

Supporting Information

Modular synthesis of unsymmetrical 2,4-diaryl substituted pyridines through four-component cyclization strategy under metal-free conditions

Yanfeng Ma,^a Tianci Xu,^a Fuhong Xiao,^{a,*} Guojiang Mao^b and Guo-Jun Deng^{a,*}

^a Key Laboratory of Environmentally Friendly Chemistry and Application of Ministry of Education, Hunan Province Key Laboratory of Green Organic Synthesis and Application, College of Chemistry, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan 411105, China.

*E-mail: fhxiao@xtu.edu.cn; gjdeng@xtu.edu.cn.

^b School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, 453007, P. R. China

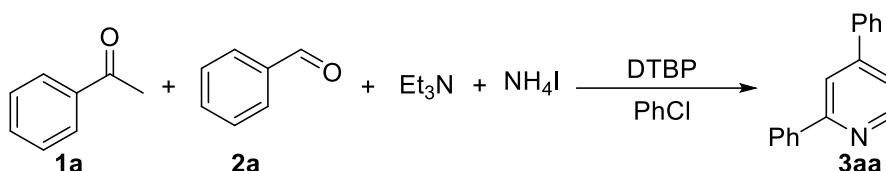
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1. General information

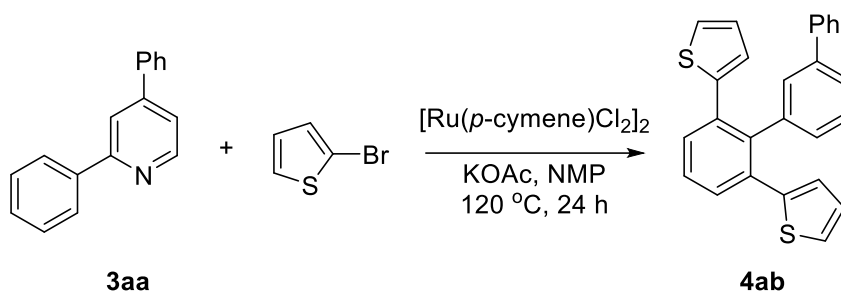
All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of oxygen unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200-300 mesh). ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument using CDCl_3 as solvent and TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectra were measured on Agilent 5975 GC-MS instrument (EI). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) was performed on Agilent 6230 TOF LC/MS. The structures of known compounds were further corroborated by comparing their ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR data and MS data with those of literature. Most reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

2. General procedure



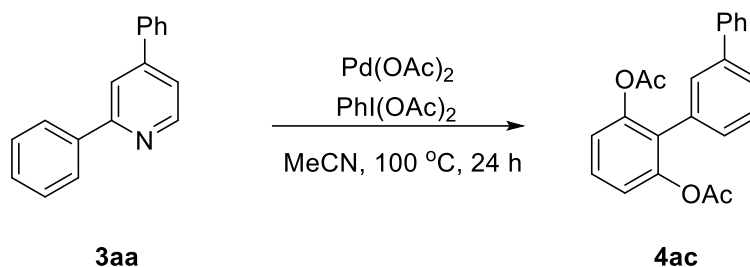
A 10 mL reaction vessel was charged with acetophenone (**1a**, 0.2 mmol), benzaldehyde (**2a**, 0.4 mmol), Et_3N (0.6 mmol), NH_4I (0.6 mmol), DTBP (0.4 mmol), PhCl (2.0 mL) under air. The reaction vessel was stirred at $150\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the combined organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40:1) to give the desired product **3aa** as yellow oil, 30.0 mg, yield 65%.

3. Synthetic Transformation of Product 3aa

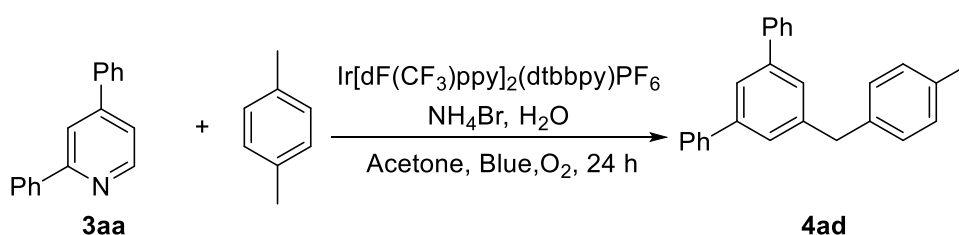


A 10 mL reaction vessel was charged with acetophenone 2,4-diphenylpyridine (0.2 mmol), 2-bromothiophene (2.5 equiv), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol %), KOAc (3 equiv), NMP (0.6 mL). The reaction vessel was stirred at $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with water (30 mL) and then extracted by EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, concentrated in vacuo and the crude product was obtained. Purified directly by flash column chromatography

(on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (59 mg, 75% yield).

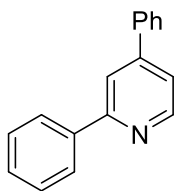


A 10 mL reaction vessel was charged with acetophenone 2,4-diphenylpyridine (0.2 mmol), *p*-xylene (2 mmol, 10 equiv.), Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (2 mol%), NH₄Br (0.5 equiv.), H₂O (10 equiv.), acetone (3 mL), at 35 °C under O₂ atmosphere (sealed tube) and 35 W blue LED irradiation for 20 h. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was diluted with water (30 mL) and then extracted by EtOAc (10 mL×3). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated in vacuo and the crude product was obtained. Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a colorless oil (46 mg, 67% yield).



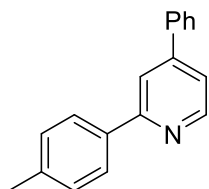
A 10 mL reaction vessel was charged with acetophenone 2,4-diphenylpyridine (0.2 mmol), *p*-xylene (2 mmol, 10 equiv.), Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (2 mol%), NH₄Br (0.5 equiv.), H₂O (10 equiv.), acetone (3 mL), at 35 °C under O₂ atmosphere (sealed tube) and 35 W blue LED irradiation for 20 h. After the reaction was complete, the mixture was diluted with water (30 mL) and then extracted by EtOAc (10 mL×3). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated in vacuo and the crude product was obtained. Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a colorless oil (41 mg, 61% yield).

4. Analytical data for the compounds prepared



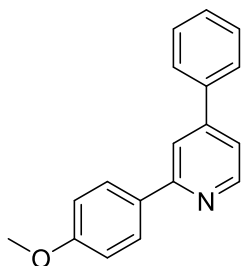
2,4-Diphenylpyridine (3aa, CAS: 26274-35-1)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (30.0 mg, 65% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.10 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 7H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 150.1, 149.3, 139.5, 138.5, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.7, 127.1, 127.0, 120.2, 118.8.



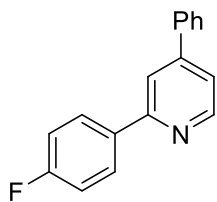
4-Phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)pyridine (3ba)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (32.8 mg, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.89 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 150.0, 149.2, 139.0, 138.6, 136.6, 129.5, 129.1, 129.0, 127.0, 126.8, 119.9, 118.4, 21.3.



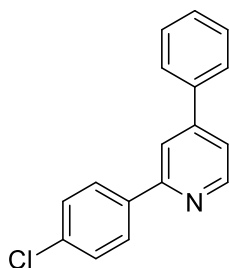
2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ca)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow solid (33.4 mg, 64% yield). Mp: 60-62 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 157.7, 149.9, 149.2, 138.7, 132.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.0, 119.6, 118.0, 114.1, 55.3.



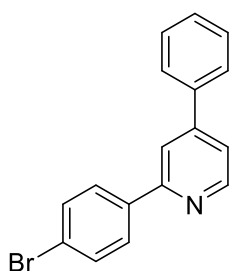
2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3da)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (28.4 mg, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.09 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5 (d, *J* = 246.9 Hz), 156.9, 150.0, 149.3, 138.3, 135.5 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 129.1, 129.0, 128.8 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 127.0, 120.1, 118.3, 115.6 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz).



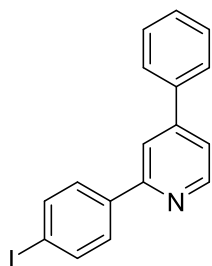
2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ea)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (27.3 mg, 51% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.44 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 150.1, 149.4, 138.3, 137.8, 135.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.0, 120.5, 118.5.



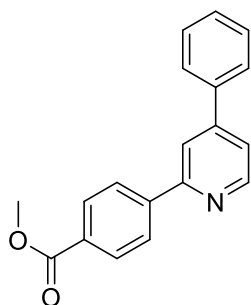
2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (4fa)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (26.6 mg, 43% yield). Mp: 80-82 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.89 (m, 3H), 7.74 – 7.60 (m, 4H), 7.56 – 7.43 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 150.1, 149.6, 138.3, 138.3, 131.9, 129.2, 129.2, 128.6, 127.1, 123.6, 120.6, 118.5.



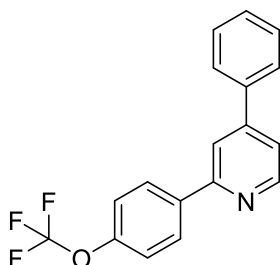
2-(4-Iodophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ga)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (25.7 mg, 36% yield). Mp: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.78 (m, 5H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 – 7.40 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.9, 150.2, 149.5, 138.9, 138.3, 137.9, 129.1, 128.7, 127.1, 120.6, 118.4, 95.4.



Methyl 4-(4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)benzoate (3ha)

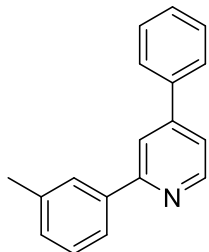
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow solid (30.6 mg, 53% yield). Mp: 118-120 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.77 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.19 – 8.10 (m, 4H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 3.96 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 156.7, 150.2, 149.6, 143.5, 138.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.2, 129.2, 127.1, 127.0, 121.0, 119.2, 52.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆NO₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 290.1176, found 290.1185.



4-Phenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)pyridine (3ia)

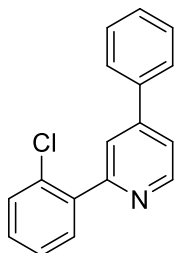
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (29.6 mg, 47% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11 – 8.04 (m, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J*

= 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.6, 150.2, 149.9, 149.5, 138.3, 138.1, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 127.0, 121.1, 120.6, 118.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NO}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 316.0944, found 316.0948.



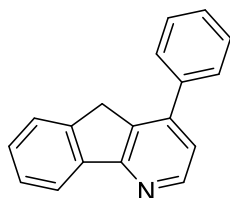
4-Phenyl-2-(*m*-tolyl)pyridine (3ja)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (26.4 mg, 54% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.73 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.2, 150.0, 149.2, 139.4, 138.5, 138.4, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 127.7, 127.1, 124.1, 120.2, 118.8, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 246.1277, found 246.1280.



2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ka)¹

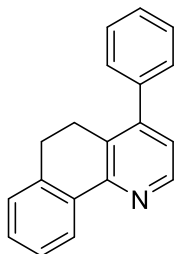
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (15.4 mg, 29% yield). Mp: 58-60 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.77 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.73 – 7.63 (m, 3H), 7.55 – 7.42 (m, 5H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.3, 149.9, 148.3, 139.2, 138.1, 132.2, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 129.1, 127.1, 127.0, 122.9, 120.4.



4-Phenyl-5*H*-indeno[1,2-*b*]pyridine (3ma)

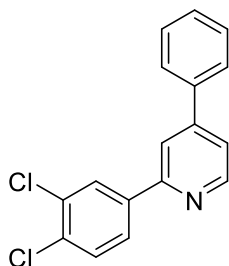
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (30.6 mg, 63% yield). Mp: 93-95 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.66 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, $J =$

7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 3.99 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.8, 148.7, 146.0, 143.7, 140.7, 138.4, 134.3, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.3, 125.0, 121.1, 120.9, 34.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₁₈H₁₄NO⁺ (M+H)⁺ 244.1121, found 244.1125.



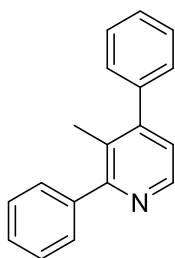
4-Phenyl-5,6-dihydrobenzo[*h*]quinoline (3na)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a white solid (32.3 mg, 62% yield). Mp: 100-102 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.30 (m, 7H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.94 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 2.85 – 2.81 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.0, 148.6, 147.1, 138.9, 138.1, 134.8, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 127.5, 127.1, 125.5, 123.3, 28.0, 25.4.



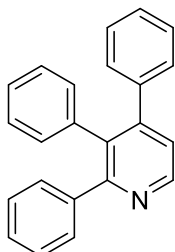
2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3oa)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (22.8 mg, 38% yield). Mp: 96-98 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.47 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.5, 150.2, 149.7, 139.3, 138.1, 133.2, 133.1, 130.7, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 127.1, 126.1, 120.9, 118.5.



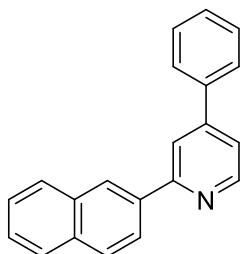
3-Methyl-2,4-diphenylpyridine (3pa)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (28.9 mg, 58% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7, 150.8, 146.3, 141.0, 139.8, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 123.1, 17.93.



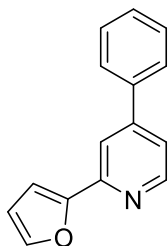
2,3,4-Triphenylpyridine (3qa)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a white solid (31.9 mg, 52% yield). Mp: 174-176 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 7.14 – 6.97 (m, 5H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.4, 149.9, 148.2, 140.7, 139.4, 137.7, 134.4, 131.3, 129.8, 129.3, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 127.3, 126.6, 123.6.



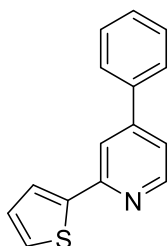
2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ra)²

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (31.4 mg, 56% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.79 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.24 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.90 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 150.2, 149.4, 138.5, 136.7, 133.6, 133.5, 129.1, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.1, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 124.6, 120.3, 119.0.



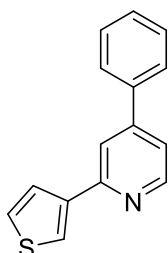
2-(Furan-2-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3sa)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (24.3mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.5, 149.9, 149.7, 149.3, 143.4, 138.1, 129.2, 129.1, 127.0, 119.9, 116.6, 112.1, 109.0.



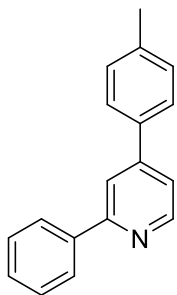
4-Phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine (3ta)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (27.5 mg, 58% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 3H), 7.54 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.08 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.9, 149.8, 149.1, 144.7, 138.0, 129.0, 129.0, 127.9, 127.5, 126.8, 124.5, 119.9, 116.7.



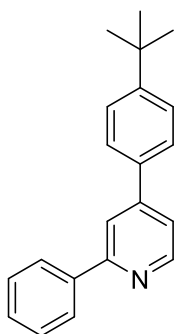
4-Phenyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)pyridine (3ua)²

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a black oil (26.5 mg, 56% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 – 7.95 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.66 (m, 3H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.9, 149.9, 149.3, 142.1, 138.4, 129.1, 129.1, 127.0, 126.4, 126.2, 123.7, 120.0, 118.4.



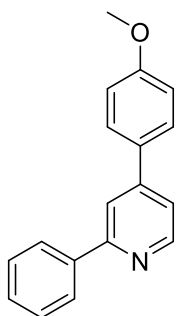
2-Phenyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)pyridine (3ab)³

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (31.4 mg, 64% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 150.0, 149.1, 139.5, 139.2, 135.5, 129.8, 129.0, 128.7, 127.0, 126.9, 120.0, 118.5, 21.2.



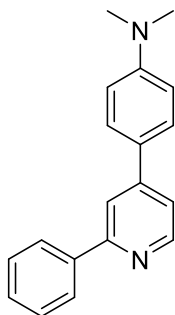
4-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ac)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a white solid (39.0 mg, 68% yield). Mp: 130-132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.07 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.94 – 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 1.38 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 152.3, 150.0, 149.1, 139.5, 135.5, 128.9, 128.7, 127.0, 126.7, 126.1, 120.1, 118.6, 34.7, 31.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₂N⁺ (M+H)⁺ 288.1747, found 288.1755.



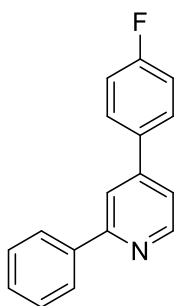
4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ad)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow solid (28.7 mg, 55% yield). Mp: 73-75 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 157.9, 149.9, 148.7, 139.5, 130.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.0, 119.6, 118.2, 114.5, 55.3.



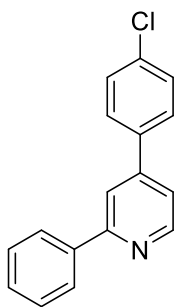
***N,N*-Dimethyl-4-(2-phenylpyridin-4-yl)aniline (3ae)**

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow solid (18.6 mg, 34% yield). Mp: 112-114 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.07 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 6.84 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 151.1, 149.6, 149.2, 139.6, 128.9, 128.7, 127.7, 127.0, 125.2, 119.0, 117.5, 112.4, 40.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₉N₂⁺ (*M*+*H*)⁺ 275.1543, found 275.1548.



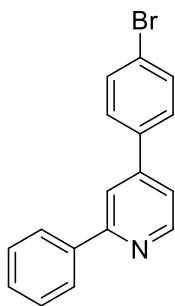
4-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3af)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (28.3 mg, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.28 – 7.12 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.3 (d, *J* = 247.6 Hz), 158.0, 150.0, 148.0, 139.2, 134.4 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 129.0, 128.7 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 128.6, 126.9, 119.9, 118.3, 116.0 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz).



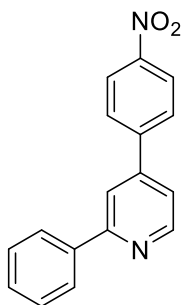
4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ag)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (28.0 mg, 53% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.74 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.42 – 7.39 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.2, 150.2, 148.0, 139.2, 136.9, 135.2, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 127.0, 120.0, 118.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 266.0731, found 266.0739.



4-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ah)

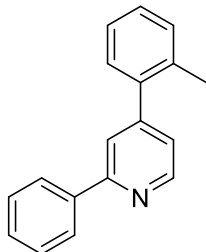
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (27.2 mg, 44% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.74 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.44 (m, 5H), 7.42 – 7.39 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.2, 150.2, 148.1, 139.2, 137.4, 132.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 127.0, 123.5, 119.9, 118.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 310.0226, found 310.0236.



4-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ai)¹

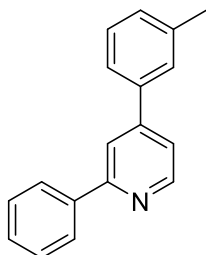
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow

solid (13.8 mg, 25% yield). Mp: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.45 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5, 150.4, 148.2, 146.9, 144.8, 138.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.0, 127.0, 124.3, 120.1, 118.7.



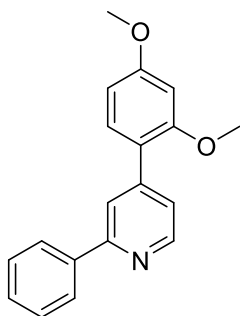
2-Phenyl-4-(*o*-tolyl)pyridine (4aj)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (26.4 mg, 54% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.3, 150.6, 149.4, 139.3, 139.3, 135.0, 130.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.0, 126.1, 122.7, 121.2, 20.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆N⁺ (M+H)⁺ 246.1277, found 246.1280.



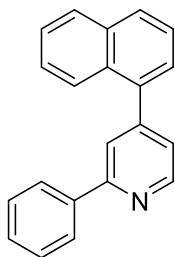
2-Phenyl-4-(*m*-tolyl)pyridine (4ak)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (27.9 mg, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 149.9, 149.5, 139.4, 138.8, 138.4, 129.8, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 127.0, 124.2, 120.3, 118.8, 21.51. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆N⁺ (M+H)⁺ 246.1277, found 246.1279



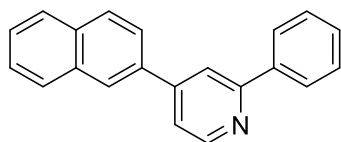
4-(2,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylpyridine (3al)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow oil (20.9 mg, 36% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.68 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.04 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.4, 157.7, 157.2, 149.1, 147.0, 139.7, 131.1, 128.7, 128.7, 127.0, 122.7, 121.3, 120.6, 105.0, 99.0, 55.6, 55.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 292.1332, found 292.1333.



4-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenylpyridine (3am)⁴

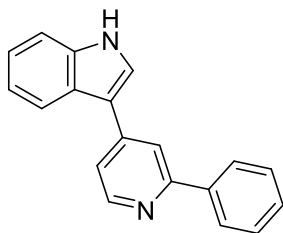
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (27.0 mg, 48% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.81 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.95 – 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 5H), 7.39 – 7.37 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.5, 149.6, 149.5, 139.2, 137.6, 133.7, 130.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.8, 128.5, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 126.2, 125.3, 125.2, 123.5, 122.0.



4-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-phenylpyridine (3an)⁴

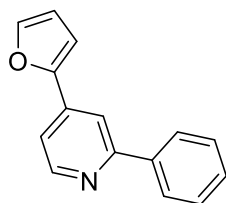
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (28.7mg, 51% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.78 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 – 8.03 (m, 3H), 7.99 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.92 – 7.88 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.50 (m, 5H), 7.48 – 7.45 (m,

1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 150.0, 149.3, 139.4, 135.7, 133.4, 133.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.1, 126.8, 126.7, 126.5, 124.6, 120.4, 119.0.



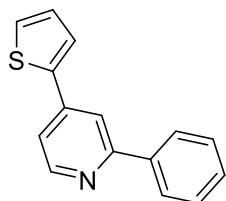
3-(2-Phenylpyridin-4-yl)-1H-indole (3ao)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a black solid (23.8 mg, 44% yield). Mp: 93-95 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.76 (s, 1H), 8.62 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.26 – 8.09 (m, 4H), 8.07 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 156.8, 150.2, 145.0, 139.5, 137.7, 129.4, 129.2, 127.2, 127.0, 125.1, 122.4, 121.0, 119.8, 117.3, 113.4, 112.8. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₄N₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 271.1230, found 271.1228.



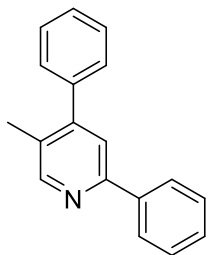
4-(Furan-2-yl)-2-phenylpyridine (3ap)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil. (20.8 mg, 47% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 151.5, 150.0, 143.7, 139.3, 138.3, 129.1, 128.7, 126.9, 116.3, 114.7, 112.1, 108.7.



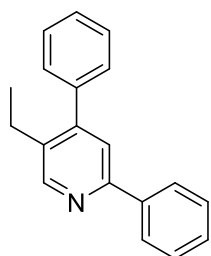
2-Phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine (3aq)⁵

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow solid (22.4 mg, 47% yield). Mp: 62-65 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.57 – 7.42 (m, 6H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.2, 150.2, 142.2, 141.4, 139.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.1, 127.0, 125.3, 118.4, 116.9.



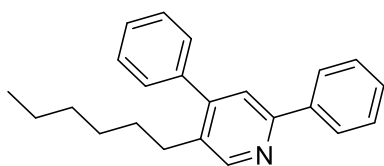
5-Methyl-2,4-diphenylpyridine (3ar)¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (30.4 mg, 62% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.02 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.2, 151.1, 149.9, 139.4, 139.3, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 121.0, 17.0.



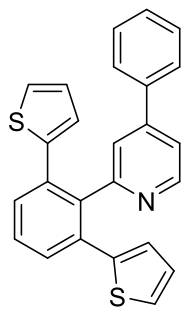
5-Ethyl-2,4-diphenylpyridine (3as)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (30.5 mg, 59% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.03 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.48 – 7.35 (m, 8H), 2.68 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.9, 150.3, 149.7, 139.4, 139.2, 135.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 121.3, 23.3, 15.5. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈N⁺ (M+H)⁺ 260.1434, found 260.1434.



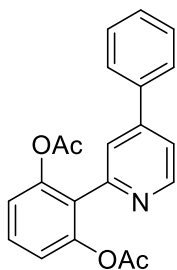
5-Hexyl-2,4-diphenylpyridine (3at)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (34.6 mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.59 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.47 – 7.38 (m, 6H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 2.67 – 2.60 (m, 2H), 1.49 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.15 (m, 6H), 0.84 – 0.79 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 150.7, 149.9, 139.5, 139.2, 134.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 126.7, 121.2, 31.3, 30.9, 29.9, 28.9, 22.4, 14.0. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₃H₂₆N⁺ (M+H)⁺ 316.2060, found 316.2056.



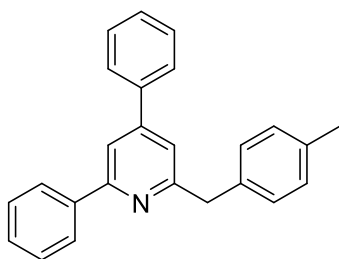
2-(2,6-di(thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (4ab) ¹

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a yellow oil (59 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 – 7.30 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 6.84 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 149.2, 148.0, 142.6, 138.5, 138.1, 134.7, 130.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.40, 127.2, 126.9, 126.8, 125.8, 124.4, 120.1.



2-(4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-1,3-phenylene diacetate (4ac)

Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1) to give a yellow oil (46 mg, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.55 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.02 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 152.7, 149.9, 149.1, 148.2, 137.5, 129.3, 129.3, 129.21, 129.16, 127.6, 126.8, 122.8, 120.7, 120.3, 20.57. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₁₈NO₄⁺ (*M*+*H*)⁺ 348.1230, found 348.1236.



2-(4-methylbenzyl)-4,6-diphenylpyridine (4ad)

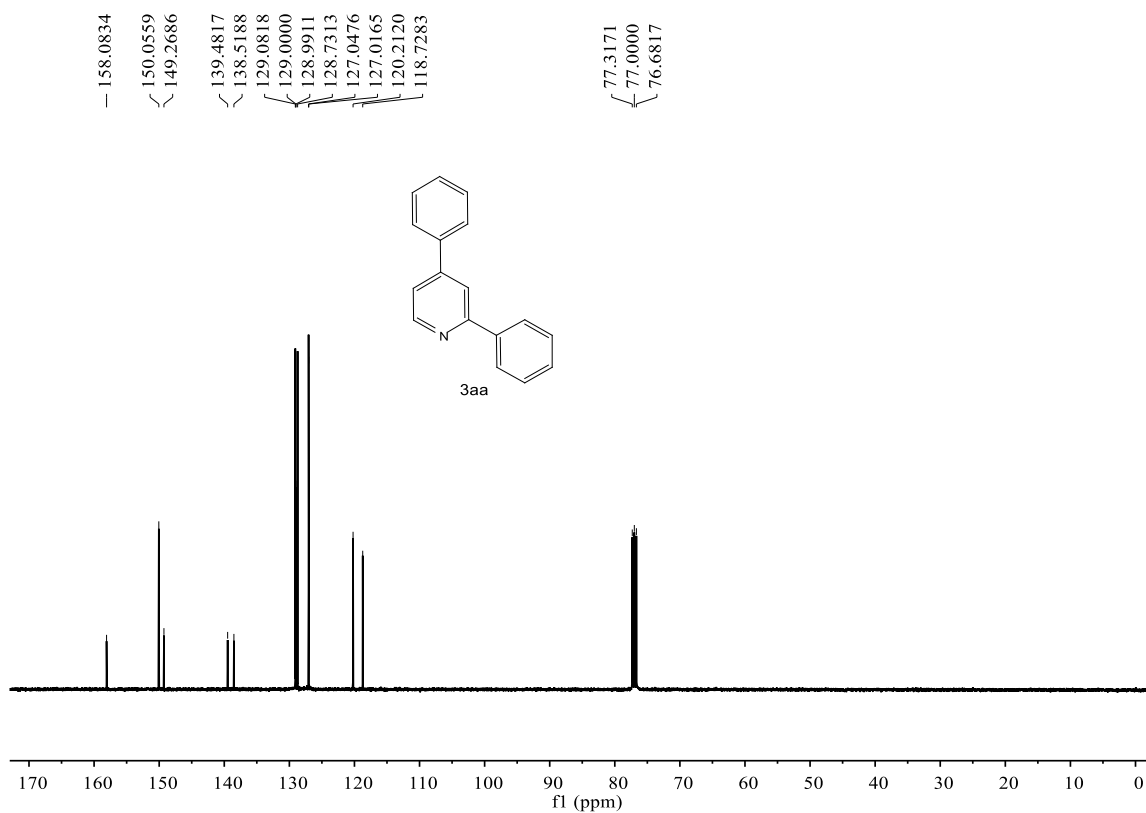
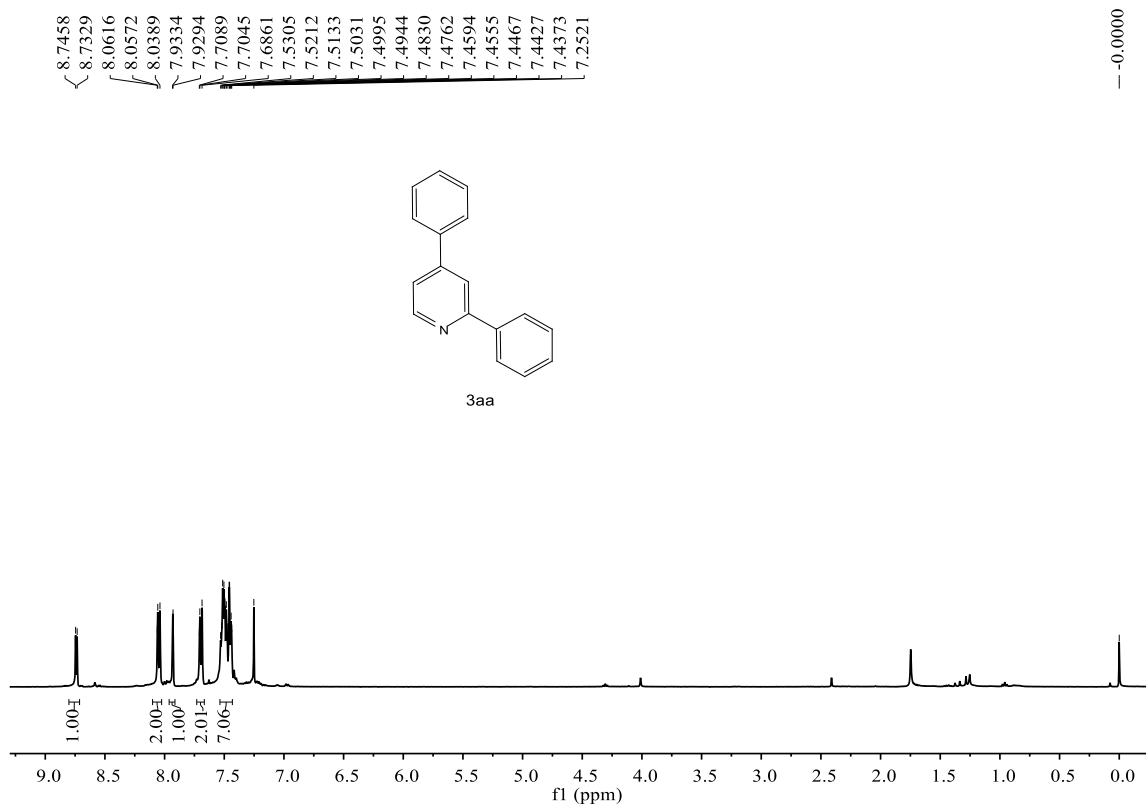
Purified directly by flash column chromatography (on silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1) to give a colorless oil (41 mg, 61% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.39 (m, 6H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s,

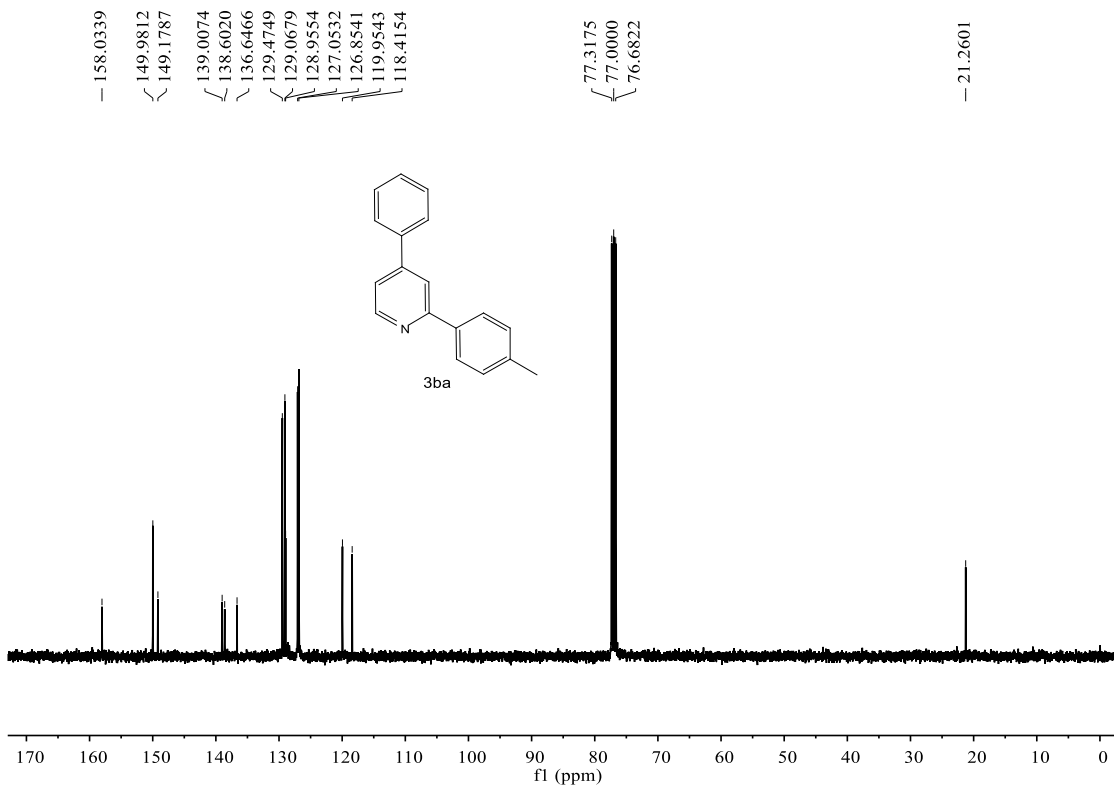
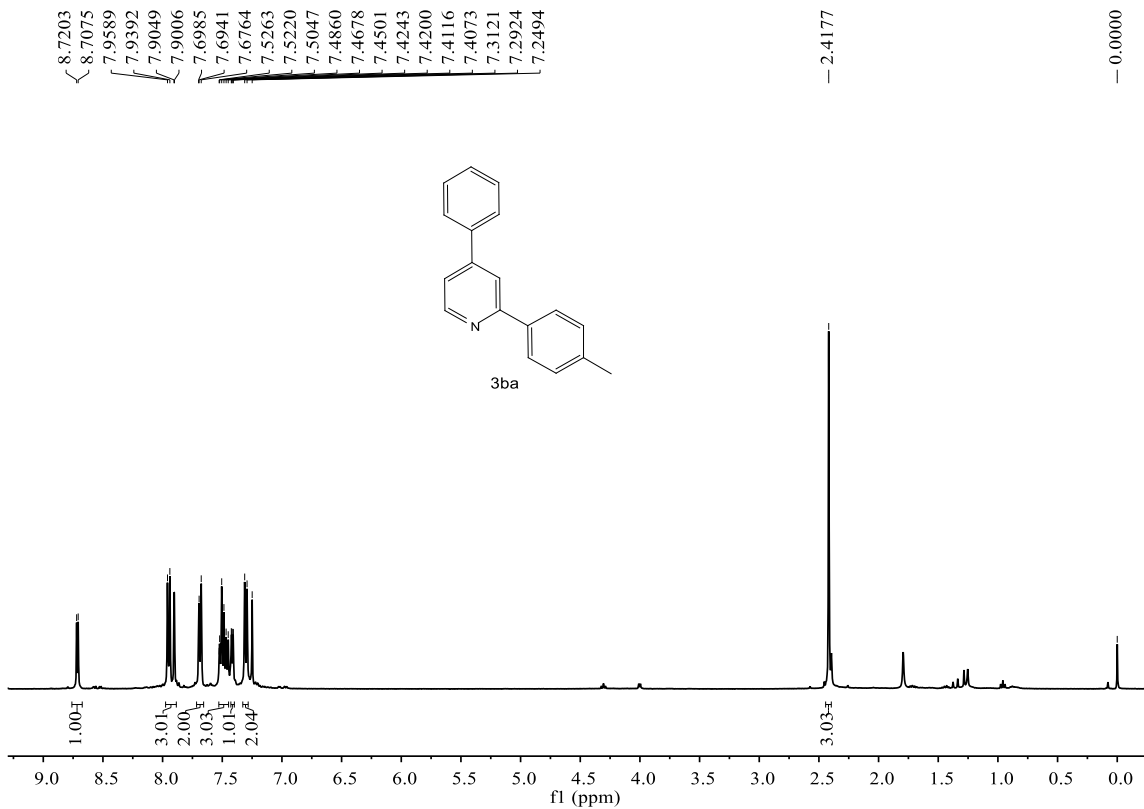
3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.7, 157.5, 149.7, 139.7, 138.8, 136.6, 135.8, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.8, 128.7, 127.12, 127.08, 119.5, 116.4, 44.5, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 336.1747, found 336.1746.

