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Supporting Information For

Nickel-catalyzed γ -alkylation of cyclopropyl ketones with unactivated primary alkyl chlorides: balancing reactivity and selectivity via halide exchange

Zhen-Ying Wang, Shi-Zheng Liu, Cong Guo, Yi-Zheng Cheng, Qiang Li,* Jianmin Dou,* and Dacheng Li*

Shandong Provincial Key Laboratory of Chemical Energy Storage and Novel Cell Technology,
School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Liaocheng University, Liaocheng 252000, P. R.
China.

E-mail: liqiang9@lcu.edu.cn; jmdou@lcu.edu.cn.; lidacheng62@163.com

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1. General Information

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. Zn powder was activated by reported procedure ^[1]. All Ni-salts were purchased from Energy Chemical, Aladdin, Leyan, Bide pharm, and were used as received. All ligands were purchased from Energy Chemical, Aikon, D&B, Laajoo, and were used as received. All solvents were purchased from Energy Chemical and used as received. Other commercial reagents were purchased from Leyan, Bide pharm, Maya Reagent, TCI, J&K, HEOWNS, MERYER, Aladdin, 9dingchem and Energy Chemical, and were used as received.

Reactions were monitored through thin layer chromatography [Nuo Tai SHF254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2-0.3 mm thickness)]. Flash chromatography was performed with LIANG CHEN GUI YUAN flash silica gel (200-300 mesh).

 1 H NMR, 13 C NMR and 19 F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 500M NMR spectrometer at ambient temperature in CDCl₃ at 500, 125 and 470 MHz, respectively. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm and are referenced to the residual solvent peak for CDCl₃ (δ = 7.26 ppm, 1 H NMR; δ = 77.16 ppm, 13 C NMR). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz. Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quin (quintet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triplets), m (multiplet), etc. GC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu GC-2014C instrument. GC/MS analyses were performed on a Agilent 7000D instrument. High-resolution mass spectral (HRMS) were obtained on a Waters XEVO G2-XS QTOF mass spectrometer with ESI resource.

2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Aryl Alkyl Ketones

Procedure for Preparation of the Cyclopropyl Ketones 1b, 1e and 1g.

According to a *reported procedure A* [2], *n*-BuLi (4.2 mL of a 2.5 M solution in n-hexane, 10.5 mmol, 1.05 equiv) is added dropwise to a solution of the corresponding aryl bromide (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture is stirred at this 30 temperature for additional min, and a solution of N-methoxy-N methylcyclopropanecarboxamide (1.4 g, 10.5 mmol, 1.05 equiv) is added. The mixture is allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred at this temperature for additional 2 h. The reaction mixture is quenched by the addition of water (10 mL) and saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL). The organic phase is separated, and the aqueous layer is extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic phases are dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue is purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using cyclohexane/EtOAc mixtures as eluent to afford the corresponding ketone in analytically pure form.

(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)(cyclopropyl)methanone (1b)

The title compound **1b** was isolated as a white solid (1.66 g, 8.2 mmol, 82% yield)through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.97 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (tt, J = 7.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H), 1.22 (dt, J = 6.8, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (dq, J = 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 200.2, 156.4, 135.4, 128.0, 125.5, 35.1, 31.1,

17.0, 11.4.

cyclopropyl(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (1e)

The title compound **1e** was isolated as a clear oil (1.84 g, 8.6 mmol, 86% yield) through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.11 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (tt, J = 7.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.33 – 1.26 (m, 3H), 1.11 (dq, J = 7.4, 3.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.8, 140.7 (q, J = 0.8 Hz), 134.1 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 128.3, 125.6 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 273.07 Hz), 17.6, 12.2.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -63.06.

cyclopropyl(2-fluorophenyl)methanone (1g)

The title compound **1g** was isolated as a clear oil (1.15 g, 7.0 mmol, 70% yield) through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.75 (td, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 5.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 2.66 (dddd, J = 12.3, 7.6, 4.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (quin, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 1.07 (dq, J = 7.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 198.6 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 160.7 (d, J = 254.3 Hz), 132.9 (d, J = 8.9 Hz), 129.3 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 126.2 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 123.3 (d, J = 3.6 Hz),

115.6 (d, J = 23.5 Hz), 20.4 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 11.4. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -111.51.

Procedure for Preparation of the Cyclopropyl Ketones 1f.

$$R \stackrel{\text{||}}{=} Pd(Ph_3)_2Cl_2, K_3PO_4 \cdot H_2O$$

$$N_2, PhMe, 80°C, 16h$$

According to a *reported procedure B* [3], a mixture of phenylboronic acid (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dichlorobis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.4 mmol, 2 mol%), potassium

phosphate tribasic monohydrate (30 mmol, 1.5 equiv), acid chlorides (24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and toluene (100 mL) were heated at 80 °C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was cool to room temperature and filtered through a short pad of celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Then the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (PE/EA = 10:1) to afford cyclopropylketone.

ethyl 4-(cyclopropanecarbonyl)benzoate (1f)

The title compound **1f** was isolated as a clear oil (3.06 g, 14 mmol, 70% yield) through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.14 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (tt, J = 8.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (p, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 1.10 (dq, J = 7.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.3, 165.9, 141.2, 133.9, 129.7, 127.9, 61.4, 17.6, 14.3, 12.2.

Procedure for Preparation of the Cyclopropyl Ketones 1j and 1k.

$$R_{1} \stackrel{\square}{ \square} \qquad Br \qquad PPh_{3}, NaOH \qquad QPPh_{3} \qquad O \qquad R_{2} \qquad O \qquad R_{2} \qquad QPPh_{3} \qquad QP$$

According to a *reported procedure C* ^[4], to a solution of α-bromoacetophenone **S1** (20 mmol, 1 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was added triphenylphosphine (5.2 g, 20 mmol, 1 equiv) slowly at room temperature. The solution was allowed to stir for 4 h, and the resulting mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂: H₂O (50 mL, 40:60), and NaOH (1.6 g, 40 mmol, 2 equiv) was added. Then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h before being extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×70 mL). The combine organic extracts were washed with brine (3×100 mL), dried, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude **S2**, which was used without further purification. To a solution of aldehydes (20 mmol, 1 equiv) in CHCl₃ (40 mL) at room temperature was added the crude **S2**, and the solution was allowed to stir for 12 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate= 20:1) to provide the desired

products S3.

A flame-dried round bottom flask was charged with solid NaH (60% in mineral oil, 1.2 equiv), trimethylsulfoxonium iodide (1.2 equiv), and a magnetic stir bar. The flask was placed under N_2 atmosphere, and DMSO (0.35 M) was added dropwise with stirring. After the hydrogen evolution ceased, the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 15 min, during which the solution became clear. A solution of the α , β -unsaturated ketone S3 (1 equiv) in DMSO (0.5 M) was added by syringe. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature. After 2 h, the reaction was quenched with water, and the mixture was extracted $3\times$ with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate= 20:1) to provide the desired products 1.

