

Supporting Information

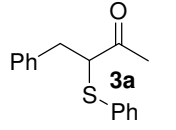
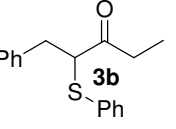
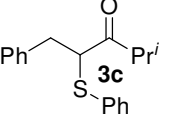
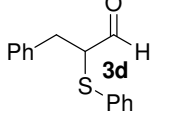
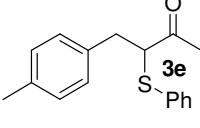
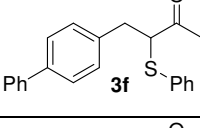
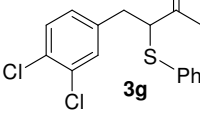
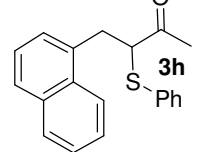
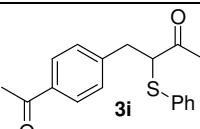
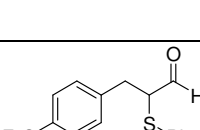
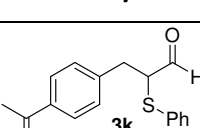
An aqueous and recyclable copper(I)-catalyzed route to α -sulfenylated carbonyl compounds from propargylic alcohols and aryl thiols

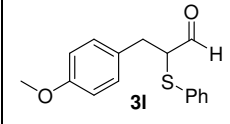
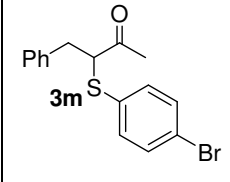
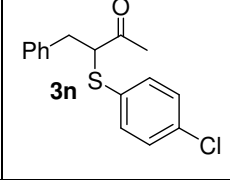
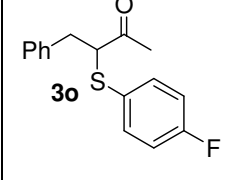
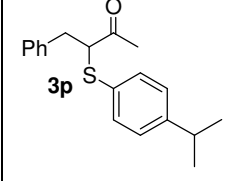
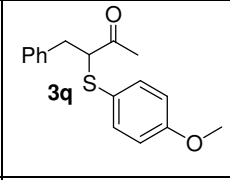
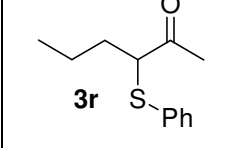
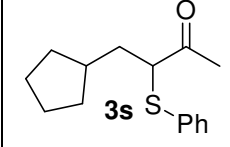
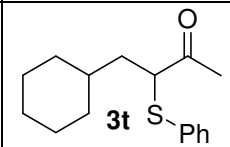
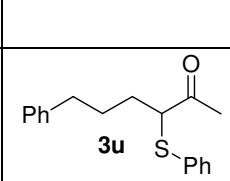
Rahul A. Watile,^a Srijit Biswas,^a and Joseph S. M. Samec*^a

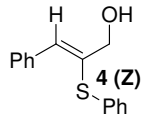
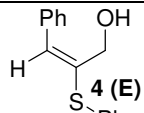
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A. Checklist of characterization data of all compounds.

Sr. No.	Compounds	Known / Unknown	IR	¹ H NMR	¹³ C NMR	HRMS
1	 3a	Known	-	√	√	-
2	 3b	Unknown	√	√	√	√
3	 3c	Known	√	√	√	√
4	 3d	Known	-	√	√	-
5	 3e	Unknown	√	√	√	√
6	 3f	Unknown	√	√	√	√
7	 3g	Unknown	√	√	√	√
8	 3h	Unknown	√	√	√	√
9	 3i	Unknown	√	√	√	√
10	 3j	Unknown	√	√	√	√
11	 3k	Unknown	√	√	√	√

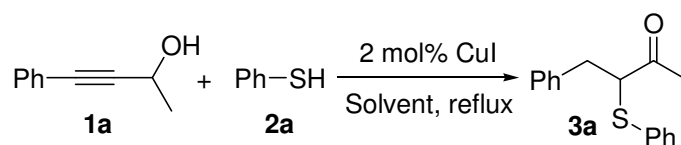
12		Unknown	√	√	√	√
13		Known	-	√	√	-
14		Unknown	√	√	√	√
15		Unknown	√	√	√	√
16		Unknown	√	√	√	√
17		Known	√	√	√	-
18		Known	-	√	√	-
19		Known	-	√	√	-
20		Unknown	√	√	√	√
21		Unknown	√	√	√	√

22	 4 (Z)	Known	-	√	√	-
23	 4 (E)	Known	-	√	√	-

B. General considerations.

^1H and ^2H NMR spectra were recorded with a Varian 300 (300 MHz), Varian 400 (400 MHz) and Varian 500 (500 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in CDCl_3 . Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ) and are referenced to CHCl_3 ($\delta = 7.26$ ppm) as an internal standard. All coupling constants are absolute values and are expressed in Hz. The description of the signals include: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet and dd = doublet of doublets, at = apparent triplet. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded with a Varian 300 (75 MHz) and Varian 400 (100 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in CDCl_3 with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ) and are referenced to CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.0$ ppm) as an internal standard. IR spectra were recorded by a Perkin Elmer FT-IR Spectrometer. High-Resolution Mass Spectra (HRMS) were performed with a micrOTOF (Bruker) spectrometer by Na-formate. The molecular fragments are quoted as the relation between mass and charge (m/z). The routine monitoring of reactions was performed with silica gel pre-coated Al plate, which was analyzed with iodine and/or uv light respectively. Solvents, reagents and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich. All reactions were executed with oven-dried glassware under nitrogen atmosphere. Solvent 1,2-Dichloroethane was dried by distilling over anhydrous phosphorus pentoxide prior to use. NaBD_4 98 atom % D 90% (CP) purchased from Aldrich was used for reduction of aldehyde or ketone to prepare alcohols having deuterium at the hydriodic position.

C. Table of solvent selection and optimization of reaction time.^a

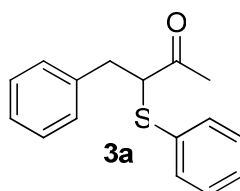


Entry	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	Water	48	97
2	Acetonitrile	48	15
3	Toluene	48	40
4	Nitromethane	48	60
5	1,2-Dichloroethane	48	90
6	Water	60	97
7	Water	36	82

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (1 mmol), **2a** (1.5 mmol) and CuI (2 mol%), at reflux in 2.0 mL solvent. ^b Conversion based on ¹H NMR analysis.

D. Experimental procedures for the synthesis of all compounds including their spectroscopic data are provided below.

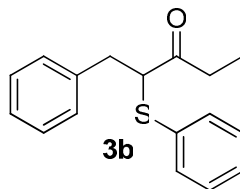
4-Phenyl-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (**3a**):¹



At first, the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) was weighed and transferred to a 5 mL vial containing a magnet under nitrogen atmosphere. The cap of the vial was closed tightly. 2.0 mL of degassed water followed by alcohol **1a** (145 μ L, 1 mmol) and benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) were added to the vial by syringe and was stirred using a magnetic stirrer at reflux for 24 h. After allowing the mixture to cool to room temperature, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 15 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica-gel (100–200 mesh) column chromatography using 3% (v/v) ethyl acetate / pentane solution to afford the desired product **3a** (240 mg, 0.94 mmol, 94%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.20 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.00 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.19 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 14.1 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.90 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.18–7.37

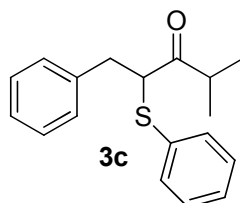
(m, 10 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 28.1, 36.9, 59.0, 127.1, 128.5, 128.8, 129.4, 133.0, 133.3, 138.3, 204.5$ ppm.

1-Phenyl-2-(phenylthio)pentan-3-one (3b):



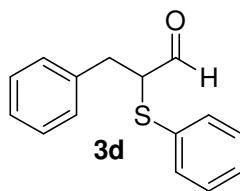
Alcohol **1b** (120 μL , 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3b** as a yellowish oil (248 mg, 0.92 mmol, 92%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 2962, 1705, 1439, 690$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.00$ (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H, H-1), 2.31–2.41 (m, 1 H, H-2), 2.60–2.68 (m, 1 H, H-2), 3.04 (dd, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 13.6 Hz, 1 H, H-5), 3.23 (dd, $J = 8.8, 14$ Hz, 1 H, H-5), 3.92–3.96 (m, 1 H, H-4), 7.20–7.40 (m, 10 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.8, 34.1, 36.9, 57.8, 126.7, 127.5, 128.2, 128.5, 129.1, 132.8, 133.1, 138.2, 207.0$ ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaOS}$ 293.0976; found 293.0971.

4-Methyl-1-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)pentan-3-one (3c):¹



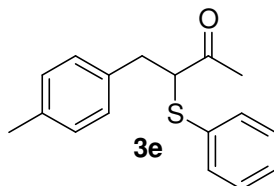
Alcohol **1c** (128 μL , 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3c** as a yellowish oil (244 mg, 0.86 mmol, 86%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 2969, 1707, 1439, 699$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 0.76$ (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H, H-5), 1.04 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3), 2.70–2.79 (m, 1 H, H-4), 3.00 (dd, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 13.8 Hz, 1 H, H-1), 3.22 (dd, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 13.8 Hz, 1 H, H-1), 3.97–4.02 (dd, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 9.6 Hz, 1 H, H-2), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2 H, H-arom), 7.14–7.35 (m, 8 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 17.8, 18.3, 37.3, 39.3, 56.5, 126.5, 128.3, 129.0, 129.2, 132.8, 133.6, 138.5, 208.7$ ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{OSNa}$ 307.1133; found 307.1115.

3-Phenyl-2-(phenylthio)propanal (3d):¹



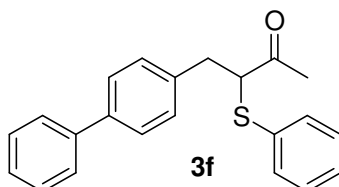
Alcohol **1d** (125 μ L, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3d** as a reddish brown oil (232 mg, 0.96 mmol, 96%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.00 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.22 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.81–3.87 (m, 1 H, H-2), 7.23–7.41 (m, 10 H, H-arom), 9.50 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1 H, H-1) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 34.4, 58.1, 127.1, 128.6, 128.8, 129.3, 129.3, 131.6, 133.4, 137.3, 194.2 ppm.

3-(Phenylthio)-4-(p-tolyl)butan-2-one (3e):



Alcohol **1e** (160 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3e** as a yellowish oil (224 mg, 0.83 mmol, 83%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2919, 1708, 1438, 805, 689 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.22 (s, 3 H, H-1), 2.34 (s, 3 H, H-methyl), 2.30 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.17 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 14.1 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.92 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.11–7.34 (m, 9 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 21.0, 27.7, 36.2, 58.8, 128.1, 128.9, 129.1, 129.2, 132.8, 132.8, 134.8, 136.3, 204.4 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaOS}$ 293.0976; found 293.0971.

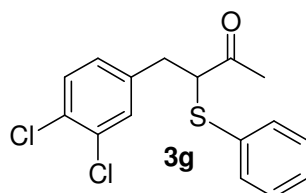
4-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3f):



Alcohol **1f** (222 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3f** as a reddish brown oil (299 mg, 0.90 mmol, 90%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3053, 3031, 1707, 1486, 754, 687 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.28 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.09 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4),

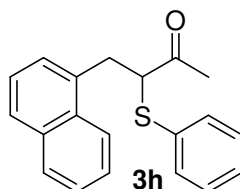
3.27 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 16 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.97–4.00 (m, 1 H, H-3), 7.28–7.62 (m, 14 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 27.8, 36.2, 58.6, 126.1, 127.2, 127.1, 128.2, 128.7, 129.5, 132.6, 133, 137.0, 139.6, 140.7, 204.1$ ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaOS}$ 355.1133; found 355.1127.

4-(3, 4-Dichlorophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3g):



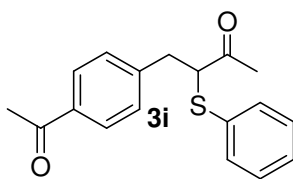
Alcohol **1g** (215 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3g** as a reddish brown oil (295 mg, 0.91 mmol, 91%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3059, 1705, 1471, 1132, 739, 689$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.28$ (s, 3 H, H-1), 2.92 (dd, $J = 8$ Hz, 16 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.14 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 16 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.82 (t, $J = 7.2$, 1 H, H-3), 7.28–7.37 (m, 8 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 28, 35.4, 58.1, 128.6, 128.6, 129.2, 130.3, 130.7, 131.0, 131.8, 132.3, 133.4, 138.4, 203.3$ ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_2\text{NaOS}$ 347.0040; found 347.0035.

4-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3h):



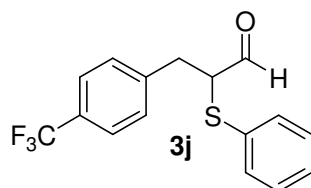
Alcohol **1h** (196 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst AuCl (5 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3h** as a reddish brown oil (287 mg, 0.95 mmol, 95%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu} = 3055, 1705, 1438, 1352, 775, 741$ cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.21$ (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.51 (dd, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.67 (dd, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 14.8 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 4.10–4.13 (m, 1 H, H-3), 7.28–7.55 (m, 9 H, H-arom), 7.77 (d, 1 H, H-arom), 7.88–7.95 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 28.1, 33.7, 57.7, 123.1, 125.3, 125.6, 126.2, 126.6, 127.6, 128.3, 128.7, 129.1, 131.6, 132.6, 133.2, 133.9, 204.2$ ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaOS}$ 329.0976; found 329.0971.

4-(4-Acetylphenyl)-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3i):



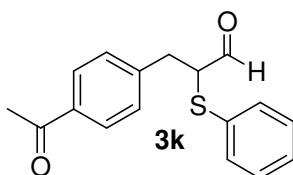
Alcohol **1i** (188 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3i** as a yellowish oil (253 mg, 0.85 mmol, 85%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2927, 1679, 1266, 820, 729 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.24 (s, 3 H, H-1), 2.58 (s, 3 H, H-COCH₃), 3.03 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz, 14.1 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.24 (dd, J = 8.1 Hz, 14.1 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.90 (dd, J = 6.9 Hz, 8.1 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.28–7.37 (m, 7 H, H-arom), 7.87–7.91 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 26.5, 27.9, 36.3, 58.0, 128.5, 128.5, 129.1, 129.3, 132.0, 133.3, 135.7, 143.7, 197.6, 203.5 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ 321.0925; found 321.0920.

2-(Phenylthio)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanal (3j):



Alcohol **1j** (200 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3j** as a reddish brown oil (218 mg, 0.90 mmol, 90%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2988, 2901, 1717, 1323, 775, 1066 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.01 (dd, J = 67.6 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.27 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.80–3.84 (m, 1 H, H-2), 7.28–7.50 (m, 7 H, H-arom), 7.53–7.60 (m, 2 H, H-arom) 9.55 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H, H-1) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 33.8, 57.7, 125.4, 125.5, 125.5, 128.8, 129.3, 129.5, 130.7, 133.7, 141.4, 193.5 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{NaOS}$ 333.0537; found 333.0531.

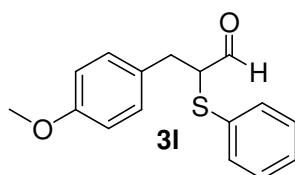
3-(4-Acetylphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)propanal (3k):



Alcohol **1k** (174 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3k** as a yellowish

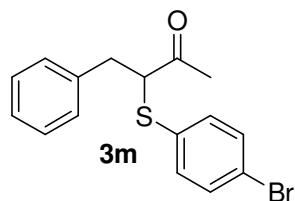
oil (207 mg, 0.73 mmol, 73%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2959, 2929, 1720, 1683, 1267, 1073, 745 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.60 (s, 3 H, H-COCH₃), 3.01 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.26 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.80–3.86 (m, 1 H, H-2), 7.26–7.40 (m, 7 H, H-arom), 7.91–7.93 (m, 2 H, H-arom), 9.54 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H, H-1) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 26.6, 34.0, 57.6, 128.7, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.3, 129.4, 133.6, 135.9, 142.9, 193.6, 197.6 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ 307.0769; found 307.0753.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)propanal (**3l**):



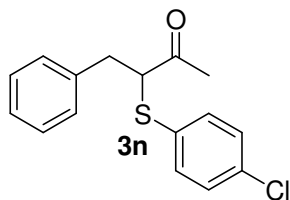
Alcohol **1l** (162 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3l** as a light brown oil (174 mg, 0.64 mmol, 64%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2835, 1715, 1511, 1246, 1032, 690 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.95 (dd, J = 6.6 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.15 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 14.7 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 3.77–3.83 (m, 4 H, H-2 and H-OCH₃), 6.87 (dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 2 H, H-arom), 7.16 (dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 6.9 Hz, 2 H, H-arom), 7.28–7.32 (m, 3 H, H-arom), 7.38–7.41 (m, 2 H, H-arom), 9.48 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1 H, H-1) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 33.4, 55.2, 58.1, 114.0, 128.3, 129.0, 129.1, 130.1, 131.5, 133.1, 158.5, 194.3 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ 295.0769; found 295.0770.

3-((4-Bromophenyl)thio)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (**3m**):²



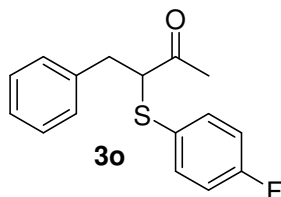
Alcohol **1a** (145 μL , 1 mmol), 4-bromobenzenethiol **2b** (284 mg, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3m** as a yellowish oil (248 mg, 0.74 mmol, 74%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3027, 2912, 1705, 1472, 813, 697 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): 2.23 (s, 3 H, H-1), δ = 3.00 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.19 (dd, J = 8.0 Hz, 14 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.90 (t, J = 6.8, 1 H, H-3), 7.19–7.33 (m, 7 H, H-arom), 7.42–7.44 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.6, 36.5, 58.5, 122.6, 126.9, 128.5, 129.0, 131.6, 132.2, 134.5, 137.7, 203.8 ppm.

3-((4-Chlorophenyl)thio)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (3n):



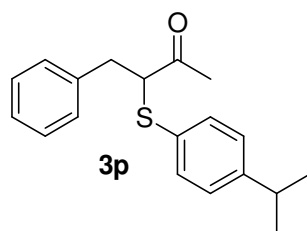
Alcohol **1a** (145 μ L, 1 mmol), 4-chlorobenzenethiol **2c** (217 mg, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3n** as a yellowish oil (223 mg, 0.77 mmol, 77%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3415, 3028, 1706, 1475, 1093, 716 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.26 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.02 (dd, J = 7 Hz, 14 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.20 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz, 14.5 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.92 (t, J = 6.5, 1 H, H-3), 7.23–7.36 (m, 9 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.7, 36.4, 58.6, 126.8, 128.6, 129.0, 129.3, 130.9, 134.4, 134.6, 137.7, 203.8 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNaOS}$ 313.0430; found 313.0424.

3-((4-Fluorophenyl)thio)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (3o):



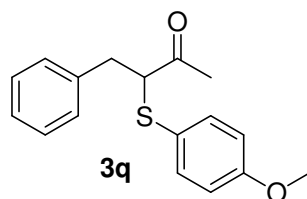
Alcohol **1a** (145 μ L, 1 mmol), 4-fluorobenzenethiol **2d** (160 μ L, 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3o** as a yellowish oil (248 mg, 0.90 mmol, 90%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3030, 1706, 1488, 1222, 829 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.24 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.00 (dd, J = 6.4 Hz, 14 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.17 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 14 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.85 (t, J = 6.4, 1 H, H-3), 7.02 (m, 2 H, H-arom), 7.20–7.38 (m, 7 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 27.8, 36.4, 58.09, 116.1, 116.4, 126.8, 127.2, 128.5, 129.0, 136.0, 136.1, 137.9, 161.8, 164.3, 203.7 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNaOS}$ 297.0725; found 297.0720.

