

## Supporting Information

### Lewis Acid-Catalyzed Indole Synthesis via Intramolecular Nucleophilic Attack of Phenyl diazoacetates to Iminium Ions

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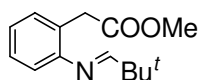
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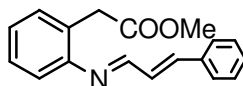
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**General.** Reactions were performed in oven-dried (140 °C) or flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of dry N<sub>2</sub>. Dichloromethane (DCM) was passed through a solvent column prior to use and was not distilled. Methanol and acetonitrile were not distilled. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using EM Science silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates. The developed chromatogram was analyzed by UV lamp (254 nm). Liquid chromatography was performed using flash chromatography of the indicated system on silica gel (230-400 mesh). Melting points were measured by electrothermal MEL-TEMP 3.0. Metal triflate salts, boron trifluoride etherate and metal chloride salts were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Methyl *o*-aminophenylacetate was prepared according to reported procedures.<sup>1,2</sup> *p*-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl azide (PNBSA) was prepared according to reported procedures.<sup>3</sup>

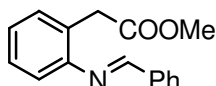
**General Procedure for Synthesis of Imines (1).** To a flame-dried vial under nitrogen atmosphere were added methyl *o*-aminophenylacetate (0.62 g, 3.8 mmol), aldehydes (1.0 eq.) and 5 mL of methanol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. After removal of methanol, crude imine was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give pure imine **1** in quantitative yield.



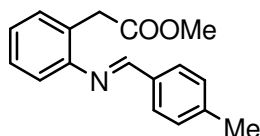
**1a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.25-6.75 (m, 4H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.2, 151.2, 130.2, 128.6, 127.4, 125.2, 118.1, 51.7, 37.3, 37.0, 26.6; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 234.1494; found: 234.1506; IR (neat): 2959, 2929, 1736, 1651, 1474, 1435 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



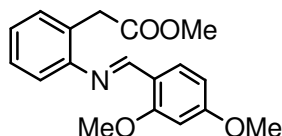
**1b.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.16 (d, 1H, *J* = 8Hz), 7.23-7.58 (m, 9H), 7.18 (t, 1H, *J* = 8Hz), 6.93 (d, 1H, *J* = 8Hz), 3.79 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.3, 161.9, 151.0, 144.0, 135.6, 130.4, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.5, 126.0, 117.8, 51.9, 37.1; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 280.1338; found: 280.1356; IR (neat): 3026, 2950, 1736, 1676, 1627 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



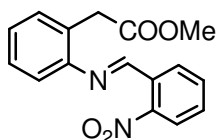
**1c.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.02-7.90 (m, 9H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.4, 159.9, 150.5, 136.3, 131.4, 130.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 126.1, 117.6, 51.8, 37.5; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 254.1181; found: 254.1200; IR (neat): 3058, 1732, 1631, 1620, 1577 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



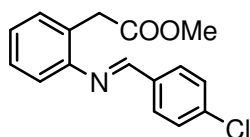
**1d.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H), 7.00-7.78 (m, 8H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.4, 159.8, 150.7, 141.9, 133.8, 130.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 125.9, 117.6, 51.8, 37.5, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 268.1338; found: 268.1348; IR (neat): 3024, 2949, 1735, 1627  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



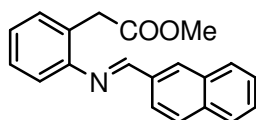
**1e.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.73 (s, 1H), 6.42-8.11 (m, 7H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.6, 163.7, 160.9, 155.3, 151.5, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 125.3, 118.3, 117.9, 105.7, 97.9, 55.5, 51.8, 37.6; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 314.1392; found: 314.1400; IR (neat): 2968, 2947, 1735, 1604, 1462  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



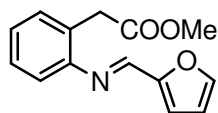
**1f.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.86 (s, 1H), 7.12-8.29 (m, 8H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.2, 155.6, 133.6, 131.2, 130.6, 129.9, 129.3, 128.6, 127.1, 124.5, 117.9, 51.9, 37.7; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 299.1032; found: 299.1047; IR (neat): 2949, 1732, 1523, 1341  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



**1g.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H), 7.01-7.83 (m, 8H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.3, 158.4, 150.1, 137.4, 134.8, 130.5, 130.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 126.4, 117.4, 51.9, 37.5; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 288.0791; found: 288.0807; IR (neat): 2949, 1734, 1627, 1593, 1569, 1491  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

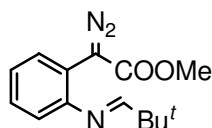


**1h.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 1H), 7.08-7.94 (m, 11H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.5, 159.9, 150.5, 135.0, 134.1, 133.1, 131.5, 130.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 126.6, 126.2, 123.8, 117.6, 51.9, 37.6; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 304.1338; found: 304.1342; IR (neat): 3058, 2949, 1733, 1620, 1594  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

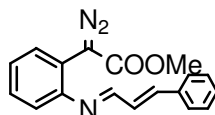


**1i.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19 (s, 1H), 6.52-7.59 (m, 7H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  172.4, 152.4, 150.6, 148.1, 145.6, 130.4, 128.8, 128.4, 126.1, 117.6, 115.7, 112.1, 51.8, 37.2; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 244.0974; found: 244.0987; IR (neat): 2987, 2950, 1733, 1625, 1472  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

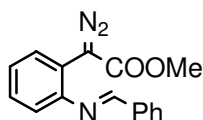
**General Procedure for Synthesis of Diazo Compound (2) (Table 2).** To a stirred solution of **1** (1 mmol) and PNBSA (2-3 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) was added DBU (4-6 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring for 12 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , extracted with diethyl ether, and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to give the corresponding diazo compound **2**. The diazo carbon was not observed in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR.



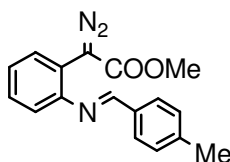
**2a (R = Bu<sup>t</sup>).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.67 (s, 1H), 7.25-6.79 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  173.4, 151.2, 148.8, 129.5, 128.3, 127.4, 125.8, 118.8, 52.0, 37.4, 26.6; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 260.1399; found: 260.1411; IR (neat): 2959, 2098, 1700, 1650, 1489  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



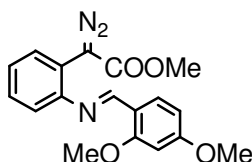
**2b (R = PhCH=CH).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.18 (d, 1H,  $J = 8\text{Hz}$ ), 7.23-7.52 (m, 9H), 7.18 (t, 1H,  $J = 8\text{Hz}$ ), 6.97 (d, 1H,  $J = 8\text{Hz}$ ), 3.82 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.6, 161.3, 148.4, 144.0, 135.6, 130.4, 129.6, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.5, 126.0, 119.9, 118.0, 52.0; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 306.1243; found: 306.1261; IR (neat): 2987, 2095, 1692, 1623, 1453  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



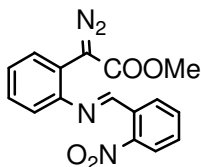
**2c (R = Ph).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.38 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.05 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.9, 159.9, 148.3, 136.2, 131.9, 129.7, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 126.7, 120.2, 118.2, 52.2; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 280.1086; found: 280.1105; IR (neat): 2952, 2095, 1696, 1626, 1486, 1451  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



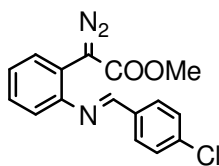
**2d (R = *p*-MePh).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.34 (s, 1H), 7.00-7.81 (m, 8H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.8, 159.8, 150.7, 141.9, 133.8, 130.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 125.9, 120.0, 118.0, 52.0, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 294.1243; found: 294.1253; IR (neat): 2950, 2098, 1692, 1626, 1500, 1453  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



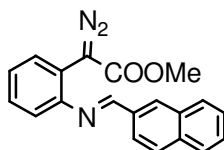
**2e (R = 2,4-DiMeOPh).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.73 (s, 1H), 6.41-8.13 (m, 7H), 3.84 (s, 6H), 3.80 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 163.7, 160.9, 155.3, 151.5, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 125.3, 118.3, 117.9, 105.9, 97.9, 55.6, 55.5, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 340.1297; found: 340.1305; IR (neat): 2967, 2097, 1677, 1604, 1578, 1456  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



**2f (R = *o*-NO<sub>2</sub>Ph).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.89 (s, 1H), 7.11-8.34 (m, 8H), 3.83 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 155.5, 133.6, 131.5, 131.2, 130.6, 129.9, 129.3, 128.6, 127.5, 127.1, 124.5, 118.5, 117.9, 52.1; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 325.0937; found: 325.0952; IR (neat): 2952, 2095, 1698, 1620, 1523, 1437  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

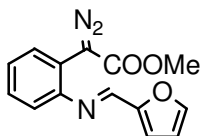


**2g (R = *p*-ClPh).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H), 7.00-7.84 (m, 8H), 3.83 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 158.4, 150.1, 147.7, 137.4, 134.8, 130.5, 130.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 126.4, 122.2, 120.2, 52.0; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 314.0696; found: 314.0712; IR (neat): 2951, 2098, 1700, 1527, 1444  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



**2h (R = 2-Naphthyl).**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 1H), 7.08-8.18 (m, 11H), 3.83 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.7, 159.9, 150.5, 135.0, 134.1,

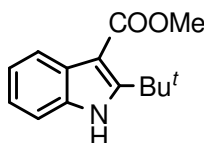
133.1, 131.5, 130.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 126.6, 126.2, 123.8, 120.2, 118.0, 52.0; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 330.1243; found: 330.1247; IR (neat): 2952, 2099, 1694, 1623, 1444 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



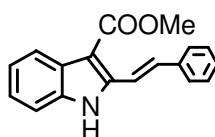
**2i (R = 2-Fural).** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.18 (s, 1H), 6.54-7.66 (m, 7H), 3.82 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.6, 152.3, 150.6, 148.1, 145.6, 130.4, 128.8, 128.4, 126.1, 117.6, 115.7, 112.3, 110.9, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 270.0879; found: 270.0892; IR (neat): 2951, 2097, 1697, 1528, 1438 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Cyclization of Methyl *N*-Phenyliminophenyldiazoacetate (2c) Catalyzed by Lewis Acids: Screening of Lewis Acids (Table 1).** To a stirred solution of **2c** (0.25 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added metal chloride salts, boron trifluoride etherate, or metal triflate salts (1.0 mol%) at room temperature. The yellow reaction mixture was stirred for 1h, during which the reaction was monitored by TLC in every 5 min till the completion of the reaction. The mixture was then passed through a silica gel plug to remove the catalyst. After evaporation of the solvent, pure indole **3c** was obtained as a light yellow solid. (TLC R<sub>f</sub> = 0.25 in 5:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate)

**General Procedure for Synthesis of Indoles (3) (Table 2).** To a stirred solution of **2** (0.25 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added boron trifluoride etherate or zinc triflate (1.0 mol%) at room temperature. The yellow reaction mixture was stirred until it turned pale yellow or colorless within 10-30 min. The mixture was then passed through a silica gel plug to remove the catalyst. After evaporation of the solvent, pure indole **3** was obtained as a light yellow solid in quantitative yield. NMR spectral data suggest the presence of rotamers in indoles with 3-aryl groups having an ortho substituent.

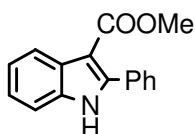


**3a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.09-8.11 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.35 (m, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.3, 154.7, 133.1, 128.6, 122.5, 122.1, 110.9, 103.7, 51.1, 33.9, 28.7; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 232.1338; found: 232.1362; IR (neat): 2949, 1669, 1575, 1455 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 77.2-78.5 °C.

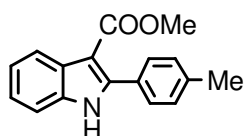


**3b.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.89 (s, 1H), 7.05-7.56 (m, 11H), 3.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C

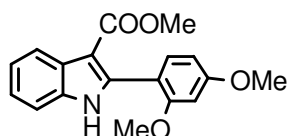
NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  152.9, 141.6, 136.2, 135.6, 131.4, 131.3, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.4, 127.0, 123.9, 122.1, 122.0, 118.0, 110.7, 51.1; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 278.1181; found: 278.1181; IR (neat): 3322, 2949, 1664, 1577, 1449 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 102.7-103.9 °C.



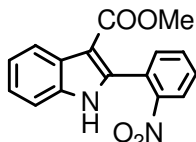
**3c.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.58 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.21 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 144.8, 135.3, 132.2, 129.8, 129.7, 129.4, 128.4, 127.7, 123.5, 122.4, 122.3, 111.2, 51.1; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 252.1025; found: 252.1040; IR (neat): 3322, 1688, 1548, 1452 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 137.6-139.0 °C.



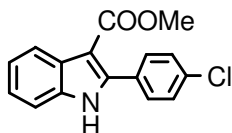
**3d.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 1H), 8.17 (m, 1H), 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.28 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.9, 144.9, 139.3, 135.1, 129.4, 128.9, 127.6, 123.1, 122.1, 122.0, 111.0, 50.8, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 266.1181; found: 266.1187; IR (neat): 3325, 1678, 1500, 1455, 1439 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 148.0-148.8 °C.



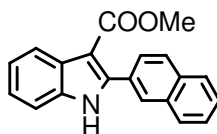
**3e.** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.87 (s, 1H), 8.16 (m, 1H), 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.51-6.57 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.9, 161.8, 158.1, 141.5, 134.9, 133.7, 130.8, 127.1, 122.7, 121.8, 121.6, 112.8, 110.8, 105.7, 104.4, 98.7, 55.5, 50.8; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 312.1236; found: 312.1236; IR (neat): 3318, 1681, 1579, 1454 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 140.5-141.2 °C.



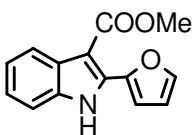
**3f.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.86 (s, 1H), 8.05-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.63 (m, 6H), 3.68 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.2, 149.3, 139.5, 135.4, 132.7, 132.2, 130.1, 127.5, 126.5, 124.4, 123.6, 122.3, 122.0, 111.3, 105.8, 51.0; HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd: 297.0875; found: 297.0878; IR (neat): 3321, 1679, 1527, 1452 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Mp: 164.7-165.7 °C.



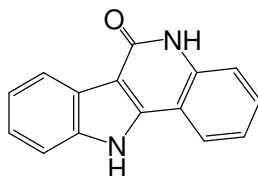
**3g.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.60 (s, 1H), 8.18 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.7, 152.4, 143.2, 135.4, 135.1, 130.8, 130.3, 128.4, 127.4, 123.5, 122.3, 122.2, 111.0, 51.0; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 286.0635; found: 286.0641; IR (neat): 3301, 1678, 1531, 1444  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Mp: 166.2-167.2  $^\circ\text{C}$ .



**3h.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.62 (s, 1H), 8.21 (m, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.83-7.88 (m, 3H), 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.5, 144.4, 135.2, 133.4, 132.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 126.5, 123.3, 122.2, 111.0, 104.8, 50.9; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 302.1181; found: 302.1183; IR (neat): 3302, 1678, 1537, 1444  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Mp: 139.9-141.0  $^\circ\text{C}$ .



**3i.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.11 (s, 1H), 8.16 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.57 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.6, 145.5, 142.7, 134.7, 133.9, 127.3, 123.5, 122.4, 122.1, 114.6, 112.8, 110.9, 102.9, 51.0; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd: 242.0817; found: 242.0831; IR (neat): 3321, 1679, 1528, 1455, 1438  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Mp: 115.6-116.9  $^\circ\text{C}$ .



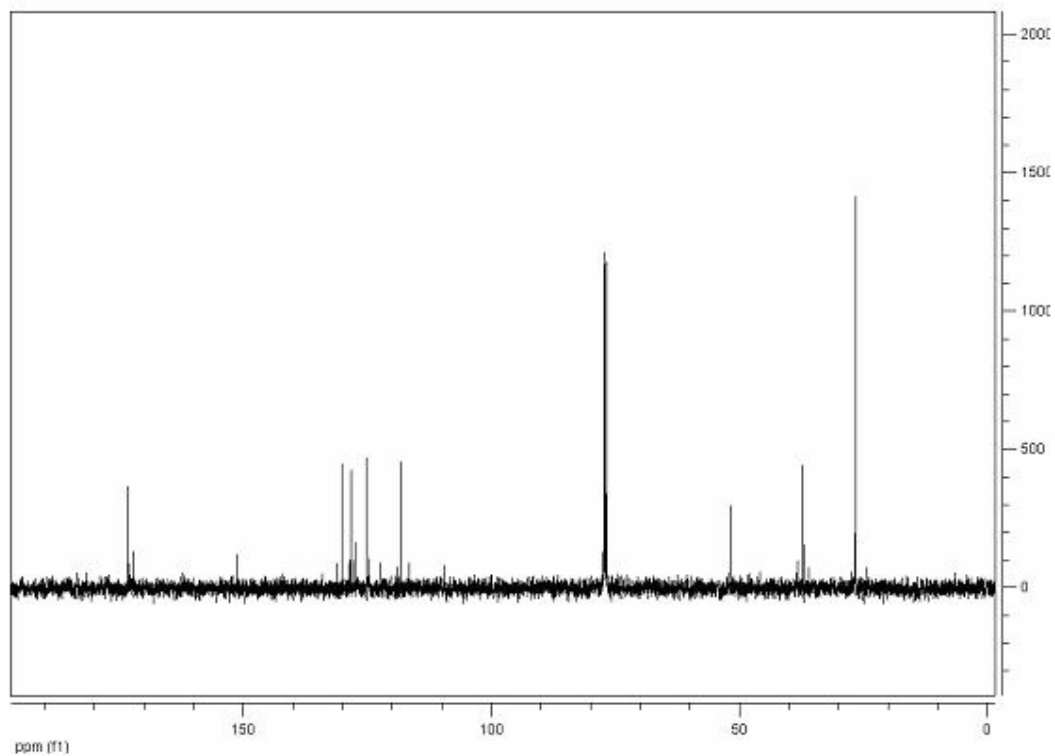
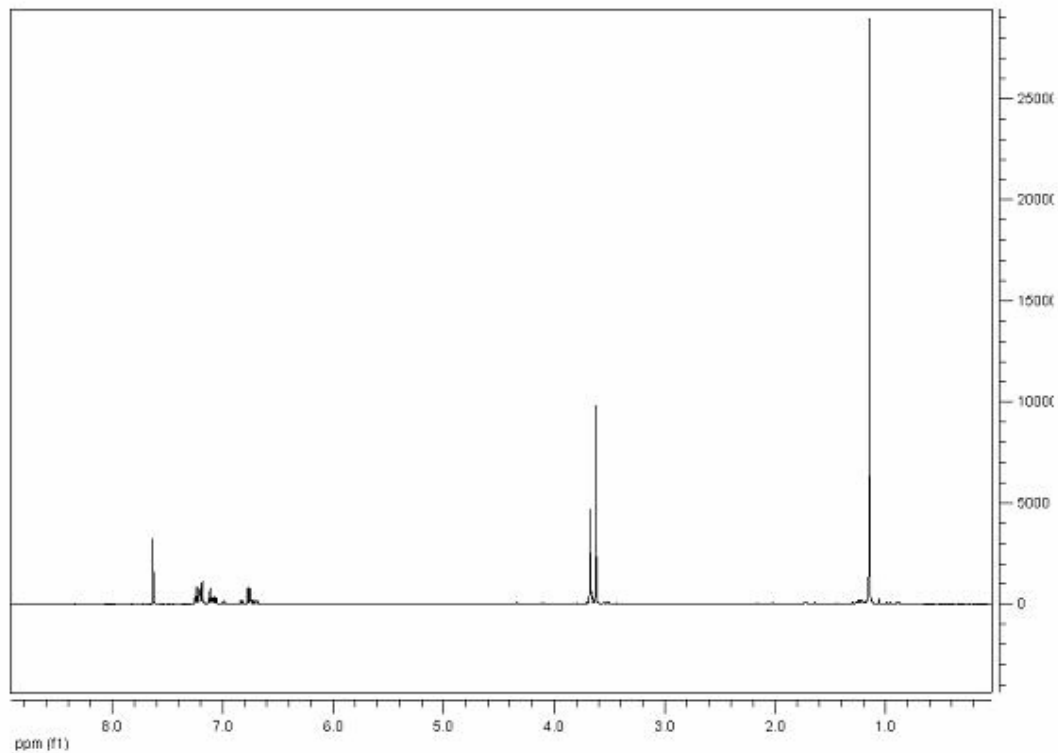
**Synthesis of Indolo-quinolin-2(1H)-one (4) (Scheme 4).** Indole **3f** (300 mg) in 50 mL of ethyl acetate was hydrogenated over 10% palladium on carbon (50 mg) at room temperature under an atmospheric pressure of hydrogen for 10 h to give a light yellow solution. After filtration of Pd/C and removal of solvent under reduced pressure, a yellow solid was obtained. The solid was then redissolved in MeOH (10 mL) and the resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, during which some white solid precipitated. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using 1:2 hexanes:EtOAc as eluent to give compound **4** as white solid (215 mg, 90.7%). All analytical data are identical to the literature reported data.<sup>4</sup>



