

Supporting Information

Metal free C–O bond cleavage: a new strategy for the synthesis of substituted oxazoles

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Contents

General remarks	2
General procedure	2
¹ H and ¹³ C NMR data of products	3-9
References	9-10
Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra	11-34

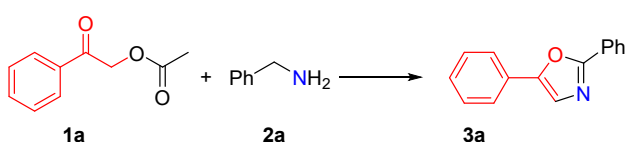
1. General remarks

All non-aqueous reactions and manipulations were performed in air atmosphere. All solvents were purchased from Energy Chemical, Aladdin and used without further treatment. The reactions were monitored by GC (7820A, Hubei University of Science and Technology) and GC-MS (QP2010, Hunan University). The electron ionization (EI) method was used as the ionization method for the HRMS measurement, and the mass analyzer type is TOF for EI. The ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ADVANCE III spectrometer at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively (Hubei University of Science and Technology). Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel 40-70 μm (200-300 μm). Amines and azide compounds were purchased from Energy Chemical and used without further treatment.

2. General procedure

A 10-mL Schlenk-type tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with substituted 2-oxo-2-phenylethyl acetate **1a-1l** (0.2 mmol), primary amine **2a-2m** (0.24 mmol), K_2CO_3 (0.4 mmol), I_2 (0.4 mmol), under N_2 atmospheres, ethyl acetate (2 mL) was added at room temperature, and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 8 h, the reaction was monitored by GC or GC-MS. After completion of the reaction, the resulting solution was cooled to room temperature, and neutralized with saturated NaCl solution. The product was extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous Mg_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel and eluted with ethyl acetate/Petroleum ether (1/5-1/10) give analytically pure product.

Table S1 Optimization of the model reaction condition of bases^a



The reaction scheme shows the conversion of 1a and 2a to 3a. 1a is a substituted 2-oxo-2-phenylethyl acetate, 2a is benzylamine, and 3a is a 2-phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole derivative.

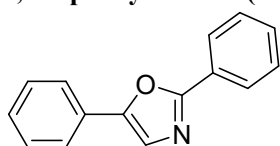
Entry	Additive	Solvent	3a ^{%^b}
1	NaOH/ I_2	ethyl acetate	35%
2	KOH/ I_2	ethyl acetate	47%
3	NEt_3 / I_2	ethyl acetate	trace

4	Na ₂ CO ₃ /I ₂	ethyl acetate	63%
5	Cs ₂ CO ₃ /I ₂	ethyl acetate	52%
6	C ₄ H ₉ OK /I ₂	ethyl acetate	81%
7	K ₂ CO ₃ /I ₂	ethyl acetate	90%

^aReaction conditions: 2-oxo-2-phenylethyl acetate **1a** (0.2 mmol), benzylamine **2a** (0.24 mmol), I₂ (0.4 mmol), base (0.4 mmol), ethyl acetate (2 mL), N₂ in 25 mL schlenk tube, 80 °C, 8 h. ^bIsolated yield.

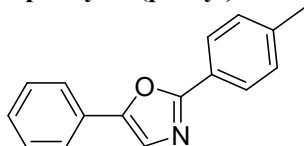
3. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data of products

2,5-diphenyloxazole (**3a**)¹



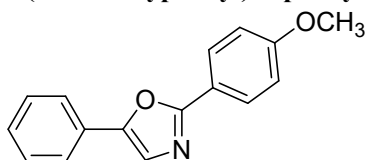
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:20), **3a** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 88%, m.p. 66-68 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.12 (q, 2H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.42-7.50 (m, 6H), 7.34 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.2, 151.3, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 126.3, 124.2, 123.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 221.25.

5-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)oxazole (**3b**)²



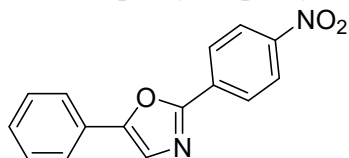
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3b** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 85%, m.p. 71-73 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.00 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.44 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.28 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.1, 151.0, 140.7, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 126.3, 124.8, 124.2, 123.4, 21.6; GC-MS: *m/z* = 235.09.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyloxazole (**3c**)¹



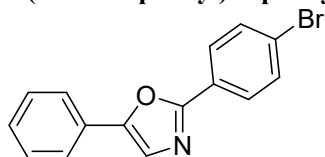
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3c** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 84%, m.p. 78-79 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.71 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.00 (q, 1H, *J* = 4.2 Hz), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.1, 159.9, 151.3, 129.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 124.2, 123.4, 118.8, 116.9, 111.0, 55.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 251.09.

2-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-phenyloxazole (3d)³



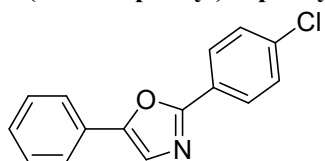
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3d** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 81%, m.p. 209-213 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.34 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.13-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.52 (t, 3H, *J* = 3.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 162.8, 149.1, 147.2, 133.8, 131.1, 129.0, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 124.6, 124.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 266.25.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-phenyloxazole (3e)⁴



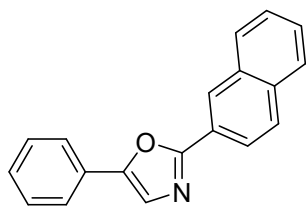
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3e** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 79%, m.p. 100-102 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.94 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.69 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.69 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.41-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.34 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 171.1, 160.3, 151.6, 132.1, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.7, 126.4, 124.8, 124.2, 123.6; GC-MS: *m/z* = 298.99.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-phenyloxazole (3f)⁵



Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3f** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 80%, m.p. 103-105 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.04 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.42-7.56 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 160.2, 151.6, 136.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 127.5, 125.9, 124.3, 123.6; GC-MS: *m/z* = 255.04.

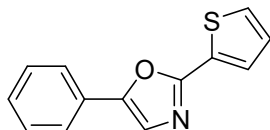
2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-5-phenyloxazole (3g)²



Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3i** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 85%, m.p. 99-102 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.77-7.93 (m, 5H), 7.47-7.56 (m, 5H), 7.38 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2

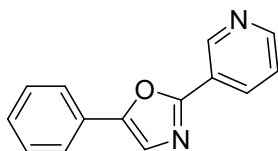
Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 161.4, 151.5, 134.2, 133.1, 128.9, 128.73, 128.71, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 126.8, 126.2, 124.8, 124.3, 123.6, 123.2; GC-MS: m/z = 271.09.

5-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)oxazole (**3h**)⁵



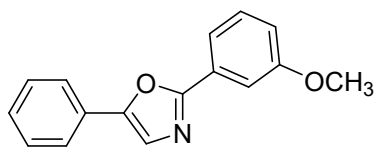
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3g** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 78%, m.p. 72-74 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.42-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.14 (q, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 157.4, 150.9, 130.1, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 124.2, 123.3; GC-MS: m/z = 227.04.

5-phenyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)oxazole (**3i**)¹



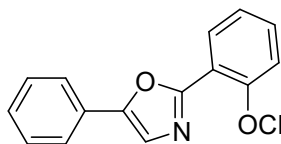
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3h** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 81%, m.p. 77-79 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 9.35 (d, 1H, J = 1.2 Hz), 8.69 (d, 1H, J = 3.2 Hz), 8.36 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.73 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.36-7.49 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 158.7, 152.1, 150.9, 147.5, 133.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 124.4, 123.8, 123.7; GC-MS: m/z = 238.11.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyloxazole (**3j**)⁶



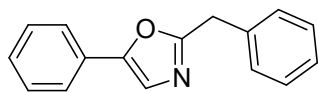
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3j** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 80%, m.p. 81-84 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.71 (t, 2H, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.00 (q, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 161.1, 159.9, 151.3, 129.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 124.2, 123.4, 118.8, 116.9, 111.0, 55.5; GC-MS: m/z = 251.09.

diphenyl benzylphosphoramidate (**3k**)³



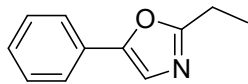
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:5), **3j** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 74%, m.p. 77-79 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.74 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.01 (q, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.1, 159.9, 151.4, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 124.3, 123.5, 118.8, 116.9, 111.0, 55.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 251.09.

2-benzyl-5-phenyloxazole (**3l**)²



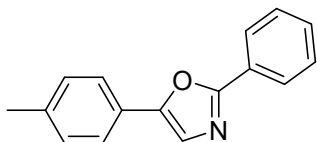
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3l** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 70%, m.p. 71-72°C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.31 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.47 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.24-7.49 (m, 7H), 4.18 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 167.7, 138.3, 125.5, 134.4, 131.2, 128.83, 128.75, 127.1, 126.8, 124.1, 122.0, 40.6; GC-MS: *m/z* = 235.09.

2-ethyl-5-phenyloxazole (**3m**)¹



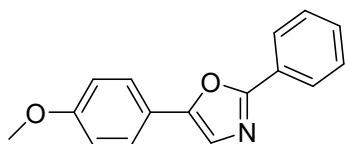
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3m** was obtained as a colorless liquid, isolated yield: 71%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.75 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.34 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.19 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.09 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 149.7, 139.9, 134.5, 128.5, 126.3, 124.7, 114.7, 20.3, 11.2; GC-MS: *m/z* = 173.08.

2-phenyl-5-(p-tolyl)oxazole (**3n**)¹



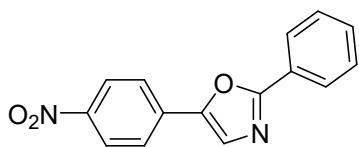
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3n** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 85%, m.p. 69-71 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.12 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.45-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 160.9, 151.5, 138.5, 130.2, 129.6, 128.8, 127.6, 126.2, 125.3, 124.2, 122.8, 21.4; GC-MS: *m/z* = 235.09.

5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (**3o**)¹



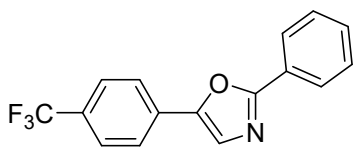
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3o** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 84%, m.p. 88-89 °C. ¹H (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.10 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 7.64 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.42-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 160.6, 159.9, 151.4, 130.1, 128.8, 127.7, 126.2, 125.8, 122.0, 121.0, 114.5, 55.4; GC-MS: *m/z* = 251.09.

5-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (**3p**)⁷



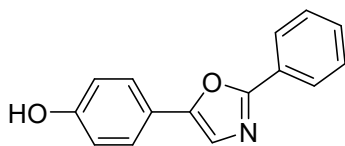
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3p** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 89%, m.p. 112-115 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.31 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.13-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, 3H, *J* = 3.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 162.8, 149.1, 147.2, 133.8, 131.1, 129.0, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 124.6, 124.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 266.06.

2-phenyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)oxazole (**3q**)¹



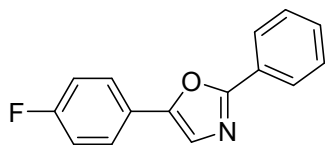
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3q** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 74%, m.p. 203-205 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.12 (q, 2H, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 7.81 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.69 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.49 (q, 3H, *J* = 2.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 162.0, 149.9, 131.6, 131.2 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 94 Hz), 130.8, 129.9, 128.9, 127.1, 126.5, 126.0 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 4.0 Hz), 125.2, 124.2; GC-MS: *m/z* = 289.07.

4-(2-phenyloxazol-5-yl)phenol (**3r**)⁶



Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3r** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 81%, m.p. > 250 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*, 400 MHz): δ 9.89 (s, 1H), 8.06 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 7.65 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.57 (m, 3H), 6.87 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*, 100 MHz): δ 159.7, 158.5, 151.8, 130.8, 129.6, 127.5, 126.3, 126.2, 122.3, 119.0, 116.4; GC-MS: *m/z* = 237.07.

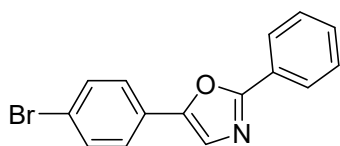
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (3s)¹



Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3s** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 79%, m.p. 72-74 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.09 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.69-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.2 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 30 Hz), 150.5, 130.4, 129.1, 128.9, 129.9, 127.2, 126.3, 126.1 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 8.0 Hz), 123.1, 116.0 (d, *J*_{c-f} = 22 Hz); GC-MS: *m/z* = 239.07.

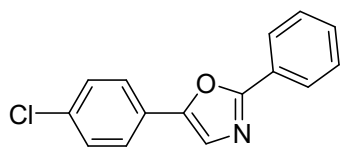
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5-(4-bromophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (3t)⁶



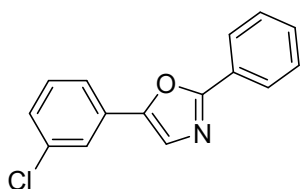
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3t** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 81%, m.p. 101-103 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.09 (q, 2H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.58 (s, 4H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.5, 150.3, 132.2, 130.5, 128.9, 127.3, 127.0, 126.4, 125.7, 124.0, 123.3; GC-MS: *m/z* = 298.99.

5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (3u)¹



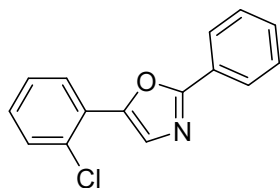
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3u** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 80%, m.p. 110-112 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.09 (q, 2H, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 7.62 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.46-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 7.39 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.4, 150.3, 134.2, 130.5, 129.2, 128.9, 127.3, 126.5, 126.4, 125.4, 123.9; GC-MS: *m/z* = 255.04.

5-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (3v)⁴



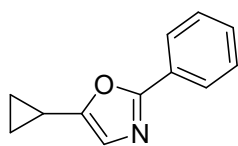
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3v** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 81%, 102-104 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.46-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.6, 149.9, 135.1, 130.6, 130.2, 129.7, 128.9, 128.4, 127.2, 126.4, 124.4, 124.2, 122.2; GC-MS: *m/z* = 255.04

5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (**3w**)⁷



Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3w** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 74%, 101-102 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.12 (q, 2H, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.48-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.6, 149.9, 135.1, 130.6, 130.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.4, 127.3, 126.4, 124.5, 124.2, 122.3; GC-MS: *m/z* = 255.04.