3-((4-Isopropylphenyl)thio)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (3p):



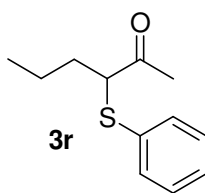
Alcohol **1a** (145 μL , 1 mmol), 4-isopropylbenzenethiol **2e** (233 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3p** as reddish yellow oil (217 mg, 0.73 mmol, 73%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2961, 2924, 1705, 1350, 833, 709 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.22–1.30 (m, 6 H, H-methyl), 2.25 (s, 3 H, H-1), 2.89–3.00 (m, 1 H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 3.04 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.21 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.90 (t, J = 7.2, 1 H, H-3), 7.09–7.34 (m, 9 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 24.1, 24.2, 28.1, 34.1, 36.9, 59.2, 127, 127.5, 127.6, 128.8, 129.4, 129.5, 133.9, 138.5, 149.7, 204.5 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaOS}$ 321.1289; found 321.1284.

3-((4-Methoxyphenyl)thio)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (**3q**):²



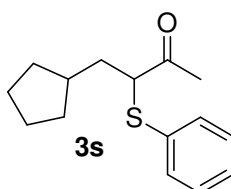
Alcohol **1a** (145 μL , 1 mmol), 4-methoxybenzenethiol **2f** (184 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3q** as a reddish yellow oil (182 mg, 0.64 mmol, 64%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2988, 2901, 1705, 1492, 1245, 827, 698 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.23 (d, J = 2 Hz, 3 H, H-1), 2.97 (dd, J = 6.8, 16 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.13 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 1 H, H-4), 3.78–3.80 (m, 1 H, H-3), 3.81 (s, 3 H, H-methoxy), 6.84–6.88 (m, 2 H, H-arom), 7.20–7.34 (m, 7 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 28.1, 36.2, 55.2, 59, 114.6, 122.1, 126.6, 128.4, 129.0, 136.3, 138.2, 160.3, 203.8 ppm.

3-(Phenylthio)hexan-2-one (**3r**):¹



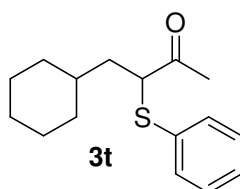
Alcohol **1m** (324 μ L, 3 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (103 μ L, 1 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3r** as a yellowish oil (139 mg, 0.67 mmol, 67%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 0.96 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, H-6), 1.38–1.60 (m, 2 H, H-5), 1.64–1.86 (m, 2 H, H-4), 2.26 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.24–7.44 (m, 5 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 14.0, 20.8, 26.6, 32.7, 57.8, 128.1, 129.3, 132.4, 133.4, 205.8 ppm.

4-Cyclopentyl-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3s):¹



Alcohol **1n** (138 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (308 μ L, 3 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3s** as a yellowish oil (178 mg, 0.73 mmol, 73%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2947, 1705, 1353, 1209, 1025, 739, 690 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.08–1.18 (m, 2 H, H-aliphatic), 1.50–1.68 (m, 4 H, H-aliphatic), 1.71–1.90 (m, 4 H, H-aliphatic), 1.93–2.26 (m, 1 H, H-aliphatic), 2.26 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.69 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.23–7.35 (m, 3 H, H-arom), 7.36–7.39 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 24.9, 25.0, 26.2, 36.5, 37.7, 57.0, 127.7, 129.0, 132.1, 133.2, 205.6 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaOS}$ 271.1133; found 271.1131.

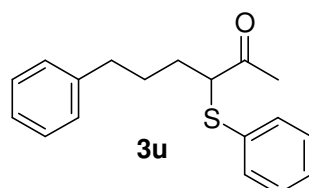
4-Cyclohexyl-3-(phenylthio)butan-2-one (3t):



Alcohol **1o** (138 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (308 μ L, 3 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** to obtain **3t** as a yellowish oil (196 mg, 0.75 mmol, 75%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2920, 1703, 1439, 1209, 1025, 739, 689 cm^{-1} . ^1H

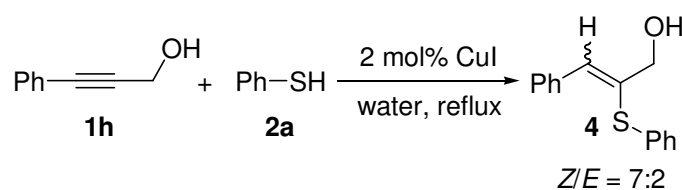
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 0.90–0.96 (m, 2 H, H-aliphatic), 1.17–1.26 (m, 3 H), 1.40–1.70 (m, 8 H, H-aliphatic), 2.25 (s, 3 H, H-1), 3.76 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.25–7.36 (m, 5 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 26.0, 26.1, 26.2, 26.4, 33.1, 35.3, 37.8, 55.3, 127.7, 129.0, 132.0, 133.0, 133.2, 205.5 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaOS}$ 285.1289; found 285.1284.

6-Phenyl-3-(phenylthio)hexan-2-one (**3u**):

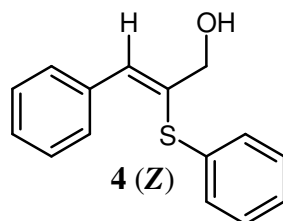


Alcohol **1p** (174 mg, 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (308 μL , 3 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) in water (2.5 mL) were treated as described for **3a** for 72 h to obtain **3u** as a yellowish oil (229 mg, 0.81 mmol, 81%). IR (Neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2988, 2937, 1703, 1354, 740, 690 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.73–1.78 (m, 2 H, H-5), 1.85–1.90 (m, 2 H, H-4), 2.24 (s, 3 H, H-1), 2.67 (t, J = 6.8, 2 H, H-6), 3.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H, H-3), 7.18–7.38 (m, 10 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 26.5, 28.9, 29.7, 35.4, 57.6, 125.9, 127.9, 128.3, 129, 132.4, 132.9, 141.5, 205 ppm. HRMS: calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NaOS}$ 307.1133; found 307.1127.

E. Isolation and characterization of intermediate **4**.



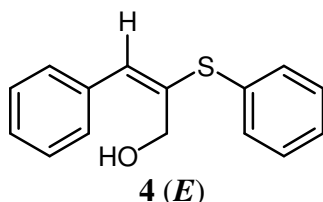
(*Z*)-3-Phenyl-2-(phenylthio)prop-2-en-1-ol (**4-Z**):¹



Alcohol **1h** (125 μL , 1 mmol), benzenethiol **2a** (154 μL , 1.5 mmol) and the catalyst CuI (4 mg, 2 mol%) were treated in water as described for **3f** for 18 h. Column chromatographic purification afforded the *E*- and *Z*- isomers of **4** (100 mg., 0.41 mmol, 41%) as a colorless oil ($Z : E = 7 : 2$). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.33 (bs, 1 H, H-alcohol), 4.23 (s, 2 H, H-1),

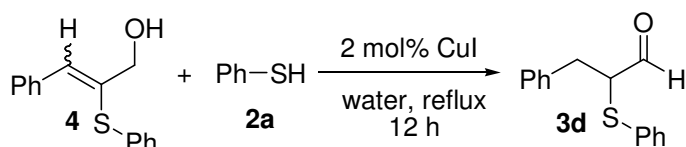
7.20 (s, 1 H, H-3), 7.26–7.43 (m, 8 H, H-aromatic), 7.68–7.70 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 66.3, 126.9, 127.8, 128.1, 129.1, 129.2, 129.3, 130.3, 133.2, 133.3, 133.4, ppm.

(E)-3-Phenyl-2-(phenylthio)prop-2-en-1-ol (4-E):¹



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.09 (brs, 1 H, H-alcohol), 4.37 (s, 2 H, H-1), 6.96 (s, 1 H, H-3), 7.28–7.39 (m, 8 H, H-arom), 7.49–7.51 (m, 2 H, H-arom) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 60.3, 127.6, 127.7, 128.1, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 129.1, 129.3, 129.4, 131.5, 135.5, 135.9, 136.7 ppm.

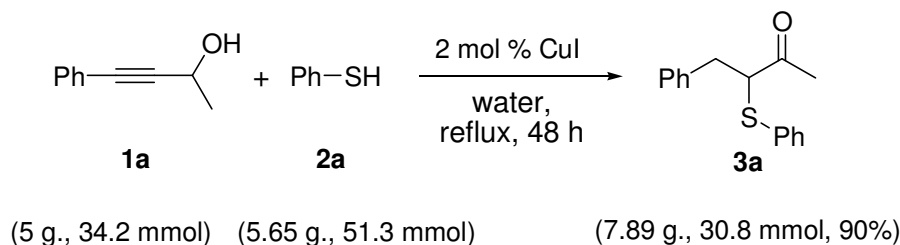
F. Cu-catalyzed conversion of intermediate 4 to product 3d in presence of 2a.^a



Entry	Amount of 2a	Yield ^b
1	0 mol%	N.R.
2	10 mol%	>95%

^a Reaction conditions: **4** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (x mmol) and CuI (2 mol%), water (2.0 mL) for 12 h at reflux. ^b Conversion based on ^1H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

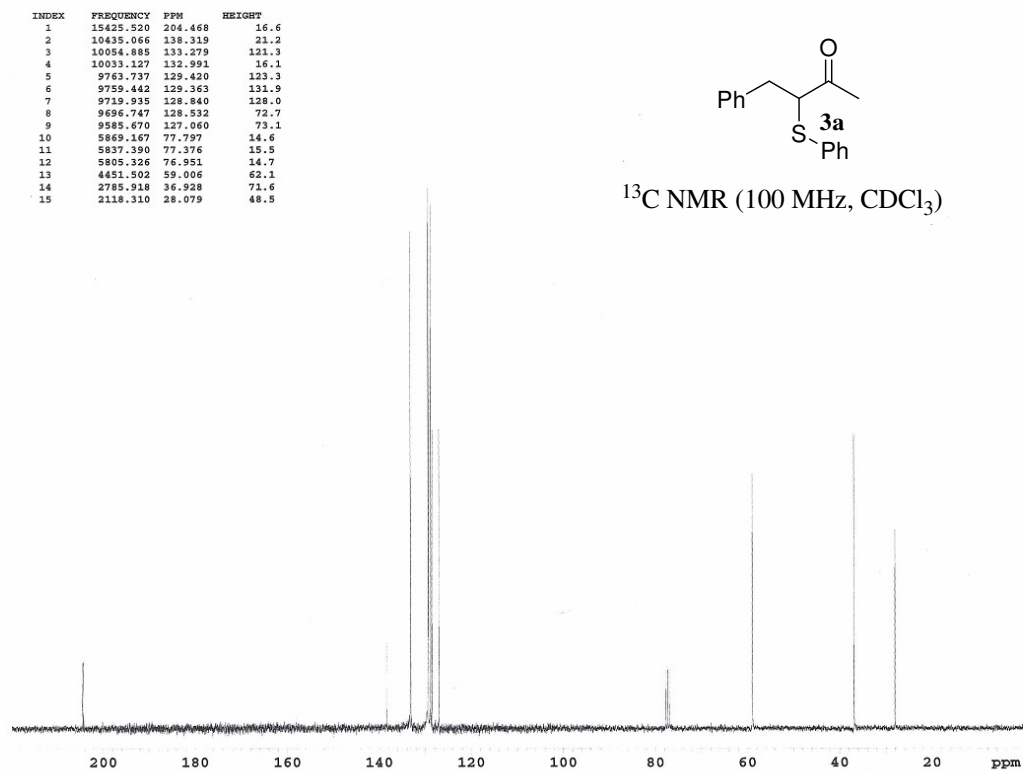
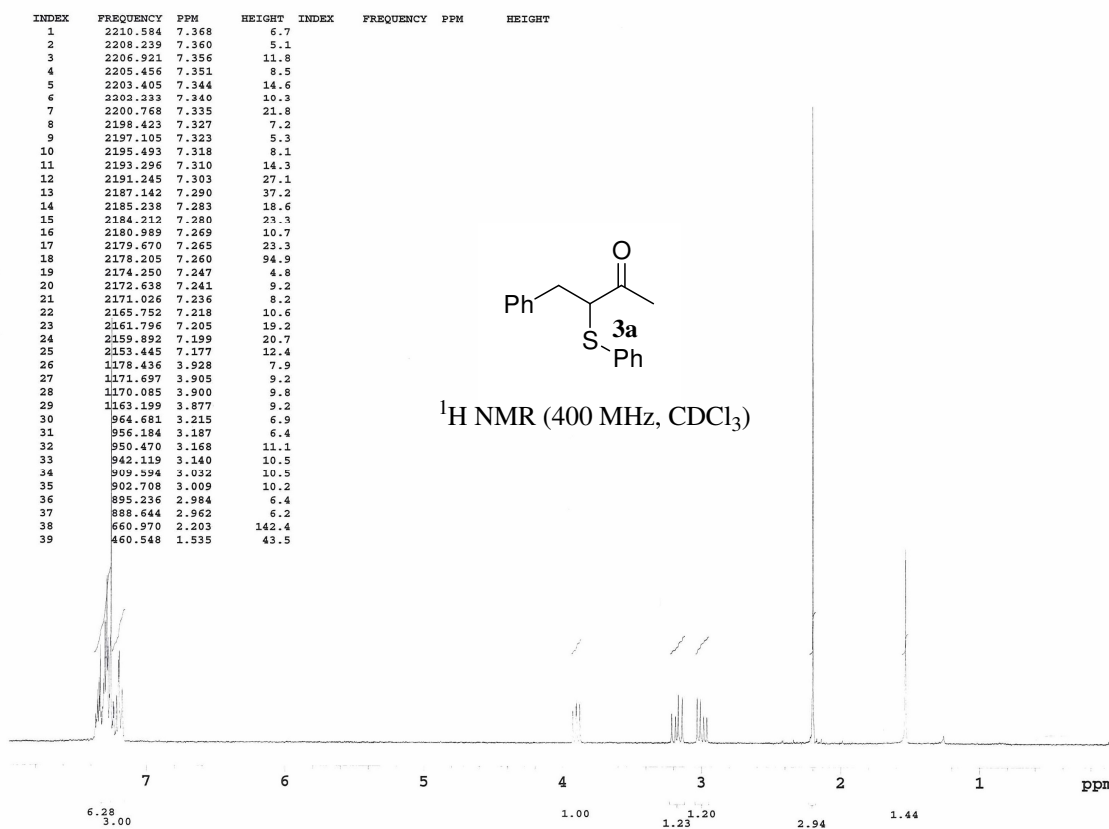
G. Large scale experiment.

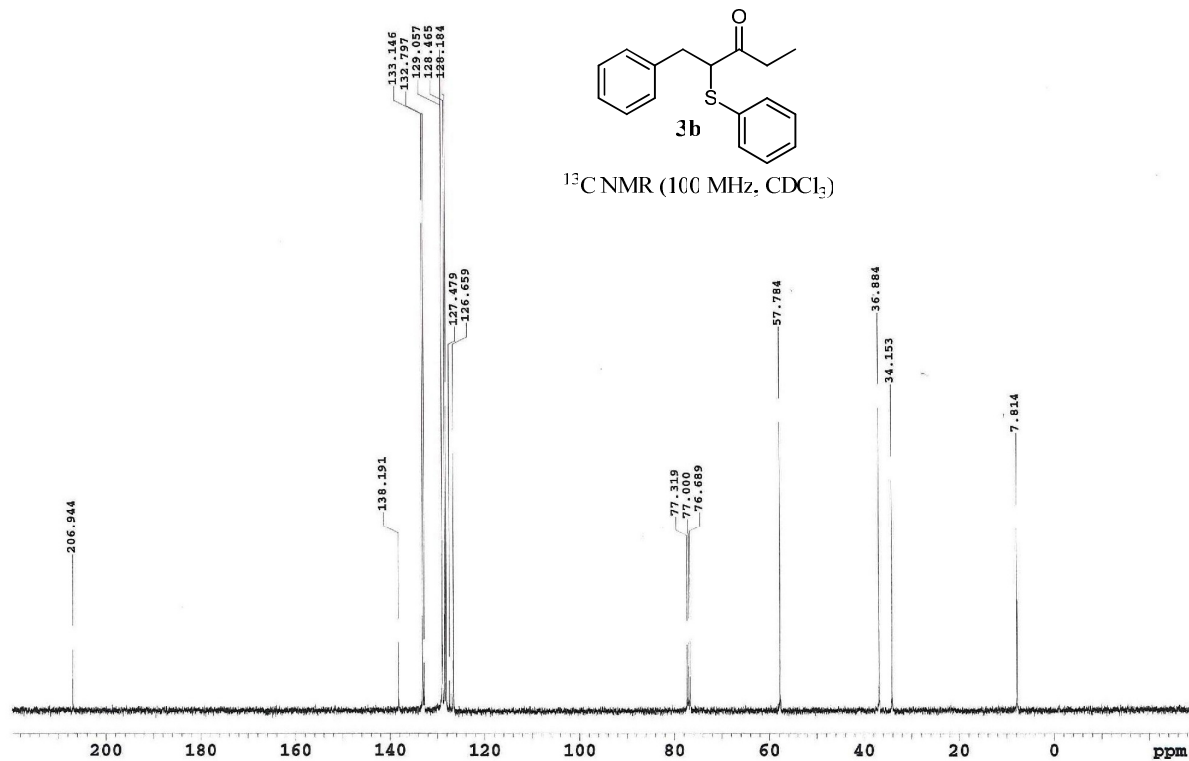
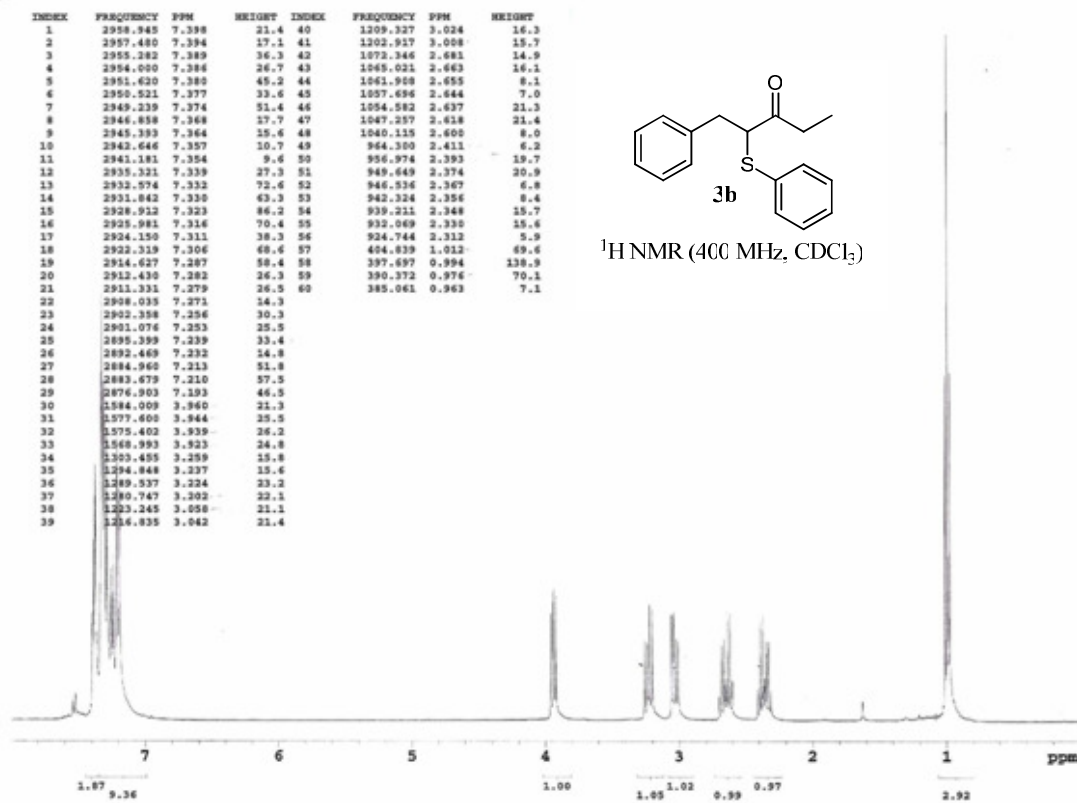


