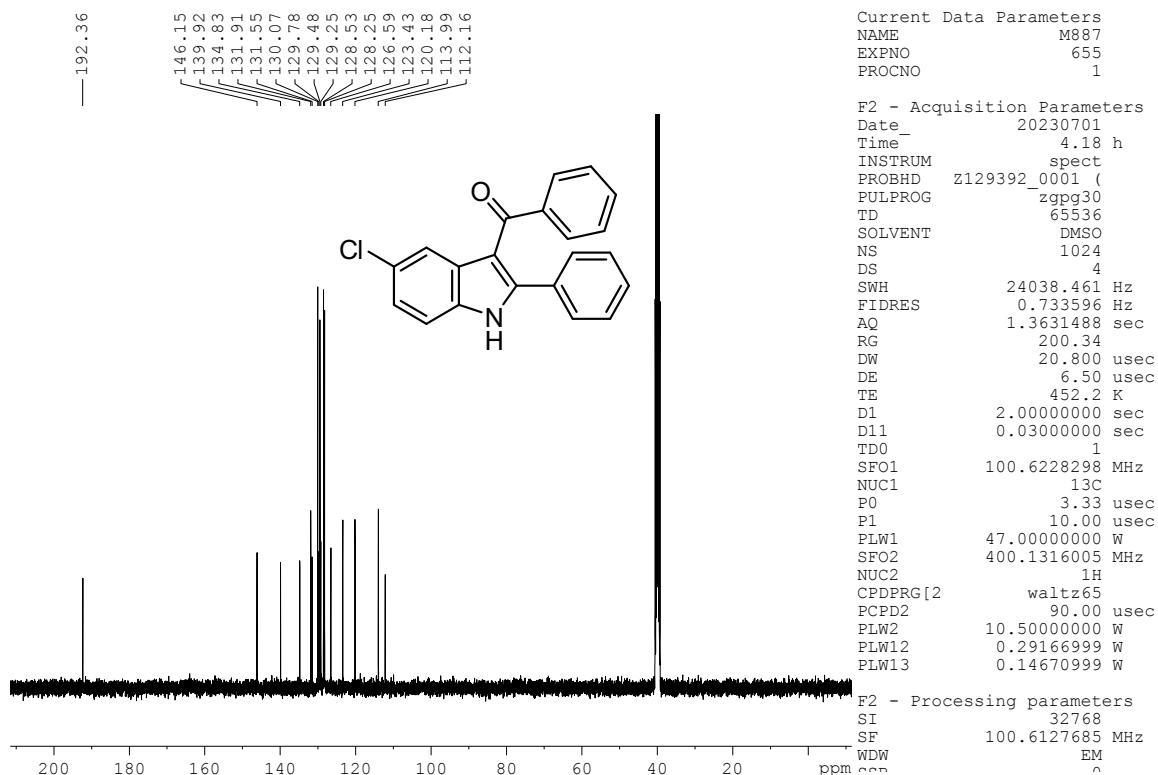


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **6b**

(5-chloro-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 6c

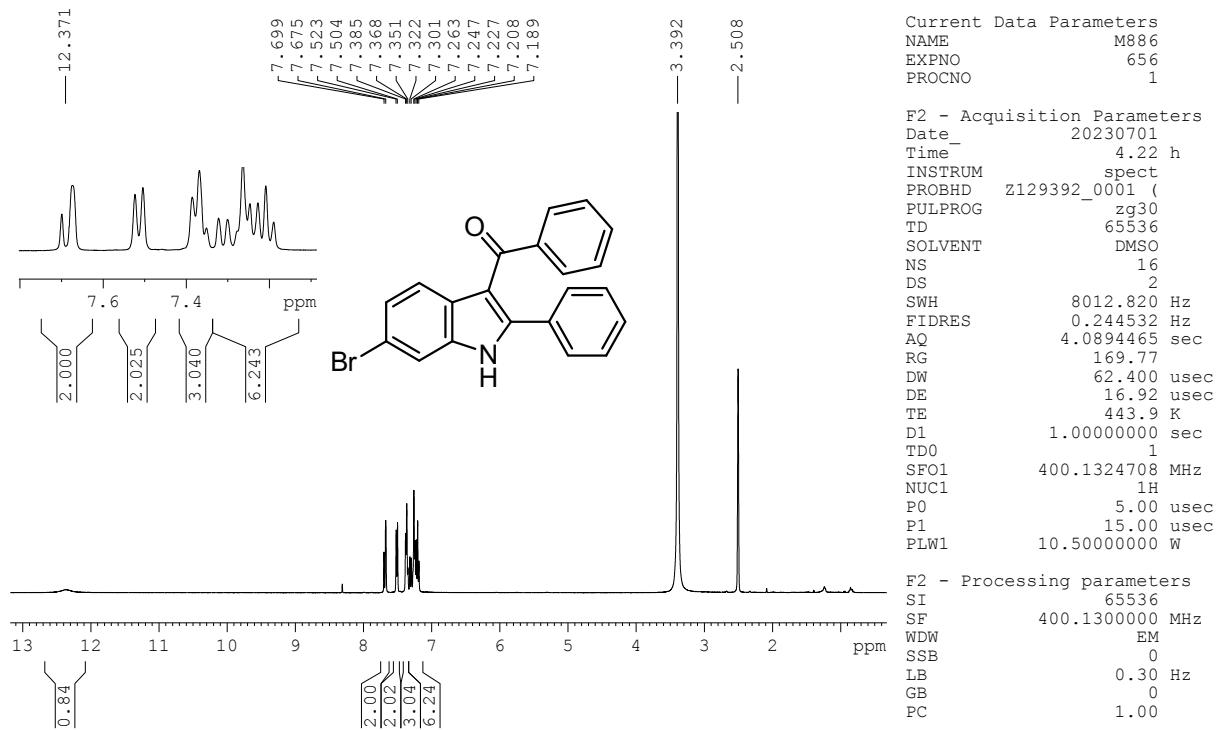


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6c

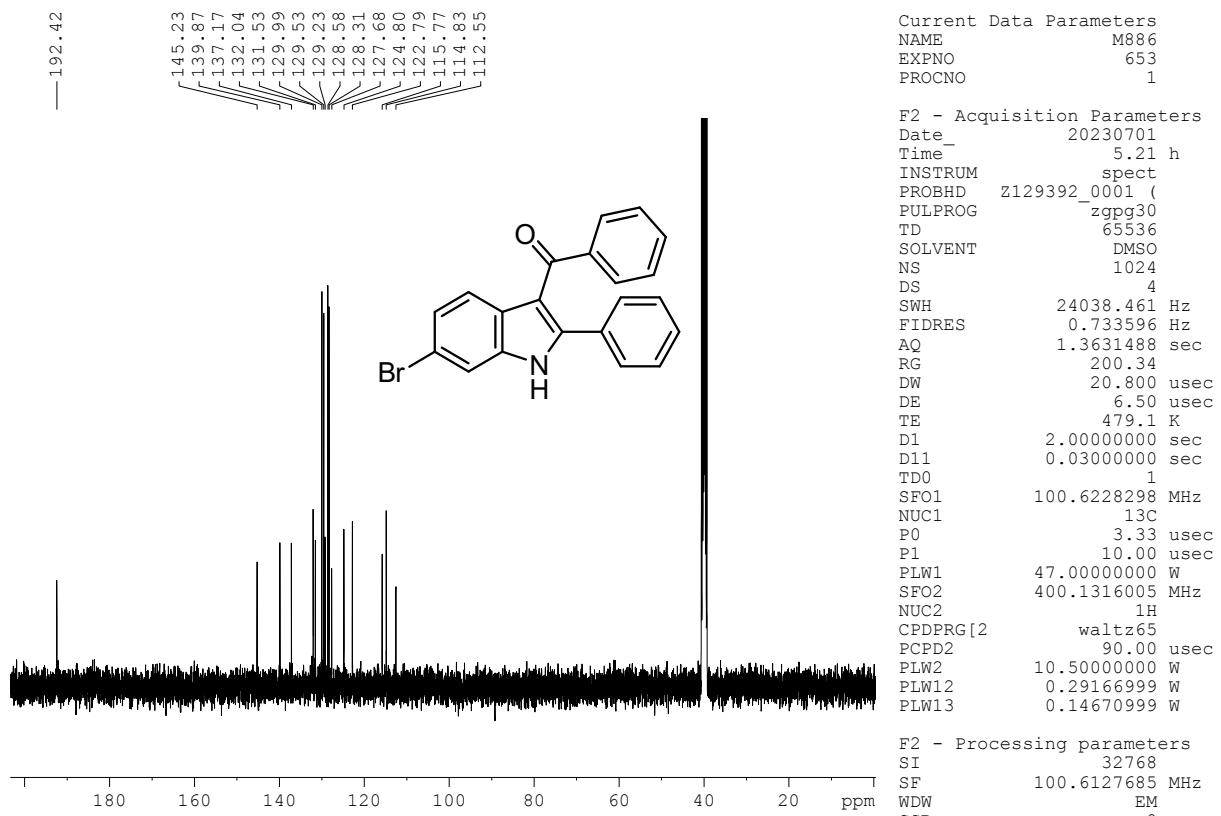


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6c