5-cyclopropyl-2-phenyloxazole (**3x**)⁴



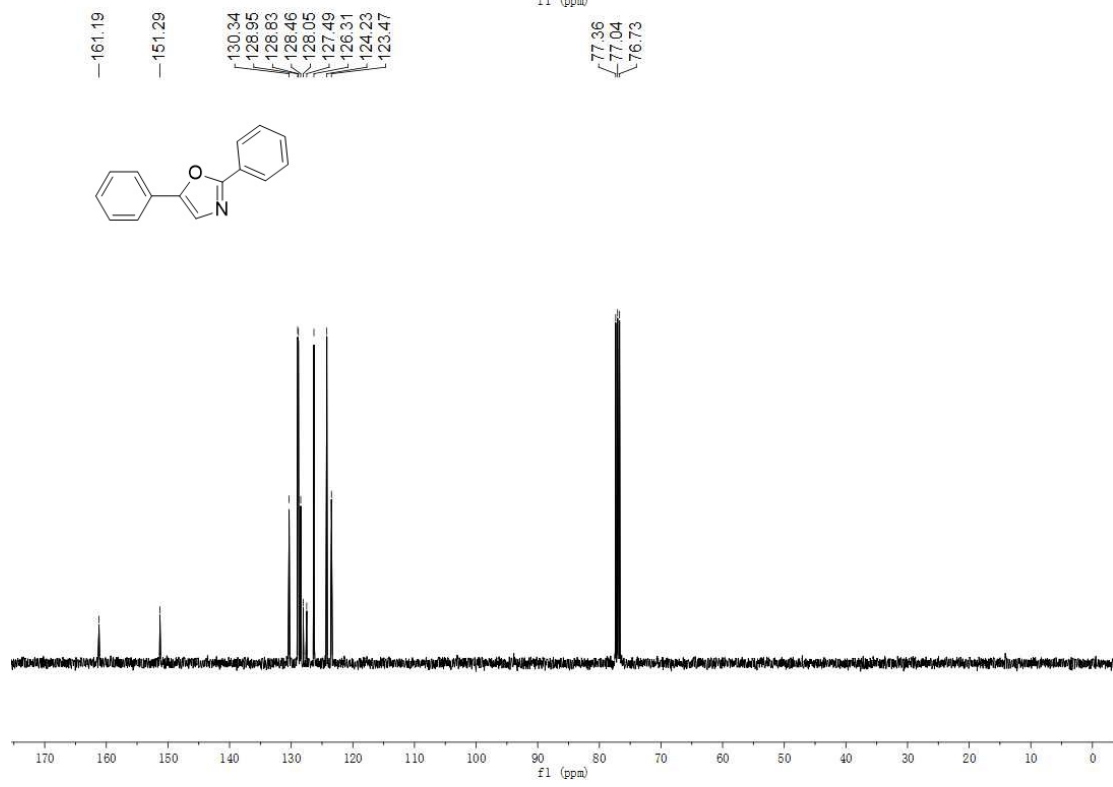
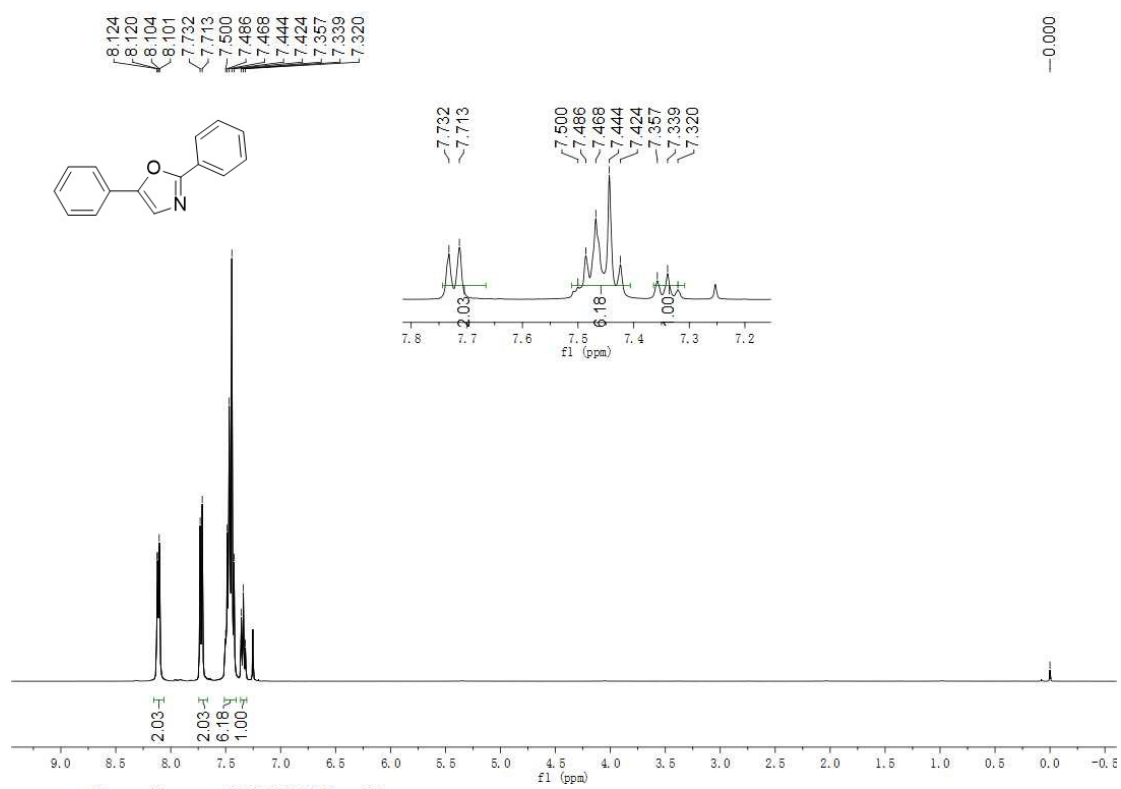
Following the general procedure (EtOAc/Petroleum ether 1:10), **3x** was obtained as a colorless solid, isolated yield: 69%, 70-72 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.99 (q, 2H, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 7.40-7.45 (m, 3H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 1.92-1.99 (m, 1H), 0.97-1.00 (m, 2H), 0.85-0.88 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 161.1, 154.6, 129.9, 128.7, 127.8, 126.0, 122.6, 6.7, 6.5; GC-MS: *m/z* = 185.08.

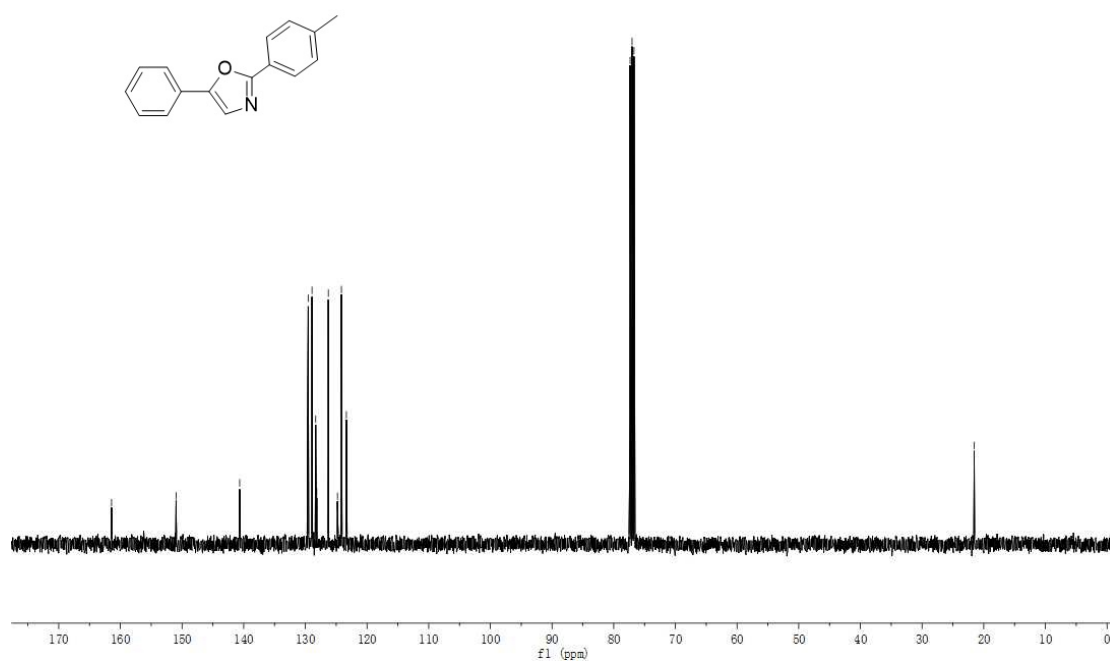
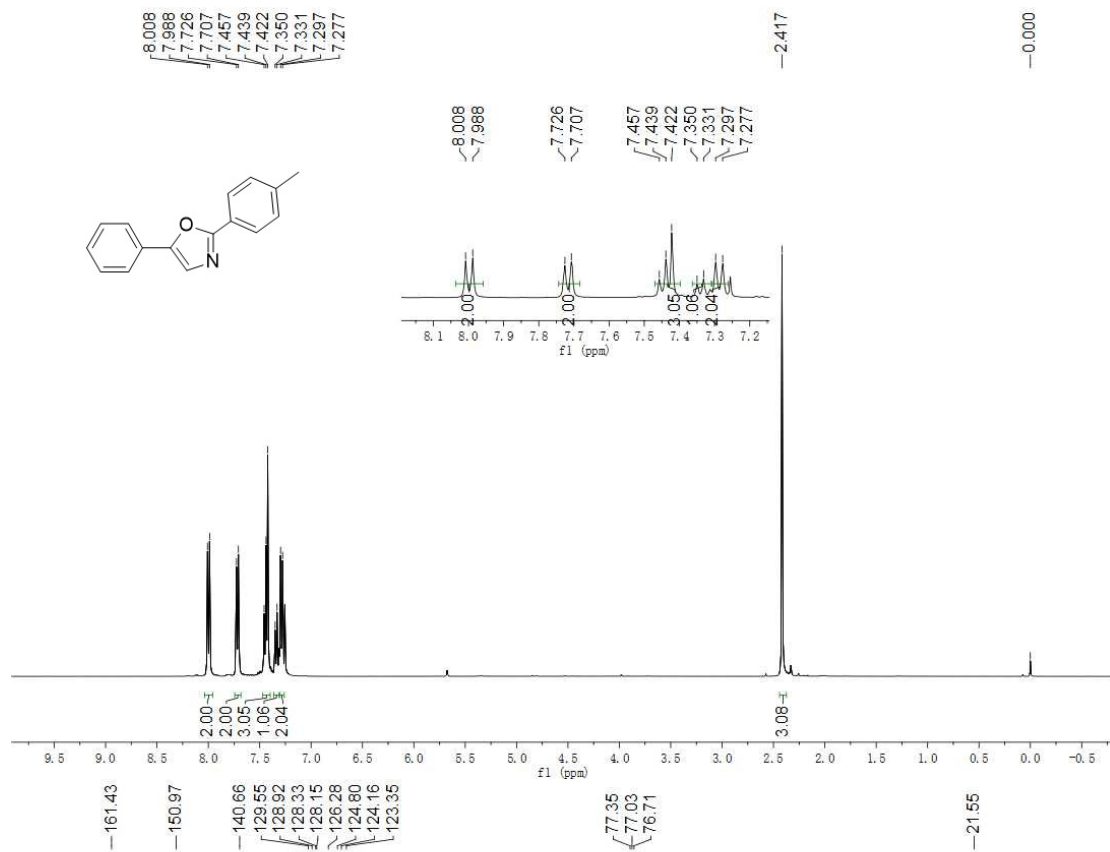
4. References

