

*Supporting information for:*

## **Isocyanides as acceptor groups in MHAT reactions with unactivated alkenes**

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## General Information

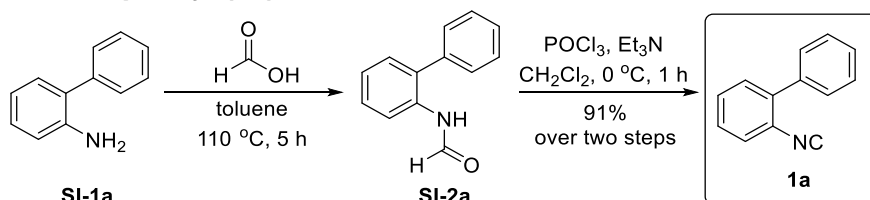
All reactions were carried out under an Argon atmosphere with dry, freshly distilled solvents under anhydrous conditions. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Merck silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>), and the spots were located with 1% aqueous KMnO<sub>4</sub> or 2% ethanolic anisaldehyde. Chromatography refers to flash chromatography and was carried out on SiO<sub>2</sub> (SDS silica gel 60 ACC, 35-75 μm, 230-240 mesh ASTM) or aluminum oxide (neutral) pH 6.5-7.5 (63-200 μm). Drying of organic extracts during workup of reactions was performed over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation of solvent was accomplished with a rotatory evaporator. NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> except where stated otherwise and the chemical shifts of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are reported in ppm downfield (δ) from Me<sub>4</sub>Si or CDCl<sub>3</sub>. All NMR data assignments are supported by gCOSY and gHSQC experiments. High resolution mass spectra (HMRS) were performed using an electrospray (ESI) ionization source and a TOF analyzer (Agilent Technologies).

## Experimental procedures

### Preparation of starting materials

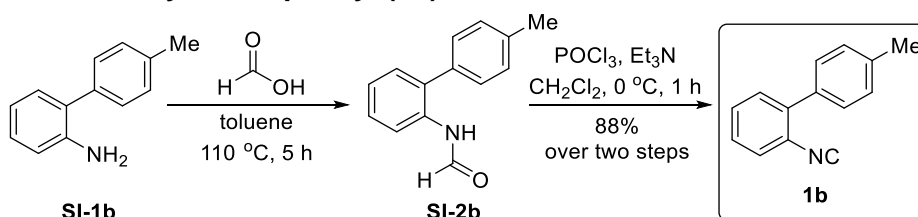
Biphenylamines **SI-1b**, **SI-1c**, **SI-1d**, and **SI-1e** were prepared according to the reported procedure.<sup>1</sup> O-Alkenylarylamines **SI-4**,<sup>2</sup> **SI-6**,<sup>3</sup> and **SI-8**<sup>4</sup> were prepared according to the reported procedures. Alkenes are commercially available, except for but-3-en-1-yl benzoate<sup>5</sup> and 2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione.<sup>6</sup>

#### 2-Isocyano-1,1'-biphenyl (**1a**)



*General procedure for the preparation of isocyanides:* A solution of **SI-1a** (3 g, 17.7 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 3.1 mL, 79.8 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 18 mL) was refluxed using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 5 h. The reaction was quenched with a saturated aq.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (10 mL) and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 10\text{ mL}$ ). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated. The formamide **SI-2a** was shown to be an unstable compound, so the two steps were conducted consecutively. Using material from a separate experiment a small sample was purified by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) to give a mixture of rotamers;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.46–8.43 (m, 0.5H), 8.27 (dd,  $J = 8.2\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 8.12–8.10 (m, 0.5H), 7.53 (br s, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.36–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 1H). To a solution of the crude formamide **SI-2a** (3.5 g, 17.7 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (20 mL, 0.14 mol) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (36 mL) at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , was added  $\text{POCl}_3$  (3.3 mL, 35.5 mmol) dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction was quenched by slowly adding a saturated aq.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (10 mL) and the mixture was allowed to stir for a further 1 h. The mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 15\text{ mL}$ ), and combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **1a** (2.90 g, 91% over two steps) as a green oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53–7.43 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.40–7.36 (m, 1H, Ph);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8 (NC), 138.9 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 137.1 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.7 (Ph), 129.6 (Ph), 129.1 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>7</sup>

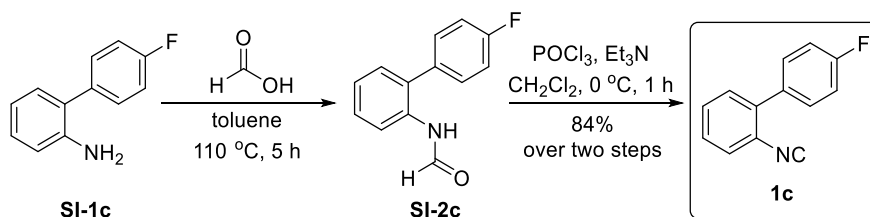
#### 2-isocyano-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (**1b**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides **SI-1b** (500 mg, 2.73 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 0.46 mL, 12.3 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 3 mL) gave

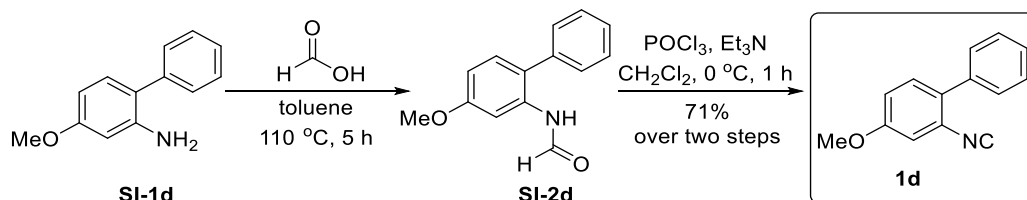
formamide **SI-2b** as a white solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.69 (d,  $J = 11.2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.38 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.29 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 7.39–7.14 (m, 8H), 2.49 (s, 1.5 H), 2.41 (s, 1.5 H). The crude formamide **SI-2b** (576 mg, 2.73 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (3 mL, 21.8 mmol), anhydrous THF (5.5 mL) and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (0.51 mL, 5.46 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  97.5:2.5) **1b** (465 mg, 88% over two steps) as a green oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.50–7.44 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.38–7.32 (m, 3H, Ph), 2.46 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5 (NC), 138.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 138.2 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 134.1 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.5 (Ph), 129.5 (Ph), 129.3 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 21.2 (Me). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4'-fluoro-2-isocyano-1,1'-biphenyl (**1c**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides **SI-1c** (800 mg, 4.27 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 0.72 mL, 19.2 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 4.30 mL) gave formamide **SI-2c** as a brownish solid;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.67 (d,  $J = 11.2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.30 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 0.5 H), 7.41–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24–7.14 (m, 4H). The crude formamide **SI-2c** (920 mg, 4.27 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (4.76 mL, 34.2 mmol), anhydrous THF (8.5 mL), and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (0.80 mL, 8.55 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  97.5:2.5) **1c** (710 mg, 84% over two steps) as a green oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51–7.44 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.41–7.36 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.17 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.9 (NC), 162.9 (d,  $J = 249.1$  Hz, C-F), 137.9 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 133.1 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.9 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, Ph), 130.6 (Ph), 129.7 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 115.7 (d,  $J = 21.5$  Hz, Ph);  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$  (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.38 (dd,  $J = 13.9, 8.6, 5.6$  Hz). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>

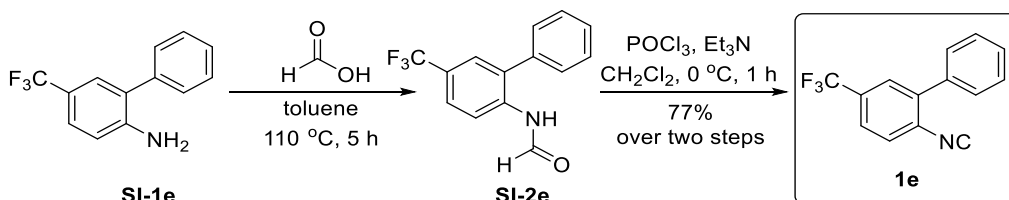
#### 2-isocyano-4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (**1d**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides **SI-1d** (600 mg, 3.01 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 0.51 mL, 13.5 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 3 mL) gave formamide **SI-2d** as a yellowish oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.67 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.28 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.08 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 0.5 H), 7.49–7.22 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H), 6.83–6.74 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H). To a solution of the crude formamide **SI-2d** (684 mg, 3.01 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (3.35 mL, 24.1 mmol), anhydrous THF (6 mL) and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (0.56 mL, 6.02 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$

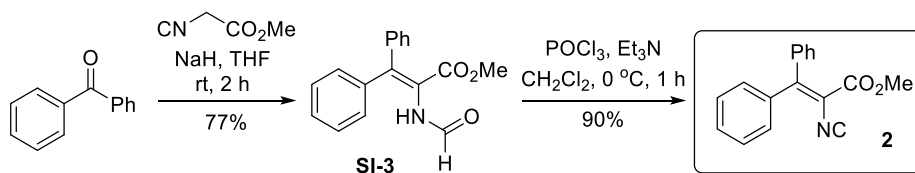
hexane/EtOAc 95:5) **1d** (630 mg, 71% over two steps) as a pale green solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52–7.46 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.43–7.39 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.36–7.33 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.04–7.01 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.86 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.4 (NC), 159.1 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 136.9 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 131.5 (Ph), 131.4 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 129.0 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 116.2 (Ph), 112.8 (Ph), 55.8 (Me). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>

## 2-isocyano-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**1e**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides **SI-1e** (850 mg, 3.58 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 0.61 mL, 16.1 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 3.60 mL) gave formamide **SI-2e** as a white solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.81 (d,  $J = 11.2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.60 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 0.5 H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 0.5 H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 1H). To a solution of the crude formamide **SI-2e** (950 mg, 3.58 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (4 mL, 28.7 mmol), anhydrous THF (7.2 mL) and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (0.67 mL, 7.17 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) **1e** (684 mg, 77% over two steps) as a brownish oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.72 (s, 1H, Ph), 7.67–7.61 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.54–7.48 (m, 5H, Ph);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.6 (NC), 139.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 135.7 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 131.6 (q,  $J = 33.2$  Hz, C-F<sub>3</sub>), 129.2 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 127.9 (q,  $J = 4$  Hz, Ph), 125.2 (q,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, Ph), 124.7 (Ph), 122.0 (Ph);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.91 (s) ppm. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>1</sup>

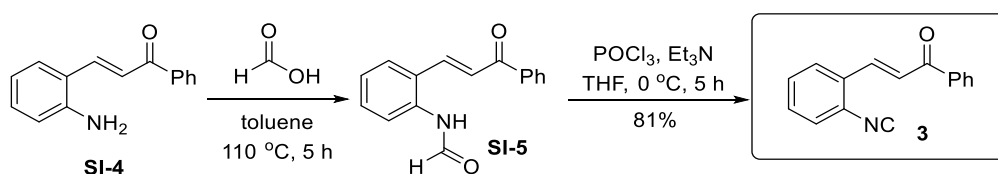
## Methyl 2-isocyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate (**2**)



To a solution of NaH (90%, 88 mg, 3.29 mmol) in THF (2.7 mL), a mixture of benzophenone (500 mg, 2.74 mmol) and methyl isocyanoacetate (272 mg, 2.74 mmol) in THF (2.7 mL) at room temperature was added and stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by adding a 10% AcOH aq. solution at 0 °C until there is no hydrogen release. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3  $\times$  10 mL). The organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried, concentrated, and recrystallized with MeOH to give **SI-3** (594 mg, 77%) as a white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.45–7.35 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.17–7.15 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.68 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.9 (C-1), 162.3 (NC), 154.5 (C-3), 137.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 137.4 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.3 (Ph), 129.9 (Ph), 129.6 (C-2), 129.1 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 52.9 (Me). The

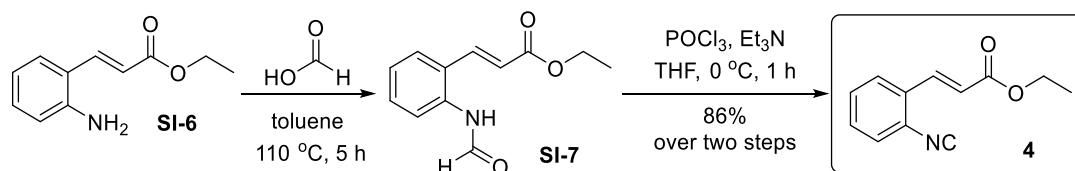
formamide **SI-3** (300 mg, 1.07 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2.2 mL) with  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (1.2 mL, 8.53 mmol) and cooled to 0 °C. Then,  $\text{POCl}_3$  (200  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.13 mmol) was added dropwise, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. The mixture was quenched by slowly adding a saturated aq.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , washed with water and brine, and dried and concentrated. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  90:10) gave **2** (254 g, 90%) as a brownish solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.45–7.35 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.17–7.15 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.68 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.9 (C-1), 162.3 (NC), 154.5 (C-3), 137.8 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 137.4 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.3 (Ph), 129.9 (Ph), 129.6 (C-2), 129.1 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 52.9 (Me). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>8</sup>

### 3-(2-Isocyanophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (**3**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides, **SI-4** (1.15 g, 5.15 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 0.9 mL, 23.2 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 5.2 mL) gave **SI-5** as yellow solid as a mixture of rotamers;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.54–8.48 (m, 1H), 8.09–7.98 (m, 3H), 7.72 (dd,  $J = 18.4, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.42 (m, 5H), 7.34–7.21 (m, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H). The crude formamide **SI-5** (1.16 g, 4.64 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (2.6 mL, 18.6 mmol), anhydrous THF (9.3 mL), and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (651  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.96 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  75:25) **3** (873 mg, 81%) as a brownish solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.05–8.02 (m, 2H, Ph), 8.03 (d,  $J = 16$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 7.79–7.76 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.63–7.59 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.62 (d,  $J = 16$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.54 (s, 1H, Ph), 7.52 (s, 1H, Ph), 7.47 (t,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.45 (m, 2H, Ph);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  189.9 (C-1), 169.1 (NC), 137.9 (C-3), 137.6 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 133.1 (Ph), 131.3 ( $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$ ), 130.7 (Ph), 129.6 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 126.1 (C-2). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>2</sup>

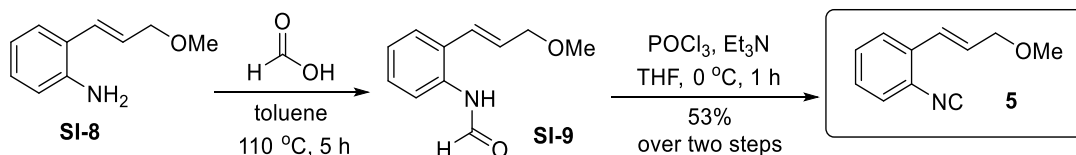
### Ethyl 3-(2-isocyanophenyl)acrylate (**4**)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides, **SI-6** (3.1 g, 16.2 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 2.8 mL, 72.9 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 16 mL) gave **SI-7** as yellow solid as a mixture of rotamers;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.94 (d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, 0.5H), 8.48–8.43 (m, 1H), 7.93–7.87 (m, 1H), 7.55 (dd,  $J = 25.2, 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 0.5 Hz), 7.19–7.12 (m, 1H), 6.37 (dd,  $J = 16, 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q,  $J = 14.4, 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.26 (q,  $J = 14.8, 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The crude formamide **SI-7** (3.55 g, 16.2 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (18 mL, 0.13 mol), anhydrous THF (33 mL) and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (3.03 mL, 32.4 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  95:5) **4** (2.79 g, 86%) as a brownish solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J = 16.4$

Hz, 1H, H-3), 7.67–7.65 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.45–7.40 (m, 3H, Ph), 6.53 (d,  $J = 16$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.29 (q,  $J = 14.4, 7.2$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.35 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.8 (C-1), 165.9 (NC), 137.6 (C-3), 130.8 ( $\text{C}_{ipso}$ ), 130.6 (Ph), 129.6 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 126.9 (Ph), 122.5 (C-2), 60.9 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 14.2 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>3</sup>

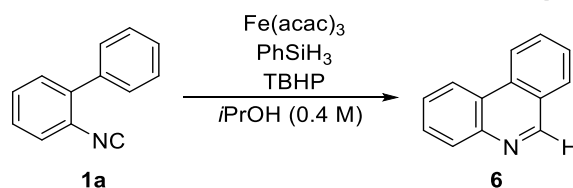
### 1-Isocyano-2-(3-methoxyprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (5)



According to the general procedure for the preparation of isocyanides, **SI-8** (107 mg, 0.66 mmol) and formic acid (98%, 113  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.95 mmol) in toluene (1 M, 0.7 mL) gave **SI-9** as a yellow solid. The crude formamide **SI-9** (125 mg, 0.65 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (730  $\mu\text{L}$ , 5.23 mmol), anhydrous THF (1.3 mL) and  $\text{POCl}_3$  (122  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.31 mmol) gave after purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/ $\text{EtOAc}$  90:10) **5** (60 mg, 53%) as a brownish oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.60–7.58 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.36 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H, Ph), 6.93 (d,  $J = 16$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 6.40 (dt,  $J = 16, 6$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.15 (dd,  $J = 6, 1.6$  Hz, 2H, H-3), 3.42 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8 (NC), 160.6 ( $\text{C}_{ipso}$ ), 133.1 ( $\text{C}_{ipso}$ ), 130.7 (C-2), 129.4 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.1 (Ph), 126.0 (Ph), 125.9 (C-1), 72.7 (C-3), 58.3 (Me). Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

## Screening table of conditions for reductive couplings

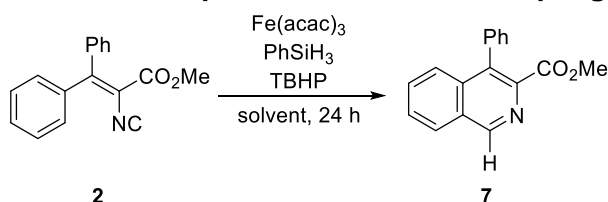
### Table S1. Phenanthridines reductive coupling



| Entry          | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | TBHP             | T°    | time | 6   |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|------|-----|
| 1              | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | 50 °C | 2 h  | 43% |
| 2              | 0.2                   | 2.5                | 1.5 <sup>b</sup> | 50 °C | 2 h  | 40% |
| 3              | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>      | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>b</sup> | 50 °C | 2 h  | 55% |
| 4 <sup>d</sup> | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>b</sup> | rt    | 2 h  | 23% |
| 5              | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | rt    | 24 h | 51% |
| 6              | 0.2                   | 3                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | rt    | 24 h | 74% |
| 7              | 0.2                   | 3                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | 50 °C | 24 h | 62% |
| 8              | 1                     | 3                  | -                | rt    | 2 h  | -   |
| 9              | 0.2                   | 3                  | 1 <sup>a</sup>   | rt    | 2 h  | 50% |
| 10             | 1                     | 3                  | 1 <sup>a</sup>   | rt    | 2 h  | 44% |
| 11             | 0.2                   | 3                  | 3 <sup>a</sup>   | rt    | 2 h  | 40% |

<sup>a</sup>TBHP 70% in water. <sup>b</sup>TBHP 5.5 M in decane. <sup>c</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>. <sup>d</sup>iPrOH 0.04 M.

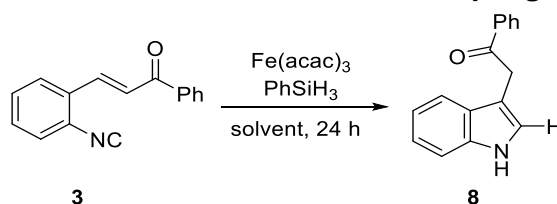
### Table S2. Isoquinolines reductive coupling



| Entry | 9 | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | TBHP             | solvent                | T°    | 7   |
|-------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1     | 1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M    | 50 °C | 9%  |
| 2     | 1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | THF 0.4 M <sup>b</sup> | 50 °C | 9%  |
| 3     | 1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>a</sup> | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M    | rt    | 34% |
| 4     | 1 | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>      | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>d</sup> | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M    | rt    | 51% |
| 5     | 1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>d</sup> | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M    | rt    | 83% |
| 6     | 1 | 0.2                   | 3                  | 1.5 <sup>d</sup> | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M    | rt    | 86% |

<sup>a</sup>TBHP 5.5 M in decane. <sup>b</sup>MeOH (10 equiv) were added. <sup>c</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> was used instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>. <sup>d</sup>TBHP 70% in water.

### Table S3. Indoles reductive coupling



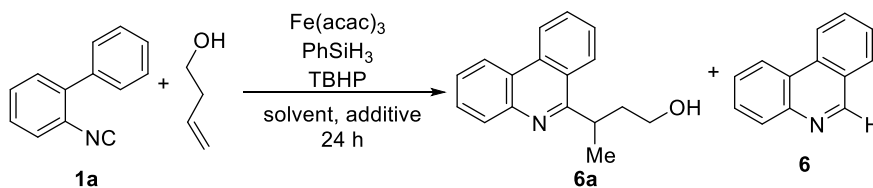
| Entry | 3 | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub>  | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | solvent                 | T°    | 8   |
|-------|---|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1     | 1 | 0.2 <sup>a</sup>       | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt    | -   |
| 2     | 1 | 0.2                    | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M    | rt    | 47% |
| 3     | 1 | 0.05                   | 1                  | EtOH 0.04 M             | 60 °C | 11% |
| 4     | 1 | 0.05/0.15 <sup>b</sup> | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M    | rt    | 37% |
| 5     | 1 | 0.2                    | 3                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>c</sup> | 60 °C | 75% |

<sup>a</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> was used instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>. <sup>b</sup>A combination of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> and Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> was used. <sup>c</sup>MeOH (10 equiv) were added.



## Screening table of conditions for alkene MHAT couplings

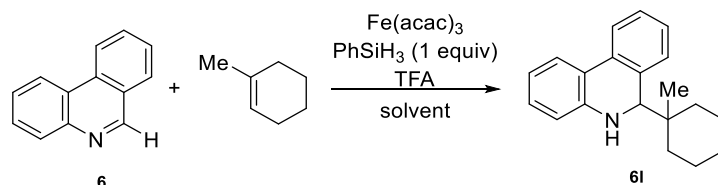
**Table S4. Optimization table for the formation of phenanthridine 6a**



| Entry           | 1:a              | Fe               | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | TBHP             | base   | solvent                 | T°     | 6a  | 6   |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|--------|-----|-----|
| 1               | 1:1              | 1.0              | 2.5                | -                | -  | EtOH 0.04 M             | rt     | 9%  | -   |
| 2               | 1:1              | 0.2              | 2.5                | -                | -  | EtOH 0.04 M             | rt     | 20% | -   |
| 3               | 1:1              | 0.2              | 2.5                | -                | -  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup> | rt     | 19% | -   |
| 4               | 1:1              | 2.0              | 2.5                | -                | -  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup> | rt     | 20% | -   |
| 5               | 1:1              | 2.0              | 2.5                | -                | -  | <i>t</i> -BuOH 0.04M    | rt     | 6%  | -   |
| 6               | 1:1              | 2.0              | 2.5                | -                | -  | MeCN 0.04 M             | rt     | 5%  | -   |
| 7               | 1:1              | 0.4              | 2.5                | -                | -  | MeCN 0.04 M             | 90 °C  | 29% | -   |
| 8               | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | MeCN 0.4 M              | 60 °C  | 18% | -   |
| 9               | 1:1              | 0.4              | 2.5                | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 30% | 30% |
| 10              | 1:1              | 0.4              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 40% | 30% |
| 11              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 63% | 25% |
| 12              | 1:1 <sup>b</sup> | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 53% | 3%  |
| 13              | 1:1              | 0.05             | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 41% | 41% |
| 14              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 0.5                | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 42% | 22% |
| 15              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1 <sup>c</sup>     | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 50% | 17% |
| 16 <sup>d</sup> | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 33% | 11% |
| 17              | 1:1              | 0.2 <sup>e</sup> | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 40% | 50% |
| 18              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 75% | 13% |
| 19              | 1:1              | 0.2 <sup>f</sup> | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 23% | 72% |
| 20              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 100 °C | 53% | 40% |
| 21              | 2:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 40% | 35% |
| 22              | 1:2              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 40% | 46% |
| 23              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 3                | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 17% | 22% |
| 24              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 0.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 39% | 50% |
| 25              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5 <sup>g</sup> | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 42% | 10% |
| 26              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub><br>(1 equiv)  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 31% | 29% |
| 27              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | DBU<br>(0.5 equiv)                             | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | -   | -   |
| 28              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub><br>(1.5 equiv) | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 18% | 32% |
| 29              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | NaHCO <sub>3</sub><br>(1 equiv)                | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | 33% | 45% |
| 30              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>t</i> -BuOH 0.4 M    | 60 °C  | 43% | 29% |
| 31              | 1:1              | 0.05             | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>t</i> -BuOH 0.4 M    | 60 °C  | 54% | 36% |
| 32              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 5.5 <sup>h</sup>   | 1.5              | -  | <i>t</i> -BuOH 0.4 M    | 60 °C  | 26% | 26% |
| 33              | 1:1              | 0.4              | 1                  | -                | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 38% | 20% |
| 34              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | THF <sup>a</sup>        | 60 °C  | 23% | 52% |
| 35 <sup>i</sup> | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | rt     | 32% | 30% |
| 36              | 1:1              | 0.4              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.2 M     | rt     | 30% | 40% |
| 37              | 1:1              | 0.2              | 1                  | 1.5              | -  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M     | 60 °C  | -   | -   |

<sup>a</sup>MeOH (10 equiv) was added. <sup>b</sup>Addition of isocyanide by syringe pump. <sup>c</sup>Addition of PhSiH<sub>3</sub> by syringe pump. <sup>d</sup>Without argon purge. <sup>e</sup>Fe(dibm)<sub>3</sub> instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> was used. <sup>f</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> was used. <sup>g</sup>DTBP was used as oxidant instead of TBHP. <sup>h</sup>PMHS (5.5 equiv) used instead of PhSiH<sub>3</sub>. <sup>i</sup>4 h instead of 24 h. <sup>j</sup>6 was used instead of 1 as starting material.

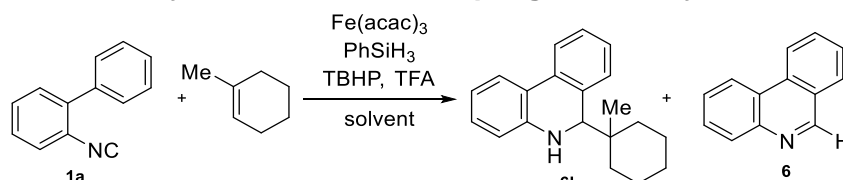
**Table S5. Optimization table for the formation of phenanthridine 6f via Minisci coupling**



| Entry           | 1:alkene | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | TBHP             | Acid           | solvent                               | T°    | time | 6f  |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|-----|
| 1               | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2 <sup>a</sup> | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | 40% |
| 2               | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | 86% |
| 3               | 1:3      | 0.2                   | 1.5              | 2 <sup>a</sup> | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | 12% |
| 4               | 1:3      | 0.2                   | 1.5              | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | rt    | 2 h  | 10% |
| 5               | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1                | 2              | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.2 M                   | rt    | 2 h  | 31% |
| 6               | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1                | 2              | CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> 0.2 M | 40 °C | 7 h  | 25% |
| 7               | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | Toluene/MeOH 0.2M                     | 60 °C | 24 h | 42% |
| 8               | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | MeCN/MeOH 0.2 M                       | 60 °C | 24 h | 26% |
| 9               | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | <i>t</i> -BuOH/MeOH 0.2M              | 60 °C | 24 h | 35% |
| 10              | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | DMF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 17% |
| 11              | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | DCE/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 37% |
| 12              | 1:3      | 1                     | 1.5              | 2              | DCE/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 29% |
| 13 <sup>b</sup> | 1:3      | 0.4                   | 1.5              | 2              | DCE/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 38% |
| 14              | 1:3      | 0.2                   | 1.5              | 2              | EtOH 0.2 M                            | 60 °C | 24 h | 63% |
| 15              | 1:3      | 0.2                   | 1.5              | 2              | DCE 0.2 M                             | 60 °C | 24 h | 34% |
| 16              | 1:3      | 0.2                   | 1.5              | 2              | DCE/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 35% |
| 17              | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.2 M                   | 60 °C | 3 h  | 30% |
| 18              | 1:3      | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>      | 1.5              | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | rt    | 2 h  | 11% |
| 19 <sup>d</sup> | 1:3      | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>      | 1.5              | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | rt    | 2 h  | -   |
| 20 <sup>d</sup> | 1:3      | 0.2:0.2 <sup>c</sup>  | 1.5              | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | rt    | 4 h  | -   |
| 21 <sup>d</sup> | 1:3      | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>      | 1.5              | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | rt    | 4 h  | -   |
| 22 <sup>e</sup> | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | -   |
| 23              | 1:3      | 1                     | 1.5 <sup>f</sup> | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 4 h  | 45% |
| 24 <sup>g</sup> | 1:3      | 0.2                   | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 31% |
| 25 <sup>h</sup> | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | -   |
| 26              | 1:3      | 0.2                   | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | 25% |
| 27              | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 44% |
| 28              | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | -              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 24 h | 5%  |
| 29 <sup>g</sup> | 1:3      | 1                     | -                | 2              | THF/MeOH 0.2 M                        | 60 °C | 2 h  | 94% |

<sup>a</sup>BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O added instead <sup>b</sup>2.5 equiv of PhSiH<sub>3</sub> was added. <sup>c</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> was used instead. <sup>d</sup>No PhSiH<sub>3</sub> was added. <sup>e</sup>After 2 h chloranil (2 equiv) was added. <sup>f</sup>TBHP was added after 2 h of reaction. <sup>g</sup>Without argon purge. <sup>h</sup>MnO<sub>2</sub> added after the reaction is completed.

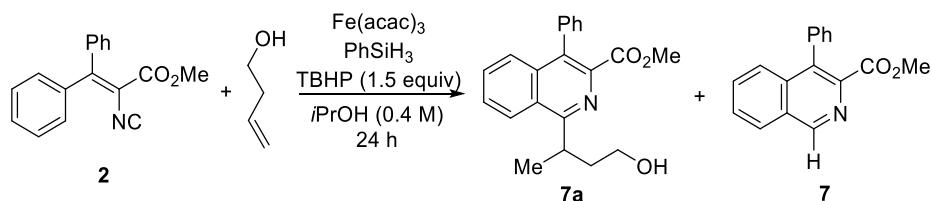
**Table S6. Optimization table for the formation of phenanthridine 6f via sequential MHAT cyclization-Minisci coupling from isocyanide 1**



| Entry          | 1:alk | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | TBHP | TFA            | solvent             | T°          | time  | 6f  | 1 |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------|-----|---|
| 1              | 1:3   | 1                     | 1                  | -    | 2 <sup>a</sup> | THF/MeOH 0.2 M      | 60 °C       | 2 h   | -   | - |
| 2 <sup>b</sup> | 1:3   | 1                     | 1                  | -    | 2 <sup>a</sup> | THF/MeOH 0.2 M      | 60 °C       | 2 h   | 30% | - |
| 3 <sup>c</sup> | 1:3   | 2                     | 2.5                | -    | 2              | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.2 M | 60 °C       | 2 h   | 20% | - |
| 4 <sup>d</sup> | 1:3   | 1                     | 3                  | 1    | 2              | MTBE/MeOH 0.2 M     | rt to 60 °C | 2.5 h | 56% | - |

<sup>a</sup>BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O added instead. <sup>b</sup>Acid was added 1 hour later. <sup>c</sup>Acid and alkene were added 10 min after the addition of PhSiH<sub>3</sub>. <sup>d</sup>See Method 3- Sequential MHAT-Minisci Coupling from the corresponding isocyanide (SI-14).

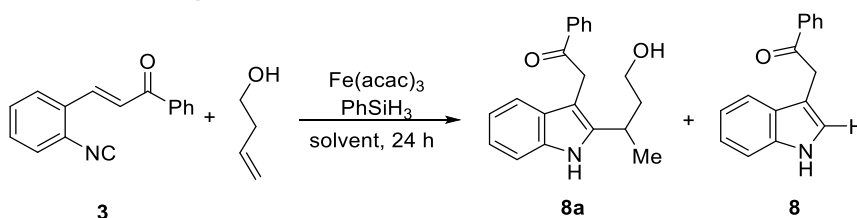
**Table S7. Optimization table for the formation of isoquinoline 7a**



| Entry            | 9:a | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | T°    | 7a  | 7   |
|------------------|-----|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| 1 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 60 °C | 23% | 29% |
| 2 <sup>a,b</sup> | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | 60 °C | 17% | -   |
| 3 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 3                  | 60 °C | 21% | 40% |
| 4 <sup>a,b</sup> | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 3                  | rt    | 46% | 38% |
| 5 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 1                  | rt    | 38% | 40% |
| 6 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.4                   | 3                  | rt    | 33% | 57% |
| 7 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.1                   | 3                  | rt    | 25% | 54% |
| 8 <sup>c</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 3                  | rt    | 53% | 22% |
| 9 <sup>a</sup>   | 1:1 | 0.2                   | 3                  | rt    | 61% | 27% |

<sup>a</sup>TBHP 70% in water. <sup>b</sup>*i*PrOH (0.04 M). <sup>c</sup>TBHP 5.5 M in decane.

