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Supporting Information

Metal-Free Aryl Cross-Coupling Directed by Traceless Linkers**

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Experimental Procedures

General synthesis procedures

All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers (Sigma Aldrich, TCI, Alfa Aesar, etc.) and used without further purification unless otherwise explained. Reactions were carried out under inert gas (argon) by using the Schlenk technique in dried solvents. Dichloromethane (DCM), acetonitrile (MeCN), methanol (MeOH) and chloroform were used from a solvent purification system (Innovative Technologies). Open column chromatographic separations were executed on silica gel (Kieselgel 60, 15-40 μm , Merck KGaA). Reaction progresses were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) (silica gel on aluminium sheets 20 \times 20 cm with fluorescent indicator 254 nm, Merck KGaA), GC-MS or HPLC-(HR)MS. Photoreactions were performed on a self-made photo reactor made from a milled aluminum block (16.9 \times 31.9 \times 0.03 cm, reaction volume \sim 15 mL) covered with a quartz glass slide. A SIMDOS 02 dosing pump from KNF was attached to the photo reactor with FEP tubes. A Herolab UVT-40 S equipped with 6 tubes Philips TUV 15 W/G15 T8 (total power 90 W; 44 W/m² at 245-260 nm) was used as the UV light source to illuminate the samples from above. A cryostat attached to the aluminum block allowed the control of the temperature and a small container stopped any air bubbles from the pump from reaching the photo reactor. Flow rates (0.5-10 mL/min) were selected in the course of reaction optimization.

General analytical procedures

All 1D (¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, DEPT) and 2D NMR (¹H-¹H COSY, HSQC, NOESY, HMBC) have been recorded in deuterated solvents on a Bruker AVANCE II 300, AVANCE III 500 or 600 MHz instrument equipped with Bruker Cryo Platform. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the solvent residual signal (¹H: δ (CHCl₃) = 7.26 ppm, δ (CH₂Cl₂) = 5.32 ppm, δ (MeOH) = 3.31 ppm, δ (DMSO) = 2.50 ppm, δ (MeCN) = 1.94 ppm. ¹³C: δ (CDCl₃) = 77.16 ppm, δ (CD₂Cl₂) = 53.84 ppm, δ (MeOD) = 49.00 ppm, δ (DMSO-d₆) = 39.52 ppm, δ (CD₃CN) = 1.32 ppm or 118.26 ppm. ¹⁹F: δ (PhCF₃) = -62.61 ppm as an external standard).¹⁻² Following abbreviations are used for multiplicities of resonance signals: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qt = quintet, br = broad. Preparative HPLC purification was achieved by using Gilson Abimed device with Binary Pump 321 and Dual Wavelength Detector 156 (column: Phenomenex Luna C18, 10 μm , 250 \times 21.2 mm, eluent: water, MeCN (10–100%)). Gas-chromatographic measurements were executed on Thermo Trace GC Ultra equipped with CombiPAL autosampler and coupled with FID and Thermo Polaris Q electron impact ion trap mass spectrometer. GC conditions: column SGE BPX5 30 m \times 0.25 mm ID; carrier gas helium; split injection with split ratio 1:10 and injection volume 5 μL ; 1.5 mL/min carrier gas flow; temperature profile 0–1 min: 40 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 1–3 min: heating up to 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (30 $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$), 3–28 min: heating up to 350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (10 $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$). LC-MS measurements were performed using Exactive Orbitrap High Performance Benchtop LC-MS with electrospray ion source and Surveyor HPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen), Q Exactive Orbitrap High Performance Benchtop LC-MS with electrospray ion source and Accela HPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen), Q Exactive HF-X Orbitrap High Performance Benchtop LC-MS with electrospray ion source and Surveyor HPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen), or LTQ Velos Ion Trap Benchtop LC-MS with electrospray ion source and Surveyor HPLC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen). HPLC conditions using Exactive: C18 column (Thermo Fisher Betasil C18, 3 μm , 150 \times 2.1 mm) and gradient elution (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) starting with 5:95 for 1 min, going up to 99:1 in 16 min, then 99:1 for 15 min; flow rate 0.2 mL/min; injection volume: 3 μL . HPLC conditions using Q Exactive: C18 column (Thermo Fisher Accucore C18, 2.6 μm , 100 \times 2.1 mm) and gradient elution (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) starting with 5:95, going up to 98:2 in 10 min, then 98:2 for 12 min; flow rate 0.2 mL/min; injection volume: 3 μL . HPLC conditions using Q Exactive HF-X: C18 column (Phenomenex Kinetex C18, 1.7 μm , 50 \times 2.1 mm) and gradient elution (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) starting with 5:95, going to 0:100 in 4.5 min, then 0:100 for 2 min; flow rate 0.7 mL/min; injection volume: 2 μL . HPLC conditions using LTQ: C18 column (Phenomenex Kinetex XB-C18, 2.6 μm , 100 \times 3 mm) and gradient elution (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) 10:90 for 1 min, going up to 100:0 in 8 min, then 100:0 for 4 min; flow rate 0.6 mL/min; injection volume: 5 μL) or (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) 48:52 for 11 min; flow rate 0.6 mL/min; injection volume: 5 μL). HPLC conditions for regioisomer separation using Q Exactive: C18 column (Thermo Fisher Accucore C18, 2.6 μm , 100 \times 2.1 mm) and isocratic elution (MeCN (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)/H₂O (0.1 % (v/v) HCOOH)) with 50:50 for 20 min, then 100:0 for 10 min; flow rate 0.2 mL/min; injection volume: 3 μL). UV-vis spectra were recorded with a UV-1800 UV-vis-spectrometer from Shimadzu using fused quartz glass cuvettes with 1 cm path length. The samples were measured at 20 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ in MeCN. The emission spectrum of the light source was recorded with a specbos 1211UV broadband radiometer from JETI Technische Instrumente GmbH. The spectral range is from 230 nm to 1000 nm, the optical bandwidth is 4.5 nm and the wavelength resolution is 1 nm.

Effect of metals on photosplicing

Methyl 4-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1a**) (500.2 mg, 1.57 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (250.6 mL). 10 mL of this solution were transferred into 18 tubes with ~5 mol% of different metal salts (see Table S1), mixed gently and stored at room temperature for 24 h. In some cases, the metal salts were not completely soluble. These samples were centrifuged to remove the solid. All samples were measured by HPLC-MS.

All samples were loaded on the photo reactor (reduced light intensity (only 2 Philips TUV 15 W tubes), 5 mL/min) and irradiated until 75 mL of the solution were collected. 2 μ L of each 18 solutions were mixed with MeOH (98 μ L) and were measured by HPLC as triplicates. The results are shown in Figure S1.

Table S1: Used additives with molar mass, amount in mg, mol% and solubility.

Number	Substance	Amount	Mol%	Solubility
1	No additive	-	-	-
2	RuCl ₂ (PPh ₃) ₃	3.036 mg	5.1	Not completely soluble
3	RuCl ₃	0.637 mg	4.9	Good
4	RhCl(PPh ₃) ₃	2.926 mg	5.1	Not completely soluble
5	Rh ₂ (OAc) ₄	0.791 mg	5.7	Good
6	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O	0.668 mg	5.3	Good
7	CuOAc	0.461 mg	6.0	Not completely soluble
8	Co(OAc) ₂	0.567 mg	5.1	Good
9	NiCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.514 mg	3.5	Good
10	Fe(acac) ₂	0.796 mg	5.0	Good
11	FeCl ₃ ·6H ₂ O	0.865 mg	5.1	Good
12	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	3.289 mg	4.5	Not completely soluble
13	Pd(OAc) ₂	0.755 mg	5.4	Not completely soluble
14	PtCl ₂	0.870 mg	5.2	Not completely soluble
15	IrClCOD	1.138 mg	5.4	Not completely soluble
16	K ₂ OsO ₄	1.132 mg	4.9	Not completely soluble

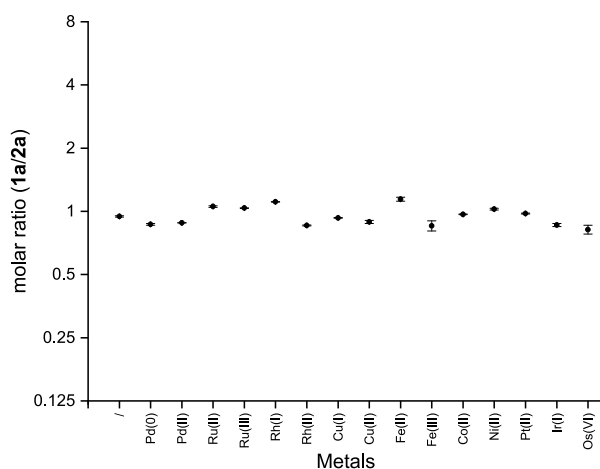


Figure S1. Ratio of sulfonamide **1a** and biphenyl **2a** after the photoreaction with different additives.

Procedures for radical studies

Presence of radical quencher during the irradiation of sulfonamide **1a**

Sulfonamide **1a** (20.6 mg, 64.6 μmol , 1 eq.) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT, 14.3 mg, 64.9 μmol , 1 eq.) were dissolved in MeOH (4 mL). Sulfonamide **1a** (20.0 mg, 62.7 μmol , 1 eq.) and BHT (139.5 mg, 633.1 μmol , 10.1 eq.) were dissolved in MeOH (4 mL). BHT (50 mg, 227 μmol) was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL). The prepared solutions were loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The crude products were analyzed by HPLC-HRMS in comparison with **1a** and **2a** and the results are shown in Figure S2.

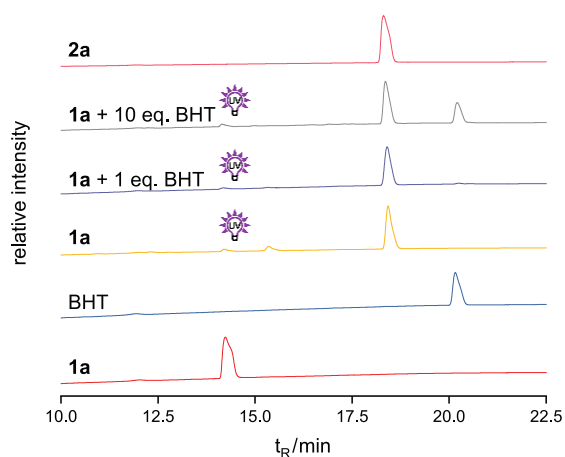


Figure S2. PDA traces from the addition of BHT as a radical quencher to sulfonamide **1a** with BHT, **1a** and **2a** for comparison.

Presence of radical starters with sulfonamide **1a**

A stock solution of sulfonamide **1a** in benzene (3.1 mmol/L) was prepared. To aliquots of the stock solution (1 mL each) were added: a) 2,2'-azobis(2 methylpropionitrile) (AIBN, 0.38 mg, 2.3 μmol , 0.74 eq.) and tributylstannane (TBS, 1.1 mg, 1 μL , 3.8 μmol , 1.2 eq.), b) AIBN (0.38 mg, 2.3 μmol , 0.74 eq.) or c) benzoyl peroxide (DBPO, 0.64 mg, 2.64 μmol , 0.84 eq.). The resulting mixtures were stirred and heated to 70 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 25 h. 500 μL of a washing solution (saturated aqueous solution of NH_4F (300 μL), saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (300 μL) and water (3 mL)) was added to each reaction mixture and stirred vigorously. The organic layer was separated and the solvent was removed under a flow of nitrogen. The residue was analyzed by HPLC-HRMS in comparison with sulfonamide **1a** and biphenyl **2a**. The results are shown in Figure S3.

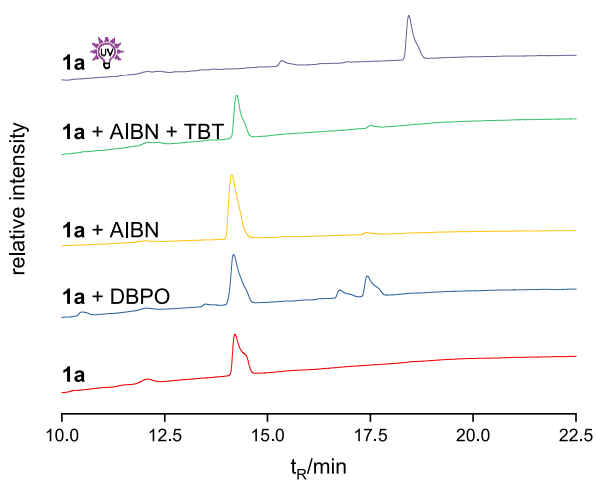


Figure S3. PDA traces from the reaction of radical initiators to sulfonamide **1a** in comparison with **1a** and irradiated **1a**.

Excess of toluene during the photosplicing of sulfonamide **2s**

A solution of sulfonamide **2s** (18.9 mg, 61.9 μmol) in a mixture of MeCN and toluene ($v/v = 1:1$) (4 mL) was prepared. The solution was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeCN/toluene ($v/v = 1:1$)) and irradiated with UV light at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproducts was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was analyzed by HPLC-HRMS in comparison with **1s**, **2s** and **2a**. The results are shown in Figure S4.

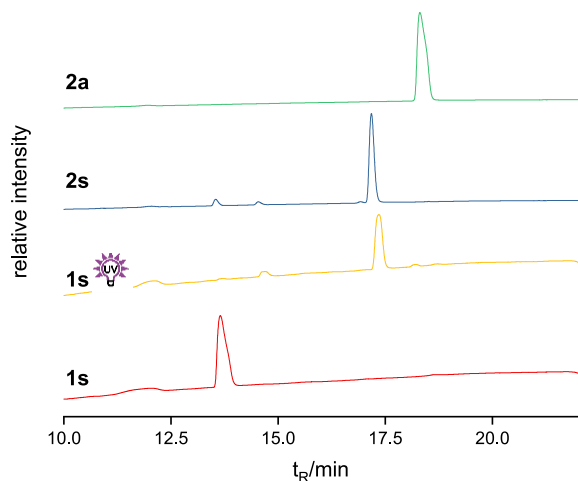
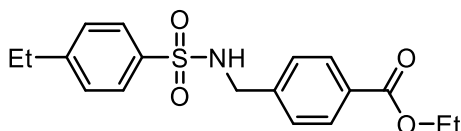


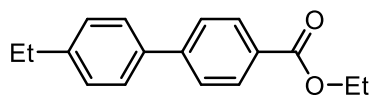
Figure S4. PDA traces from the reaction of **1s** in toluene/methanol in comparison with **1s** and **2a**.

Cross experiment



Compound 1ak. Ethyl 4-(((4-ethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of ethyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate (105.4 mg, 0.49 mmol, 1 eq.), *N,N*-diisopropylamine (139 mg, 1.07 mmol, 2.2 eq., 183 μL) and 4-ethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (100 mg, 0.49 mmol, 1 eq.) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (2 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 2 mL) and brine (2 mL). The organic solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.5$, DCM/ethyl acetate 20:1) to give the title compound (154 mg, 0.44 mmol, 91%) as a white powder.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.21\text{--}1.30$ (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ Hz, 3H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 1.33–1.42 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-O}$), 2.65–2.77 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 4.15–4.22 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, 2H, N- CH_2), 4.29 - 4.41 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-O}$), 5.02–5.11 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, 1H, NH), 7.22–7.33 (m, 4H, $\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$ & N- $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 7.71–7.79 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, 2H, $\text{SO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 7.88–7.95 (m, 2H, $\text{CO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 14.4$ (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-O}$), 15.3 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 28.9 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 47.0 (1C, N- CH_2), 61.2 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-O}$), 127.4 (2C, N- $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 127.7 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 128.7 (2C, $\text{SO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 130.0 (2C, $\text{CO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$), 130.1 (1C, C- CO_2), 137.1 (1C, C- SO_2), 141.5 (1C, N- $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}$), 149.9 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-CH}_2\text{-C}$), 166.3 (1C, C- CO_2) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4\text{S}^+$: 348.1264; found: 348.1262.



Compound 2ak. Ethyl 4'-ethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of ethyl 4-(((4-ethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ak**) (19.9 mg, 57 μmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 5 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.7$, DCM) to yield the title compound (7.8 mg, 31 μmol , 54%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.23–1.34 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ Hz, 3H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 1.36–1.47 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 2.64–2.79 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 4.33–4.49 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 7.27–7.36 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH})_2$), 7.52–7.60 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2$), 7.61–7.70 (m, 2H, $\text{CO}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2$), 8.05–8.15 (m, 2H, $\text{CO}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH})_2$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 14.5 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 15.7 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 28.7 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 61.1 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 126.9 (2C, $\text{CO}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2$), 127.3 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2$), 128.6 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH})_2$), 129.1 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2-\text{C}$), 130.2 (2C, $\text{CO}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH})_2$), 137.5 (1C, $\text{CO}_2-\text{C}-(\text{CH}-\text{CH})_2-\text{C}$), 144.6 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 145.6 (1C, CO_2-C), 166.7 (1C, CO_2-C) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$ $^+$: 255.1380; found: 255.1379.

A solution of methyl 4-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1a**) (10 mg, 31 μmol , 1 eq.) and ethyl 4-(((4-ethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ak**) (10.8 mg, 31 μmol , 1 eq.) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and was analyzed by HPLC-HRMS. No mixed products were detected as shown in Figure S5.

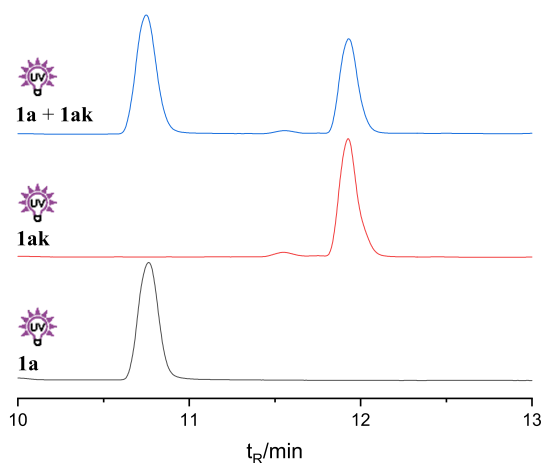
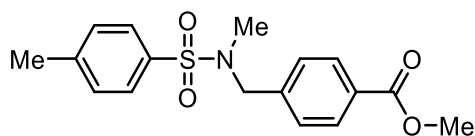


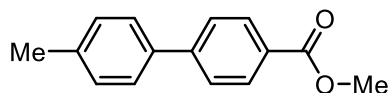
Figure S5. PDA traces from the irradiation of a mixture of **1a** and **1ak** in comparison with the crude products from the irradiation **1a** and **1ak**.

Modification of the linker



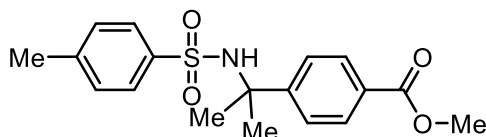
Compound 1a_l. Methyl 4-(((N,4-dimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1a**) (68.8 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1 eq.) and K₂CO₃ (59.5 mg, 0.43 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was suspended in MeCN (3 mL) and dimethylsulfate (40.8 mg, 30.6 μL, 0.32 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added. The solution was heated to 80 °C and stirred for 19 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was dissolved in DCM (2 mL) and was washed with NaHCO₃ solution. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and was removed under reduced pressure to yield the title product (72 mg, 0.22 mmol, 99%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 2.46 (s, 3H, -C-CH₃), 2.59 (s, 3H, -N(-CH₃)-), 3.91 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.18 (s, 2H, -N(-CH₃)-CH₂-), 7.37 (t, ³J_{HH} = 7.8 Hz, 4H, H₃C-C-(CH)₂- & -CH₂-C-(CH)₂-), 7.77–7.70 (m, 2H, -SO₂-C-(CH)₂-), 8.04–7.97 (m, 2H, -C(=O)-C-(CH)₂-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 21.7 (1C, C-CH₃), 34.8 (1C, -N-CH₃), 52.3 (1C, -O-CH₃), 54.0 (1C, -N(-CH₃)-CH₂-C-), 127.6 (2C, -CH₂-C-(CH)₂-), 128.3 (2C, -SO₂-C-(CH)₂-), 129.9 (1C, -C(=O)-C-), 130.0 (2C, H₃C-C-(CH)₂-), 130.1 (2C, -C(=O)-C-(CH)₂-), 134.3 (1C, -SO₂-C), 141.1 (1C, H₃C-C-), 143.8 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 166.9 (1C, -C(=O)-O-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₇H₂₀NO₄S⁺: m/z = 334,1108, found: m/z = 334,1108.