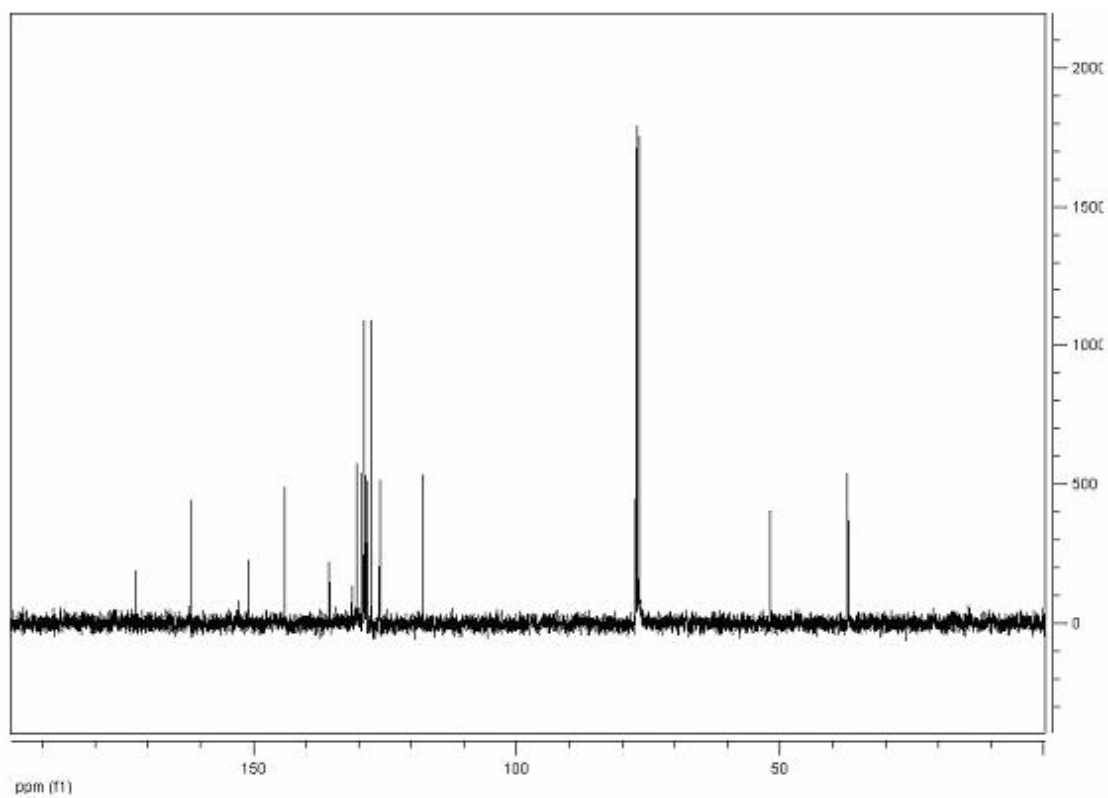
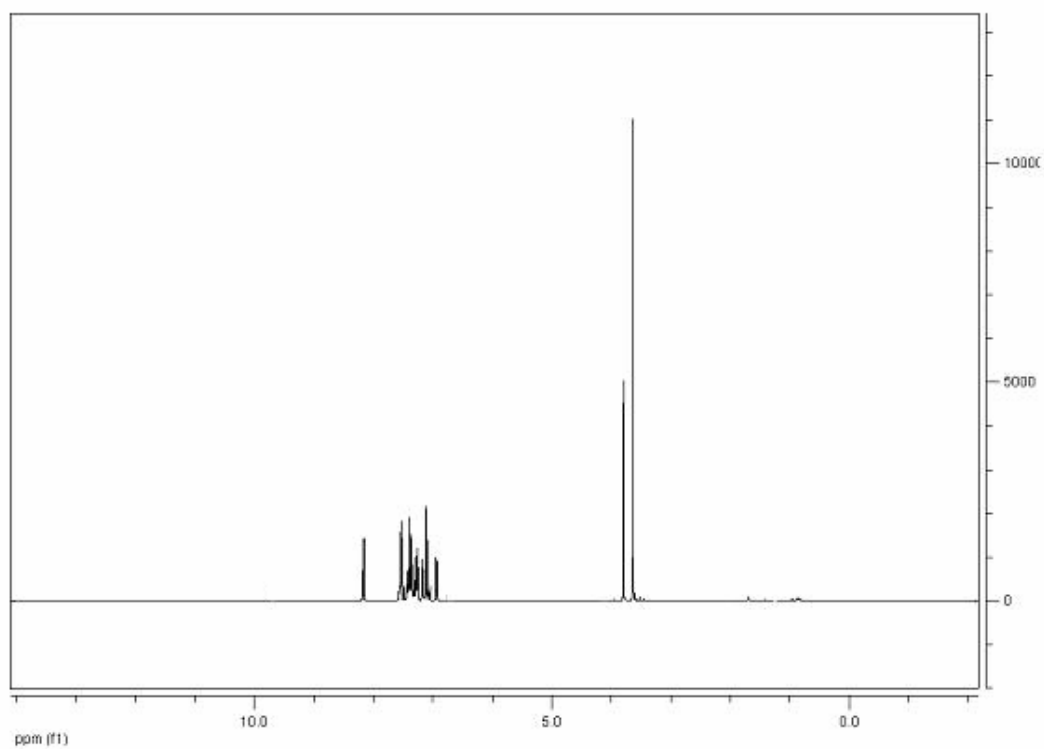
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- (1) Mishra, J. K.; Panda, G. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2007**, *9*, 321–338.
- (2) Katayama, S.; Ae, N.; Kodo, T.; Masumoto, S.; Hourai, S.; Tamamura, C.; Tanaka, H.; Nagata, R. *J. Med. Chem.* **2003**, *46*, 691–701.
- (3) (a) Waser, J.; Gaspar, B.; Nambu, H.; Carreira, E. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 11693–11712. (b) Ruppel, J. V.; Jones, J. E.; Huff, C. A.; Kamble, R. M.; Chen, Y.; Zhang, X. P. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 1995–1998.
- (4) Chen, Y. L.; Chung, C. H.; Chen, I. L.; Chen, P. H.; Jeng, H. Y. *Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry* **2002**, *10*, 2705–2712.

**NMR spectra of Imines (1), Diazo Imines (2), and Indoles (3)**

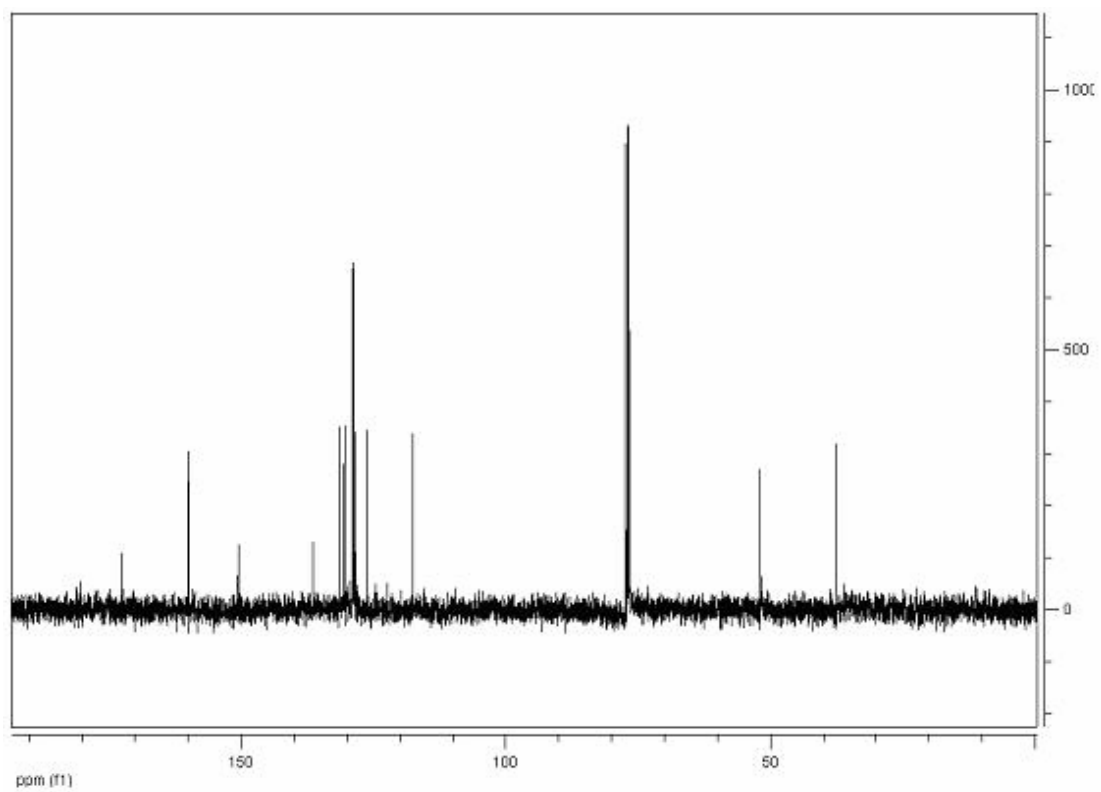
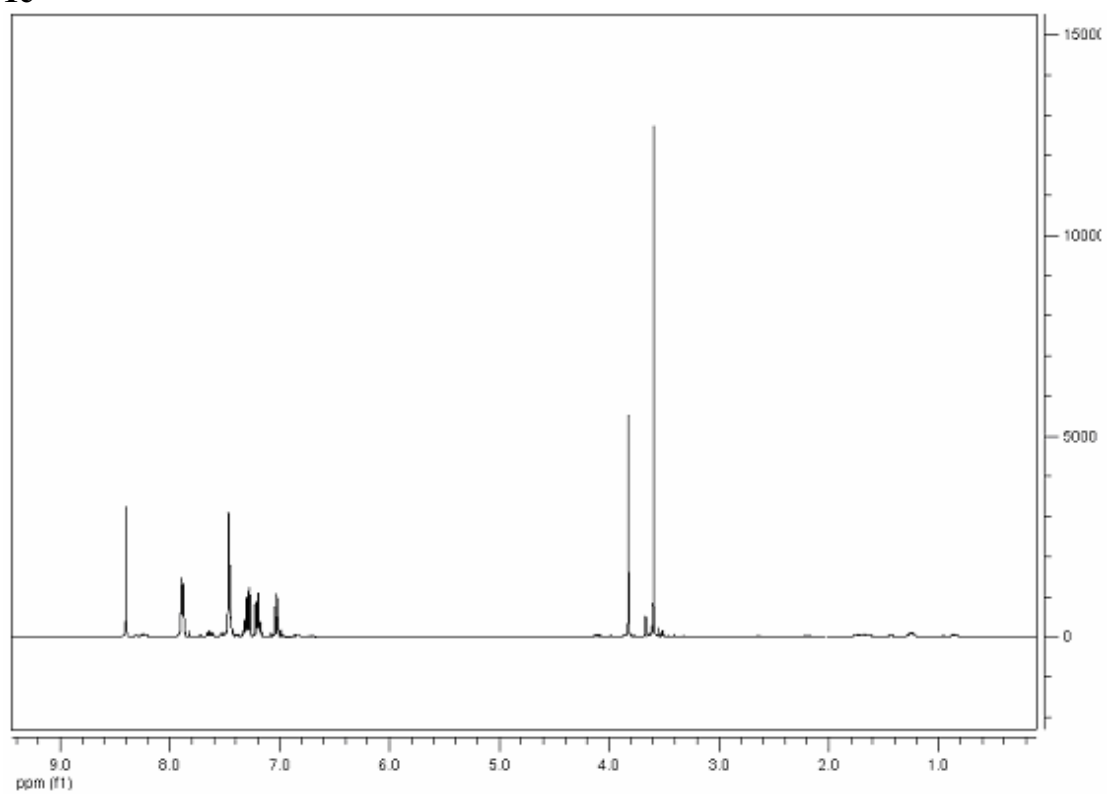
**1a**



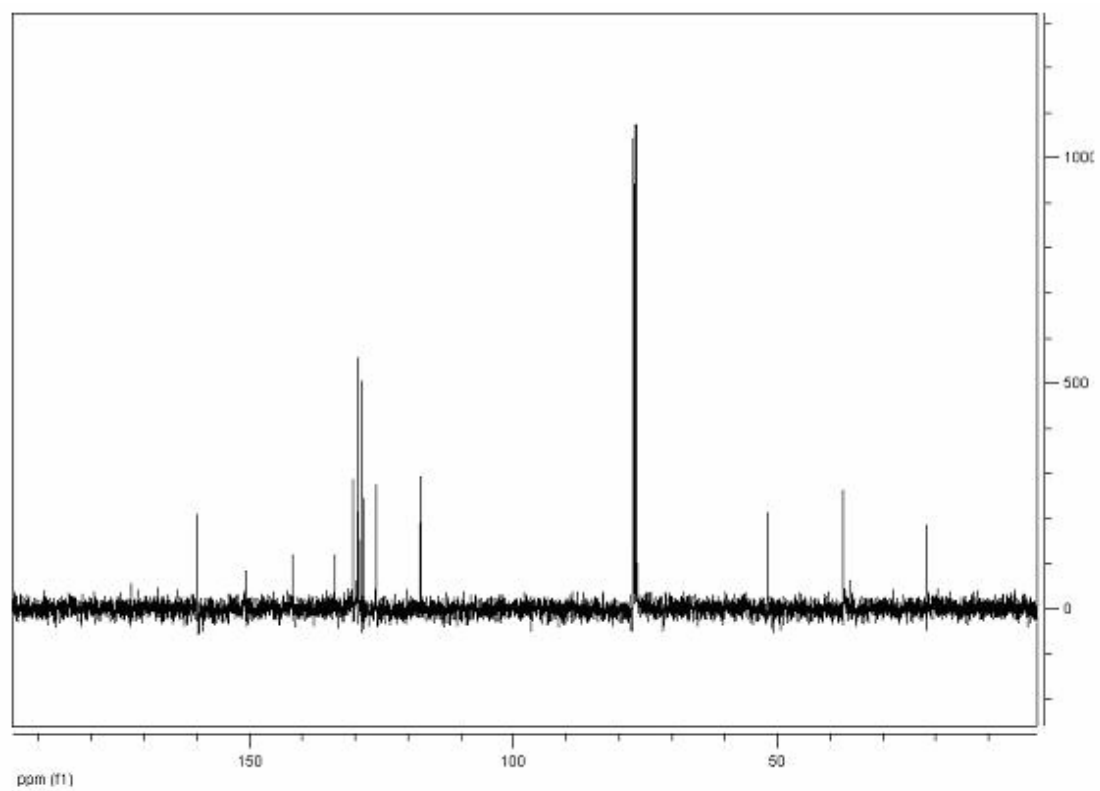
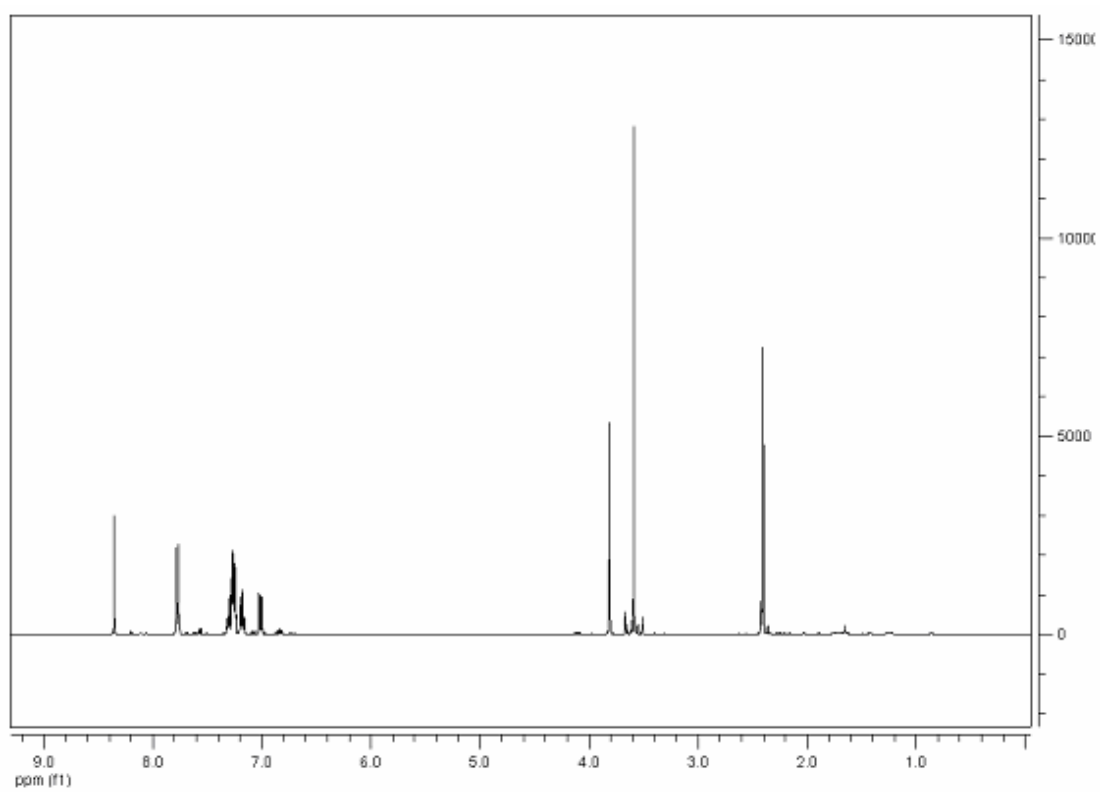
**1b**