**Table S8. Optimization table for the formation of indole 8a**

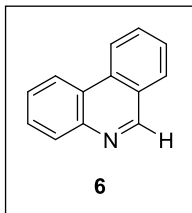


| Entry | 3:a              | Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> | PhSiH <sub>3</sub> | solvent                                | T°    | 8a  | 8   |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|-----|
| 1     | 1:1              | 0.2                   | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.4 M                    | rt    | -   | 22% |
| 2     | 1:1              | 0.4                   | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | 15% | 29% |
| 3     | 1:1              | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 23% | 33% |
| 4     | 1:1              | 0.05                  | 5                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | 5%  | 40% |
| 5     | 1:1              | 1                     | 3                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 9%  | 47% |
| 6     | 1:1              | 1                     | 3                  | DCE 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 19% | 58% |
| 7     | 1:1              | 0.2                   | 3                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | 60 °C | -   | 80% |
| 8     | 1:1 <sup>b</sup> | 0.4 <sup>c</sup>      | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 8%  | 37% |
| 9     | 1:1              | 0.4                   | 1                  | EtOH/EG (5:1) 0.2 M                    | rt    | 16% | 28% |
| 10    | 1:3              | 0.1                   | 5.5 <sup>d</sup>   | ChCl/EG (1:2) 0.2 M                    | 60 °C | 8%  | 11% |
| 11    | 1:3              | 0.4 <sup>e</sup>      | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH/DCE (1:1) 0.2 M          | 60 °C | 11% | 73% |
| 12    | 1:1              | 0.2                   | 3                  | EtOH 0.04 M                            | rt    | 10% | 55% |
| 13    | 1:3              | 0.4                   | 3                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | 15% | 41% |
| 14    | 1:1              | 0.1                   | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 11% | 43% |
| 15    | 1:1              | 0.05 <sup>c</sup>     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 19% | 59% |
| 16    | 2:1 <sup>f</sup> | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 18% | 57% |
| 17    | 1:1              | 2                     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | rt    | 14% | 38% |
| 18    | 1:1              | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>g</sup>                | rt    | 9%  | 58% |
| 19    | 1:1              | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.004 M <sup>a</sup>               | rt    | 31% | 40% |
| 20    | 1:1              | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.04 M <sup>a</sup>                | 0 °C  | 21% | 38% |
| 21    | 1:3              | 1                     | 1                  | THF 0.02 M <sup>h</sup>                | 0 °C  | 9%  | 33% |
| 22    | 1:1              | 1                     | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.02 M                   | rt    | 14% | 35% |
| 23    | 1:1              | 0.2 <sup>i</sup>      | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | -   | 44% |
| 24    | 1:1              | 0.2 <sup>j</sup>      | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | -   | -   |
| 25    | 1:1              | 0.2                   | 1                  | MeCN/H <sub>2</sub> O (1:1) (0.0125 M) | rt    | -   | 21% |
| 26    | 1:1              | 0.2                   | 1                  | <i>i</i> PrOH 0.04 M                   | rt    | 47% | 16% |

<sup>a</sup>MeOH (10 equiv) were added. <sup>b</sup>4-phenylbutene used as alkene. <sup>c</sup>Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> (0.4 equiv) were added. <sup>d</sup>PMHS was used instead of PhSiH<sub>3</sub>. <sup>e</sup>Fe(dpm)<sub>3</sub> was used instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>. <sup>f</sup>Second equivalent of isocyanide was added 2 h later. <sup>g</sup>*i*PrOH (10 equiv) were added. <sup>h</sup>*i*PrOH (50 equiv) were added. <sup>i</sup>Co(salen) was used instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>. <sup>j</sup>Mn(dpm)<sub>3</sub> was used instead of Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub>.

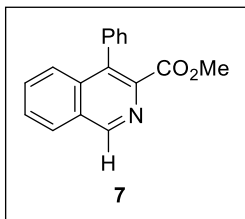
## Synthesis of core heterocycles via MHAT

### Phenanthridine (6)



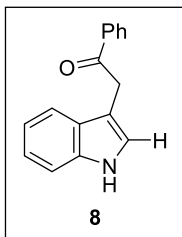
To a solution of isocyanide **1** (315 mg, 1.76 mmol, 1 equiv) and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (124 mg, 0.35 mmol, 0.2 equiv) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 4.4 mL) was added TBHP (70%, 377  $\mu$ L, 2.64 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and the mixture was degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 min. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (570 mg, 5.27 mmol, 3 equiv) was added (Caution: continuous argon purge with outlet was maintained to avoid over-pressurization of the reaction flask). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The mixture was concentrated and purified by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 90:10) to give **6** (233 mg, 74%) as brownish solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.30 (s, 1H, H-6), 8.63 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.20 (dd, *J* = 8, 2 Hz, 1H, H-4), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.88 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.78–7.68 (m, 3H, H-2, H-3 and H-8); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.5 (C-6), 144.3 (C-4a), 132.5 (C-10a), 131.0 (C-9), 130.0 (C-4), 128.8 (C-7), 128.7 (C-3), 127.5 (C-8), 127.1 (C-2), 126.3 (C-6a), 124.1 (C-10b), 122.2 (C-1), 121.8 (C-10). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N]<sup>+</sup> 180.0813, found 180.0819. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>9</sup>

### 3-Methoxycarbonyl-4-phenylisoquinoline (7)



To a solution of isocyanide **2** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1 equiv) and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (27 mg, 0.076 mmol, 0.2 equiv) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1 mL), was added TBHP (70%, 81  $\mu$ L, 0.57 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and the mixture was degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 min. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (51 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 75:25) to give **7** (86 mg, 86%) as a brownish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.32 (s, 1H, H-1), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.72–7.61 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6, H-7), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.34–7.32 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.74 (s, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.0 (C=O), 151.7 (C-1), 140.9 (C-3), 135.9 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 135.7 (C-4), 134.9 (C-4a), 131.1 (C-6), 129.5 (Ph), 129.0 (C-8a), 128.8 (C-7), 128.2 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.6 (C-8), 126.5 (C-5), 52.4 (Me). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 264.1024, found 264.1025. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>10</sup>

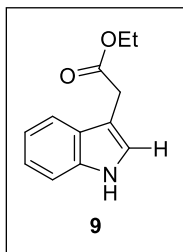
### 3-(2-Oxo-2-phenylethyl)indole (8)



Isocyanide **3** (100 mg, 0.43 mmol, 1 equiv) and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (30 mg, 0.086 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were dissolved in THF (0.04 M, 11 mL) and MeOH (174  $\mu$ L, 4.29 mmol, 10 equiv) degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 min. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (139 mg, 1.29 mmol, 3 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C using a heating block for 24 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 75:25) to give **8** (76 mg, 75%) as brownish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.11 (br s, 1H, NH), 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.13 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.10 (s, 1H, H-2), 4.41 (s,

2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.9 (C=O), 136.7 (C-7a), 136.1 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 132.9 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 127.3 (C-3a), 123.2 (C-2), 122.1 (C-6), 119.6 (C-5), 118.7 (C-4), 111.2 (C-7), 108.8 (C-3), 35.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> 236.1075, found 236.1076. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>

### Ethyl 3-Indoleacetate (9)



Isocyanide **4** (100 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1 equiv), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (35 mg, 0.10 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were dissolved in THF (0.04 M, 12.4 mL), and MeOH (201 μL, 4.97 mmol, 10 equiv), degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 min. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (161 mg, 1.49 mmol, 3 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C using a heating block for 24 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) to give **9** (92 mg, 91%) as a brownish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.32 (dt, *J* = 8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.15 (ddd, *J* = 8, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.10 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.28 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.3 (C=O), 136.2 (C-7a), 127.3 (C-3a), 123.2 (C-2), 122.2 (C-6), 119.7 (C-5), 118.9 (C-4), 111.3 (C-7), 108.5 (C-3), 60.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 204.1024, found 204.1022. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>12</sup>

## Synthesis of coupled products via MHAT. General Methods

### Method 1a – MHAT Coupling from the corresponding isocyanide.

To a solution of isocyanide (1 equiv), alkene (1 equiv), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (0.2 equiv) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M) was added TBHP (70% in water, 1.5 equiv) and the mixture was degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 minutes. The mixture was adjusted to the indicated temperature using a heating block, and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv) was then added via syringe. After 24 h at this temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by column chromatography.

### Method 1b – MHAT Coupling from the corresponding isocyanide.

A solution of isocyanide (1 equiv), alkene (1 equiv), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (0.2 equiv) in *i*PrOH (0.04 M) was degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 minutes. The mixture was adjusted to the indicated temperature using a heating block, and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv) was then added via syringe. After 24 h at this temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified by column chromatography.

### Method 2 – MHAT-Minisci Coupling from the corresponding heterocycle.

To a solution of the heterocycle (1 equiv), alkene (3 equiv), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M) was added TFA (2 equiv). The mixture was adjusted to the indicated temperature using a heating block, and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv) was added via syringe and stirred for 3 h open to the air. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, extracted three times with EtOAc, and the combined organic

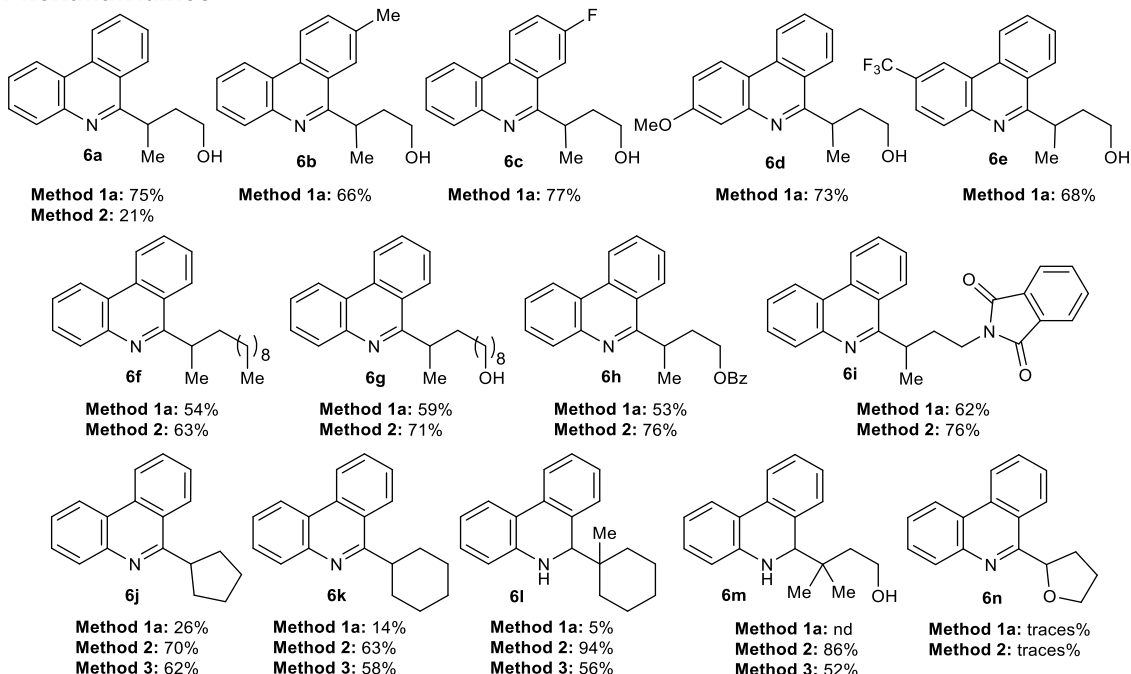
extracts were washed with brine, dried, concentrated, and purified by column chromatography.

### Method 3 – Sequential MHAT-Minisci Coupling from the corresponding isocyanide.

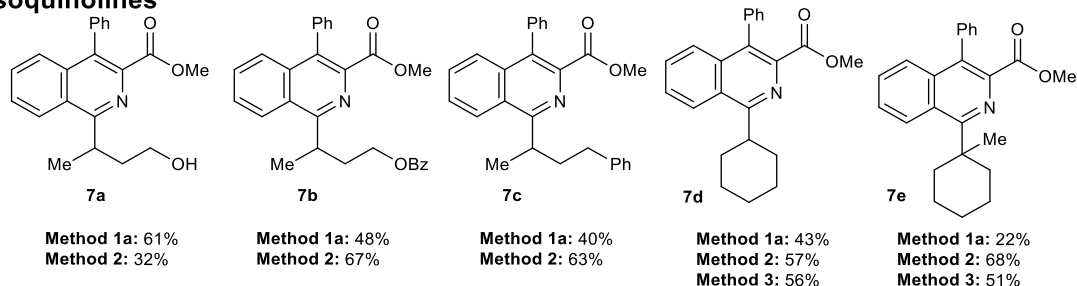
To a solution of isocyanide (1 equiv) and  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (0.2 equiv) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M) was added TBHP (70% in water, 1 equiv) and the mixture was degassed and bubbled with argon for 5 minutes.  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (3 equiv) was added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. Then, the reaction was opened to air, and MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution) was added, followed by  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (0.8 equiv), TFA (2 equiv), and alkene (3 equiv), and the reaction was heated to 60 °C using a heating block and stirred for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aq.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution, extracted three times with EtOAc, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried, concentrated, and purified by column chromatography.

### Scope of MHAT coupling-cyclization reaction

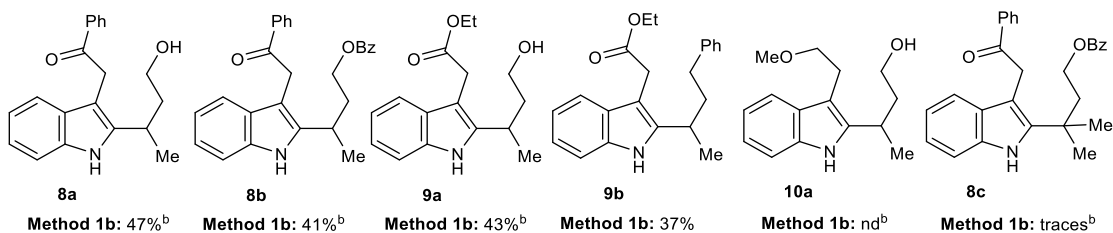
#### Phenanthridines



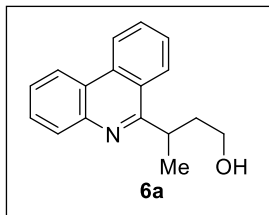
#### Isoquinolines



#### Indoles



### 6-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)phenanthridine (6a)



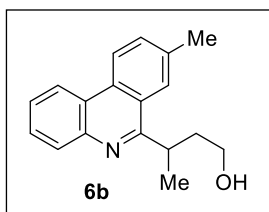
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (40 mg, 0.56 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120  $\mu$ L, 0.84 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6a** (105 mg, 75%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 1a (1 mmol scale):** Isocyanide **1a** (179 mg, 1 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (72 mg, 1 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (70 mg, 0.2 mmol), TBHP (70%, 215  $\mu$ L, 1.50 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (108 mg, 1 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 2.5 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6a** (176 mg, 70%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (60 mg, 0.84 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (98 mg, 0.28 mmol), TFA (43  $\mu$ L, 0.56 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (30 mg, 0.28 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.4 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6a** (15 mg, 21%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.66 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.85 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-8), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 4.97 (br s, 1H, OH), 4.28–4.20 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.94–3.88 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.84–3.79 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.40–2.32 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.4 (C-6), 142.8 (C-4a), 133.3 (C-10a), 130.7 (C-2), 129.2 (C-4), 128.9 (C-3), 127.6 (C-8), 126.8 (C-9), 126.1 (C-7), 124.9 (C-6a), 123.6 (C-10b), 122.8 (C-1), 122.0 (C-10), 59.9 (C-4'), 36.7 (C-3'), 35.3 (C-2'), 20.1 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> 252.1388, found 252.1387.

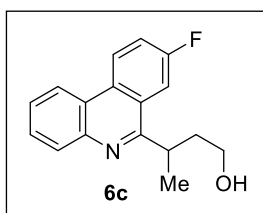
### 6-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-8-methylphenanthridine (6b)



**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1b** (100 mg, 0.52 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (37 mg, 0.52 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (36 mg, 0.10 mmol), TBHP (70%, 111  $\mu$ L, 0.78 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (56 mg, 0.52 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.3 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6b** (91 mg, 66%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.51 (dd, *J* = 8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-2), 8.13 (br s, 1H, H-7), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.68 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-4), 7.61 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-10), 4.28–4.20 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.96–3.90 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.84–3.79 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.63 (s, 3H, Me), 2.39–2.31 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.29–2.21 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.51 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.1 (C-6), 142.4 (C-4a), 137.5 (C-8 and C-10a), 132.5 (C-3), 129.1 (C-9), 128.4 (C-4), 126.8 (C-10), 125.6 (C-7), 125.1 (C-6a), 123.8 (C-10b), 122.8 (C-1), 121.9 (C-2), 59.9 (C-4'), 36.5 (C-3'), 35.4 (C-2'), 21.1 (Me), 20.1 (Me). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> 266.1545, found 266.1547.

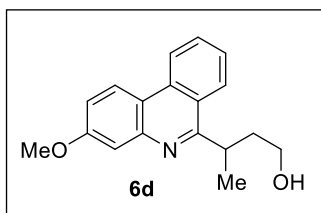
### 6-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-8-fluorophenanthridine (6c)



**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1c** (100 mg, 0.51 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (36 mg, 0.51 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (36 mg, 0.10 mmol), TBHP (70%, 110  $\mu$ L, 0.76 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (55 mg, 0.51 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.3 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6c** (105 mg, 77%) as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.66 (dd,  $J$  = 9.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.49 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.10 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.98 (dd,  $J$  = 10.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.71 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 7.64 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.60 (ddd,  $J$  = 10.8, 8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-9), 4.13–4.04 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.92–3.86 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.84–3.78 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.41–2.34 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.25–2.17 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.50 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5 (C-6), 161.7 (d,  $J$  = 248.7 Hz, C-8), 142.6 (C-4a), 130.0 (C-10a), 129.5 (C-4), 128.7 (C-3), 127.2 (C-2), 126.3 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, C-6a), 125.4 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, C-10), 123.2 (C-10b), 121.8 (C-1), 119.8 (d,  $J$  = 23.6 Hz, C-9), 110.8 (d,  $J$  = 21.9 Hz, C-7), 60.1 (C-4'), 36.8 (C-3'), 35.3 (C-2'), 20.0 (Me); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -111.87 (s). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN]<sup>+</sup> 270.1294, found 270.1291.

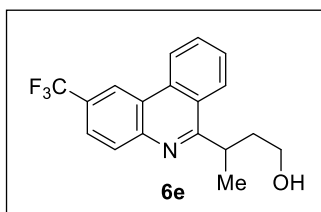
### 6-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-3-methoxyphenanthridine (6d)



**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1d** (100 mg, 0.48 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (34 mg, 0.48 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (34 mg, 0.10 mmol), TBHP (70%, 103  $\mu$ L, 0.72 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (52 mg, 0.48 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.2 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **6d** (98 mg, 73%) as an orange solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.55 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.42 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.32 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.81 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.63 (ddd,  $J$  = 8, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.47 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.26 (dd,  $J$  = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.29–4.21 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.98 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.95–3.89 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.84–3.79 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.38–2.31 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.28–2.20 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.51 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.9 (C-6), 160.4 (C-3), 144.5 (C-4a), 133.6 (C-10a), 130.8 (C-9), 126.5 (C-8), 126.1 (C-7), 124.0 (C-6a), 123.3 (C-1), 122.4 (C-10), 118.0 (C-2), 117.7 (C-10b), 108.8 (C-4), 59.9 (C-4'), 55.8 (OMe), 36.6 (C-3'), 35.4 (C-2'), 20.1 (Me); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 282.1494, found 282.1496.

### 6-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (6e)



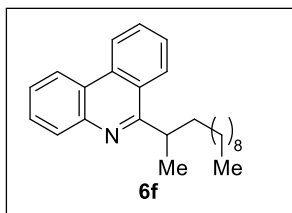
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1e** (100 mg, 0.40 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (29 mg, 0.40 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (29 mg, 0.08 mmol), TBHP (70%, 87  $\mu$ L, 0.61 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (44 mg, 0.40 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.0 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **6e** (88 mg, 68%) as a pale yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.83 (s, 1H, H-1), 8.69 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.42 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.94–7.89 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-9), 7.79 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, H-8), 4.18 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.89–3.78 (m, 2H, H-4'), 2.45–2.37 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.23–2.15 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.52 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.9 (C-6), 144.6 (C-4a), 132.9 (C-10a), 131.3 (C-9), 130.3 (C-4), 128.5 (C-



8), 127.2 (q,  $J = 272.3$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.3 (C-7), 125.3 (C-6a), 124.8 (q,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, C-3), 123.2 (C-10b), 122.9 (C-10), 119.9 (q,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, C-1), 60.3 (C-4'), 37.1 (C-3'), 34.9 (C-2'), 20.3 (Me);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -61.75 (s). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{NO}]^+$  320.1262, found 320.1262.

### 6-(Dodecan-2-yl)phenanthridine (6f)

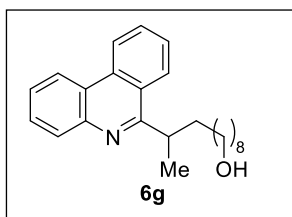


**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol), 1-dodecene (47 mg, 0.28 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (20 mg, 0.056 mmol), TBHP (70%, 60  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.42 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (30 mg, 0.28 mmol) in  $i\text{PrOH}$  (0.4 M, 0.7 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 99:1) gave **6f** (53 mg, 54%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol), 1-dodecene (140 mg, 0.84 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (98 mg, 0.28 mmol), TFA (43  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.56 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (30 mg, 0.28 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.4 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 99:1) gave **6f** (61 mg, 63%) as a yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.67 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.55 (dd,  $J = 8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.33 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.82 (ddd,  $J = 8, 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.70 (dddd,  $J = 9.6, 7.2, 6, 1.6$  Hz, 2H, H-3 and H-8), 7.61 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-9), 3.84 (sext,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.18–2.09 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.81–1.72 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.48 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H, Me), 1.23 (br s, 16H, H-4'–H-11'), 0.87 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8 (C-6), 144.0 (C-4a), 133.2 (C-10a), 130.1 (C-4), 130.0 (C-2), 128.5 (C-3), 127.2 (C-8), 126.2 (C-9), 125.7 (C-7), 125.3 (C-6a), 123.4 (C-10b), 122.7 (C-1), 121.9 (C-10), 36.8 (C-2'), 36.4 (C-3'), 32.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 30.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 28.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 20.3 (Me), 14.3 (Me); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $[\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{34}\text{N}]^+$  348.5540, found 348.4562.

### 6-(11-Hydroxyundecan-2-yl)phenanthridine (6g)



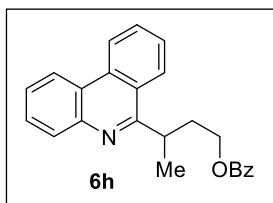
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 10-undecen-1-ol (95 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.84 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in  $i\text{PrOH}$  (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 90:10) gave **6g** (111 mg, 59%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 10-undecen-1-ol (285 mg, 1.67 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.12 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.9 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 90:10) gave **6g** (133 mg, 71%) as a yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.65 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.54 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.32 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.82 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.73–7.67 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-8), 7.61 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-9), 3.83 (sext,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.61 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H, H-11'), 2.19–2.10 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.81–1.72 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.56–1.51 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.49 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H, Me), 1.36–1.26 (m, 12H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8 (C-6), 143.9 (C-4a), 133.1 (C-10a), 130.1 (C-2), 129.9 (C-4), 128.5 (C-3), 127.2 (C-8), 126.3 (C-9), 125.7 (C-7), 125.3 (C-6a), 123.4 (C-10b), 122.7 (C-1), 121.9 (C-10), 63.1 (C-11'), 36.7 (C-2'), 36.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 32.9

(CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.3 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> 348.2327, found 348.2330.

#### 6-(4-(Benzoyloxy)butan-2-yl)phenanthridine (6h)

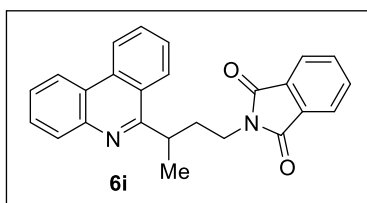


**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), but-3-en-1-yl benzoate (98 mg, 0.56 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120 μL, 0.84 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6h** (105 mg, 53%) as a pale-yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), but-3-en-1-yl benzoate (295 mg, 1.67 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85 μL, 1.12 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.8 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6h** (151 mg, 76%) as a pale-yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 7.95–7.93 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.81 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.72 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.65 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.53 (tt, *J* = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.38 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ph), 4.55–4.49 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.41–4.35 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.12 (sext, *J* = 14.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.78 (dq, *J* = 14, 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 2.28 (dq, *J* = 12, 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 1.55 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.7 (C=O), 164.1 (C-6), 143.9 (C-4a), 133.2 (C-10a), 132.9 (Ph), 130.5 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 130.2 (C-3), 130.1 (C-9), 129.6 (Ph), 128.6 (C-2), 128.4 (Ph), 127.3 (C-8), 126.5 (C-4), 125.4 (C-7), 125.1 (C-6a), 123.5 (C-10b), 122.8 (C-10), 121.9 (C-1), 63.9 (C-4'), 34.7 (C-3'), 33.6 (C-2'), 20.9 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 356.1650, found 356.1647.

#### 6-(4-(1,3-Dioxoisindolin-2-yl)butan-2-yl)phenanthridine (6i)



**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (112 mg, 0.56 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120 μL, 0.84 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **6i** (132 mg, 62%) as a

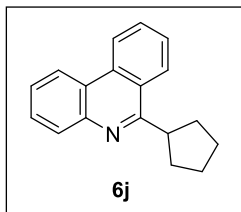
pale-yellow solid.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (336 mg, 1.67 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85 μL, 1.12 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.8 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **6i** (161 mg, 76%) as a pale-yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.79 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.69–7.63 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-8), 7.61–7.53 (m, 5H, H-2 and Ar), 3.98–3.86 (m, 2H, H-2' and H-4'), 3.83–3.76 (m, 1H, H-4'), 2.88 (dq, *J* = 15.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 2.12 (dq, *J* = 13.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 1.48 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.4 (C=O), 163.9 (C-6), 143.7 (C-4a), 133.7 (Ar), 133.2 (C-10a), 132.1 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 130.1 (C-4 and C-9), 128.5 (C-3), 127.3 (C-8), 126.3 (C-2), 125.6 (C-7),

124.9 (C-6a), 123.4 (C-10b), 122.9 (Ar), 122.6 (C-10), 121.8 (C-1), 37.1 (C-4'), 35.1 (C-2'), 33.6 (C-3'), 21.5 (Me). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $[C_{25}H_{21}N_2O_2]^+$  381.1603, found 381.1605.

### 6-Cyclopentylphenanthridine (6j)



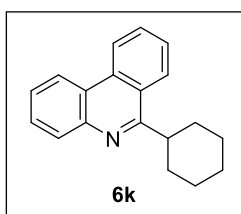
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), cyclopentene (38 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120  $\mu$ L, 0.84 mmol) and  $PhSiH_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6j** (36 mg, 26%) as a yellowish oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), cyclopentene (114 mg, 1.67 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu$ L, 1.12 mmol) and  $PhSiH_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.9 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6j** (97 mg, 70%) as a yellowish oil.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 80  $\mu$ L, 0.56 mmol), and  $PhSiH_3$  (181 mg, 1.67 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 1.4 mL),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (157 mg, 0.45 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu$ L, 1.12 mmol) and cyclopentene (153  $\mu$ L, 1.67 mmol) at 60 °C, open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6j** (82 mg, 62%) as a yellowish oil.

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.53 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.34 (d,  $J = 8,4$  Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.18 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.80 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.73 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 7.68 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.61 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, H-9), 4.09 (q,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-1'), 2.36–2.18 (m, 4H,  $CH_2$ ), 2.04–1.94 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.89–1.80 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ );  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  164.2 (C-6), 143.8 (C-4a), 132.9 (C-10a), 130.0 (C-2), 129.9 (C-4), 128.4 (C-3), 127.1 (C-8), 126.2 (C-9), 126.1 (C-7), 125.7 (C-6a), 123.5 (C-10b), 122.4 (C-1), 121.9 (C-10), 43.6 (C-1'), 32.2 ( $CH_2$ ), 26.1 ( $CH_2$ ); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$   $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $[C_{18}H_{18}N]^+$  248.1439, found 248.1442. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>13</sup>

### 6-Cyclohexylphenanthridine (6k)



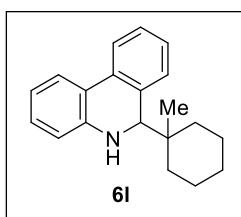
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol), cyclohexene (23 mg, 0.28 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (20 mg, 0.056 mmol), TBHP (70%, 60  $\mu$ L, 0.42 mmol) and  $PhSiH_3$  (30 mg, 0.28 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 700  $\mu$ L) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **6k** (10 mg, 14%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), cyclohexene (137 mg, 1.67 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu$ L, 1.12 mmol) and  $PhSiH_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.9 mL) at 60 °C. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **6k** (92 mg, 63%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 80  $\mu$ L, 0.56 mmol), and  $PhSiH_3$  (181 mg, 1.67 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 1.4 mL),  $Fe(acac)_3$  (157 mg, 0.45 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu$ L, 1.12 mmol), and 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (170  $\mu$ L, 1.67 mmol) at 60 °C, open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **6k** (84 mg, 58%) as a yellow oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.65 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 8.54 (dd,  $J = 8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-10), 8.32 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H, H-7), 8.13 (dd,  $J = 8, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.81 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 7.72–7.67 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-8), 7.60 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-9), 3.62 (tt,  $J = 11.2, 3.2$  Hz, 1H, H-1'), 2.09–2.07 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.99–1.93 (m, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.88–1.82 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.63–1.55 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.45 (tt,  $J = 12.8, 3.6$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.4 (C-6), 144.0 (C-4a), 133.2 (C-10a), 130.1 (C-4), 130.0 (C-2), 128.5 (C-3), 127.2 (C-8), 126.3 (C-9), 125.7 (C-7), 124.9 (C-6a), 123.5 (C-10b), 122.7 (C-1), 121.9 (C-10), 42.1 (C-1'), 32.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}]^+$  262.1595, found 262.1596. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>11</sup>

### 6-(1-Methylcyclohexyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridine (6l)



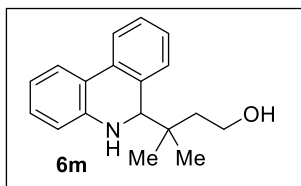
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (54 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70%, 120  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.84 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97:2.5) gave **6l** (8 mg, 5%) as a colorless oil.

**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol), 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (161 mg, 1.67 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (197 mg, 0.56 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.12 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 2.9 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6l** (145 mg, 94%) as a colorless oil.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **1a** (100 mg, 0.56 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (40 mg, 0.11 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 80  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.56 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (181 mg, 1.67 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 1.4 mL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 1.4 mL),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (157 mg, 0.45 mmol), TFA (85  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.12 mmol), and 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (199  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.67 mmol) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ , open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **6l** (86 mg, 56%) as a colorless oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.60 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, H-1), 7.29 (tt,  $J = 7.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.17 (tt,  $J = 7.6, 2$  Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.08 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.00 (ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.67 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H, H-4), 6.62 (ddd,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H, H-2), 4.03 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H, H-6), 1.53–1.10 (m, 10H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ) 0.67 (s, 3H, Me);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  146.9 (C-4a), 134.5 (C-10a), 132.9 (C-6a), 130.4 (C-7), 129.9 (C-3), 128.3 (C-9), 126.7 (C-8), 123.6 (C-1), 122.9 (C-10), 122.7 (C-10b), 118.0 (C-4), 114.8 (C-2), 65.2 (C-6), 43.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 35.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 34.9 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.9 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.7 (Me), 19.4 (C-2'); HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}]^+$  278.1908, found 278.1903.

### 6-(4-Hydroxy-2-methylbutan-2-yl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridine (6m)

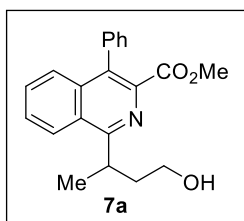


**Method 2:** Phenanthridine **6** (200 mg, 1.12 mmol), 3-methylbut-3-en-1-ol (288 mg, 3.35 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$  (394 mg, 1.12 mmol), TFA (171  $\mu\text{L}$ , 2.232 mmol) and  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (121 mg, 1.12 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 5.6 mL) at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$ . Purification by chromatography (hexane  $\rightarrow$  hexane/EtOAc 90:10) gave **6m** (257 mg, 86%) as a white solid.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **1a** (200 mg, 1.116 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (79 mg, 0.223 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 160 μL, 1.116 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (362 mg, 3.35 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 2.8 mL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 2.8 mL), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (315 mg, 0.89 mmol), TFA (171 μL, 2.23 mmol), and 3-methylbut-3-en-1-ol (338 μL, 3.35 mmol) at 60 °C, open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 90:10) gave **6m** (155 mg, 52%) as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-10), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-1), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-9), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-3), 6.65 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-2), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 4.44 (s, 1H, H-6), 3.64 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-4'), 1.80 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H, H-3'), 1.40 (s, 3H, Me), 0.93 (s, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 146.9 (C-4a), 134.2 (C-10a), 133.3 (C-6a), 130.4 (C-3), 128.4 (C-9), 127.8 (C-8), 126.5 (C-7), 123.7 (C-1), 123.1 (C-10), 120.9 (C-10b), 117.4 (C-2), 112.5 (C-4), 68.4 (C-6), 68.3 (C-4'), 42.6 (C-2'), 39.9 (C-3'), 26.9 (Me), 21.7 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO]<sup>+</sup> 268.1701, found 268.1698.