(5-bromo-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 6d

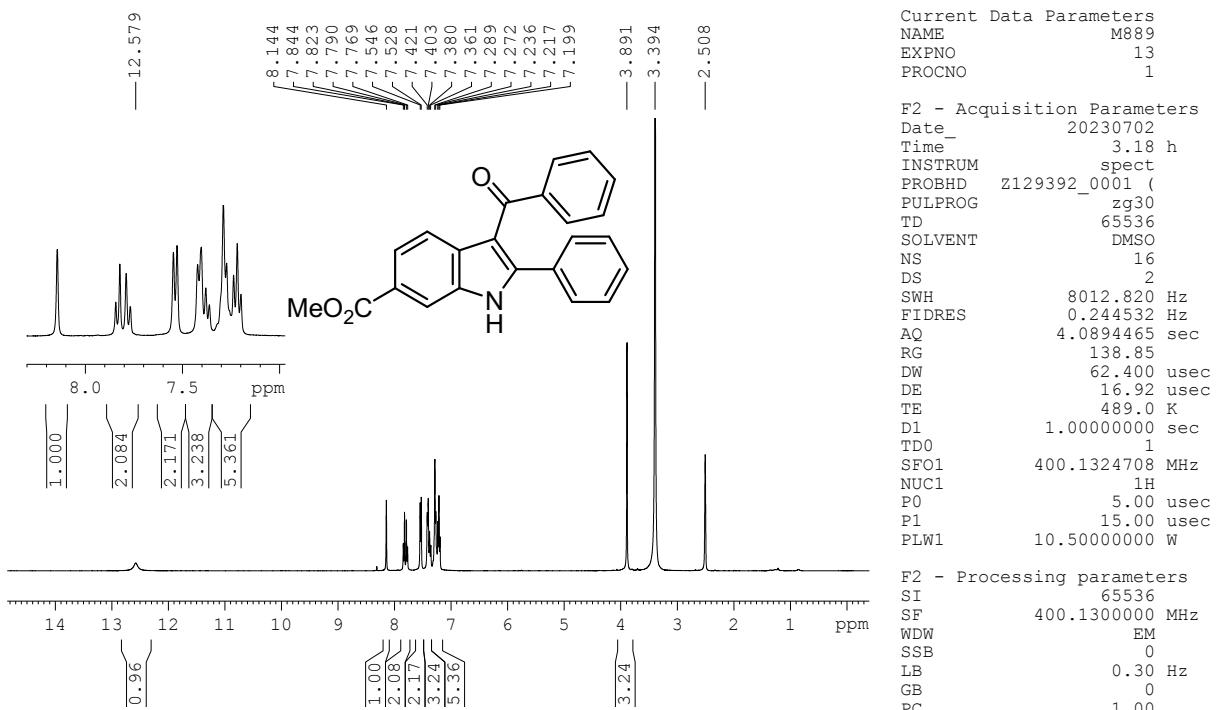


^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 24 °C) of the compound **6d**

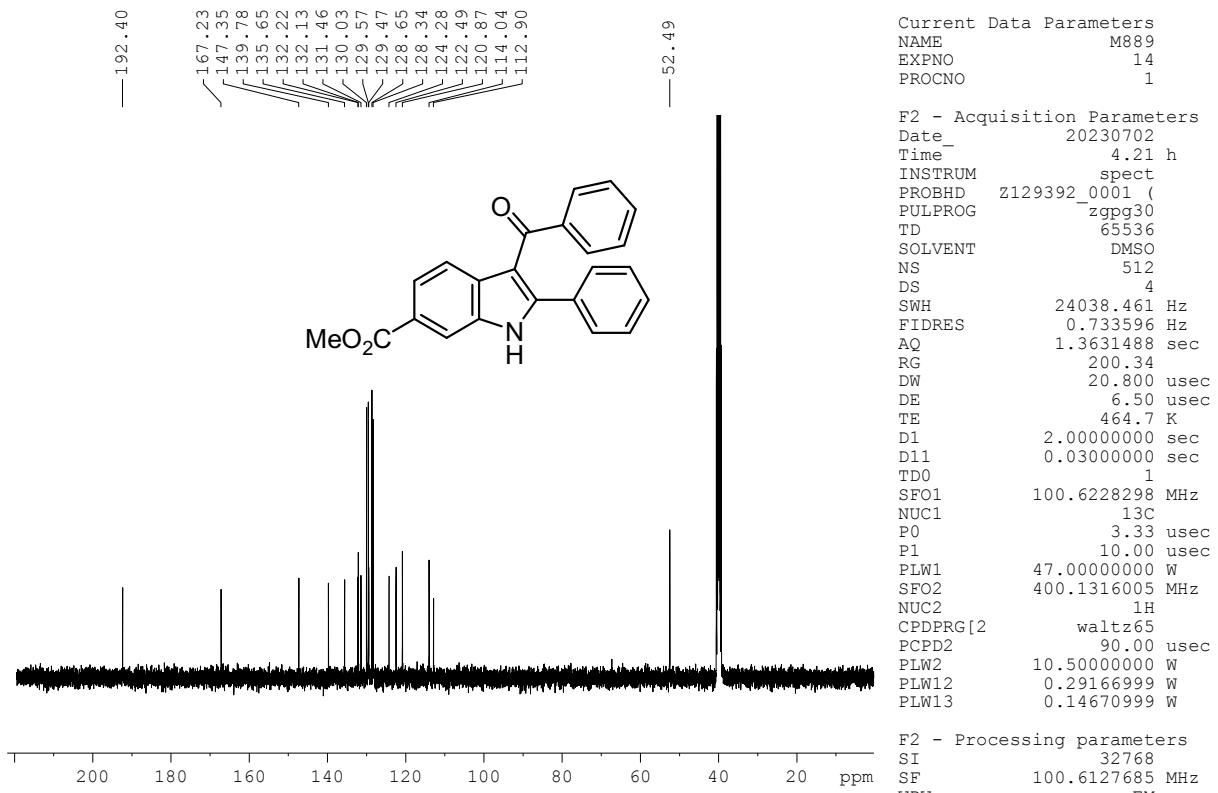


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , 24 °C) of the compound **6d**