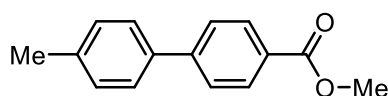
Compound 2a (=2a_l). Methyl 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((N,4-dimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1a_l**) (21.7 mg, 0.65 mmol) in MeCN (3 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.75, DCM) to yield the title compound (8 mg, 0.35 μmol, 54%).

NMR and HRMS spectra are equivalent to those of biphenyl **2a**.³



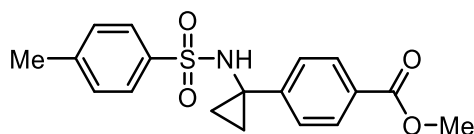
Compound 1a_m. Methyl 4-(2-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)propan-2-yl)benzoate. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (42 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(2-aminopropan-2-yl)benzoate hydrochloride (50 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1 eq.) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (62.6 mg, 82 μL, 0.48 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (2 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 2 mL) and brine (2 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.22, DCM) to yield the title compound (36 mg, 0.10 mmol, 47%) as white crystals.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.57–1.69 (s, 6H, (CH₃)₂C-N), 2.29–2.44 (s, 3H, CH₃C), 3.84–3.95 (s, 3H, CH₃-O-C), 5.30–5.45 (s, 1H, NH), 7.08–7.16 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.8 Hz, 2H, CH₃-C-(CH)₂), 7.31–7.38 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.7 Hz, 2H, C(CH₃)₂-C-(CH)₂), 7.47–7.56 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, 2H, SO₂-C-(CH)₂), 7.77–7.85 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, 2H, CO-C-(CH)₂) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 21.5 (1C, CH₃-C-CH), 29.9 (2C, (CH₃)₂C), 52.2 (1C, CH₃-O), 58.5 (1C, (CH₃)₂C), 125.8 (2C, CH₃-C-(CH)₂), 127.0 (2C, C(CH₃)₂-C-(CH)₂), 128.8 (1C, C-CO), 129.4 (2C, SO₂-C-(CH)₂), 129.5 (2C, CO-C-(CH)₂), 139.6 (1C, CH₃-C-CH), 143.0 (1C, C-SO₂), 150.1 (1C, (CH₃)₂C-C), 166.9 (1C, C-O-CH₃) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂NO₄S⁺: 348.1264; found: 348.1267. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄S⁻: 346.1119; found: 346.1121.



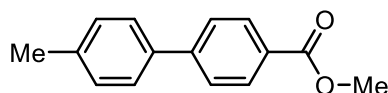
Compound 2a (=2a_m). Methyl 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(2-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)propan-2-yl)benzoate (**1a_m**) (19.8 mg, 0.57 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a

flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (8 mg, 0.35 mol, 62%). NMR and HRMS spectra are equivalent to those of biphenyl **2a**.³



Compound 1an. Methyl 4-(1-((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)cyclopropyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (30 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl-4-(1-aminocyclopropyl)benzoate (30 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (24.3 mg, 32.8 μ L, 0.19 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 12 h at room temperature and DMAP (20 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1 eq.) was added. After 1 h the solution was washed with water (3 mL), NaHCO_3 solution (3 mL) and aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 3 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.15$, DCM) to yield the title compound (18.3 mg, 0.05 mmol, 34%) as white crystals.

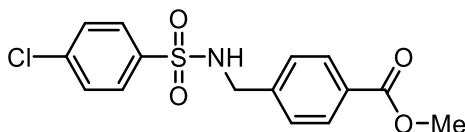
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 1.19 – 1.09 (m, 2H, -CHH-CHH-), 1.45 – 1.35 (m, 2H, -CHH-CHH-), 2.33 (s, 3H, -C-CH₃), 5.60 (s, 1H, -NH-), 3.89 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 7.19 – 7.04 (m, 4H, H₃C-C-(CH)₂- & -NH-C-C-(CH)₂-), 7.59–7.48 (m, 2H, -SO₂-C-(CH)₂-), 7.80–7.72 (m, 2H, -C(=O)-C-(CH)₂-) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 17.1 (2C, -NH-C-(CH)₂), 21.5 (1C, -C-CH₃), 37.8 (1C, -NH-C-), 52.2 (1C, -O-CH₃), 126.3 (2C, -NH-C-C-(CH)₂-), 127.2 (2C, -SO₂-C-(CH)₂-), 128.4 (1C, -C(=O)-C-), 129.5 (2C, -C(=O)-C-(CH)₂-), 129.6 (2C, H₃C-C-(CH)₂-), 138.4 (1C, H₃C-C-), 143.5 (1C, -NH-C-C-), 146.7 (1C, -SO₂-C-), 166.9 (1C, -C(=O)-O-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄S⁺: 346.1108; found: 346.1112. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈NO₄S⁻: 344.0962; found: 344.0965.



Compound 2a (=2an). Methyl 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(1-((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)cyclopropyl)benzoate (**1an**) (7.7 mg, 0.022 mmol) in MeCN (5 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (1.0 mg, 4.4 μ mol, 20%). NMR and HRMS spectra are equivalent to those of biphenyl **2a**.³

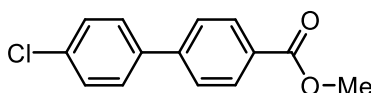
Chemical synthesis procedures for SAR studies

1a, 1b, 1c, 1h, 1q, 1s, 1t, 1u, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2h, 2q, 2s, 2t and **2u** are known compounds.³



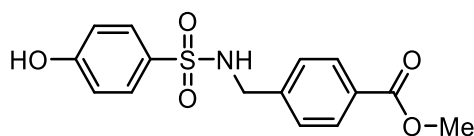
Compound 1d. Methyl 4-(((4-chlorophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-chlorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (211.1 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (20 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was obtained as white a solid (335.4 mg, 0.99 mmol, 99%) and used without further purification.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.90 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.20 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz, -CH₂-), 5.00 (s, 1H, -NH-), 7.27 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH₂-C-CH-), 7.46 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, -C(Cl)-CH-), 7.78 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.6 Hz, -CH-C-SO₂-), 7.93 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH-C(COOMe)-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (150.9 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 47.0 (1C, -CH₂-), 52.4 (1C, -OCH₃), 127.8 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-), 128.7 (2C, -CH-C-SO₂-), 129.6 (2C, -C(Cl)-CH-), 130.0 (1C, -C(COOMe)), 130.2 (2C, -CH-C(COOMe)-), 138.5 (1C, -C-SO₂-), 139.6 (1C, -C(Cl)-), 141.2 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 166.8 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅ClNO₄S⁺: 340.0405; found: 340.0408. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₃ClNO₄S⁻: 338.0259; found: 338.0255.



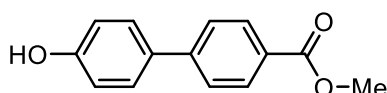
Compound 2d. Methyl 4'-chloro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-chlorophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1d**) (21.5 mg, 63.3 μ mol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.68, DCM) to yield the title compound (13.5 mg, 54.7 μ mol, 86%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.94 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 7.42 – 7.45 (m, 2H, -C(Cl)-CH-), 7.53 – 7.56 (m, 2H, -C(Cl)-CH-CH-), 7.60 – 7.64 (m, 2H, -CH-CH-C(COOMe)-), 8.09 – 8.11 (m, 2H, -CH-C(COOMe)-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 52.3 (1C, -OCH₃), 127.0 (2C, -CH-CH-C(COOMe)-), 128.7 (2C, -C(Cl)-CH-CH-), 129.2 (2C, -C(Cl)-CH-), 129.3 (1C, -C(COOMe)-), 130.3 (2C, -CH-C(COOMe)-), 134.5 (1C, -C(Cl)-), 138.6 (1C, -C-C-CH-CH-C(COOMe)-), 144.5 (1C, -C-C-CH-CH-C(COOMe)-), 167.0 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₂ClO₂⁺: 247.0520; found: 247.0520.



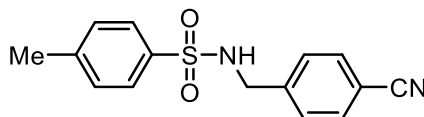
Compound 1e. Methyl 4-(((4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A suspension of methyl 4-(((4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1w**) (100 mg, 0.243 mmol, 1 eq.) and palladium on carbon (26 mg, 5 mol%, 5% loading) in MeOH (2 mL) was hydrogenated for 1 h. The suspension was filtered off and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product (75.5 mg, 0.235 mmol, 97%) was used without further purification.

¹H NMR (500 MHz; DMSO-D₆): δ = 3.83 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.00 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6.4 Hz, -CH₂-), 6.88 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.7 Hz, -C(OH)-CH-), 7.39 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz, -CH₂-C-CH-), 7.62 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.7 Hz, -CH-C(SO₂-), 7.87 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz, -CH-C(COOMe)-), 8.02 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6.4 Hz, -NH-), 10.41 (s, 1H, -OH) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; DMSO-D₆): δ = 45.7 (1C, -CH₂-), 52.1 (1C, -OCH₃), 115.5 (2C, -C(OH)-CH-), 127.7 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-), 128.4 (1C, -C(COOMe)-), 128.9 (2C, -CH-C(SO₂-), 129.1 (2C, -CH-C(COOMe)-), 130.5 (1C, -C(SO₂-), 143.7 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 161.0 (1C, -C(OH)-), 166.1 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆NO₅S⁺: 322.0744; found: 322.0737. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₄NO₅S⁻: 320.0598; found: 320.0598.



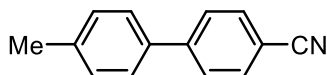
Compound 2e. Methyl 4'-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1e**) (22.5 mg, 70.1 μ mol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.18$ DCM) to yield the title compound (12.1 mg, 53.1 μ mol, 76%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.86 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 6.88 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-\text{CH}-$), 7.58 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.74 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 7.98 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 9.72 (s, 1H, $-\text{OH}$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 52.0 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 115.9 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-\text{CH}-$), 126.0 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 127.3 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 128.2 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 129.4 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-$), 129.7 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 144.7 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 158.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-$), 166.1 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3$: 227.0714; found: 227.0719.



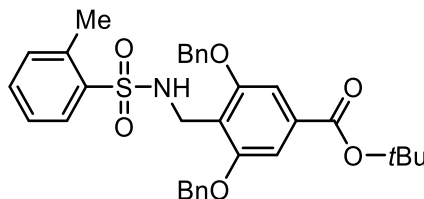
Compound 1f. *N*-(4-Cyanobenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (190.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and 4-(aminomethyl)benzocyanide hydrochloride (168.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) in 1,4-dioxane (3 mL) was prepared and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) was added. The solution was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 30 mL) and ethyl acetate (50 mL). The separated organic phase was washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. This provided the title compound as a white powder (282 mg, 0.98 mmol, 98%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.43 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 4.16 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 5.38 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}-$), 7.26–7.29 (m, 2H, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}-$), 7.31–7.34 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.51–7.54 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CN})-$), 7.69–7.72 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 46.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 111.5 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-$), 118.5 (1C, $-\text{CN}$), 127.0 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 128.3 (2C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 129.8 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}-$), 132.3 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CN})-$), 136.5 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-$), 142.0 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 143.9 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$: 287.0849; found: 287.0840. HRMS (ESI $^-$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}^-$: 285.0703; found: 285.0703.



Compound 2f. 4'-Methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile. A solution of *N*-(4-cyanobenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1f**) (27.6 mg, 96.4 μ mol) in MeOH (30 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at 8 $^\circ\text{C}$. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by preparative HPLC to yield the title compound (13.7 mg, 70.9 μ mol, 74%).

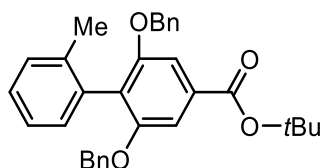
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.42 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 7.27–7.31 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3-$), 7.47–7.51 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3-$), 7.65–7.73 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CN}$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.2 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 110.5 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CN}-$), 119.0 (1C, CN), 127.0 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3-$), 127.4 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CN}$), 129.8 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3-$), 132.5 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CN}$), 136.3 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3-$), 138.7 (1C, $\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 145.6 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CN}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}^+$: 194.0964; found: 194.0965.



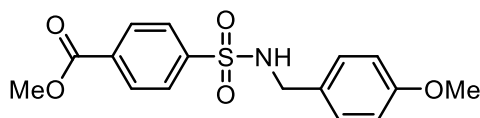
Compound 1g. *tert*-Butyl 3,5-bis(benzyloxy)-4-(((*o*-tolylsulfonyl)imino)methyl)benzoate. A solution of *tert*-butyl 3,5-bis(benzyloxy)-4-(((*o*-tolylsulfonyl)imino)methyl)benzoate (85 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 eq.) in dried THF was prepared under argon. Freshly prepared lithium methoxide (0.23 mg, 6 μ mol, 0.04 eq.) and trimethoxysilane (63.6 mg, 0.52 mmol, 47 μ L, 3.5 eq.) were added at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ and the mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature within 3 hours. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from MeOH/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as white crystals (44 mg, 76.7 μ mol, 52%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz; CD_3OD): δ = 1.55 (s, 9H, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.41 (s, 3H, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)-$), 4.28 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{NH}-$), 5.07 (s, 4H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{Ph}$), 7.08–7.14 (m, 2H, $\text{Me}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{SO}_2-$), 7.12 (s, 2H, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-$), 7.33–7.44 (m, 12H, $\text{Me}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{SO}_2-$ and $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 7.76 (dd, 1H,

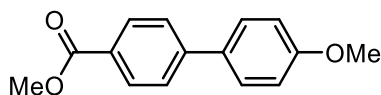
$^3J_{HH} = 7.9$ Hz, $^4J_{HH} = 1.3$ Hz, -NH-) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CD_3OD): $\delta = 20.2$ (1C, Ar- CH_3), 28.4 (3C, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 36.6 (1C, - CH_2 -), 71.5 (2C, -O- CH_2 -Ph), 82.6 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 107.2 (2C, -C(OBn)-CH-), 119.1 (1C, -NH- CH_2 -C-), 126.8 (1C, -C(SO₂)-CH-CH-), 128.5 (4C, - CH_2 -C-CH-), 129.0 (2C, - CH_2 -C-CH-CH-CH-), 129.7 (4C, - CH_2 -C-CH-CH-), 130.3 (1C, -C(SO₂)-CH-), 133.3 (1C, -C(CH₃)-CH-), 133.4 (1C, -C(CH₃)-CH-CH-), 134.1 (1C, -C-CO-), 138.2 (2C, -O- CH_2 -C-), 138.3 (1C, -C(SO₂)-C(CH₃)-), 139.6 (1C, -C(SO₂)-), 158.6 (2C, -C(OBn)-), 166.6 (1C, -CO-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_6\text{S}$: 572.2112; found: 572.2111.



Compound 2g. *tert*-Butyl 2,6-bis(benzyloxy)-2'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of *tert*-butyl 3,5-bis(benzyloxy)-4-(((2-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1g**) (12.0 mg, 20.9 μmol) in MeOH (5 mL, containing 0.01 M NH_3) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 4 mL/min (MeOH, containing 0.01 M NH_3) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.79$, DCM) to yield the title compound (6.8 mg, 14.1 μmol , 67%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz; CD_3CN): $\delta = 1.58$ (s, 9H, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.07 (s, 3H, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$ -), 5.06 (s, 4H, -O- CH_2 -Ph), 7.13 – 7.33 (m, 14H, Me- C_6H_4 -SO₂- and -O- CH_2 - C_6H_5), 7.36 (s, 2H, -C(OBn)-CH-) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CD_3CN): $\delta = 19.9$ (1C, Ar- CH_3), 28.3 (3C, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 71.1 (2C, -O- CH_2 -Ph), 82.1 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 107.8 (2C, -C(OBn)-CH-), 125.3 (1C, -C-CO-), 126.2 (1C, -C(CH₃)-C-CH-), 128.2 (4C, - CH_2 -C-CH-), 128.4 (1C, -C(CH₃)-CH-CH-CH-), 128.7 (2C, - CH_2 -C-CH-CH-CH-), 129.3 (4C, - CH_2 -C-CH-CH-), 130.4 (1C, -C(CH₃)-CH-CH-), 131.3 (1C, -C(CH₃)-CH-), 134.9 (1C, -C(OBn)-C-), 137.9 (1C, -C(CH₃)-C-), 138.1 (1C, -C(CH₃)-), 157.5 (2C, -C(OBn)-), 166.0 (1C, -CO-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_4$: 481.2373; found: 481.2363. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_4$: 479.2228; found: 479.2232.

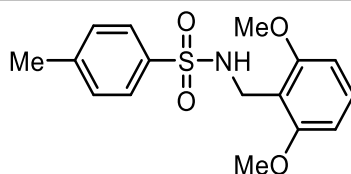


Compound 1i. Methyl 4-(*N*-(4-methoxybenzyl)sulfamoyl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4-(chlorosulfonyl)benzoate (234.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), (4-methoxyphenyl)methanamine (137.2 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142.1 mg, 191.6 μL , 1.1 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 16 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) which provided the title compound as a white powder (273 mg, 0.81 mmol, 81%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.76$ (s, 3H, - $\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)$), 3.97 (s, 3H, - $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.10 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ Hz, - CH_2 -), 4.82 (t, 1H, $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$ Hz, -NH-), 6.78 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 8.6$ Hz, - $\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}$ -), 7.08 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 8.6$ Hz, - $\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}$ -), 7.91 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 8.5$ Hz, - $\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}$ -), 8.15 (d, 2H, $^3J_{HH} = 8.5$ Hz, - $\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-\text{CH}$ -) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 47.0$ (1C, - CH_2 -), 52.8 (1C, - COOCH_3), 55.4 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)$), 114.3 (2C, - $\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}$ -), 127.7 (2C, - $\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}$ -), 128.0 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{CH}_2)$ -), 129.4 (2C, - $\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}$ -), 130.5 (2C, - $\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-\text{CH}$ -), 133.9 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$ -), 144.2 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)$ -), 159.6 (1C, - $\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)$), 165.8 (1C, - COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_5\text{S}^+$: 336.0900; found: 336.0892. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$: 334.0755; found: 334.0754.



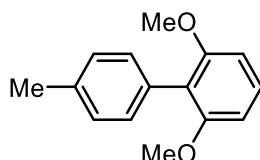
Compound 2i. Methyl 4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(*N*-(4-methoxybenzyl)sulfamoyl)benzoate (**1i**) (20.6 mg, 62.3 μmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 10 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.66$, DCM) to yield the title compound (9.1 mg, 37.6 μmol , 61%).

NMR and HRMS spectra are equivalent to those of biphenyl **2i**.³



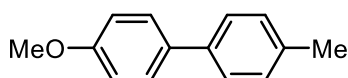
Compound 1j. *N*-(2,6-Dimethoxybenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (190.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), (2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)methanamine (167.2 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142.1 mg, 191.6 μ L, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (20 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water (*v/v* = 3:2) to provide the title compound as white crystals (257 mg, 80.0 μ mol, 80%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.36 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 3.71 (s, 6H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.25 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 5.17 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-$), 6.38 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-$), 7.10 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.15 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 7.64 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 36.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 55.7 (2C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 103.6 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-$), 112.8 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 127.2 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 129.1 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 129.3 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 137.4 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-$), 142.8 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$), 158.1 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4\text{S}^+$: 322.1108; found: 322.1108. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4\text{S}^+$: 320.0951; found: 320.0966.



