# A *retro*-Mannich mediated transformation of Morita–Baylis–Hillman ketones to saturated imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines

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# **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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## I. Control experiments for the degradative dimerisation of acyclic MBH Ketones

The control experiments carried out to study the mechanism of the degradative dimerisation of acyclic MBH Ketones in our previous communication<sup>1</sup> are reproduced as such below (**Table S1**) for reference.

**Table S1.** Control experiments – degradative dimerisation of acyclic MBH ketones (*Note: compound numbers are reproduced from the published article in reference*<sup>l</sup>)

0 Ph	O OMe 5 mmol) OMe Dioxane (500 rt	–→ Pi		⊂O CO <sub>2</sub> Me
Entry	2	H2O (μL)	Time (min)	Yield (%)
1	<sup>n</sup> PrNH <sub>2</sub> ( <b>2d</b> )	-	90	_a
2	$Me_2N(CH_2)_2NMe_2$ (2e)	-	120	_b
3	Me <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> (2f)	-	30	60
4	H <sub>2</sub> N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> ( <b>2g</b> )	-	120	65
$5^c$	$H_2N(CH_2)_2NH_2$ (2c)	-	0.5	56 (33)
6 <sup><i>d</i>,<i>e</i></sup>	<b>2</b> e <sup><i>f</i></sup>	-	15	70
$7^{d,e}$	$2\mathbf{c}^{f,g}$	-	15	53
$8^e$	<b>2</b> e <sup><i>f</i></sup>	10	15	74
9 <sup>e</sup>	<b>2</b> e <sup><i>f</i></sup>	25	15	84

<sup>*a*</sup>Complex <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of an isolated product. <sup>*b*</sup>Complex reaction mixture. <sup>*c*</sup>CHCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent; the figure in parenthesis represents the yield of methyl 3-oxo-3-phenylpropanoate isolated from this reaction. <sup>*d*</sup>Reaction was carried out under inert conditions. <sup>*e*</sup>Anhydrous dioxane was used. <sup>*f*</sup>Anhydrous **2c** was used. <sup>*g*</sup>O.5 eq. of **2c** was used.

- The above experiments clearly revealed the requirement of both the amino groups for a successful reaction. The importance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amino group in providing the 'trigger' for the transformation is corroborated by the failed attempt in its absence, as also by the decreased efficiency when its proximity is compromised.
- The reactions under moisture-free conditions and in the presence of added water were indicative of the significance of water in accelerating the transformation.
- Based on the control experiments and the above aspects, a mechanistic pathway for the reaction had been proposed in our earlier communication (*also depicted in the main text of the present manuscript*).

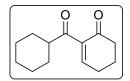
## II. Synthesis of MBH ketones:

The MBH ketones used in this work were synthesized from the corresponding MBH adducts using a literature protocol.<sup>2</sup>

The MBH ketone **4a** utilized in this work is reported in the literature.<sup>3</sup>

The data for the MBH ketone **4s** is tabulated below.

## 2-(cyclohexanecarbonyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one (4s):



Synthesised from 1 mmol (208 mg) of the precursor MBH adduct; yield: 202 mg (98%); pale yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  7.42 (t, 1H, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 3.09-3.01 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.45 (m, 4H), 2.04 (p, 2H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.85-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.77-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.25 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):  $\delta$  205.3, 196.8, 154.5, 140.6, 48.9, 38.8, 28.5, 26.3, 26.0, 25.7, 22.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na: 229.1199; found: 229.1189.

# **III.** Optimisation studies on the synthesis of 5-alkylidene octahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridines from MBH Ketones

The first experiment in the study was a reaction of the MBH ketone **4a** with the diamine **2a** to yield the imidazopyridine **5a** (**Table S2**, **Scheme**) A brief optimisation study was carried out on the reaction, the details of which are collated in **Table S2** below.

$\begin{array}{c c} & 0 & 0 \\ \hline & & \\ \hline \\ \hline$								
entry	2a, equiv	solvent [500 μL]	time [min]	additive [equiv]	5a / yield (%) <sup>b</sup>			
1	1.2	dioxane	45	-	45			
2	2.0	dioxane	10	-	51			
3	5.0	dioxane	20	-	51			
4	2.0	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	10	-	65			
5	2.0	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	5	$In(OTf)_{3,} 20 mol\%$	48			
6	2.0	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	5	$Ca(OTf)_2$ (20 mol%)	43			

Table S2. Optimisation of the conditions for the conversion of 4a to  $5a^{a}$ 

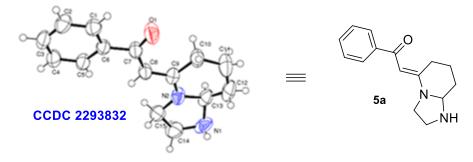
<sup>*a*</sup>All reactions were carried out on 0.5 mmol of 4a at room temperature. <sup>*b*</sup>Refers to isolated yield after column chromatographic purification.

Our studies started with the reaction of MBH ketone 4a, derived from cyclohex-2-en-1-one, with 1.2 equiv of ethylenediamine (2a) using dioxane as a solvent; to our delight, the reaction produced the product 5a, but in modest yield (Table S2, entry 1). Increasing the equiv of ethylenediamine resulted in only marginally better yields of 5a (entries 2 & 3). The use of CH<sub>3</sub>CN as the solvent resulted in a more efficient reaction and afforded 5a in 65% yield (entry 4). Further, the reaction was also carried out using Lewis acid additives in an attempt to enhance the yield; however, to our disappointment, the additives had a determinantal impact on the reaction efficiency (entries 5 & 6). Eventually, we switched to a one-pot

protocol that involved a direct conversion of MBH adducts to the corresponding heterocycles, the details of which are described in the manuscript.

# IV. X-ray crystal structure of 5a

The colourless crystal for single crystal X-ray analysis was grown in toluene.



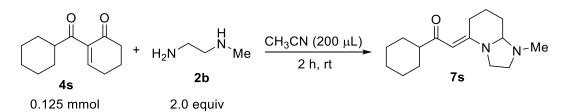
# Crystal data and structure refinement for 5a

Identification code (CCDC Number)	2293832
Empirical formula	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O
Formula weight	242.31
Temperature	297(2) K
-	0.71073 Å
Wavelength	
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P -1
Unit cell dimensions	
a = 7.7284(5)  Å	$\alpha = 77.928(2)^{\circ}.$
b = 7.7936(5)  Å	$\beta = 71.564(2)^{\circ}.$
c = 11.5229(8) Å	$\gamma = 85.819(2)^{\circ}.$
Volume	643.85(7) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	2
Density (calculated)	1.250 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.079 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	260
Crystal size	0.150 x 0.150 x 0.100 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	2.778 to 24.999°.
Index ranges	-9<=h<=9, -9<=k<=9, -13<=
Reflections collected	27882
Independent reflections	2267 [R(int) = 0.0675]

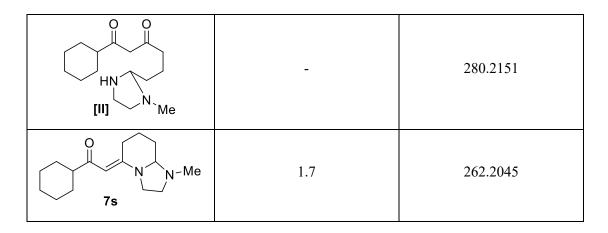
Completeness to theta = $24.999^{\circ}$	99.7 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.5029
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	2267 / 72 / 197
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.057
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0563, wR2 = 0.1465
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0730, wR2 = 0.1676
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.199 and -0.223 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

## V. Monitoring the progress of reaction by LC-MS

A reaction of MBH ketone **4s**, derived from cyclohexane carbaldehyde, was set up with the diamine **2b** to yield the imidazopyridine **7s** under the conditions given in the Scheme below. The reaction was monitored at regular intervals by LC-HRMS (*Conditions*: Eclipse C8 column [0.1% formic acid in water/ Acetonitrile = 1:1; flow rate of 0.1 mL/min]), in an attempt to observe the intermediates I and II corresponding to the proposed mechanistic pathway (structures given in the Table below), and the eventual conversion to the saturated imidazopyridine.



Compounds	Retention time (approx.) on LC analysis (min)	m/z
	5.4	206.1307
	-	280.2151



- At the outset, the LC retention times of the starting MBH ketone 4s (~5.4 min) and the heterocyclic product 7s (~1.7 min) were clearly determined with the help of mass spectral correlation.
- The MBH ketone reacted quite rapidly upon the interaction with diamine **2b**; just 1 min after the addition of **2b**, nearly 50% conversion to the product **7s** could be observed using the LC-MS.
- Two minor peaks were also observed with retention times of ~3.3 min and ~4.5 min. Neither of these peaks exhibited a mass signal corresponding the expected m/z of 280 of the intermediates I and II.
- Interestingly, the above two peaks were observed with nearly similar intensity (5-7%) almost throughout the duration of the reaction, and started disappearing towards the end of the reaction. Although a mass signal of m/z 263 corresponding to the m/z of the final product itself, could be observed for both these peaks, they could not be assigned to either of the intermediates I or II unambiguously.
- Lastly, over time, the intensity of the peak at ~5.4 min corresponding to MBH Ketone **4s** gradually fades away, whereas the intensity of the peak at ~1.7 min corresponding to that of the product **7s** shows a ~92% conversion after 2 h of the reaction.

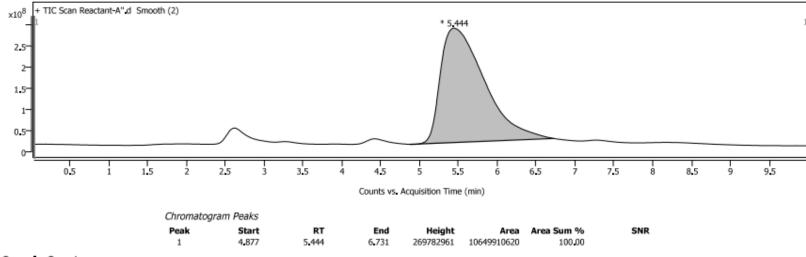
The entire study including the chromatograms along with the corresponding mass spectral analysis are reproduced below for reference. For convenience, the mass scans for the minor peaks at  $\sim$ 3.3 min and  $\sim$ 4.5 min are provided only for the "After 1 min" chromatogram.

## **Chromatograms and Mass Spectral analysis**

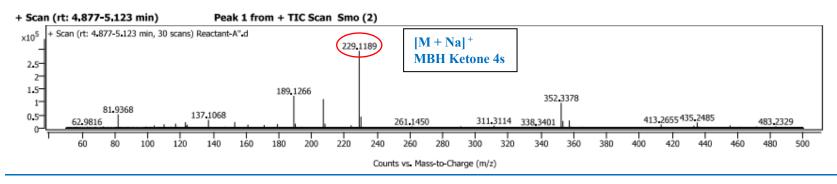
Chromatograms and MS analysis of samples of the substrate and the product:

# MBH Ketone 4s

#### Sample Chromatograms

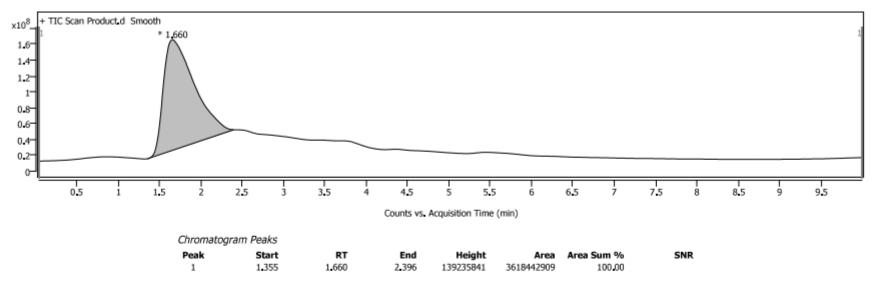




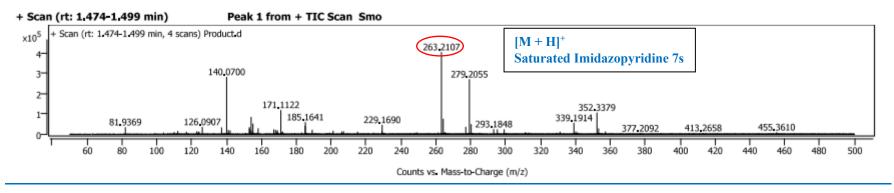


# **Saturated Imidazopyridine 7s**

## Sample Chromatograms



## Sample Spectra

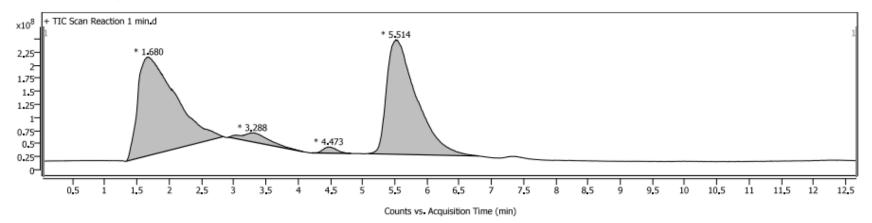


## Chromatograms and MS analysis of samples of the reaction mixture:

Characteria Dealis

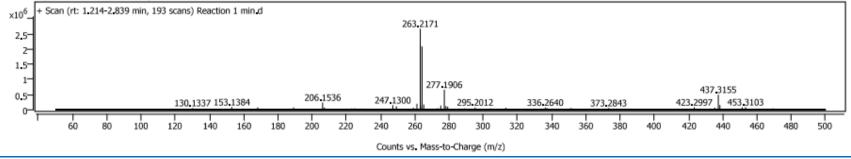
# (i) After 1 min

## Sample Chromatograms

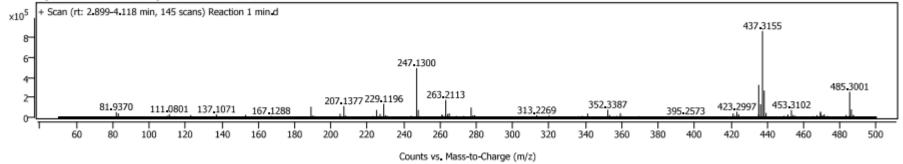


Chromatog	ram Peaks						
Peak	Start	RT	End	Height	Area	Area Sum %	SNR
1	1.333	1.680	2.839	188777512	7639900425	49.56	
2	2.916	3.288	4.075	17227543	534176510	3.47	
3	4.211	4.473	4.820	11965485	172889845	1.12	
4	5.091	5.514	6.801	219292950	7068493828	45.85	

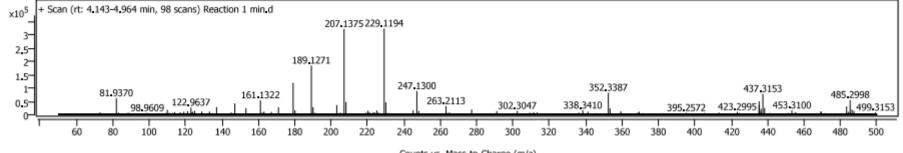
### + Scan (rt: 1.214-2.839 min)



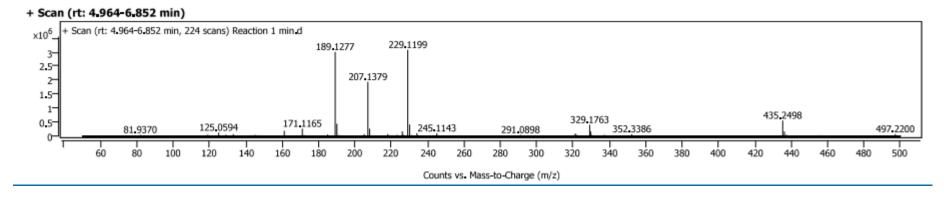
#### + Scan (rt: 2.899-4.118 min)



#### + Scan (rt: 4 143 4 964 min)

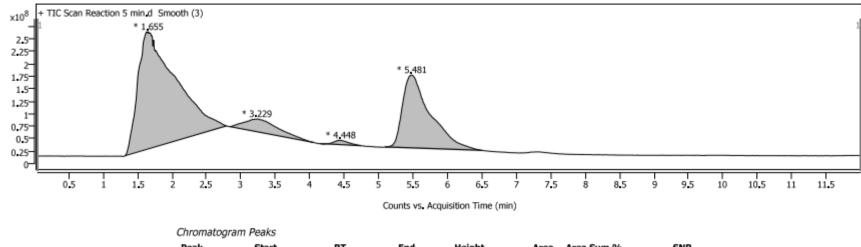






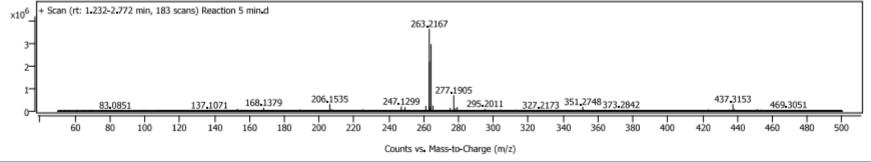
# (ii) After 5 min

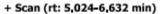
## Sample Chromatograms

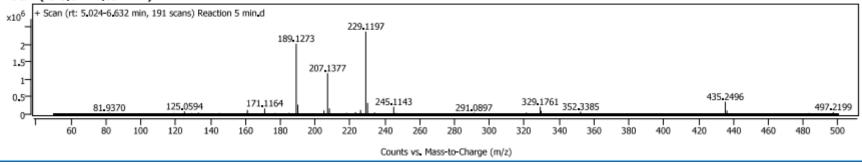


Peak	Start	RT	End	Height	Area	Area Sum %	SNR
1	1.316	1.655	2.789	234676644	8902971223	63.42	
2	2.840	3.229	4.059	25454591	908858886	6.47	
3	4.152	4.448	4.745	8676838	123864963	0.88	
4	5.092	5.481	6.505	146109357	4101592886	29.22	