methyl 3-benzoyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylate: 6e

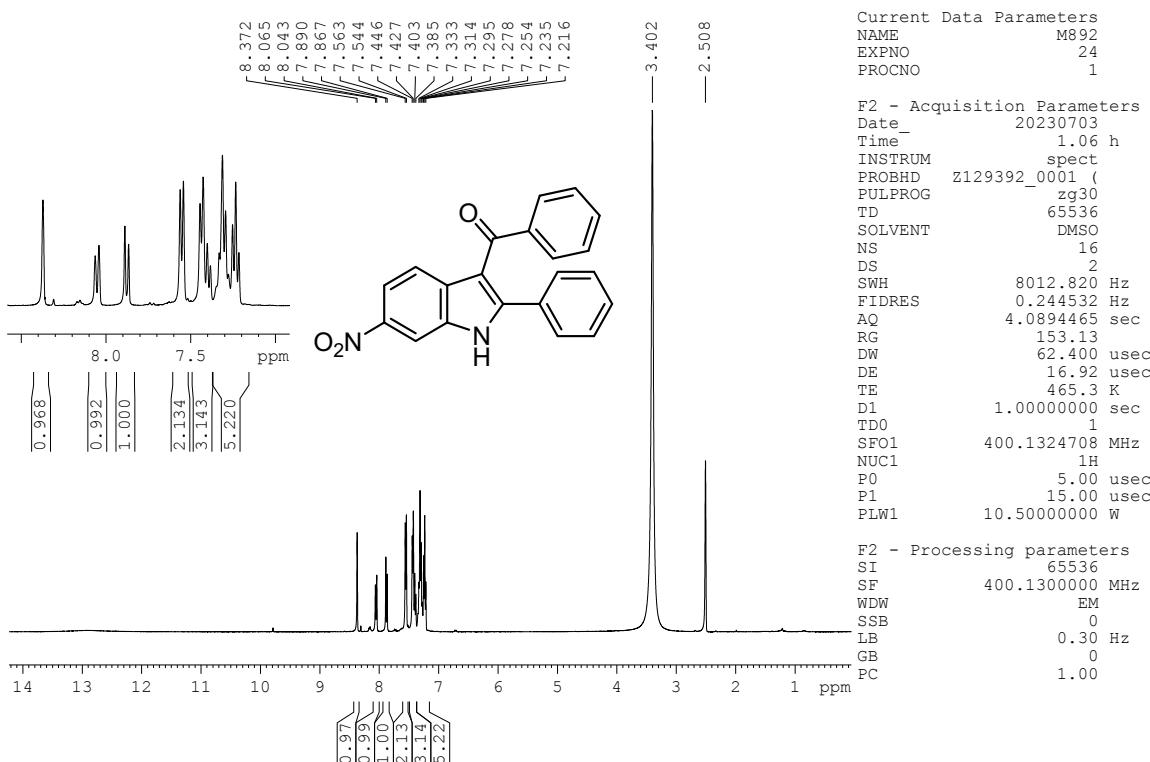


^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6e

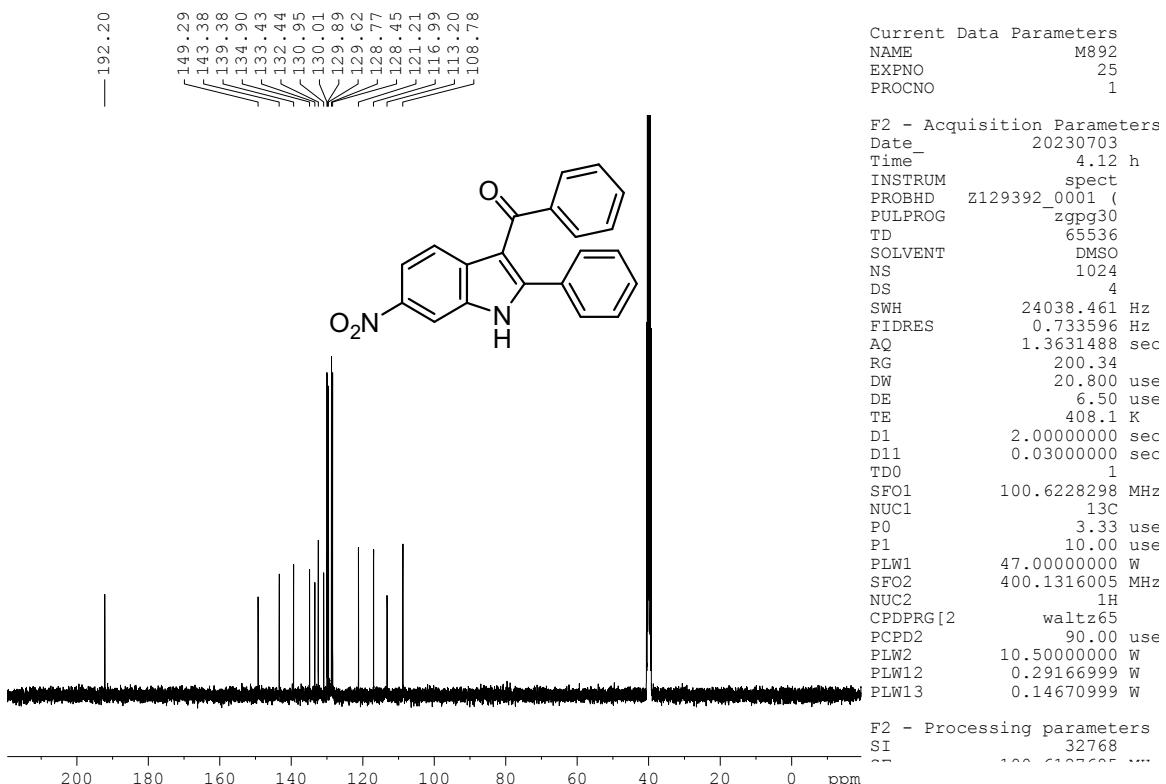


$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6e

(6-nitro-2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 6f

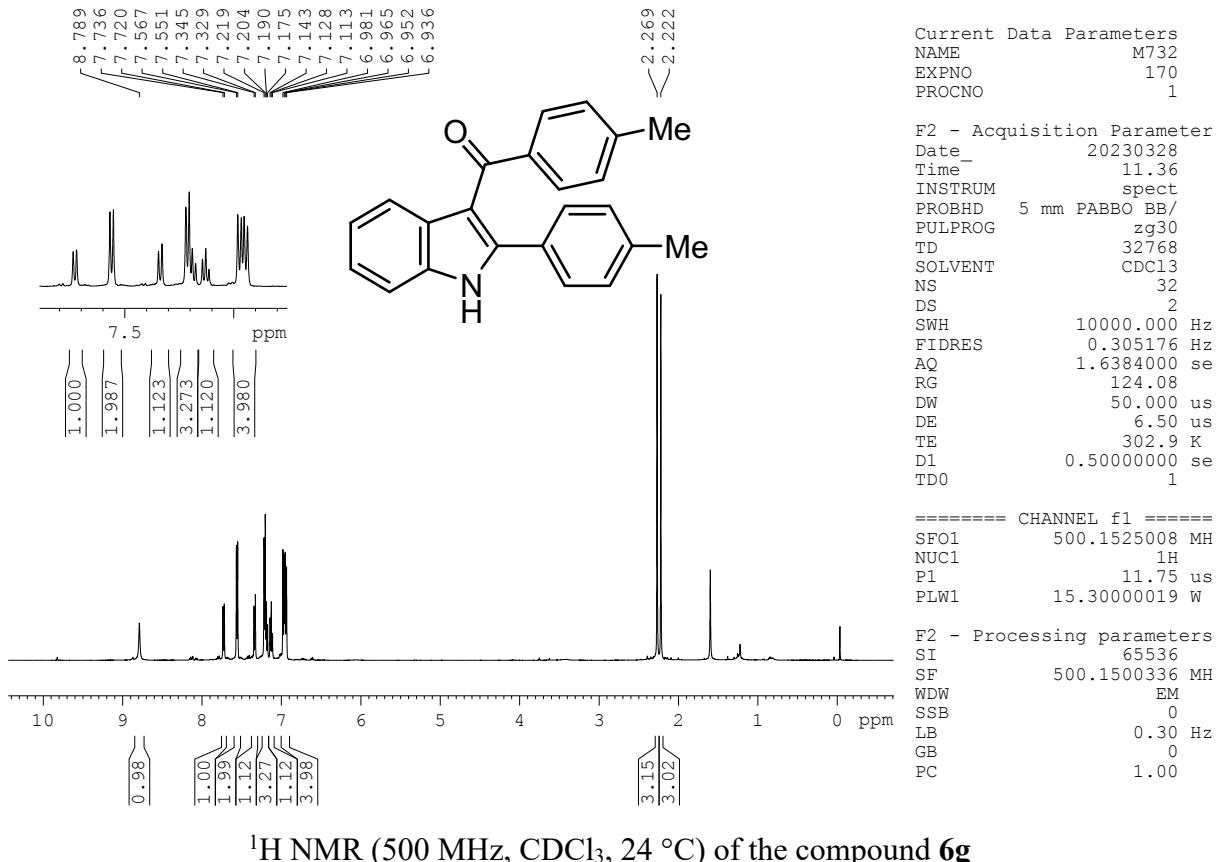


¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6f