(±)-trans-(2-methylcyclopropyl)(phenyl)methanone (1j)

The title compound **1j** was isolated as a clear oil (0.63 g, 3.95 mmol, 79% yield) through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (dt, J = 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (dqt, J = 12.2, 6.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dt, J = 8.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (ddd, J = 7.7, 6.4, 3.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 200.2, 138.2, 132.6, 128.5, 128.0, 26.4, 21.3, 20.1, 18.3.

(±)-trans-(2- phenylcyclopropyl)(phenyl)methanone (1k)

The title compound **1k** was isolated as a clear oil (0.83 g, 3.75 mmol, 75% yield) through flash chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.03 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48

-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 - 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.20 - 7.15 (m, 2H), 2.93 - 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.73 - 2.67 (m, 1H), 1.92 (dt, J = 9.3, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (ddd, J = 7.9, 6.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 198.6, 140.5, 137.8, 132.9, 128.6, 128.1, 126.6, 126.3, 30.0, 29.3, 19.2.

3. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Optimization of the Ligands

Entry	Ligand	3aa ^a	4a ^a	$\mathbf{1a}^b$
1	L1	45%	13%	44%
2	L2	N.D.	N.D.	80%
3	L3	64%	6%	23%
4	L4	78%	7%	N.D.
5	L5	74%	5%	6%
6	L6	64%	28%	31%
7	L7	21%	18%	62%
8	L8	40%	29%	35%
9	L9	23%	19%	64%
10	L10	61%	15%	N.D.
11	L11	N.D.	36%	84%
12	L12	N.D.	38%	77%

Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂(dme) (10 mol%), ligand (10 mol%), NaI (1.5 equiv), and Zn (3.0 equiv) in DMA (0.5 mL) at 50 °C for 24 h. ^a Yields were detected by GC yields vs hexadecane internal standard. ^b Yields of the recovered **1a** after the reaction. N.D. = not detected.

Table S2. Optimization of the Catalysts

Entry	Catalyst	$3aa^a$	$4a^a$	$\mathbf{1a}^b$
1	NiBr ₂ (dme)	78%	7%	N.D.
2	NiCl ₂ (dme)	67%	8%	13%
3	NiI_{2}	12%	41%	77%
4	$NiBr_2$	20%	13%	62%
5	$NiCl_2$	61%	11%	N.D.
6	NiBr ₂ ·diglyme	67%	13%	24%
7	NiClO ₄ ·6H ₂ O	Trace	13%	73%
8	$Ni(COD)_2$	28%	5%	8%

Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), [Ni] (10 mol%), L4 (10 mol%), NaI (1.5 equiv), and Zn (3.0 equiv) in DMA (0.5 mL) at 50 °C for 24 h. ^a Yields were detected by GC yields vs hexadecane internal standard. ^b Yields of the recovered **1a** after the reaction. N.D. = not detected.

Table S3. Optimization of the Additives

Entry	Additive	$3aa^a$	$4a^a$	$\mathbf{1a}^b$
1	NaI	78%	7%	N.D.
2	KI	54%	3%	N.D.
3	LiI	61%	12%	15%
4	$\mathrm{NH_{4}I}$	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.
5	TBAI	61%	9%	20%
6	LiBr	27%	45%	35%
7	NaBr	37%	15%	38%
8	KBr	10%	N.D.	57%
9	TBAB	30%	45%	38%

Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂(dme) (10 mol%), L4 (10 mol%), additive (1.5 equiv), and Zn (3.0 equiv) in DMA (0.5 mL) at 50 °C for 24 h. ^a Yields were detected by GC yields vs hexadecane internal standard. ^b Yields of the recovered **1a** after the reaction. N.D. = not detected.

Table S4. Optimization of the Solvents

Entry	Solvent	3aa ^a	4a ^a	$\mathbf{1a}^b$
1	DMA (0.5mL)	78%	7%	N.D.
2	DMA (1.0mL)	16%	31%	70%
3	DMF (0.5mL)	56%	2%	N.D.
4	NMP(0.5mL)	38%	6%	6%
5	THF (0.5mL)	Trace	N.D.	48%
6	CH_3CN (0.5mL)	N.D.	N.D.	46%

Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), NiBr₂(dme) (10 mol%), L4 (10 mol%), NaI (1.5 equiv), and Zn (3.0 equiv) in solvent (x mL) at 50 °C for 24 h. ^a Yields were detected by GC yields vs hexadecane internal standard. ^b Yields of the recovered **1a** after the reaction. N.D. = not detected.

4. Nickel-Catalyzed Ring Opening of Cyclopropyl Ketones with Alkyl Chlorides

To a Schlenk tube (10 mL) equipped with a stir bar was added NiBr₂(dme) (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%), Ligand L4 (3.7 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol%) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 0.5 mL of dry DMA was added via syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Zn powder (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (1) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alkyl chloride (2) (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The resulting black solution was cooled to room temperature, passed through a plug of silica gel (200-300 mesh) and the silica gel was rinsed with 5 mL of ethyl acetate to afford a yellow solution. The solvent and volatile materials were removed by rotary evaporator. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to furnish the corresponding product 3 in 72% yield (38.3 mg).

5. Analytical Data of Substrates and Products

1,7-diphenylheptan-1-one (3aa)

The title compound **3aa** was isolated as a clear oil (38.3 mg, 72%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.95 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (quin, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.67 – 1.59 (m, 3H), 1.45 – 1.34

(m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.6, 142.7, 137.1, 132.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 125.6, 38.6, 35.9, 31.3, 29.2, 29.1, 24.3.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{22}O$: 267.1749, found: 267.1751.

1,6-diphenylhexan-1-one (3ab) [5]

The title compound **3ab** was isolated as a clear oil (31.8 mg, 63%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.97 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.78 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (quin, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H). (quin, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.4, 142.6, 137.1, 132.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 125.7, 38.5, 35.8, 31.3, 29.0, 24.2.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O$: 275.1412, found: 275.1415.

ethyl 4-undecanoylbenzoate (3fc)

The title compound **3ac** was isolated as a white solid (43.3 mg, 68%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.20 (m, 17H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.1, 165.8, 140.2, 134.0, 129.8, 127.9, 61.4, 39.0, 31.9, 29.58, 29.50, 29.47, 29.3, 24.2, 22.7, 14.3, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{30}O_3$: 319.2273, found: 319.2273.

Melting point: 49.2 - 49.7 °C.

