

Pd/C-Catalyzed Regiodivergent Hydrocarboxylation and Esterification of Alkynes

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A. General Information

High quality reagents and analytical grade solvents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich, TCI Chemicals, Merck and Sd Fine Chem. Ltd. Pd/C, Pd/Al₂O₃, Pd(OAc)₂, PdCl₂, Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂, Pd(PPh₃)₄, and Pd₂(dba)₃ were purchased from TCI chemicals and Sigma Aldrich respectively. Reactions were monitored using TLC which was performed on pre-coated silica gel plates 60 F254 (purchased from Merck) in UV light detector. Silica gel (60-120 mesh size) for column chromatography purchased from Merck was used for the purification of compounds. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Advance 600 spectrometer operating at Bruker Advance 600 spectrometer (600 MHz, ¹H at 600 MHz, ¹³C at 151 MHz) and JEOL ECX500 MHz (¹H at 500 MHz, ¹³C at 126 MHz) Spectra were recorded at 25 °C in DMSO-*d*₆ [residual DMSO (δ_H 2.50 and 3.33 ppm), DMSO (δ_C 39.52 ppm), CDCl₃ (δ_H 7.26 ppm and δ_C 77.00 ppm)] with TMS as an internal standard. Chemical shifts were recorded in δ (ppm) relative to the TMS and NMR solvent signal, coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz and multiplicities of signals are reported as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; m, multiplet; brs, broad singlet. Mass spectra were recorded on electrospray ionization (ESI) quadrupole time of flight (Q-TOF) mass spectrometer.

B. Optimization studies of terminal alkynes to cinnamic acid (2a)

Table S1: Effect of Pd/C loading on 2a:

Sr. No.	Pd/C (mol%)	Isolated Yield (%)
1	2	65
2	3	75
3	4	76
4	5	76

Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), xantphos (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), Oxalic acid (5 equiv), DMF (2 mL) at 125 °C for 24 hrs.

Table S2: Effect of Temperature in Reaction Progress

Sr. No.	Temperature (°C)	Isolated Yield (%)
1	115	n.r.
2	125	75
3	135	72

Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (0.03 equiv), xantphos (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), Oxalic acid (5 equiv), DMF (2 mL) for 24 hrs.

Table S3: Effect of Time in Reaction Progress

Sr. No.	Time (hours)	Isolated Yield (%)
1	9	48
2	12	60
3	15	68
4	18	75
5	24	75

Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (0.03 equiv) ligand (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), Oxalic acid (5 equiv), DMF (2 mL) at 125 °C.

Table S4: Effect of Oxalic acid:

Sr. No.	Oxalic acid (equiv)	Isolated yield (%)
1	2	72
2	3	85

3	4	80
4	5	75

Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (0.03 equiv), xantphos (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), DMF (2 mL) for 18 hrs.

Table S5: Screening of other CO sources:

Sr. No.	CO Source (3 equiv)	Isolated Yield (%)^a
1	Oxalyl Chloride	Traces
2^b	Formic acid	46
3	Formic acid	28
4	<i>N</i> -Formylsaccharin	34
5	(HCHO) _n	Traces
6	DMF	nr
7^c	DMF	nr

^[a] **Reaction conditions:** Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (3 mol%), xantphos (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), DMF (2 mL) at 125 °C for 18 hrs. ^[b] Acetic anhydride (3 equiv). ^[c] Acetic acid (3 equiv).

Table S6: Screening of ligands:

Sr. No.	Ligand	Isolated Yield (%)
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1	Dppb	46
2	Dppp	38
3	Dppf	n.r.
4	1,10-Phenanthroline	Traces
5	Tri(<i>p</i> -tolyl)phosphine	48

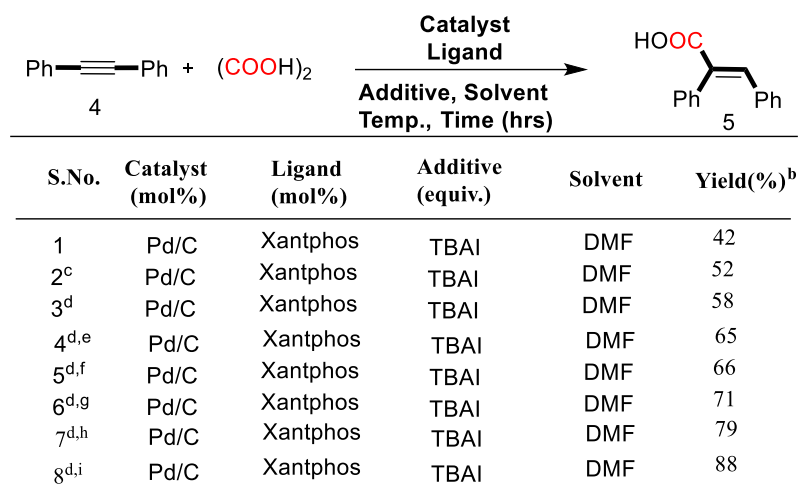
Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (0.03 equiv) ligand (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), Oxalic acid (3 equiv), DMF (2 mL) at 125 °C for 18 hrs.

Table S7: Screening of solvent:

Sr. No.	Solvent	Isolated Yield (%)
1	DMA	80
2	Toluene	n.r
3	Propylene carbonate	n.r
4	PEG-400	35
5	Xylene	n.r
6	1,4-dioxane	n.r
7	DMSO	44

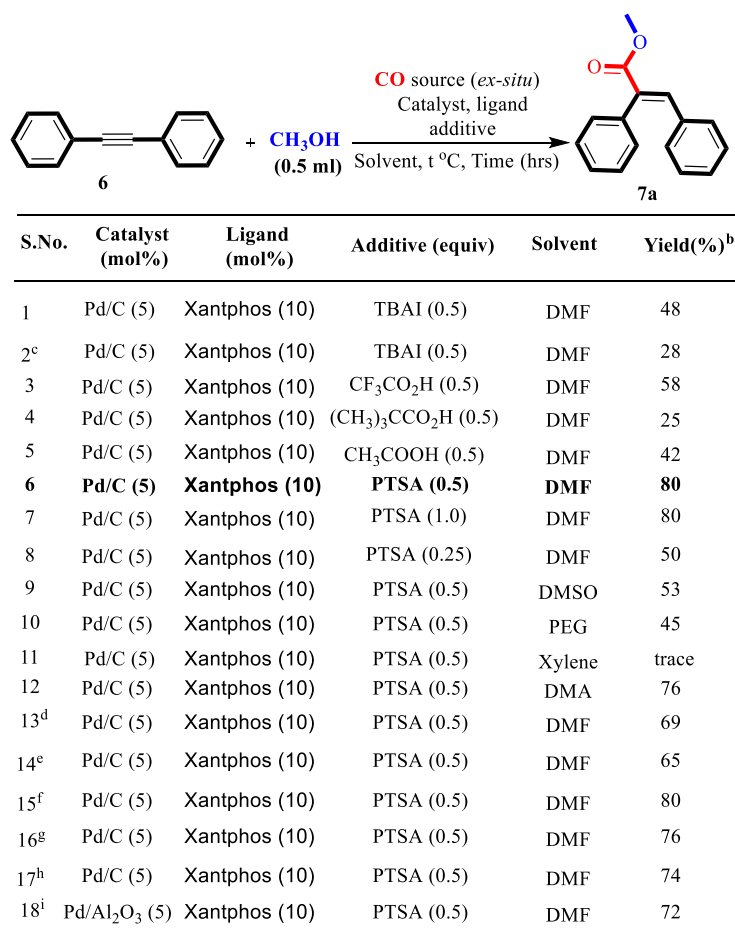
Reaction conditions: Phenyl acetylene (1 equiv), Pd/C (0.03 equiv) Xantphos (0.06 equiv), TBAI (0.5 equiv), Oxalic acid (3 equiv), Solvent (2 mL) at 125 °C for 18 hrs.

C. Optimization study of internal alkynes to α,β -unsaturated acid



^[a]Reaction conditions: **4** (1.0 equiv), Pd/C (3 mol%), xantphos (6 mol%), TBAI (0.5 equiv), oxalic acid (3.0 equiv), 2.0 mL of DMF; heated for 18 hrs at 125 °C; ^[b] Isolated yields; ^[c] 24 h; ^[d] 30 h; ^[e] 4 equiv oxalic acid; ^[f] 5 equiv oxalic acid; ^[g] temperature 135 °C; ^[h] Pd/C:xantphos (mol%) 4:8; ^[i] Pd/C:xantphos (mol%) 5:10

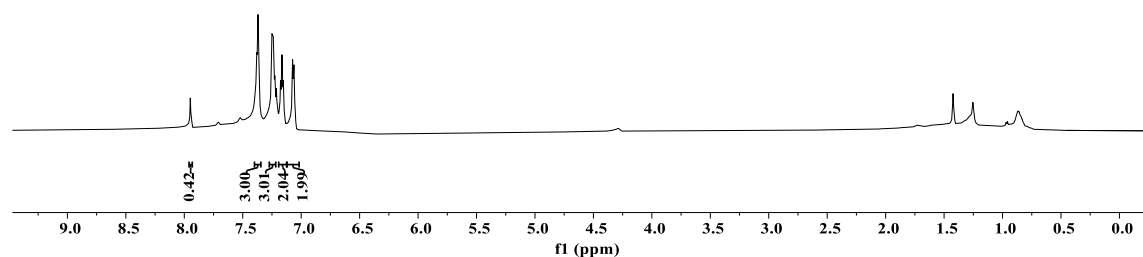
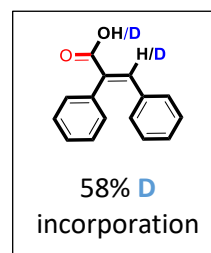
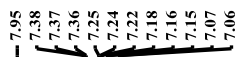
D. Optimization study of internal alkynes to α,β -unsaturated esters



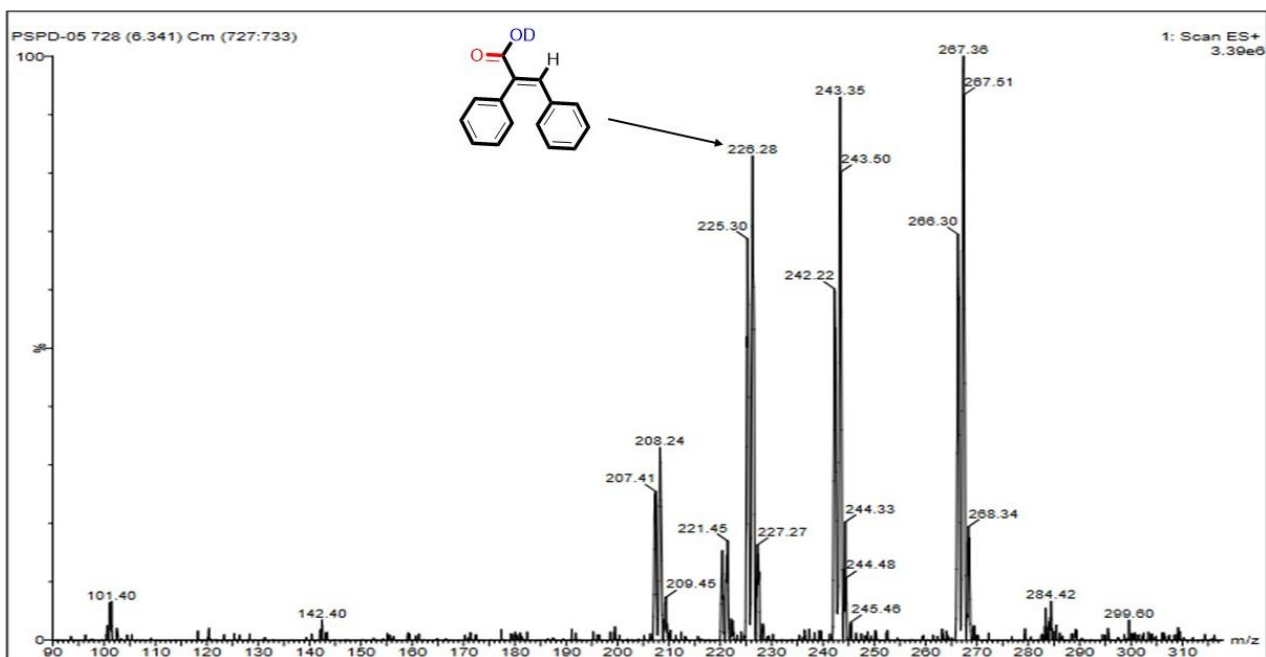
^[a]Reaction conditions: Inner vial: **6** (0.28 mmol, 1 equiv.), 0.5 mL of methanol, Pd/C (5 mol%), Xantphos (10 mol%), Additive (equiv), 1.5 mL of DMF; Outer vial: oxalic acid (4 equiv) in 0.5 mL of DMF heated for 24 h at 125 °C; ^[b] Isolated yields; ^[c] one-pot reaction; ^[d] 1 mL of methanol; ^[e] 3 equiv oxalic acid; ^[f] 5 equiv oxalic acid; ^[g] temperature 135 °C; ^[h] 18 h ^[i] 5 wt%.

E. Control experiments data

i) ¹H NMR spectra of **5aD** (600 MHz, CHLOROFORM-*D*) δ (ppm) 7.37 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H).

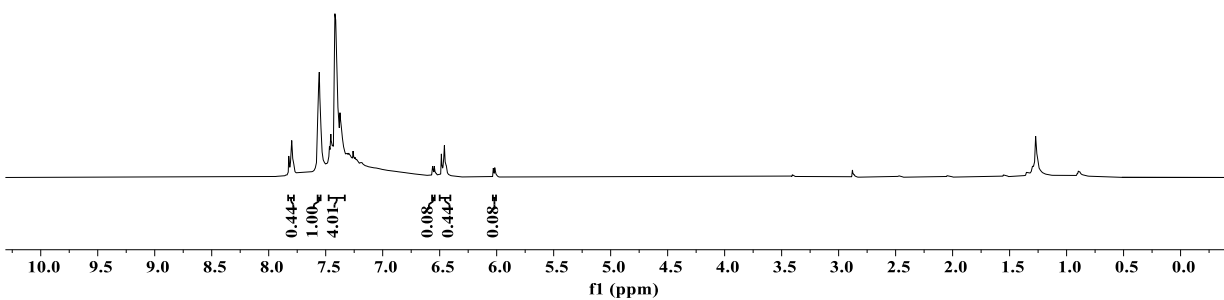
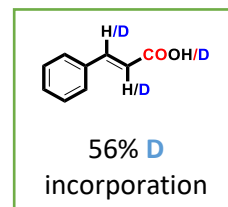


ii) LC-MS spectra of compound **5aD**

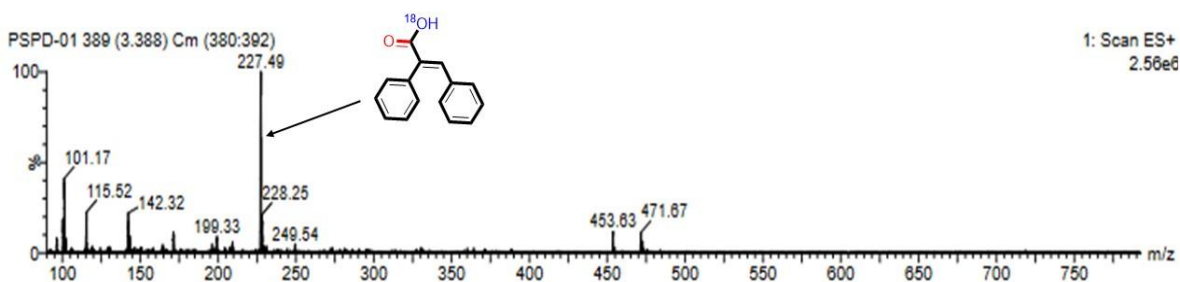
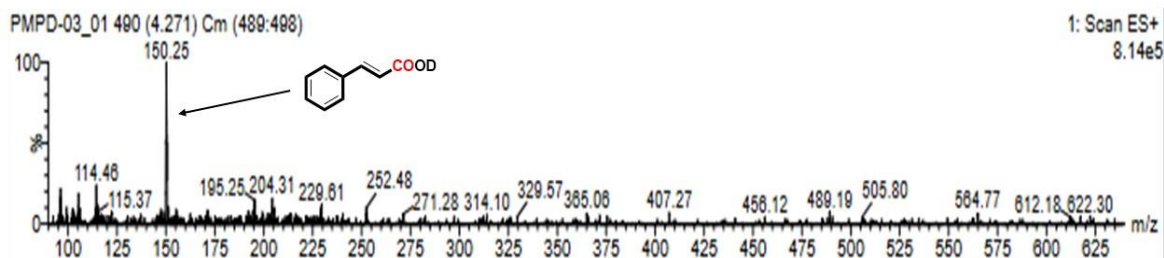


iii) ^1H NMR of **2aD** (600 MHz, CHLOROFORM-*D*) δ 7.57 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.34 (m, 4H)

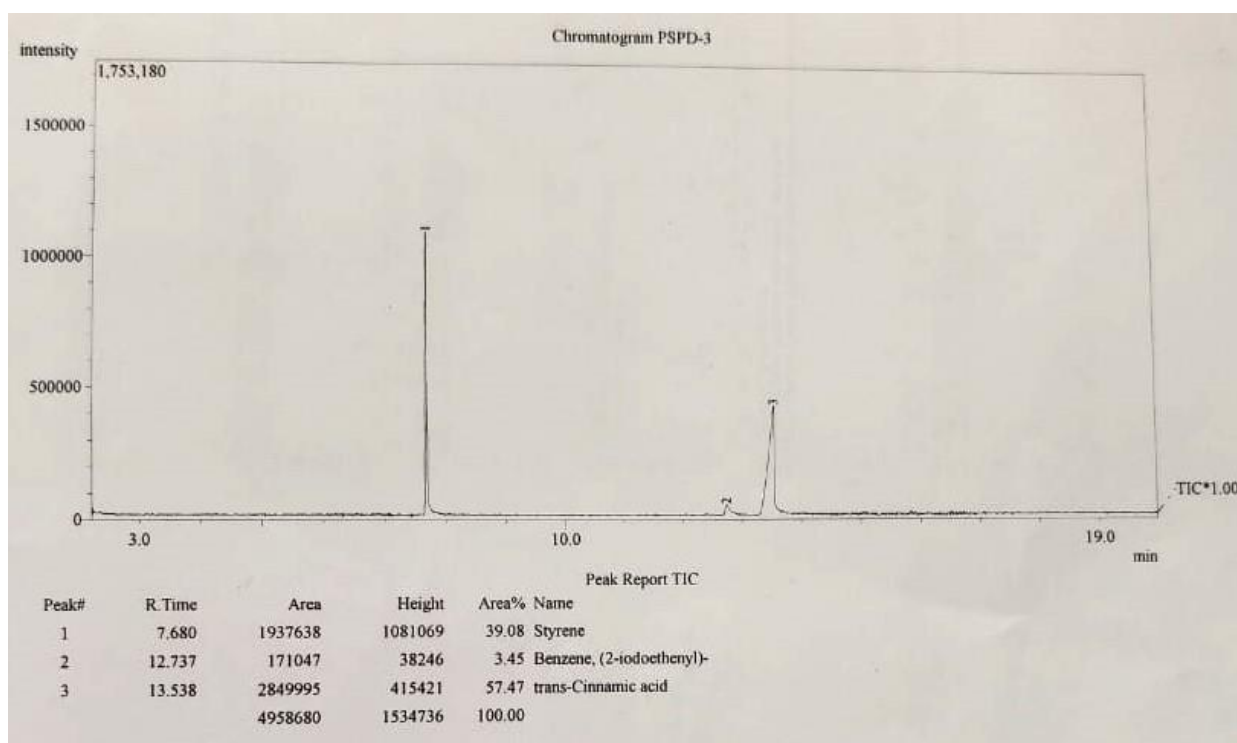
7.82
7.80
7.80
7.79
7.57
7.57
7.56
7.56
7.55
7.47
7.46
7.45
7.44
7.44
7.44
7.43
7.42
7.42
7.41
7.41
7.41
7.40
7.40
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7.36
7.36
7.35
7.34
7.26
6.48
6.46



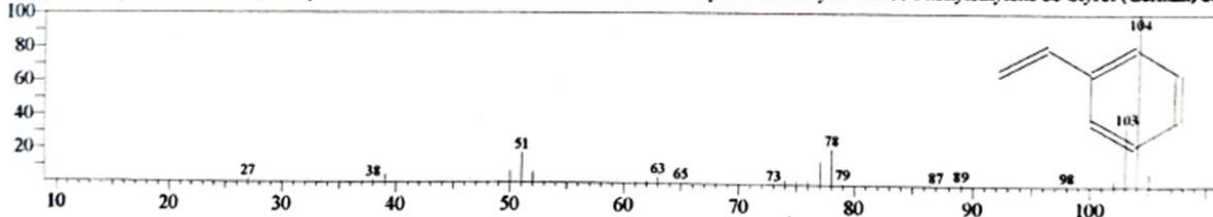
iv) LC-MS spectra of compounds 2aD and 9



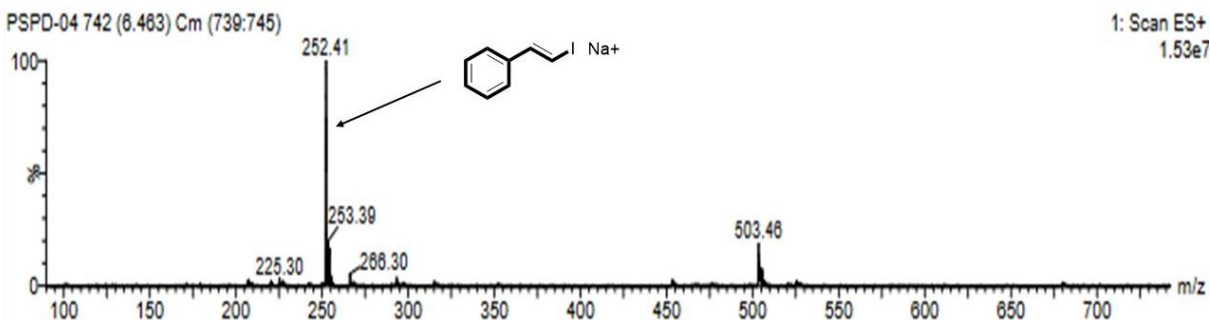
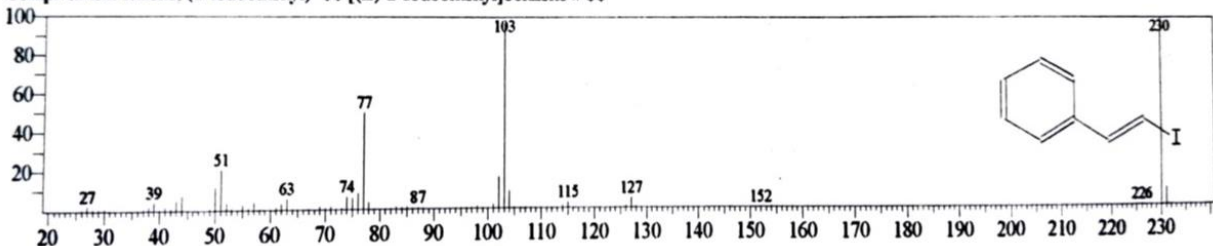
v) GC-MS and LC-MS spectra of styrene (10) and E-(β -iodo styrene) (11)



Hit# 5 Entry: 2324 Library: NIST11s.lib
SI: 92 Formula: C₈H₈ CAS: 100-42-5 MolWeight: 104 RetIndex: 883
CompName: Styrene \$\$ Benzene, ethenyl- \$\$ Bulstren K-525-19 \$\$ Cinnamene \$\$ Phenethylene \$\$ Phenylethene \$\$ Phenylethylene \$\$ Styrol (German) \$\$

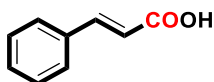


Hit# 1 Entry: 64494 Library: NIST11.lib
SI: 91 Formula: C₈H₇I CAS: 101349-79-5 MolWeight: 230 RetIndex: 1315
CompName: Benzene, (2-iodoethenyl)- \$\$ [(E)-2-Iodoethenyl]benzene # \$\$



F. General procedure for the synthesis and characterization of compounds 2a-t, 3a-n and 5a-u

Cinnamic acid (2a)

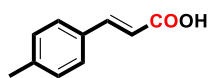


We executed the reaction using WHEATON® NextGen™ V Vial® (5 mL) and the entire system was fitted with PTFE faced black solid cap. Initially, the system was charged with phenylacetylene 1 (0.49 mmol, 53.7 μ L), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0147 mmol, 31 mg), Xantphos (0.0294 mmol, 17 mg), TBAI (0.245 mmol, 90 mg), oxalic acid (1.47 mmol, 132 mg) and DMF (2 mL). Further, the entire system was capped with the solid PTFE-faced cap and further tightened with Teflon tape to prevent the leakage of gas. The whole system was allowed to heat in preheated heating blocks at 125 °C for 18 hrs. The reaction progress was observed with the help of TLC. After the accomplishment of the reaction, the reaction mixture was placed in a separatory funnel. Further, 3 mL of water was added to the reaction mixture

and organic contents were extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was passed over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude mixture was further purified by silica gel (mesh 100:200) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded **2a** as white solid (61 mg, 85% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 16:84$).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ (ppm) 12.41 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.51 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*D*₆) δ (ppm) 167.73, 144.06, 134.33, 130.31, 129.00, 128.30, 119.32. ESI-MS [M-H]⁻ (m/z) calcd. for C₉H₇O₂⁻ is 147.0446, obsd. 147.0453.

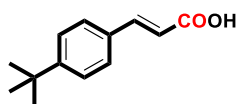
4-Methylcinnamic acid (**2b**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (0.43 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0129 mmol, 27 mg), Xantphos (0.025 mmol, 17 mg), TBAI (0.215 mmol, 79 mg), oxalic acid (1.29 mmol, 116 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2b** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (60 mg, 87% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 5:95$).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.77 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 6.41 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.50, 147.09, 141.27, 131.33, 129.68, 128.37, 116.14, 21.49. ESI-MS [M-H]⁺ (m/z) calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁O₂⁺ is 163.0754, obsd. 163.0766

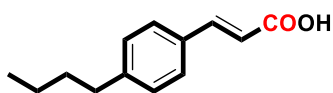
4-(*tert*-butyl)cinnamic acid (**2c**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-(*tert*-butyl)-4-ethynylbenzene (0.316 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0094 mmol, 20 mg), Xantphos (0.0189 mmol, 11 mg), TBAI (0.158 mmol, 58 mg), oxalic acid (0.949 mmol, 86 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2c** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (12% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (50 mg, 78% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 50:50$).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.37 (s, 9H), 1.26 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 173.10, 153.01, 150.90, 142.11, 132.53, 131.60, 130.87, 129.28, 125.68, 125.28, 34.78, 34.67, 31.40, 31.09. ESI-MS [M-H]⁻ (m/z) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₅O₂⁻ is 203.1072, obsd. 203.1082

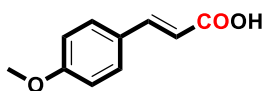
4-(*n*-butyl)cinnamic acid (**2d**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-butylbenzene (0.316 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0094 mmol, 20 mg), Xantphos (0.0189 mmol, 11 mg), TBAI (0.158 mmol, 58 mg), oxalic acid (0.949 mmol, 86 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2d** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (12% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (52 mg, 80% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 7:93$).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.79 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.43 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.66 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 1.65 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.33 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.87, 147.14, 146.28, 131.47, 129.03, 128.40, 116.16, 35.56, 33.32, 22.29, 13.89. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2^-$ is 203.1072, obsd. 203.1082.

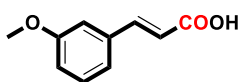
4-Methoxycinnamic acid (**2e**)



Prepared as described for **2a**, the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-methoxybenzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.189 mmol, 70 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2e** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (59 mg, 88% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.74 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.32 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.25, 161.76, 146.72, 130.10, 126.82, 114.61, 114.41, 55.40. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{O}_3^-$ is 177.0552, obsd. 177.0556.

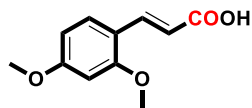
3-Methoxycinnamic acid (**2f**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-3-methoxybenzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.189 mmol, 70 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2f** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (49 mg, 74% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 14:86$).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 7.58 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.96.97 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 167.74, 159.66, 143.93, 135.72, 129.96, 120.79, 119.62, 116.27, 112.98, 55.24. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{O}_3^-$ is 177.0552, obsd. 177.0556.

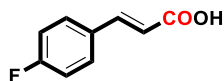
2,4-Dimethoxycinnamic acid (2g)



Prepared as described for 2a; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-2,4-dimethoxybenzene (0.308 mmol, 50mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.009 mmol, 20 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 11 mg), TBAI (0.154 mmol, 57 mg), oxalic acid (0.925 mmol, 84 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2g** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (42 mg, 66% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.07 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 168.24, 162.56, 159.33, 138.81, 129.94, 116.33, 115.44, 106.13, 98.36, 55.72, 55.46. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4^-$ is 207.0658, obsd. 207.0673

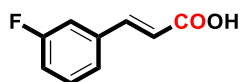
4-Fluorocinnamic acid (2h)



Prepared as described for 2a; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-fluorobenzene (0.4166 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0125 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.025 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.208 mmol, 77 mg), oxalic acid (1.25 mmol, 113 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2h** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (12% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (53 mg, 77% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.06 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.07, 162.81 (d, J = 247.8 Hz), 139.54, 132.06 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 130.26 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 129.58, 115.09 (d, J = 21.6 Hz). ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FO}_2^-$ is 165.0352, obsd. 165.0364

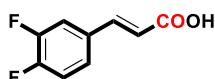
3-Fluorocinnamic acid (2i)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-3-fluorobenzene (0.4166 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0125 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.025 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.208 mmol, 77 mg), oxalic acid (1.25 mmol, 113 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2i** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (12 % EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 68% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.42 (s, 1H), 7.77 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.57, 163.19 (d, $J = 248.4$ Hz), 142.74, 130.94 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 130.54 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 119.16, 119.14, 115.98, 115.84. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FO}_2^-$ is 165.0352, obsd. 165.0360.

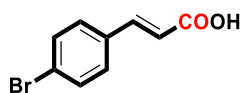
3,4-Difluorocinnamic acid (**2j**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 4-ethynyl-1,2-difluorobenzene (0.362 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.010 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.020 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.181 mmol, 67 mg), oxalic acid (1.08 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2j** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (43 mg, 65% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.60 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.66 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.27, 163.65 (d, $J = 13.6$ Hz), 161.70 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz), 141.45, 138.16 (t, $J = 9.9$ Hz), 122.38, 111.32 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 111.17 (d, $J = 5.8$ Hz), 105.21 (t, $J = 26.1$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) -136.95 (d, $J = 20.6$ Hz), -139.00 (d, $J = 22.9$ Hz). ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_5\text{F}_2\text{O}_2^-$ is 183.0258, obsd. 183.0269.

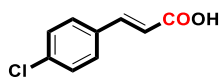
4-Bromocinnamic acid (**2k**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-bromo-4-ethynylbenzene (0.274 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.008 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.0165 mmol, 10 mg), TBAI (0.137 mmol, 51 mg), oxalic acid (0.824 mmol, 74 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2k** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (42 mg, 67% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 7.61 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.48, 142.53, 133.60, 131.88, 130.17, 123.52, 120.29. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ & $[\text{M}+2-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{BrO}_2^-$ is 224.9551, obsd. 224.9562.

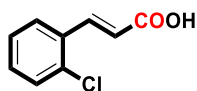
4-Chlorocinnamic acid (**2l**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-chloro-4-ethynylbenzene (0.366 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0219 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.183 mmol, 68 mg), oxalic acid (1.09 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2l** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (43 mg, 64% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.49 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.42, 142.51, 134.71, 133.22, 129.93, 128.93, 120.09. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClO}_2^-$ is 181.0057, obsd. 181.0061.

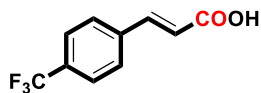
2-Chlorocinnamic acid (**2m**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-chloro-2-ethynylbenzene (0.366 mmol, 50mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0219 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.183 mmol, 68 mg), oxalic acid (1.09 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2m** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (37 mg, 56% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.64 (s, 1H), 7.92- 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.18, 138.72, 133.59, 131.88, 131.68, 129.96, 128.25, 127.78, 122.32. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClO}_2^-$ is 181.0057, obsd. 181.0061.

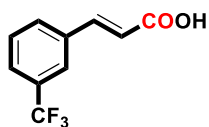
4-(Trifluoromethyl)cinnamic acid (**2n**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.189 mmol, 70 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2n** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 73% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.61 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.67, 142.52, 138.78, 130.39 (d, $J = 32.1$ Hz), 129.31, δ 126.16 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 125.41, 122.68. ^{19}F NMR (565 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) -61.26. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{O}_2^-$ is 215.032, obsd. 215.0334.

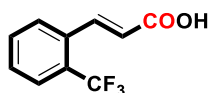
3-(Trifluoromethyl)cinnamic acid (**2o**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.189 mmol, 70 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2o** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (42 mg, 66% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.43, 142.25, 135.52, 131.85, 129.98, 129.60 (d, $J = 32.4$ Hz), 126.46, 125.01 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 122.98, 121.52. ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) -62.21. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{O}_2^-$ is 215.032, obsd. 215.0334.

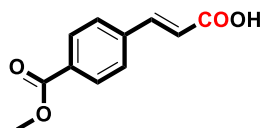
2-(Trifluoromethyl)cinnamic acid (**2p**)



Prepared as described for **2a**, reaction of 1-ethynyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.189 mmol, 70 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2p** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (37 mg, 58% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 12.78 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.70 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, $J = 15.7, 1.3$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 138.24 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz), 133.09, 132.51 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz), 130.27, 128.50, 127.71 – 126.54 (m), 126.14 (q, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 125.28, 123.93, 123.10. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{O}_2^-$ is 215.032, obsd. 215.0334.

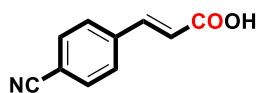
4-(2-Carboxy-vinyl)-benzoic acid methyl ester (2q)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of methyl 4-ethynylbenzoate (0.287 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0087 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.017 mmol, 10 mg), TBAI (0.143 mmol, 53 mg), oxalic acid (0.862 mmol, 78 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2q** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 79% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 7.97 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 167.28, 165.80, 142.47, 138.79, 130.60, 129.62, 128.45, 121.95, 52.31. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{O}_4^-$ is 205.0501, obsd. 205.0503

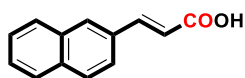
4-Cyanocinnamic acid (2r)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 4-ethynyl benzonitrile (0.397 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0118 mmol, 25 mg), Xantphos (0.0236 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.196 mmol, 73 mg), oxalic acid (1.18 mmol, 106 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2r** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 69% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 14:86$).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 12.62 (s, 1H), 7.90 – 7.86 (m, 4H), 7.64 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) 167.14, 141.90, 138.84, 132.72, 128.88, 122.85, 118.60, 112.11. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{NO}_2^-$ is 172.0399, obsd. 172.0413

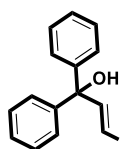
(*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylic acid (2s)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 2-ethynyl naphthalene (0.328 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.009 mmol, 21 mg), Xantphos (0.019 mmol, 12 mg), TBAI (0.164 mmol, 61 mg), oxalic acid (.98 mmol, 89 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2s** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (48 mg, 74% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 8.39 (d, $J = 15.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.02 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 6.60 (d, $J = 15.7$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.45, 140.08, 133.30, 131.04, 130.76, 130.33, 128.72, 127.13, 126.29, 125.72, 125.21, 122.98, 122.07. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2^-$ is 197.0603, obsd. 197.0611.

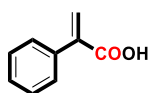
(*E*)-4-hydroxy-4,4-diphenylbut-2-enoic acid (**2t**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,1-diphenylprop-2-yn-1-ol (0.240 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.007 mmol, 15 mg), Xantphos (0.014 mmol, 8 mg), TBAI (0.120 mmol, 44 mg), oxalic acid (0.72 mmol, 89 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **2t** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (37 mg, 60% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.43 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 6H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.29 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 178.55, 145.22, 141.71, 138.99, 129.67, 128.40, 128.13, 127.77, 127.48, 127.40, 119.40, 35.16. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3^-$ is 253.0865, obsd. 253.0877

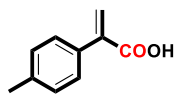
2-phenylacrylic acid (**3a**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of phenylacetylene (0.49 mmol, 53.7 μL), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0147 mmol, 31 mg), Xantphos (0.0294 mmol, 17 mg), oxalic acid (1.47 mmol, 132 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3a** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (56 mg, 78% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.49-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 6.59-6.58 (m, 1H), 6.06-6.05 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.34, 140.63, 136.06, 129.43, 128.43, 128.32, 128.11. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{O}_2^-$ is 147.0446, obsd. 147.0453.

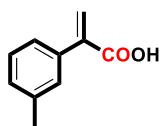
2-(*p*-tolyl)acrylic acid (**3b**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-methylbenzene (0.43 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0129 mmol, 27 mg), Xantphos (0.025mmol, 17 mg), oxalic acid (1.29 mmol, 116 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3b** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (56 mg, 80% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.35 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.50 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.19, 140.43, 138.27, 133.20, 128.84, 128.69, 128.31, 21.19. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2^-$ is 161.0603, obsd. 161.0616

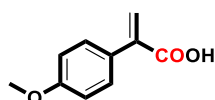
2-(*m*-tolyl)acrylic acid (**3c**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-3-methylbenzene (0.43 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0129 mmol, 27 mg), Xantphos (0.025mmol, 16.9 mg), oxalic acid (1.29 mmol, 116 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3c** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (51 mg, 73% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.13, 140.70, 137.75, 136.03, 129.21, 129.12, 129.11, 128.04, 125.52, 21.41. ESI-MS $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2^+$ is 163.0754, obsd. 163.0766.

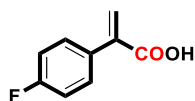
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic acid (**3d**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-methoxybenzene (0.378 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0113 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.0226 mmol, 13 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 102 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3d** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (53 mg, 82% yield).

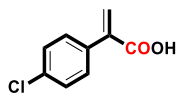
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.46 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.97 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.18, 159.72, 139.88, 129.67, 128.52, 127.99, 113.57, 55.30. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{O}_3^-$ is 177.0552, obsd. 177.0556.

2-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylic acid (3e)



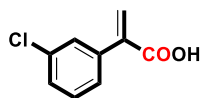
Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-3-fluorobenzene (0.4166 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0125 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.025 mmol, 14 mg), oxalic acid (1.25 mmol, 113 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3e** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (12% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (54 mg, 80% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.07, 162.81 (d, $J = 247.8$ Hz), 139.54, 132.06 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 130.26 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), 129.57, 115.09 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz). ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FO}_2^-$ is 165.0352, obsd. 165.0364.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylic acid (3f)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-chloro-4-ethynylbenzene (0.366 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0109 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0219 mmol, 13 mg), oxalic acid (1.09 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3f** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (48 mg, 72% yield). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.40 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.58 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.04 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.70, 139.43, 134.48, 134.40, 130.02, 129.80, 128.35. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClO}_2^-$ is 181.0057, obsd. 181.0061.

2-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylic acid (3g)

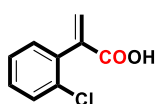


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-chloro-3-ethynylbenzene (0.366 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0109 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0219 mmol, 13 mg), oxalic

acid (1.09 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3g** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (43 mg, 65% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.45 (t, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.36, 139.34, 137.70, 134.03, 130.56, 129.38, 128.60, 128.47, 126.68. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClO}_2^-$ is 181.0057, obsd. 181.0061

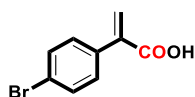
2-(2-chlorophenyl)acrylic acid (**3h**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-chloro-2-ethynylbenzene (0.366 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0109 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0219 mmol, 13 mg), oxalic acid (1.09 mmol, 98 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3h** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (35 mg, 52% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.55 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 6.67 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.93 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 170.98, 139.46, 135.81, 133.40, 131.47, 130.95, 129.69, 129.36, 126.71. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClO}_2^-$ is 181.0057, obsd. 181.0061.

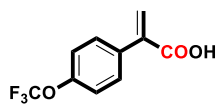
2-(4-bromophenyl)acrylic acid (**3i**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-bromo-4-ethynylbenzene (0.274 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.008 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.0165 mmol, 10 mg), oxalic acid (0.824 mmol, 74 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3i** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (36 mg, 58% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.50 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.04 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.33, 139.46, 134.89, 131.32, 130.10, 130.02, 122.71. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ & $[\text{M}+2,-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{BrO}_2^-$ is 224.9551, 226.9531, obsd. 224.9562.

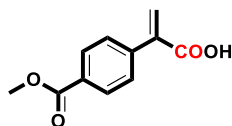
2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)acrylic acid (**3j**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (0.268 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.008 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.0161 mmol, 9 mg), oxalic acid (0.806 mmol, 73 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3j** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (43 mg, 68% yield).

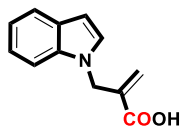
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.18 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.63, 151.47 – 148.74 (m), 138.53, 132.75 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz), 130.65, 124.72 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 117.77 (d, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 116.98 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz). ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{F}_3\text{O}_3^+$ is 233.0420, obsd. 233.0420.

2-(4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)acrylic acid (**3k**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-methyl-4-ethynylbenzoate (0.287 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0087 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.017 mmol, 10 mg), oxalic acid (0.862 mmol, 78 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3k** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (44 mg, 75% yield). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.05 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 6.64 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.11 (d, $J = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.09, 166.74, 140.48, 139.77, 130.83, 129.93, 129.42, 128.50, 52.21. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{O}_4^-$ is 205.0501, obsd. 205.0503.

2-((1*H*-indol-1-yl)methyl)acrylic acid (**3l**)

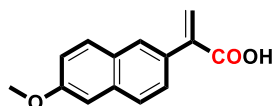


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-1*H*-indole (0.3225 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0096 mmol, 20 mg), Xantphos (0.0193 mmol, 11 mg), oxalic acid (0.967 mmol, 87 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3l** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (47 mg, 73% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 9.66 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.55 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 2H); ^{13}C

NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 170.99, 135.90, 135.76, 128.72, 128.61, 128.33, 121.84, 121.05, 119.67, 109.44, 102.02, 46.30. ESI-MS [M-H]⁻ (*m/z*) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₀NO₂⁻ is 200.0712, obsd. 200.0717.

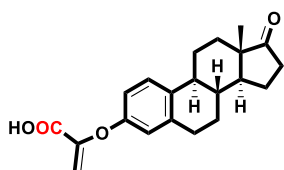
2-(6-methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)acrylic acid (**3m**)



Prepared as described for **2a**, reaction of 2-ethynyl-6-methoxynaphthalene (0.274 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.008 mmol, 17 mg), Xantphos (0.0164 mmol, 10 mg), oxalic acid (0.824 mmol, 74 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3m** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (34 mg, 55% yield, α : β = 58:42).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.91-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.86-7.78 (m, 4H), 7.76-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 168.04, 167.76, 158.38, 157.62, 144.19, 141.52, 135.32, 133.84, 131.83, 130.08, 129.73, 129.59, 129.53, 128.24, 128.00, 127.41, 126.85, 126.56, 126.27, 125.40, 124.54, 119.21, 118.84, 118.26, 106.23, 105.71, 55.32, 55.21. ESI-MS [M-H]⁻ (*m/z*) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₁O₃⁻ is 227.0708, obsd. 227.0721

2-(((9S,14S)-13-methyl-17-oxo-7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-decahydro-6H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl)oxy)acrylic acid (**3n**)

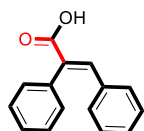


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of (9S,14S)-3-(ethynyloxy)-13-methyl-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-one (0.179 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0053 mmol, 11 mg), Xantphos (0.0107 mmol, 6 mg), oxalic acid (0.537 mmol, 49 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **3n** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (37 mg, 65% yield, α : β = 57:43).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.97-2.89 (m, 6H), 2.69 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 5H), 2.42 – 2.55 (m, 5H), 2.35 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.19 – 2.13 (m, 2H), 2.10 – 1.96 (m, 8H), 1.66 – 1.59 (m,

5H), 1.58-1.46 (m, 11H), 0.92-0.90 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 221.21, 221.00, 172.53, 172.11, 147.19, 143.20, 140.58, 140.22, 137.34, 136.46, 133.82, 131.69, 129.24, 129.12, 129.03, 128.83, 126.15, 125.98, 125.87, 125.79, 125.69, 125.36, 116.48, 50.57, 48.11, 48.05, 44.72, 44.49, 38.26, 38.13, 38.02, 35.98, 35.66, 31.65, 30.15, 29.50, 29.37, 26.56, 26.41, 25.73, 21.69, 18.22, 13.93.

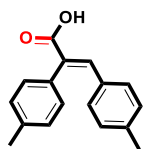
(E)-2,3-diphenylacrylic acid (**5a**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of diphenylacetylene (0.28 mmol), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.014 mmol, 29 mg), Xantphos (0.028 mmol, 16 mg), TBAI (0.14 mmol, 52 mg), oxalic acid (1.13 mmol, 101 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5a** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (55 mg, 88% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.43 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.23- 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.18, 142.35, 135.30, 134.29, 131.71, 130.81, 129.75, 129.43, 128.66, 128.22, 127.99. ESI-MS [M-H] $^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2^-$ is 223.0759, obsd. 223.0765

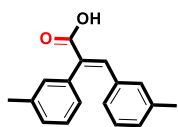
(E)-2,3-di-*p*-tolylacrylic acid (**5b**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-di-*p*-tolylethyne (0.24 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.012 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.024 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.12 mmol, 45 mg), oxalic acid (0.968 mmol, 87 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5b** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (55 mg, 90% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.92 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (s, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.49, 142.20, 139.78, 137.64, 132.50, 131.65, 130.86, 130.63, 129.60, 129.44, 128.99, 21.34, 21.33. ESI-MS [M-H] $^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2^-$ is 251.1072, obsd. 251.1087

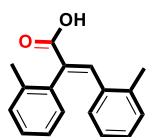
(E)-2,3-di-*m*-tolylacrylic acid (**5c**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-di-*m*-tolylethyne (0.24 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.012 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.024 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.12 mmol, 45 mg), oxalic acid (0.968 mmol, 87 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5c** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (49 mg, 80% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 67.03 (m, 4H), 6.93 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.14, 142.39, 138.29, 137.78, 135.35, 134.26, 131.93, 131.52, 130.27, 130.20, 128.75, 128.57, 128.07, 127.79, 126.70, 21.41, 21.22. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2^-$ is 251.1072, obsd. 251.1087

(E)-2,3-di-*o*-tolylacrylic acid (**5d**)

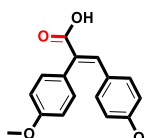


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-di-*o*-tolylethyne (0.24 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.012 mmol, 26 mg), Xantphos (0.024 mmol, 14 mg), TBAI (0.12 mmol, 45 mg), oxalic acid (0.968 mmol, 87 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5d** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (38 mg, 63% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.40, 140.80, 138.08, 136.68, 134.71, 133.38, 131.60, 130.19, 130.13, 129.99, 129.16, 128.93, 128.09, 125.95, 125.52, 20.03, 19.59.

ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2^-$ is 251.1072, obsd. 251.1087

(E)-2,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic acid (**5e**)

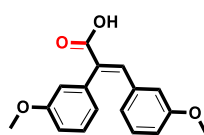


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyne, **1** (0.21 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 22 mg), Xantphos (0.021 mmol, 12 mg), TBAI (0.10 mmol, 39 mg), oxalic acid (1.05 mmol, 95 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5e** after purification

silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (56 mg, 93% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.18 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.94 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.72 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.30, 160.53, 159.22, 141.96, 132.64, 131.04, 128.70, 127.83, 127.14, 114.29, 113.76, 55.21, 55.21. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4^-$ is 283.0971, obsd. 283.0964.

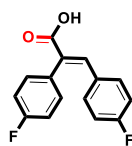
(E)-2,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic acid (**5f**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyne, (0.21 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 22 mg), Xantphos (0.021 mmol, 12 mg), TBAI (0.10 mmol, 39 mg), oxalic acid (1.05 mmol, 95 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5f** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (49 mg, 82% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 8.3, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.77 (m, 3H), 6.59 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.80, 159.90, 159.11, 142.34, 136.73, 135.36, 131.51, 129.85, 129.24, 124.06, 122.06, 116.60, 114.99, 114.53, 113.93, 55.25, 54.82. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4^-$ is 283.0971, obsd. 283.0964.

(E)-2,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)acrylic acid (**5g**)

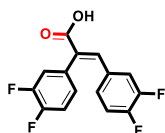


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyne, (0.23 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 25 mg), Xantphos (0.023 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.11 mmol, 44 mg), oxalic acid (0.93 mmol, 84 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5g** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (54 mg, 89% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.05 (m, 4H), 6.89 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.98, 163.71 (d, $J = 93.0$ Hz), 162.05 (d, $J = 88.6$ Hz), 141.66, 132.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 131.62 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 130.81 (d, $J =$

3.5 Hz), 130.25, 130.27, 115.95 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), 115.57 (d, $J = 21.8$ Hz). ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ (ppm) -112.24, -115.36. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_2\text{O}_2^+$ is 261.0722, obsd. 261.0724.

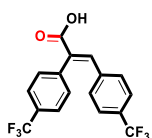
(E)-2,3-bis(3,4-difluorophenyl)acrylic acid (5h)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(3,4-difluorophenyl)ethyne (0.20 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.01 mmol, 21 mg), Xantphos (0.020 mmol, 12 mg), TBAI (0.10 mmol, 37 mg), oxalic acid (0.80 mmol, 72 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5h** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20 % EtOAc in n-hexane) as white solid (43 mg, 74% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.20 (dt, $J = 10.1, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.94 (m, 1H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.22, 151.93 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz), 151.35 (dd, $J = 21.7, 12.5$ Hz), 150.90 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz), 150.25 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz), 149.69 (dd, $J = 22.7, 12.5$ Hz), 149.24 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz), 141.15, 130.89 (dt, $J = 52.5, 5.3$ Hz), 130.43, 127.57 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.4$ Hz), 126.18 (dd, $J = 6.2, 3.6$ Hz), 119.12 (t, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 118.03 (d, $J = 17.5$ Hz), 117.58 (d, $J = 17.5$ Hz). ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_7\text{F}_4\text{O}_2^-$ is 295.0382, obsd. 295.0394.

(E)-2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylic acid (5i)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne (0.16 mmol, 50mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.008 mmol, 17 mg), Xantphos (0.016 mmol, 9 mg), TBAI (0.079 mmol, 29 mg), oxalic acid (0.64 mmol, 57 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5i** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (20 % EtOAc in n-hexane) as white solid (50 mg, 87% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.59, 141.66, 138.24, 137.12, 132.57, (130.71-130.29), (125.80- 125.47), 125.42, 125.39, 124.82, 124.51, 123.01, 122.71. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_9\text{F}_6\text{O}_2^-$ is 359.0520, obsd. 359.0528

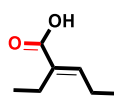
(E)-2-methylbut-2-enoic acid (**5j**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of but-2-yne (0.92 mmol, 50 mg), 10 wt% Pd/C (0.046 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.046 mmol, 27 mg), TBAI (0.46 mmol, 169 mg), oxalic acid (1.84 mmol, 166 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5j** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (78 mg, 85% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.00 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.71 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.95, 139.96, 128.02, 14.50, 11.51.

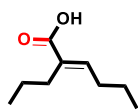
(E)-2-ethylpent-2-enoic acid (**5k**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of hex-3-yne (0.609 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.030 mmol, 32 mg), Xantphos (0.0609 mmol, 35 mg), TBAI (0.30 mmol, 110 mg), oxalic acid (1.83 mmol, 164 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5k** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (64 mg, 82% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 6.87 (s, 1H), 2.30 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.22 (p, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.81, 146.32, 132.84, 21.82, 19.60, 13.85, 13.19. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2^-$ is 127.0759, obsd. 127.0766.

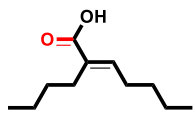
(E)-2-propylhex-2-enoic acid (**5l**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of oct-4-yne (0.453 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0226 mmol, 24 mg), Xantphos (0.045 mmol, 26 mg), TBAI (0.226 mmol, 83 mg), oxalic acid (1.81 mmol, 163 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5l** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (55 mg, 78% yield).

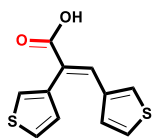
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 6.91 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.28 – 2.17 (m, 4H), 1.51 – 1.41 (m, 4H), 0.96-0.90 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.72, 145.49, 131.74, 30.76, 28.37, 22.42, 21.98, 13.95, 13.90.

(E)-2-butylhept-2-enoic acid (**5m**)



Prepared as described for **2a**, reaction of dec-5-yne (0.362 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.018 mmol, 19 mg), Xantphos (0.036 mmol, 21 mg), TBAI (0.181 mmol, 67 mg), oxalic acid (1.44 mmol, 130 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5m** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (50 mg, 75% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 6.90 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 – 2.27 (m, 2H), 2.20 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.46 – 1.31 (m, 8H), 0.93-0.90 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.85, 145.44, 131.87, 31.47, 30.85, 28.43, 26.18, 22.67, 22.46, 13.91, 13.85. ESI-MS [$\text{M}-\text{H}$] $^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2^-$ is 183.0258, obsd. 183.0265.

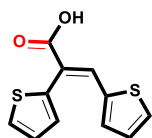
(E)-2,3-di(thiophen-3-yl)acrylic acid (**5n**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-di(thiophen-3-yl)ethyne (0.263 mmol, 50 mg), 5wt% Pd/C (0.0131 mmol, 28 mg), Xantphos (0.026 mmol, 15 mg), TBAI (0.131 mmol, 48 mg), oxalic acid (1.31 mmol, 118 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5n** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (48 mg, 78% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 7.81 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.44-6.43 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 168.35, 136.79, 136.22, 134.25, 130.43, 129.03, 127.16, 126.66, 126.20, 126.18, 124.58. ESI-MS [$\text{M}-\text{H}$] $^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{S}_2\text{O}_2^-$ is 234.9888, obsd. 234.9888.

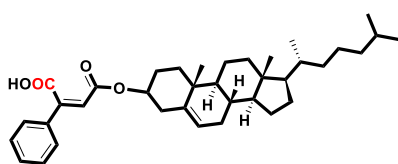
(E)-2,3-di(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic acid (**5o**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1,2-di(thiophen-3-yl)ethyne (0.263 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0131 mmol, 28 mg), Xantphos (0.026 mmol, 15 mg), TBAI (0.131 mmol, 48 mg), oxalic acid (1.31 mmol, 118 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5o** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (25% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (43 mg, 69% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 167.57, 137.70, 136.33, 135.33, 135.21, 132.53, 128.79, 128.43, 127.67, 126.96, 122.04. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{S}_2\text{O}_2^-$ is 234.9888, obsd. 234.9882.

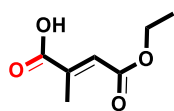
(Z)-4-(((3S,9S,14S,17R)-10,13-dimethyl-17-(6-methylheptan-2-yl)-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl)oxy)-4-oxo-2-phenylbut-2-enoic acid (5p)



Prepared as described for **2a**; reaction of (3S,9S,14S,17R)-10,13-dimethyl-17-(6-methylheptan-2-yl)-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl-3-phenylpropionate (0.0967 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0029 mmol, 7 mg), Xantphos (0.0058 mmol, 4 mg), TBAI (0.049 mmol, 18 mg), oxalic acid (0.77 mmol, 70 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5p** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (25% EtOAc in n-hexane) as pale yellow solid (32 mg, 58% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.37 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, 3H), 7.25 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 5.30 – 5.29 (m, 1H), 4.55-4.48 (m, 1H), 2.12 – 1.90 (m, 3H), 1.86 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.56 (m, 13H), 1.17 – 0.96 (m, 10H), 0.92-0.89 (m, 6H), 0.87 – 0.85 (m, 6H), 0.66 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.58, 164.56, 142.07, 139.20, 133.44, 131.86, 128.91, 128.64, 127.82, 122.81, 74.97, 56.58, 56.06, 49.87, 42.23, 39.63, 39.47, 37.46, 36.74, 36.45, 36.13, 35.75, 31.80, 31.74, 28.18, 27.97, 27.18, 24.23, 23.79, 22.80, 22.54, 20.94, 19.15, 18.67, 11.80. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_4^-$ is 559.3788, obsd. 559.3805.

(E)-4-ethoxy-2-methyl-4-oxobut-2-enoic acid (5q)

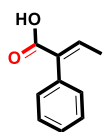


Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of ethyl but-2-ynoate (0.446 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0223 mmol, 47 mg), Xantphos (0.045 mmol, 26 mg), TBAI (0.223 mmol, 82 mg), oxalic acid (1.78 mmol, 160 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5q** after purification silica gel

(mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (56 mg, 80% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 11.91 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.26 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 172.65, 165.65, 142.40, 128.73, 60.84, 14.05, 13.79. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_9\text{O}_4^-$ is 157.0501, obsd. 157.0511.

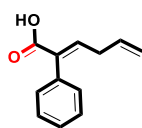
(E)-2-phenylbut-2-enoic acid (5r)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of ethyl prop-1-yn-1-ylbenzene (0.431 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0215 mmol, 44 mg), Xantphos (0.0431 mmol, 25 mg), TBAI (0.215 mmol, 79 mg), oxalic acid (1.72 mmol, 155 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5r** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (10% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (59 mg, 85% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 68:32$).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.87 (t, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 5H), 7.38 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 2.17 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.81 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 174.50, 172.74, 142.81, 141.10, 135.54, 134.39, 134.20, 129.81, 129.79, 128.67, 128.40, 128.04, 127.60, 127.54, 15.73, 13.65.

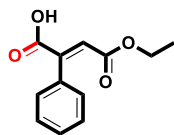
(E)-2-phenylhexa-2,5-dienoic acid (5s)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of pent-4-en-1-yn-1-ylbenzene (0.352 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0176 mmol, 37 mg), Xantphos (0.0352 mmol, 20 mg), TBAI (0.176 mmol, 65 mg), oxalic acid (1.4 mmol, 126 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5s** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (52 mg, 79% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 6.40 – 6.35 (m, 1H), 1.87 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.66, 139.26, 135.31, 133.54, 130.17, 128.98, 128.78, 128.33, 123.40, 19.26. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{O}_2^-$ is 161.0603, obsd. 161.0616.

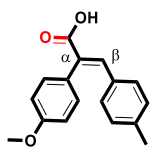
(E)-4-ethoxy-4-oxo-2-phenylbut-2-enoic acid (5t)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of pent-4-en-1-yn-1-ylbenzene (0.287 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0143 mmol, 30 mg), Xantphos (0.0287 mmol, 16 mg), TBAI (0.143 mmol, 52 mg), oxalic acid (1.149 mmol, 103 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5t** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (51 mg, 76% yield).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.38-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 4.05 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.04, 165.12, 142.68, 133.37, 131.08, 128.86, 128.69, 127.82, 61.03, 14.09. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4^-$ is 219.0658, obsd. 219.0673

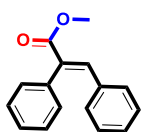
(E)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)acrylic acid (**5u**)



Prepared as described for **2a**; the reaction of 1-methoxy-4-(*p*-tolylethynyl)benzene (0.223 mmol, 50mg), 5wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), TBAI (0.115 mmol, 42 mg), oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg) and DMF (2 mL) gave **5u** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (15 % EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (50 mg, 84% yield, $\alpha:\beta = 67:33$).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.21 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.06– 7.05 (m, 1H), 7.00 (s, 4H), 6.71 – 6.70 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.64, 160.49, 159.19, 142.02, 141.77, 139.64, 137.53, 132.74, 132.65, 131.78, 131.03, 130.80, 130.47, 129.63, 129.51, 129.26, 128.98, 127.75, 127.13, 114.12, 113.70, 55.18, 55.16, 21.35, 21.33. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_3^-$ is 269.1172, obsd. 269.1177.

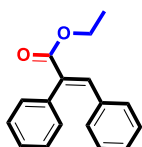
G. General procedure for the synthesis and characterization of compounds 7a-m methyl (E)-2,3-diphenylacrylate (7a)



We executed the reaction using Double-Vial (DV) system comprised of an inner vial of 2 mL and an outer vial of 5 mL and the entire system was fitted with PTFE faced black solid cap. Initially, the inner vial of the DV system was charged with diphenylacetylene (0.223 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), PTSA (0.14 mmol, 27 mg), methanol (0.5 mL) and DMF (1.5 mL), while the outer vial contained oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg) in 0.5 mL of DMF. Thereafter, the inner vial having contents was positioned carefully inside the outer vial (5 mL) containing oxalic acid/DMF (0.5 mL). Further, the entire system was capped with the solid PTFE faced cap and further tightened with Teflon tape to prevent the leakage of gas. The whole system was allowed to subjected in pre-heated blocks at 125 °C for 24 hrs. The reaction progress was observed with the help of TLC. After the accomplishment of the reaction, the inner vial containing contents was removed and the contents of the inner vial were transferred to a separatory funnel. Further, 3 mL of water was added in the reaction mixture and organic contents were extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was passed over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude mixture was further purified by silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) afforded **7a** as white solid (54 mg, 80% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.98 – 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 168.26, 140.47, 135.83, 134.63, 132.43, 130.58 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 129.74 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 129.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 128.62 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 128.25 – 128.04 (m), 127.82 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 52.31. ESI-MS [M-H]⁺ (*m/z*) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅O₂⁺ is 239.1067, obsd. 239.1074

ethyl (E)-2,3-diphenylacrylate (7b)

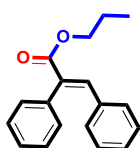


Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of diphenylacetylene (0.223 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), PTSA (0.14 mmol, 27 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg), in 0.5 mL of

DMF gave **7b** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (58 mg, 82% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.81, 140.09, 135.87, 134.65, 132.77, 130.54, 129.76, 128.92, 128.53, 128.14, 127.72, 61.17, 14.25. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{O}_2^-$ is 147.0446, obsd. 147.0453. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2^+$ is 253.1223, obsd. 253.1226.

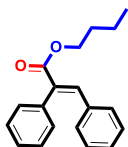
propyl (E)-2,3-diphenylacrylate (**7c**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of diphenylacetylene (0.223 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), PTSA (0.14 mmol, 27 mg), propanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7c** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (3-5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (59 mg, 79% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.13 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 4.17 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.63 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.87, 140.03, 135.97, 134.70, 132.88, 130.56, 129.74, 128.92, 128.50, 128.15, 127.68, 66.72, 22.01, 10.40. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2^+$ is 267.1380, obsd. 267.1387.

butyl (E)-2,3-diphenylacrylate (**7d**)

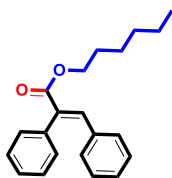


Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of diphenylacetylene (0.223 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), PTSA (0.14 mmol, 27 mg), butanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7d** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (3-5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (60 mg, 76% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 5H), 7.08 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.24-4.22 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.41 – 1.34 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, $J =$

7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.80, 139.98, 135.87, 134.60, 132.76, 130.50, 129.66, 128.87, 128.45, 128.09, 127.63, 64.96, 30.57, 19.08, 13.64. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2^+$ is 281.1536, obsd. 281.1541.

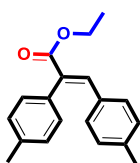
hexyl(E)-2,3-diphenylacrylate (7e)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of diphenylacetylene (0.223 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.011 mmol, 23 mg), Xantphos (0.0223 mmol, 13 mg), PTSA (0.14 mmol, 27 mg), butanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.892 mmol, 80 mg) in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7e** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (3-5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as semi-solid (58 mg, 71% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.21 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.67 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.27 (m, 6H), 0.91 – 0.88 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.84, 139.98, 135.96, 134.68, 132.88, 130.53, 129.72, 128.89, 128.47, 128.12, 127.65, 65.29, 31.30, 28.50, 25.51, 22.41, 13.92. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_2^+$ is 309.1849, obsd. 309.1861.

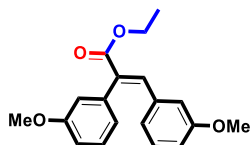
ethyl (E)-2,3-di-*p*-tolylacrylate (7f)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-di-*p*-tolylethyne (0.242 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0121 mmol, 13 mg), Xantphos (0.0242 mmol, 14 mg), PTSA (0.121 mmol, 23 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.968 mmol, 87 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7f** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (56 mg, 83% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 4H), 4.29 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 168.03, 139.83, 139.05, 137.24, 133.00, 131.93, 131.69, 130.51, 129.55, 129.25, 128.84, 60.97, 21.29, 21.24, 14.24. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2^+$ is 281.1536, obsd. 281.1542.

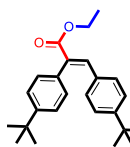
ethyl (E)-2,3-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (**7g**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyne (0.21 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0105 mmol, 11 mg), Xantphos (0.021 mmol, 12 mg), PTSA (0.105 mmol, 20 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.84 mmol, 76 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7g** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (8% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 72% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.91–6.88 (m, 1H), 6.85–6.82 (m, 1H), 6.79 – 6.74 (m, 3H), 6.56 (t, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.58, 159.77, 159.05, 139.93, 137.33, 135.76, 132.72, 129.61, 129.09, 123.66, 122.11, 115.94, 115.02, 114.34, 113.57, 61.14, 55.23, 54.76, 14.23. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_4^+$ is 313.1434, obsd. 313.1443

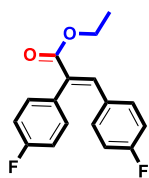
ethyl (E)-2,3-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)acrylate (**7h**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)ethyne (0.172 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0086 mmol, 18 mg), Xantphos (0.0172 mmol, 10 mg), PTSA (0.086 mmol, 16 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.69 mmol, 63 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7h** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 76% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 7.08 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.28 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.27 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 168.15, 152.25, 150.51, 139.64, 133.07, 131.92, 131.74, 130.48, 129.26, 125.44, 125.09, 60.97, 34.64, 34.58, 31.37, 31.07, 14.28. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_2^+$ is 365.2475, obsd. 365.2487.

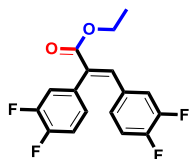
ethyl (E)-2,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)acrylate (**7i**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyne (0.21 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0117 mmol, 25 mg), Xantphos (0.0234 mmol, 14 mg), PTSA (0.117 mmol, 22 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.934 mmol, 84 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7i** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (55 mg, 82% yield).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.19 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 6.88 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 4.29 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 167.46, 163.56 (d, $J = 52.8$ Hz), 161.58 (d, $J = 48.5$ Hz), 139.22, 132.36 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 131.55 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 131.43 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz), 130.62, 115.74 (d, $J = 21.3$ Hz), 115.37 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 61.29, 14.20. ESI-MS [M-H]⁺ (m/z) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅F₂O₂⁺ is 289.1035, obsd. 289.1035.

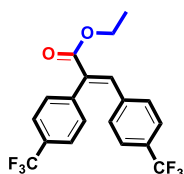
ethyl (E)-2,3-bis(3,4-difluorophenyl)acrylate (**7j**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(3,4-difluorophenyl)ethyne (0.20 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.01 mmol, 21 mg), Xantphos (0.020 mmol, 12 mg), PTSA (0.10 mmol, 19 mg), ethanol (0.5 mL), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.80 mmol, 72 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7j** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as white solid (47 mg, 72% yield).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.84 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 166.63, 152.27 – 150.54 (m), 149.96 – 148.60 (m), 138.63, 131.80 (dd, $J = 6.0, 4.2$ Hz), 131.61, 131.15, 127.11 (dd, $J = 6.6, 3.6$ Hz), 126.10 (dd, $J = 6.0, 3.6$ Hz), 118.95 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz), 118.80 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz), 117.83, 117.70, 117.41, 117.27, 61.61, 14.14. ESI-MS [M-H]⁺ (m/z) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃F₄O₂⁺ is 325.0846, obsd. 325.0850.

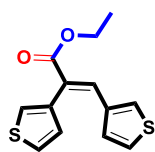
ethyl (E)-2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylate (**7k**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne (0.159 mmol, 50 mg), 5wt% Pd/C (0.0079 mmol, 17 mg), Xantphos (0.0159 mmol, 9 mg), PTSA (0.079 mmol, 15 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (0.636 mmol, 57 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7k** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (50 mg, 80% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.32 – 4.28 (m, 2H), 1.33 – 1.30 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 166.61, 139.29, 138.95, 137.63, 133.76, 130.86, 130.60, 130.45, 130.36, 130.26, 130.10, 125.61 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 125.28 (q, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 61.71, 14.15. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_6\text{O}_2^+$ is 389.0971, obsd. 389.0981.

