

## Highly enantioselective aza-Michael addition reactions of 4-nitrophthalimide to $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones

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## Supporting Information for highly enantioselective aza-Michael addition reactions of 4-nitrophthalimide to $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones

Shijun Ma, Lulu Wu, Ming Liu, Xiufang Xu, Yaodong Huang\* and Yongmei Wang\*

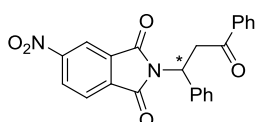
**General Information:** All the solvents were purified according to standard procedures. Catalysts **III**, **IV** and **V** were synthesized by literature procedure.<sup>[1]</sup> The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz with Bruker AV400 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts were calibrated to tetramethylsilane as an external reference. Coupling constants are given in hertz. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: s, singlet; d, double; t, triplet; m, multiplet. HR-MS were recorded on an IonSpec FT-ICR mass spectrometer with ESI resource. All melting points were determined on a RY-I apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter at 25 °C. HPLC analysis was performed on Shimadzu CTO-10AS by using a Chiralpak AD-H column purchased from Daicel Chemical Industries. The chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers (Aldrich, USA and Shanghai Chemical Company, China), and were used without purification prior to use. All reactions unless otherwise noted were carried out directly under air.

### Experimental Section:

#### General procedure for enantioselective aza-Michael addition of 4-nitrophthalimides **1b** with $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones **2**:

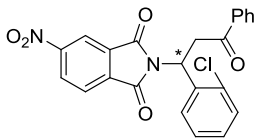
2-Cl-PhCOOH (6 mg, 40 mol%) and 4 Å MS (5 mg) were added to a stirred solution of catalyst **V** (7 mg, 20 mol%) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), and the solution was stirred for 5 minutes at room temperature. After addition of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones (0.1 mmol), the mixture was stirred for 10 minutes, then 4-nitrophthalimides (19 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added and stirring was continued for the indicated time. The crude reaction mixture was then loaded onto a silica gel column for purification (EtOAc/petroleum, 1:5) to afford the corresponding Michael adducts **3**.

#### Characterization of adducts **3**:



#### 5-nitro-2-(3-oxo-1,3-diphenylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**3ba**).

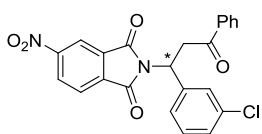
White solid, m.p. 63-65°C, 55% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +31.00$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.59 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 7.97 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.67 – 7.53 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.34 (dt, *J* = 23.6, 7.2 Hz, 3H, ArH), 6.07 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.69 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 10.3 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.7, 166.2, 166.0, 151.7, 138.7, 136.3, 136.2, 133.7, 133.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 124.5, 118.8, 51.3, 39.8. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 423.0957, found 423.0950. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 30.2 min, minor = 37.3 min (>99% *ee*).



#### 2-(1-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (**3bb**).

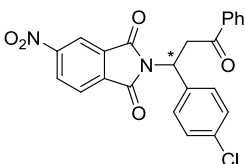
White solid, m.p. 73-75°C, 61% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +34.46$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.65 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.60 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 26.9, 8.0 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.73 – 7.54 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.53 – 7.39 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.57 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 10.6 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.5, 166.3, 166.1, 151.8, 136.2, 136.0, 133.7, 133.16, 133.0, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.3, 124.7, 118.9, 48.8, 39.5. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 457.0567, found 457.0557. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H

column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 26.6 min, minor = 28.6 min (95% *ee*).



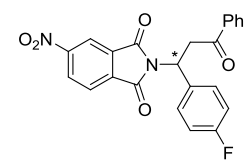
**2-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bc).**

White solid, m.p. 66-68°C, 65% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +30.33$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 7.8 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.66 – 7.57 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.9 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.06 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.66 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 10.1 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.79 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.3, 166.1, 165.9, 151.8, 140.5, 136.1, 136.0, 134.8, 133.8, 133.1, 130.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 126.1, 124.7, 118.9, 50.7, 39.6. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 457.0567, found 457.0565. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 28.6 min, minor = 32.1 min (98% *ee*).



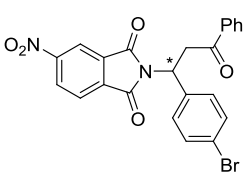
**2-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bd).**

White solid, m.p. 73-75°C, 56% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +25.98$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.63 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 8.0 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 7.8 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.07 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 4.9 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.62 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 9.9 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 4.9 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, ) δ 196.3, 166.1, 165.9, 151.8, 137.1, 136.1, 136.1, 134.4, 133.8, 133.2, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 124.6, 118.8, 50.6, 39.7. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 457.0567, found 457.0567. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 36.9 min, minor = 63.3 min (99% *ee*).



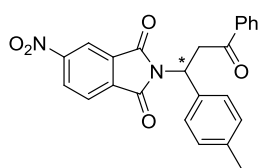
**2-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3be).**

White solid, m.p. 66-68°C, 60% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +38.00$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.58 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 7.8 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.62 (dt, *J* = 13.9, 6.8 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.08 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.08 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.64 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 10.0 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.79 (dt, *J* = 19.9, 9.9 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.4, 166.1, 165.9, 151.8, 136.2, 136.1, 134.5, 133.7, 133.2, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 124.6, 118.8, 116.0, 115.8, 50.5, 39.8. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 441.0863, found 441.0860. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 34.4 min, minor = 54.0 min (>99% *ee*).



**2-(1-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bf).**

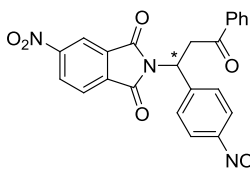
White solid, m.p. 70-72°C, 62% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.44$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.62 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.58 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 7.9 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.55 – 7.44 (m, 6H, ArH), 6.06 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.61 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 9.8 Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.3, 166.1, 165.9, 151.8, 137.6, 136.1, 136.1, 133.8, 133.1, 132.1, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 124.6, 122.6, 118.8, 50.6, 39.6. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 501.0062, found 501.0053. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 40.6 min, minor = 68.7 min (99% *ee*).



**5-nitro-2-(3-oxo-3-phenyl-1-p-tolylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bg).**

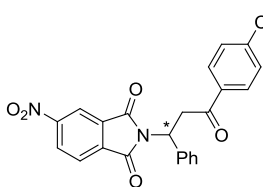
White solid, m.p. 71-73°C, 69% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +28.81$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.59 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 3.9 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.04 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.67 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 10.3 Hz, 1H, CHHCO),

3.75 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 4.6$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.33 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.7, 166.2, 166.0, 151.7, 138.4, 136.3, 136.2, 135.7, 133.6, 133.3, 129.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 124.5, 118.7, 51.0, 39.8, 21.1. HRMS calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 437.1113, found 437.1104. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 32.3 min, minor = 48.5 min (99% *ee*).



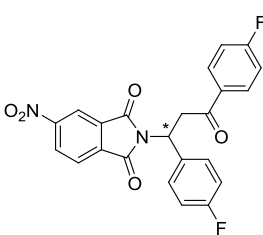
**5-nitro-2-(1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bh).**

White solid, m.p. 93-95°C, 49% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +13.96$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.65 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.64 – 8.57 (m, 1H, ArH), 8.25 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.02 (dd,  $J = 25.8, 8.0$  Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.81 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.62 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.50 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.20 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 5.5$  Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.58 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 9.3$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.93 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 5.5$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.8, 166.0, 165.8, 151.9, 147.8, 145.4, 135.9, 135.8, 134.0, 133.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 124.8, 124.2, 119.0, 50.5, 39.5. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 468.0808, found 468.0800. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (70:30)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 70.6 min, minor = 84.4 min (>99% *ee*).



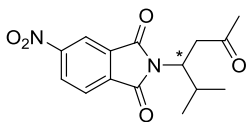
**2-(3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bi).**

White solid, m.p. 178-179°C, 54% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +41.49$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.60 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.56 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 7.99 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.91 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.59 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.35 (dt,  $J = 22.3, 7.1$  Hz, 3H, ArH), 6.05 (dd,  $J = 10.2, 4.5$  Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.66 (dd,  $J = 18.3, 10.3$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.72 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 4.6$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 195.5, 166.2, 166.0, 151.7, 140.2, 138.5, 136.2, 134.5, 133.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 127.8, 124.6, 118.8, 51.2, 39.8. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 457.0567, found 457.0563. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 59.2 min, minor = 63.5 min (99% *ee*).



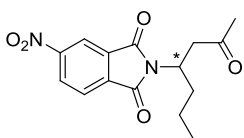
**2-(1,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bj).**

White solid, m.p. 70-71°C, 71% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +16.52$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.63 (s, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.59 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.7$  Hz, 1H, O<sub>2</sub>N-ArH), 8.02 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 3.8$  Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.62 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 5.3$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.16 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.08 (t,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.07 (dd,  $J = 9.9, 4.9$  Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.63 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 10.0$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 3.77 (dd,  $J = 18.2, 5.0$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 194.8, 166.1, 165.9, 151.8, 136.1, 134.5, 134.4, 133.2, 132.6, 130.9, 130.8, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 124.63, 118.8, 116.1, 116.0, 115.9, 115.8, 50.5, 39.8. HRMS calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 459.0768, found 459.0760. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; major = 45.7 min, minor = 76.3 min (99% *ee*).

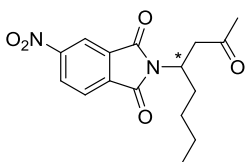


**2-(2-methyl-5-oxohexan-3-yl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bk).**

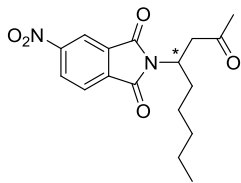
Colorless oil; 75% yield,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +33.05$  (*c* 0.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.64 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.60 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.9$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.45 – 4.35 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.58 – 3.45 (m, 1H, CHHCO), 2.94 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 3.9$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.35 – 2.22 (m, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.14 (s, 3H, COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH<sub>3</sub>), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CHCH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 206.2, 166.5, 166.2, 151.7, 136.1, 133.1, 129.2, 124.5, 118.7, 53.7, 42.5, 30.7, 30.2, 19.9, 19.6. HRMS calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 327.0957, found 327.0954. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; minor = 9.1 min, major = 9.6 min (97% *ee*).



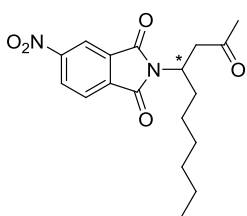
**5-nitro-2-(2-oxoheptan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bl).** Colorless oil; 88% yield,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +18.89$  (*c* 0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.65 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.61 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.9$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.82 – 4.69 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.39 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 9.3$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.97 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.16 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 2.08 – 1.94 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75 – 1.61 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.40 – 1.21 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.93 (q,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 166.3, 166.1, 151.7, 136.2, 133.2, 129.2, 124.4, 118.7, 47.5, 45.2, 34.5, 30.2, 19.5, 13.6. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ ,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  327.0957, found 327.0948. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0  $\text{mLmin}^{-1}$ ; minor = 9.7 min, major = 10.4 min (96% *ee*).



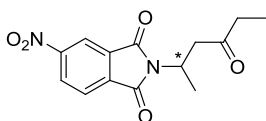
**5-nitro-2-(2-oxooctan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bm).** Colorless oil, 89% yield,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +22.69$  (*c* 0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.63 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.59 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.02 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.78 – 4.64 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 9.3$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.96 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.14 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 2.05 – 1.90 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79 – 1.60 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43 – 1.12 (m, 4H,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.86 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 166.3, 166.1, 151.7, 136.2, 133.2, 129.2, 124.5, 118.7, 47.7, 45.2, 32.2, 30.2, 28.4, 22.2, 13.9. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ ,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  341.1113, found 341.1107. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0  $\text{mLmin}^{-1}$ ; minor = 9.1 min, major = 9.6 min (95% *ee*).



**5-nitro-2-(2-oxononan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bn).** Colorless oil, 98% yield,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +24.04$  (*c* 0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.63 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.59 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.8$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.02 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.85 – 4.57 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.53 – 3.25 (m, 1H, CHHCO), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.14 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 2.03 – 1.90 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.70 (tt,  $J = 10.4, 5.1$  Hz, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 (dd,  $J = 22.9, 4.0$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.84 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 166.3, 166.0, 151.7, 136.2, 133.2, 129.2, 124.5, 118.7, 47.7, 45.2, 32.4, 31.2, 30.2, 25.9, 22.4, 14.0. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ ,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  355.1270, found 355.1269. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0  $\text{mLmin}^{-1}$ ; minor = 8.9 min, major = 9.3 min (95% *ee*).



**5-nitro-2-(2-oxodecan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bo).** Colorless oil, 90% yield,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +26.72$  (*c* 0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.63 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.59 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.02 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.77 – 4.66 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 9.3$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.95 (dd,  $J = 17.9, 5.2$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.14 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 2.04 – 1.92 (m, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.70 (ddd,  $J = 17.7, 9.7, 4.6$  Hz, 1H, NCHCHHCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.36 – 1.14 (m, 8H,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.84 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 166.3, 166.1, 151.7, 136.2, 133.2, 129.2, 124.5, 118.7, 47.8, 45.2, 32.5, 31.6, 30.2, 28.8, 26.2, 22.5, 14.0. HRMS calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$ ,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  369.1426, found 369.1415. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0  $\text{mLmin}^{-1}$ ; minor = 8.7 min, major = 9.3 min (96% *ee*).



**5-nitro-2-(4-oxohexan-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bp).** Colorless oil, 51% yield,  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +21.39$  (*c* 0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.65 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.60 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.9$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.03 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H, ArH), 4.88 (tt,  $J = 13.8, 6.9$  Hz, 1H, NCH), 3.37 (dd,  $J = 17.8, 8.9$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.96 (dd,  $J = 17.8, 5.7$  Hz, 1H, CHHCO), 2.53 – 2.37 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.49 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H, NCHCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.07 – 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  208.4, 166.1, 165.8, 151.7, 136.4, 133.4, 129.2, 124.4, 118.6, 44.9, 43.3, 36.1,

18.9, 7.6. HRMS calcd for  $C_{14}H_{14}N_2O_5Na$ ,  $[M+Na]^+$  313.0800, found 313.0799. The *ee* was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak AD-H column [hexane/*i*-PrOH (80:20)]; flow rate 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>; minor = 12.7 min, major = 14.5 min (95% *ee*).

#### Crystallographic Structure Determination:

**Recrystallization of 3bc:** 2-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (**3bc**) was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane solvent system at room temperature.

Data of X-ray diffraction were collected at 113 K on a Rigaku 007 Saturn 70 CCD diffractometer.

Crystal data and structure refinement for **3bc**.

Identification code	shelx
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>15</sub> Cl N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
Formula weight	434.82
Temperature	113(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P2(1)
Unit cell dimensions	a = 5.9139(18) Å    alpha = 90 deg. b = 18.664(6) Å    beta = 93.314(5) deg. c = 8.834(3) Å    gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	973.4(5) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z, Calculated density	2, 1.483 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.237 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	448
Crystal size	0.20 x 0.18 x 0.12 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.18 to 27.85 deg.
Limiting indices	-7<=h<=7, -22<=k<=24, -11<=l<=11
Reflections collected / unique	11137 / 4549 [R(int) = 0.0391]
Completeness to theta = 27.85	100.0 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9721 and 0.9541
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	4549 / 1 / 280
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.017
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0309, wR2 = 0.0531
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0434, wR2 = 0.0555
Absolute structure parameter	-0.06(4)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.214 and -0.225 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

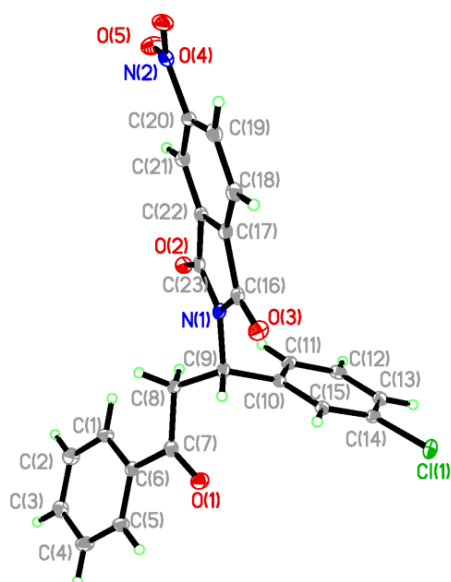
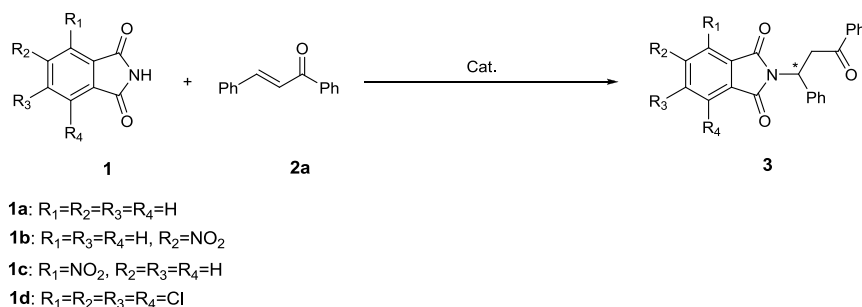


Fig. 1 Molecular structure of **3bc**

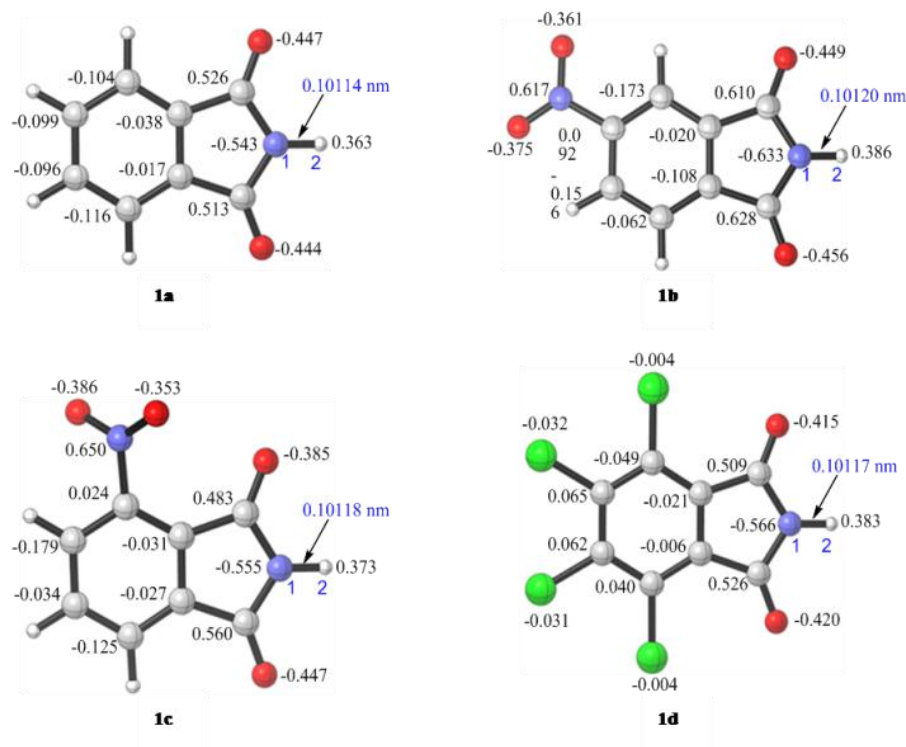
#### Calculation section:

Experimentally, we tried four nucleophiles (**1a** through **1d**) for the reaction as shown in Scheme 1, and the result showed that only **1b** took place nucleophilic addition with **2a** and no products were observed when the rest three nucleophiles **1a**, **1c** and **1d** were used. In order to explore the reason for this result, we performed computational study on the structures and the charge distributions of **1a**, **1b**, **1c** and **1d**. All geometry optimization, frequency and Merz–Kollman atomic charge<sup>[2]</sup> calculations were performed with B3LYP/6-31G(d) method in Gaussian 09.<sup>[3]</sup>



Scheme 1. Model reaction of nucleophilic addition between **1** and **2a**.