1-phenyldodecan-1-one (3ad)^[5]

The title compound **3ad** was isolated as a white solid (37.5 mg, 72%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 60:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.20 (m, 14H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.6, 137.1, 132.9, 128.5, 128.1, 38.7, 31.9, 29.63, 29.62, 29.52, 29.49, 29.4, 29.3, 24.4, 22.7, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H] + calcd for C₁₈H₂₈O: 261.2218, found: 261.2223.

ethyl 4-(6-ethyldecanoyl)benzoate (3fe)

The title compound **3ae** was isolated as a clear oil (17.9 mg, 27%); $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.38 – 1.19 (m, 14H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.1, 165.8, 140.2, 134.1, 129.8, 127.9, 61.4,

39.1, 38.7, 33.0, 32.8, 29.0, 26.5, 25.8, 24.7, 23.1, 14.3, 14.2, 10.9.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+K]^+$ calcd for $C_{21}H_{32}O_3$: 371.1988, found: 371.1994.

ethyl 4-(8-ethoxy-8-oxooctanoyl)benzoate (3ff)

The title compound **3af** was isolated as a white solid (47.5 mg, 71%); $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum

ether:ethyl acetate = 6:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (quin, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.34 (m, 7H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.8, 173.7, 165.8, 140.2, 134.1, 129.8, 127.9, 61.4, 60.2, 38.8, 34.3, 28.93, 28.90, 24.8, 23.9, 14.27, 14.25.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}O_5$: 335.1858, found: 335.1867.

Melting point: 56.5 - 57.0 °C.

methyl 9-oxo-9-phenylnonanoate (3ag)

The title compound **3ag** was isolated as a clear oil (17.8 mg, 34%); $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 10:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.31 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.5, 174.3, 137.1, 132.9, 128.6, 128.1, 51.5, 38.5, 34.1, 29.2, 29.1, 29.0, 24.9, 24.3.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{22}O_3$: 263.1647, found: 263.1651.

1-phenyl-7-(trimethylsilyl)heptan-1-one (3ah)

The title compound **3ah** was isolated as a clear oil (33.6 mg, 64%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 40:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.96 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.34 (m, 4H), 0.52 – 0.44 (m, 2H), -0.03 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 202.1, 138.6, 134.3, 130.0, 129.5, 40.1, 34.9,

30.6, 25.8, 25.2, 18.1, -0.2.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{26}OSi$: 285.1651, found: 285.1656.

1-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-7-phenylheptan-1-one (3ba)

The title compound **3ba** was isolated as a yellow oil (23.8 mg, 37%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 30:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 2.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 – 1.36 (m, 4H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.3, 156.6, 142.8, 134.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 125.6, 125.5, 38.5, 35.9, 35.1, 31.3, 31.1, 29.3, 29.1, 24.4.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H] + calcd for C₂₃H₃₀O: 323.2375, found: 323.2379.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-phenylheptan-1-one (3ca)

The title compound **3ca** was isolated as a clear oil (19.5 mg, 33%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 10:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, 2H), 1.72 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.34 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.2, 163.3, 142.8, 130.3, 130.2, 128.4, 128.3, 125.6, 113.7, 55.5, 38.3, 35.9, 31.4, 29.3, 29.2, 24.6.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}O_2$: 297.1854, found: 297.1851.

1-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-phenylheptan-1-one (3da) [6]

The title compound **3da** was isolated as a yellow oil (48.3 mg, 85%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.97 (dd, J = 8.7, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 2.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.34 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 198.9, 165.7 (d, J = 254.7 Hz), 142.7, 133.5 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 130.7 (d, J = 9.4 Hz), 128.4, 128.3, 125.6, 115.6 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 38.5, 35.9, 31.3, 29.2, 29.1, 24.3.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -105.73.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}FO$: 285.1654, found: 285.1654.

7-phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)heptan-1-one (3ea)

The title compound **3ea** was isolated as a white solid (54.8 mg, 82%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.04 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 2.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (quin, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.35 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.4, 142.7, 139.7, 134.2 (p, J = 32.6 Hz), 128.40, 128.36, 128.3, 125.66 (p, J = 3.7 Hz), 125.64, 123.6 (p, J = 273.3 Hz), 38.9, 35.9, 31.3, 29.10, 29.05, 24.0.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -63.08.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{21}F_3O$: 335.1622, found: 335.1623.

Melting point: 39.8 - 40.3 °C.

Ethyl 4-(7-phenylheptanoyl)benzoate (3fa)

S15

The title compound **3fa** was isolated as a clear oil (49.4 mg, 73%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 15:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (quin, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.36 (m, 7H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.0, 165.8, 142.7, 140.2, 134.1, 129.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 125.6, 61.4, 38.9, 35.9, 31.3, 29.12, 29.06, 24.1, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{22}H_{26}O_3$: 339.1960, found: 339.1959.

1-(2-fluorophenyl)-7-phenylheptan-1-one (3ga)

The title compound **3ga** was isolated as a clear oil (33.0 mg, 58%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 15:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.83 (td, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 5.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 11.2, 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (td, J = 7.3, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.71 (quin, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.44 – 1.34 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.0 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 161.8 (d, J = 254.6 Hz), 142.8, 134.3 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 130.6 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 128.4, 128.2, 126.0 (d, J = 13.4 Hz),125.6, 124.4 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 116.6 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 43.6 (d, J = 6.9 Hz), 35.9, 31.3, 29.1, 23.94, 23.93.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ -109.71.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}FO$: 285.1654, found: 285.1657.

7-phenyl-1-(m-tolyl)heptan-1-one (3ha)

The title compound **3ha** was isolated as a yellow oil (34.2 mg, 61%); $R_f = 0.6$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.78 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 2.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.73 (quin, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.35 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 200.8, 142.8, 138.3, 137.2, 133.6, 128.6, 128.43, 128.41, 128.3, 125.6, 125.3, 38.6, 35.9, 31.3, 29.2, 29.1, 24.3, 21.4.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}O$: 281.1905, found: 281.1910.

7-phenyl-1-(pyridin-4-yl)heptan-1-one (3ia)

The title compound **3ia** was isolated as a brown oil (35.8 mg, 67%); $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 2:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.82 – 8.77 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (quin, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.64 (quin, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 – 1.35 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.8, 151.0, 142.8, 142.6, 128.4, 128.3, 125.7, 121.1, 38.8, 35.9, 31.2, 29.03, 29.00, 23.7.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{21}NO$: 290.1521, found: 290.1518.

(S)-3-methyl-1,7-diphenylheptan-1-one (3ja) [7]

The title compound **3ja** was isolated as a clear oil (34.7 mg, 62%); $R_f = 0.45$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 30:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H),

7.45 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 2.93 (dd, J = 15.8, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 15.8, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.20 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.21 (m, 2H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C **NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-d)** δ 200.4, 142.7, 137.5, 132.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 125.6, 46.0, 36.9, 35.9, 31.6, 29.8, 26.7, 20.0.

HRMS (**ESI**) m/z: [M+H] + calcd for C₂₀H₂₄O: 281.1905, found: 281.1909.