### + Scan (rt: 1.232-2.772 min)

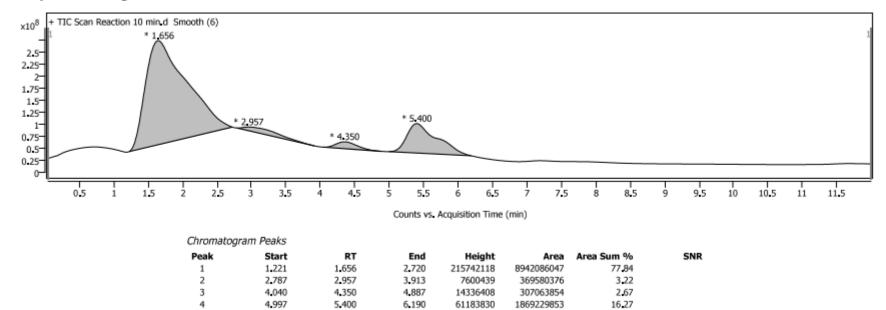




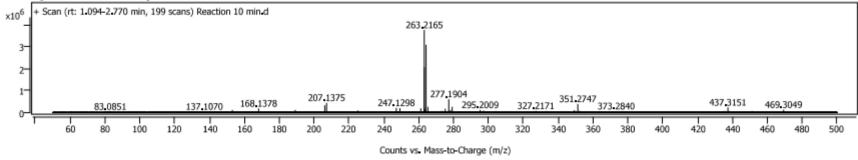


# (iii) After 10 min

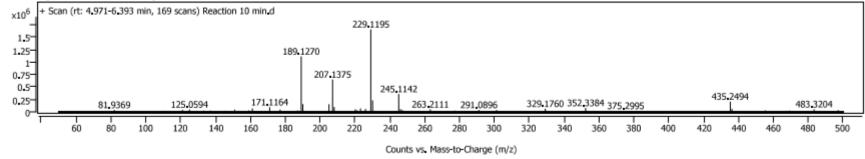
### Sample Chromatograms



#### + Scan (rt: 1.094-2.770 min)

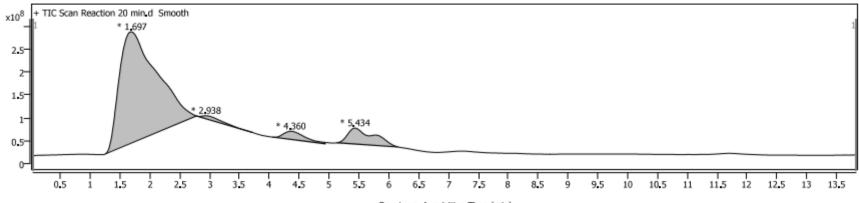


#### + Scan (rt: 4.971-6.393 min)



## (iv) After 20 min

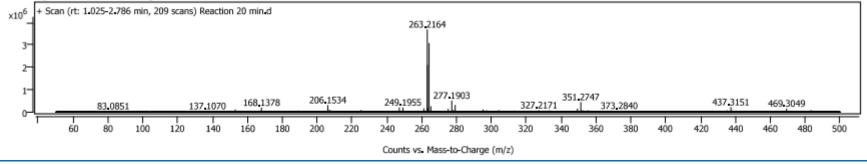
## Sample Chromatograms

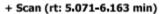


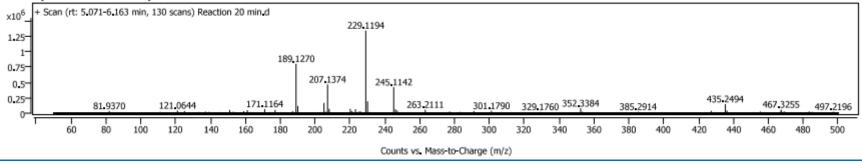
Counts vs. Acquisition Time (min)

Chromatog	ram Peaks						
Peak	Start	RT	End	Height	Area	Area Sum %	SNR
1	1.254	1.697	2.777	243018211	10534631027	86.12	
2	2.777	2.938	3.725	6588104	178379431	1.46	
3	4.055	4.360	4.936	17845788	445245896	3.64	
4	5.130	5.434	6.155	34895526	1074845742	8.79	

## + Scan (rt: 1.025-2.786 min)

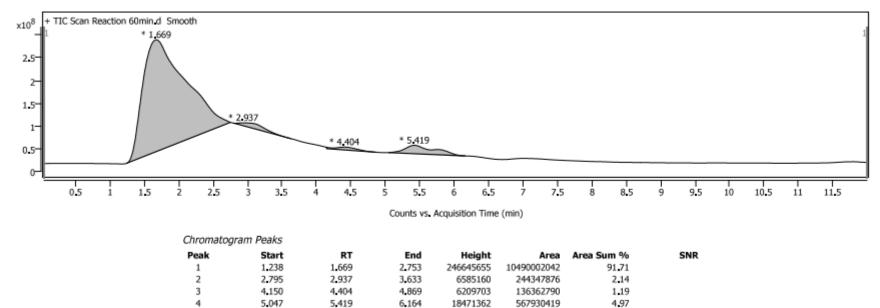




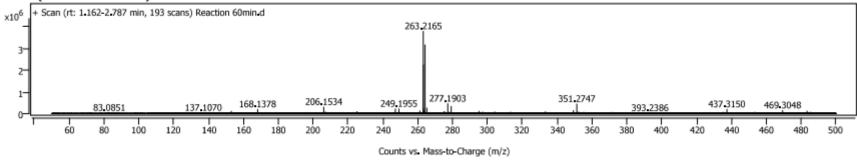


# (v) <u>After 1 h</u>

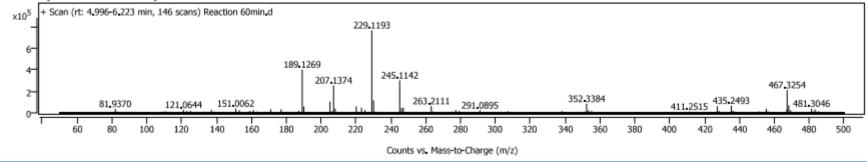
## Sample Chromatograms



#### + Scan (rt: 1.162-2.787 min)

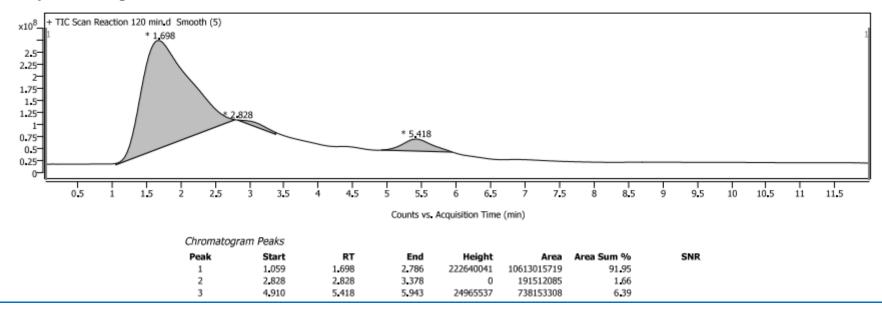


#### + Scan (rt: 4.996-6.223 min)

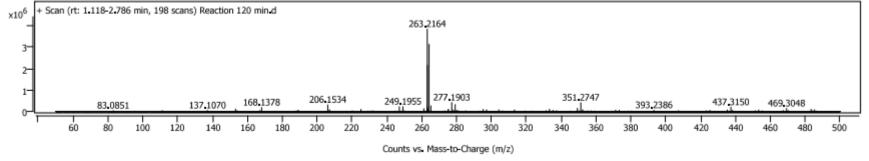


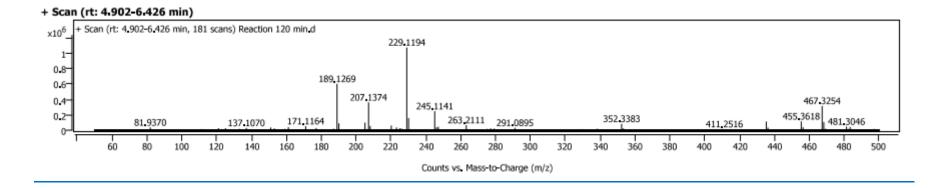
# (vi) <u>After 2 h</u>

## Sample Chromatograms



#### + Scan (rt: 1.118-2.786 min)



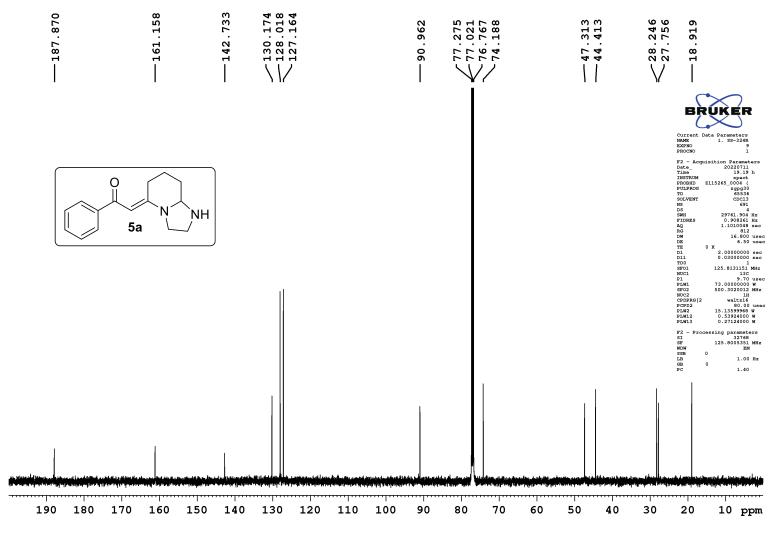


## VI. References:

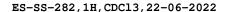
- 1. A. K. Jha, A. Kumari and S. Easwar, Diamine-mediated Degradative Dimerisation of Morita-Baylis-Hillman Ketones Chem. Commun., 2020, 56, 2949-2952.
- 2. A. K. Jha, R. Kumari and S. Easwar, A Hydrazine Insertion Route to N'-Alkyl Benzohydrazides by an Unexpected Carbon–Carbon Bond Cleavage, *Org. Lett.*, 2019, **21**, 8191-8195.
- 3. X. Tang, A.J. Blake, W. Lewis and S. Woodward, Asymmetric conjugate additions to 1,1'-diactivated cyclic enones—A comparative study, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, 2009, **20**, 1881-1891.

## <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of the synthesised products



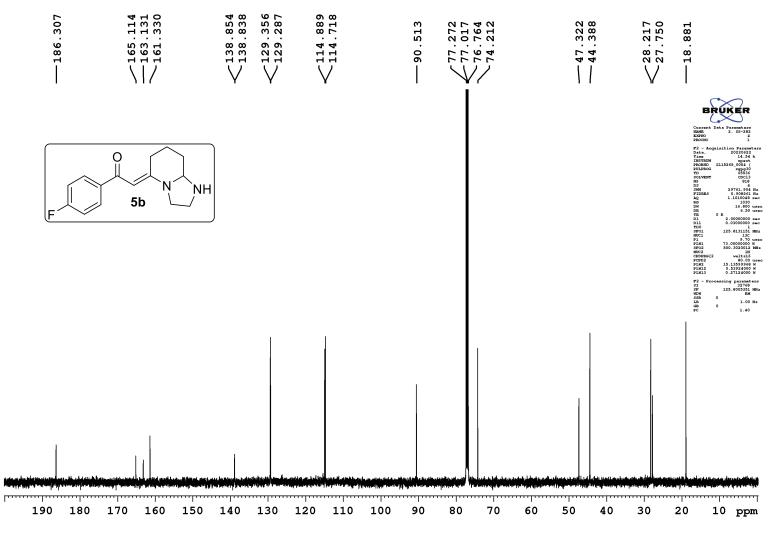


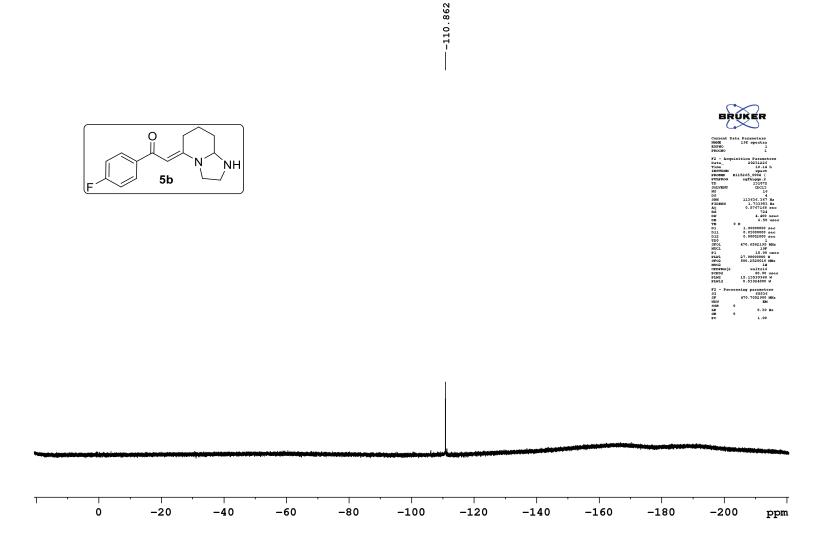
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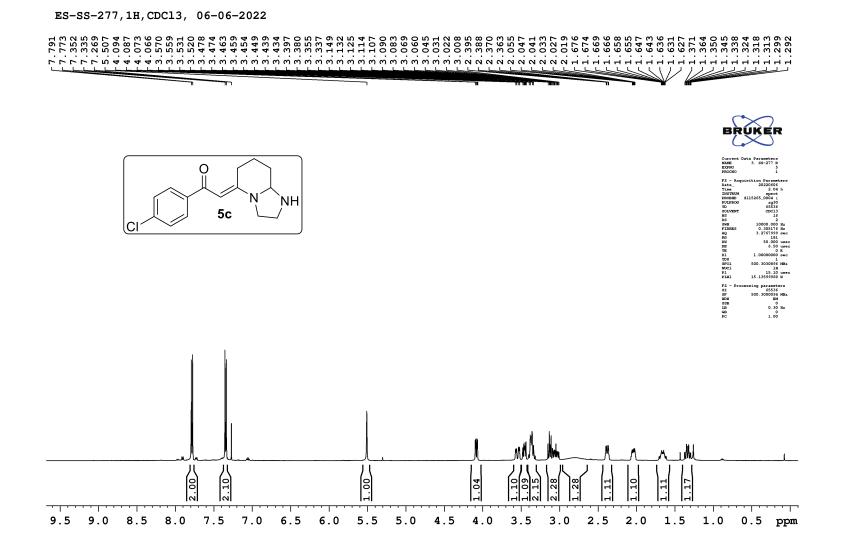


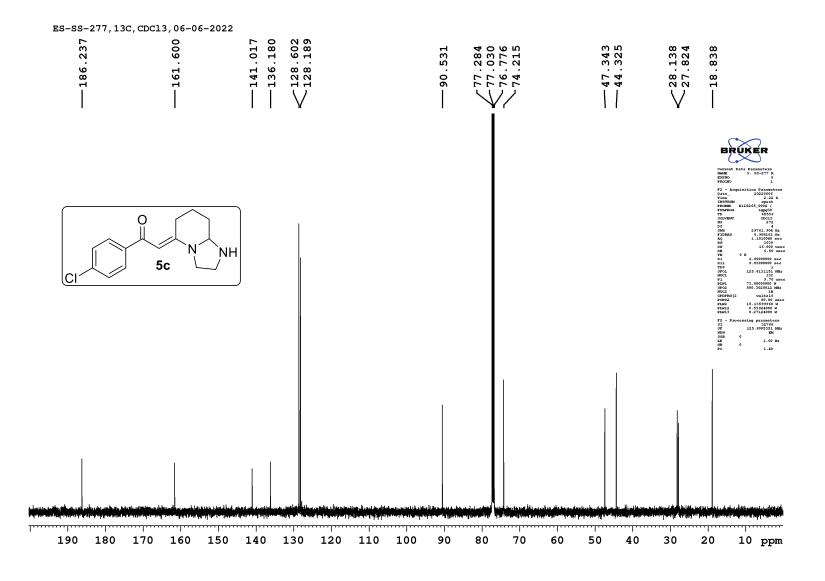
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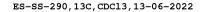
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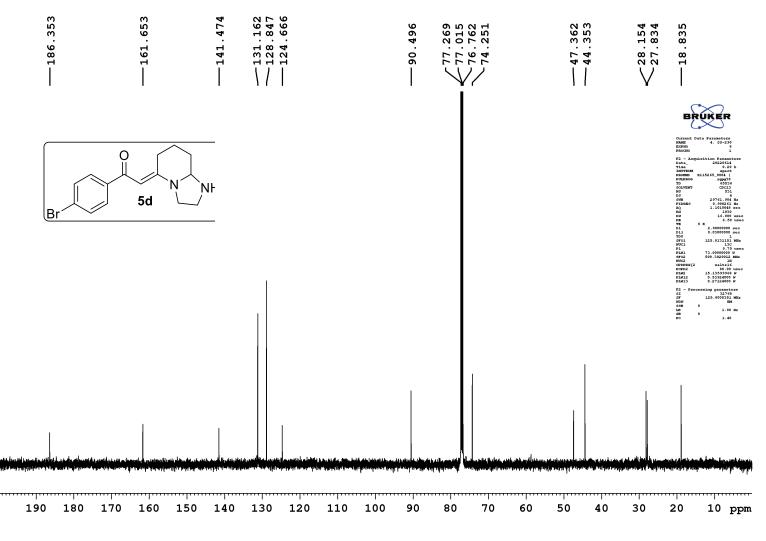


