

Highly Chemoselective Reduction of Amides (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary) to Alcohols using SmI_2 /amine/ H_2O under Mild Conditions

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Supplementary Information

Table of Contents	1
List of Known Compounds/General Methods	2
Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data	3
Optimization Experiments using 1-Phenylpiperidin-2-one	23
Reduction of Enantioenriched Amides	25
Mechanistic Studies	27
• Cyclopropyl Clock Experiments	27
• Deuterium Incorporation Studies	30
• Kinetic Isotope Effect Studies	31
• H_2^{18}O Incorporation Experiments	32
• Selectivity Studies	33
• Hammett and Taft Studies	35
Additional Experiments	38
References	43
^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra	45
HPLC Traces	102

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List of Known Compounds/General Methods

All compounds reported in the manuscript have been described in the literature or are commercially available. Amides were purchased from commercial suppliers or prepared by standard methods.¹⁻¹³ Samarium(II) iodide was prepared by standard methods and titrated prior to use.¹⁴⁻¹⁸ All experiments involving SmI_2 were performed using standard techniques under argon or nitrogen atmosphere unless stated otherwise. All solvents were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received or after purification by passing through activated alumina columns or distillation from Na/benzophenone under nitrogen. All solvents were deoxygenated prior to use. All other chemicals were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received. Reaction glassware was oven-dried at 140 °C for at least 24 h or flame-dried prior to use, allowed to cool under vacuum and purged with argon (three cycles). All products were identified using ^1H NMR, and/or GC-MS analysis and comparison with authentic samples. All yields refer to yields determined by ^1H NMR using an internal standard unless stated otherwise. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on Bruker spectrometers at 300, 400 and 500 MHz (^1H NMR) and 75, 100 and 125 MHz (^{13}C NMR). All shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual CHCl_3 peak (7.27 and 77.2 ppm, ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR, respectively). All coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Abbreviations are: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; br s, broad singlet. GC-MS chromatography was performed using Agilent 7890A GC System and Agilent 5975C inert XL EI/CI MSD with Triple Axis Detector equipped with Agilent HP-5MS column (19091S-433) (length 30 m, internal diameter 0.25 mm, film 0.25 μm) using helium as the carrier gas, flow rate of 1 mL/min, initial oven temperature of 40 °C or 50 °C. The injector temperature was 250 °C. The detector temperature was 250 °C. For runs with the initial oven temperature of 50 °C, temperature was increased with a 25 °C/min ramp after 50 °C hold for 3 min to a final temperature of 300 °C, then hold at 300 °C for 5 min (splitless mode of injection, total run time of 18 min). All flash chromatography was performed using silica gel, 60 Å, 230–400 mesh. TLC analysis was carried out on aluminium sheets coated with silica gel 60 F254, 0.2 mm thickness. The plates were visualized using a 254 nm ultraviolet lamp or aqueous potassium permanganate solutions. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR data are given for all compounds in the Supporting Experimental for characterization purposes. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, IR and HRMS data are reported for all new compounds.

Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

General procedure for the reduction of amides. An oven-dried vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with an amide substrate (neat), placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, typically 8 equiv) was added followed by Et_3N (typically, 72 equiv) and H_2O (typically, 72 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the $\text{SmI}_2\text{-Et}_3\text{N-H}_2\text{O}$ complex, and the reaction mixture was stirred for the indicated time. In some cases, a solution of amide substrate (1.0 equiv, stock solution in THF, 1.0 mL) was added to the preformed samarium(II) iodide/amine/ H_2O complex, and the reaction mixture was stirred for the indicated time. The excess of Sm(II) was oxidized by bubbling air through the reaction mixture, and the reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) and NaOH (1 N, 10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 30 mL), the organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 or 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain selectivity, conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples. Unless stated otherwise, the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel. Routinely, LC/MS analysis was used as a complementary method of analysis to confirm the product distribution. In all examples reported in the manuscript the observed C–N/C–O cleavage selectivity was >95:5. Note that reactions involving samarium(II) can typically be followed by visual observation of the color changes of the respective reaction mixtures. In the case of Sm(II)/amine/ H_2O complexes, the color changes from Sm^{II} (dark brown) to Sm^{III} (dark to light green: oxidized, solvated; then white and yellow: fully oxidized, characteristic of SmI_2X).

Representative procedure for the reduction of amides. Table 2, entry 1. An oven-dried 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (6 equiv, THF solution, 0.080 M) was added followed by Et_3N (36 equiv) and H_2O (36 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the $\text{SmI}_2\text{-Et}_3\text{N-H}_2\text{O}$ complex. A solution of decanamide (1.0 equiv, 1.0 mmol, stock solution in THF, 5.0 mL) was added to the preformed samarium(II) iodide/amine/ H_2O complex, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h. The excess of SmI_2 was oxidized by bubbling air through

the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL) and NaOH (50 mL, 1 *N*). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x 100 mL), organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated. Analysis of the crude reaction mixture showed >98% conversion and >98:2 selectivity. Purification by chromatography afforded decan-1-ol in 95% yield. Characterization data are included in the section below.

Characterization Data for Amides **1a-1o** (Table 1).

3-Phenylpropanamide (1a). Table 1, Entry 1. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.40 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 2.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 5.76 (br, 1 H), 6.26 (br, 1 H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 3 H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 31.4, 37.5, 126.3, 128.3, 128.6, 140.7, 175.5.

***N*-Butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1b). Table 1, Entry 2.** ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.80 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3 H), 1.13-1.21 (m, 2 H), 1.29-1.35 (m, 2 H), 2.39 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 2.87 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.09-3.13 (m, 2 H), 5.79 (br, 1 H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 3 H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 20.0, 31.6, 31.9, 38.4, 39.3, 126.2, 128.4, 128.5, 140.9, 172.4.

***N*-Dodecyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1c). Table 1, Entry 3.** ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.90 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H), 1.13-1.36 (m, 18 H), 1.37-1.48 (m, 2 H), 2.47 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 2.98 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.21 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 5.42 (br, 1 H), 7.17-7.24 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 26.9, 29.3, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.6, 29.7, 29.7, 31.8, 31.9, 38.6, 39.6, 126.2, 128.4, 128.5, 140.9, 172.0.

***N*-Phenyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1d). Table 1, Entry 4.** ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.54 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 2.93 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.99 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 3 H), 7.15-7.21 (m, 4 H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 31.6, 39.4, 120.1, 124.4, 126.4, 128.4, 128.7, 130.0, 137.8, 140.7, 170.8.

***N,N*-Diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1e). Table 1, Entry 5.** ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.02 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.03 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3 H), 2.52 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 2.91 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.14 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.30 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.16 (m, 3 H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.1, 14.3, 31.7, 35.1, 40.2, 41.9, 126.1, 128.5, 128.5, 141.6, 171.3.

1-(Azetidin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (1f). Table 1, Entry 6. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.99-2.06 (m, 2 H), 2.22 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 2.82 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.78 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H),

3.86 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.06-7.11 (m, 3 H), 7.15-7.19 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.9, 31.1, 33.1, 47.7, 49.9, 126.1, 128.3, 128.4, 141.2, 172.1.

3-Phenyl-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (1g). Table 1, Entry 7. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.79-1.92 (m, 4 H), 2.58 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.0 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.30 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.47 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 3 H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 24.4, 26.1, 31.2, 36.8, 45.7, 46.6, 126.1, 128.5, 128.5, 141.5, 170.9.

3-Phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (1h). Table 1, Entry 8. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.34-1.39 (m, 2 H), 1.41-1.46 (m, 2 H), 1.50-1.56 (m, 2 H), 2.54 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 2.89 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.25 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.48 (t, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.15 (m, 3 H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 24.5, 25.6, 26.4, 31.6, 35.2, 42.7, 46.6, 126.1, 128.5, 128.5, 141.5, 170.4.

***N*-Methoxy-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1i).** Table 1, Entry 9. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.75 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 2.97 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 3.58 (s, 3 H), 7.16-7.33 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 30.7, 32.2, 33.8, 61.2, 126.1, 128.5, 128.5, 141.4, 173.6.

1-Morpholino-3-phenylpropan-1-one (1j). Table 1, Entry 10. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.63 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.00 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.37 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.52 (t, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61-3.67 (m, 4 H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 31.5, 34.8, 42.0, 46.0, 66.5, 66.9, 126.3, 128.5, 128.6, 141.1, 170.9.

***N*-((1*S*,2*S*)-1-hydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1k).** Table 1, Entry 11. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) (rotamers, 67:33) δ 0.93 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H, minor), 1.08 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 3 H, major), 2.41-2.81 (m, 4 H), 2.78 (s, 3 H, major), 2.94 (s, 3 H, minor), 2.81-3.02 (m, 4 H), 3.48 (br, 1 H, minor), 3.92-4.03 (m, 1 H, minor), 4.41 (br, 1 H, major), 4.46-4.64 (m, 3 H), 7.11-7.43 (m, 20 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) (rotamers) δ 14.5, 15.4, 27.0, 31.2, 31.6, 32.3, 35.5, 36.2, 58.0, 58.4, 75.5, 76.4, 126.1, 126.2, 126.6, 127.0, 127.7, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.5, 128.5, 128.7, 141.3, 141.6, 141.7, 142.4, 173.4, 174.2.

(*S*)-4-Benzyl-3-(3-phenylpropanoyl)oxazolidin-2-one (1l). Table 1, Entry 12. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.78 (dd, $J = 9.6, 13.5$ Hz, 1 H), 2.98-3.13 (m, 2 H), 3.21-3.42 (m, 3 H), 4.11-4.24 (m, 2 H), 4.65-4.73 (m, 1 H), 7.18-7.39 (m, 10 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 30.3, 37.2, 37.9, 55.1, 66.2, 126.3, 127.4, 128.5, 128.6, 129.0, 129.5, 135.2, 140.5, 153.5, 172.4.

***N*-Benzyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1m). Table 1, Entry 13.** ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.53 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.01 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 4.41 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2 H), 5.77 (br, 1 H), 7.14-7.35 (m, 10 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 31.7, 38.5, 43.6, 126.3, 127.5, 127.8, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 138.2, 140.8, 171.9.

1-(Indolin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (1n). Table 1, Entry 14. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.76 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 3.11 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 3.17 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 3.99 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.04 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.13-7.37 (m, 7 H), 8.30 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.0, 30.8, 37.9, 48.0, 117.1, 123.6, 124.5, 126.2, 127.6, 128.5, 128.6, 131.1, 141.3, 143.0, 170.4.

***N,N*-Diisopropyl-3-phenylpropanamide (1o). Table 1, Entry 15.** ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.97 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 6 H), 1.23 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6 H), 2.42 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 2.80 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.18-3.43 (m, 1 H), 3.72-3.81 (m, 1 H), 7.01-7.08 (m, 3 H), 7.11-7.15 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 20.7, 31.7, 37.2, 45.7, 126.0, 128.5, 128.5, 141.7, 171.0.

Characterization Data for Amides 3a-3o (Table 2).

Decanamide (3a). Table 2, Entry 1. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.81 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.13-1.29 (m, 12 H), 1.52-1.59 (m, 2 H), 2.15 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 5.52 (br, 1 H), 5.93 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 25.6, 29.3, 29.3, 29.4, 29.5, 31.9, 36.0, 176.1.

***N*-Butyldecanamide (3b). Table 2, Entry 2.** ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.80 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3 H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3 H), 1.14-1.31 (m, 14 H), 1.37-1.44 (m, 2 H), 1.51-1.58 (m, 2 H), 2.10 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.13-3.17 (m, 2 H), 6.40 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 14.0, 20.1, 22.6, 25.9, 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 29.4, 31.7, 31.8, 36.7, 39.1, 173.4.

***trans*-4-Pentylcyclohexanecarboxamide (3c). Table 2, Entry 3.** ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) (82:18 mixture of *cis/trans* isomers) δ 0.89 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 0.84-0.99 (m, 2 H), 1.12-1.36 (m, 9 H), 1.44 (qd, $J = 3.0, 12.3$ Hz, 2 H), 1.79-1.88 (m, 2 H), 1.90-1.98 (m, 2 H), 2.10 (tt, $J = 3.6, 12.3$ Hz, 1 H), 5.55 (br, 1 H), 5.76 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 26.5, 29.7, 32.2, 32.5, 37.0, 37.2, 45.1, 178.9.

Adamantane-1-carboxamide (3d). Table 2, Entry 4. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.59-1.71 (m, 6 H), 1.78-1.82 (m, 6 H), 1.94-2.01 (m, 3 H), 5.66 (br, 1 H), 6.23 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.1, 36.4, 39.3, 40.6, 181.5.

***N,N*-Diethyladamantane-1-carboxamide (3e).** Table 2, Entry 5. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 6 H), 1.61-1.68 (m, 6 H), 1.90-1.94 (m, 6 H), 1.94-1.98 (m, 3 H), 3.27-3.43 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 28.6, 36.7, 39.1, 41.7, 41.8, 176.0.

4-Methoxybenzamide (3f). Table 2, Entry 6. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.88 (s, 3 H), 5.93 (br, 2 H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.81 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 55.5, 113.8, 125.4, 129.3, 162.7, 168.9.

***N*-Butyl-4-methoxybenzamide (3g).** Table 2, Entry 7. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.86 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.24-1.37 (m, 2 H), 1.46-1.57 (m, 2 H), 3.34 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 6.81 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 6.94 (t, $J = 4.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.74 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.8, 20.2, 31.8, 39.8, 55.3, 113.5, 127.1, 128.8, 161.9, 167.3.

***N,N*-Diethyl-4-methoxybenzamide (3h).** Table 2, Entry 8. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.09-1.26 (m, 6 H), 3.13-3.62 (m, 4 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.6, 39.6, 43.0, 55.3, 113.7, 128.2, 129.5, 160.3, 171.2.

Undec-10-enamide (3t-SI). Table SI-9, Entry 2. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.16-1.32 (m, 10 H), 1.51-1.58 (m, 2 H), 1.93-1.99 (m, 2 H), 2.13 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 4.83-4.94 (m, 2 H), 5.69-5.77 (m, 1 H), 5.84 (br, 1 H), 6.36 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.6, 28.9, 29.1, 29.2, 29.3, 29.3, 33.8, 36.0, 114.2, 139.2, 176.5.

***N*-Butyl-2-phenylacetamide (3j).** Table 2, Entry 10. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.79 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.14-1.22 (m, 2 H), 1.29-1.34 (m, 2 H), 3.12 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.47 (s, 2 H), 5.55 (br, 1 H), 7.16-7.22 (m, 3 H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 20.0, 31.5, 39.4, 43.8, 127.2, 128.9, 129.4, 135.2, 170.9.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)acetamide (3k). Table 2, Entry 11. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.48 (s, 2 H), 5.33 (br, 1 H), 5.63 (br, 1 H), 6.98 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.18 (dd, $J = 5.0, 8.5$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 42.3, 115.9 (d, $J^2 = 20.8$ Hz), 130.5 (d, $J^4 = 3.6$ Hz), 130.9 (d, $J^3 = 8.1$ Hz), 162.2 (d, $J^1 = 244.6$ Hz), 173.2; ^{19}F (470.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -115.0.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)acetamide (3l). Table 2, Entry 12. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CD}_3$) δ 3.52 (s, 2 H), 6.29 (br, 1 H), 6.87 (br, 1 H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 4 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 42.5, 129.1, 131.8, 132.7, 136.4, 172.5.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)acetamide (3m). Table 2, Entry 13. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CD}_3$) δ 3.49 (s, 2 H), 6.33 (br, 1 H), 6.91 (br, 1 H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CD}_3$) δ 42.5, 120.7, 132.1, 132.2, 136.8, 172.4.

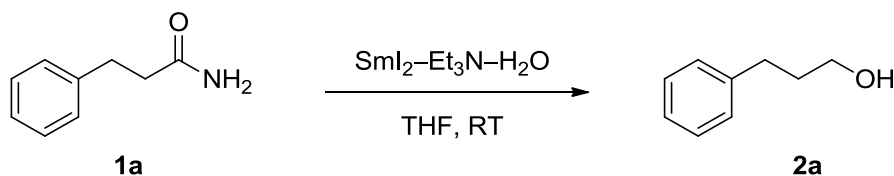
2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetamide (3n). Table 2, Entry 14. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.57 (s, 2 H), 5.35 (br, 1 H), 5.67 (br, 1 H), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 42.8, 122.2, 125.9 (q, $J^3 = 3.8$ Hz), 129.4 (q, $J^2 = 31.6$ Hz) 129.7, 138.7, 172.2; ^{19}F (470.6 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.6.

N-Butyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (3o). Table 2, Entry 15. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.78 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.13-1.21 (m, 2 H), 1.28-1.35 (m, 2 H), 3.10 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.38 (s, 2 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 5.84 (br, 1 H), 6.77 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.07 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.7, 20.0, 31.5, 39.4, 42.8, 55.2, 114.3, 127.2, 130.4, 158.7, 171.4.

Amides **3p-3r** were purchased from commercial suppliers (**3p**, CAS: 879-37-8; **3q**, CAS: 16564-43-5; **3r**, CAS: 29122-68-7).

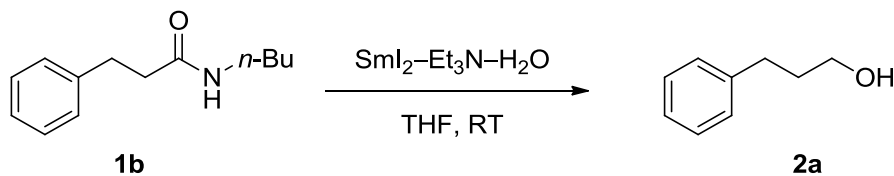
Reduction of Amides **1a-1o** to Alcohols using SmI_2 (Table 1).

3-Phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 1)



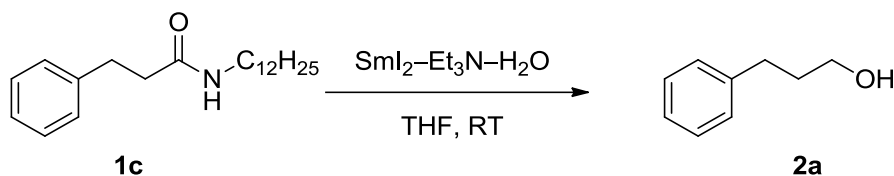
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 3 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 82% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C-N/C-O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

N-Butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 2)



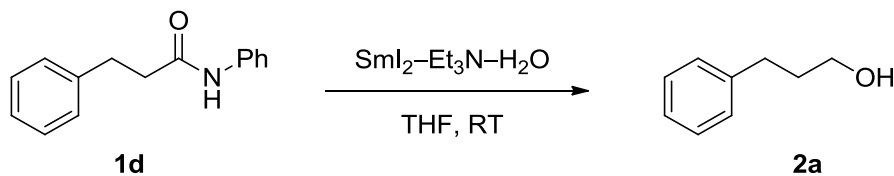
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 3 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 89% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

N-Dodecyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 3)



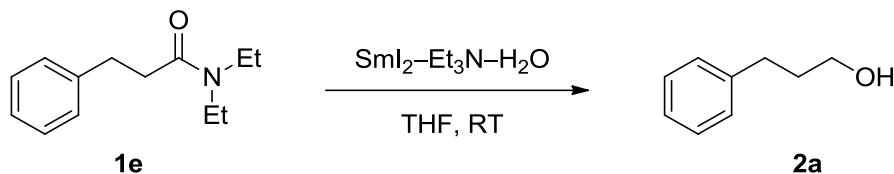
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-dodecyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 88% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8. In addition, dodecan-1-amine was formed in 99% yield, demonstrating that the present reaction can be used for the synthesis of amines from amide precursors. See also examples below in the “Additional Experiments” section. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.89 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H), 1.18–1.37 (m, 18 H), 1.41–1.54 (m, 2 H), 2.22 (br, 2 H), 2.72 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 26.9, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 29.7, 31.9, 33.2, 42.0.

N-Phenyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 4)



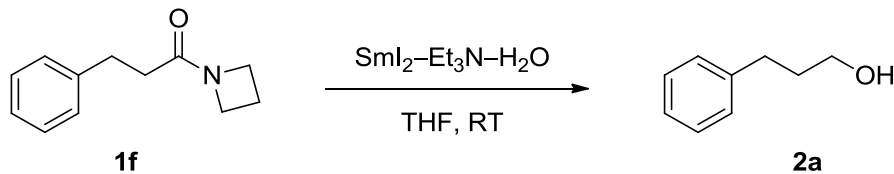
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-phenyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 3 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 84% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

N,N-Diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 5)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N,N*-diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 82% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

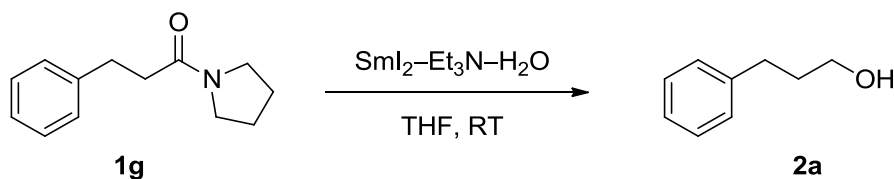
1-(Azetidin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (Table 1, entry 6)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(azetidin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2

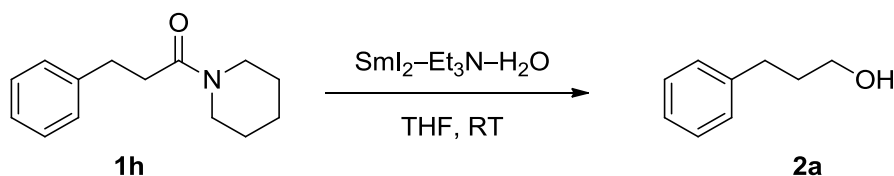
mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 98% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

3-Phenyl-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (Table 1, entry 7)

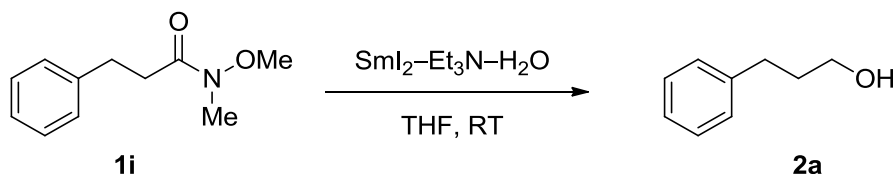


According to the general procedure, the reaction of 3-phenyl-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 90% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

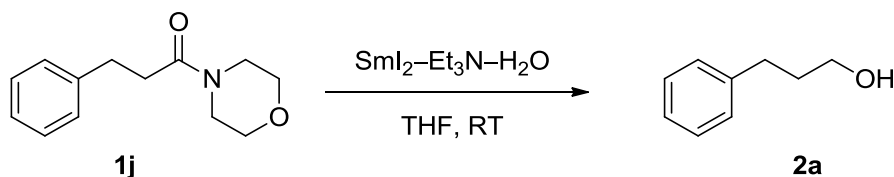
3-Phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (Table 1, entry 8)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 3-phenyl-1-(piperidin-1-yl)propan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 81% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

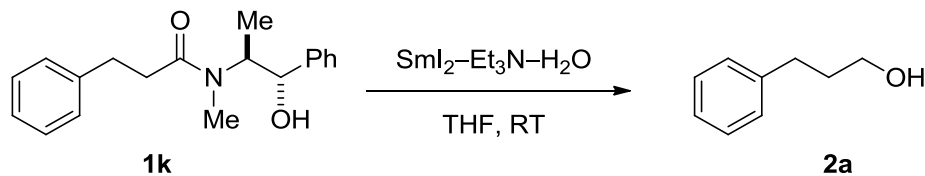
***N*-Methoxy-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide** (Table 1, entry 9)

According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-methoxy-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 97% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8. The reaction of **1i** (0.10 mmol) with limiting SmI_2 (0.20 mmol, 0.10 M in THF), water (2.4 mmol) and triethylamine (2.4 mmol) afforded the corresponding *N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide in 49% yield (57% conversion), suggesting that the reduction of **1i** proceeds via sequential N–O cleavage/amide reduction.

1-Morpholino-3-phenylpropan-1-one (Table 1, entry 10)

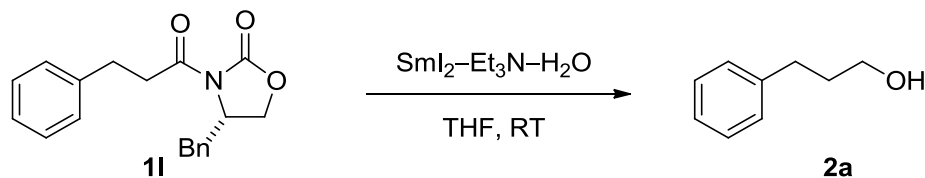
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-morpholino-3-phenylpropan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 83% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

***N*-((1*S*,2*S*)-1-Hydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide** (Table 1, entry 11)



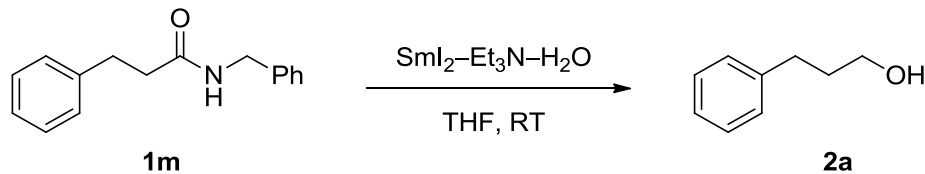
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-((1*S*,2*S*)-1-hydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 79% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

(*S*)-4-Benzyl-3-(3-phenylpropanoyl)oxazolidin-2-one (Table 1, entry 12)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of (*S*)-4-benzyl-3-(3-phenylpropanoyl)oxazolidin-2-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 81% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

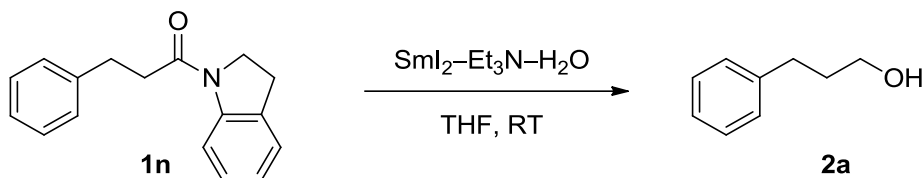
***N*-Benzyl-3-phenylpropanamide** (Table 1, entry 13)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-benzyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for

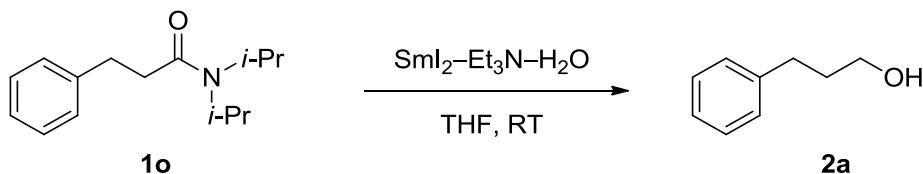
18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 92% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8. The reaction of **1m** (0.10 mmol) with limiting SmI_2 (0.20 mmol, 0.10 M in THF), water (2.4 mmol) and triethylamine (2.4 mmol) afforded the corresponding 3-phenylpropan-1-ol **2a** in 24% yield (3-phenylpropanamide not detected), suggesting that the reduction of **1m** proceeds via direct amide reduction or that the reduction of 3-phenylpropanamide is faster than the N–Bn bond cleavage.

1-(Indolin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (Table 1, entry 14)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(indolin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 99% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79–1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

N,N-Diisopropyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table 1, entry 15)

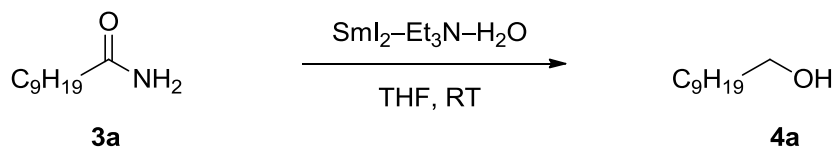


According to the general procedure, an oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was charged with samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, 0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), Et_3N (7.2 mmol) and water (7.2 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown

color of the SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex. A solution of *N,N*-diisopropyl-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol in THF, 1.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 18 h at room temperature. After the standard work-up as described above, the sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard: conversion <5%; yield of recovered starting material: >95%, indicating that the chemoselective reduction of amides **1a-1n** in the presence of hindered amides **1o** can be readily achieved.

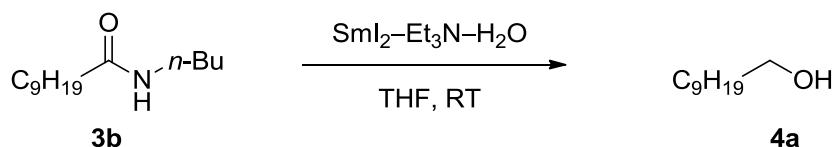
Reduction of Amides **3a-3o** to Alcohols using SmI₂ (Table 2).

Decanamide (Table 2, entry 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of decanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 91% yield. C-N/C-O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 1.15-1.33 (m, 15 H), 1.47-1.53 (m, 2 H), 3.57 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 22.7, 25.8, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 31.9, 32.8, 63.1.

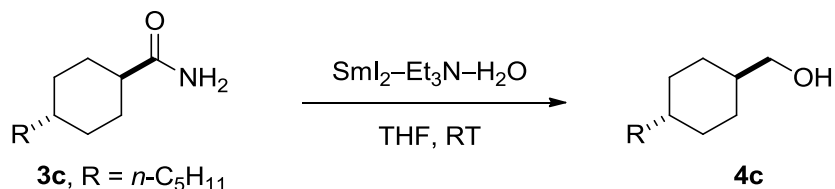
***N*-Butyldecanamide** (Table 2, entry 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-butyldecanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 76% yield. C-N/C-O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. Spectroscopic properties matched those described above. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 1.15-

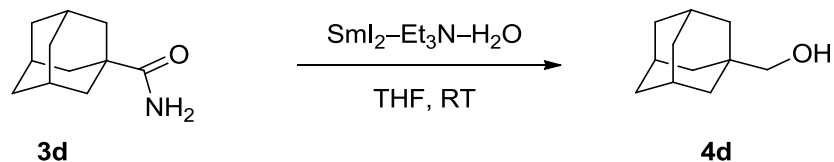
1.33 (m, 15 H), 1.47-1.53 (m, 2 H), 3.57 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 25.8, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 31.9, 32.8, 63.1.

***trans*-4-Pentylcyclohexanecarboxamide** (Table 2, entry 3)



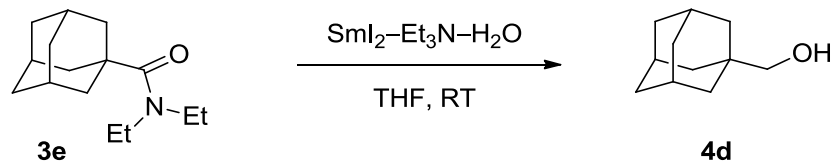
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *trans*-4-pentylcyclohexanecarboxamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) the title compound in 95% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.75-0.91 (m, 7 H), 1.02-1.27 (m, 10 H), 1.38 (br, 1 H), 1.71 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 4 H), 3.37 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 26.6, 29.5, 32.2, 32.7, 37.4, 37.8, 40.7, 68.8.

Adamantane-1-carboxamide (Table 2, entry 4)



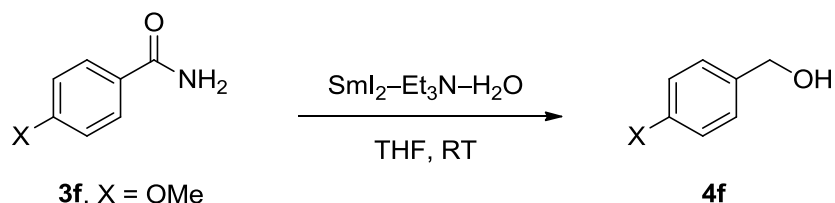
According to the general procedure, the reaction of adamantane-1-carboxamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 86% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.26 (br, 1 H), 1.43-1.46 (m, 6 H), 1.55-1.70 (m, 6 H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 3 H), 3.13 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.2, 34.5, 37.2, 39.0, 73.9.

***N,N*-Diethyladamantane-1-carboxamide** (Table 2, entry 5)



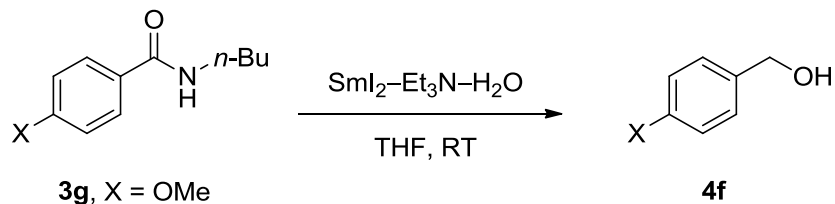
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N,N*-diethyladamantane-1-carboxamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 75% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.26 (br, 1 H), 1.43-1.46 (m, 6 H), 1.55-1.70 (m, 6 H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 3 H), 3.13 (s, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.2, 34.5, 37.2, 39.0, 73.9.

4-Methoxybenzamide (Table 2, entry 6)

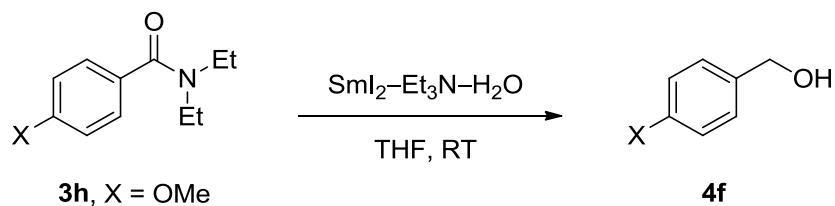


According to the general procedure, the reaction of 4-methoxybenzamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.60 mmol, 0.087 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 93% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.57 (br, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.54 (s, 2 H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 55.3, 65.1, 114.0, 128.7, 133.2, 159.3.

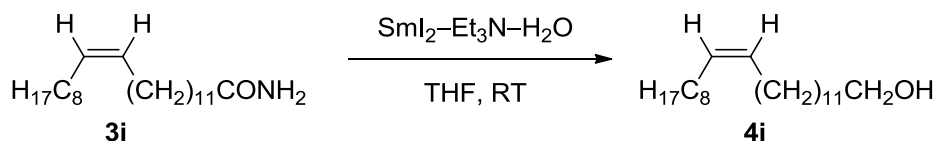
N-Butyl-4-methoxybenzamide (Table 2, entry 7)



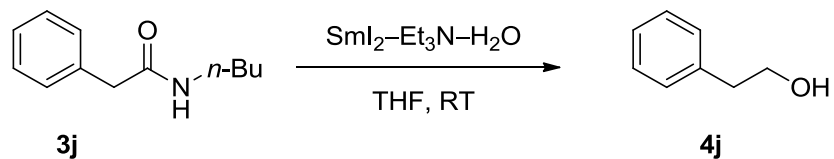
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-butyl-4-methoxybenzamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.60 mmol, 0.087 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 82% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.57 (br, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.54 (s, 2 H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 55.3, 65.1, 114.0, 128.7, 133.2, 159.3.

***N,N*-Diethyl-4-methoxybenzamide** (Table 2, entry 8)

According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N,N*-diethyl-4-methoxybenzamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 84% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.57 (br, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.54 (s, 2 H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 55.3, 65.1, 114.0, 128.7, 133.2, 159.3.

***cis*-13-Docosenoamide** (Table 2, entry 9)

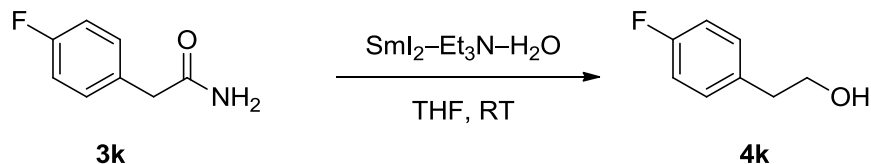
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *cis*-13-docosenoamide (CAS: 112-84-5) (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.60 mmol, 0.080 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 94% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.90 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 1.21-1.43 (m, 31 H), 1.52-1.64 (m, 2 H), 1.97-2.08 (m, 4 H), 3.66 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 5.31-5.42 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.1, 22.7, 25.8, 27.2, 29.3, 29.3, 29.5, 29.5, 29.6, 29.6, 29.6, 29.7, 29.8, 31.9, 32.8, 63.1, 129.9, 129.9.

***N*-Butyl-2-phenylacetamide** (Table 2, entry 10)

According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-butyl-2-phenylacetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for

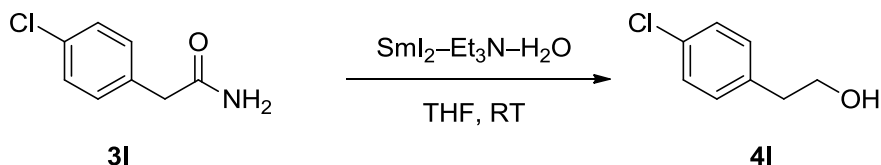
18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 N) the title compound in 96% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.52 (br, 1 H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.89 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.22-7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.31-7.38 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 39.2, 63.7, 126.5, 128.6, 129.1, 138.5.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 11)



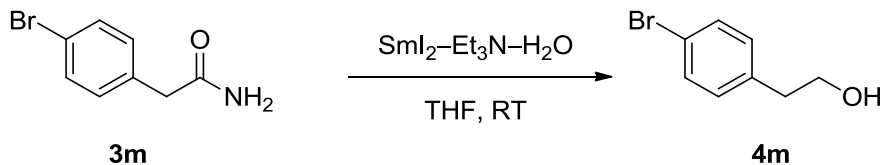
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 N) the title compound in 94% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.40 (br, 1 H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.77 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 8.7 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 38.3, 63.5, 115.4 (d, *J*² = 21.2 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J*³ = 7.7 Hz), 134.2 (d, *J*⁴ = 3.2 Hz), 161.7 (d, *J*¹ = 242.8 Hz); ¹⁹F (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.8.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 12)



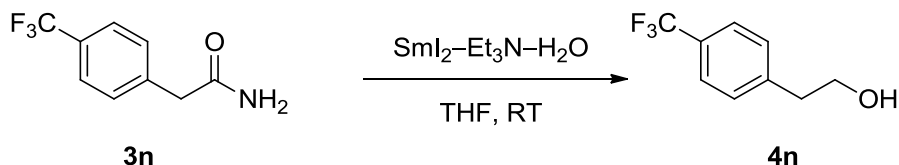
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.40 mmol, 0.10 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol), preformed Sm(II) complex, for 1 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 85% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.48 (br, 1 H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 38.5, 63.5, 128.7, 130.4, 132.3, 137.0.

2-(4-Bromophenyl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 13)



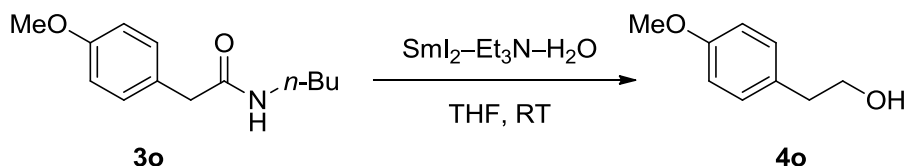
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(4-bromophenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.40 mmol, 0.10 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol), preformed Sm(II) complex, for 1 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 63% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.48 (br, 1 H), 2.85 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.87 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 38.6, 63.4, 120.4, 130.8, 131.6, 137.6.

2-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 14)



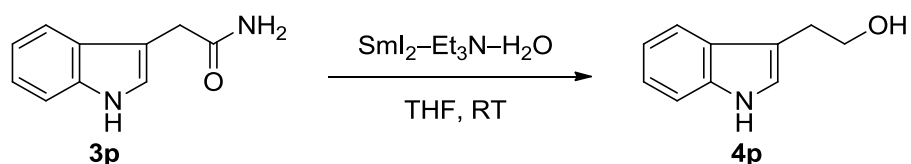
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.40 mmol, 0.10 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol), preformed Sm(II) complex, for 1 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 73% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.51 (br, 1 H), 2.95 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.92 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 38.9, 63.2, 122.5, 125.5 (q, $J^3 = 3.8$ Hz), 129.3 (q, $J^2 = 32.5$ Hz), 129.4, 142.8; ^{19}F (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.4.

N-Butyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 15)



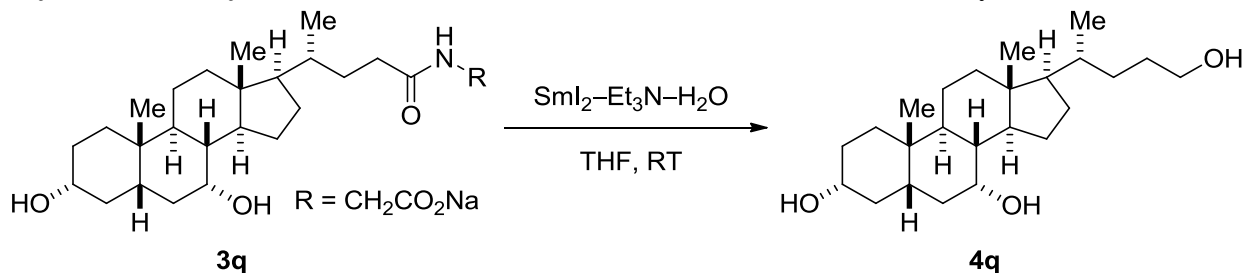
According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-butyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 91% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.55 (br, 1 H), 2.84 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 3.85 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 38.3, 55.3, 63.8, 114.1, 130.0, 130.4, 158.3.

2-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)acetamide (Table 2, entry 16)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.40 mmol, 0.10 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 82% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.47 (br, 1 H), 2.97 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2 H), 3.84 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.99 (br, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 28.8, 62.6, 111.3, 112.3, 118.9, 119.5, 122.3, 122.5, 127.4, 136.5.

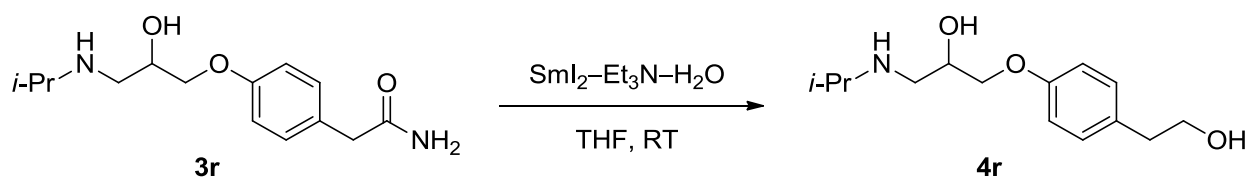
Glycochenodeoxycholic acid sodium salt, CAS: 16564-43-5 (Table 2, entry 16)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of glycochenodeoxycholic acid sodium salt (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (1.50 mmol, 0.080 M), water (9.0 mmol) and triethylamine (9.0 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and

chromatography the title compound in 79% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.60 (s, 3 H), 0.84 (s, 3 H), 0.87 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3 H), 0.86–0.96 (m, 1 H), 0.98–1.14 (m, 4 H), 1.17–1.47 (m, 14 H), 1.51–1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.72–1.86 (m, 3 H), 1.88–1.95 (m, 2 H), 2.14 (q, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1 H), 3.35–3.44 (m, 1 H), 3.55 (td, $J = 2.0, 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 3.76–3.81 (m, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 11.8, 18.6, 20.6, 22.8, 23.7, 28.3, 29.4, 30.7, 31.9, 32.9, 34.6, 35.1, 35.3, 35.6, 39.5, 39.7, 39.9, 41.5, 42.7, 50.5, 56.0, 63.6, 68.6, 72.0.

2-(4-(2-Hydroxy-3-(isopropylamino)propoxy)phenyl)acetamide, Atenolol, CAS: 29122-68-7
(Table 2, entry 16)

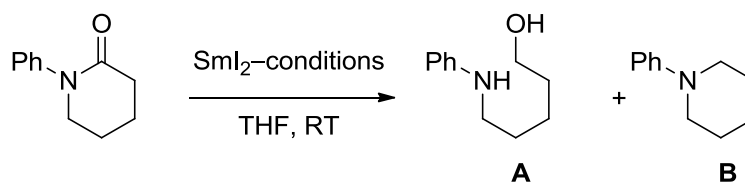


According to the general procedure, the reaction of 2-(4-(2-hydroxy-3-(isopropylamino)propoxy)phenyl)acetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.45 mmol, 0.087 M), water (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (0.1 N) the title compound in 61% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.09 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 6 H), 2.54–2.77 (m, 4 H), 2.74 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2 H), 2.83–2.91 (m, 2 H), 3.75 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.86–3.93 (m, 2 H), 4.02–4.07 (m, 1 H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.07 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 22.4, 22.4, 38.3, 49.1, 49.4, 63.8, 68.0, 70.4, 114.7, 130.1, 130.9, 157.3.

Optimization Experiments using 1-Phenylpiperidin-2-one

To determine the effect of reaction conditions on the reduction of unactivated amides using Sm(II), 1-phenylpiperidin-2-one was selected as a model test substrate. (1) According to the literature precedent,¹⁹ cyclic amides should be more reactive towards Sm(II) due to anomeric stabilization of the radical anion. (2) Carbinolamine intermediates resulting from the reduction of cyclic amides are well-known to show higher stability relative to acyclic amides,²⁰ which should facilitate determining the effect of reaction conditions on partitioning of the C–N/C–O cleavage.

Table SI-1. Optimization Studies in the Reduction of Unactivated Amides using SmI₂.^a



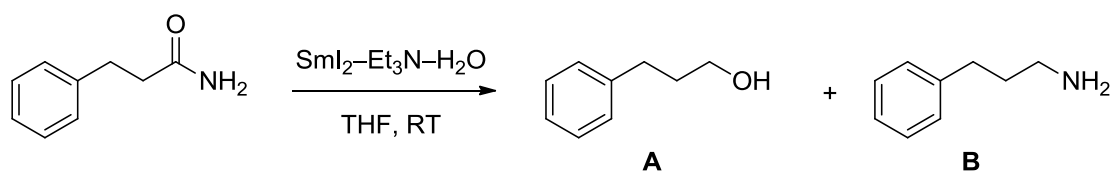
entry	amine	ROH	amine (equiv)	ROH (equiv)	time ^b (h)	conv. ^c (%)	A:B ^d	yield ^c (%)
1	-	H ₂ O	-	200	18	<5	-	-
2	Et ₃ N	-	12	-	18	<5	-	-
3	Et ₃ N	H ₂ O	12	18	18	85	89:11	85
4	Et ₃ N	(HOCH ₂) ₂	12	9	18	94	82:18	94
5	Et ₃ N	MeOH	12	18	18	12	82:18	12
6	Et ₃ N	TFE	12	18	18	6	78:22	6
7	Et ₃ N	AcOH	12	18	18	5	43:57	5
8	<i>N</i> -Me-morpholine	H ₂ O	12	18	18	87	84:16	87
9	pyrrolidine	H ₂ O	12	18	18	>95	97:3	>95
10	piperidine	H ₂ O	12	18	18	>95	95:5	>95
11	morpholine	H ₂ O	12	18	18	>95	94:6	>95
12	<i>n</i> -BuNH ₂	H ₂ O	12	18	18	>95	95:5	>95
13	Et ₃ N	H ₂ O	36	36	18	>95	92:8	>95
14	Et ₃ N	H ₂ O	72	72	18	>95	92:8	88
15 ^e	Et ₃ N	H ₂ O	60	60	18	>95	97:3	>95

^aConditions: SmI₂ (6 equiv), amine, ROH, THF, room temperature. All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. SmI₂ (freshly prepared from Sm and ICH₂CH₂I) was used. ^bQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^cDetermined by ¹H NMR.

^dRefers to the combined yield of **A** and **B**. Conversion = (100-SM). ^eSmI₂ (10 equiv) was used.

To determine the key role of additives on the reactivity of the SmI₂-amine-H₂O complex, several control reactions were carried out using 3-phenylpropanamide as a test substrate (Table SI-2). In agreement with the previous studies²¹ both additives were found to be critical for the reactivity (Table SI-2, Entries 1-3). Moreover, the use of H₂O, even in high concentrations did not result in a productive reaction (Table SI-2, Entry 4), which is consistent with the previous findings regarding the redox potential of these Sm(II)²² systems and the ease of reduction of carboxylic acid derivatives via electron transfer.²³

Table SI-2. Influence of Additives in the Reduction of Unactivated Amides using SmI₂.^a



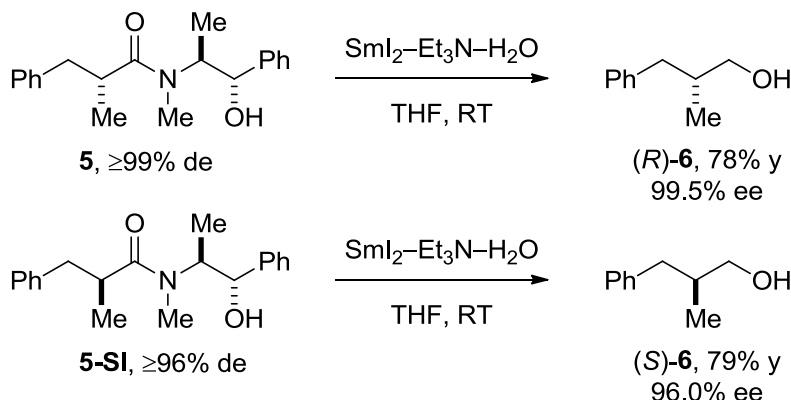
entry	SmI ₂ (equiv)	Et ₃ N (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^b (h)	conv. ^c (%)	A : B ^c	yield ^c (%)
1	6	12	18	18	>95	>95:5	92
2	6	12	-	18	7.5	>95:5	7
3	6	-	18	18	<5	-	<5
4	6	-	800	18	<5	-	<5

^aConditions: SmI₂, amine, H₂O, THF, room temperature. All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. SmI₂ (freshly prepared from Sm and ICH₂CH₂I) was used. ^bQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^cDetermined by ¹H NMR.

^dRefers to the combined yield of **A** and **B**. Conversion = (100-SM).

Reduction of Enantioenriched Amides

Scheme SI-1. Reduction of Enantioenriched Pseudoephedrine Amides **5** and **5-SI** to Alcohols using $\text{SmI}_2\text{-Et}_3\text{N-H}_2\text{O}$.

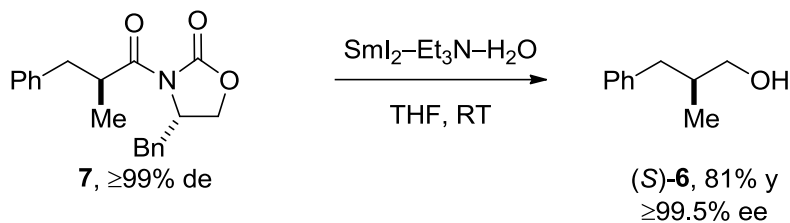


(R)-2-Methyl-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (6). According to the general procedure using the preformed Sm(II) complex, *(R)-N-((1S,2S)-1-hydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-N,2-dimethyl-3-phenylpropanamide* (0.10 mmol, $>99\%$ de),²⁴ was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M, THF solution), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 78% yield. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.85 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.36 (br, 1 H), 1.84-1.93 (m, 1 H), 2.36 (dd, $J = 8.0, 13.0$ Hz, 1 H), 2.69 (dd, $J = 6.5, 13.5$ Hz, 1 H), 3.39-3.49 (m, 2 H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 3 H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 16.5, 37.8, 39.7, 67.7, 125.9, 128.3, 129.2, 140.6. HPLC analysis (chiracel OD-H, hexanes/*i*-PrOH 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm) indicated 99.5% ee: t_{R} (minor) = 8.75 minutes, t_{R} (major) = 10.39 minutes.

(S)-2-Methyl-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (6). According to the general procedure using the preformed Sm(II) complex, *(S)-N-((1S,2S)-1-hydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-N,2-dimethyl-3-phenylpropanamide* (0.10 mmol, $>96\%$ de)²⁴ was reacted with SmI_2 (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M, THF solution), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 79% yield. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.85 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.36 (br, 1 H), 1.84-1.93 (m, 1 H), 2.36 (dd, $J = 8.0, 13.0$ Hz, 1 H), 2.69 (dd, $J = 6.5, 13.5$ Hz, 1 H), 3.39-3.49 (m, 2 H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 3 H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 16.5, 37.8, 39.7, 67.7, 125.9, 128.3, 129.2, 140.6.

