

## Supporting Information for

### One-Pot Synthesis of 2,2'-Biquinolines from Aromatic Amines under Oxygen as Oxidant and Metal-Free Conditions

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## 1. General information:

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of air unless otherwise noted. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200-300 mesh).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker-AV (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) instrument internally referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) or chloroform signals. Mass spectra was measured on bruker 15T HRMS instrument (maldi). Melting points were measured with a YUHUA X-5 melting point instrument and were uncorrected. All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

## 2. General procedure for preparation (4a):

A 10 mL sealed tube was charged with 4-methoxyaniline (**1a**, 49.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) and was purged with oxygen for three times. Then, 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol), 55%HI (9.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.08 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL) were added to the sealed reaction vessel by syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred at 130  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1) to yield the desired product **4a** as white solid (37.8 mg, 66% yield).

## 3. General procedure for preparation (5a):

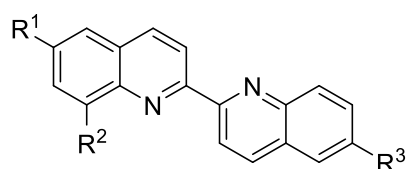
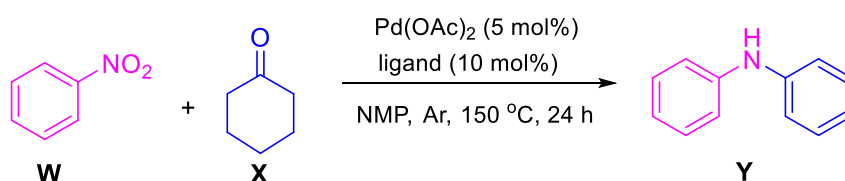
A 10 mL sealed tube was purged with oxygen for three times and was added aniline (**1m**, 18.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol), 55%HI (11.9  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.1 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL) by syringe. The reaction vessel was stirred at 110  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1) to yield the desired product **5a** as white solid (18.5 mg, 72% yield).

## 4. Gram-scale reaction

A 100 mL three neck flask with reflux condenser tube was added *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 1.2840 g, 12.0 mmol) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**2c**, 1.0381 g, 6.0 mmol) and was purged with oxygen for three times. Next, 55%HI (0.357 mL, 3.0 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (45 mL) were purged by

syringe. Reaction apparatus loaded with oxygen bulb. The reaction vessel was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4v** as yellow solid (1.0793 g, 60%), mp 249.3-253.2 °C.

## 5. Application of 2,2'-biquinoline ligands for dehydrogenation and borrowing hydrogen reaction<sup>[1]</sup>



- 5a**, R<sup>1</sup> = H, R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = H  
**4w**, R<sup>1</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = F  
**4v**, R<sup>1</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = OCH<sub>3</sub>  
**4d**, R<sup>1</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>2</sup> = H, R<sup>3</sup> = H  
**4e**, R<sup>1</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>2</sup> = CH<sub>3</sub>, R<sup>3</sup> = H

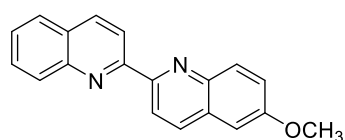
entry	ligand	yield <sup>a</sup>
1	<b>5a</b>	68%
2	<b>4w</b>	70%
3	<b>4v</b>	65%
4	<b>4d</b>	50%
5	<b>4e</b>	55%

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yield of diphenylamine based on nitrobenzene.

A 10 mL sealed tube was charged with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), ligands (0.02 mmol, 10 mol%). The reaction vessel was purged with argon for three times and was added nitrobenzene (**W**, 0.2 mmol), cyclohexanone (**X**, 0.4 mmol) and NMP (0.3 mL) by syringe. The sealed vessel was stirred at 150 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 98:2) to give the corresponding product **Y**.

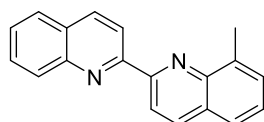
## 6. Characterization data of products

### 6-methoxy-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4a**)<sup>[2]</sup>



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.80 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  158.2, 156.4, 154.0, 147.9, 143.9, 136.7, 135.5, 131.3, 129.8, 129.5, 129.5, 128.3, 127.6, 126.7, 122.3, 119.7, 119.2, 105.1, 55.6; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  287.1184, found 287.1176.

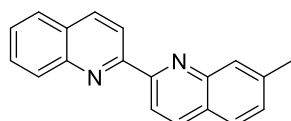
#### 8-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4b)



The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4b** as yellow solid (41.1 mg, 76%), mp 114.8-118.8  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.92 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.85 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.31 - 8.27 (m, 2H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.6, 154.7, 147.9, 146.8, 137.8, 136.9, 136.6, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 128.4, 128.4, 127.6, 126.8, 126.7, 125.6, 119.5, 118.8, 17.9; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  271.1235, found 271.1236.

#### 7-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4c)

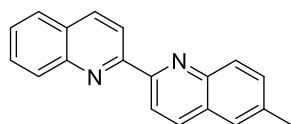


The reaction was conducted with *m*-toluidine (**1c**, 42.9  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum

ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4c** as yellow solid (39.4 mg, 73%), mp 136.5-139.1 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 156.4, 156.2, 148.1, 147.9, 139.8, 136.7, 136.4, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.4, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 126.5, 119.4, 118.6, 21.9; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 271.1235, found 271.1232.

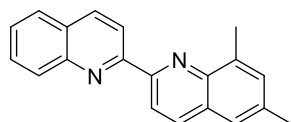
#### 6-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4d)



The reaction was conducted with *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 42.9 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1 μL, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4d** as yellow solid (36.7 mg, 68%), mp 198.4-202.3 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.83-8.79 (m, 2H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25-8.22 (m, 2H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 156.4, 155.4, 147.9, 146.5, 137.0, 136.7, 136.1, 131.9, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.8, 126.6, 119.4, 119.4, 21.7; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 293.1055, found 293.1056.

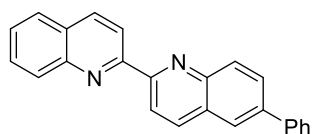
#### 6, 8-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4e)



The reaction was conducted with 2,4-dimethylaniline (**1e**, 49.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4e** as red solid (23.9 mg, 42%), mp 122.4-125.3  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.92 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.81 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.21 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.8, 153.9, 147.9, 145.4, 137.4, 136.6, 136.5, 136.2, 132.0, 129.8, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.7, 124.5, 119.5, 118.9, 21.7, 17.8; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  307.1211, found 307.1213.

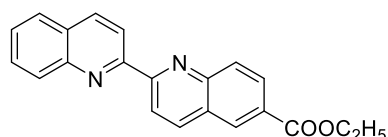
#### 6-phenyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4f**)



The reaction was conducted with [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-amine (**1f**, 67.7 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4f** as yellow solid (45.8 mg, 69%), mp 251.5-255.2  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.80 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.33-8.27 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.97 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 3H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.2, 148.0, 147.3, 140.4, 139.7, 136.9, 136.8, 130.3, 129.9, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 127.0, 125.4, 119.8, 119.4; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  355.1211, found 355.1215.

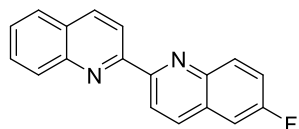
#### ethyl [2, 2'-biquinoline]-6-carboxylate (**4g**)



The reaction was conducted with ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (**1g**, 66.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4g** as white solid (40.4 mg, 62%), mp 202.2-206.0  $^{\circ}$ C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (t,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 1H), 4.48 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  166.2, 158.1, 155.7, 149.8, 147.9, 137.9, 136.9, 130.7, 130.1, 130.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.6, 128.6, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 120.1, 119.4, 61.4, 14.4; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$  351.1109, found 351.1114.

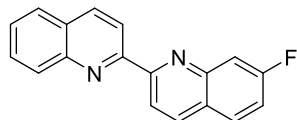
#### 6-fluoro-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4h**)



The reaction was conducted with 4-fluoroaniline (**1h**, 37.9  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4h** as yellow solid (13.2 mg, 24%), mp 232.7-236.8  $^{\circ}$ C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.80 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  160.8 (d,  $J$  = 247.4 Hz), 155.9, 155.7, 147.9, 145.0, 136.8, 136.1 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz), 132.4 (d,  $J$  = 9.1 Hz), 129.9, 129.6, 129.1 (d,  $J$  = 10.1 Hz), 128.5, 127.7, 127.0, 120.2, 119.8 (d,  $J$  = 25.6 Hz), 119.2, 110.7 (d,  $J$  = 21.5 Hz); HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{FN}_2\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ] $^+$  297.0804, found 297.0808.

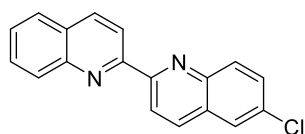
#### 7-fluoro-2, 2'-biquinoline (4i)



The reaction was conducted with 3-fluoroaniline (**1i**, 38.4  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4i** as yellow solid (48.8 mg, 89%), mp 160.4-162.5  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.74 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.26 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.69 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td,  $J = 8.8, 2.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  163.2 (d,  $J = 248.1$  Hz), 157.2, 155.9, 148.9 (d,  $J = 12.7$  Hz), 147.9, 136.8, 136.6, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 125.4, 119.4, 118.8 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 117.4 (d,  $J = 25.3$  Hz), 113.4 (d,  $J = 20.1$  Hz); HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{FN}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  275.0985, found 275.0984.

#### 6-chloro-2, 2'-biquinoline (4j)



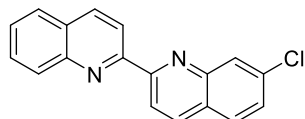
The reaction was conducted with 4-chloroaniline (**1j**, 51.0 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4j** as yellow solid (9.9 mg, 17%), mp 194.3-198.2  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.88 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.81 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.69 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.4, 155.7, 147.9, 146.3, 136.9, 135.8, 132.7, 131.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.7, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7,



127.1, 126.4, 120.3, 119.3; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 313.0508, found 313.0502.

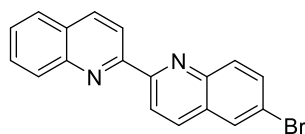
#### 7-chloro-2, 2'-biquinoline (4k)



The reaction was conducted with 3-chloroaniline (**1k**, 42.3  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4k** as yellow solid (11.6 mg, 20%), mp 205.6-209.2 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.76 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.17-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  157.2, 155.8, 148.3, 147.9, 136.8, 136.5, 135.4, 130.0, 129.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.8, 119.6, 119.3; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 313.0508, found 313.0513.

#### 6-bromo-2, 2'-biquinoline (4l)

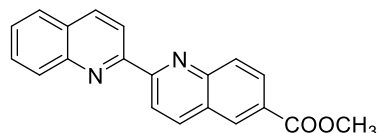


The reaction was conducted with 4-bromoaniline (**1l**, 83.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline (**2a**, 27.1  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4l** as yellow solid (13.4 mg, 20%), mp 285.0-288.2 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.14 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  156.6, 155.8,

147.9, 146.5, 136.8, 135.7, 133.0, 131.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.7, 129.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 120.8, 120.3, 119.3; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 357.0003, found 356.9992.

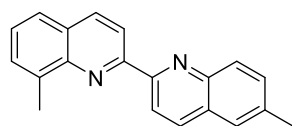
#### methyl [2, 2'-biquinoline]-6-carboxylate (**4m**)



The reaction was conducted with aniline (**1m**, 36.4  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and methyl 2-methylquinoline-6-carboxylate (**2g**, 80.5 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4m** as yellow solid (23.2 mg, 37%), mp 266.4-269.8 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.30-8.27 (m, 2H), 8.18 (t,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  166.7, 158.2, 155.7, 149.8, 147.9, 138.0, 136.9, 130.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 120.2, 119.4, 52.4; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 337.0953, found 337.0953.

#### 6, 8'-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4n**)

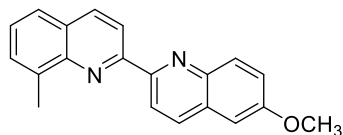


The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and 2,6-dimethylquinoline (**2b**, 31.4 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4n** as red solid (37.4 mg, 66%), mp 263.2-266.1 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.89 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.84 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  155.8, 154.9, 146.8, 146.5, 137.8, 136.9, 136.8, 135.9, 131.8, 129.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.6, 126.6, 125.6, 119.5, 118.8, 21.7, 17.9; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 307.1211, found 307.1214.

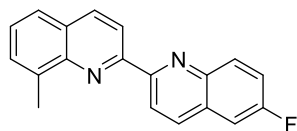
#### 6-methoxy-8'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4o)



The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**2c**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4o** as red solid (32.5 mg, 54%), mp 175.3-178.6 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  158.1, 154.9, 154.4, 146.8, 143.9, 137.7, 136.9, 135.3, 131.3, 129.5, 129.5, 128.3, 126.5, 125.6, 122.2, 119.8, 118.7, 105.2, 55.6, 17.9; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 323.1160, found 323.1166.

#### 6-fluoro-8'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4p)

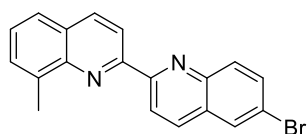


The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu$ L, 0.4 mmol) and 6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (**2d**, 32.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4p** as white solid (14.4 mg, 27%), mp 205.1-208.4 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm)  $\delta$  8.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.81 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.30 - 8.20 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.44 (m, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H);

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  160.7 (d,  $J = 247.0$  Hz), 156.1, 154.4, 146.8, 145.0, 137.8, 137.0, 135.9 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz), 132.3 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 129.7, 129.1 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz), 128.4, 126.8, 125.6, 120.3, 119.6 (d,  $J = 25.6$  Hz), 118.7, 110.7 (d,  $J = 21.5$  Hz), 17.9; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{FN}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  311.0960, found 311.0966.

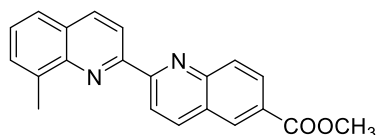
#### 6-bromo-8'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4q)



The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 6-bromo-2-methylquinoline (**2e**, 44.4 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4q** as yellow solid (19.2 mg, 28%), mp 260.3-263.7  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.88 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.88 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  157.0, 154.3, 146.8, 146.5, 137.9, 137.0, 135.5, 135.5, 132.9, 131.6, 129.7, 129.5, 128.5, 126.9, 125.6, 120.7, 120.4, 118.7, 17.9; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrN}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  349.0340, found 349.0337.

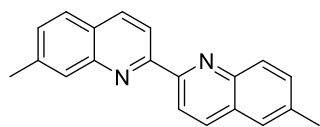
#### methyl 8'-methyl-[2, 2'-biquinoline]-6-carboxylate (4r)



The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 42.7  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and methyl 2-methylquinoline-6-carboxylate (**2g**, 40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4r** as white solid (29.9 mg, 46%), mp 228.5-231.3  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.92 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.78 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.24 (t,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.88 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  166.7, 158.6, 154.2, 149.8, 146.8, 137.9, 137.8, 137.1, 130.8, 130.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.5, 127.1, 125.6, 120.3, 118.9, 52.4, 17.9; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  351.1109, found 351.1114.

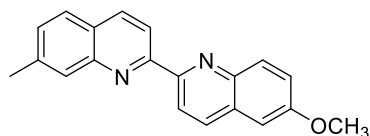
#### 6, 7'-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4s)



The reaction was conducted with *m*-toluidine (**1c**, 42.9  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2,6-dimethylquinoline (**2b**, 31.4 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4s** as red solid (35.3 mg, 62%), mp 258.6-263.7  $^\circ\text{C}$ .

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.69 (dd,  $J = 12.0, 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.17 (dd,  $J = 15.6, 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.3, 155.6, 148.2, 146.5, 139.7, 136.9, 136.4, 136.0, 131.8, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 127.3, 126.5, 126.4, 119.4, 118.6, 21.9, 21.7; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  307.1211, found 307.1219.

#### 6-methoxy-7'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (4t)

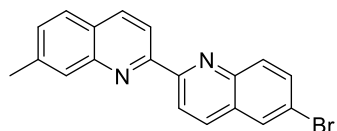


The reaction was conducted with *m*-toluidine (**1c**, 42.9  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**2c**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column

chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4t** as yellow solid (51.2 mg, 85%), mp 245.4-248.3 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.70 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 158.2, 156.4, 154.2, 148.2, 144.0, 139.7, 136.4, 135.4, 131.4, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 127.3, 126.4, 122.3, 119.7, 118.4, 105.2, 55.6, 21.9; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 323.1160, found 323.1170.

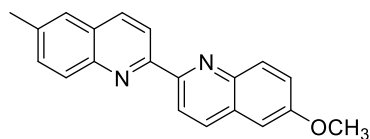
#### 6-bromo-7'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4u**)



The reaction was conducted with *m*-toluidine (**1c**, 42.9 μL, 0.4 mmol) and 6-bromo-2-methylquinoline (**2e**, 44.4 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4u** as yellow solid (57.3 mg, 82%), mp 260.2-264.0 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.78 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.94 (m, 3H), 7.75-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 156.8, 155.7, 148.2, 146.5, 140.0, 136.5, 135.6, 133.0, 131.6, 129.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 127.3, 126.6, 120.7, 120.3, 118.5, 21.9; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 349.0340, found 349.0336.

#### 6-methoxy-6'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4v**)

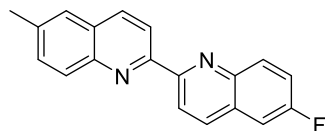


The reaction was conducted with *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 42.9 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**2c**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column

chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4v** as yellow solid (43.7 mg, 73%), mp 249.3-253.2 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.69 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 158.1, 155.6, 154.2, 146.5, 144.0, 136.7, 136.0, 135.4, 131.8, 131.3, 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 126.6, 122.2, 119.7, 119.2, 105.2, 55.6, 21.7; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 323.1160, found 323.1170.

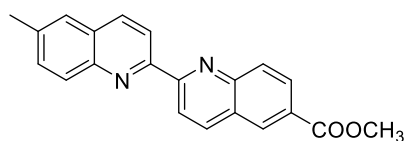
#### 6-fluoro-6'-methyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4w**)



The reaction was conducted with *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 42.9 mg, 0.4 mmol) and 6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (**2d**, 32.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4w** as yellow solid (31.2 mg, 54%), mp 263.7-266.0 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.78 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21-8.13 (m, 3H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 160.7 (d, *J* = 247.1 Hz), 155.9, 155.1, 146.5, 145.0, 137.0, 136.1, 136.0 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz), 132.3 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 131.9, 129.6, 129.0 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 128.5, 126.6, 120.1, 119.7 (d, *J* = 25.6 Hz), 119.2, 110.7 (d, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 21.7; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 311.0960, found 311.0965.

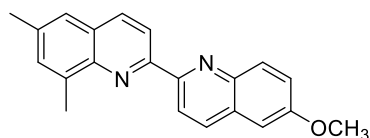
#### methyl 6'-methyl-[2, 2'-biquinoline]-6-carboxylate (**4x**)



The reaction was conducted with *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 42.9 mg, 0.4 mmol) and methyl 2-methylquinoline-6-carboxylate (**2g**, 40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4x** as red solid (33.0 mg, 50%), mp 281.6-284.3 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28-8.25 (m, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 166.7, 158.4, 154.8, 149.8, 146.5, 137.9, 137.3, 136.2, 132.0, 130.8, 130.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.2, 127.5, 126.6, 120.2, 119.4, 52.4, 21.7; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 351.1109, found 351.1108.

#### 6'-methoxy-6, 8-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**4y**)

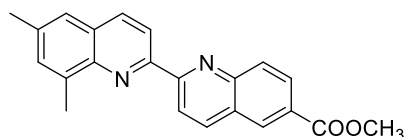


The reaction was conducted with 2,4-dimethylaniline (**1e**, 49.5 μL, 0.4 mmol) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**2c**, 34.6 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **4y** as yellow solid (25.5 mg, 41%), mp 255.8-259.4 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 8.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 158.1, 154.6, 154.1, 145.4, 143.9, 137.3, 136.4, 136.2, 135.3, 131.9, 131.3, 129.4, 128.3, 124.5, 122.1, 119.8, 118.7, 105.2, 55.6, 21.7, 17.8; HRMS (maldi, *m/z*): calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 337.1317, found 337.1321.

#### methyl 6', 8'-dimethyl-[2, 2'-biquinoline]-6-carboxylate (**4z**)

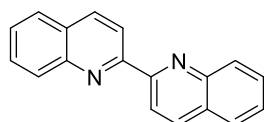




The reaction was conducted with 2,4-dimethylaniline (**1e**, 49.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.4 mmol) and 2-methylquinoline-6-carboxylate (**2g**, 40.2 mg, 0.2 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 1:1) afforded the product **4y** as white solid (23.9 mg, 35%), mp 280.1-283.0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$

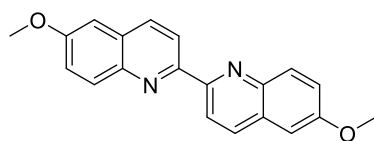
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.99 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.81 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  166.8, 158.8, 153.4, 149.8, 145.5, 137.7, 137.5, 137.0, 136.4, 132.1, 130.8, 130.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 124.5, 120.3, 118.9, 52.4, 21.7, 17.8; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  365.1266, found 365.1261.

