

*Supporting Information*

**Efficient Synthesis of Pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indole-3-ones through Radical-Initiated Cascade Cyclization Reaction**

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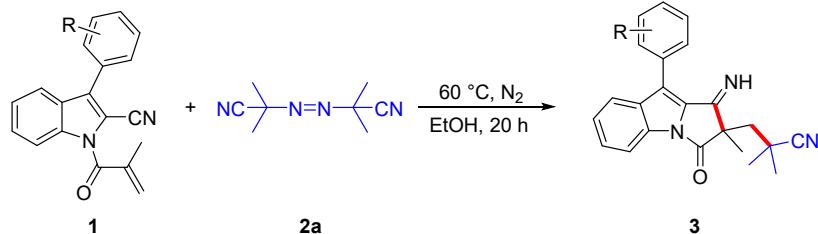
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## A. General information:

All chemicals were obtained from commercial sources. The reactions were monitored by TLC. Chromatographic purifications of the compounds were performed using silica gel (Mesh 100-200) and ethyl acetate and hexane as eluent.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 (400, 100 and 376 MHz) advance spectrometer at room temperature in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (solvent signals,  $\delta$  7.26 and  $\delta$  77.16 ppm) using TMS as internal standard. Low-resolution mass spectra (LRMS) data were measured on GCMS-QP2010 Ultra. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an electrospray ionization (ESI) apparatus using time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometry. IR spectra were recorded on a NICOLET iS50 FT-IR device and were recorded in the range from 4000 to 400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Digital melting point apparatus was used to record the Melting Point of the compound in degree centigrade ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and are uncorrected. All chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and were used as received unless otherwise noted. 1-Acryloyl-2-cyanoindoles **1** were prepared by following literature reports<sup>1</sup>. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (300-400 mesh) using petroleum ether (PE)/ethyl acetate (EA).

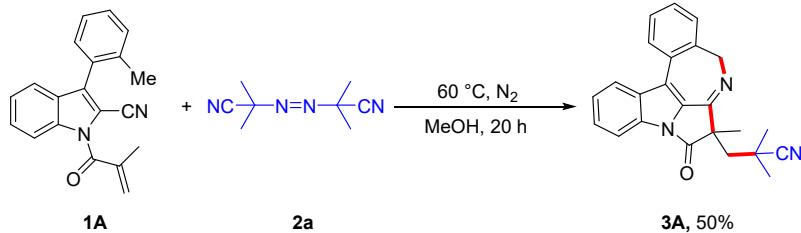
## B. Catalytic results:

### (a) General procedure for synthesis of **3**.



To a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added 1-methacryloyl-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole-2-carbonitrile **1** (0.2 mmol), AIBN **2a** (2.5 equiv) and absolute ethanol (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h under  $\text{N}_2$ . After cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was directly purified through column chromatography on silica gel using PE/EA (8:1) as eluent to obtain product **3**.

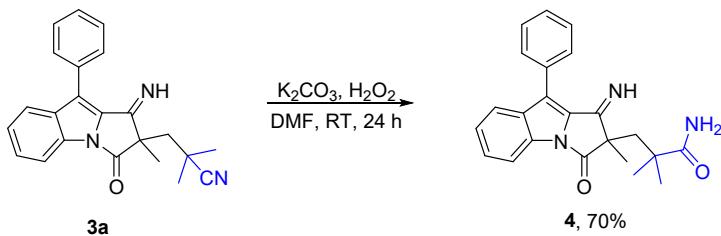
### (b) General procedure for synthesis of **3A**.



To a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added 1-methacryloyl-3-(*o*-tolyl)-1*H*-indole-2-carbonitrile **1A** (0.2 mmol), AIBN **2a** (2.5 equiv) and methanol (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 20 h under  $\text{N}_2$ . After cooled to room temperature, the solvent

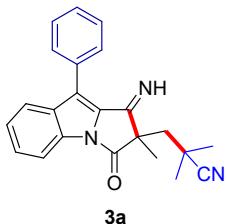
was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was directly purified through column chromatography on silica gel using PE/EA (8:1) as eluent to obtain product **3A**.

**(c) General procedure for synthesis of 4<sup>2</sup>.**



To a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were added 3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile **1A** (0.2 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 30%H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 mmol 10 equiv.) and *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h under N<sub>2</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was directly purified through column chromatography on silica gel using PE/EA (4:1) as eluent to obtain product **4**.

**(d) Characterization Data**



**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile (3a)**

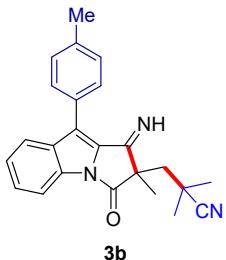
Yellow solid 85% (60.4 mg), mp: 128-129 °C. R<sub>f</sub> = 0.6 (PE:EA = 2:1).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.35 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.0, 169.3, 134.1, 131.2, 131.2, 129.7, 129.0, 129.0, 127.7, 125.6, 124.0, 122.0, 121.7, 115.2, 54.5, 45.9, 30.8, 30.0, 27.9, 26.1 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR):**  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2930, 1739, 1637, 1444, 1302, 1146, 884, 748, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS:** [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup>: 378.1578, found: 378.1577.



**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-(p-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3b)**

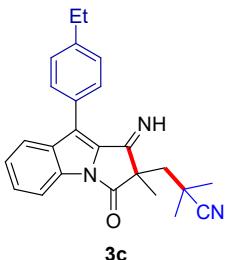
White solid 78% (57.6 mg), mp: 106-107 °C.  $R_f = 0.5$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.35 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 2.46 (s, 4H), 2.26 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.0, 169.3, 138.9, 134.2, 131.2, 130.4, 129.8, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6, 125.4, 124.0, 122.1, 121.8, 115.2, 54.5, 45.8, 30.8, 29.9, 27.9, 26.1, 21.5 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2975, 1745, 1643, 1447, 1384, 1306, 1140, 823, 751 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS**: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>: 370.1914, found: 370.1915.



**3-(9-(4-ethylphenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3c)**

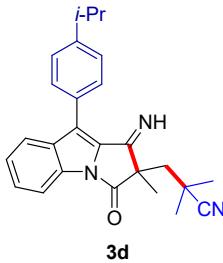
White solid 75% (57.5 mg), mp: 108-109 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.35 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 2.76 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 6H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 171.9, 169.2, 145.2, 134.1, 131.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.3, 127.5, 125.3, 123.9, 122.0, 121.8, 115.1, 54.4, 45.7, 30.7, 29.8, 28.8, 27.8, 26.0, 15.4 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2930, 1737, 1644, 1452, 1145, 830, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS**: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>: 384.2071, found: 384.2072.



**3-(1-imino-9-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3d)**

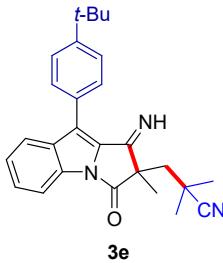
White solid 67% (53.3 mg), mp: 69–70 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.22 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 2.43 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.40 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 9H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.3, 152.2, 134.2, 131.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.6, 125.5, 124.0, 122.3, 121.9, 115.2, 54.5, 45.8, 35.0, 31.4, 30.9, 29.9, 27.9, 26.2 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2966, 2233, 1739, 1643, 1444, 1384, 1140, 839, 754 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ : 398.2227, found: 398.2236.



**3-(9-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3e)**

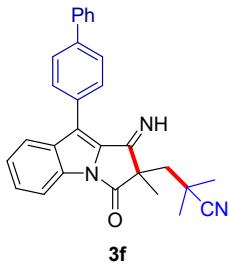
White solid 65% (53.5 mg), mp: 55–56 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.38 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.43 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.26 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.3, 152.2, 134.2, 131.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.6, 125.5, 124.0, 122.3, 121.9, 115.2, 54.5, 45.8, 35.0, 31.4, 30.9, 29.9, 27.9, 26.2 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2923, 2160, 1744, 1641, 1448, 1145, 1023, 841, 748 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ : 412.2384, found: 412.2382.



**3-(9-((1,1'-biphenyl)-4-yl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3f)**

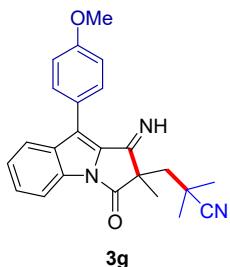
White solid 75% (64.7 mg), mp: 188–189 °C.  $R_f = 0.8$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.43 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 5H), 7.73 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 15.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 2.48 (d,  $J = 12.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.2, 141.7, 140.3, 134.0, 131.2, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 127.2, 125.5, 123.9, 122.0, 115.2, 54.4, 45.8, 30.7, 29.9, 27.8, 26.0 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2929, 1726, 1638, 1445, 1375, 1147, 751, 696 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3^+ : 432.2071$ , found: 432.2072.



**3-(1-imino-9-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile (3g)**

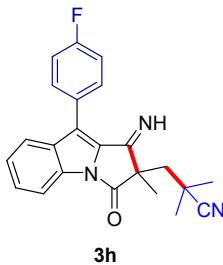
White solid 87% (67.1 mg), mp: 152–153 °C.  $R_f = 0.8$  (PE:EA = 1:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.31 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 28.3$  Hz, 3H), 7.53 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.51 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 169.2, 160.0, 134.2, 131.1, 130.2, 127.5, 125.3, 123.9, 123.2, 122.0, 121.5, 115.1, 55.4, 54.4, 45.7, 30.7, 29.9, 27.7, 26.0 ppm (two signals are missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2978, 1723, 1640, 1510, 1393, 1245, 1015, 826, 750, 576 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+ : 386.1863$ , found: 386.1866.



**3-(9-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3h)**

Yellow solid 93% (69.5 mg), mp: 141–142 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

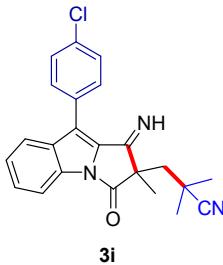
**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.29 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.57 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 2.52 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.27 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8, 169.2, 162.9 (d,  $J = 249.1$  Hz), 134.0, 131.1, 130.9, 130.8, 127.6, 127.0 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz), 125.5, 123.9, 121.7, 120.4, 116.6 (d,  $J = 22.1$  Hz), 115.1, 54.4, 45.8, 30.7, 30.0, 27.7, 25.9 ppm.

**$^{19}\text{F NMR}$**  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -111.80 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2921, 1739, 1634, 1510, 1380, 1144, 842, 748, 564 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{FN}_3\text{O}^+$ : 374.1663, found: 374.1665.



**3-(9-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile (3i)**

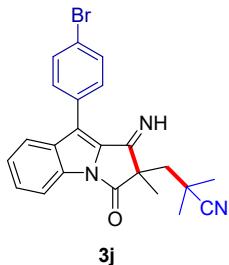
White solid 83% (64.7 mg), mp: 112–113 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.28 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 3H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 0H), 2.44 (s, 1H), 2.24 (d,  $J = 14.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8, 169.1, 134.8, 133.8, 131.1, 130.4, 129.8, 129.6, 127.7, 125.6, 123.9, 121.7, 120.2, 115.2, 54.4, 45.8, 30.6, 29.9, 27.7, 25.9 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2978, 1724, 1640, 1444, 1387, 1143, 827, 745 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$ : 390.1368, found: 390.1371.



**3-(9-(4-bromophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3j)**

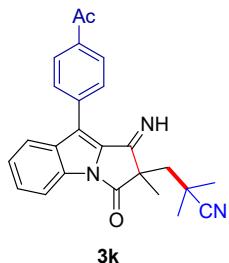
White solid 80% (69.5 mg), mp: 120-121 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.27 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 3H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 2.47 – 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 169.2, 133.8, 132.8, 131.2, 130.7, 130.1, 128.8, 127.8, 125.7, 123.9, 123.1, 121.8, 120.3, 115.3, 54.5, 45.9, 30.7, 30.0, 27.8, 26.0 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2975, 1742, 1634, 1444, 1314, 1142, 1013, 830, 747 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}^+$  : 434.0863, found: 434.0866



**3-(9-(4-acetylphenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3k)**

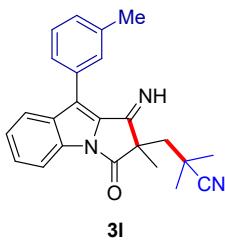
White solid 90% (71.6 mg), mp: 166-167 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 1:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.34 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.42 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.4, 172.0, 168.9, 137.1, 136.1, 133.6, 131.1, 130.3, 129.6, 129.2, 127.8, 125.7, 123.9, 121.7, 120.1, 115.2, 54.4, 45.9, 30.7, 30.0, 27.7, 26.8, 25.9 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2981, 1739, 1676, 1606, 1447, 1263, 1142, 838, 729 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$  : 398.1863, found: 398.1867.



**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-(m-tolyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3l)**

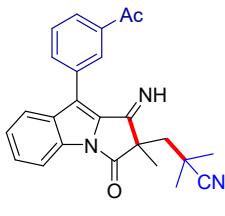
White solid 71% (52.5 mg), mp: 134-135 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.38 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd,  $J = 14.3, 6.6$  Hz, 3H), 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 4H), 2.26 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.2, 139.4, 134.0, 131.1, 131.0, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 127.5, 125.9, 125.4, 123.9, 122.0, 121.7, 115.1, 54.4, 45.8, 30.7, 29.9, 27.9, 26.0, 21.5 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2921, 1727, 1649, 1444, 1387, 1142, 1034, 751, 700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS:**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+ : 370.1914$ , found: 370.1918.



**3-(9-(3-acetylphenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3m)**

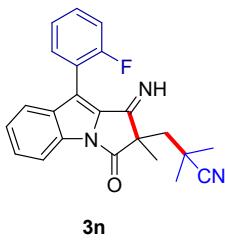
White solid 82% (65.2 mg), mp: 84-85 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 1:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.26 (s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 0H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  198.0, 172.0, 169.2, 139.5, 134.0, 131.1, 131.0, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 127.5, 125.9, 125.4, 123.9, 122.0, 121.7, 115.1, 54.4, 45.8, 30.7, 29.9, 27.9, 26.0, 21.5 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2923, 1740, 1685, 1447, 1242, 1145, 1032, 748, 688 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS:**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+ : 398.1863$ , found: 398.1866.



**3-(9-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3n)**

White solid 65% (48.5 mg), mp: 115–116 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

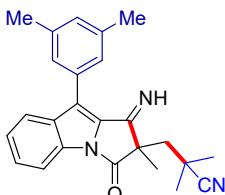
**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  11.43 (s, 1H), 9.59 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.09 (s, 1H), 9.01 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.94 – 8.88 (m, 1H), 8.88 – 8.82 (m, 1H), 8.79 – 8.74 (m, 1H), 8.73 – 8.64 (m, 2H), 3.87 – 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.69 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.4, 171.9, 169.1, 160.0 (d,  $J = 249.1$  Hz), 134.0, 131.6 (d,  $J = 2.9$  Hz), 131.1 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz), 131.0, 127.7, 125.5, 125.2 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 123.9, 122.3, 121.0, 118.8 (d,  $J = 15.4$  Hz), 116.8 (d,  $J = 21.5$  Hz), 115.2, 54.4, 45.7, 30.8, 27.3, 26.1, 19.4 ppm.

**$^{19}\text{F NMR}$**  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -111.99 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2933, 1742, 1640, 1447, 1384, 1145, 1022, 748, 564 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{FN}_3\text{O}^+$ : 374.1663, found: 374.1667.



**3-(9-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3o)**

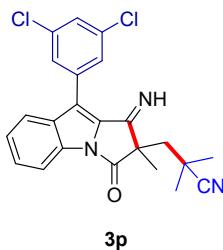
White solid 80% (61.4 mg), mp: 151–152 °C.  $R_f = 0.8$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.38 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 7H), 2.27 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 169.2, 139.3, 134.1, 131.1, 130.9, 130.6, 129.8, 127.5, 126.5, 125.3, 123.9, 122.1, 122.0, 115.1, 54.4, 45.7, 30.7, 29.8, 27.9, 26.0, 21.4 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2930, 1722, 1643, 1450, 1387, 1149, 1056, 868, 751, 727 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ : 384.2071, found: 384.2072.



**3-(9-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3p)**

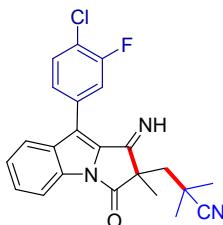
White solid 73% (61.9 mg), mp: 226–227 °C.  $R_f = 0.8$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.32 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.58 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J = 16.2, 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.46 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 168.9, 136.5, 134.3, 133.4, 131.0, 130.6, 129.1, 128.0, 127.3, 125.9, 124.0, 121.4, 118.3, 115.3, 54.5, 46.1, 30.7, 30.1, 28.0, 26.0 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2930, 1733, 1659, 1444, 1384, 1314, 1037, 850, 750, 679 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$  : 424.0978, found: 424.0987.



**3-(9-(4-chloro-3-fluorophenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3q)**

White solid 60% (48.9 mg), mp: 148–149 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

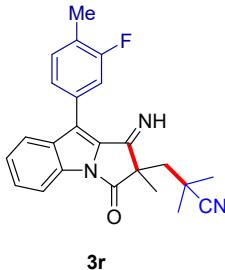
**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.30 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt,  $J = 14.8, 7.8$  Hz, 4H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 0H), 2.53 – 2.32 (m, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 14.4$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8, 169.1, 158.7 (d,  $J = 251.1$  Hz), 133.5, 131.72 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 131.2, 127.9, 125.9, 125.7, 123.9, 121.8, 121.6, 119.1, 117.4 (d,  $J = 21.2$  Hz), 115.3, 54.5, 45.9, 30.7, 30.0, 27.8, 25.9 ppm (two signals are missing due to overlapping).

**$^{19}\text{F NMR}$**  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -112.88 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2918, 1719, 1637, 1450, 1391, 1309, 1145, 748, 728 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClF}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$  : 408.1274, found: 408.1278.



**3r**

**3-(9-(3-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile (3r)**

White solid 90% (69.7 mg), mp: 156–157 °C.  $R_f = 0.7$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

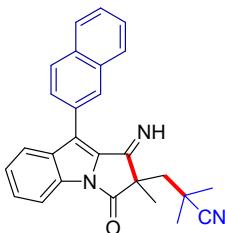
**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.35 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 2.38 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 4H), 2.26 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.2, 161.9 (d,  $J = 245.3$  Hz), 133.9, 132.8, 131.2, 130.5, 130.4, 127.7, 126.0, 125.9 (d,  $J = 17.1$  Hz), 124.4, 123.9, 121.8, 120.4, 115.6 (d,  $J = 23.4$  Hz), 115.2, 54.5, 45.9, 30.8, 29.9, 27.9, 26.0, 14.7 ppm.