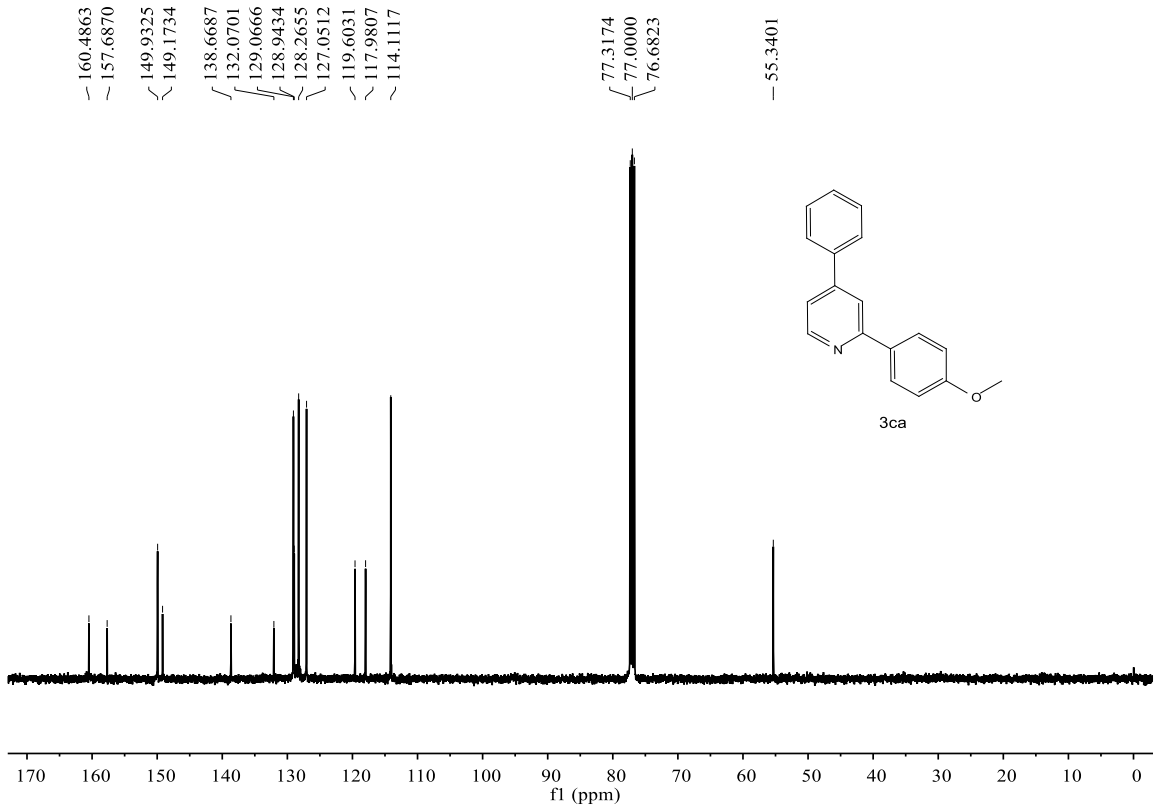
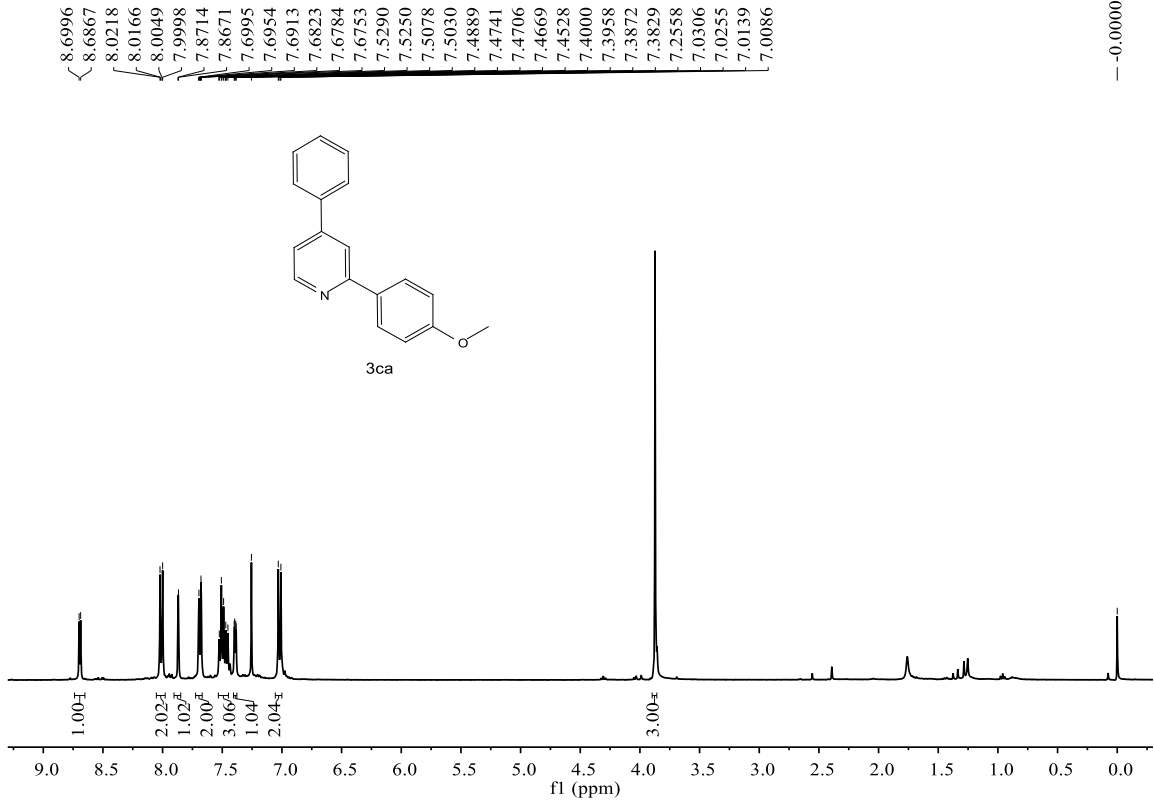
5. References

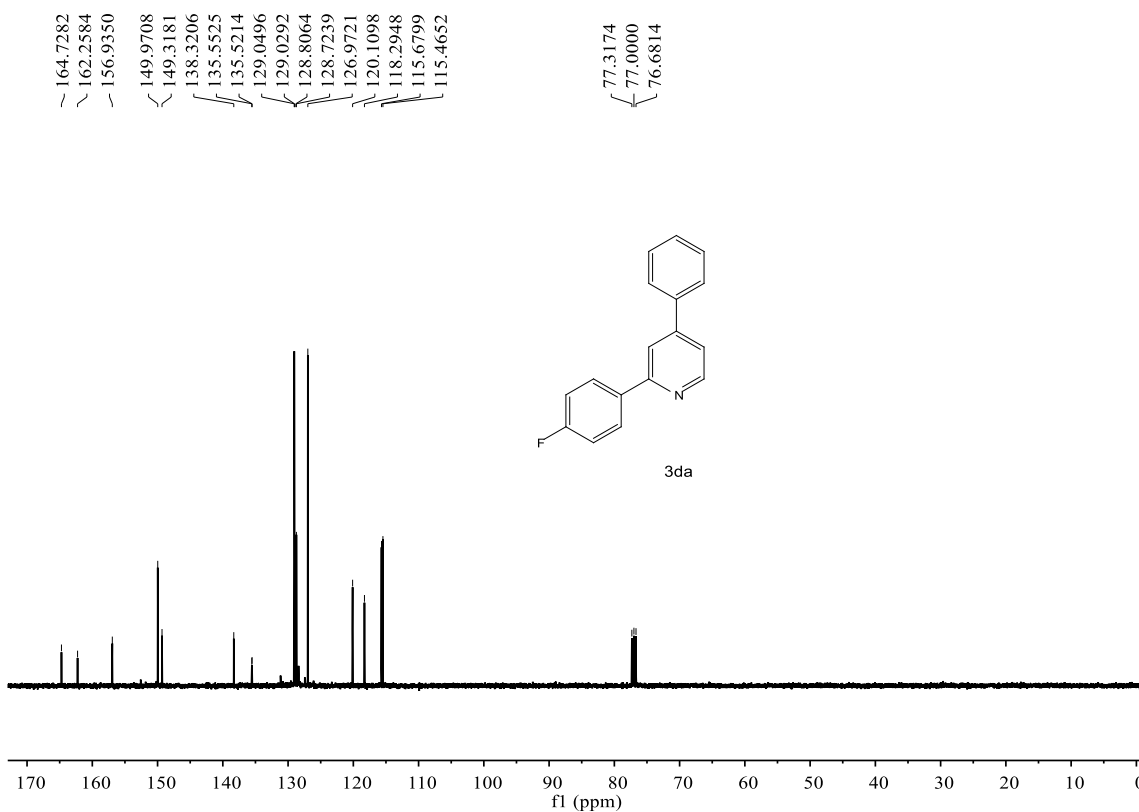
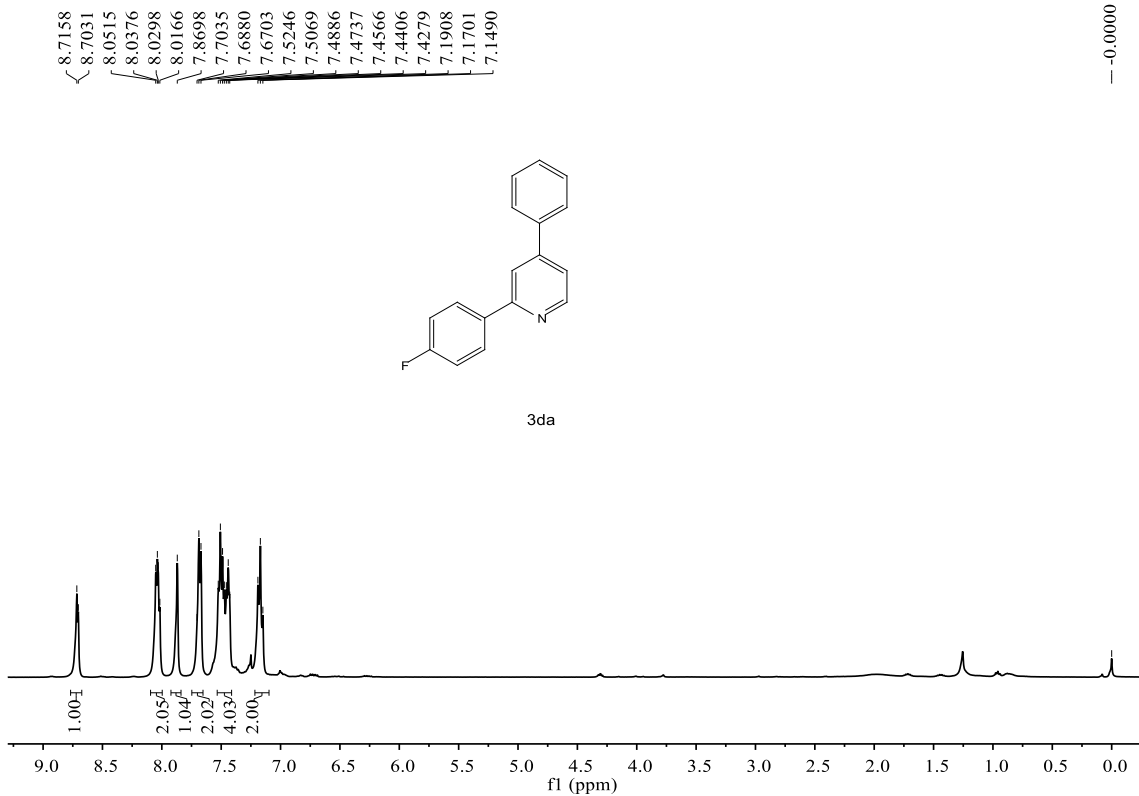
- [1] H. Huang, J. Cai, L. Tang, Z. Wang, F. Li, G.-J. Deng, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2016, **81**, 1499–1505.
- [2] Y. Wei, N. Yoshikai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2013, **135**, 3756–3759.
- [3] Y.-Y. Chuaa, H. A. Duong, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 8424-8427.
- [4] R. Singha, S. Dhara, J. K. Ray, *Tetrahedron Letters.*, 2013, **54**, 4841 – 4843.
- [5] M. Guzel, J. Watts, M. McGilvary, M. Wright, S. Kiren, *Tetrahedron Letters* 2015, **56**, 5275 – 5277.

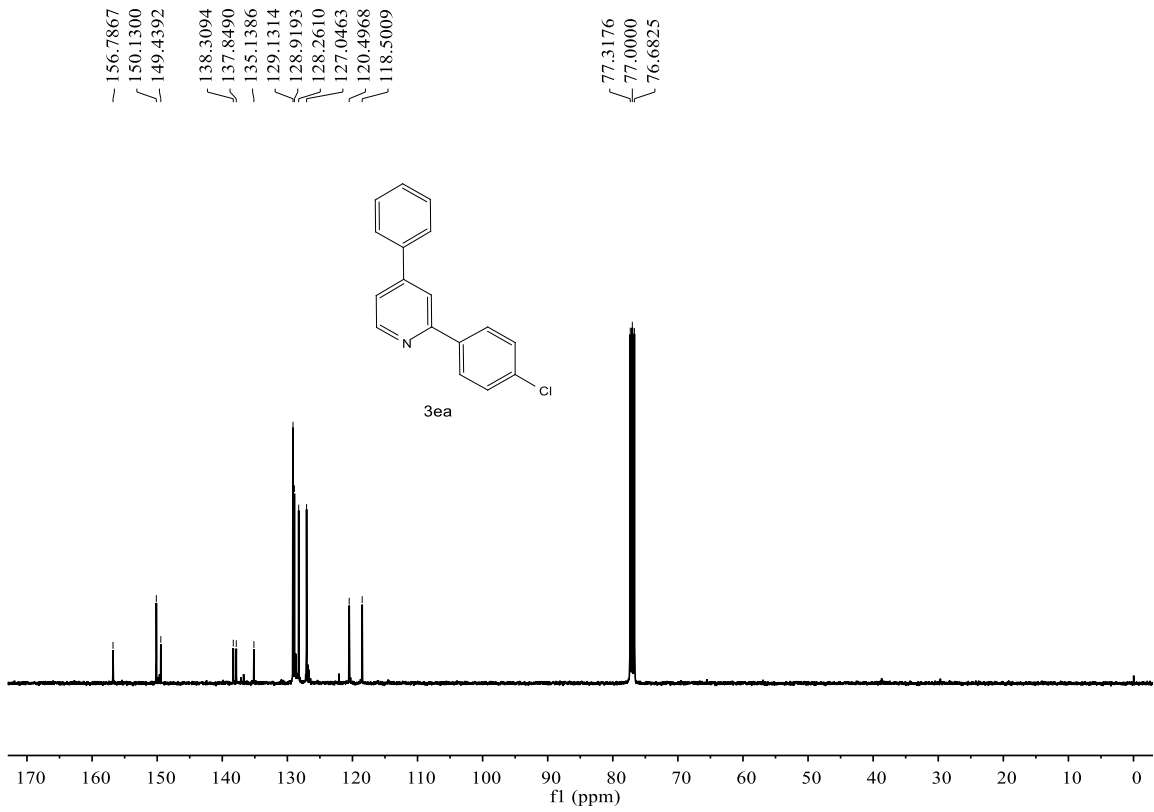
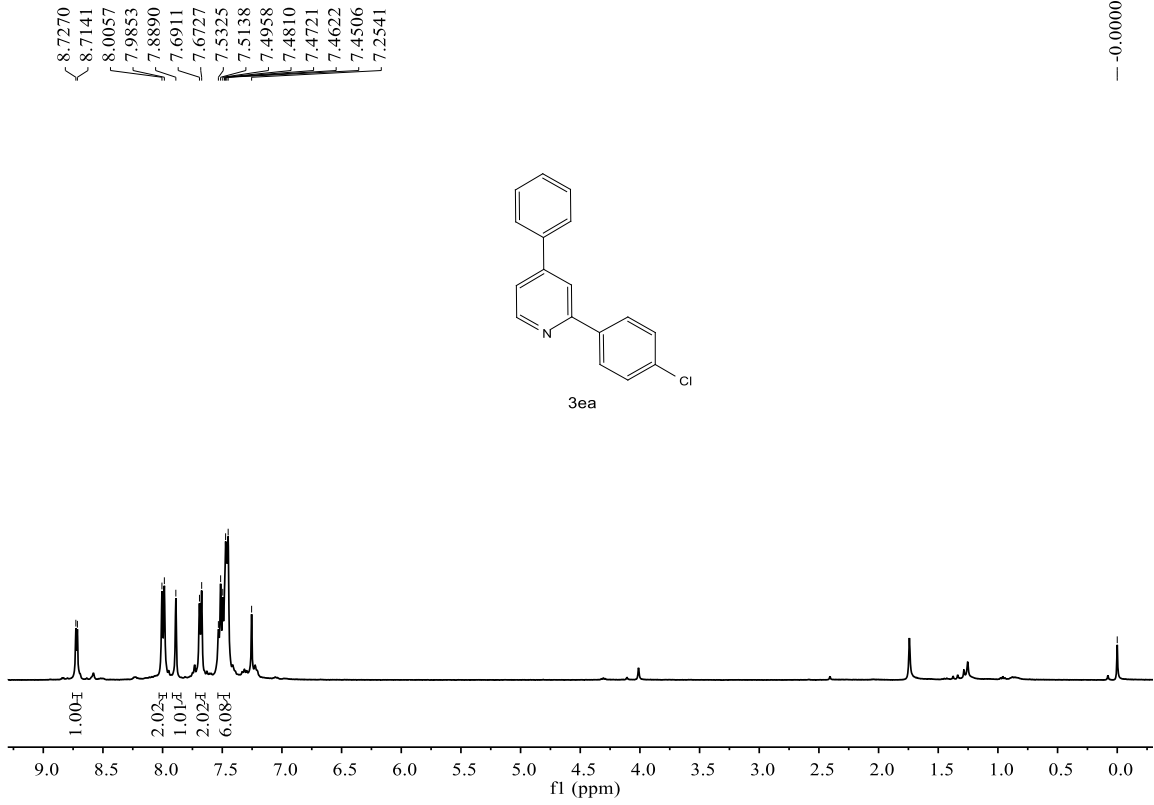
6. NMR Spectra for the compounds prepared

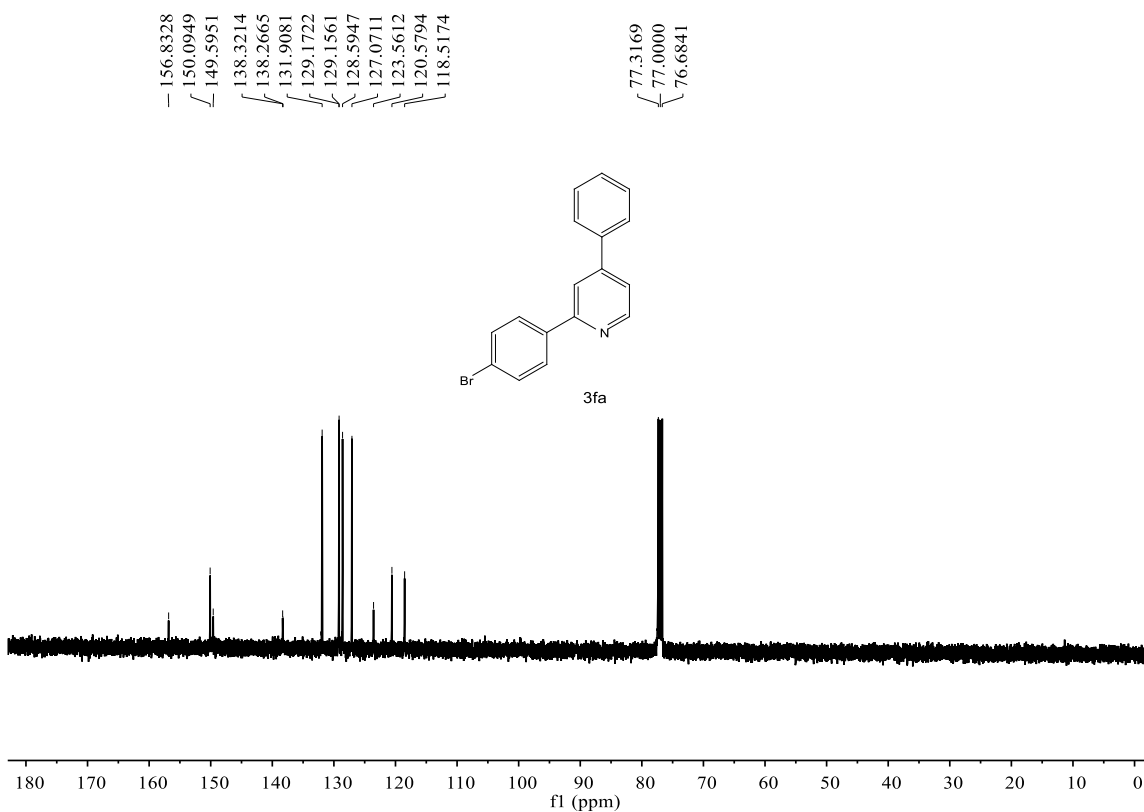
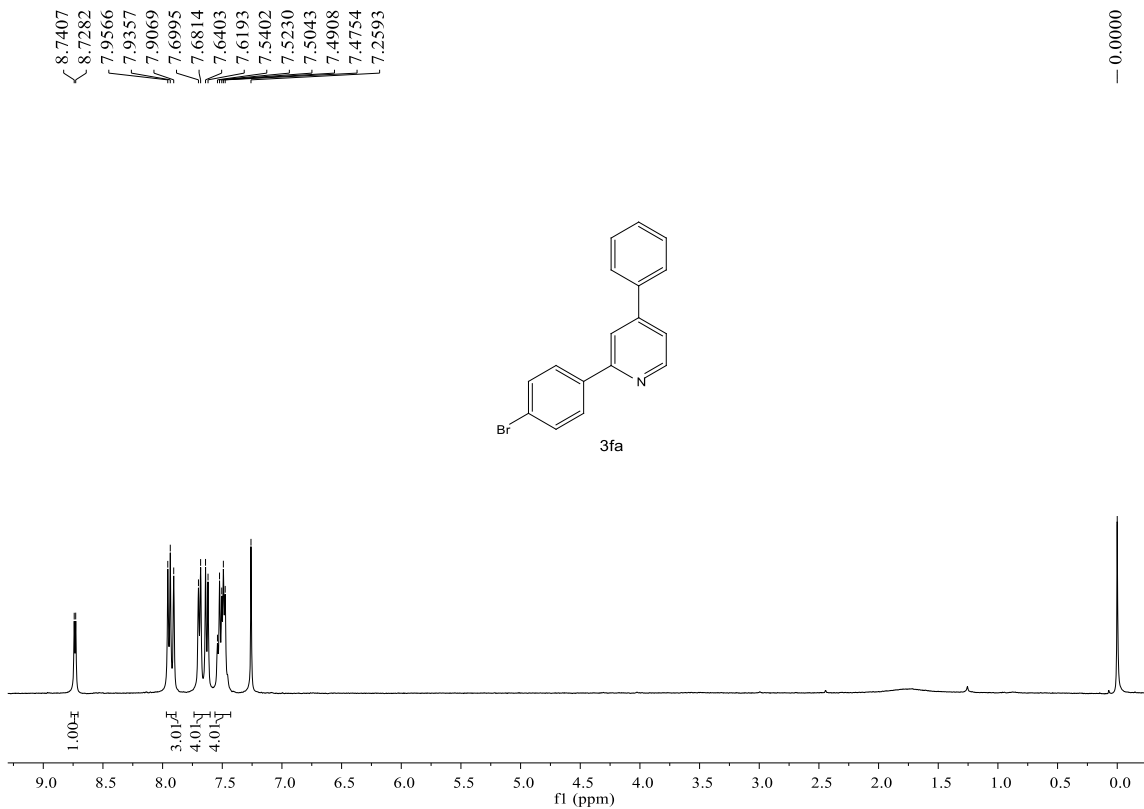


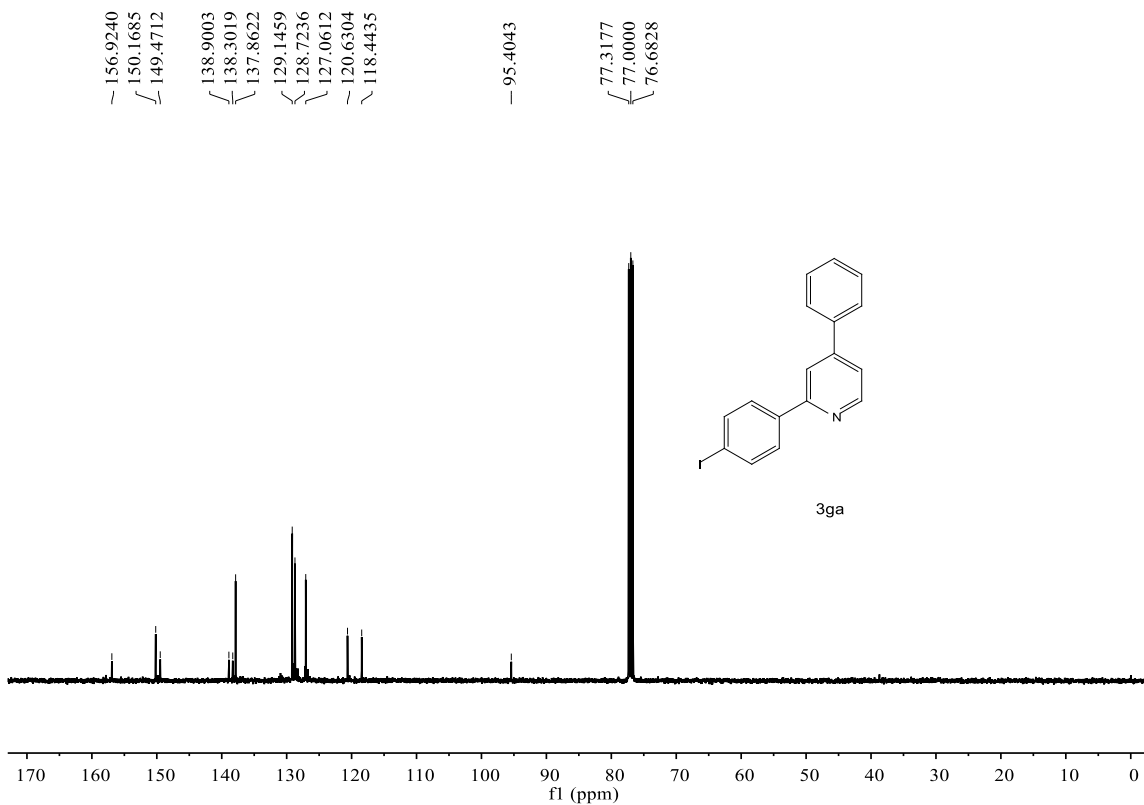
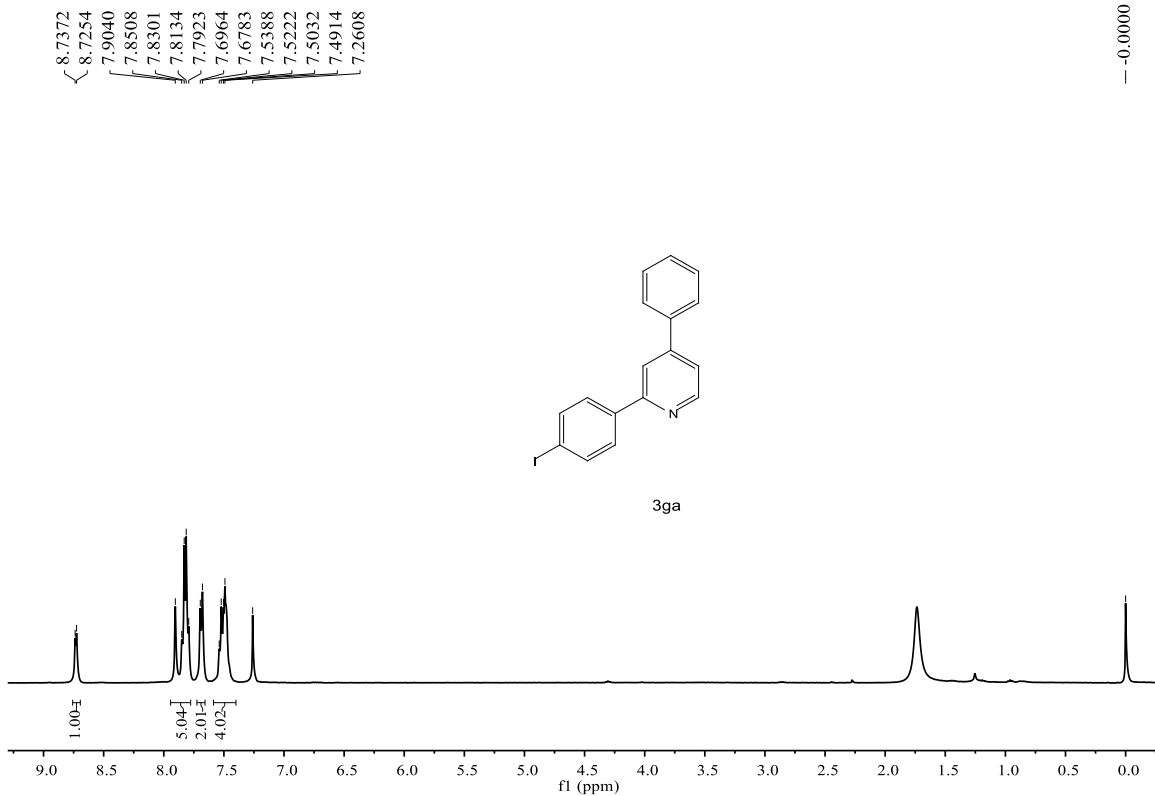