Our calculation results (Fig 2 and Table 1) showed that the N1 atom in **1b** has the most negative charge -0.633, compared with the N1 atoms in the rest three species. Moreover, the H2 atom in **1b** has the most positive charge 0.386, compared with the H2 atoms in the rest three species, which means the H2 atom in **1b** may be activated more easily. In addition, the N1-H2 bond length in **1b** is 0.00006 nm longer than that in **1a** and is the longest one among those of the four species. Therefore, it is easier for **1b** to take place nucleophilic addition than the rest three species.



**Fig 2.** B3LYP/6-31G(d) calculated Merz–Kollman atomic charge and bond length in four species, **1a** through **1d**.

**Table 1.** B3LYP/6-31G(d) calculated Merz–Kollman atomic charge and bond length in four species, **1a** through **1d**

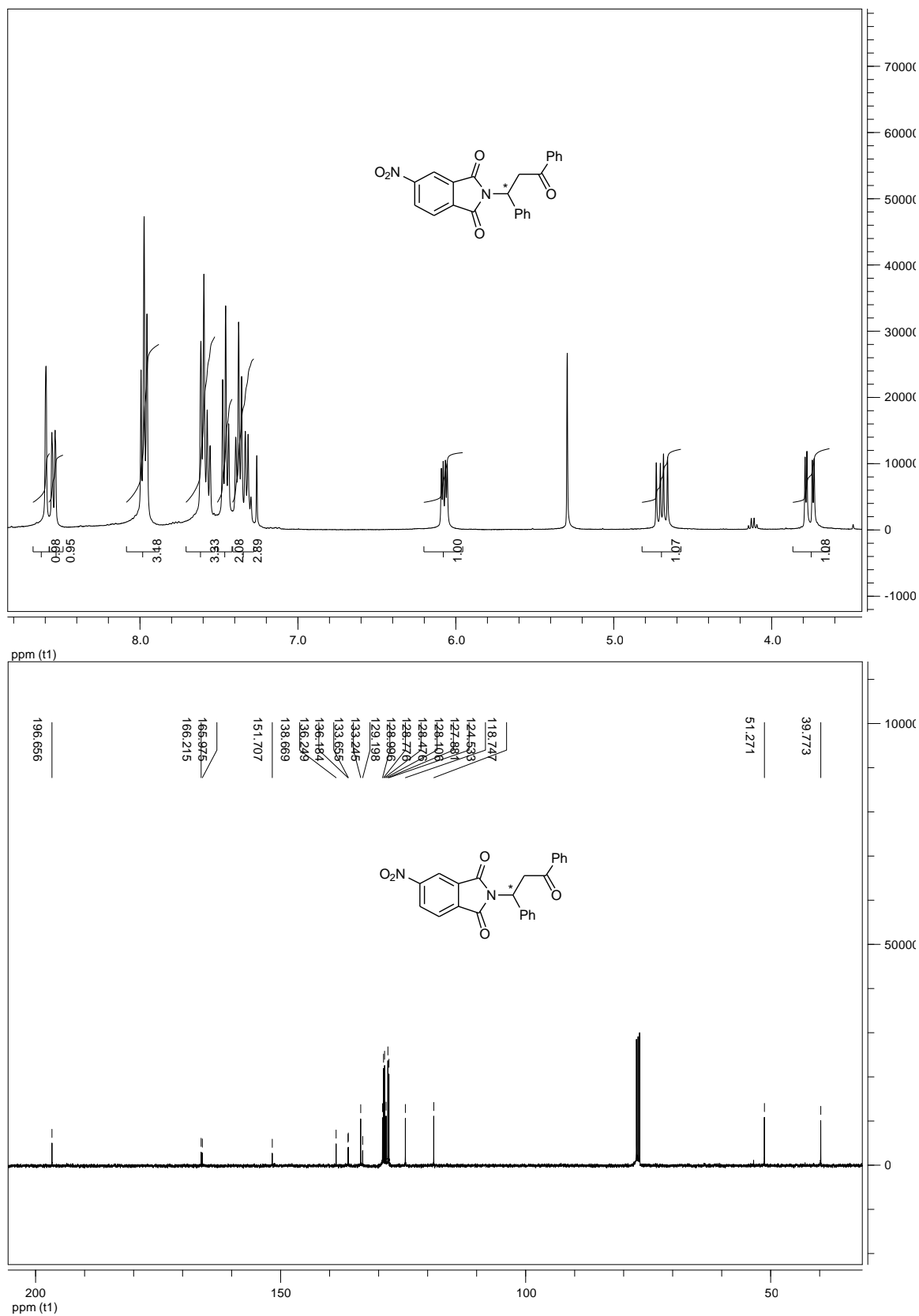
species	Bond length of N1–H2 (nm)	Merz–Kollman atomic charge	
		N1	H2
<b>1a</b>	0.10114	-0.543	0.363
<b>1b</b>	0.10120	-0.633	0.386
<b>1c</b>	0.10118	-0.555	0.373
<b>1d</b>	0.10117	-0.566	0.383

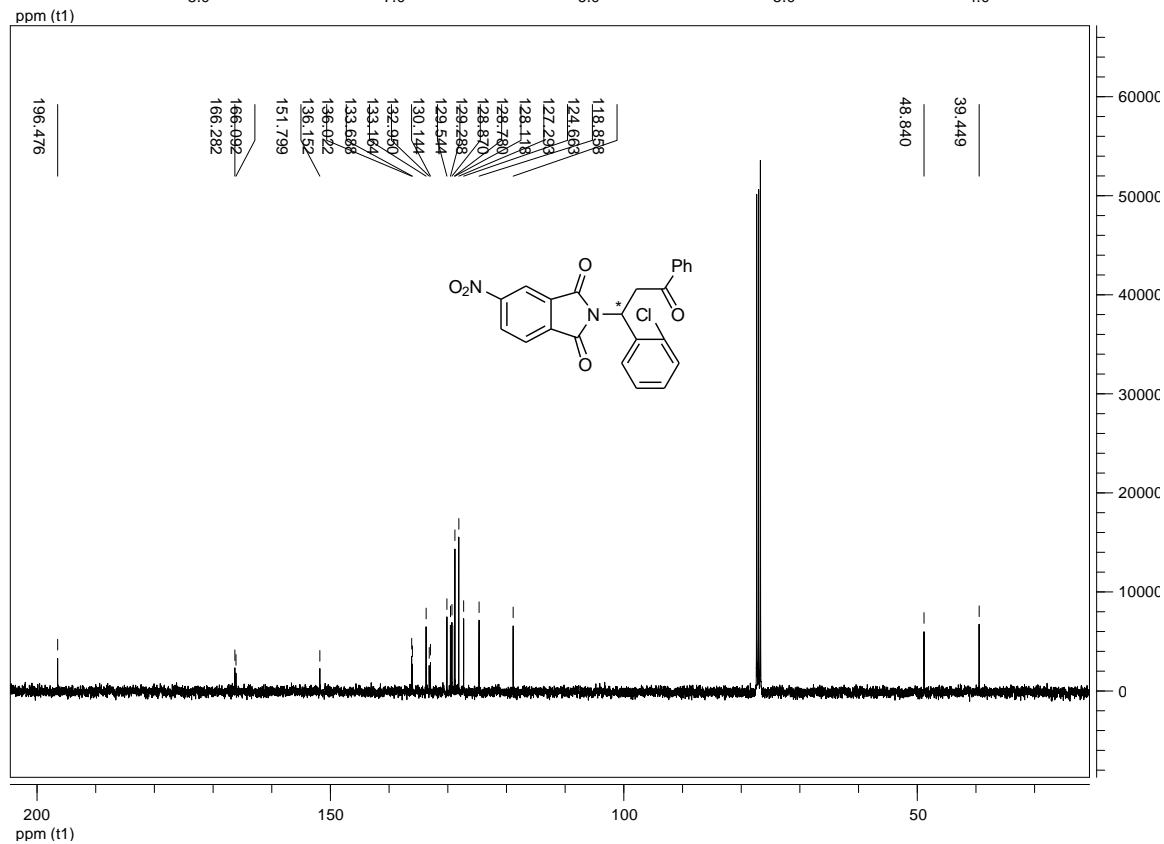
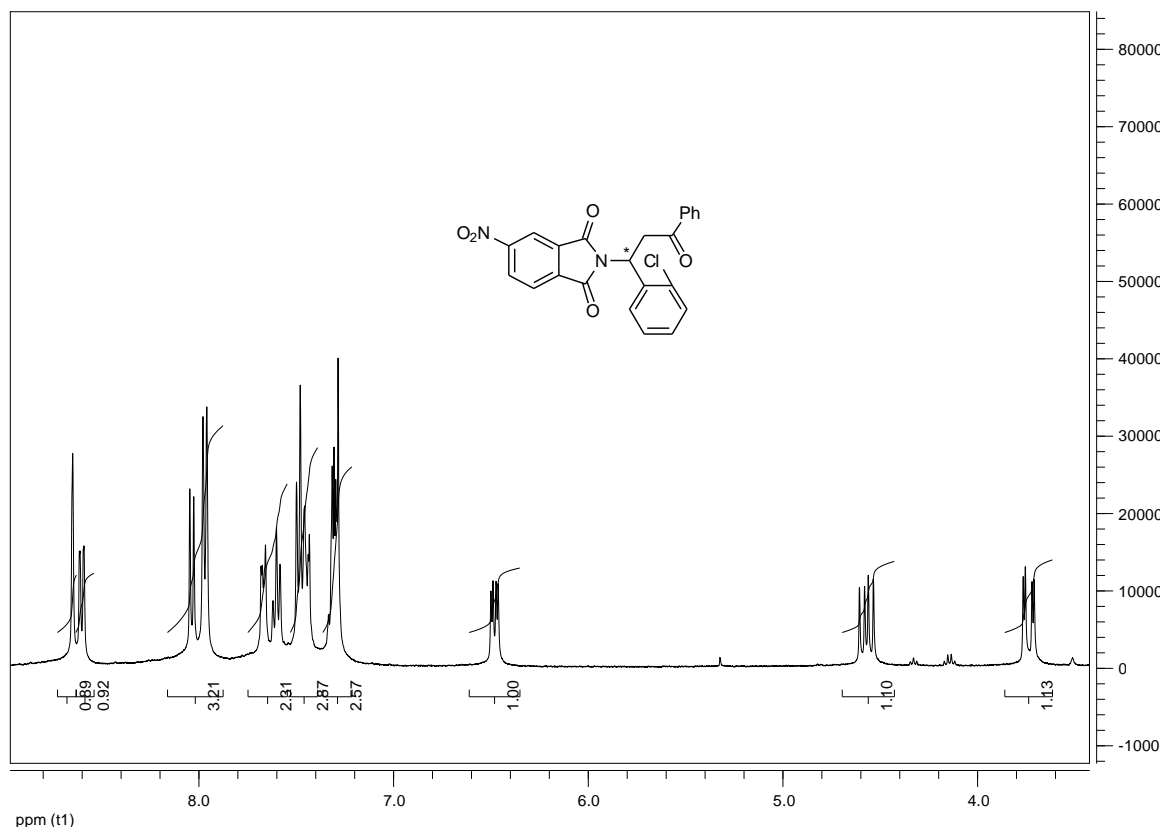
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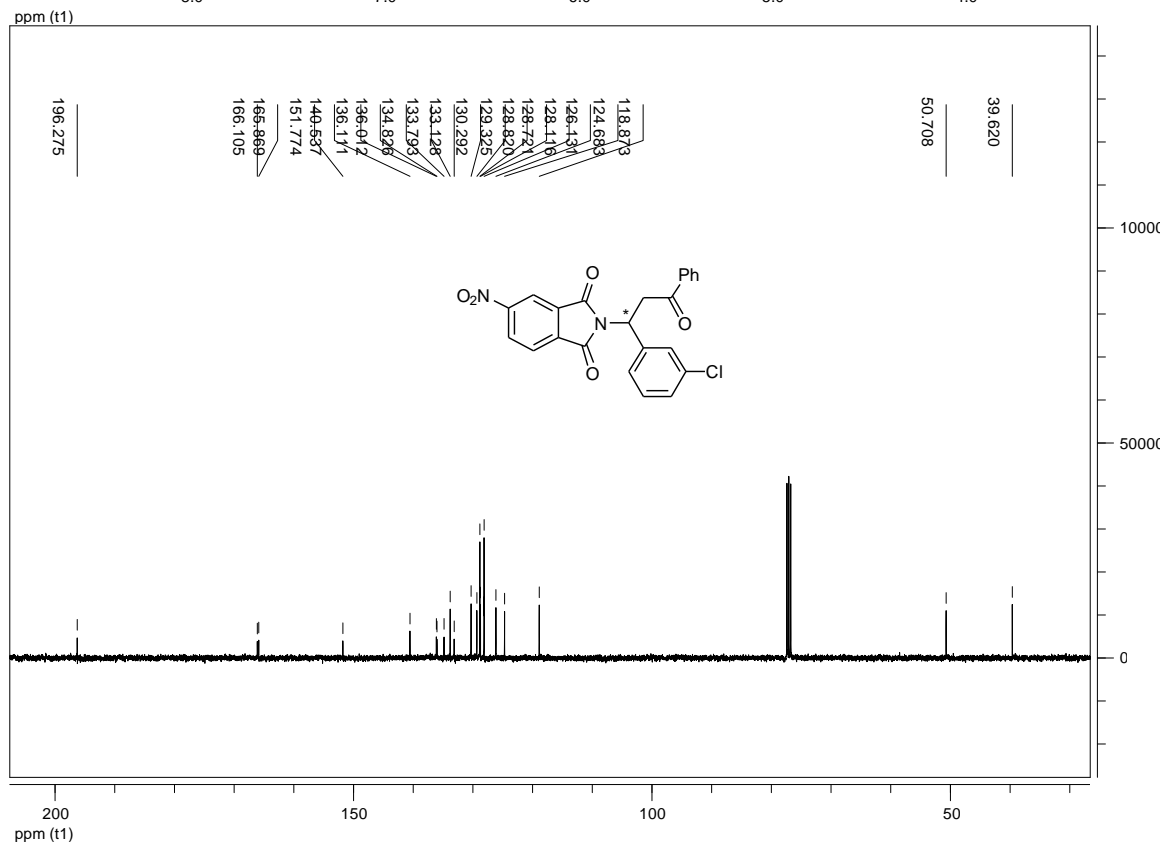
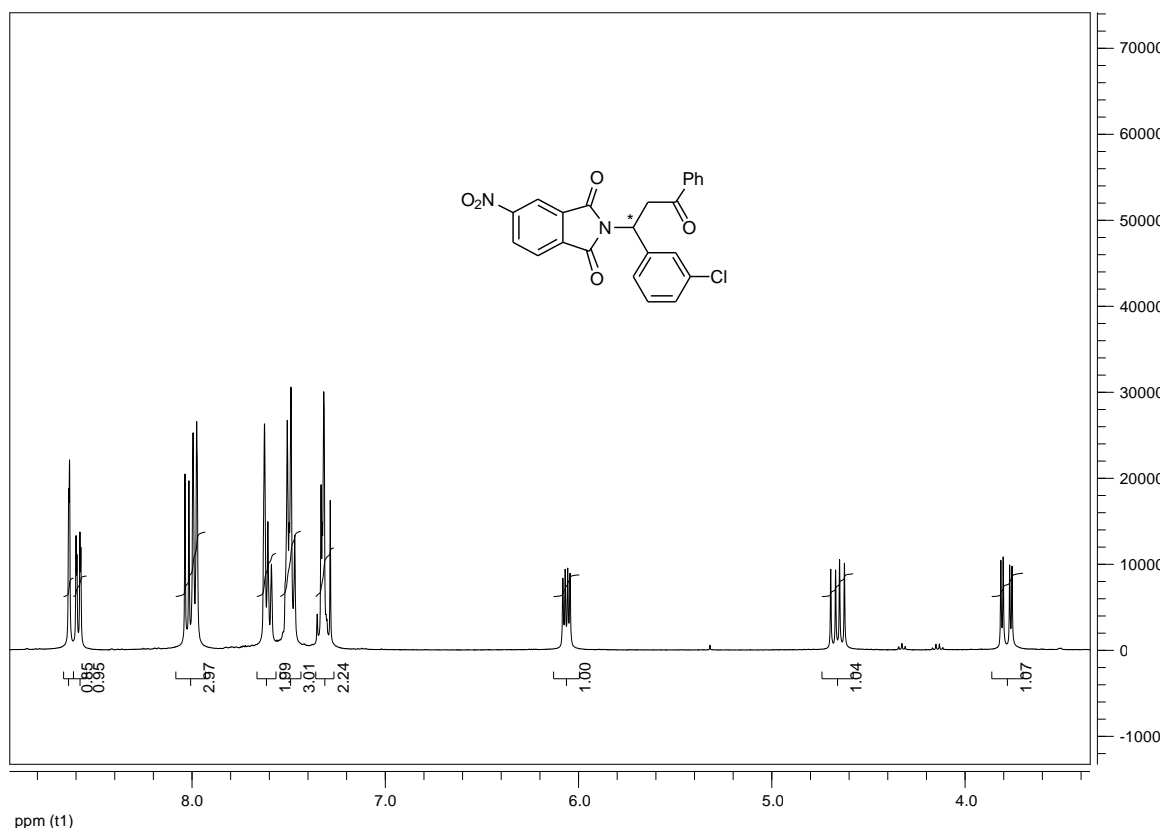
- [1] a) A. Berkessel, B. Seelig, *Synthesis* **2009**, 2113 – 2115; b) B. Vakulya, S. Varga, A. Csámpai, T. Soós, *Org. Lett.* **2005**, 1967–1969.
- [2] Singh, U. C. and Kollman, P. A. *J. Comp. Chem.*, **5** (1984) 129–45.
- [3] Frisch, M. J.; et al. *Gaussian 09*, revision B.01; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, 2010.