(S)-1,3,7-triphenylheptan-1-one (3ka) [7]

The title compound **3ka** was isolated as a clear oil (21.2 mg, 31%); $R_f = 0.55$ (petroleum ether:ethyl acetate = 20:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.89 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.07 (m, 11H), 3.39 – 3.16 (m, 3H), 2.60 – 2.43 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.61 – 1.52 (m, 2H), 1.27 – 1.15 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 199.1, 144.9, 142.7, 137.2, 132.9, 128.5, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 126.3, 125.6, 45.9, 41.2, 36.1, 35.7, 31.4, 27.1.

HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{26}O$: 343.2062, found: 343.2069.

6. Scale-up to 10.0 mmol for the Synthesis of 3aa.

To a Schlenk tube (100 mL) equipped with a stir bar was added NiBr₂(dme) (309 mg, 1.0 mmol, 10 mol %), Ligand **L4** (184 mg, 1.0 mmol, 10 mol %) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 25 mL of dry DMA was added via syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (2.25 g, 15.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Zn powder (1.96 g, 30.0 mmol, 3 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (**1a**) (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alkyl chloride (**2a**) (20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The resulting black solution was cooled to room temperature, passed through a plug of silica gel (200–300 mesh) and the silica gel was rinsed with 75 mL of ethyl acetate to afford a yellow solution. The solvent and volatile materials were removed by rotary evaporator. The crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product **3aa** in 70% yield (1.86 g).

7. Control Experiments.

A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NiBr₂(dme) (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol 10 mol %), **L4** (3.7 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 0.5 mL of dry DMA was added via syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from

the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Zn powder (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (1a) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alkyl bromide (2i) or alkyl iodide (2j) (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NaBr (31.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles), 0.5 mL of dry DMA and alkyl chloride (2a) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was then added via syringe, respectively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. To this solution, NiBr₂(dme) (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol 10 mol %), L4 (3.7 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %), Zn powder (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv) and cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (1a) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added successively inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours again. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NaI (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles), 0.5 mL of dry DMA and alkyl chloride (2a) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was then added via syringe, respectively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. To this solution, NiBr₂(dme) (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol 10 mol %), L4 (3.7 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %), Zn powder (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv) and cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (1a) (0.2 mmol,

1.0 equiv) was added successively inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours again. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NiBr₂(dme) (6.2 mg, 0.02 mmol 10 mol %), **L4** (3.7 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 0.5 mL of dry DMA was added via syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Zn powder (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), TEMPO (62.5 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alkyl chloride (**2a**) (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

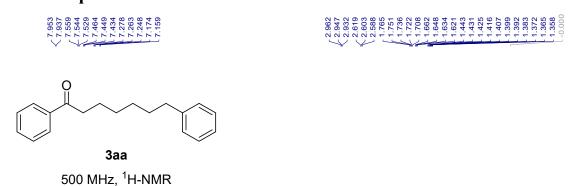
A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NiBr₂(dme) (55.0 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv), **L4** (36.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 0.5 mL of dry DMA was added via syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and alkyl chloride (**2a**) (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

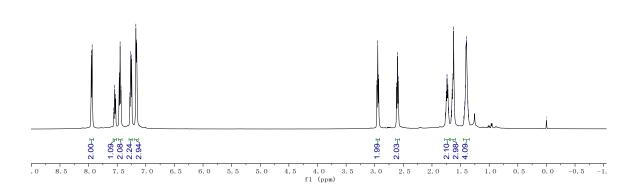
A dry test tube equipped with a stirring bar was charged with NiBr₂(dme) (3.1 mg, 0.01 mmol 10 mol %), **L4** (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 10 mol %) under an argon atmosphere inside a glove box at 25 °C. Next, 0.5 mL of dry DMA was added *via* syringe. The catalyst/ligand solution was stirred for 1 hour at 25 °C inside the glove box. Subsequently, removed from the glove box, the Schlenk tube was evacuated and filled with nitrogen (three cycles). To this solution, NaI (22.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (**1a**) (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and organozinc reagent (**5**)^[8] (0.8 mL of a 0.25 M solution in THF, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added successively under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 hours. The reaction was subjected to GC, GC/MS and NMR analysis.

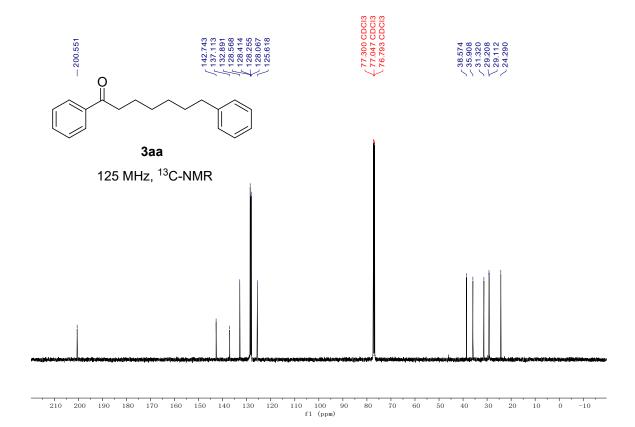
8. References

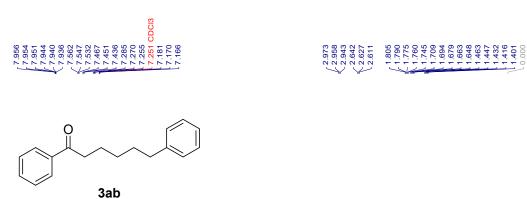
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9. NMR Spectra