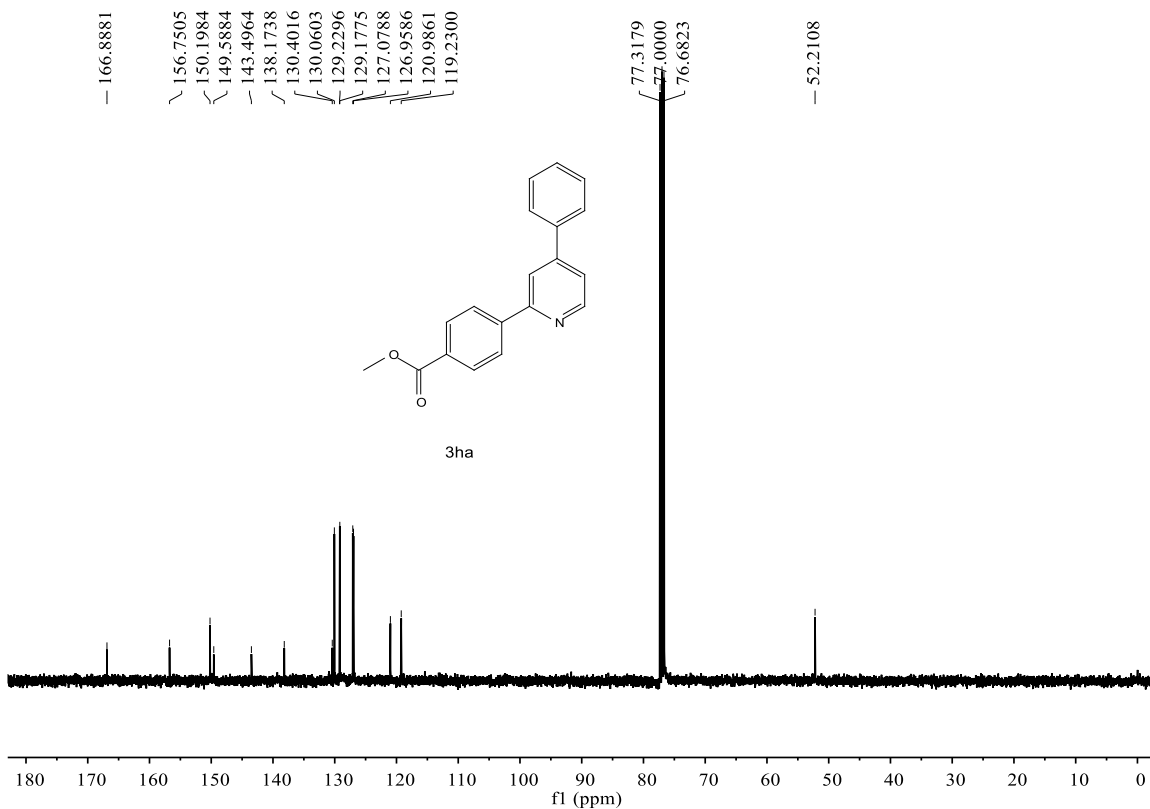
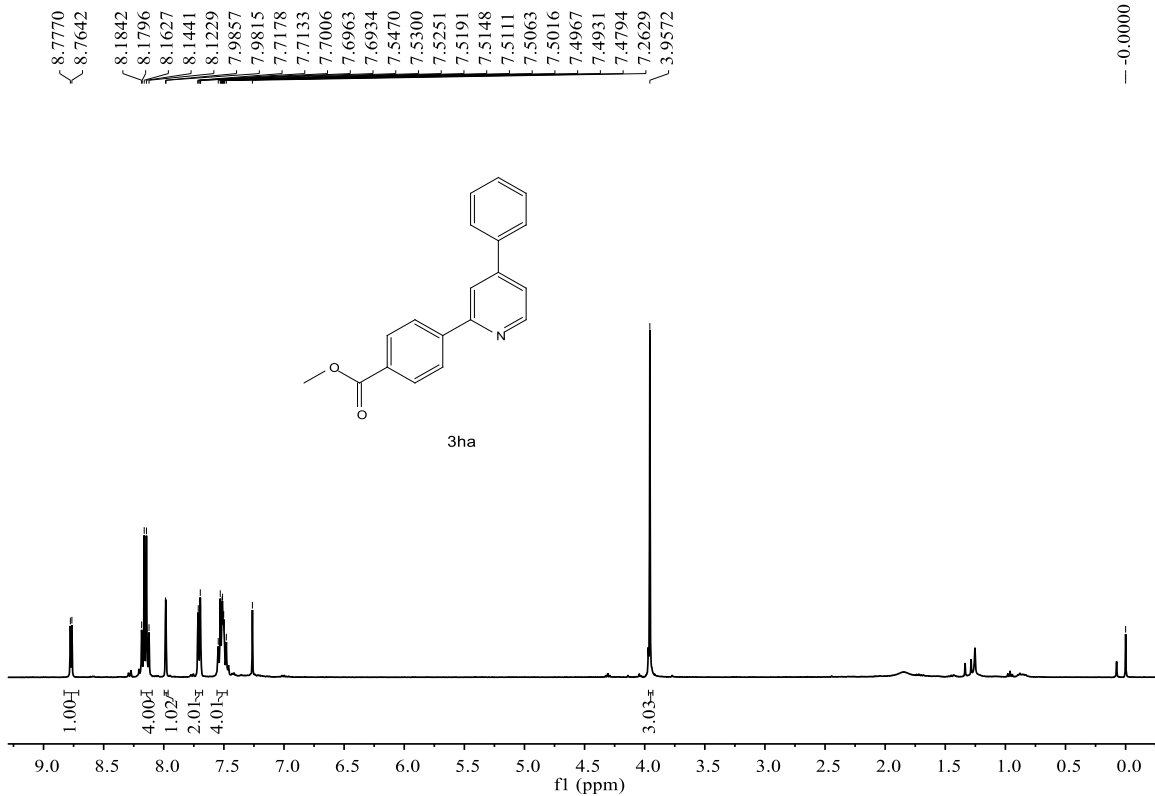






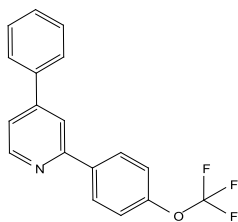




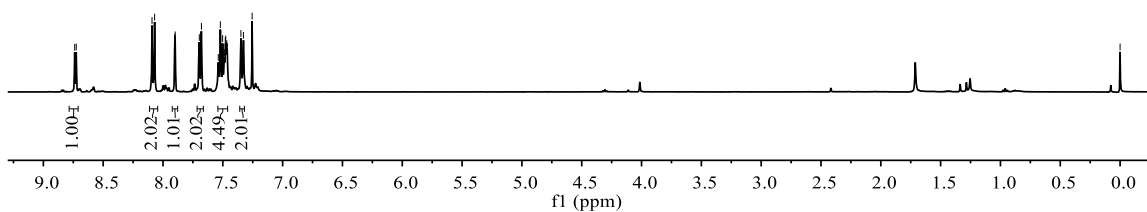


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7.6839
7.6789
7.5377
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0.0000

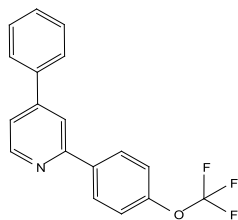


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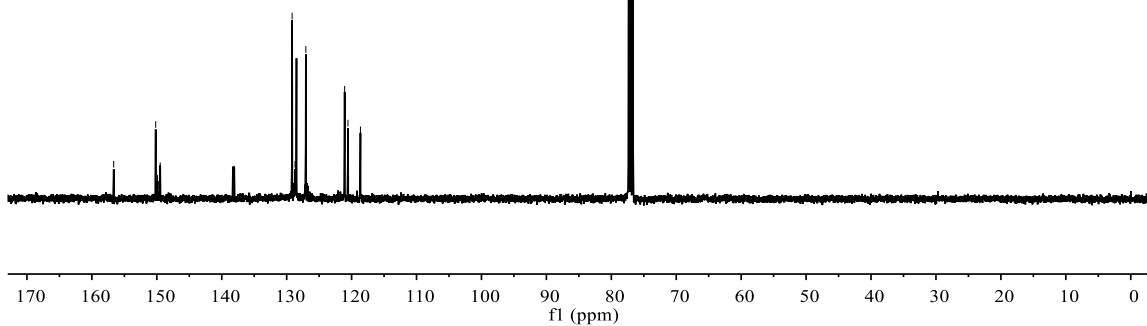


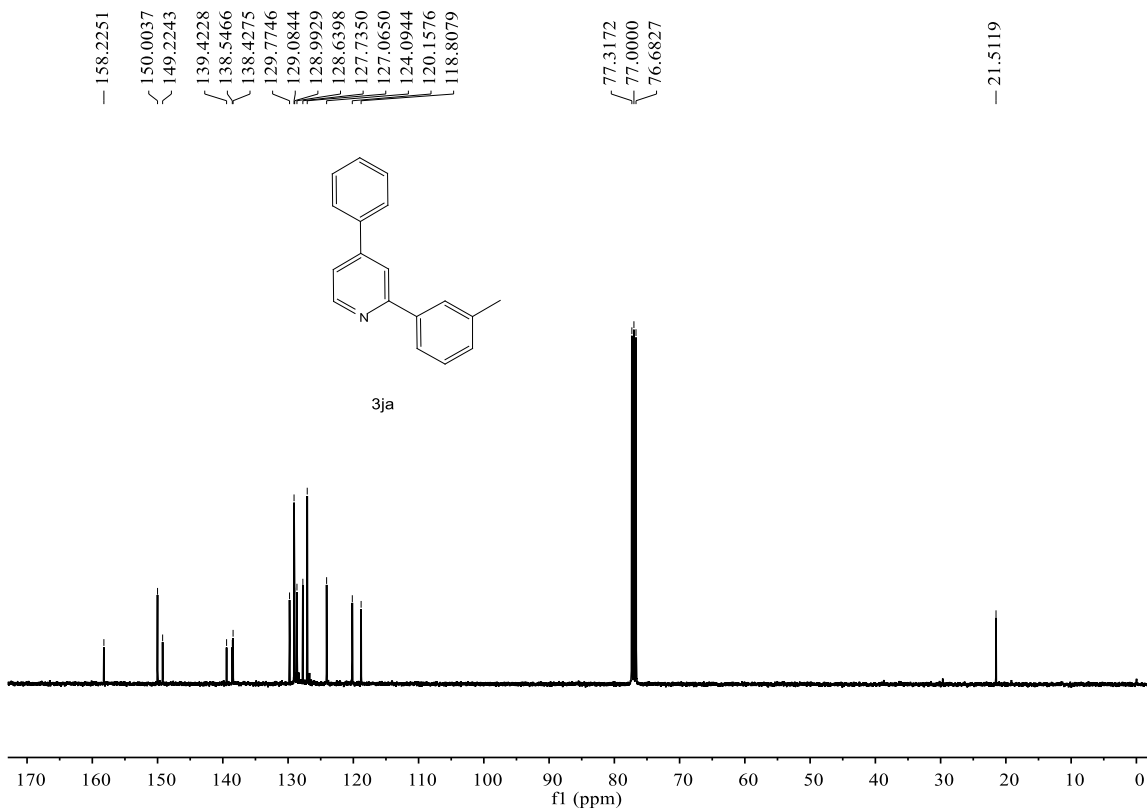
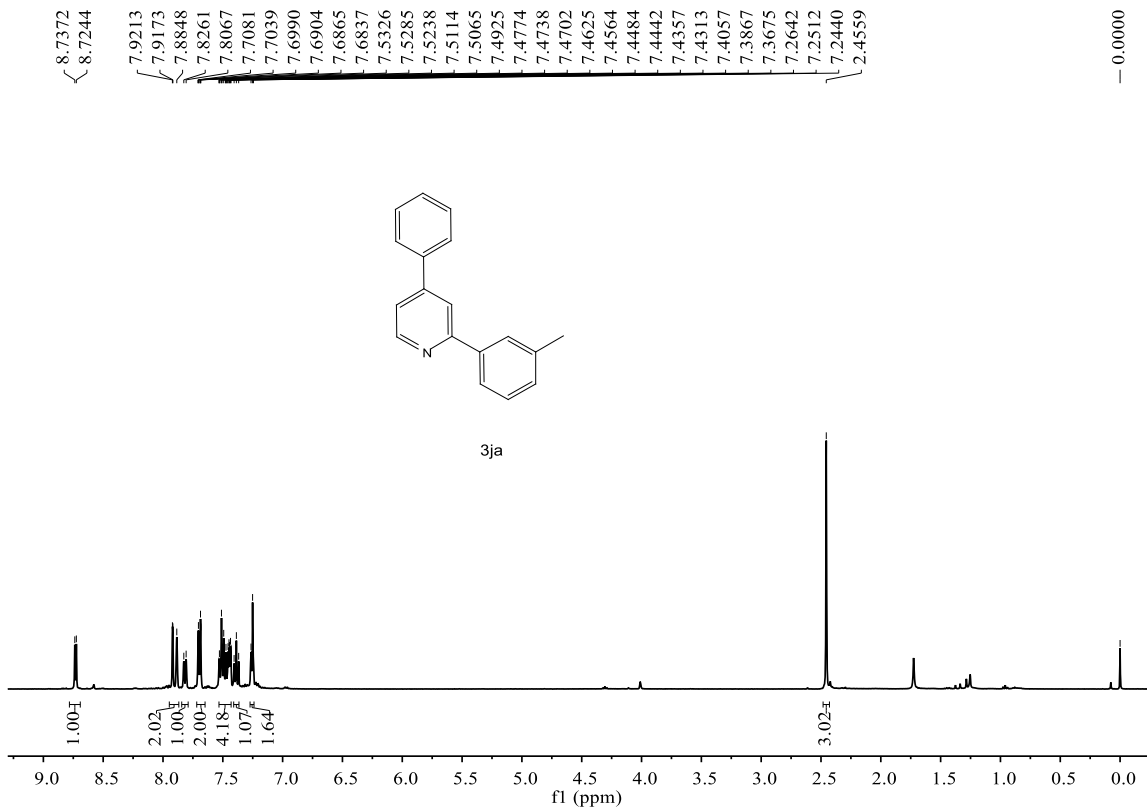
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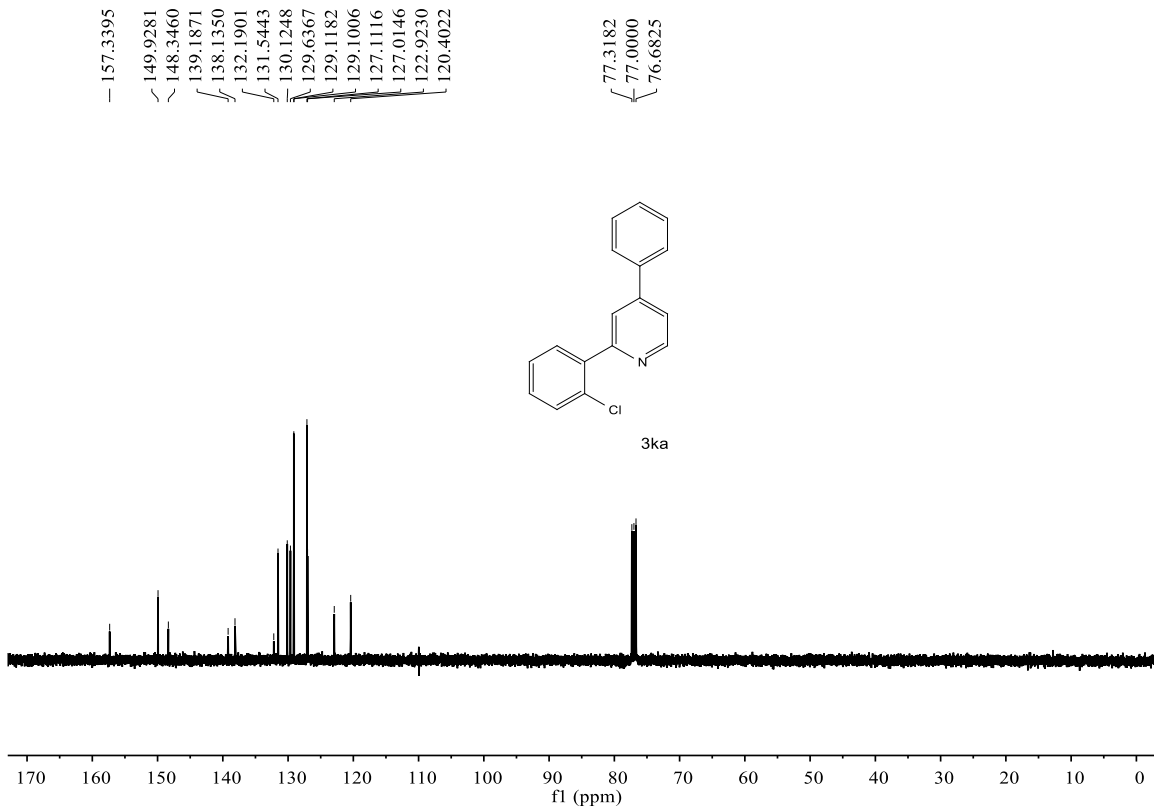
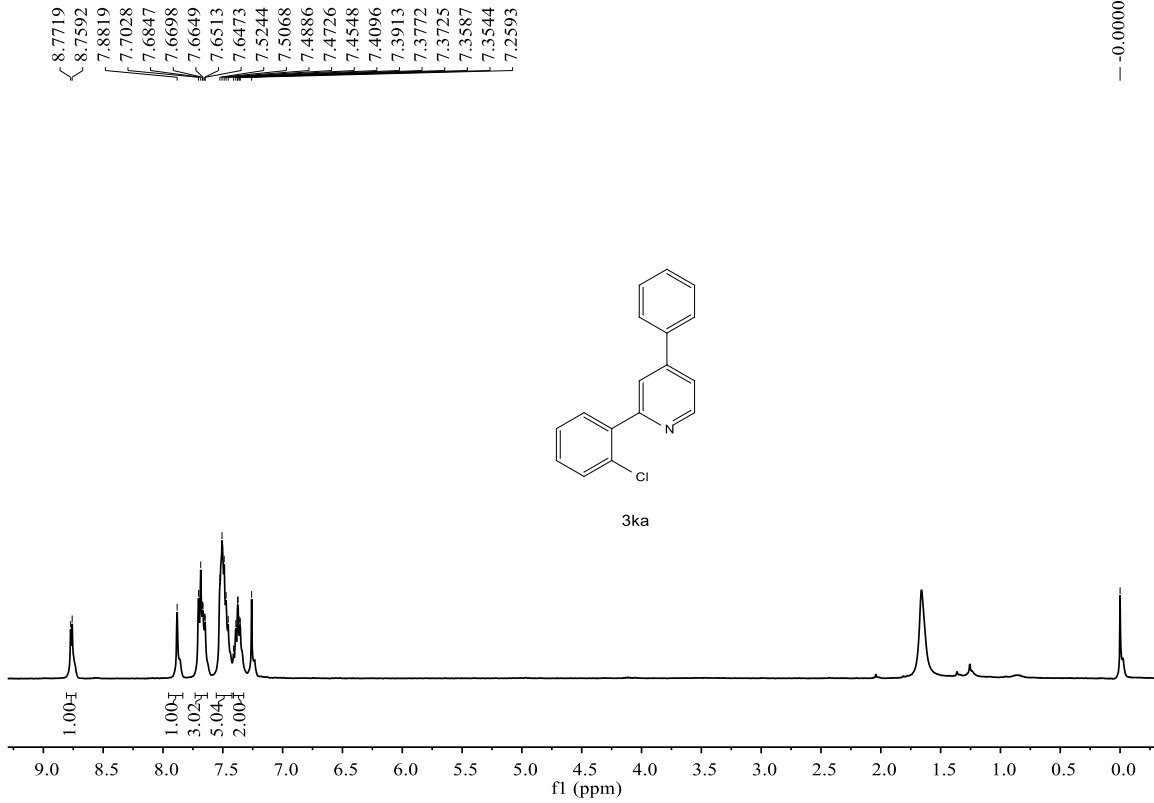
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76.6829

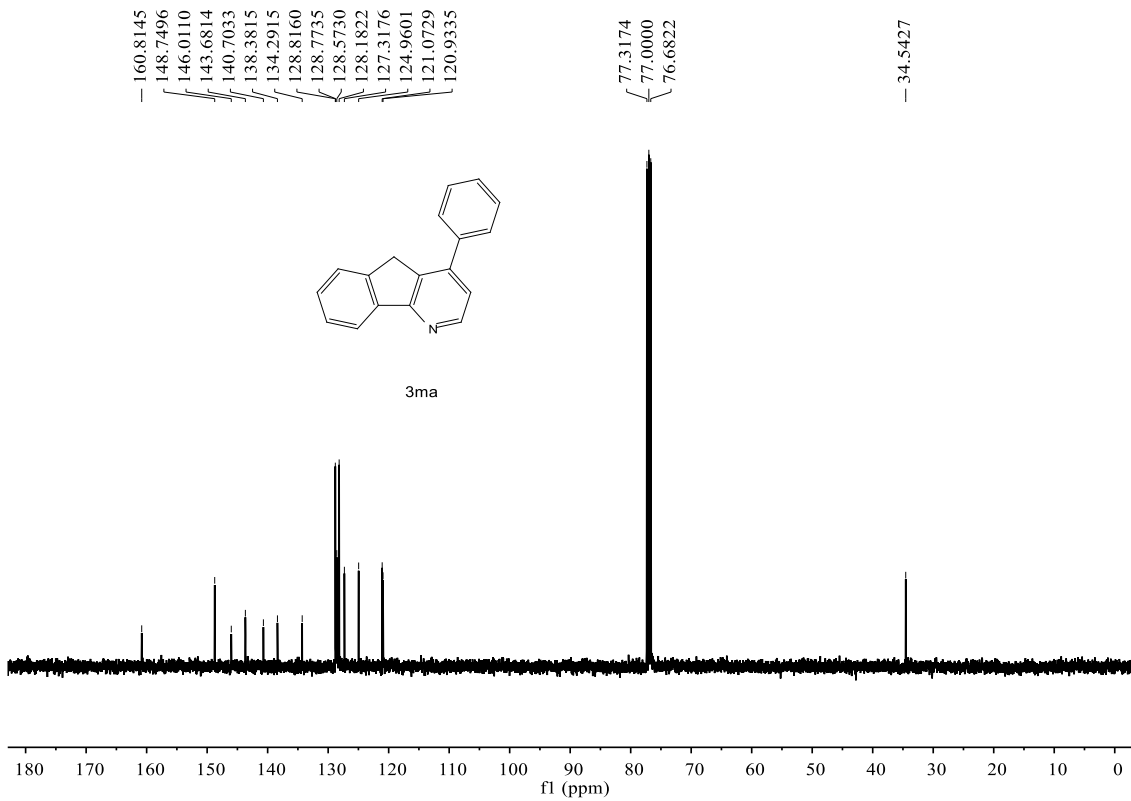
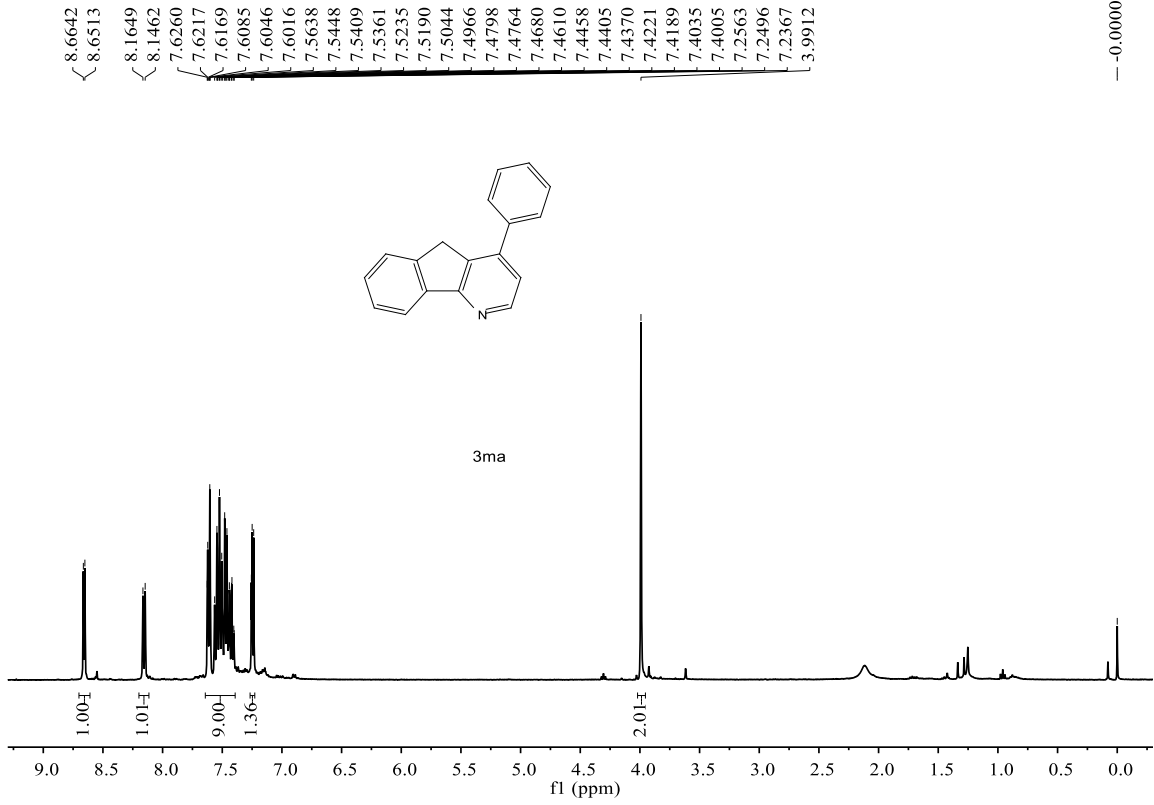


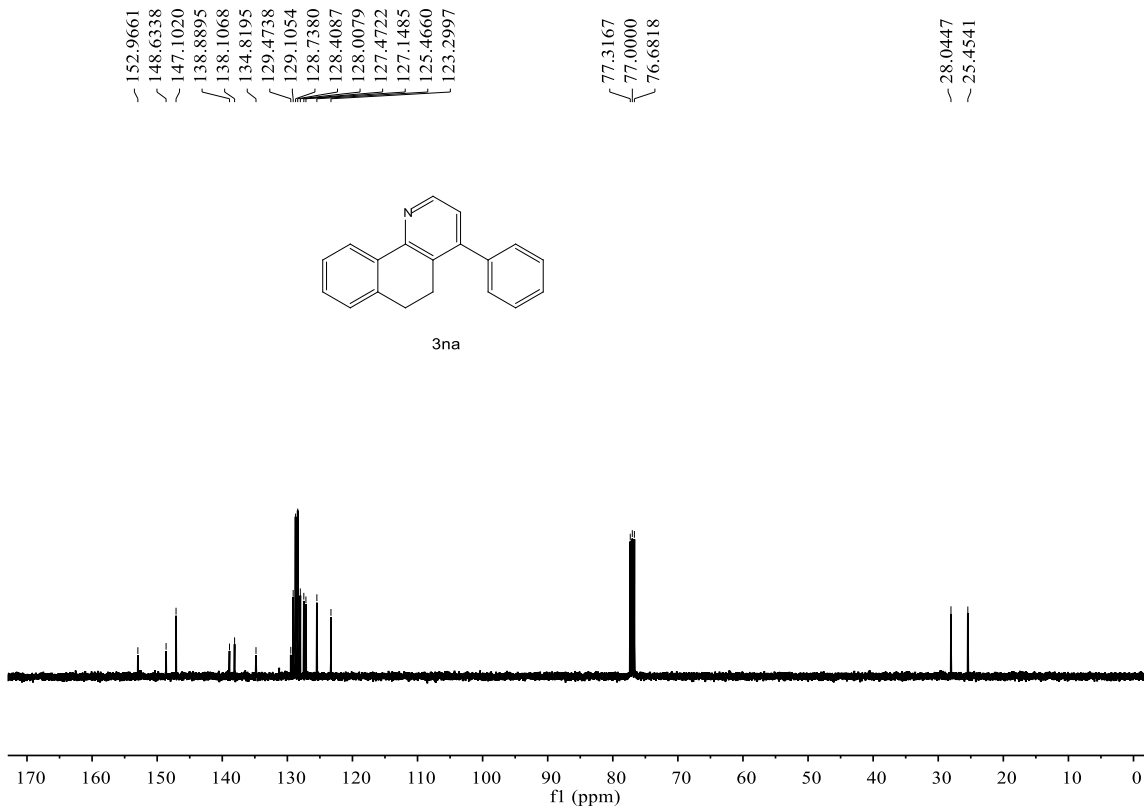
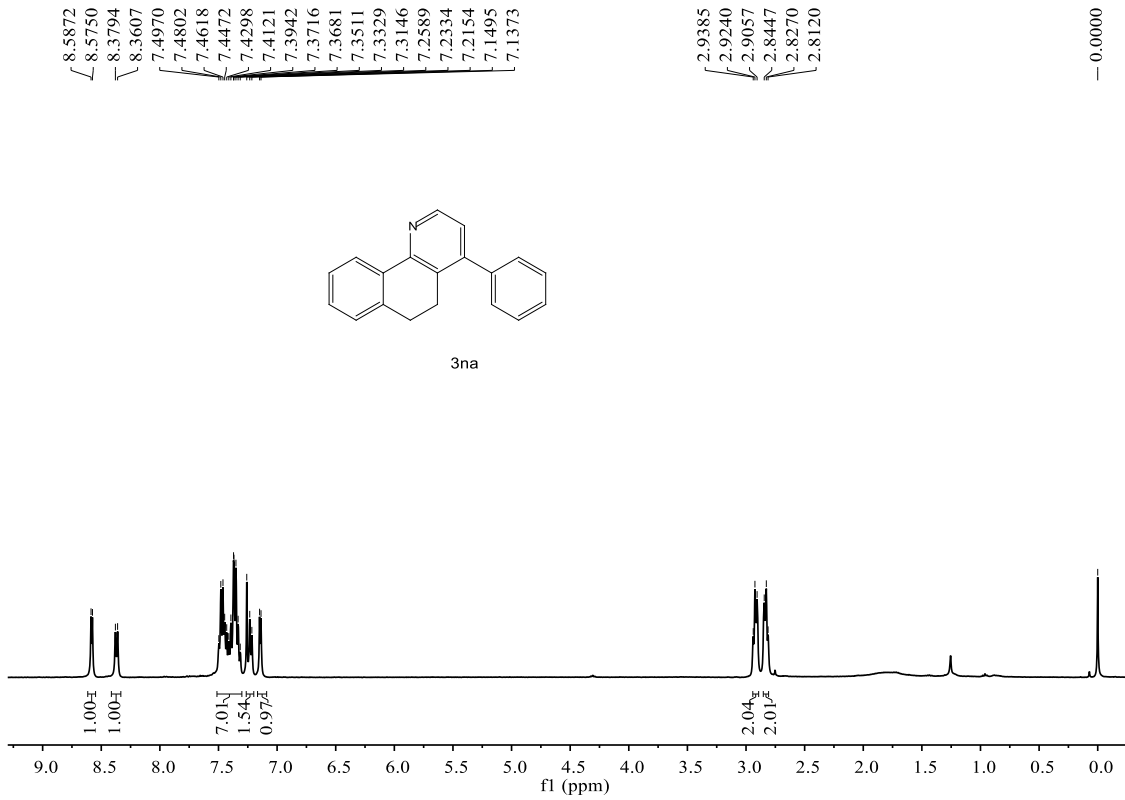
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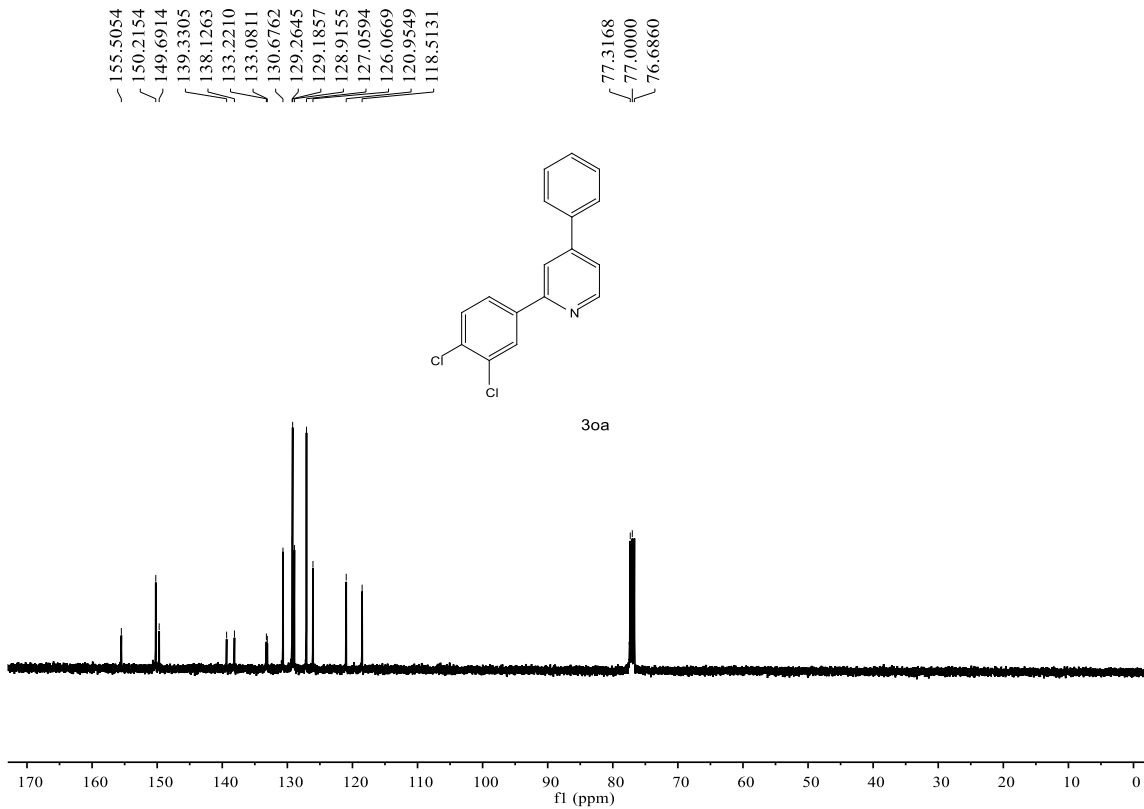
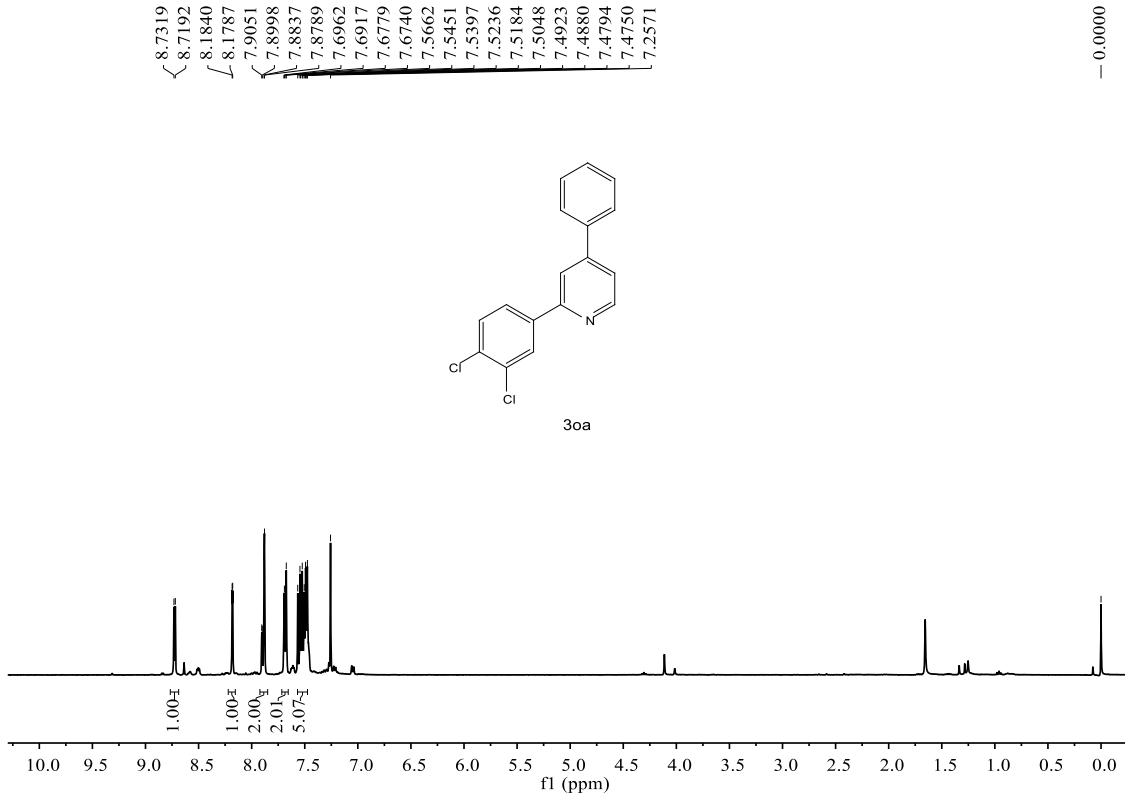