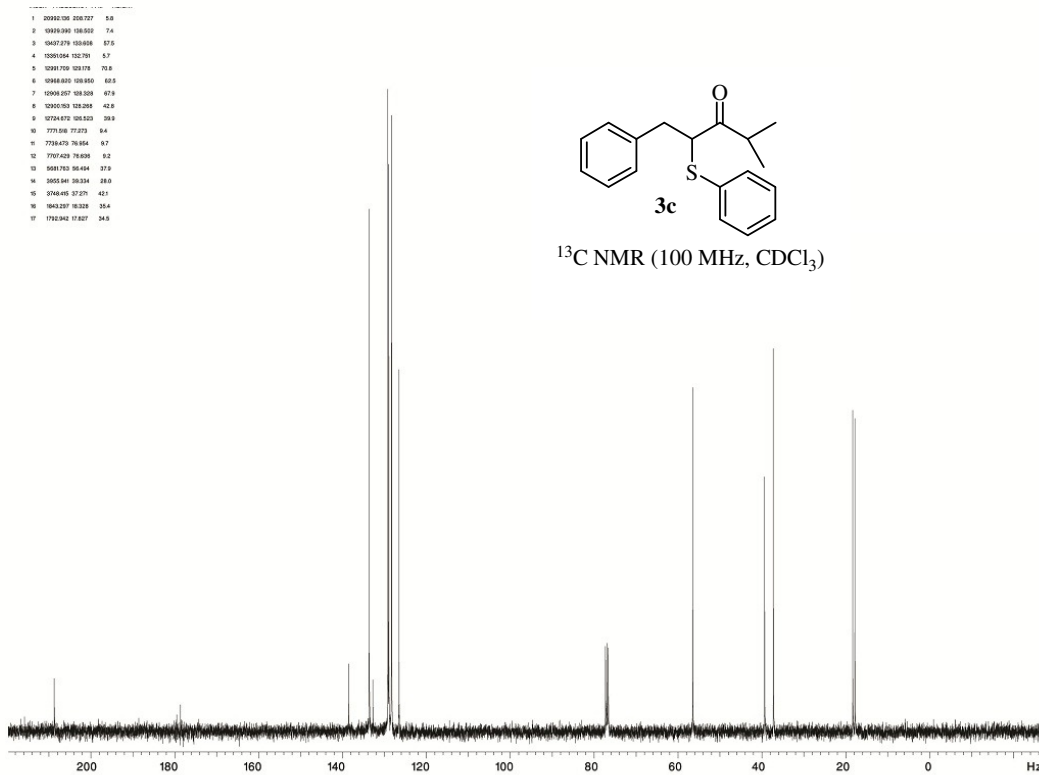
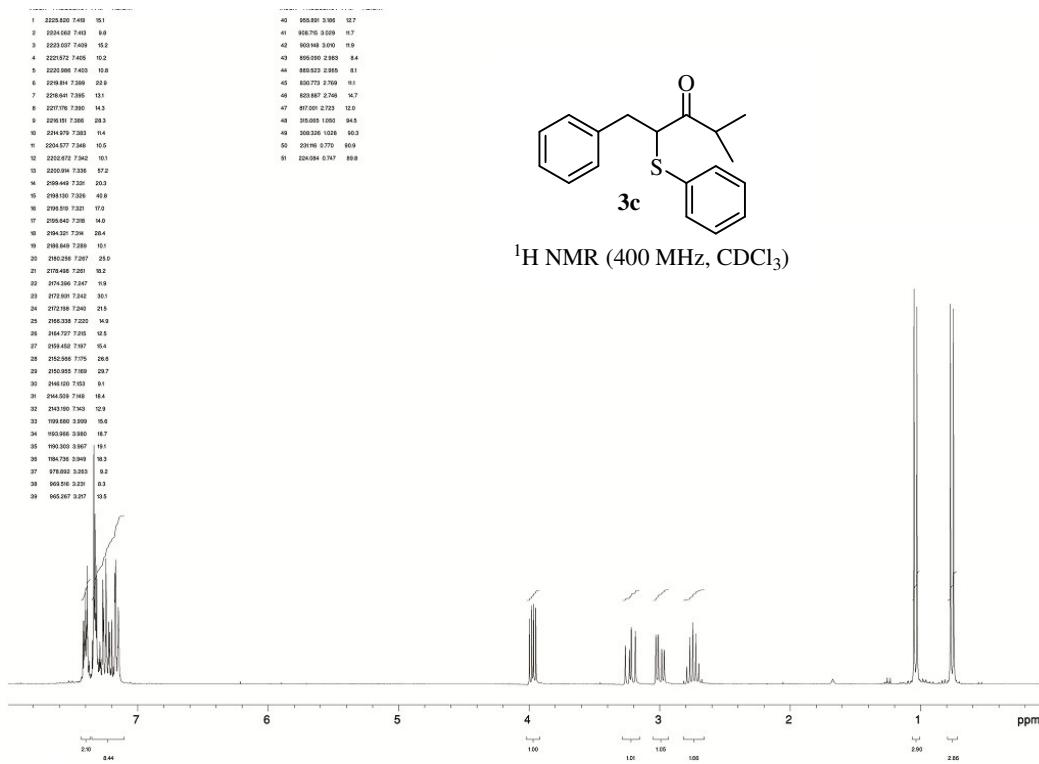
CuI (130 mg, 0.68 mmol, 2 mol%) was weighed and transferred to a 25 mL vial containing a magnet under nitrogen atmosphere. The cap of the vial was closed tightly. 10 mL of degassed water followed by alcohol **1a** (5 g, 4.98 mL, 34.2 mmol) and benzenethiol **2a** (5.65 g, 5.27 mL, 51.3 mmol) were added to the vial by syringe and was stirred using a magnetic stirrer at

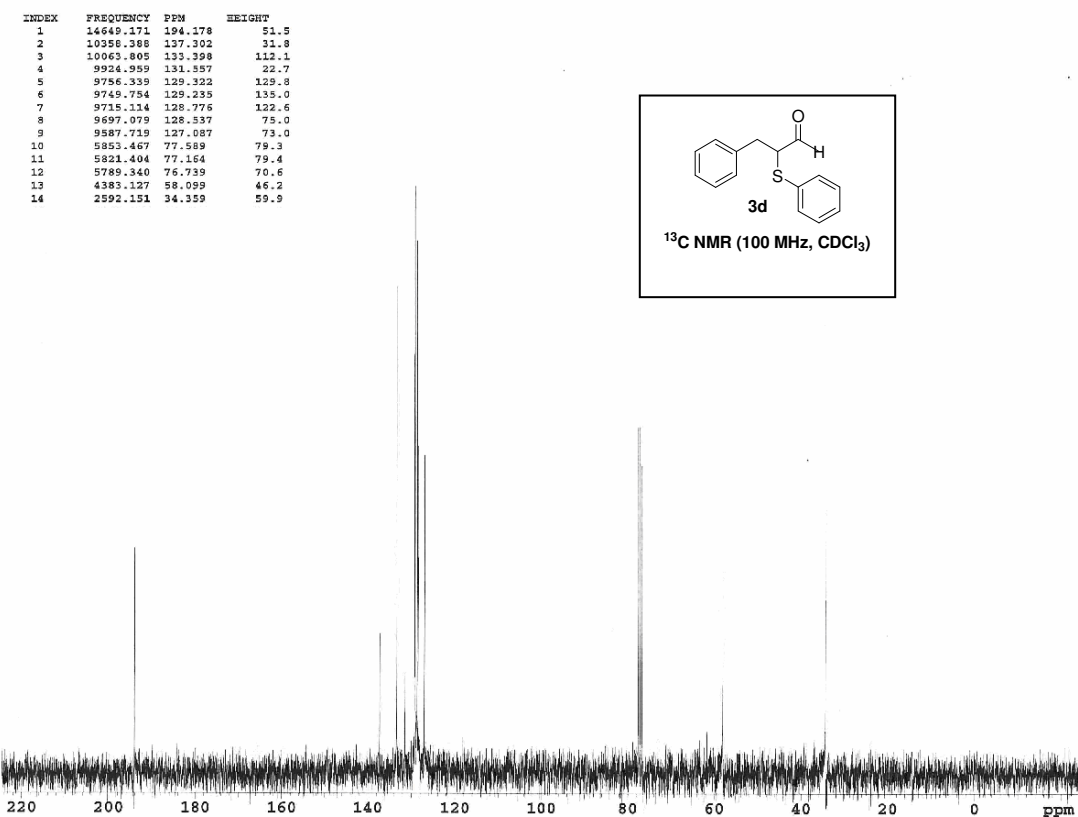
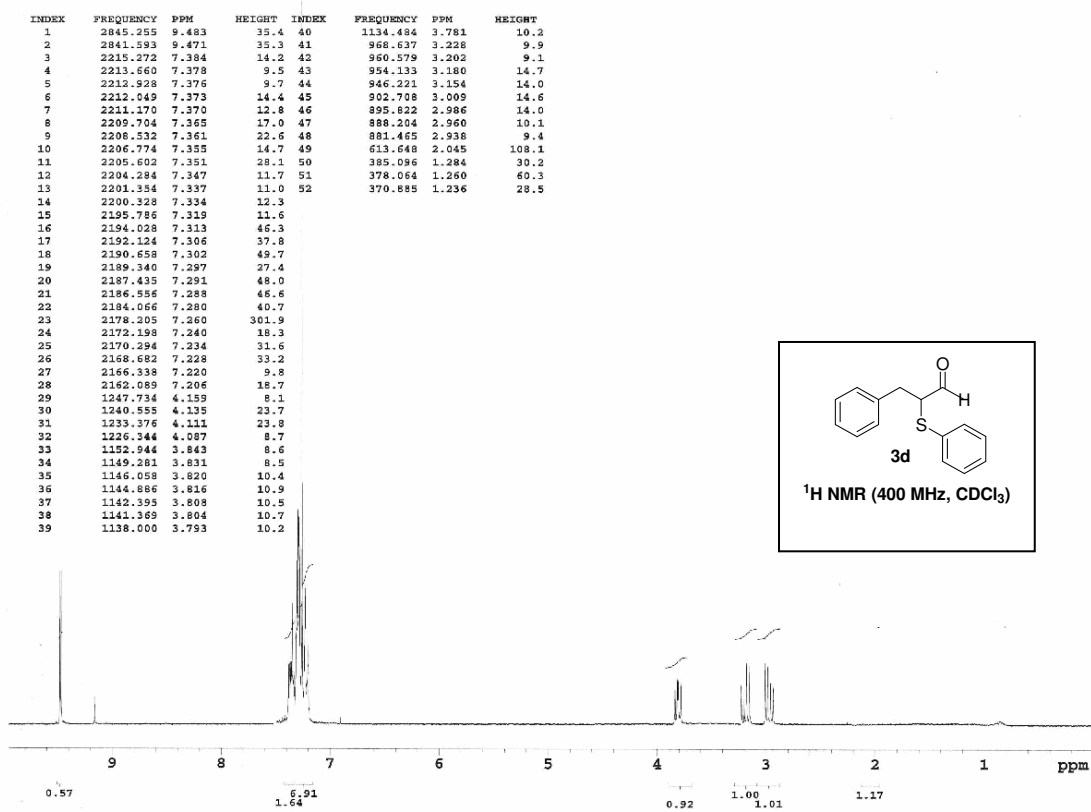
reflux for 24 h. After allowing the mixture to cool to room temperature, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 60 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica-gel (100–200 mesh) column chromatography using 3% (v/v) ethyl acetate / pentane solution to afford the desired product **3a** (7.89 g, 30.8 mmol, 90%).

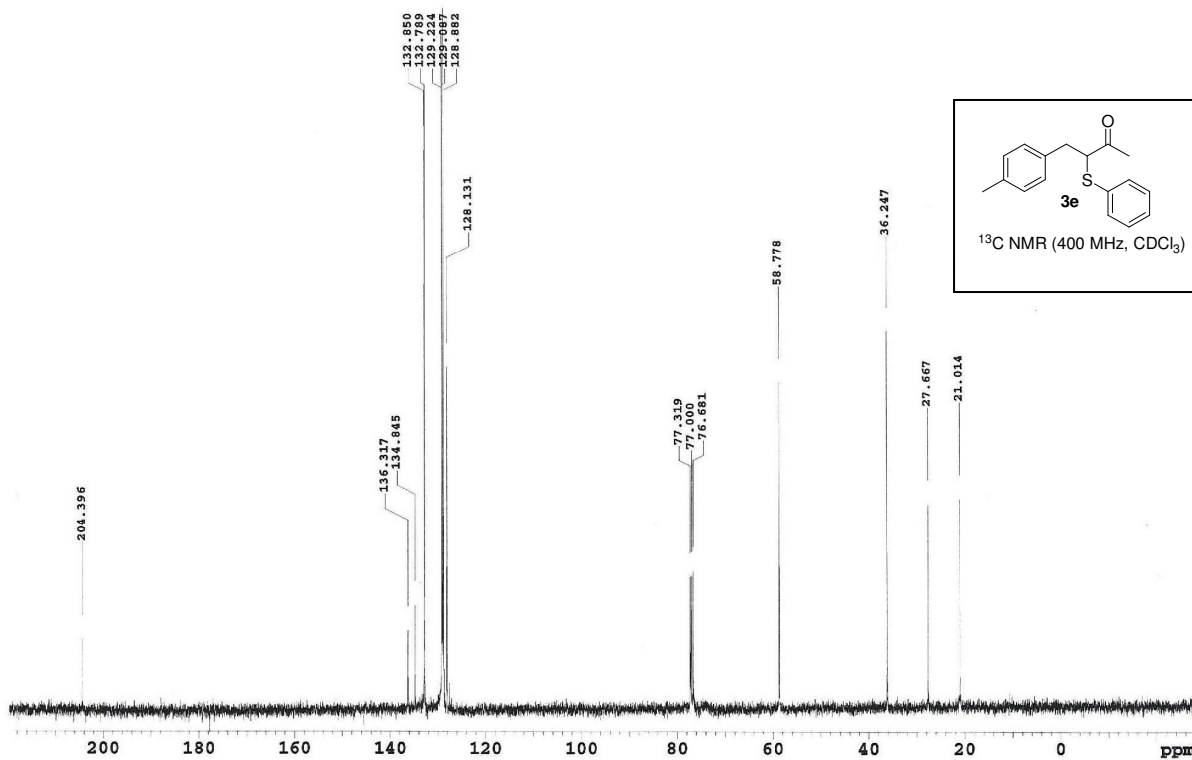
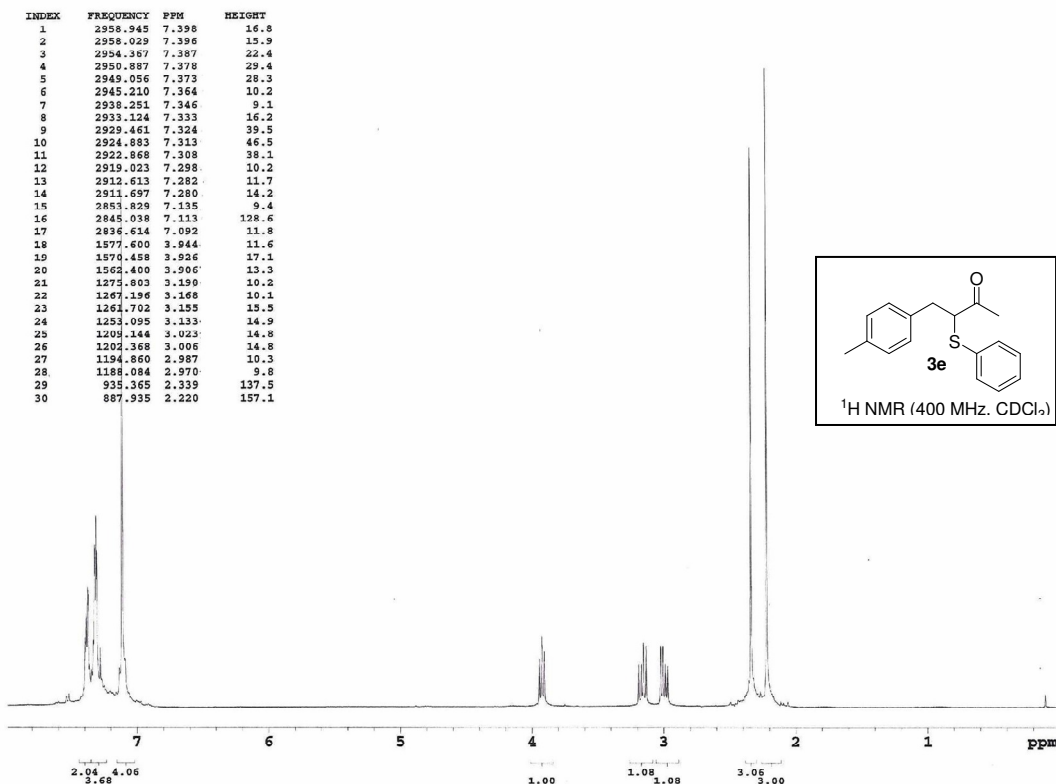
H. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra of all products.