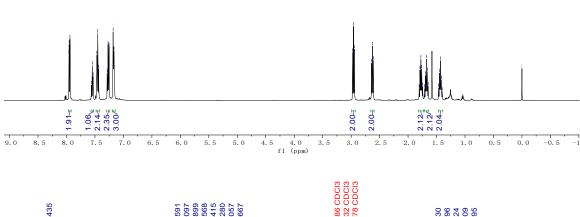


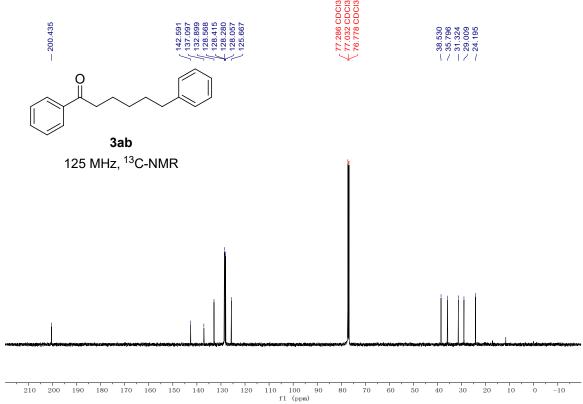


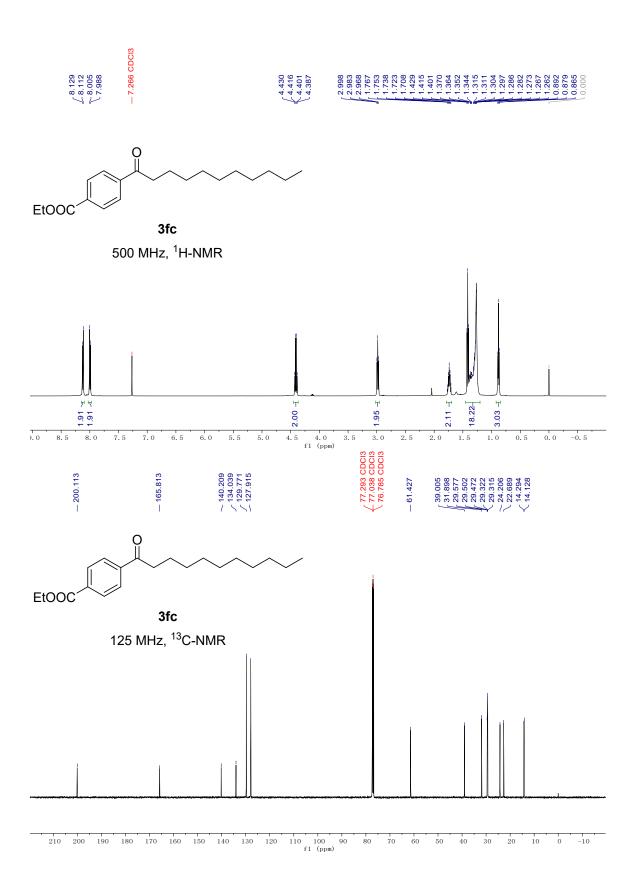


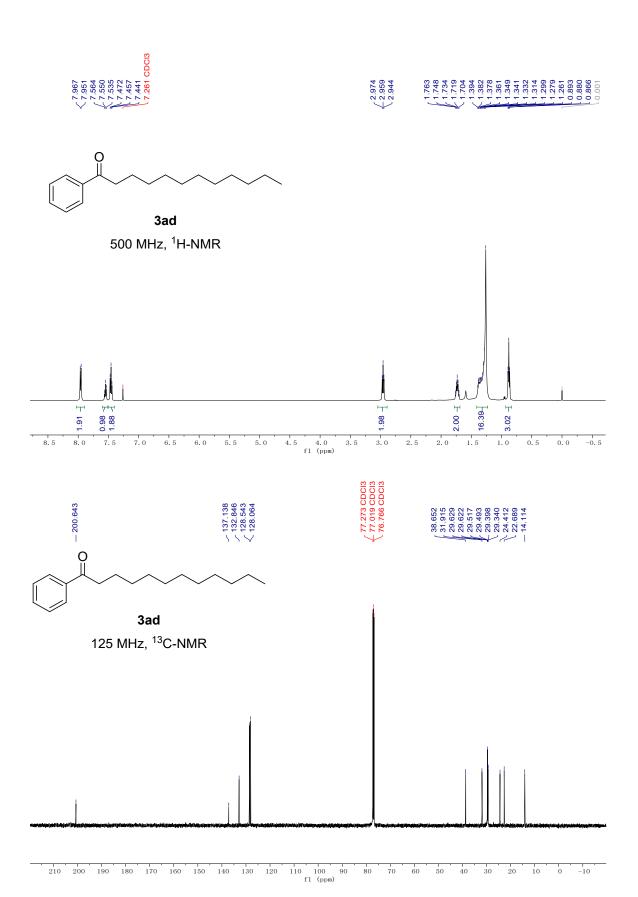


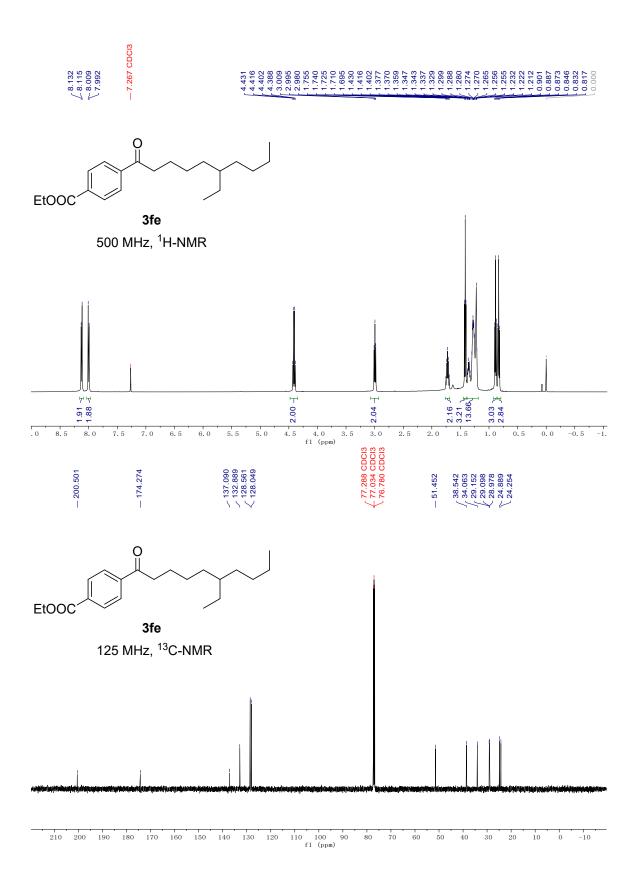
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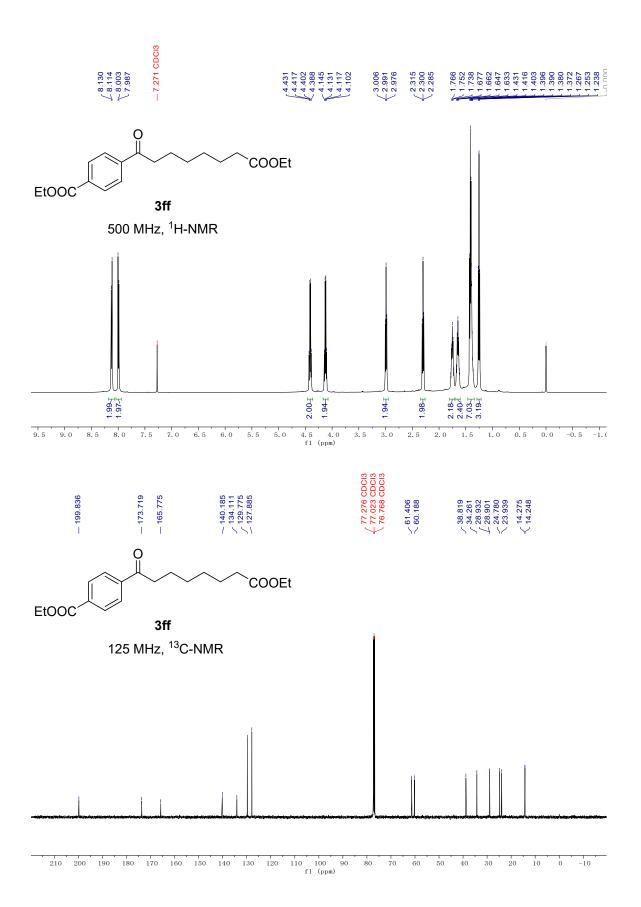