**$^{19}\text{F NMR}$**  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.28 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2929, 1733, 1637, 1444, 1296, 1148, 745, 669, 555 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{FN}_3\text{O}^+$  : 388.1820, found: 388.1824.



**3s**

**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-9-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3s)**

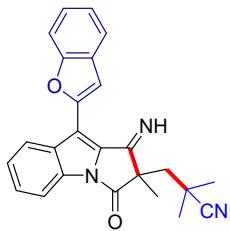
White solid 78% (63.4 mg), mp: 105–106 °C.  $R_f = 0.5$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.27 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd,  $J = 6.1, 3.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.86 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 3.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (dd,  $J = 6.4, 3.4$  Hz, 3H), 7.44 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.2, 134.2, 133.8, 133.3, 131.3, 130.3, 129.5, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 126.4, 125.6, 124.0, 122.1, 121.7, 115.2, 54.5, 45.9, 30.8, 29.9, 27.9, 26.1 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2926, 1745, 1643, 1441, 1306, 1142, 856, 750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$  : 406.1914, found: 406.1912.



**3t**

**3-(9-(benzofuran-2-yl)-1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3t)**

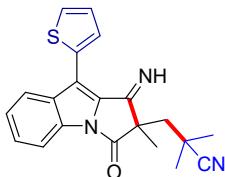
White solid 60% (47.5 mg), mp : 105-106 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  11.66 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dt,  $J = 30.4, 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 2.57 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.36 (d,  $J = 14.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.35 (d,  $J = 10.2$  Hz, 6H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 167.8, 154.1, 149.0, 131.4, 131.2, 128.6, 127.9, 125.9, 125.7, 123.8, 123.7, 122.4, 121.4, 115.4, 111.2, 54.3, 45.7, 30.7, 29.3, 28.6, 26.3 ppm (three signals are missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2918, 1733, 1649, 1450, 1261, 1140, 817, 745 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+ : 396.1707$ , found: 396.1711.



**3u**

**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-(thiophen-2-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3u)**

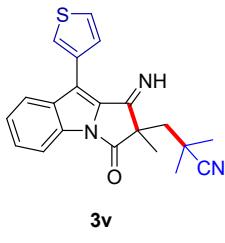
Yellow solid 65% (47.0 mg), mp: 155-156 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.42 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 2.46 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d,  $J = 14.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.0, 170.4, 132.9, 132.7, 132.2, 130.7, 129.7, 129.4, 128.2, 128.2, 126.0, 124.2, 123.5, 119.2, 115.8, 56.3, 45.1, 30.9, 28.8, 28.7, 24.3 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2981, 1745, 1640, 1447, 1391, 1336, 745, 646 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS**  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+ : 362.1322$ , found: 362.1322.



**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-(thiophen-3-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3v)**

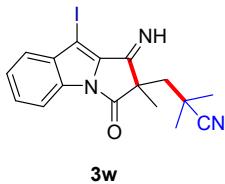
Yellow solid 61% (44.1 mg), mp: 154–155 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.42 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 1H), 2.25 (d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.0, 169.1, 134.1, 131.4, 131.1, 130.0, 127.8, 127.6, 125.5, 124.9, 123.9, 122.1, 116.5, 115.1, 54.4, 45.9, 30.8, 30.0, 27.6, 25.9 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2981, 1730, 1643, 1444, 1378, 1333, 751, 643 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^+$  : 362.1322, found: 362.1322.



**3-(1-imino-9-iodo-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3w)**

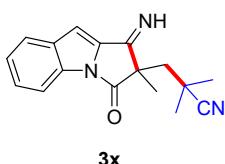
White solid 95% (77.0 mg), mp: 129–130 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.71 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 2.40 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.31 (d,  $J = 20.3$  Hz, 6H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  170.9, 169.3, 136.5, 131.4, 128.5, 125.9, 123.6, 123.0, 115.2, 54.6, 45.7, 30.8, 29.4, 28.5, 26.0 ppm (two signals are missing due to overlapping).

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2984, 1730, 1640, 438, 1384, 1321, 881, 755 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}_3\text{ONa}^+$  : 428.0230, found: 428.0232.



**3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanenitrile(3x)**

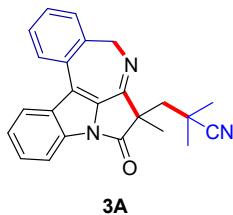
Red solid 70% (39.1 mg), mp: 120–121 °C.  $R_f = 0.6$  (PE:EA = 1:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.14 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 2.35 (s, 1H), 2.28 (d,  $J = 14.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8, 169.5, 134.5, 131.7, 127.3, 125.4, 123.8, 123.3, 115.2, 104.1, 54.2, 45.6, 30.8, 29.7, 27.9, 26.0 ppm (one signal is missing due to overlapping).

**IR** (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2984, 1740, 1652, 1441, 1387, 1315, 833, 757 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [M+H] $^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$  : 280.1445, found: 280.1442.



### **2,2-dimethyl-3-(7-methyl-6-oxo-7,9-dihydro-6H-benzo[b]benzo[5,6]azepino[2,3,4-gh]pyrrolizin-7-yl)propanenitrile(3A)**

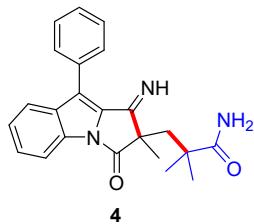
White solid 50% (36.8 mg), mp: 118–119 °C.  $R_f = 0.8$  (PE:EA = 1:1).

**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.24 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 8.06 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.60 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 3H), 5.07 (d,  $J = 13.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.43 (d,  $J = 14.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.28 (d,  $J = 14.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.9, 164.8, 133.7, 133.4, 132.6, 131.9, 131.7, 130.3, 129.8, 128.5, 127.8, 125.7, 125.1, 124.2, 123.5, 122.1, 116.0, 59.7, 55.7, 46.1, 29.8, 28.4, 27.4, 25.6 ppm.

**IR** (ATR) :  $\tilde{\nu} = 2930, 1742, 1649, 1450, 1315, 1146, 785, 757 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**HRMS** [M+H] $^+$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$  : 368.1758, found: 368.1759.



### **3-(1-imino-2-methyl-3-oxo-9-phenyl-2,3,9a-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropanamide (4)**

White solid 70% (52.6 mg), mp: 68–69 °C.  $R_f = 0.5$  (PE:EA = 2:1).

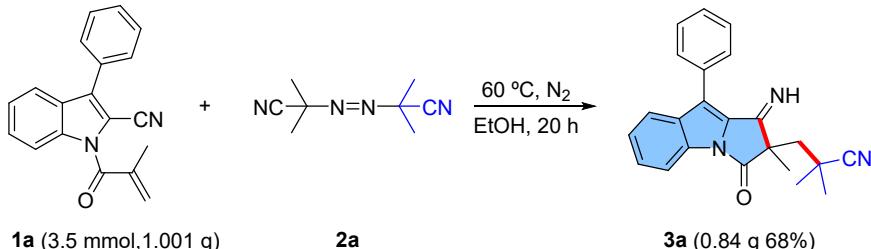
**$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.35 (s, 1H), 8.23 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.60 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.50 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 2.29 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.22 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 200.6, 169.3, 134.8, 134.1, 132.2, 131.2, 129.8, 129.0, 128.4, 127.7, 125.6, 122.1, 120.6, 120.2, 115.2, 54.5, 45.9, 36.5, 30.8, 28.0, 26.1 ppm.

**IR (ATR)** :  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2921, 1637, 1523, 1447, 1302, 1258, 1140, 755, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS**: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 374.1863, found: 374.1862.

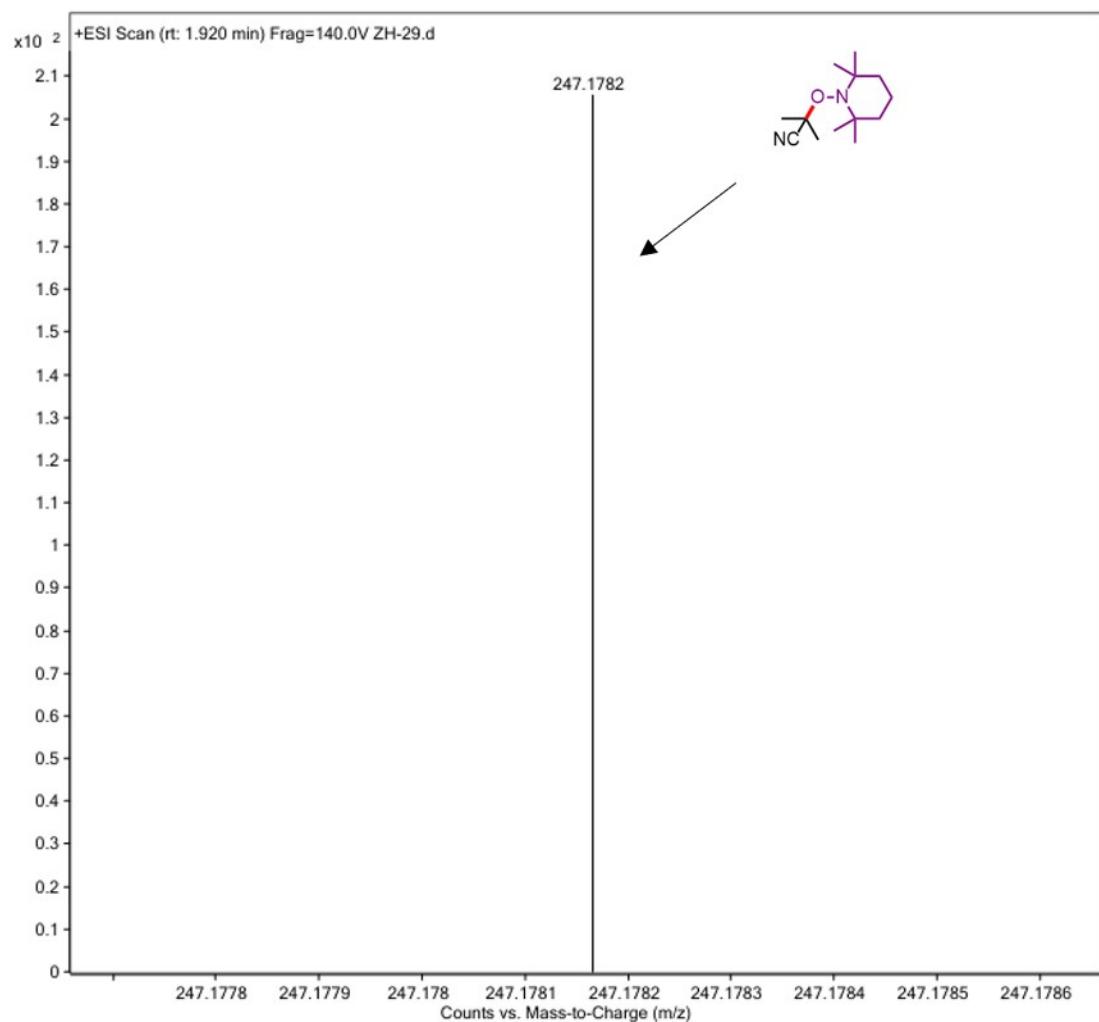
### C. Scale-up reaction.



1-methacryloyl-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole-2-carbonitrile **1a** (1 mmol), AIBN **2a** (2.5 mmol) and absolute ethanol (20 mL) were charged into a pressure tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at N<sub>2</sub> under 60 °C for 20 h. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was directly purified through column chromatography on silica gel using PE/EA (8:1) as eluent to obtain product **3a** in 68% yield (0.84 g).

### D. Mechanistic studies:

To a Schlenk tube under air conditions, 1-methacryloyl-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole-2-carbonitrile **1a** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), AIBN **2a** (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), TEMPO/DPE (0.6 mmol, 3 equiv.) and absolute ethanol (2 mL) were successively added. Then, the tube was stirred at N<sub>2</sub> under 60 °C for 20 h. The corresponding product (**3a**) was not detected according to TLC analysis. The radical-trapping adducts **I-1** and **I-2** were detected by HRMS analysis. HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 247.1782. found: 247.1782. Calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 270.1254. found: 270.1264.



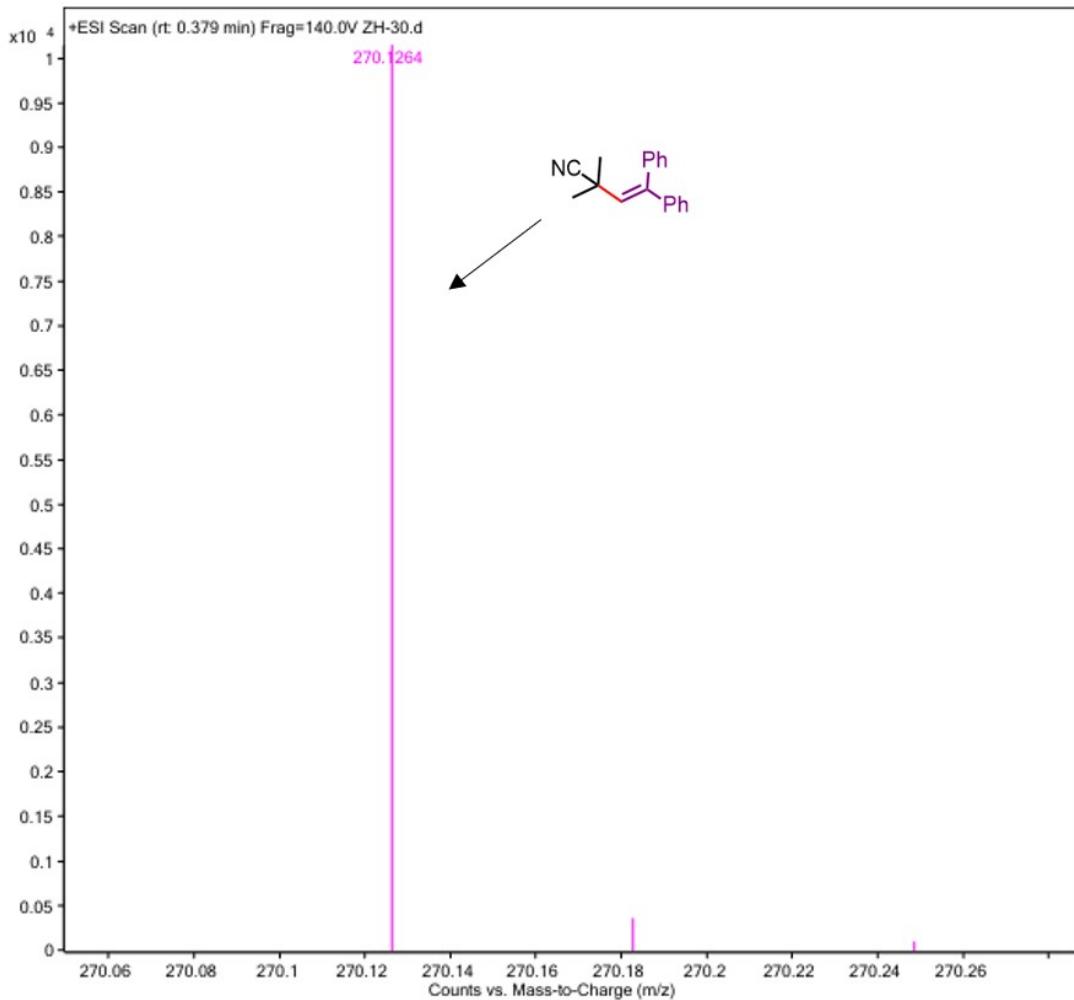


Figure S1. Copy of HRMS Spectrum of TEMPO/DPE-Br adduct

#### E. Crystal structure.

##### (a) Crystal structure of complex **3a**, CCDC Number = 2413982

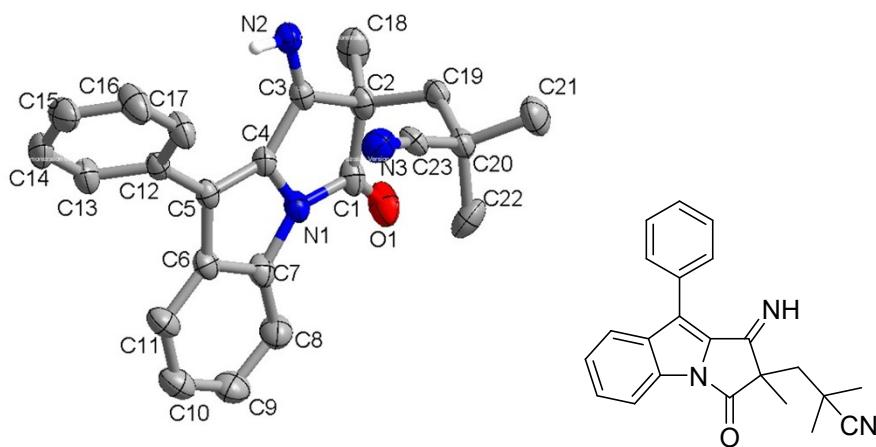


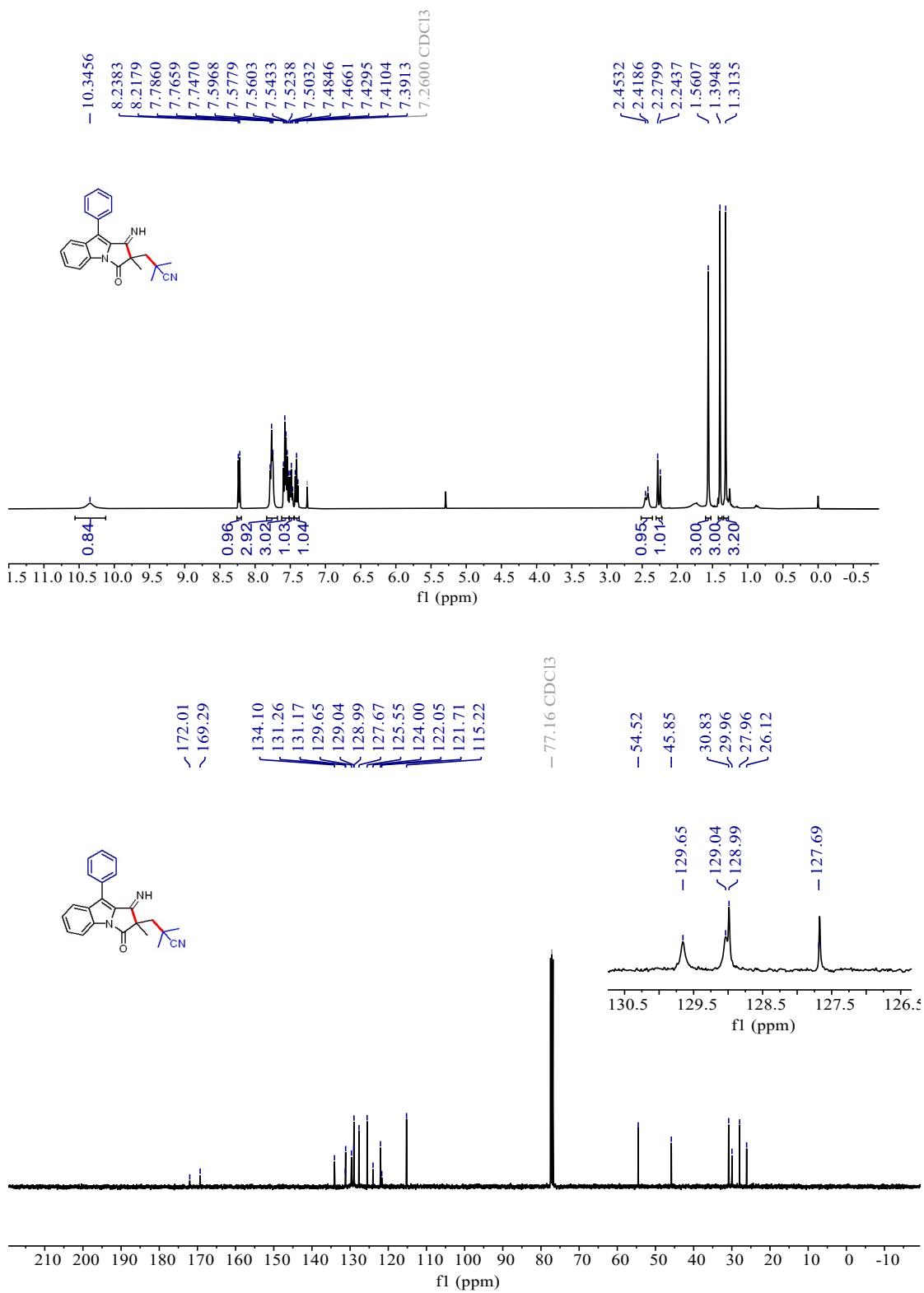
Figure S2 Crystal structure of **3a** with thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability.

**Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement for 3a**

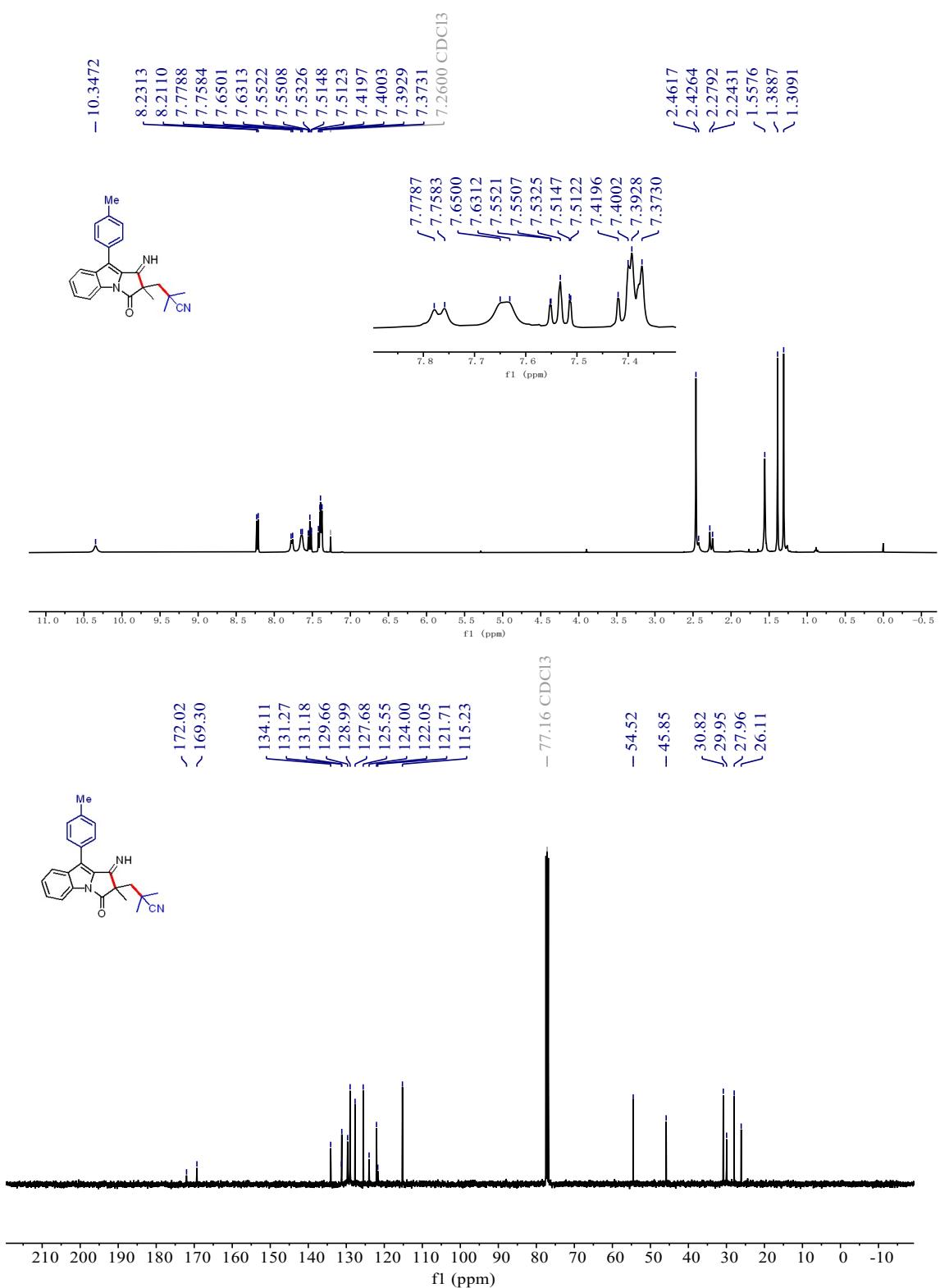
Identification code	<b>3a</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O
Formula weight	355.43
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	C2/c
a/Å	22.050(2)
b/Å	8.2245(13)
c/Å	21.735(3)
α/°	90
β/°	100.182(11)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3879.4(9)
Z	8
ρ <sub>calc</sub> g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.217
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.076
F(000)	1504.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.17 × 0.12 × 0.1
Radiation	MoKα ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
2θ range for data collection/°	5.516 to 52.732
Index ranges	-24 ≤ h ≤ 27, -10 ≤ k ≤ 8, -27 ≤ l ≤ 26
Reflections collected	9870
Independent reflections	3961 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0345, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0566]
Data/restraints/parameters	3961/1/262
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.092
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0955, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2265
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.1348, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2472
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.25/-0.16

**F. NMR spectra:**

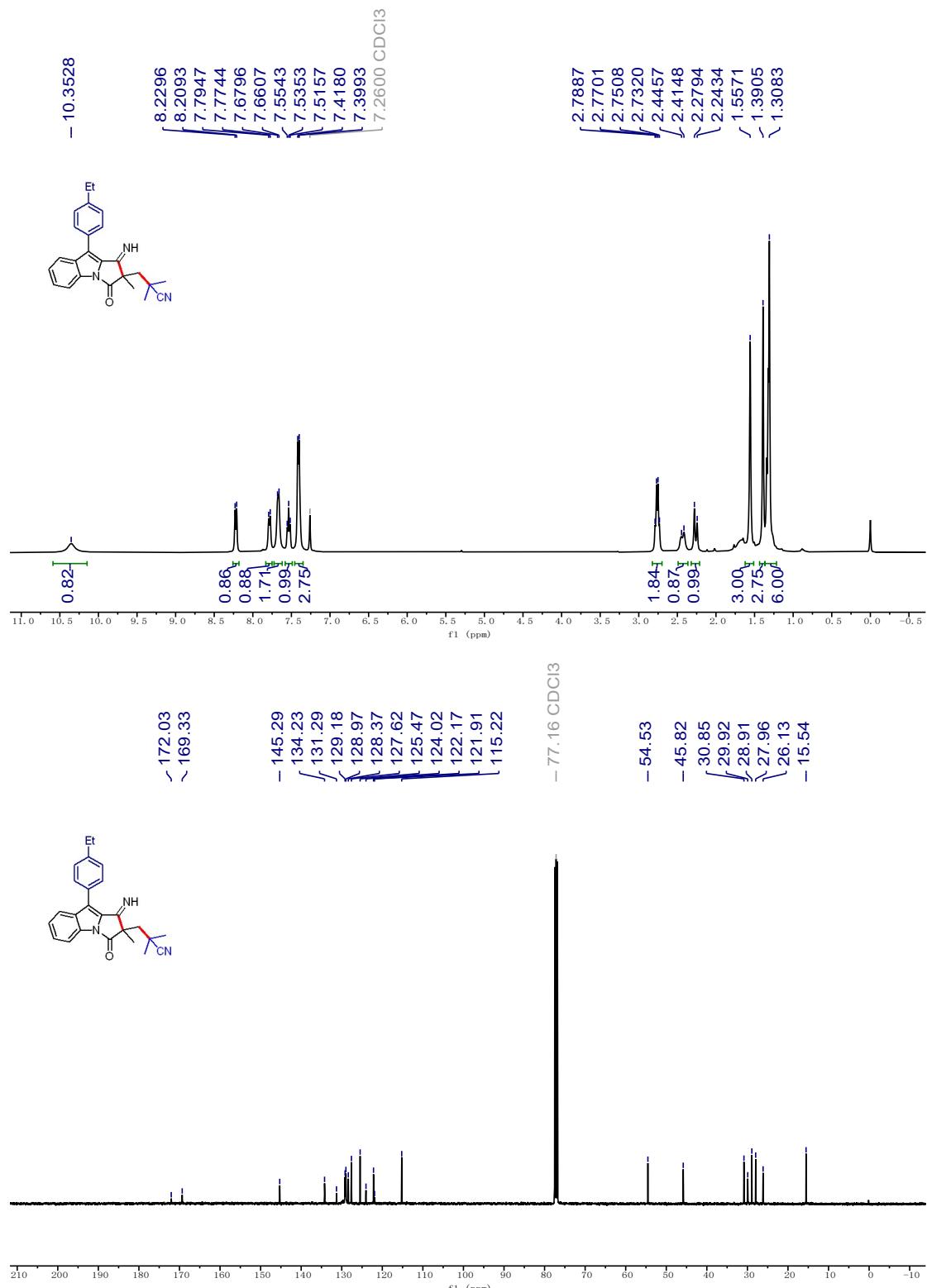
**$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Spectra of compound 3a**



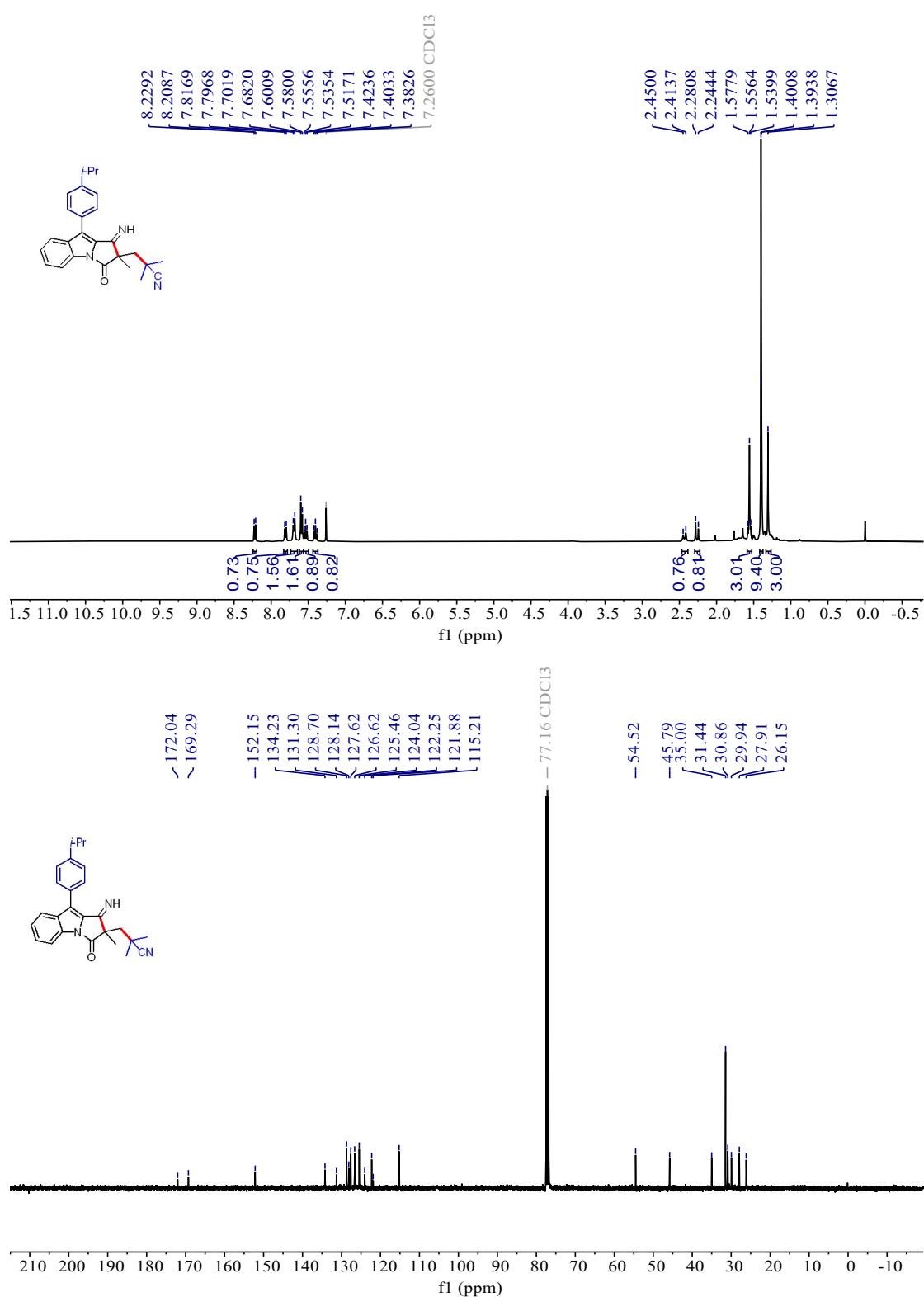
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of compound 3b**



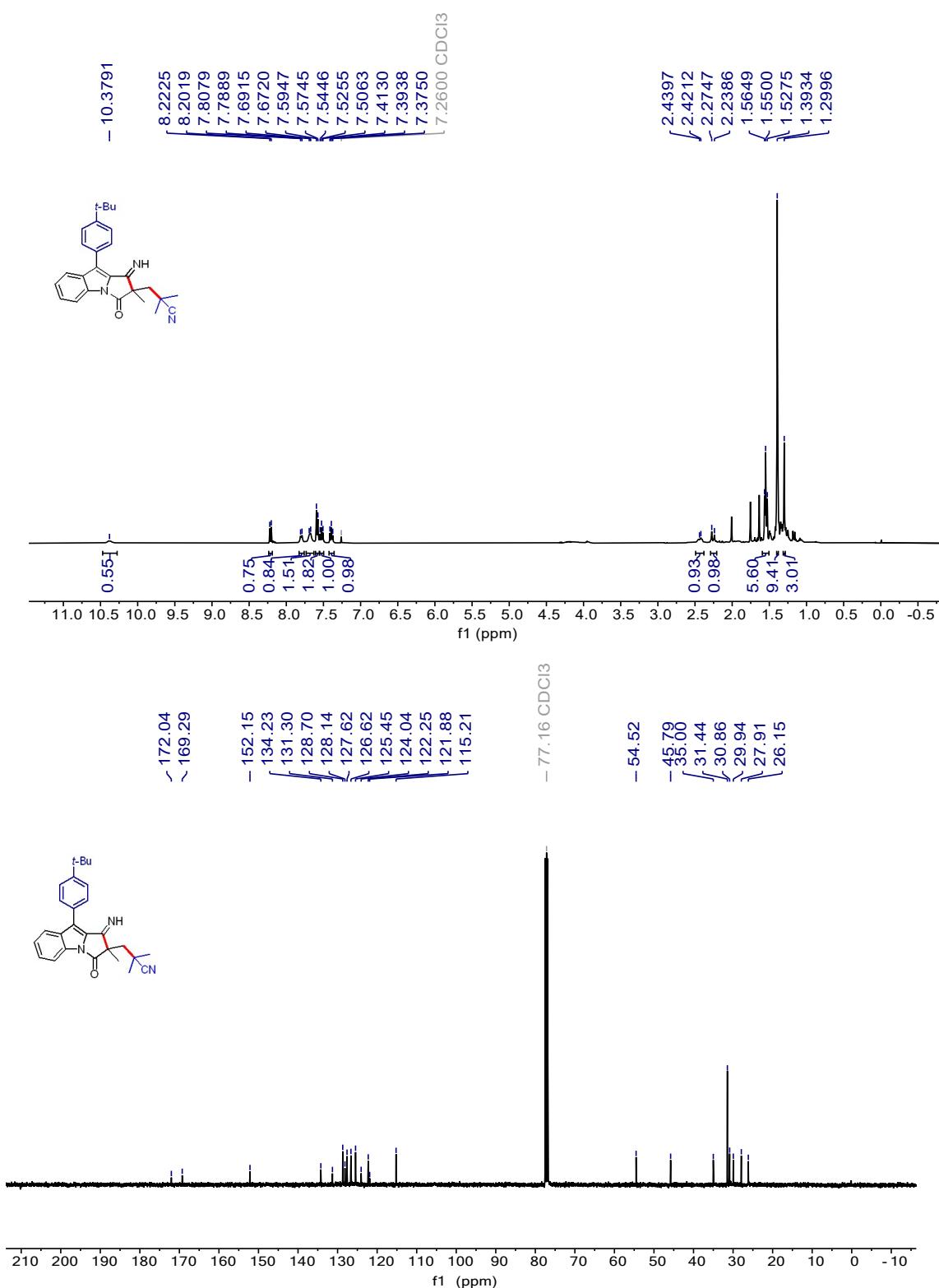
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3c**