#### 1-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-3-methoxycarbonyl-4-phenylisoquinoline (7a)

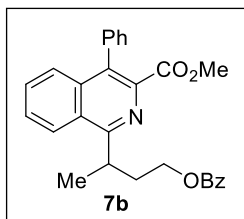


**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **2** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (27 mg, 0.38 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (27 mg, 0.076 mmol), TBHP (70%, 103 μL, 0.57 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (60 mg, 0.56 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 1 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **7a** (78 mg, 61%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Isoquinoline **7** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (82 mg, 1.14 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (134 mg, 0.38 mmol), TFA (58 μL, 0.76 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (123 mg, 1.14 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.9 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **7a** (41 mg, 32%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.71–7.67 (m, 1H, H-7), 7.64 (br s, 1H, H-6), 7.63 (br s, 1H, H-5), 7.52–7.46 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.35–7.29 (m, 2H, Ph), 4.25–4.19 (m, 1H, H-2'), 3.92–3.86 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.80–3.74 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.71 (s, 3H, Me), 2.38–2.30 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.25–2.17 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.50 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.8 (C=O), 158.8 (C-1), 136.3 (C-3), 136.2 (Ph), 130.5 (C-6), 129.7 (Ph), 129.6 (Ph), 129.0 (C-4), 128.9 (C-8a), 128.6 (C-7), 128.3 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.9 (C-4a), 127.6 (C-5), 124.9 (C-8), 59.9 (C-4'), 52.3 (Me), 36.7 (C-3'), 34.9 (C-2'), 20.4 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 336.1599, found 336.1597.

#### Methyl 1-(4-(Benzyloxy)butan-2-yl)-4-phenylisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (7b)



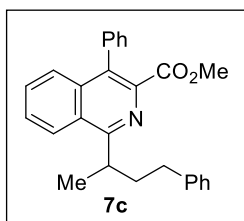
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **2** (50 mg, 0.19 mmol), but-3-en-1-yl benzoate (34 mg, 0.19 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (14 mg, 0.038 mmol), TBHP (70%, 41 μL, 0.29 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (41 mg, 0.19 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 0.5 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **7b** (40 mg, 48%) as a white solid.

**Method 2:** Isoquinoline **7** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), but-3-en-1-yl benzoate (200 mg, 1.14 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (134 mg, 0.38 mmol), TFA (58 μL, 0.76 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (41 mg,

0.38 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.9 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **7b** (112 mg, 67%) as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.33–8.29 (m, 1H, H-8), 8.13–8.11 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.99–7.96 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.66–7.59 (m, 4H, H-5, H-6, H-7 and Ph), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.50–7.45 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.35–7.28 (m, 1H, Ph), 4.52–4.46 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.36–4.30 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.11 (sext., *J* = 13.2, 6.8, 1H, H-2'), 3.65 (s, 3H, Me), 2.70 (dq, *J* = 14.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 2.28 (dq, *J* = 13.2, 6 Hz, 1H, H-3'), 1.54 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.9 (C=O), 168.4 (C=O), 164.0 (C-1), 141.6 (C-3), 136.4 (C-4), 136.1 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 133.9 (Ph), 132.9 (Ph), 131.6 (C-4a), 130.5 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 130.4 (Ph), 130.3 (Ph), 130.1 (C-6), 130.0 (Ph), 129.6 (Ph), 129.3 (C-8a), 128.6 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.9 (C-7), 127.4 (C-5), 127.1 (Ph), 124.5 (C-8), 63.9 (C-4'), 52.3 (Me), 34.9 (C-3'), 33.5 (C-2'), 21.1 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 440.1862, found 440.1866.

### Methyl 4-Phenyl-1-(4-phenylbutan-2-yl)isoquinoline-3-carboxylate (**7c**)

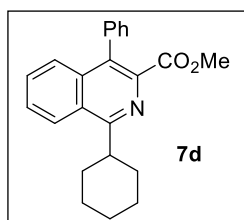


**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **2** (70 mg, 0.27 mmol), 4-phenyl-1-butene (35 mg, 0.27 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (19 mg, 0.053 mmol), TBHP (70%, 57 μL, 0.40 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (29 mg, 0.27 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 0.7 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **7c** (42 mg, 40%) as a pale-yellow solid.

**Method 2:** Isoquinoline **7** (70 mg, 0.27 mmol), 4-phenyl-1-butene (105 mg, 0.798 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (94 mg, 0.27 mmol), TFA (41 μL, 0.53 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (29 mg, 0.27 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.4 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **7a** (66 mg, 63%) as a pale-yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.16–8.11 (m, 1H, H-8), 7.67–7.63 (m, 1H, H-5), 7.63–7.59 (m, 2H, H-6 and H-7), 7.52–7.45 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.38–7.35 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.29–7.25 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.20–7.16 (m, 3H, Ph), 3.84 (sext., *J* = 13.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.68 (s, 3H, Me), 2.70 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, H-4'), 2.55–2.46 (m, 1H, H-3'), 2.16–2.05 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.5 (C=O), 164.9 (C-1), 142.7 (C-3), 141.6 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 136.5 (C-4), 135.9 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 131.3 (C-4a), 130.1 (C-6), 130.0 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 127.9 (C-7), 127.3 (C-5), 127.1 (C-8a), 125.8 (Ph), 124.7 (C-8), 52.3 (Me), 37.9 (C-3'), 35.9 (C-2'), 34.2 (C-4'), 20.7 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 396.1963, found 396.1963.

### 1-Cyclohexyl-3-methoxycarbonyl-4-phenylisoquinoline (**7d**)

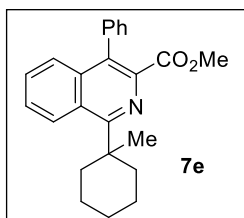


**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **2** (30 mg, 0.11 mmol), cyclohexene (9 mg, 0.11 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (8 mg, 0.023 mmol), TBHP (70%, 24 μL, 0.17 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (37 mg, 0.34 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 285 μL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **7d** (17 mg, 43%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Isoquinoline **7** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), cyclohexene (94 mg, 1.14 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (134 mg, 0.38 mmol), TFA (58 μL, 0.76 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (123 mg, 1.14 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.9 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **7d** (75 mg, 57%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **2** (86 mg, 0.33 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (23 mg, 0.065 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 47 μL, 0.33 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (106 mg, 0.98 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 820 μL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 820 μL), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (92 mg, 0.26 mmol), TFA (47 μL, 0.65 mmol), and cyclohexene (99 μL, 0.98 mmol) at 60 °C, open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 97.5:2.5) gave **7d** (63 mg, 56%) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.73–7.70 (m, 1H, H-7), 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H, H-6), 7.62–7.60 (m, 1H, H-5), 7.51–7.45 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.31–7.29 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.74–3.67 (m, 1H, H-1'), 3.59 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99–1.83 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.65–1.58 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.45–1.38 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.32–1.25 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 170.2 (C=O), 166.6 (C-1), 143.0 (C-3), 137.4 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 136.9 (C-4), 131.9 (C-4a), 131.6 (C-6), 131.1 (Ph), 129.4 (Ph), 129.3 (Ph), 129.1 (C-5), 127.8 (C-7), 127.7 (C-8a), 125.9 (C-8), 52.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 42.7 (C-1'), 33.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 346.1807, found 346.1810. Spectral data were identical to those previously reported.<sup>14</sup>

### 1-(1-Methylcyclohexyl)-3-methoxycarbonyl-4-phenylisoquinoline (**7e**)



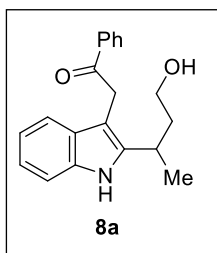
**Method 1a:** Isocyanide **2** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (36 mg, 0.38 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (27 mg, 0.076 mmol), TBHP (70%, 82 μL, 0.57 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (123 mg, 1.14 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.4 M, 0.95 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 99:1) gave **7e** (30 mg, 22%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 2:** Isoquinoline **7** (100 mg, 0.38 mmol), 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (109 mg, 1.14 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (134 mg, 0.38 mmol), TFA (58 μL, 0.76 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (123 mg, 1.14 mmol) in 4:1 THF/MeOH (0.2 M, 1.9 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 99:1) gave **7e** (93 mg, 68%) as a yellow oil.

**Method 3:** Isocyanide **2** (86 mg, 0.33 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (23 mg, 0.065 mmol), TBHP (70% in water, 47 μL, 0.33 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (106 mg, 0.98 mmol) in 4:1 MTBE/MeOH (0.4 M, 820 μL) at room temperature. After 15 min, was added MTBE (to a 0.2 M solution, 820 μL), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (92 mg, 0.26 mmol), TFA (47 μL, 0.65 mmol), and 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene (116 μL, 0.98 mmol) at 60 °C, open to air. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 99:1) gave **7e** (60 mg, 51%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 8.68–8.65 (m, 1H, H-8), 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H, H-7), 7.63–7.55 (m, 2H, H-5 and H-6), 7.52–7.46 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.35–7.33 (m, 2H, Ph), 3.63 (s, 3H, Me), 2.54–2.47 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.96–1.89 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69 (s, 3H, Me), 1.67–1.62 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.58–1.43 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ 168.6 (C=O), 166.8 (C-1), 140.6 (C-3), 137.4 (C-4), 136.9 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 131.6 (C-4a), 130.4 (Ph), 129.6 (C-6), 128.5 (Ph), 128.1 (C-7), 127.4 (C-8), 127.1 (C-8a), 126.9 (C-5), 52.2 (Me), 43.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.3 (C-1'), 26.9 (Me), 23.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 360.1963, found 360.1959.

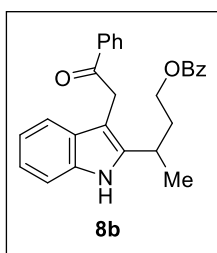
### 2-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)indole (8a)



**Method 1b:** Isocyanide **3** (100 mg, 0.43 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (31 mg, 0.43 mmol), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (30 mg, 0.086 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (46 mg, 0.43 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.04 M, 10.7 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 75:25) gave **8a** (62 mg, 47%) as a brownish oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, Ph), 8.03 (s, 1H, NH), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-5), 4.59 and 4.22 (2d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H each, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.64–3.58 (m, 1H) and 3.56–3.49 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.38–3.29 (m, 1H, H-2'), 2.56 (br s, 1H, OH), 2.01–1.93 (m, 1H) and 1.87–1.79 (m, 1H, H-3'), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 199.1 (C=O), 140.7 (C-2), 136.9 (C-7a), 135.4 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 133.2 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.3 (C-3a), 121.4 (C-6), 119.5 (C-5), 117.9 (C-4), 110.6 (C-7), 104.3 (C-3), 60.4 (C-4'), 39.5 (C-3'), 34.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (C-2'), 21.4 (Me). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 308.1650, found 308.1652.

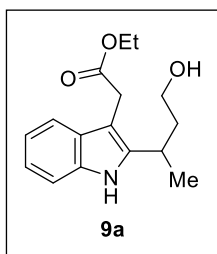
### 2-(4-(Benzyloxy)butan-2-yl)-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole (8b)



**Method 1b:** Isocyanide **3** (100 mg, 0.43 mmol), but-3-en-1-yl benzoate (76 mg, 0.43 mmol), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (30 mg, 0.086 mmol) and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (46 mg, 0.43 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.04 M, 10.7 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 95:5) gave **8b** (72 mg, 41%) as a yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.99–7.97 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.91–7.88 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, Ph), 7.33–7.29 (m, 3H, H-7 and Ph), 7.13 (ddd, *J* = 8, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 7.08 (ddd, *J* = 8, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-5), 4.36 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.34–4.28 (m, 1H, H-4'), 4.21–4.15 (m, 1H, H-4'), 3.39–3.30 (m, 1H, H-2'), 2.17–2.02 (m, 2H, H-3'), 1.37 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, Me); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.7 (C=O), 166.7 (C=O), 139.7 (C-2), 136.9 (C-7a), 135.7 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 133.0 (Ph), 130.2 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 129.6 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.6 (C-3a), 128.5 (Ph), 121.7 (C-6), 119.8 (C-5), 118.4 (C-4), 110.8 (C-7), 104.8 (C-3), 63.3 (C-4'), 35.9 (C-3'), 34.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.4 (C-2'), 21.0 (Me); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 412.1912, found 412.1909.

### Ethyl 2-(4-Hydroxybutan-2-yl)-3-indoleacetate (9a)



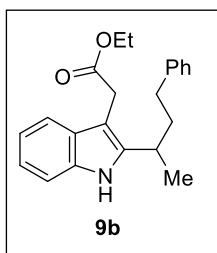
**Method 1b:** Isocyanide **4** (100 mg, 0.50 mmol), but-3-en-1-ol (36 mg, 0.50 mmol), Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (35 mg, 0.099 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (54 mg, 0.50 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.04 M, 12.4 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 50:50) gave **9a** (59 mg, 43%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (s, 1H, NH), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.12 (m, 2H, H-5, H-6), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 3.68 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 3.60–3.55 (m, 1H, H-4''), 3.45–3.37 (m, 2H, H-2'', H-4''), 2.03–1.96 (m, 1H, H-3''), 1.82–1.74 (m, 1H, H-3''), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, H-1''), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.3 (C=O), 140.2 (C-2), 135.4 (C-7a), 128.1 (C-3a), 121.5 (C-6), 119.5 (C-5), 118.3 (C-4), 110.5 (C-7), 104.3 (C-3), 61.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>),



59.8 (C-4''), 39.6 (C-3''), 30.4 (C-1''), 27.2 (C-2''), 21.5 (C-1'), 14.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 276.1599, found 276.1599.

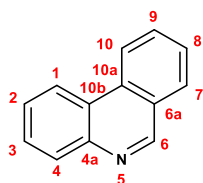
### 3-(Ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-2-(4-phenylbutan-2-yl)-1H-indole (9b)



**Method 1b:** Isocyanide **4** (100 mg, 0.50 mmol), 4-phenyl-1-butene (66 mg, 0.50 mmol), and Fe(acac)<sub>3</sub> (35 mg, 0.099 mmol), and PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (54 mg, 0.50 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.04 M, 12.4 mL) at room temperature. Purification by chromatography (hexane → hexane/EtOAc 90:10) gave **9b** (62 mg, 37%) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (br s, 1H, NH), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.31 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.28–7.24 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.19–7.15 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.14–7.09 (m, 3H, H-5, H-6 and Ph), 4.09 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.69 and 3.61 (2d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H each, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.15 (sext., *J* = 14, 6.8 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 2.62–2.50 (m, 2H, H-4'), 2.06–1.95 (m, 2H, H-3'), 1.35 (s, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, Me), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.1 (C=O), 142.0 (C<sub>ipso</sub>), 140.6 (C-2), 135.4 (C-7a), 128.6 (C-3a), 128.5 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 126.0 (Ph), 121.6 (C-6), 119.7 (C-5), 118.7 (C-4), 110.6 (C-7), 104.5 (C-3), 60.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 38.8 (C-3'), 33.9 (C-4'), 30.8 (C-2'), 30.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.3 (Me), 14.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> 336.1963, found 336.1962.

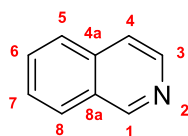
**NMR Assignment Tables**  
**Table S9. Phenanthridines**



|       | Theory | 6         | 6a    | 6b    | 6c    | 6d    | 6e        | 6f    |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|
| H-1   | 8.53   | 8.63      | 8.66  | 8.56  | 8.49  | 8.42  | 8.83      | 8.66  |
| H-2   | 7.64   | 7.78-7.68 | 7.85  | 8.51  | 7.64  | 7.26  | -         | 7.82  |
| H-3   | 7.72   | 7.78-7.68 | 7.71  | 7.68  | 7.71  | -     | 7.94-7.89 | 7.70  |
| H-4   | 8.19   | 8.20      | 8.10  | 7.68  | 8.10  | 7.47  | 8.20      | 8.14  |
| H-6   | 9.26   | 9.30      | -     | -     | -     | -     | -         | -     |
| H-7   | 7.99   | 8.06      | 8.36  | 8.13  | 7.98  | 8.32  | 8.42      | 8.32  |
| H-8   | 7.65   | 7.78-7.68 | 7.71  | -     | -     | 7.63  | 7.79      | 7.70  |
| H-9   | 7.88   | 7.88      | 7.63  | 8.08  | 7.60  | 7.81  | 7.94-7.89 | 7.61  |
| H-10  | 8.52   | 8.59      | 8.54  | 7.61  | 8.66  | 8.55  | 8.69      | 8.55  |
| C-1   | 122.2  | 122.2     | 122.7 | 122.8 | 121.8 | 123.3 | 119.9     | 122.7 |
| C-2   | 127.0  | 127.1     | 130.5 | 121.9 | 127.2 | 118.0 | -         | 130.0 |
| C-3   | 128.6  | 128.7     | 128.7 | 132.5 | 128.7 | 160.4 | 124.8     | 128.5 |
| C-4   | 130.1  | 130.0     | 129.0 | 128.4 | 129.5 | 108.8 | 130.3     | 130.1 |
| C-4a  | 144.4  | 144.3     | 142.7 | 142.4 | 142.6 | 144.5 | 144.6     | 144.0 |
| C-6   | 153.5  | 153.5     | 165.2 | 165.1 | 164.5 | 165.9 | 167.9     | 165.8 |
| C-6a  | 126.3  | 126.3     | 124.8 | 125.1 | 126.3 | 124.0 | 125.3     | 125.3 |
| C-7   | 128.7  | 128.8     | 125.9 | 125.6 | 110.8 | 126.1 | 126.3     | 125.7 |
| C-8   | 127.4  | 127.5     | 127.4 | 137.5 | 161.7 | 126.5 | 128.5     | 127.2 |
| C-9   | 130.9  | 131.0     | 126.6 | 129.1 | 119.8 | 130.8 | 131.3     | 126.2 |
| C-10  | 121.8  | 121.8     | 121.9 | 126.8 | 125.4 | 122.4 | 122.9     | 121.9 |
| C-10a | 132.4  | 132.5     | 133.2 | 123.8 | 130.0 | 133.6 | 132.9     | 133.2 |
| C-10b | 124.0  | 124.1     | 123.5 | 137.5 | 123.2 | 117.7 | 123.3     | 123.4 |

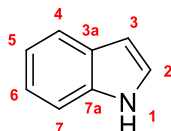
|       | Theory | 6g        | 6h    | 6i        | 6j    | 6k        | 6l    | 6m    |
|-------|--------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| H-1   | 8.53   | 8.65      | 8.54  | 8.43      | 8.62  | 8.65      | 7.60  | 7.65  |
| H-2   | 7.64   | 7.82      | 7.72  | 7.61-7.53 | 7.80  | 7.81      | 6.62  | 6.65  |
| H-3   | 7.72   | 7.73-7.67 | 8.15  | 7.69-7.63 | 7.73  | 7.72-7.67 | 7.00  | 7.12  |
| H-4   | 8.19   | 8.15      | 7.62  | 8.08      | 8.18  | 8.13      | 6.67  | 6.51  |
| H-6   | 9.26   | -         | -     | -         | -     | -         | 4.03  | 4.44  |
| H-7   | 7.99   | 8.32      | 8.33  | 8.24      | 8.34  | 8.32      | 7.08  | 7.35  |
| H-8   | 7.65   | 7.73-7.67 | 7.65  | 7.69-7.63 | 7.68  | 7.72-7.67 | 7.17  | 7.21  |
| H-9   | 7.88   | 7.61      | 7.81  | 7.79      | 7.61  | 7.60      | 7.29  | 7.29  |
| H-10  | 8.52   | 8.54      | 8.65  | 8.57      | 8.53  | 8.54      | 7.72  | 7.70  |
| C-1   | 122.2  | 122.7     | 121.9 | 121.8     | 122.4 | 122.7     | 123.6 | 123.7 |
| C-2   | 127.0  | 130.1     | 128.6 | 126.3     | 130.0 | 130.0     | 114.8 | 117.4 |
| C-3   | 128.6  | 127.2     | 130.2 | 128.5     | 128.4 | 128.5     | 129.9 | 130.4 |
| C-4   | 130.1  | 129.9     | 126.5 | 130.1     | 129.9 | 130.1     | 118.0 | 112.5 |
| C-4a  | 144.4  | 143.9     | 143.9 | 143.7     | 143.8 | 144.0     | 146.9 | 146.9 |
| C-6   | 153.5  | 165.8     | 164.1 | 163.9     | 164.2 | 165.4     | 65.2  | 68.4  |
| C-6a  | 126.3  | 125.3     | 125.1 | 124.9     | 125.7 | 124.9     | 132.9 | 133.3 |
| C-7   | 128.7  | 125.7     | 125.4 | 125.6     | 126.1 | 125.7     | 130.4 | 126.5 |
| C-8   | 127.4  | 127.2     | 127.3 | 127.3     | 127.1 | 127.2     | 126.7 | 127.8 |
| C-9   | 130.9  | 126.3     | 130.1 | 130.1     | 126.2 | 126.3     | 128.3 | 128.4 |
| C-10  | 121.8  | 121.9     | 122.8 | 122.6     | 121.9 | 121.9     | 122.9 | 123.1 |
| C-10a | 132.4  | 133.1     | 133.2 | 133.2     | 132.9 | 133.2     | 134.5 | 134.2 |
| C-10b | 124.0  | 123.4     | 123.5 | 123.4     | 123.5 | 123.5     | 122.7 | 120.9 |

**Table S10. Isoquinolines**



|      | Theory | 7         | 7a        | 7b        | 7c        | 7d        | 7e        |
|------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H-1  | 9.22   | 9.32      | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         |
| H-3  | 8.50   | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         |
| H-4  | 7.55   | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         |
| H-5  | 7.72   | 7.72-7.47 | 7.63      | 7.66-7.59 | 7.67-7.63 | 7.62-7.60 | 7.63-7.55 |
| H-6  | 7.59   | 7.72-7.47 | 7.64      | 7.66-7.59 | 7.63-7.59 | 7.68-7.65 | 7.63-7.55 |
| H-7  | 7.51   | 7.72-7.47 | 7.71-7.67 | 7.66-7.59 | 7.63-7.59 | 7.73-7.70 | 7.68-7.65 |
| H-8  | 7.86   | 8.07      | 8.35      | 8.33-8.29 | 8.16-8.11 | 8.40      | 8.68-8.65 |
| C-1  | 152.4  | 151.7     | 158.8     | 164.0     | 164.9     | 166.6     | 166.8     |
| C-3  | 142.9  | 140.9     | 136.3     | 141.6     | 142.7     | 143.0     | 140.6     |
| C-4  | 120.4  | 135.7     | 129.0     | 136.4     | 136.5     | 136.9     | 137.4     |
| C-4a | 135.7  | 134.9     | 127.9     | 131.6     | 131.3     | 131.9     | 131.6     |
| C-5  | 126.4  | 126.5     | 127.6     | 127.4     | 127.1     | 129.1     | 126.9     |
| C-6  | 130.2  | 131.1     | 130.5     | 130.1     | 130.1     | 131.6     | 129.6     |
| C-7  | 127.1  | 127.6     | 128.6     | 127.9     | 127.9     | 127.8     | 128.1     |
| C-8  | 127.5  | 128.8     | 124.9     | 124.5     | 124.7     | 125.9     | 127.4     |
| C-8a | 128.6  | 129.0     | 128.9     | 129.3     | 127.1     | 127.8     | 127.1     |

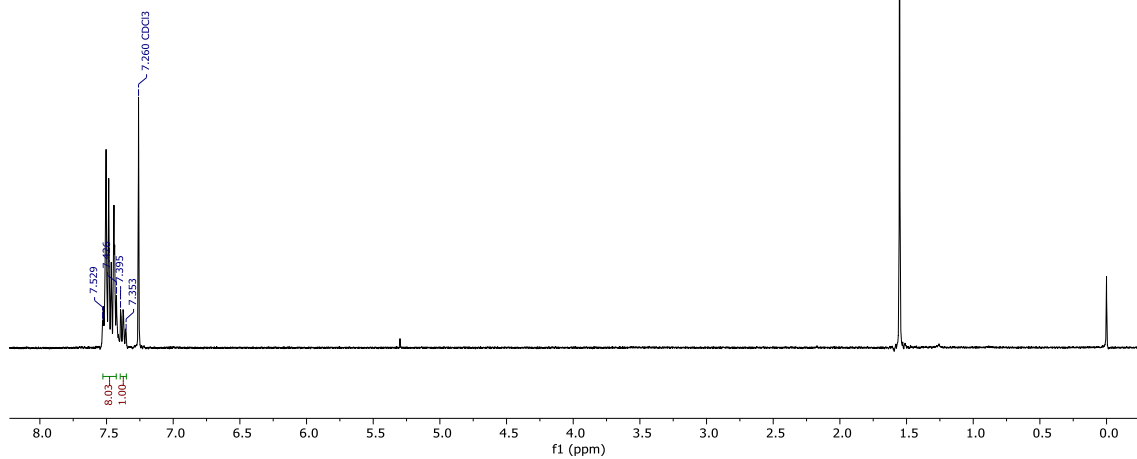
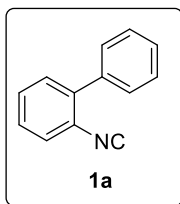
**Table S11. Indoles**



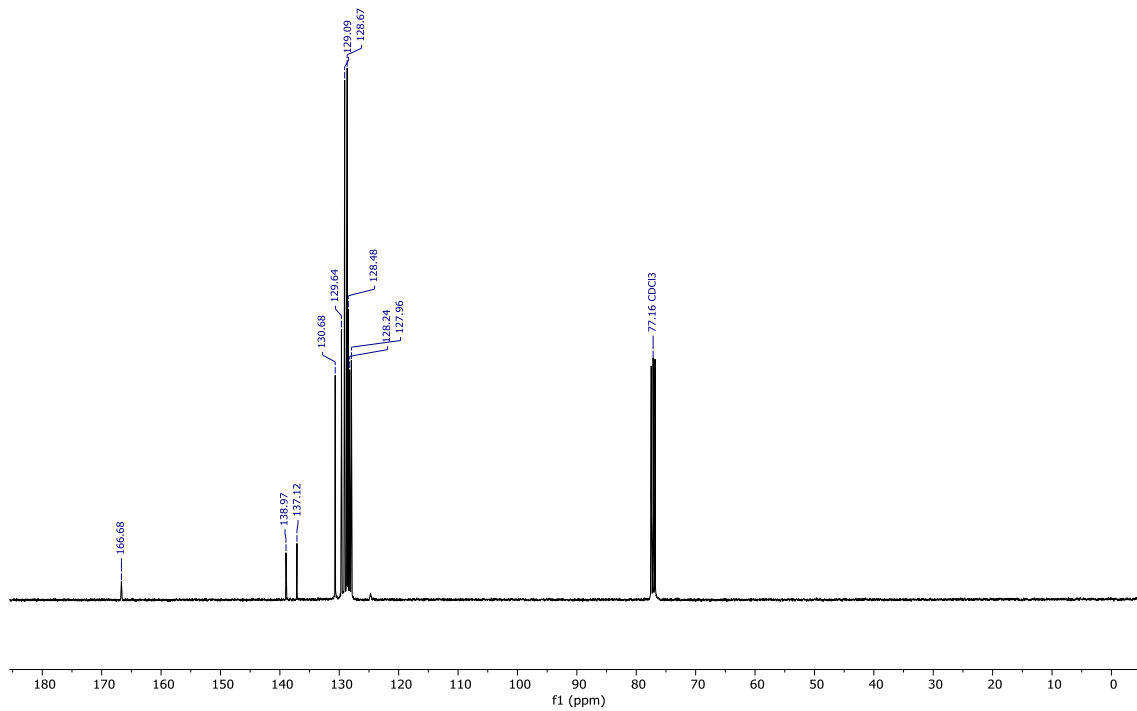
|      | Theory | 8     | 8a    | 8b        | 9     | 9a    | 9b        |
|------|--------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| H-2  | 7.05   | 7.10  | -     | -         | 7.10  | -     | -         |
| H-3  | 6.52   | -     | -     | -         | -     | -     | -         |
| H-4  | 7.64   | 7.61  | 7.38  | 7.44      | 7.64  | 7.56  | 7.59      |
| H-5  | 7.12   | 7.13  | 7.05  | 7.08      | 7.15  | 7.12  | 7.14-7.09 |
| H-6  | 7.18   | 7.19  | 7.12  | 7.13      | 7.21  | 7.12  | 7.14-7.09 |
| H-7  | 7.27   | 7.33  | 7.30  | 7.33-7.29 | 7.32  | 7.28  | 7.31      |
| C-2  | 124.3  | 123.2 | 140.7 | 139.7     | 123.2 | 140.2 | 140.6     |
| C-3  | 102.2  | 108.8 | 104.3 | 104.8     | 108.5 | 104.3 | 104.5     |
| C-3a | 127.7  | 127.3 | 128.3 | 128.6     | 127.3 | 128.1 | 128.6     |
| C-4  | 120.6  | 118.7 | 117.9 | 118.4     | 118.9 | 118.3 | 118.7     |
| C-5  | 121.8  | 119.6 | 119.5 | 119.8     | 119.7 | 119.5 | 119.7     |
| C-6  | 119.7  | 122.1 | 121.4 | 121.7     | 122.2 | 121.5 | 121.6     |
| C-7  | 111.1  | 111.2 | 110.6 | 110.8     | 111.3 | 110.5 | 110.6     |
| C-7a | 135.7  | 136.7 | 136.9 | 136.9     | 136.2 | 135.4 | 135.4     |

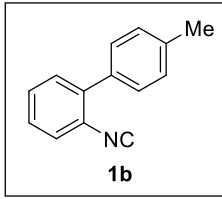
# Copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