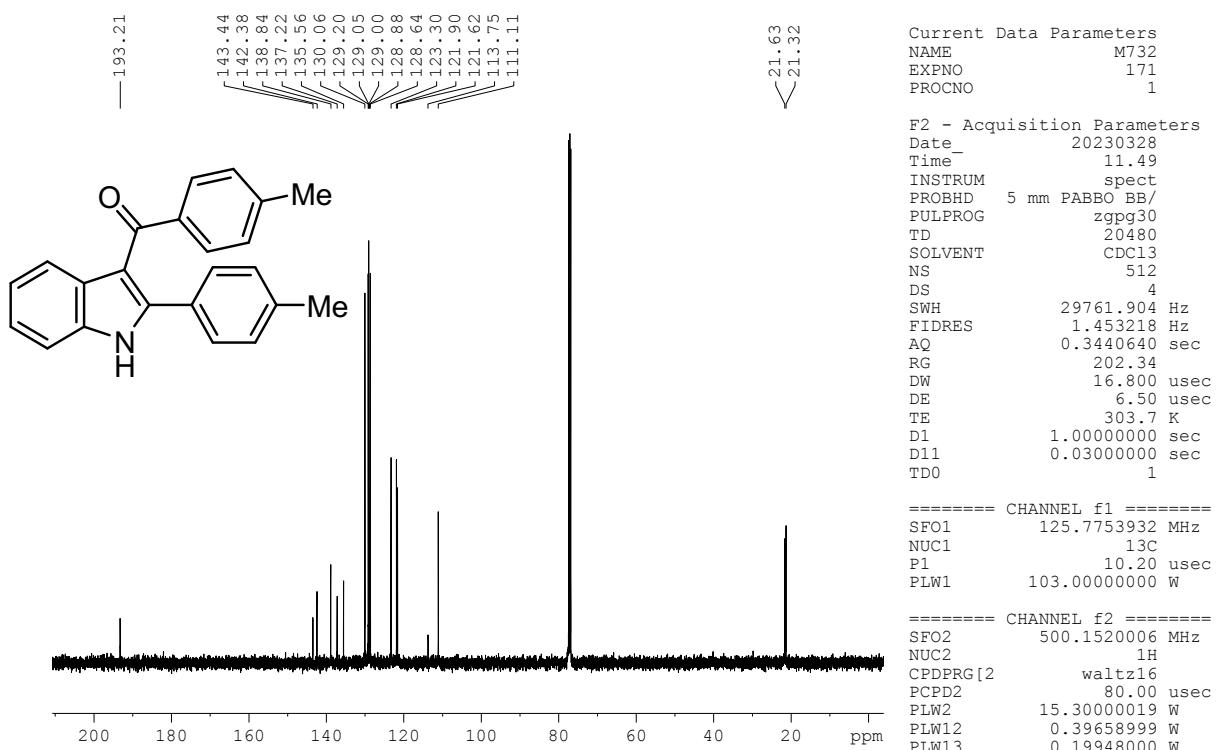


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound 6f

p-tolyl(2-(p-tolyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone: 6g

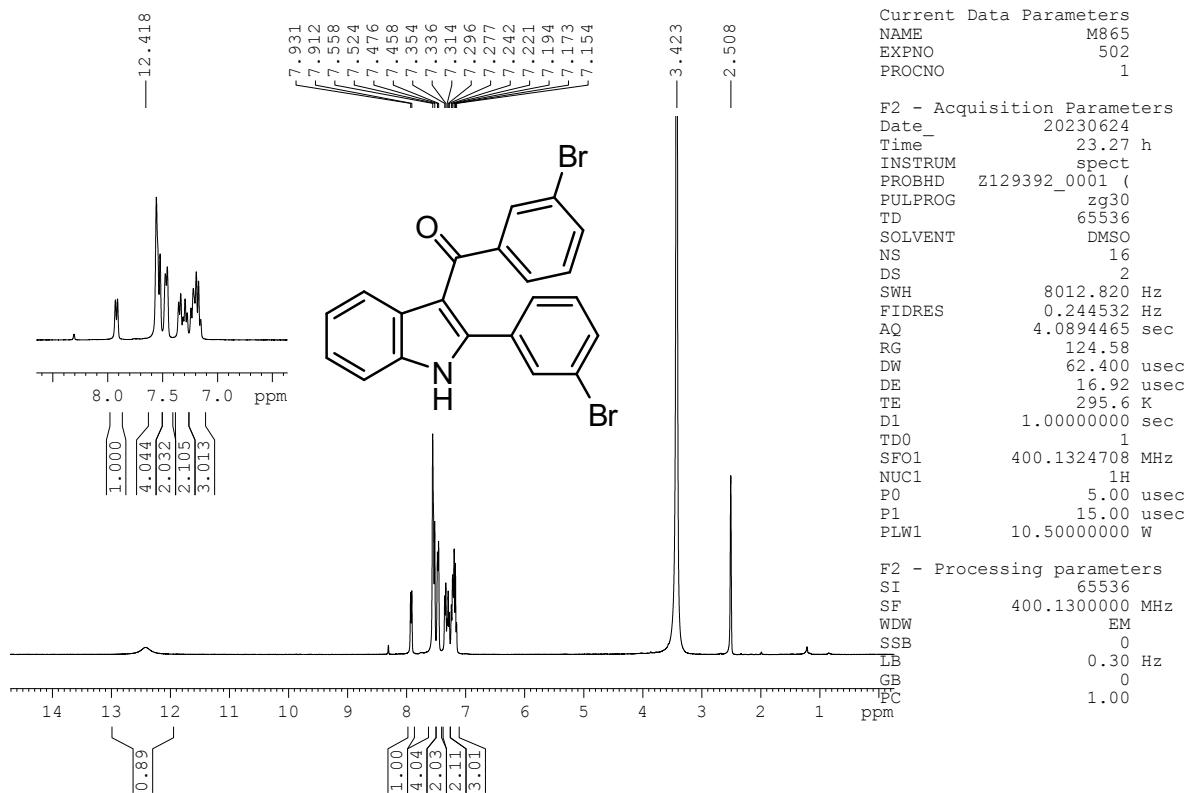


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6g

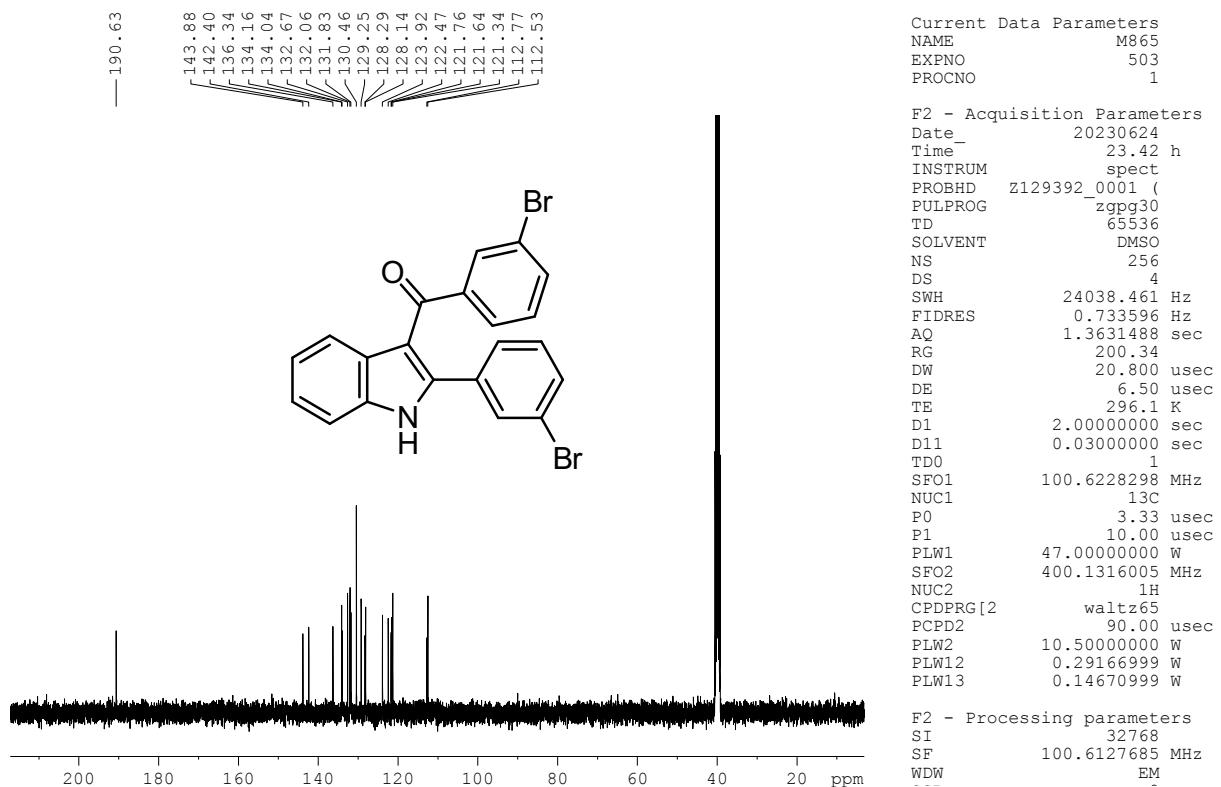


¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6g

(3-bromophenyl)(2-(3-bromophenyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanone: 6h