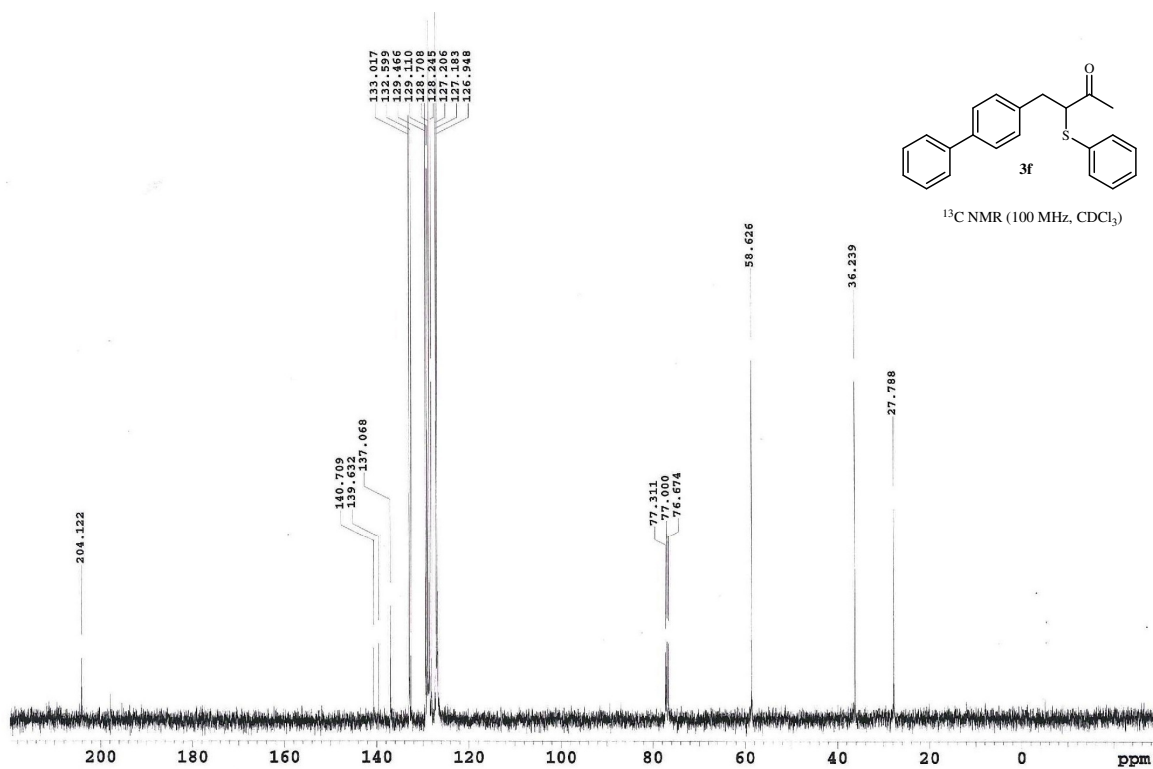
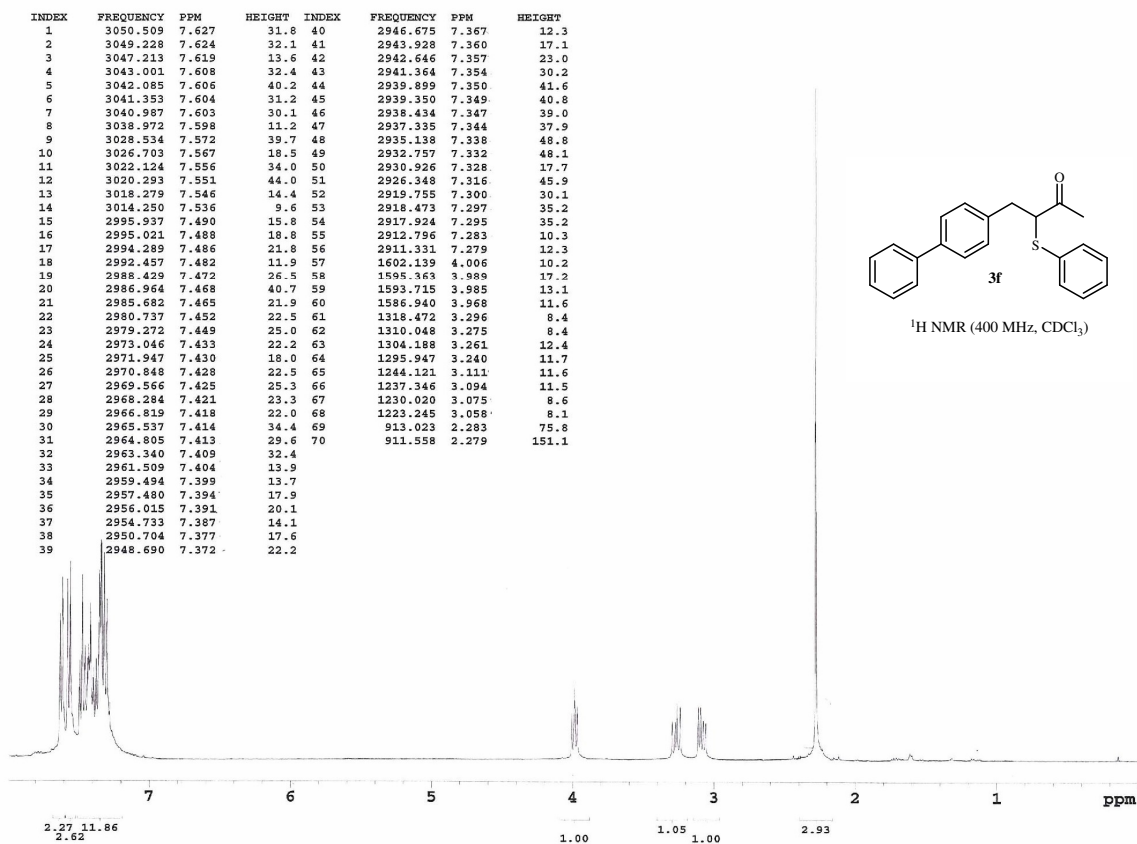


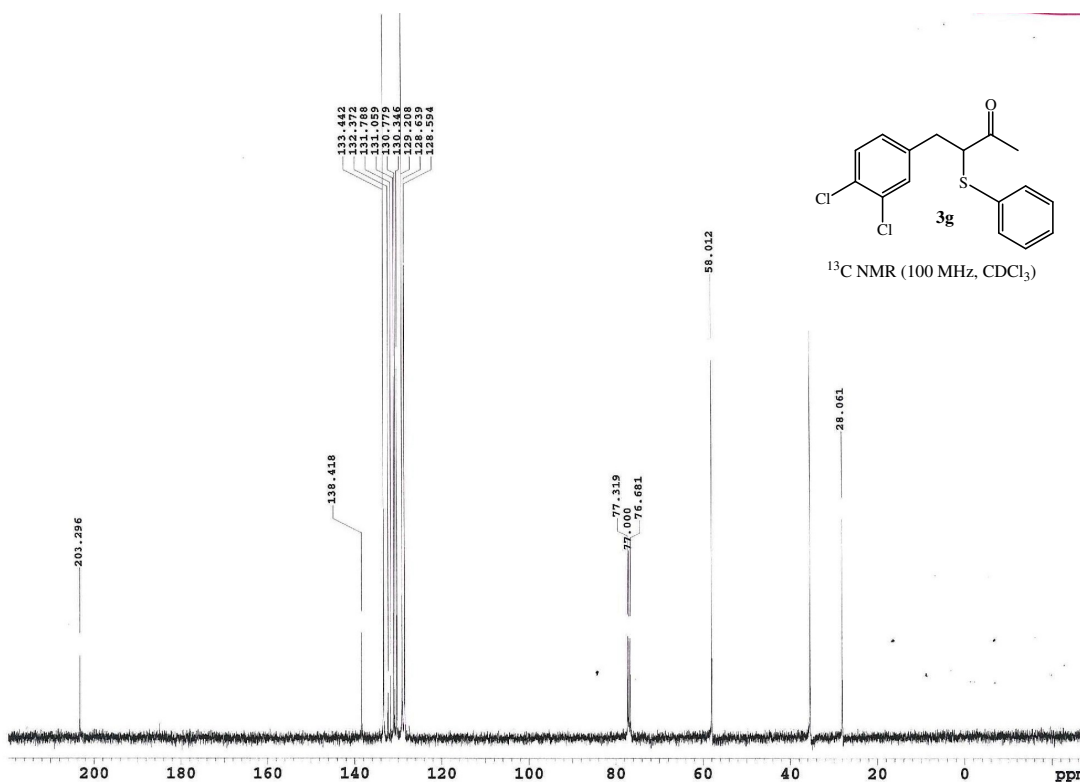
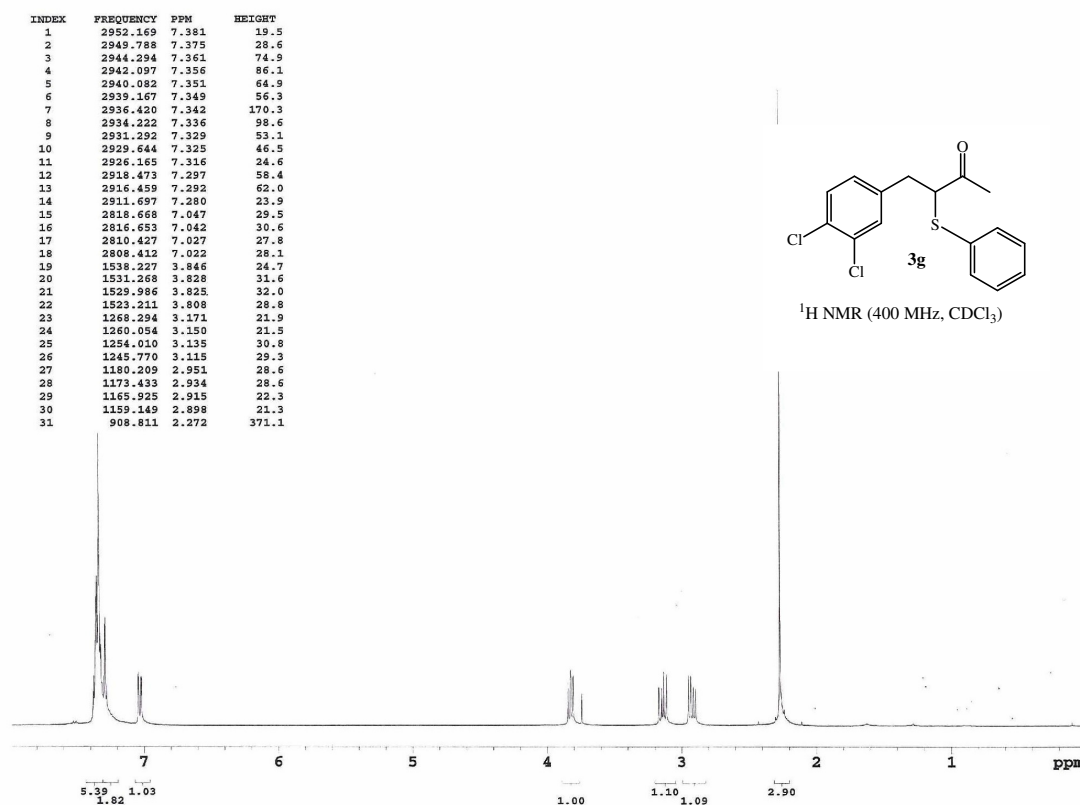


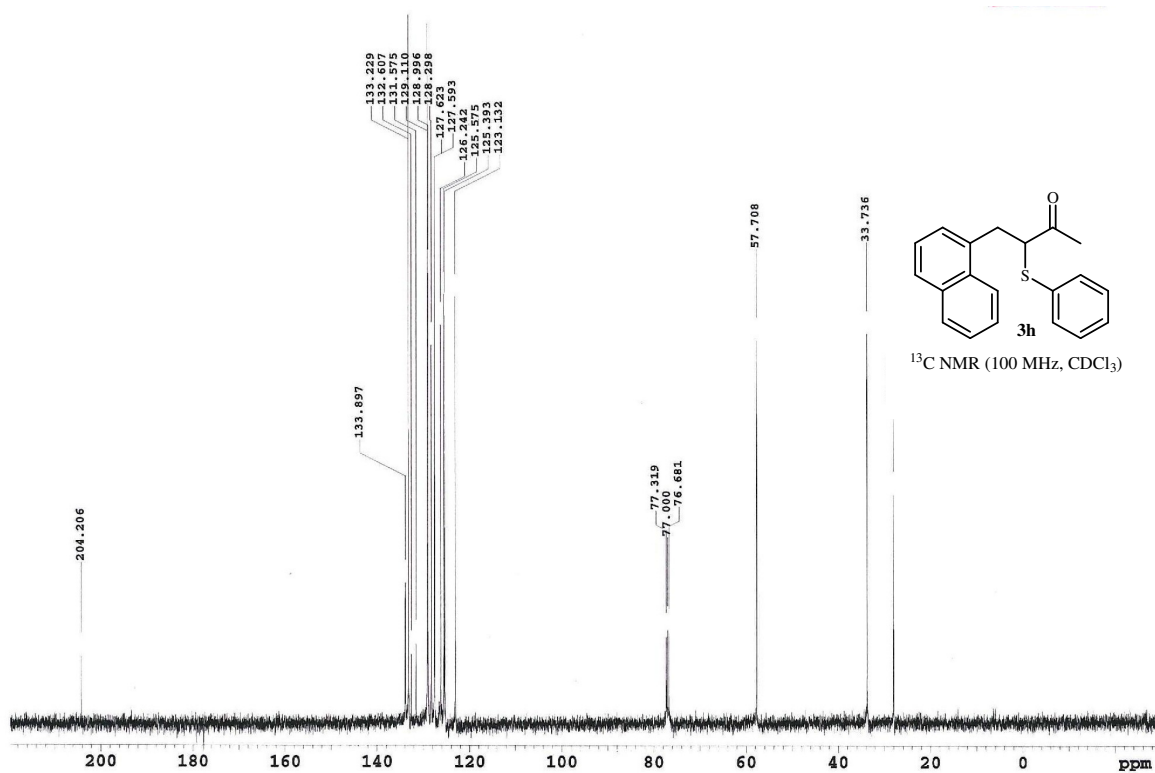
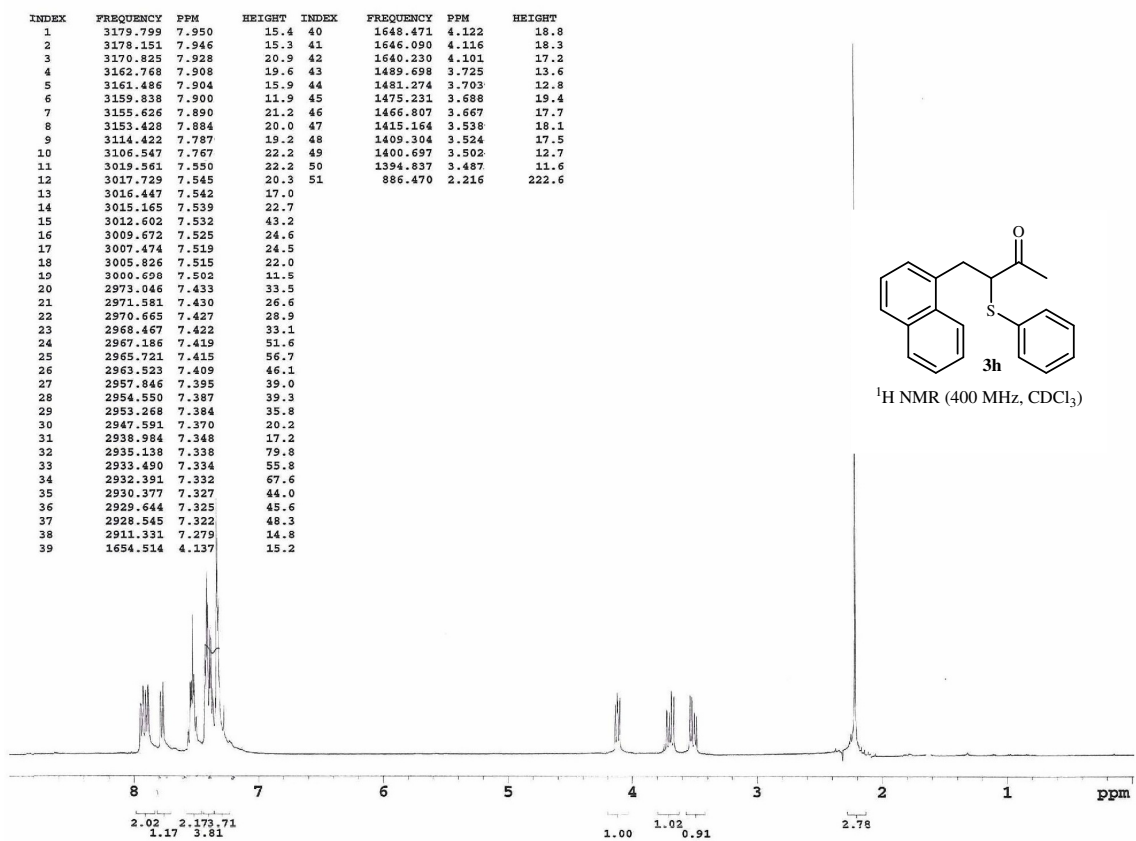


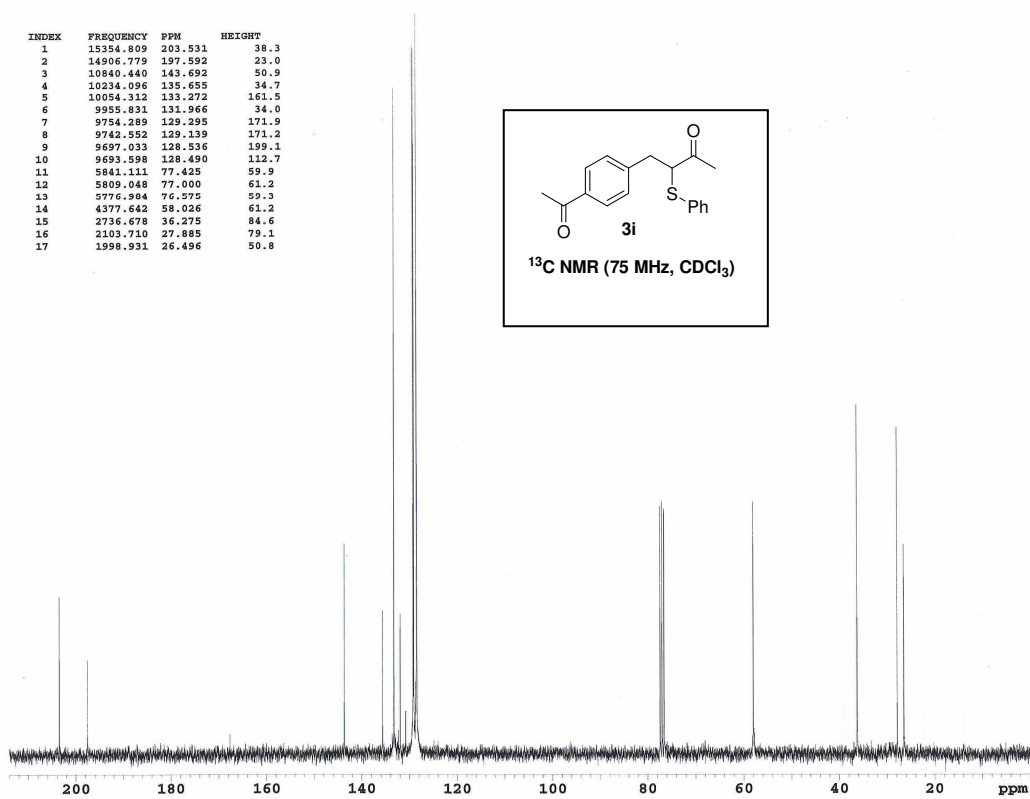
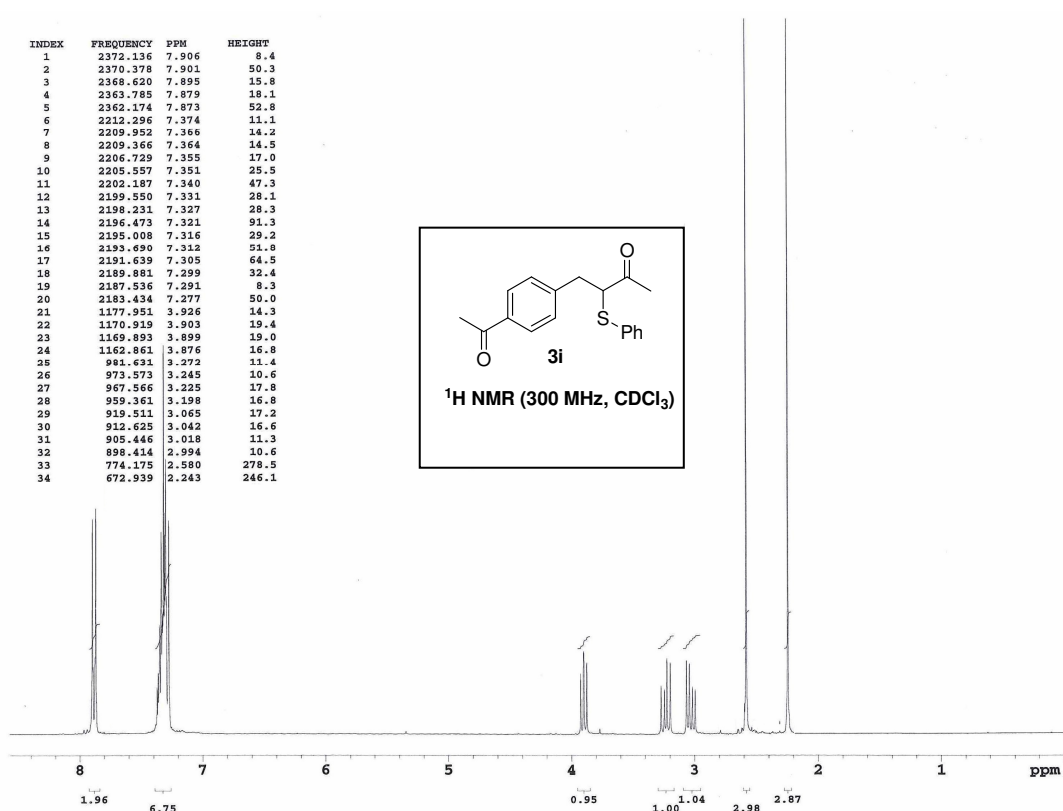