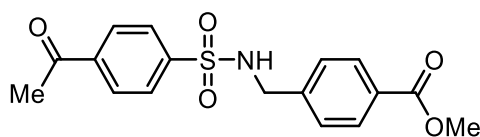
Compound 2j. 2,6-Dimethoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl. A solution of *N*-(2,6-dimethoxybenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1j**) (26.0 mg, 80.9 μ mol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.88$, DCM) to yield the title compound (10.6 mg, 46.5 μ mol, 57%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.40 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 3.74 (s, 6H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 6.66 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-$), 7.22–7.28 (m, 5H, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$ and $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 56.1 (2C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 104.4 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-\text{CH}-$), 119.7 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-$), 128.6 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 128.7 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 130.9 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 131.2 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-$), 136.4 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-$), 157.9 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OMe})-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2^+$: 229.1223; found: 229.1231.



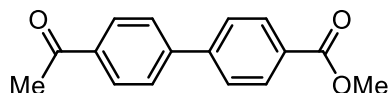
Compound 2k. 4-Methoxy-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl. A solution of 4-methoxy-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)benzenesulfonamide (Alfa Aesar, H56245, **1k**) (20.2 mg, 69.3 μ mol) in MeCN (5 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (DCM) to yield the title compound (4.3 mg, 21.7 μ mol, 36%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): δ = 2.37 (s, 3H, CH_3-C), 3.83 (s, 3H, CH_3-O), 6.95 – 9.98 (m, 2H, $(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}-\text{OCH}_3$), 7.23 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2$), 7.45 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2$), 7.50 – 7.53 (m, 2H, $(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}-\text{OCH}_3$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): δ = 21.3 (1C, $\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 55.8 (1C, $\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$), 114.7 (2C, $(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}-\text{OCH}_3$), 126.9 (2C, $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2$), 128.3 (2C, $(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}-\text{OCH}_3$), 130.0 (2C, $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2$), 134.0 (1C, $\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}-\text{OCH}_3$), 137.0 (1C, CH_3-C), 138.3 (1C, $\text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}(\text{CH})_2-\text{C}$), 159.6 (1C, $\text{CH}_3-\text{O}-\text{C}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}^+$: 199.1117; found: 199.1117.



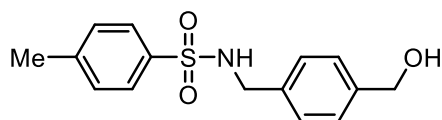
Compound 1l. Methyl 4-(((4-acetylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-acetylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (218.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was obtained as white a solid (200.3 mg, 0.58 mmol, 58%) and used without further purification.

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CD_3CN): δ = 2.59 (s, 3H, -CO-CH₃), 3.84 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.18 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 6.3 Hz, -CH₂-), 6.28 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 6.3 Hz, -NH-), 7.31 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.5 Hz, -CH₂-C-CH-), 7.84 – 7.89 (m, 4H, -CH-C-COOMe and -CH-C-SO₂-), 8.01 - 8.04 (m, 2H, Me-CO-C-CH-) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CD_3CN): δ = 27.3 (1C, -CO-CH₃), 47.2 (1C, -CH₂-), 52.7 (1C, -OCH₃), 128.1 (2C, -CH-C-SO₂-), 128.9 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-), 129.9 (2C, Me-CO-C-CH-), 130.4 (2C, -CH-C-COOMe), 130.4 (1C, -C(COOMe)), 141.0 (1C, Me-CO-C-), 143.4 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 145.2 (1C, -C-SO₂-), 167.4 (1C, -COOMe), 198.2 (1C, -CO-Me) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈NO₅S⁺: 348.0900; found: 348.0903. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆NO₅S⁺: 346.0755; found: 346.0757.



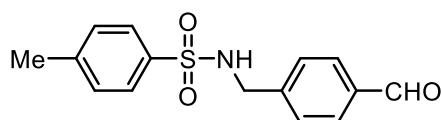
Compound 2l. Methyl 4'-acetyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-acetylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1l**) (19.8 mg, 57.1 μ mol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 2 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f =0.81, DCM) to yield the title compound (5.0 mg, 20.1 μ mol, 35%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.65 (s, 3H, -CO-CH₃), 3.85 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 7.68 – 7.73 (m, 4H, -CH-C-C-CH-), 8.05 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.3 Hz, Me-CO-C-CH-), 8.13 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.3 Hz, -CH-C-COOMe) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 26.8 (1C, -CO-CH₃), 52.4 (1C, -CH₂-), 127.4 (2C, -CH-C-C-CH-), 127.6 (2C, -CH-C-C-CH-), 129.1 (2C, Me-CO-C-CH-), 129.9 (1C, -C-COOMe), 130.4 (2C, -CH-C-COOMe), 136.7 (1C, Me-CO-C-), 144.4 (1C, Me-CO-C-CH-CH-C-), 144.6 (1C, Me-CO-C-CH-CH-C-), 166.9 (1C, -COOMe), 197.8 (1C, -CO-Me) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅O₃⁺: 255.1016; found: 255.1015.



Compound 1ao. *N*-(4-(Hydroxymethyl)benzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (190.6 mg; 1 mmol; 1 eq.), (4-(aminomethyl)phenyl)methanol (137.2 mg; 1 mmol; 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142.1 mg; 191.6 μ L; 1.1 mmol; 1.1 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water (v/v = 1:1) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (245.7 mg; 0.84 mmol; 84%).

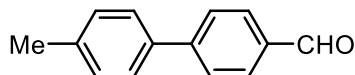
^1H NMR (500 MHz; CD_3CN): δ = 2.42 (s; 3H; -CH₃); 3.17 (t; 1H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 5.9 Hz; -OH); 4.00 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 6.4 Hz; -NH-CH₂-); 4.52 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 5.9 Hz; -CH₂OH); 5.93 (t; 1H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 6.4 Hz; -NH-); 7.18 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.0 Hz; -NH-CH₂-C-CH-); 7.24 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.0 Hz; -CH-C-CH₂OH); 7.36 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.2 Hz; -C(CH₃)-CH-); 7.71 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}}$ = 8.2 Hz; -C(CH₃)-CH-CH-) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CD_3CN): δ = 21.4 (1C; -CH₃); 47.4 (1C; -NH-CH₂-); 64.3 (1C; -CH₂OH); 127.7 (2C; -CH-C-CH₂OH); 127.8 (2C; -C(CH₃)-CH-CH-); 128.7 (2C; -NH-CH₂-C-CH-); 130.6 (2C; -C(CH₃)-CH-); 137.0 (1C; -CH₂-C-); 138.4 (1C; -C-SO₂-); 142.3 (1C; -C-CH₂OH); 144.5 (1C; -C-CH₃) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₈NO₃S⁺: 292.1024; found: 292.0994. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆NO₃S⁺: 290.0856; found: 290.0852.



Compound 1m. *N*-(4-Formylbenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of *N*-(4-(hydroxymethyl)benzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1ao**) (100 mg, 0.34 mmol, 1 eq.) and pyridinium chlorochromate (109.9 mg, 0.51 mmol, 1.5 eq.) in MeCN (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue

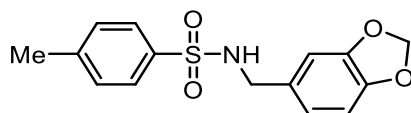
was dissolved, filtered and purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.49$, chloroform/MeOH 95:5) to yield the title compound (96.8 mg, 0.33 mmol, 97%) as a white amorphous solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.43 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 4.21 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 4.97 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-$), 7.30 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 7.39 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.75 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 7.79 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 9.97 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.7 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 47.0 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 127.3 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 128.4 (2C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 130.0 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 130.2 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 136.1 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 136.9 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-$), 143.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 144.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 191.9 (1C, $-\text{CHO}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3\text{S}^+$: 290.0845; found: 290.0840. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$: 288.0700; found: 288.0697.



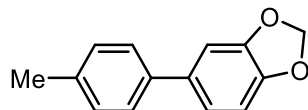
Compound 2m. 4'-Methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbaldehyde. A solution of *N*-(4-formylbenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1m**) (17.5 mg, 60.5 μmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.76$, DCM) to yield the title compound (3.7 mg, 18.9 μmol , 31%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.42 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 7.29 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.9$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 7.55 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.74 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 7.94 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 10.05 (s, 1H, $-\text{CHO}$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.3 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 127.4 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 127.6 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 129.9 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-$), 130.4 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 135.1 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 137.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-$), 138.7 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{Me})-$), 147.3 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{CHO})-$), 192.1 (1C, $-\text{CHO}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}^+$: 197.0961; found: 197.0969.



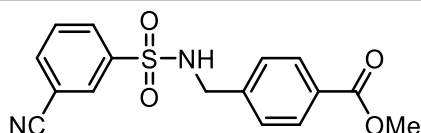
Compound 1n. *N*-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethanamine (302.3 mg, 249 μL , 2 mmol, 1 eq.), *N,N* diisopropylamine (310.2 mg, 408 μL , 2.4 mmol, 1.2 eq.) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (381.3 mg, 2 mmol, 1 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 48 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (3 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.5 M, 3 mL) and water (3 mL). The organic solvent was dried over Na_2SO_4 , removed under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.43$, DCM) to give the title compound (454.4 mg, 1.49 mmol, 74%) as slightly yellow crystals.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 2.44 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 4.01 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, $-\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-$), 4.69 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-$), 5.92 (s, 2H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 6.70-6.61 (m, 3H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.31 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 7.74 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 21.7 (1C, $-\text{CH}_3$), 47.3 (1C, $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$), 101.3 (1C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 108.4 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 108.6 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 121.5 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 127.3 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 129.9 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 130.2 (1C, $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}$), 137.0 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 143.7 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$), 147.4 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 148.0 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4\text{S}^+$: 306.0795, found: 306.0793.



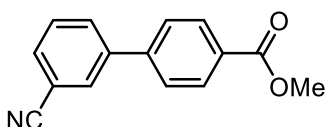
Compound 2n. 5-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxole. A solution of ethyl *N*-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1n**) (19.98 mg, 65.4 μmol) in MeCN (3 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.87$, DCM) to yield the title compound (4 mg, 18.9 μmol , 29%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 2.38 (s, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 5.99 (s, 2H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 6.87 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.9$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.08 - 7.01 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 7.22 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, $\text{Me}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.41 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ Hz, $\text{Me}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 21.2 (C1, $-\text{CH}_3$), 101.2 (C1, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}$), 107.7 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 108.7 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 120.5 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 126.9 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 129.6 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 135.7 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}_3$), 136.8 (C1, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{C}$), 138.2 (C1, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{C}$), 146.9 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}(\text{O})-$), 148.2 (C1, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2^+$: 213.0910, found: 213.0910.



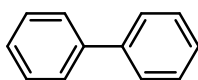
Compound 1o. Methyl 4-(((3-cyanophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 3-cyanobenzenesulfonyl chloride (201.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and triethylamine (253 mg, 347.5 μ L, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 eq.) in 1,4-dioxane (12 mL) was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (2 M, 25 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by preparative HPLC to provide the title compound (100 mg, 0.3 mmol, 30%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.92 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.27 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 5.44 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.1$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-$), 7.27 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.63 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.84 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.92 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 8.05 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 8.08 (m, 1H, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 47.0 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 52.4 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 113.8 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-$), 117.2 (1C, $-\text{CN}$), 127.9 (2C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 130.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 130.1 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 130.3 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 130.8 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 131.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 135.9 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 140.9 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 142.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 166.7 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$: 331.0747; found: 331.0738. HRMS (ESI $^-$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^-$: 329.0602; found: 329.0600.

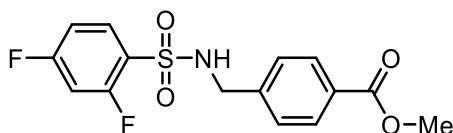


Compound 2o. Methyl 3'-cyano-1,1'-biphenyl-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((3-cyano)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1o**) (20.3 mg, 61.4 μ mol) in MeOH (20 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.78$, DCM) to yield the title compound (3.0 mg, 12.6 μ mol, 21%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.96 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 7.56–7.61 (m, 1H, $\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 7.62–7.66 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 7.66–7.70 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 7.82–7.87 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 7.90 (m, 1H, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 8.13–8.17 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 52.3 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 113.3 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CN}$), 118.5 (1C, $-\text{CN}$), 127.1 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 129.8 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 130.1 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 130.4 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 130.8 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 131.5 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 131.6 (1C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 141.3 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 143.1 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 166.6 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2\text{N}^+$: 238.0863; found: 238.0858.



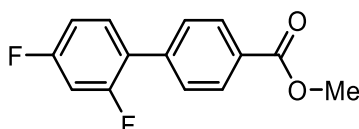
Compound 2p. 1,1'-Biphenyl. A solution of *N*-benzylbenzenesulfonamide (Alfa Aesar, H55588, **1p**) (20.5 mg, 82.9 μ mol) in MeOH (5 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by filtration over silica (DCM) to yield the title compound (traces). GCMS (EI, 70 eV): 154 (100).



Compound 1r. Methyl 4-(((2,4-difluorophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 2,4-difluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (212.2 mg, 134 μ L, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by

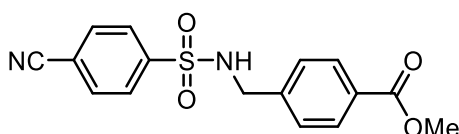
recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (316.5 mg, 0.93 mmol, 93%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.90$ (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.27 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 5.21 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.9$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-$), 6.89–6.93 (m, 1H, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CF}-$), 6.95–6.99 (m, 1H, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.29 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.86–7.90 (m, 1H, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.93 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 47.1$ (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 52.4 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 105.7 (t, 1C, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 25.5$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CF}-$), 112.1 (dd, 1C, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.9$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 3.3$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 124.7 (dd, 1C, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 14.0$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 4.0$ Hz, $-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$), 127.8 (2C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 130.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 130.1 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 132.1 (d, 1C, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 10.4$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 141.1 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 159.6 (dd, 1C, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 257.2$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 13.3$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$), 166.0 (dd, 1C, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 258.0$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 12.0$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 166.7 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_4\text{F}_2\text{S}^+$: 342.0606; found: 342.0590. HRMS (ESI $^-$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_4\text{F}_2\text{S}^-$: 340.0461; found: 340.0455.



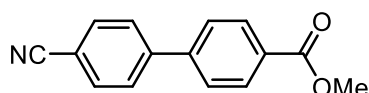
Compound 2r. Methyl 2',4'-difluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((2,4-difluorophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1r**) (19.5 mg, 57.2 μmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 2 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (11.2 mg, 45.2 μmol , 79%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.94$ (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 6.91–7.00 (m, 2H, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CF}-$ and $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.41–7.45 (m, 1H, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.57 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 8.10 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 52.3$ (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 104.7 (t, 1C, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 25.9$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CF}-$), 111.9 (dd, 1C, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 21.3$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{CF}} = 3.7$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 124.4 (m, 1C, $-\text{CF}-\text{C}-\text{C}-$), 129.0 (m, 2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 129.5 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 129.9 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 131.6 (m, 1C, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 139.7 (1C, $-\text{CF}-\text{C}-\text{C}-$), 159.95 (dd, 1C, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 250.1$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 12.3$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{C}-$), 162.9 (dd, 1C, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 251.5$ Hz, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 12.2$ Hz, $-\text{CF}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 167.0 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{F}_2^+$: 249.0722; found: 249.0725.



Compound 1v. Methyl 4-(((4-cyanophenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-cyanobenzenesulfonyl chloride (201.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and triethylamine (253 mg, 347.5 μL , 2.5 mmol, 2.5 eq.) in 1,4-dioxane (12 mL) was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (2 M, 25 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by preparative HPLC to provide the title compound (252 mg, 0.77 mmol, 77%).

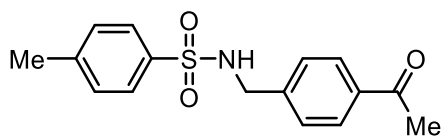
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 3.90$ (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.24 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.7$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 5.34 (s, 1H, $-\text{NH}-$), 7.25 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.9$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.76 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-$), 7.89–7.94 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$ and $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 47.0$ (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 52.4 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 116.6 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-$), 117.3 (1C, $-\text{CN}$), 127.8 (4C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$ and $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 130.1 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 130.1 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})$), 133.1 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{CN})-\text{CH}-$), 140.9 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 144.4 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{SO}_2-$), 166.9 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$: 331.0747; found: 331.0739. HRMS (ESI $^-$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^-$: 329.0602; found: 329.0600.



Compound 2v. Methyl 4'-cyano-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-cyano)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1v**) (21.9 mg, 66.3 μmol) in MeOH (20 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.68$, chloroform/MeOH 49:1) to yield the title compound (10.1 mg, 42.6 μmol , 64%).

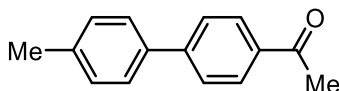
$^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = 3.92$ (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 7.68–7.72 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 7.73–7.79 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 8.11–8.15 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125.8 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = 52.7$ (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 112.4 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CN}-$), 119.2 (1C, CN), 127.8 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 128.5 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$), 130.7 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 130.9 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{O})-$), 133.3 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}-$

≡N), 144.0 (1C, -C-CH-CH-C-(C=O)-), 144.9 (1C, -C-CH-CH-C-C≡N), 167.0 (1C, -(C=O)-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂O₂N⁺: 238.0863; found: 238.0858.



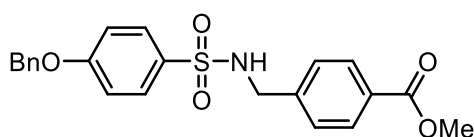
Compound 1w. *N*-(4-Acetylbenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (190.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), 1-(4-(aminomethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one hydrochloride (185.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water (*v/v* = 1:1) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (214.4 mg, 0.71 mmol, 71%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 2.43 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, -C(O)-CH₃), 4.17 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6.4 Hz, -CH₂-), 5.07 (t, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -NH-), 7.29 - 7.31 (m, 4H, -CH₂-C-CH- and -C(Me)-CH-), 7.74 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -C(Me)-CH-CH-), 7.84 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH₂-C-CH-CH-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 21.7 (1C, -CH₃), 26.8 (1C, -C(O)-CH₃), 46.9 (1C, -CH₂-), 127.3 (2C, -C(Me)-CH-CH-), 128.0 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-), 128.8 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-CH-), 129.9 (2C, -C(Me)-CH-), 136.7 (1C, -C(COMe)-), 136.9 (1C, -C(SO₂)-), 141.9 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 143.9 (1C, -C(Me)-), 197.8 (1C, -C(O)-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈NO₃S⁺: 304.1002; found: 304.0997. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₃S⁻: 302.0856; found: 302.0857.



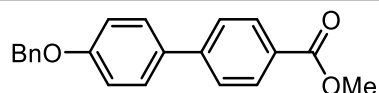
Compound 2w. 1-(4'-Methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one. A solution of *N*-(4-acetylbenzyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (**1w**) (18.6 mg, 64.3 μ mol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.56, DCM) to yield the title compound (7.6 mg, 38.7 μ mol, 60%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 2.41 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.63 (s, 3H, -C(O)-CH₃), 7.28 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, -C(Me)-CH-), 7.53 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, -C(Me)-CH-CH-), 7.67 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.4 Hz, -CH-CH-C(COMe)-), 8.02 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.4 Hz, -CH-C(COMe)-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 21.3 (1C, -CH₃), 26.8 (1C, -C(O)-CH₃), 127.1 (2C, -CH-CH-C(COMe)-), 127.3 (2C, -C(Me)-CH-CH-), 129.1 (2C, -CH-C(COMe)-), 129.8 (2C, -C(Me)-CH-), 135.8 (1C, -C(COMe)-), 137.1 (1C, -C(Me)-), 138.4 (1C, -C-C-CH-CH-C(COMe)-), 145.9 (1C, -C-CH-CH-C(COMe)-), 197.9 (1C, -C(O)-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅O⁺: 211.1117; found: 211.1115.