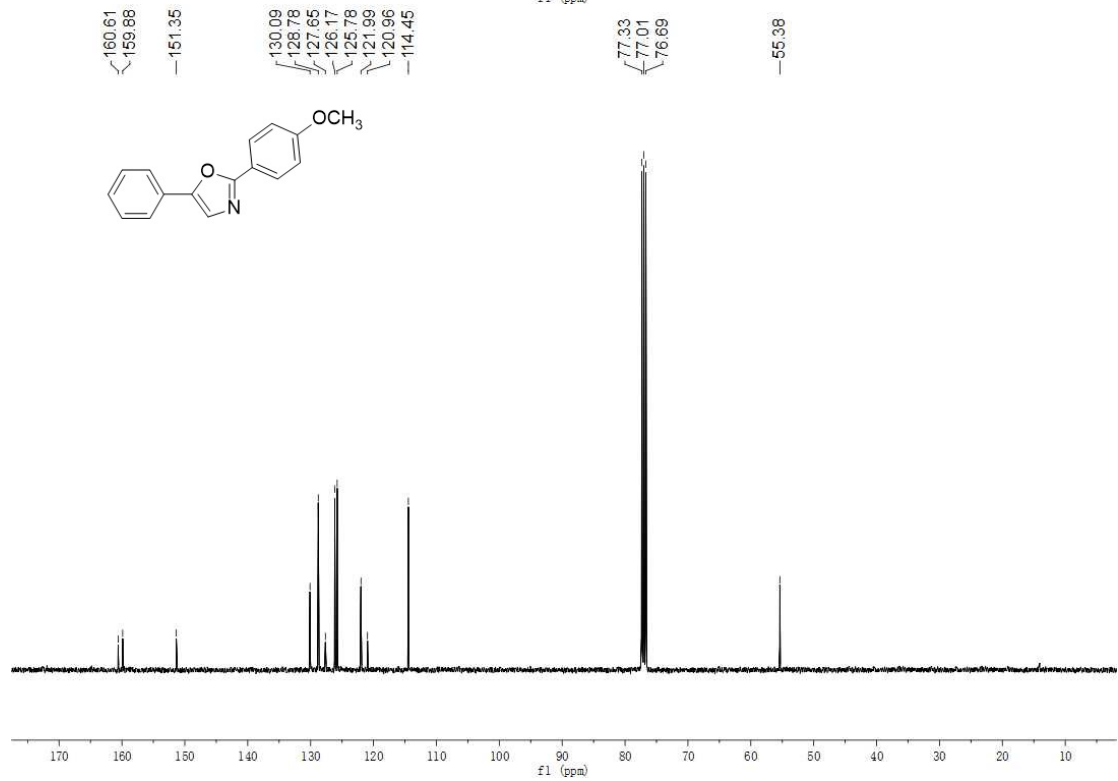
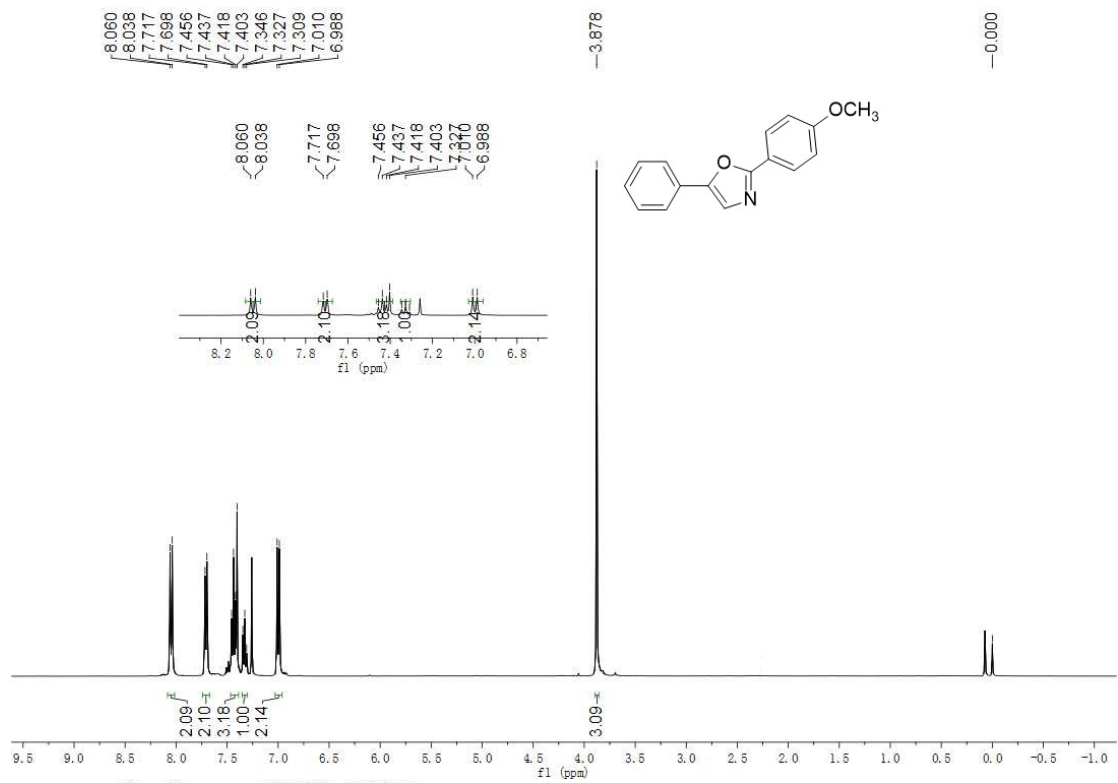
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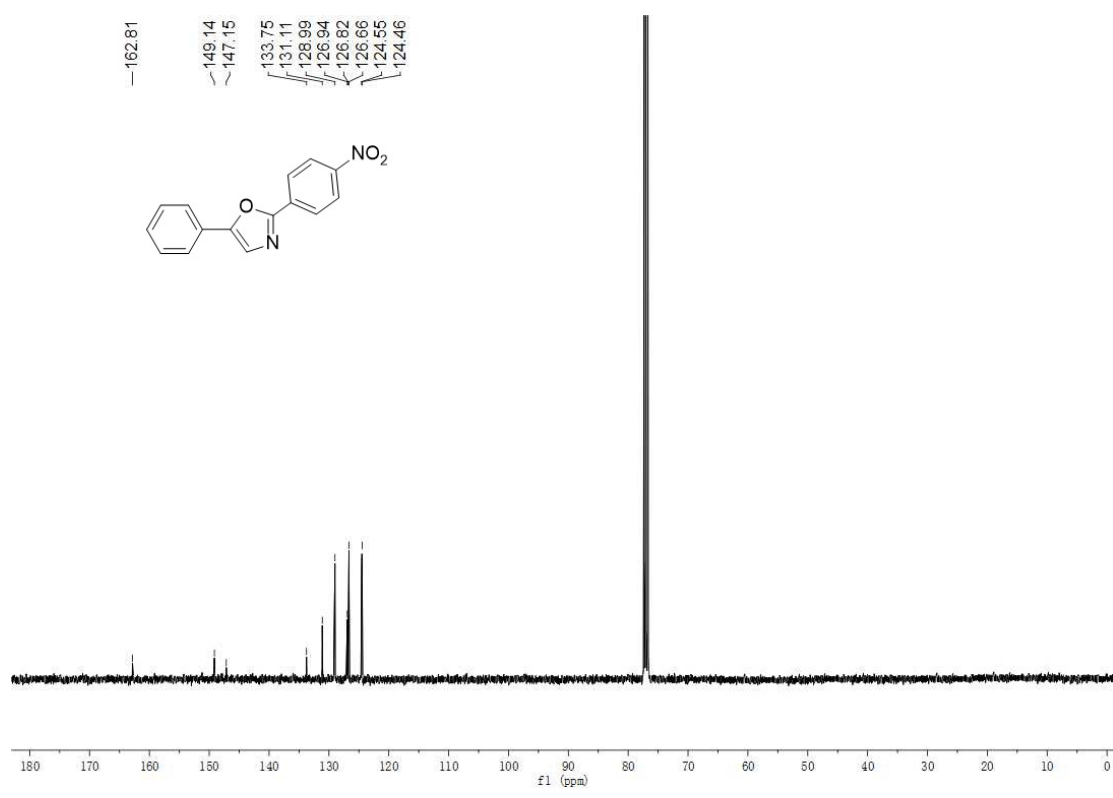
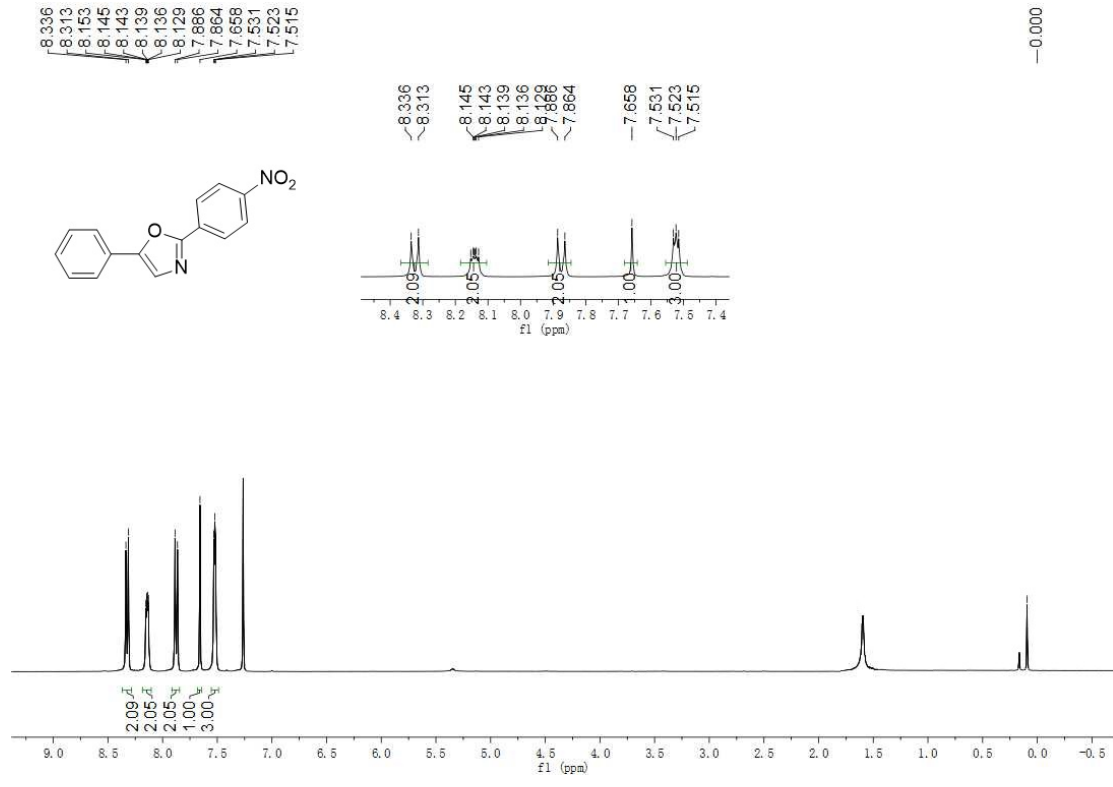
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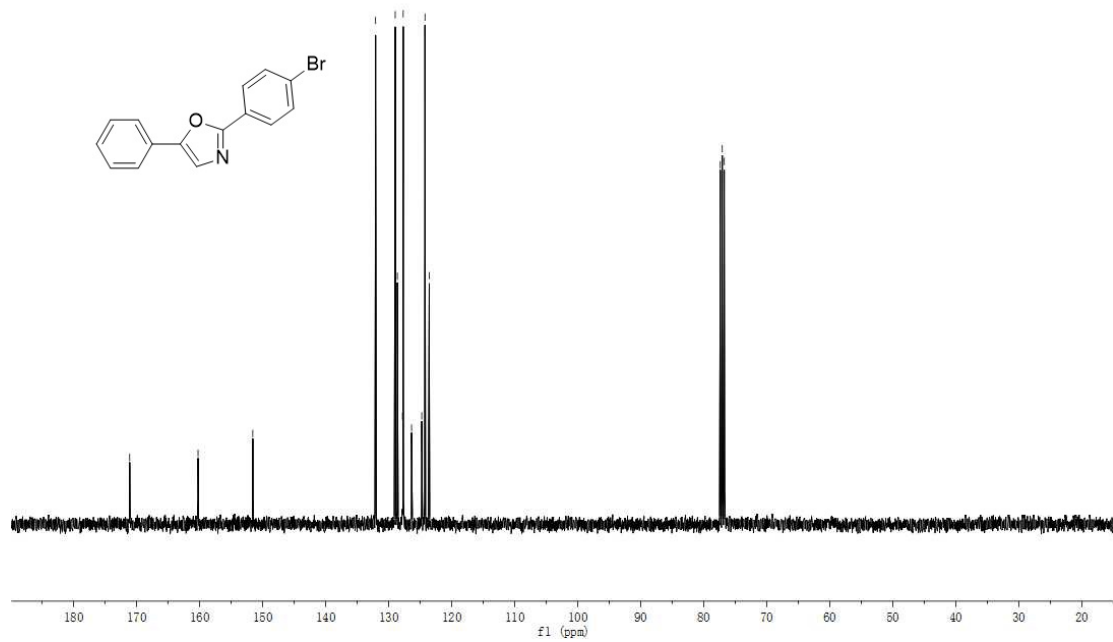
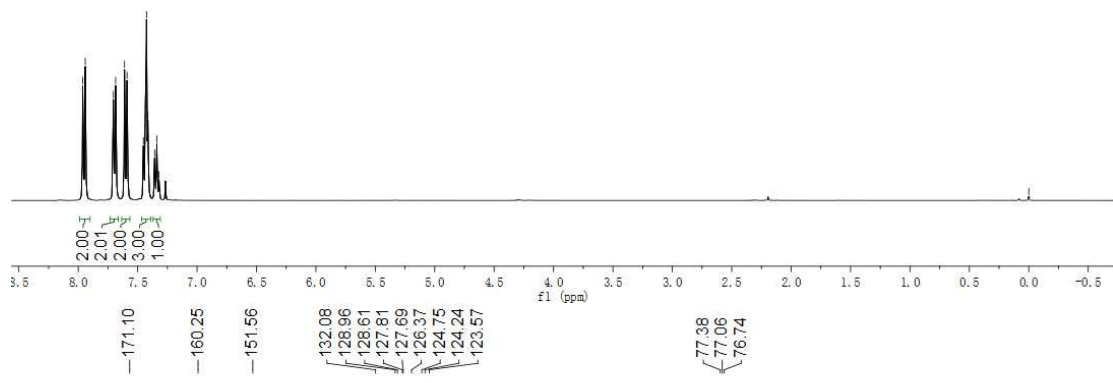
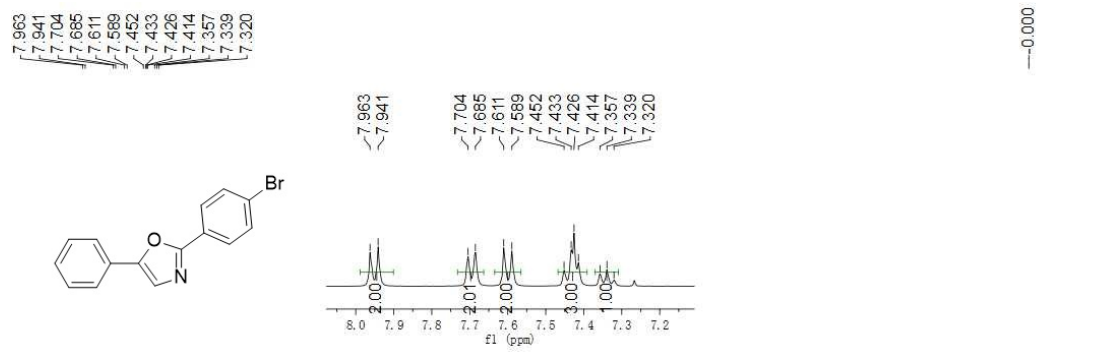
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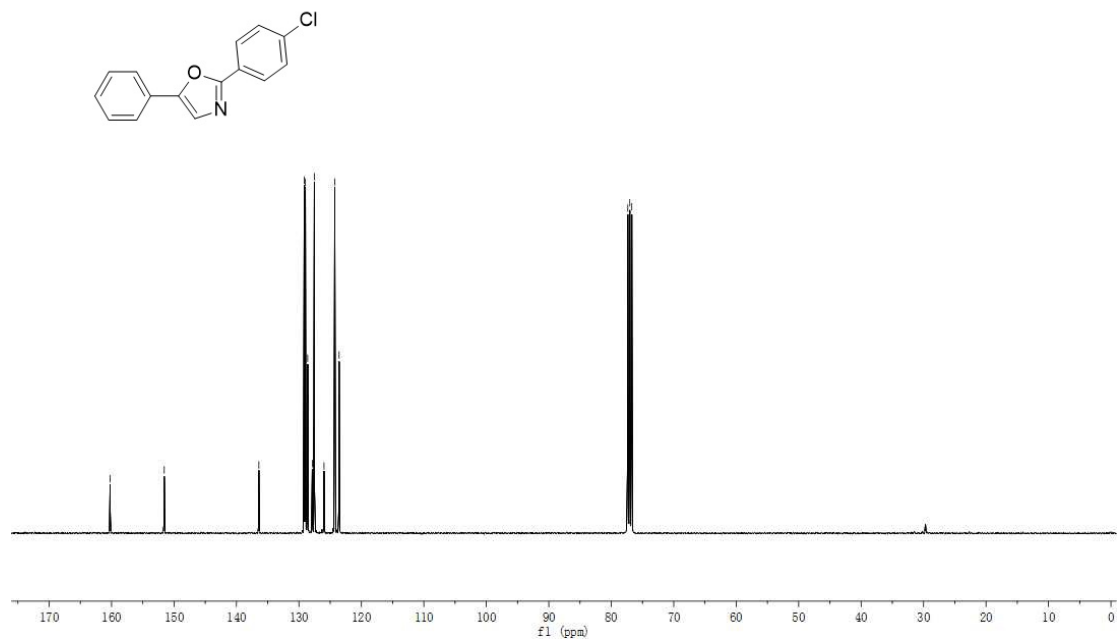
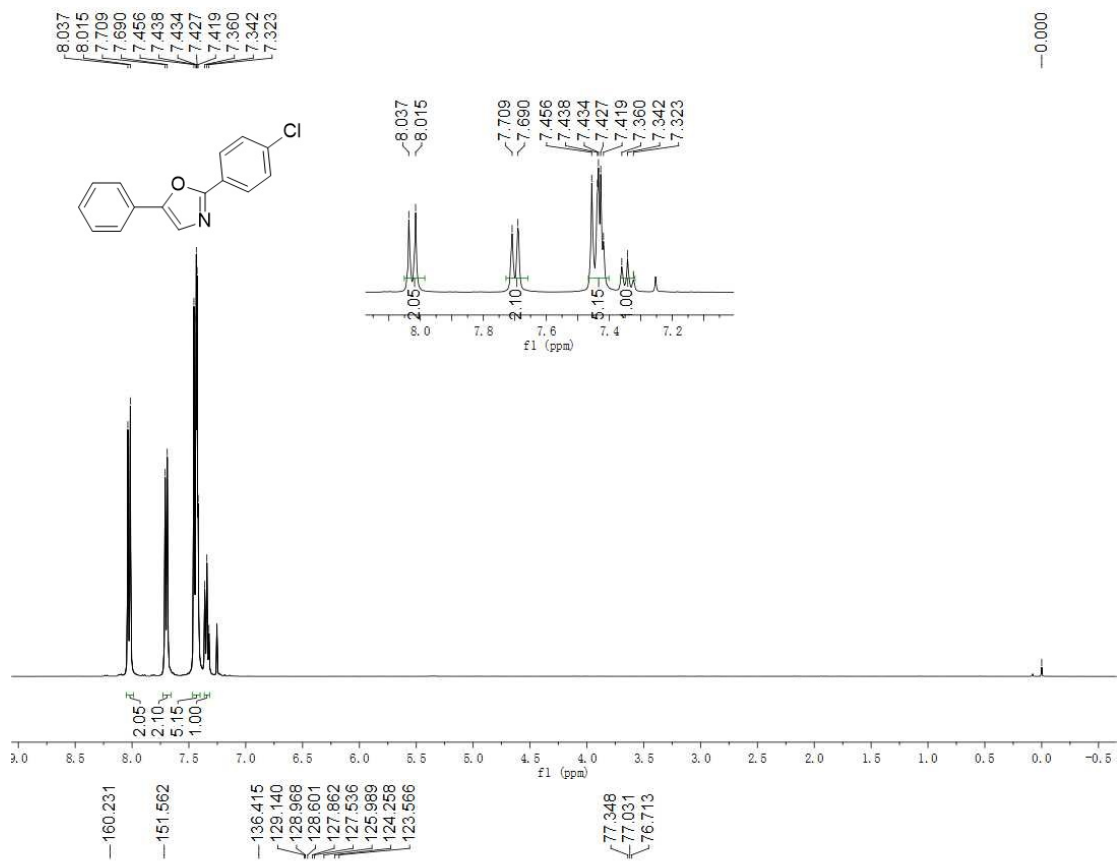


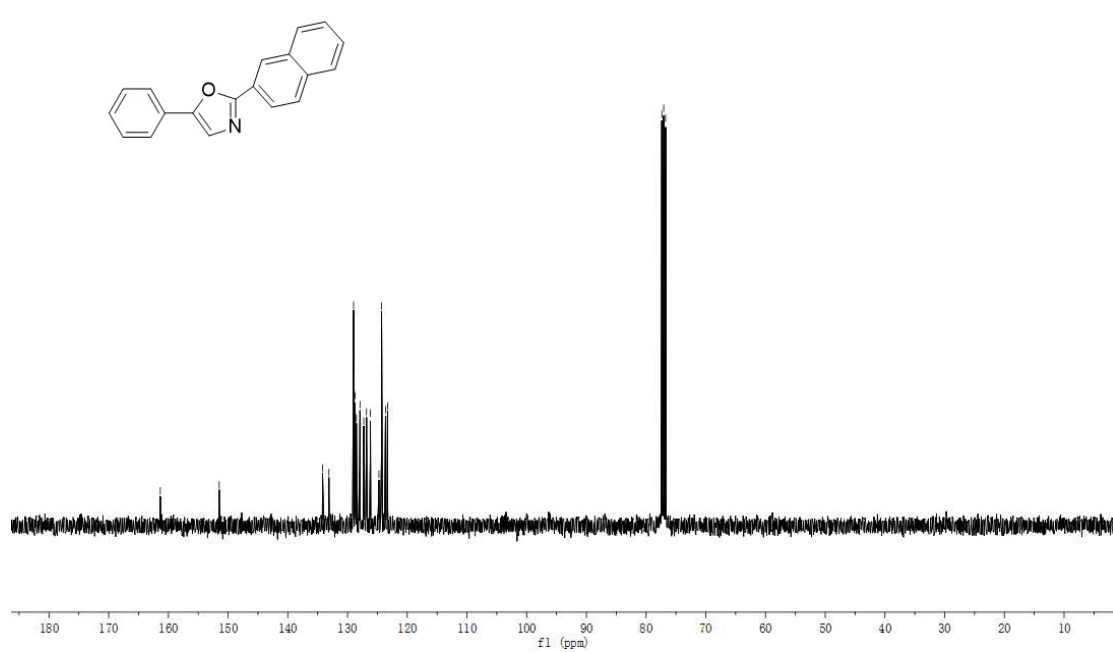
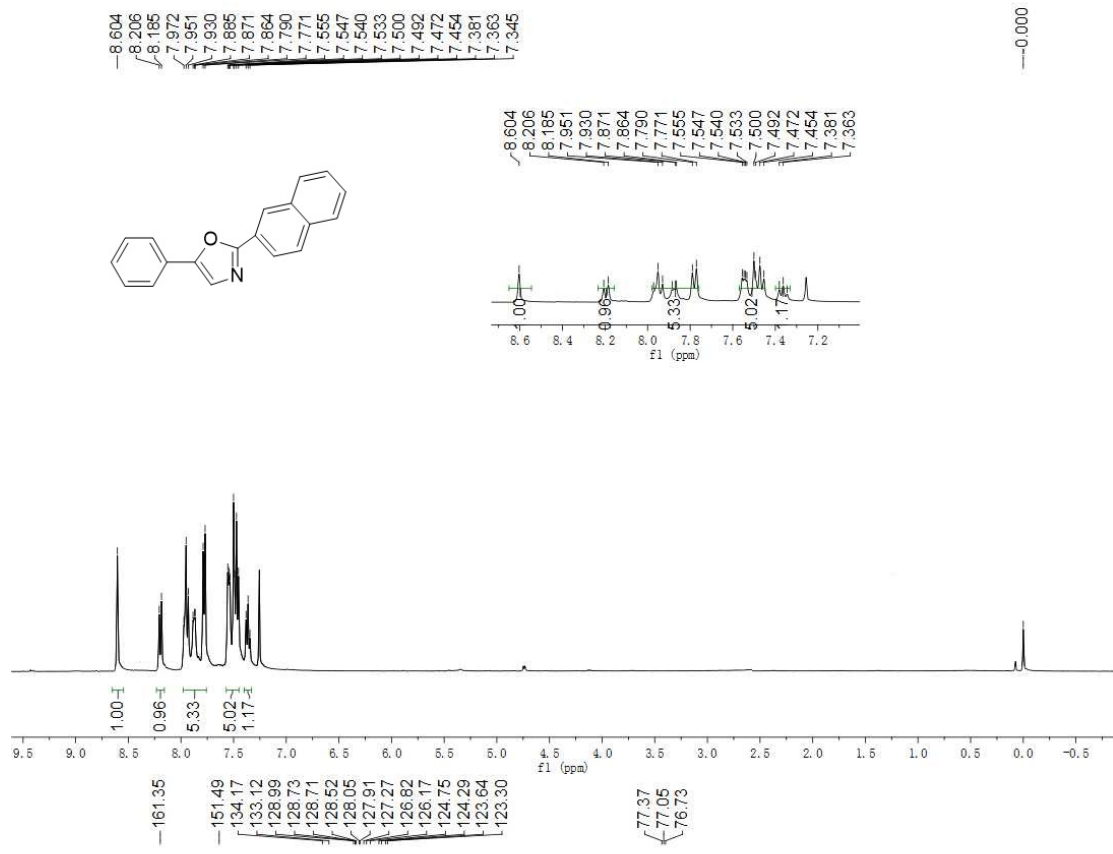


