

## Supporting Information

**Title:** Copper(II)-Catalyzed Carbon-Carbon Triple Bond Cleavage of Internal Alkynes for the Synthesis of Polysubstituted Indolizines Using Air as the Terminal Oxidant

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## Experimental Section

Melting points are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were measured at 400 MHz with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million relative to the residual deuterated solvent signal, and coupling constants ( $J$ ) are given in Hertz.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were measured at 100 MHz with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent. HRMS (ESI) data were obtained in the electron impact (EI) (70 eV) mode.

### General Procedure for the preparation of **3**

Pyridine **1a** (2.0 mmol), butynedioates **2** (1.5 mmol), and hydrated copper(II) chloride (0.1 mmol) were mixed in 15 mL acetonitrile and refluxed for 12 h under 1 atm of oxygen. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. Chromatographic separation of the reaction mixture (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1:6) after removal of the solvent gave product **3**.

### Trimethyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (**3a**)

White solid. Mp 141–143 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.91 (s, 6H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.04 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.49 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.3, 163.3, 160.4, 137.8, 130.6, 127.9, 126.8, 119.9, 115.4, 111.8, 103.0, 52.9, 52.0, 51.6. HMRS (ESI)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 314.0641; found: 314.0645.

### Triethyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (**3b**)

White solid. Mp 105–106 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.36–1.45 (m, 9H), 4.35–4.48 (m, 6H), 7.01–7.05 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.38 (m, 1H), 8.35 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.53 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8, 163.0, 160.2, 138.0, 130.6, 127.9, 126.6, 119.9, 115.3, 111.9, 103.1, 61.8, 60.8, 60.3, 14.3, 14.2, 14.1. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 356.1110; found: 356.1117.

### Tripropyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (**3c**)

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.97–1.02 (m, 9H), 1.73–1.80 (m, 6H), 4.23–4.32 (m, 6H), 6.98–7.02 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.35 (m, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.52 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8, 163.0, 160.3, 138.0, 130.5, 127.9, 126.6, 119.9, 115.3, 111.9, 103.2, 67.5, 66.5, 66.0, 22.2, 22.1, 21.8, 10.6, 10.5, 10.4. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 398.1580; found: 398.1580.

#### **Triisopropyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (3d)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.38 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 12H), 1.46 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 6H), 5.28–5.32 (m, 3H), 7.01 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.56 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.2, 162.6, 160.0, 137.8, 130.7, 128.0, 126.4, 120.0, 115.1, 112.1, 103.5, 69.7, 68.7, 67.8, 22.1, 22.0, 21.9. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 398.1580; found: 398.1580.

#### **Tributyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (3e)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.96–1.00 (m, 9H), 1.43 – 1.50 (m, 6H), 1.71–1.79 (m, 6H), 4.30–4.38 (m, 6H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td,  $J = 8.0, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.55 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.9, 163.1, 160.3, 138.0, 130.4, 127.9, 126.6, 119.9, 115.3, 111.8, 103.1, 66.0, 64.8, 64.3, 30.9, 30.8, 30.5, 19.3, 19.2, 19.1, 13.8, 13.7. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 440.2049; found: 440.2044.

#### **Tri-*tert*-butyl indolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (3f)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.62 (s, 9H), 1.63 (s, 9H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 6.91 (td,  $J = 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.26 (m, 1H), 8.15 (dt,  $J = 9.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.43 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.1, 162.1, 160.0, 136.5, 131.6, 127.9, 125.4, 119.9, 114.4, 113.3, 105.4, 82.7, 82.4, 80.8, 28.6, 28.5, 28.4. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 440.2049; found: 440.2045.

Substituted pyridine **1b–1g** (2.0 mmol), butynedioates **2** (1.5 mmol), and copper(II) chloride (0.1 mmol) were mixed in 15 mL acetonitrile and refluxed for 12 h under 1 atm of O<sub>2</sub>. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. Chromatographic separation of the reaction mixture (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1:6) after removal of the solvent gave product **4**.

#### **Tetramethyl indolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4a)**

Yellow solid. Mp 184–186 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 9.53 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.4, 164.6, 162.5, 159.8, 135.8, 130.8, 127.2, 127.1, 121.9, 114.0, 113.0, 105.7, 52.7, 52.4, 51.9, 51.6. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 372.0695; found: 372.0695.

#### **1,2,3-Triethyl 7-methylindolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4b)**

Yellow solid. Mp 100–102 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.36–1.44 (m, 9H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 4.38–4.46 (m, 6H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H), 9.54 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.2, 165.1, 162.4, 159.9, 136.3, 131.1, 127.4, 127.3, 122.3, 114.2, 113.4, 106.1, 61.9, 61.2, 60.7, 52.7, 14.2, 14.1, 14.0. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 414.1165; found: 414.1165.

#### **1,2,3-Tripropyl 7-methylindolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4c)**

Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.98–1.05 (m, 9H), 1.72–1.81 (m, 6H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.26–4.33 (m, 6H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 9.02 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 9.53 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.3, 165.1, 162.6, 160.0, 136.4, 131.1, 127.5, 127.3, 122.4, 114.2, 113.4, 106.2, 67.7, 66.9, 66.4, 52.7, 22.1, 22.0, 21.8, 10.6, 10.5, 10.4. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 456.1634; found: 456.1639.

#### **1,2,3-trimethyl 7-ethylindolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4d)**

Yellow solid. Mp 147–150 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H), 9.54 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.8, 164.6, 163.0, 160.2, 136.3, 131.2, 128.0, 127.5, 122.2, 114.5, 113.3, 106.0, 62.0, 53.1, 52.4, 52.1, 14.3. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 386.0852; found: 386.0853.

#### **Tetraethyl indolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4e)**

Yellow solid. Mp 72–74 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.37–1.46 (m, 12H), 4.38–4.47 (m, 8H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 9.04 (s, 1H), 9.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.3, 164.7, 162.5, 159.9, 136.4, 131.2, 127.8, 127.5, 122.2, 114.3, 113.4, 106.1, 62.0, 61.9, 61.3, 60.8, 14.4, 14.3, 14.2, 14.1. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 428.1321; found: 428.1321.

#### **1,2,3-Tripropyl 7-ethylindolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4f)**

Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.01–1.09 (m, 9H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.75–1.85 (m, 6H), 4.29–4.36 (m, 6H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 9.05 (s, 1H), 9.57 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.3, 164.6, 162.6, 160.1, 136.4, 131.2, 127.7, 127.5, 122.2, 114.3, 113.4, 106.2, 67.7, 66.9, 66.4, 61.8, 22.1, 22.0, 21.8, 14.3, 10.7, 10.5, 10.4. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 470.1791; found: 470.1792.

#### **1,2,3-Triisopropyl 7-ethylindolizine-1,2,3,7-tetracarboxylate (4g)**

Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.38–1.47 (m, 21H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.28–5.36 (m, 3H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 9.04 (s, 1H), 9.57 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.7, 164.6, 162.1, 159.7, 136.2, 131.3, 127.5, 122.4, 114.0, 113.7, 106.6, 69.9, 69.3, 68.4, 61.8, 22.1, 22.0, 21.9, 14.2. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Na: 470.1791; found: 470.1794.

#### **Trimethyl 7-cyanoindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4h)**

White solid. Mp 187–189 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (s, 1H), 9.60 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.4, 162.7, 160.2, 135.2, 131.6, 128.7, 126.4, 117.3, 115.4, 114.4, 109.7, 106.6, 53.4, 52.9, 52.5. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na: 339.0593; found: 339.0595.

#### **Triethyl 7-cyanoindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4i)**

White solid. Mp 131–132 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.38–1.45 (m, 9H), 4.38–4.49 (m, 6H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 9.60 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.7, 162.1, 159.7, 135.0, 131.3, 128.3, 126.1, 117.1, 115.0, 114.2, 109.1, 106.5, 62.2, 61.6, 61.1, 14.1, 14.0. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na: 381.1063; found: 381.1055.

#### **Trimethyl 7-phenylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4j)**

Yellow solid. Mp 181–183 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 3.92 (s, 6H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 9.53 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.3, 162.4, 159.4, 138.6, 137.2, 136.7, 130.0, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 126.0, 115.6, 114.0, 110.6, 102.3, 51.9, 51.0, 50.7. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 390.0954; found: 390.0958.

#### **Triethyl 7-phenylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4k)**

Yellow solid. Mp 113–114 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.29–1.38 (m, 9H), 4.28–4.41 (m, 6H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 9.47 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.7, 162.0, 159.2, 138.2, 137.4, 136.7, 129.9, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 125.9, 115.5, 113.7, 110.6, 102.3, 60.8, 59.8, 59.3, 13.3, 13.2, 13.1. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 432.1423; found: 432.1424.

#### **Trimethyl 7-*tert*-butylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4l)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.38 (s, 9H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 7.12 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 9.41 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 163.6, 160.5, 151.3, 138.4, 130.7, 127.4, 114.8, 114.6, 111.1, 102.2, 52.8, 51.9, 51.6, 35.1, 30.4. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 370.1267; found: 370.1271.

**Triethyl 7-*tert*-butylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4m)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.34–1.40 (m, 18H), 4.33 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H), 4.41 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.06 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd,  $J = 2.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.39 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.9, 163.2, 160.2, 151.0, 138.5, 130.7, 127.3, 114.6, 111.2, 102.3, 61.7, 60.7, 60.1, 35.1, 30.3, 14.3, 14.2, 14.1. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 412.1736; found: 412.1736.

**Tripropyl 7-*tert*-butylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4n)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.00–1.05 (m, 9H), 1.38 (s, 9H), 1.76–1.82 (m, 6H), 4.26–4.33 (m, 6H), 7.10 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.32 (dd,  $J = 2.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 9.45 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 0.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.0, 163.3, 160.4, 150.9, 138.5, 130.7, 127.4, 114.6, 114.5, 111.2, 102.4, 67.5, 66.4, 65.9, 35.1, 30.4, 22.2, 22.1, 21.8, 10.6, 10.5. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 454.2206; found: 454.2205.

**Triisopropyl 7-*tert*-butylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (4o)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.38–1.47 (m, 27H), 5.28–5.32 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.46 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 0.4$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.3, 162.8, 160.0, 150.5, 138.3, 130.9, 127.4, 114.6, 114.3, 111.4, 102.8, 69.5, 68.5, 67.6, 35.0, 30.3, 22.1, 22.0, 21.9. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 454.2206; found: 454.2206.

**1,2,3-Triethyl 6-methylindolizine-1,2,3,6-tetracarboxylate (4p)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.37–1.45 (m, 9H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 4.38–4.47 (m, 6H), 7.89 (dd,  $J = 9.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 10.25 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.2, 165.0, 162.6, 159.9, 138.4, 132.0, 131.6, 125.8, 119.4, 119.1, 112.9, 104.2, 62.0, 61.2, 60.6, 52.6, 14.3, 14.1, 14.0. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_8\text{Na}$ : 414.1165, found: 414.1159.

#### **1,2,3-Triethyl 8-methylindolizine-1,2,3,8-tetracarboxylate (4q)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.34–1.42 (m, 9H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.31 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 0.8$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8, 165.3, 162.6, 160.1, 139.3, 133.2, 130.8, 129.9, 127.7, 125.7, 114.1, 105.6, 61.8, 61.1, 60.8, 52.5, 14.2, 14.1. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_8\text{Na}$ : 414.1165, found: 414.1157.

Isoquinoline **5a** or quinoline **5b** (2.0 mmol), butynedioates **2** (1.5 mmol), and copper(II) chloride (0.1 mmol) were mixed in 15 mL acetonitrile and refluxed for 12 h under 1 atm of  $\text{O}_2$ . After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. Chromatographic separation of the reaction mixture (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1:6) after removal of the solvent gave product **6** or **7**.

#### **Trimethyl pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (6a)**

White solid. Mp 154–155 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.93 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.75 (m, 1H), 9.34 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 9.44–9.46 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5, 164.2, 160.3, 134.6, 130.2, 129.7, 129.2, 128.0, 127.2, 126.9, 124.3, 123.8, 116.0, 113.3, 107.7, 52.7, 52.2. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 364.0797; found: 364.0797.

#### **Triethyl pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (6b)**



White solid. Mp 90–92 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.38–1.45 (m, 9H), 4.38–4.46 (m, 6H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.75 (m, 1H), 9.38 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 9.37–9.48 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.0, 163.9, 160.1, 134.5, 130.2, 129.7, 129.1, 127.9, 127.3, 126.9, 124.4, 123.9, 115.8, 113.4, 107.9, 61.6, 61.1, 14.2, 14.1, 14.0. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 406.1267; found: 406.1272.

#### **Tripropyl pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (6c)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.04 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 9H), 1.78–1.82 (m, 6H), 4.29–4.34 (m, 6H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.71 (m, 1H), 9.36 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 9.41–9.43 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.1, 164.2, 160.3, 134.5, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 127.9, 127.3, 126.9, 124.5, 124.0, 115.8, 113.5, 108.1, 67.5, 66.9, 66.8, 22.1, 21.9, 10.7, 10.6, 10.5. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 448.1736; found: 448.1743.

#### **Triisopropyl pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (6d)**

Yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.39–1.47 (m, 18H), 5.26–5.38 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.70–7.73 (m, 1H), 9.19–9.21 (m, 1H), 9.35 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.2, 164.0, 159.9, 133.7, 129.8, 129.7, 128.9, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 124.4, 124.1, 115.5, 113.8, 108.8, 69.7, 69.2, 69.1, 22.1, 21.9, 21.8. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6\text{Na}$ : 448.1736; found: 448.1745.

#### **Trimethyl pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (7a)**

Yellow solid. Mp 177–179 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.92 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.0, 163.2, 161.0, 137.7, 132.6, 130.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 125.7, 125.2, 119.3, 117.5, 117.4, 105.0, 52.7, 52.3, 51.6. HMRS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  calcd for

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 364.0797; found: 364.0784.

**Triethyl pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (7b)**

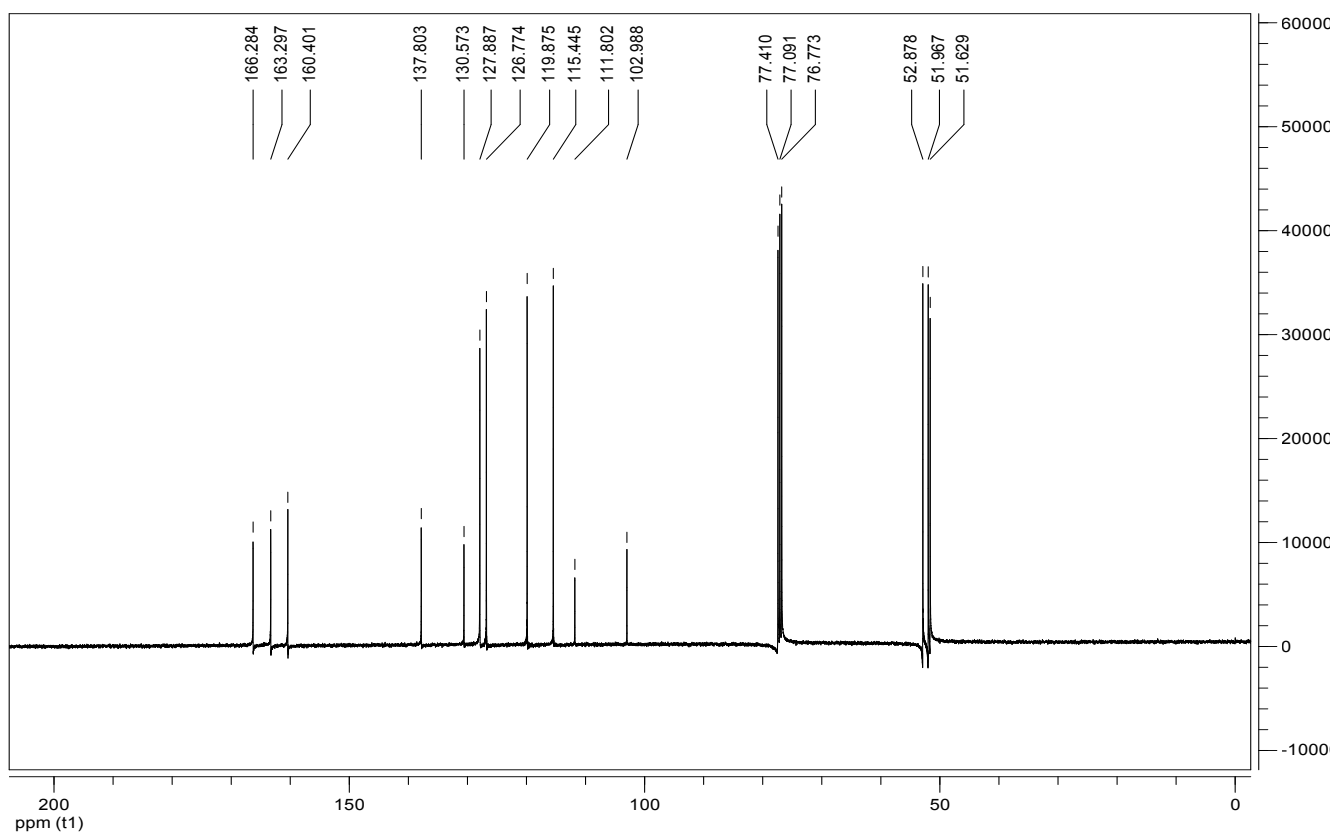
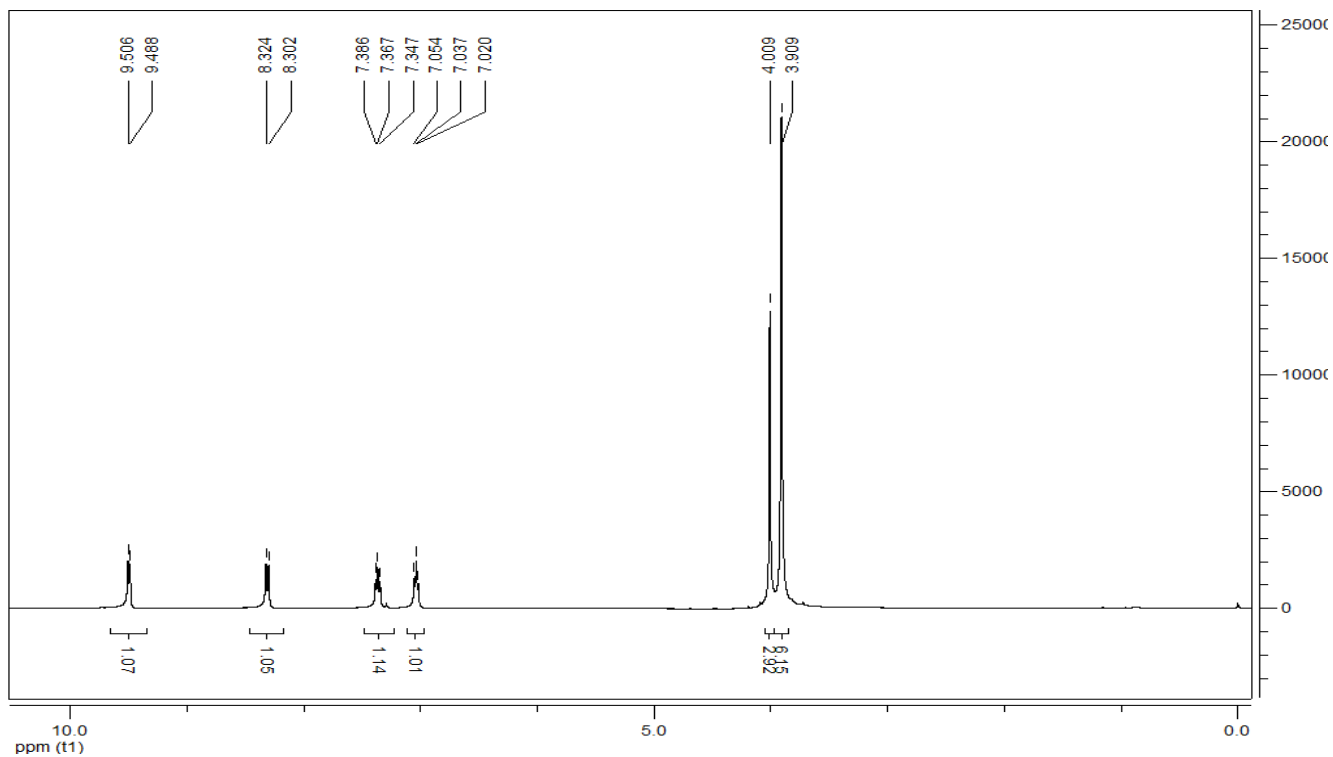
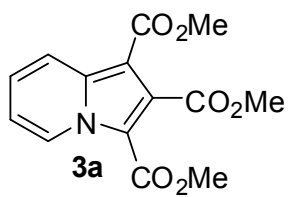
Yellow solid. Mp 113–115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.40–1.44 (m, 9H), 4.36–4.48 (m, 6H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.7, 163.0, 160.9, 137.9, 132.8, 131.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 125.7, 125.4, 119.7, 117.8, 117.7, 105.4, 61.8, 61.7, 60.5, 14.3, 14.1, 14.0. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 406.1267; found:406.1275.

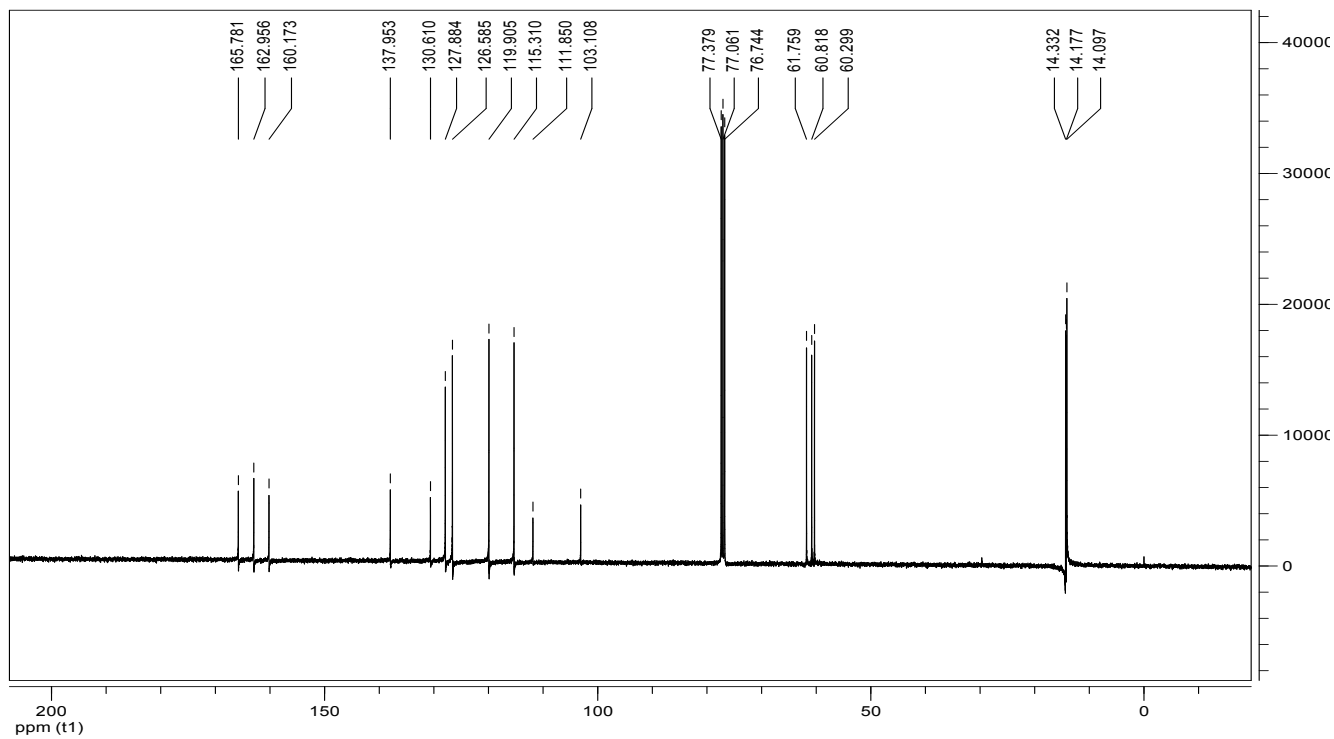
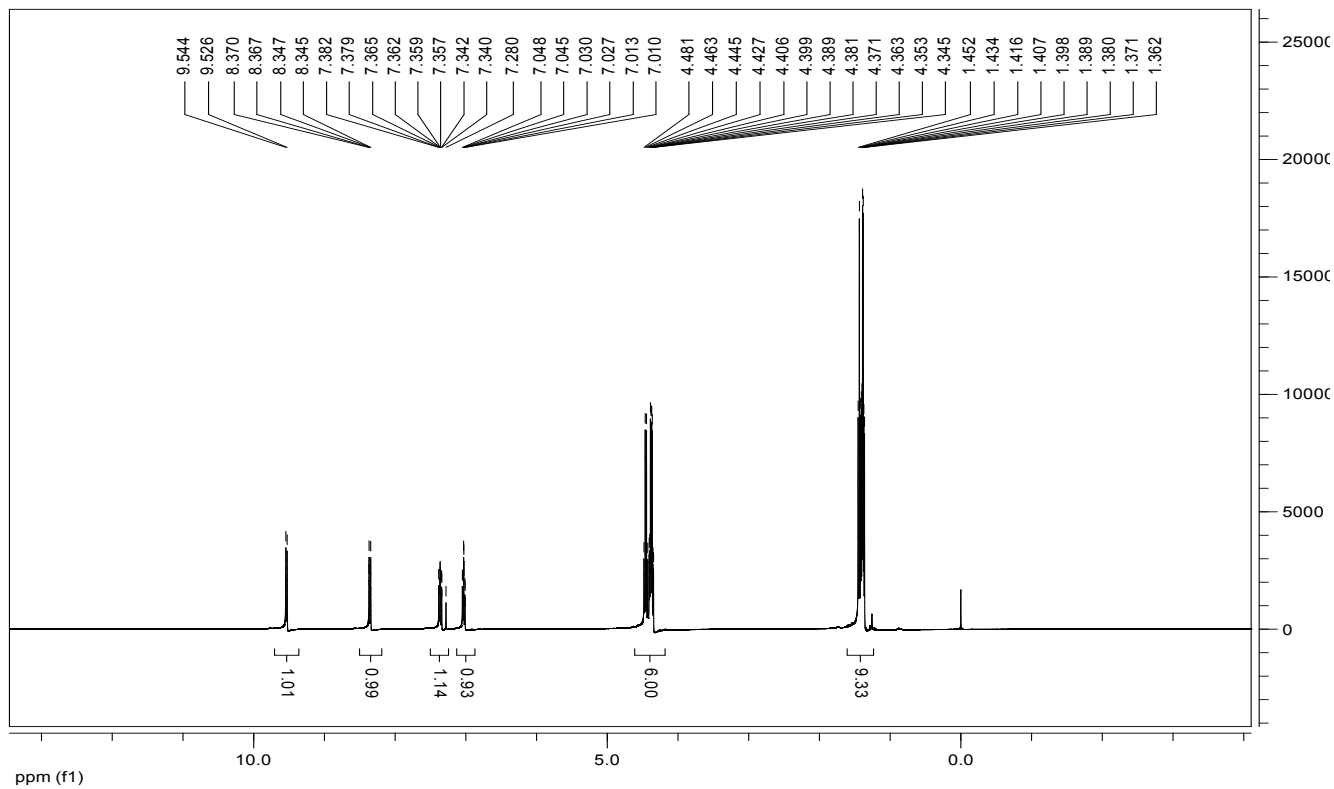
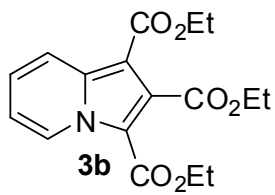
**Tripropyl pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (7c)**