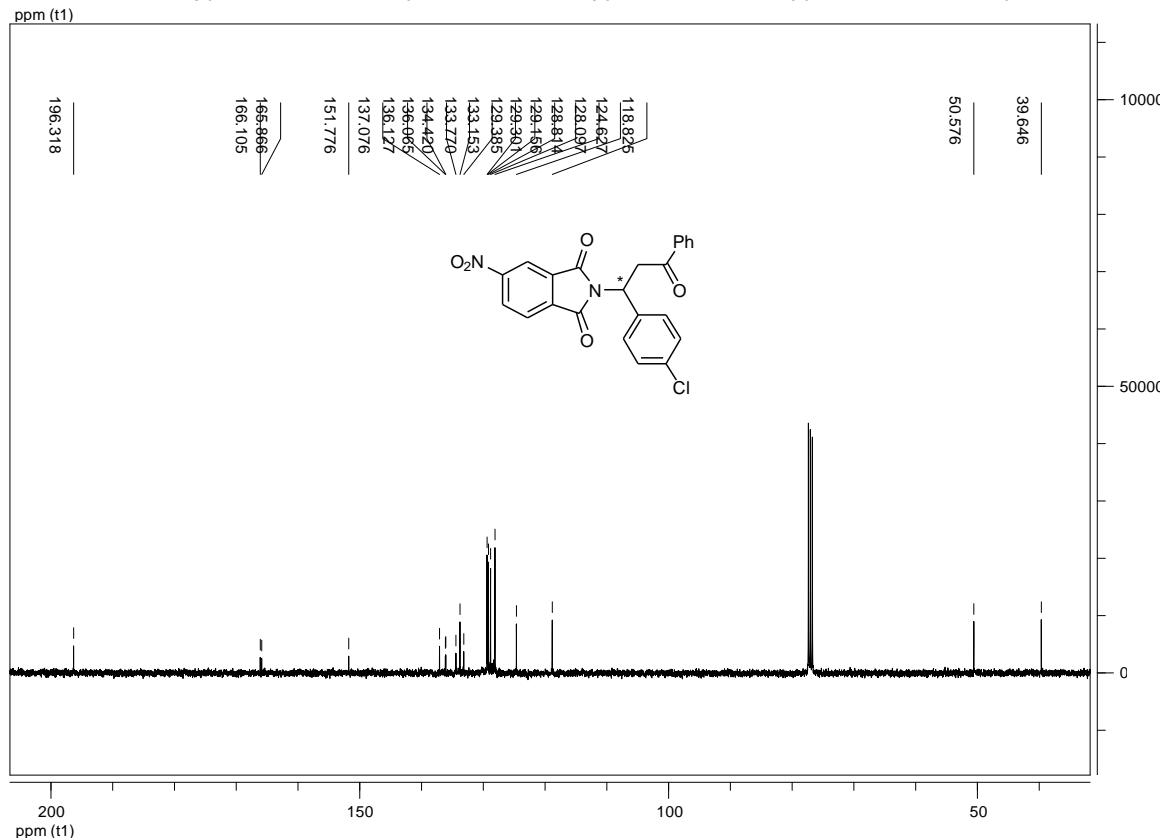
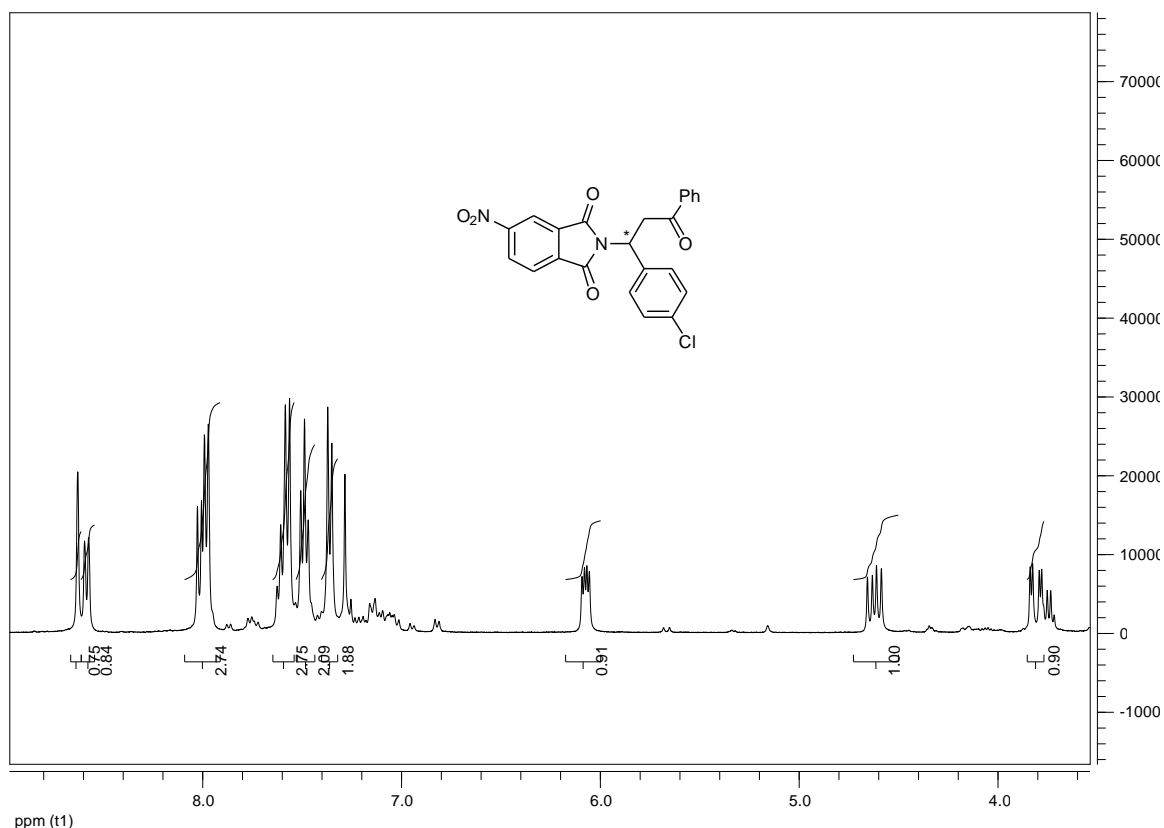


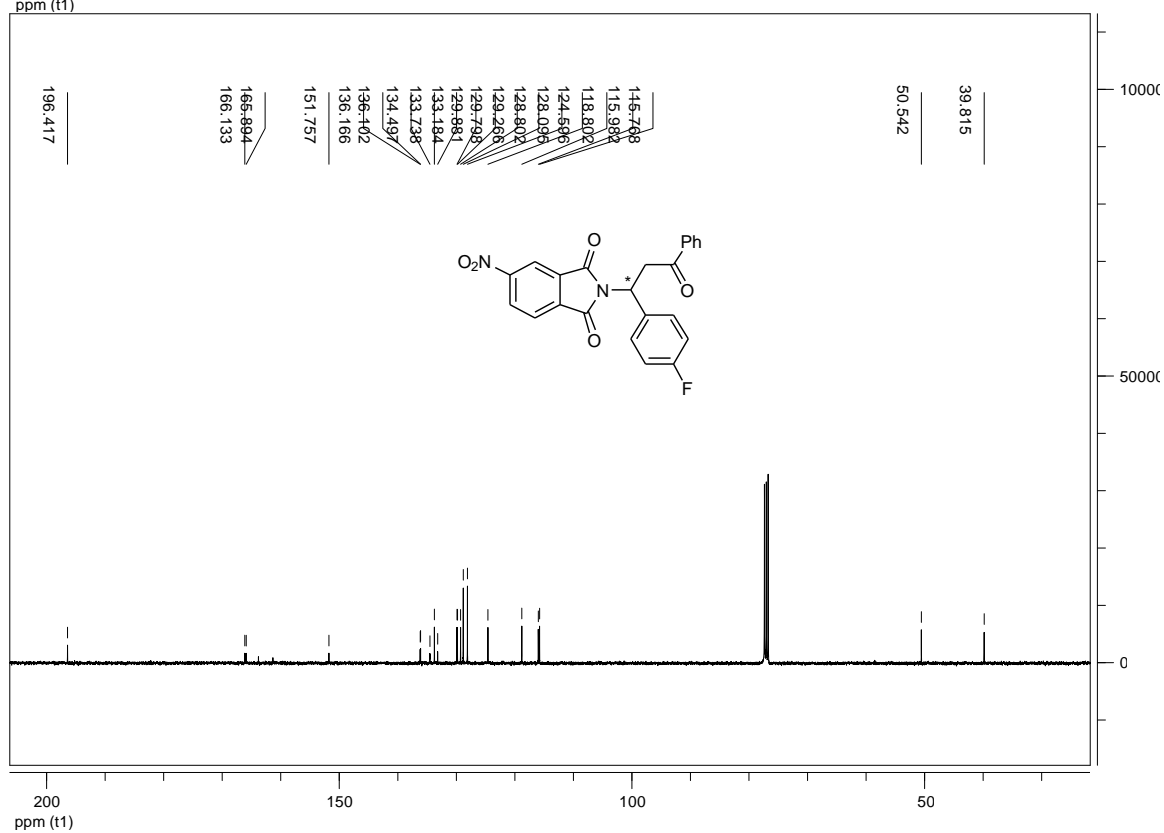
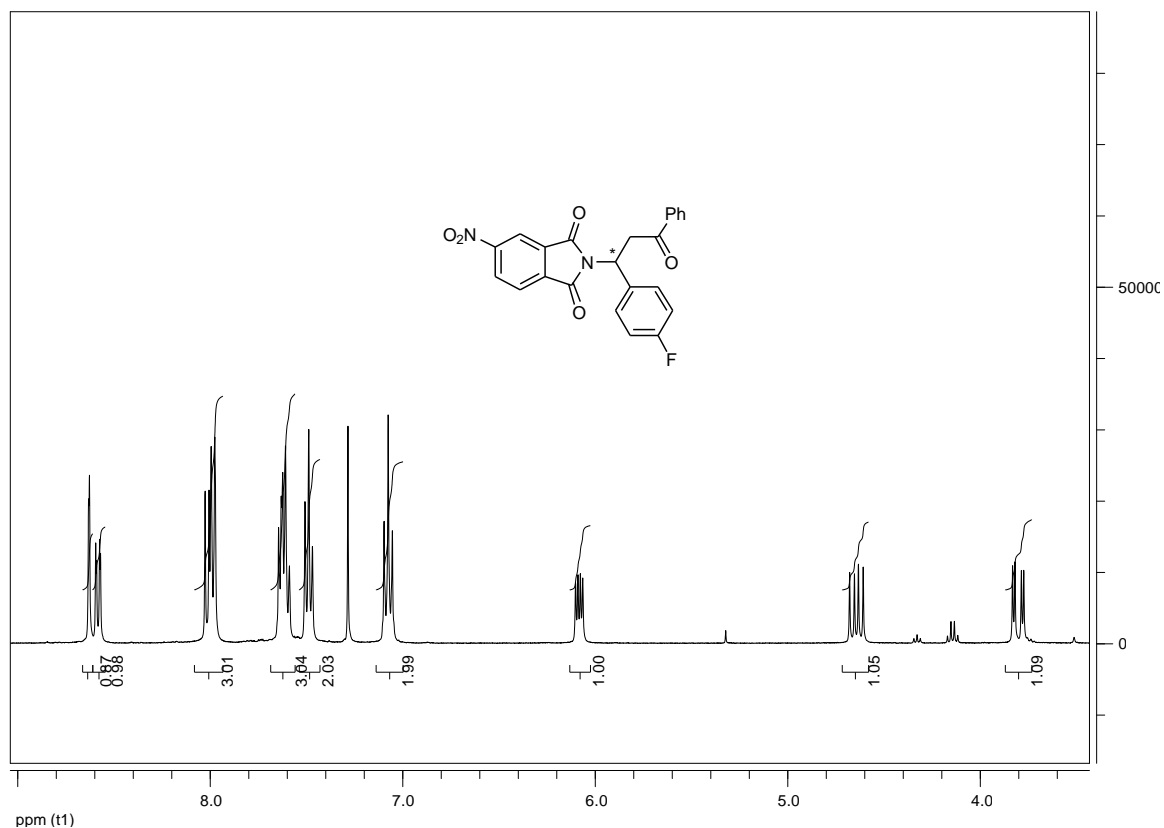
**<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Michael adducts 3:**