### 2, 2'-biquinoline (**5a**)<sup>[3]</sup>



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.76 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  156.2, 147.9, 136.7, 129.9, 129.5, 128.4, 127.6, 126.9, 119.4; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  257.1079, found 257.1071.

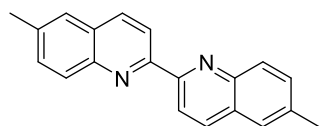
### 6, 6'-dimethoxy-2, 2'-biquinoline (**5b**)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with 4-methoxyaniline (**1a**, 24.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5b** as yellow solid (18.7 mg, 59%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.68 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 2.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  158.1, 154.2, 144.0, 135.4, 131.3, 129.4, 122.2, 119.5, 105.2, 55.6; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  317.1290, found 317.1277.

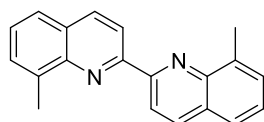
### 6, 6'-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**5c**)<sup>[3]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with *p*-toluidine (**1d**, 21.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5c** as white solid (23.0 mg, 81%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.70 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  155.6, 146.5, 136.8, 136.0, 131.8, 129.5, 128.4, 126.5, 119.4, 21.7; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  285.1392, found 285.1382.

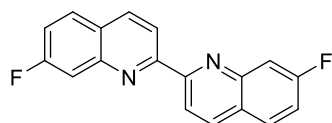
### 8, 8'-dimethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (**5d**)<sup>[2]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with *o*-toluidine (**1b**, 21.3  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5d** as yellow solid (13.9 mg, 49%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.86 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  155.1, 146.8, 137.8, 136.8, 129.5, 128.3, 126.6, 125.6, 118.9, 17.9; HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  285.1392, found 285.1388.

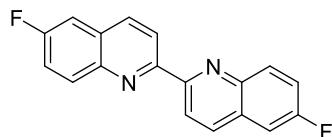
### 7, 7'-difluoro-2, 2'-biquinoline (5e)



The reaction was conducted with 3-fluoroaniline (**1i**, 19.2  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5e** as red solid (9.9 mg, 34%), mp 246.5-249.3  $^\circ\text{C}$

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.72 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.25 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.82-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  163.3 (d,  $J = 248.4$  Hz), 156.8, 148.9 (d,  $J = 12.7$  Hz), 136.7, 129.6 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz), 125.5, 118.8 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 117.5 (d,  $J = 25.3$  Hz), 113.5 (d,  $J = 20.1$  Hz); HRMS (maldi, m/z): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_2\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  315.0710, found 315.0716.

### 6, 6'-difluoro-2, 2'-biquinoline (5f) <sup>[2]</sup>

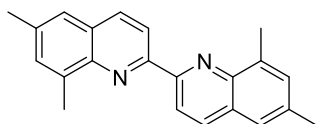


The reaction was conducted with 4-fluoroaniline (**1h**, 19.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5f** as red solid (9.9 mg, 34%)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.76 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 8.20 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.15 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  160.8 (d,  $J = 247.5$  Hz), 155.4, 145.0, 136.1 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz), 132.4 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 129.1 (d,  $J = 10.1$  Hz), 120.0,

119.7, 110.7 (d,  $J = 21.6$  Hz); HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{11}F_2N_2$   $[M+H]^+$  293.0890, found 293.0884.

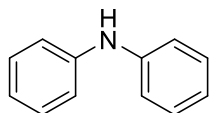
### 6, 6', 8, 8'-tetramethyl-2, 2'-biquinoline (5g)



The reaction was conducted with 2,4-dimethylaniline (**1e**, 24.7  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) afforded the product **5g** as yellow solid (20.3 mg, 65%), mp 233.1-236.2  $^{\circ}$ C

$^1$ H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.87 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 2H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 2.92 (s, 6H), 2.52 (s, 6H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  154.5, 145.4, 137.3, 136.3, 136.0, 131.8, 128.4, 124.5, 118.9, 21.7, 17.8; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $C_{22}H_{21}N_2$   $[M+H]^+$  313.1705, found 313.1706.

### Diphenylamine (Y) <sup>[1]</sup>



The reaction was conducted with nitrobenzene (**W**, 0.2 mmol) and cyclohexanone (**X**, 0.4 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 98:2) afforded the product **Y** as white solid (23.7 mg, 70%, **4w** as ligand), mp 52.7-54.0  $^{\circ}$ C.

$^1$ H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.28-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H), 6.92 (td,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 0.8 Hz, 4H), 5.68 (s, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  143.1, 129.3, 120.9, 117.7; HRMS (maldi,  $m/z$ ): calcd. for  $C_{12}H_{12}N$   $[M+H]^+$  170.0964, found 170.0972. The experimental data of **Y** matched with those reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

## 7. References

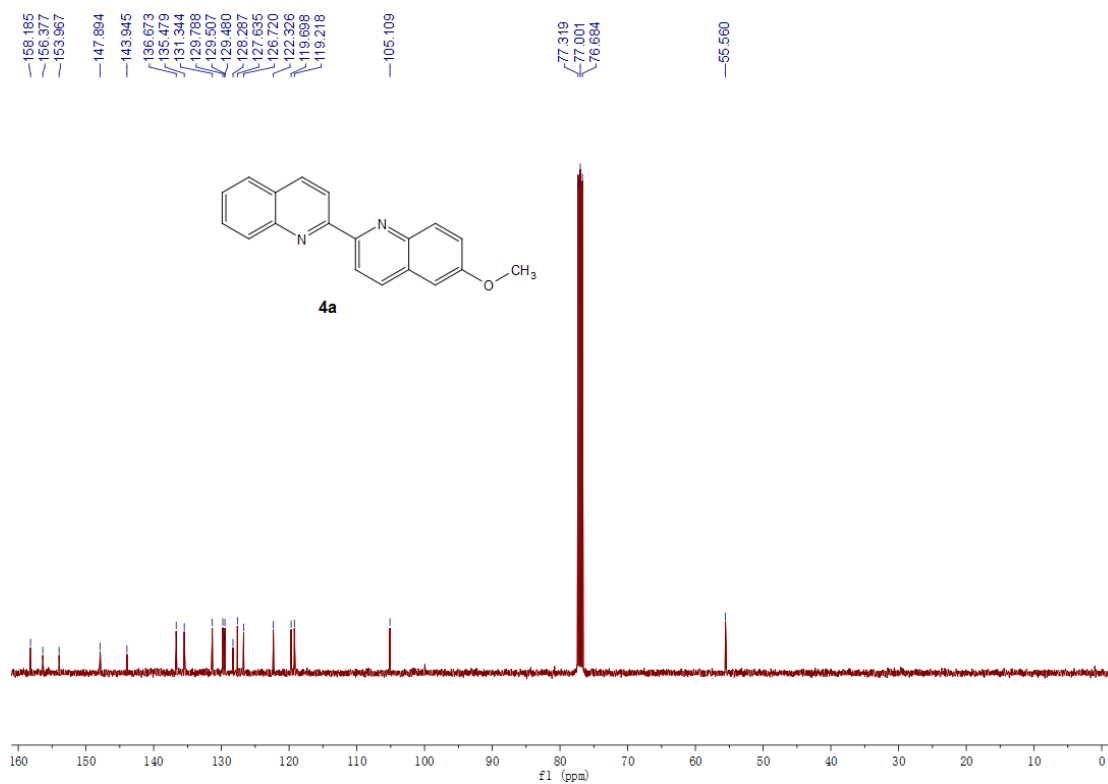
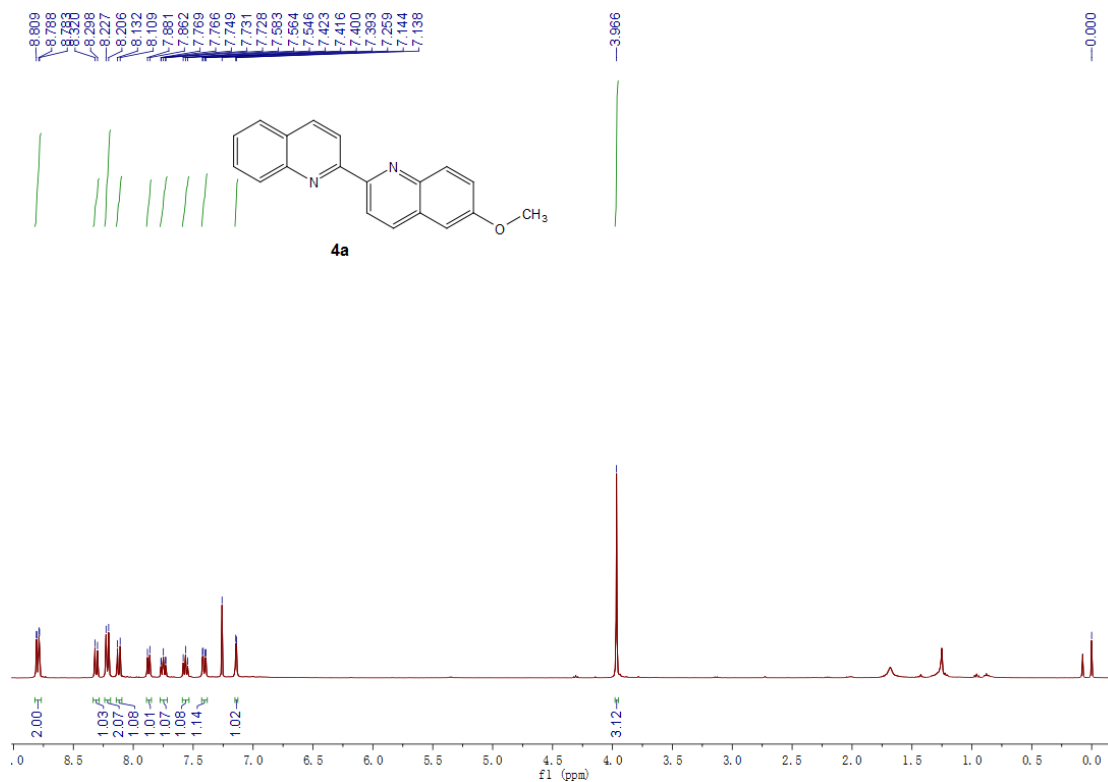
[1] Y. Xie, S. Liu, Y. Liu, Y. Wen, and G.-J. Deng, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 1692-1695.

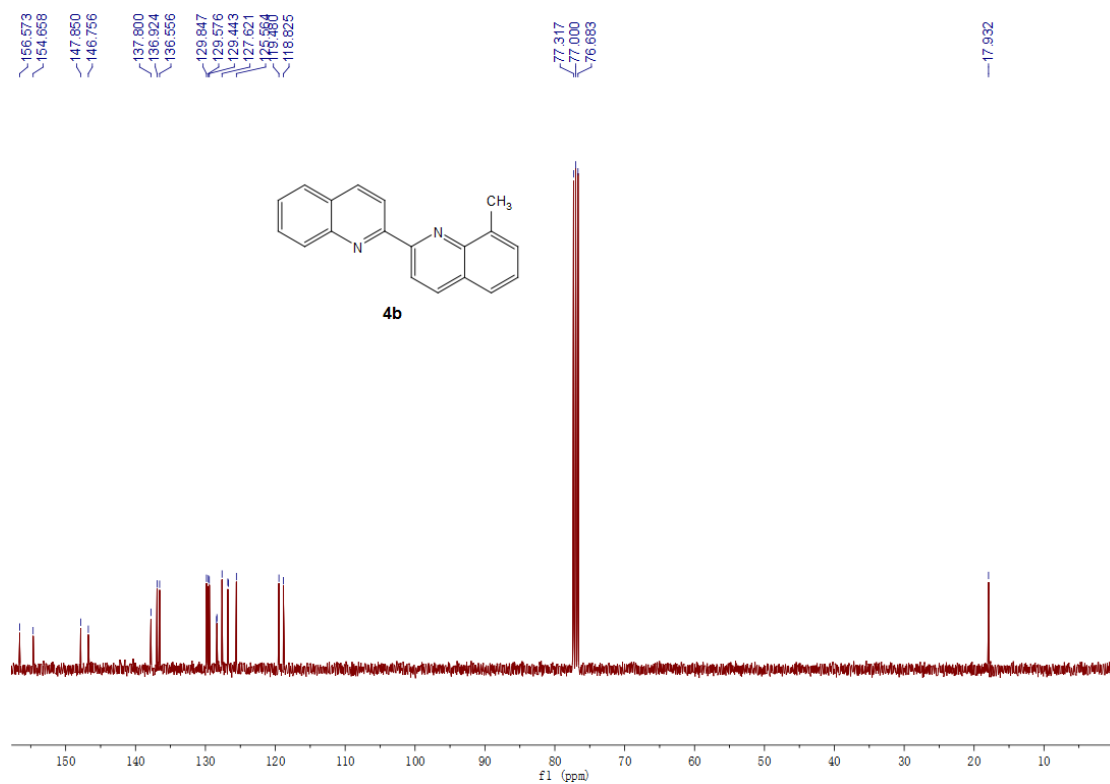
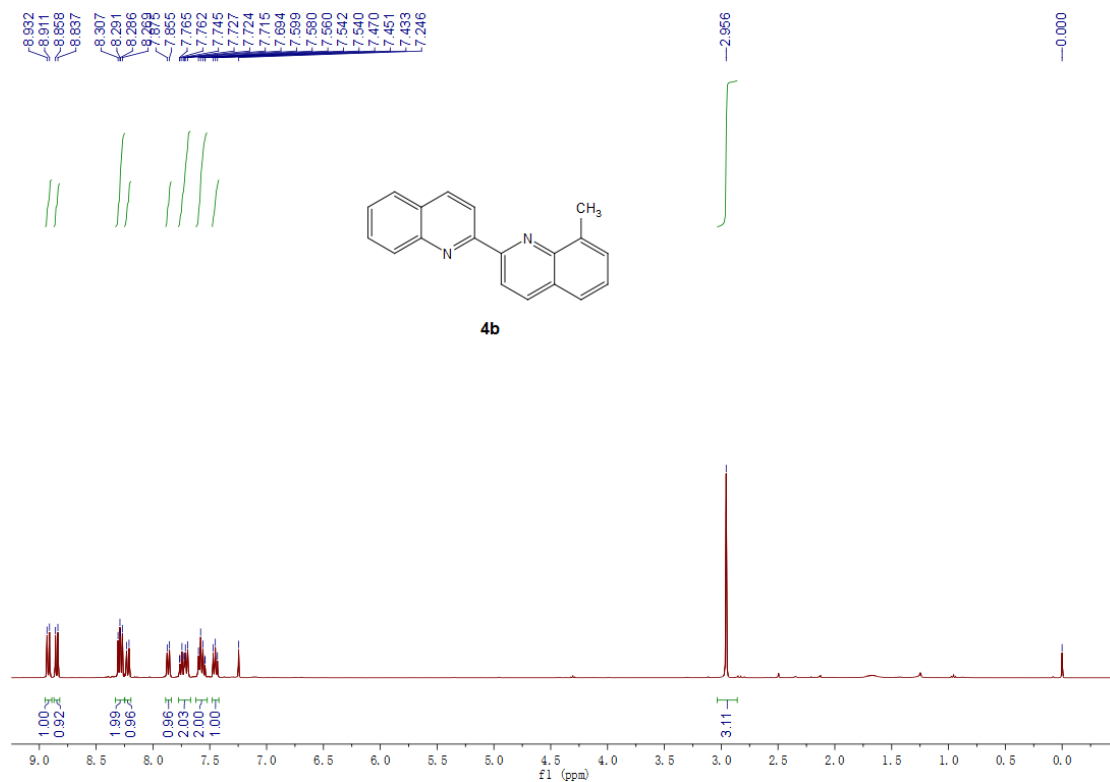
[2] W. Ma, J. Zhang, C. Xu, F. Chen, Y.-M. He, Q.-H. Fan, *Angew. Chem.* 2016, **128**, 20 / 55

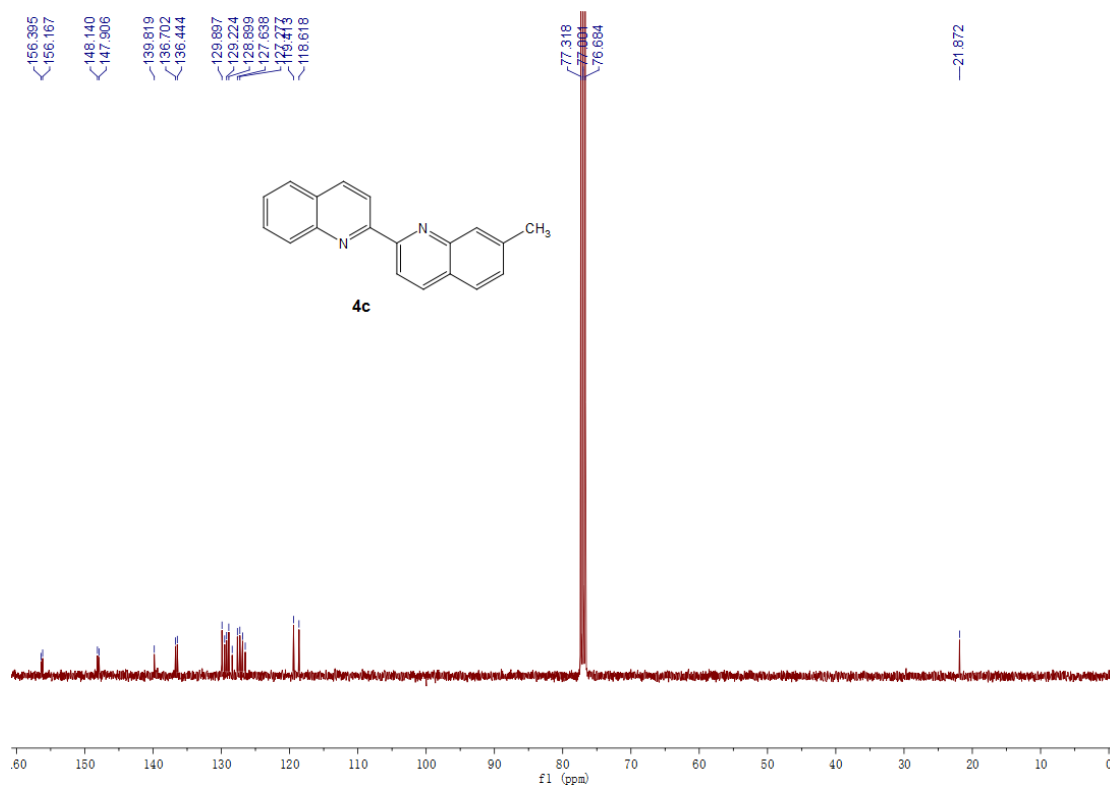
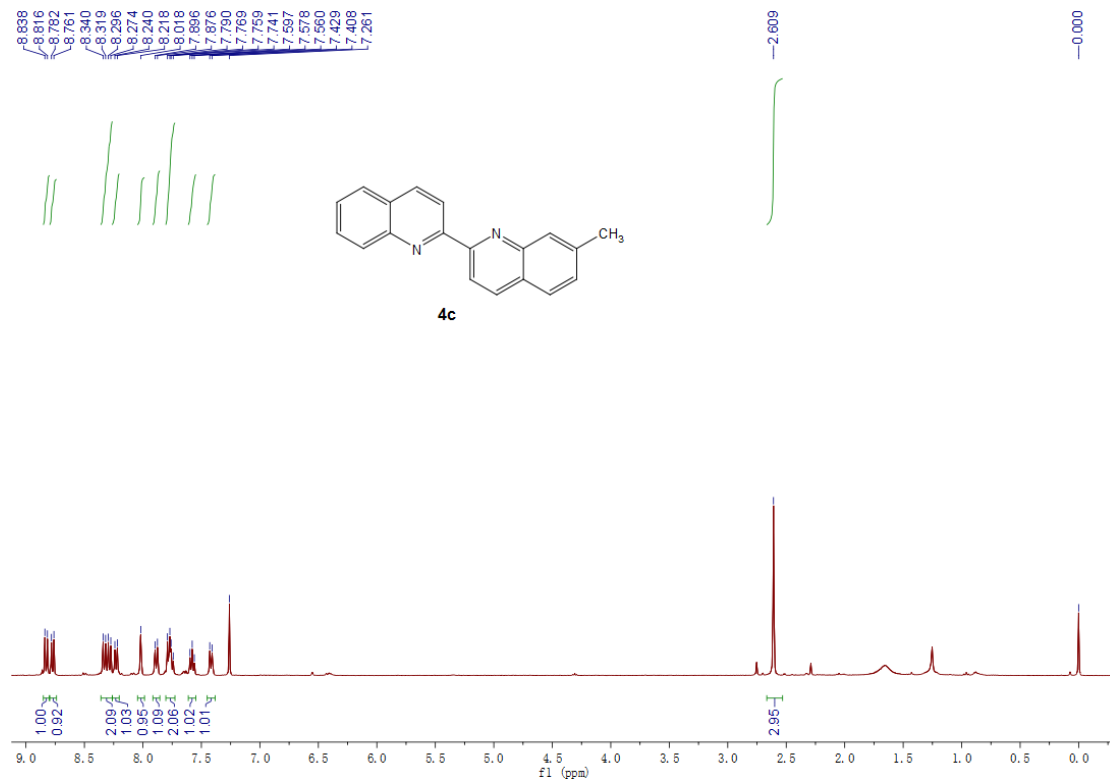
13083-13086,4; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, 55, 12891-12894.