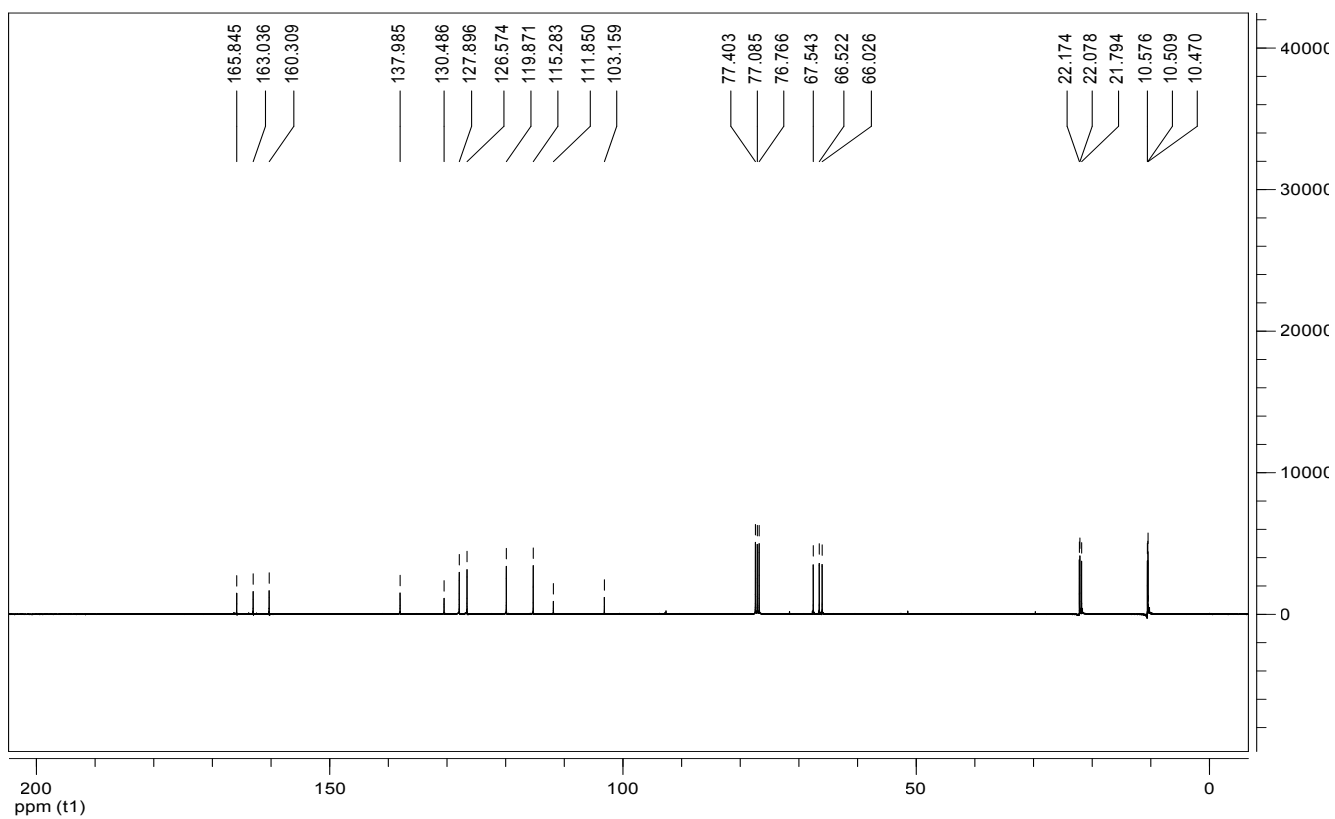
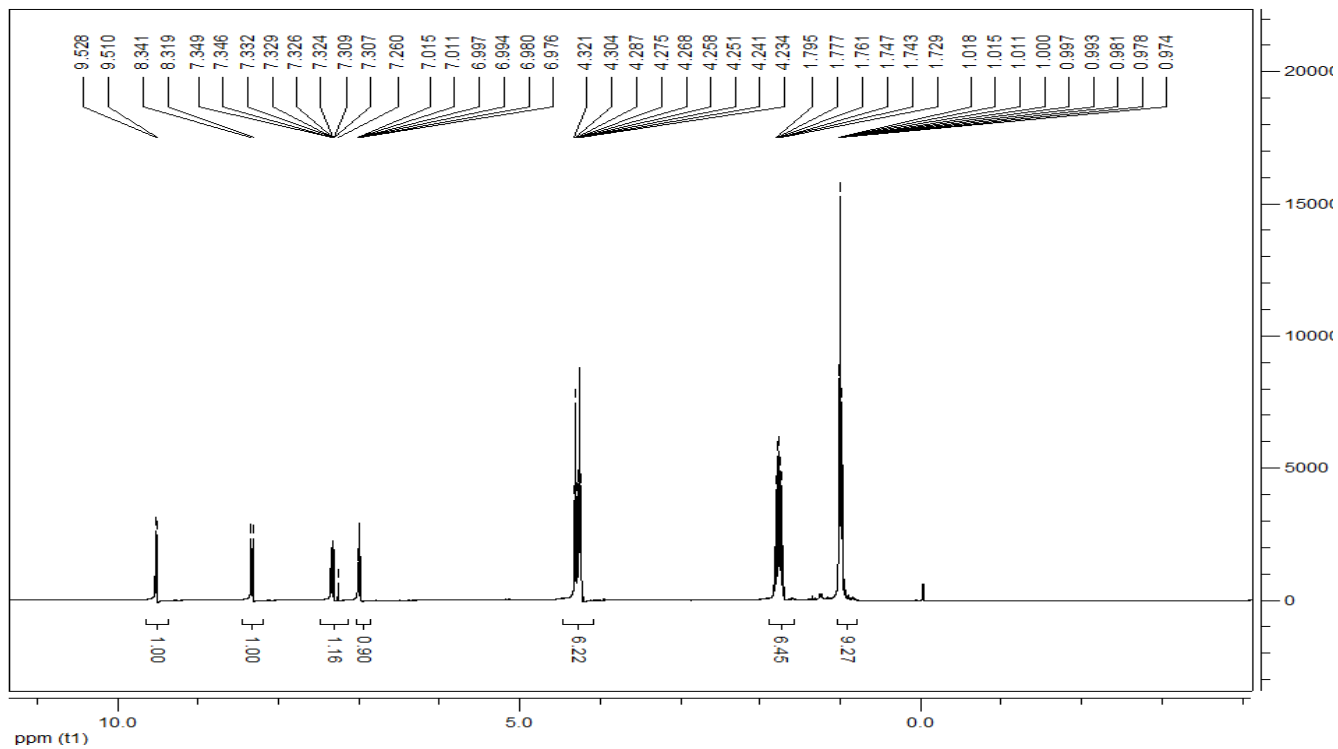
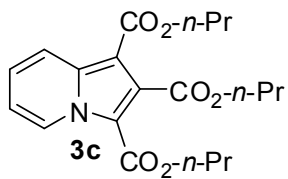
Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.01–1.06 (m, 9H), 1.78–1.83 (m, 6H), 4.29–4.36 (m, 6H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.77 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.7, 163.1, 161.1, 137.9, 132.9, 130.8, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 125.7, 125.4, 119.7, 117.9, 117.7, 105.4, 67.6, 67.4, 66.2, 22.2, 22.0, 21.9, 10.6, 10.5, 10.4. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 448.1736; found: 448.1738.

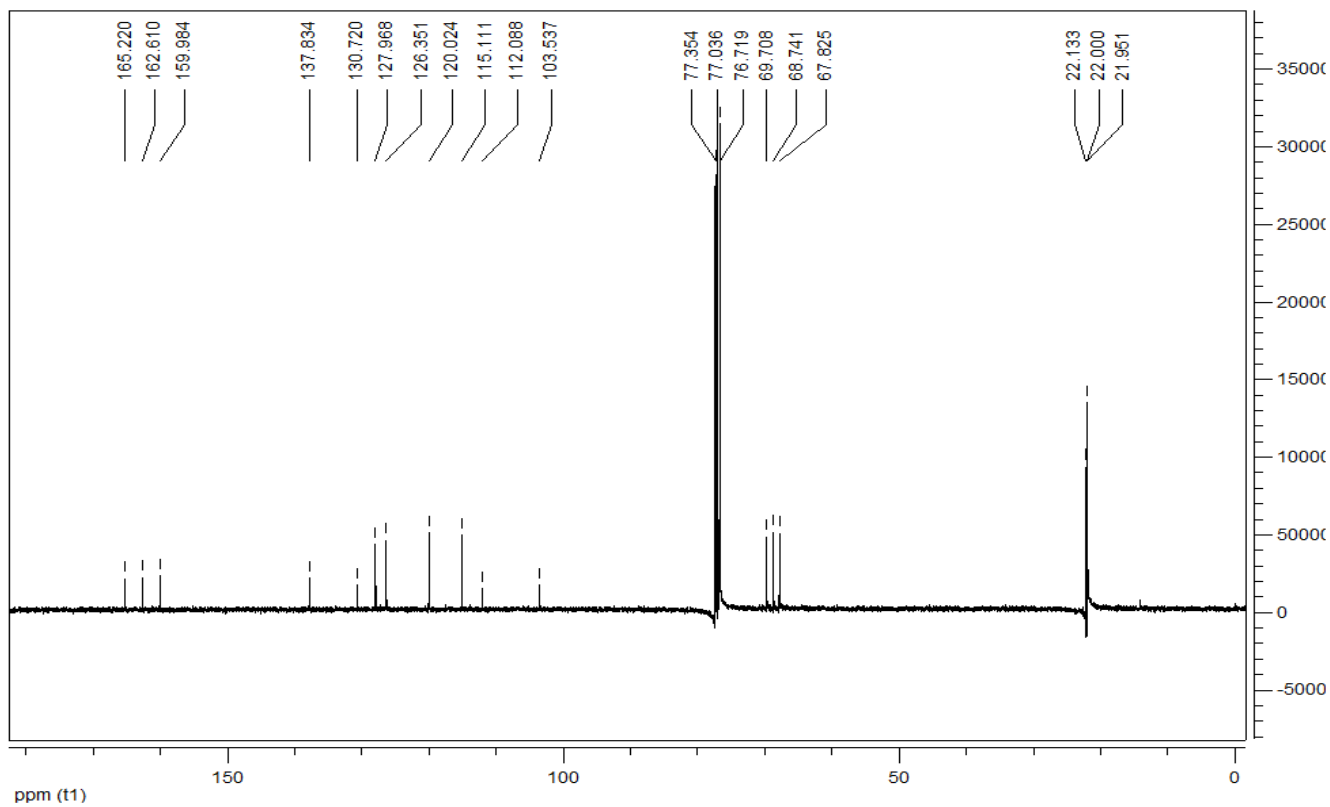
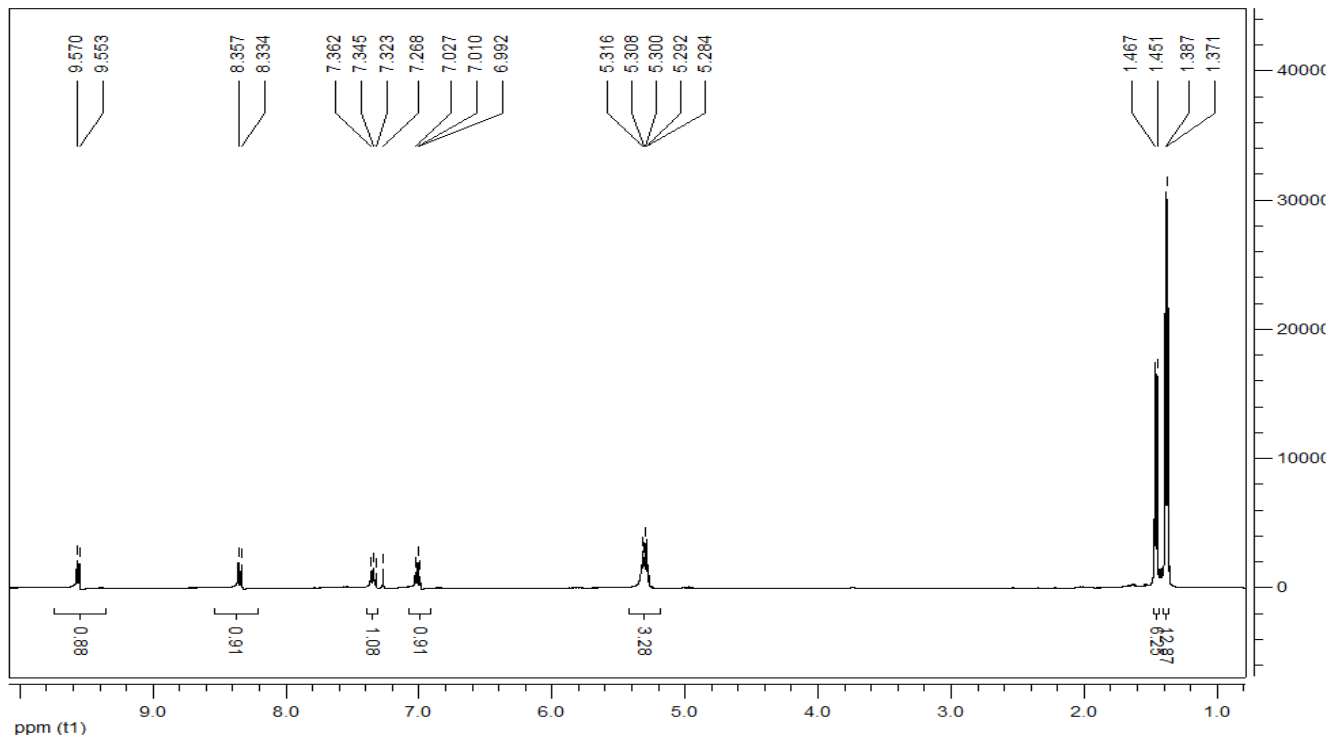
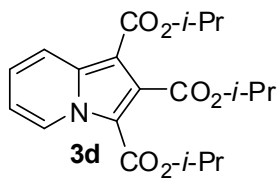
**Triisopropyl pyrrolo[1,2-*a*]quinoline-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (7d)**

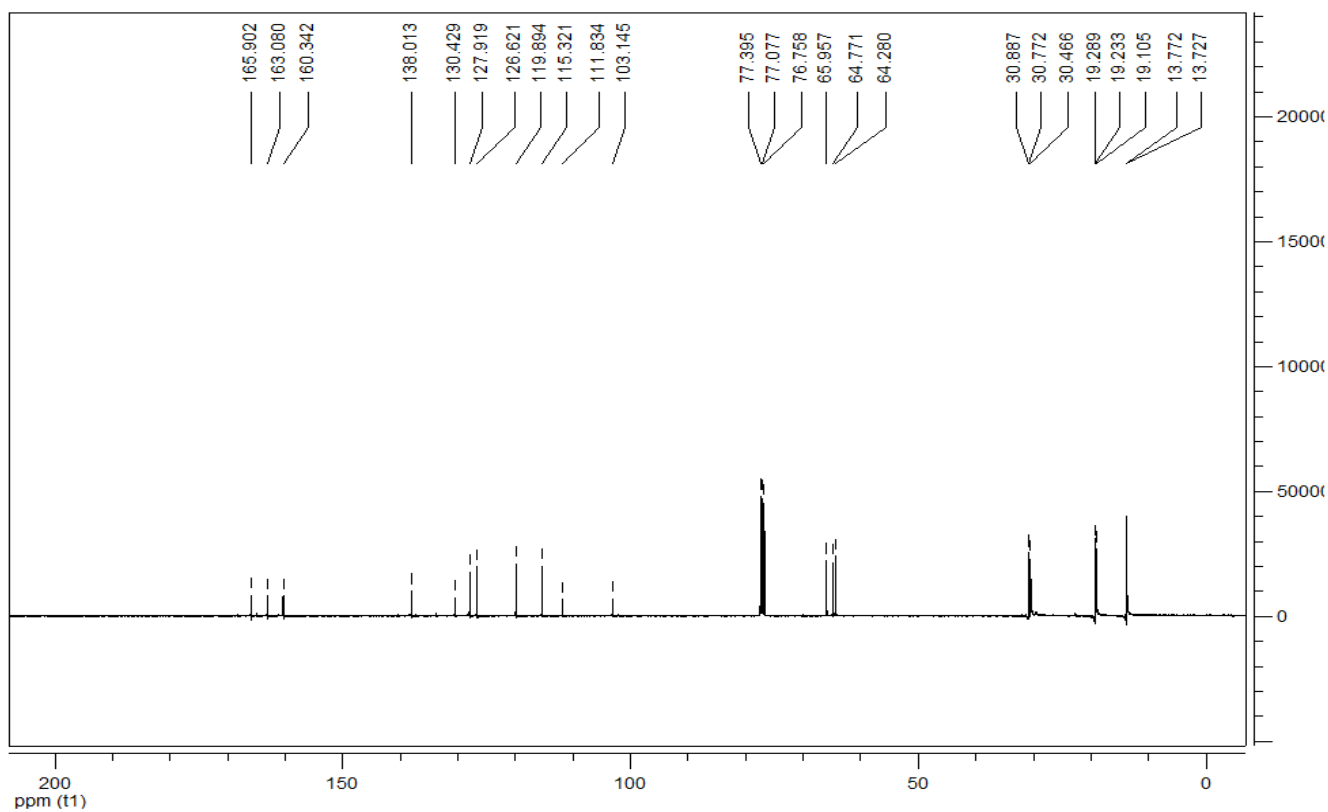
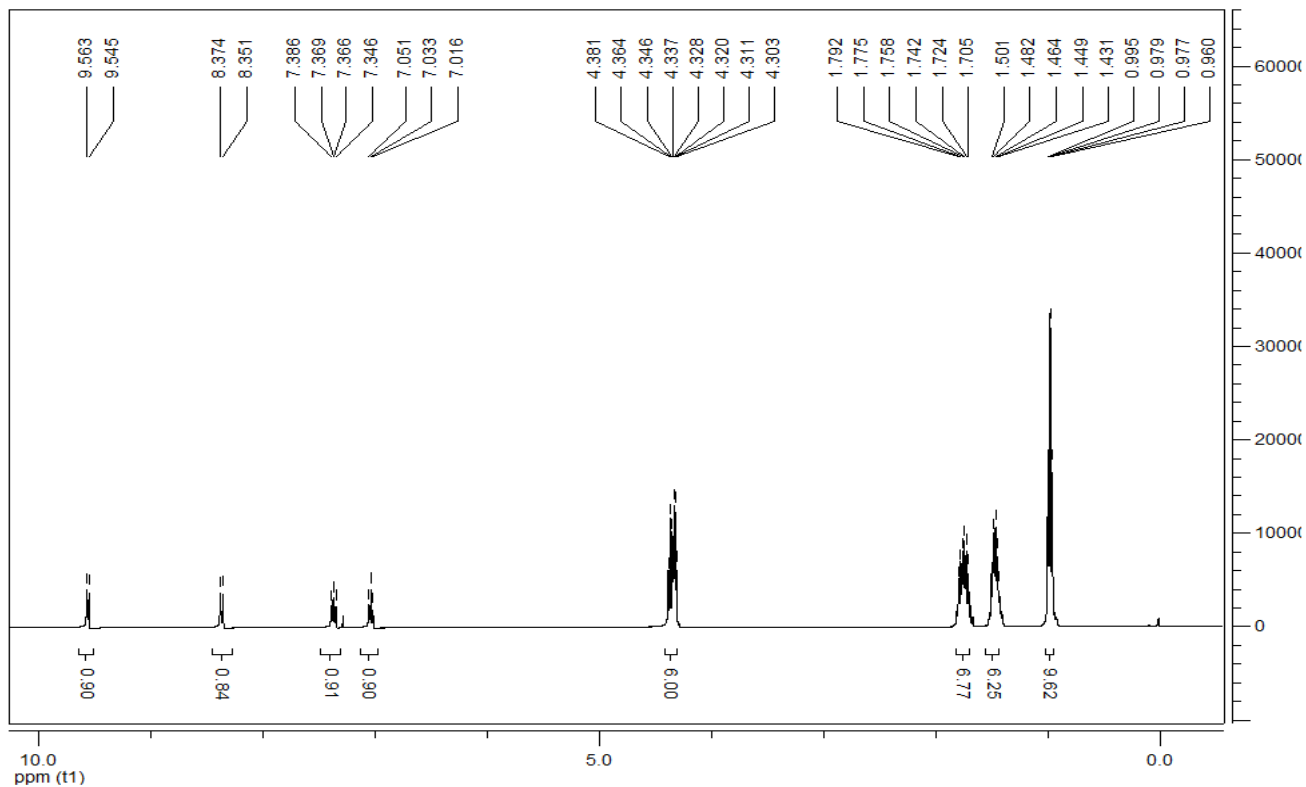
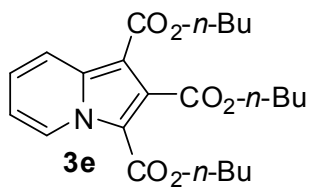
Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.38–1.41 (m, 12H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 5.29–5.37 (m, 3H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.0, 162.6, 160.6, 137.3, 132.9, 130.7, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 125.6, 125.3, 119.8, 118.3, 117.9, 105.8, 69.9, 69.7, 68.1, 22.1, 22.0, 21.7. HMRS *m/z* [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na: 448.1736; found: 448.1744.

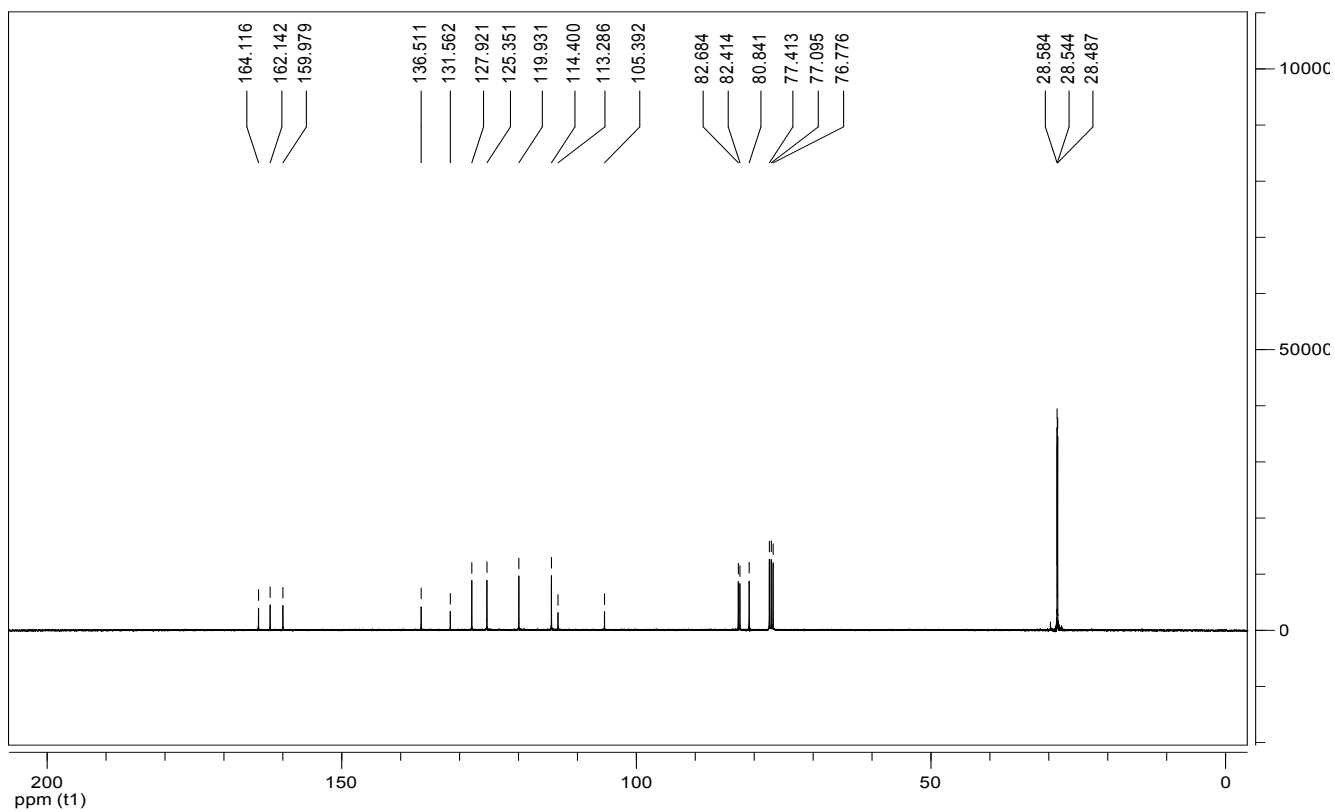
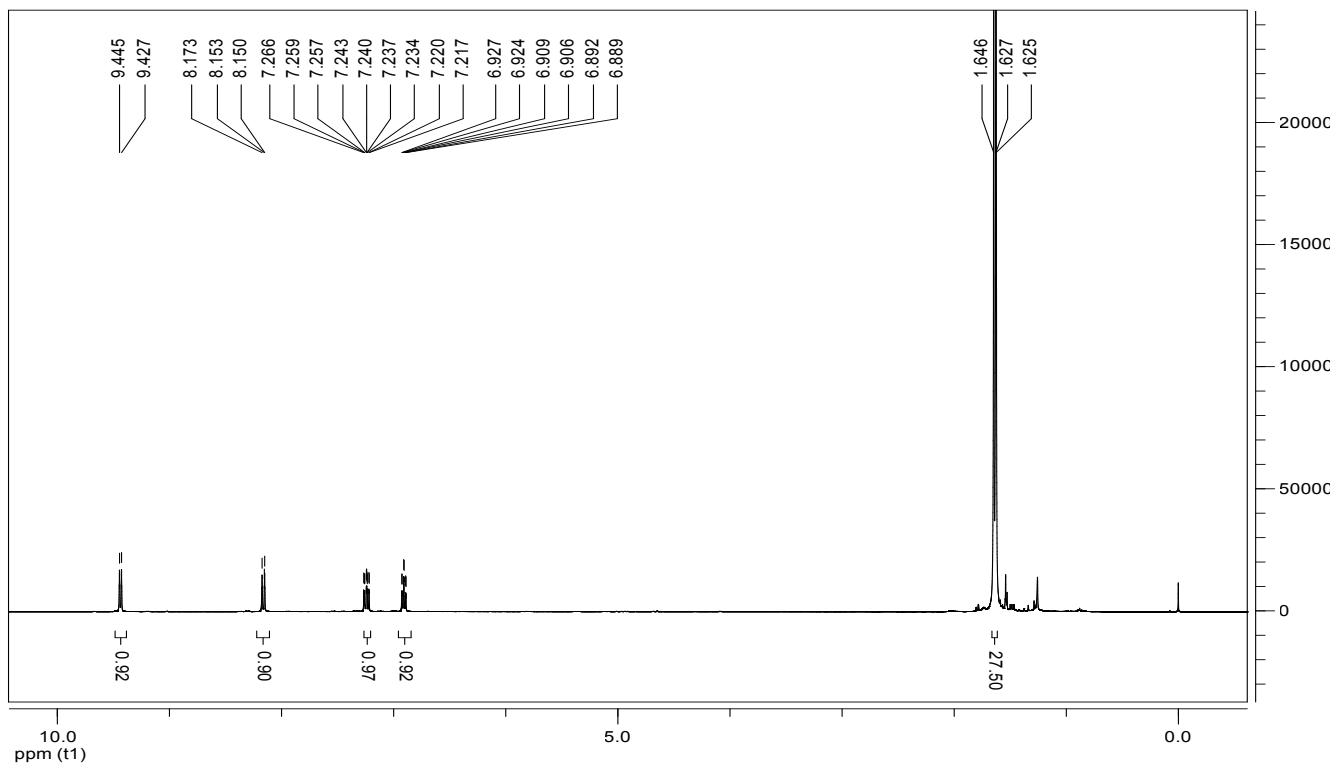
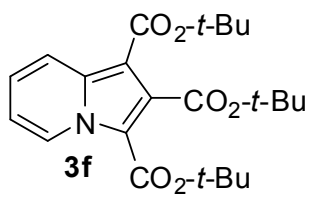