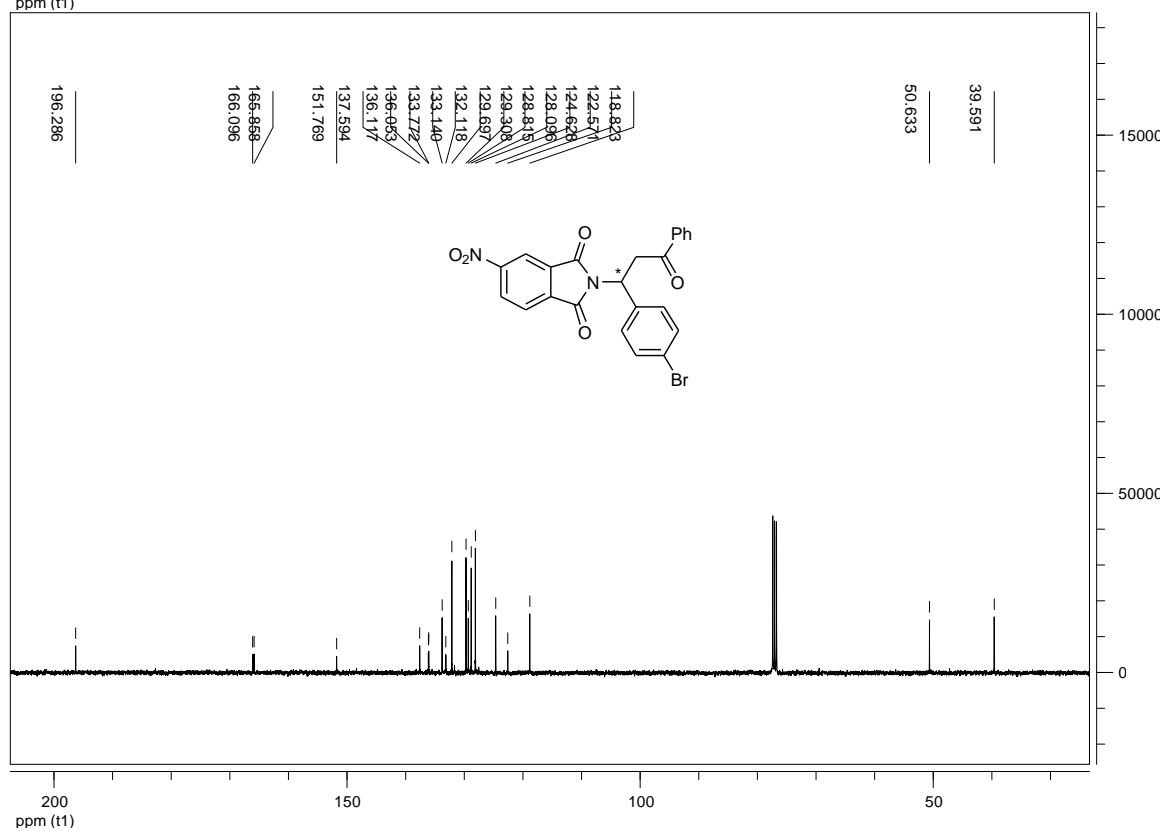
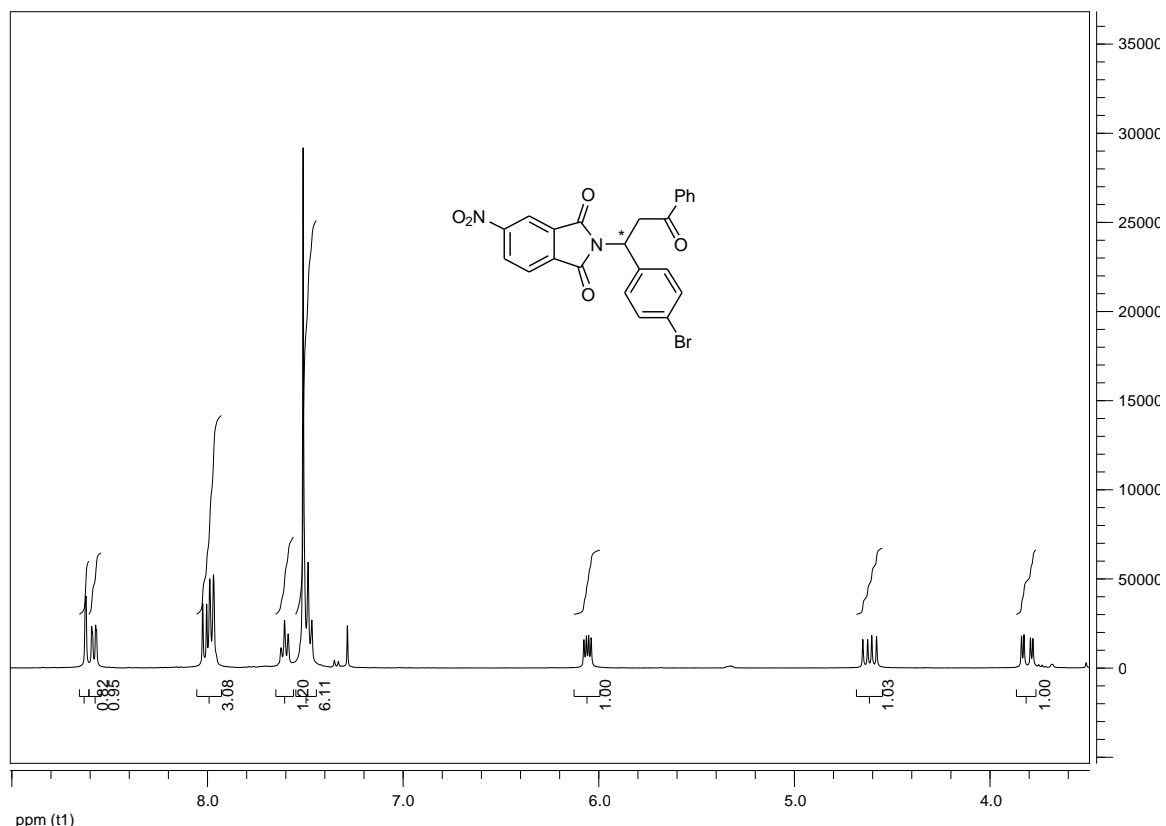


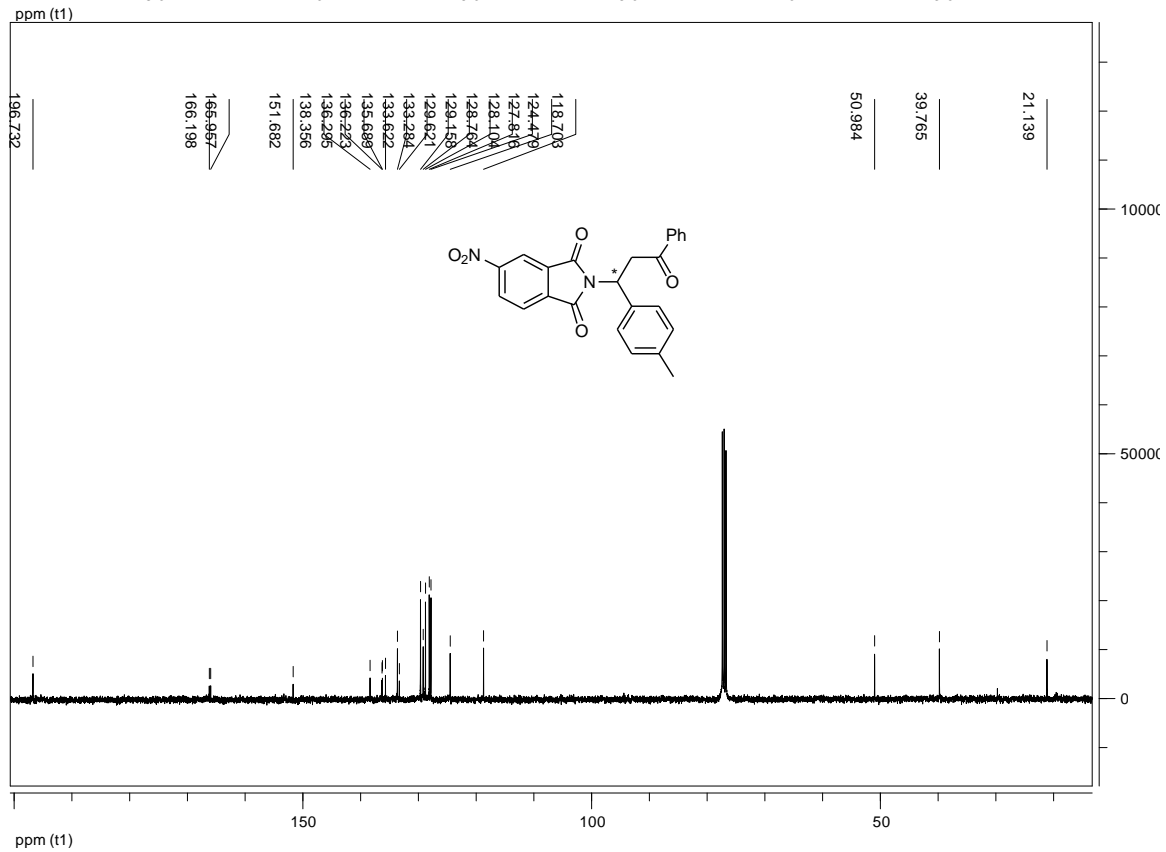
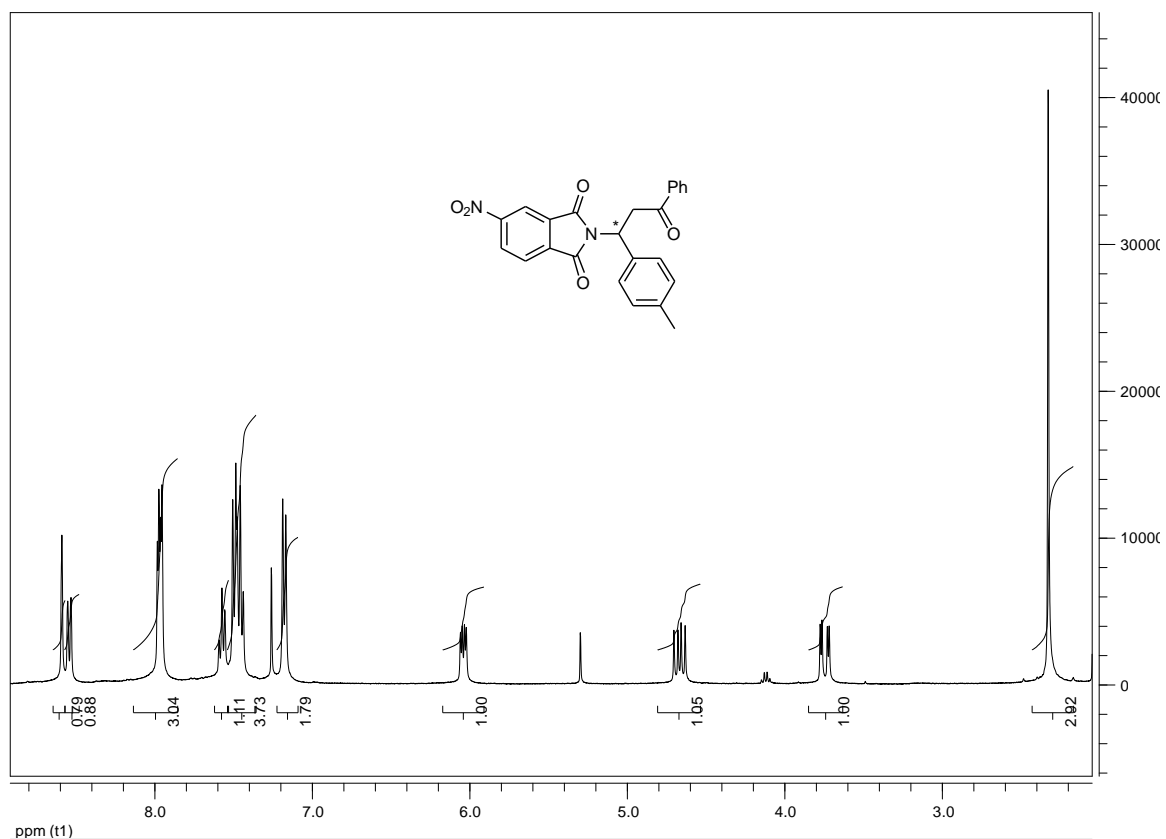


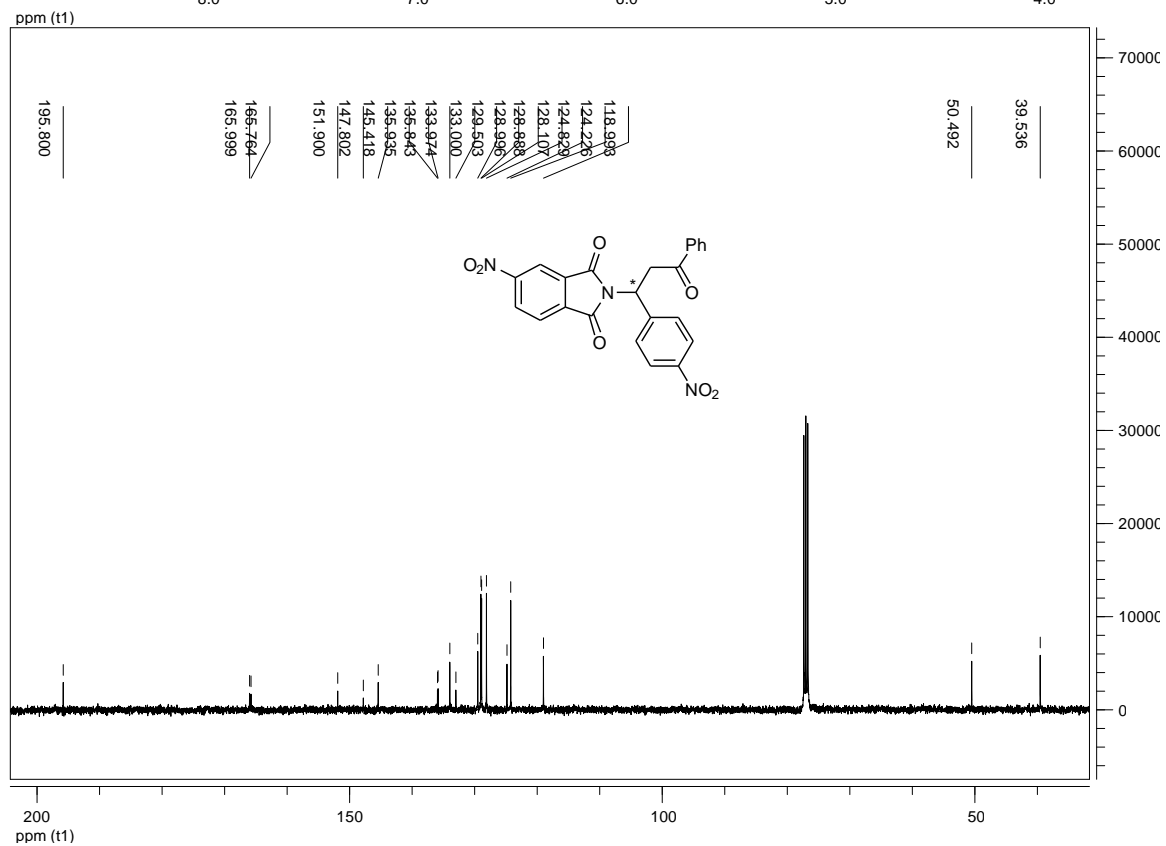
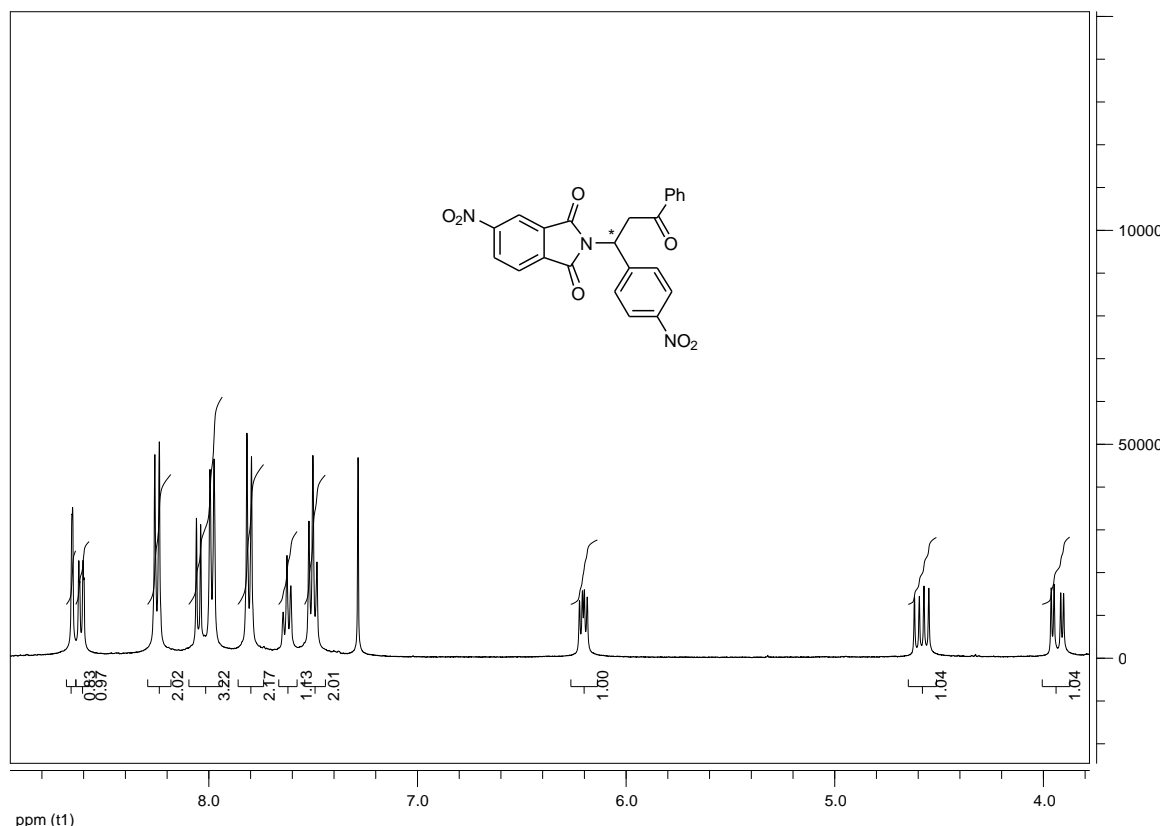