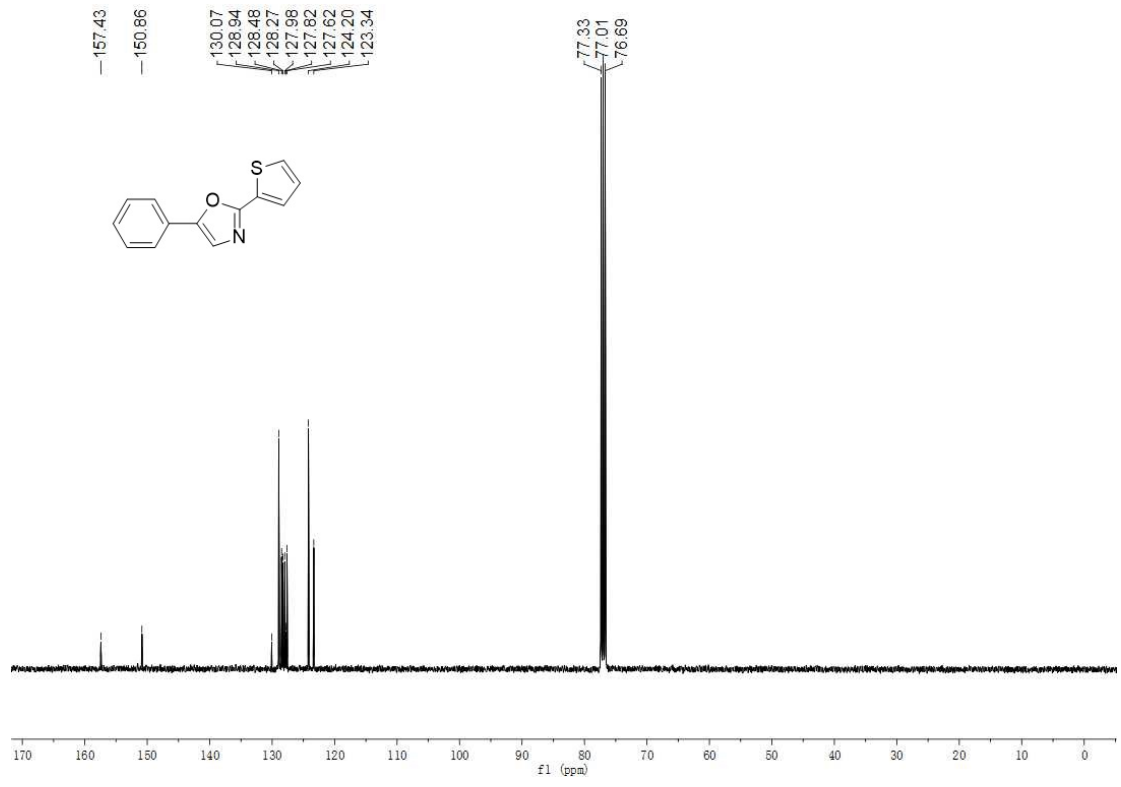
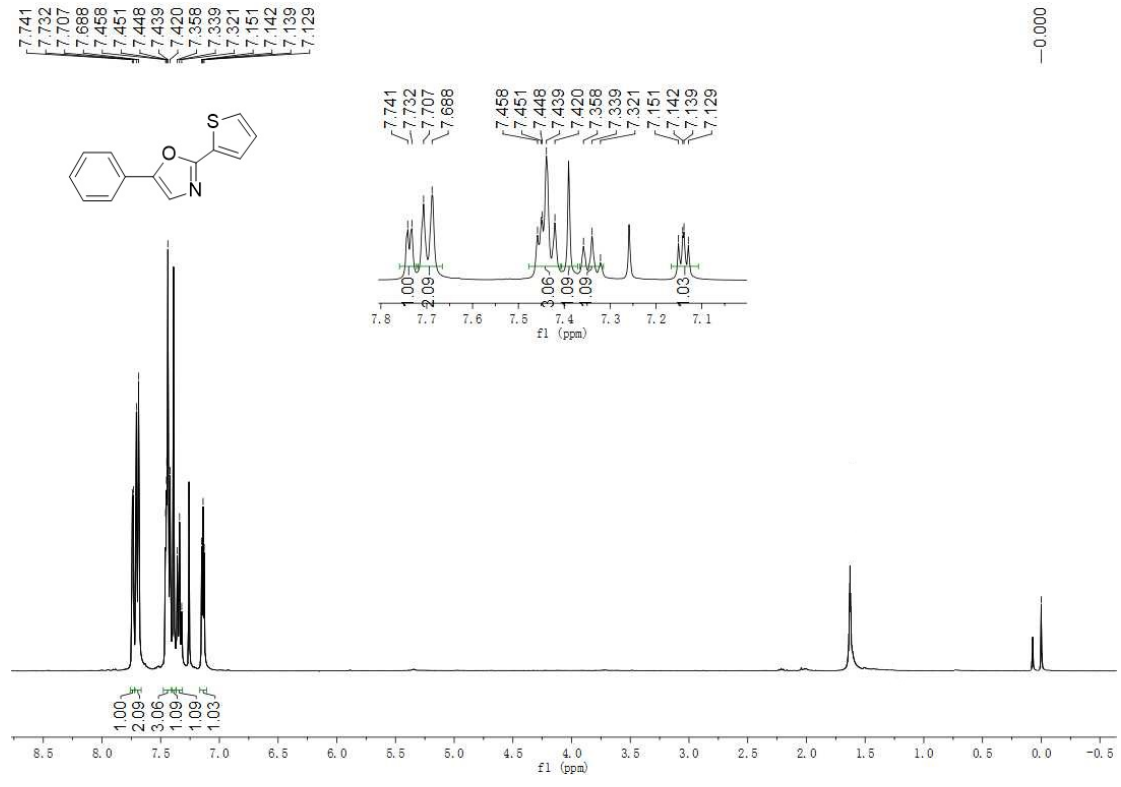


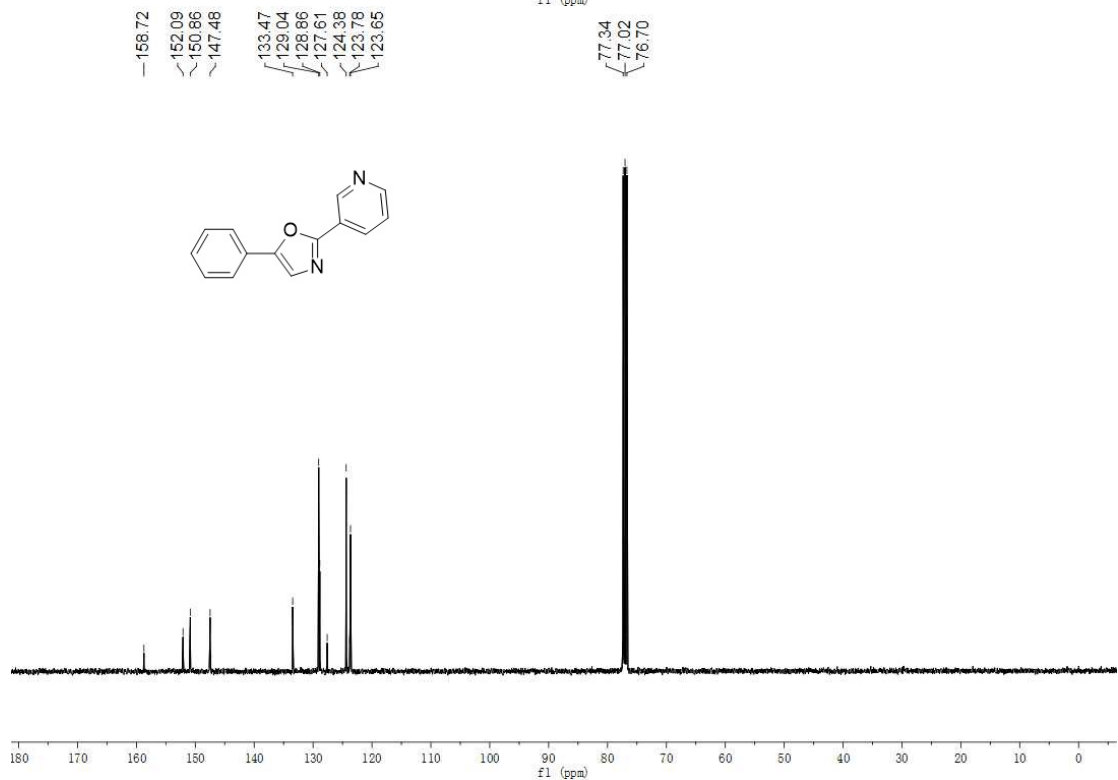
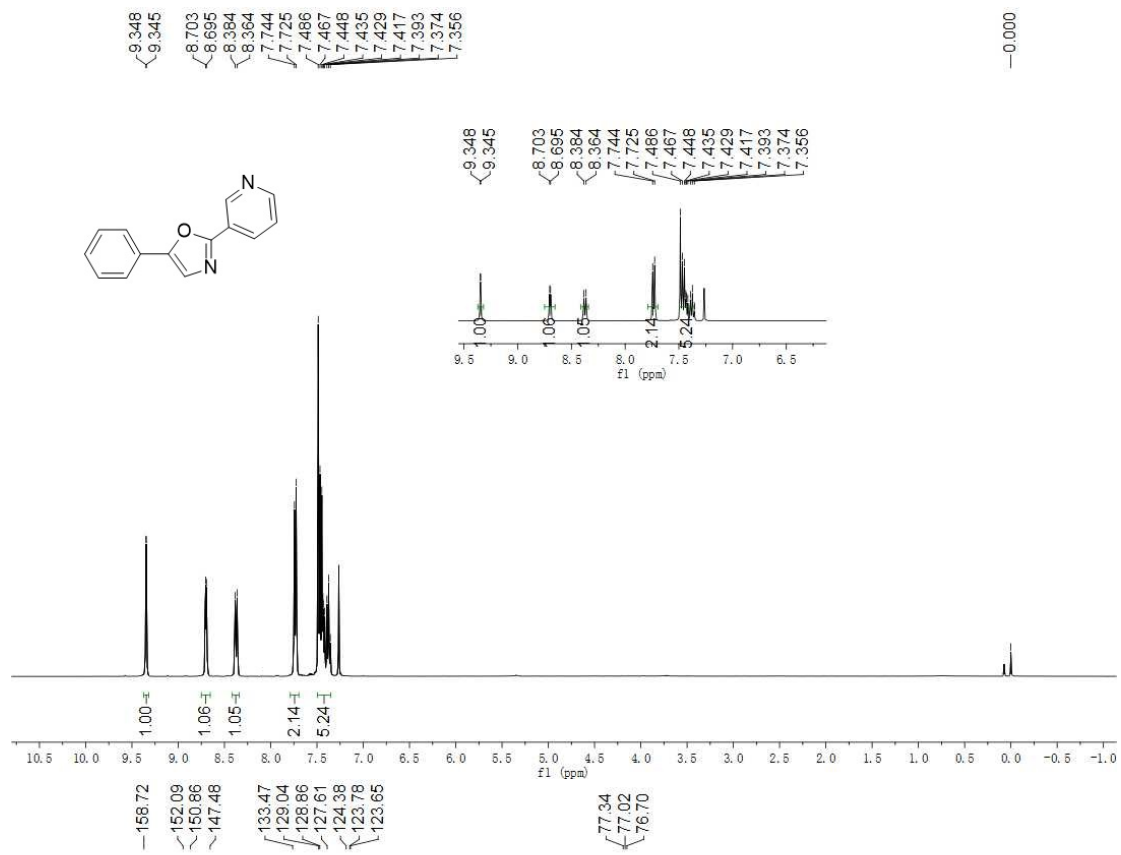


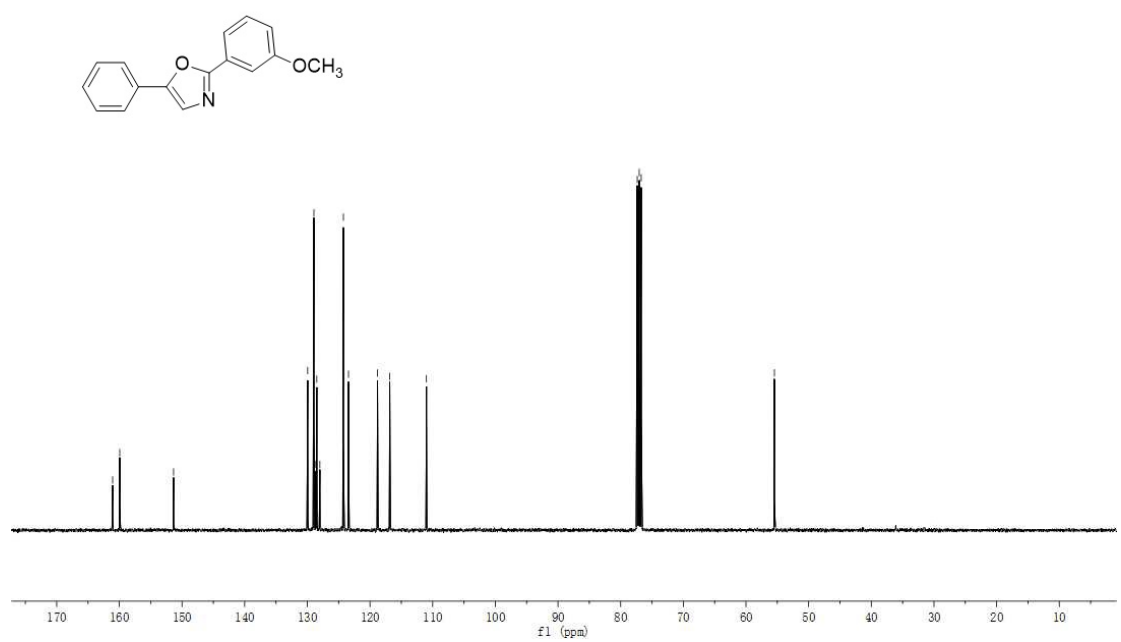
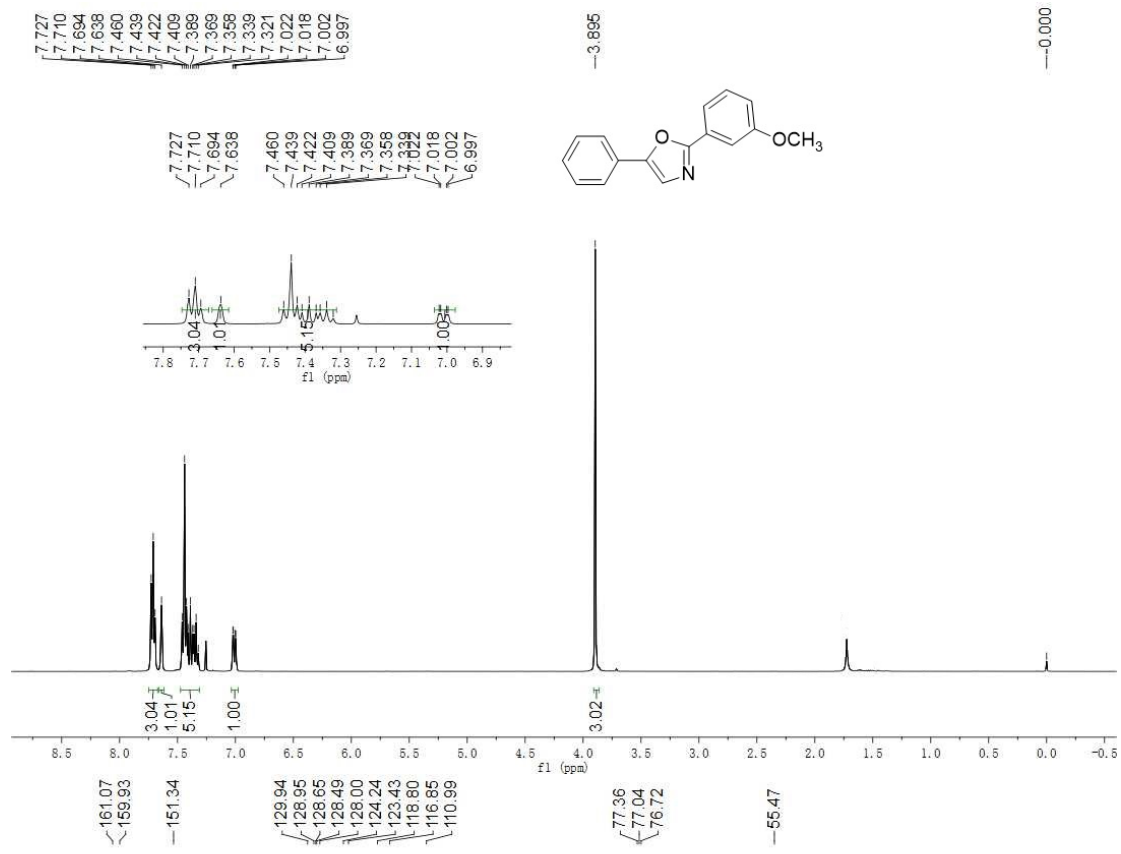