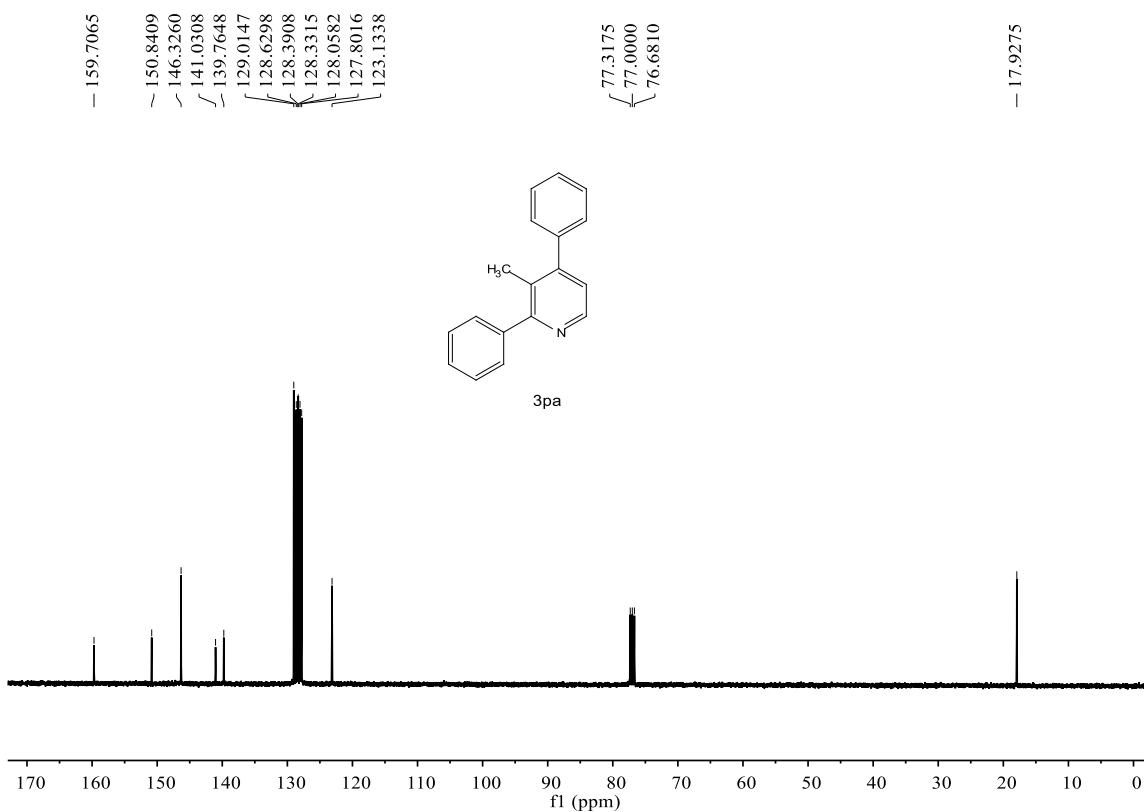
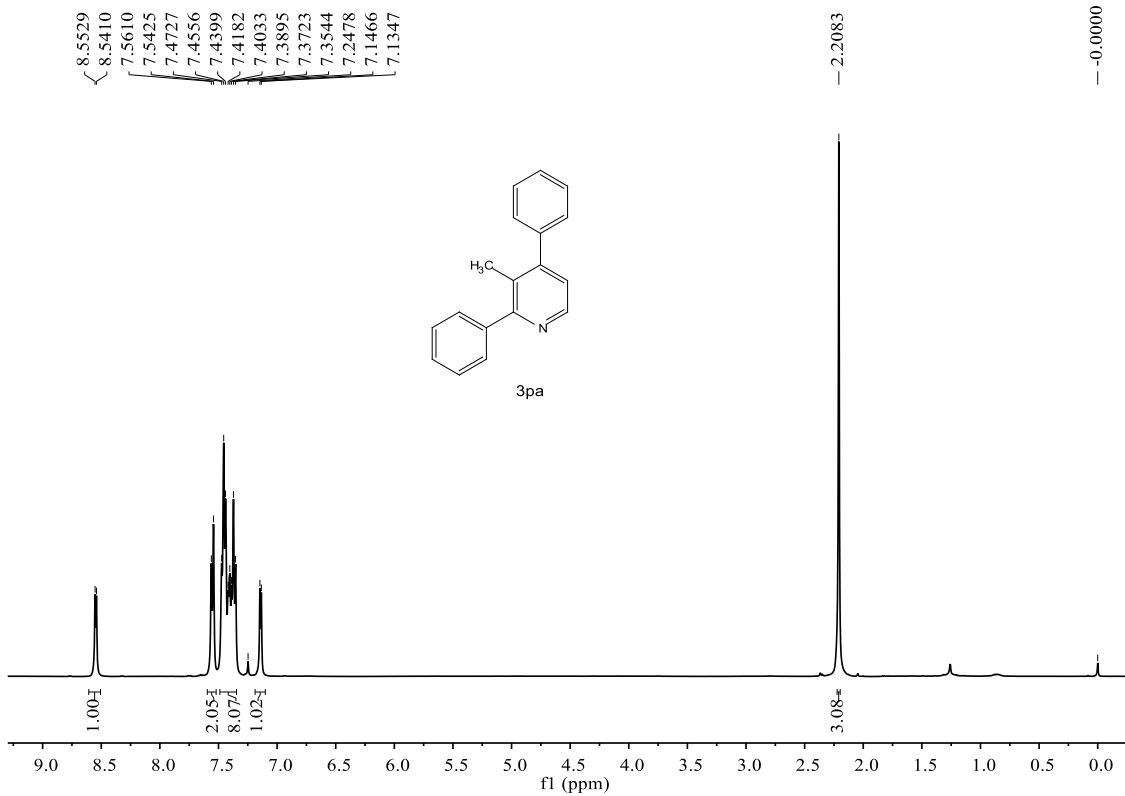


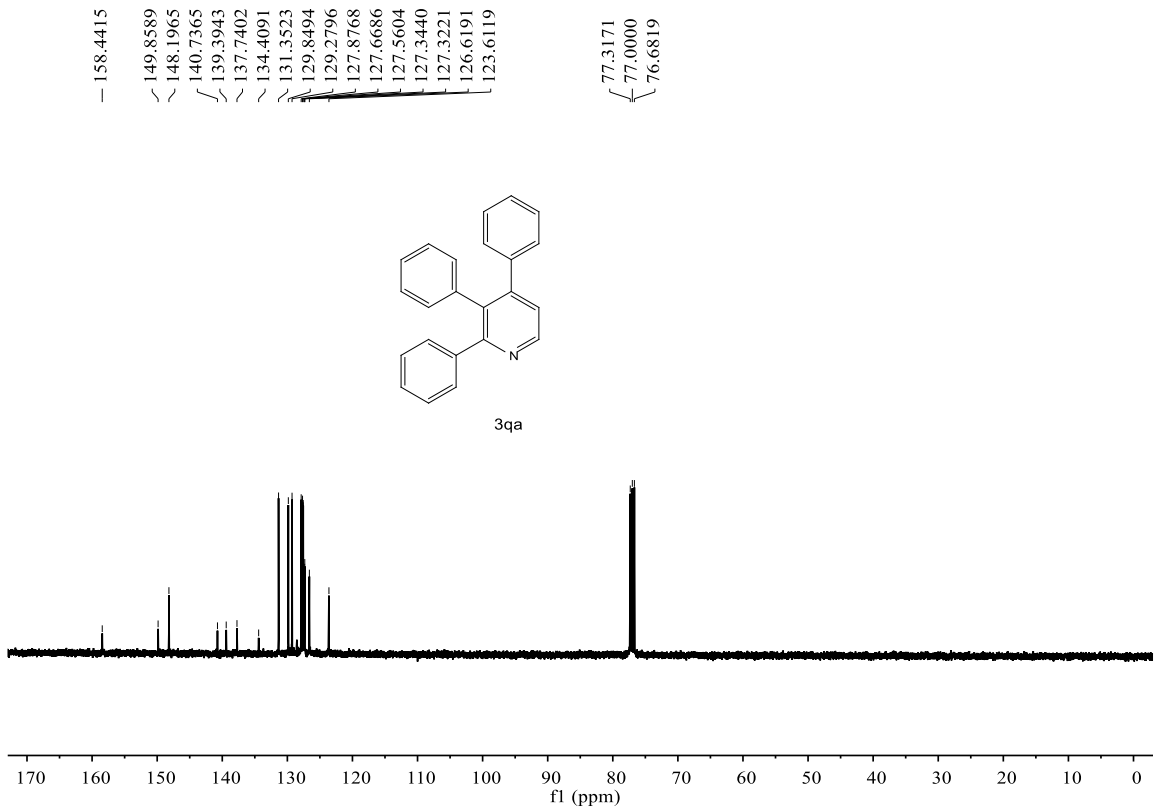
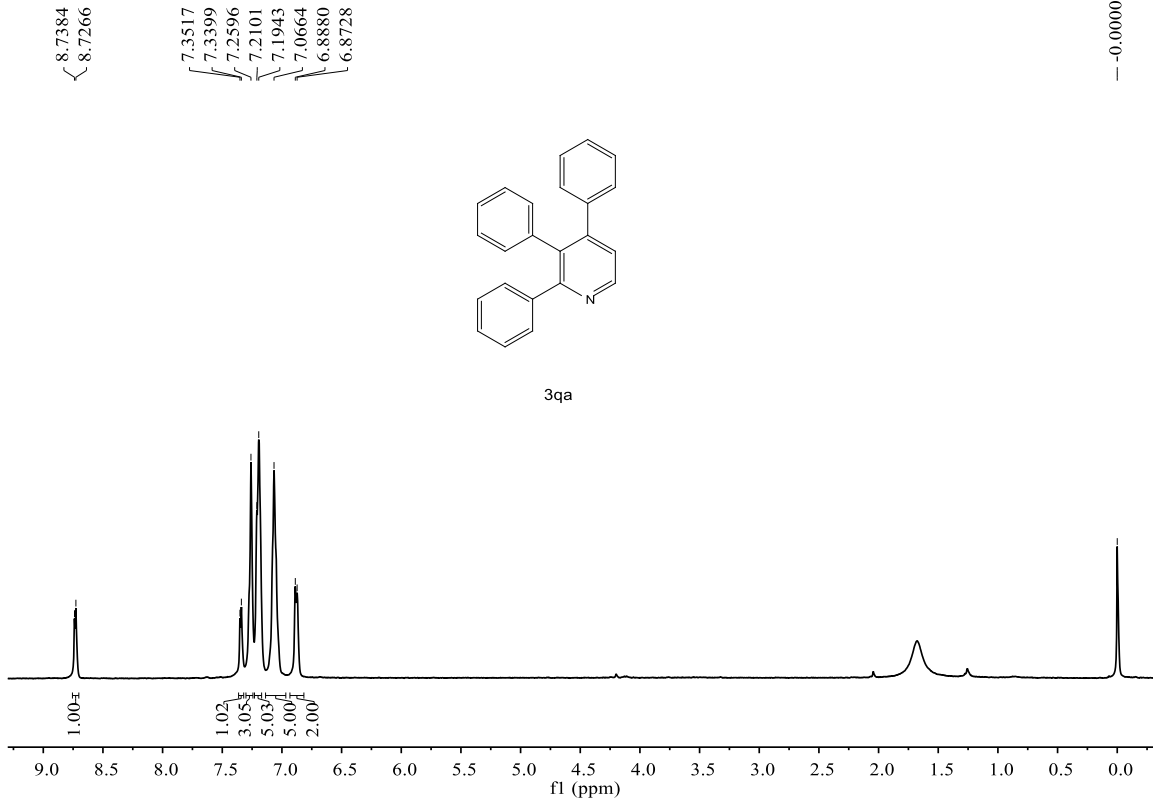


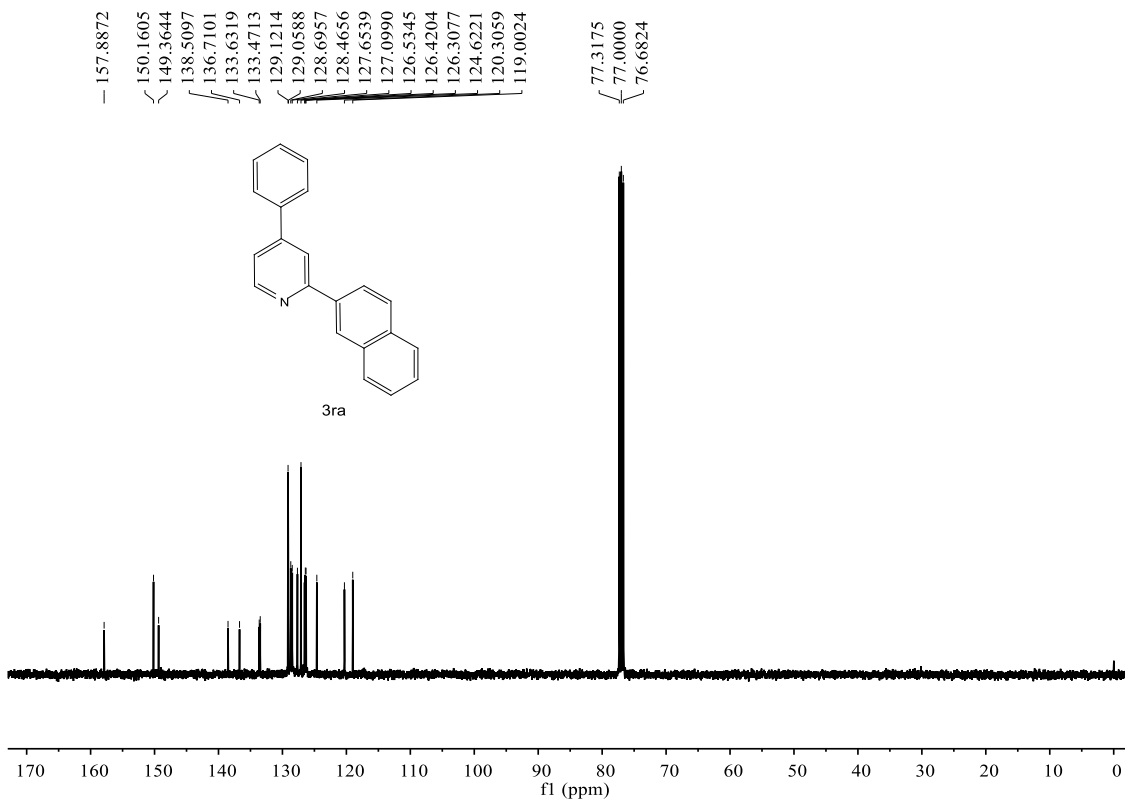
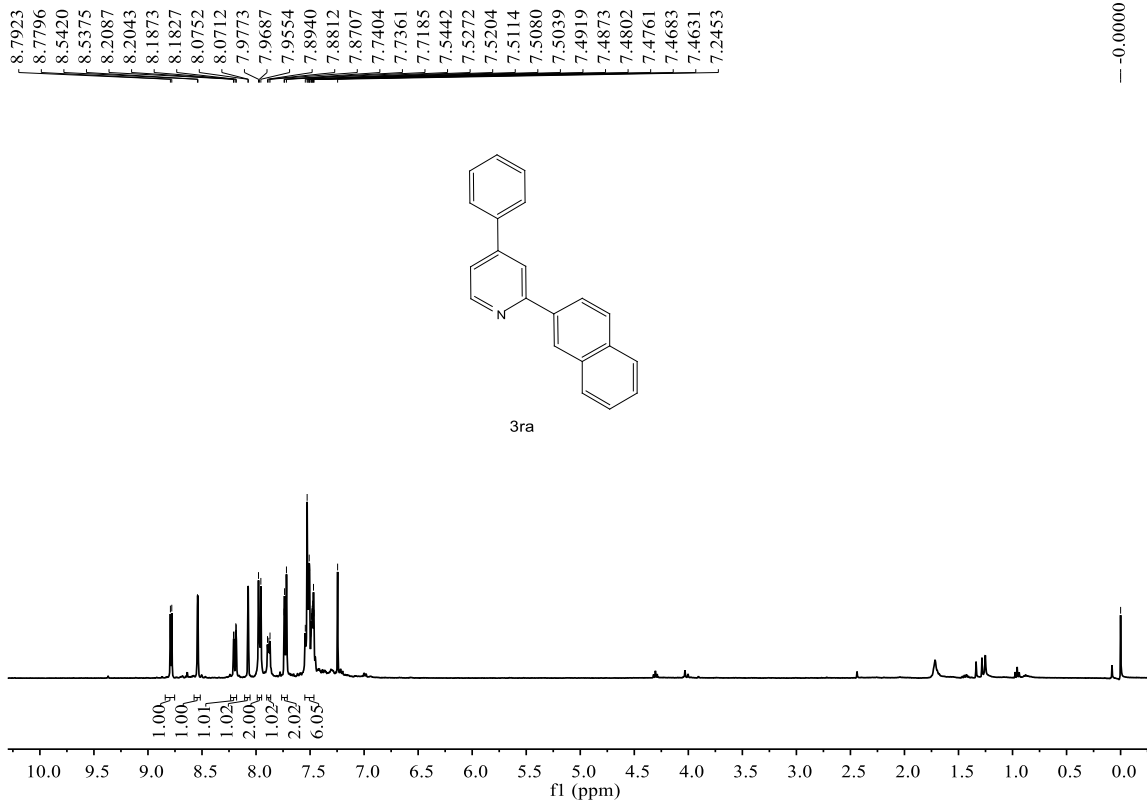


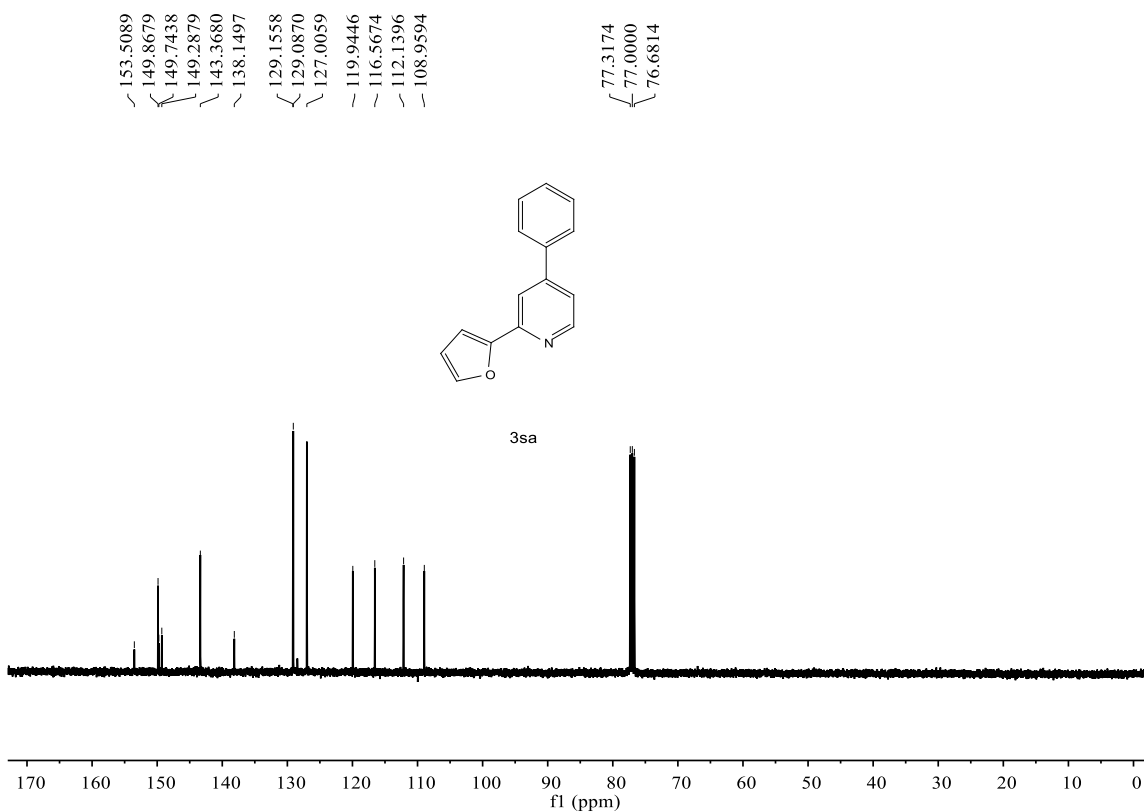
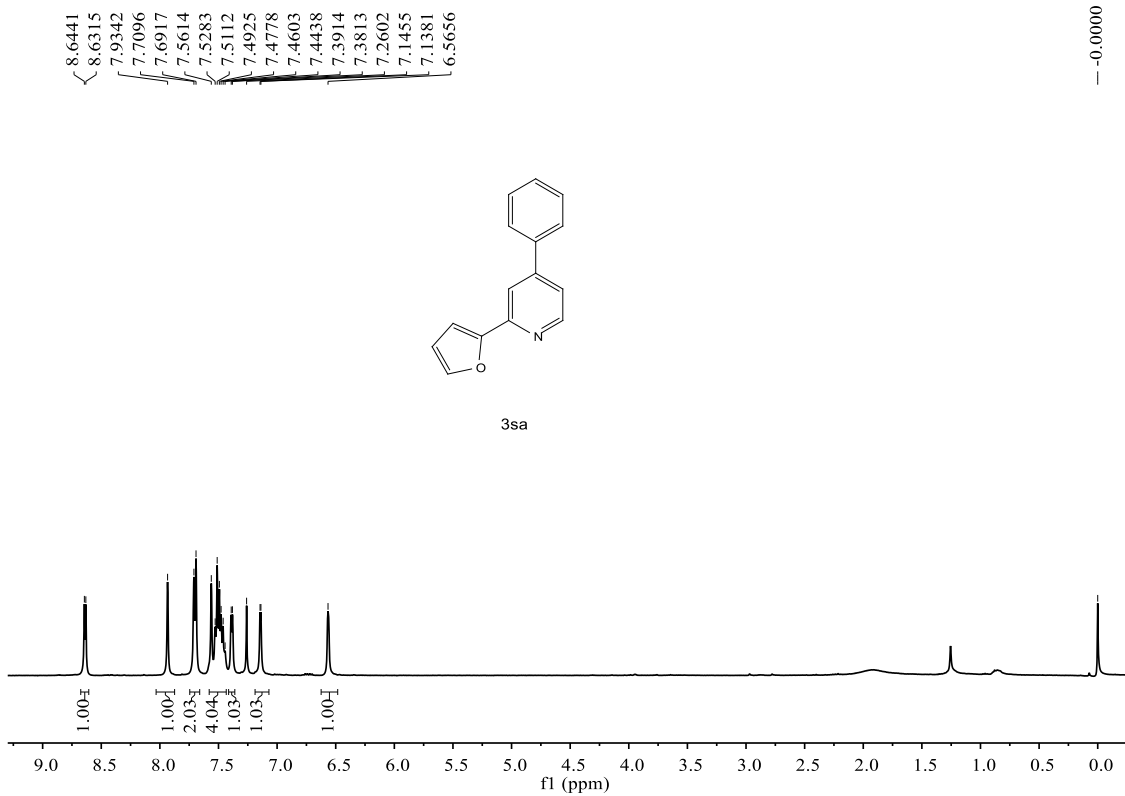


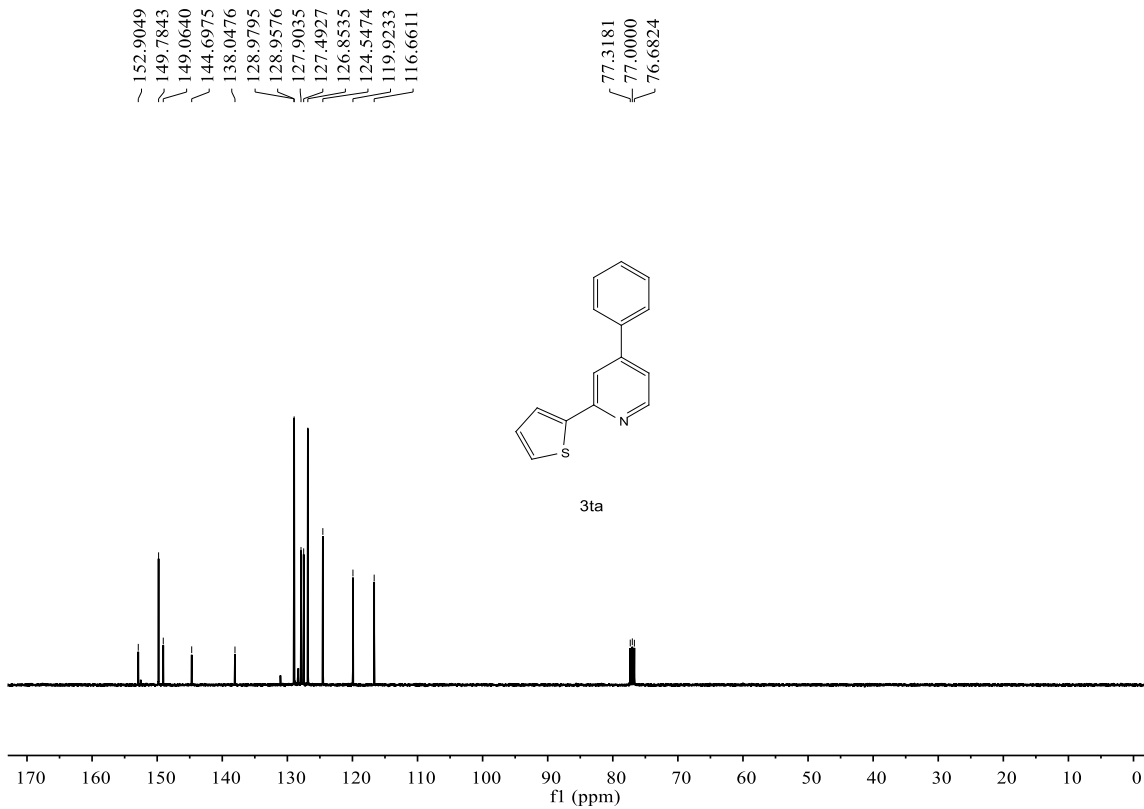
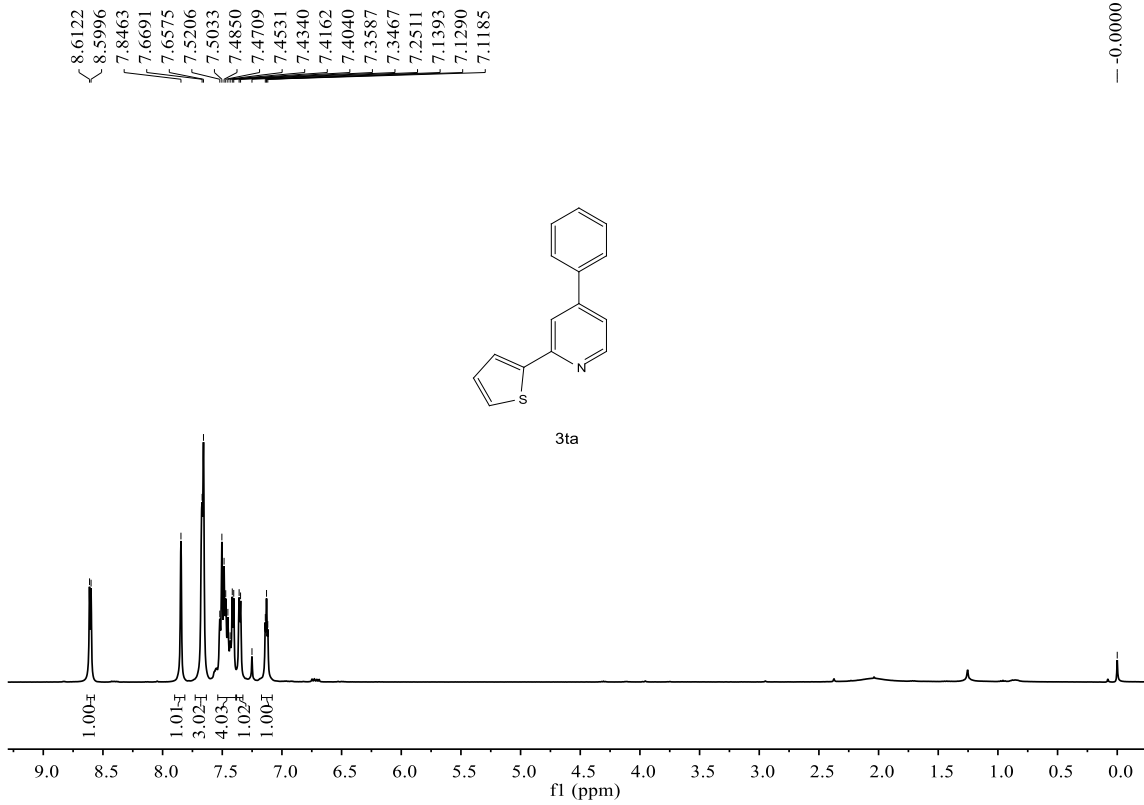