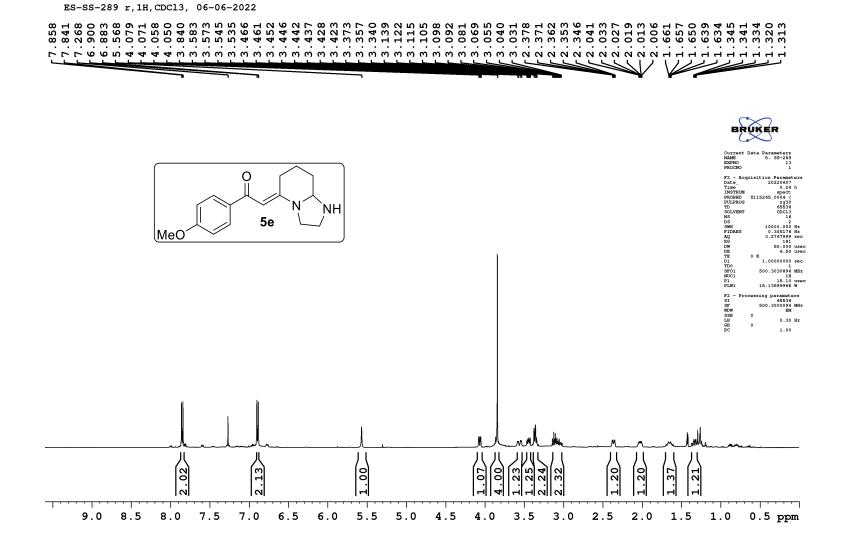


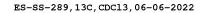


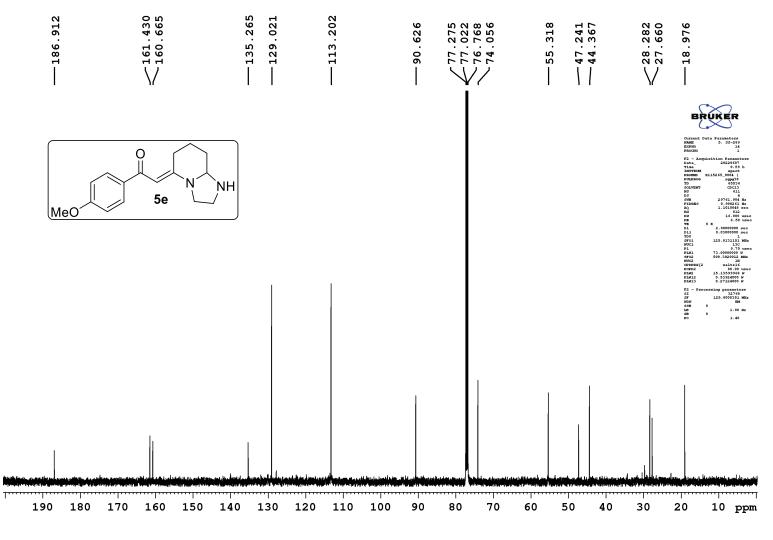


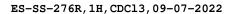




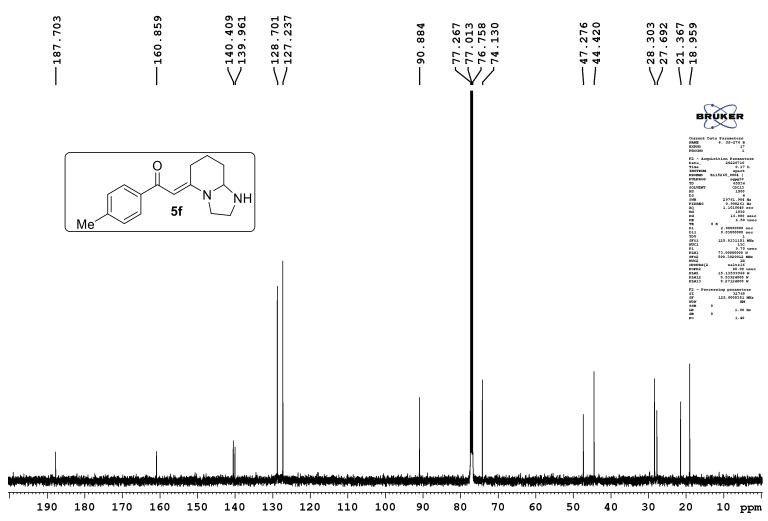






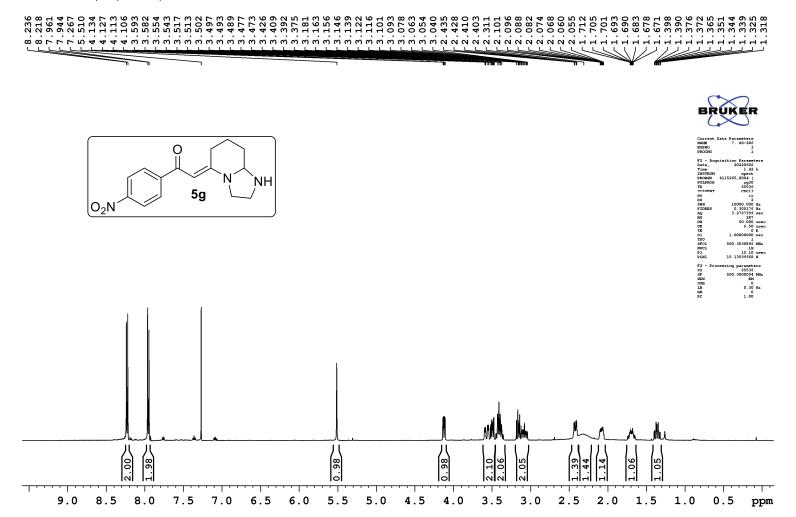


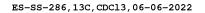


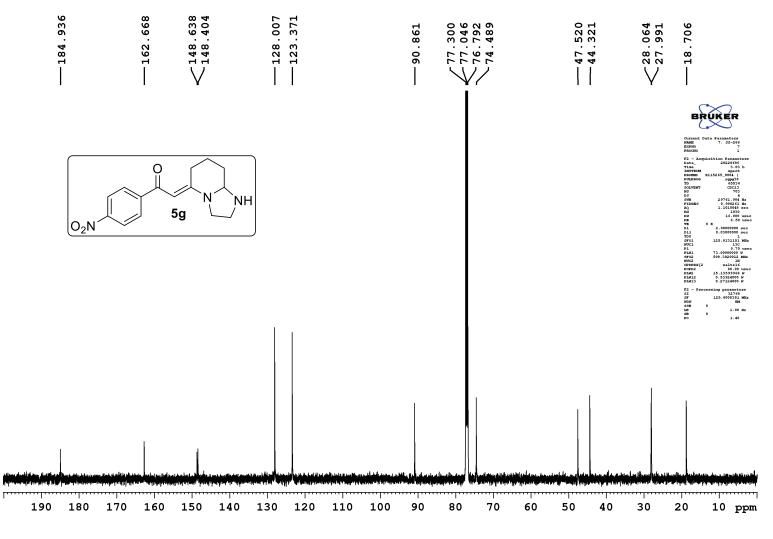


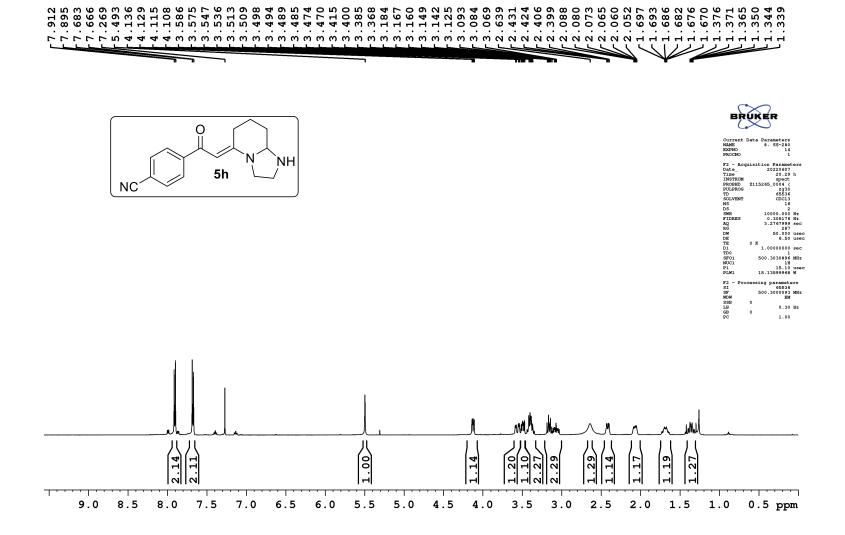
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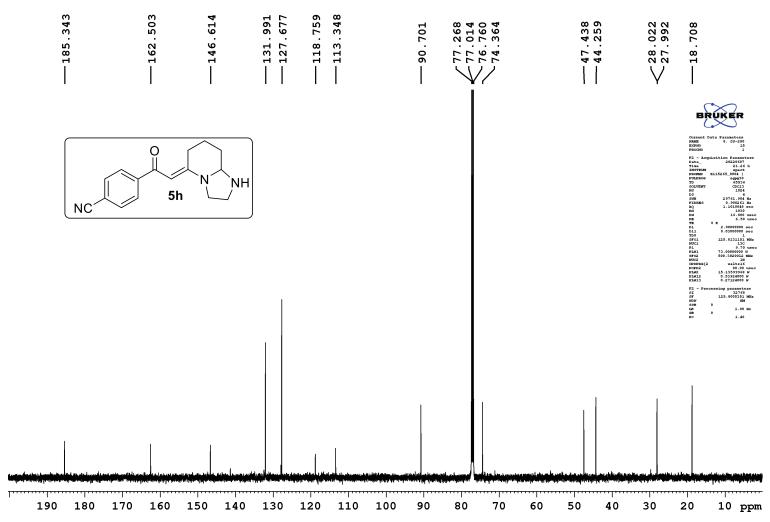




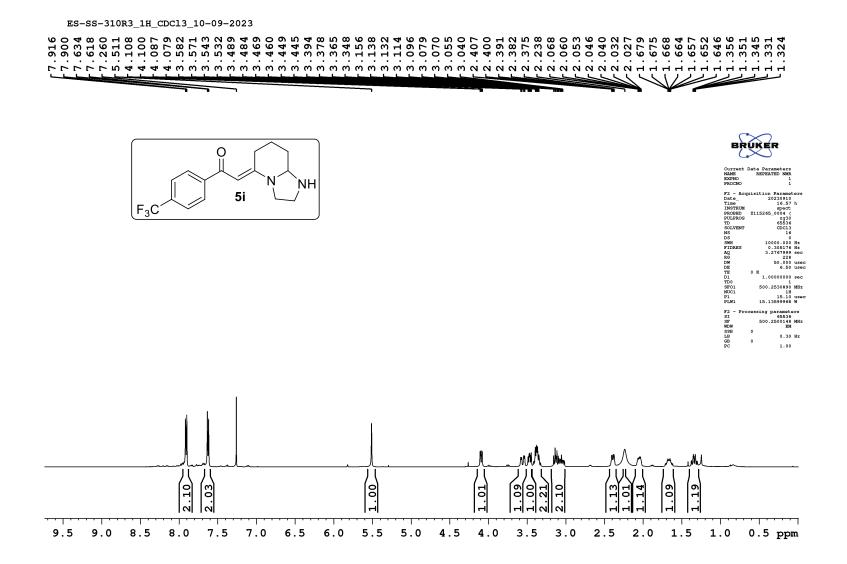


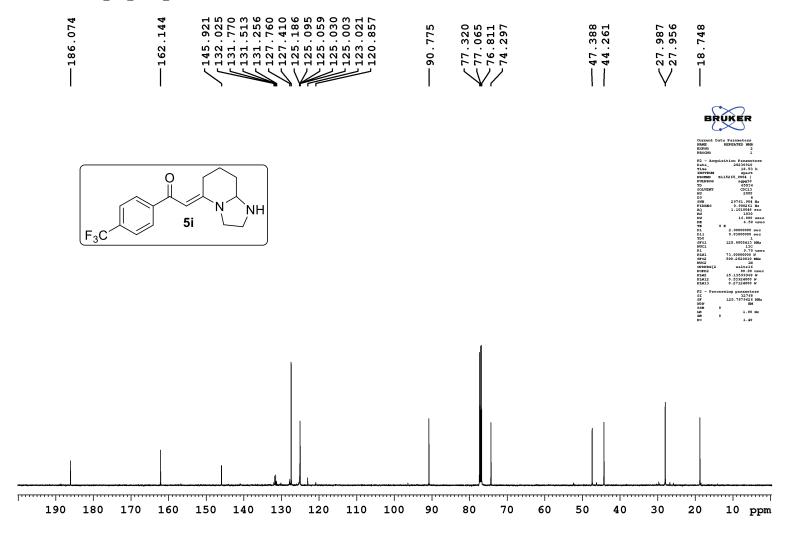
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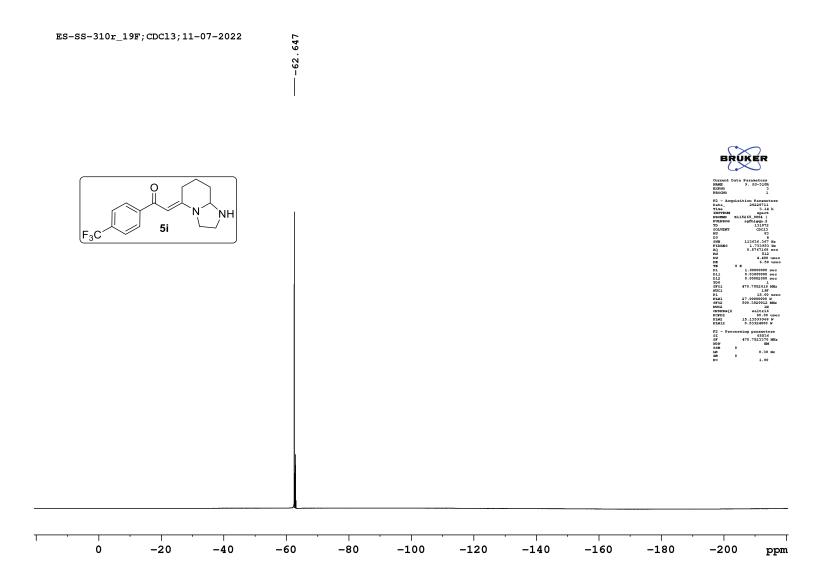