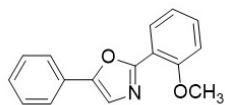
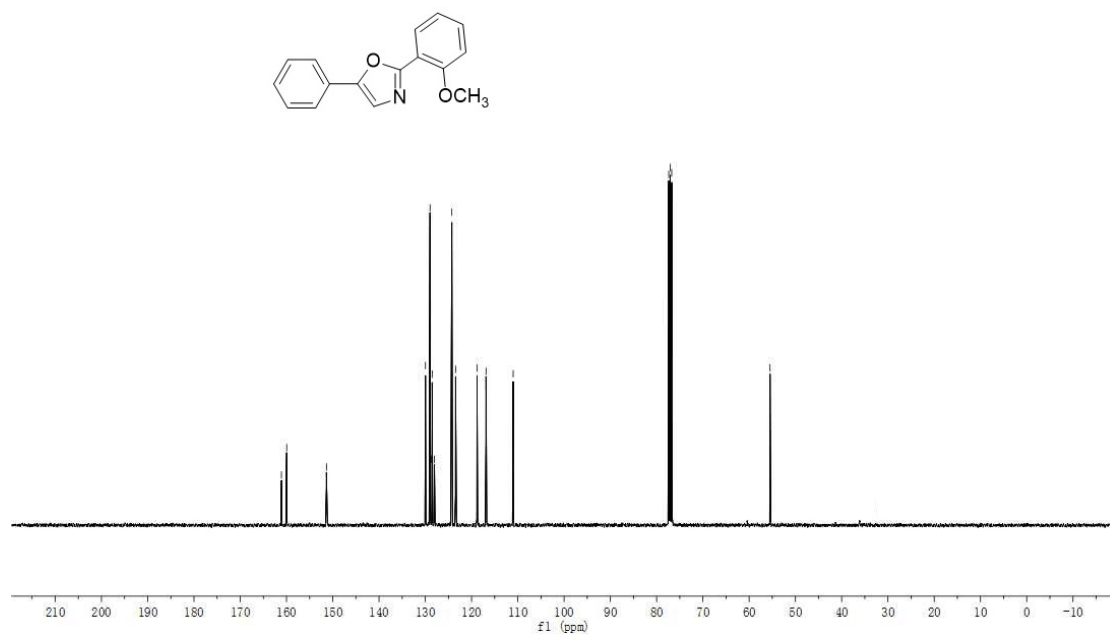
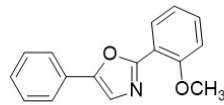
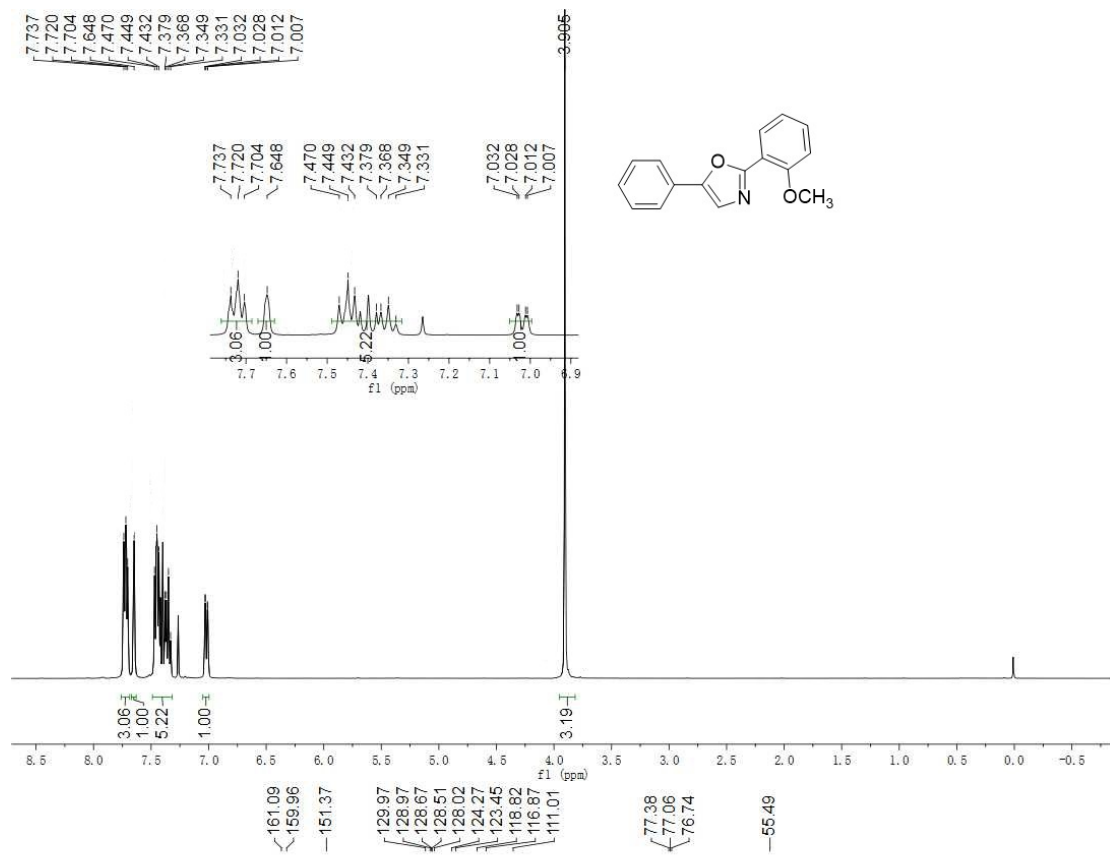


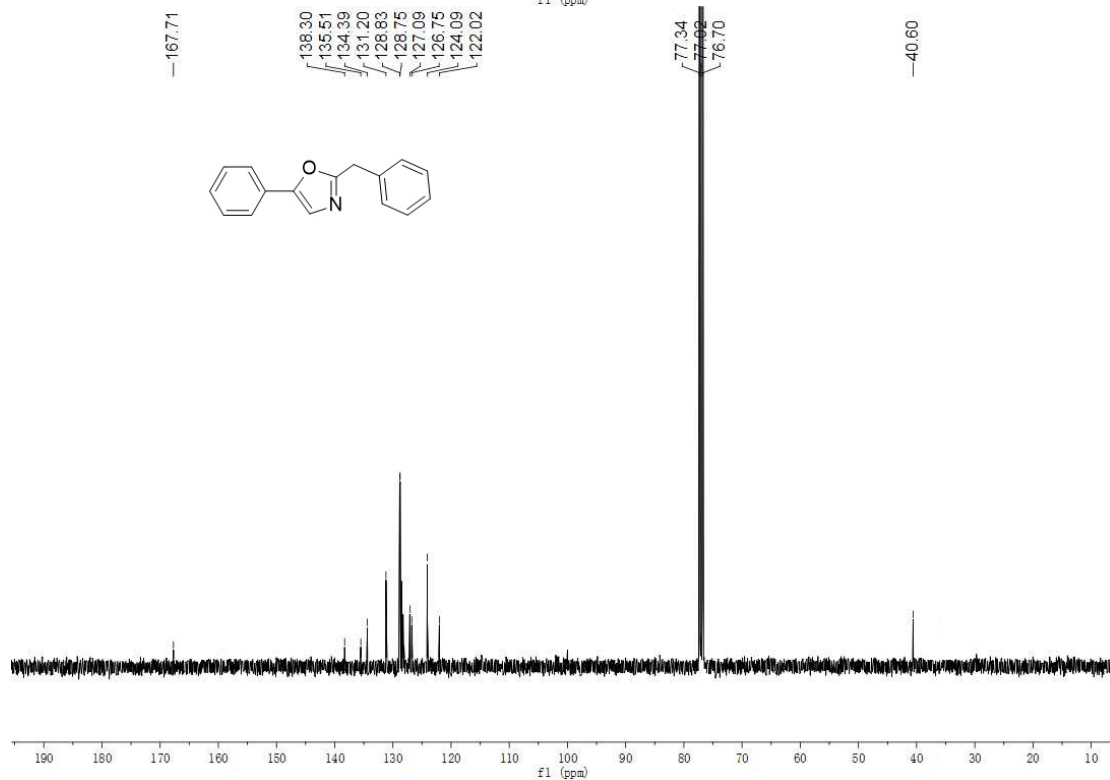
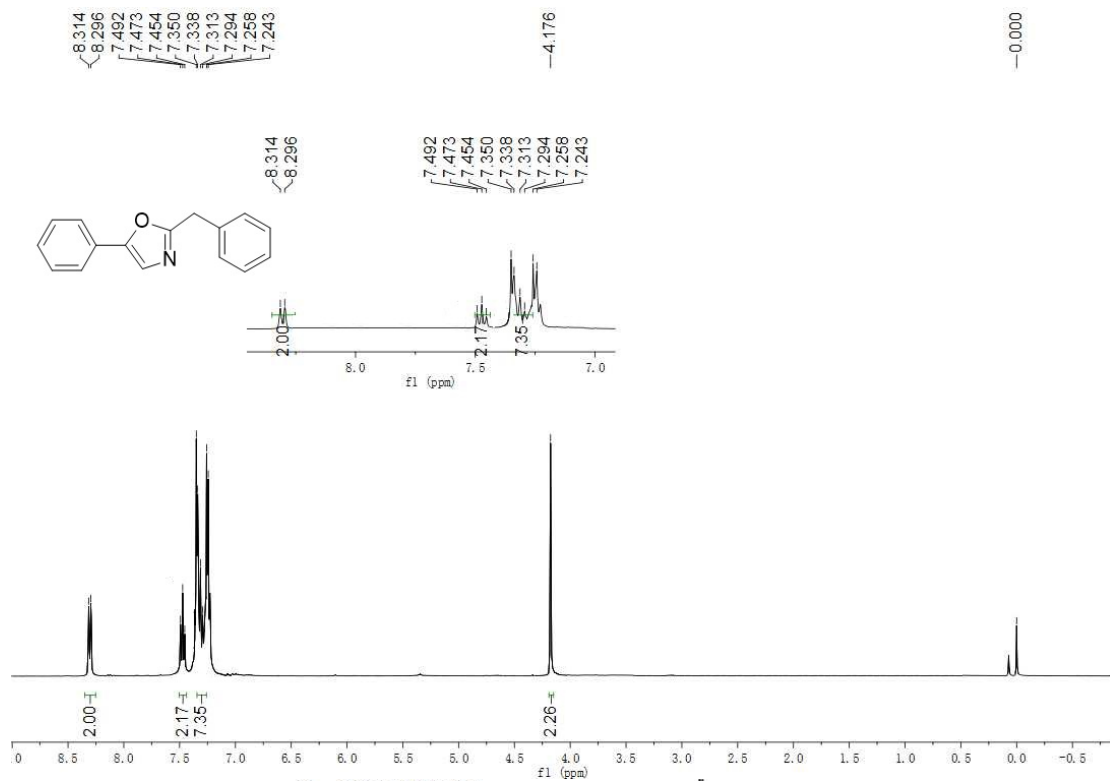


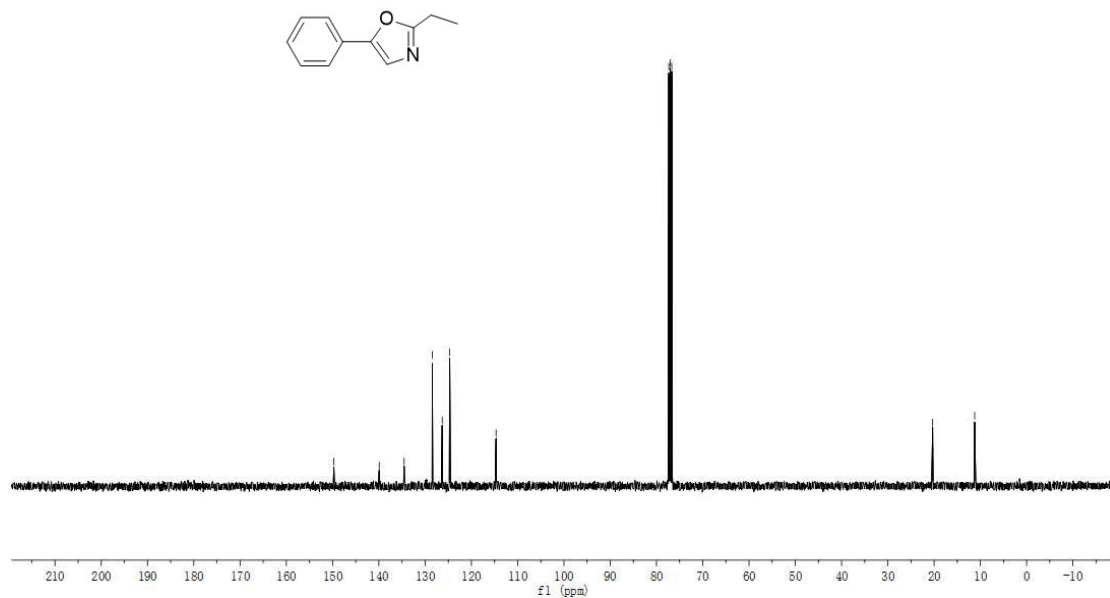
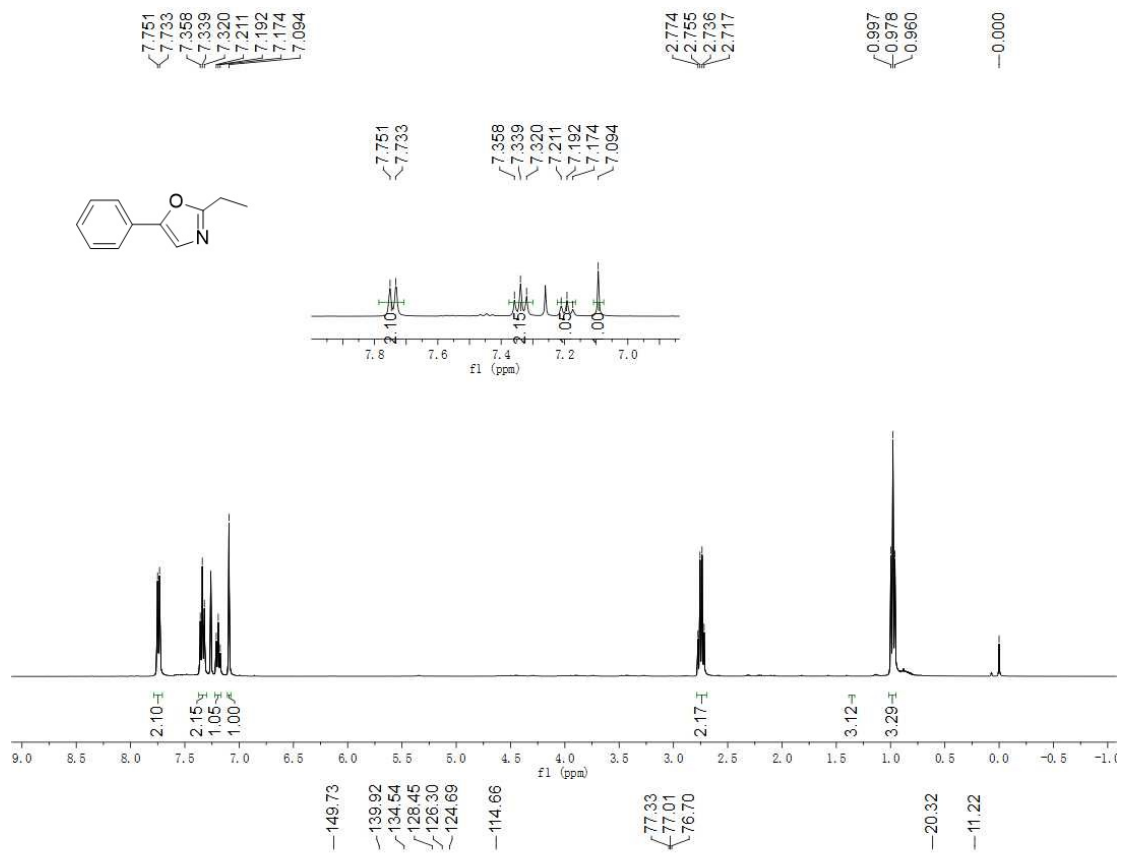