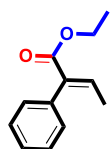
ethyl (E)-2,3-di(thiophen-3-yl)acrylate (**7l**)



Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of 1,2-di(thiophen-3-yl)ethyne (0.263 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0131 mmol, 27 mg), Xantphos (0.0263 mmol, 15 mg), PTSA (0.131 mmol, 25 mg), ethanol (0.5 mL), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (1.05 mmol, 118 mg), in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7l** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (8% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as pale yellow solid (47 mg, 68% yield).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.85 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.99-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.58-6.57 (m, 1H), 4.27 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 167.36, 136.64, 135.56, 134.60, 129.17, 128.80, 127.87, 125.74, 125.41, 125.35, 124.45, 60.96, 14.18. ESI-MS $[\text{M-H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{S}_2\text{O}_2^+$ is 265.0351, obsd. 265.0353.

ethyl (E)-2-phenylbut-2-enoate (**7m**)

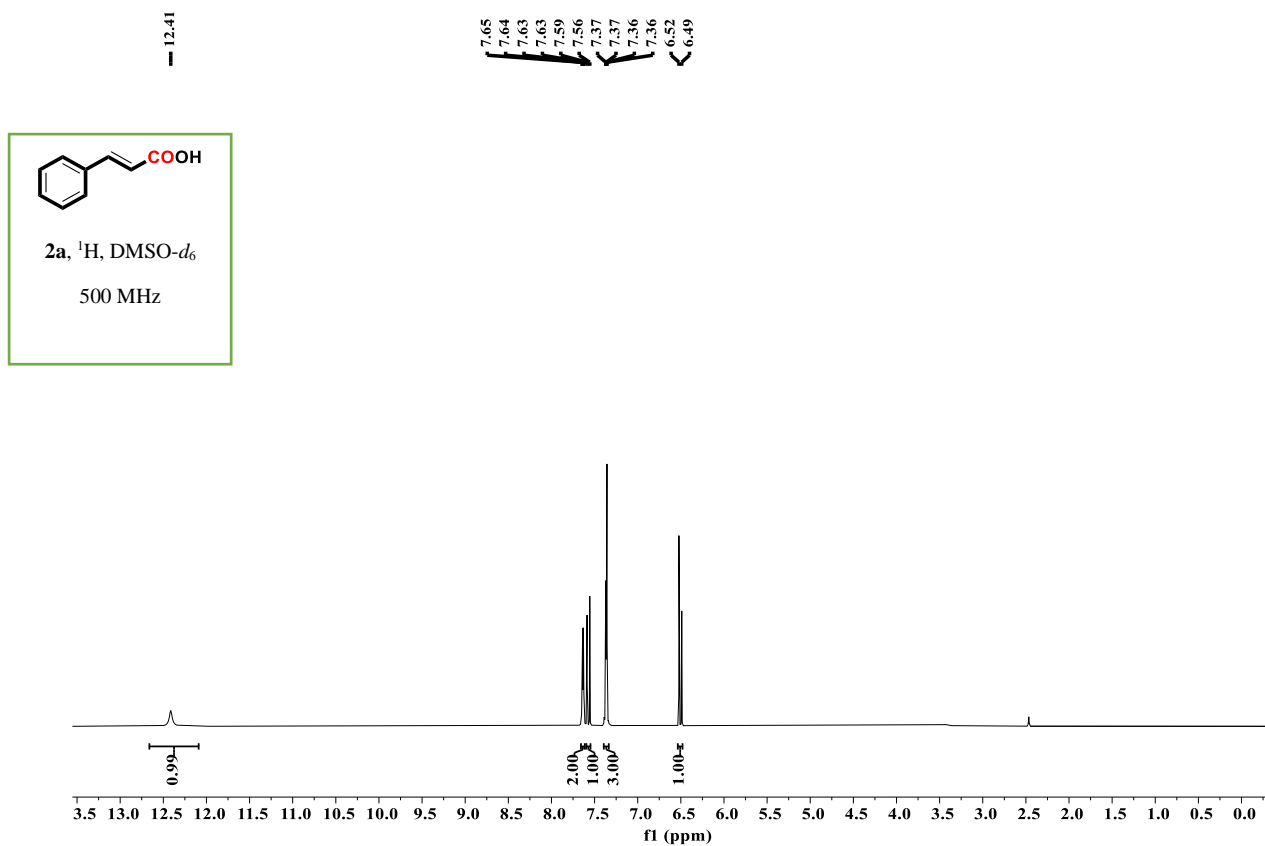


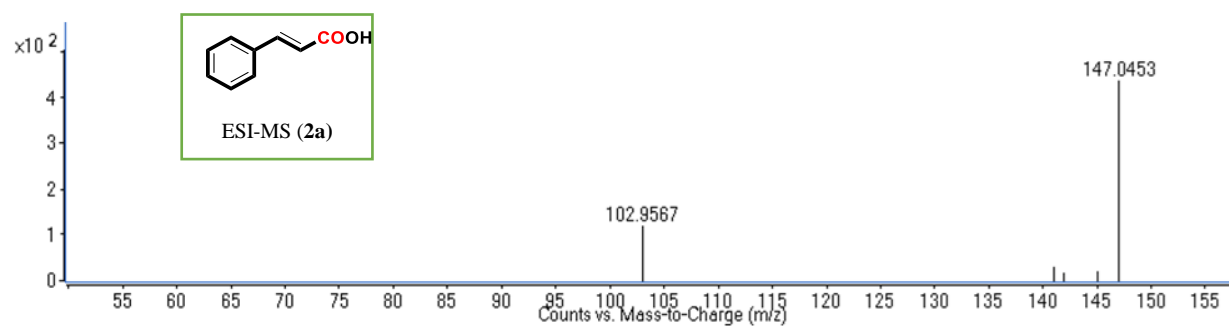
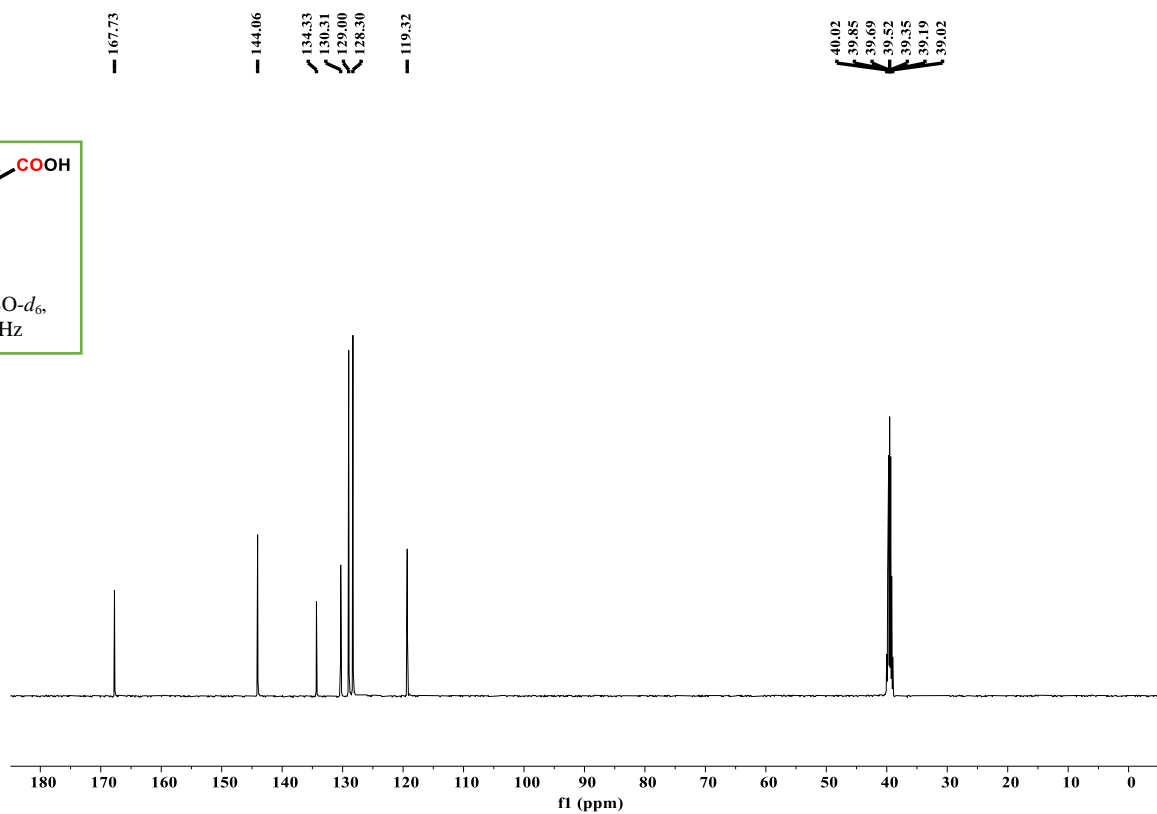
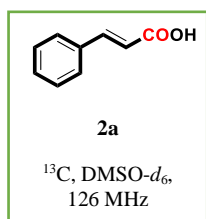
Prepared as described for **7a**; the reaction of ethyl prop-1-yn-1-ylbenzene (0.431 mmol, 50 mg), 5 wt% Pd/C (0.0215 mmol, 44 mg), Xantphos (0.0431 mmol, 25 mg), PTSA (0.215 mmol, 41 mg), ethanol (0.5 ml), DMF (1.5 mL) and oxalic acid (1.72 mmol, 118 mg),

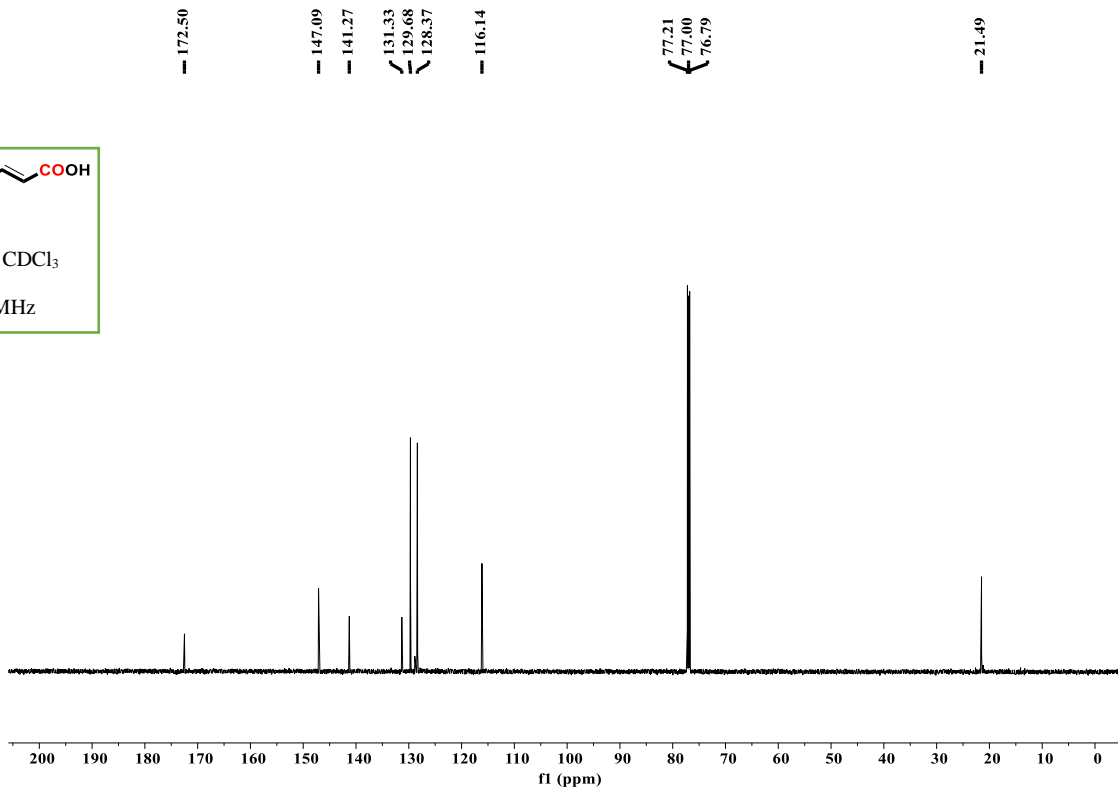
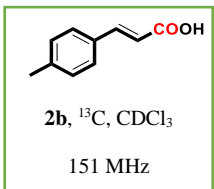
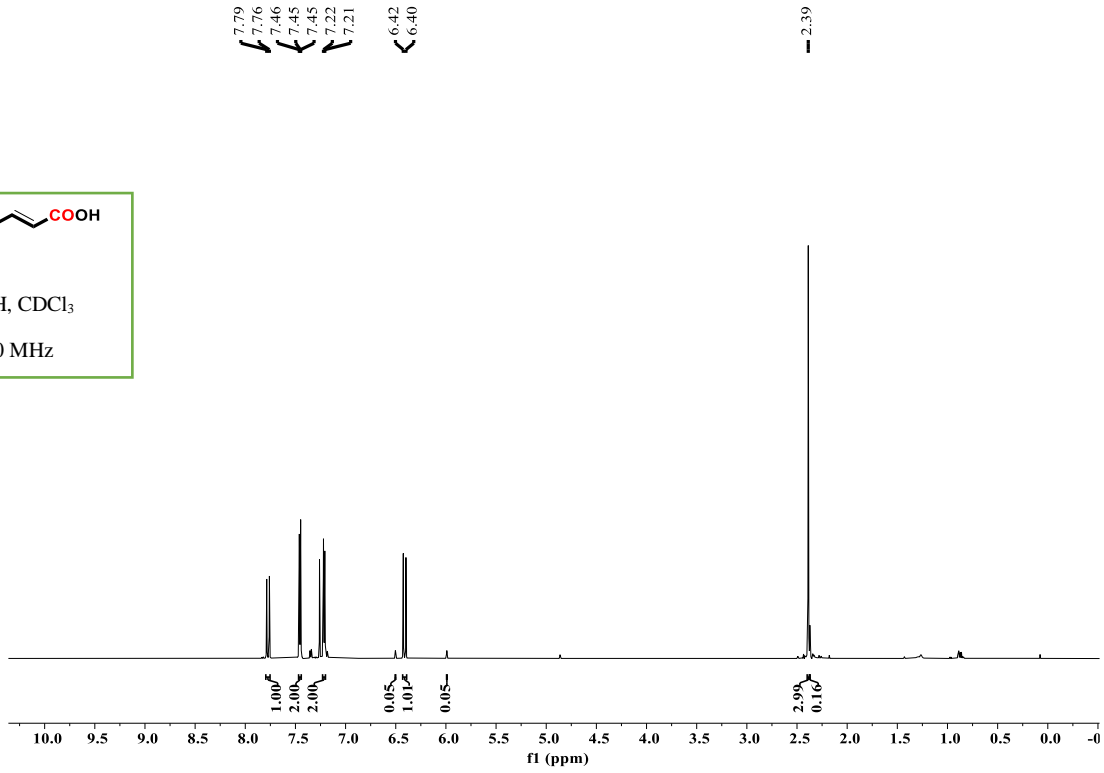
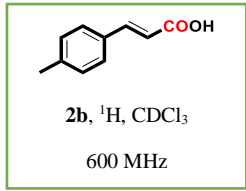
in 0.5 mL of DMF gave **7m** after purification silica gel (mesh 60:120) column chromatography (3-5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) as colourless liquid (60 mg, 74% yield).

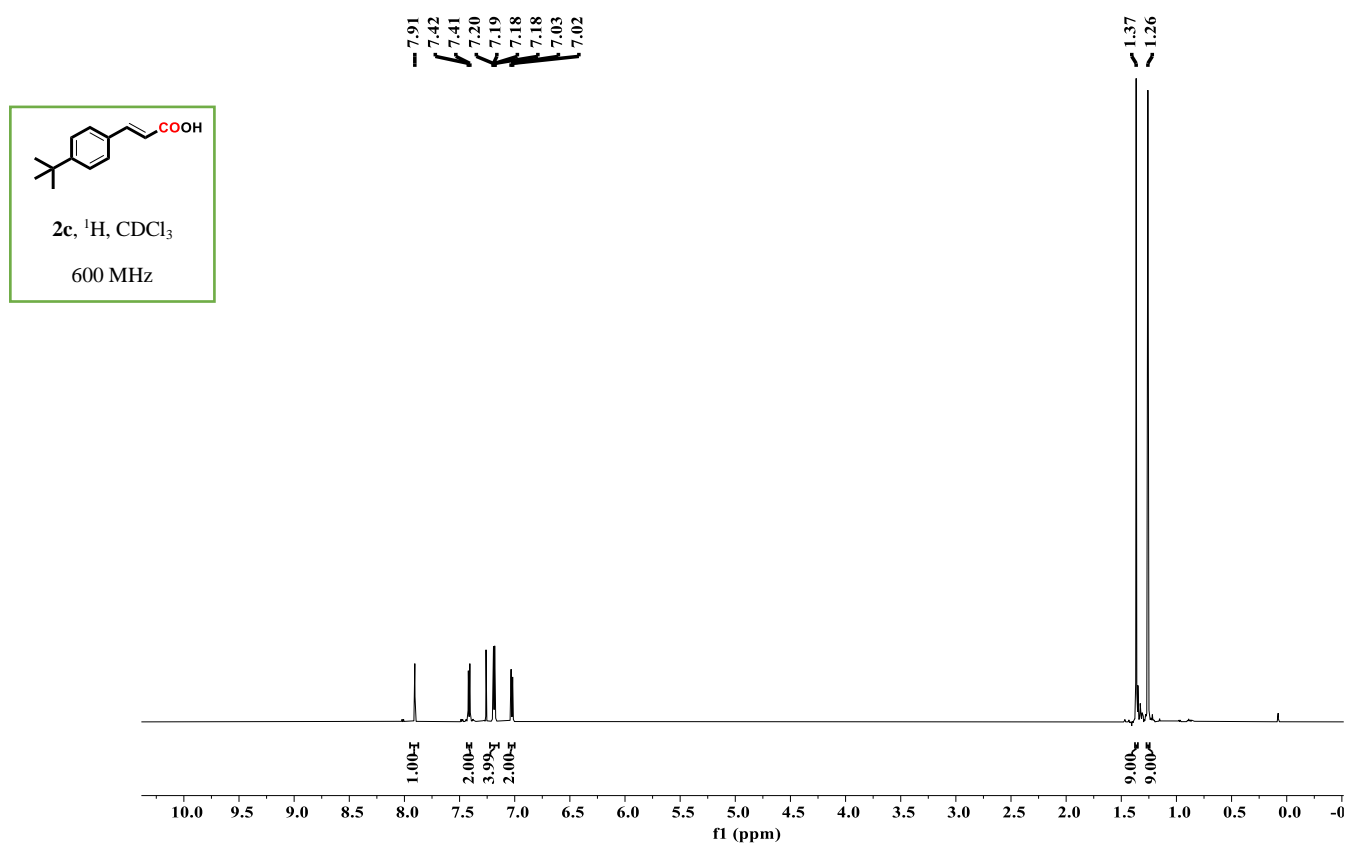
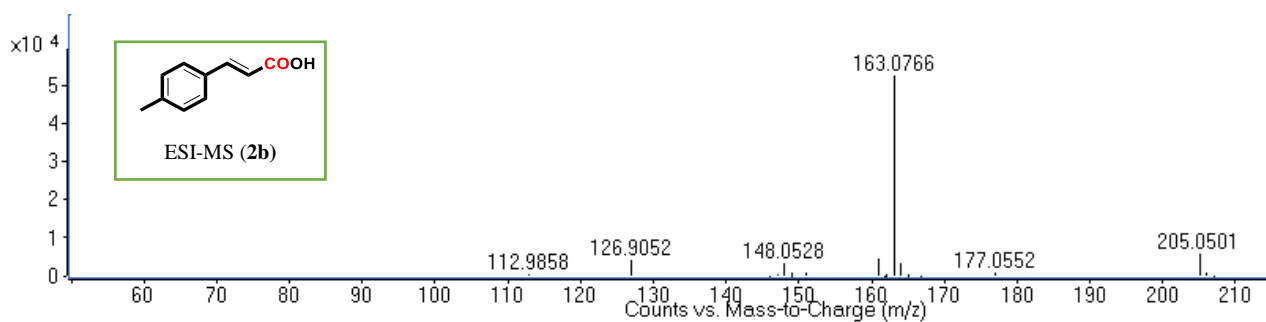
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 4.28 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.13 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 3H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 168.64, 138.59, 135.88, 129.57, 128.54, 128.28, 128.18, 60.82, 14.26, 13.99. ESI-MS $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^+$ (m/z) calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2^+$ is 191.1067, obsd. 191.1067.

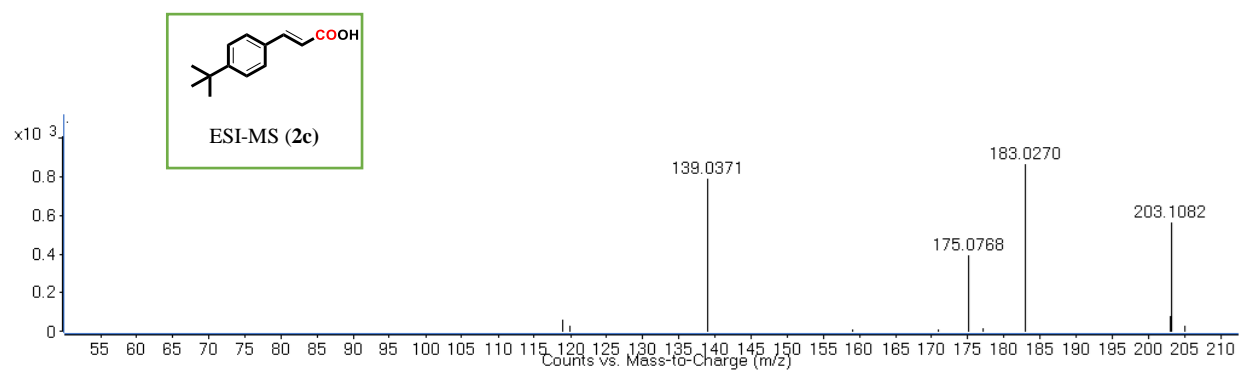
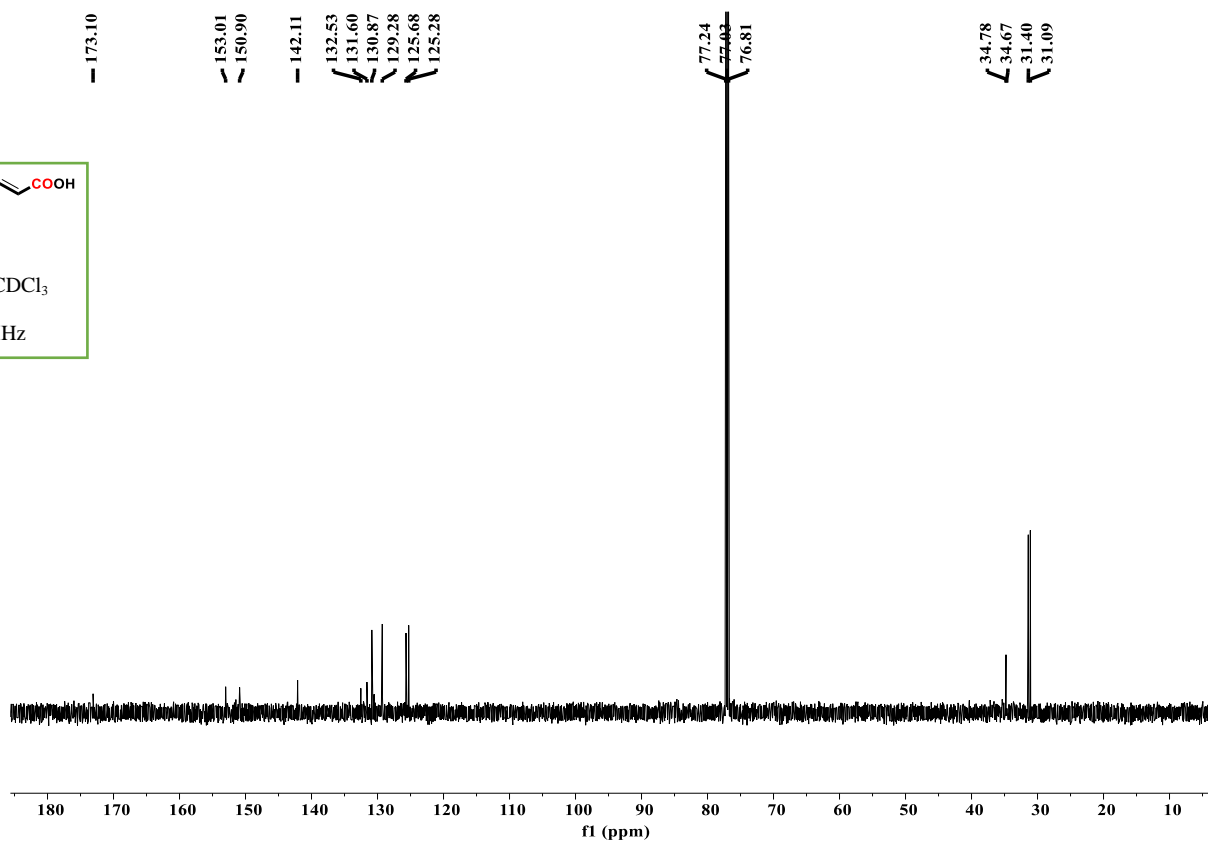
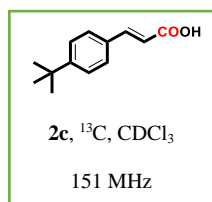
H. ^1H , ^{13}C NMR and ESI-MS Spectra of compounds 2a-t, 3a-n, 5a-u and 7a-m

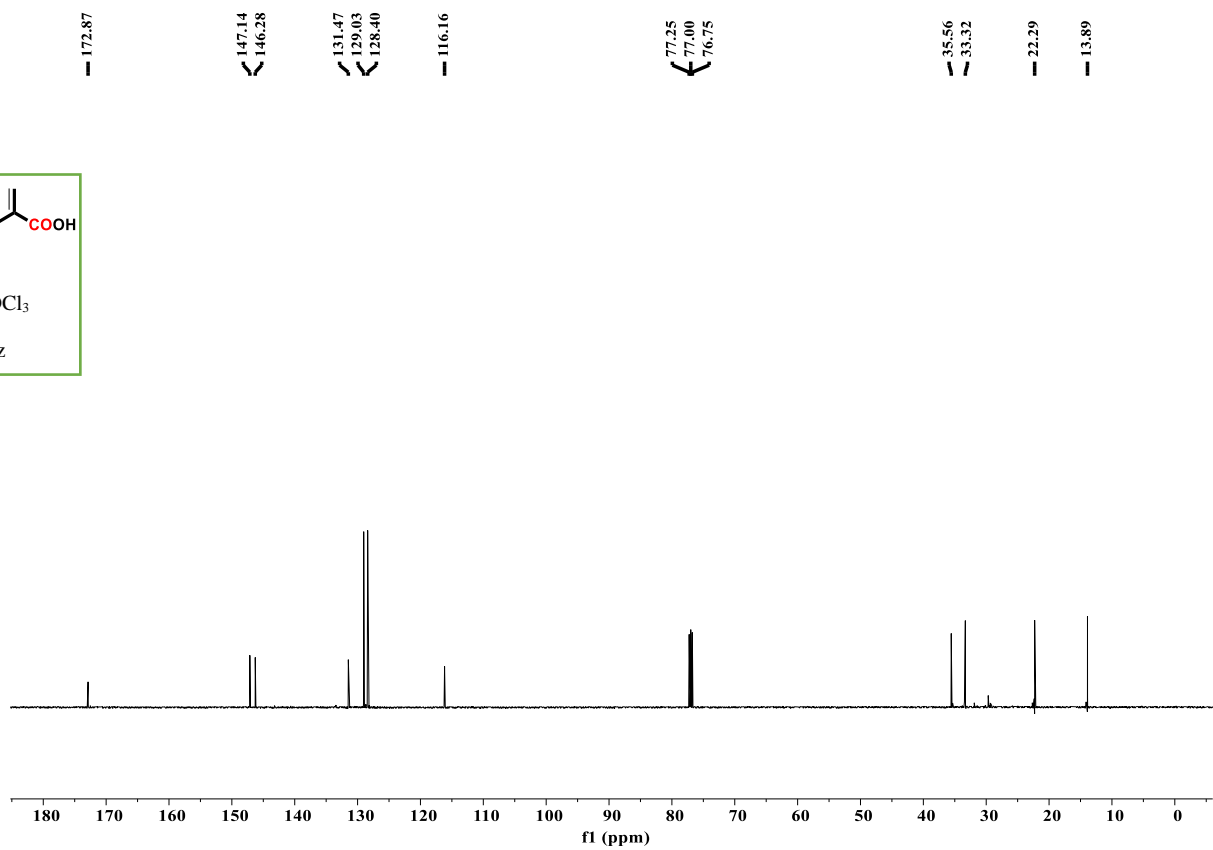
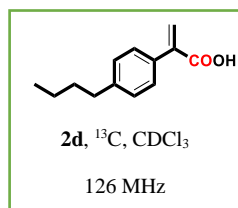
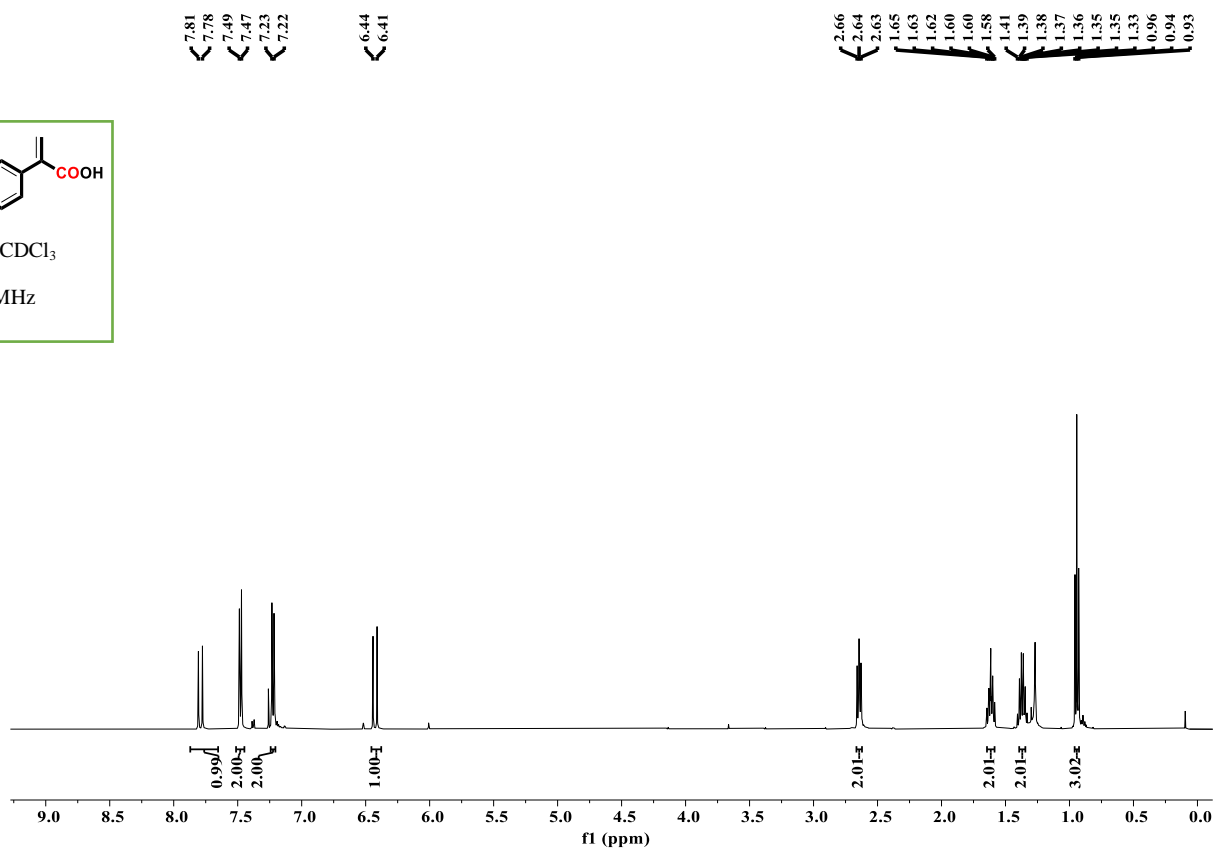
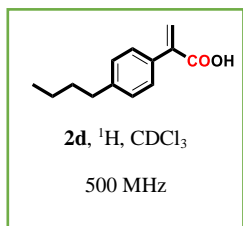


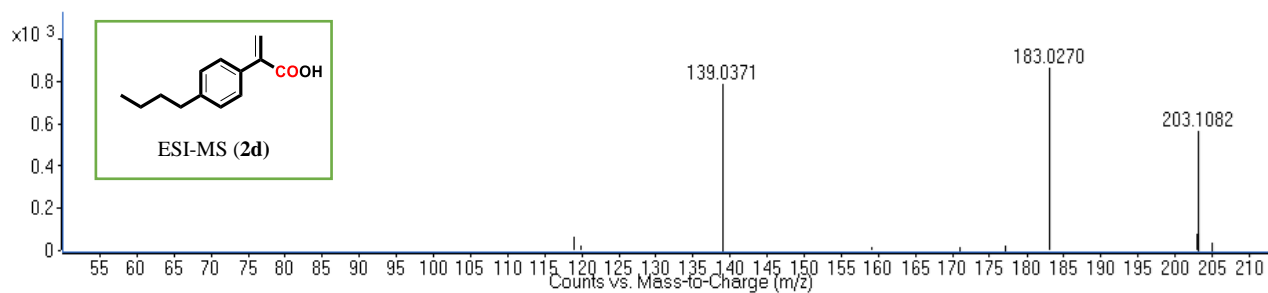




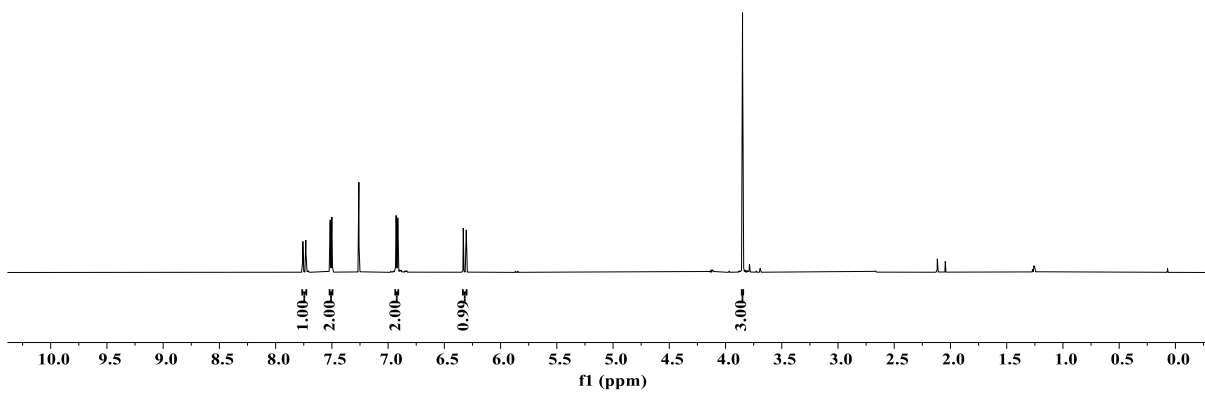
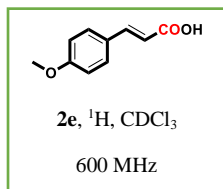


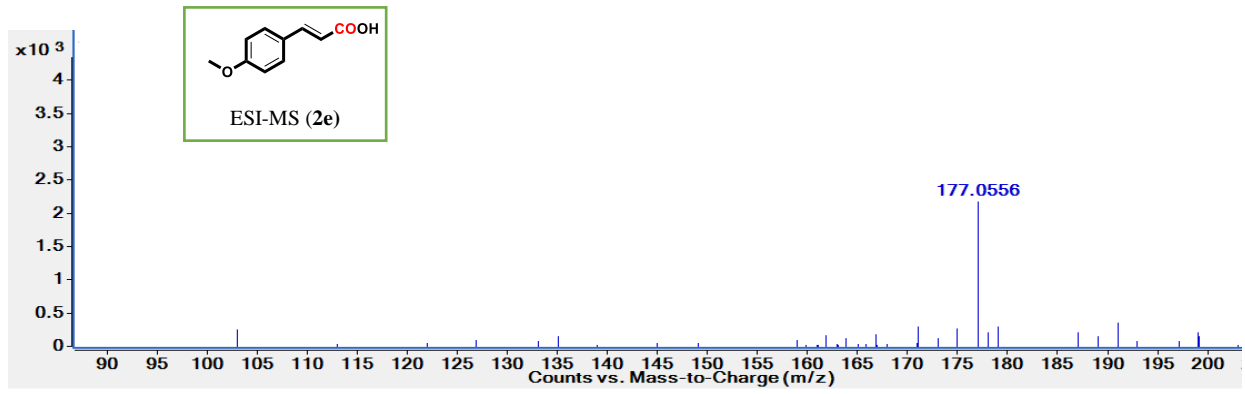
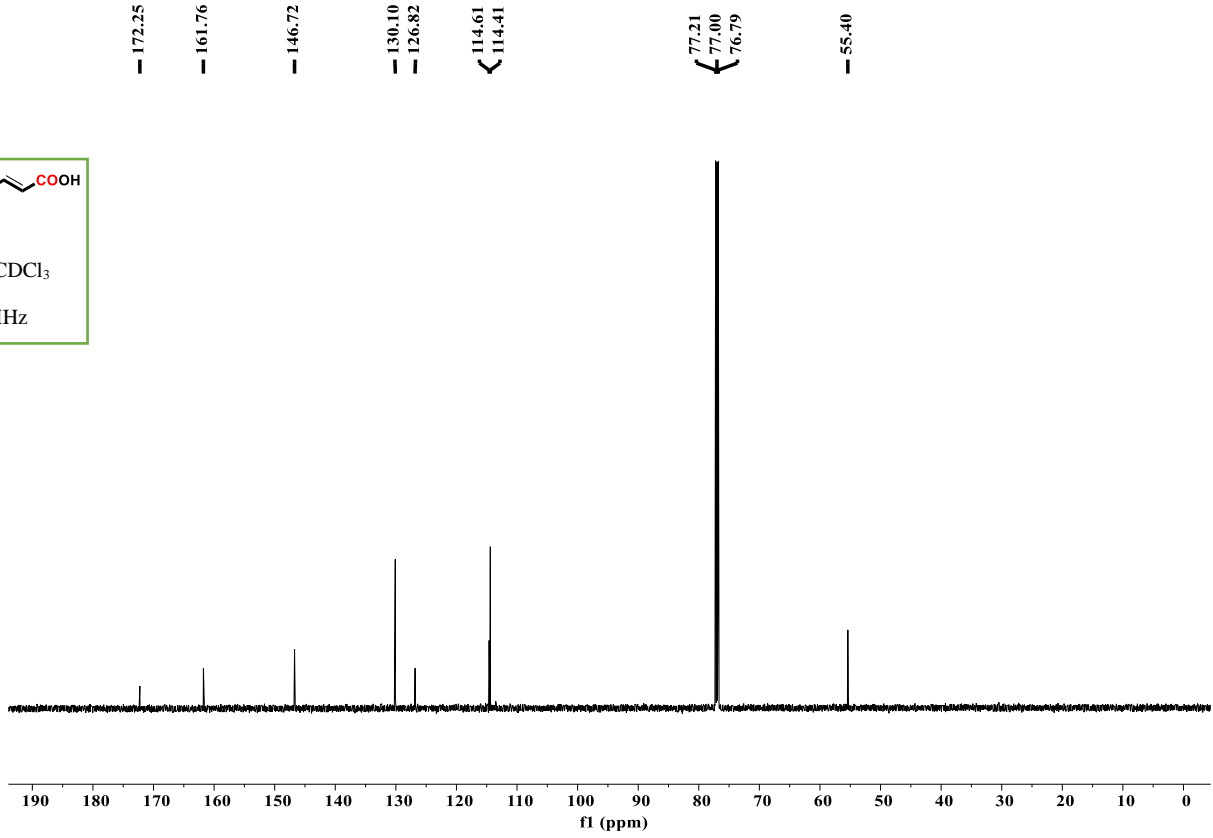
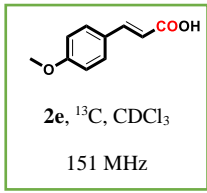


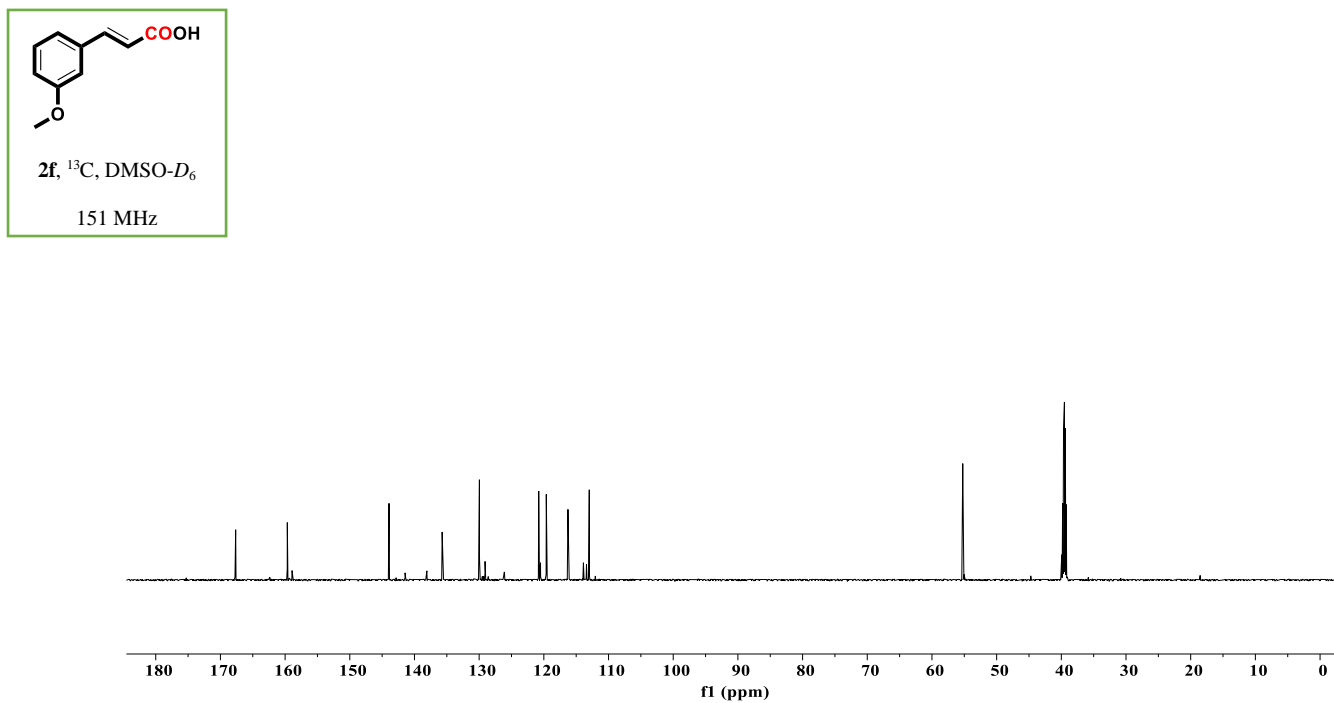
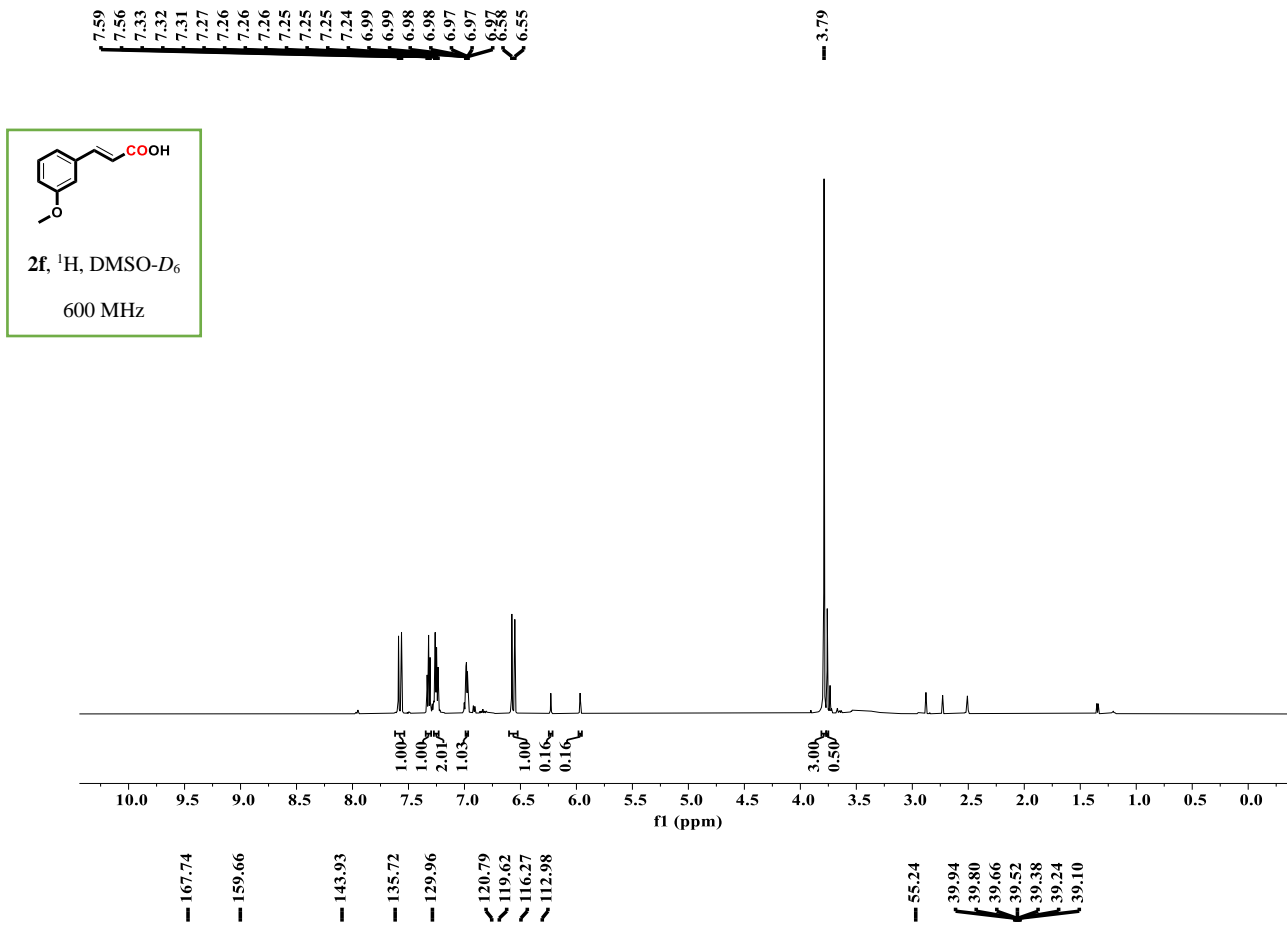


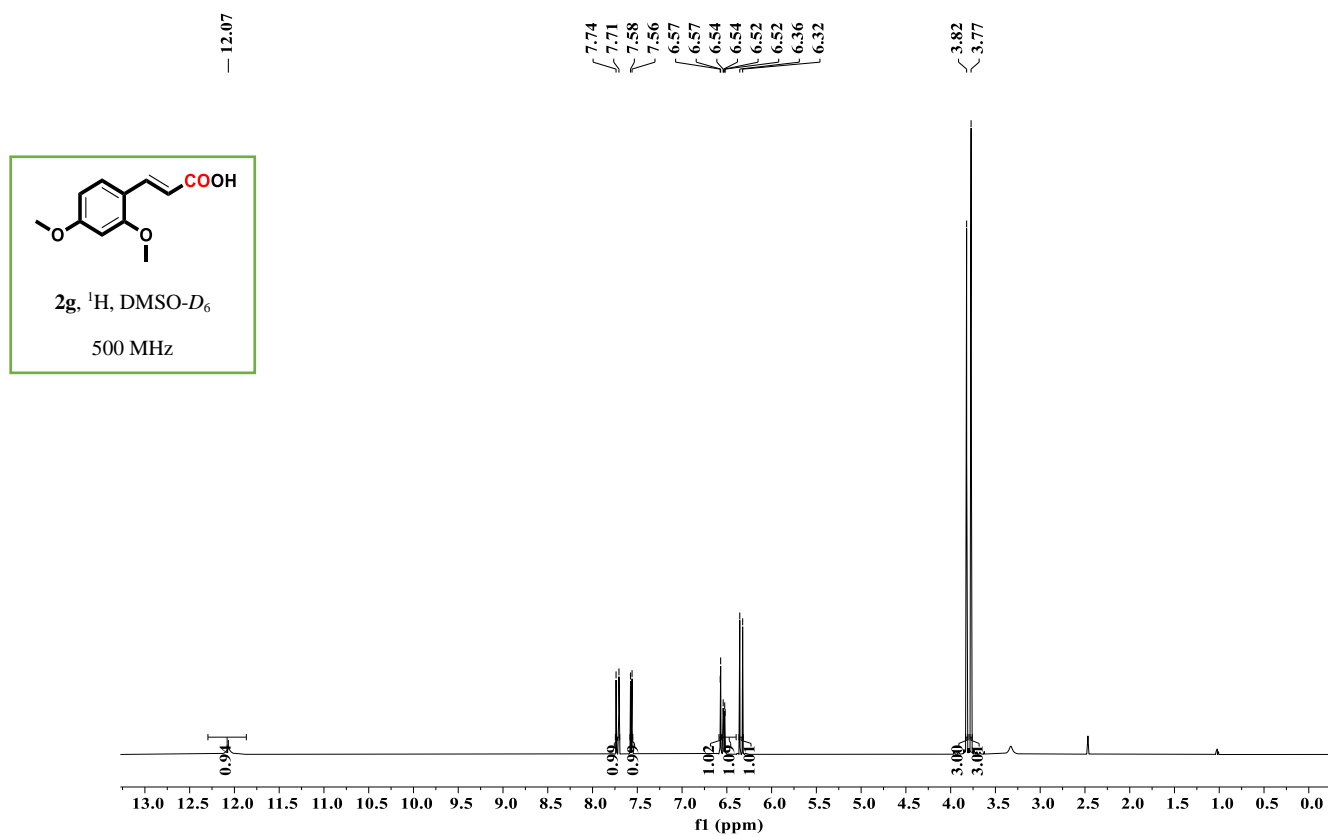
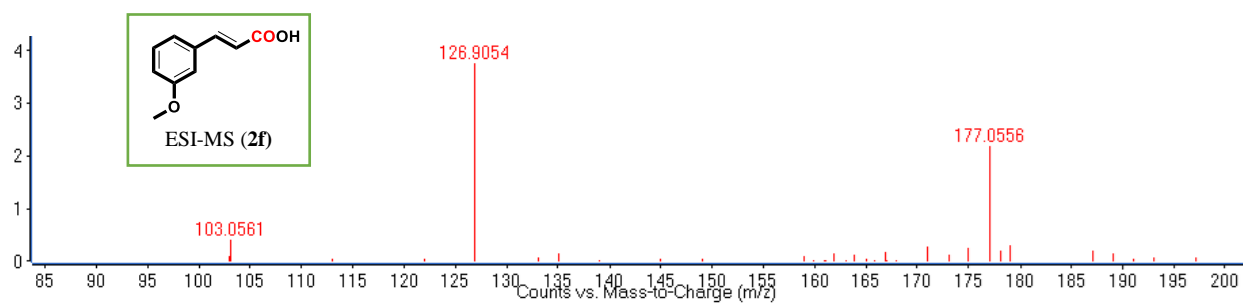


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6.33
6.31
3.85



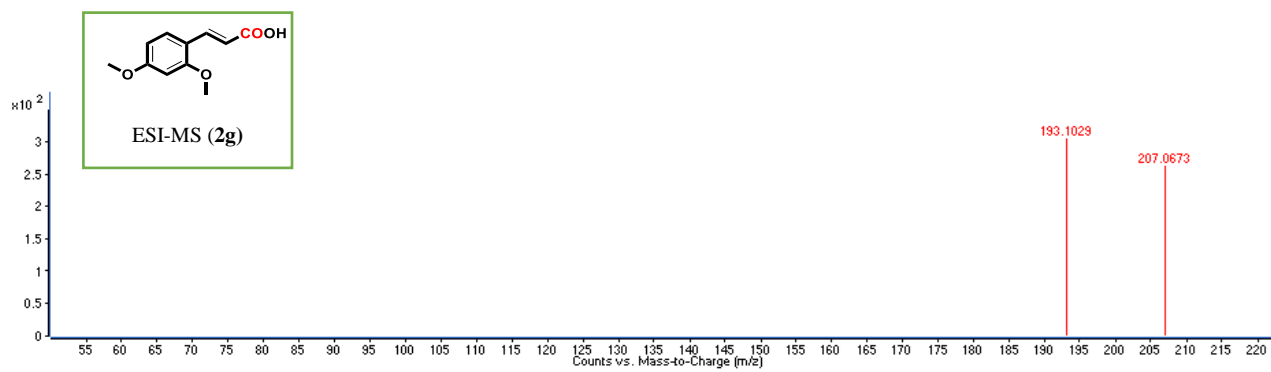
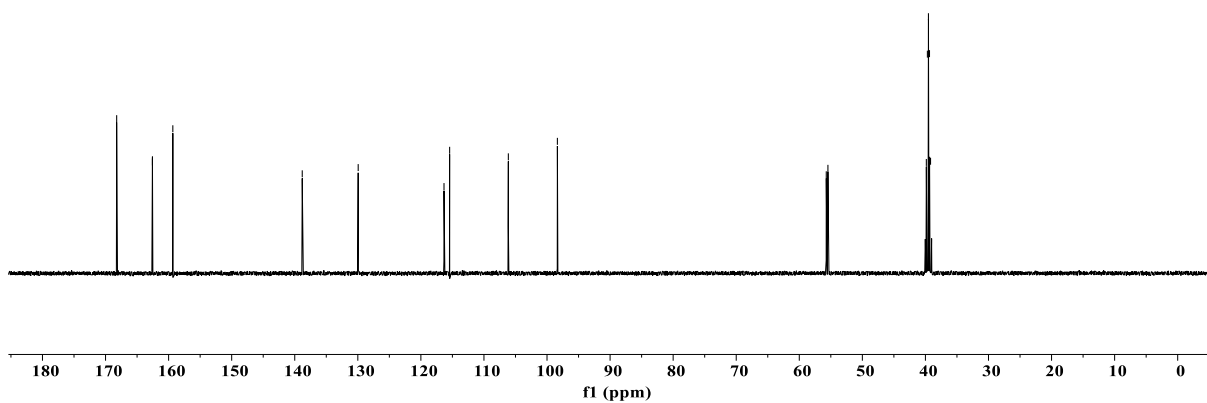
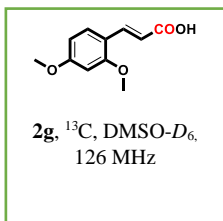


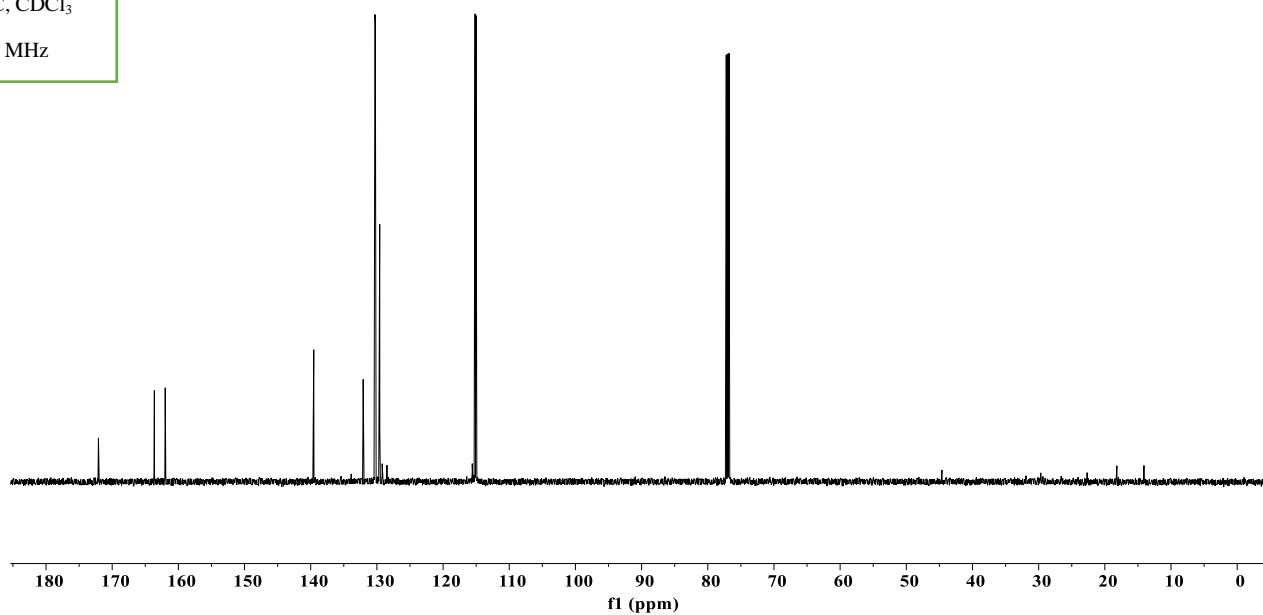
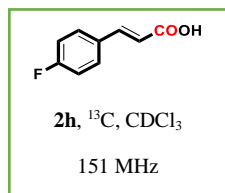
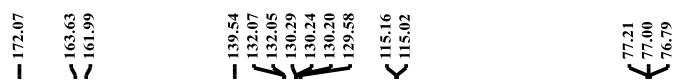
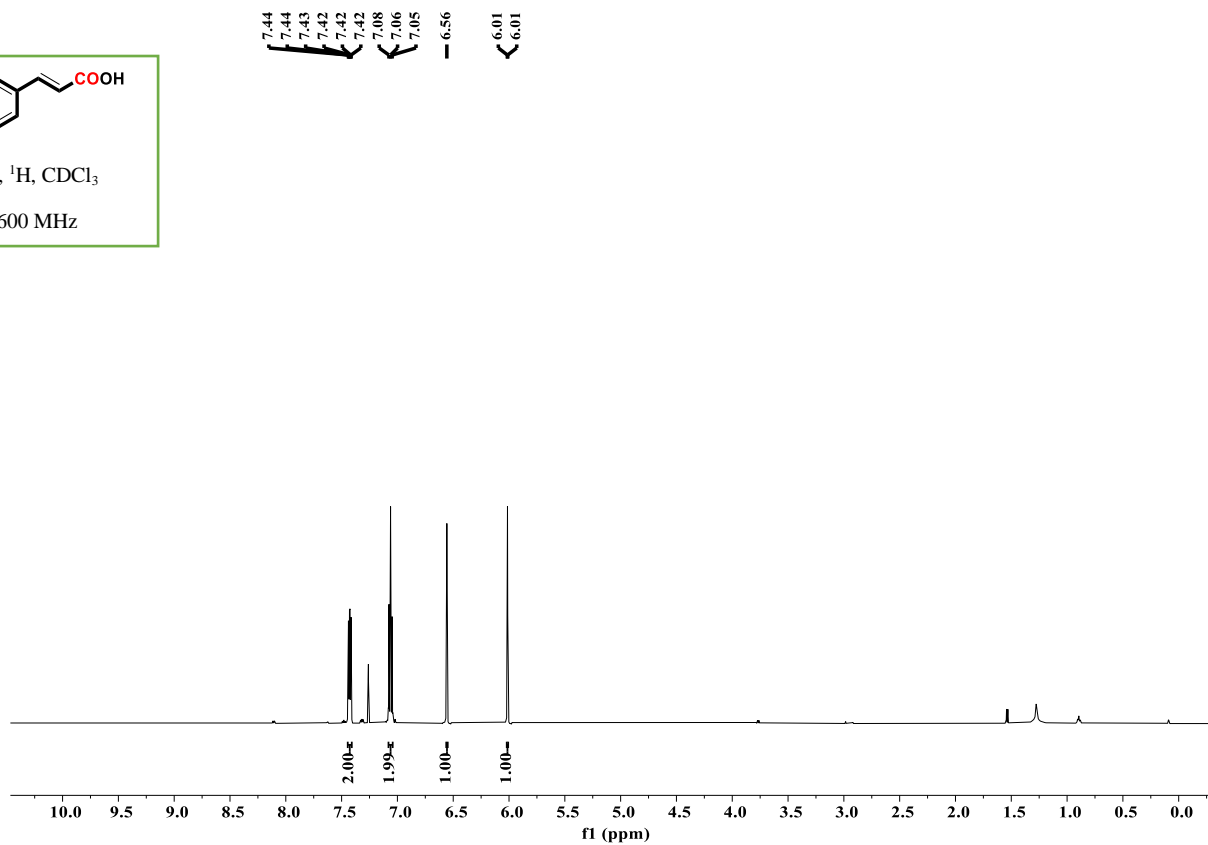
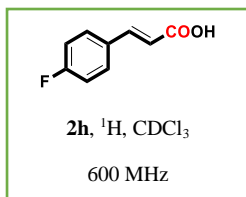


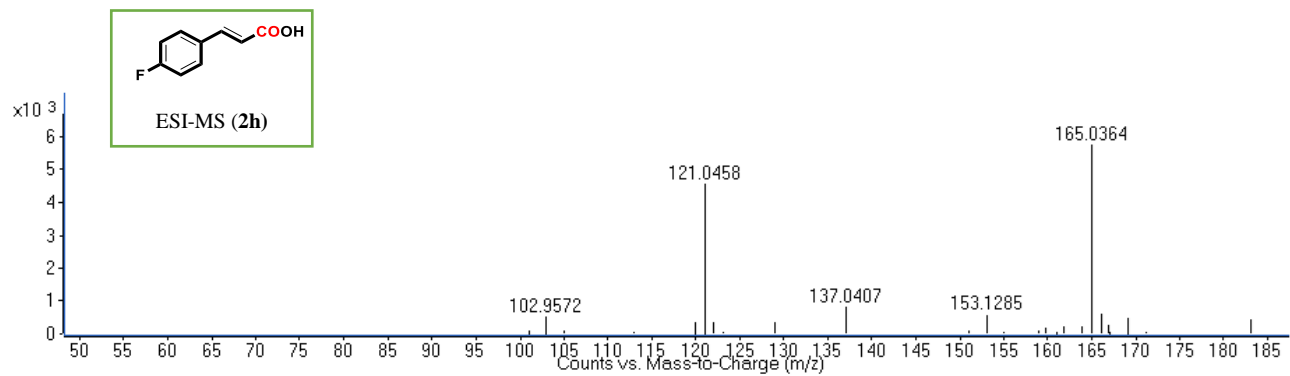


\setminus 168.24
 \setminus 162.56
 \setminus 159.33
 — 138.81
 — 129.94
 \setminus 116.33
 \setminus 115.44
 — 106.13
 — 98.36

 \setminus 55.72
 \setminus 55.46
 \setminus 39.85
 \setminus 39.69
 \setminus 39.52
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 \setminus 39.19

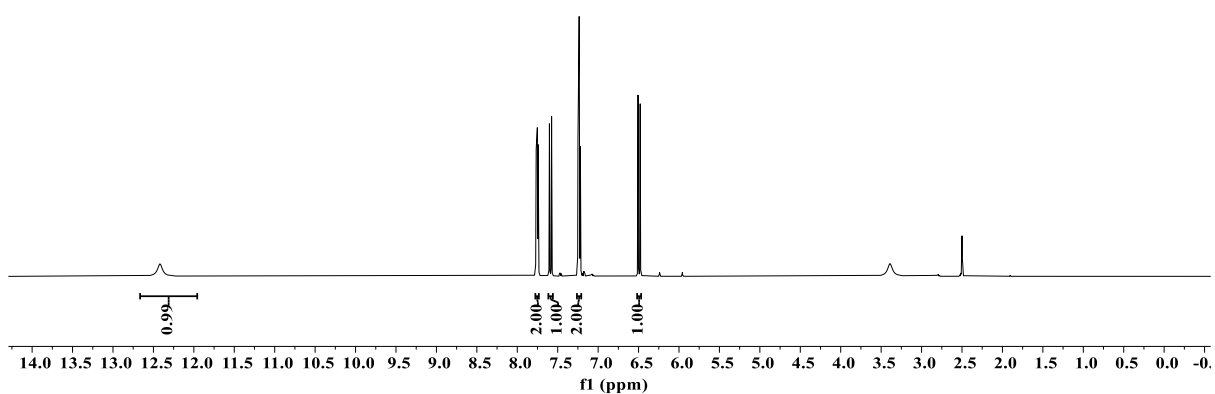
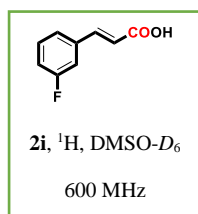


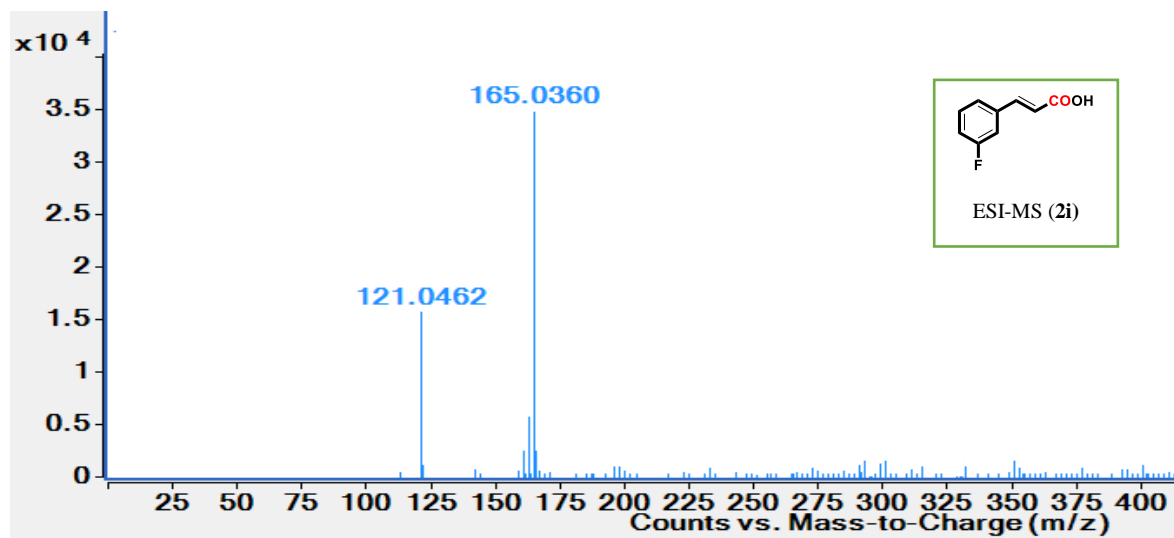
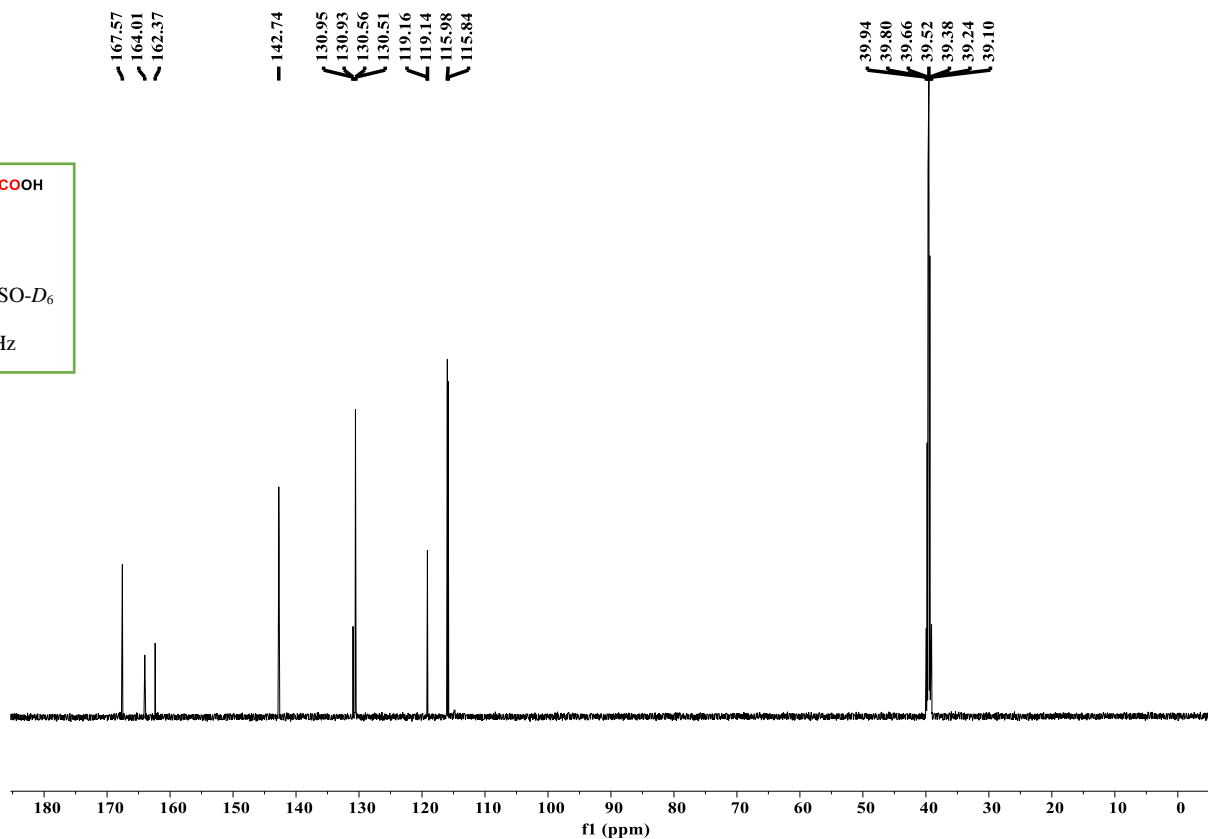
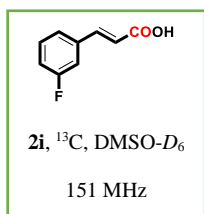


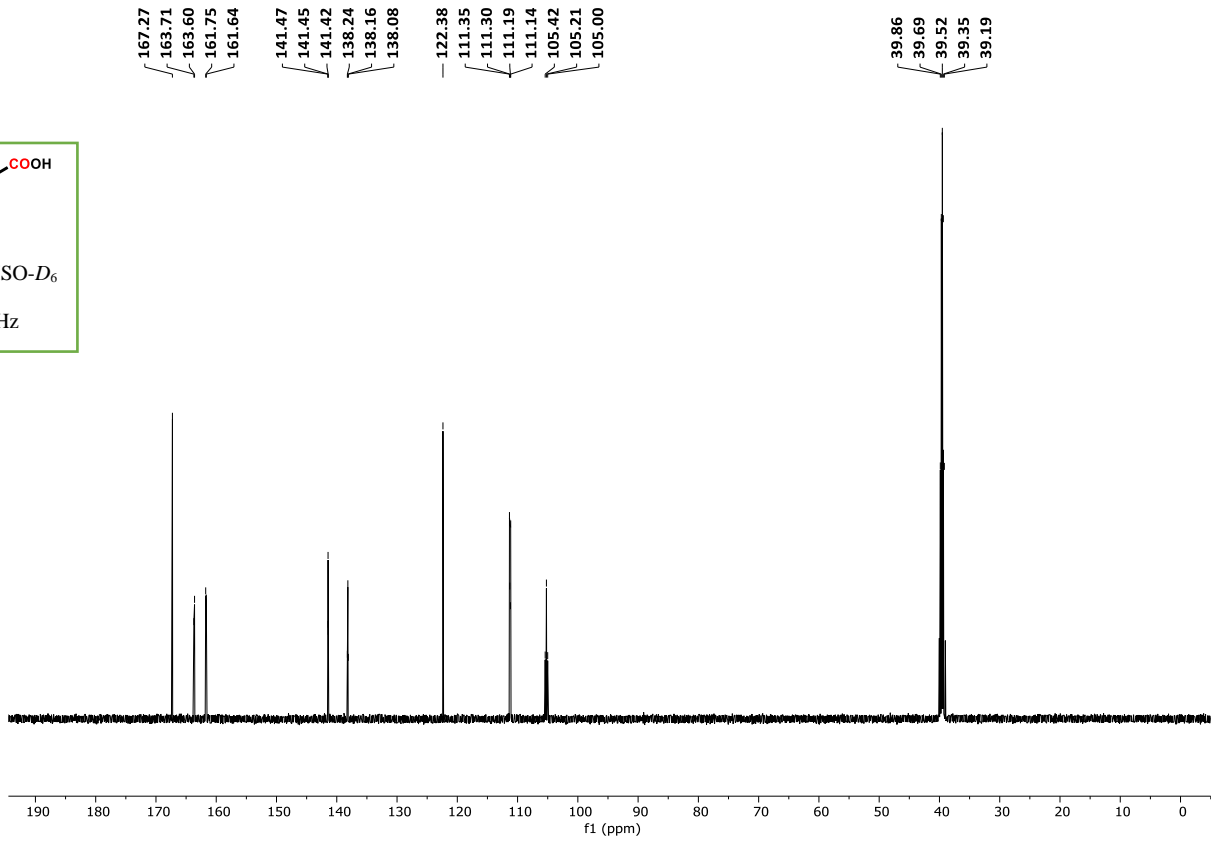
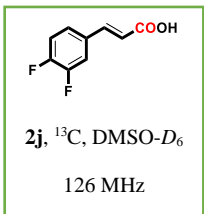
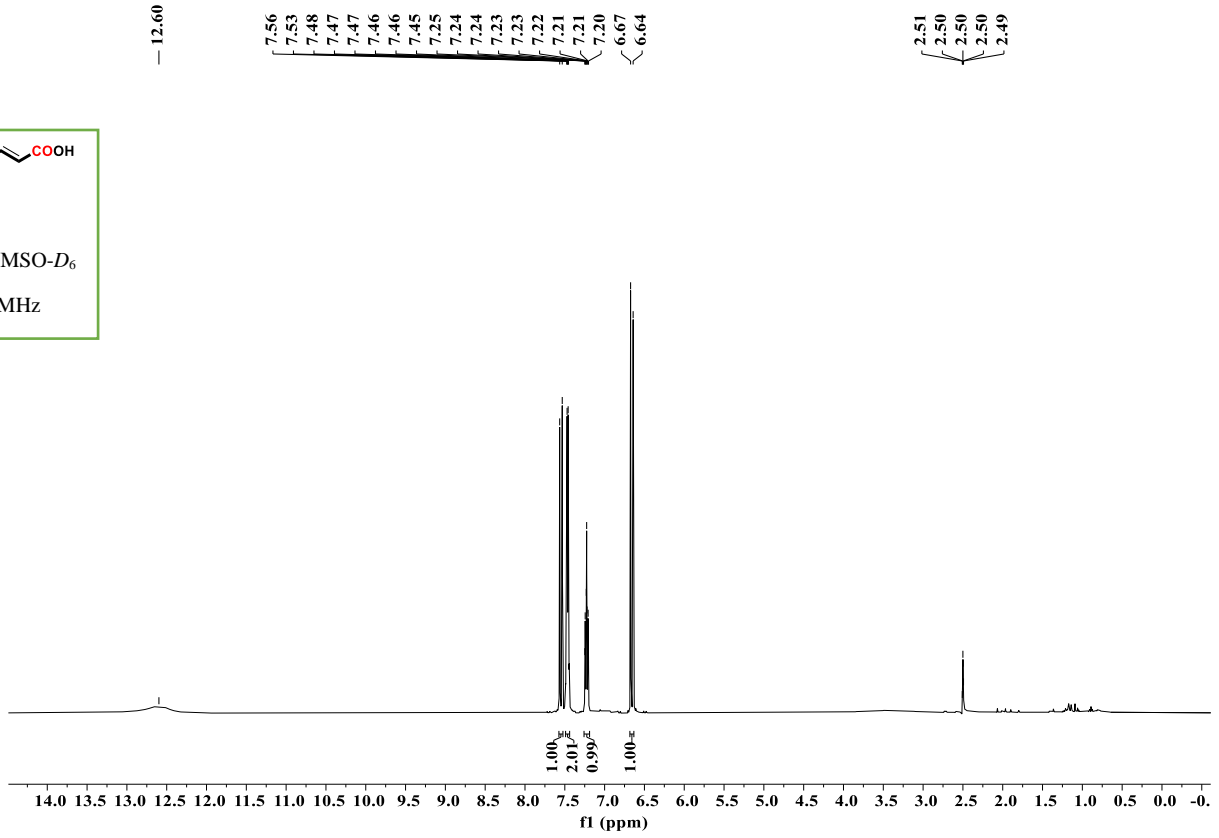
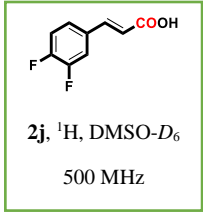