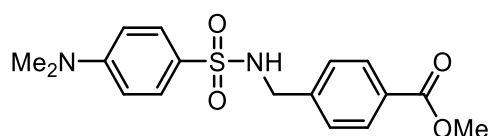
Compound 1x. Methyl 4-(((4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-(benzyloxy)benzenesulfonyl chloride (282.8 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μ L, 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product (395.8 mg, 0.96 mmol, 96%) was used without further purification.

¹H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.89 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.17 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -NH-CH₂-), 4.95 (t, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -NH-CH₂-), 5.12 (s, 2H, -O-CH₂-), 7.03 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.9 Hz, -C(OBn)-CH-), 7.27 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH₂-C-CH-), 7.35 - 7.44 (m, 5H, -O-CH₂-C₆H₅), 7.78 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.9 Hz, -CH-C(SO₂)-), 7.93 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH-C(COOMe)-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 47.0 (1C, -NH-CH₂-), 52.3 (1C, -OCH₃), 70.5 (1C, -O-CH₂-), 115.3 (2C, -C(OBn)-CH-), 127.6 (2C, -O-CH₂-C₆H₅), 127.8 (2C, -CH₂-C-CH-), 128.5 (1C, -O-CH₂-C₆H₅), 128.9 (2C, -O-CH₂-C₆H₅), 129.4 (2C, -CH-C(SO₂)-), 129.8 (1C, -C(COOMe)-), 130.1 (2C, -CH-C(COOMe)-), 131.7 (1C, -C(SO₂)-), 135.9 (1C, -O-CH₂-C₆H₅), 141.7 (1C, -CH₂-C-), 162.3 (1C, -C(OBn)-), 166.8 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₂₂H₂₂NO₅S⁺: 412.1206; found: 412.1208. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₂₂H₂₀NO₅S⁻: 410.1068; found: 410.1068.



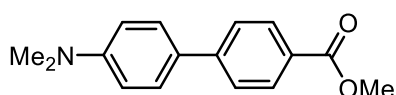
Compound 2x. Methyl 4'-((4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4'-(((4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1x**) (22.4 mg, 54.4 μmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.76$, DCM) to yield the title compound (9.5 mg, 29.8 μmol , 55%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.94 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 5.13 (s, 2H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$), 7.07 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-$), 7.26 - 7.47 (m, 5H, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 7.57 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$ Hz, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.62 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 8.08 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 52.2 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 70.2 (1C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$), 115.4 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-$), 126.6 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 127.6 (2C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 128.2 (1C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 128.4 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 128.5 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 128.8 (2C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 130.2 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 132.8 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-$), 136.9 (1C, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$), 145.3 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 159.2 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{OBn})-$), 167.2 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3^+$: 319.1329; found: 319.1325.



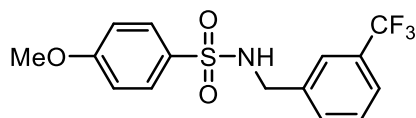
Compound 1y. Methyl 4'-(((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-(dimethylamino)benzenesulfonyl chloride (219.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μL , 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (260 mg, 0.75 mmol, 75%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.05 (s, 6H, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 3.89 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 4.14 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$), 4.79 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.4$ Hz, $-\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-$), 6.66 - 6.69 (m, 2H, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-$), 7.27 - 7.30 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 7.67 - 7.70 (m, 2H, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 7.91 - 7.94 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 40.3 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$), 46.9 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-$), 52.3 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 111.3 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-$), 125.0 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{SO}_2)-$), 127.8 (2C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}-$), 129.1 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 129.6 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 130.0 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 142.1 (1C, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-$), 152.9 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$), 166.9 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$: 349.1217; found: 349.1211. HRMS (ESI $^-$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}^-$: 347.1071; found: 347.1067.



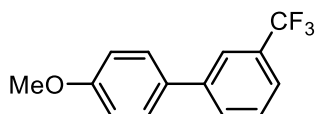
Compound 2y. Methyl 4'-((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4'-((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1y**) (21.1 mg, 60.6 μmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min (MeCN) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (5.5 mg, 21.6 μmol , 36%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.04 (s, 6H, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 3.95 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 6.86 - 6.88 (m, 2H, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-$), 7.57 - 7.66 (m, 4H, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$ and $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 8.06 - 8.09 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 40.8 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$), 52.1 (1C, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 113.0 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-$), 126.0 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 127.6 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 128.1 (2C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-$), 130.2 (2C, $-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 130.4 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}-$), 145.6 (1C, $-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{COOMe})-$), 150.5 (1C, $-\text{C}(\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$), 167.3 (1C, $-\text{COOMe}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2\text{N}^+$: 256.1332; found: 256.1332.



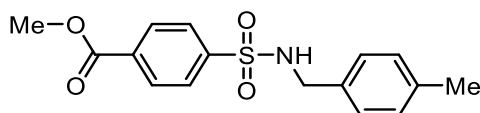
Compound 1z. 4-Methoxy-*N*-(3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)benzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (200 mg, 0.97 mmol, 1 eq.), (3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanamine (170 mg, 138.7 μ L, 0.97 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (150.1 mg, 202.3 μ L, 1.16 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (4 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 4 mL) and brine (4 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was obtained as white a solid (254.5 mg, 0.74 mmol, 76%) and used without further purification.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.81 - 3.91 (s, 3H, O-CH₃), 4.14 - 4.25 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.2$ Hz, 2H, NH-CH₂), 4.91 - 5.07 (s, 1H, NH), 6.89 - 7.00 (m, 2H, O-C-(CH)₂), 7.34 - 7.45 (m, 3H, CH-C-CH-CH-CH), 7.45 - 7.53 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.4$ Hz, 1H, CF₃-C-CH-CH), 7.72 - 7.81 (m, 2H, O-C-(CH-CH)₂) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 46.8 (1C, CH₂-NH), 55.8 (1C, O-CH₃), 114.5 (2C, O-C-(CH-CH)₂), 120.31 - 127.82 (1C, q, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 272.4$ Hz, CF₃), 124.58 - 124.70 (1C, q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 3.7$ Hz, CH₂-C-CH-C), 124.74-124.86 (1C, q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 3.7$ Hz, CF₃-C-CH-CH), 129.3 (1C, CF₃-C-CH-CH), 129.4 (2C, O-C-(CH)₂), 130.66-131.55 (1C, q, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 32.0$ Hz, C-CF₃), 131.3 (1C, CH₂-C-CH-CH), 131.4 (1C, SO₂-C), 137.6 (1C, CH₂-C), 163.2 (1C, H₃C-O-C) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl_3): -62.6 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₅F₃NO₃S⁺: 346.0719; found: 346.0721. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₃F₃NO₃S⁻: 344.0574; found: 344.0576.



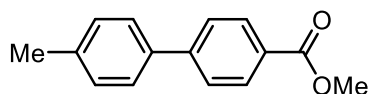
Compound 2z. 4'-Methoxy-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl. A solution of 4-methoxy-*N*-(3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1z**) (20 mg, 57.9 μ mol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 2 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.80$, DCM) to yield the title compound (4.7 mg, 18.5 μ mol, 32%).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 7.76-7.82 (s, 1H, C-CH-C-CF₃), 7.68-7.75 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, CH-CH-C-CF₃), 7.48-7.60 (m, 4H, CH-CH-CH-C-CF₃ & C-C-(CH)₂), 6.93-7.05 (m, 2H, O-C-(CH)₂), 3.80-3.92 (s, 3H, O-CH₃) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 55.5 (1C, O-CH₃), 114.6 (2C, O-C-(CH)₂), 123.38-123.50 (1C, q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 3.9$ Hz, CF₃-C-CH-CH), 123.52-123.66 (1C, q, $^3J_{\text{CF}} = 3.9$ Hz, CF₃-C-CH-C), 120.99-127.85 (1C, q, $^1J_{\text{CF}} = 272.6$ Hz, CF₃), 128.4 (2C, C-C-(CH)₂), 129.3 (1C, CF₃-C-CH-CH-CH), 130.1 (1C, CF₃-C-CH-CH-CH), 130.78-131.72 (1C, q, $^2J_{\text{CF}} = 31.6$ Hz, C-CF₃), 132.4 (1C, F₃C-C-CH-C-C), 141.7 (1C, F₃C-C-CH-C-C), 159.9 (1C, C-O-CH₃) ppm. ^{19}F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl_3): -62.5 (s, 3F) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₂F₃O⁺: 253,0835; found: 253.0835. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀F₃O⁻: 251,0689; found: 251.0689.



Compound 1aa. Methyl 4-(*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)sulfamoyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-tolylmethanamine (50 mg, 53 μ L, 0.41 mmol, 1.1 eq.), methyl 4-(chlorosulfonyl)benzoate (88 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (73 mg, 98 μ L, 0.57 mmol, 1.5 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (2 mL), NaHCO₃ solution (2 mL) and aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 2 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.20$, DCM) to yield the title compound (104 mg, 0.33 mmol, 87%) as a white solid.

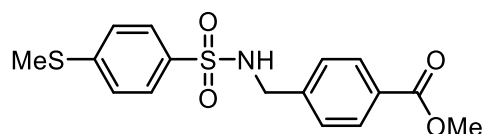
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 2.27 - 2.32 (s, 3H, C-CH₃), 3.95 - 3.99 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.10 - 4.15 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.8$ Hz, 2H, -CH₂-), 4.77 - 4.83 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.2$ Hz, 1H, NH), 7.02 - 7.10 (m, 4H, CH-CH-C-CH₃), 7.88 - 7.94 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ Hz, 2H, CH-C-SO₂), 8.11-8.17 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.5$ Hz, 2H, CH-C-C(=O)) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 21.2 (1C, C-CH₃), 47.3 (1C, HN-CH₂), 52.8 (1C, O-CH₃), 127.3 (2C, CH-C-SO₂), 128.0 (2C, CH-CH-C-CH₃), 129.6 (2C, CH-C-CH₃), 130.4 (2C, CH-C-C(=O)), 132.9 (1C, CH₂-C), 133.9 (1C, CH-C-SO₂), 138.1 (1C, C-CH₃), 144.2 (1C, CH-C-C(=O)), 165.8 (1C, O-C(=O)-C) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈NO₄S⁺: 320.0951; found: 320.0949. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₄S⁻: 318.0806; found: 318.0805.



Compound 2a (=2aa). Methyl 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)sulfamoyl)benzoate (**1aa**) (20.2 mg, 0.063 mmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 5 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed

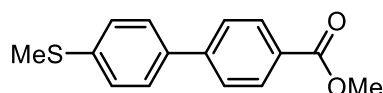
under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (4.7 mg, 0.021 μmol , 33%) as a white solid.

NMR and HRMS spectra are equivalent to those of biphenyl **2a**.³



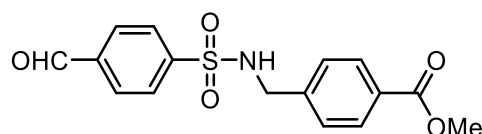
Compound 1ab. Methyl 4-(((4-(methylthio)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-(methylthio)benzenesulfonyl chloride (222.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μL , 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (307 mg, 0.88 mmol, 88%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.51$ (s, 3H, - SCH_3), 3.89 (s, 3H, - OCH_3), 4.16 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.1$ Hz, - NH-CH_2 -), 5.19 (t, 1H, - NH-CH_2 -), 7.24 - 7.27 (m, 4H, - CH-CH-C(COOMe) - and - C(SMe)-CH -), 7.69 - 7.72 (m, 2H, - C(SMe)-CH-CH -), 7.89 - 7.92 (m, 2H, - CH-C(COOMe) -) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 14.9$ (1C, - SCH_3), 46.9 (1C, - CH_2 -), 52.3 (1C, - OCH_3), 125.5 (2C, - C(SMe)-CH -), 127.5 (2C, - C(SMe)-CH-CH -), 127.8 (2C, - CH-CH-C(COOMe) -), 129.7 (1C, - C(COOMe) -), 130.0 (2C, - CH-C(COOMe) -), 135.4 (1C, - C-SO_2 -), 141.6 (1C, - CH_2 -C-), 146.1 (1C, - C(SMe) -), 166.8 (1C, - COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4\text{S}_2^+$: 352.0672; found: 352.0662. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4\text{S}_2^-$: 350.0526; found: 350.0520.



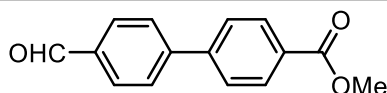
Compound 2ab. Methyl 4'-(methylthio)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-(methylthio)phenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ab**) (25.0 mg, 71.2 μmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.40$, DCM) and recrystallization from diethyl ether/petrol ether ($v/v = 1:1$) to yield the title compound (4.8 mg, 18.6 μmol , 26%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 2.53$ (s, 3H, - SCH_3), 3.94 (s, 3H, - OCH_3), 7.32 - 7.35 (m, 2H, - C(SMe)-CH -), 7.57 - 7.54 (m, 2H, - C(SMe)-CH-CH -), 7.62 - 7.65 (m, 2H, - CH-CH-C(COOMe) -), 8.08 - 8.11 (m, 2H, - CH-C(COOMe) -) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): $\delta = 15.8$ (1C, - SCH_3), 52.3 (1C, - OCH_3), 126.8 (2C, - CH-CH-C(COOMe) -), 126.9 (2C, - C(SMe)-CH -), 127.7 (2C, - C(SMe)-CH-CH -), 128.9 (1C, - C(COOMe) -), 130.3 (2C, - CH-C(COOMe) -), 136.7 (1C, - C(SMe)-CH-CH-C -), 139.1 (1C, - C(SMe) -), 145.1 (1C, - C-CH-CH-C(COOMe) -), 167.1 (1C, - COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$: 259.0787; found: 259.0789. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{S}^-$: 257.0642; found: 257.0643.



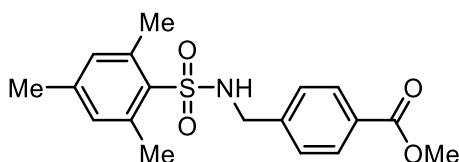
Compound 1ac. Methyl 4-(((4-formylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 4-formylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (204.6 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μL , 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (291.7 mg, 0.88 mmol, 88%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CD_3CN): $\delta = 3.84$ (s, 3H, - OCH_3), 4.19 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, - CH_2 -), 6.31 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, - NH -), 7.31 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, - CH_2 -C- CH -), 7.86 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$ Hz, - CH-C-COOMe), 7.94-8.01 (m, 4H, OHC-C- CH - and - CH-C-SO_2 -), 10.06 (s, 1H, - CHO) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CD_3CN): $\delta = 47.2$ (1C, - CH_2 -), 52.6 (1C, - OCH_3), 128.5 (2C, - CH-C-SO_2 -), 128.8 (2C, - CH_2 -C- CH -), 130.3 (2C, - CH-C-COOMe), 130.4 (1C, - C-COOMe), 131.0 (2C, OHC-C- CH -), 139.9 (1C, OHC-C-), 143.4 (1C, - CH_2 -C-), 146.3 (1C, - C-SO_2 -), 167.3 (1C, - COOMe), 192.8 (1C, - CHO) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_5\text{S}^+$: 332.0744; found: 332.0746. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_5\text{S}^-$: 332.0598; found: 332.0602.



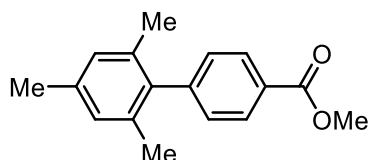
Compound 2ac. Methyl 4'-formyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((4-formylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ac**) (18.0 mg, 54.1 μmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 2 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.65$, DCM) to yield the title compound (2.4 mg, 10 μmol , 18%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 3.96 (s, 3H, - OCH_3), 7.69 - 7.72 (m, 2H, - CH-C-C-CH-), 7.77 - 7.80 (m, 2H, - CH-C-C-CH-), 7.97 - 8.00 (m, 2H, OHC-C-CH-), 8.10 - 8.16 (m, 2H, - CH-C-COOMe), 10.08 (s, 1H, - CHO) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75.5 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 52.4 (1C, - OCH_3), 127.5 (2C, - CH-C-C-CH-), 128.1 (2C, - CH-C-C-CH-), 130.2 (1C, - C-COOMe), 130.4 (2C, - CH-C-COOMe), 130.5 (2C, OHC-C-CH-), 136.0 (1C, OHC-C-), 144.2 (1C, OHC-C-CH-CH-C-), 146.0 (1C, OHC-C-CH-CH-C-), 166.9 (1C, - COOMe), 191.2 (1C, - CHO) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3^+$: 241.0859; found: 241.0857.



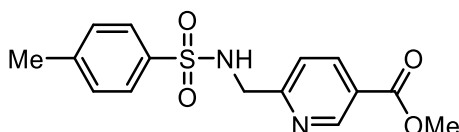
Compound 1ad. Methyl 4-(((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (218.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201.7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284.4 mg, 383.2 μL , 2.2 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (10 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from ethanol/water ($v/v = 1:1$) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline compound (287.5 mg, 0.83 mmol, 83%).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 2.27–2.33 (s, 3H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-CH-C-C}$), 2.59–2.66 (s, 6H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-C}$), 3.87–3.93 (s, 3H, O-CH_3), 4.10–4.19 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.3$, 2H, CH_2), 4.73–4.90 (s, 1H, NH), 6.91–6.98 (s, 2H, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-CH-C-CH}_3$), 7.19–7.26 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.7$, 2H, CH-CH-C-CO), 7.87–7.97 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$, 2H, CH-C-CO) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 21.1 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-CH-C-C}$), 23.1 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-C}$), 46.6 (1C, CH_2), 52.3 (1C, O-CH_3), 127.8 (2C, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-CH}$), 129.8 (1C, C-SO_2), 130.0 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-CH-C-C}$), 132.2 (2C, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-CH-CH}$), 133.6 (1C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-CH-C-C}$), 139.2 (2C, $\text{H}_3\text{C-C-C-SO}_2$), 141.7 (1C, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}$), 142.7 (1C, C-CO), 166.8 (1C, C-CO) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4\text{S}^+$: 384.1264; found: 348.1265.



Compound 2ad. Methyl 2',4',6'-trimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate. A solution of methyl 4-(((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ad**) (20.5 mg, 82.9 μmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min (MeOH) and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproducts was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The desired photoproduct was observed by HPLC-HRMS and GCMS in traces.

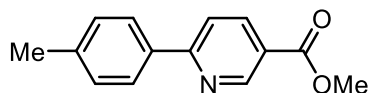
HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2^+$: 255.1380; found: 255.1382; GCMS (EI, 70 eV) m/z (%): 254 (100), 239 (9), 223 (29), 195 (52), 180 (30), 165 (35), 152 (11).



Compound 1ae. Methyl 6-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)nicotinate. A solution of methyl 6-(aminomethyl)nicotinate hydrochloride (95.3 mg; 0.47 mmol; 1 eq.) in 1,4-dioxan (500 μL) was added to a suspension of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (101.3 mg; 0.53 mmol; 1.1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (153 mg; 207 μL ; 1.19 mmol; 2.5 eq.) 1,4-dioxan (500 μL). The

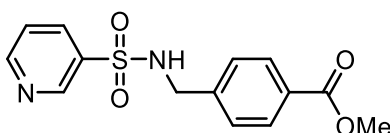
mixture was sonicated for 5 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (30 mL) the solution was washed with NH₄Cl solution (30 mL, saturated) and brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was crystallized from ethanol/water (v/v = 3/2) to provide the title compound as a white crystalline solid (75.4 mg; 0.235 mmol; 50%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 2.38 (s; 3H; C-CH₃); 3.95 (s; 3H; -OCH₃); 4.34 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 5.7 Hz; -CH₂-); 5.94 (t; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 5.5 Hz; -NH-); 7.22–7.27 (m; 2H; -CH-C-CH₃); 7.31–7.35 (m; 2H; -CH₂-C-CH); 7.70–7.76 (m; 2H; -CH-C-SO₂-); 8.21–8.27 (m; 1H; CH-CH-C(C=O)-); 9.01–9.06 (m; 1H; -CH=N-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 21.5 (1C; C-CH₃); 47.2 (1C; -CH₂-); 52.5 (1C; -OCH₃); 121.8 (1C; -CH₂-C-CH); 125.3 (1C; -C(C=O)-); 127.2 (2C; -SO₂-C-CH-); 129.7 (2C; -CH-C-CH₃); 136.4 (1C; C-SO₂); 138.3 (1C; -CH-C-CH₂-); 143.6 (1C; -C-CH₃-); 149.7 (1C; -CH=N-); 159.1 (1C; -C-CH₂-); 165.1 (1C; -C=O-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₇O₄N₂S⁺: 321.0904; found: 321.0901.