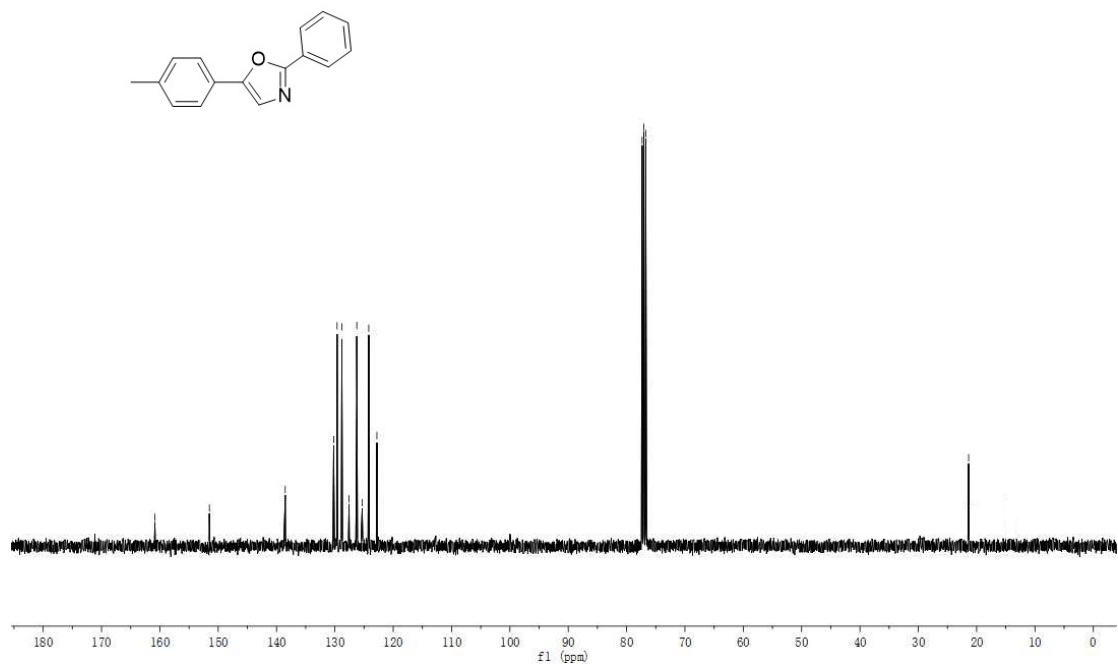
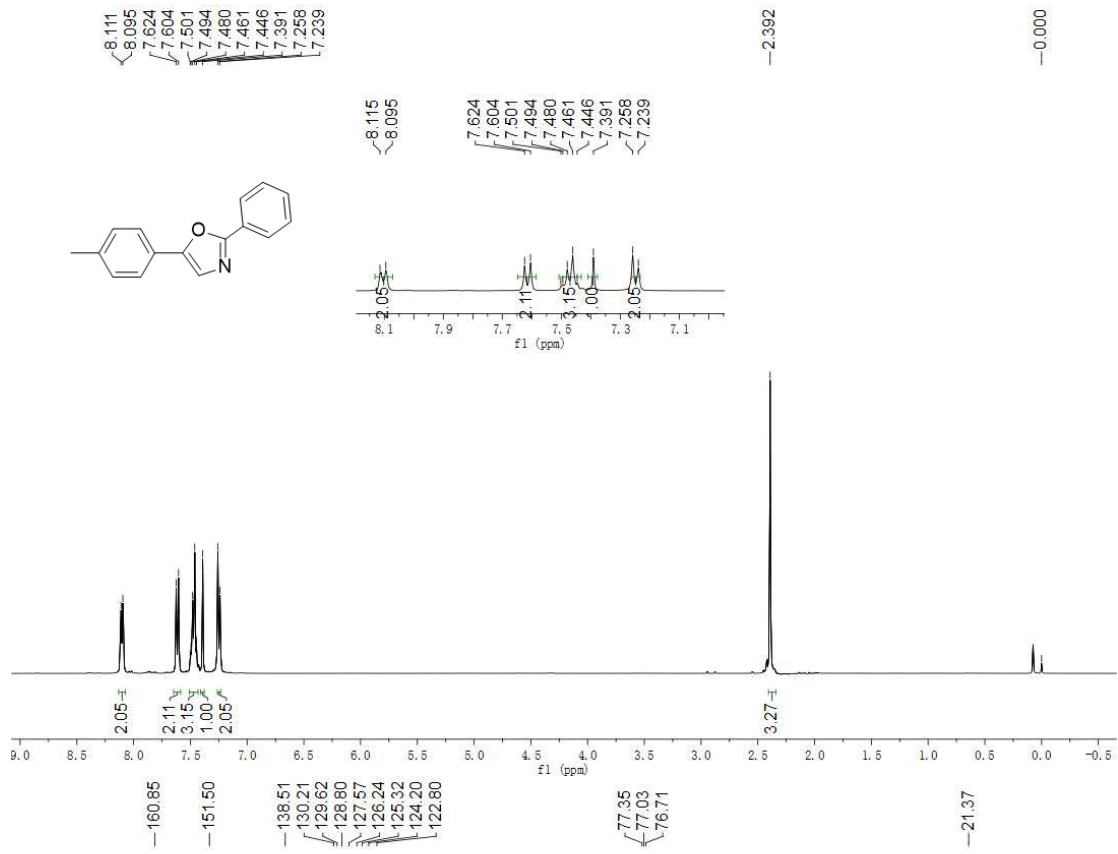


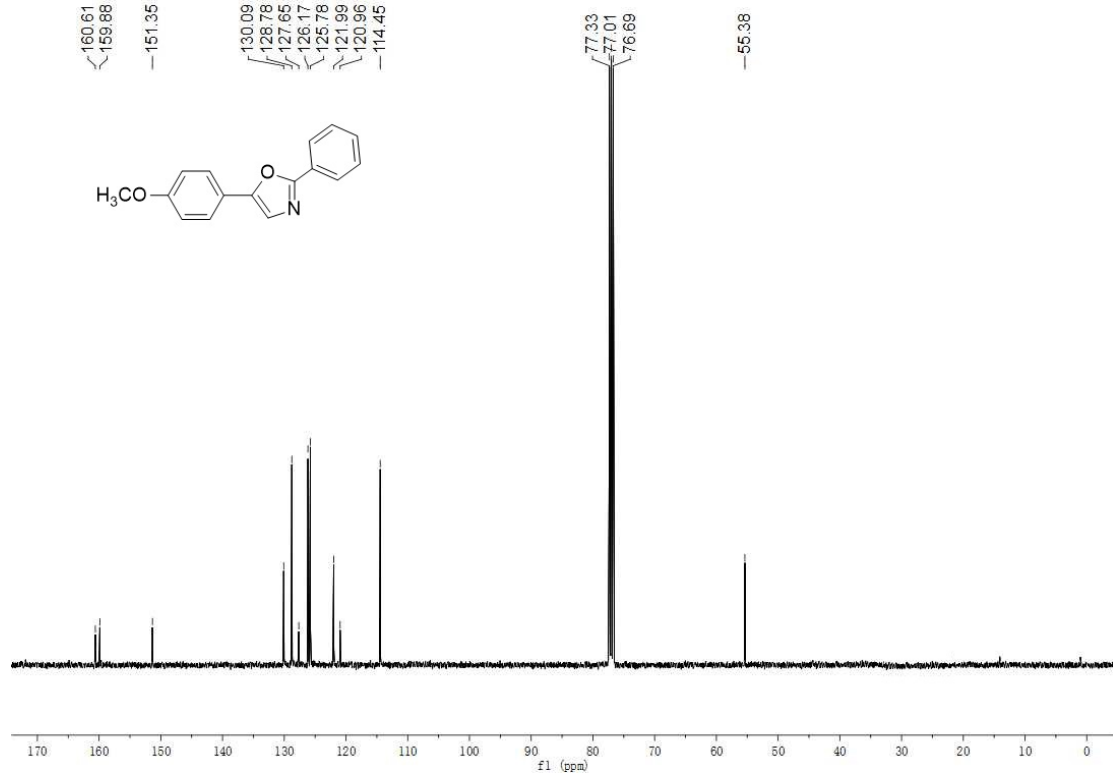
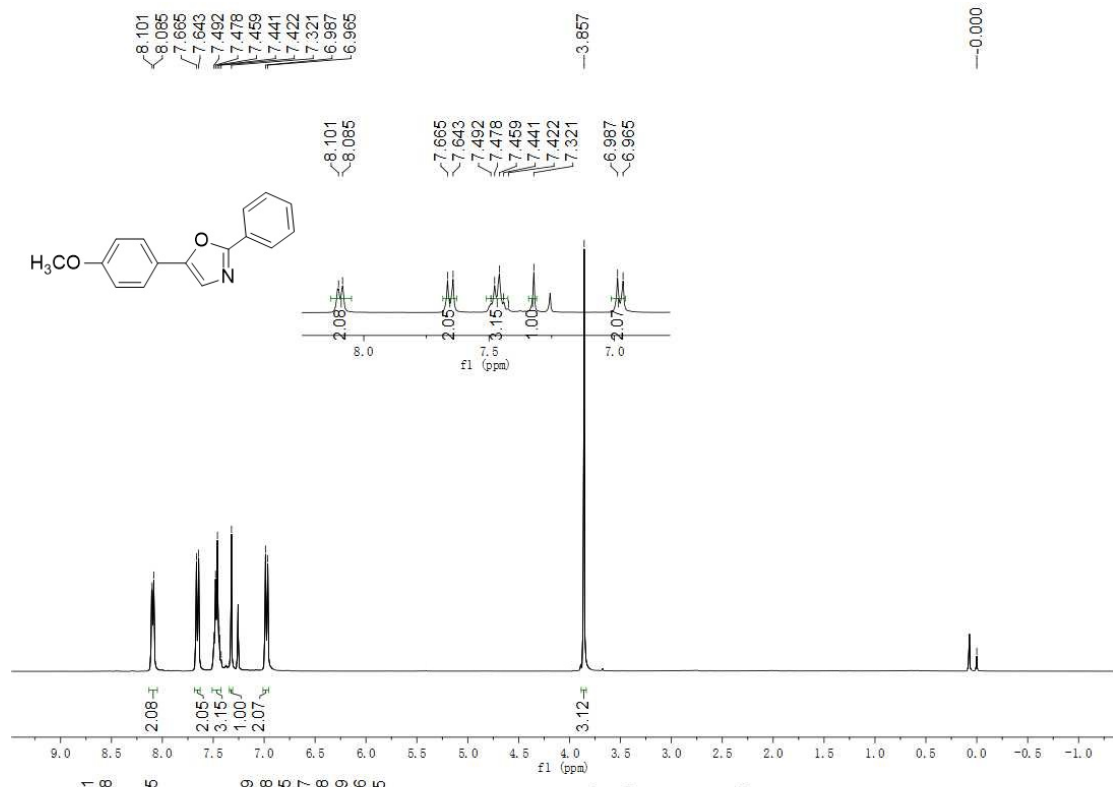




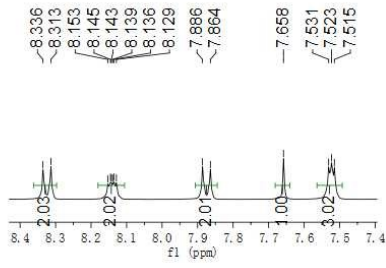
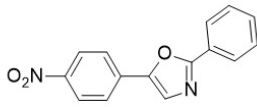