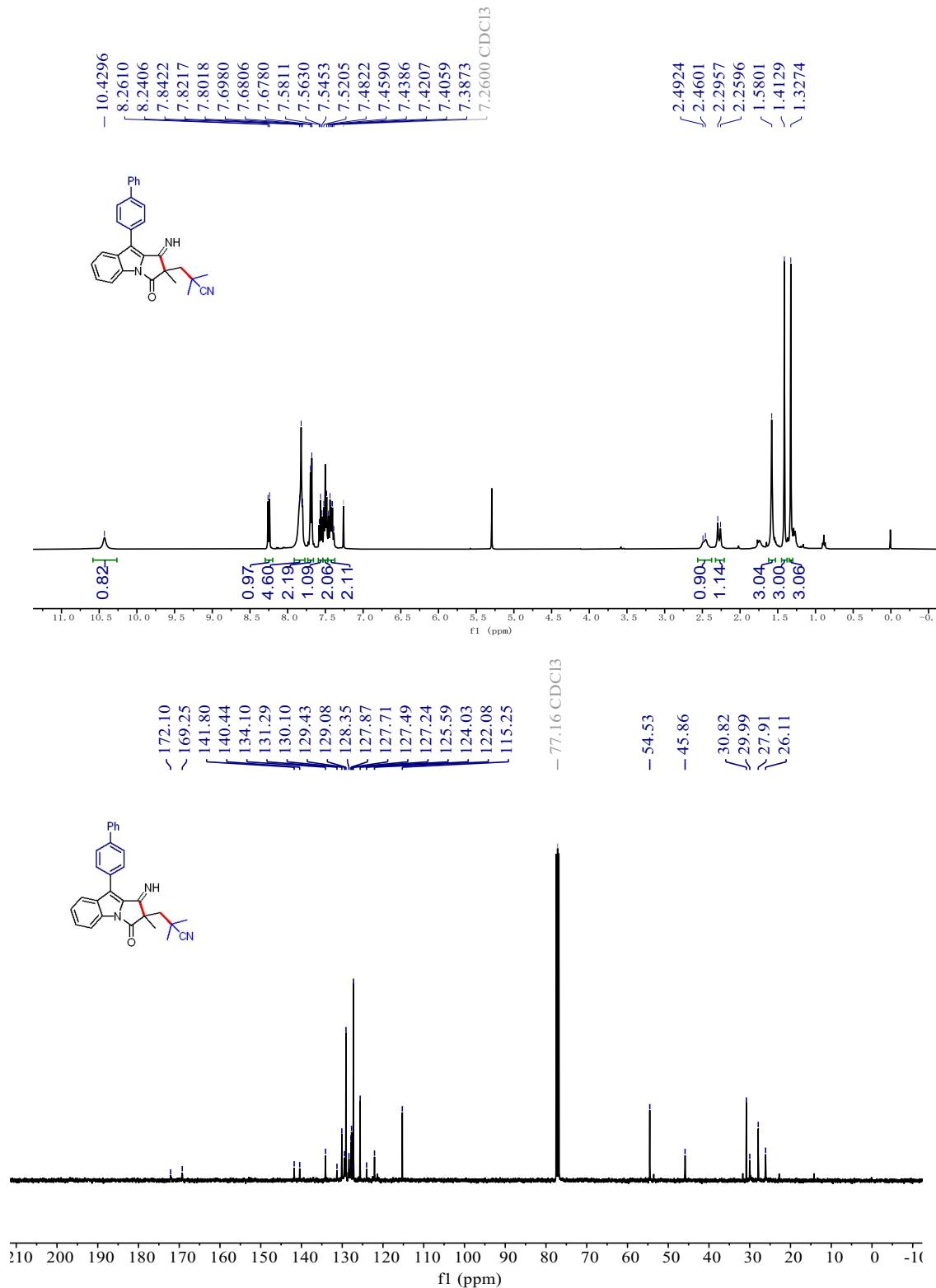
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3d**



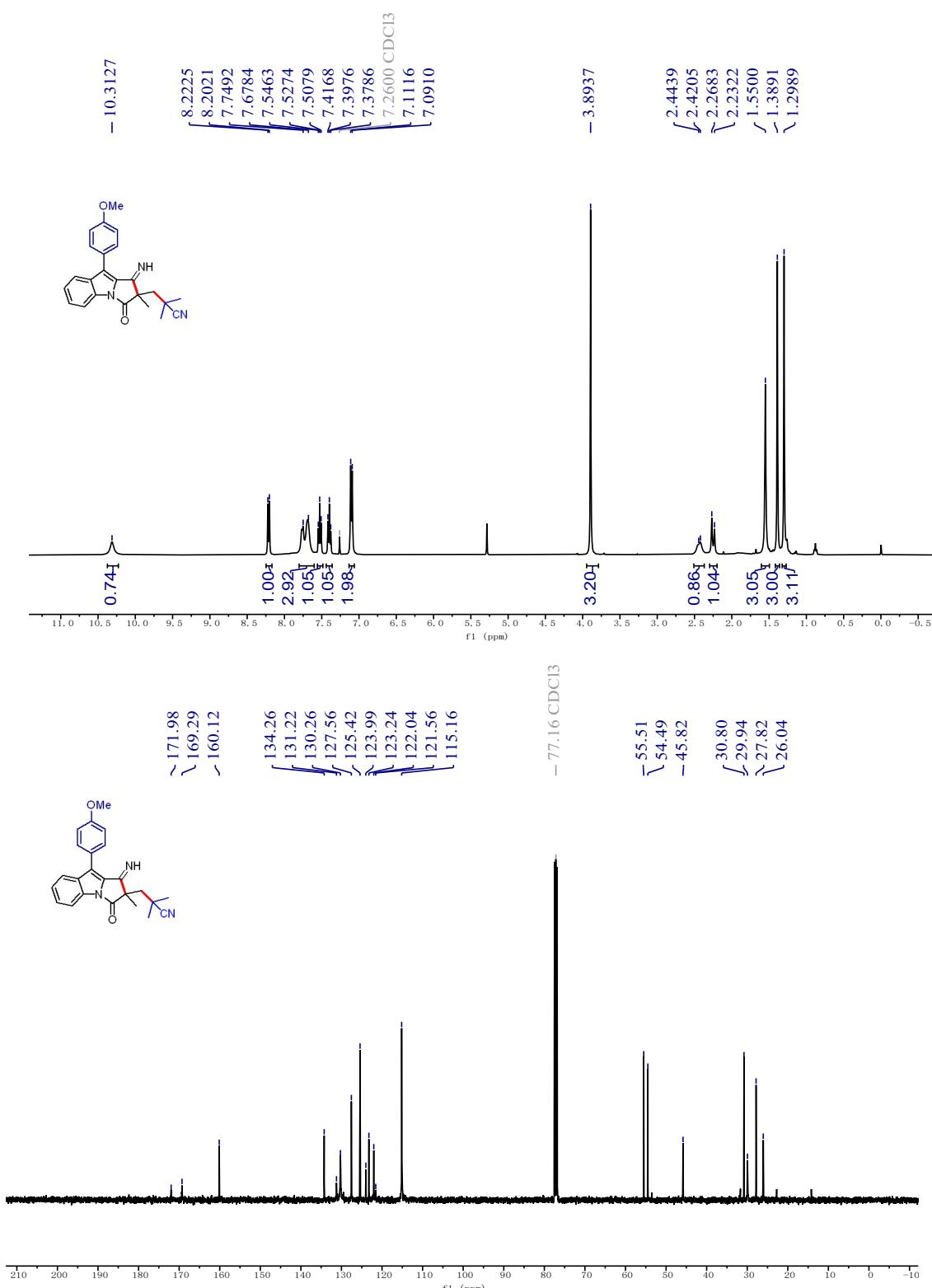
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3e



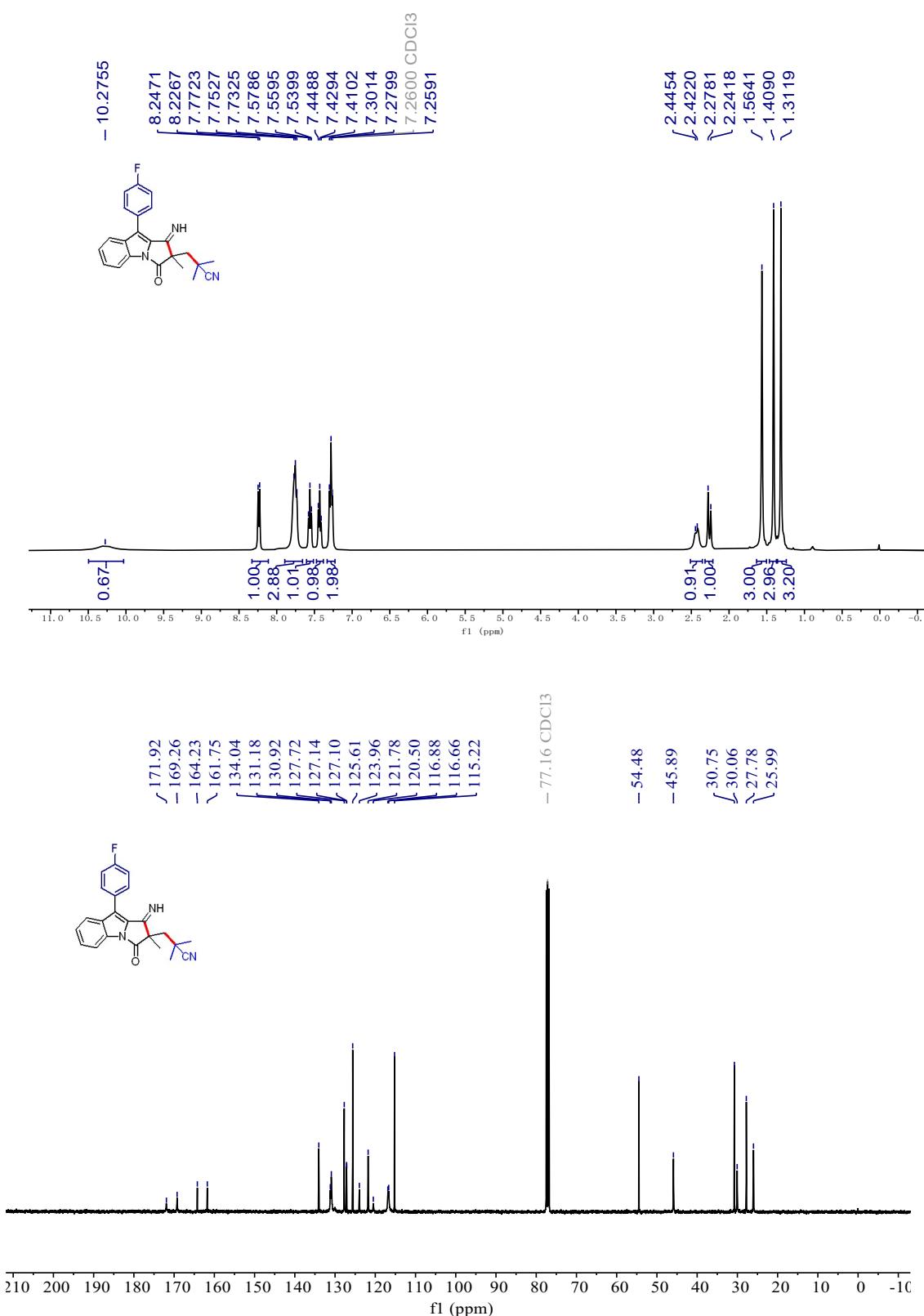
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3f