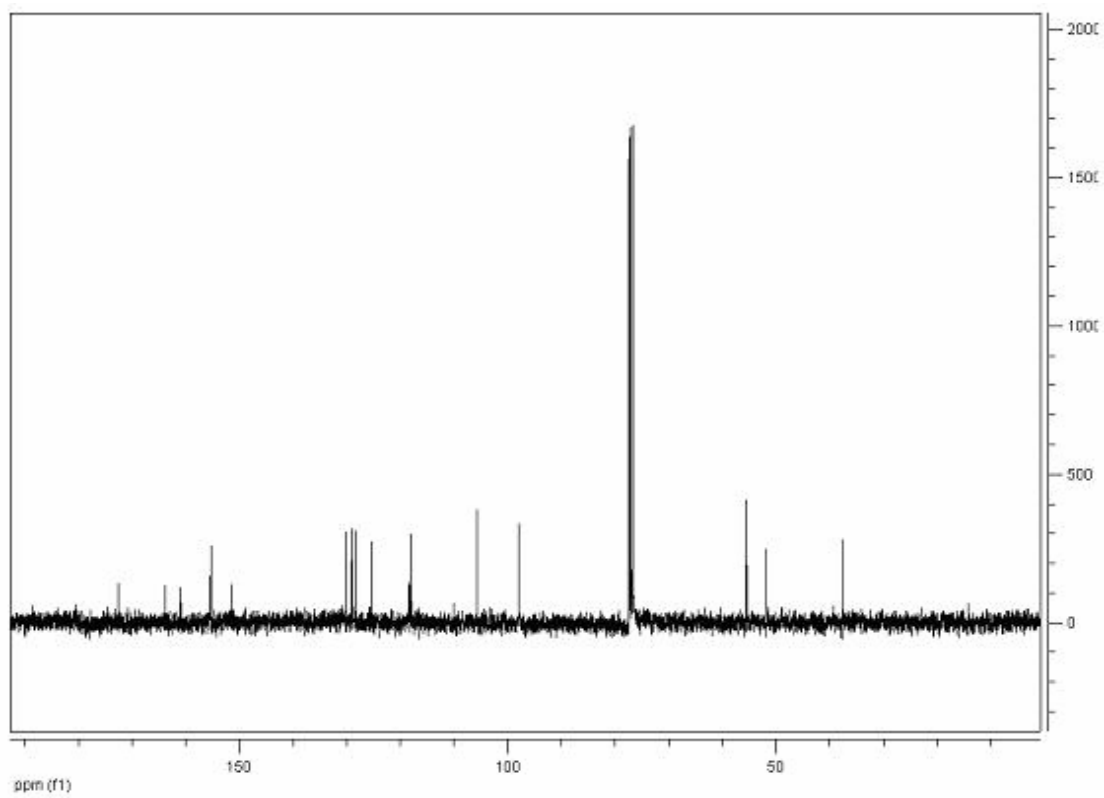
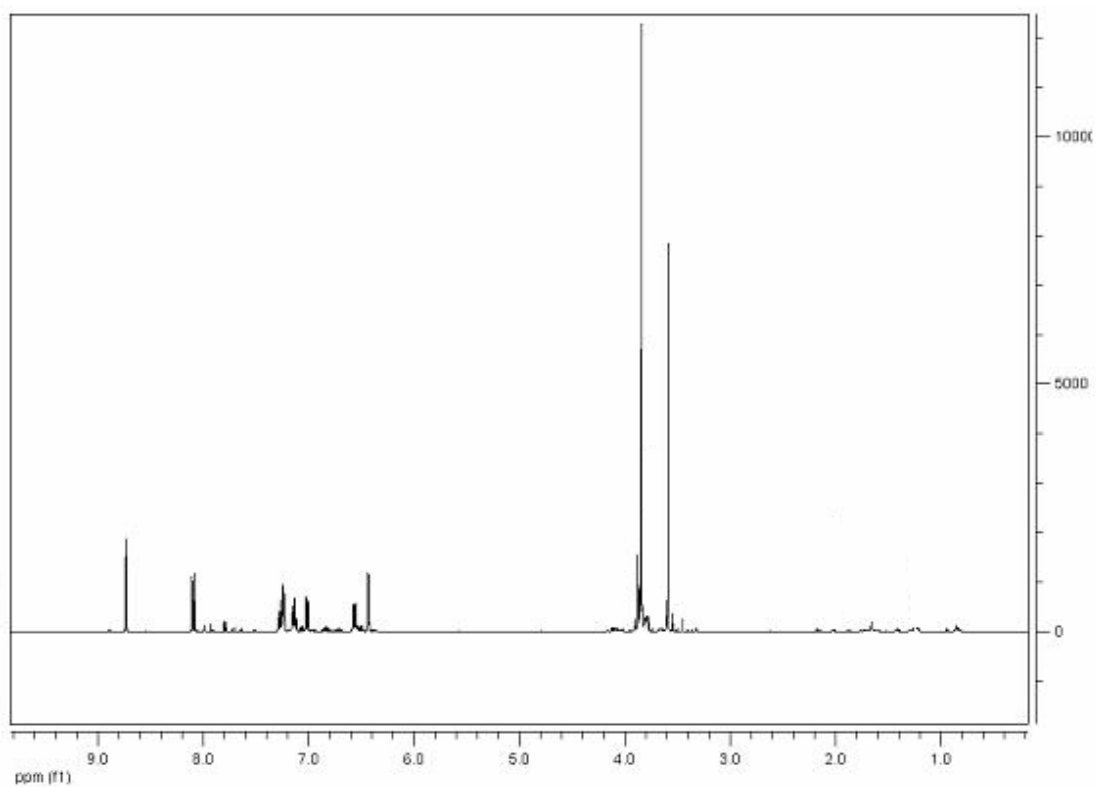
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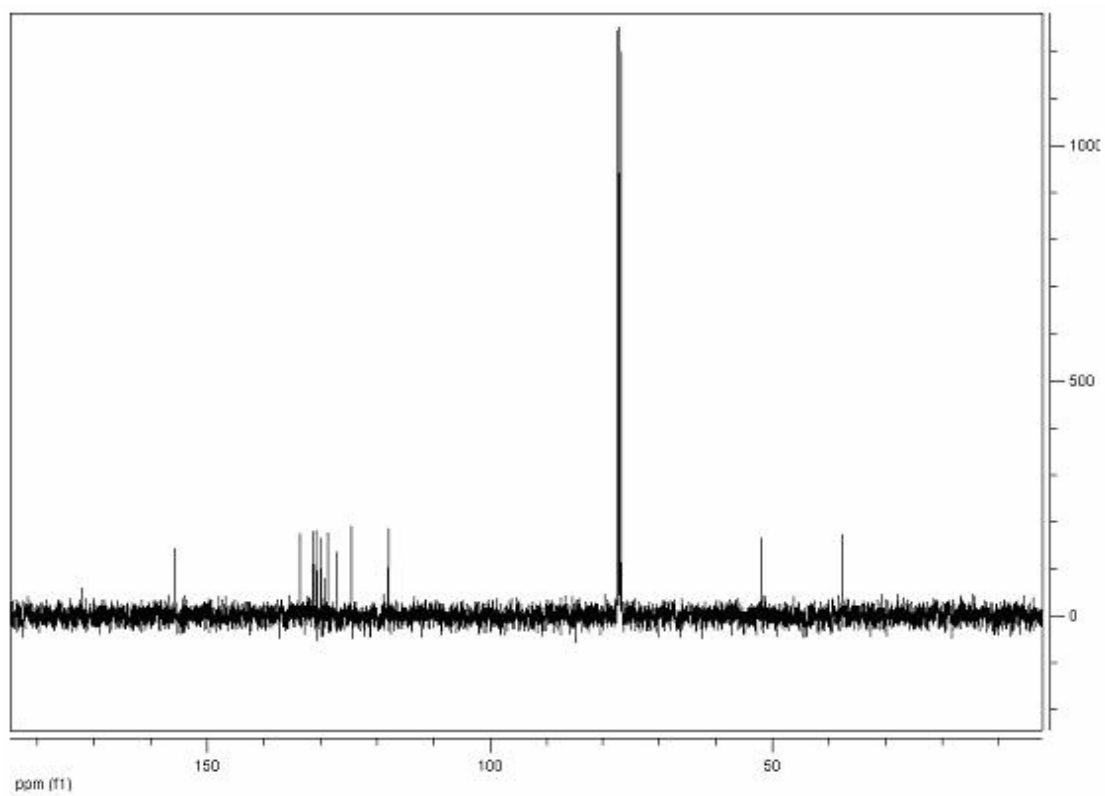
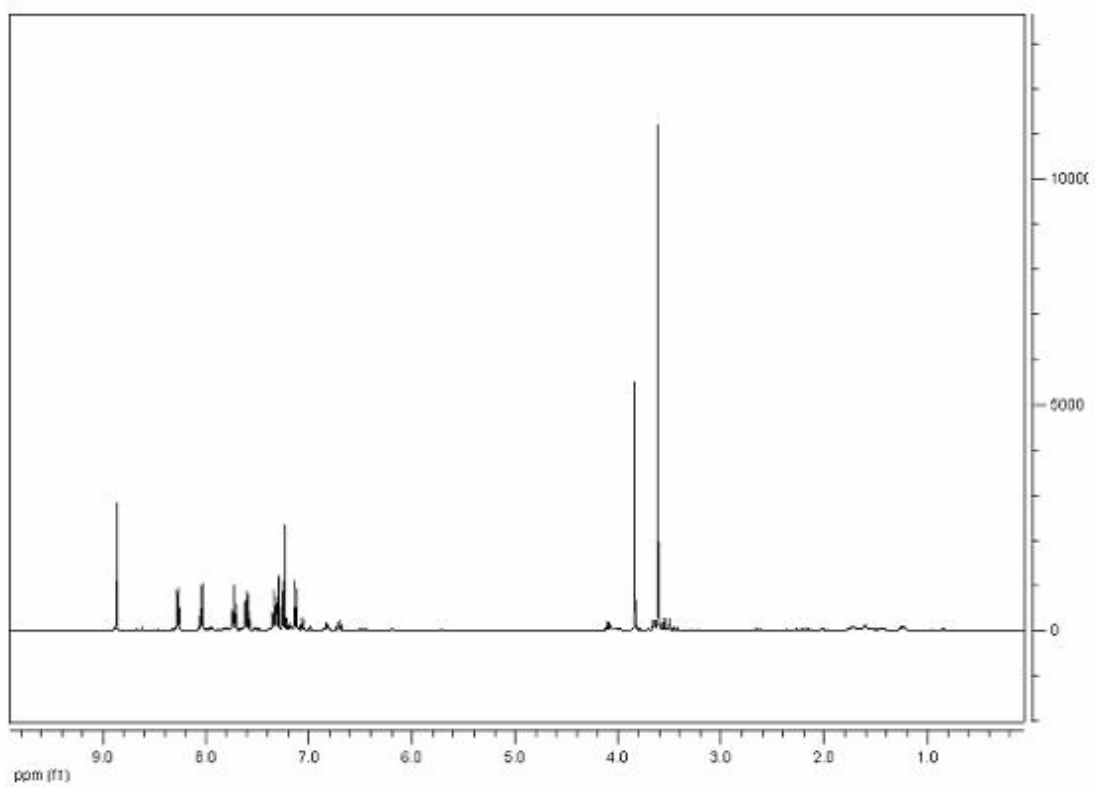
1d



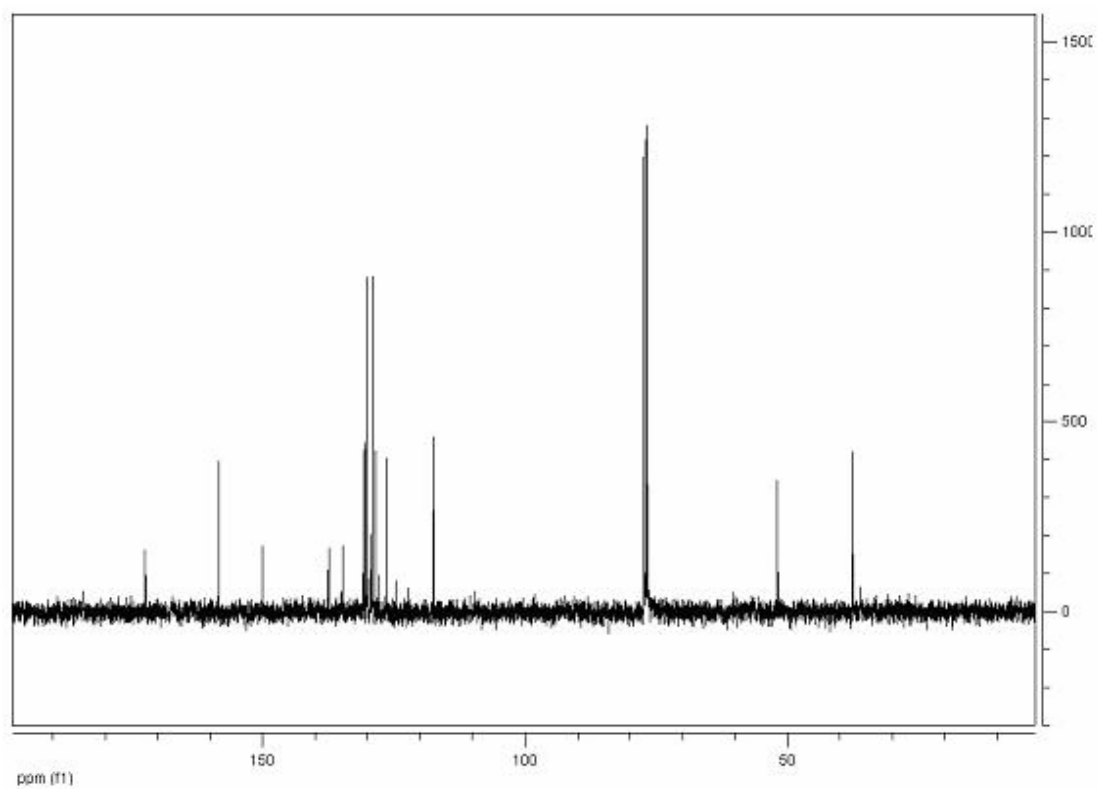
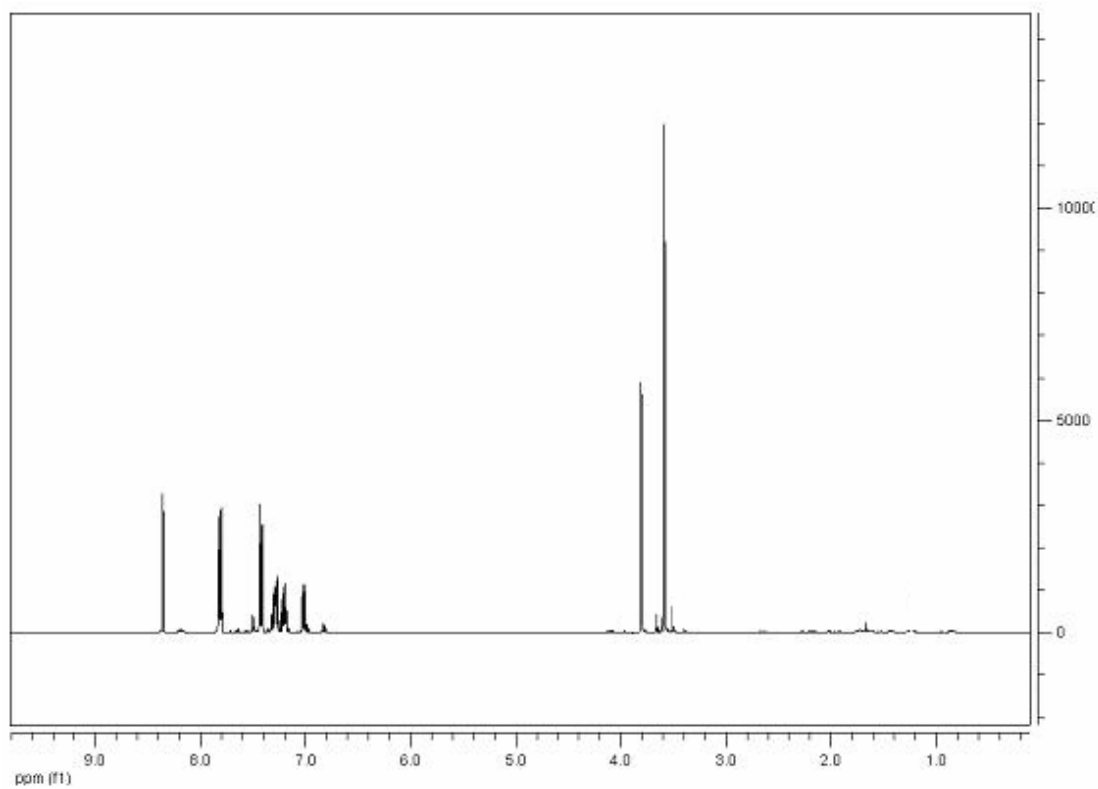
1e



1f

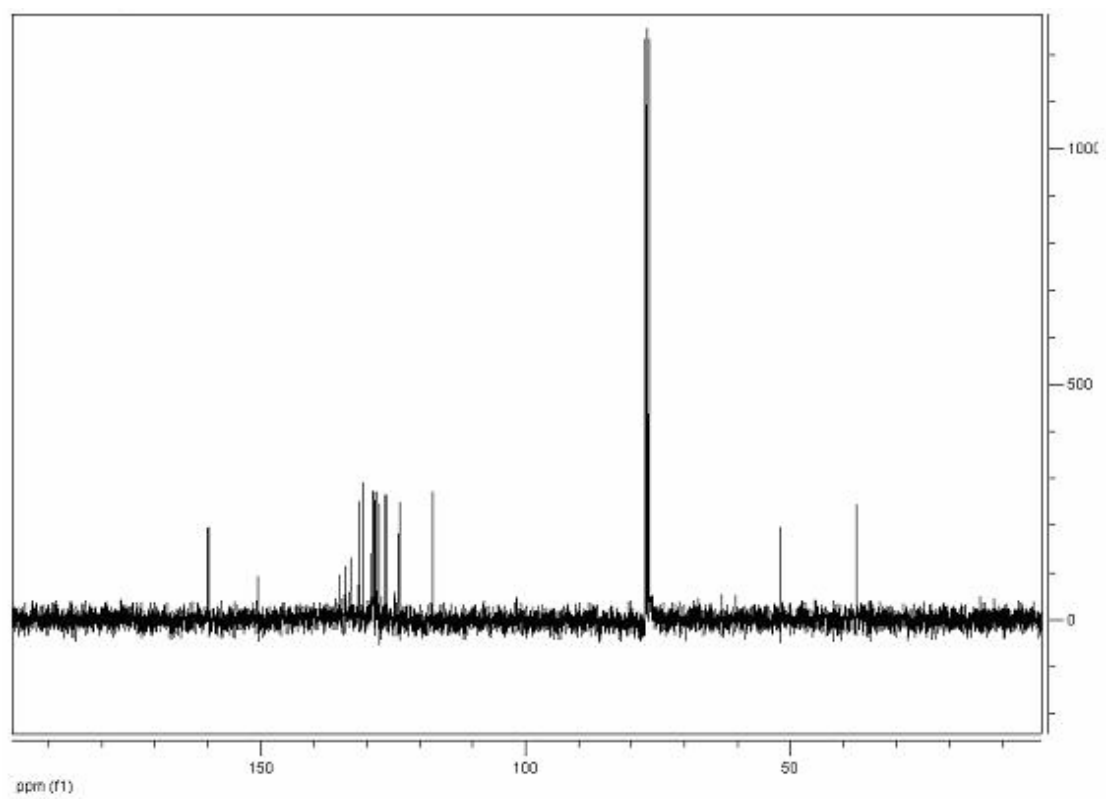
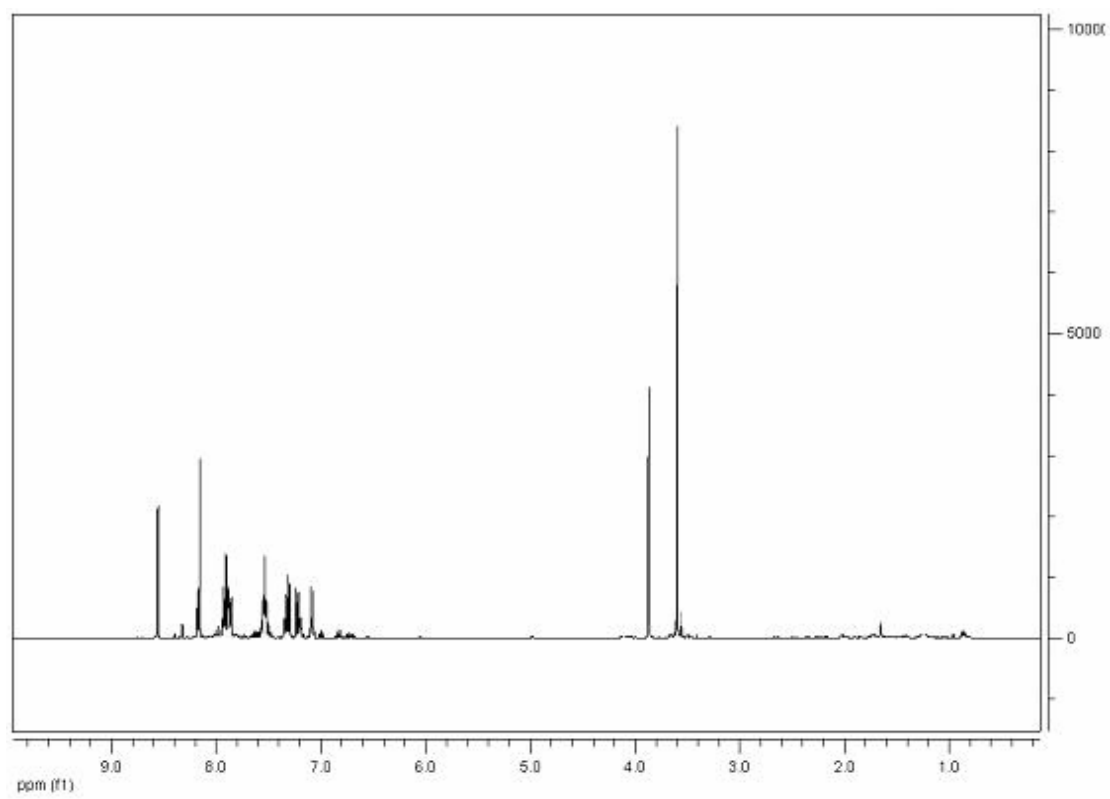


