

Supplementary Information

Screening of efficient siRNA carriers in a library of
surface-engineered dendrimers

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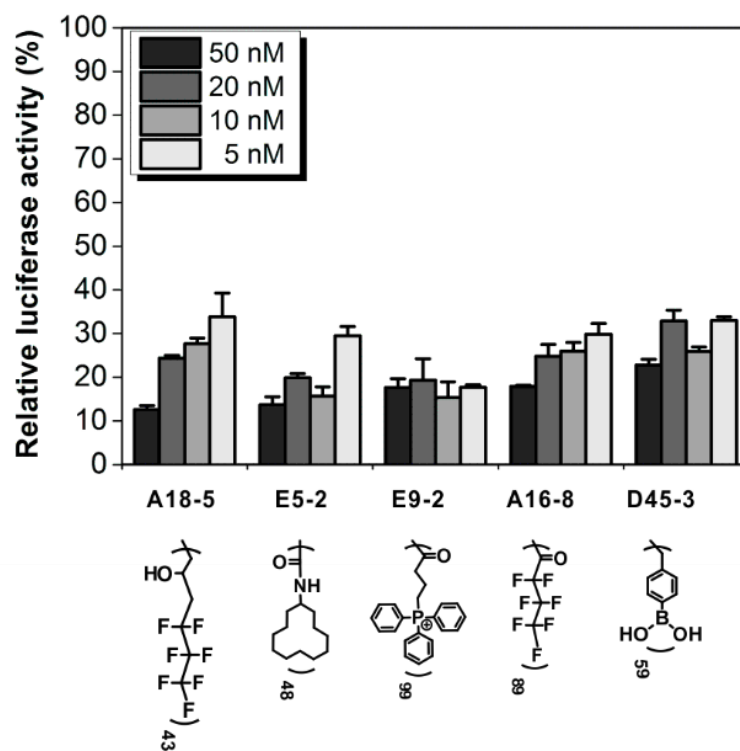


Fig. S1. siRNA dose-dependent efficacies of the screened materials. The used siRNA doses are 5, 10, 20 and 50 nM, respectively. Error bars represent the s.e. (n =3).

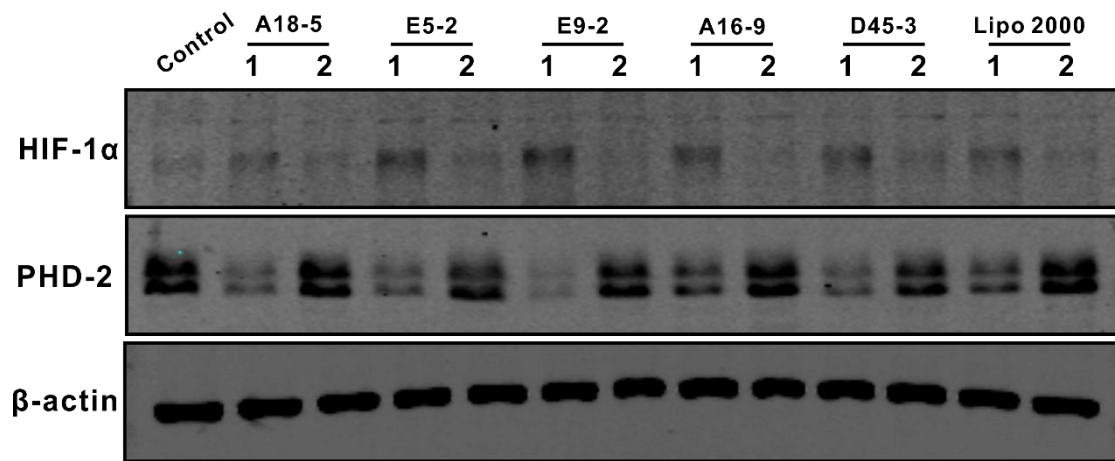


Fig. S2. Western blotting analysis for detection of PHD2 and HIF-1 α in the transfected NIH3T3 cells. 50 nM siPHD2 were used. Non-transfected cells were shown as “Control”. “1” and “2” in above figure mean the cells were transfected with materials/siPHD2 and materials/siNC, respectively.

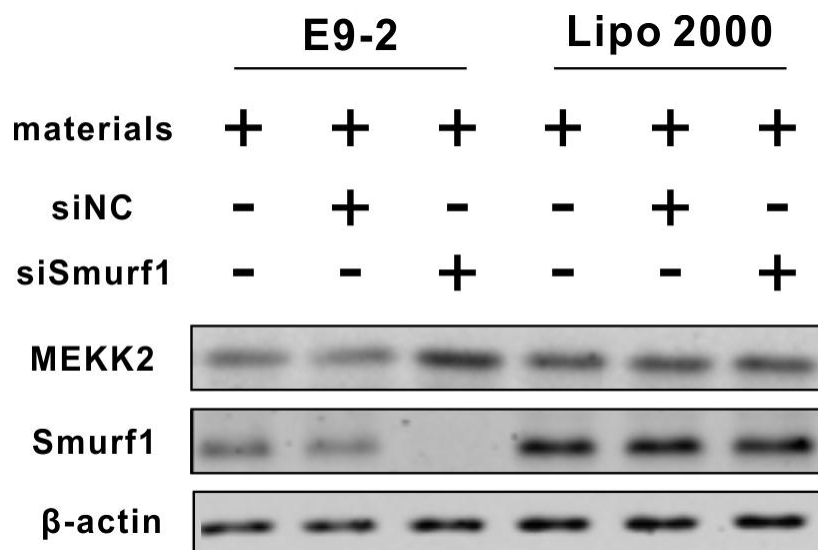


Fig. S3. Western blotting analysis for detection of Smurf1 and MEKK2 in the transfected primary mouse mesenchymal stem cells. 50 nM siSmurf1 were used.

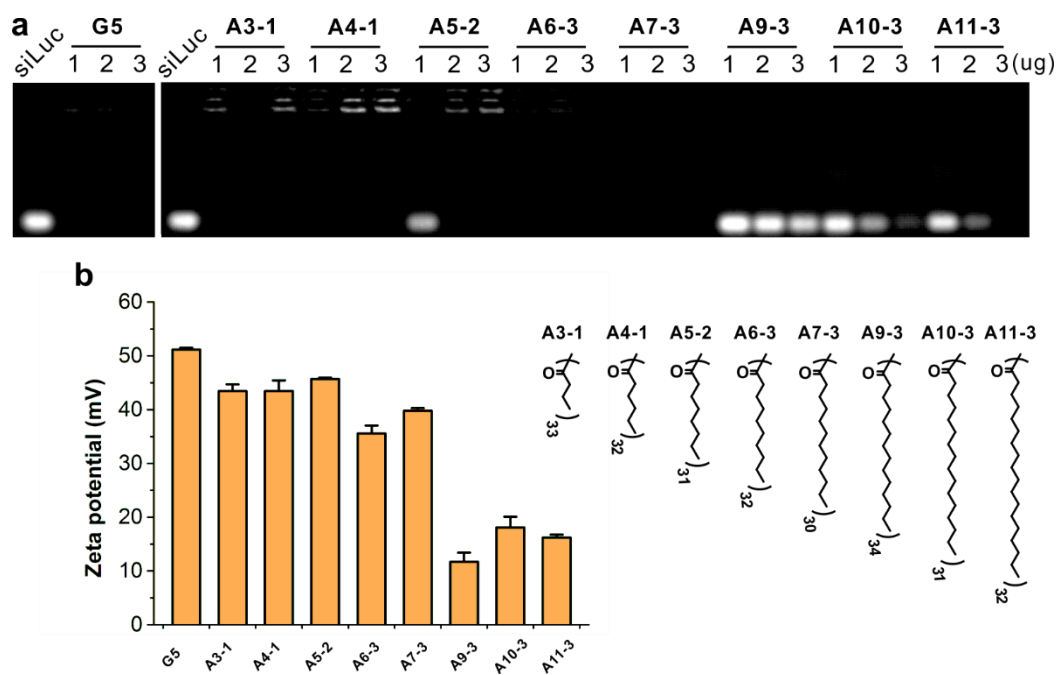


Fig. S4. Comparisons of the alkyl chain-modified dendrimers on siRNA binding capacity. (a) Agarose gel electrophoresis assay. (b) Zeta potential analysis. The zeta potentials of alkyl chain-modified dendrimers were measured at their optimal transfection concentrations. The optimal weight ratios for G5, A3-1, A4-1, A5-2, A6-3, A7-3, A9-3, A10-3 and A11-3 are 12, 12, 20, 10, 2, 3, 4, 4 and 4, respectively. 0.5 μ g siLuc is used for each complex. Error bars in b represent the s.e. ($n = 3$).

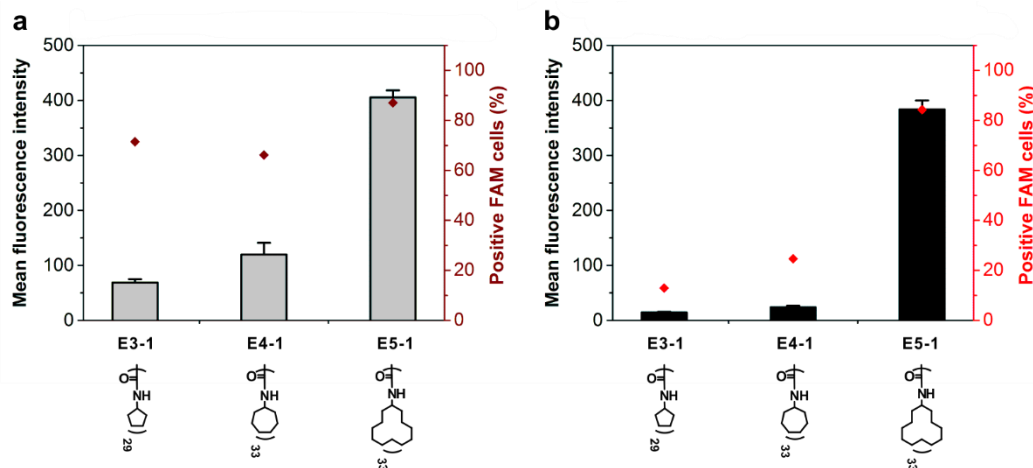


Fig. S5. Cellular uptake efficacy of cycloalkane-modified dendrimer/siRNA complexes in HeLa-Luc cells. (a) At optimal weight ratios as shown in Figure 5b. The optimal weight ratios for E3-1, E4-1 and E5-1 are 12, 8 and 2, respectively. (b) At an equal polymer molar concentration of 112 nM (112 nM is the optimal concentration for cyclododecane-modified G5 PAMAM dendrimer). 0.5 μ g siLuc is used for each well and the cellular uptake experiments were conducted for 2 h. Error bars in a and b represent the s.e. (n=3).

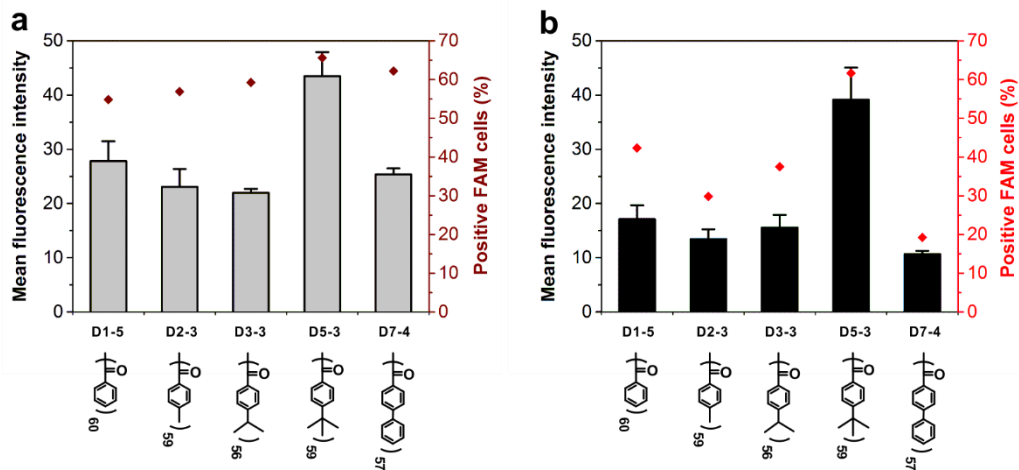


Fig. S6. Cellular uptake efficacy of aromatic ligand-modified dendrimer/siRNA complexes in HeLa-Luc cells. (a) At optimal weight ratios as shown in Figure 5c. The optimal weight ratios for D1-5, D2-3, D3-3, D5-3 and D7-4 are 12, 16, 8, 3 and 16, respectively. (b) At an equal polymer molar concentration of 157 nM (157 nM is the optimal concentration for 4-tert-butylbenzoic acid-modified G5 PAMAM dendrimer). 0.5 μ g siLuc is used for each well and the cellular uptake experiments were conducted for 2 h. Error bars in a and b represent the s.e. (n=3).

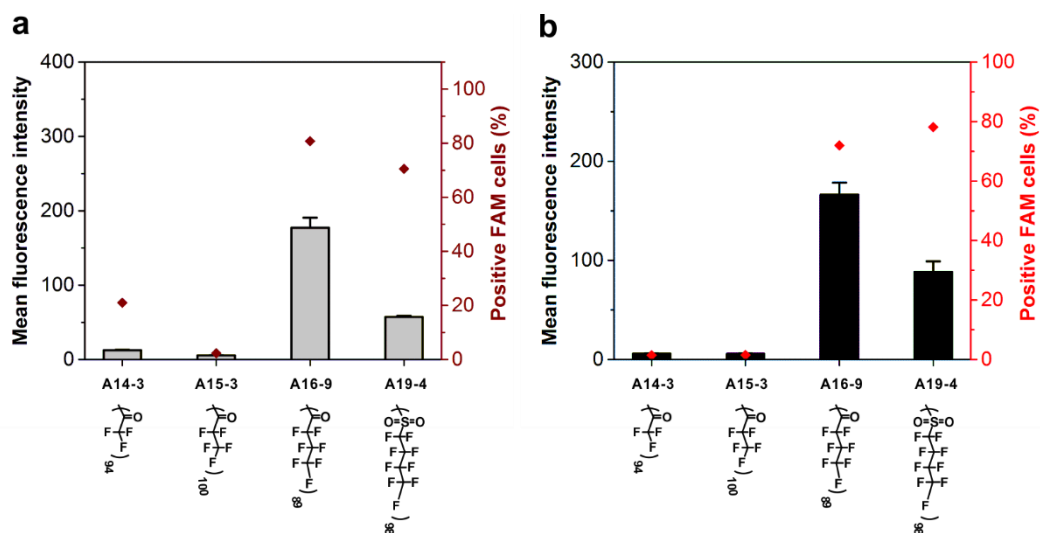


Fig. S7. Cellular uptake efficacy of fluoroalkyl chain-modified dendrimer/siRNA complexes in HeLa-Luc cells. (a) At optimal weight ratios as shown in Figure 5d. The optimal weight ratios for A14-3, A15-3, A16-9 and A19-4 are 20, 8, 3 and 20, respectively. (b) At an equal polymer molar concentration of 130 nM (130 nM is the optimal concentration for heptafluorobutyric acid-modified G5 PAMAM dendrimer). 0.5 μ g siLuc is used for each well and the cellular uptake experiments were conducted for 2 h. Error bars in a and b represent the s.e. (n=3).

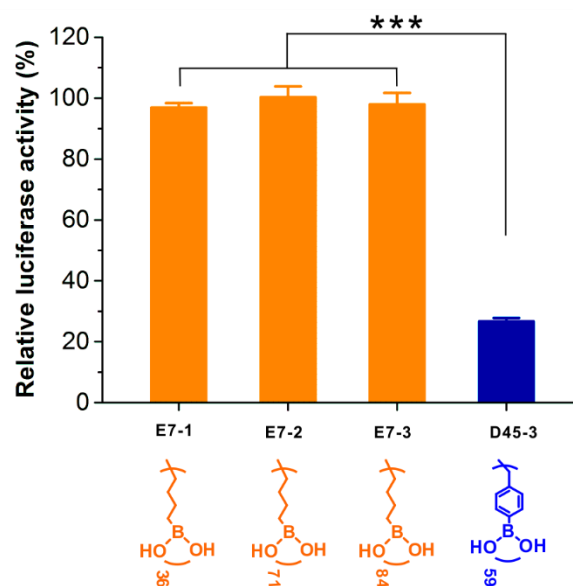
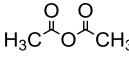
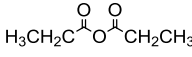
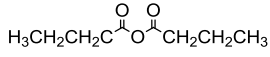
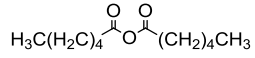
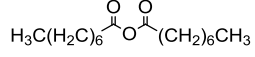
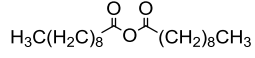
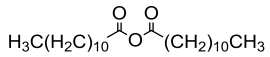
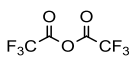
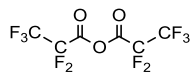
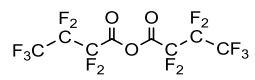
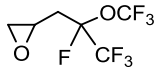
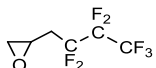
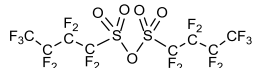
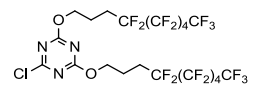


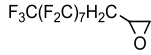
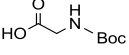
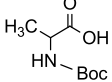
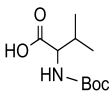
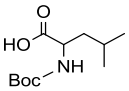
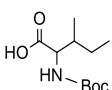
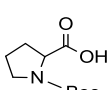
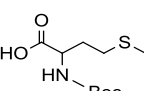
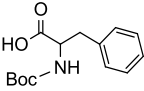
Fig. S8. Gene silencing efficacy of phenylboronic acid- and butylboronic acid-modified G5 PAMAM dendrimers. The gene silencing experiments were conducted at the optimal transfection condition for each material in HeLa-Luc cells. 50 nM siLuc is used for each transfection. The gene silencing experiments continue for 24 h. The optimal weight ratios for E7-1, E7-2, E7-3 and D45-3 are 8, 16, 4 and 20, respectively. Error bars represent the s.e. (n=3). ***P < 0.005 analyzed by students't-test.

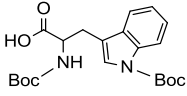
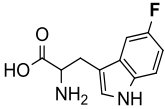
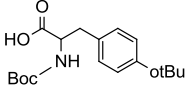
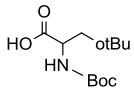
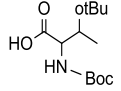
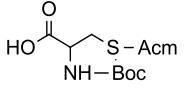
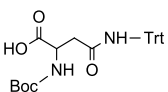
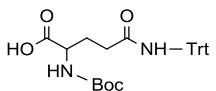
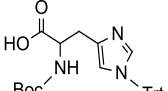
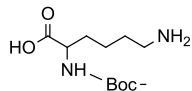
Table S1. Characterization of surface-engineered G5 PAMAM dendrimers.

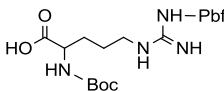
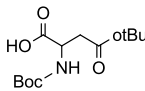
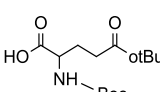
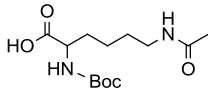
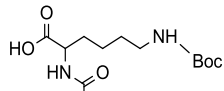
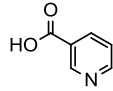
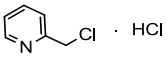
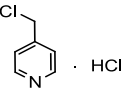
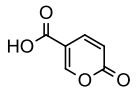
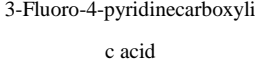
Ligand	Chemical	Reaction condition	Fed [#]	Conjugated	RLA*	NO.	Name
A1	Acetic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	33 ^a	102.93	1	A1-1
			64	54 ^a	105.60	2	A1-2
A2	Propionic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	30 ^a	102.02	3	A2-1
			64	59 ^a	107.05	4	A2-2
A3	Butyric anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	33 ^a	97.59	5	A3-1
			64	55 ^a	97.30	6	A3-2
			68	69 ^a	99.14	7	A3-3
A4	Hexanoic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	32 ^a	102.39	8	A4-1
			64	60 ^a	100.88	9	A4-2
A5	Octanoic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	16	15 ^a	75.64	10	A5-1
			32	31 ^a	62.57	11	A5-2
A6	Decanoic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	8	8 ^a	95.18	12	A6-1
			16	12 ^a	85.06	13	A6-2
			32	32 ^a	52.12	14	A6-3
A7	Dodecanoic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	8	9 ^a	63.76	15	A7-1
			16	14 ^a	39.21	16	A7-2
			32	30 ^a	42.32	17	A7-3
A8	Dodecyl isocyanate CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₂ -N=C=O	Methanol	8	10 ^a	53.03	18	A8-1
			16	17 ^a	51.89	19	A8-2
			32	32 ^a	54.93	20 ^d	A8-3
			48	48 ^a	44.24	21 ^d	A8-4


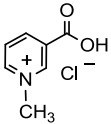
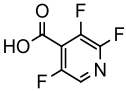

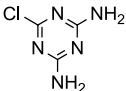
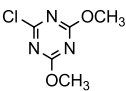

A9	Myristic acid $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{12}\text{COOH}$	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	3 ^a	96.29	22	A9-1
			32	14 ^a	103.49	23	A9-2
			48	34 ^a	109.28	24 ^d	A9-3
			64	41 ^a	90.14	25 ^d	A9-4
A10	Palmitic acid $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{COOH}$	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	4 ^a	94.28	26	A10-1
			32	16 ^a	99.6	27	A10-2
			48	31 ^a	109.90	28 ^d	A10-3
A11	Stearic acid $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{COOH}$	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	4 ^a	95.56	29	A11-1
			32	12 ^a	89.24	30	A11-2
			48	32 ^a	98.79	31 ^d	A11-3
A12	Oleic acid $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	4 ^a	92.81	32	A12-1
			32	15 ^a	90.73	33	A12-2
			48	22 ^a	89.39	34	A12-3
			64	42 ^a	90.22	35 ^d	A12-4
A13	Linoleic acid $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$	DCC/NHS/ TEA	128	43 ^a	107.22	36 ^d	A13-1
			256	NA	/	/	/
A14	Trifluoroacetic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	26 ^b	97	37	A14-1
			64	47 ^b	99.66	38	A14-2
			128	94 ^b	95.78	39	A14-3
A15	Pentafluoropropionic anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	36 ^b	93.88	40	A15-1
			64	61 ^b	106.72	41	A15-2
			128	100 ^b	98.10	42	A15-3
A16	Heptafluorobutyric anhydride 	Methanol/TE A	32	24 ^b	96.97	43	A16-1
			50	40 ^b	104.60	44	A16-2

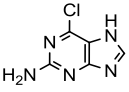
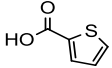
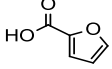
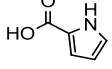
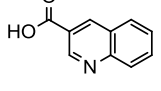
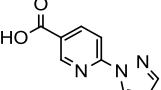
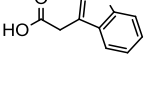
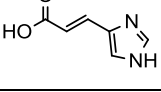
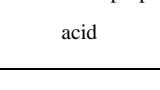
			55	44 ^b	93.88	45	A16-3
			60	53 ^b	52.49	46	A16-4
			66	59 ^b	76.57	47	A16-5
			70	66 ^b	32.11	48	A16-6
			72	74 ^b	41.82	49	A16-7
			82	82 ^b	36.68	50	A16-8
			85	89 ^b	26.63	51	A16-9
			96	NA	/	/	/
A17	[2,3,3,3-Tetrafluoro-2-(trifluoromethoxy)propyl]oxirane 	50% Ethanol	32	19 ^b	90.13	52	A17-1
			64	25 ^b	99.7	53	A17-2
			96	29 ^b	98.93	54	A17-3
A18	3-(Perfluoropropyl)-1,2-propoxide 	50% Ethanol	96	6 ^a	88.44	55	A18-1
			128	23 ^a	82.42	56	A18-2
			160	25 ^a	81.09	57	A18-3
			256	34 ^a	44.99	58	A18-4
			384	43 ^a	19.39	59	A18-5
A19	Nonafluorobutanesulfonic anhydride 	Ethanol/TEA	32	32 ^b	97.05	60	A19-1
			64	63 ^b	97.43	61	A19-2
			96	82 ^b	90.98	62	A19-3
			128	98 ^b	103.89	63	A19-4
A20	2-Chloro-4,6-bis[3-(perfluorohexyl)propyloxy]-1,3,5-triazine 	50% Ethanol 90°C	2	1.3 ^c	101.47	64	A20-1
			8	8.5 ^c	56.05	65	A20-2
			10	9.5 ^c	68.62	66	A20-3

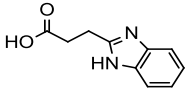
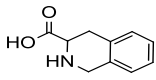
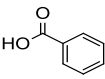
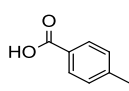
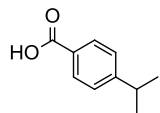
			20	NA	/	/	/
A21	(2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,9-Heptafluorooxonyl)oxirane 	DMSO	32	5 ^b	98.15	67	A21-1
			64	14 ^b	80.76	68	A21-2
			88	18 ^b	77.84	69	A21-3
B1	Boc-Gly-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	52 ^a	99.44	70	B1-1
			166	108 ^a	88.51	71	B1-2
B2	Boc-Ala-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	73 ^a	89.64	72	B2-1
			166	114 ^a	107.13	73	B2-2
B3	Boc-Val-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	77 ^a	99.44	74	B3-1
			166	113 ^a	105.08	75	B3-2
B4	Boc-Leu-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	71	71 ^a	96.88	76	B4-1
			83	81 ^a	93.23	77	B4-2
			166	128 ^a	109.82	78	B4-3
B5	Boc-Ile-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	71	67 ^a	100.35	79	B5-1
			83	83 ^a	90.09	80	B5-2
			166	118 ^a	95.77	81	B5-3
B6	Boc-Pro-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	41 ^a	95.24	82	B6-1
			102	82 ^a	107.89	83	B6-2
			166	98 ^a	105.99	84	B6-3
B7	Boc-Met-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	68 ^a	105.45	85	B7-1
			166	111 ^a	98.38	86	B7-2
B8	Boc-Phe-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	71 ^a	92.99	87	B8-1
			166	99 ^a	54.3	88	B8-2

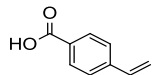
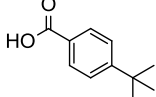
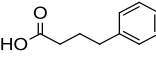
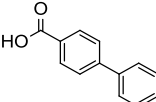
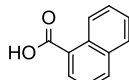
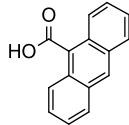
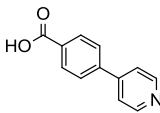
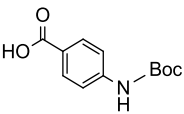
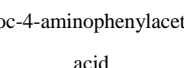
B9	Boc-Trp(Boc)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	55 ^a	77.63	89	B9-1
			166	89 ^a	39.69	90	B9-2
	256		107 ^a	43.30	91	B9-3	
B10	5-Fluorotryptophan	DCC/NHS/T EA	83	3 ^a	88.76	92	B10-1
			166	23 ^a	93.34	93 ^d	B10-2
B11	Boc-Tyr(tBu)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	68 ^a	92.75	94	B11-1
			166	98 ^a	78.38	95	B11-2
B12	Boc-Ser(tBu)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	74 ^a	101.44	96	B12-1
			166	113 ^a	105.55	97	B12-2
B13	Boc-Thr(tBu)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	71	75 ^a	104.71	98	B13-1
			83	88 ^a	92.34	99	B13-2
	166		126 ^a	103.05	100	B13-3	
B14	Boc-Cys(Acm)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)I ₂ /Methano 1	83	N/A	/	/	/
			166	N/A	/	/	/
B15	Boc-Asn(Trt)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	166	75 ^a	90.97	101	B15-1
			512	88 ^a	101.71	102	B15-2
B16	Boc-Gln(Trt)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	166	71 ^a	106.72	103	B16-1
			256	86 ^a	109.94	104	B16-2
B17	Boc-His(Trt)-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	65 ^a	104.12	105	B17-1
			166	113 ^a	108.68	106	B17-2
B18	Boc-Lys-OH	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	67 ^a	94.96	107	B18-1
			166	130 ^a	93.83	108	B18-2

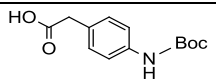
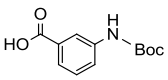
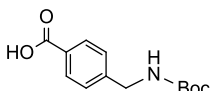
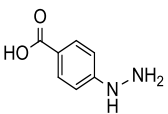
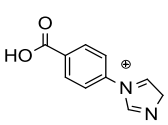
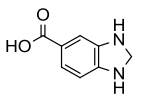
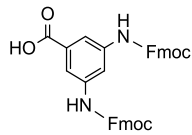
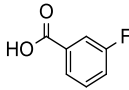
B19	Boc-Arg(Pbf)-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	45	33 ^a	100.09	109	B19-1
	83		64 ^a	100.16	110	B19-2	
	166		110 ^a	43.73	111	B19-3	
B20	Boc-Asp(otBu)-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	83	54 ^a	105.61	112	B20-1
	166		98 ^a	85.96	113	B20-2	
B21	Boc-Glu(otBu)-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	71	48 ^a	97.36	114	B21-1
	134		81 ^a	91.94	115	B21-2	
B22	Boc-Lys(Ac)-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	192	124 ^a	100.52	116	B22-1
B23	Ac-Lys(Boc)-OH 	(1)DCC/NHS /TEA (2)TFA	96	84 ^a	98.03	117	B23-1
	192		121 ^a	100.53	118	B23-2	
C1	Nicotinic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	22 ^a	99.89	119	C1-1
	64		50 ^a	104.06	120 ^d	C1-2	
C2	2-(Chloromethyl)pyridine hydrochloride 	50% Ethanol 80°C	64	16 ^a	94.46	121	C2-1
	96		30 ^a	100.27	122	C2-2	
	128		51 ^a	104.17	123	C2-3	
C3	4-(Chloromethyl)pyridine hydrochloride 	50% Ethanol 80°C	64	22 ^a	91.06	124	C3-1
	96		24 ^a	90.69	125	C3-2	
	128		26 ^a	102.54	126	C3-3	
C4	Coumalic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/		
	64		NA	/			
C5	3-Fluoro-4-pyridinecarboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	11 ^a	100.98	127	C5-1

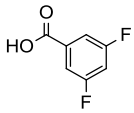
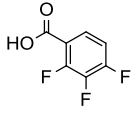
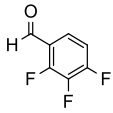
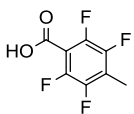
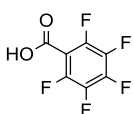
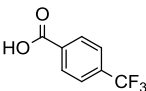
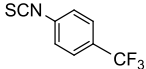
			64	27 ^a	100.44	128	C5-2
			96	34 ^a	96.09	129	C5-3
			128	40 ^a	110.60	130	C5-4 ^d
C6	Trigonelline hydrochloride 	EDC/NHS	64	NA	/		
C7	2,3,5-Trifluoropyridine-4-carboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T	32	4 ^a	91.22	131	C7-1
		EA	64	7 ^a	103.45	132	C7-2
C8	2-Bromopyrimidine 	50% Ethanol 80°C	32	16 ^a	101.76	133	C8-1
			64	33 ^a	102.63	134	C8-2
			128	46 ^a	102.74	135	C8-3
C9	2-Chloro-4,6-diamino-1,3,5-triazine 	50% Ethanol 80°C	32	29 ^a	92.97	136	C9-1
			51	46 ^a	94.86	137	C9-2
			64	55 ^a	93.23	138	C9-3
			77	60 ^a	101.02	139	C9-4
			96	78 ^a	94.37	140 ^d	C9-5
C10	2-Chloro-4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazine 	50% Ethanol 80°C	32	25 ^a	99.39	141	C10-1
			64	55 ^a	96.50	142	C10-2
C11	6-Chloropurine 	50% Ethanol 80°C	32	15 ^a	100.86	143	C11-1
			64	27 ^a	100.51	144	C11-2
			128	48 ^a	98.04	145	C11-3

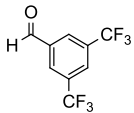
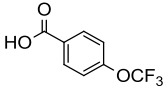
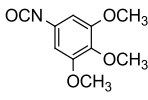
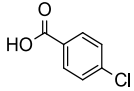
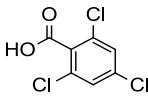
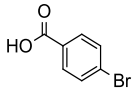
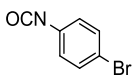
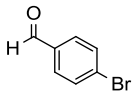
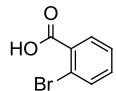
C12	2-Amino-6-chloropurine 	50% Ethanol 80°C	32	14 ^a	90.21	146	C12-1
			64	26 ^a	110.11	147	C12-2
			128	32 ^a	102.49	148	C12-3
C13	2-Thiophenecarboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	16 ^a	86.90	149	C13-1
			64	47 ^a	92.97	150 ^d	C13-2
C14	2-Furoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	90.52	151	C14-1
			64	37 ^a	104.12	152 ^d	C14-2
C15	Pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	11 ^a	88.65	153	C15-1
			64	31 ^a	93.03	154	C15-2
C16	3-Quinolinecarboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	5 ^a	97.87	155	C16-1
			64	49 ^a	88.63	156 ^d	C16-2
C17	6-(1H-Pyrazol-1-yl)nicotinic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	24 ^a	93.12	157 ^d	C17-1
			64	40 ^a	84.37	158 ^d	C17-2
C18	3-Indoleacetic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	22 ^a	92.77	159	C18-1
			64	42 ^a	96.42	160 ^d	C18-2
			142	94 ^a	104.56	161 ^d	C18-3
			160	100 ^a	104.92	162 ^d	C18-4
			172	106 ^a	97.00	163 ^d	C18-5
C19	4-Imidazoleacrylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	8 ^a	87.31	164	C19-1
			64	46 ^a	103.09	165 ^d	C19-2
C20	2-Benzimidazolepropionic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	21 ^a	95.07	166	C20-1

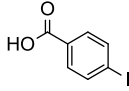
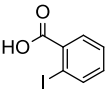
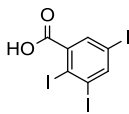
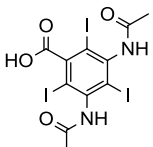
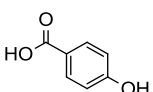
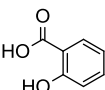
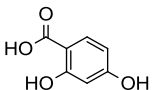
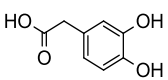
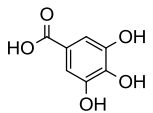
			64	50 ^a	103.01	167 ^d	C20-2
C21	Fmoc-L-1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisquinoline-3-carboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	19 ^a	87.06	168 ^d	C21-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	40 ^a	94.06	169 ^d	C21-2
D1	Benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	19	7 ^a	84.13	170	D1-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	38	19 ^a	93.31	171	D1-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	48	27 ^a	102.10	172	D1-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	58	46 ^a	103.69	173 ^d	D1-4
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	60 ^a	97.56	174 ^d	D1-5
		DCC/NHS/T EA	70	67 ^a	102.10	175 ^d	D1-6
		DCC/NHS/T EA	82	77 ^a	98.10	176 ^d	D1-7
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	85 ^a	84.99	177 ^d	D1-8
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	99 ^a	106.61	178 ^d	D1-9
D2	p-Toluic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	61	24 ^a	101.42	179	D2-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	76	42 ^a	92.01	180 ^d	D2-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	59 ^a	91.60	181 ^d	D2-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	102	62 ^a	87.65	182 ^d	D2-4
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	103 ^a	103.85	183 ^d	D2-5
D3	4-Isopropylbenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	15 ^a	102.09	184	D3-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	76	45 ^a	56.14	185 ^d	D3-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	86	56 ^a	59.77	186 ^d	D3-3

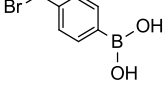
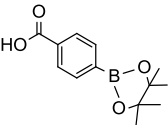
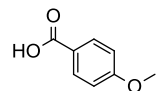
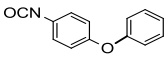
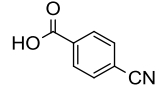
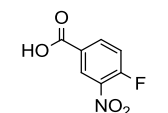
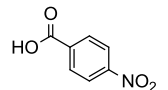
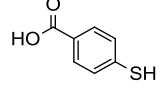
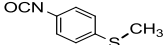
D4	4-Vinylbenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	16 ^a	102.51	187	D4-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	53 ^a	77.59	188 ^d	D4-2
D5	4-tert-Butylbenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	17 ^a	97.19	189	D5-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	50	37 ^a	47.43	190 ^d	D5-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	59 ^a	48.63	191 ^d	D5-3
D6	4-Phenylbutyric acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	64	51 ^a	75.5	192 ^d	D6-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	105 ^a	101.08	193 ^d	D6-2
D7	Biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	13	3 ^a	97.85	194	D7-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	26	10 ^a	92.76	195	D7-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	29 ^a	96.46	196	D7-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	57 ^a	96.30	197 ^d	D7-4
D8	1-naphthoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	26 ^a	91.49	198	D8-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	40 ^a	96.48	199	D8-2
D9	9-Anthroic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D10	4-(4-Pyridyl)benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	9 ^a	91.71	200	D10-1
D11	Boc-4-Abz-OH 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	101.05	201	D11-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	44 ^a	103.70	202	D11-2
D12	Boc-4-aminophenylacetic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	26	8 ^a	91.11	203	D12-1

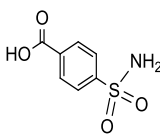
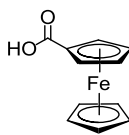
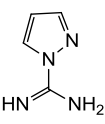
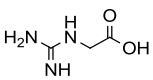
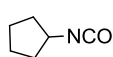
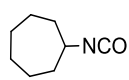
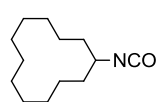
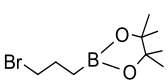
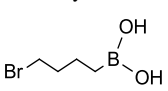
		DCC/NHS/T EA	51	22 ^a	102.41	204	D12-2
D13	Boc-3-Abz-OH 	DCC/NHS/T EA	26	7 ^a	94.65	205	D13-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	51	18 ^a	103.81	206	D13-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	34 ^a	98.30	207	D13-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	NA	/	/	/
D14	4-(Boc-aminomethyl)benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	26	8 ^a	99.71	208	D14-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	51	21 ^a	104.10	209	D14-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	40 ^a	92.80	210	D14-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	103 ^a	62.33	211	D14-4
D15	4-Hydrazinobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	7 ^a	108.63	212	D15-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D16	4-(1H-Imidazol-1-yl)benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	11 ^a	105.21	213	D16-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	38 ^a	113.73	214 ^d	D16-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	66 ^a	93.10	215 ^d	D16-3
D17	5-Benzimidazolecarboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	21 ^a	94.47	216 ^d	D17-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	52 ^a	107.11	217 ^d	D17-2
D18	Di-Fmoc-3,5-diaminobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	26	5 ^a	86.12	218	D18-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	51	17 ^a	97.94	219	D18-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	26 ^a	95.62	220	D18-3
D19	3-fluorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	26	27 ^a	97.21	221	D19-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	30 ^a	93.11	222	D19-2

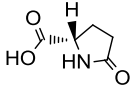
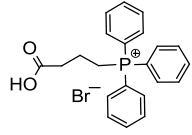
D20	3,5-Difluorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	25 ^a	100.35	223	D20-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	59 ^a	94.47	224 ^d	D20-2
D21	2,3,4-Trifluorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	6 ^a	83.16	225	D21-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	91.22	226	D21-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	28 ^a	100.51	227	D21-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	34 ^a	96.54	228	D21-4
		DCC/NHS/T EA	256	107 ^a	104.14	229 ^d	D21-5
D22	2,3,4-Trifluorobenzaldehyde 	DMSO	32	2 ^a	79.31	230	D22-1
		DMSO	64	4 ^a	84.48	231	D22-2
D23	2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-p-toluic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	13 ^a	83.36	232	D23-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	24	19 ^a	89.73	233	D23-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	32	25 ^a	91.09	234	D23-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	44 ^a	37.72	235 ^d	D23-4
D24	2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	8	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	17	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	24	NA	/	/	/
D25	4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	18 ^a	106.17	236	D25-1
D26	4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl isothiocyanate 	DMSO	32	31 ^a	81.85	237	D26-1
		DMSO	64	63 ^a	71.88	238 ^d	D26-2
D27	3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde	DMSO	32	27 ^b	88.15	239	D27-1

		DMSO	64	43 ^b	95.32	240	D27-2
D28	4-(Trifluoromethoxy)benzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	17 ^a	105.37	241	D28-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	47 ^a	69.21	242 ^d	D28-2
D29	3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl isocyanate 	DMSO/TEA	64	NA	/	/	/
D30	4-Chlorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	12 ^a	96.44	243 ^d	D30-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	32 ^a	90.85	244 ^d	D30-2
D31	2,4,6-Trichlorobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	9 ^a	107.55	245	D31-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	18 ^a	103.70	246 ^d	D31-2
D32	4-Bromobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	11 ^a	91.10	247	D32-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	44 ^a	43.61	248 ^d	D32-2
D33	4-Bromophenyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	32 ^a	87.44	249 ^d	D33-1
D34	4-Bromobenzaldehyde 	DMSO	32	NA	/	/	/
		DMSO	64	21 ^a	87.71	250 ^d	D34-1
D35	2-Bromobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	93.28	251 ^d	D35-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	41 ^a	72.72	252 ^d	D35-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	53 ^a	83.03	253 ^d	D35-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	119 ^a	103.74	254 ^d	D35-4
D36	4-Iodobenzoic acid	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	16 ^a	102.55	255	D36-1

		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	46 ^a	73.62	256 ^d	D36-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	96	75 ^a	75.18	257 ^d	D36-3
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	121 ^a	108.01	258 ^d	D36-4
D37	2-Iodobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D38	2,3,5-Triiodobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D39	Diatrizoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	29 ^b	98.91	259	D39-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	34 ^b	94.98	260	D39-2
D40	4-Hydroxybenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	48	14 ^a	90.65	261 ^d	D40-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	25 ^a	96.03	262 ^d	D40-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	82	39 ^a	97.73	263 ^d	D40-3
D41	Salicylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	16 ^a	103.19	264	D41-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	42 ^a	102.27	265 ^d	D41-2
D42	2,4-Dihydroxybenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	6 ^a	97.64	266	D42-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	12 ^a	103.39	267	D42-2
		DCC/NHS/T EA	128	14 ^a	101.37	268	D42-3 ^d
D43	3,4-Dihydroxyphenylacetic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	8 ^a	104.89	269	D43-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	40 ^a	105.11	270 ^d	D43-2
D44	Gallic acid monohydrate 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/

D45	4-(Bromomethyl)phenylboronic acid 	DMSO 80°C	64	46 ^a	59.38	271	D45-1
		DMSO 80°C	96	56 ^a	49.30	272	D45-2
		DMSO 80°C	128	59 ^a	17.74	273	D45-3
D46	4-Carboxybenzeneboronic acid pinacol ester 	DMSO 80°C	32	NA	/	/	/
		DMSO 80°C	64	NA	/	/	/
D47	4-Methoxybenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	97.72	274	D47-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	50 ^a	104.35	275 ^d	D47-2
D48	4-Phenoxyphenyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	35 ^a	65.53	276 ^d	D48-1
D49	4-Cyanobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	13 ^a	101.84	277	D49-1
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	29 ^a	100.85	278 ^d	D49-2
D50	4-Fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic Acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	16	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D51	4-Nitrobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	12 ^a	98.46	279	D51-1
D52	4-Mercaptobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
D53	4-(Methylthio)phenyl isocyanate 	DMSO/TEA	64	NA	/	/	/

D54	4-Sulfamylbenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	14 ^a	94.59	280	D54-1
D55	Ferrocenecarboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	NA	/	/	/
		DCC/NHS/T EA	64	NA	/	/	/
E1	1-Amidinopyrazole Hydrochloride 	DIPEA/H ₂ O	66	42 ^b	99.27	281	E1-1
			110	60 ^b	96.77	282	E1-2
E2	Guanidineacetic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	12 ^b	85.88	283	E2-1
			64	19 ^b	100.42	284	E2-2
			83	57 ^b	95.88	285	E2-3
			166	32 ^b	64.02	286	E2-4
E3	Cyclopentyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	29 ^a	101.08	287	E3-1
			64	60 ^a	89.09	288	E3-2
E4	Cycloheptyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	33 ^a	91.93	289	E4-1
			64	64 ^a	64.31	290 ^d	E4-2
E5	Cyclododecyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	33 ^a	33.97	291 ^d	E5-1
			48	48 ^a	25.87	292 ^d	E5-2
E6	3-bromopropylboronic acid pinacol ester 	DMSO, 80°C	64	9 ^a	103.61	293	E6-1
			128	20 ^a	106.75	294	E6-2
E7	4-bromobutylboronic acid 	DMSO, 80°C	64	36 ^a	97.90	295	E7-1
			96	71 ^a	85.96	296	E7-2

			128	84 ^a	91.74	297	E7-3
E8	R-(+)-2-Pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic acid 	DCC/NHS/T EA	32	16 ^a	94.53	298	E8-1
			64	28 ^a	92.37	299	E8-2
E9	(3-Carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide 	DCC/NHS/T EA	90	35 ^a	46.0	300	E9-1
			180	99 ^a	13.9	301	E9-2

TEA is abbreviation of triethylamine; DCC is abbreviation of dicyclohex-ylcarbodiimide; NHS is abbreviation of N-hydroxysuccinimide; DMSO is abbreviation of dimethyl sulfoxide; TFA is abbreviation of trifluoroacetic acid; DIPEA is abbreviation of N, N-diisopropylethylamine.

Fed[#] is molar ratio of the chemical to G5 PAMAM dendrimer during the synthesis of surface-engineered dendrimers. In this manuscript, most of the surface-engineered dendrimers were synthesized at feeding molar ratios of 32 and 64. Amino acid-modified dendrimers were synthesized at feeding molar ratios of 83 and 166 according to a previous reference (*Biomaterials*, 2014, 35, 9187-9198). Depending on different conjugation efficacies of the reactions in Table S1, the feeding ratios were varied in a proper range. For example, if the conjugation efficacy is low, larger feeding ratios will be chosen, and if the conjugated product is insoluble in water or DMSO, lower feeding ratios will be chosen.


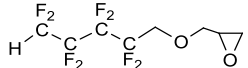
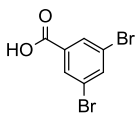
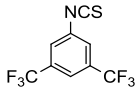
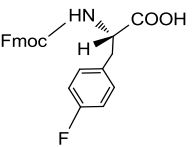
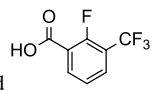
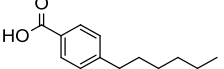
RLA* is relative luciferase activity to untreated cells.

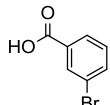
NO. means product number.

^a means the products are characterized by ¹H NMR; ^b means the products are characterized by the ninhydrin assay and ^c means the products are characterized by fluorine element analysis (CAS Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, China); ^d means the products are dissolved in DMSO; The solvent DMSO within the concentration range of 0-18.77 mM has no effect on luciferase gene silencing.

NA means the products are insoluble in water or DMSO.

Table S2. Characterization of surface-engineered G5 PAMAM dendrimers in the second-generation library.

Ligand	Chemical	Reaction condition	Fed [#]	Conjugated	RLA*	Name
S1	Adamantyl isocyanate 	DMSO	32	33 ^a	85.86	S1-1
			64	63 ^a	16.28	S1-2 ^d
S2	Glycidyl 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5-octafluoropentyl ether 	50% Ethanol	64	22 ^a	97.05	S2-1
			96	41 ^a	34.44	S2-2
			128	71 ^a	13.77	S2-3 ^d
			160	93 ^a	34.57	S2-4 ^d
S3	3,5-Dibromobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/TEA	64	46 ^b	11.56	S3-1 ^d
S4	3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl isothiocyanate 	DMSO	32	26 ^a	19.57	S4-1 ^d
			64	58 ^a	87.97	S4-2 ^d
S5	Fmoc-L-4-Fluorophe 	DCC/NHS/ Piperidine	64	68 ^a	39.35	S5-1
S6	2-Fluoro-3-(trifluoromethyl)benz oic acid 	DCC/NHS/TEA	32	17 ^a	94.59	S6-1 ^d
			64	40 ^a	56.07	S6-2 ^d
S7	4-Hexylbenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/TEA	64	24 ^a	68.83	S7-1 ^d
			82	64 ^a	49.94	S7-2 ^d
			96	83 ^a	69.84	S7-3 ^d

S8	3-Bromobenzoic acid 	DCC/NHS/TEA	64	39 ^a	98.95	S8-1 ^d
			96	83 ^a	59.65	S8-2 ^d

DMSO is abbreviation of dimethyl sulfoxide; DCC is abbreviation of dicyclohex-ylcarbodiimide; NHS is abbreviation of N-hydroxysuccinimide; TEA is abbreviation of Triethylamine.