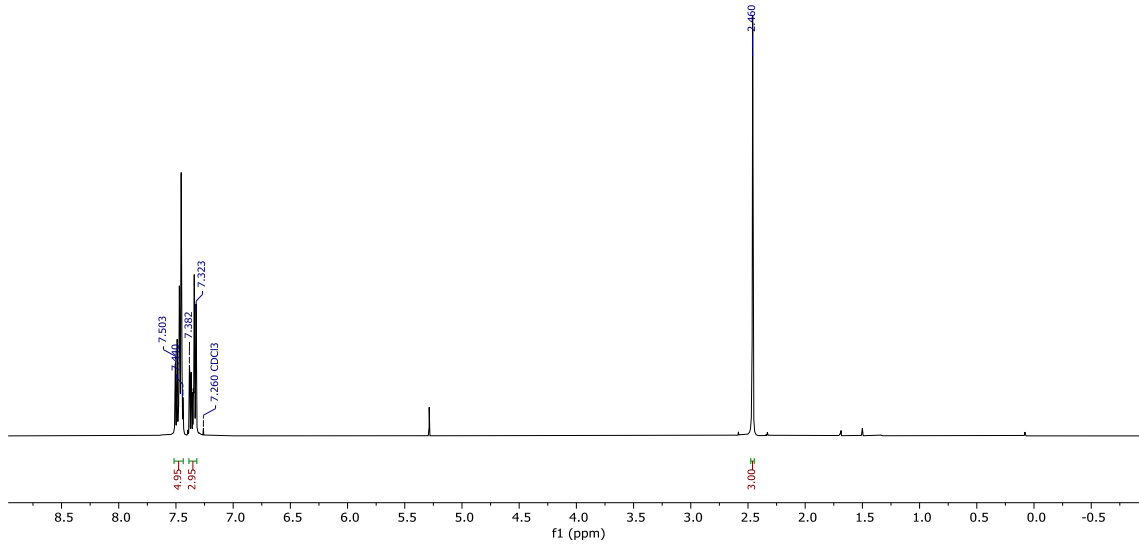


$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

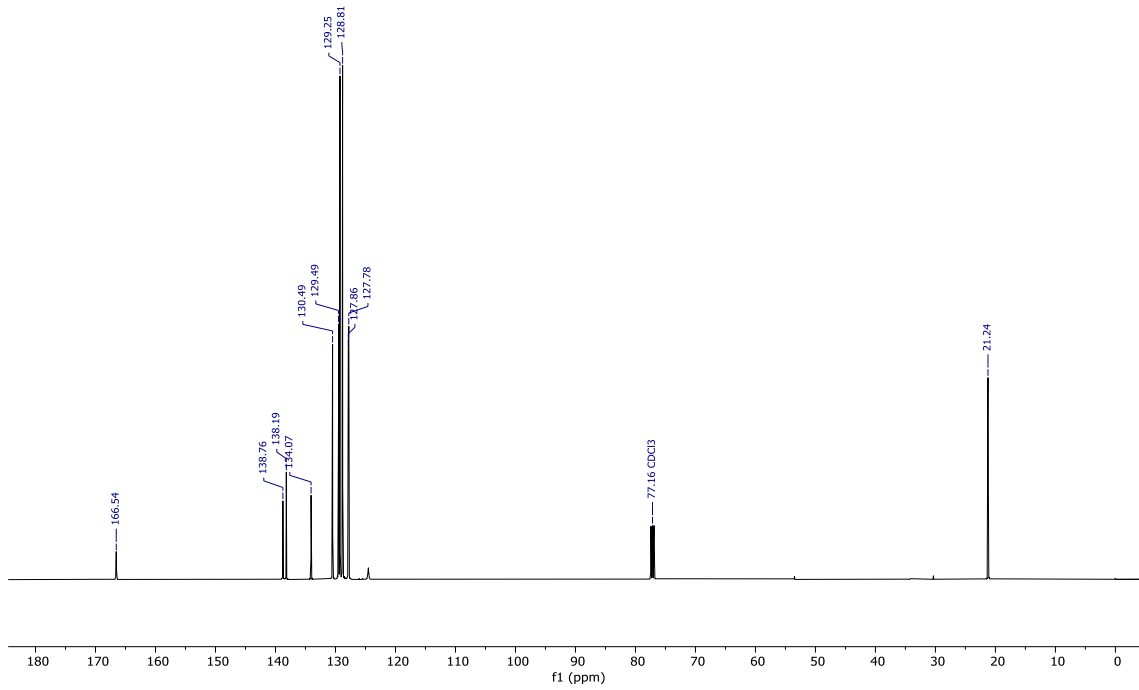


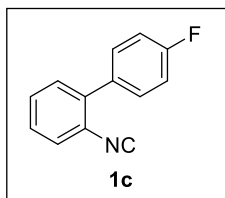


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

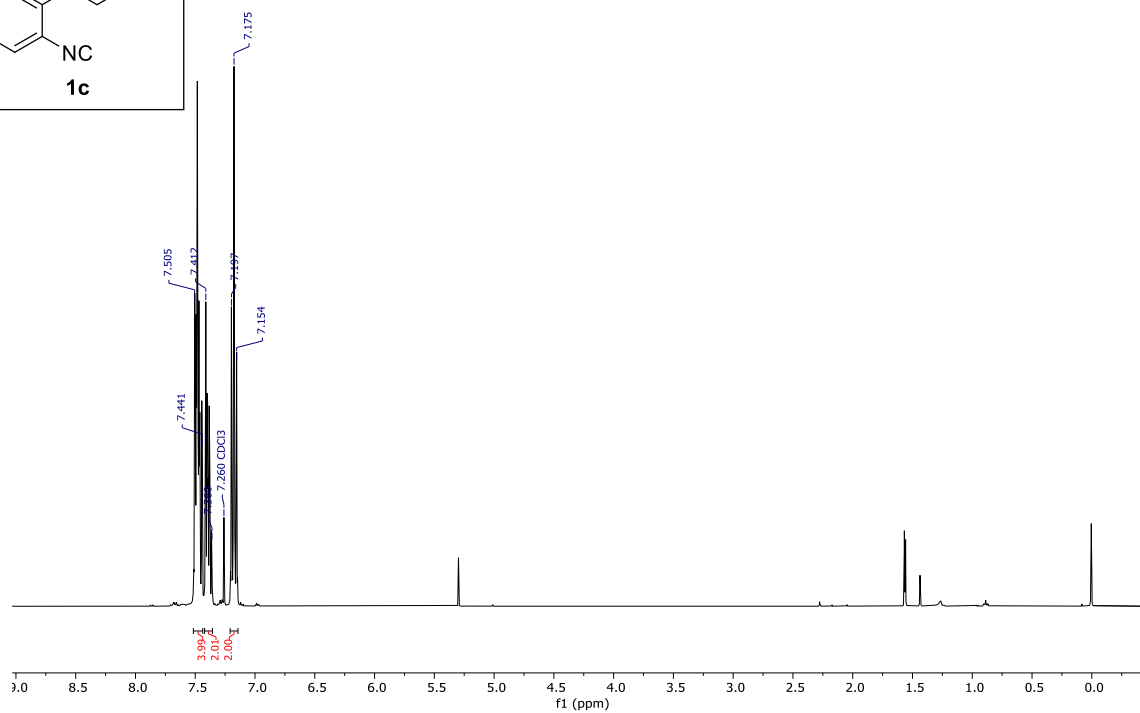


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

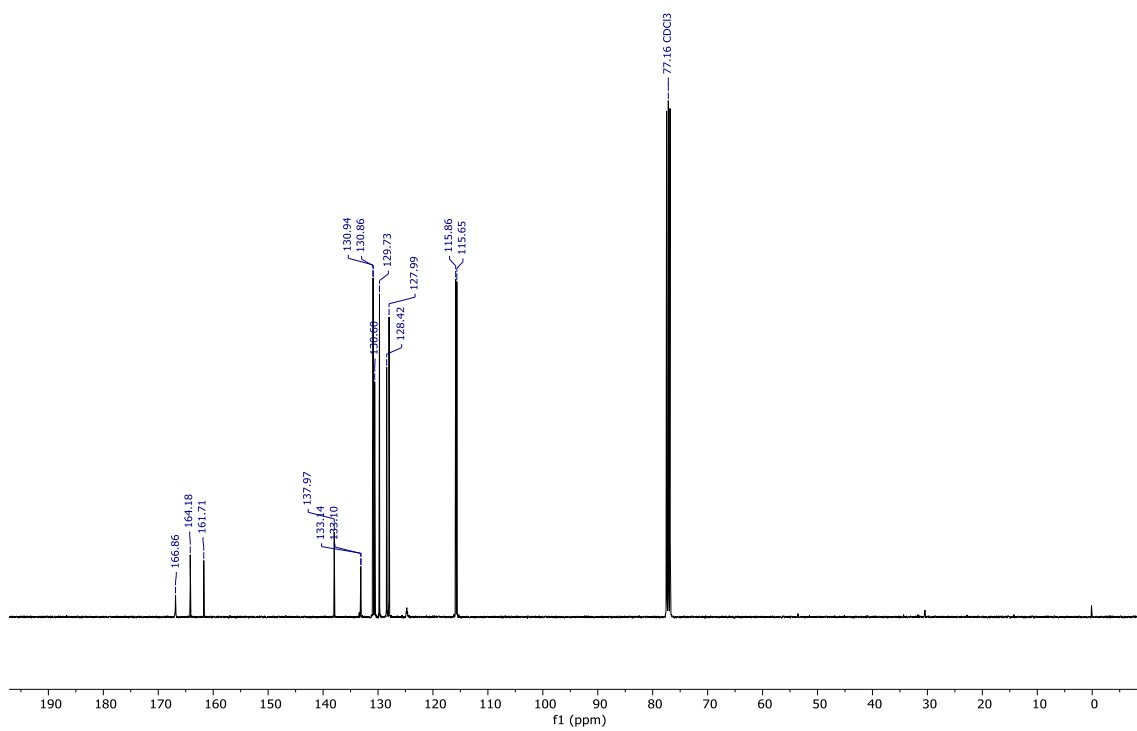


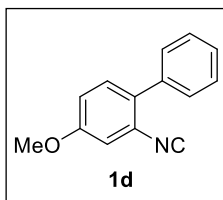


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

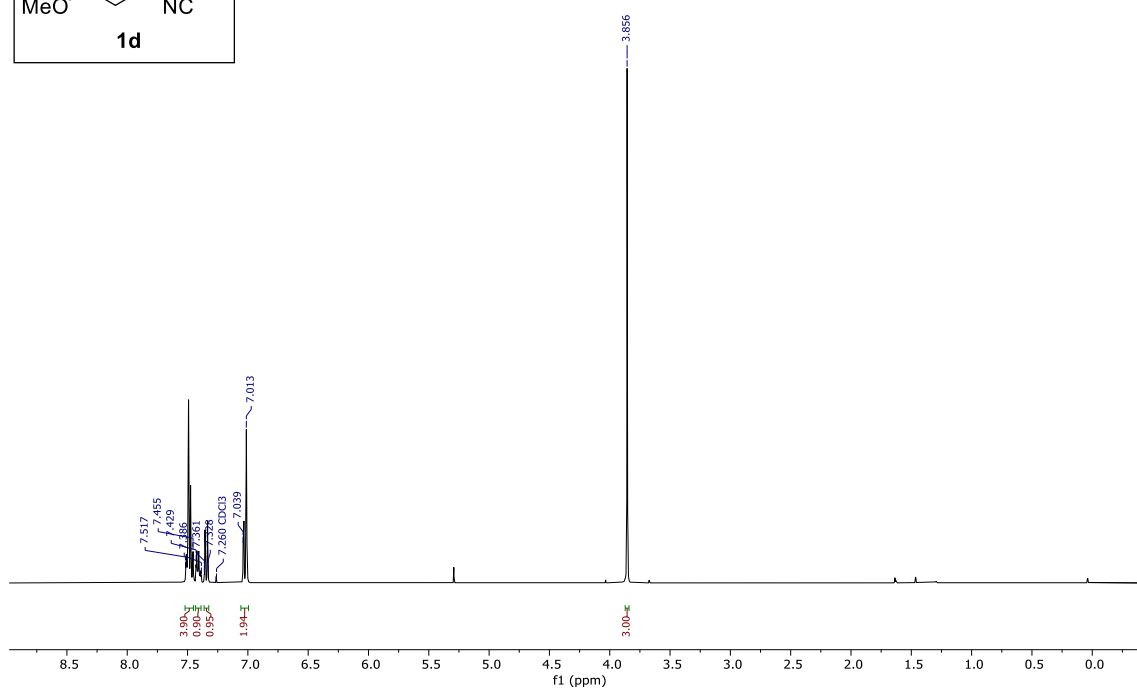


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

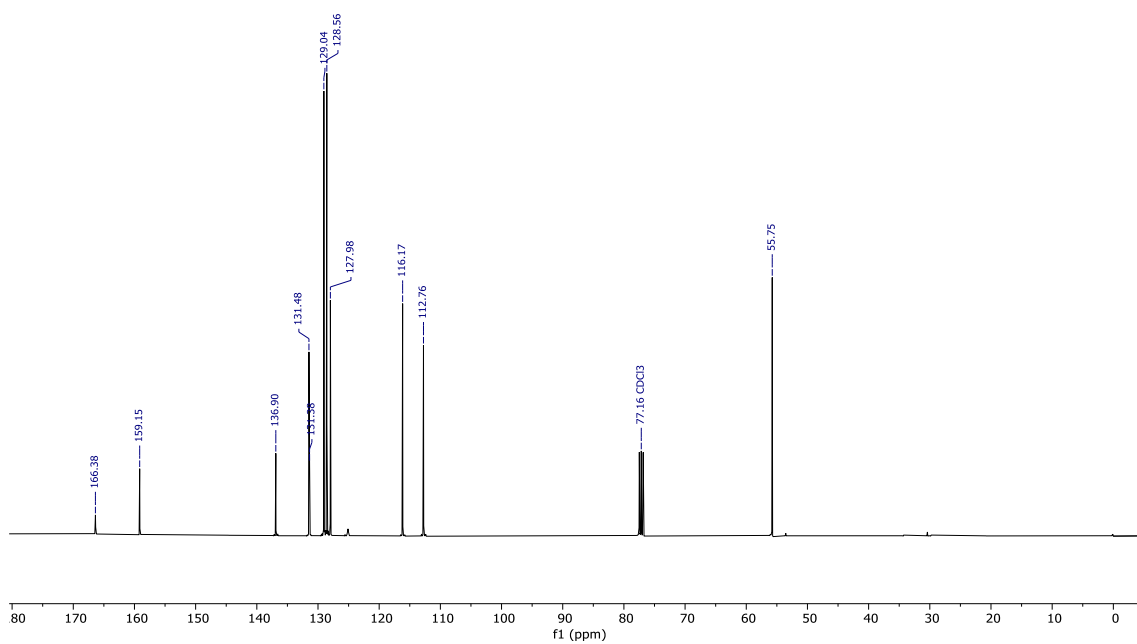


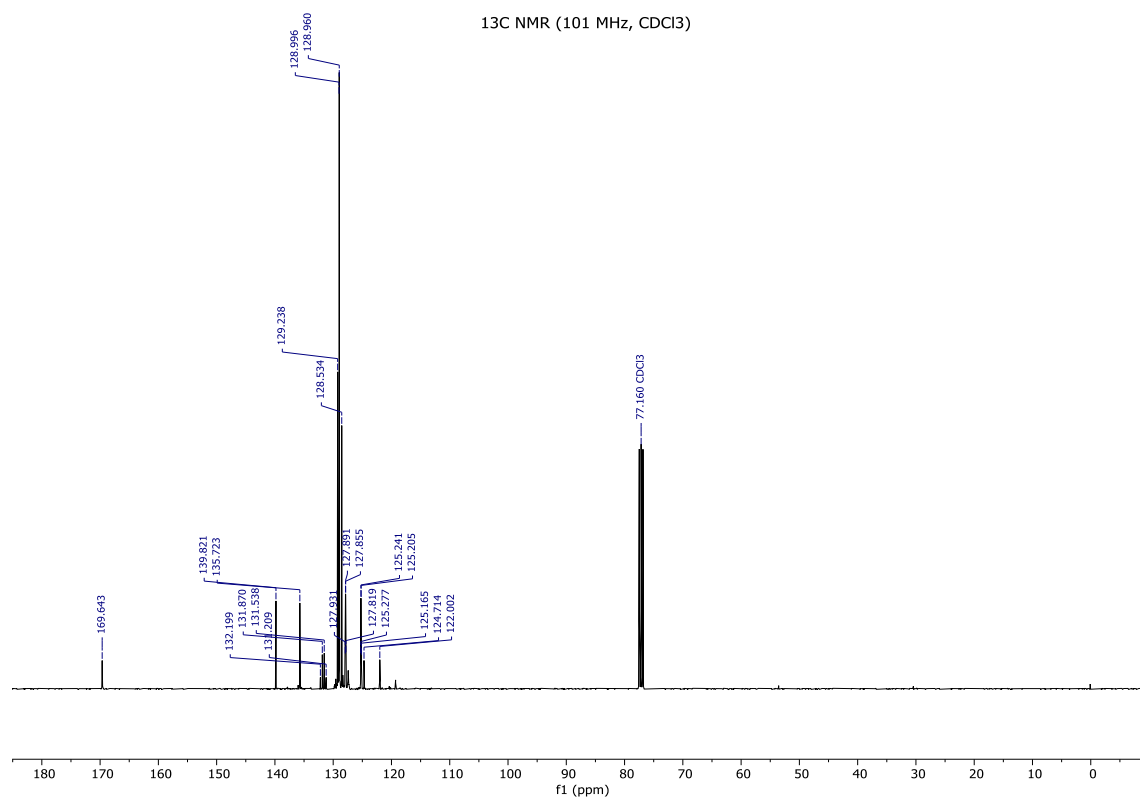
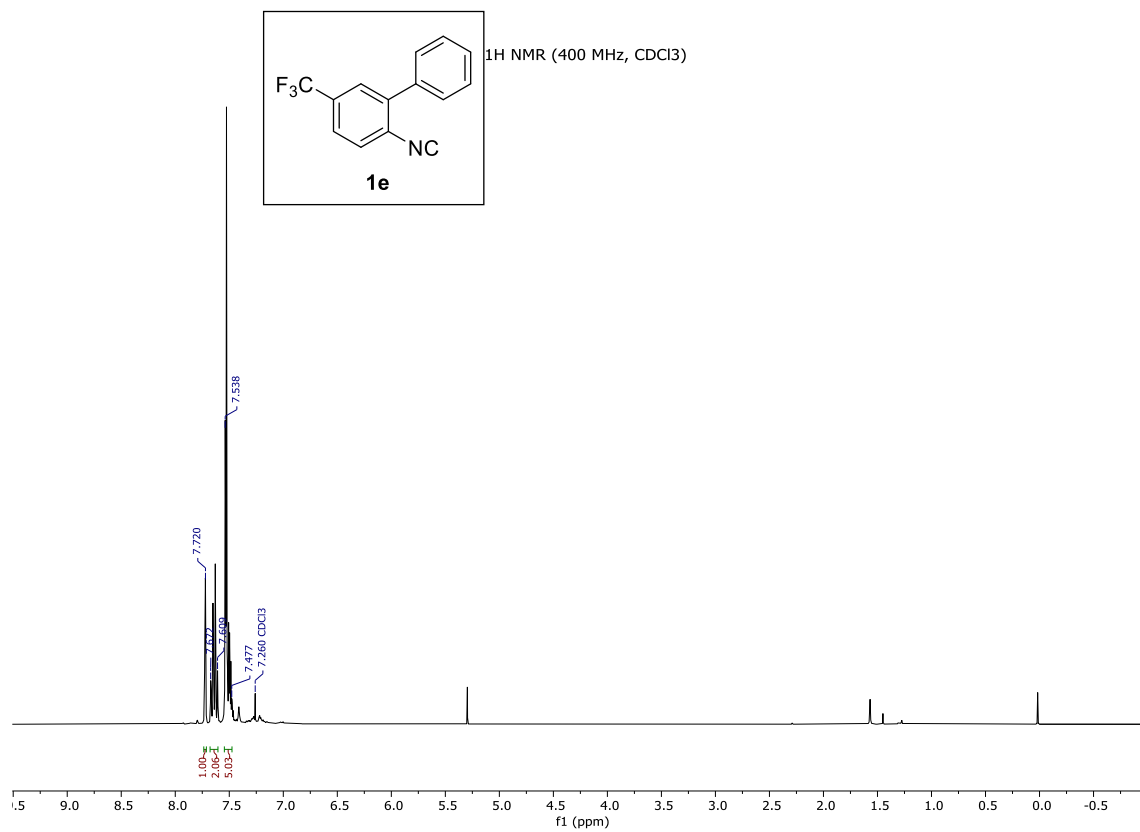


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

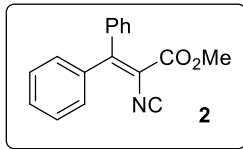


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

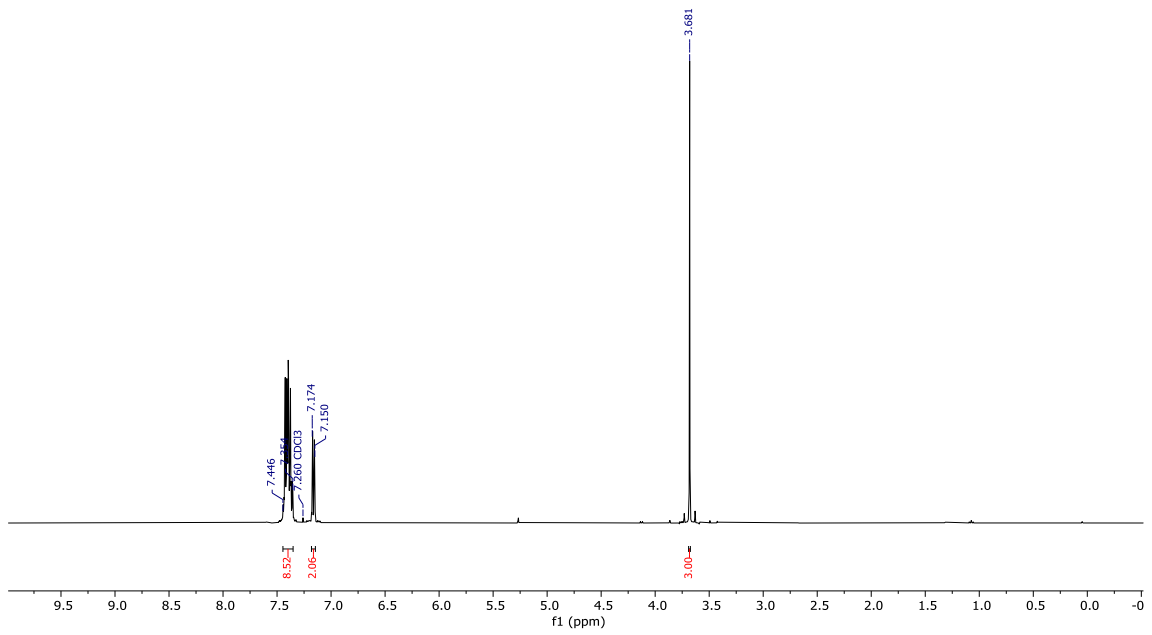




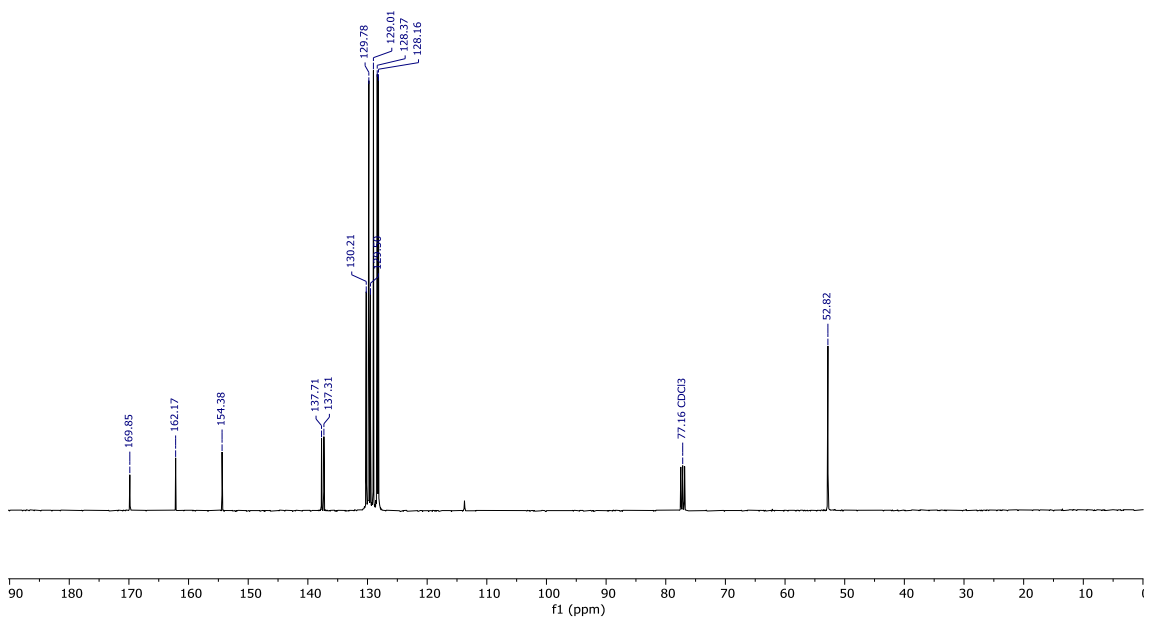




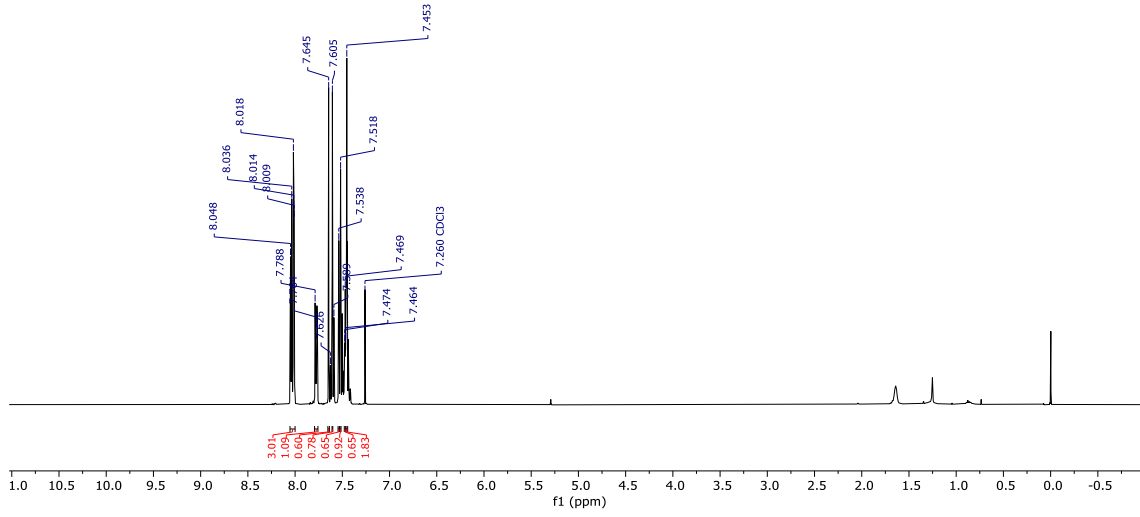
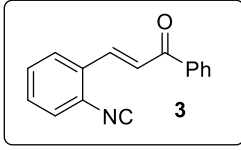
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



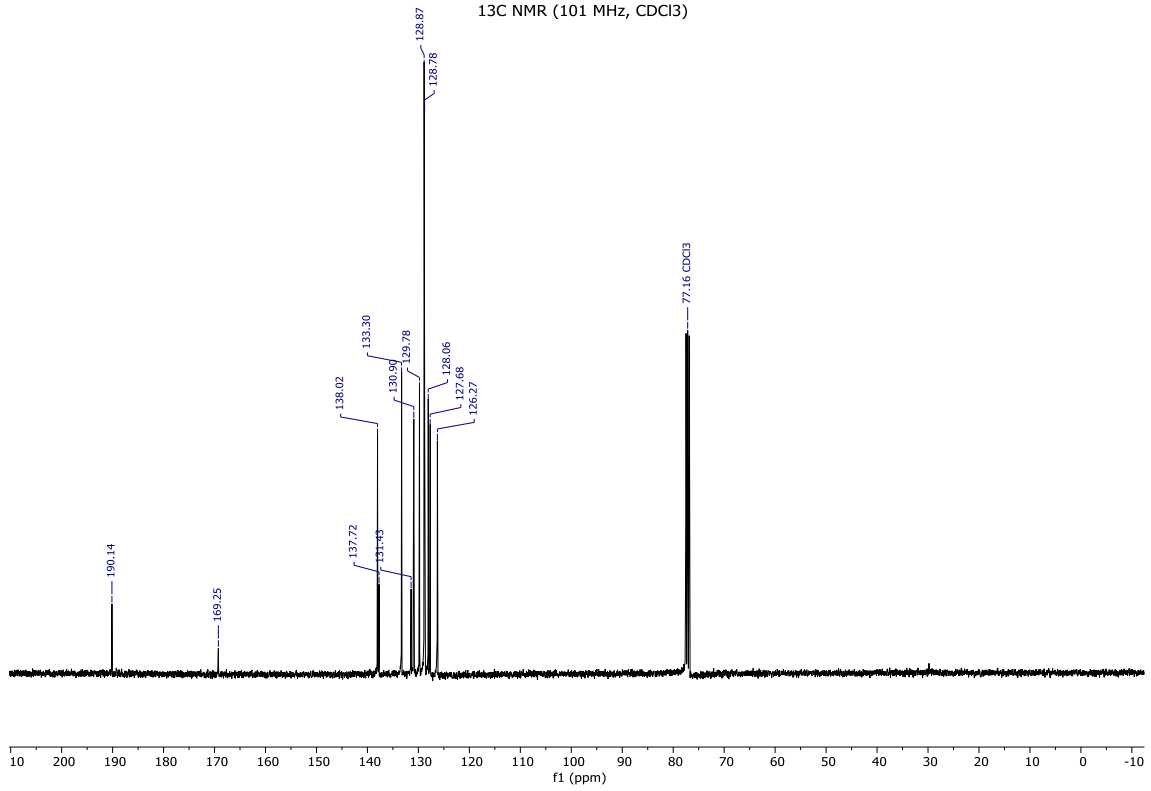
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

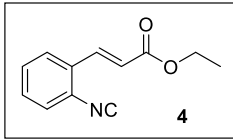


1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)

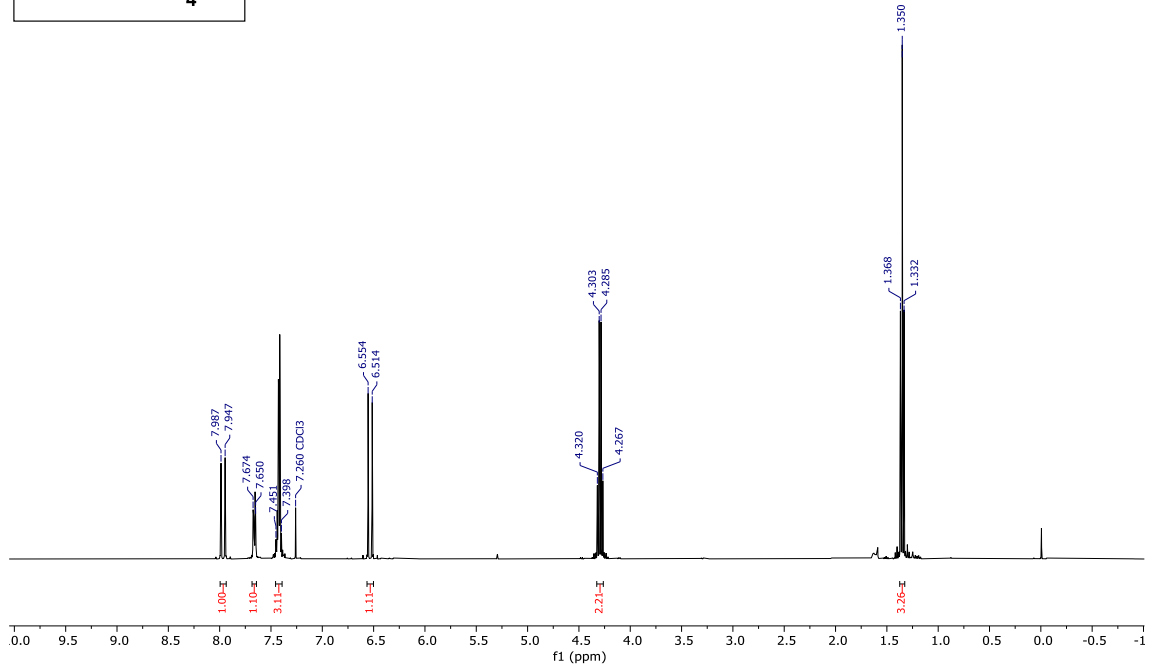


13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3)

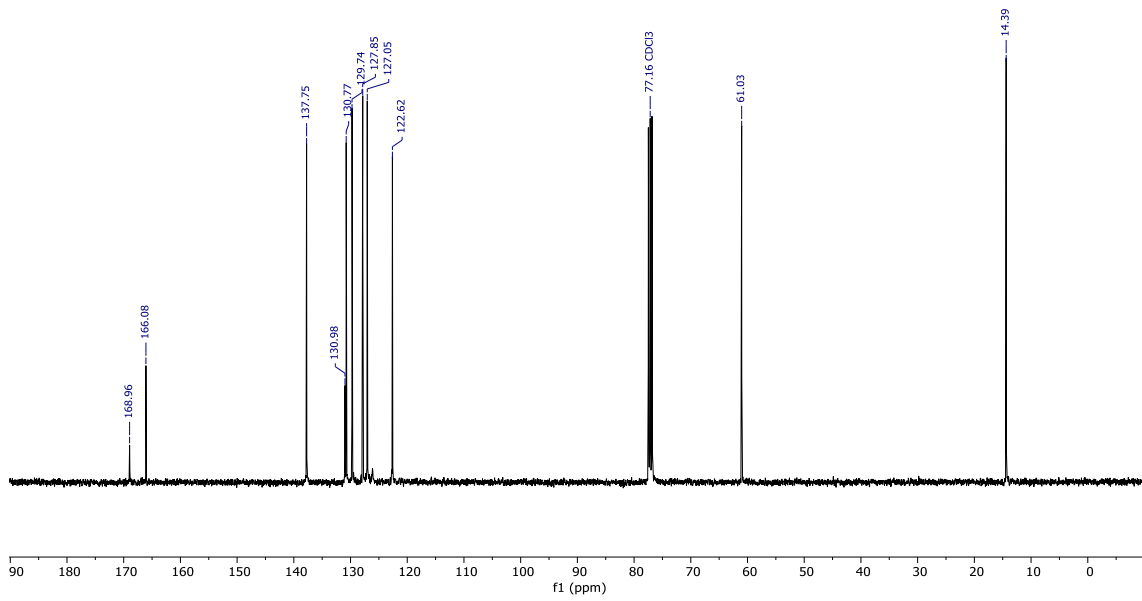




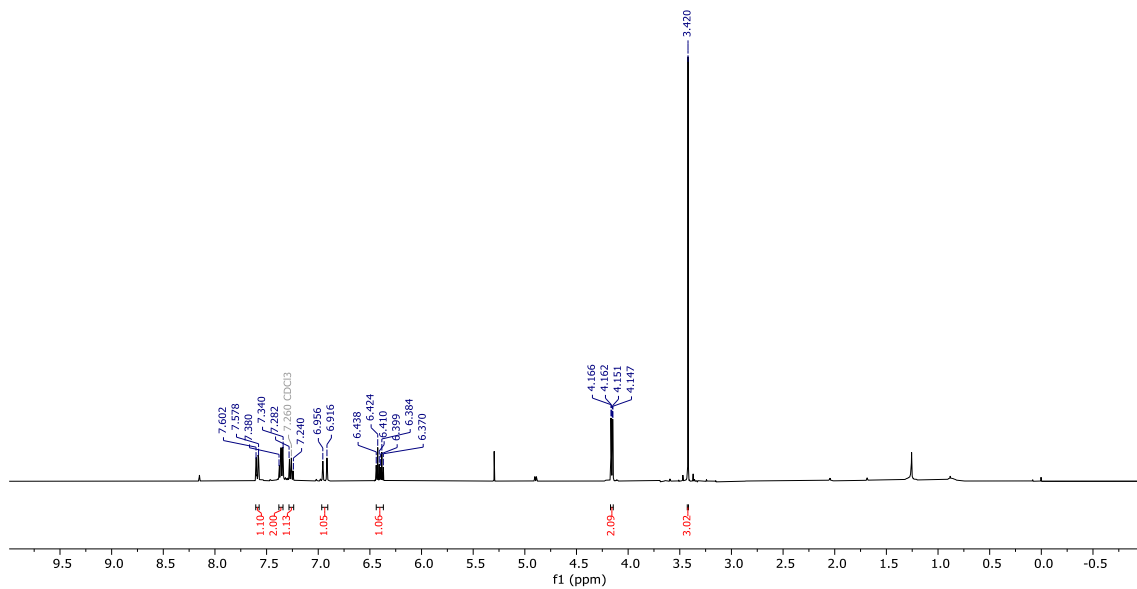
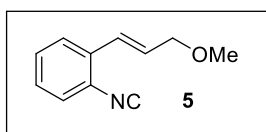
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