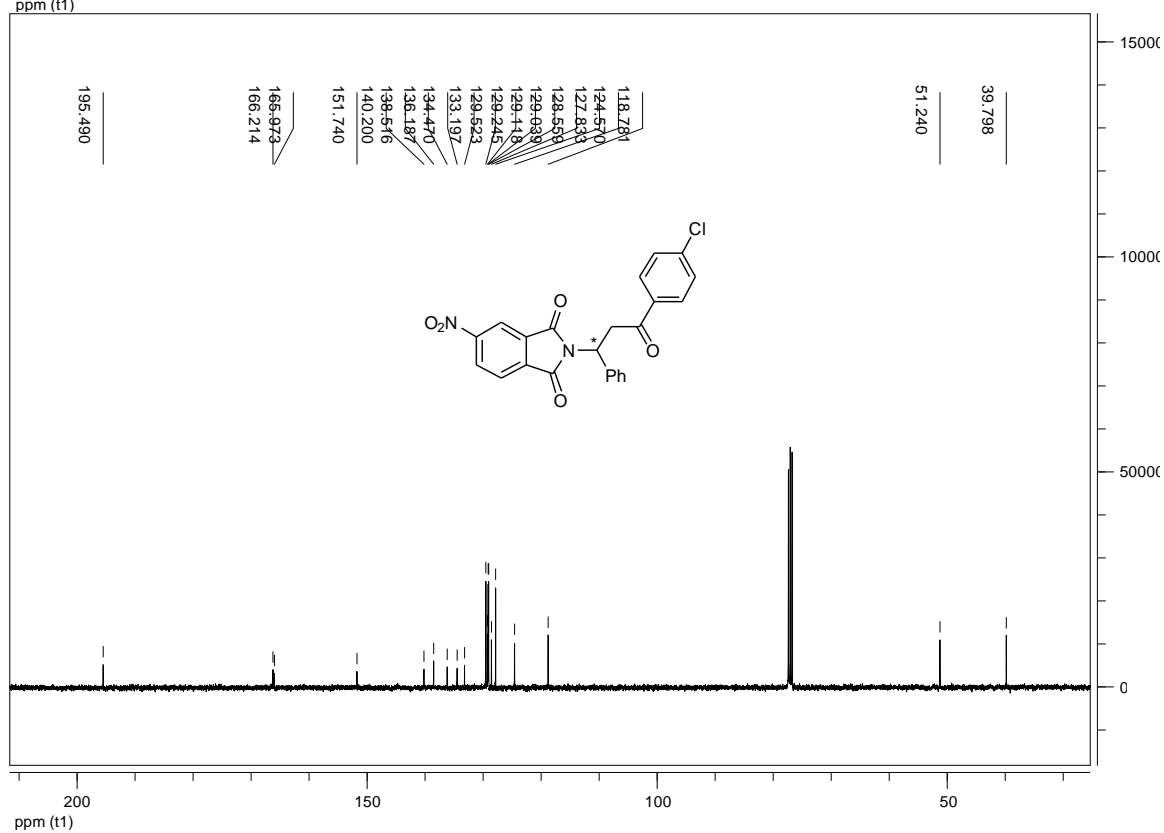
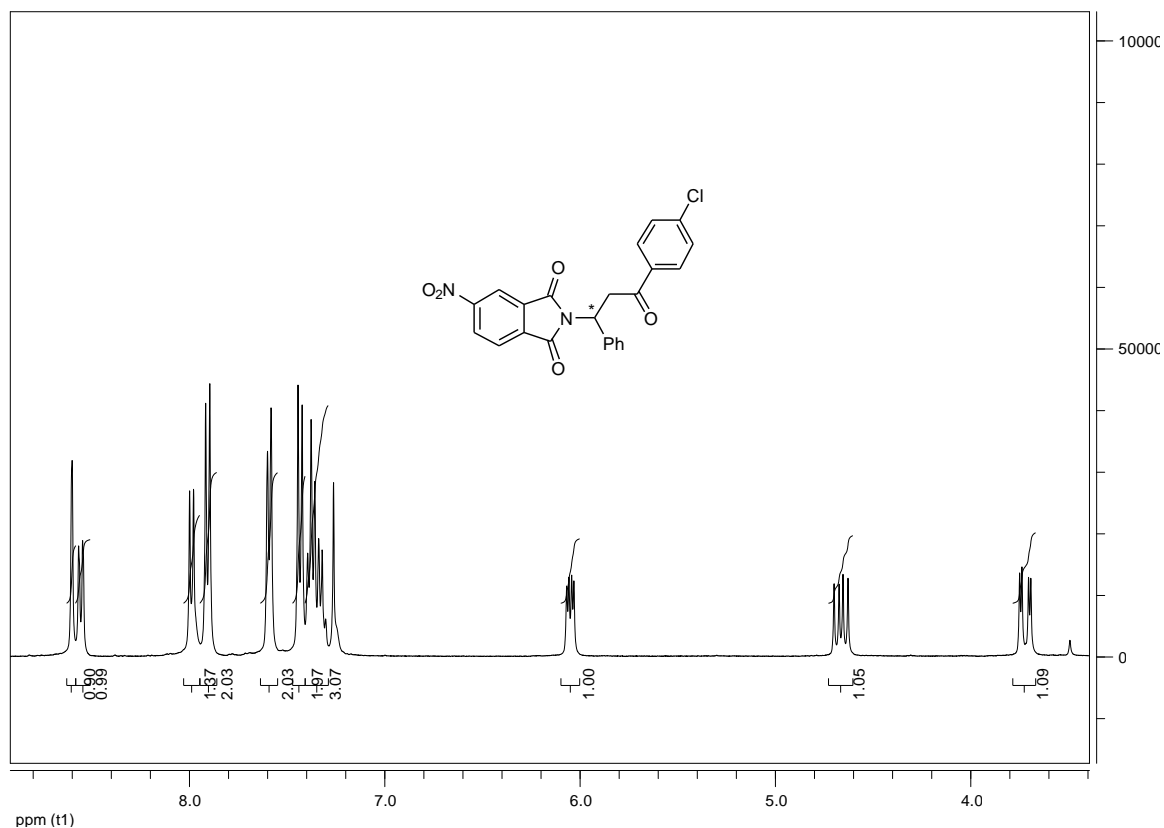


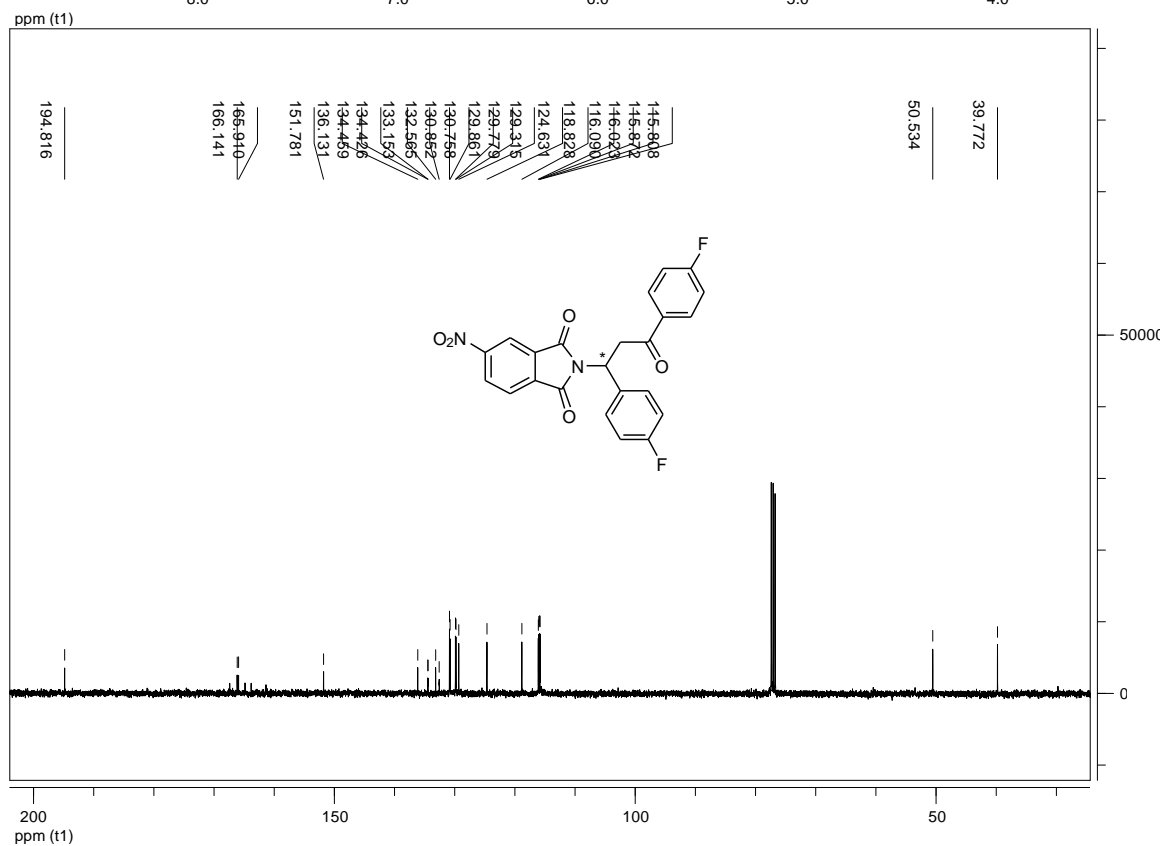
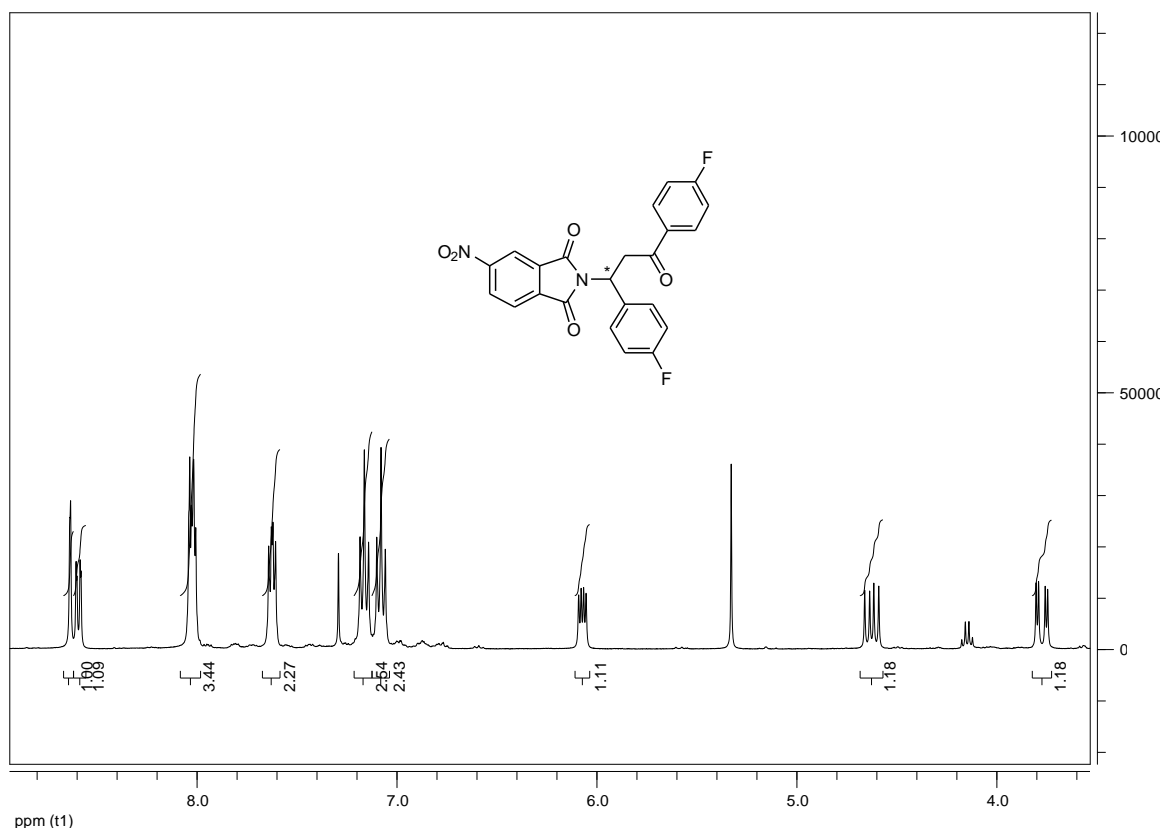


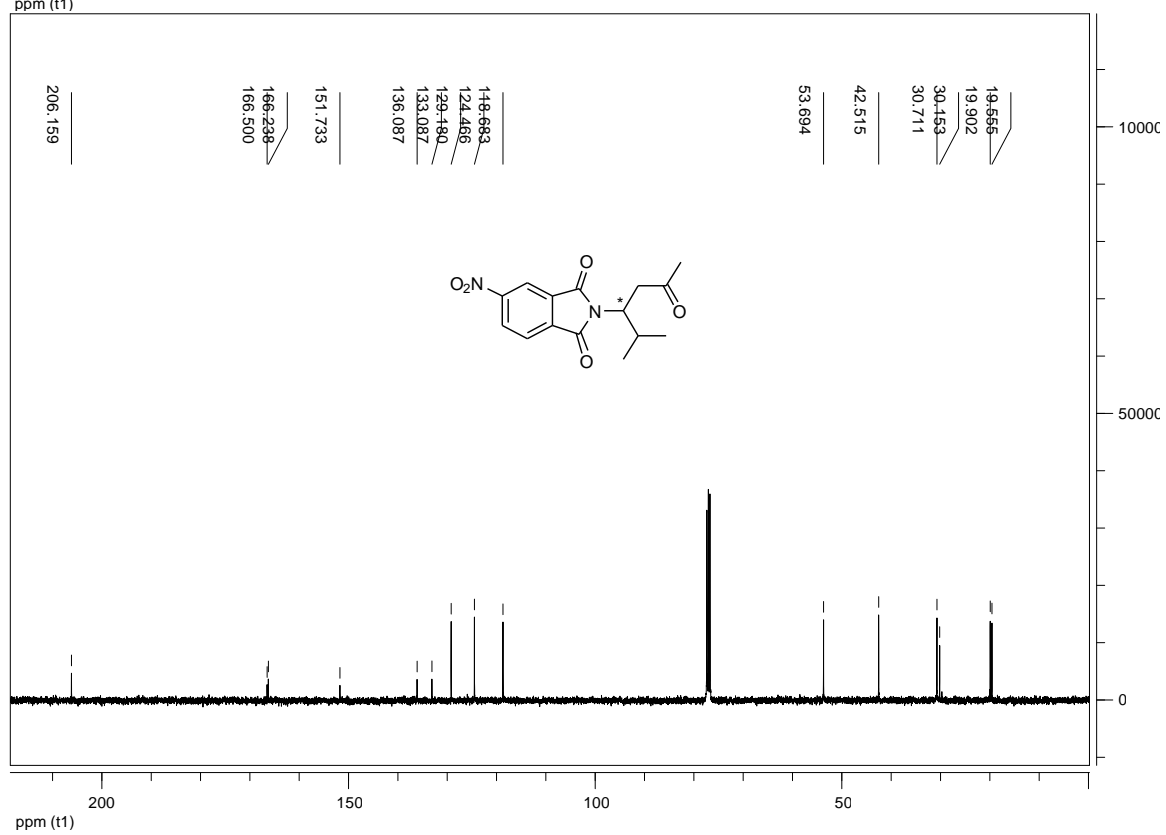
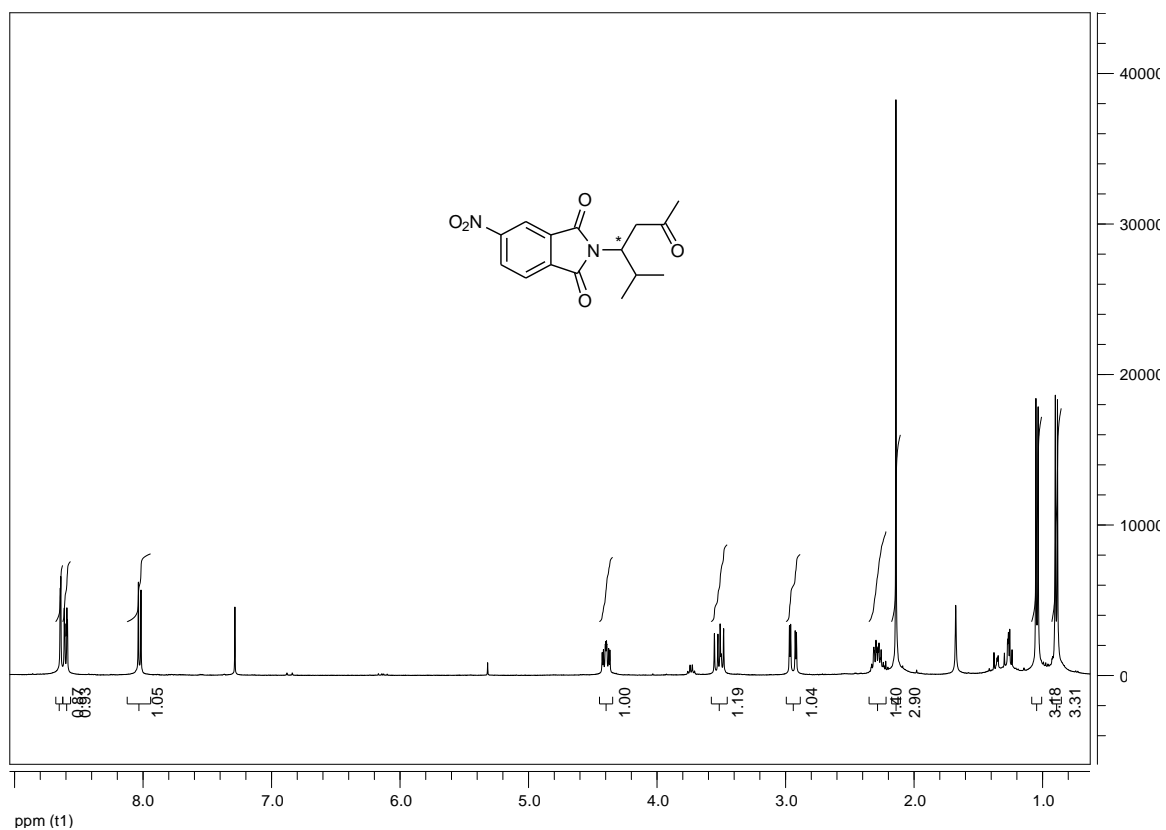