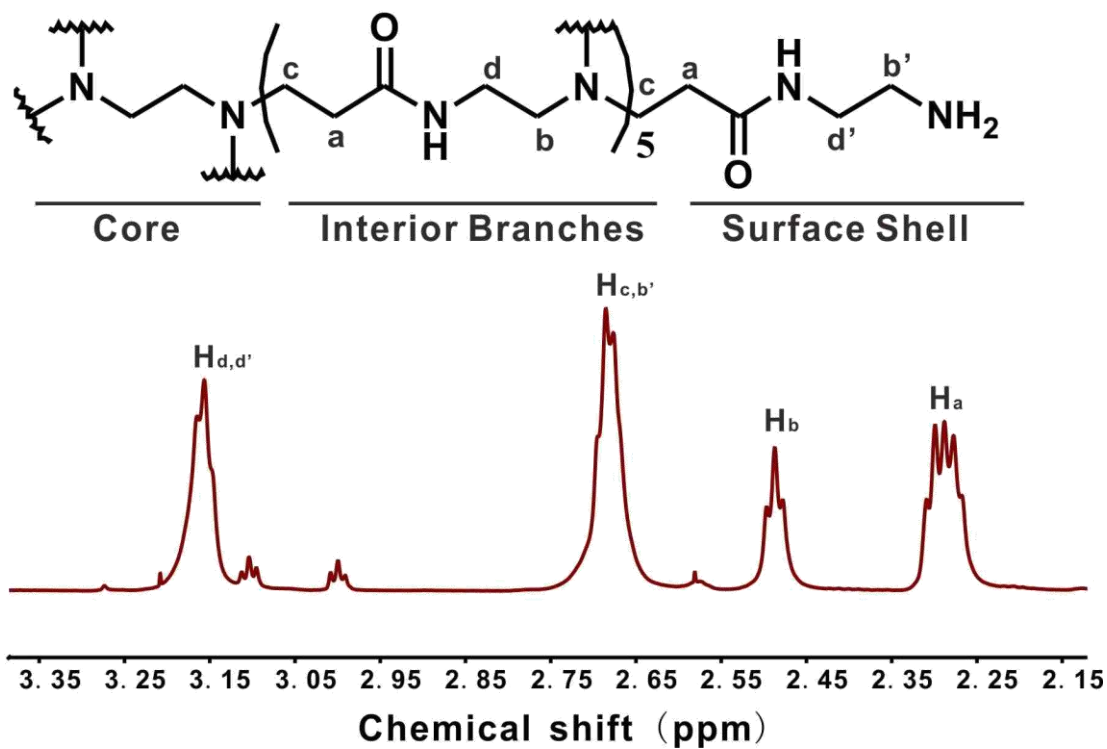
Fed[#] is molar ratio of the chemical to G5 PAMAM dendrimer during the synthesis of surface-engineered dendrimers;

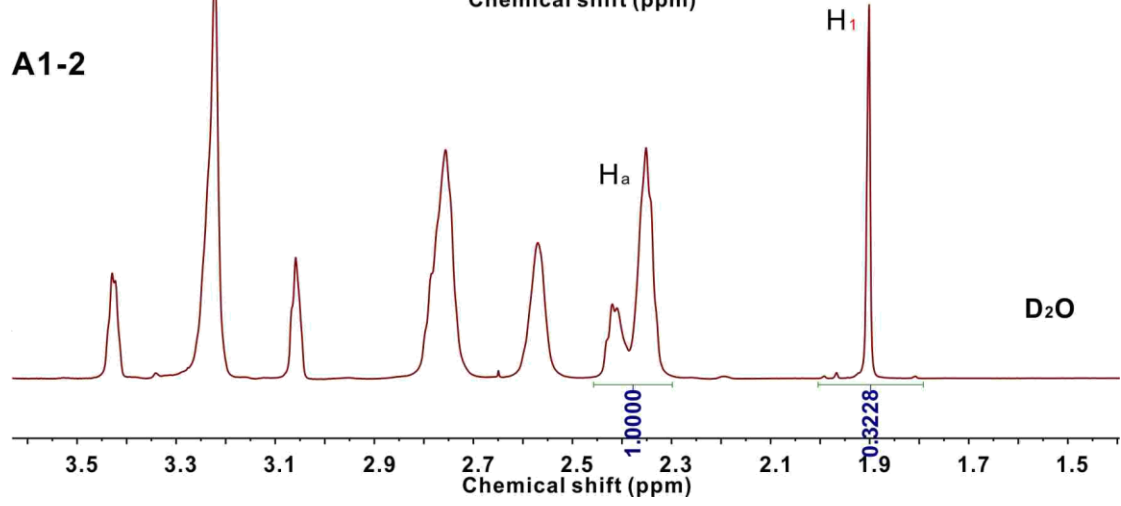
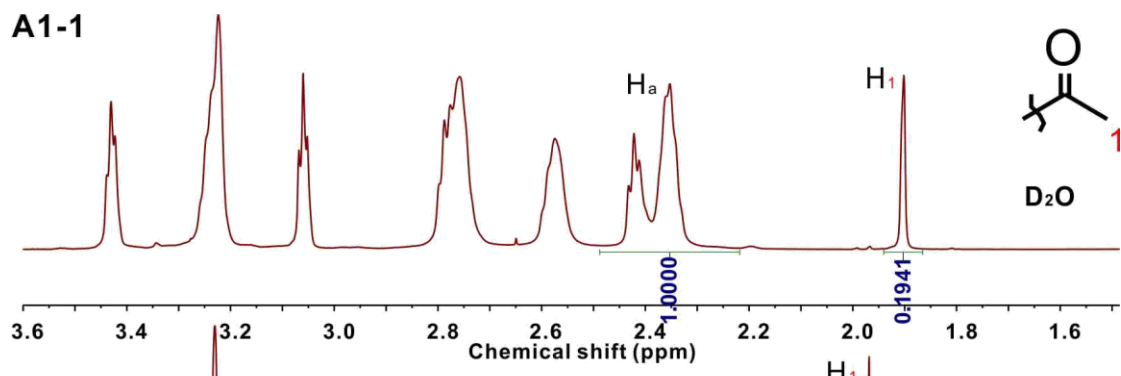
RLA* is relative luciferase activity to untreated cells (normalized to relative luciferase light unit per mg protein, and relative to that of untreated cells);

^a means the products are characterized by ¹H NMR; ^b means the products are characterized by the ninhydrin assay and ^c means the products are characterized by fluorine element analysis (CAS Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, China); ^d means the products are dissolved in dimethyl sulphoxide. The solvent DMSO within the concentration range of 0-18.77 mM has no effect on luciferase gene silencing.

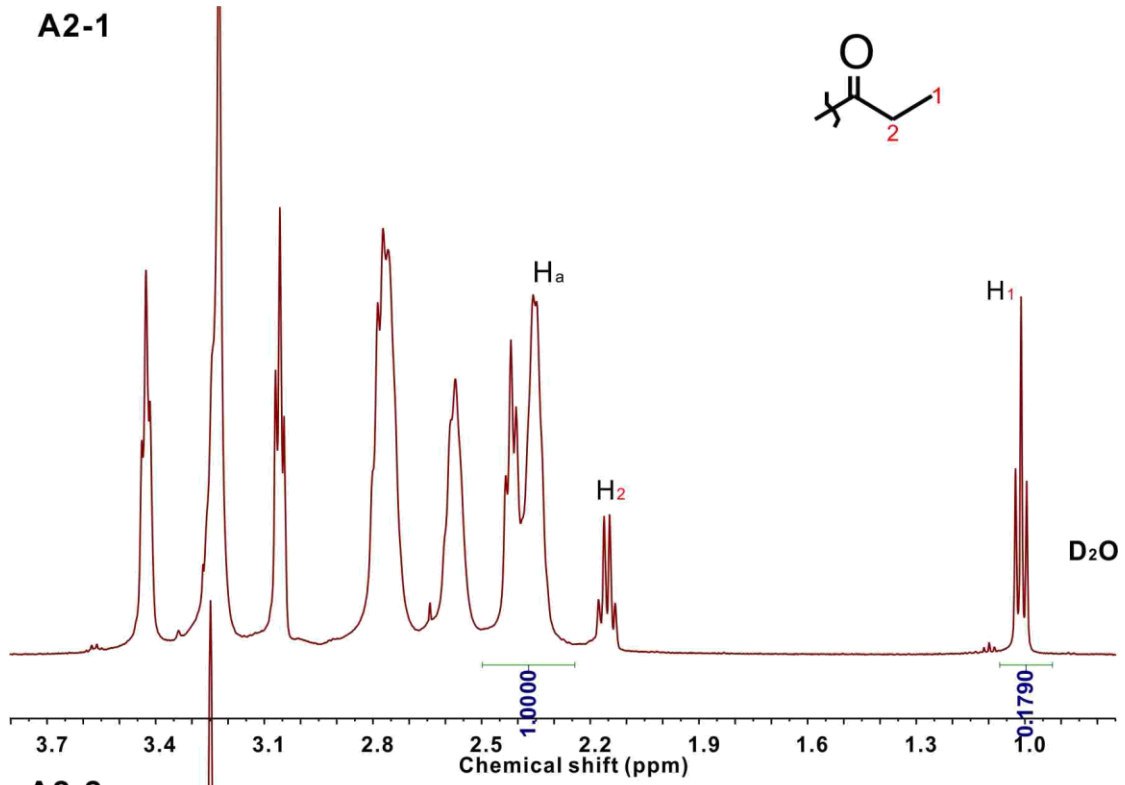
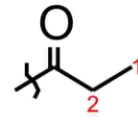
Appendix A. ^1H NMR spectra of the surface-engineered dendrimers in the library.

G5 PAMAM dendrimer

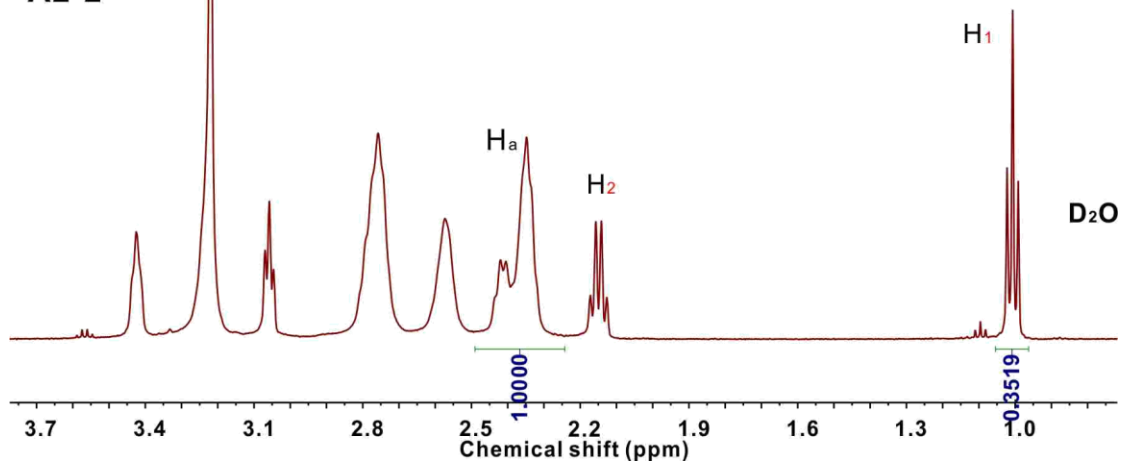




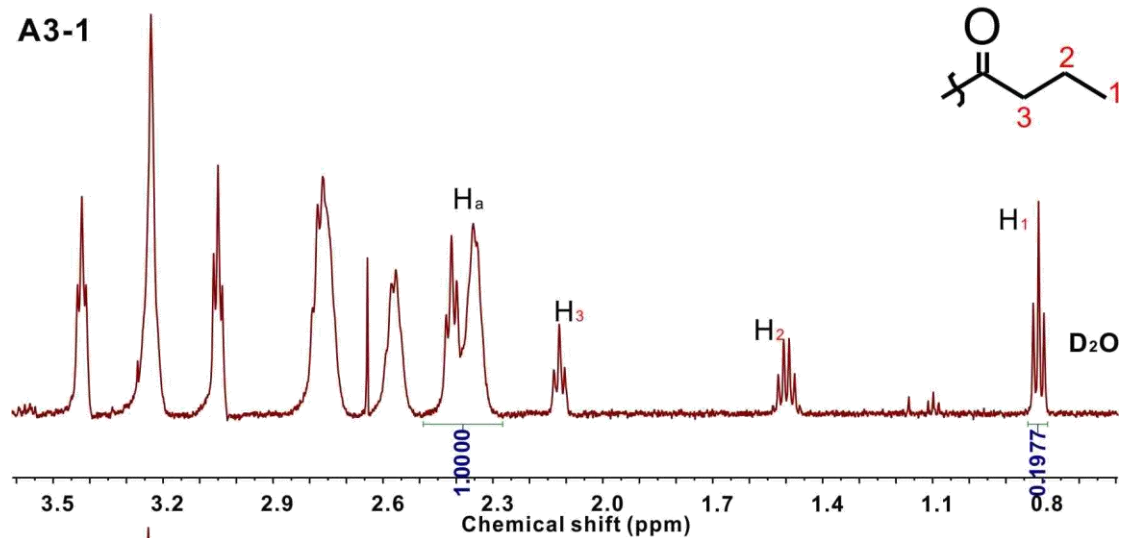
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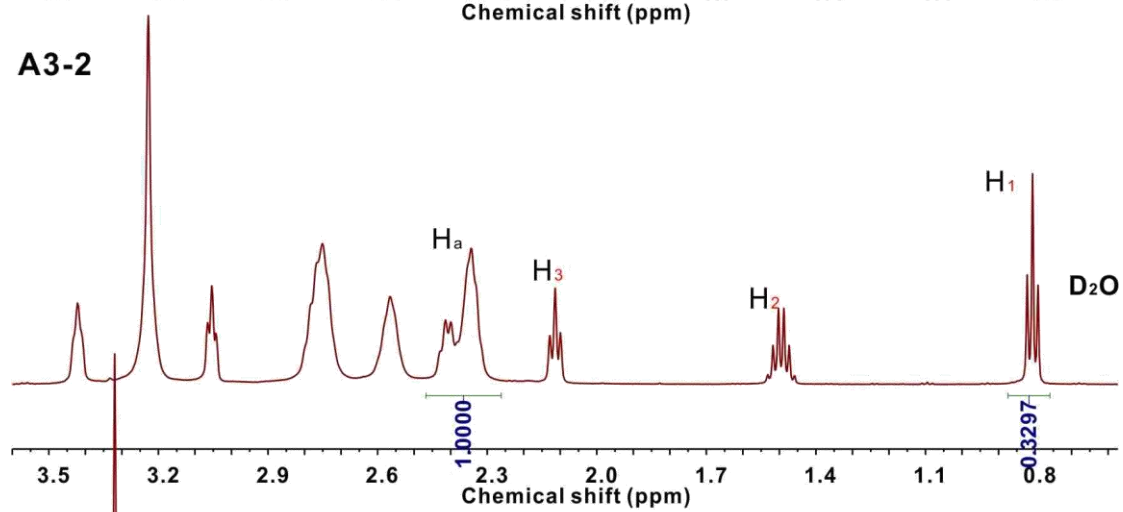
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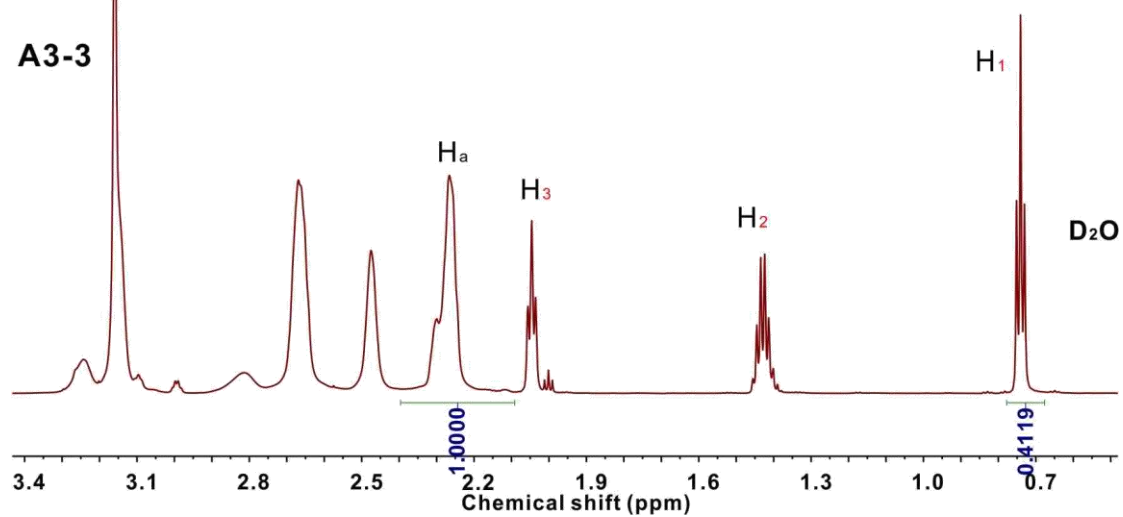
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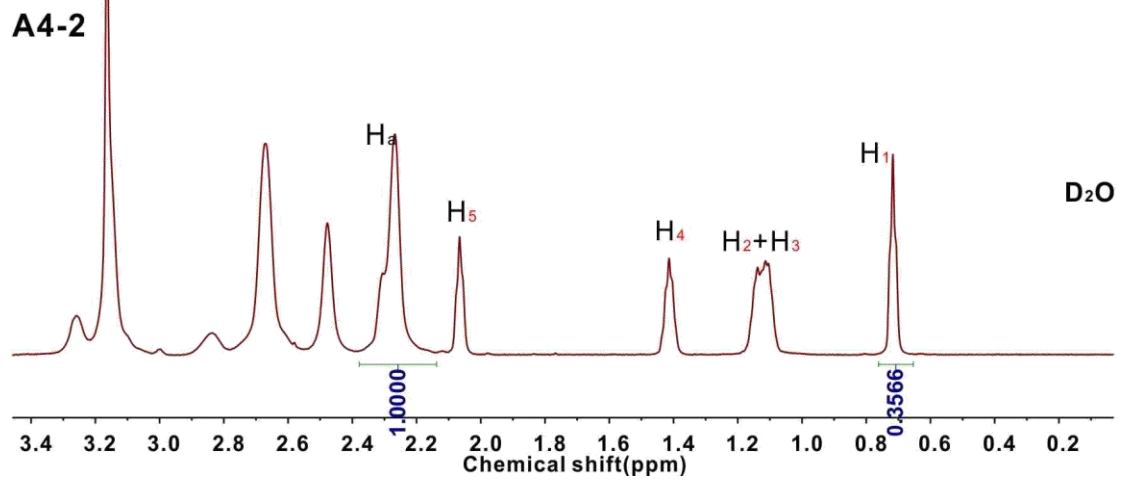
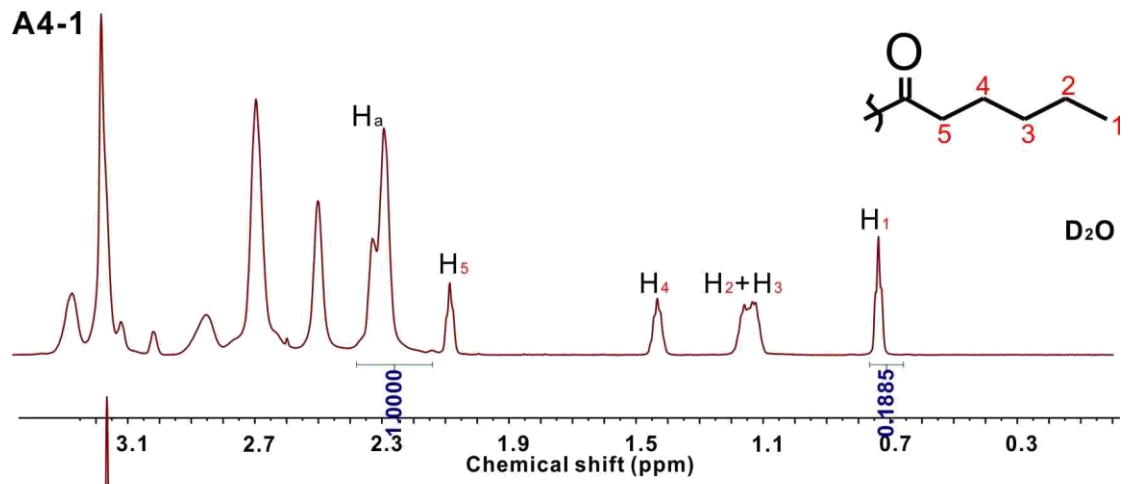


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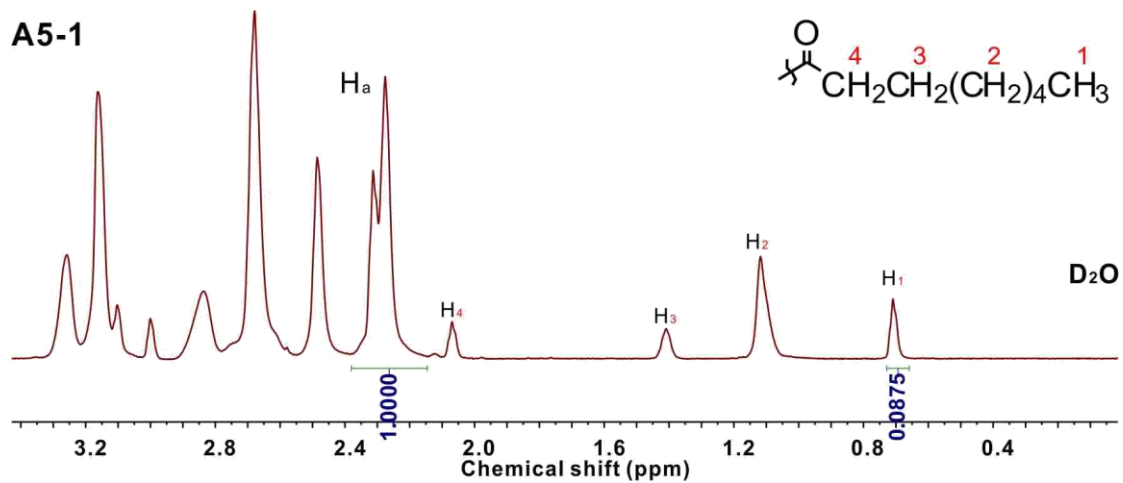


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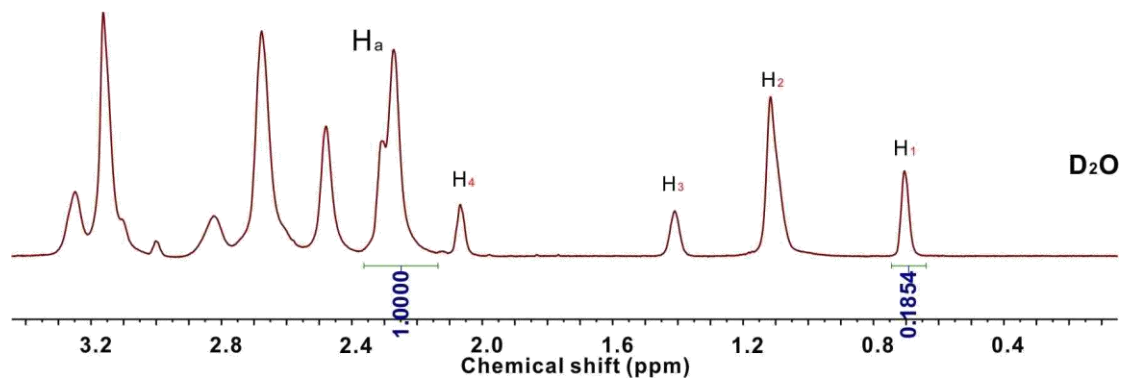




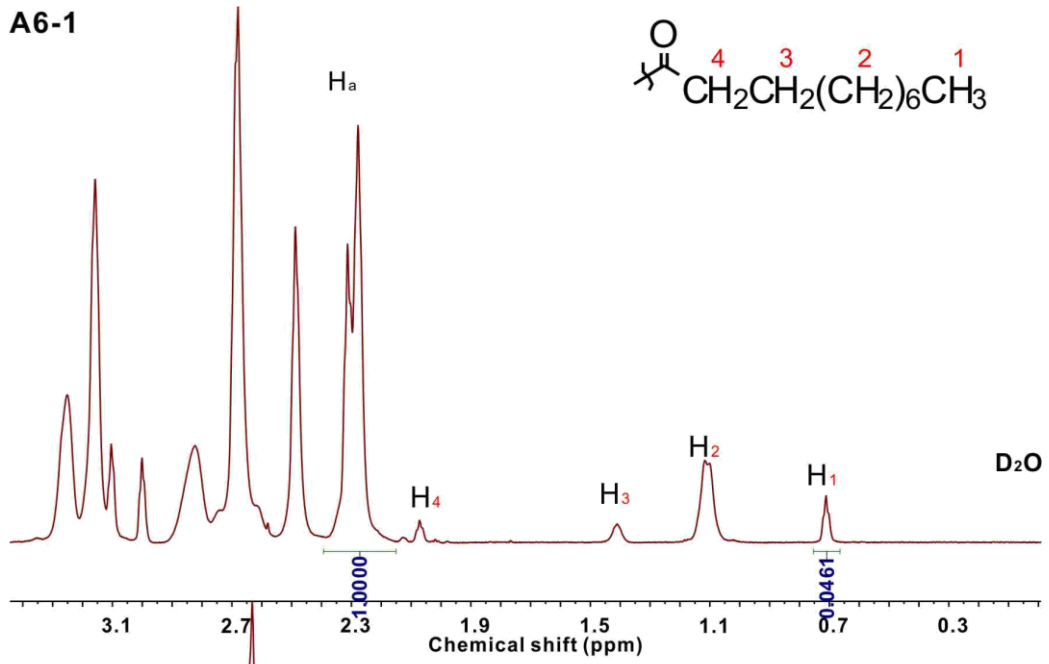
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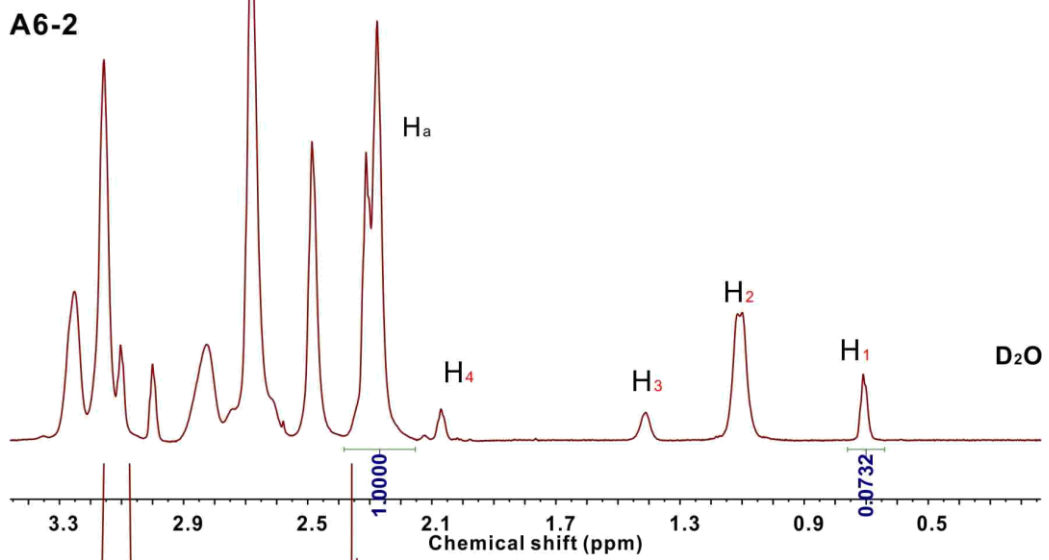
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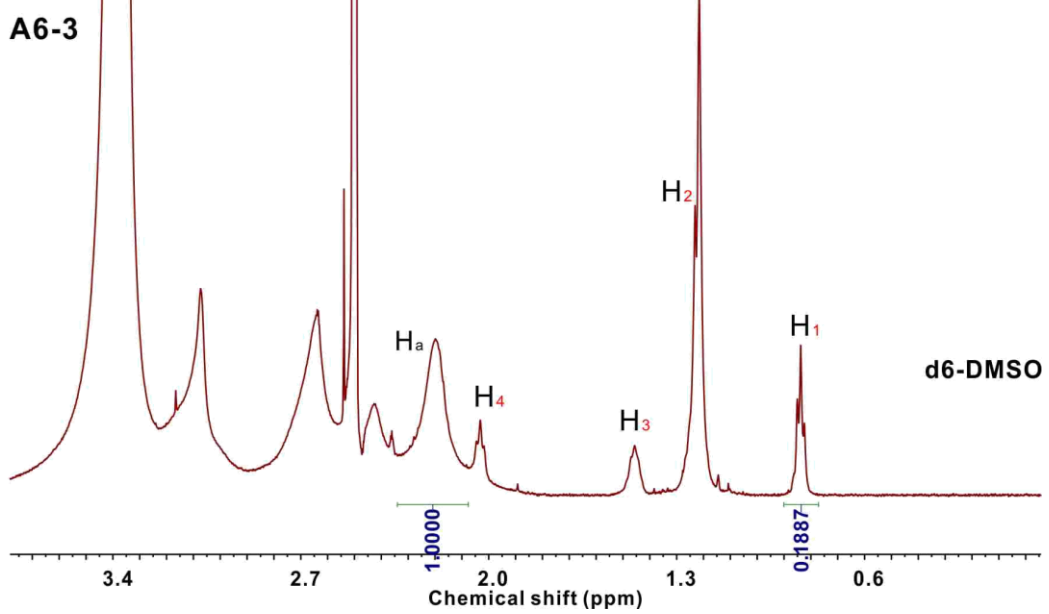
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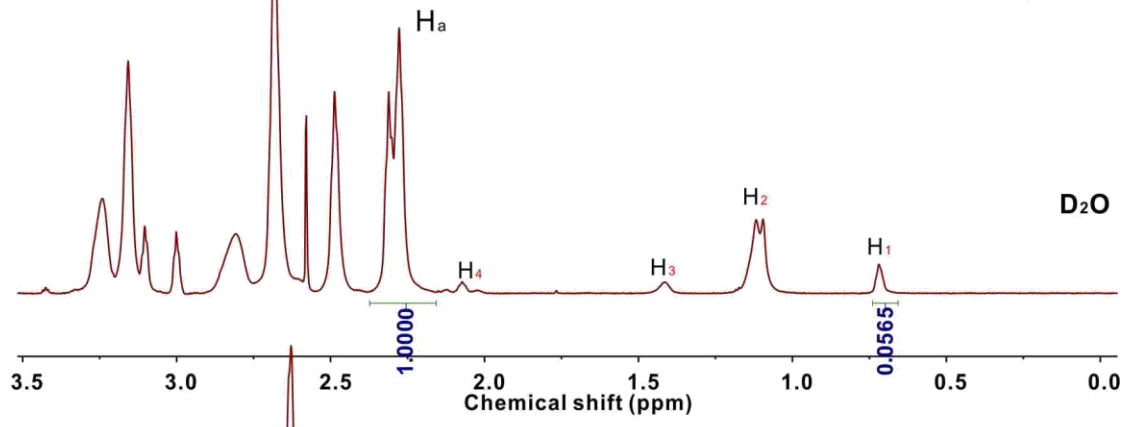
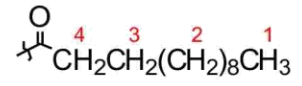
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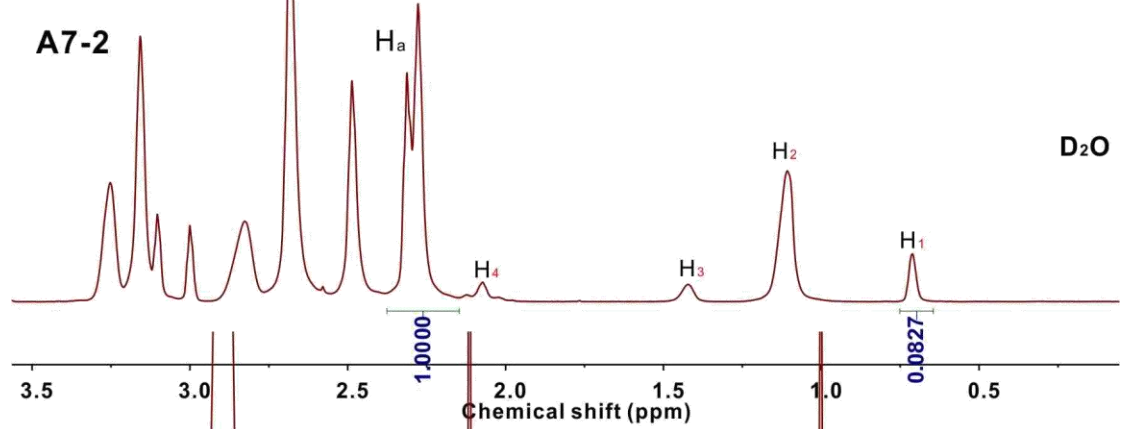
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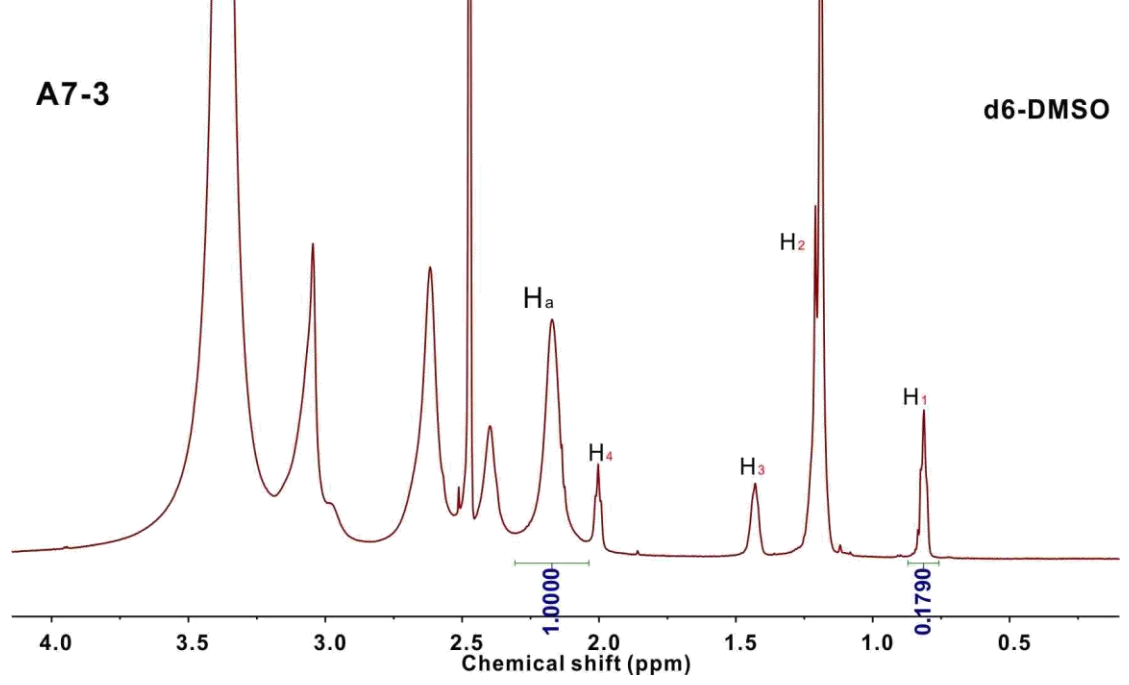
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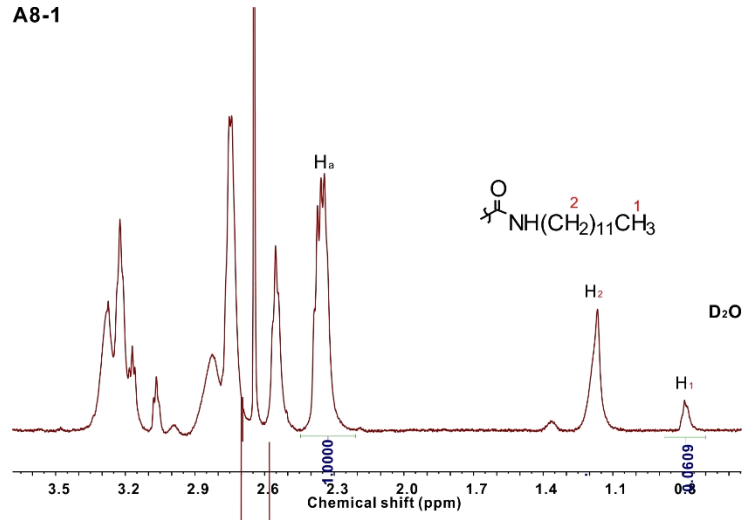
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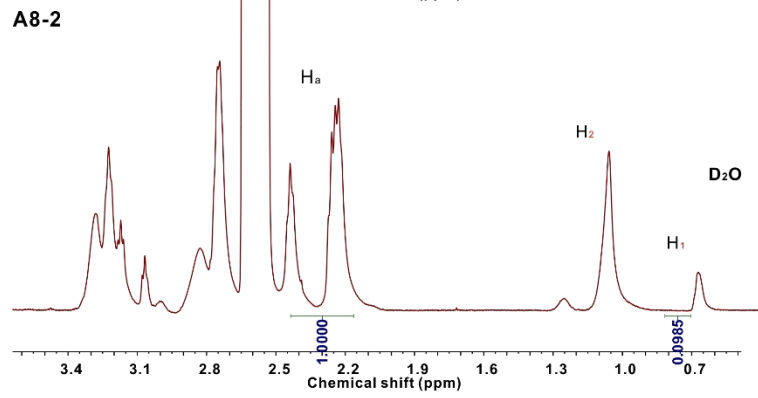
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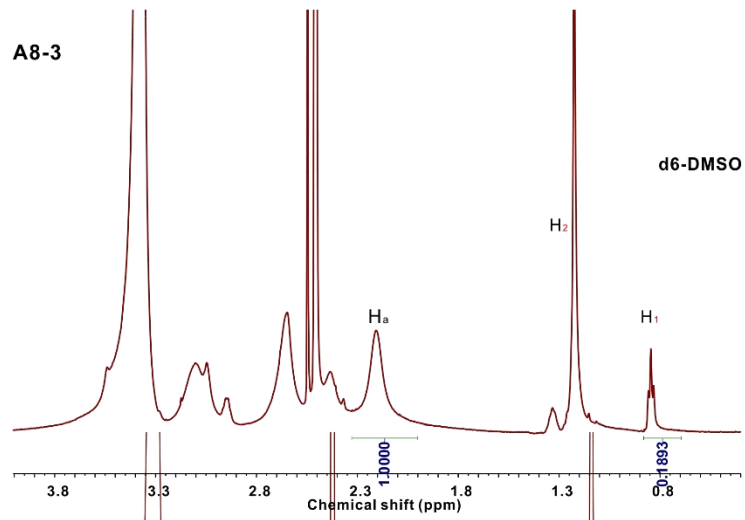
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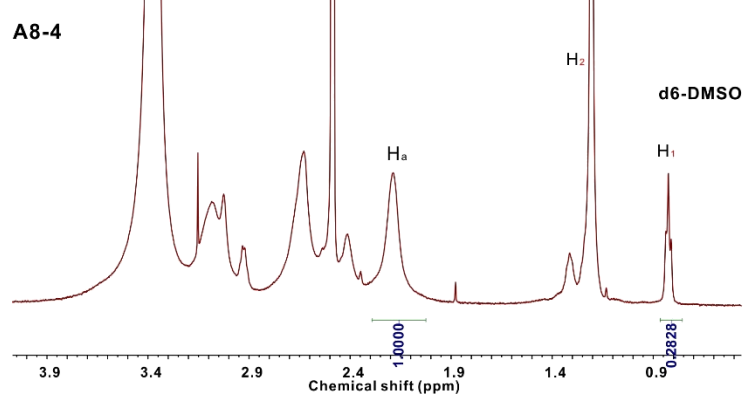
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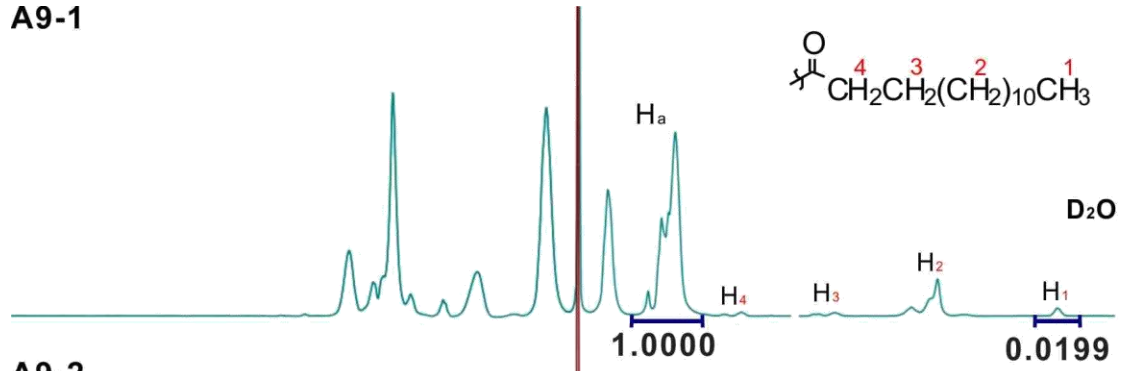
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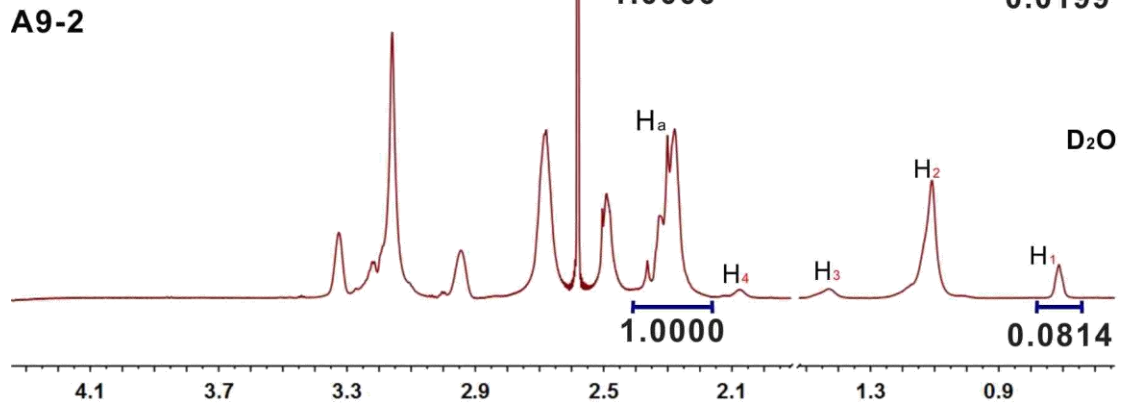
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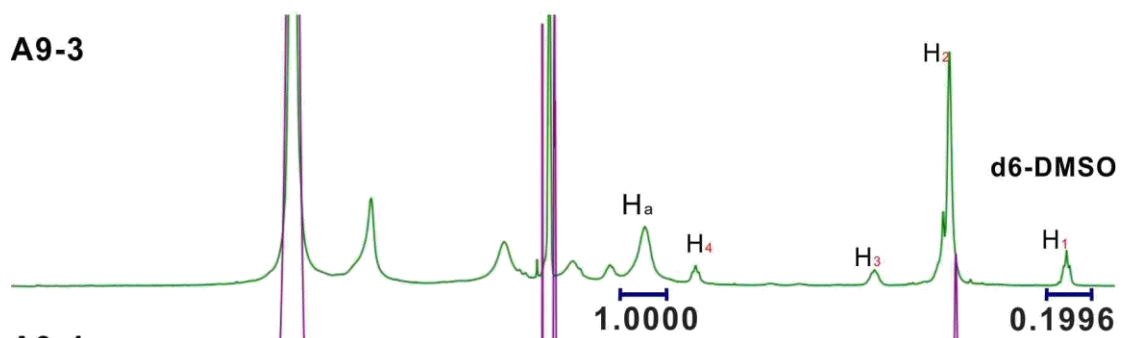
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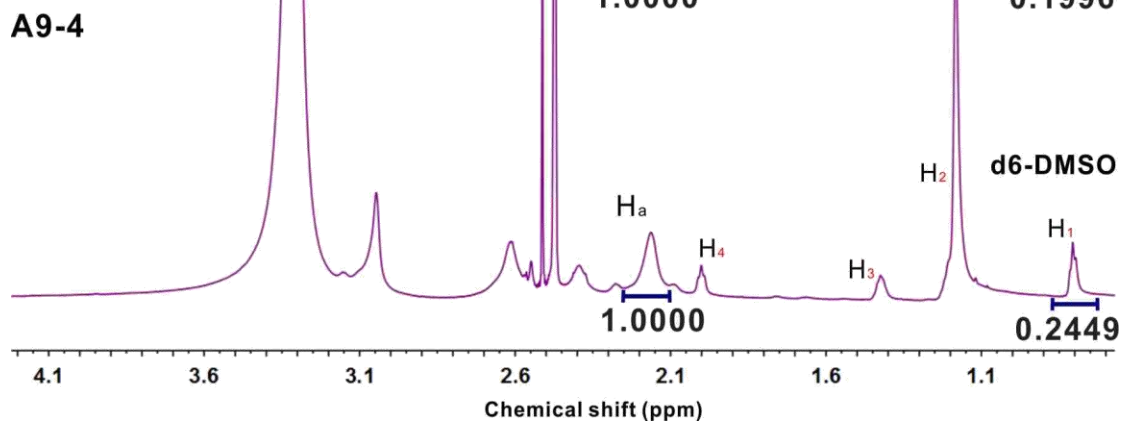
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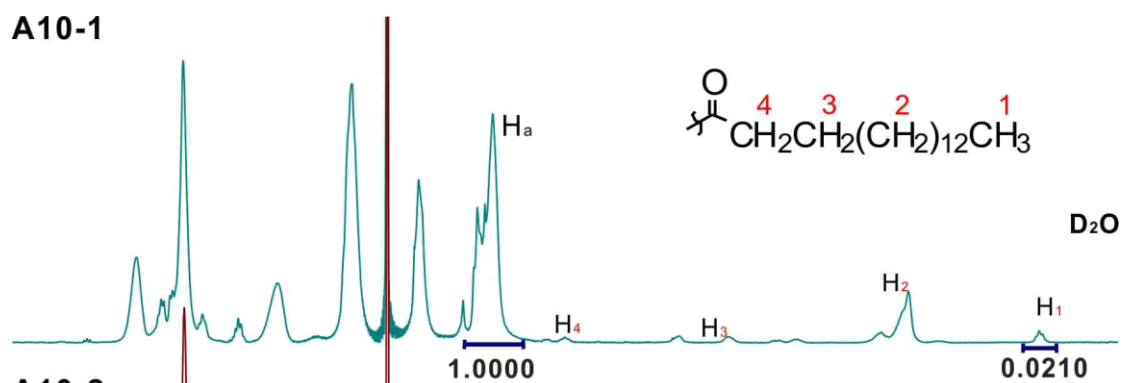
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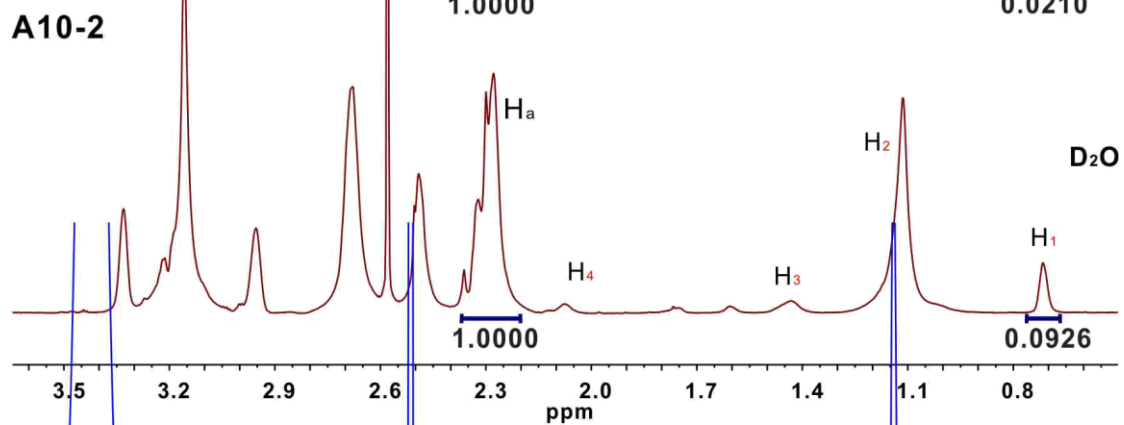
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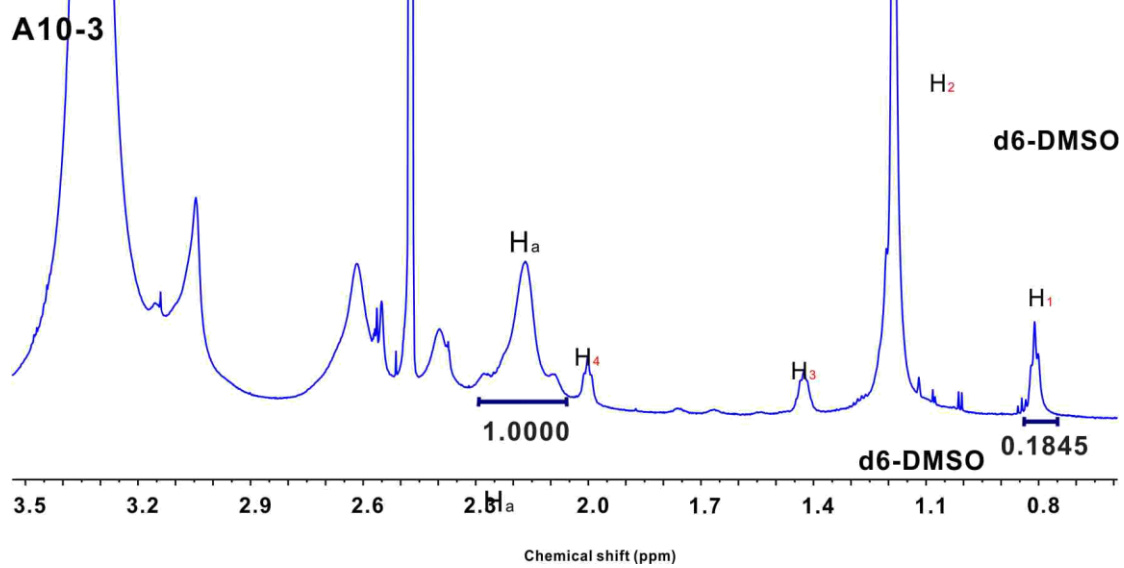
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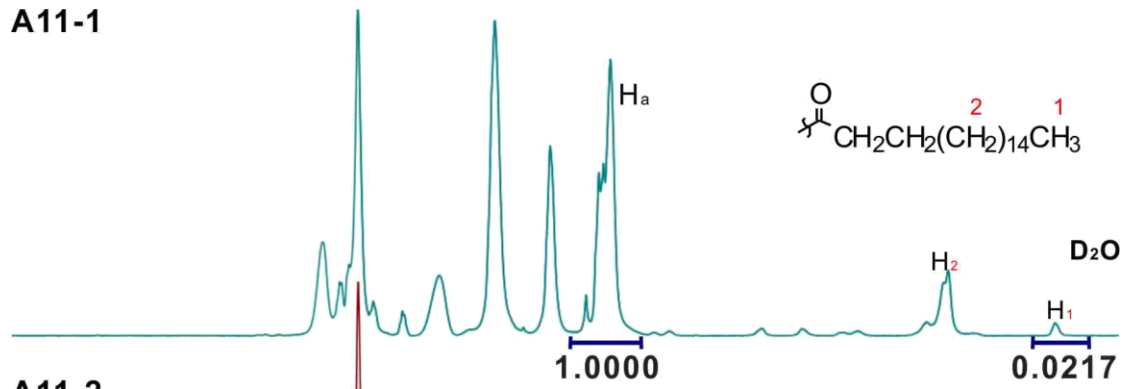
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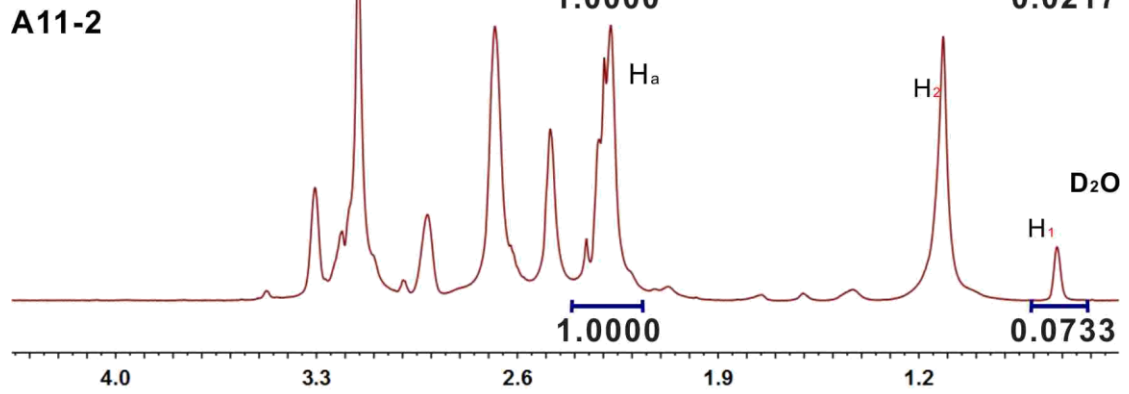
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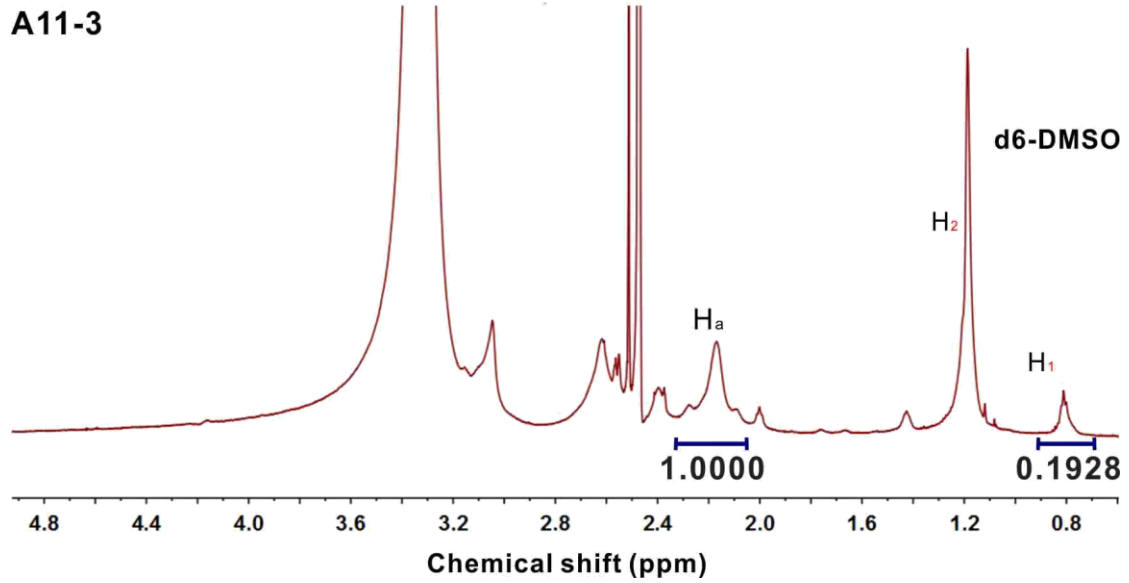
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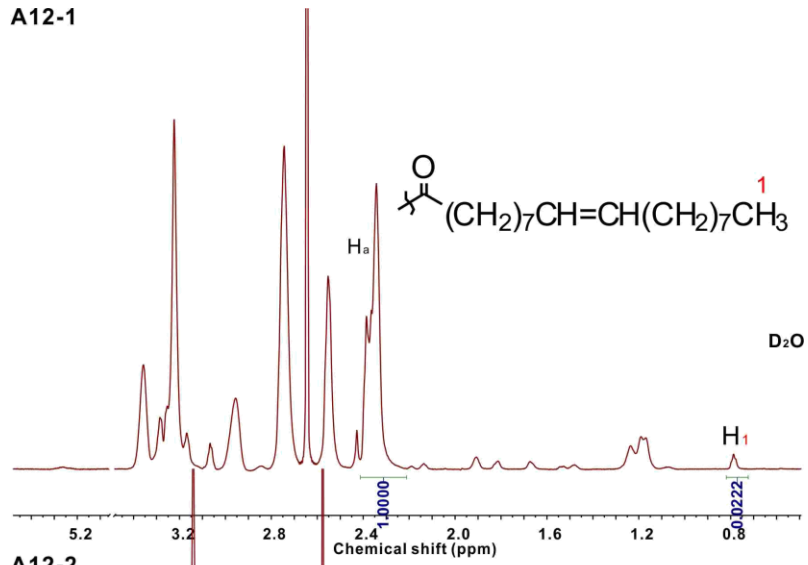
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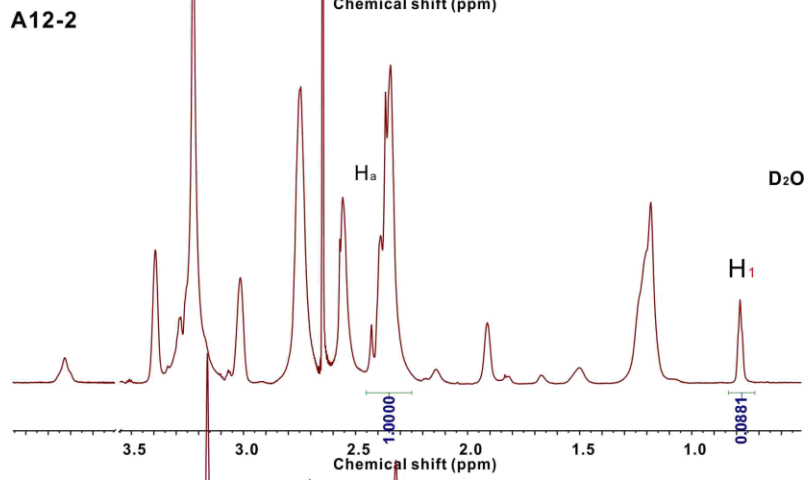
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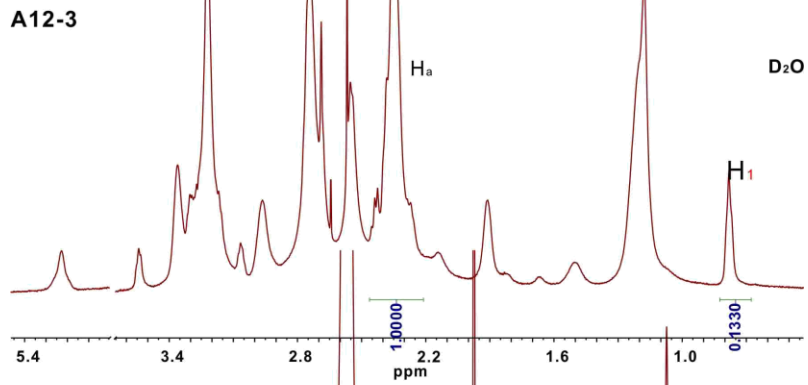
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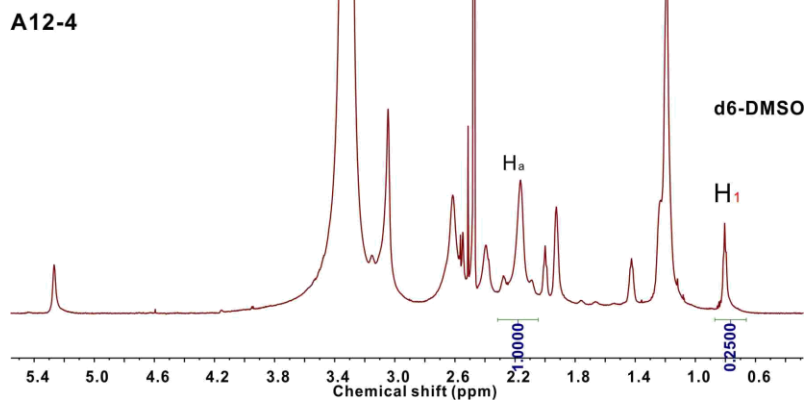
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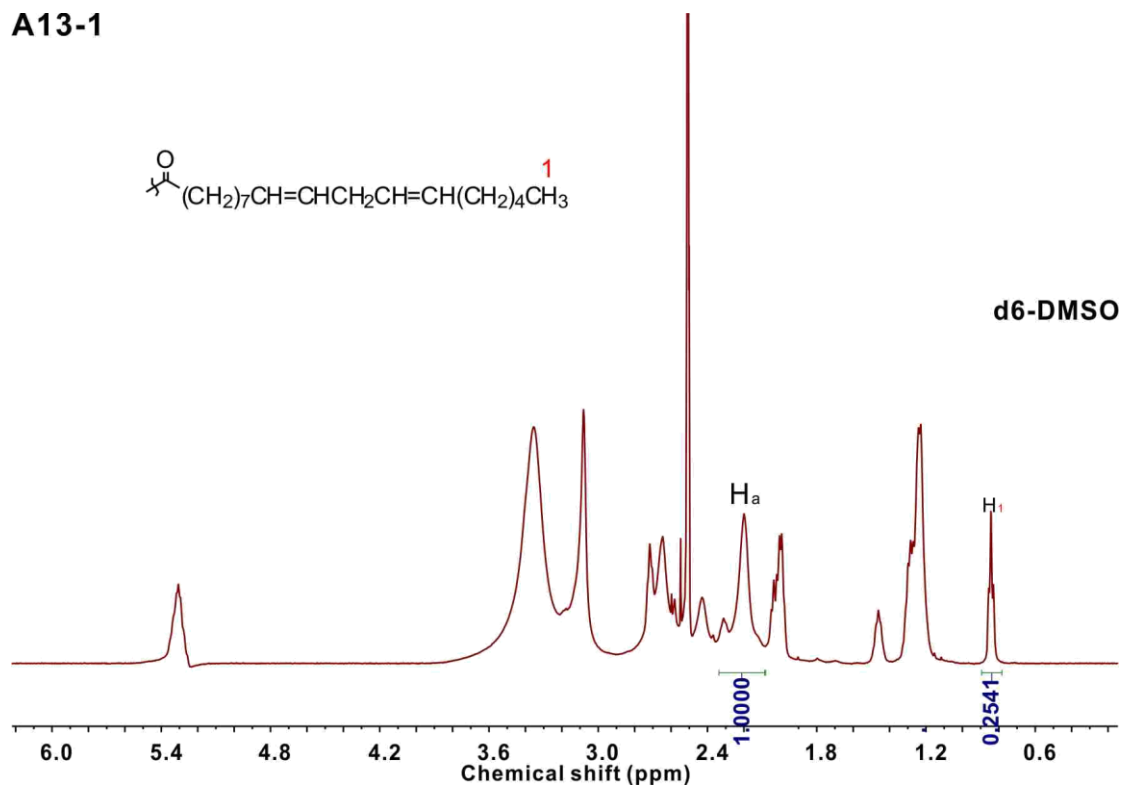
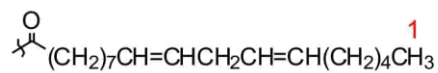
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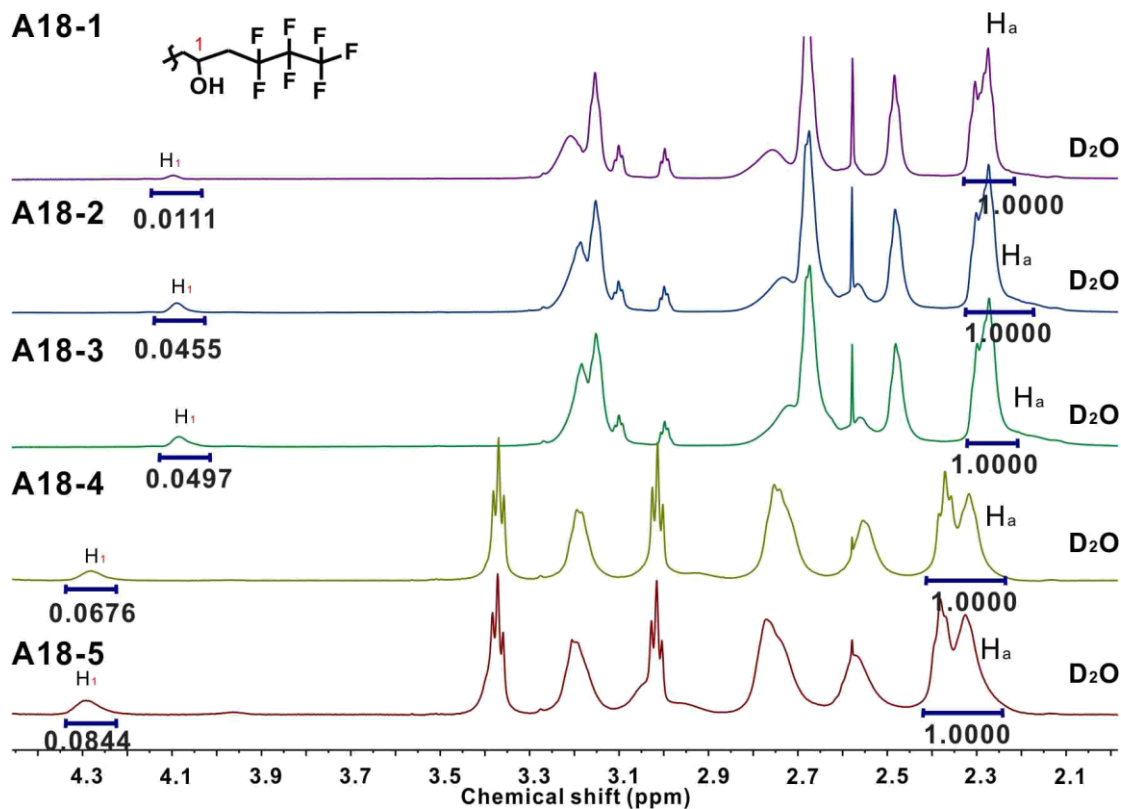
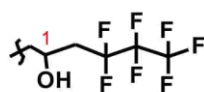
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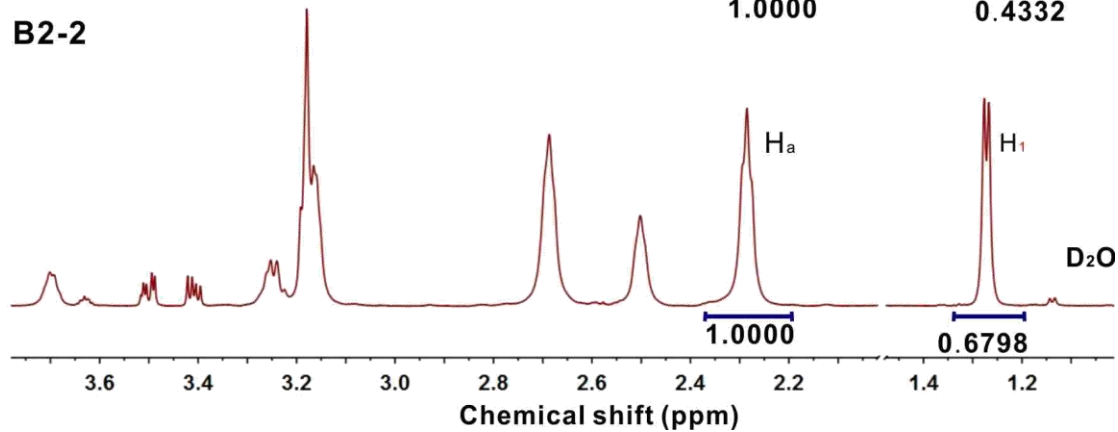
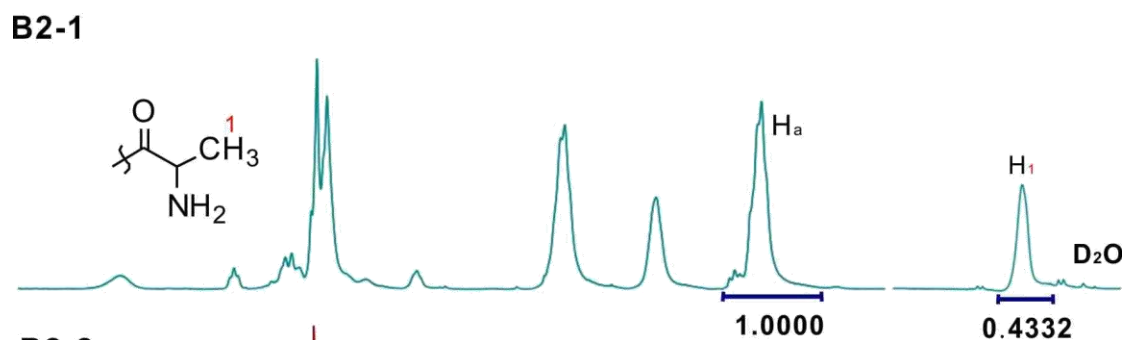
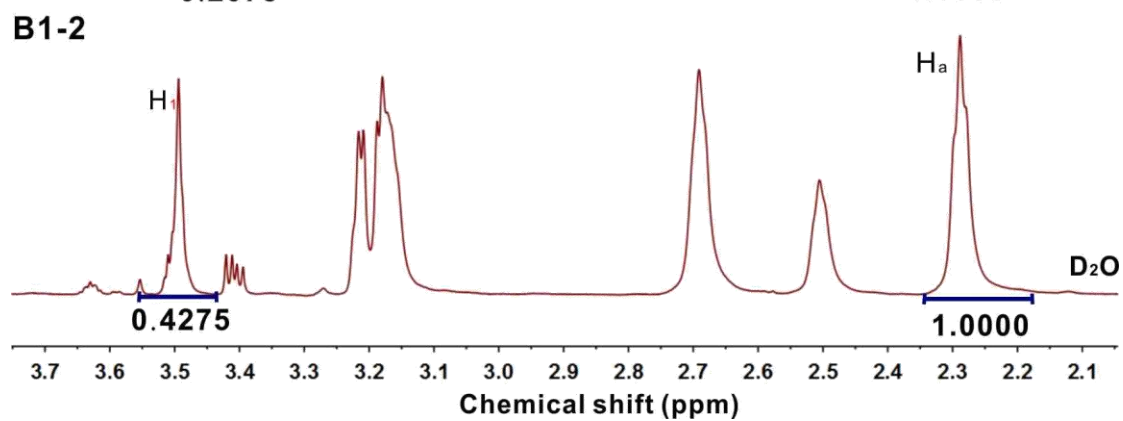
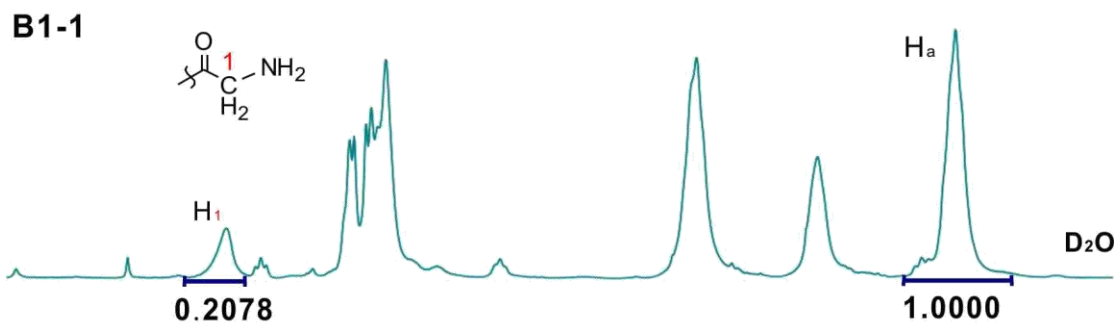