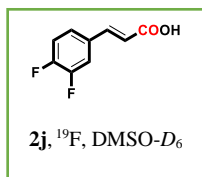
12.42

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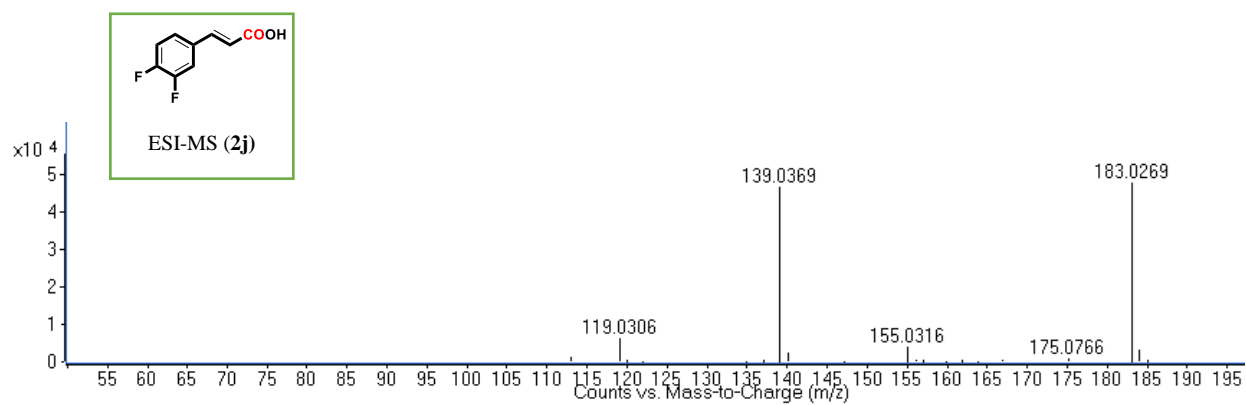
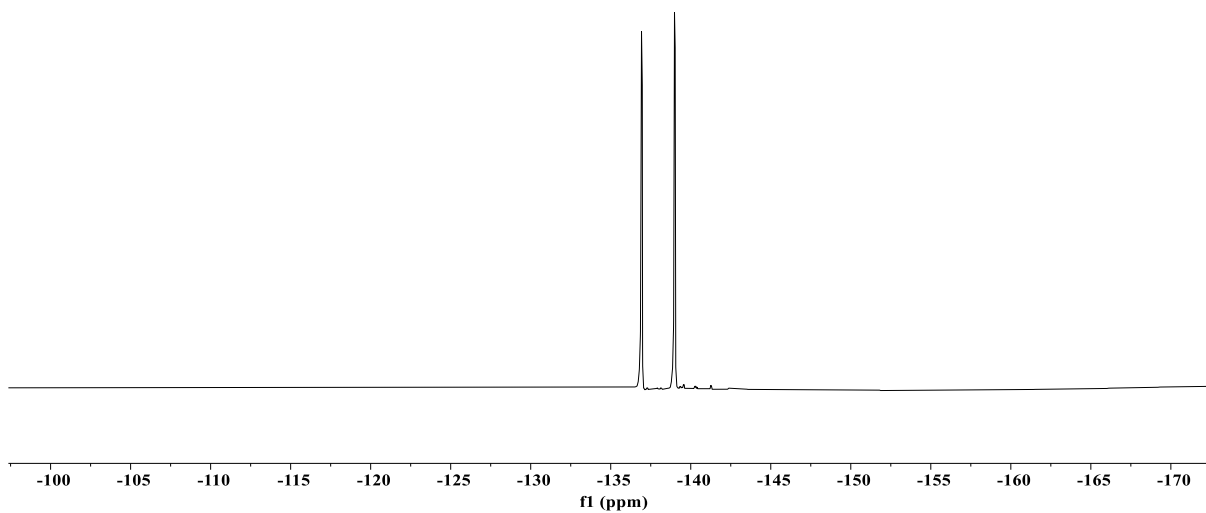


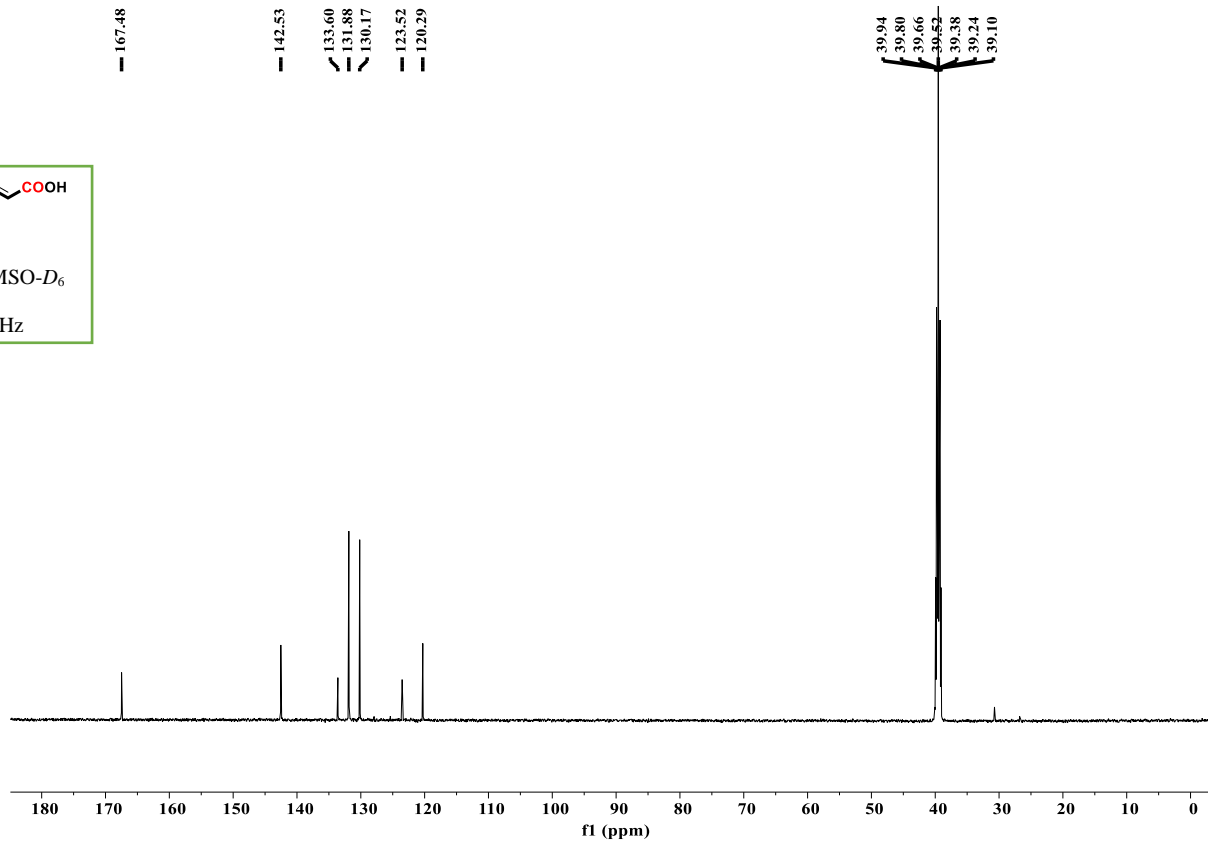
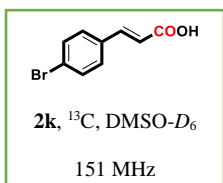
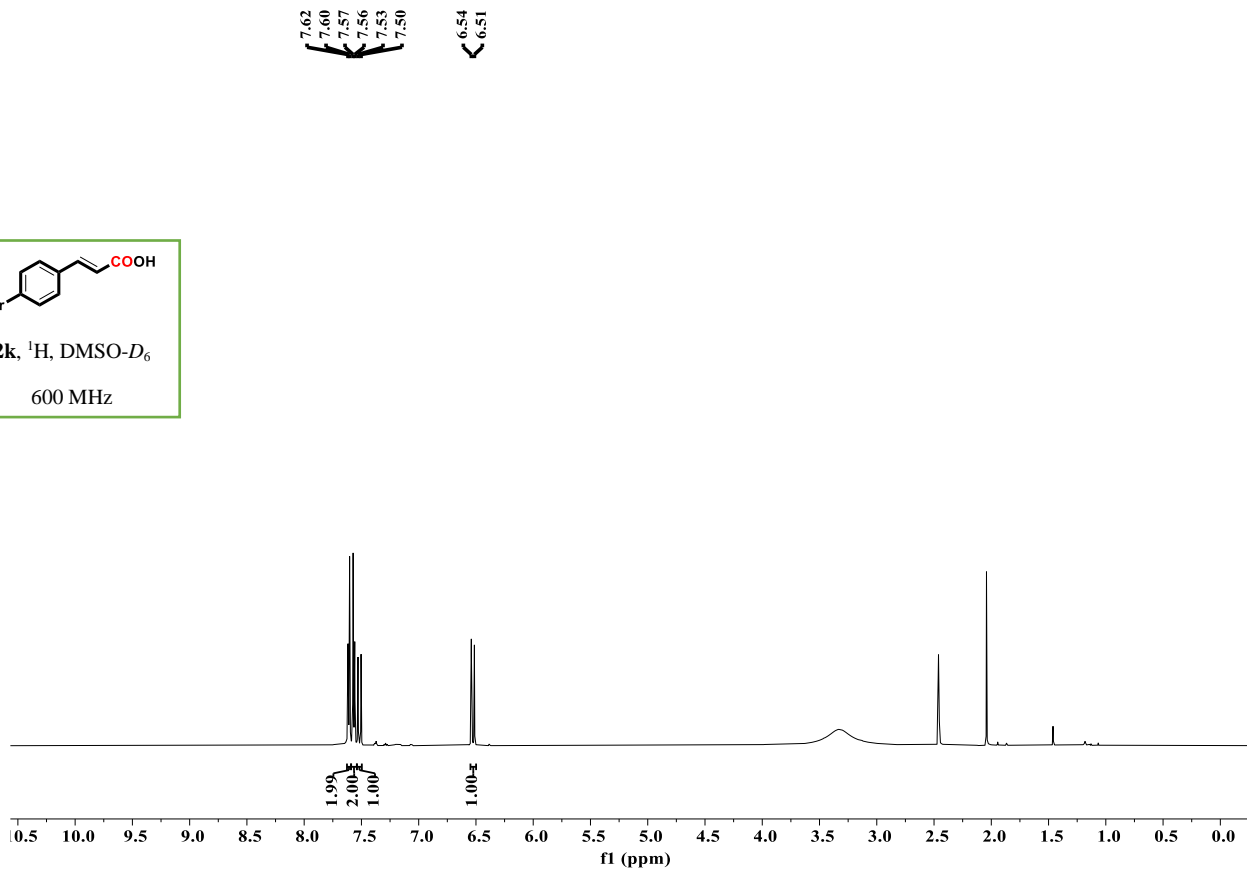
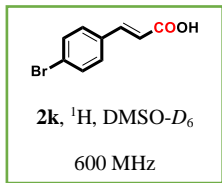


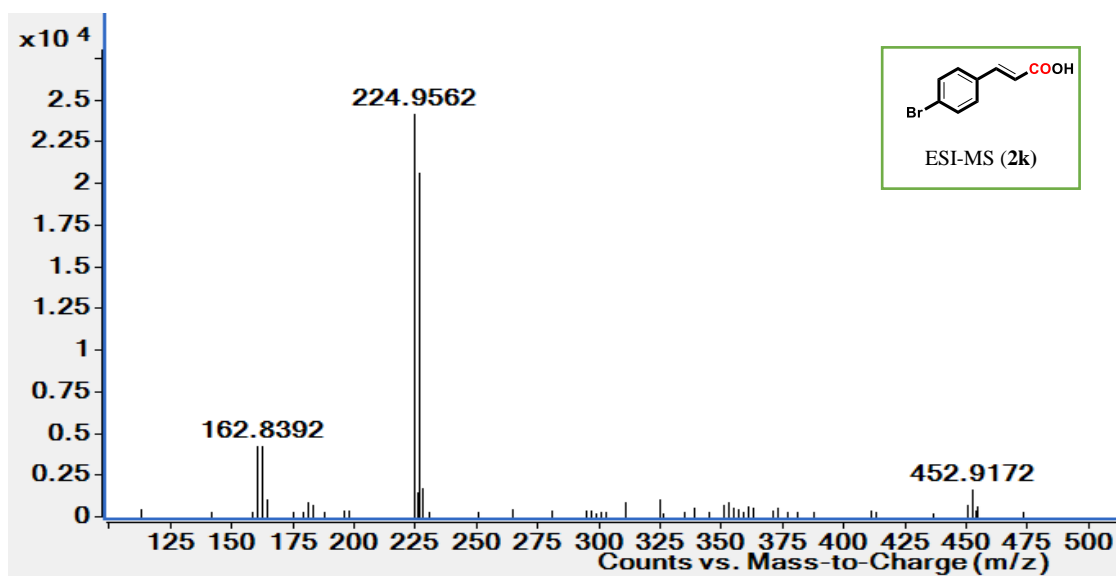




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136.97
138.98
139.03

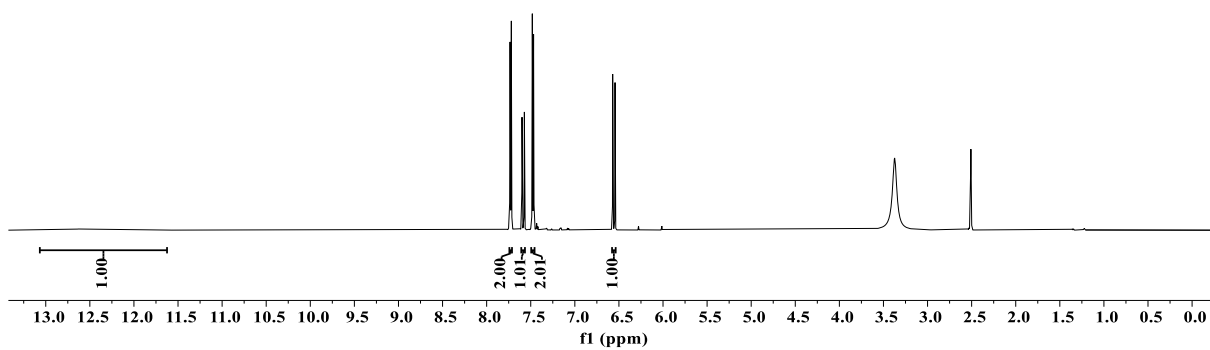
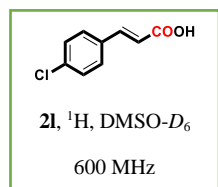


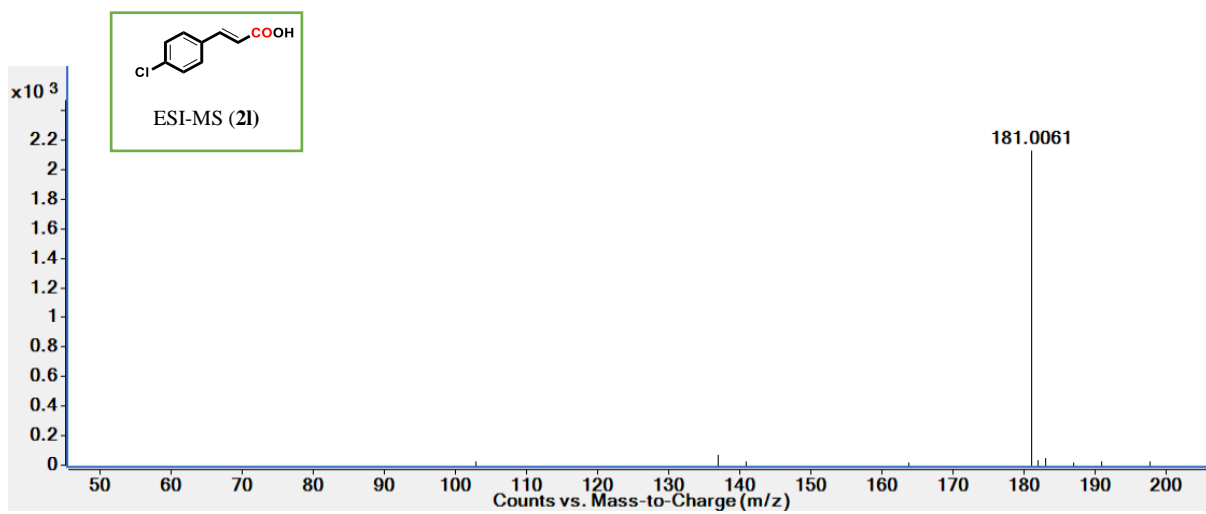
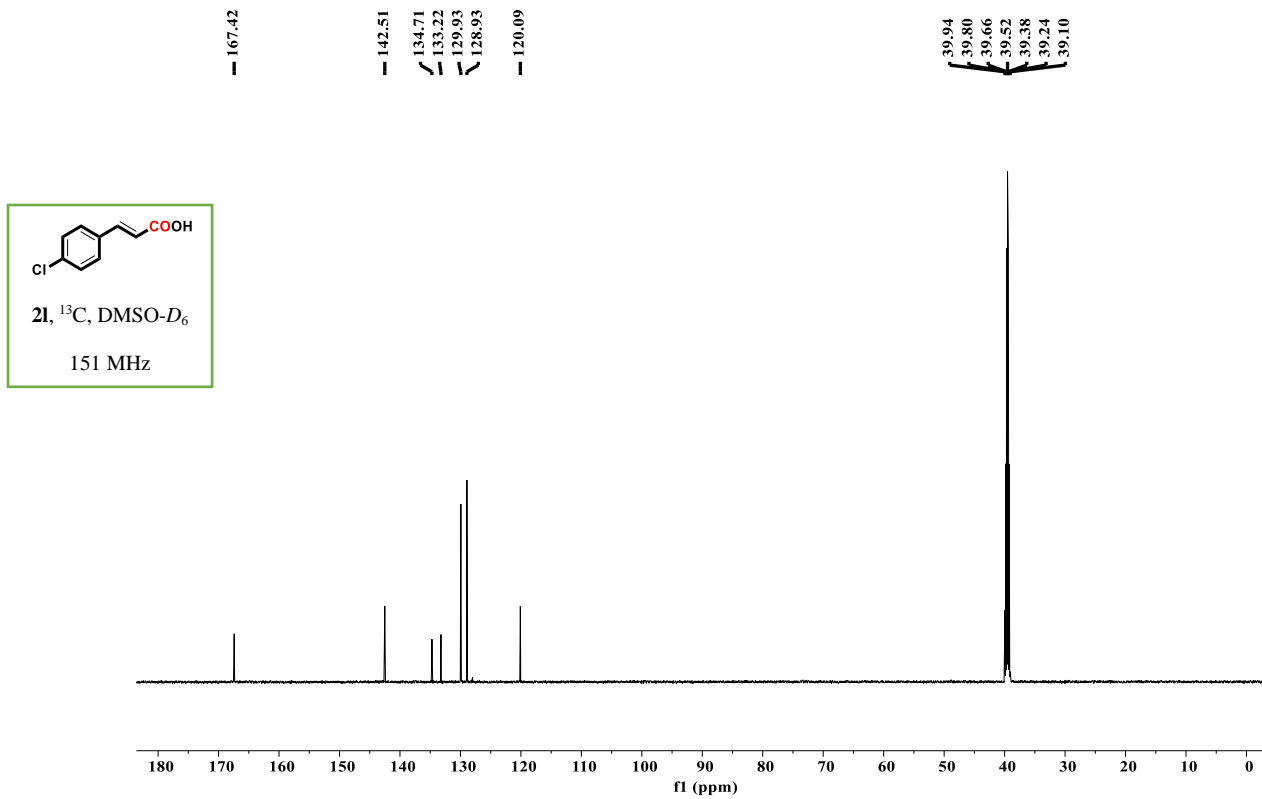


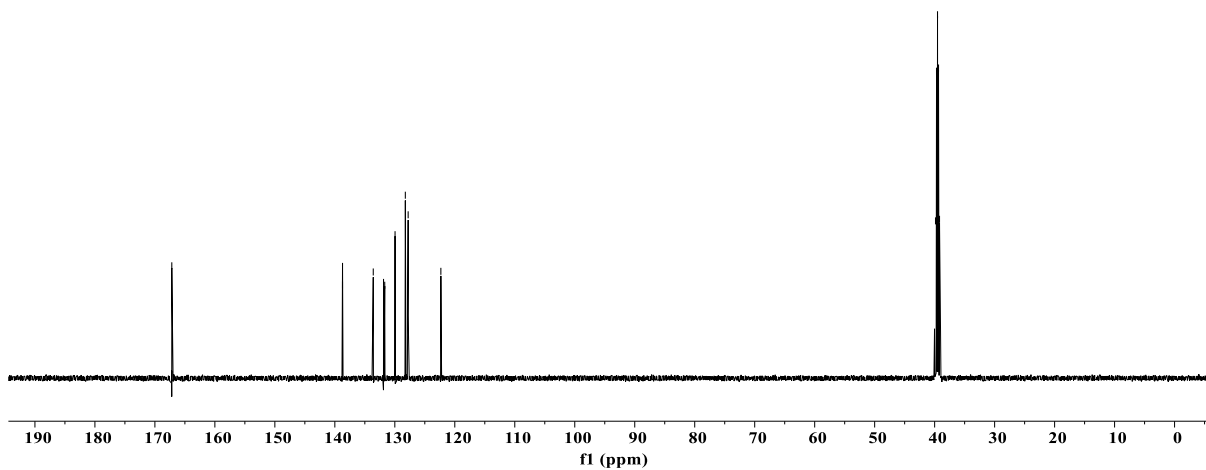
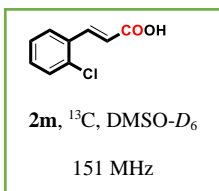
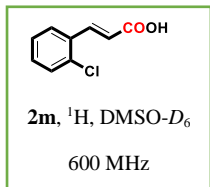
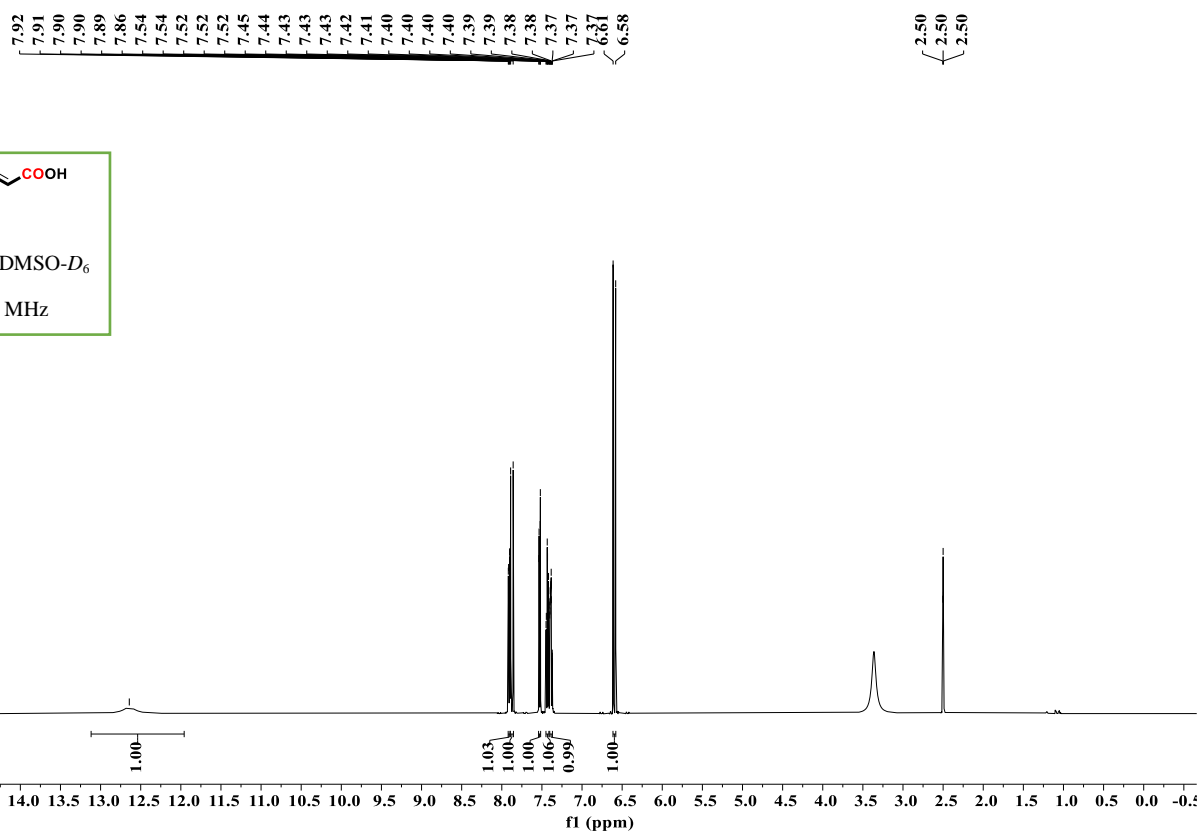


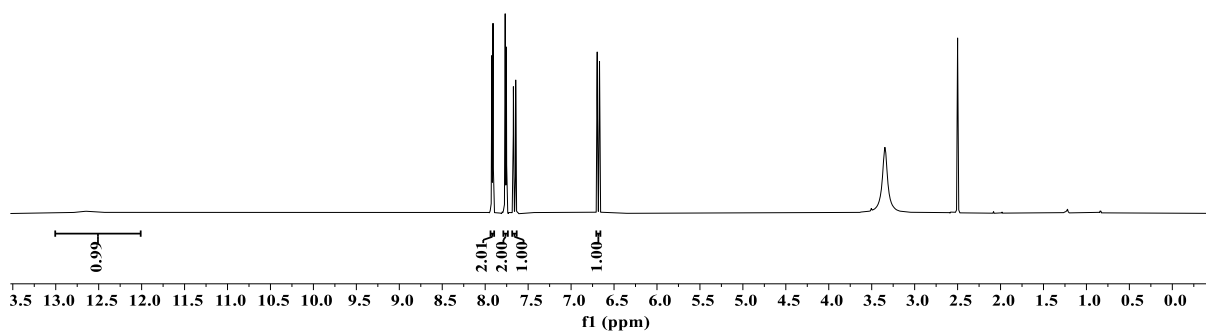
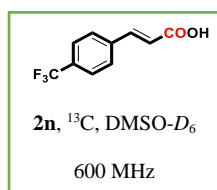
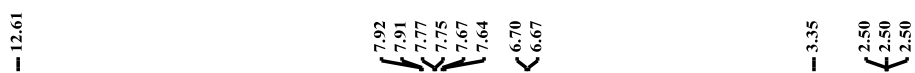
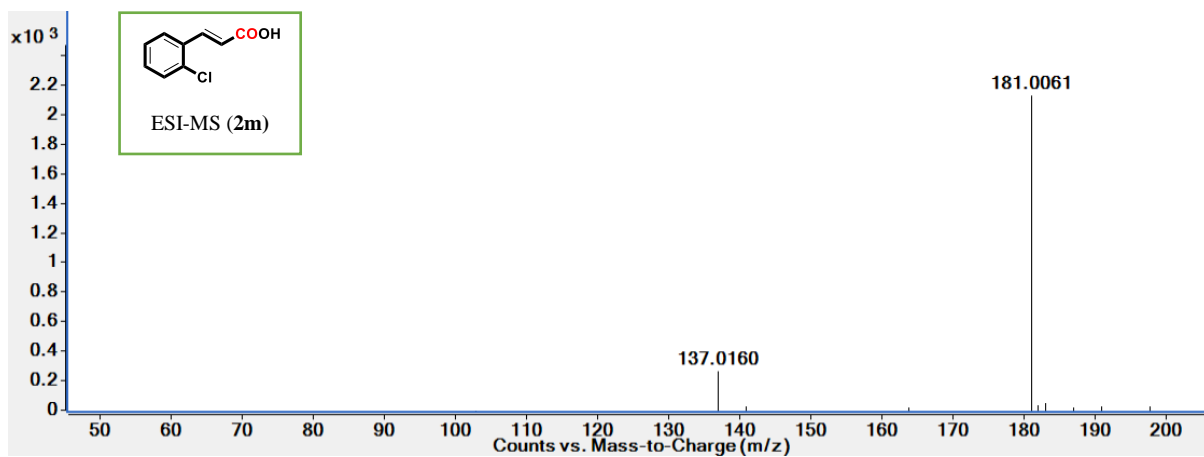
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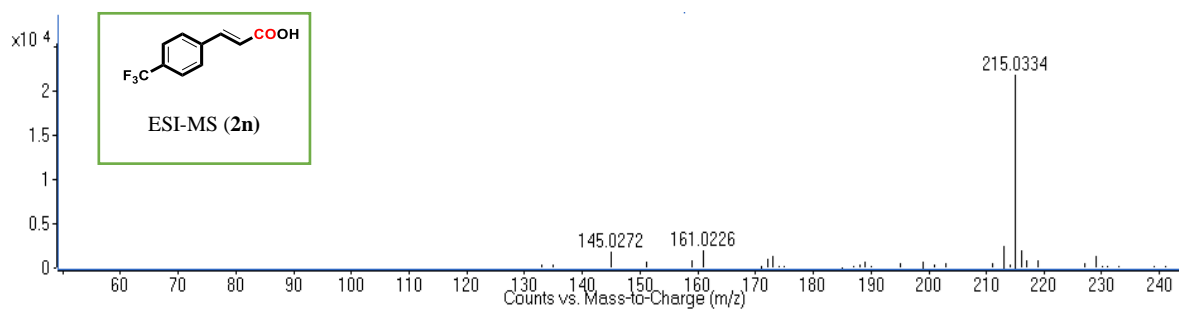
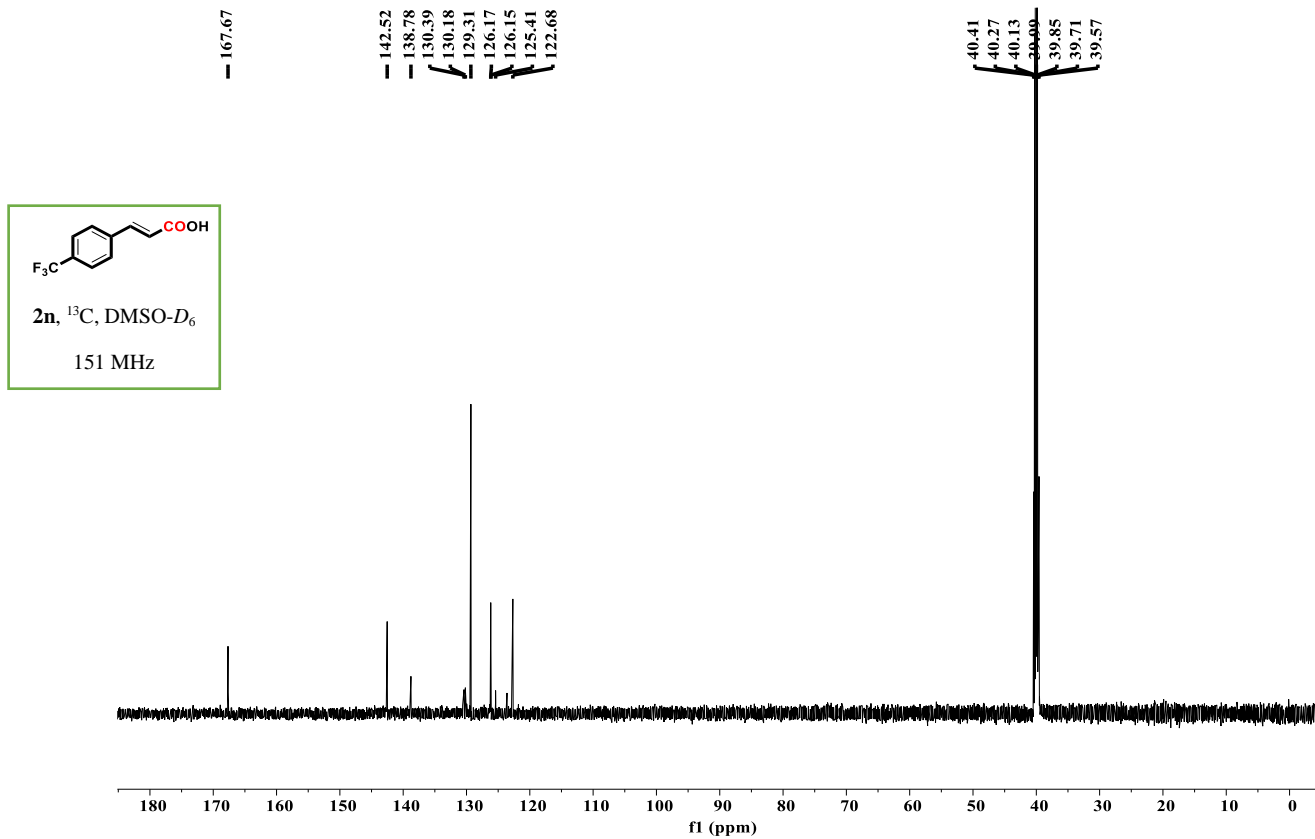
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6.54

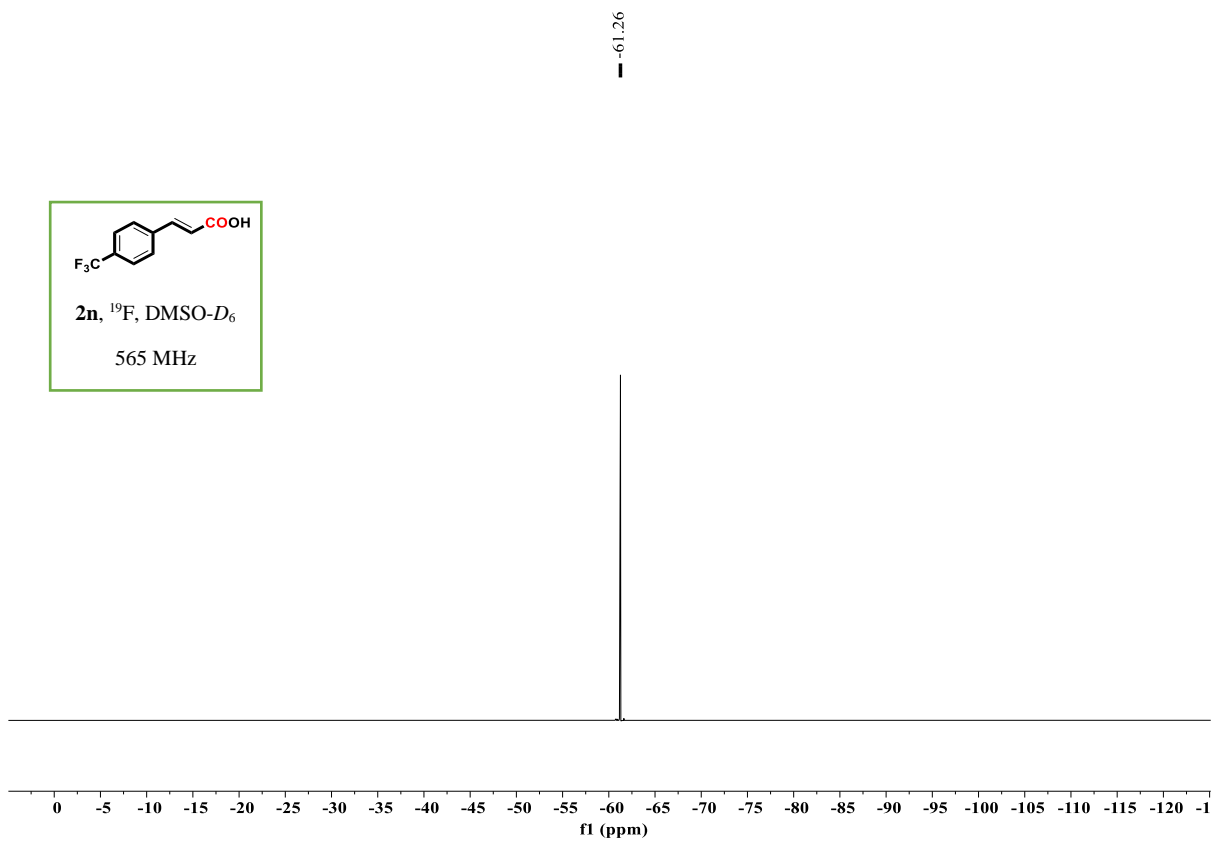
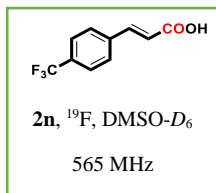


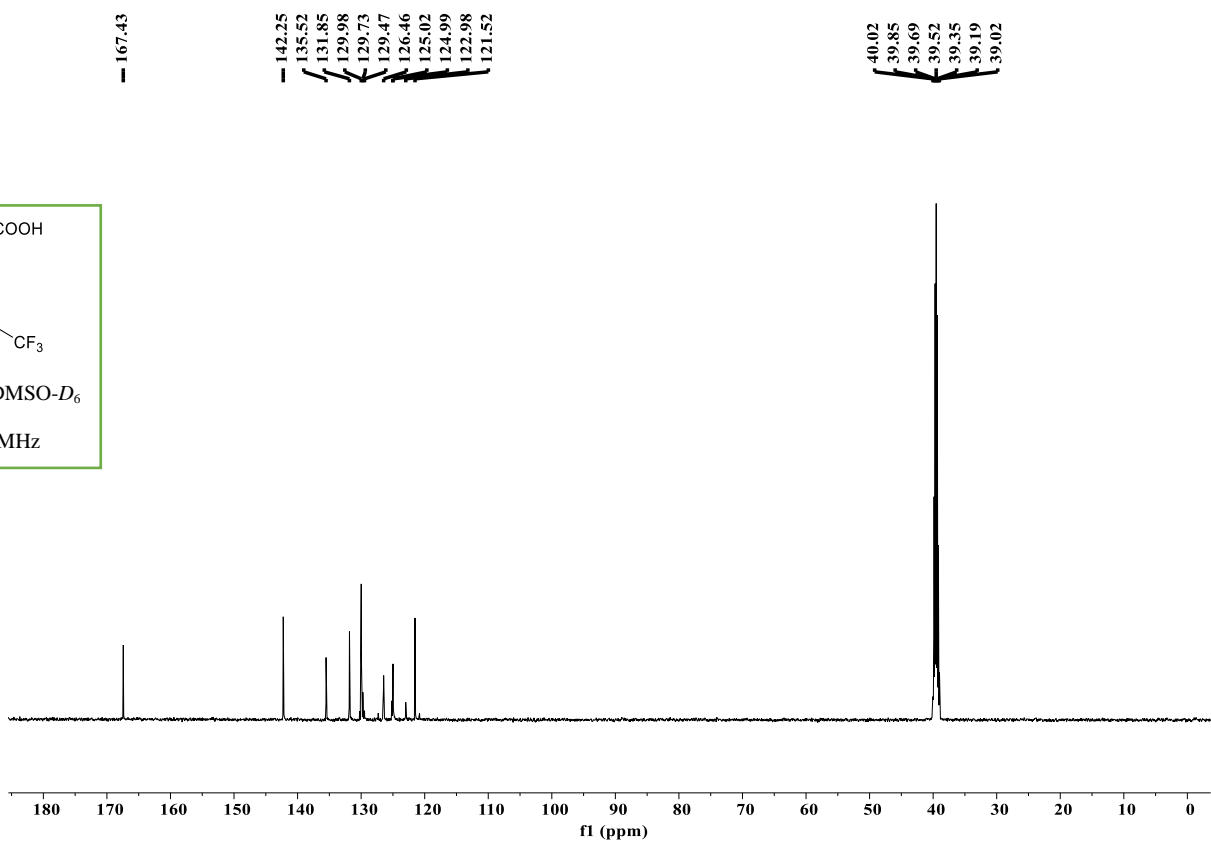
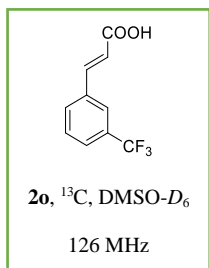
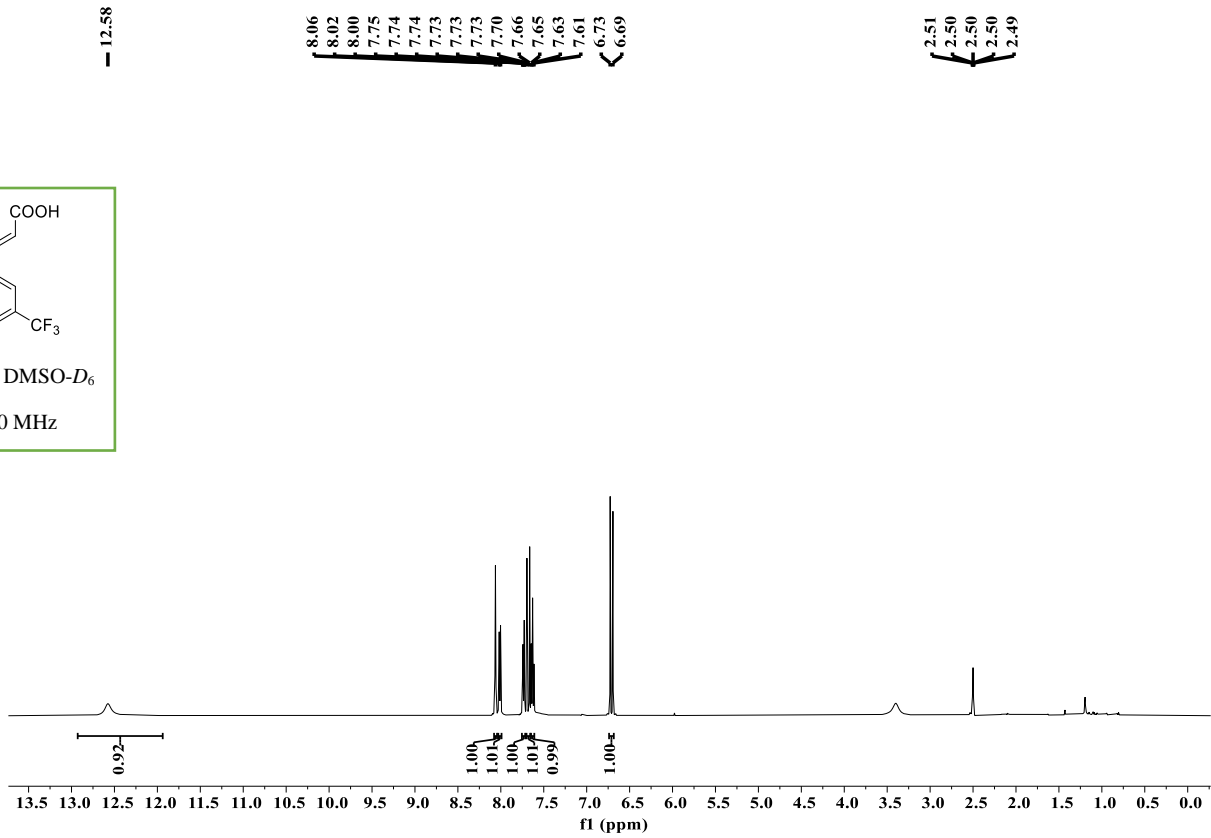
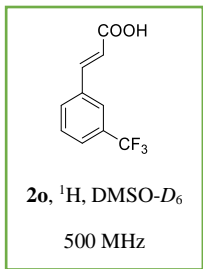


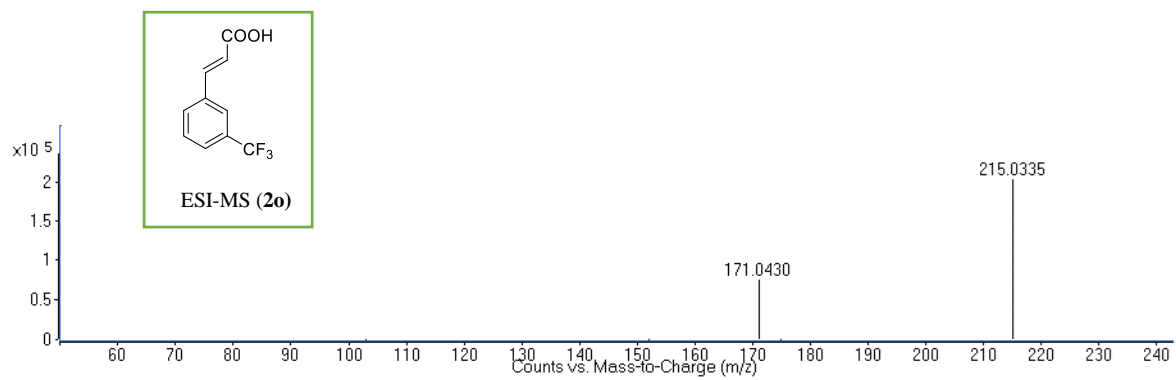
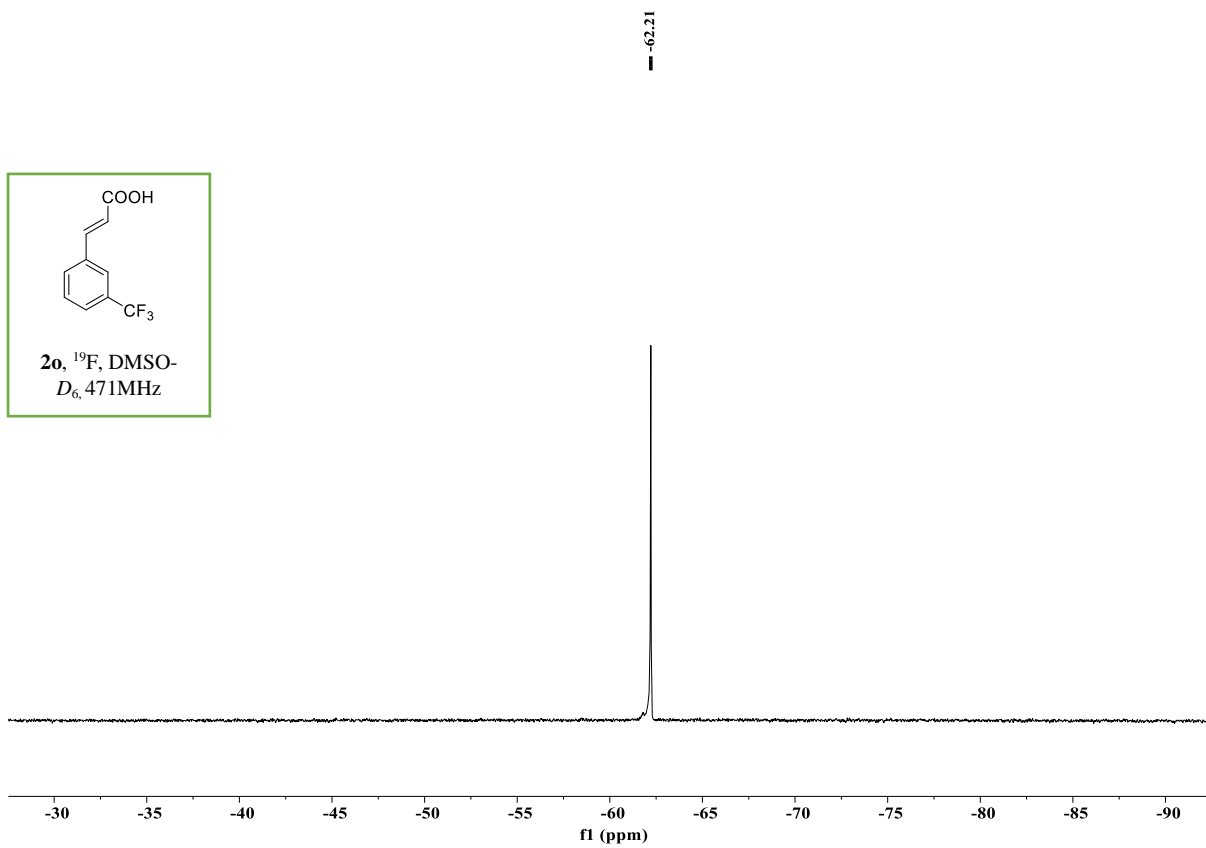


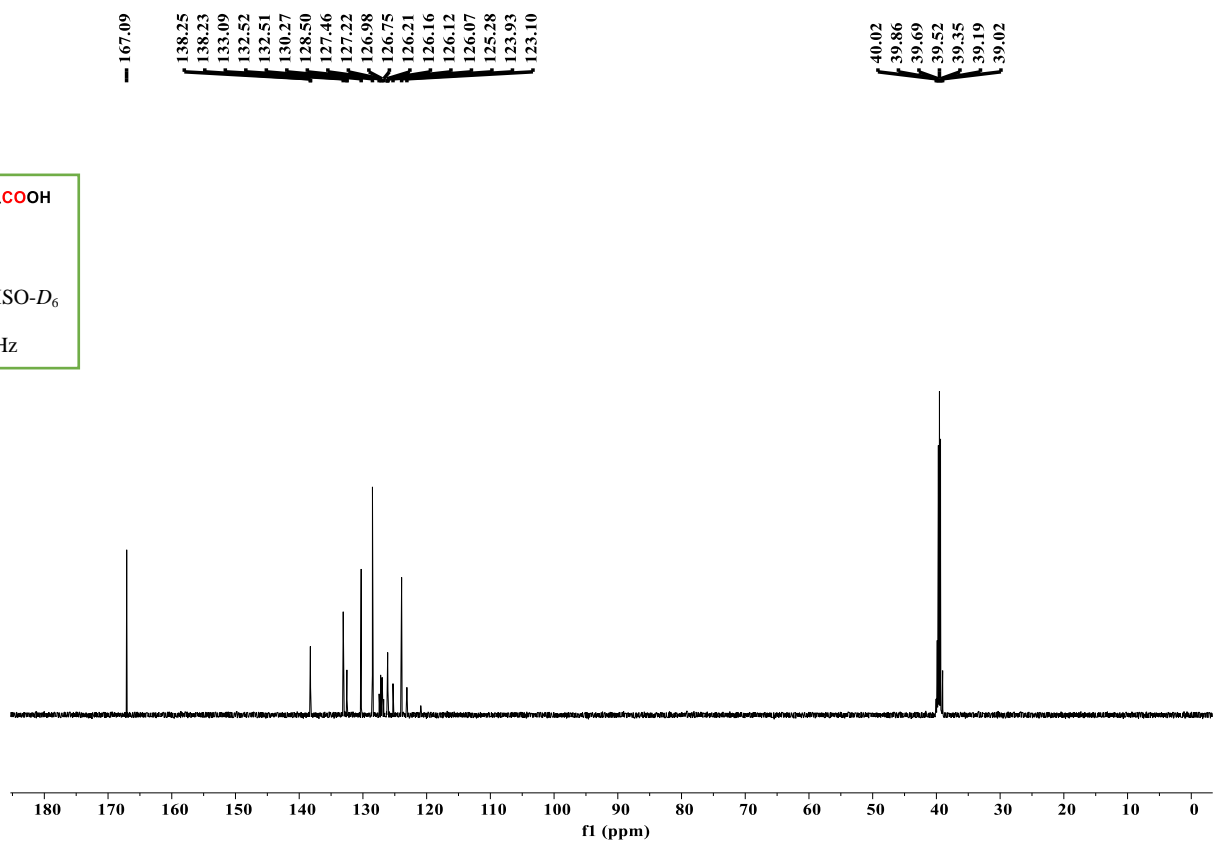
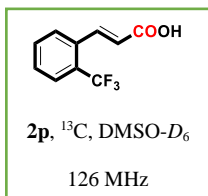
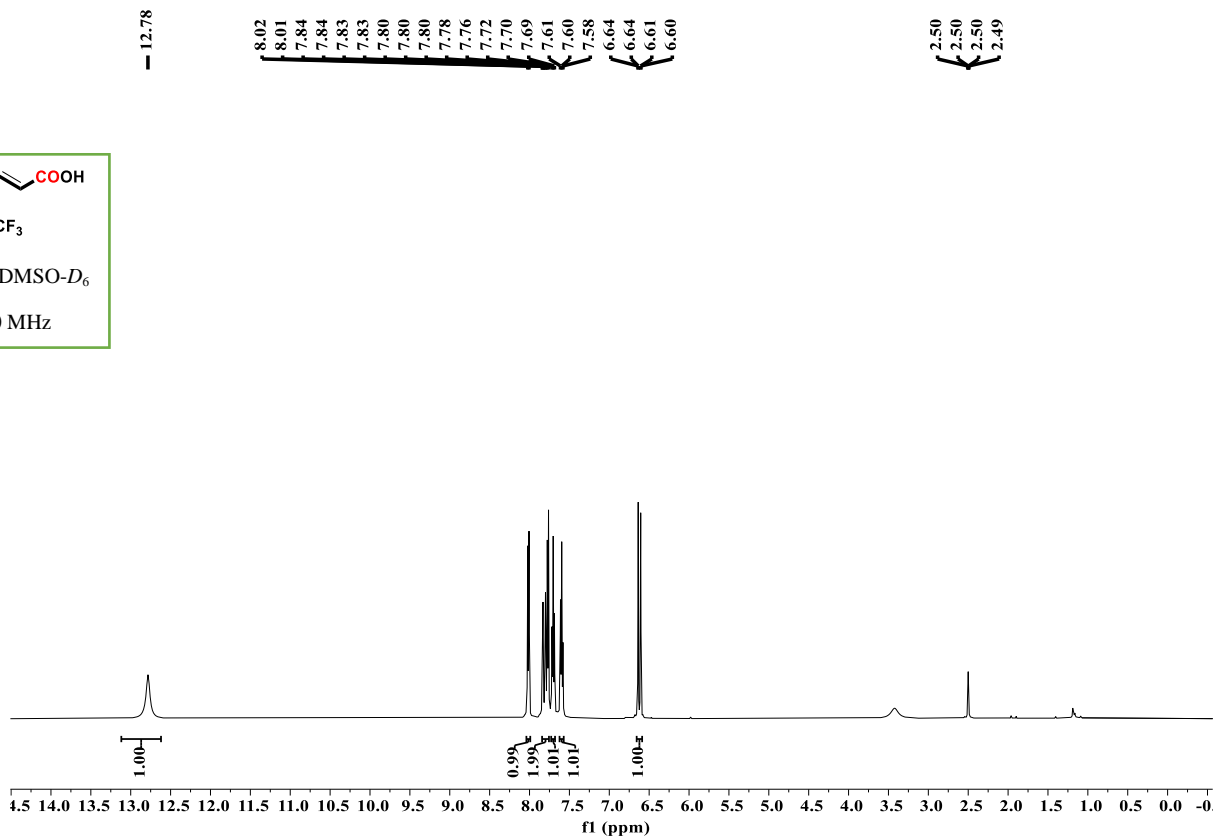
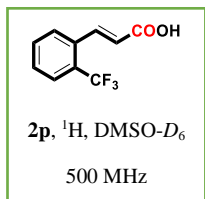


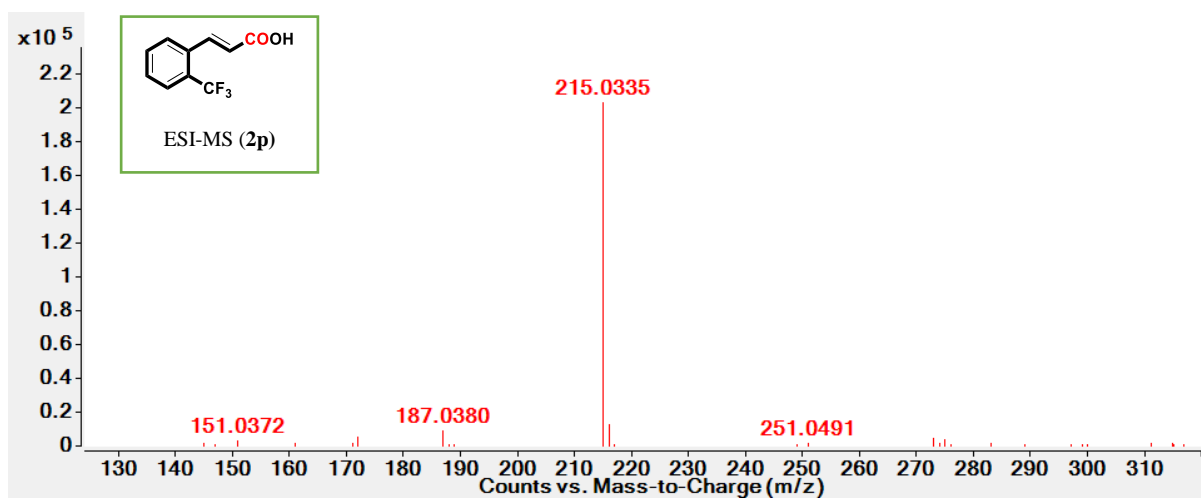




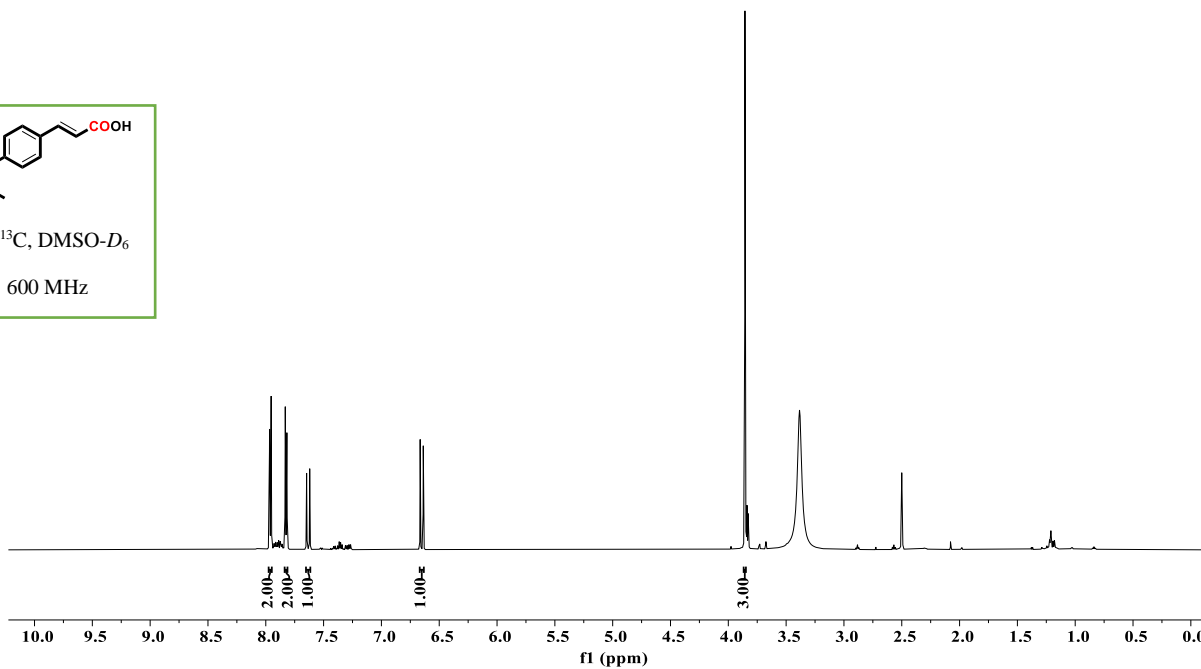
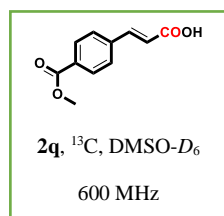


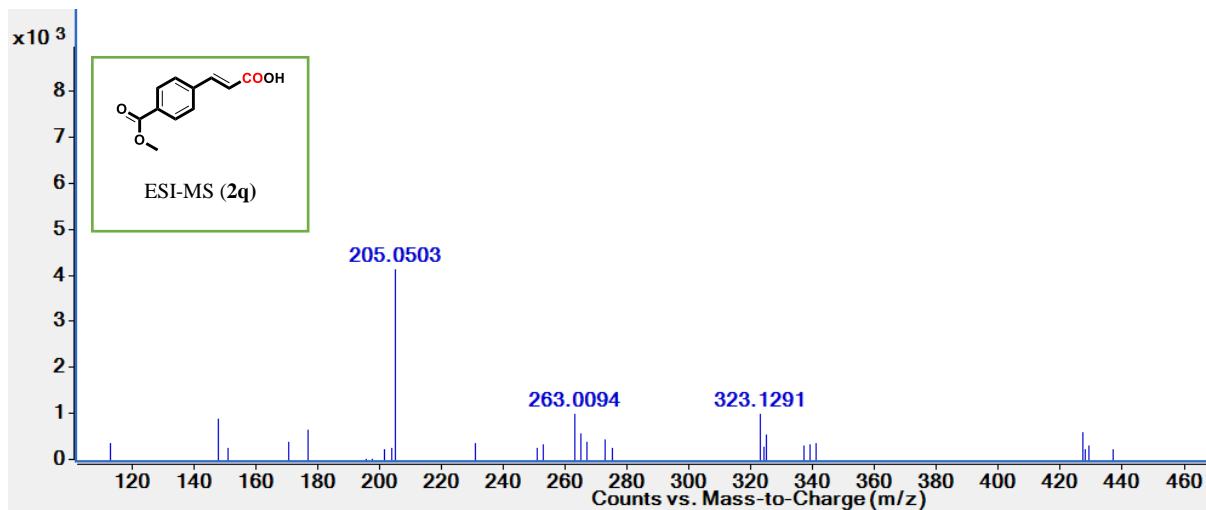
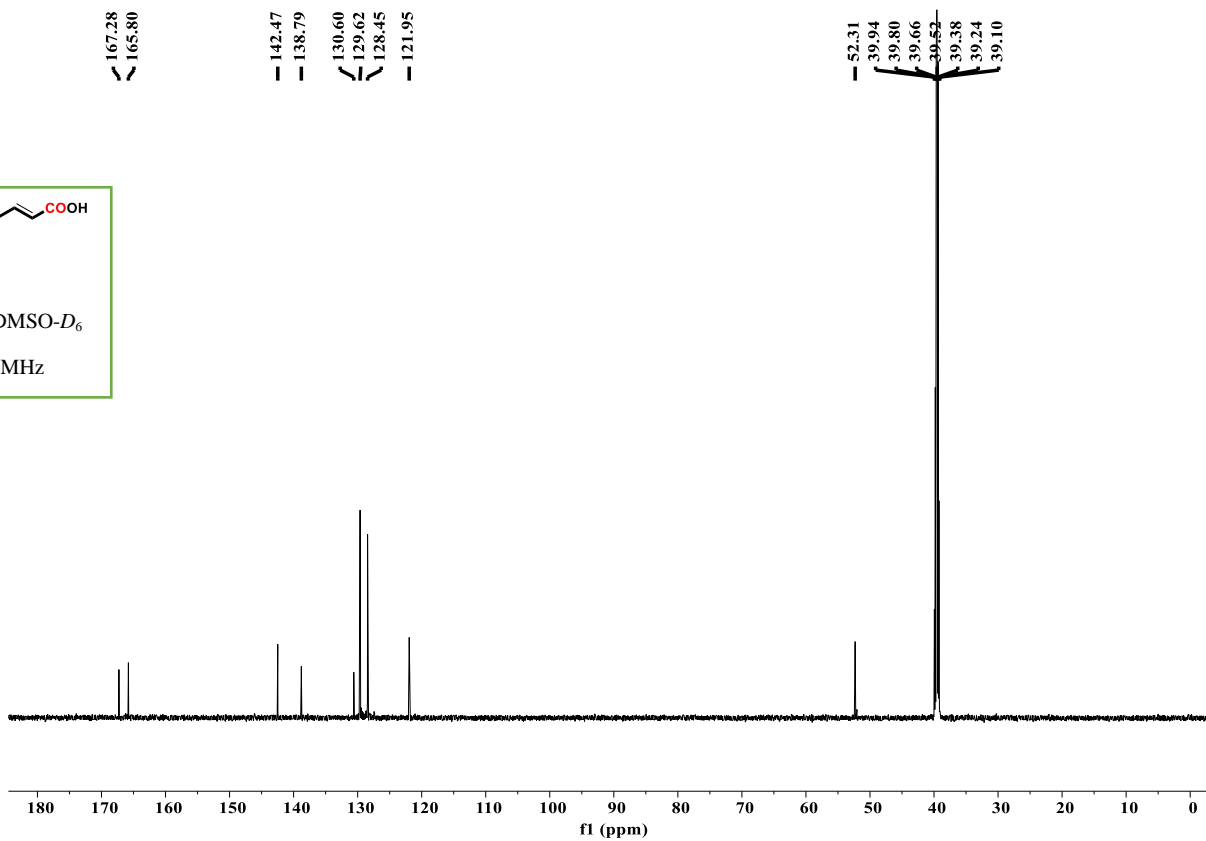
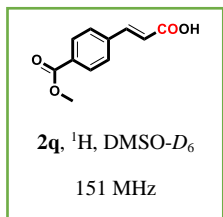


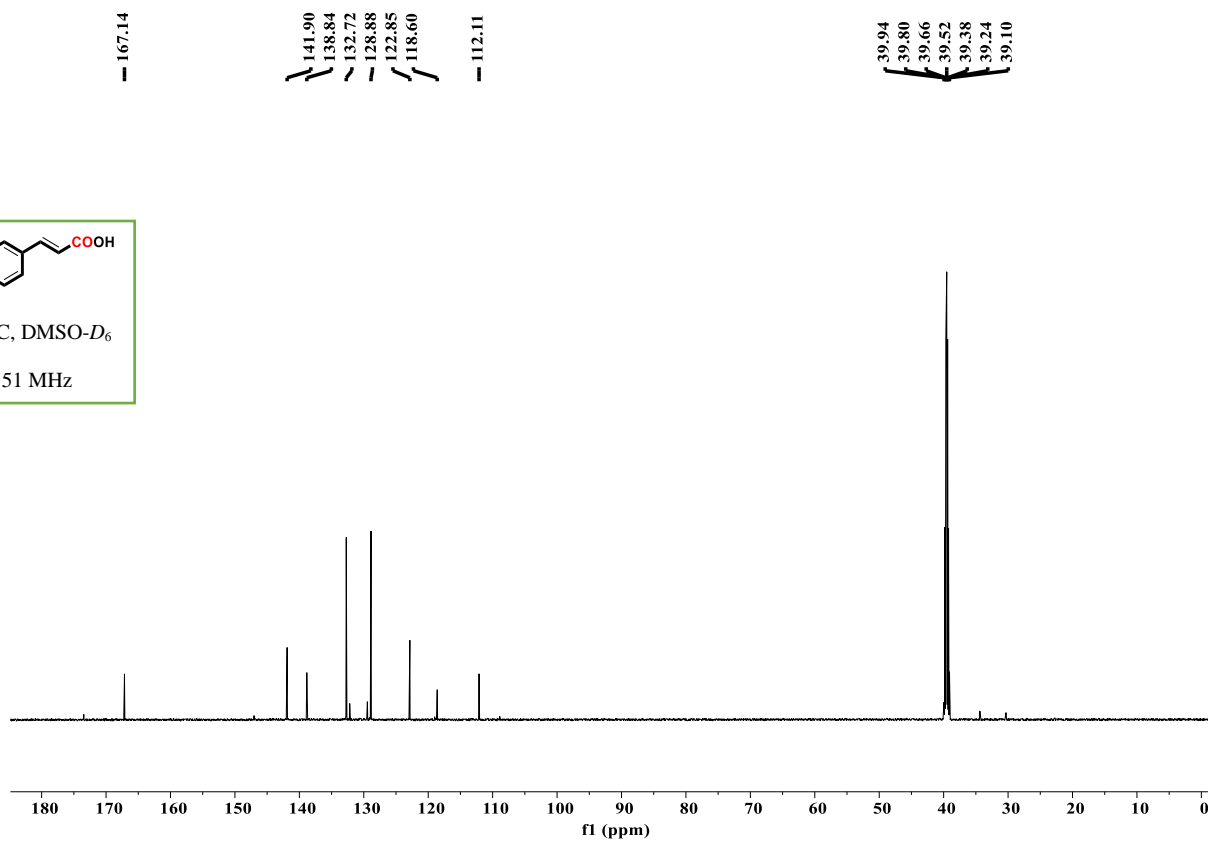
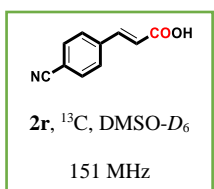
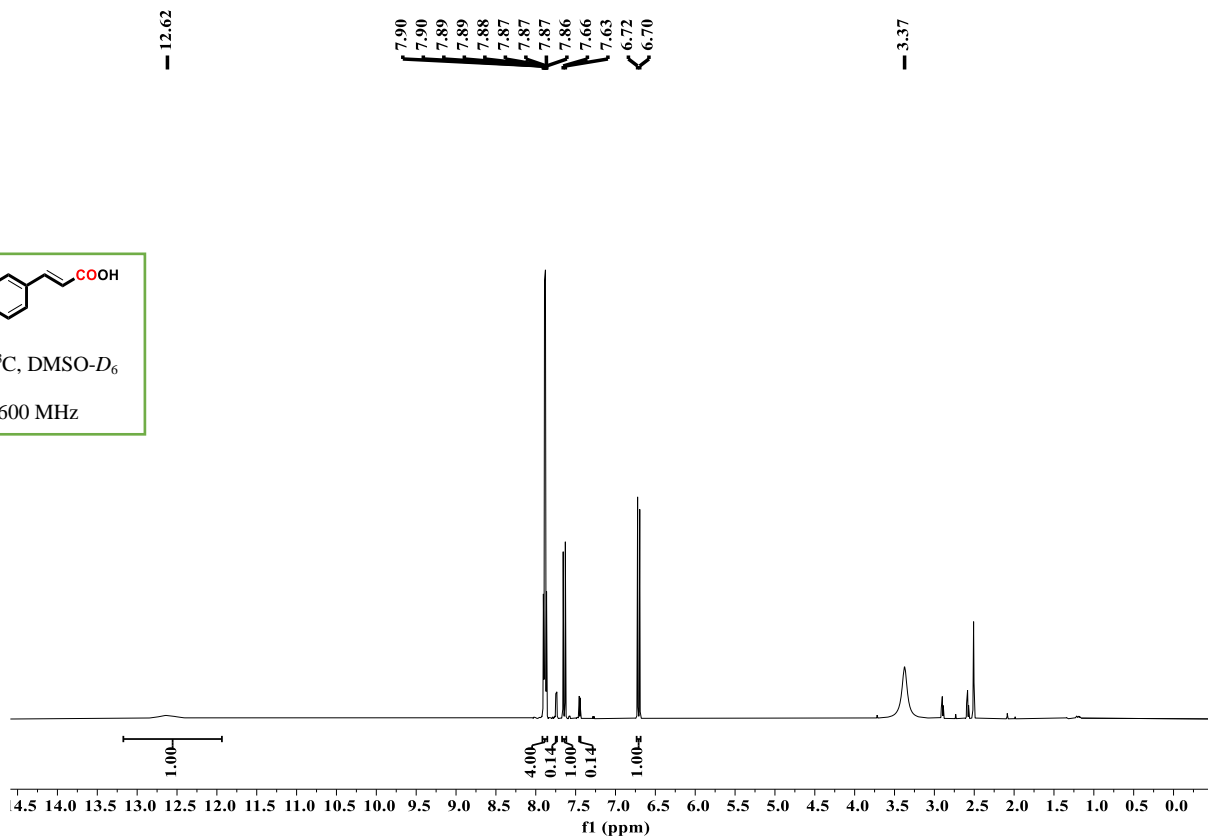
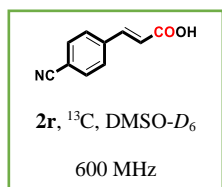


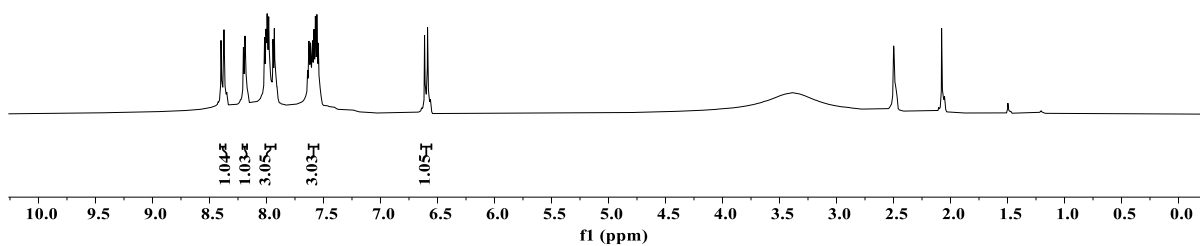
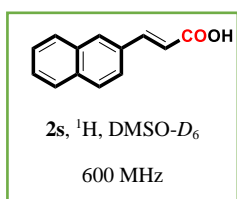
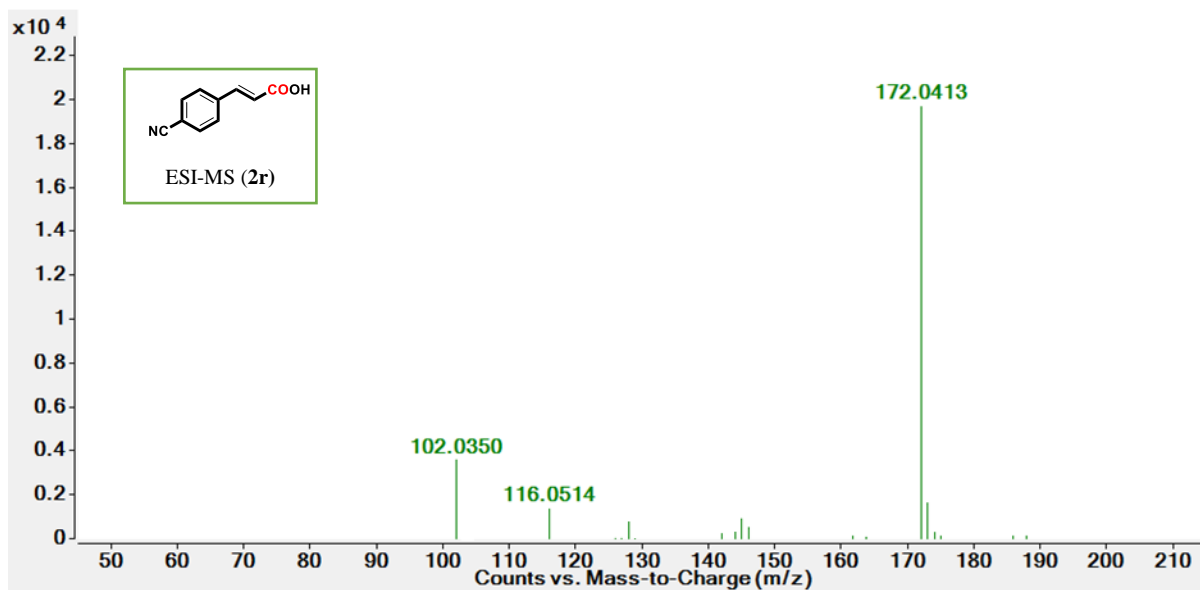