HPLC analysis (chiracel OD-H, hexanes/*i*-PrOH 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm) indicated 96.0% ee: t_R (major) = 9.23 minutes, t_R (minor) = 11.12 minutes.

Scheme SI-2. Reduction of Enantioenriched Amide **7** to Alcohol **6** using SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O.

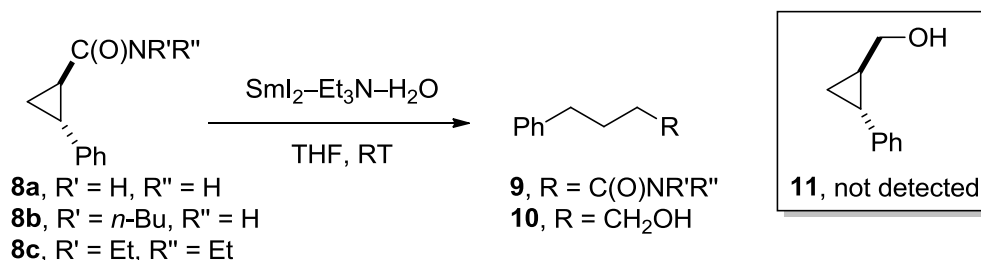


(S)-2-Methyl-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (6). According to the general procedure using the preformed Sm(II) complex, (*S*)-4-benzyl-3-((*S*)-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoyl)oxazolidin-2-one (0.10 mmol, $>99\%$ de),²⁵ was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M, THF solution), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 81% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.85 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.36 (br, 1 H), 1.84-1.93 (m, 1 H), 2.36 (dd, J = 8.0, 13.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.69 (dd, J = 6.5, 13.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.39-3.49 (m, 2 H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 3 H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.5, 37.8, 39.7, 67.7, 125.9, 128.3, 129.2, 140.6. HPLC analysis (chiracel OD-H, hexanes/*i*-PrOH 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm) indicated $>99.5\%$ ee: t_R (major) = 8.27 minutes, t_R (minor) = 10.39 minutes. In addition, the reaction of (*S*)-4-benzyl-3-((*S*)-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoyl)oxazolidin-2-one (0.10 mmol, $>99\%$ de) with samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M, THF solution) and water (20 mmol) for 18 h at rt afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 87% yield. HPLC analysis (chiracel OD-H, hexanes/*i*-PrOH 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm) indicated $>99.5\%$ ee: t_R (major) = 8.72 minutes, t_R (minor) = 10.41 minutes. Under Sm(II)-H₂O reaction conditions, amide **5** was unreactive. Overall, these results demonstrate that amides bearing alpha-enolizable chiral centers could be readily reduced using the Sm(II)-based methodology, thus providing a valuable alternative to the existing methods for the removal of pseudoephedrine²¹ (Scheme SI-1) and oxazolidinone²⁶⁻²⁸ (Scheme SI-2) auxiliaries.

Radical Clock Experiments²⁹⁻³²

General Procedure. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, typically 0.20-0.80 mmol, 2.0-8.0 equiv, 0.10 M) was added followed by Et₃N (2.4-7.2 mmol) and H₂O (2.4-7.2 mmol) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex. A solution of amide substrate (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, stock solution in THF, 1.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for the indicated time. The excess of Sm(II) was oxidized by bubbling air through the reaction mixture, and the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and NaOH (1 N, 10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL), the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Table SI-3. Summary of the Radical Clock Experiments using SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O Complexes in the Reductive Opening of Amides **8**.



entry	amide	SmI ₂ (equiv)	Et ₃ N (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^a	conv. ^b (%)	9 ^b (%)	10 ^b (%)	yield ^c (%)
1	8a	2	24	24	1 min	54	78	22	54
2	8b	2	24	24	1 min	50	85	15	50
3	8c	2	24	24	1 min	51	92	8	51
4	8a	8	72	72	18 h	>95	<2	>98	99
5	8b	8	72	72	18 h	>95	3	97	97
6	8c	8	72	72	18 h	>95	59	41	99

All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^aQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^bDetermined by ¹H NMR and/or GC-MS of crude reaction mixtures and comparison with authentic samples. ^cCombined yield of **9** and **10**. Conversion = (100-SM). In all entries **11** was not detected (<2.0%).

Rac-(1*R*,2*R*)-2-Phenylcyclopropanecarboxamide (8a). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.22-1.26 (m, 1 H), 1.55-1.62 (m, 2 H), 2.43-2.48 (m, 1 H), 5.25 (br, 1 H), 5.50 (br, 1 H), 7.03 (dd, $J = 1.5, 8.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.13 (tt, $J = 1.5, 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 16.3, 25.7, 25.9, 126.1, 126.4, 128.5, 140.5, 174.3.

Rac-(1*R*,2*R*)-*N*-Butyl-2-phenylcyclopropanecarboxamide (8b). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3 H), 1.09-1.13 (m, 1 H), 1.22-1.30 (m, 2 H), 1.36-1.43 (m, 2 H), 1.48-1.55 (m, 2 H), 2.35-2.39 (m, 1 H), 3.18 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 5.93 (br, 1 H), 6.98 (dd, $J = 1.5, 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09 (tt, $J = 1.5, 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.8, 15.9, 20.1, 24.8, 26.7, 31.8, 39.6, 126.0, 126.2, 128.4, 141.0, 171.9.

Rac-(1*R*,2*R*)-*N,N*-Diethyl-2-phenylcyclopropanecarboxamide (8c). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.11-1.23 (m, 6 H), 1.23-1.29 (m, 1 H), 1.64-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.92-1.98 (m, 1 H), 2.46-2.58 (m, 1 H), 3.45 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4 H), 7.14 (dd, $J = 1.8, 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (tt, $J = 1.5, 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (tt, $J = 1.5, 7.2$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.3, 14.9, 16.2, 23.3, 25.5, 41.0, 42.2, 126.1, 126.2, 128.5, 141.2, 171.0.

4-Phenylbutanamide (9a). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.91-2.02 (m, 2 H), 2.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 2.67 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 5.94 (br, 1 H), 6.49 (br, 1 H), 7.16-7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 27.0, 35.1, 35.2, 126.0, 128.5, 128.5, 141.5, 176.1.

***N*-Butyl-4-phenylbutanamide (9b).** ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.94 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 1.28-1.41 (m, 2 H), 1.43-1.54 (m, 2 H), 1.93-2.04 (m, 2 H), 2.18 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 2.67 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 3.25 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 5.55 (br, 1 H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.33 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.8, 20.1, 27.2, 31.8, 35.2, 36.0, 39.2, 126.0, 128.4, 128.5, 141.6, 172.6.

***N,N*-Diethyl-4-phenylbutanamide (9c).** ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.12 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6 H), 1.95-2.06 (m, 2 H), 2.32 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2 H), 2.69 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.24 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 3.38 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.16-7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.1, 14.3, 26.9, 32.2, 35.4, 40.1, 41.9, 125.8, 128.3, 128.5, 141.9, 171.8.

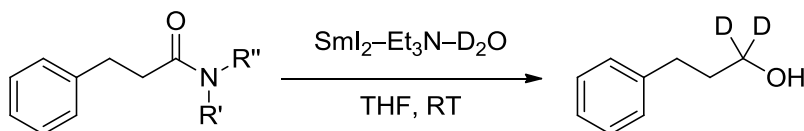
4-Phenylbutan-1-ol (10). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.44-1.67 (m, 4 H), 1.71 (br, 1 H), 2.56 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 3.55 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 7.06-7.13 (m, 3 H), 7.16-7.23 (m, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 27.6, 32.3, 35.7, 62.8, 125.8, 128.3, 128.5, 142.4.

Rac-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-Phenylcyclopropyl)methanol (11). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.82-0.91 (m, 2 H), 1.34-1.41 (m, 1 H), 1.65 (br, 1 H), 1.72-1.76 (m, 1 H), 3.49-3.57 (m, 2 H), 6.99 (dd, $J = 1.5, 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.07 (tt, $J = 1.5, 7.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.9, 21.3, 25.3, 66.6, 125.7, 125.9, 128.4, 142.5.

Deuterium Incorporation Studies³³

General Procedure. According to the general procedure, 3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.085 M, THF solution), D₂O (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford 1,1-*D*²-3-phenylpropan-1-ol compound in 89% yield, 83.2% *D*² incorporation (determined by ¹H NMR, 500 MHz) (Table SI-4, entry 1). In addition, the reaction of *N*-butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-4, entry 2) and *N,N*-diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-4, entry 3) under the reaction conditions described above afforded the title compound in 92% and 94% yield, respectively, with 94.7% and 96.9% *D*² incorporation, respectively (determined by ¹H NMR, 500 MHz). These results are consistent with anions being generated and protonated by H₂O in a series of electron transfer steps and with the formation of a well-defined Sm(II) complex. Moreover, the reaction of decanamide and 2-phenylacetamide under the reaction conditions described above (SmI₂, 0.080 M, THF solution) afforded the corresponding alcohols in 98% and 82% yield, respectively, with 86.0% and 82.5% *D*² incorporation, demonstrating consistent levels of *D*² incorporation can be achieved in the reduction of primary amides using SmI₂–amine–D₂O.

Table SI-4. Determination of *D*² Incorporation in the Reduction of 3-Phenylpropanamides using SmI₂–Et₃N–D₂O.



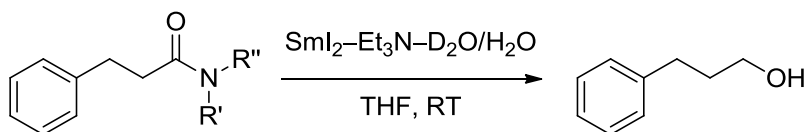
entry	R', R''	SmI ₂ (equiv)	Et ₃ N (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^a (h)	conv. ^b (%)	yield ^b (%)	<i>D</i> ² ^b (%)
1	H, H	8	36	36	18	>98	89	83.2
2	<i>n</i> -Bu, H	8	36	36	18	>98	92	94.7
3	Et, Et	8	36	36	18	>98	94	96.9

All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^aQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^bDetermined by ¹H NMR. Conversion = (100-SM).

Kinetic Isotope Studies³⁴⁻³⁷

General Procedure. According to the general procedure, 3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.085 M, THF solution), H₂O/D₂O (1:1, 3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford 3-phenylpropan-1-ol and 1,1-*D*²-3-phenylpropan-1-ol in 95% yield. The amount of each species was determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃). Kinetic isotope effect, $k_H/k_D = 1.37 \pm 0.1$ (Table SI-5, entry 1). In addition, the reaction of *N*-butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-5, entry 2) and *N,N*-diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-5, entry 3) under the reaction conditions described above afforded the title compounds in 93% and 96% yield, respectively, $k_H/k_D = 1.34 \pm 0.1$ and $k_H/k_D = 1.32 \pm 0.1$, (determined by ¹H NMR, 500 MHz). These results are consistent with proton transfer not being involved in the rate determining step of the reaction.

Table SI-5. Determination of Kinetic Isotope Effect in the Reduction of 3-Phenylpropanamides using SmI₂-Et₃N-D₂O/H₂O.



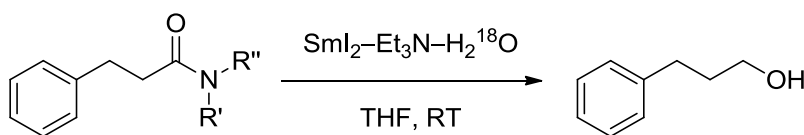
entry	R', R''	SmI ₂ (equiv)	Et ₃ N (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^a (h)	conv. ^b (%)	yield ^b (%)	k_H/k_D
1	H, H	8	36	36	18	>95	95	1.37±0.1
2	<i>n</i> -Bu, H	8	36	36	18	>95	93	1.34±0.1
3	Et, Et	8	36	36	18	>95	96	1.32±0.1

All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^aQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^bDetermined by ¹H NMR. Conversion = (100-SM).

H₂¹⁸O Incorporation Studies

General Procedure. According to the general procedure, 3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.085 M, THF solution), H₂¹⁸O (3.6 mmol) and triethylamine (3.6 mmol) for 18 h at rt to afford 3-phenylpropan-1-ol in 89% yield, 2.59% ¹⁸O incorporation (determined by HRMS analysis) (Table SI-6, entry 1). In addition, the reaction of *N*-butyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-6, entry 2) and *N,N*-diethyl-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-6, entry 3) under the reaction conditions described above afforded the title compound in 86% and 84% yield, respectively, with 4.19% and 14.20% ¹⁸O incorporation (determined by HRMS analysis). These results are consistent with direct electron transfer to the amide carbonyl groups, and show that hydrolysis of the iminium intermediate and/or nucleophilic trapping of aldehyde are not predominant reaction pathways.

Table SI-6. Determination of H₂¹⁸O Incorporation in the Reduction of 3-Phenylpropanamides using SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂¹⁸O.



entry	R', R''	SmI ₂ (equiv)	Et ₃ N (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^a (h)	conv. ^b (%)	yield ^b (%)	¹⁸ O ^c (%)
1	H, H	8	36	36	18	>95	89	2.59
2	<i>n</i> -Bu, H	8	36	36	18	>95	86	4.19
3	Et, Et	8	36	36	18	>95	84	14.20

All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^aQuenched with air after the indicated time. ^bDetermined by ¹H NMR. ^cDetermined by HRMS. Conversion = (100-SM). HRMS calcd for C₉H₁₂O₁ (M⁺ + H) 136.0883; HRMS calcd for C₉H₁₂¹⁸O₁ (M⁺ + H) 138.0925. Entry 1: found 136.0883; found 138.0929. Entry 2: found 136.0888; found 138.0928. Entry 3: found 136.0888; found 138.0929.

Selectivity Studies

General Procedure. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, typically 0.20 mmol, 2.0 equiv, 0.10 M) was added followed by Et₃N (0.33 mL, 24 equiv) and H₂O (0.043 mL, 24 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex. A preformed solution of two substrates (each 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, stock solution in THF) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred until decolorization to white had occurred. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and NaOH (1 N, 10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL), the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Table SI-7. Selectivity Study in the Reduction of Unactivated Amides using SmI₂-amine-H₂O.^a

Substrate I		Substrate II		I-red	II-red
entry	Substrate I	Substrate II	conv. ^b (I-red, %)	conv. ^b (II-red, %)	k _I /k _{R-FG}
1			38	<2	>98:2
2			44	<2	>98:2
3			28	2.8	90:10
4			32	<2	>96:4
5			41	<2	>98:2

^aConditions: SmI₂ (2 equiv), Et₃N (24 equiv), H₂O (24 equiv), THF, room temperature, 10 s to 1 min. All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^bDetermined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and/or GC-MS. Conversion = (100-SM). In all cases, rapid injection of substrate (THF solution) to the preformed SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex was applied.

Selectivity Studies – Alkyl Halides

General Procedure. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, typically 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, 0.10 M) was added followed by Et₃N (0.17 mL, 12 equiv) and H₂O (0.022 mL, 12 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex. A preformed solution of two substrates (each 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, stock solution in THF) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred until decolorization to white had occurred. A small aliquot (typically, 1.0 mL) was removed from the reaction mixture, diluted with diethyl ether (2 mL) and NaOH (0.1 N, 0.25 mL) and analyzed by GC-MS to obtain product distribution using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples. All data represent values corrected for response factors obtained by analyzing known quantities of the starting materials/products. Note that the reduction of alkyl iodides ($E_{1/2} = -1.30$ V vs. SCE)³⁸ with SmI₂ is one of the fastest reactions mediated by simple Sm(II)³⁹ and more complex SmI₂/amine/H₂O systems.⁴⁰

Table SI-8. Selectivity Study in the Reduction of Unactivated Amides using SmI₂-amine-H₂O.^a

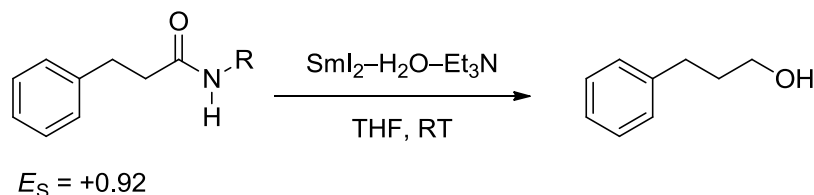
Substrate I		Substrate II	I-red	II-red	
entry	Substrate I	Substrate II	conv. ^b (I-red, %)	conv. ^b (II-red, %)	k _I /k _{R-FG}
1		C ₁₄ H ₂₉ -Cl	24.7	<2 (<0.1)	>99:1
2		C ₁₄ H ₂₉ -Br	23.3	<2 (0.7)	>97:3
3		C ₁₂ H ₂₅ -I	24.3	9.7	71.5:28.5

^aConditions: SmI₂ (1 equiv), Et₃N (24 equiv), H₂O (24 equiv), THF, room temperature, 10 s to 1 min. All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^bDetermined by GC-MS. Conversion = (100-SM). In all cases, rapid injection of substrate (THF solution) to the preformed SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex was applied. GC-MS: Agilent HP-5MS (19091S-433) (length 30 m, internal diameter 0.25 mm, film 0.25 μm), He as the carrier gas, flow rate 1 mL/min, initial oven temp. 50 °C, 25 °C/min ramp, after 50 °C hold for 3 min to 300 °C, then hold at 300 °C for 5 min; retention time: 3-phenylpropanamide: 10.80 min; 3-phenylpropan-1-ol: 9.12 min; 1-chlorotetradecane: 11.43 min; 1-bromotetradecane: 11.89 min; 1-iodododecane: 11.40 min; dodecane: 8.82 min; tetradecane: 9.99 min.

Hammett and Taft Studies⁴¹⁻⁴³

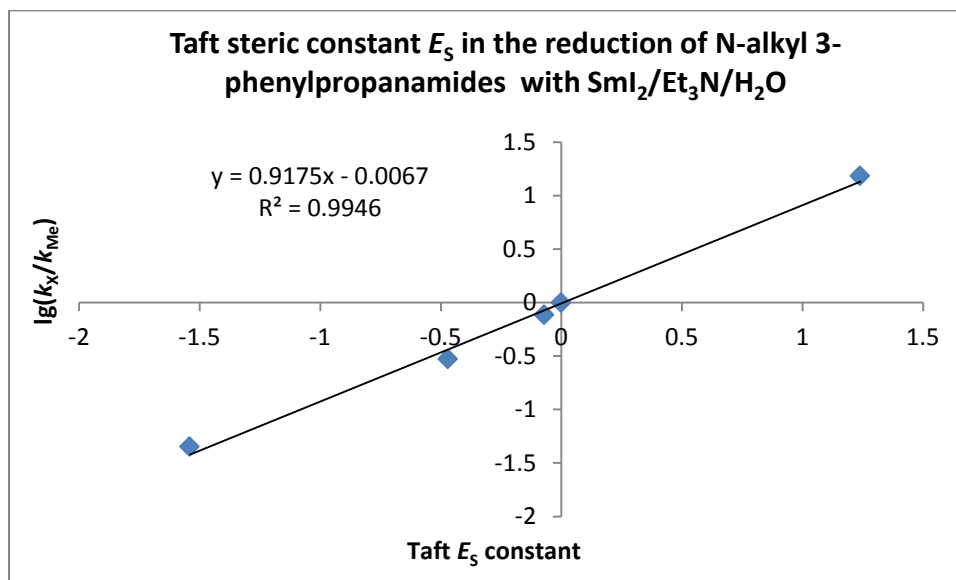
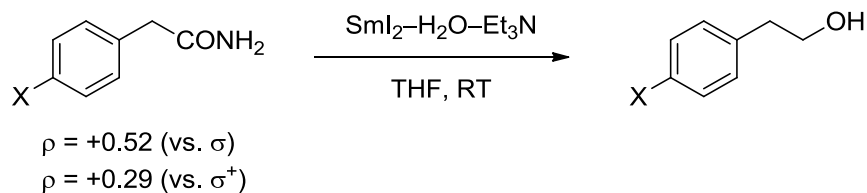
General Procedure. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. Samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, typically 0.20 mmol, 2.0 equiv, 0.10 M) was added followed by Et₃N (0.33 mL, 24 equiv) and H₂O (0.043 mL, 24 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic dark brown color of the SmI₂-Et₃N-H₂O complex. A preformed solution of two substrates (each 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, stock solution in THF) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred until decolorization to white had occurred. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and NaOH (1 N, 10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 30 mL), the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Chart SI-1. Steric Influence on the Relative Rates in the Reduction of Amides – Taft E_S Correlation Study.^a



entry	R	k_X/k_{Me}^a	Taft E_S parameter
1	H	15.3	1.24
2	Me	1.00	0
3	Et	0.77	-0.07
4	<i>i</i> -Pr	0.296	-0.47
5	<i>t</i> -Bu	0.045	-1.54

^aRelative reactivity values determined from product distribution by ¹H NMR and/or GC of crude reaction mixtures. Determined from the relative reactivities between C₉H₁₉C(O)NH*n*-Bu and PhCH₂CH₂C(O)NHR.

Figure SI-1. Taft E_s Correlation Study in the Reduction of N-Alkyl-3-phenylpropanamides.**Chart SI-2.** Electronic Influence on the Relative Rates in the Reduction of Primary Amides – Hammett Correlation Study.^a

entry	X	k_X/k_H^a	Hammett σ constant	Hammett σ^+ constant
1	Cl	1.07	0.23	0.114
2	F	0.94	0.06	-0.073
3	H	1.00	0	0
4	MeO	0.59	-0.27	-0.778

^aRelative reactivity values determined from product distribution by ^1H NMR and/or GC of crude reaction mixtures. The ρ values can be compared with $\rho = 0.43$ (Hammett σ parameters) and $\rho = 0.25$ (Hammett σ^+ parameters) for the reduction of 4-phenylacetic methyl esters with $\text{SmI}_2/\text{Et}_3\text{N}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$.⁴³

Figure SI-2. Hammett σ^+ Correlation Study in the Reduction of 4-Substituted 2-Phenylacetamides.

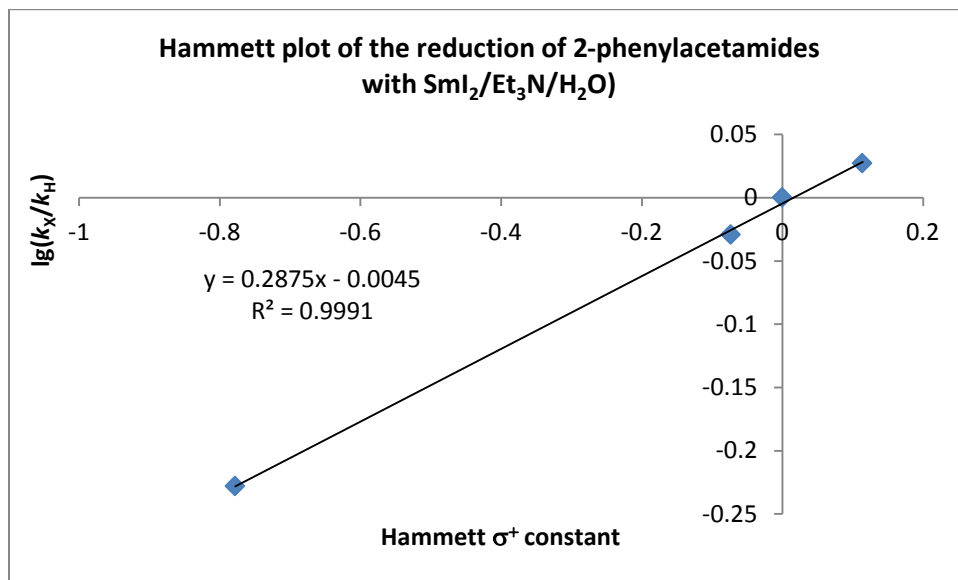
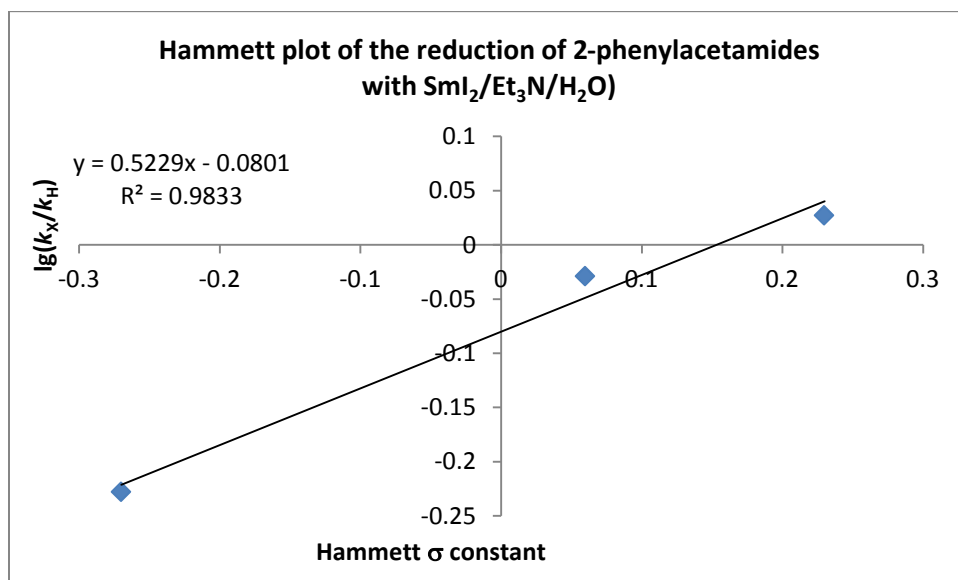


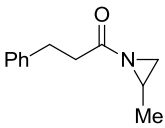

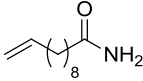
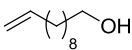
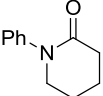
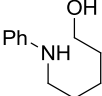

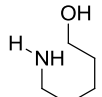
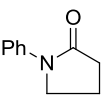
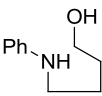
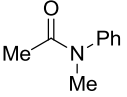
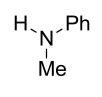
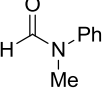
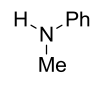
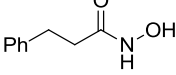

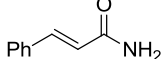

Figure SI-3. Hammett σ Correlation Study in the Reduction of 4-Substituted 2-Phenylacetamides.



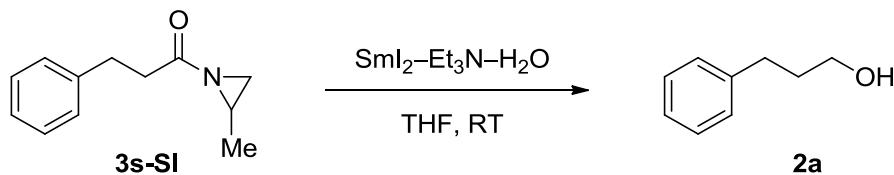
Additional Experiments

In addition to the results presented in Tables 1 and 2 in the main manuscript, the reduction of unactivated amides with $\text{SmI}_2\text{-amine-H}_2\text{O}$ can be applied to reduce several other classes of amides, including highly-strained aziridinyl amides, amides containing sensitive cis-olefins, six- and five-membered lactams, formamides, acetamides, hydroxamic acids, and α,β -unsaturated amides (Table SI-9). In all cases excellent C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity is observed in these reactions. Overall, these results further highlight that the reduction of unactivated amides using $\text{SmI}_2\text{-amine-H}_2\text{O}$ is characterized by a very broad substrate scope that cannot be achieved using other currently available methods for the reduction of amides to alcohols.¹⁻¹³ *Further details and additional substrate scope studies will be reported in a full account of this work.*

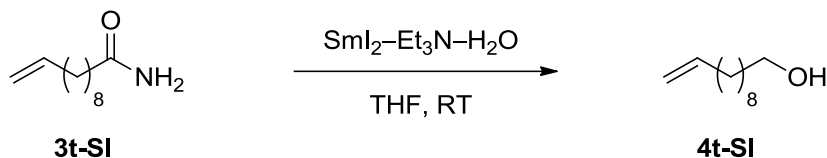
Table SI-9. Reduction of Unactivated Amides using $\text{SmI}_2\text{-amine-H}_2\text{O}$ – Additional Examples.^a

entry	3-SI	amide	4-SI/2a	product	yield ^b (%)
1	3s-SI		2a		95
2	3t-SI		4t-SI		99
3	3u-SI		4u-SI		96
4	3v-SI		4v-SI		95 ^b
5	3w-SI		4w-SI		84
6	3x-SI		4x-SI		86
7	3y-SI		4x-SI		80
8	3z-SI		2a		90
9	3aa-SI		2a		73

^aConditions: SmI_2 (6-12 equiv), Et_3N , H_2O , THF, room temperature. All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. ^bConversion determined by GC-MS.

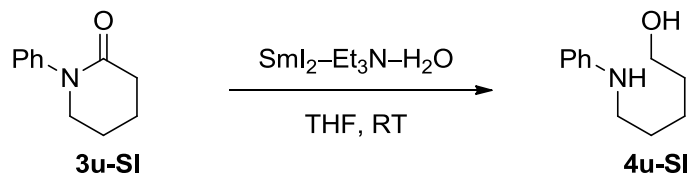
Reduction of Additional Amides 3-SI to Alcohols using SmI_2 (Table SI-9).**1) 1-(2-Methylaziridin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one** (Table SI-9, entry 1)

According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-(2-methylaziridin-1-yl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 95% yield. Oil ($R_f = 0.20$, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.24 (m, 5 H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

2) Undec-10-enamide (Table SI-9, entry 2)

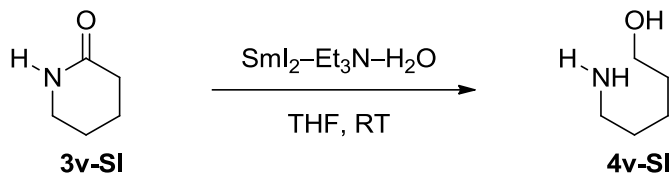
According to the general procedure, the reaction of undec-10-enamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) the title compound in 99% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06-1.36 (m, 13 H), 1.44-1.55 (m, 2 H), 1.92-2.01 (m, 2 H), 3.57 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H), 4.83-4.96 (m, 2 H), 5.67-5.82 (m, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 25.7, 28.9, 29.1, 29.4, 29.6, 32.8, 33.8, 63.1, 114.1, 139.2.

3) 1-Phenylpiperidin-2-one (Table SI-9, entry 3)



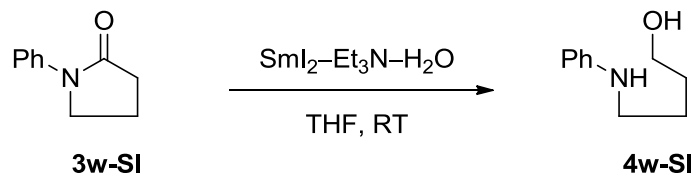
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-phenylpiperidin-2-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (1.0 mmol, 0.080 M), water (6.0 mmol) and triethylamine (6.0 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 N) and chromatography the title compound in 96% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.27 (br, 1 H), 1.38-1.45 (m, 2 H), 1.52-1.62 (m, 4 H), 3.06 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.51 (br, 1 H), 3.59 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.53 (dd, $J = 1.5, 9.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.62 (tt, $J = 1.0, 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (dd, $J = 7.0, 8.5$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.4, 29.3, 32.5, 43.9, 62.8, 112.7, 117.2, 129.3, 148.4.

4) Piperidin-2-one (Table SI-9, entry 4)



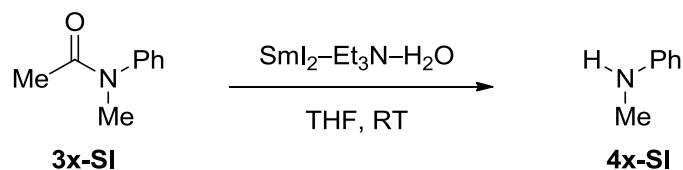
According to the general procedure, piperidin-2-one (0.10 mmol) was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 0.080 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt. After the indicated time, the excess of Sm(II) was oxidized by bubbling air through the reaction mixture, a small aliquot (typically, 1.0 mL) was removed from the reaction mixture, diluted with diethyl ether (2 mL) and NaOH (0.1 N, 0.25 mL) and analyzed by GC-MS to obtain product distribution using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples. 5-aminopentan-1-ol > 98% conversion. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.29-1.57 (m, 6 H), 2.19 (br, 3 H), 2.66 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2 H), 3.55 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 23.1, 32.5, 33.1, 41.9, 61.9.

5) 1-Phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (Table SI-9, entry 5)



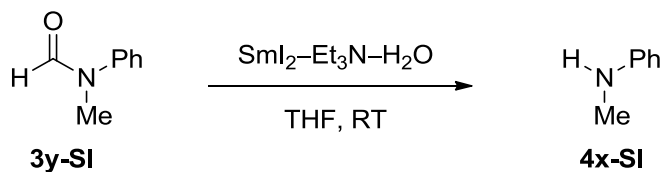
According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (1.2 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 84% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity 85:15. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.59-1.68 (m, 4 H), 2.53 (br, 2 H), 3.09 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2 H), 3.62 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.56 (dd, $J = 1.0, 8.5$ Hz, 2 H), 6.64 (tt, $J = 1.0, 7.5$ Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (dd, $J = 7.0, 8.5$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 26.1, 30.4, 44.0, 62.7, 113.0, 117.5, 129.3, 148.2.

6) *N*-Methyl-*N*-phenylacetamide (Table SI-9, entry 6)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-methyl-*N*-phenylacetamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 86% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.89 (s, 3 H), 3.74 (br, 1 H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 0.6, 7.8$ Hz, 2 H), 6.78 (tt, $J = 0.9, 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.27 (dd, $J = 7.2, 8.4$ Hz, 2 H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 30.8, 112.5, 117.3, 129.3, 149.4.

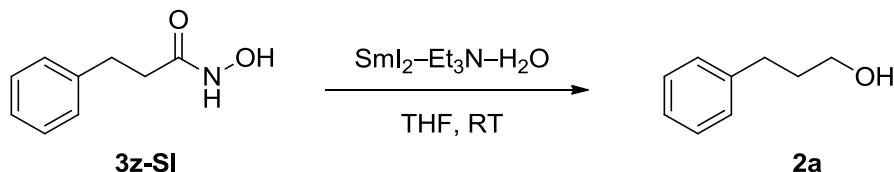
7) *N*-Methyl-*N*-phenylformamide (Table SI-9, entry 7)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-methyl-*N*-phenylformamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{NaOH}$ (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 80% yield. C–

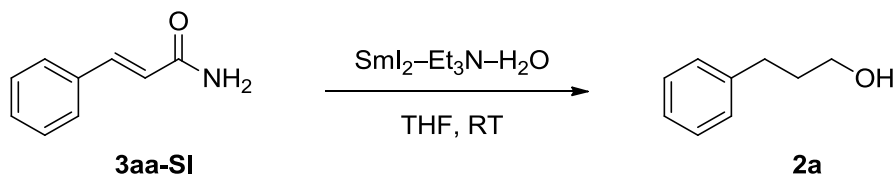
N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.89 (s, 3 H), 3.74 (br, 1 H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 0.6, 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.78 (tt, *J* = 0.9, 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 8.4 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 30.8, 112.5, 117.3, 129.3, 149.4.

8) *N*-Hydroxy-3-phenylpropanamide (Table SI-9, entry 8)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of *N*-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.085 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol) for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 *N*) and chromatography the title compound in 90% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. Oil (*R*_f = 0.20, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.24 (m, 5 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

9) Cinnamamide (Table SI-9, entry 9)

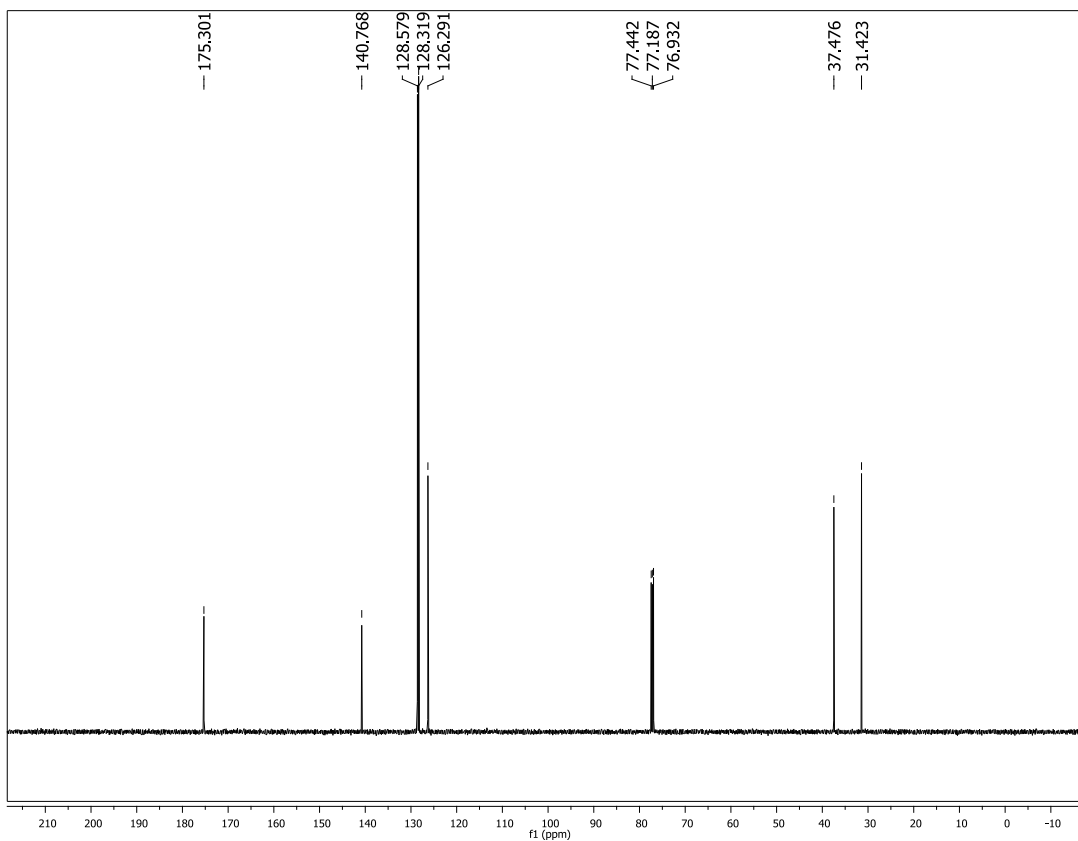


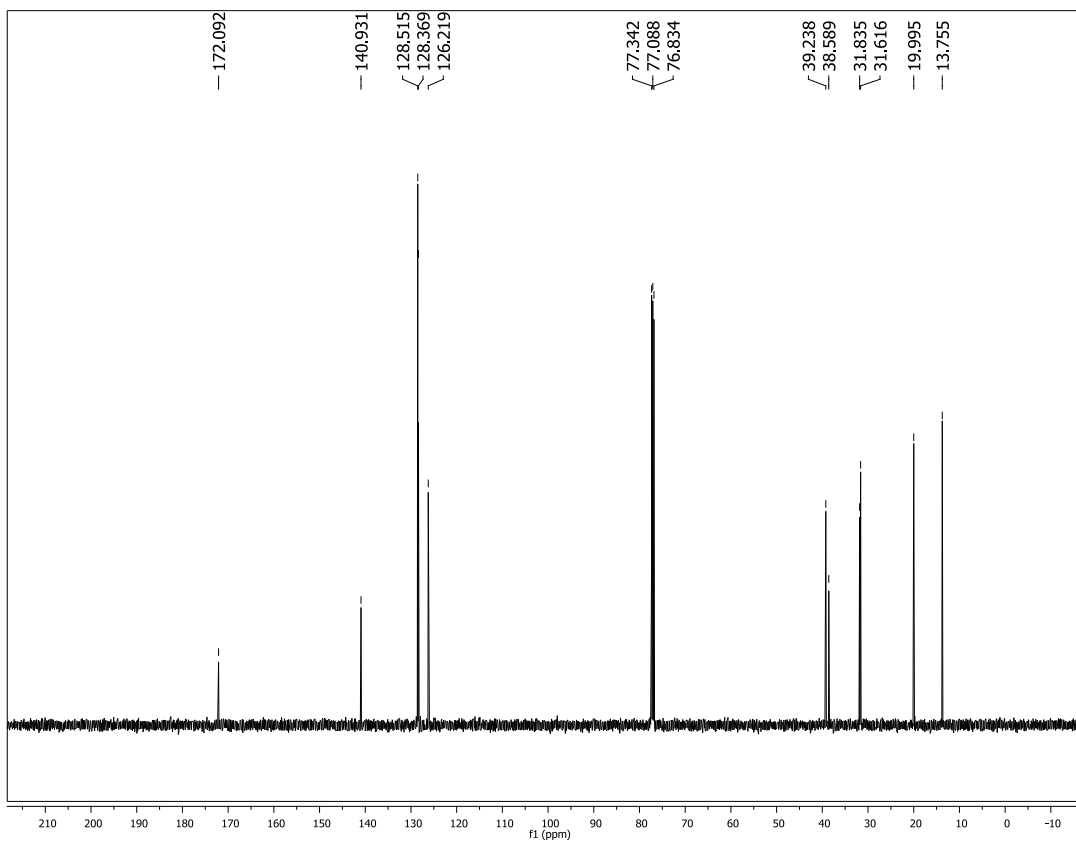
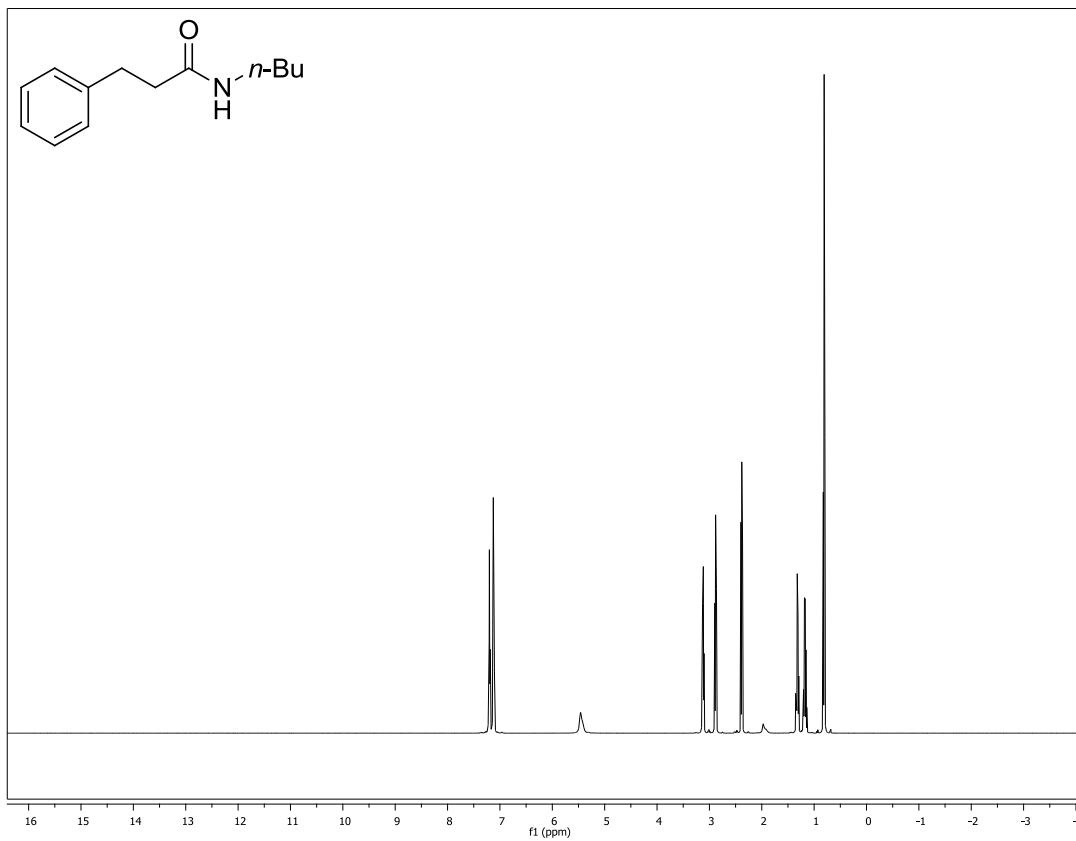
According to the general procedure, the reaction of cinnamamide (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.8 mmol, 0.087 M), water (7.2 mmol) and triethylamine (7.2 mmol), using preformed Sm(II) complex for 18 h at rt, afforded after work-up with CH₂Cl₂/NaOH (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 73% yield. C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. Oil (*R*_f = 0.20, 1/4 EtOAc/hexanes). C–N/C–O bond cleavage selectivity >95:5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.32 (br, 1 H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 2 H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.61 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.09-7.24 (m, 5 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.1, 34.3, 62.3, 125.9, 128.4, 128.5, 141.8.