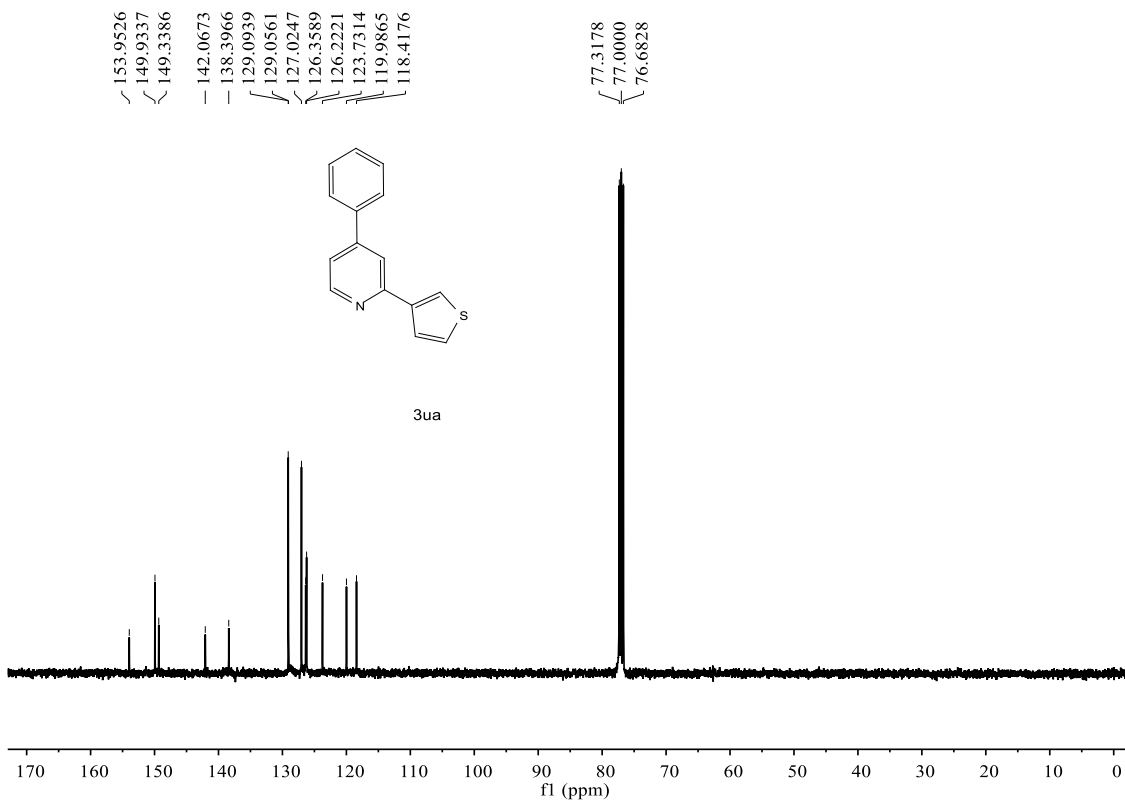
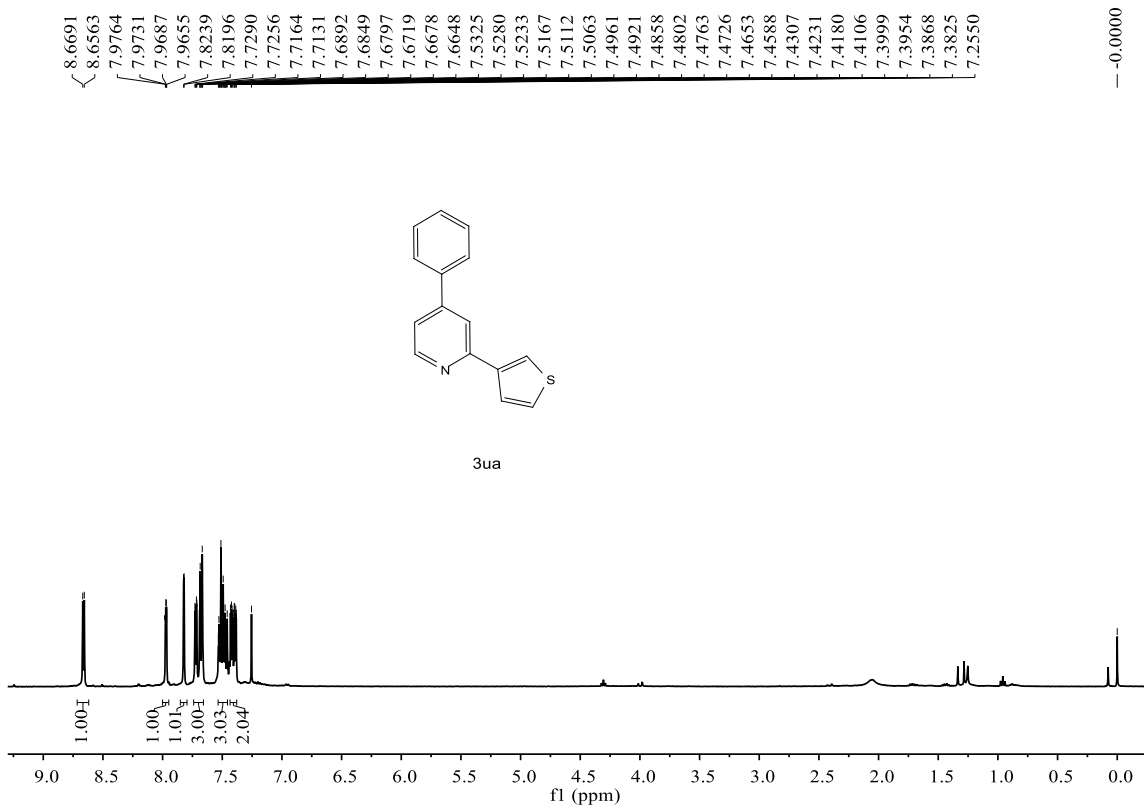


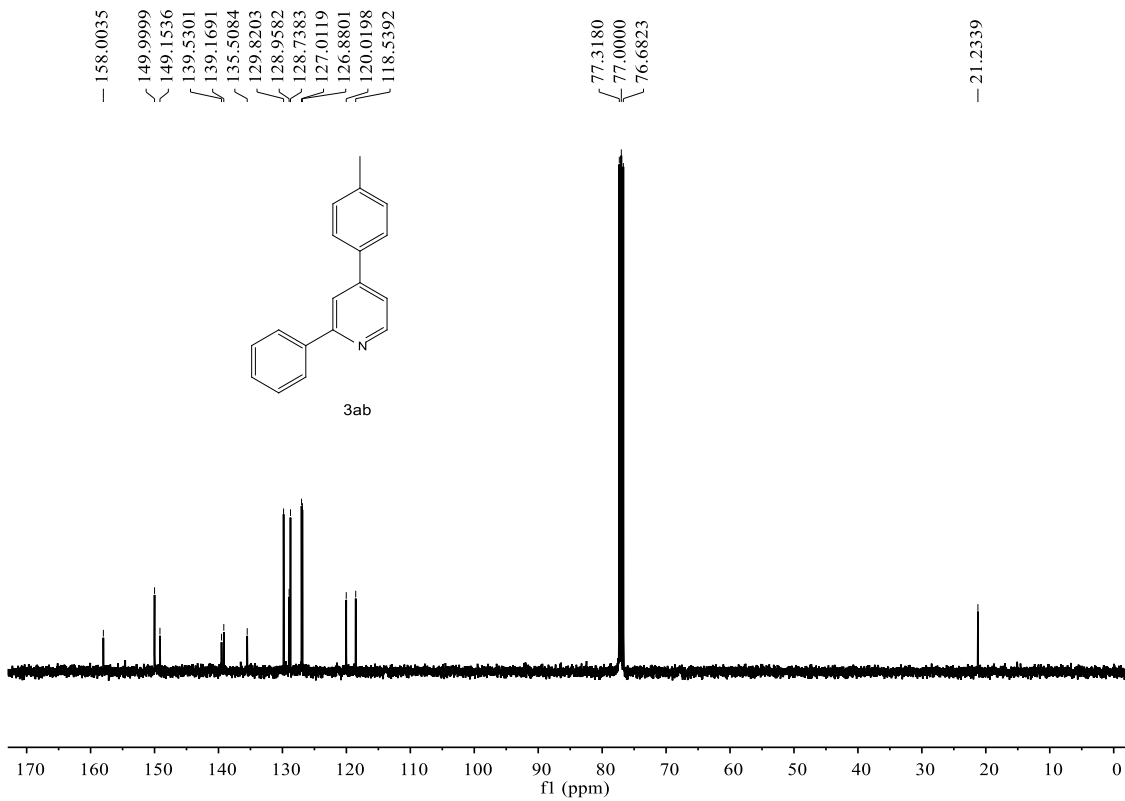
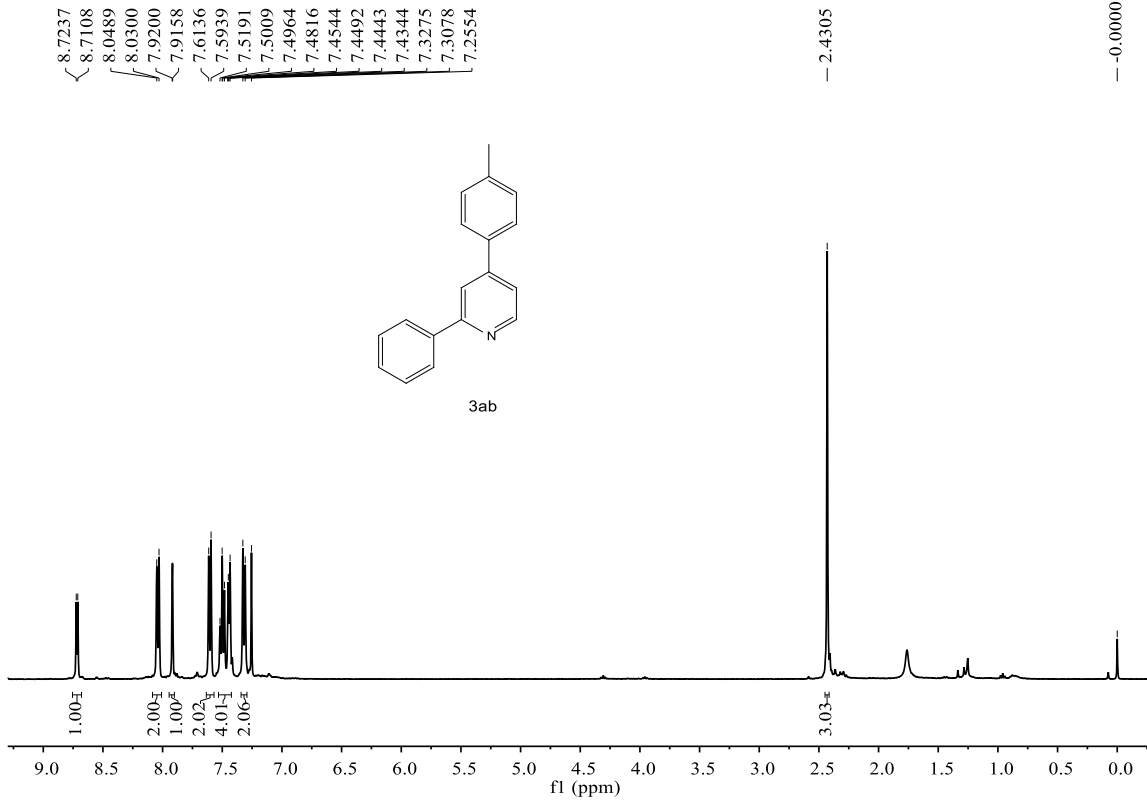


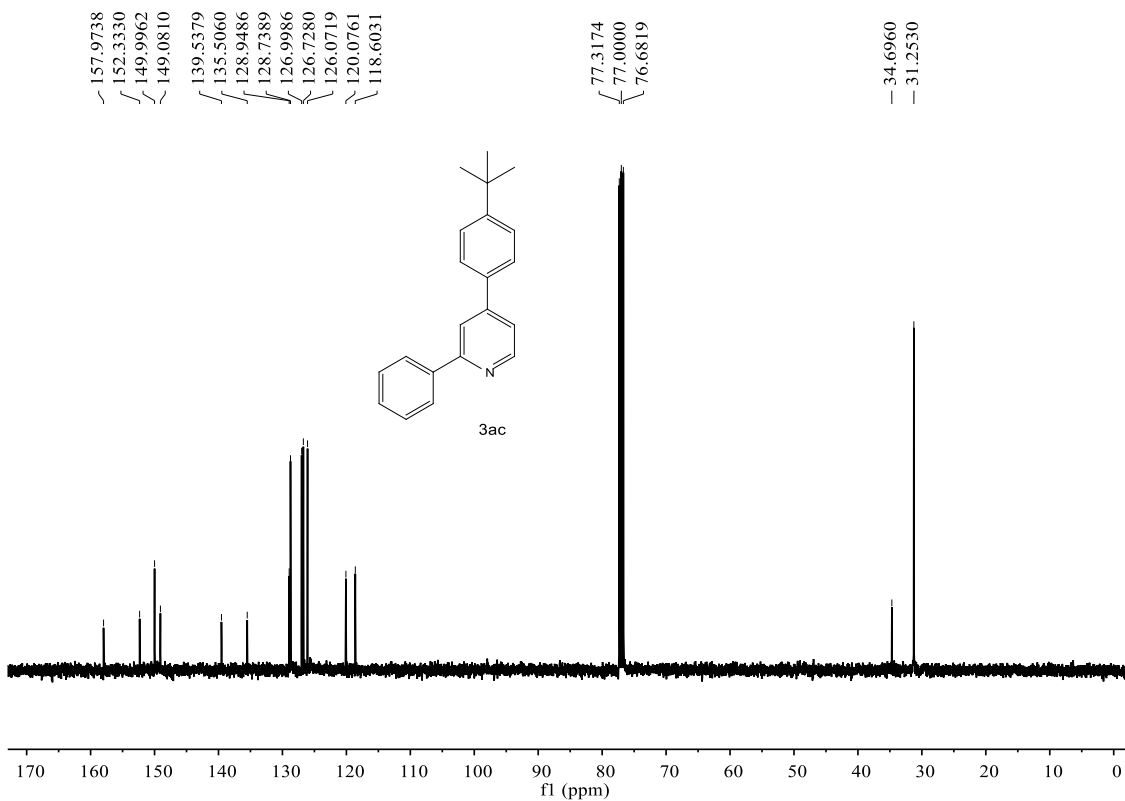
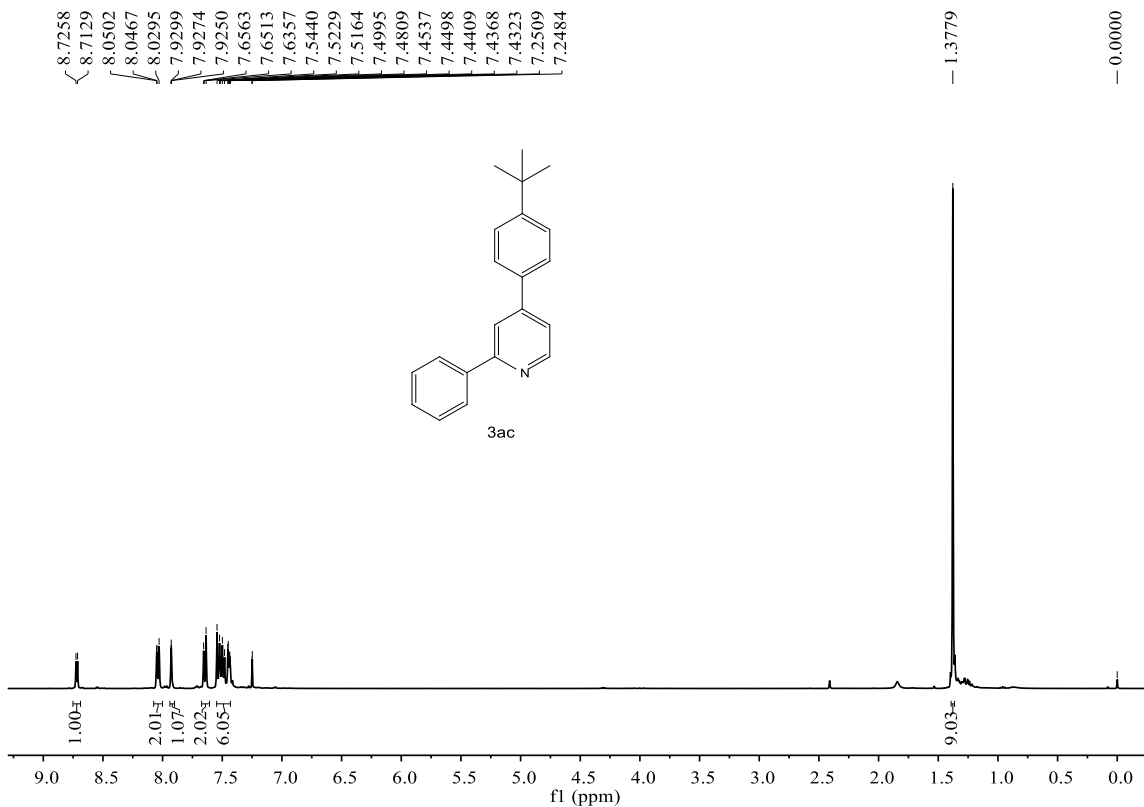


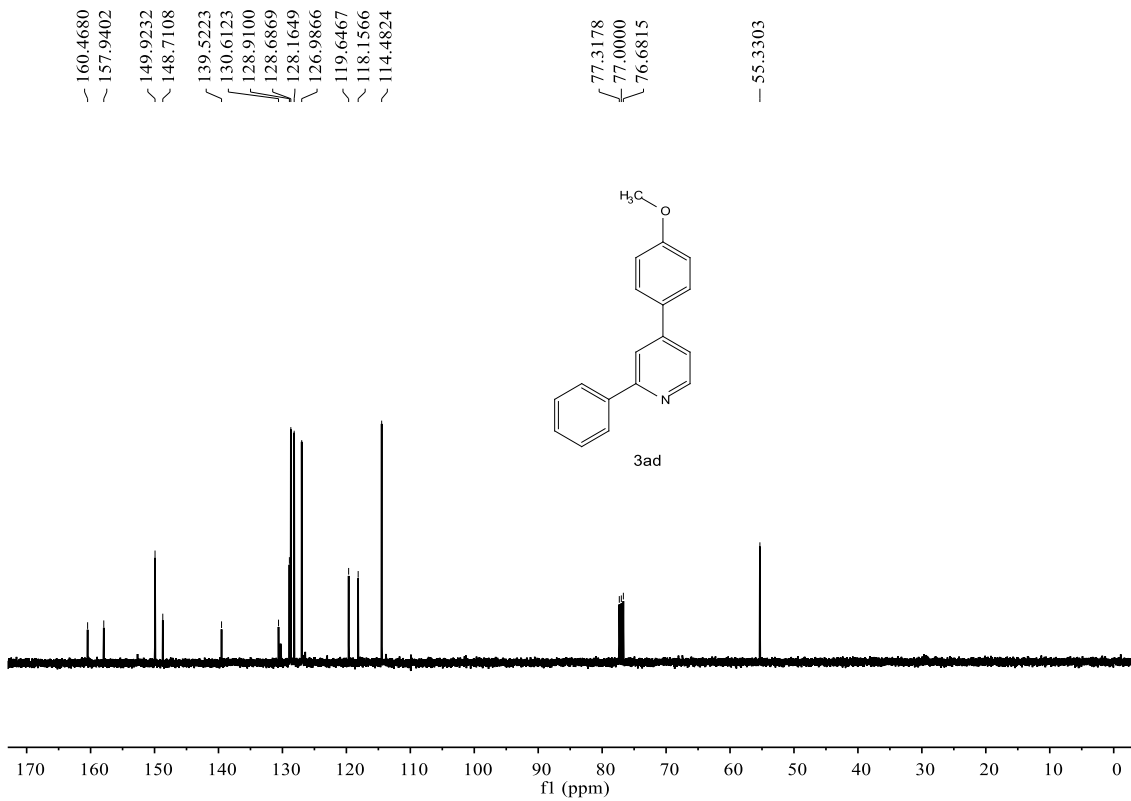
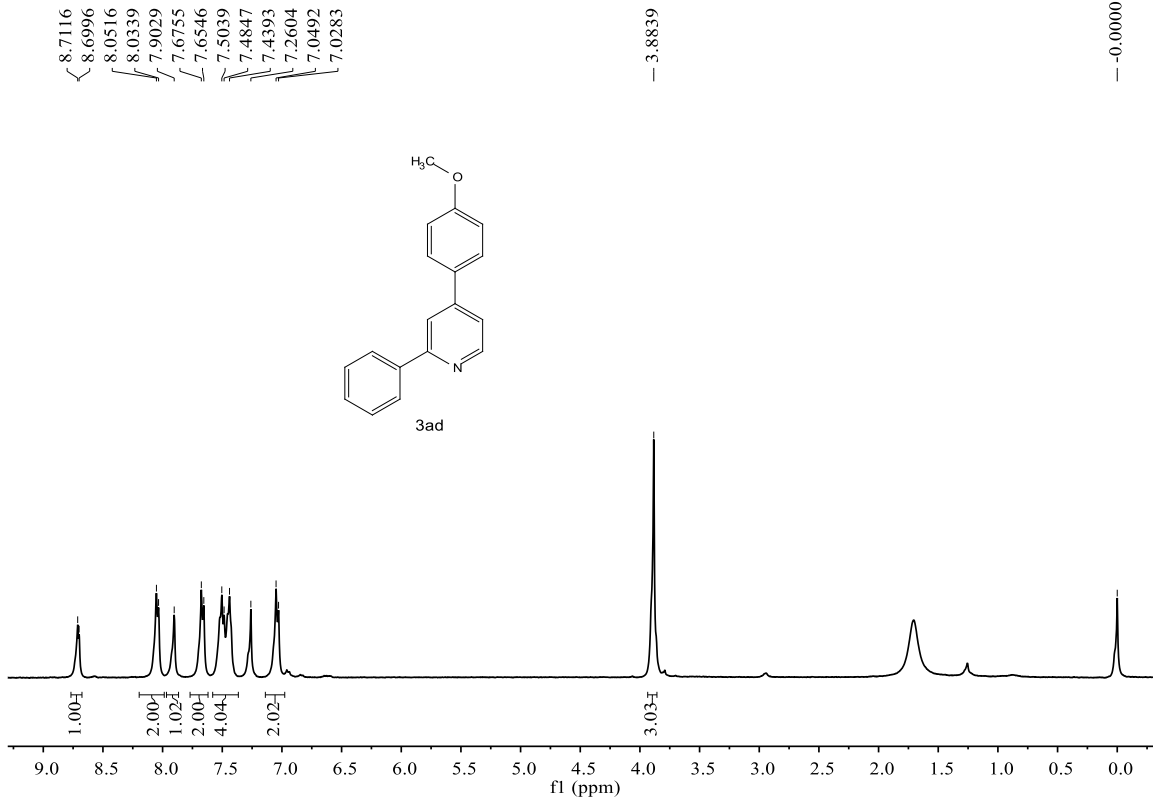


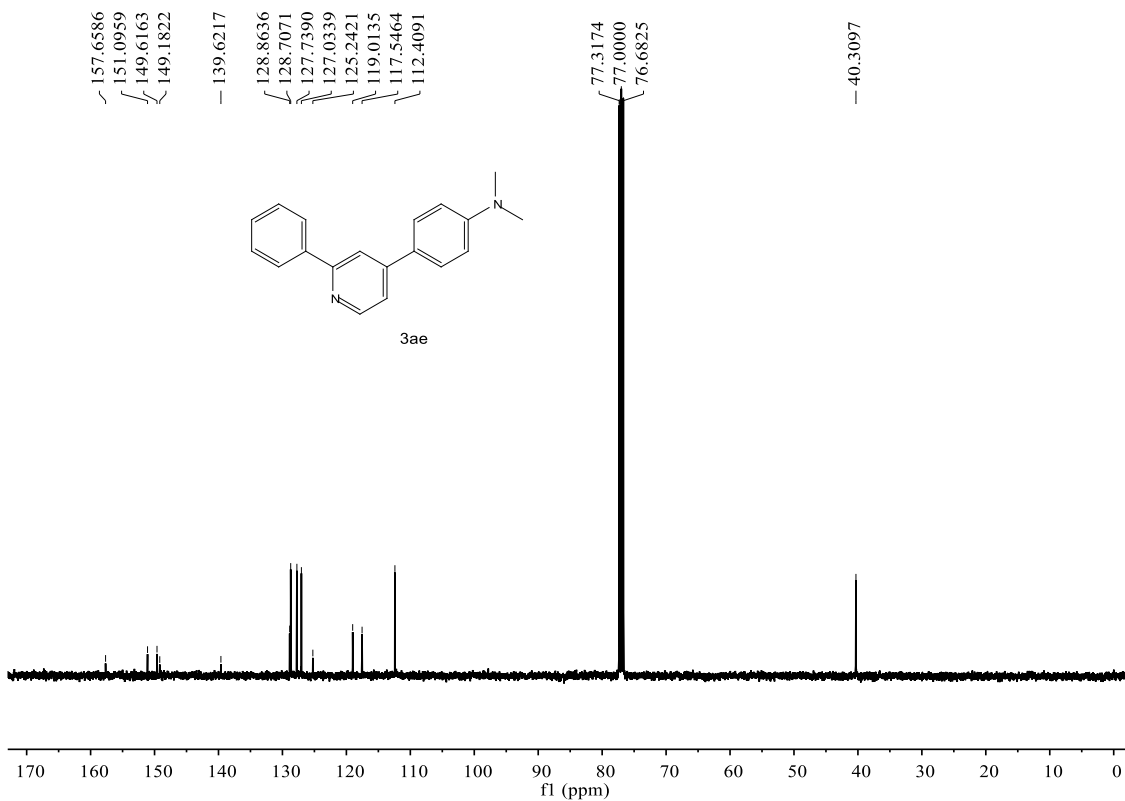
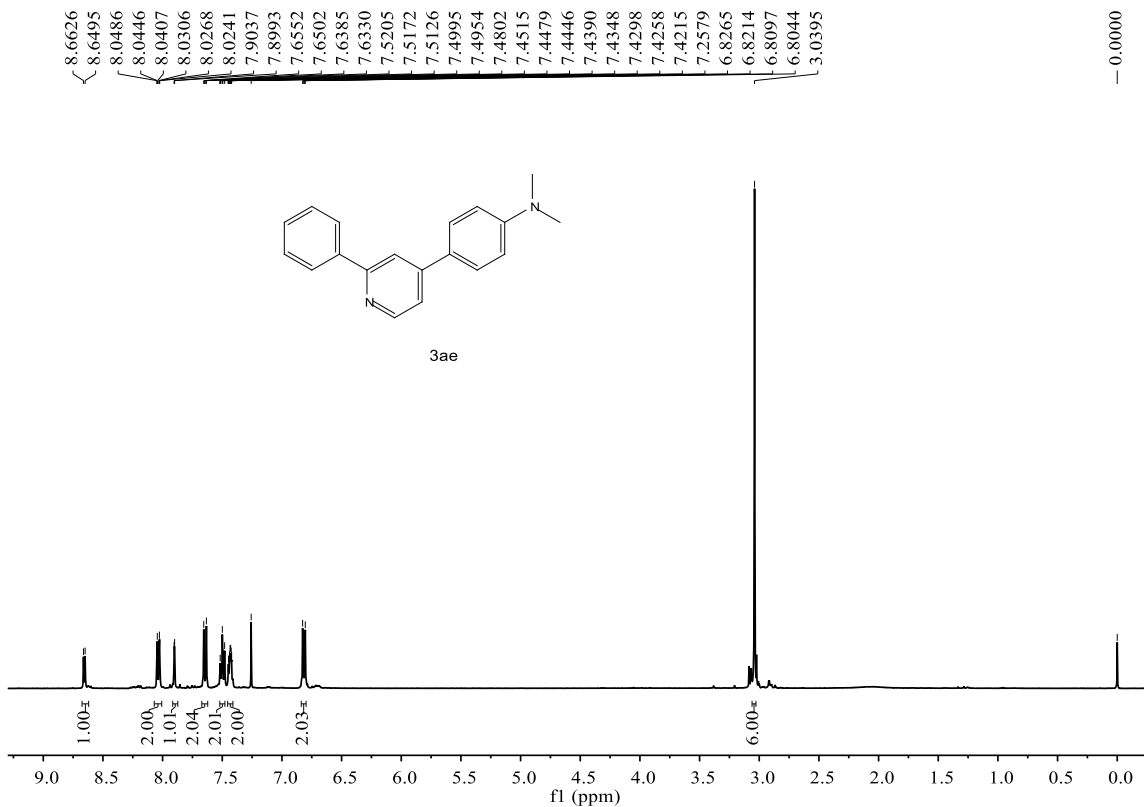


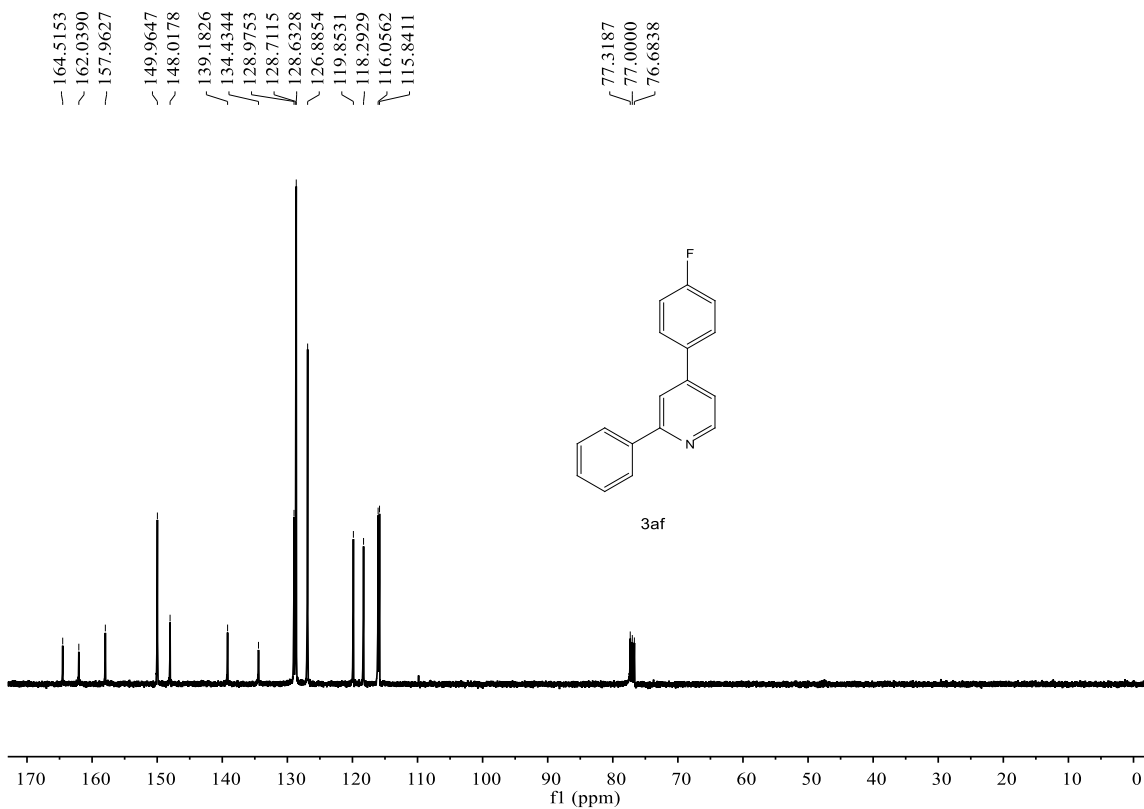
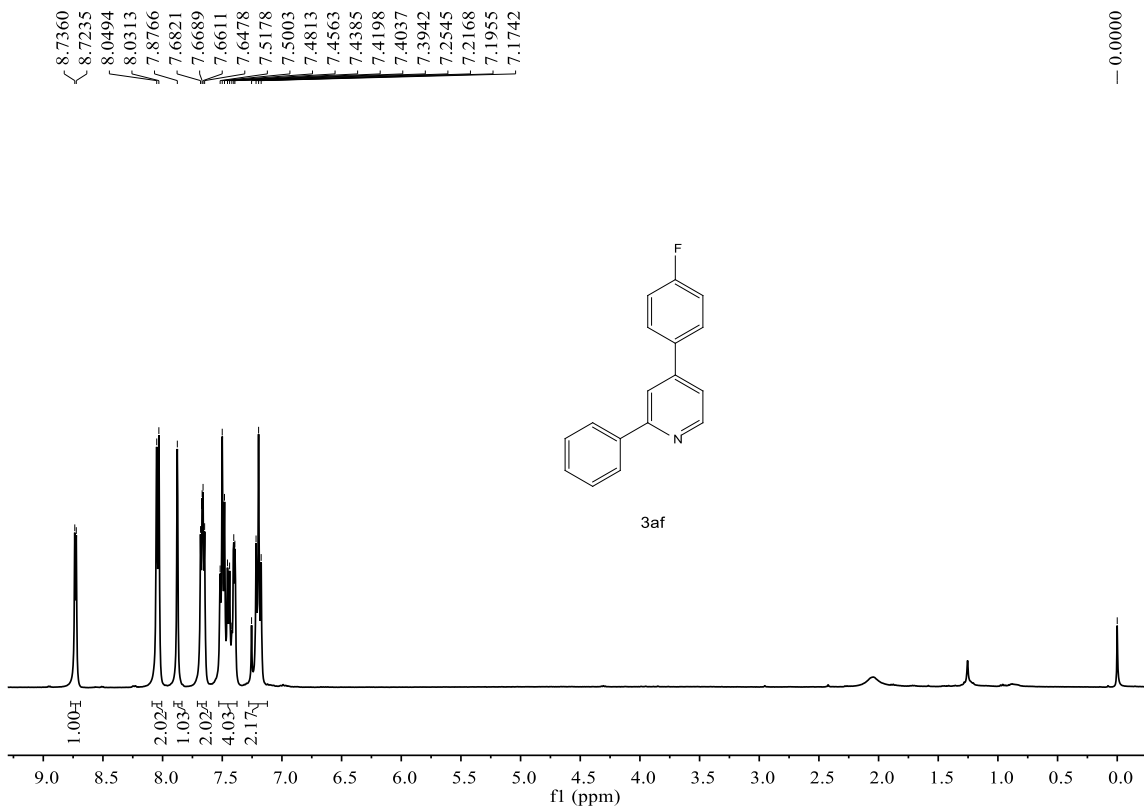