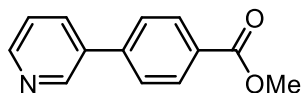
Compound 2ae. Methyl-6-(*p*-tolyl)nicotinate. A solution of methyl 6-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)nicotinate (**1ae**) (20,1 mg; 62,7 μmol) in MeCN (50 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.22, DCM with 1% *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine) to yield the title compound (5,2 mg; 22,9 μmol; 37%) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 2.42 (s; 3H; C-CH₃); 3.97 (s; 3H; -OCH₃); 7.29–7.33 (m; 2H; -CH-C-CH₃); 7.78–7.82 (m; 1H; -CH-CH-C(C=O)-); 7.95–8.00 (m; 2H; -CH-CH-C-CH₃); 8.32–8.37 (m; 1H; -CH-C(C=O)-); 9.25–9.29 (m; 1H; -CH=N-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 21.4 (1C; C-CH₃); 52.3 (1C; -OCH₃); 119.7 (1C; -CH-CH-C(C=O)-); 124.0 (1C; -C(C=O)-); 127.3 (2C; -CH-CH-C-CH₃); 129.7 (2C; -CH-C-CH₃); 135.0 (1C; -C-C=N-); 138.1 (1C; -CH-CH-C(C=O)-); 140.5 (1C; -C-CH₃); 150.6 (1C; -CH=N-); 160.7 (1C; -C-C=N-); 165.7 (1C; -C=O-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₄O₂N⁺: 228.1019; found: 228.1016.



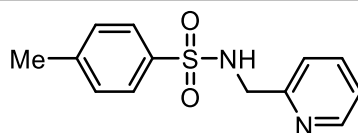
Compound 1af. Methyl 4-((pyridin-3-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of pyridine-3-sulfonyl chloride (194,6 mg; 1 mmol; 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (201,7 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (284,4 mg, 383,2 μL, 2,2 mmol, 2,2 eq.) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with water (20 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was used without further purification (135,6 mg; 0,44 mmol; 44%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.90 (s; 3H; -OCH₃); 4.27 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 6.1 Hz; -CH₂-); 5.42 (t; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 6.1 Hz; -NH-); 7.13–7.19 (m; 2H; -SO₂-C-CH-); 7.27 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz; -CH₂-C-CH-); 7.43 (dd; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 7.9 Hz; ⁴J_{HH} = 4.8 Hz; -C-CH-CH-); 7.93 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 8.3 Hz; -CH-C-COOMe); 8.09 (dt; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz; ⁴J_{HH} = 1.9 Hz; -C-CH-CH-); 8.77 (dd; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 4.8 Hz; ⁴J_{HH} = 1.4 Hz; -C-CH-N-CH-); 9.03 (d; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 2.0 Hz; -C-CH-N-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 47.0 (1C; -CH₂-); 52.4 (1C; -OCH₃); 123.9 (1C; -C-CH-CH-); 127.9 (2C; -CH₂-C-CH-); 130.1 (1C; -C-COOMe); 130.2 (2C; -CH-C-COOMe); 134.9 (1C; -C-CH-CH-); 137.0 (1C; -C-SO₂-); 141.0 (1C; -CH₂-C-); 148.0 (1C; -C-CH-N-); 153.3 (1C; -C-CH-N-CH-); 166.7 (1C; -C-COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₅N₂O₄S⁺: 307.0747; found: 307.0743. HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₃N₂O₄S⁻: 305.0602; found: 305.0598.



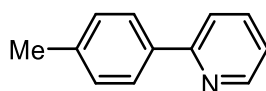
Compound 2af. Methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)benzoate. A solution of methyl methyl-4-((pyridin-3-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1af**) (17,0 mg; 56,0 μmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.45, chloroform/MeOH 95:5) to yield the title compound (10 mg; 46,9 μmol; 85%) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.95 (s; 3H; -OCH₃); 7.40 (dd; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 7.9 Hz; ³J_{HH} = 4.9 Hz; -CH-CH-CH-N-); 7.64–7.68 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 8.4 Hz; -CH-CH-C(COOMe)-); 7.89–7.93 (m; 1H; -CH-CH-CH-N-); 8.12–8.16 (d; 2H; ³J_{HH} = 8.4 Hz; -CH-C(COOMe)-); 8.63 (d; 1H; ³J_{HH} = 3.8 Hz; -CH-N-CH-C-); 8.88 (s; 1H; -N-CH-C-) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 52.4 (1C; -OCH₃); 123.8 (1C; -CH-CH-CH-N-); 127.2 (2C; -CH-CH-C(COOMe)-); 129.9 (1C; -C(COOMe)-); 130.5 (2C; -CH-C(COOMe)-); 134.7 (1C; -CH-CH-CH-N-); 135.7 (1C; -N-CH-C-); 142.3 (1C; -C-CH-CH-C(COOMe)-); 148.4 (1C; -N-CH-C-); 149.3 (1C; -CH-N-CH-C-); 166.9 (1C; -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₂NO₂⁺: 214.0863; found: 214.0861.



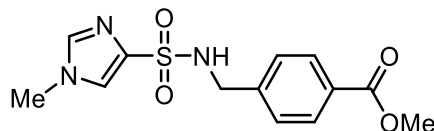
Compound 1ag. 4-Methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)benzenesulfonamide. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (190,6 mg; 1 mmol; 1 eq.), pyridin-2-ylmethanamine (108,1 mg; 103 μ L; 1 mmol; 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (142,1 mg; 191,6 μ L; 1,1 mmol; 1,1 eq.) in 1,4-dioxan (2 mL) was prepared and stirred for 12 h at room temperature. After dilution with ethyl acetate (20 mL) the solution was washed with NH_4Cl solution (30 mL, saturated) and brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na_2SO_4 , filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was used without further purification (247 mg; 0,94 mmol; 94%).

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): δ = 2,38 (s; 3H; CH_3); 4,22 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5,4$ Hz; CH_2); 6,03 (s; 1H; NH); 7,14–7,18 (m; 2H; N-C-CH ; N-CH-CH); 7,26 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8,2$ Hz; $\text{CH}_3\text{-C-(CH)}_2$); 7,61 (dt; $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7,7$ Hz; $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1,7$ Hz; N-CH-CH-CH); 7,70 (d; 2H; $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8,2$ Hz; $\text{SO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$); 8,43 (m; 2H; N-CH) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75,5 MHz; CD_2Cl_2): δ = 21,6 (1C; CH_3); 47,7 (1C; CH_2); 122,3 (1C; N-CH-CH); 123,0 (1C; N-C-CH); 127,5 (2C; $\text{SO}_2\text{-C-(CH)}_2$); 130,0 (2C; $\text{CH}_3\text{-C-(CH)}_2$); 137,1 (1C; N-CH-CH-CH); 137,2 (1C; $\text{SO}_2\text{-C}$); 143,9 (1C; $\text{CH}_3\text{-C}$); 149,2 (1C; N-CH); 155,3 (1C; N-C) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$: 263,0849; found: 263,0847.



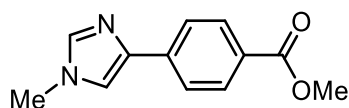
Compound 2ag. 2-(*p*-Tolyl)pyridine. A solution of 4-methyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)benzenesulfonamide (**1ag**) (23,3 mg; 88,8 μ mol) in MeCN (50 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 2 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.20$, DCM with 1% *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine) to yield the title compound (2,4 mg; 14,2 μ mol; 16%) as a white solid.

^1H NMR (500 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 2.41 (s; 3H; C-CH_3); 7.22–7.28 (m; 1H; $-\text{N}=\text{CH-CH-}$); 7.28–7.32 (m; 2H; $-\text{CH-C-CH}_3$); 7.72–7.75 (m; 1H; $-\text{CH-C=N-}$); 7.76–7.82 (m; 1H; $-\text{CH-CH-C=N-}$); 7.89–7.93 (m; 2H; $-\text{CH-C-C=N-}$); 8.68–8.73 (m; 1H; $-\text{CH=N-C-}$) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz; CDCl_3): δ = 21.3 (1C; C-CH_3); 120.6 (1C; $-\text{CH-C=N-}$); 121.9 (1C; $-\text{N}=\text{CH-CH-}$); 126.9 (2C; $-\text{CH-CH-C-CH}_3$); 129.6 (2C; $-\text{CH-C-CH}_3$); 135.7 (1C; $-\text{C-C=N-}$); 137.5 (1C; $-\text{CH-CH-C=N-}$); 139.4 (1C; $-\text{C-CH}_3$); 148.9 (1C; $-\text{CH=N-}$); 157.1 (1C; $-\text{C-C=N-}$) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}^+$: 170.0964; found: 170.0964.



Compound 1ah. Methyl 4-(((1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole)-4-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of 1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-sulfonyl chloride (100 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4 (aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (123 mg, 0.61 mmol, 1,1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (157.4 mg, 212.2 μ L, 1.22 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (3 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The solution was washed with water (3 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.5 M, 3 mL) and water (3 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was obtained as white a solid (70,5 mg, 0.23 mmol, 41%) and used without further purification.

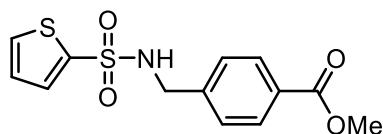
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.66 – 3.75 (s, 3H, N-CH_3), 3.87 – 3.94 (s, 3H, O-CH_3), 4.16 – 4.35 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4.2$, 2H, N-CH_2), 5.89 – 6.21 (s, 1H, NH), 7.34 – 7.41 (m, 3H, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-CH}$ & NMe-CH-C), 7.45 – 7.51 (s, 1H, N-CH-N), 7.91 – 7.98 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.3$, 2H, CH-C-COOMe) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 34.2 (1C, N-CH_3), 47.1 (1C, N-CH_2), 52.3 (1C, O-CH_3), 124.2 (1C, N-CH-C), 128.0 (2C, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C-CH}$), 129.6 (1C, COOMe-C), 129.9 (2C, CH-C-COOMe), 139.2 (1C, N-CH-N), 140.2 (1C, $\text{SO}_2\text{-C}$), 142.1 (1C, $\text{CH}_2\text{-C}$), 166.9 (1C, COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI $^+$) calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{S}^+$: 310,0856; found: 310,0845.



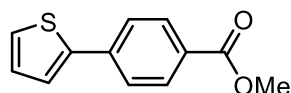
Compound 2ah. Methyl 4-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4-(((1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole)-4-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ah**) (14,5 mg; 46,9 μ mol) in MeCN (15 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 0,7 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.20$, ethyl acetate) to yield the title compound (5,9 mg; 27,3 μ mol; 58%) as a white solid.

^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 3.73 – 3.78 (s, 3H, N-CH_3), 3.89 – 3.93 (s, 3H, O-CH_3), 7.27 – 7.29 (d, $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.3$, 1H, NMe-CH-C), 7.58 – 7.63 (m, 1H, N-CH-N), 7.79 – 7.86 (m, 2H, CH-C-COOMe), 8.01 – 8.08 (m, 2H, CH-CH-C-COOMe) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 33.9 (N-CH_3), 52.1 (O-CH_3), 117.5 (1C, N-CH-C), 124.6 (2C, CH-C-COOMe), 128.4 (1C, C-COOMe), 130.2 (2C,

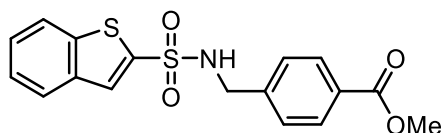
CH-CH-C-COOMe), 138.2 (1C, C-C-CH-CH), 138.5 (1C, N-CH-N), 141.1 (1C, N-CH-C), 167.2 (1C, COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₃N₂O₂⁺: 217,0972; found: 217,0963.



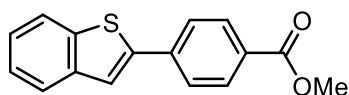
Compound 1ai. Methyl 4-((thiophene-2-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of thiophene-2-sulfonyl chloride (100 mg, 0,55 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (116 mg, 0,58 mmol, 1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (155 mg, 210 μ L, 1.21 mmol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (2 mL) was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. After dilution with DCM (8 mL) the solution was washed with water (4 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 4 mL) and water (4 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.13, DCM) to yield the title compound (162 mg; 0,52 mmol; 95%) as a crystalline solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.84-3.98 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.22- 4.36 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -CH₂-), 4.87- 5.02 (t, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -NH-), 7.04-7.12 (dd, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 5.0, 3.8, S-CH-CH-CH), 7.27-7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, -CH-CH-C-COOMe), 7.56-7.65 (m, 2H, S-CH-CH-CH), 7.89- 8.01 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, CH-C-COOMe) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 47.3 (1C, -CH₂-), 52.3 (1C, -OCH₃), 127.6 (1C, S-CH-CH-CH), 127.8 (2C, CH₂-C-CH), 130.0 (1C, -C-COOMe), 130.2 (2C, CH₂-C-CH-CH), 132.4 & 132.6 (2C, S-CH-CH-CH), 140.9 (1C, CH₂-C), 141.3 (1C, -C-SO₂-), 166.8 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₄NO₄S₂⁺: 312.0359; found: 312.0357. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₃H₁₂NO₄S₂⁺: 310.0213; found: 310.0212.



Compound 2ai. Methyl 4-(thiophen-2-yl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4-((thiophene-2-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1ai**) (20,5 mg; 65,8 μ mol) in MeCN (10 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 4 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.80, DCM) to yield the title compound (4,5 mg; 20,6 μ mol; 31%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 3.93 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 7.10-7.13 (dd, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 5.1, 3.6, S-CH-CH-CH), 7.33-7.45 (m, 2H, S-CH-CH-CH), 7.64-7.73 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.5 Hz, CH-CH-C-COOMe), 7.97-8.08 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.5 Hz, CH-C-COOMe) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz; CDCl₃): δ = 52.3 (1C, -OCH₃), 124.6 & 126.4 (2C, S-CH-CH-CH), 125.7 (2C, CH-CH-C-COOMe), 128.5 (1C, S-CH-CH), 128.9 (1C, C-COOMe), 130.4 (2C, CH-C-COOMe), 138.8 (1C, S-C-C), 143.2 (1C, S-C), 166.9 (1C, -COOMe) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₂H₁₁O₂S⁺: 219,0474; found: 219,0477.



Compound 1aj. Methyl 4-((benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate. A solution of benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl chloride (50 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1 eq.), methyl 4-(aminomethyl)benzoate hydrochloride (47.7 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.1 eq.) and *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine (61.1 mg, 82.3 μ L, 0.47 μ mol, 2.2 eq.) in DCM (3 mL) was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The mixture was washed with water (3 mL) and aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.5 M, 3 mL). The organic layer was dried with sodium sulfate, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, R_f=0.26, chloroform/ethyl acetate 19:1) to yield the title compound (72.1 mg, 0.21 mmol, 93%) as a white solid. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.89 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃), 4.32 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 6,2 Hz, -NH-CH₂-), 5.11 (t, 1H, ³J_{HH} = 6.3 Hz, -NH-), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 2H, -CH-CH-C-C(=O)-O-), 7.54 – 7.42 (m, 2H, -CH-CH-CH-CH-C-CH-), 7.89 – 7.83 (m, 3H, -CH-CH-CH-CH-C-CH-), 7.95 – 7.89 (m, 2H, -CH-C-C(=O)-O-) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 47.3 (1C, -NH-CH₂-), 52.3 (1C, -O-CH₃), 122.8 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-), 125.7 (1C, -S-C-C-CH-CH-), 125.8 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-), 127.5 (1C, -S-C-C-CH-CH-), 127.8 (2C, -C(=O)-C-(CH-CH)₂-), 129.8 (1C, -C(=O)-C-), 129.8 (1C, -S-C-CH-C-), 130.0 (2C, -C(=O)-C-(CH)₂-), 137.6 (-S-C-SO₂-), 140.6 (1C, -S-C-C-), 141.2 (1C, -S-C-C-), 141.8 (1C, -NH-CH₂-C-), 166.8 (1C, -C(=O)-O-) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆NO₄S₂⁺: 362.0515, found: 362.0520.



Compound 2aj. Methyl 4-(benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)benzoate. A solution of methyl 4-((benzo[*b*]thiophene-2-sulfonamido)methyl)benzoate (**1aj**) (21,1 mg, 58,4 μmol) in MeCN (3 mL) was loaded on the photo reactor with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and irradiated with UV light (254 nm) at room temperature. The solvent fraction containing the photoproduct was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by open column chromatography (silica, $R_f=0.75$, DCM) to yield the title compound (2,8 mg, 10,4 μmol , 18%) as a faintly red solid.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 8.12 – 8.06 (m, 2H, -CH-C-C(=O)-O-), 7.88 – 7.75 (m, 4H, -CH-CH-CH-CH-C-CH-C-C-CH-), 7.66 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 0.6$ Hz, -S-C-CH-C-), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 2H, -CH-CH-CH-CH-), 3.95 (s, 3H, -O-CH₃) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 166.8 (1C, -C(=O)-O-), 142.9 (1C, -CH-CH-CH-C-S-C-), 140.6 (1C, -CH-CH-CH-C-C-S-), 140.0 (1C, -CH-CH-CH-C-S-), 138.7 (1C, -S-C-C-CH-CH-C-), 130.4 (2C, -C(=O)-C-CH-), 129.7 (1C, -C(=O)-C-), 126.3 (2C, -C(=O)-C-CH-CH), 125.1 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-), 124.9 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-CH), 124.1 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-CH-CH-), 122.5 (1C, -S-C-CH-CH-CH-), 121.2 (1C, -S-C-CH-C-), 52.4 (1C, -O-CH₃) ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{S}^+$: 269.0631, found: 269.0634.

Computational details

The ground state potential energy surface of **1a**, **1p** and **1aa** were sampled by means of relaxed scans and conformer analysis. All ground state density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out using the range-separated exchange correlation functional CAM-B3LYP⁴ and the all-electron def2-TZVP triple- ζ basis set⁵. Dispersion interactions were taken into account by Grimme's D3-model with Becke-Johnson damping⁶⁻⁷.

Relaxed scans were performed with Gaussian 16, Revision B.01⁸ at the DFT level (CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP) by varying the central (C-N-S-C)-dihedral angle in the sulfonamide-linker from -180° to 180° in 37 steps while equilibrating the remaining degrees of freedom at each step.

Possible conformers of the biaryl substrates were generated by the simulated annealing procedure as implemented in Grimme's extended tight binding code GFN-xTB 5.8 using the GFN2-parametrization. Effects of solvation (acetonitrile) on the conformer geometries were taken into account by the generalized Born solvent area (GBSA) continuum solvation model⁹. Improved energies¹⁰ for the conformers (generated by xTB) were calculated with the domain-based local pair natural orbital coupled cluster approach with triples corrections (DLPNO-CCSD(T)) as implemented in ORCA 4.0.1.2¹¹⁻¹². The def2-QZVPP and the corresponding auxiliary basis sets were utilized¹³⁻¹⁵. Solvent effects (acetonitrile, $\epsilon = 36.6$, $n = 1.344$) on the coupled cluster single point energies were taken into account by the conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM)¹⁶⁻¹⁷. Tight criteria were used for the self-consistent-field convergence and the truncation threshold in the DLPNO procedure (TightPNO, $T_{\text{CutPairs}} = 10^{-5}$, $T_{\text{CutPNO}} = 10^{-7}$, $T_{\text{cutMKN}} = 10^{-4}$)¹⁸. To visualize the correlation between the conformer bonding parameters and their coupled cluster energies, a principal component analysis was conducted using a set of eight internal coordinates as features.