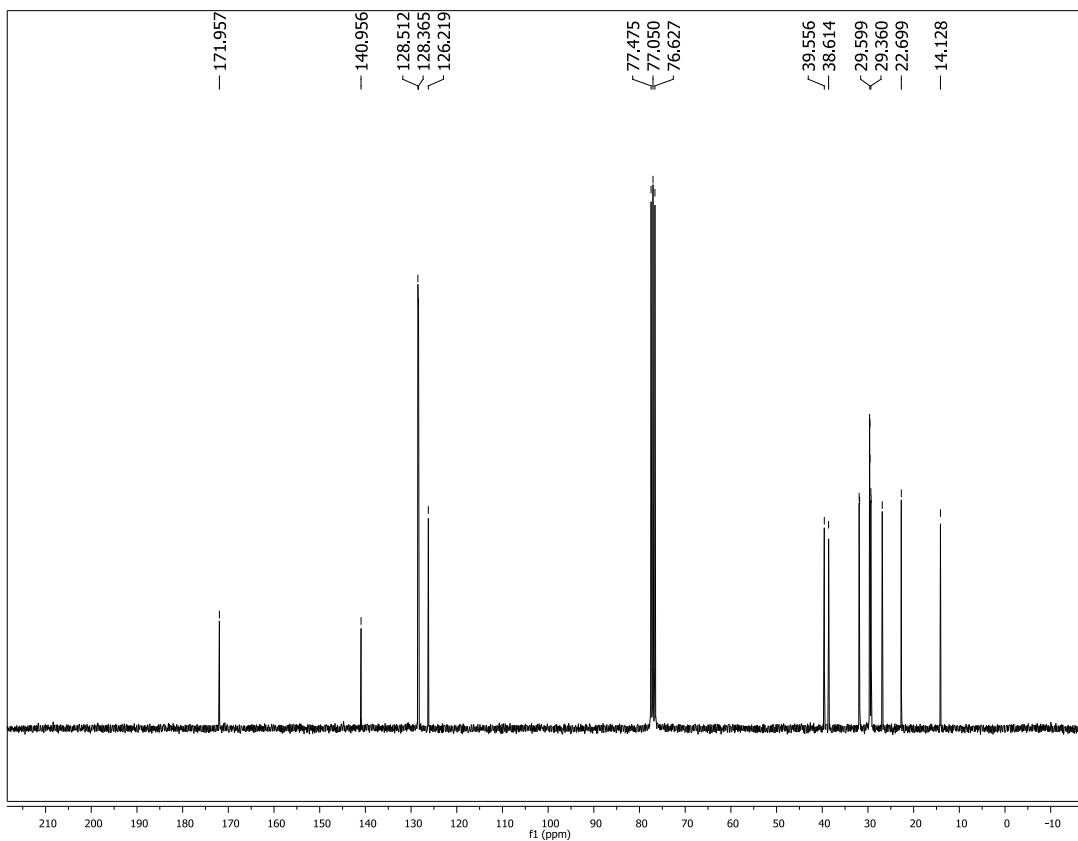
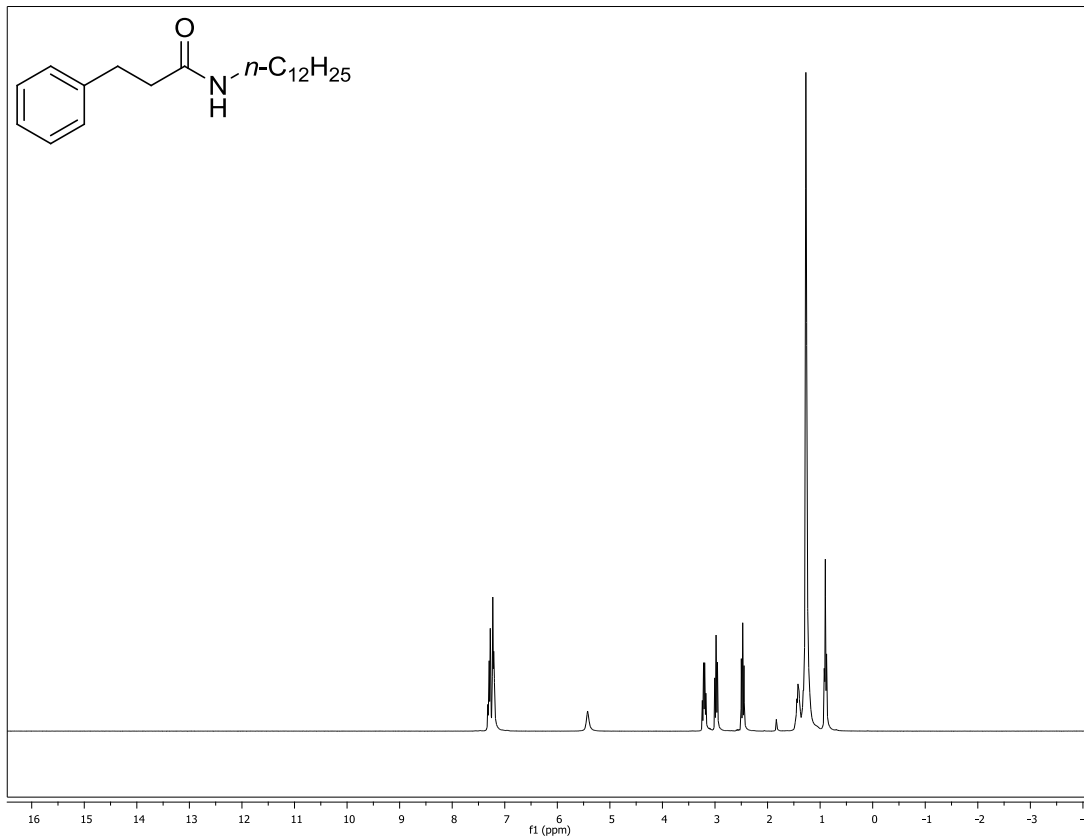
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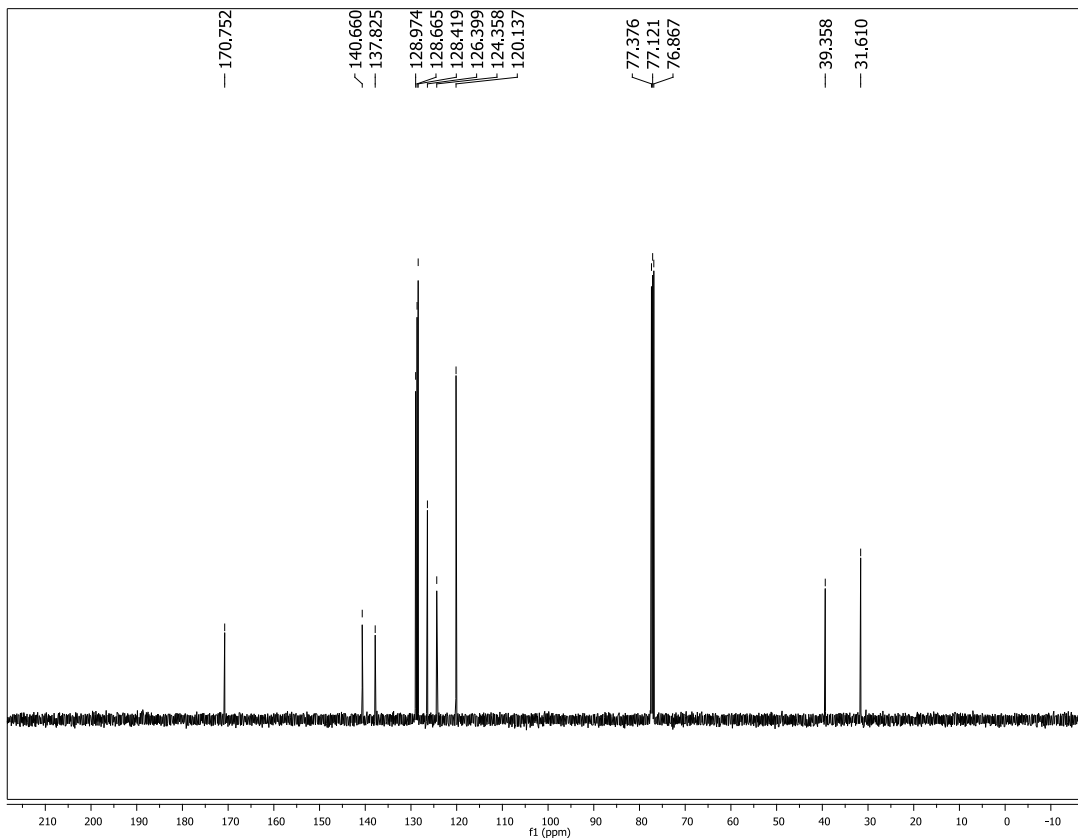
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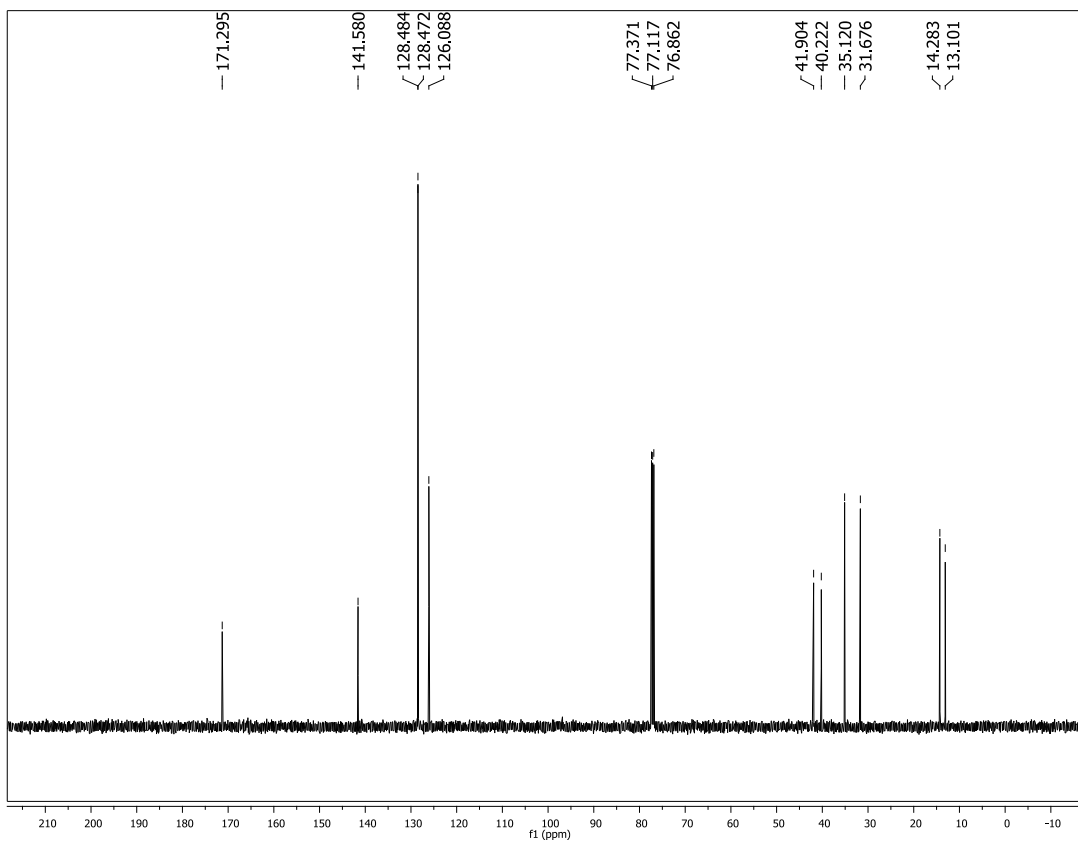
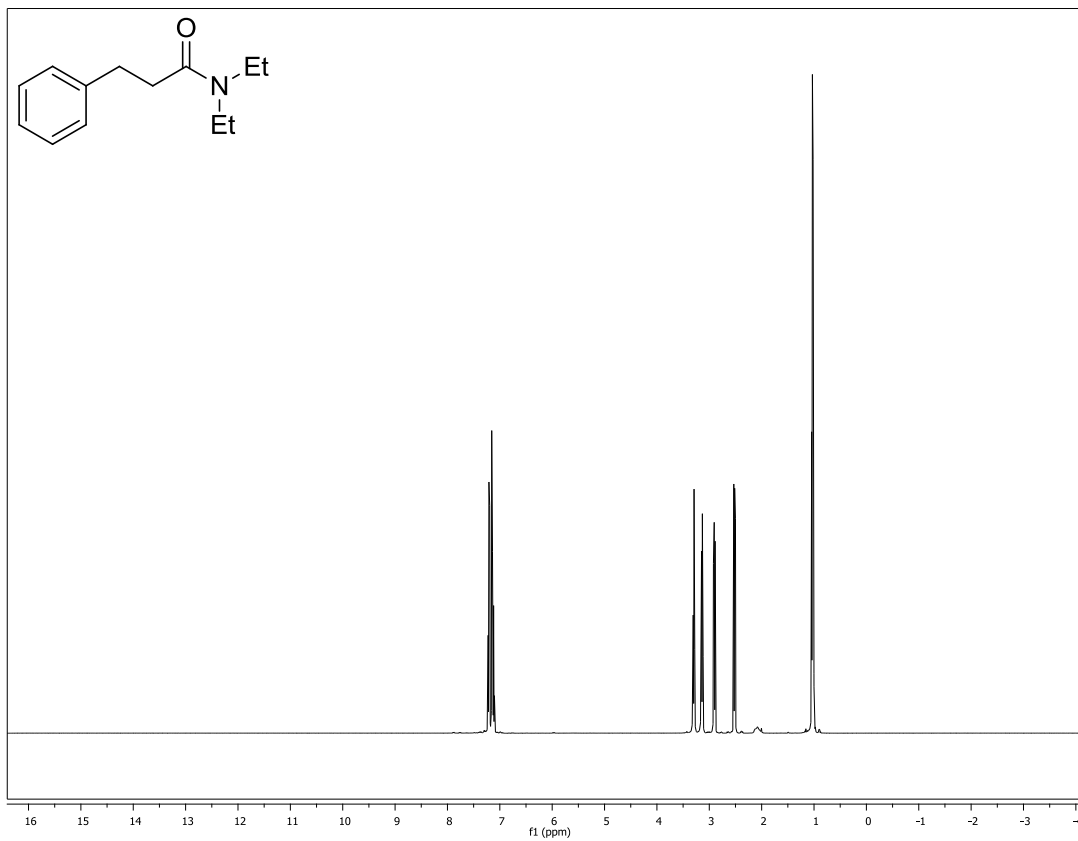
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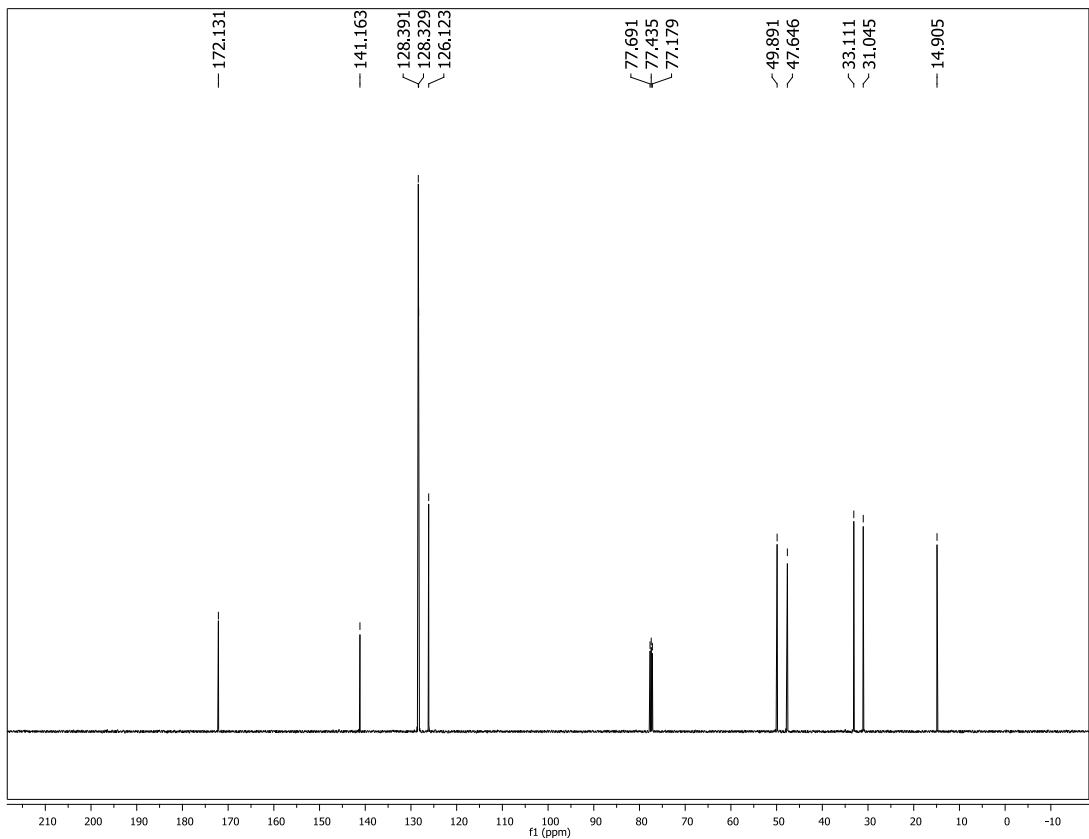


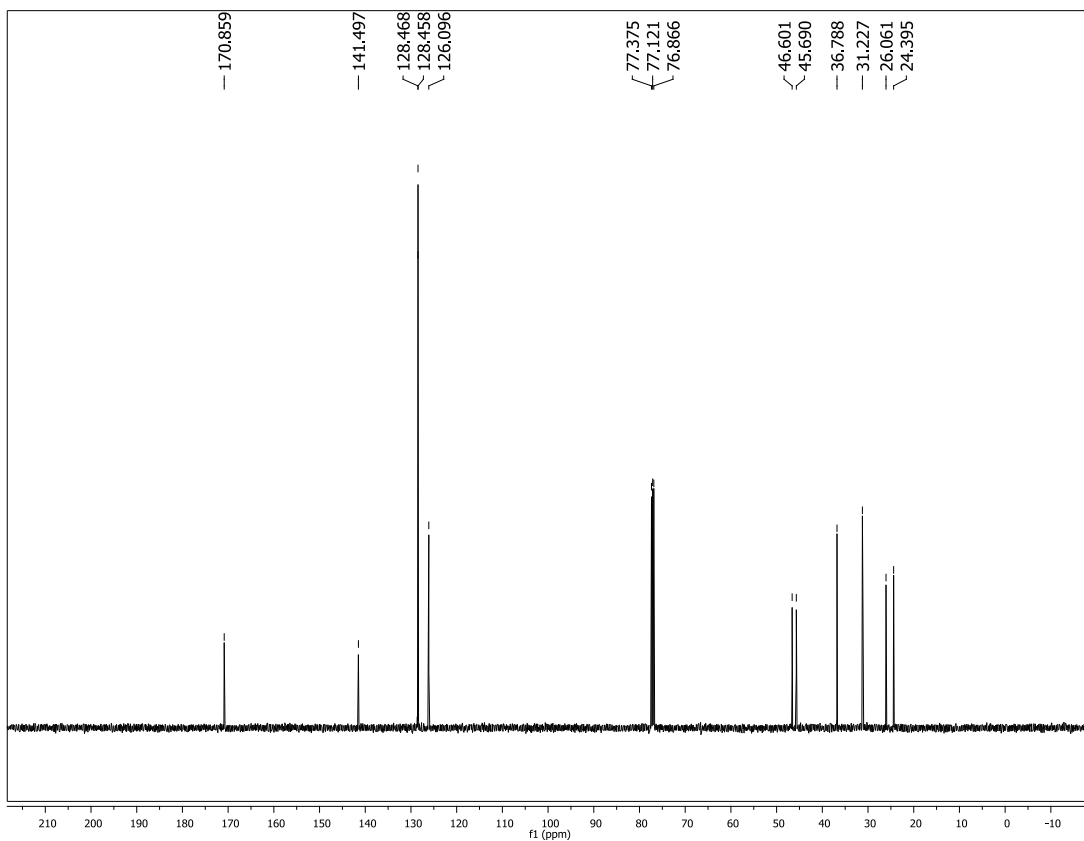
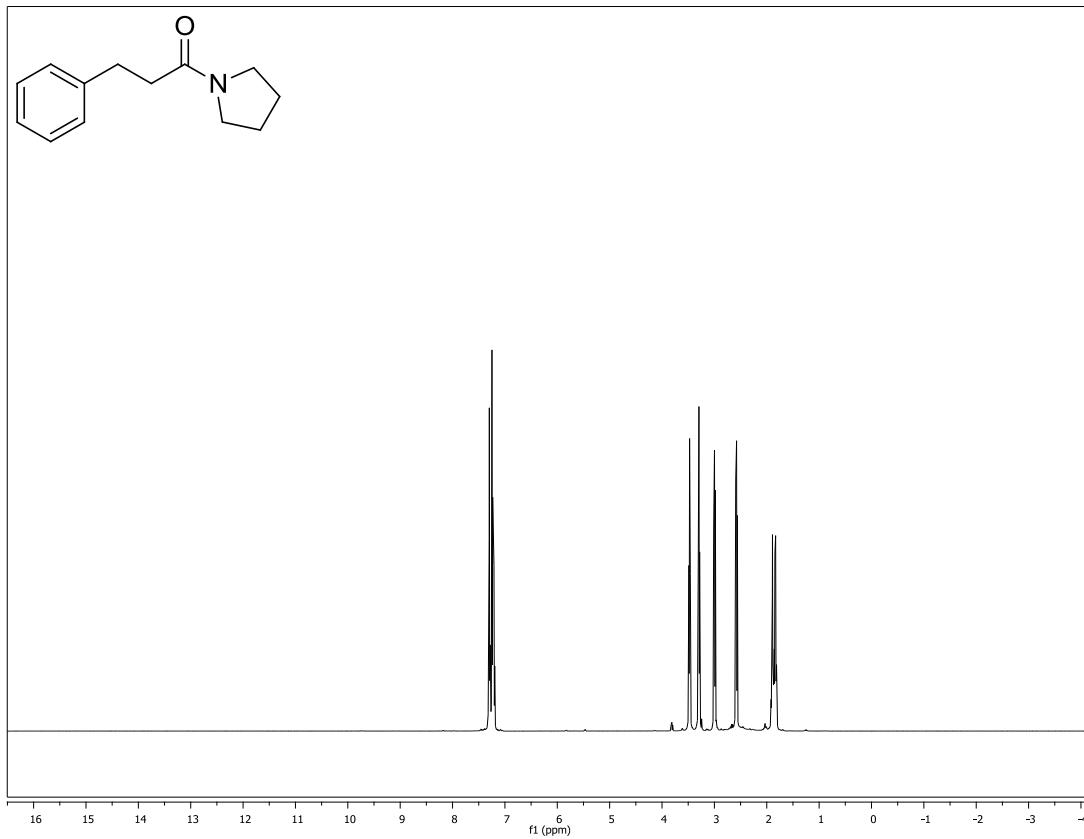


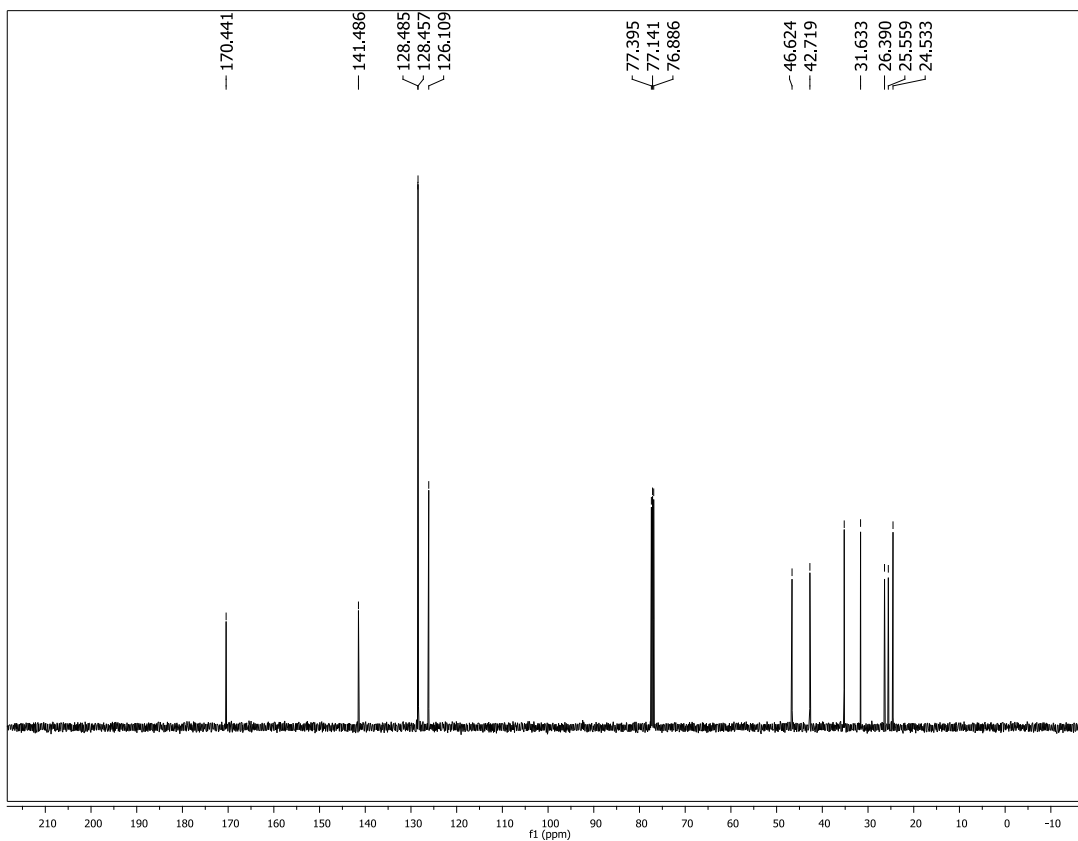
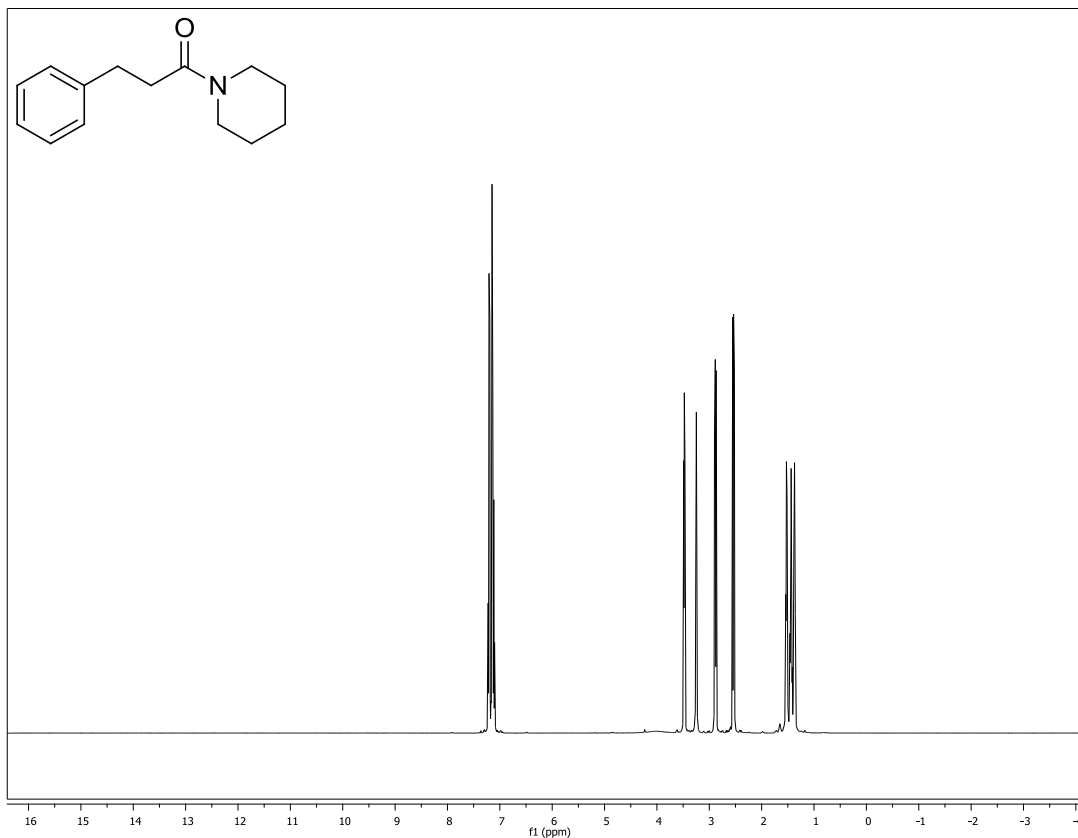


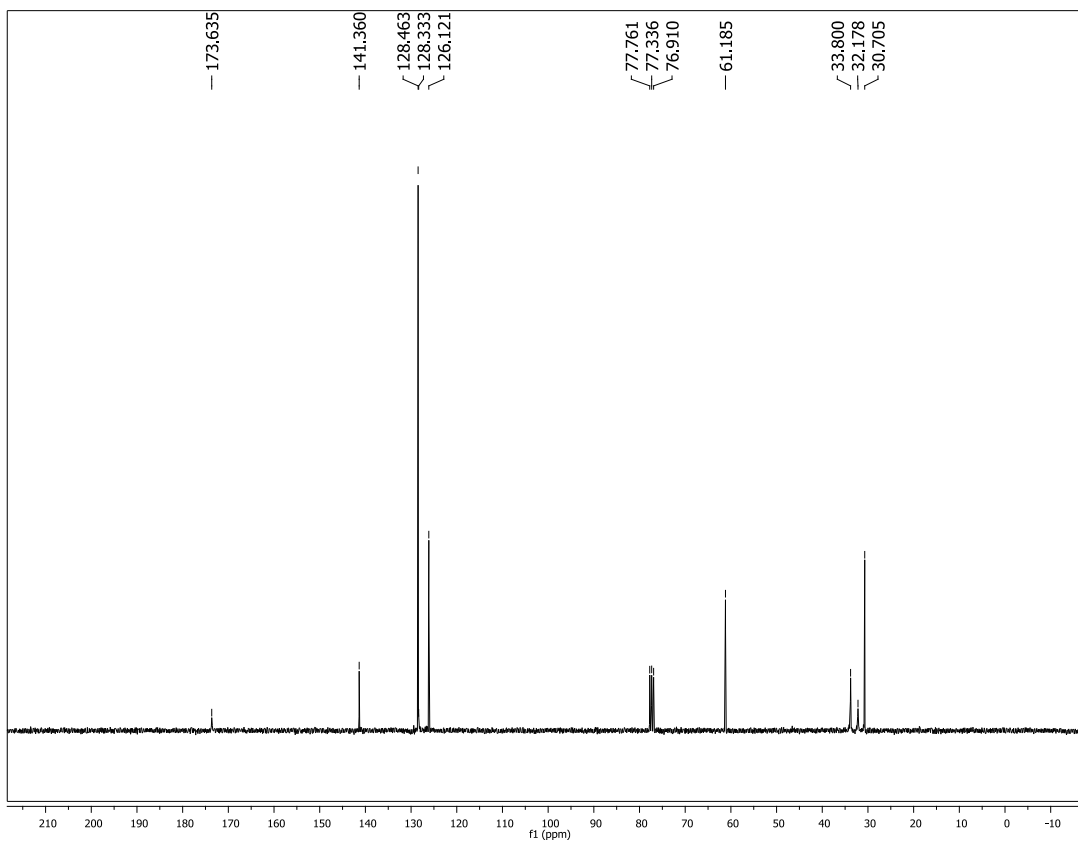
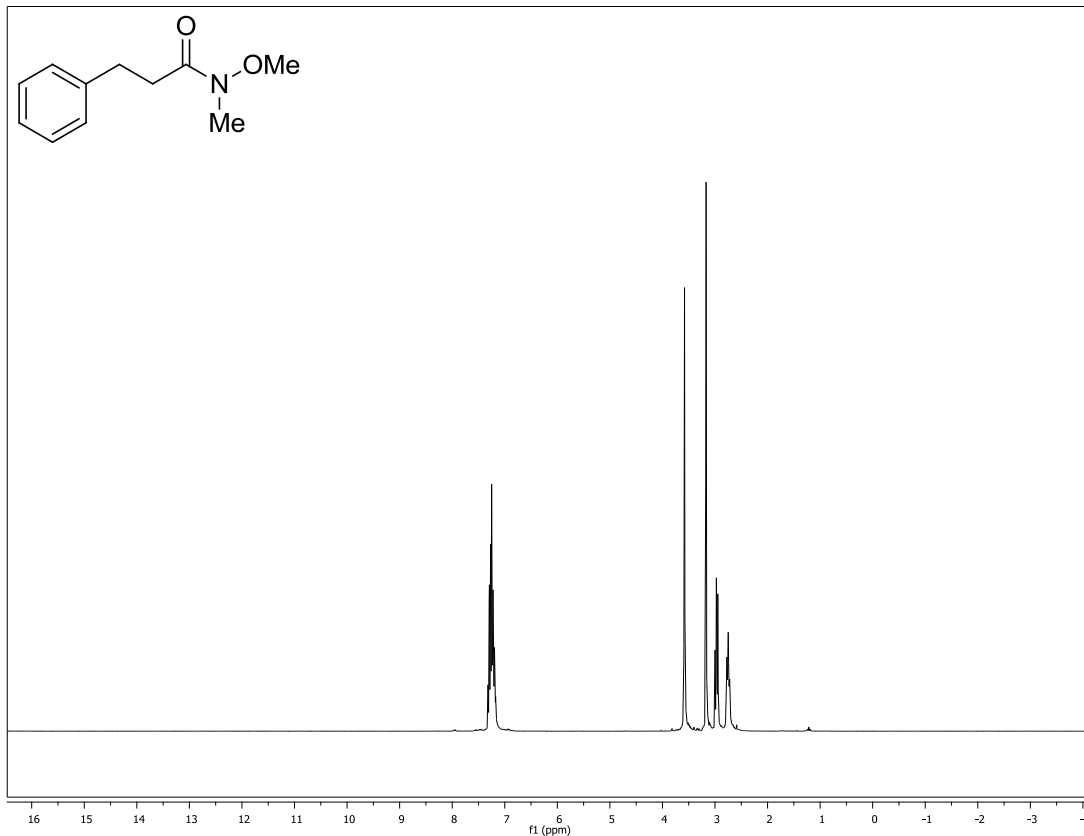


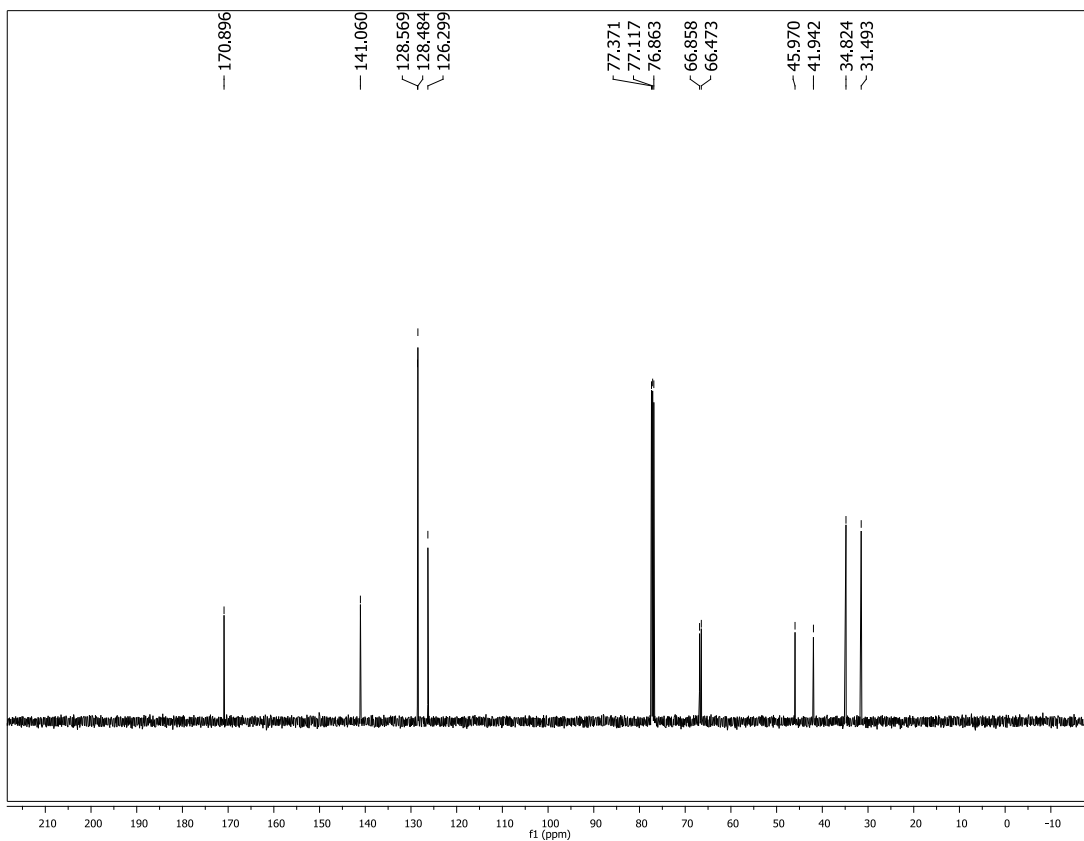
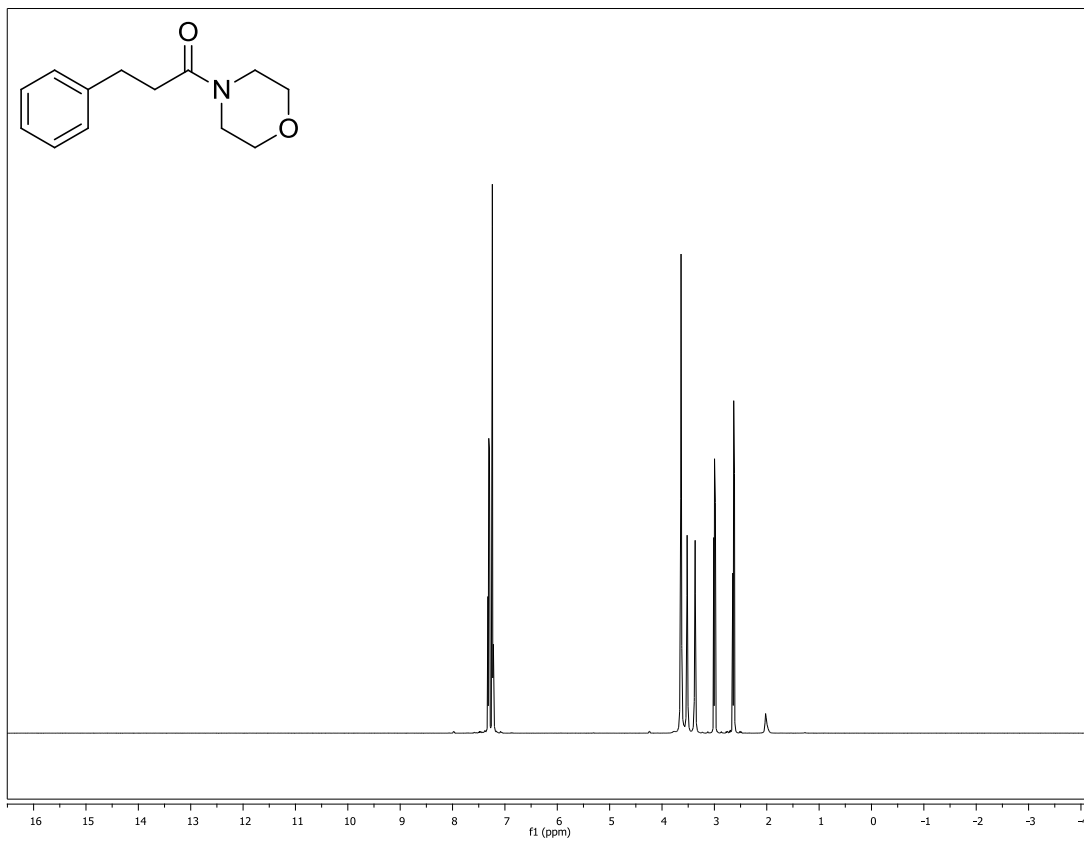


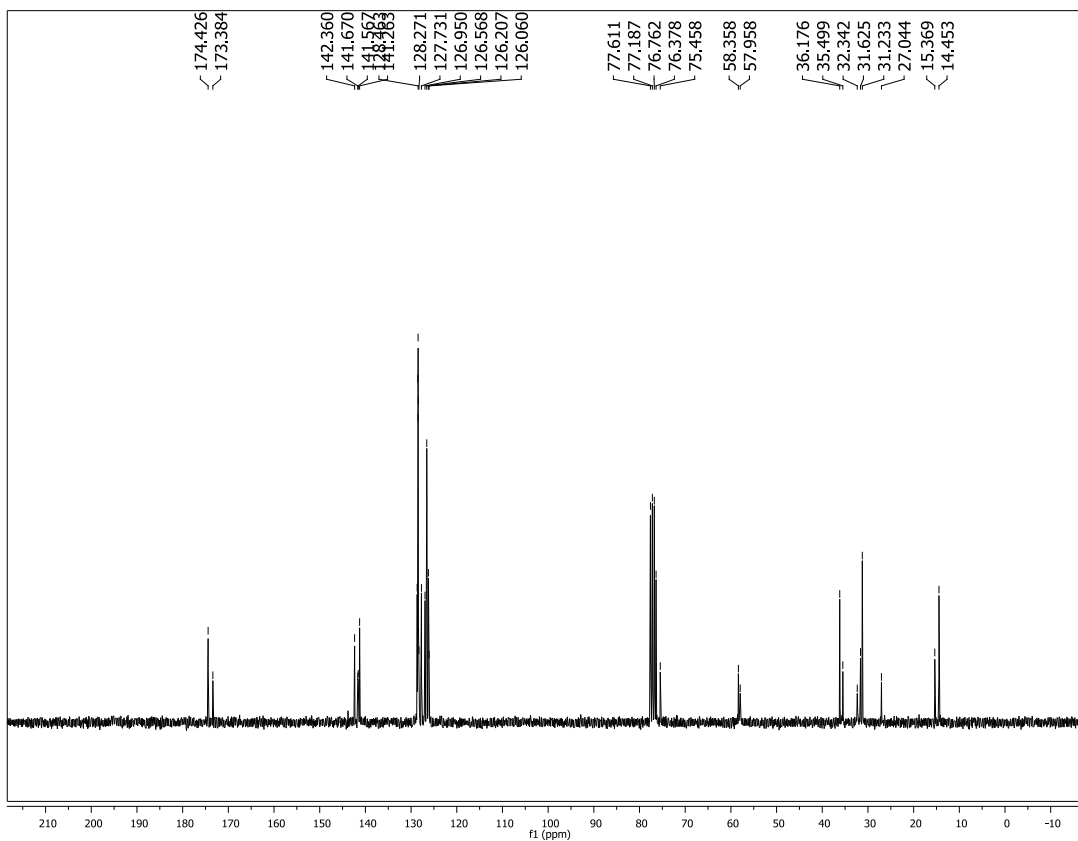
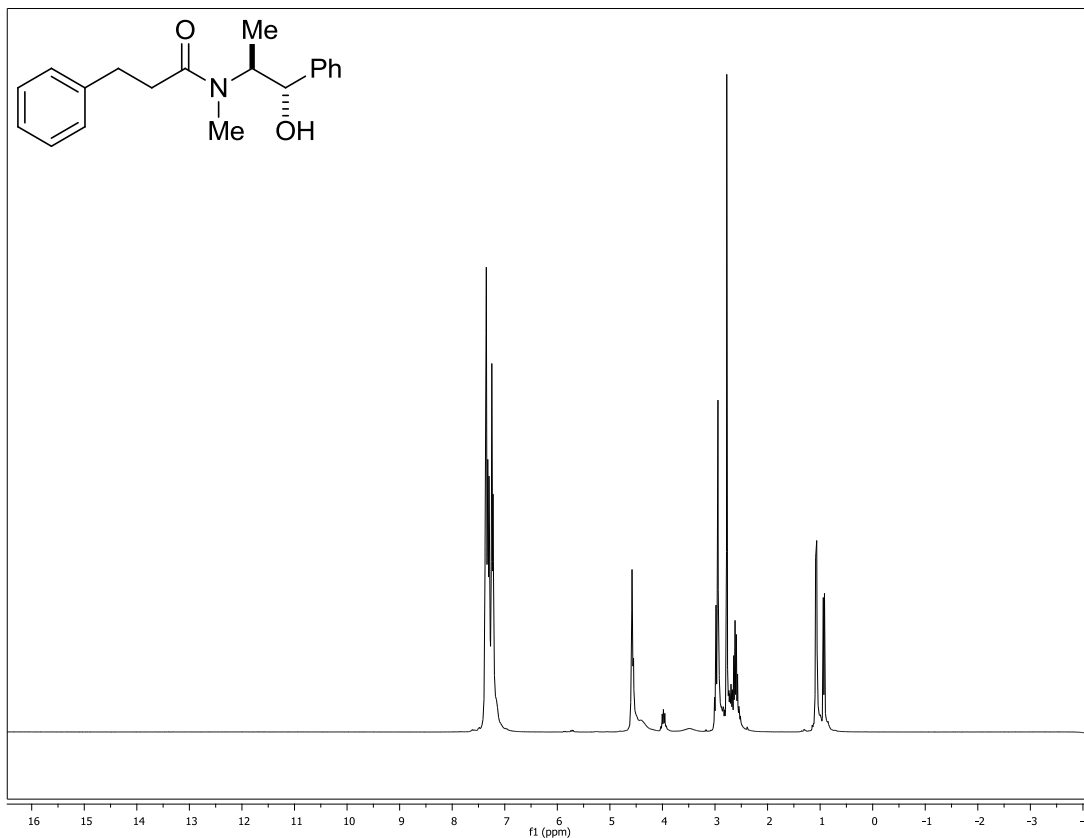


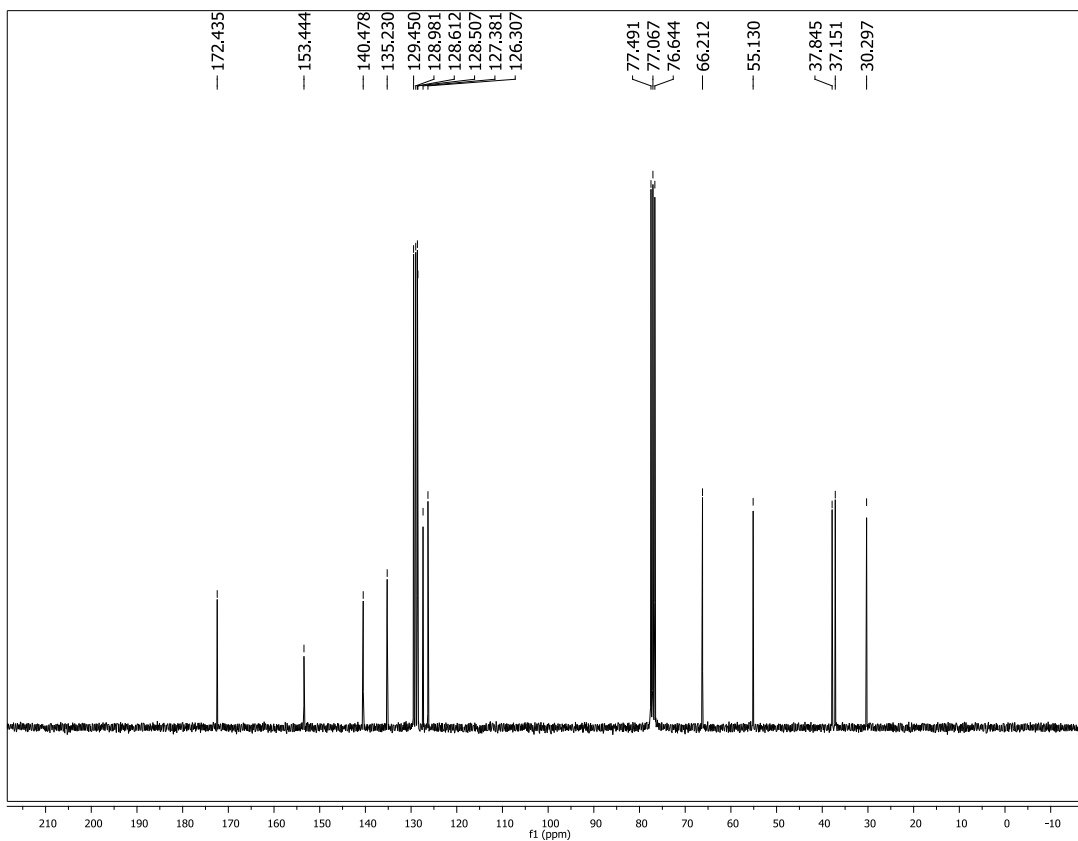
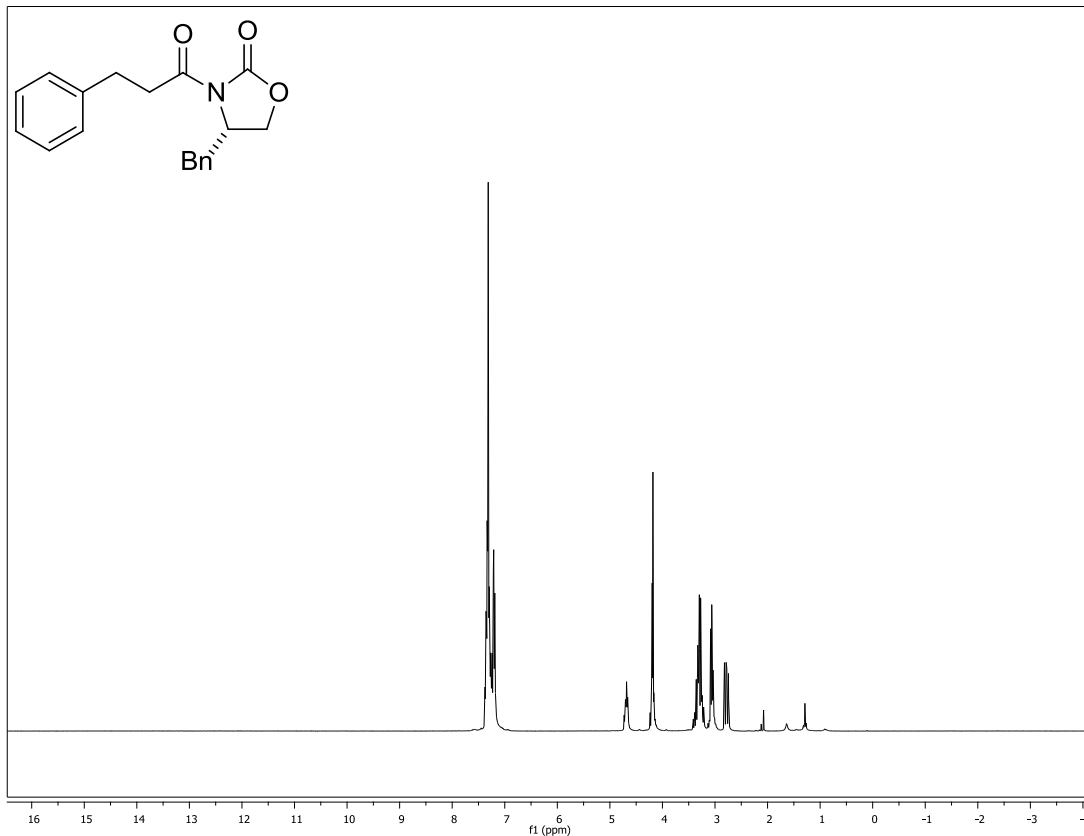


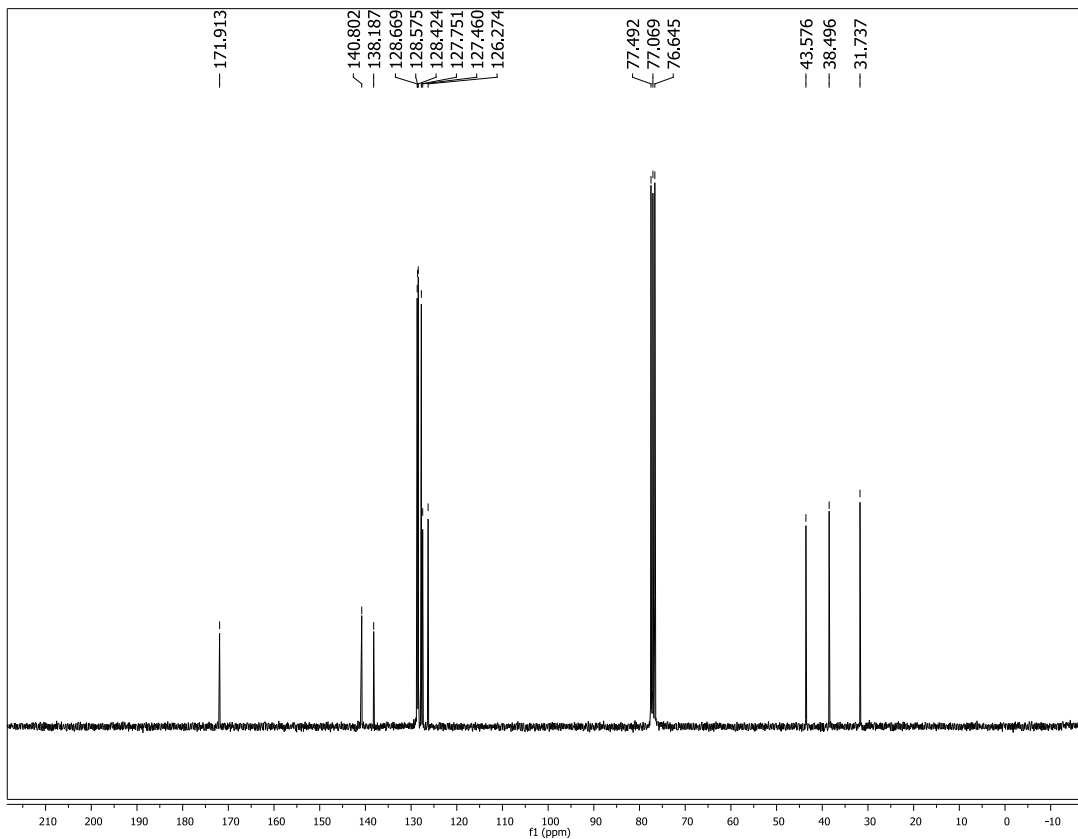
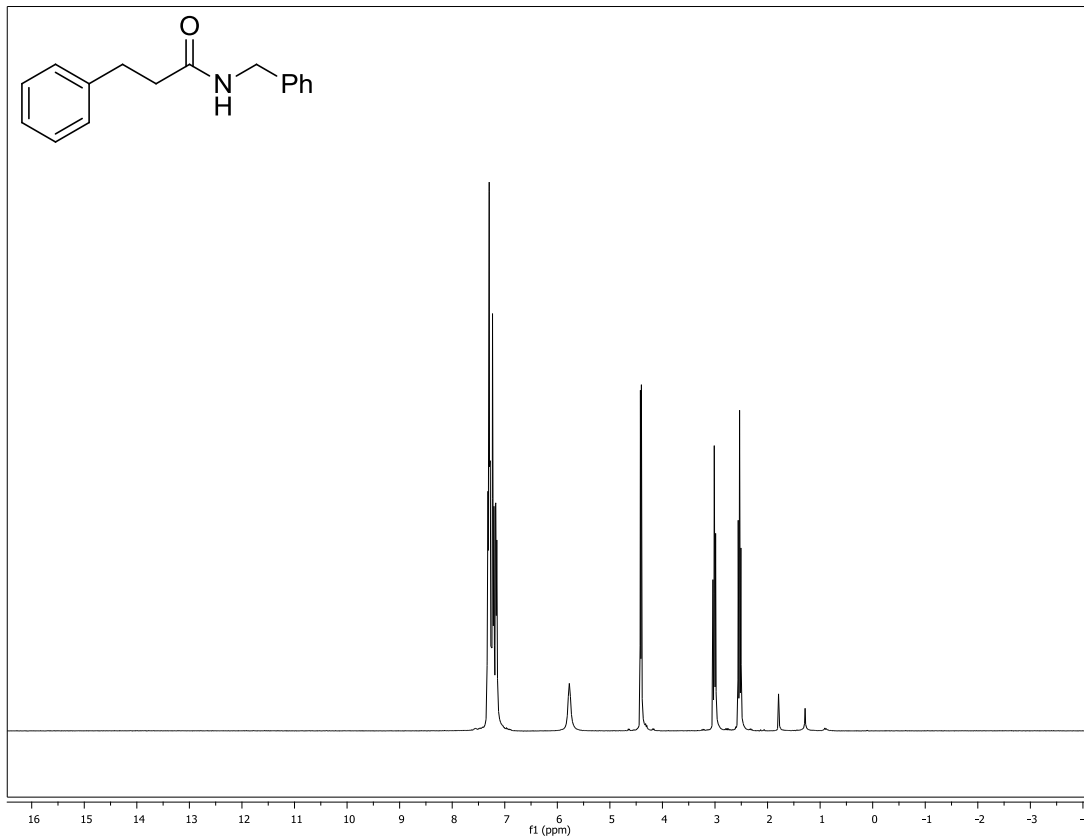


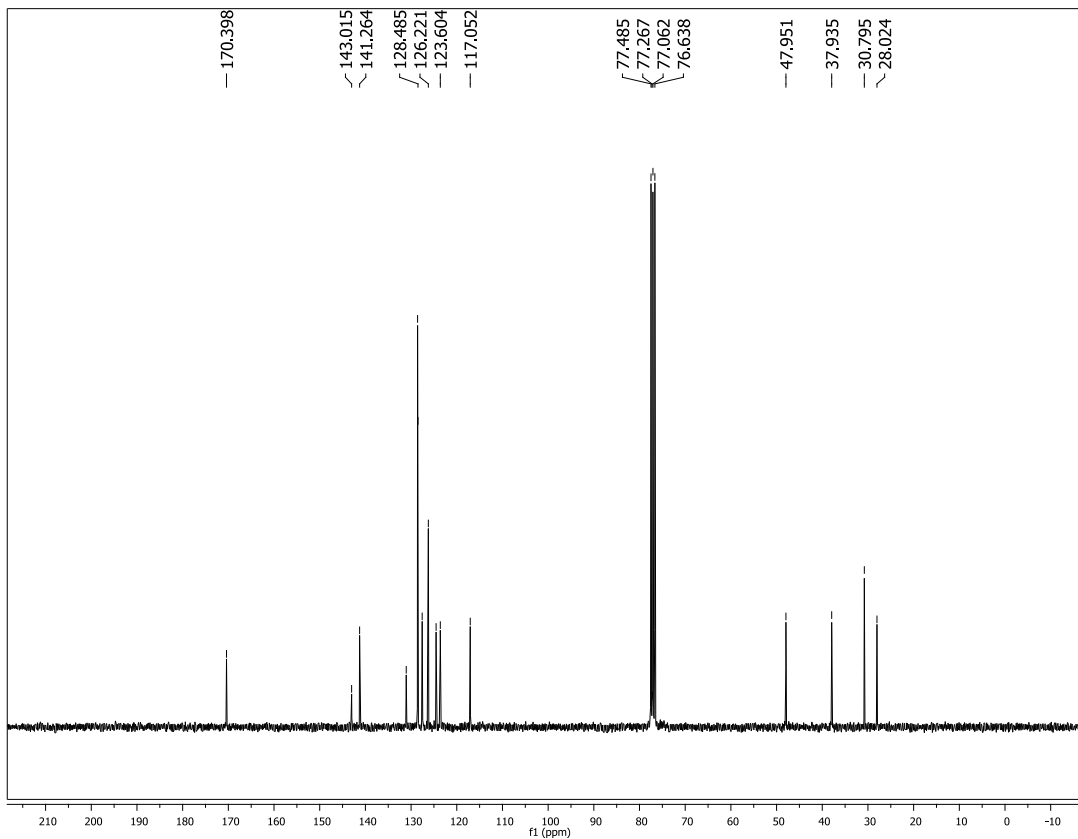
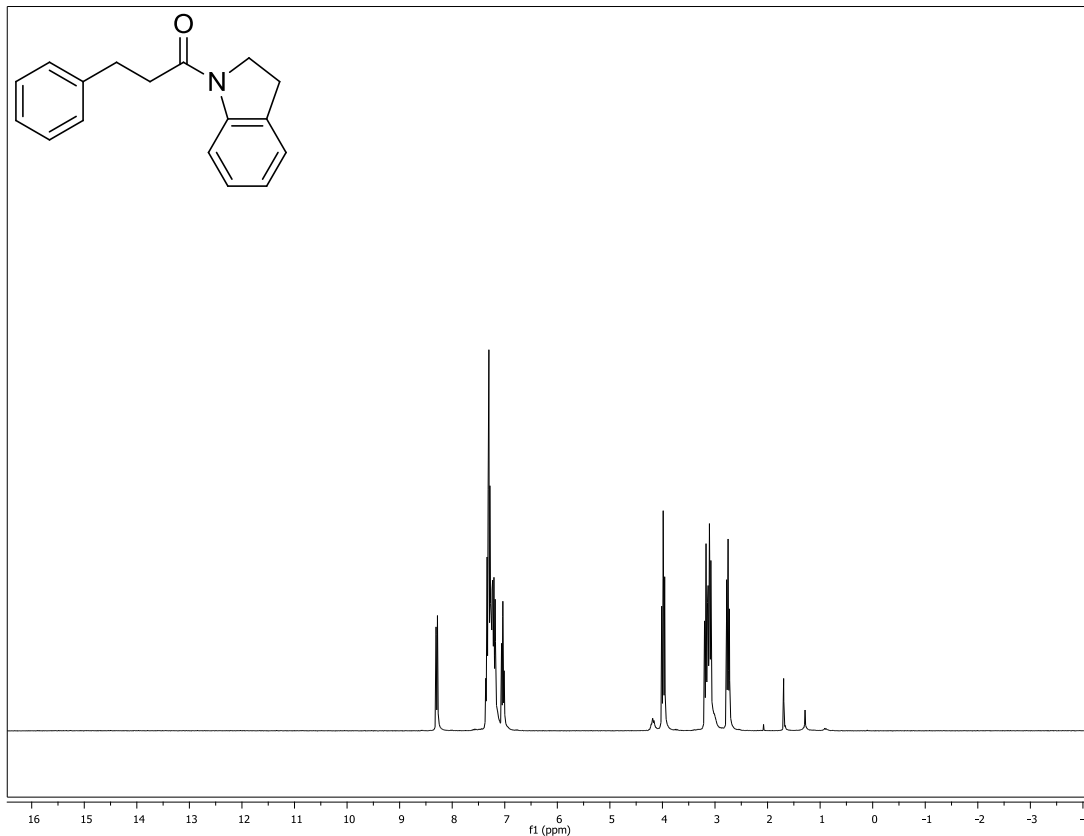