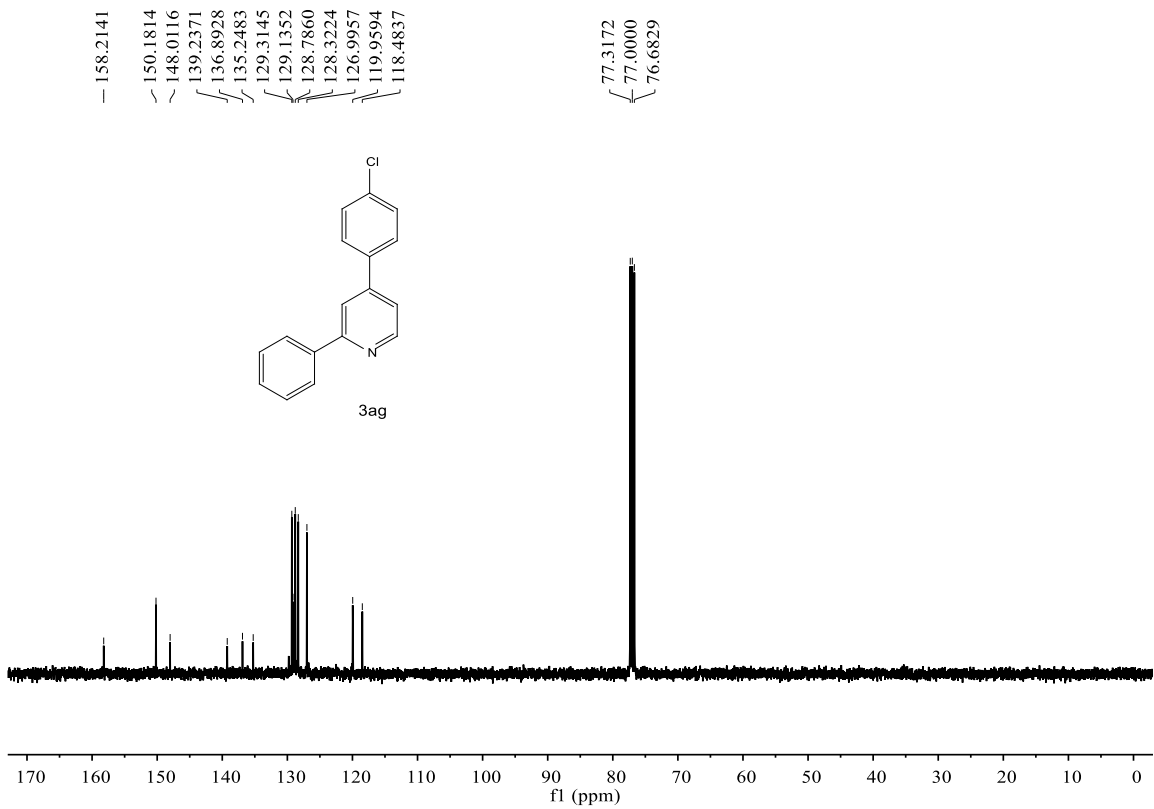
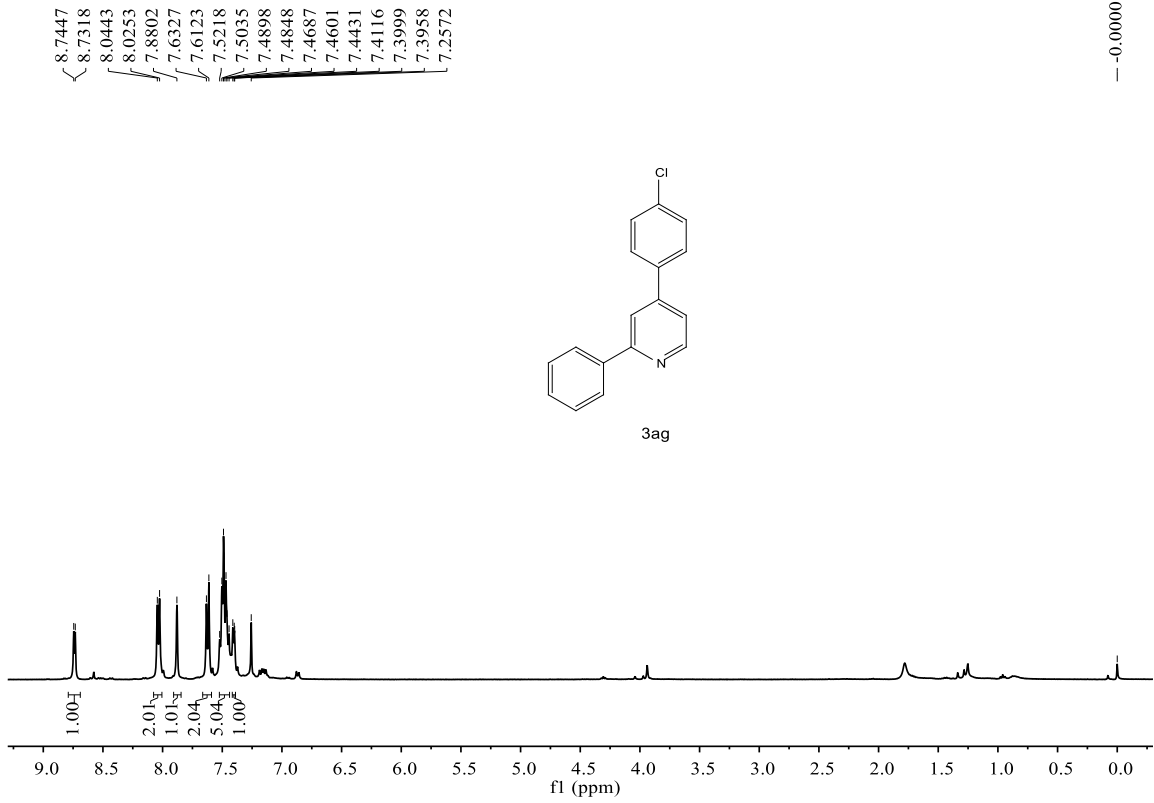


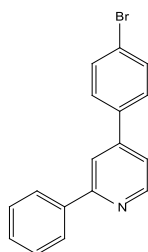
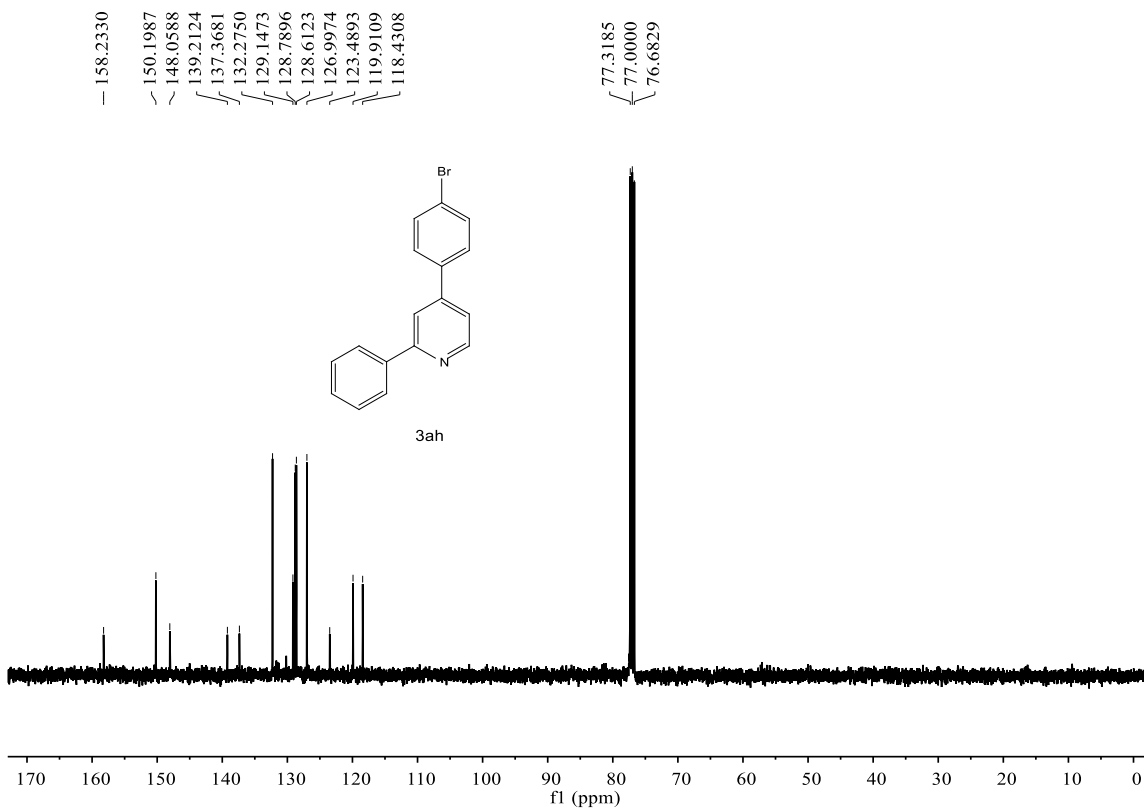
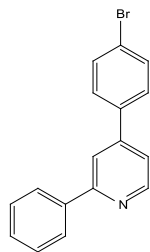
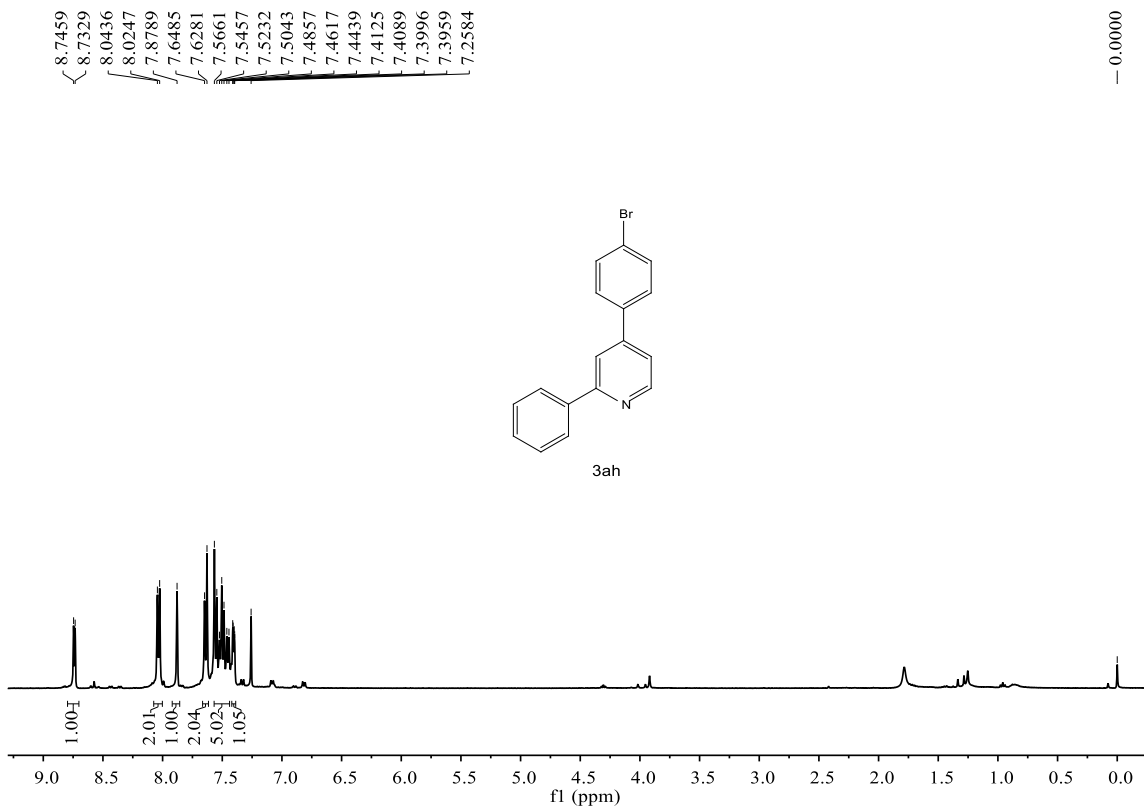


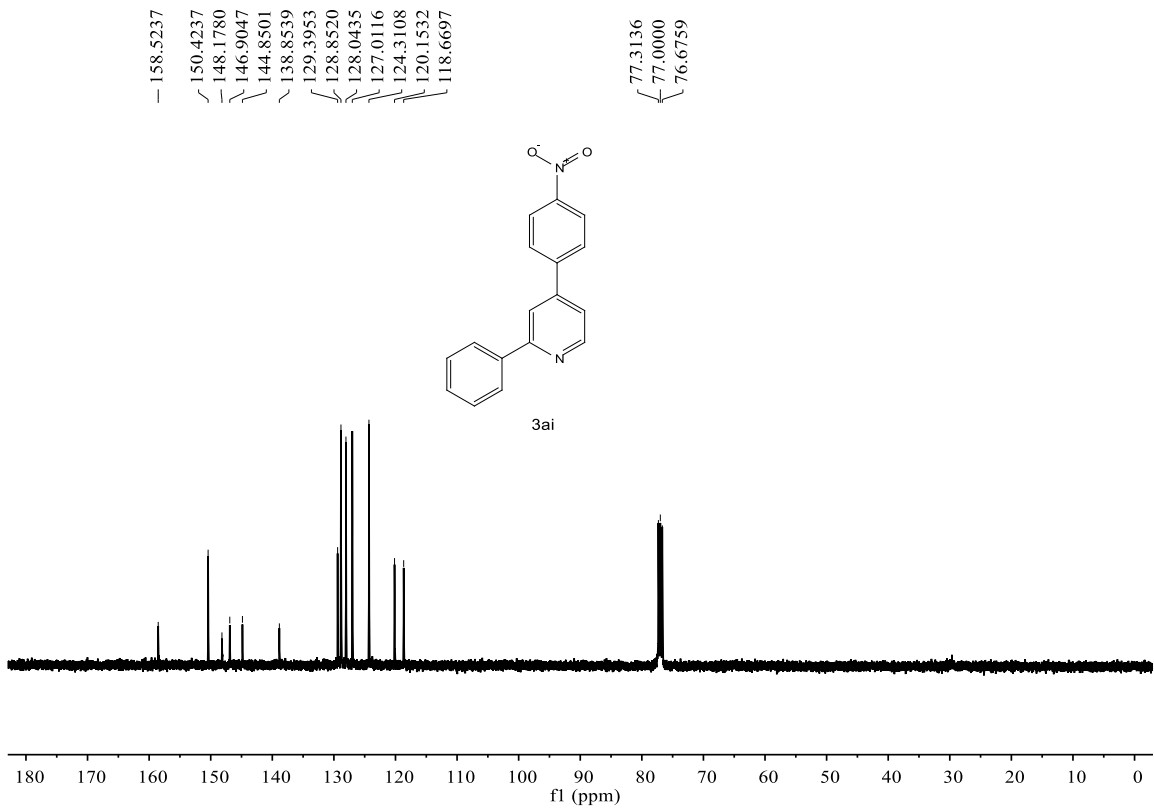
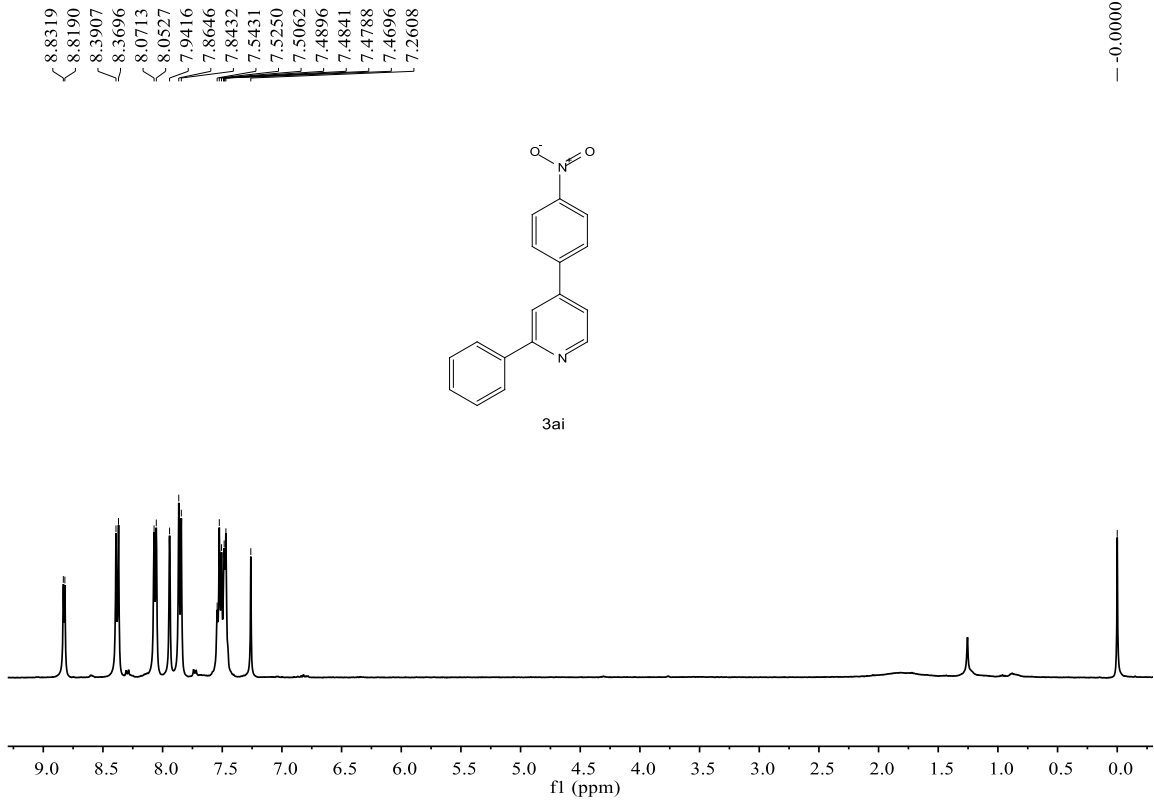


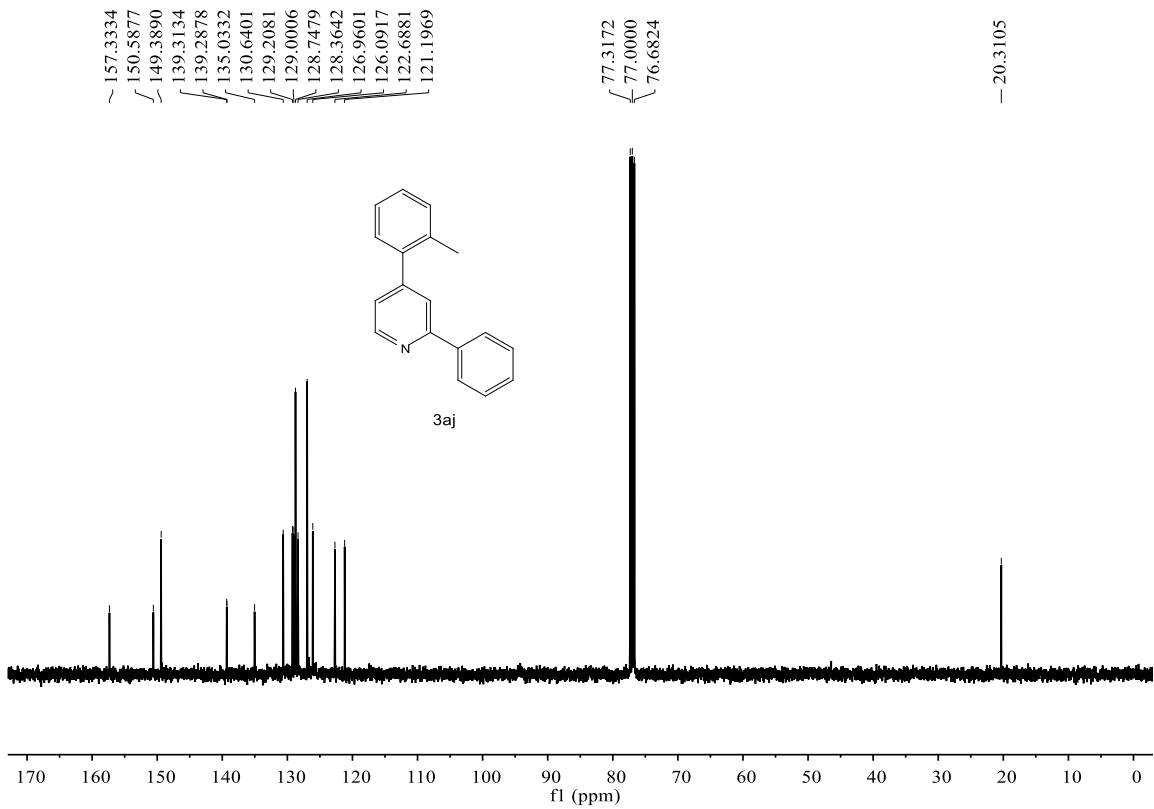
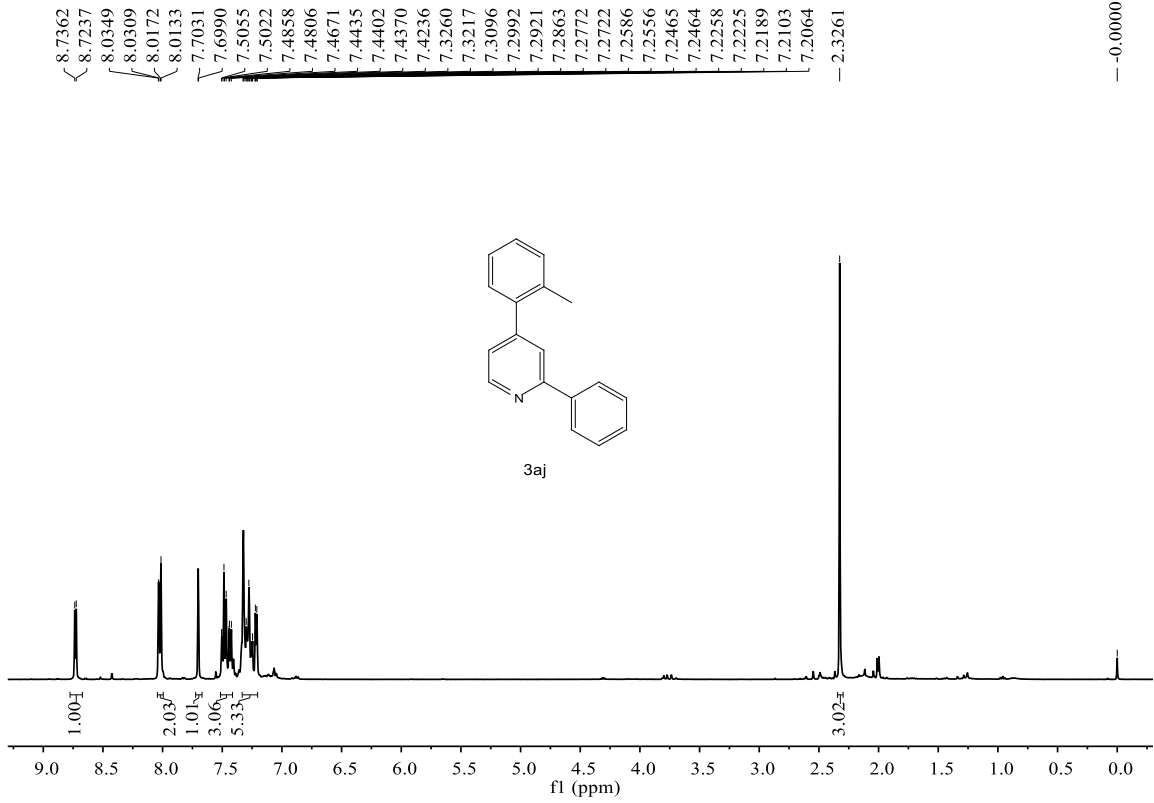


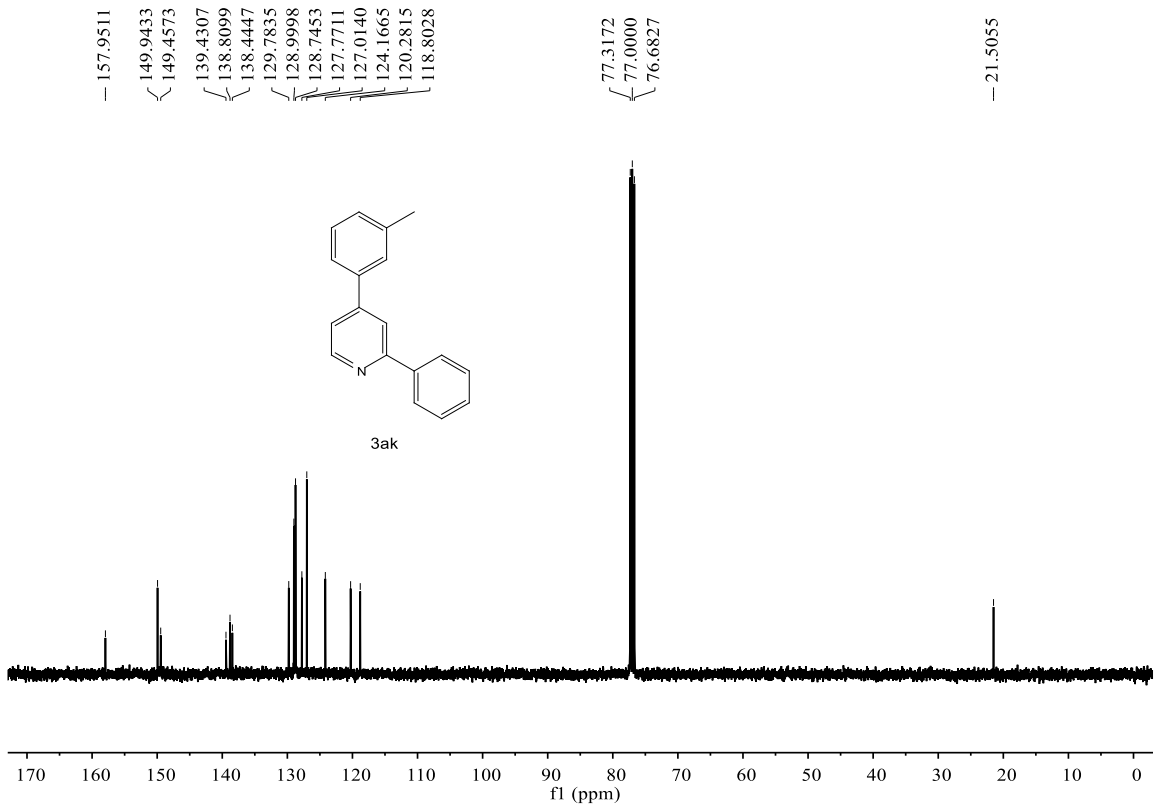
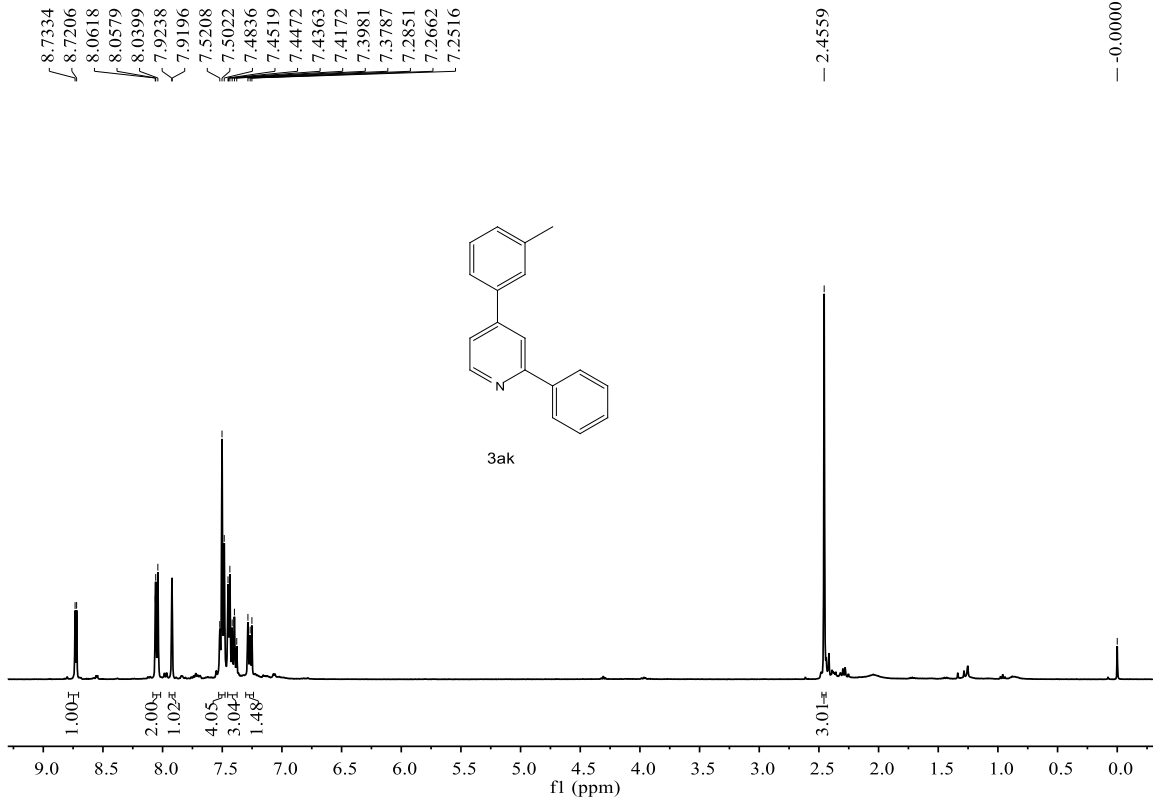