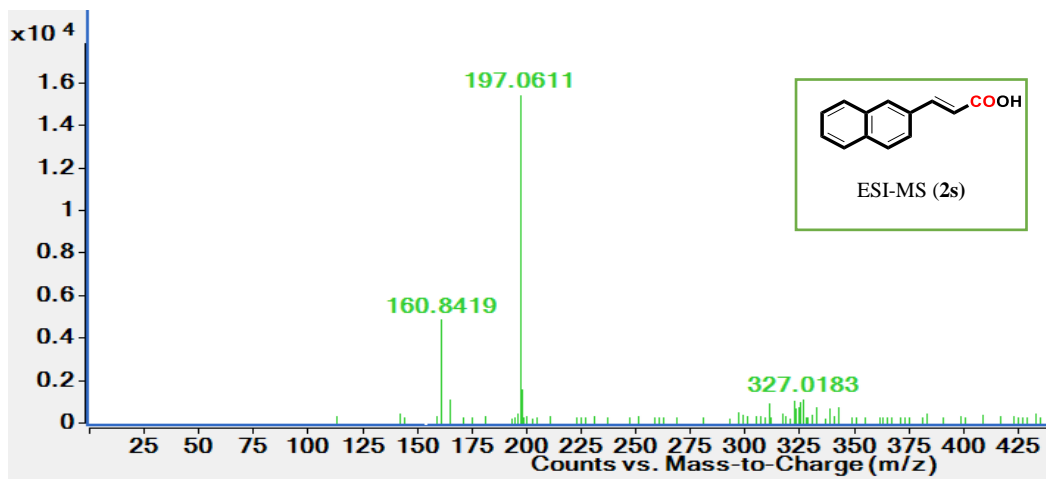
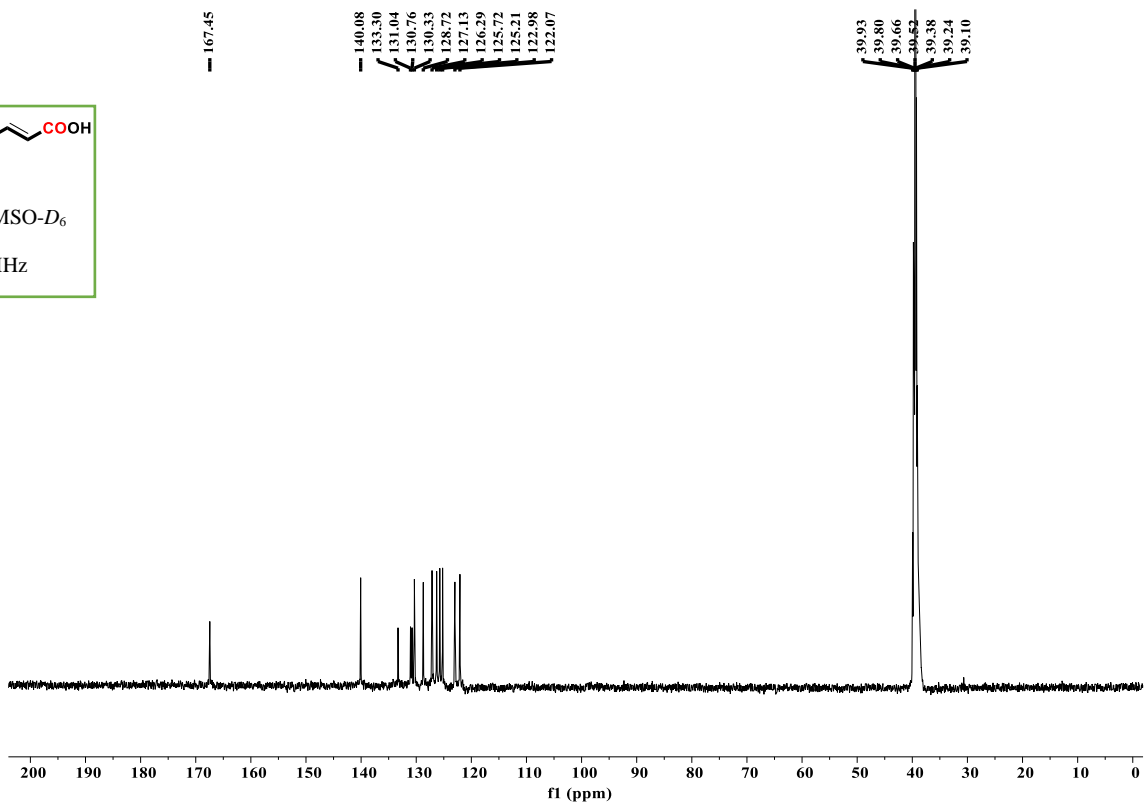
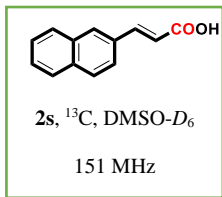
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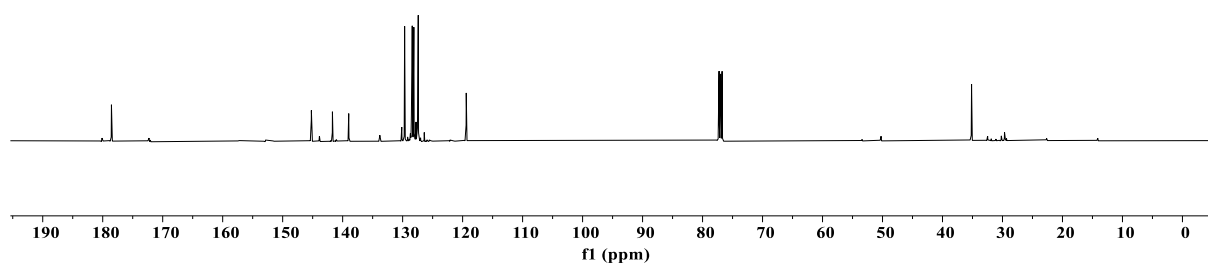
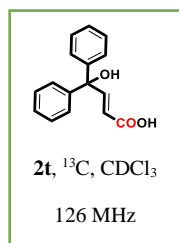
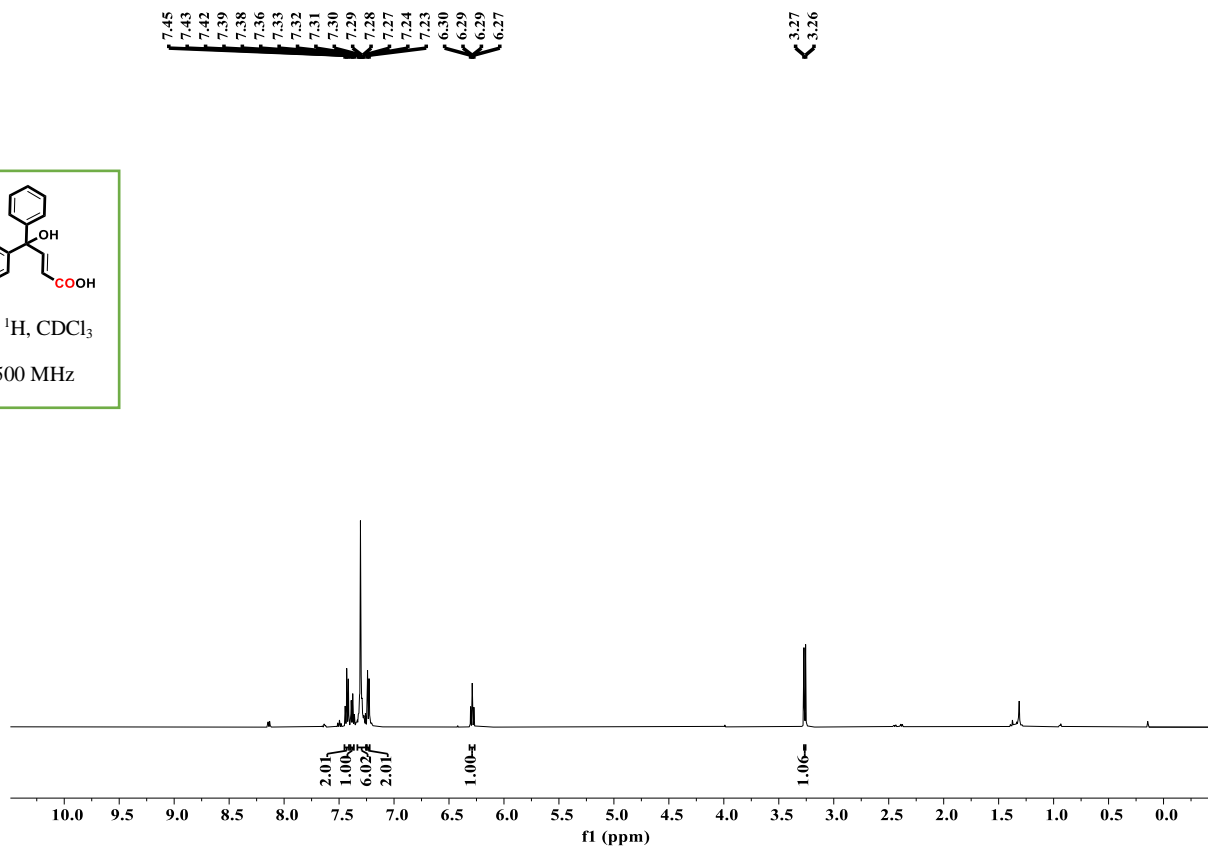
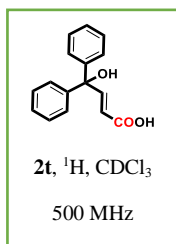


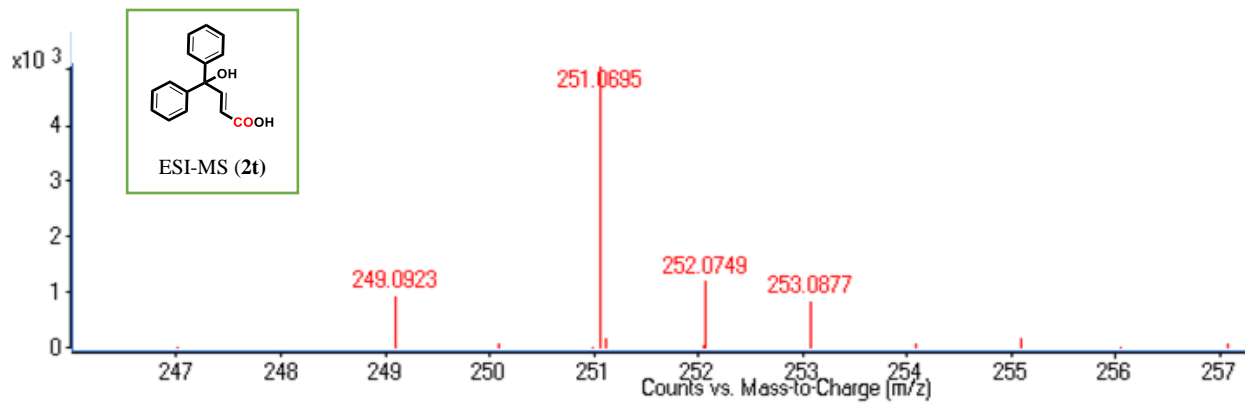




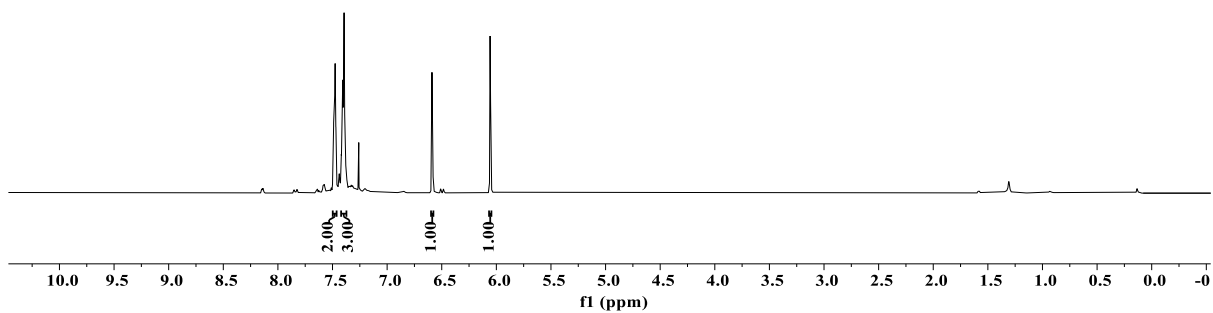
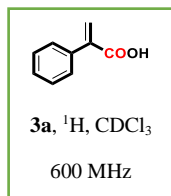


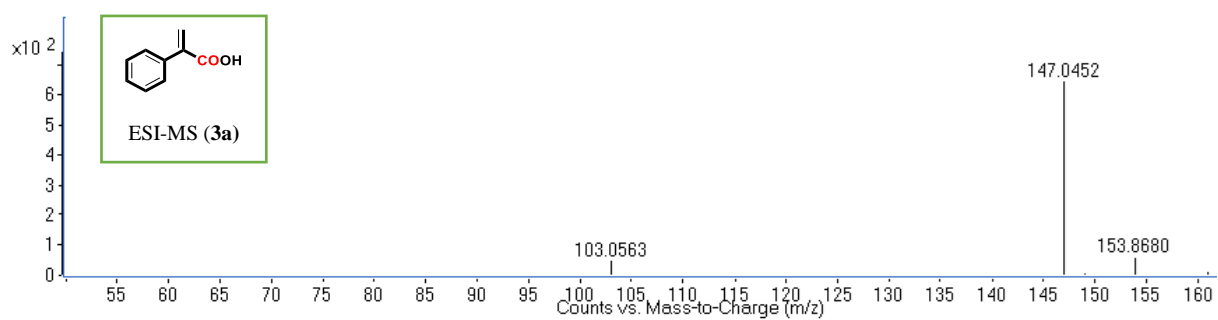
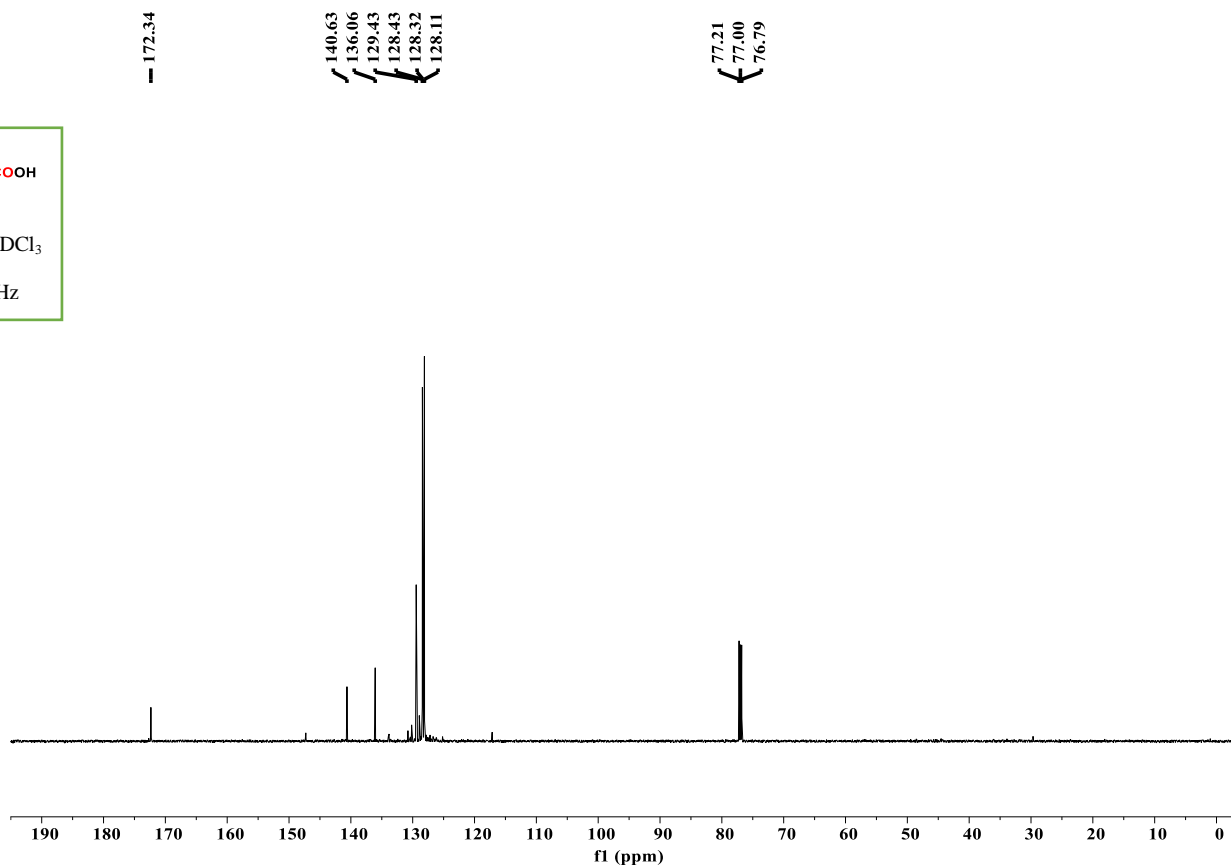
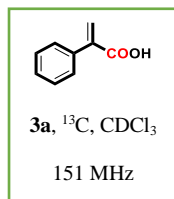


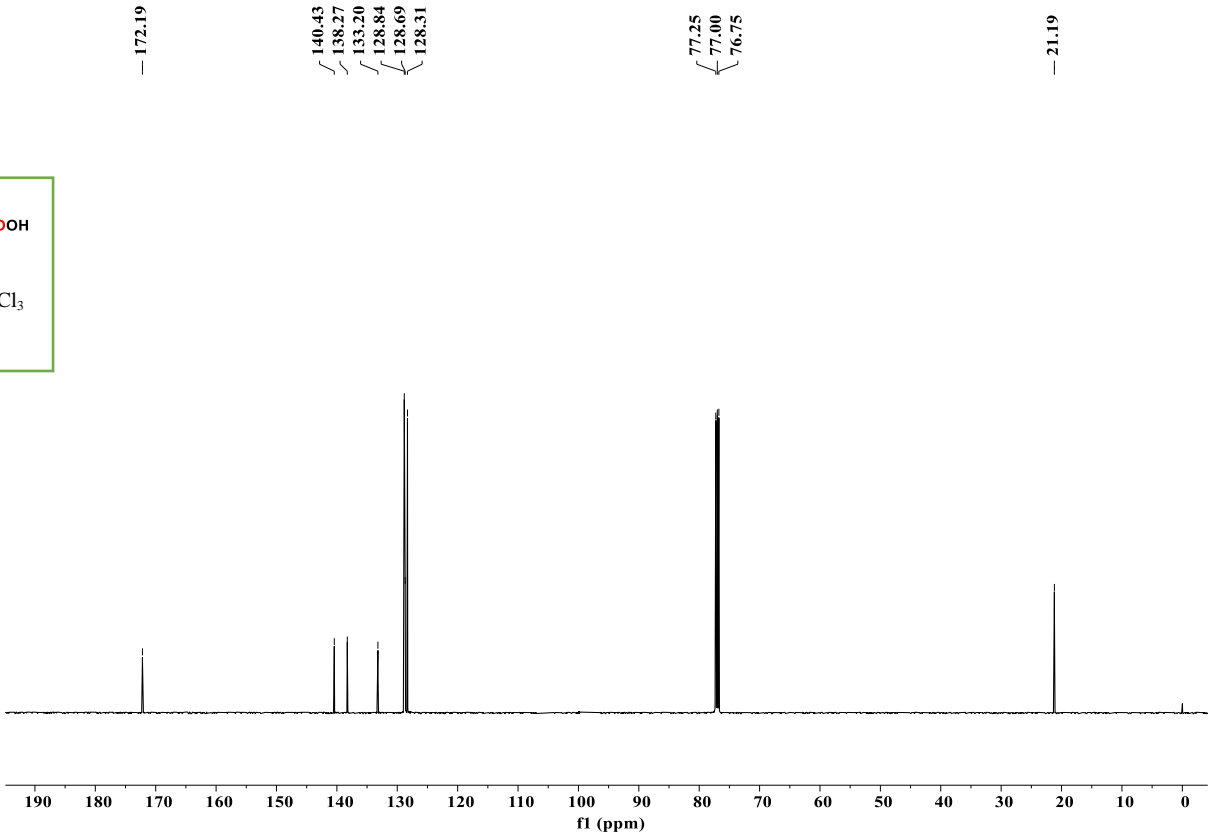
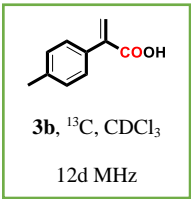
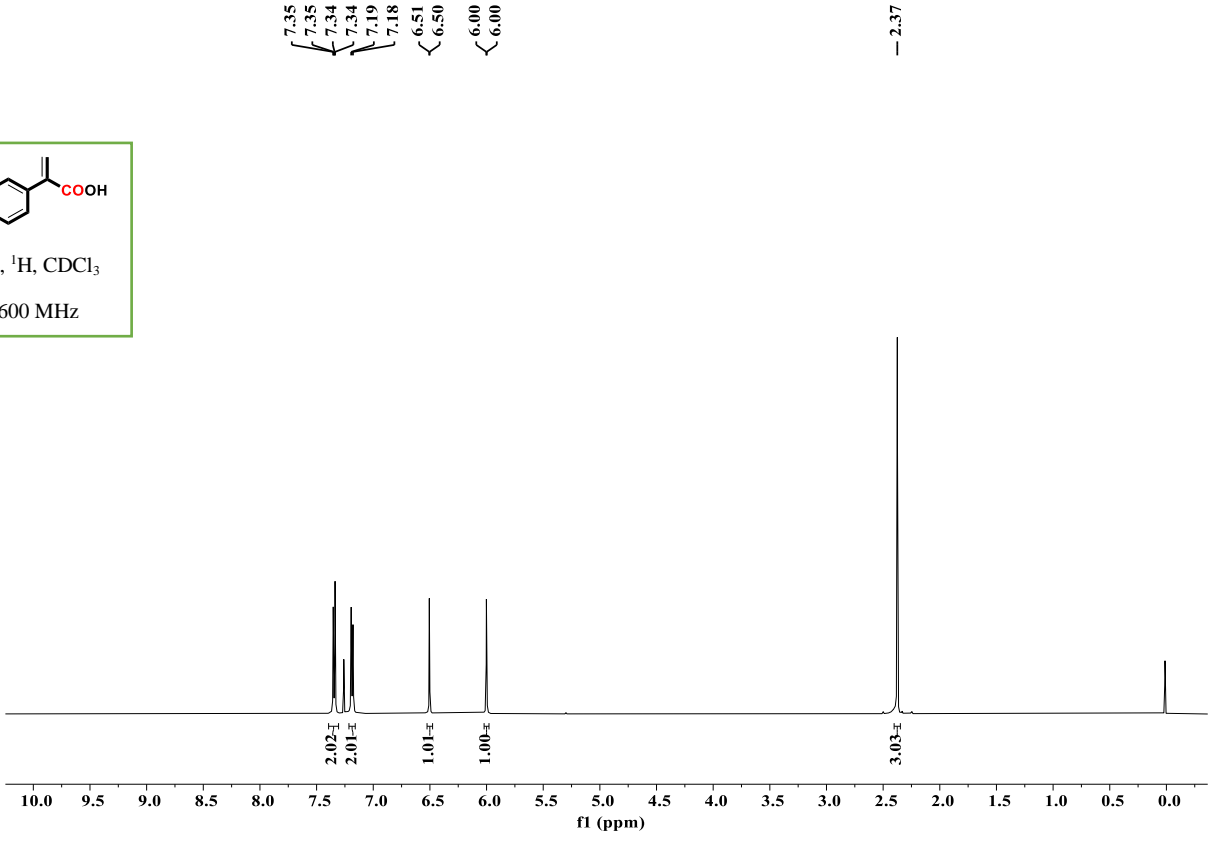
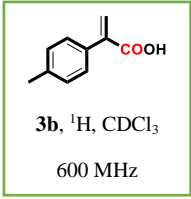


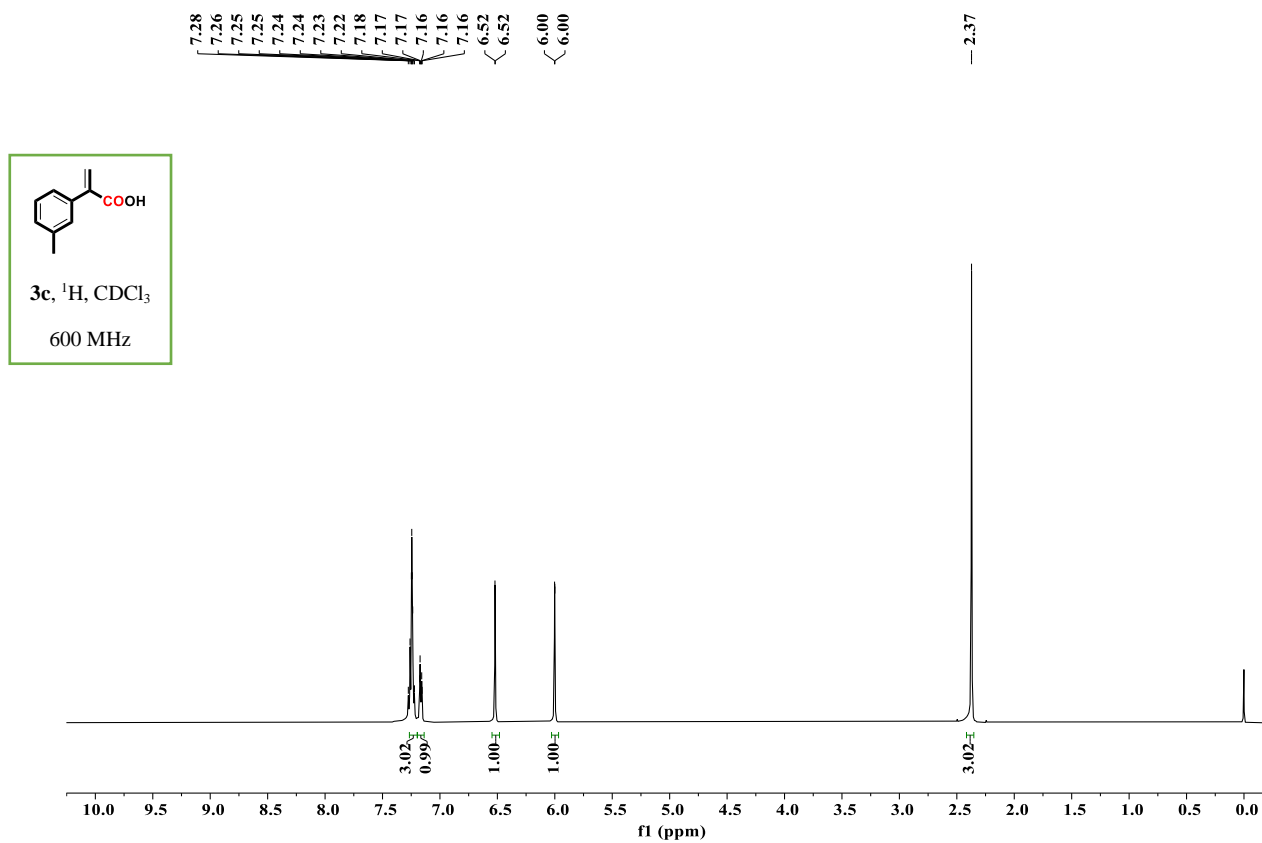
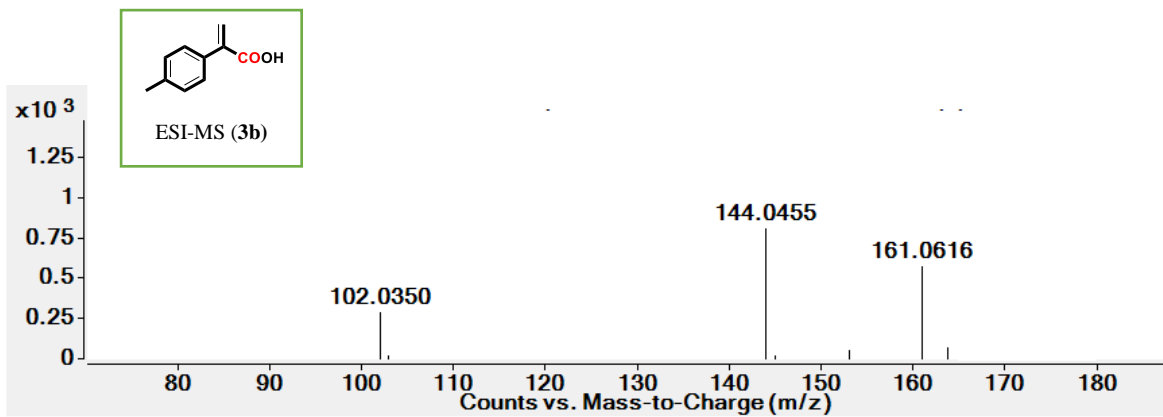


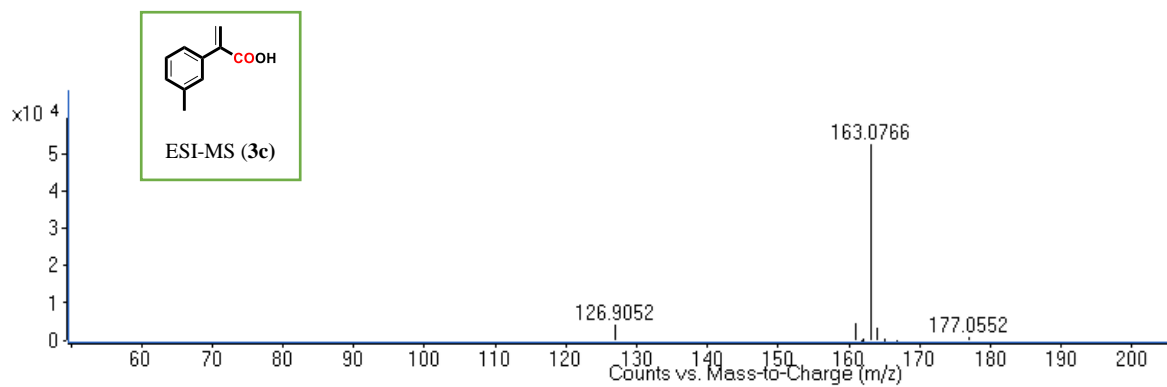
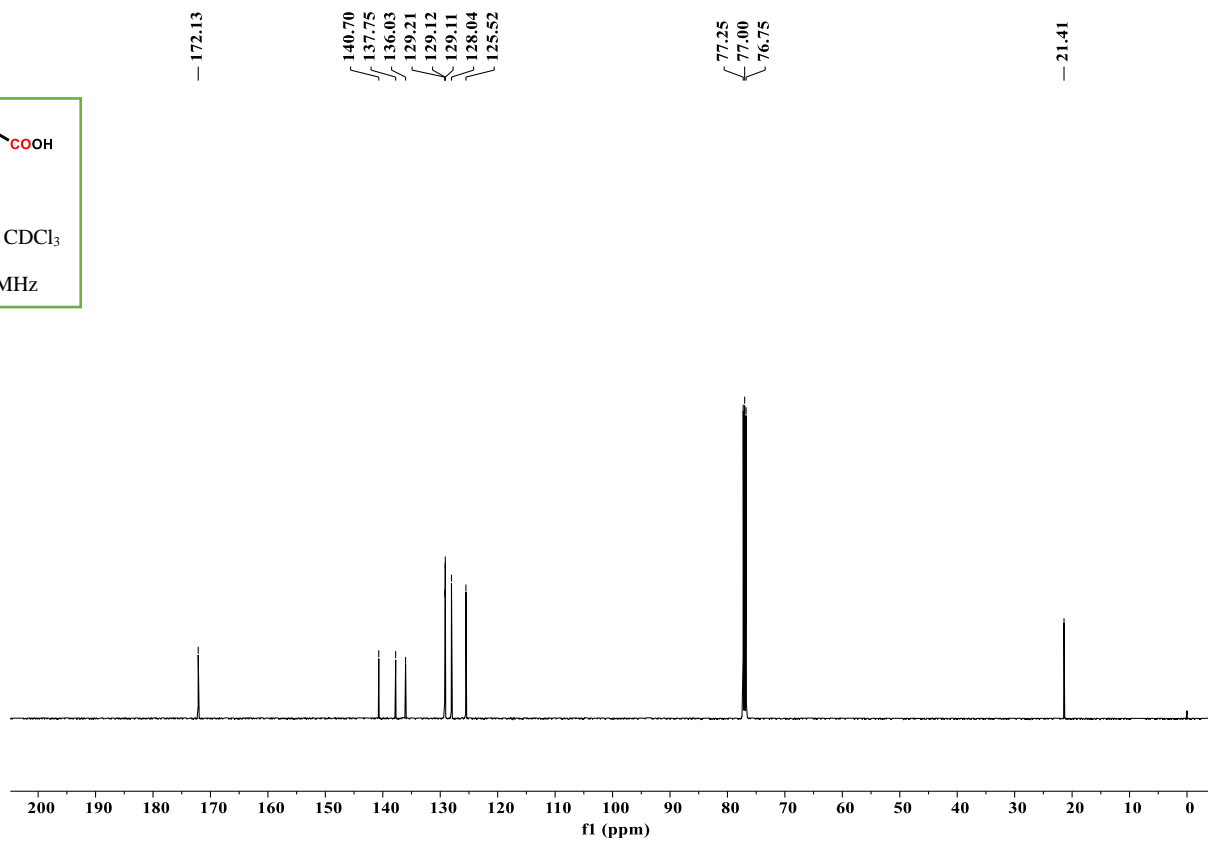
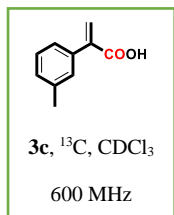
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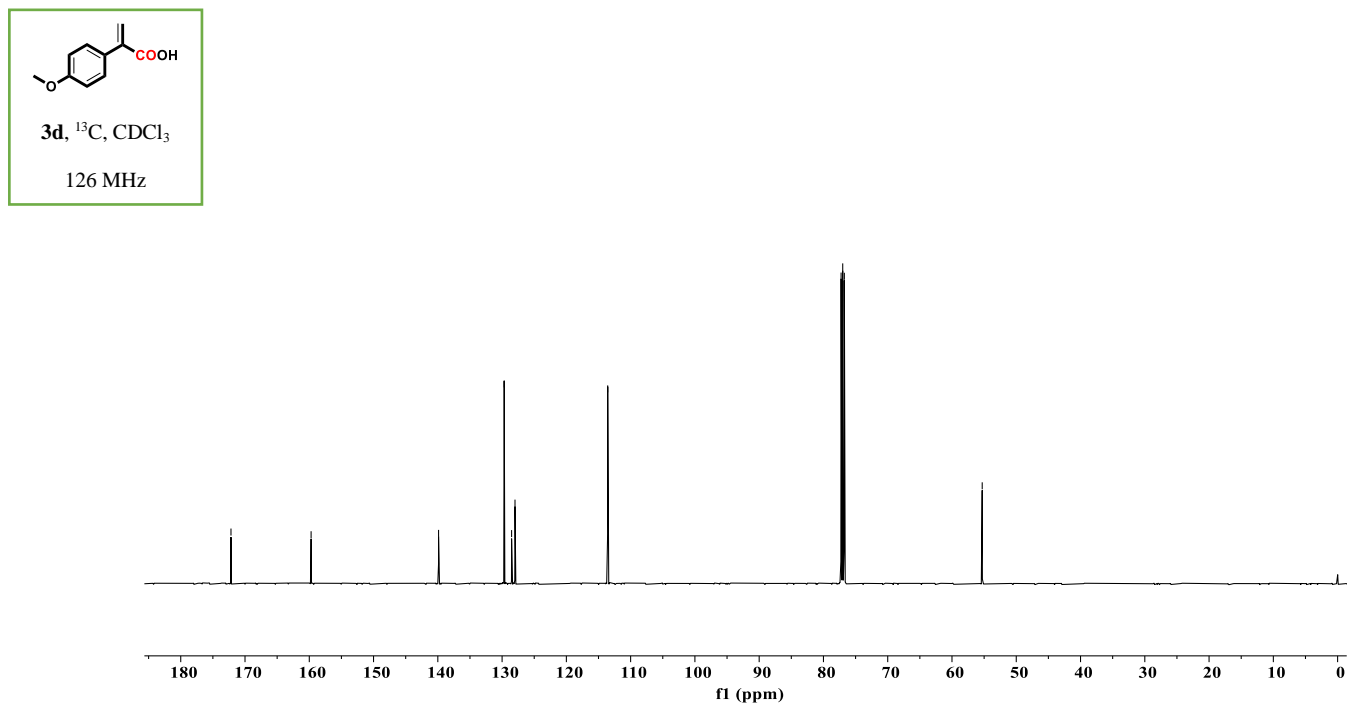
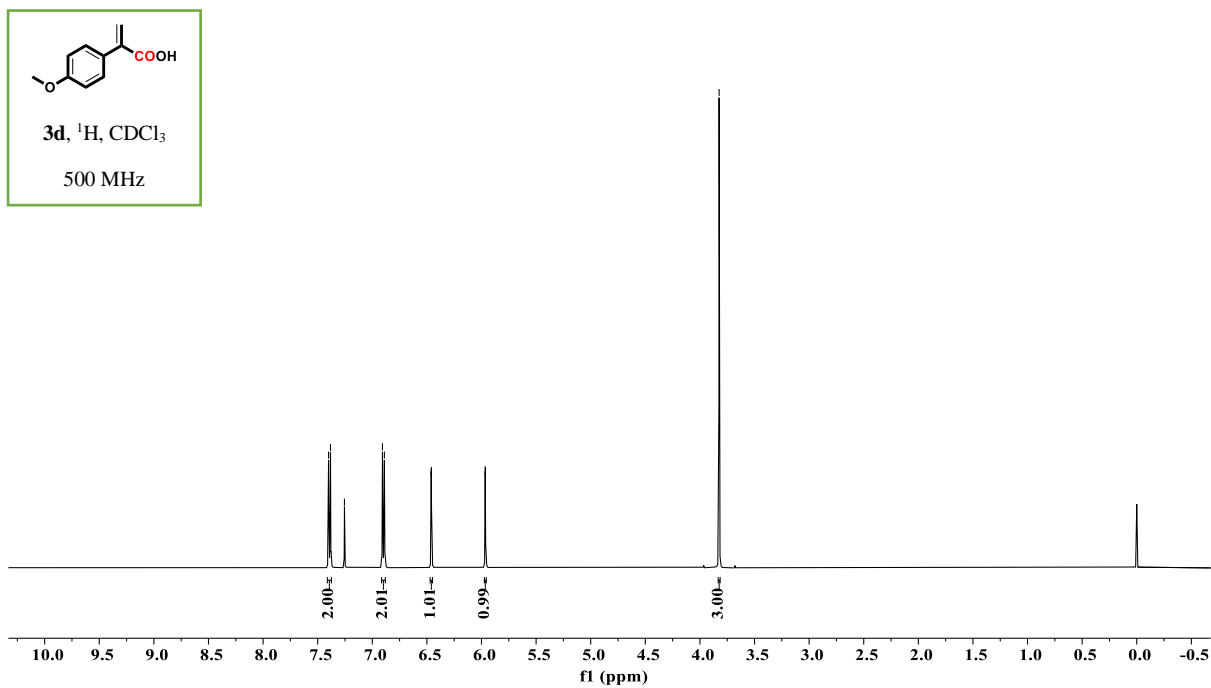


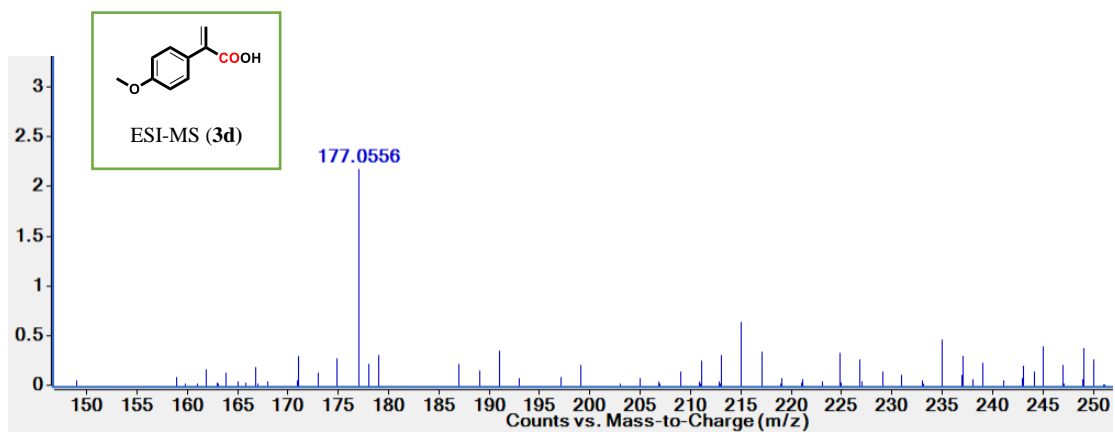




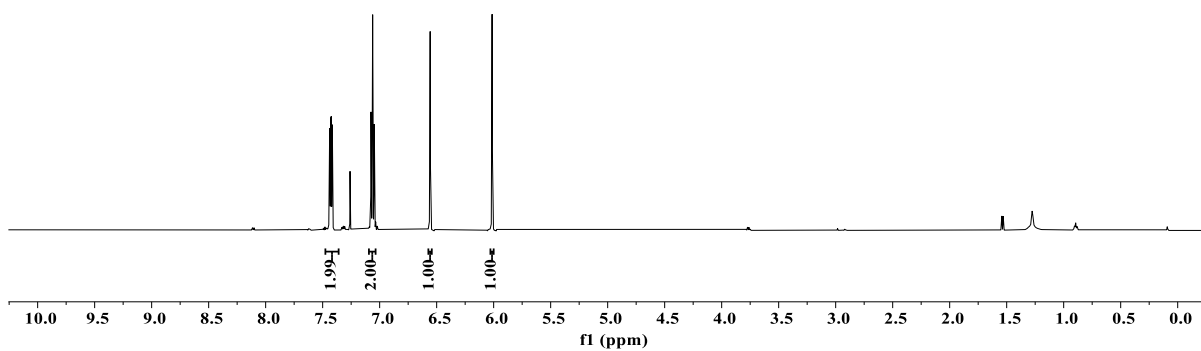
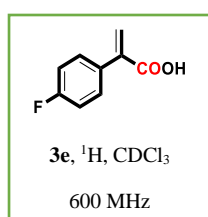


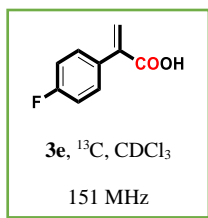




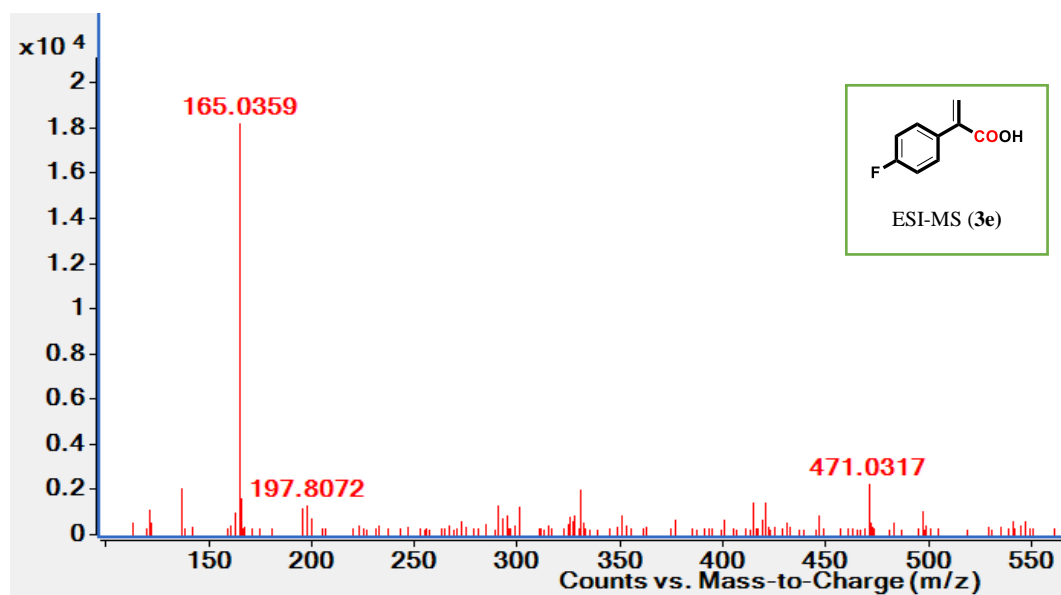
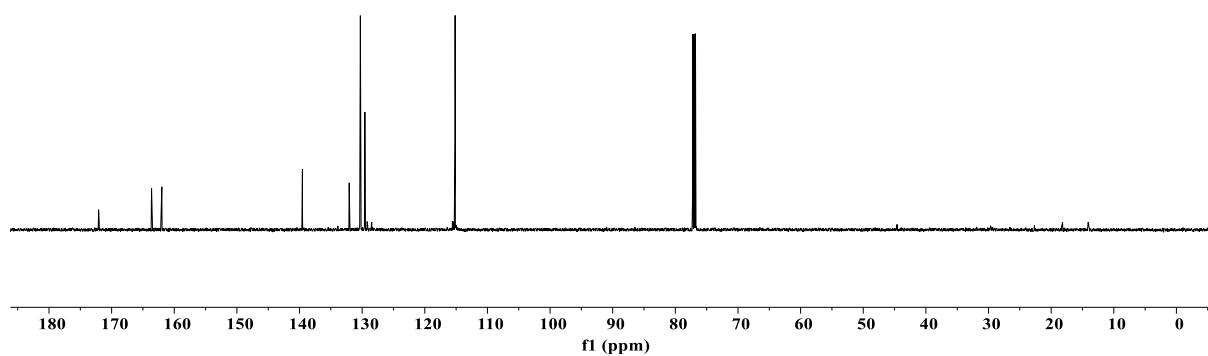


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6.01
6.01

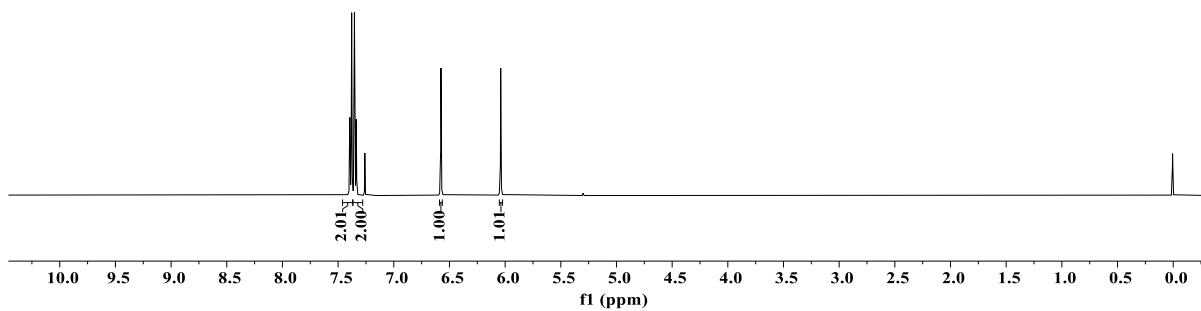
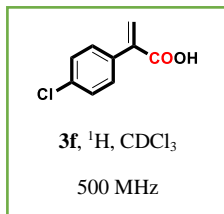




172.07
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 132.05
 130.29
 130.24
 129.57
 115.16
 115.02
 77.21
 77.00
 76.79



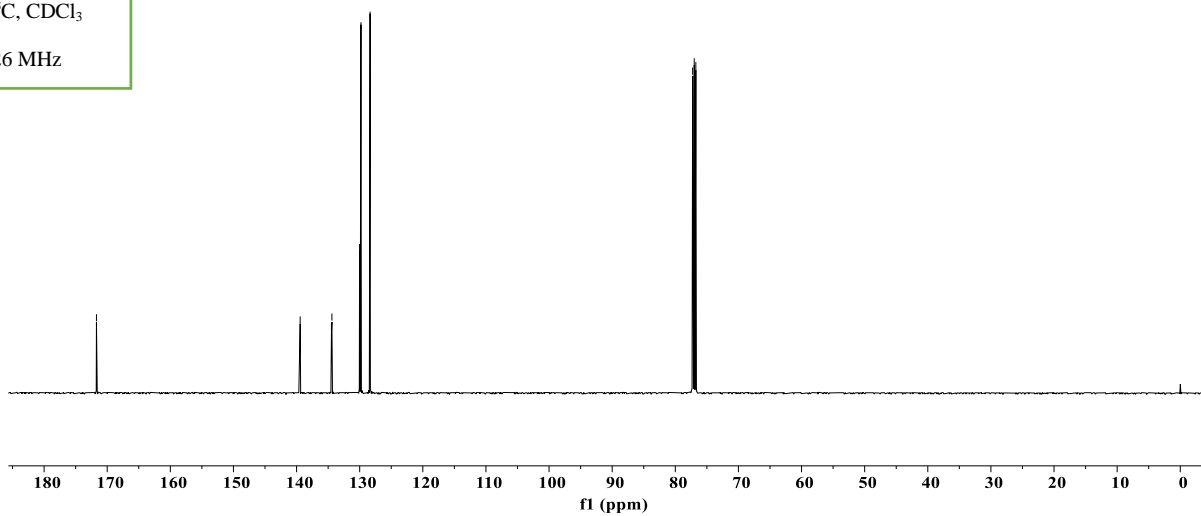
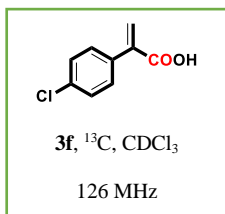
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6.04
6.04

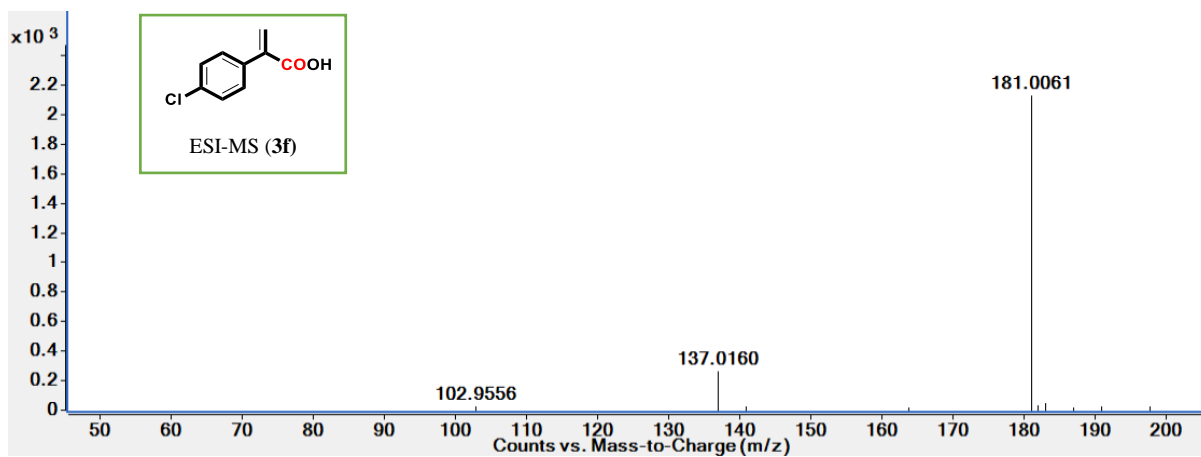


171.70

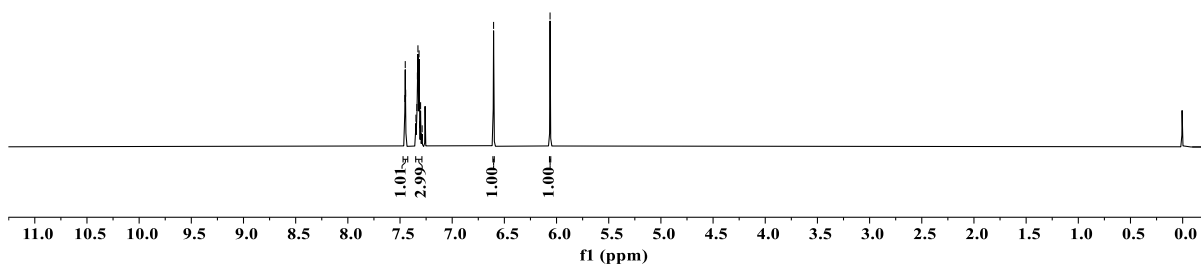
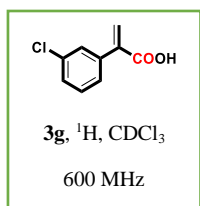
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130.02
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128.35

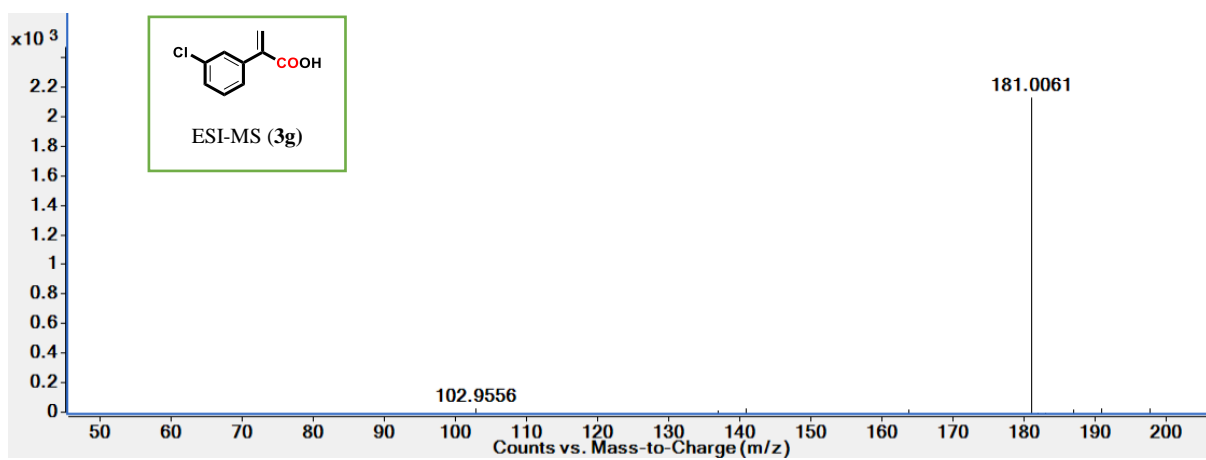
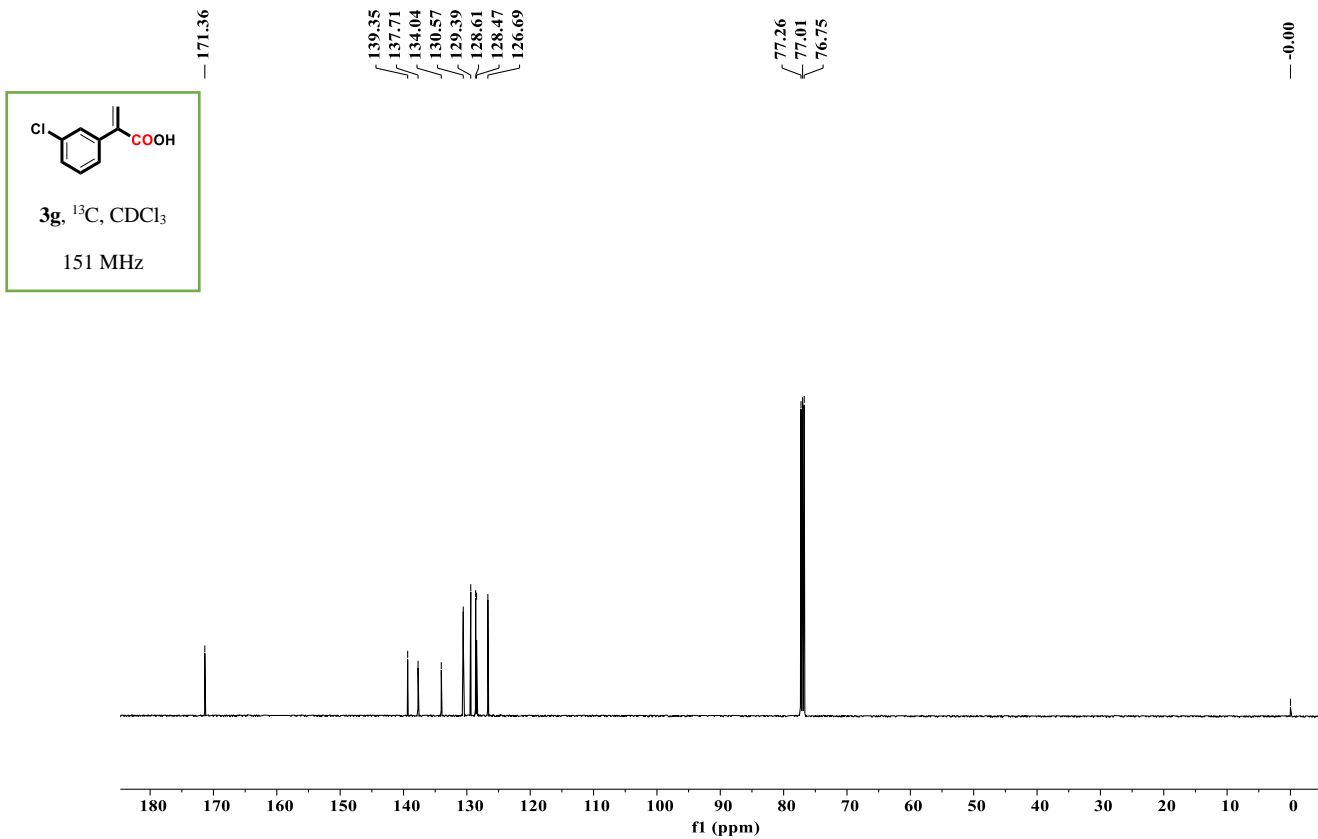
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76.75

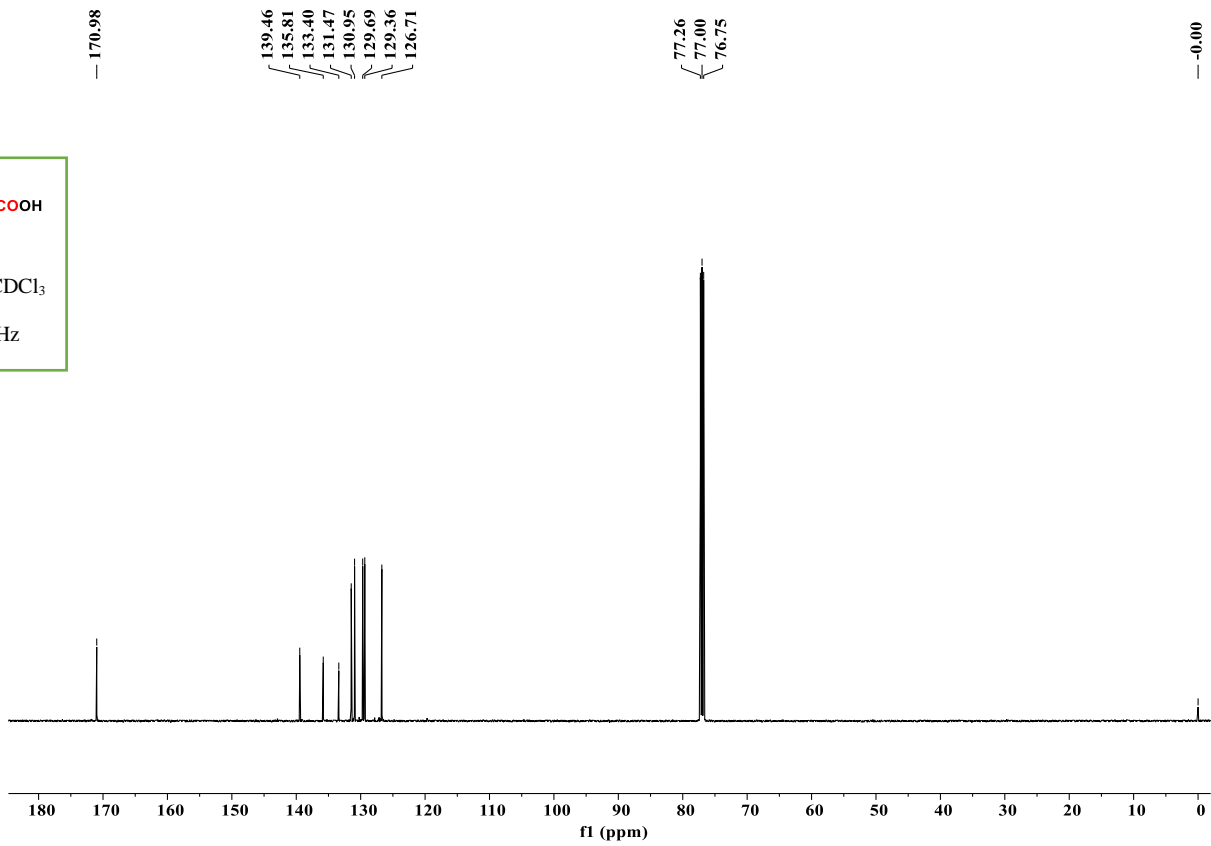
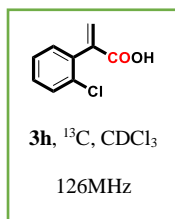
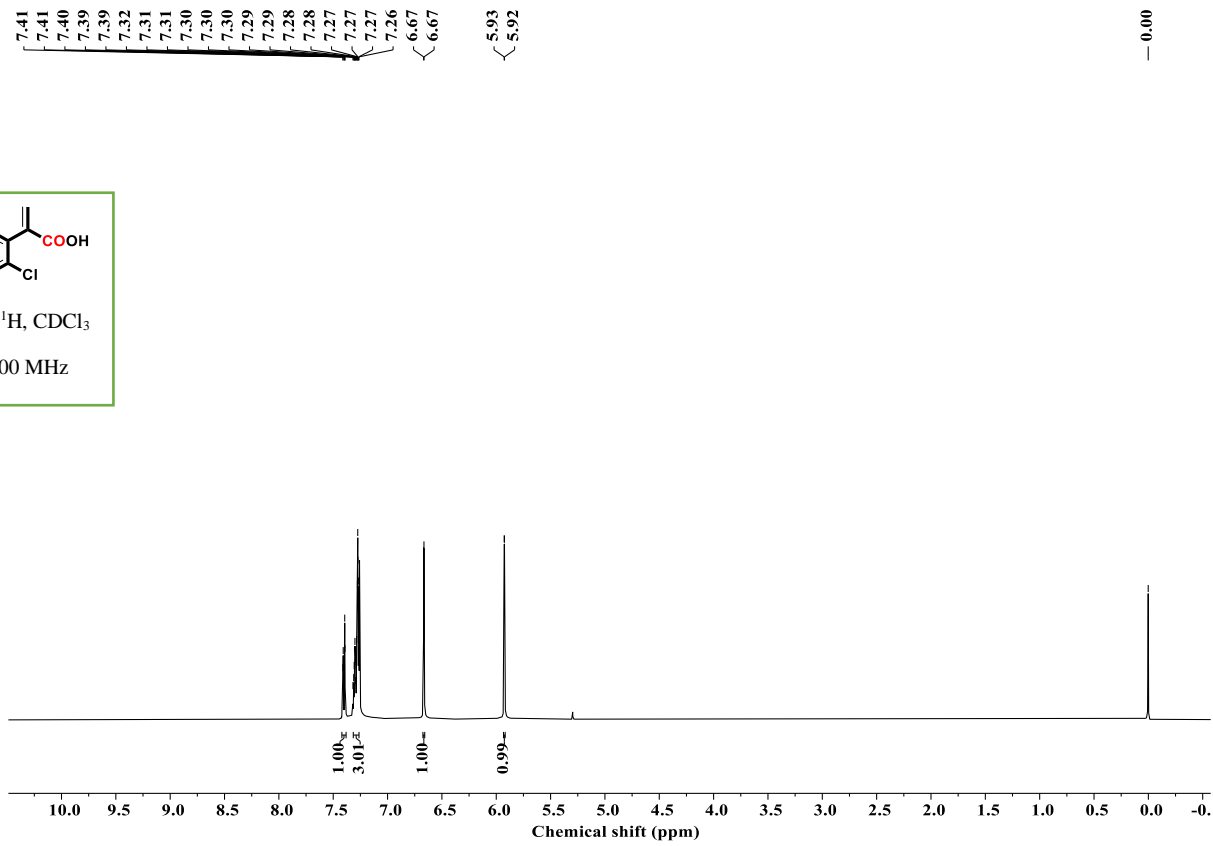
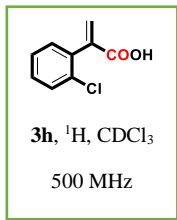


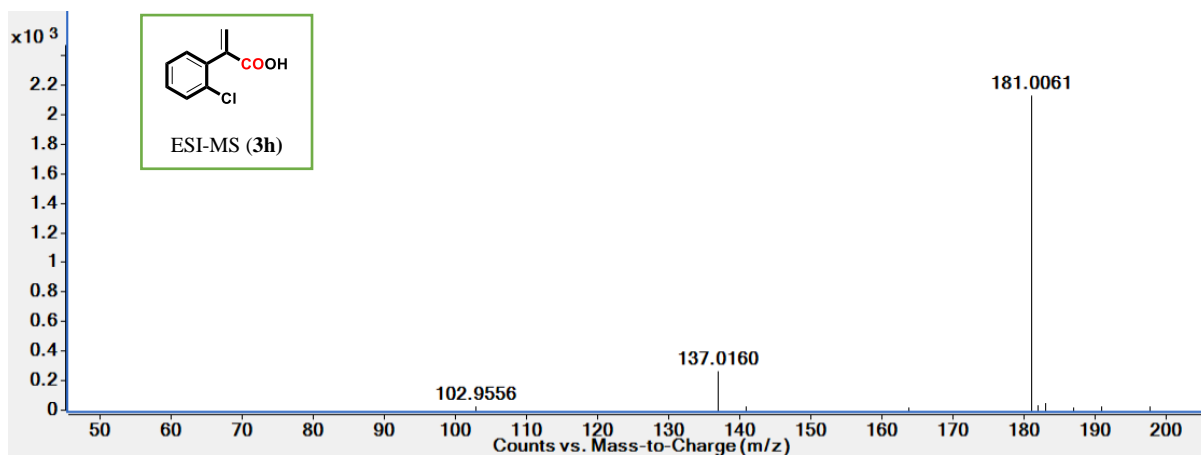


7.45
7.45
7.45
7.35
7.35
7.34
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7.31
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6.06

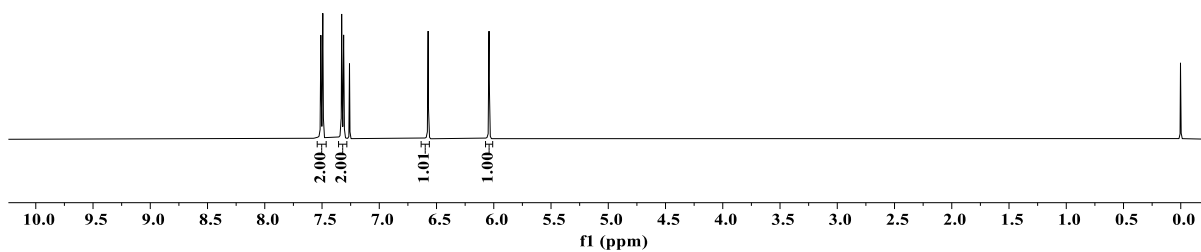
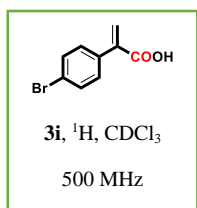


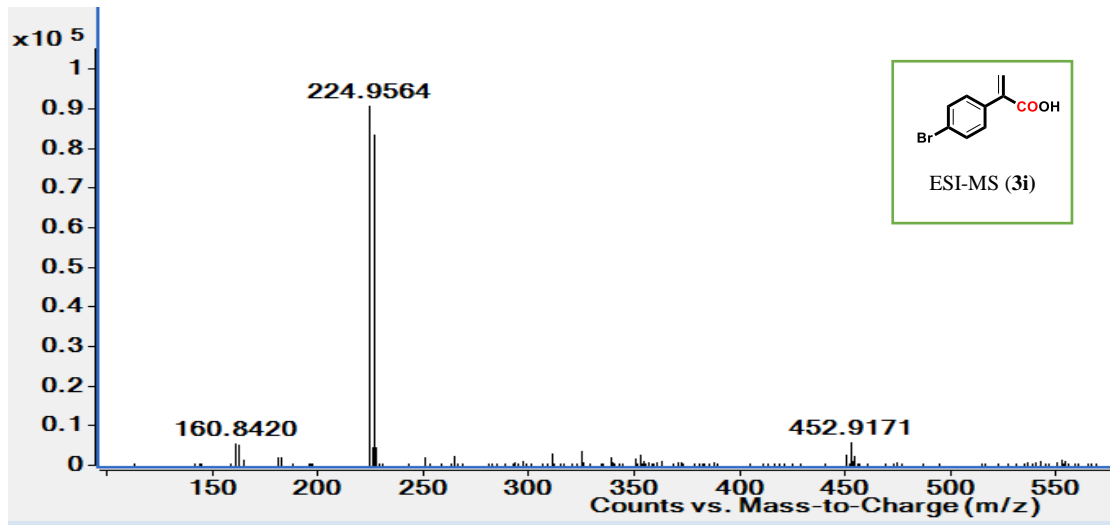
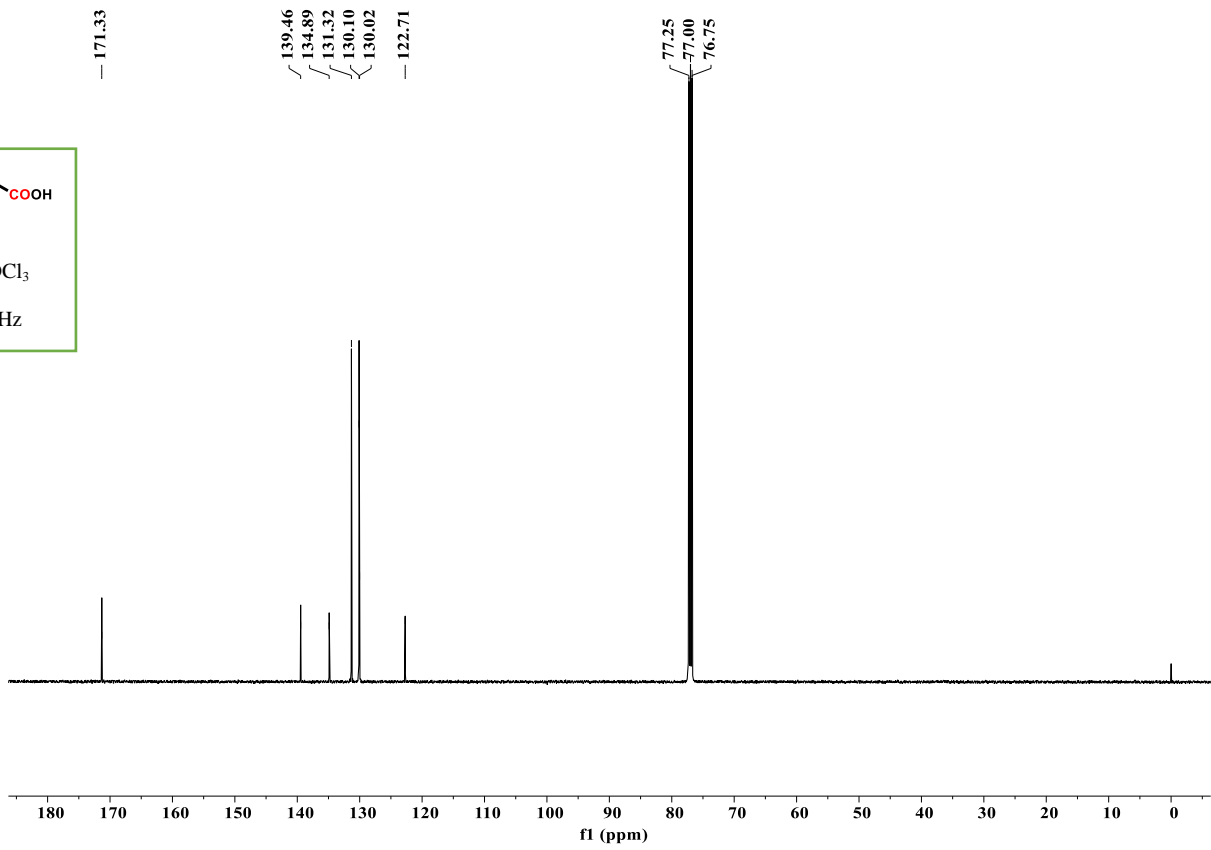
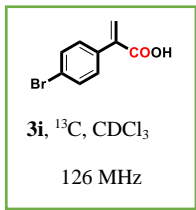