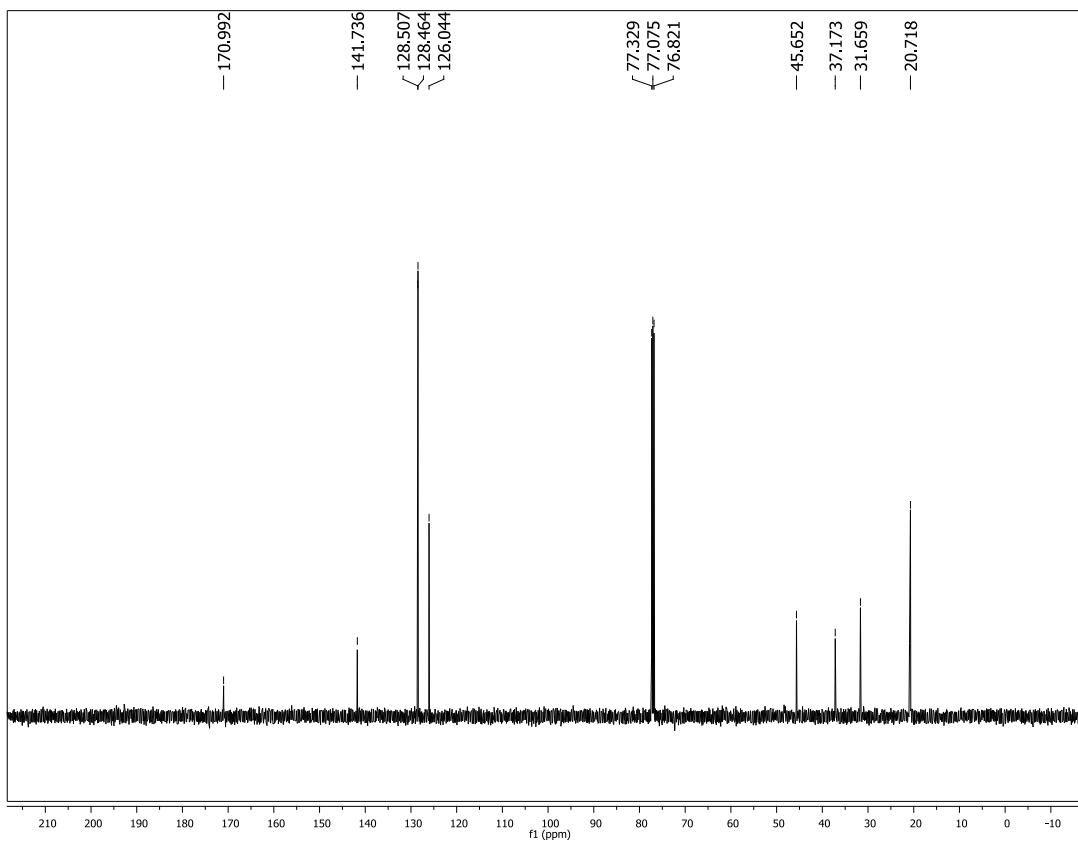
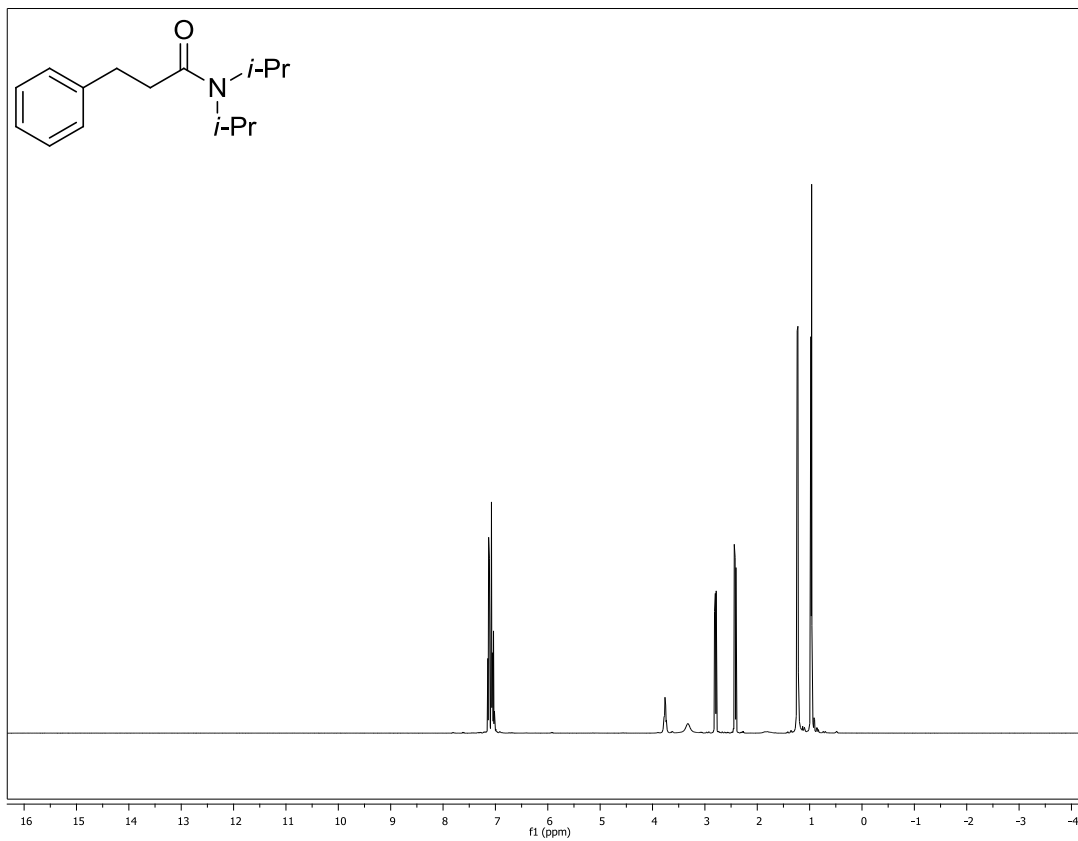


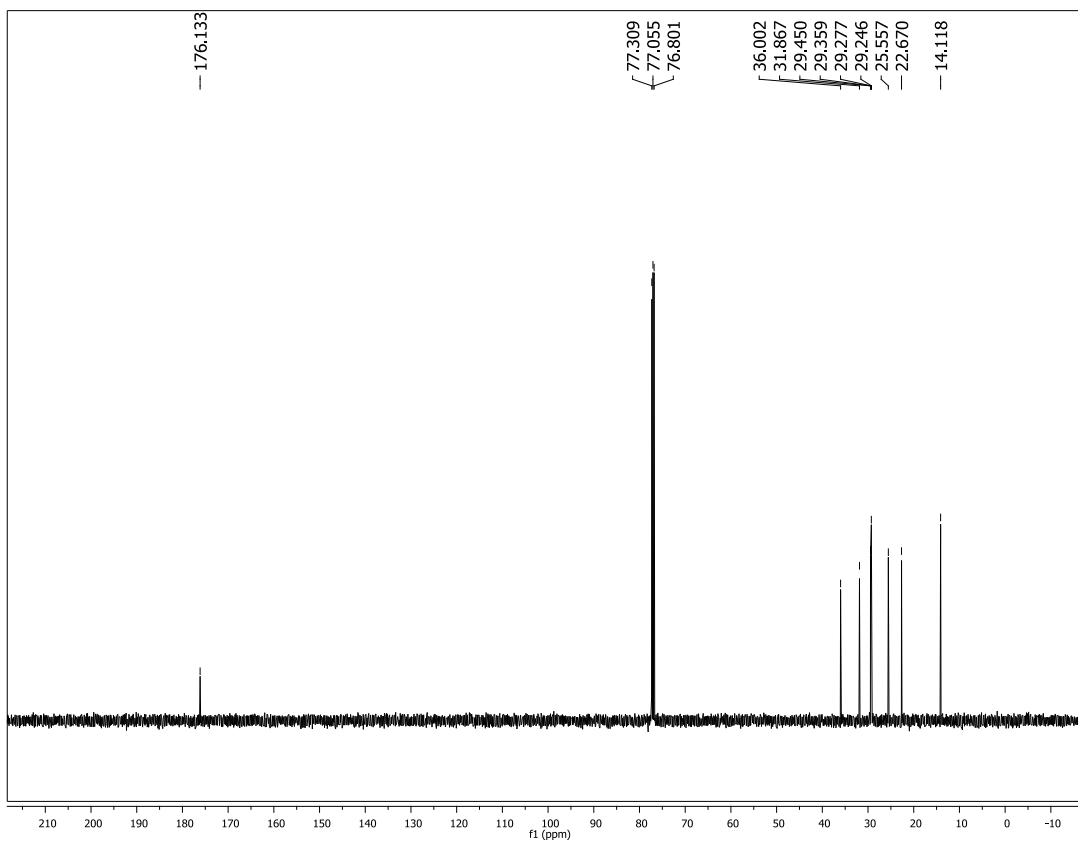
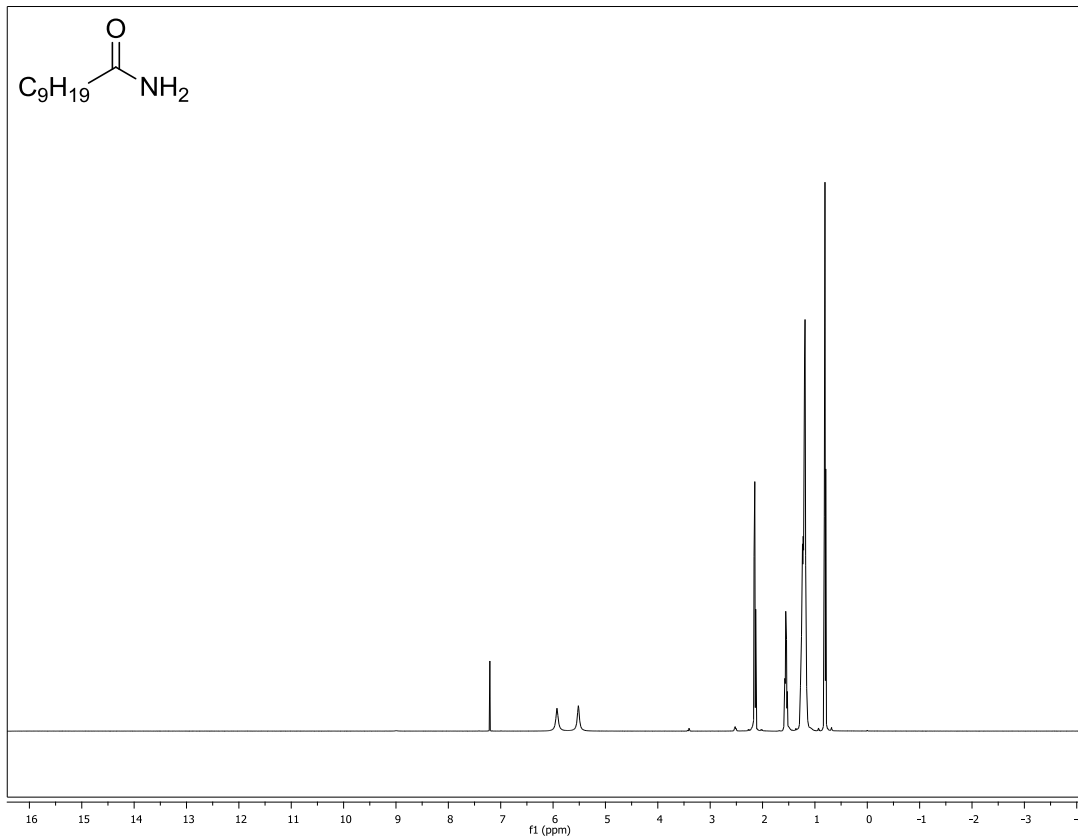


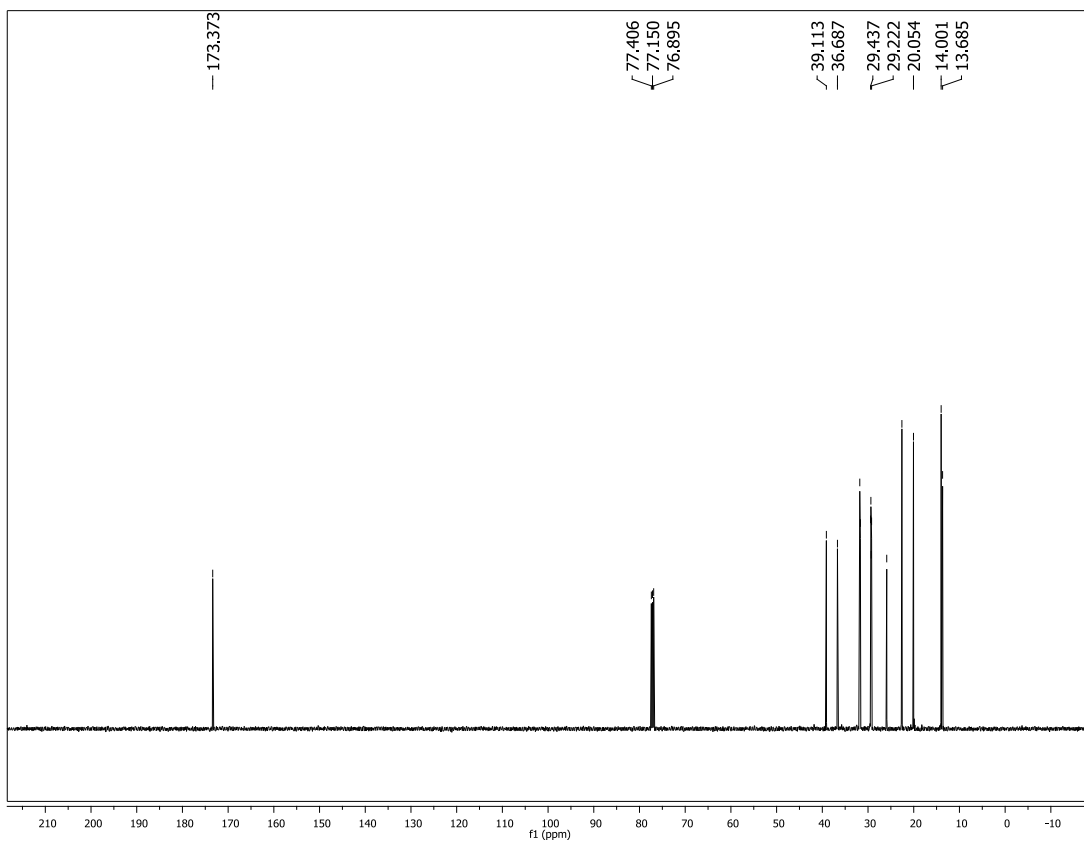
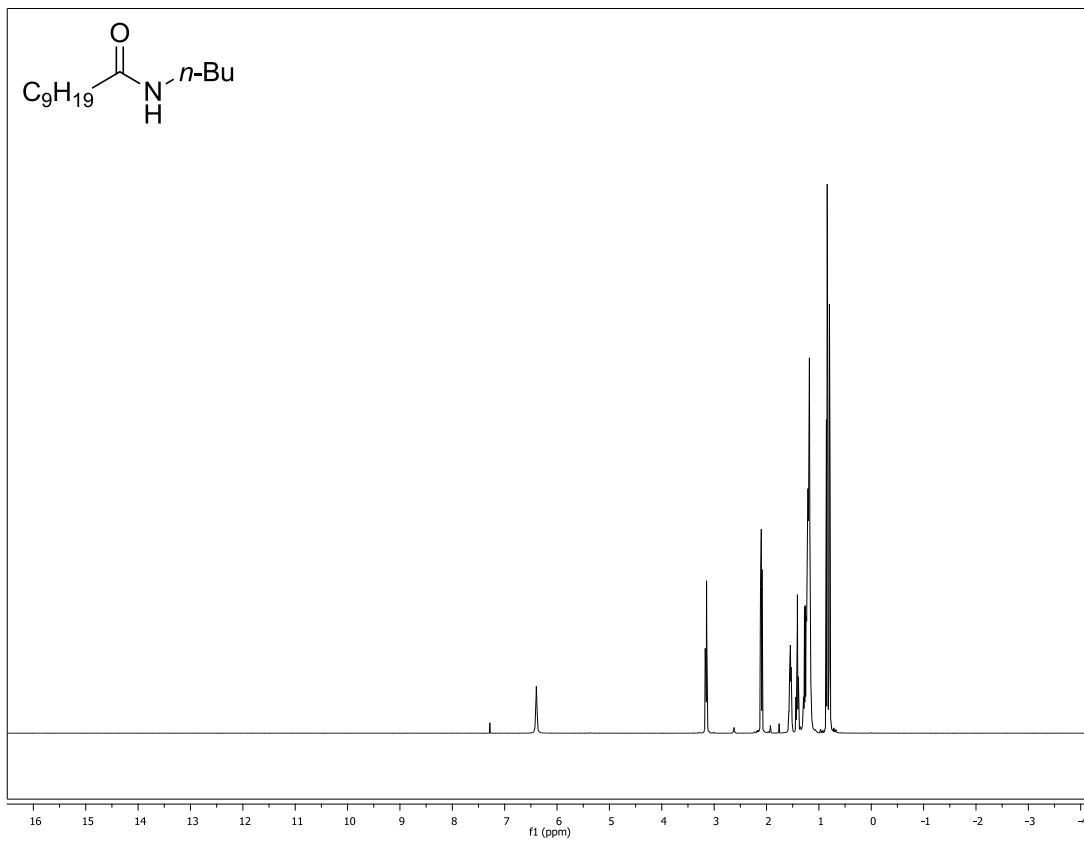


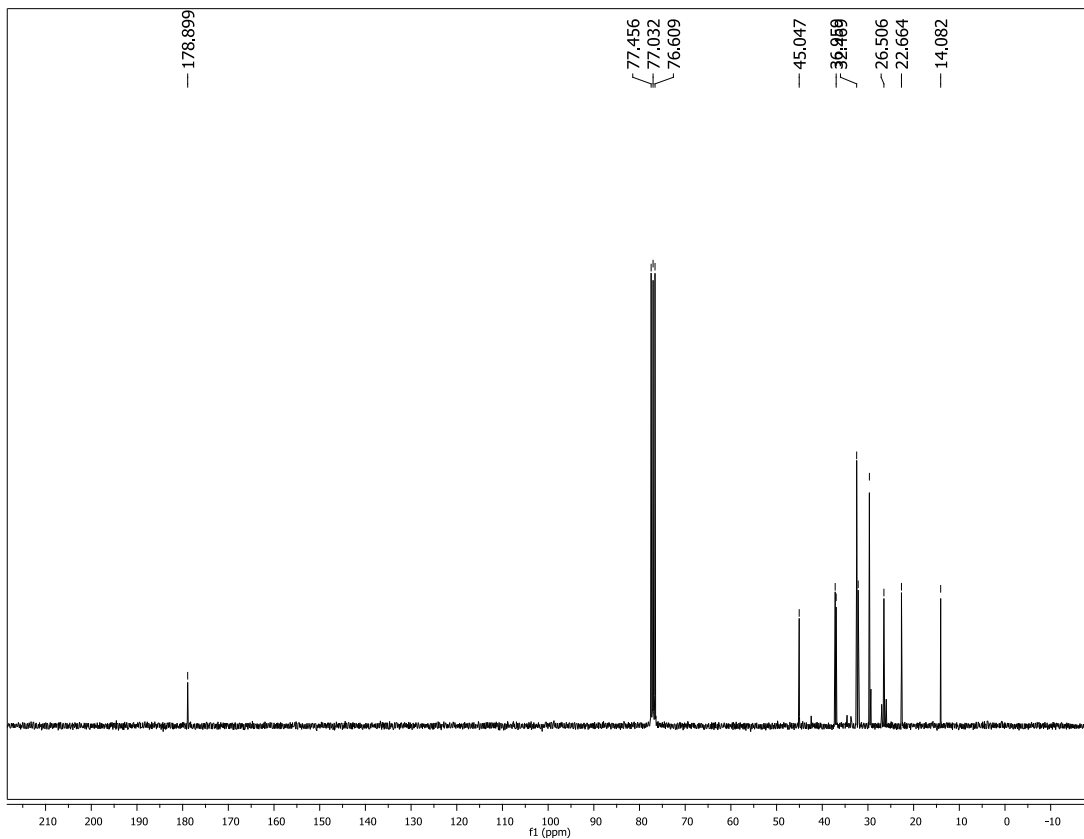
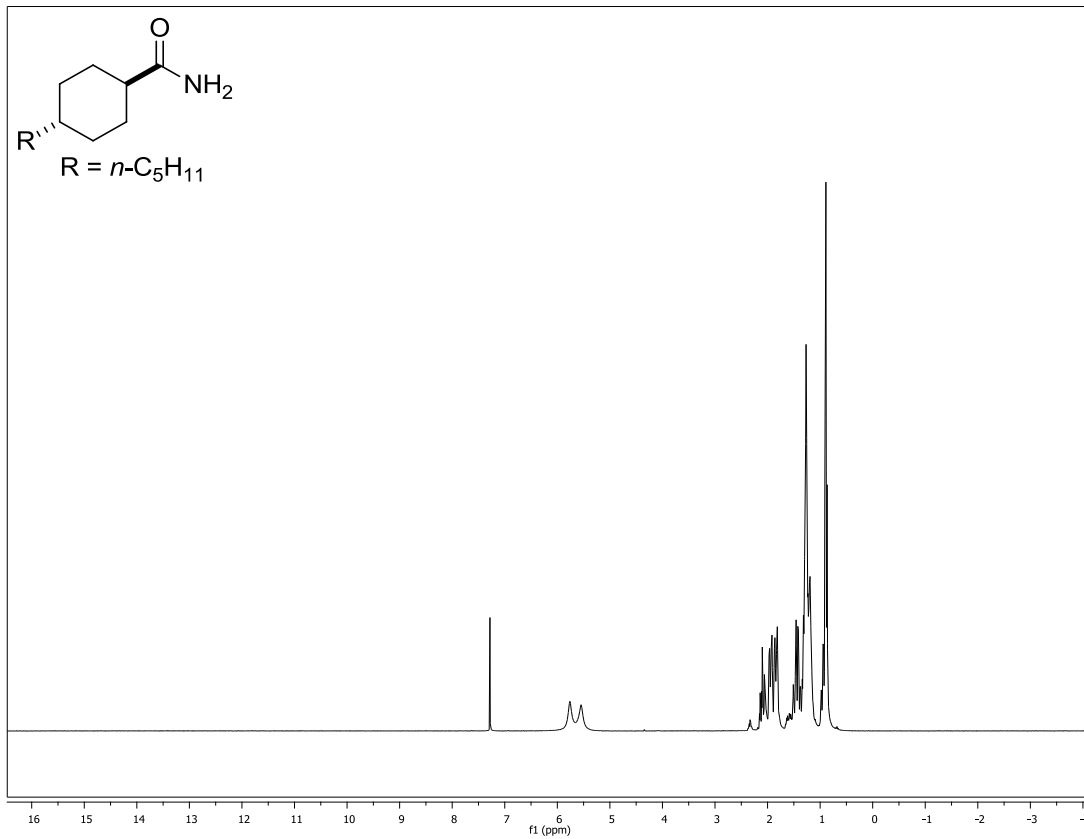


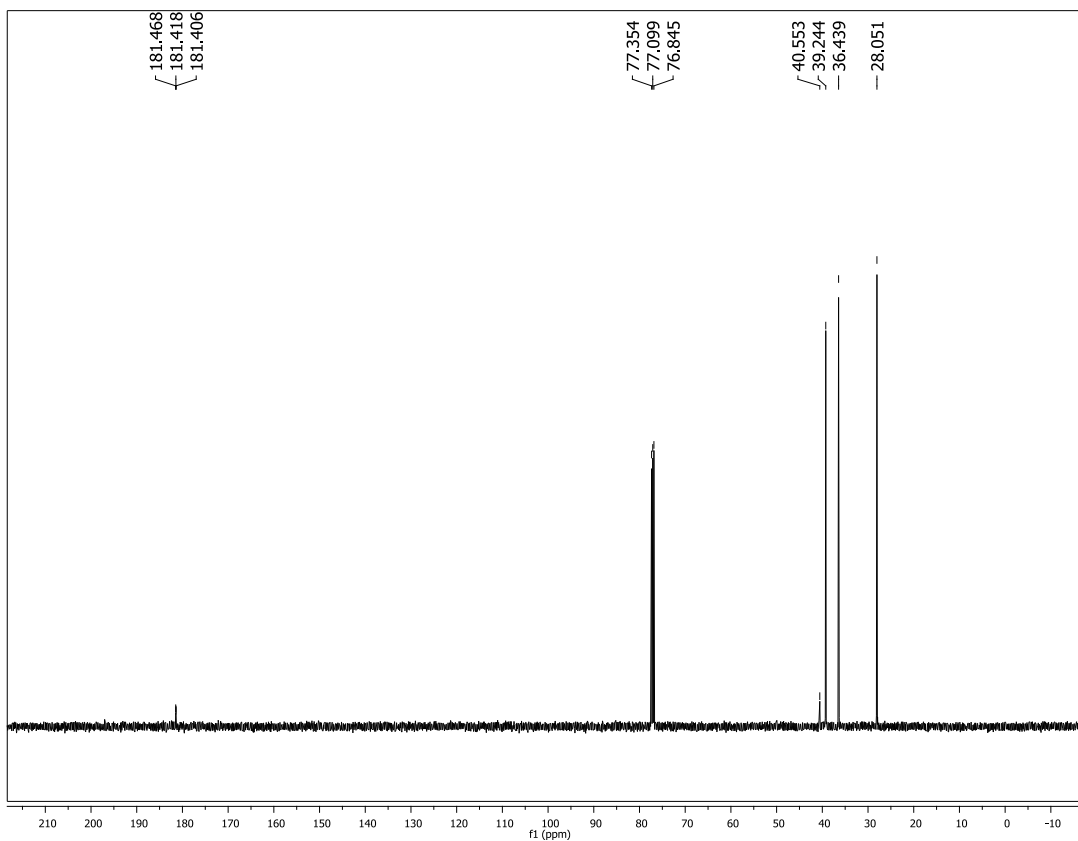
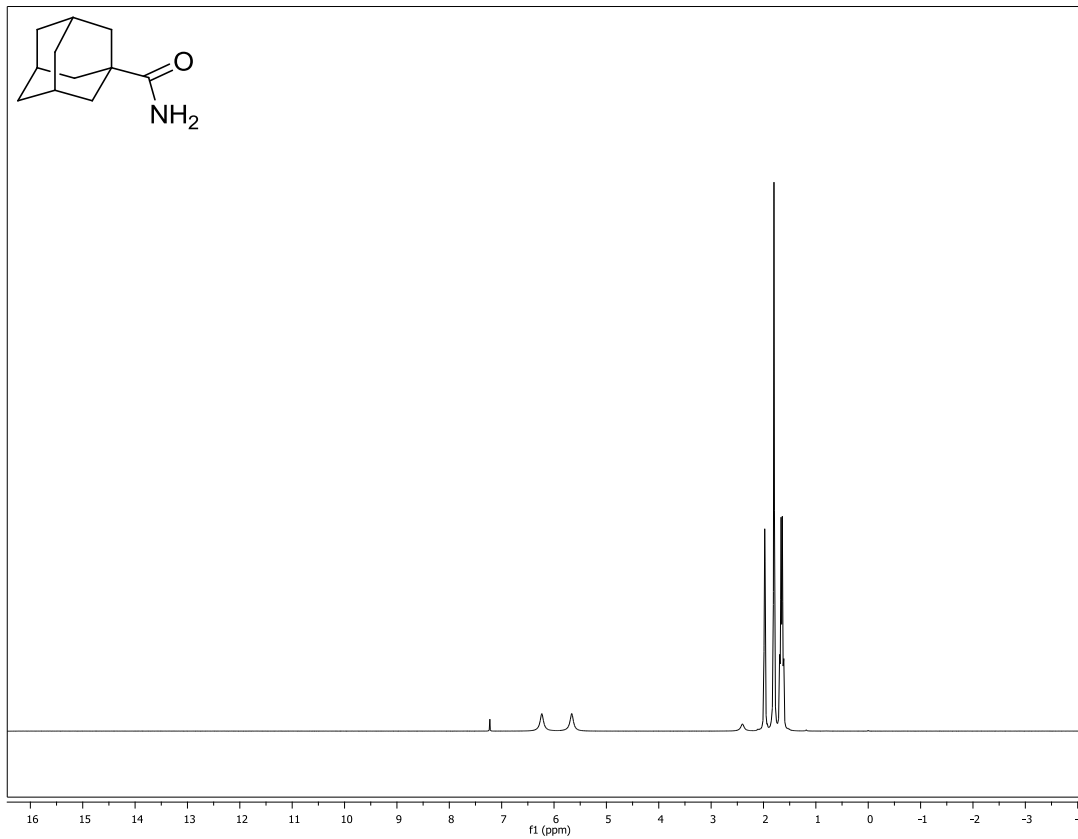


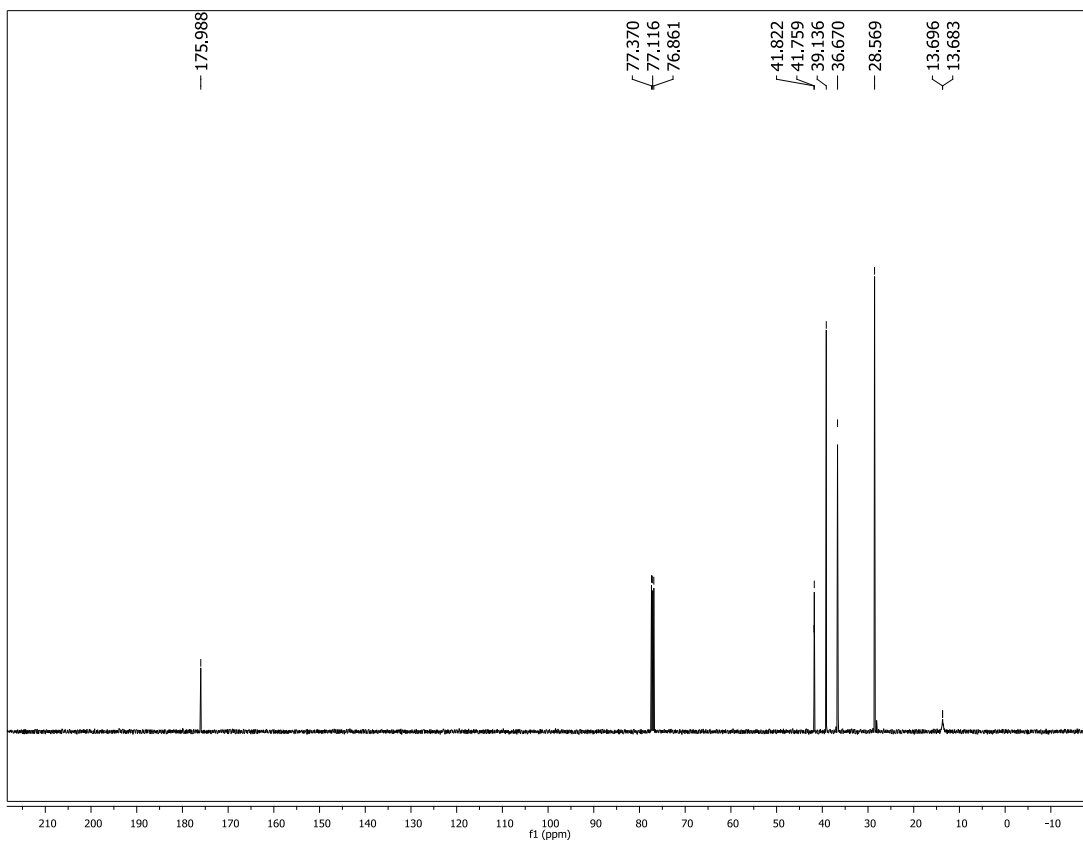
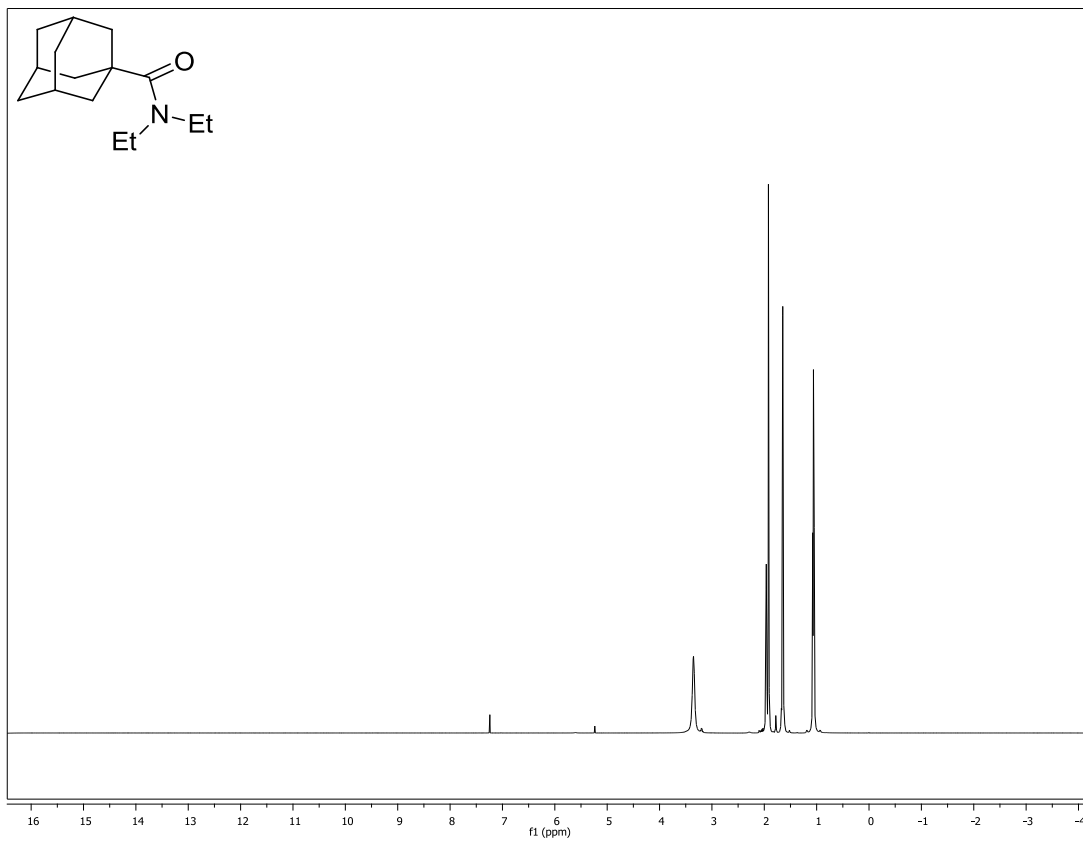


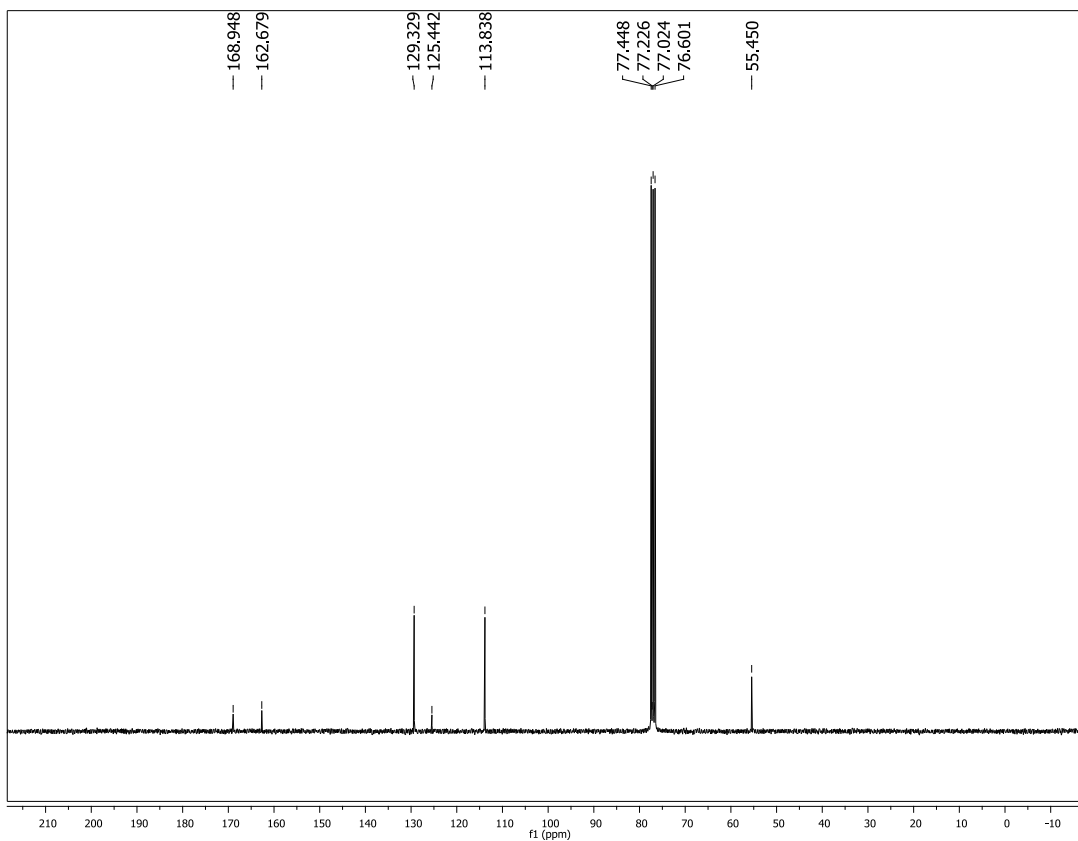
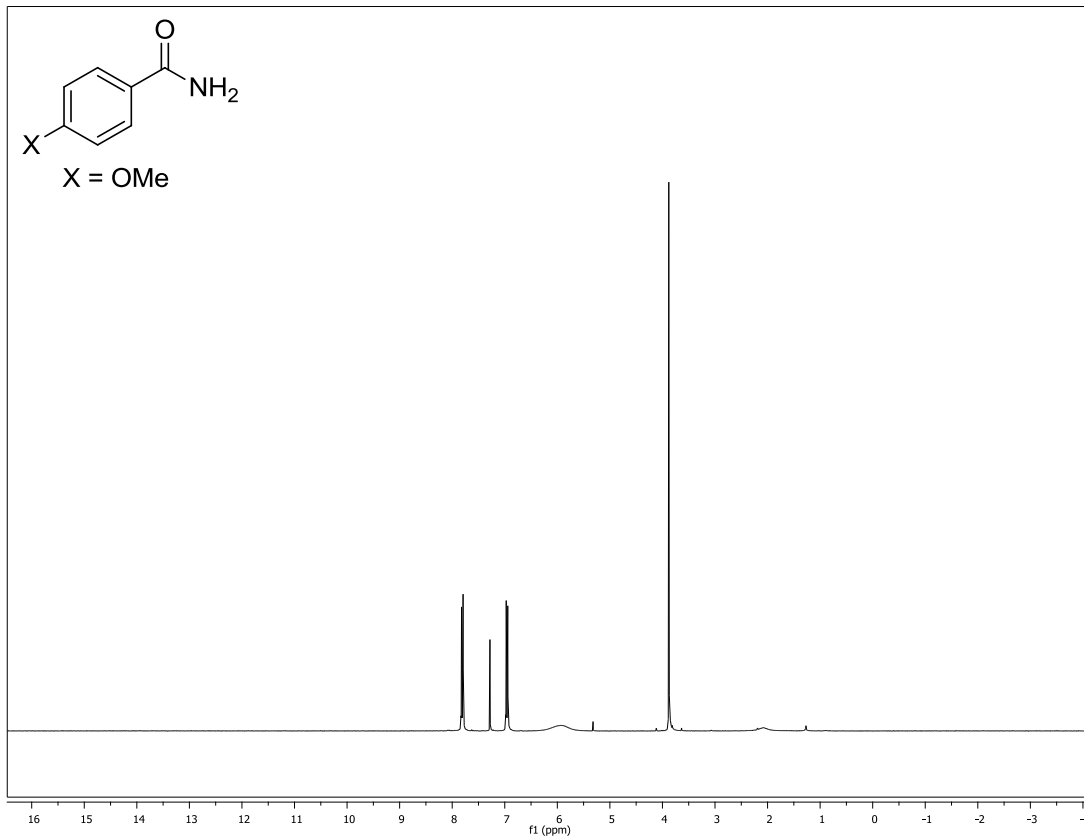


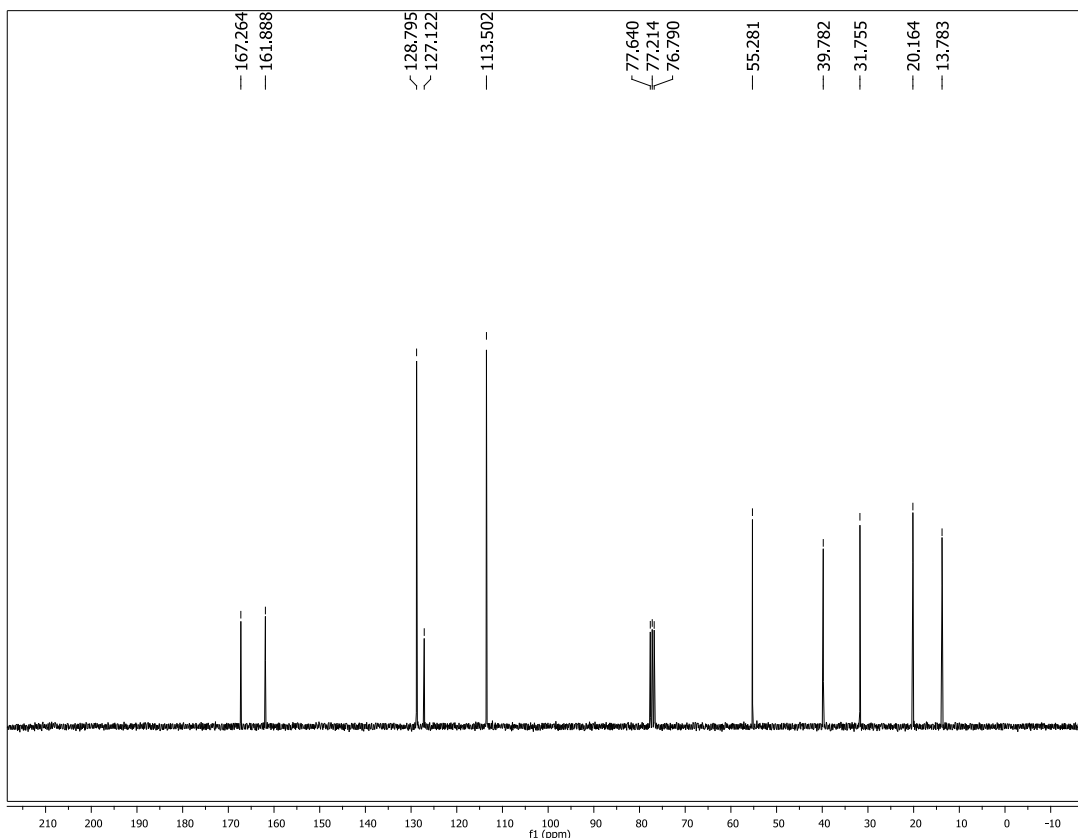
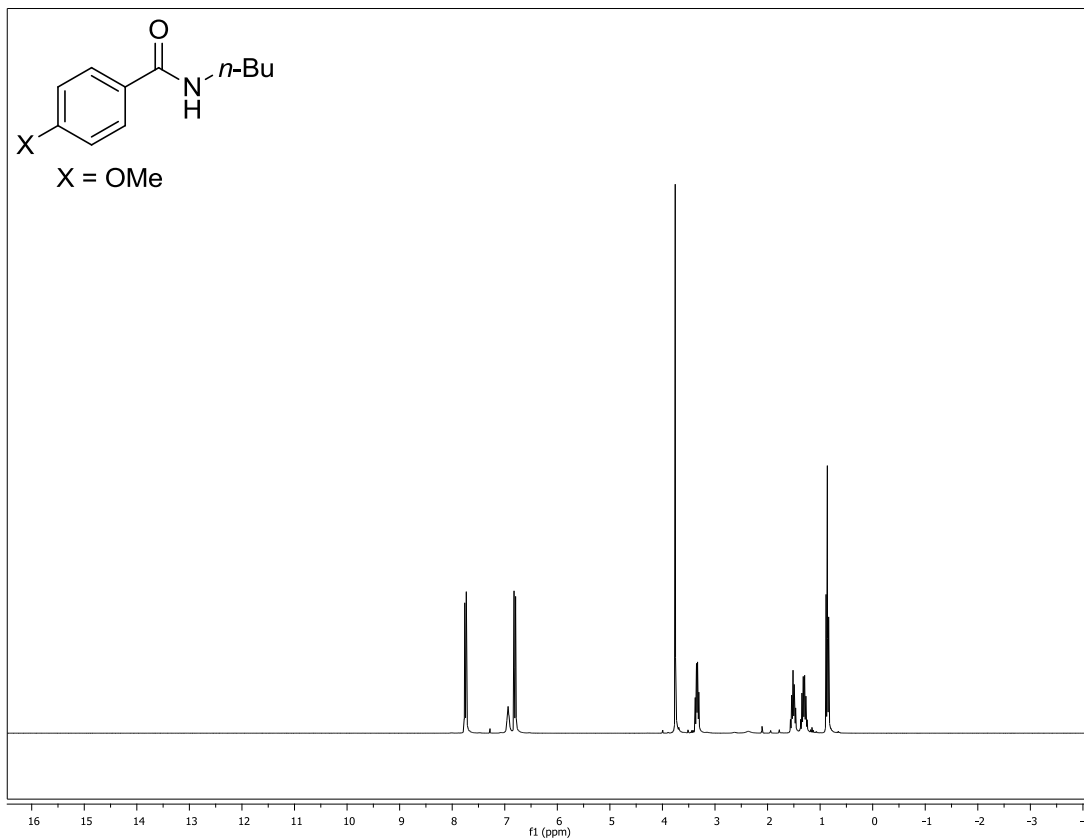


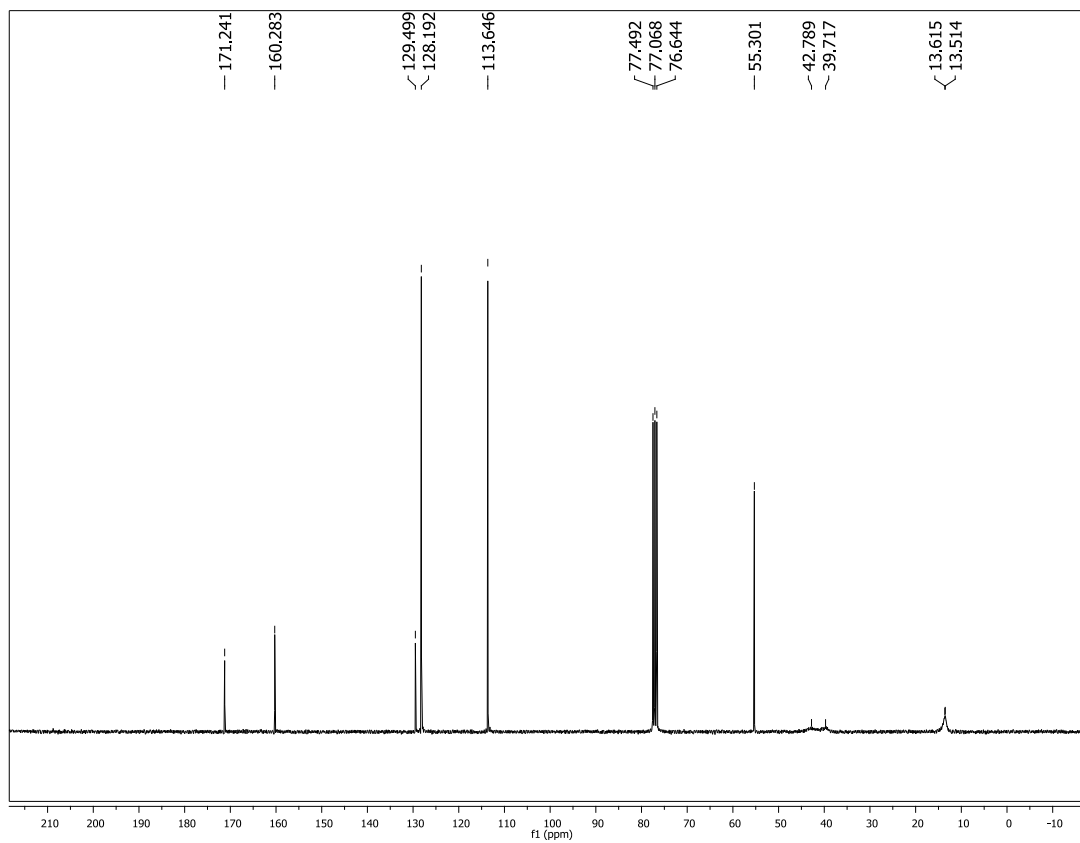
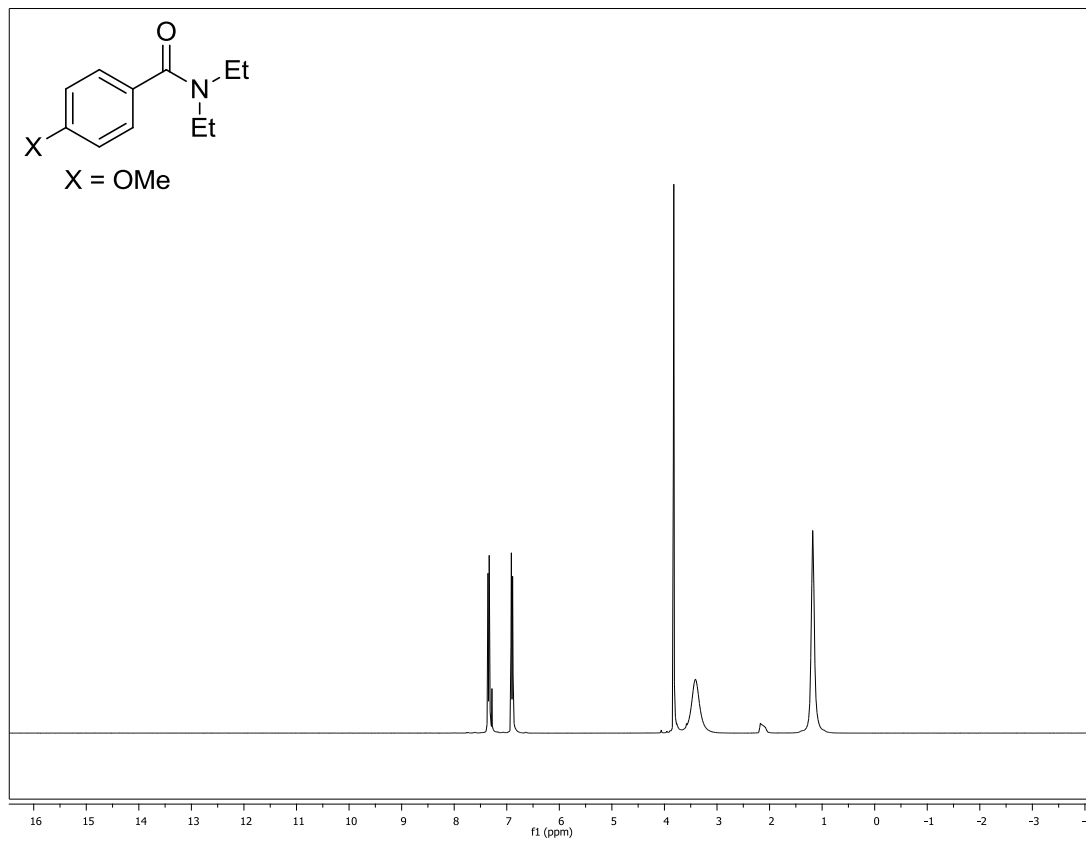