[3] W.-W. Xie, Y. Liu, R. Yuan, D. Zhao, T.-Z. Yu, J. Zhang, and C.-S. Da, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2016, **358**, 994-1002.

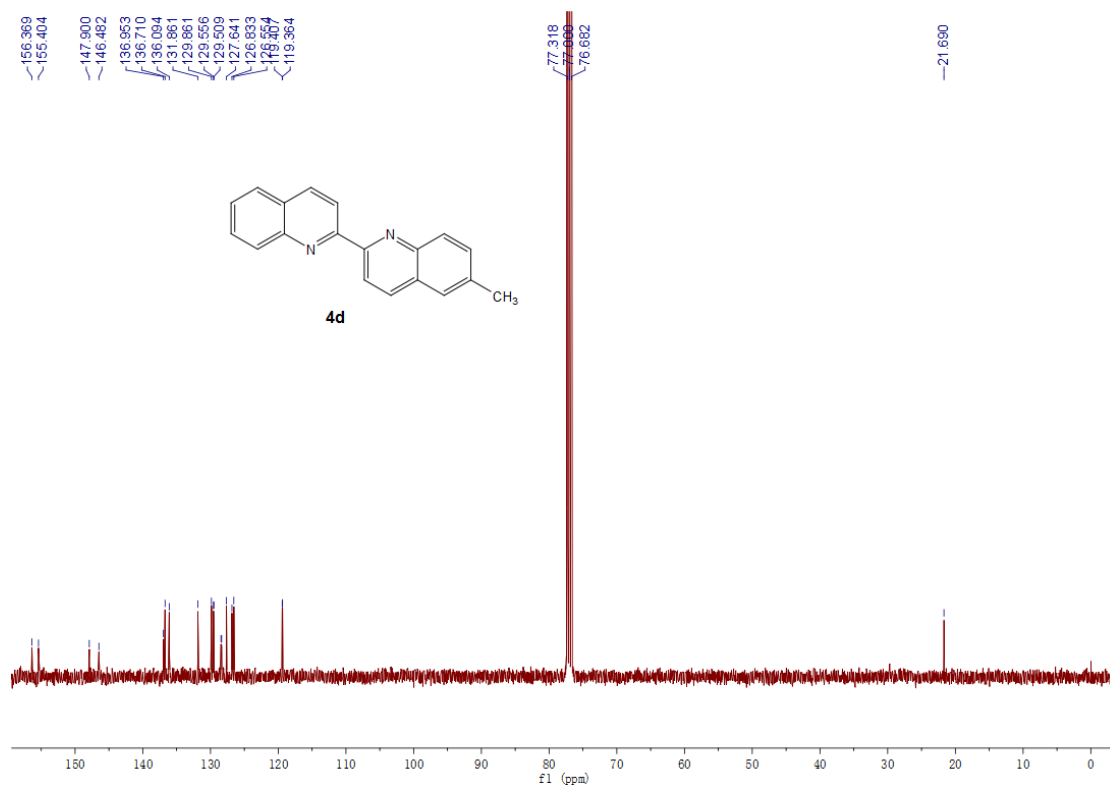
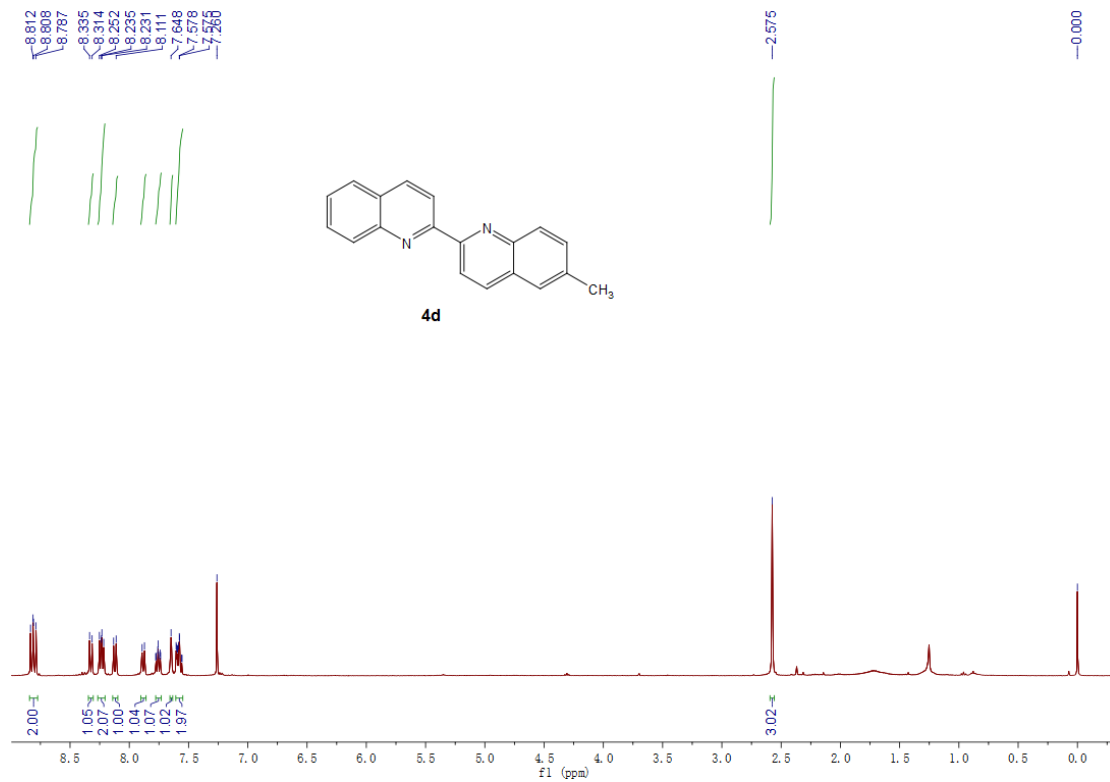
## 8. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of all products

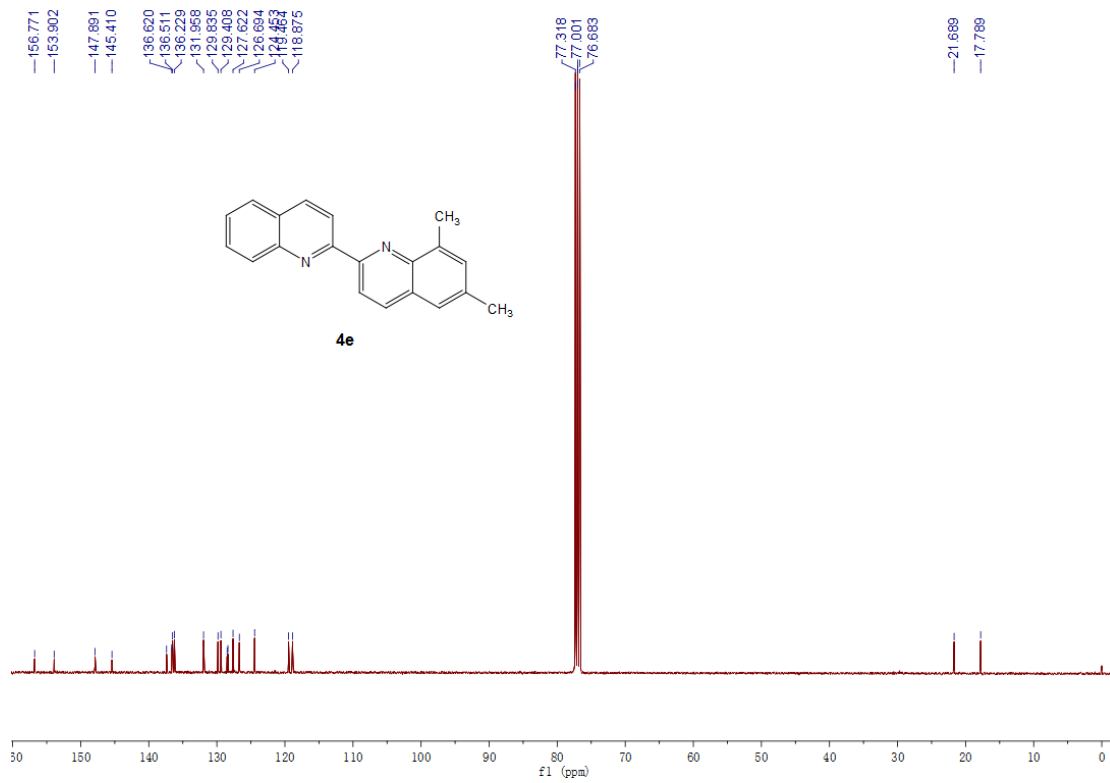
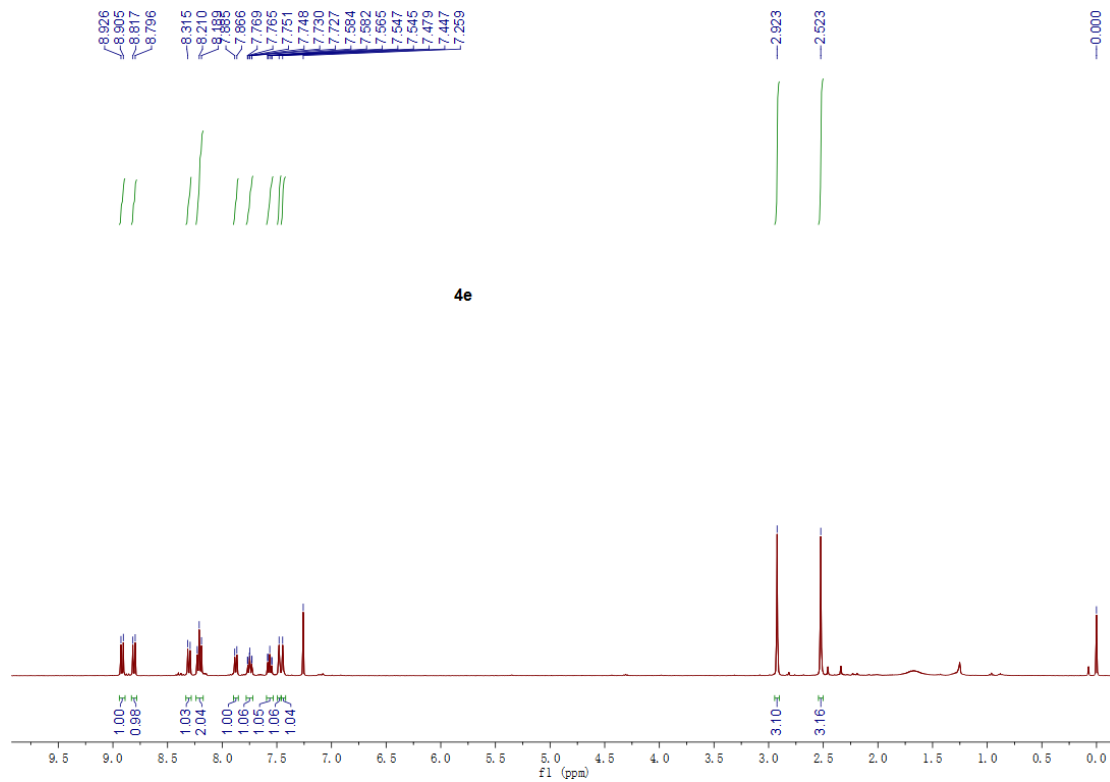


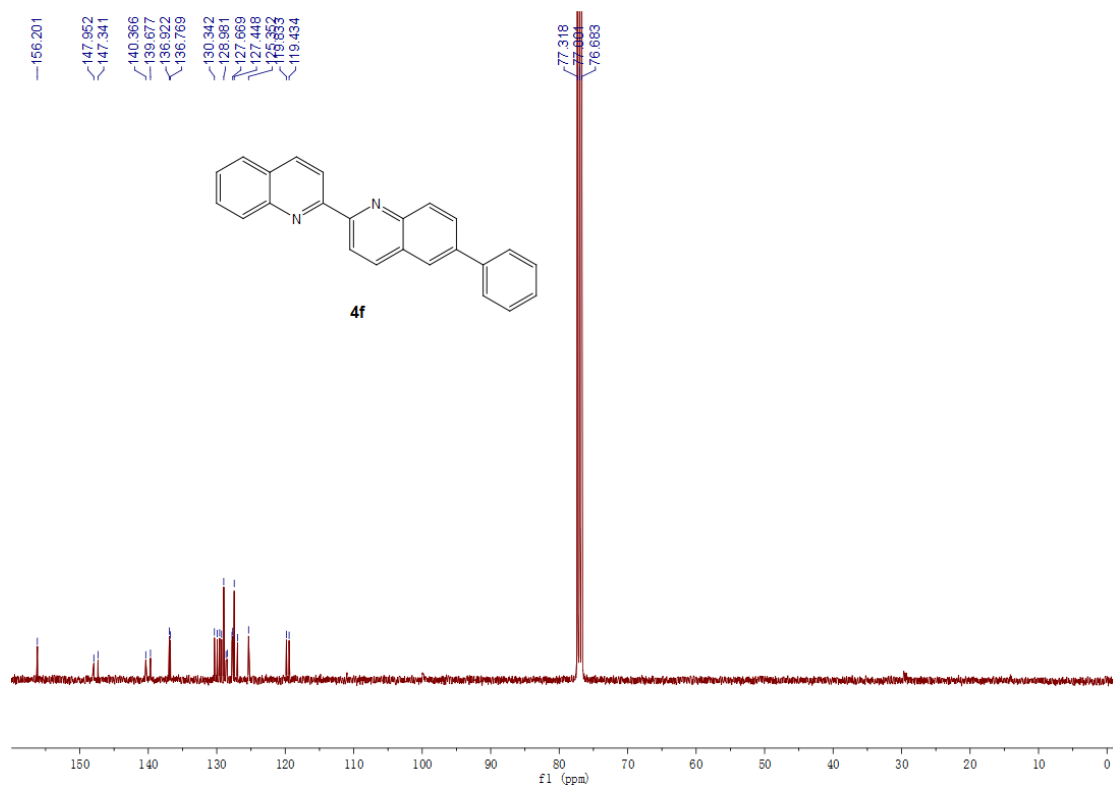
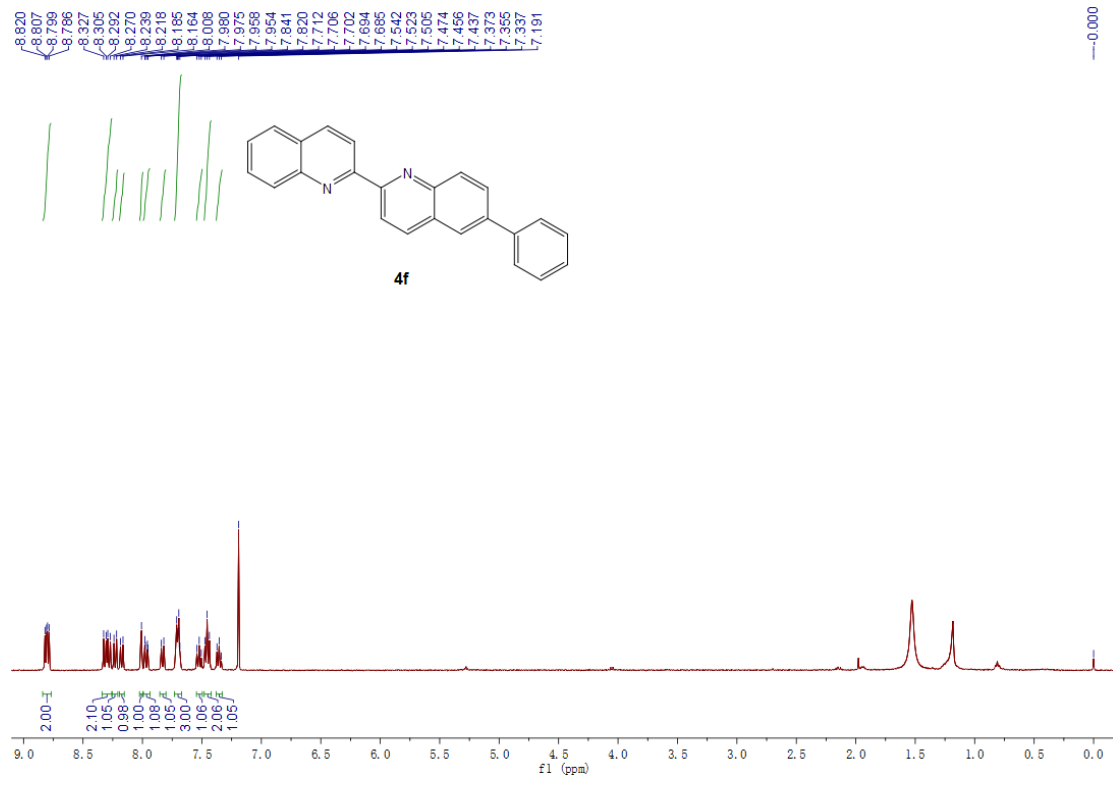


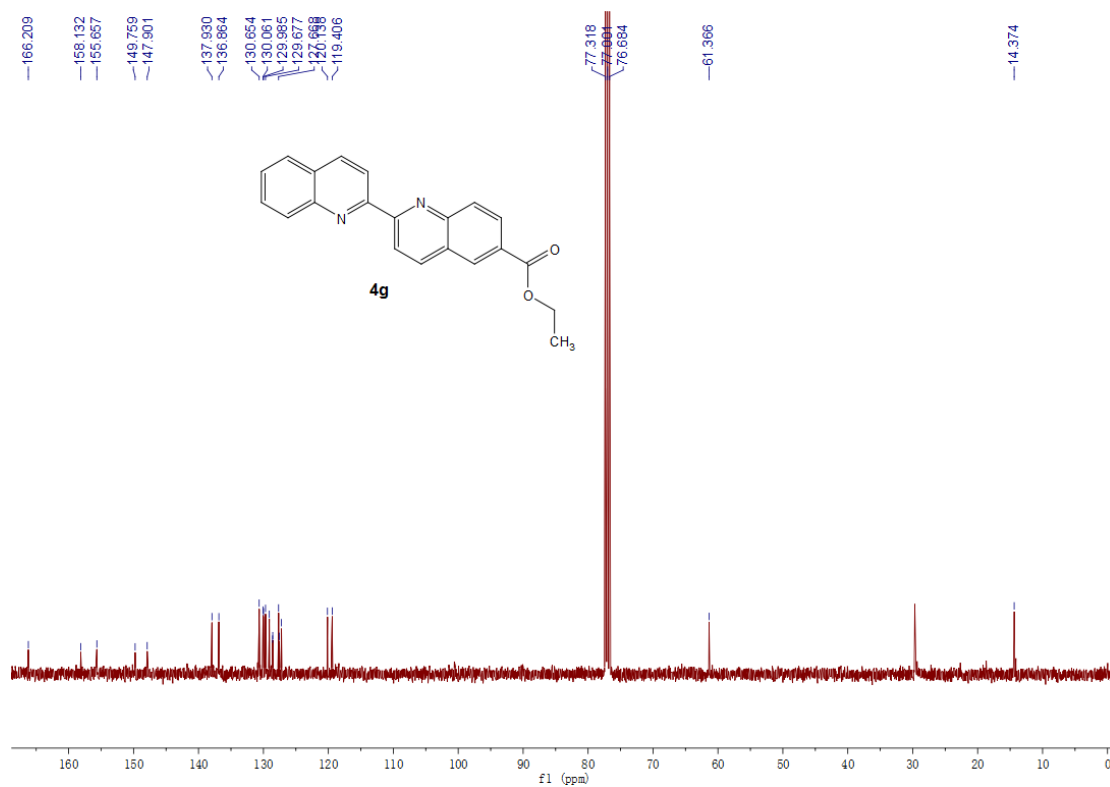
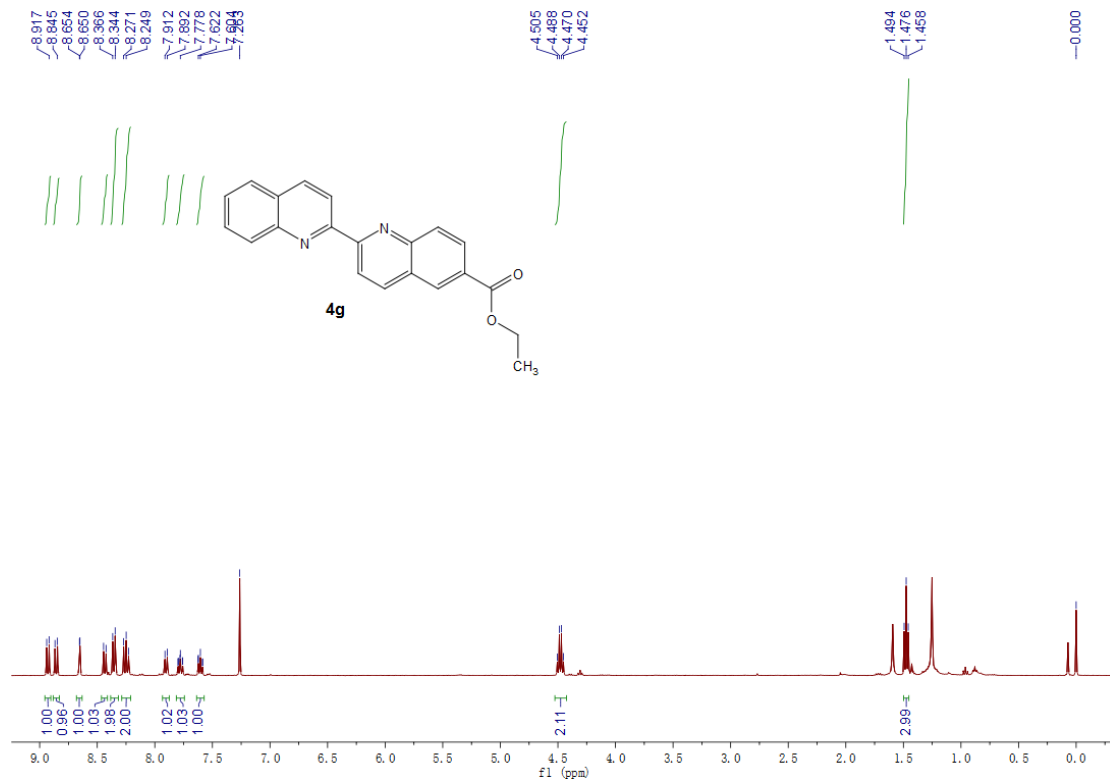