Transition state (TS) optimizations, subsequent vibrational analysis and reaction path calculations were carried out at the DFT level, while the nature of the first-order saddle points was confirmed by vibrational analysis. Minimum energy paths were obtained by calculating the intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) using the Hessian predictor-corrector method as implemented in Gaussian¹⁹⁻²⁰ to verify that the optimized TS connects the presumed educt and product of the biaryl coupling reaction. The exact Hessian was recalculated every seventh IRC step. Equally spaced geometries were sampled from both sides of the IRC every sixth step, yielding reaction paths for the subsequent excited state calculations.

All excited-state calculations were carried out in Gaussian 16 using time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) and along the sampled IRC-images. The same basis set and dispersion correction model as for the preliminary ground state DFT calculations was applied. This computational setup allows a balanced description of local as well as of charge transfer excitations among the π -systems of educt and product states.²¹ Vertical excitation energies and oscillator strengths for the six lowest singlet excited states were calculated for the sampled geometries along the IRC. Solvent effects (acetonitrile) on the vertical excitation energies and oscillator strengths were taken into account by CPCM. Excited state characters were interpreted in terms of natural transition orbitals (NTOs)²² as calculated by Multiwfn 3.5²³.

Ground state calculations

Conformational analysis

Definition of internal coordinates for the PCA

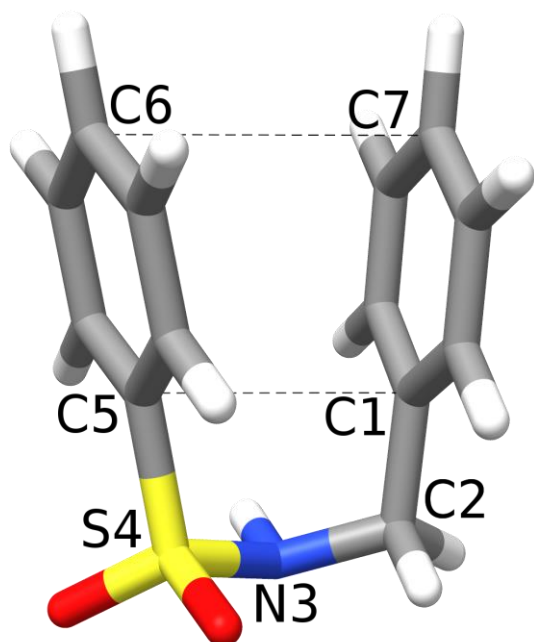


Figure S6: Atom labels used in defining the internal coordinates for the principal component analysis (PCA) of **1a**, **1p** and **1aa**.

Table S2: Definition of the eight internal coordinates used as features in the PCA.

Internal coordinate type	Indices
Distance	C6-C7
Distance	C5-C1
Angle	C5-S4-N3
Angle	S4-N3-C2
Angle	N3-C2-C1
Angle	C5-N3-C2
Dihedral	C5-S4-N3-C2
Dihedral	S4-N3-C2-C1

Conformers of **1p**

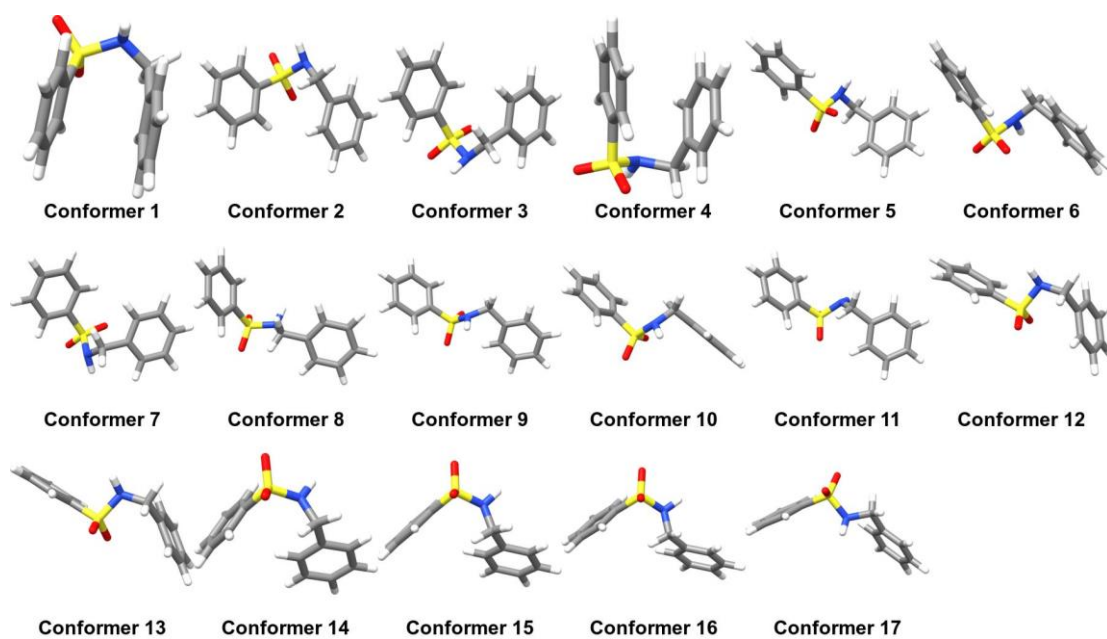


Figure S7: Conformers of **1p** obtained at the GFN2-xTB/GBSA (acetonitrile) level of theory.

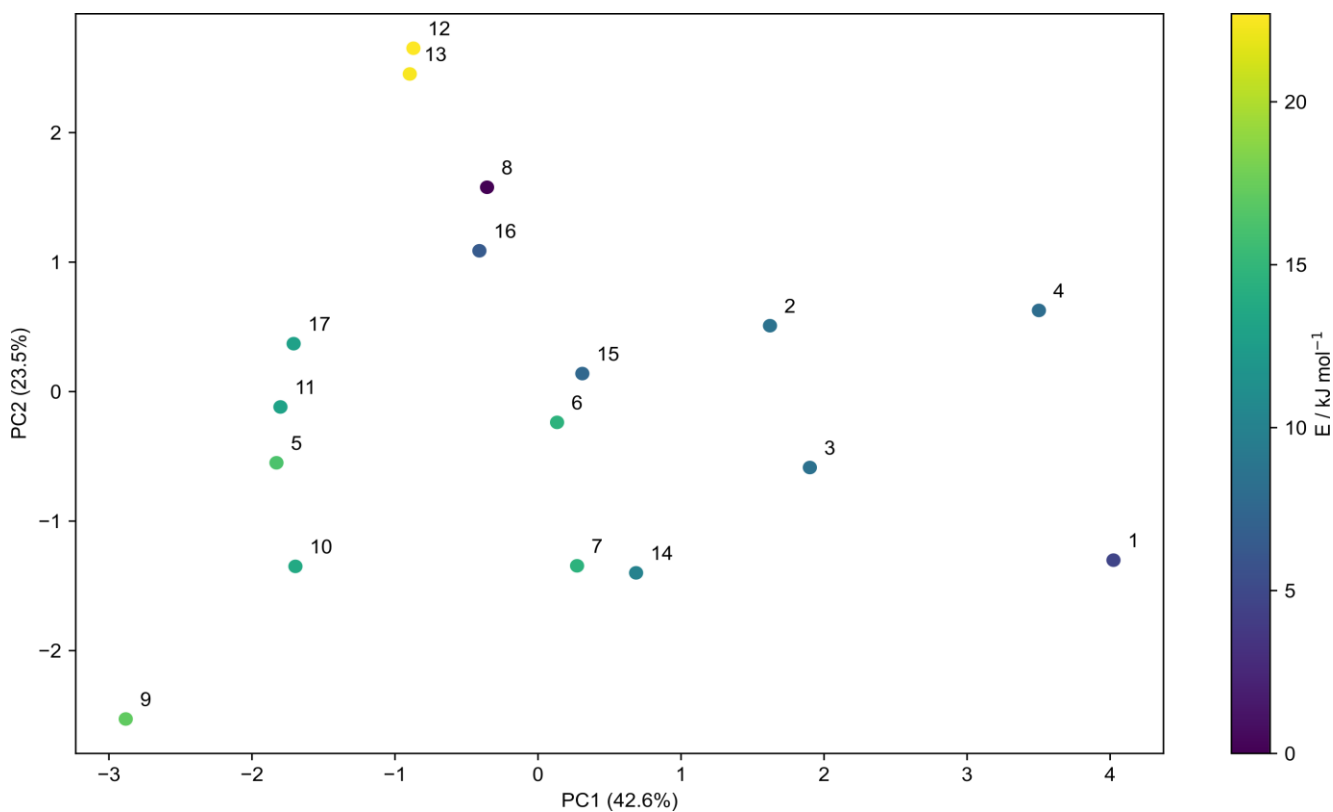


Figure S8: Scatter plot of the DLPNO-CCSD(T)/def2-QZVPP/CPCM (acetonitrile) energies for the first two principal components of the PCA for **1p**. All energies are given in relation to the minimum energy (conformer 8).

Conformers of **1a**

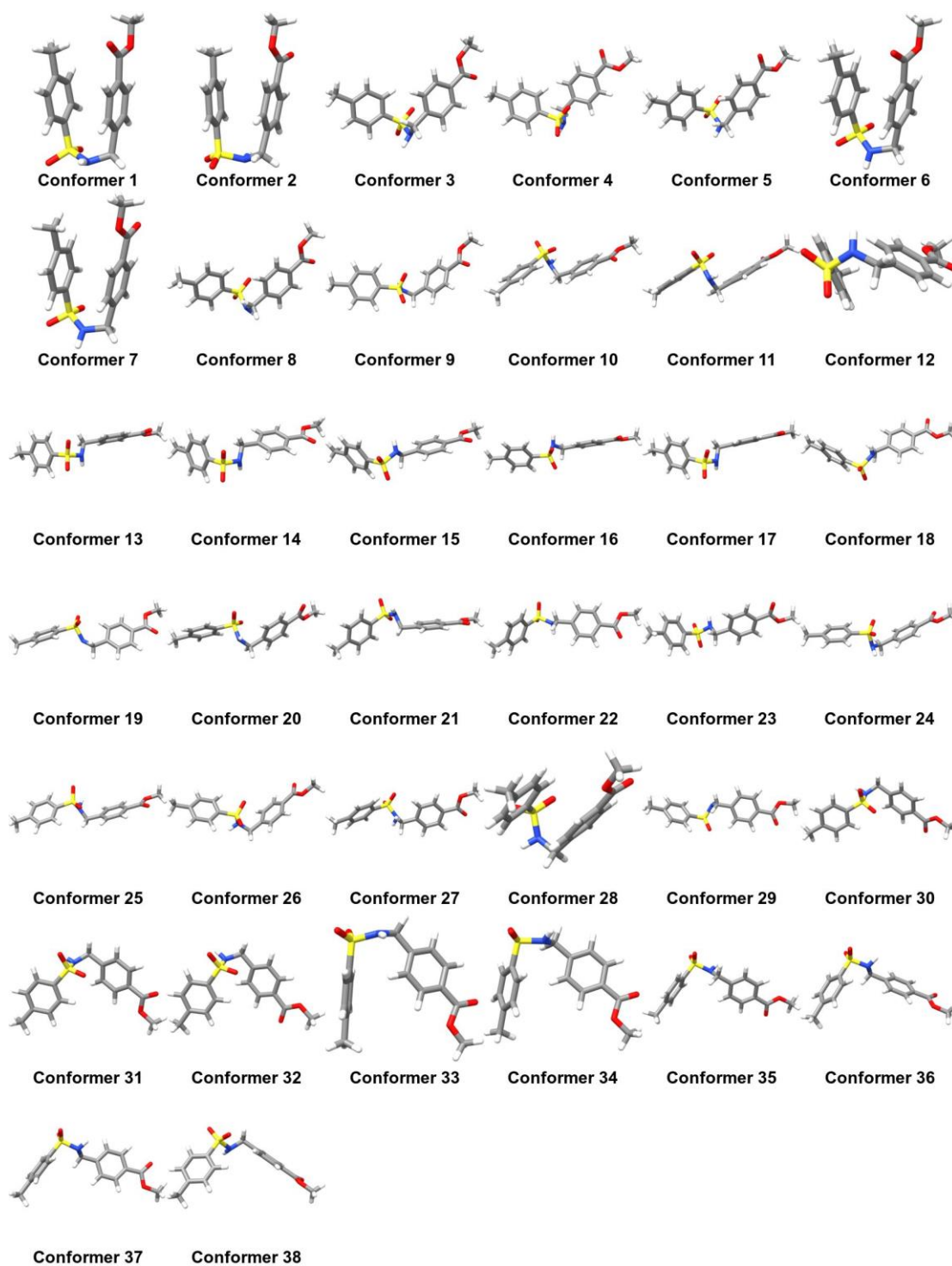


Figure S9: Conformers of **1a** obtained at the GFN2-xTB/GBSA (acetonitrile) level of theory.

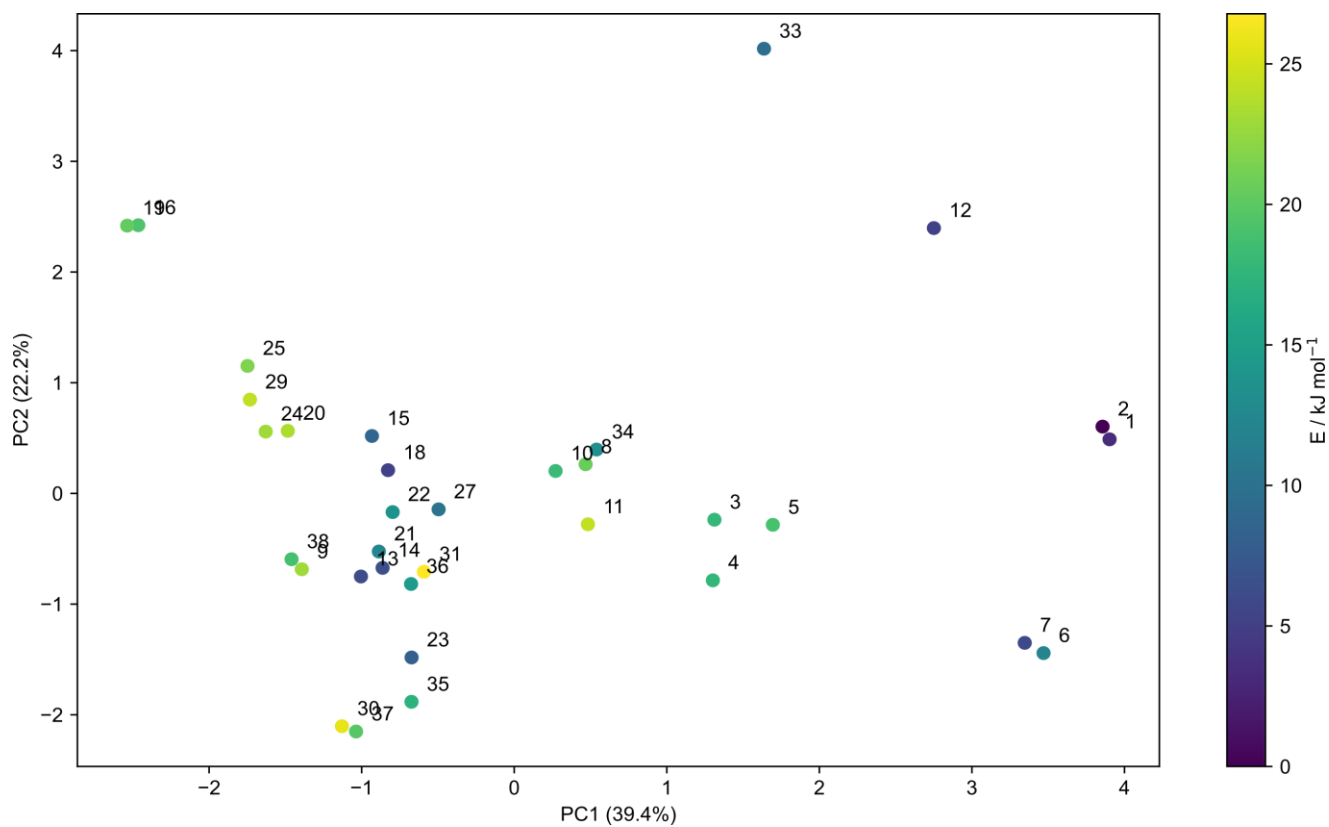


Figure S10: Scatter plot of the DLPNO-CCSD(T)/def2-QZVPP/CPCM (acetonitrile) energies for the first two principal components of the PCA for **1a**. All energies are given in relation to the minimum energy (conformer 2). Conformers with energies above 30 kJ/mol (conformers 17, 26, 28 and 32) were excluded.

Conformers of 1aa

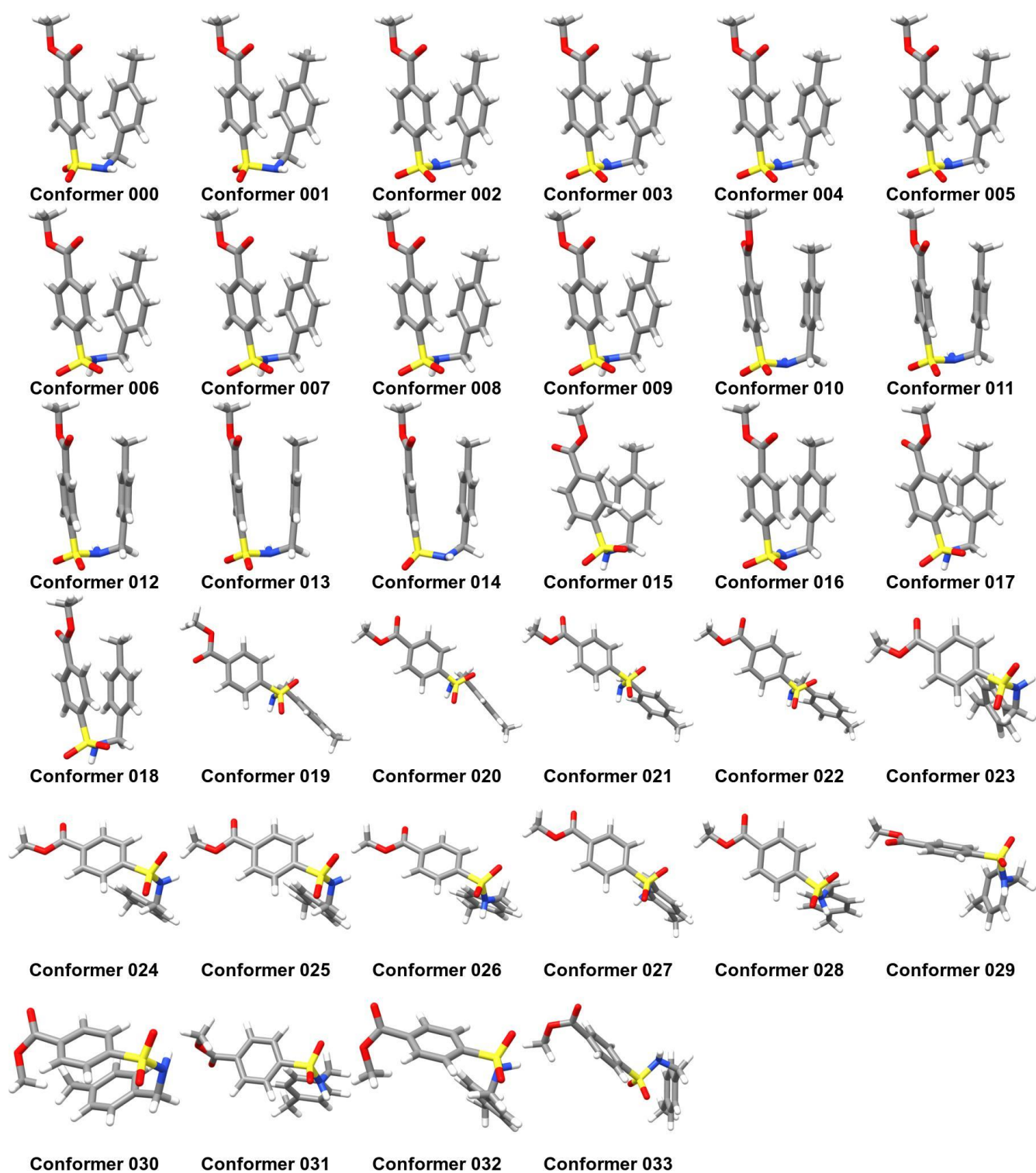


Figure S11: Conformers of 1aa obtained at the GFN2-xTB/GBSA (acetonitrile) level of theory.