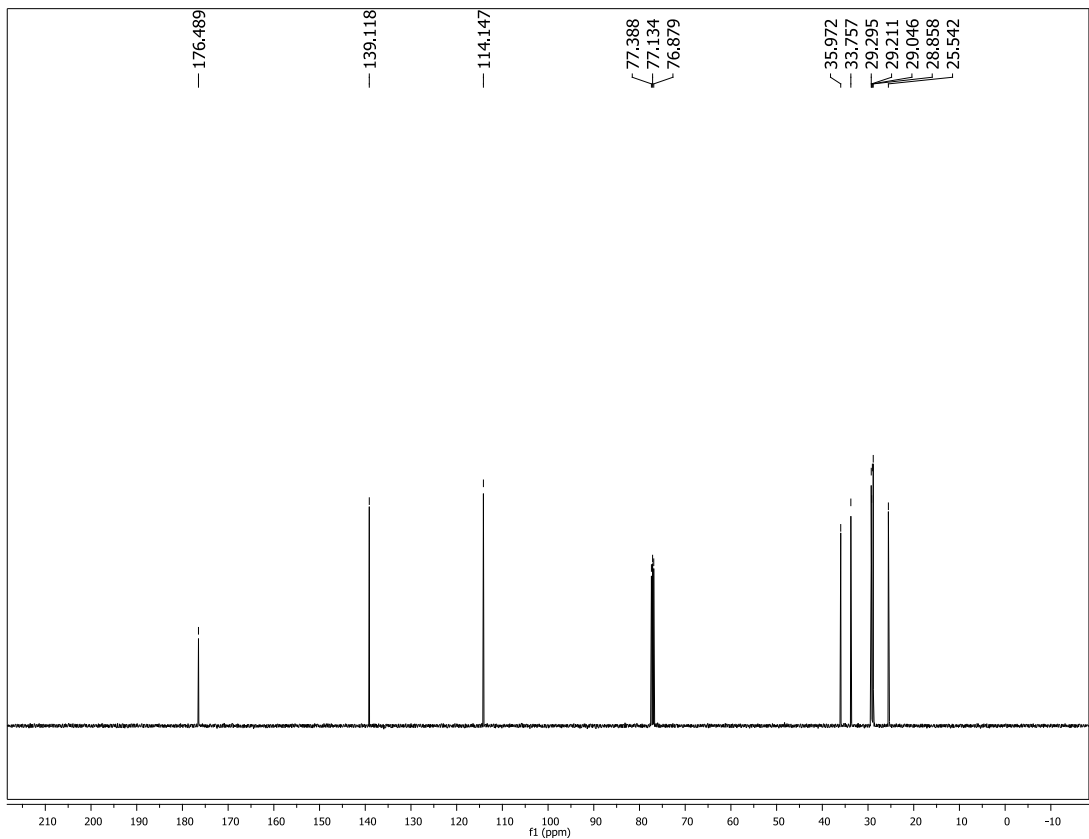
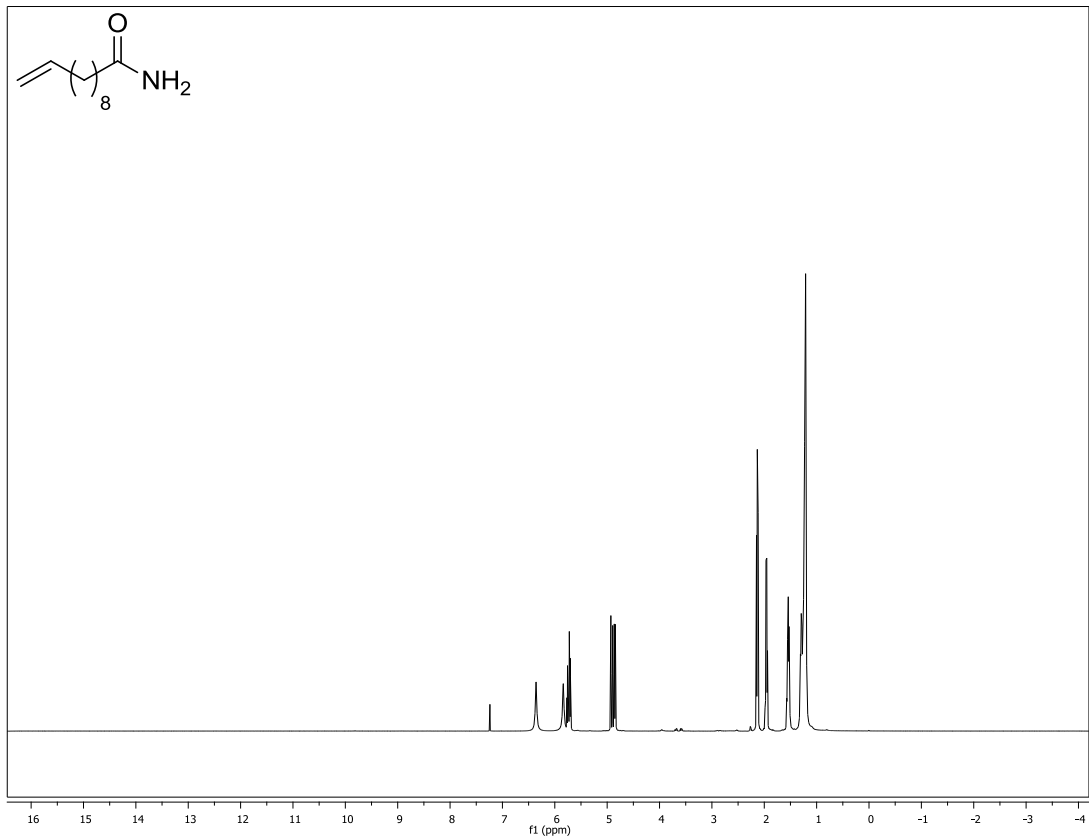


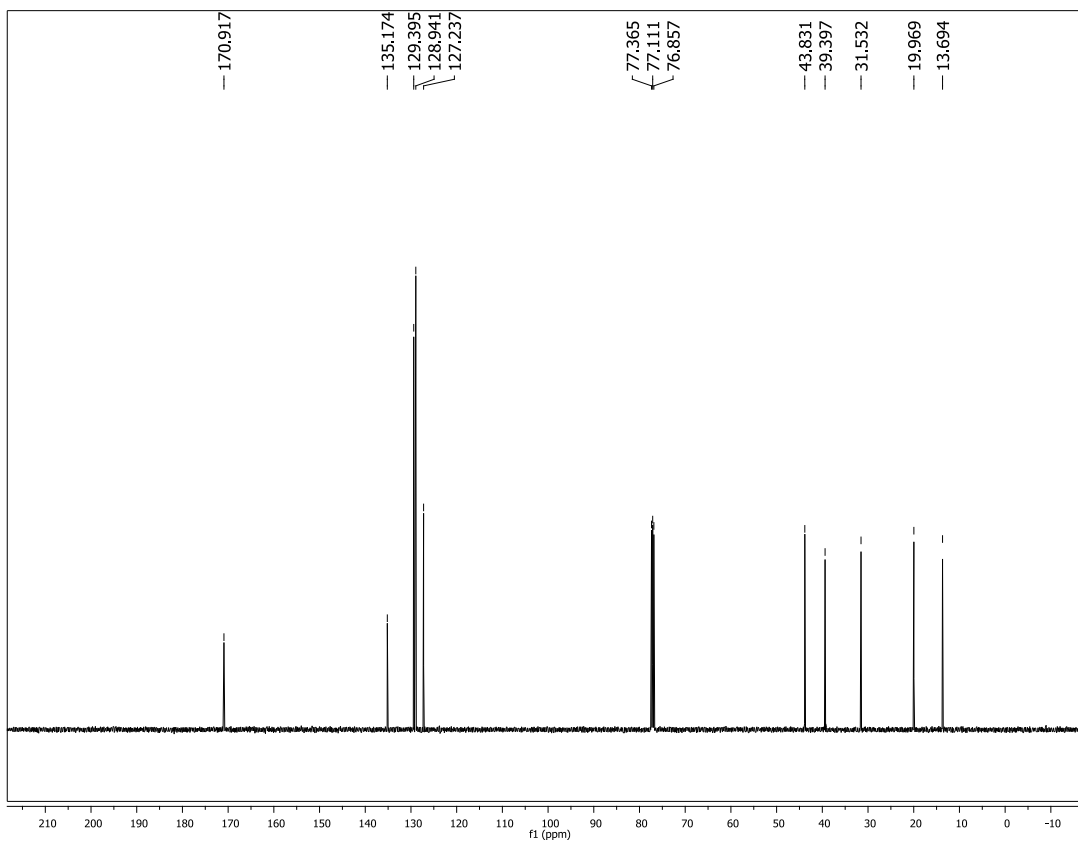
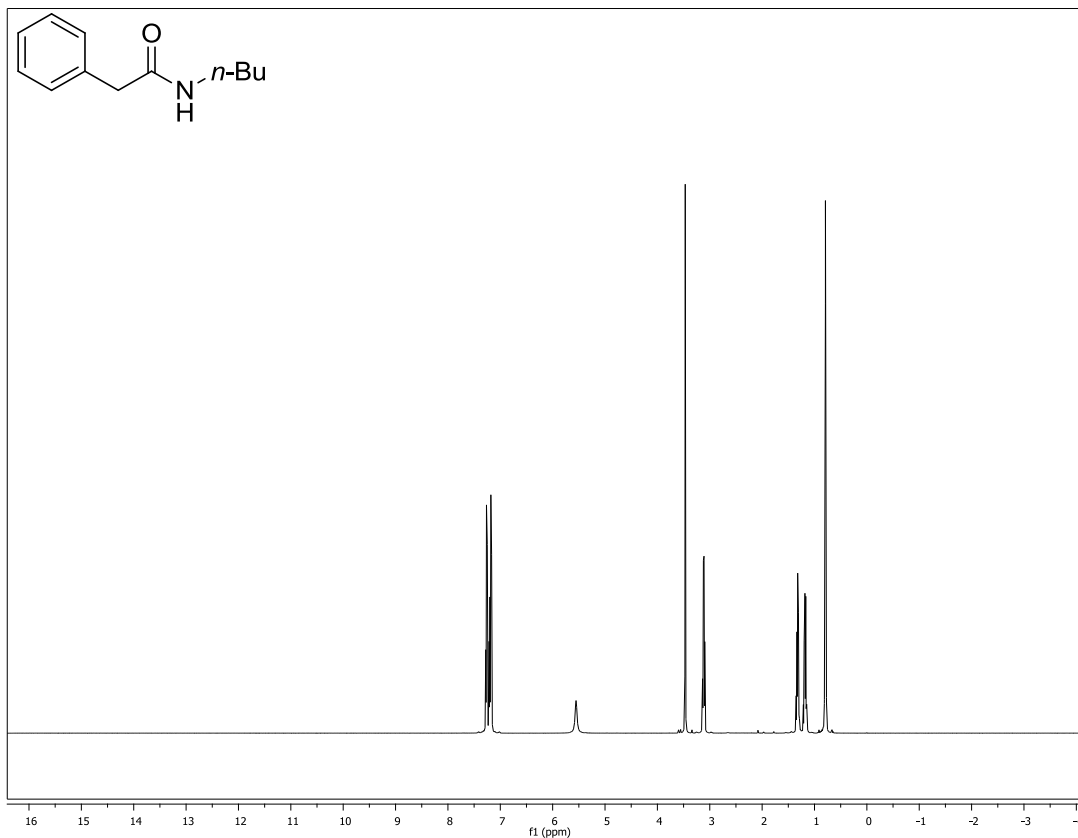


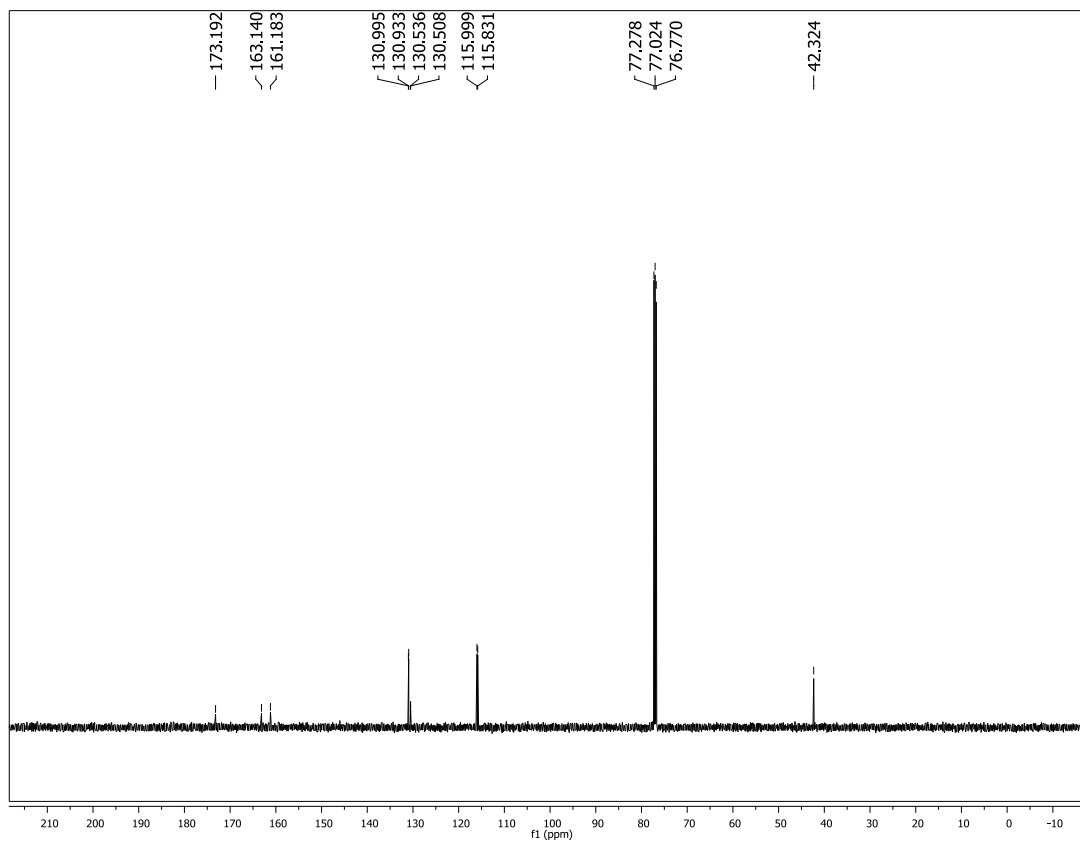
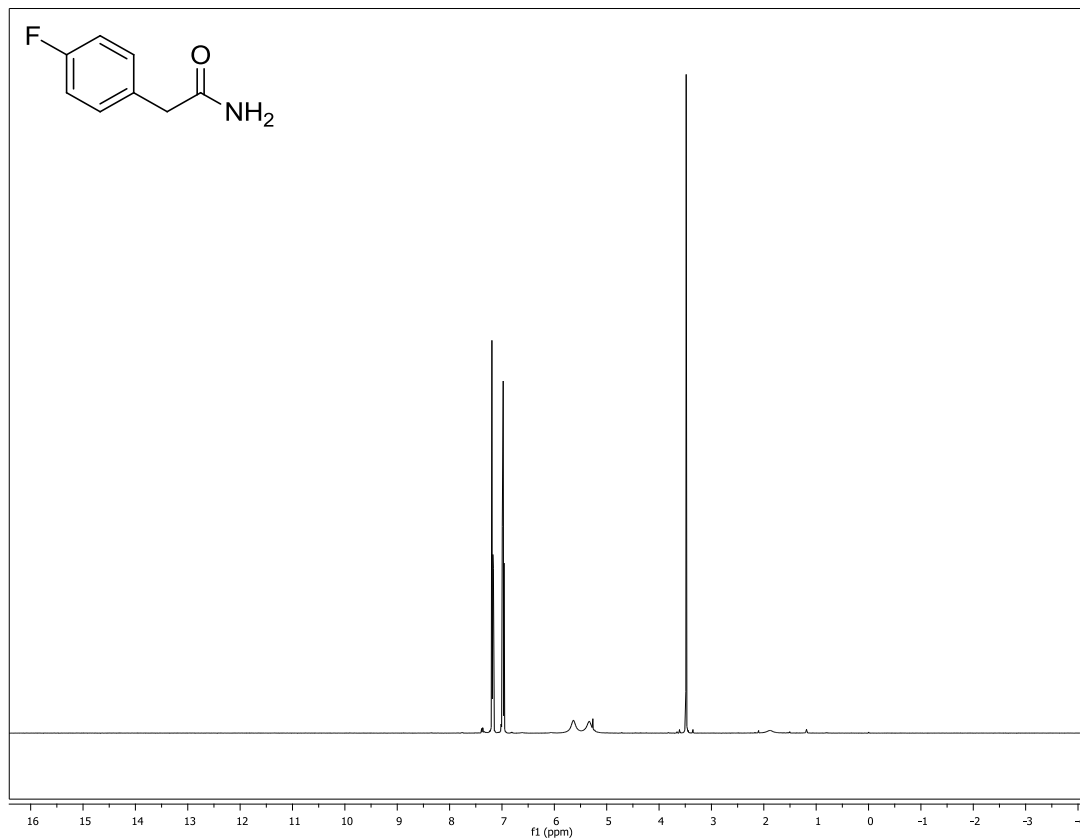


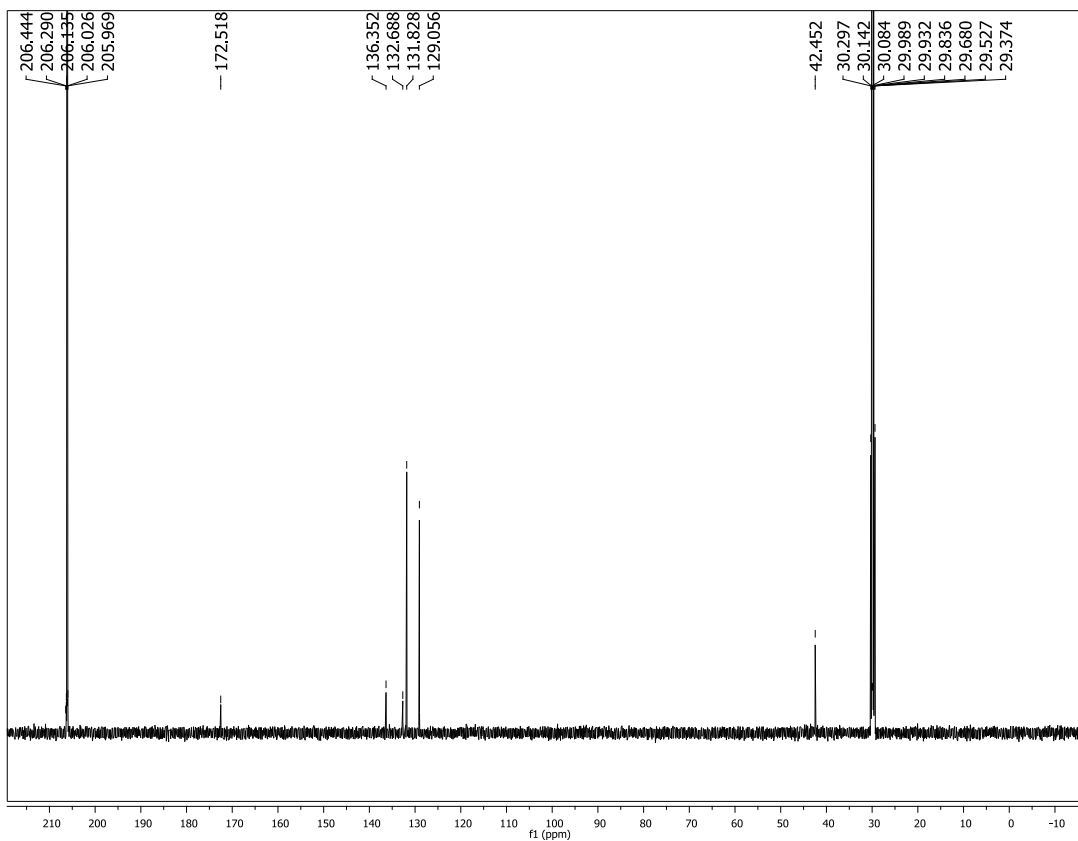
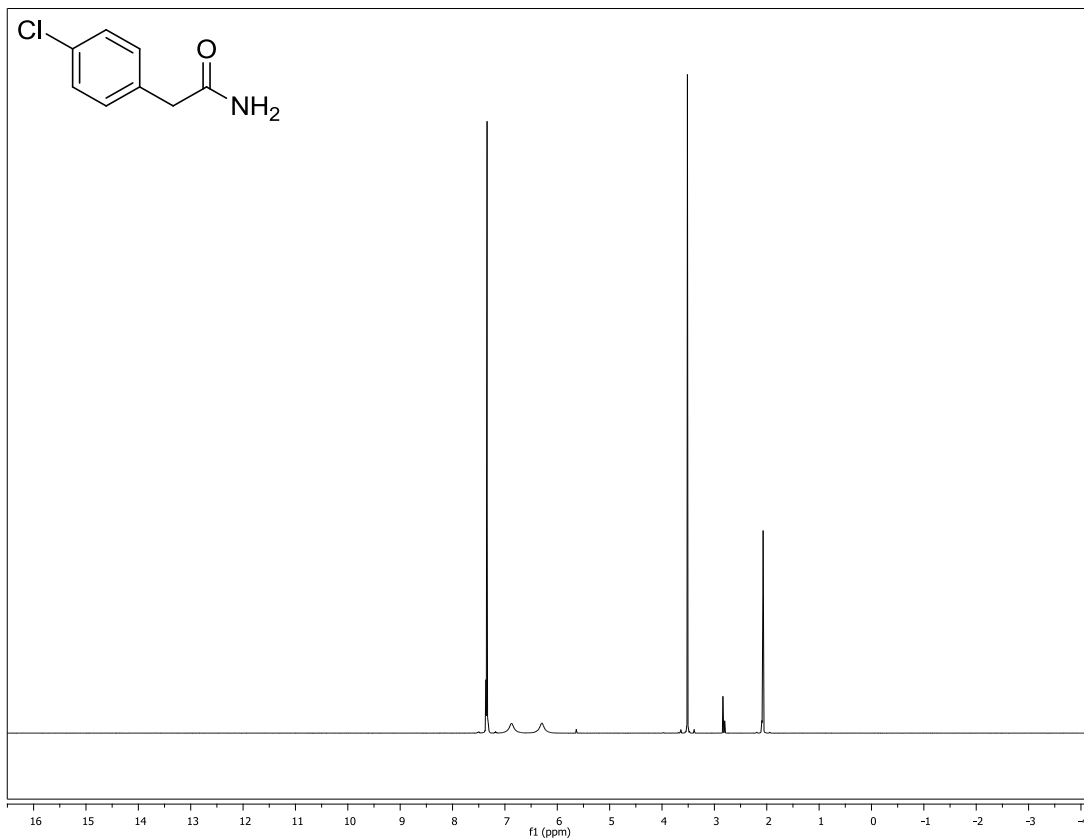


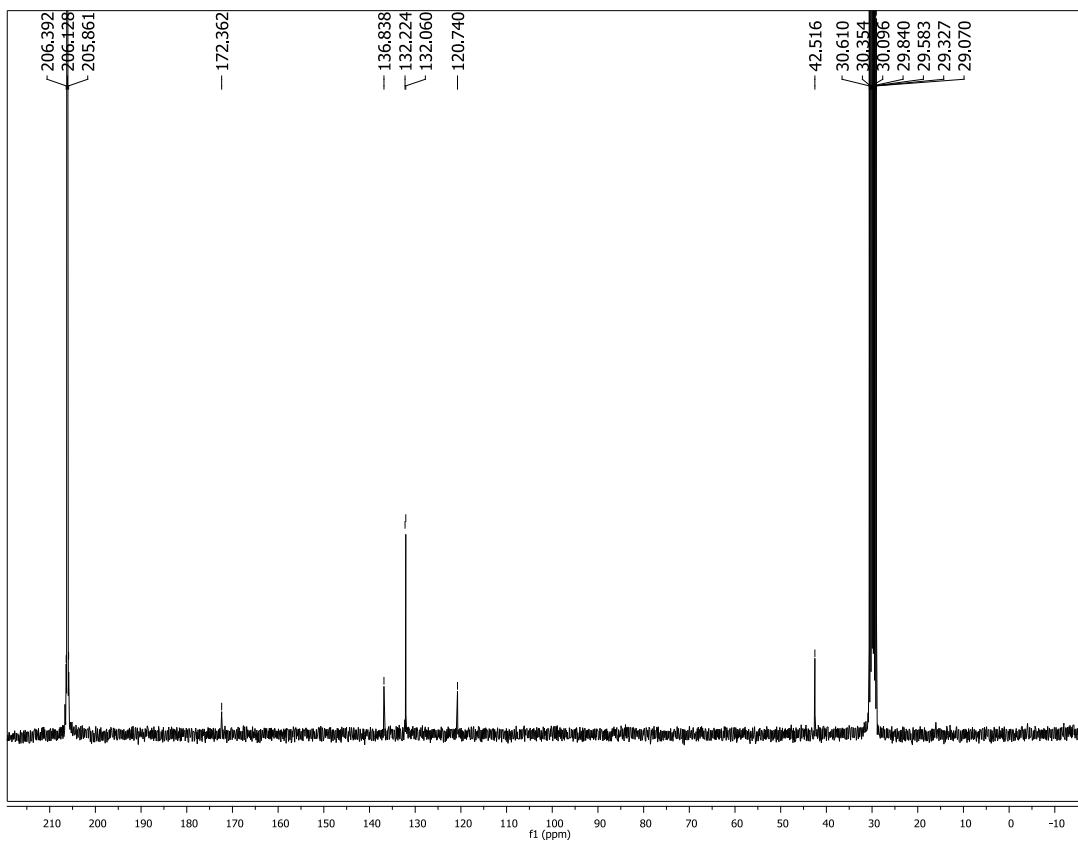
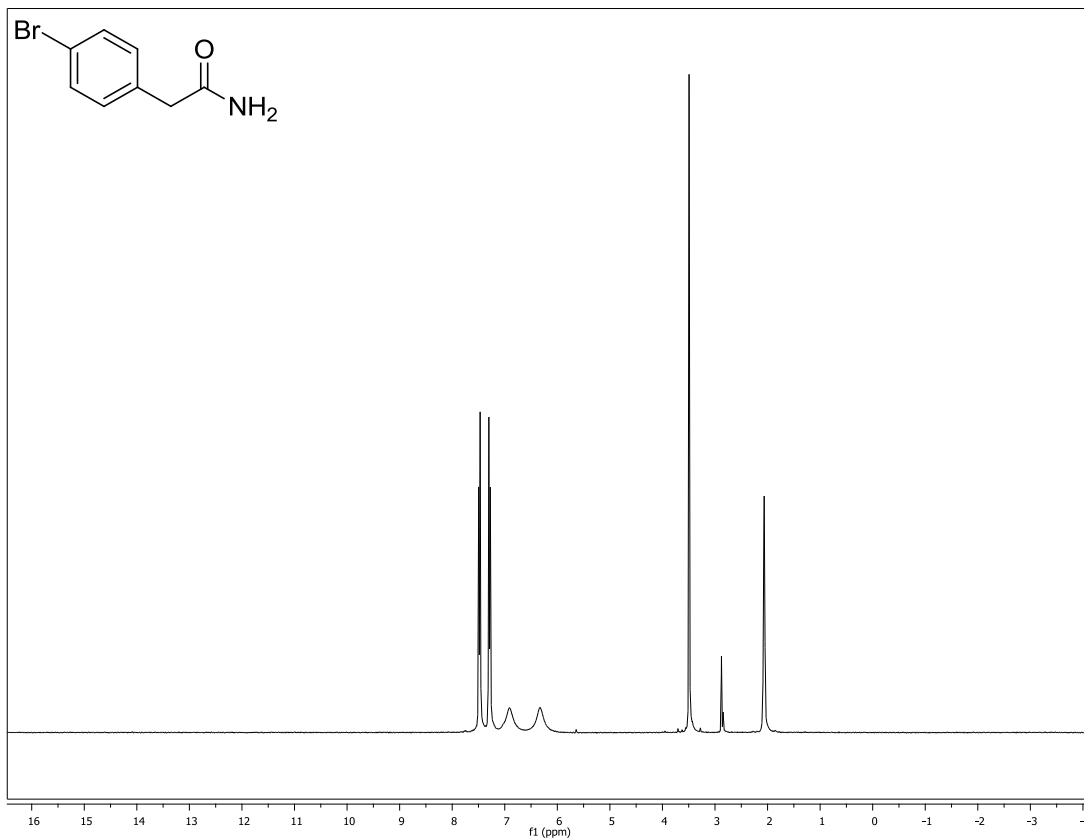


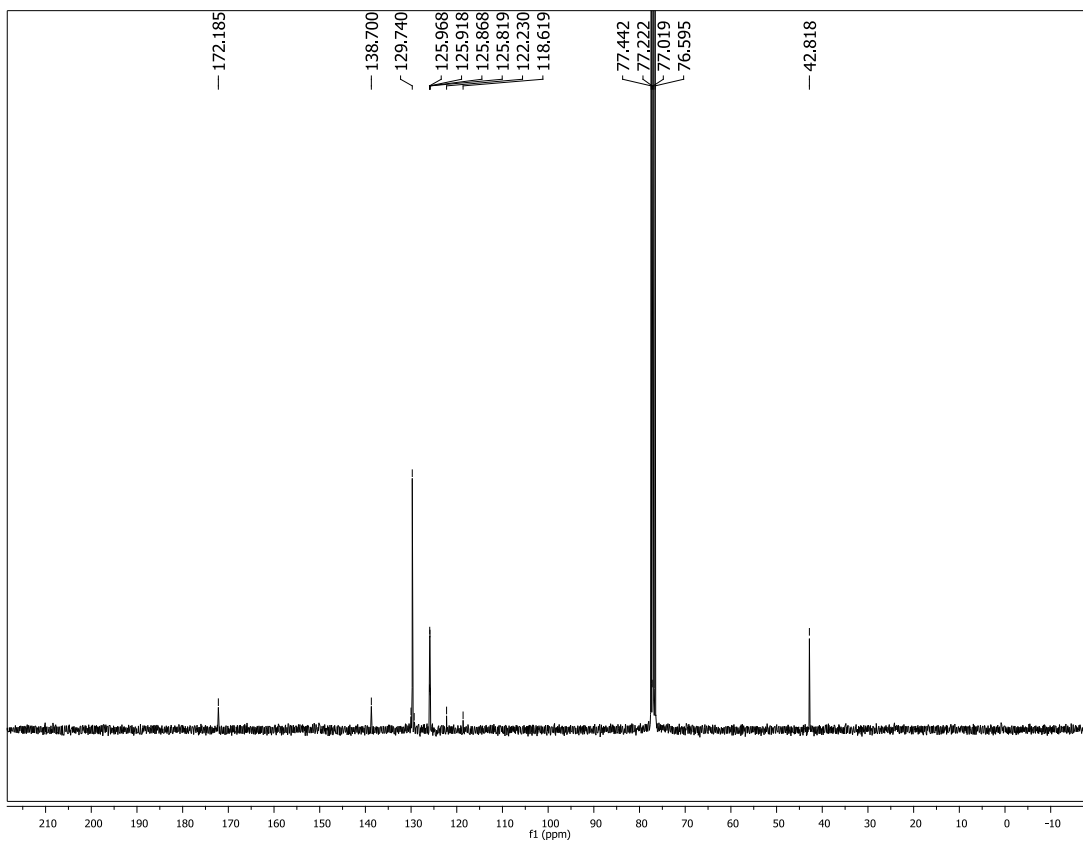
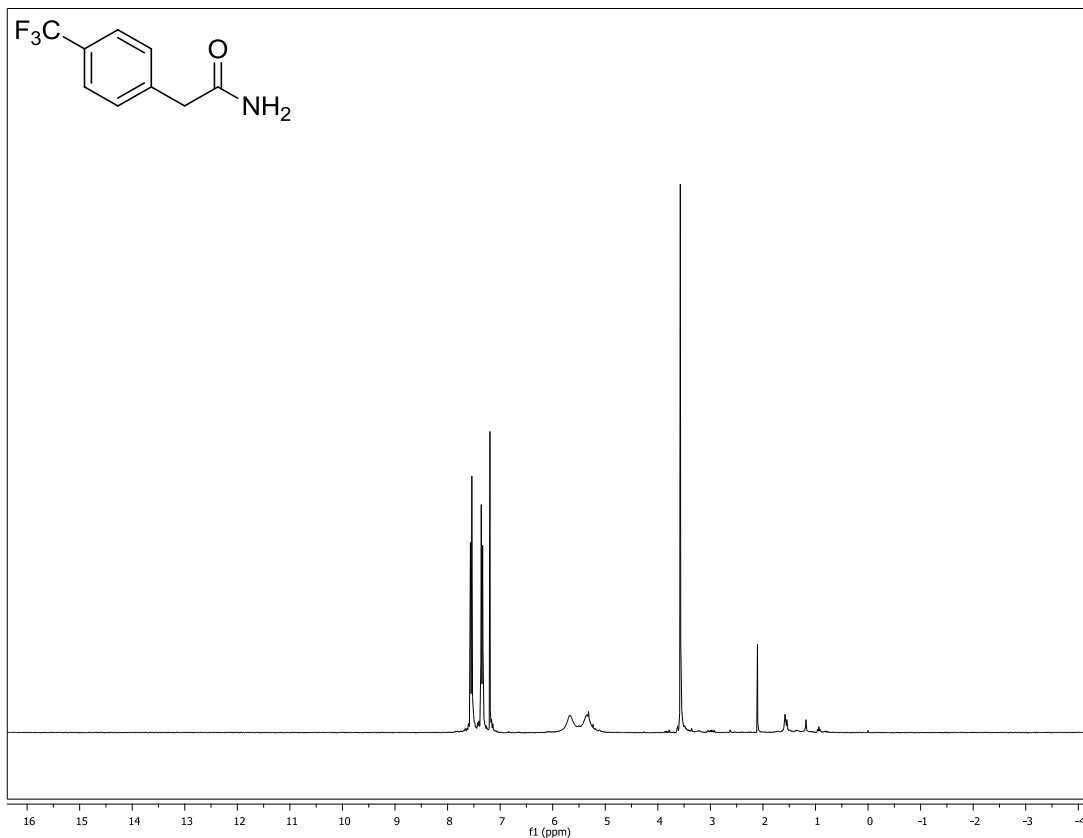


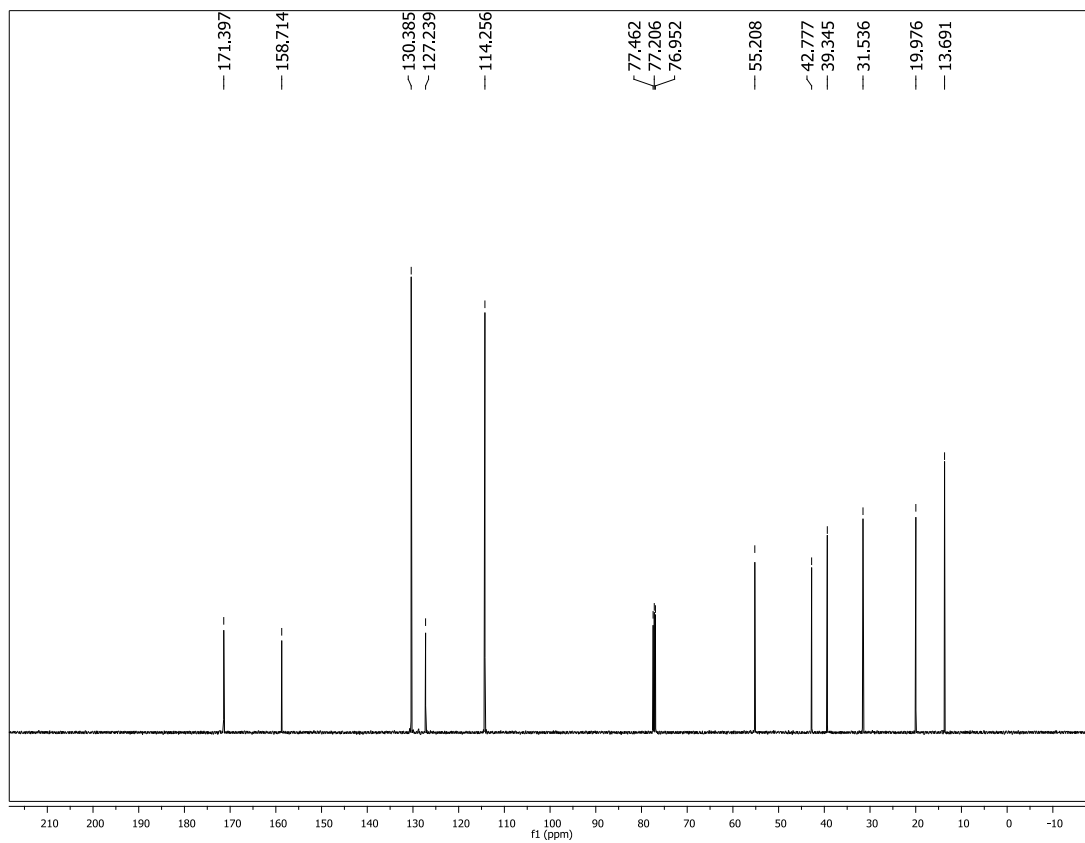
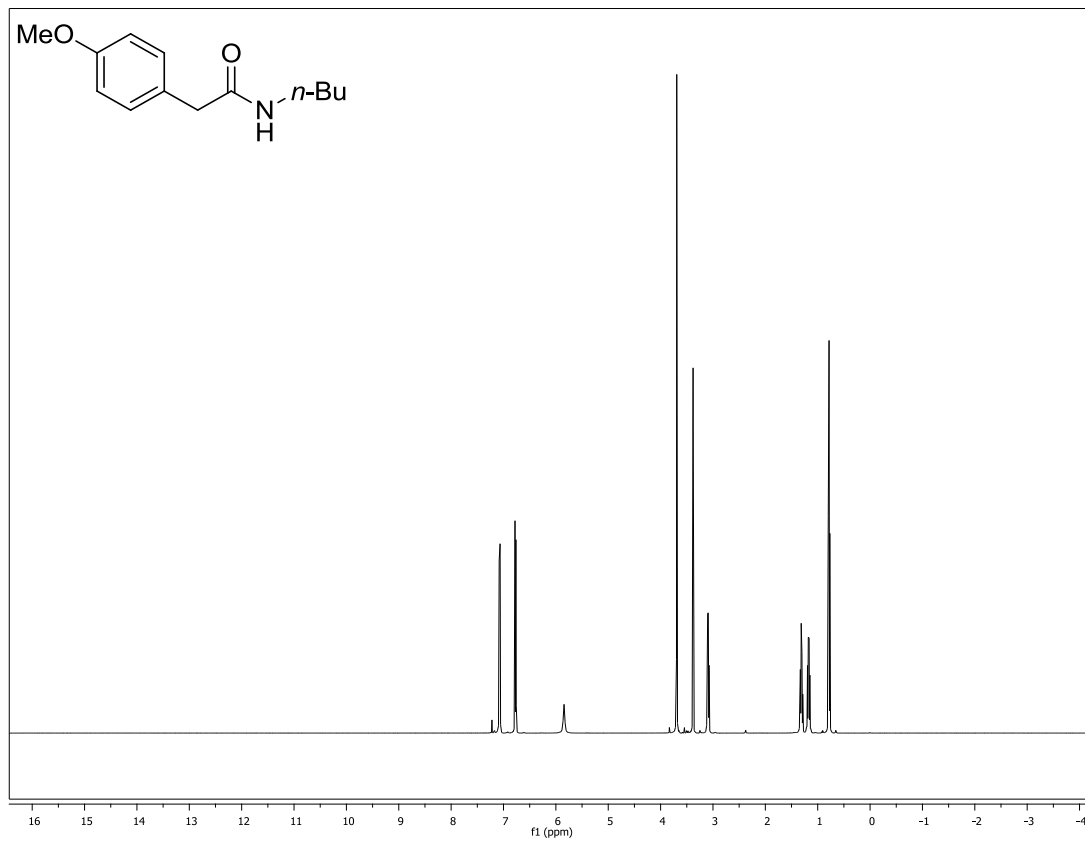


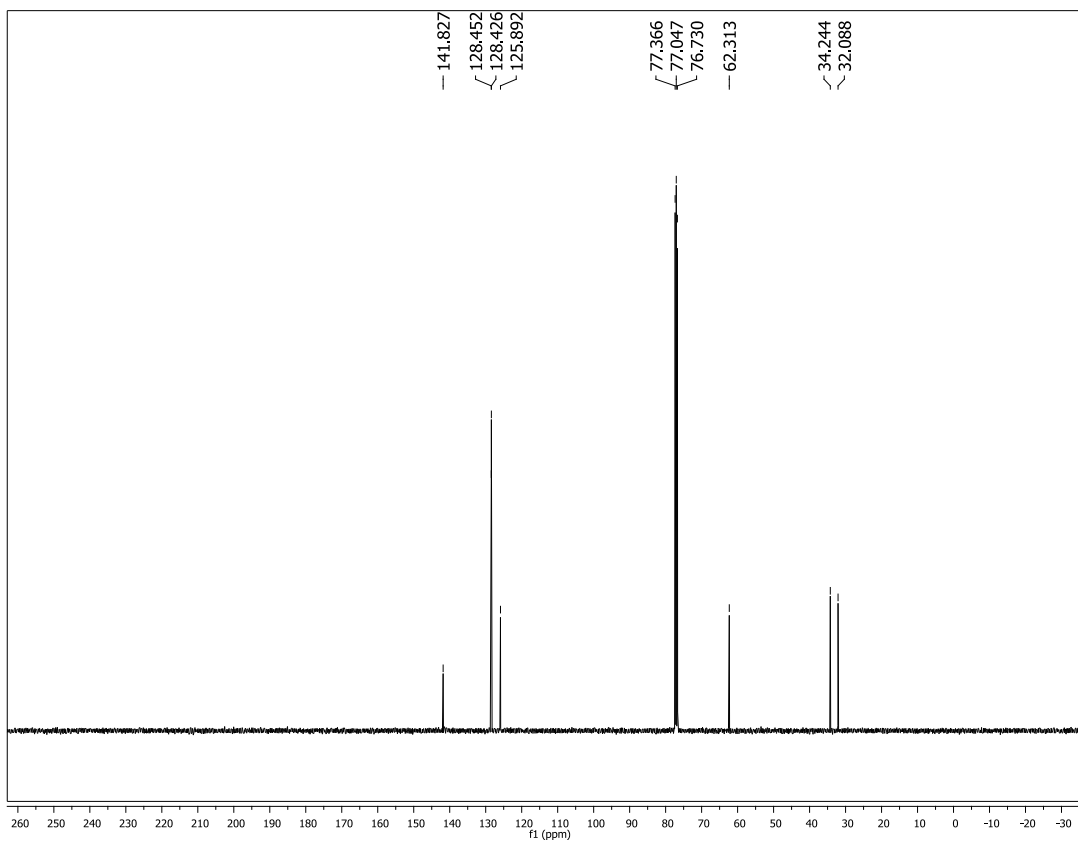
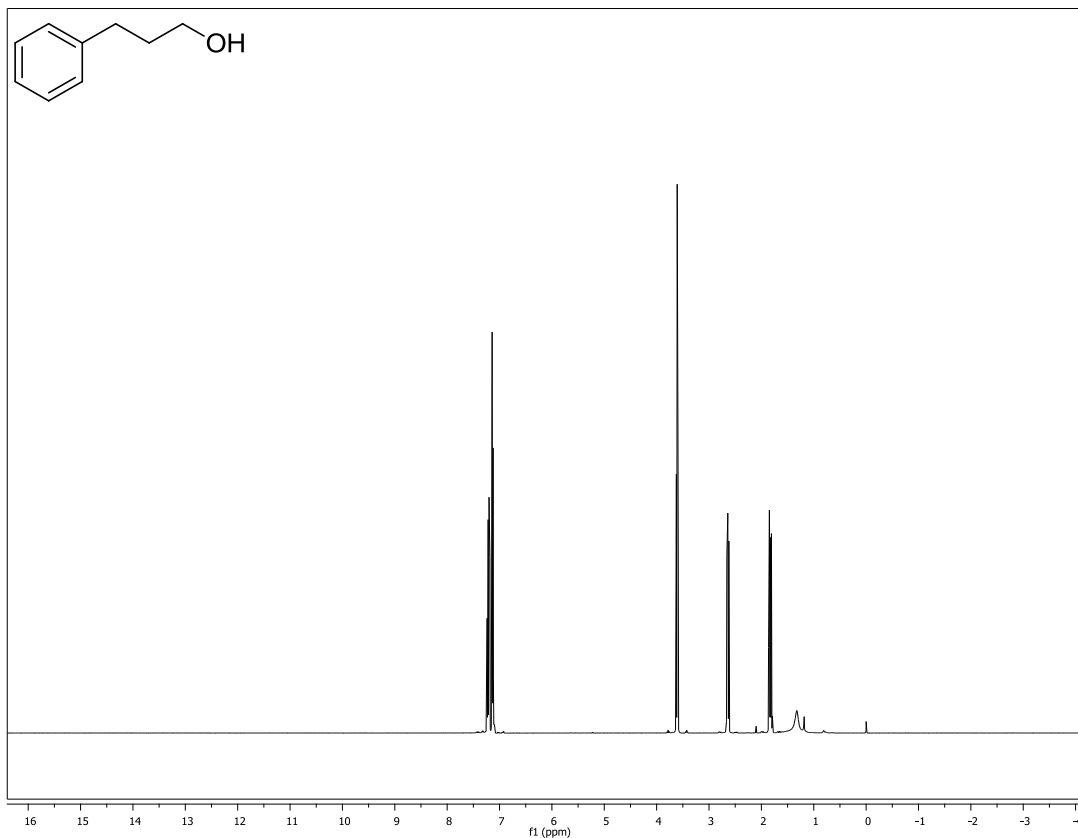


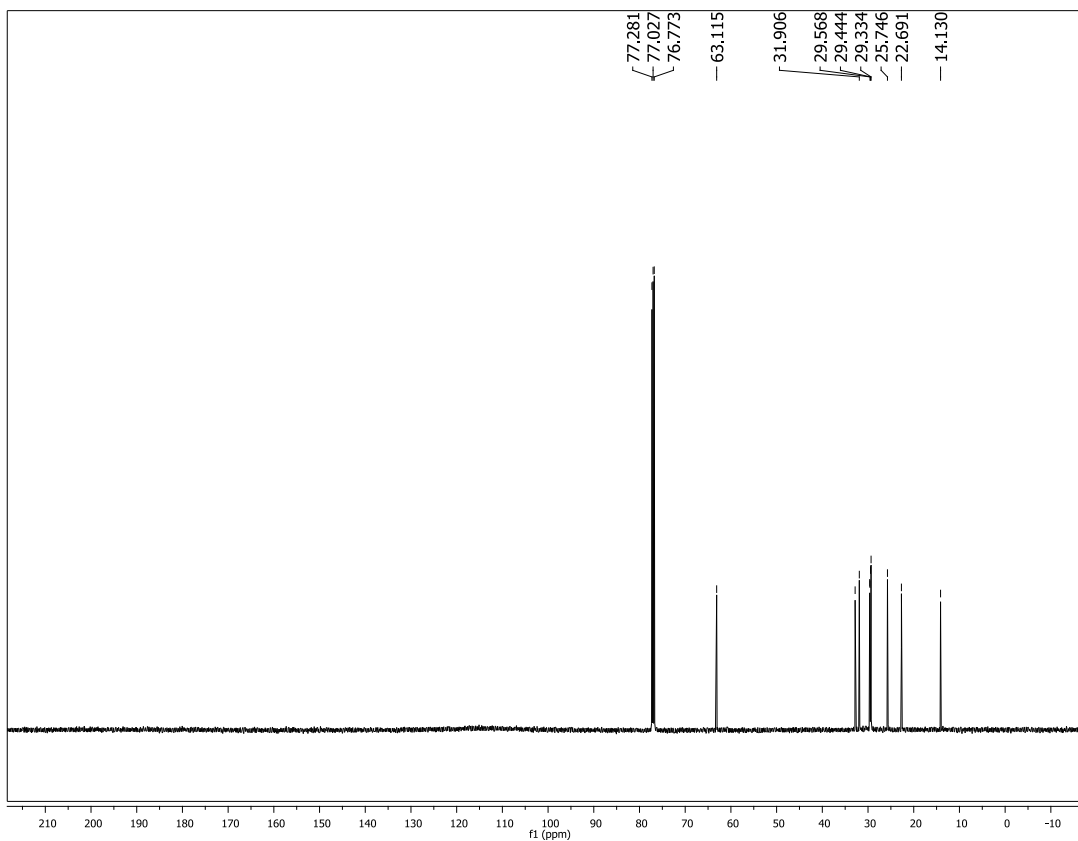
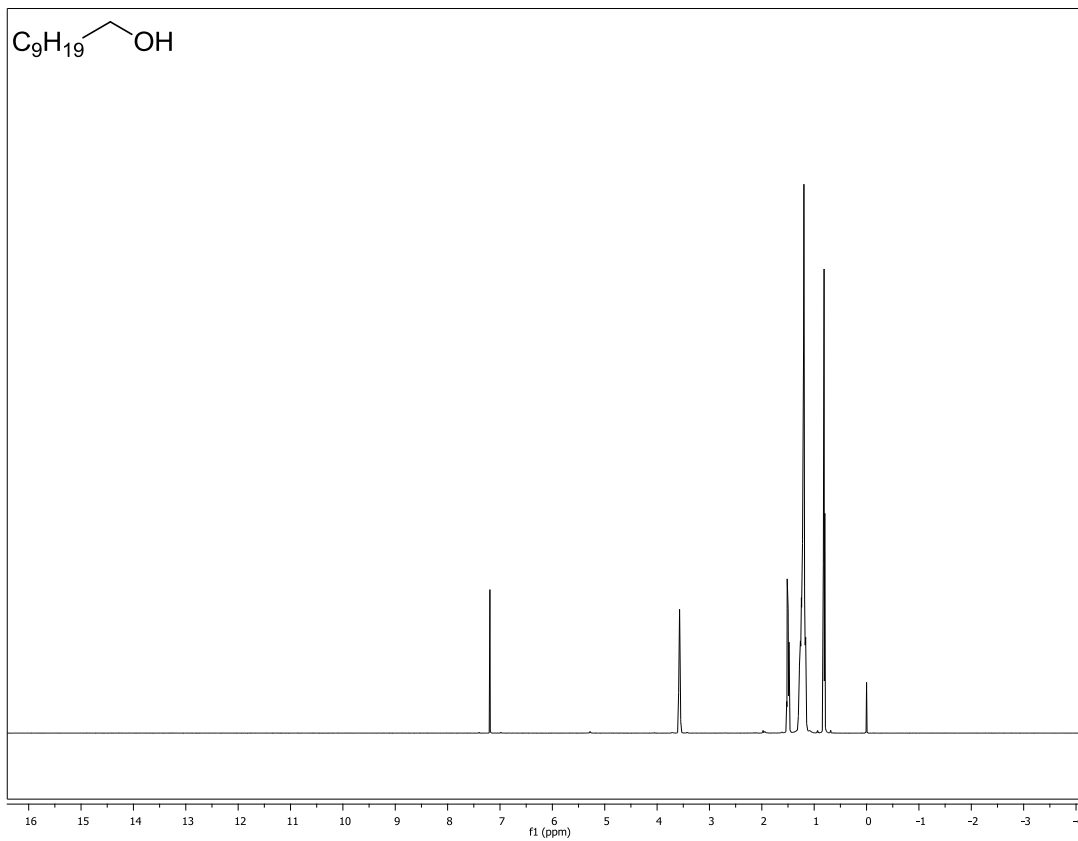