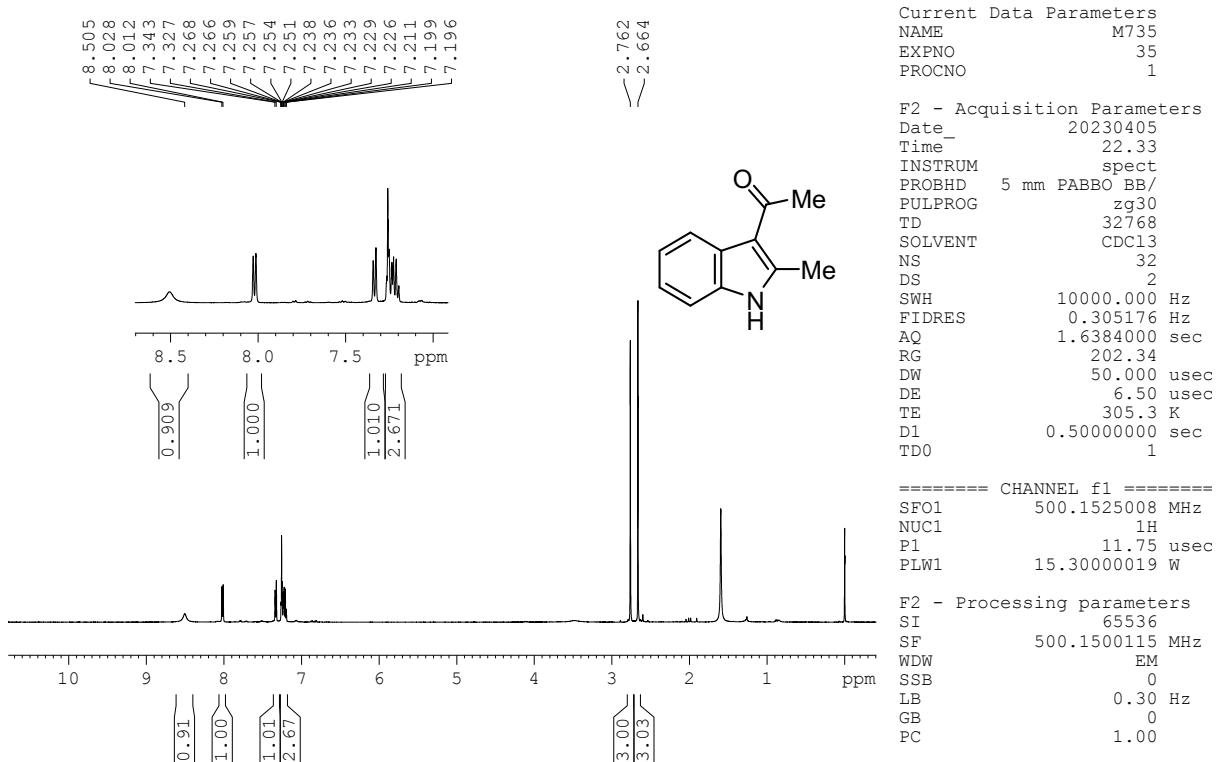


^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound **6h**

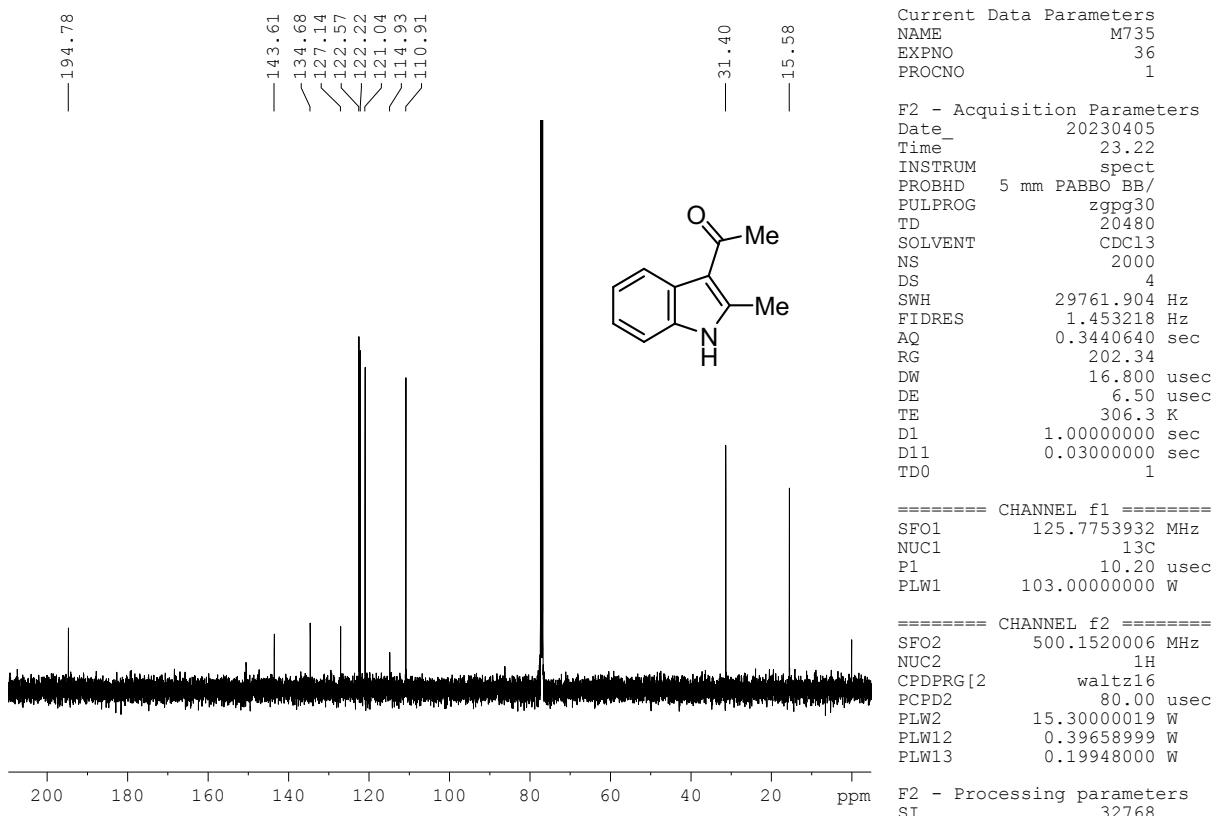


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound **6h**

1-(2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one: 6i

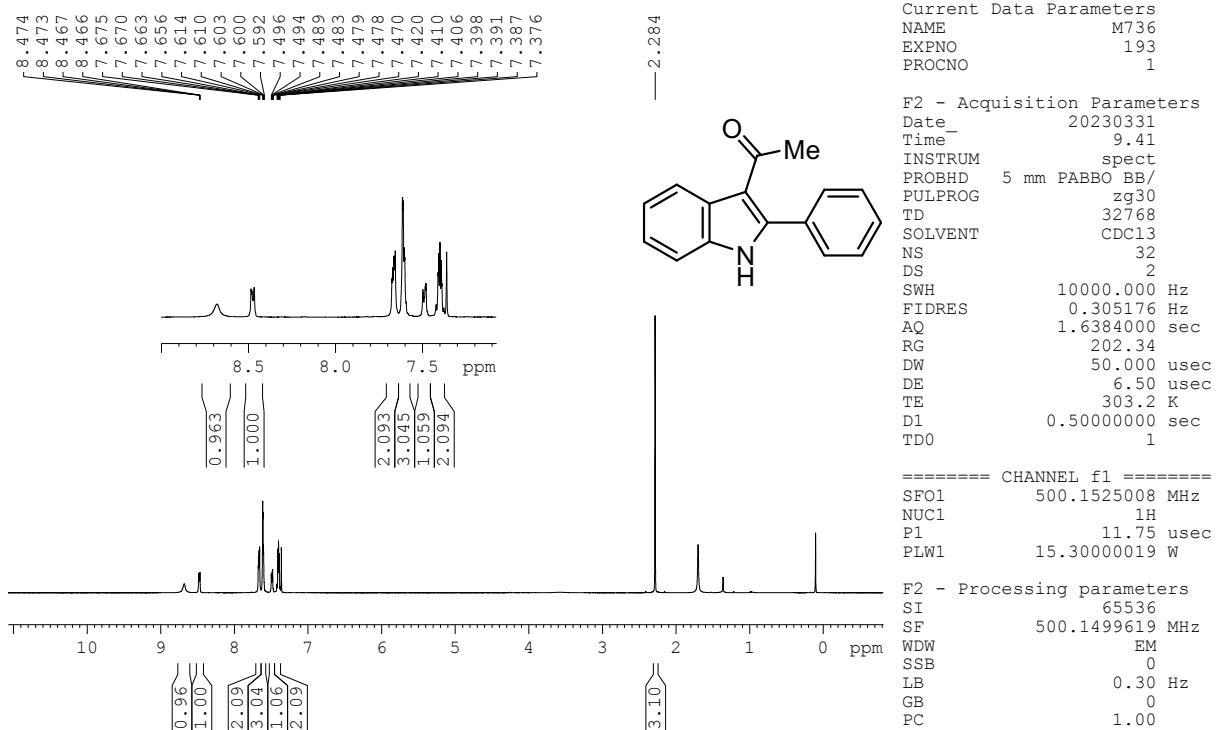


^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **6i**

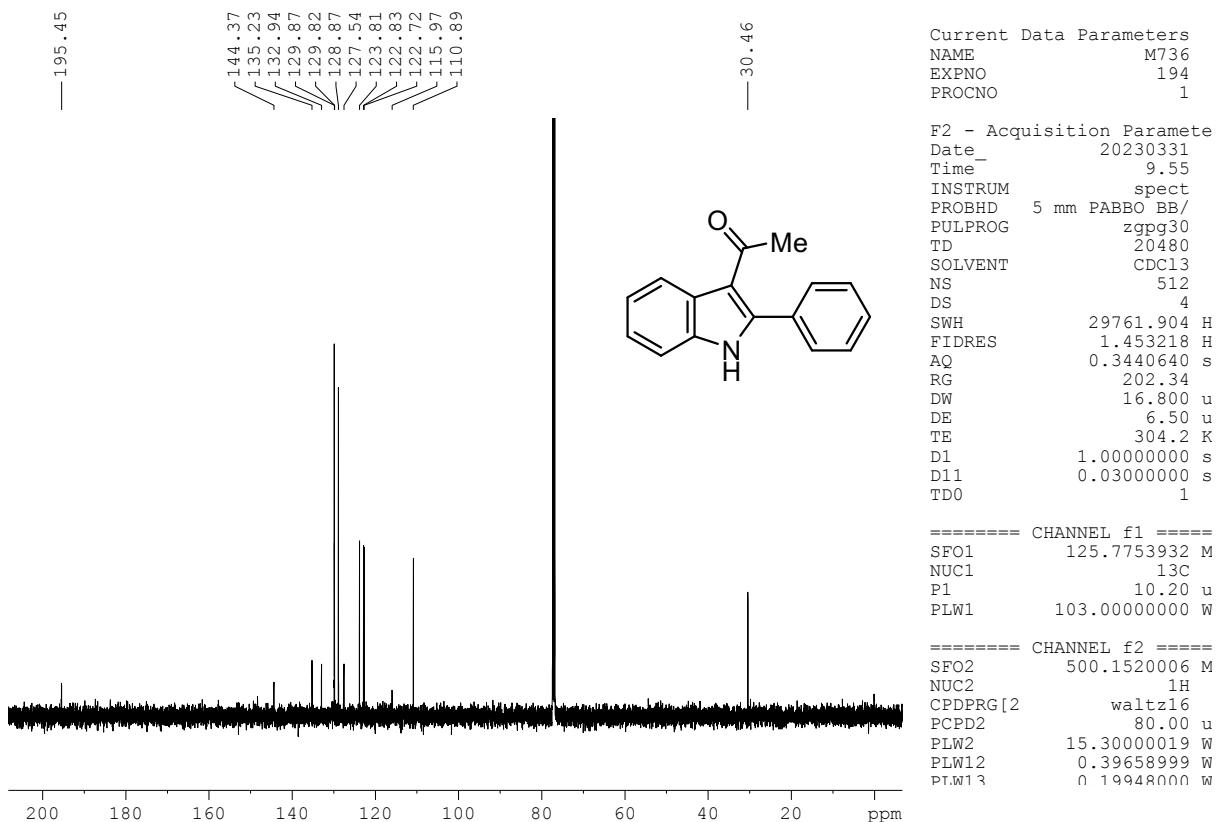


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **6i**

1-(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one: 6j