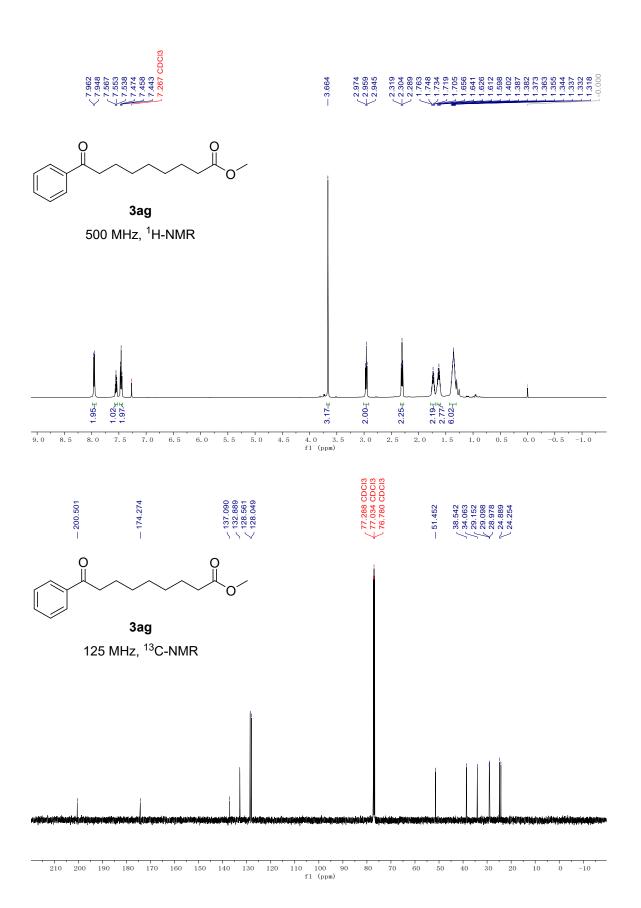


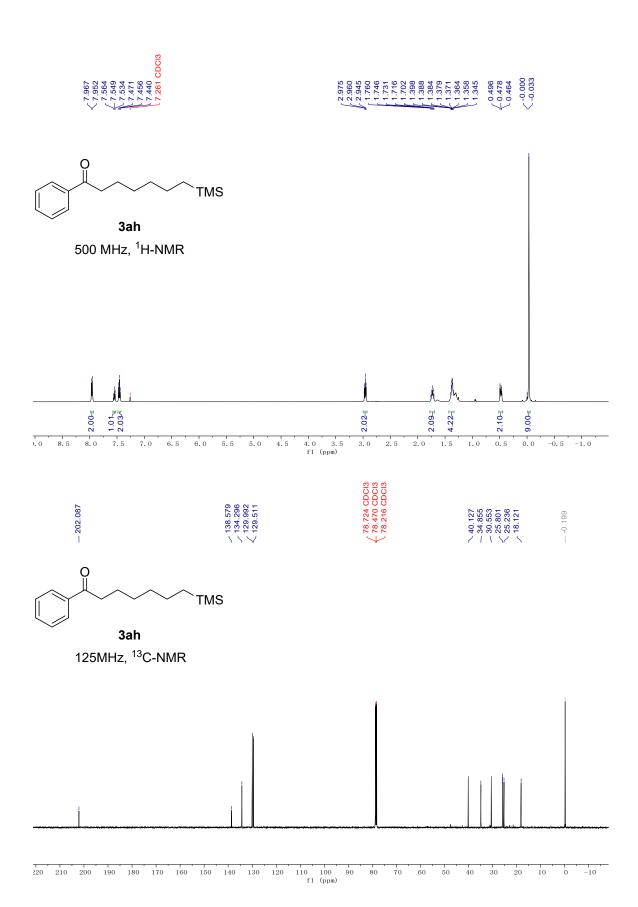


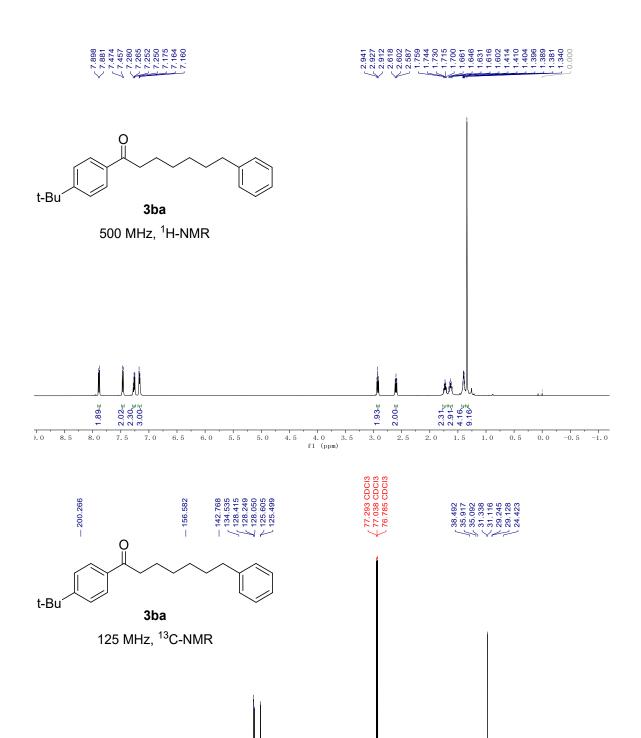


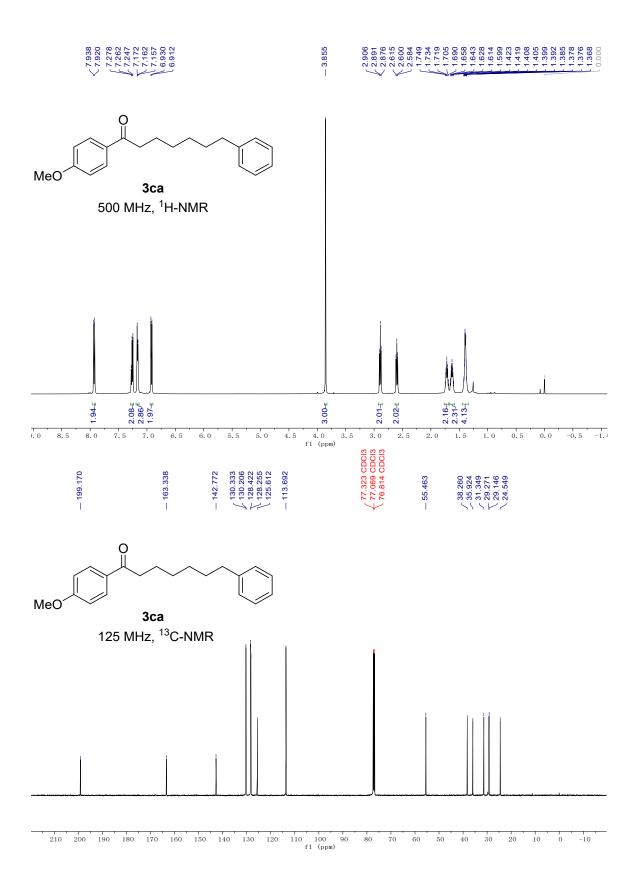


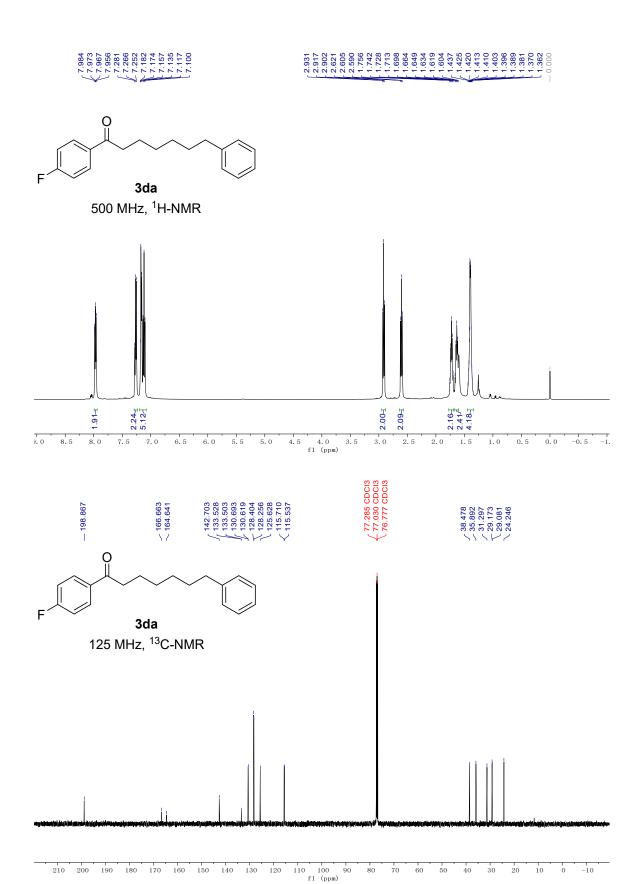








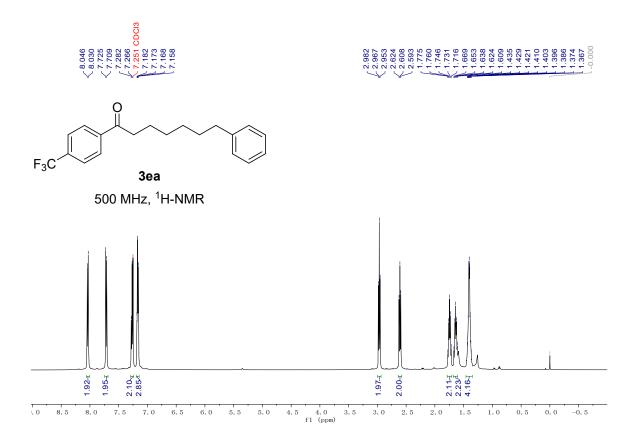


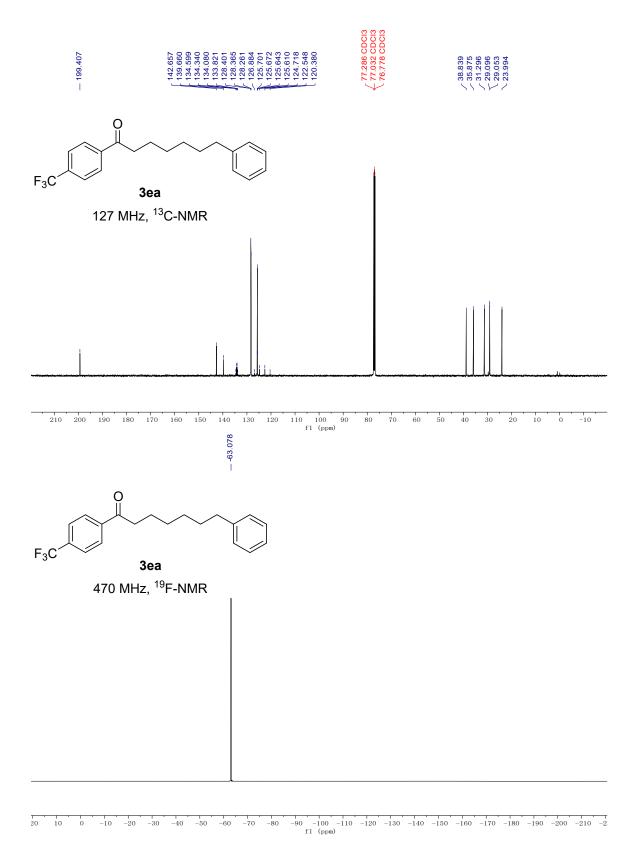