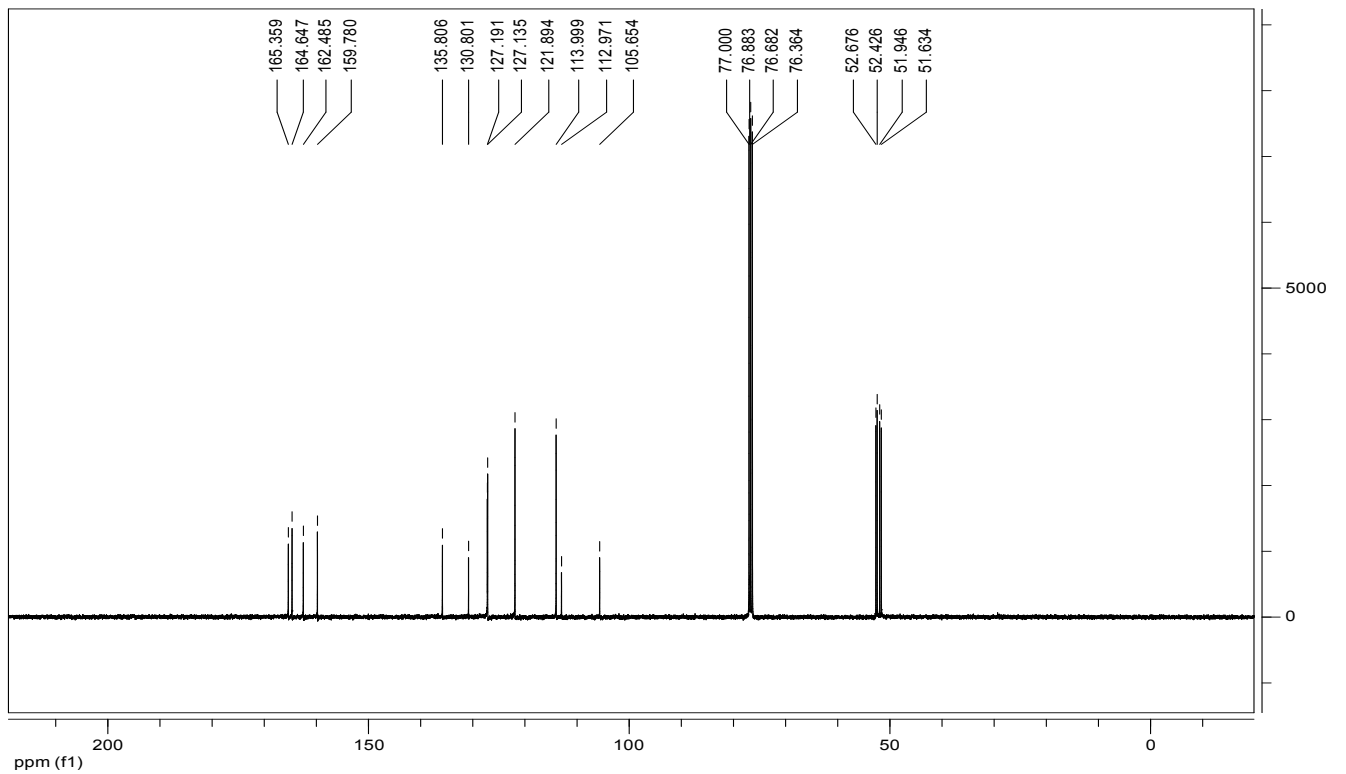
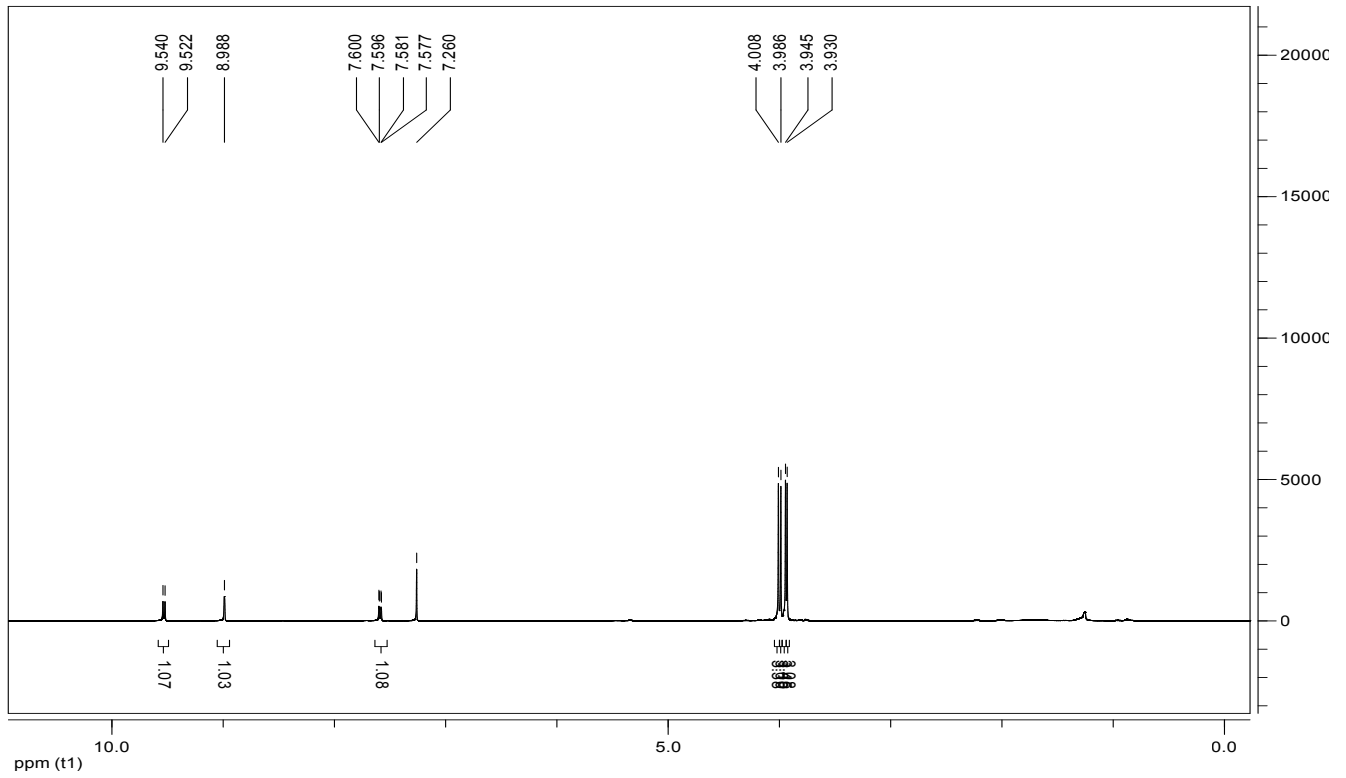
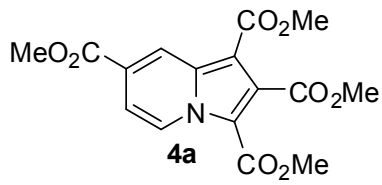


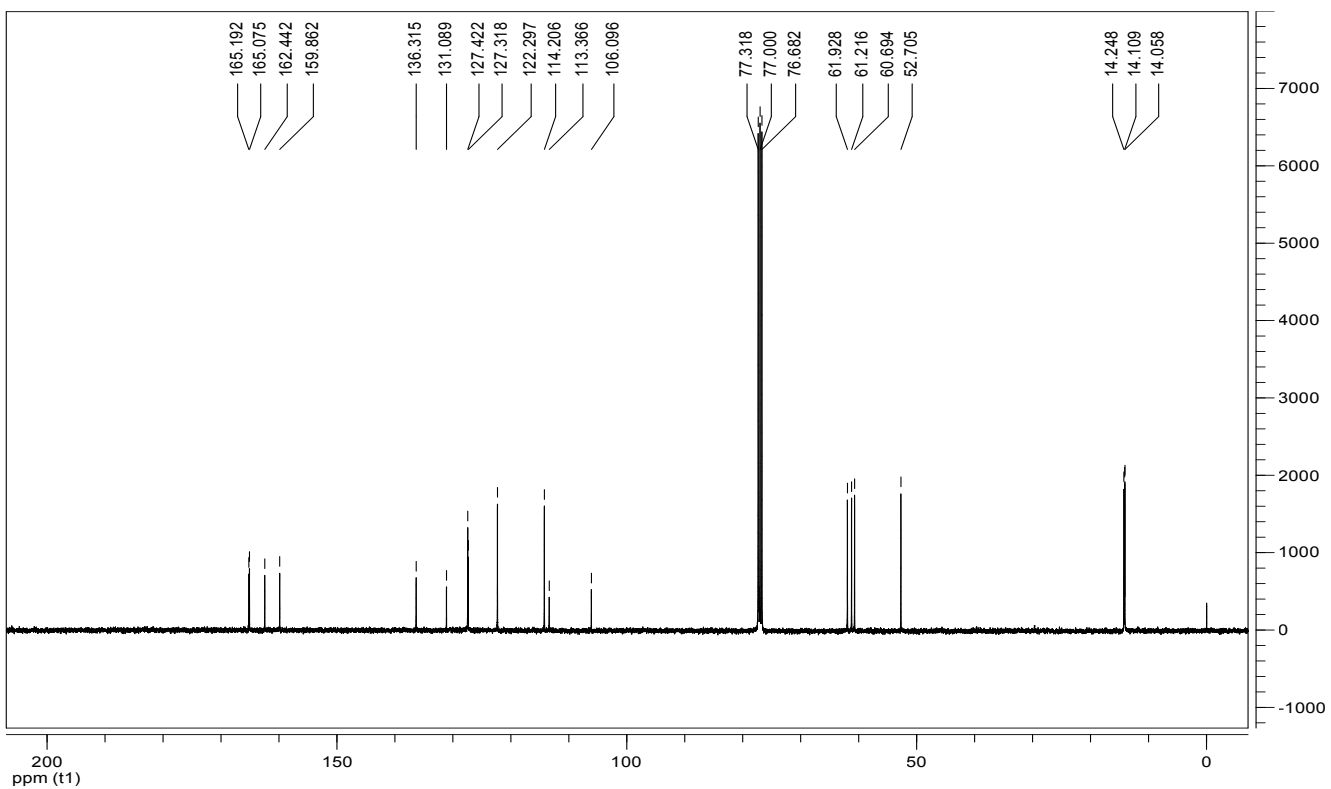
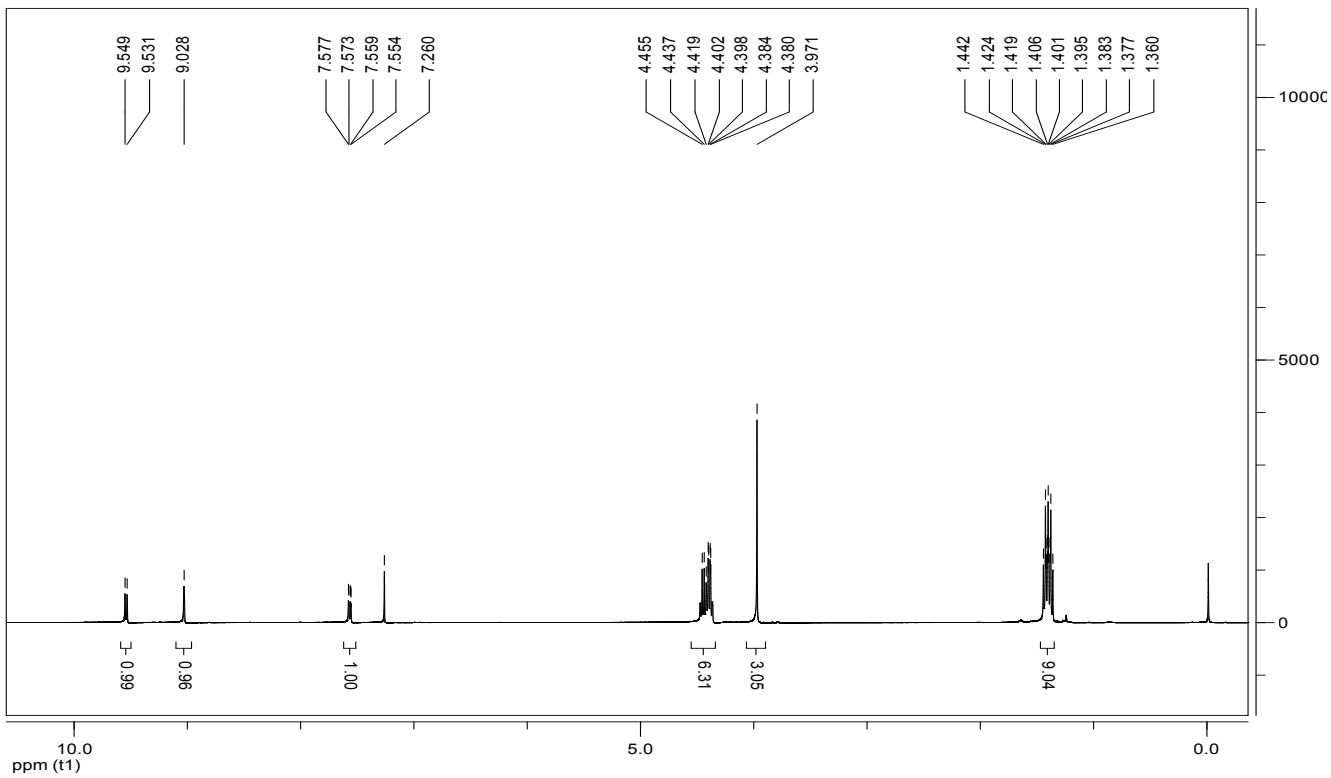
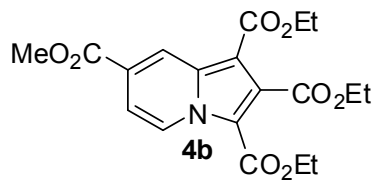


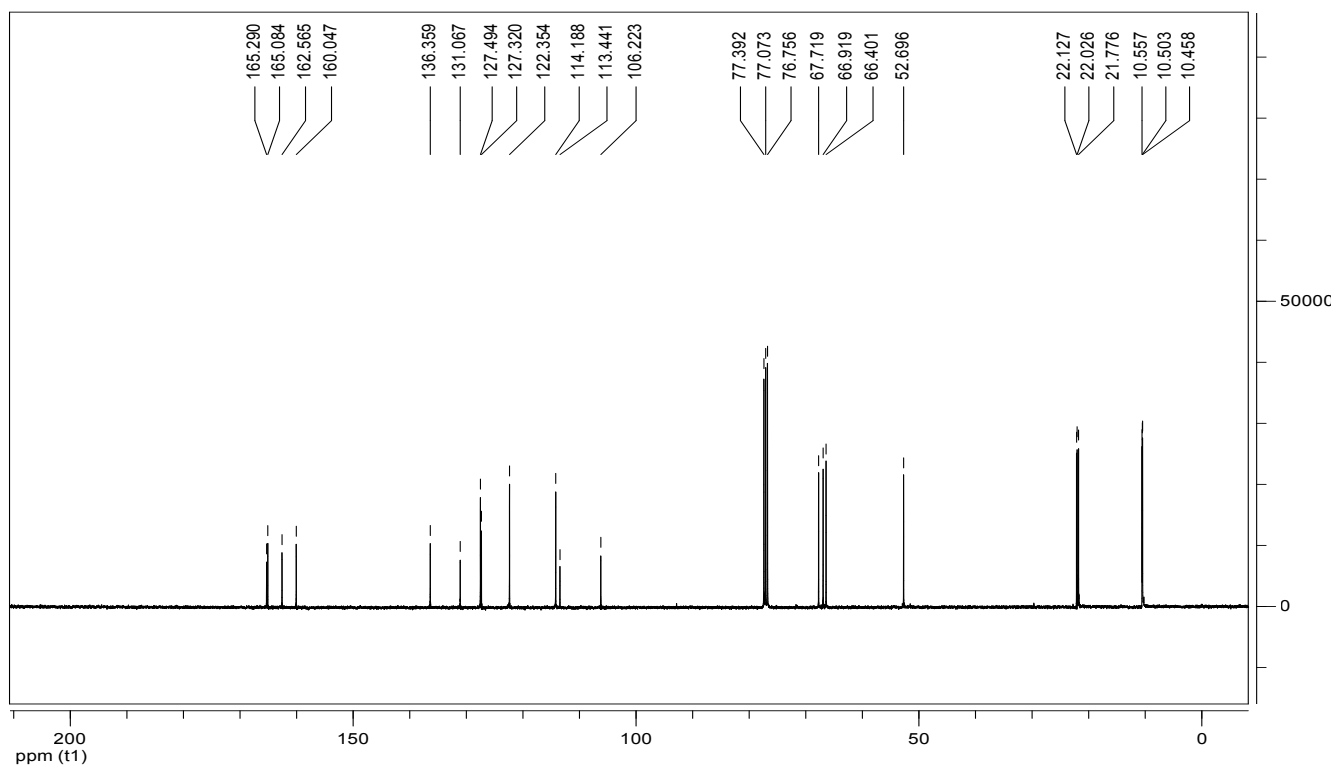
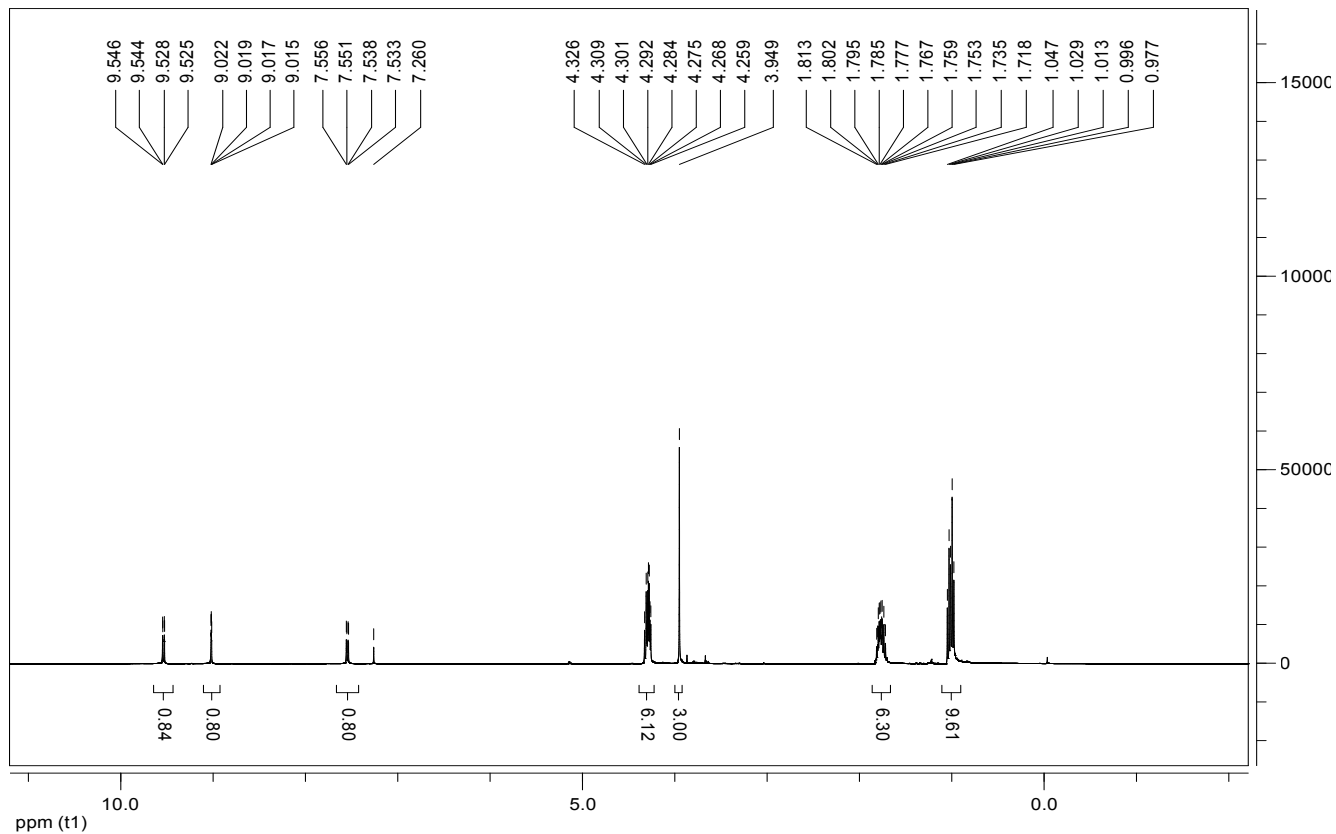
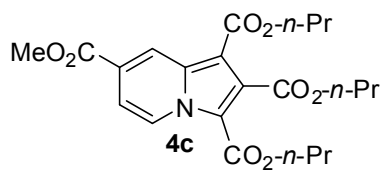


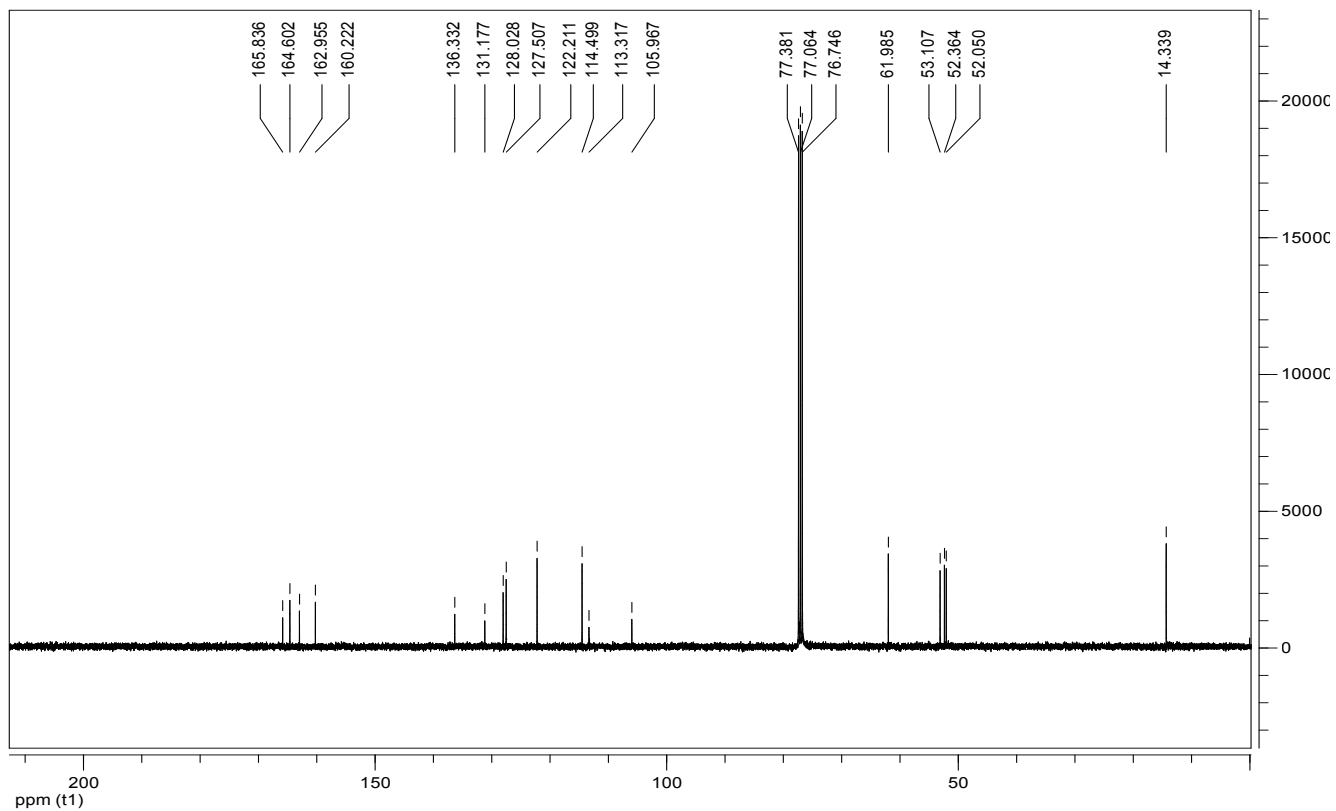
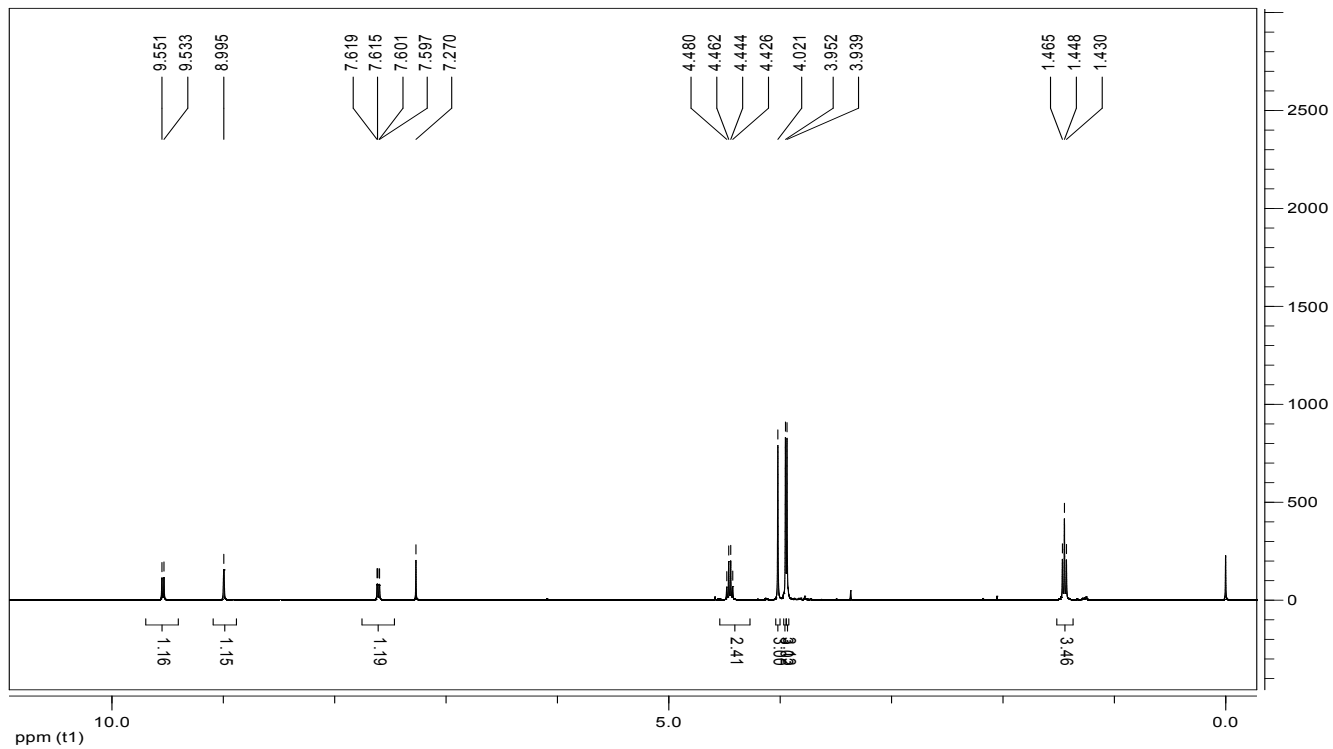
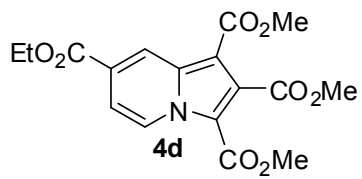