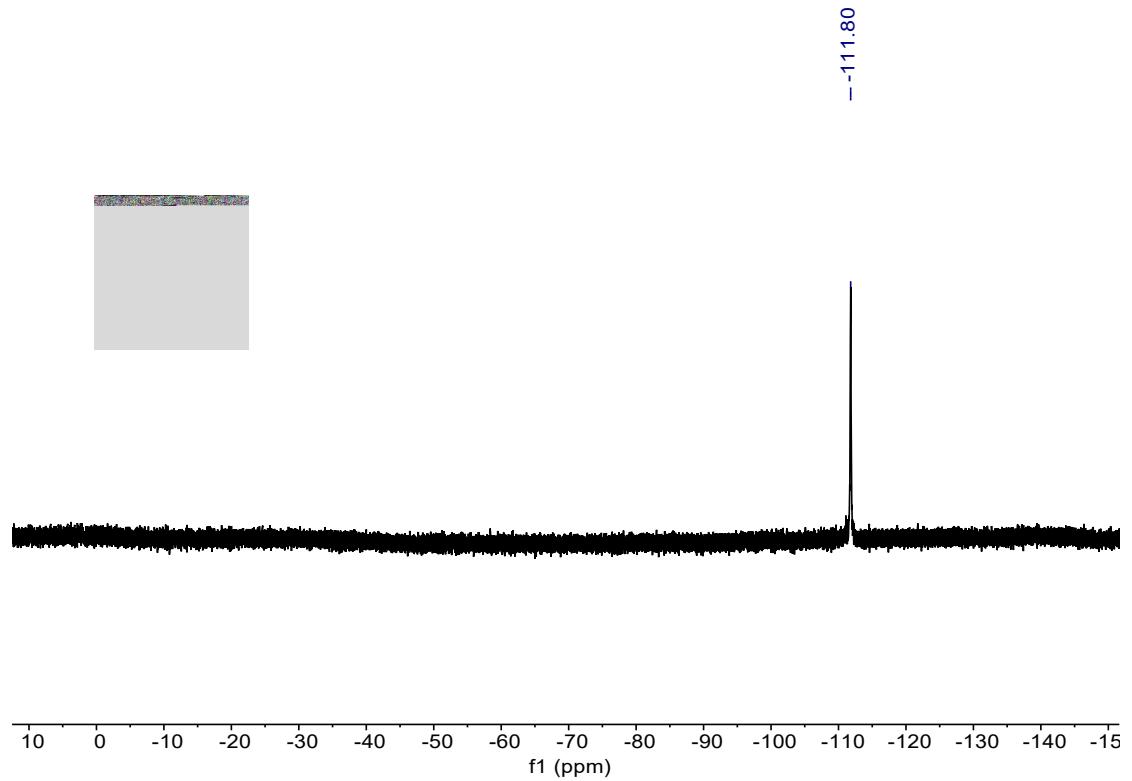


<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3g

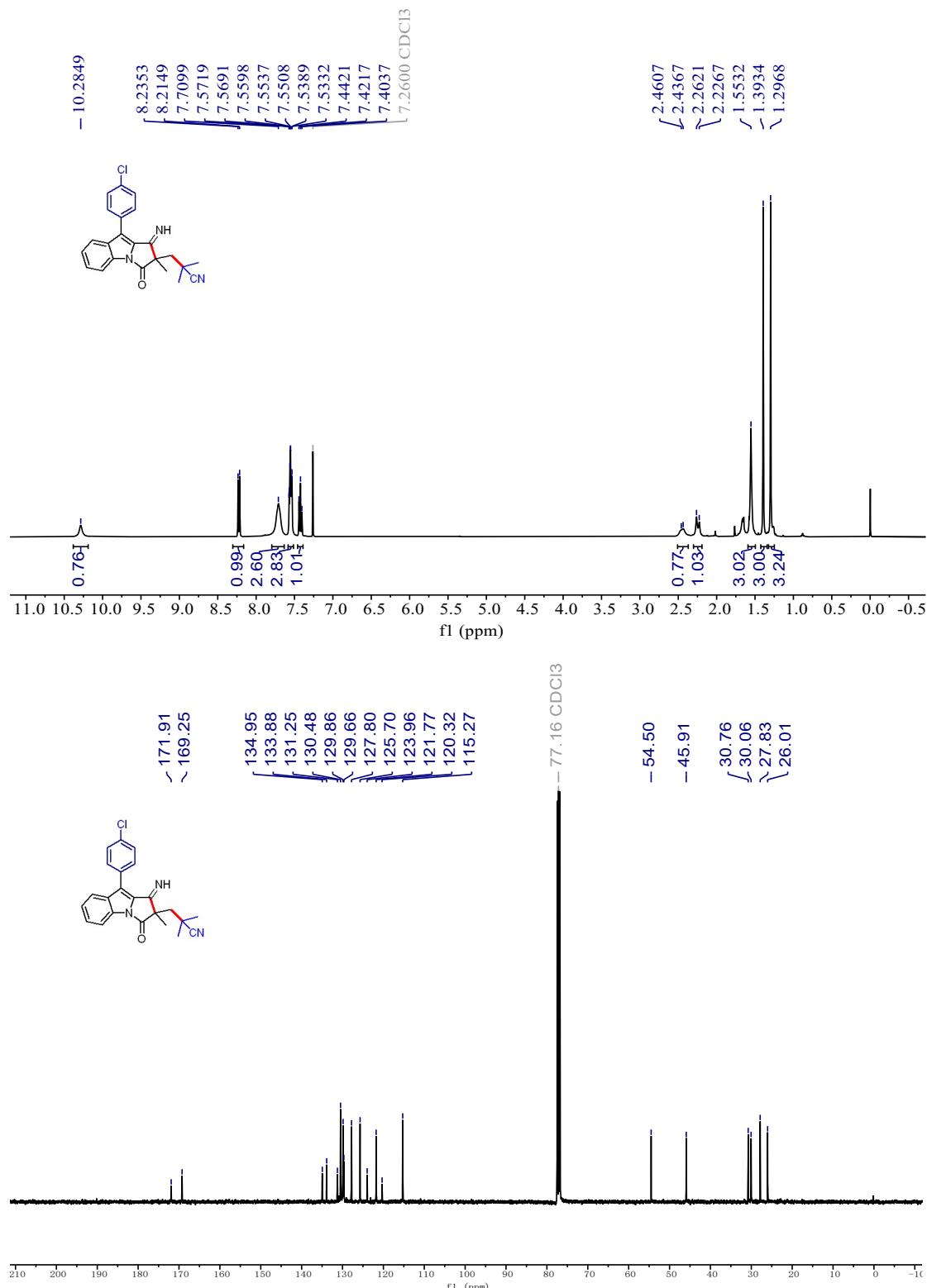


<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3h

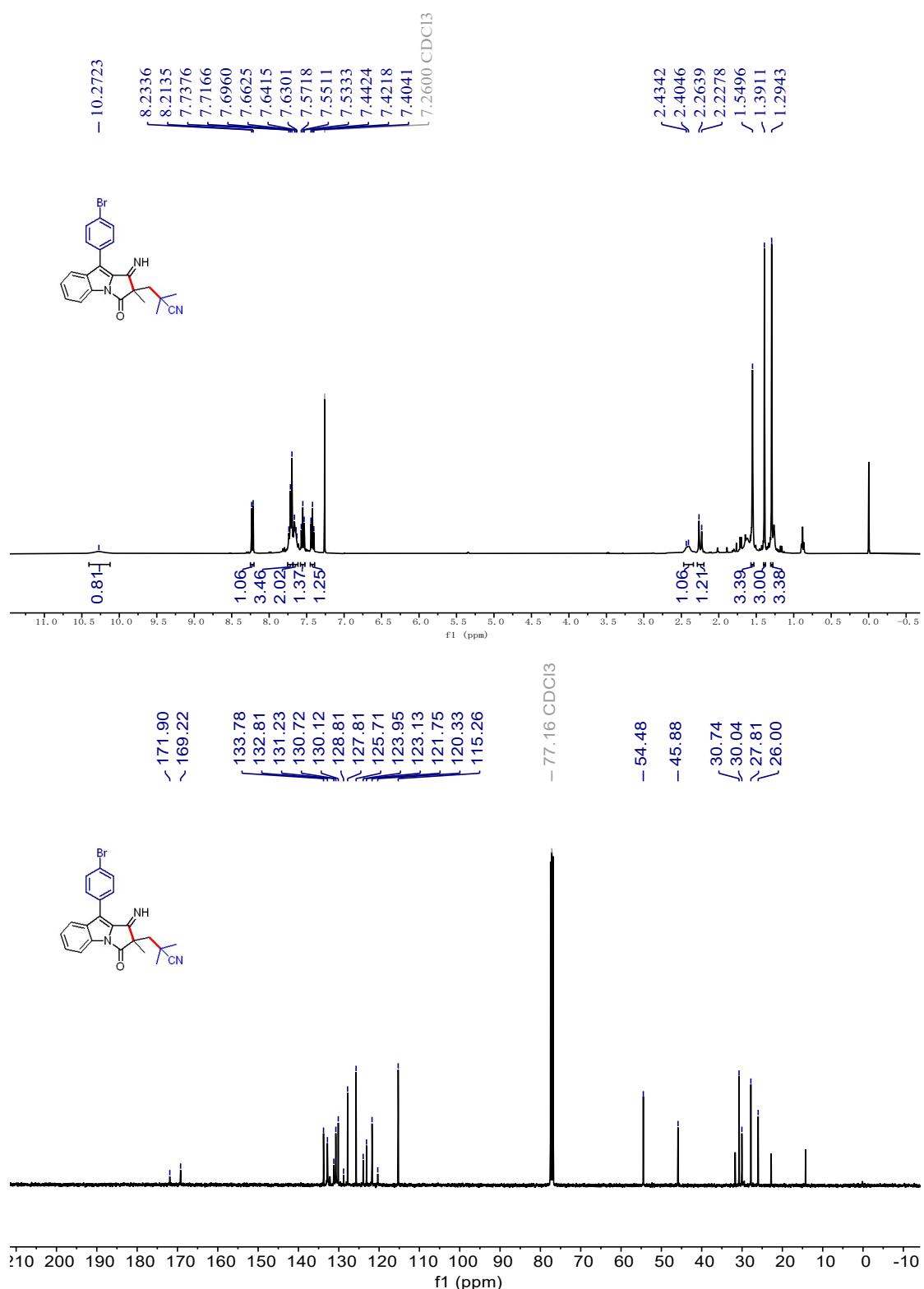




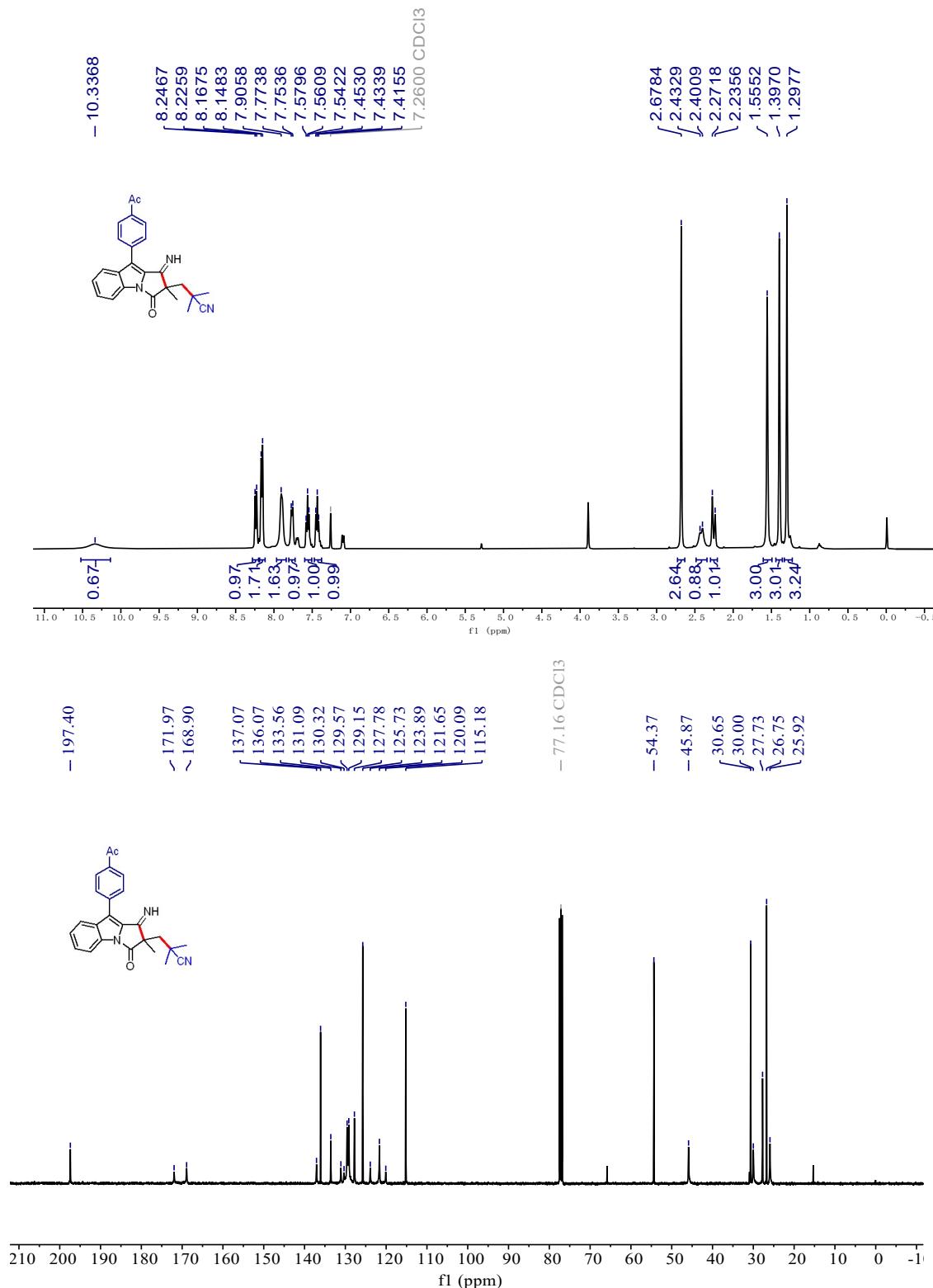
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3i**



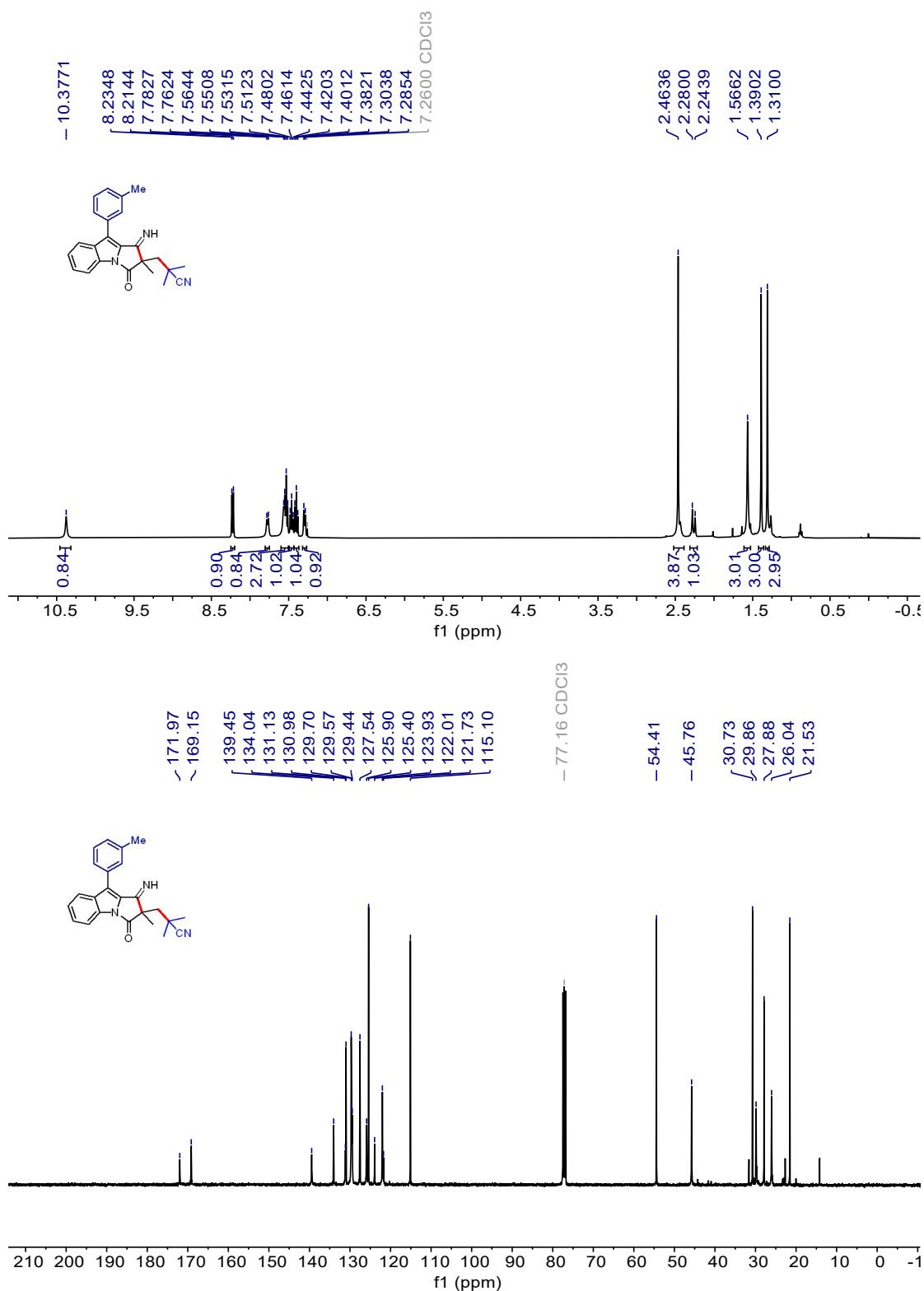
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3j**



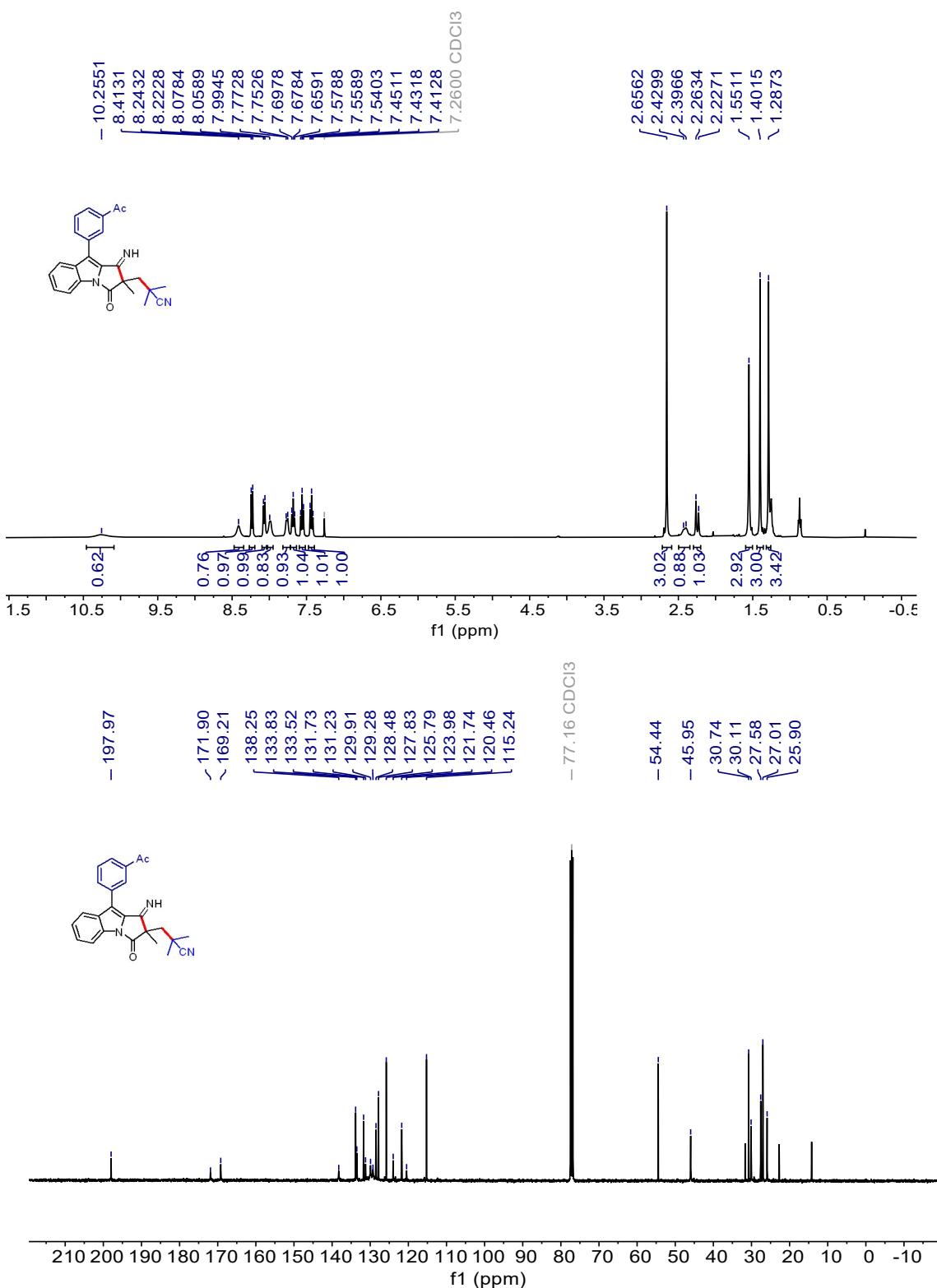
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3k



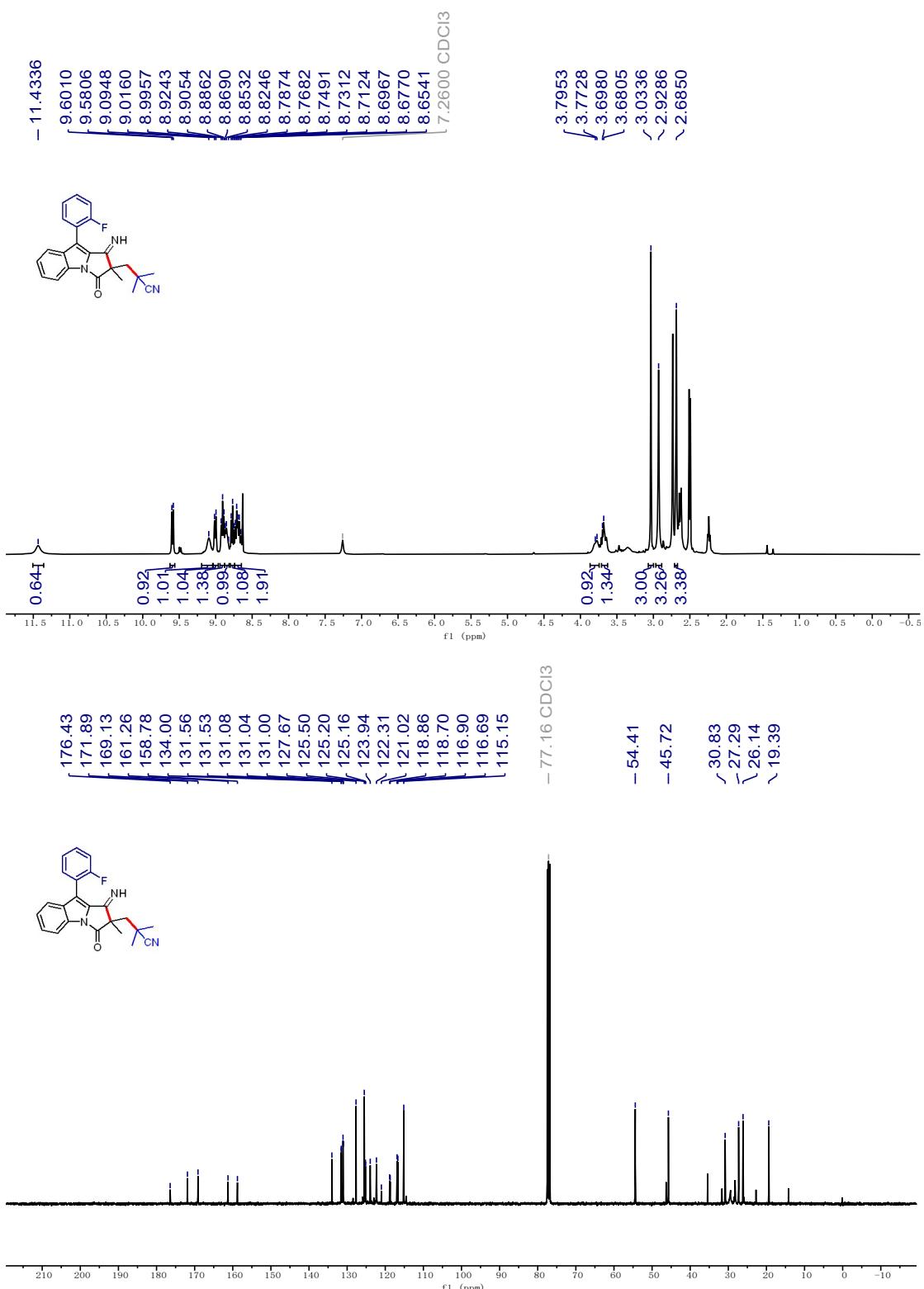
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3l