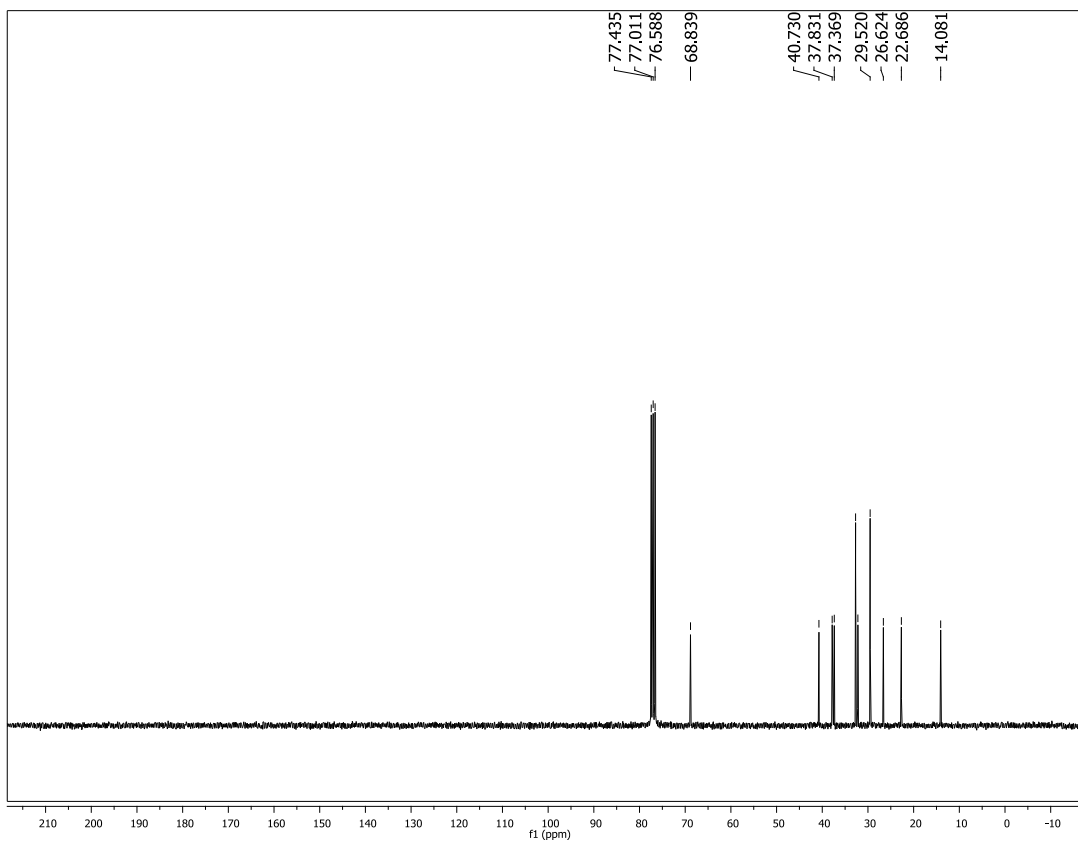
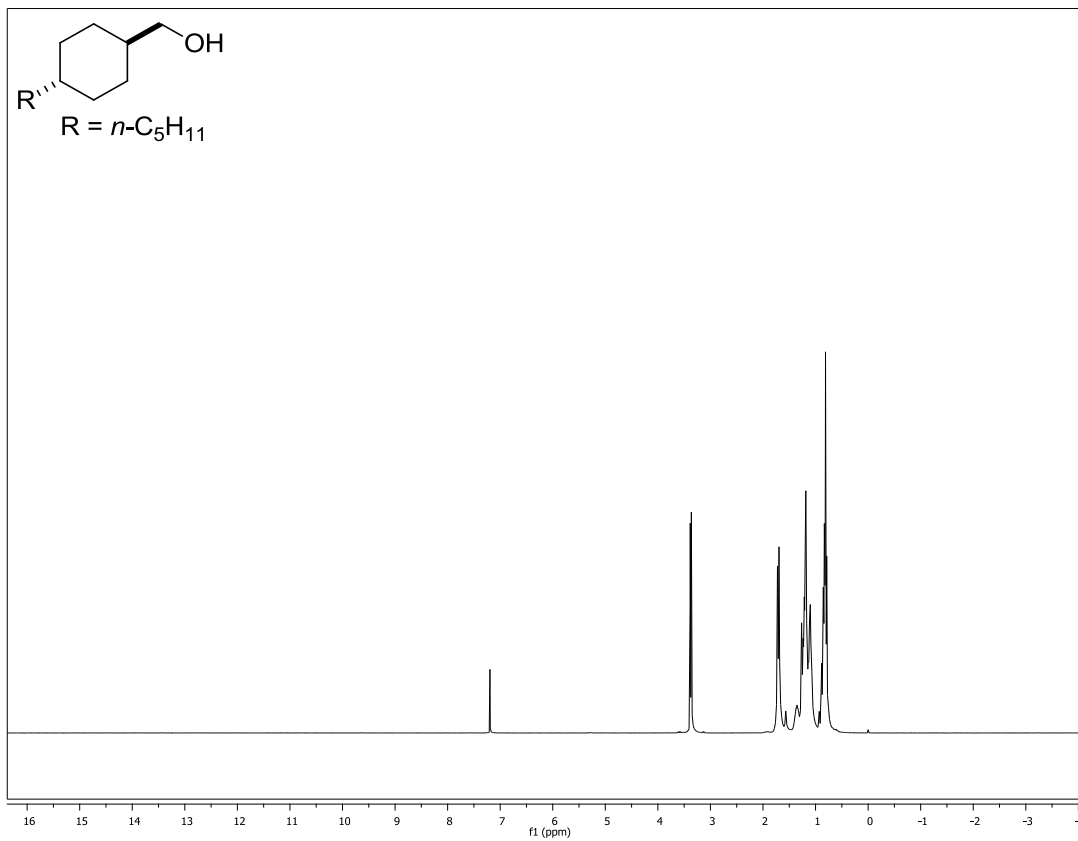


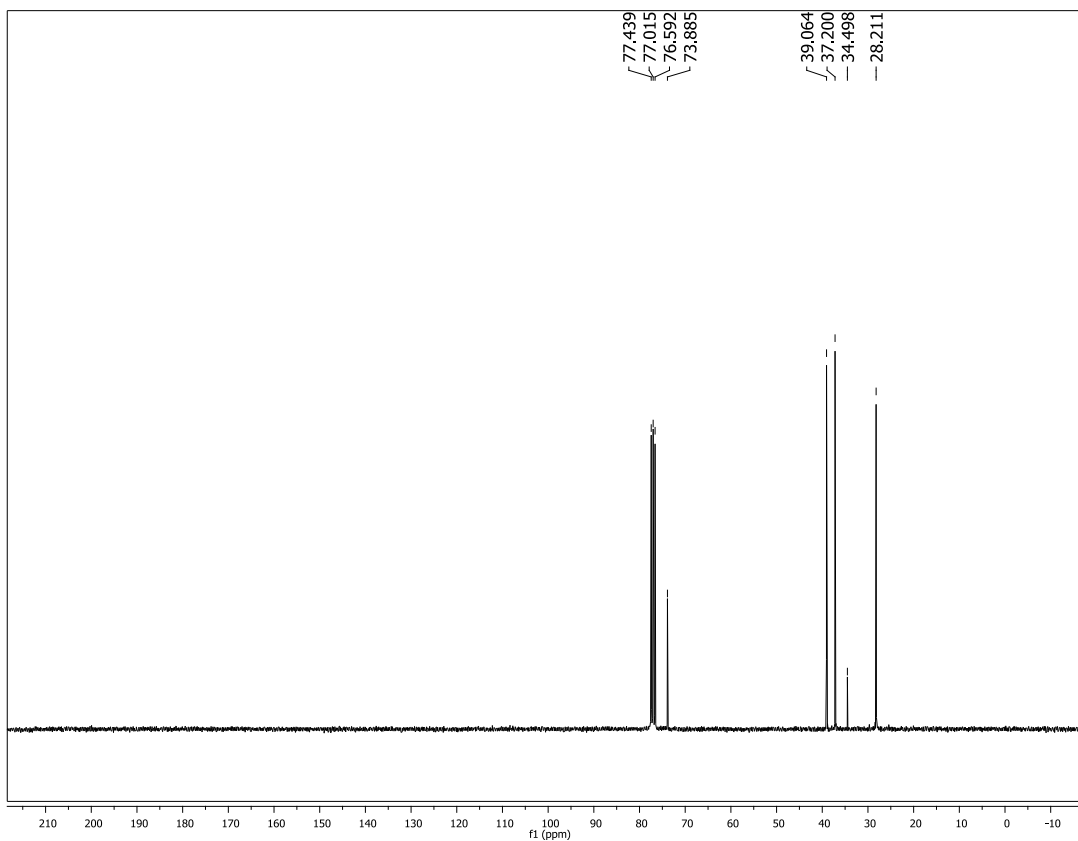
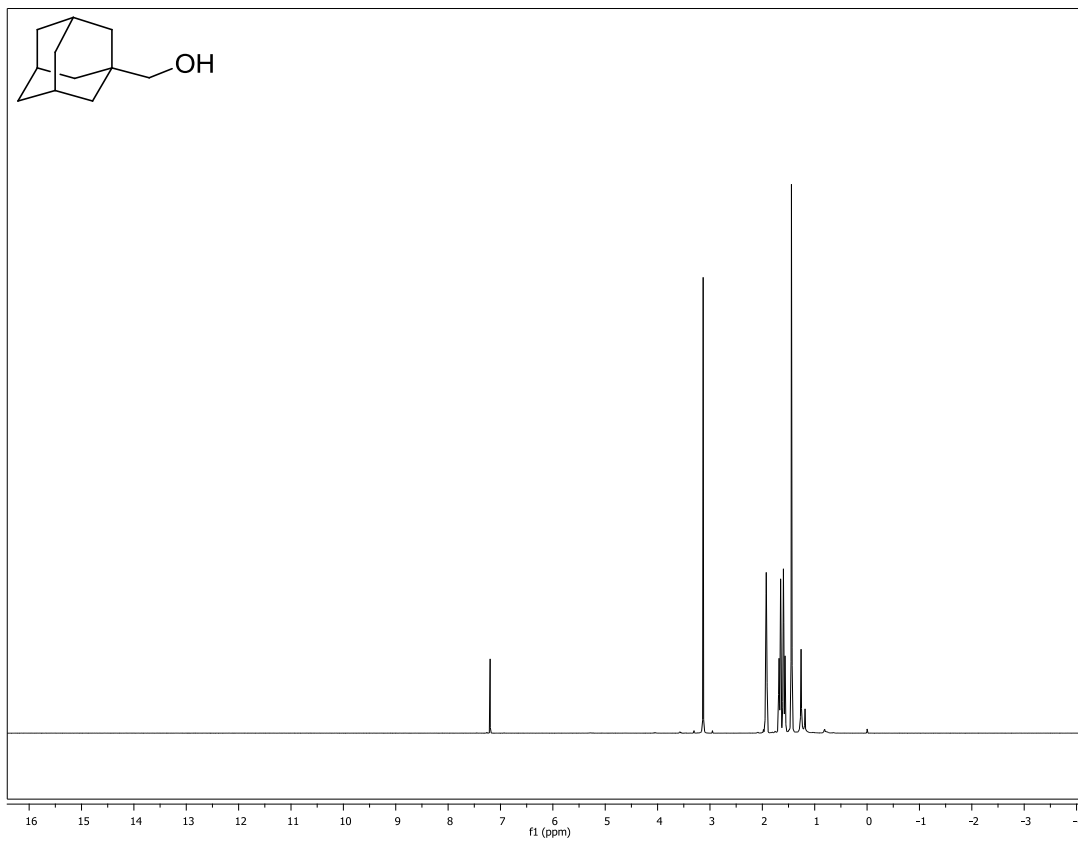


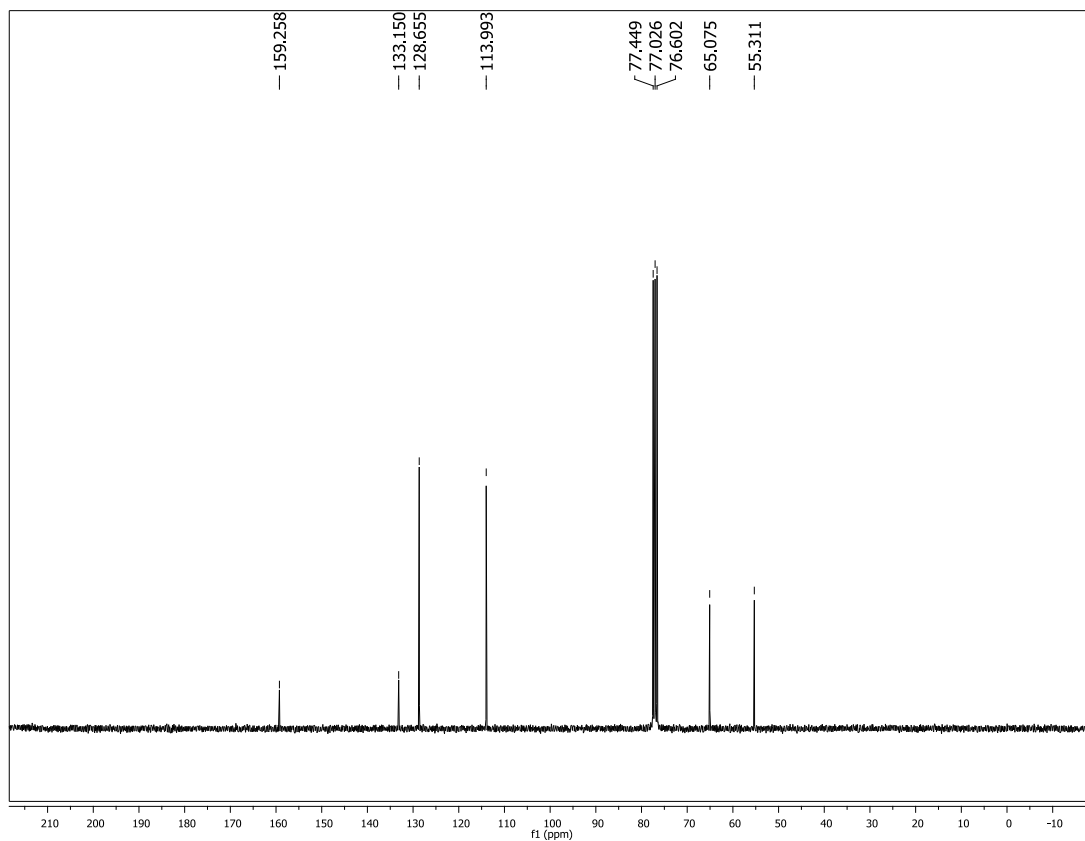
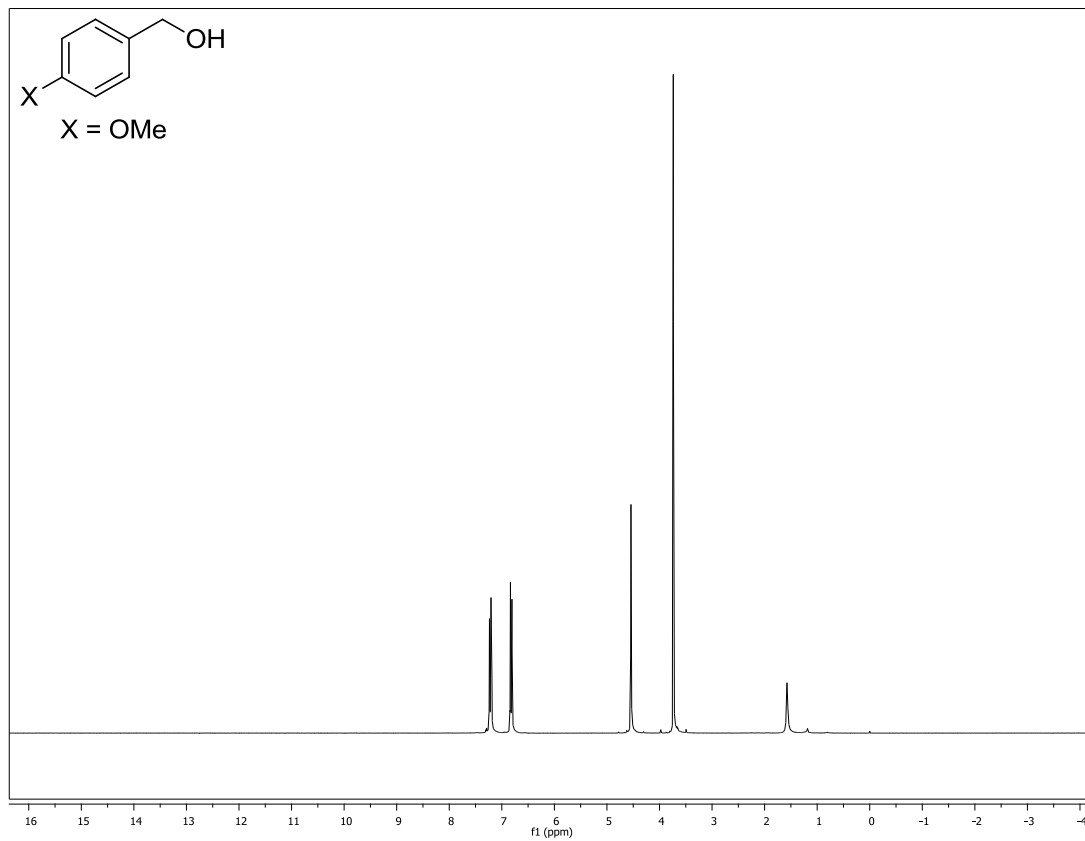


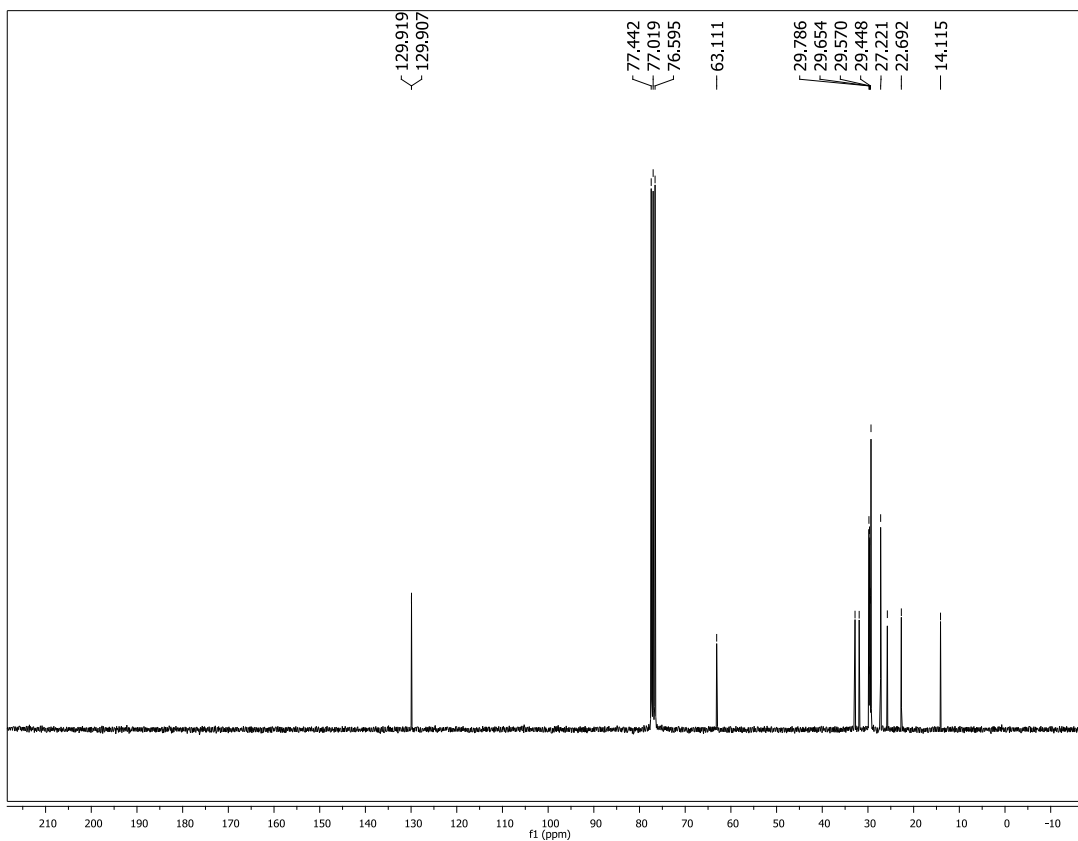
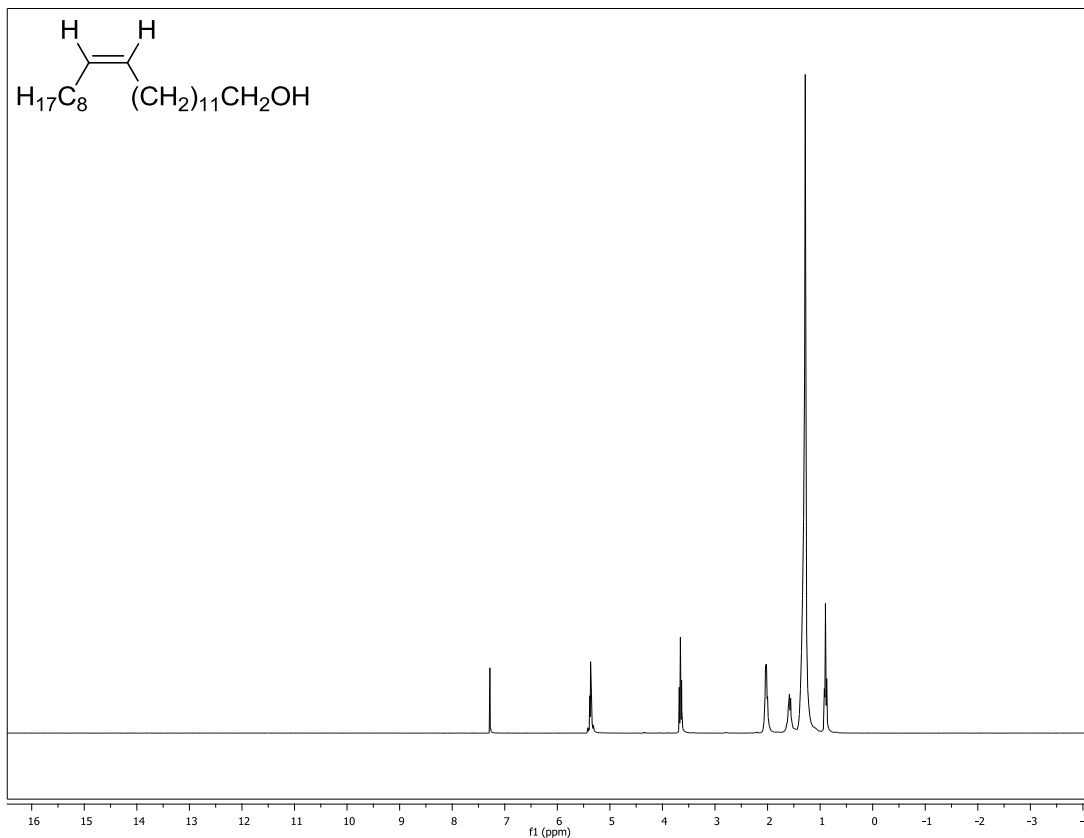


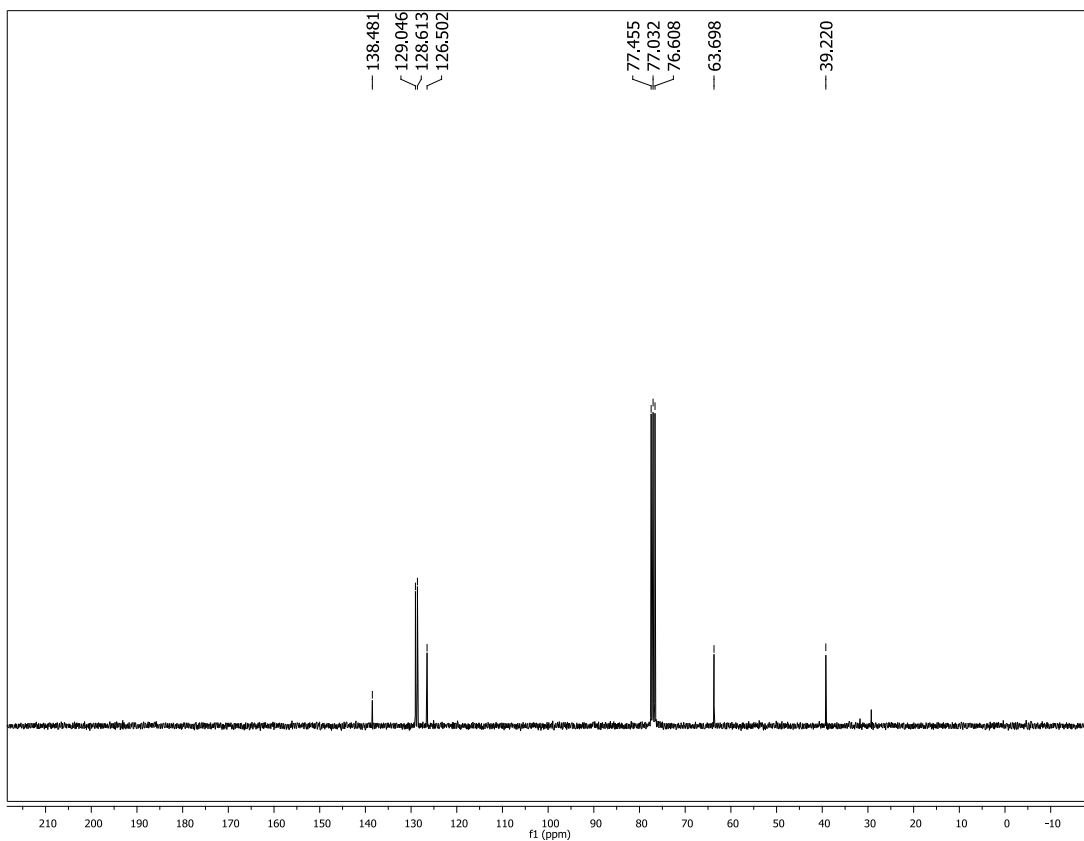
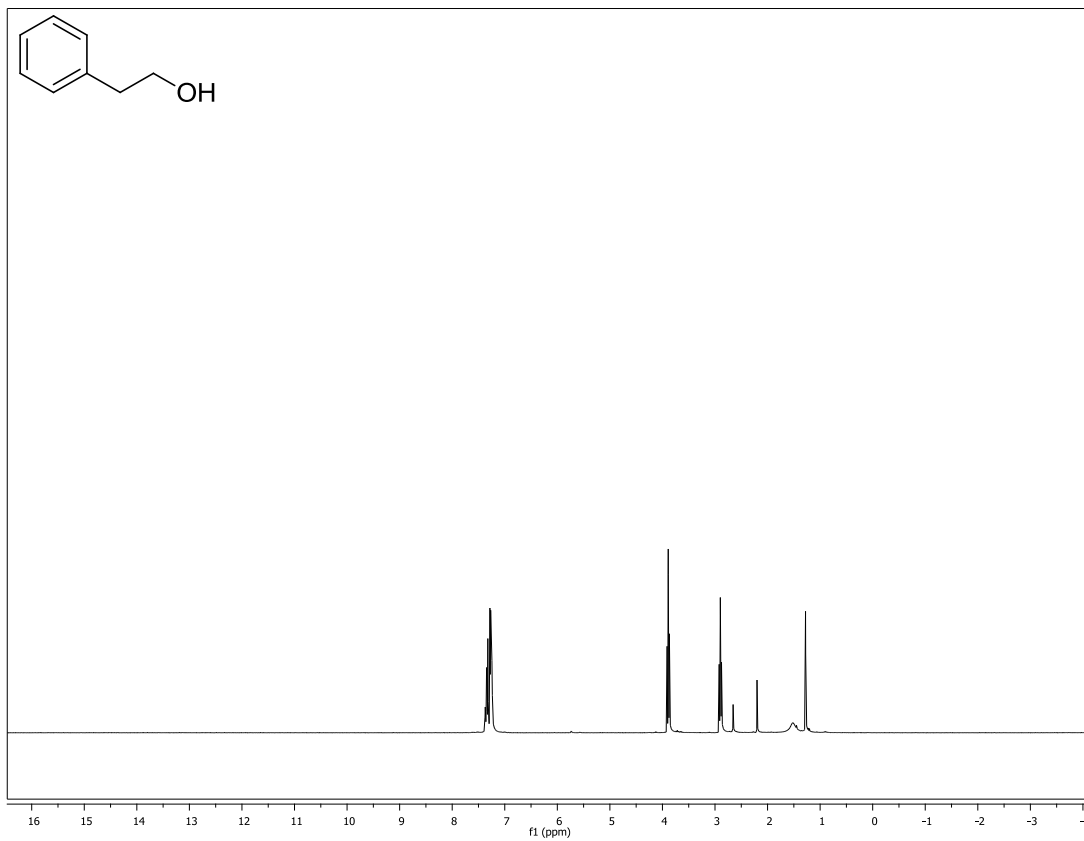


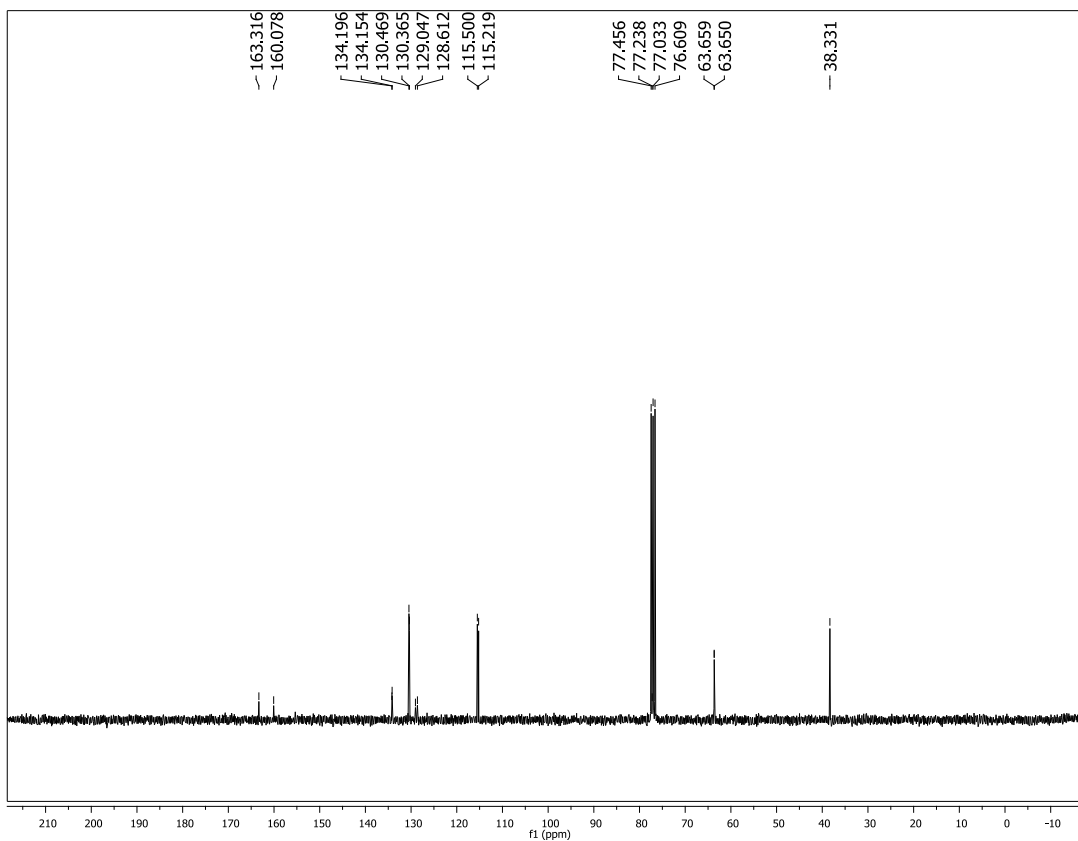
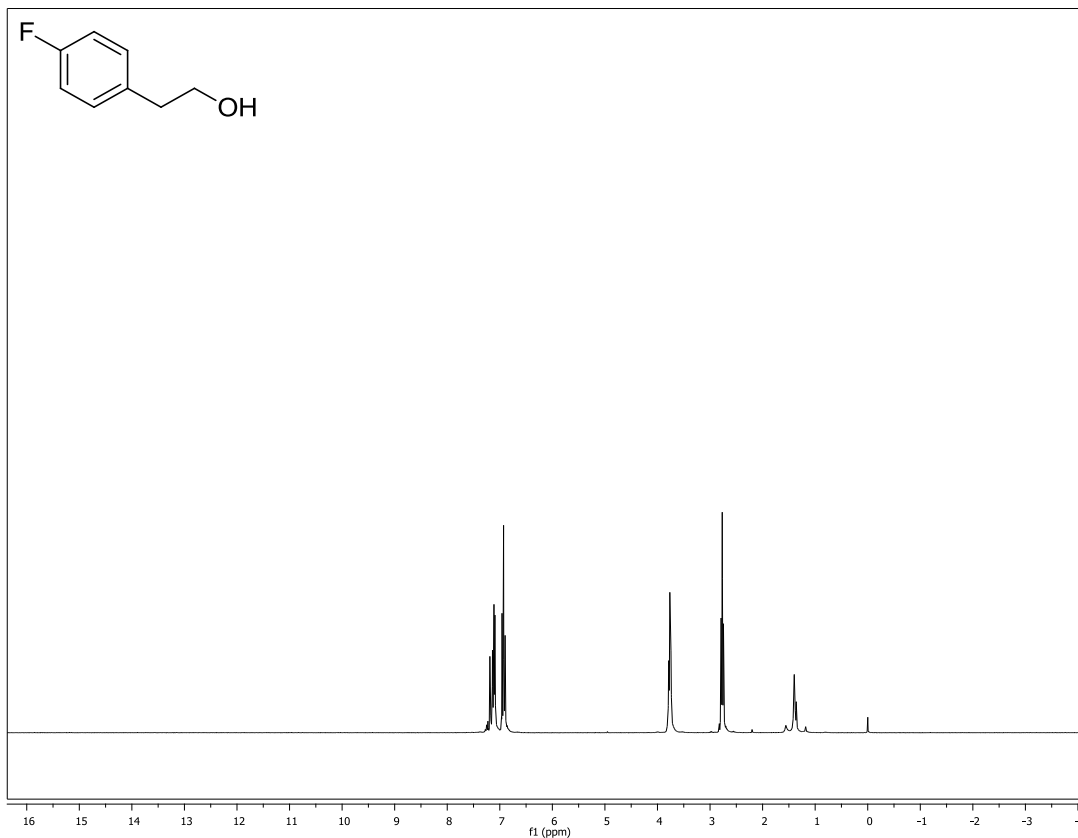


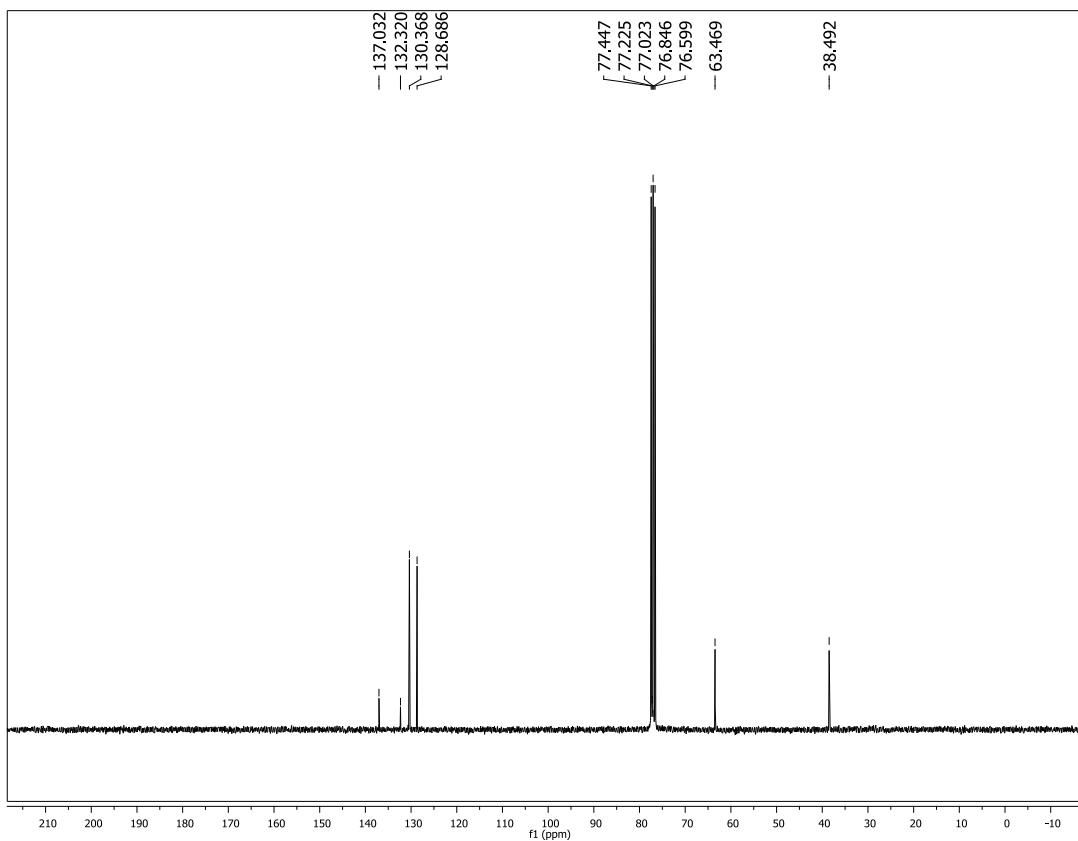
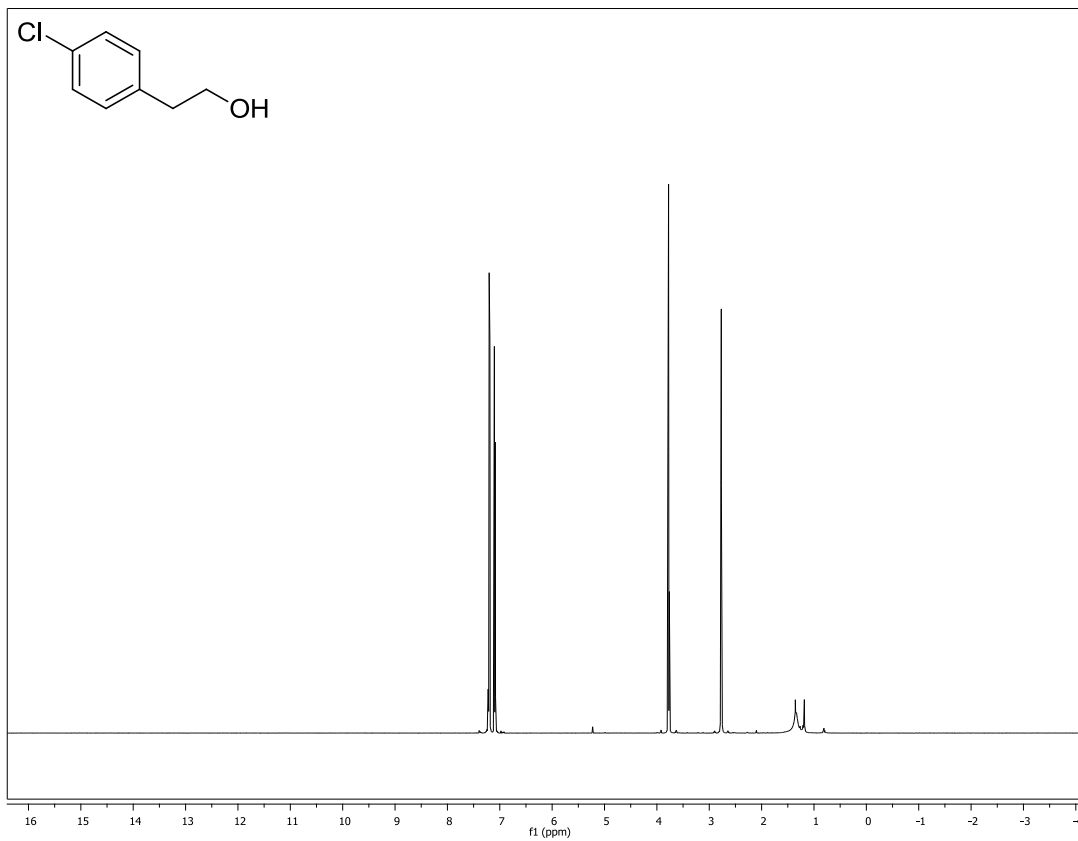


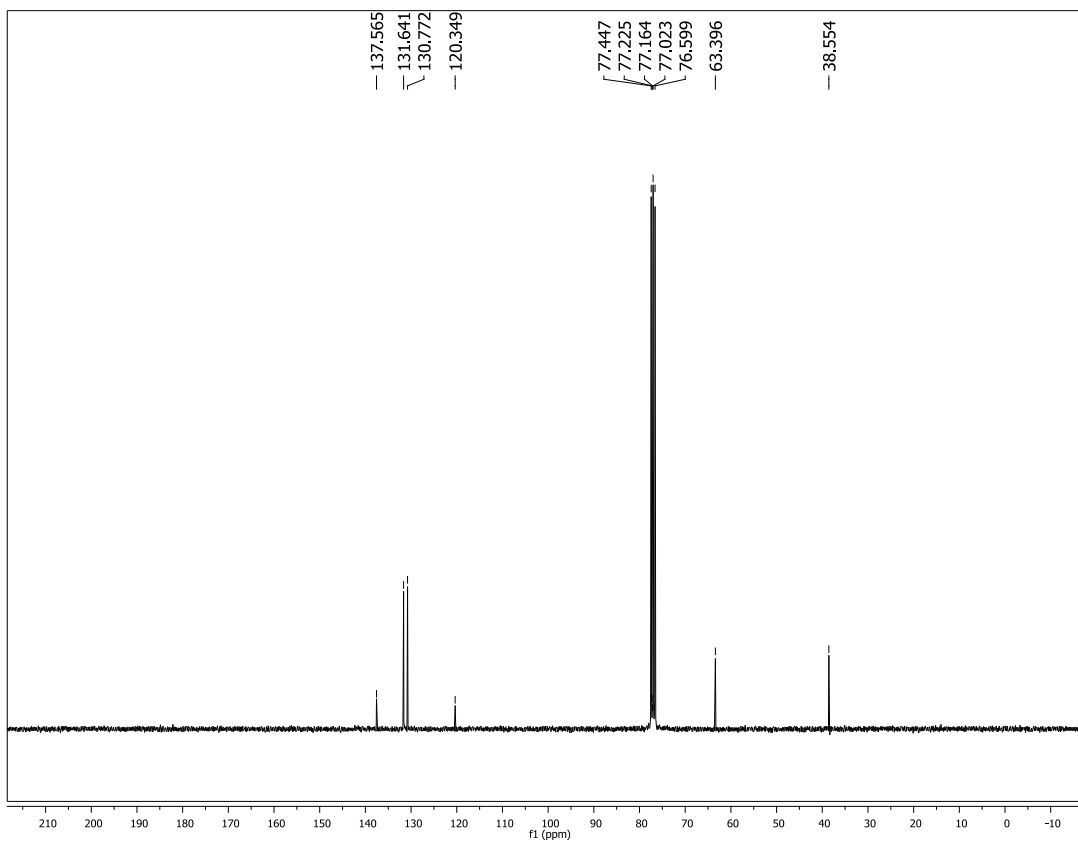
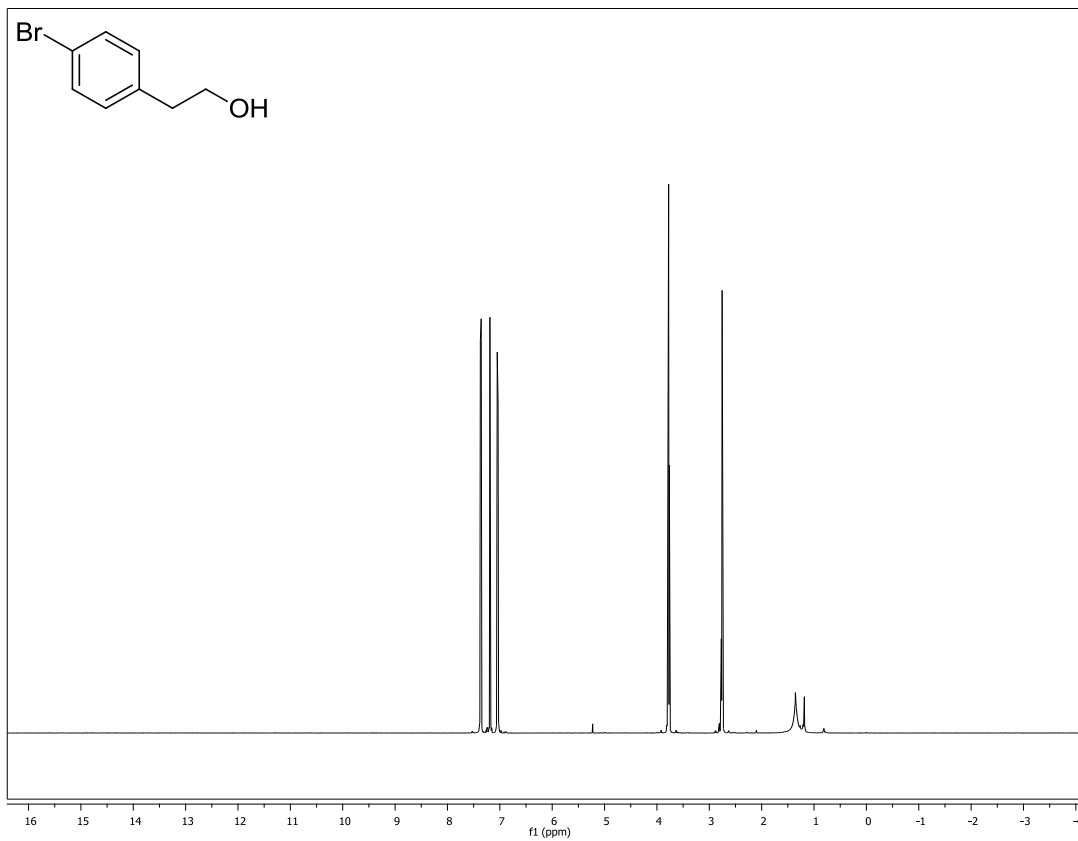


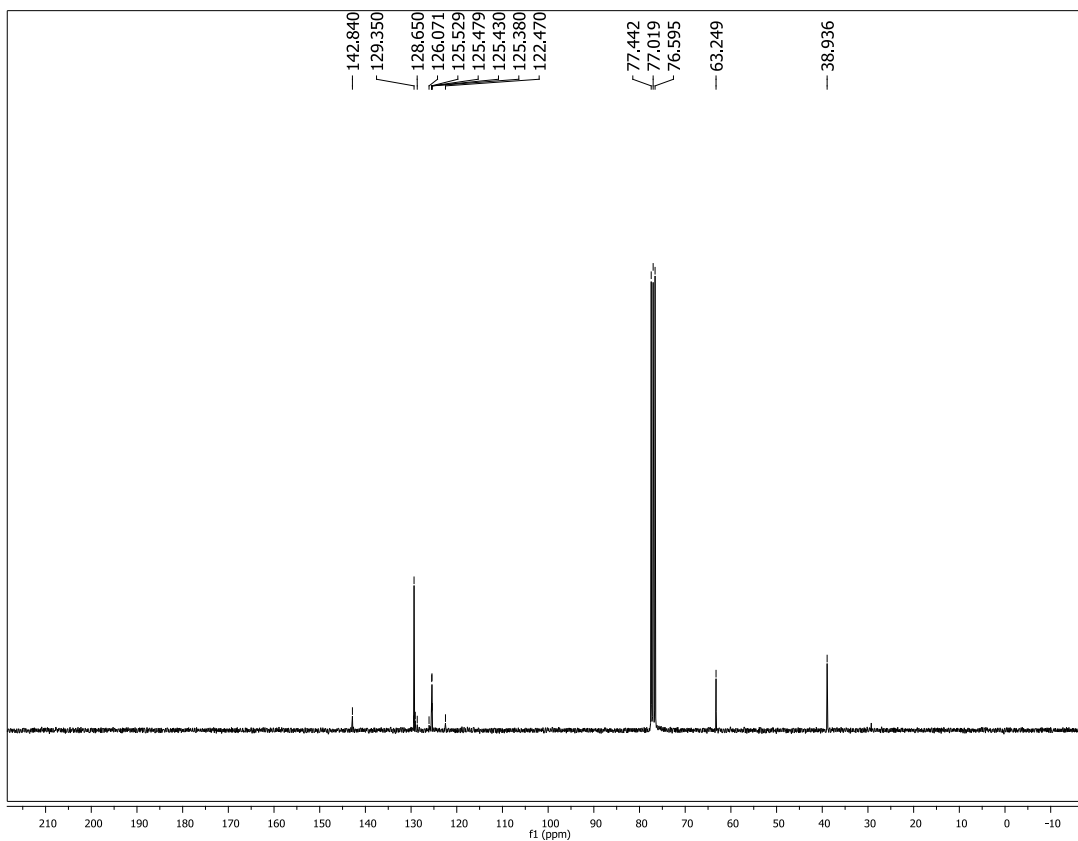
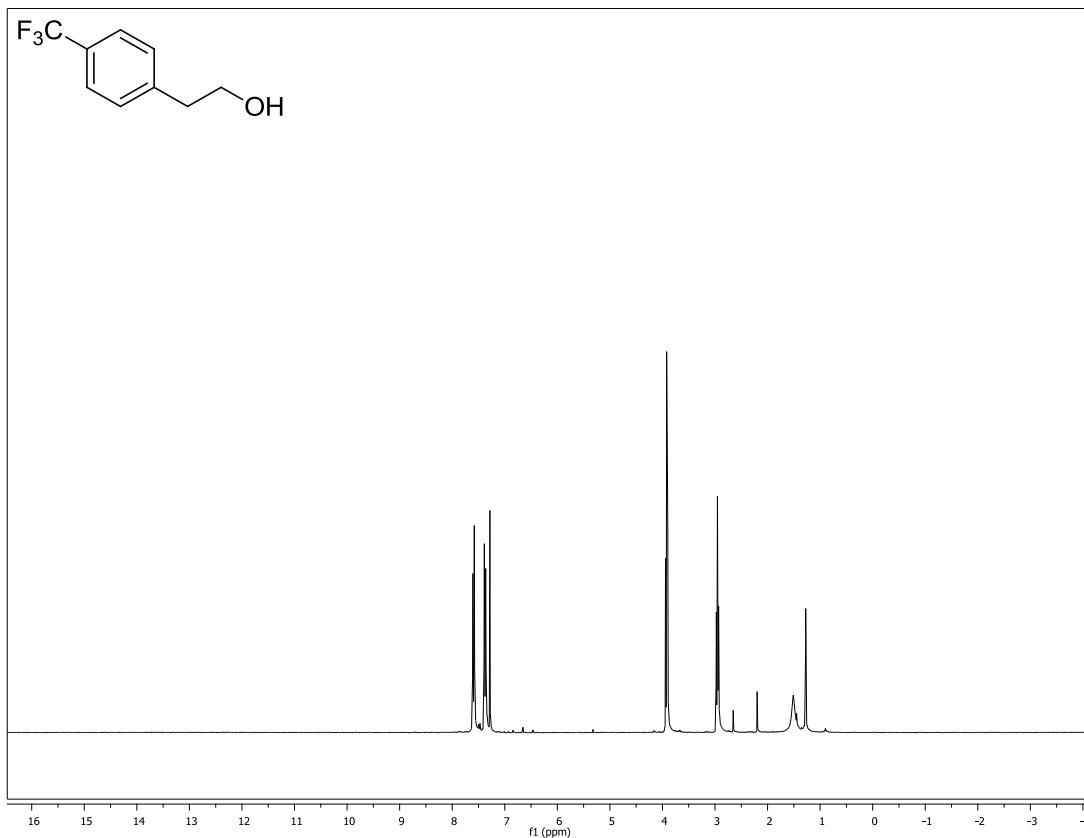