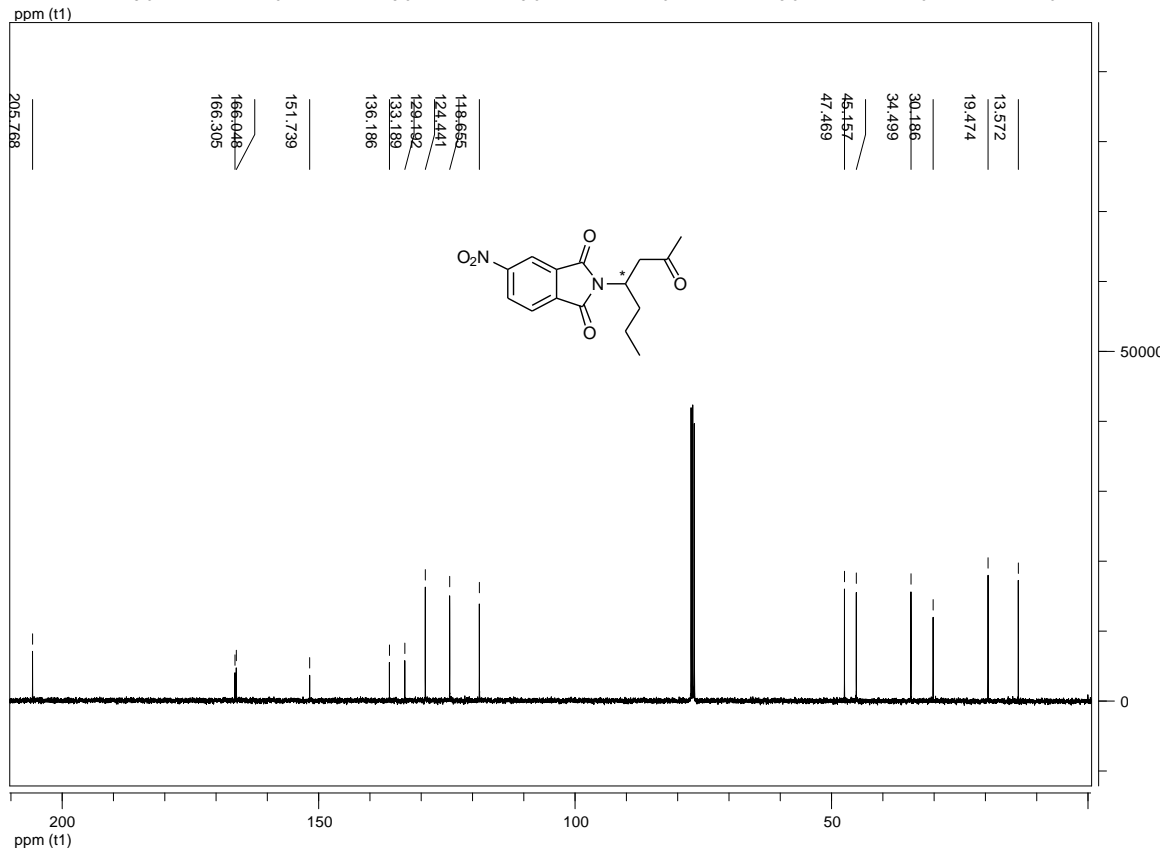
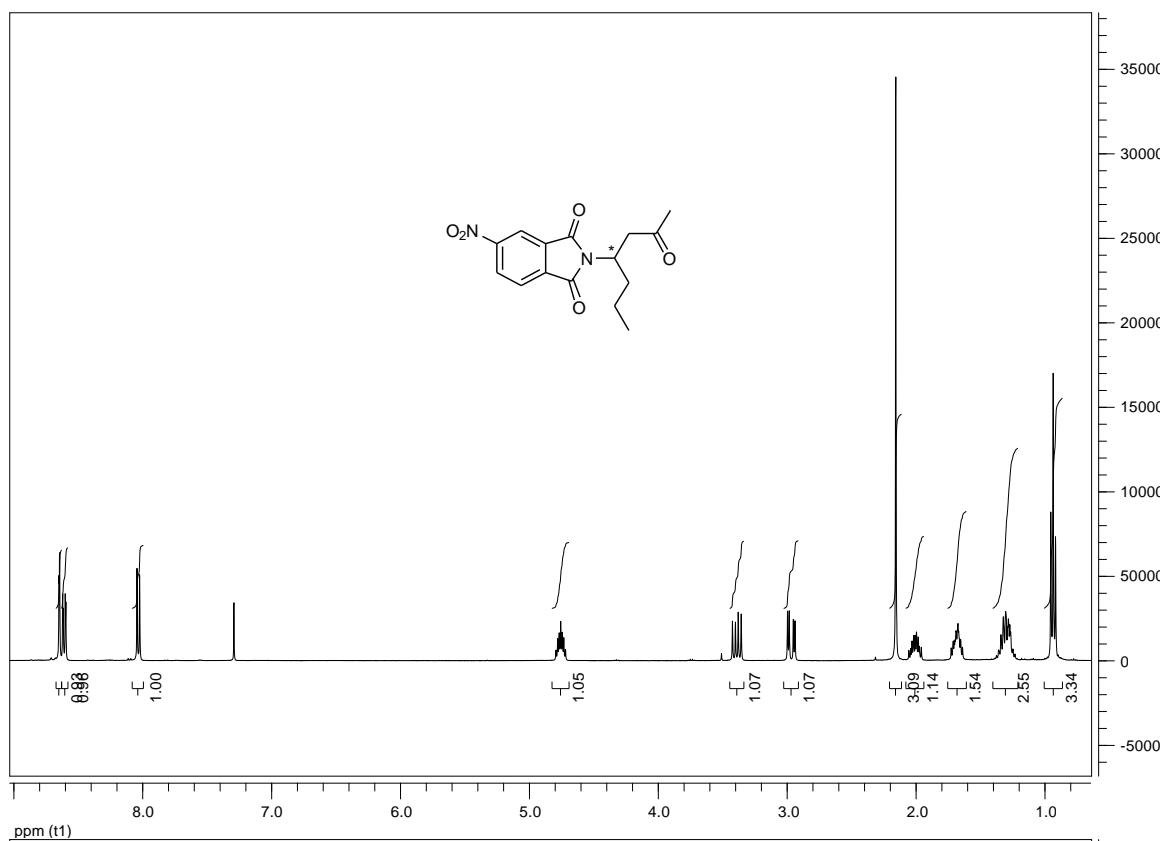


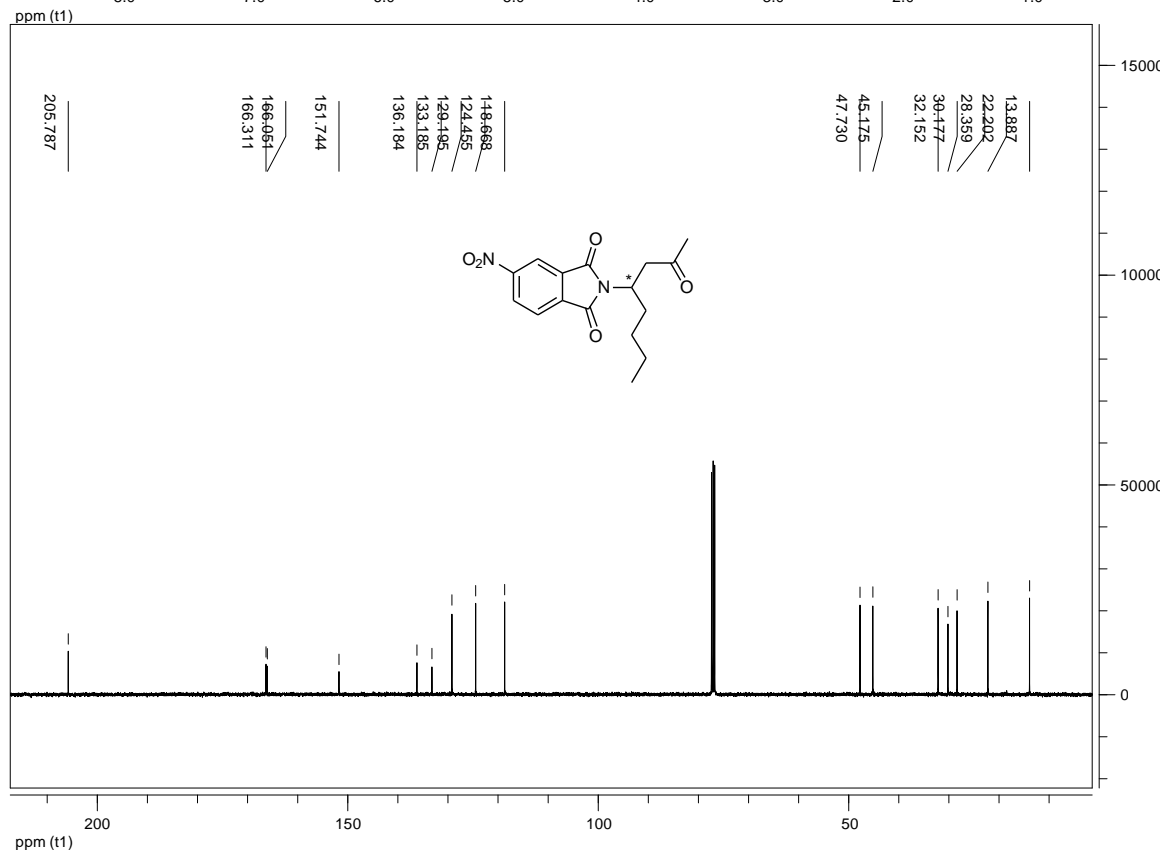
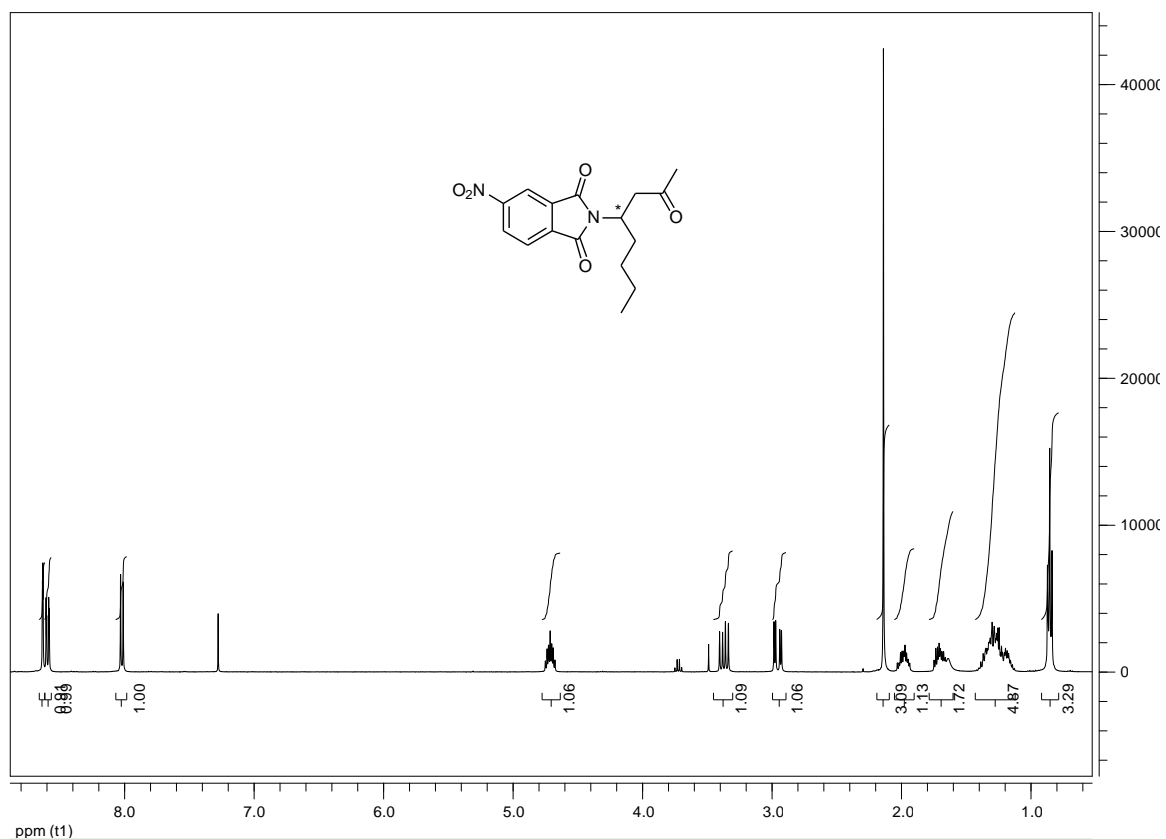


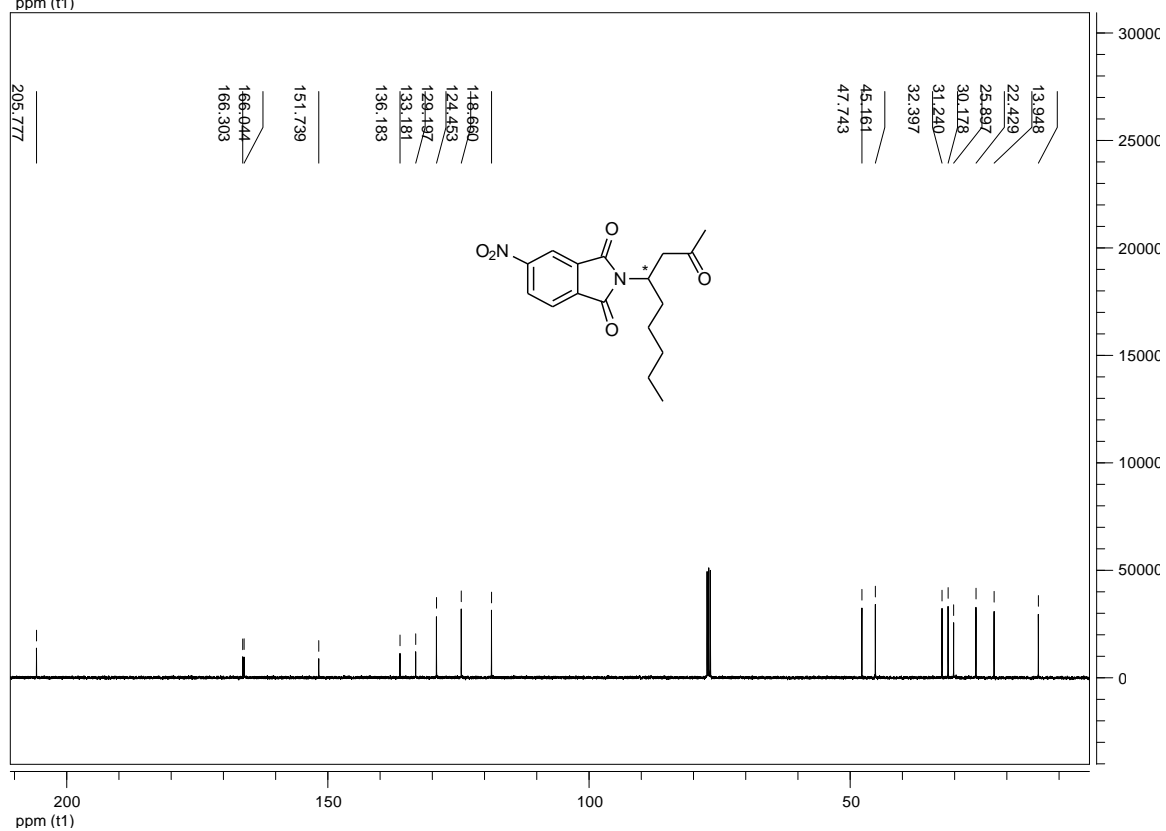
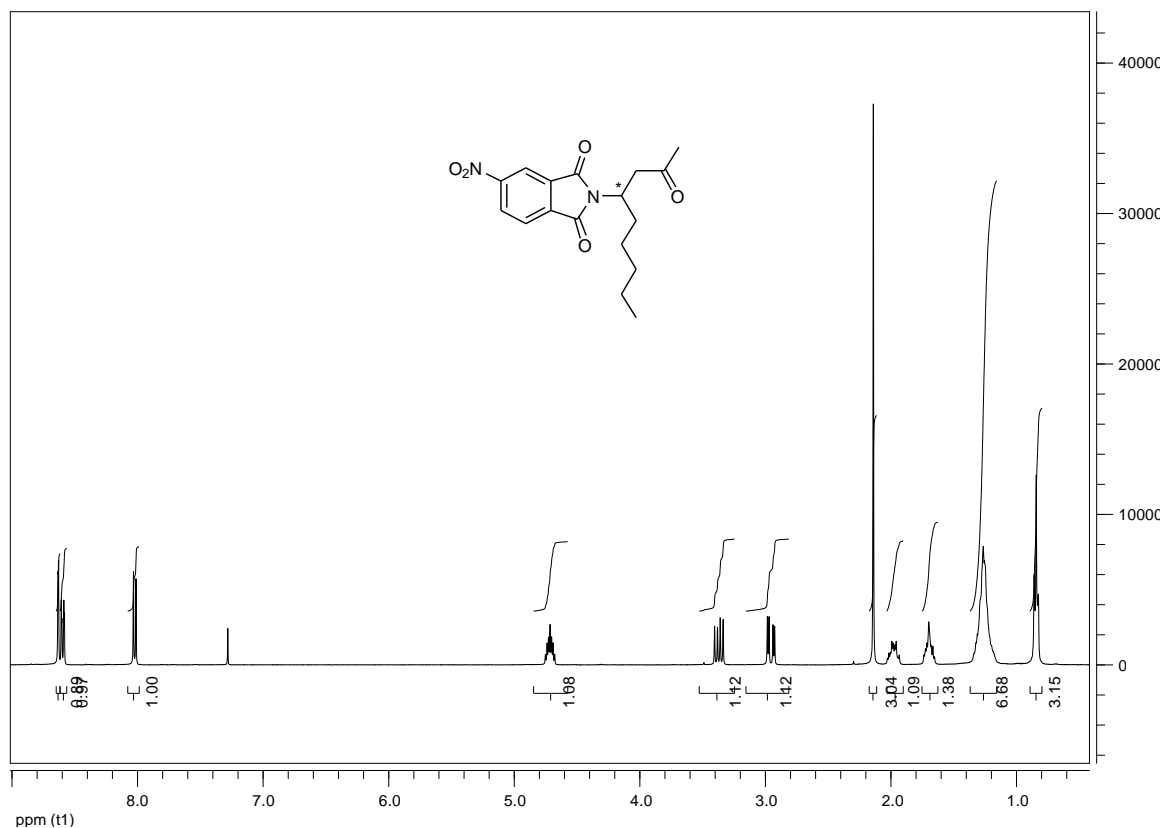