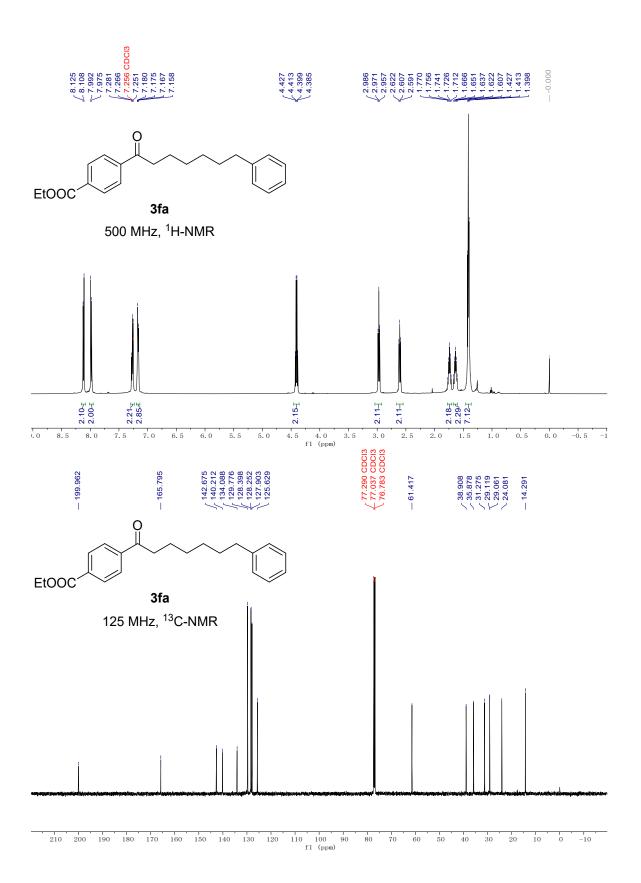


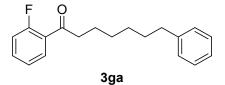


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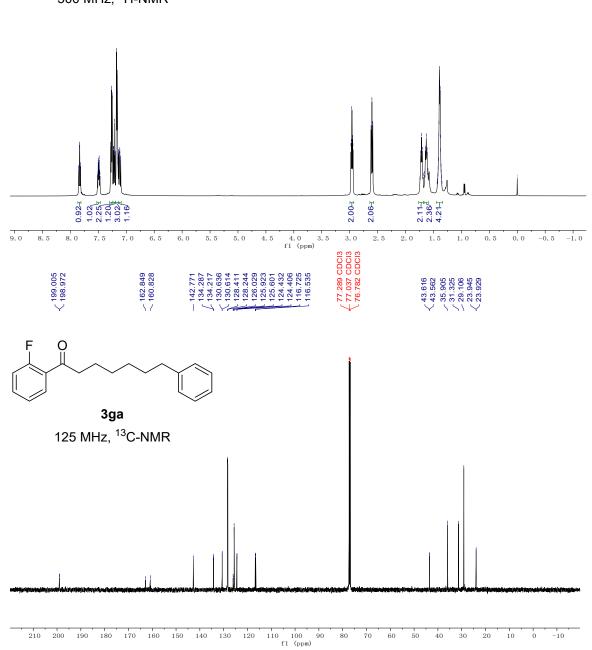




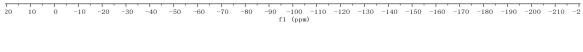


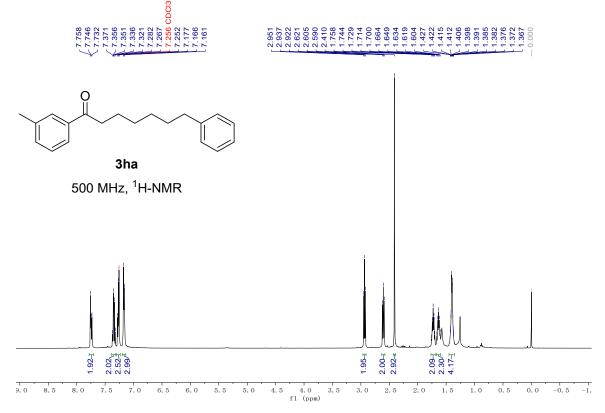