**1g**

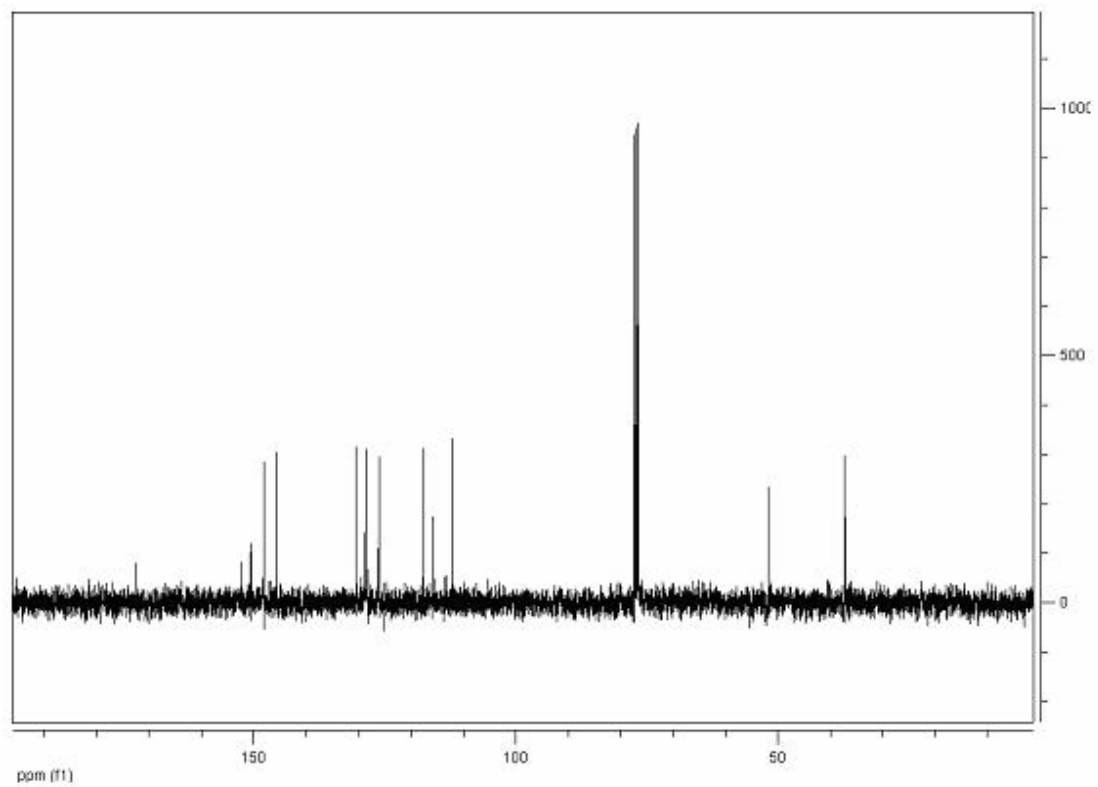
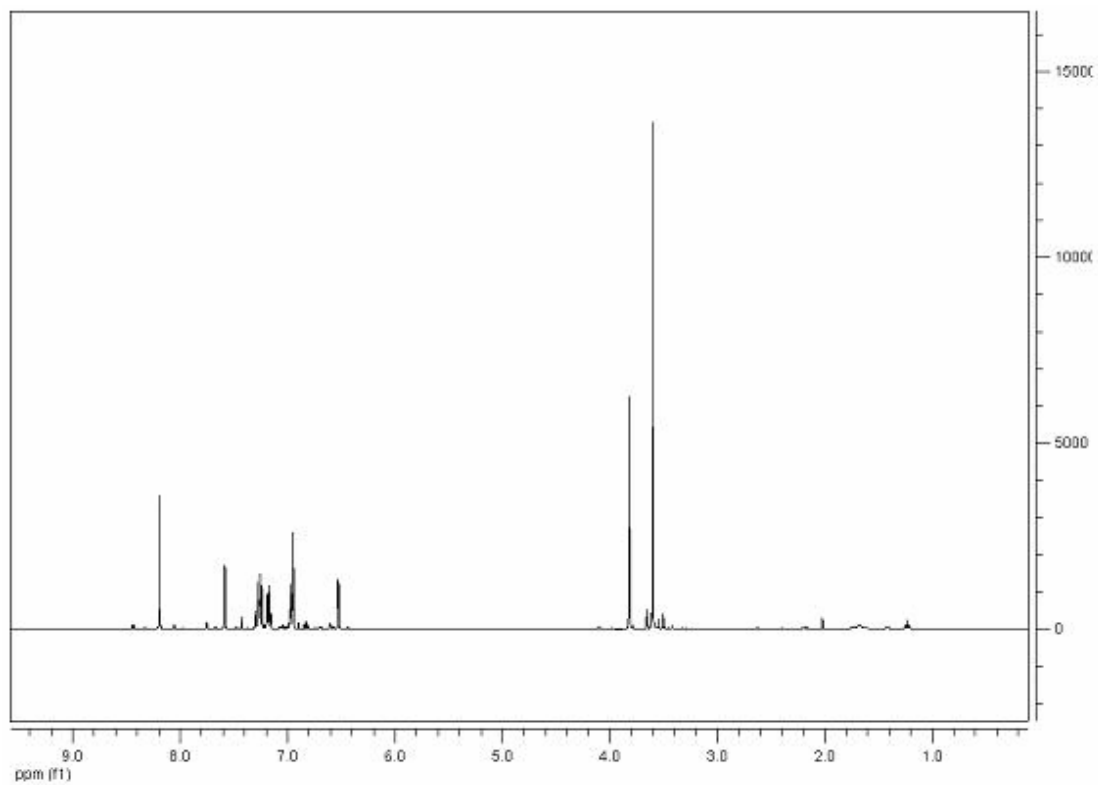




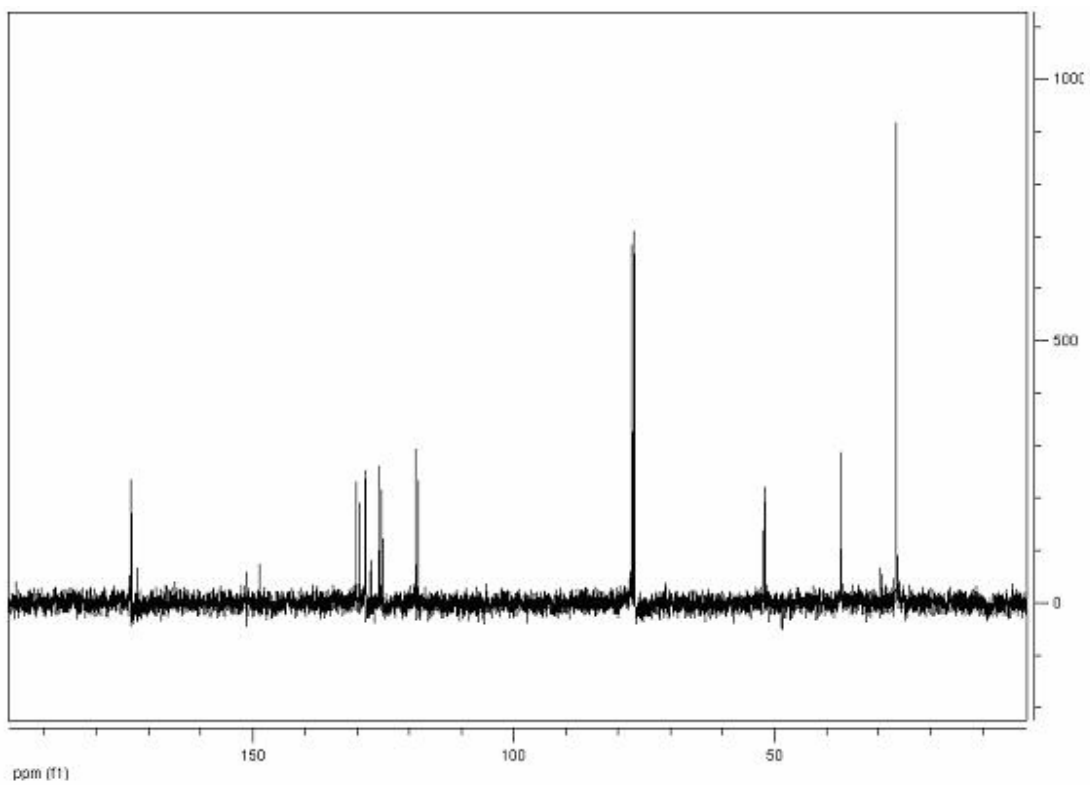
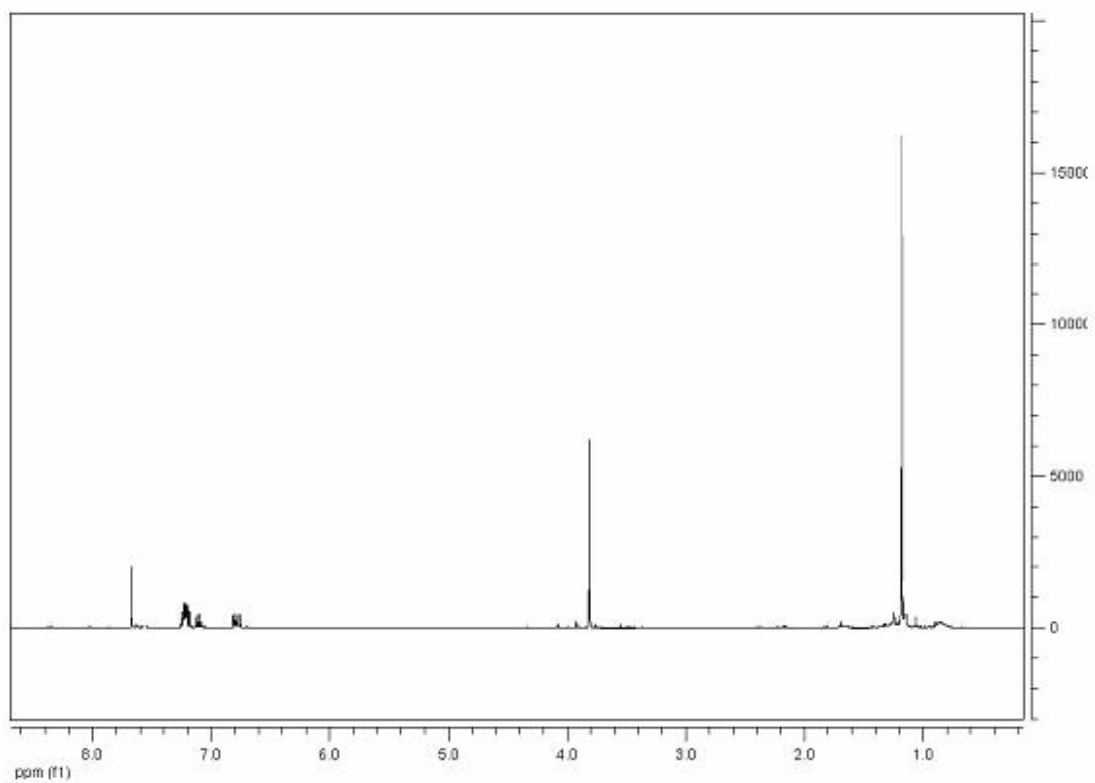
**1h**



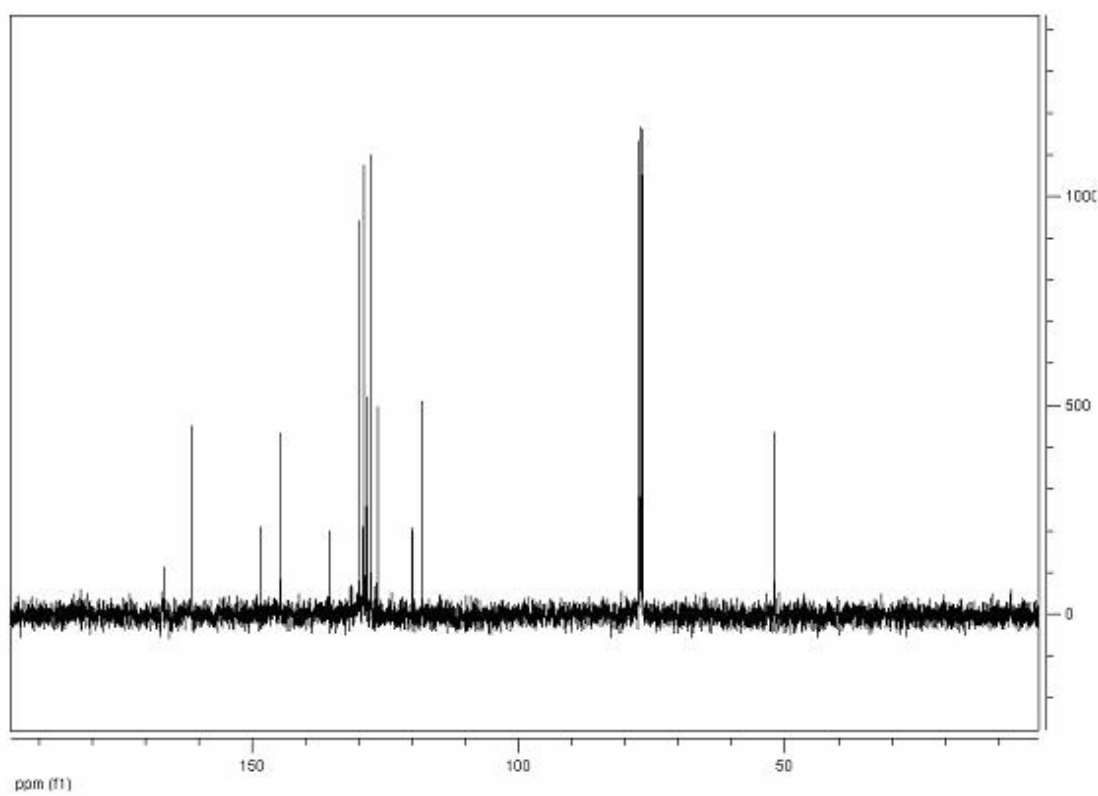
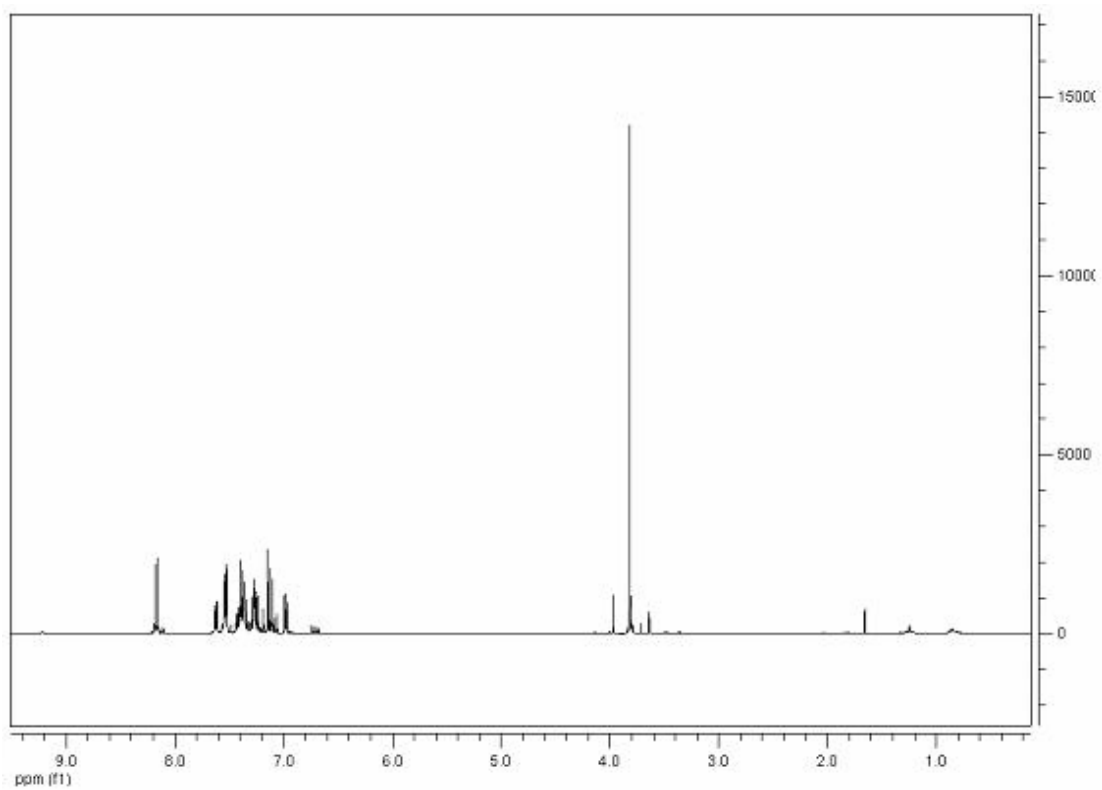
**1i**