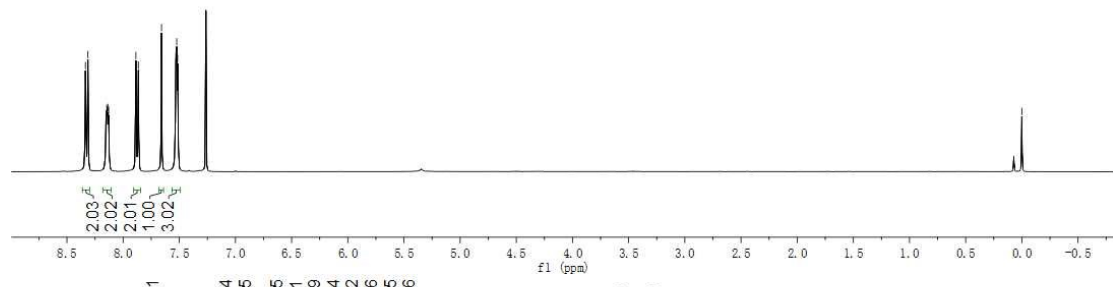




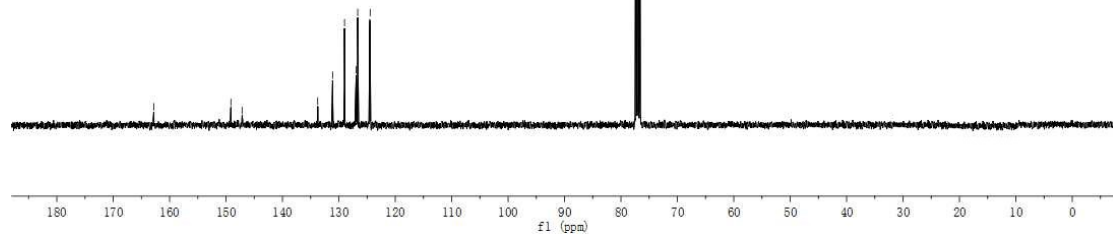
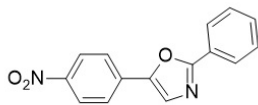
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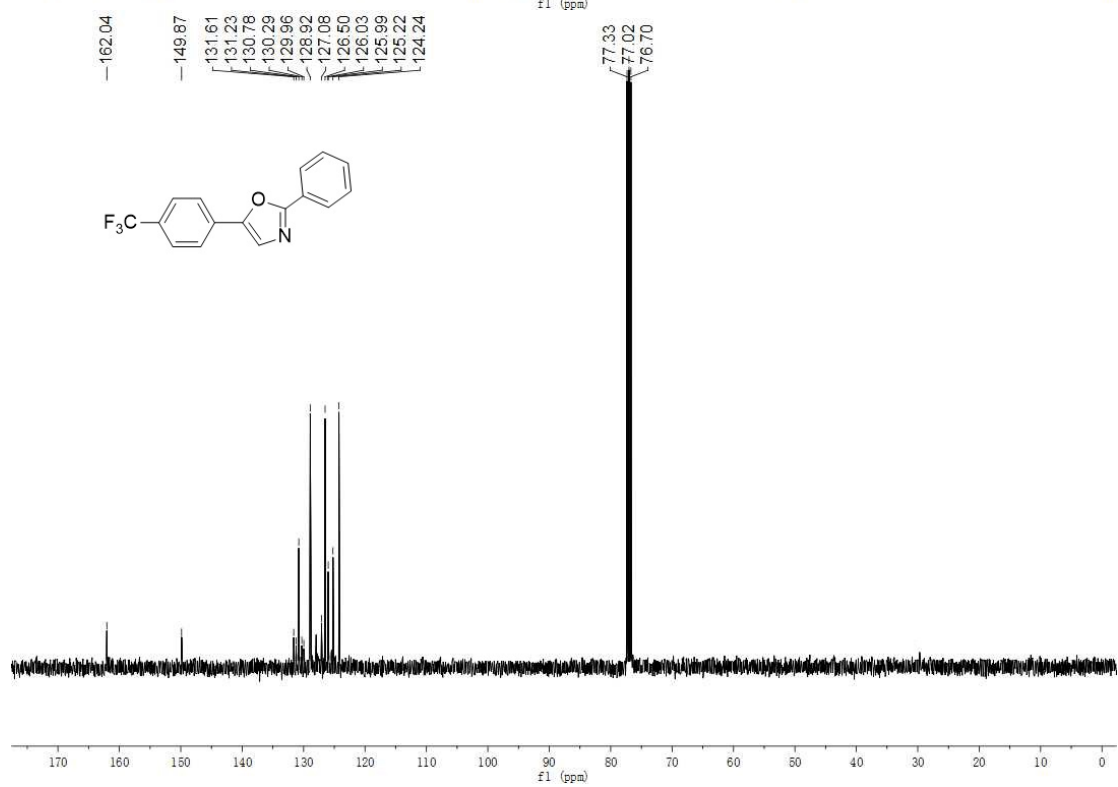
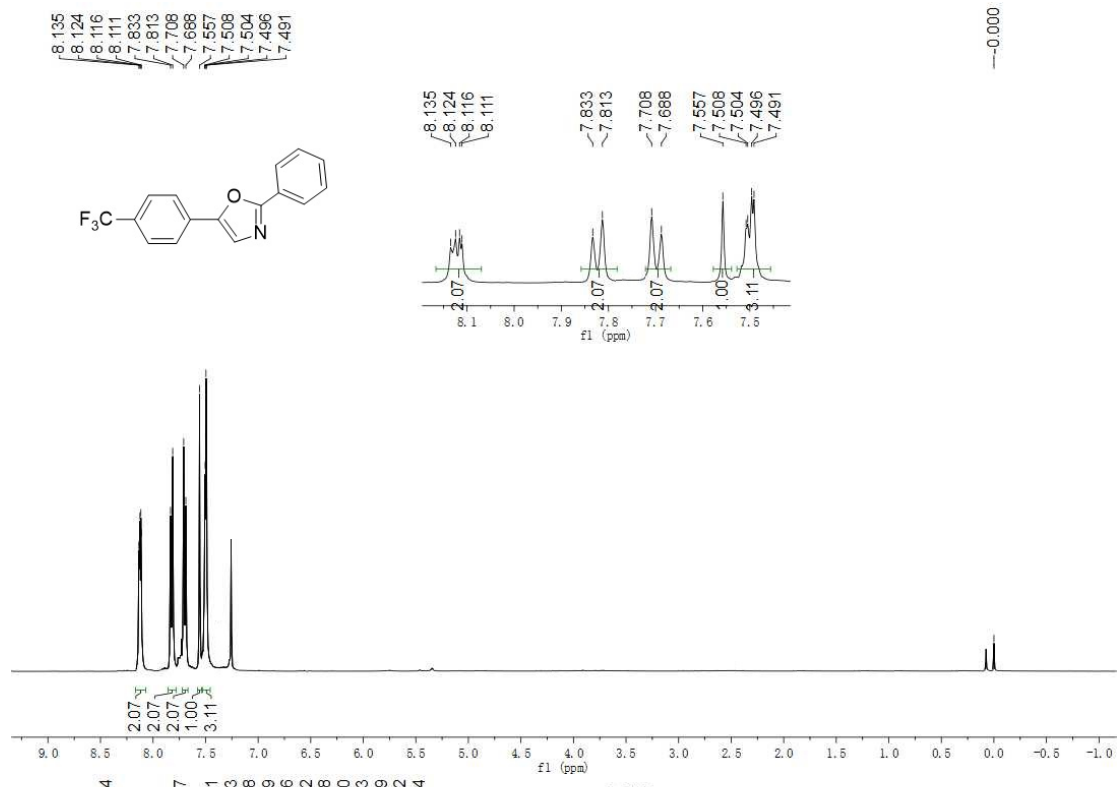


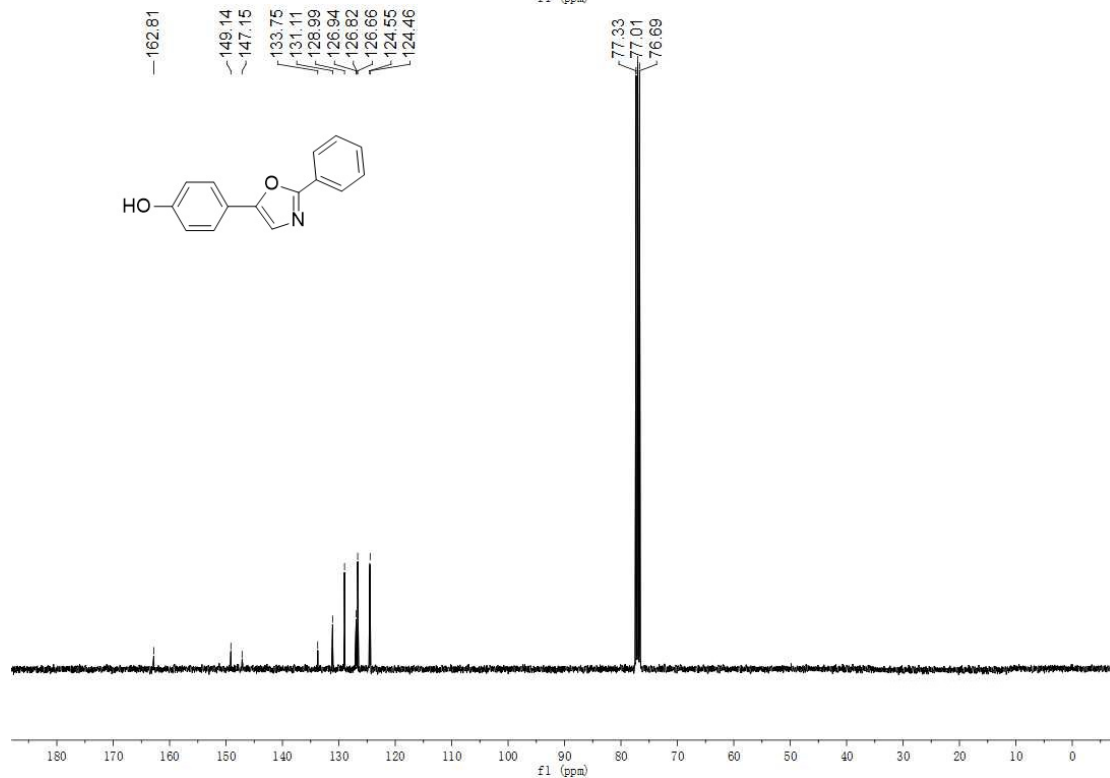
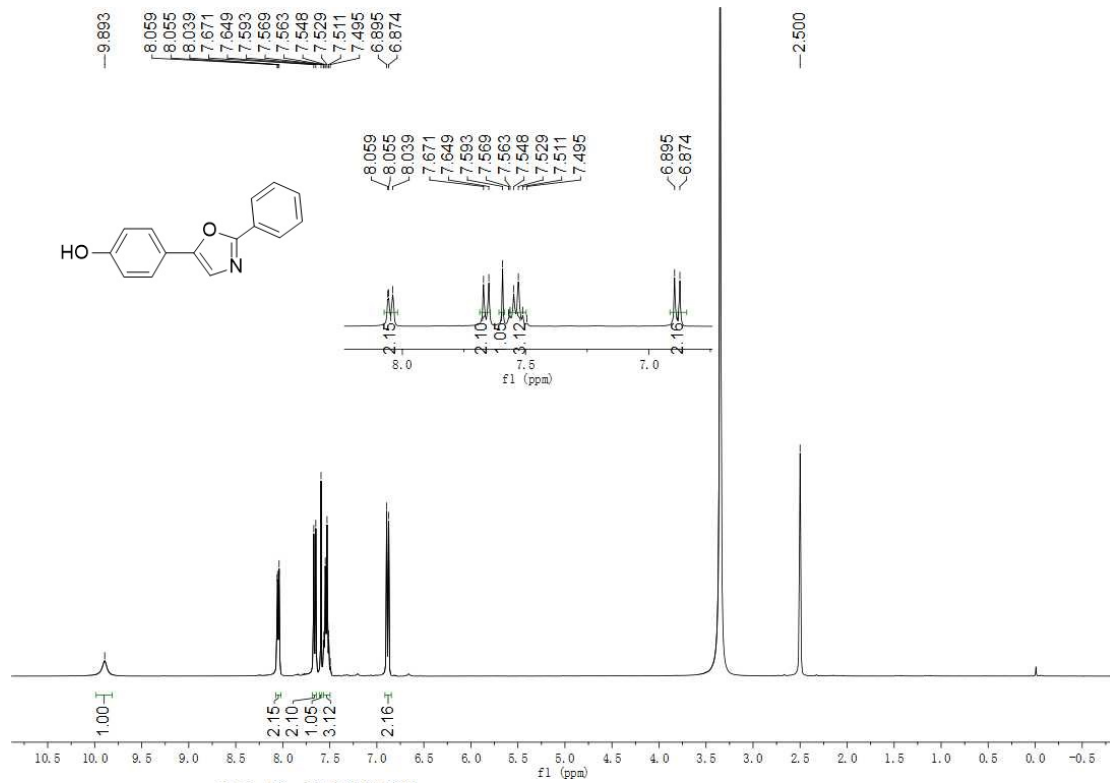
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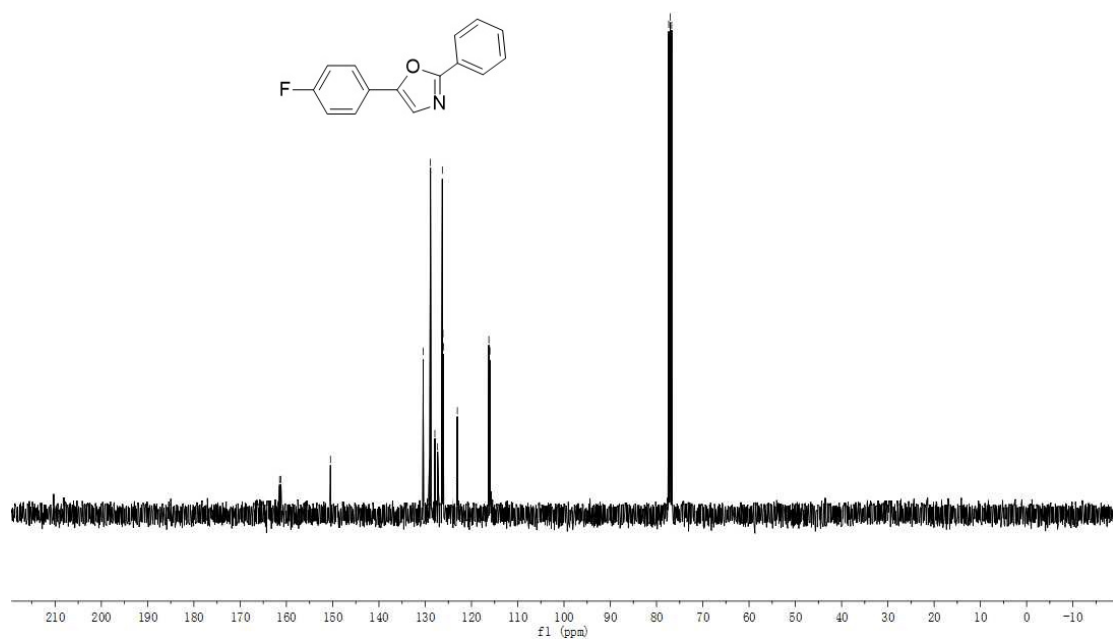
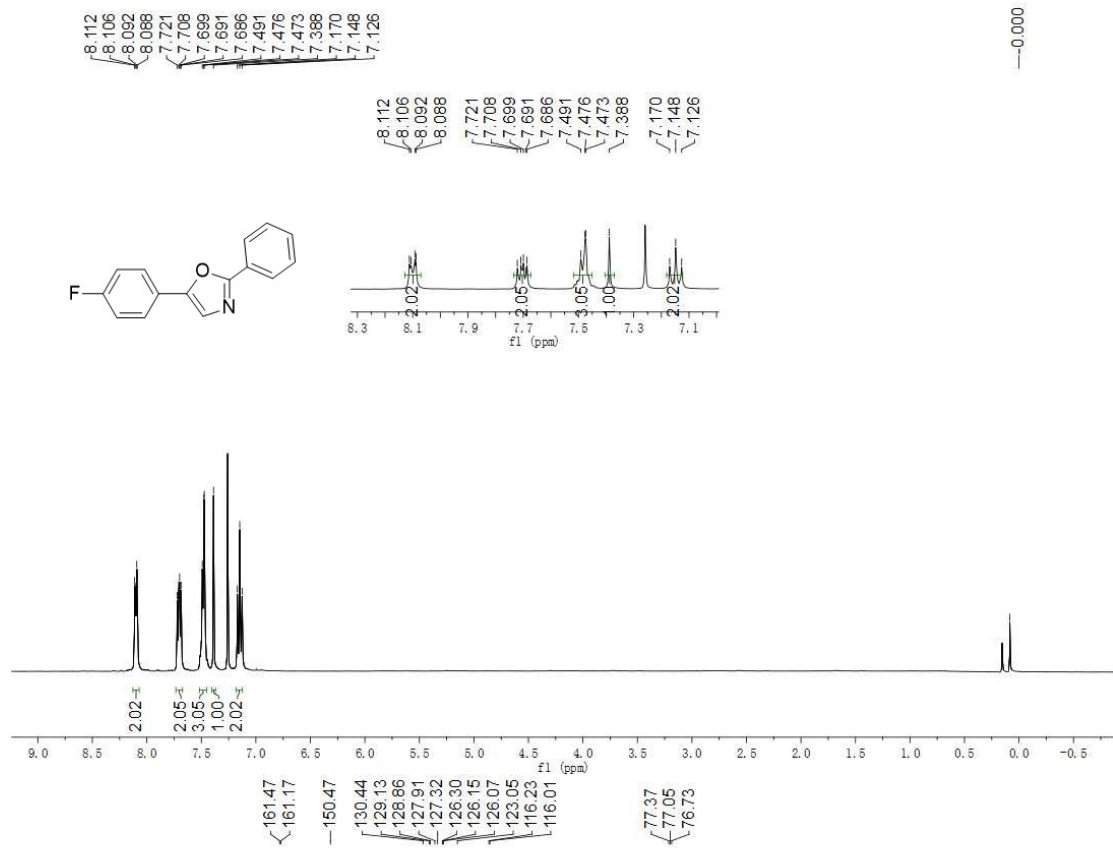