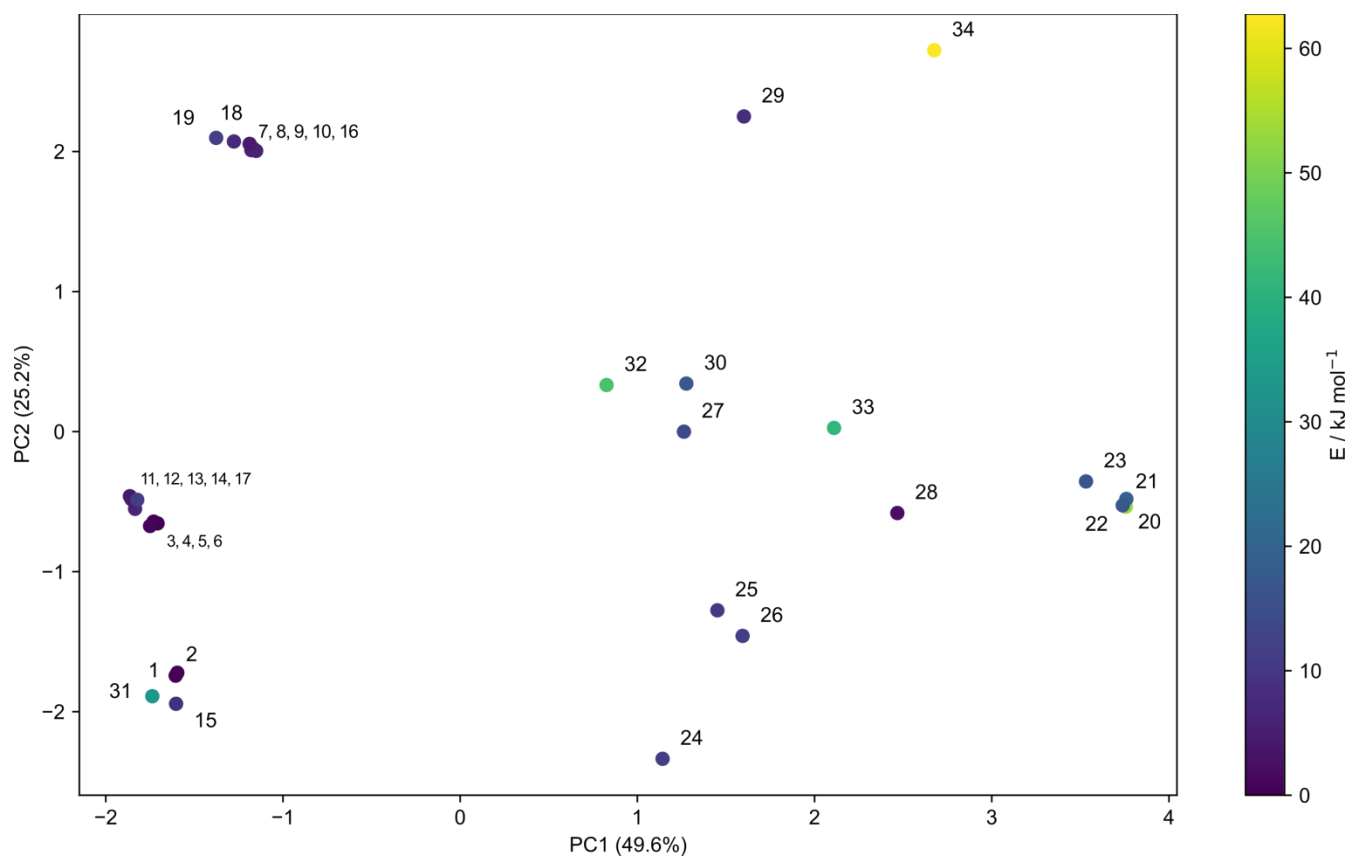


Figure S12: Scatter plot of the DLPNO-CCSD(T)/def2-QZVPP/CPCM (acetonitrile) energies for the first two principal components of the PCA for **1aa**. All energies are given in relation to the minimum energy (conformer 6). Conformers with energies above 30 kJ/mol (conformers 28-36) were excluded.

Frontier molecular orbitals

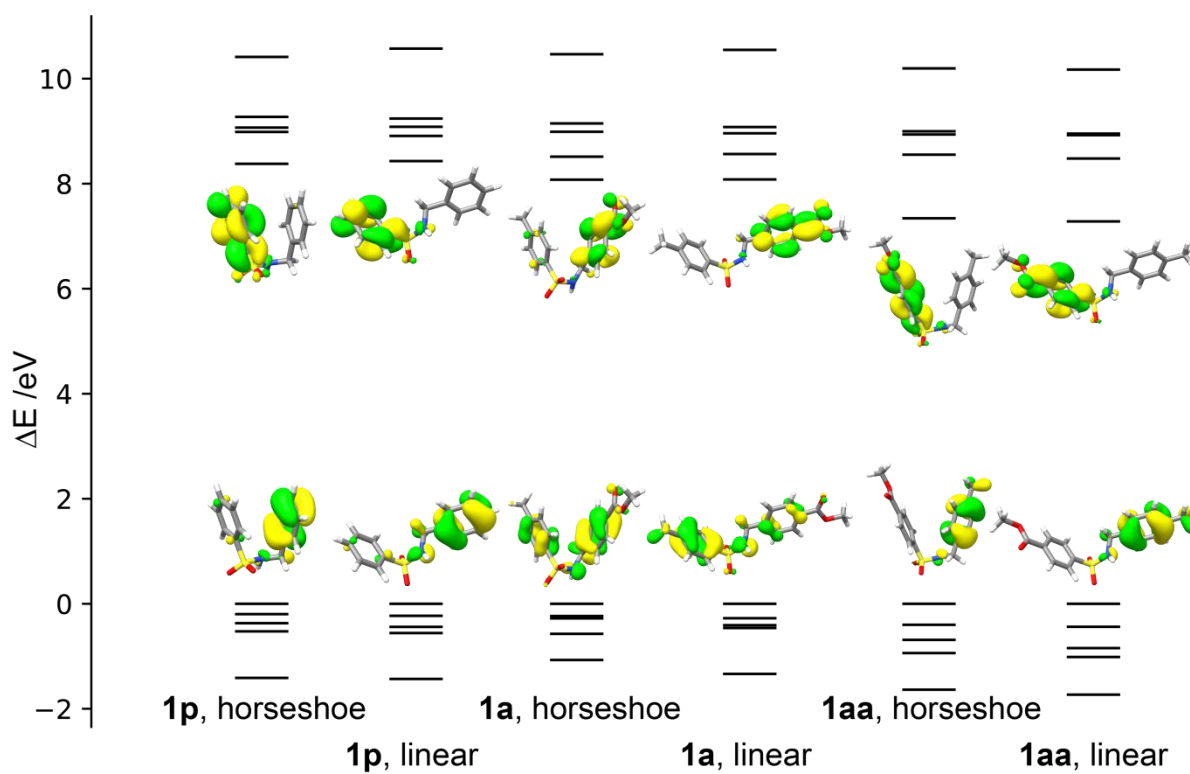


Figure S13: Isocontour plots and energies of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) for linear and horseshoe conformations of **1a**, **1p** and **1aa** as obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate of **1p**

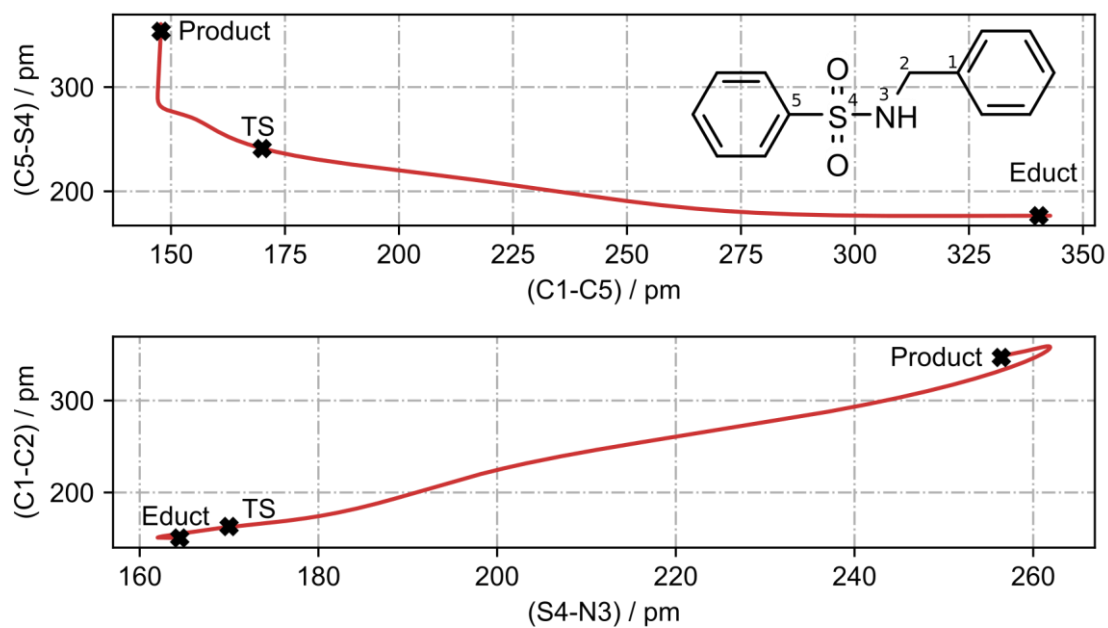


Figure S14: Selected bond lengths over the course of the IRC for **1p** as obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP level of theory.

Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate of **1a**

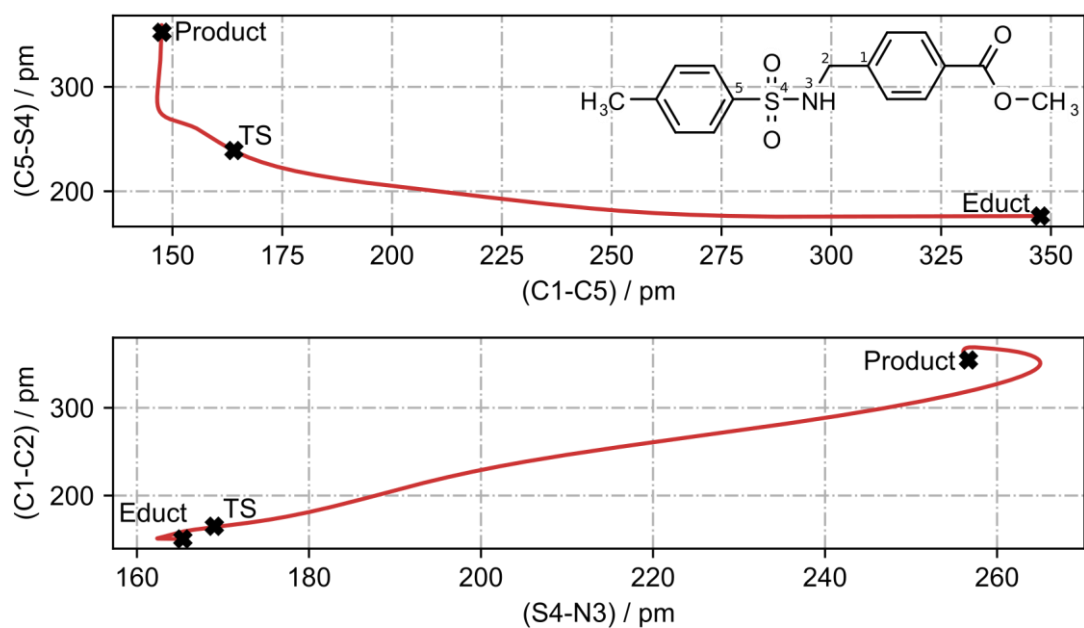


Figure S15: Selected bond lengths over the course of the IRC for **1a** as obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP level of theory.

Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate of **1aa**

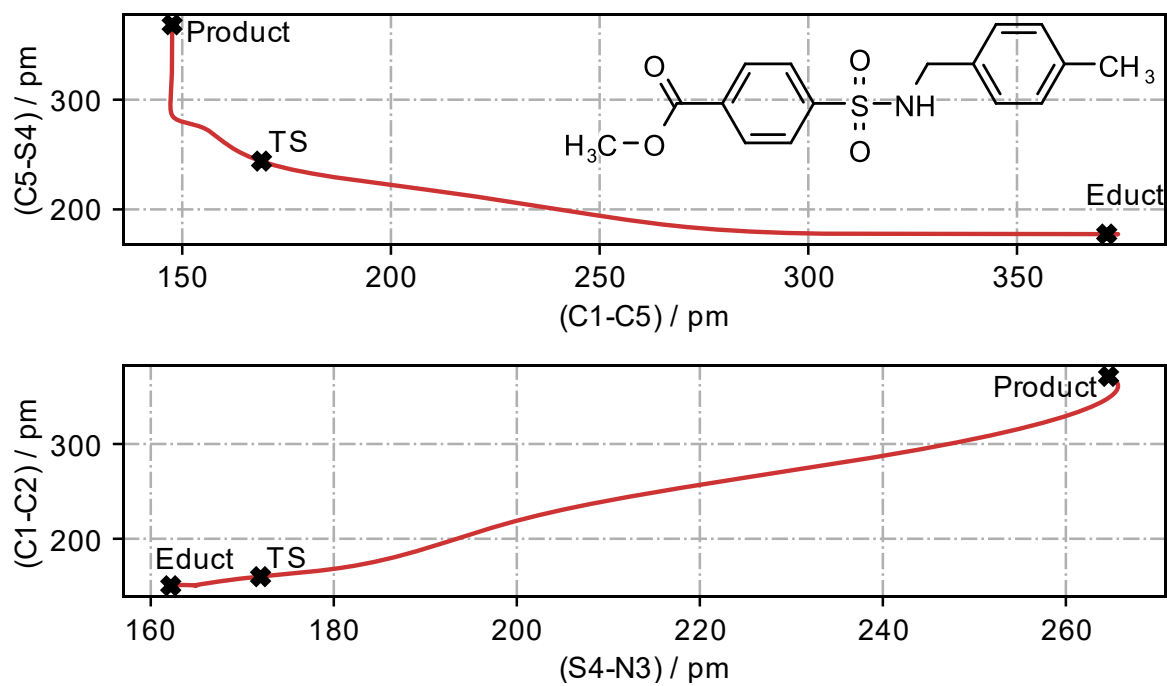


Figure S16: Selected bond lengths over the course of the IRC for **1aa** as obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP level of theory.

Excited state calculations

Comparison between experimental and calculated spectrum

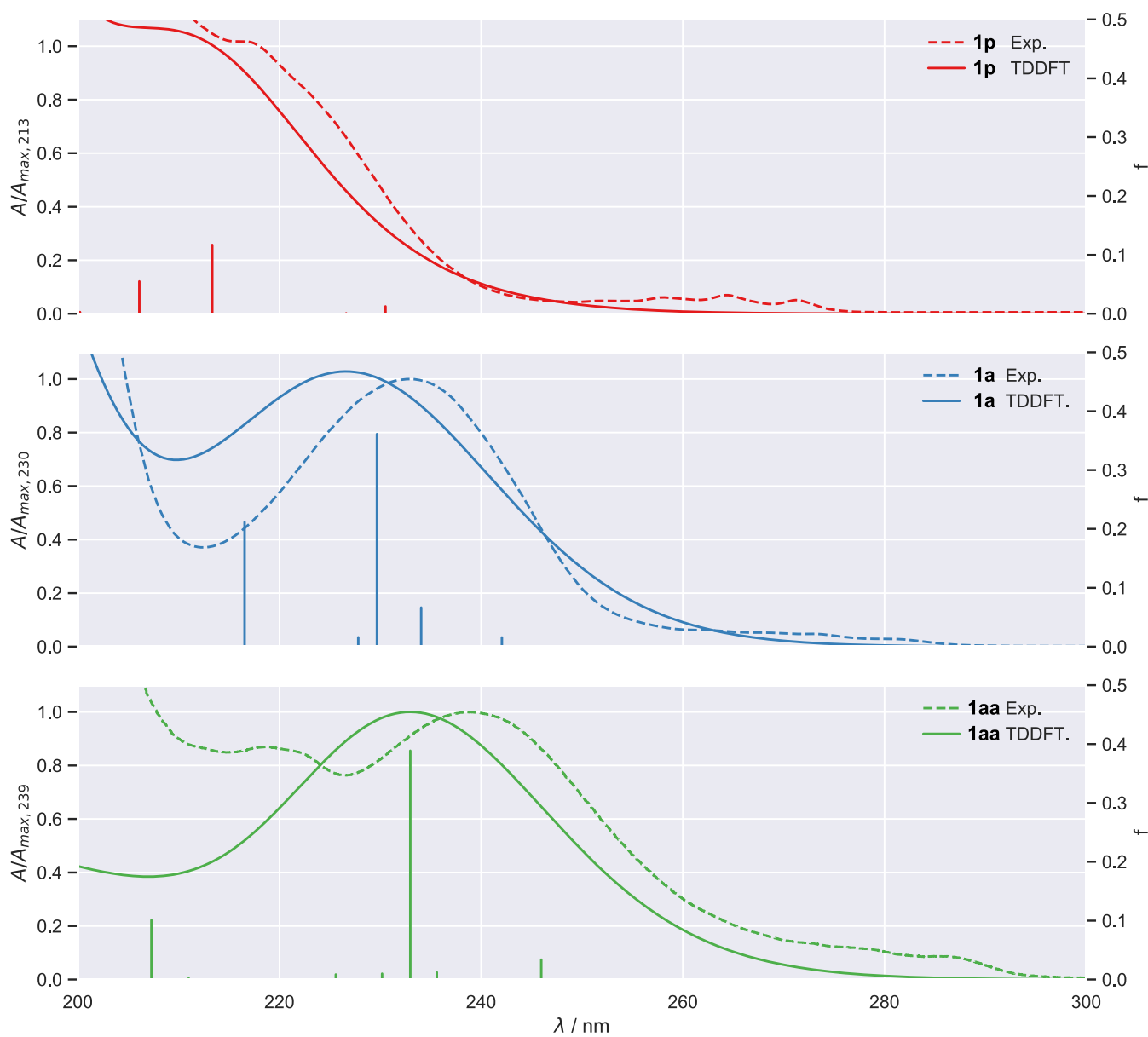


Figure S17: Comparison between experimental (dashed line) and calculated spectrum of **1p**, **1a** and **1aa** as obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

Nomenclature

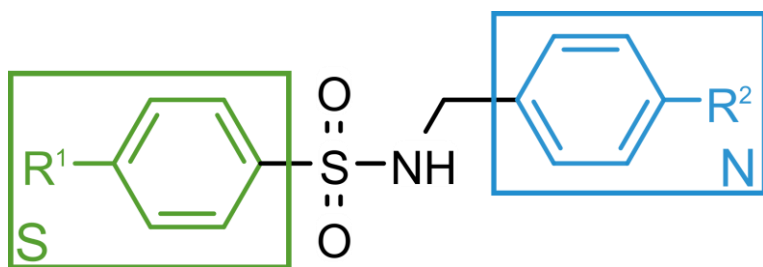


Figure S18: π -orbitals located on the S-linked phenyl residue (green) are denoted by a S-subscript (π_S), whereas π -orbitals located on the CH_2 -NH-linked phenyl residue (blue) are given a N-subscript (π_N).