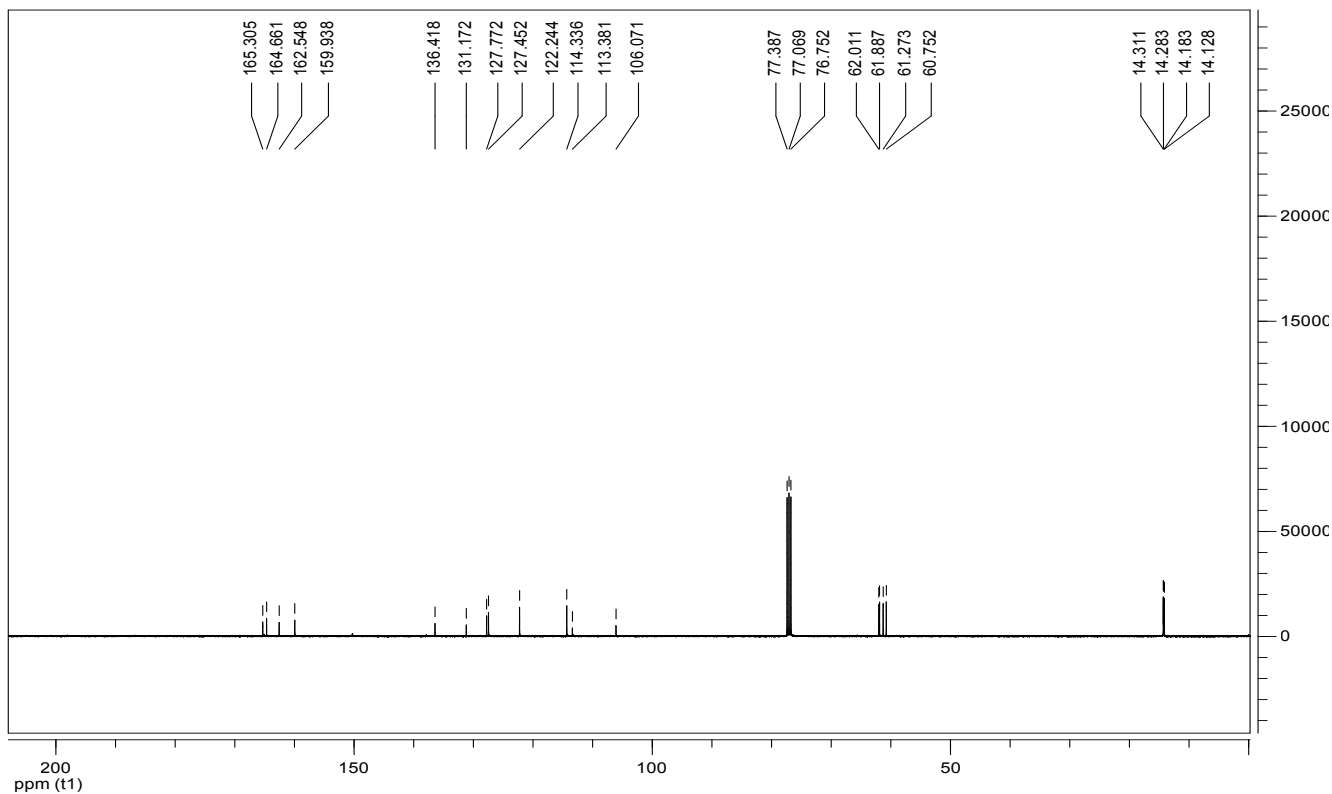
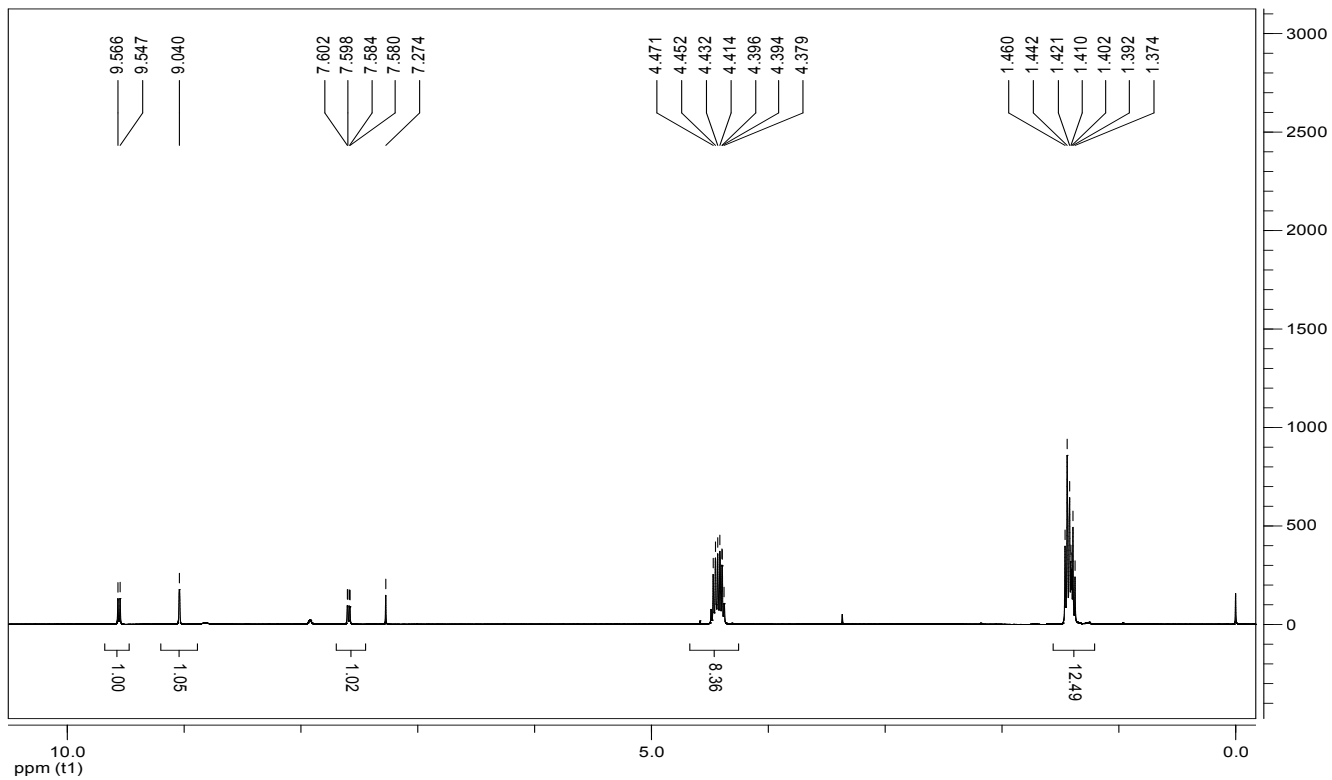
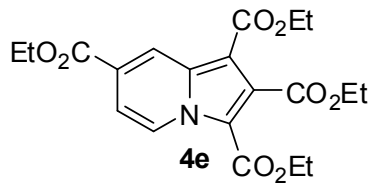


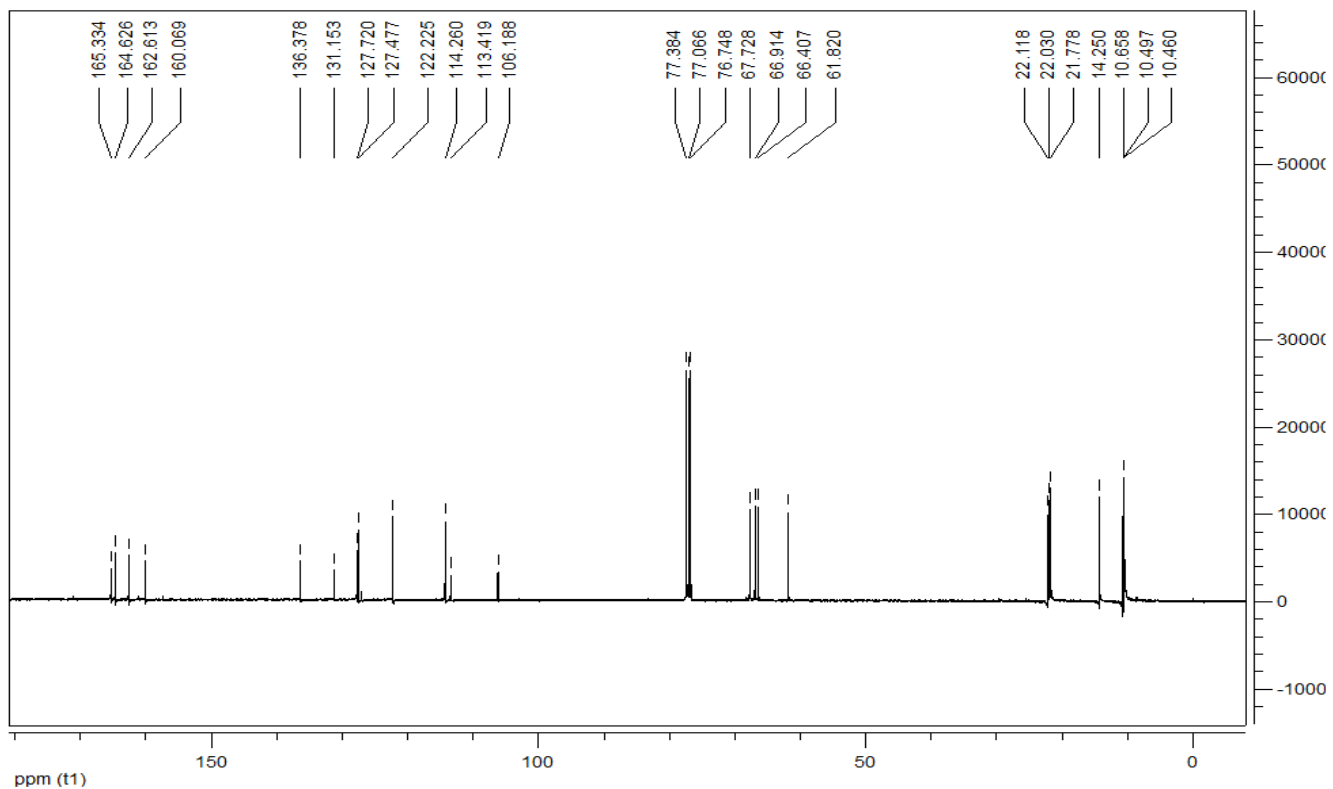
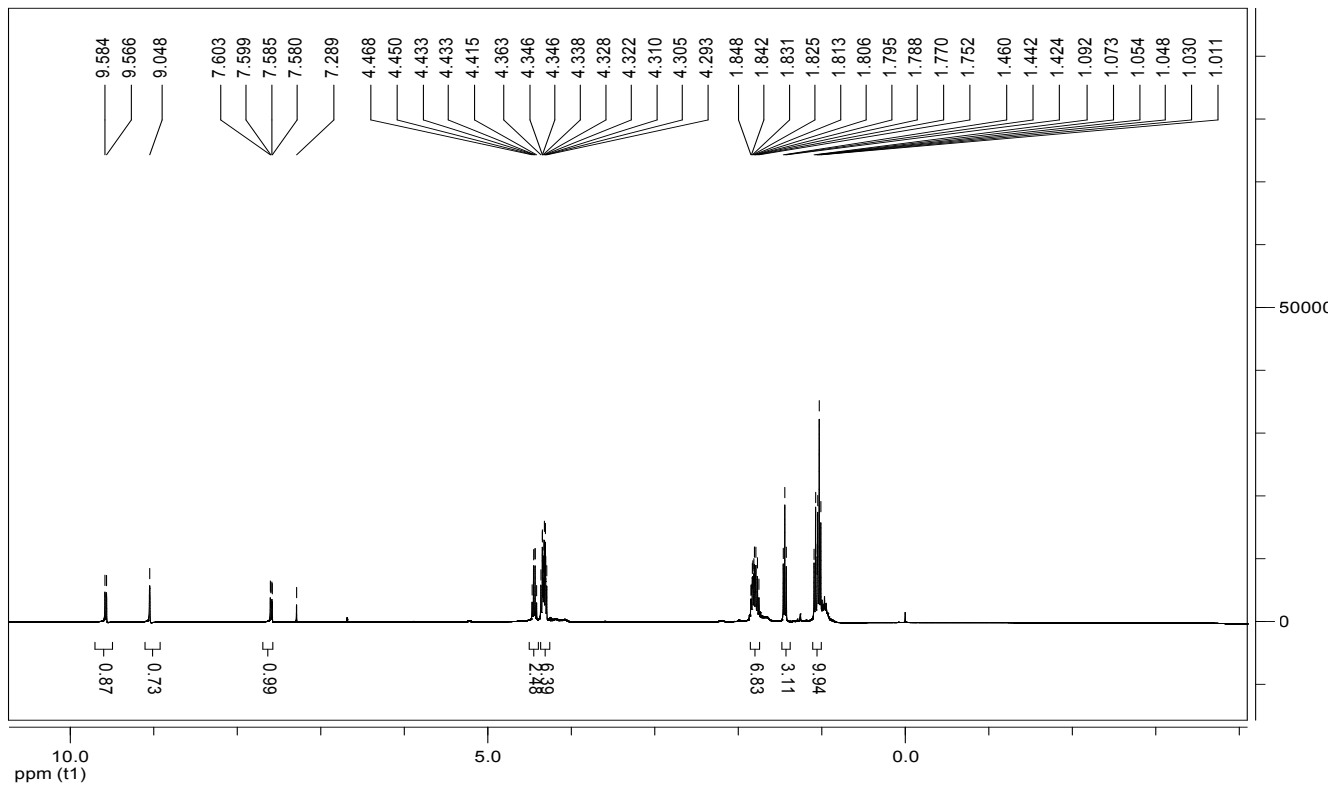
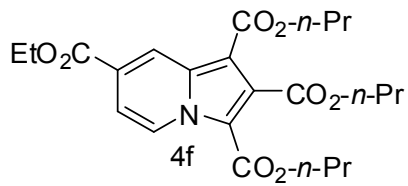


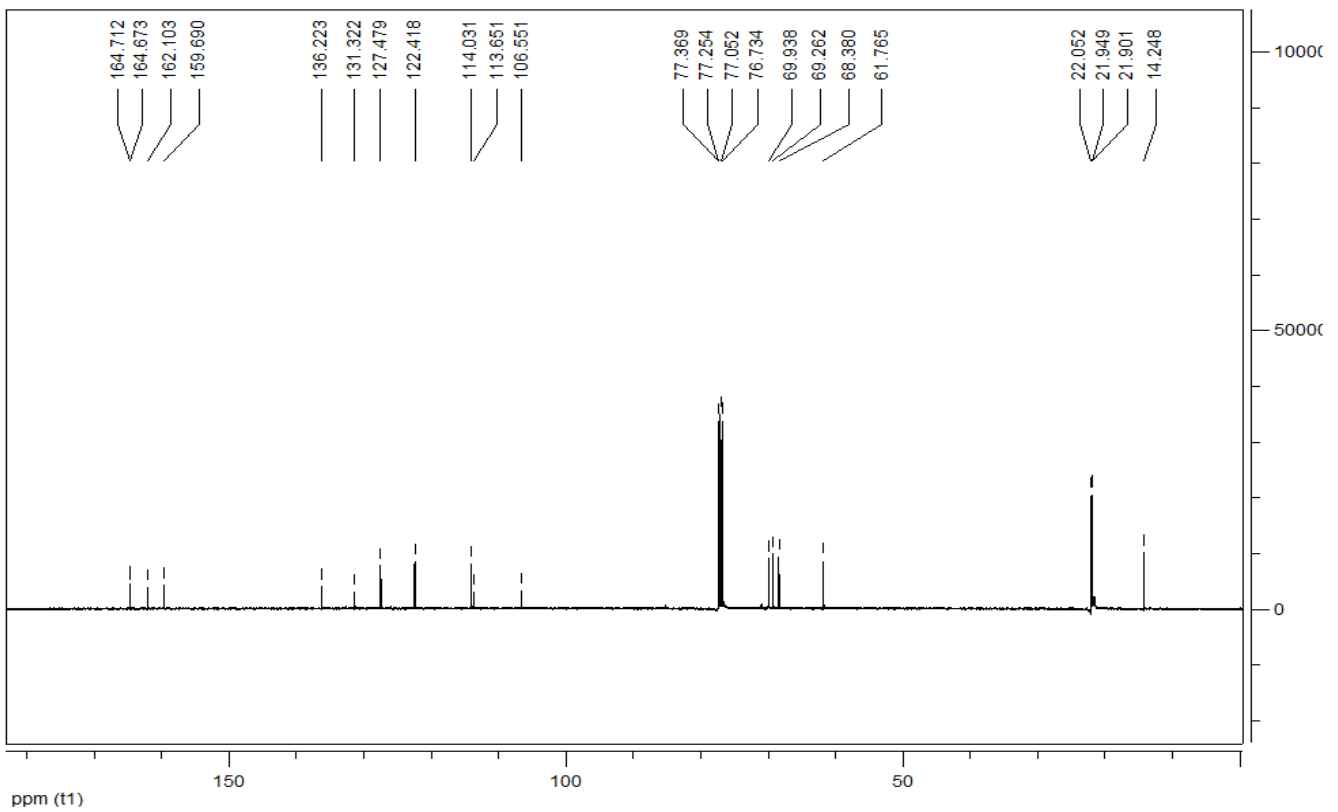
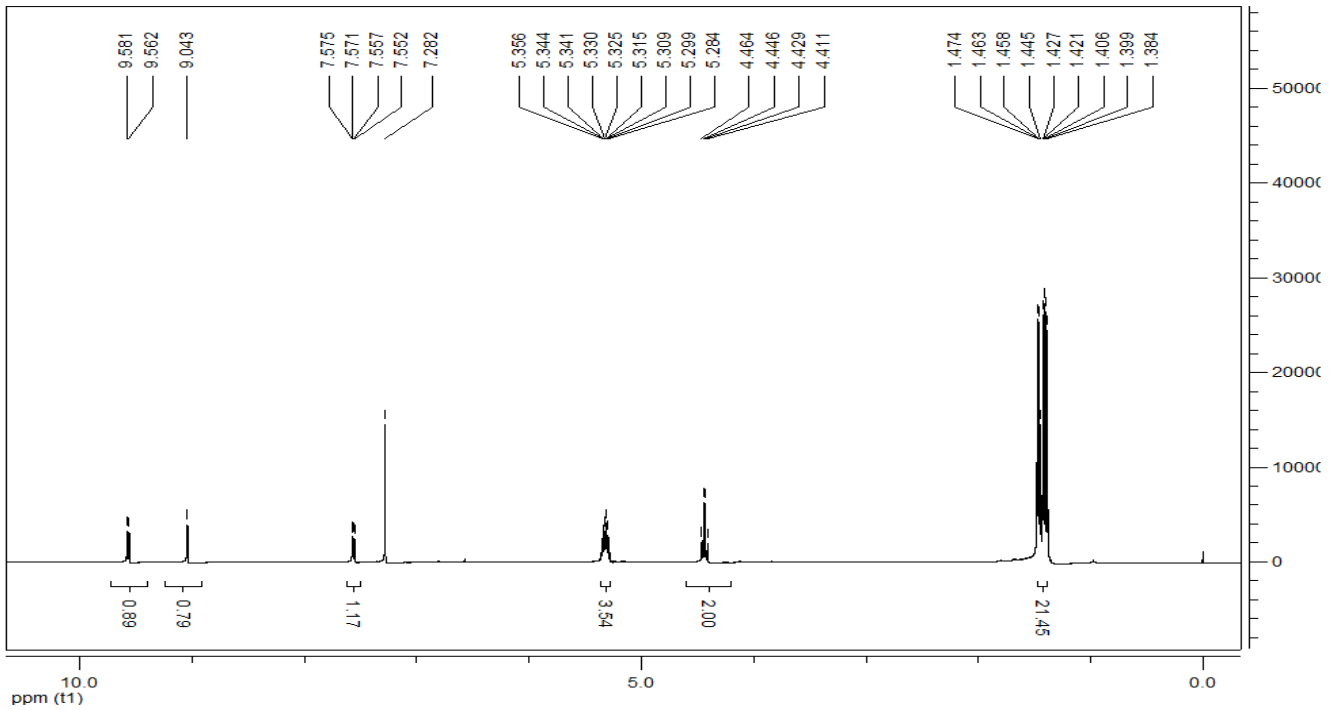
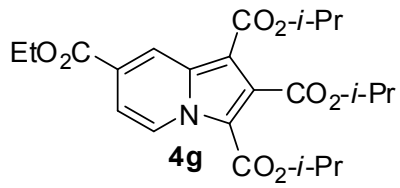


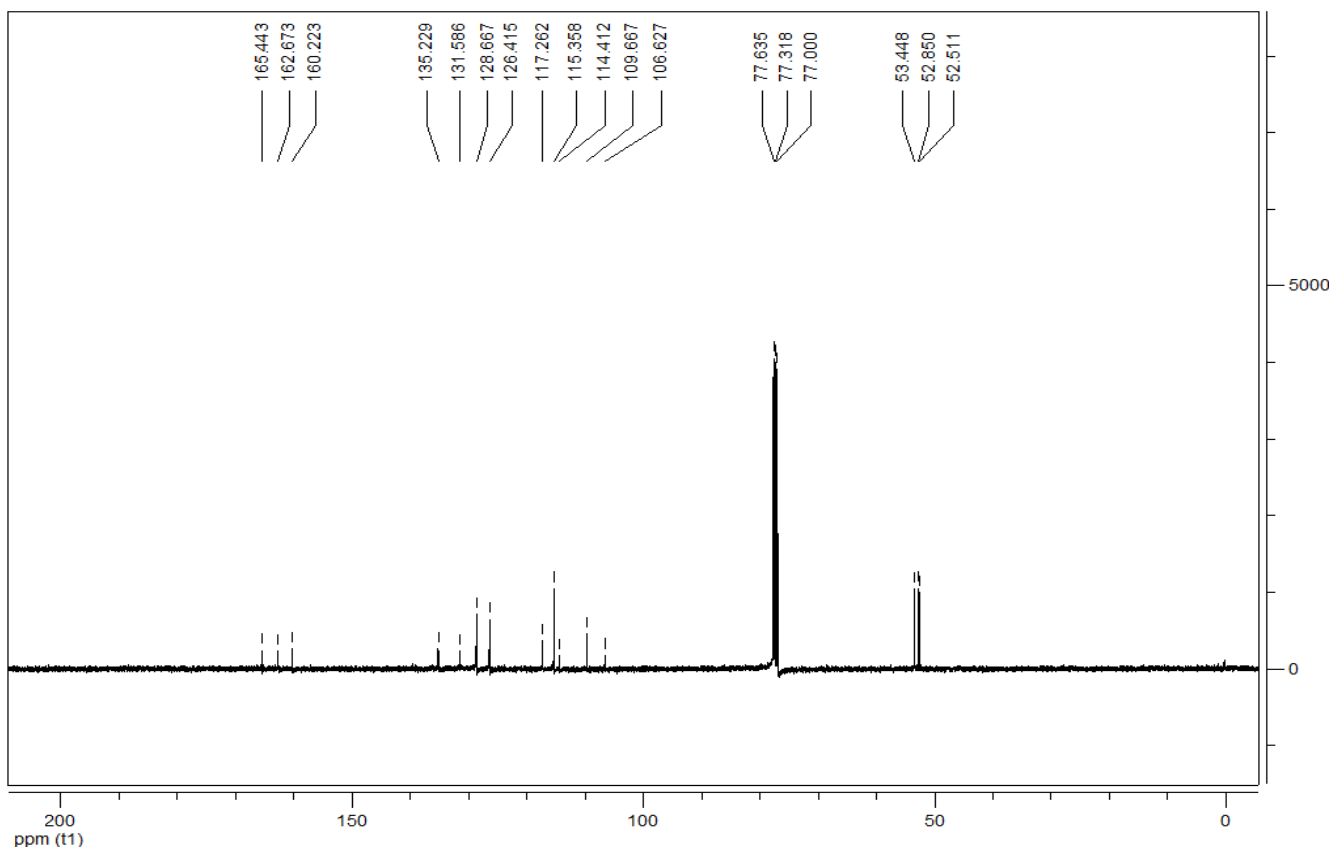
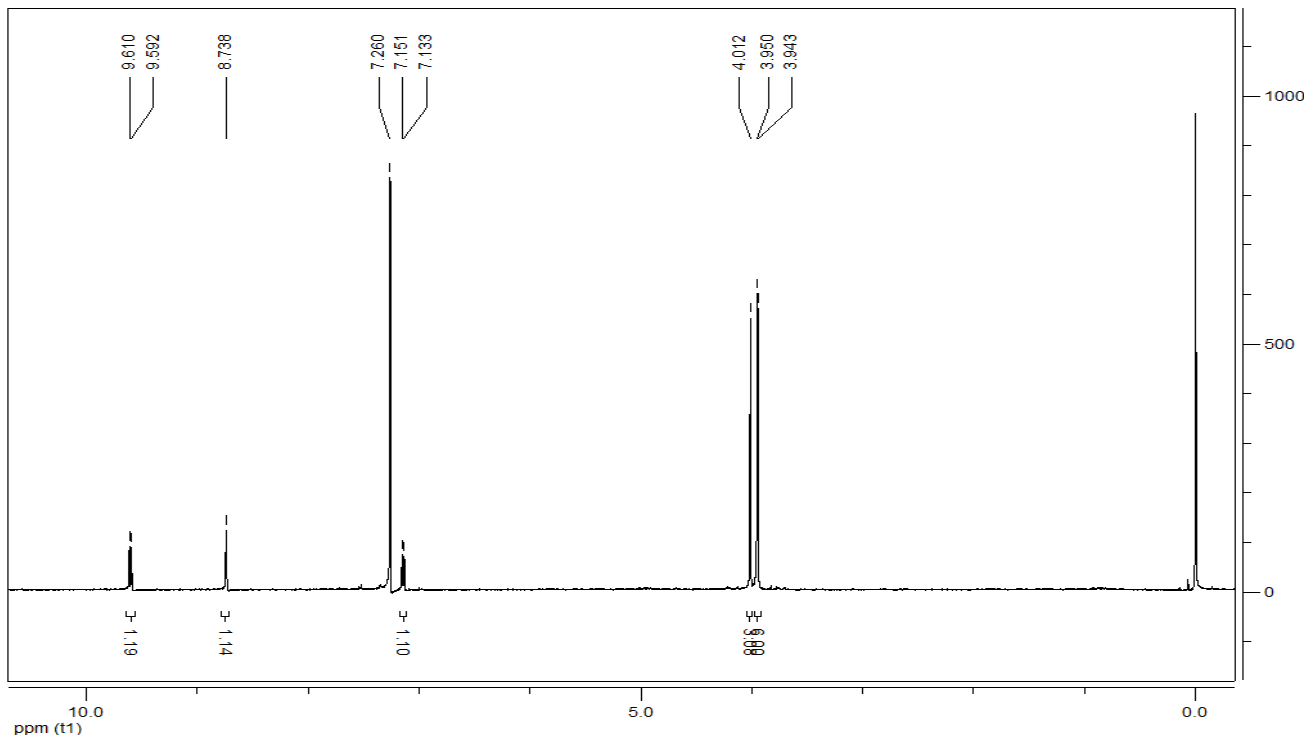
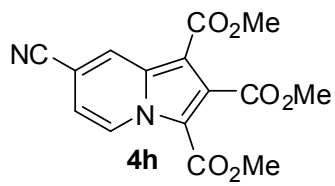




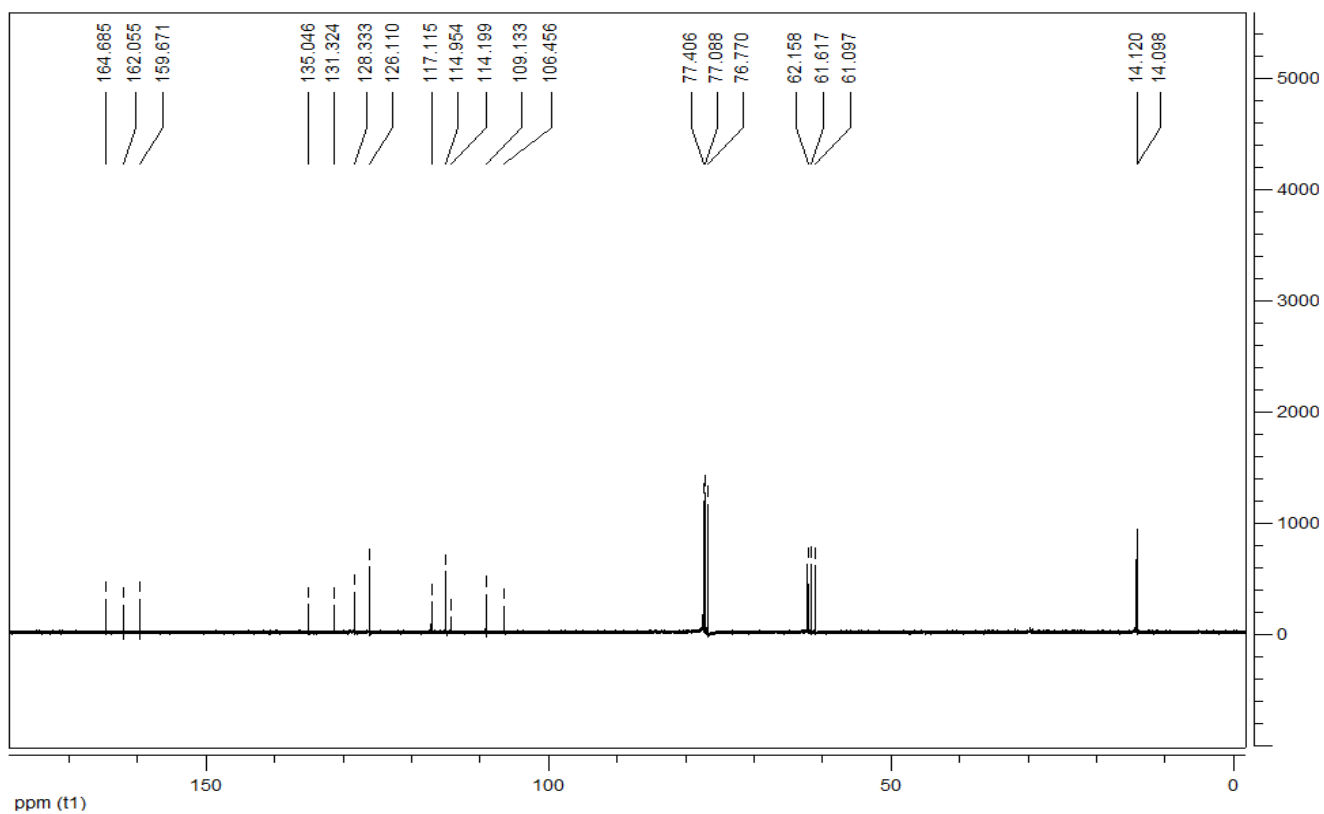
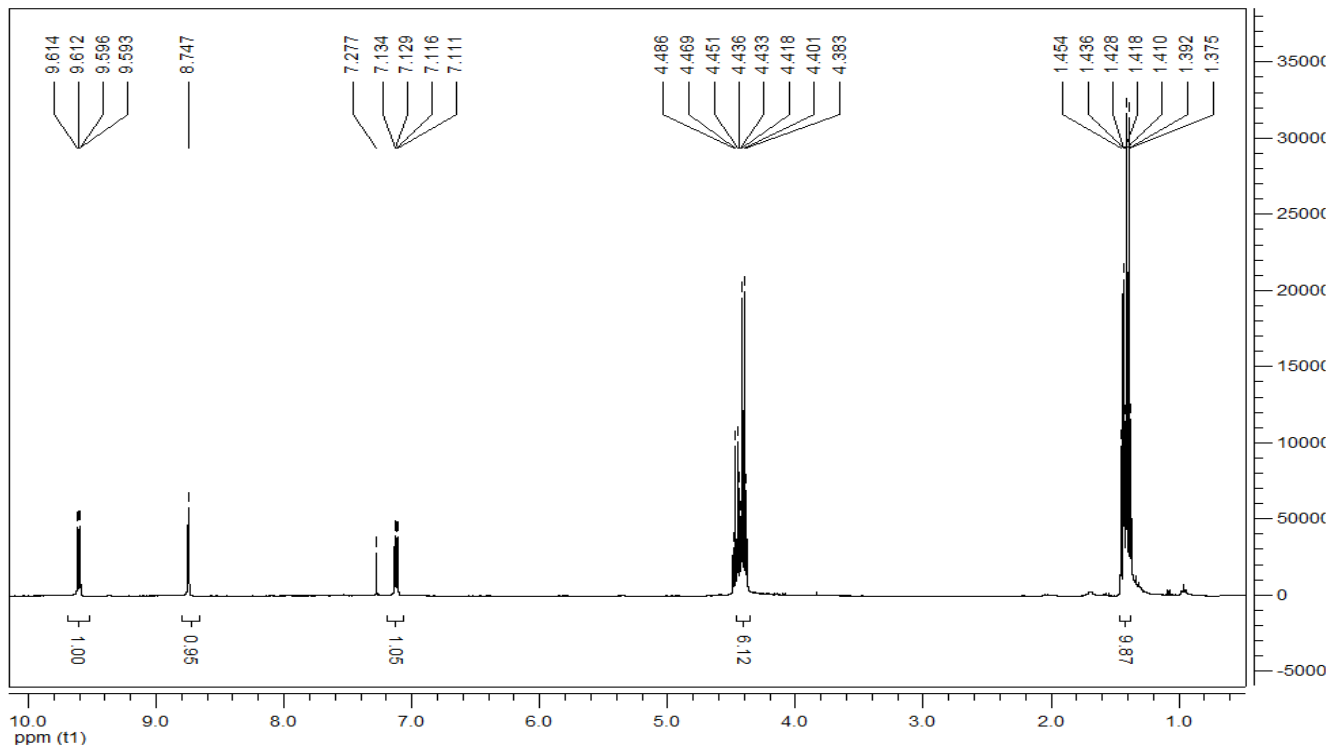
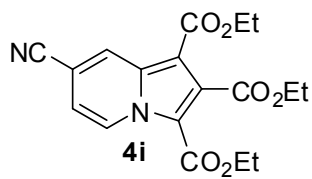