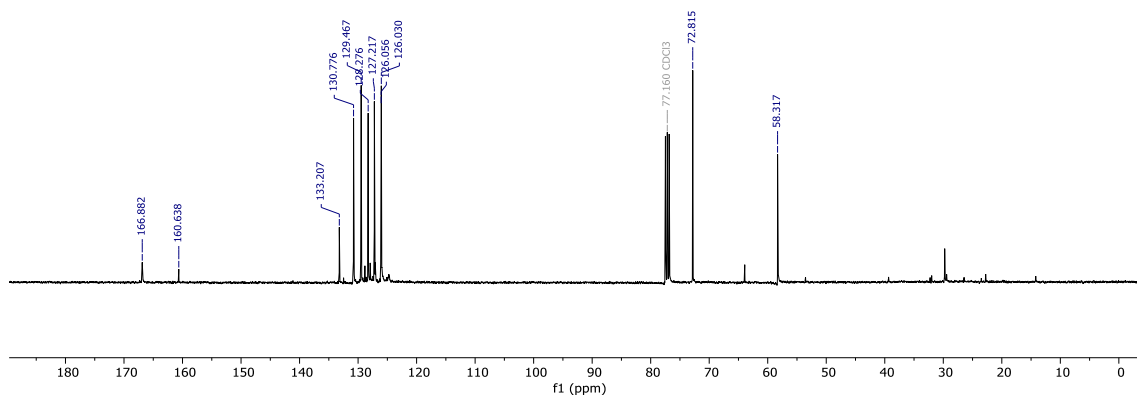
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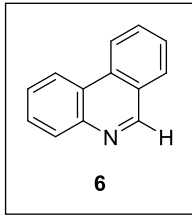


1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)

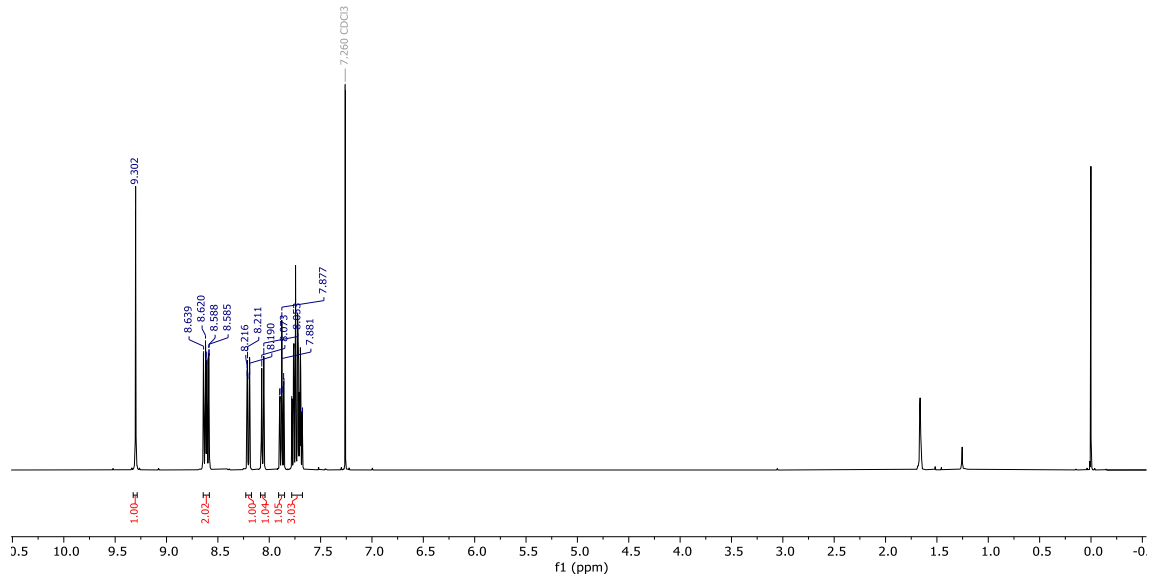


13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3)

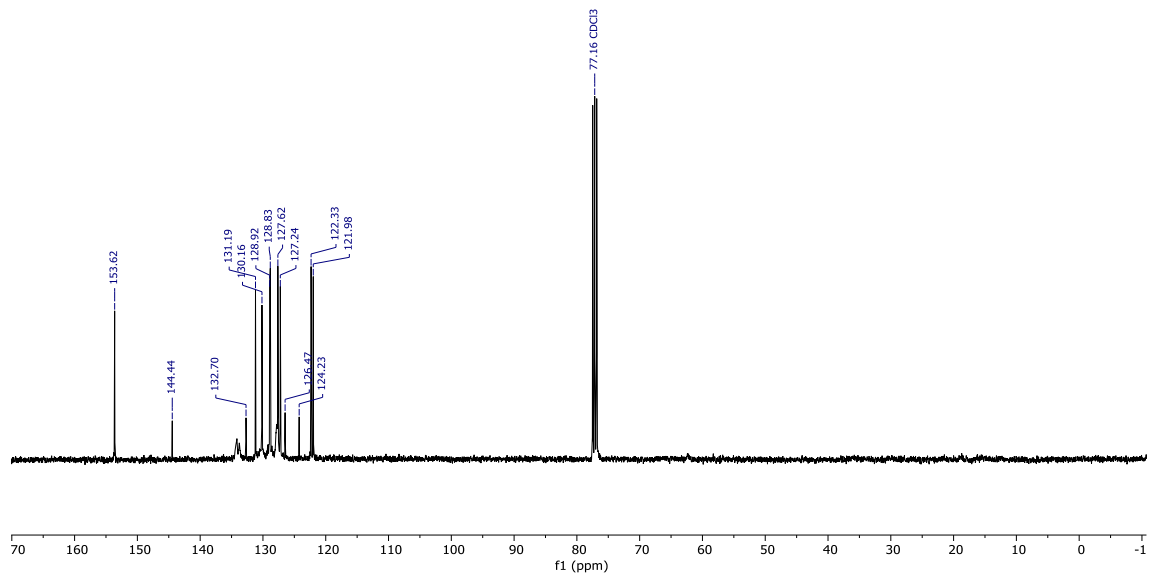


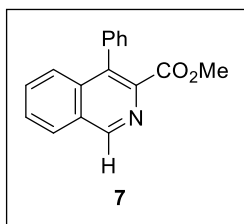


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

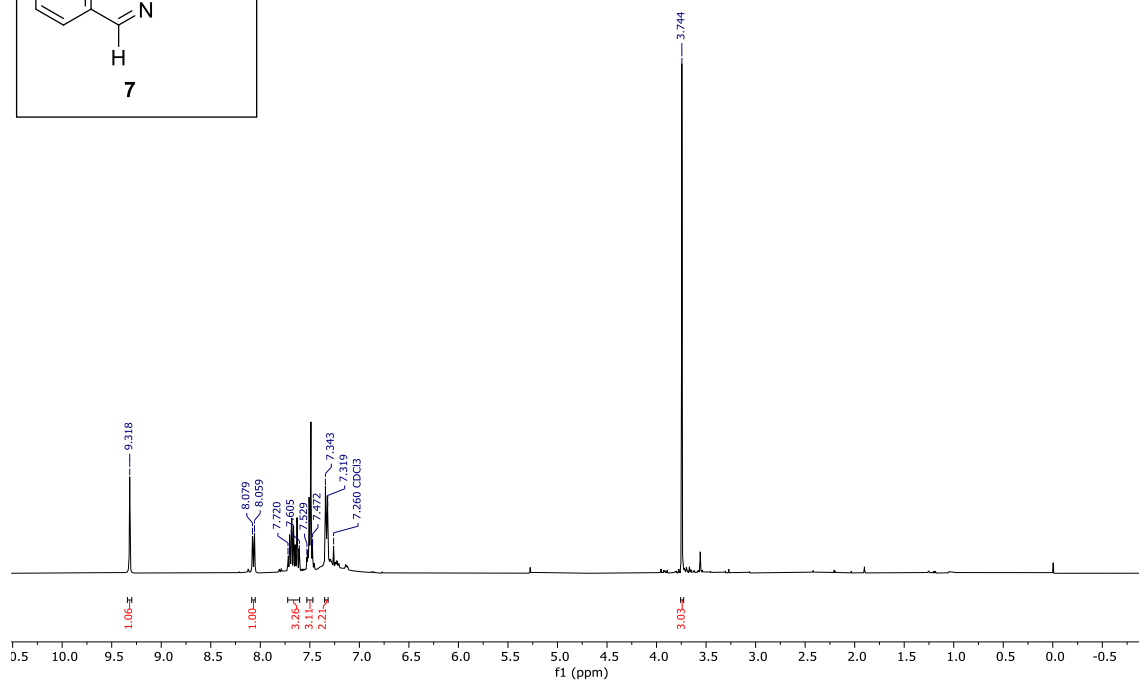


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

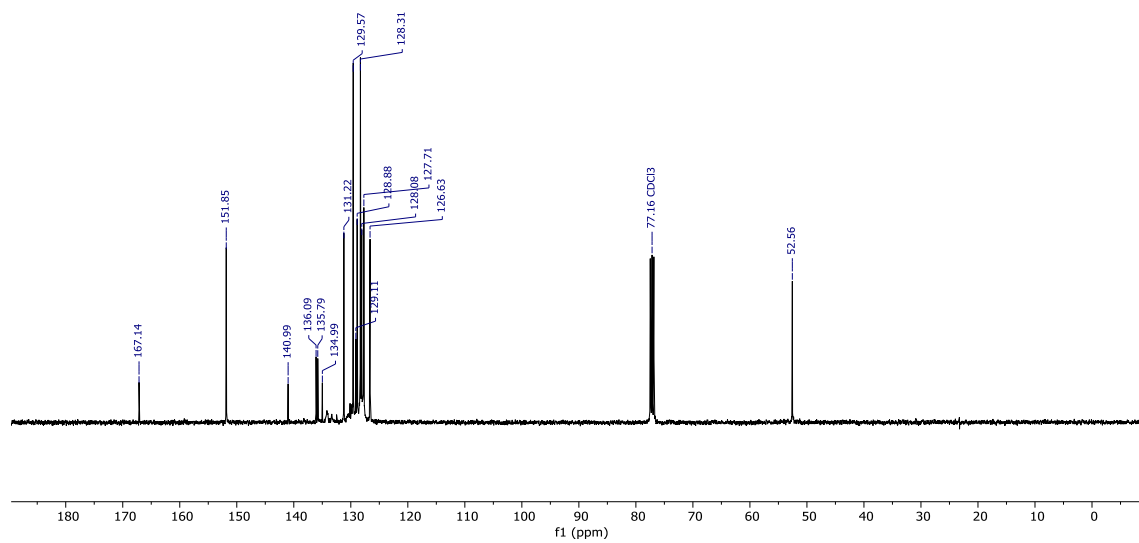


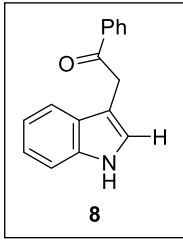


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

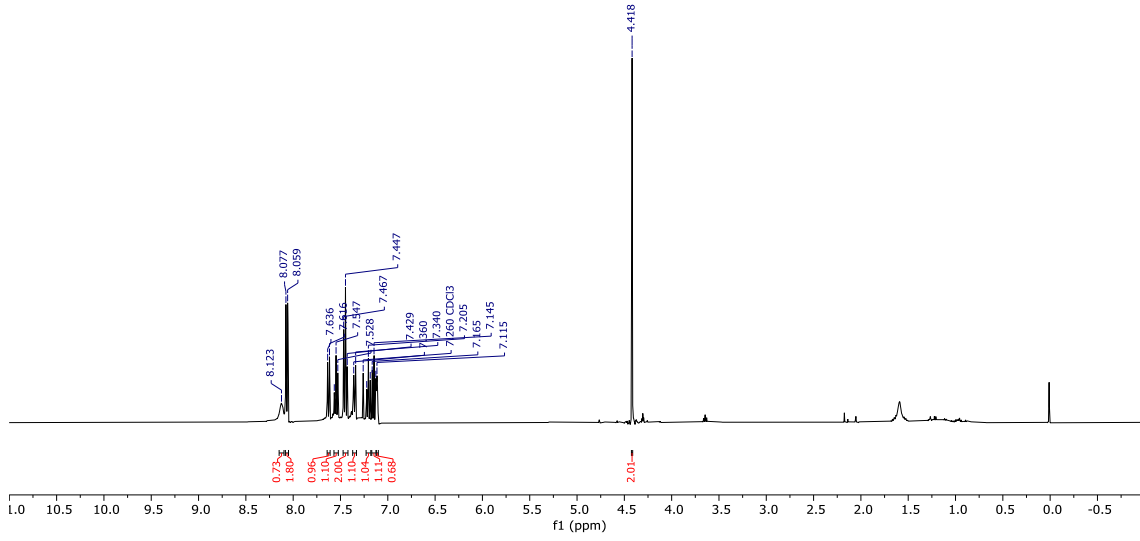


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

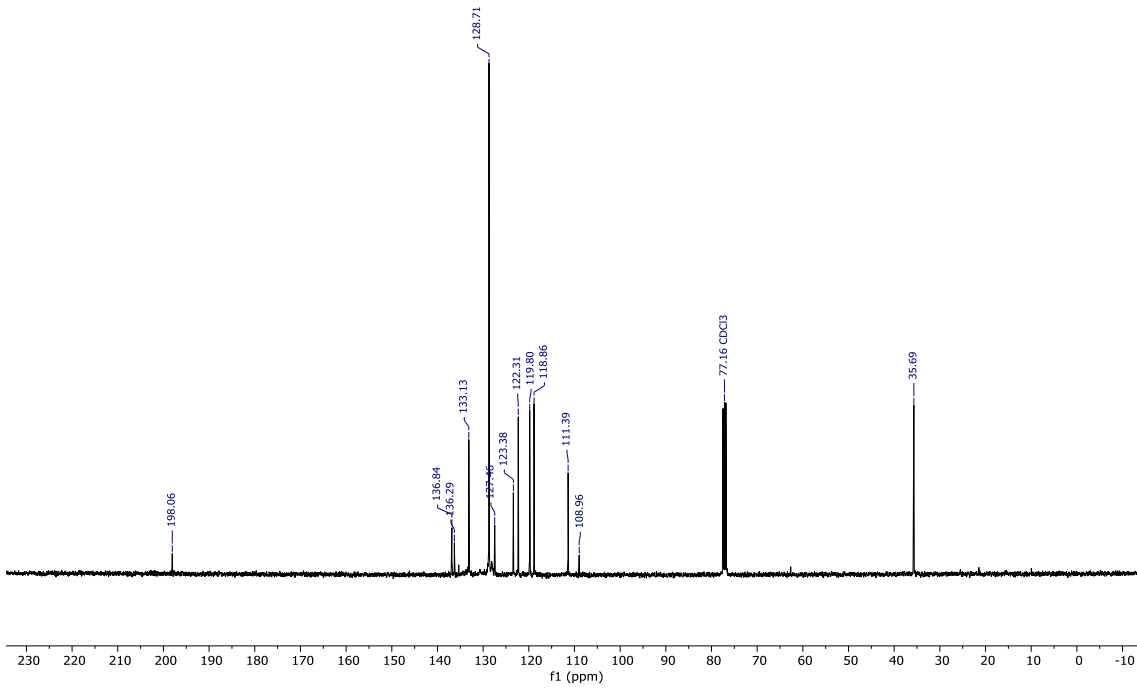


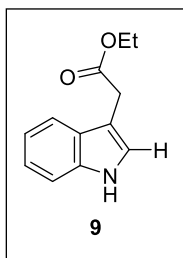


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

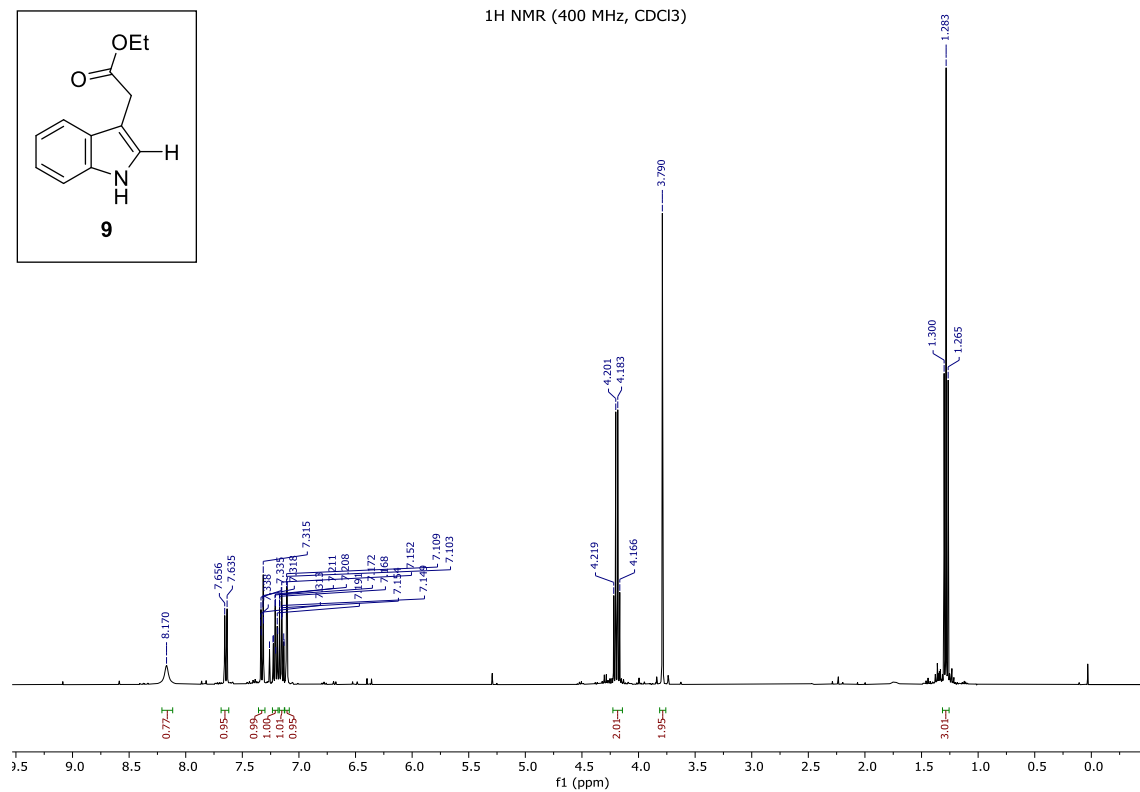


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

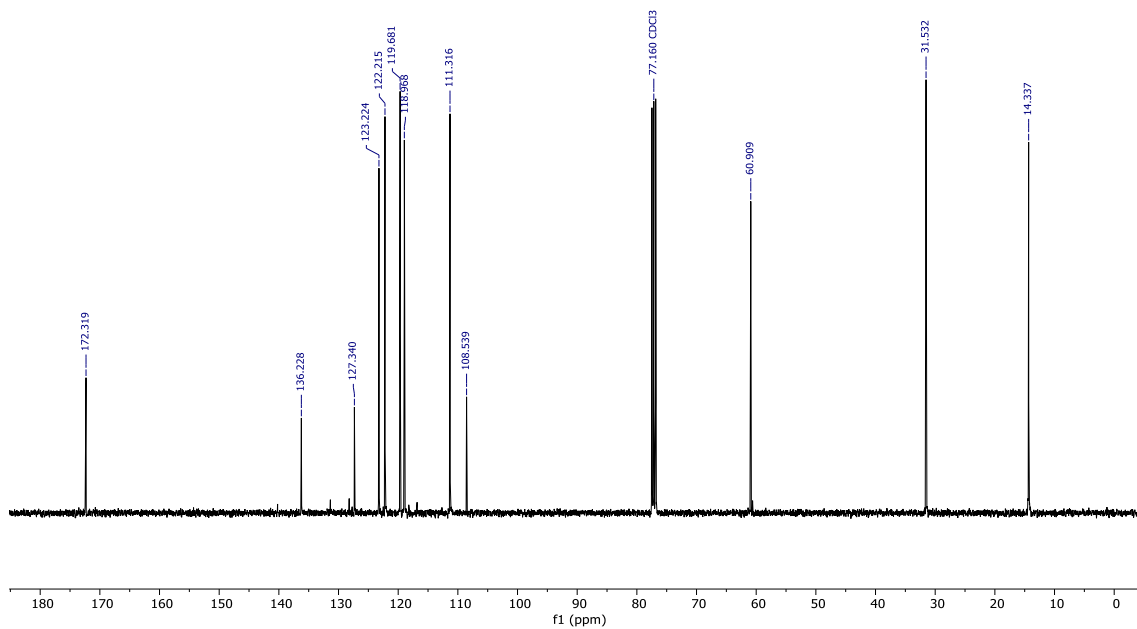




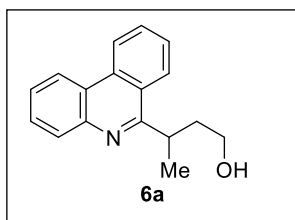
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



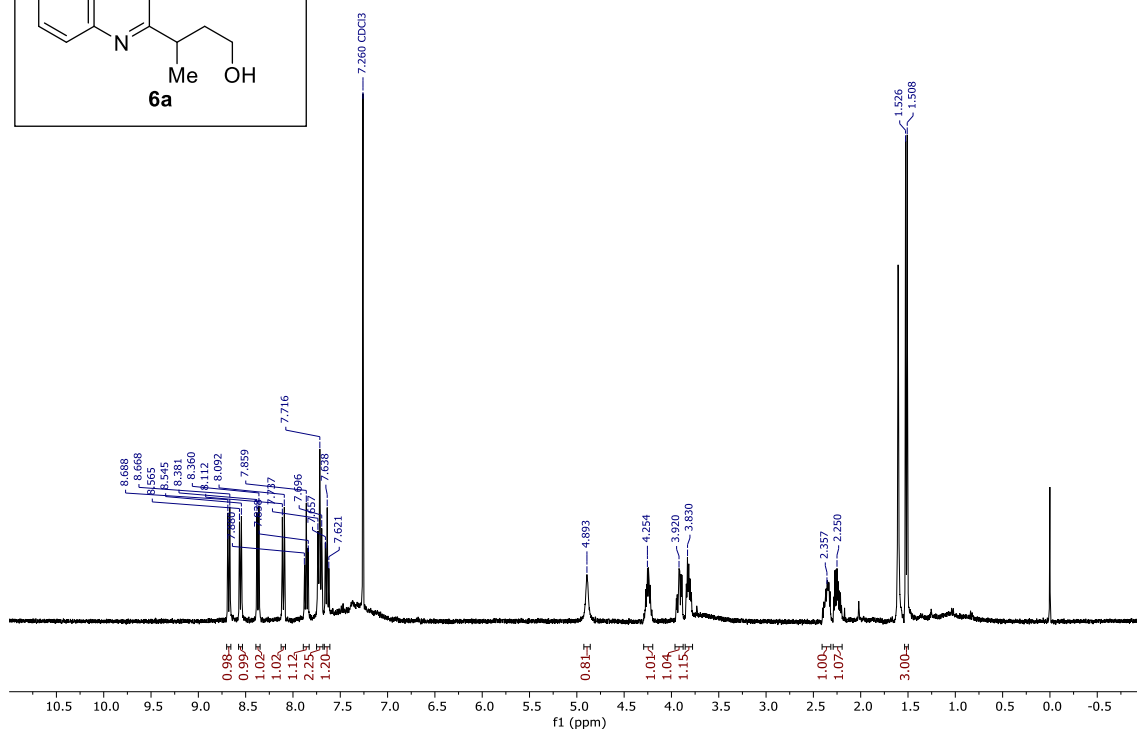
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