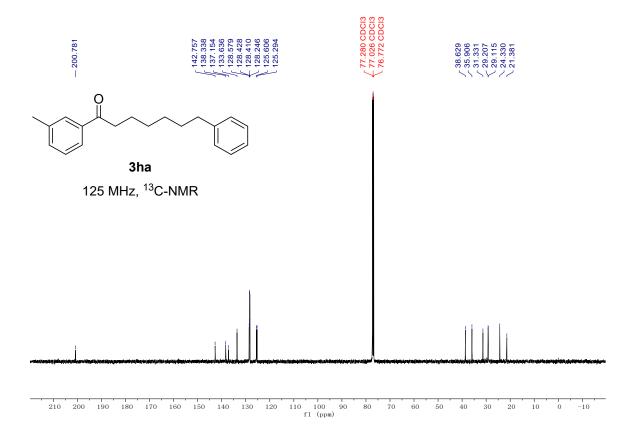
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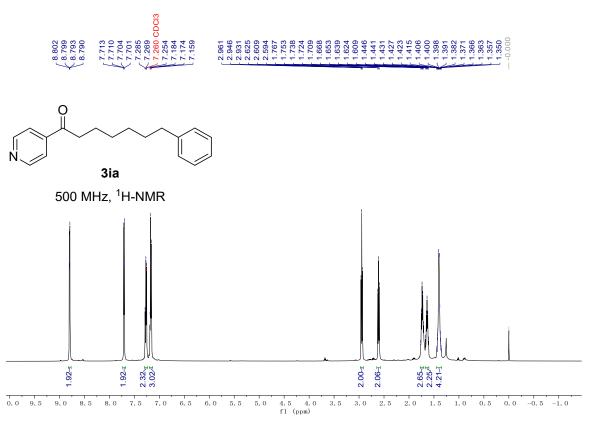


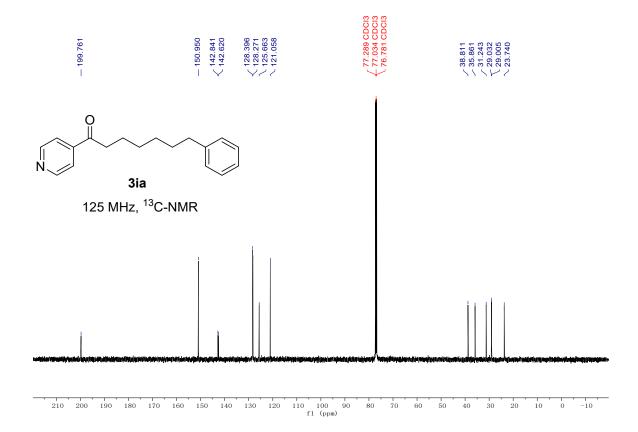




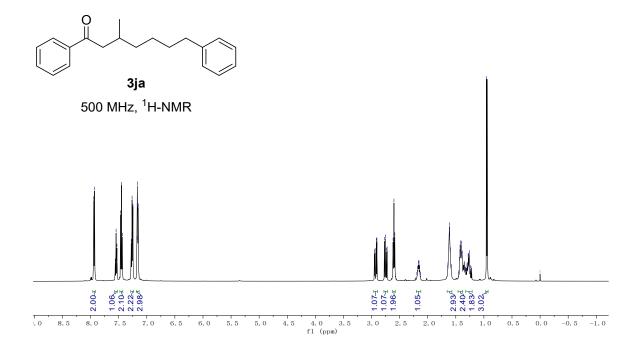


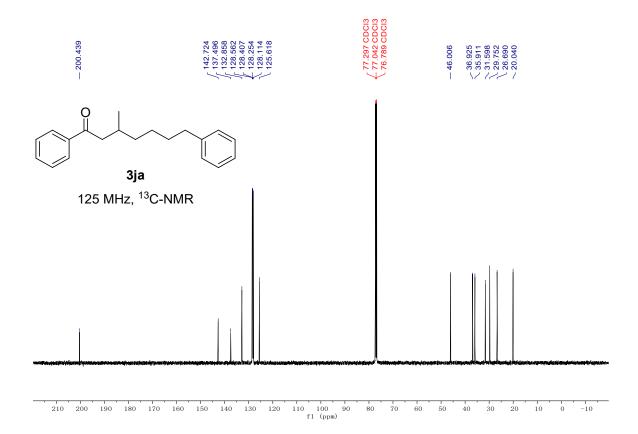














500 MHz, ¹H-NMR