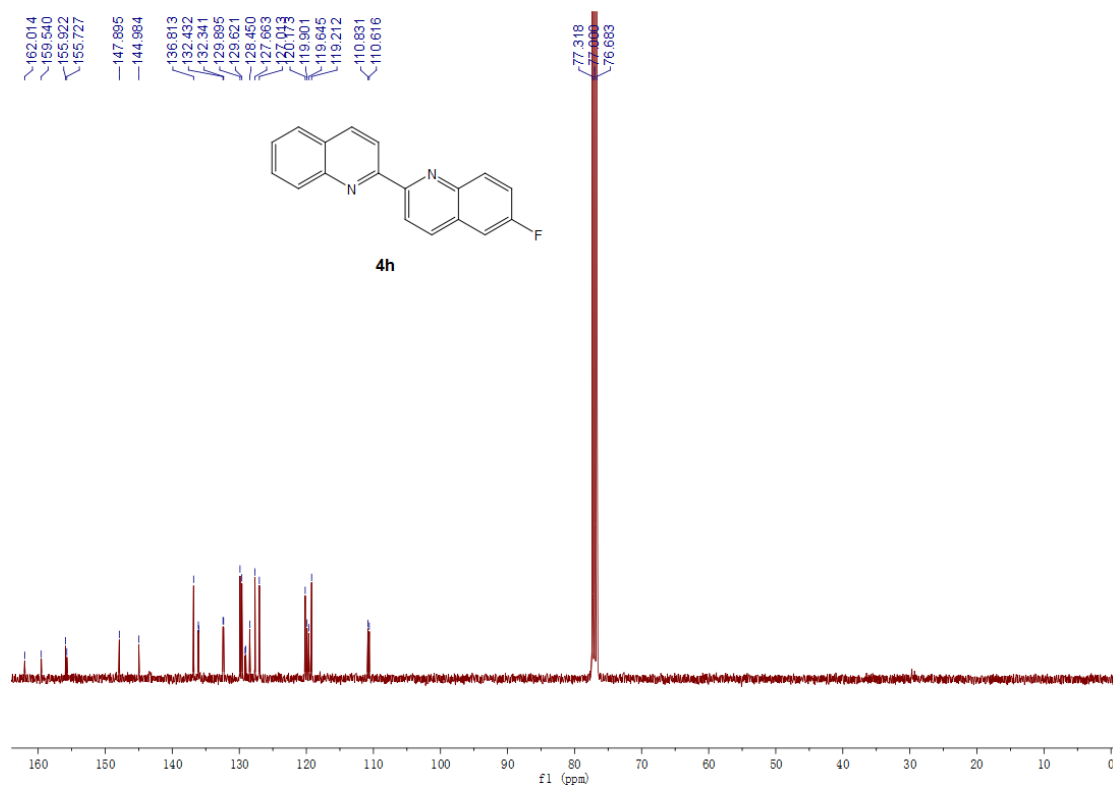
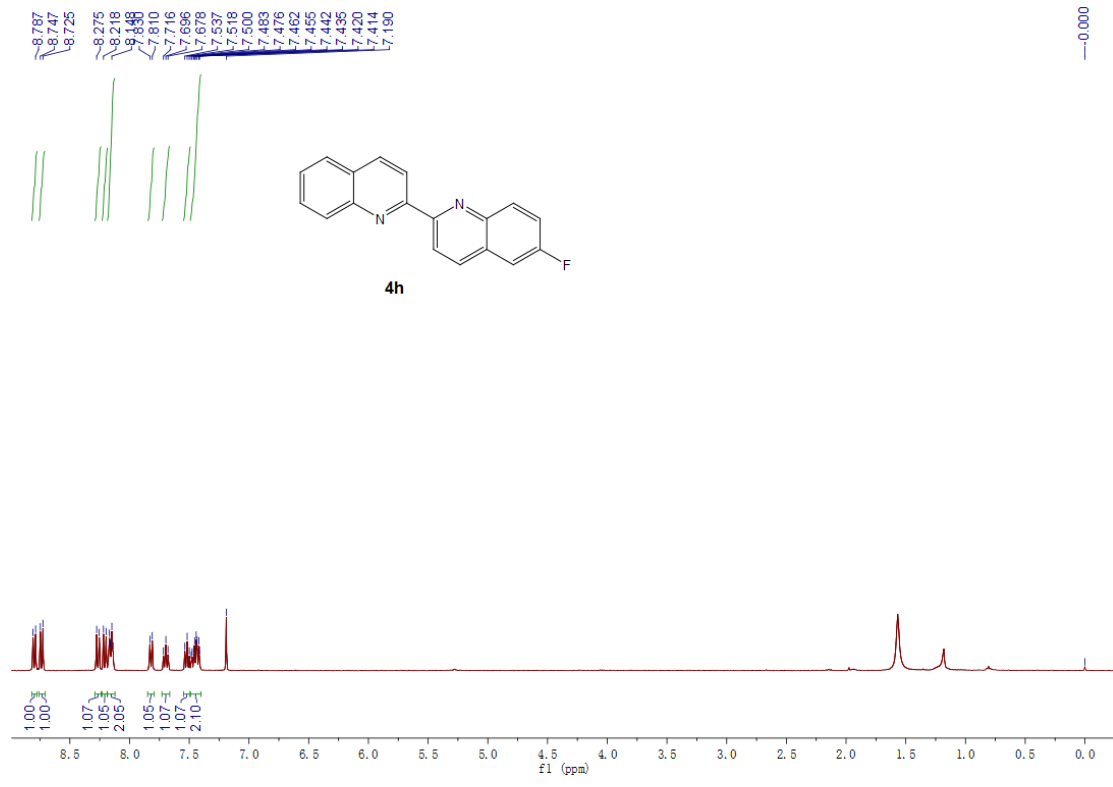


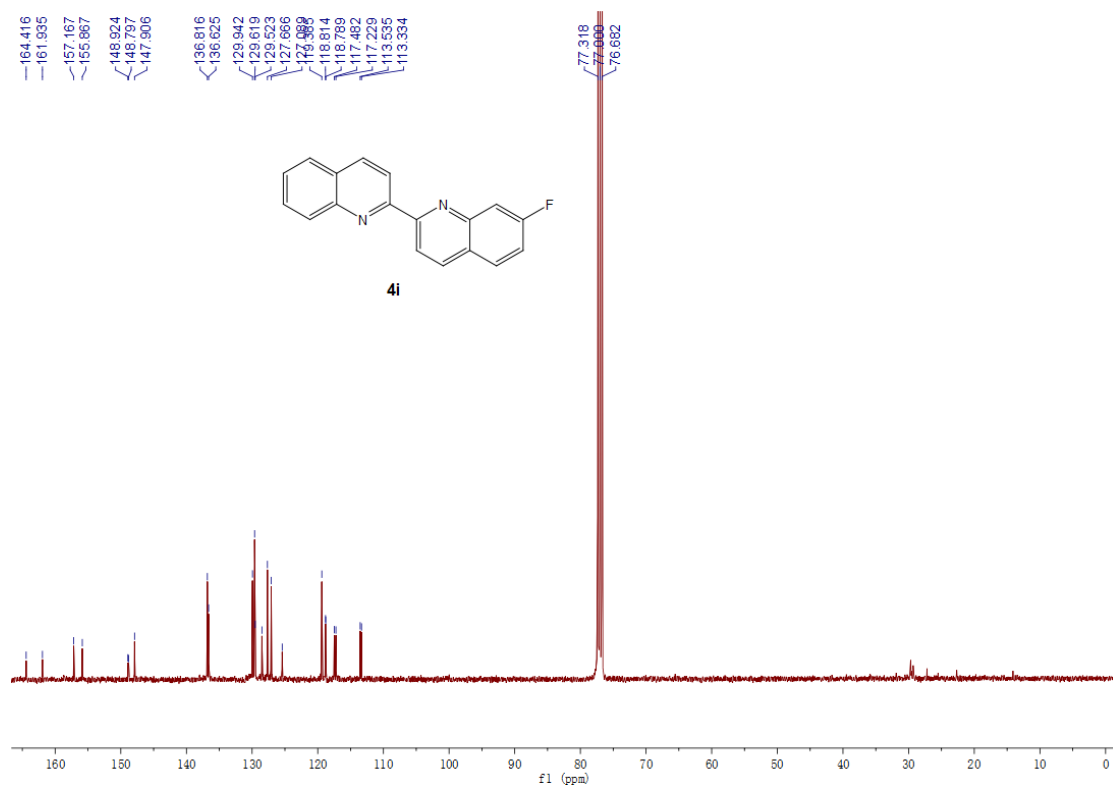
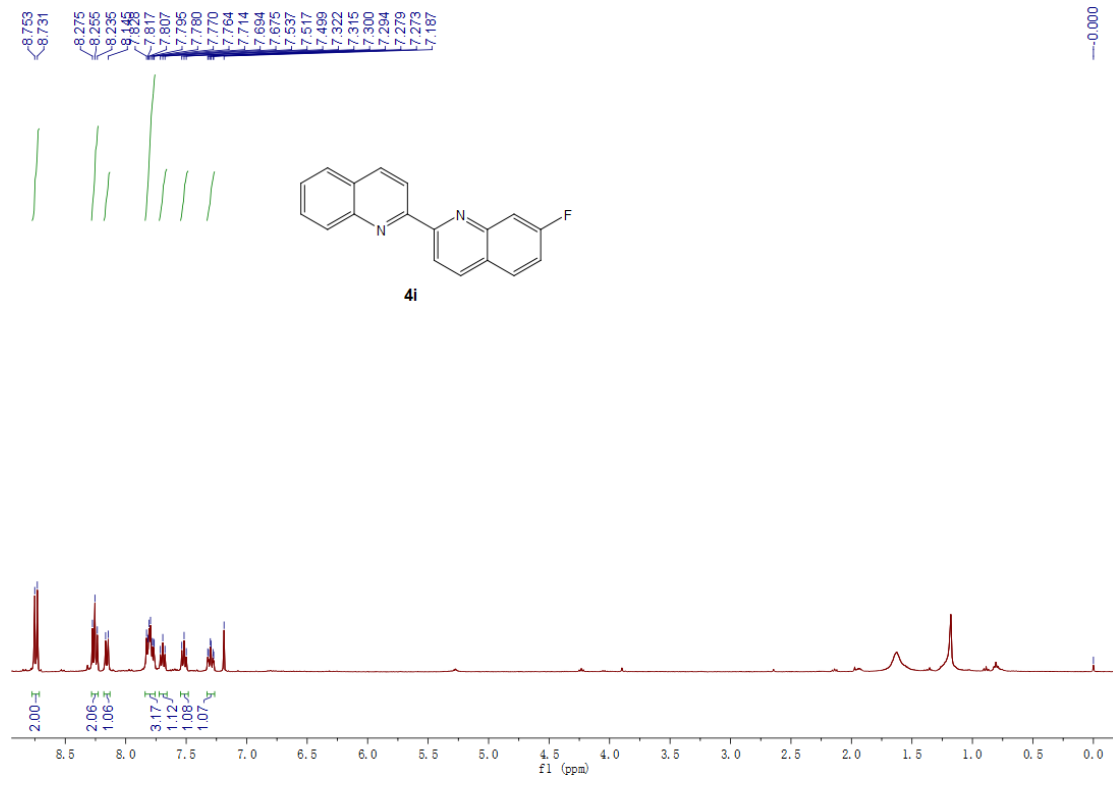


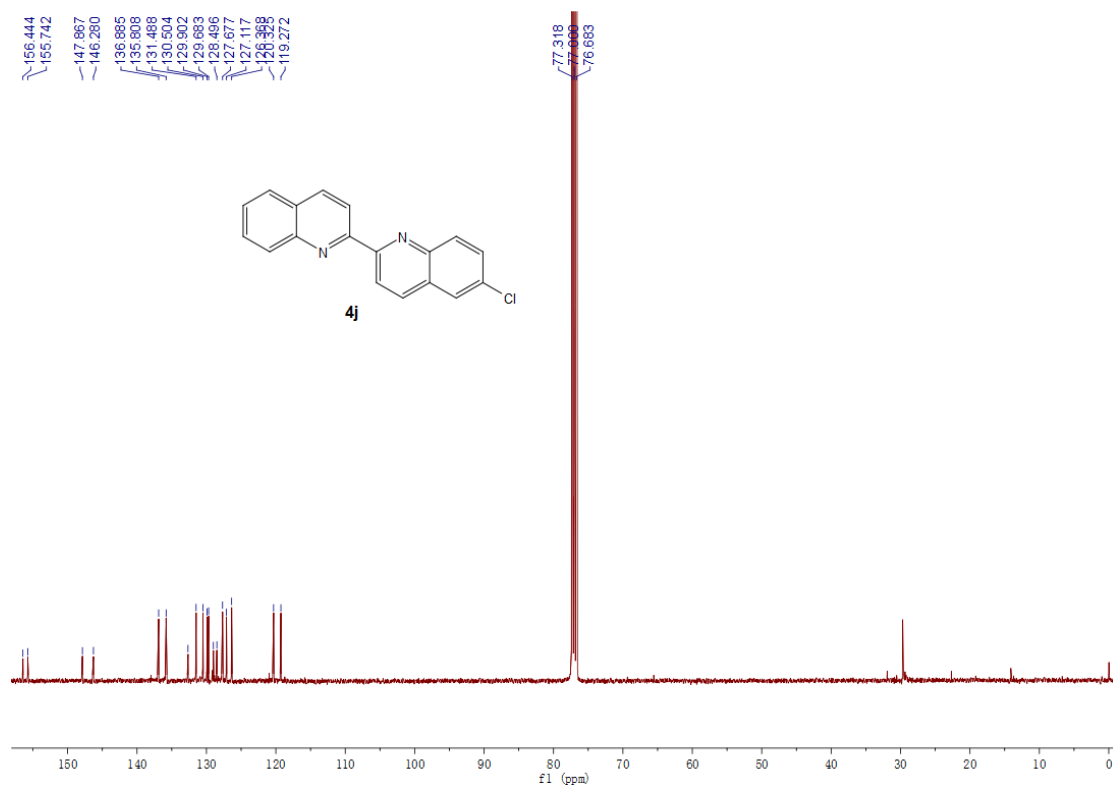
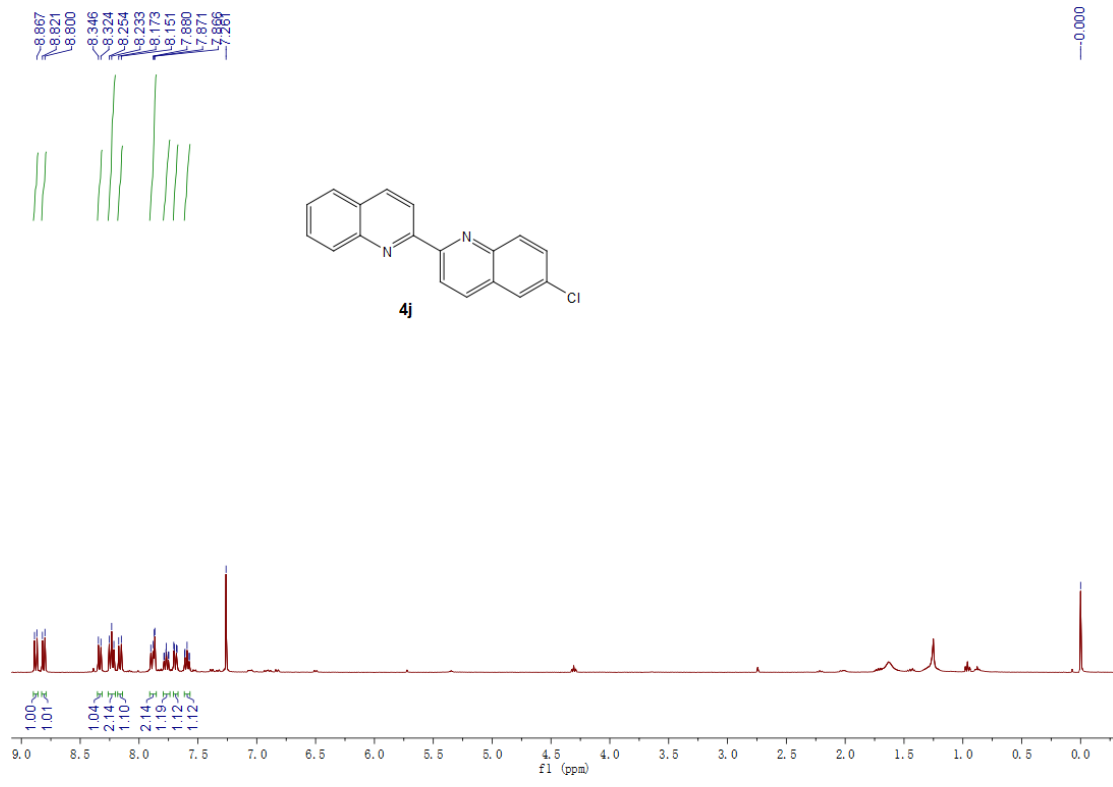


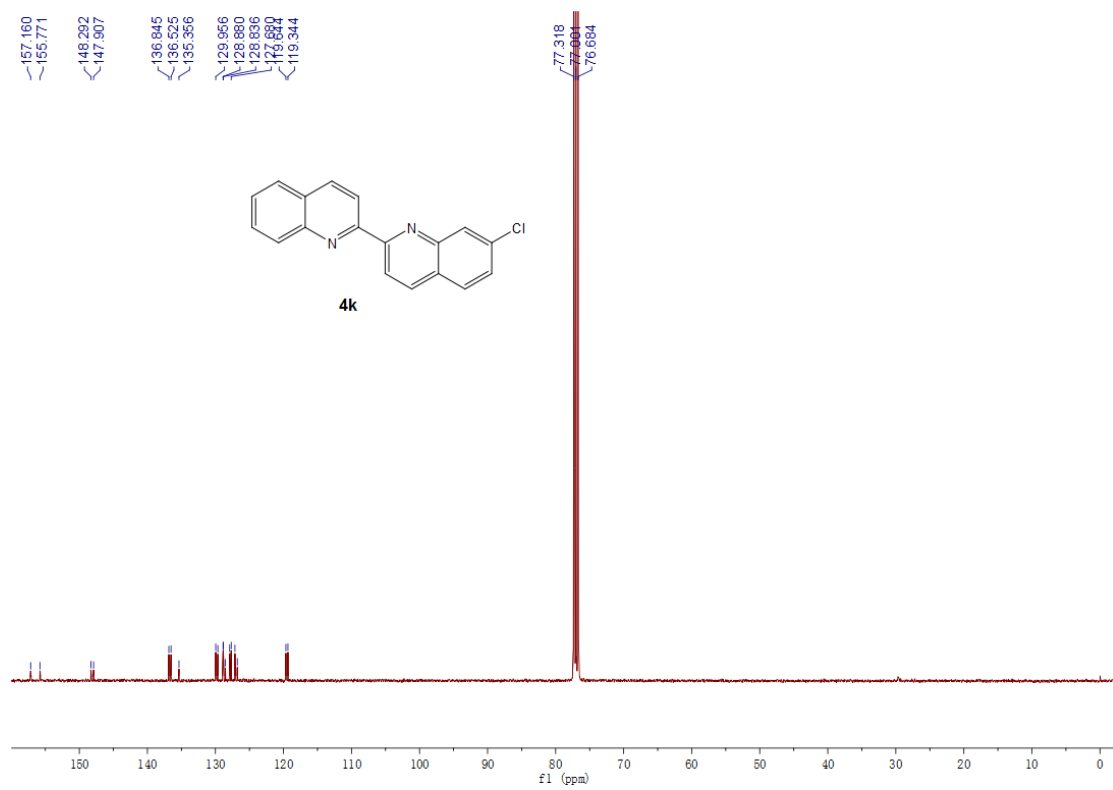
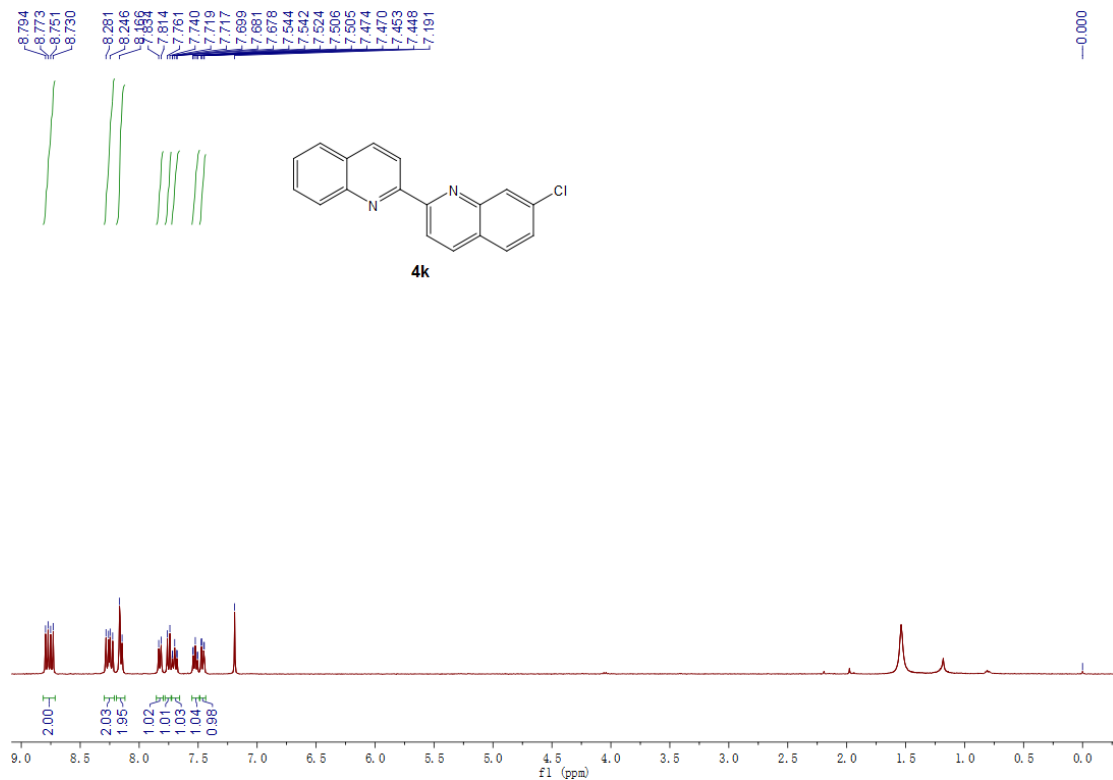