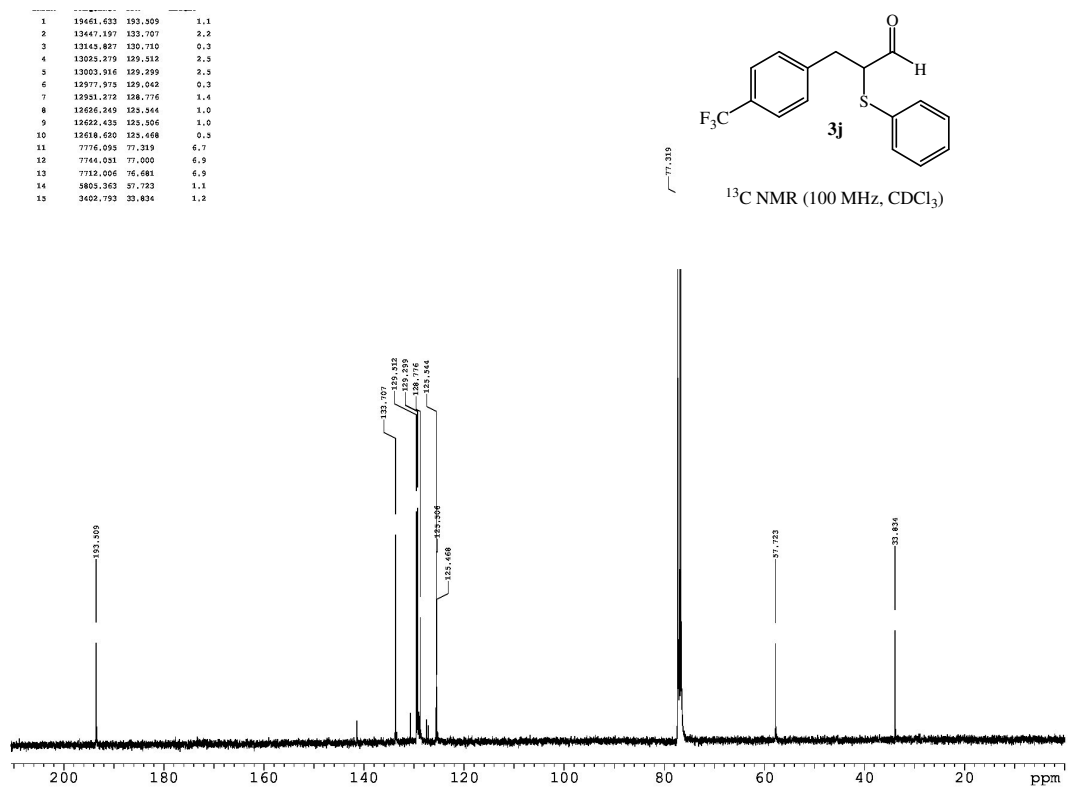
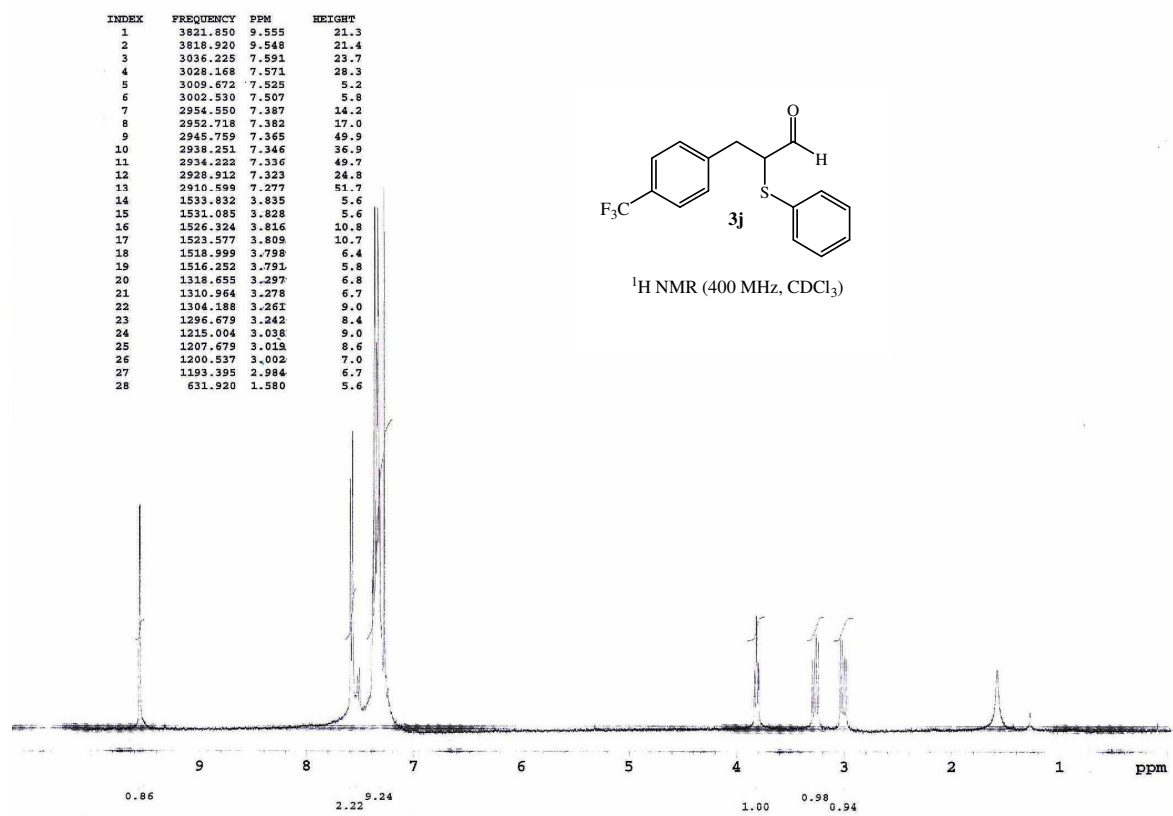


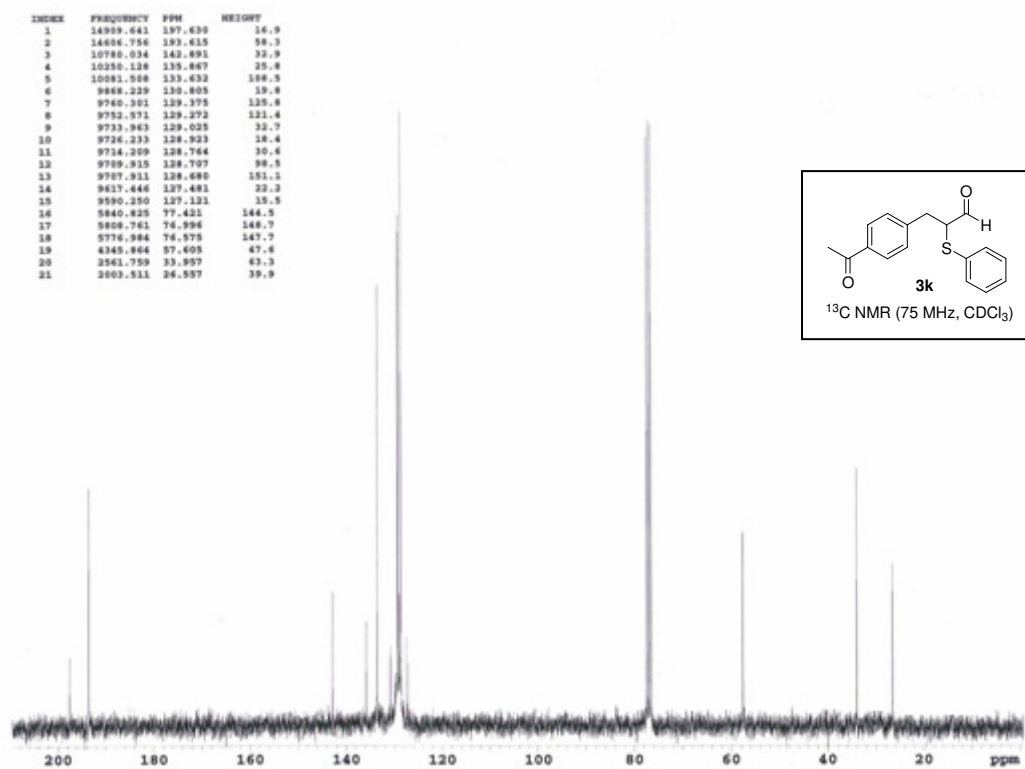
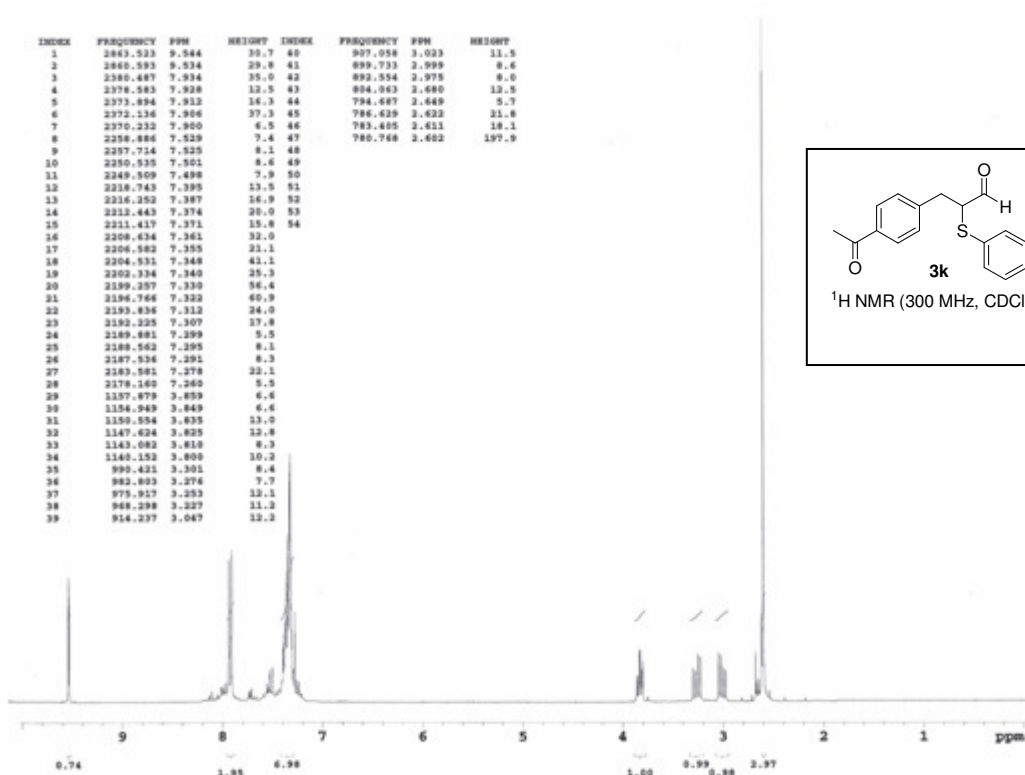


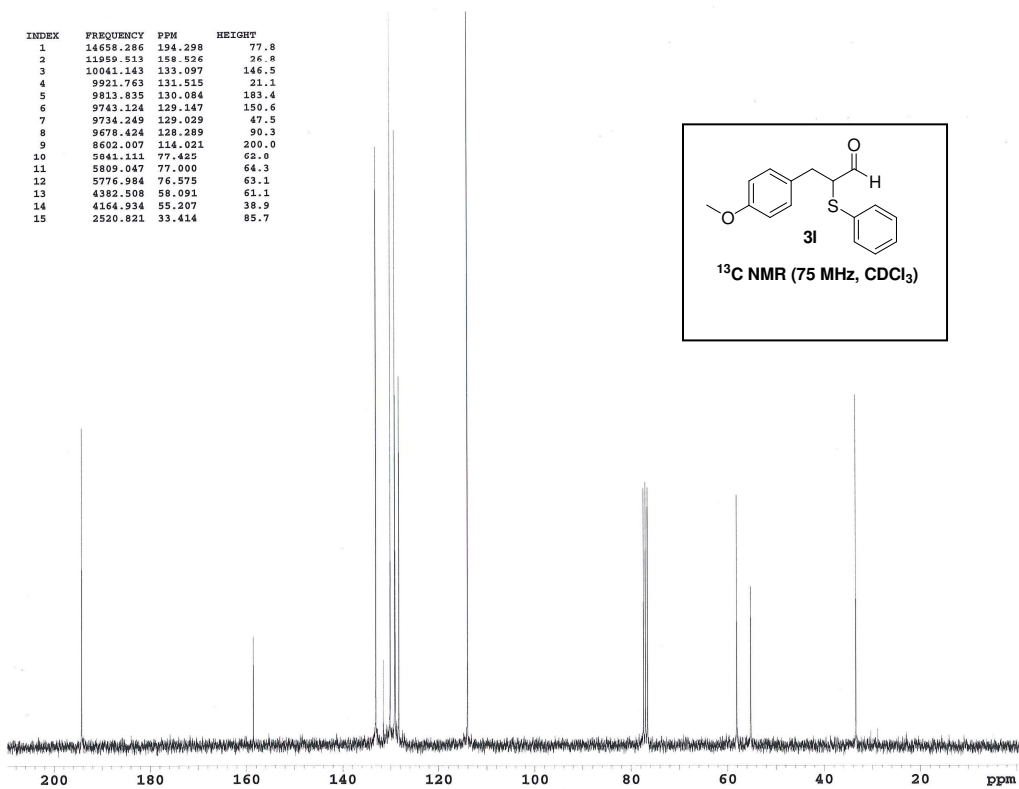
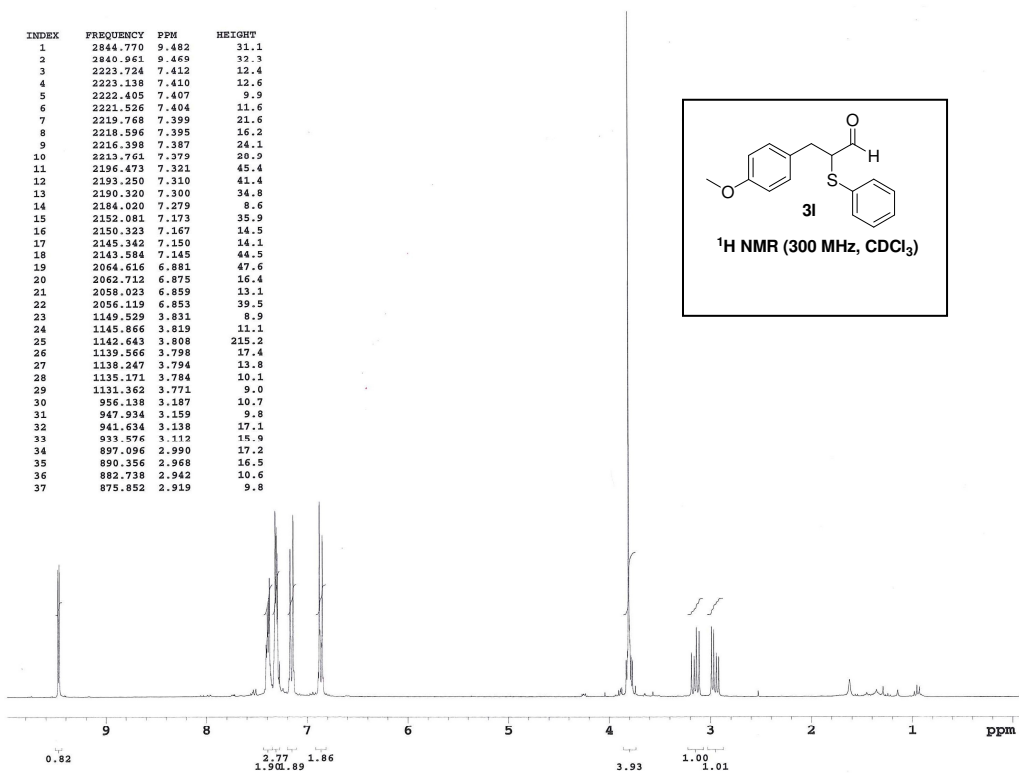