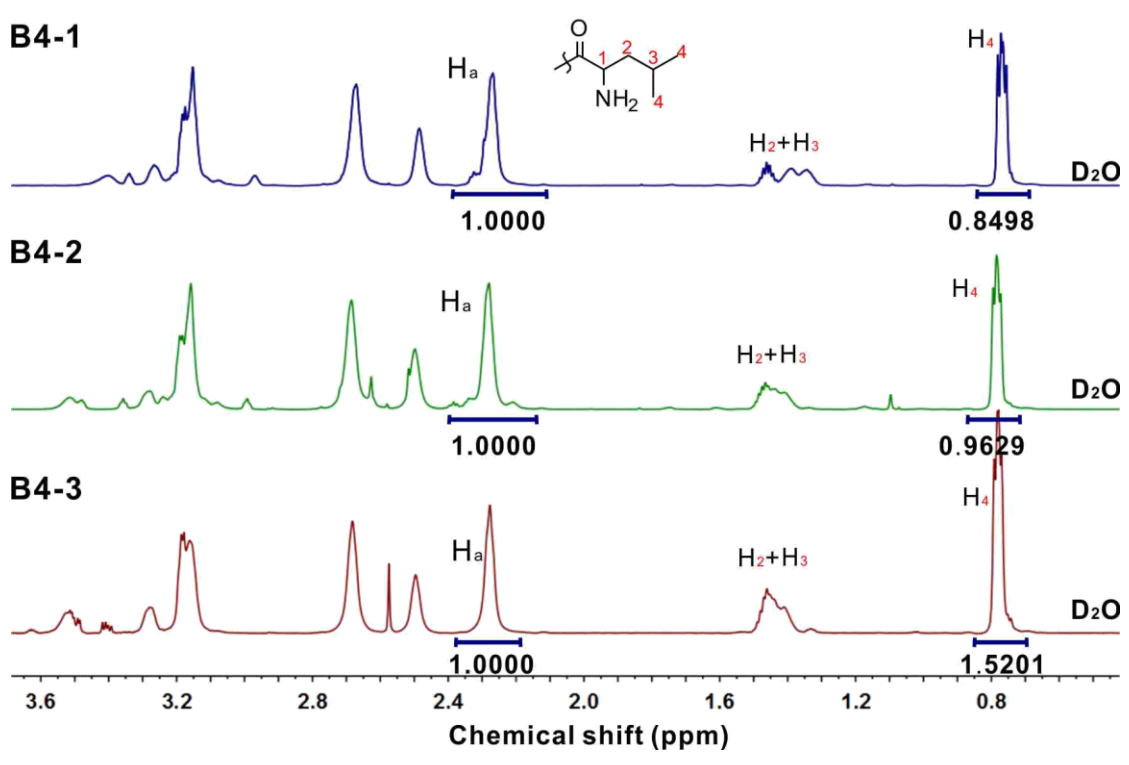
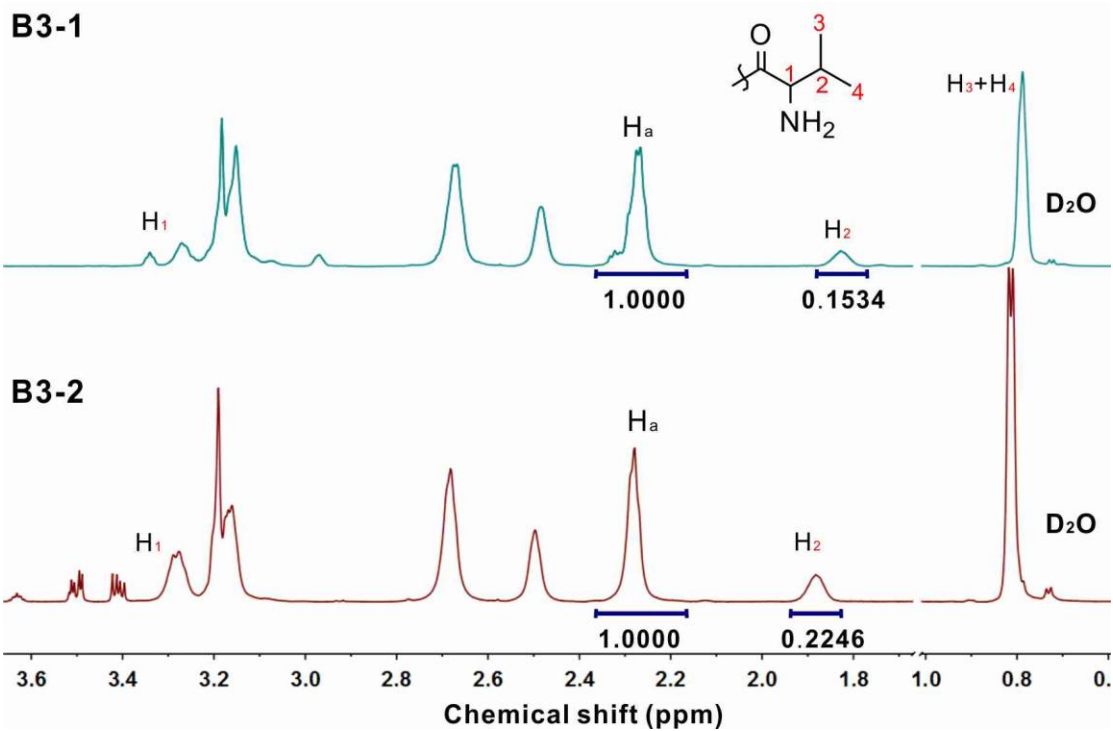
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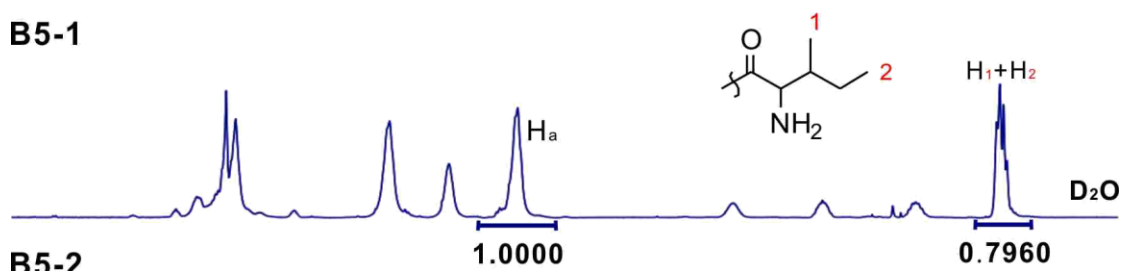
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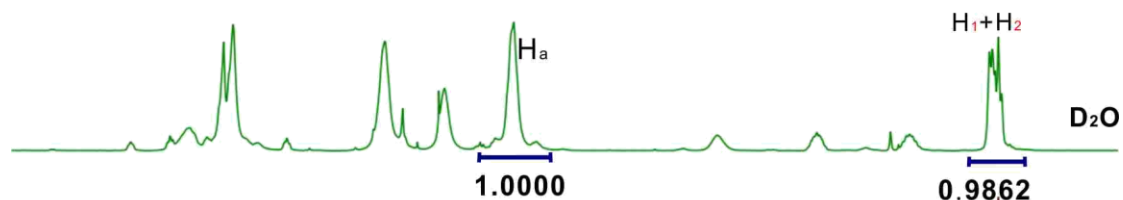




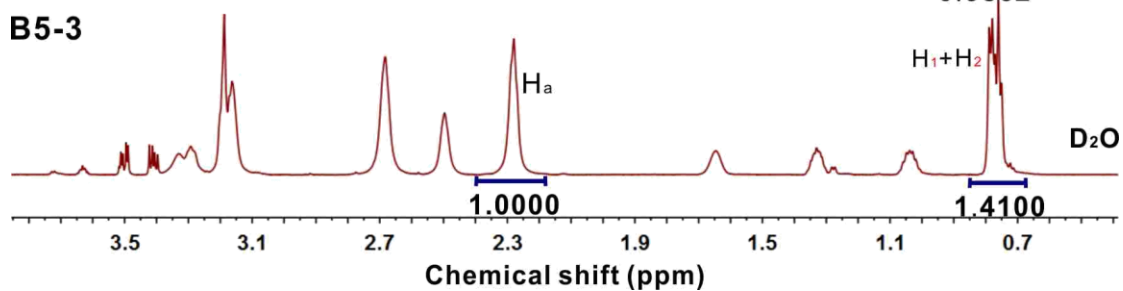
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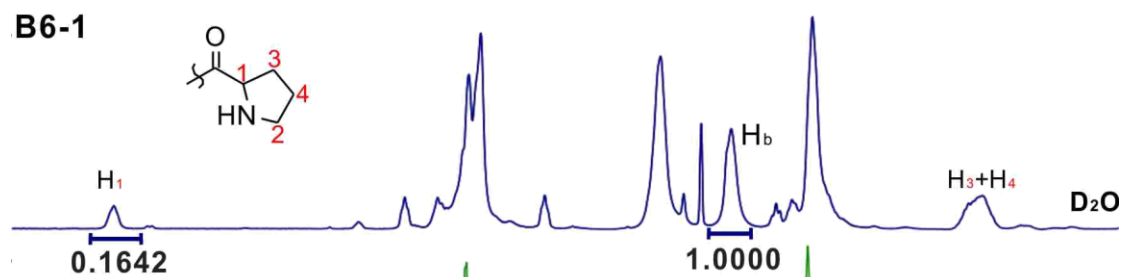
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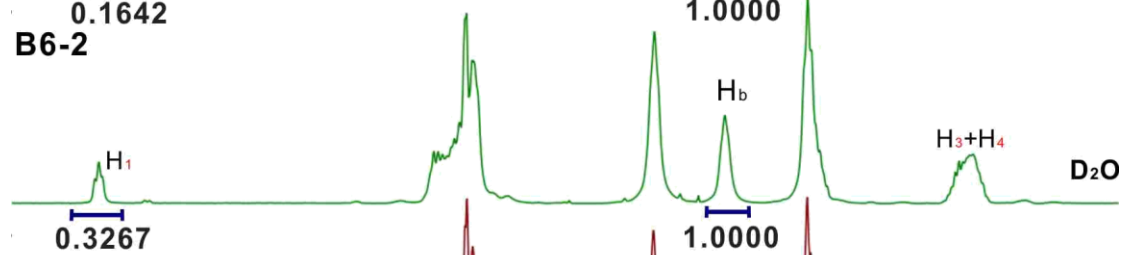
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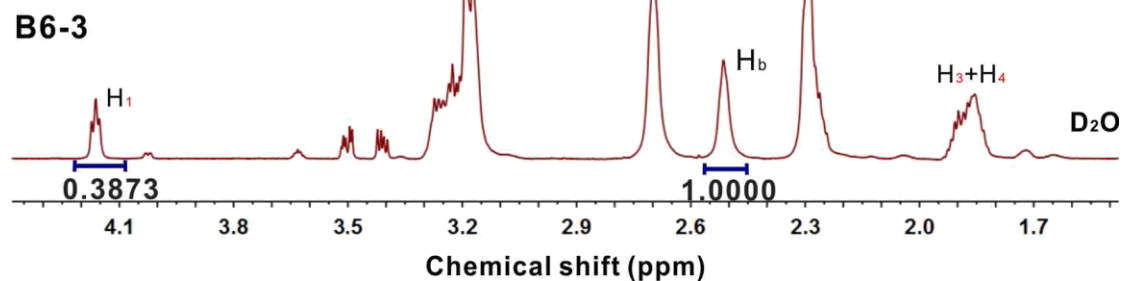
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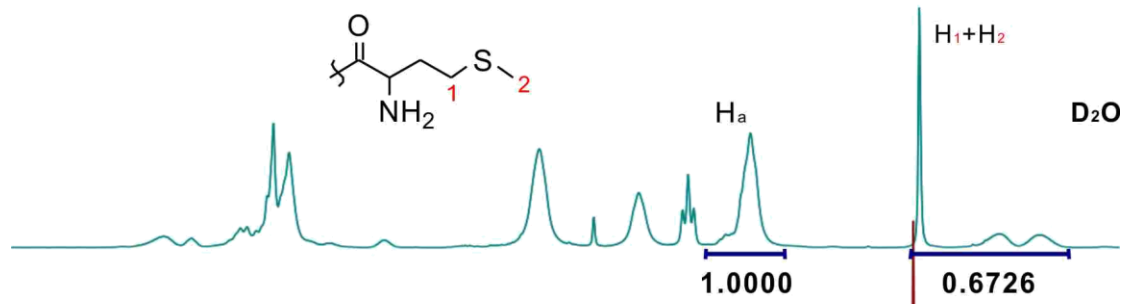
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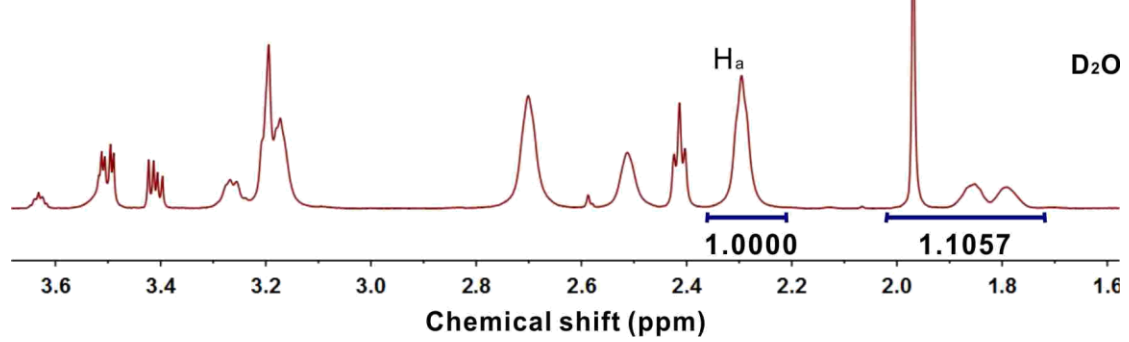
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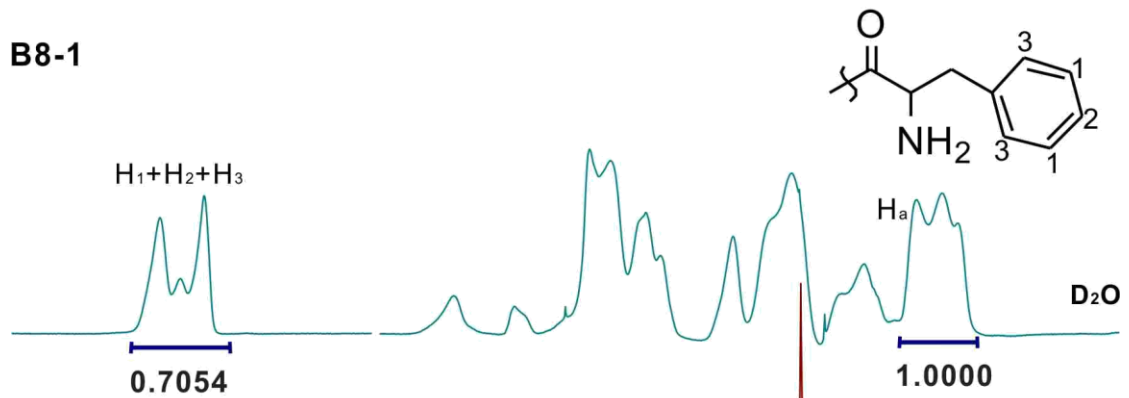
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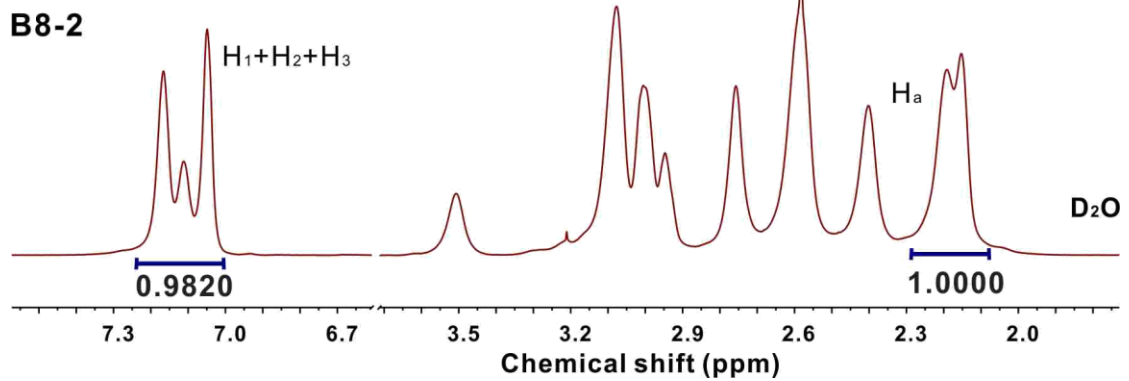
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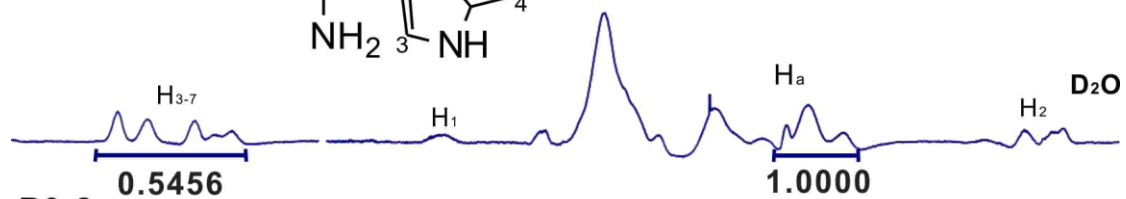
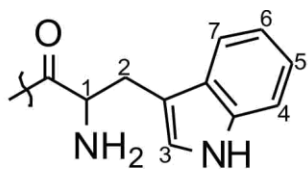
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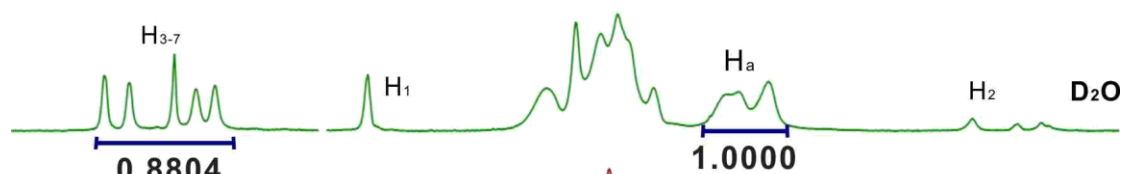
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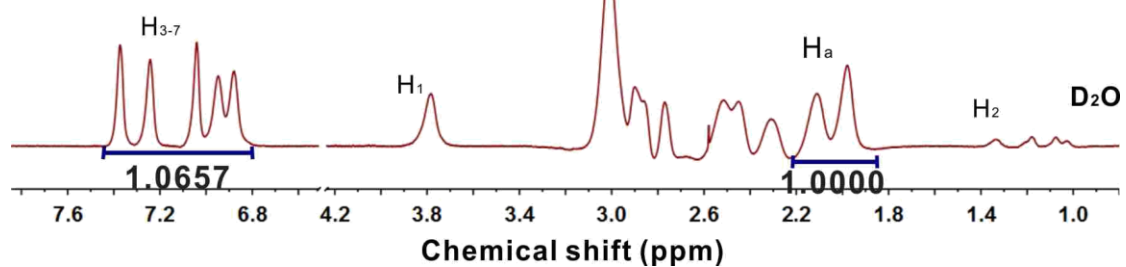
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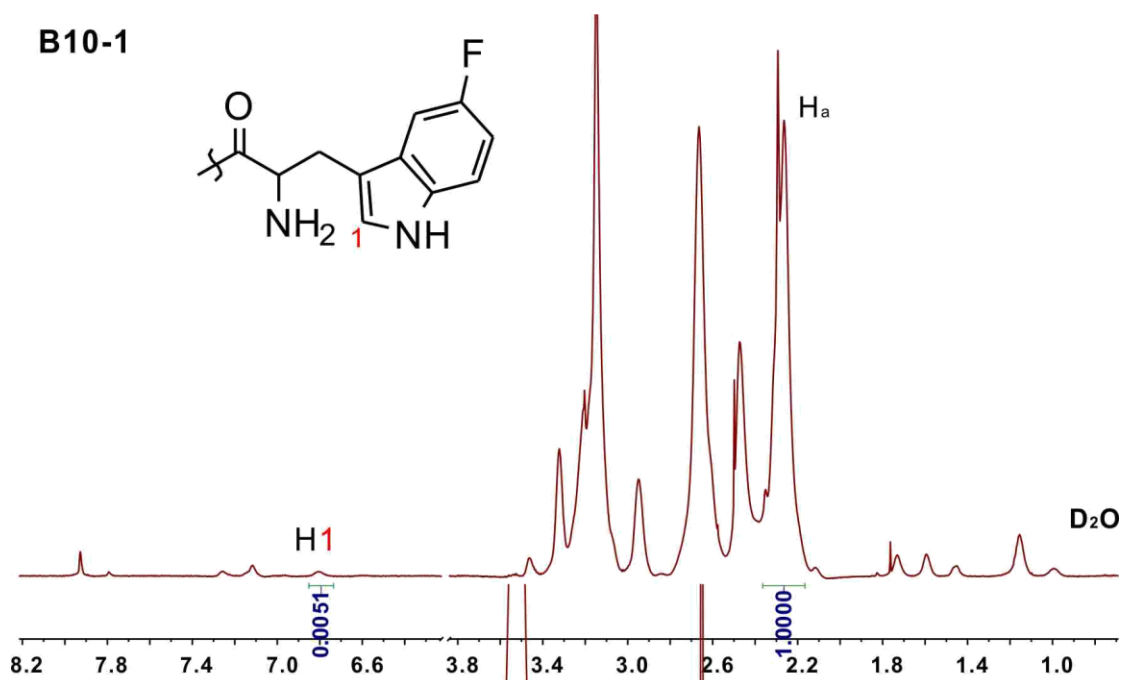
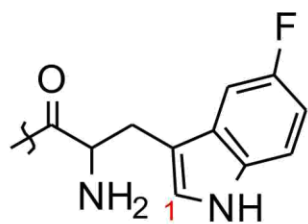
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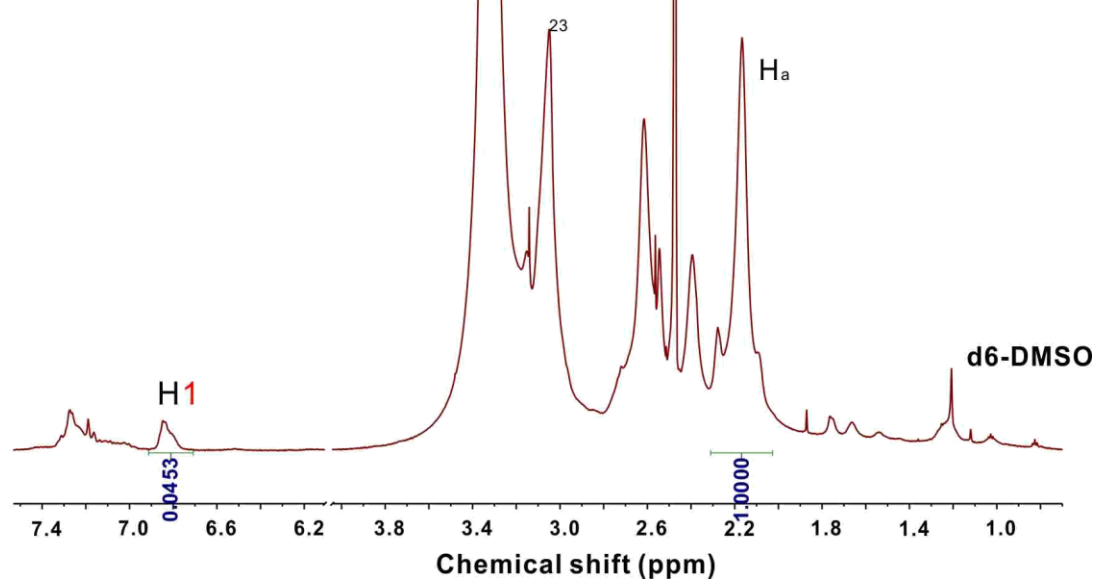
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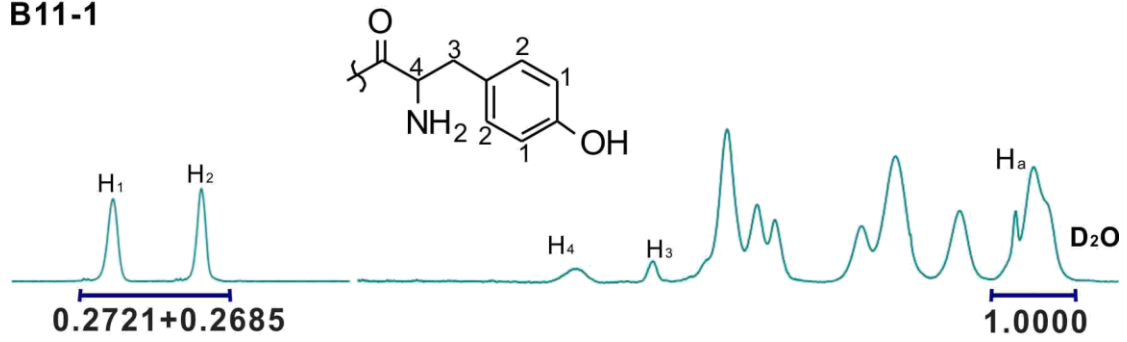
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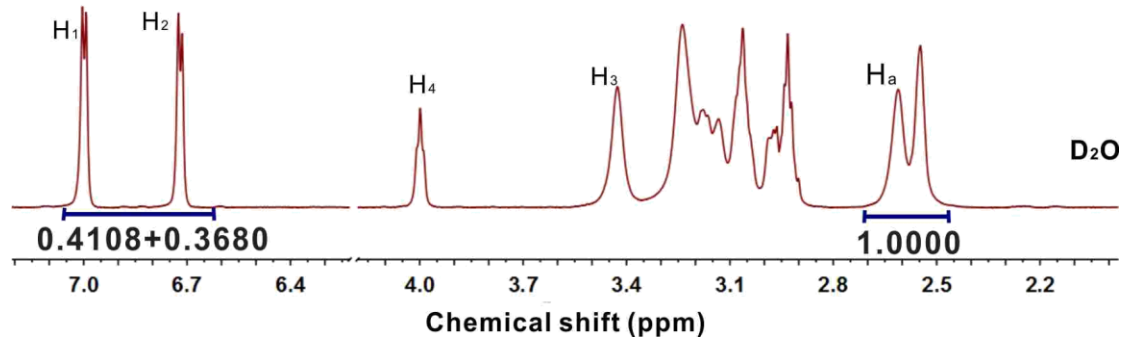
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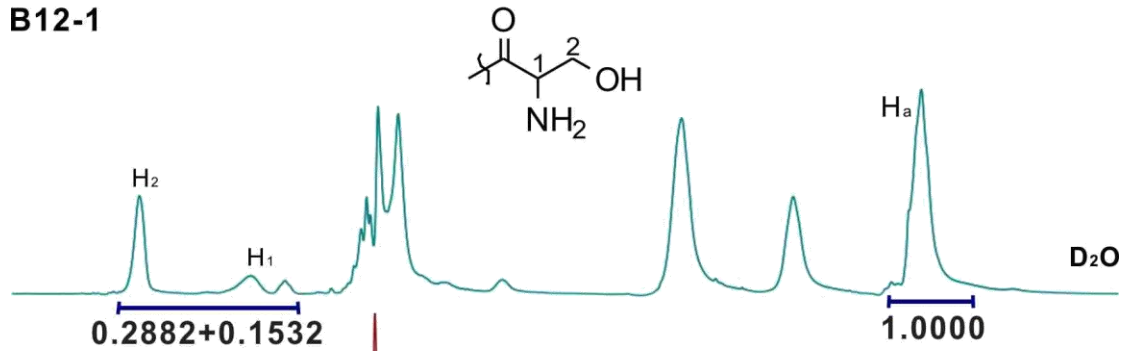
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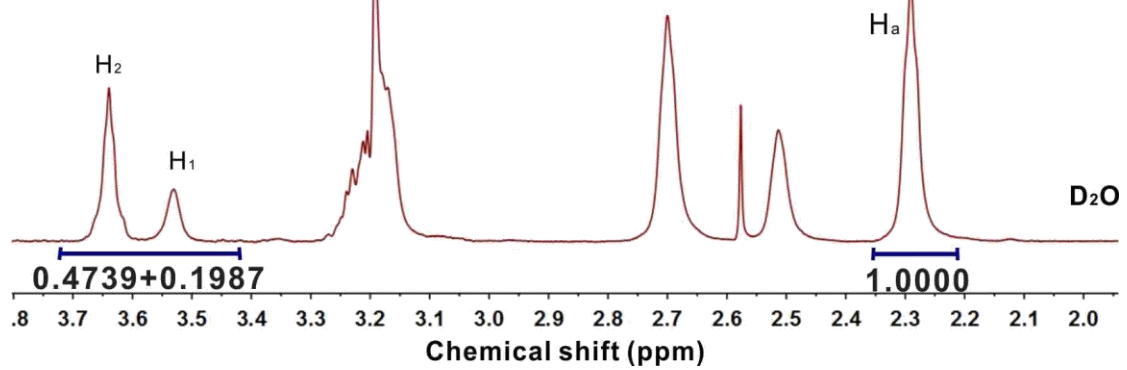
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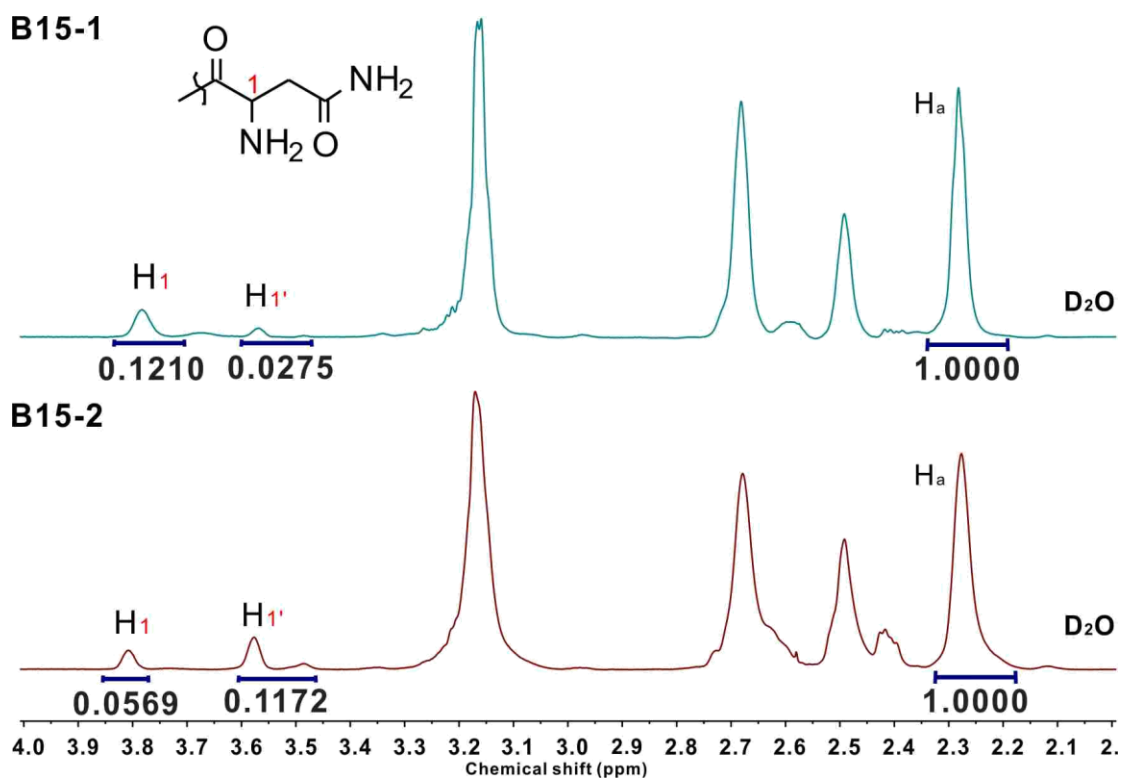
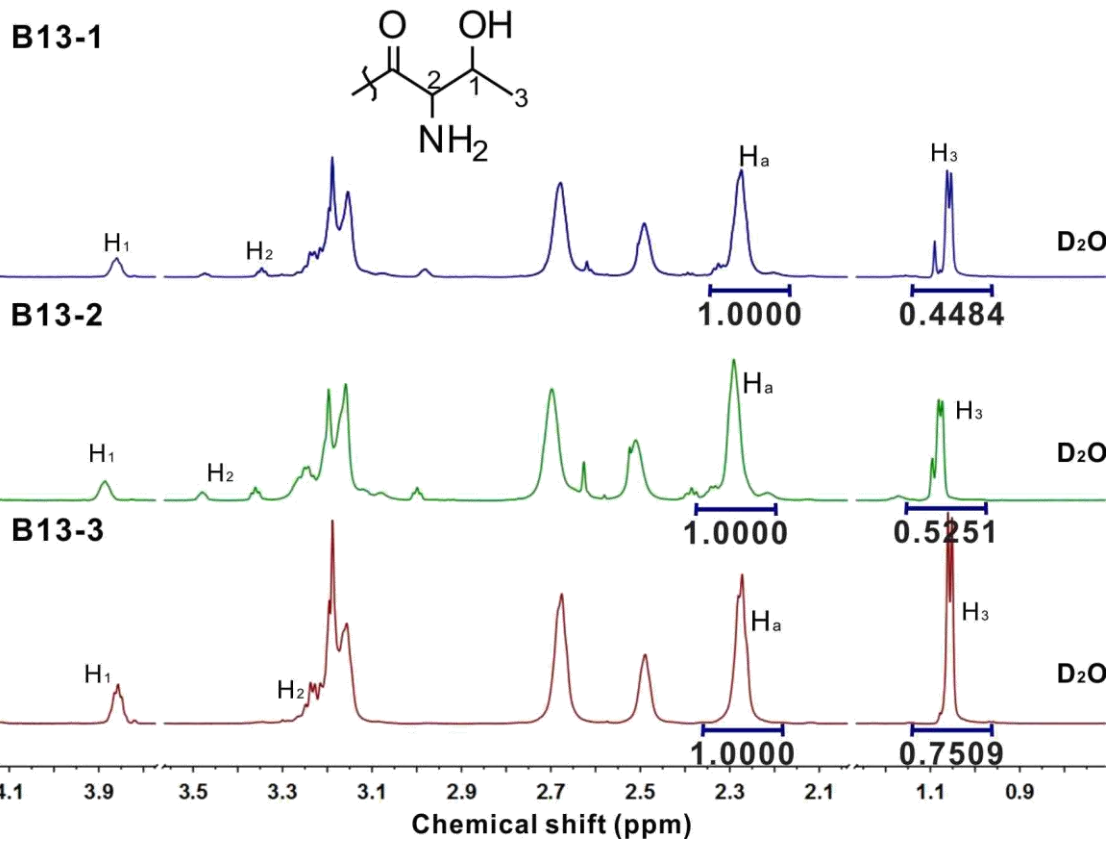