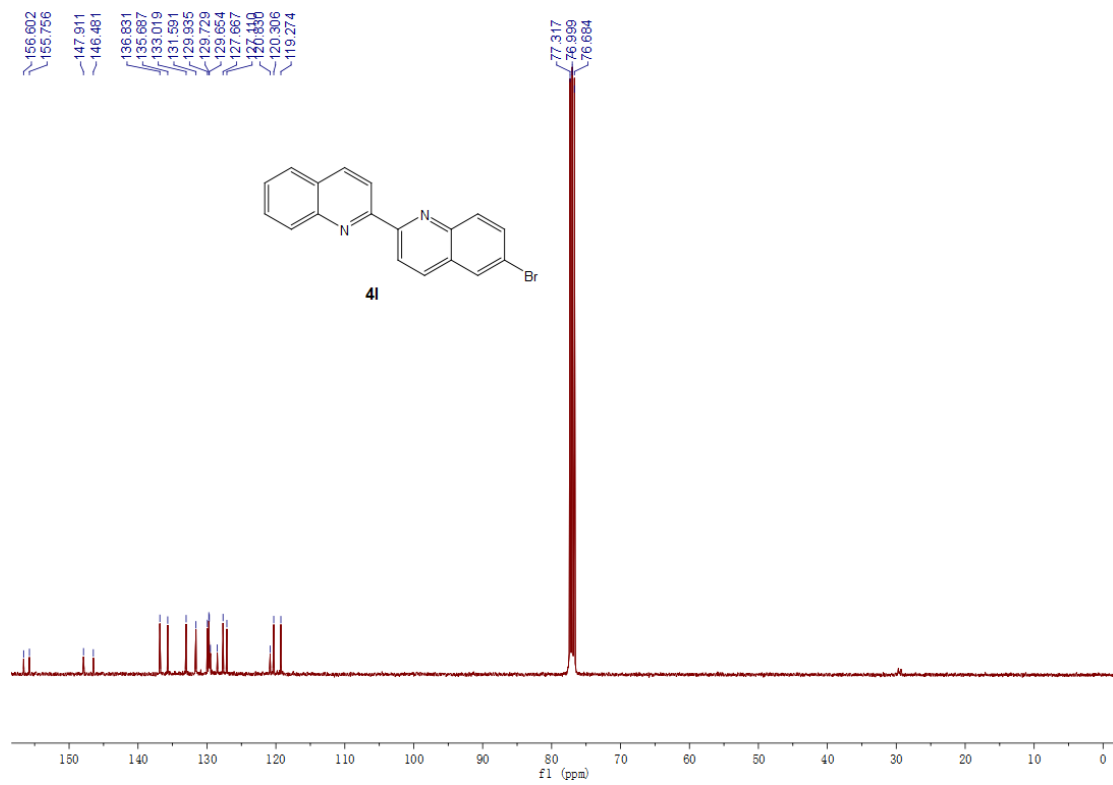
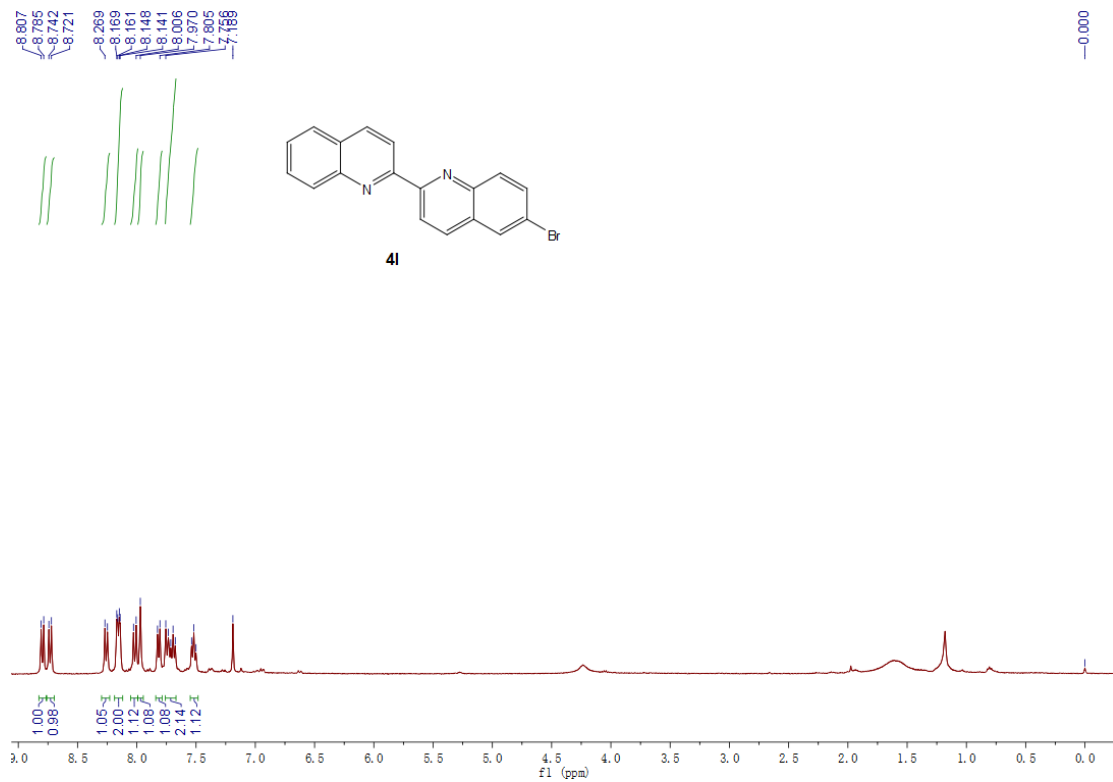


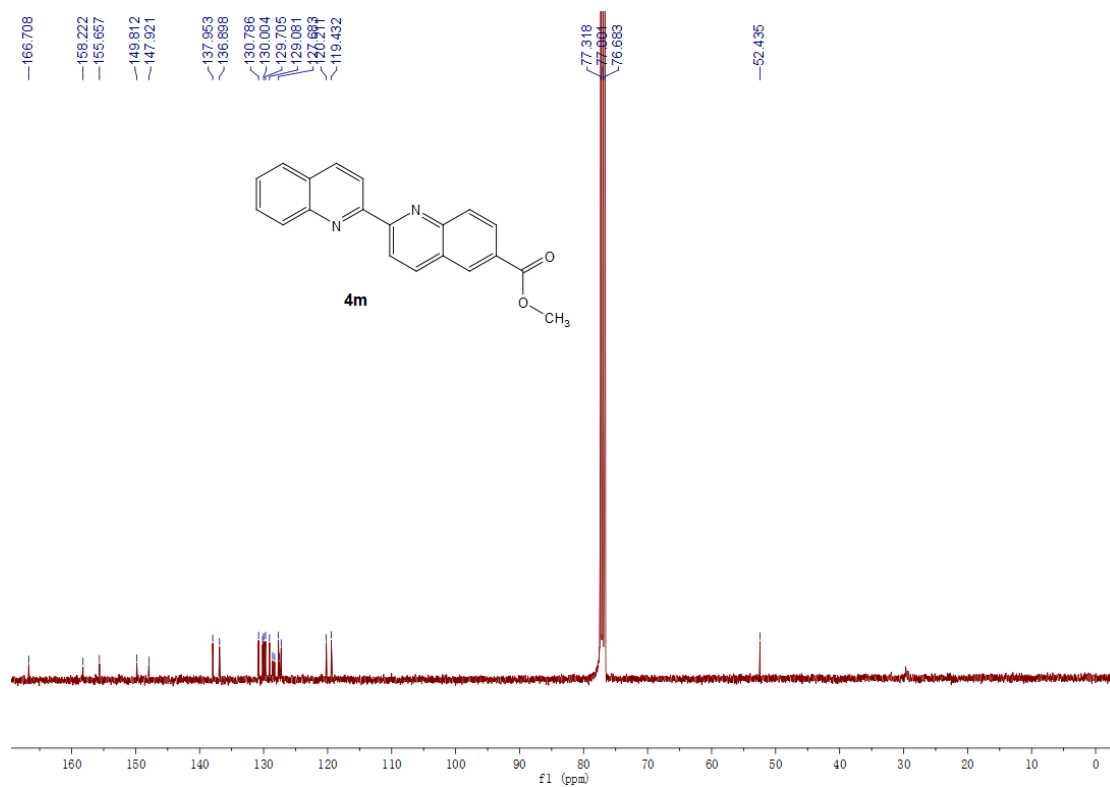
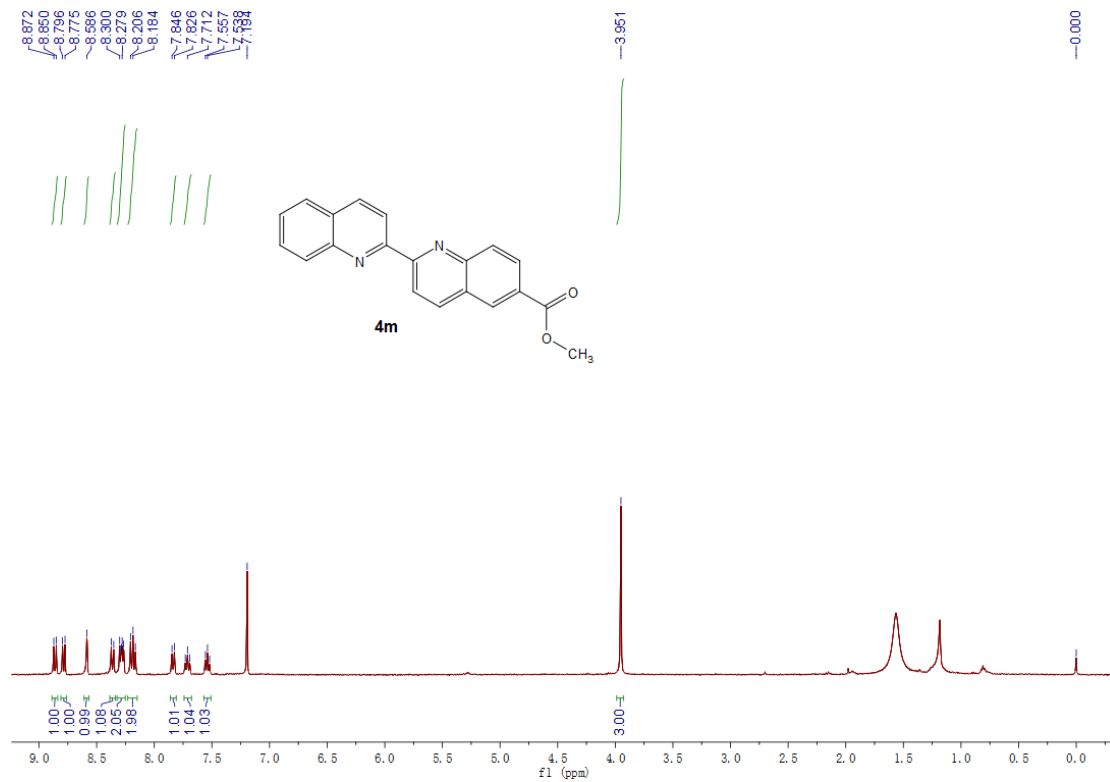


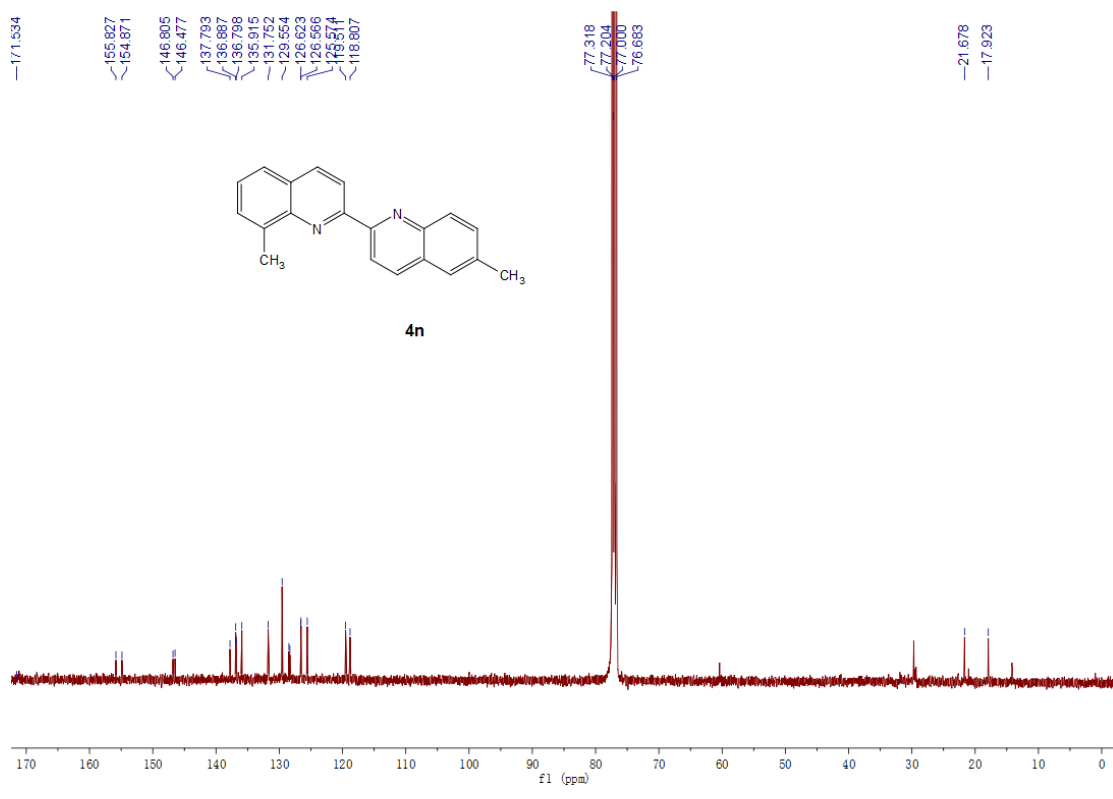
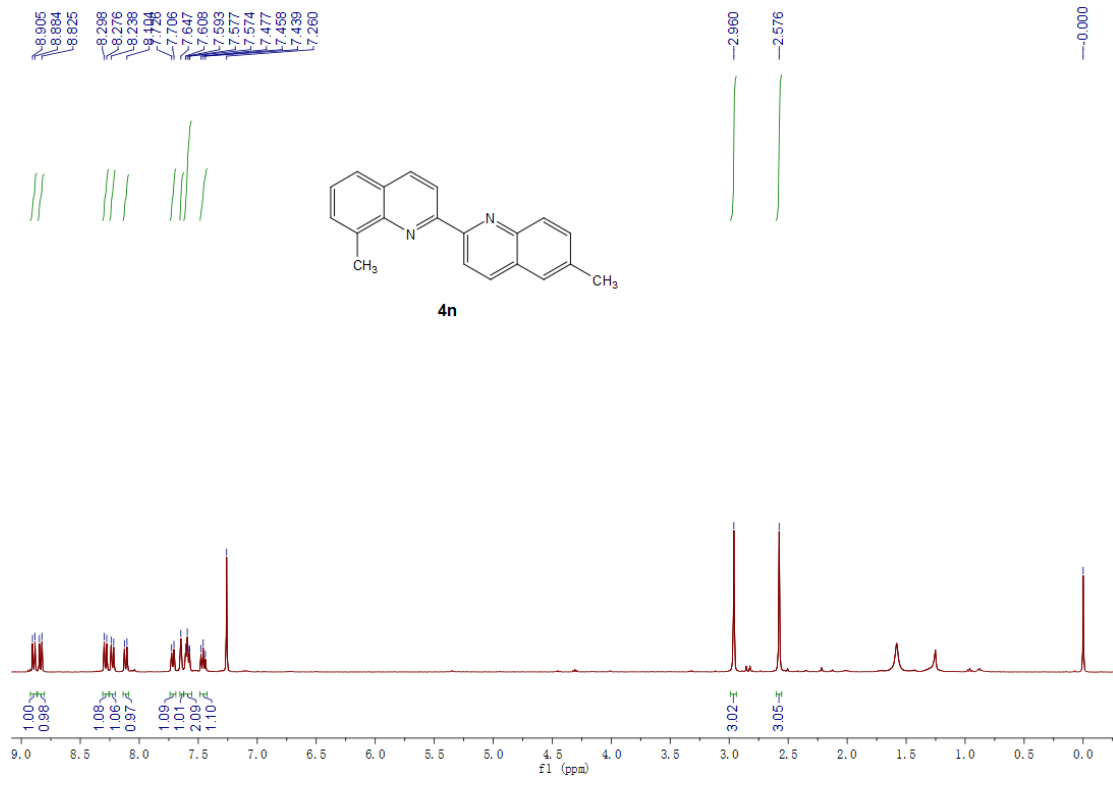