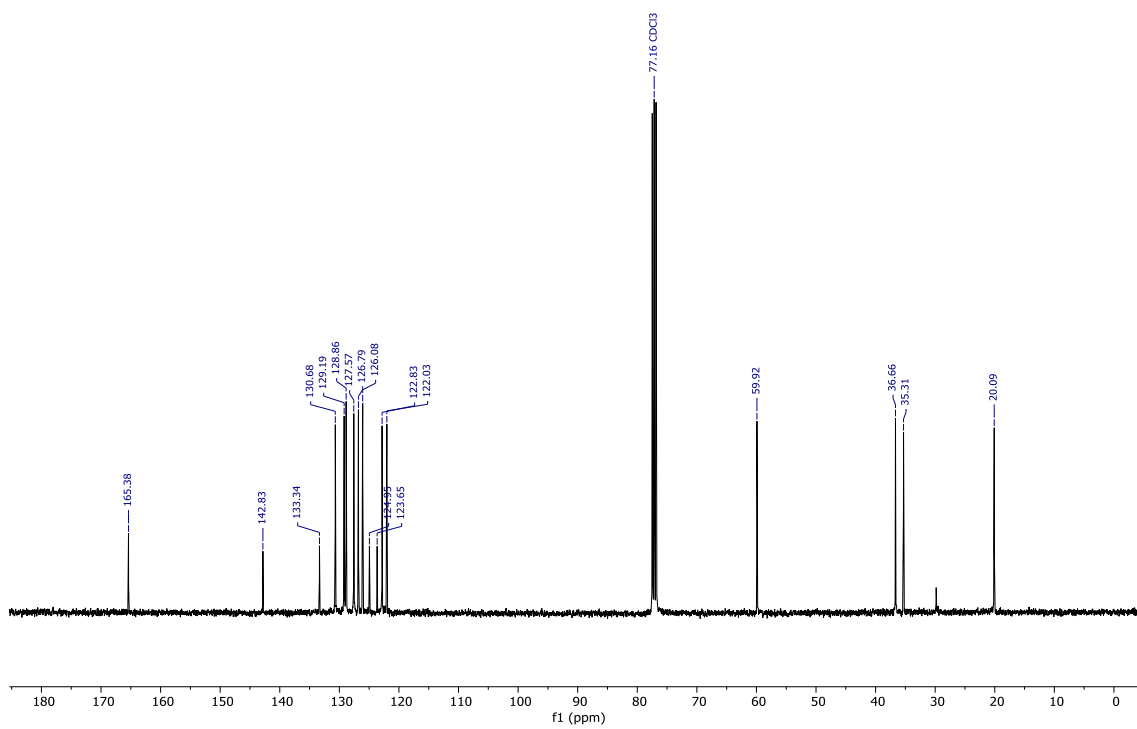


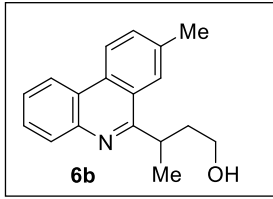


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

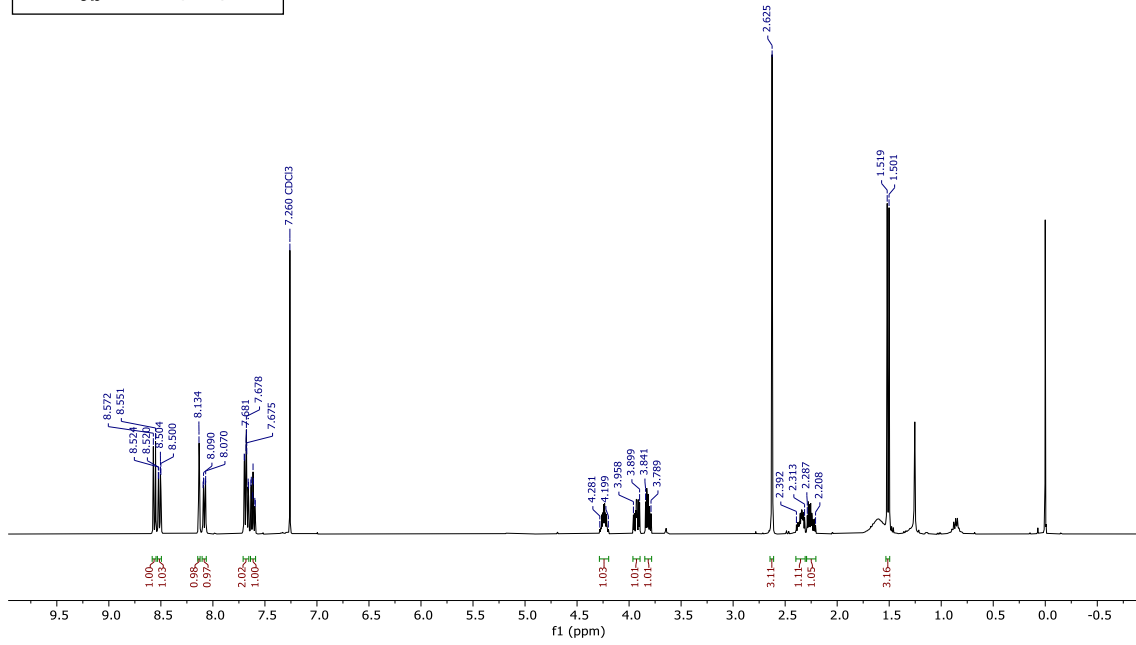


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

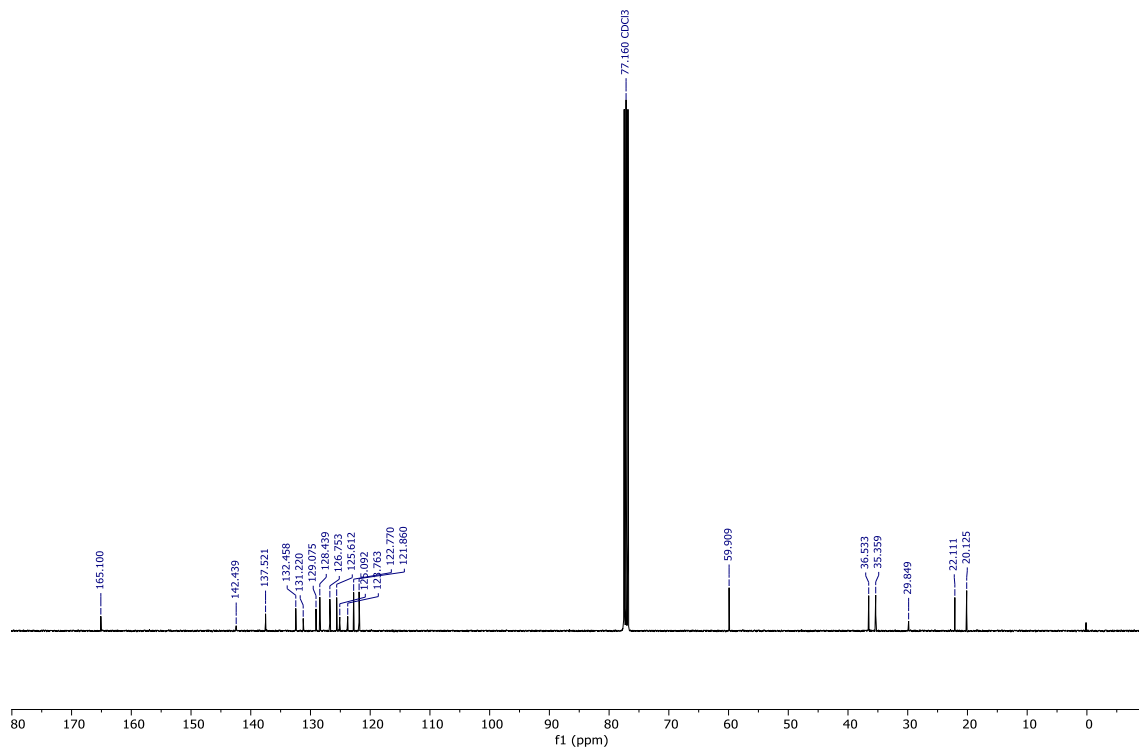


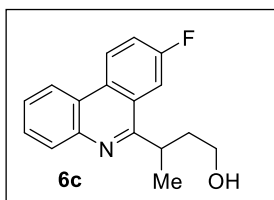


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

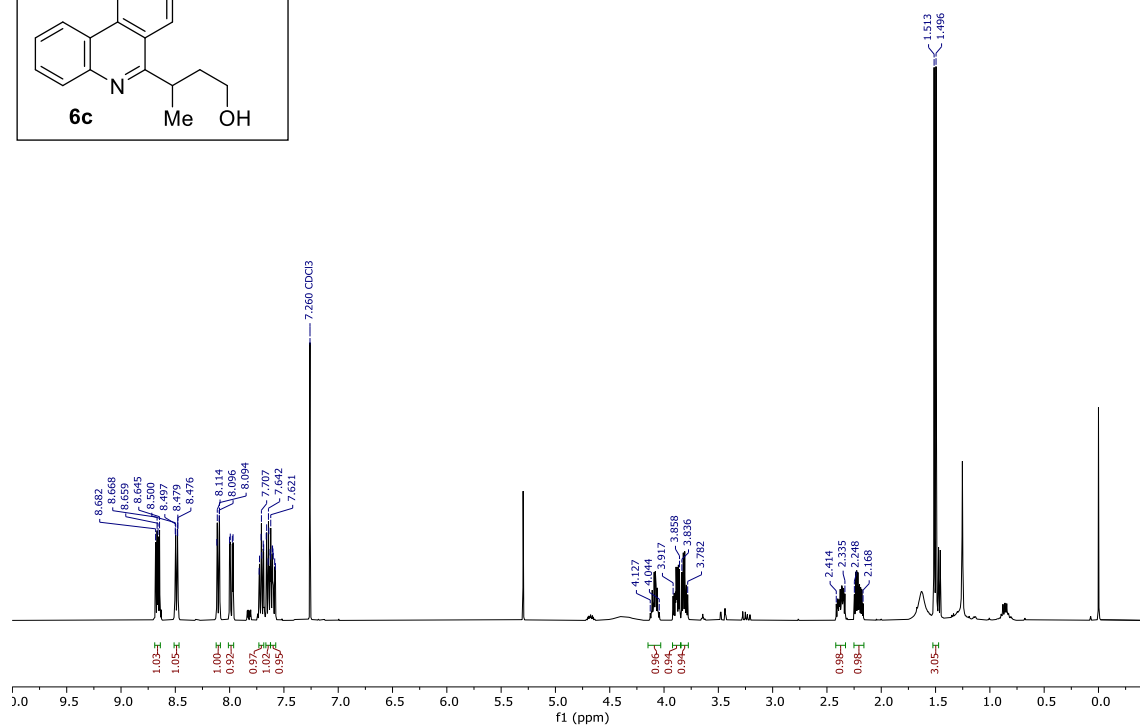


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

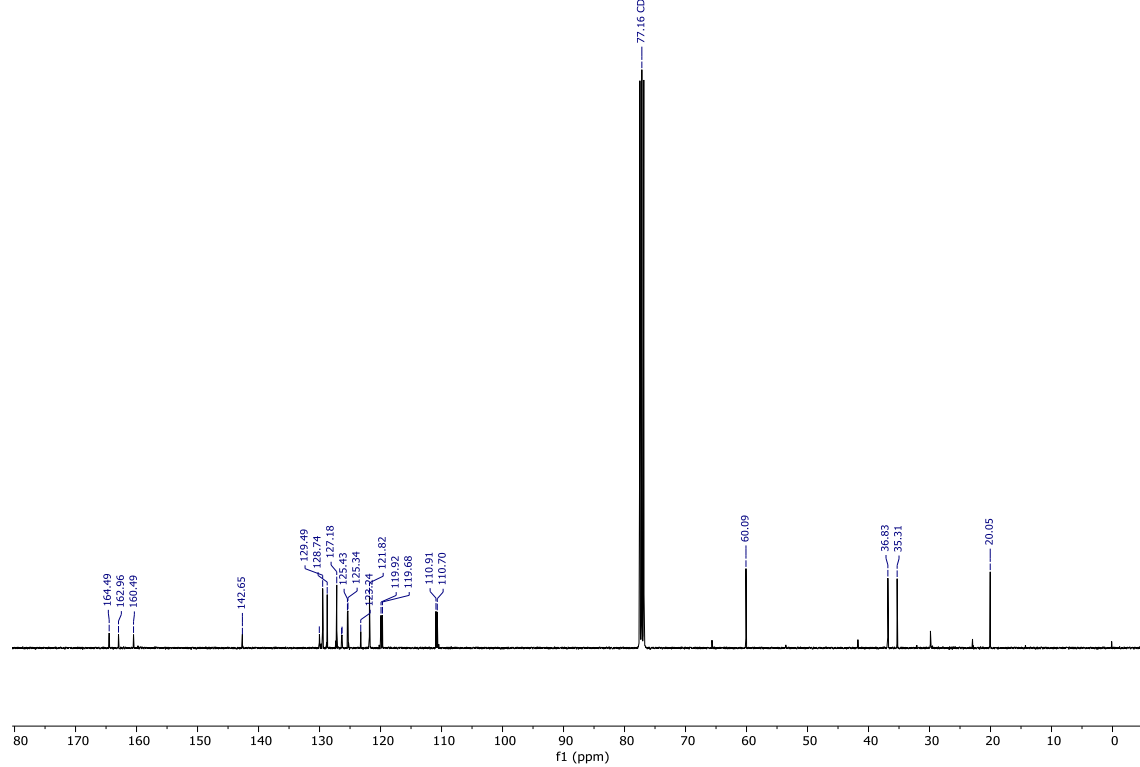




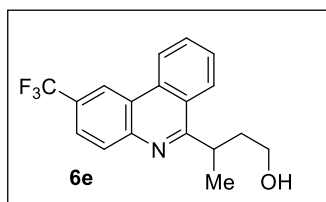
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



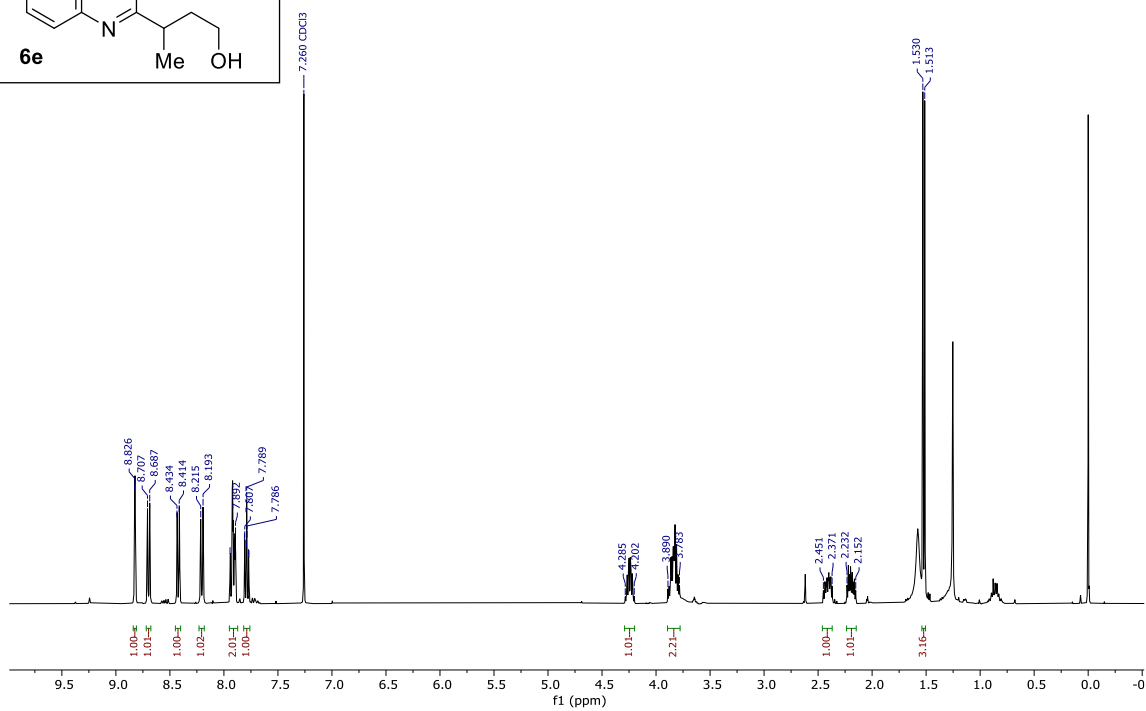
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



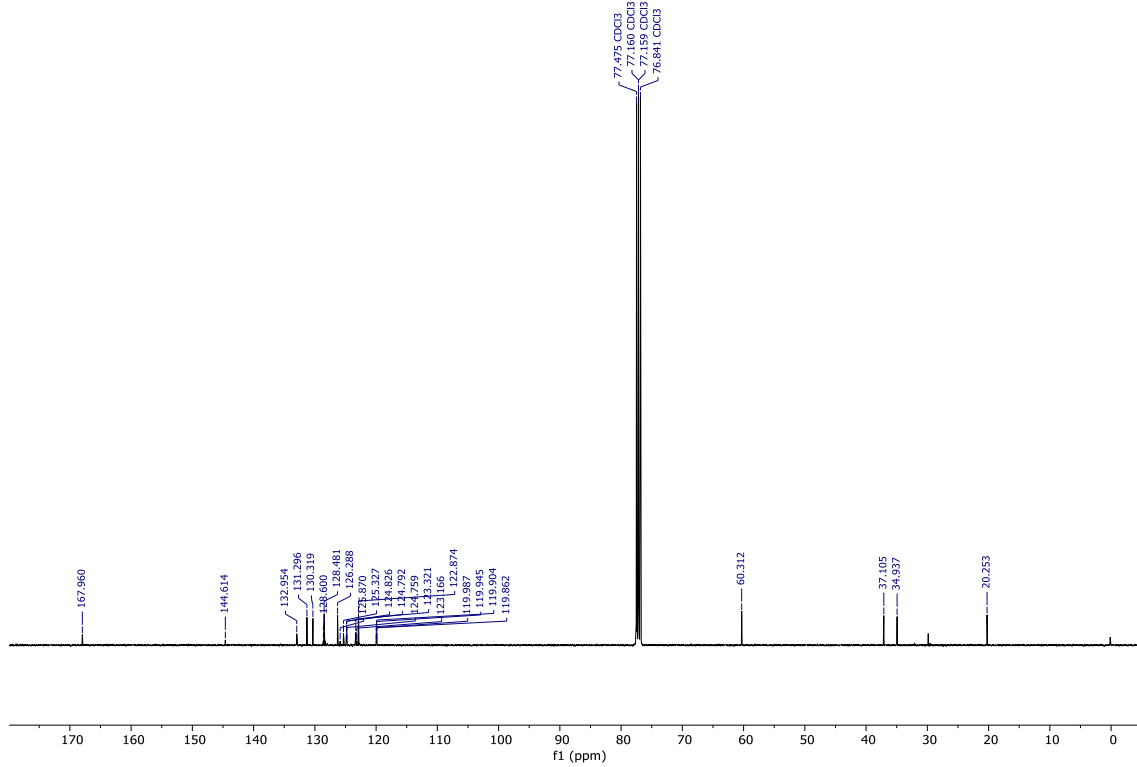


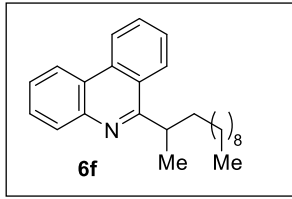


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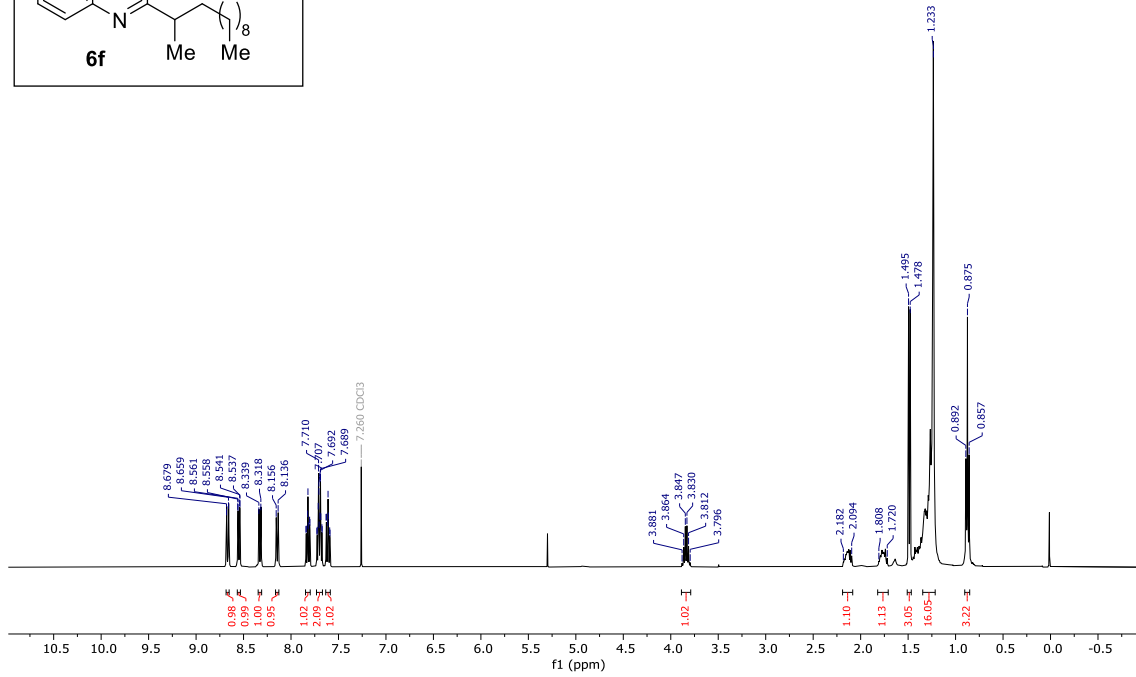


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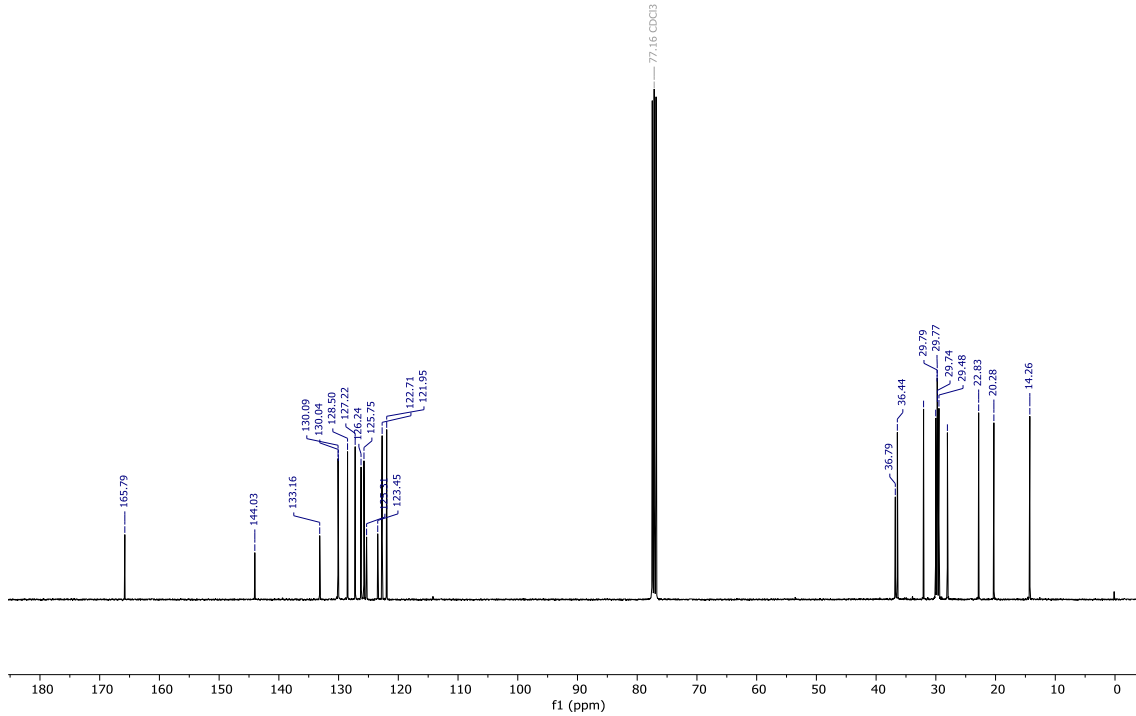


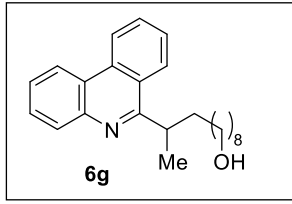


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

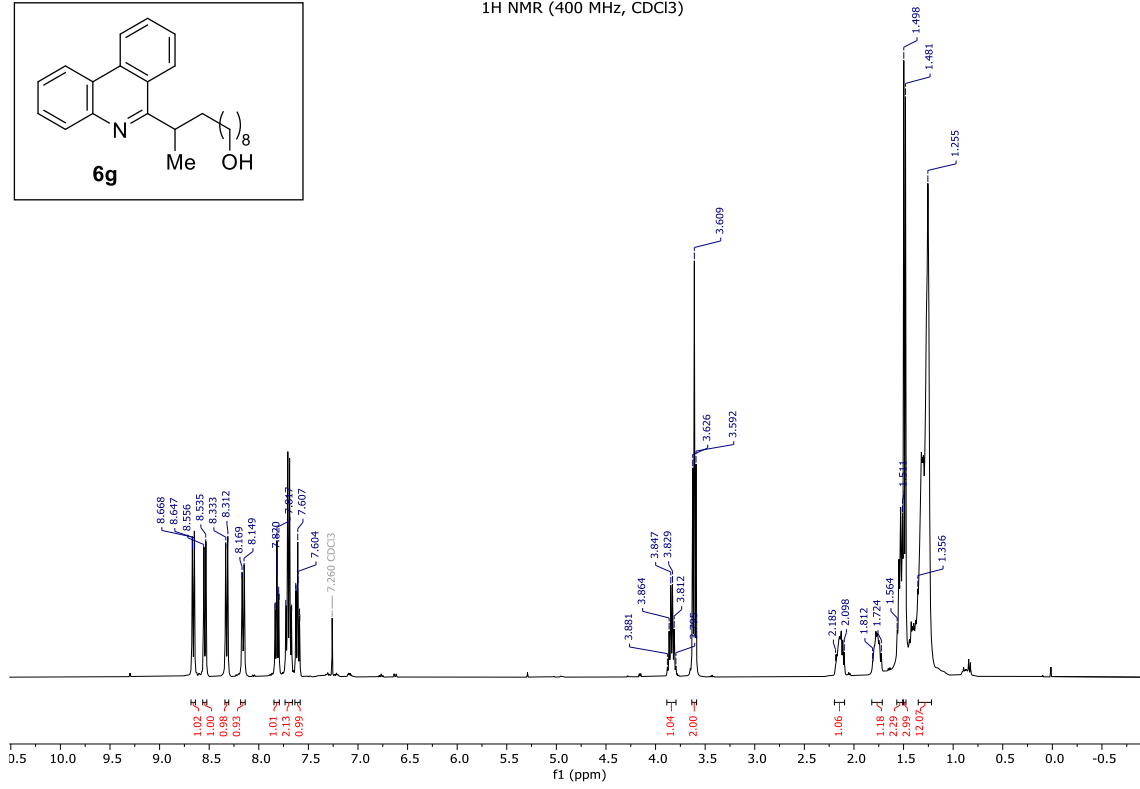


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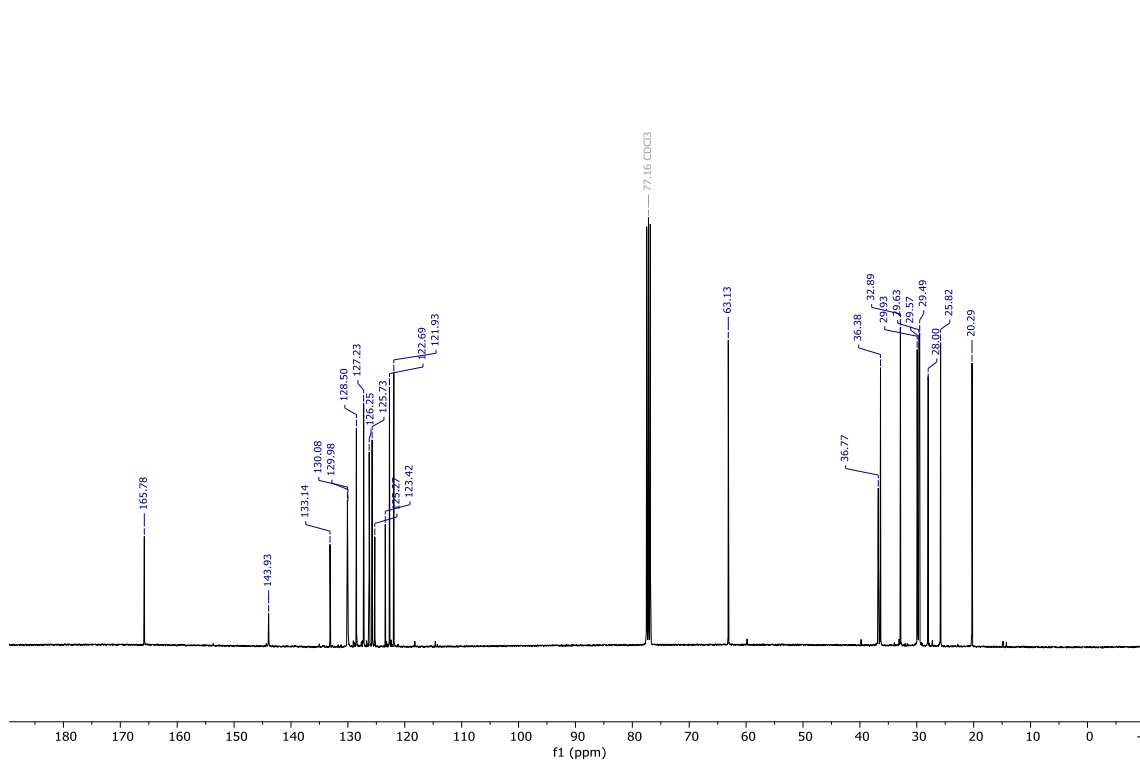


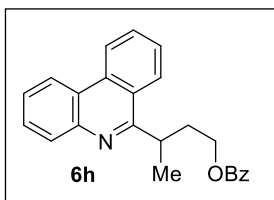


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

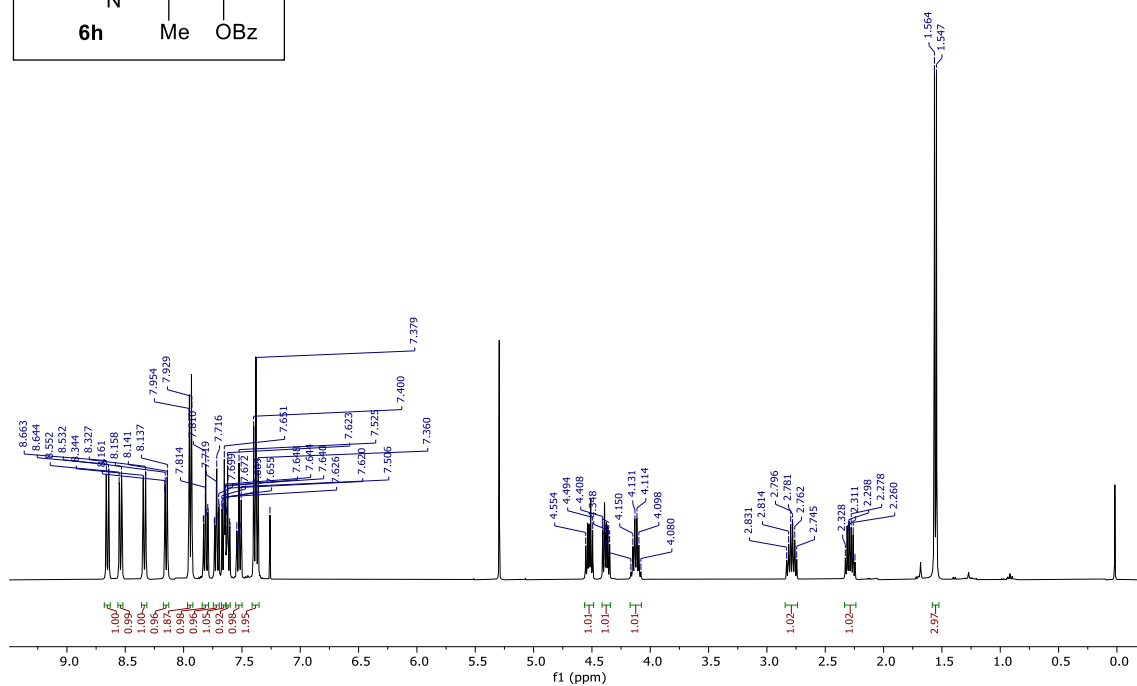


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

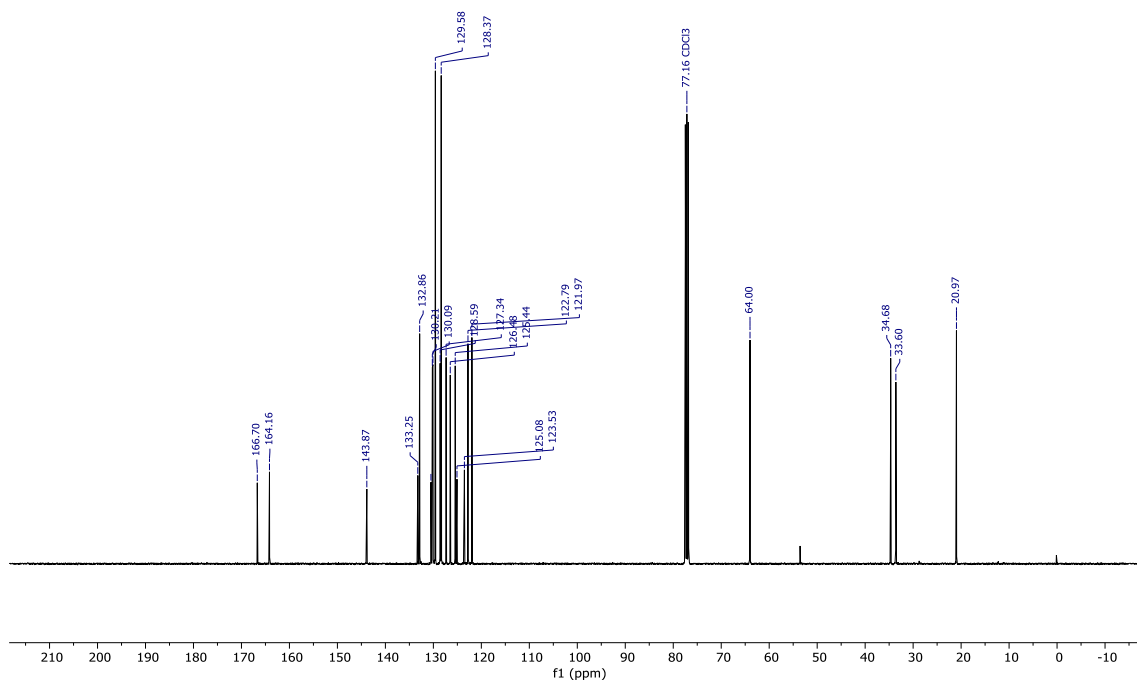




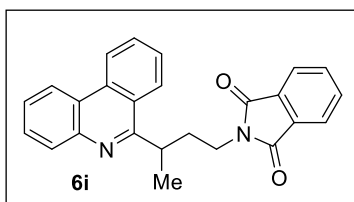
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



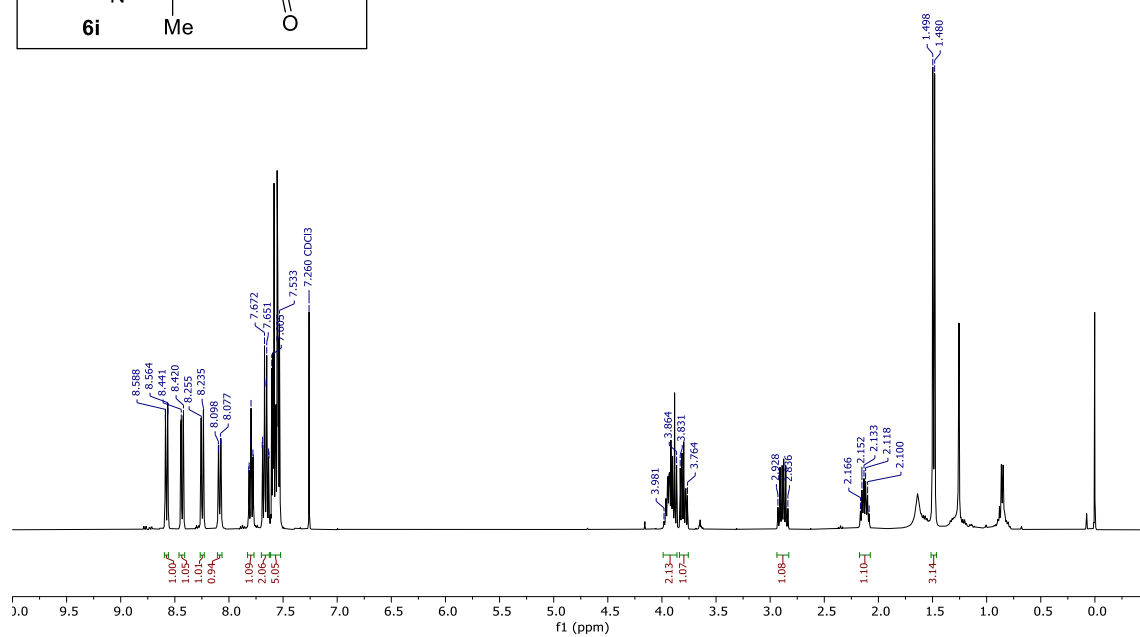
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



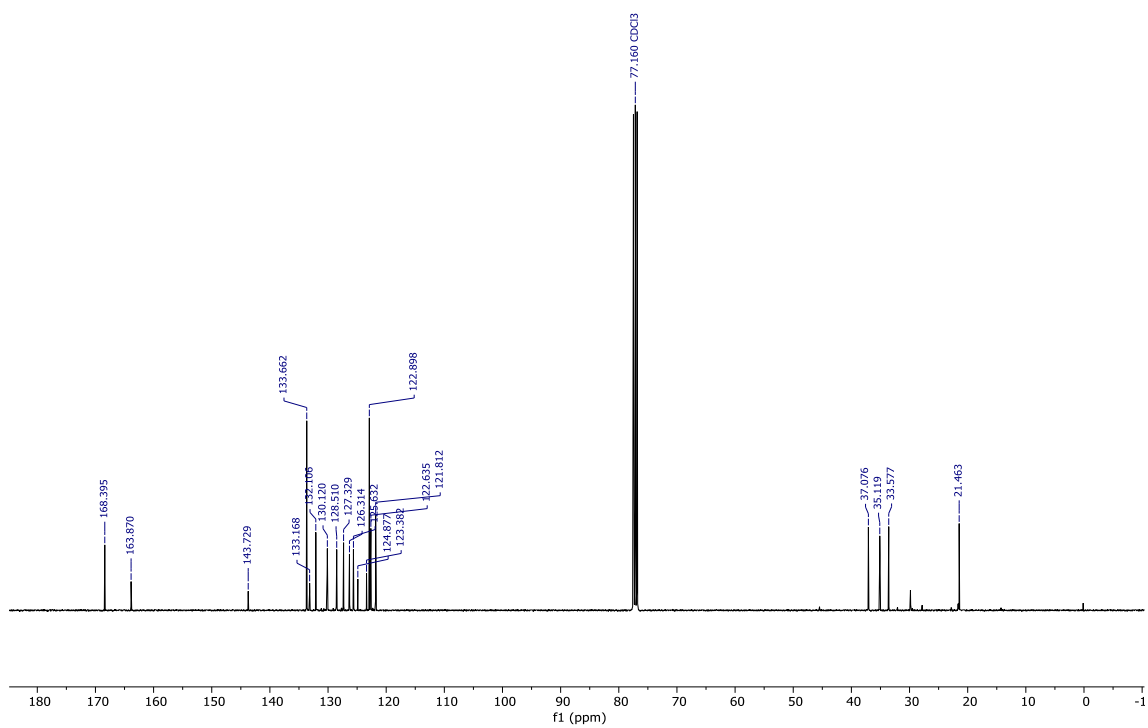


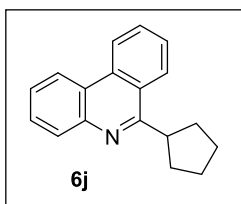


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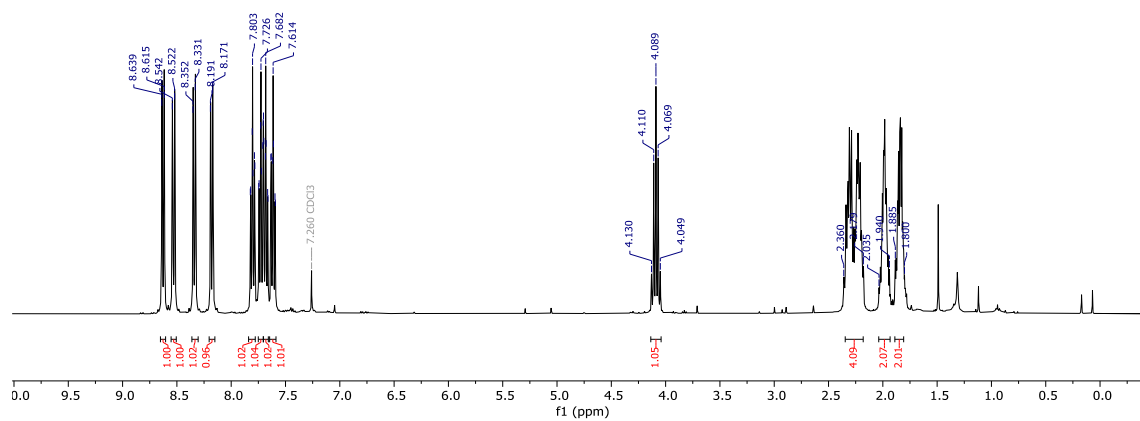