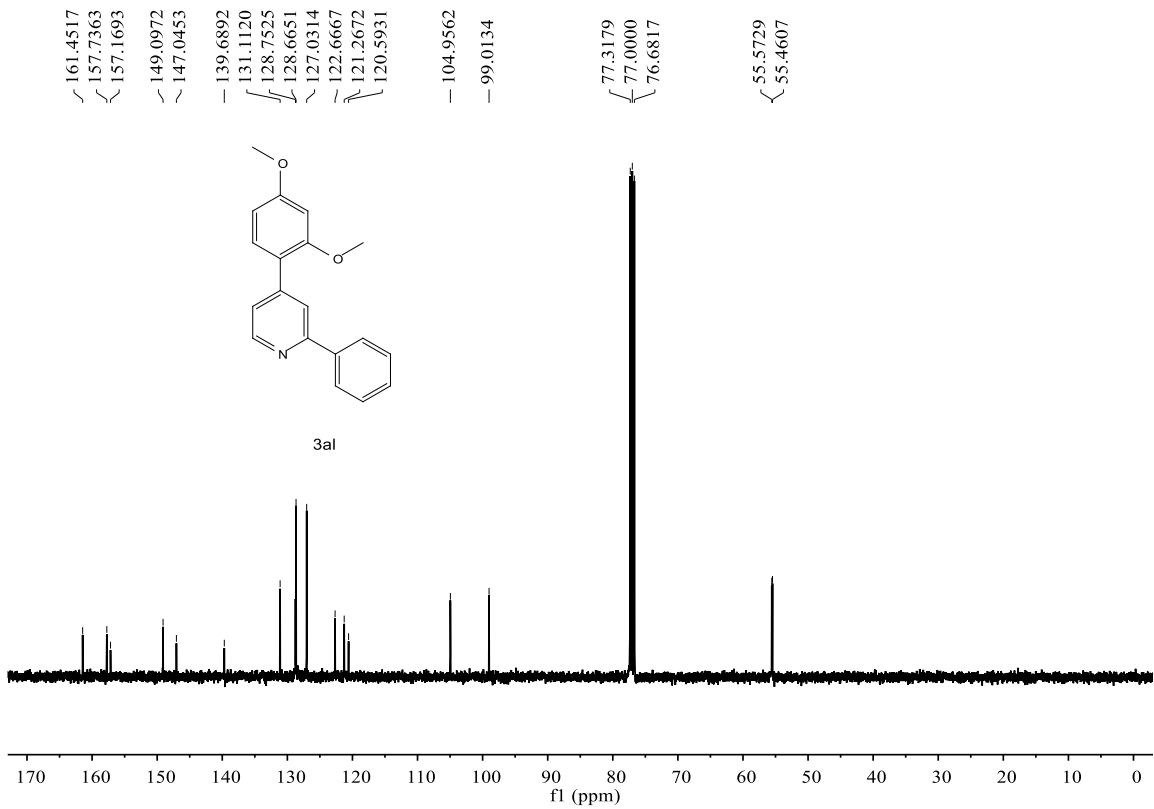
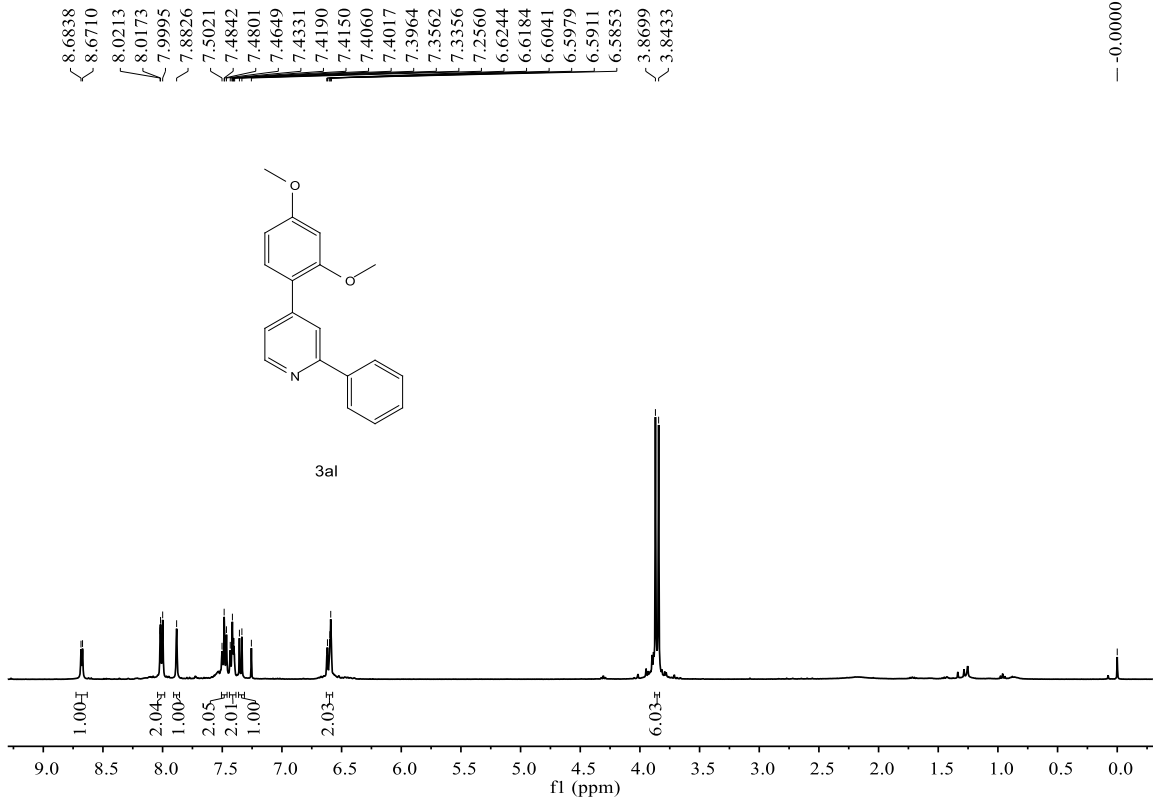


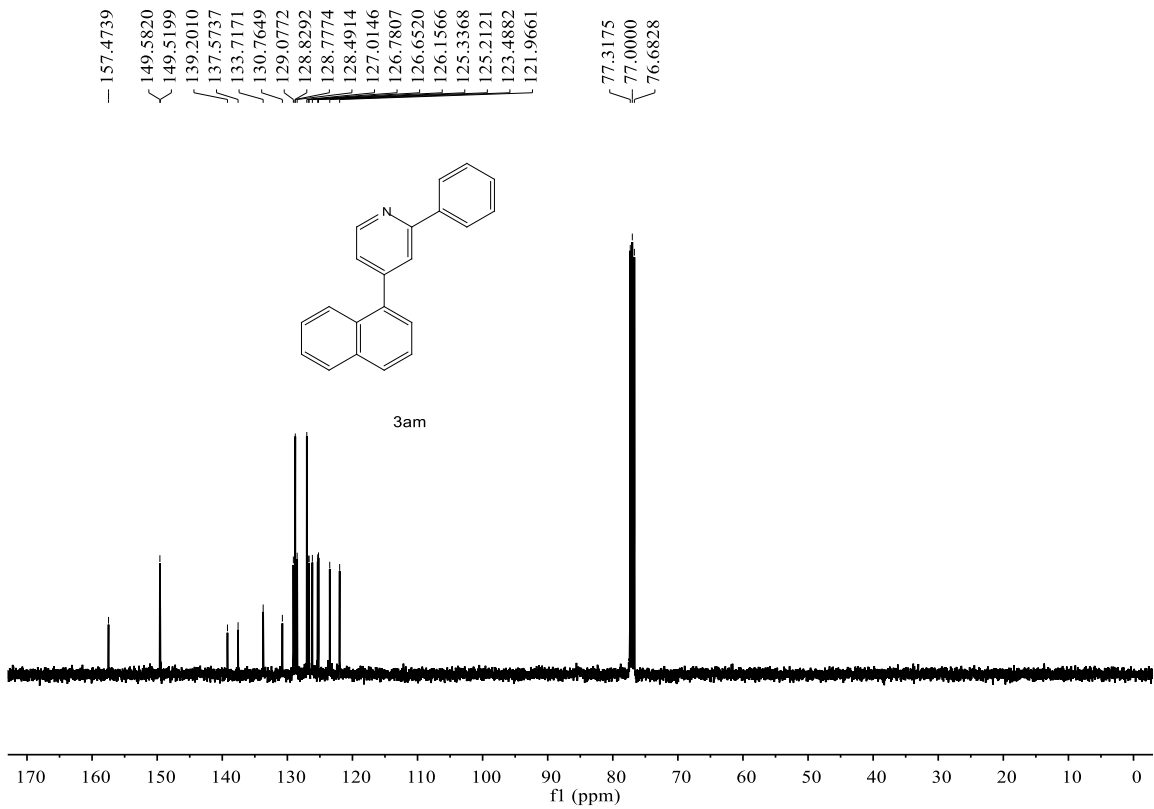
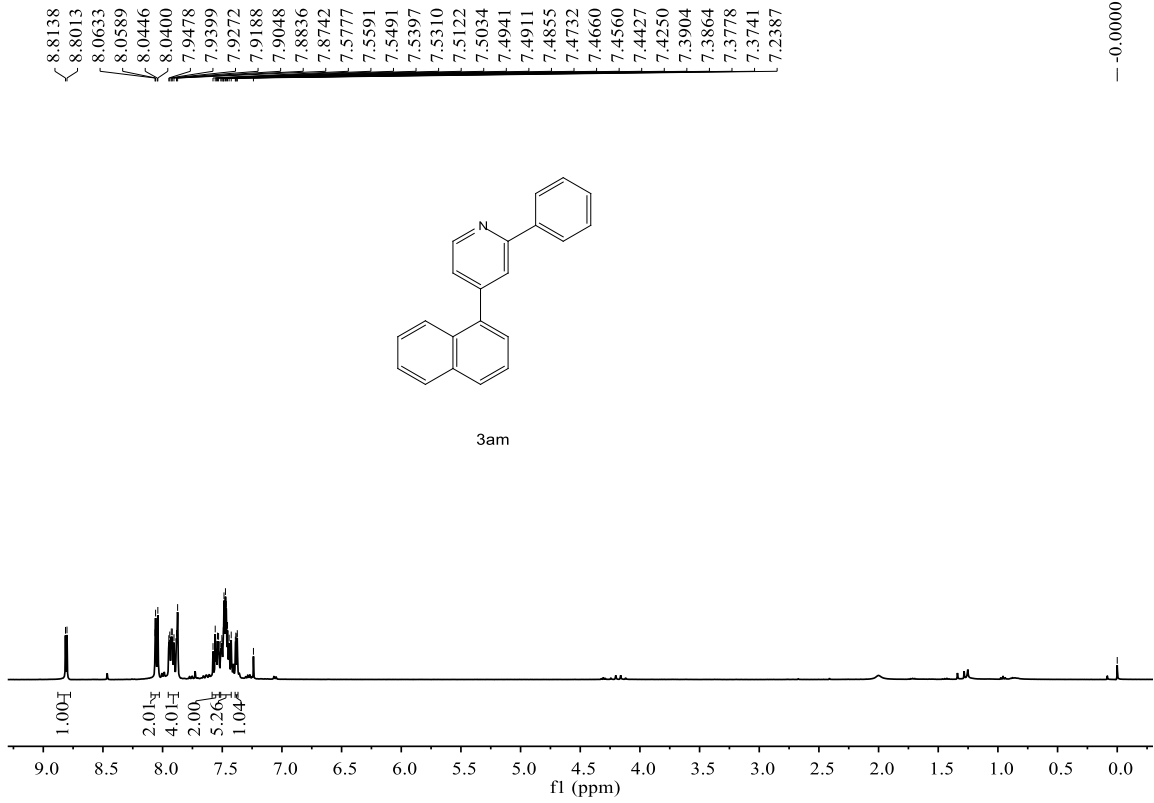


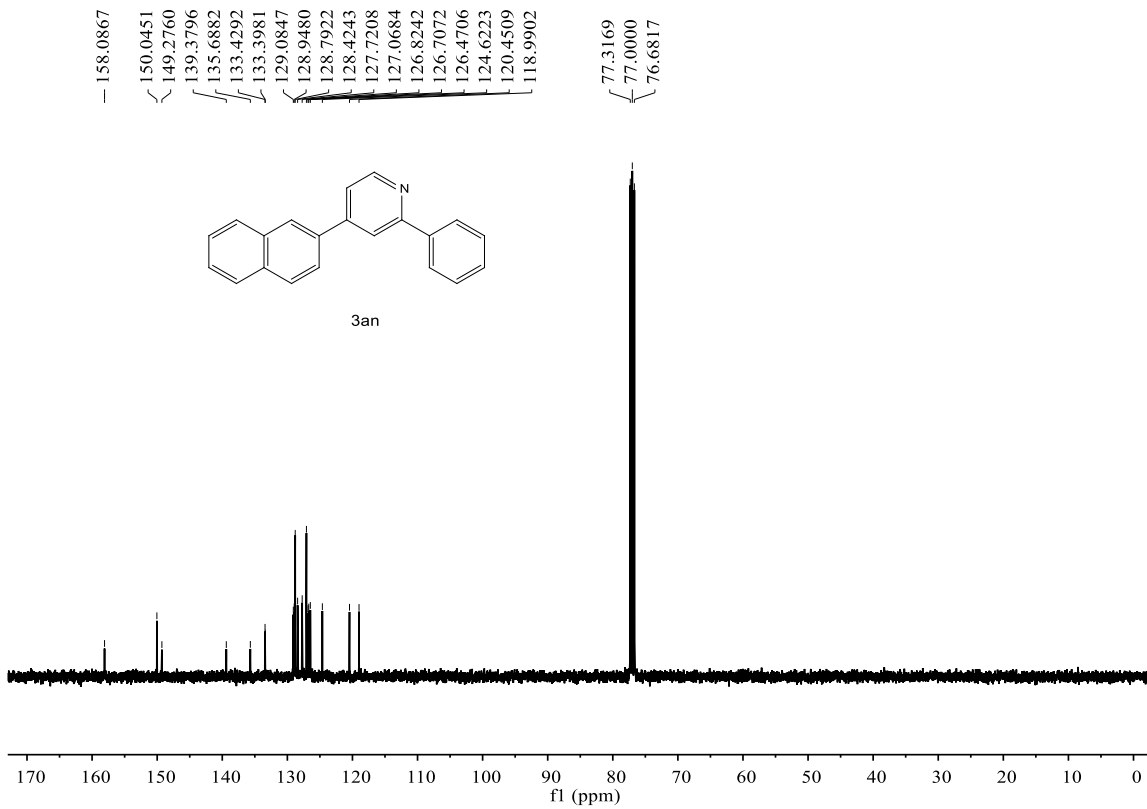
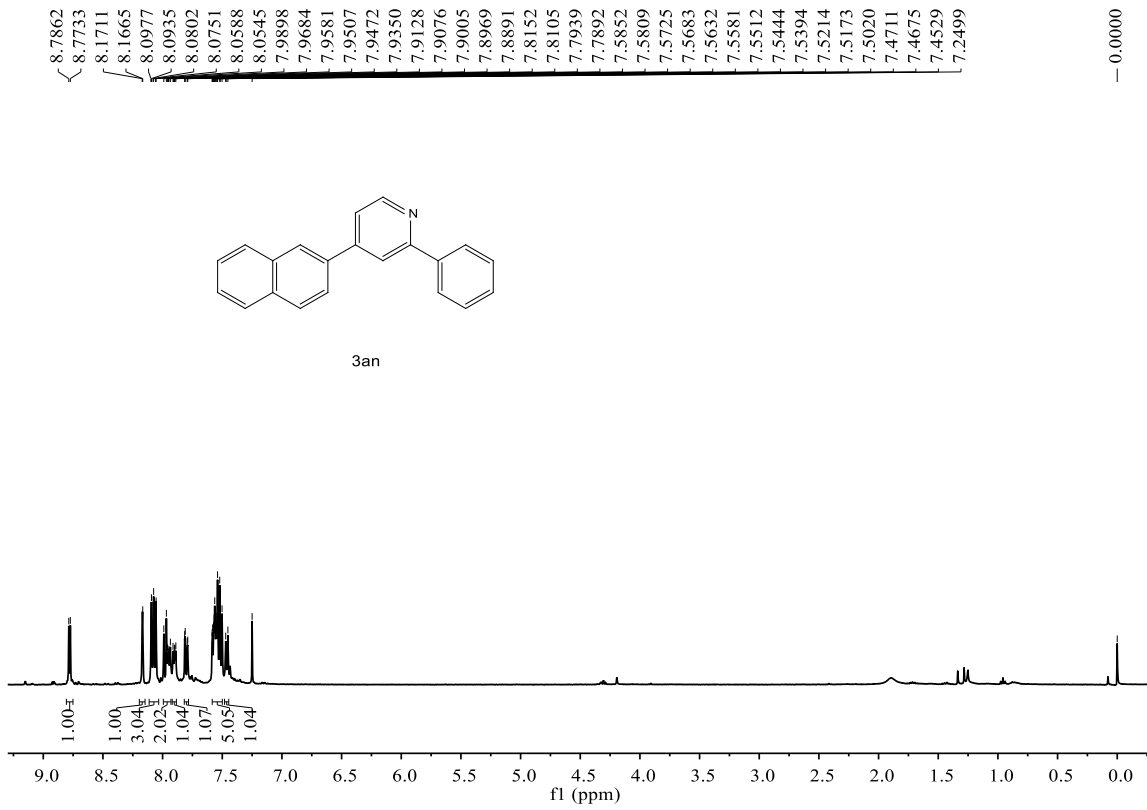


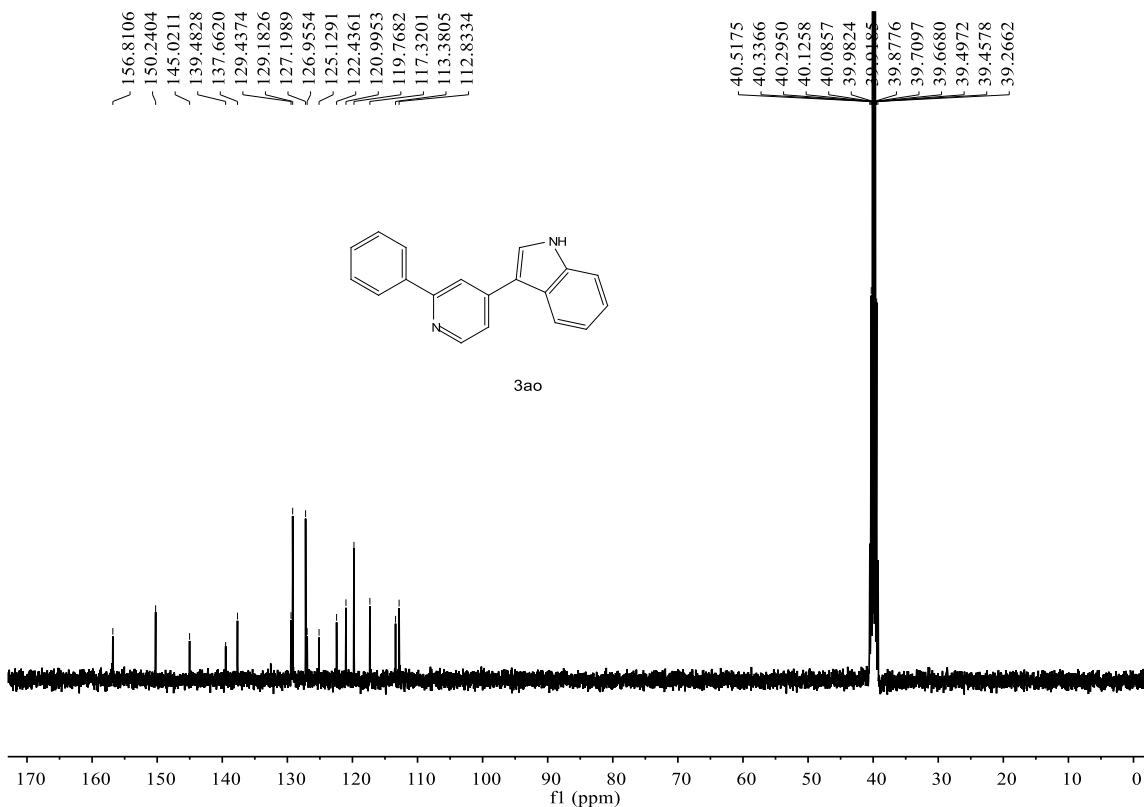
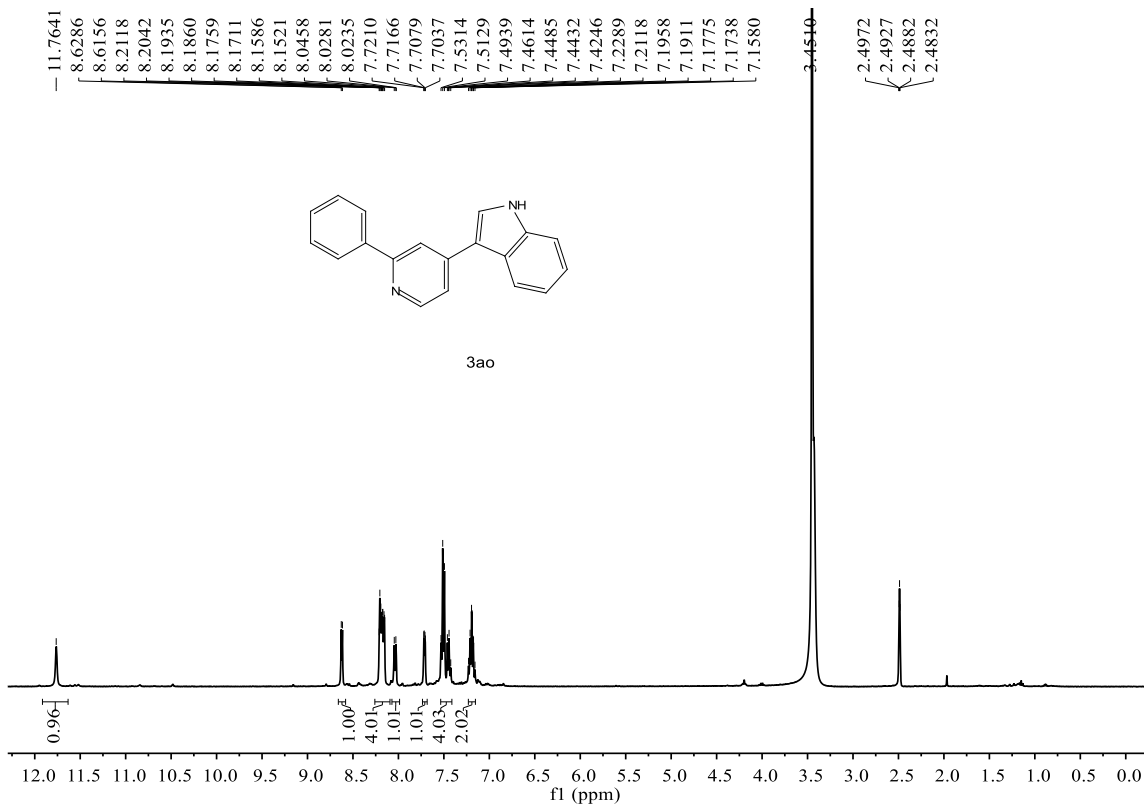


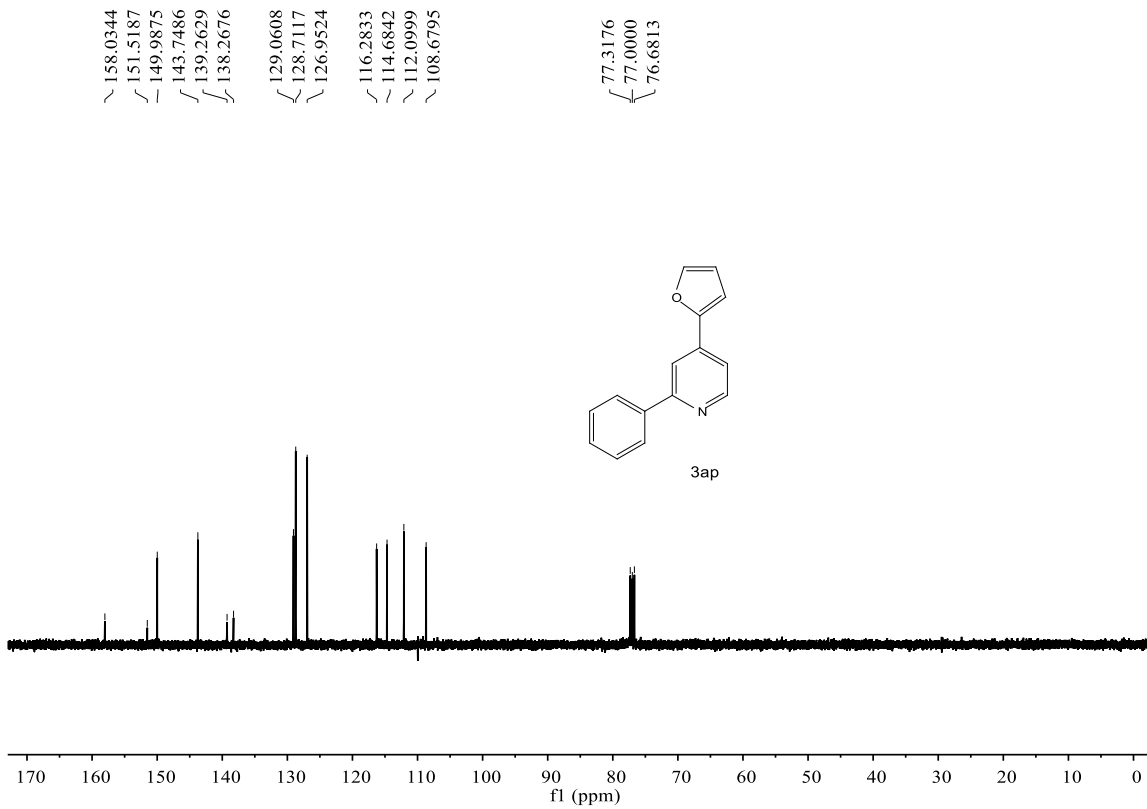
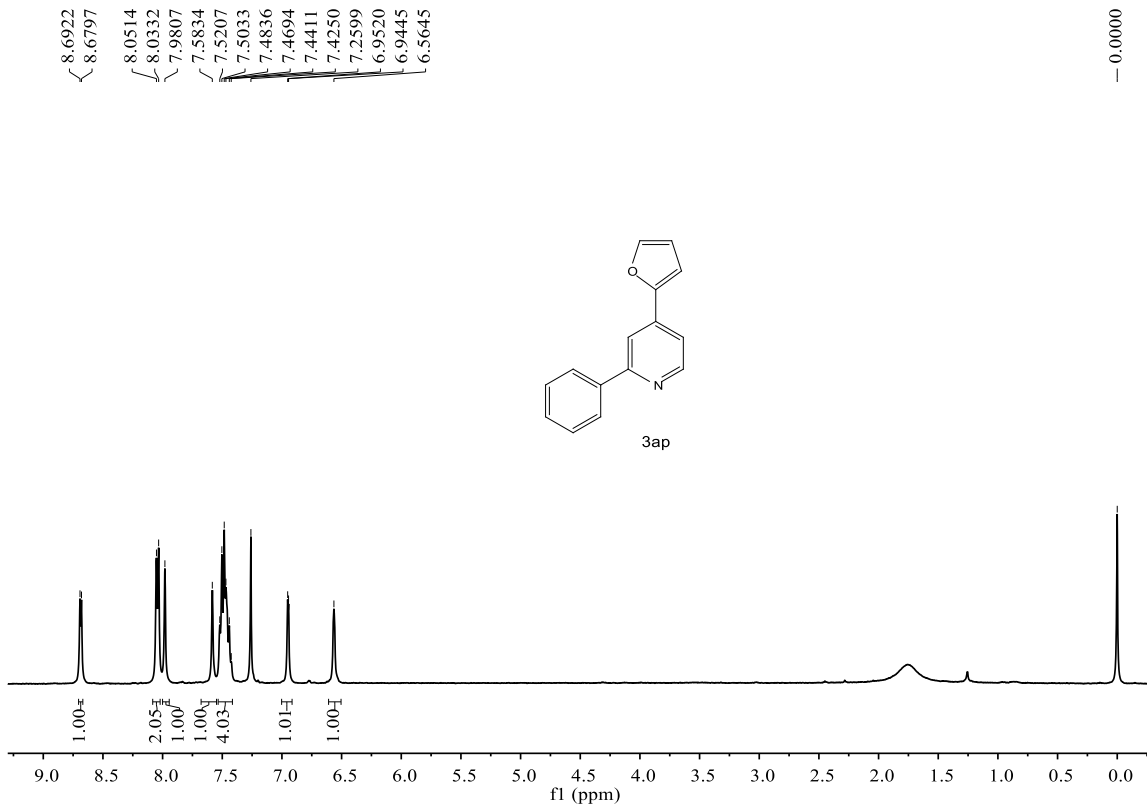


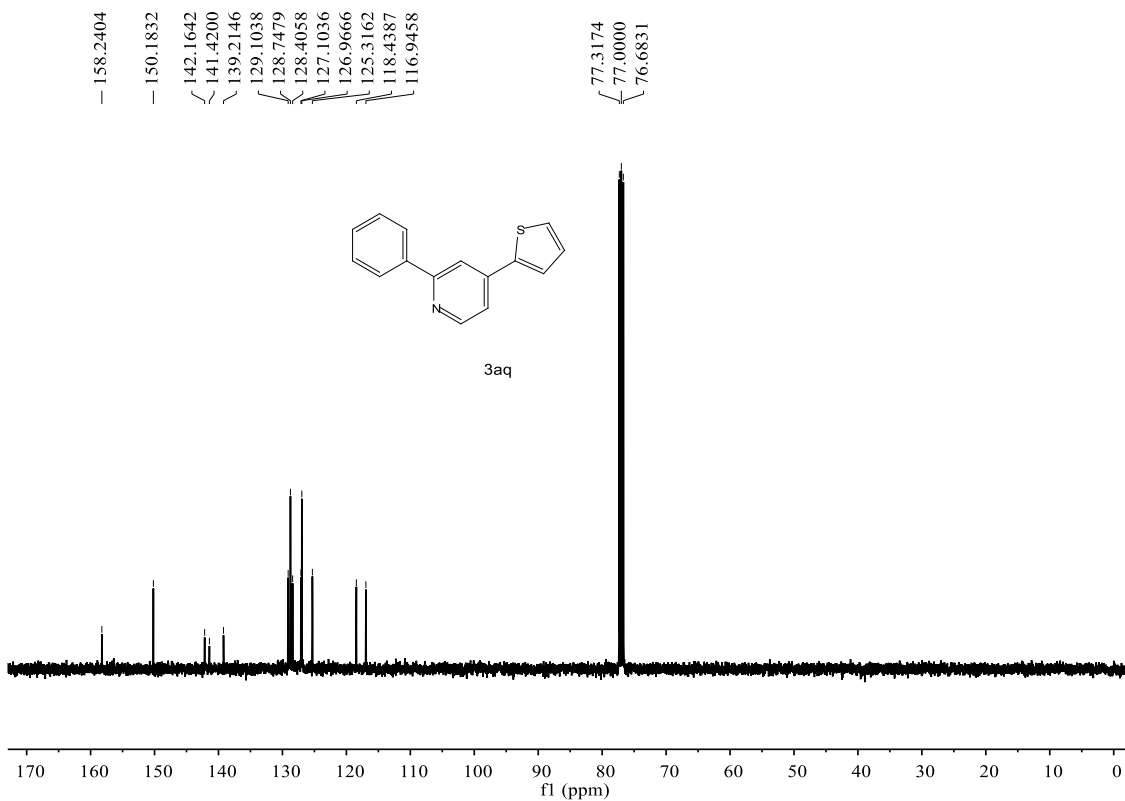
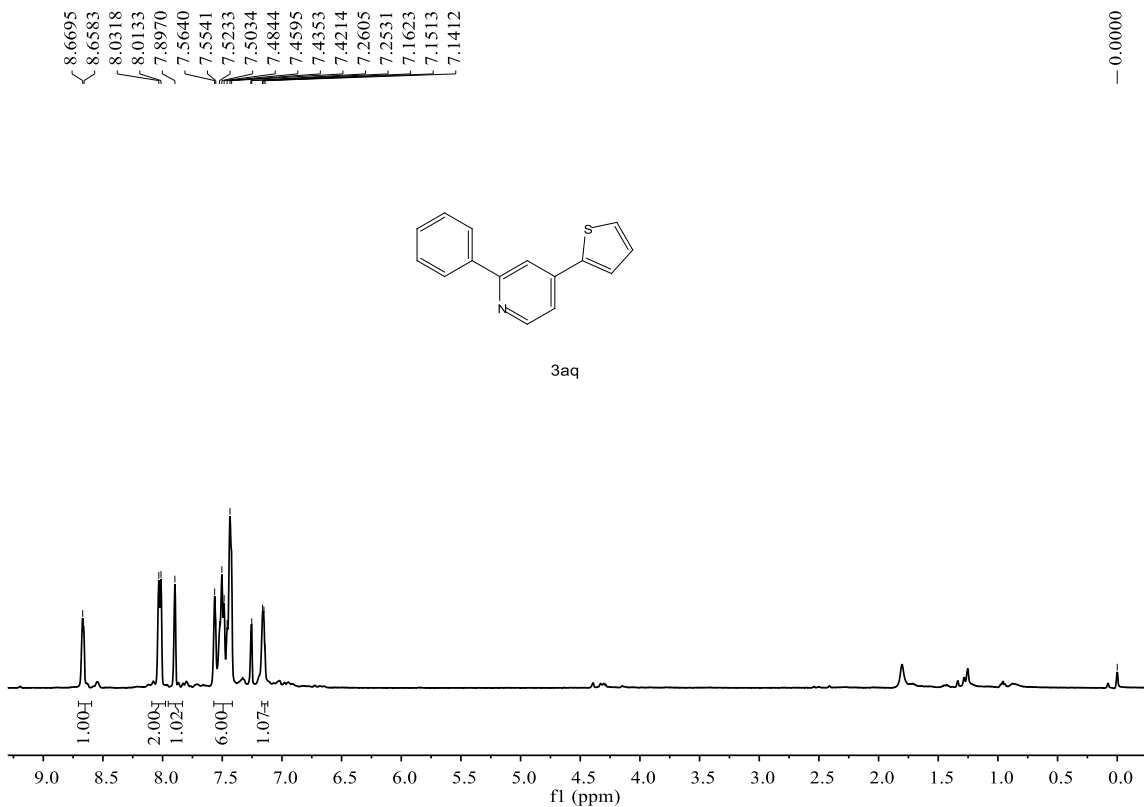