B12-1

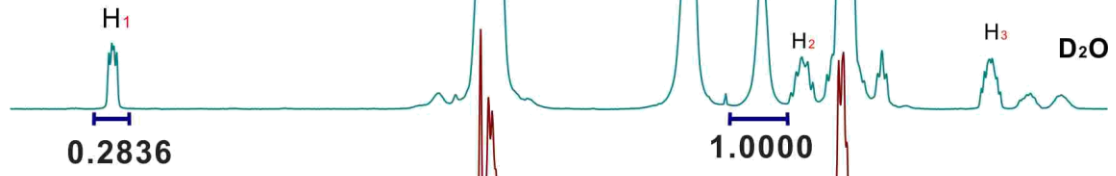
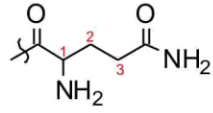


B12-2

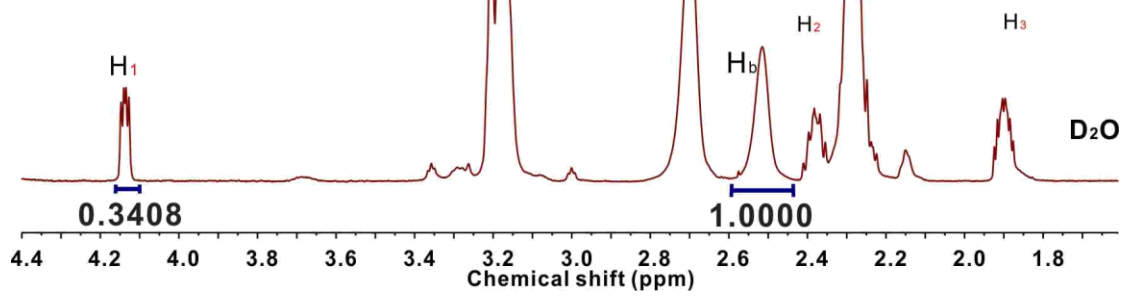




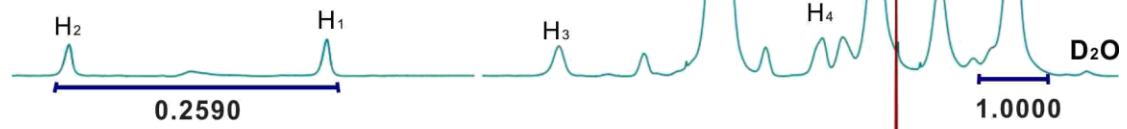
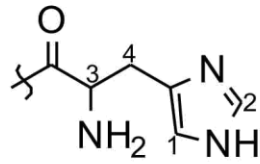
B16-1



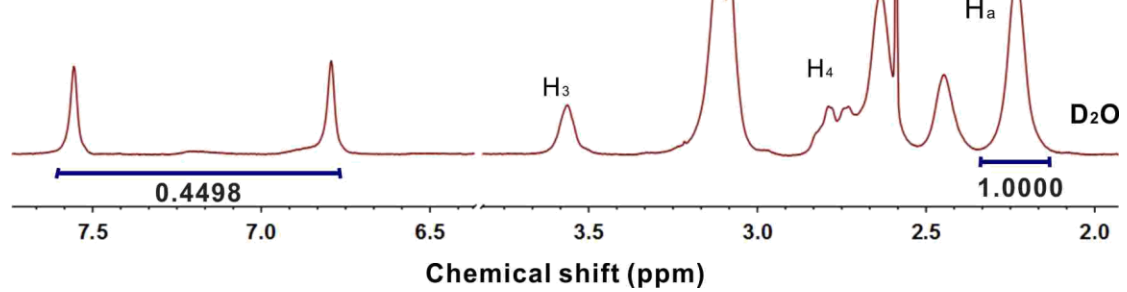
B16-2



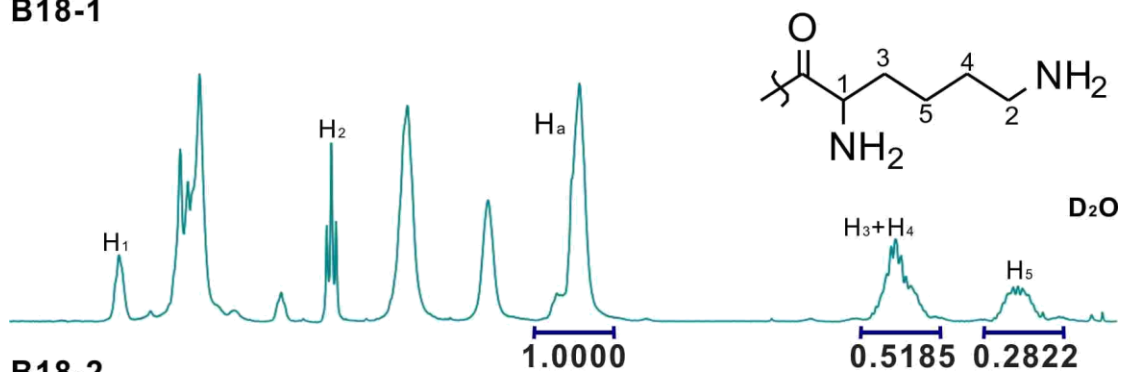
B17-1



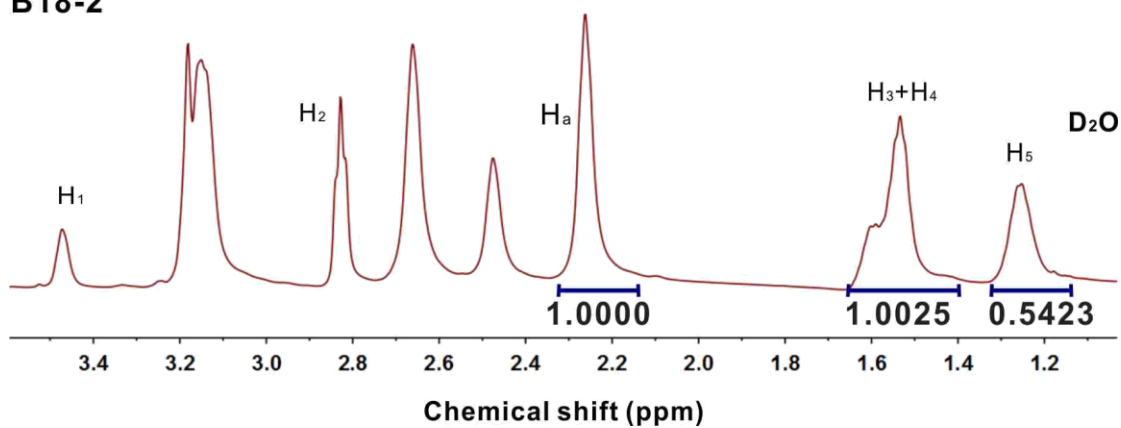
B17-2



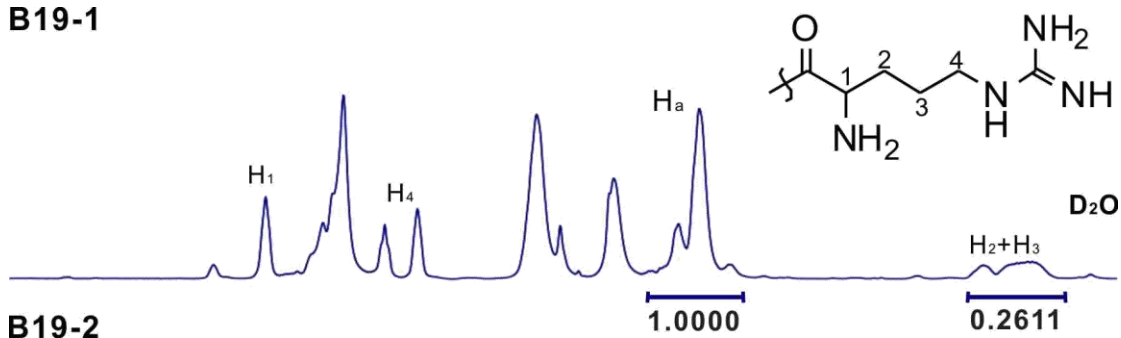
B18-1



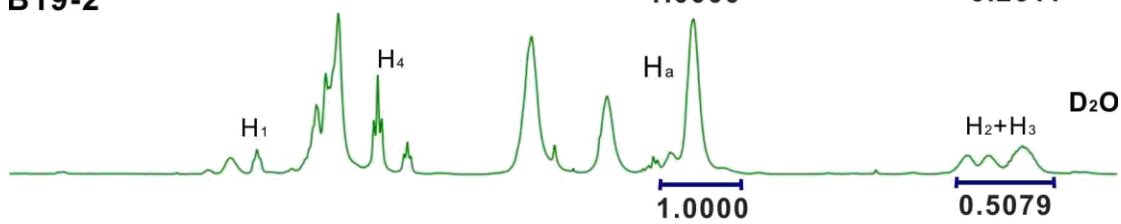
B18-2



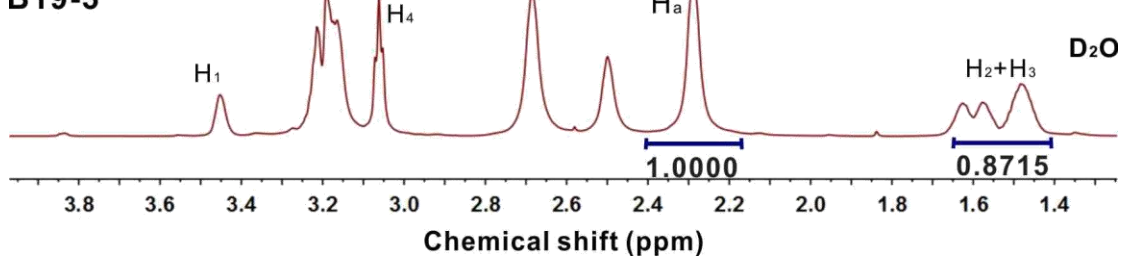
B19-1

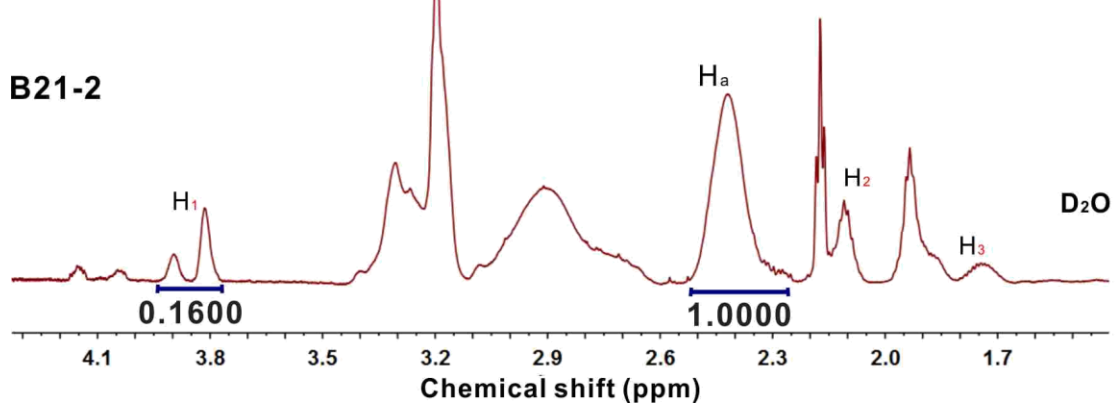
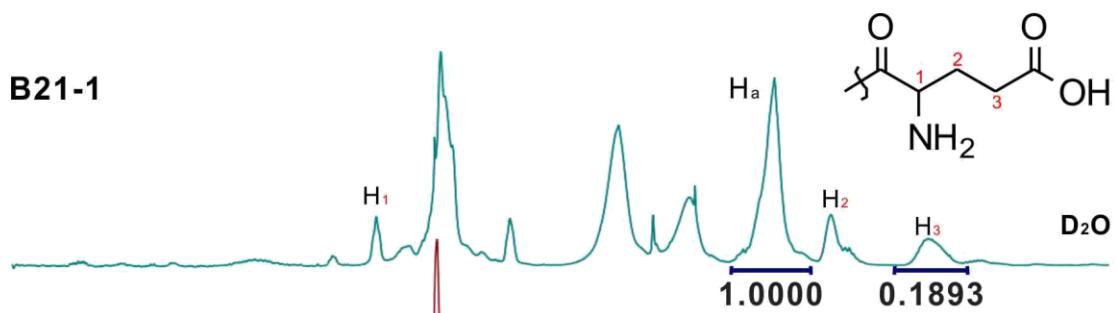
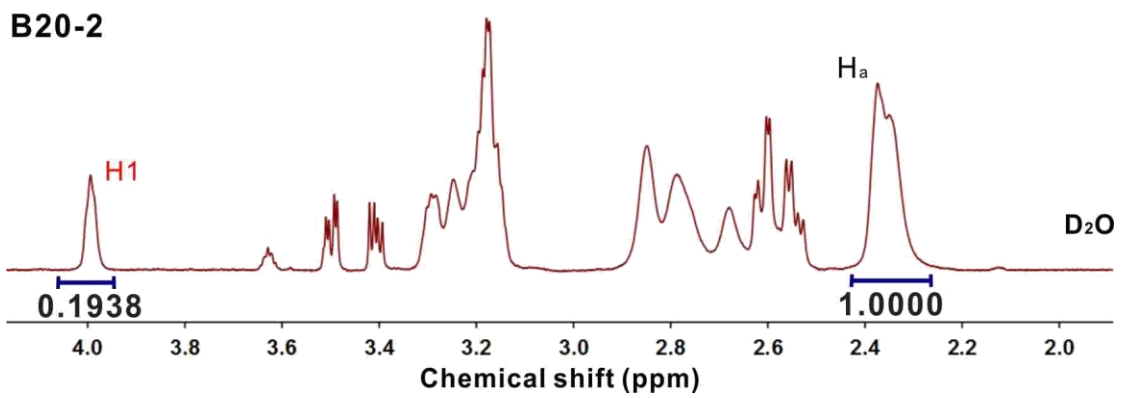
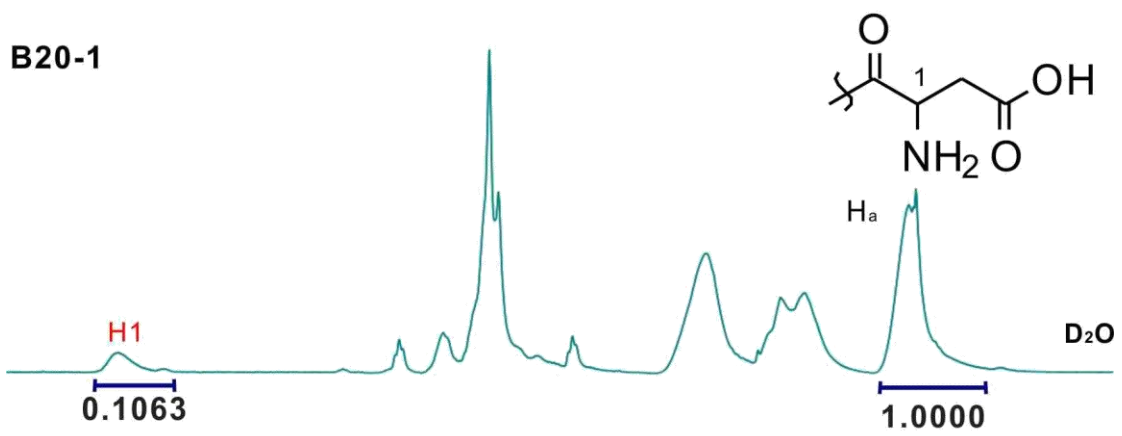


B19-2

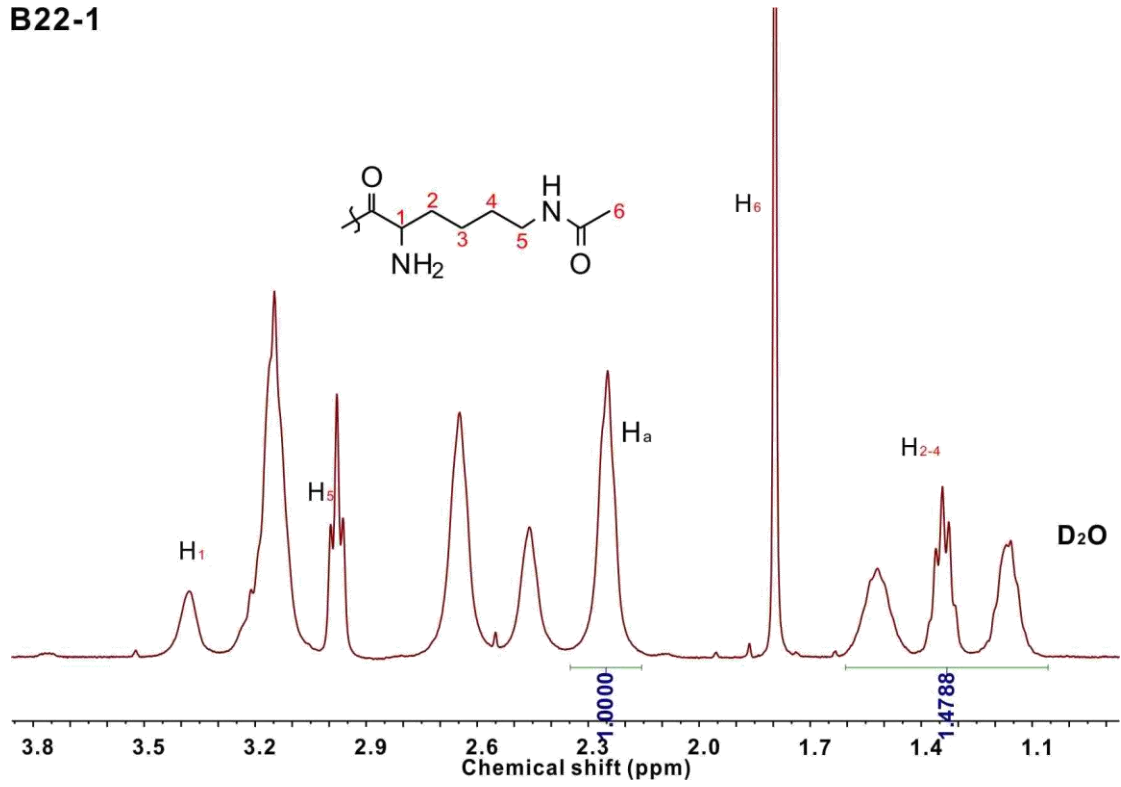


B19-3

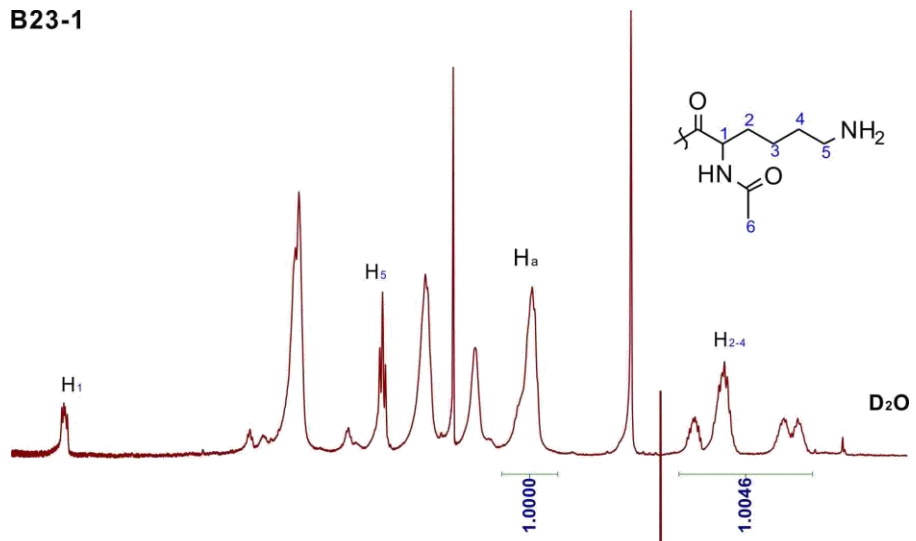




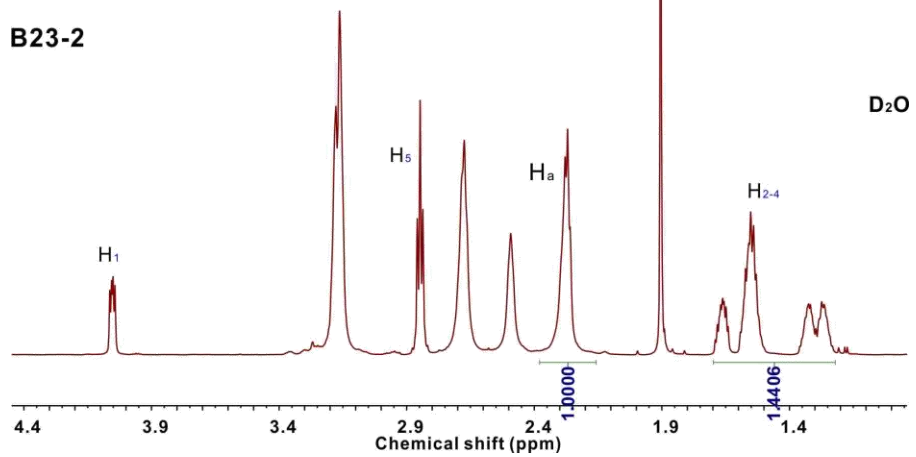
B22-1

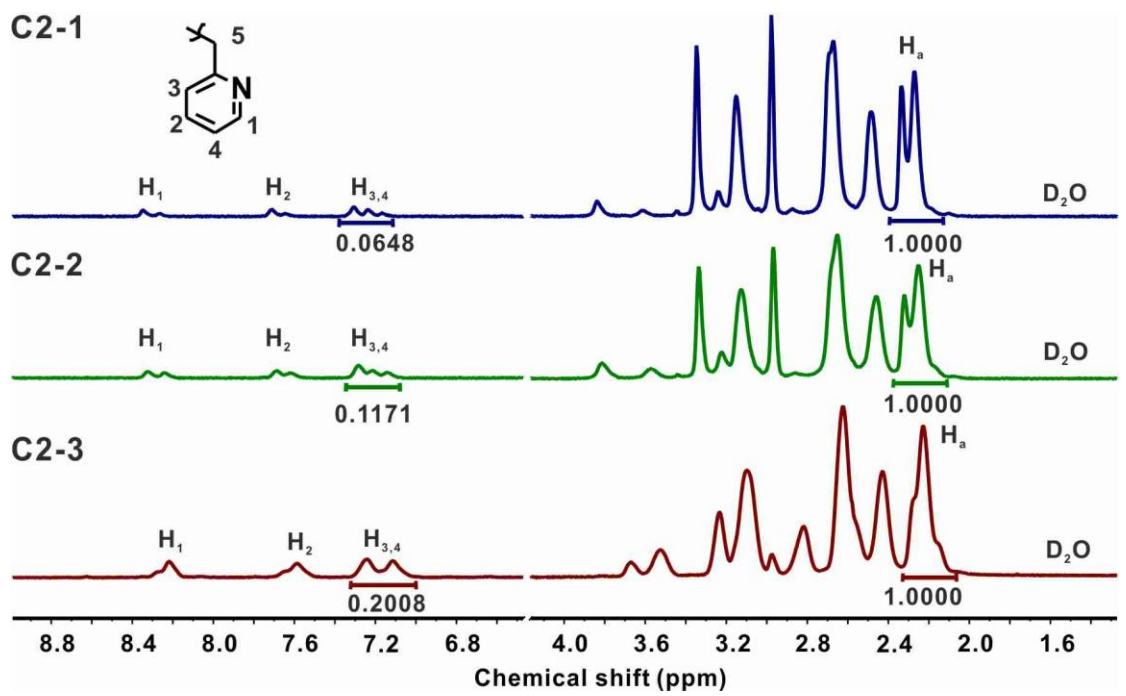
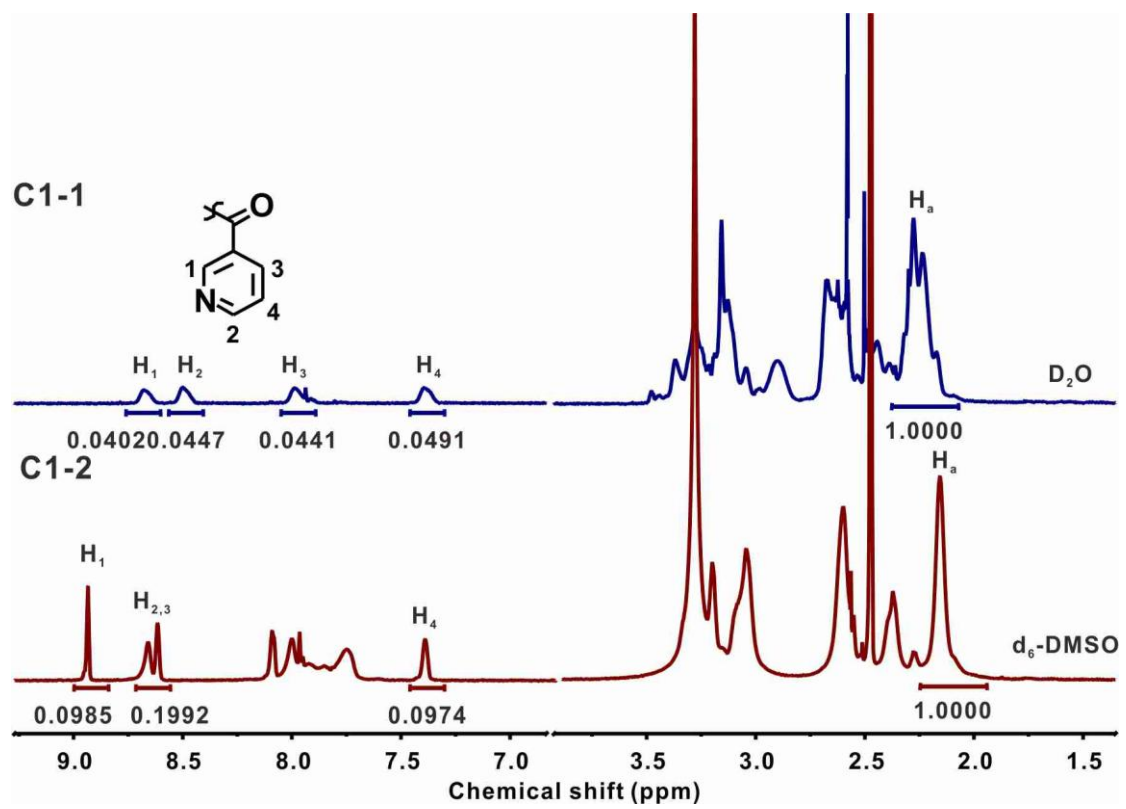


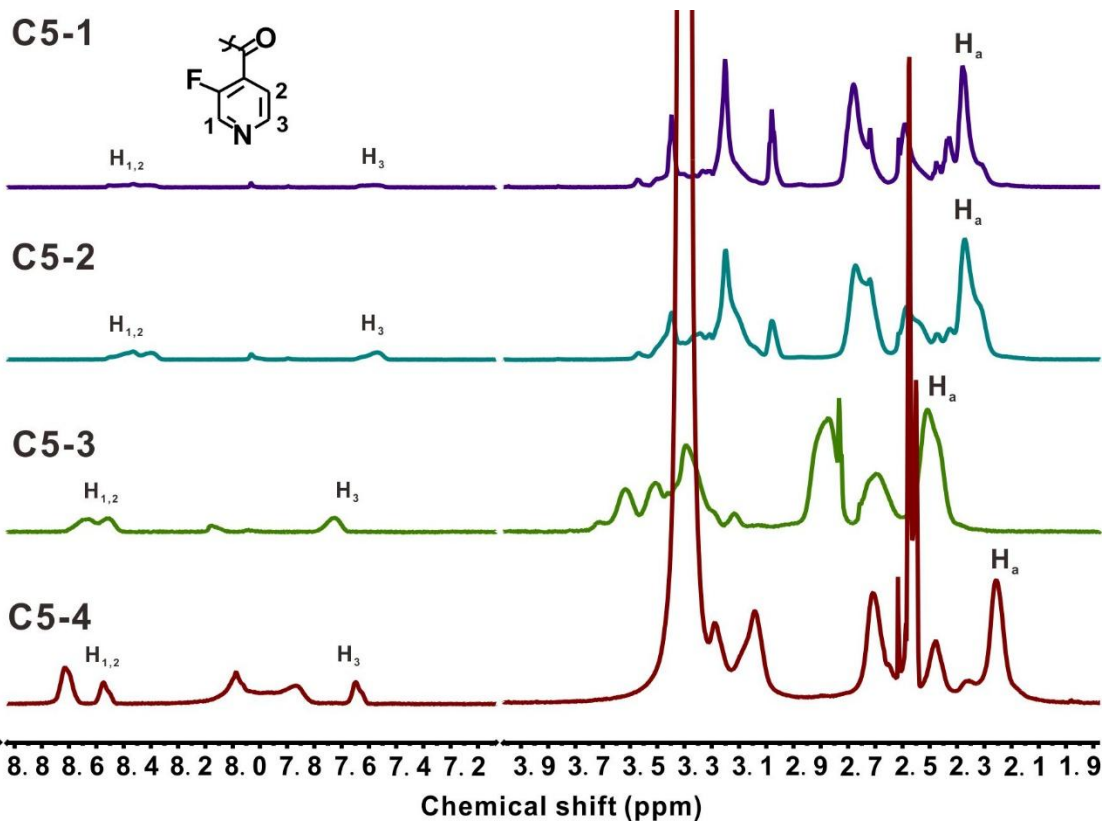
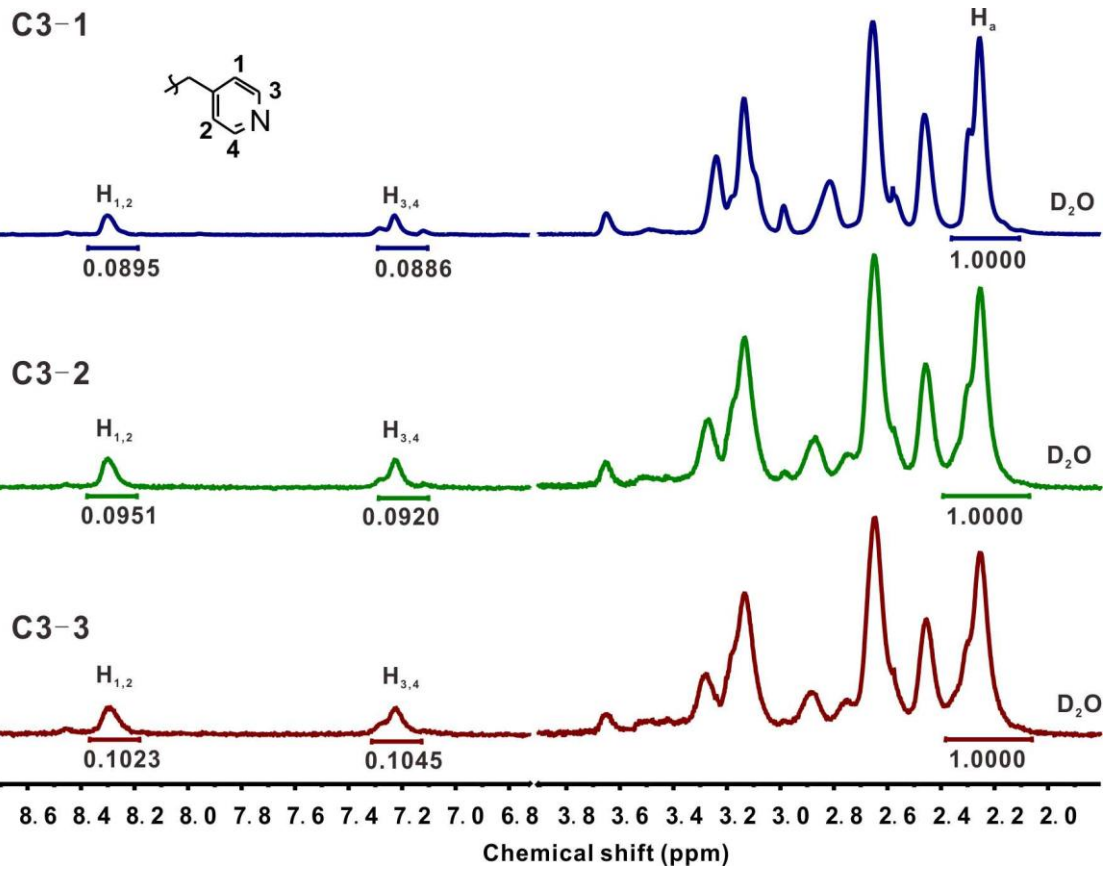
B23-1



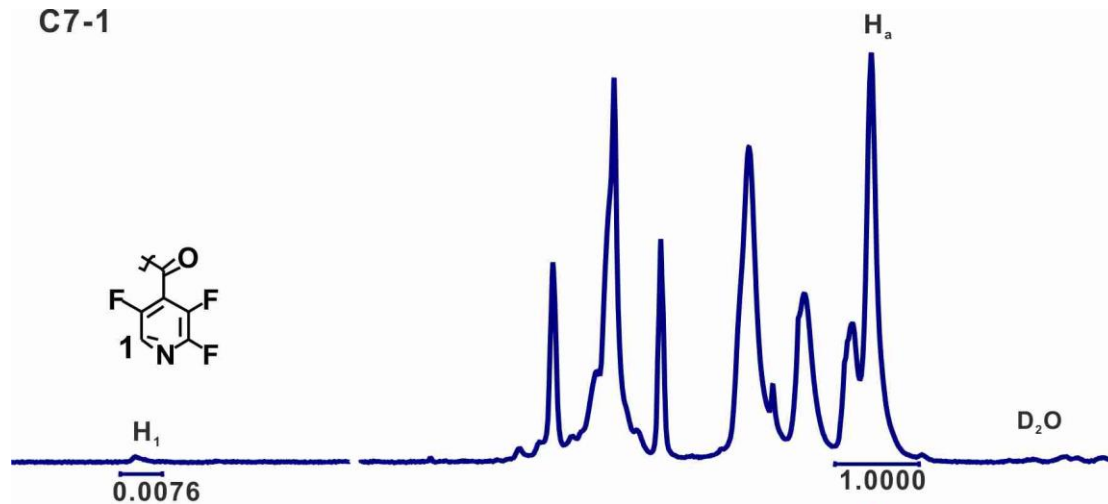
B23-2



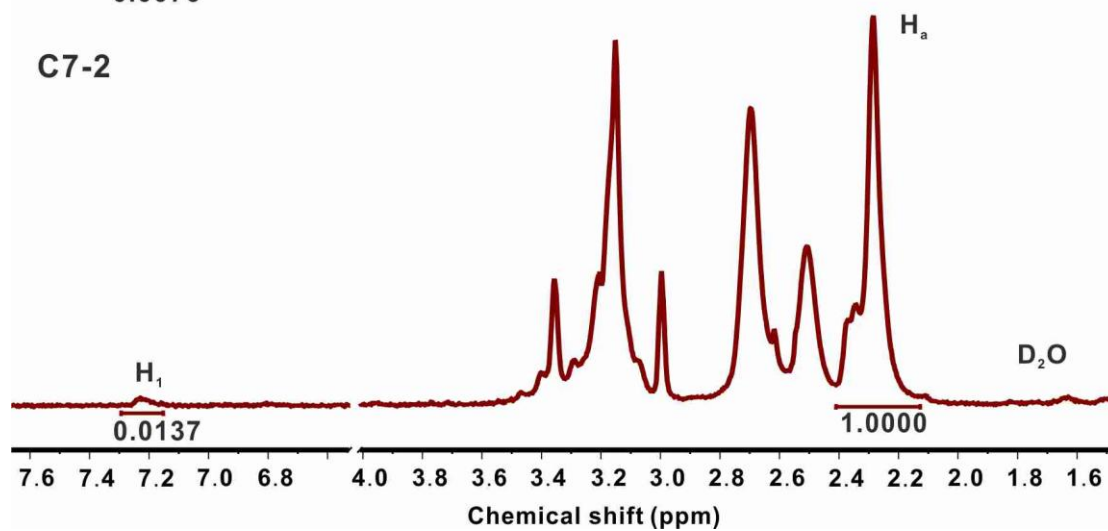


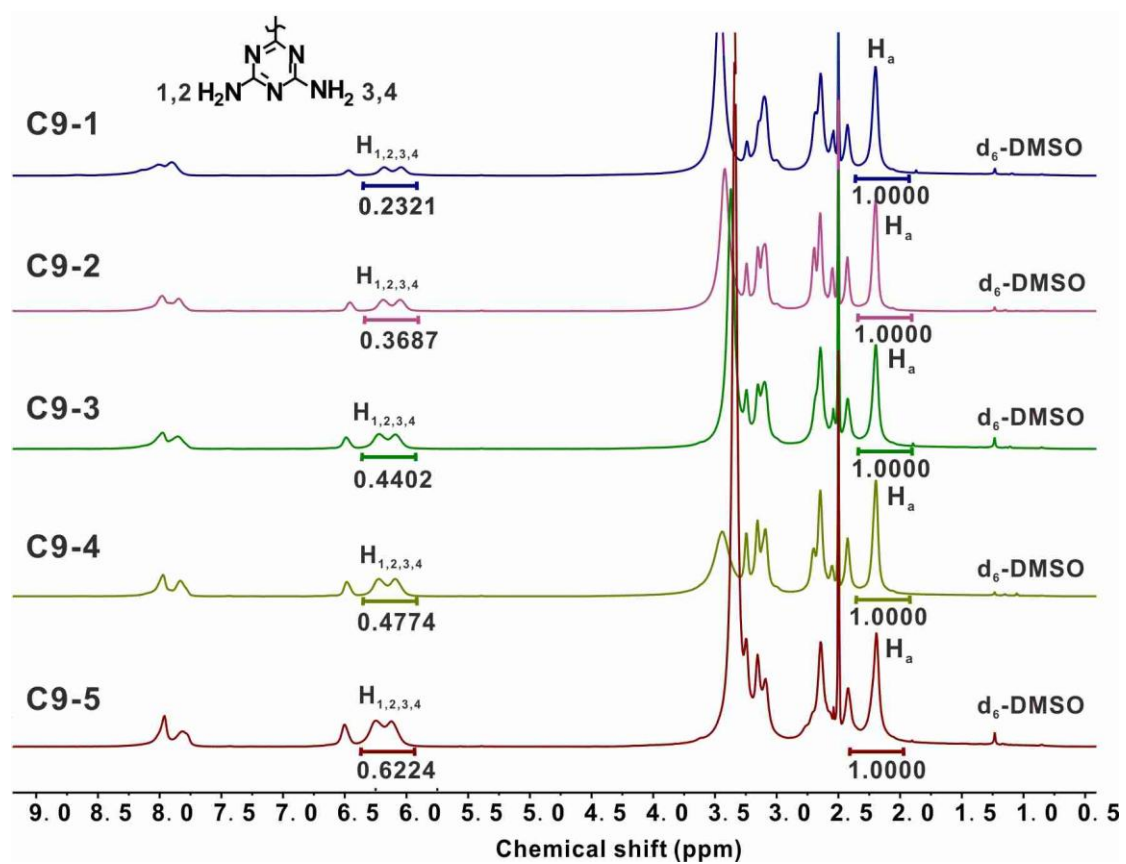
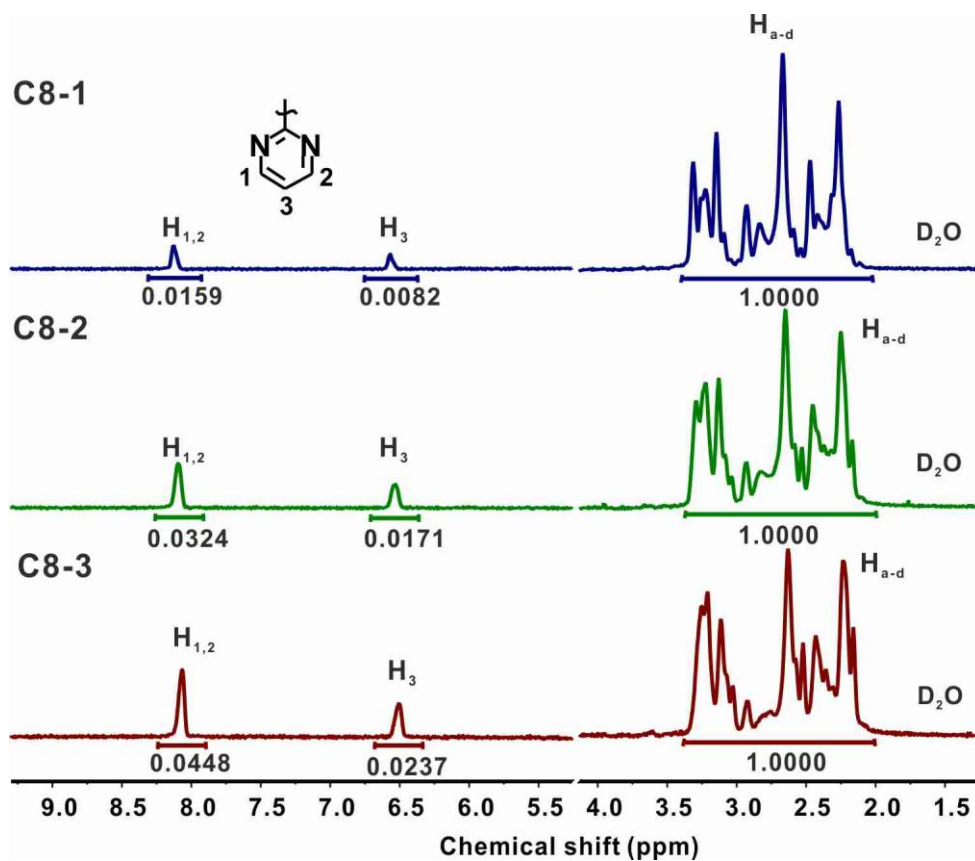