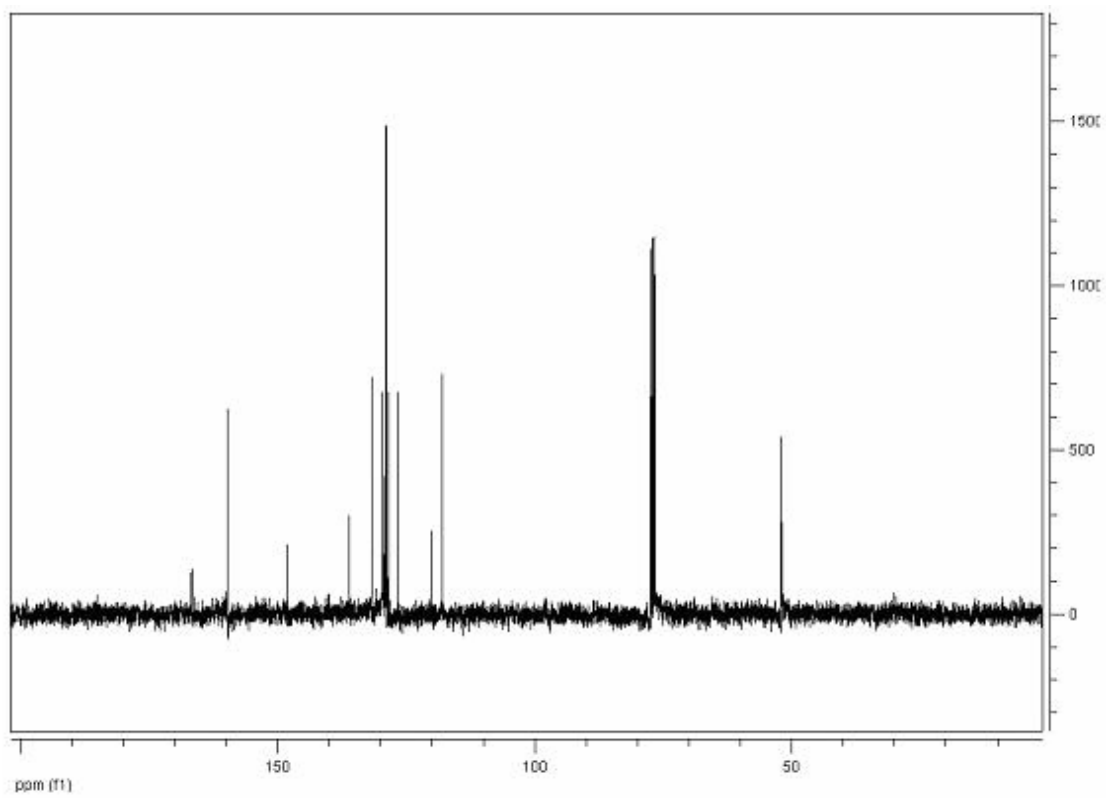
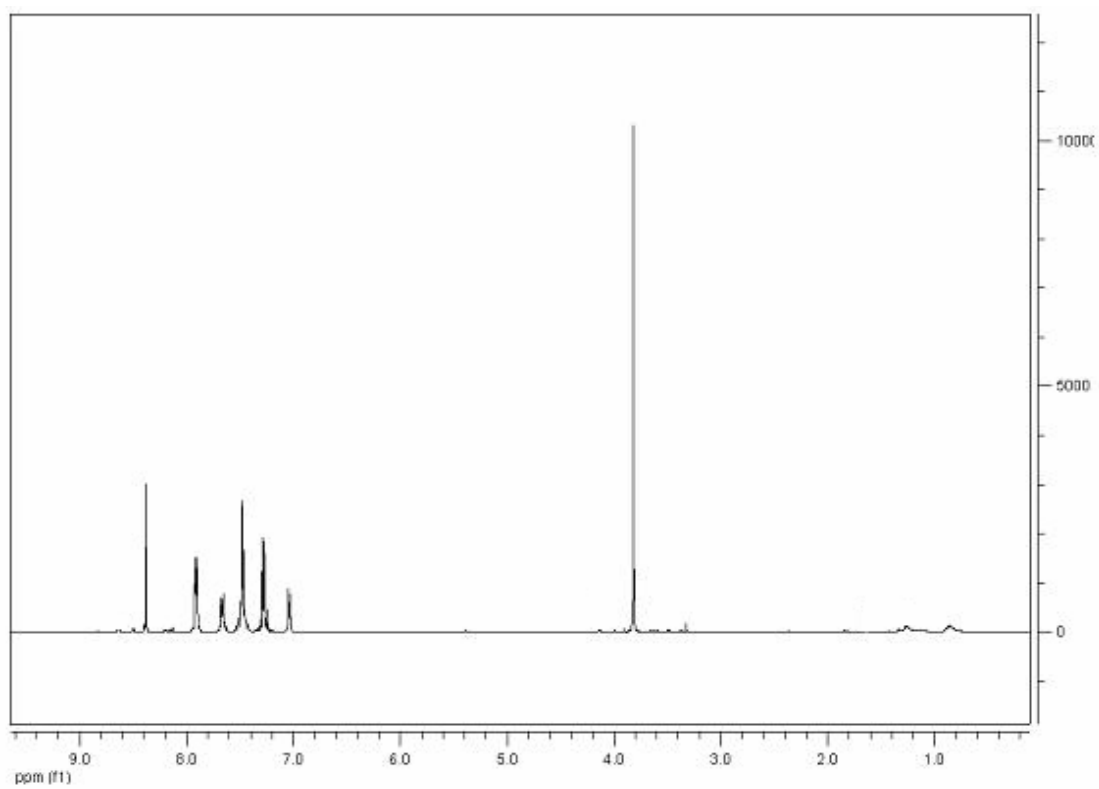
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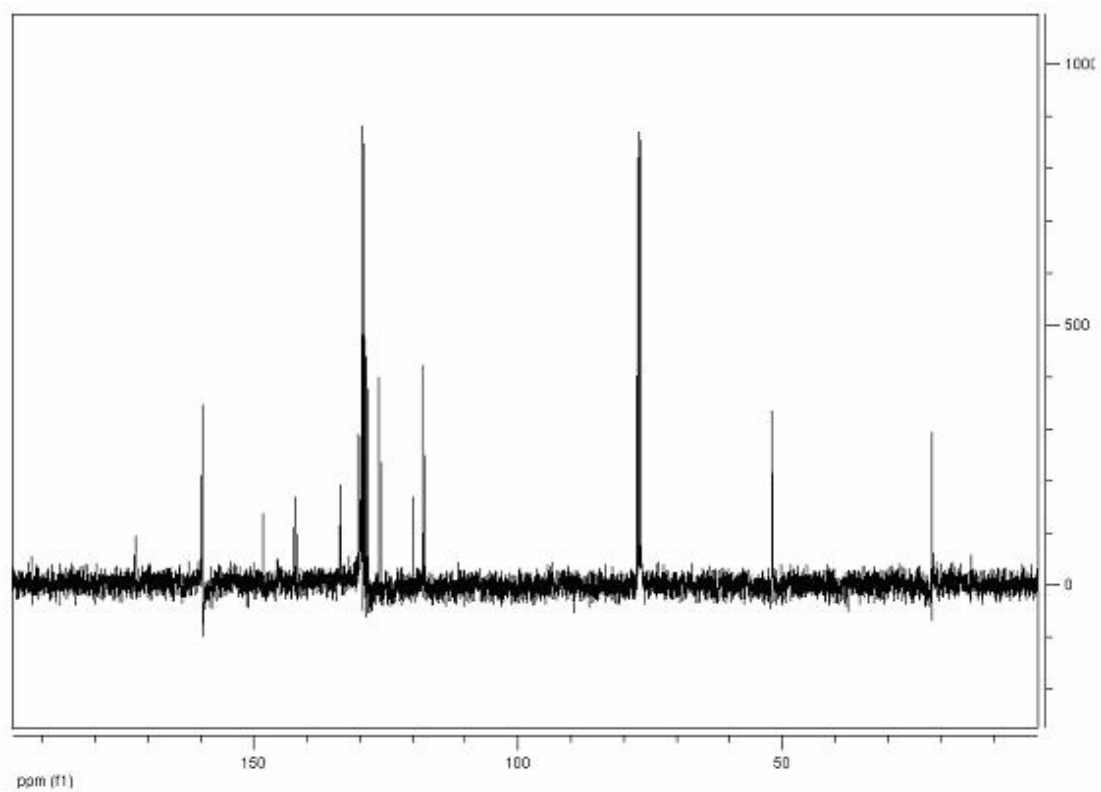
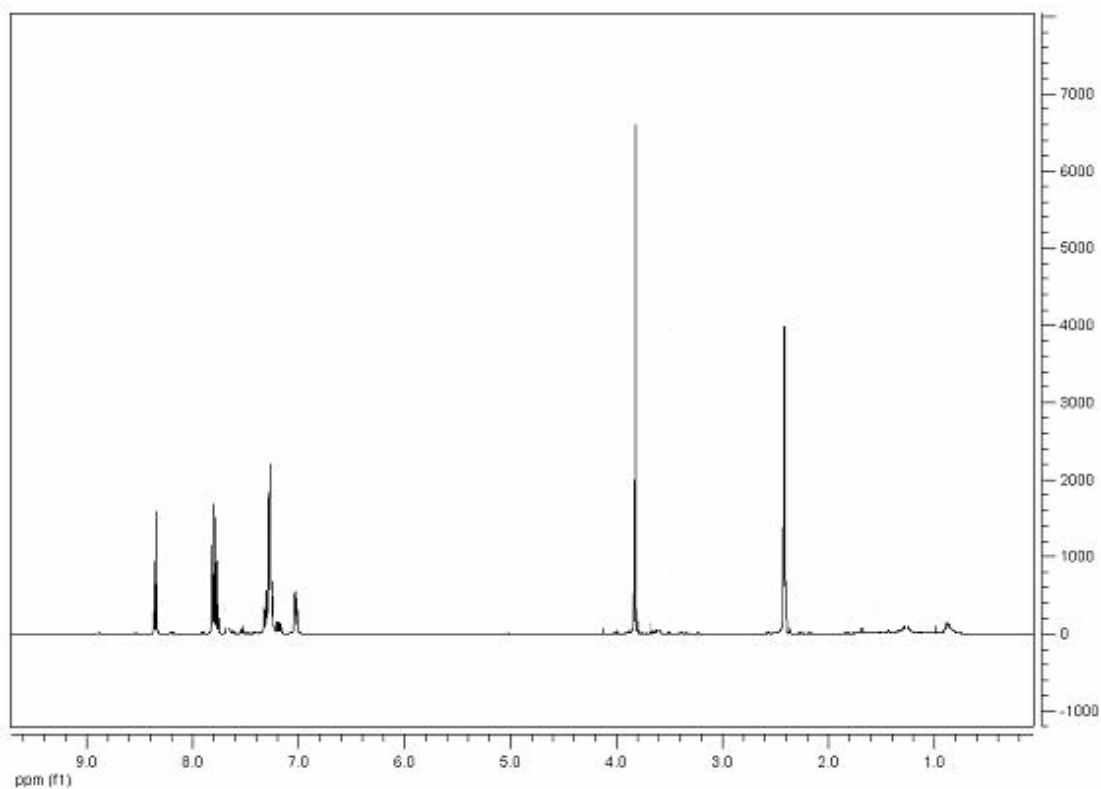
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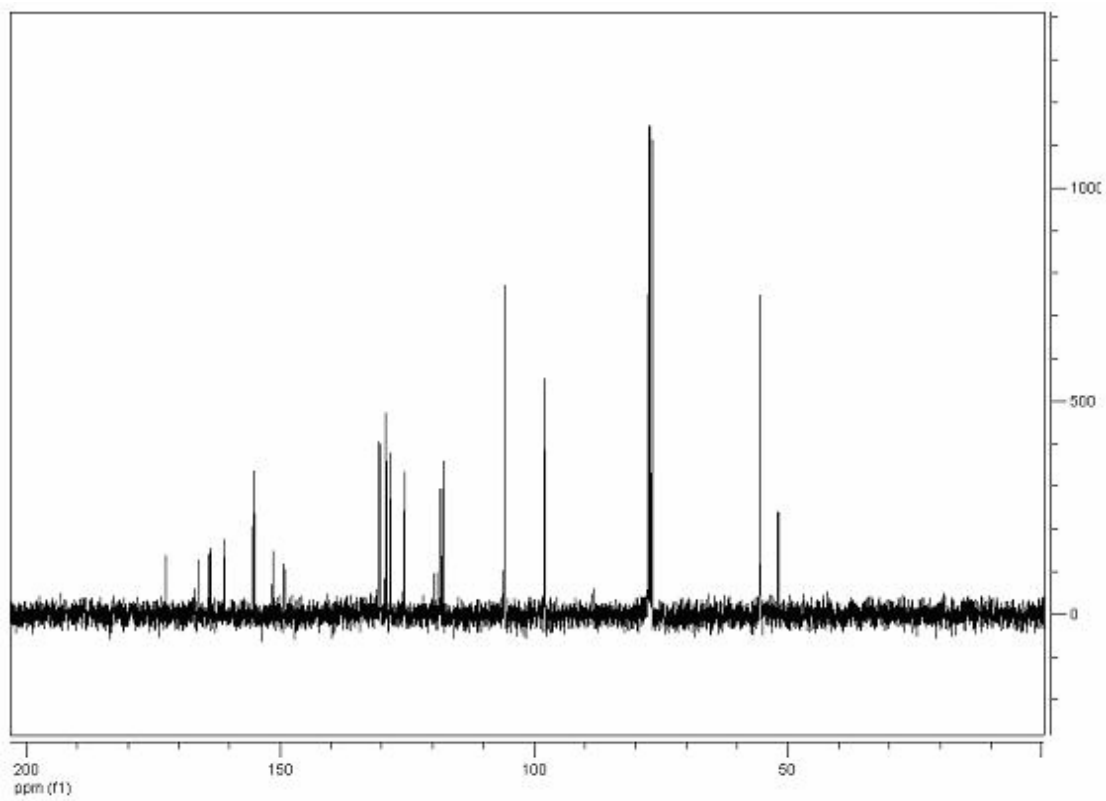
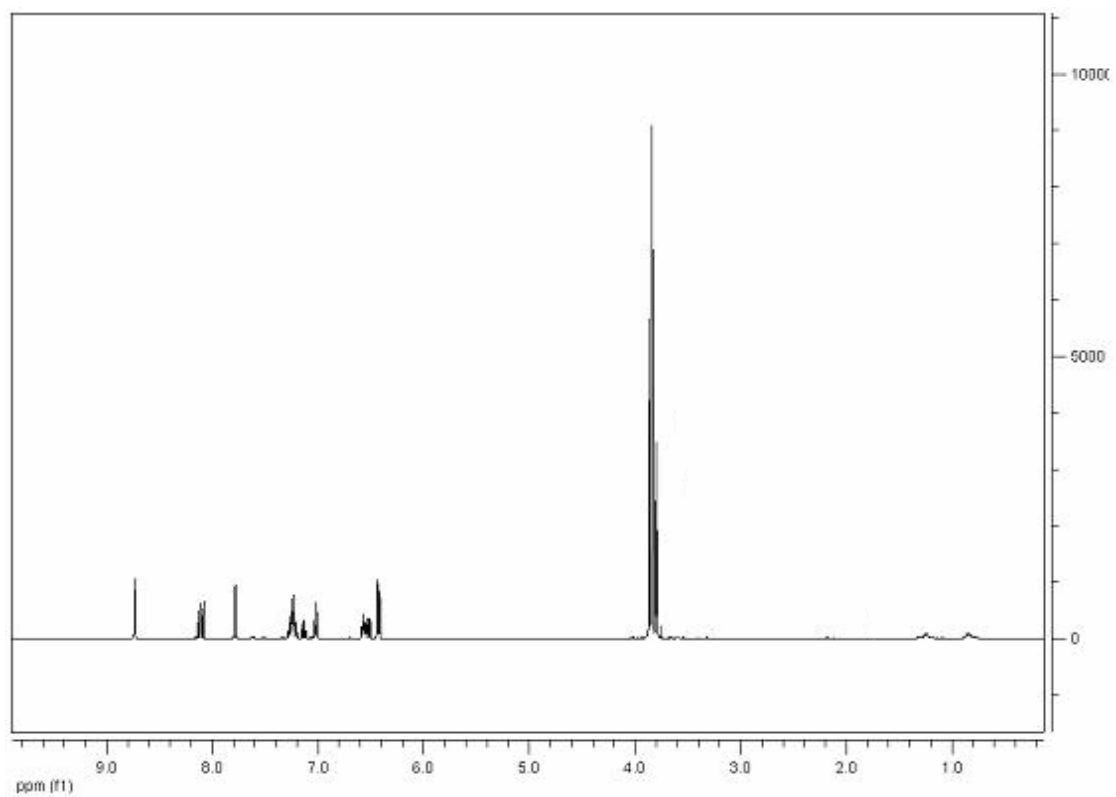
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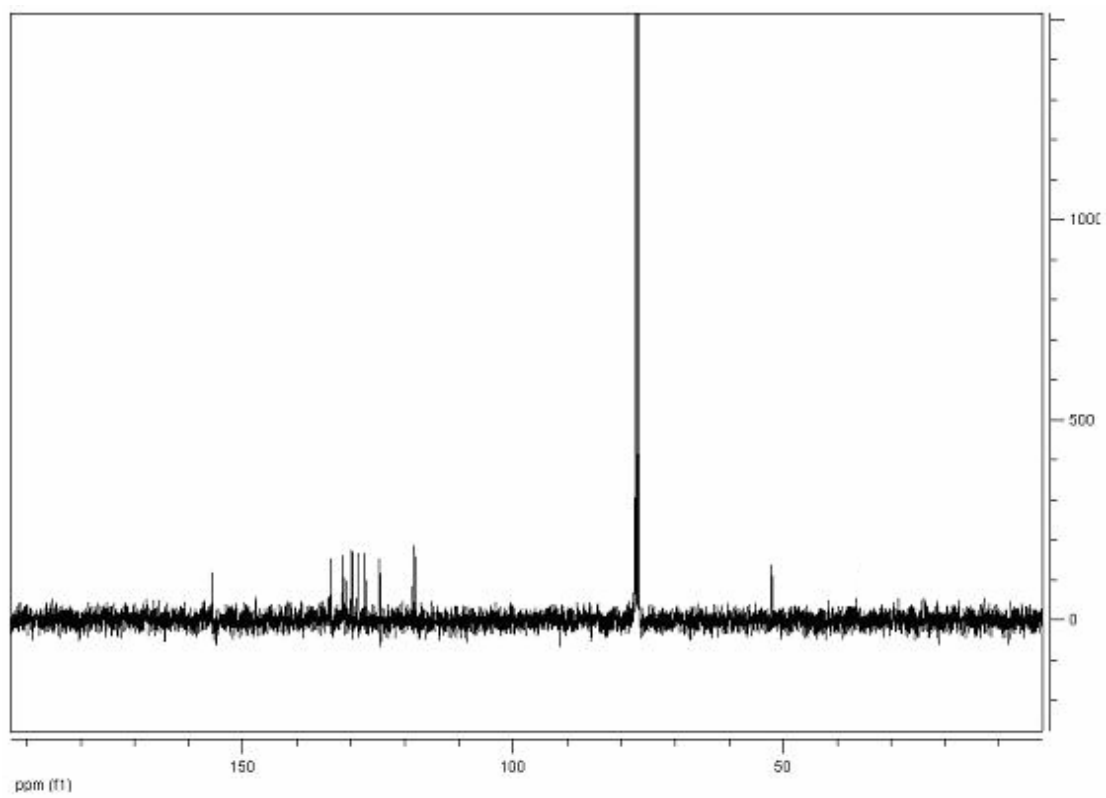
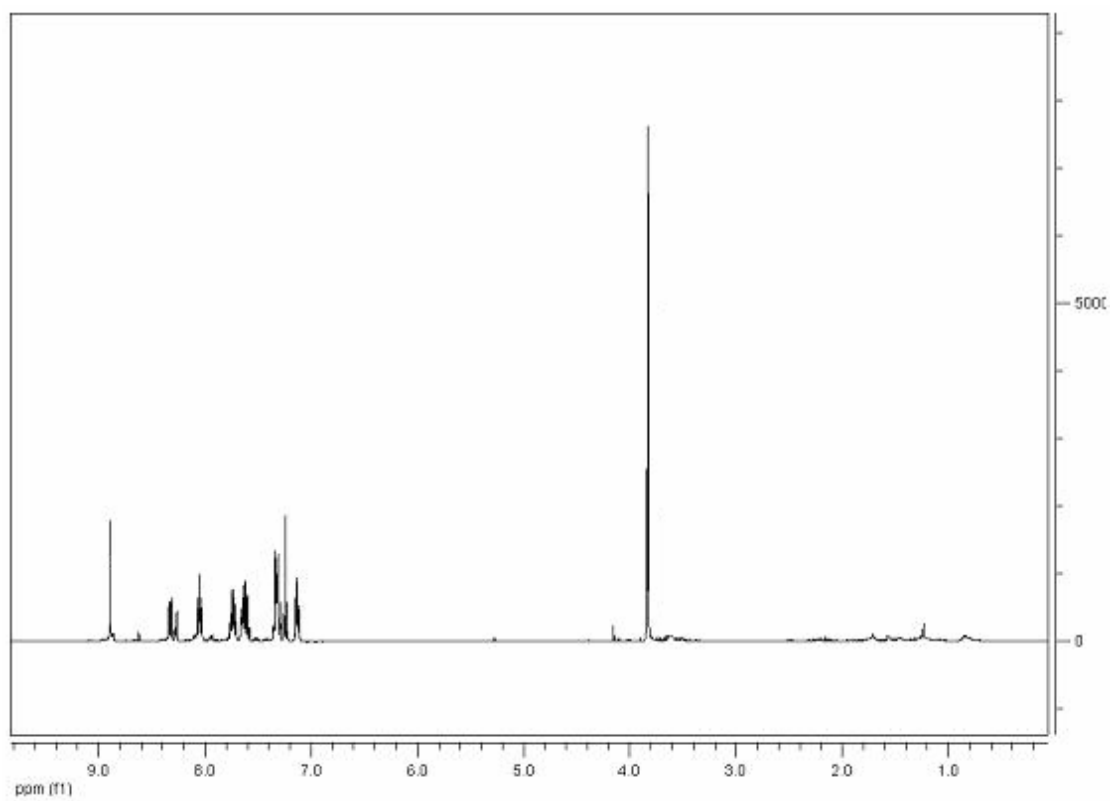
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2e