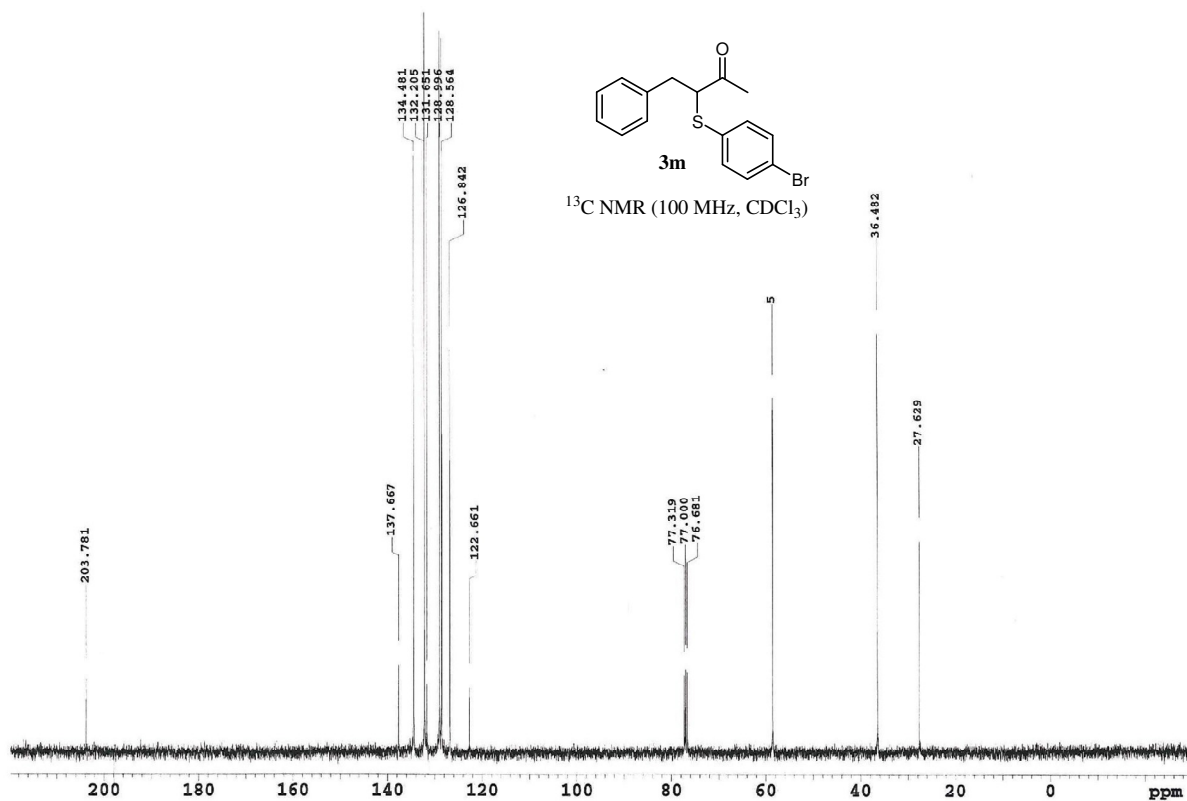
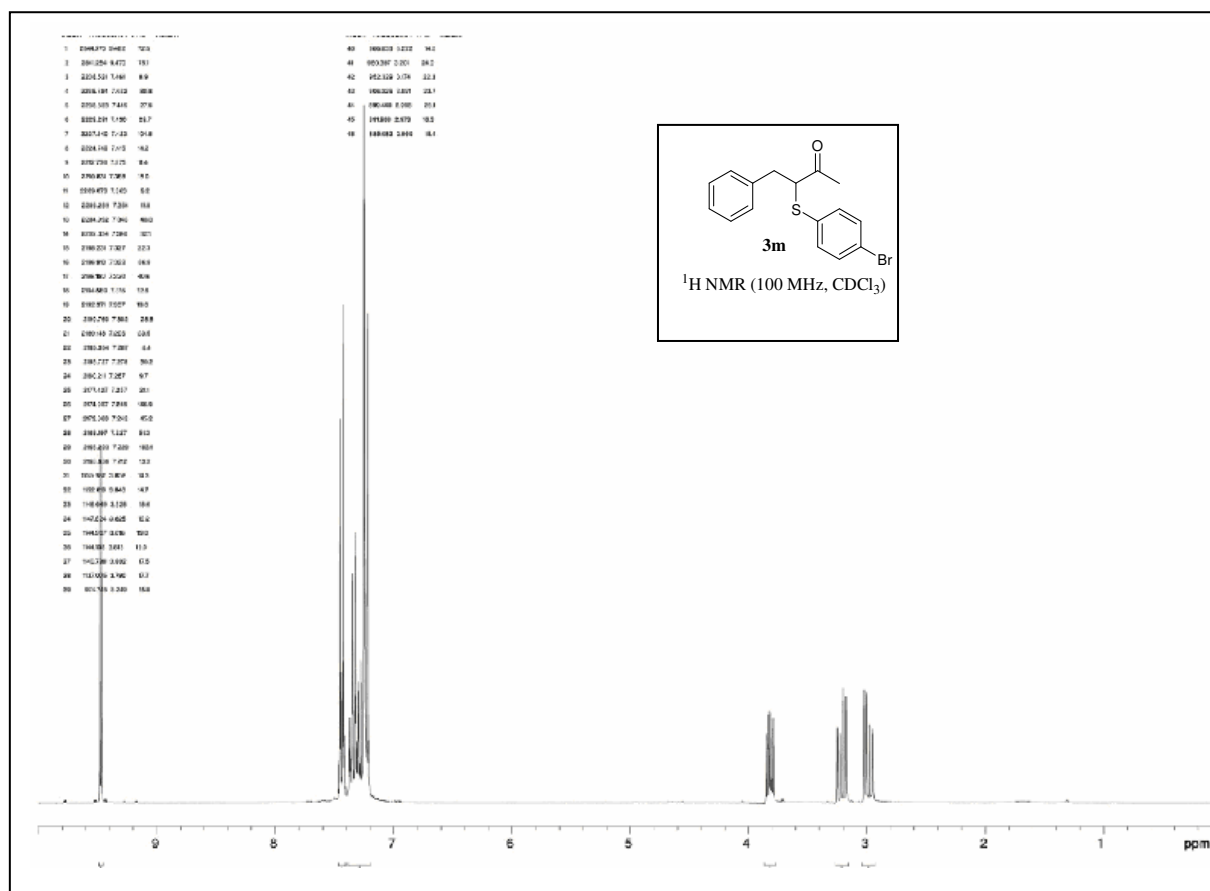


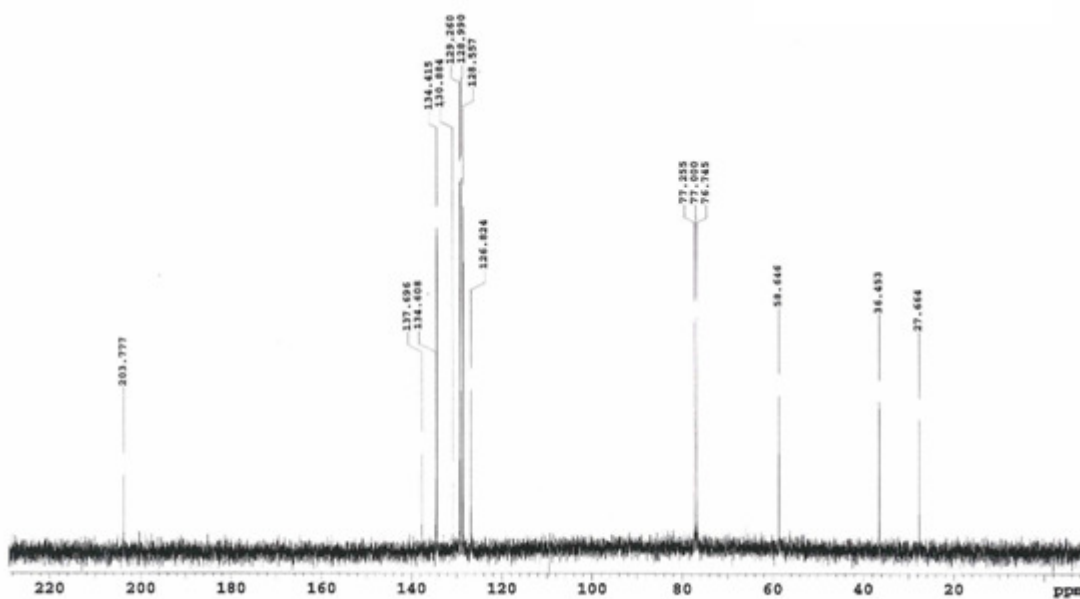
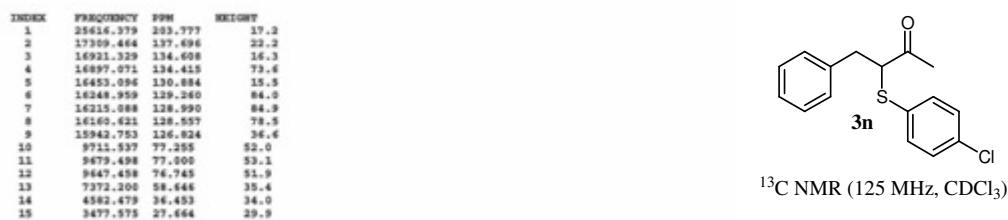
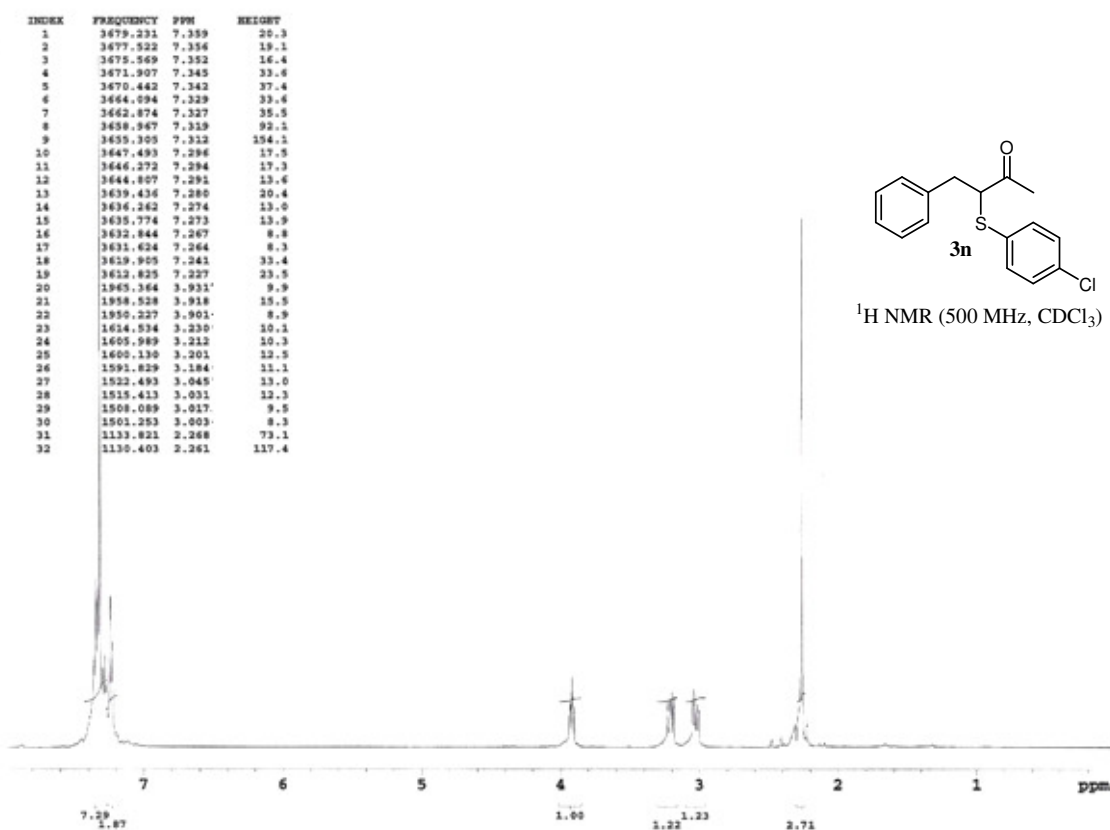


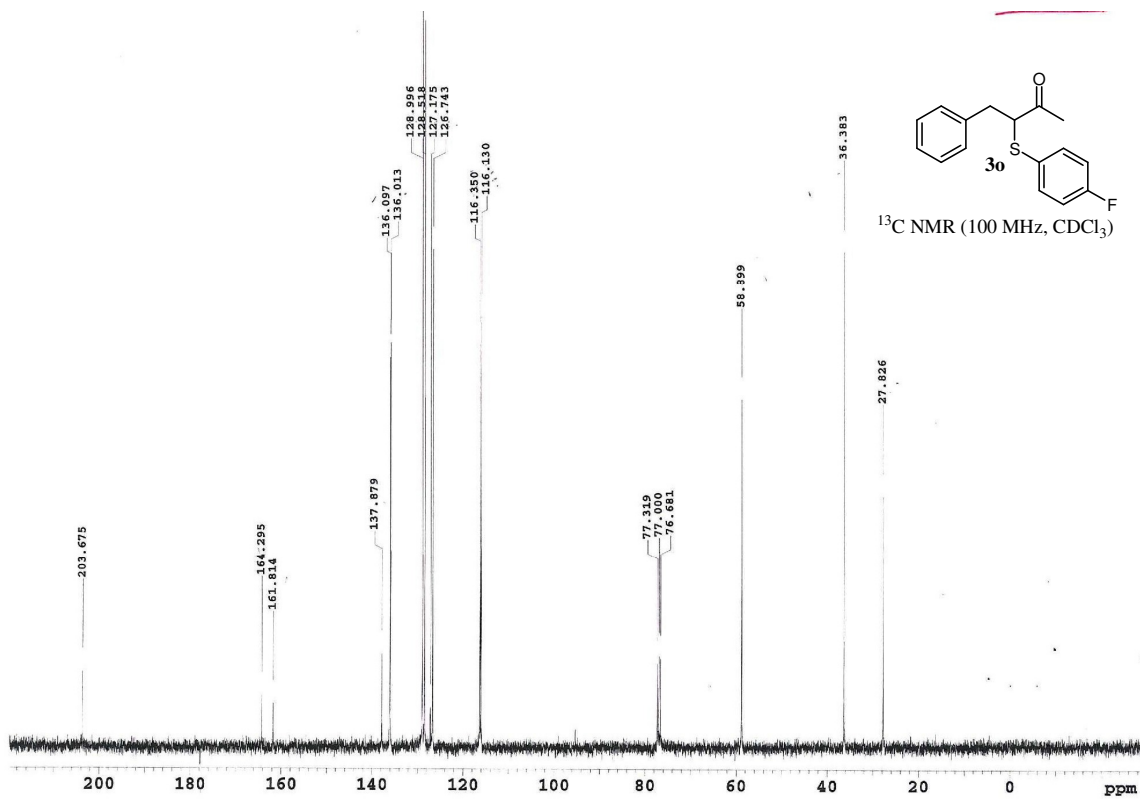
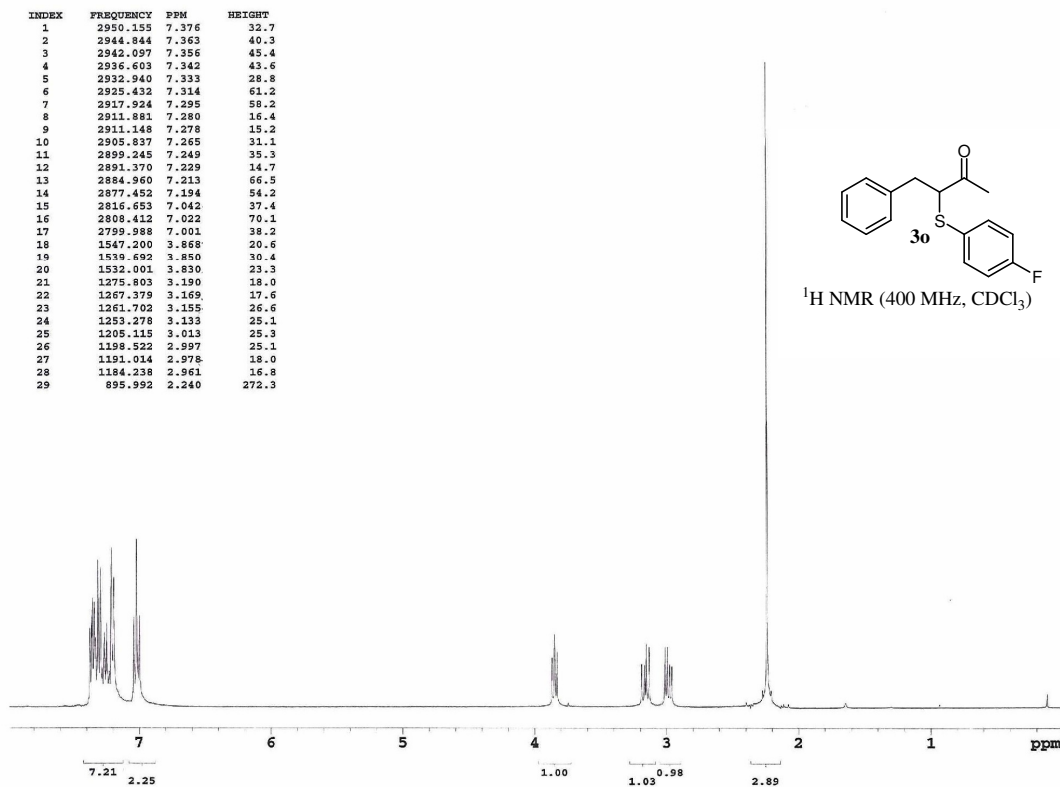


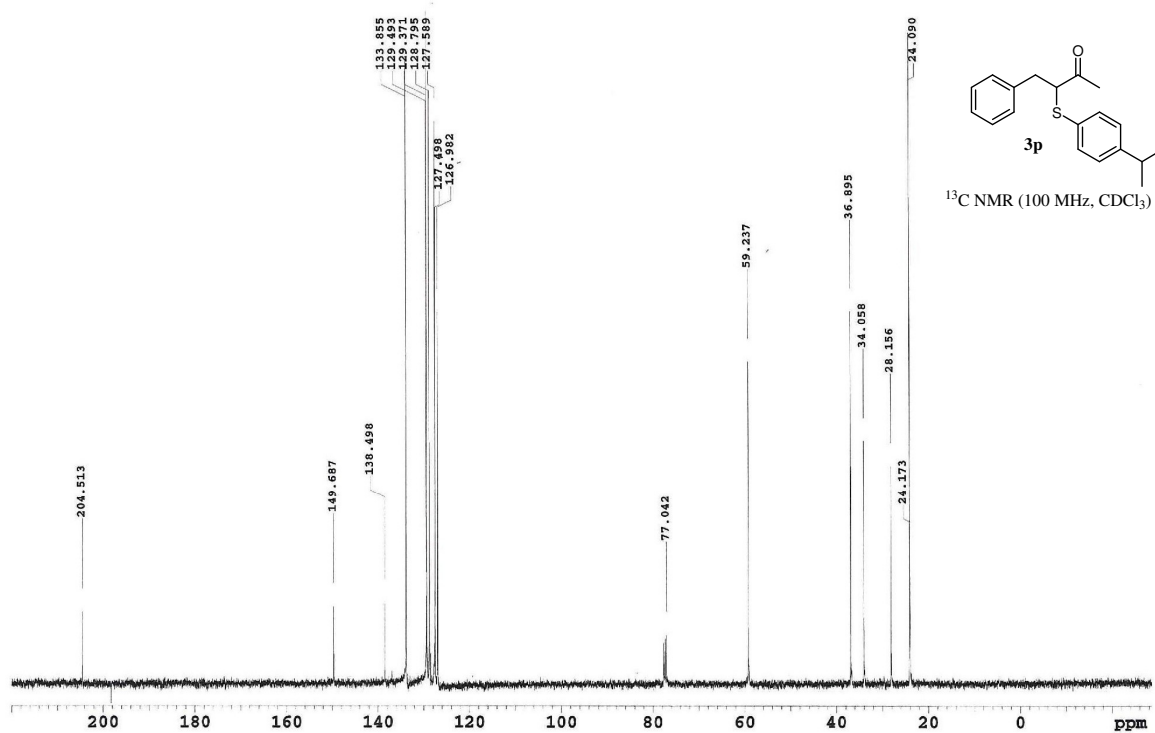
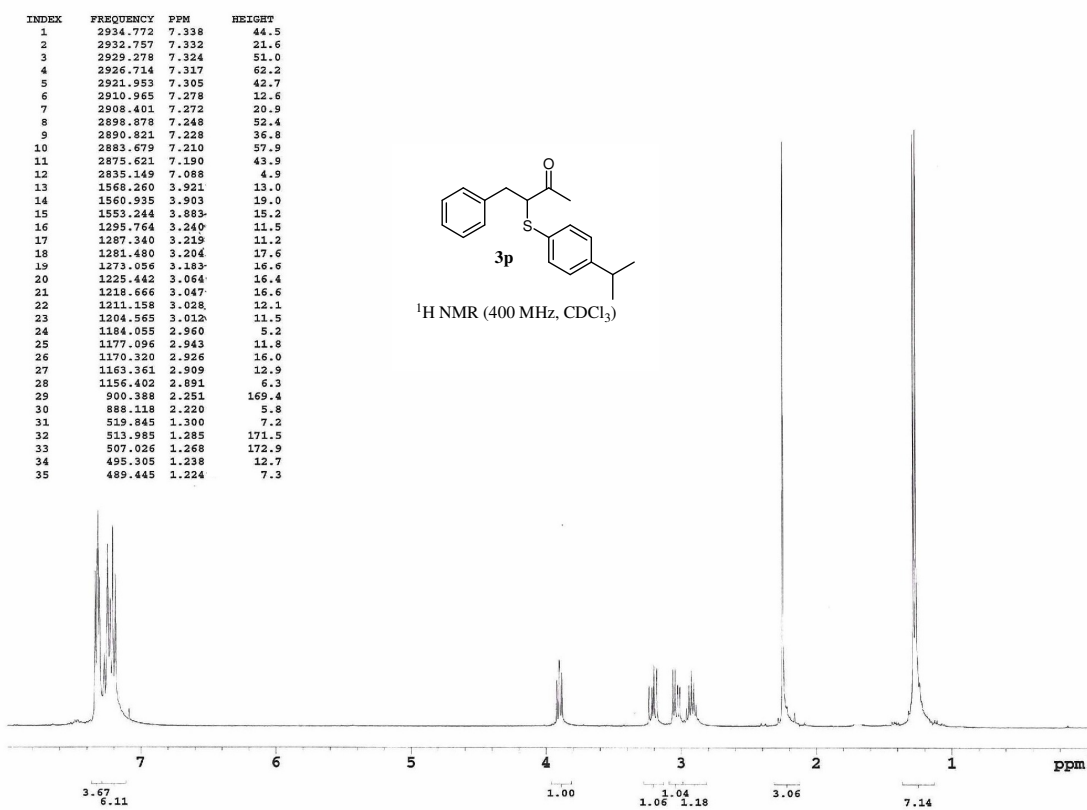