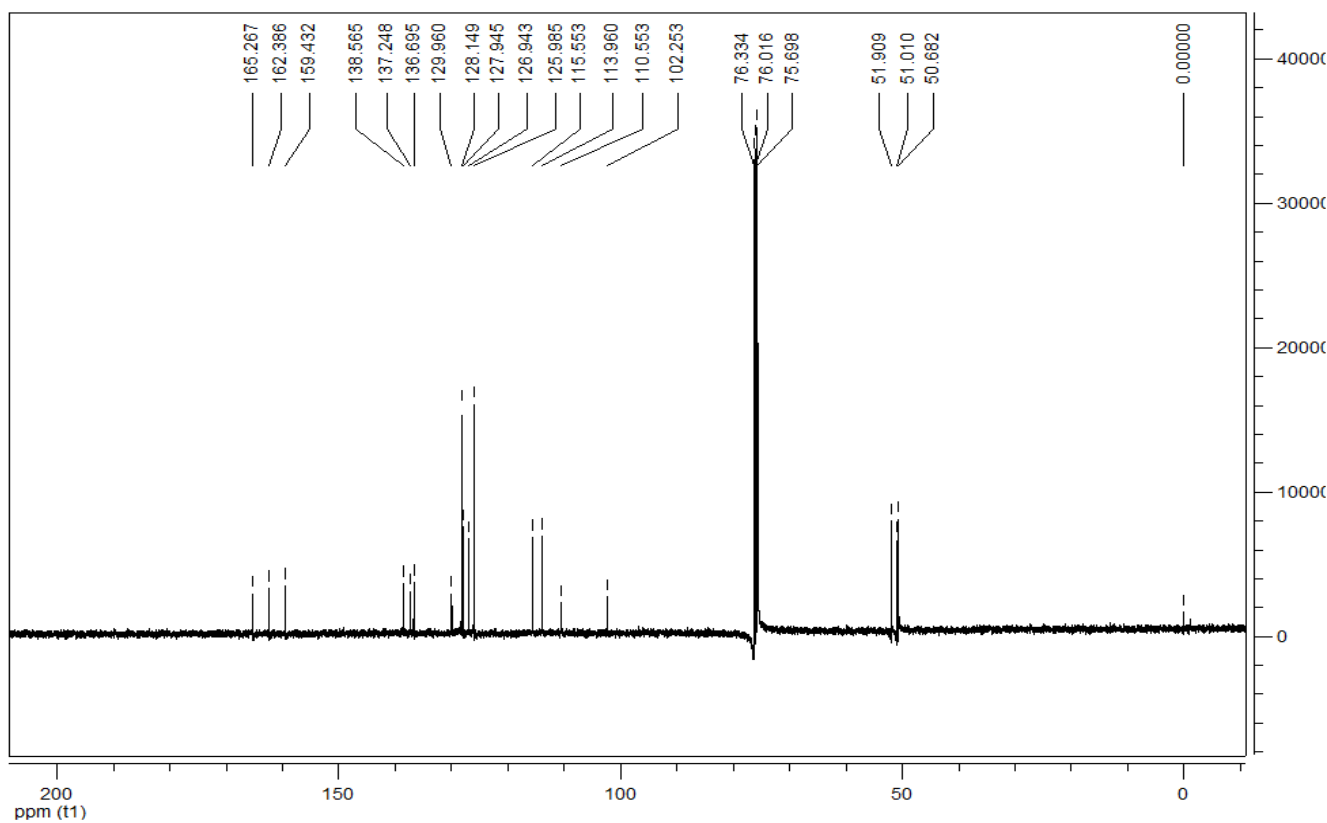
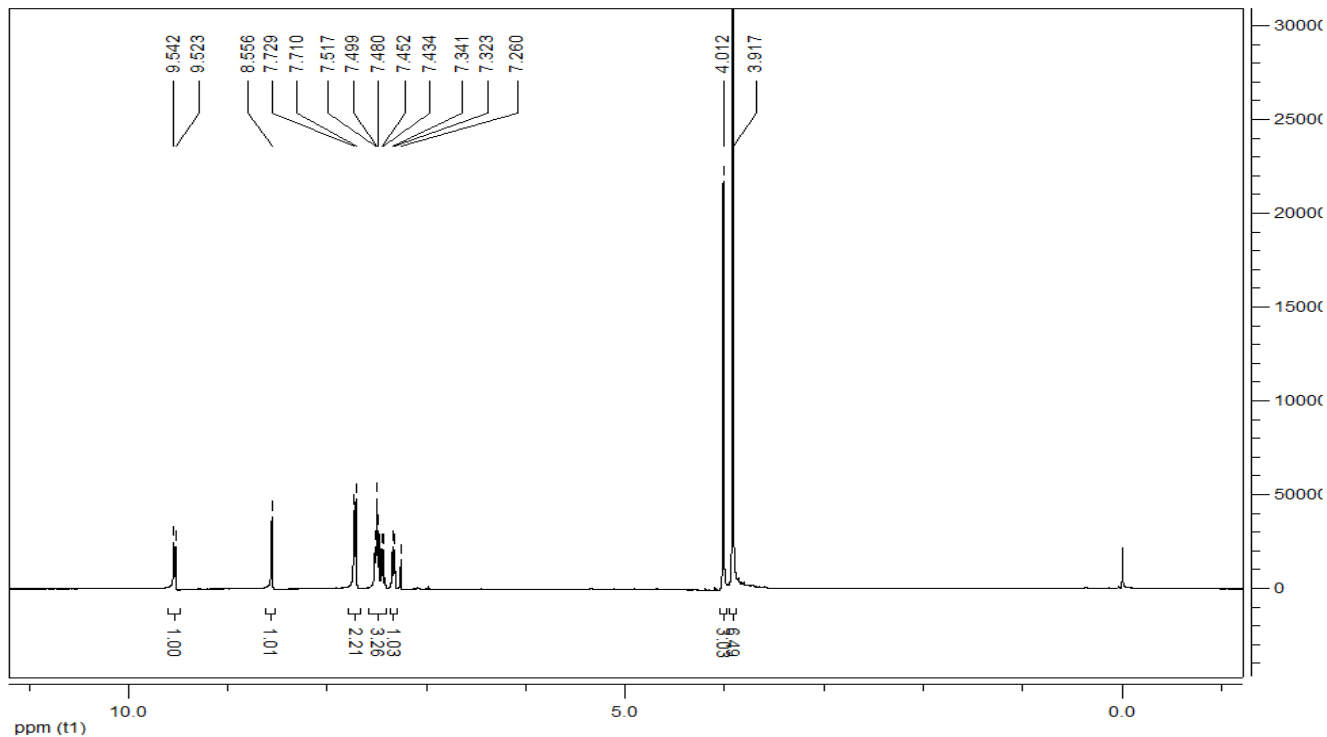
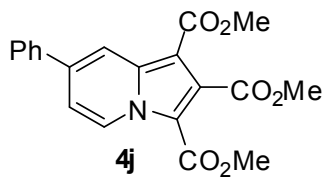


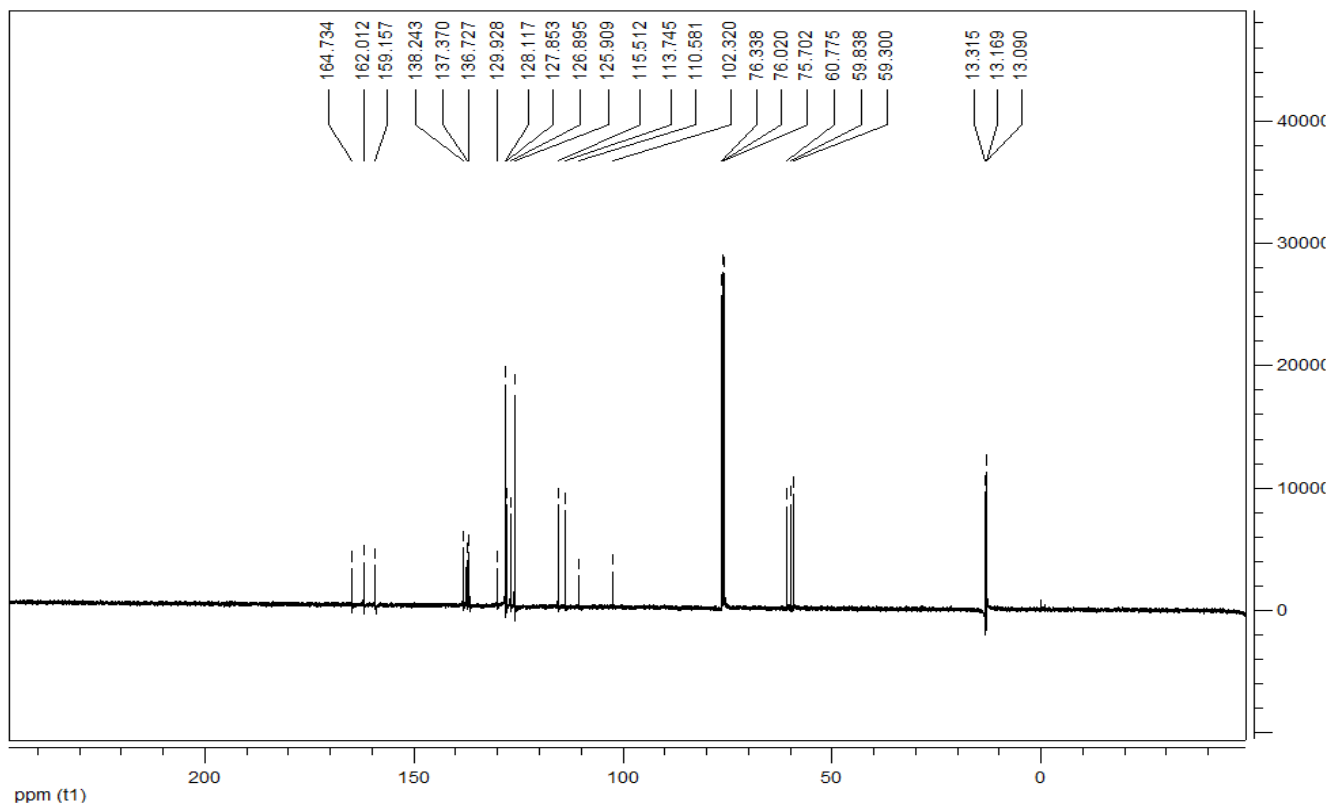
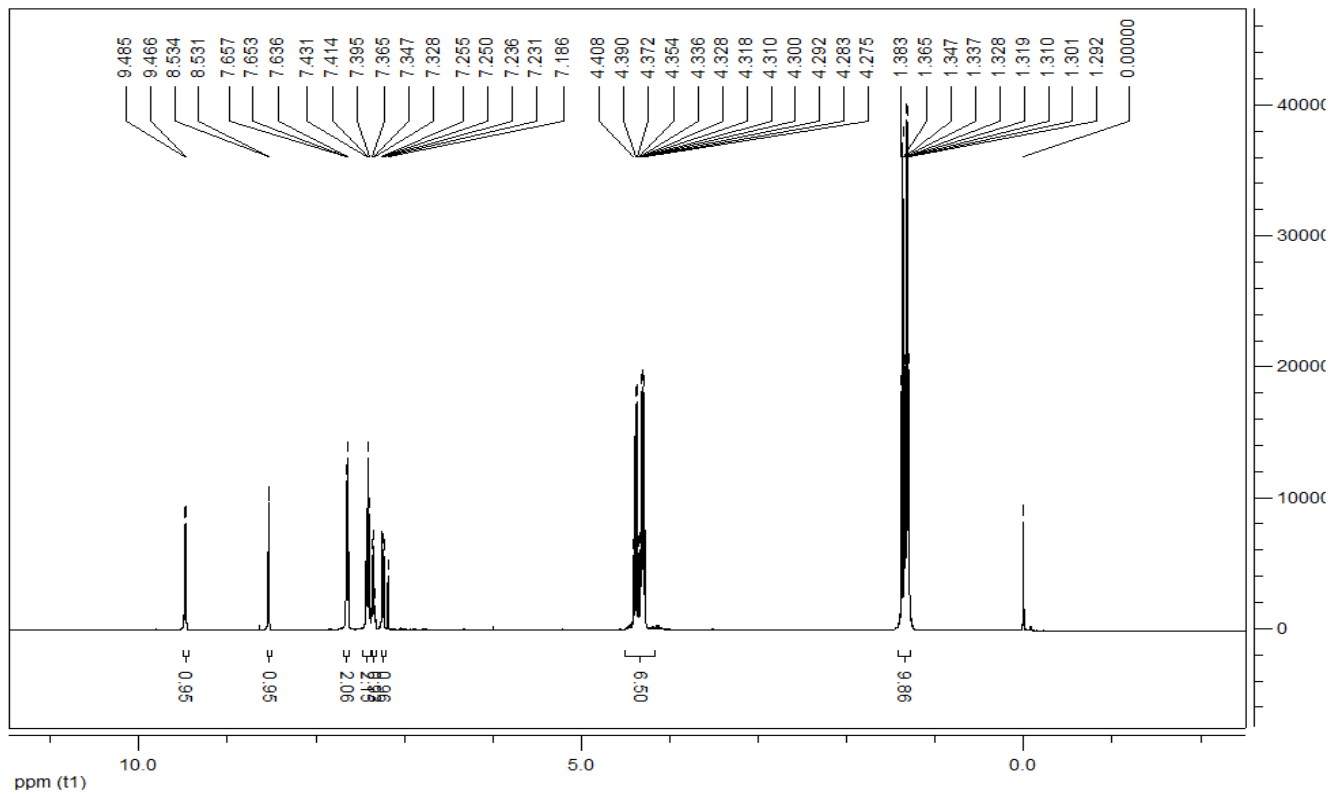
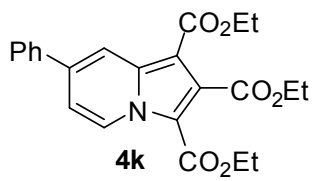


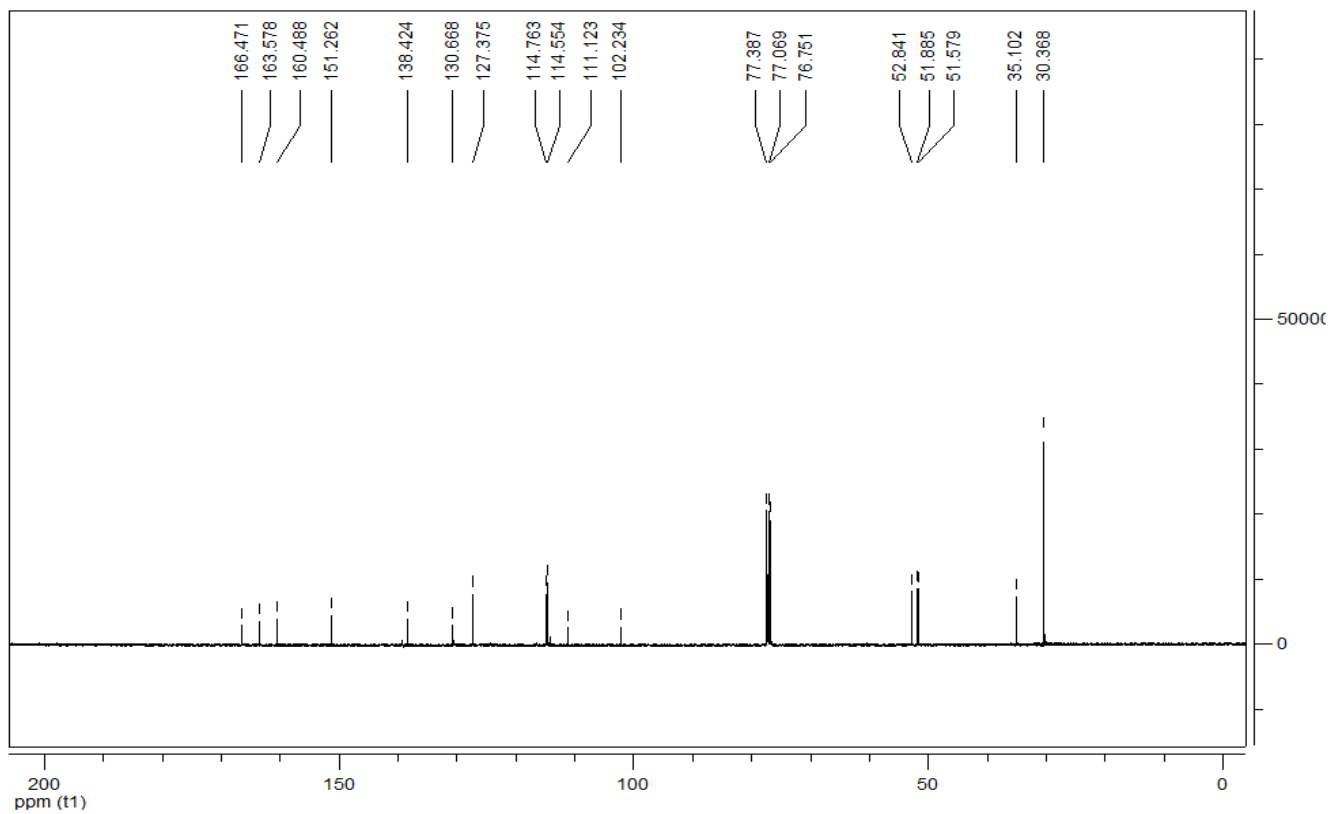
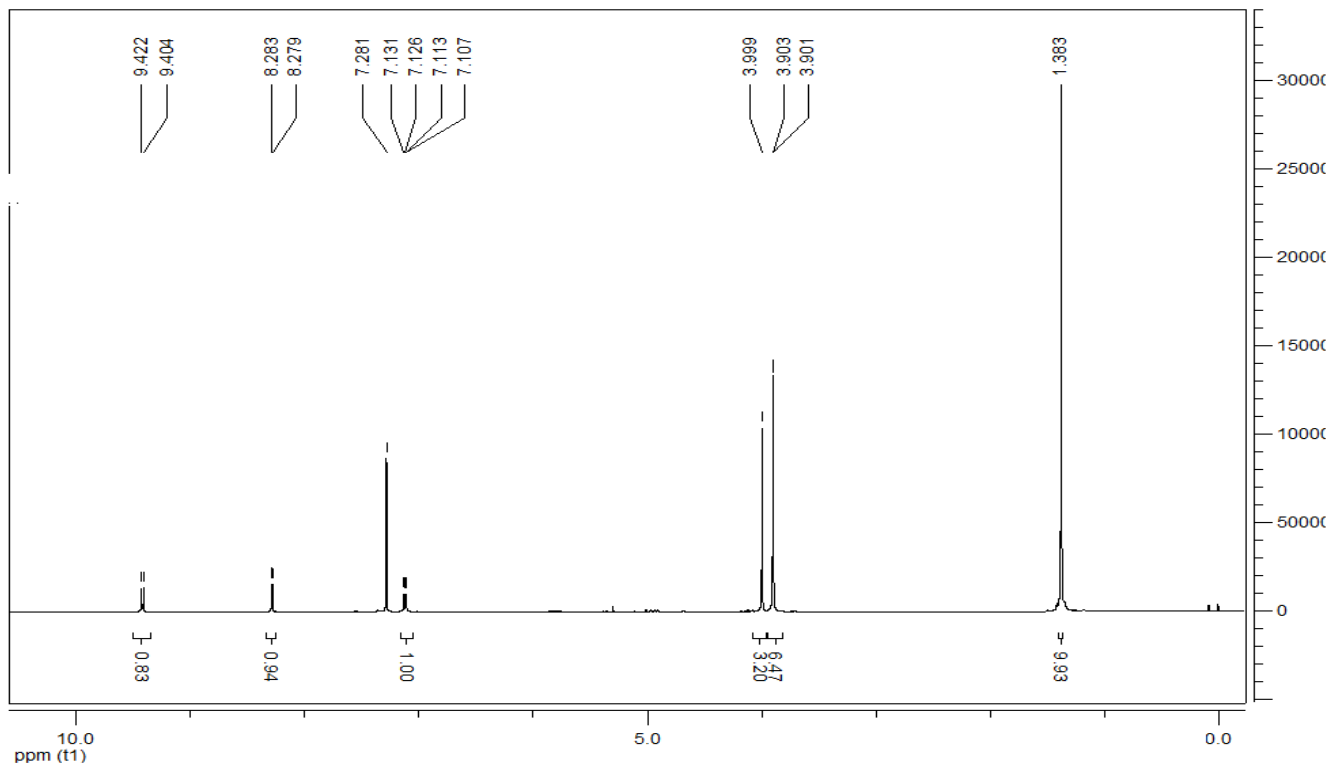
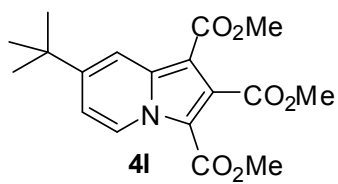


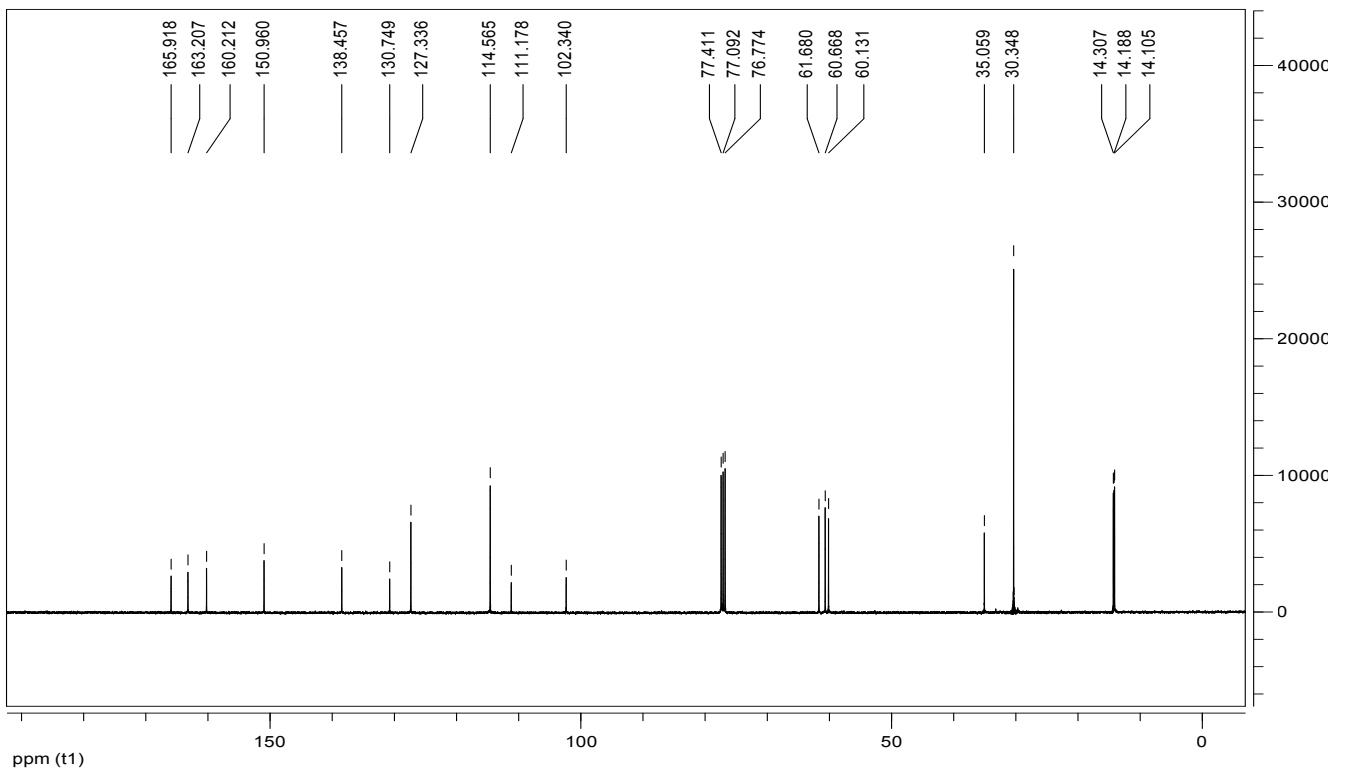
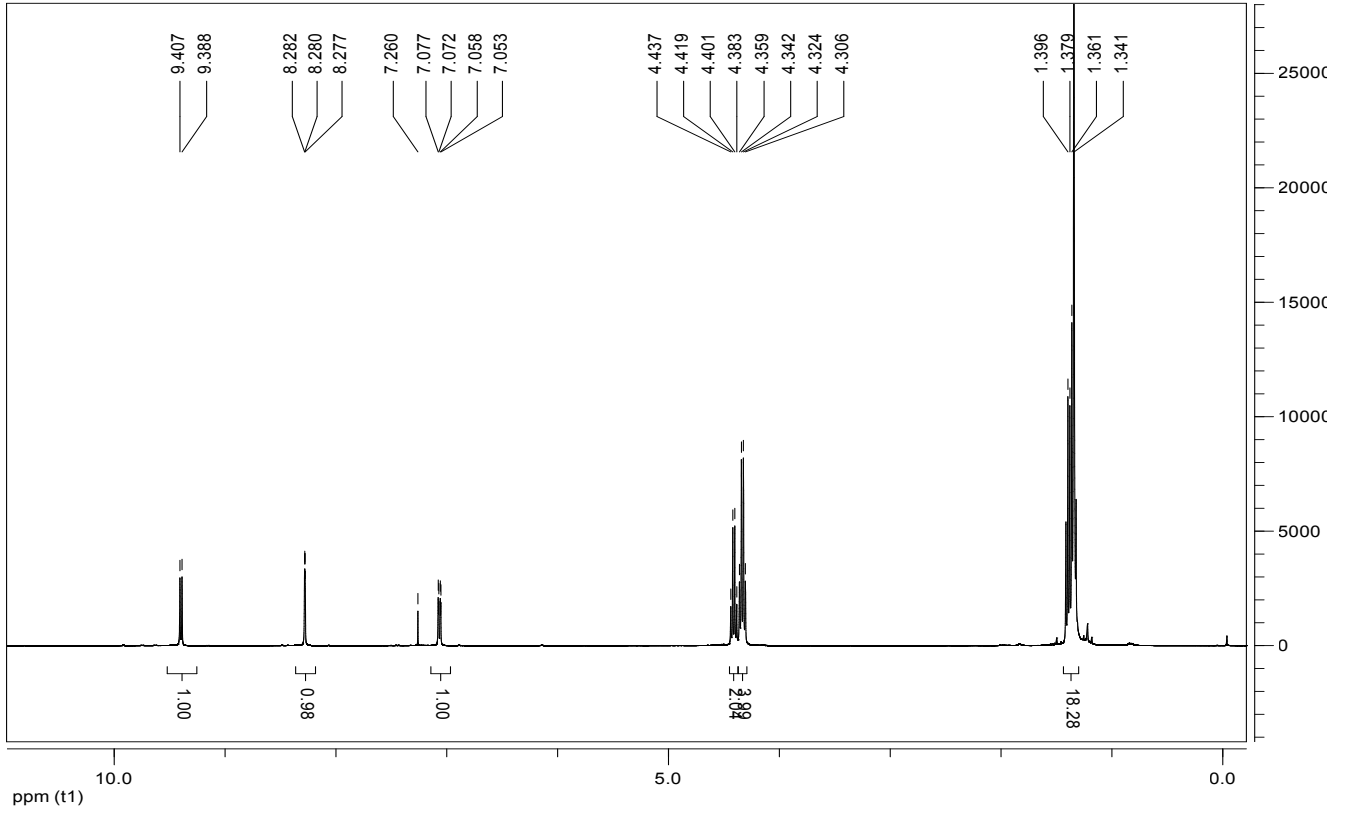
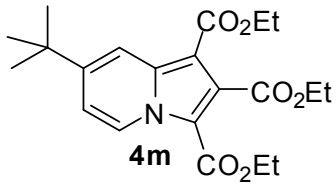