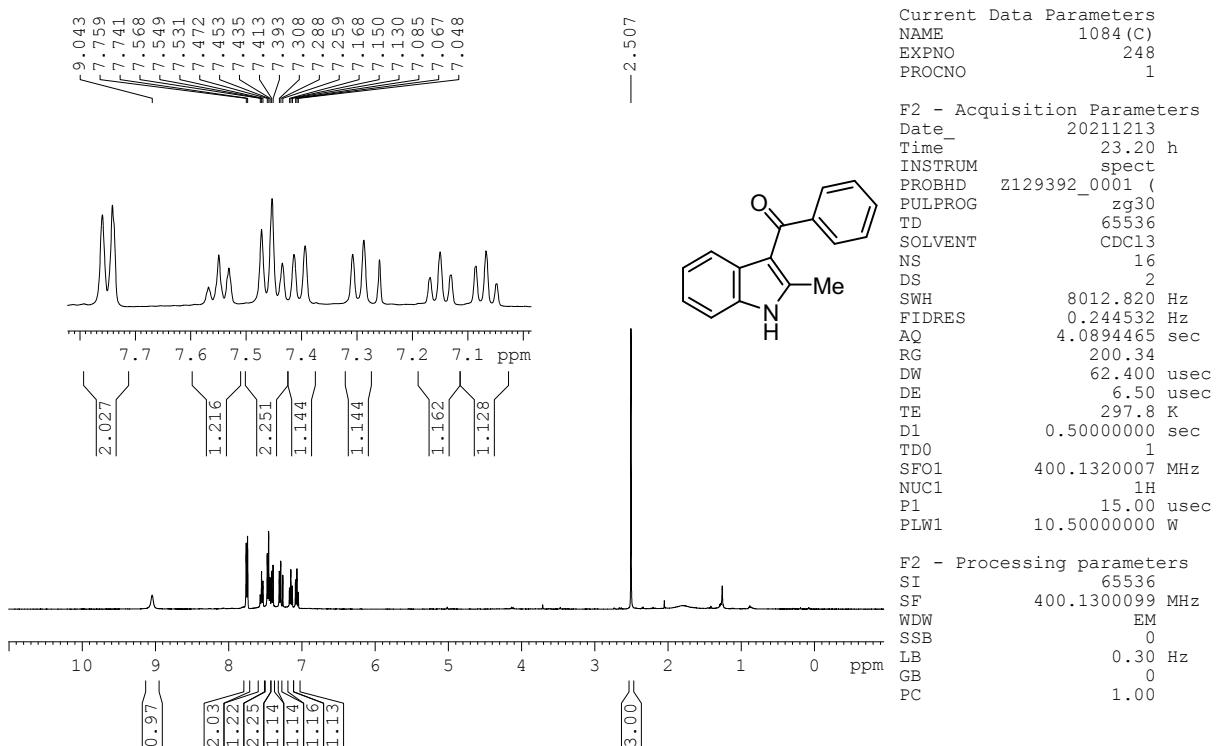


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6j

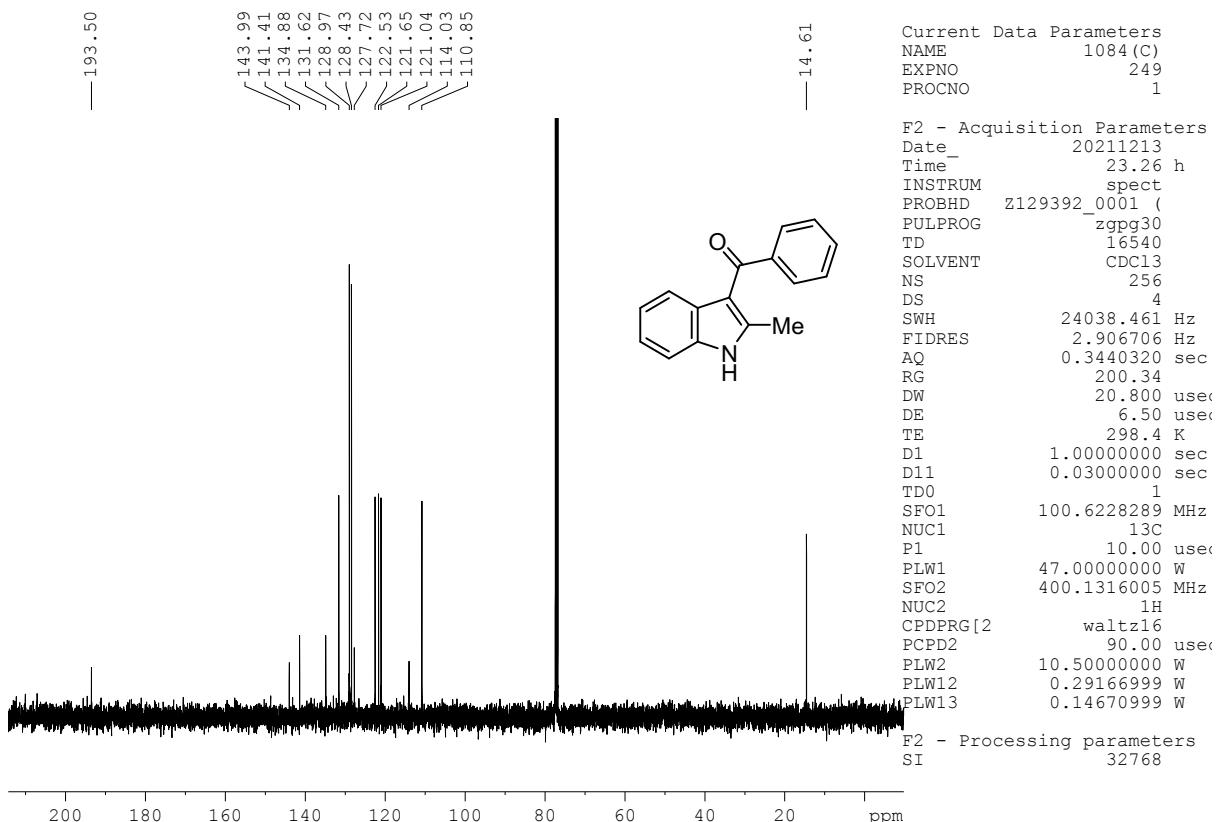


¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6j

(2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 6j'

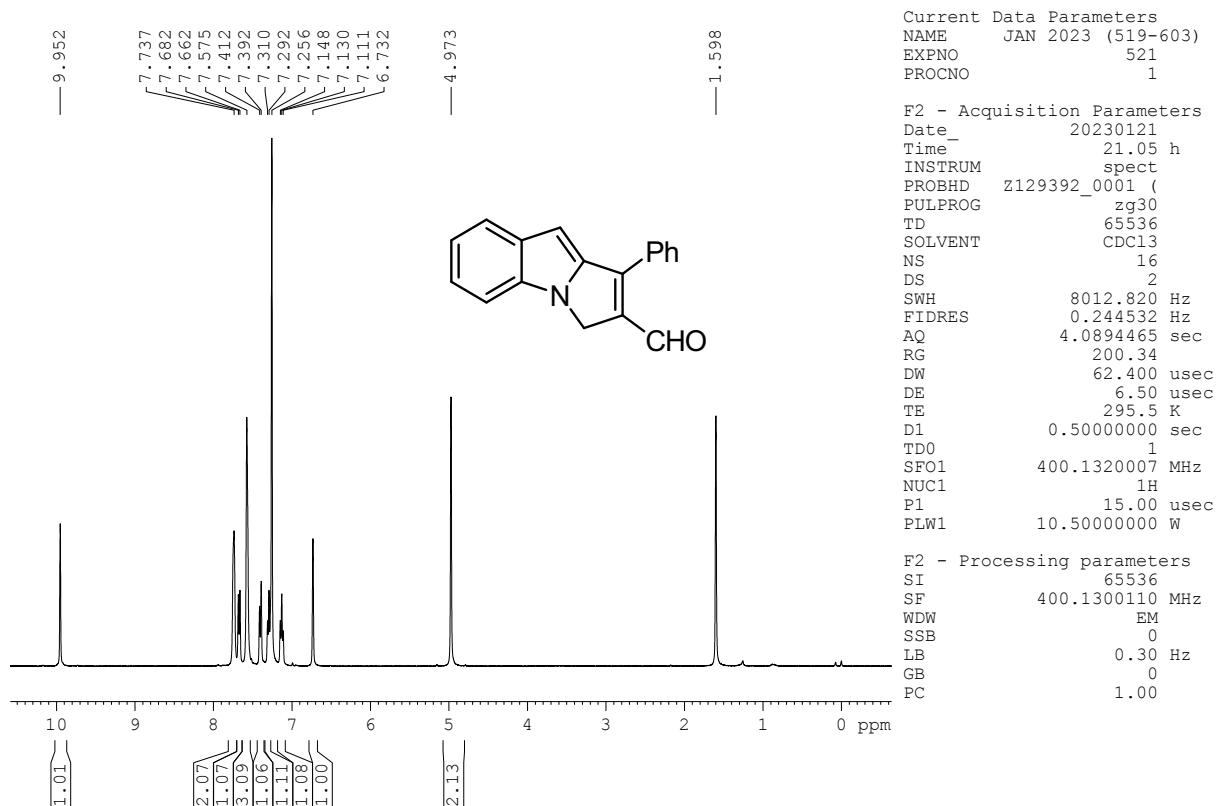


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6j'

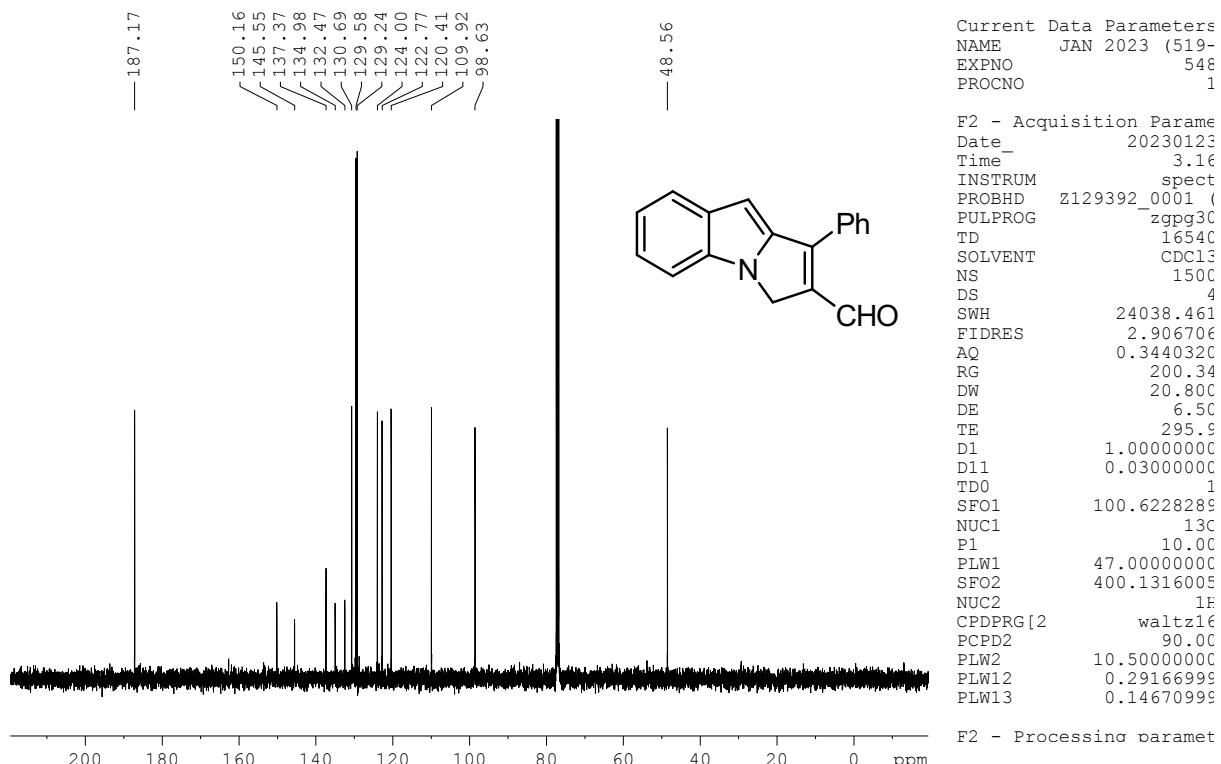


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 6j'

1-phenyl-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole-2-carbaldehyde 7