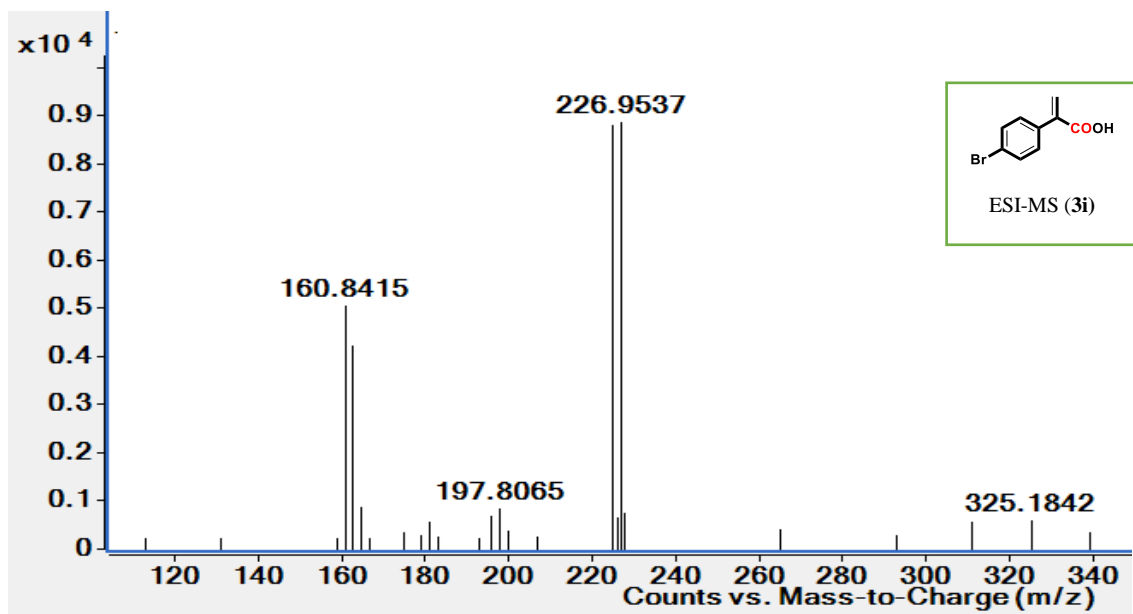




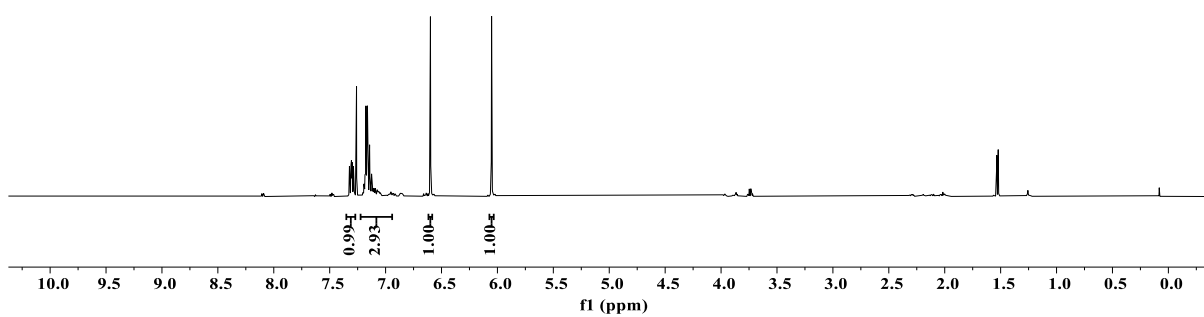
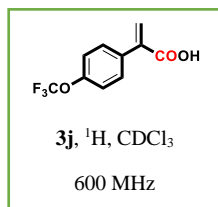
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7.31
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6.57
6.04
6.04

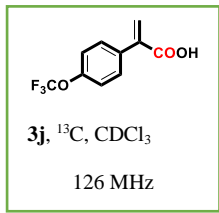




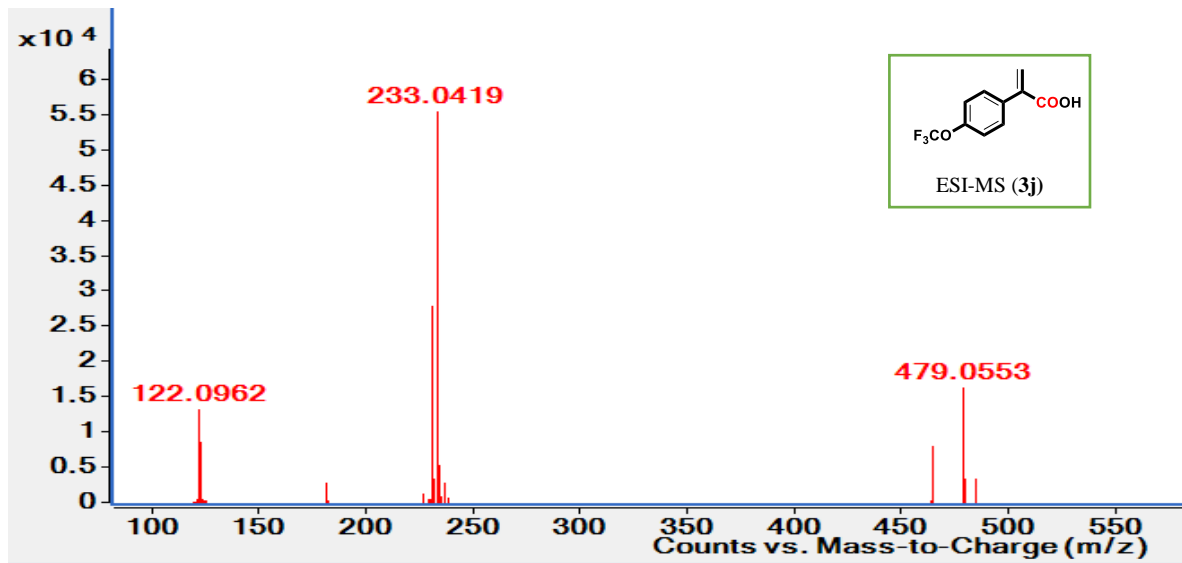
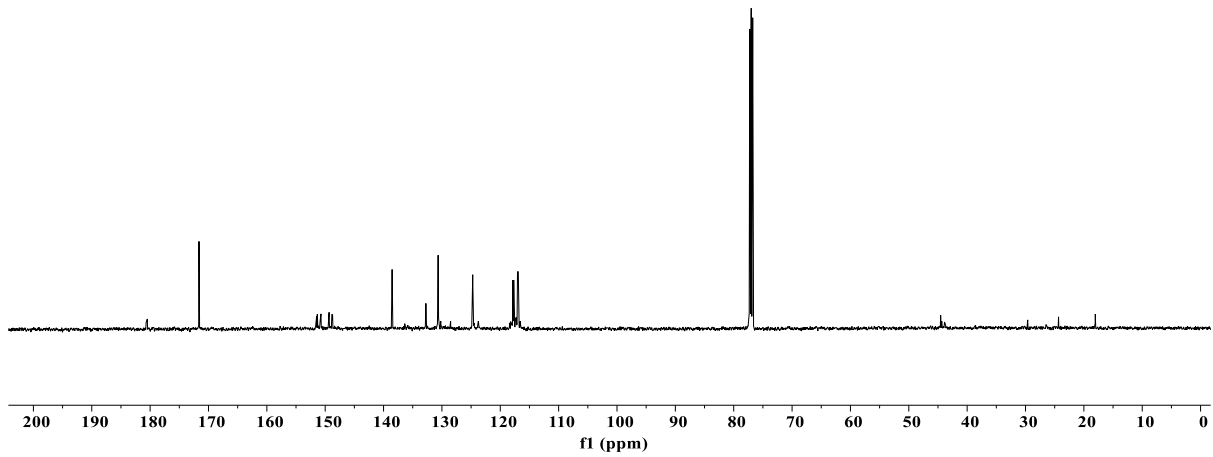


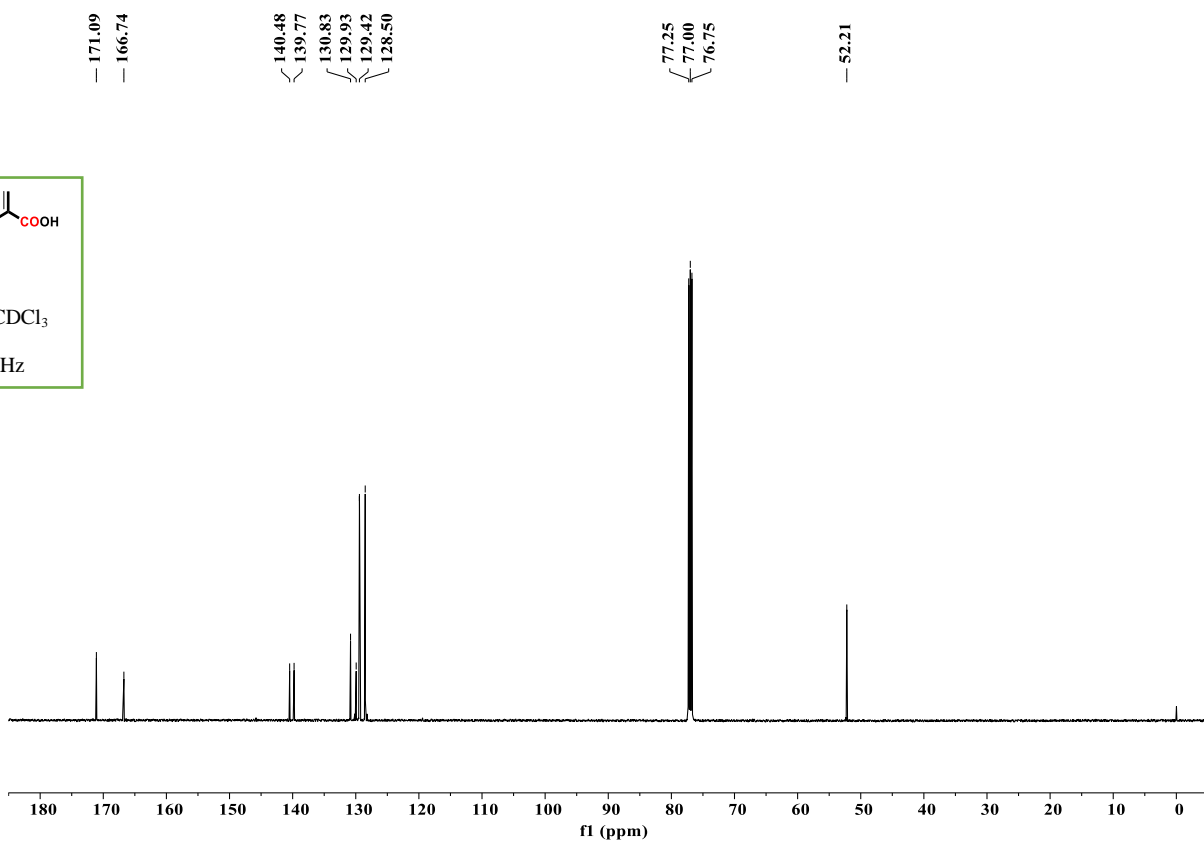
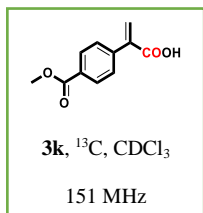
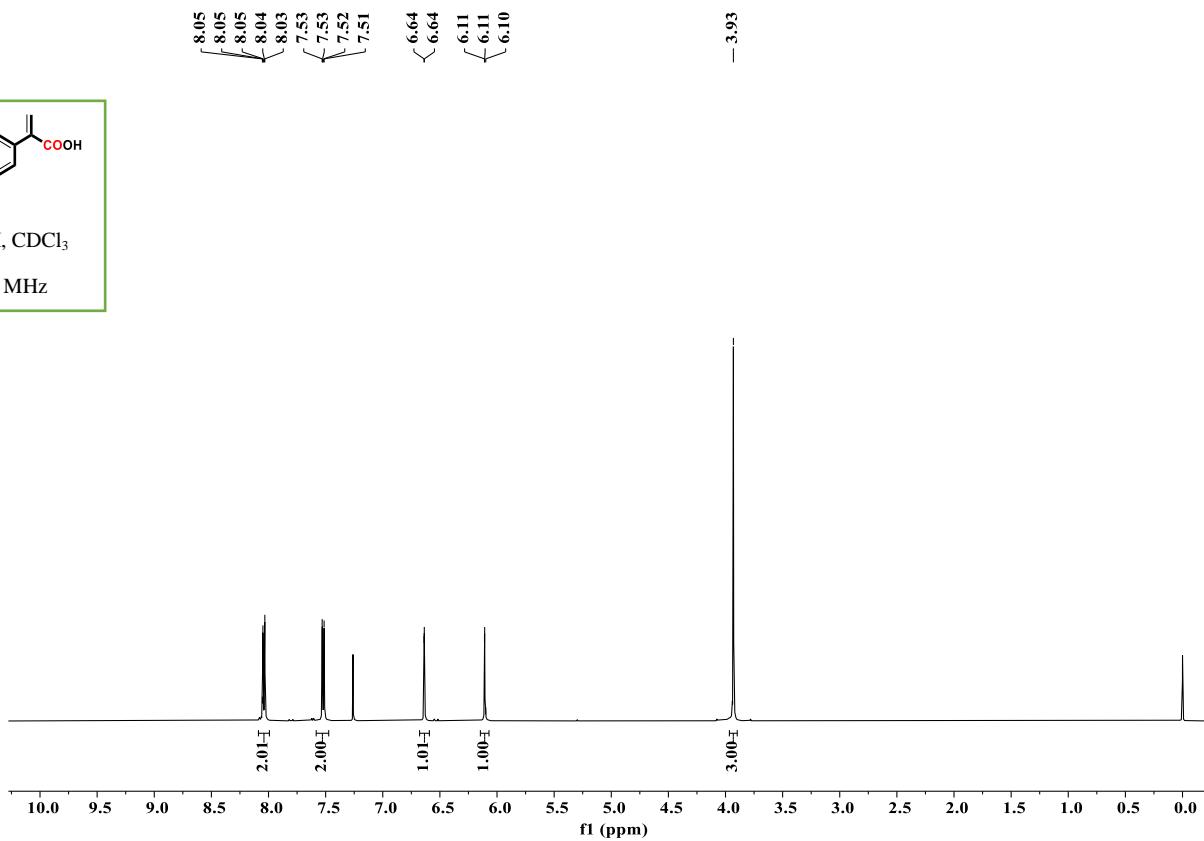
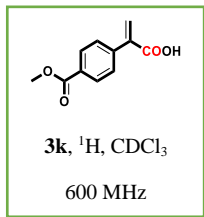
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6.05

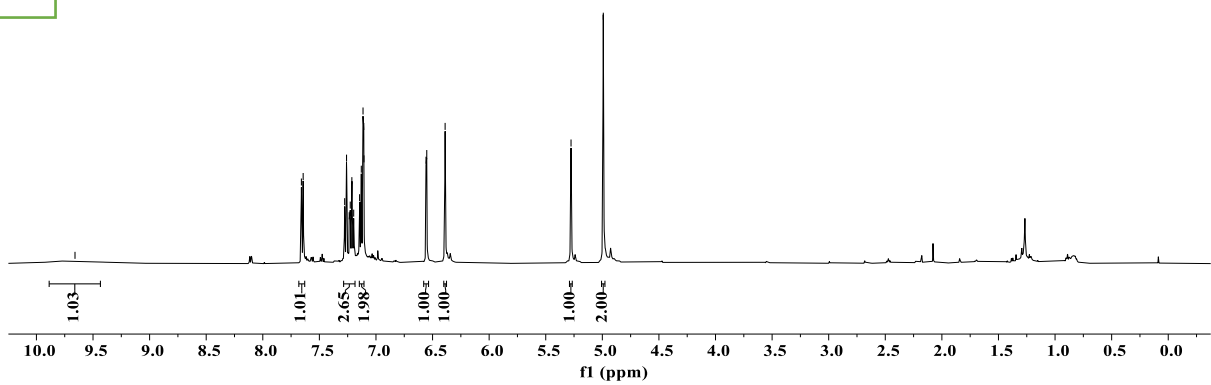
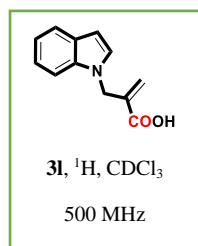
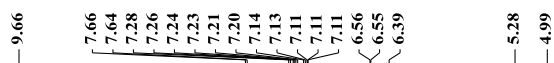
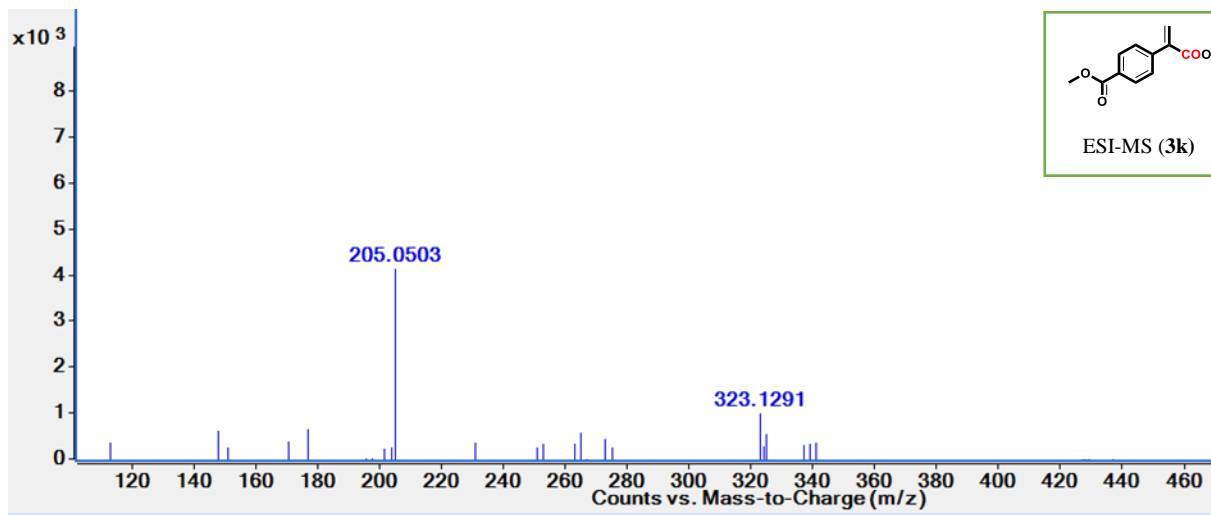


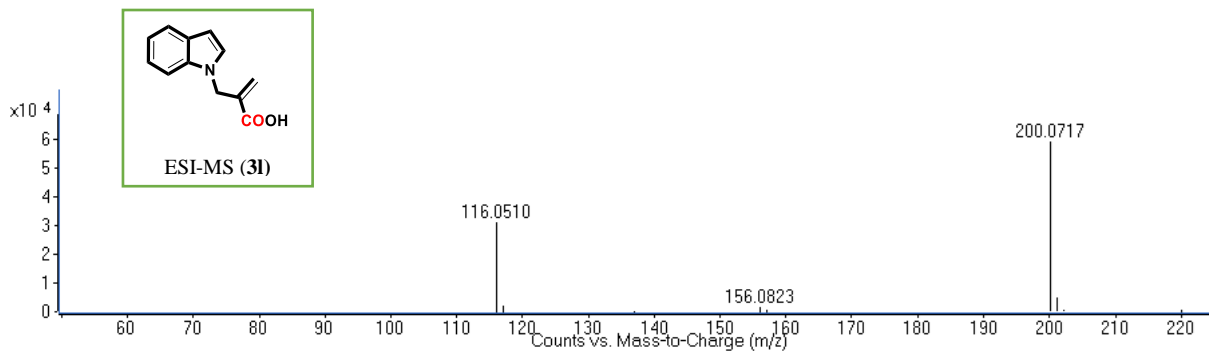
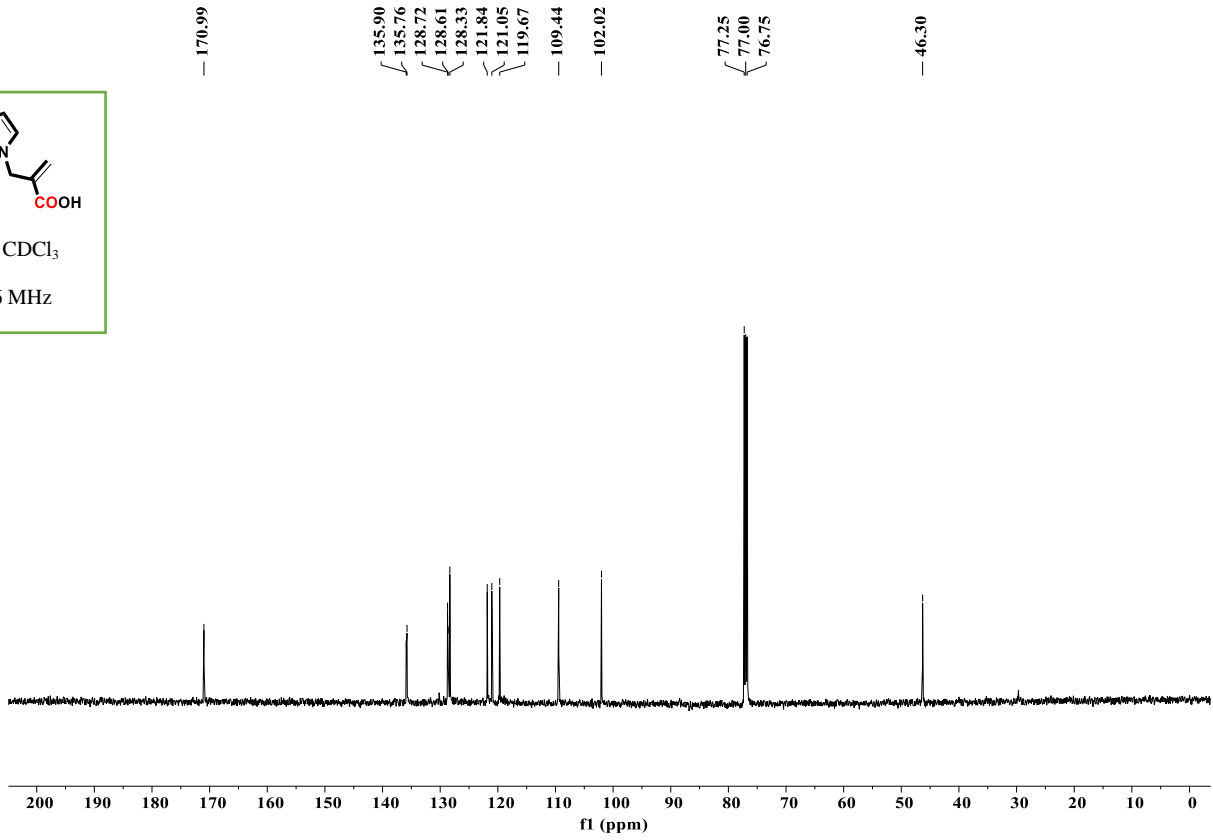
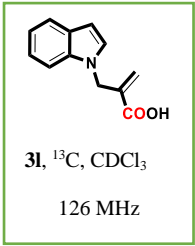


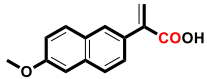
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 132.79
 132.75
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 117.70
 117.04
 116.91
 77.25
 77.00
 76.75



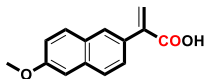
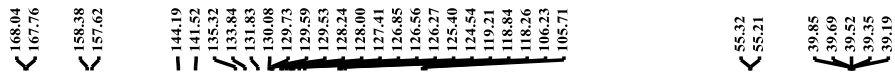
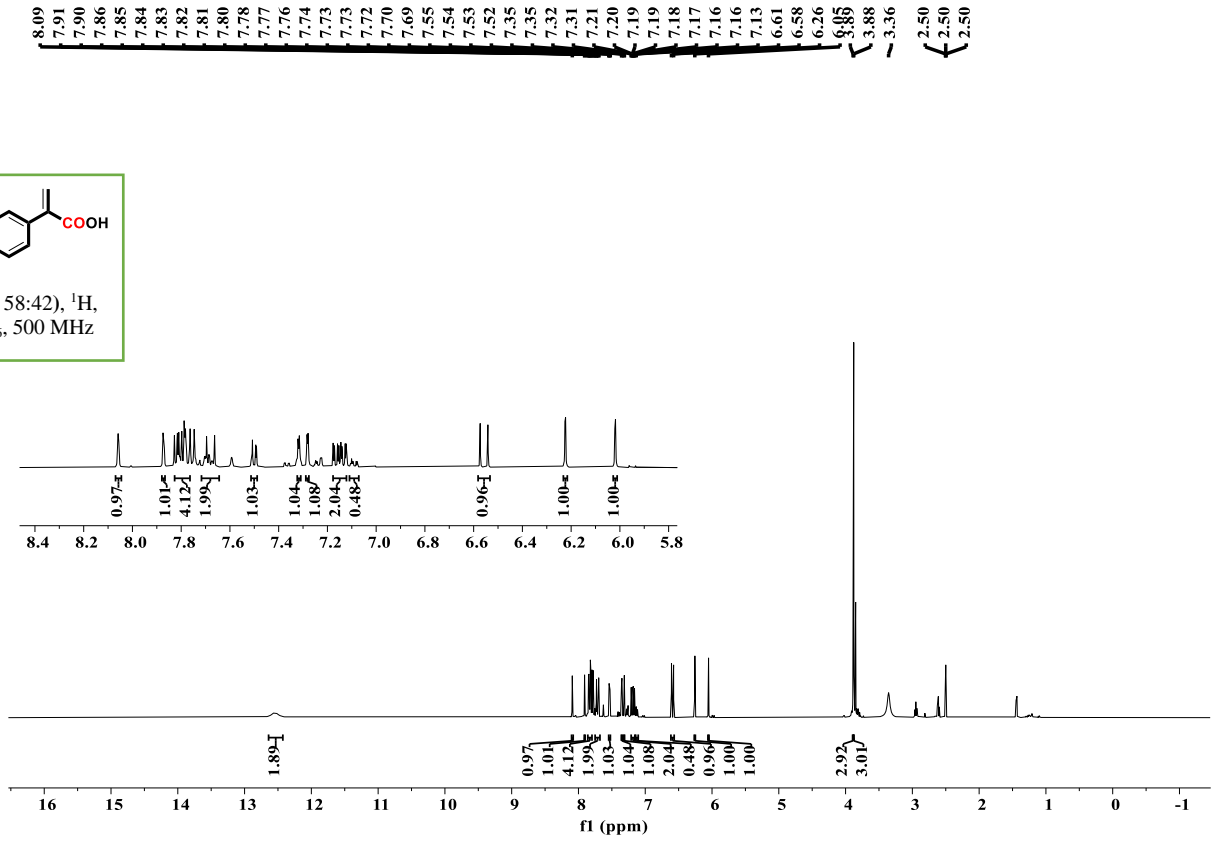




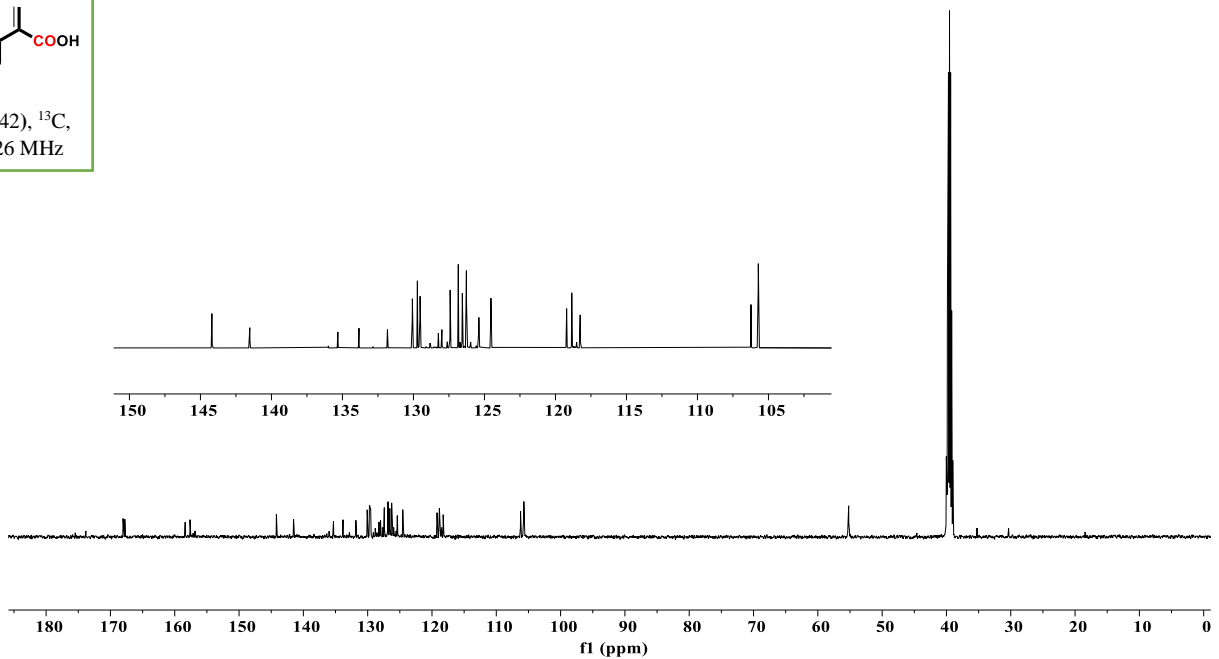


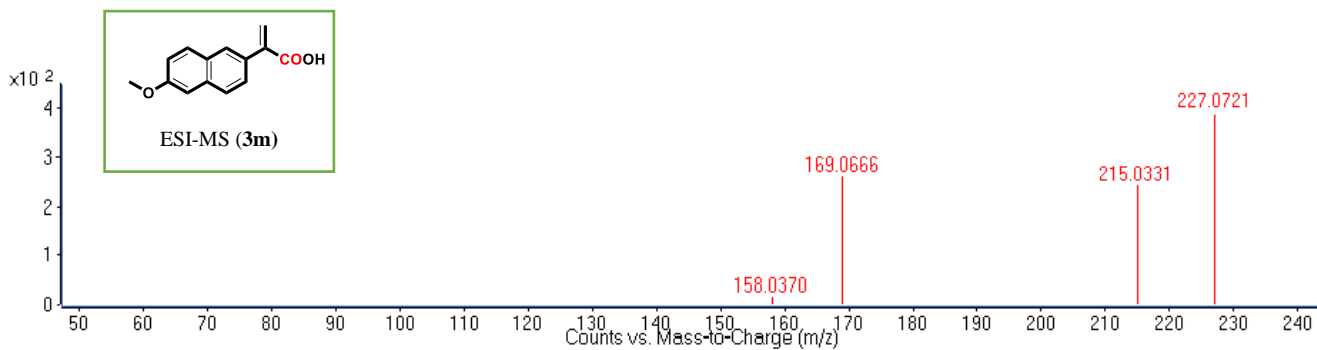


3m ($\alpha:\beta = 58:42$), ^1H ,
DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz

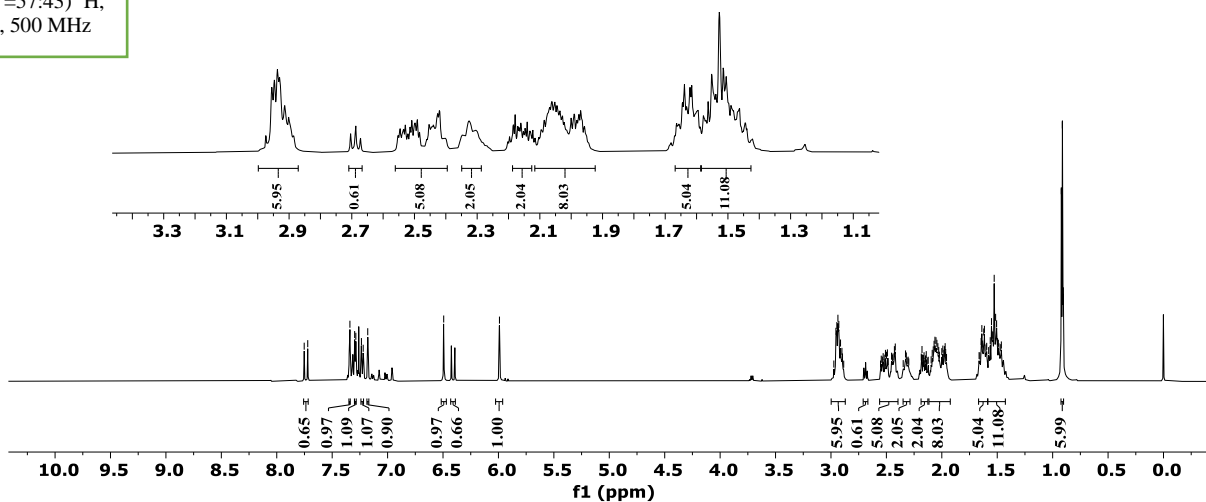
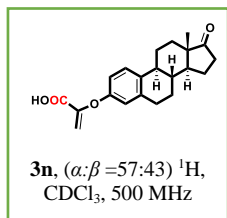


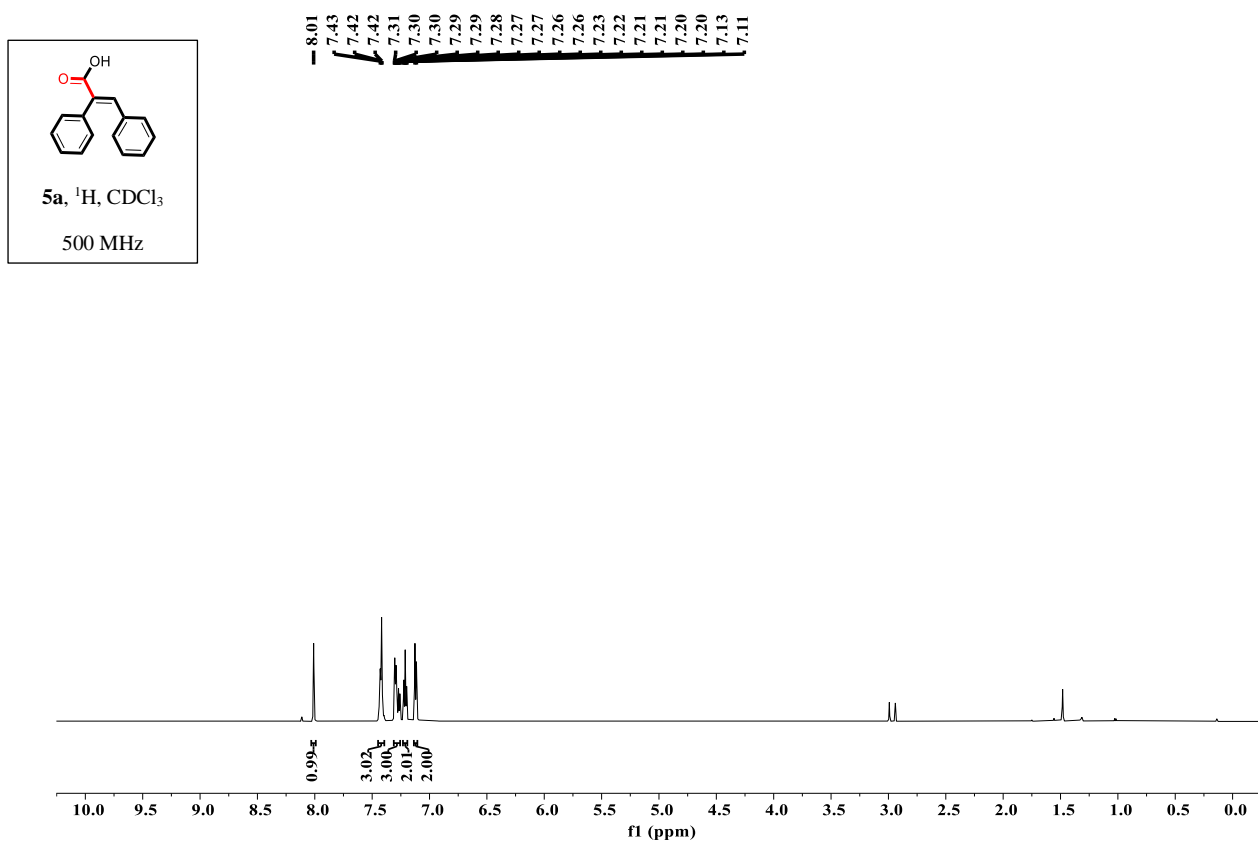
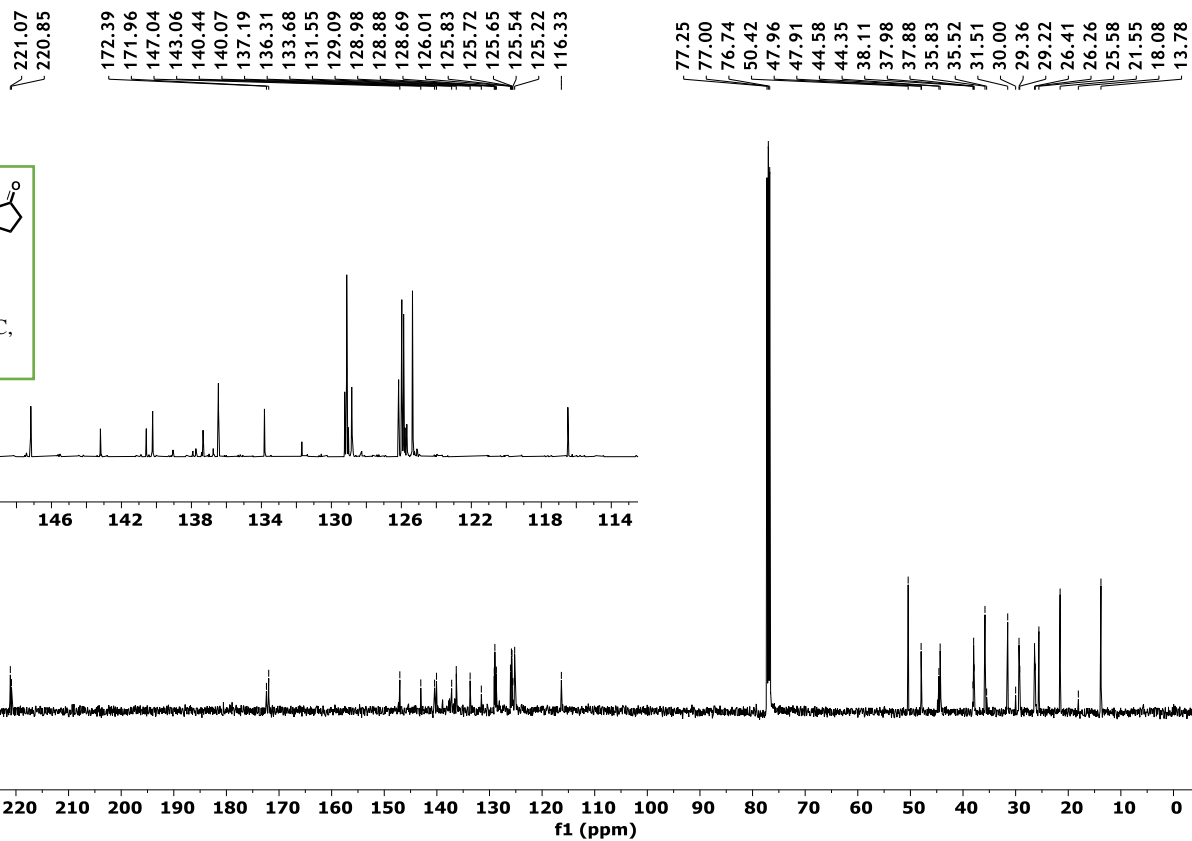
3m ($\alpha:\beta = 58:42$), ^{13}C ,
DMSO- d_6 , 126 MHz

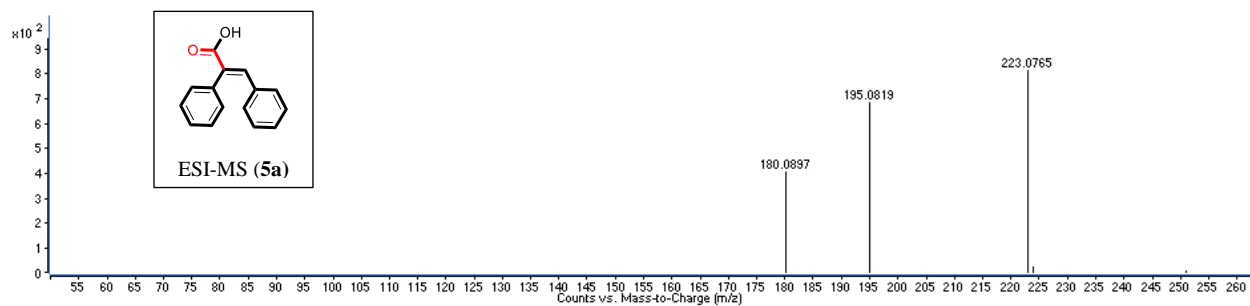
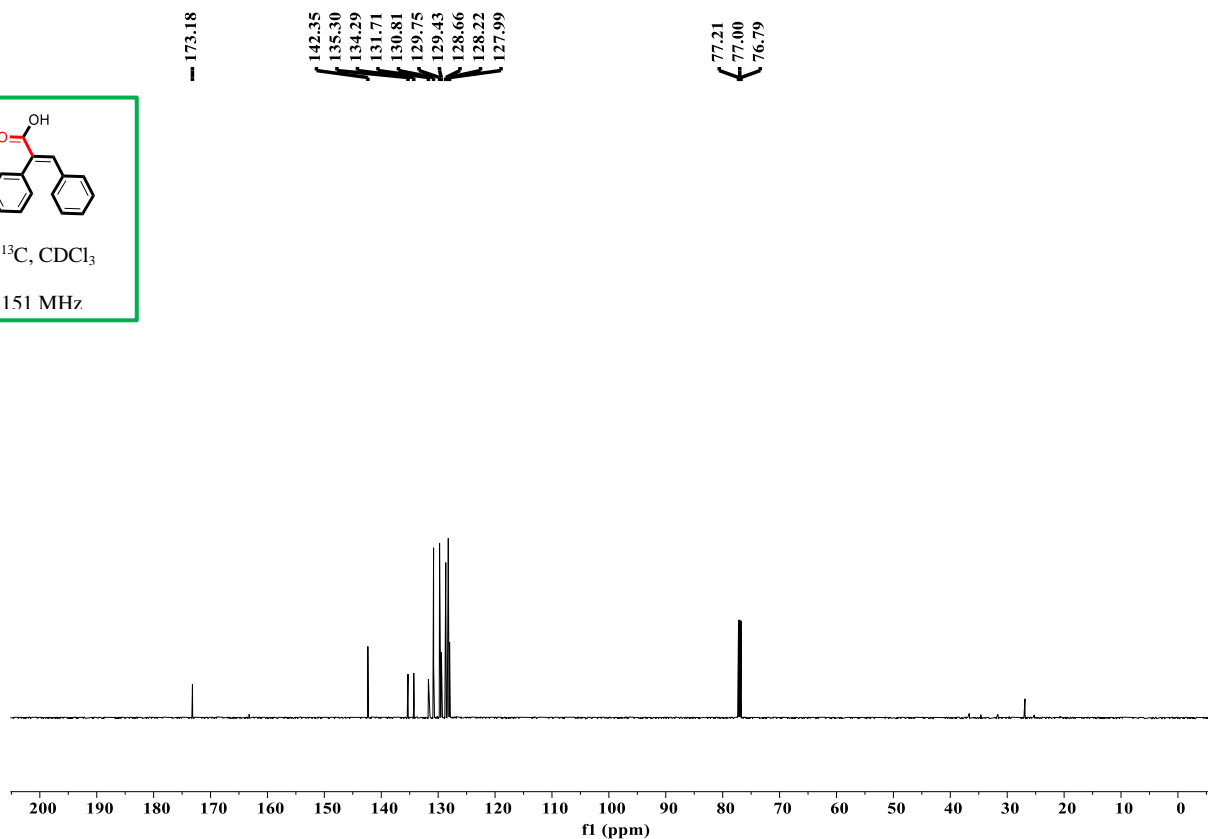
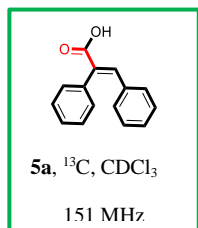


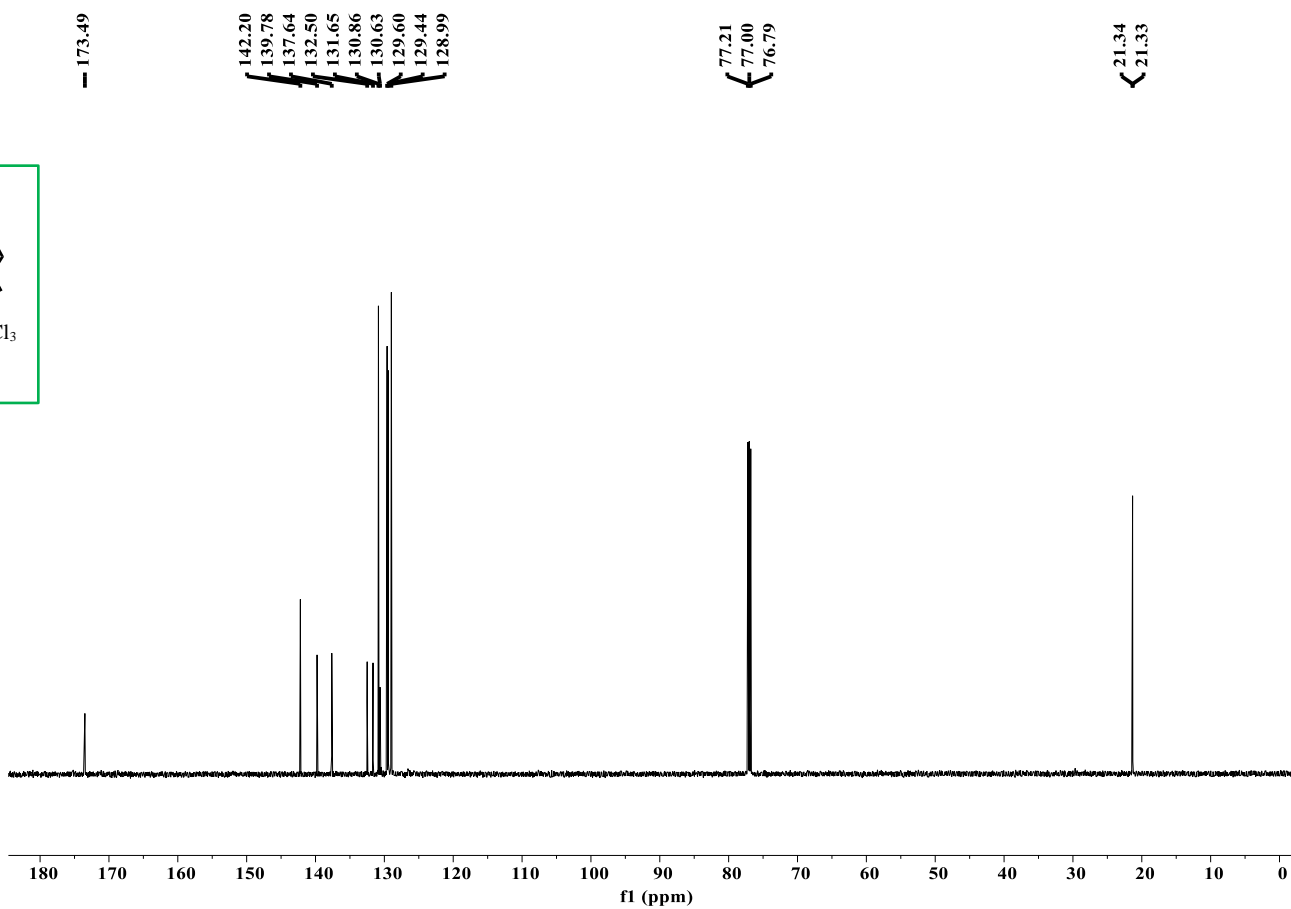
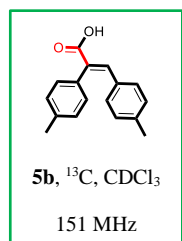
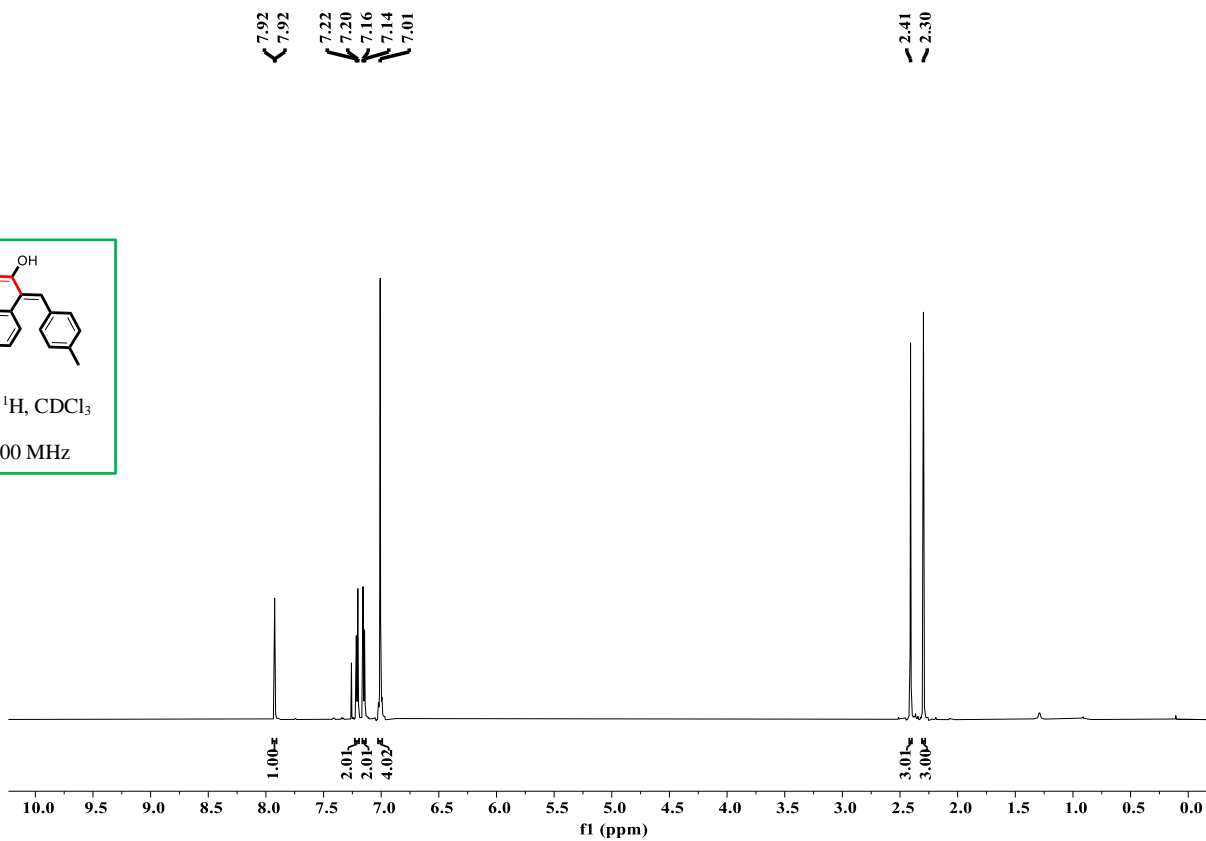
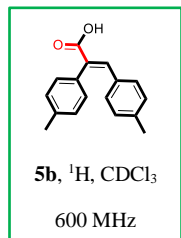


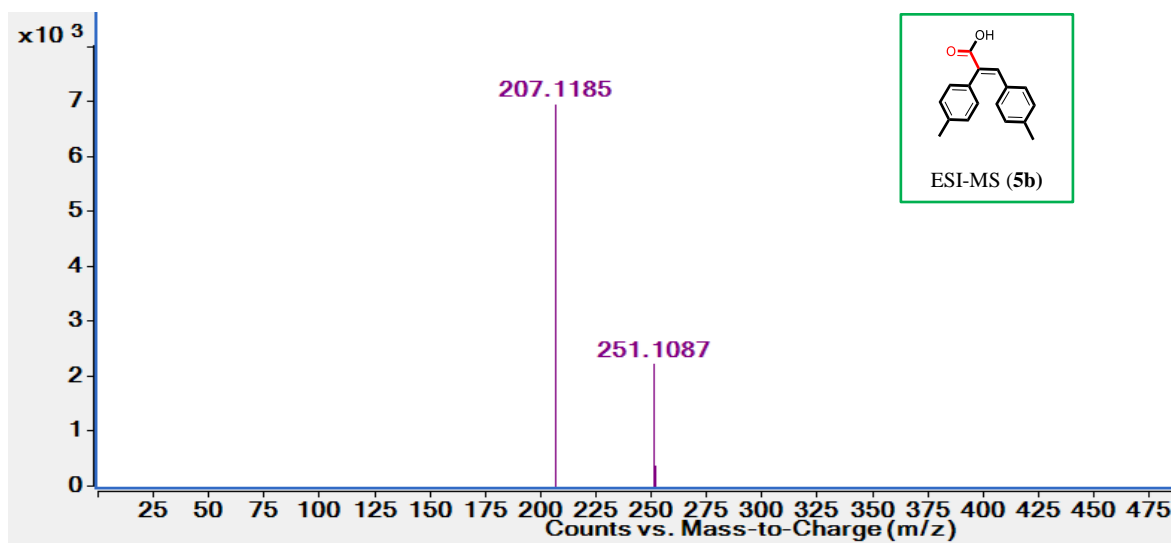
7.75
7.72
7.34
7.30
7.29
7.24
7.22
7.18
6.49
5.99
2.96
2.95
2.94
2.93
2.91
2.90
2.51
2.49
2.43
2.42
2.18
2.09
2.08
2.07
2.06
2.05
2.04
2.04
2.03
2.00
1.99
1.98
1.98
1.97
1.97
1.65
1.64
1.63
1.62
1.62
1.60
1.59
1.58
1.56
1.55
1.55
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1.46
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0.91
0.90



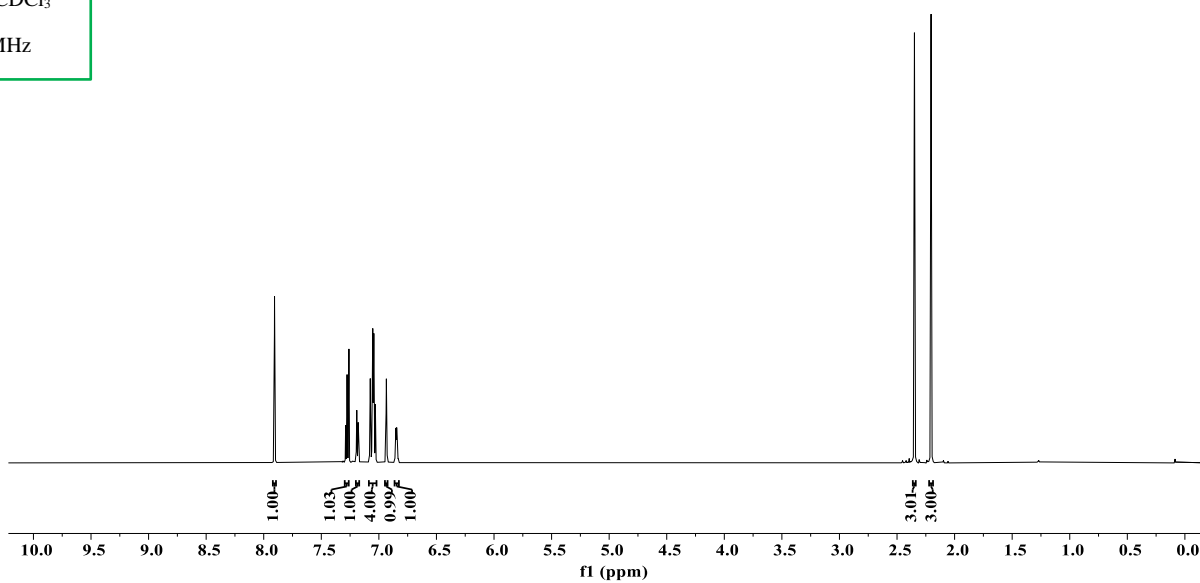
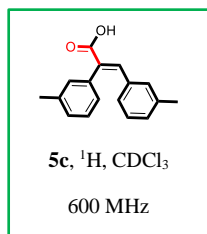


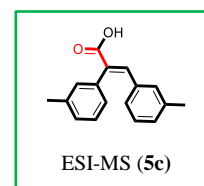
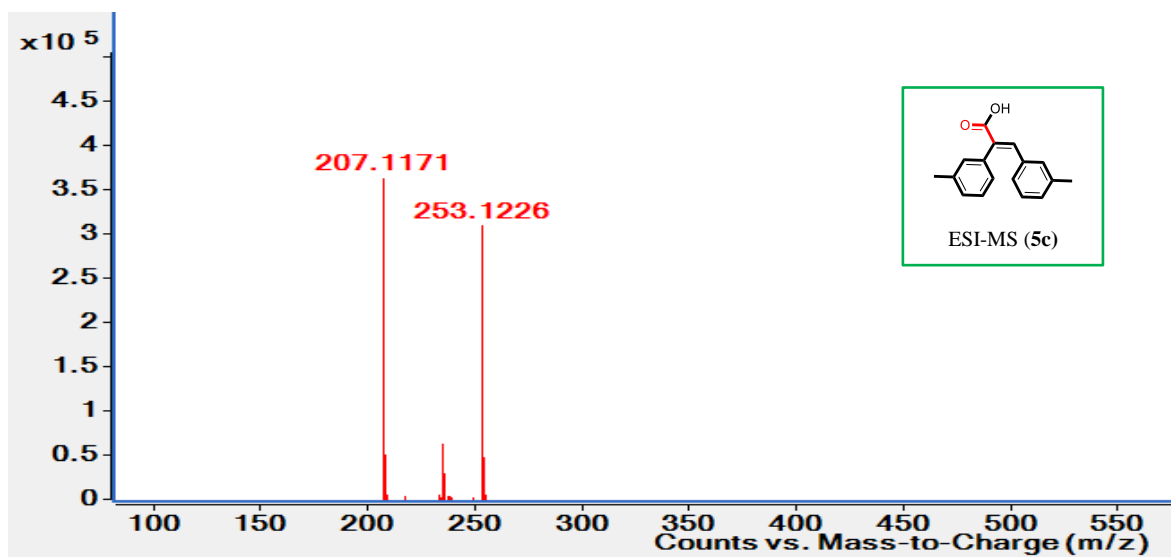
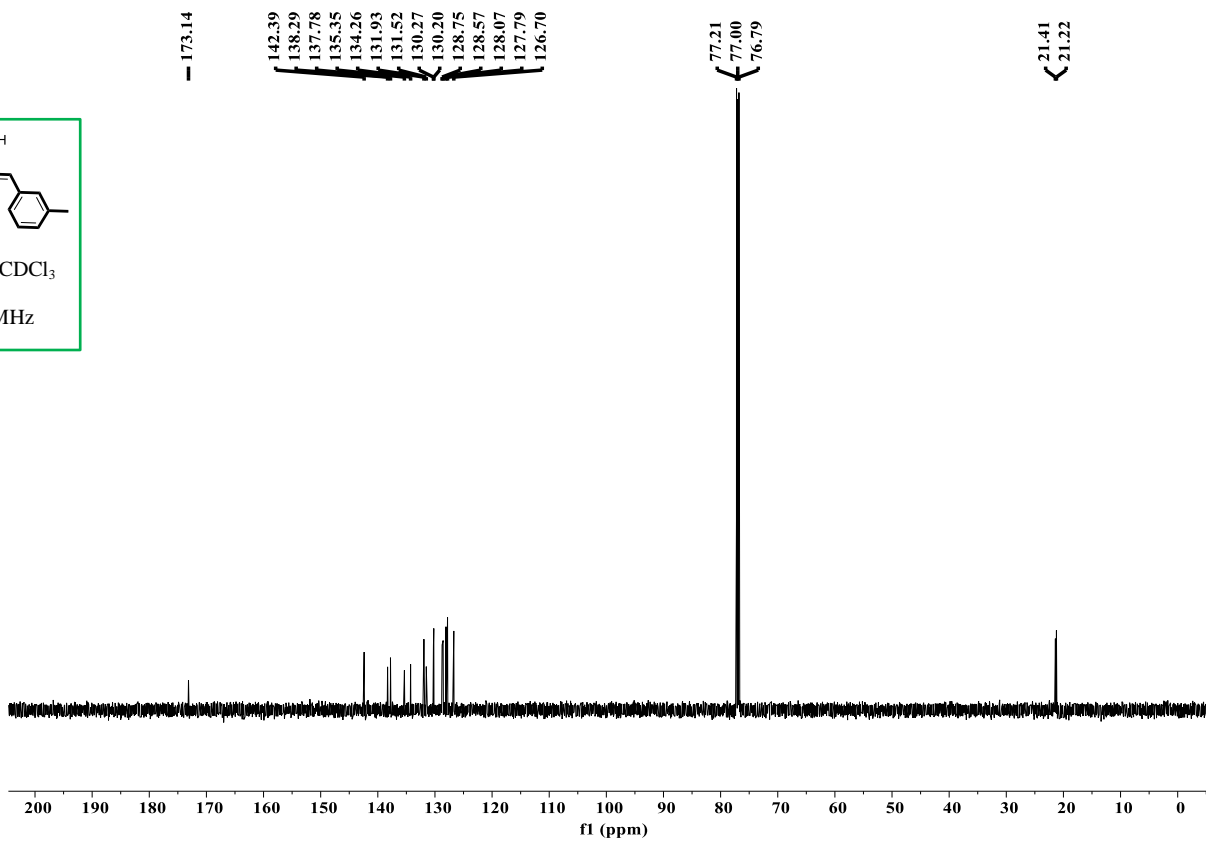
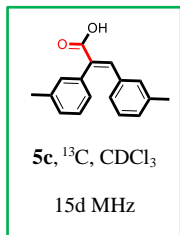


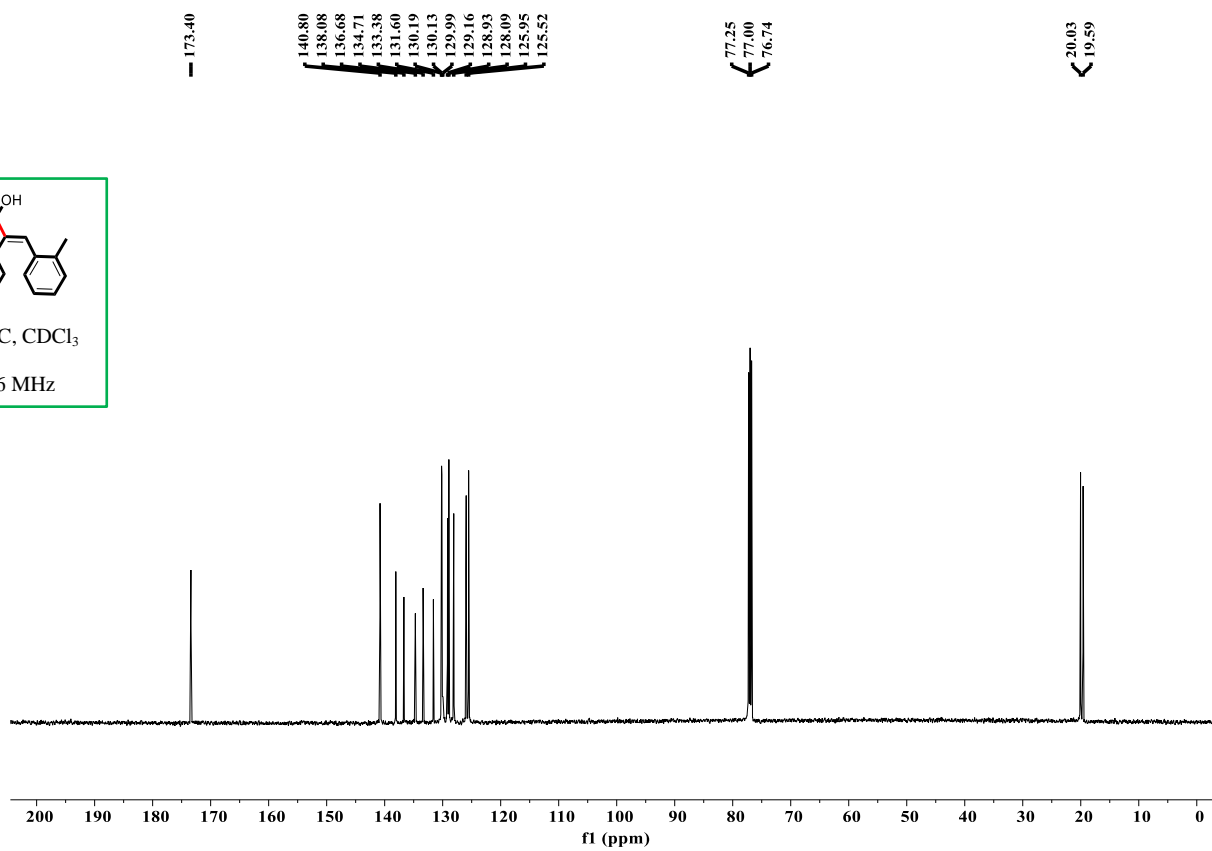
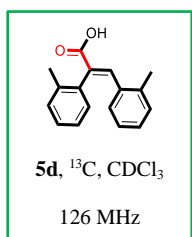
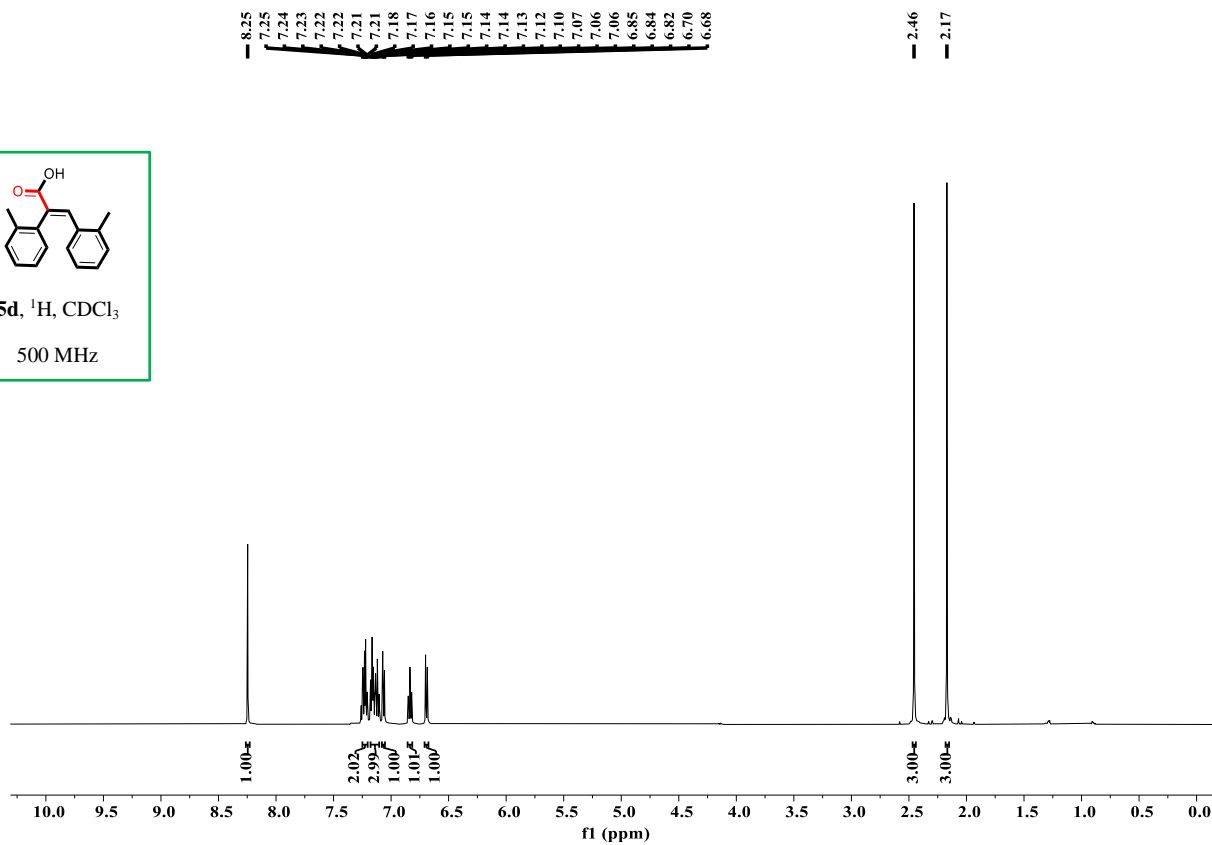
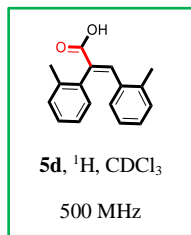


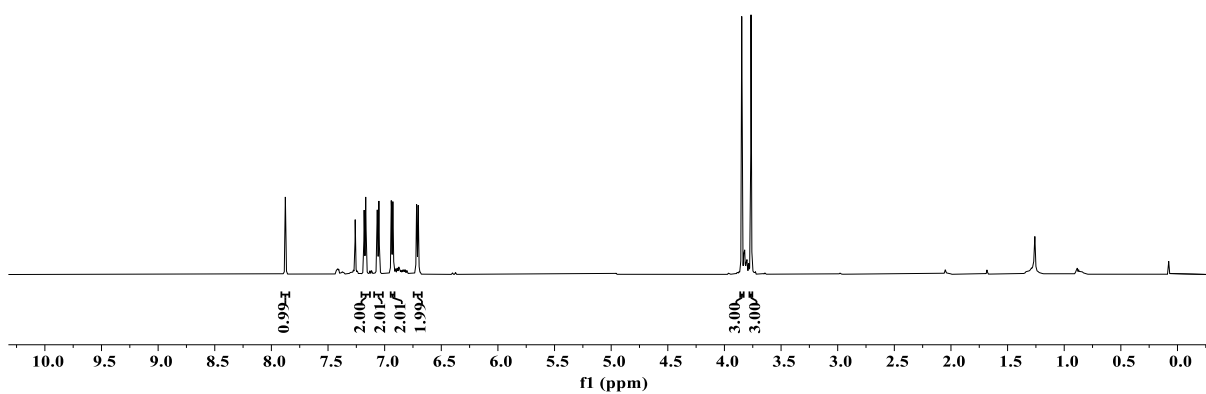
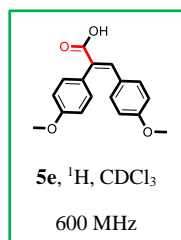
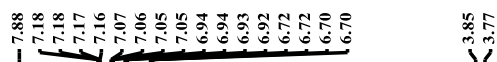
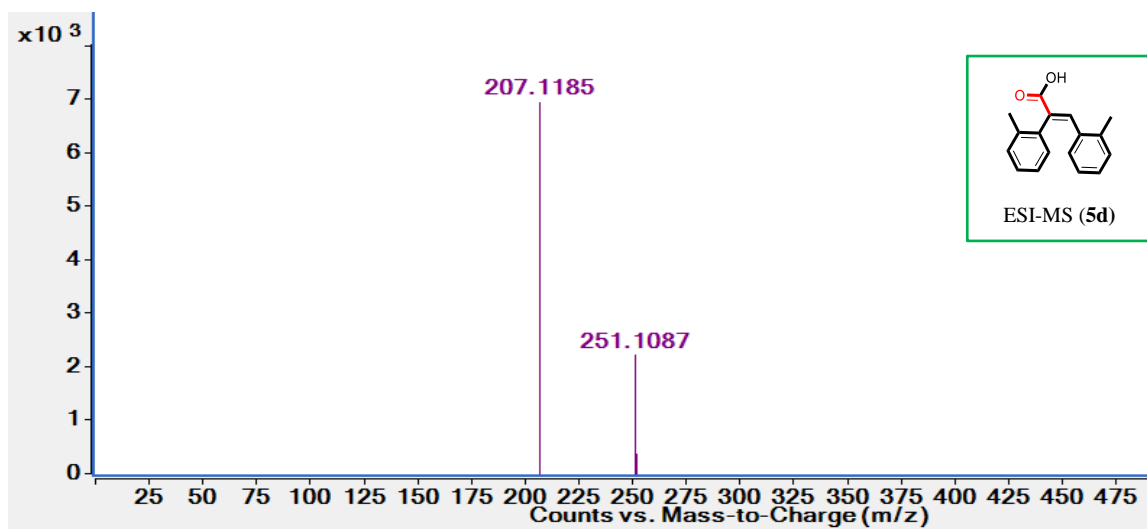