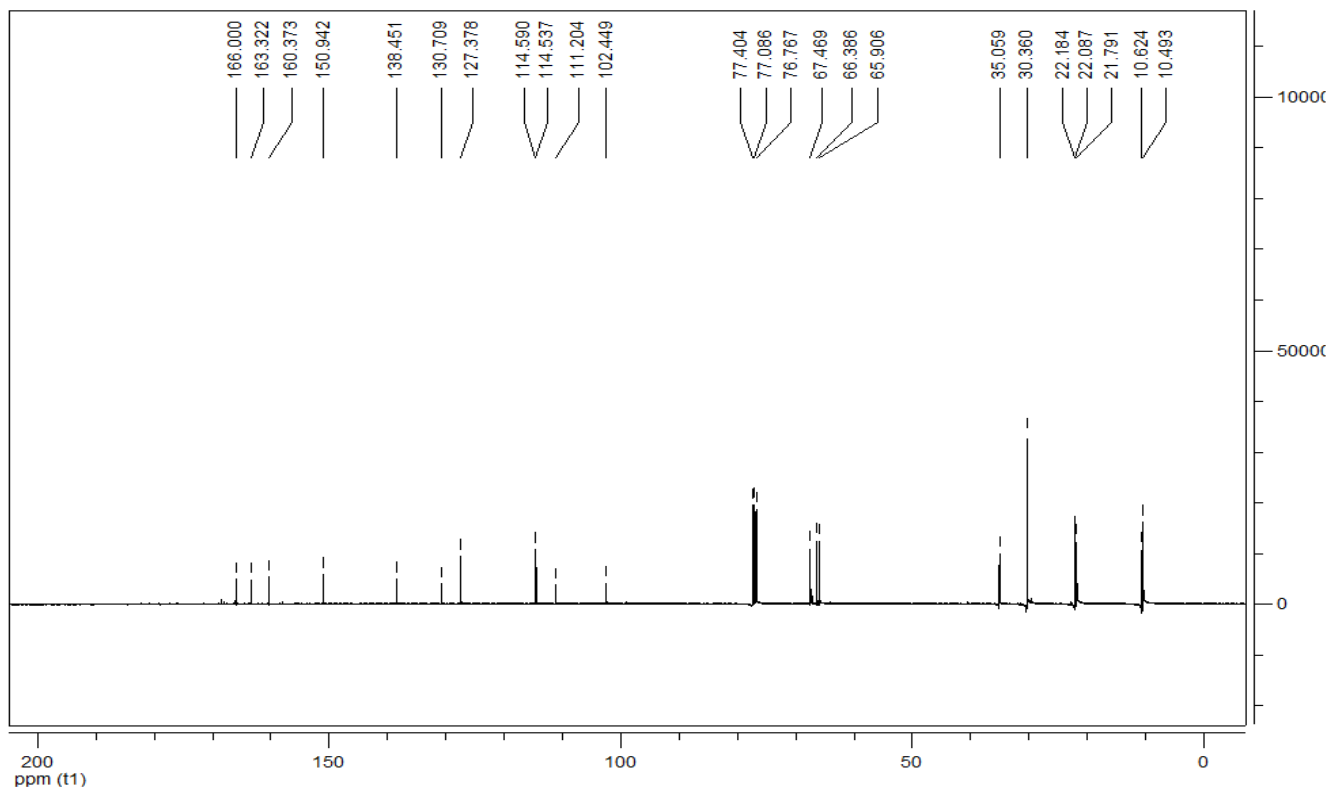
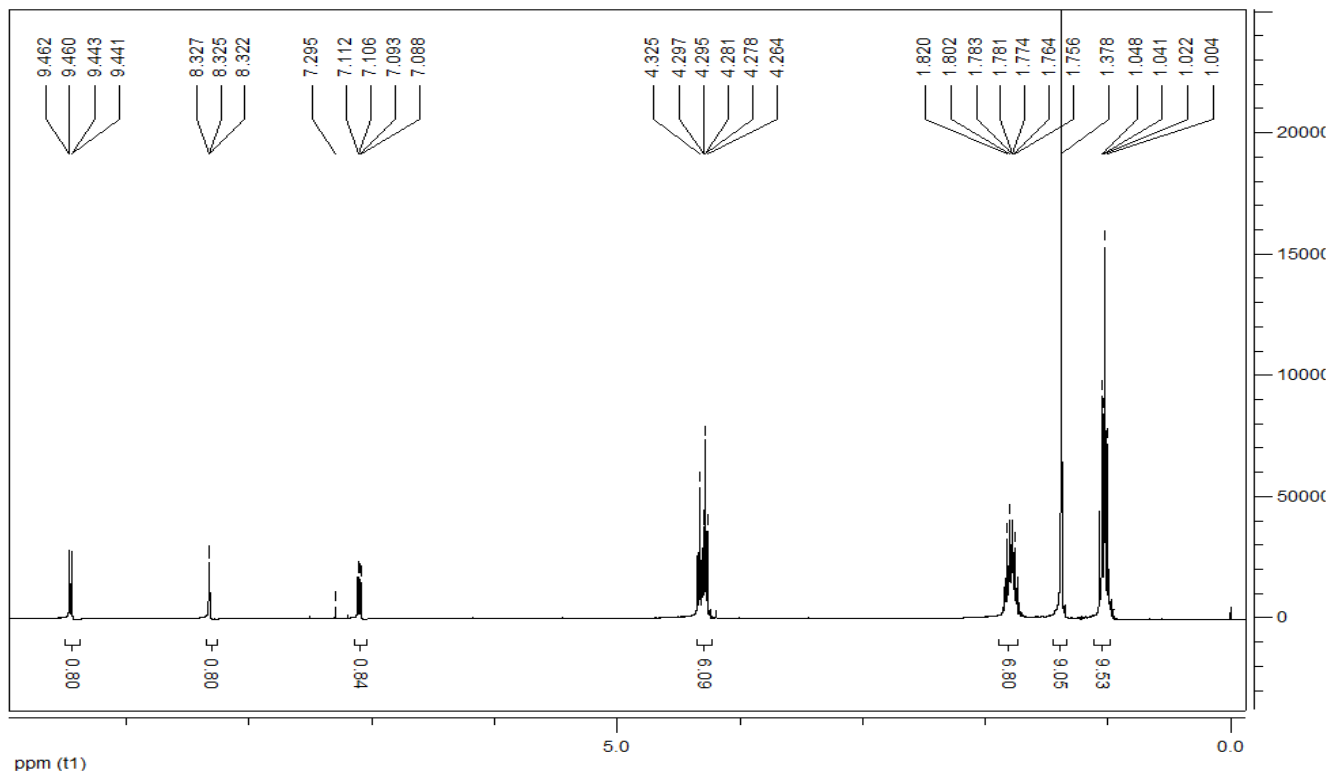
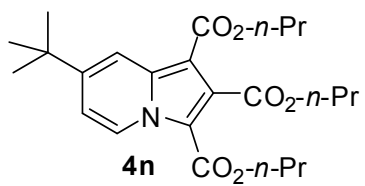


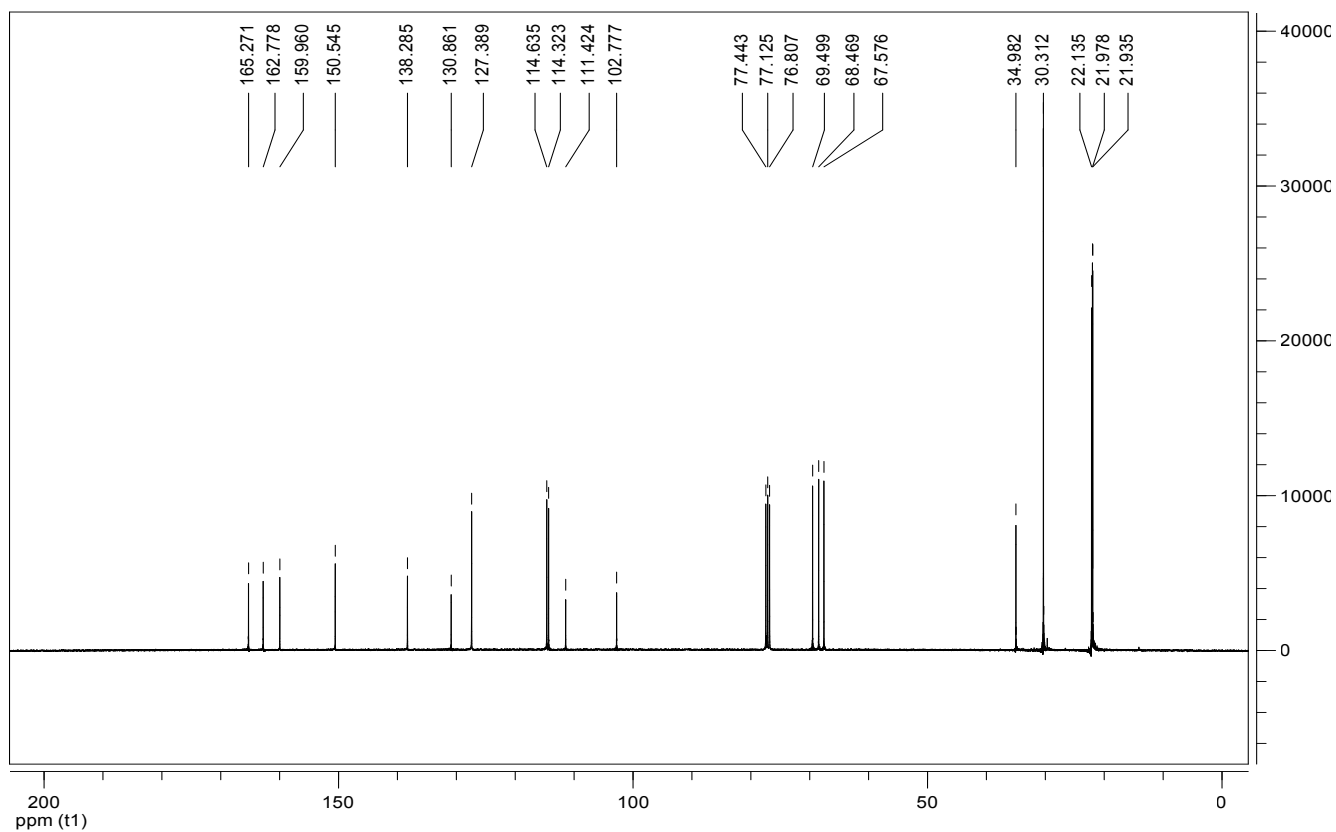
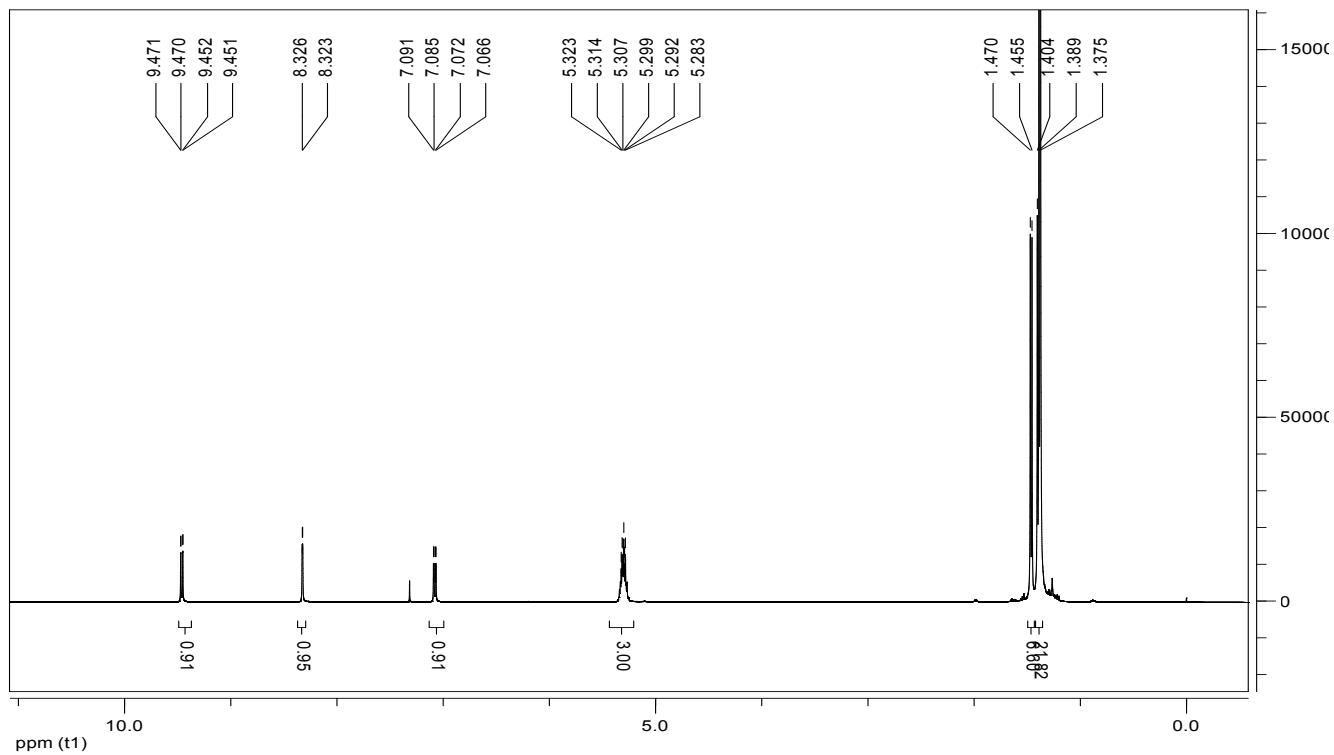
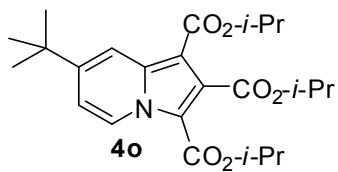


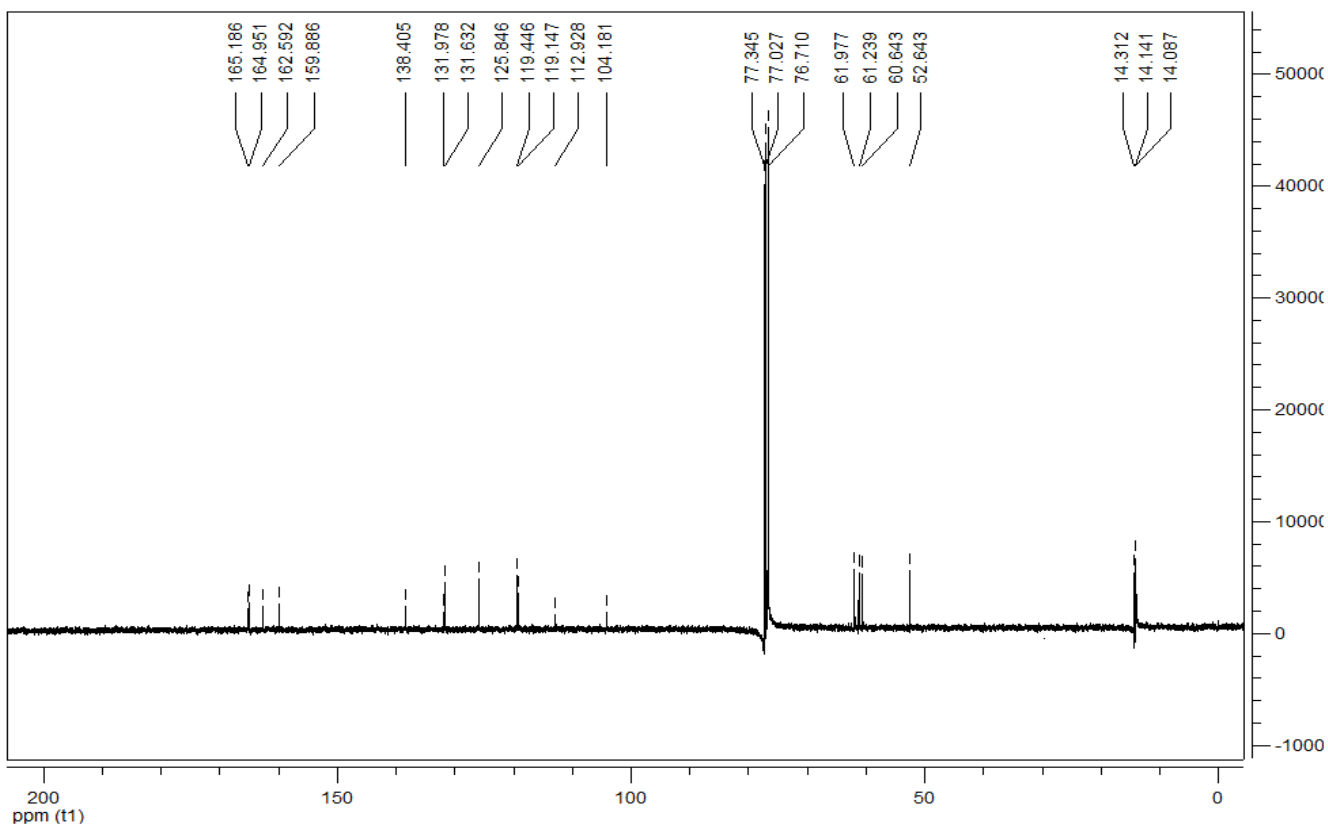
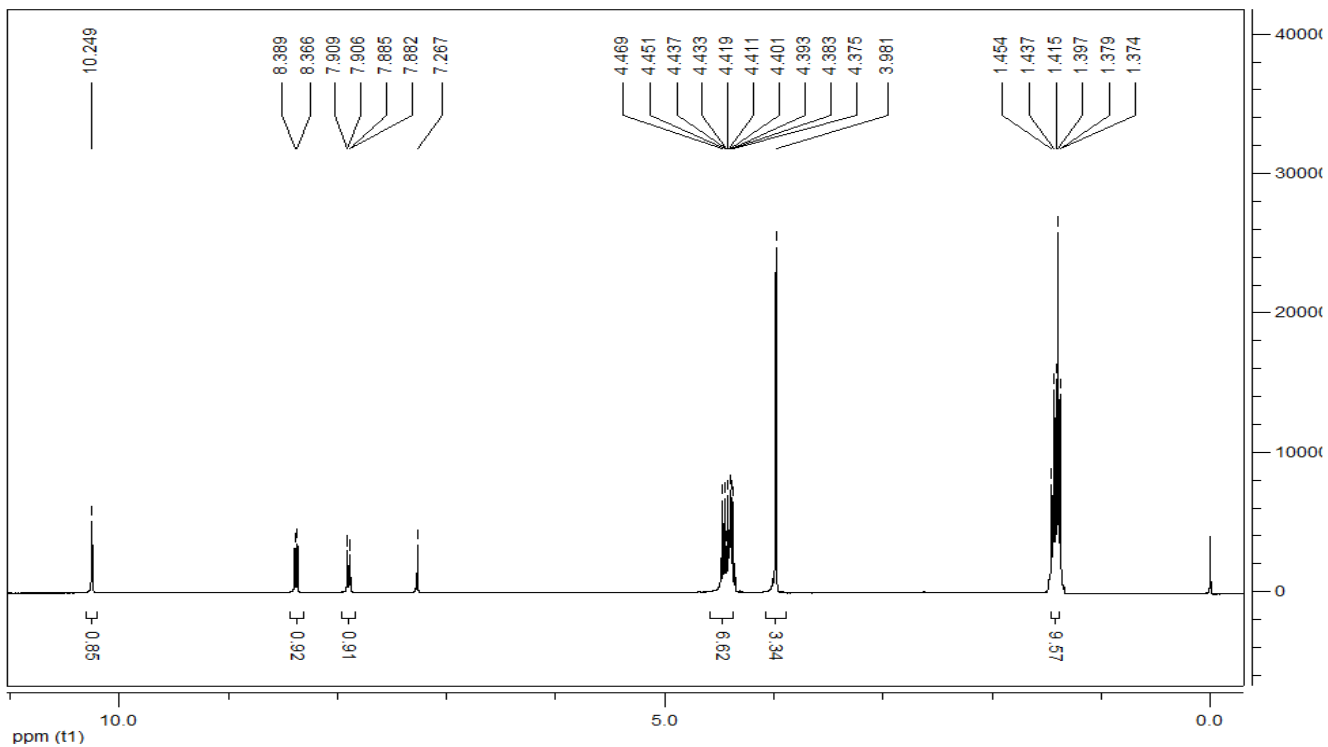
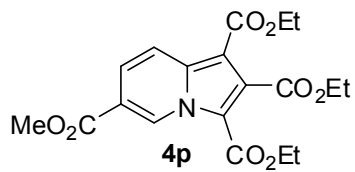




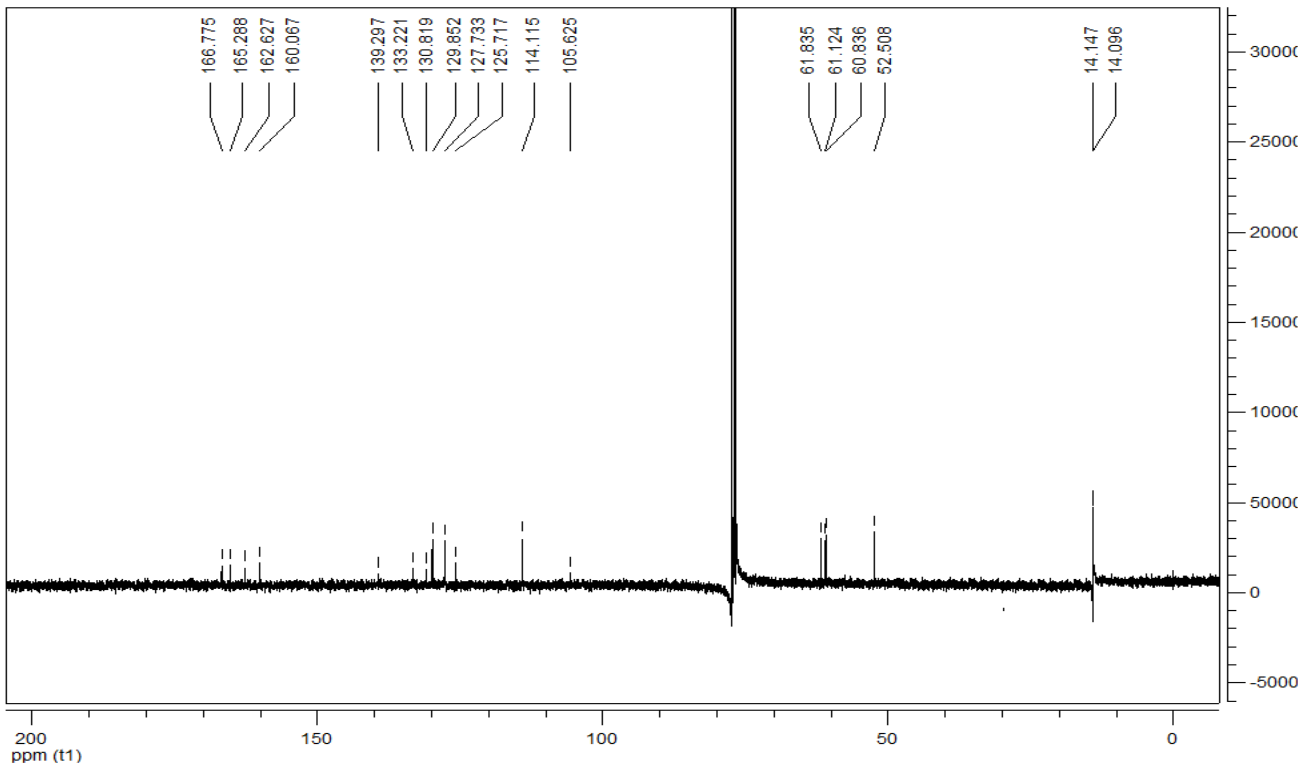
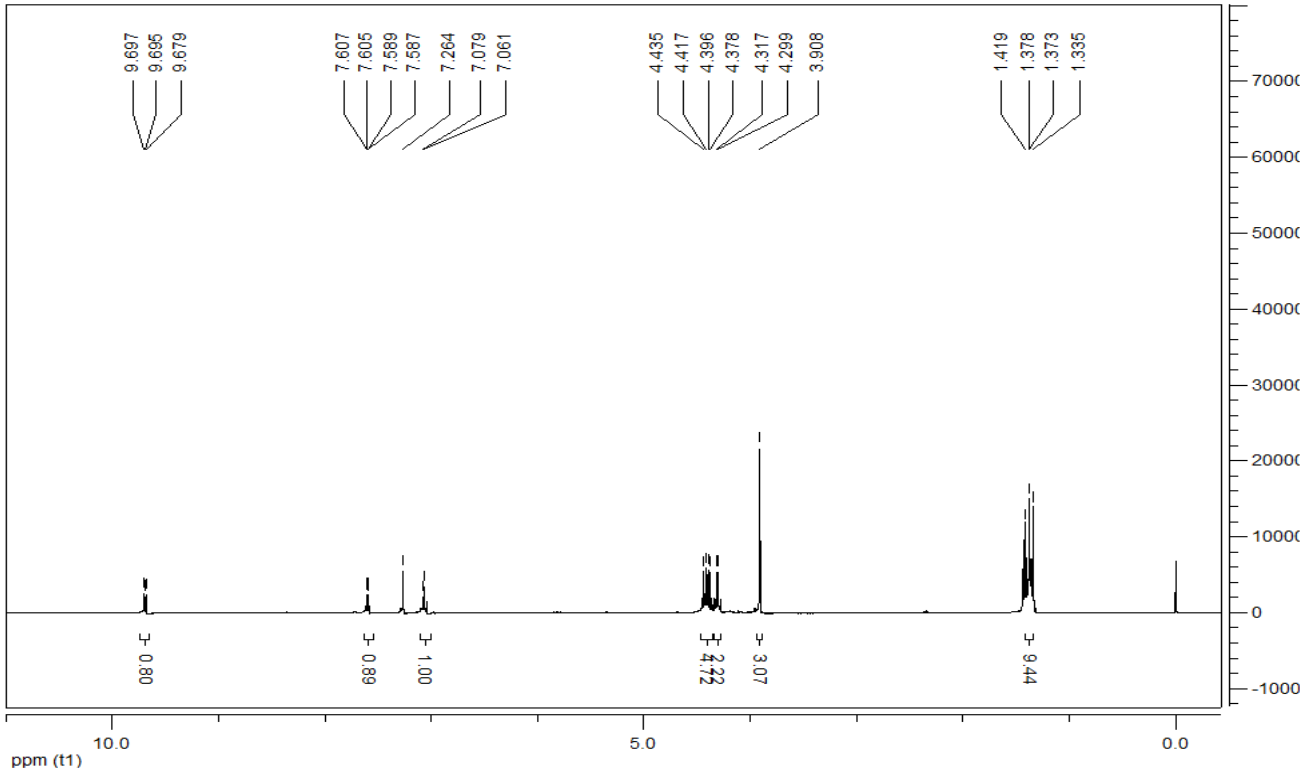
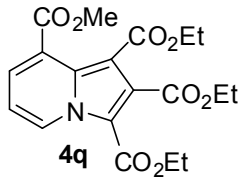