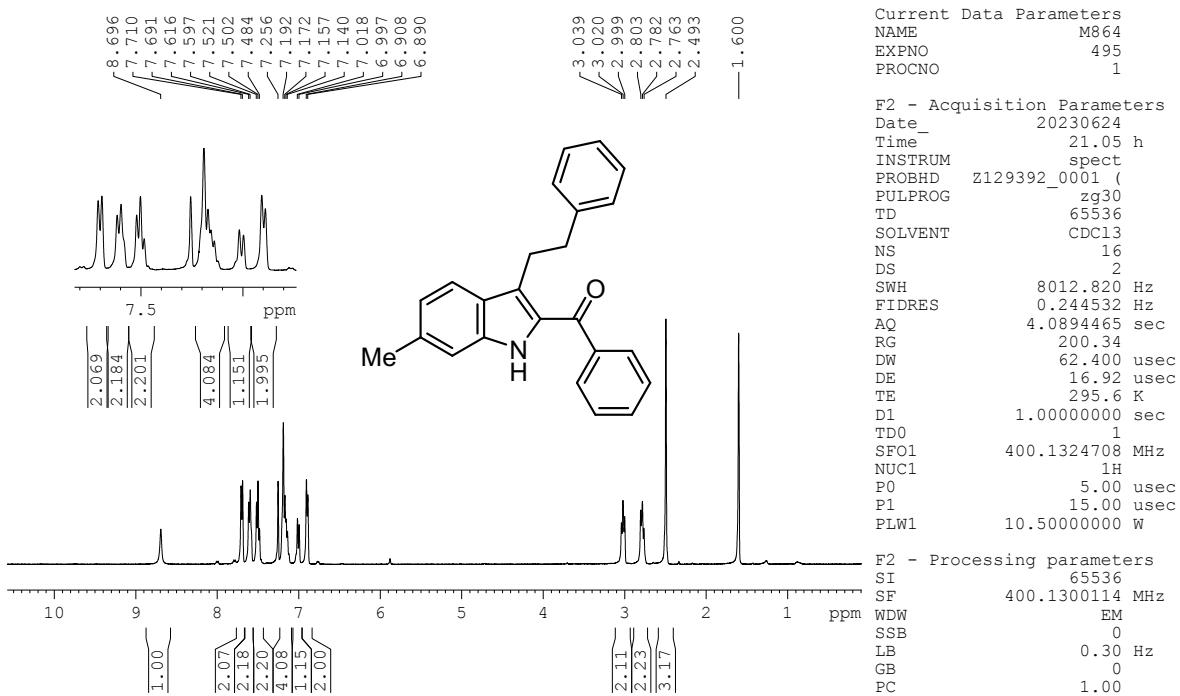


¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 7

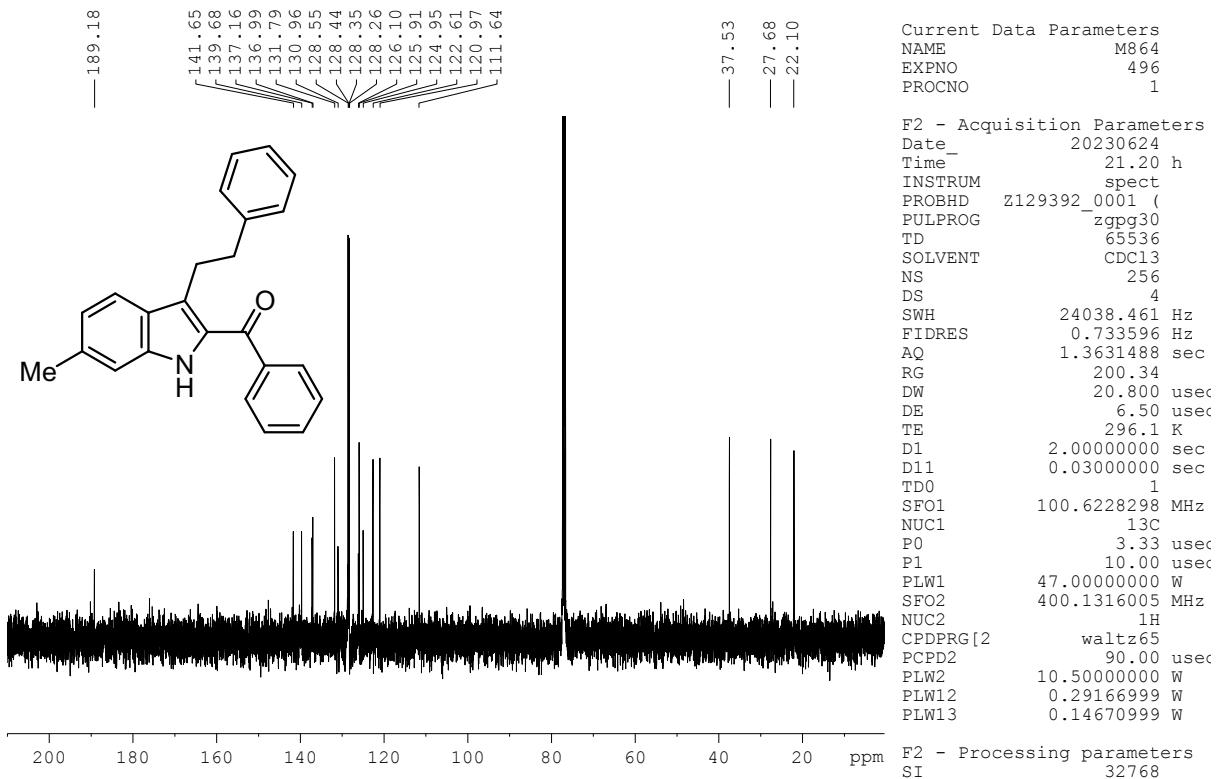


¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 24 °C) of the compound 7

(6-methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone: 3x

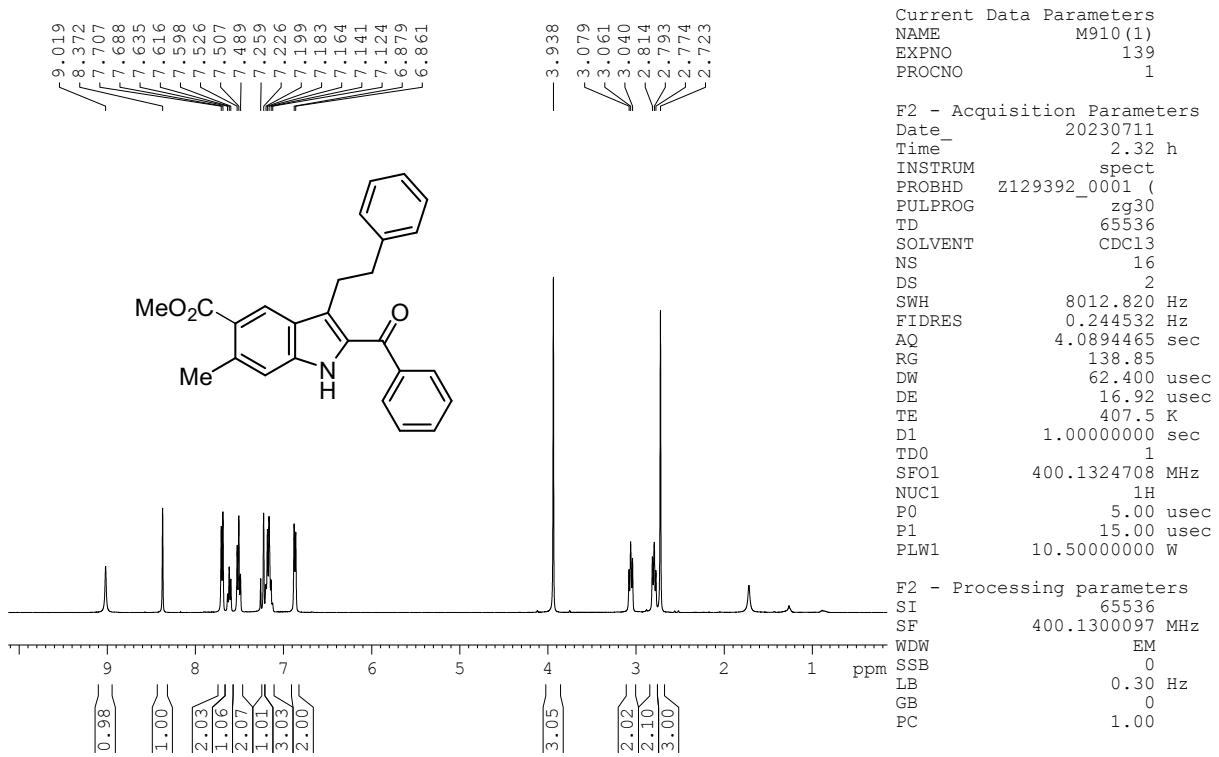


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3x**

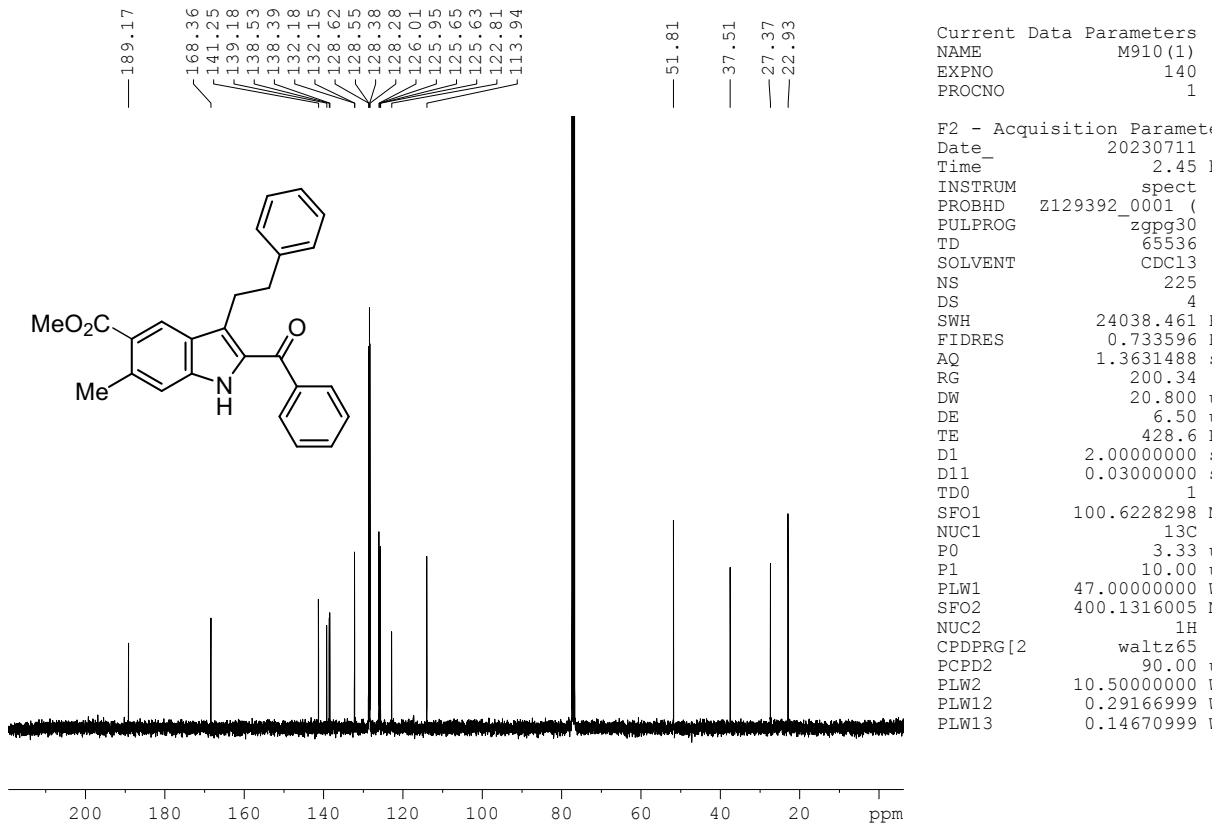


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound **3x**

methyl 2-benzoyl-6-methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indole-5-carboxylate: 9