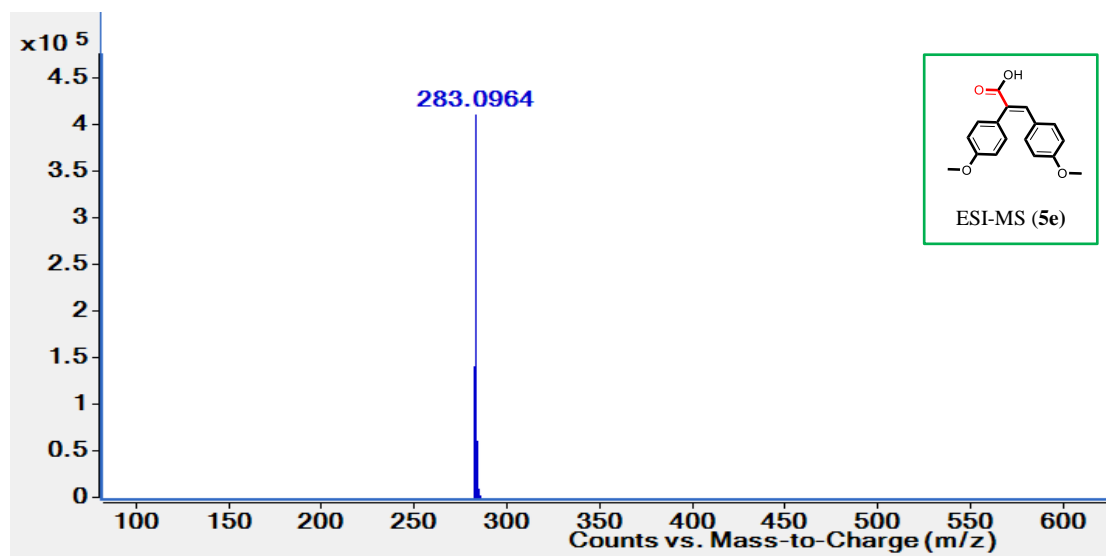
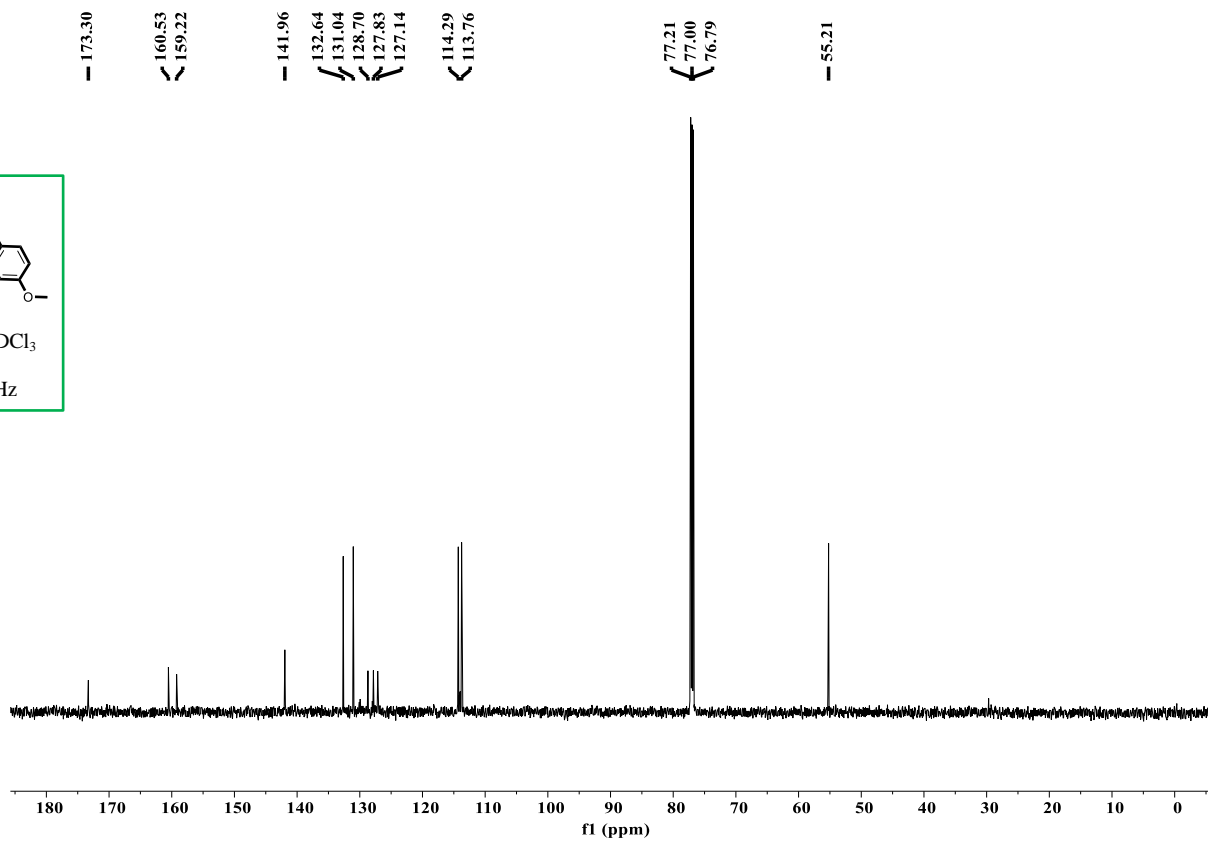
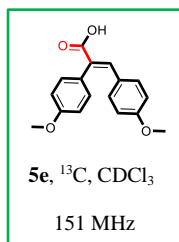
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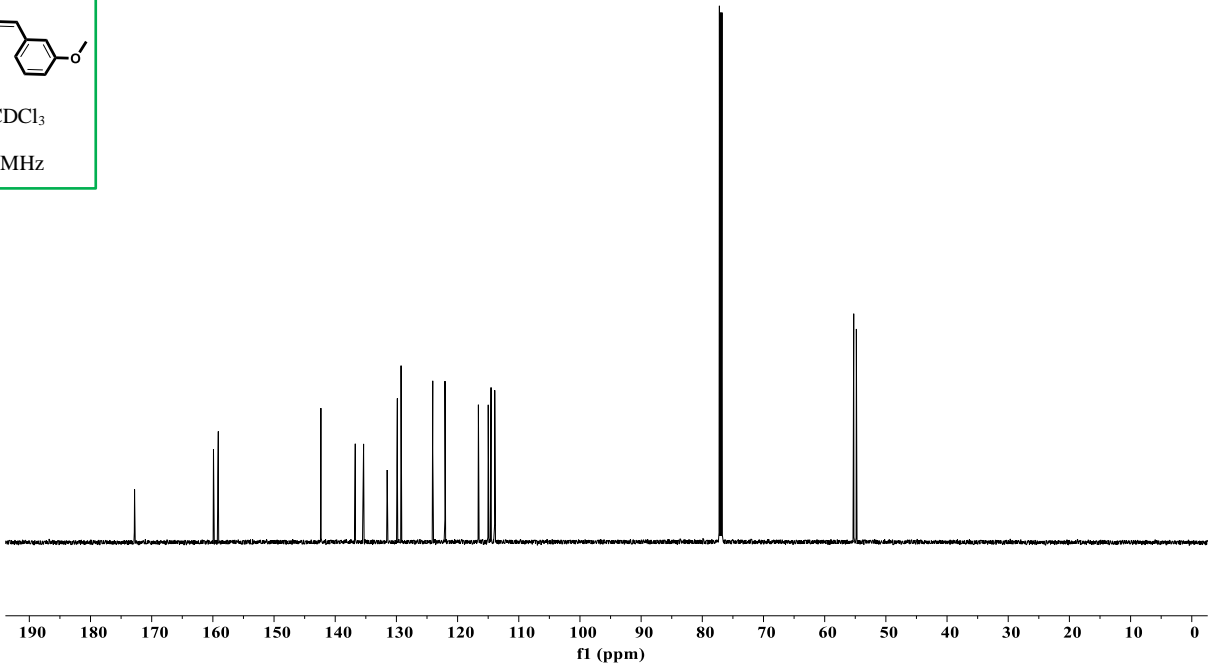
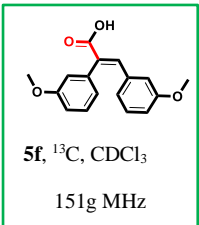
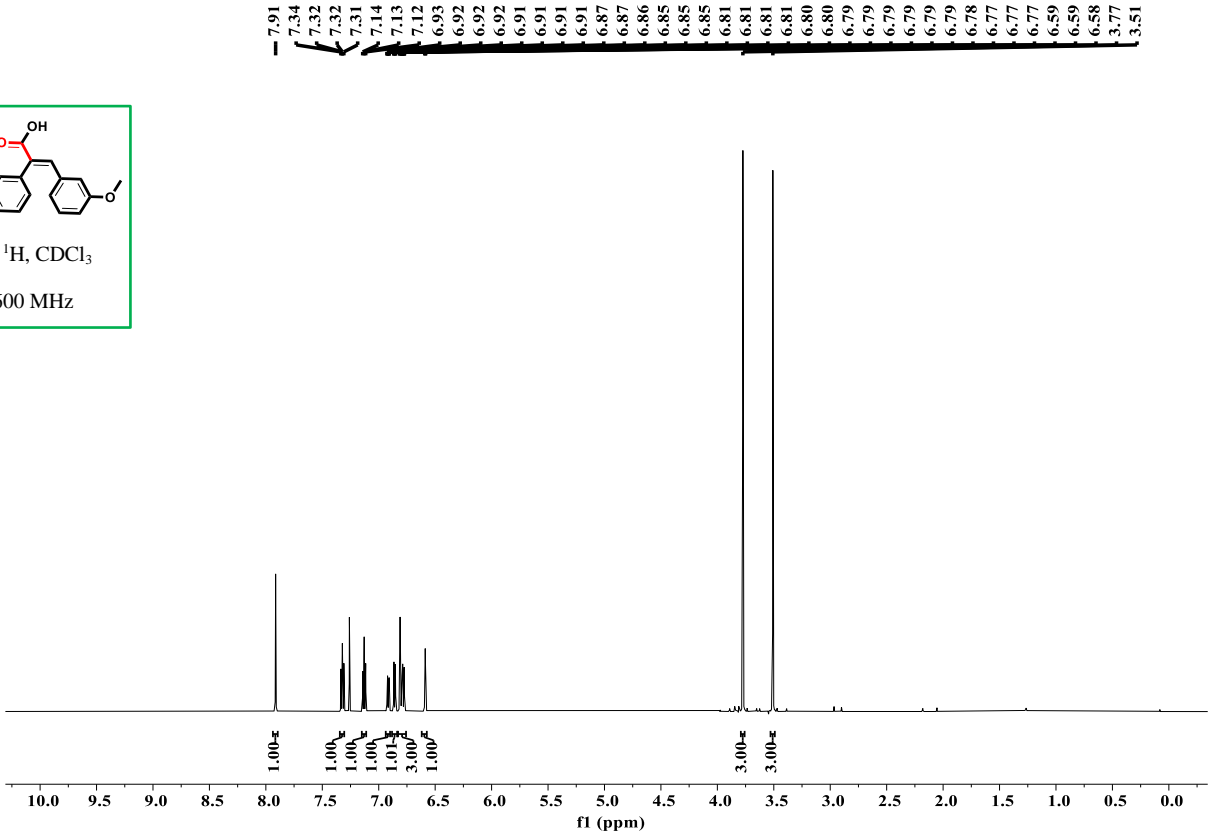
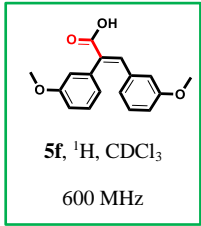


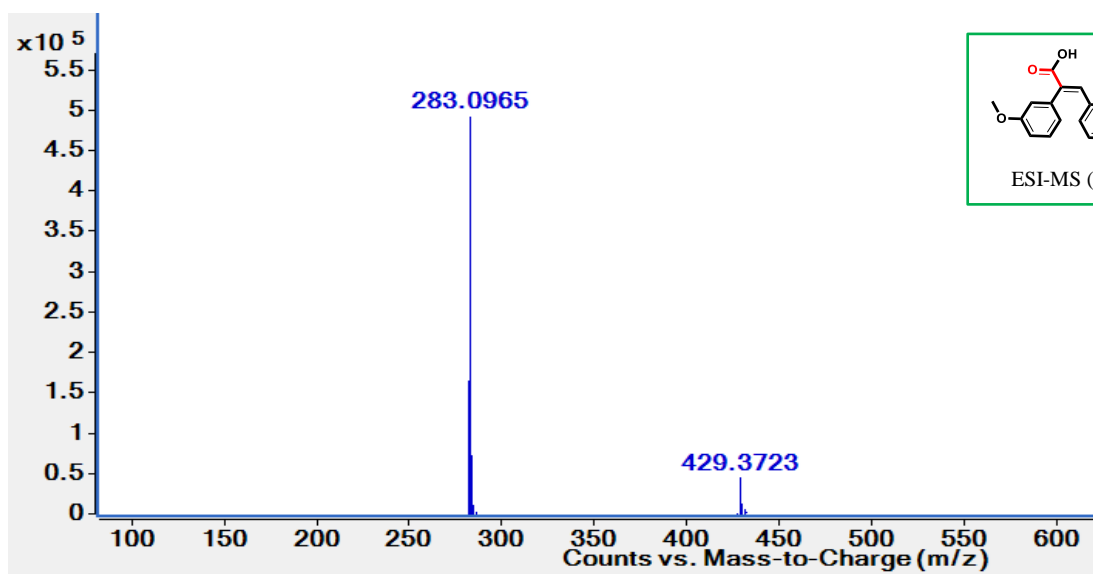




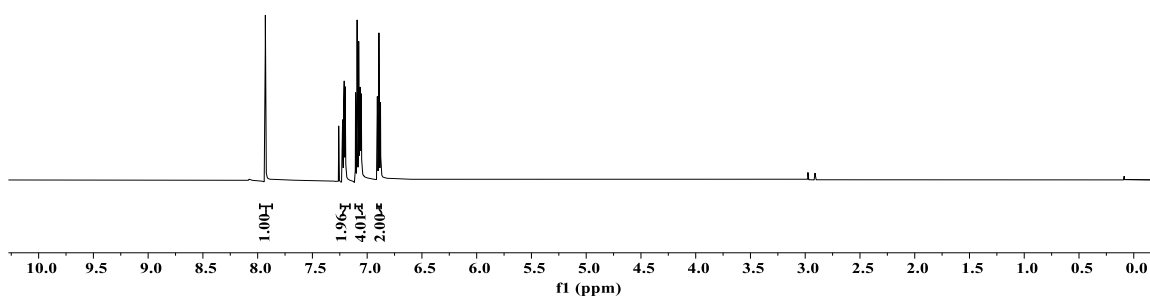
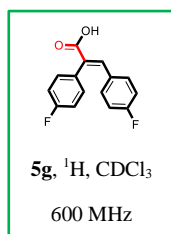


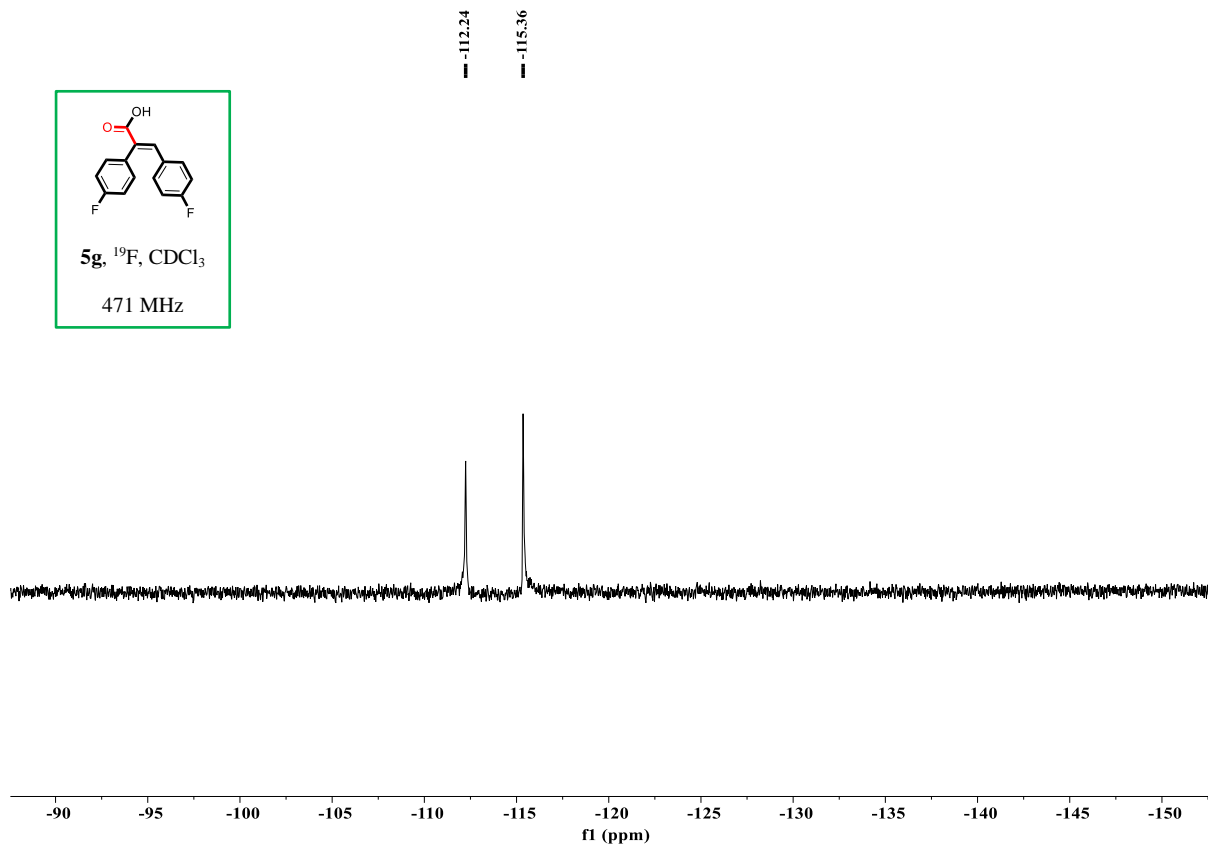
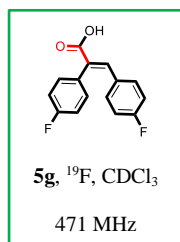
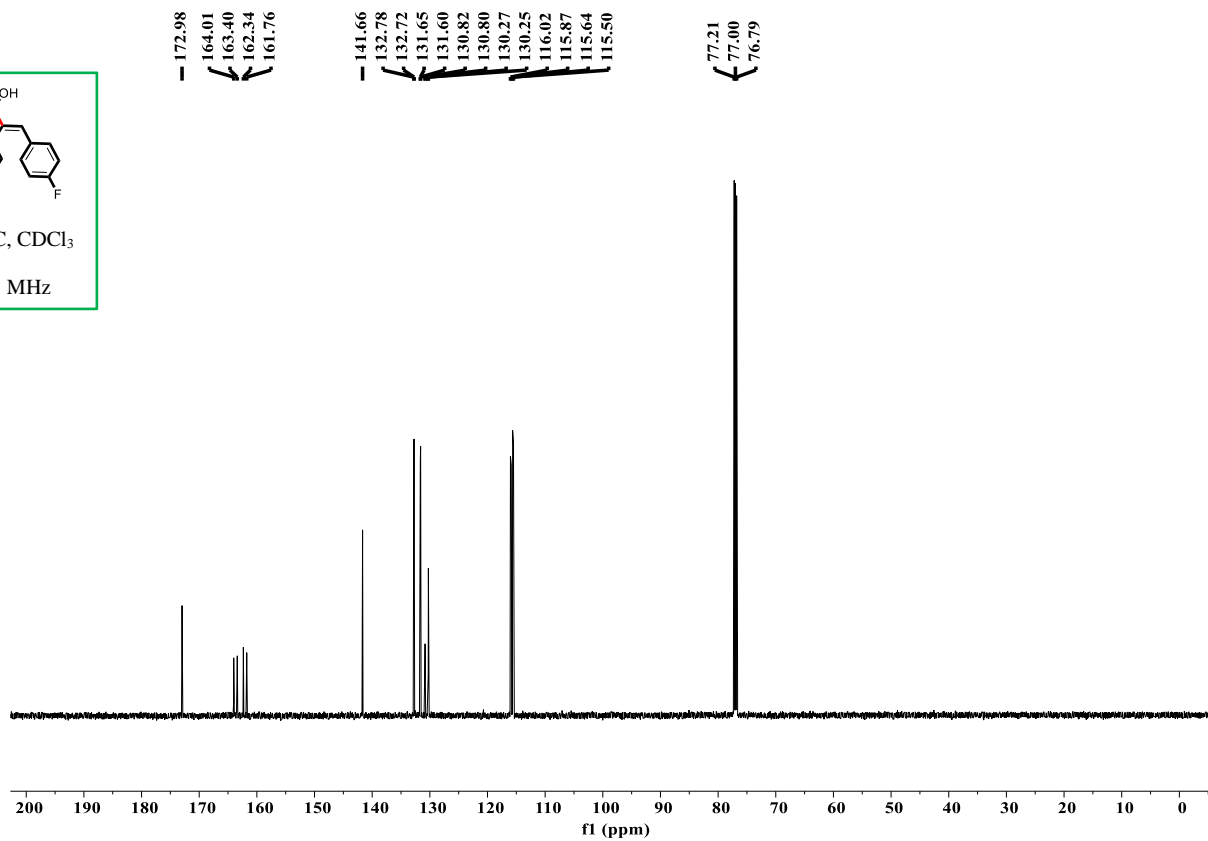
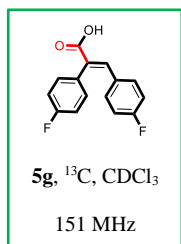


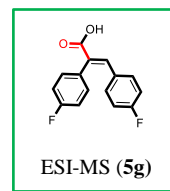
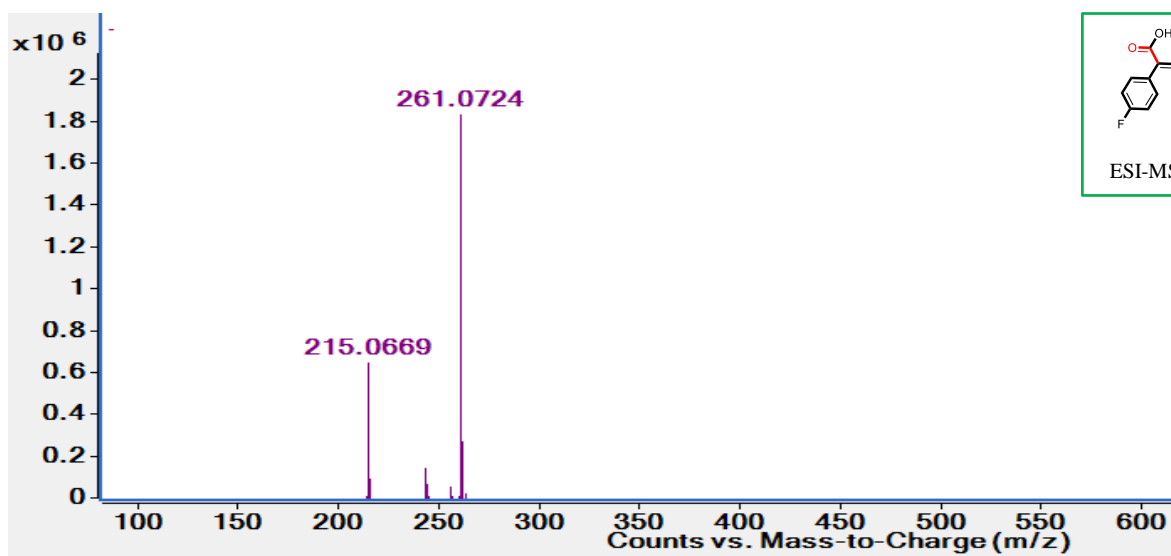




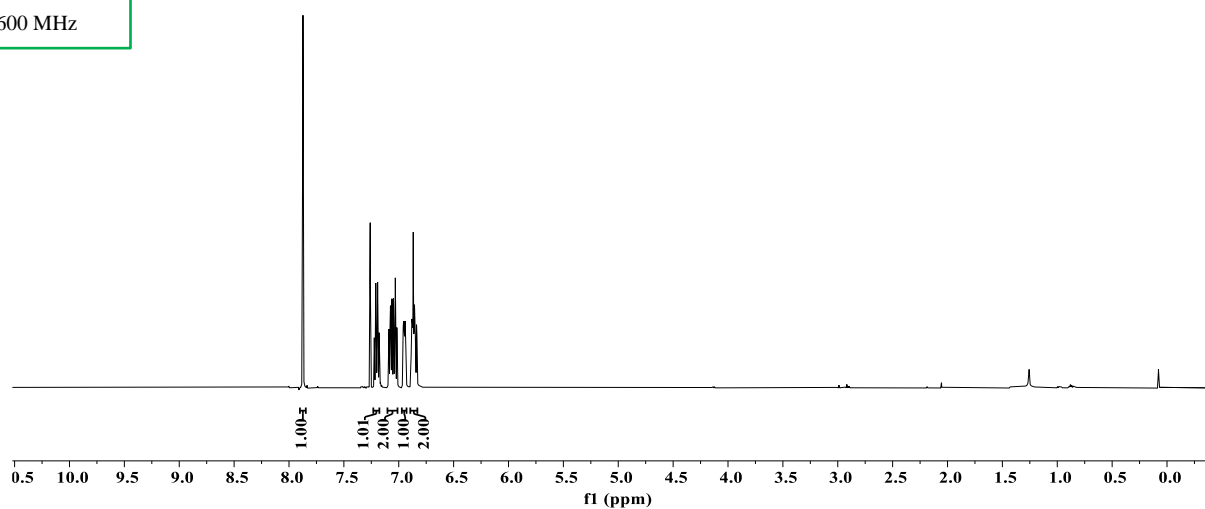
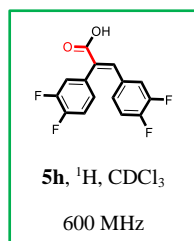
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7.05
6.91
6.88

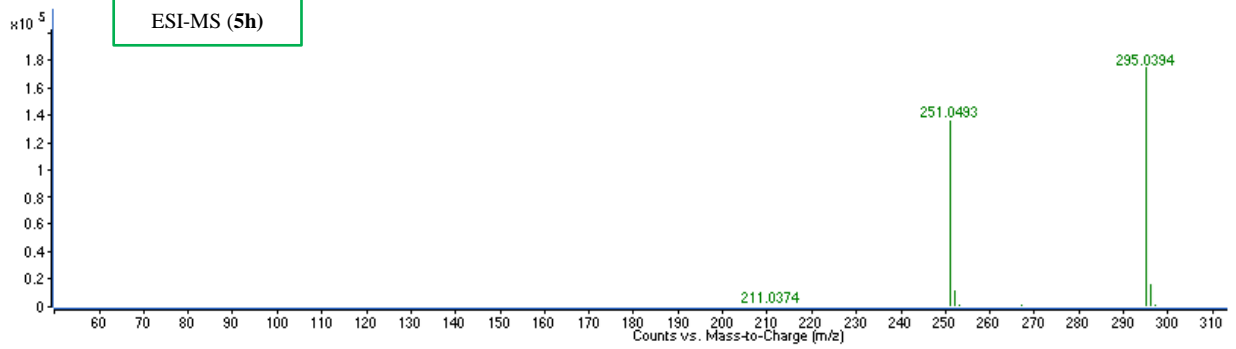
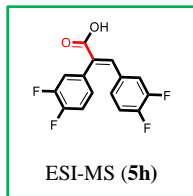
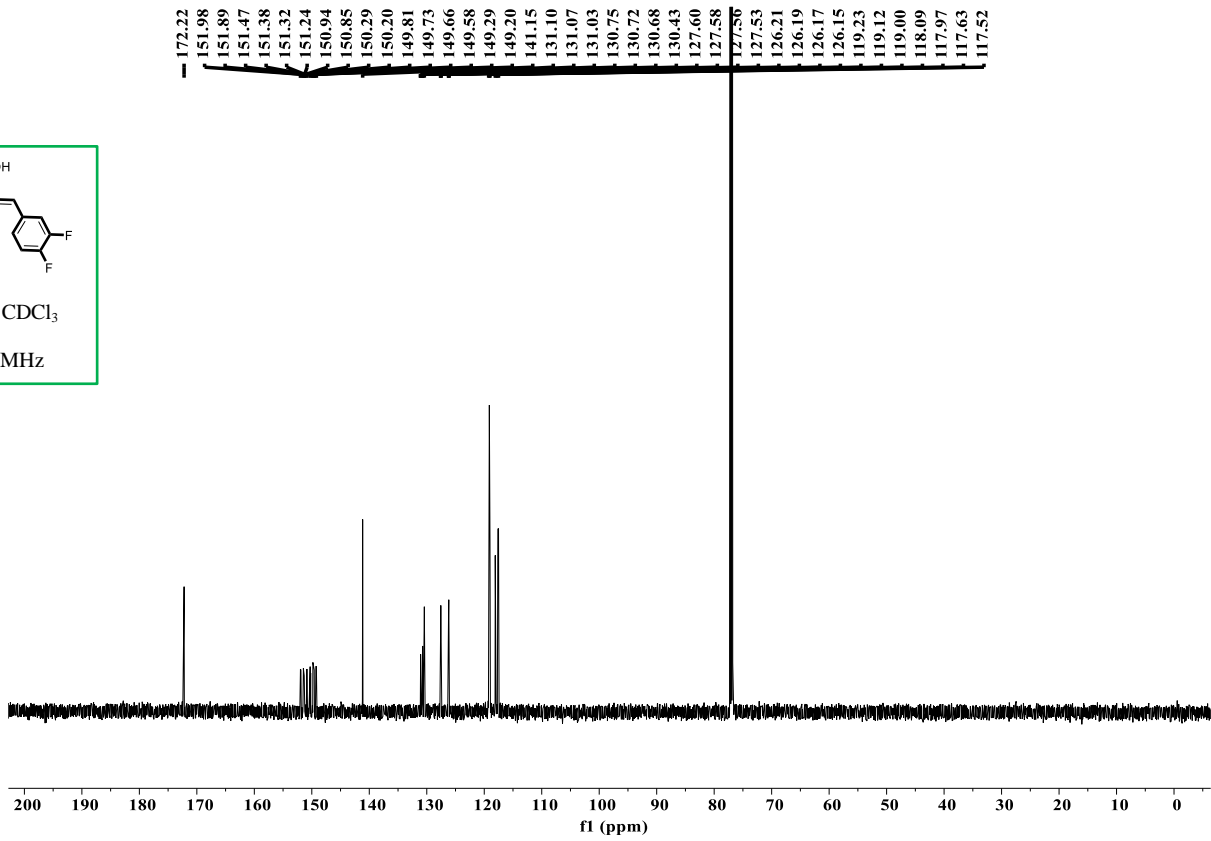
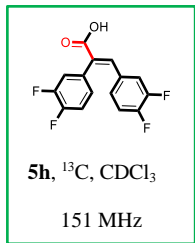


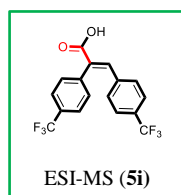
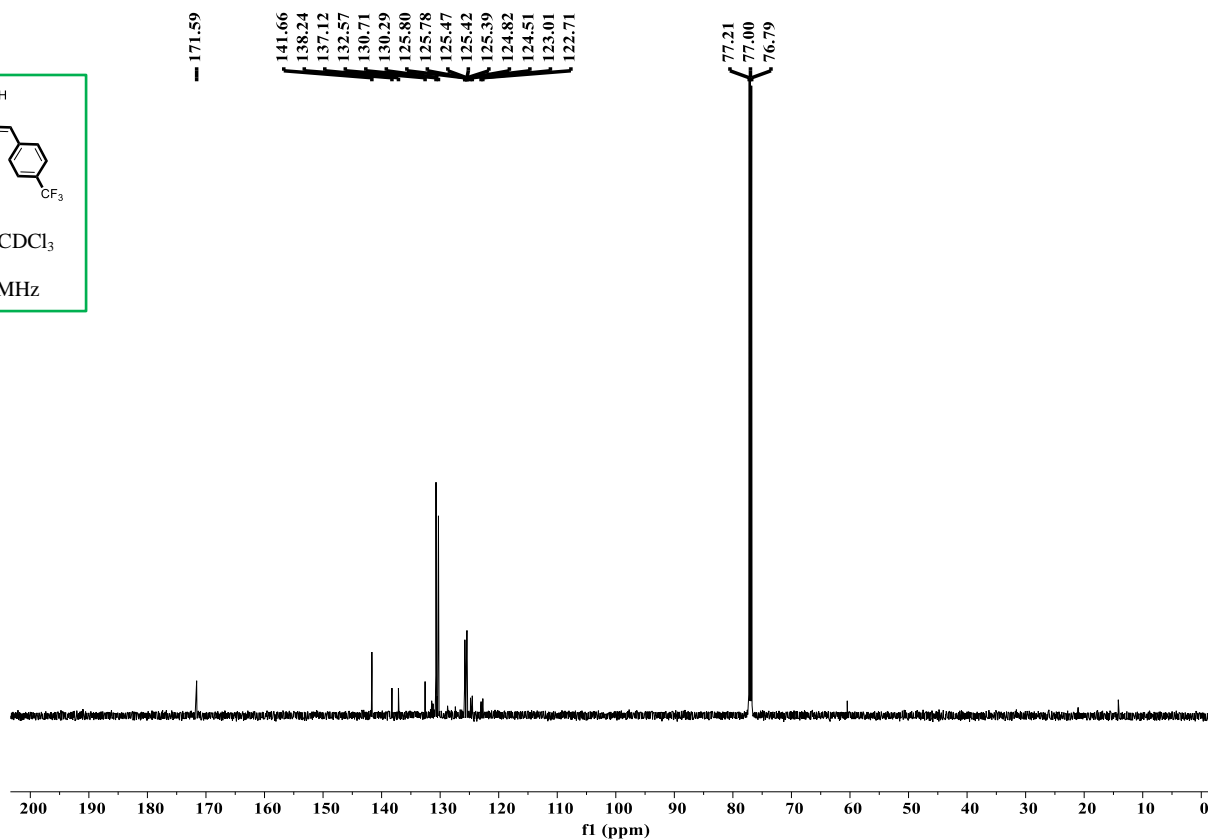
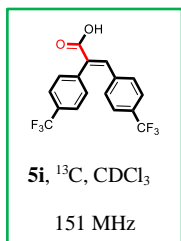
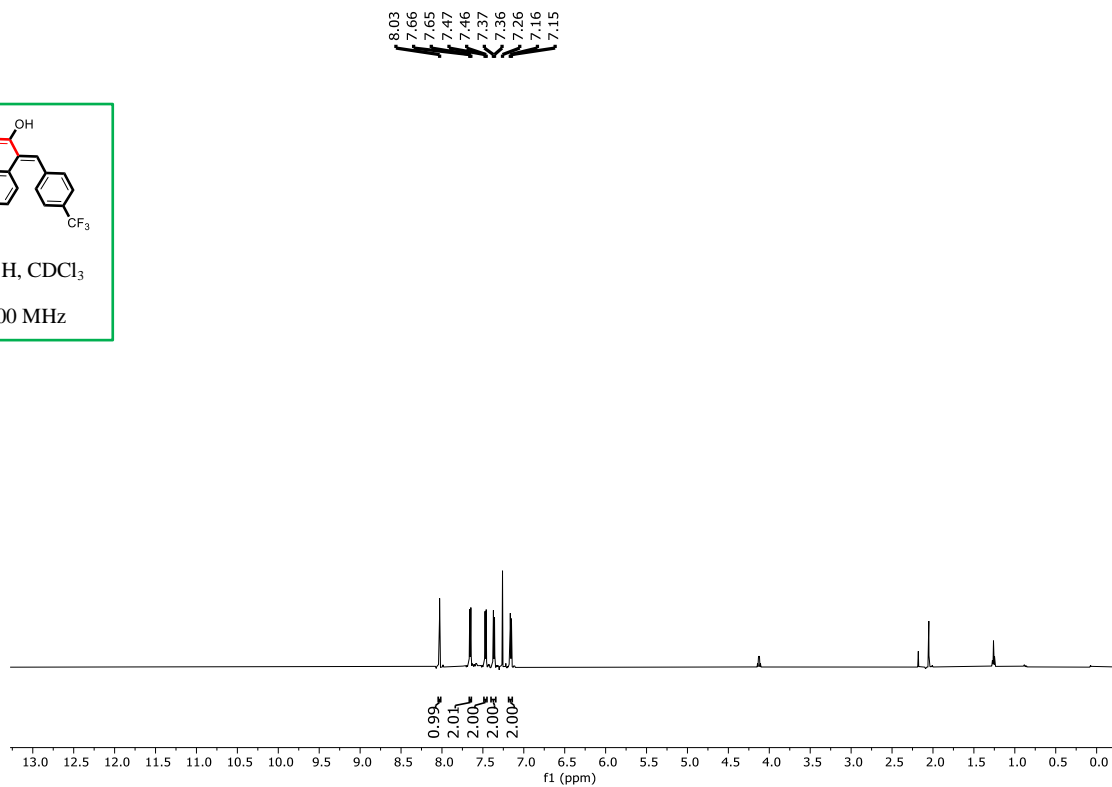
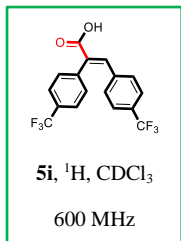




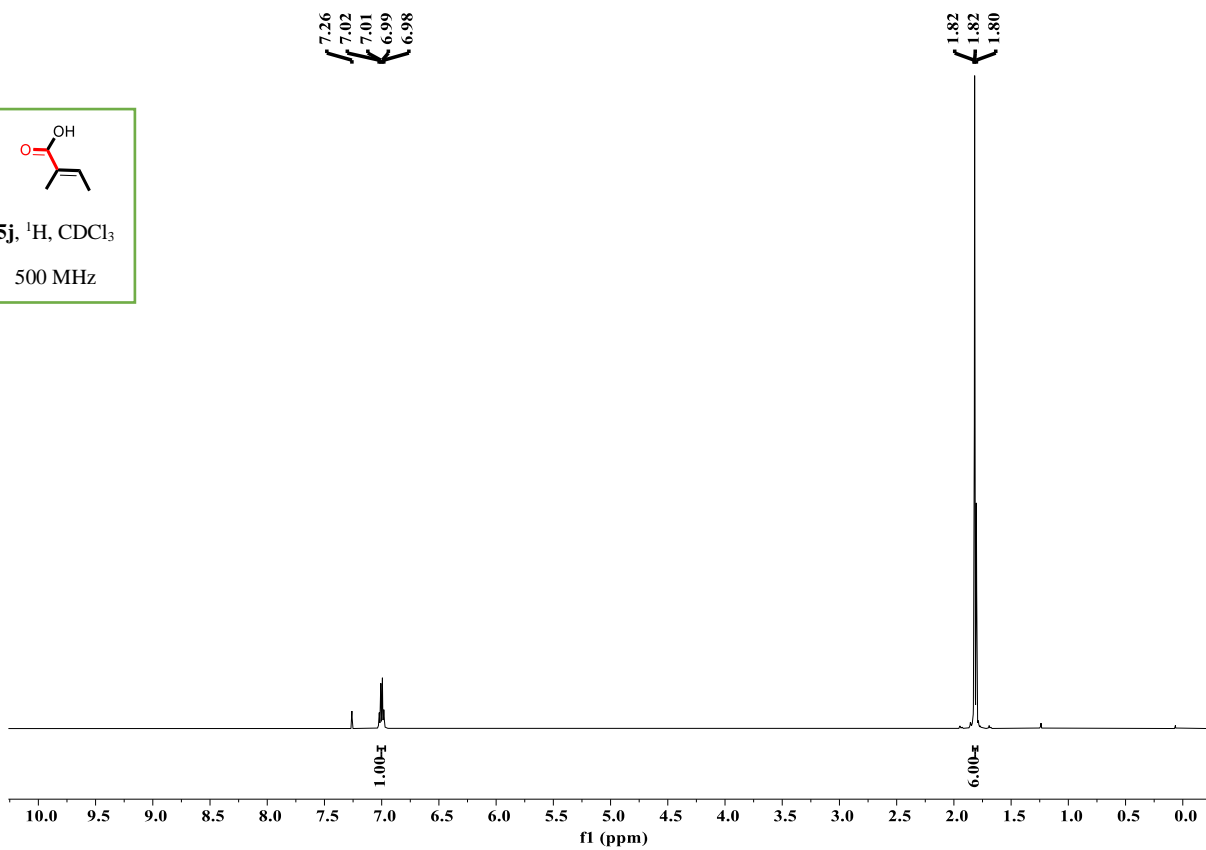
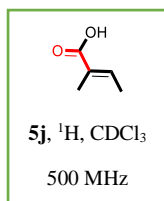
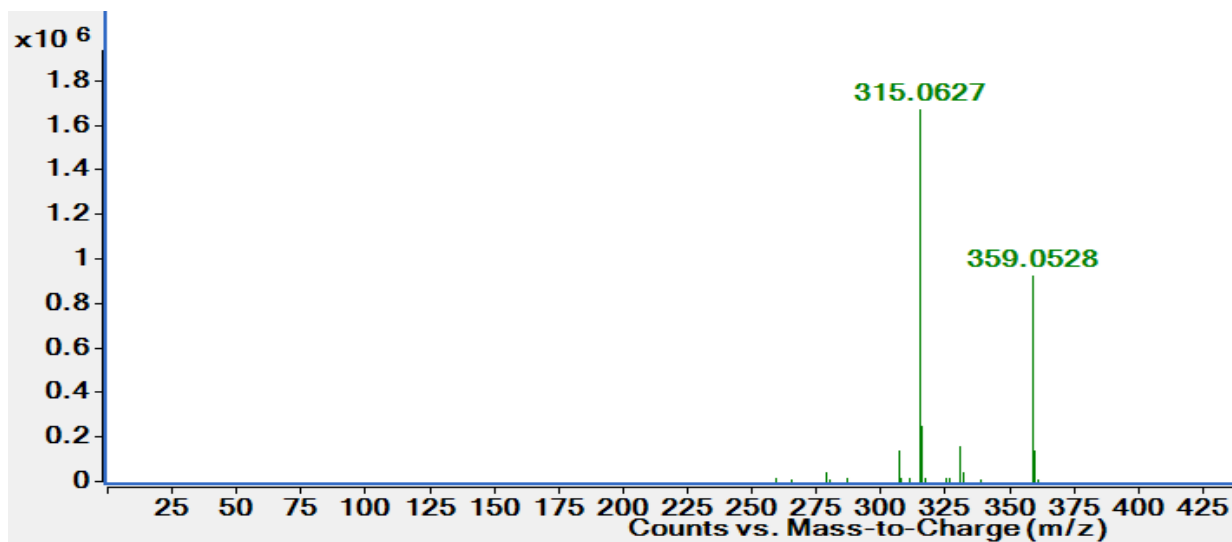
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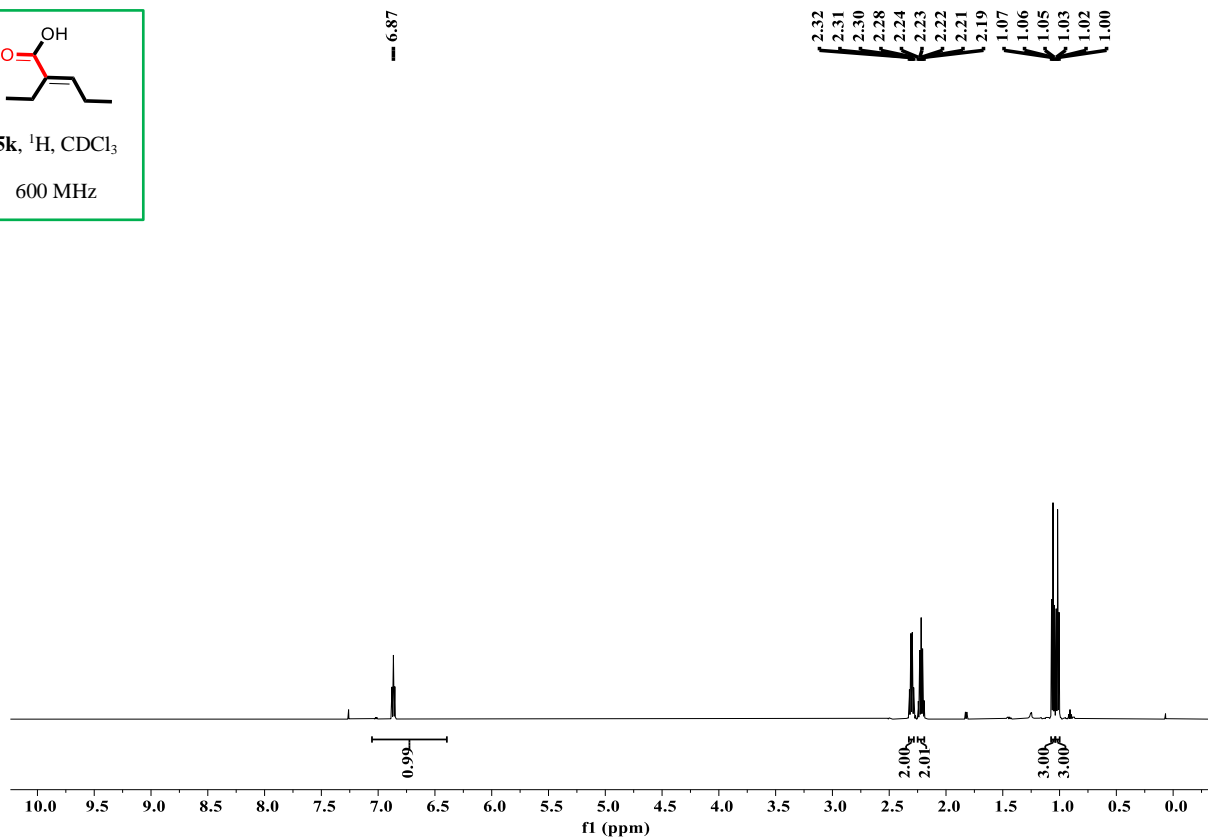
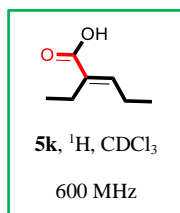
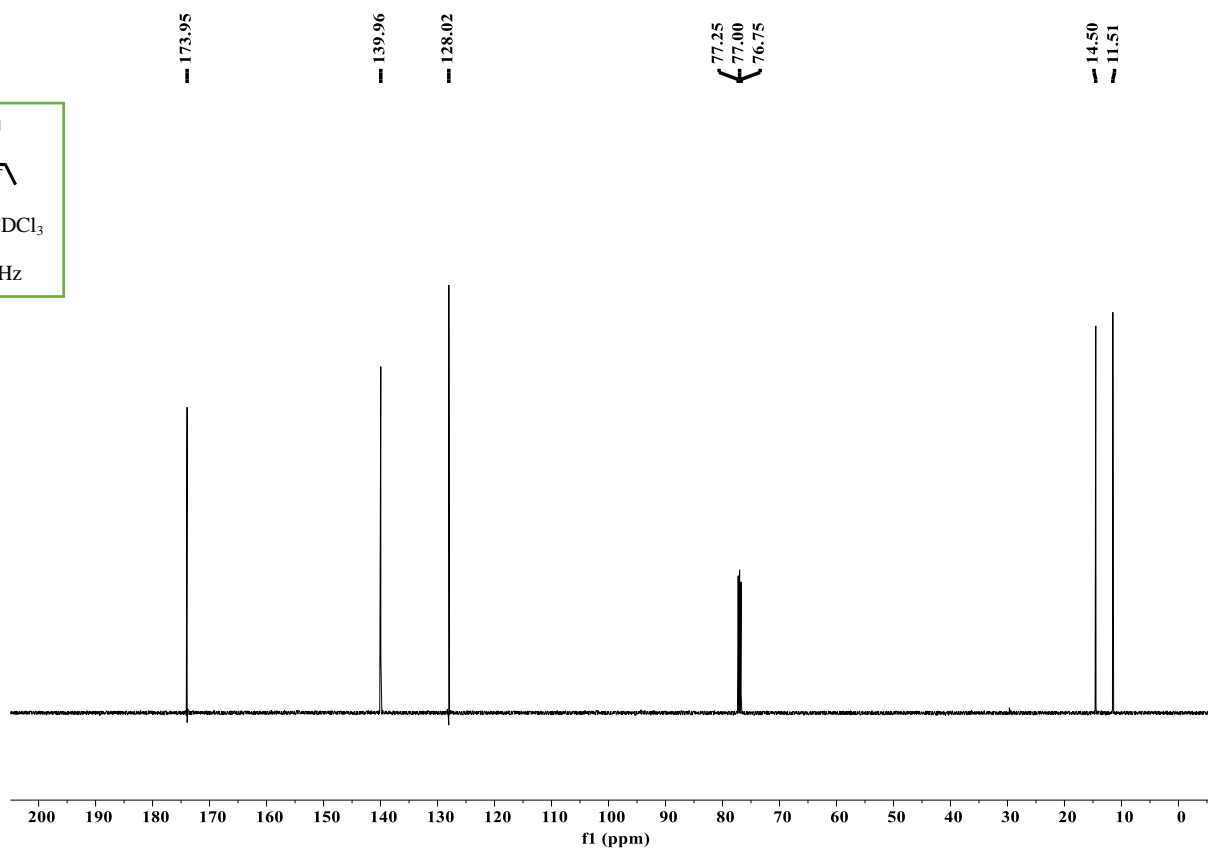
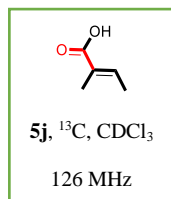


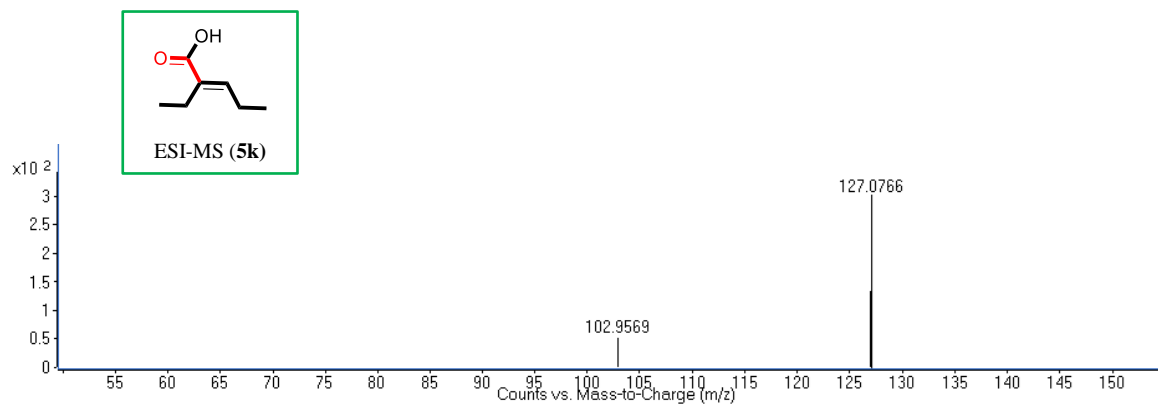
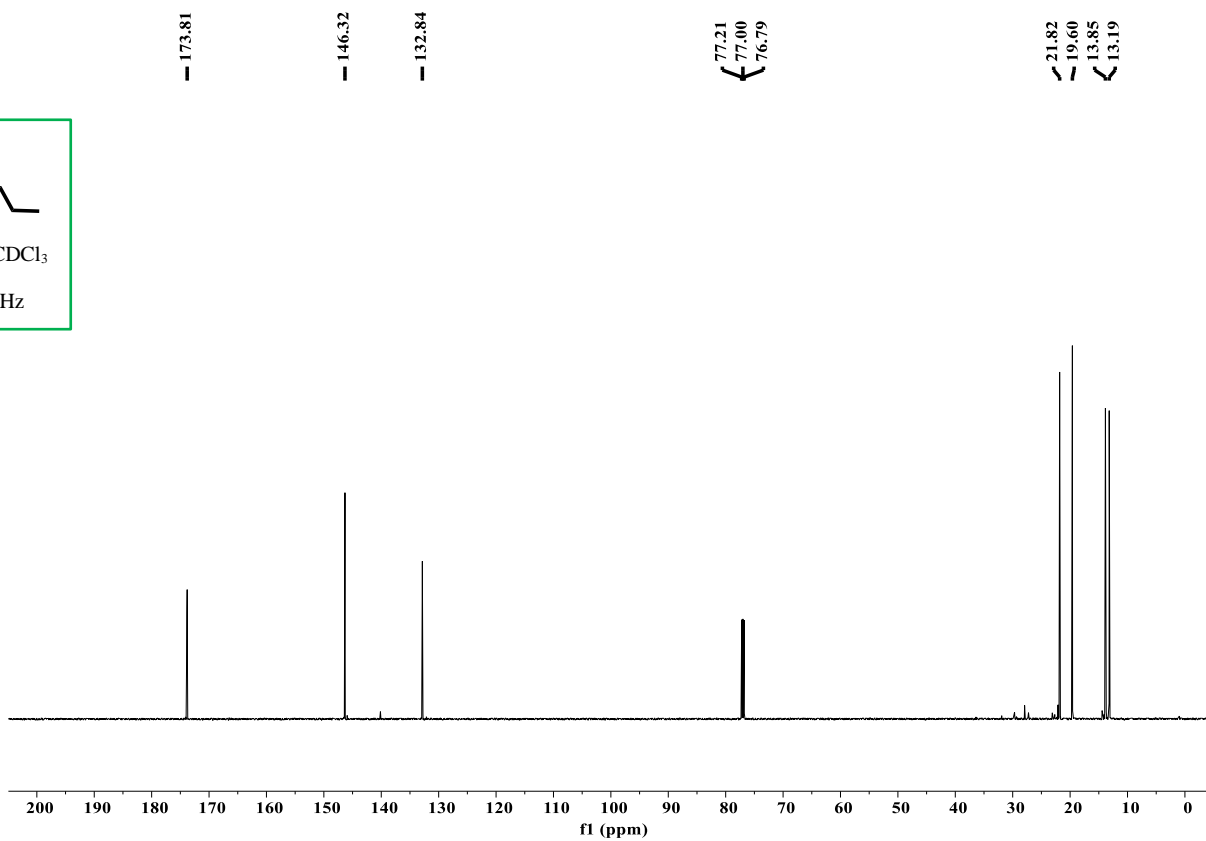
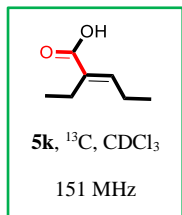


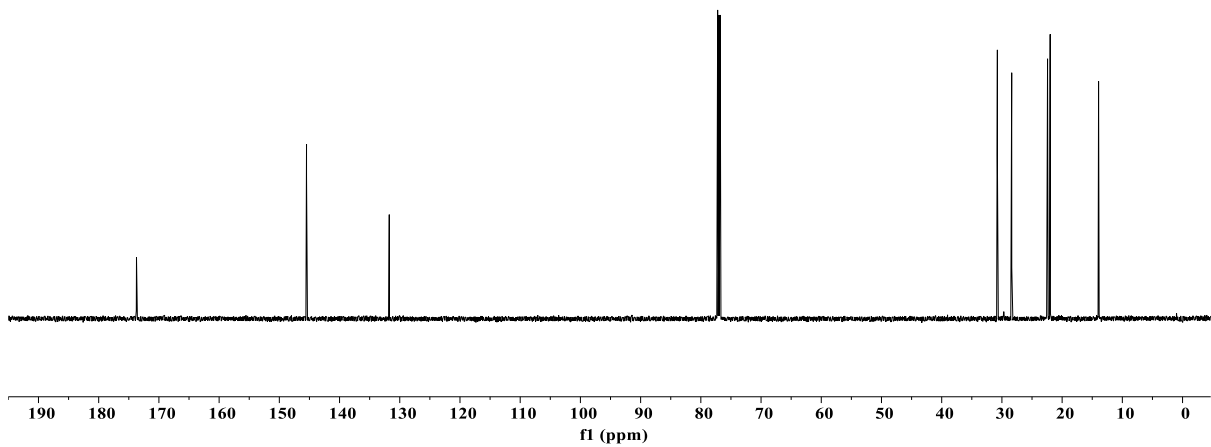
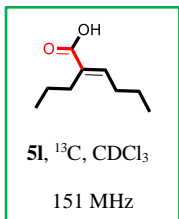
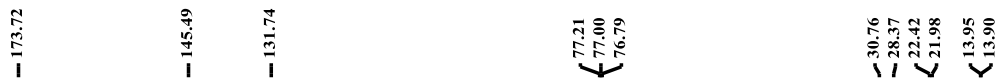
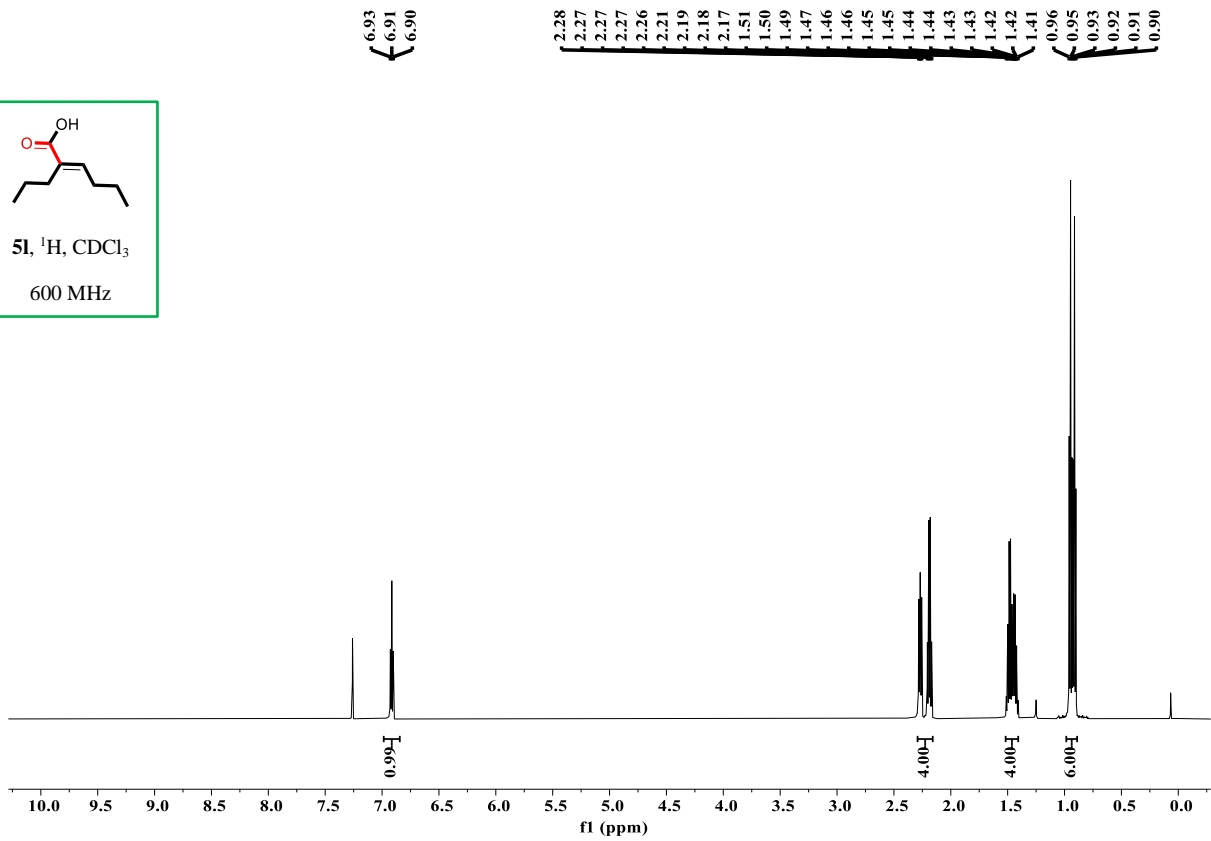
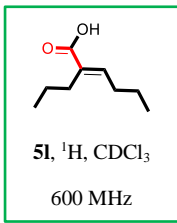


S105

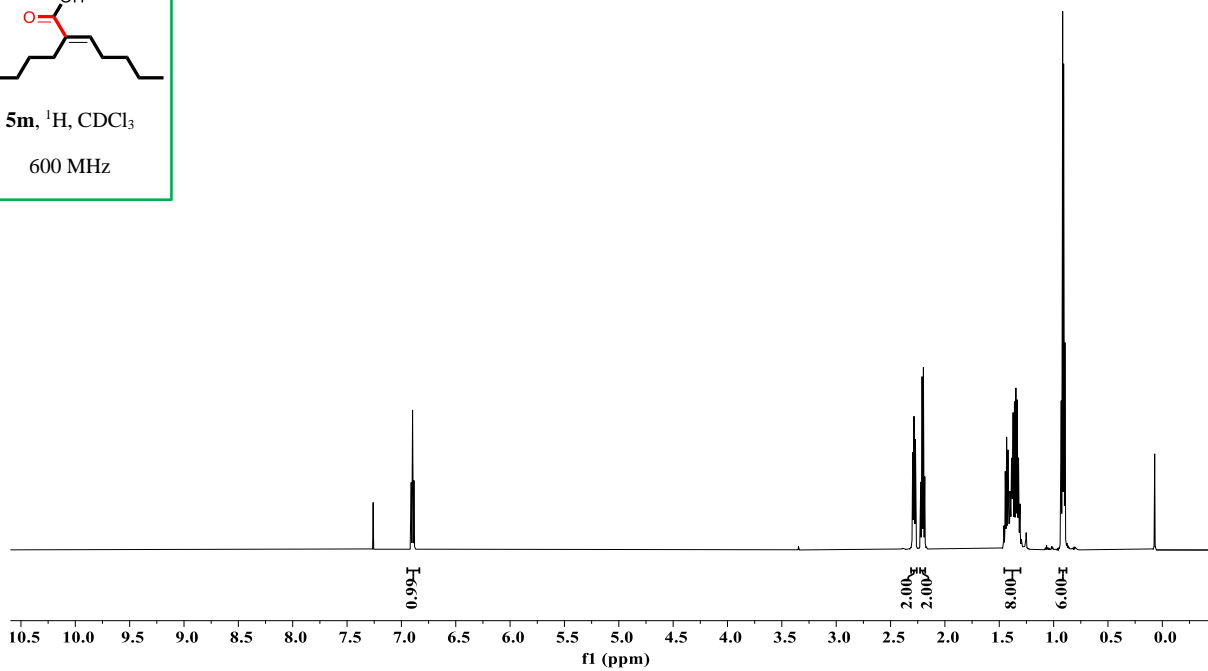
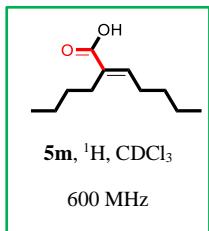




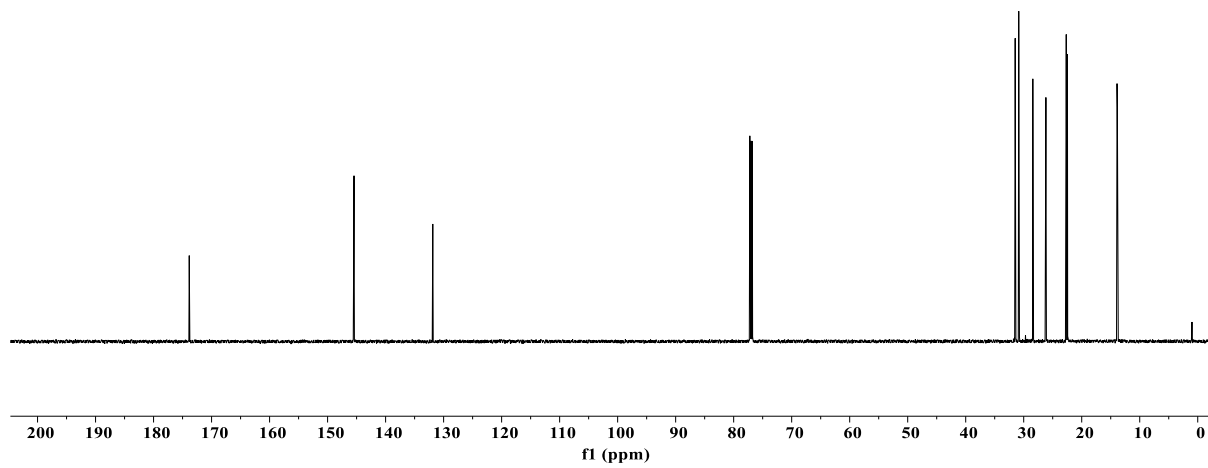
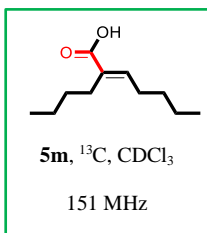


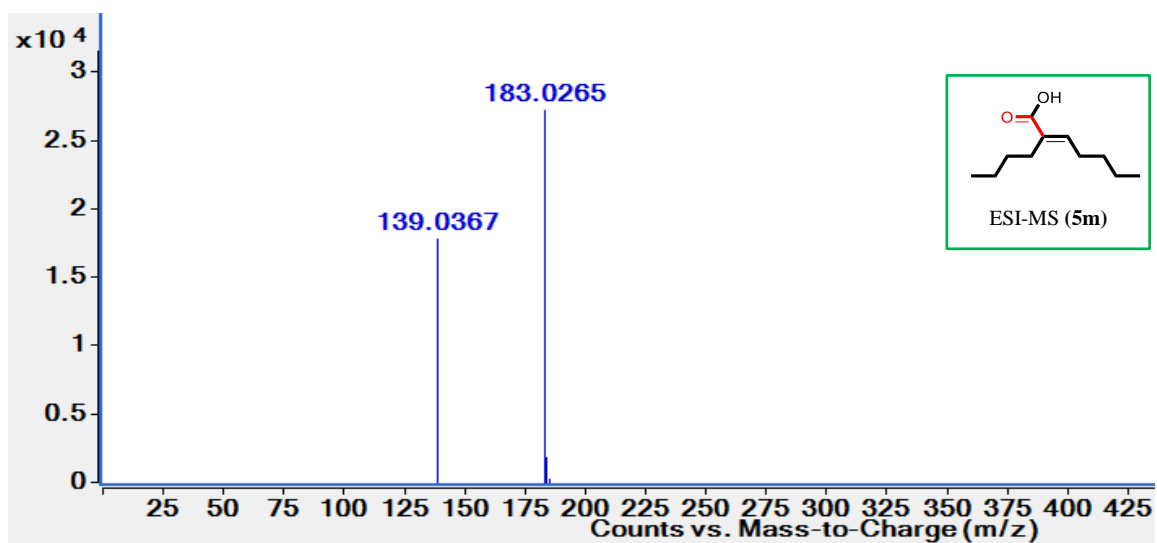


6.91
6.90
6.88
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1.45
1.44
1.43
1.43
1.42
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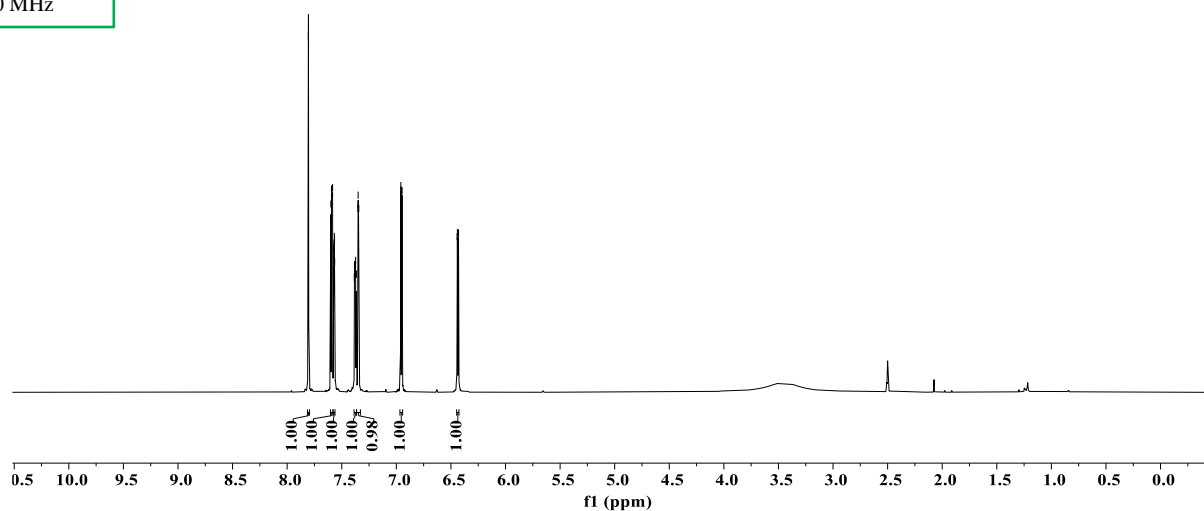
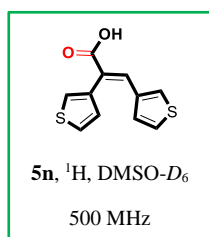


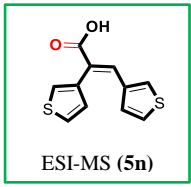
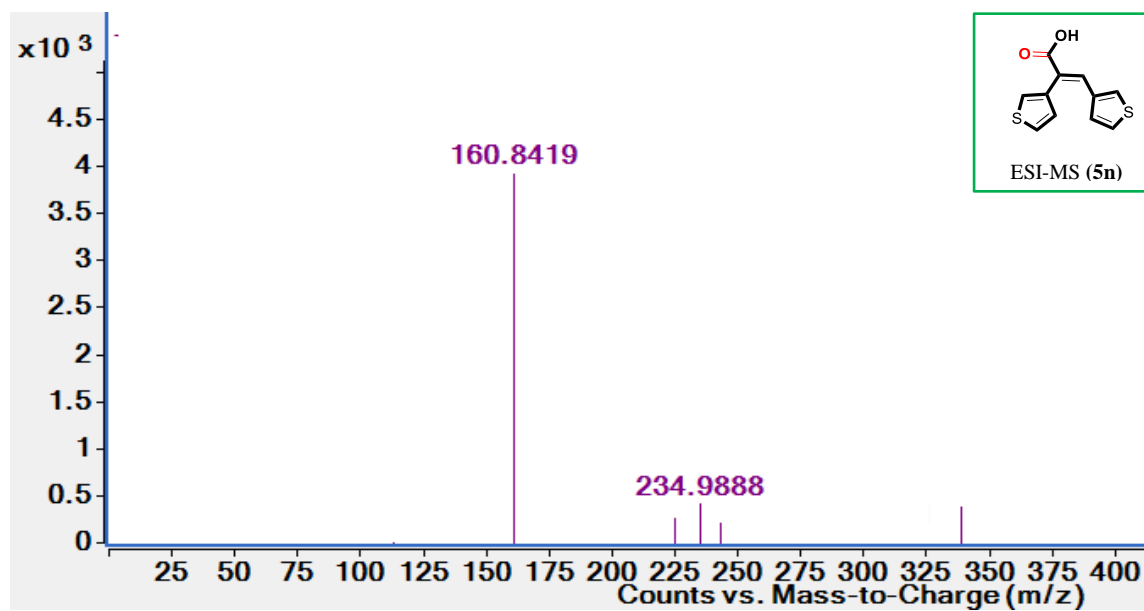
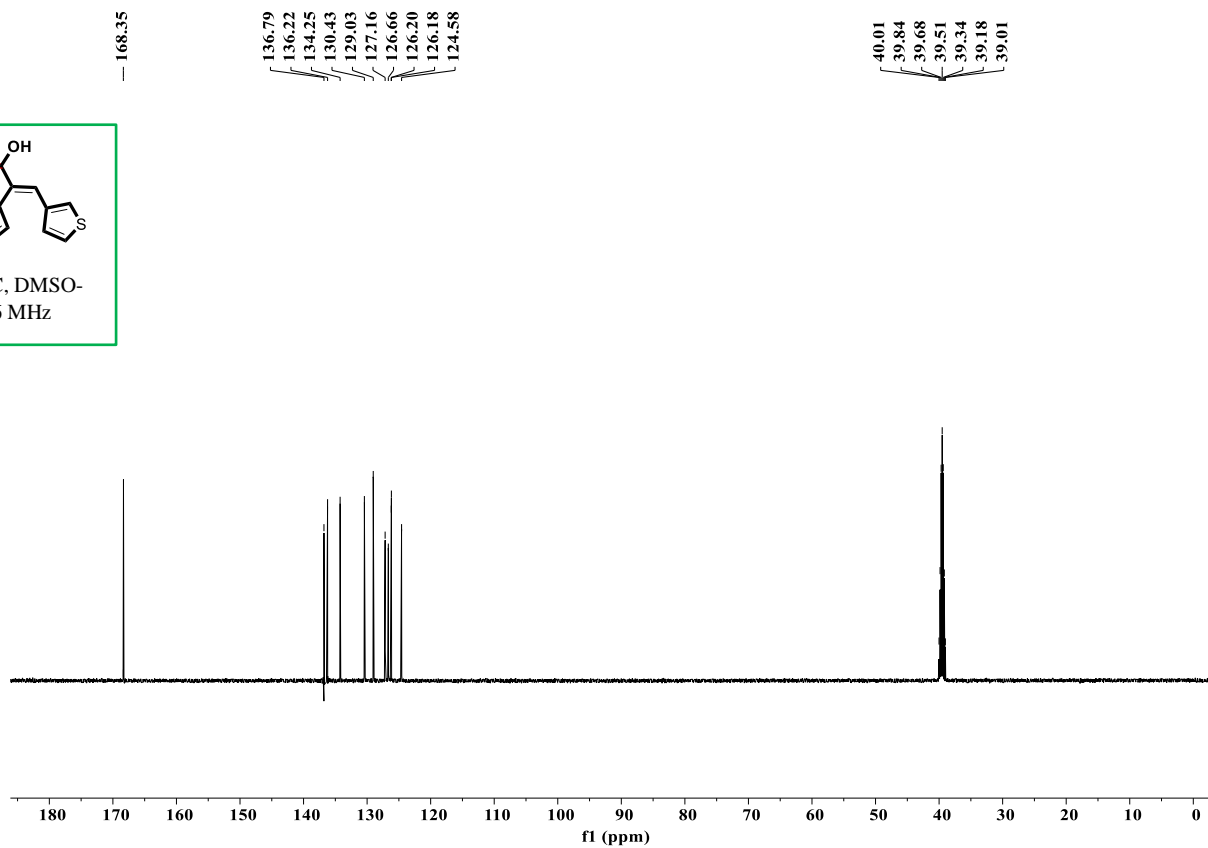
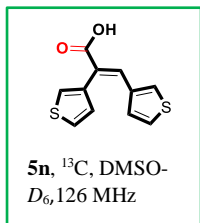
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76.79
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30.85
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26.18
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22.46
13.91
13.85