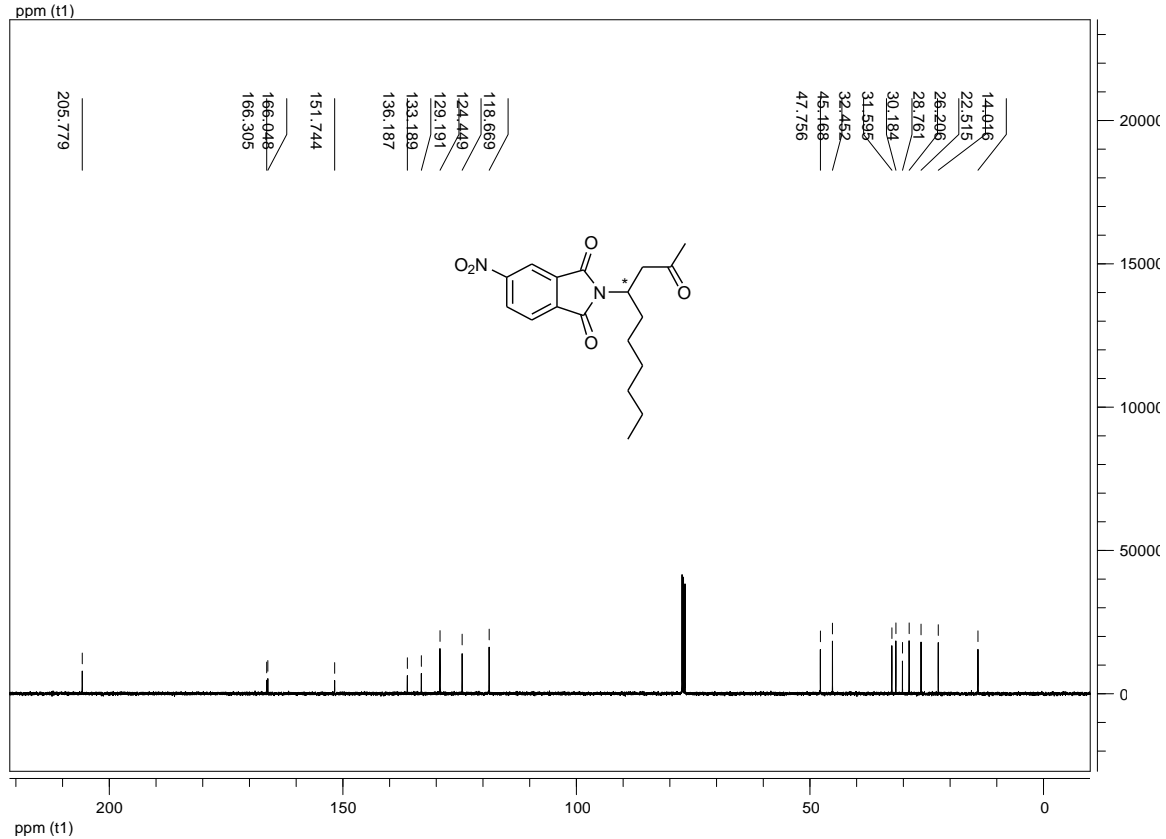
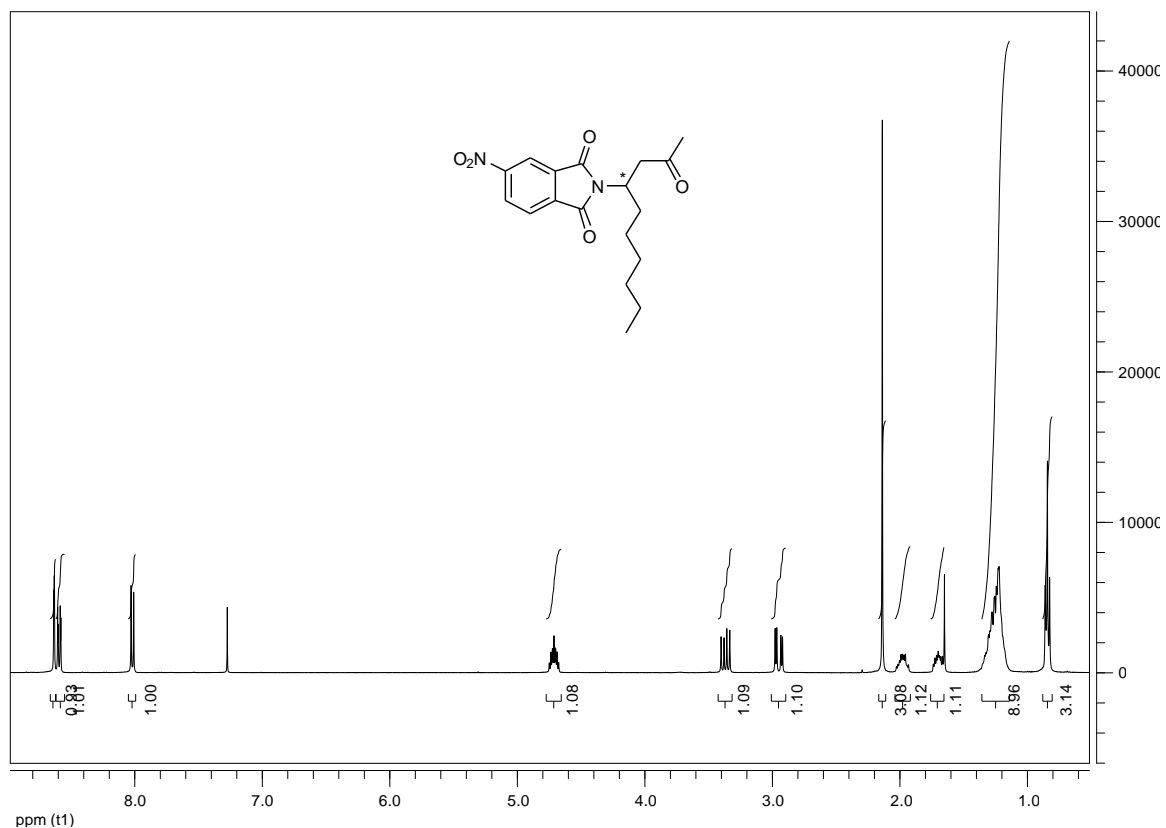


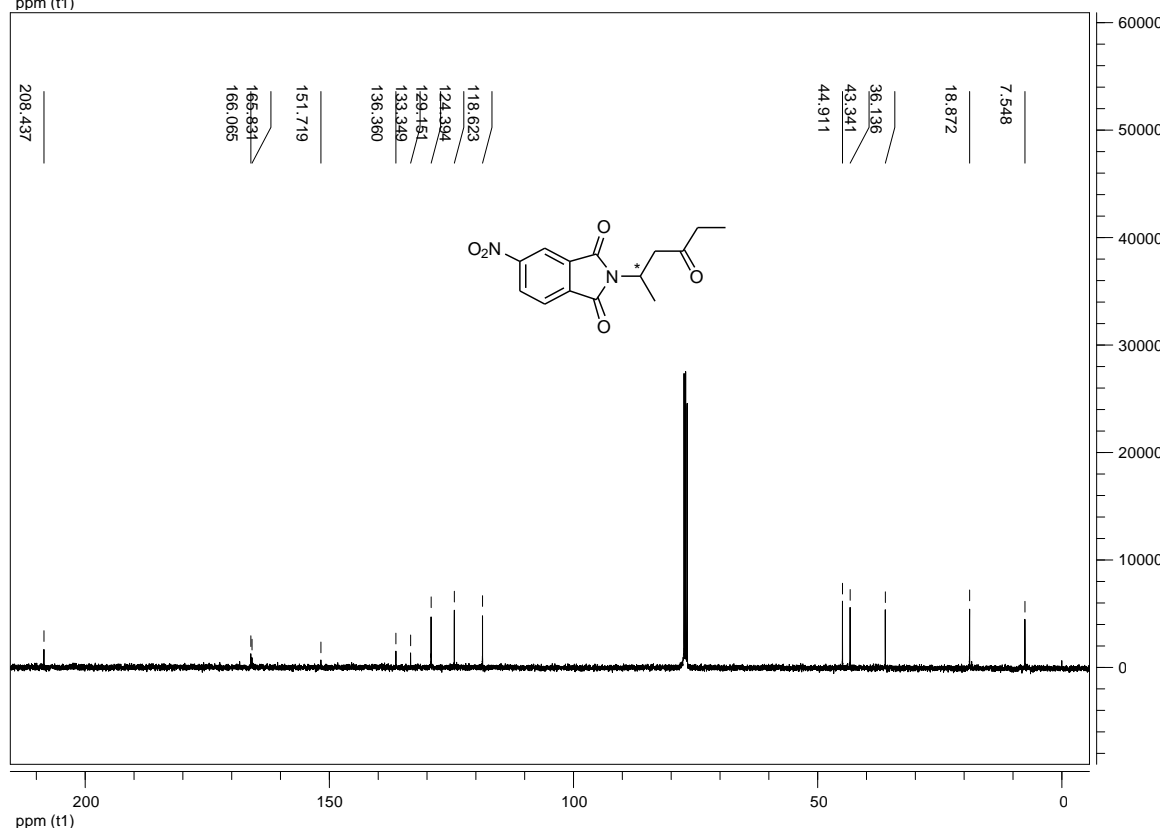
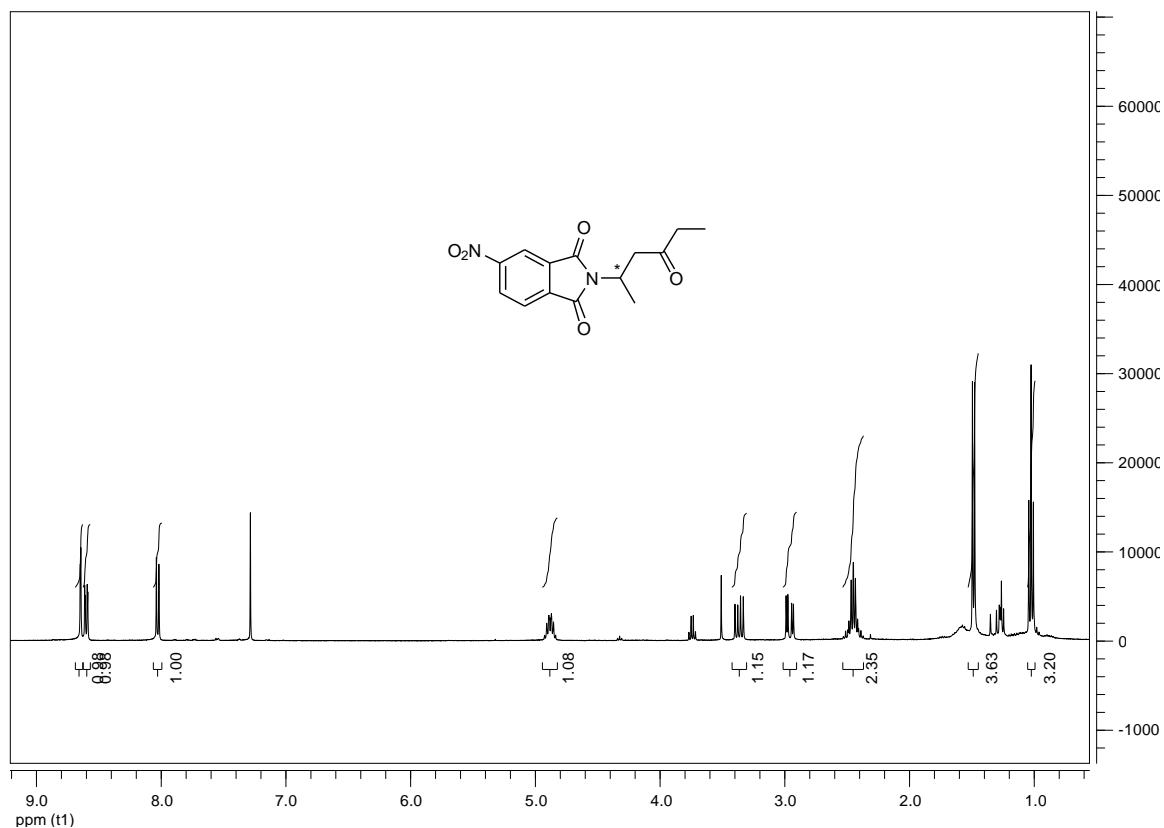








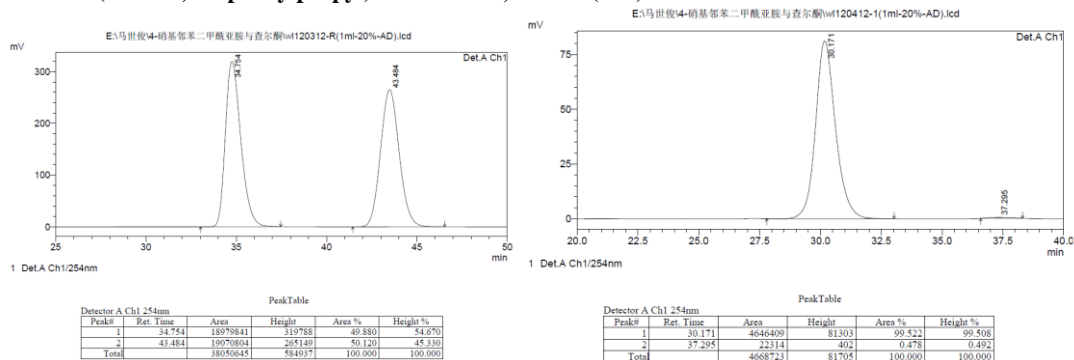




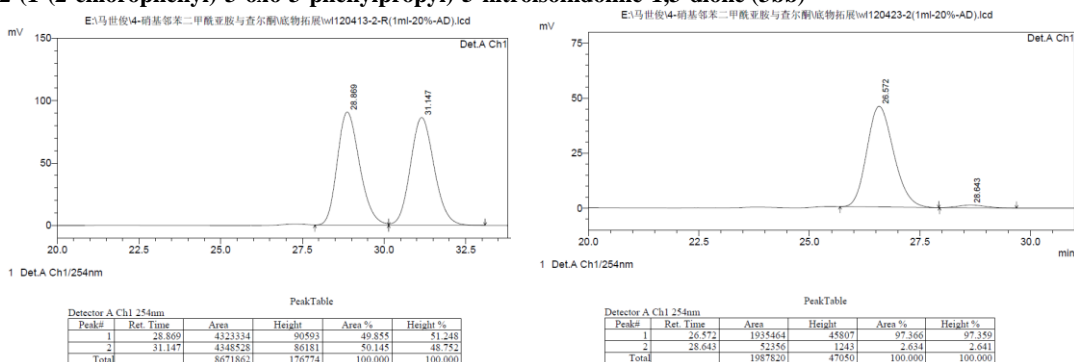


### HPLC spectra of Michael adducts 3:

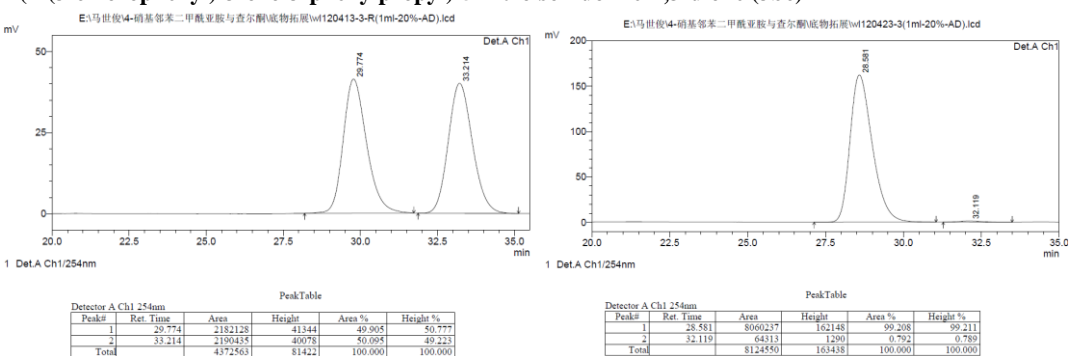
#### 5-nitro-2-(3-oxo-1,3-diphenylpropyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3ba)