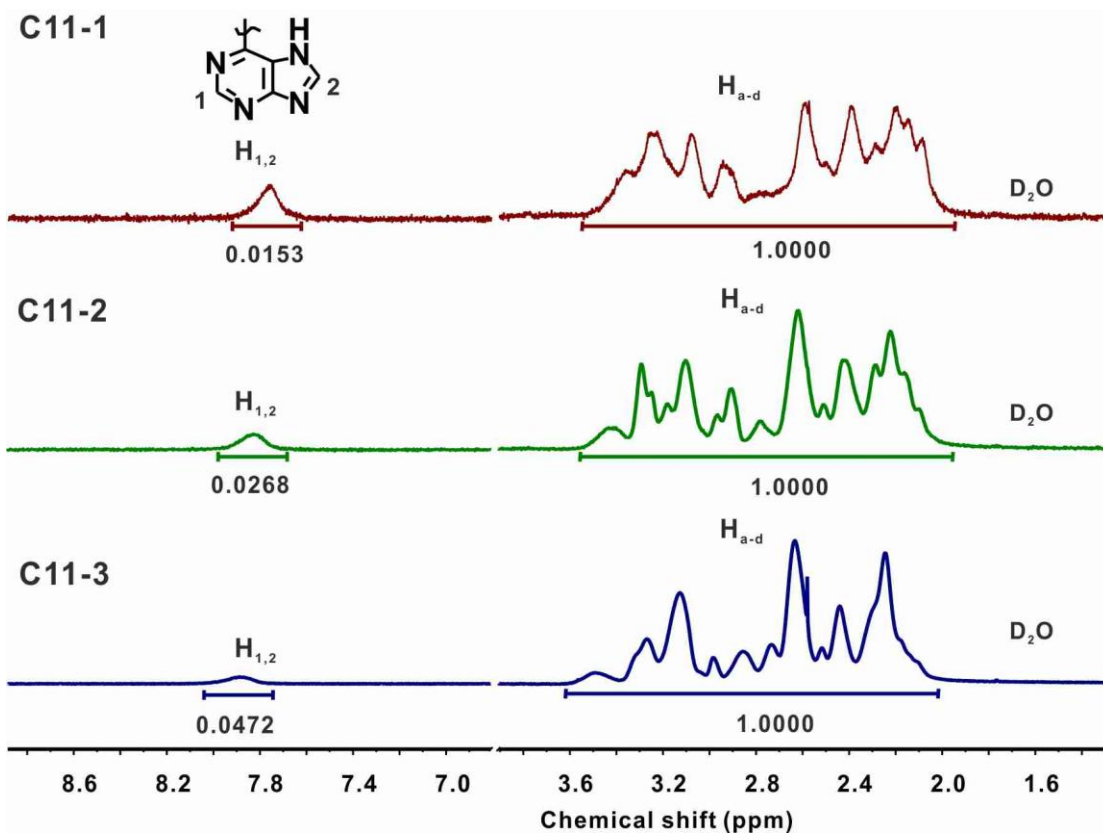
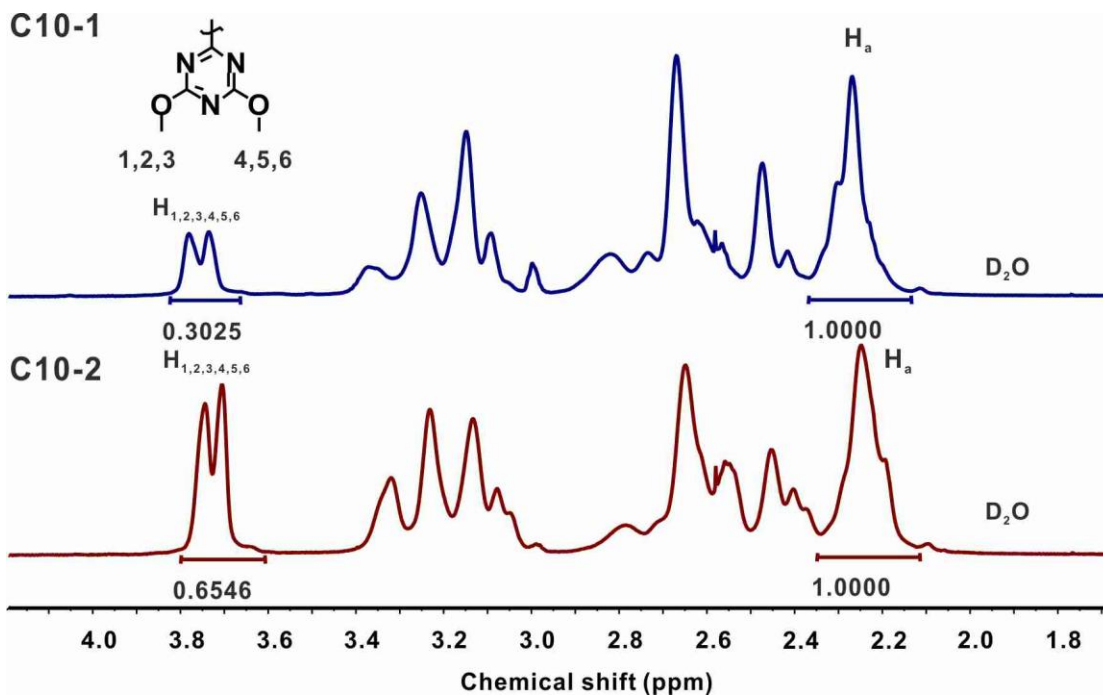
C7-1

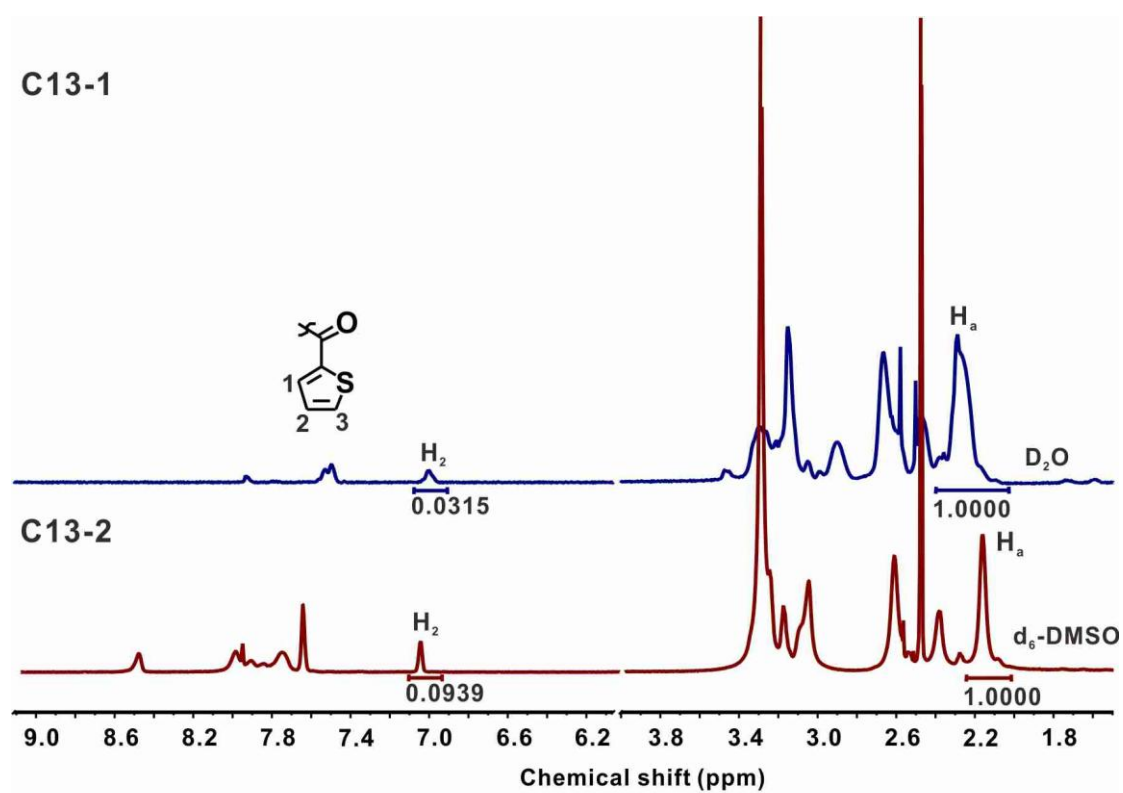
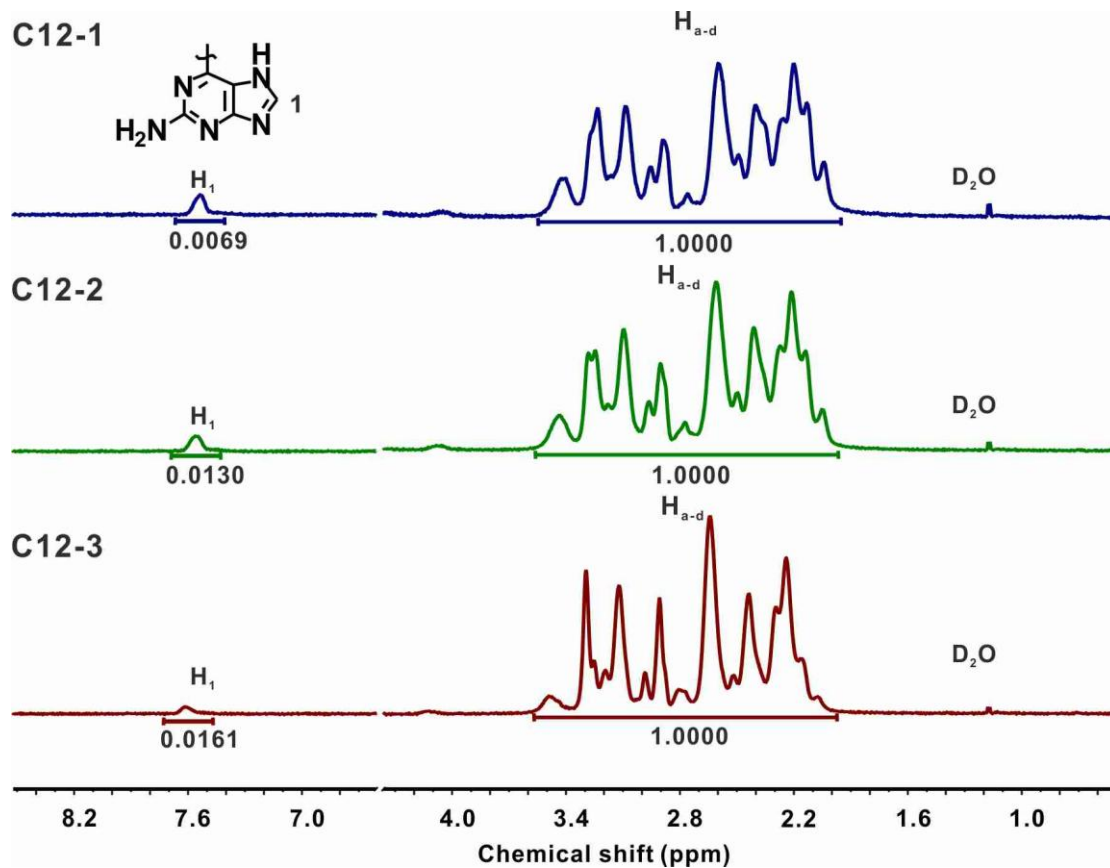


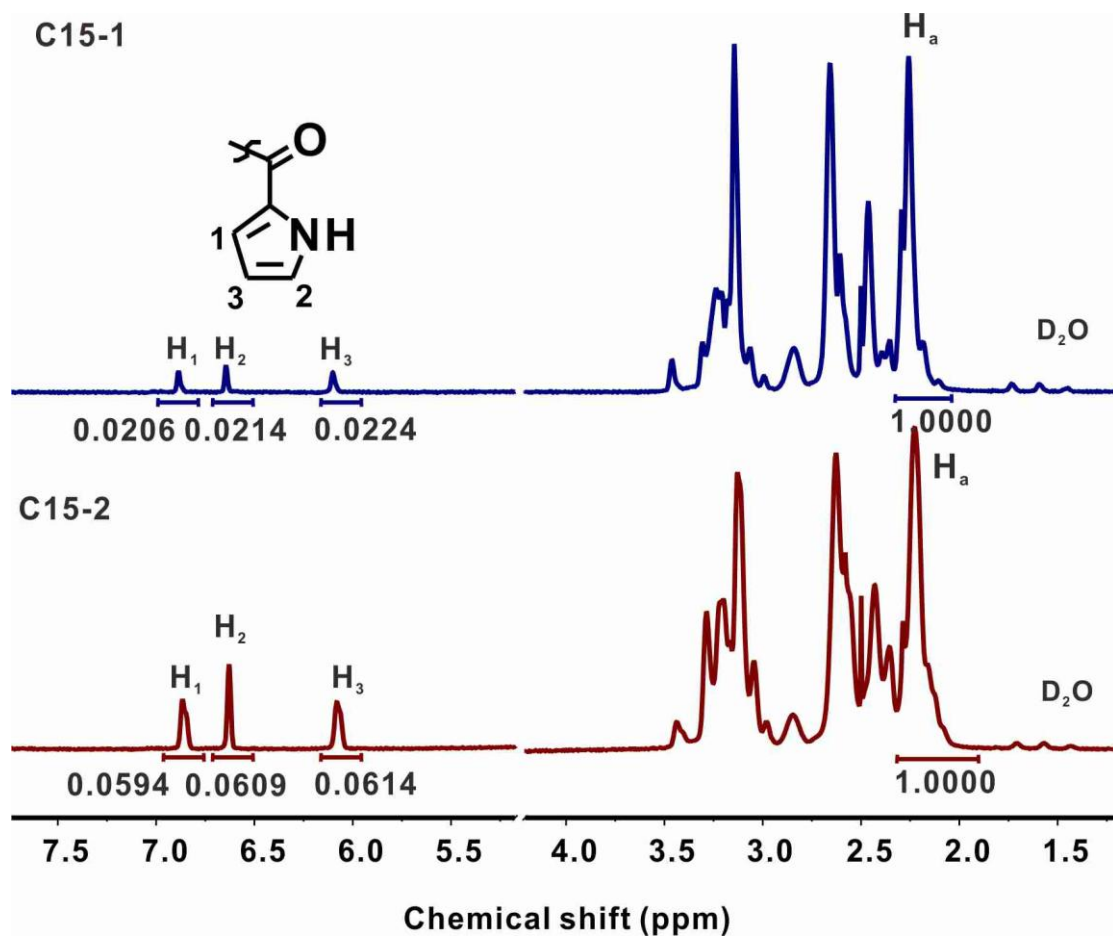
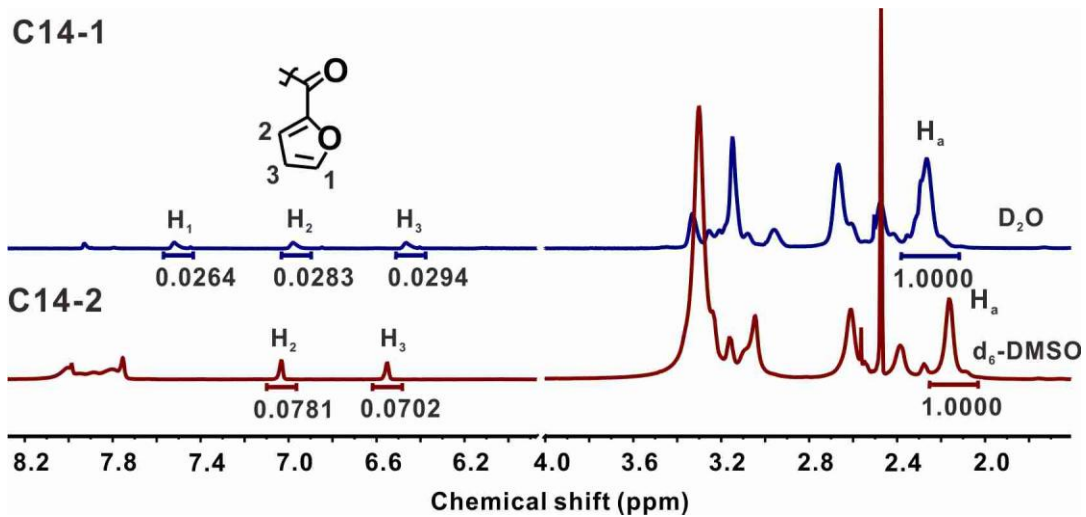
C7-2

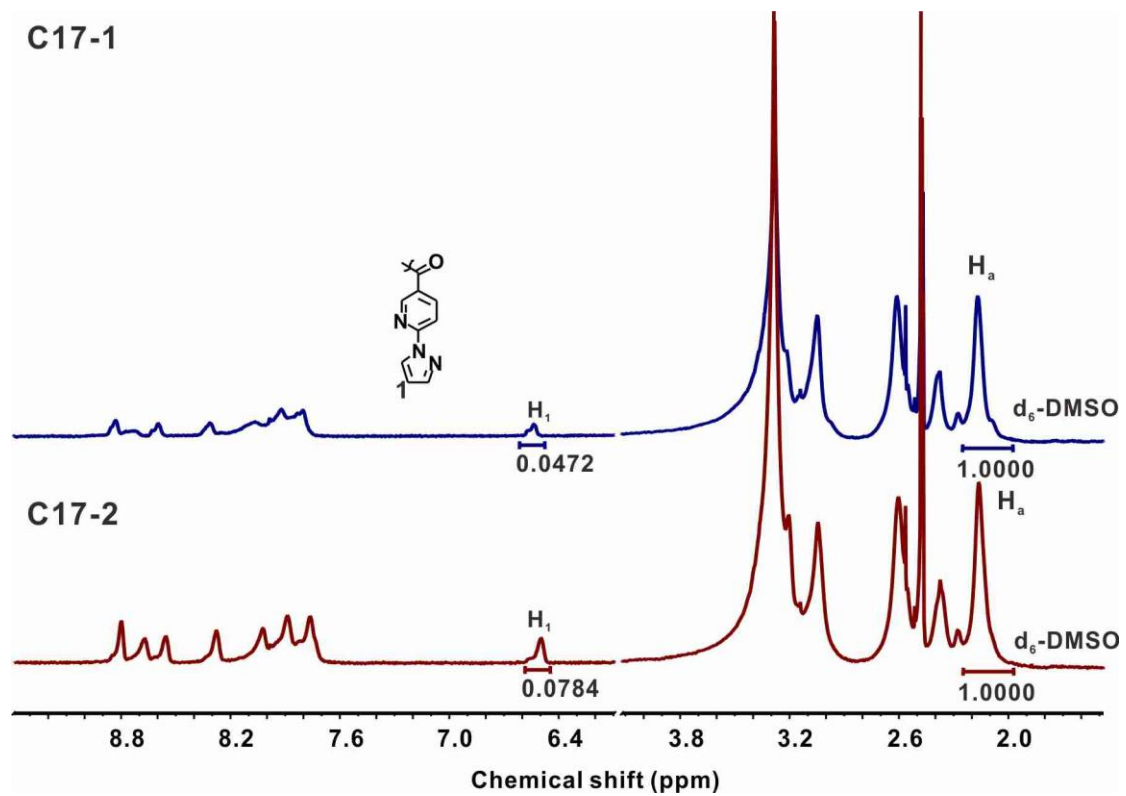
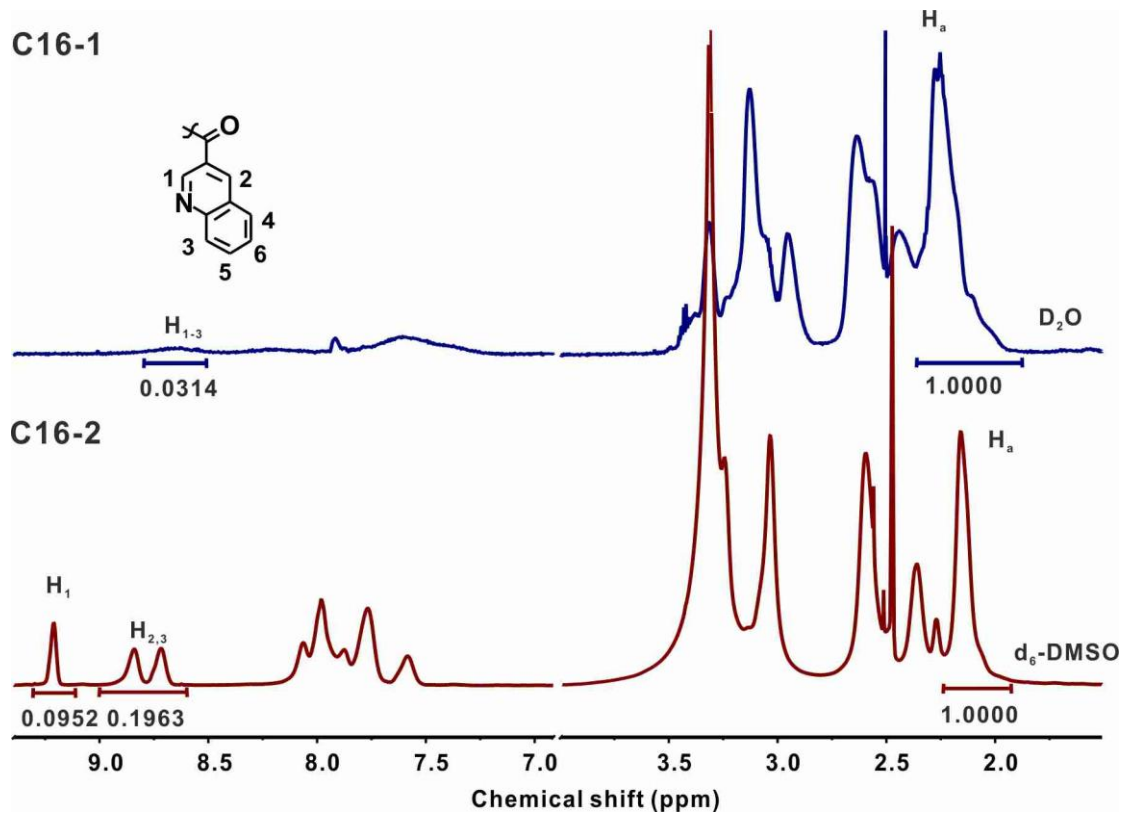


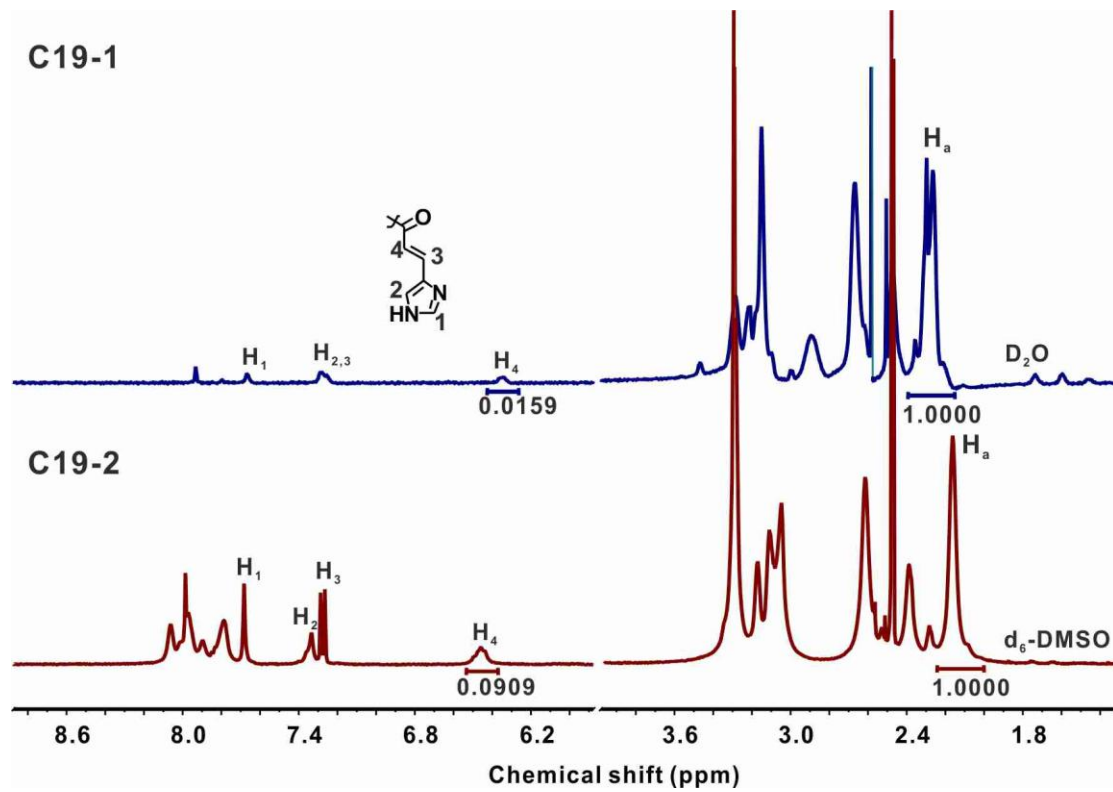
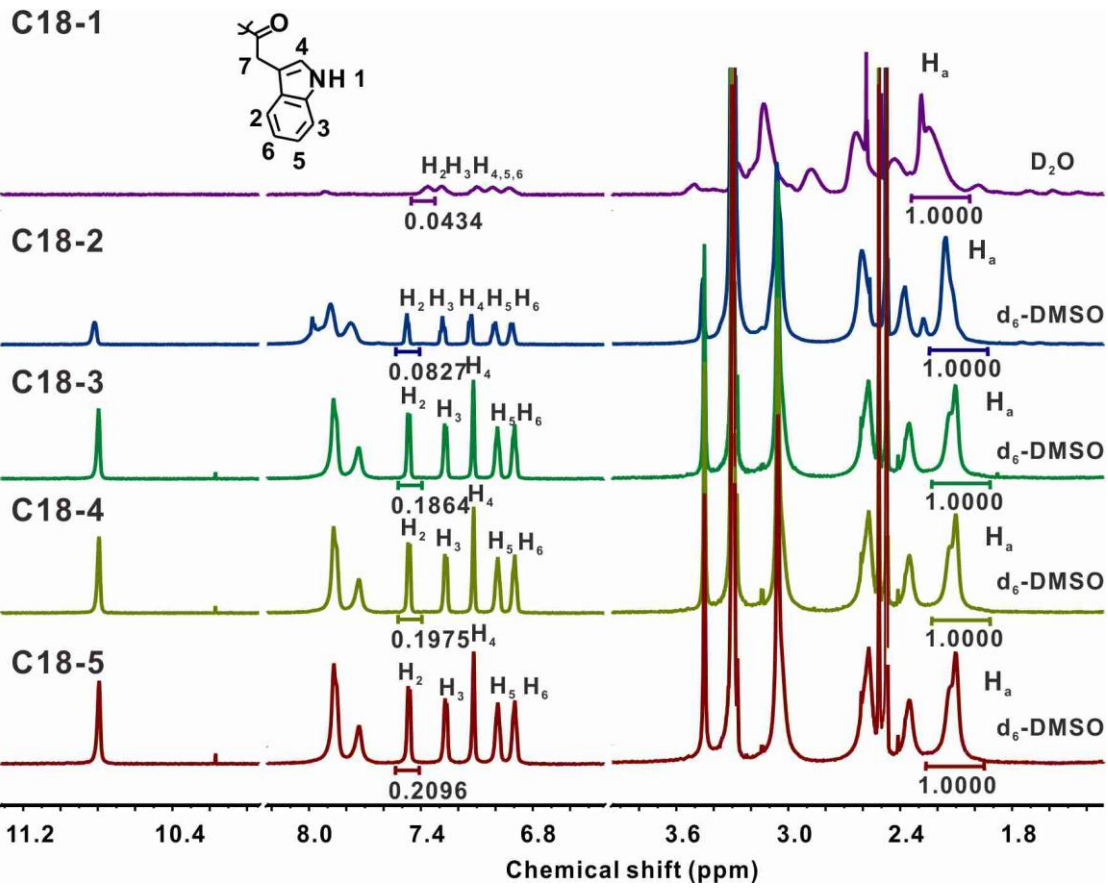


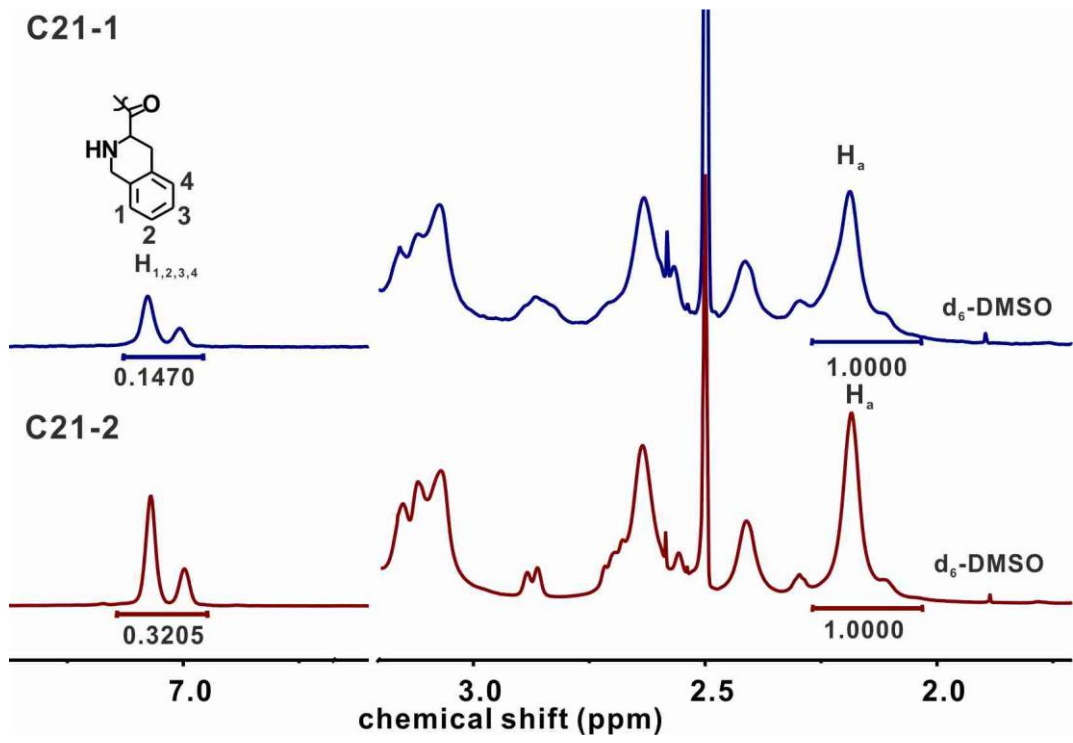
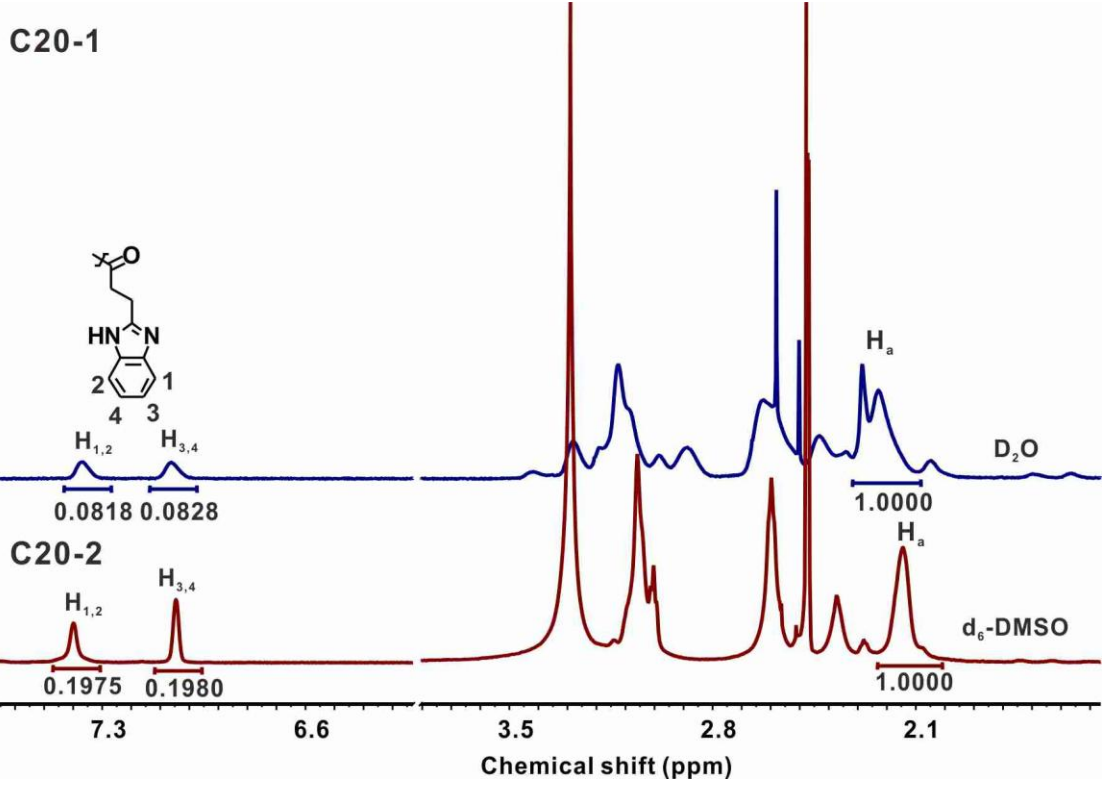


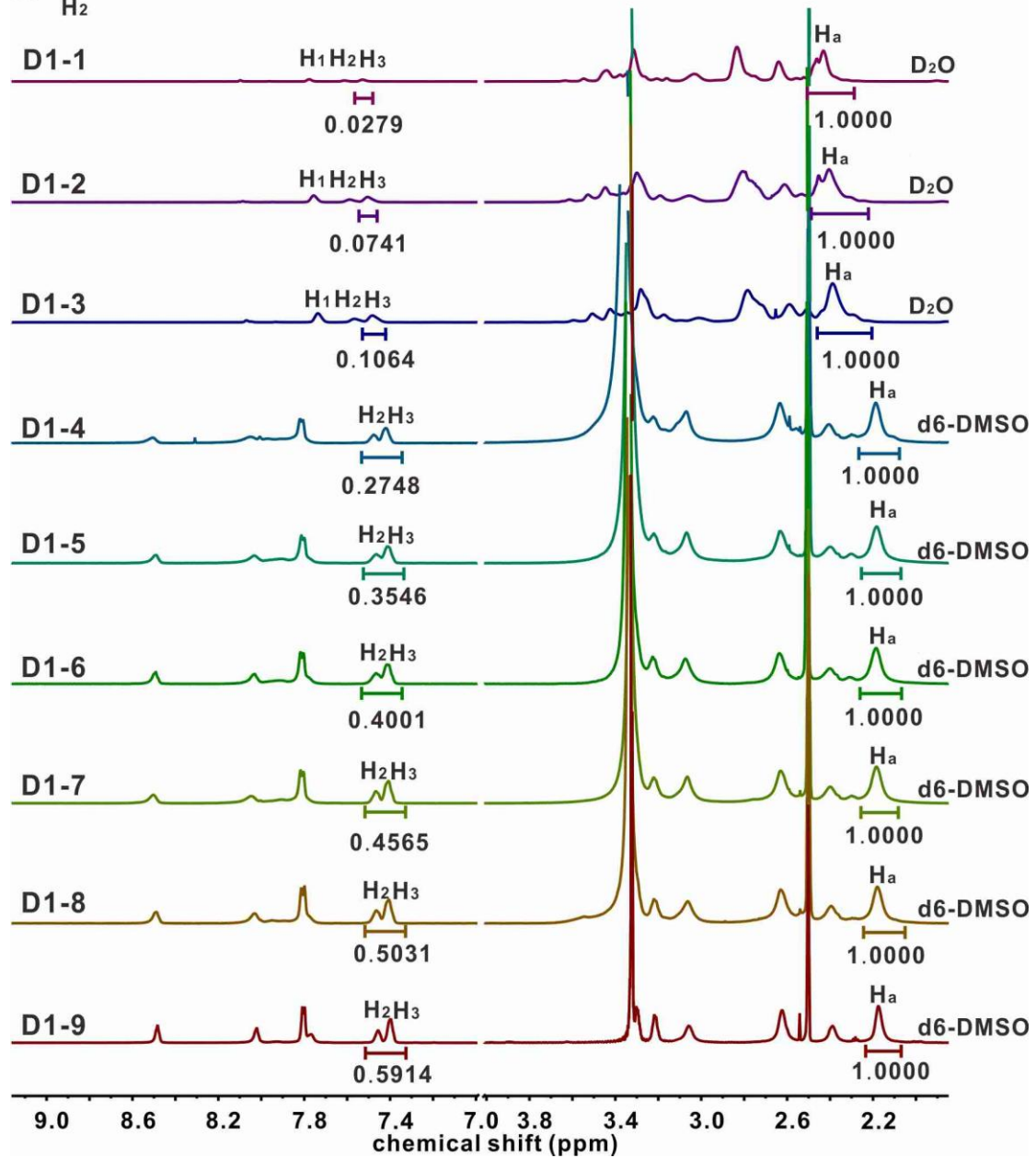
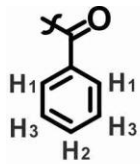


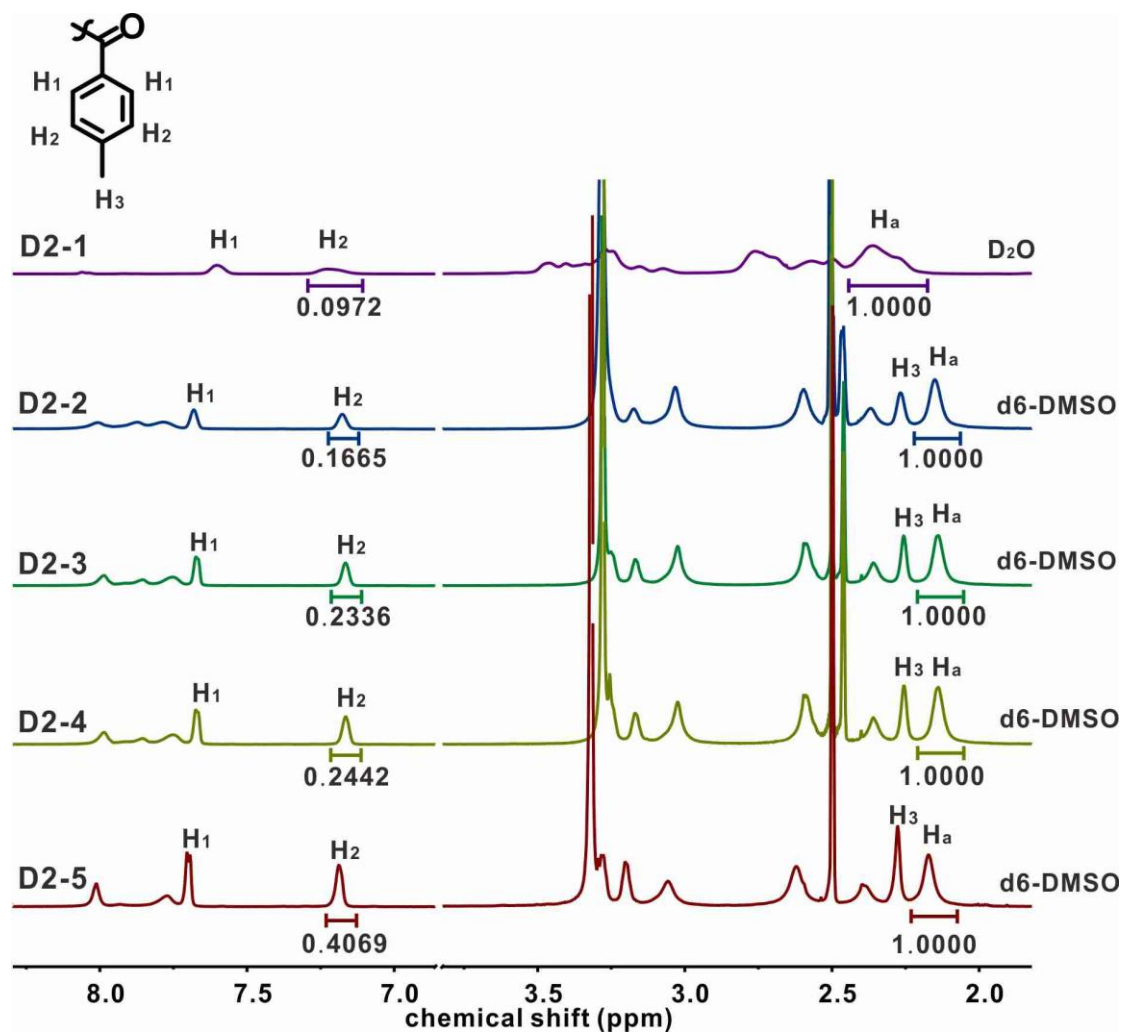


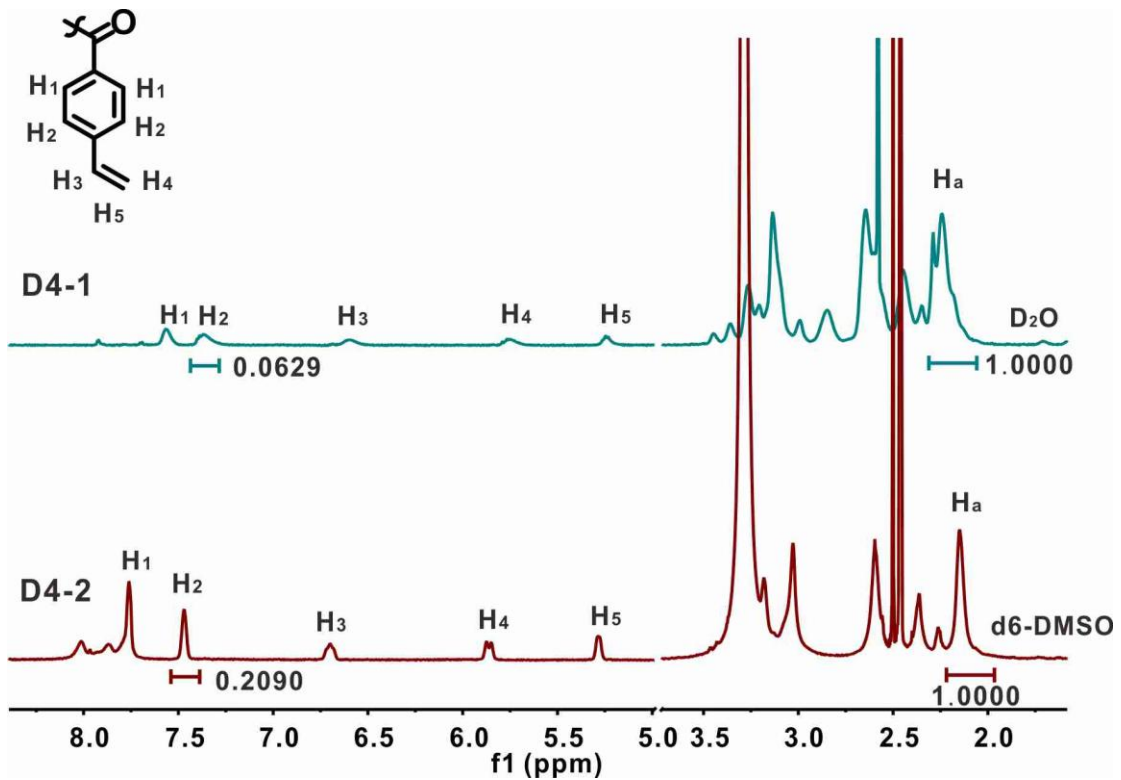
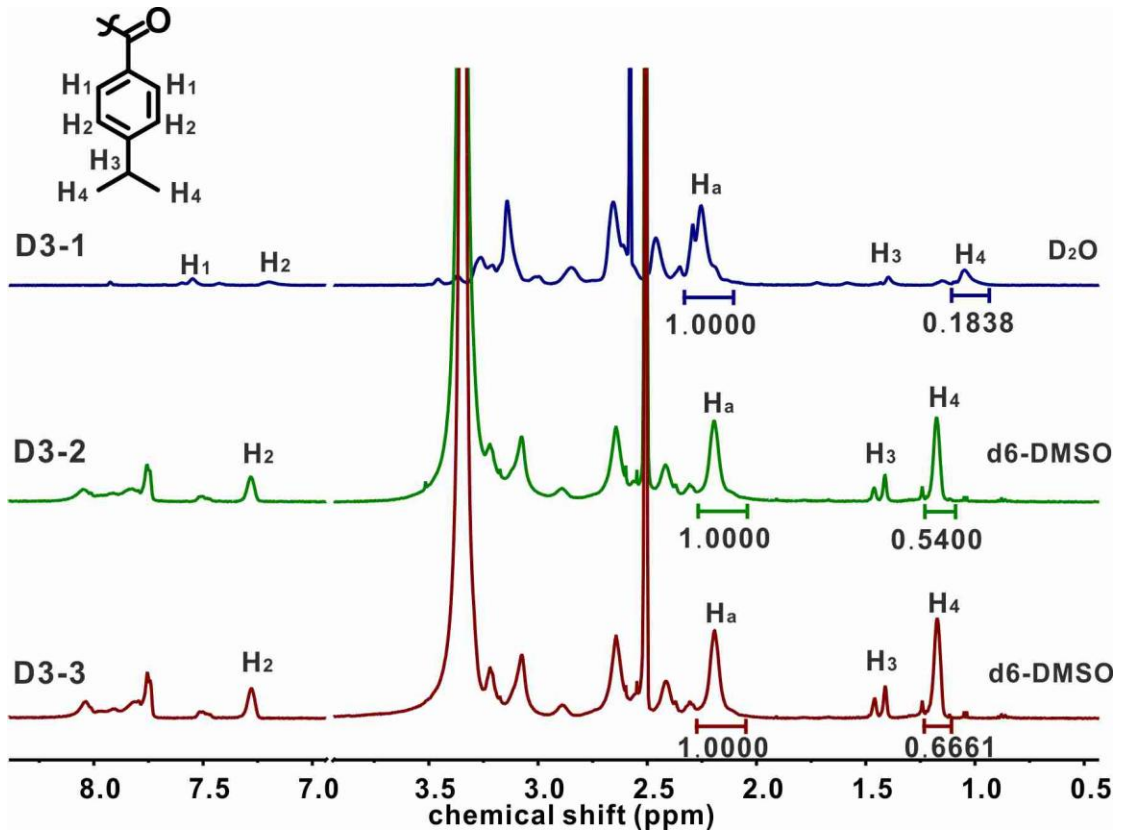