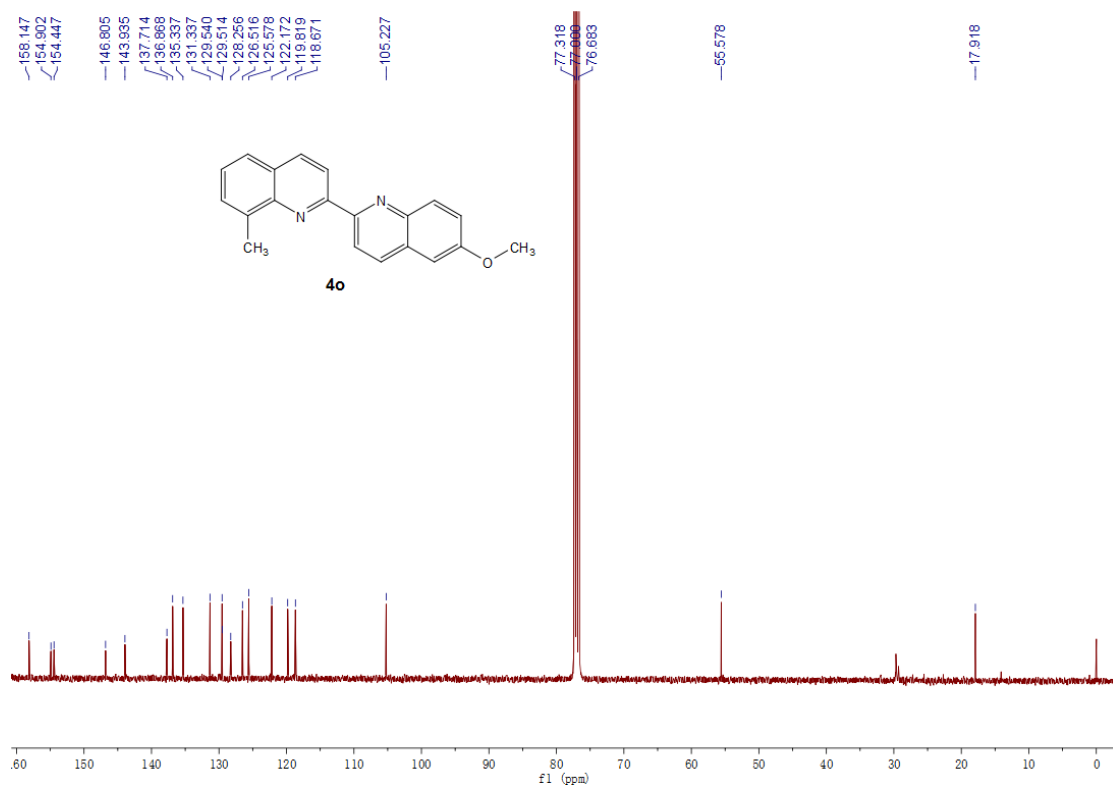
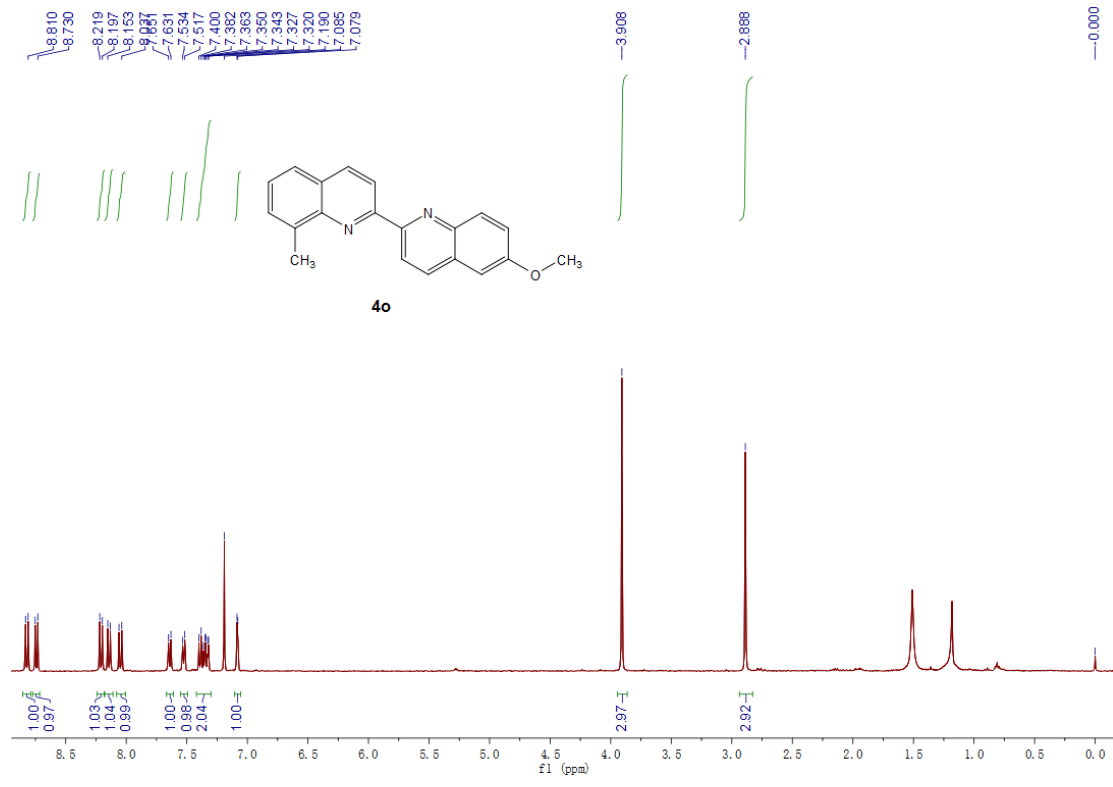


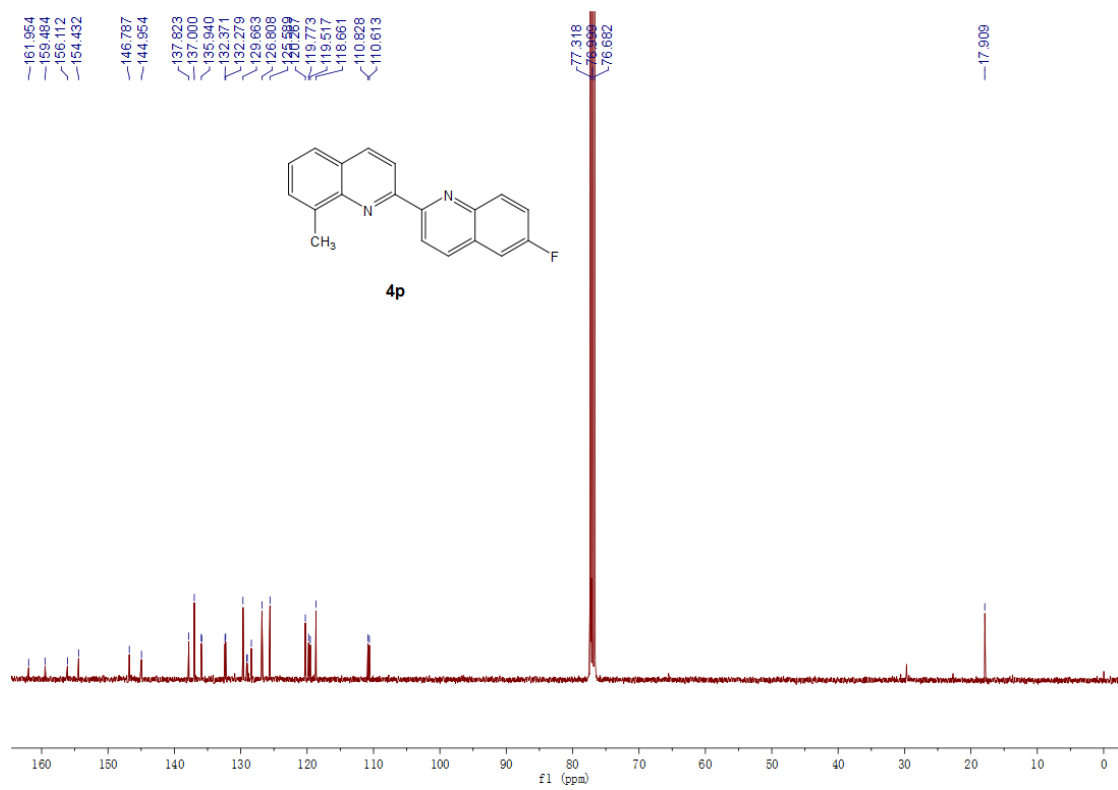
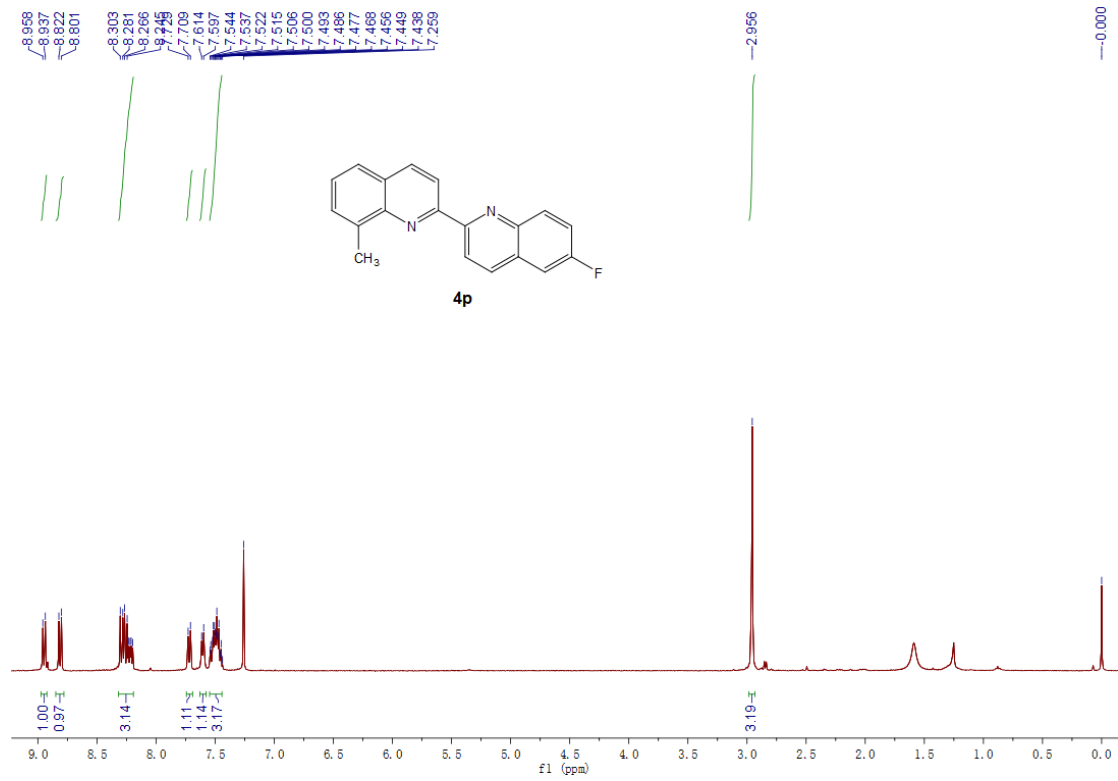


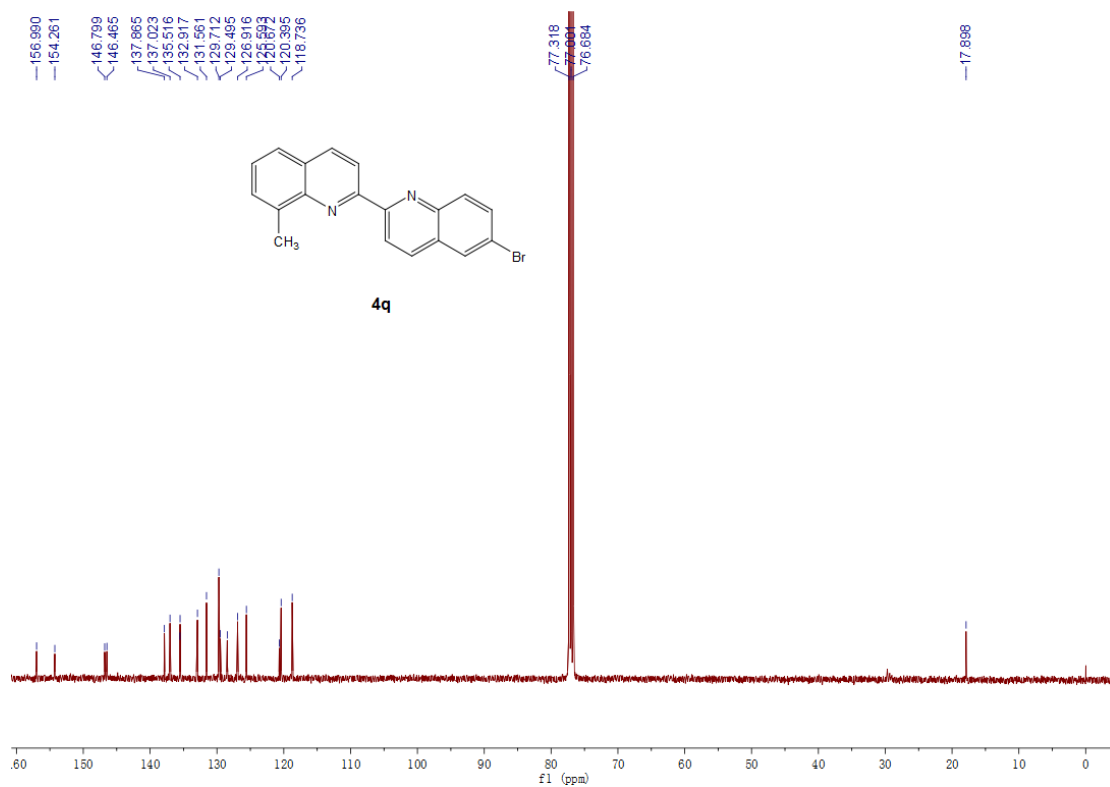
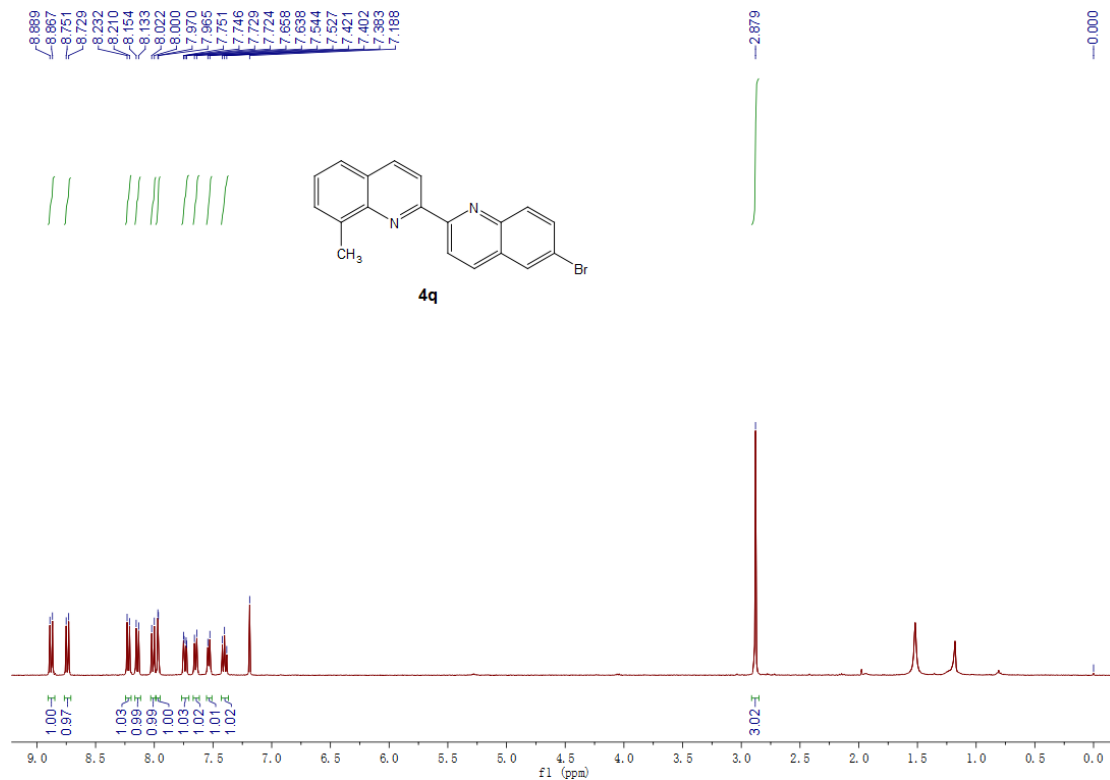


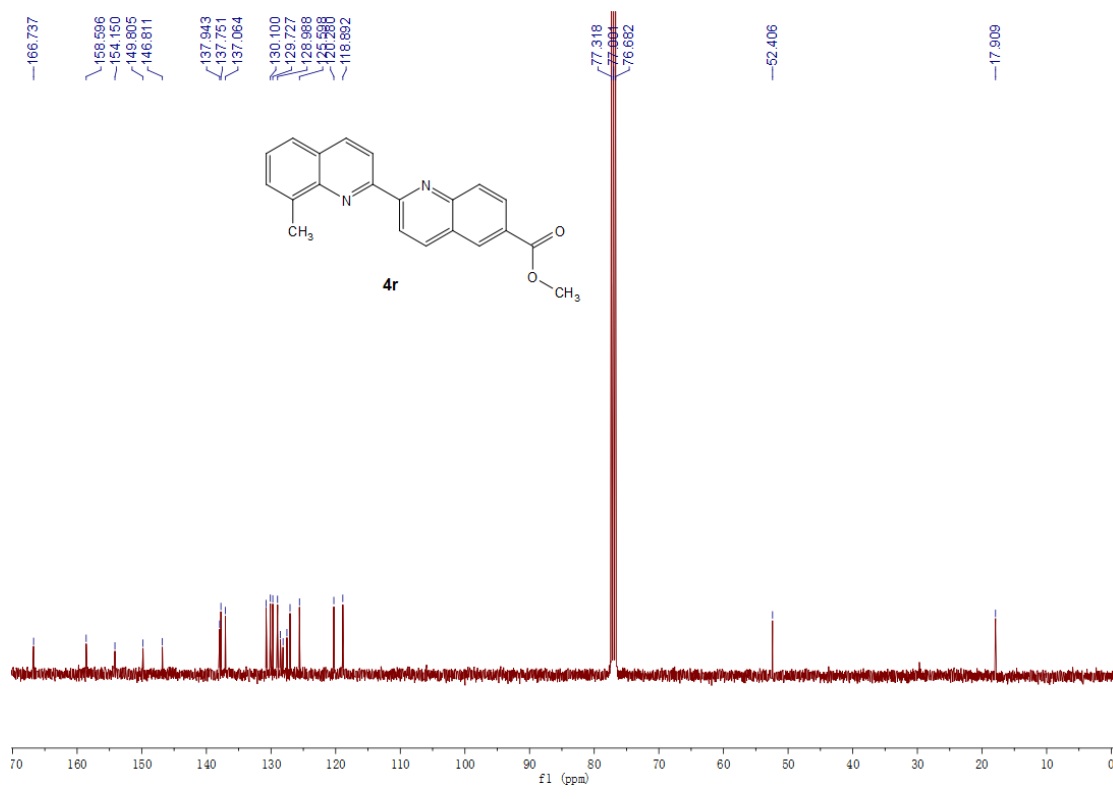
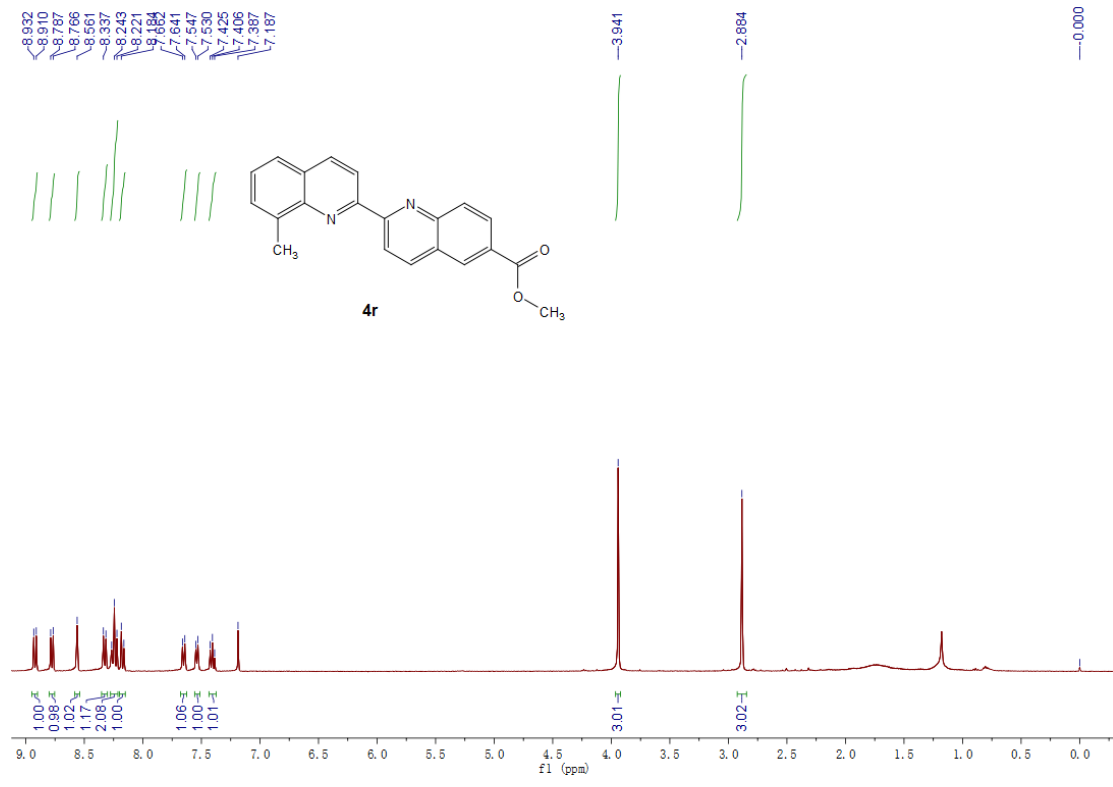