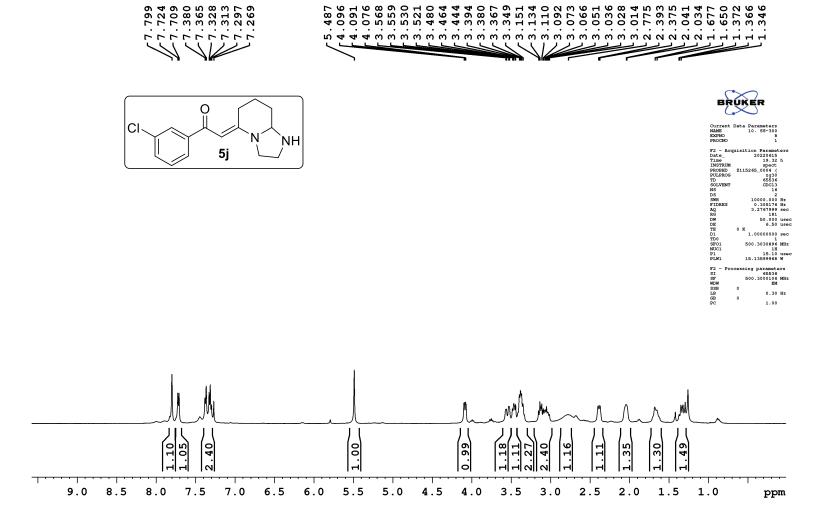
ES-SS-280,13C,CDC13,07-06-2022

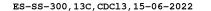


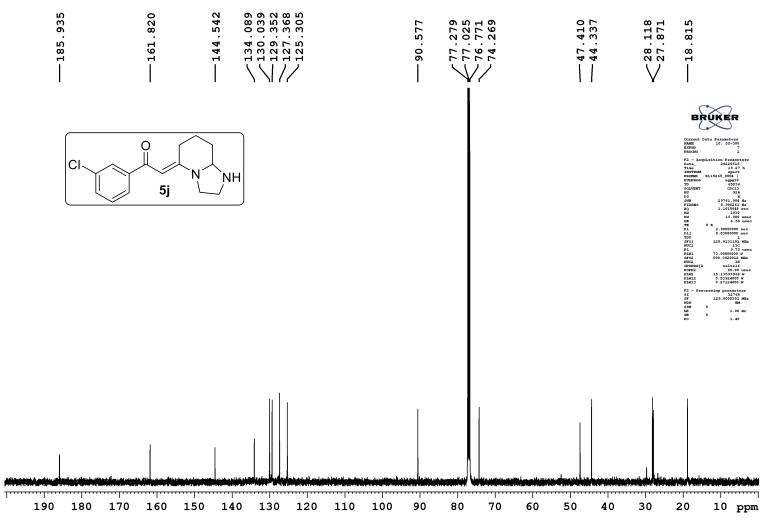


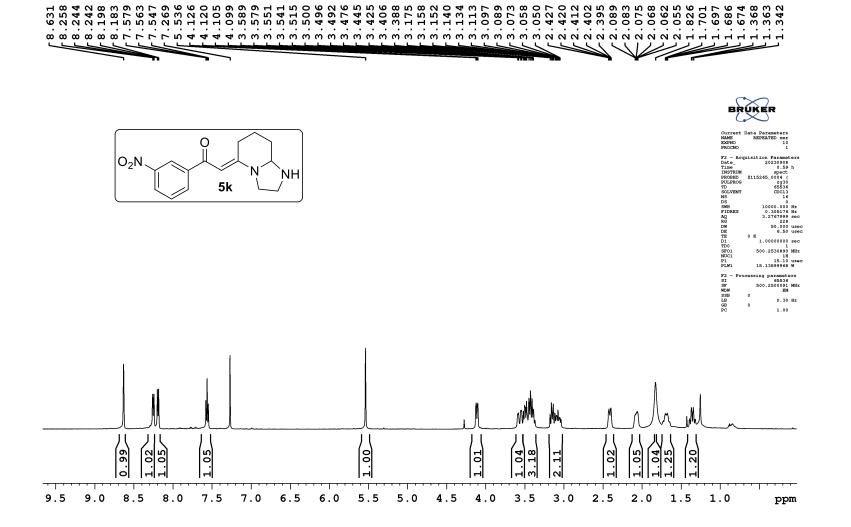




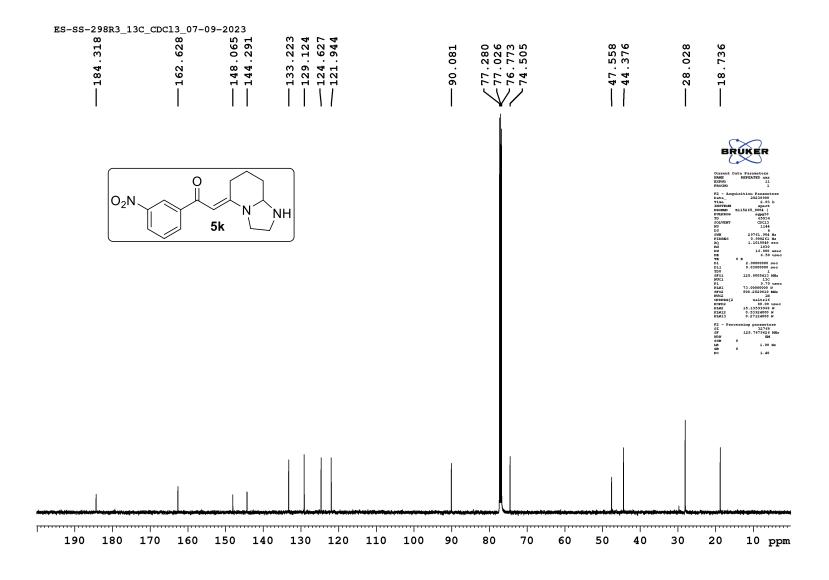


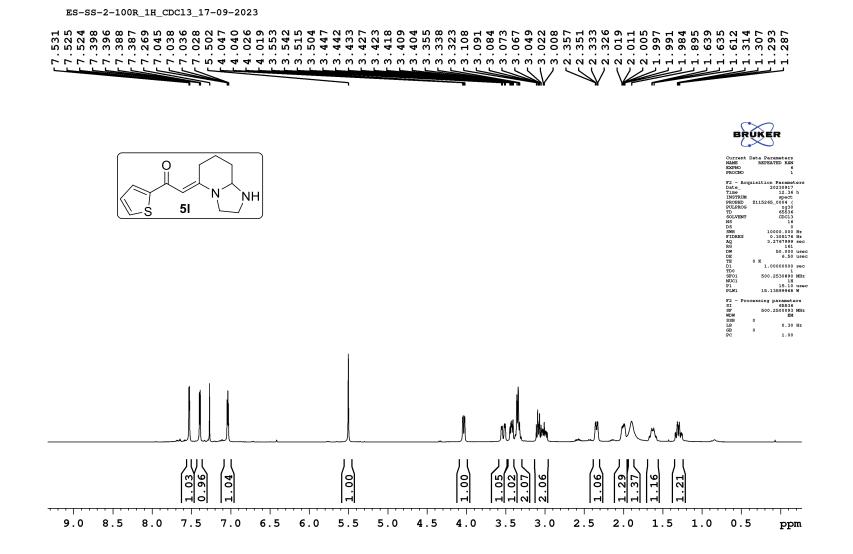


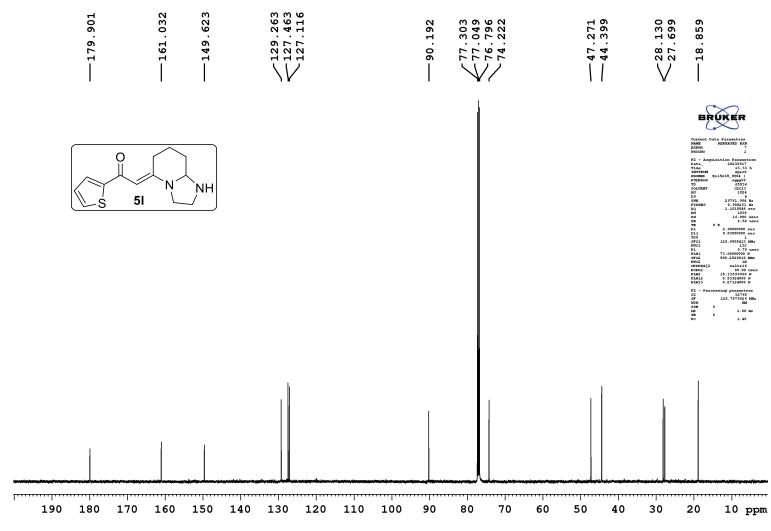




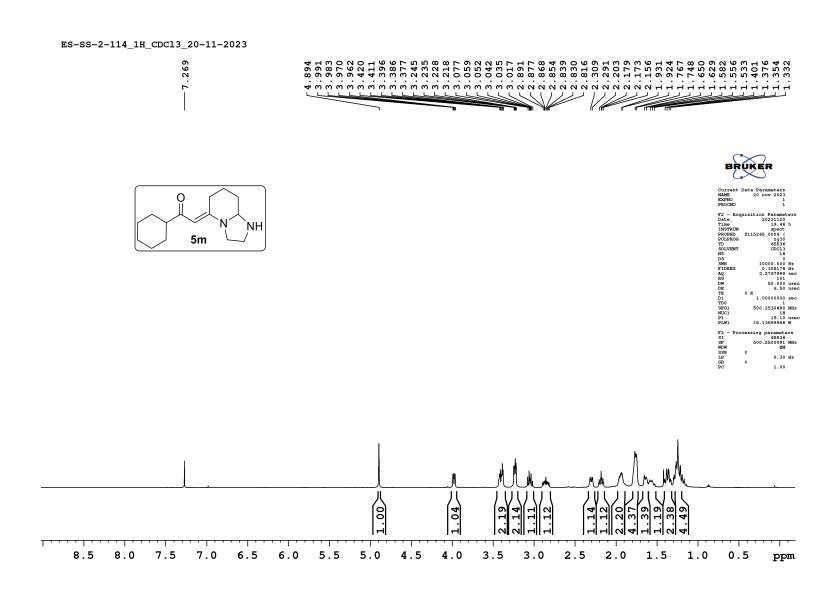
ES-SS-298R3 1H CDC13 07-09-2023

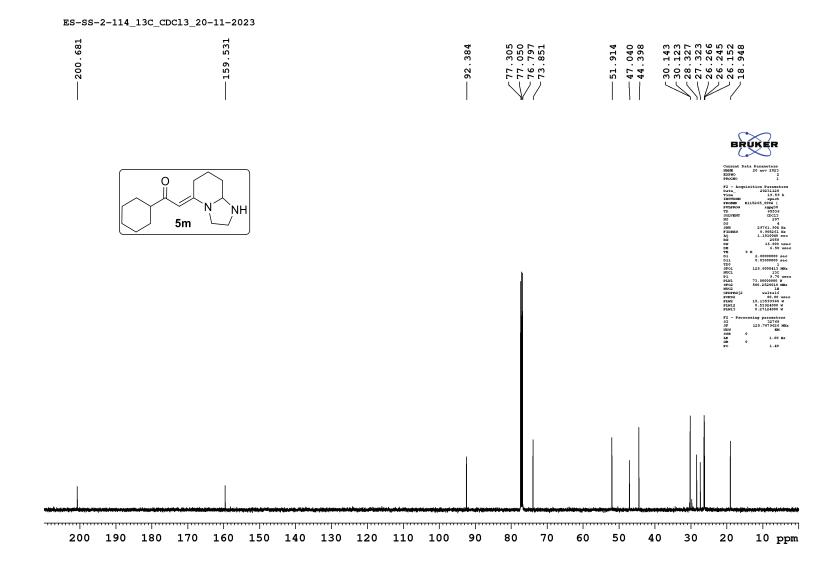


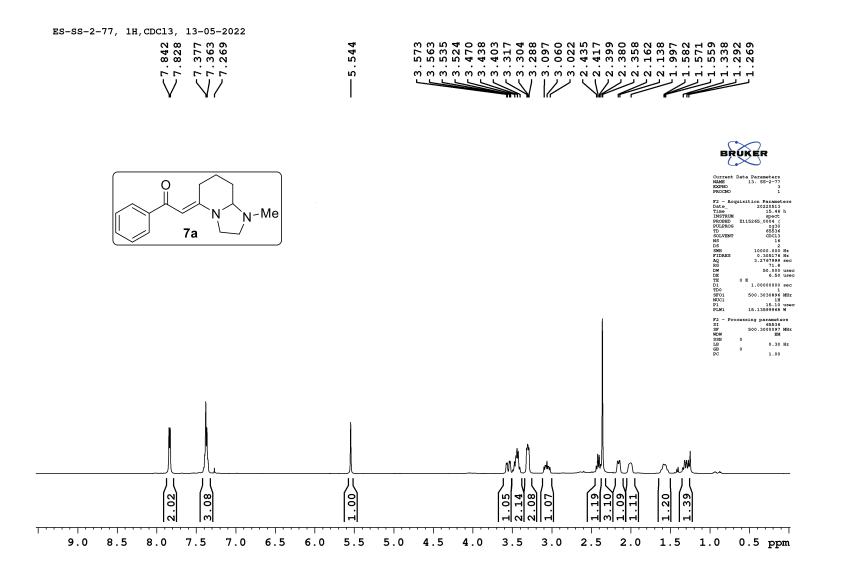


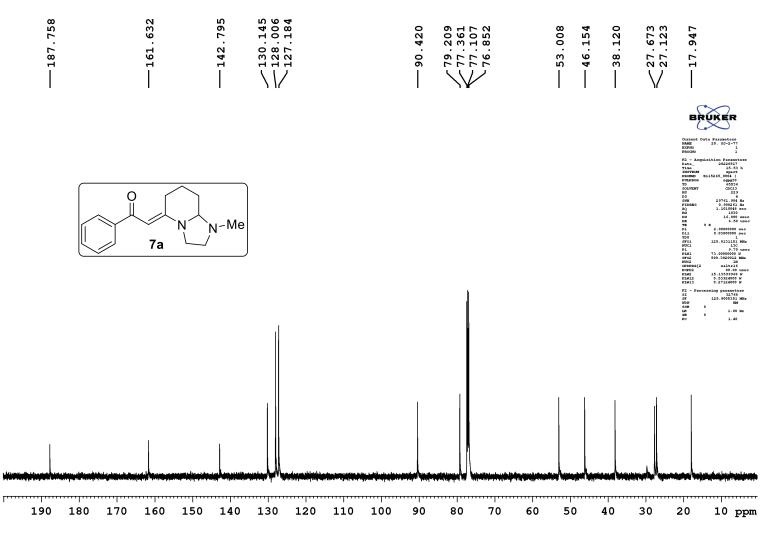


ES-SS-2-100\_13C\_CDC13\_17-09-2023

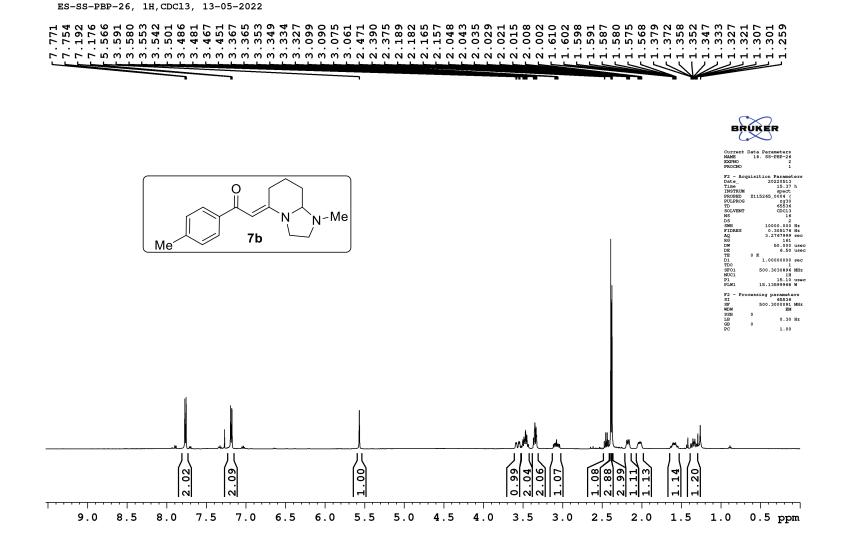


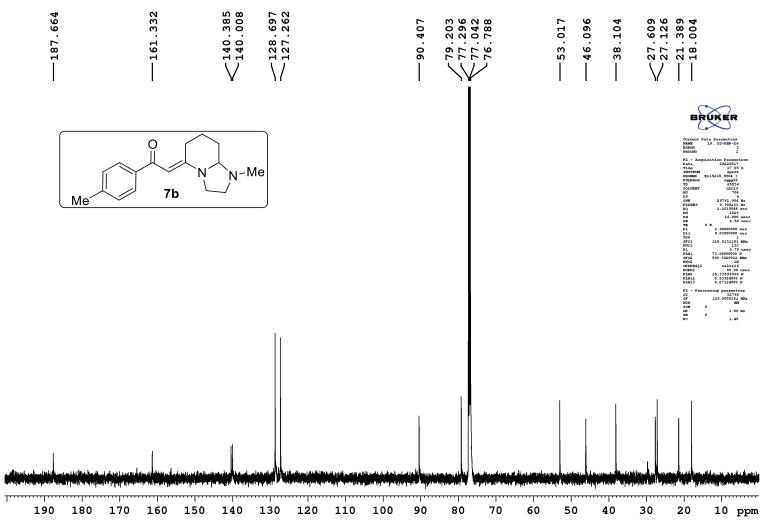




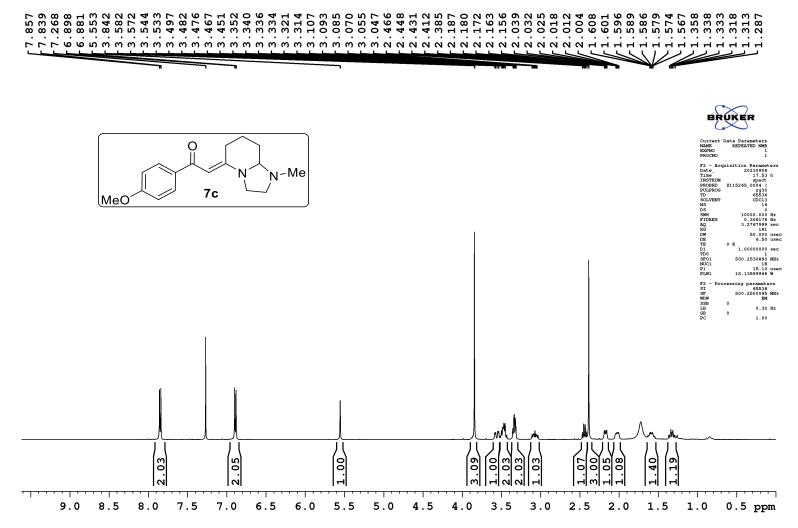


ES-SS-2-77,13C,CDC13,17-05-2022



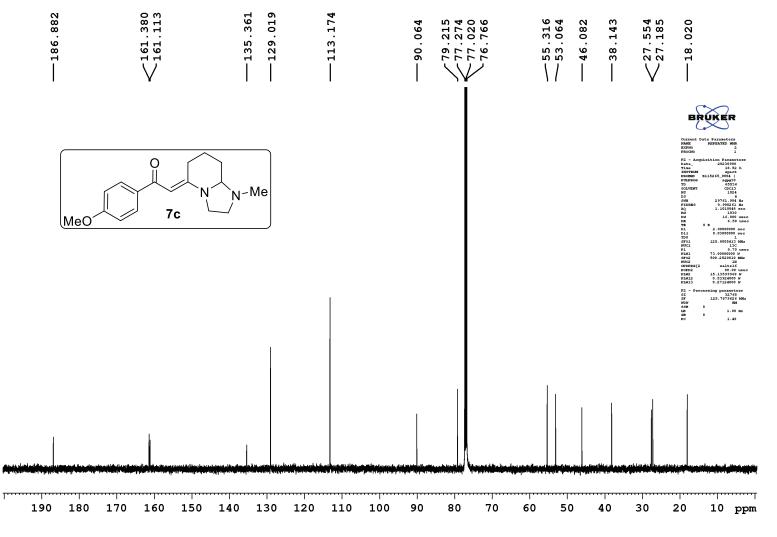


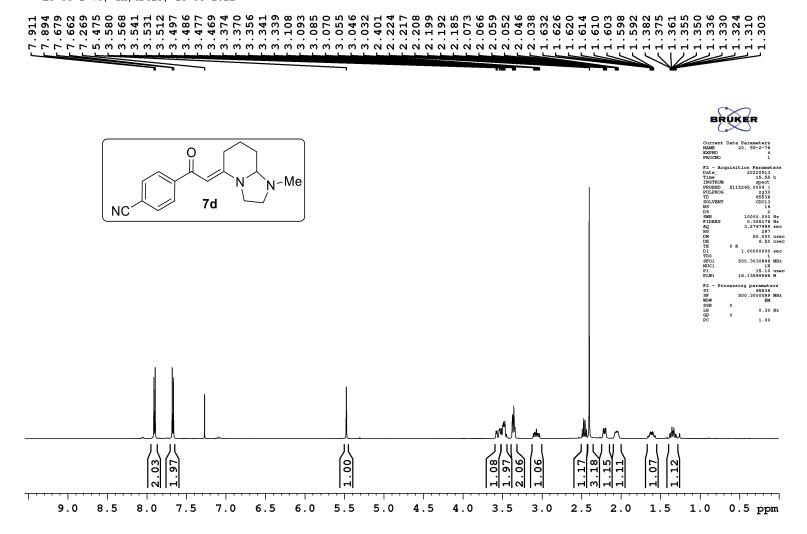