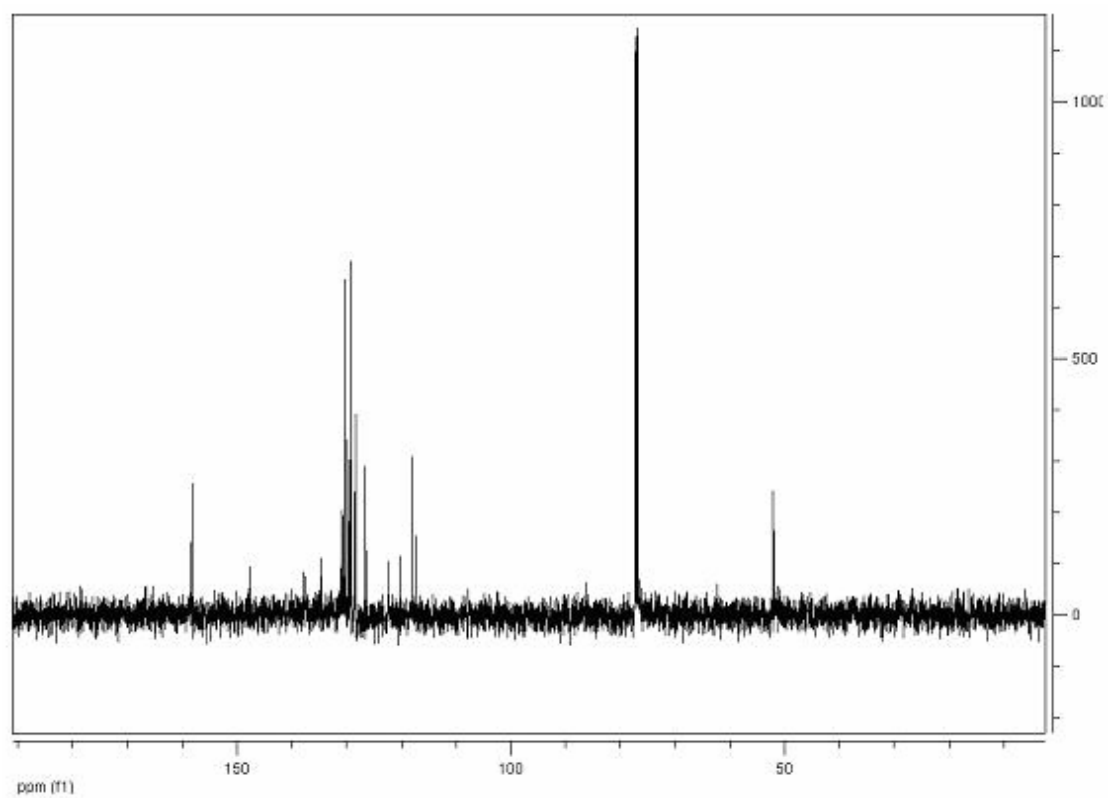
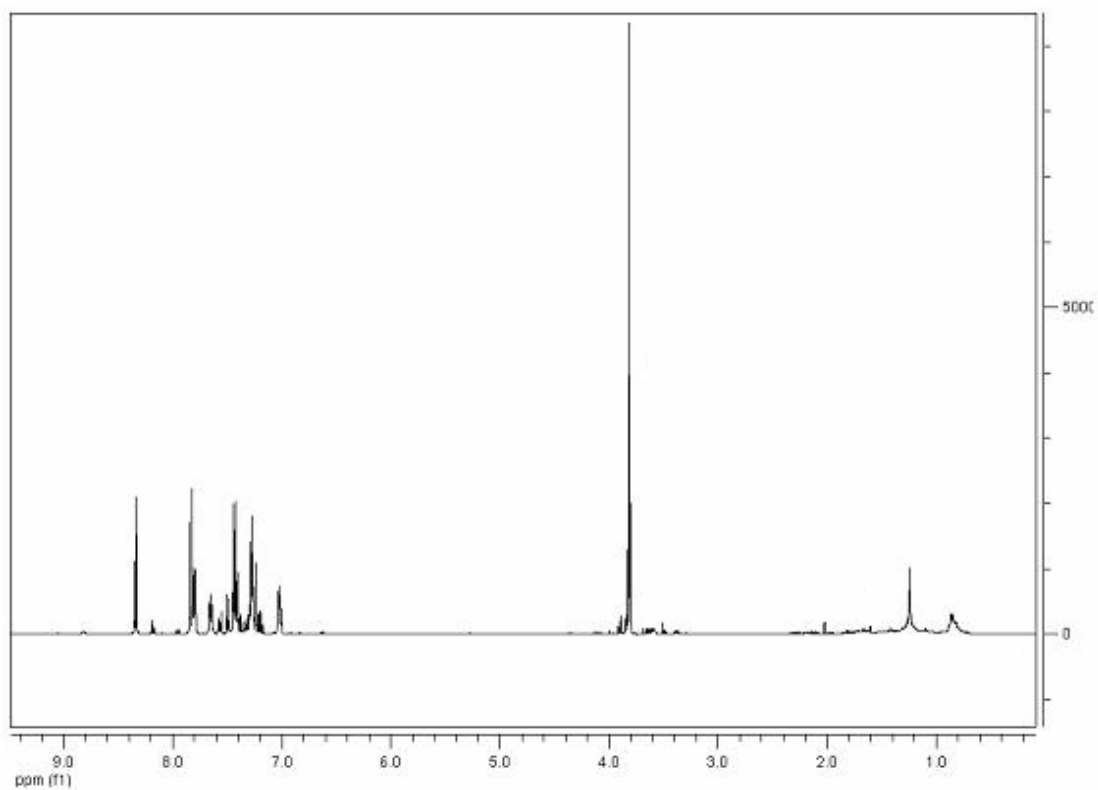


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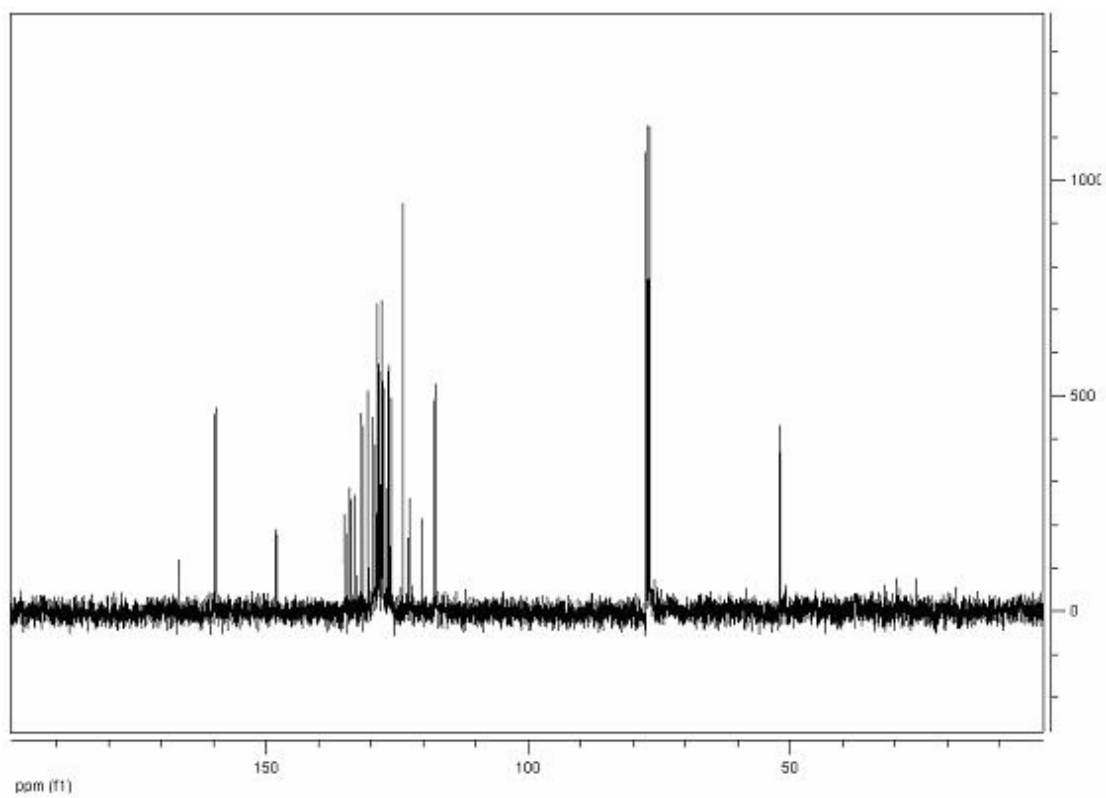
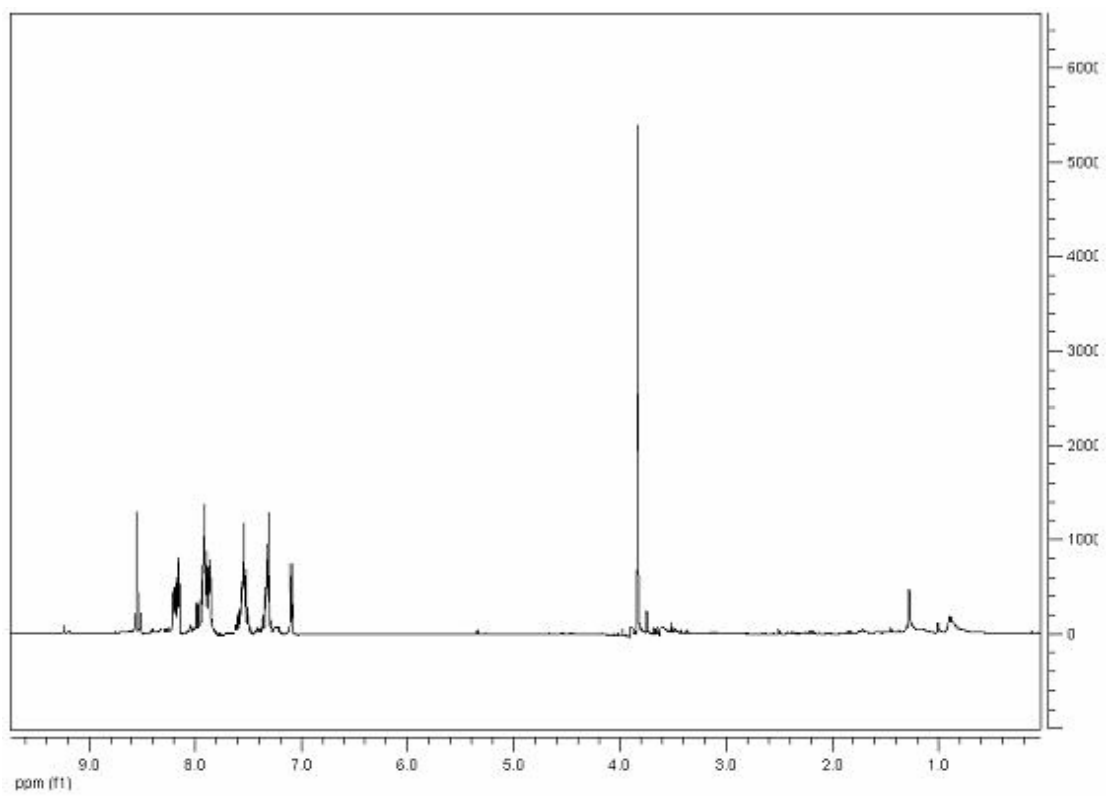