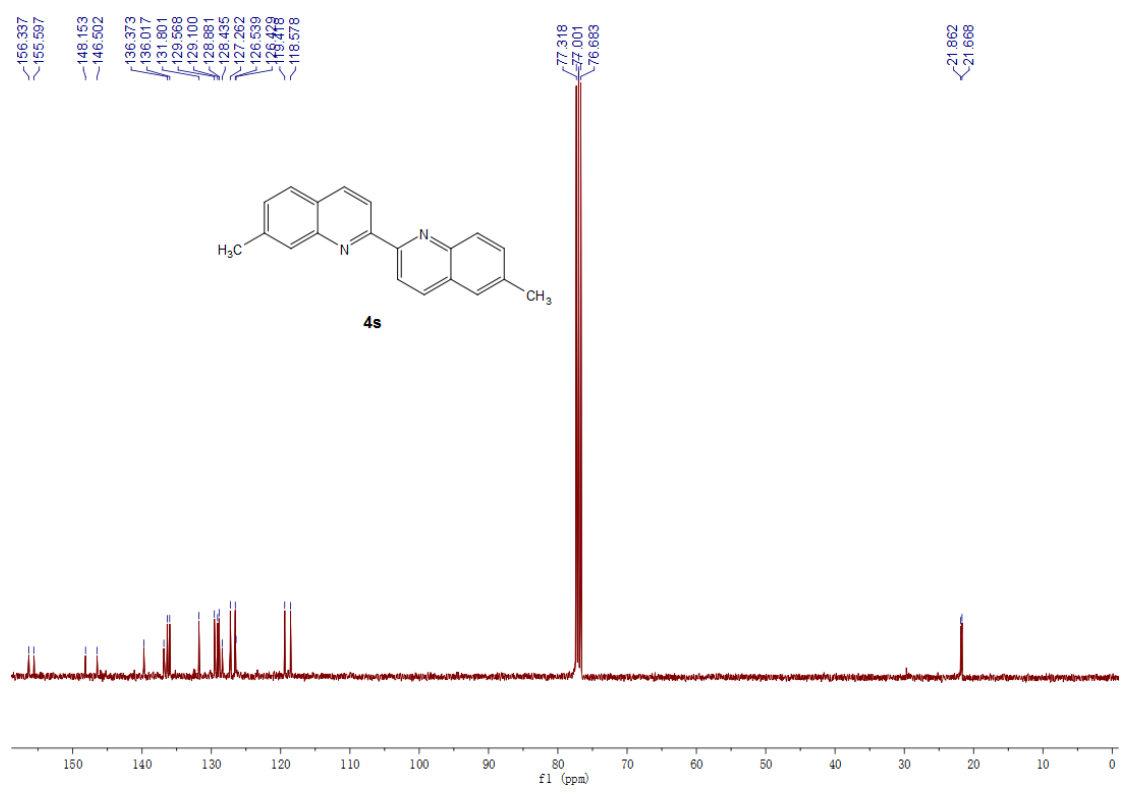
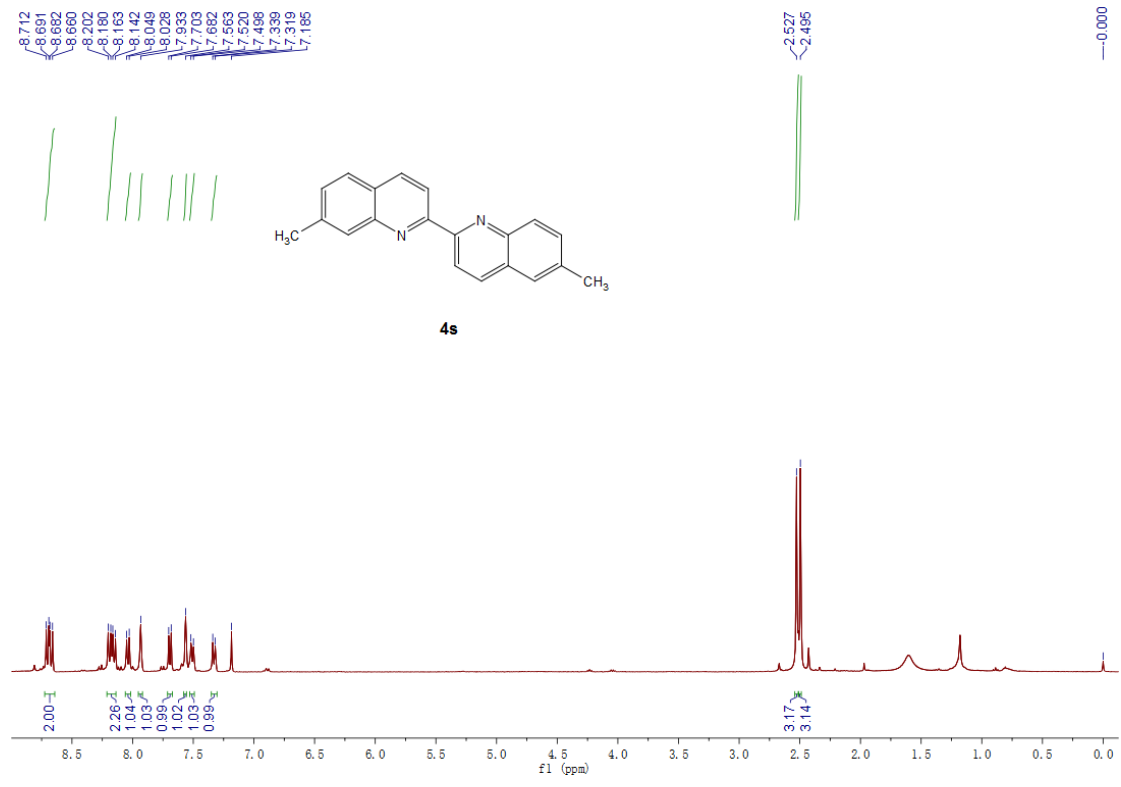




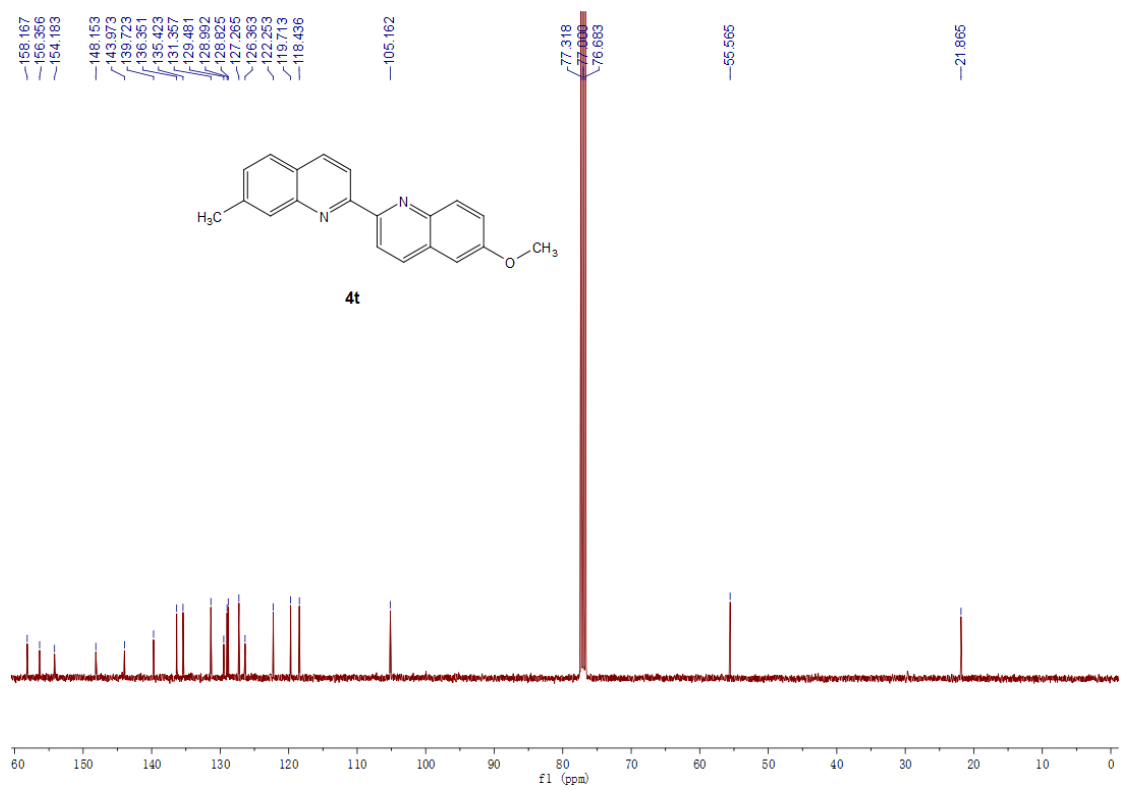
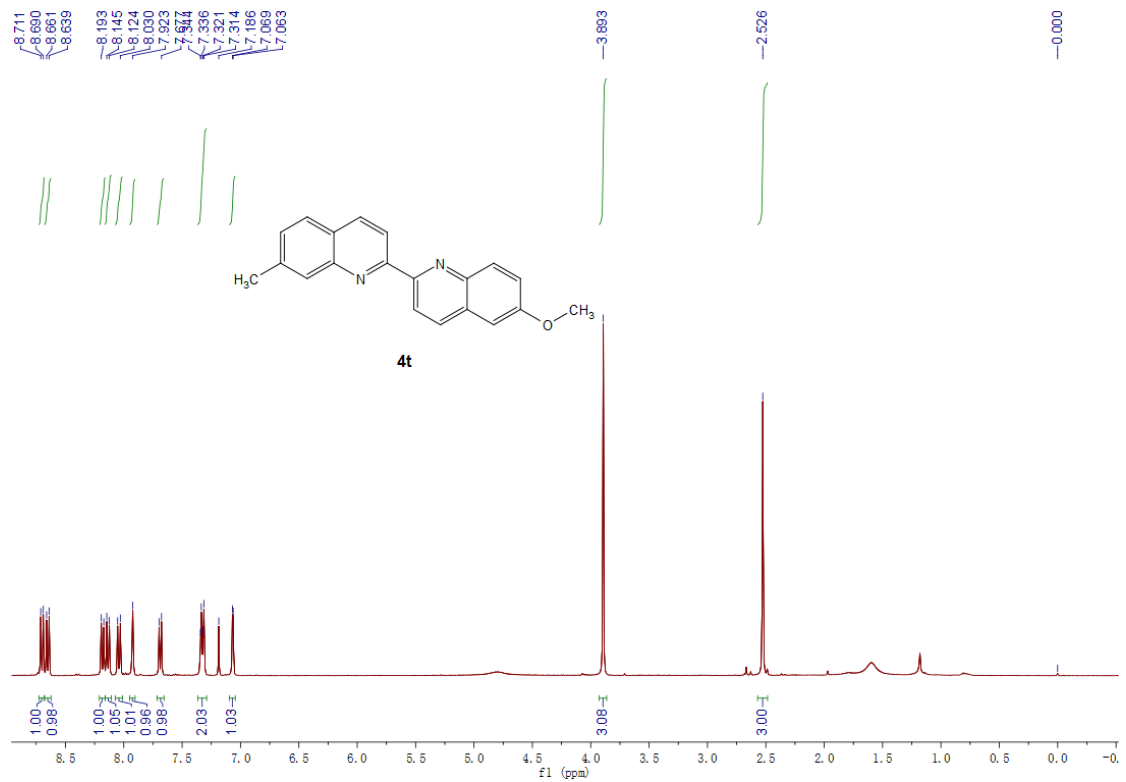


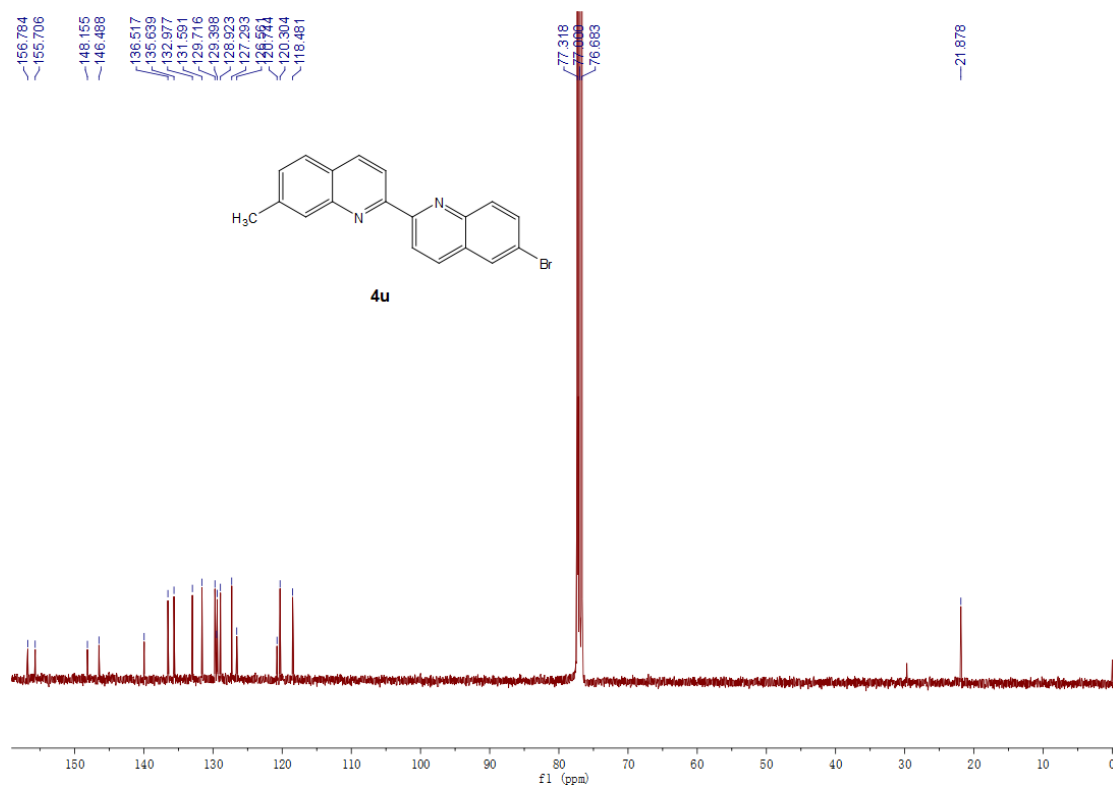
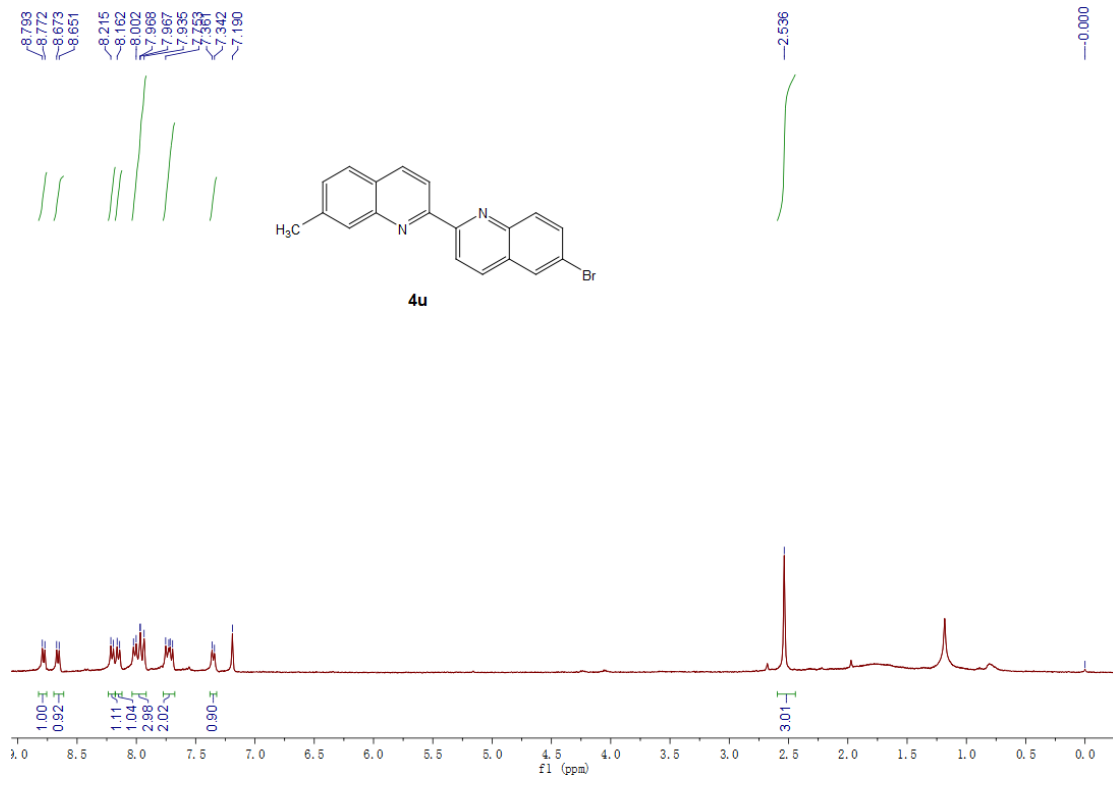


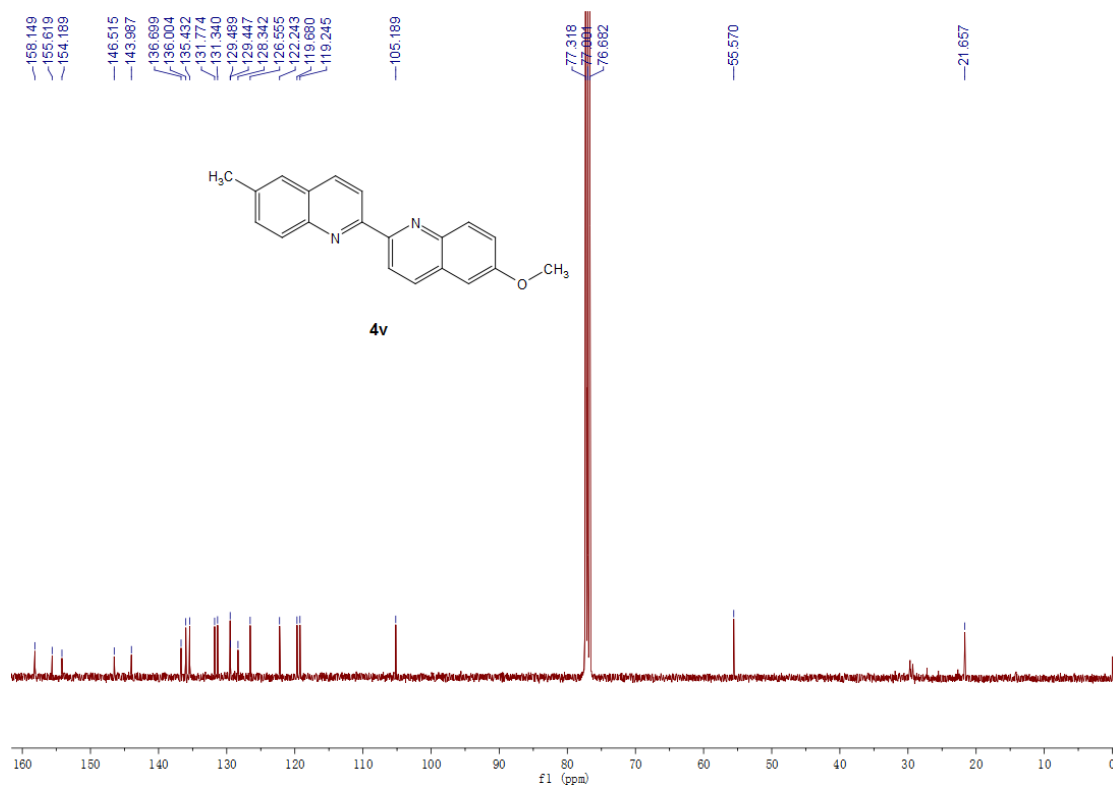
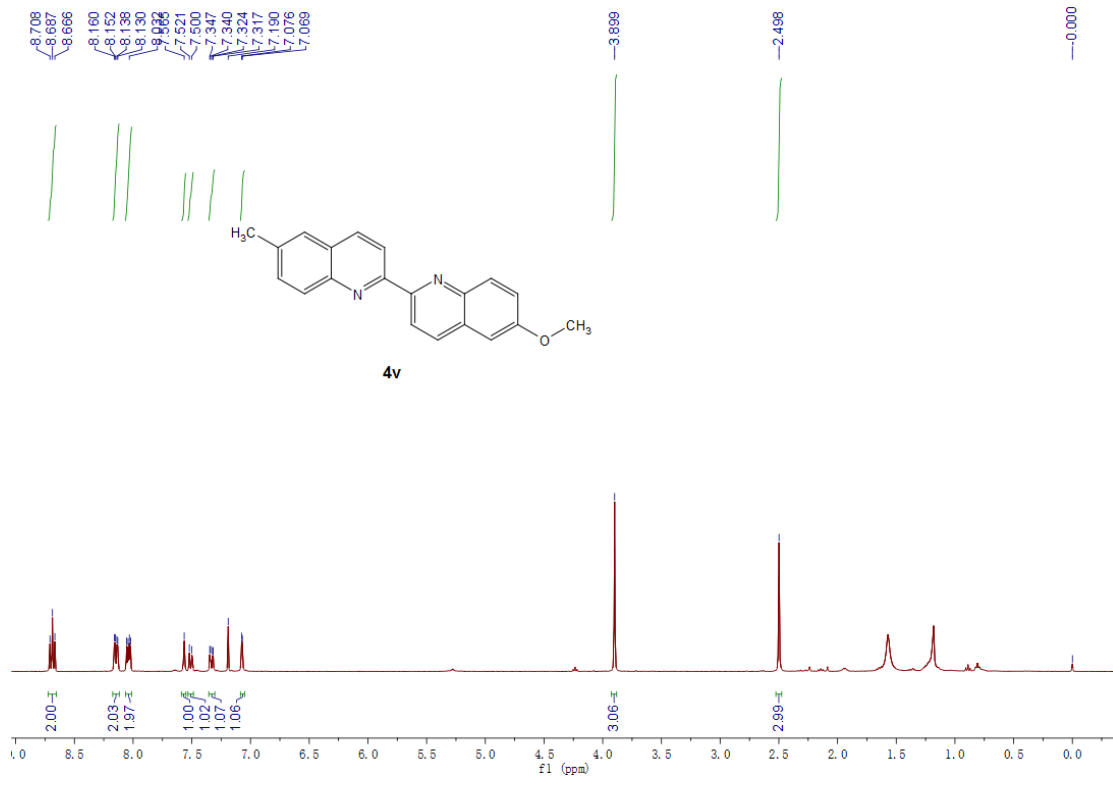