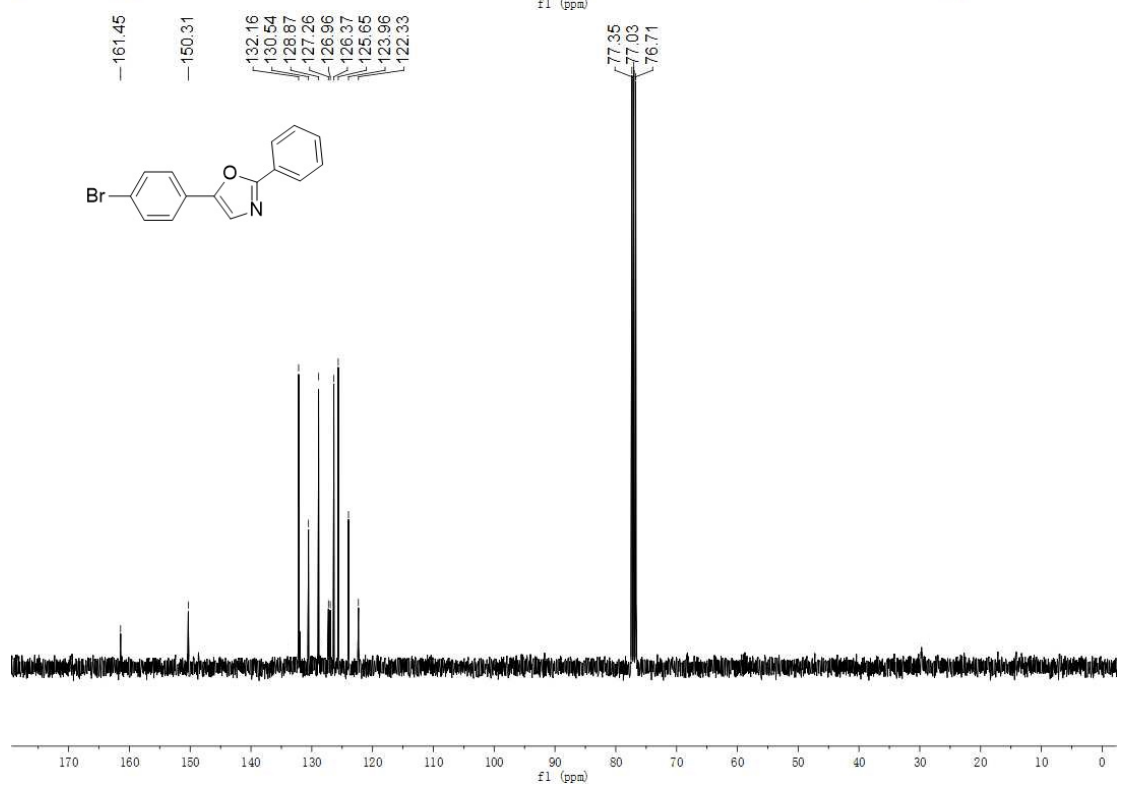
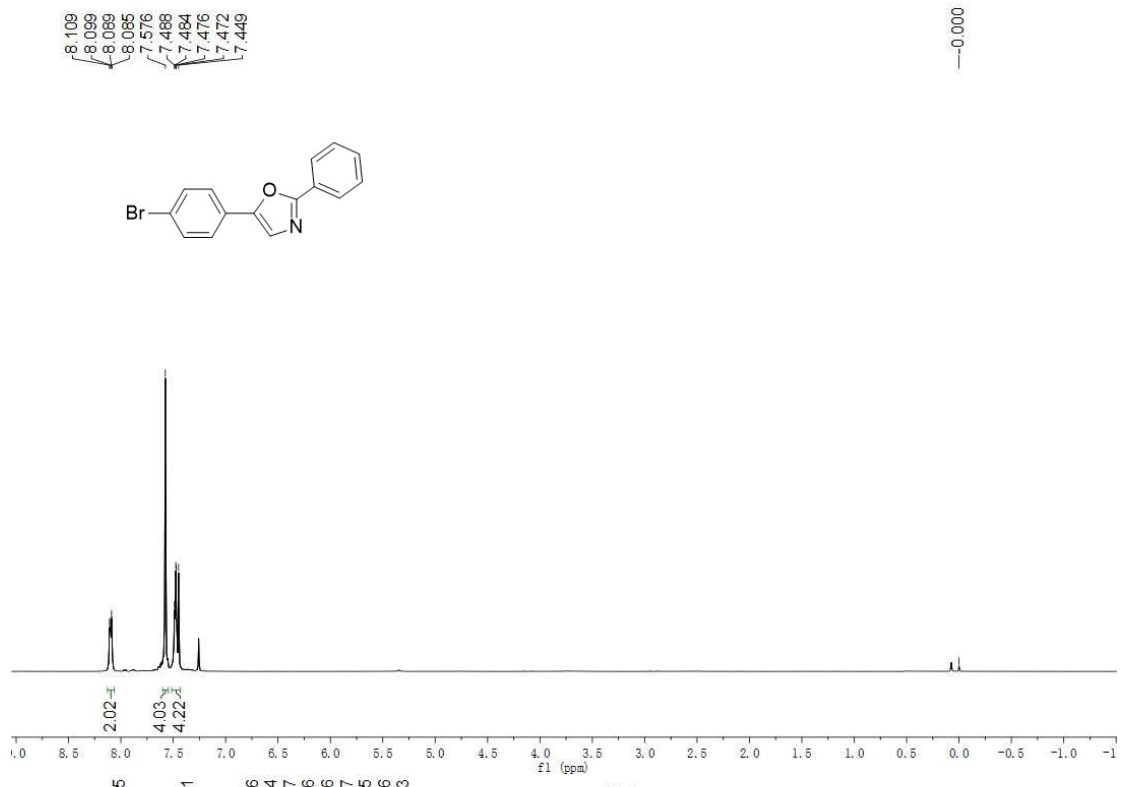
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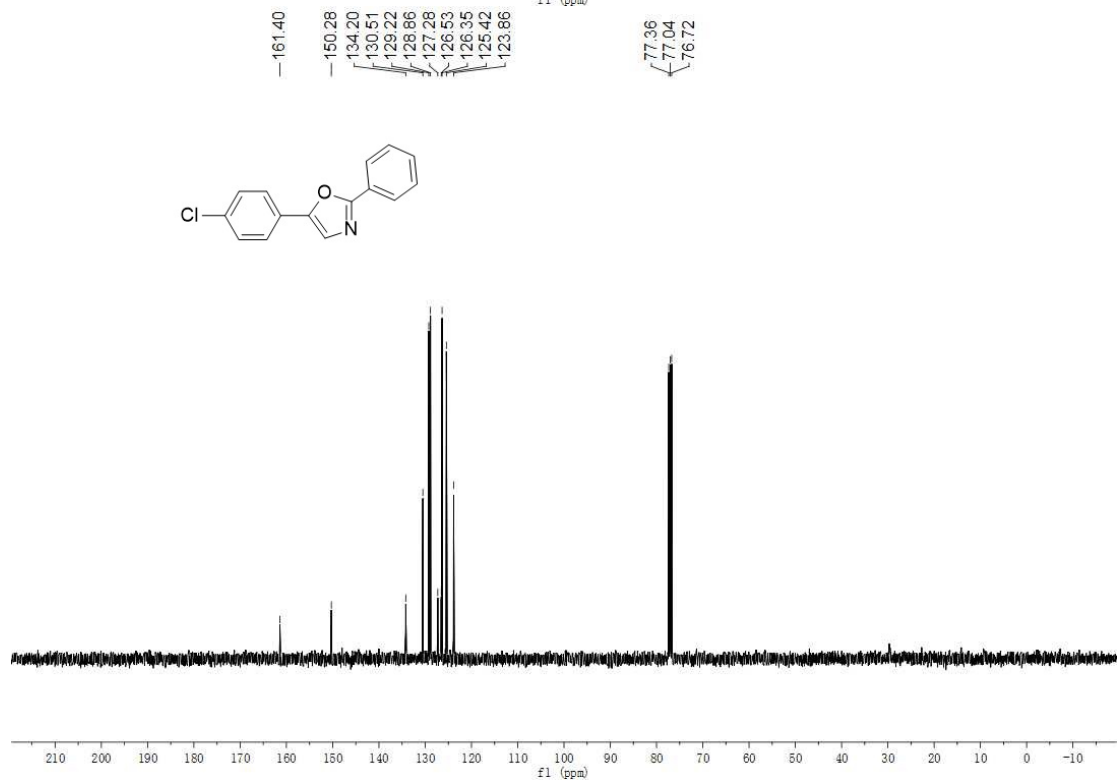
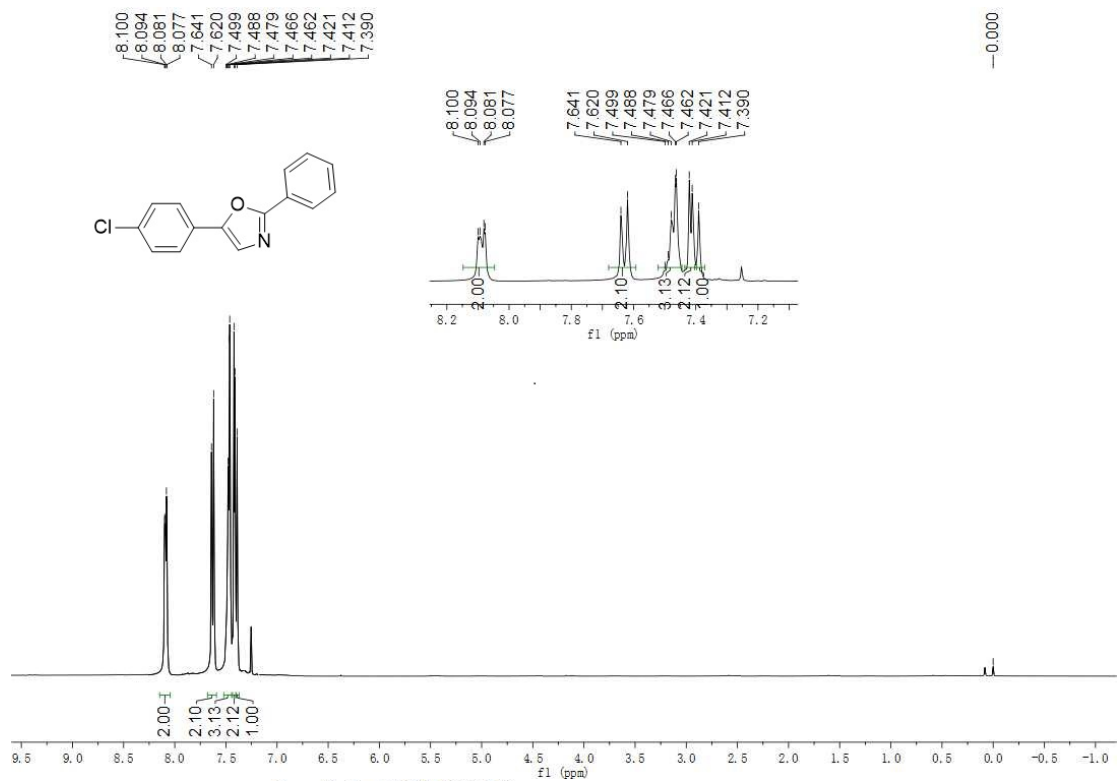


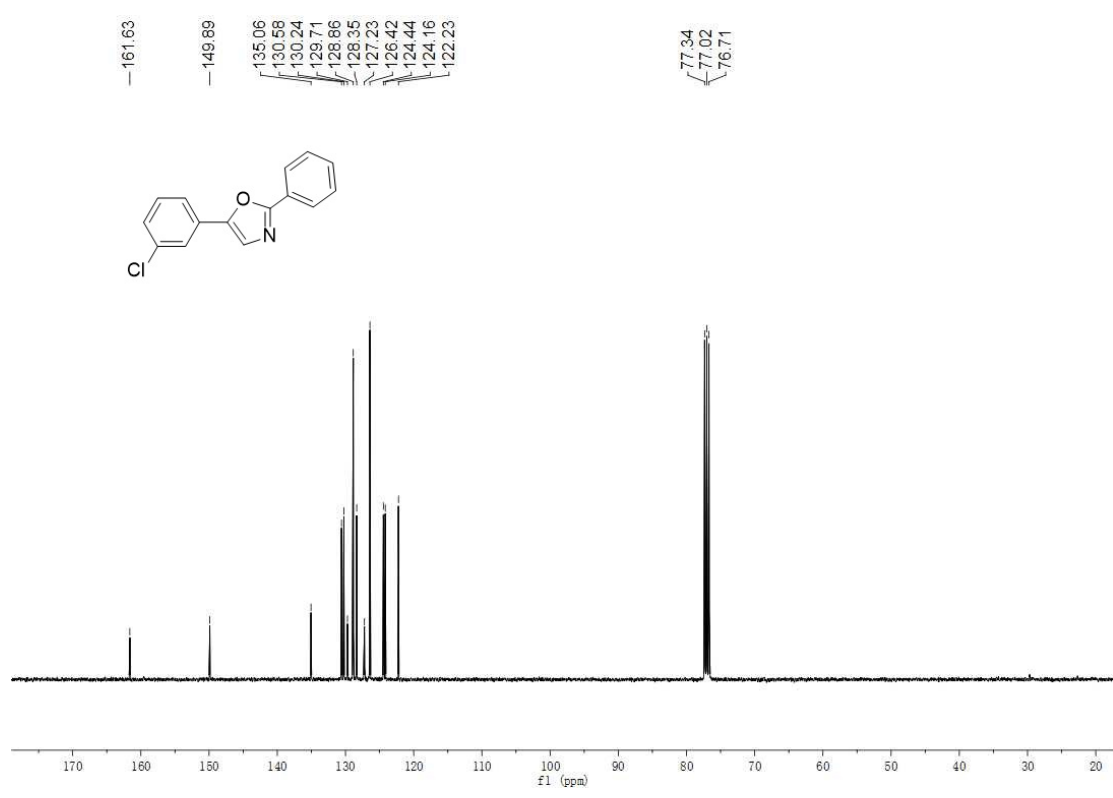
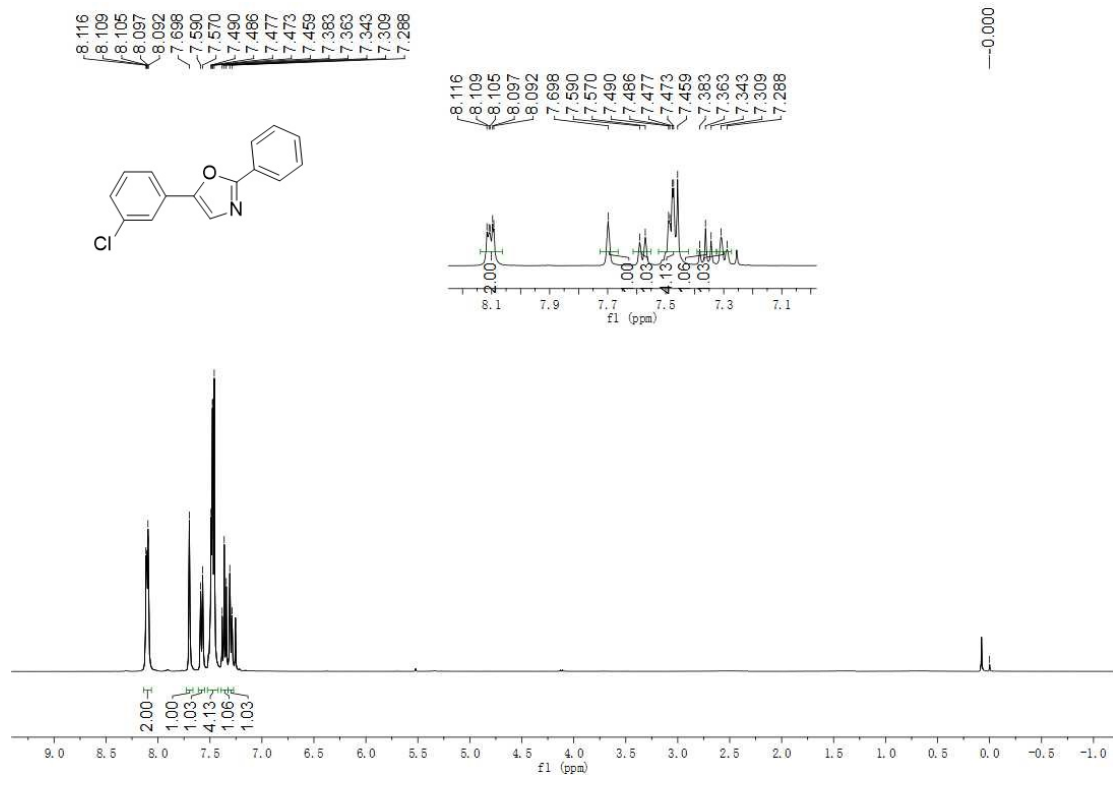




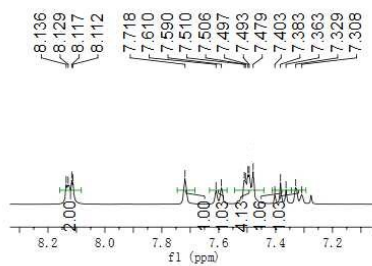
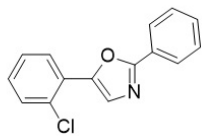




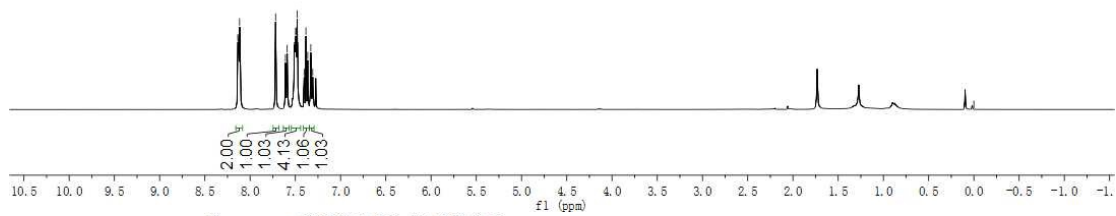




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