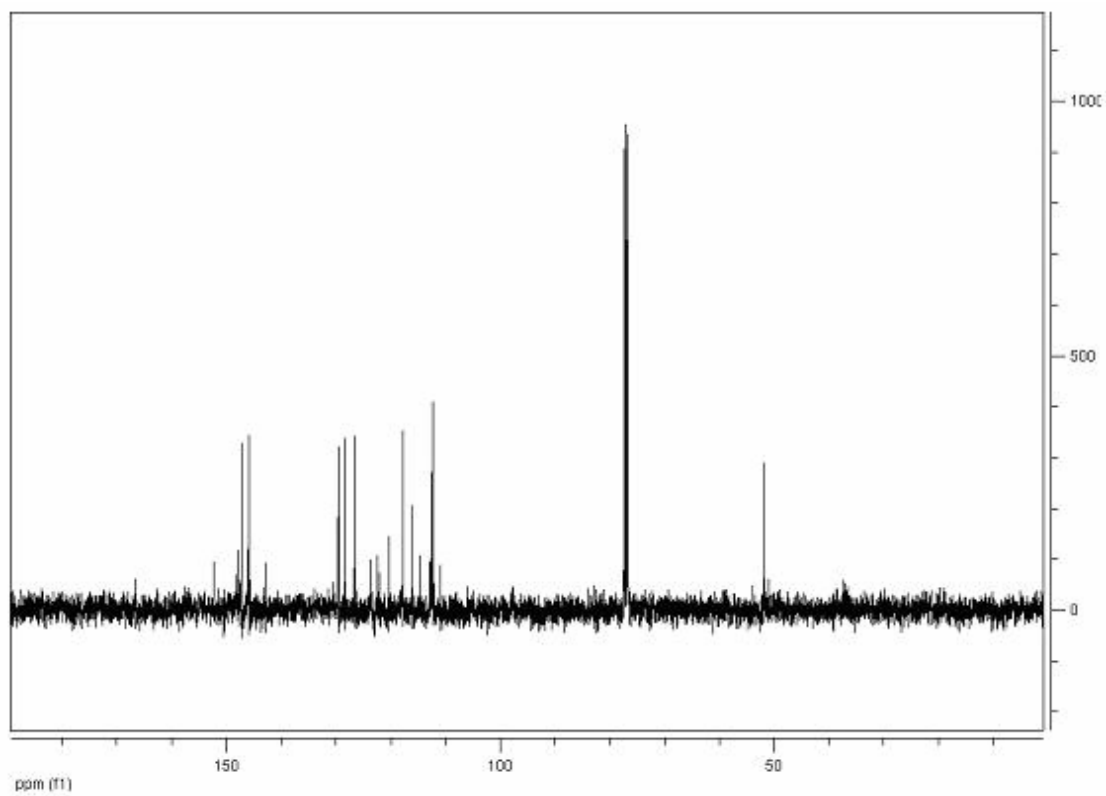
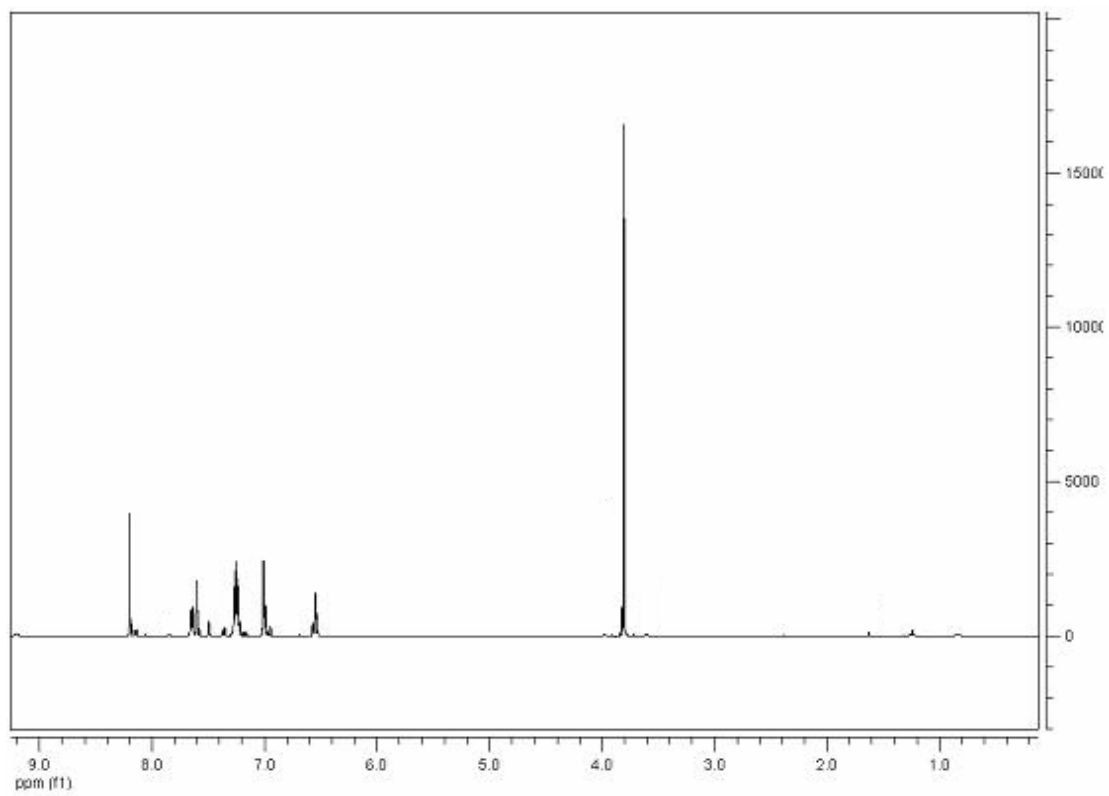
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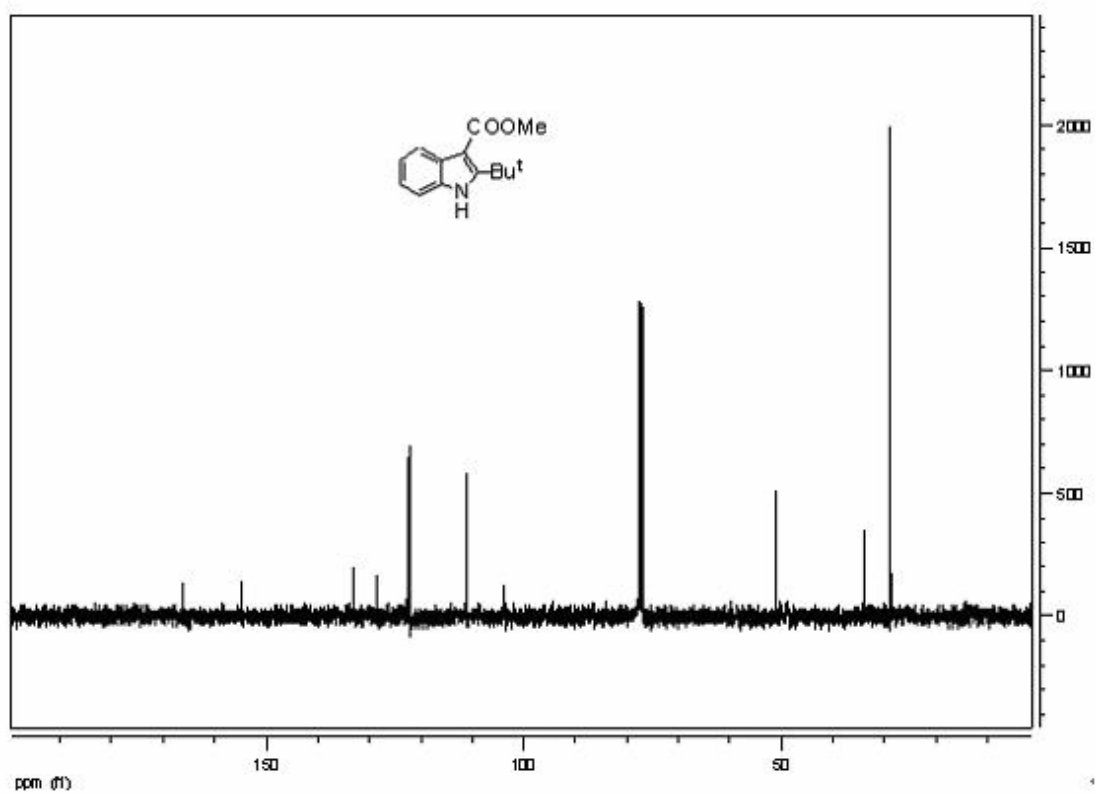
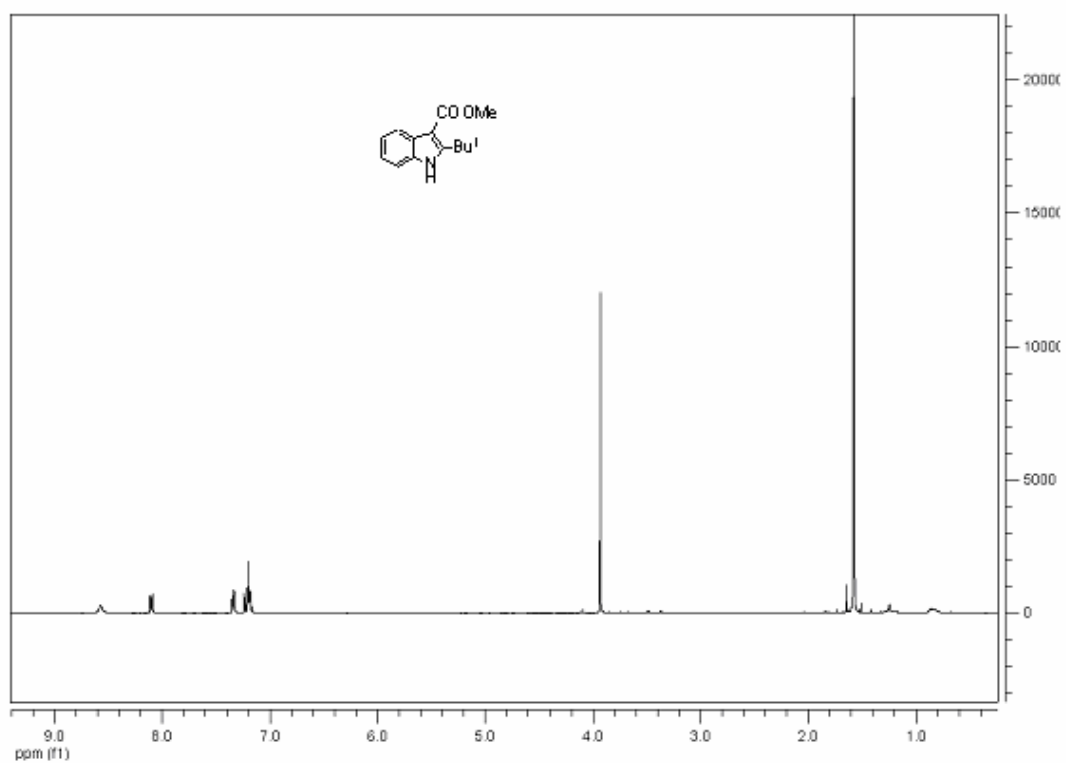
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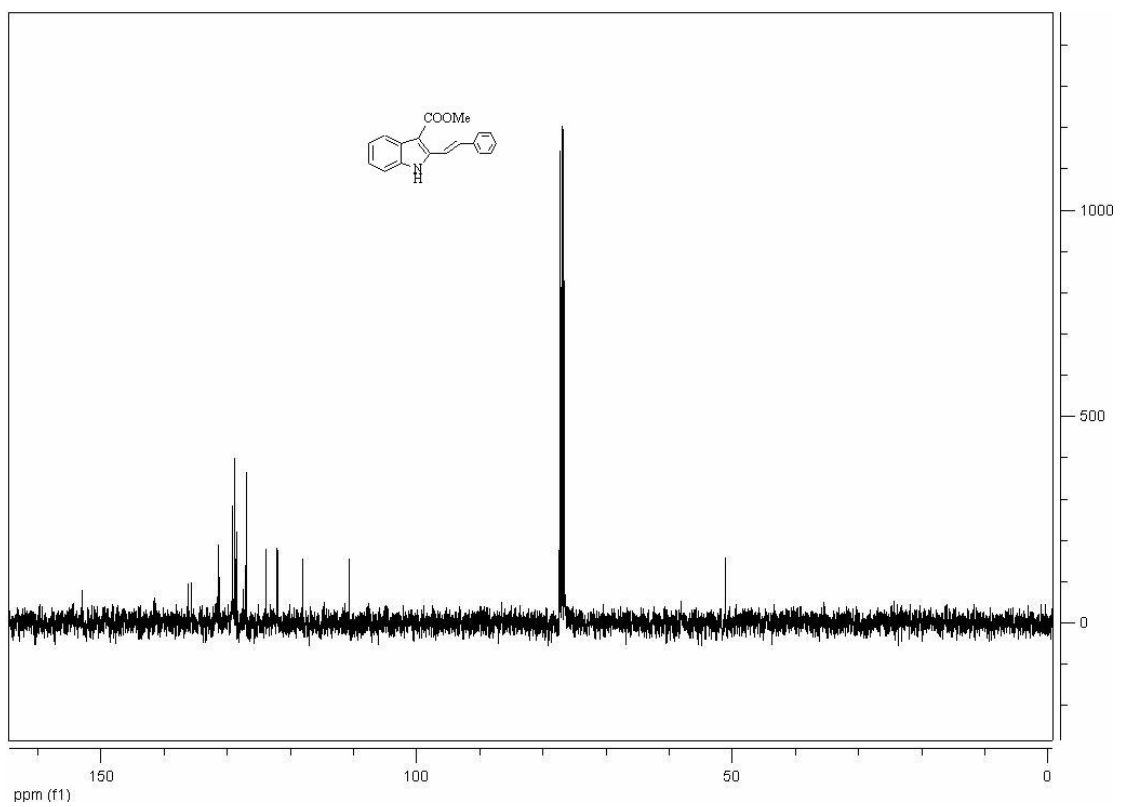
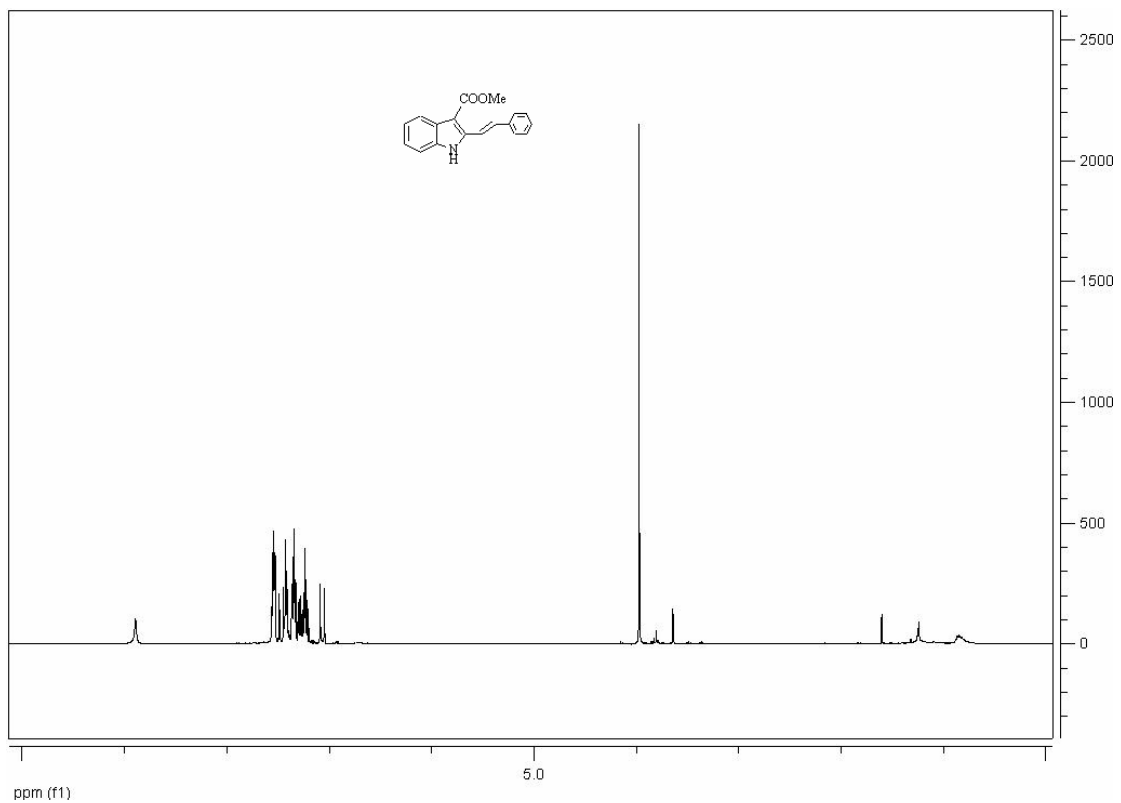
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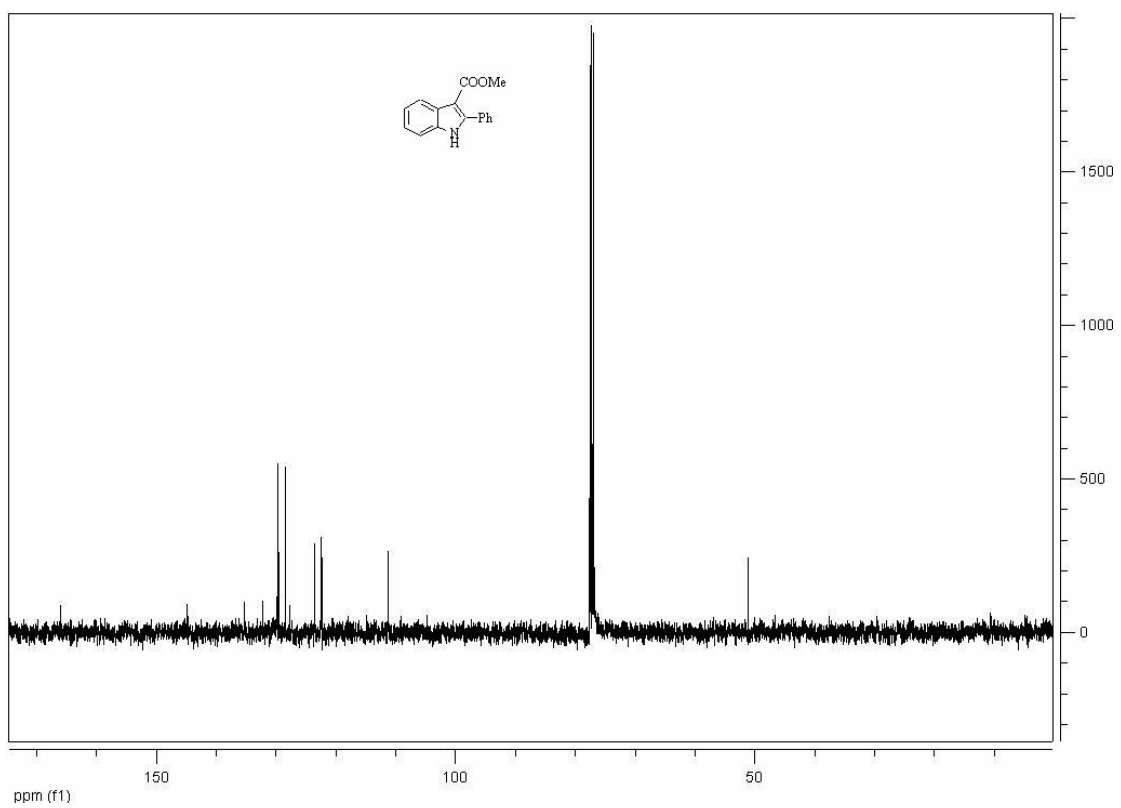
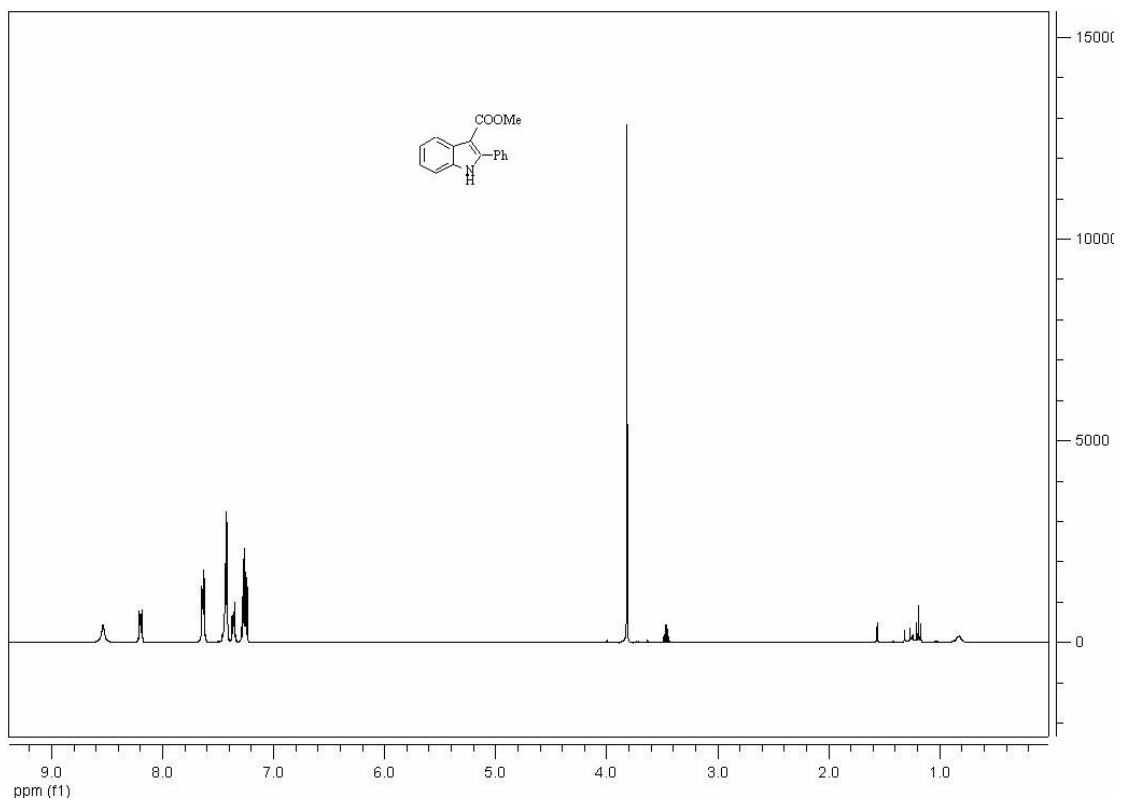
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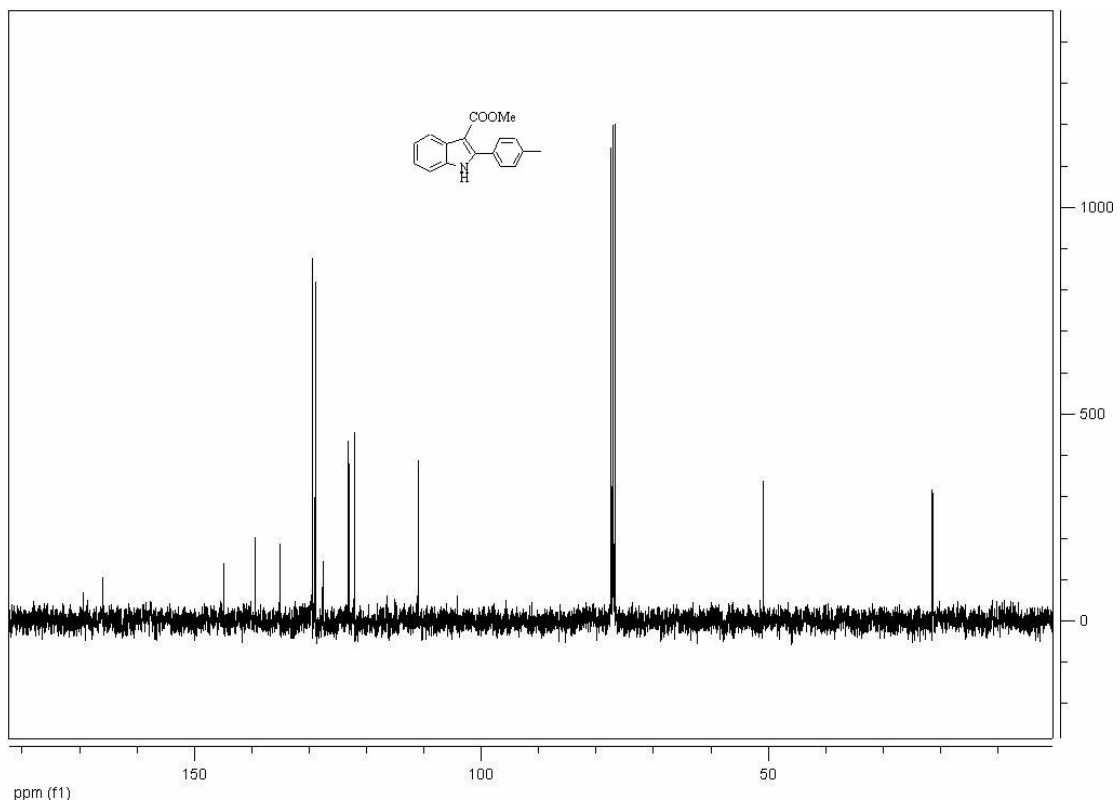
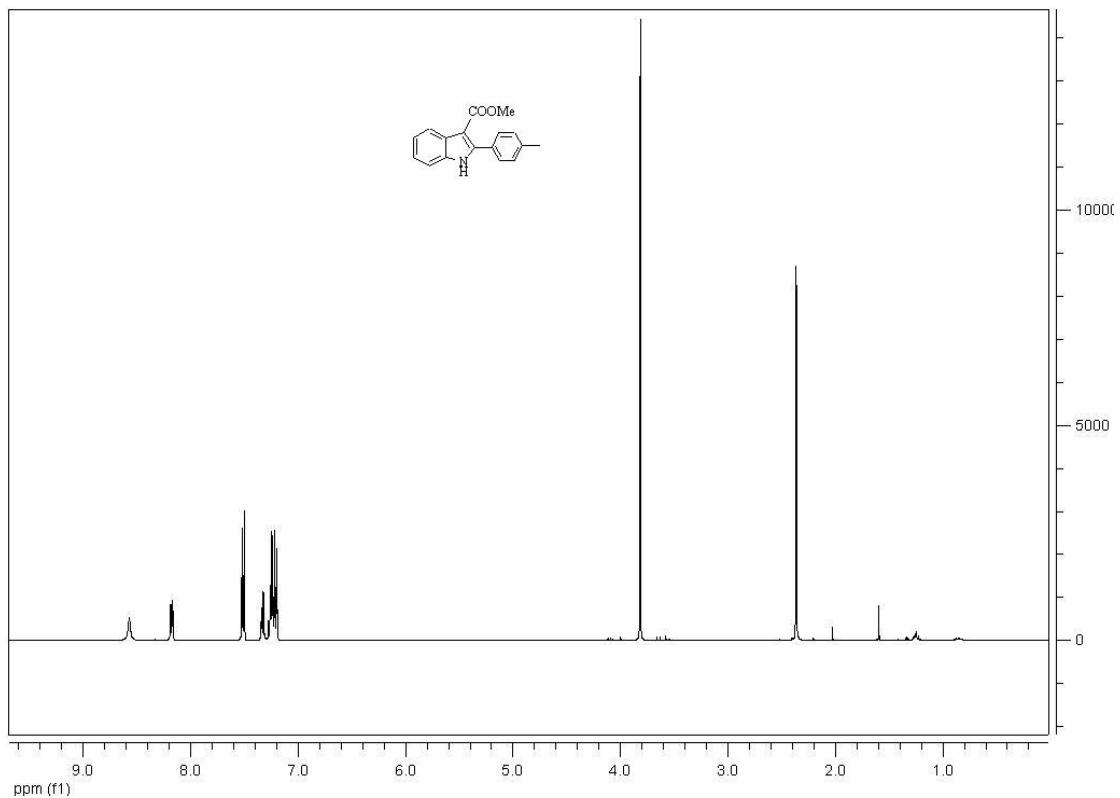
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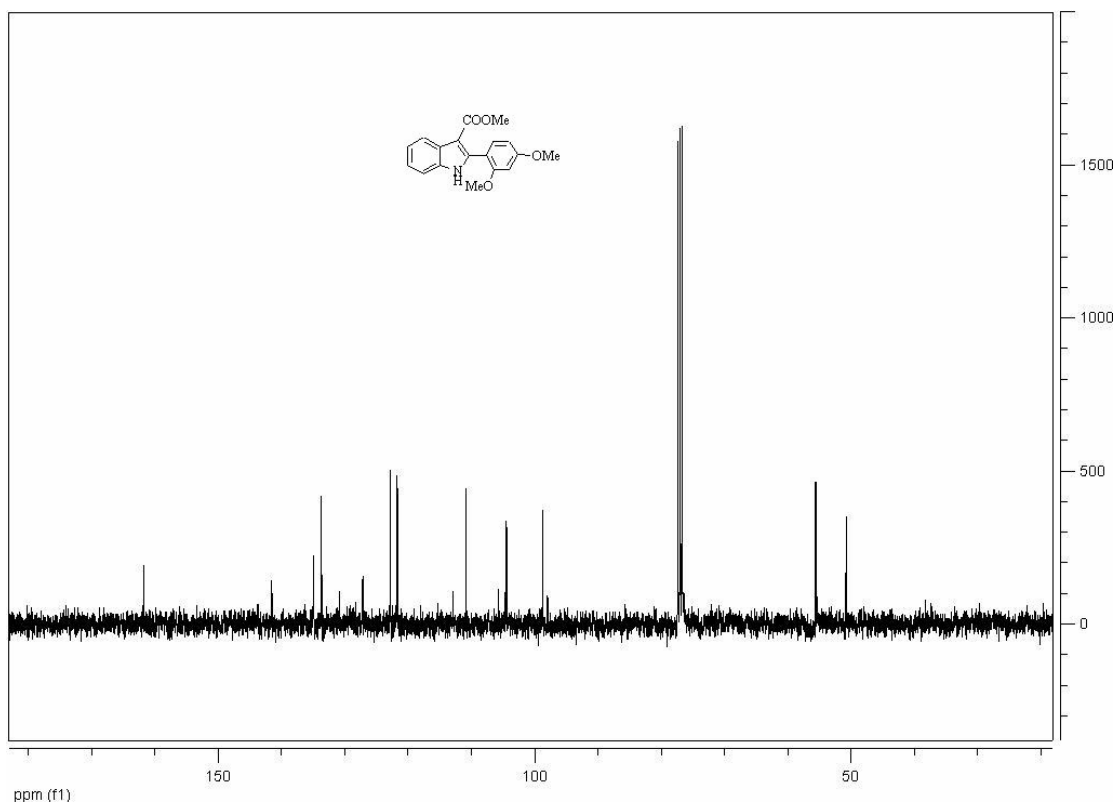
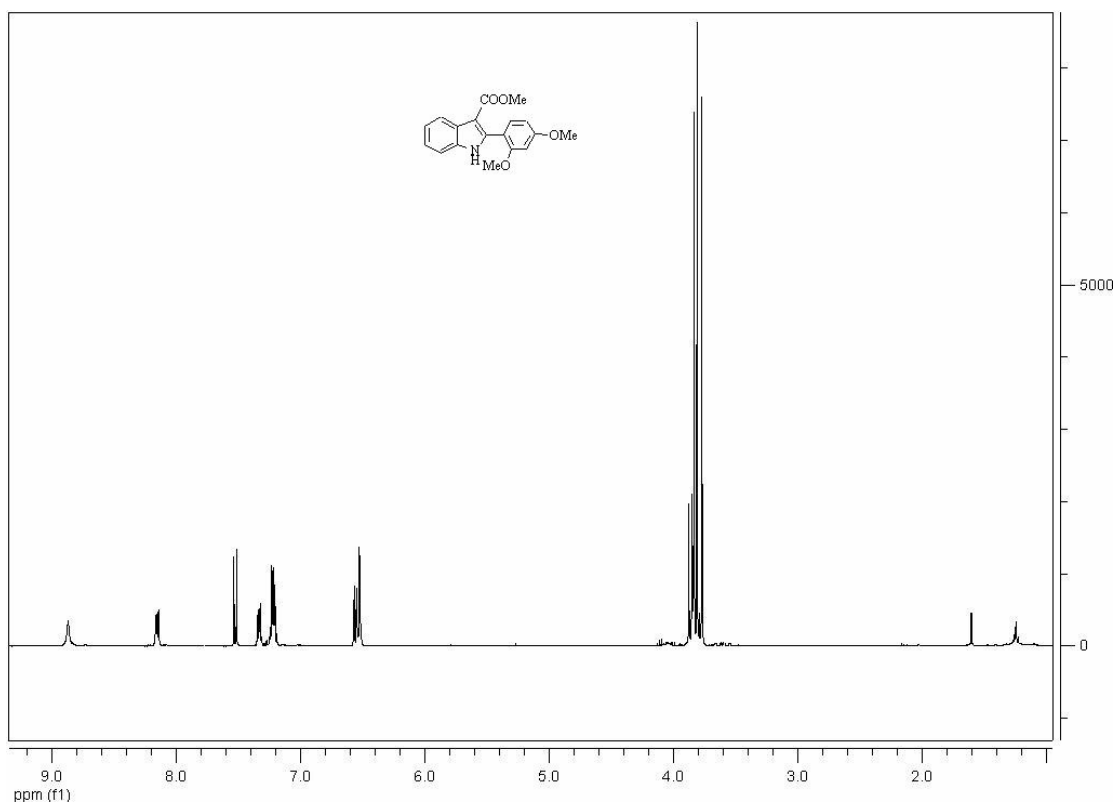
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3d