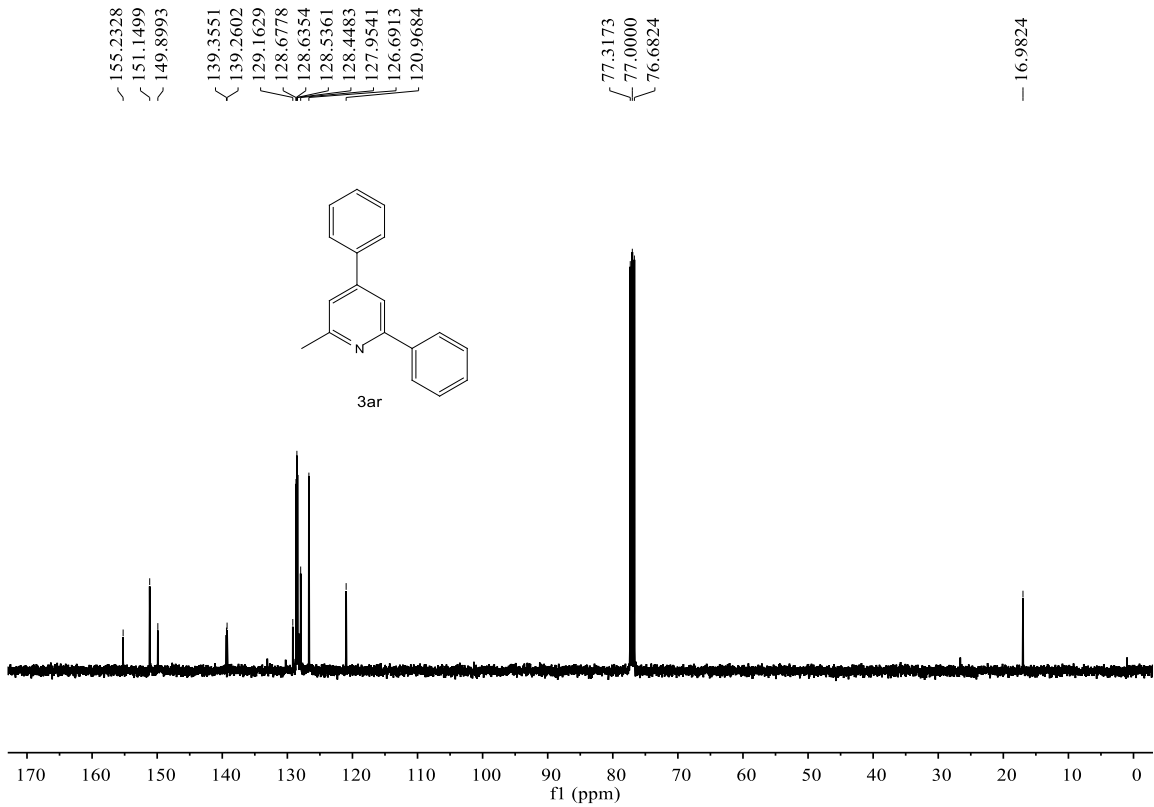
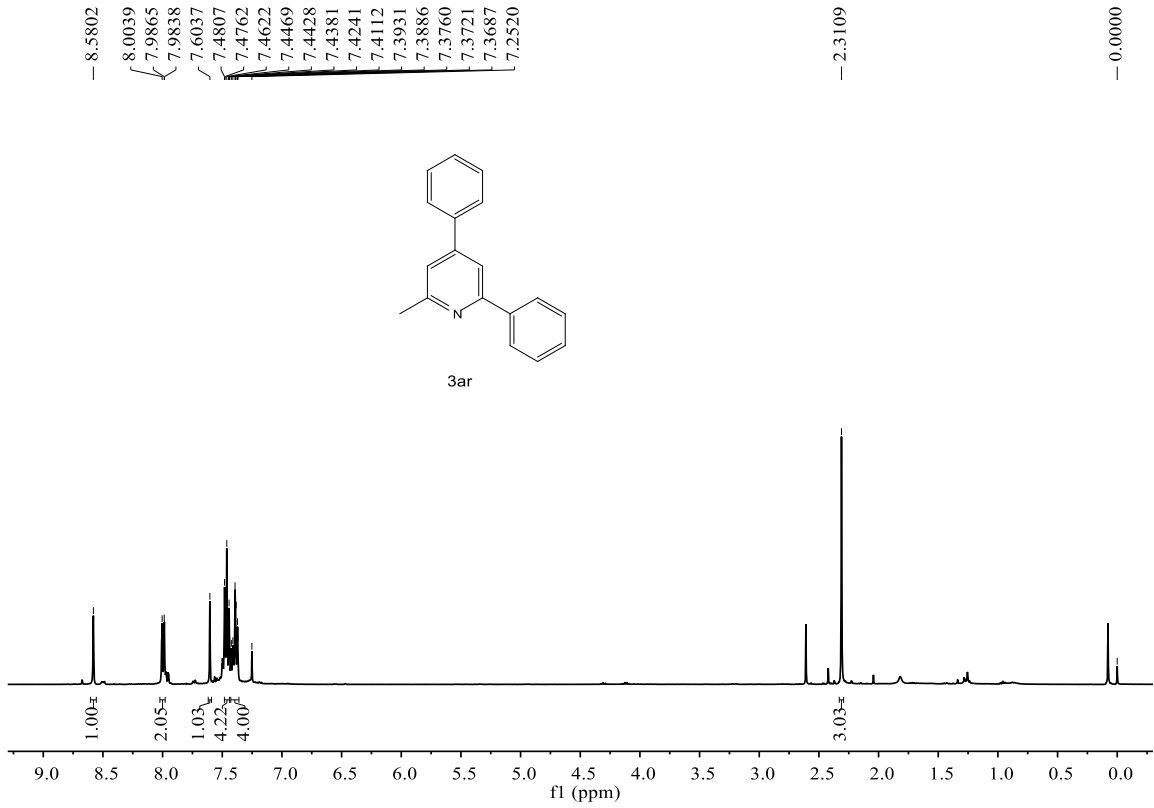


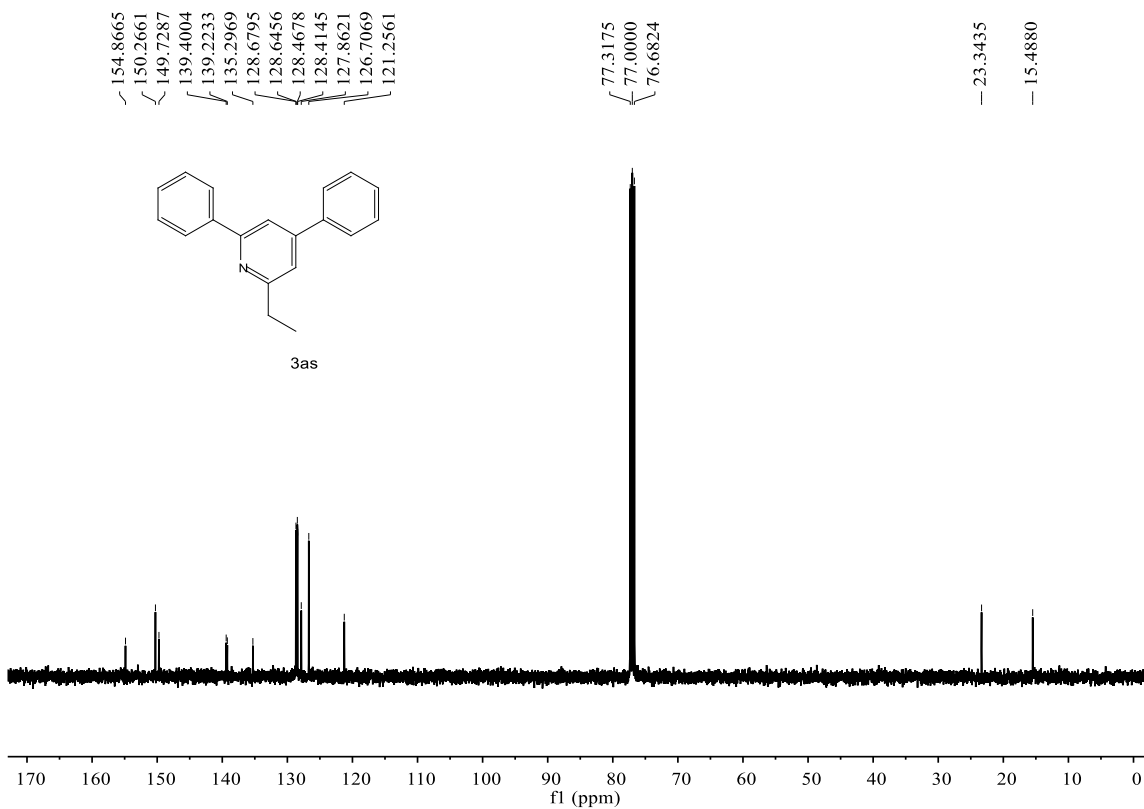
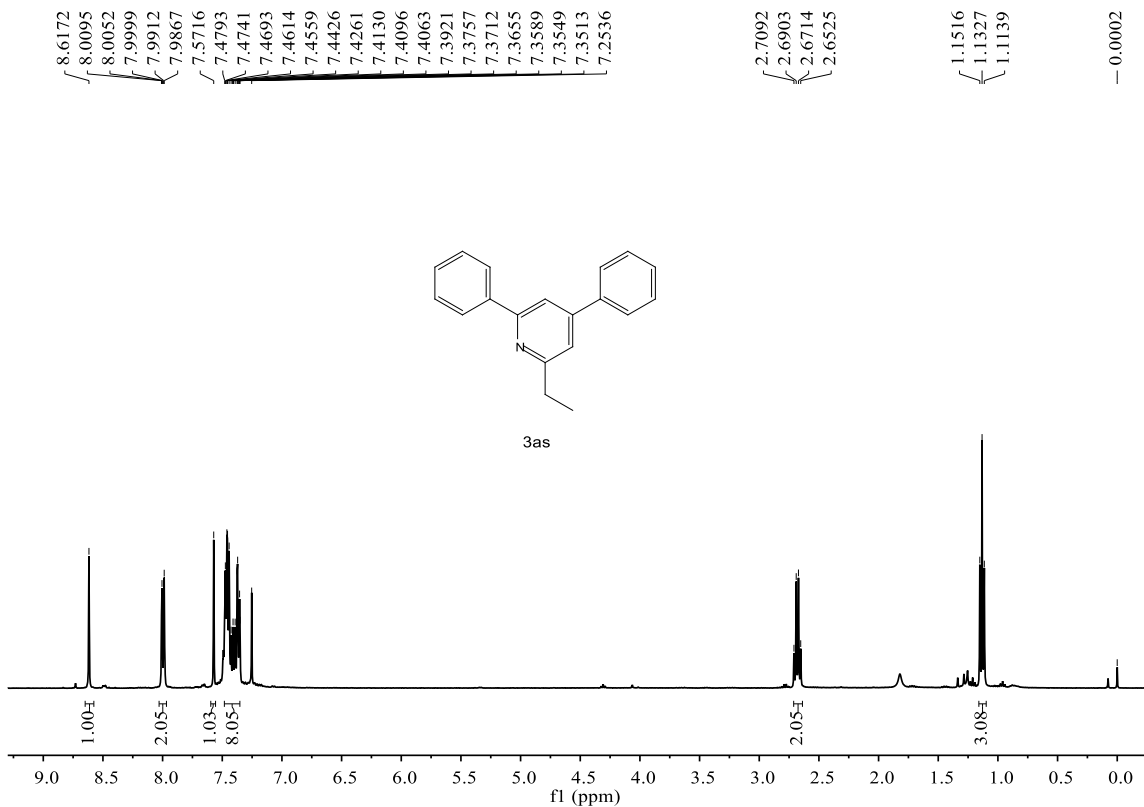


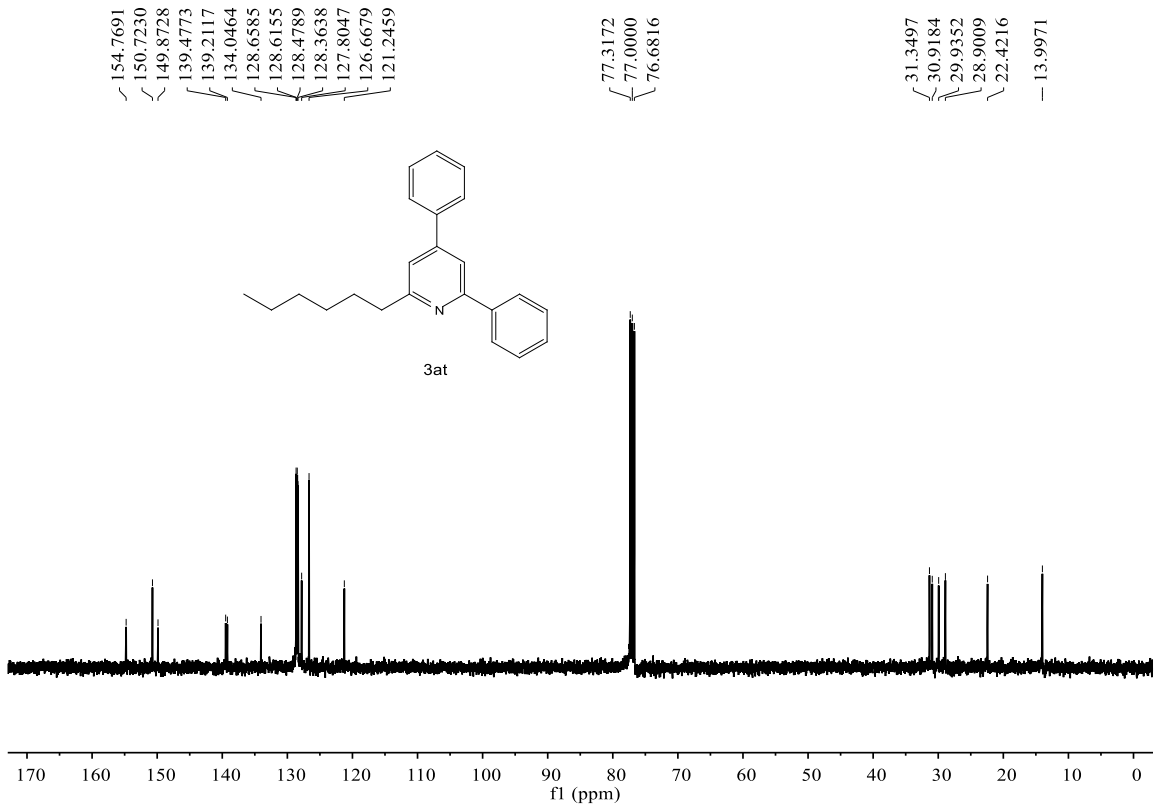
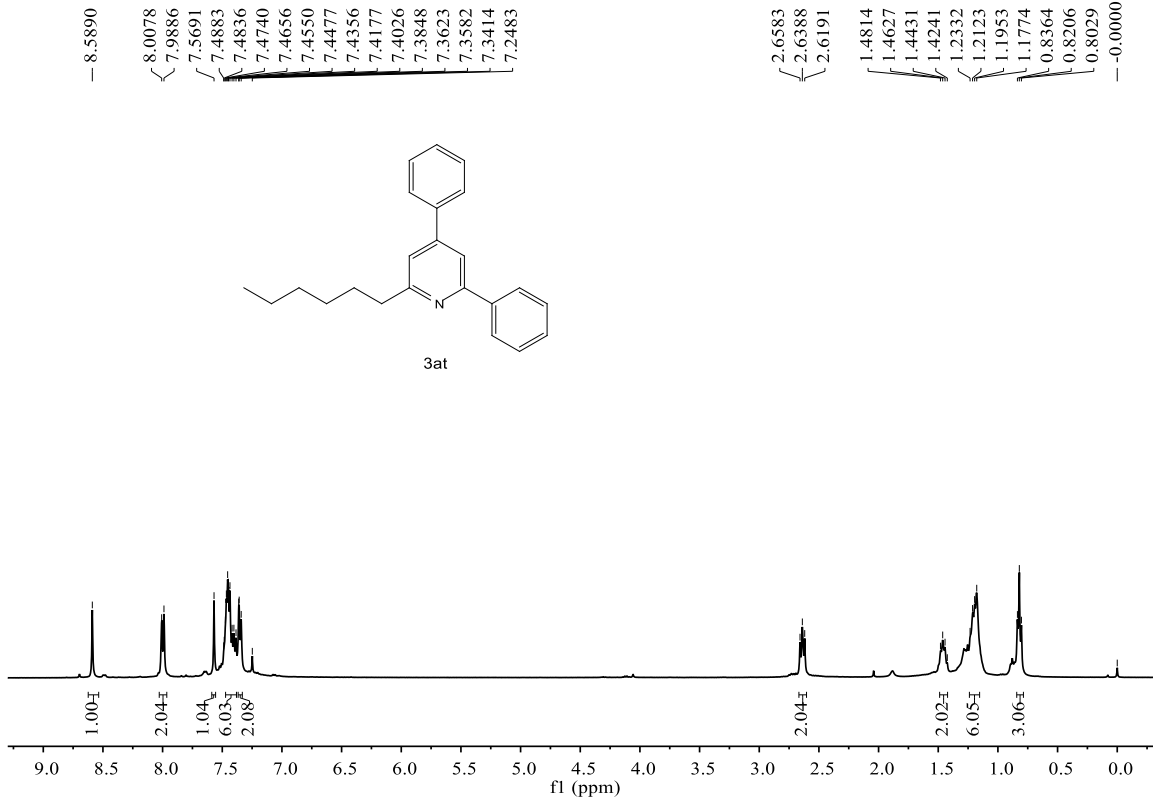


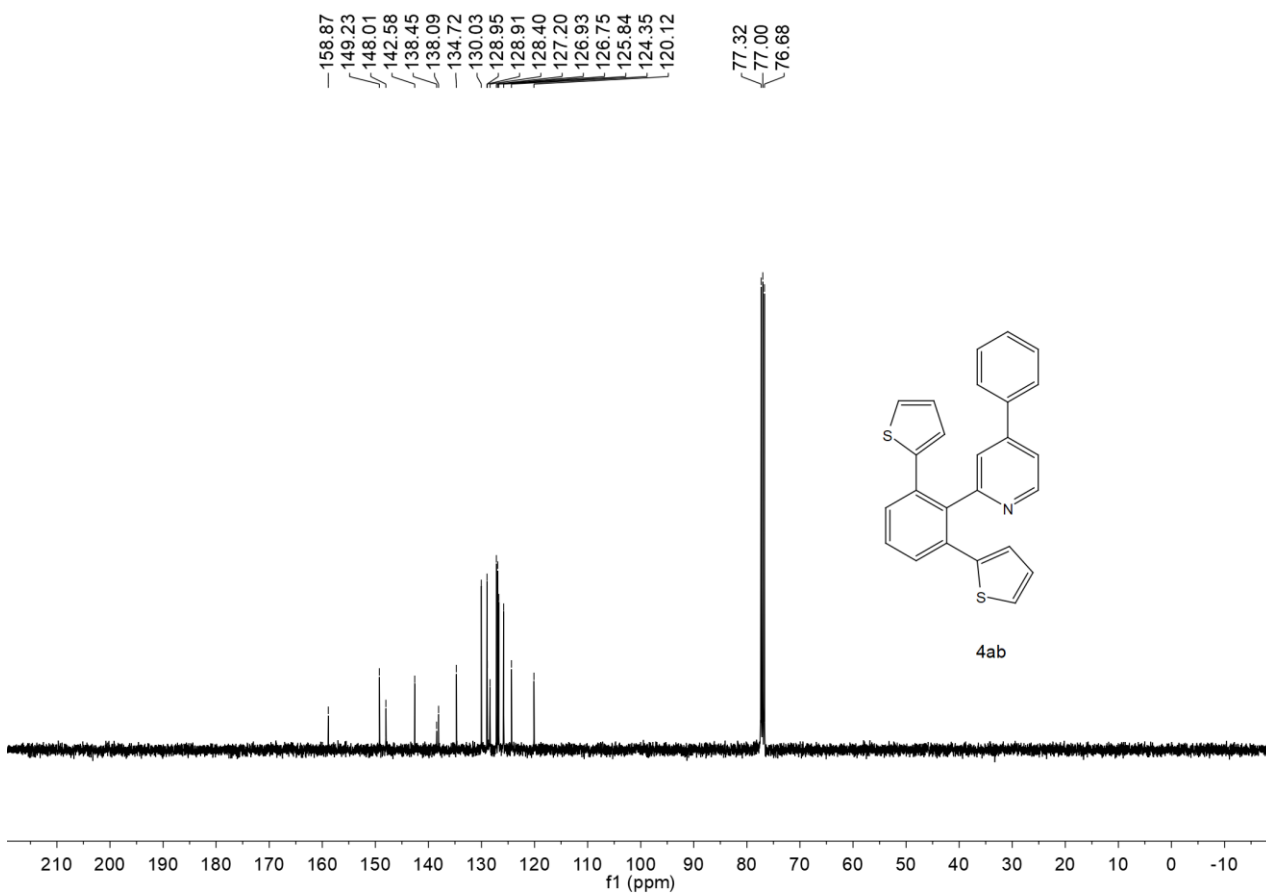
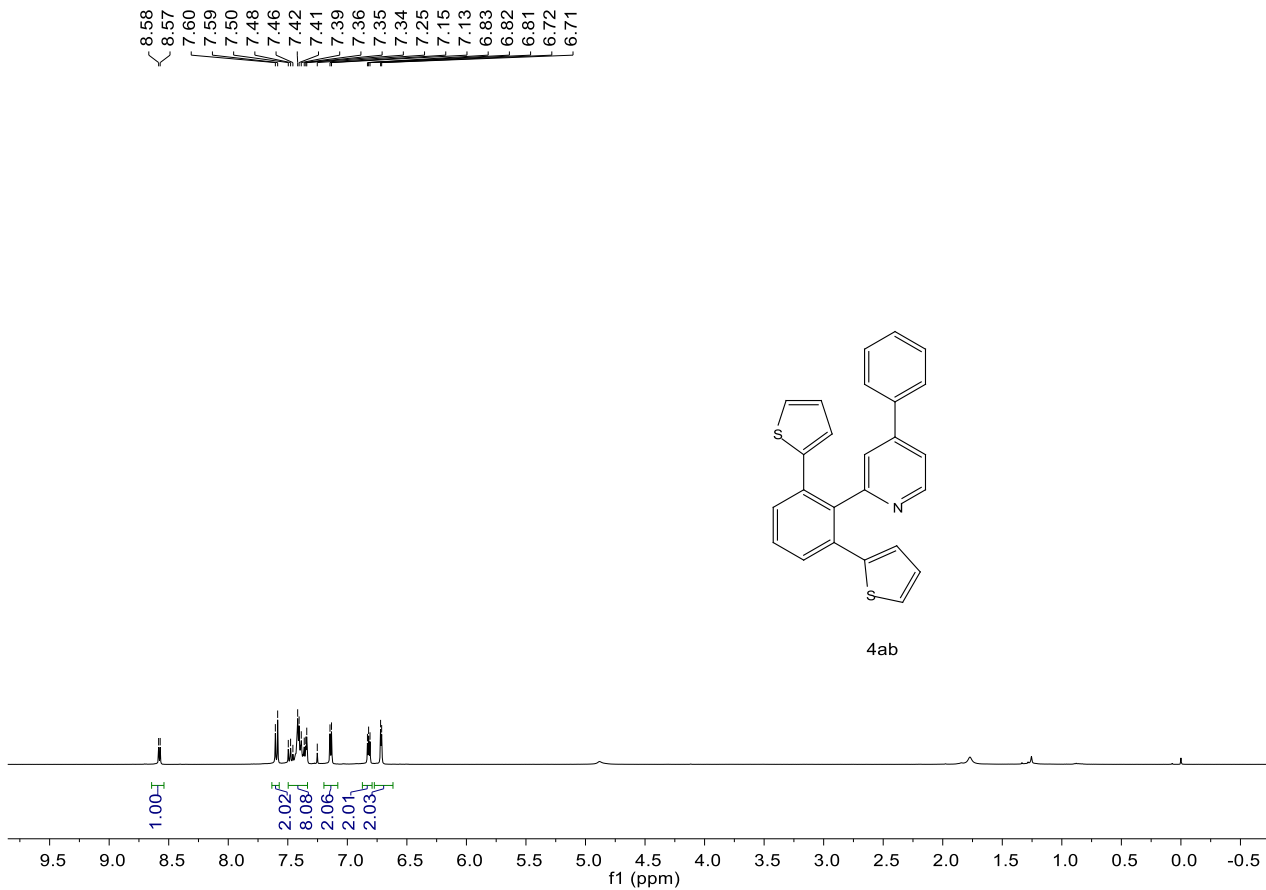


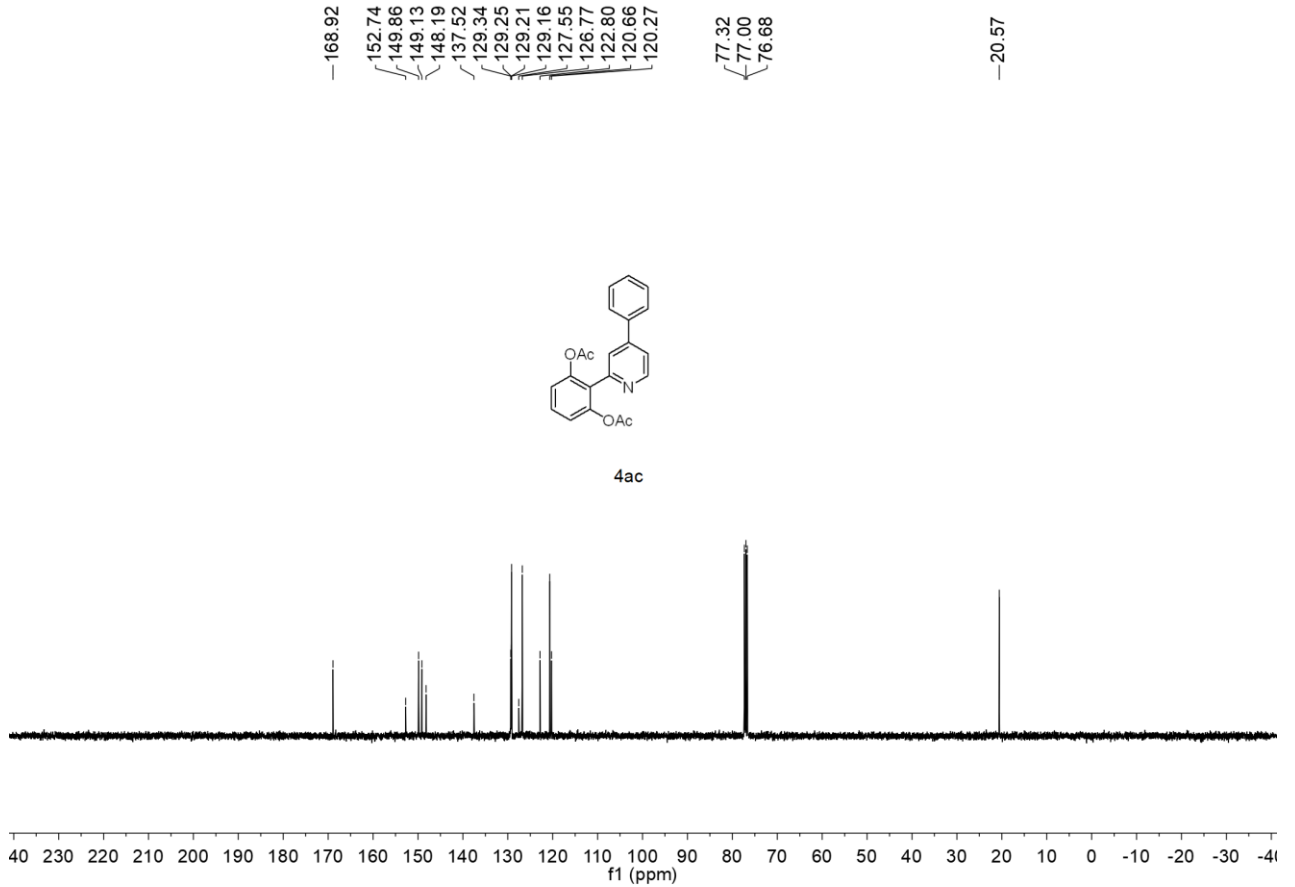
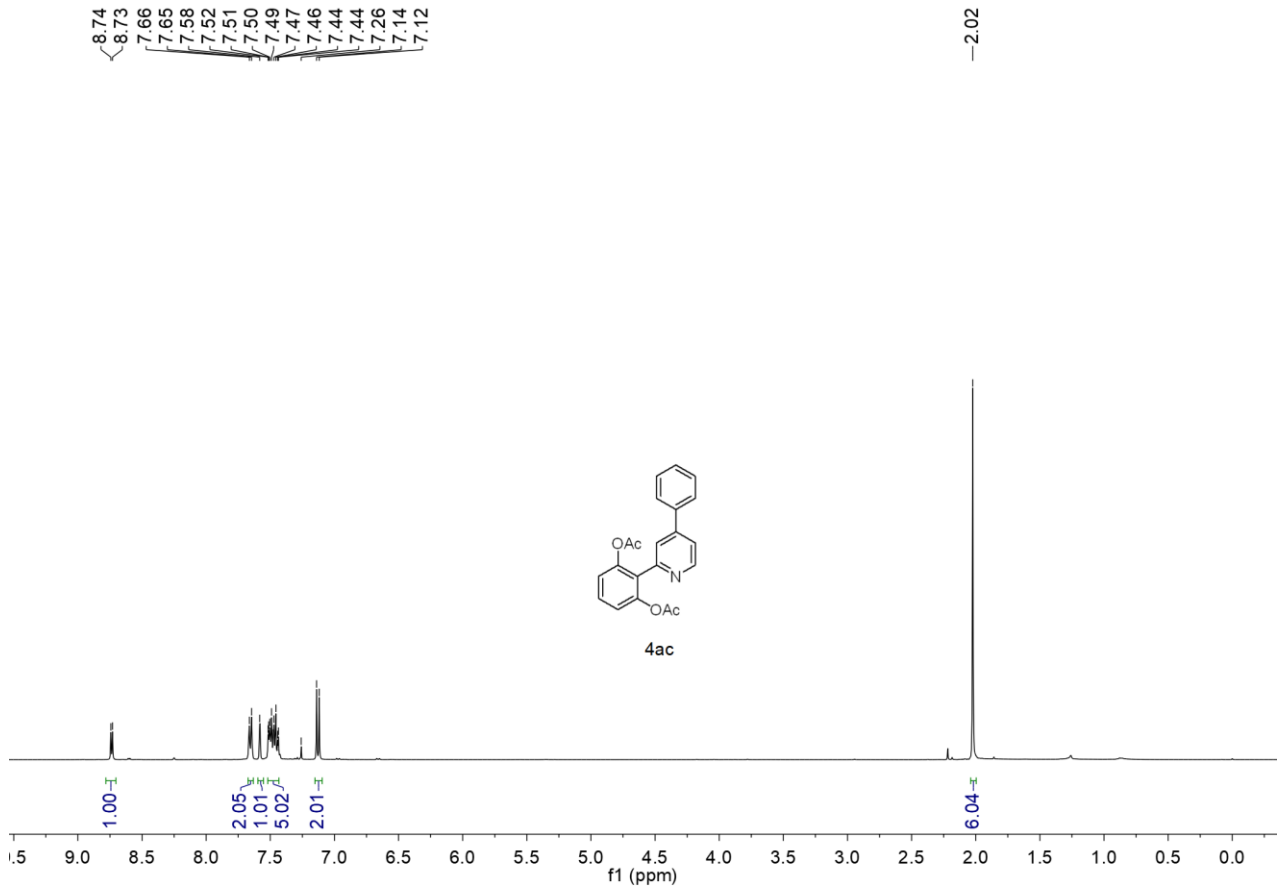








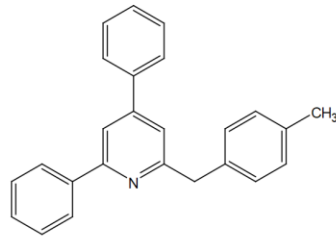




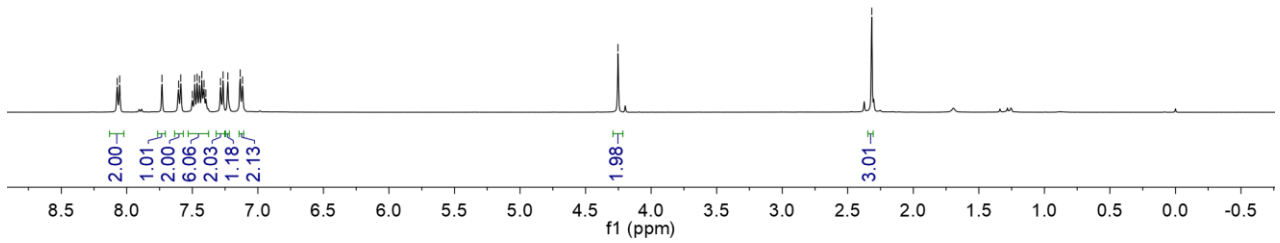
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7.59
7.50
7.48
7.46
7.45
7.43
7.41
7.40
7.28
7.27
7.23
7.14
7.12

-4.25

-2.32



4ad

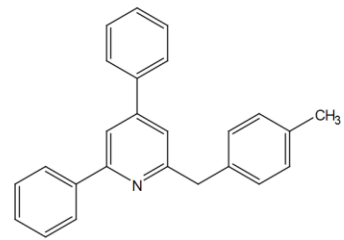


161.66
157.46
149.72
139.73
138.84
136.57
135.80
129.22
129.07
128.94
128.81
128.78
128.67
127.12
127.08
119.49
116.42

77.32
77.00
76.68

-44.53

-21.03



4ad