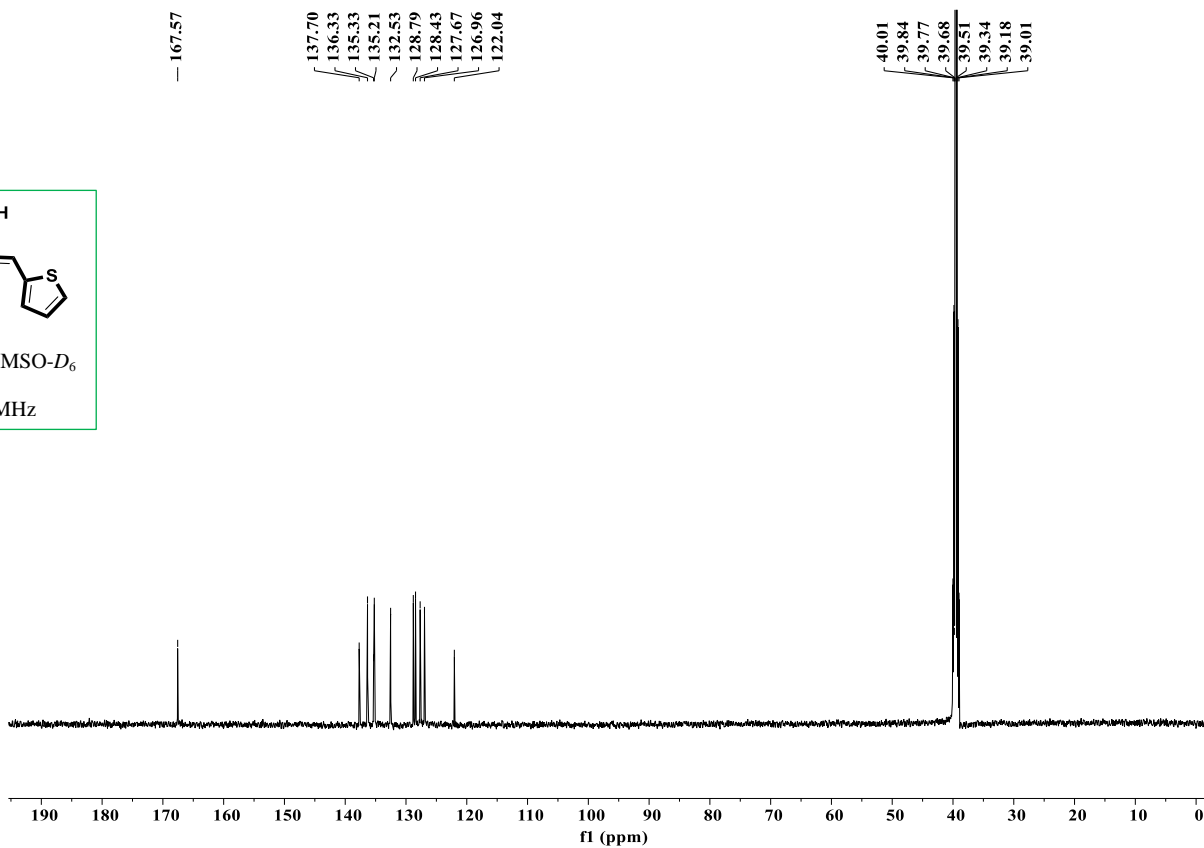
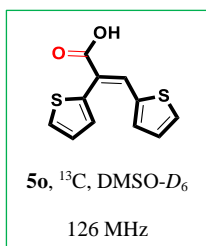
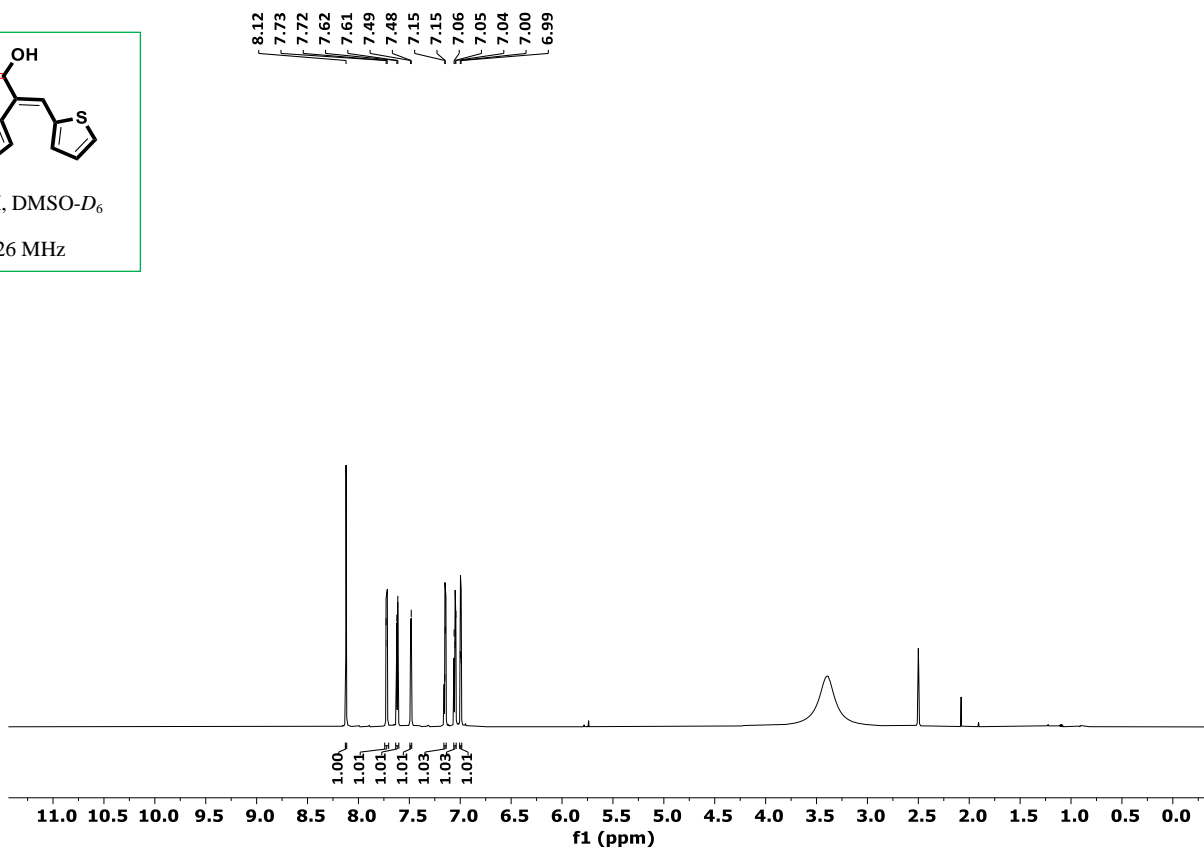
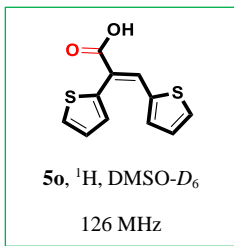


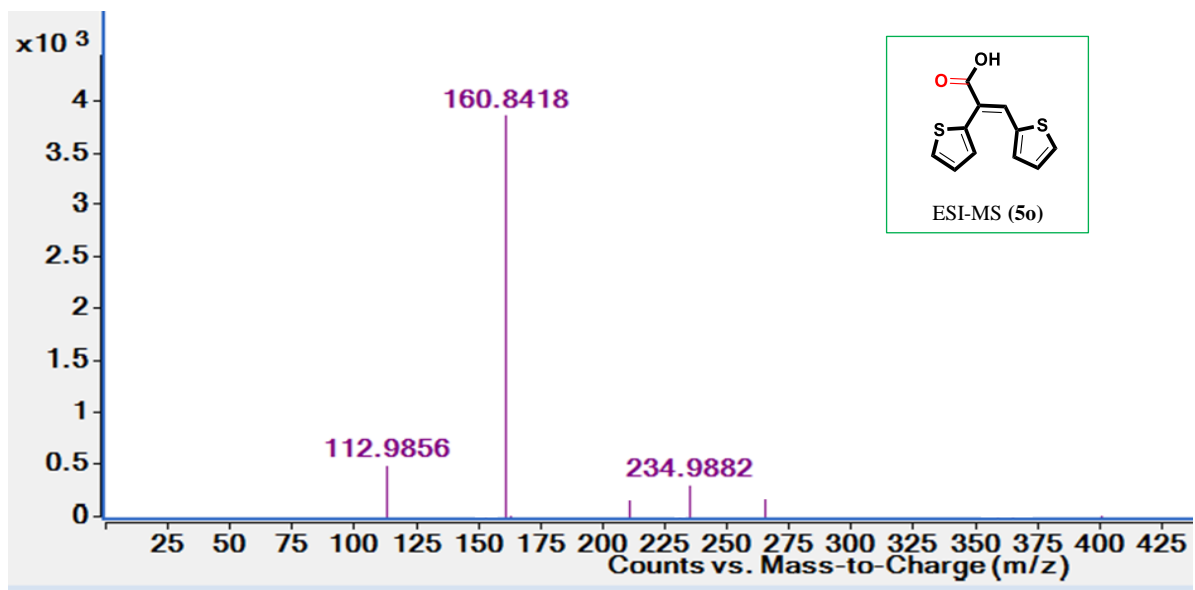


7.81
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6.43

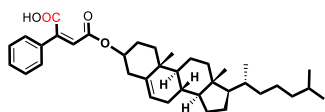




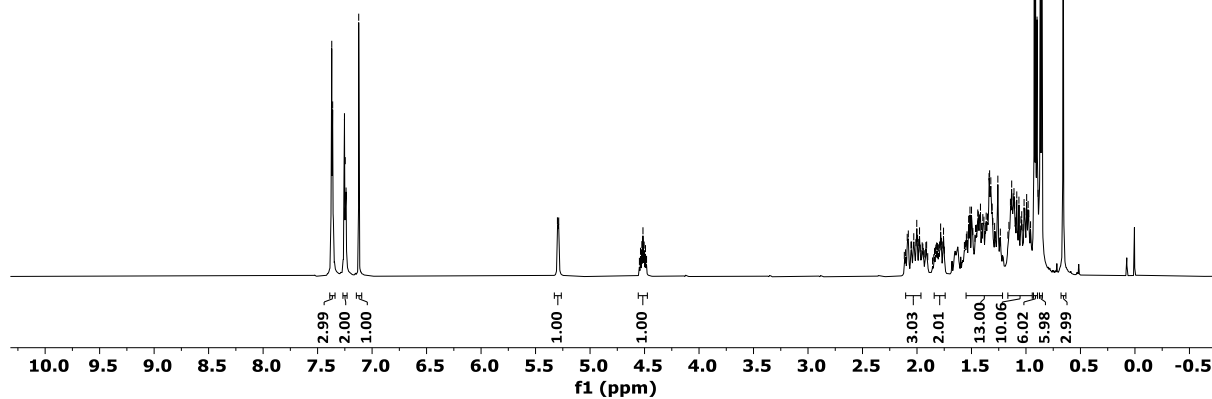




7.37
7.36
7.25
7.25
7.24
7.12
5.30
5.29
5.29
2.00
1.53
1.51
1.50
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1.44
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0.86
0.85
0.66



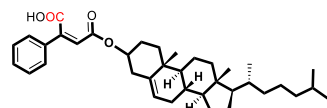
5p, ^1H , CDCl_3 , 500 MHz



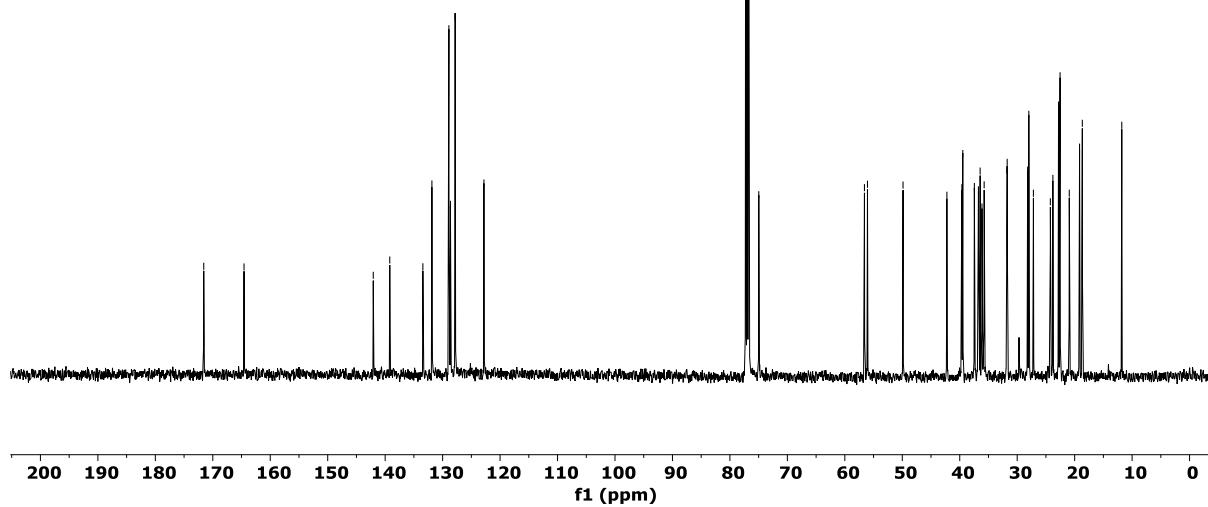
171.58
164.56

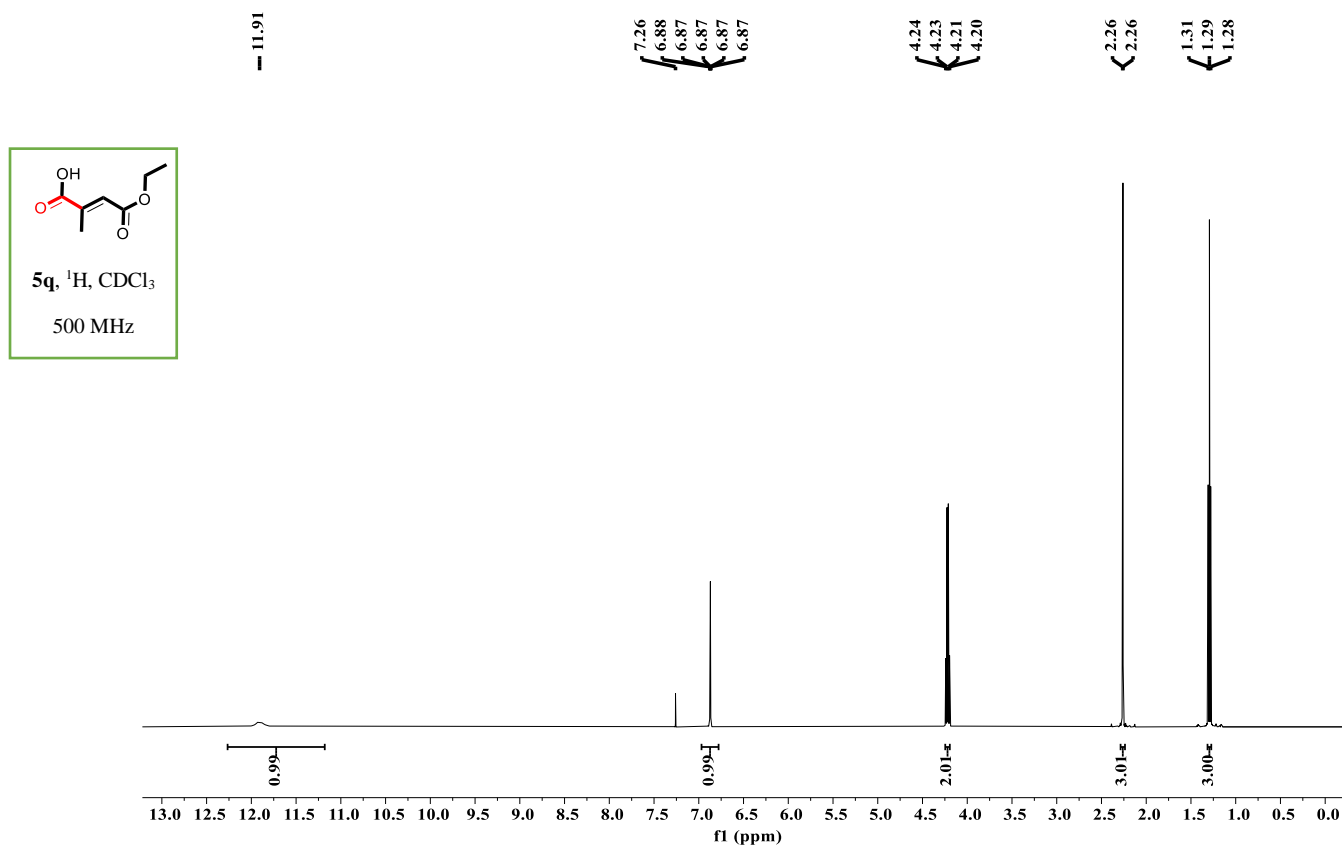
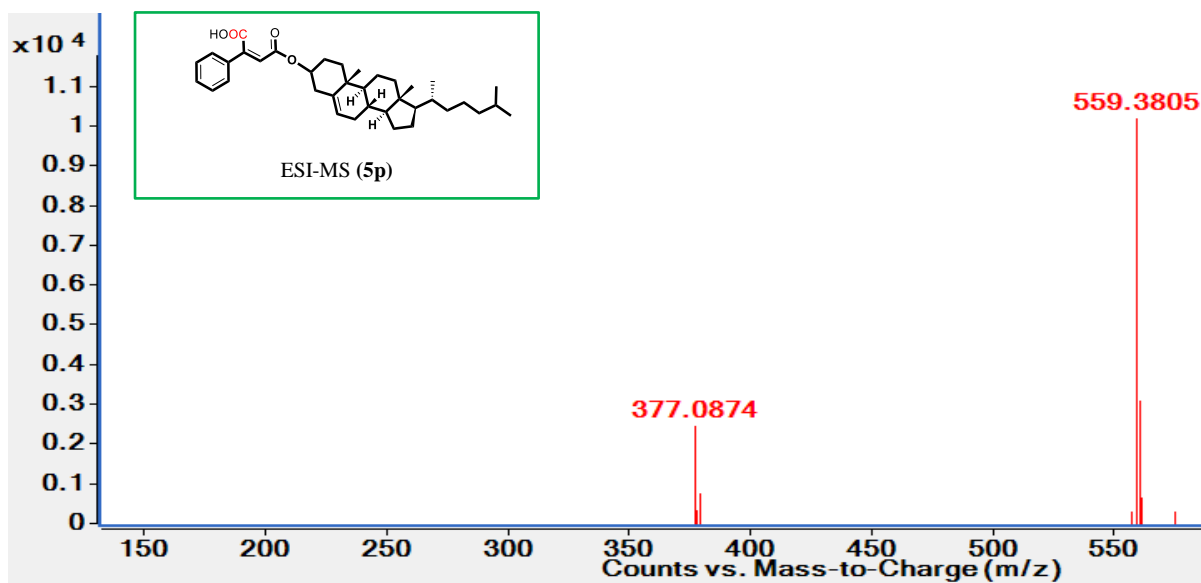
142.07
139.20
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131.86
128.91
128.64
127.82
122.81

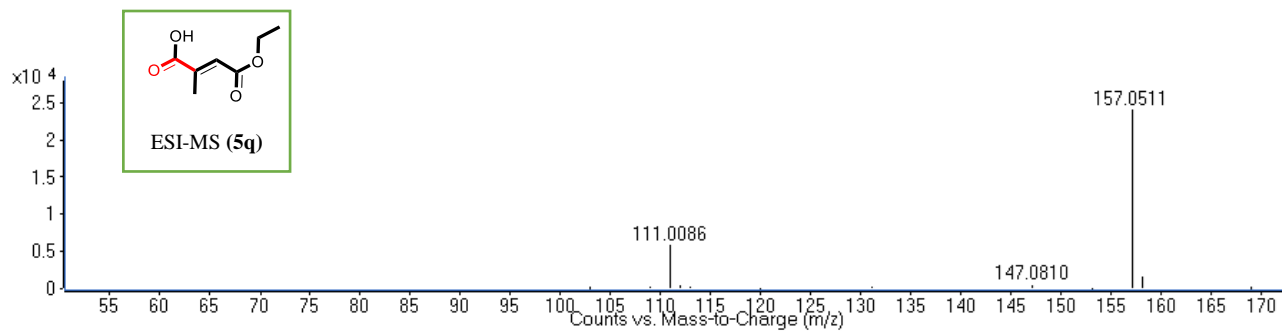
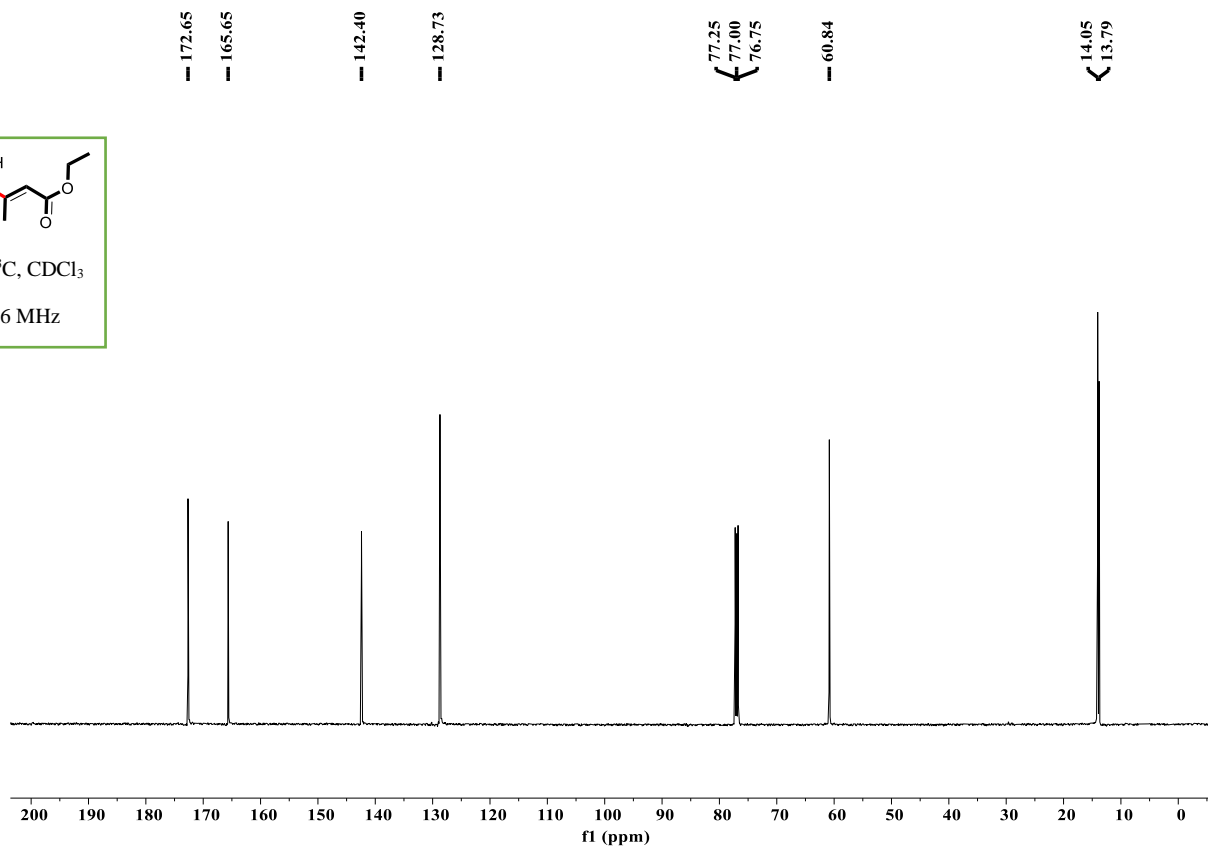
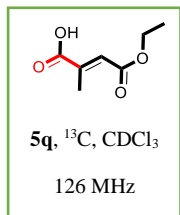
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74.97
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39.47
37.46
36.74
36.45
36.13
35.75
31.80
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23.79
22.80
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20.94
19.15
18.67
11.80

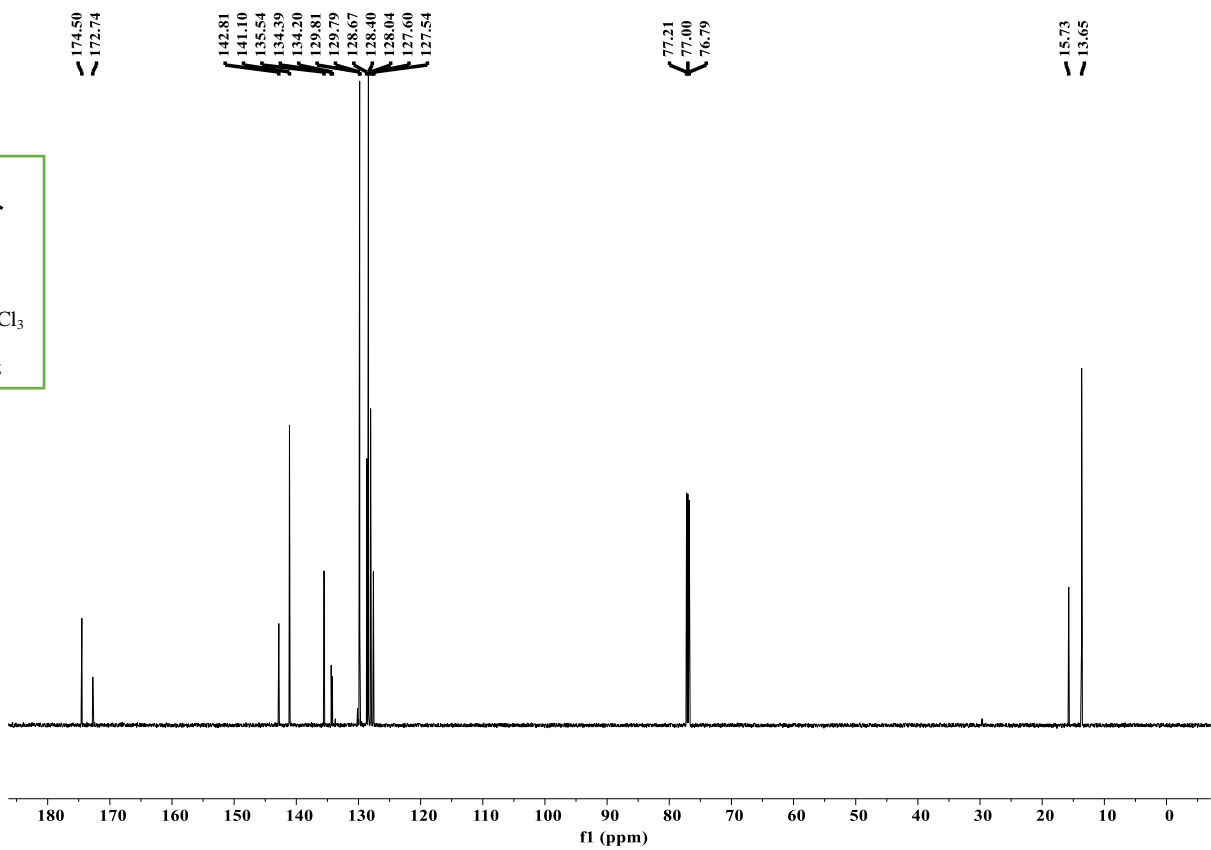
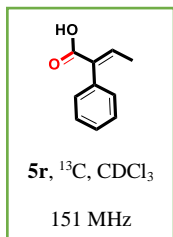
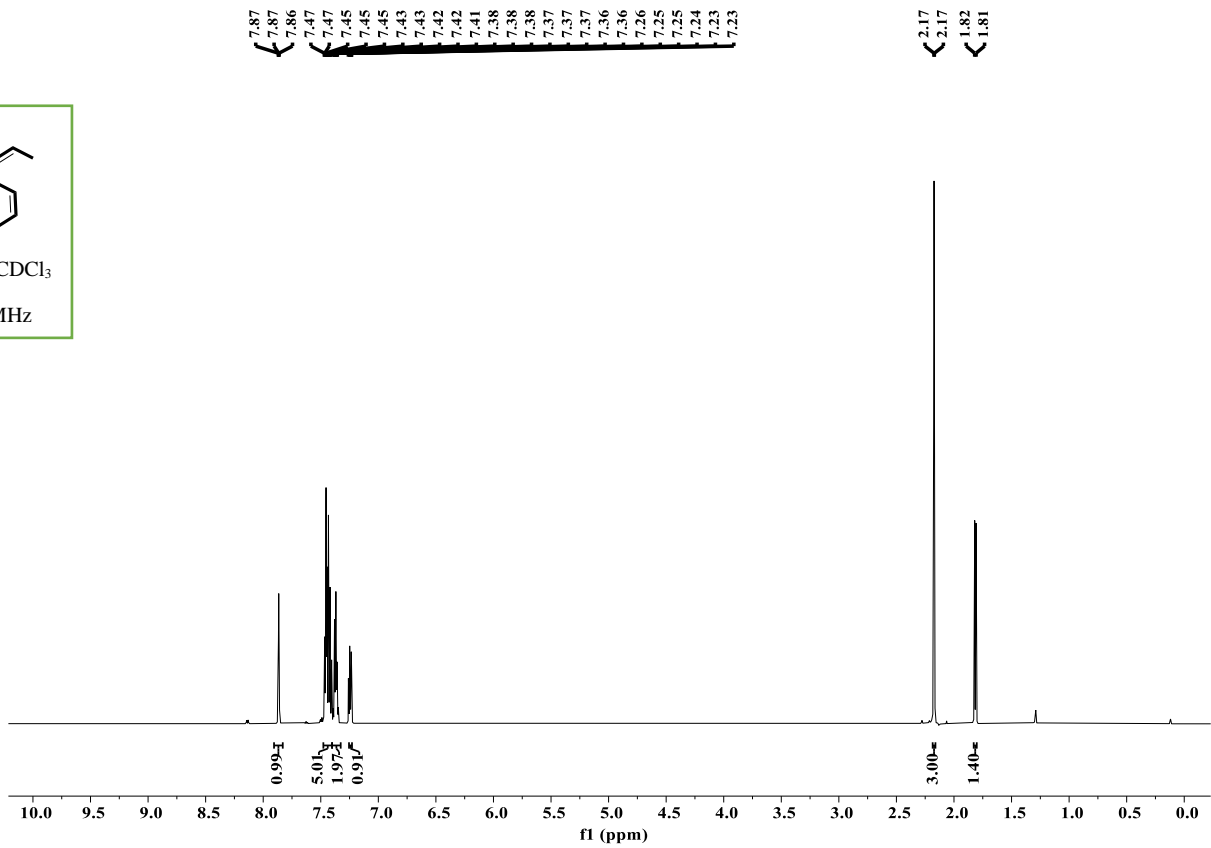
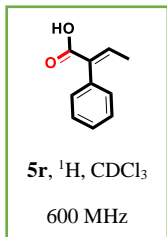


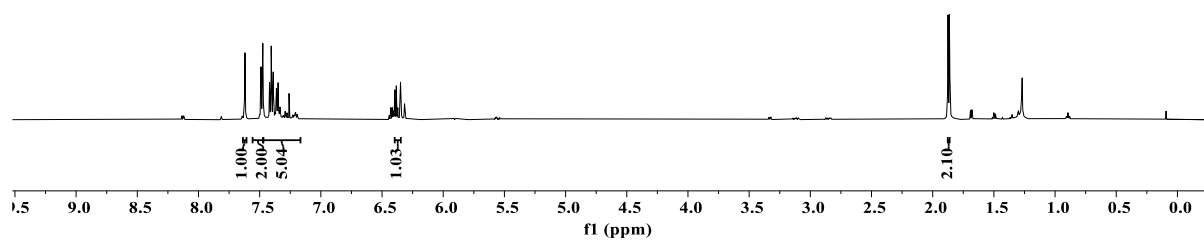
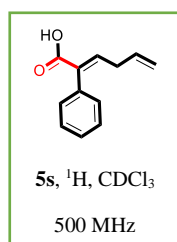
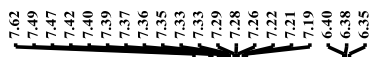
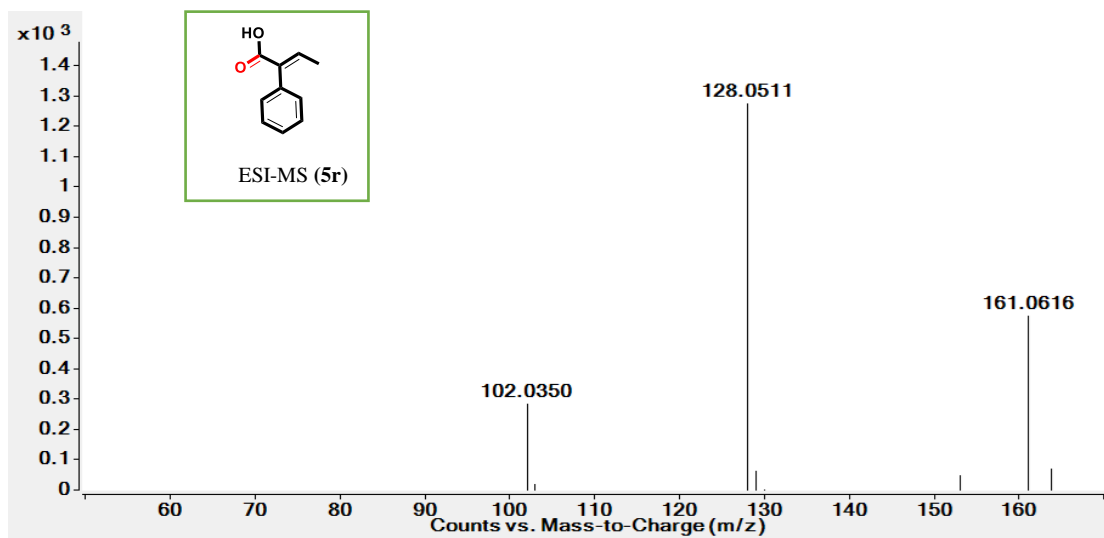
5p, ^{13}C , CDCl_3 , 126 MHz

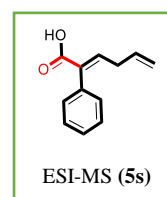
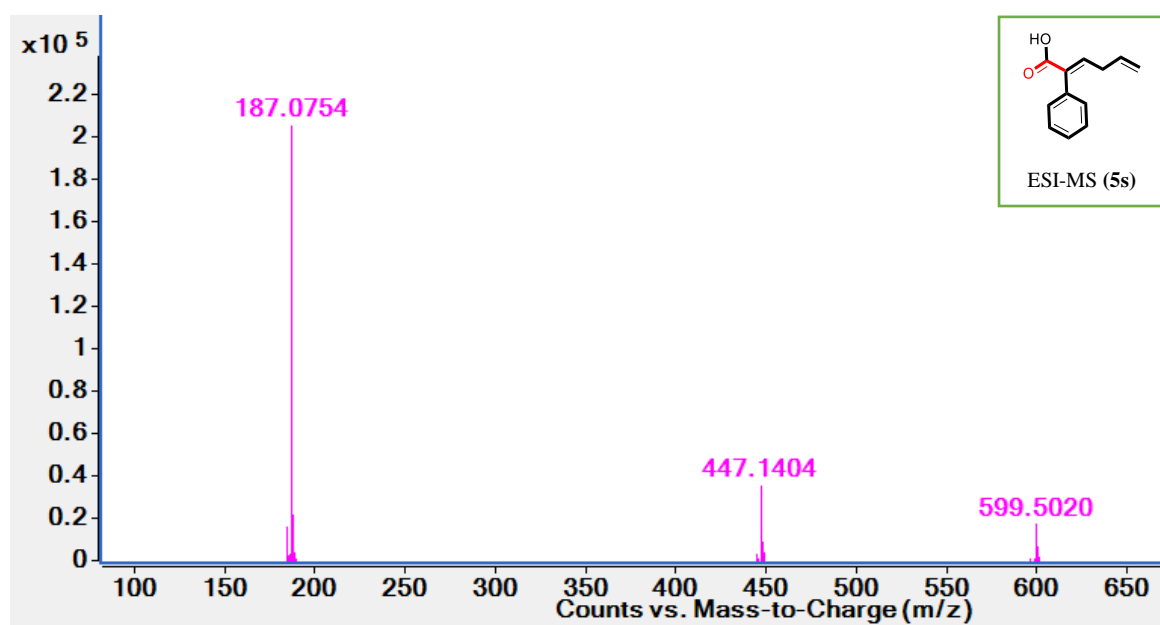
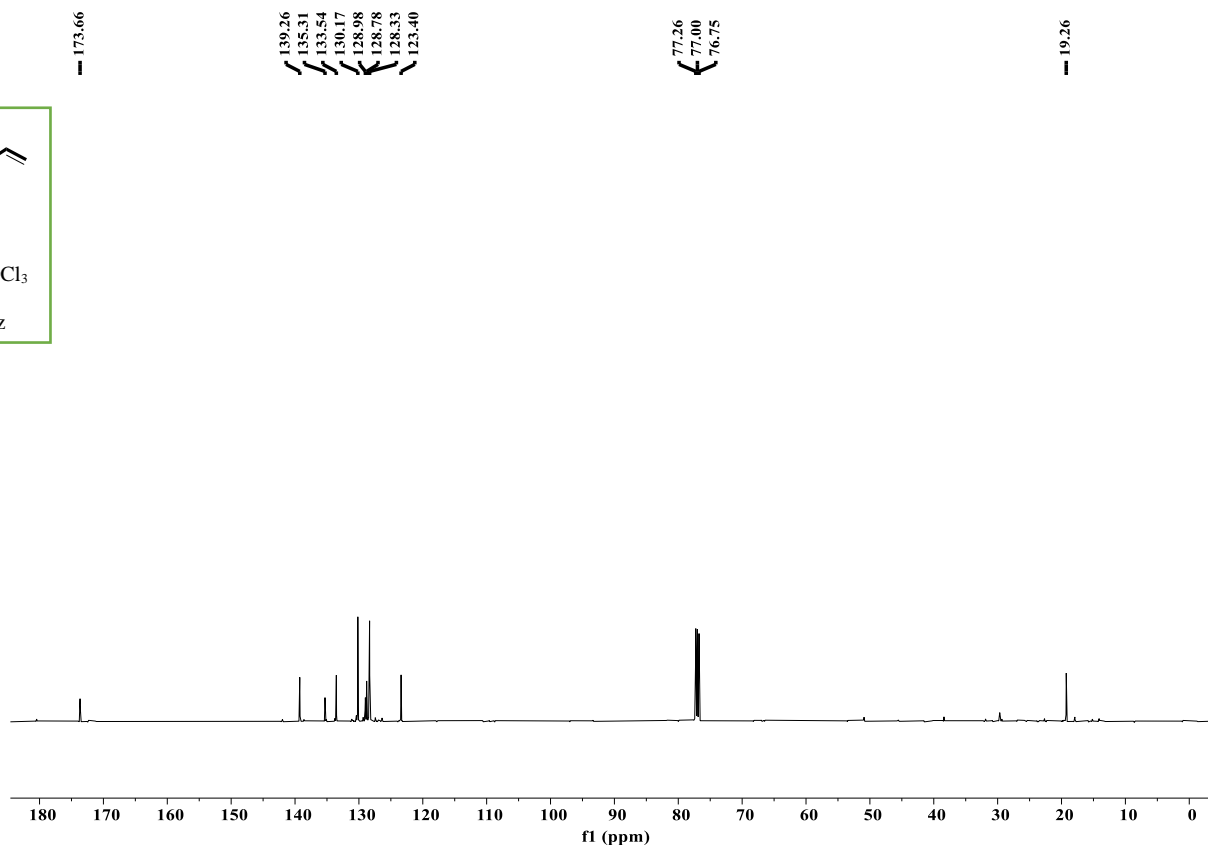
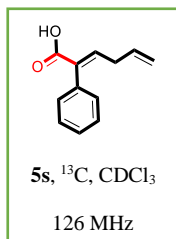


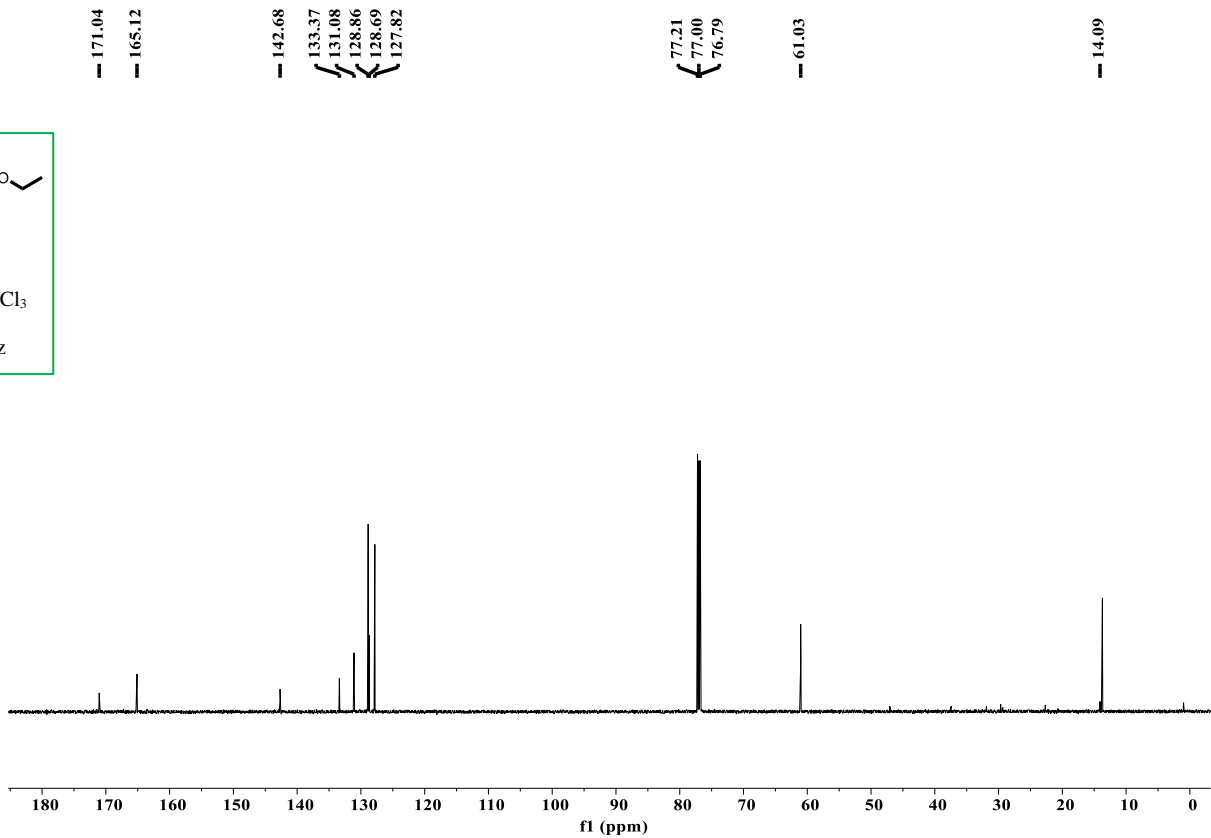
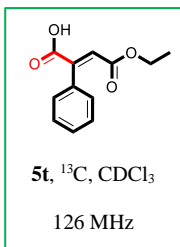
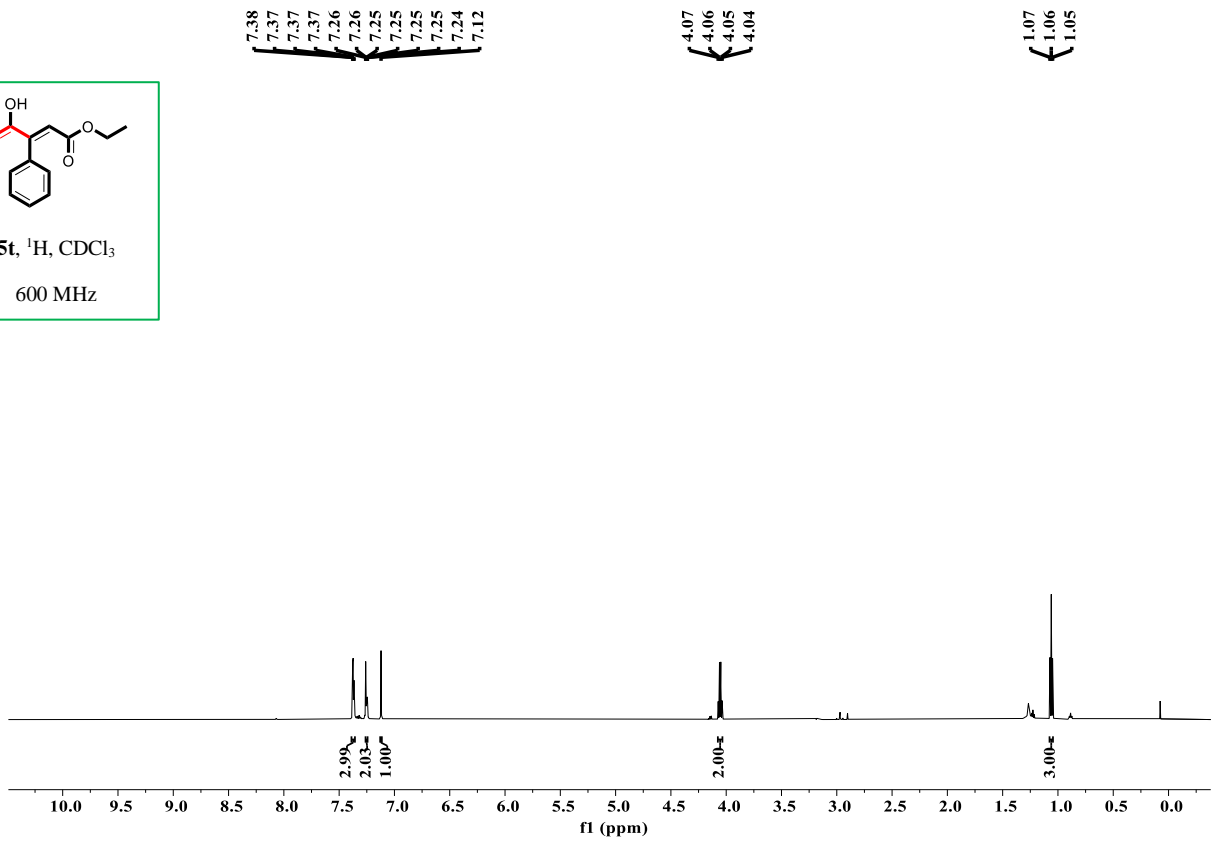
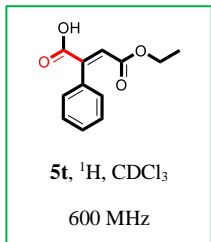


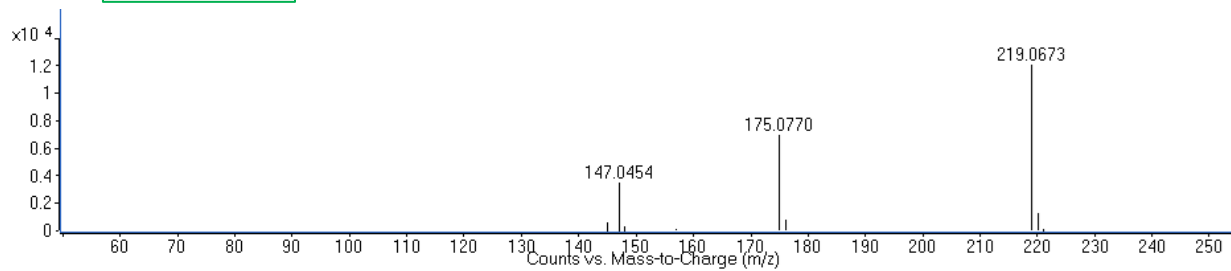
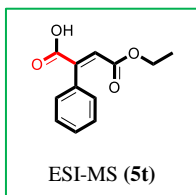




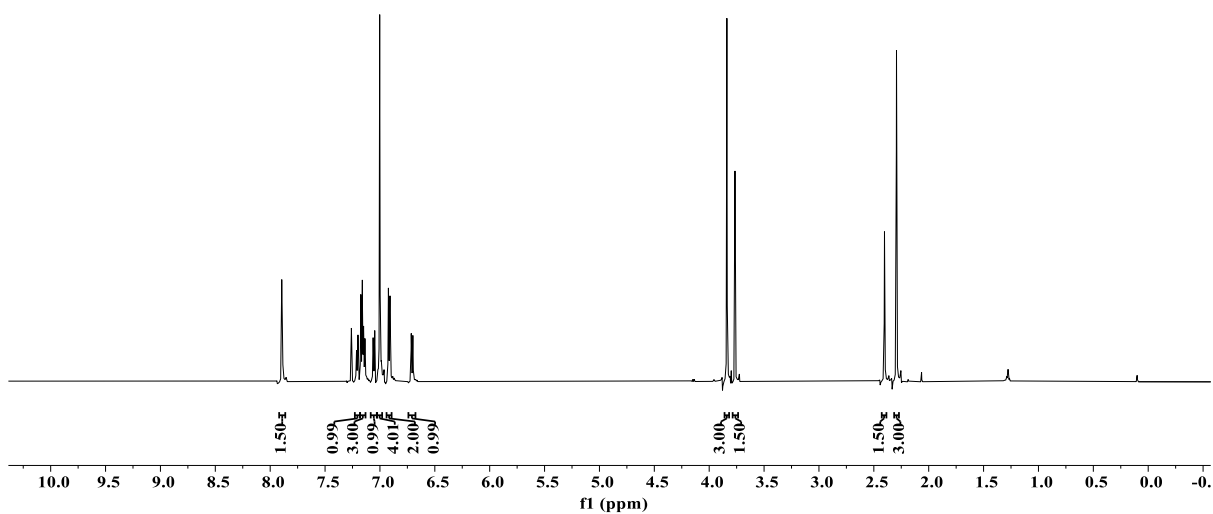
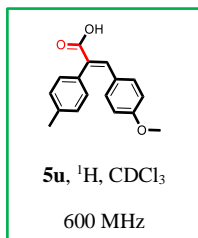


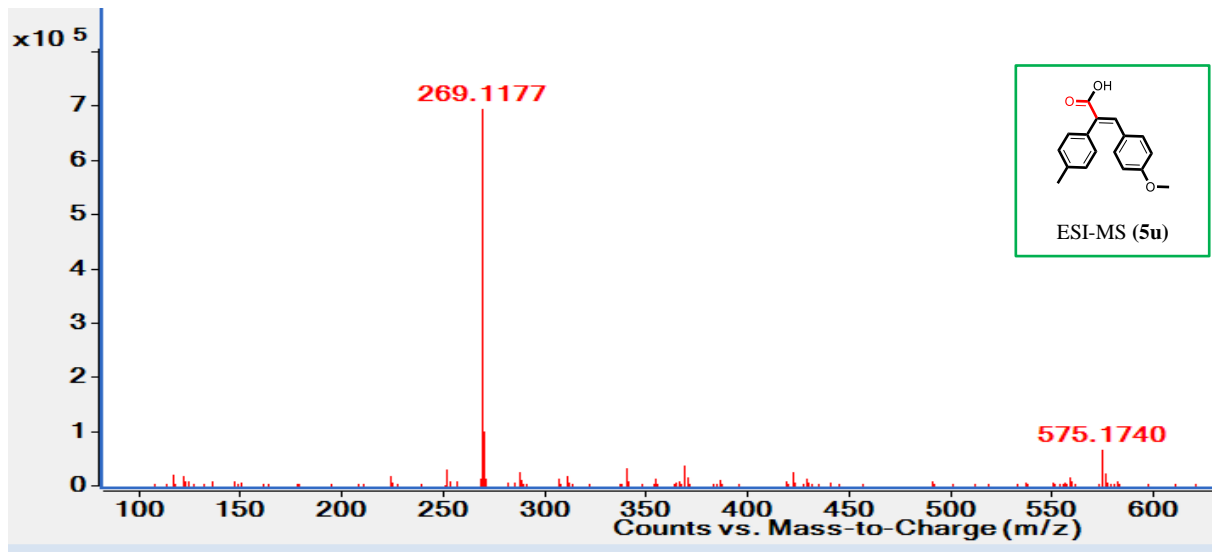
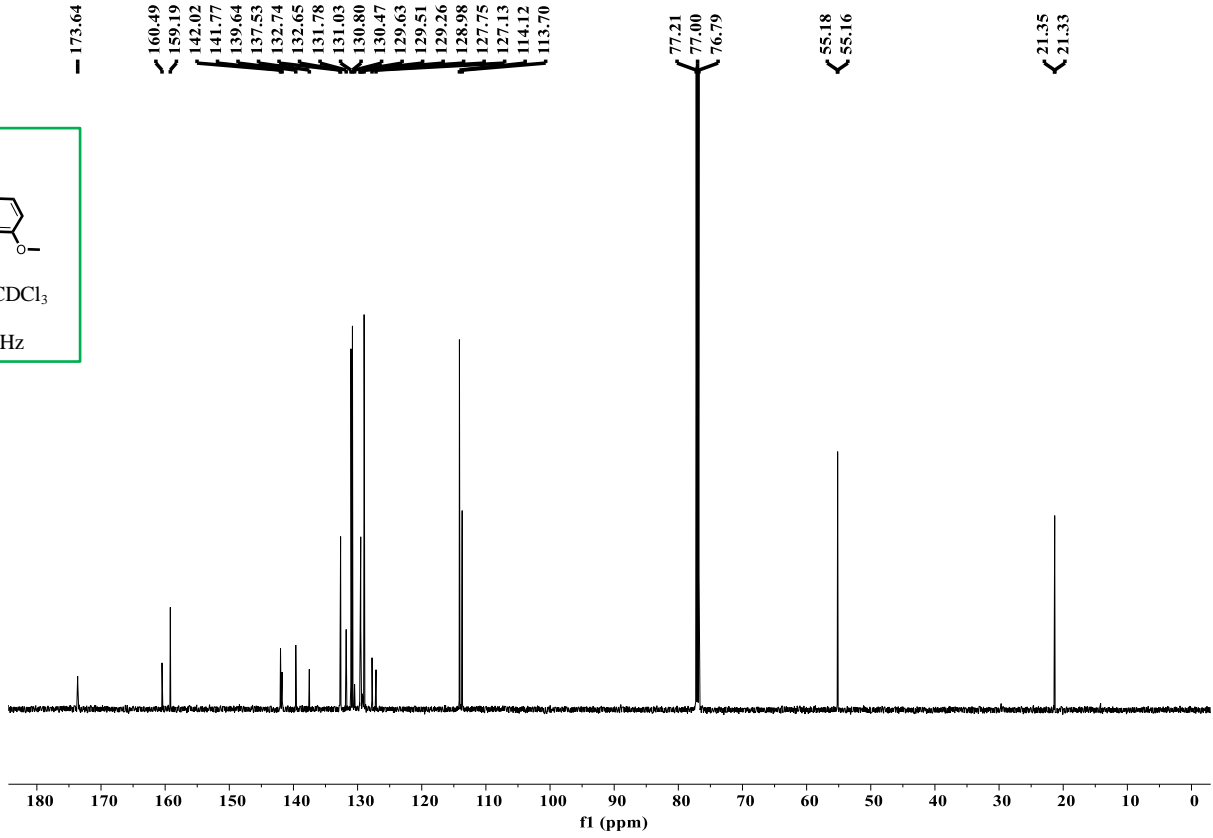
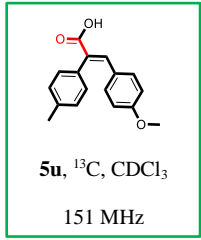


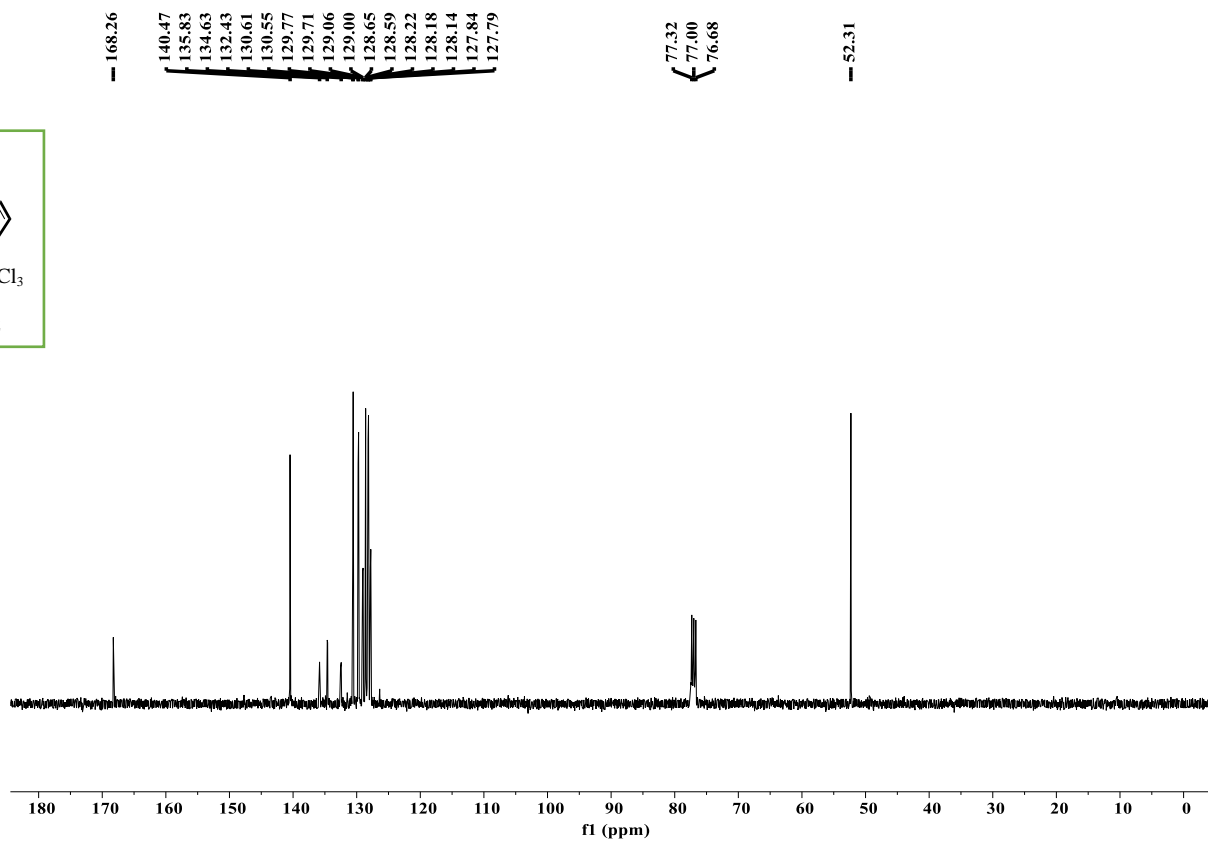
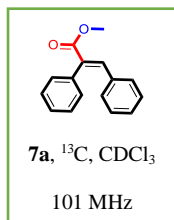
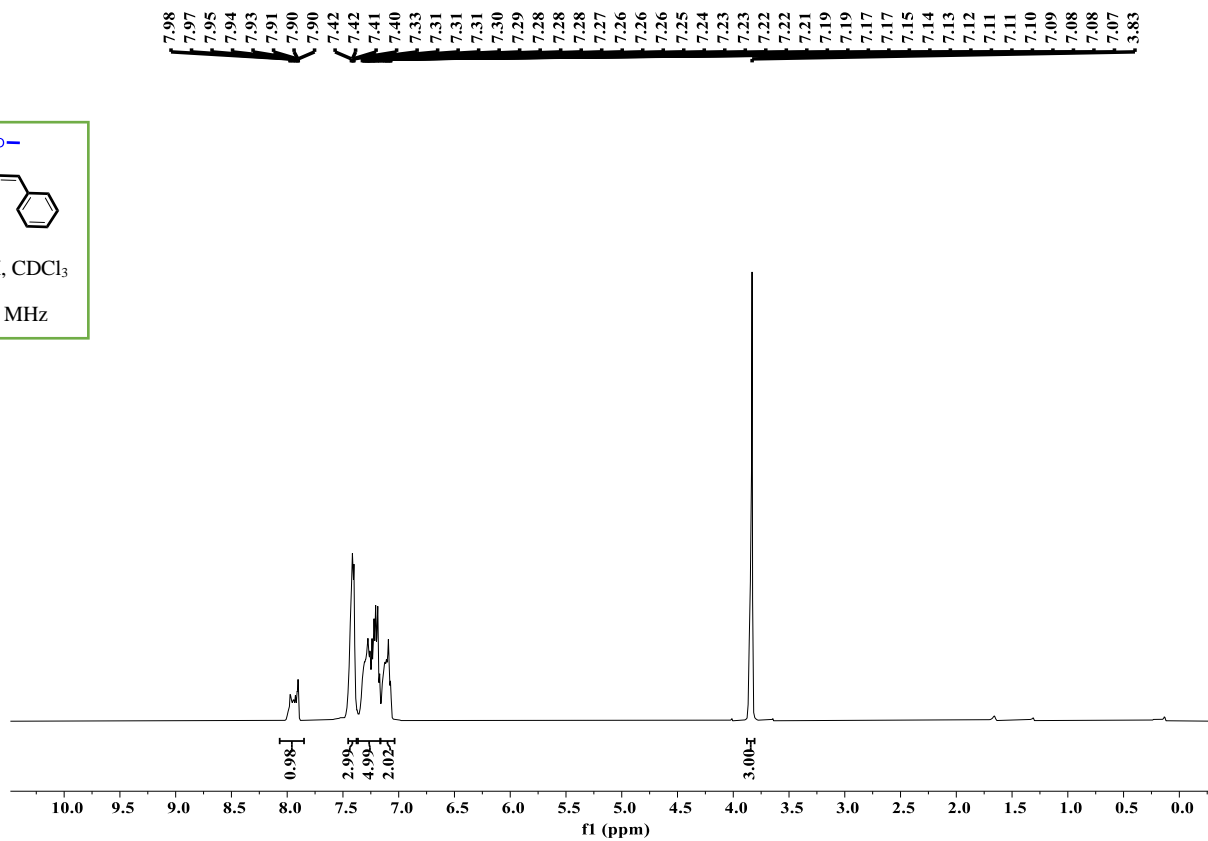
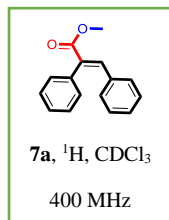


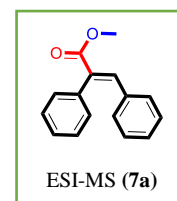
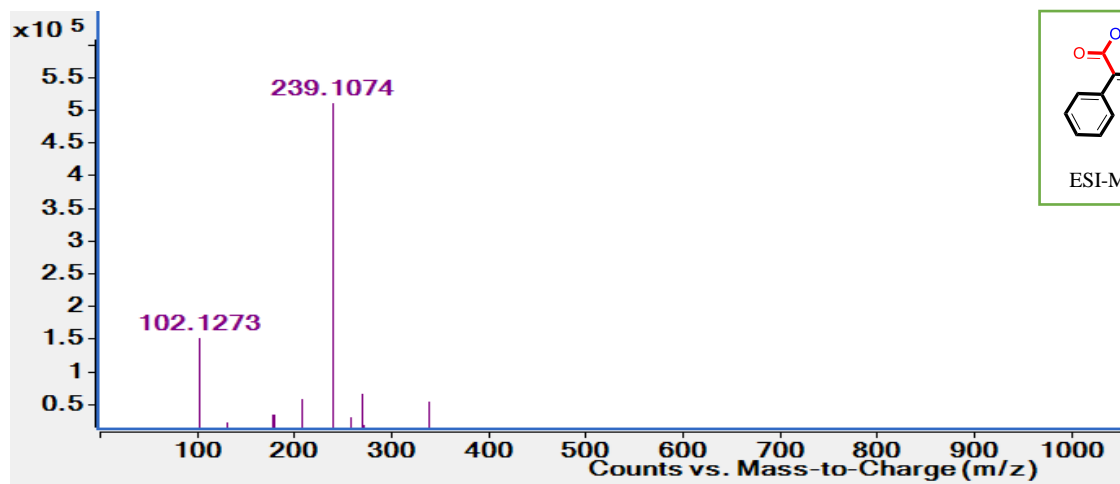


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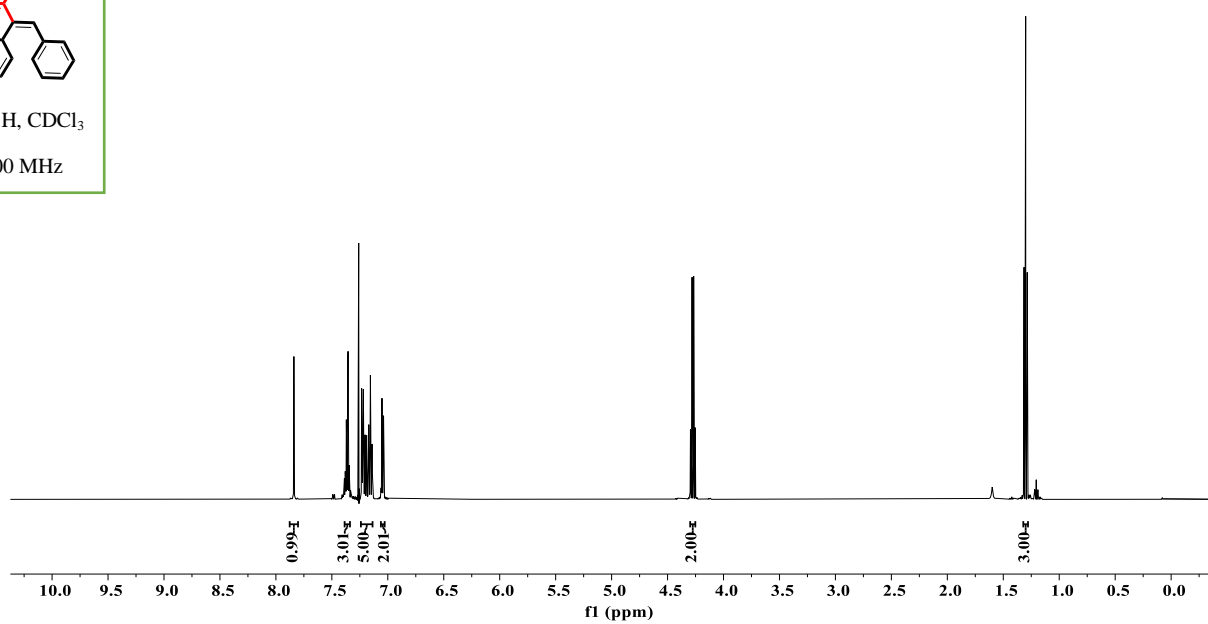
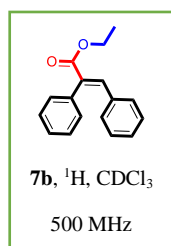


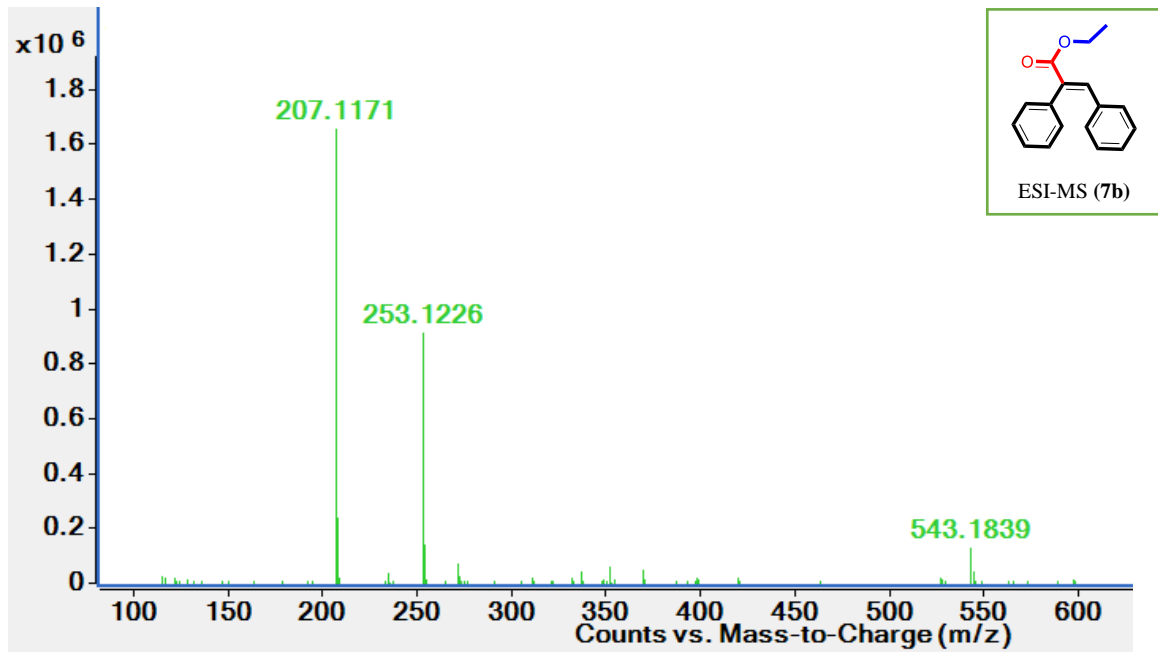
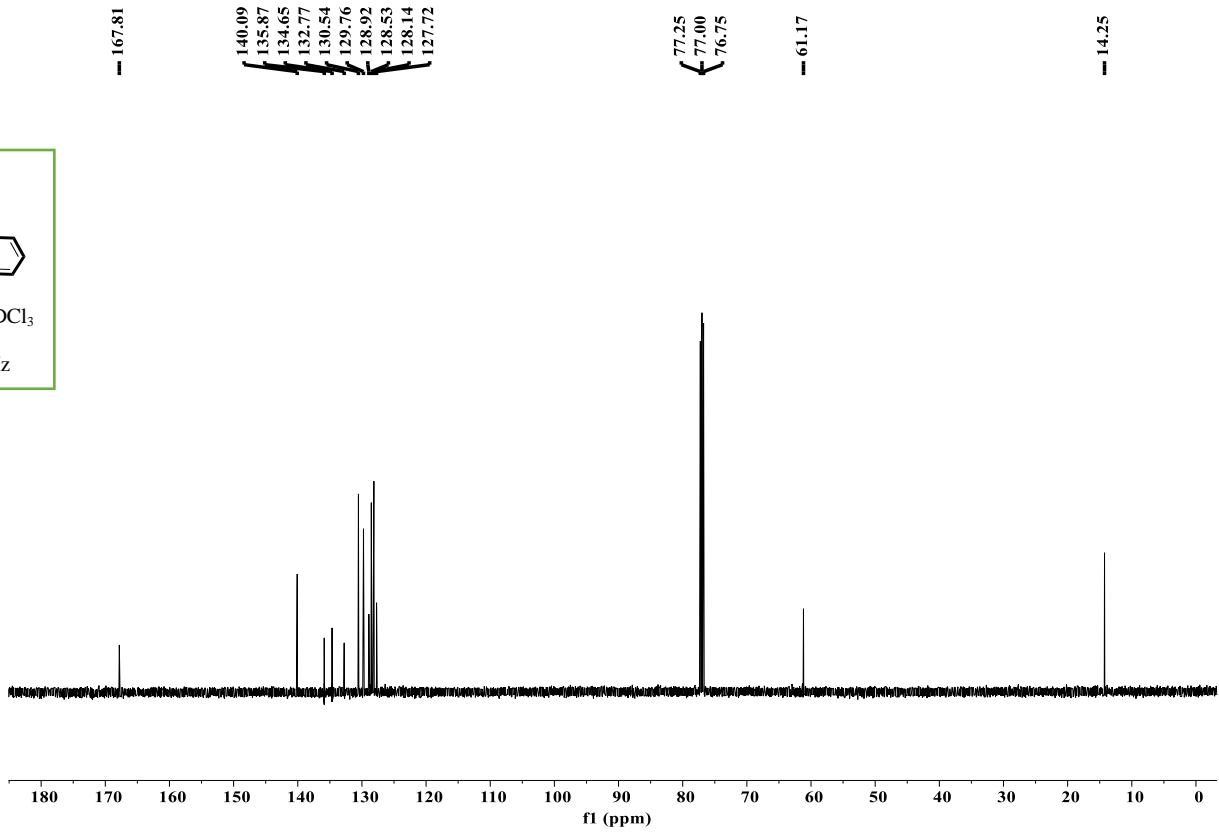
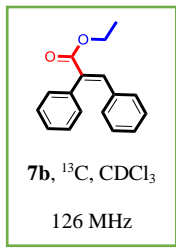




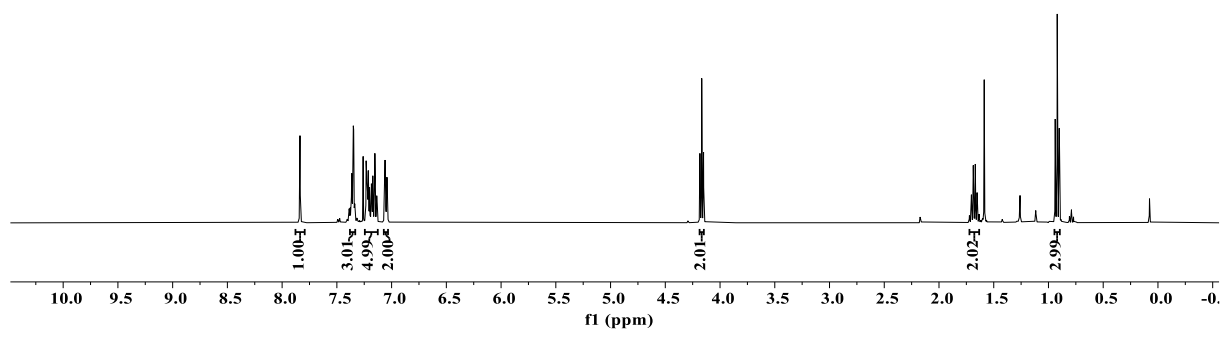
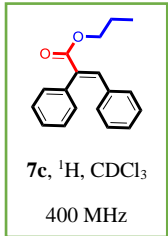