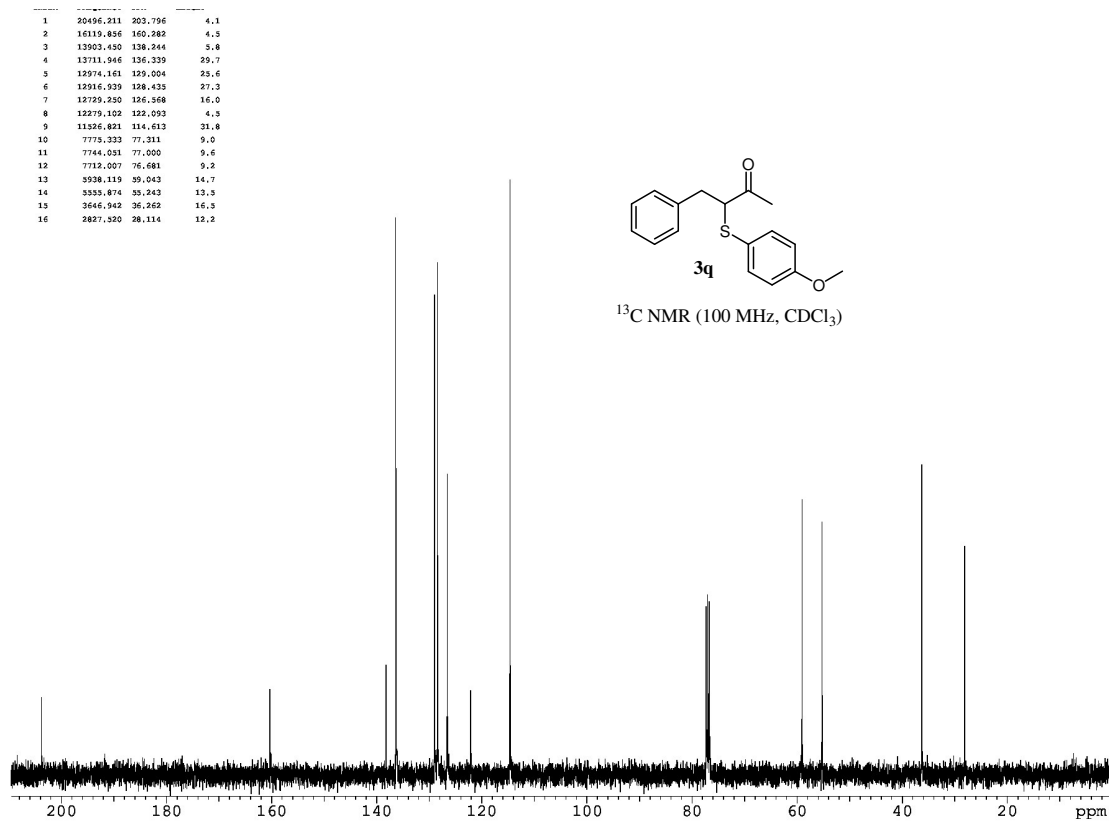
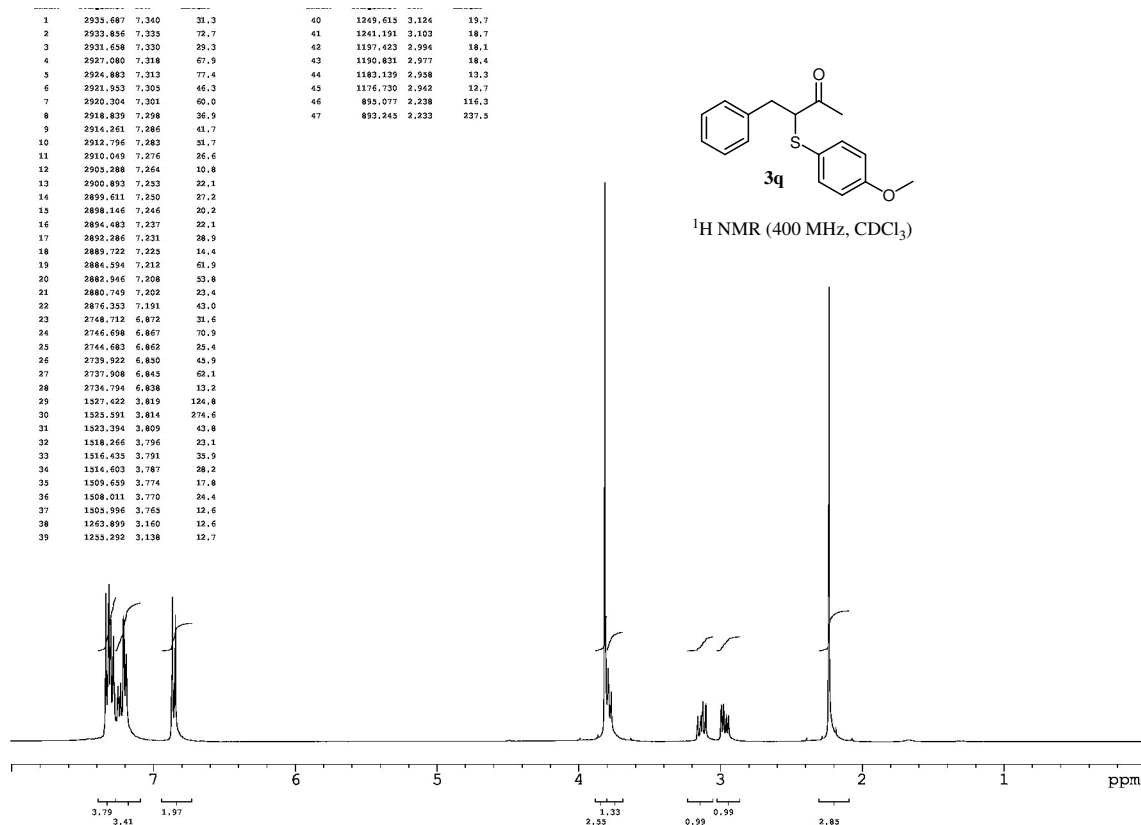




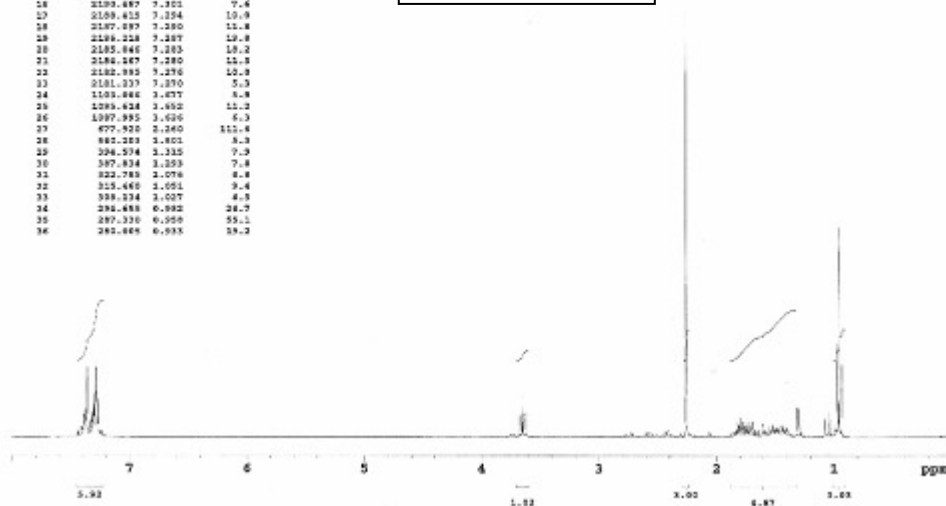
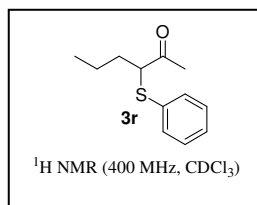




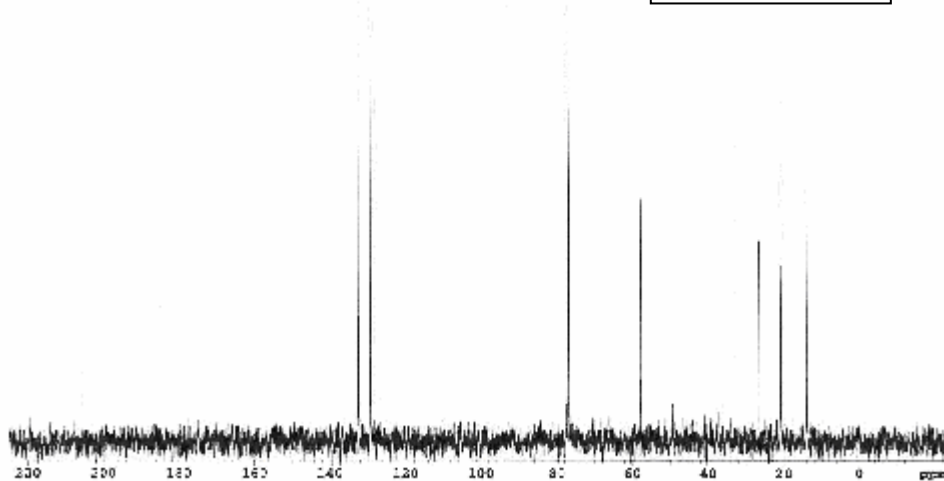
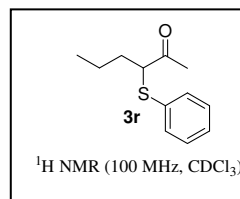


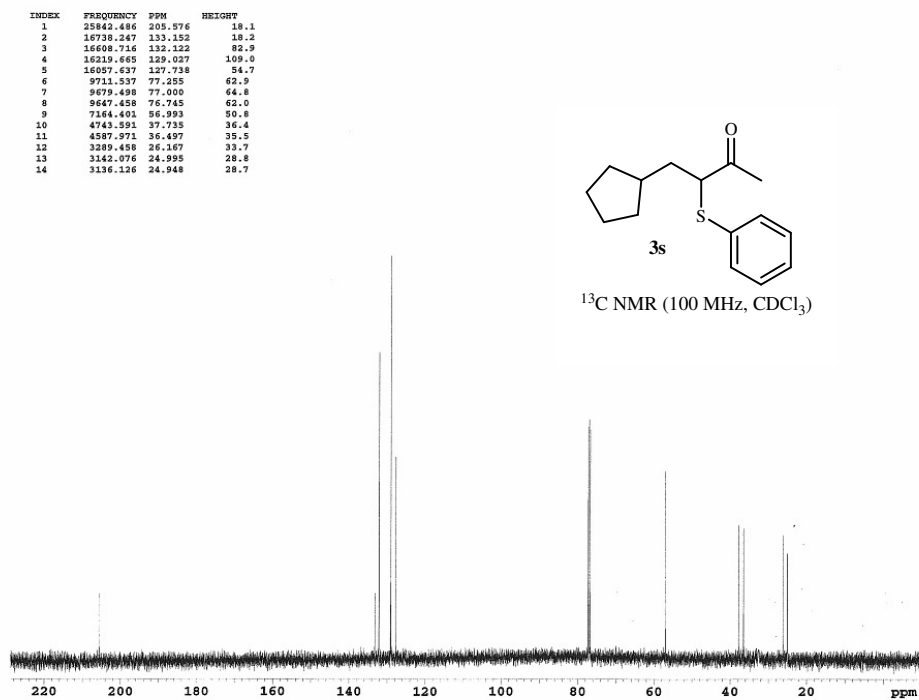
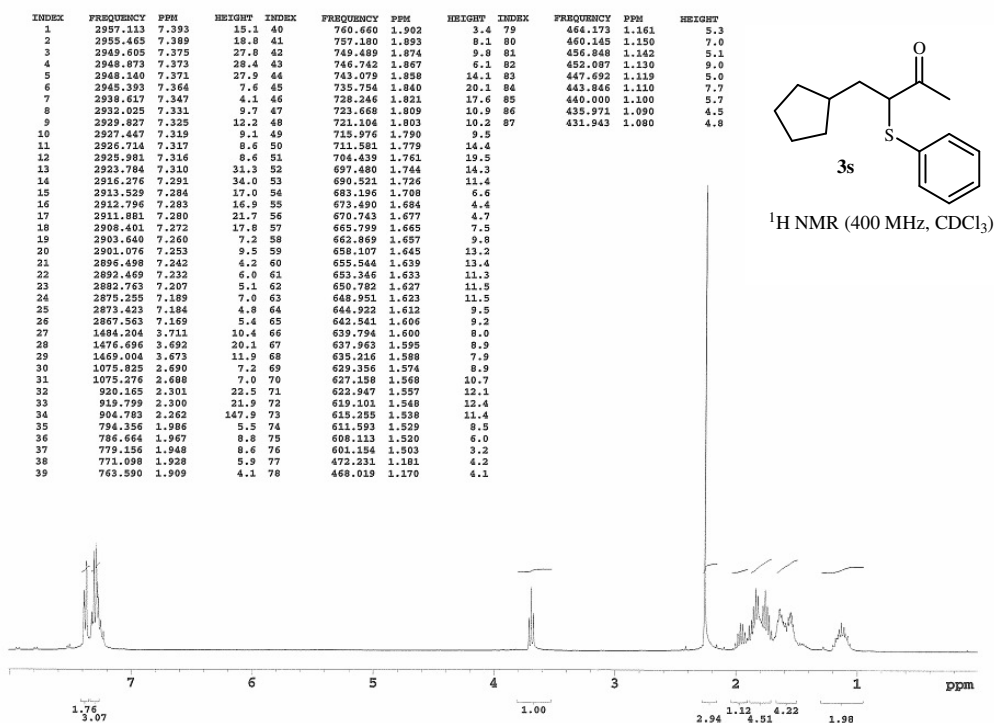


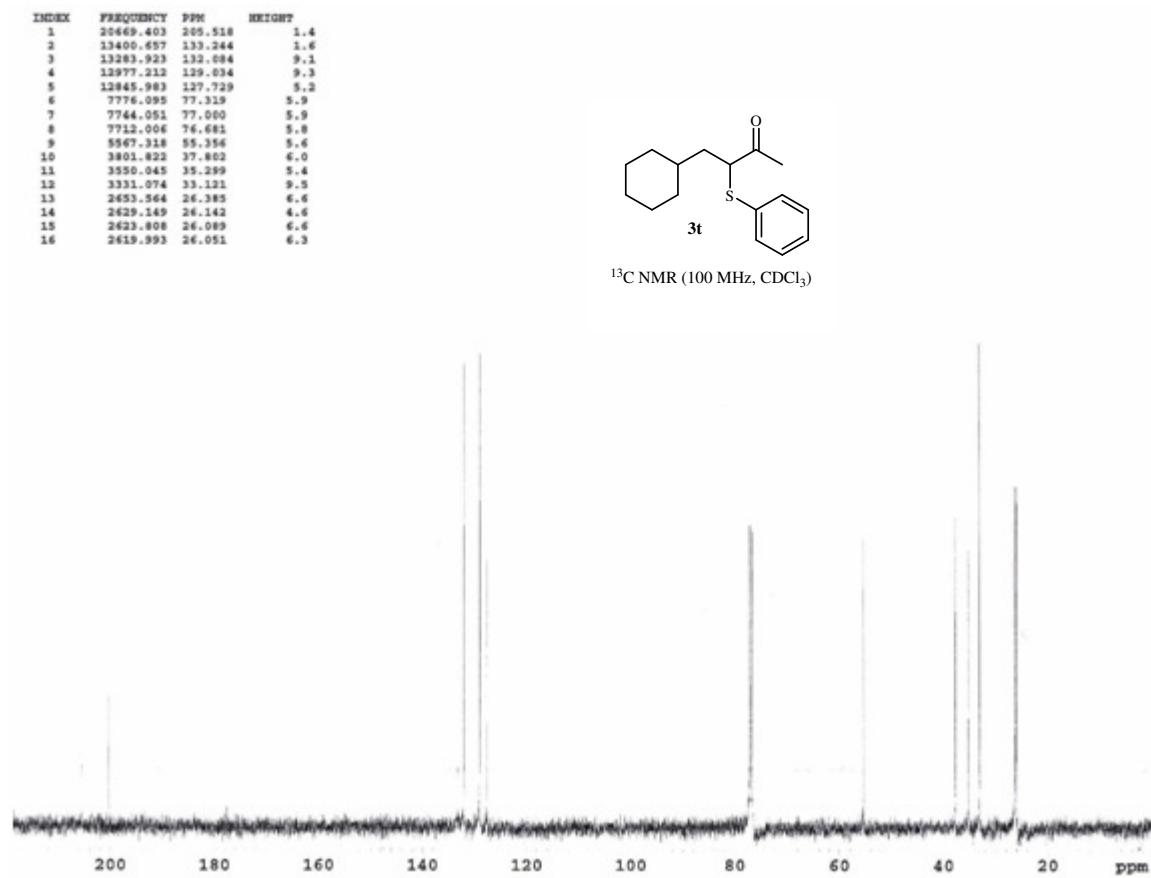
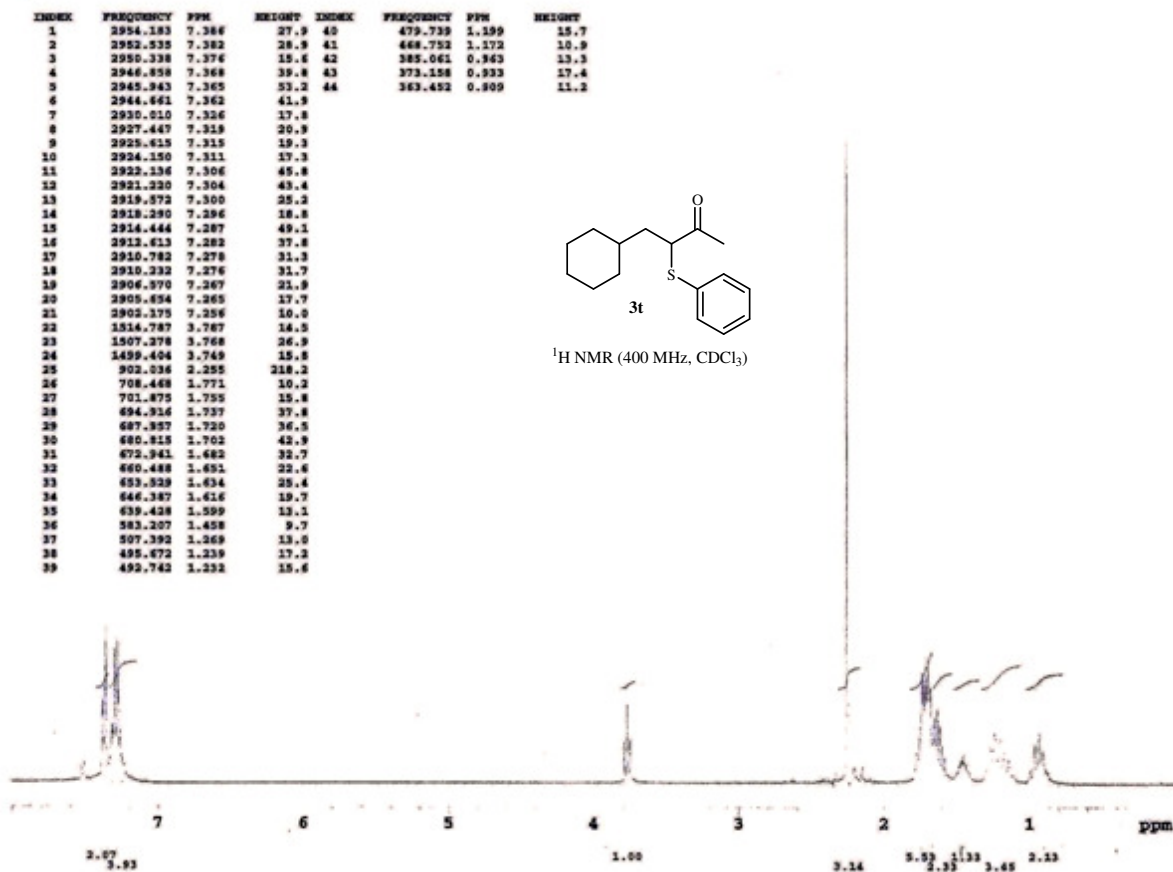
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1	2210.743	7.285	0.2
2	2216.051	7.288	7.5
3	2216.823	7.288	4.9
4	2214.543	7.281	4.6
5	2215.175	7.277	5.4
6	2213.463	7.274	7.4
7	2211.427	7.271	4.9
8	2210.885	7.268	10.2
9	2209.279	7.263	14.4
10	2207.189	7.257	4.9
11	2197.645	7.235	6.7
12	2189.742	7.218	4.2
13	2194.725	7.216	4.4
14	2193.184	7.210	14.4
15	2192.229	7.207	14.2
16	2193.897	7.201	7.4
17	2189.423	7.194	10.9
18	2187.897	7.189	11.8
19	2189.228	7.187	10.9
20	2185.845	7.183	10.2
21	2184.887	7.180	14.3
22	2182.893	7.176	10.9
23	2181.237	7.170	5.3
24	1593.846	1.877	3.8
25	1289.424	1.852	11.2
26	1287.895	1.846	6.3
27	877.926	1.240	11.4
28	862.283	1.201	3.3
29	394.574	1.235	7.9
30	397.834	1.253	7.4
31	322.789	1.076	4.4
32	315.460	1.051	9.4
33	308.274	1.027	4.9
34	294.488	0.982	10.7
35	287.330	0.959	55.1
36	282.469	0.933	14.2