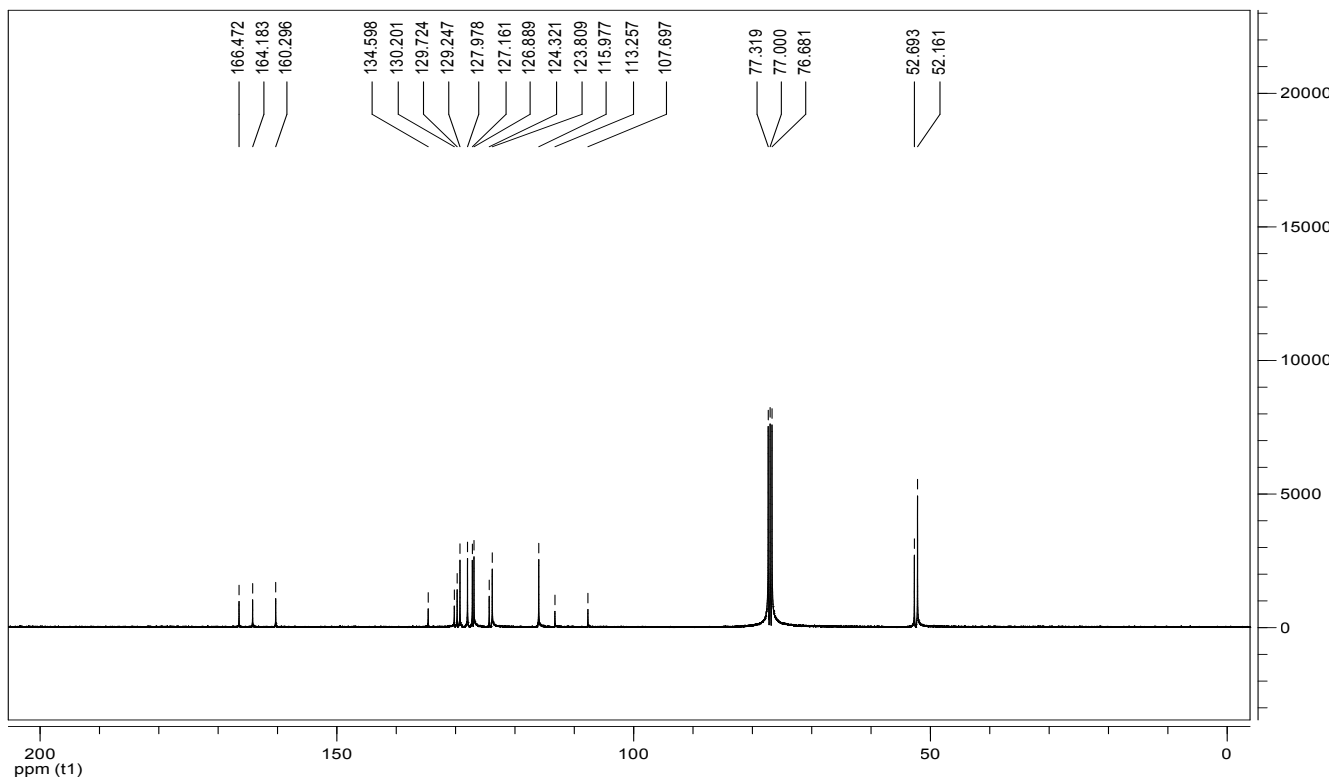
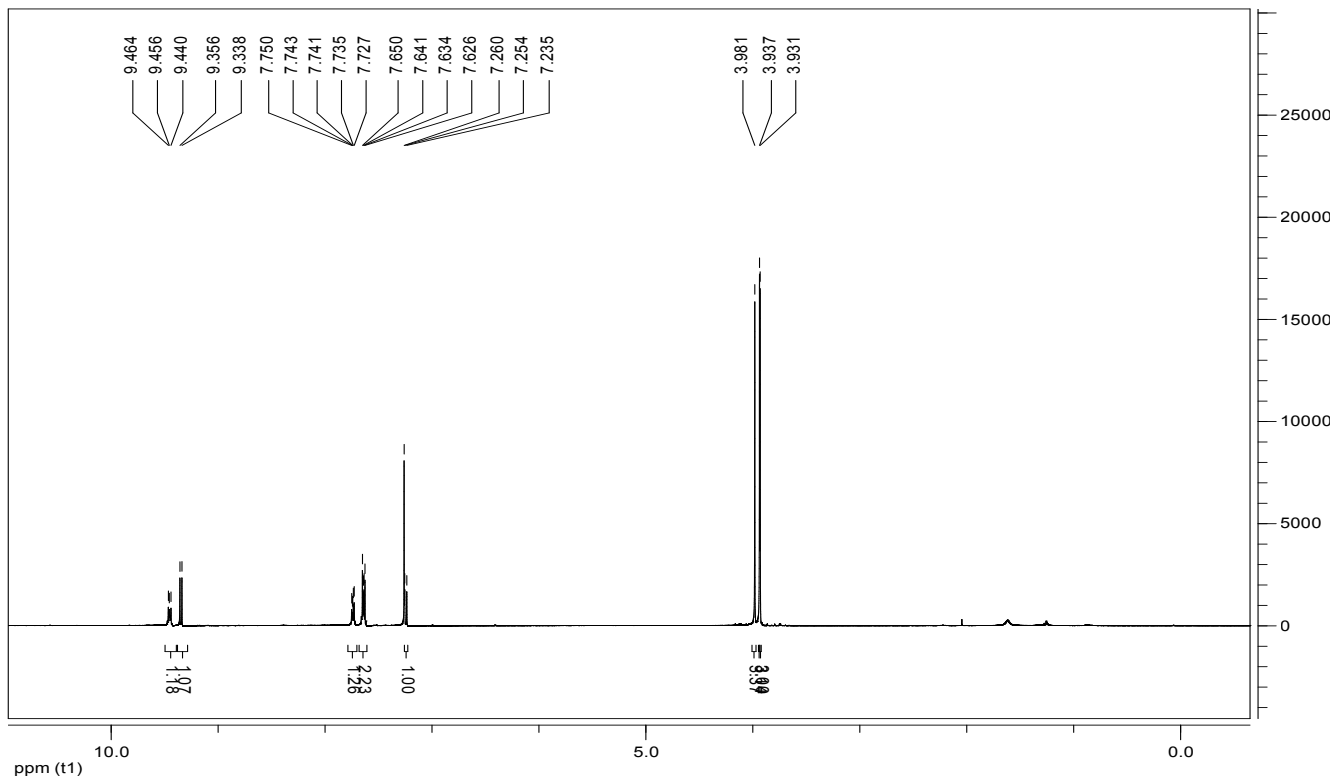
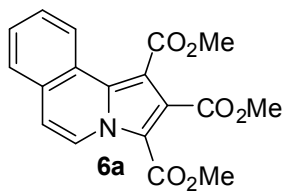


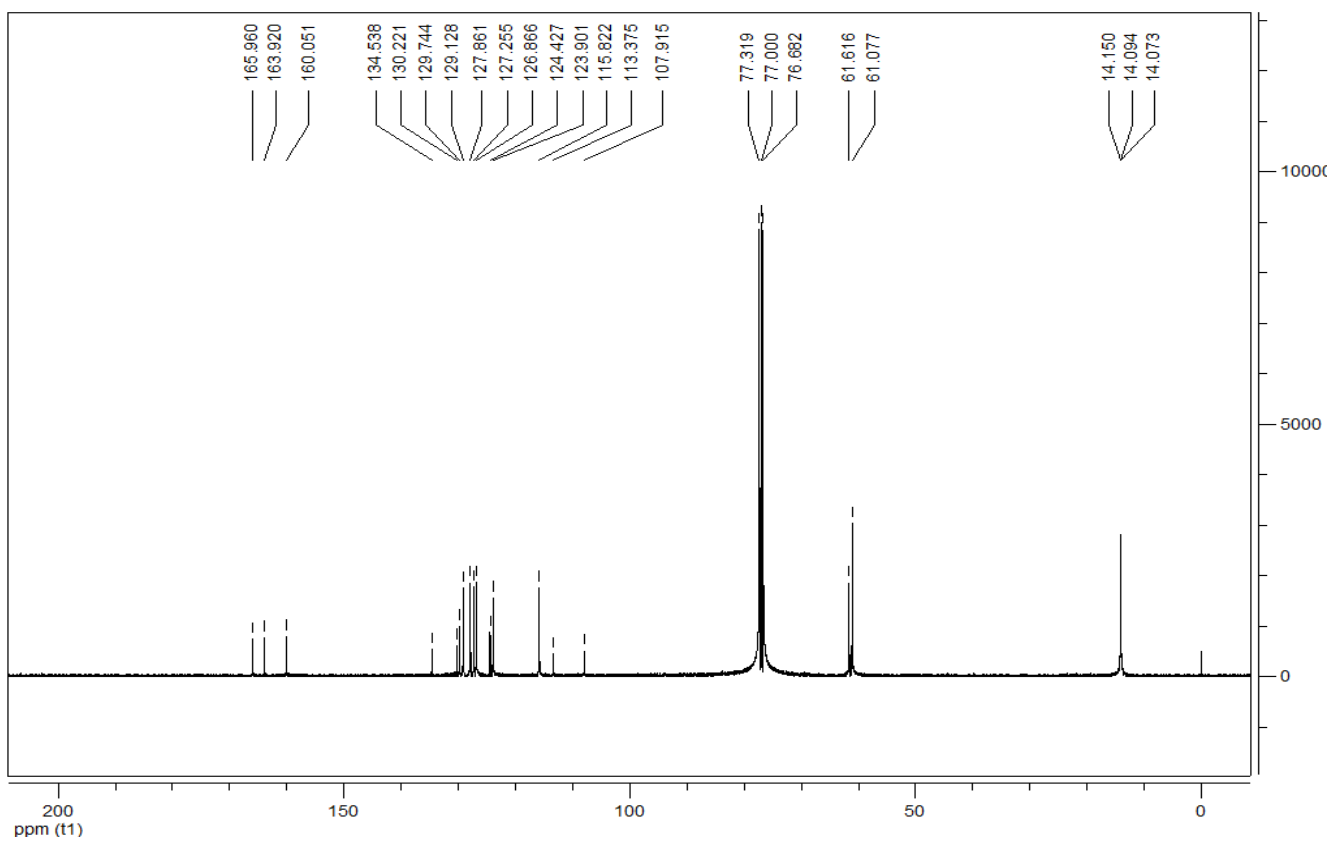
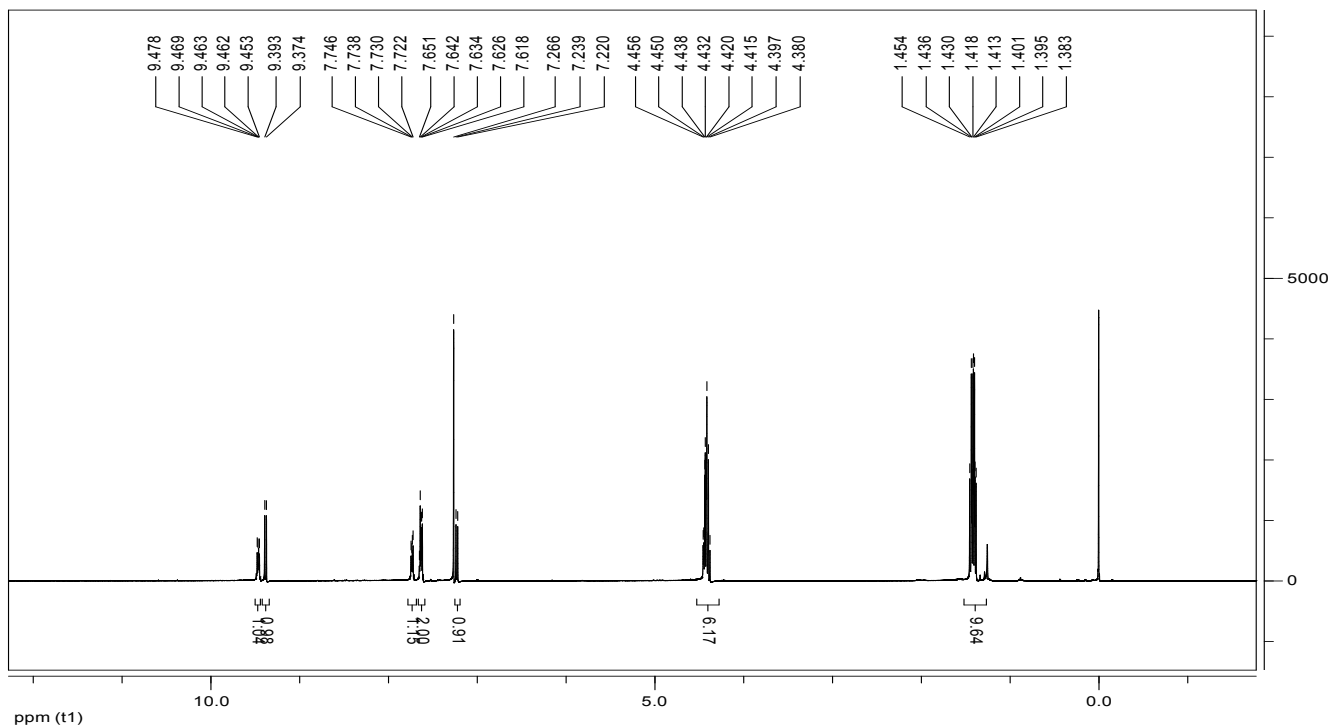
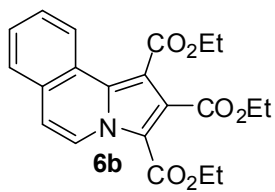


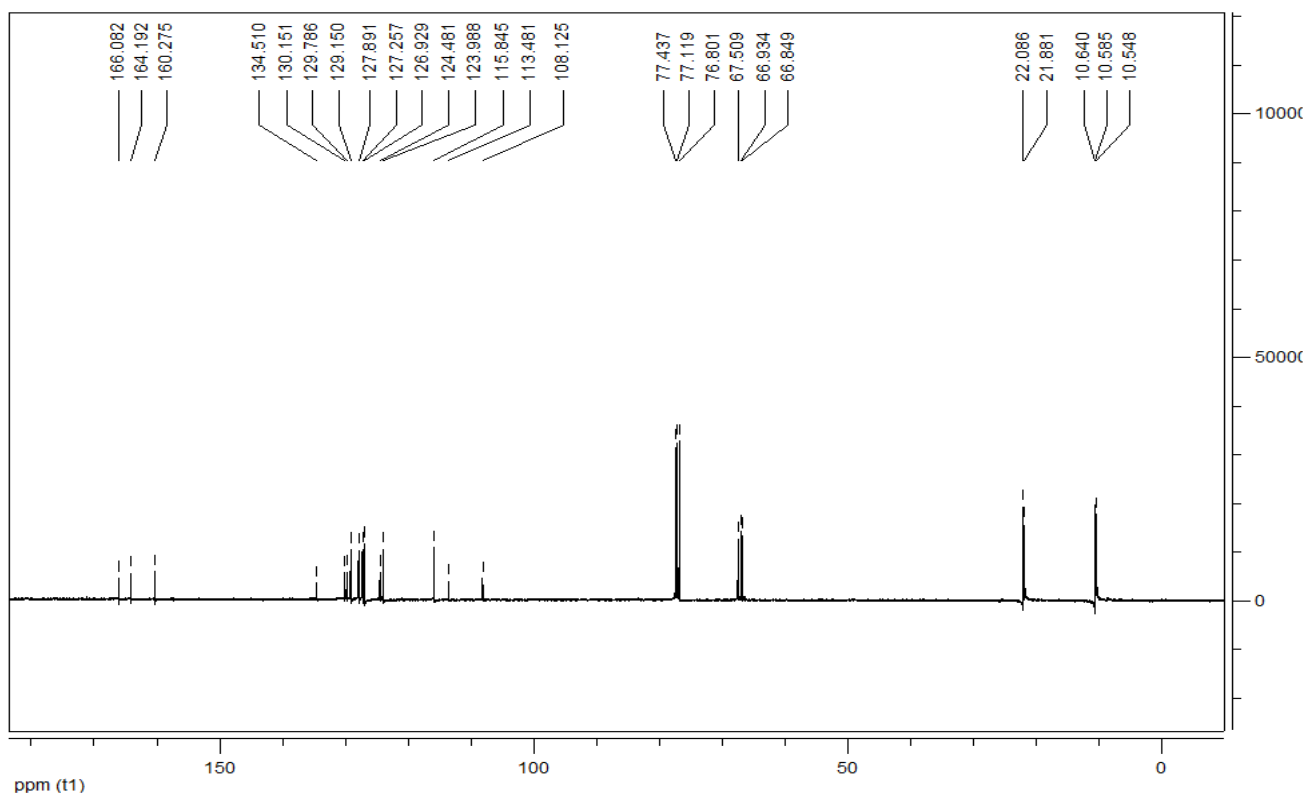
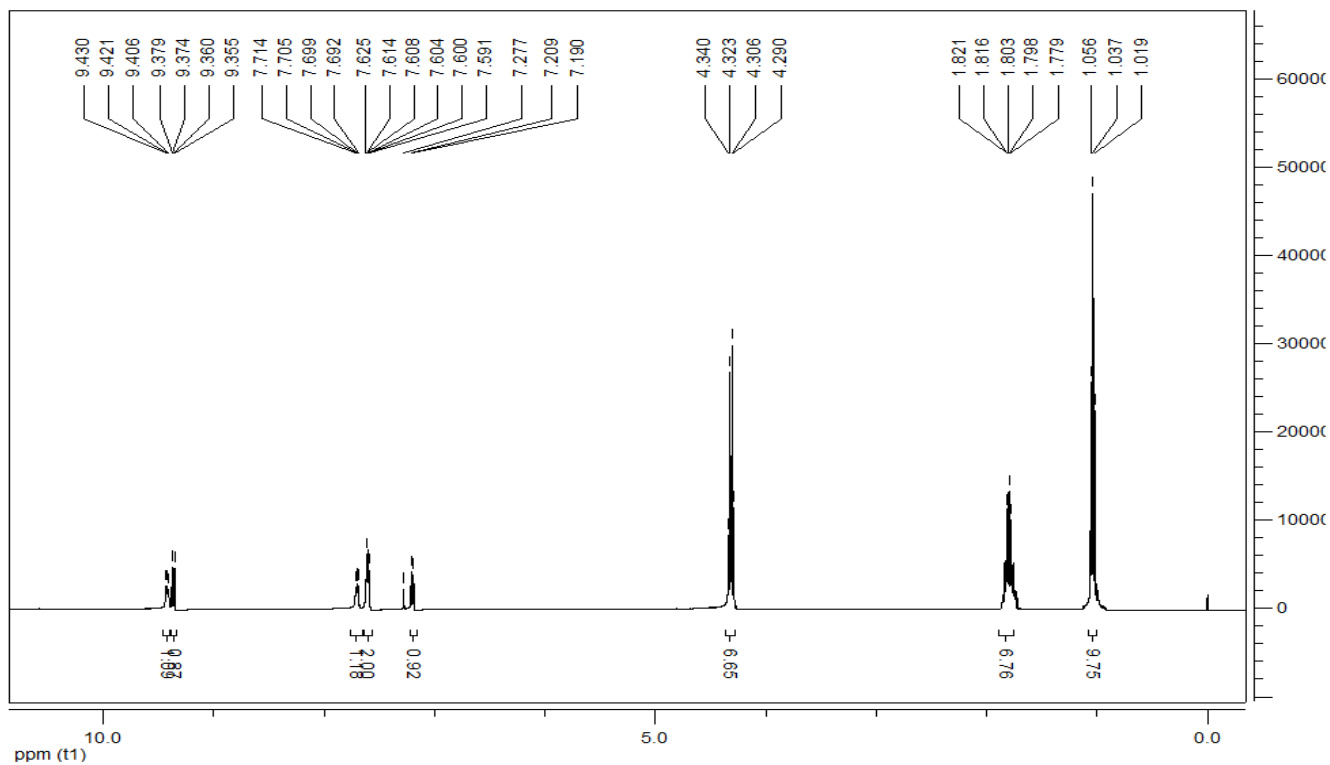
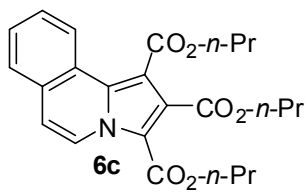


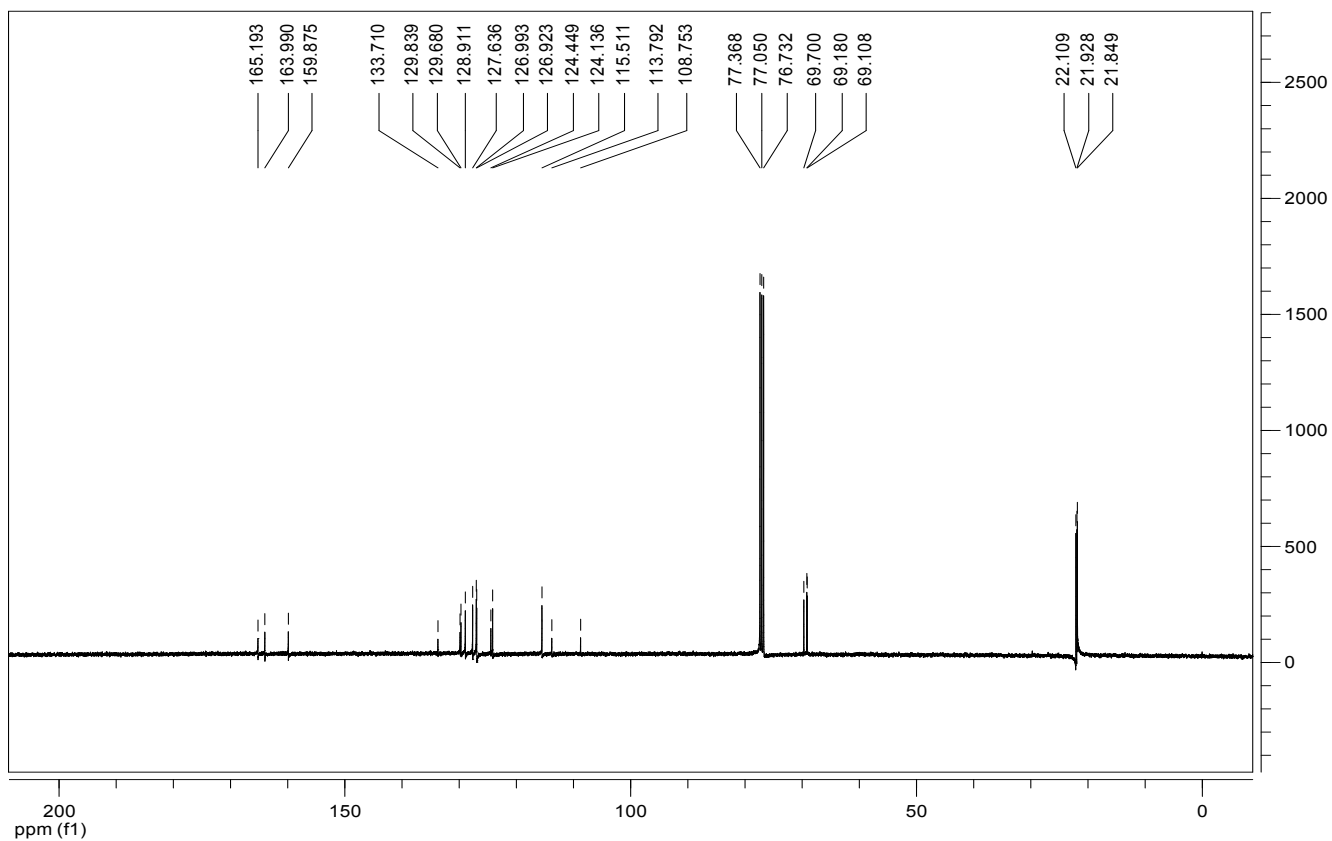
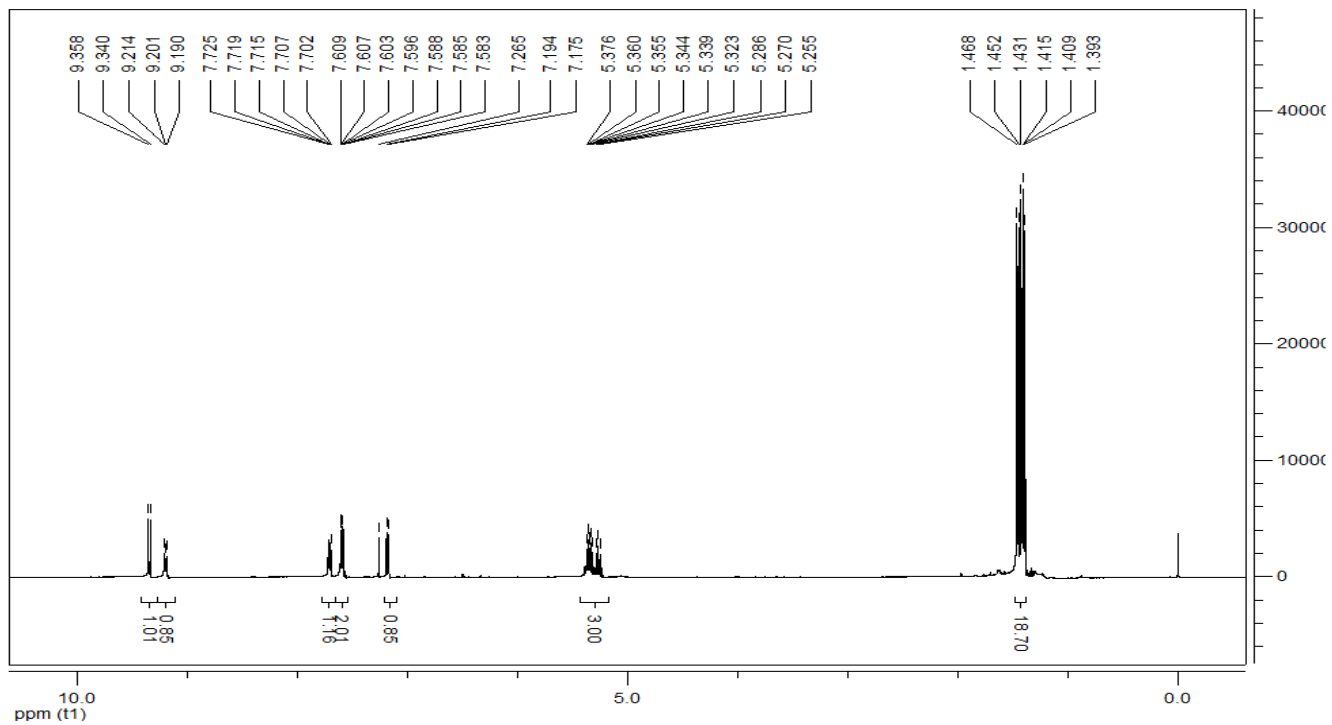
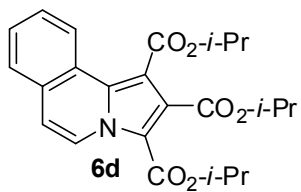