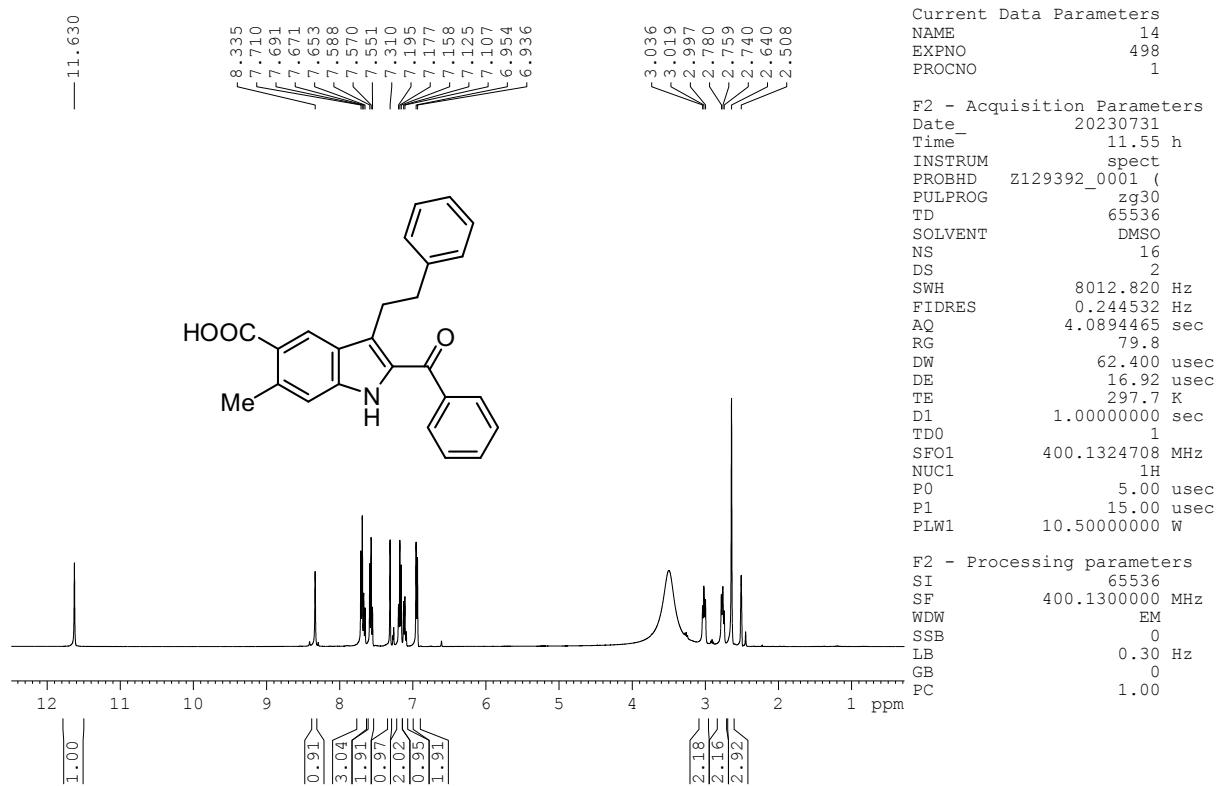


^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 9

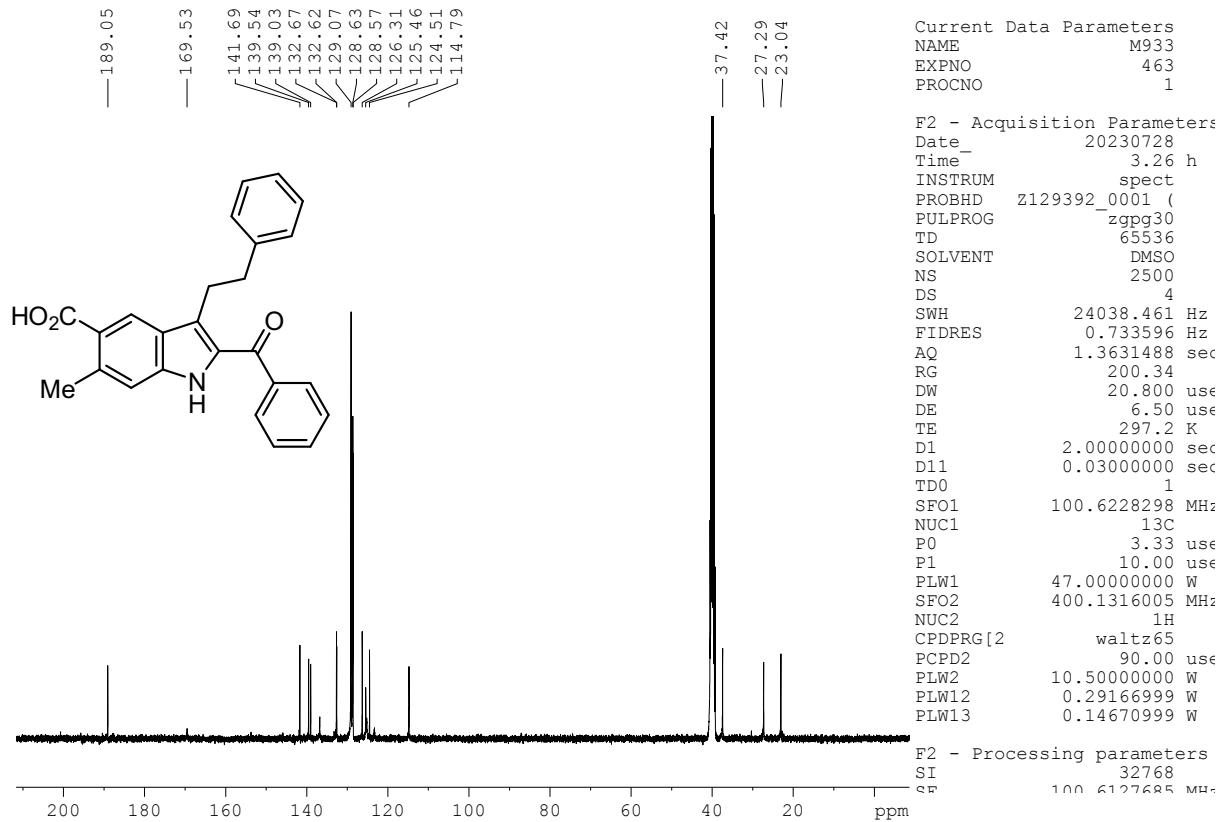


$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 24 °C) of the compound 9

2-benzoyl-6-methyl-3-phenethyl-1H-indole-5-carboxylic acid: 10



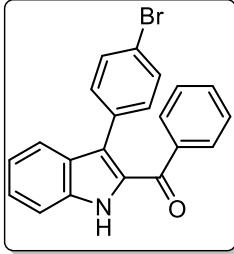
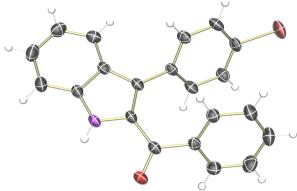
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 24 °C) of the compound **10**



$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 24 °C) of the compound **10**

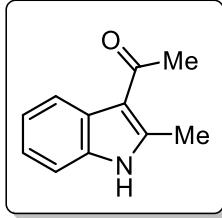
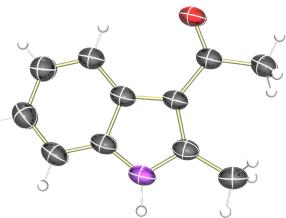
10. XRD data of 3g, 6i, and 6j

a. Single crystal XRD data of 3g:

DATA	3g
Molecular Structure (ORTEP Structure)	 
Formula	C ₂₁ H ₁₄ BrNO
Formula weight	376.24
Color	Brownish white
Temperature/K	296(2)
Radiation	Mo K α
Wavelength/ \AA	0.71073
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P -1
<i>a</i> (\AA)	8.6408(5)
<i>b</i> (\AA)	9.9341(5)
<i>c</i> (\AA)	10.3685(5)
α ($^\circ$)	98.203(2)
β ($^\circ$)	101.166(2)
γ ($^\circ$)	103.107(2)
Volume (\AA^3)	834.05(8)
<i>Z</i>	2
Density (g/mL)	1.498

μ (1/mm)	2.470
F (000)	380
θ (min, max)	2.49 to 26.21
No. of unique reflns	12302
No. of parameters	222
R _obs, wR_2 _obs	0.0302, 0.0727
$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}, \Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ (e \AA^{-3})	0.0390, 0.0769
GooF	1.040

b. Single crystal XRD data of 6i:

DATA	6i
Molecular Structure (ORTEP Structure)	 
Formula	C ₁₁ H ₁₁ NO
Formula weight	173.21
Color	Yellowish white
Temperature/K	296(2)
Radiation	Mo K α
Wavelength/ \AA	1.54178
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	C 2/c
a (\AA)	13.5293(7)
b (\AA)	7.3263(3)
c (\AA)	19.0986(9)
α ($^\circ$)	90

β (°)	99.741(3)
γ (°)	90
Volume (Å ³)	1865.75(15)
Z	8
Density (g/mL)	1.233
μ (1/mm)	0.632
F(000)	736
θ (min, max)	4.70 to 71.47
No. of unique reflns	13865
No. of parameters	124
R _{obs} , wR ₂ _obs	0.0568, 0.1576
$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}, \Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	0.0693, 0.1763
GooF	1.065

c. Single crystal XRD data of 6j:

DATA	6j
Molecular Structure (ORTEP Structure)	
Formula	C ₁₆ H ₁₃ NO
Formula weight	235.27
Color	Yellowish white
Temperature/K	296(2)
Radiation	Mo K α
Wavelength/Å	0.71073
Crystal system	triclinic

Space group	P -1
a (Å)	7.4062(4)
b (Å)	7.8098(5)
c (Å)	10.9025(6)
α (°)	101.137(2)
β (°)	93.235(2)
γ (°)	96.394(2)
Volume (Å ³)	612.92(6)
Z	2
Density (g/mL)	1.275
μ (1/mm)	0.080
F (000)	248
θ (min, max)	3.242 to 33.143
No. of unique reflns	39332
No. of parameters	166
R_{obs} , $wR_{2\text{-obs}}$	0.0575, 0.1773
$\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$, $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ (eÅ ⁻³)	0.0832, 0.2091
GooF	1.013