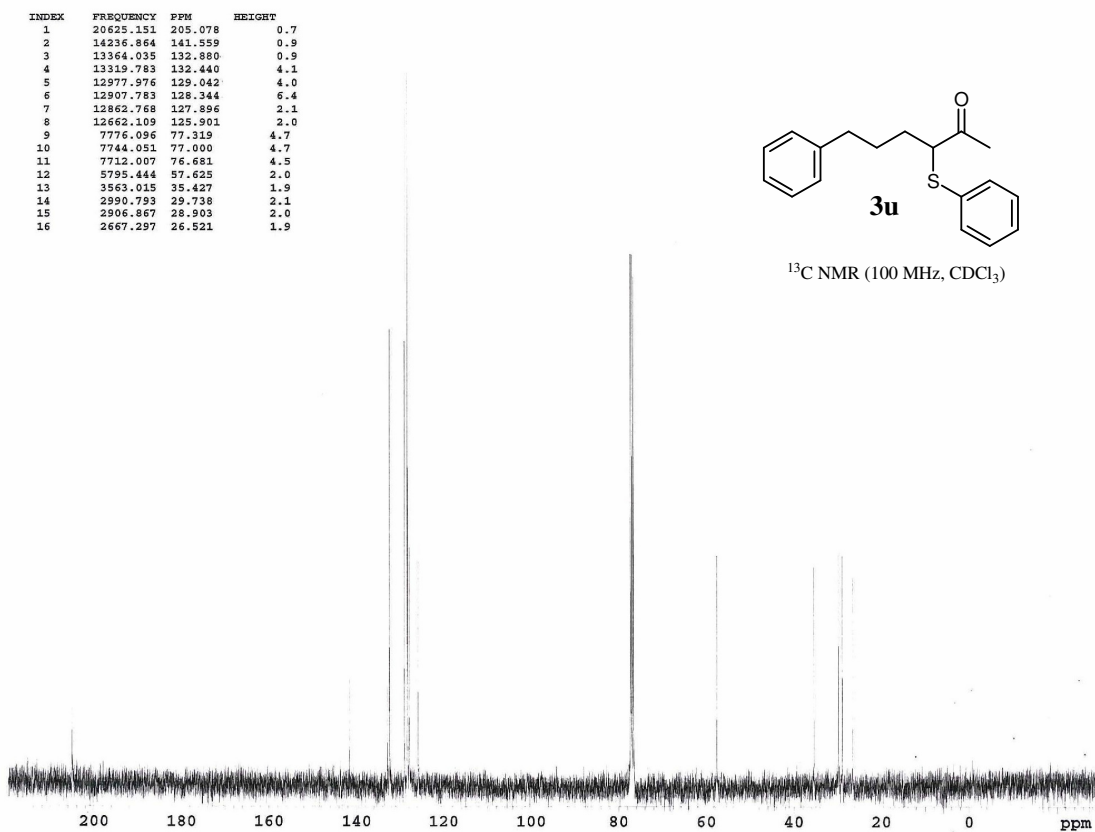
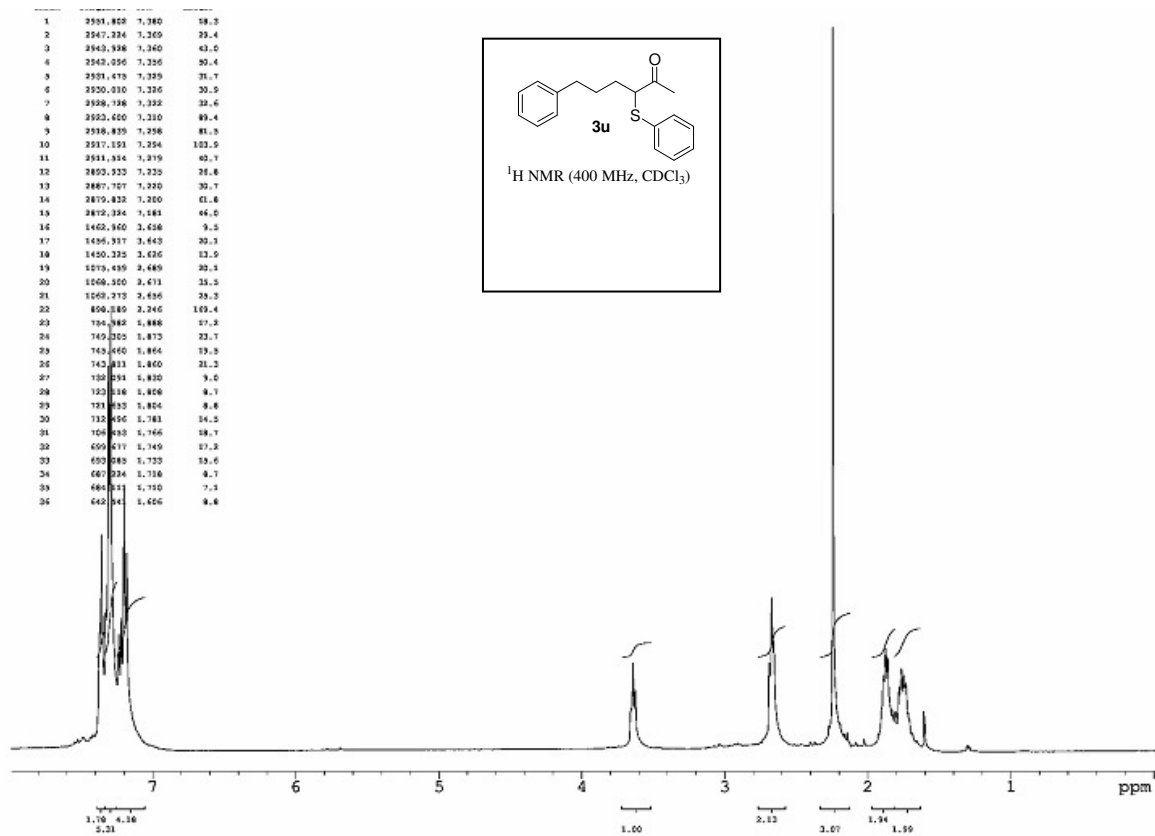


INDEX	FREQUENCY	F1H	INTEGR
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4	2048.492	7.281	4.6
5	2049.124	7.277	5.4
6	2047.412	7.274	7.4
7	2045.376	7.271	4.9
8	2044.834	7.268	10.2
9	2043.228	7.263	14.4
10	2041.138	7.257	4.9
11	1931.594	7.235	6.7
12	1923.691	7.218	4.2
13	1928.674	7.216	4.4
14	1927.133	7.210	14.4
15	1926.178	7.207	14.2
16	1927.846	7.201	7.4
17	1923.372	7.194	10.9
18	1921.846	7.189	11.8
19	1923.177	7.187	10.9
20	1919.794	7.183	10.2
21	1918.836	7.180	14.3
22	1916.842	7.176	10.9
23	1915.186	7.170	5.3
24	1321.795	1.877	3.8
25	1017.373	1.852	11.2
26	1015.844	1.846	6.3
27	605.875	1.240	11.4
28	590.232	1.201	3.3
29	122.523	1.235	7.9
30	125.783	1.253	7.4
31	52.738	1.076	4.4
32	45.409	1.051	9.4
33	38.223	1.027	4.9
34	24.437	0.982	10.7
35	17.279	0.959	55.1
36	12.418	0.933	14.2

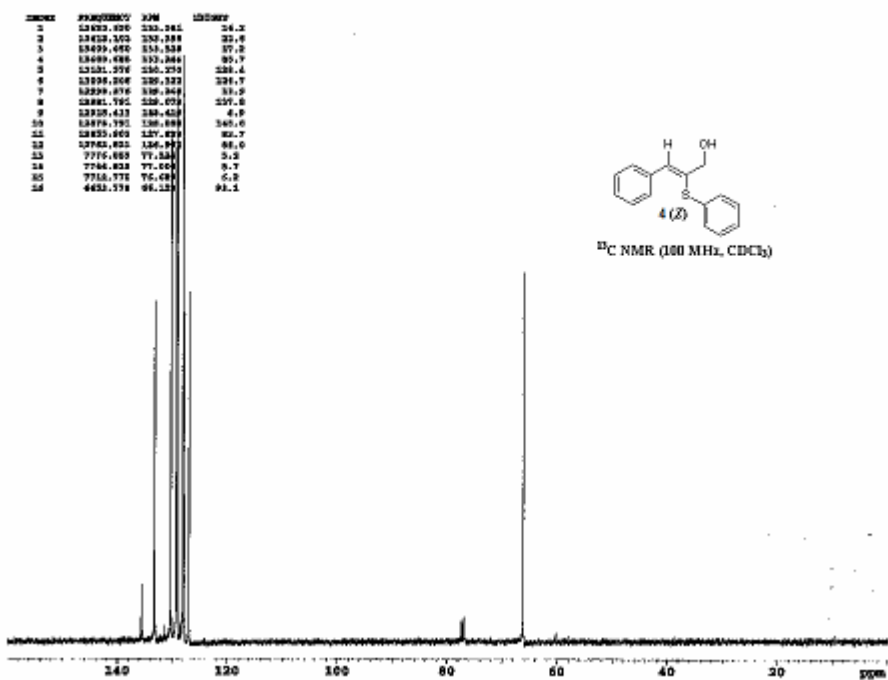
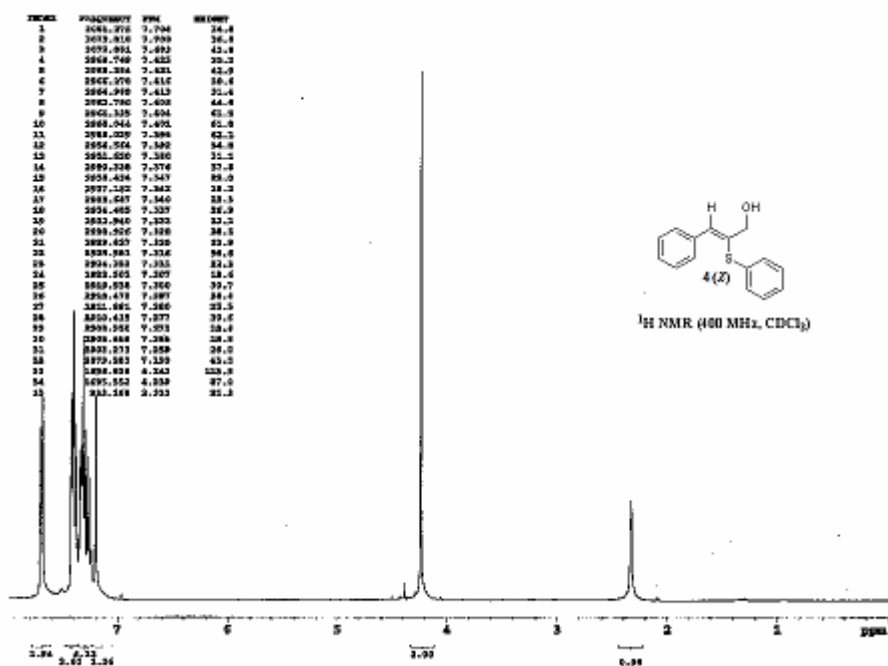


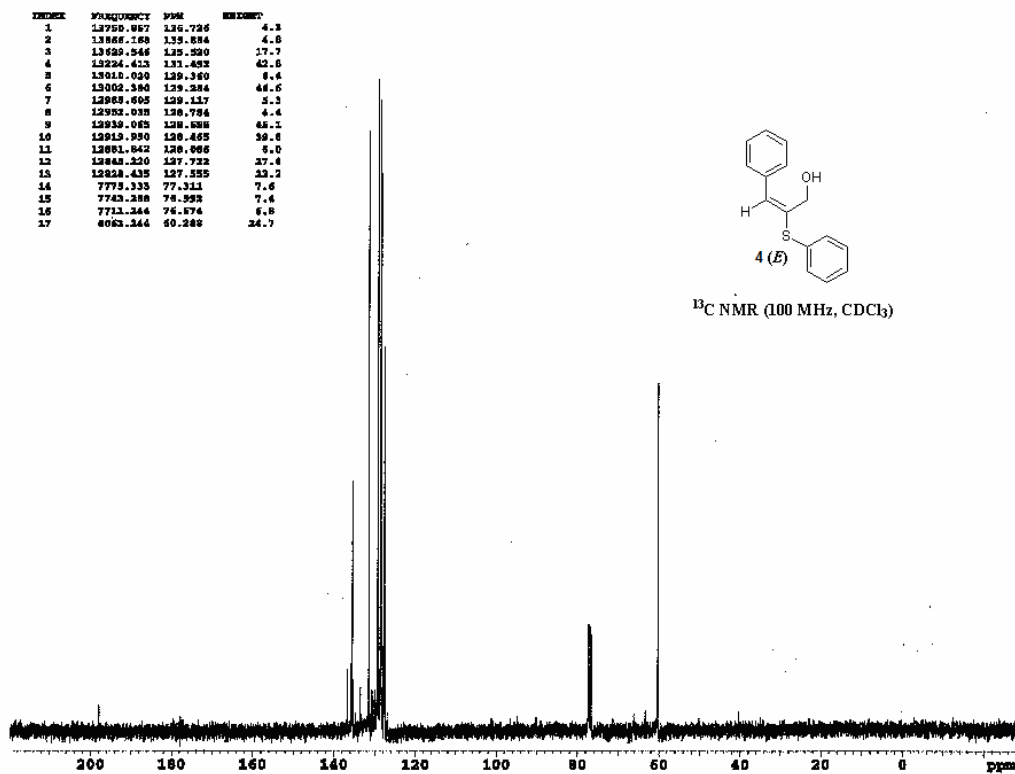
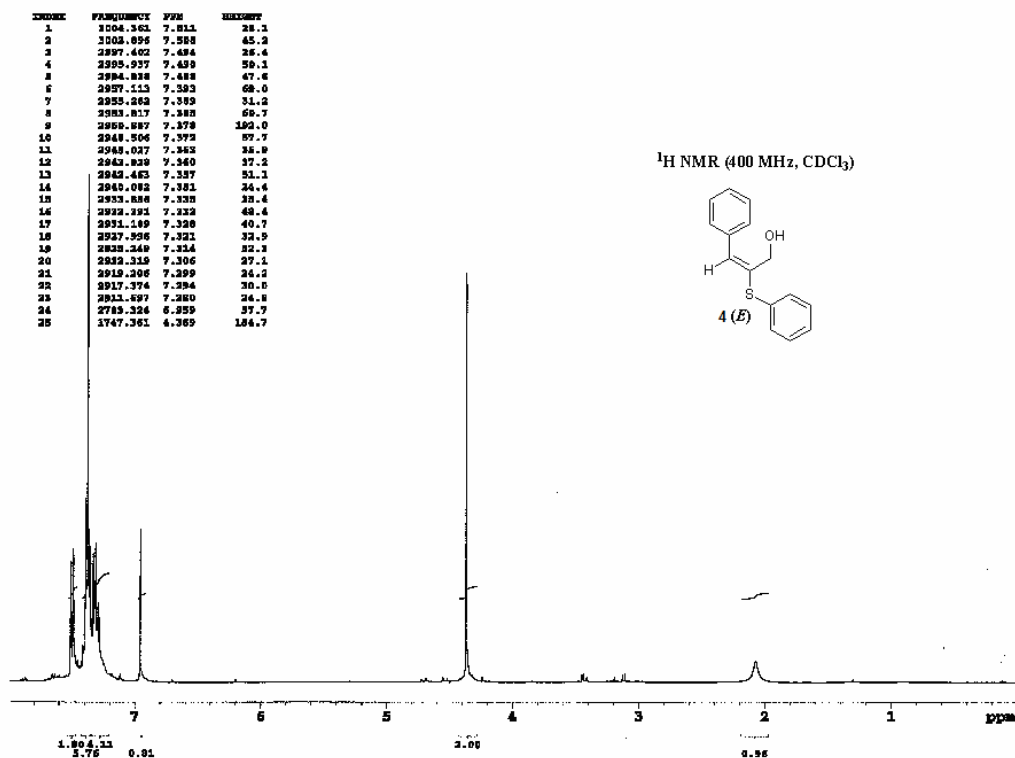






I. Copies of NMR spectra of isolated intermediate 4.





J. References.

1 S. Biswas and J. S. M. Samec, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 6586.

2 T. Aoyama, T. Takido and M. Kodomari, *Synlett*, 2005, 2739.