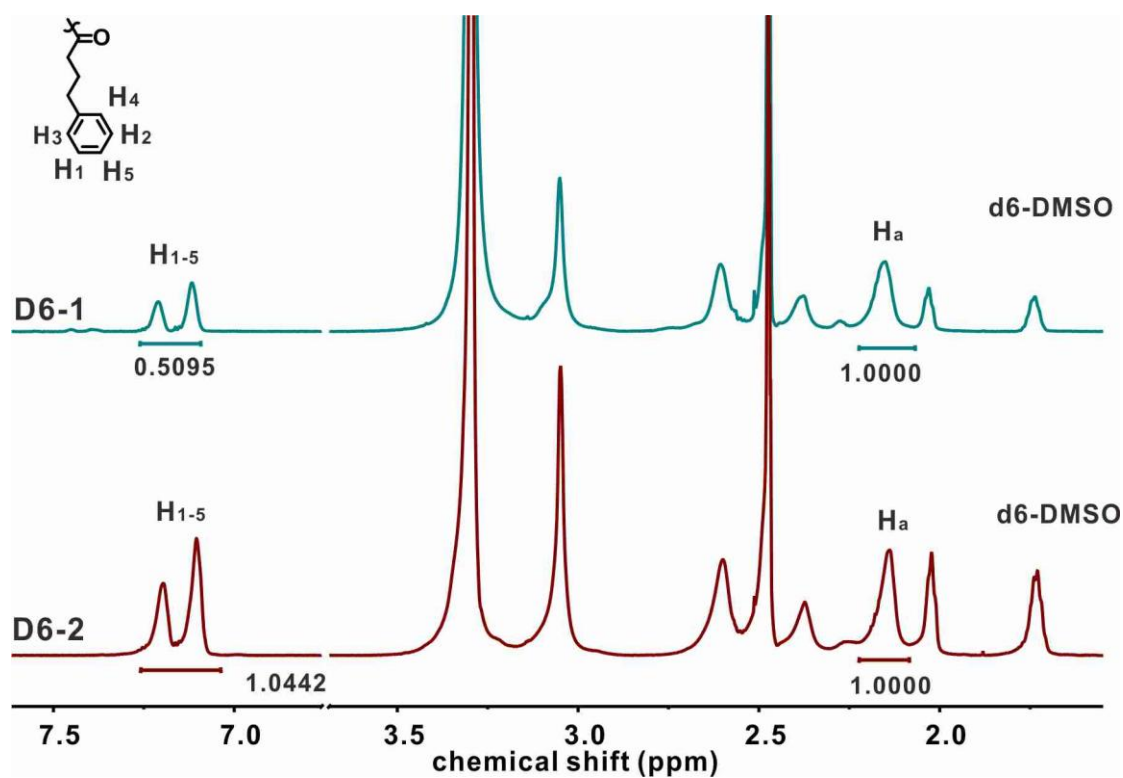
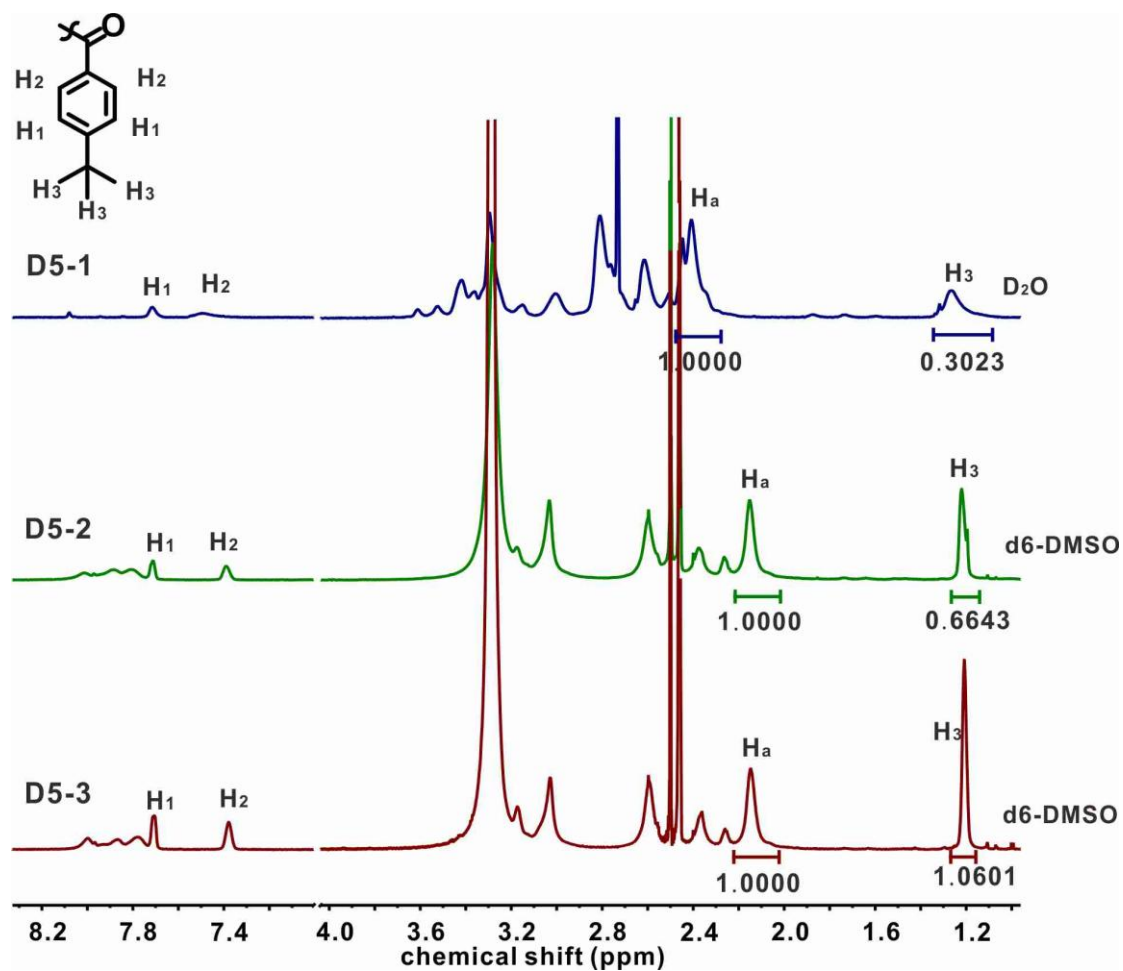


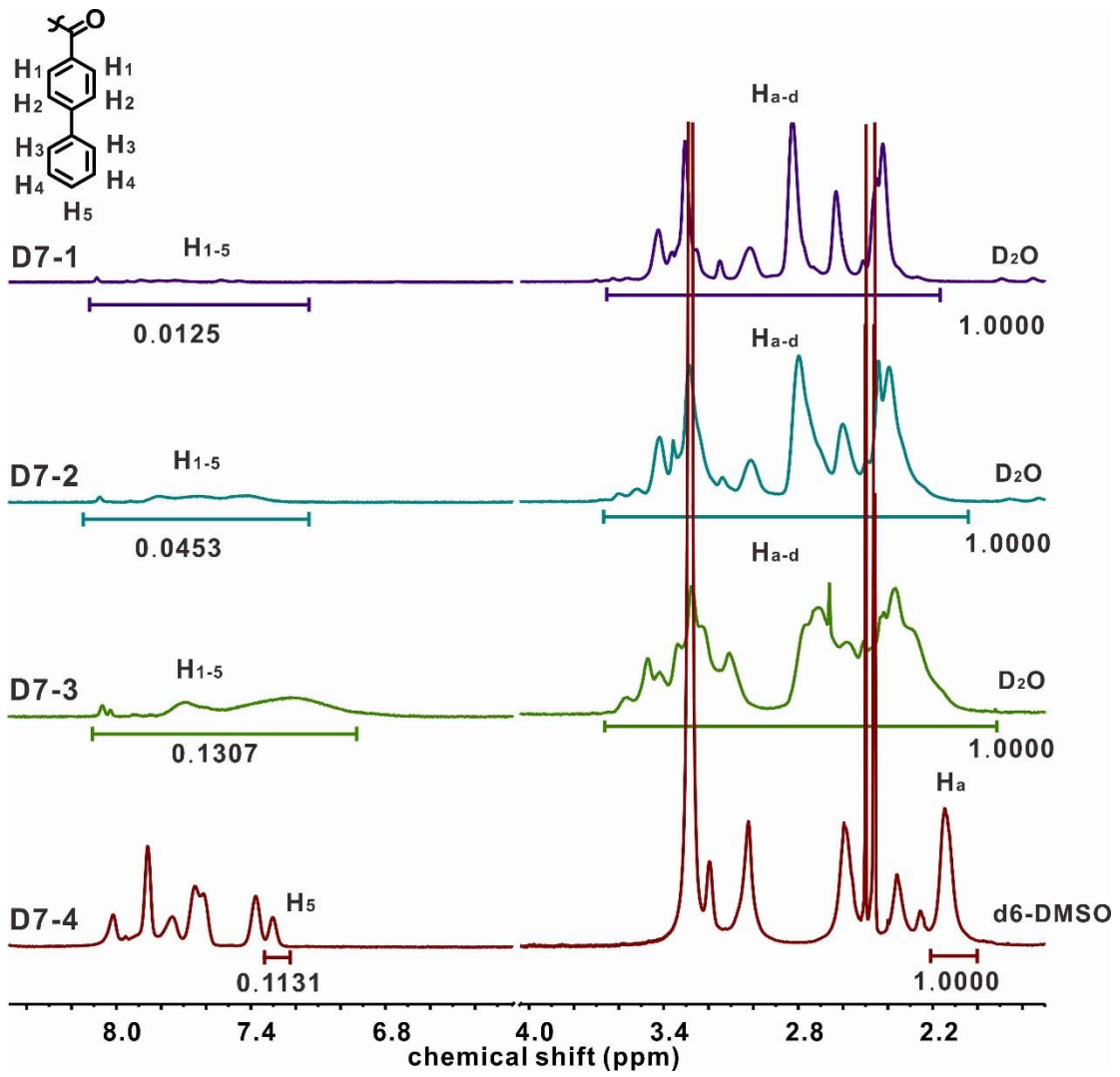


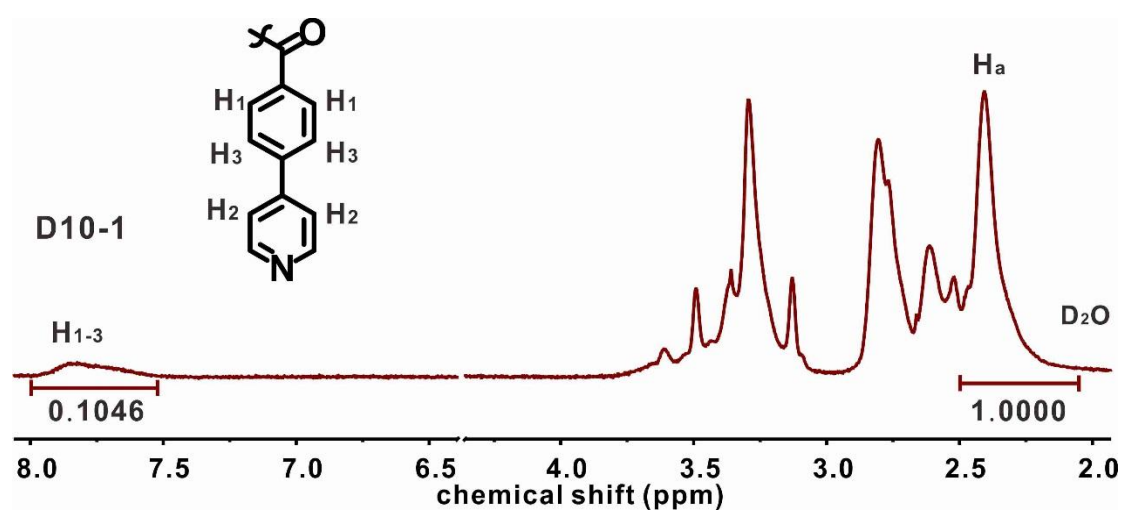
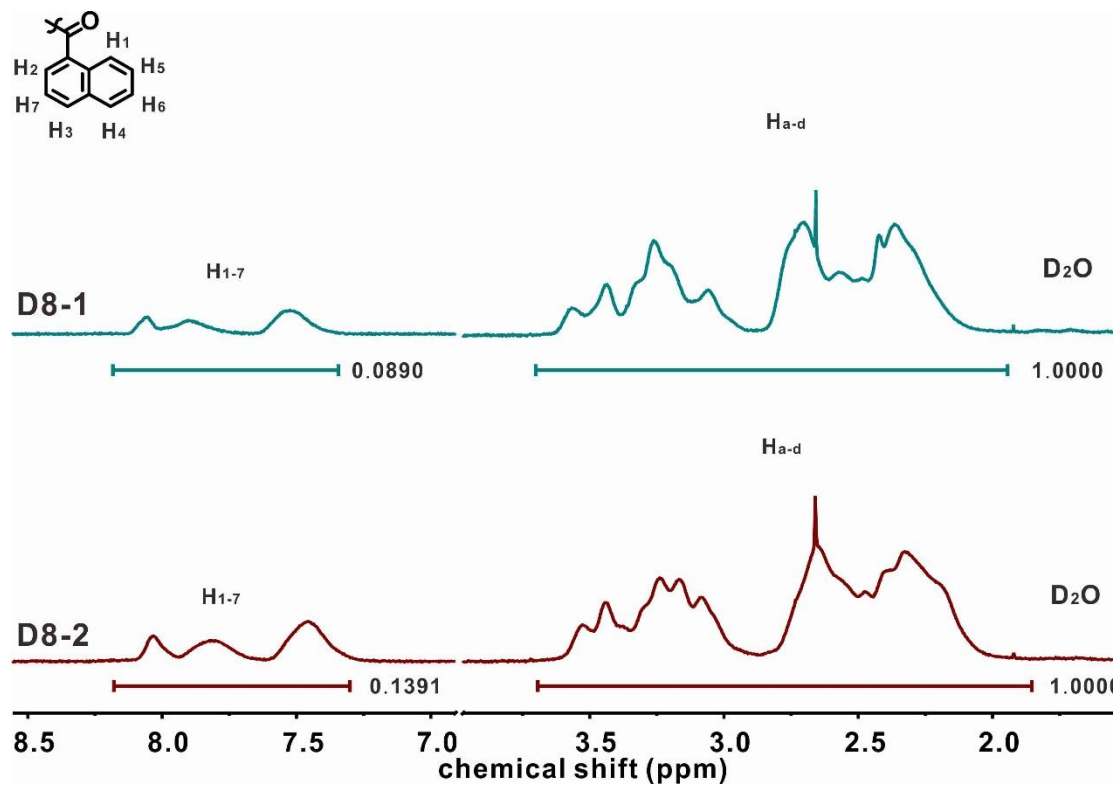


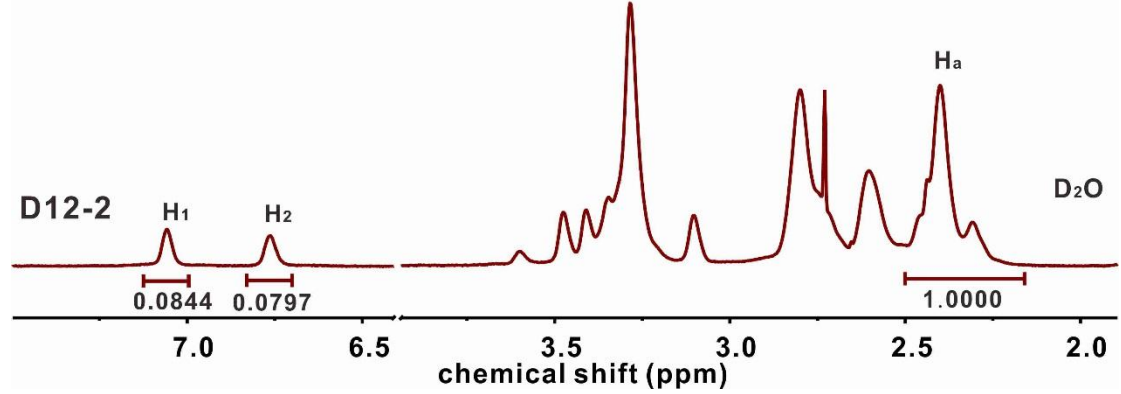
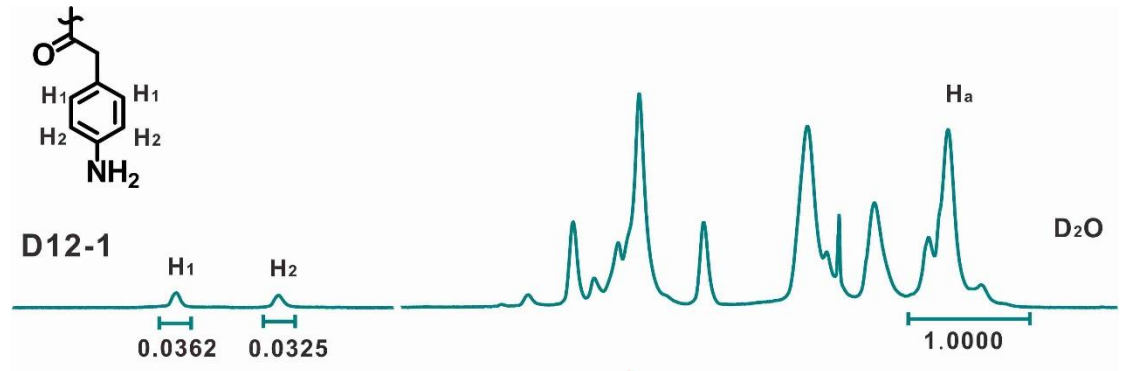
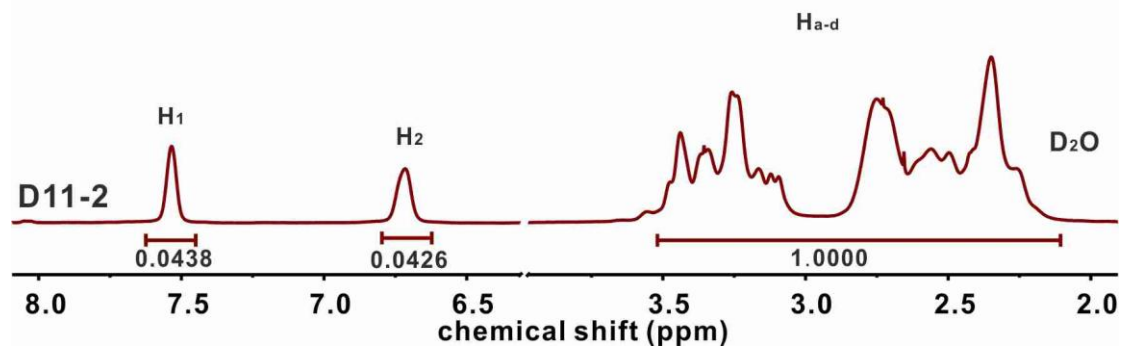
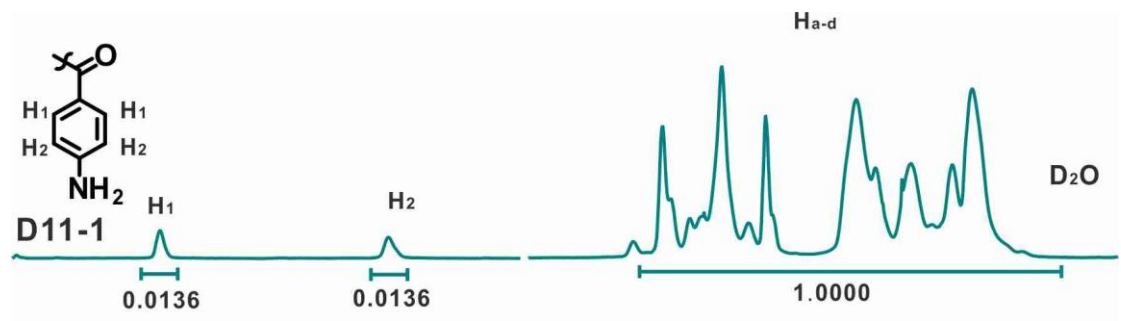


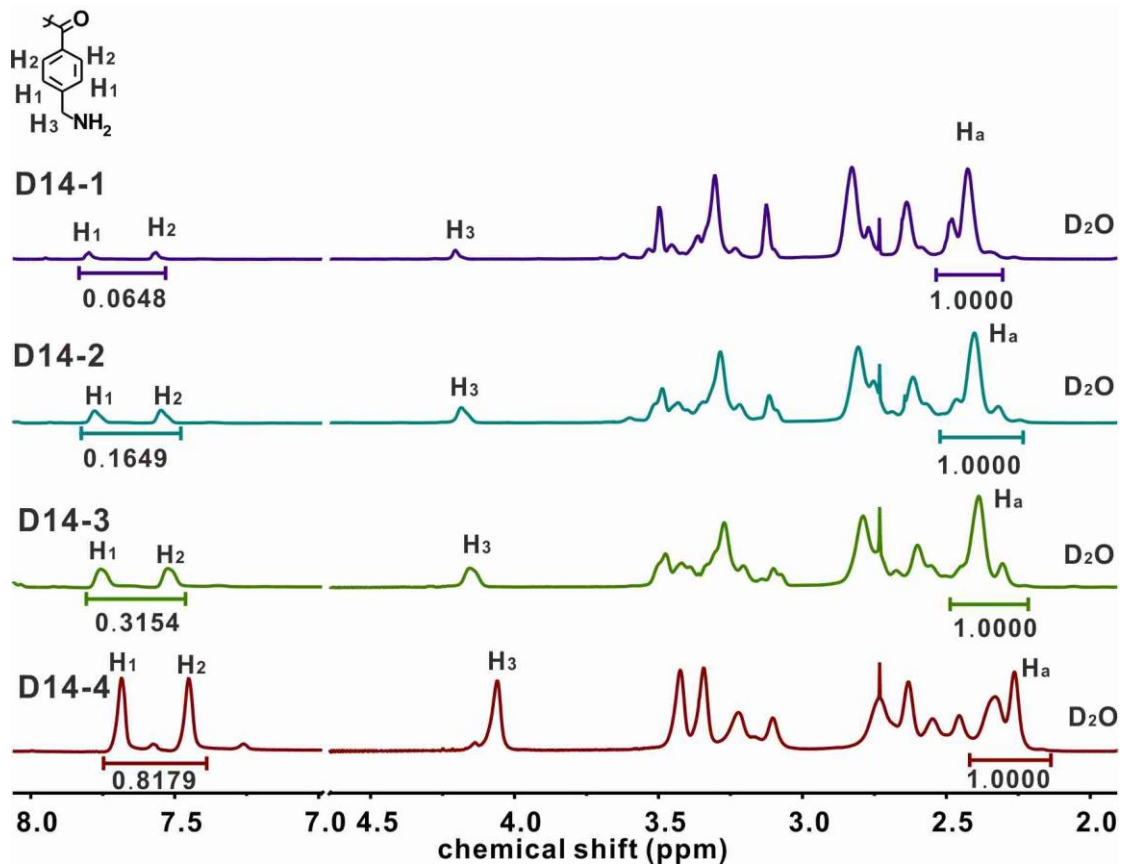
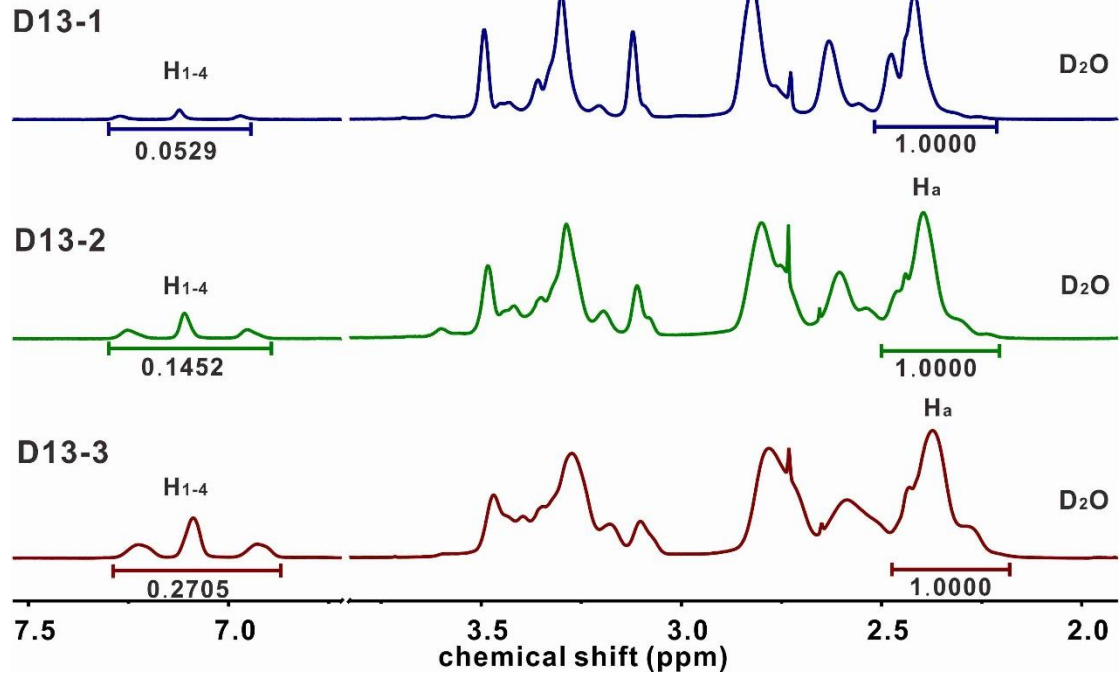
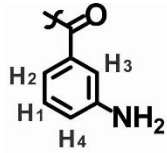


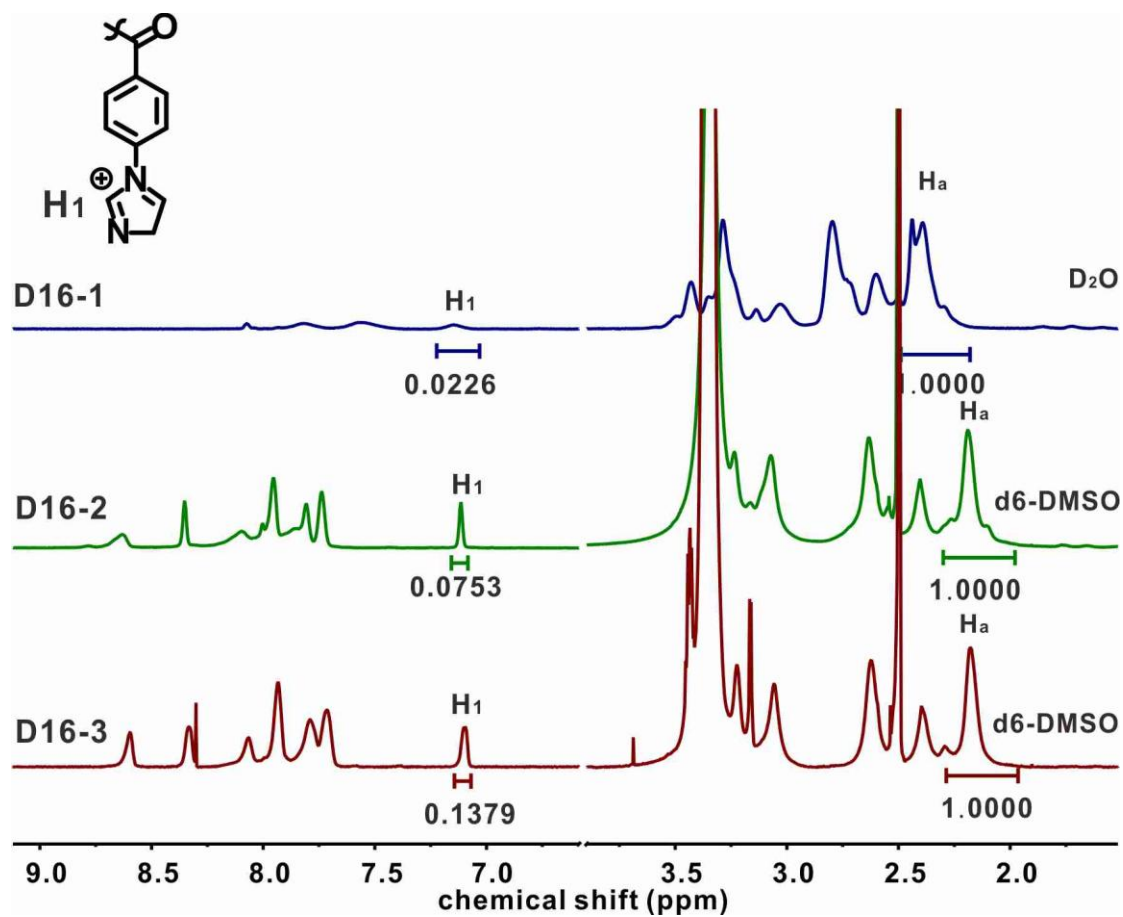
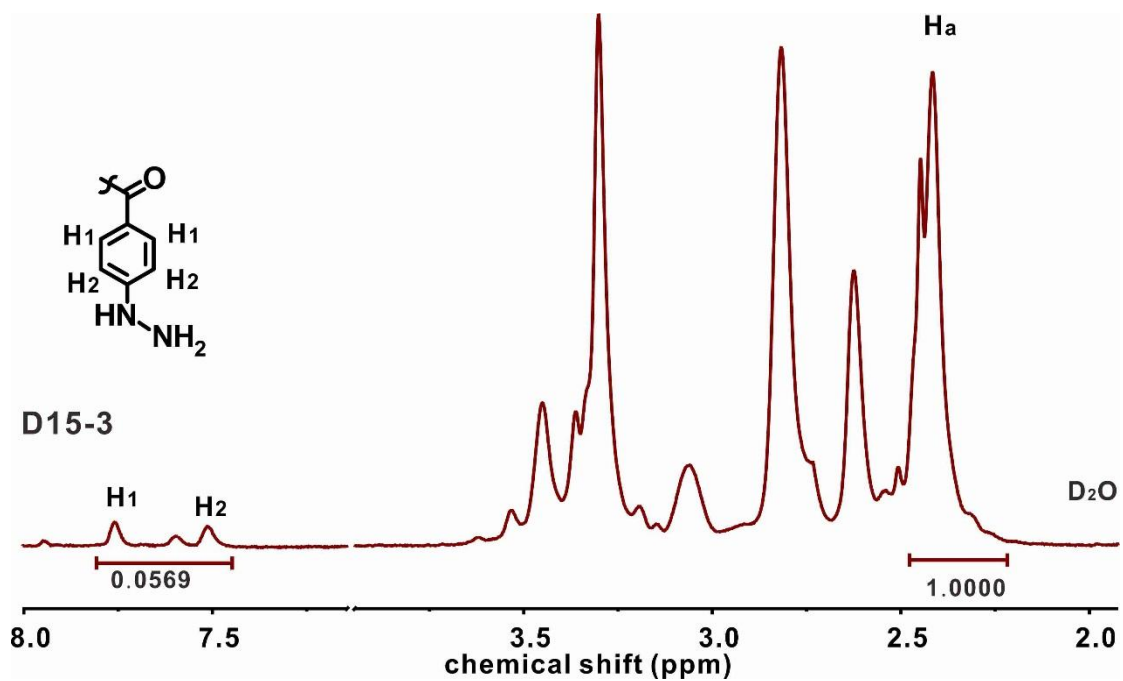


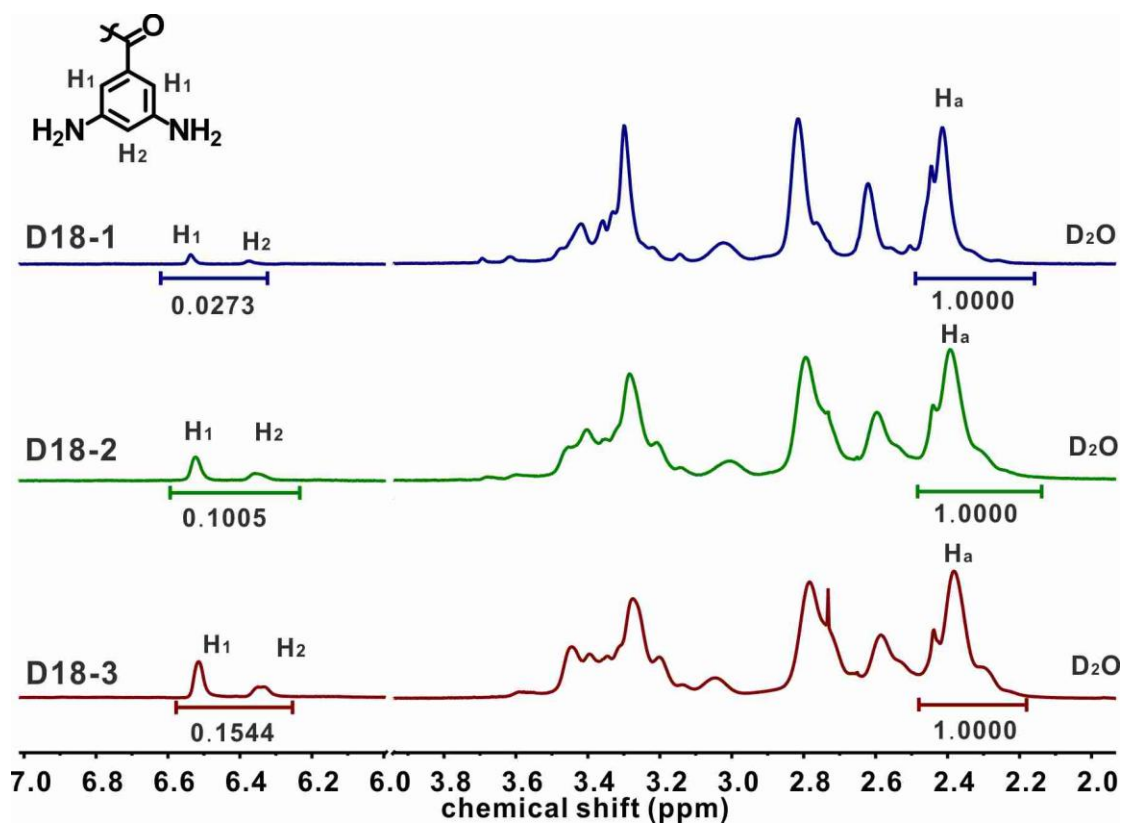
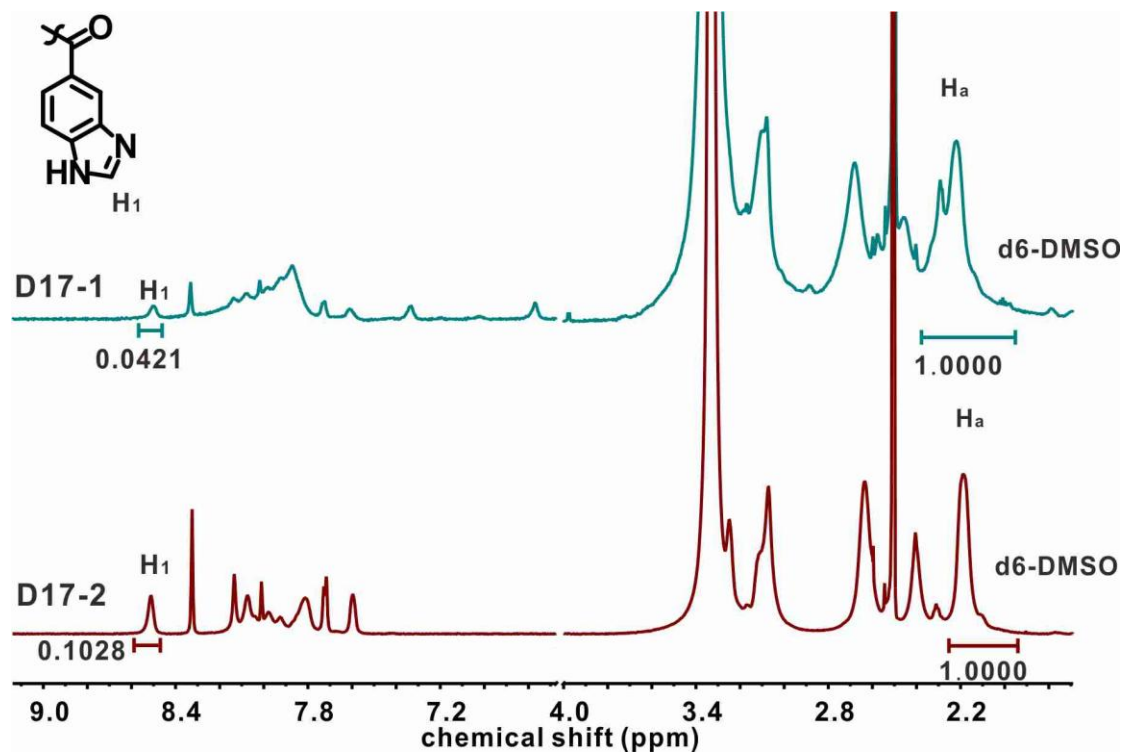


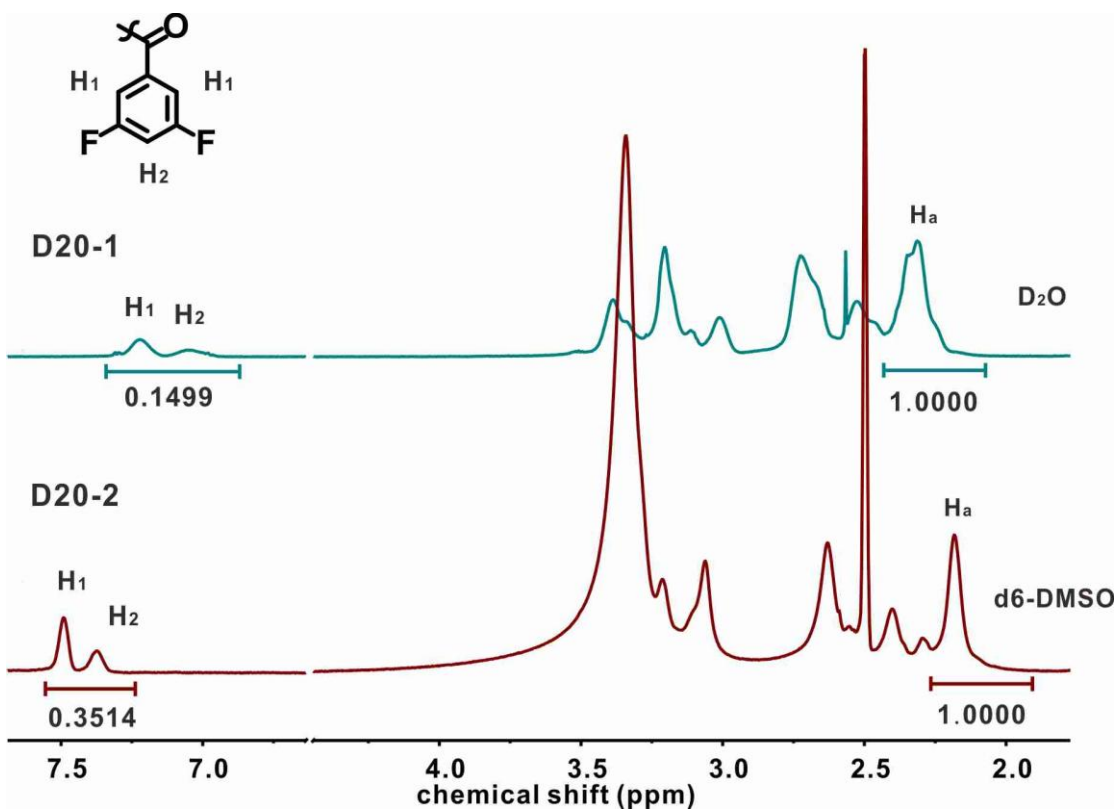
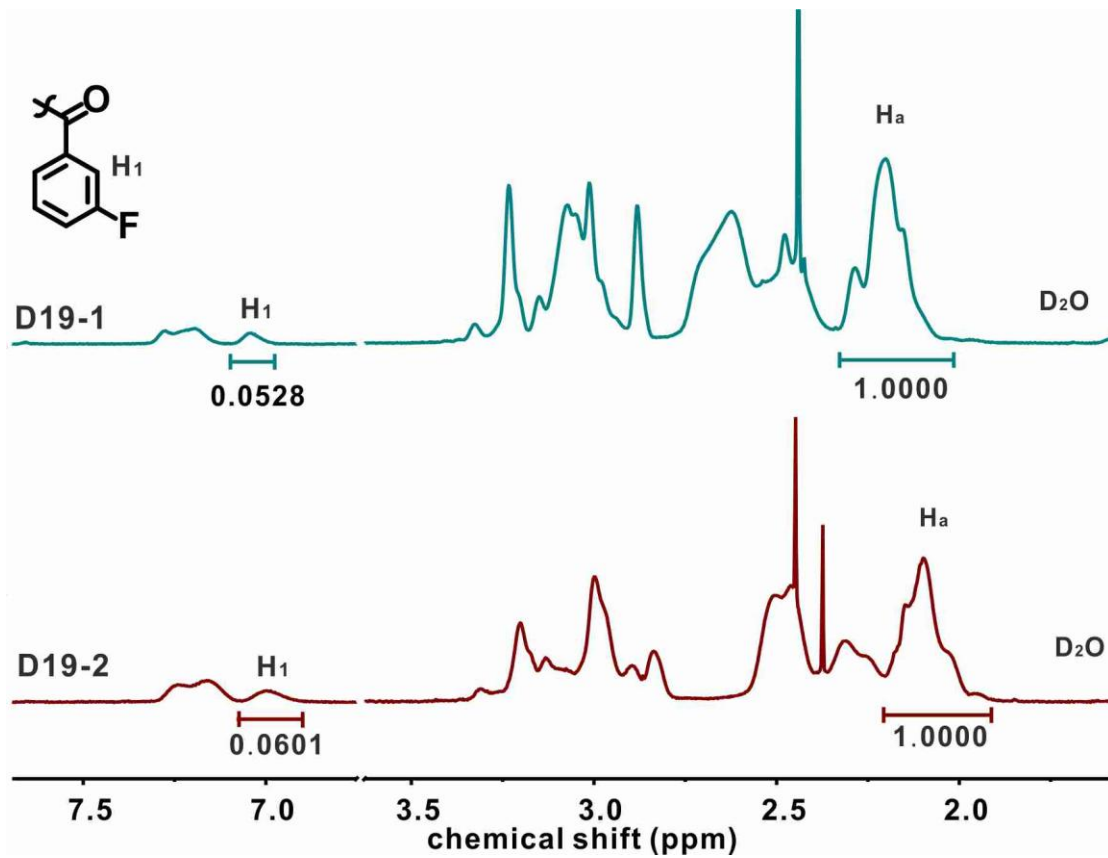


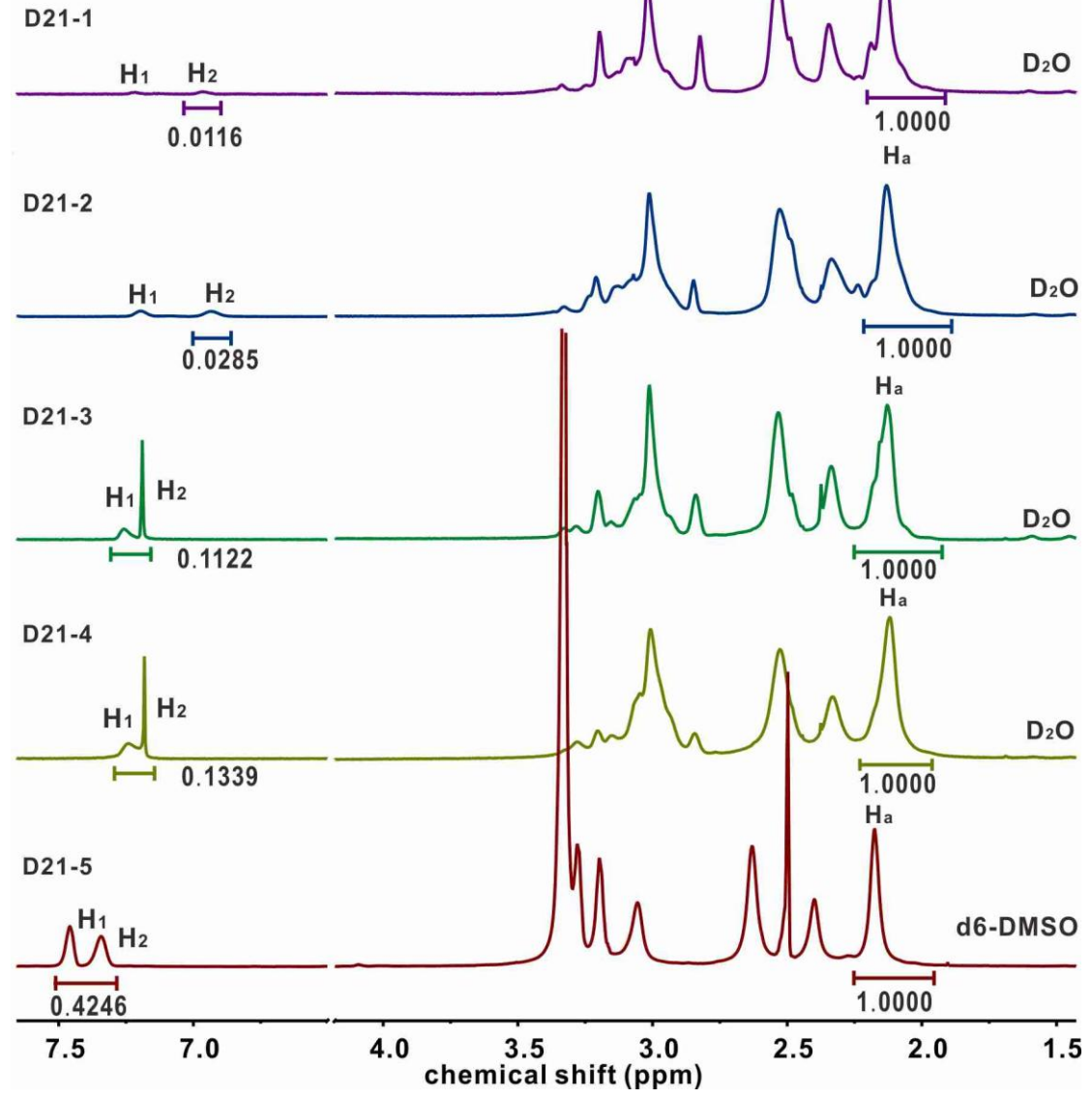
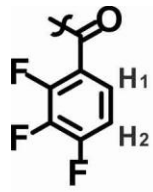