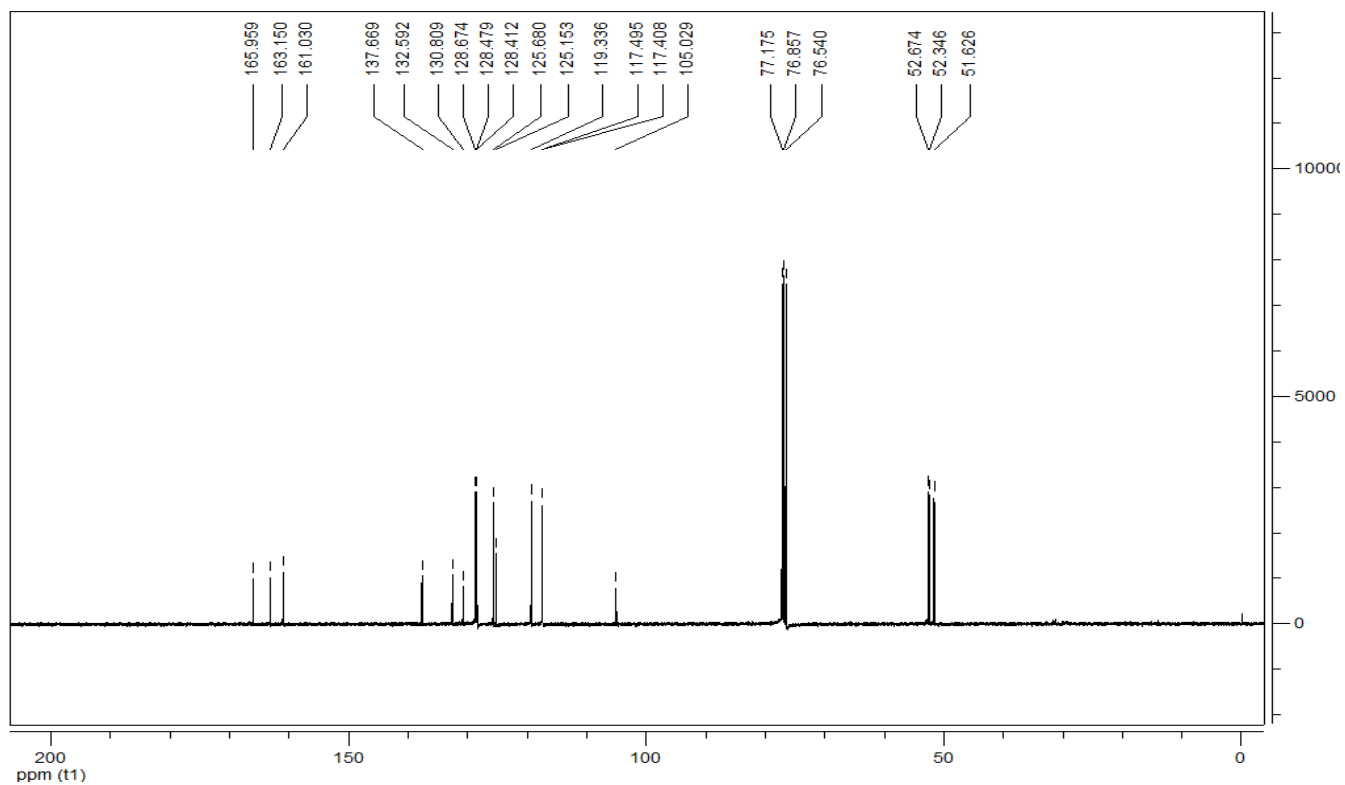
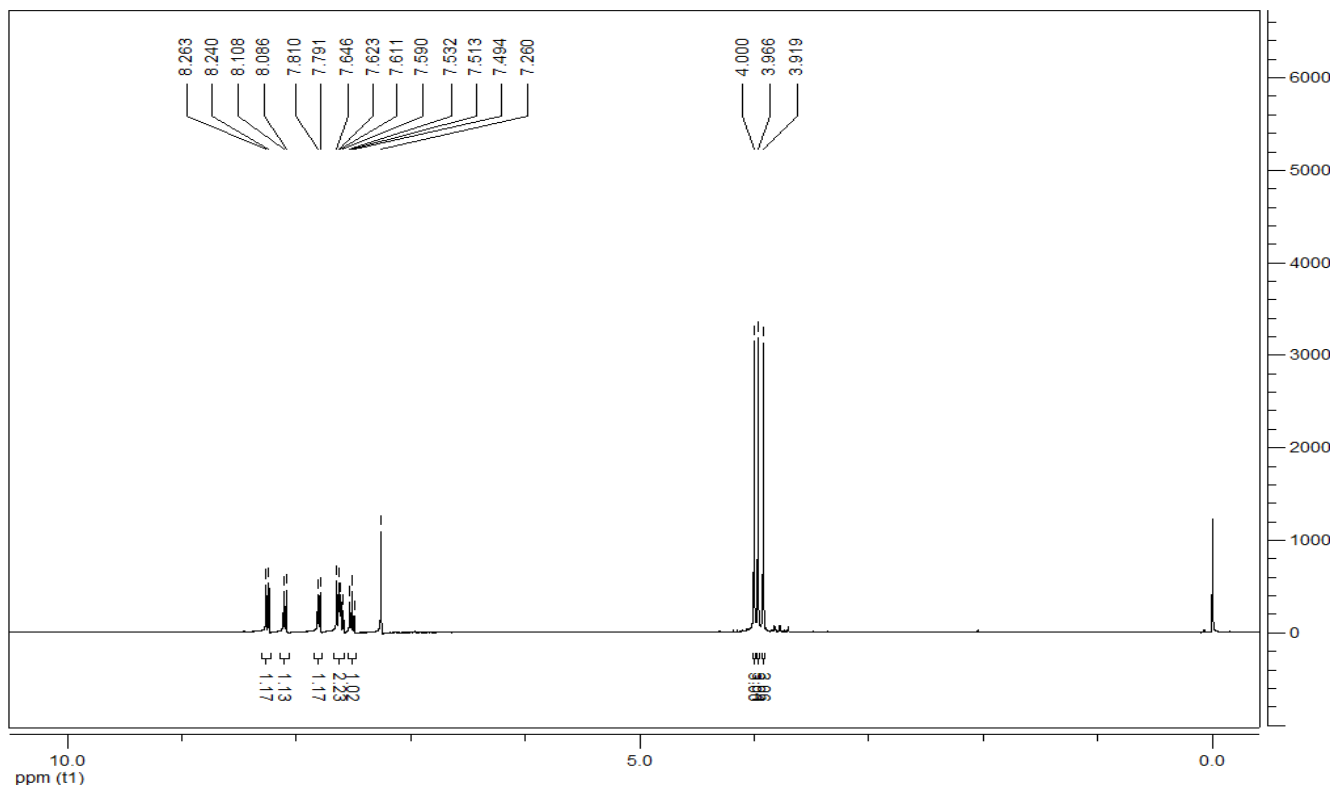
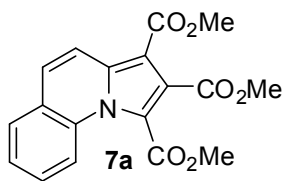


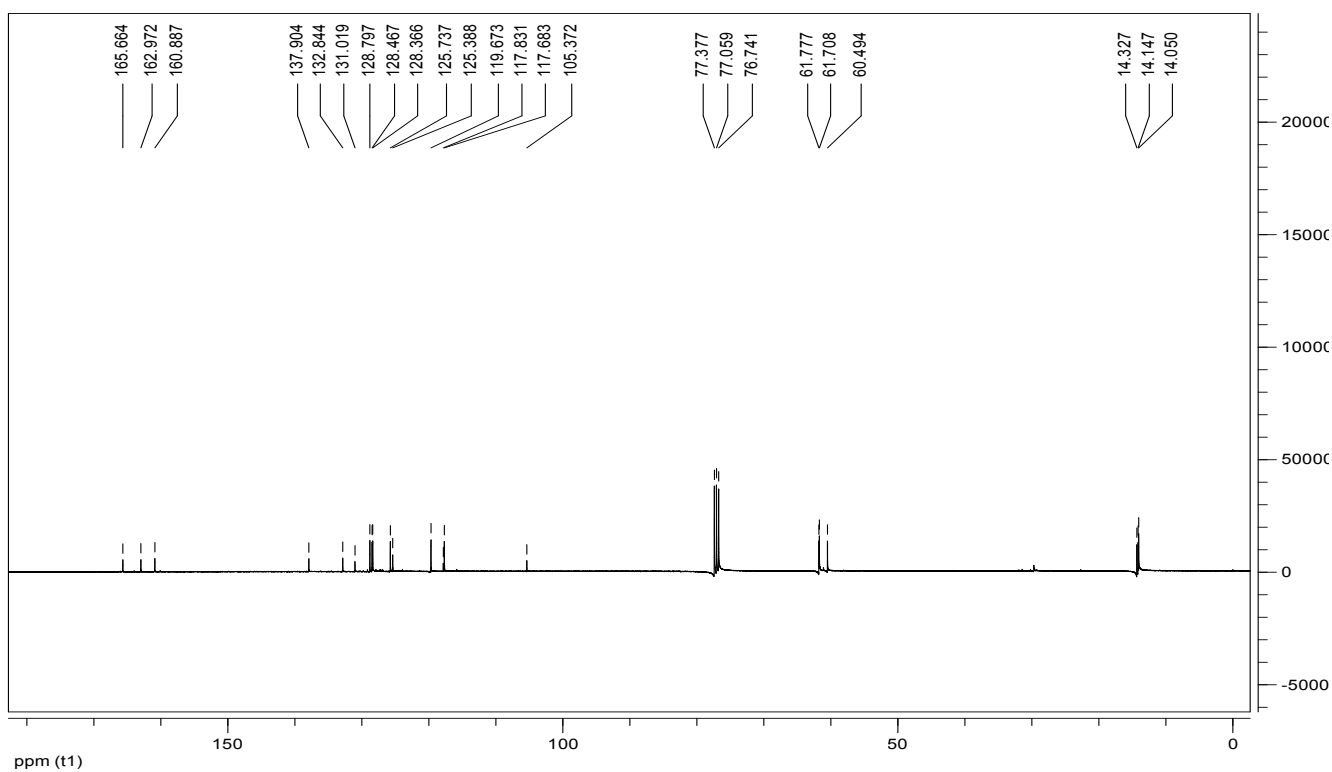
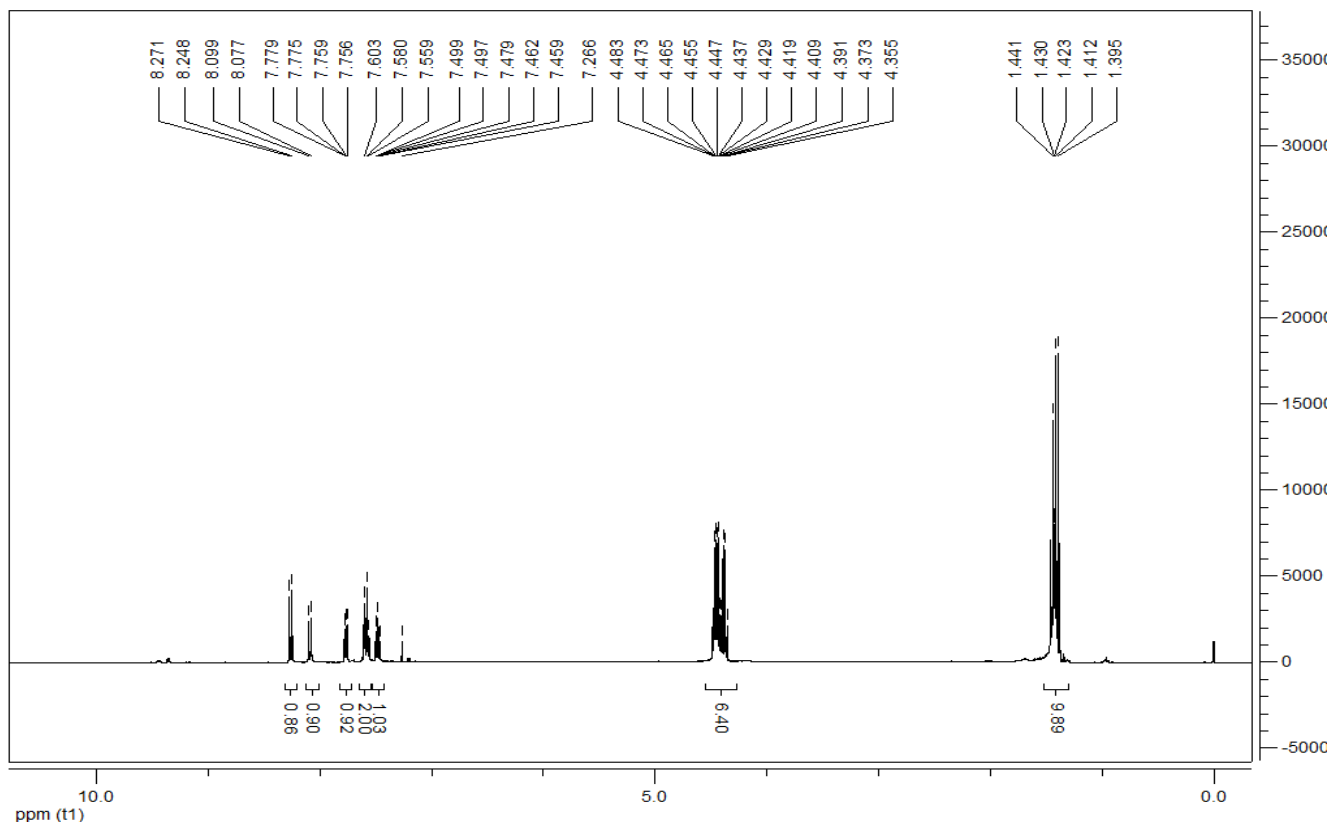
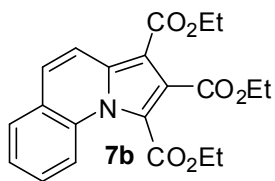


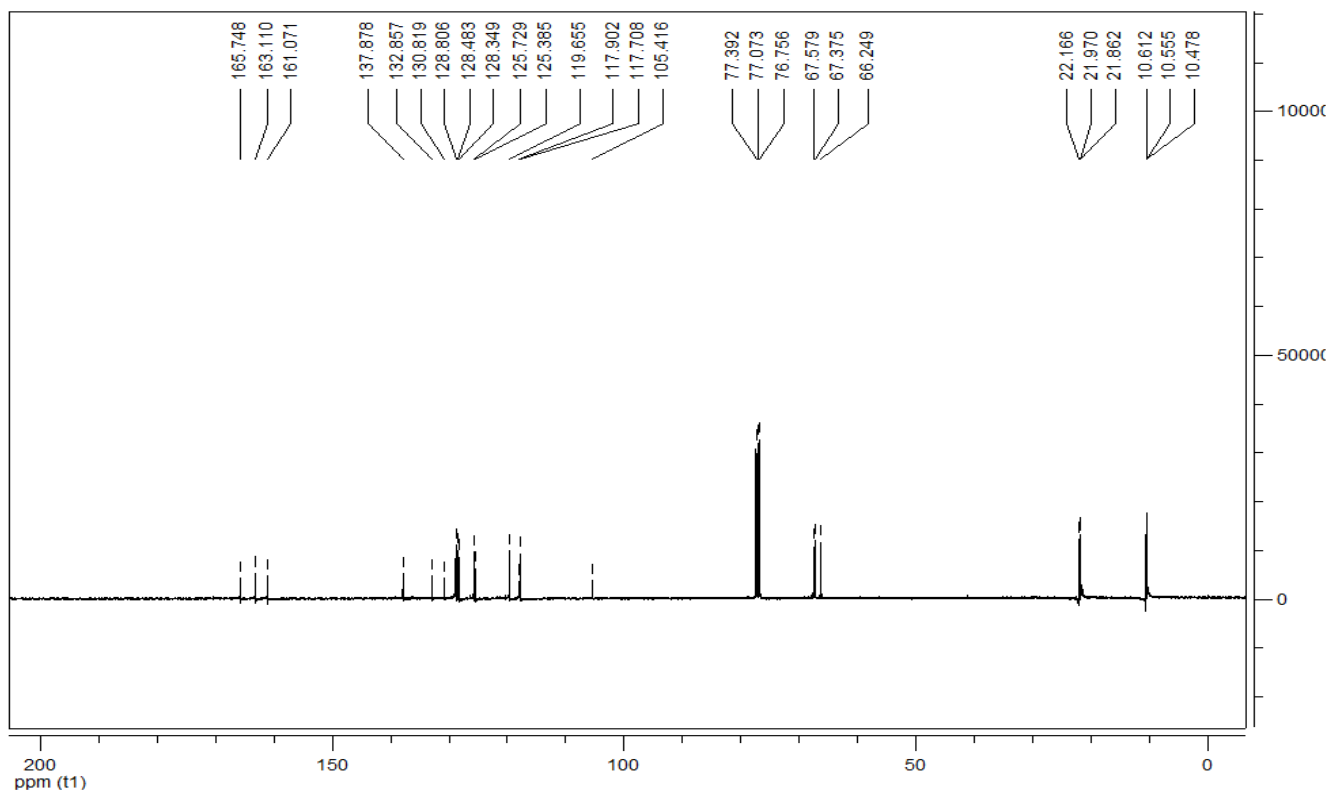
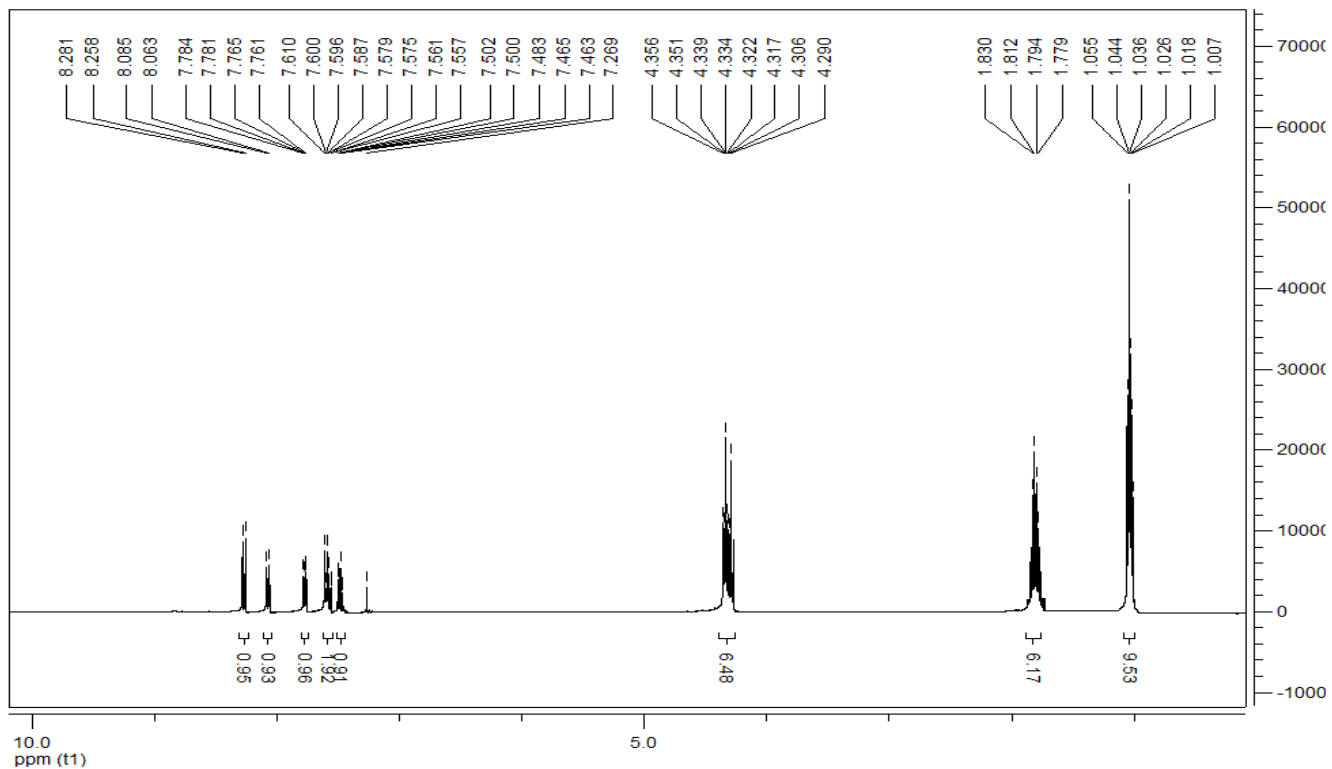
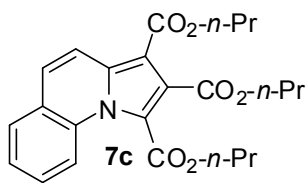




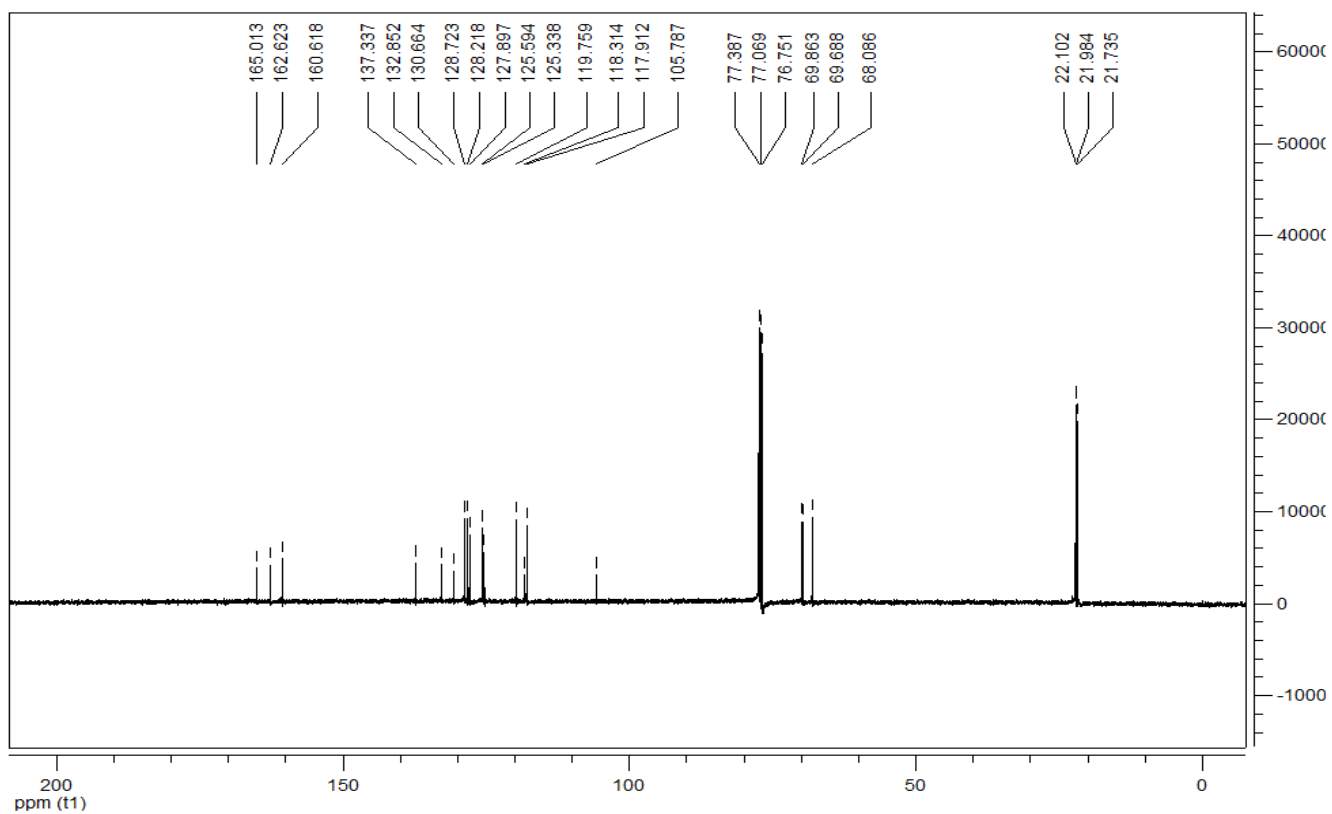
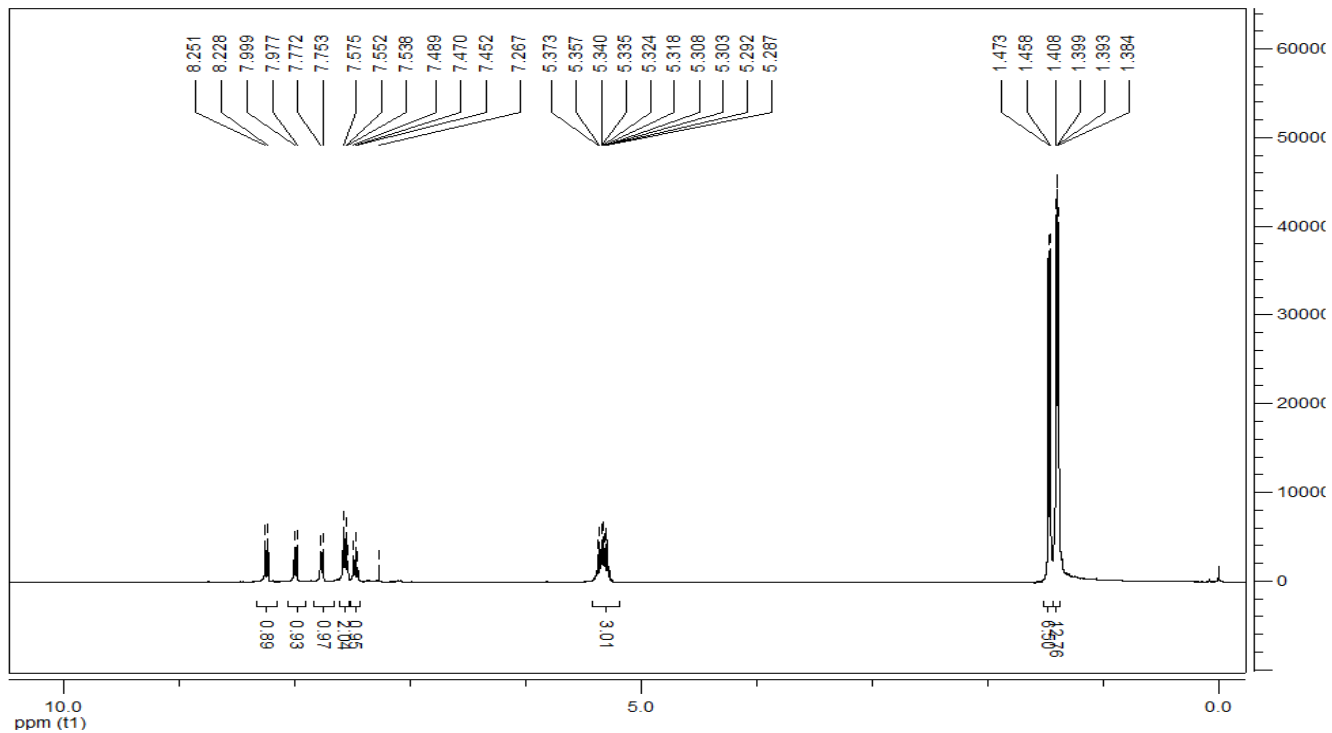
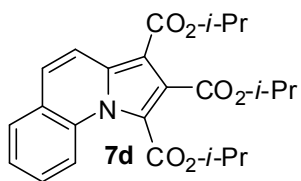












X-ray crystallographic data of compound **4d**

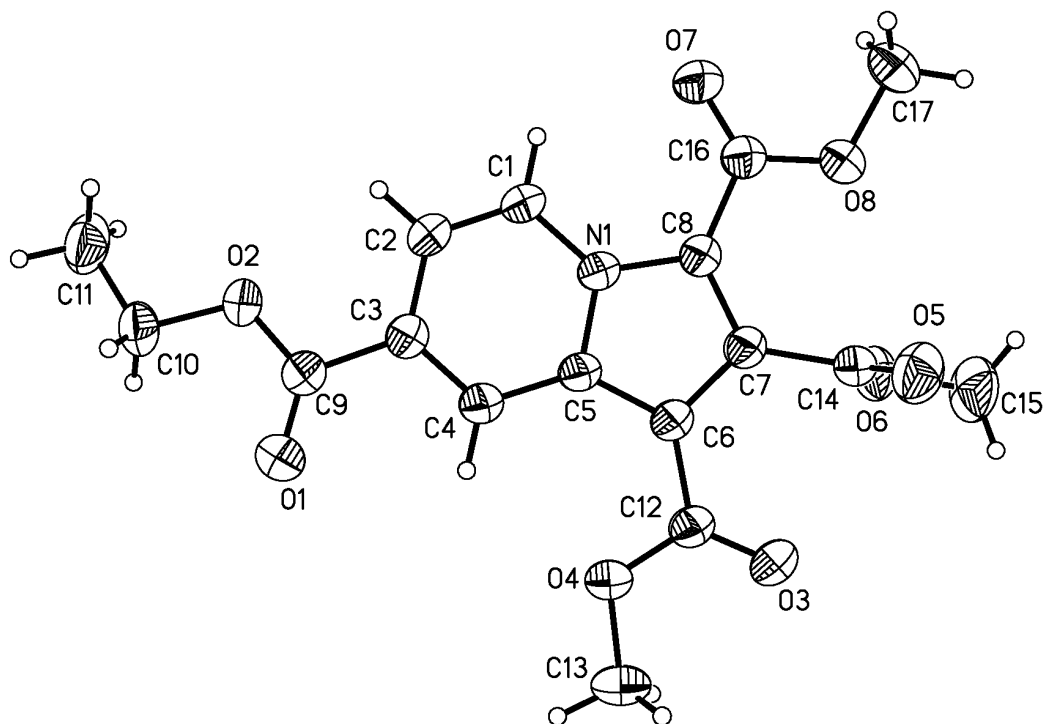


Figure 1. ORTEP drawing of **4d** (CCDC 1000659)