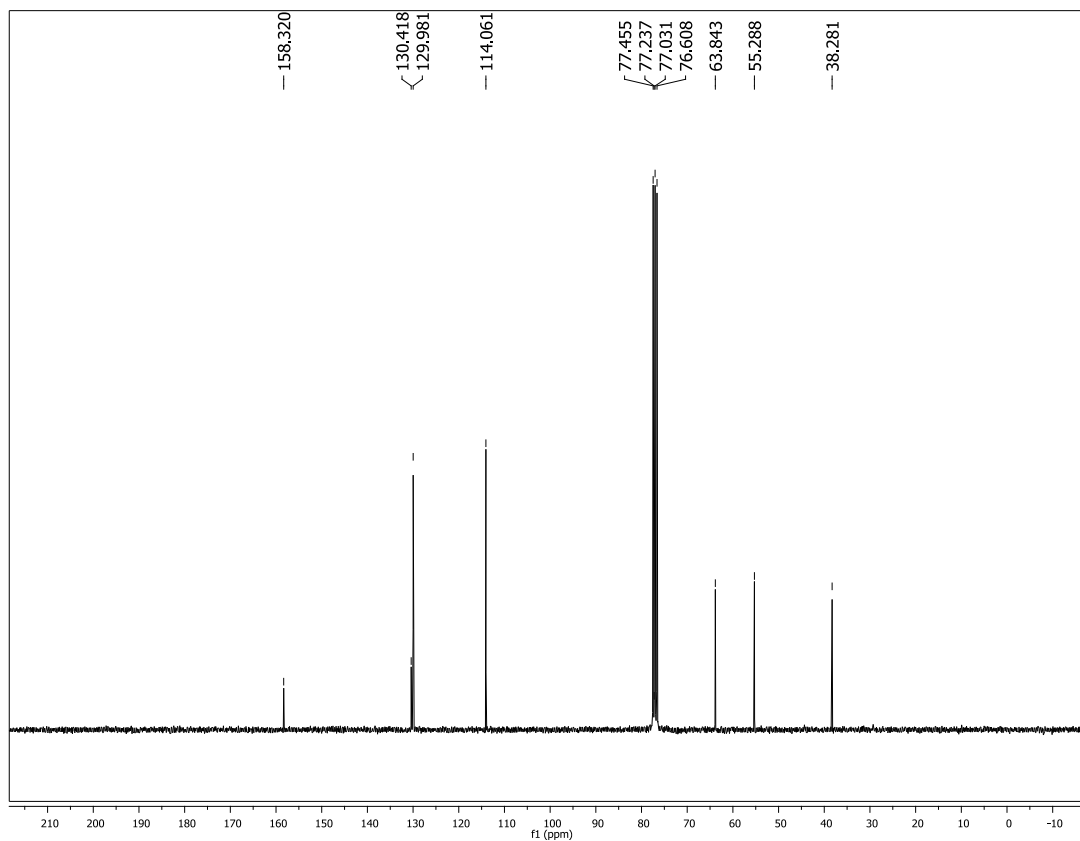
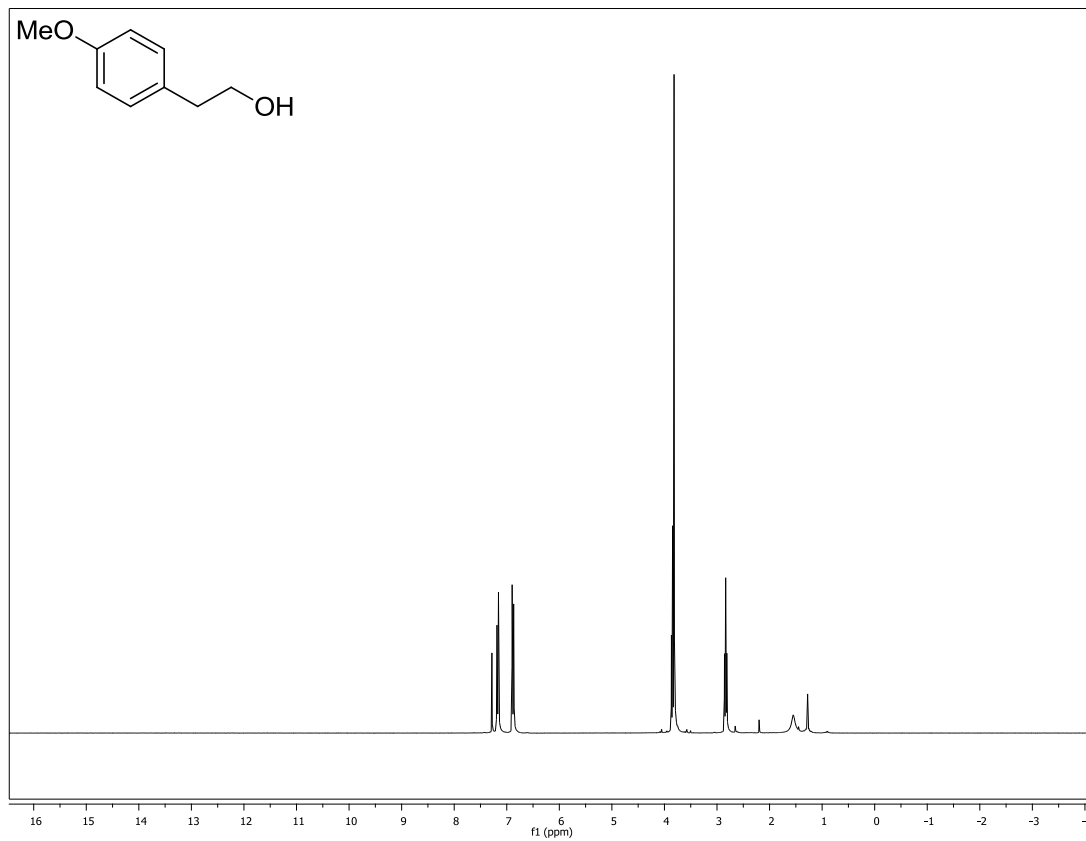


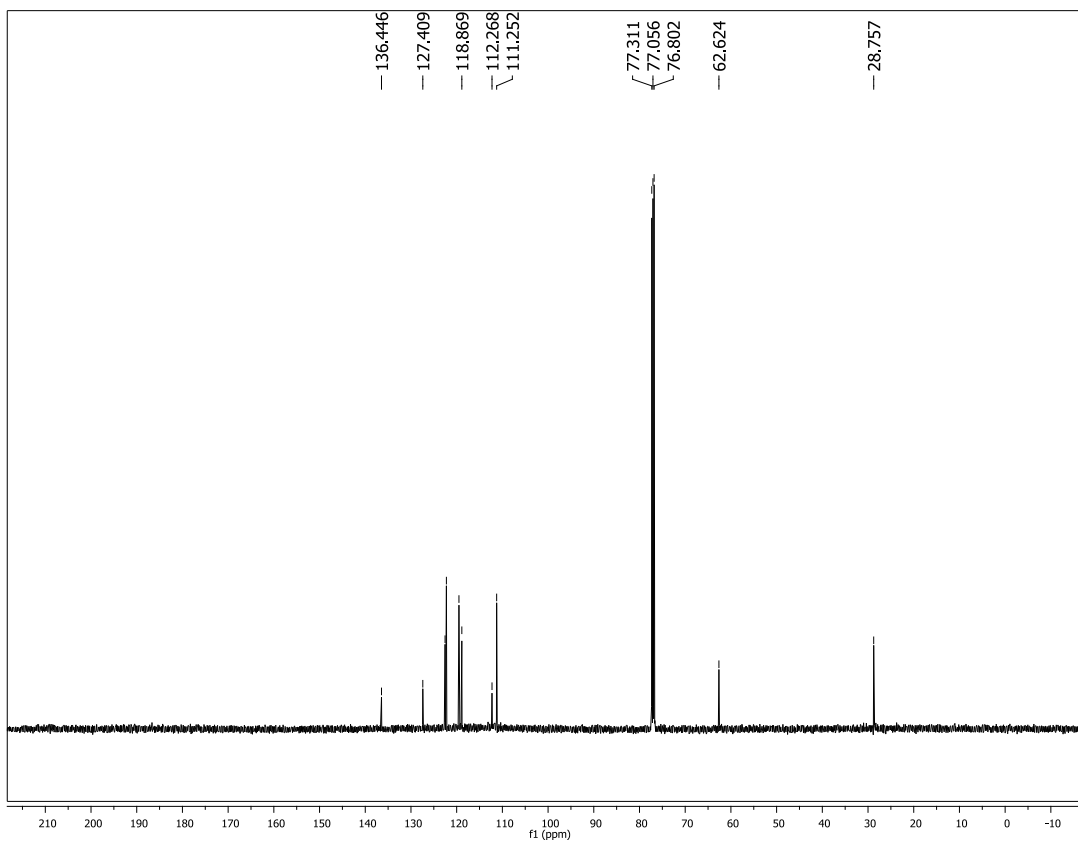
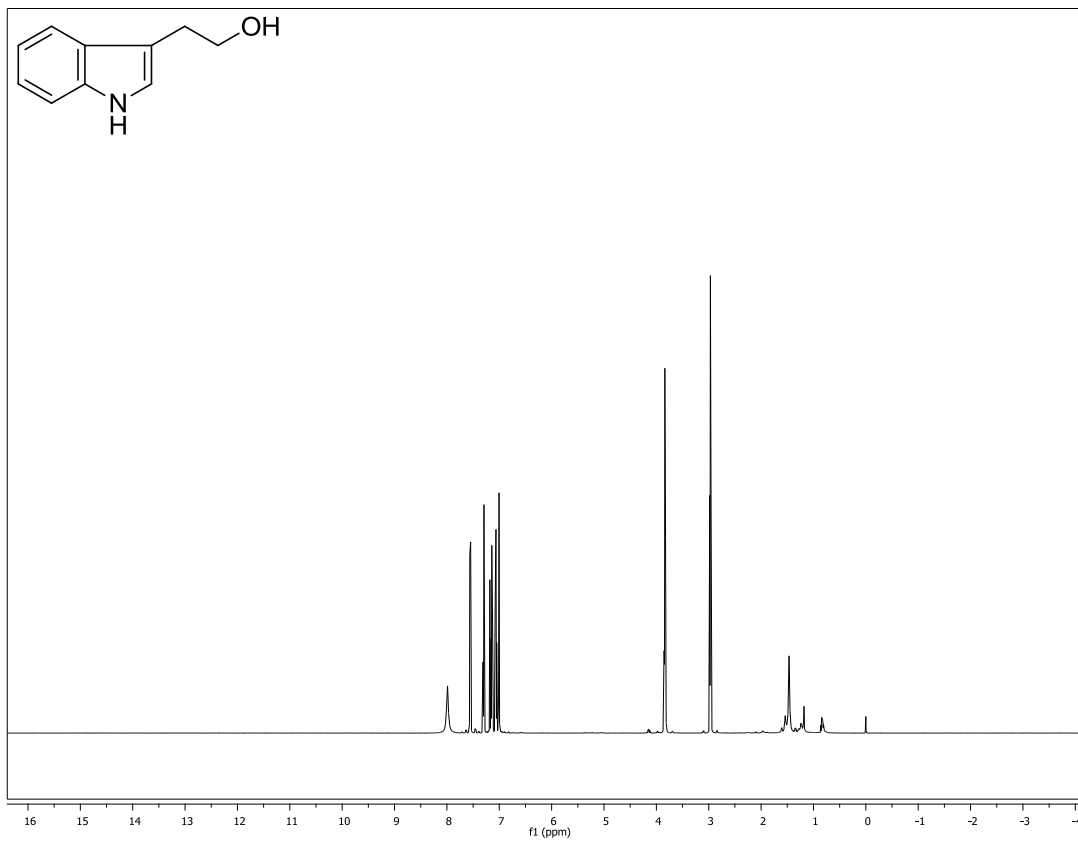


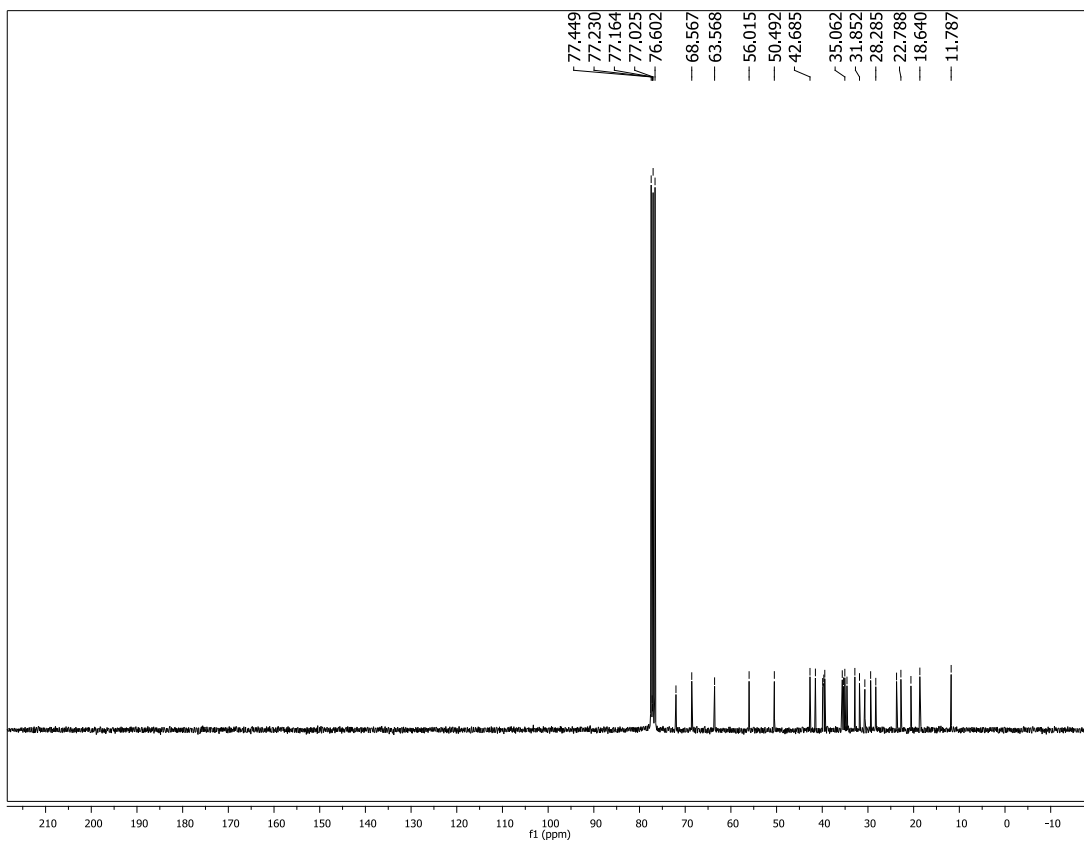
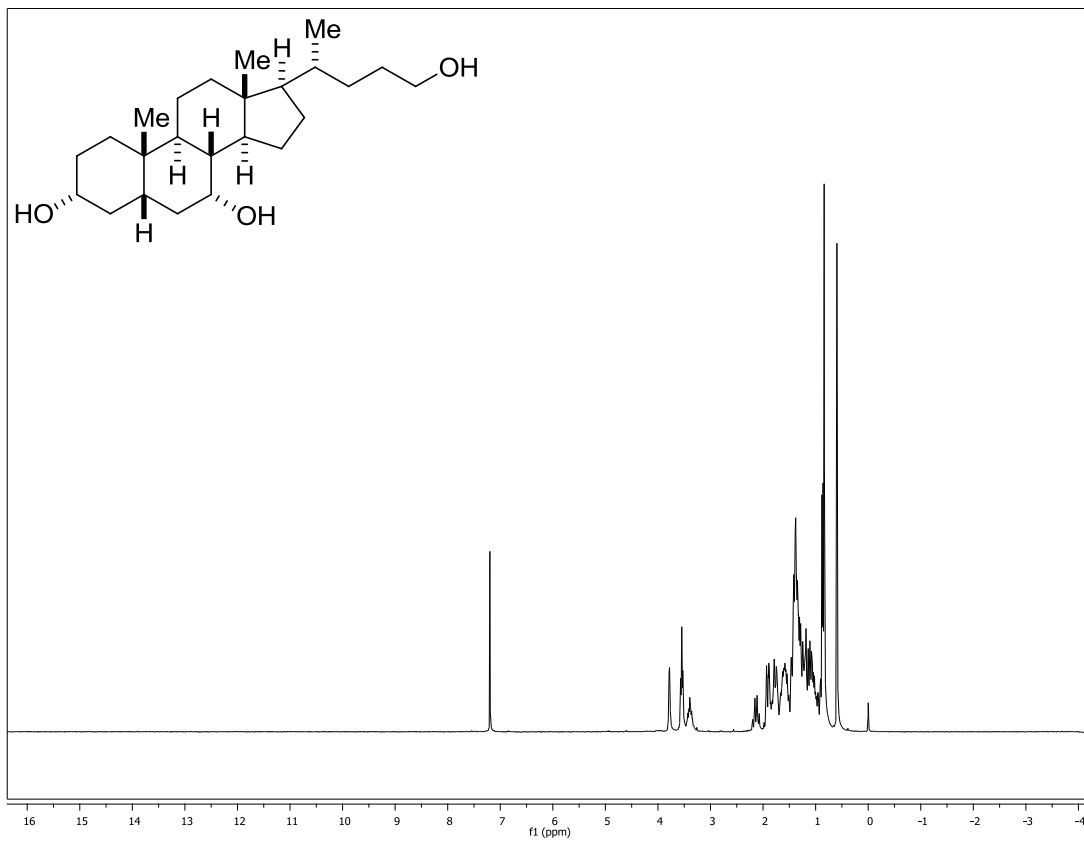


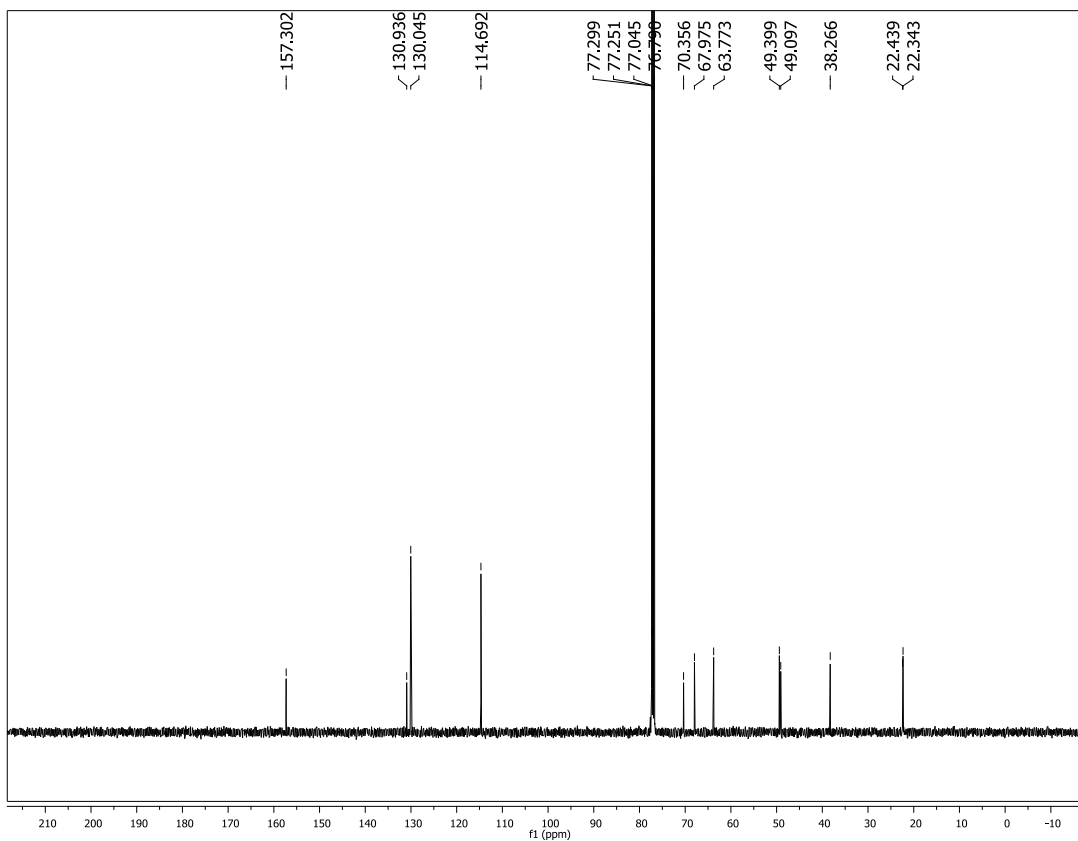
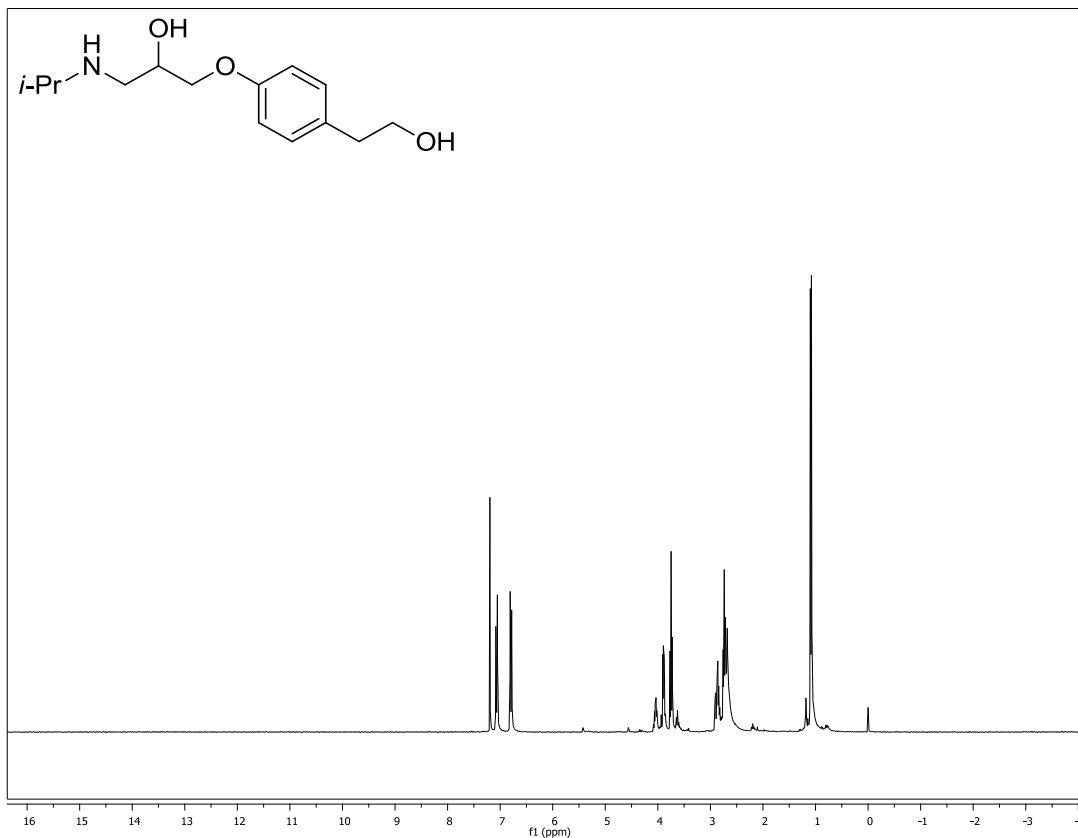


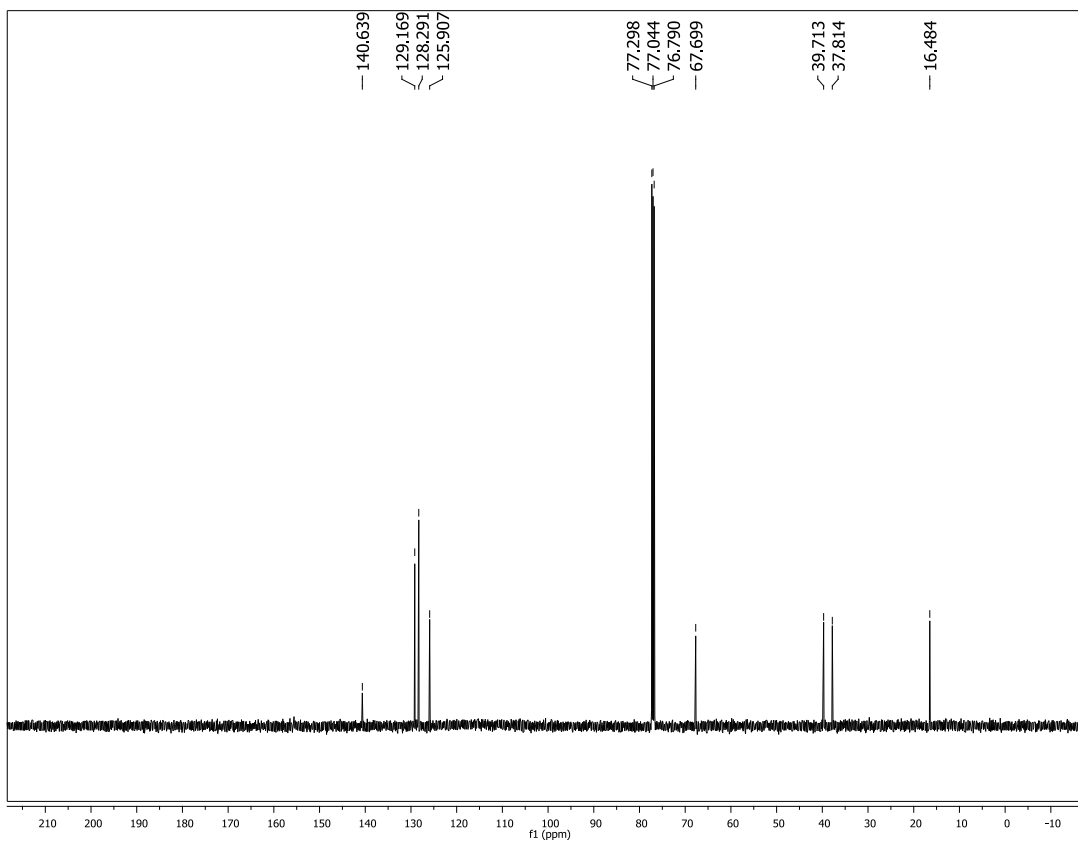
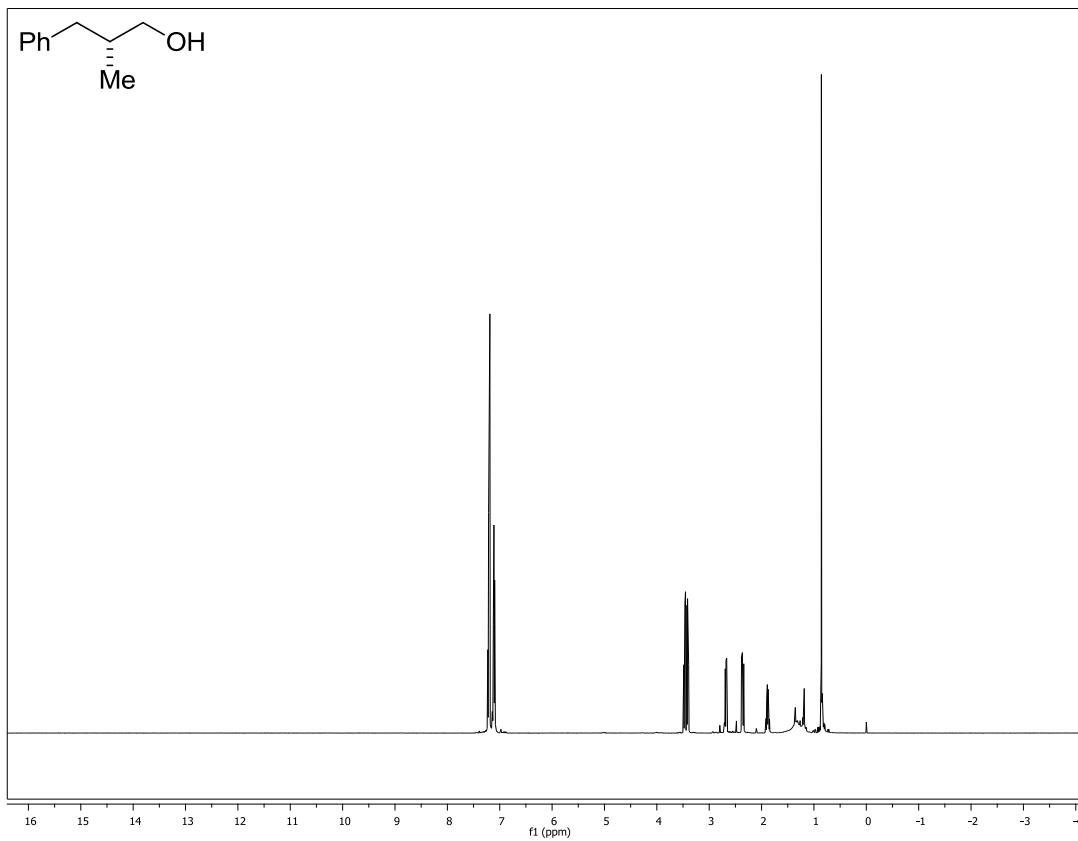


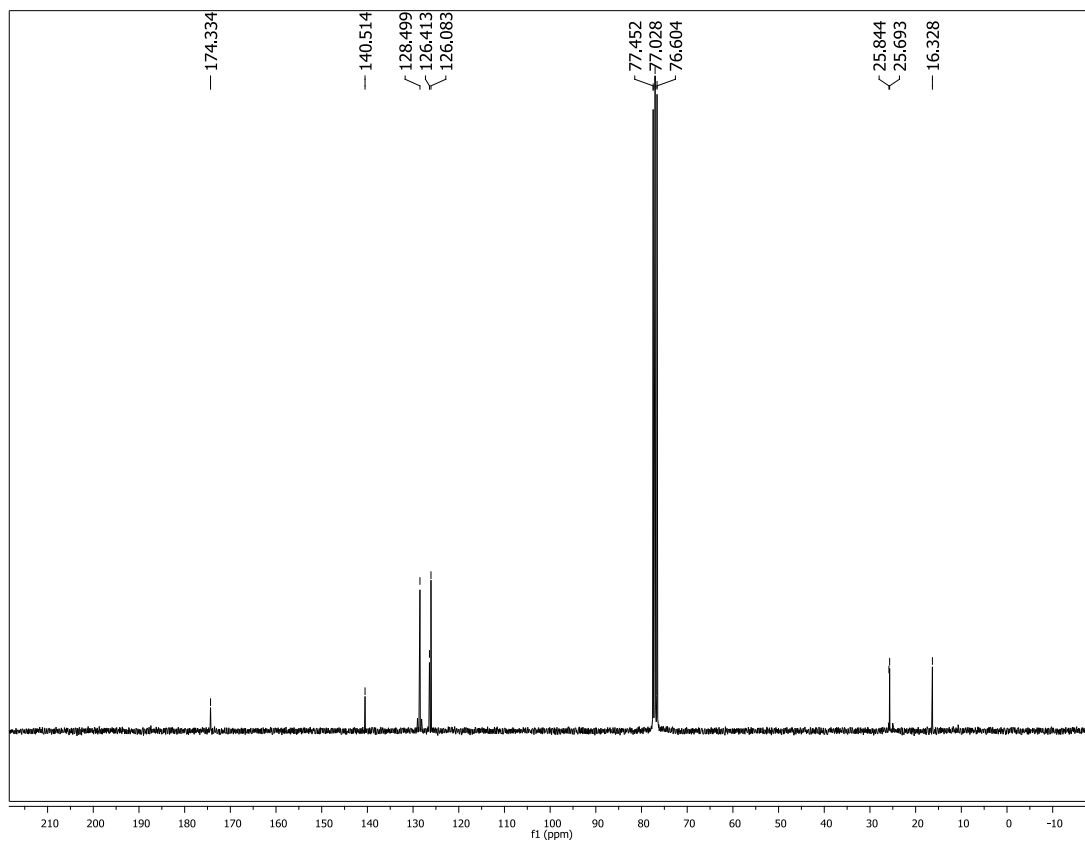
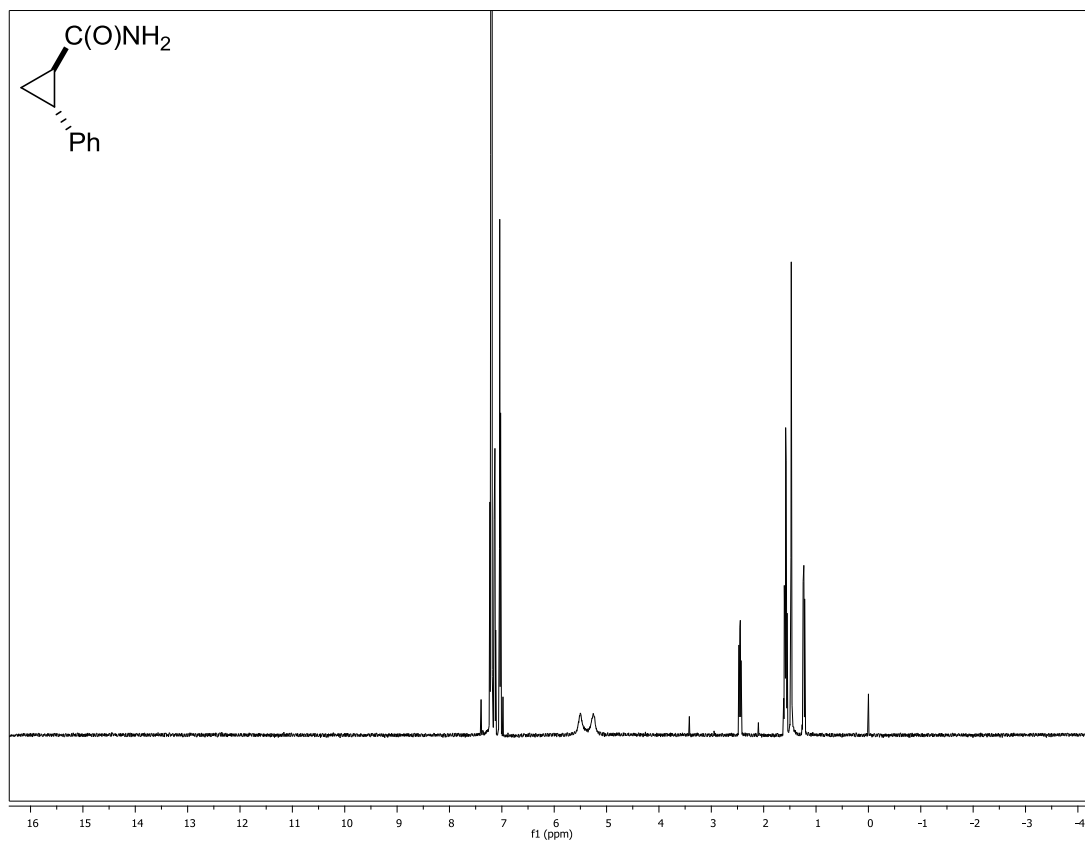


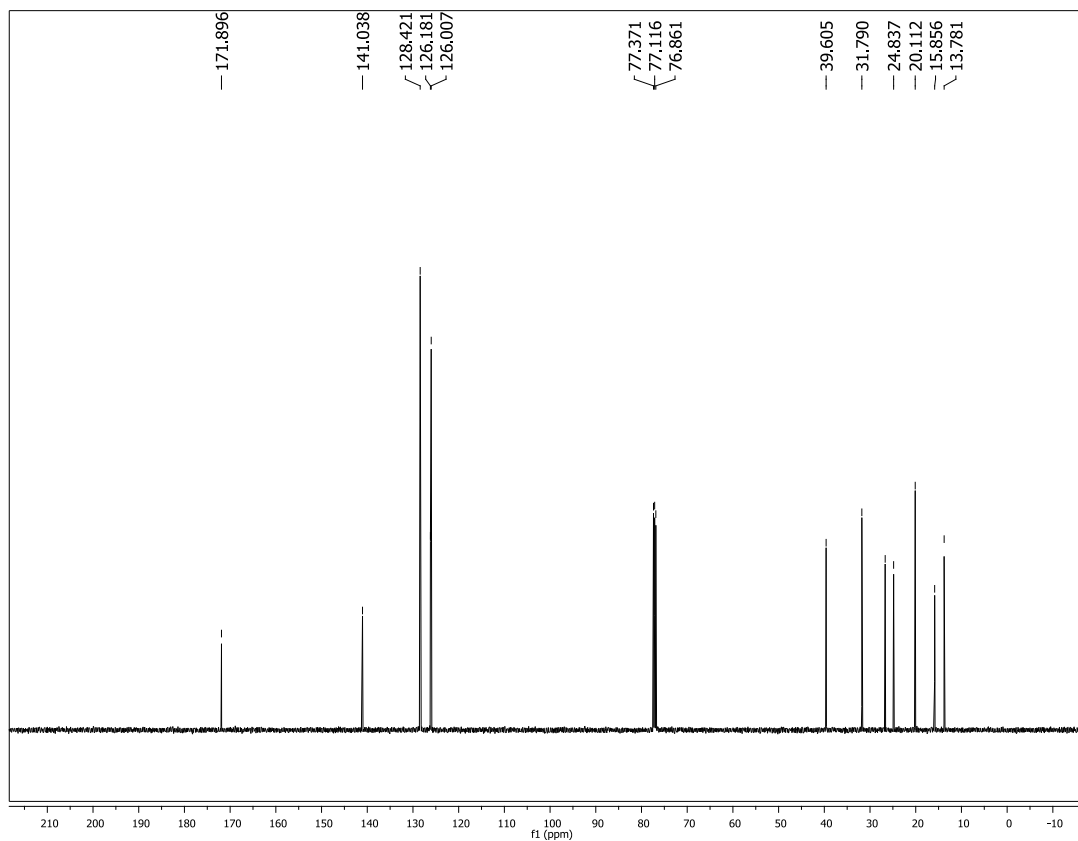
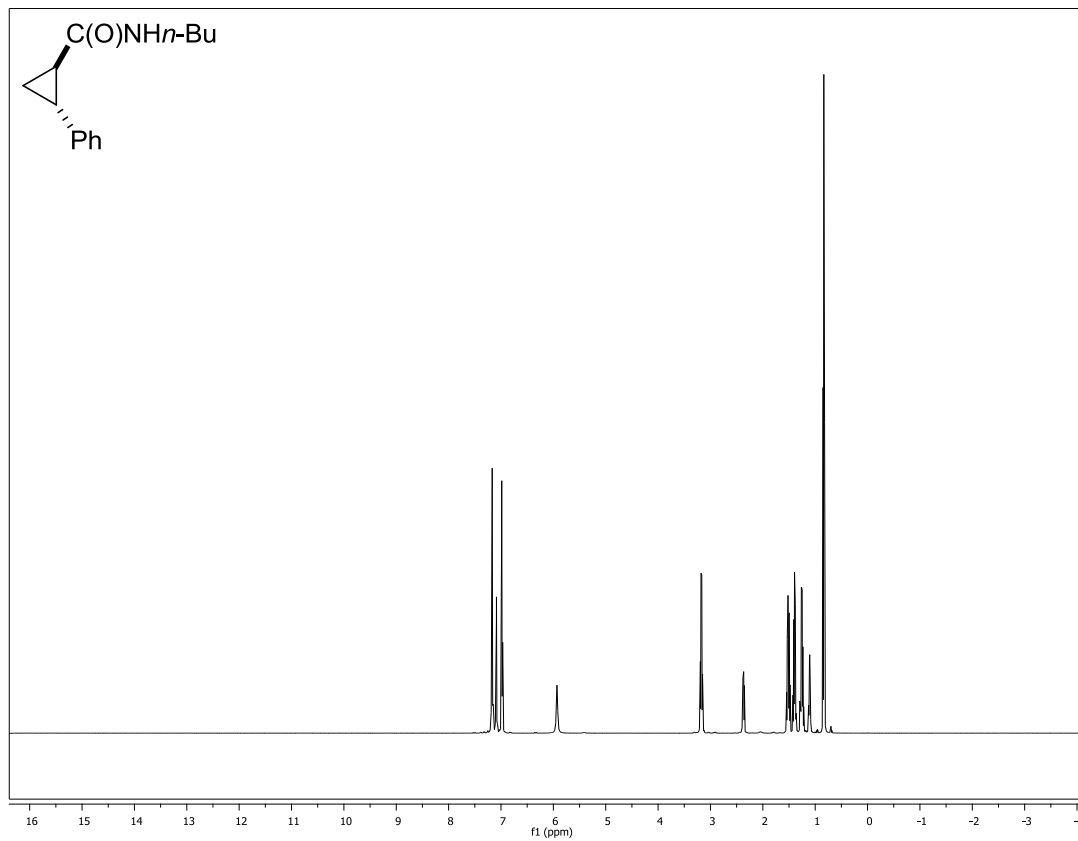


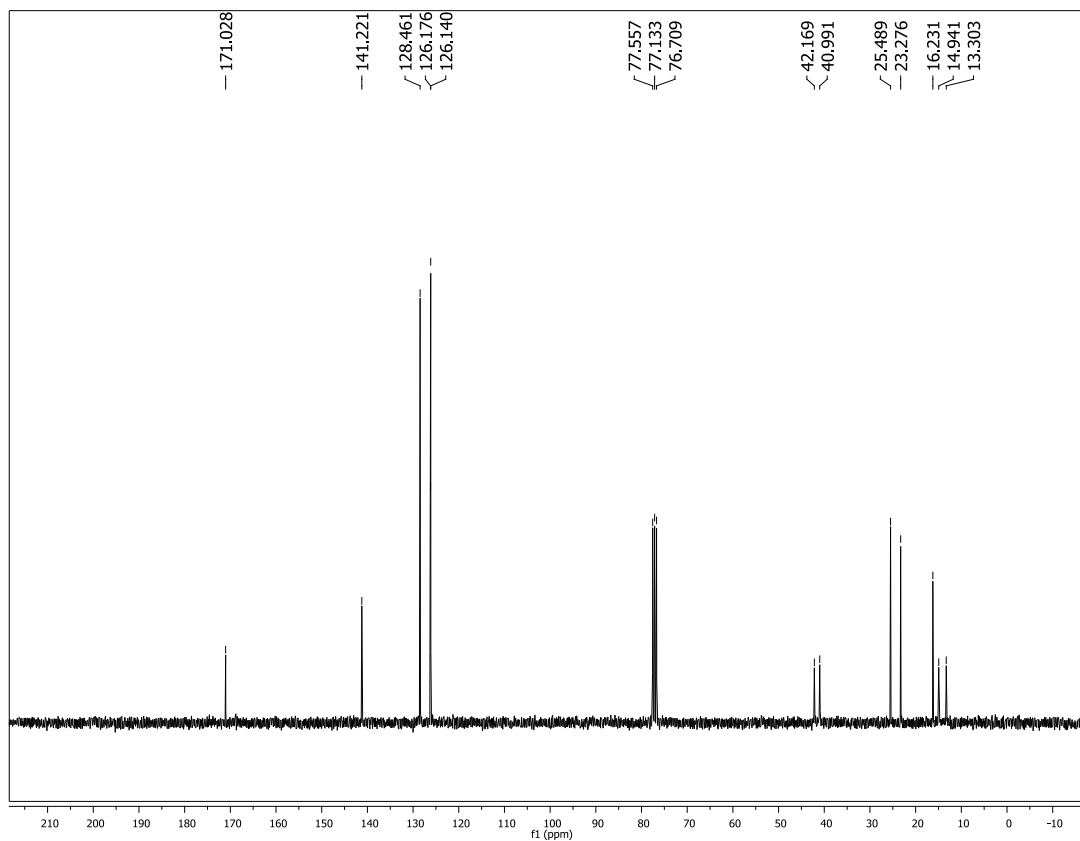
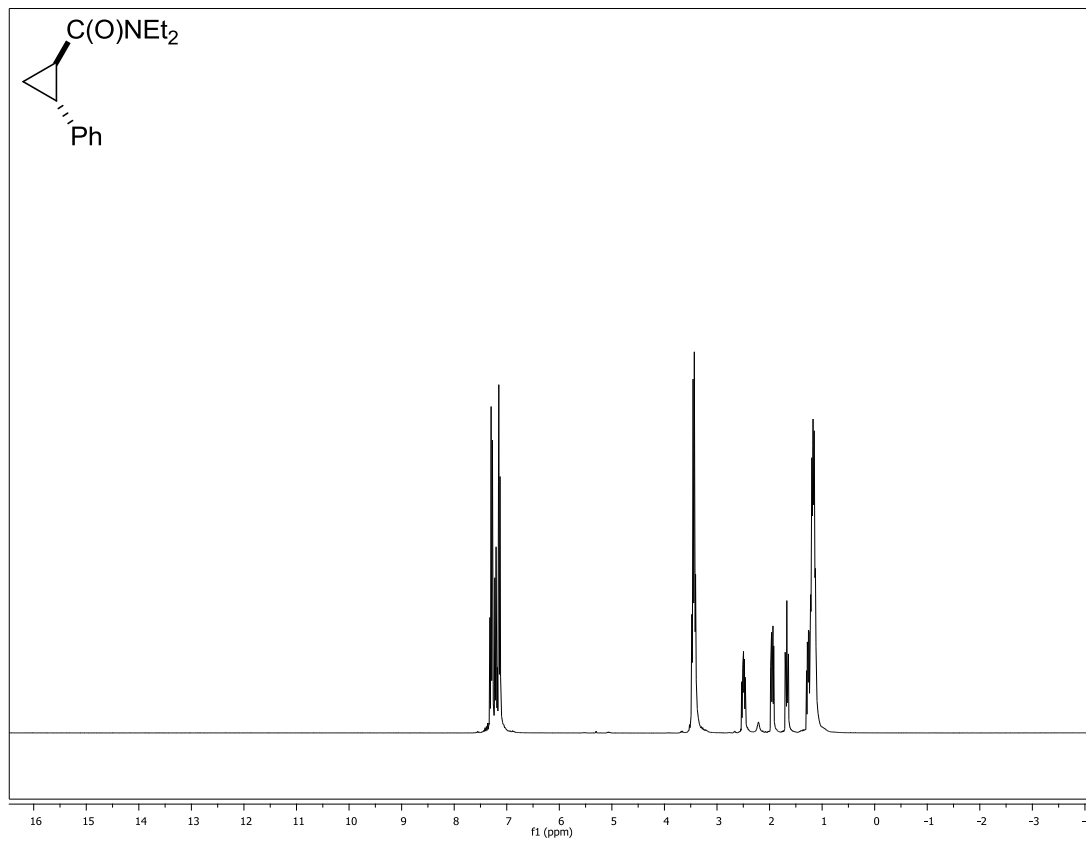


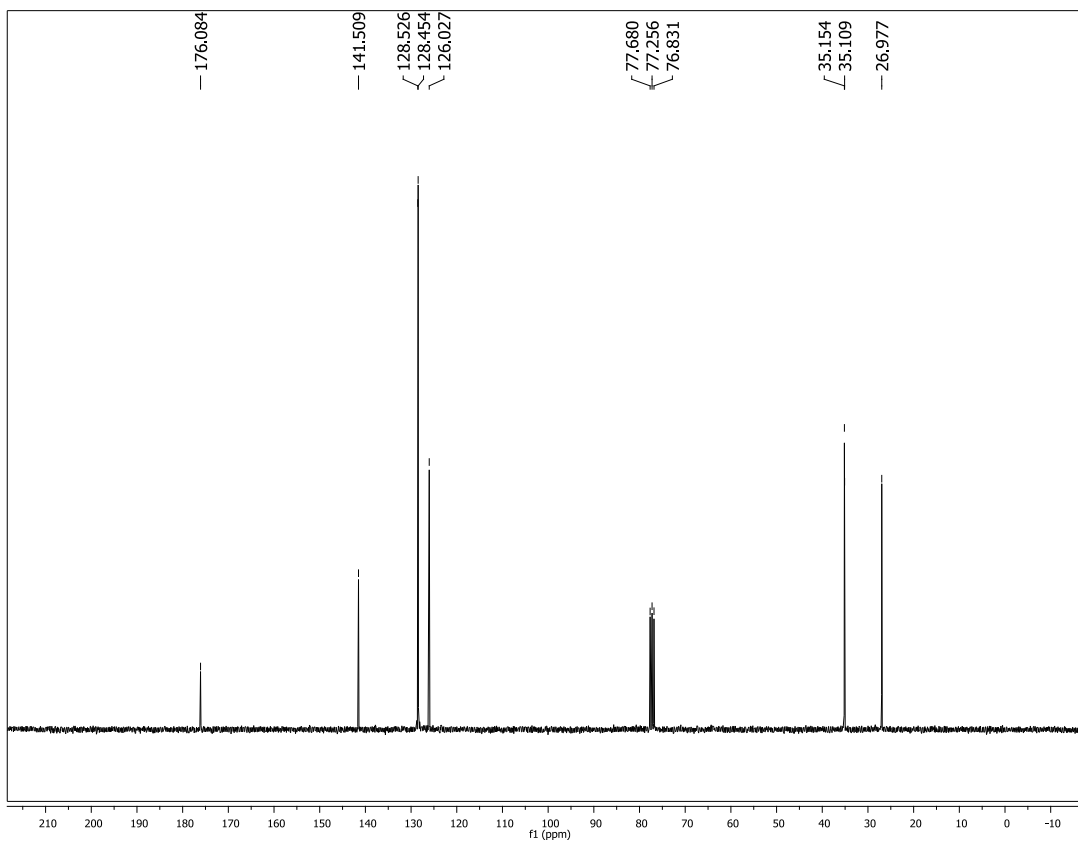
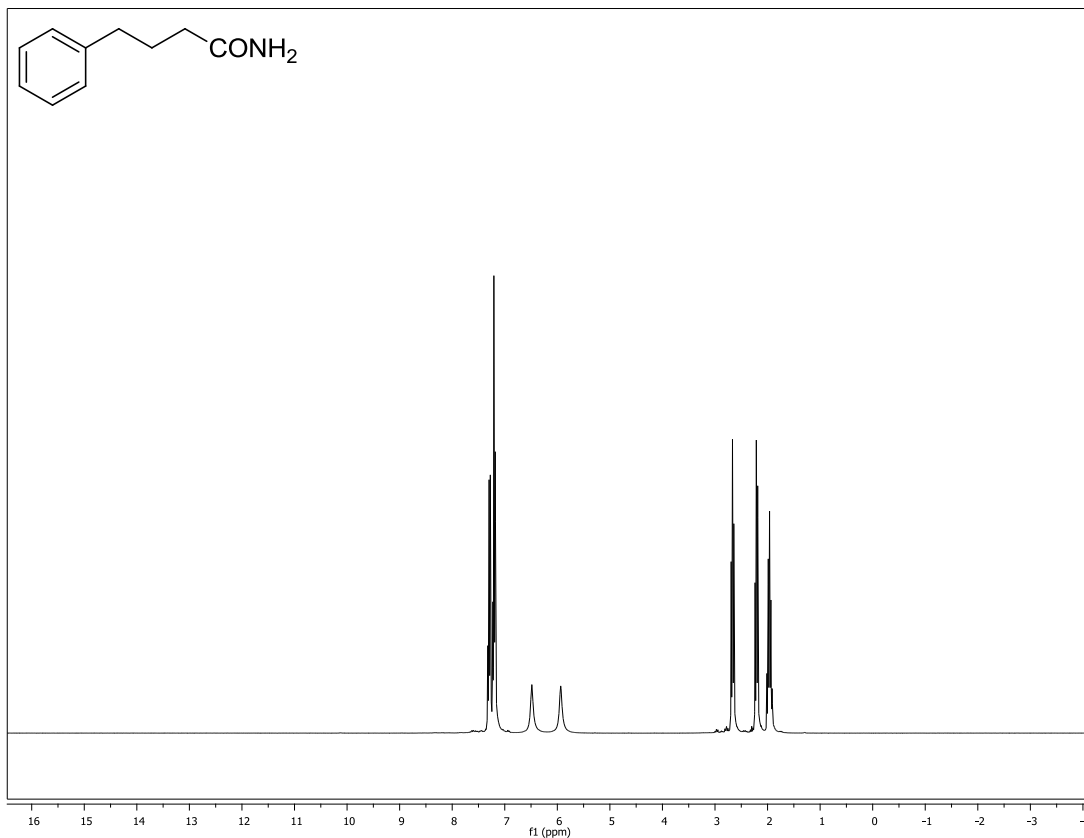