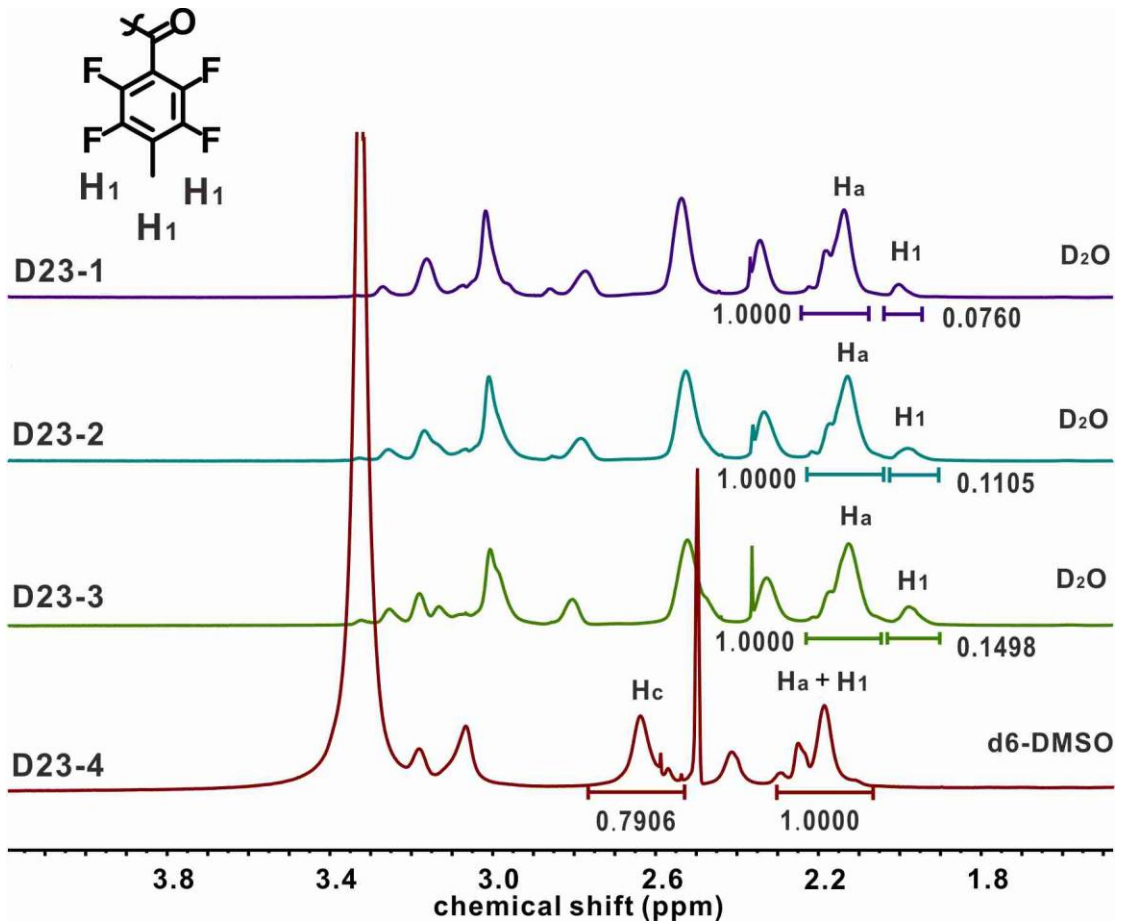
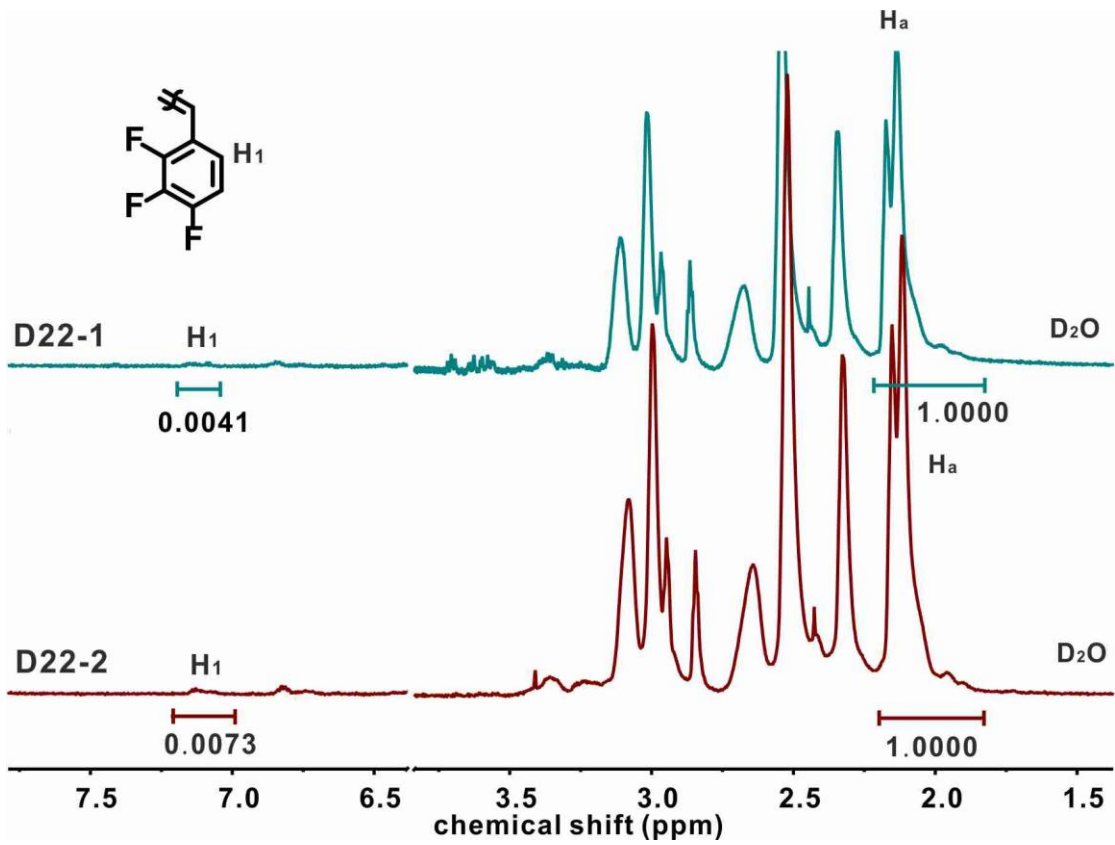


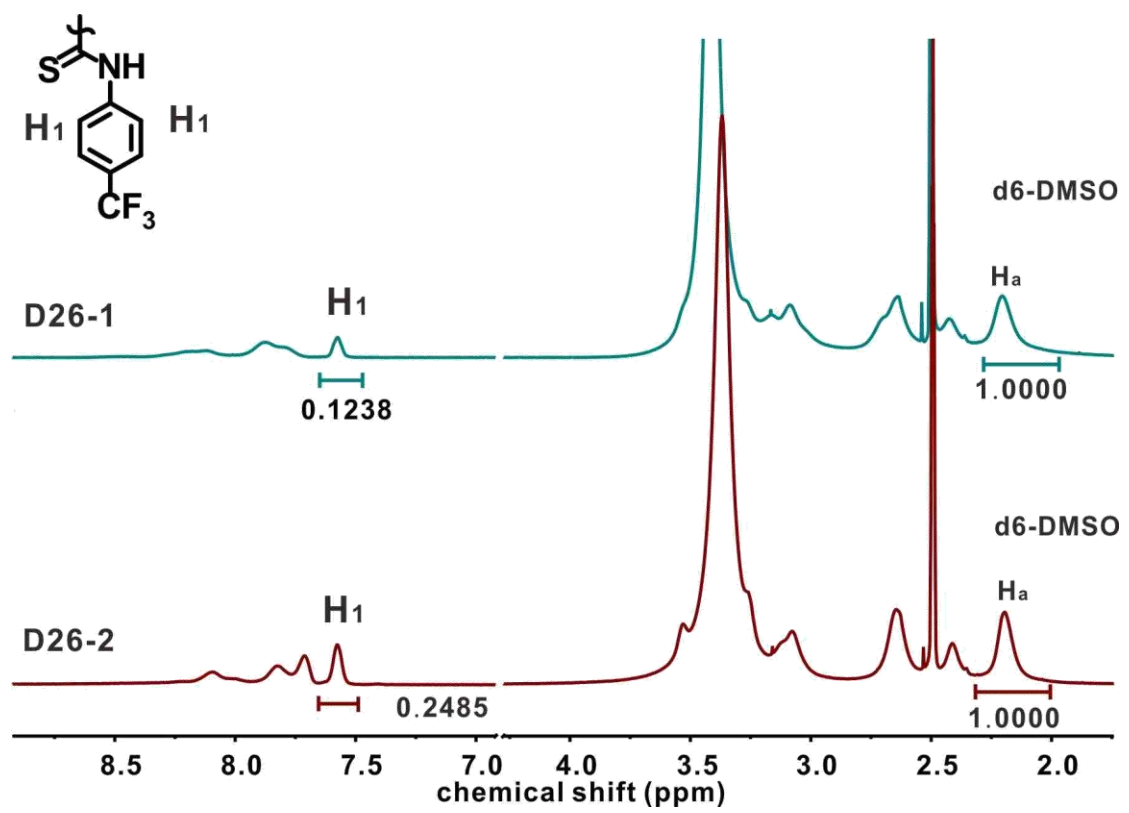
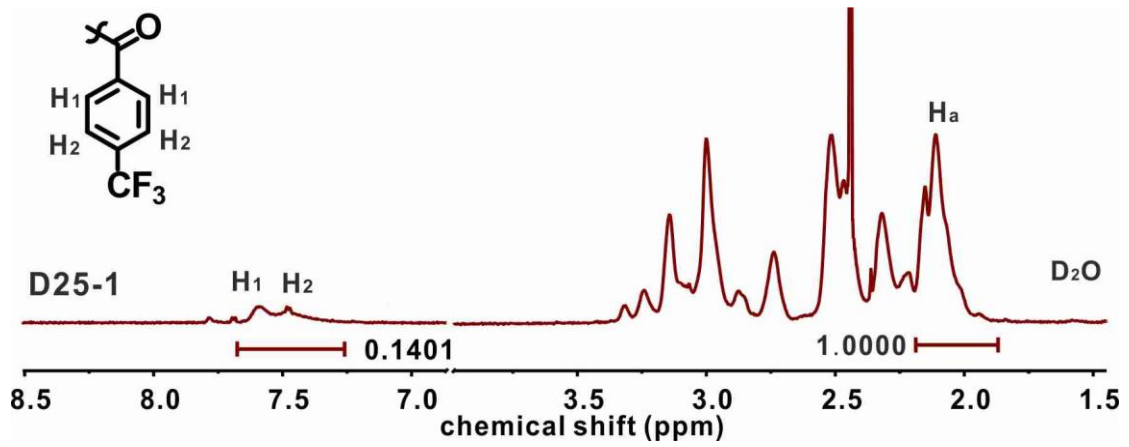


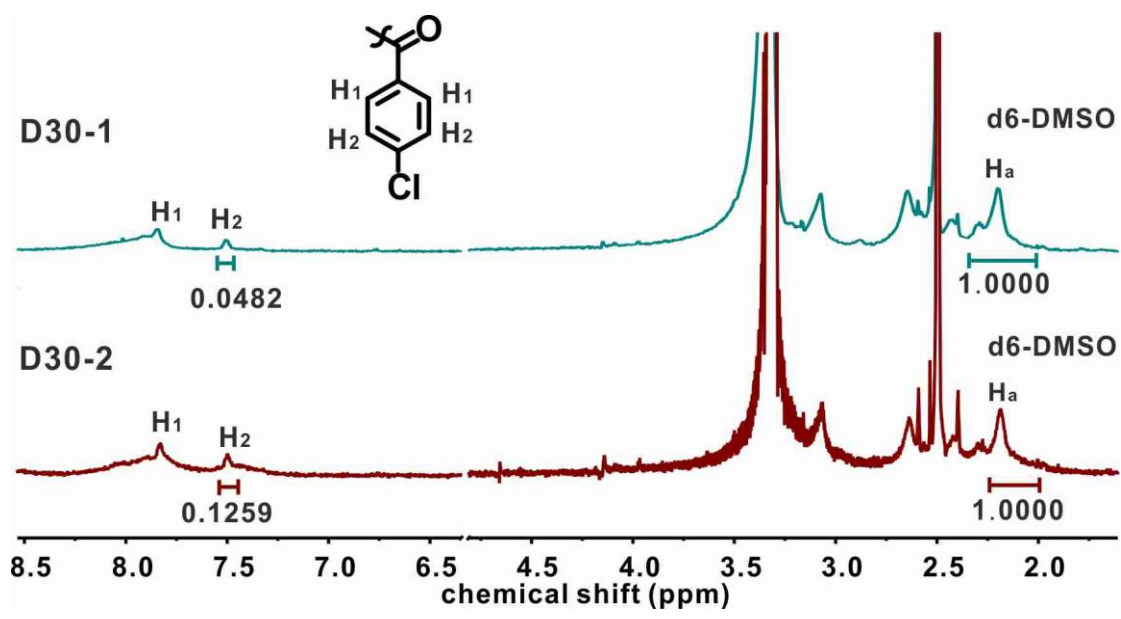
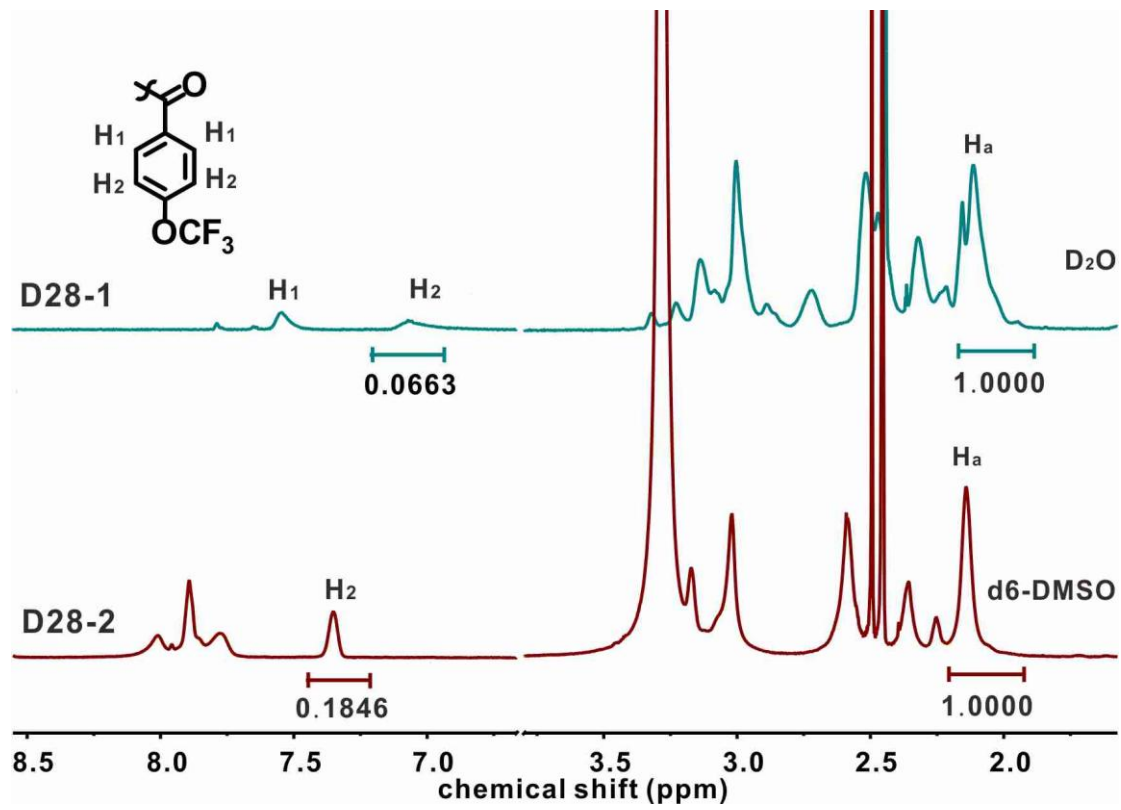


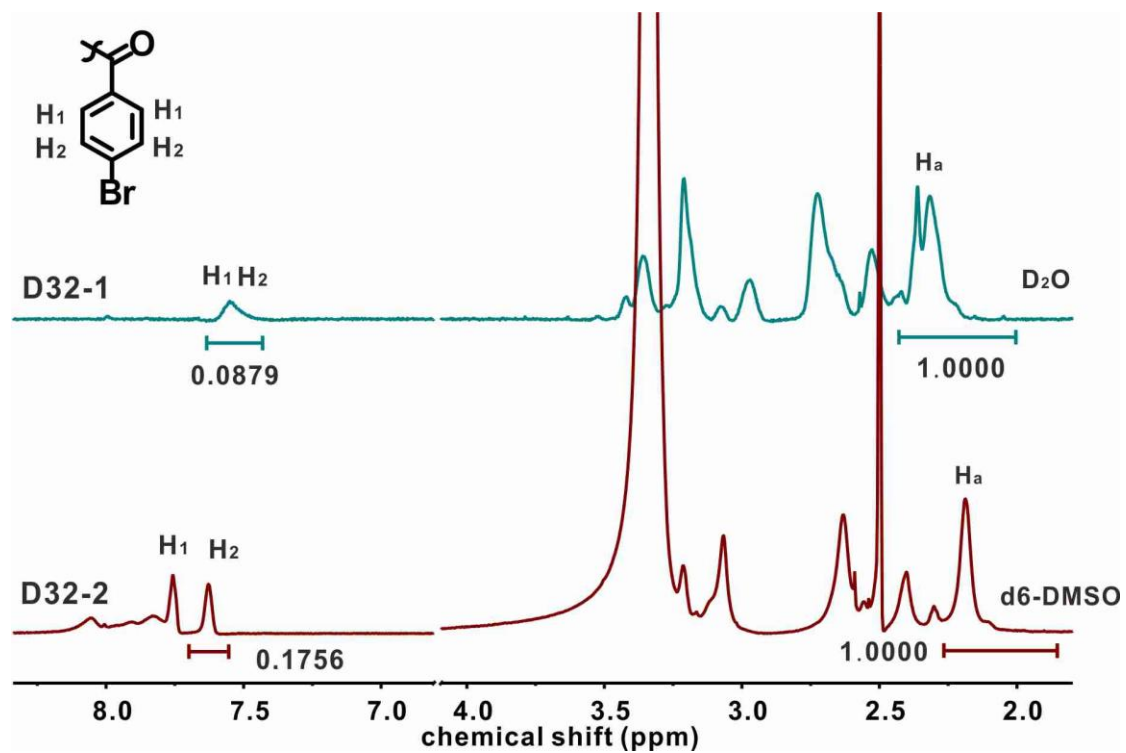
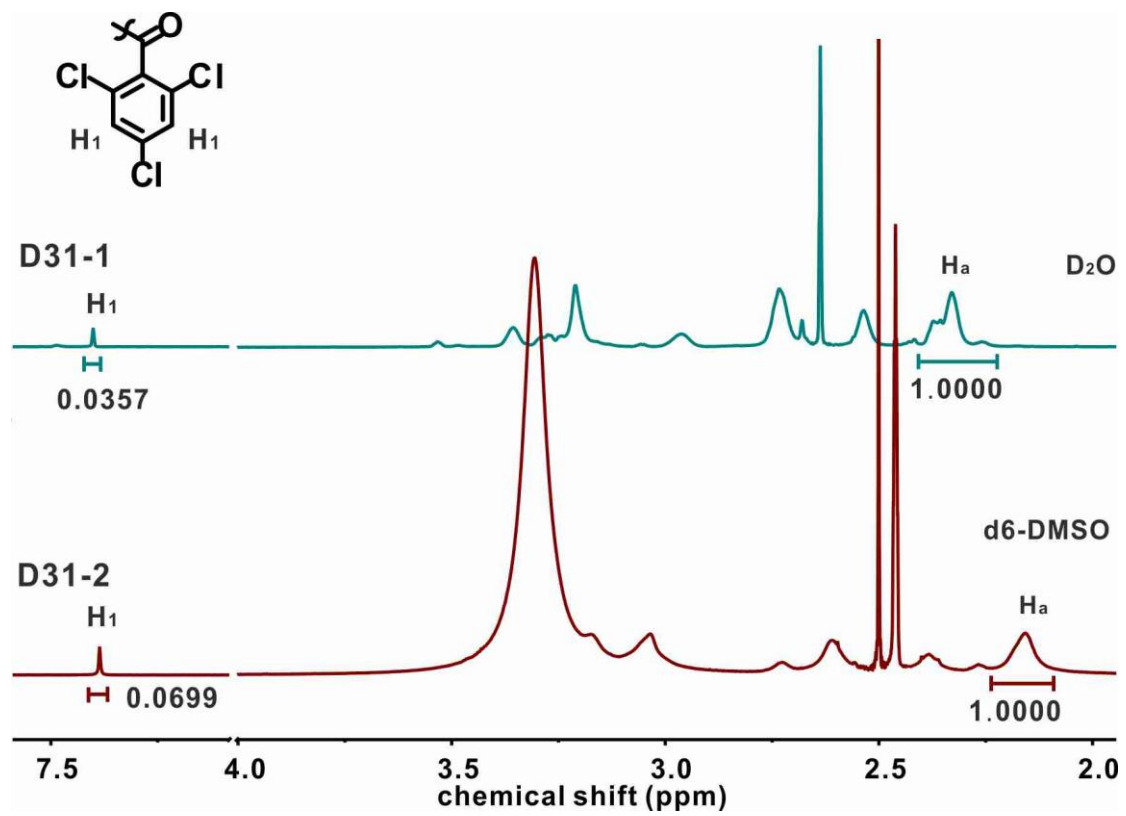


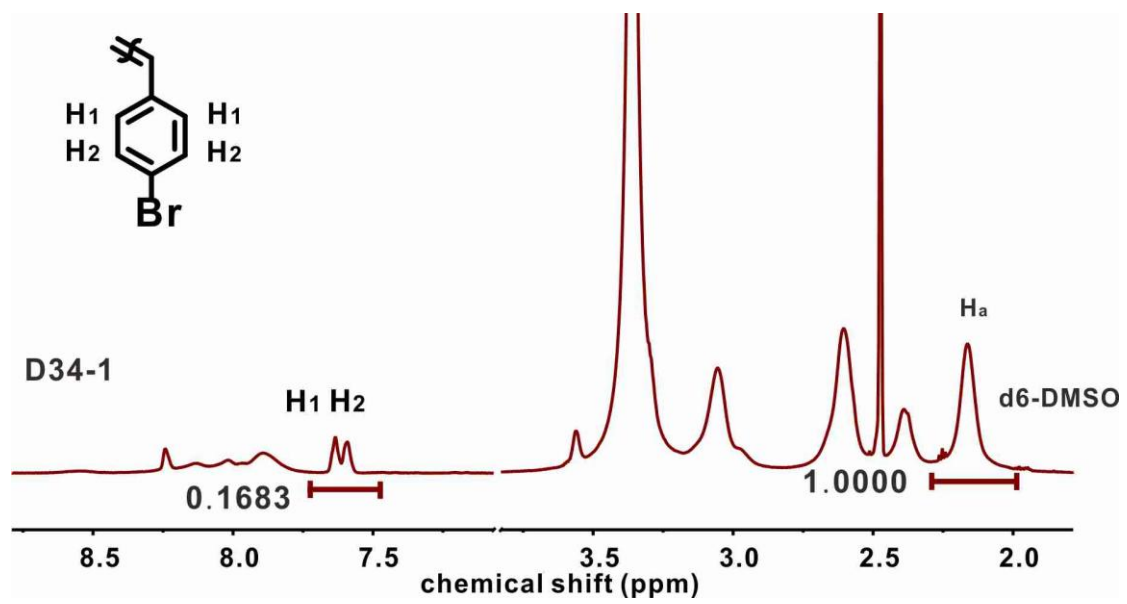
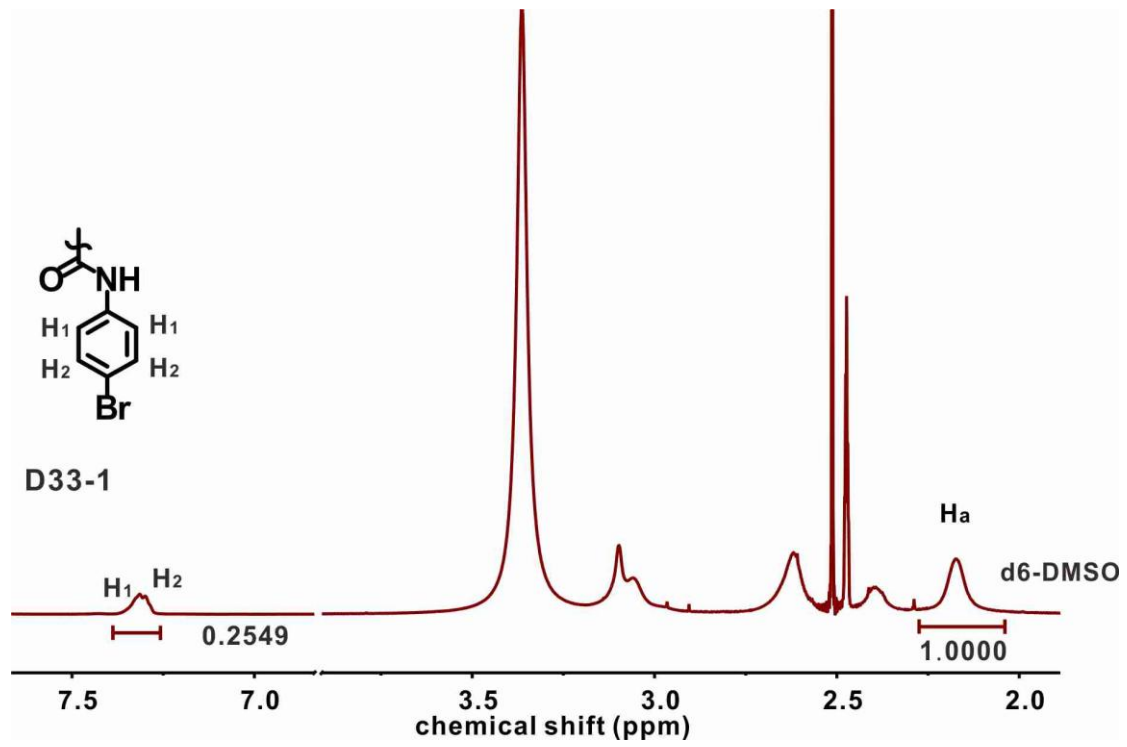


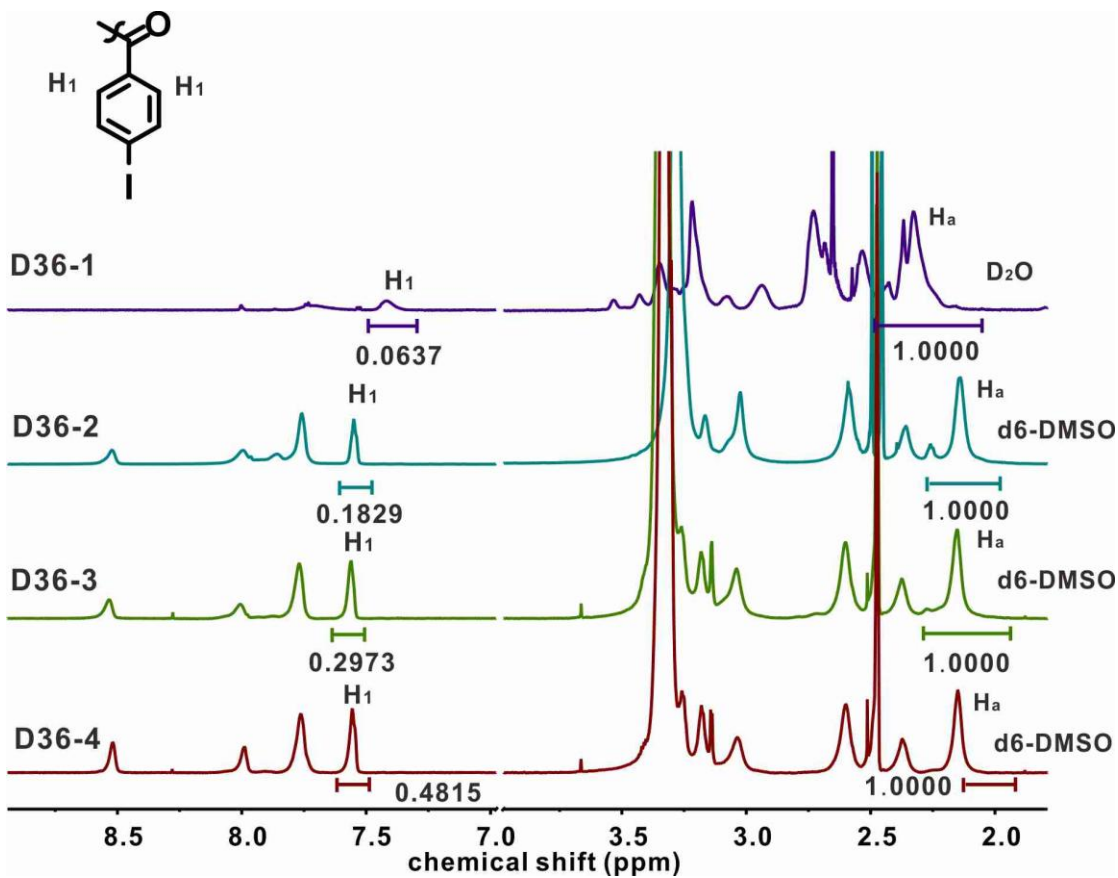
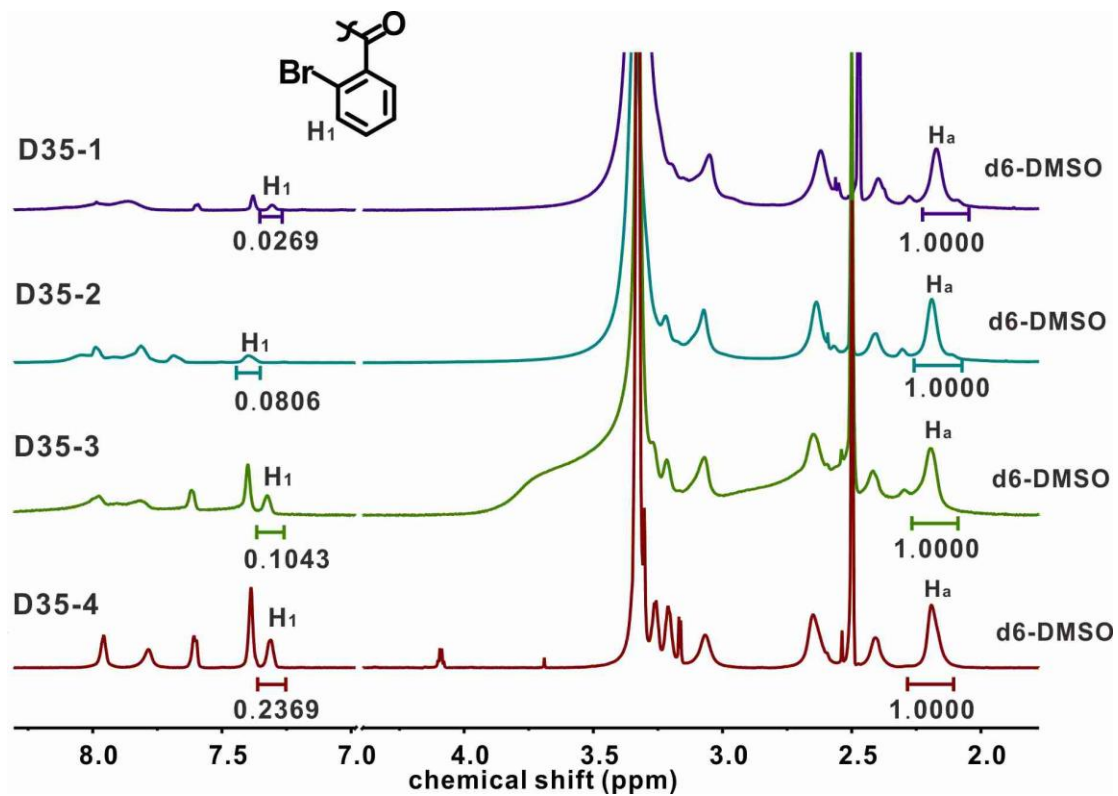


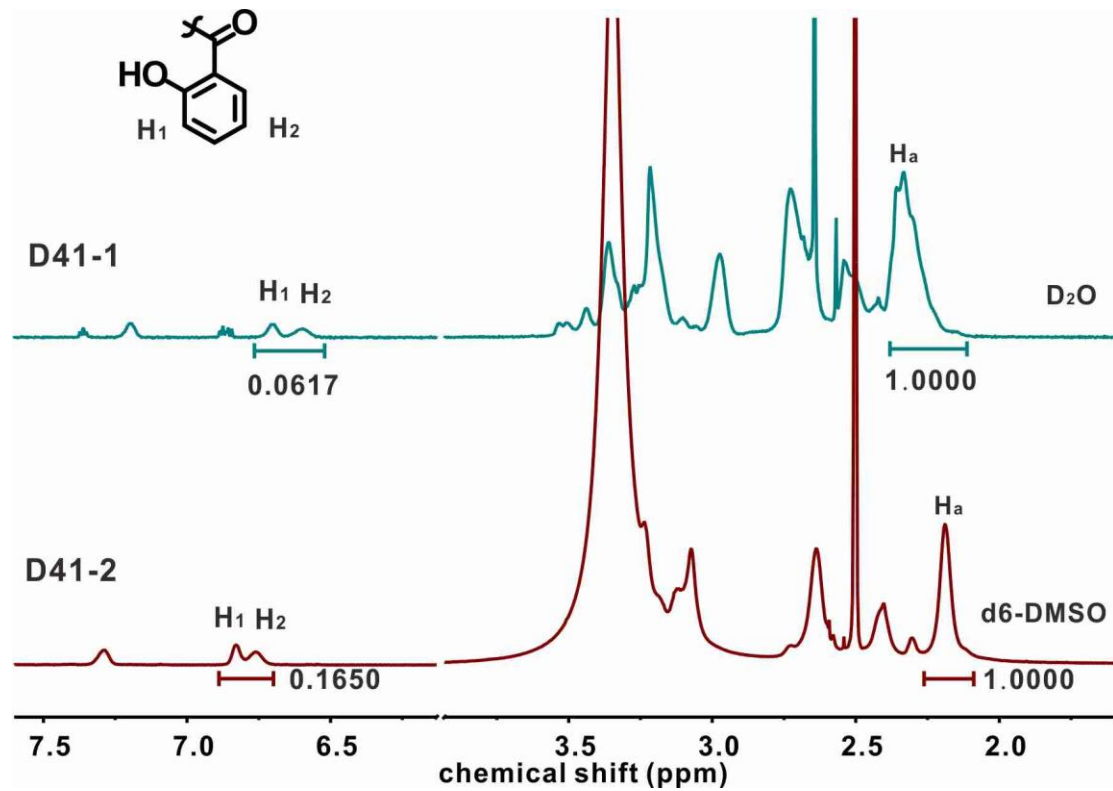
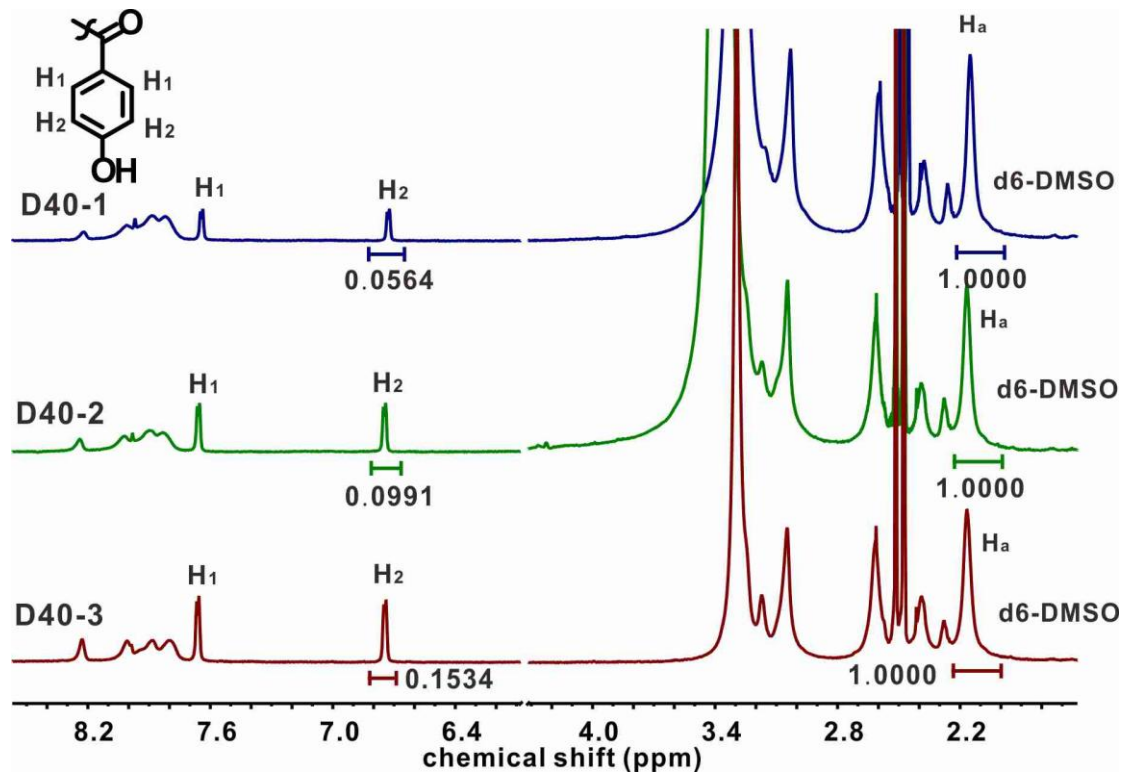


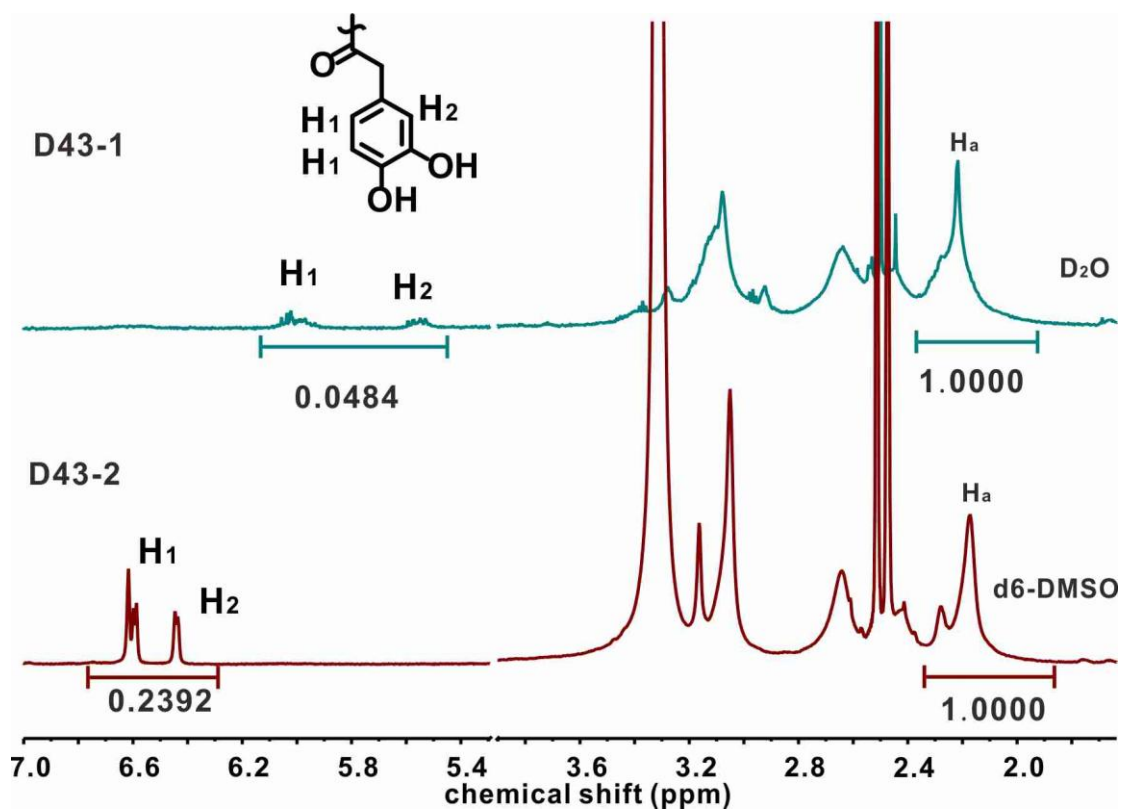
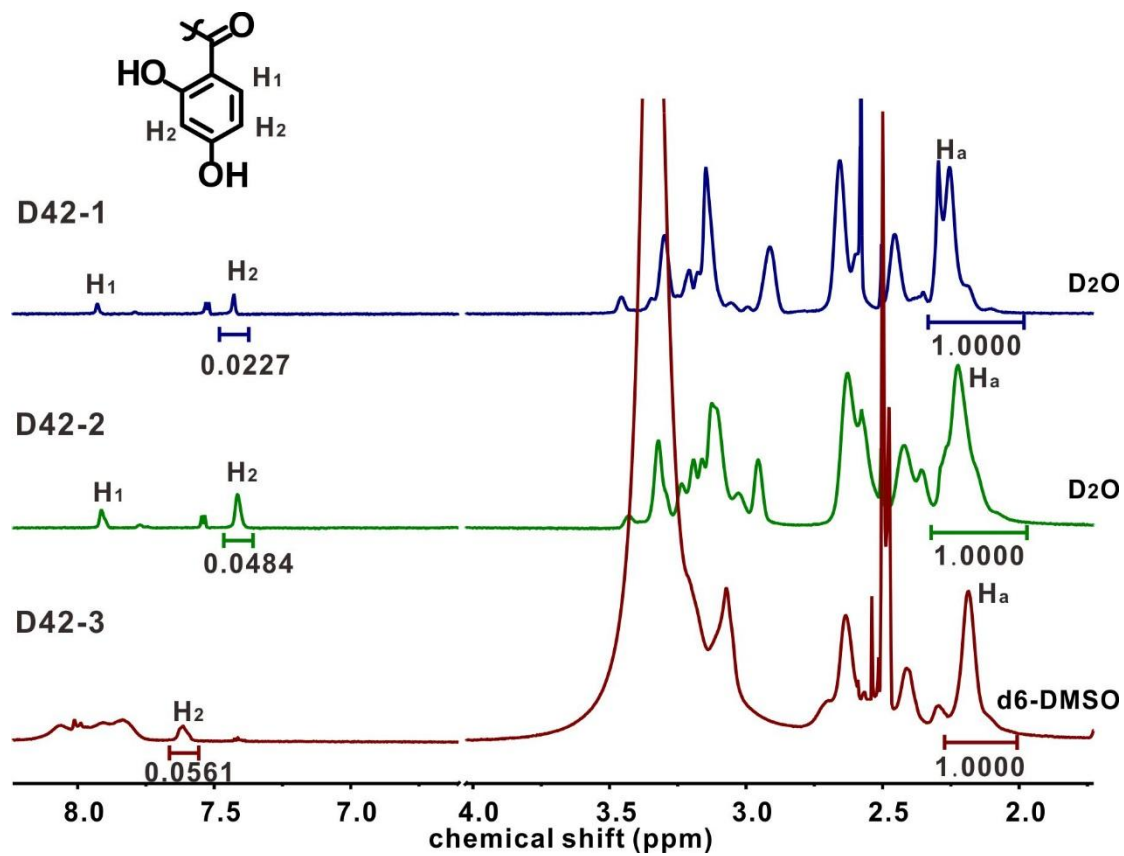


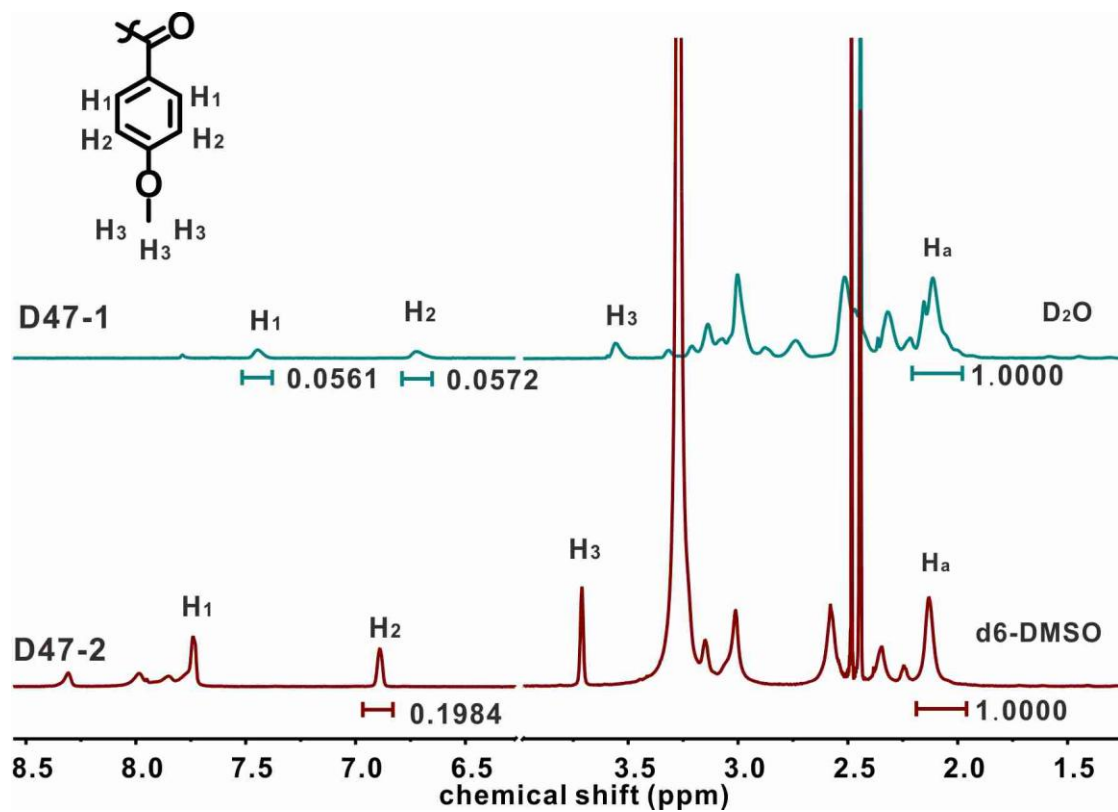
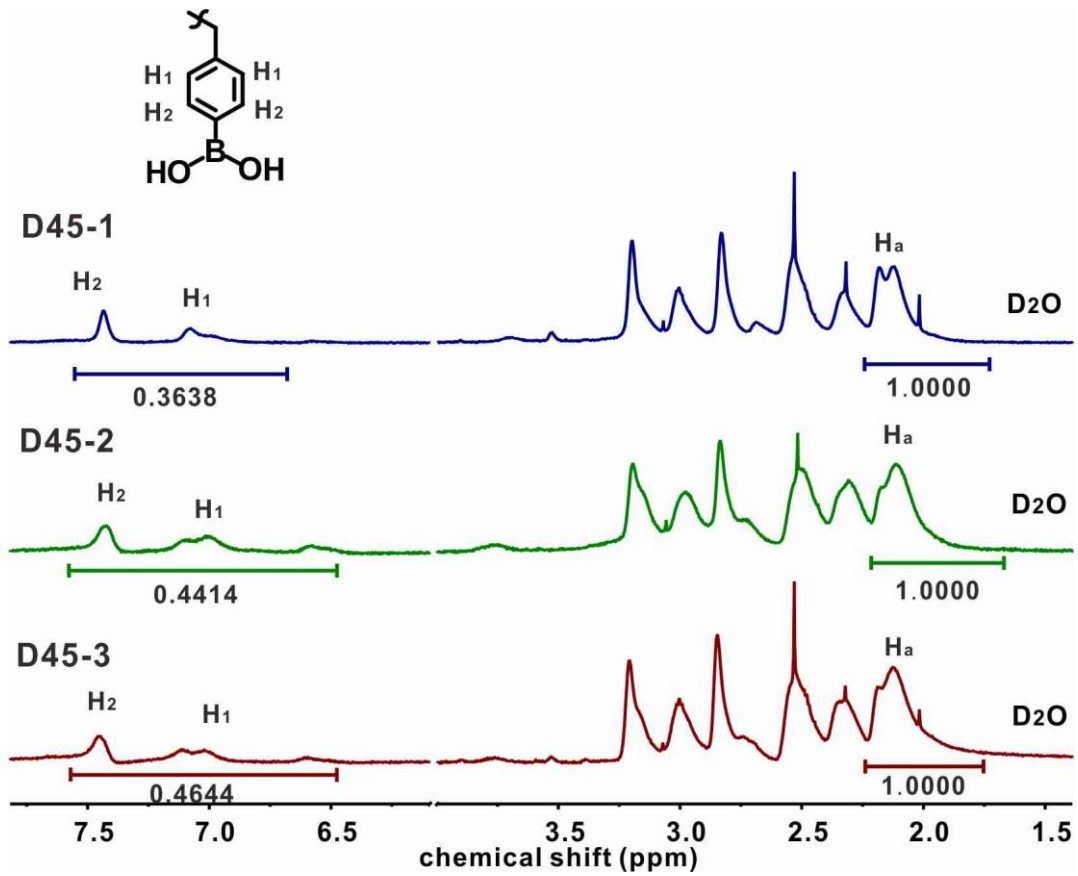