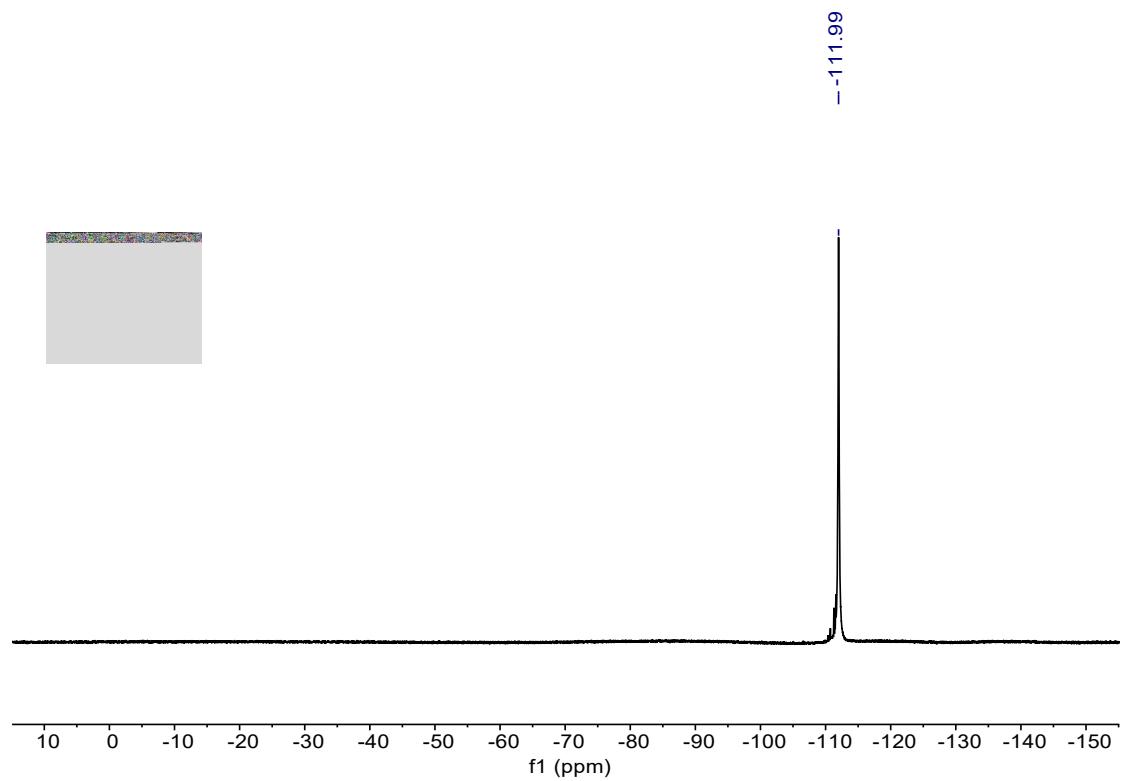


<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3m

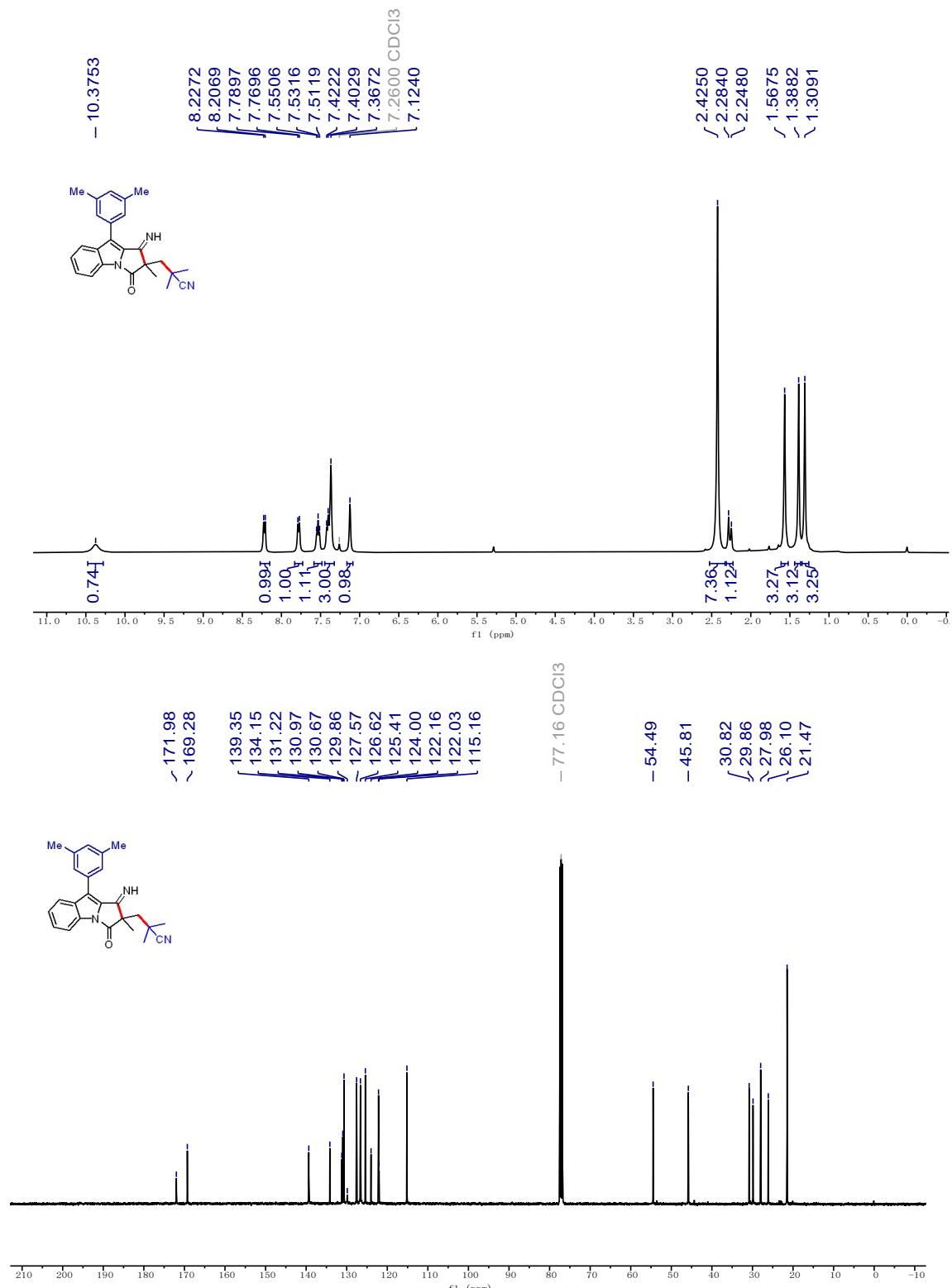


**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3n**

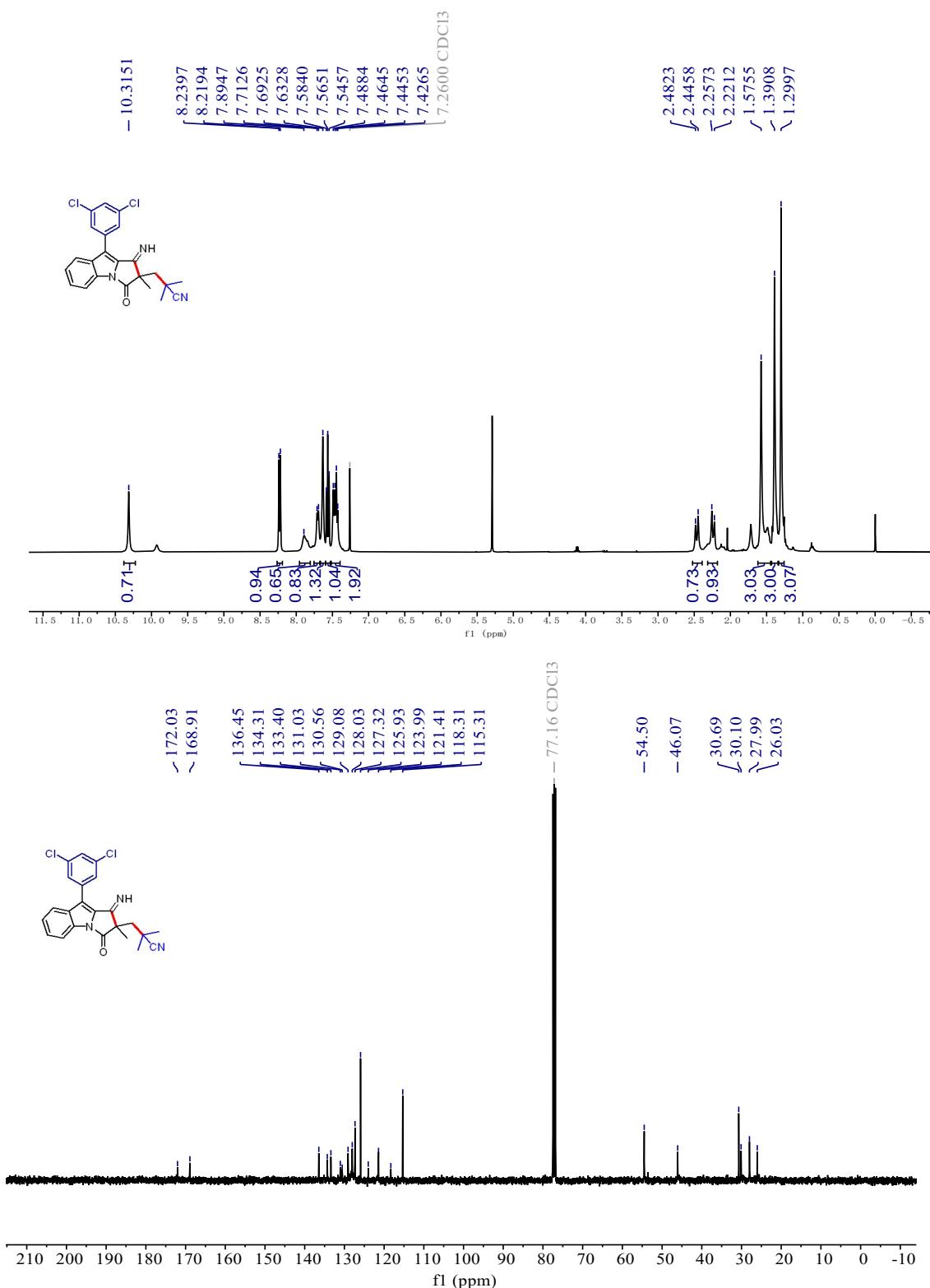




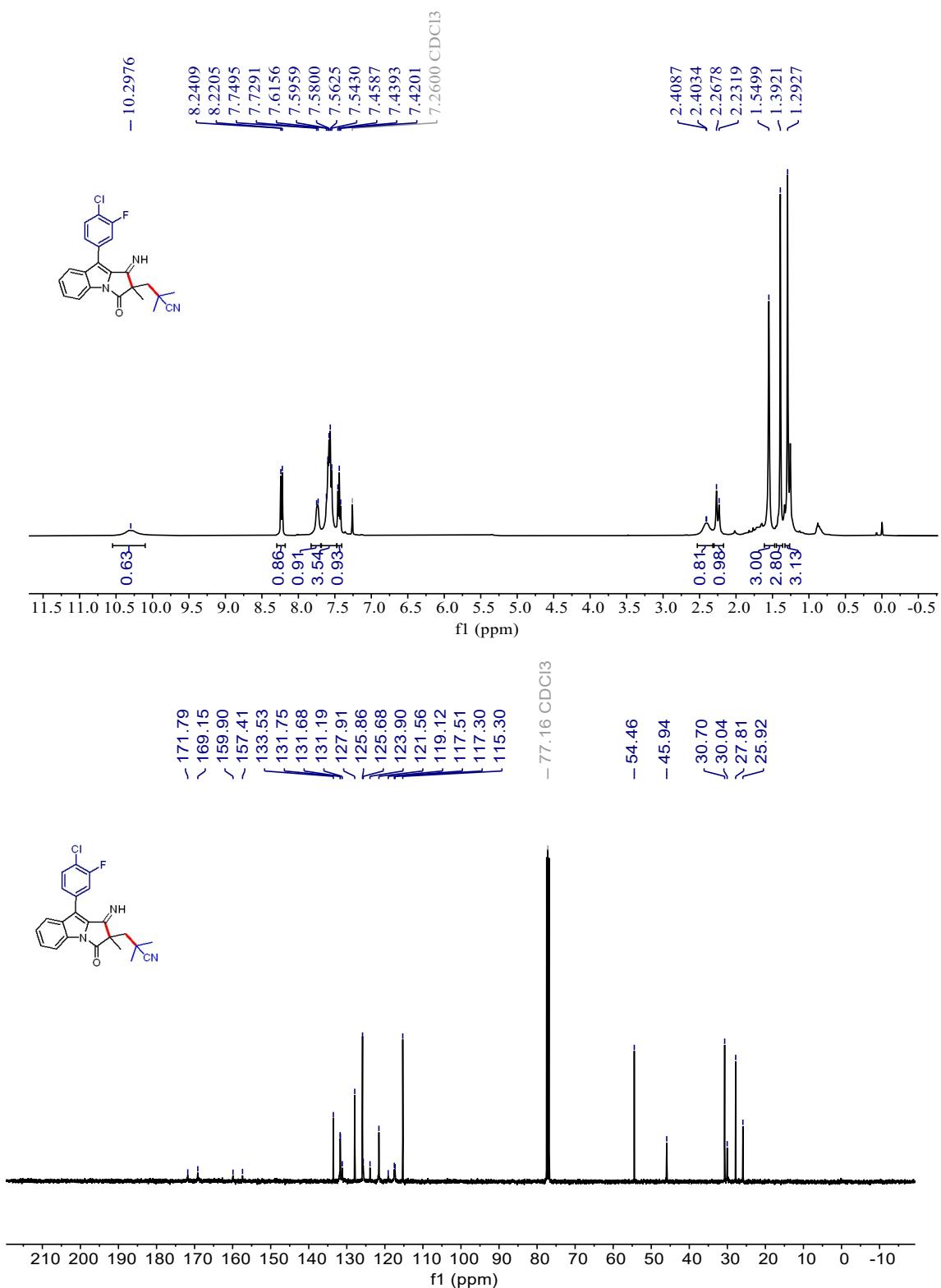
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3o**



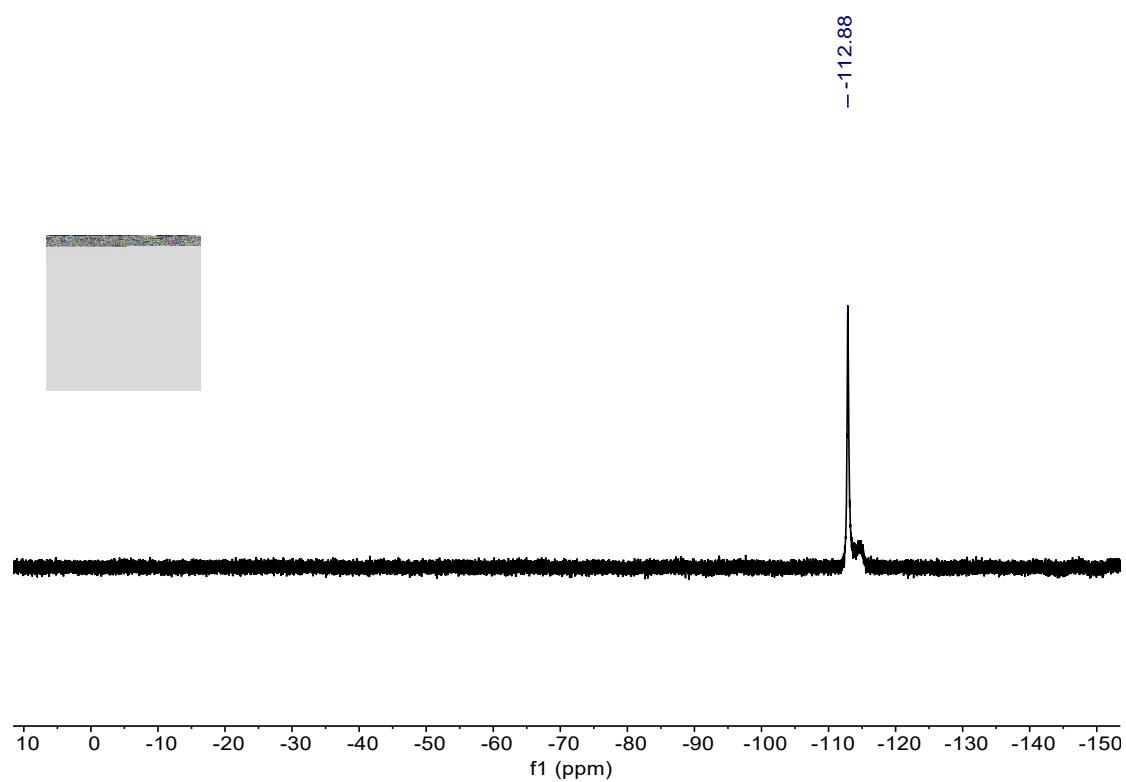
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3p