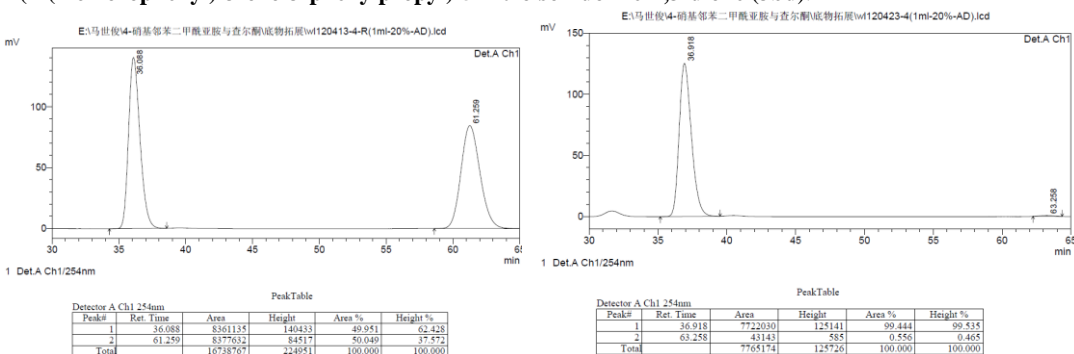
#### 2-(1-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bb)



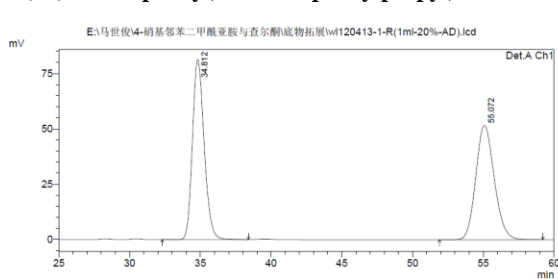
#### 2-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bc)



#### 2-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisoindoline-1,3-dione (3bd)

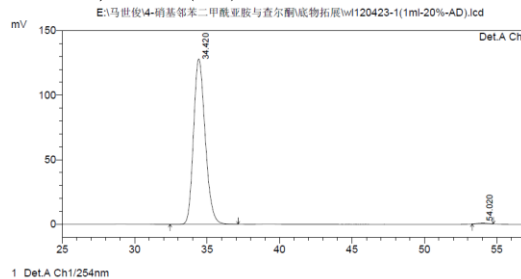


**2-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (3be)**



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

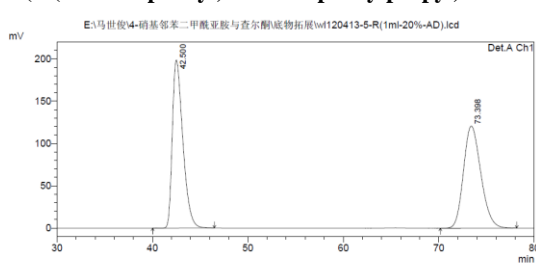
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	34.812	4674542	81328	49.982	61.169
2	56.072	4677928	51628	80.018	38.831
Total		9352480	132956	100.000	100.000



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

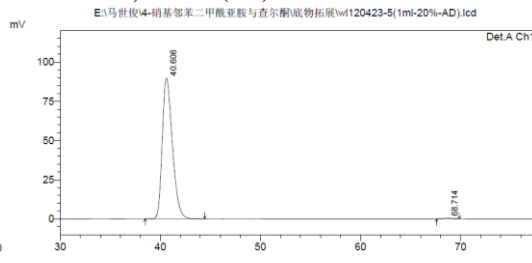
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	34.420	7157848	128042	99.608	99.584
2	54.020	28143	535	0.392	0.416
Total		7185991	128578	100.000	100.000

**2-(1-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (3bf)**



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

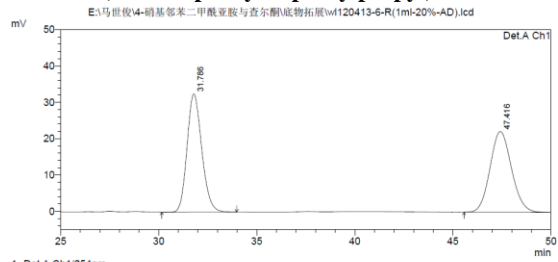
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	42.500	15211776	198489	49.900	62.185
2	73.398	15222668	129763	60.100	37.815
Total		30484484	319353	100.000	100.000



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

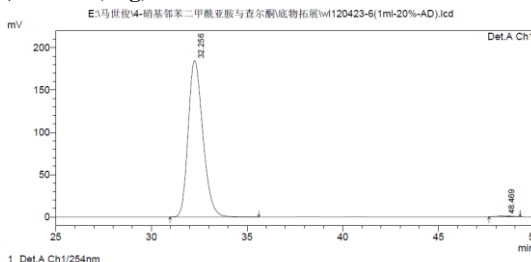
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	40.606	6305492	89702	99.253	99.512
2	68.714	34667	439	0.547	0.488
Total		6340159	90141	100.000	100.000

**5-nitro-2-(3-oxo-3-phenyl-1-p-tolylpropyl)isindoline-1,3-dione (3bg)**



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

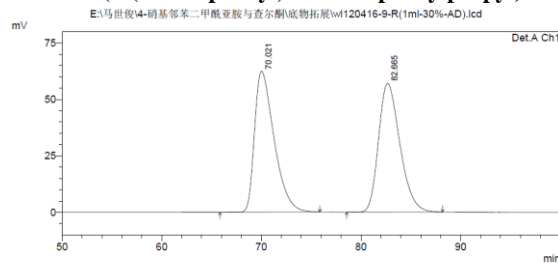
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	31.786	1699783	32562	50.081	59.400
2	47.416	1694295	22257	49.919	40.600
Total		3394078	54819	100.000	100.000



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

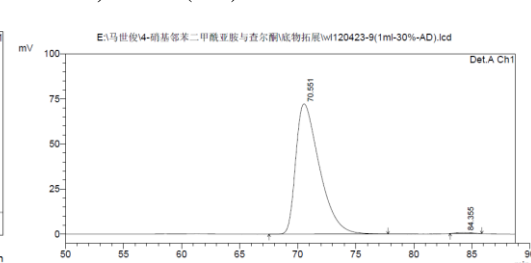
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	32.256	9802350	184931	99.517	99.543
2	48.469	47913	549	0.483	0.457
Total		9910264	185781	100.000	100.000

**5-nitro-2-(1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)isindoline-1,3-dione (3bh)**



1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

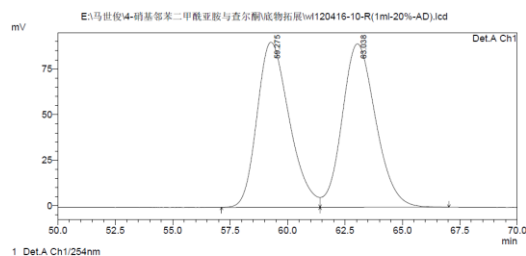
PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	70.021	8517373	62401	50.011	52.236
2	82.095	8513766	57058	49.989	47.764
Total		17031129	119458	100.000	100.000



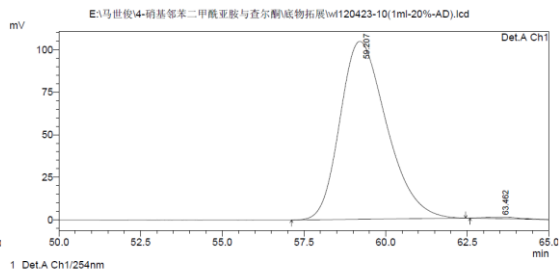
1 Det.A Ch1/254nm

PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	70.551	10232222	72298	99.587	99.395
2	84.355	42423	440	0.413	0.605
Total		10274644	72739	100.000	100.000

**2-(3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-1-phenylpropyl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (3bi)**

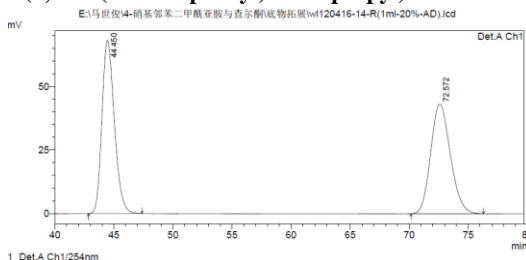


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	59.275	8818529	90455	49.282	50.268
2	63.038	9075385	89491	50.718	49.732
Total		17893913	179946	100.000	100.000

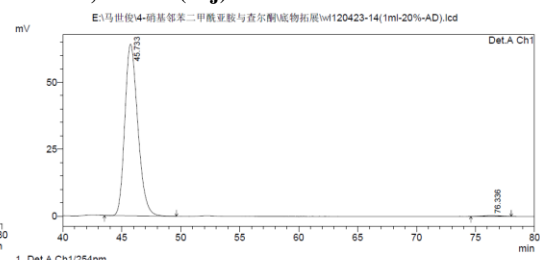


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	59.207	10379441	104545	99.406	99.233
2	63.462	61993	808	0.594	0.767
Total		10441434	105353	100.000	100.000

### 2-(1,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (3bj)

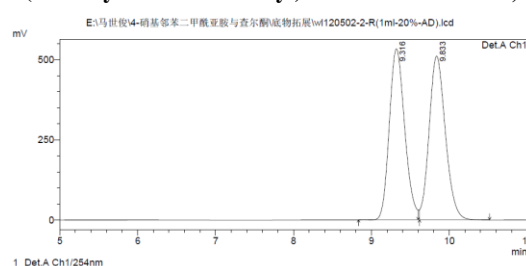


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	44.450	4968649	68032	49.871	61.217
2	72.572	4994374	43100	50.129	38.783
Total		9963023	111132	100.000	100.000

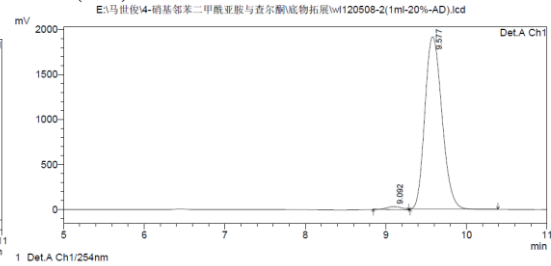


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	45.733	4911579	64077	99.368	99.526
2	76.336	31243	305	0.632	0.474
Total		4942822	64383	100.000	100.000

### 2-(2-methyl-5-oxohexan-3-yl)-5-nitroisindoline-1,3-dione (3bk)

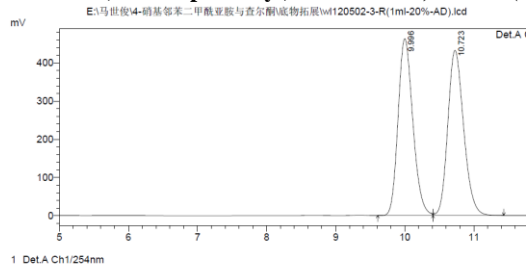


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.316	2266166	412438	49.754	51.093
2	9.833	7564037	509758	50.246	48.907
Total		14650173	1042295	100.000	100.000

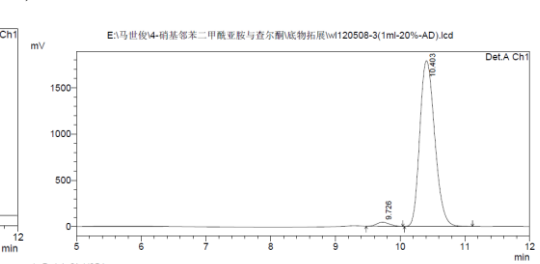


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.092	434926	33944	1.523	1.742
2	9.577	28119452	195120	98.477	98.255
Total		28554377	1949064	100.000	100.000

### 5-nitro-2-(2-oxoheptan-4-yl)isindoline-1,3-dione (3bl)

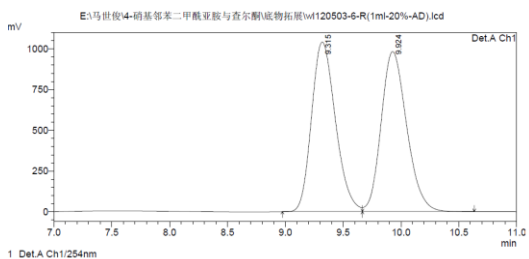


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.996	6580012	463984	49.906	47.710
2	10.723	6875905	432112	50.094	48.281
Total		13725916	895196	100.000	100.000

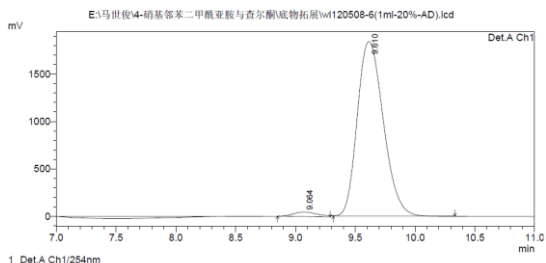


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.726	614857	45023	2.091	2.241
2	10.493	28766342	1791994	97.909	97.540
Total		29400999	1837016	100.000	100.000

### 5-nitro-2-(2-oxooctan-4-yl)isindoline-1,3-dione (3bm)

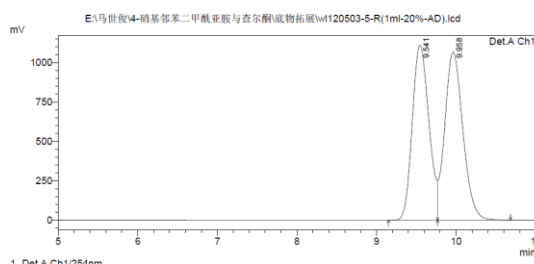


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.315	14925441	1039963	49.803	51.449
2	9.824	15043525	981396	50.197	48.551
Total		29968966	2021359	100.000	100.000

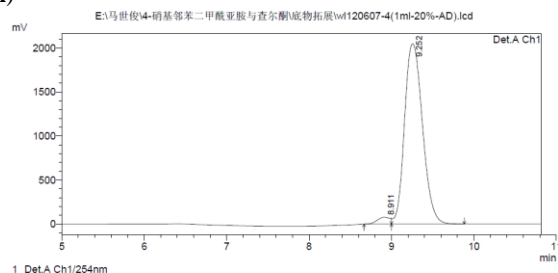


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.064	673208	47868	2.363	2.537
2	9.610	27822017	1839124	97.637	97.463
Total		28495226	1886993	100.000	100.000

### 5-nitro-2-(2-oxononan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bn)

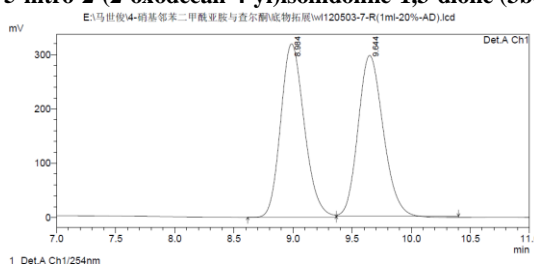


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.541	16128316	1110383	48.802	50.950
2	9.858	16920369	1068740	51.198	49.044
Total		33048686	2179123	100.000	100.000

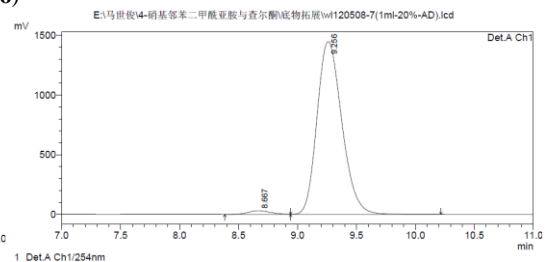


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	8.911	842055	79041	2.642	3.715
2	9.252	31031479	2048603	97.358	96.285
Total		31873535	2127644	100.000	100.000

### 5-nitro-2-(2-oxodecan-4-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bo)

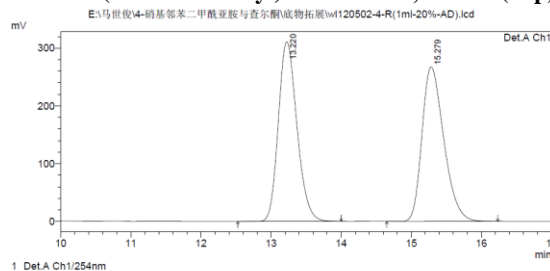


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	9.584	4438242	319268	50.550	51.869
2	9.644	4341698	286254	49.450	48.131
Total		8779941	615523	100.000	100.000

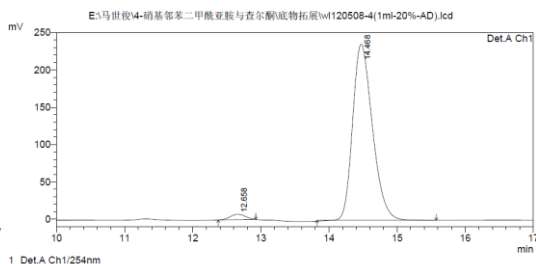


PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	8.667	401428	39500	1.859	2.061
2	9.256	21198051	1449225	98.141	97.939
Total		21599479	1479726	100.000	100.000

### 5-nitro-2-(4-oxohexan-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (3bp)



PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	13.220	5725564	311059	49.749	53.754
2	15.279	5783335	307597	50.251	46.245
Total		11508899	578655	100.000	100.000



PeakTable					
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Height %
1	12.658	134007	7247	2.341	3.019
2	14.468	4754993	236003	97.659	96.981
Total		4869000	243350	100.000	100.000