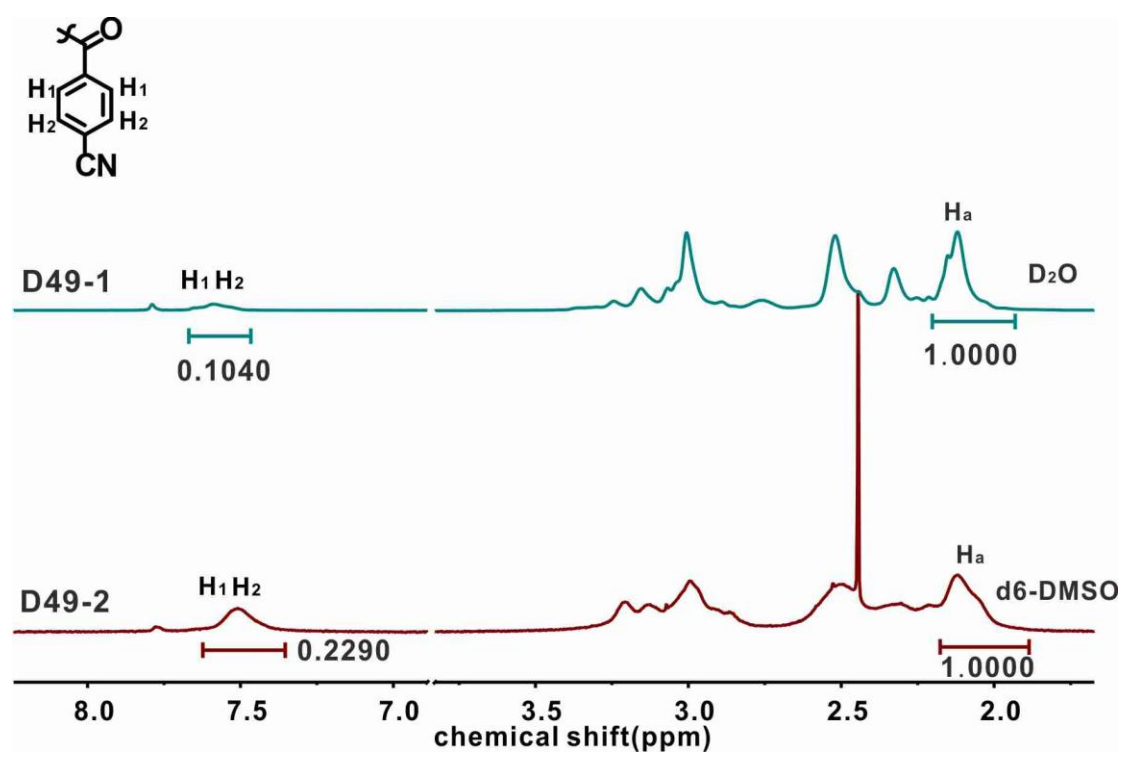
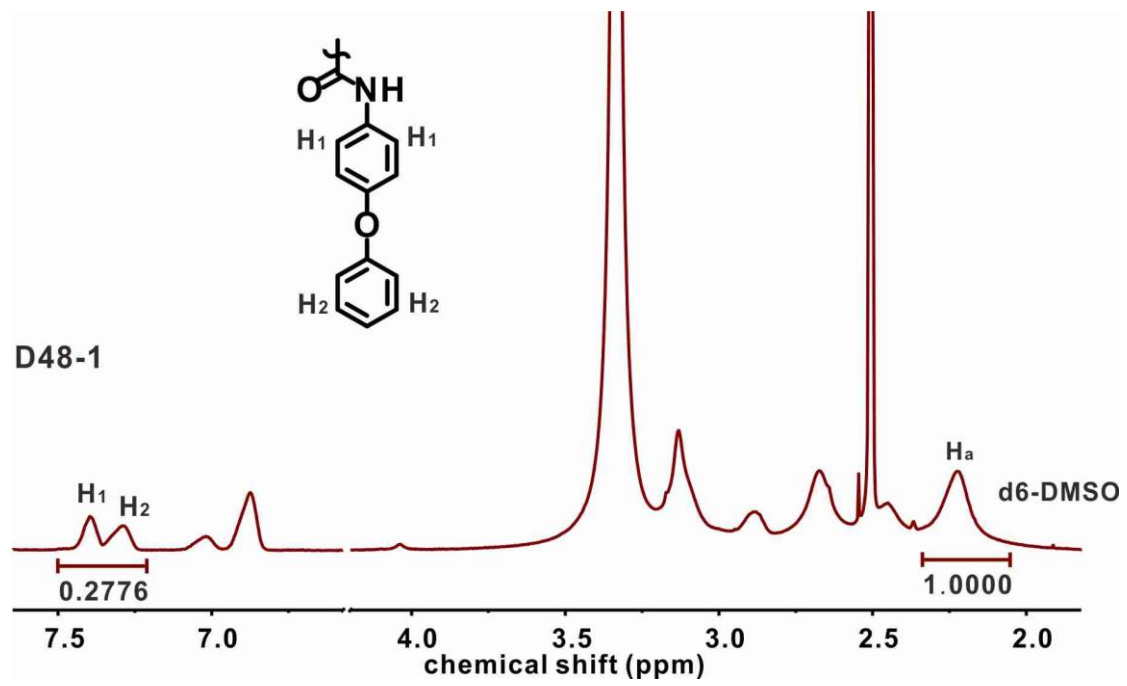


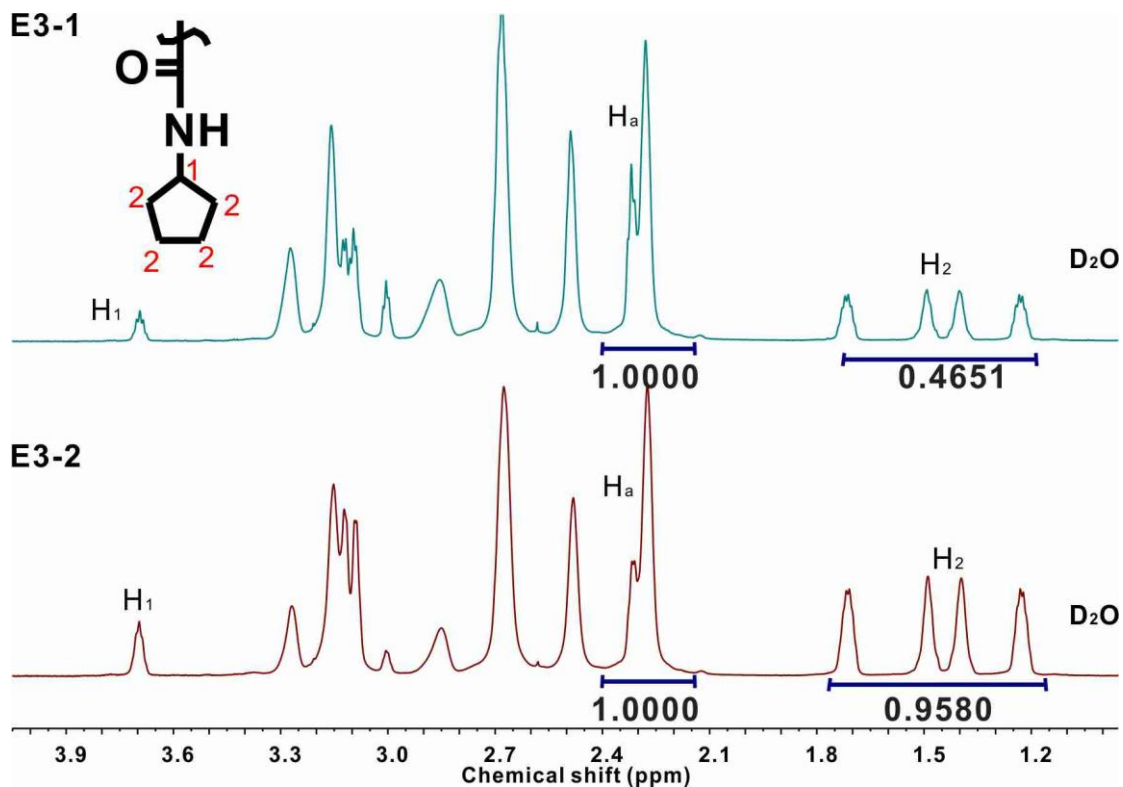
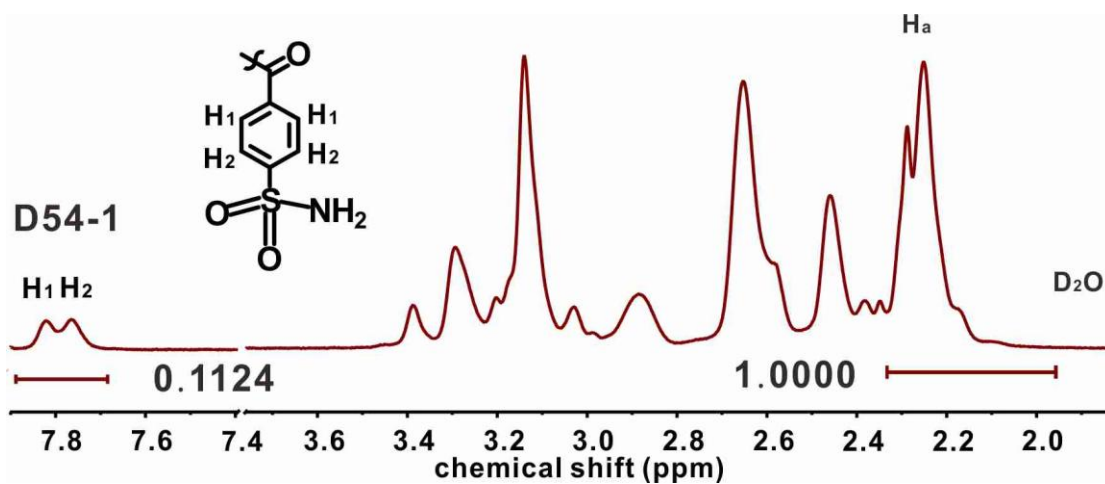
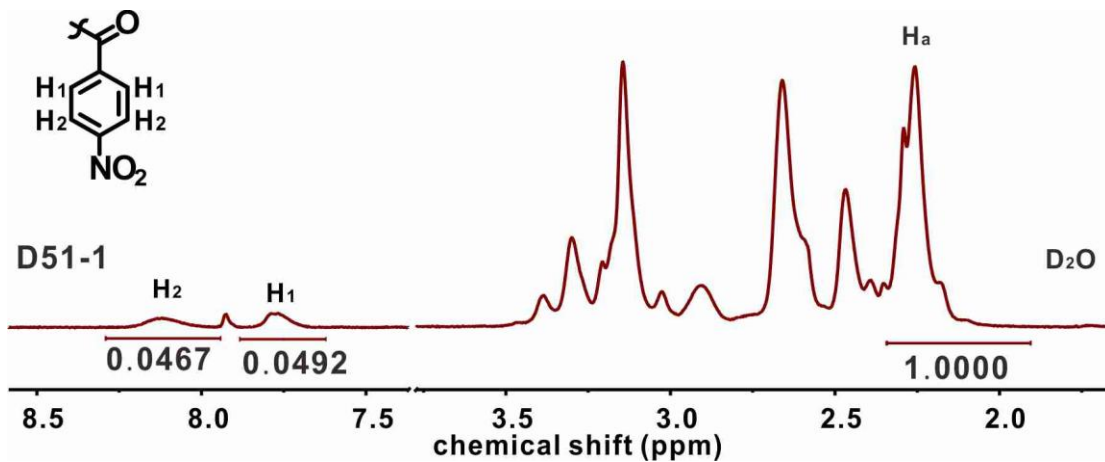




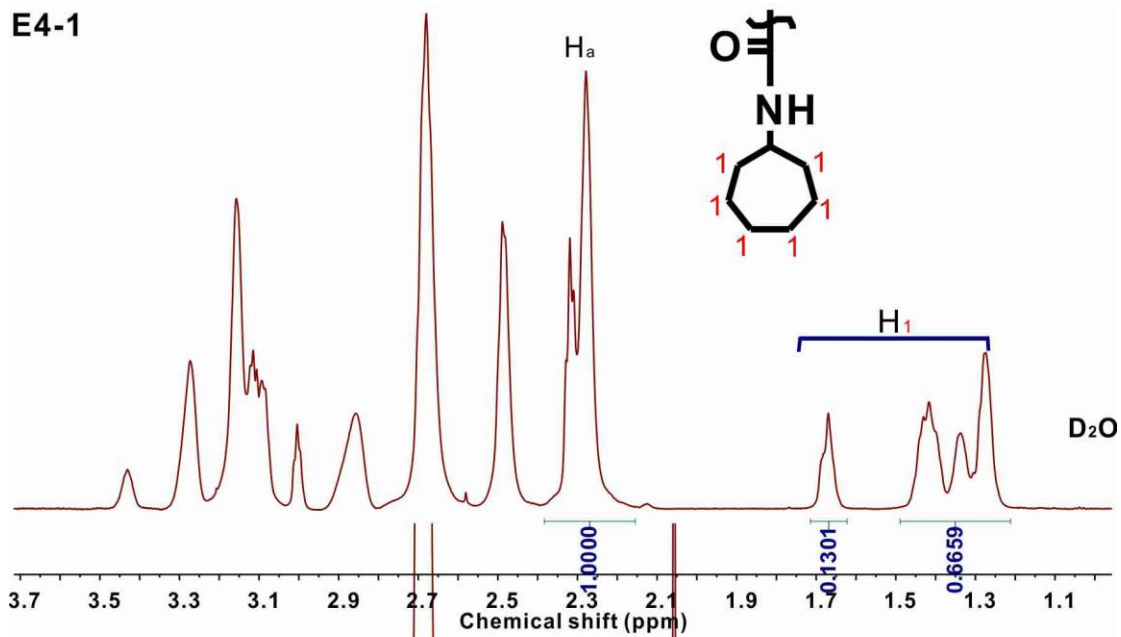




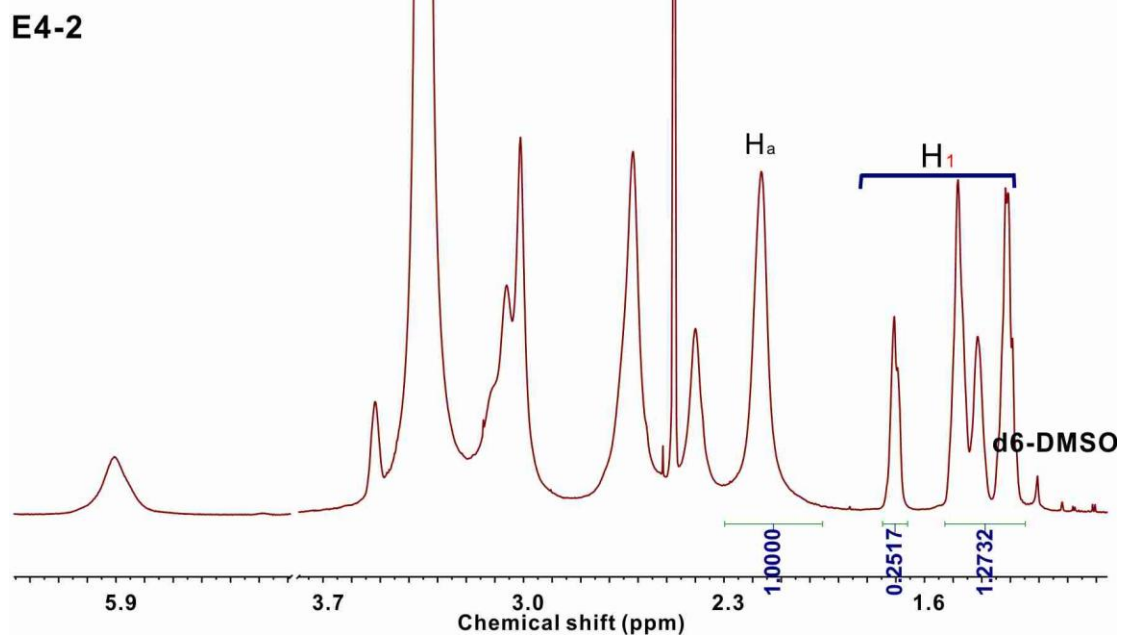


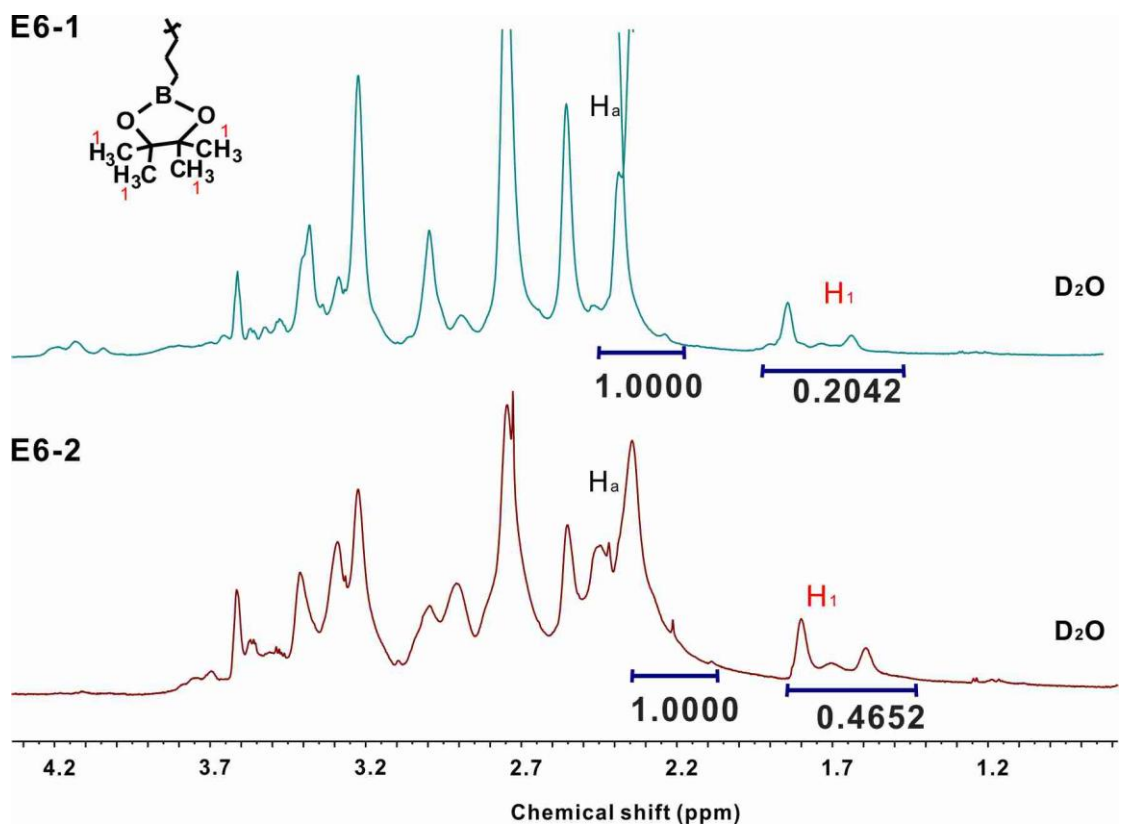
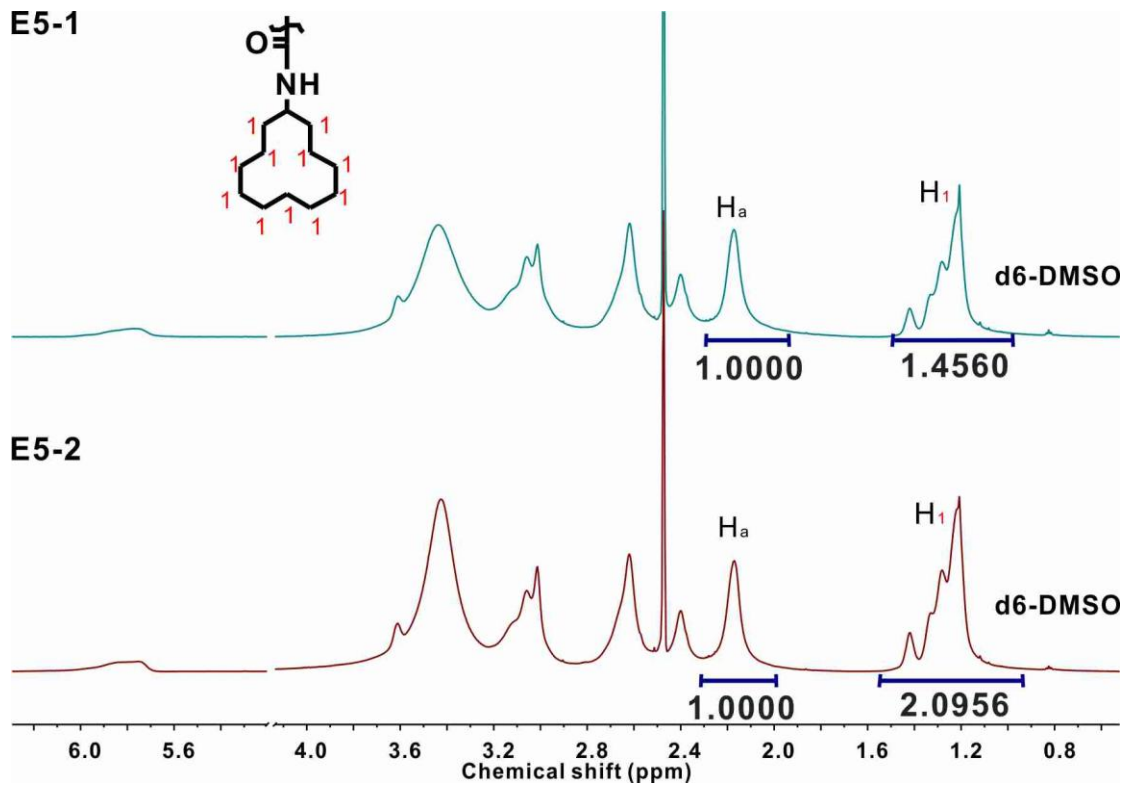


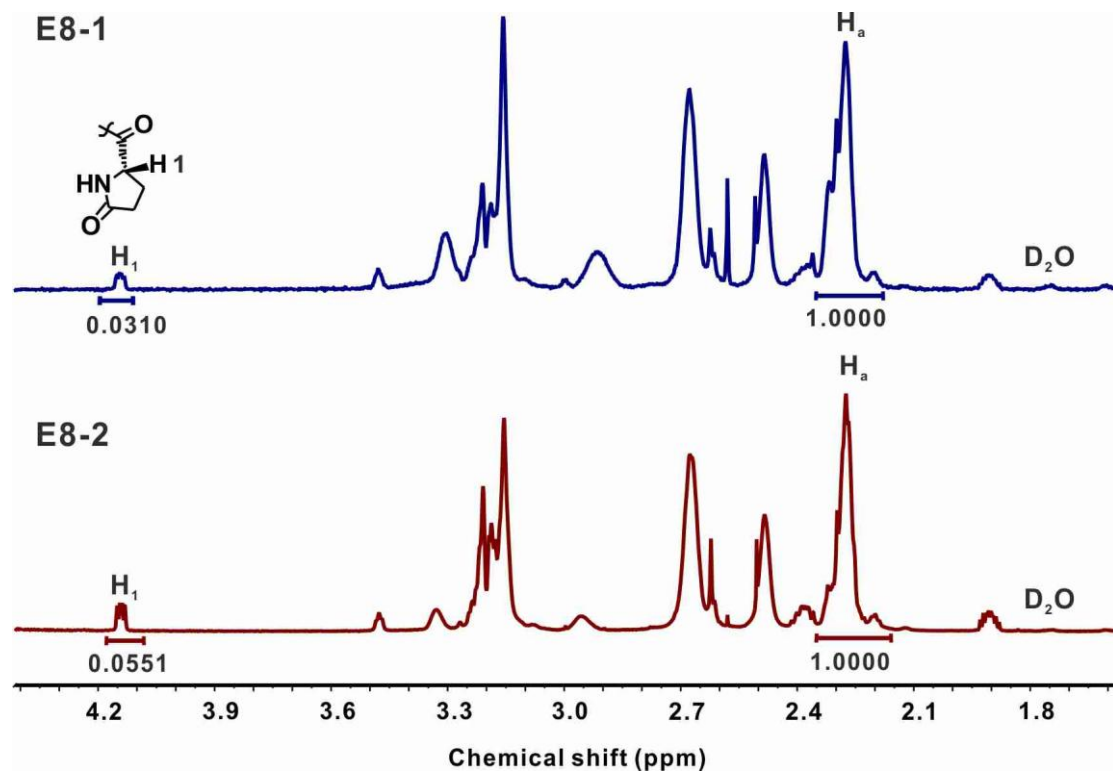
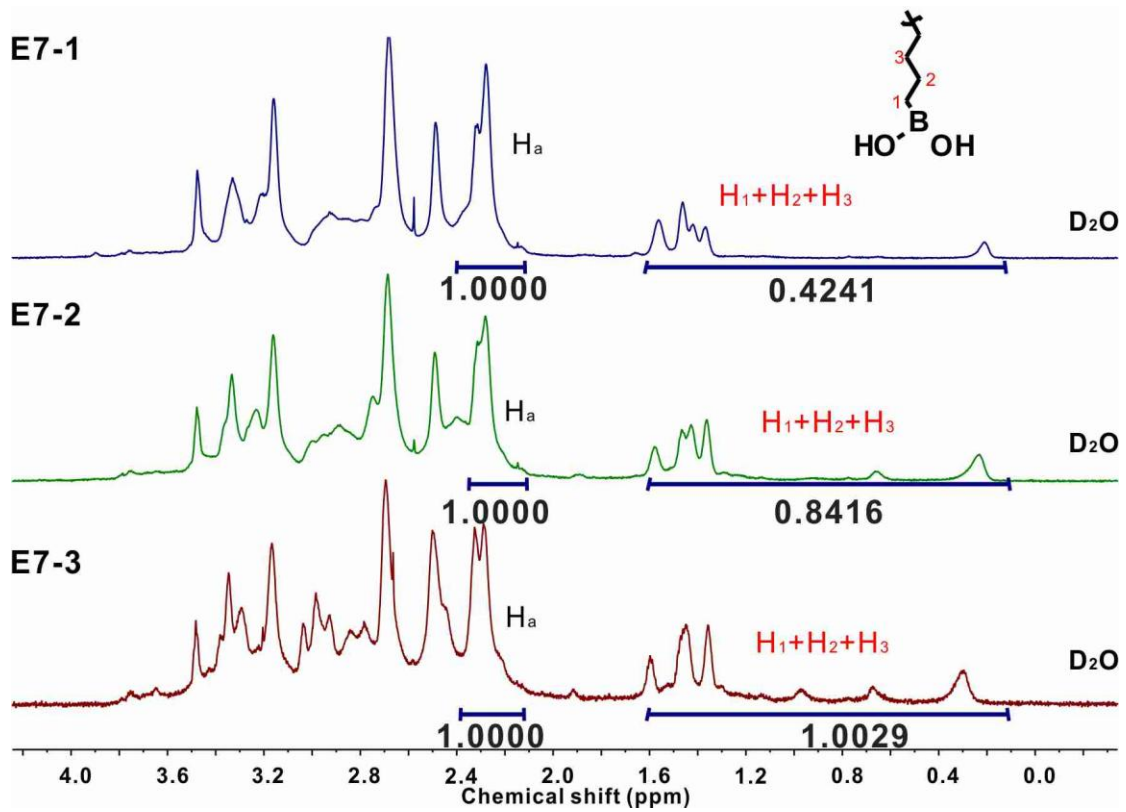
E4-1



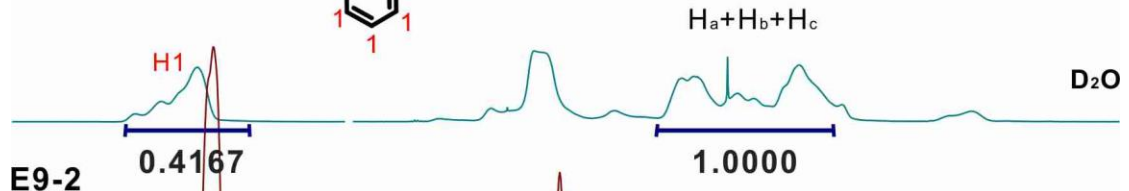
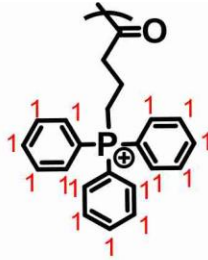
E4-2



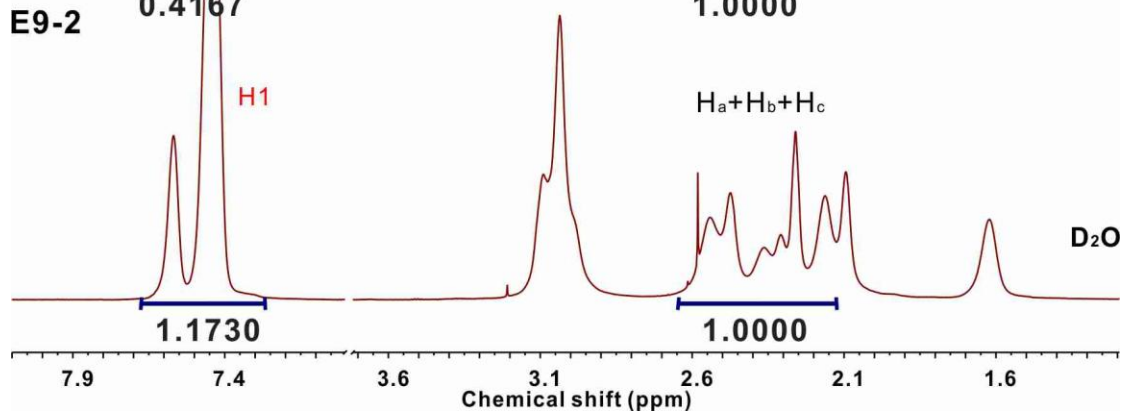




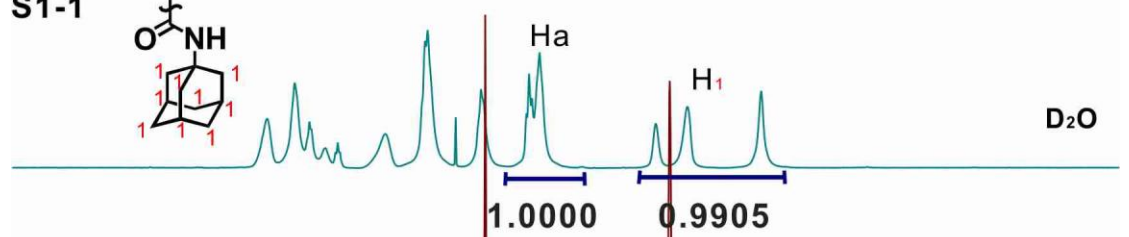
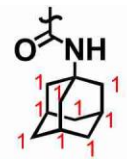
E9-1



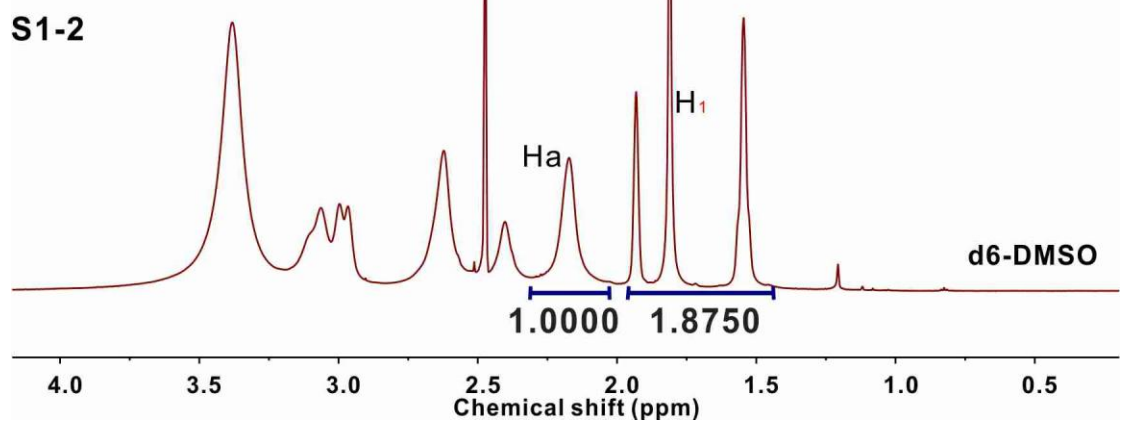
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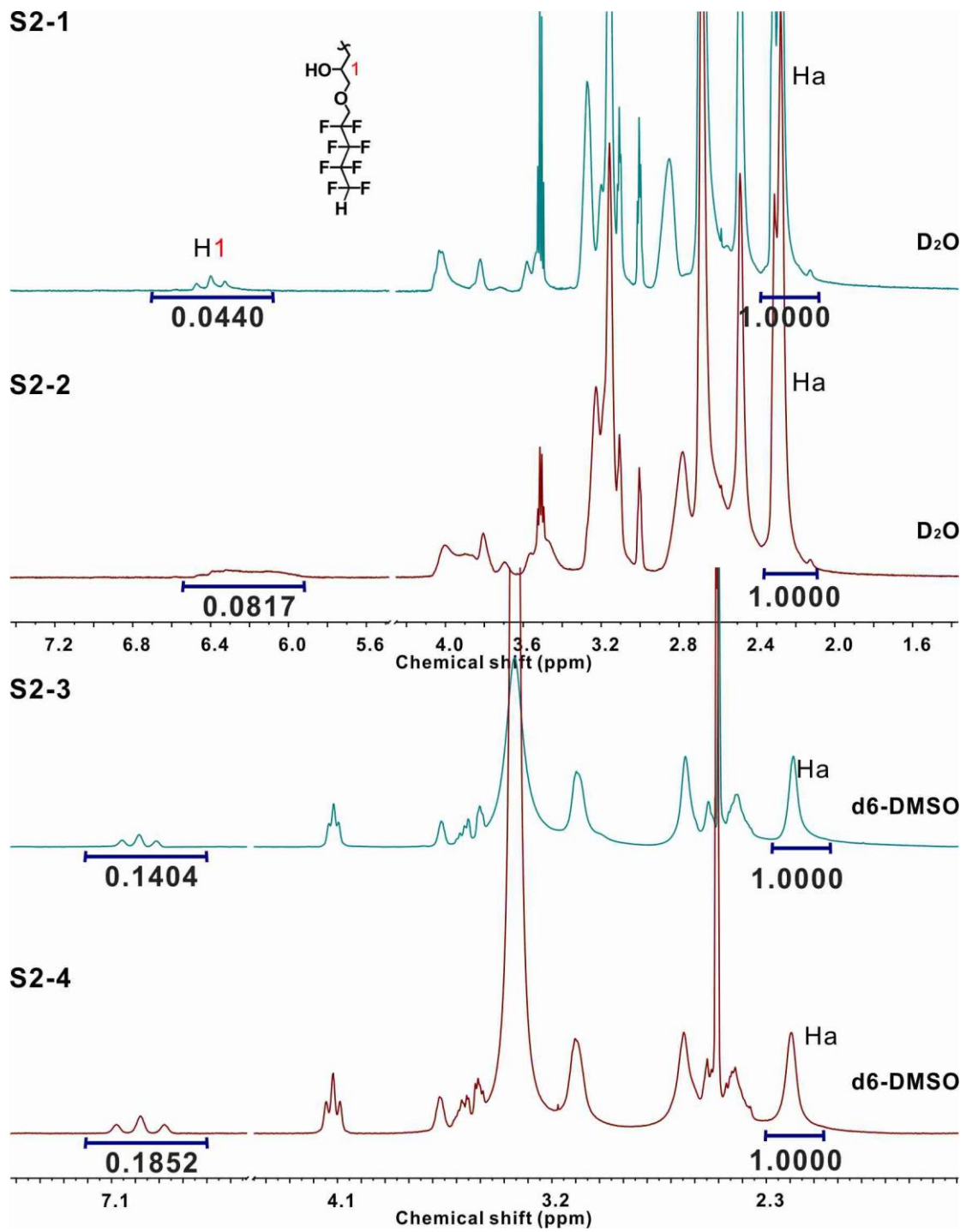


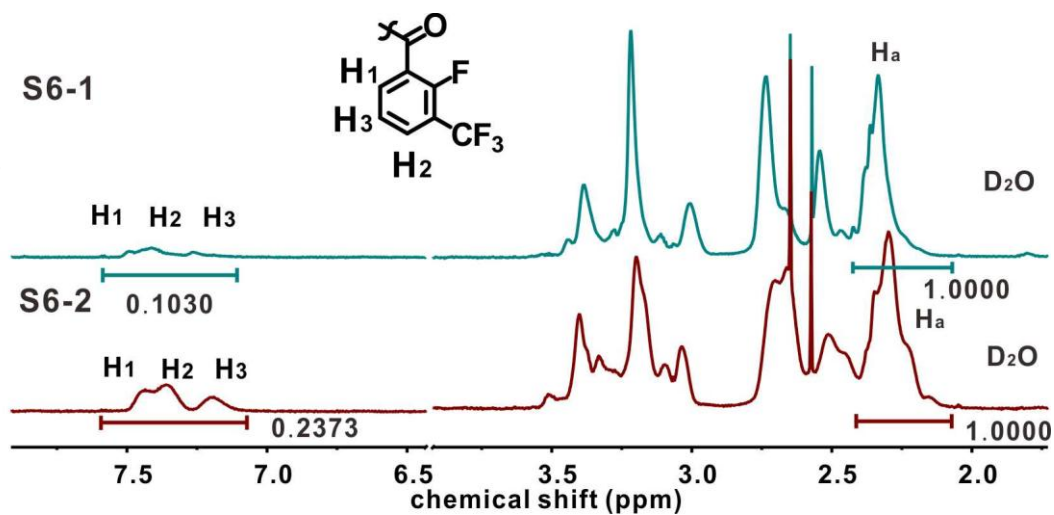
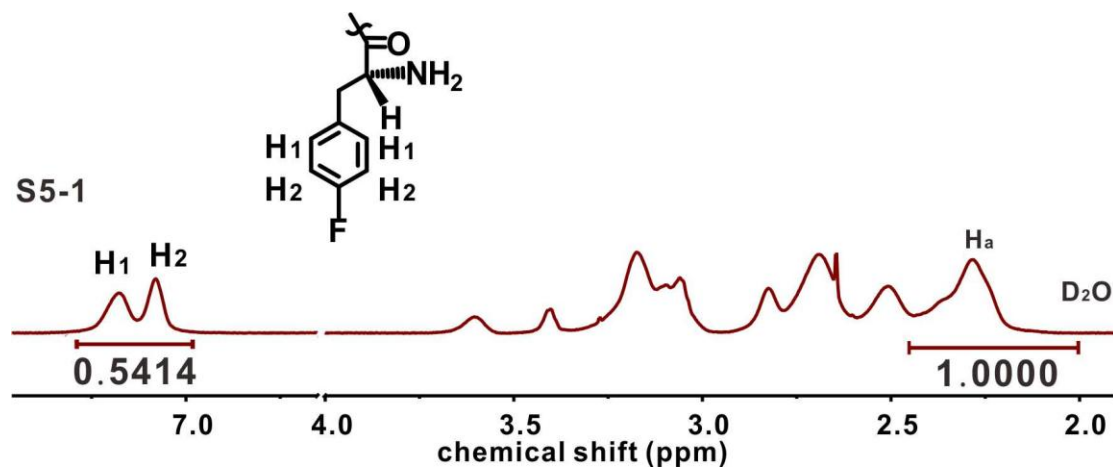
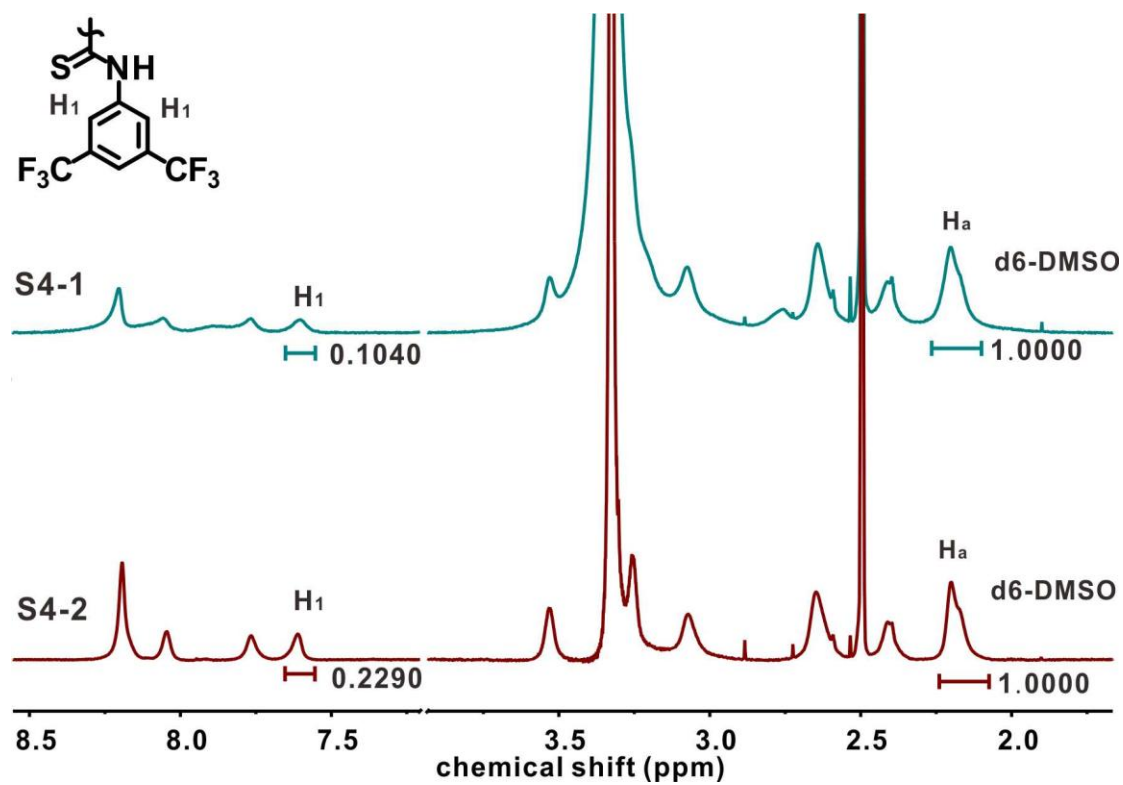
S1-1

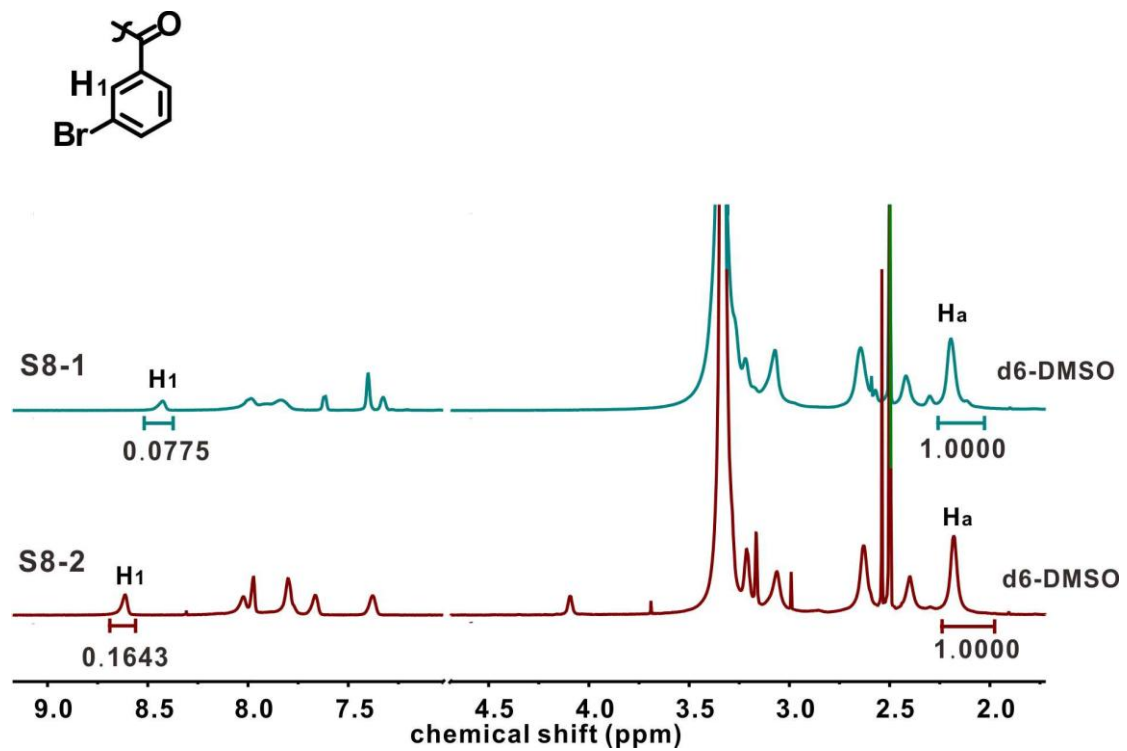
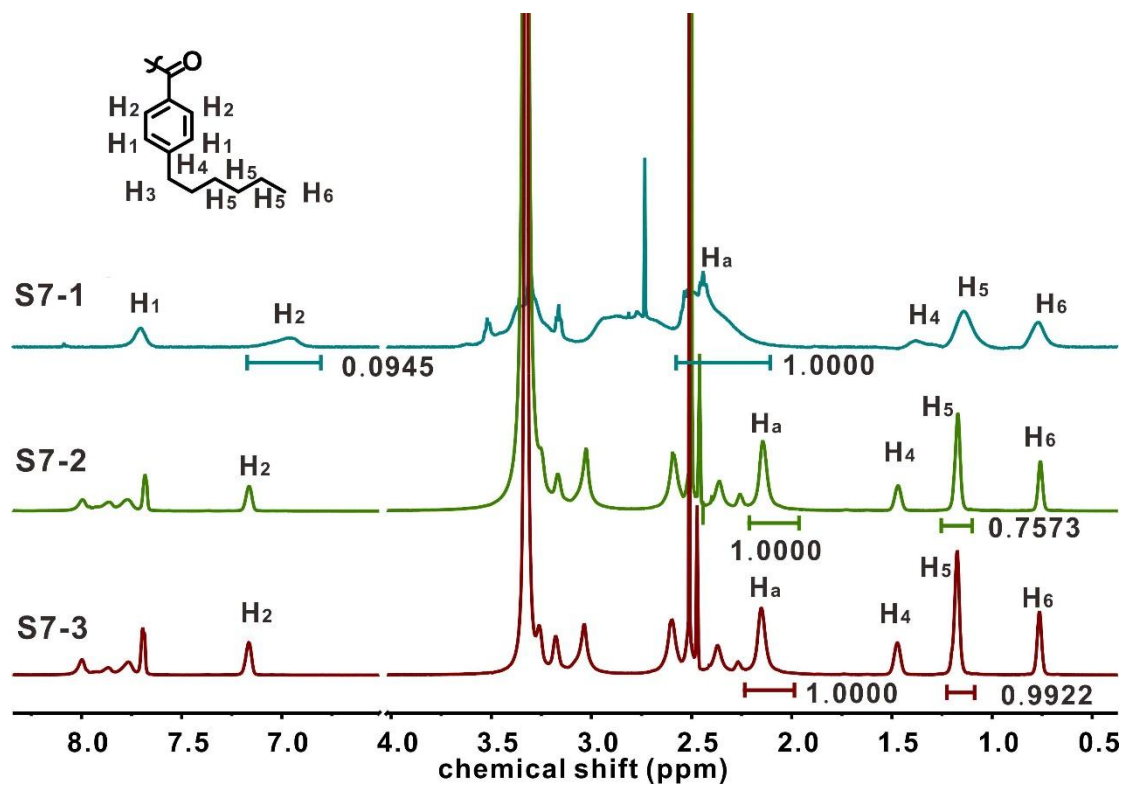


S1-2









Appendix B. Screening of efficient siRNA vectors in the library of surface-engineered dendrimers.

Gene silencing efficacy of the materials was tested with 50 nM siLuc in HeLa-Luc cells at different weight ratios (w/w=1-20) for 24 h. *Represents the optimal material dose for each material in the gene silencing experiments. "T" indicates that the material is toxic on the transfected cells. The optimal material dose is chosen at which the highest gene silencing efficacy is achieved and the polyplex is not toxic on the transfected cells, in addition, the relative protein mass in each well should be above 80% compared to the non-treated cells.