ES-SS-PBP-26; 13C, CDC13, 17-05-2022



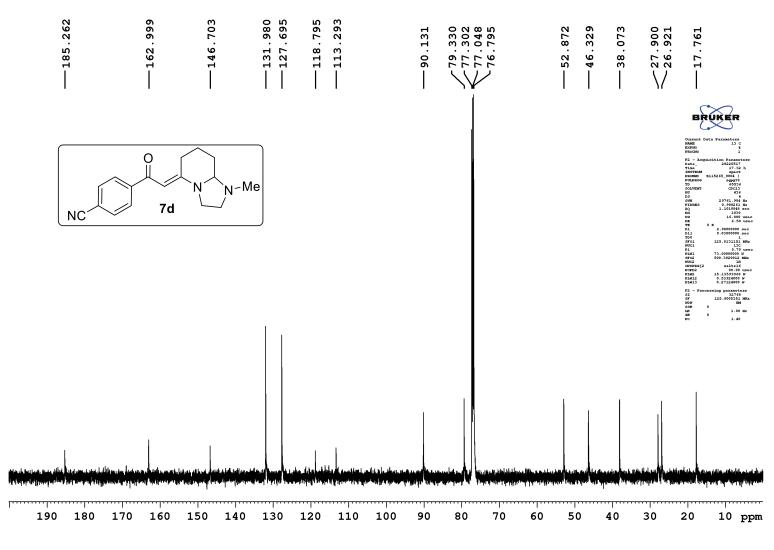
ES-SS-2-82R\_1H\_CDC13\_08-09-2023

## ES-SS-2-82R\_13C\_CDC13\_08-09-2023

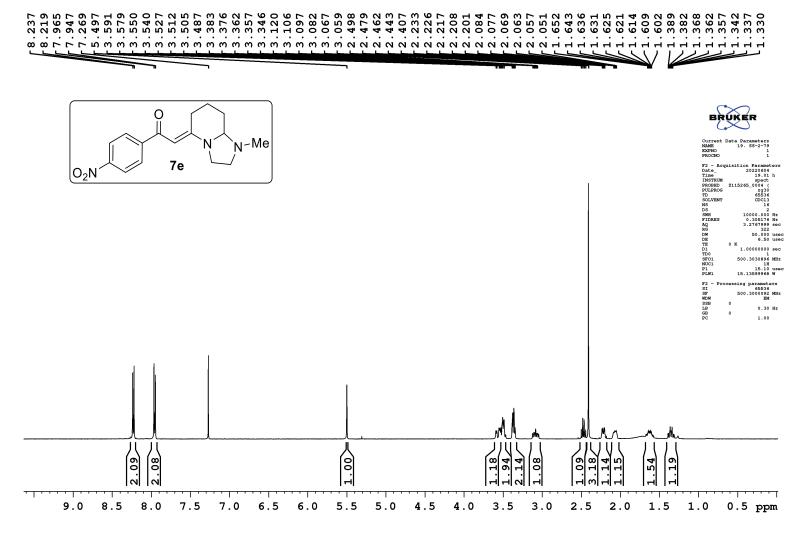




ES-SS-2-78, 1H,CDC13, 13-05-2022

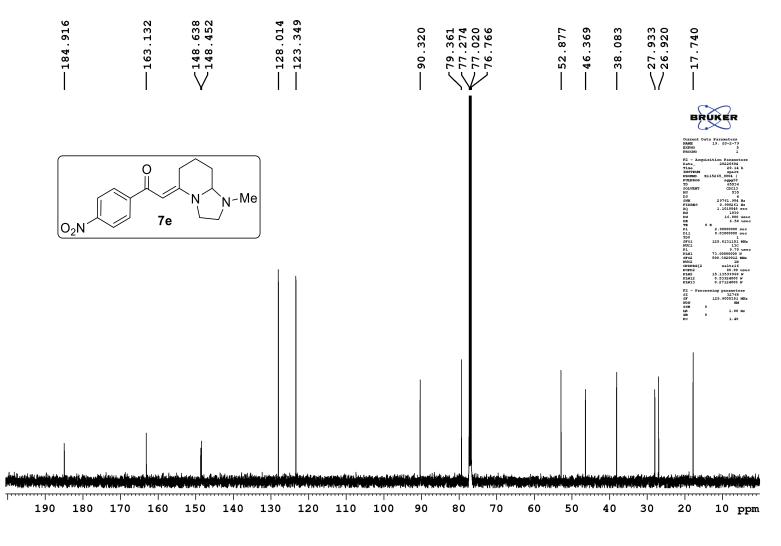


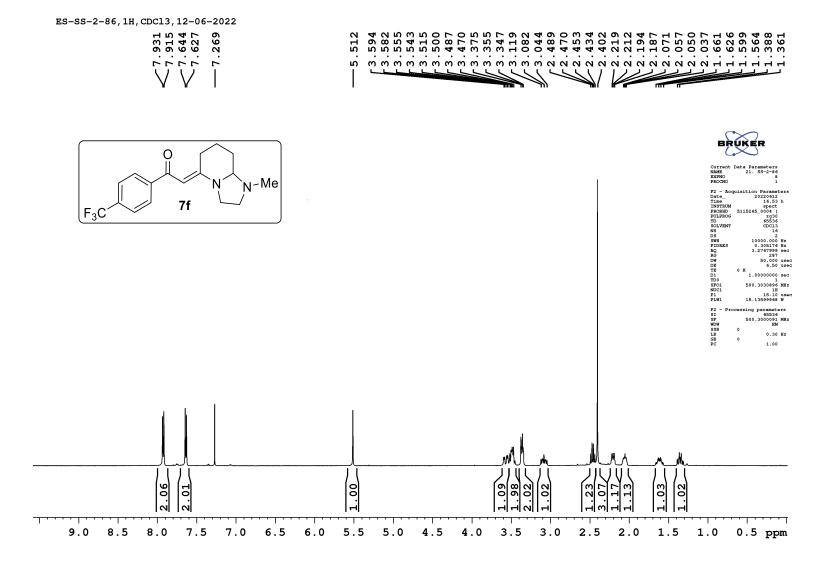
ES-SS-78; 13C, CDC13, 17-05-2022



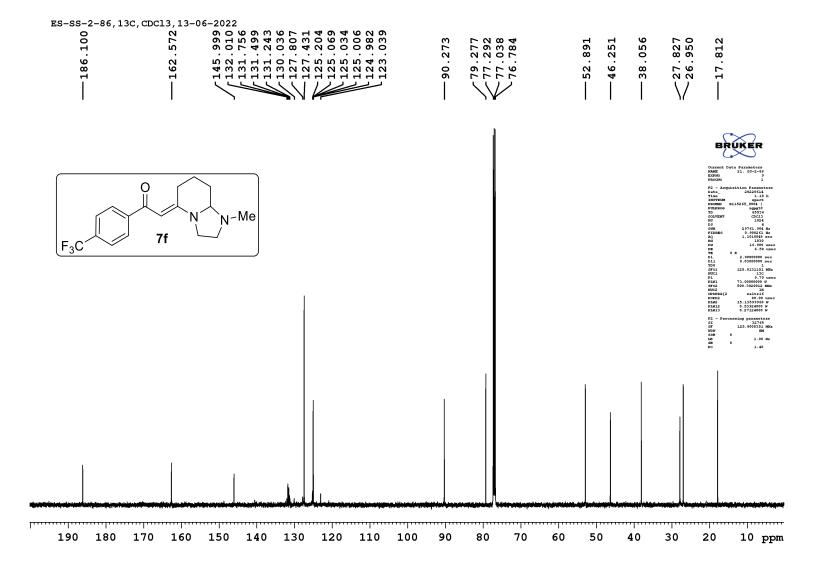
ES-SS-2-79,1H,CDC13, 04-06-2022

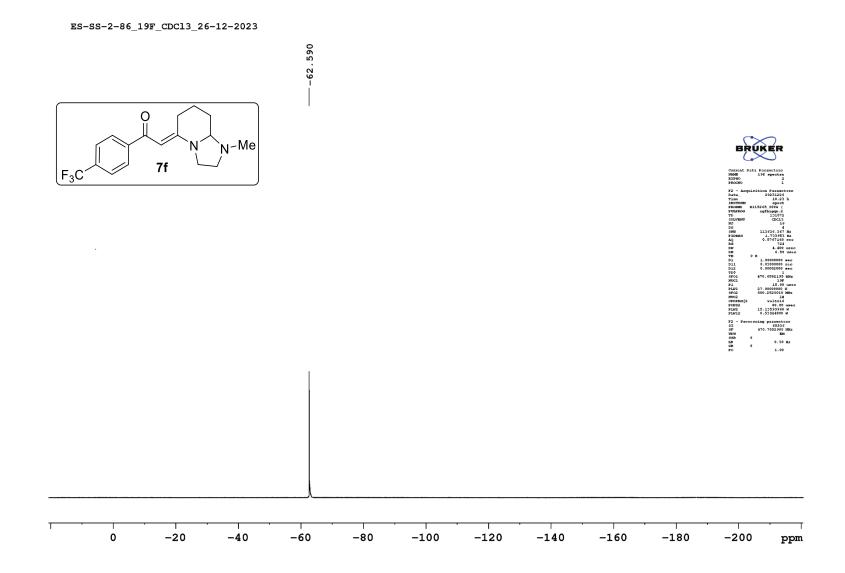
ES-SS-2-79,13C,CDC13,04-06-2022

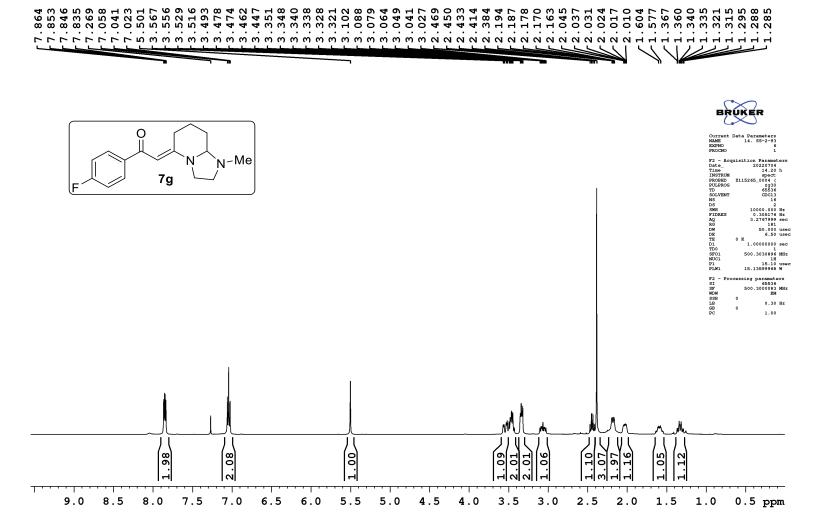




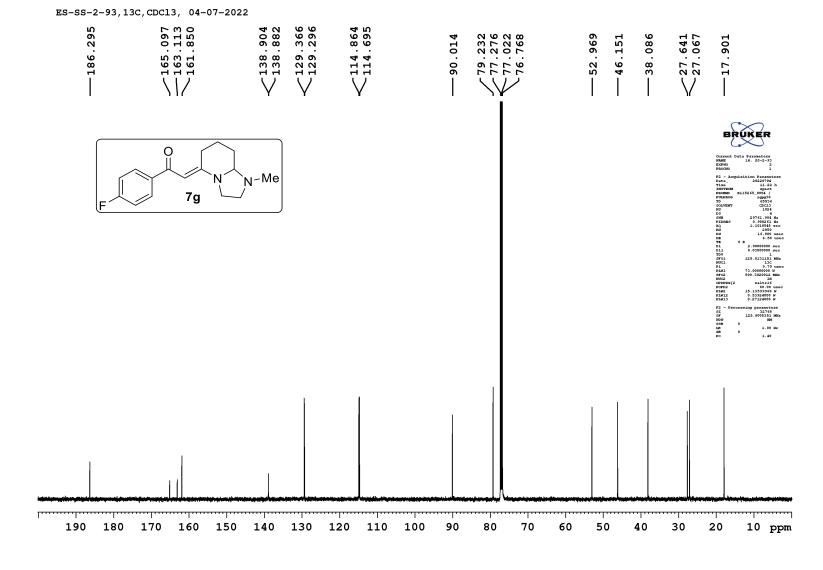


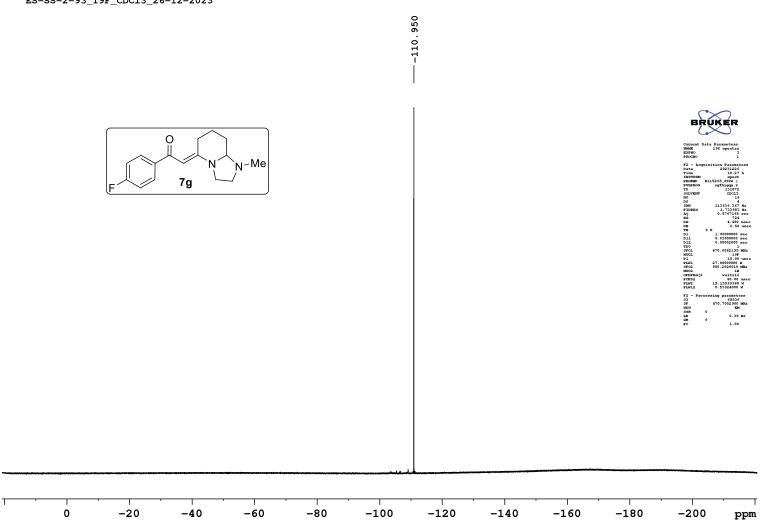




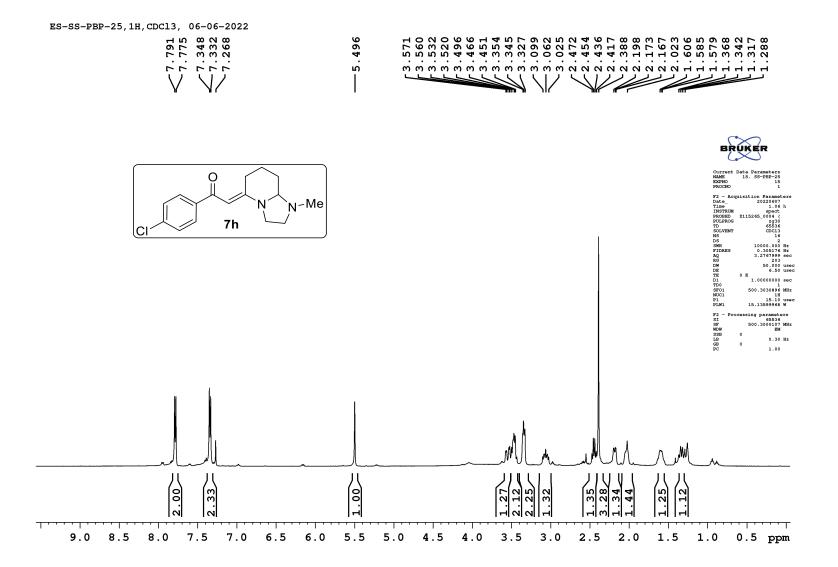


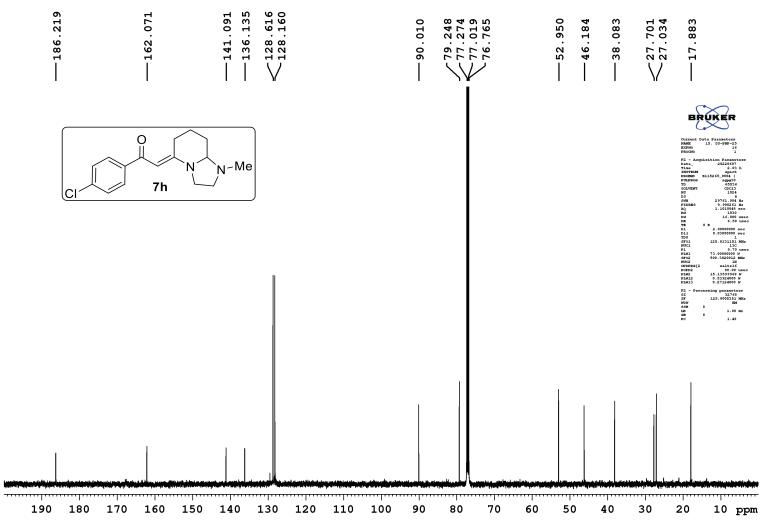
ES-SS-2-93 re,1H,CDCl3,04-07-2022



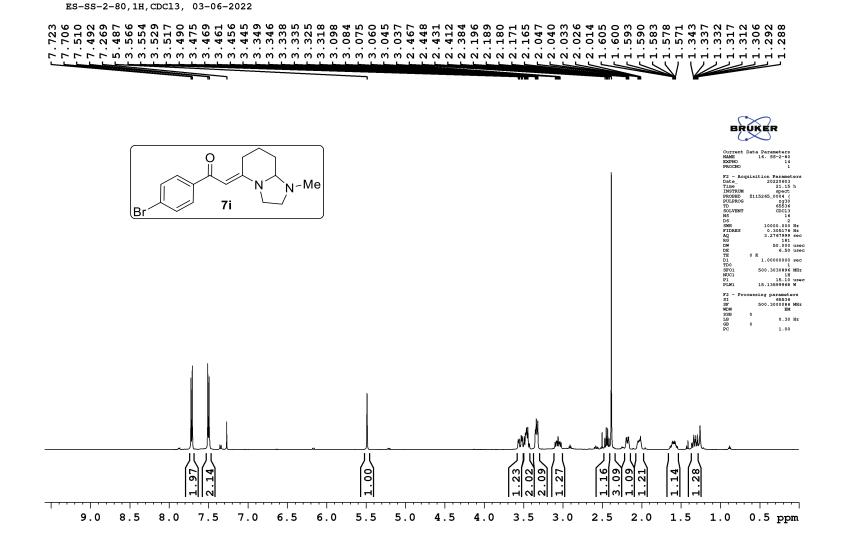


ES-SS-2-93\_19F\_CDC13\_26-12-2023