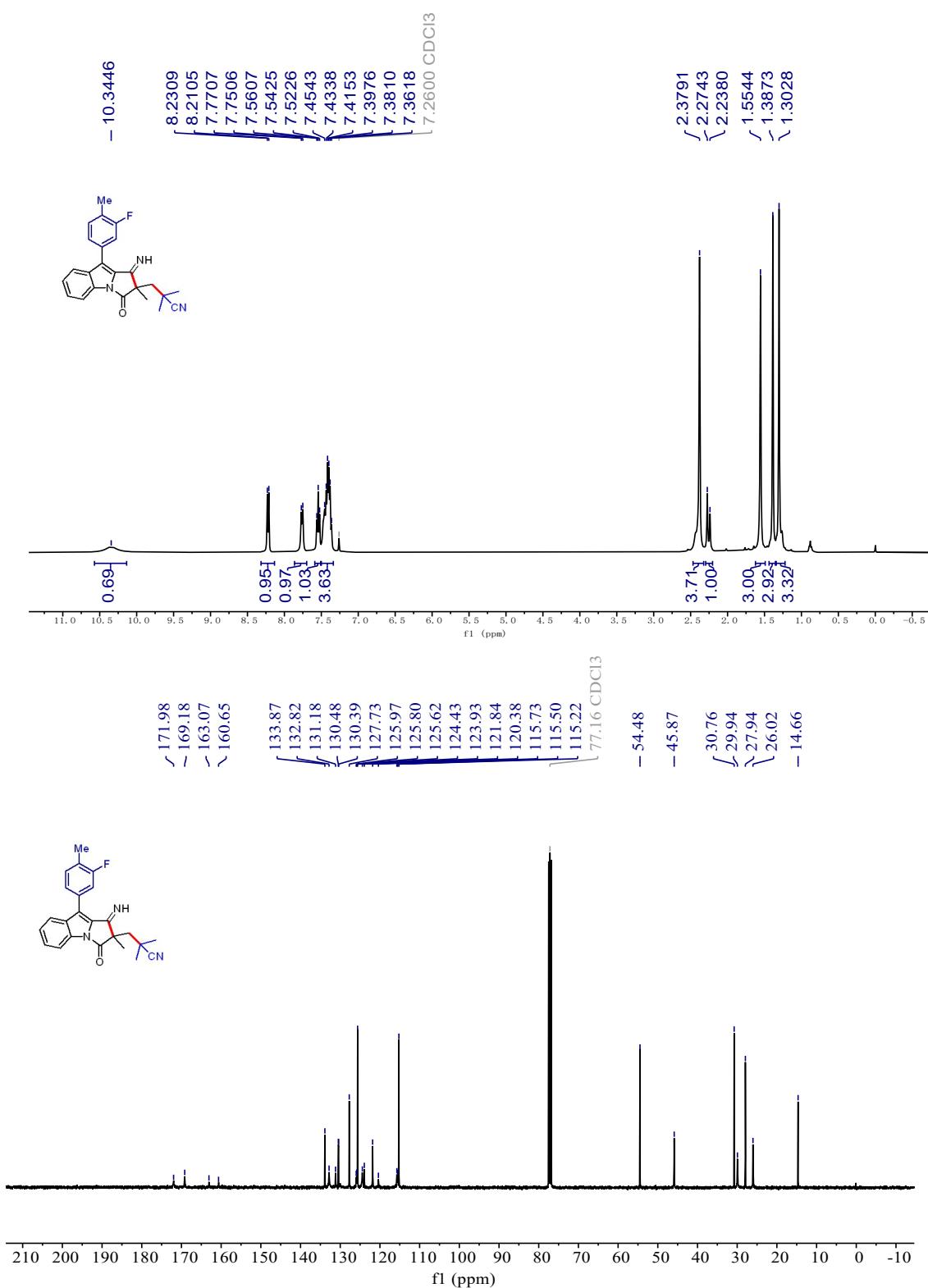
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3q



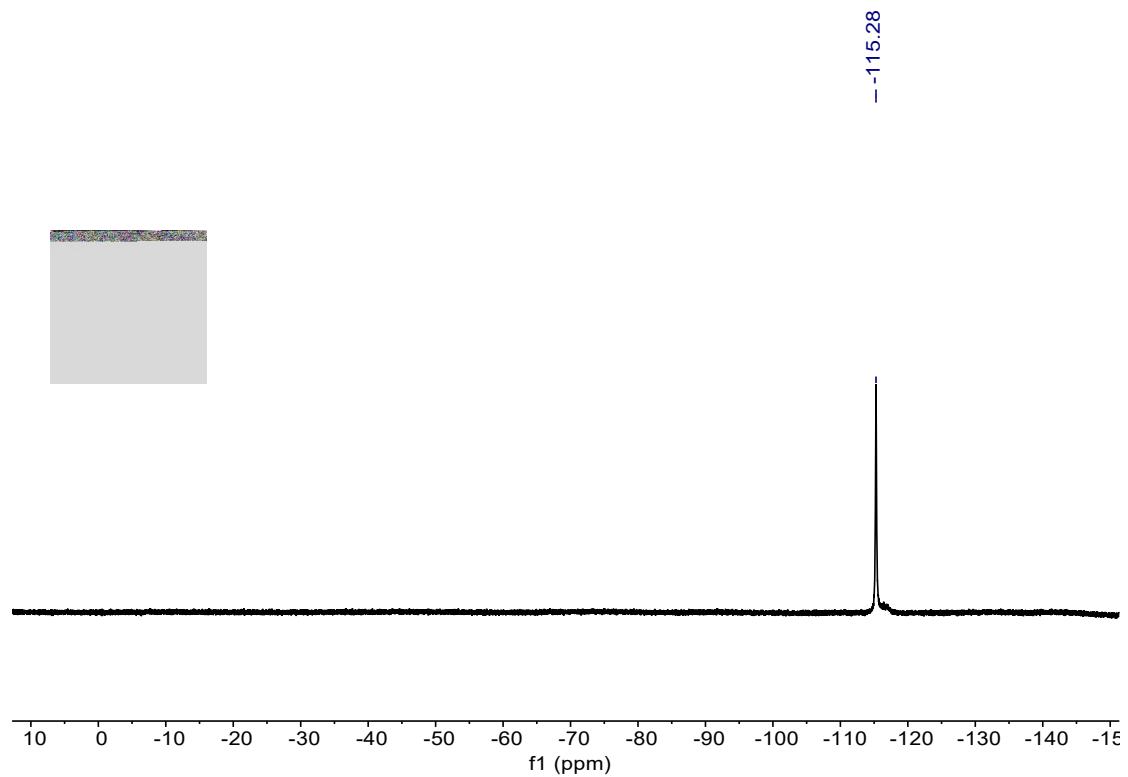
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR** spectrum of **3q**



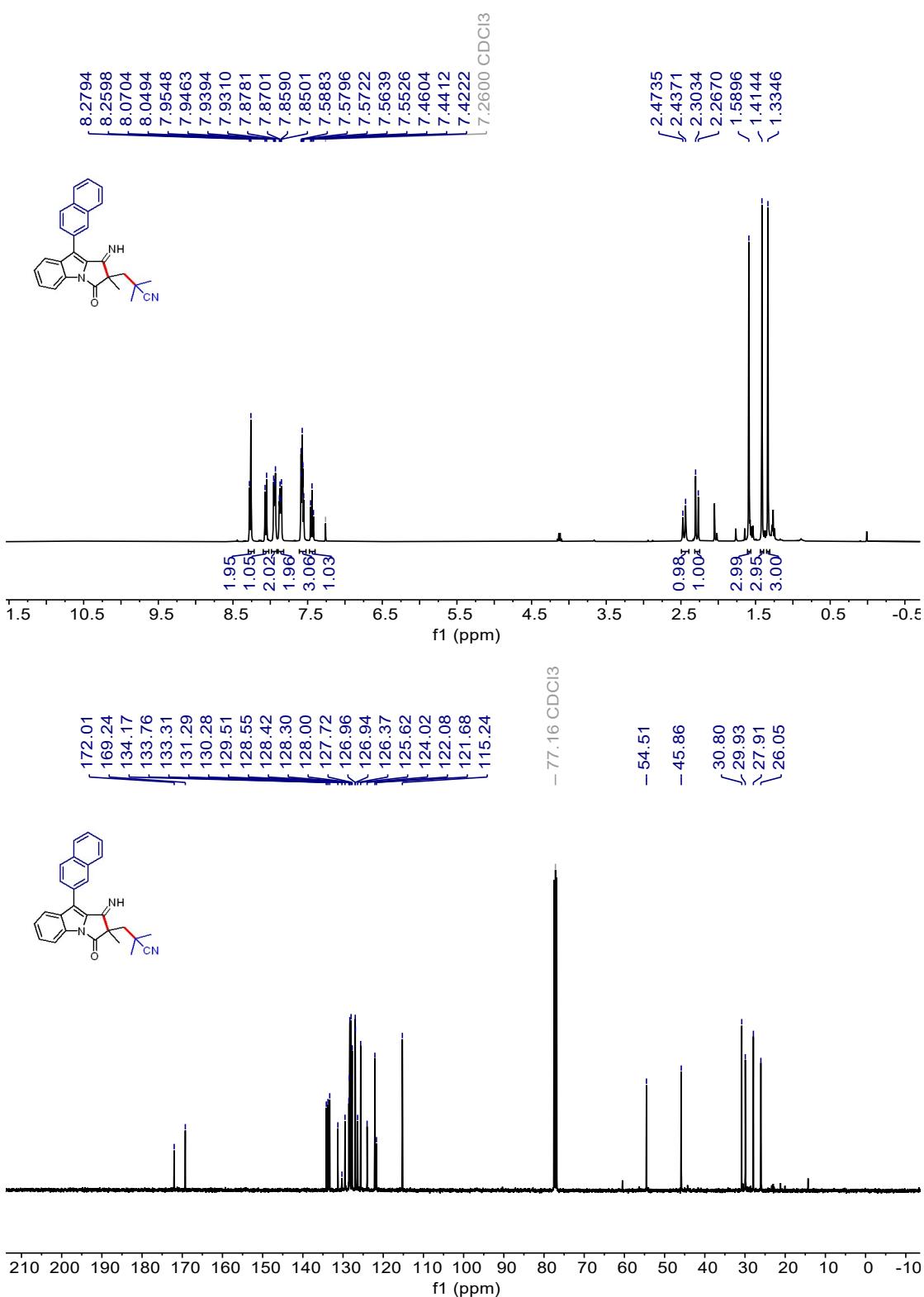
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3r**



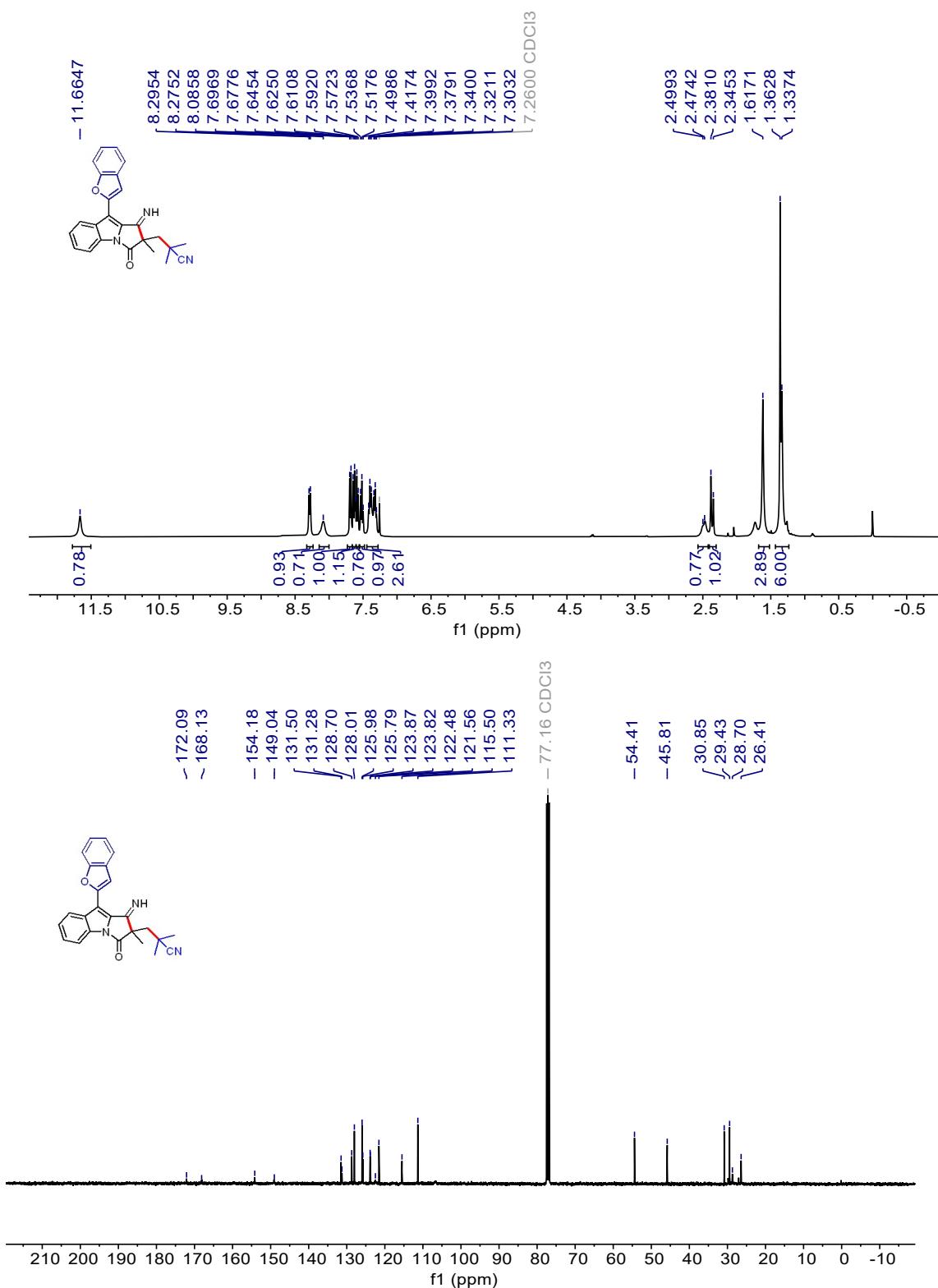
**<sup>19</sup>F NMR** spectrum of **3r**



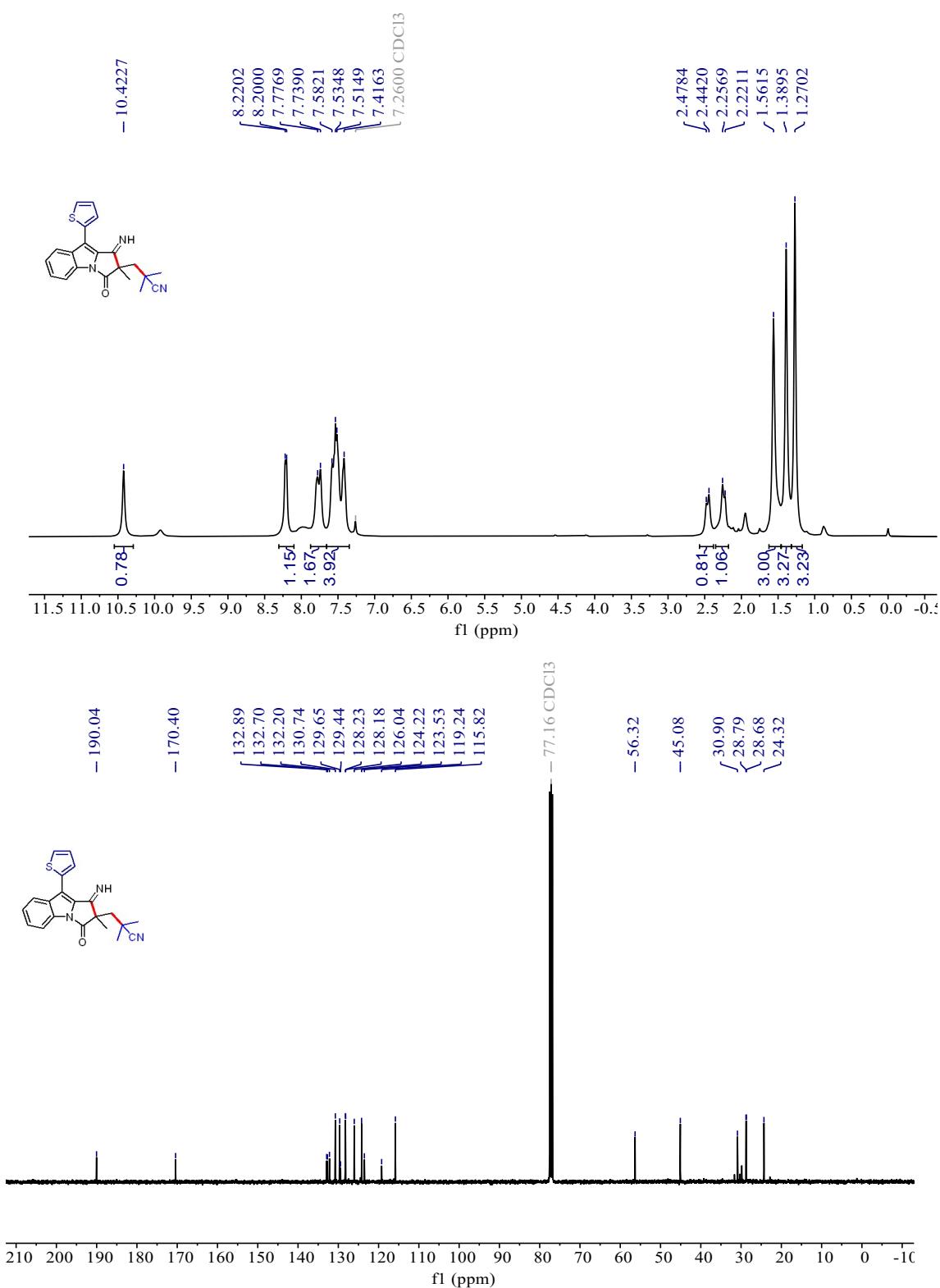
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3s