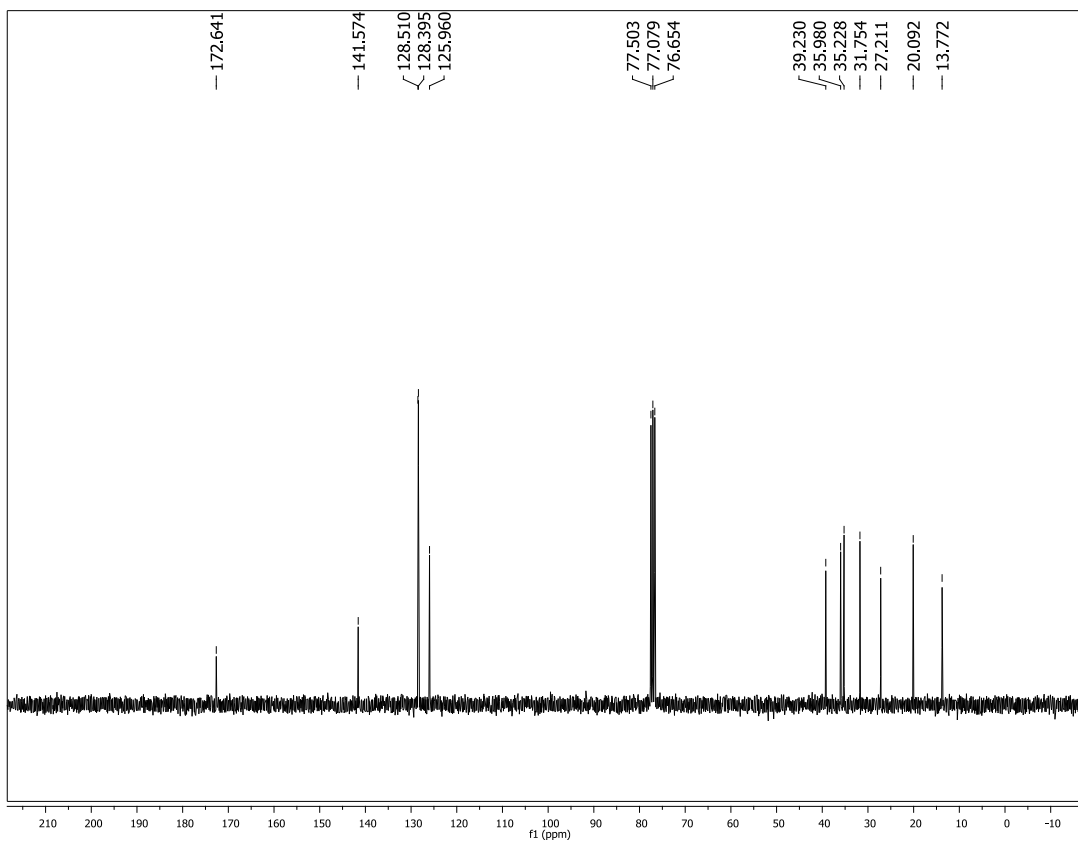
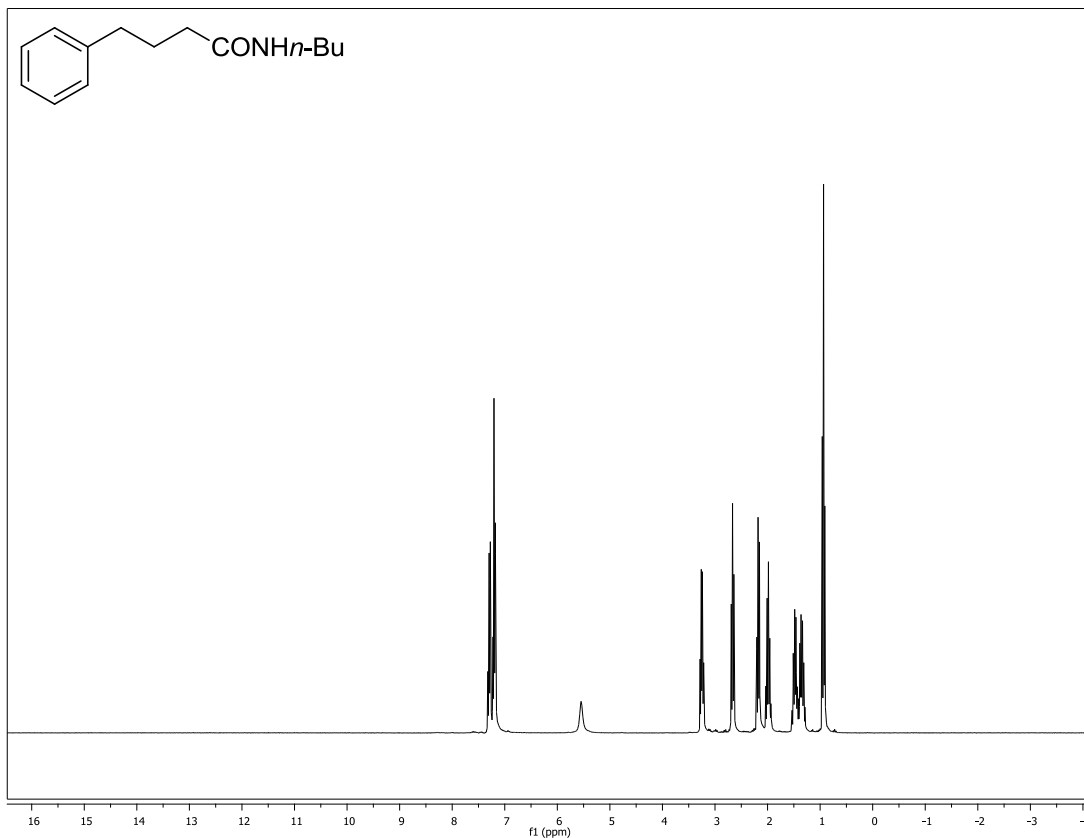


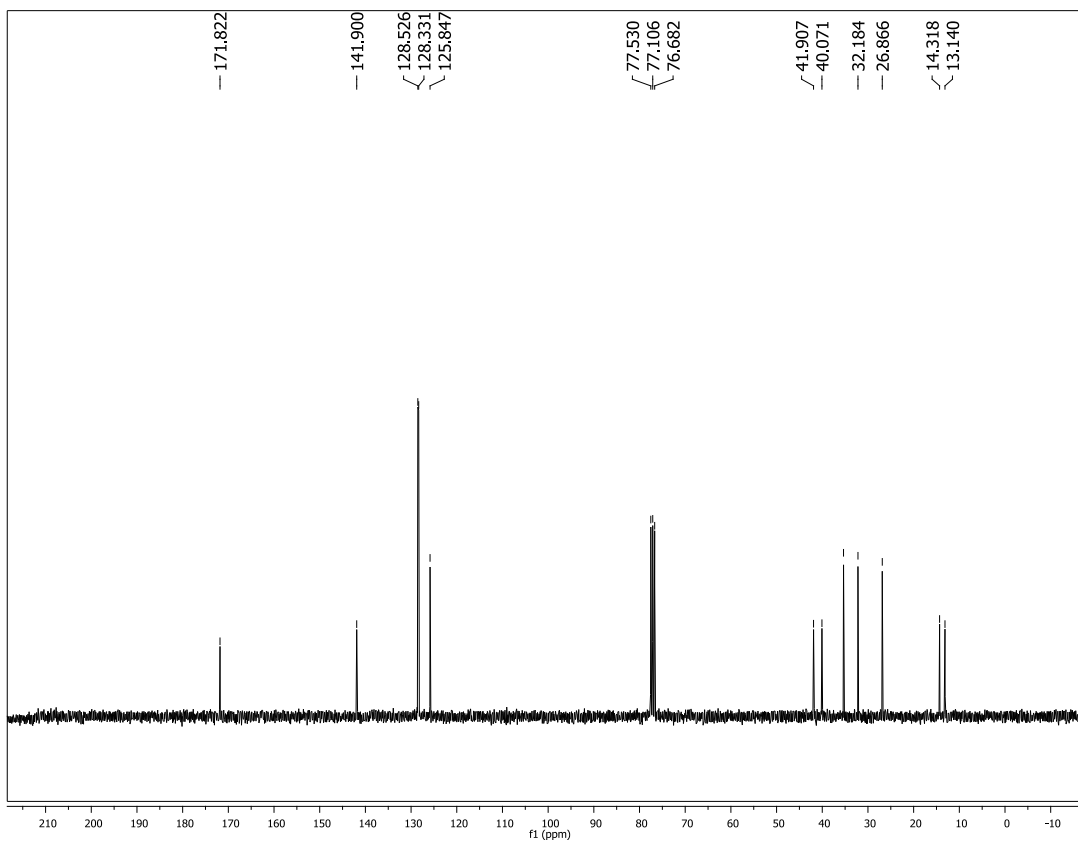
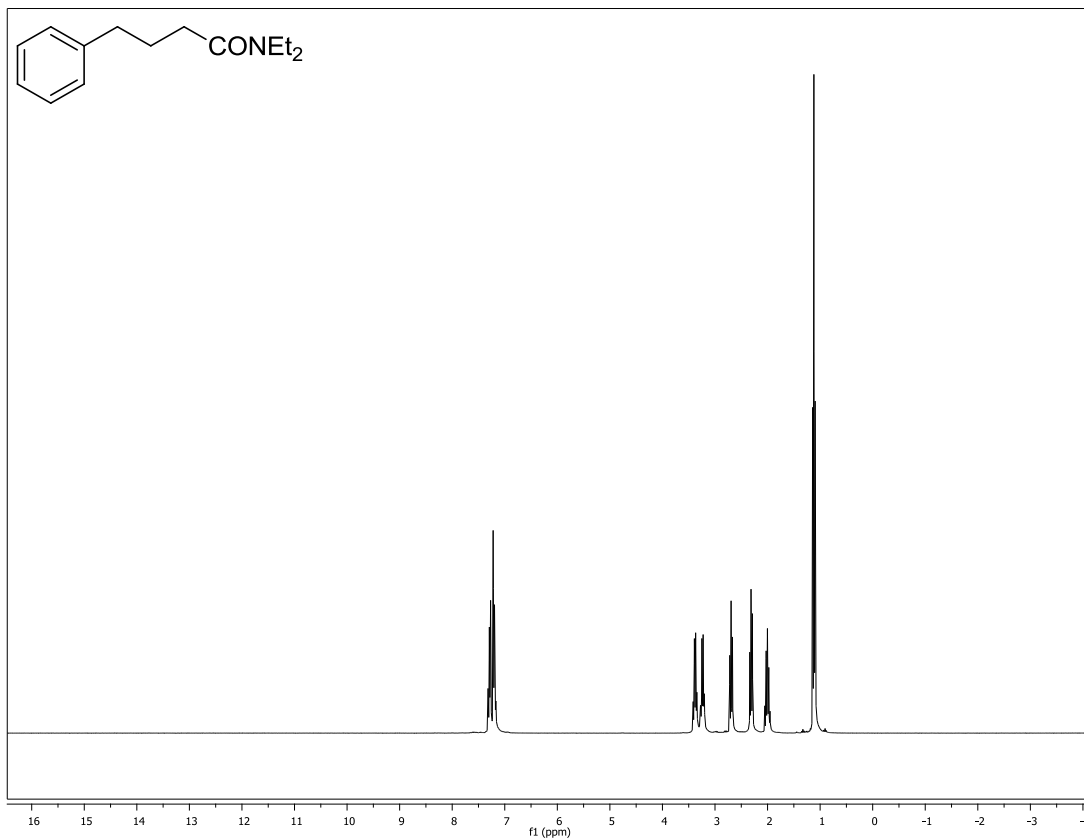


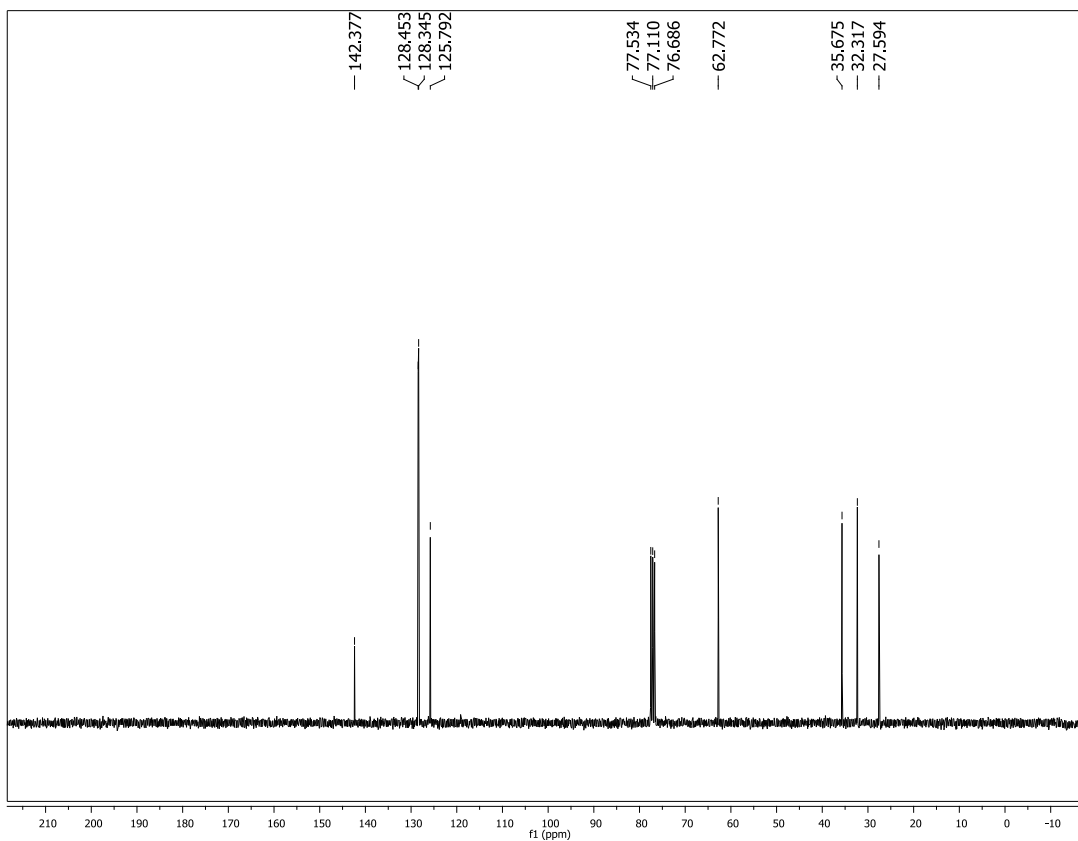
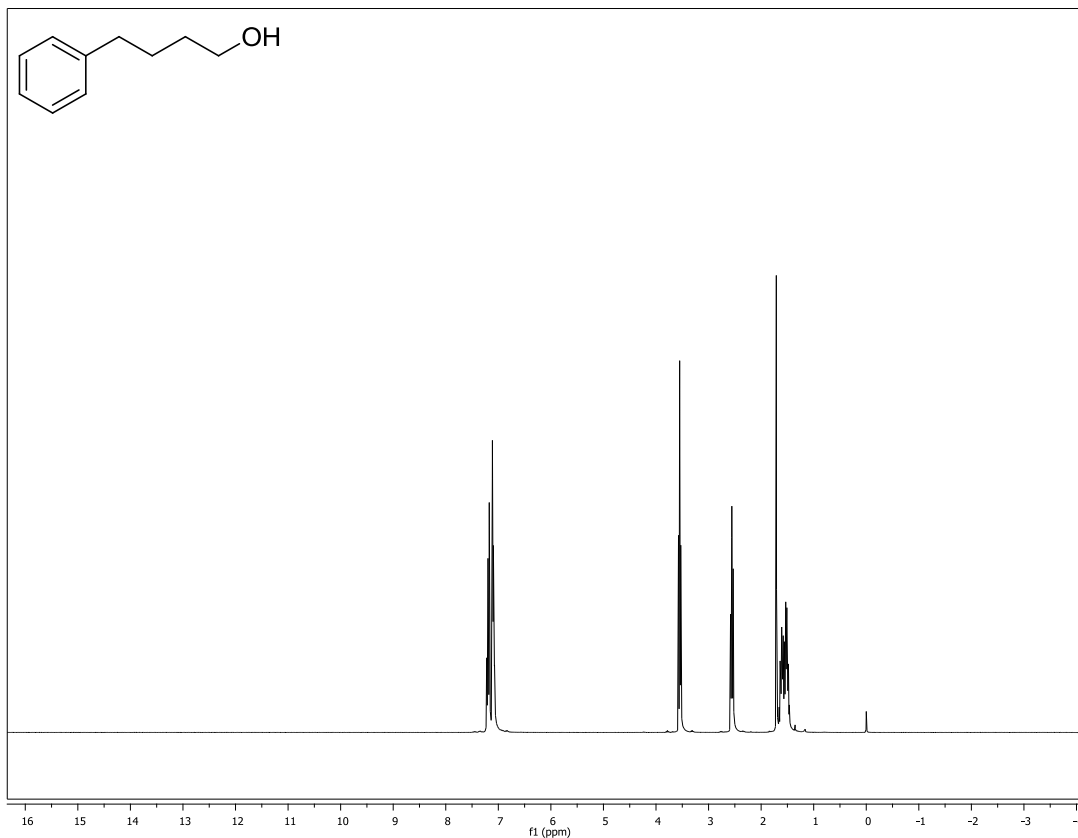


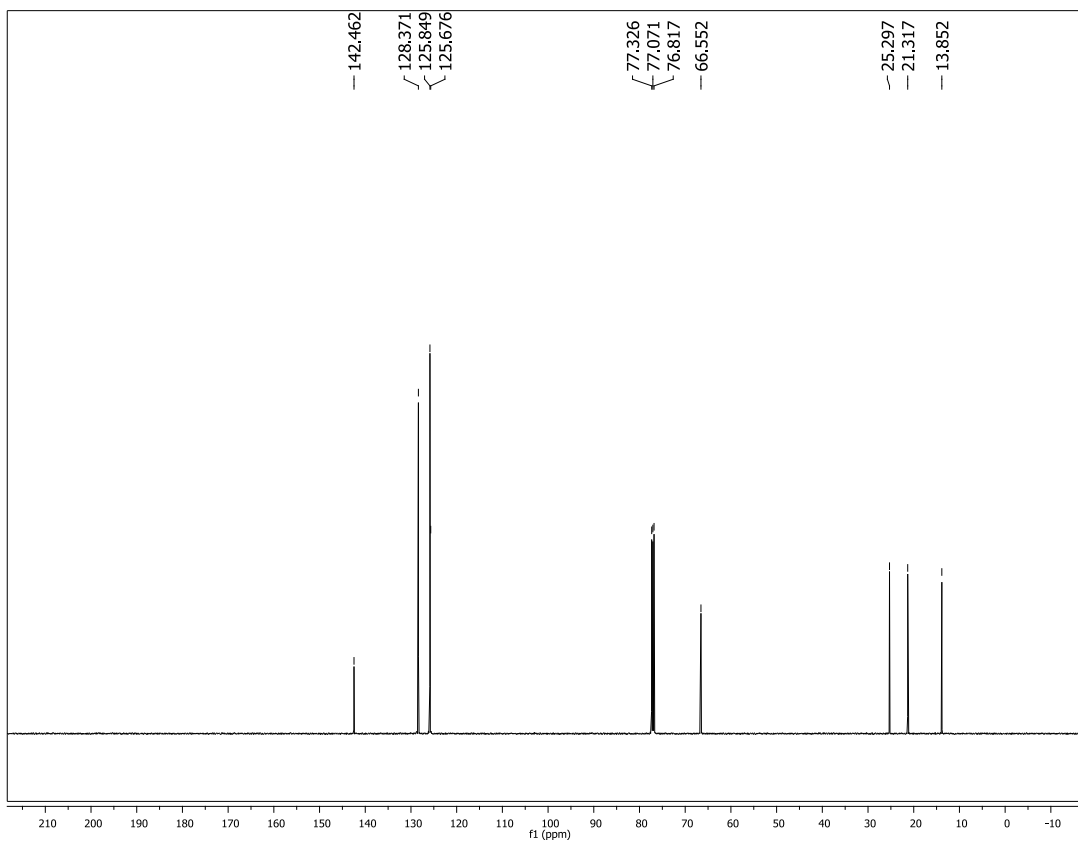
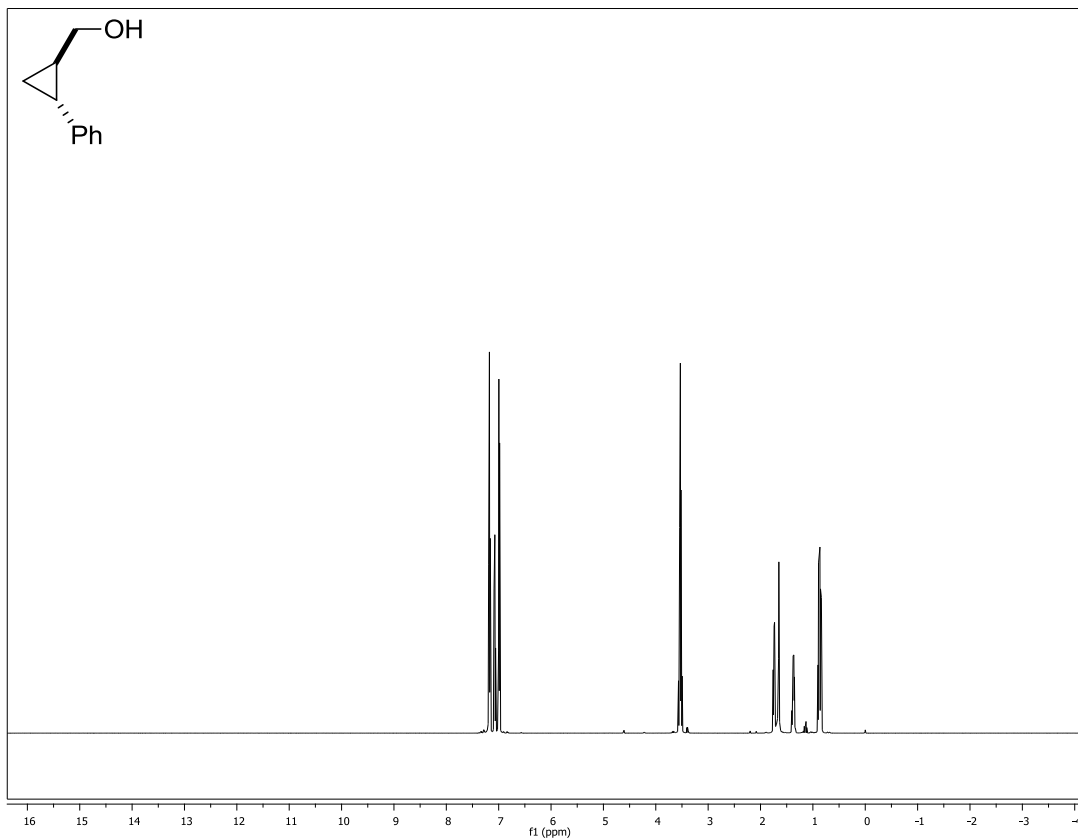


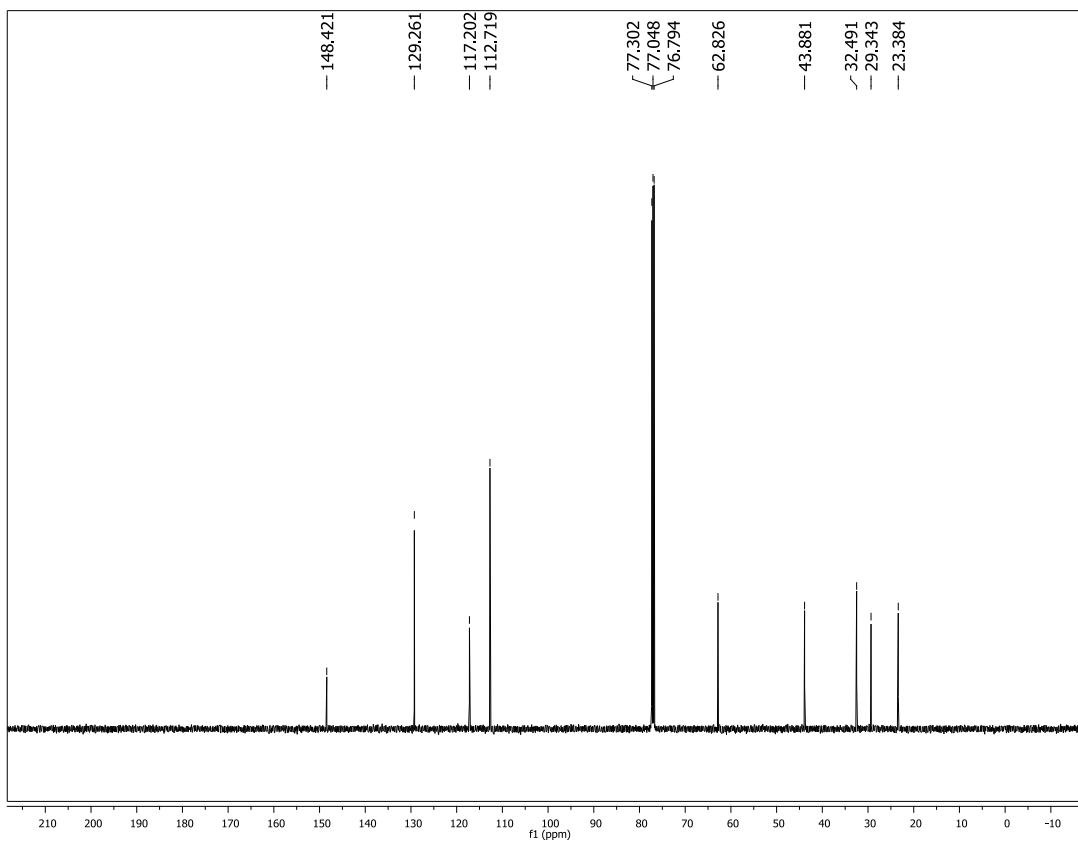
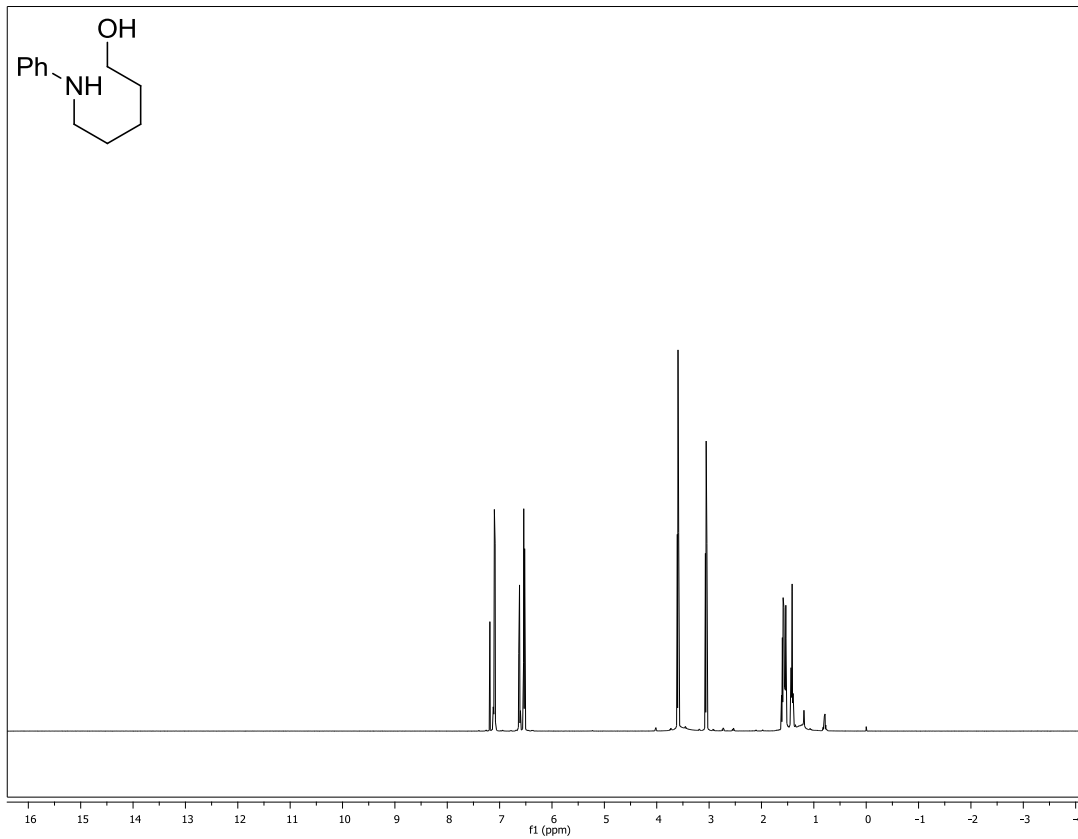


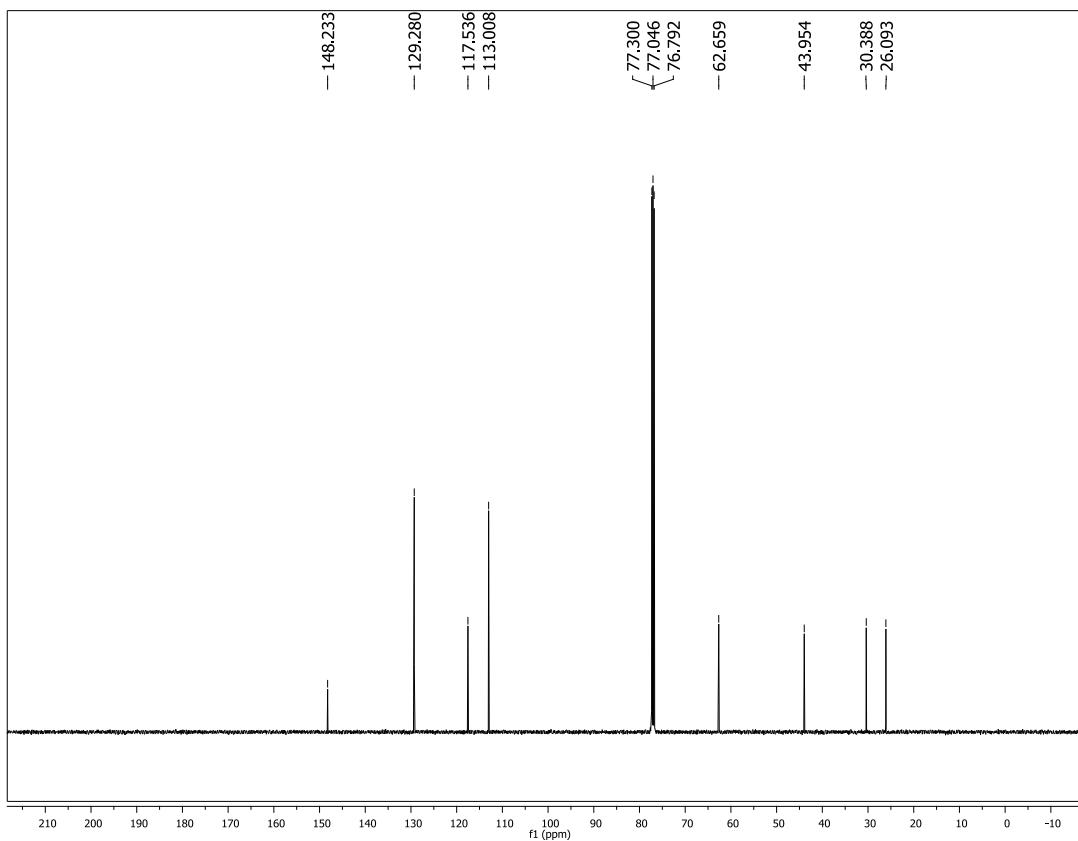
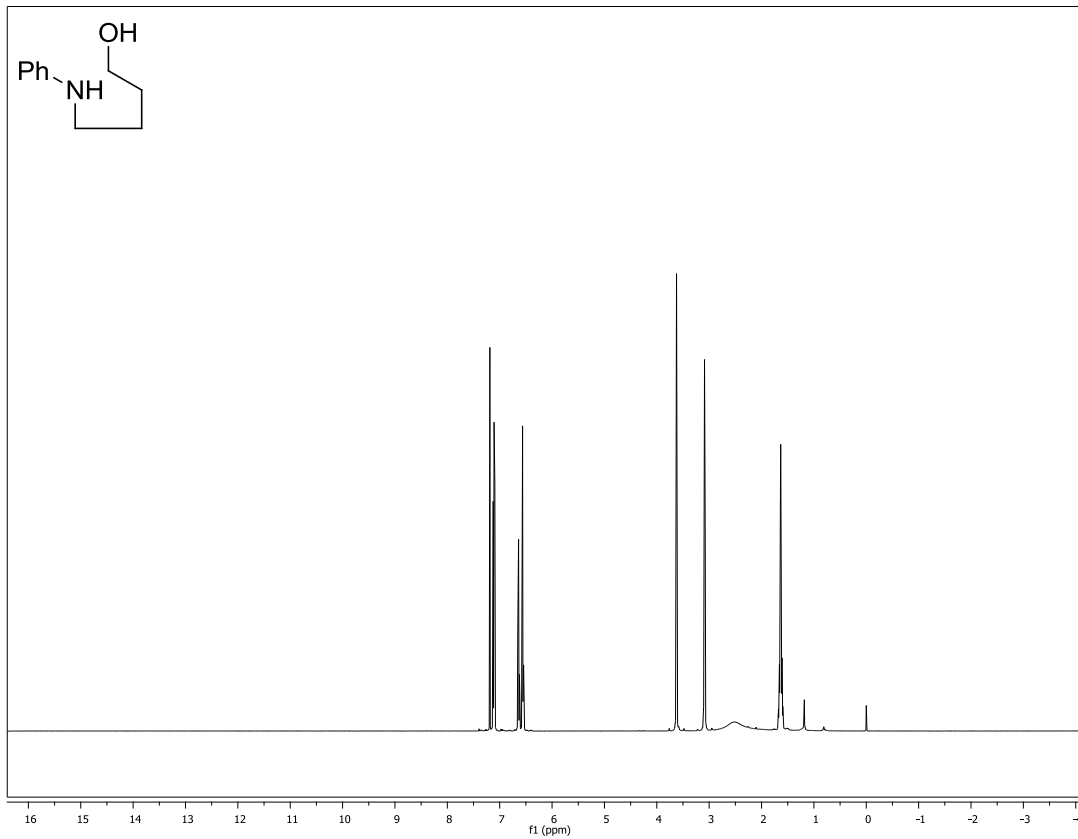


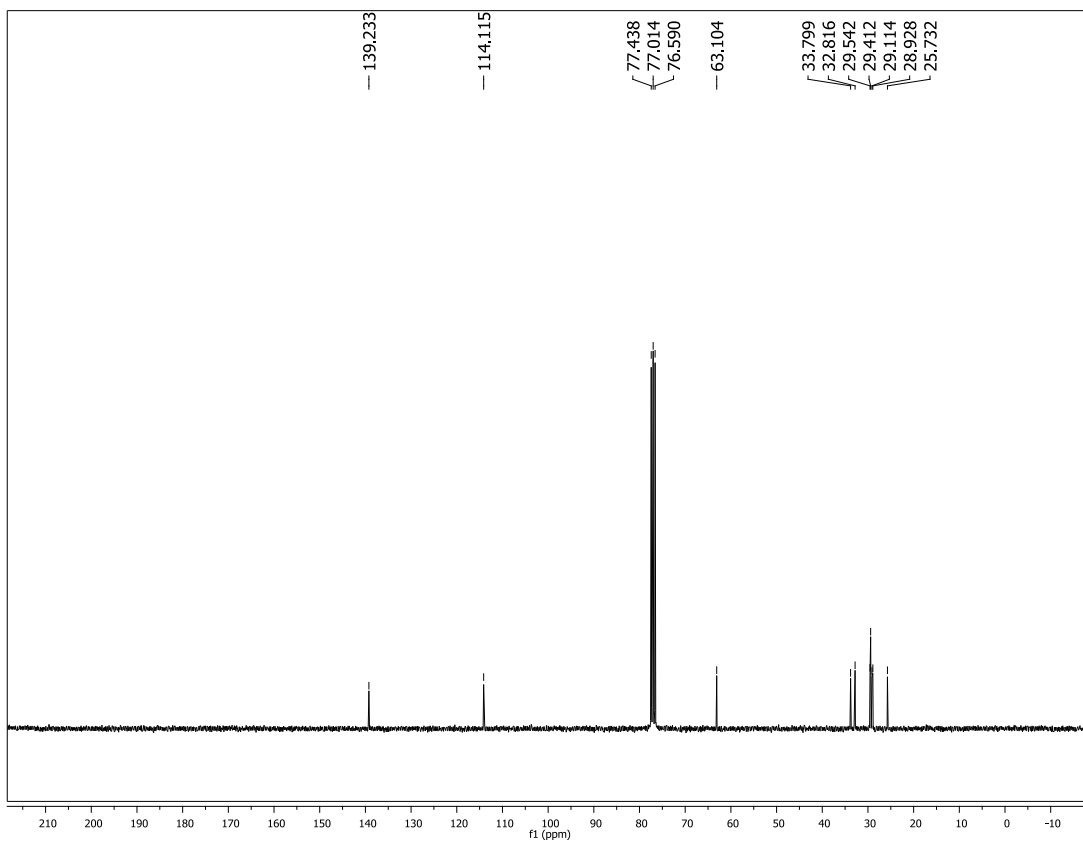
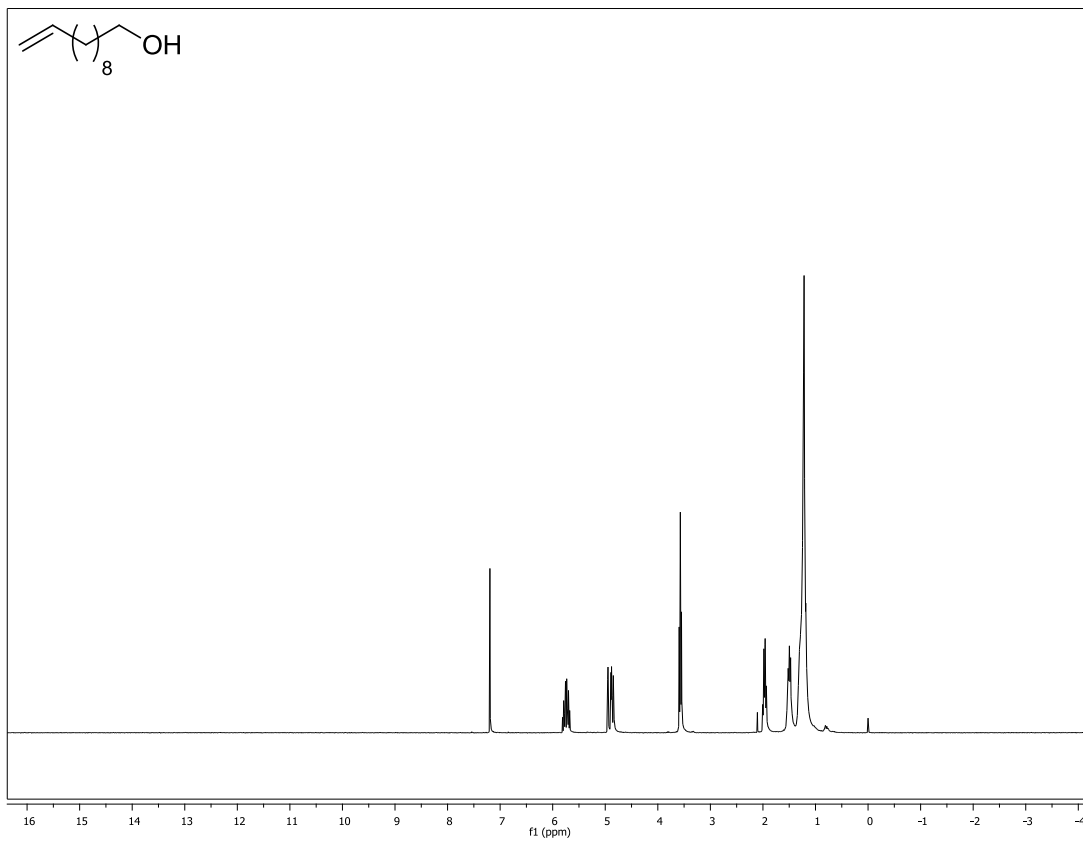


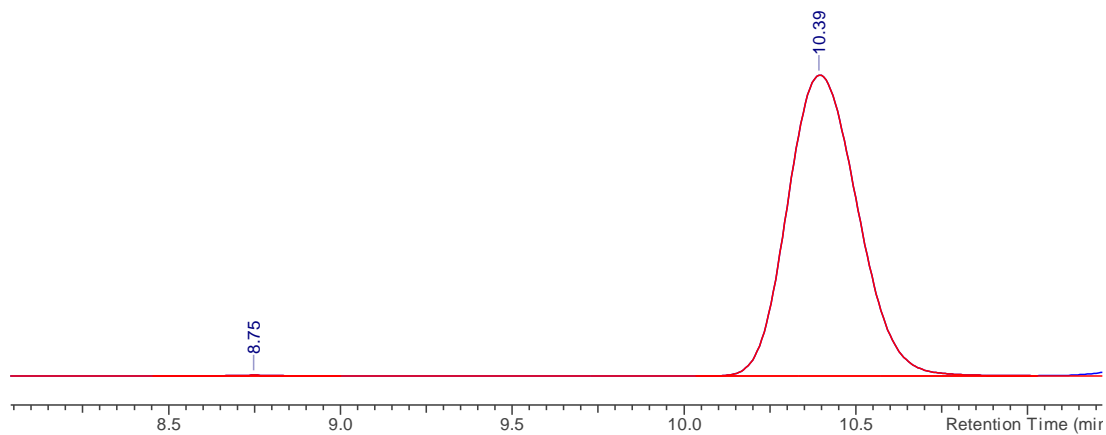
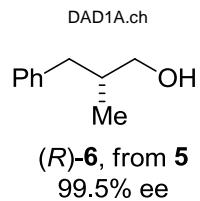






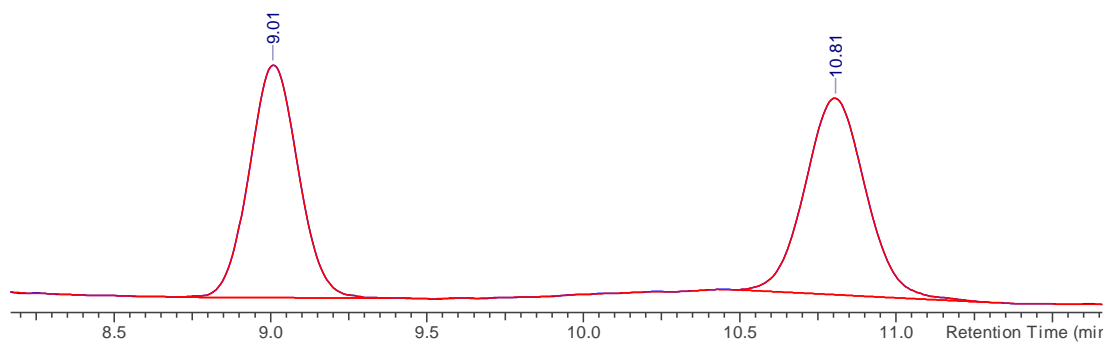




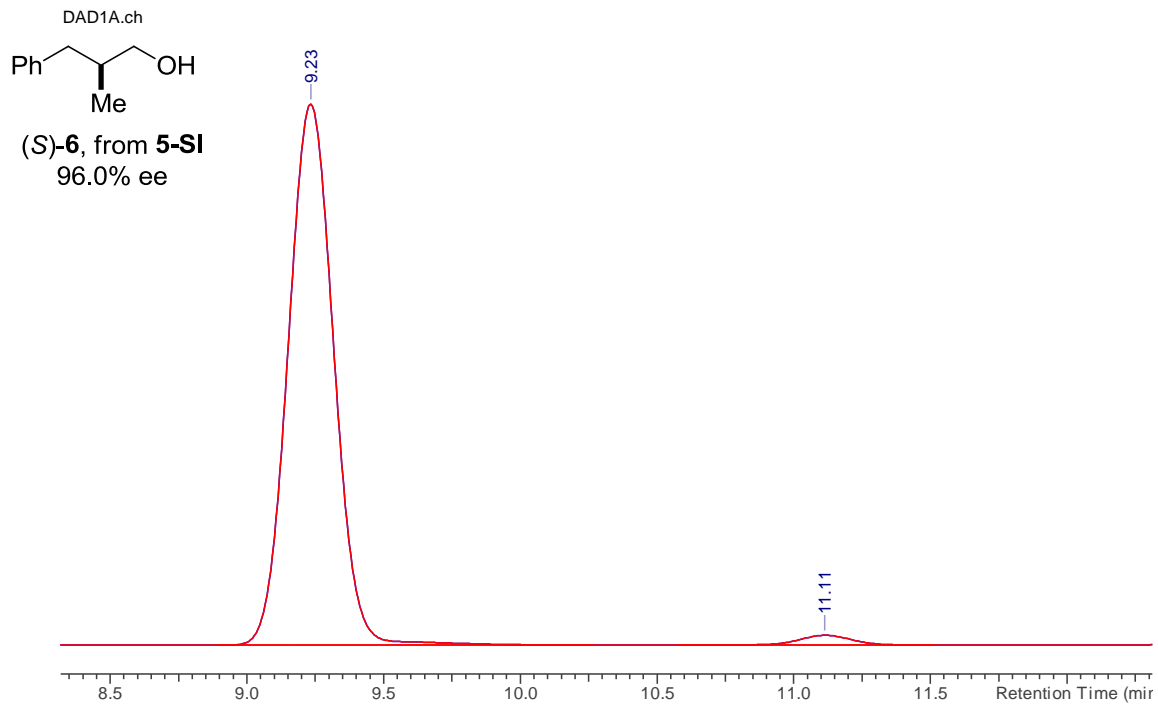


No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	8.748	27047.350	0.2618	2499.840
2	10.395	10302975.000	99.738	724258.300

DAD1B.ch

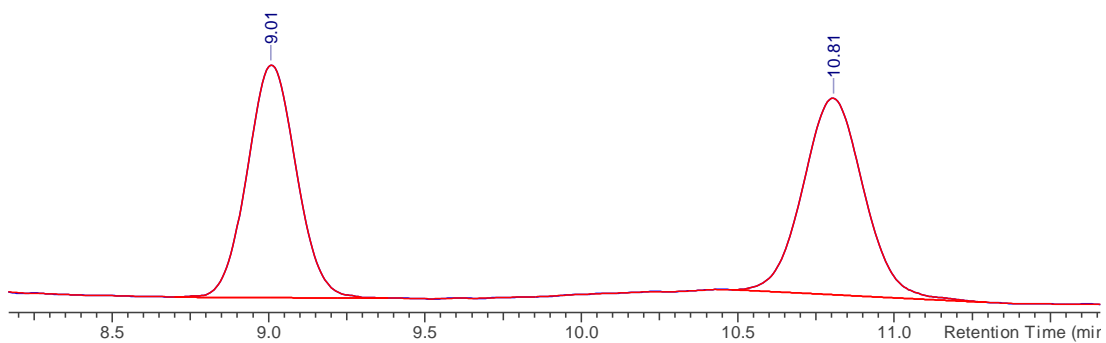


No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	9.009	405144.320	49.636	37111.690
2	10.804	411081.510	50.364	30967.040

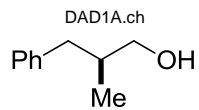


No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	9.233	4646565.430	97.987	401524.200
2	11.116	95447.160	2.013	7161.420

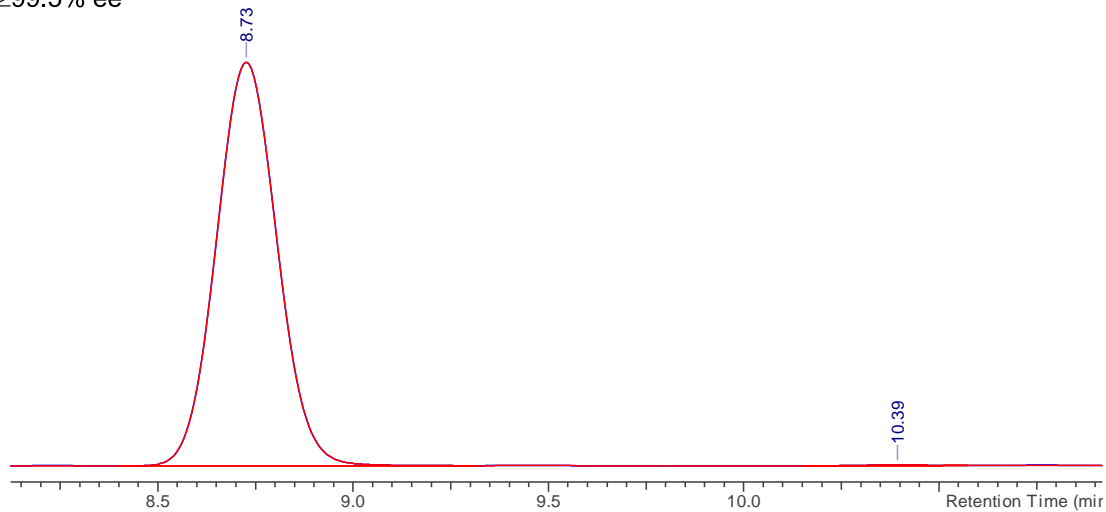
DAD1B.ch



No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	9.009	405144.320	49.636	37111.690
2	10.804	411081.510	50.364	30967.040

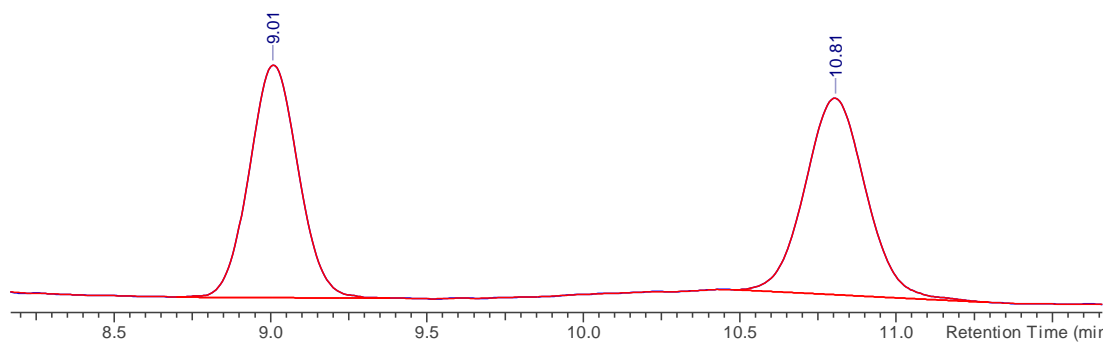


(S)-**6**, from **7**
 $\geq 99.5\%$ ee



No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	8.727	3670707.500	99.696	337265.438
2	10.393	11195.986	0.304	930.083

DAD1B.ch



No.	t_R	Peak Area (Y units/ms)	Area Percent	Height
1	9.009	405144.320	49.636	37111.690
2	10.804	411081.510	50.364	30967.040