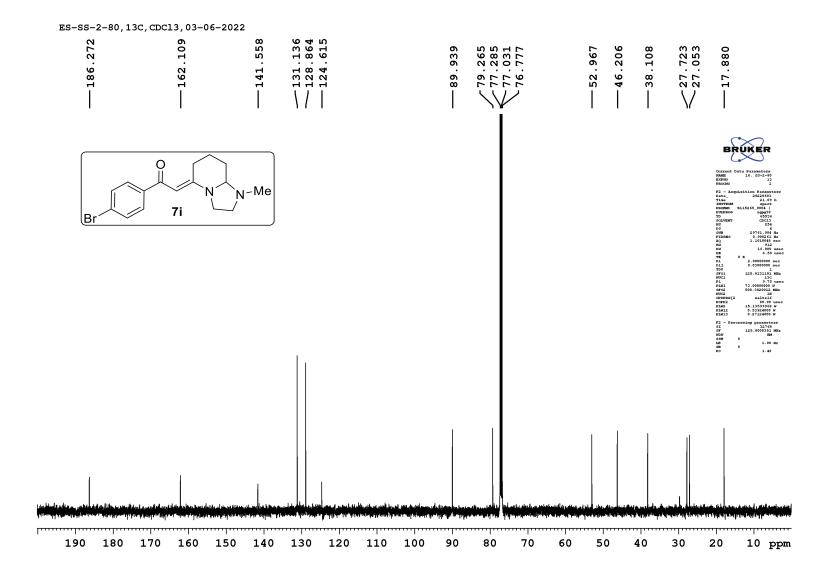


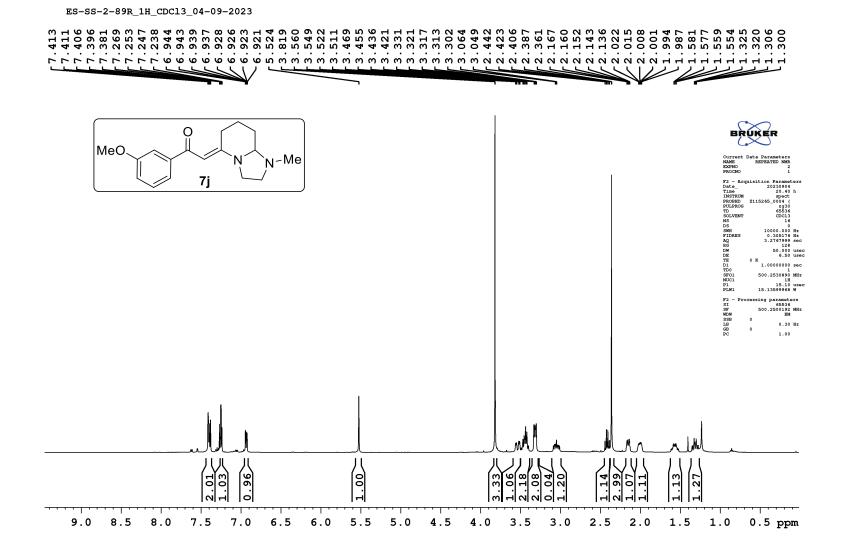


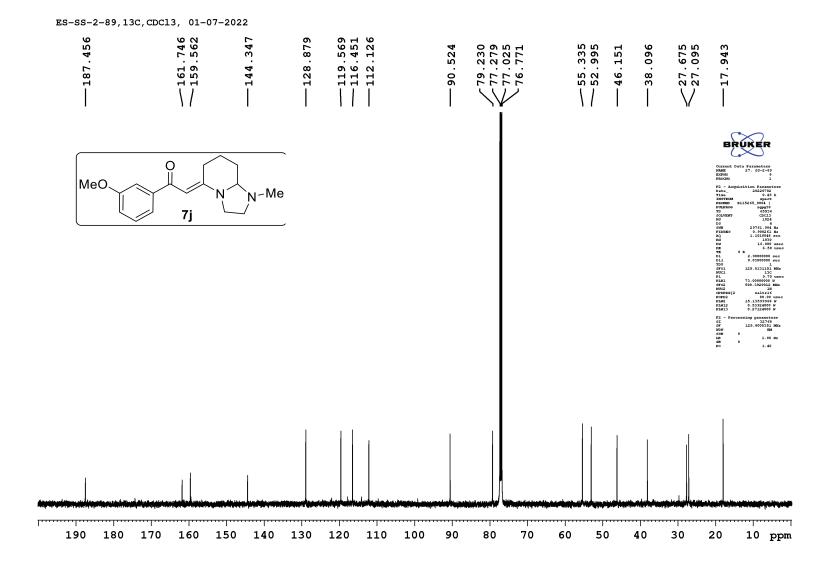
ES-SS-PBP-25,13C,CDC13,06-06-2022

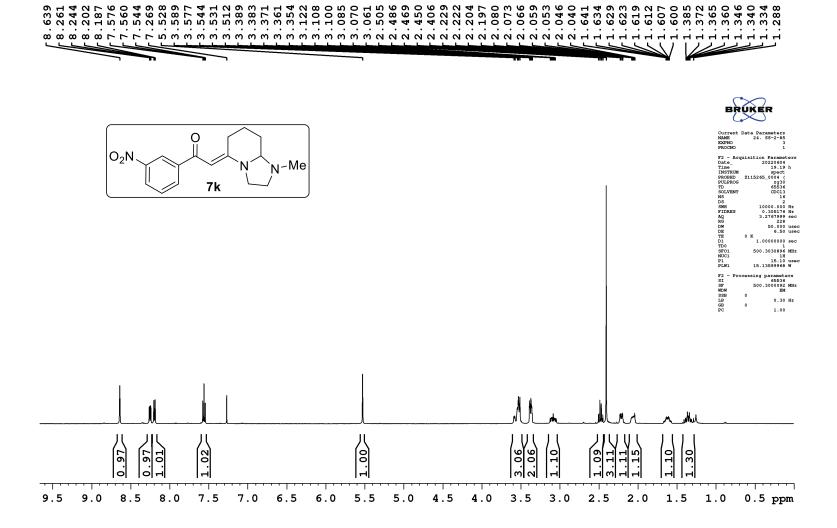




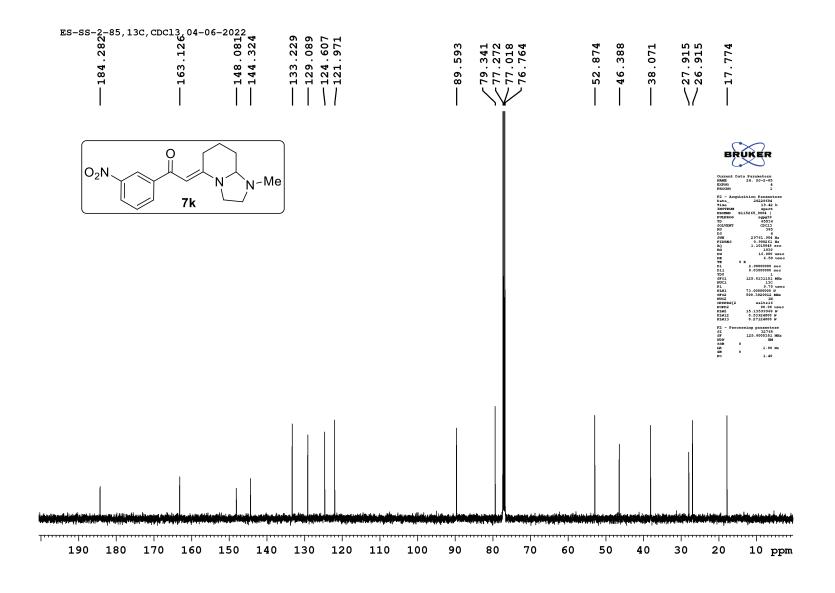


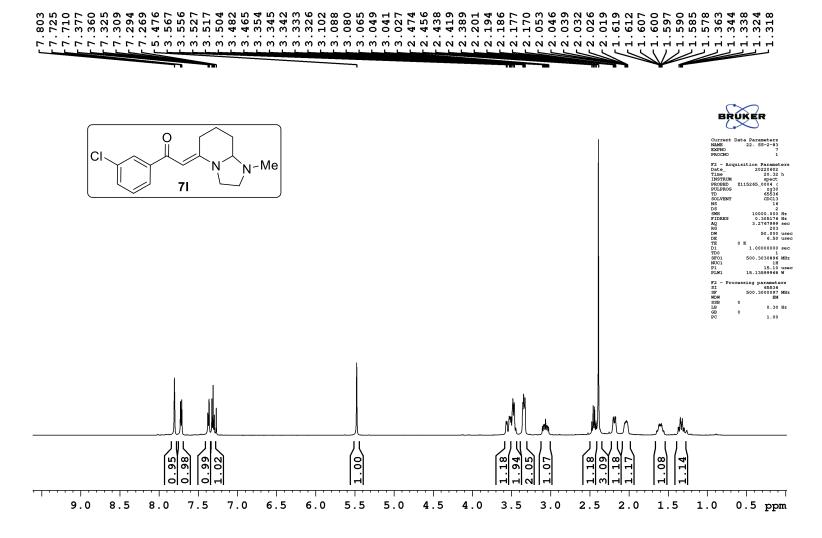




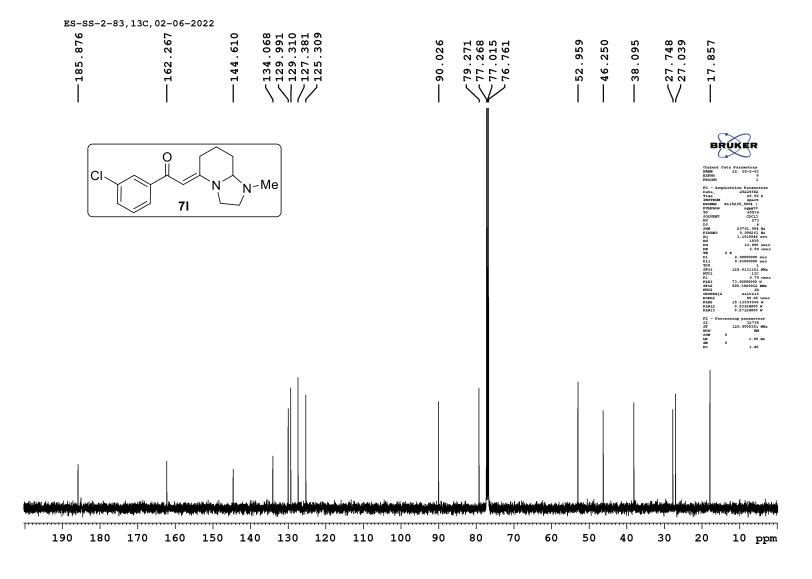


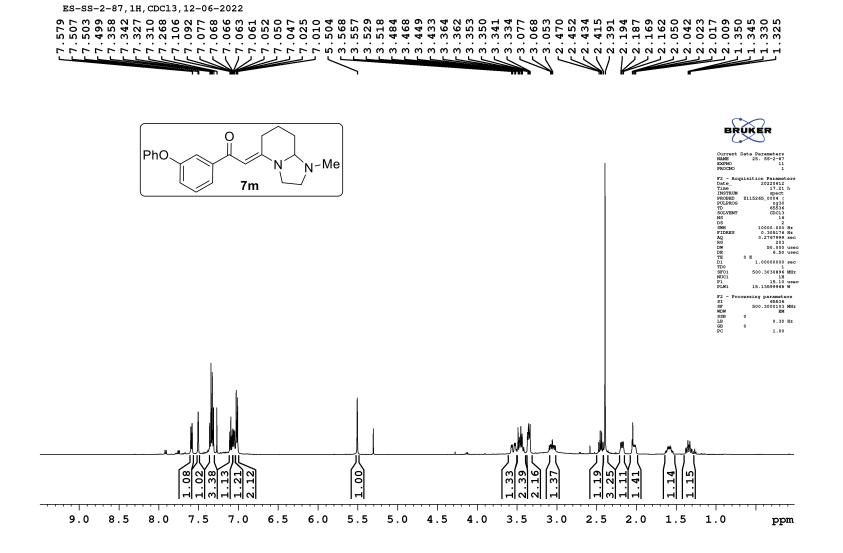
ES-SS-2-85,1H,CDCl3, 04-06-2022



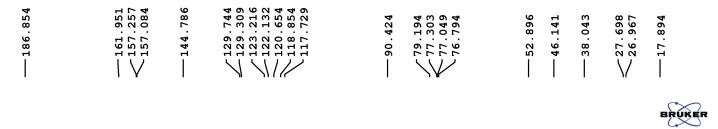


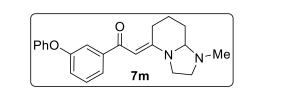
ES-SS-2-83,1H,CDC13, 02-06-2022

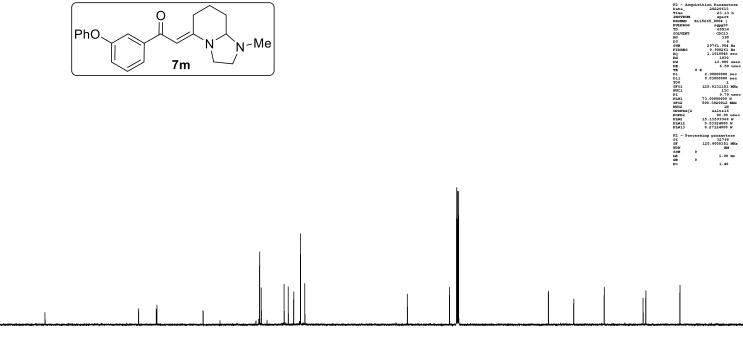




## ES-SS-2-87,13C,CDC13,13-06-2022







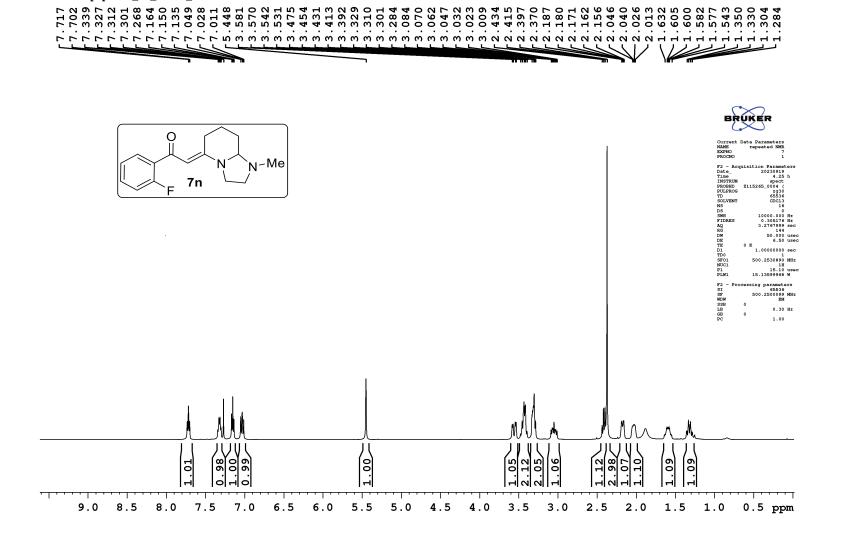
10 ppm 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20

74

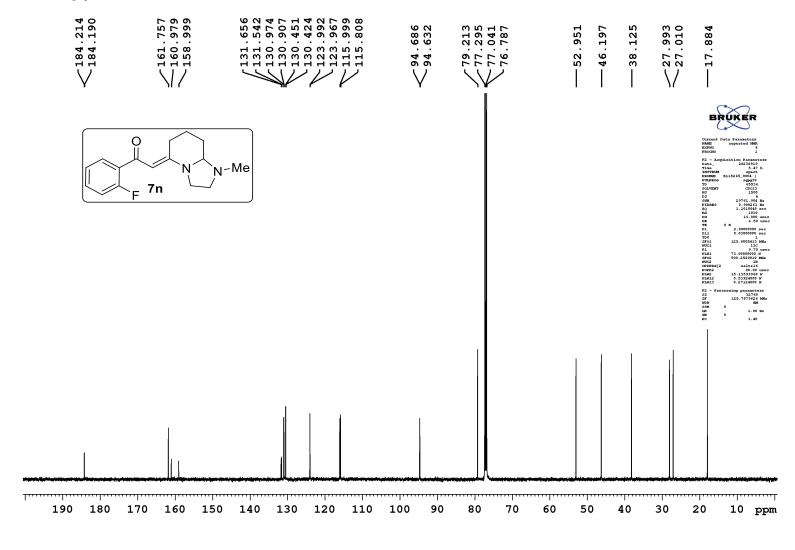
Current Data Parameters NAME 25. 25-2-87 EXPNO 3 PROCNO 1