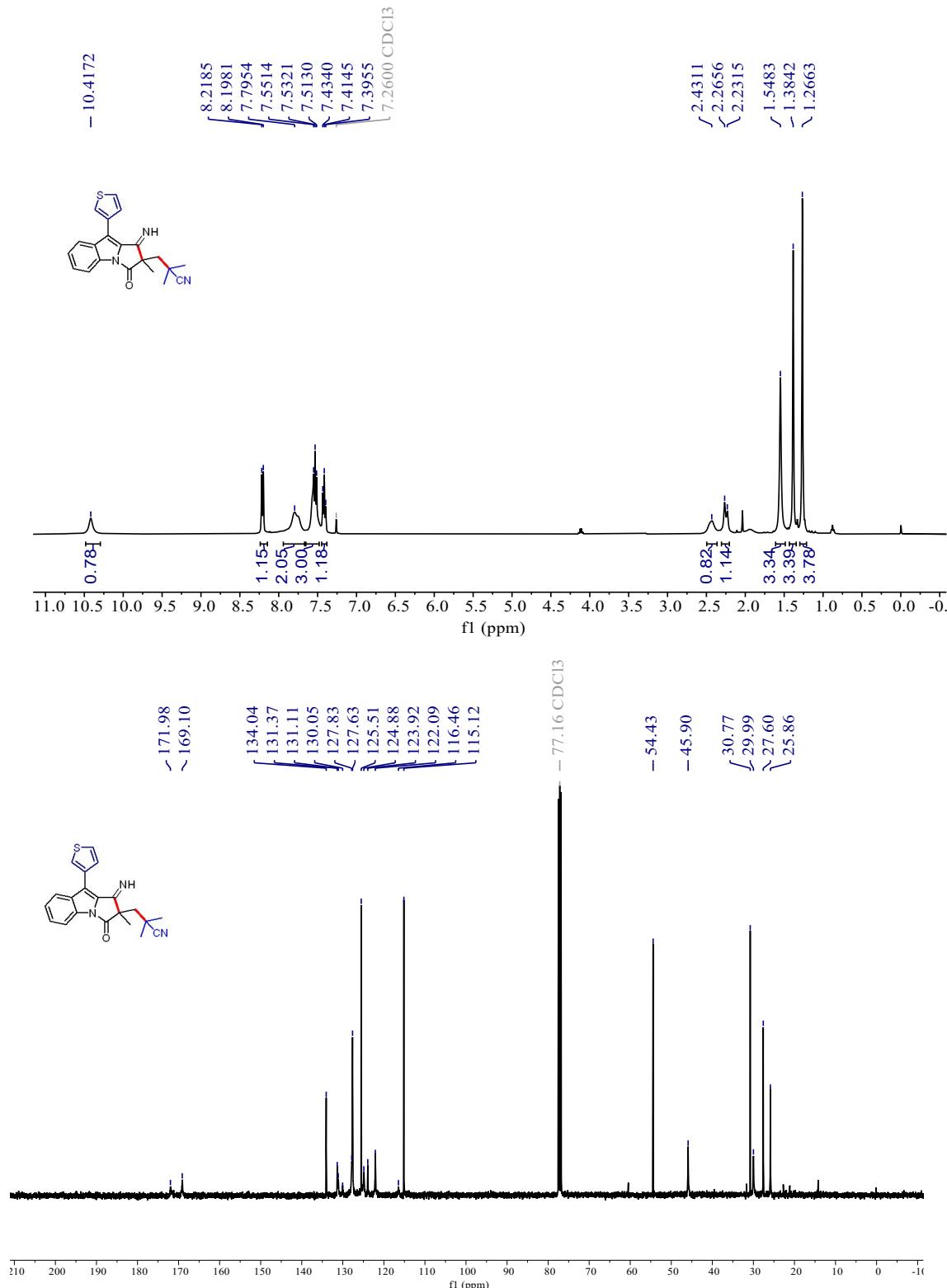
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3t



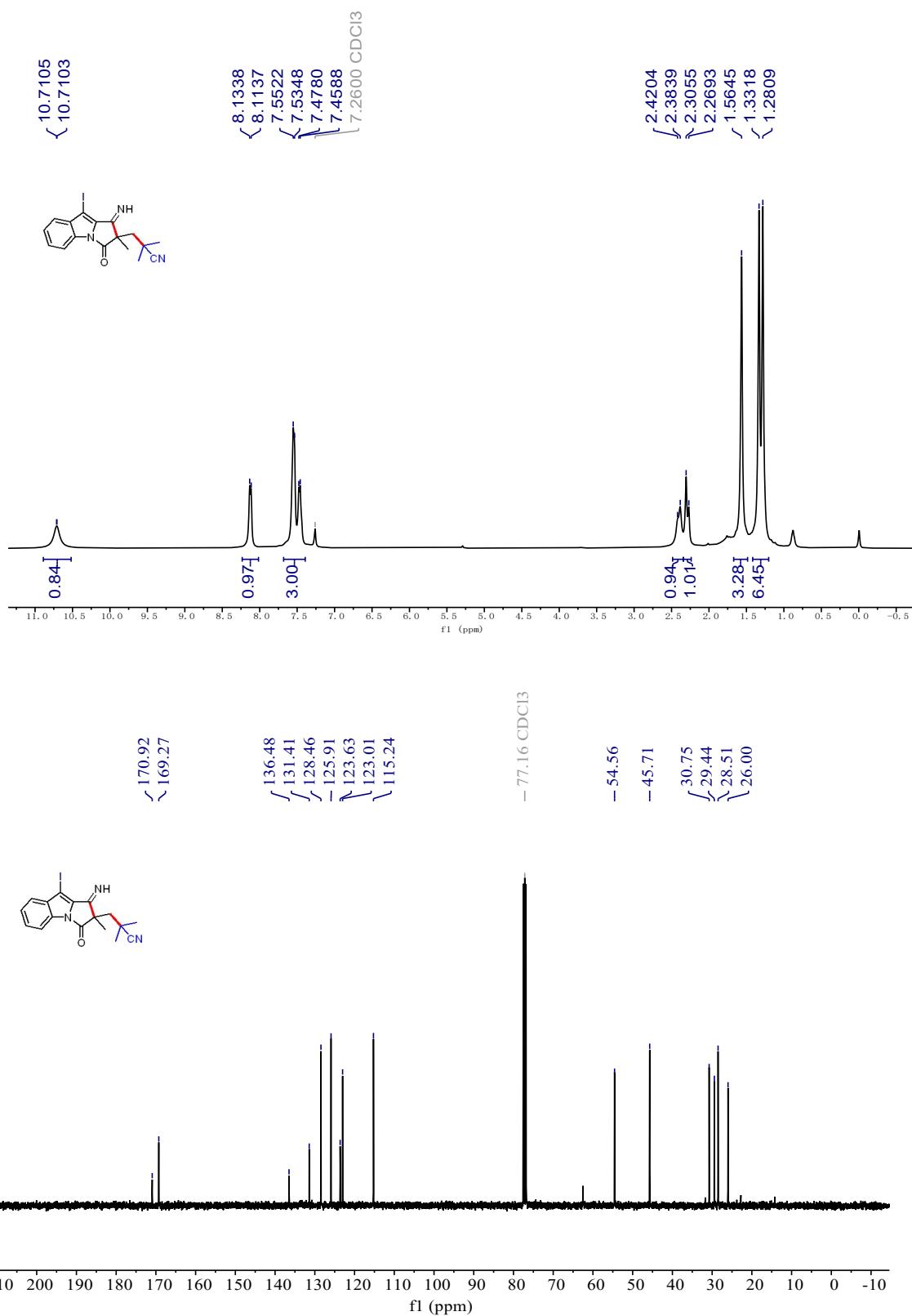
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3u



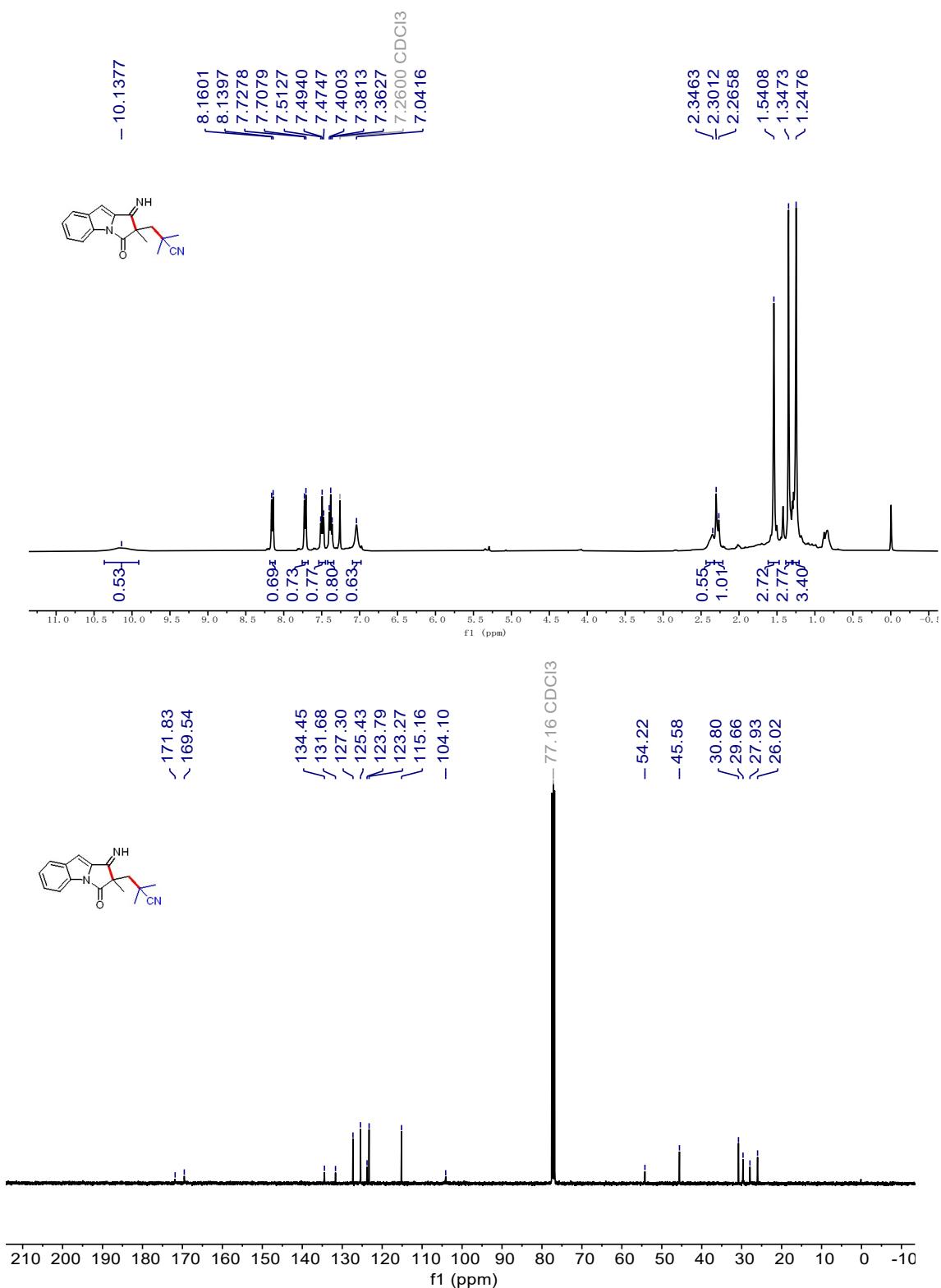
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3v



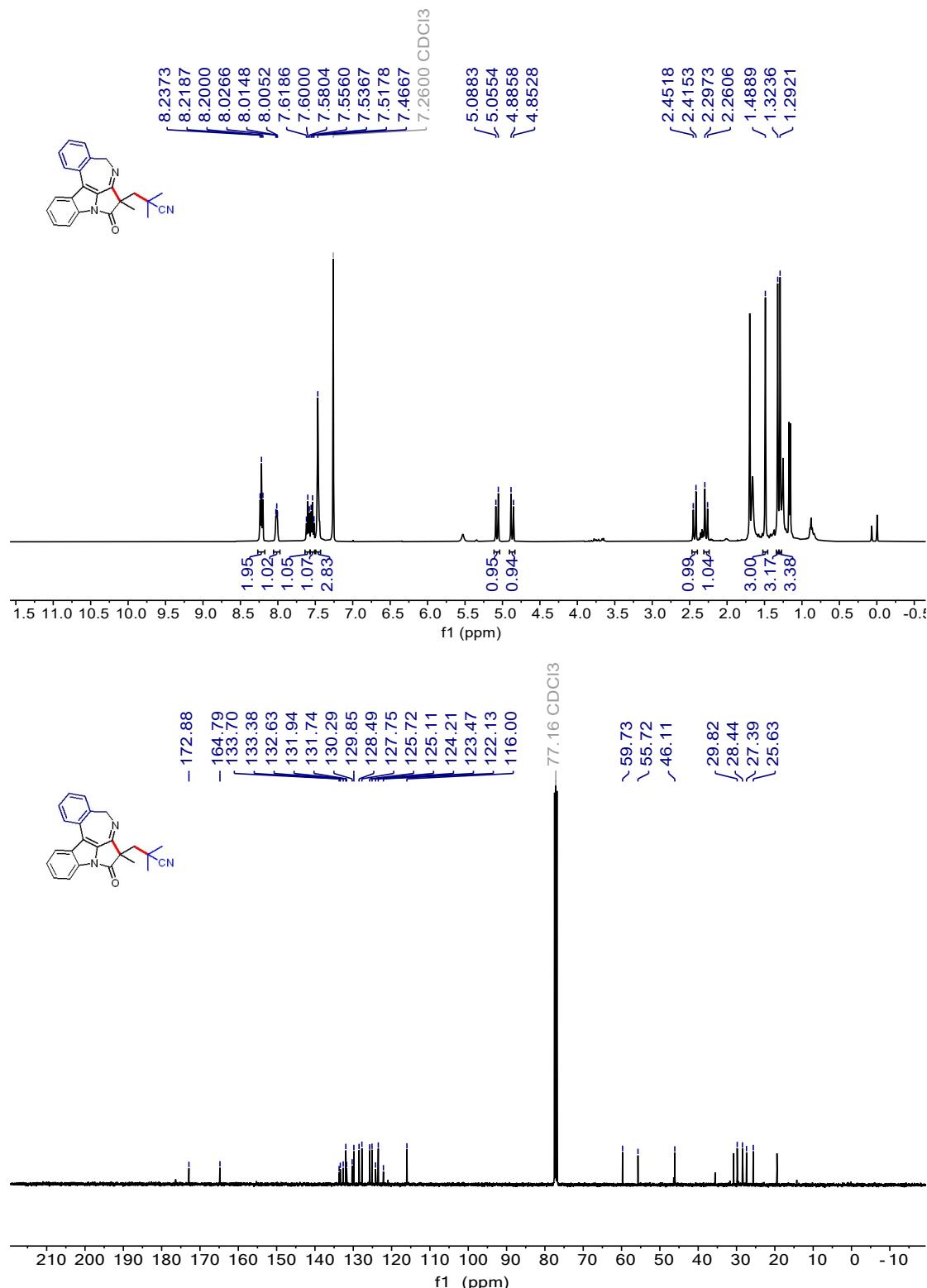
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3w



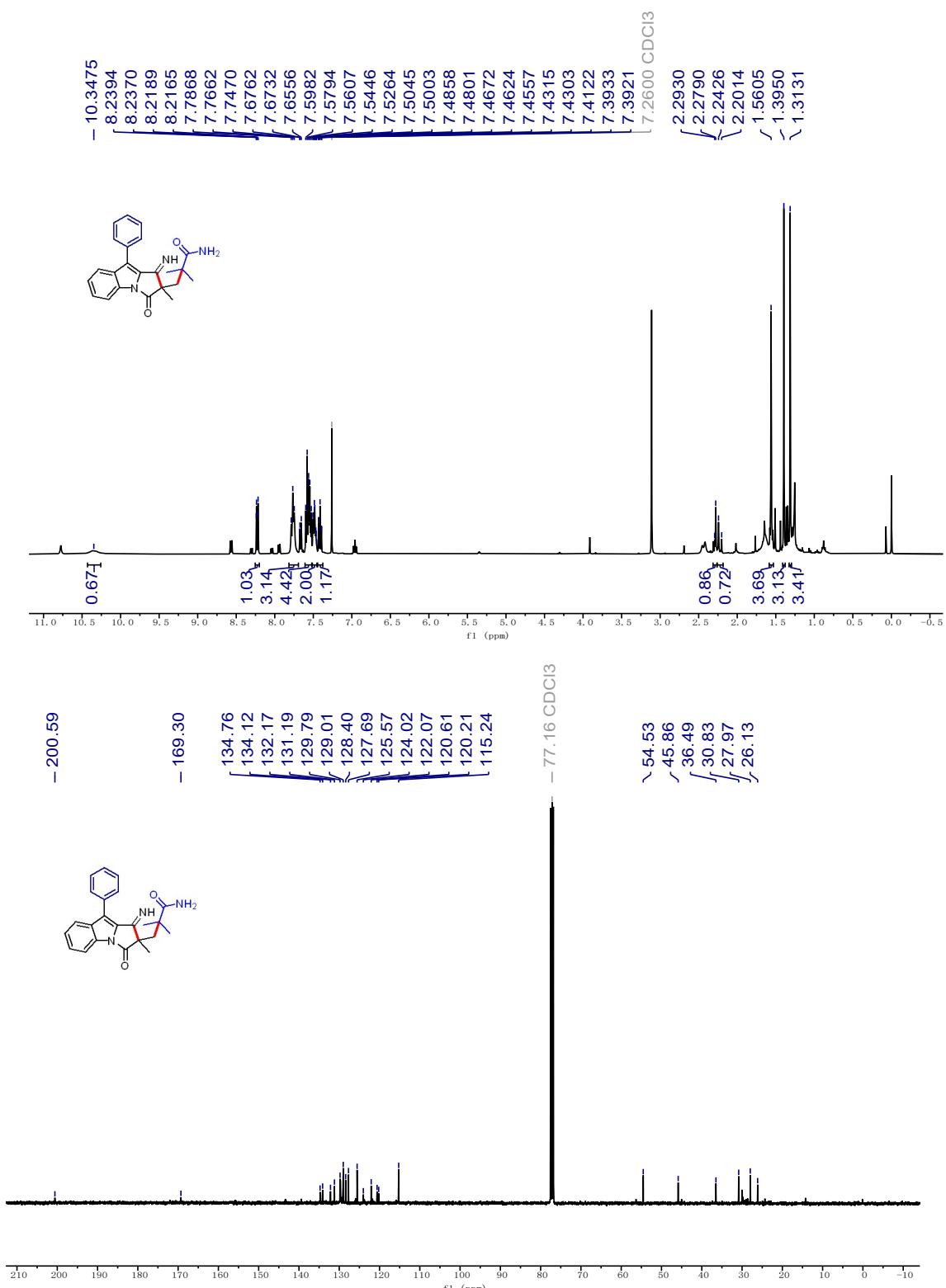
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3x



<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 3A



**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of 4**



**G. References**

- 1 J. Yuan, L. Shen, N. Guo, Y. Yin, P. Yang, L. Yang, Y. Xiao and S. Zhang, *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 2023, **88**, 16598-16608.
- 2 R. Wang and W. Bao, *RSC Advances*, 2015, **5**, 57469-57471.