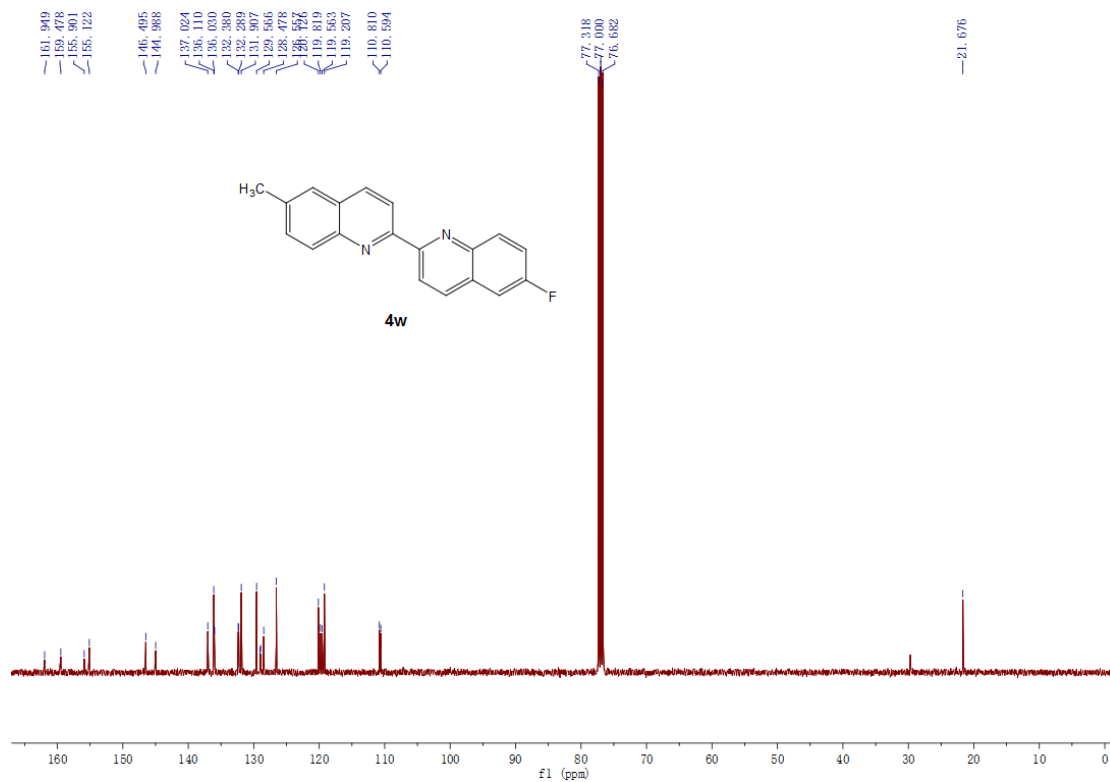
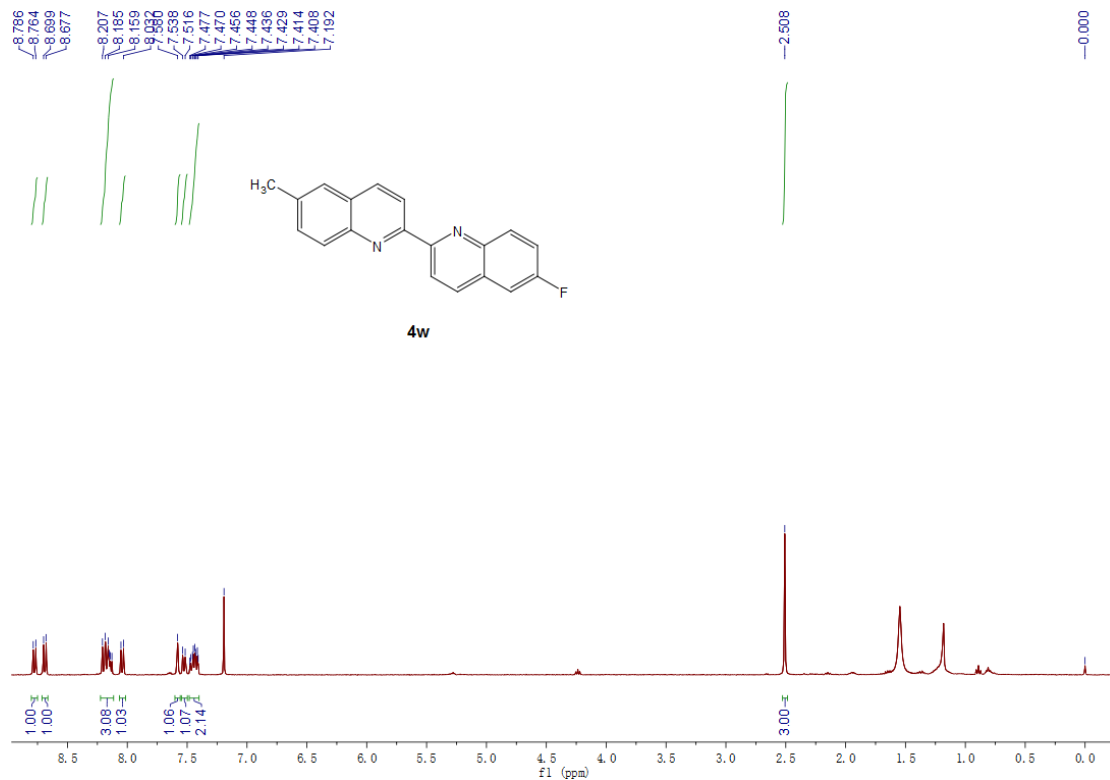


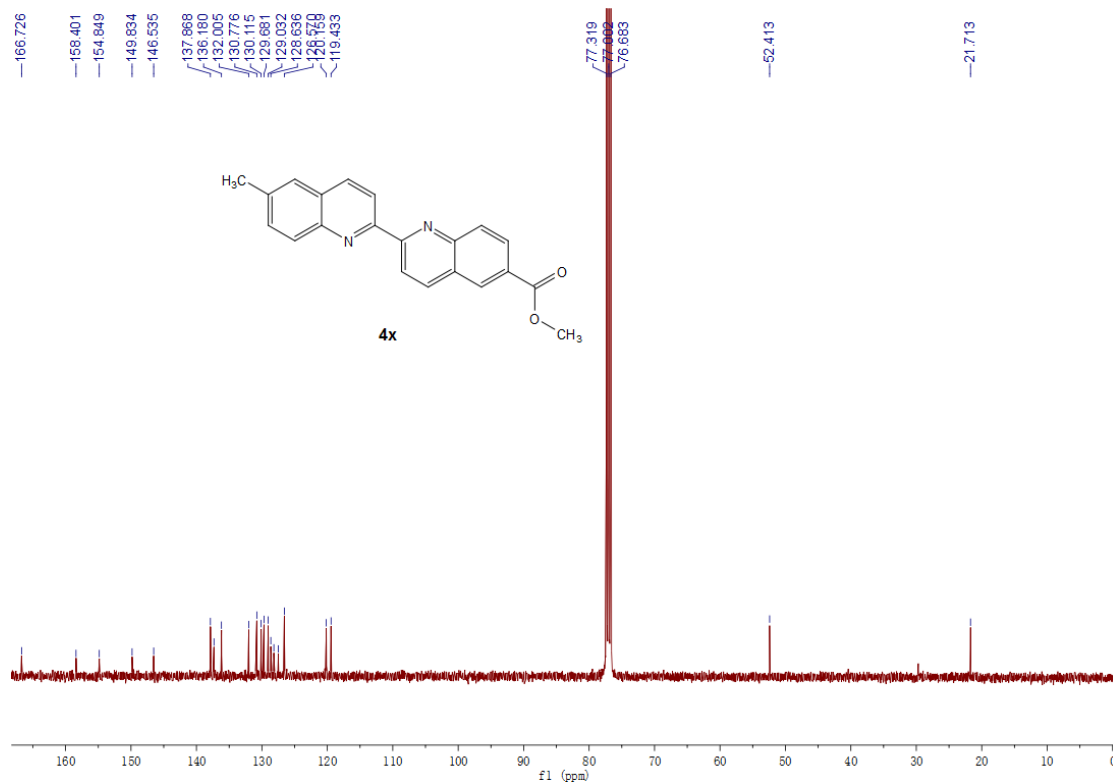
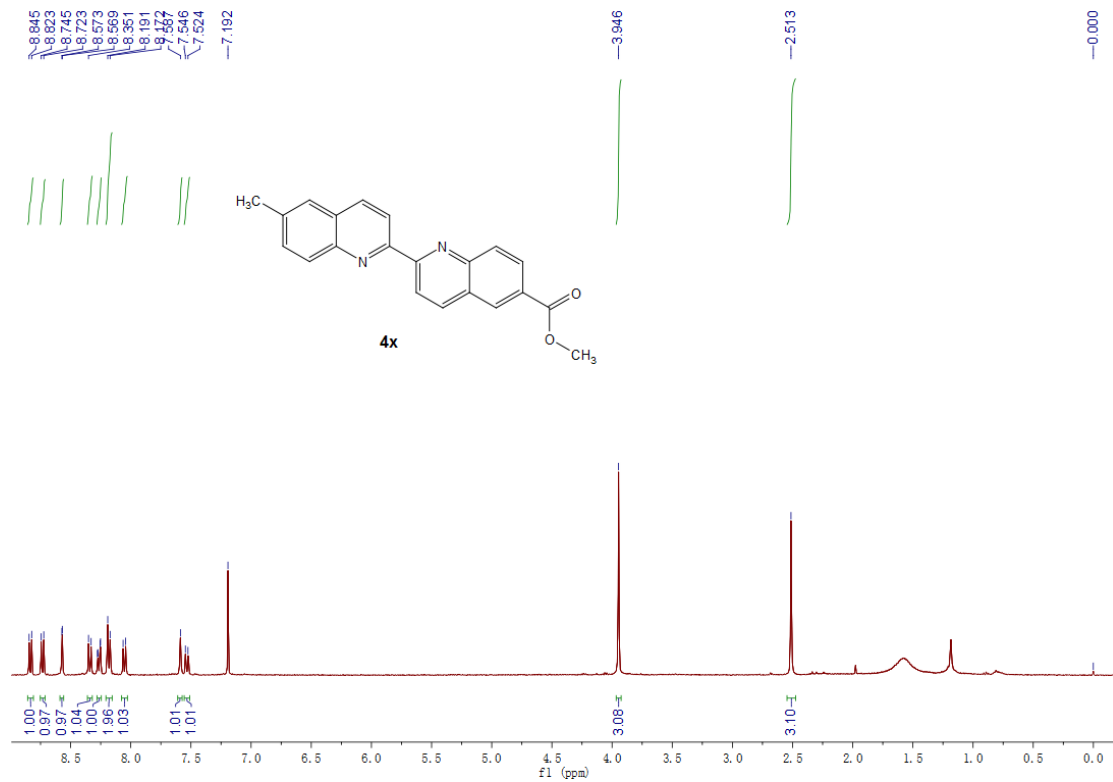


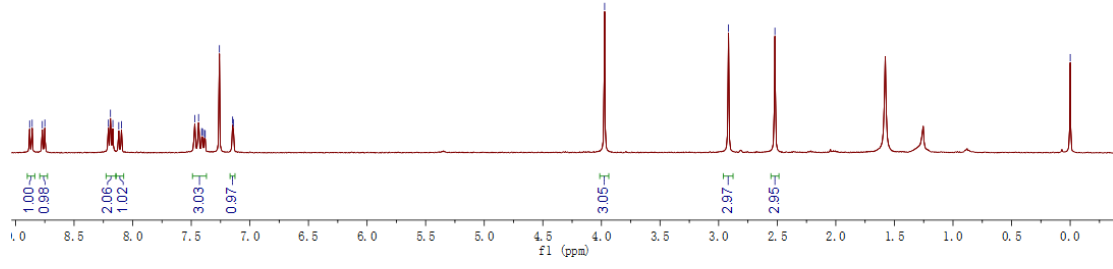
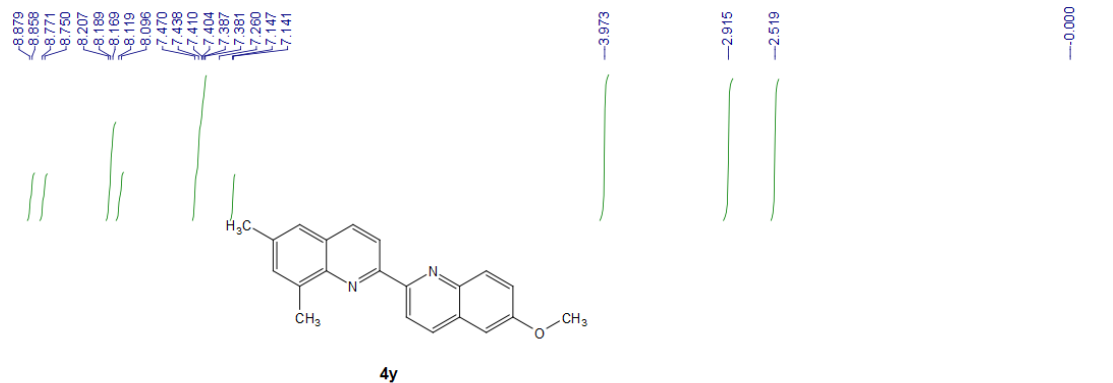


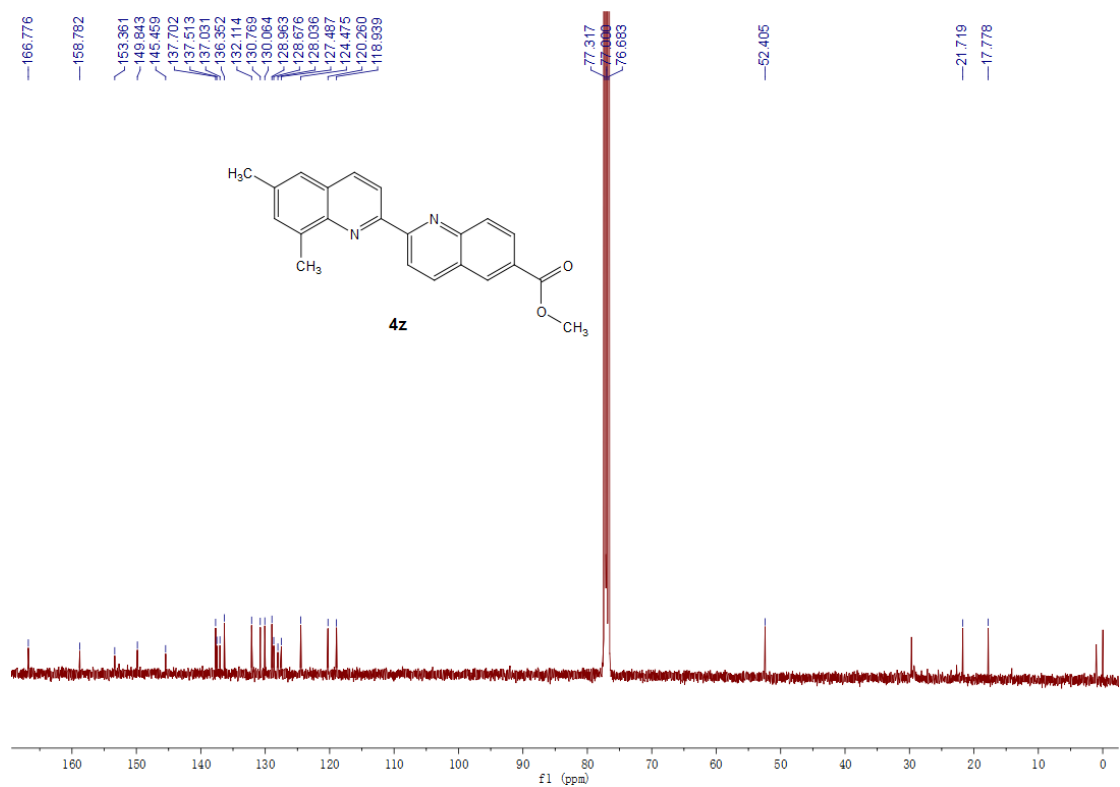
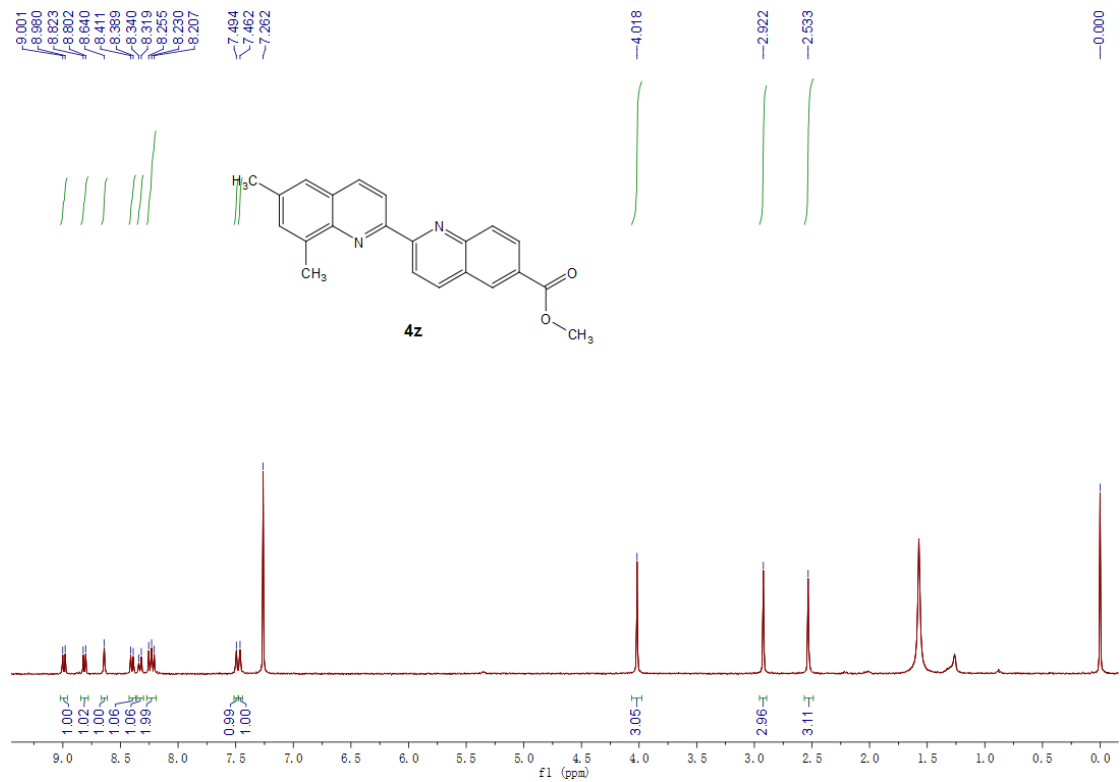


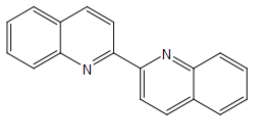
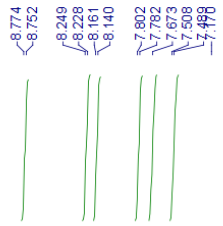




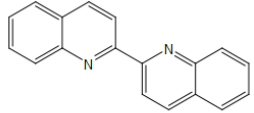
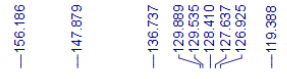
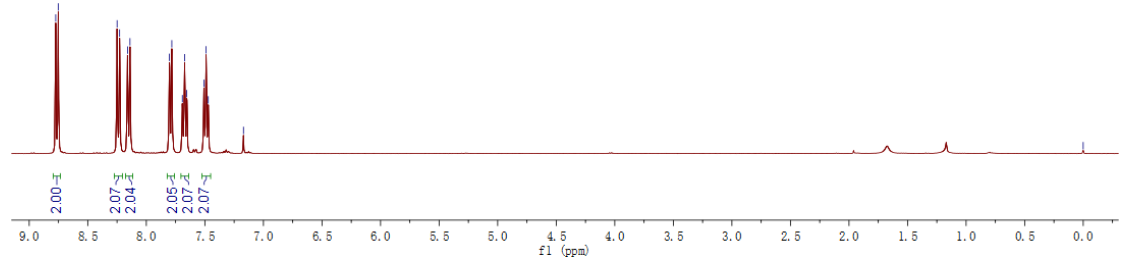








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