Dition Parameters 2020613 2334 15265,0004 ( 2006 (

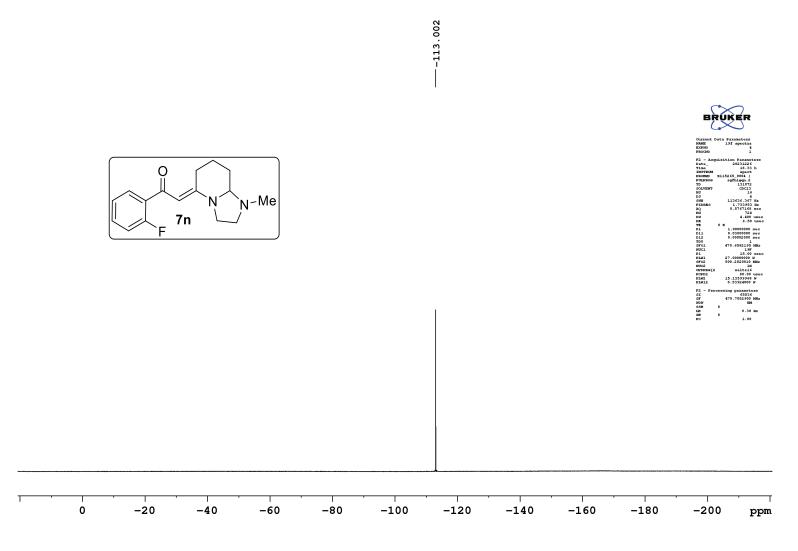
2.00000000 sec 0.03000000 sec



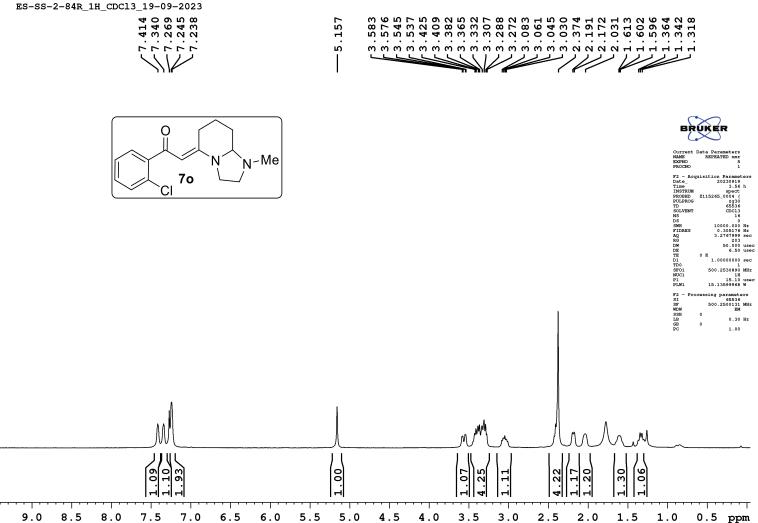
ES-SS-pbp-27r\_1H\_CDC13\_19-09-2023

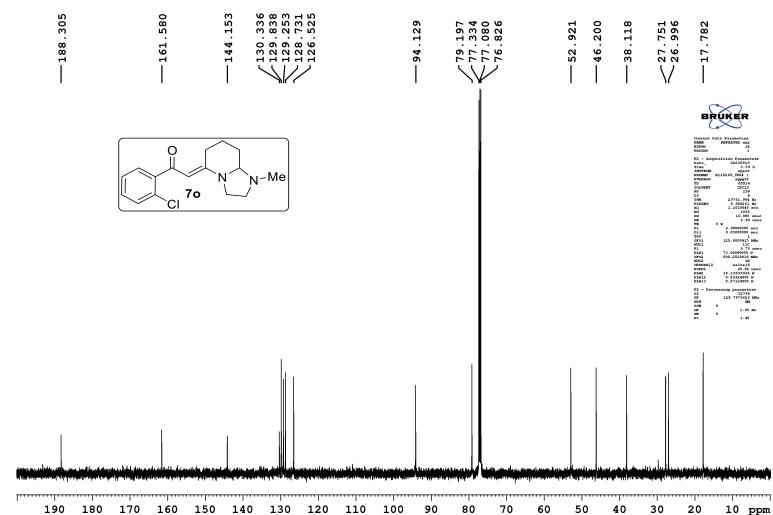


ES-SS-pbp-27r\_13C\_CDC13\_19-09-2023

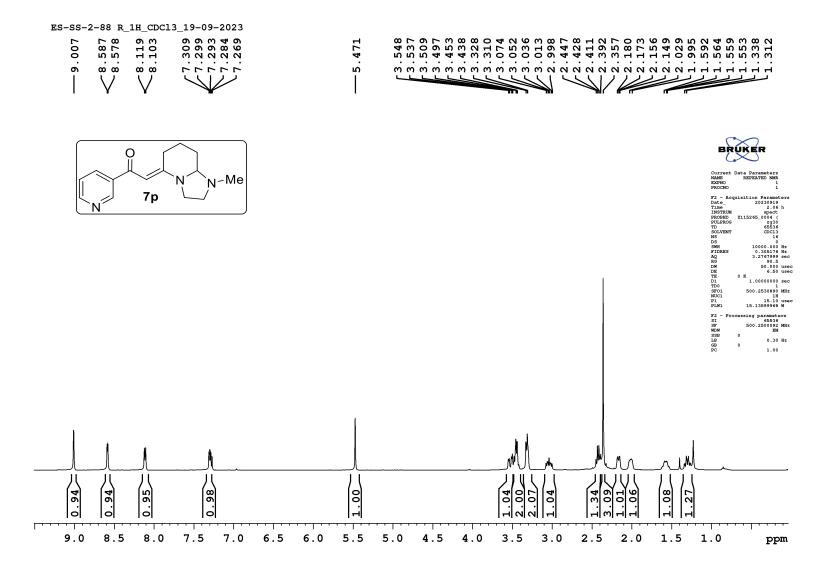


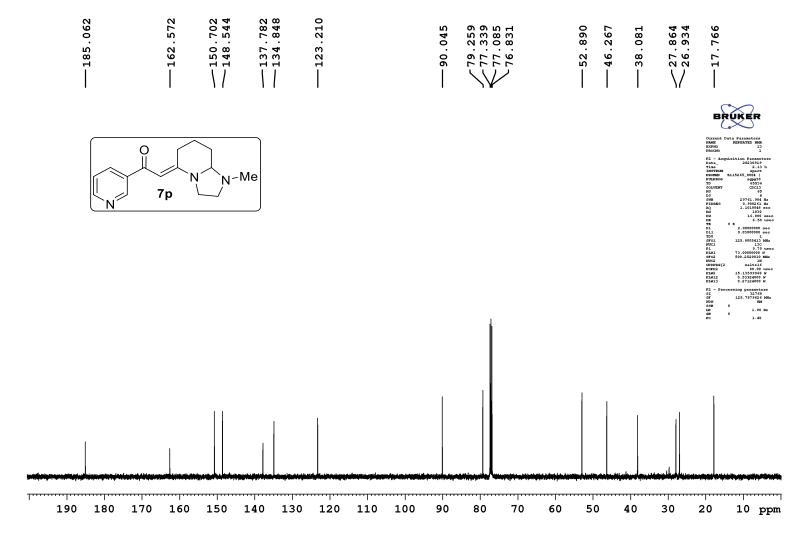
ES-SS-PBP-27\_19F\_CDC13\_26-12-2023



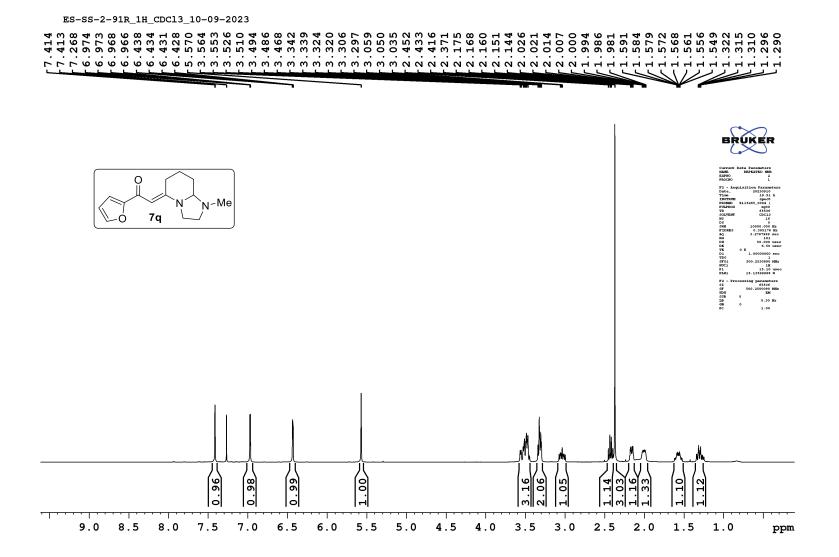


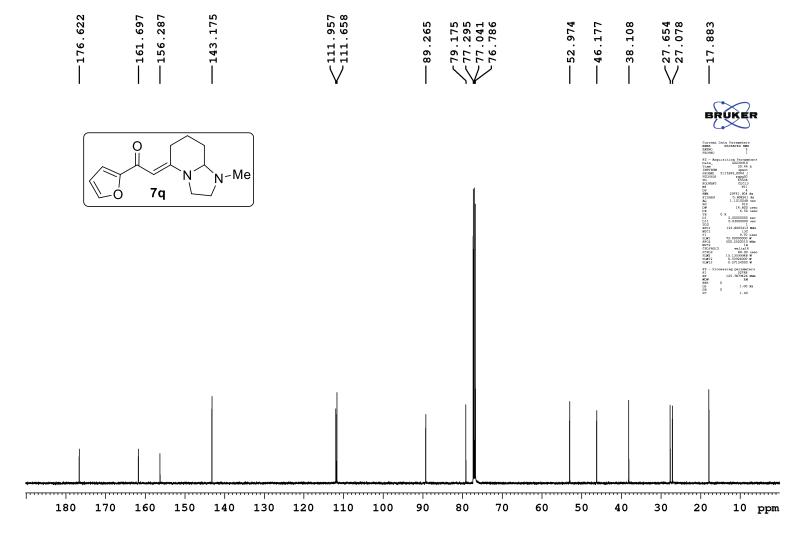
ES-SS-2-84 R\_13C\_CDC13\_19-09-2023



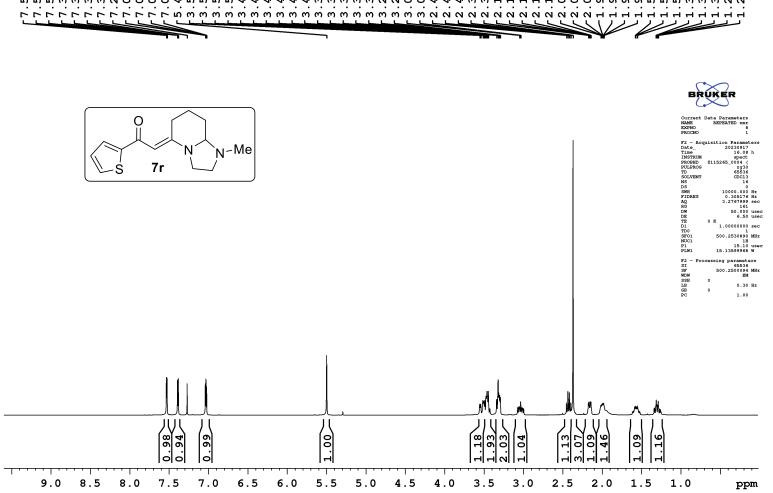


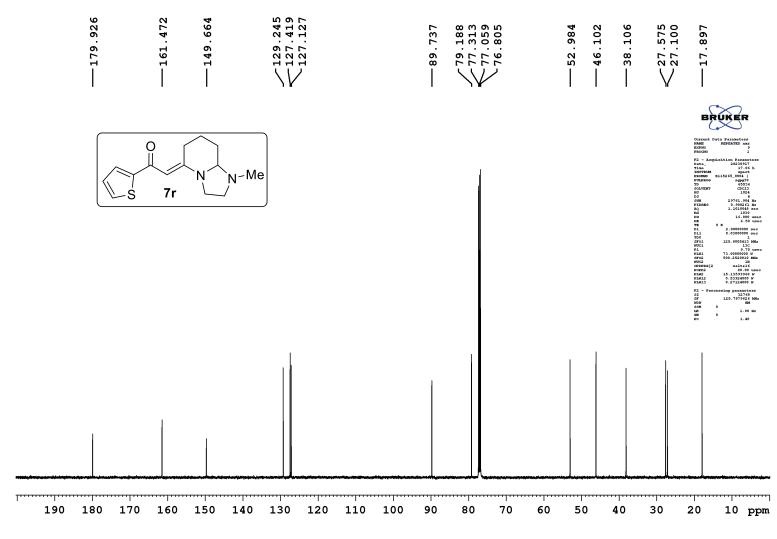
ES-SS-2-88 R\_13C\_CDC13\_19-09-2023



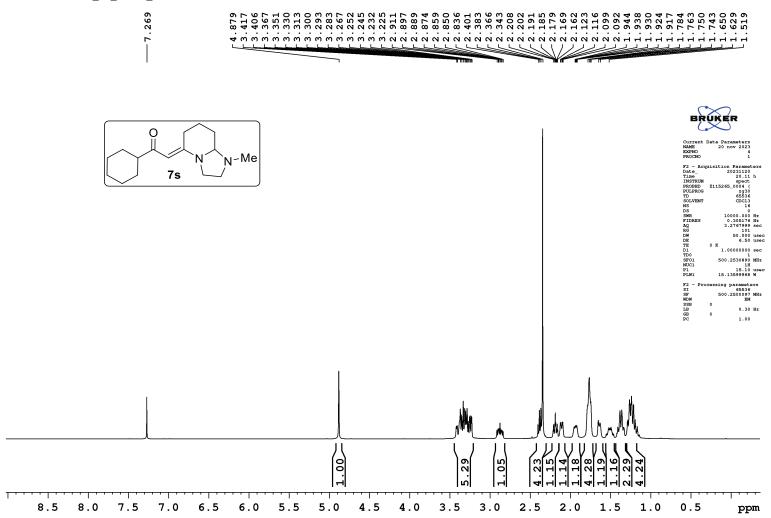


ES-SS-2-91R\_13C\_CDC13\_10-09-2023

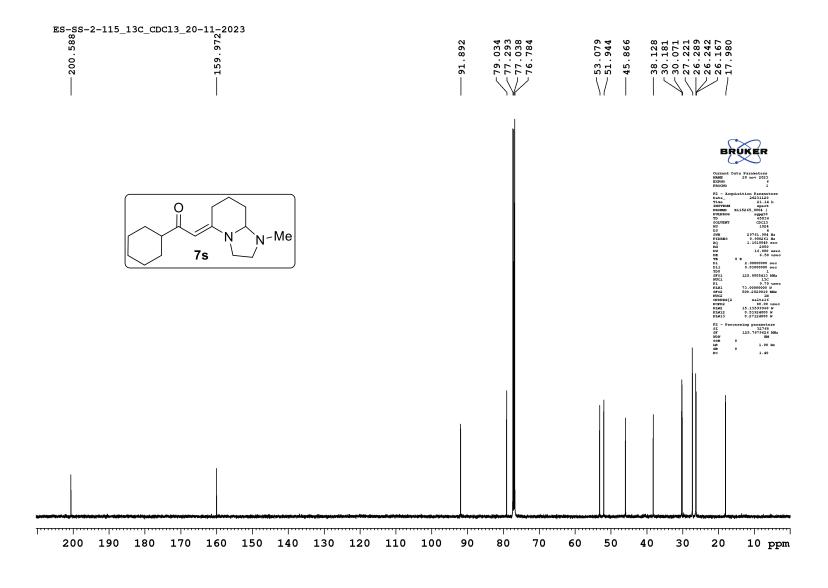


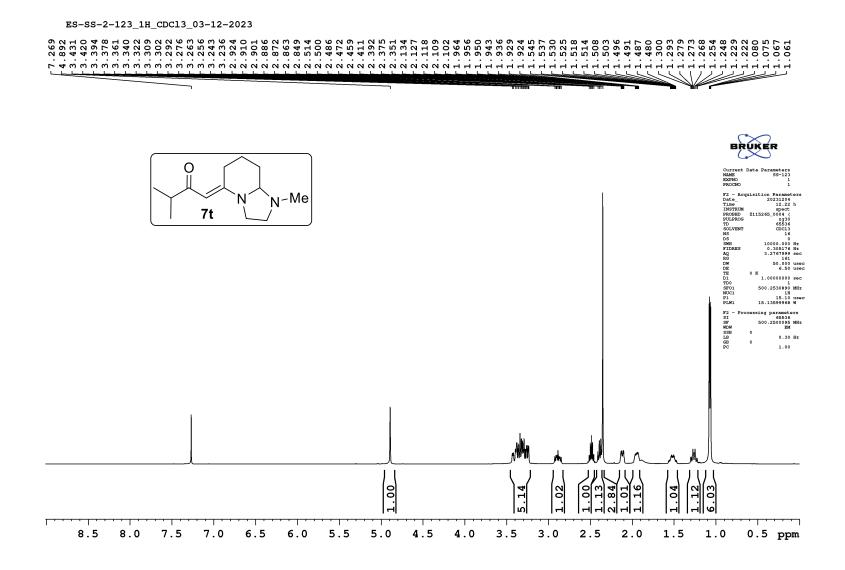


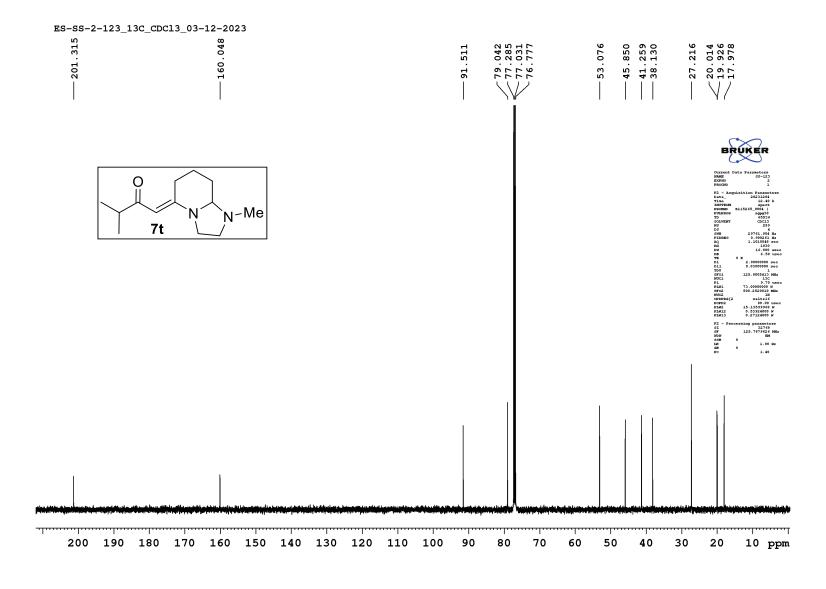
ES-SS-2-90R\_13C\_CDC13\_17-09-2023

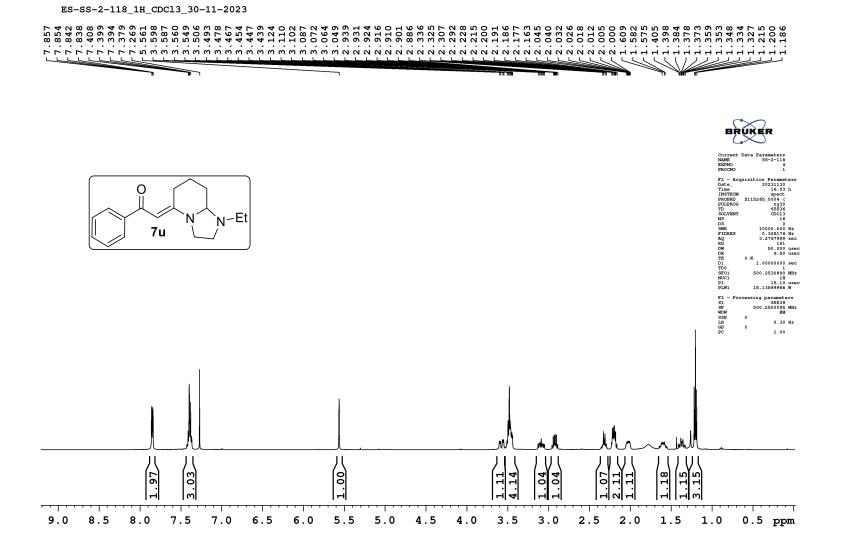


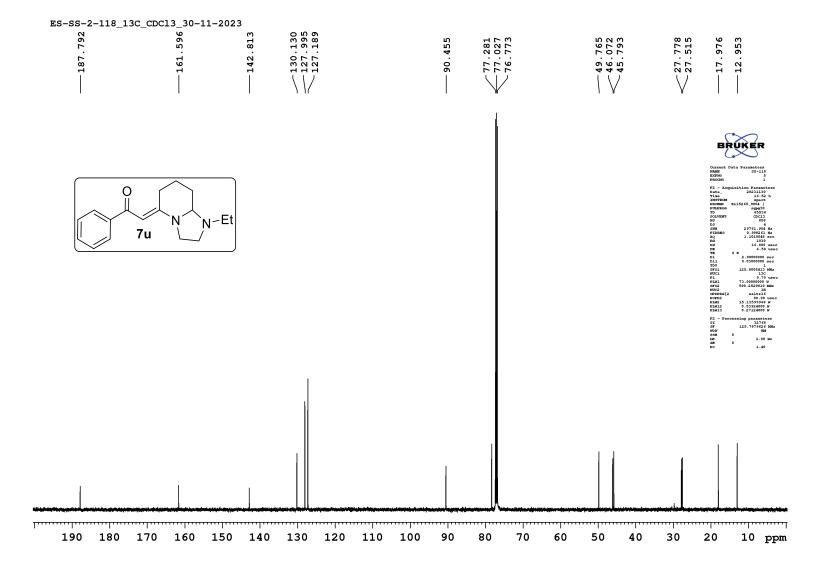
ES-SS-2-115 1H CDC13 20-11-2023

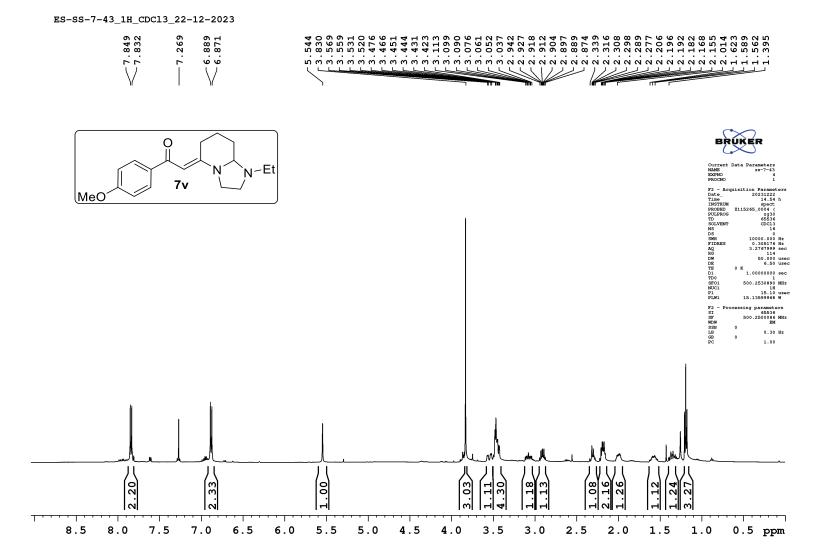


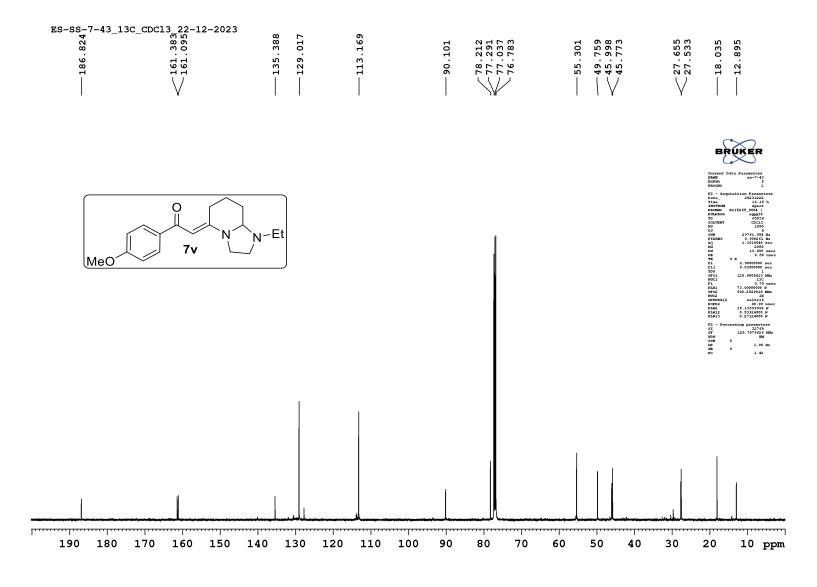


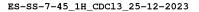




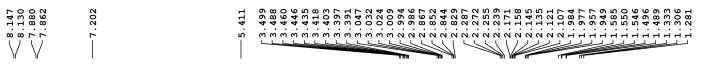




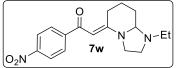


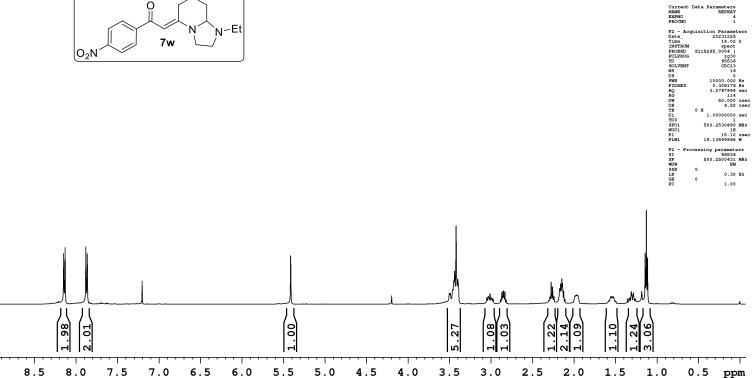


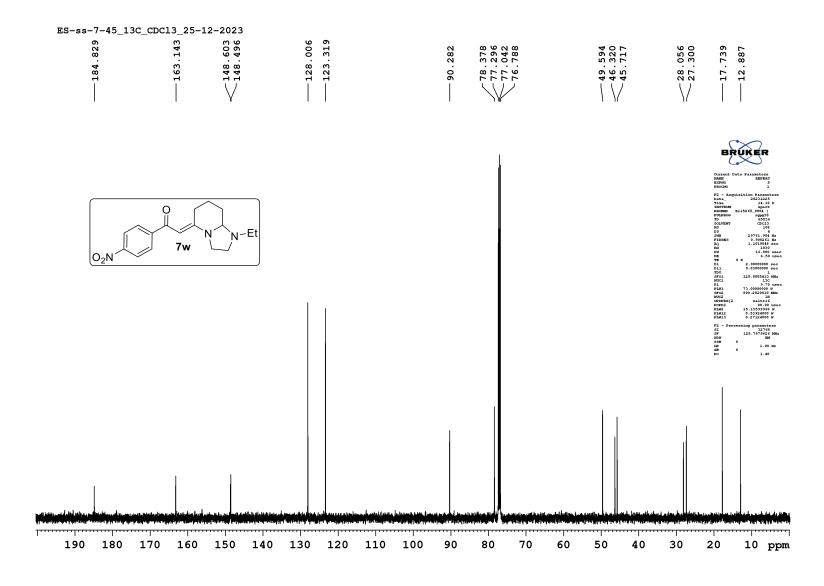
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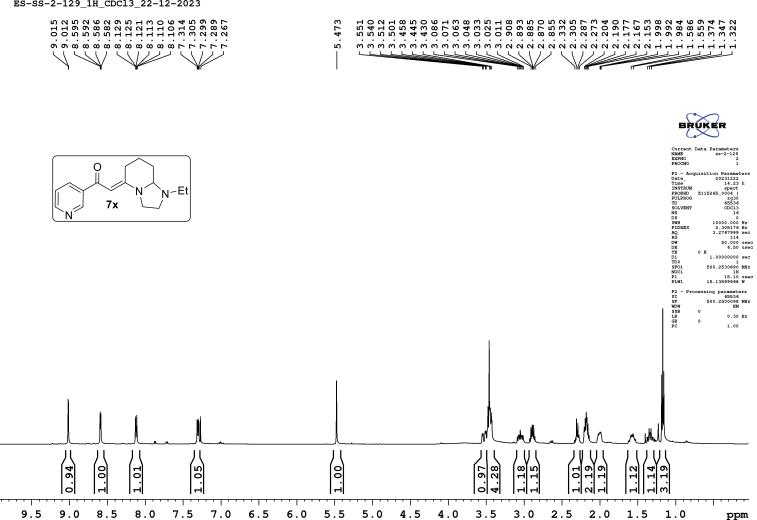