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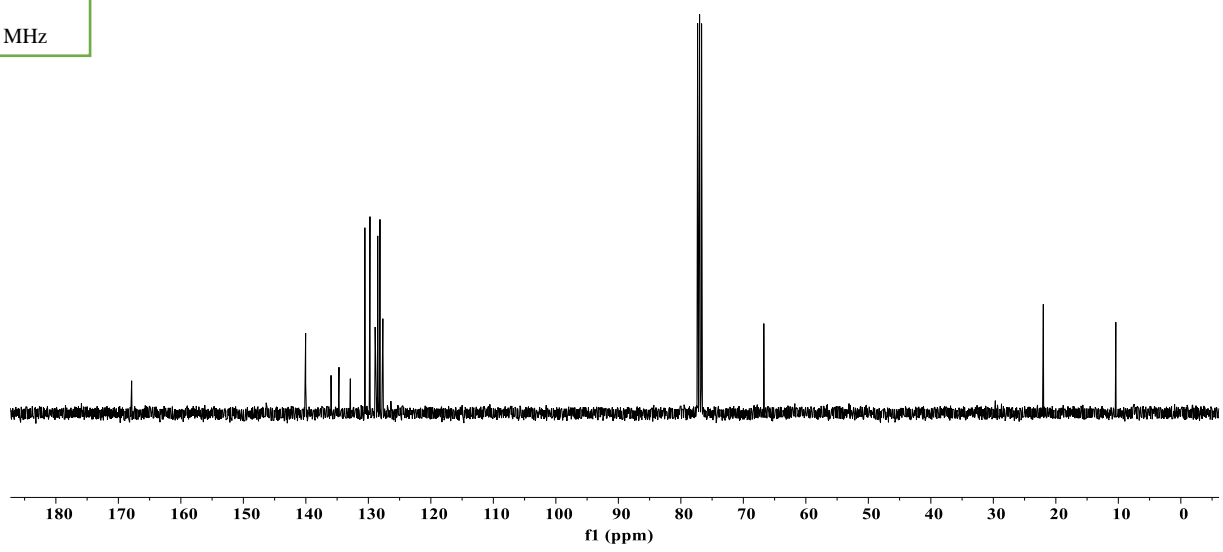
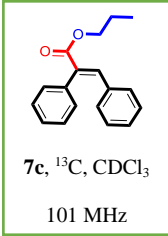


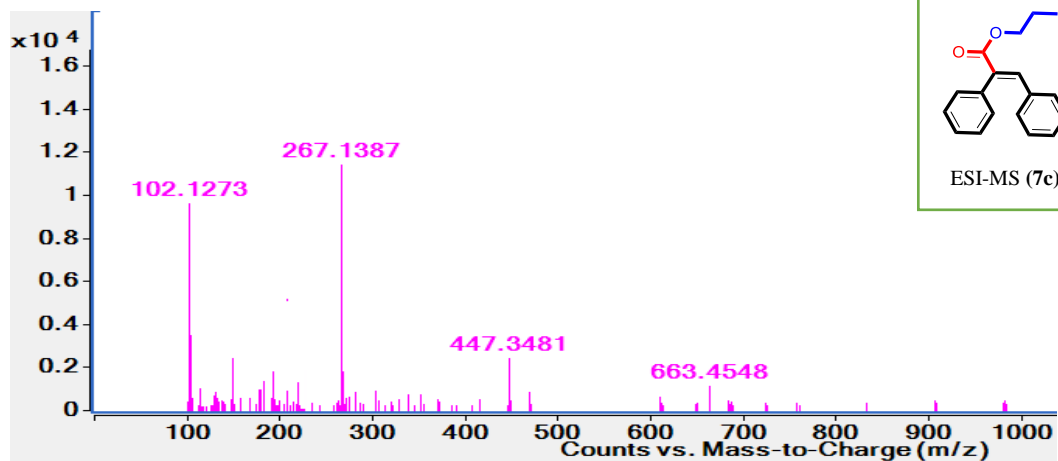


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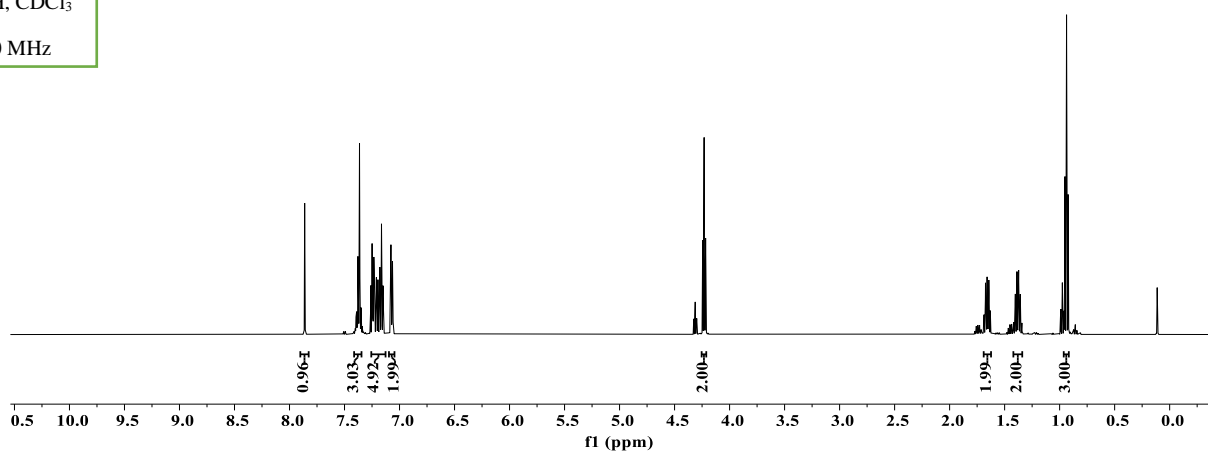
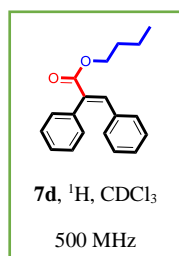


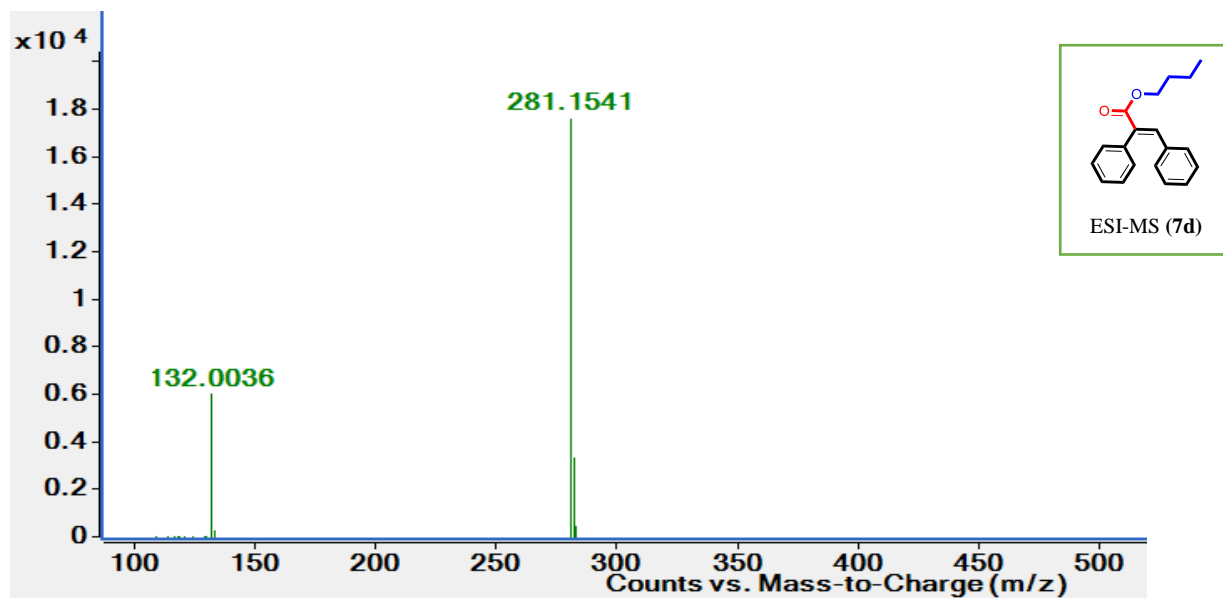
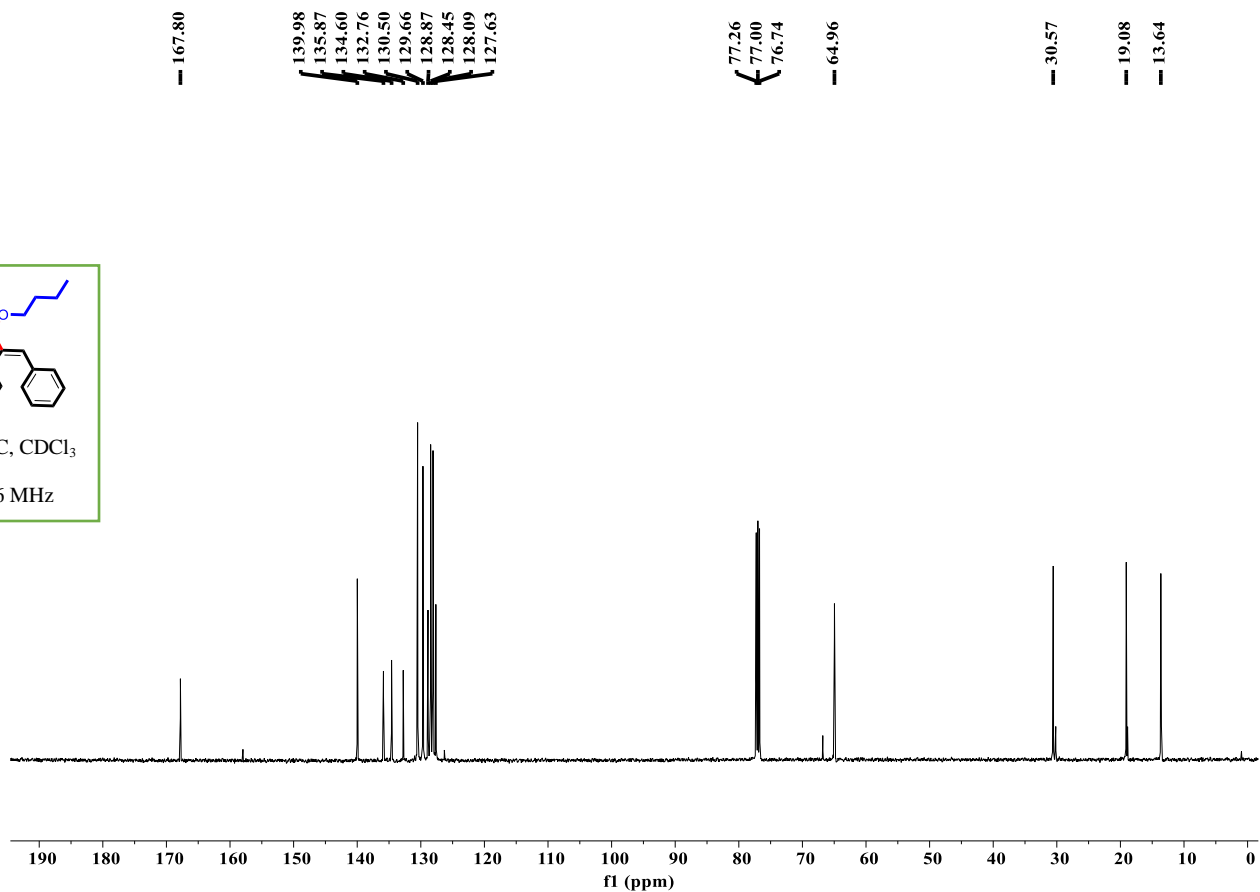
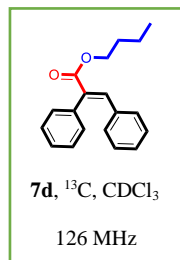
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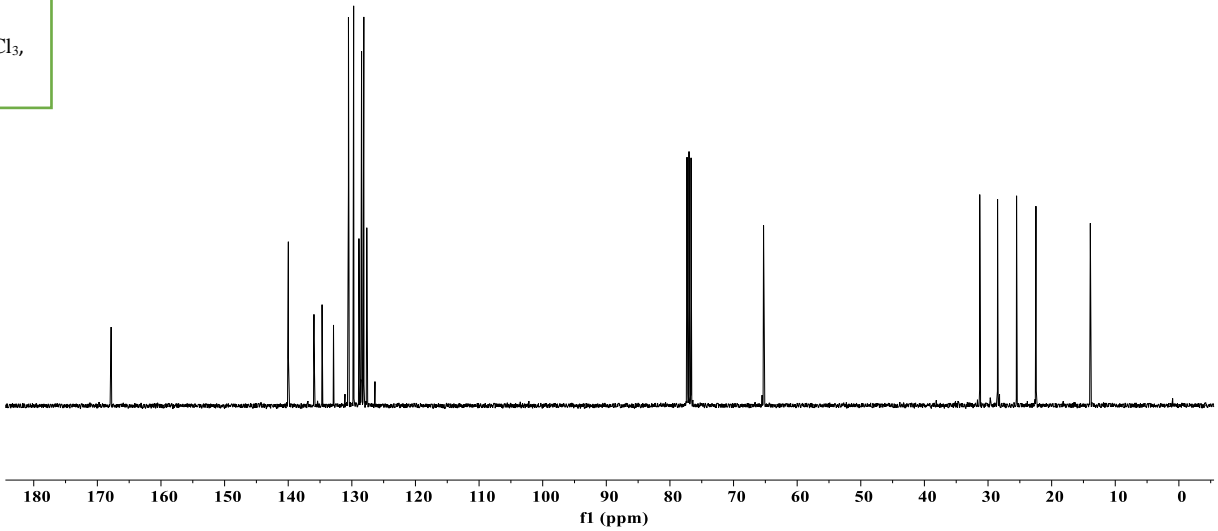
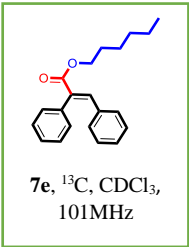
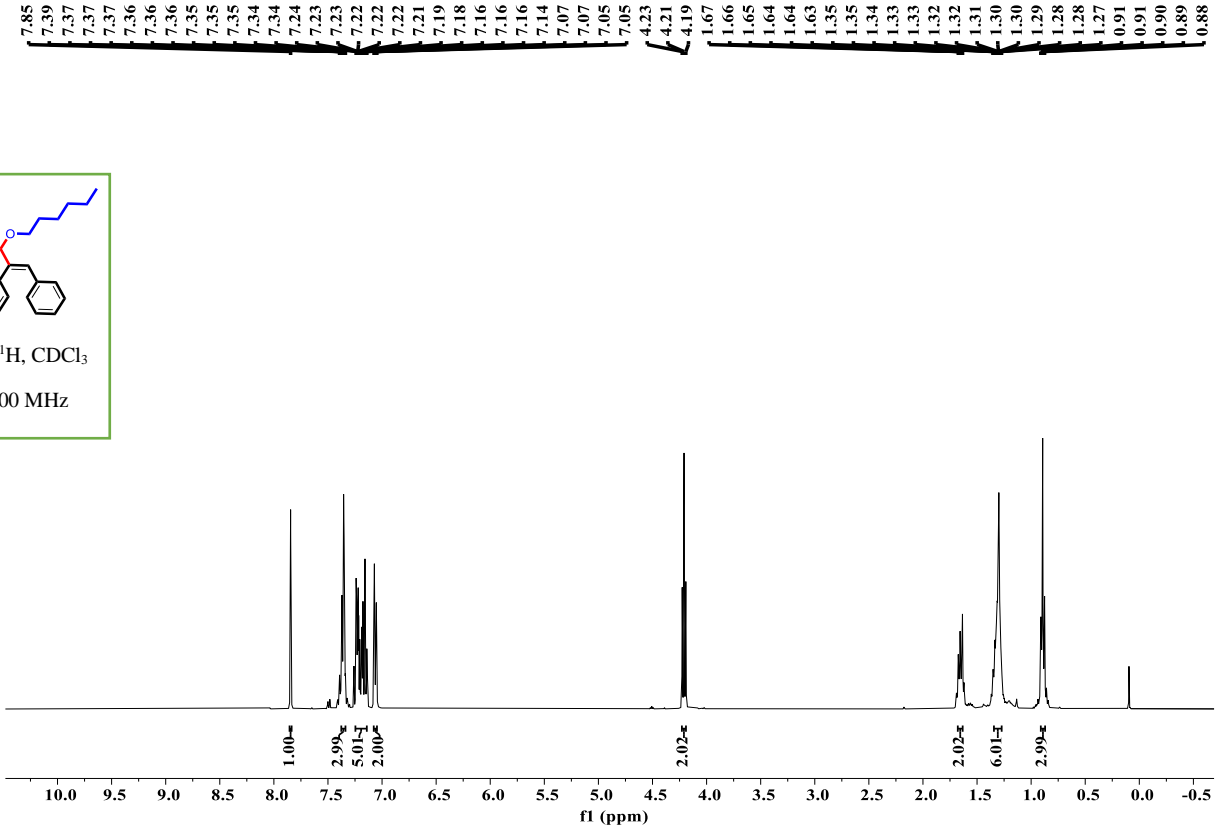
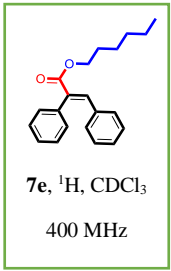


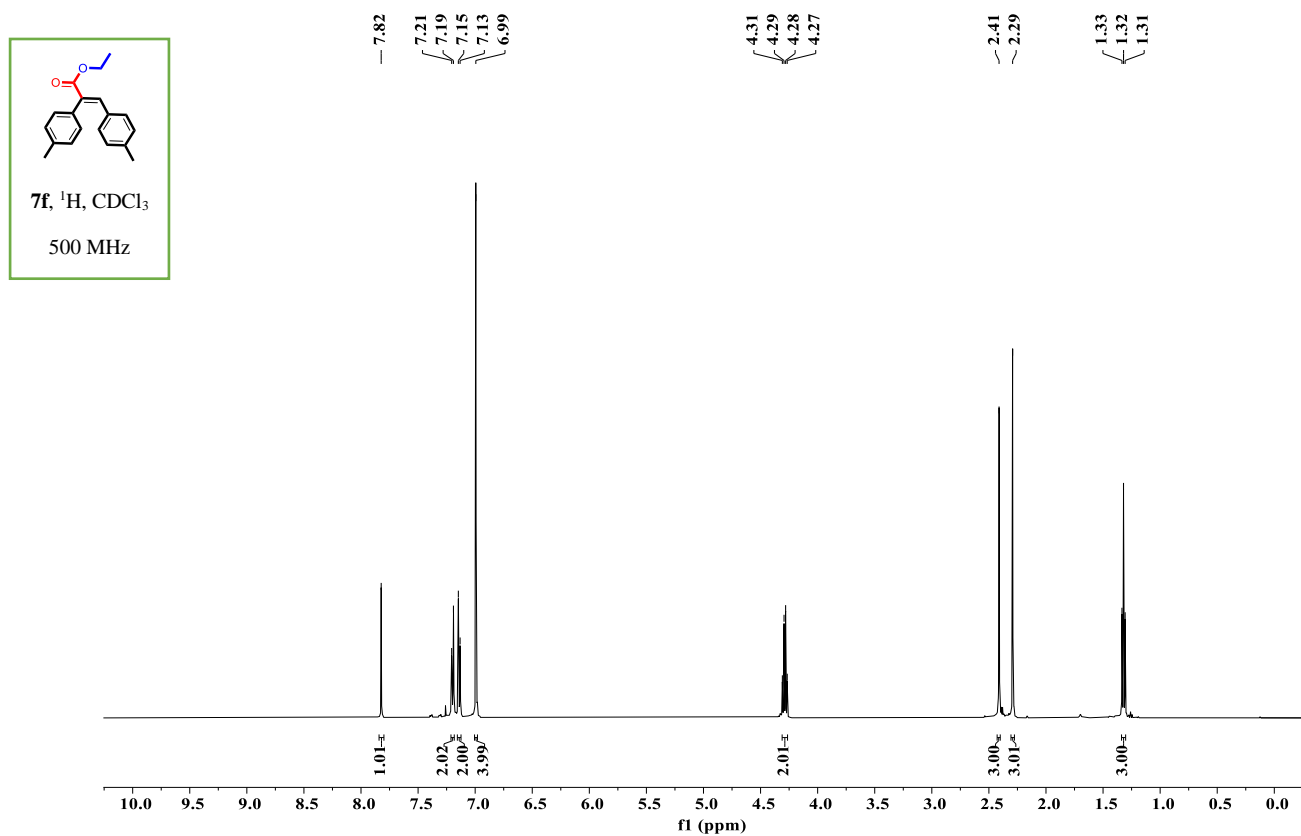
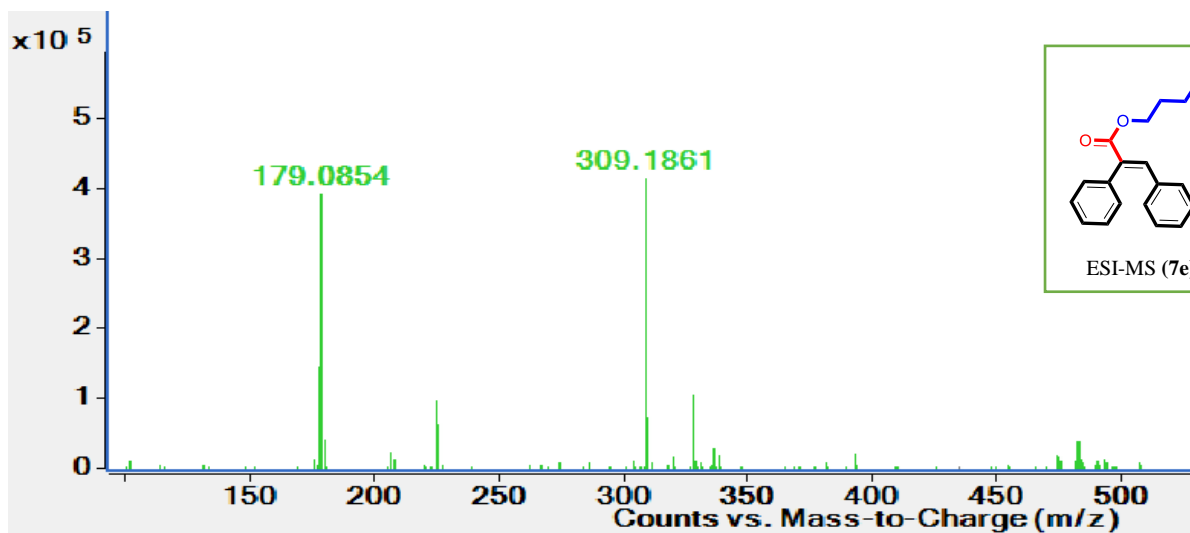


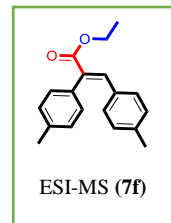
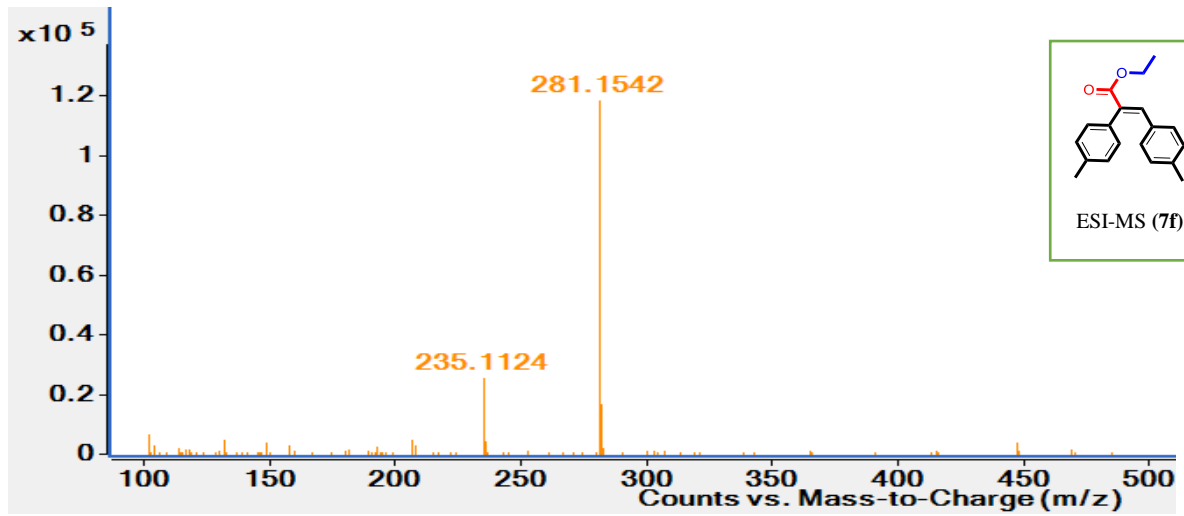
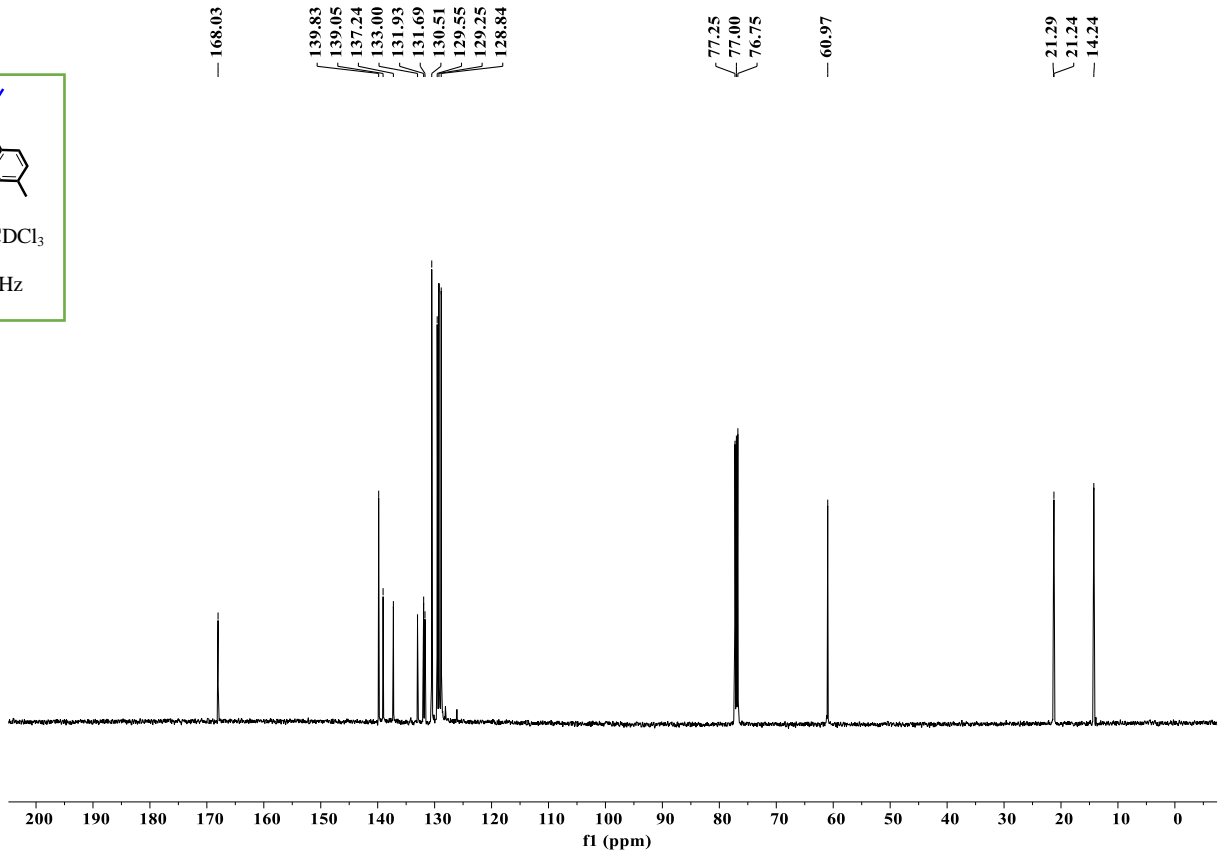
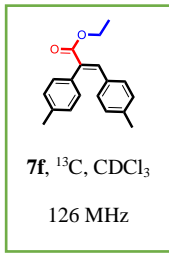
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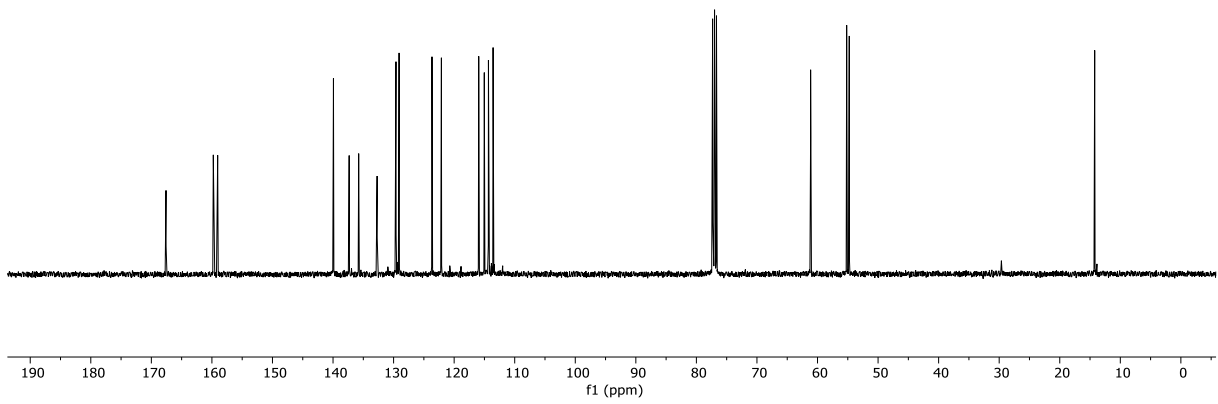
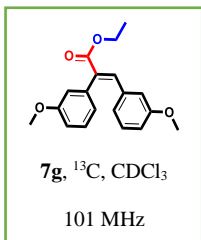
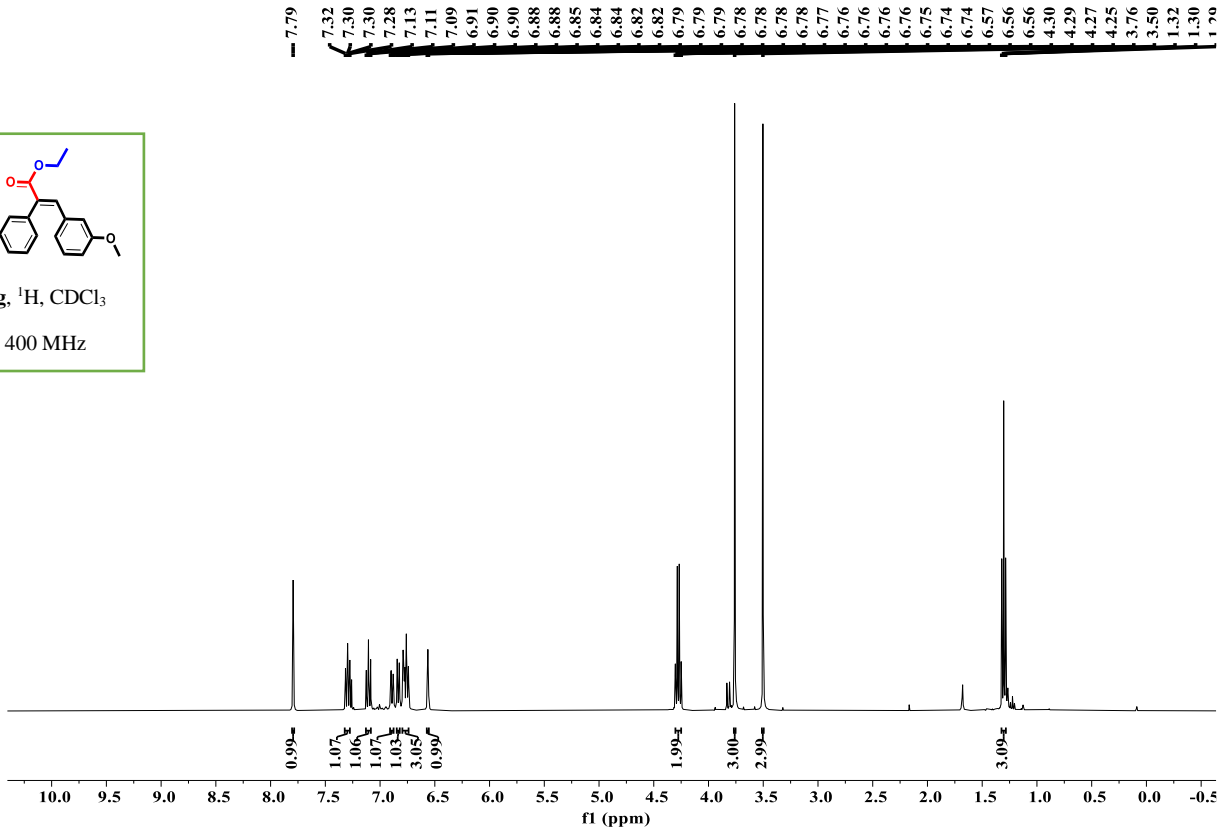
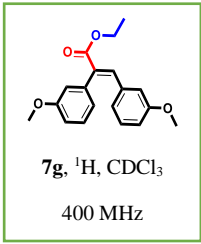


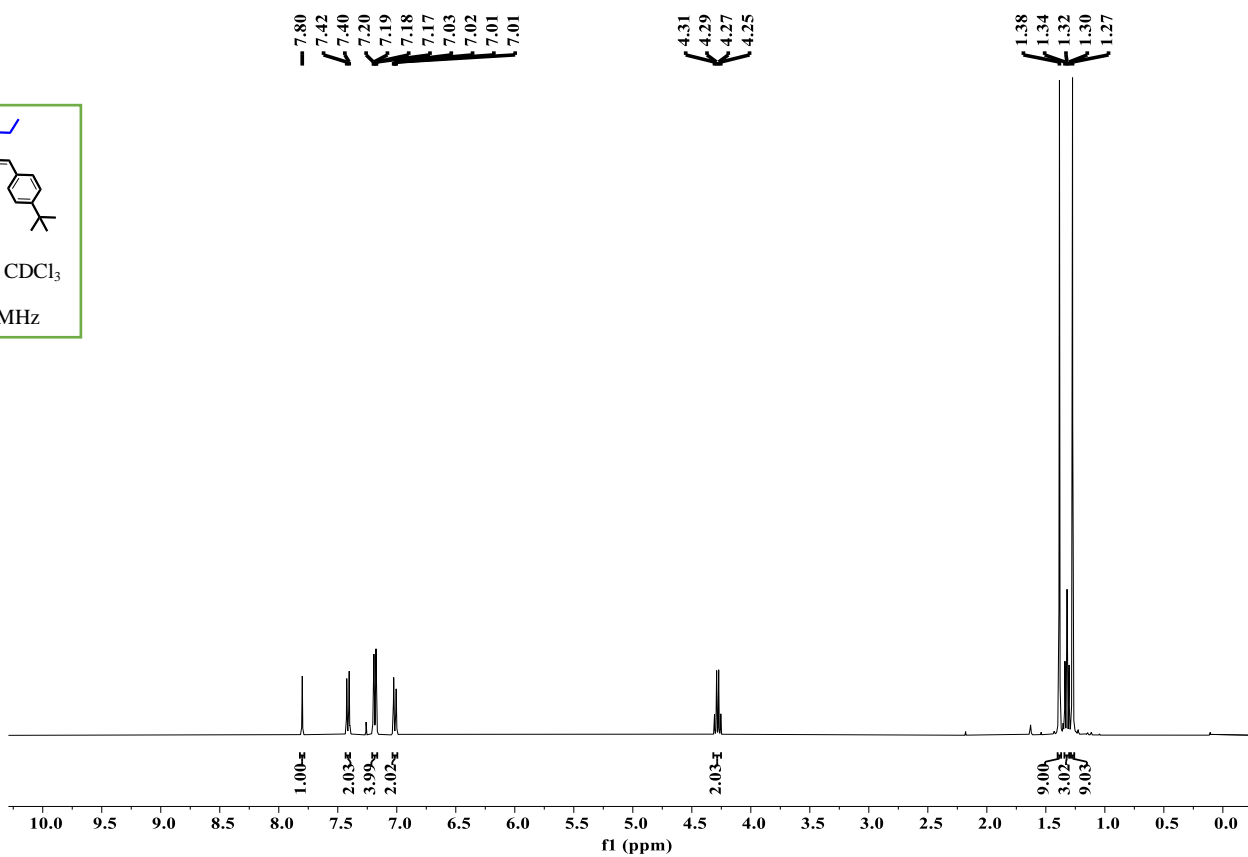
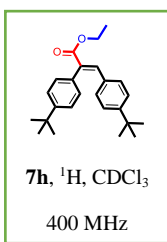
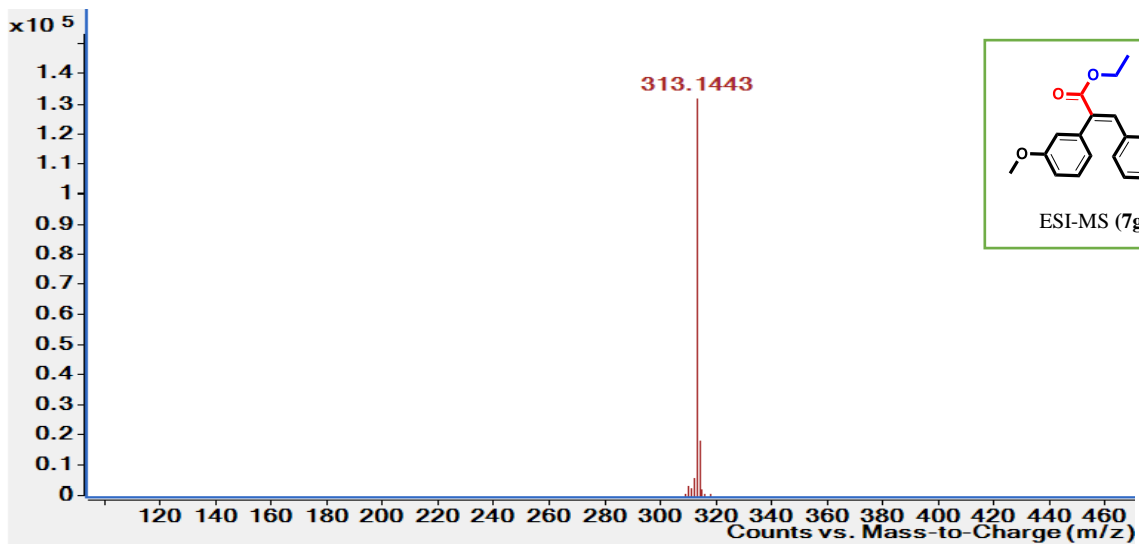


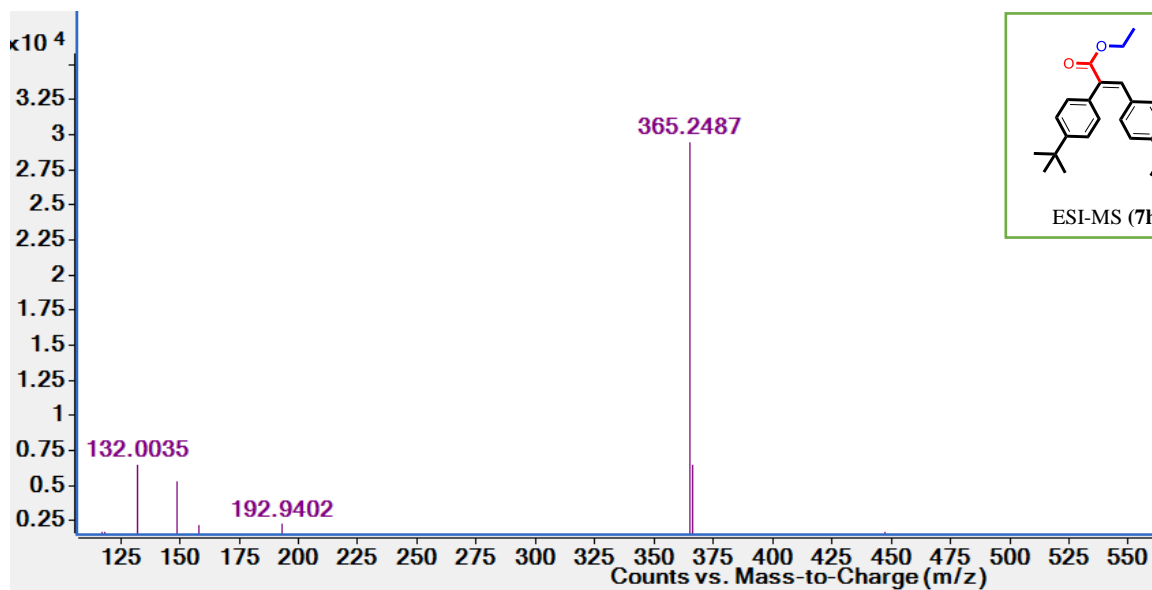
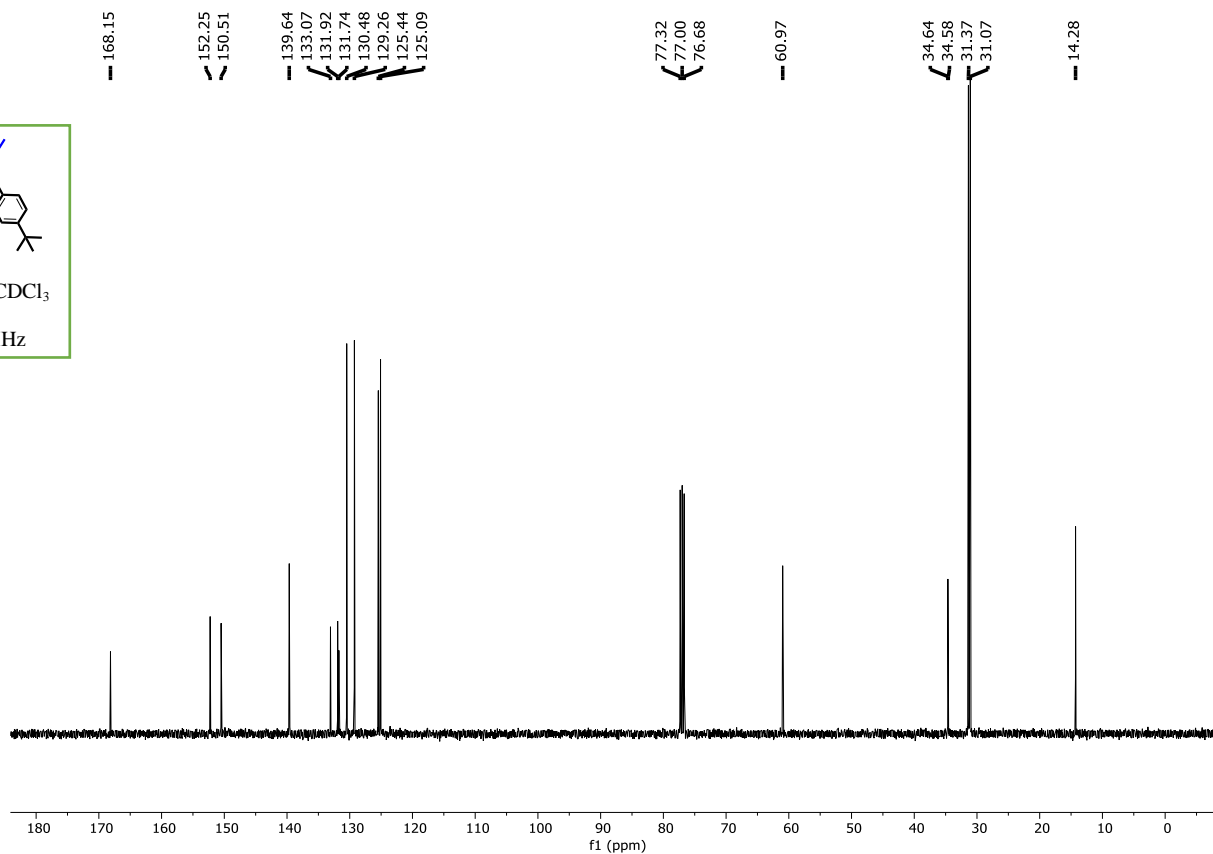
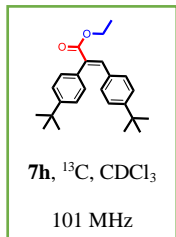


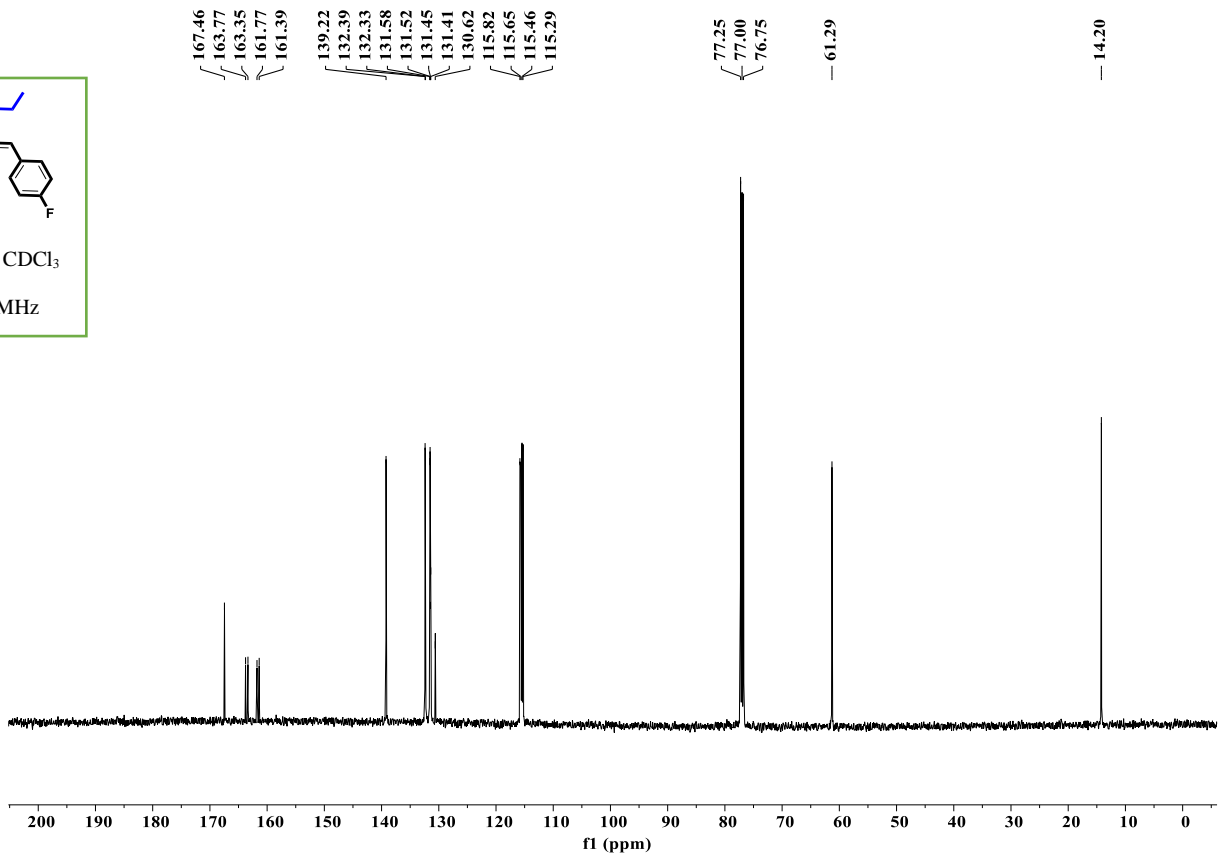
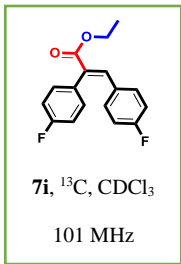
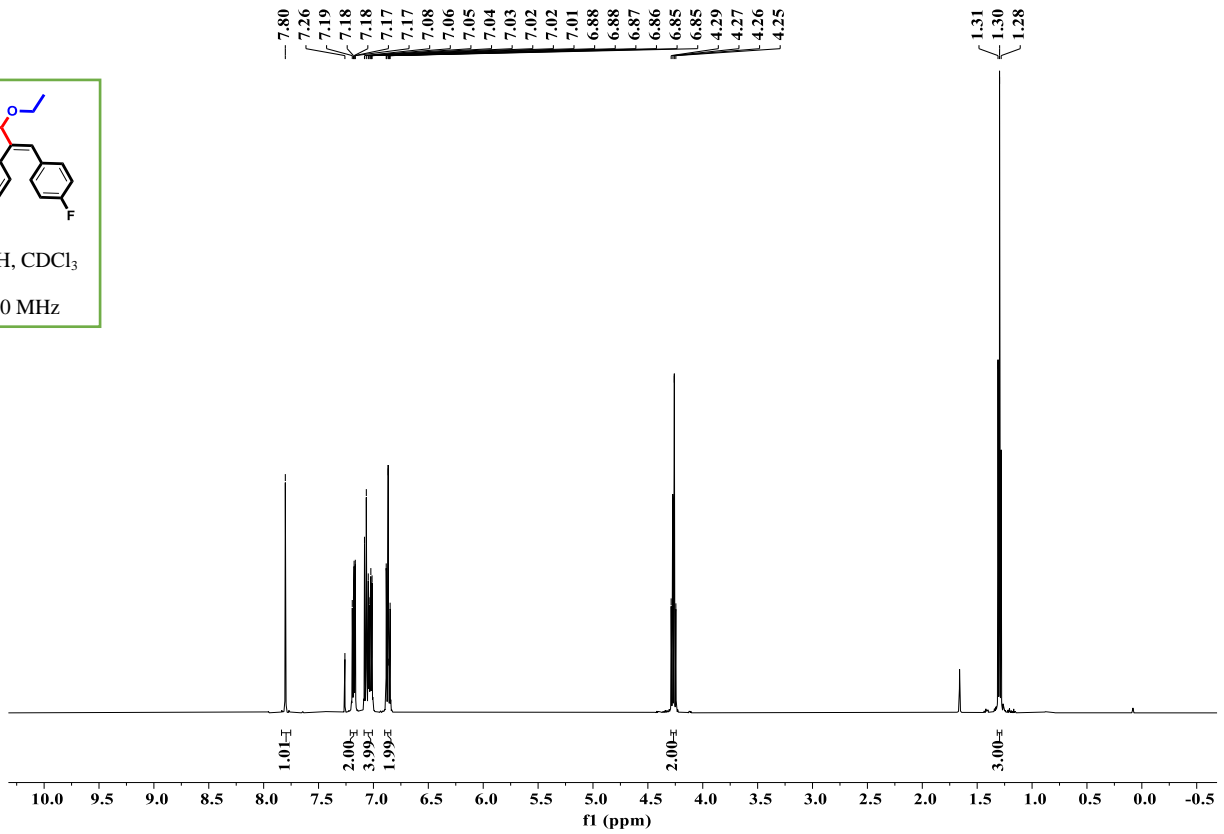
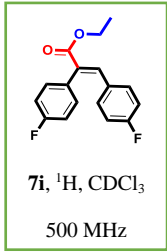


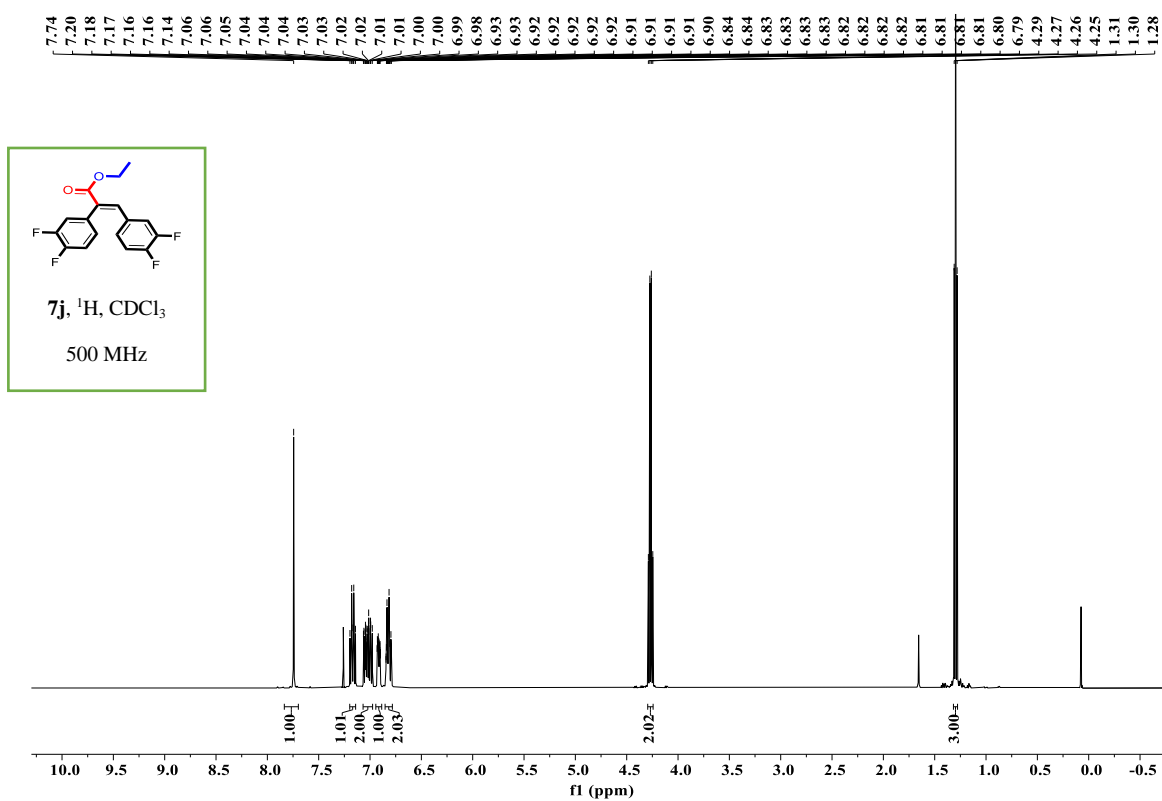
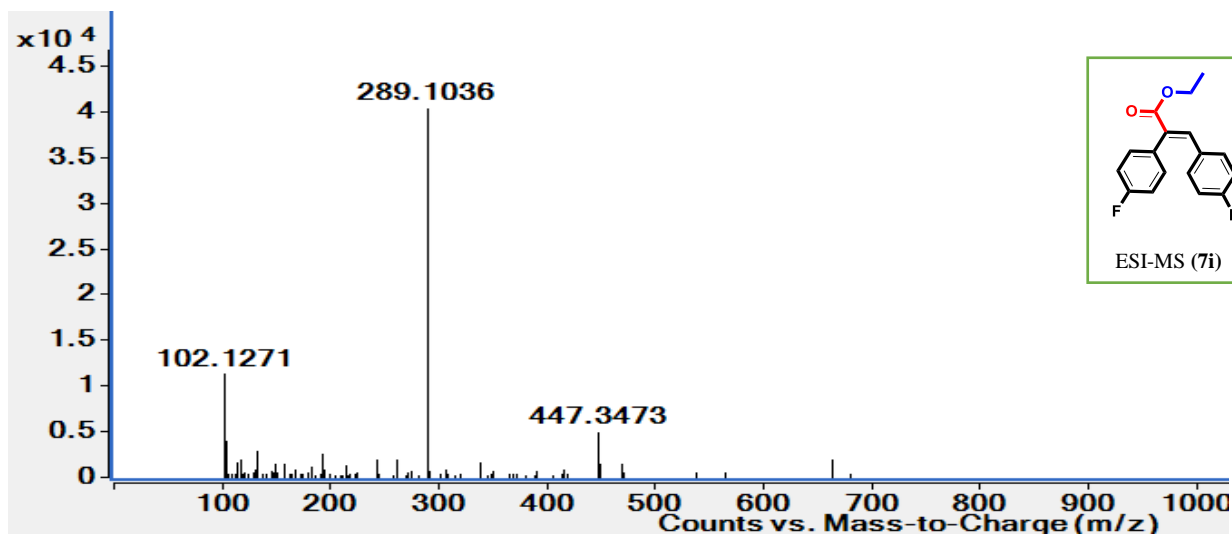






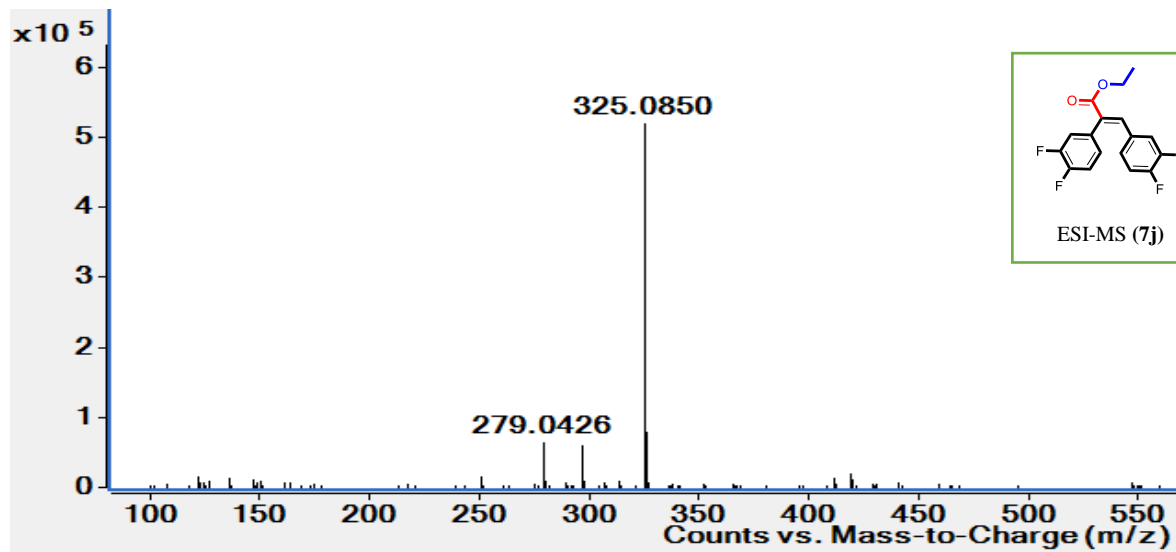
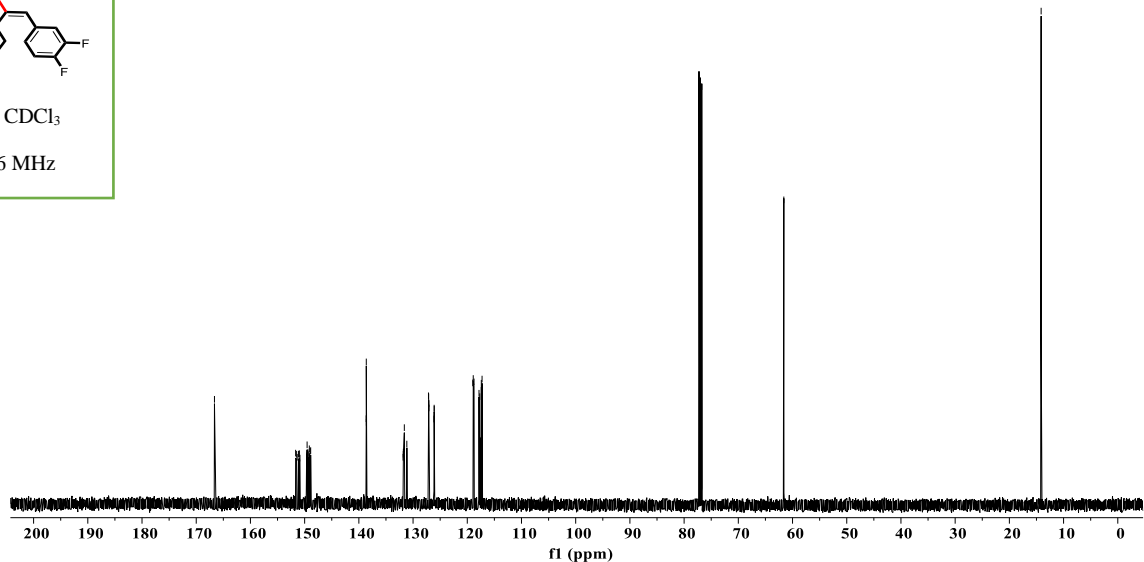
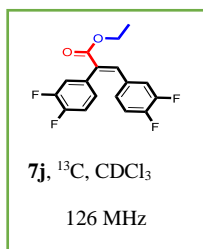


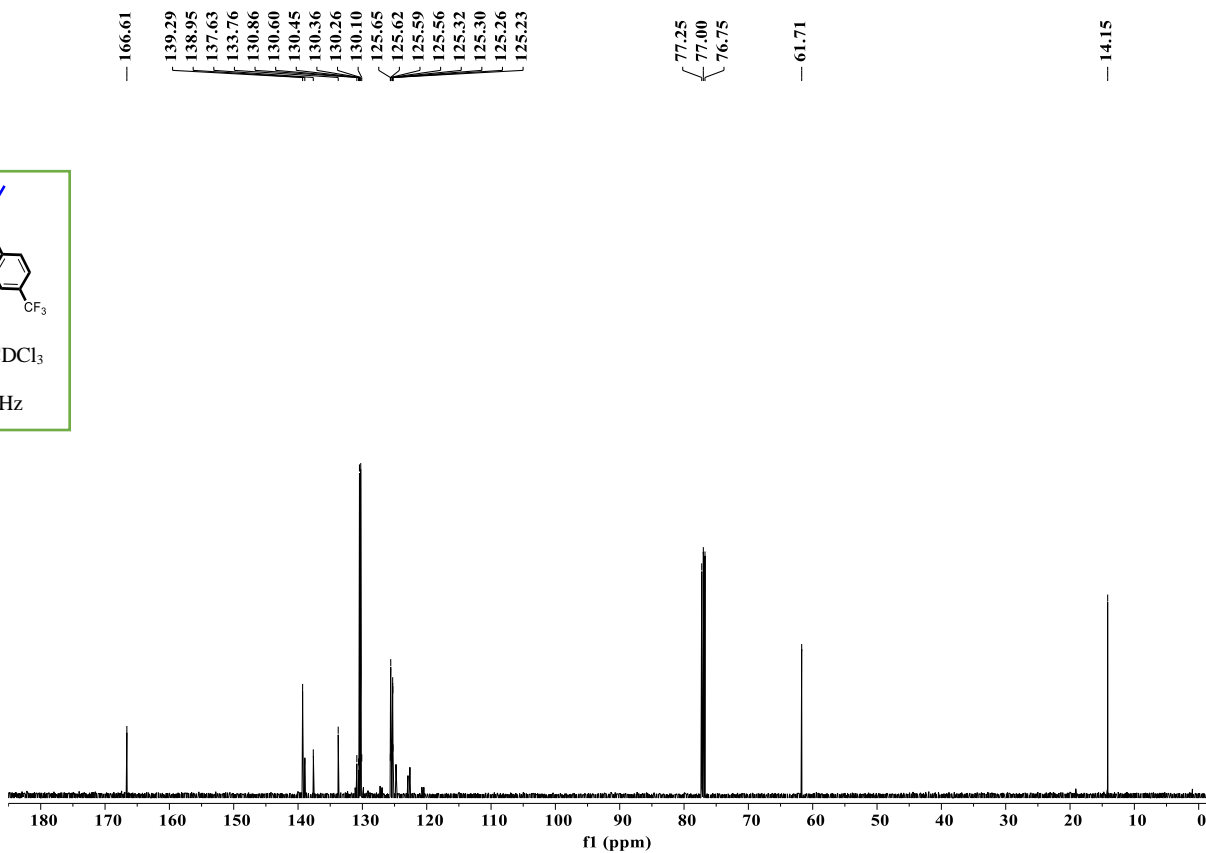
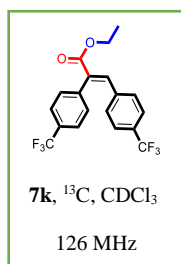
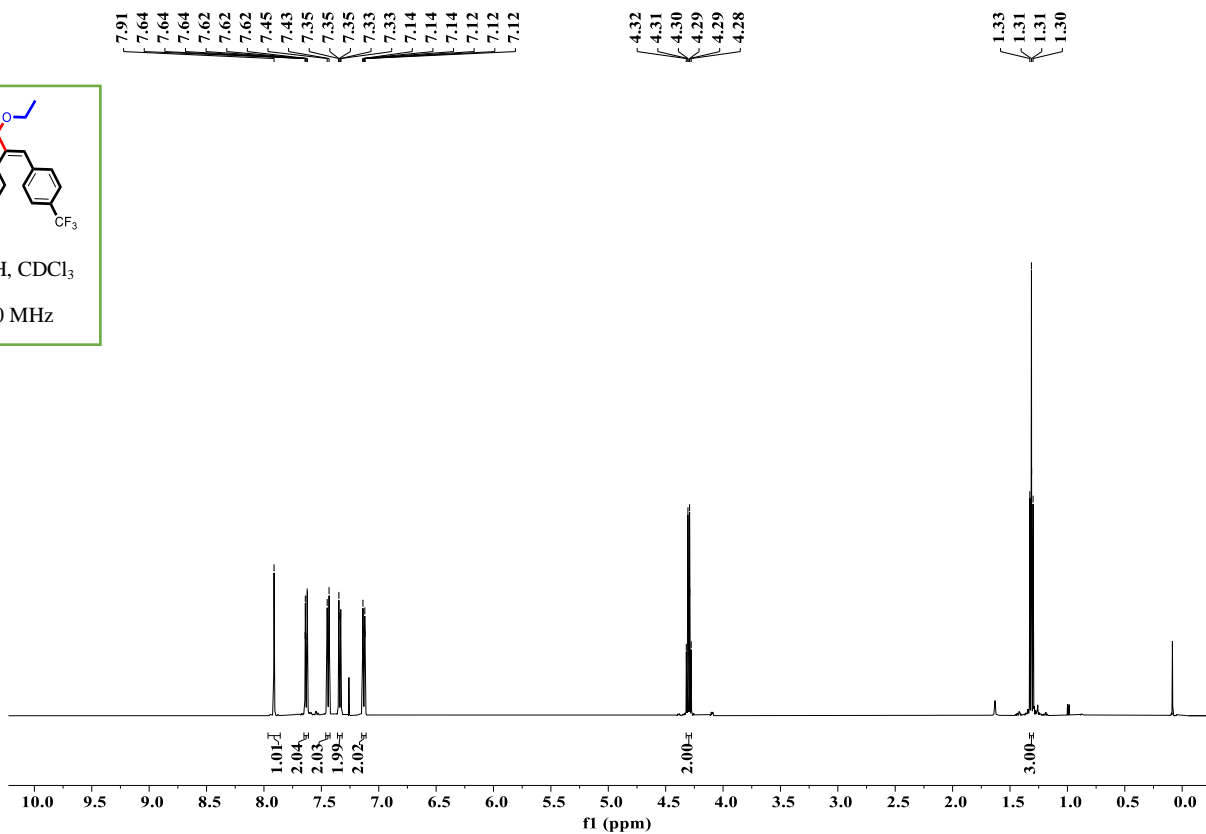
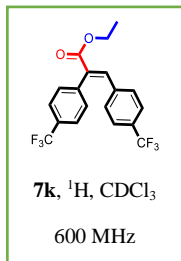


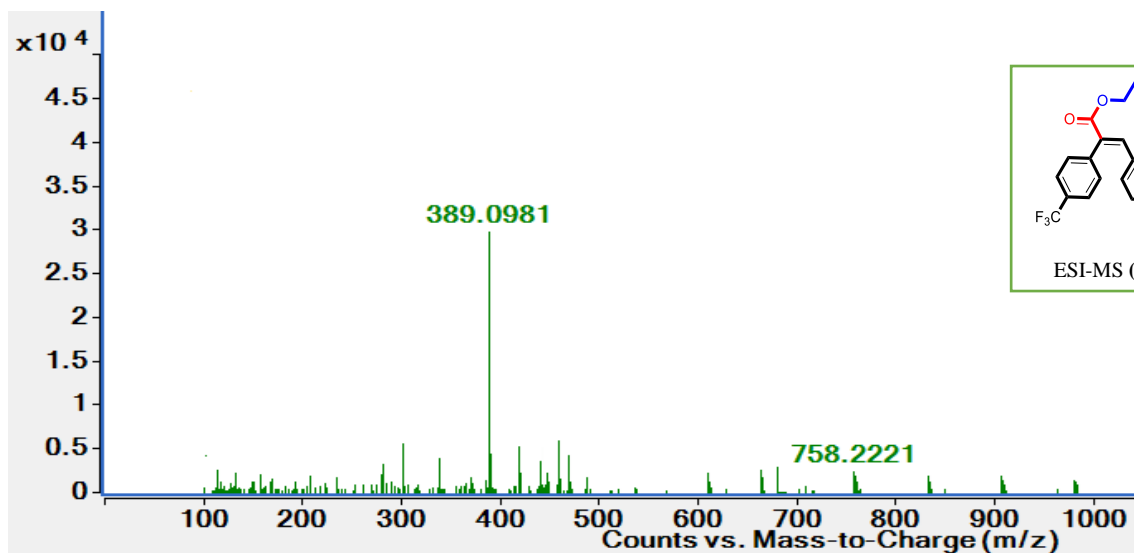


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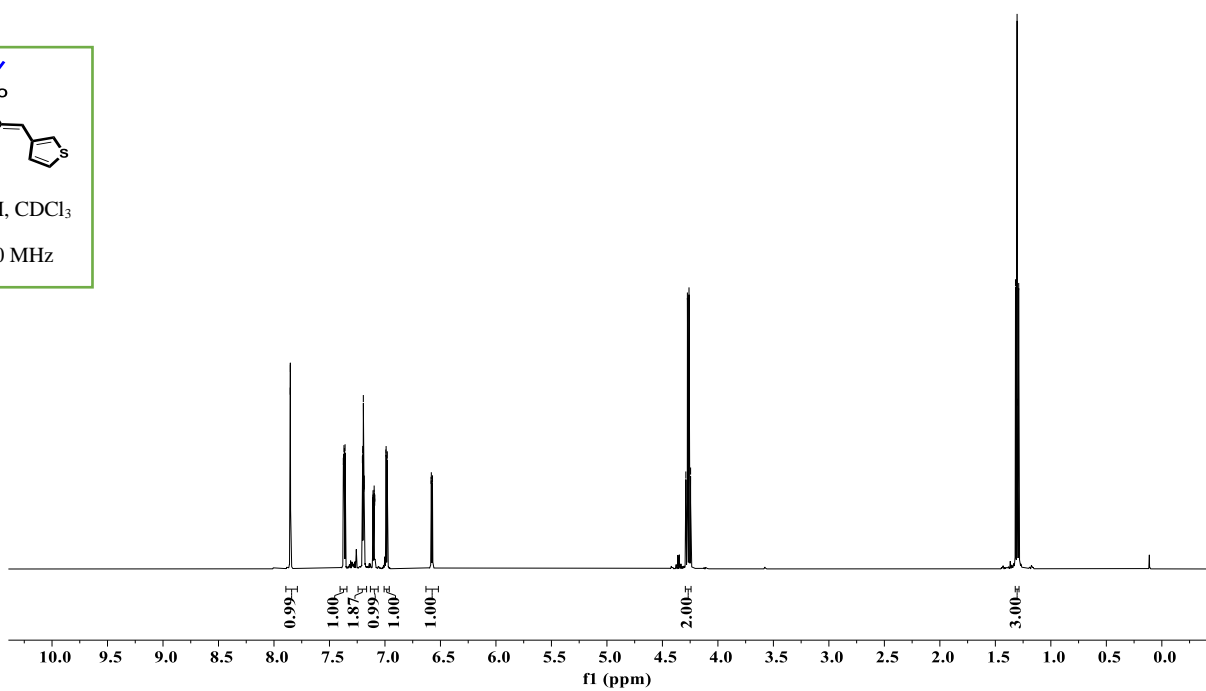
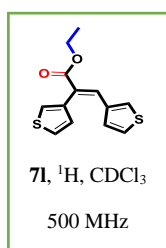
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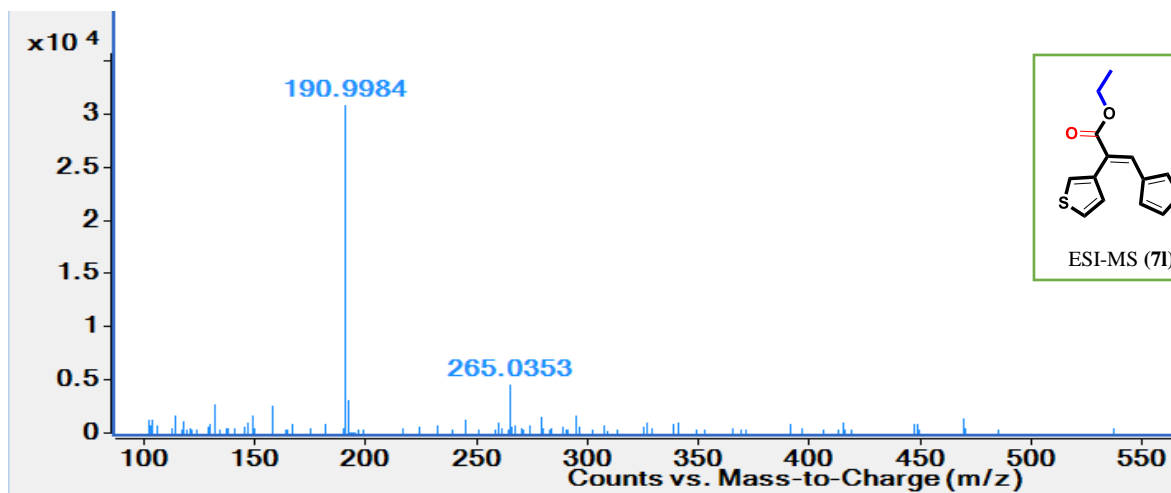






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