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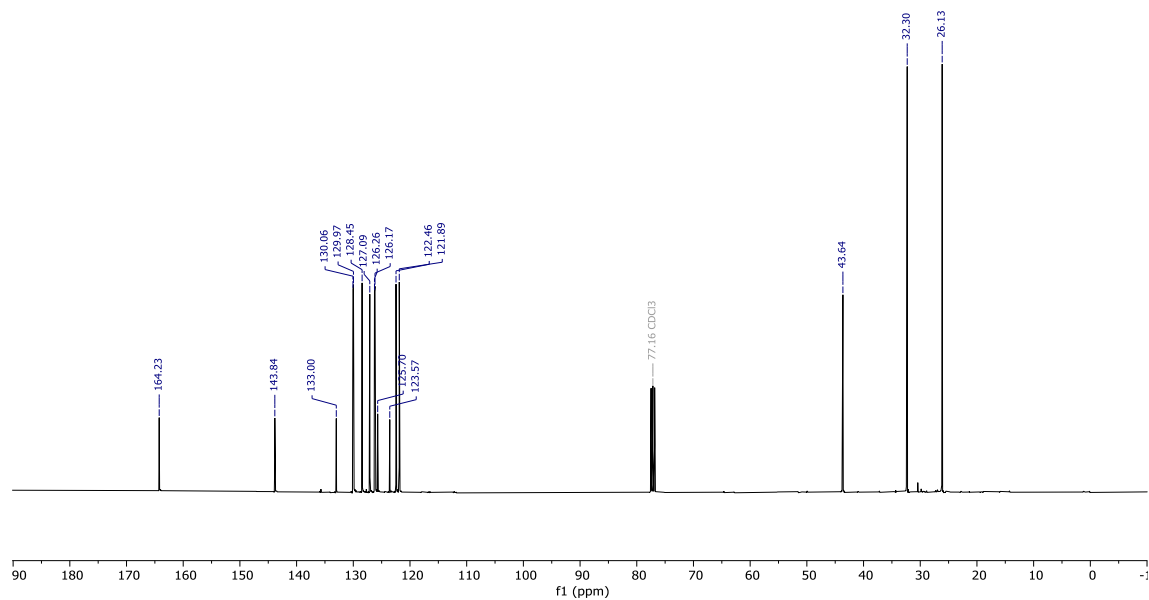




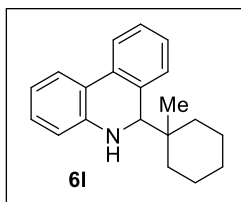
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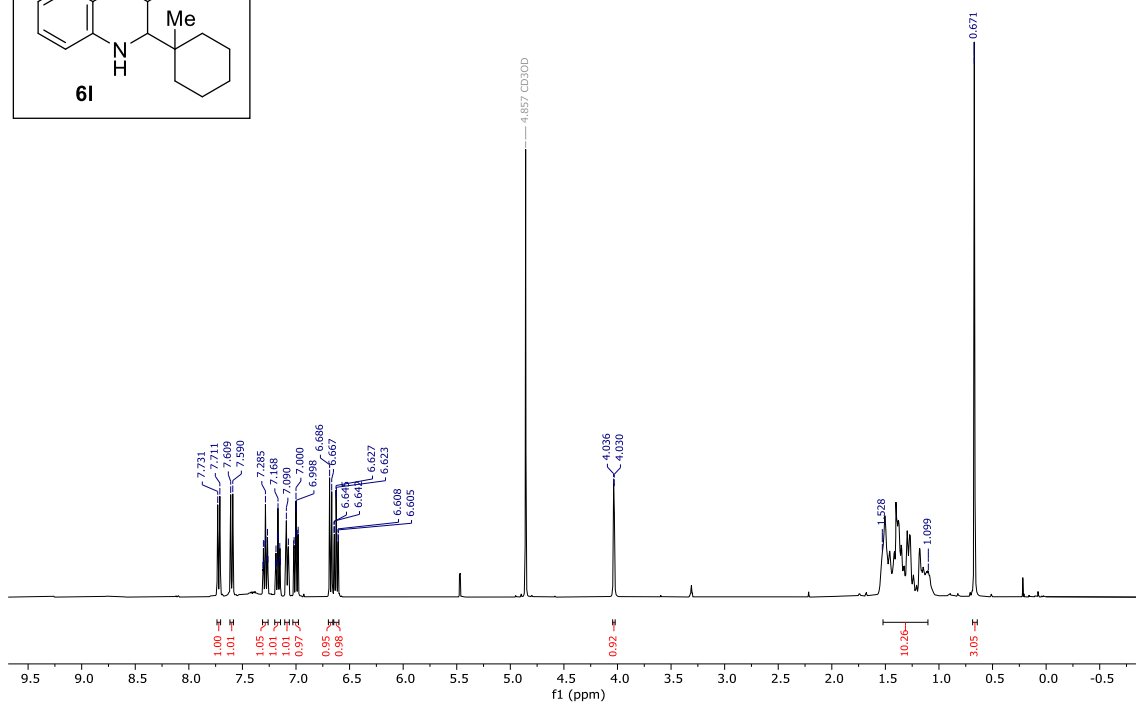
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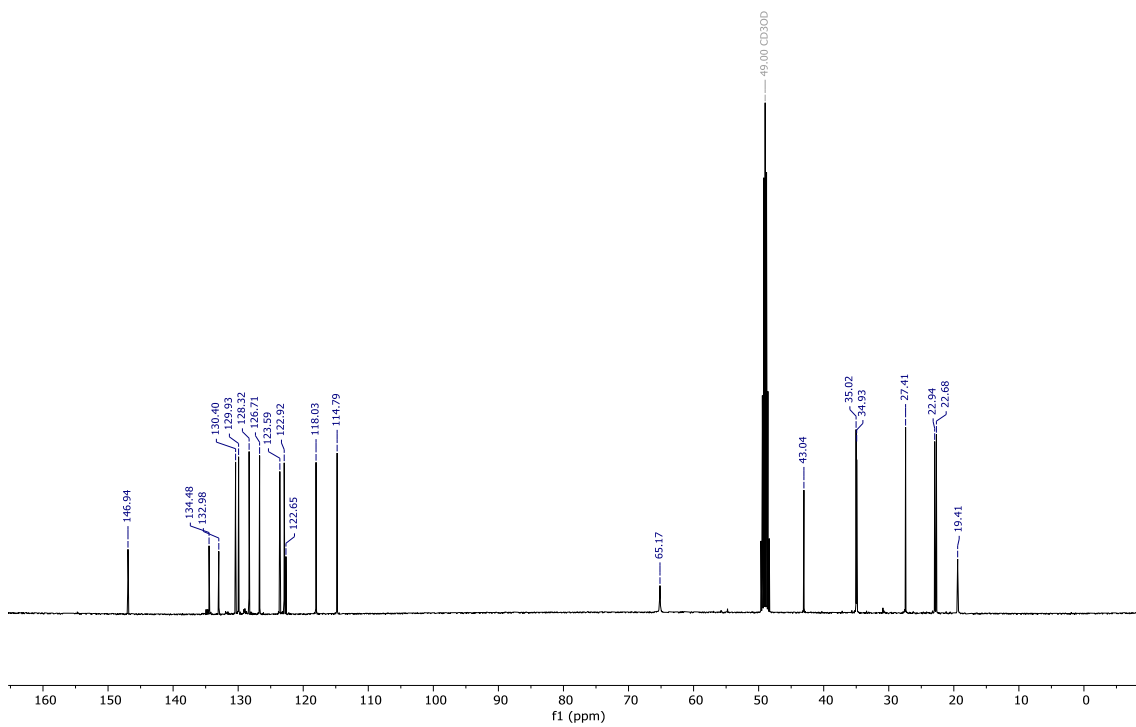


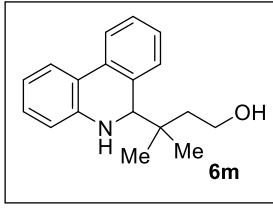


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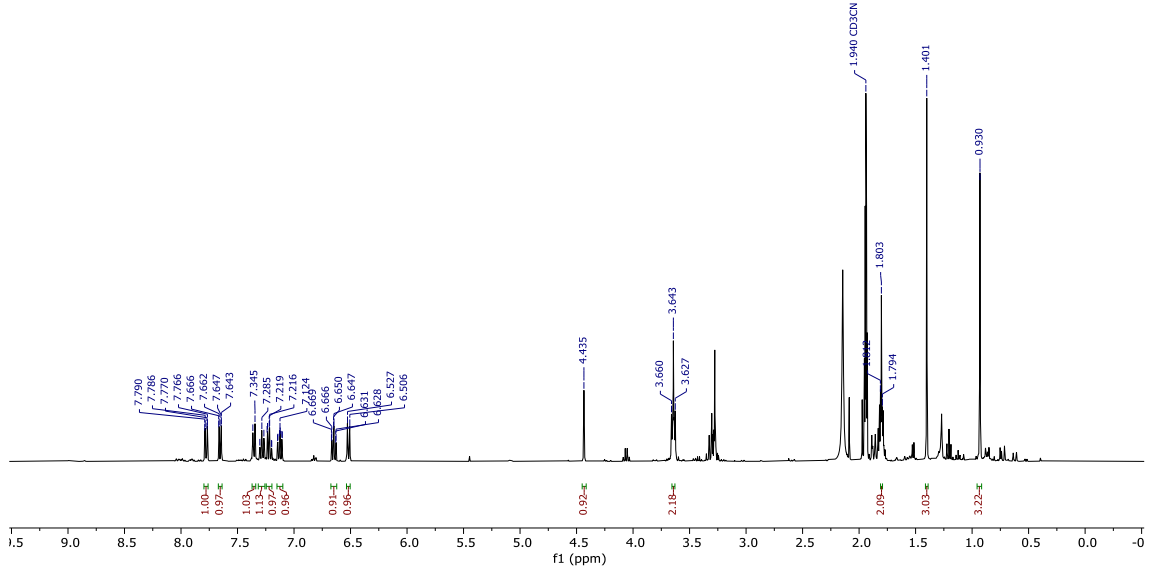


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)

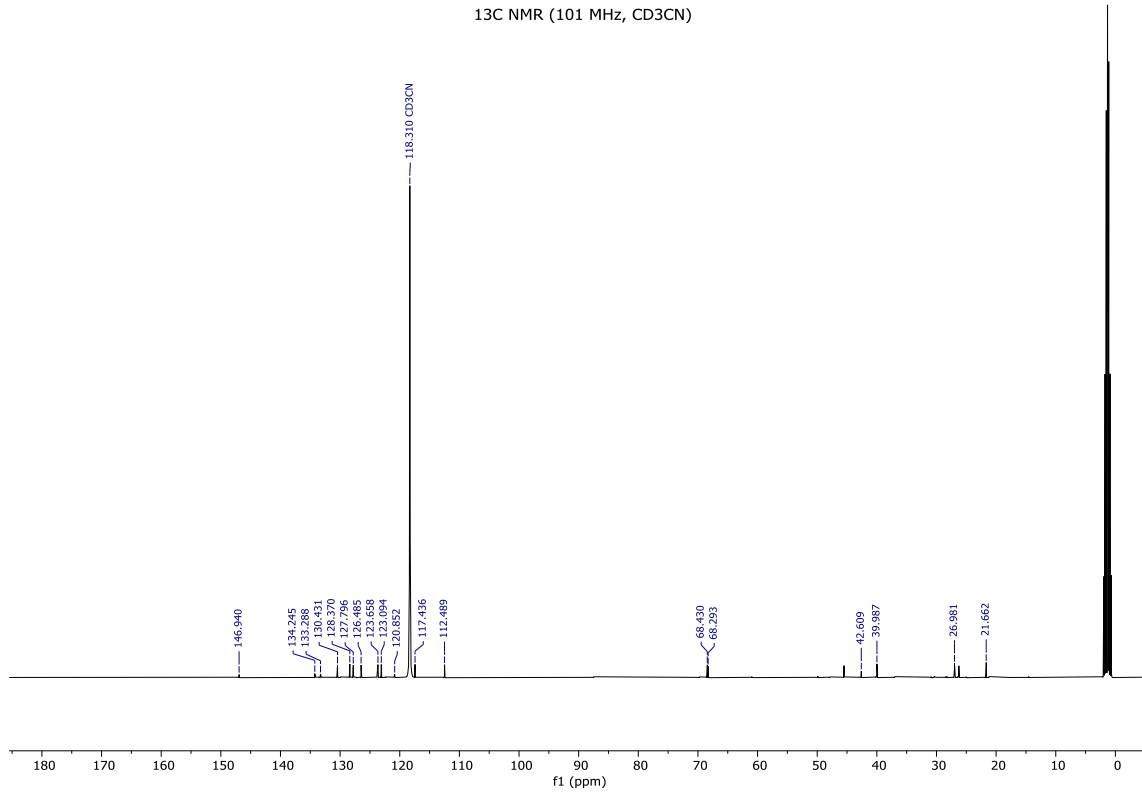


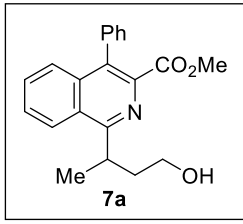


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)

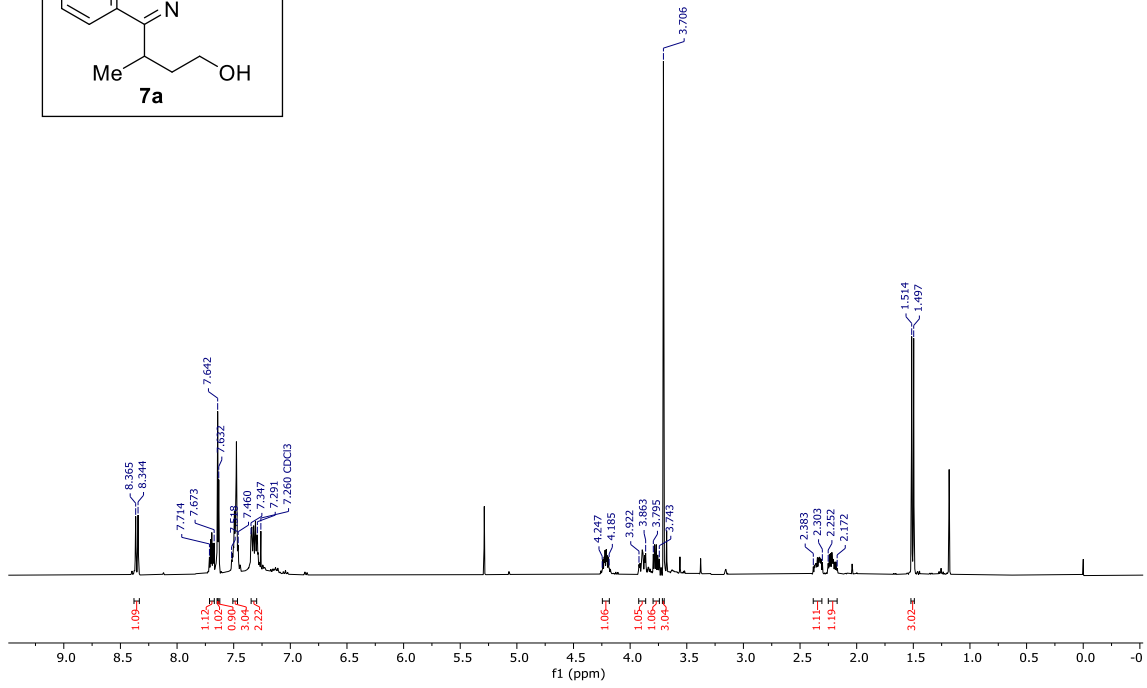


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)

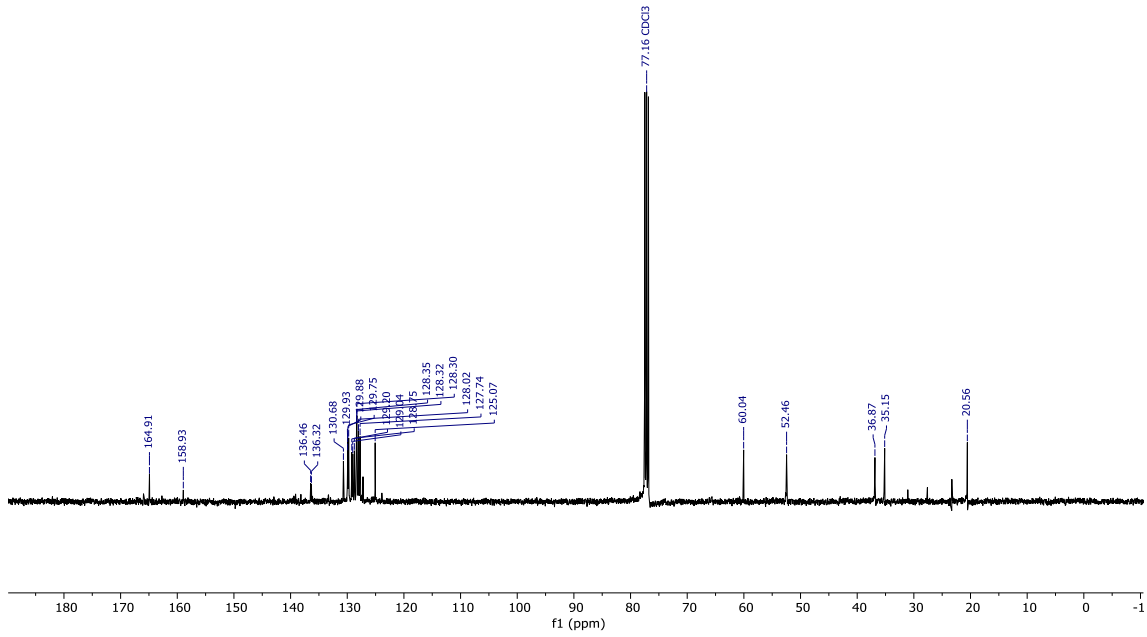


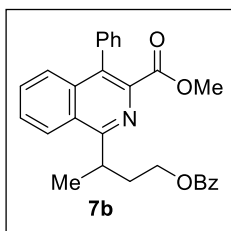


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

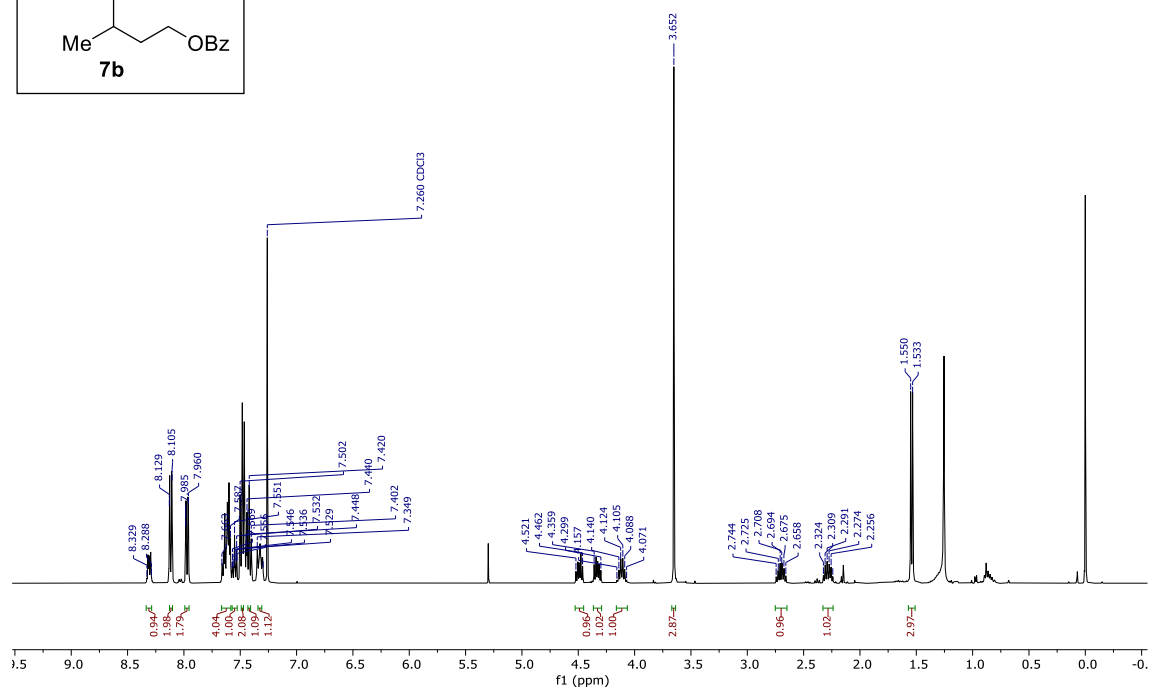


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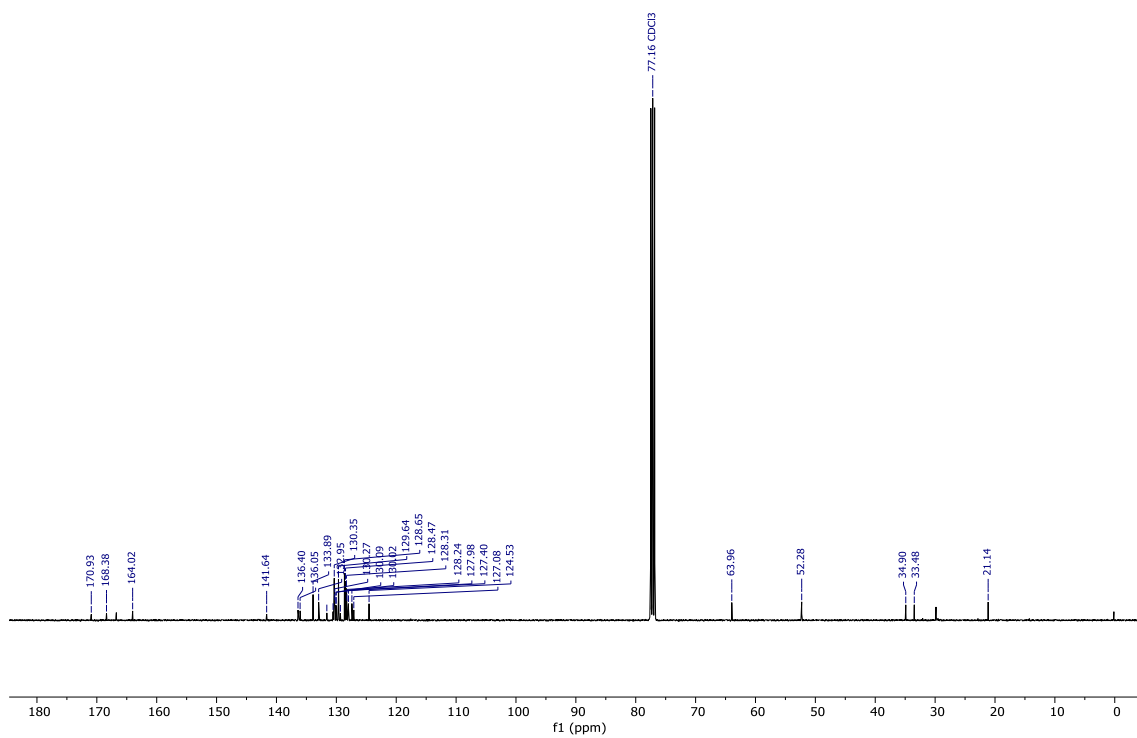


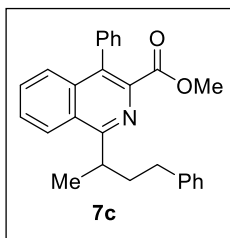


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

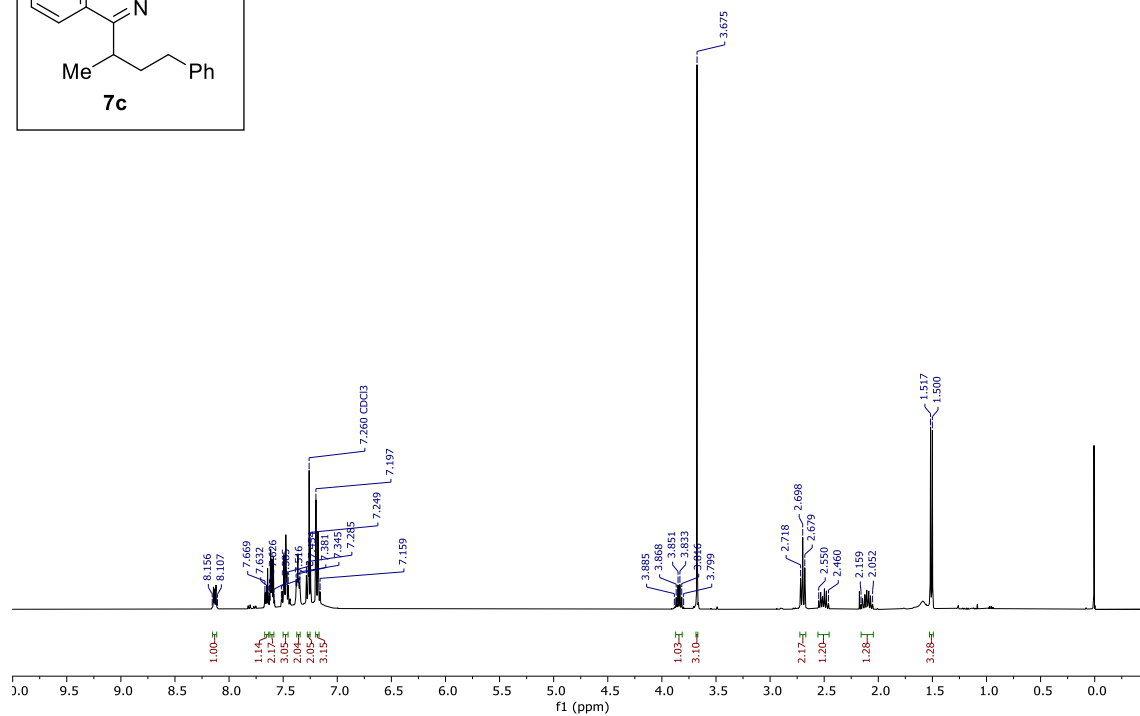


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

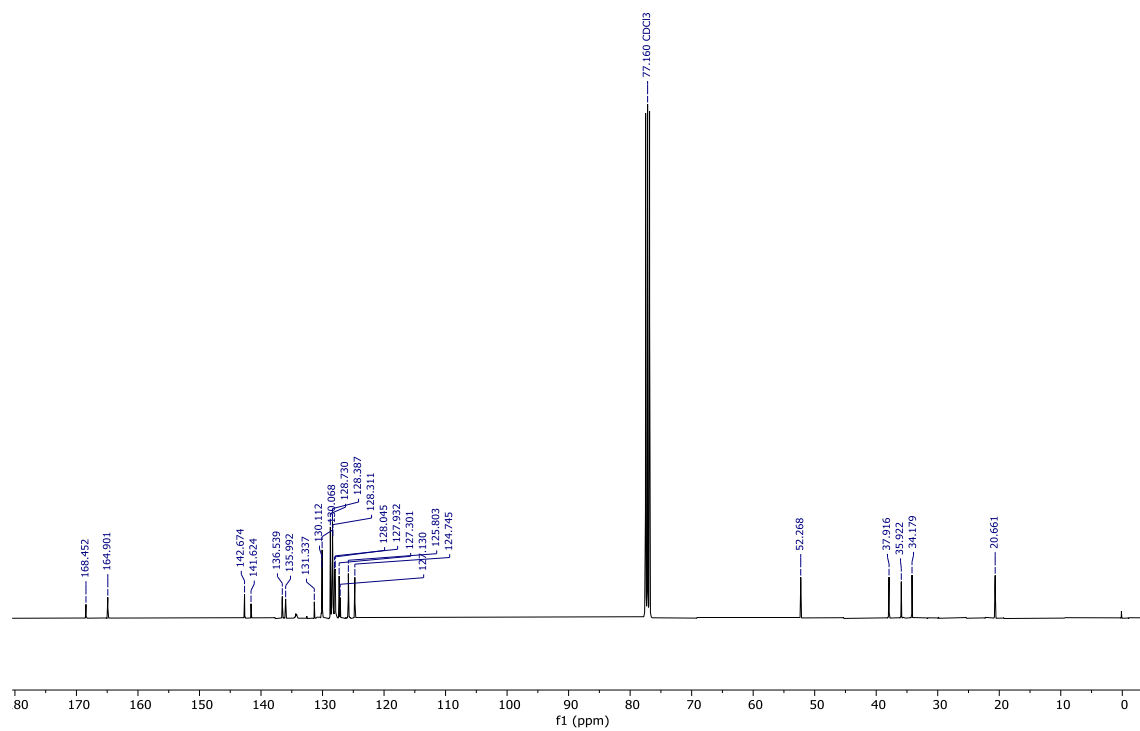




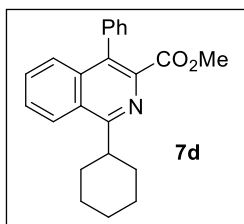
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



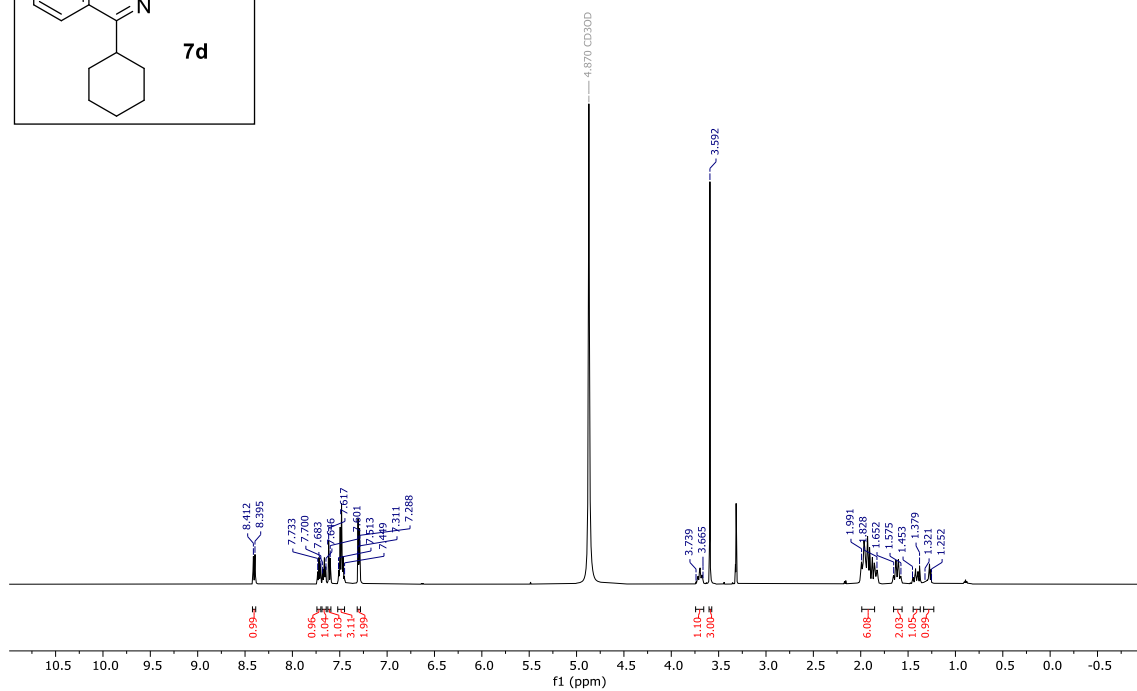
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