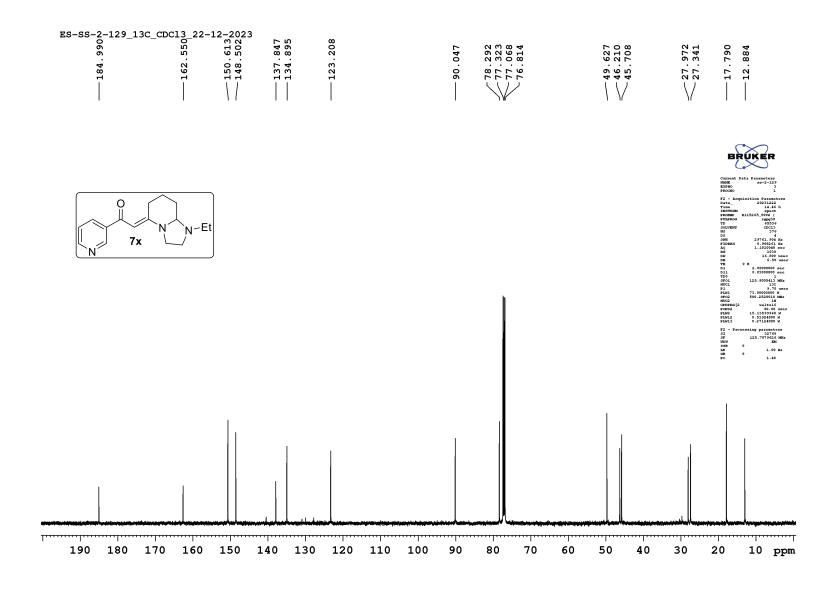




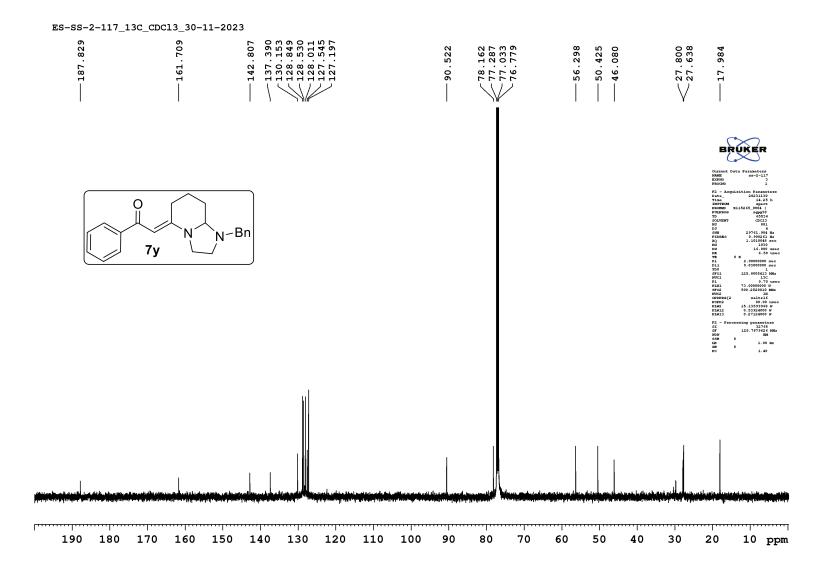


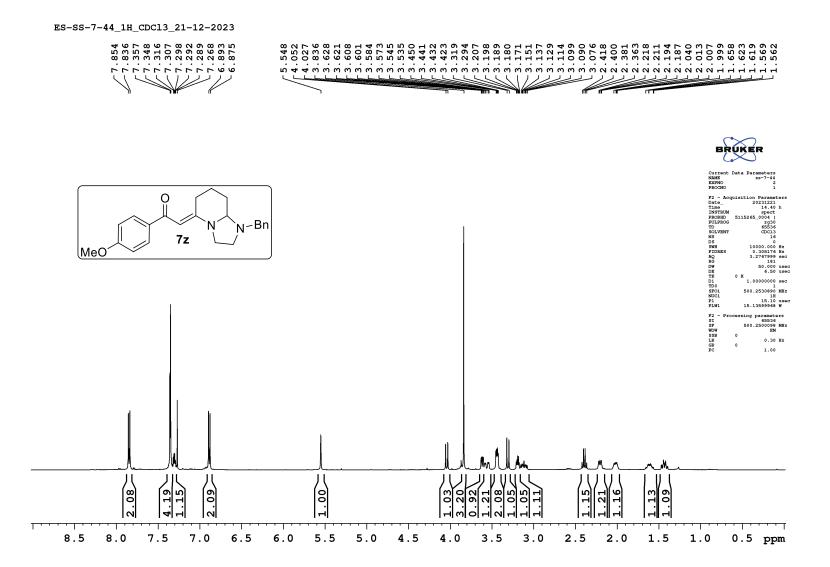


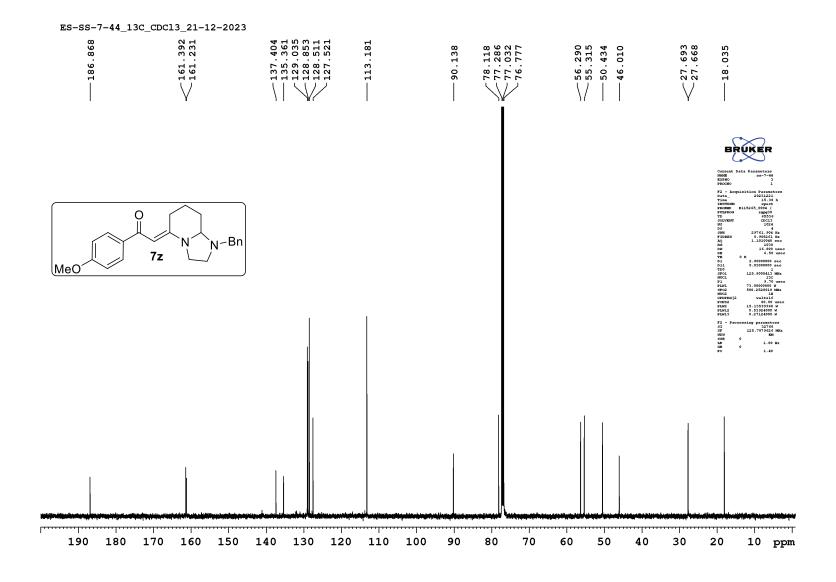
ES-SS-2-129 1H CDC13 22-12-2023

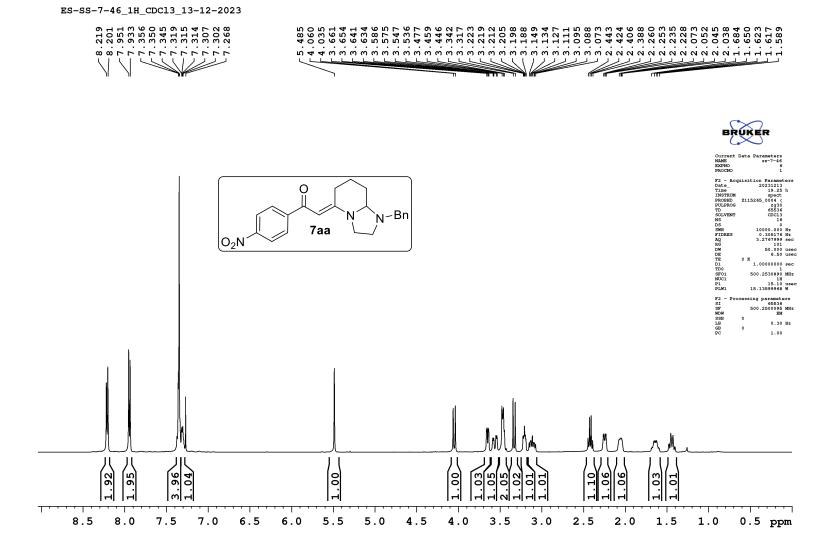


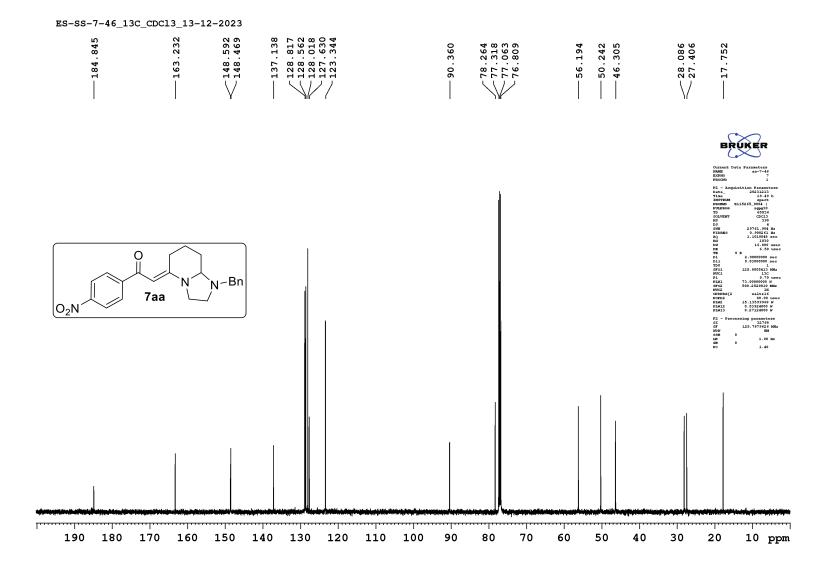


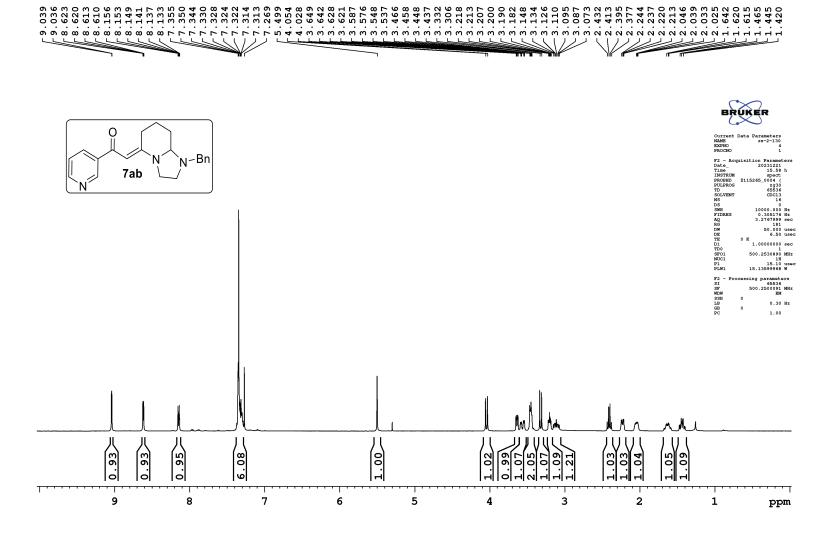




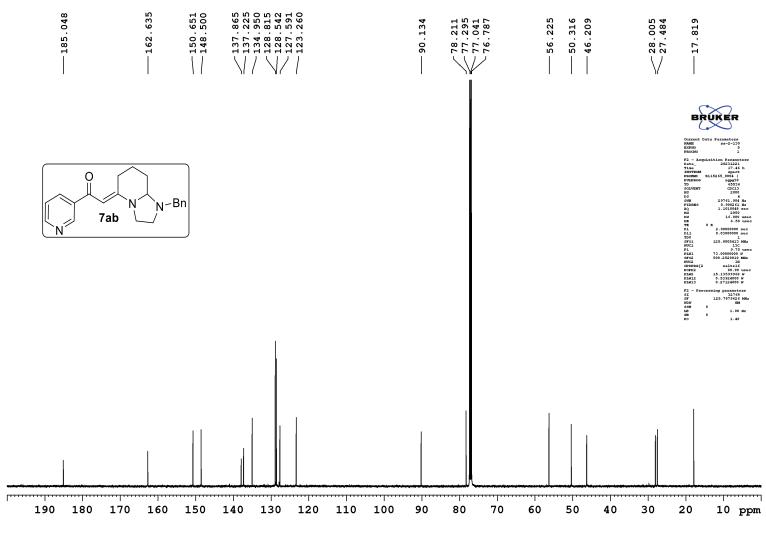






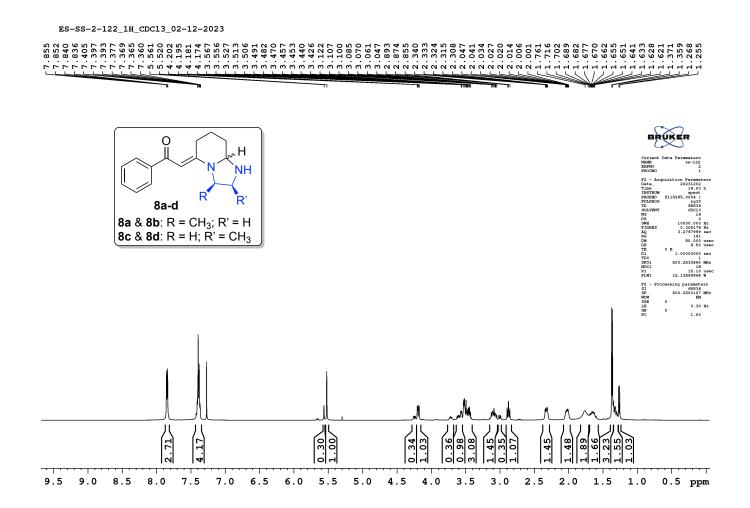


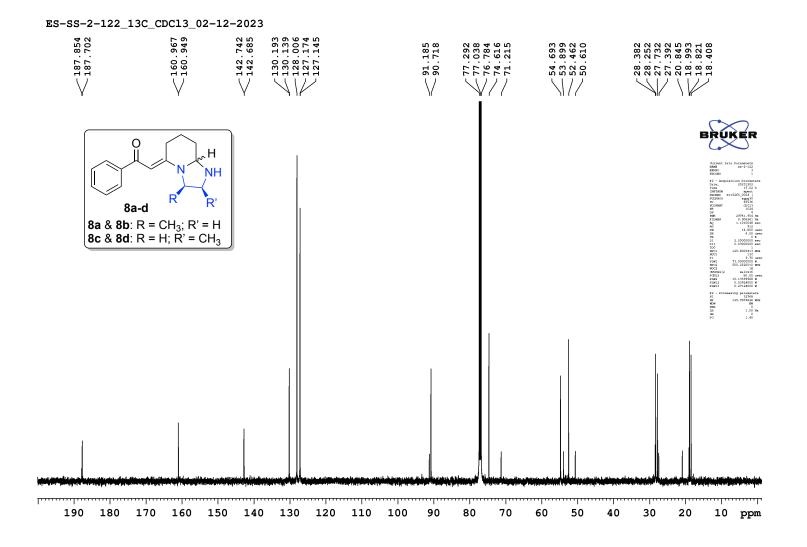
ES-SS-2-130\_1H\_CDC13\_21-12-2023



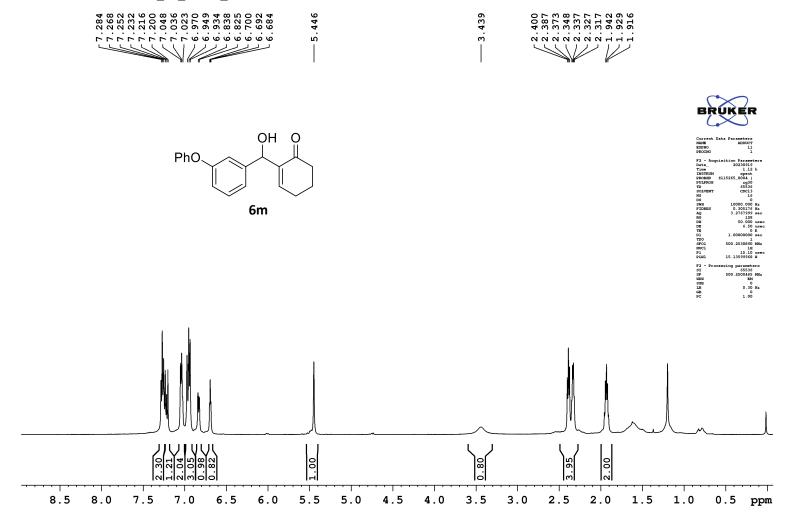
ES-SS-2-130\_13C\_CDC13\_21-12-2023

**NMR Spectra of the product 8**: The <sup>1</sup>H and NMR <sup>13</sup>C spectra given below (pages 106 & 107) belong to an inseparable mixture of two products (<u>two regioisomers</u> <u>OR a diastereomeric pair in the ratio  $\sim$ 3:1 (77:23)) of the four possible products **8a-d** obtained in the reaction of the MBH ketone **4a** with 1,2-diaminopropane (**2e**). **8a** & **8b** and **8c** & **8d** represent the possible diastereomeric pairs, defined by the relative stereochemistry of the ring junction.</u>

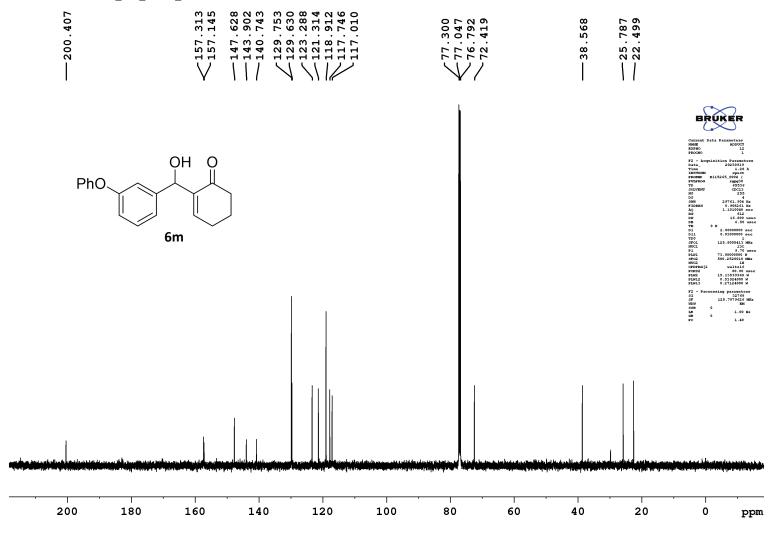


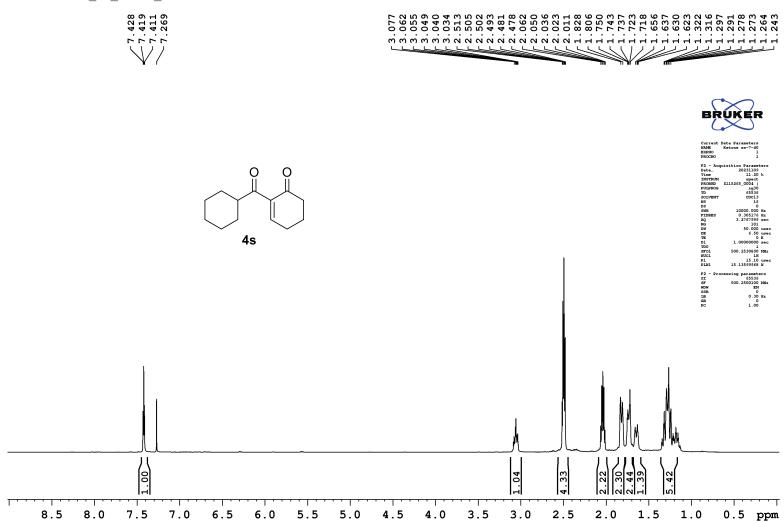


## ES-SS-MBH-DY-08 R1 1H CDC13 18-09-2023



## ES-SS-MBH-DY-08 R1\_13C\_CDC13\_18-09-2023





ES-SS-7-40\_1H\_CDC13\_09-11-2023