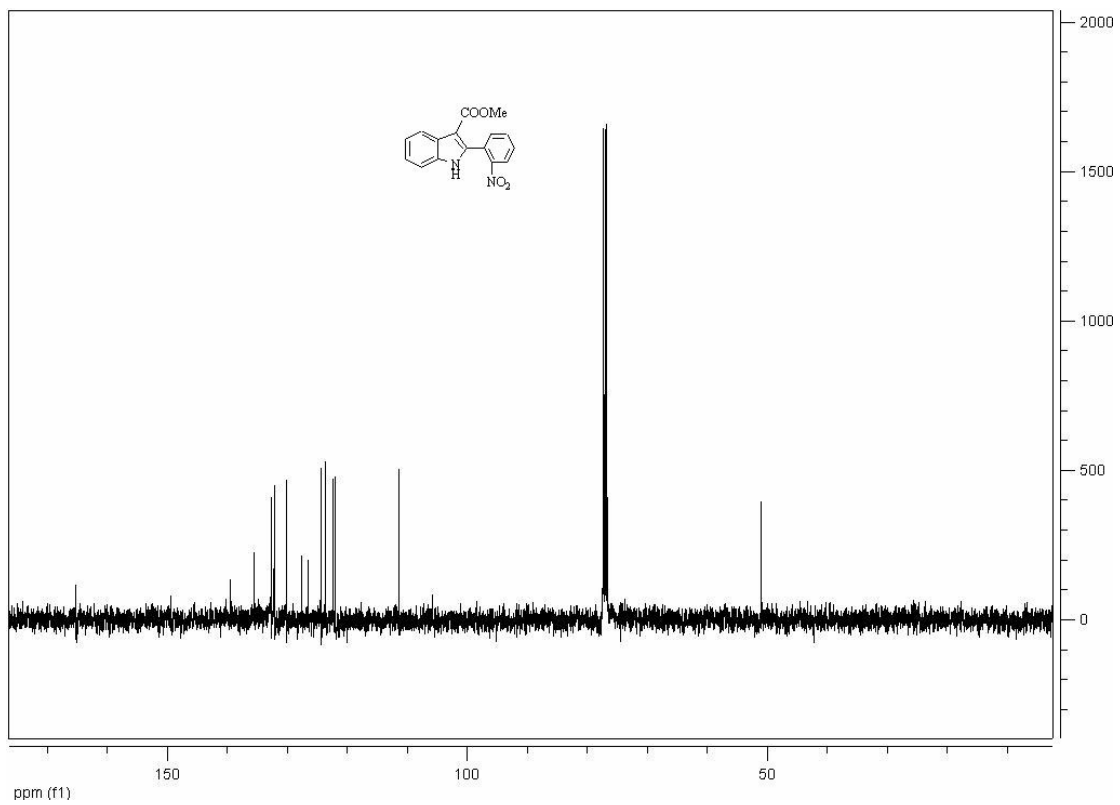
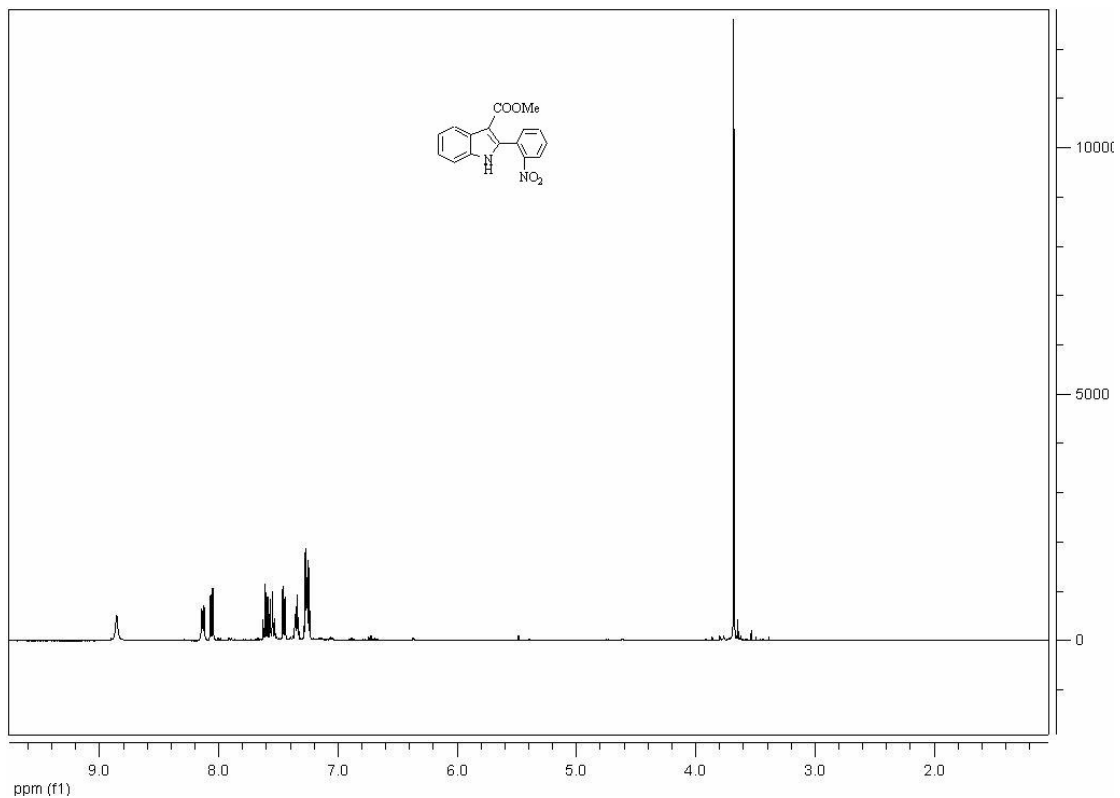


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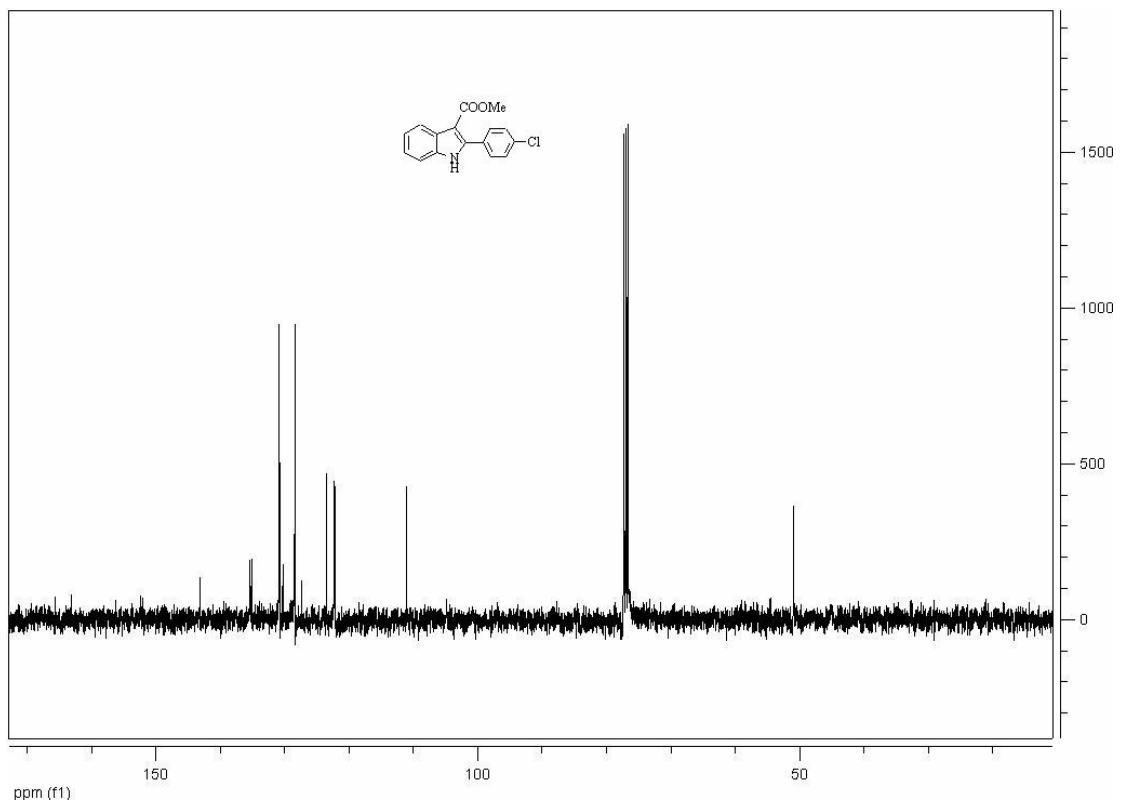
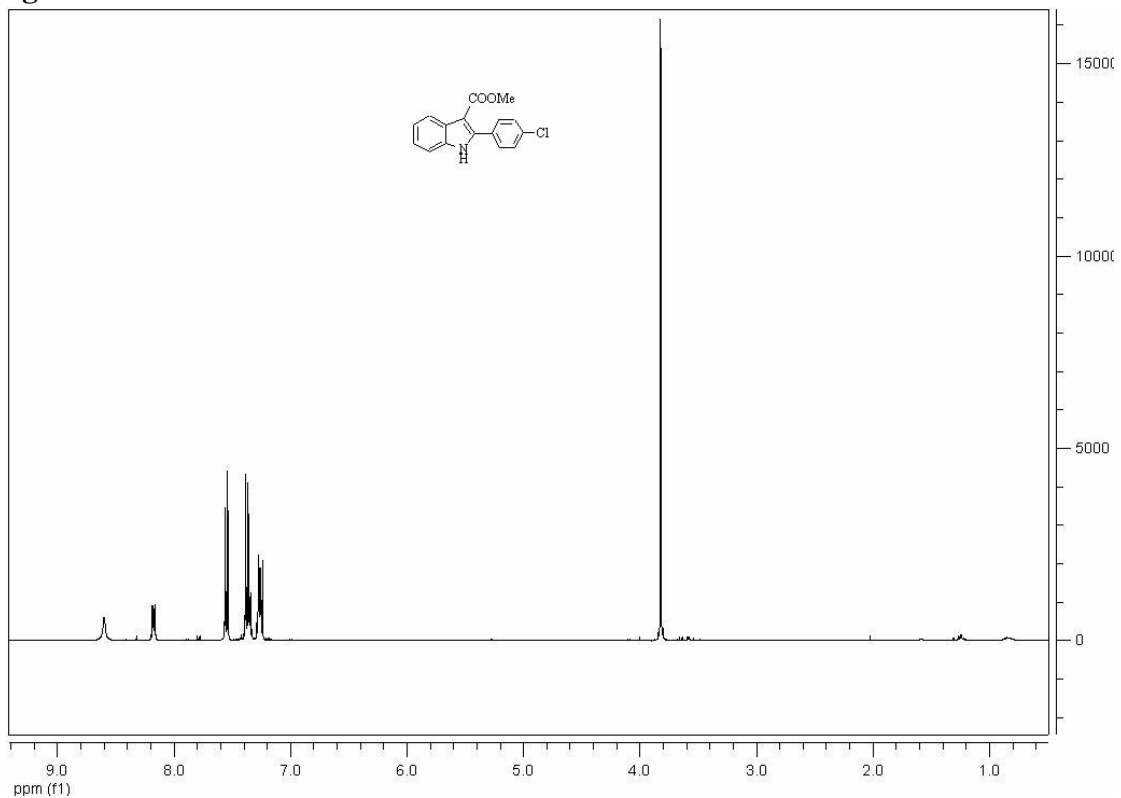




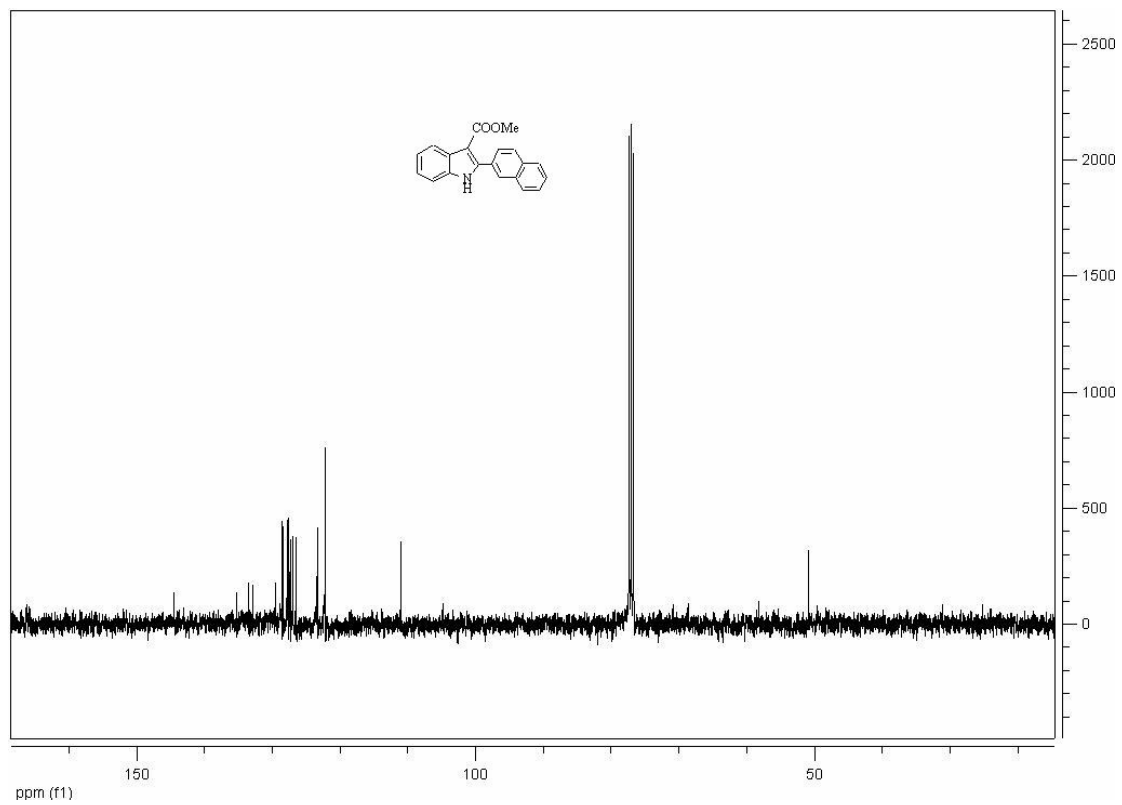
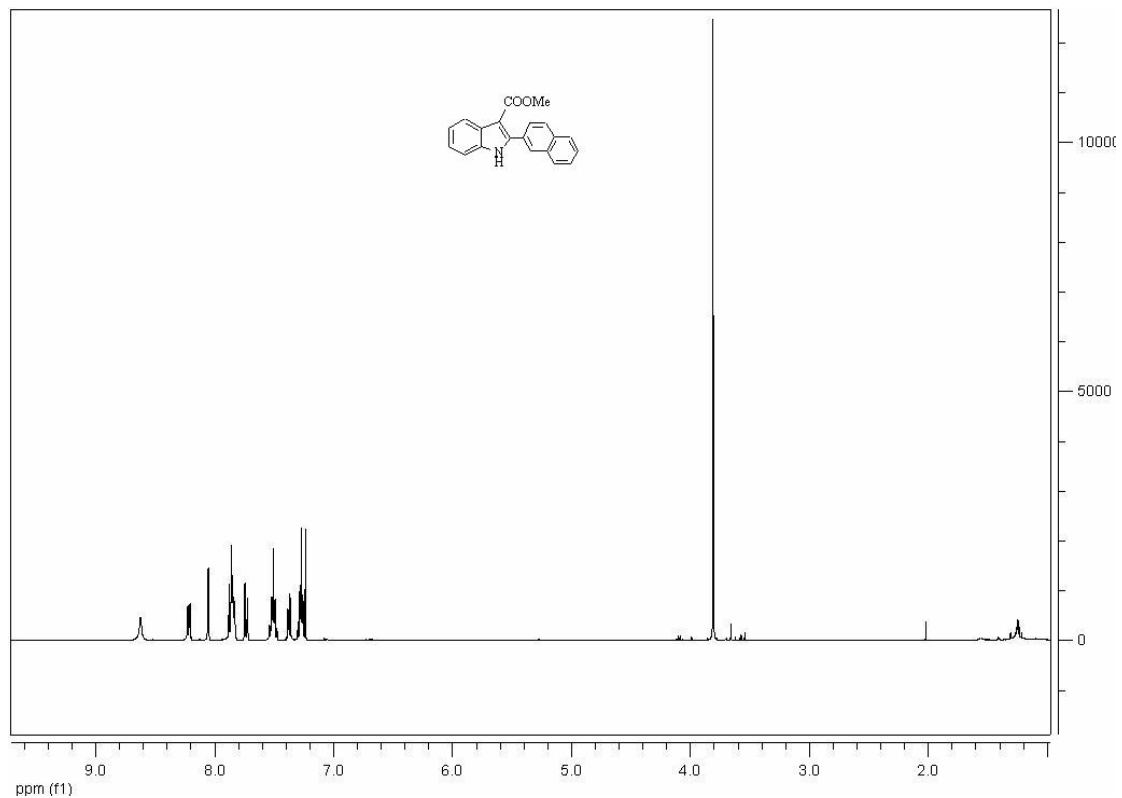
3f



3g



3h



3i