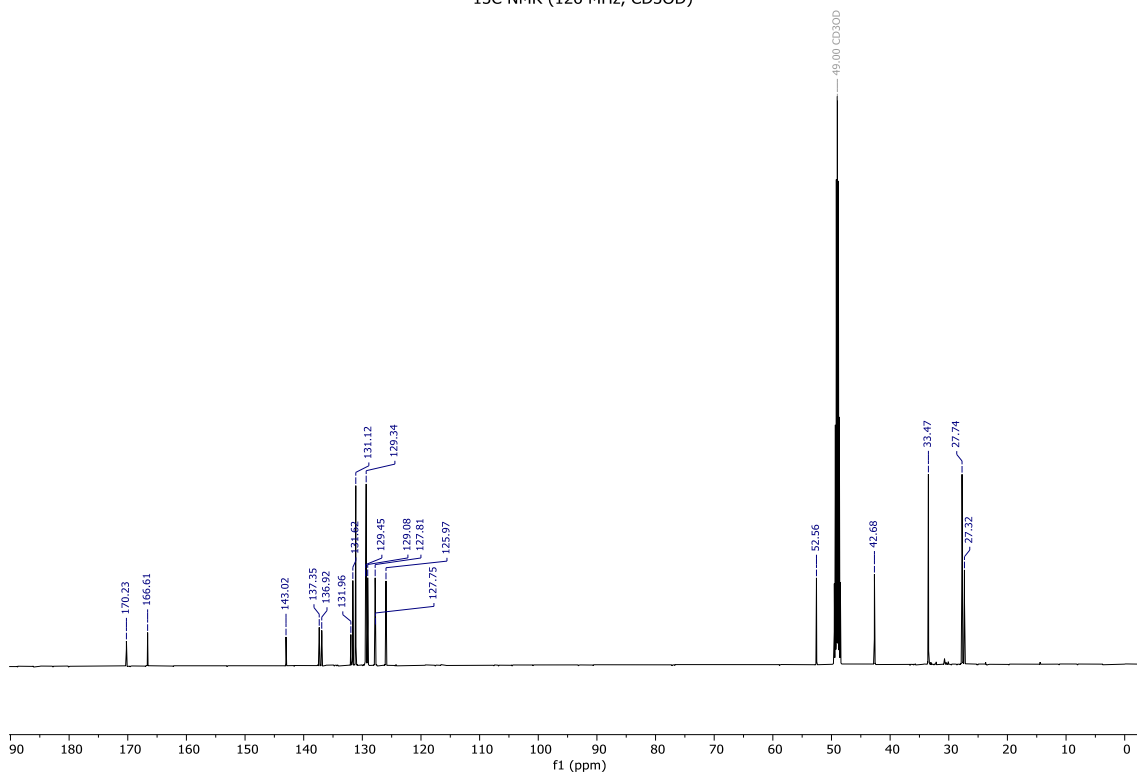


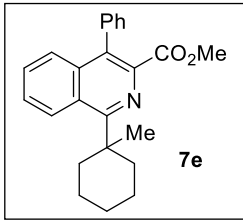


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)

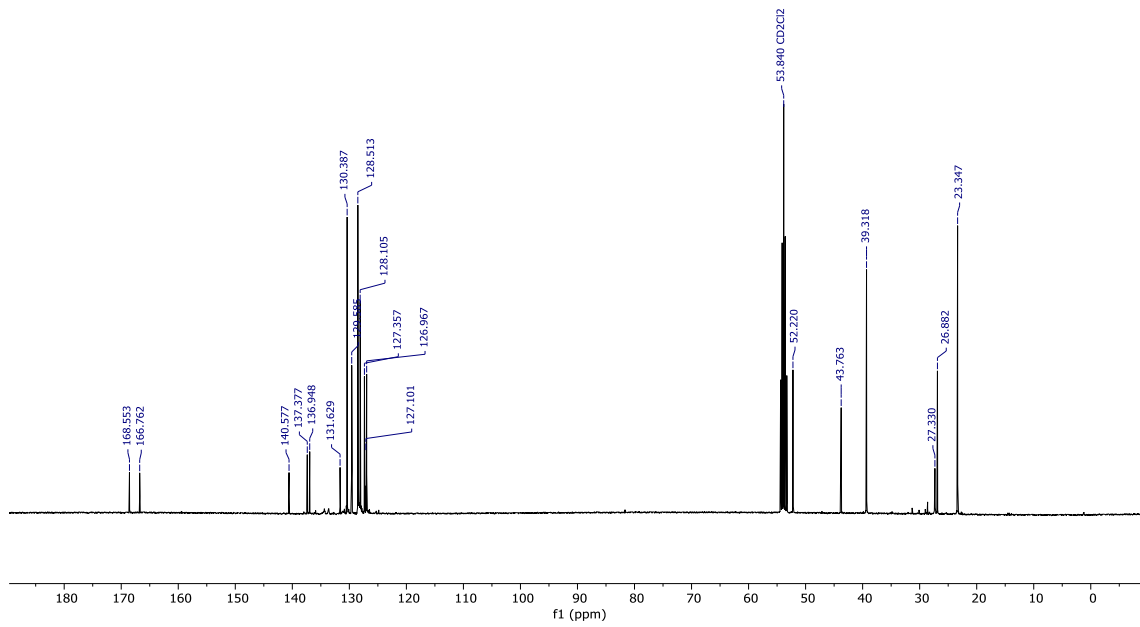
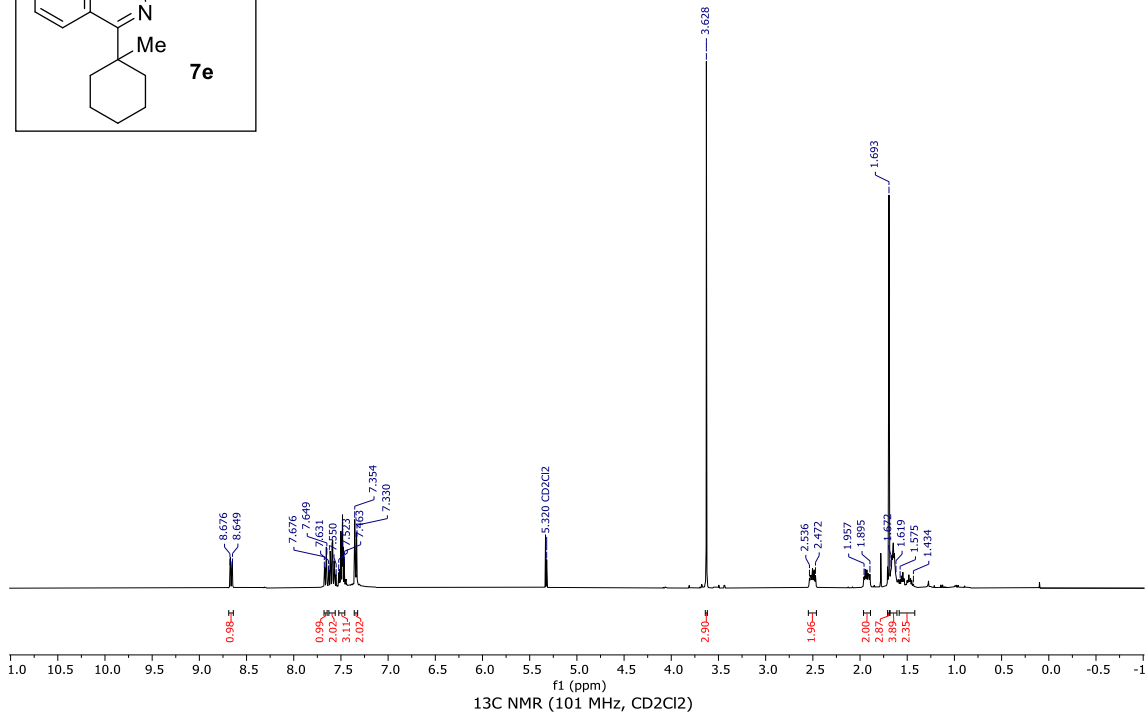


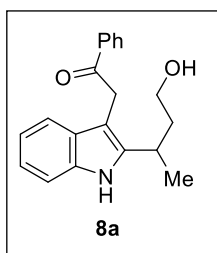
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)



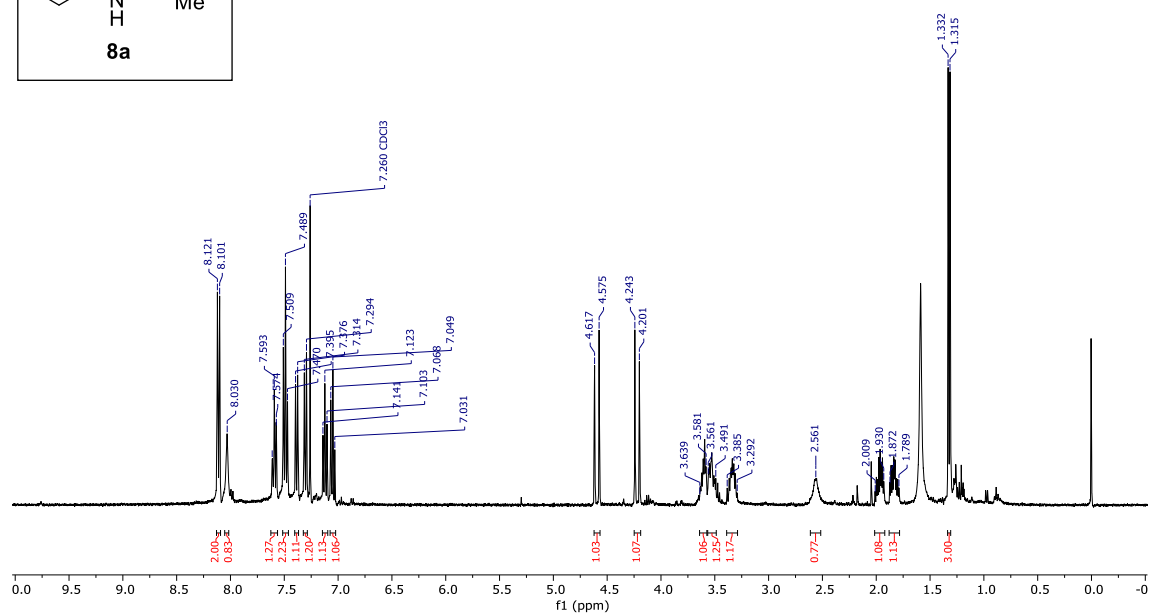


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)

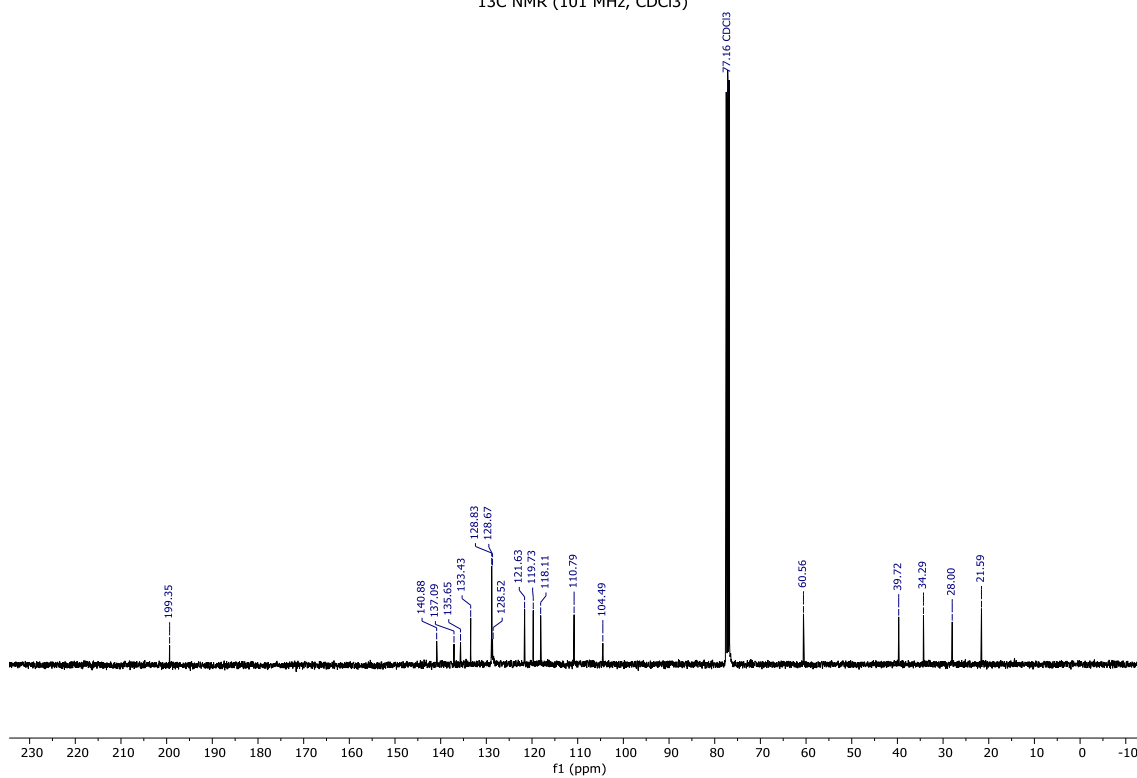




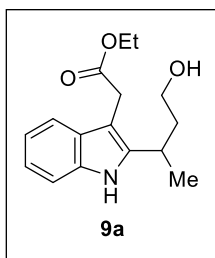
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



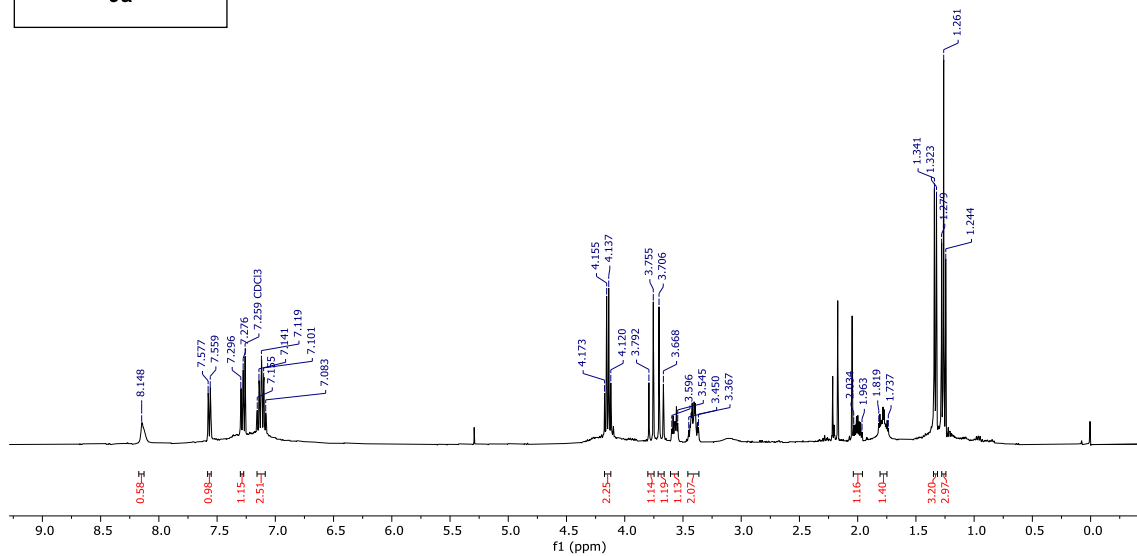
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



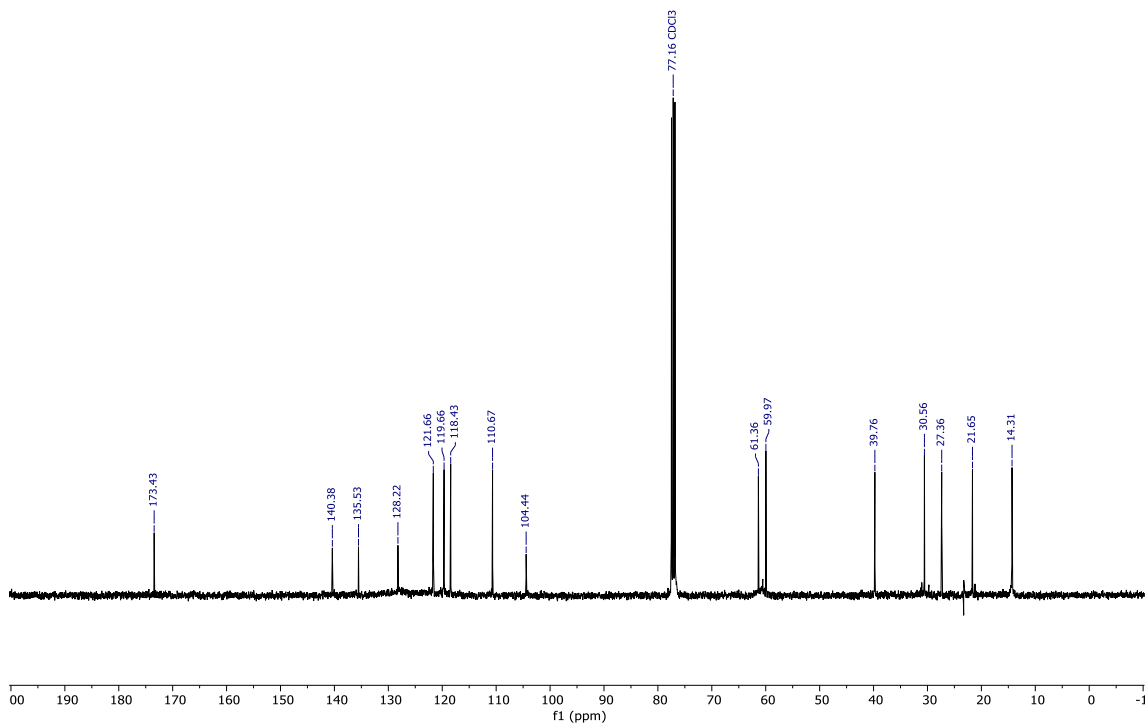


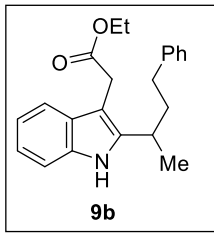


<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

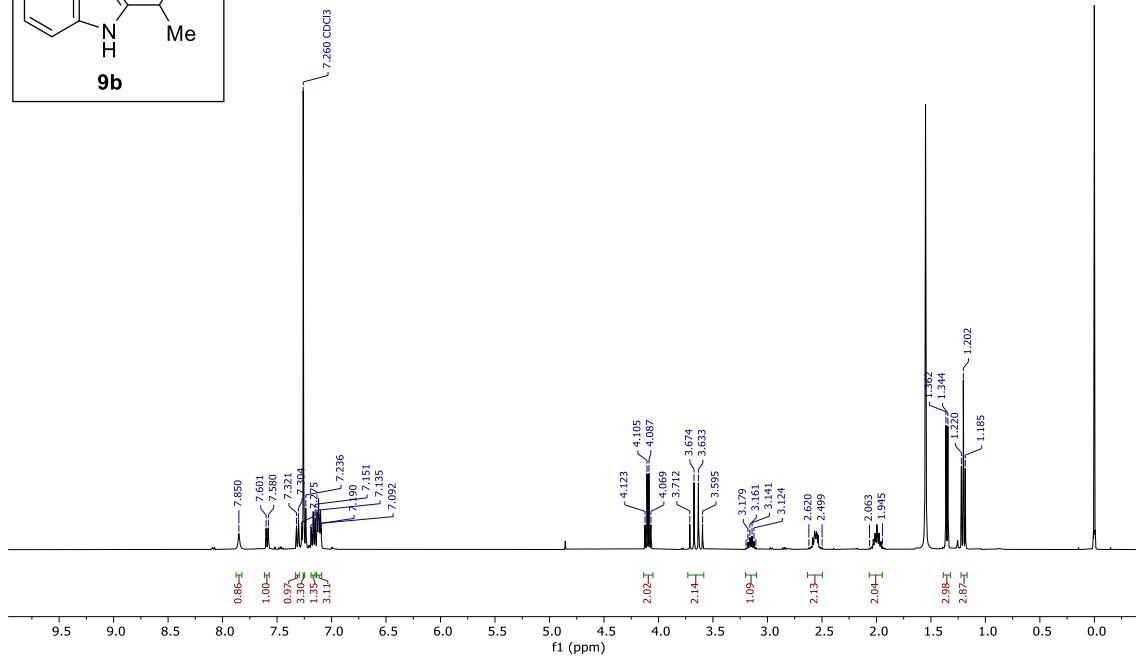


<sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

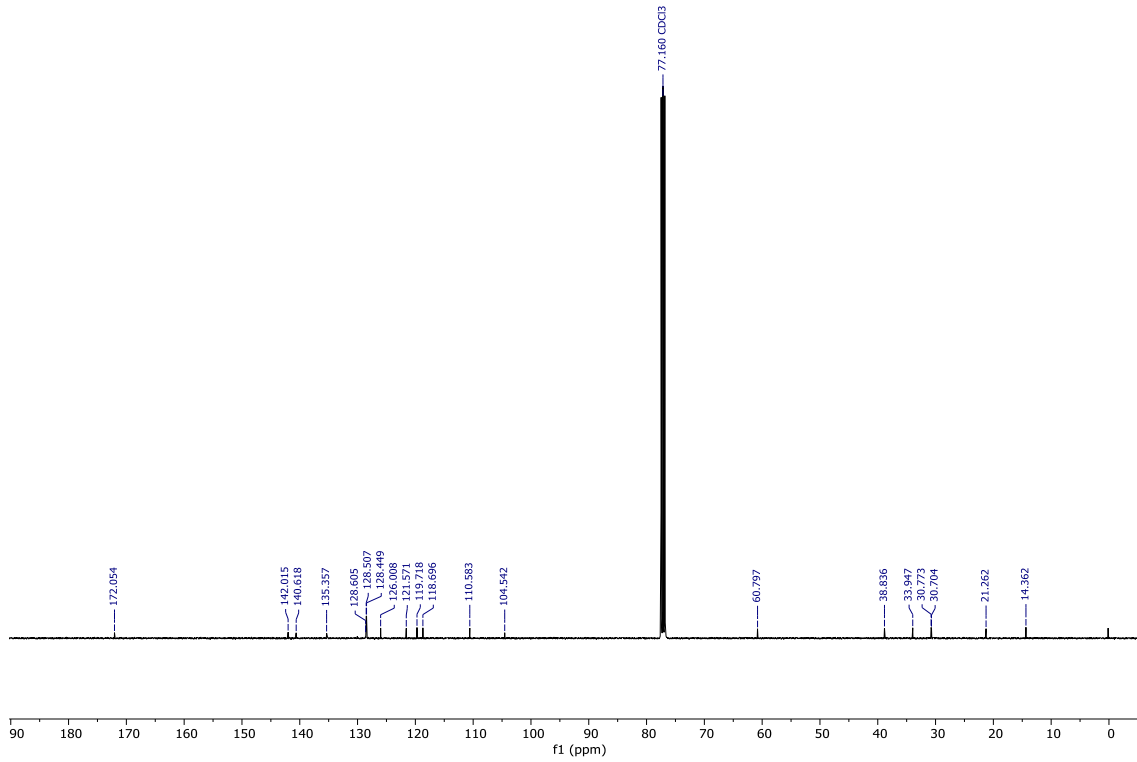




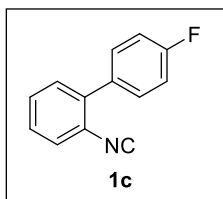
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



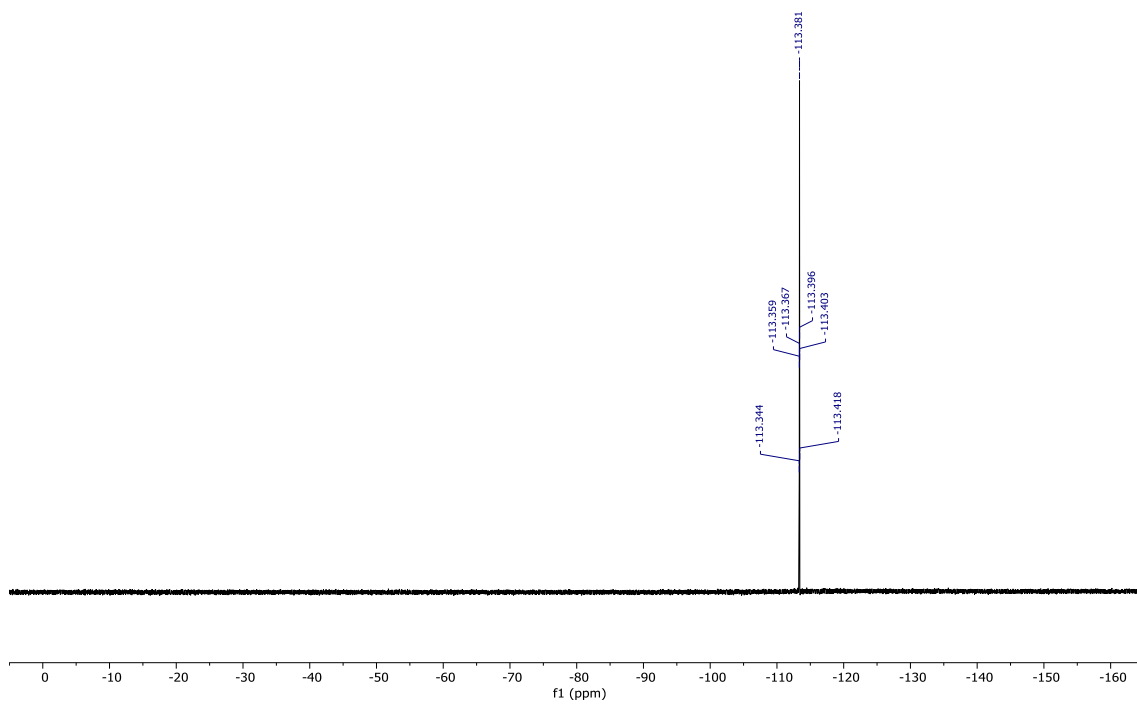
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



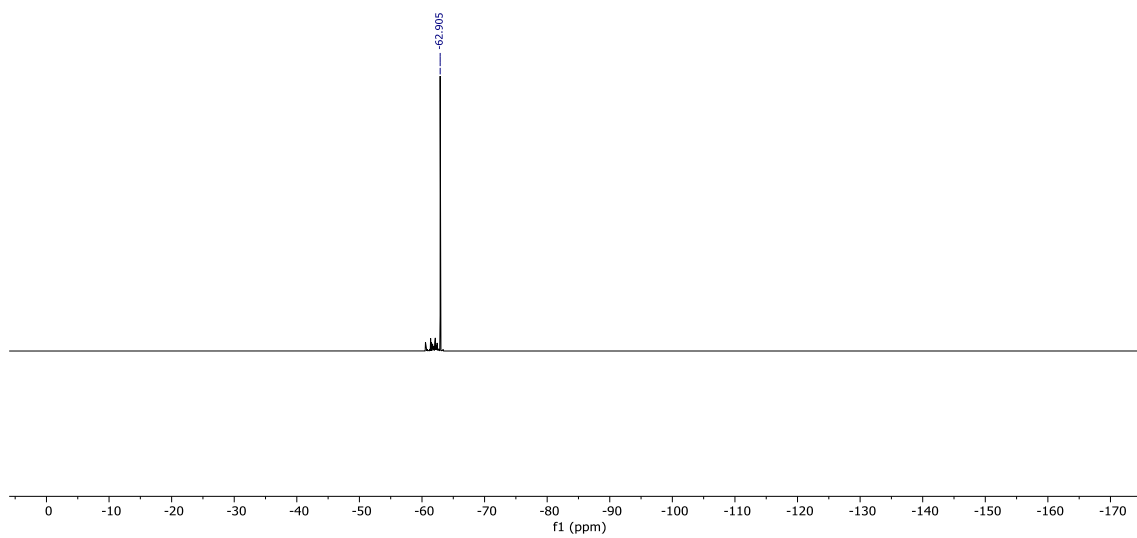
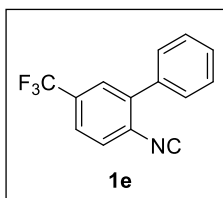
## Copies of $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra



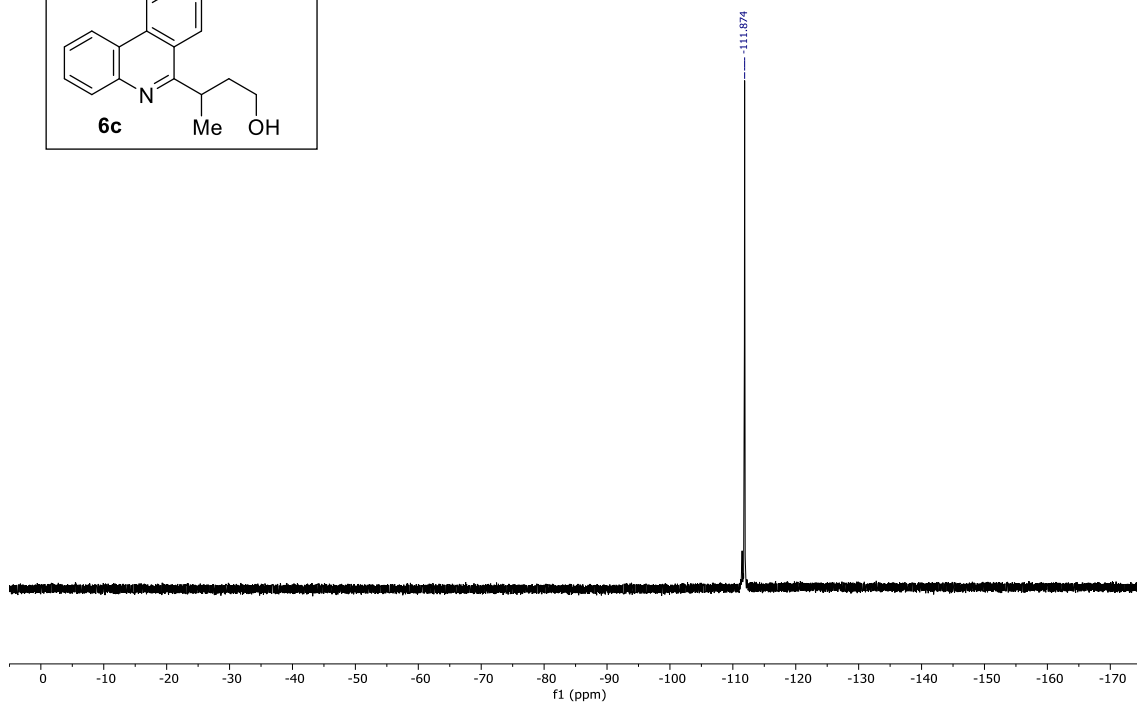
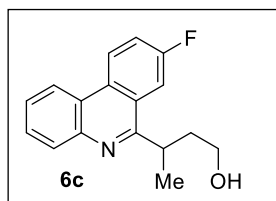
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



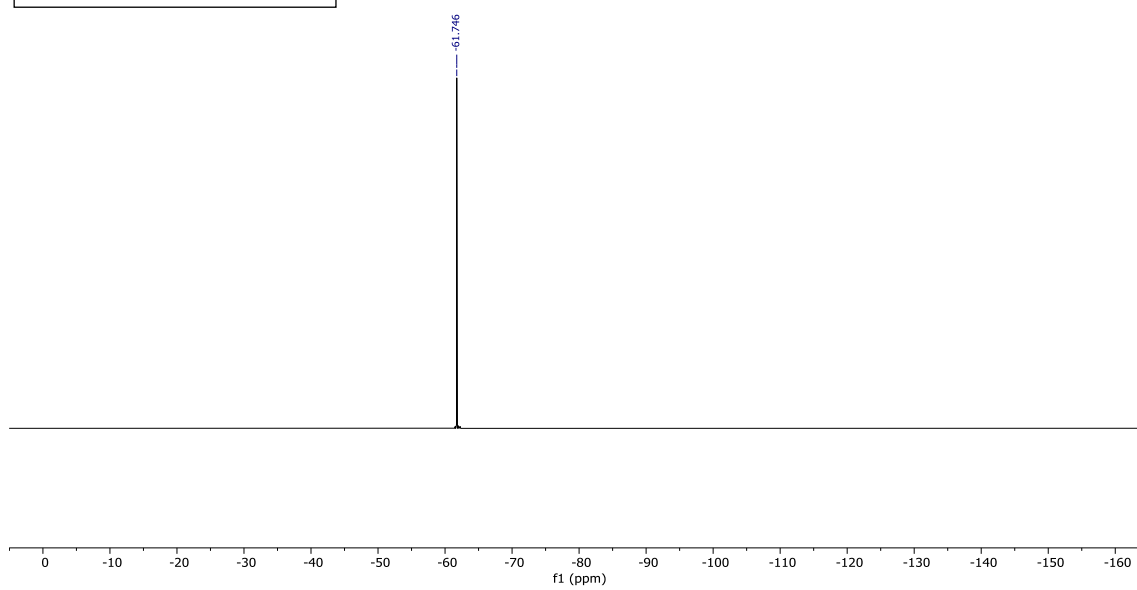
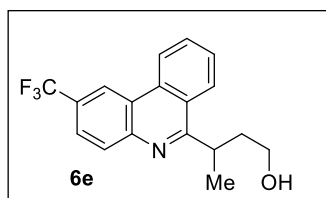
$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



19F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3)



19F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3)





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