TDDFT spectrum of **1p**, horseshoe

Table S3: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ/nm), excitation energies ($\Delta E/\text{eV}$), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs of **1p** for a horseshoe conformation at the educt side of the IRC obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ/nm	$\Delta E/\text{eV}$	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	230.5	5.38	0.0125	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	67
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	33
S ₂	226.6	5.47	0.0007	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	52
				$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	48
S ₃	213.3	5.81	0.1169	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	86
S ₄	206.1	6.02	0.0550	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*, \pi_S^*, \sigma_{CC}$	74
				$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	19
S ₅	200.2	6.19	0.0028	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	87
S ₆	194.6	6.37	0.0172	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	94

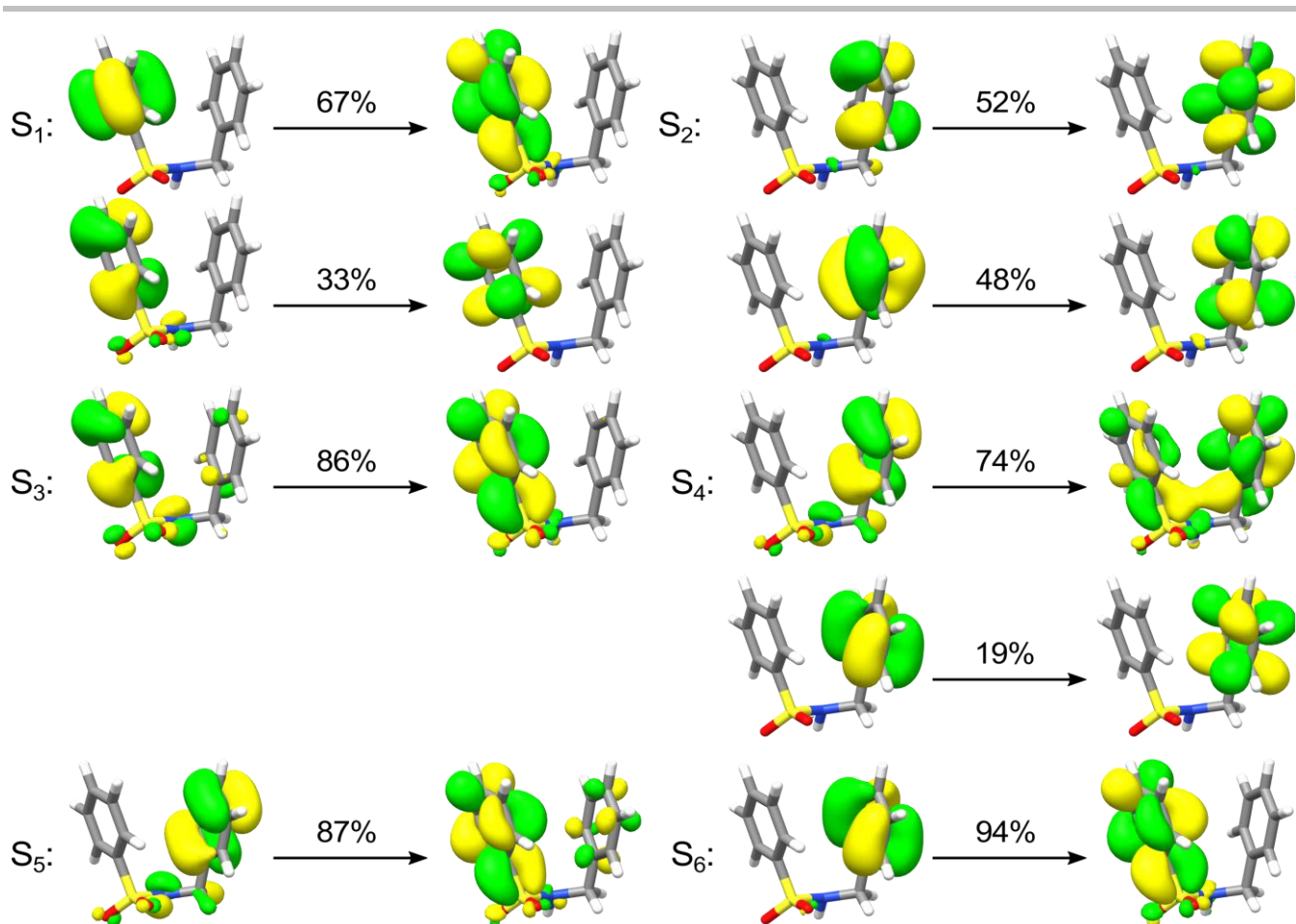


Figure S19: Leading NTO pairs for the horseshoe conformation of **1p**.

TDDFT spectrum of **1p**, linear

Table S4: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ/nm), excitation energies ($\Delta E/\text{eV}$), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs for a linear form of **1p** (linear minimum of the relaxed scan) obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ/nm	$\Delta E/\text{eV}$	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	229.3	5.41	0.0122	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	63
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	37
S ₂	226.0	5.49	0.0001	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	54
				$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	45
S ₃	210.5	5.89	0.2619	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	83
S ₄	204.1	6.08	0.0350	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	68
				$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	30
S ₅	189.0	6.56	0.5052	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	57
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	35
S ₆	183.6	6.75	0.4564	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	63
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	36

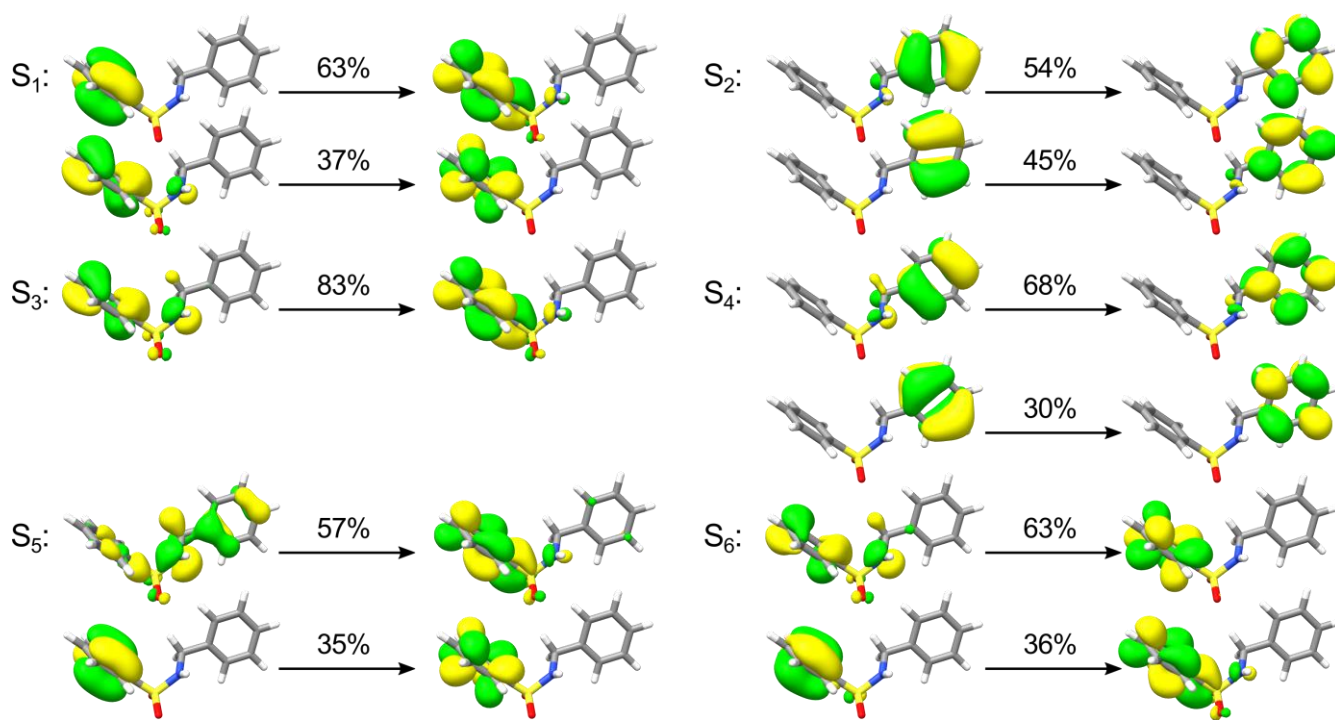


Figure S20: Leading NTO pairs for the linear form of 1p.

TDDFT spectrum of **1a**, horseshoe

Table S5: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ /nm), excitation energies (ΔE /eV), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs of **1a** for a horseshoe conformation at the educt side of the IRC obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ /nm	ΔE /eV	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	242.1	5.12	0.0157	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	74
				$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	25
S ₂	234.1	5.30	0.0664	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*, \sigma_{CC}$	57
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	28
S ₃	229.7	5.40	0.3611	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	70
				$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	16
S ₄	227.8	5.44	0.0158	$n_O \rightarrow \pi_N^*$	98
S ₅	216.5	5.73	0.2116	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	82
S ₆	195.9	6.33	0.0444	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi_N^*, \sigma_{CC}$	58
				$\pi_S, \pi_N \rightarrow \pi_S^*$	24

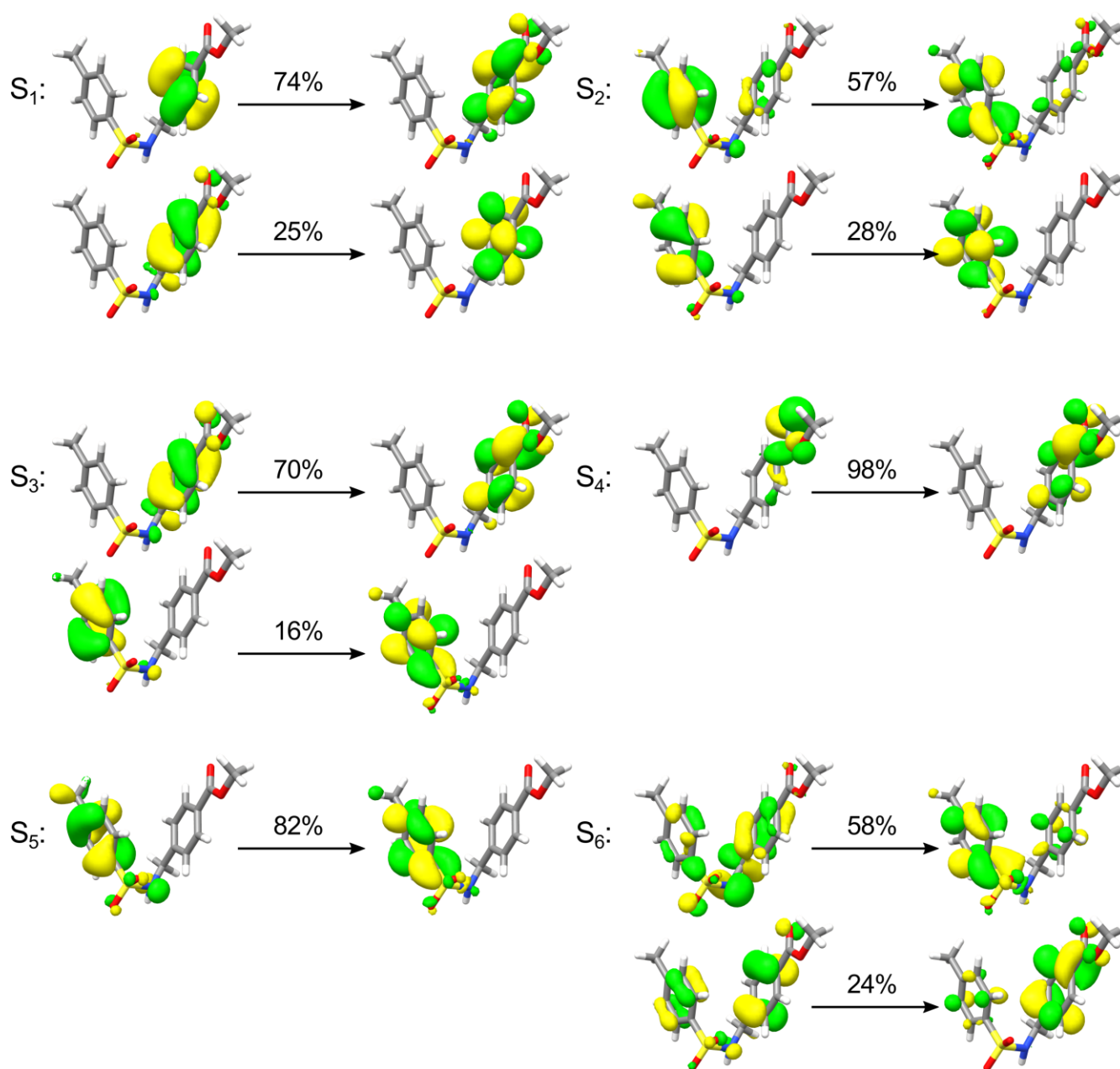


Figure S21: Leading NTO pairs for the horseshoe conformation of **1a**.

TDDFT spectrum of **1a**, linear

Table S6: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ/nm), excitation energies ($\Delta E/\text{eV}$), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs for a linear form of **1a** (linear minimum of the relaxed scan) obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ/nm	$\Delta E/\text{eV}$	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	240.4	5.16	0.0212	$\pi_{\text{N}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	74
				$\pi_{\text{N}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	26
S ₂	231.9	5.35	0.0063	$\pi_{\text{S}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{S}}^*$	53
				$\pi_{\text{S}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{S}}^*$	47
S ₃	228.2	5.43	0.0767	$n_{\text{O}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	97
S ₄	227.7	5.44	0.5335	$\pi_{\text{N}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	90
S ₅	215.6	5.75	0.2402	$\pi_{\text{S}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{S}}^*$	83
S ₆	193.5	6.41	0.0721	$p_{\text{N}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	79
				$\pi_{\text{N}} \rightarrow \pi_{\text{N}}^*$	20

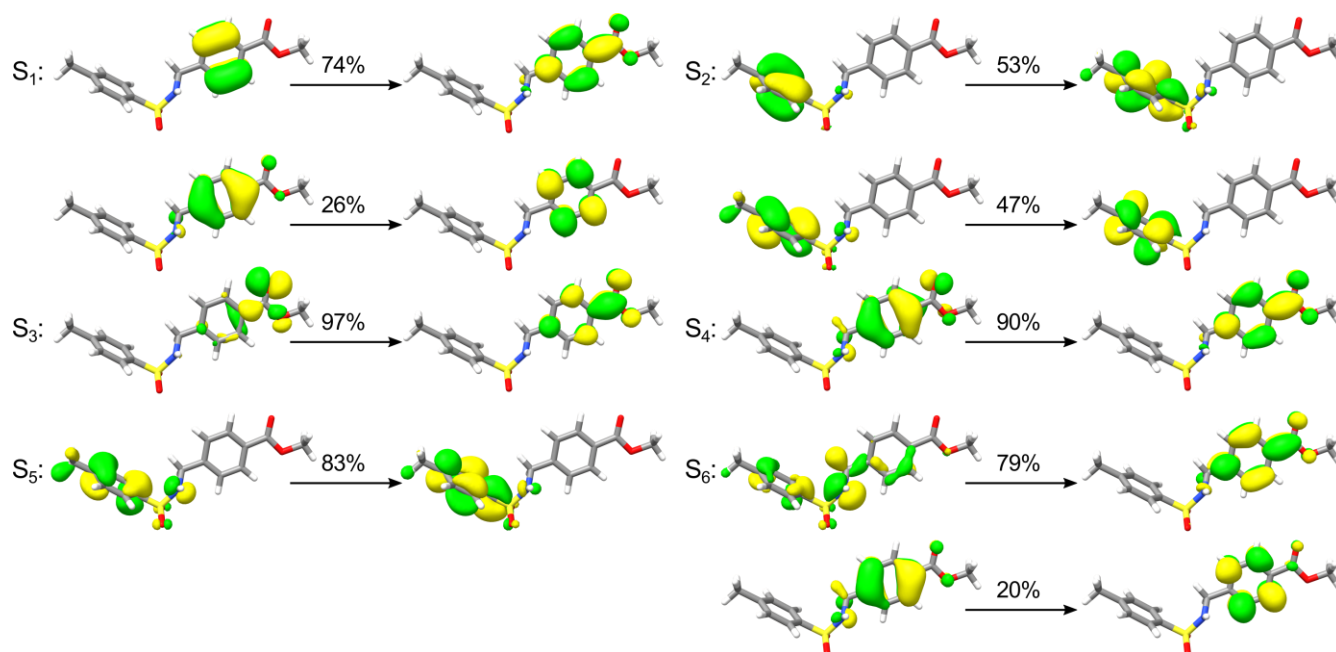


Figure S22: Leading NTO pairs for the linear form of **1a**.

Comparison of excited states along the IRC for **1a** and **1p**

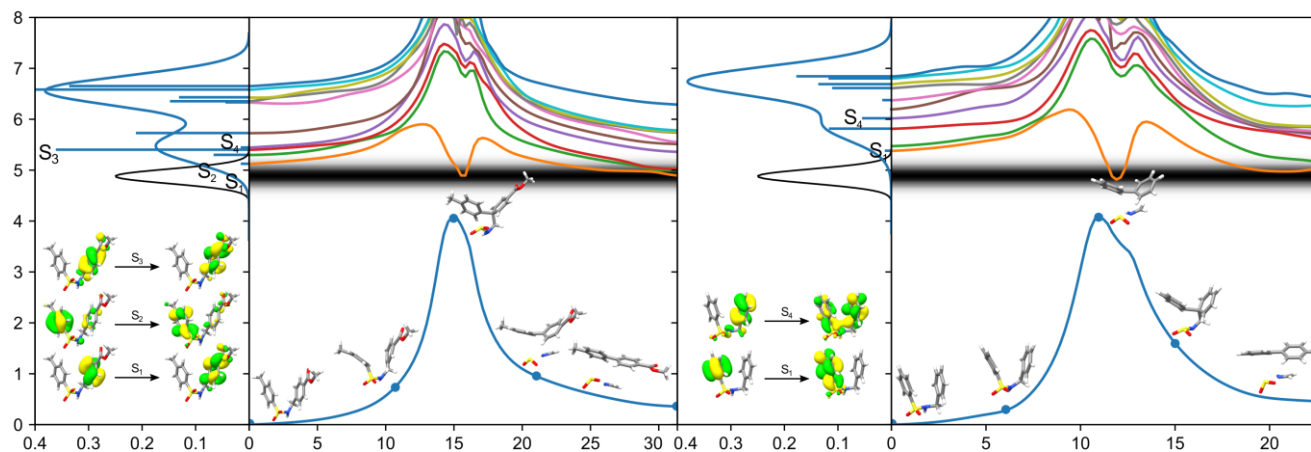


Figure S23: Comparison between excited states of **1a** and **1p** along their respective IRCs as obtained at the TDDFT level of theory (CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile)).

TDDFT spectrum of **1aa**, horseshoe

Table S7: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ /nm), excitation energies (ΔE /eV), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs of **1aa** for a horseshoe conformation at the educt side of the IRC obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ /nm	ΔE /eV	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	246.0	5.04	0.0338	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	81
S ₂	235.6	5.26	0.0124	$n_O \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	99
S ₃	233.0	5.32	0.3886	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	93
S ₄	230.2	5.39	0.0100	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$ $\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$	64 36
S ₅	225.6	5.50	0.0086	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	98
S ₆	211.0	5.88	0.0022	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	98
S ₇	207.3	5.98	0.1010	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$ $\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$	68 30
S ₈	195.9	6.33	0.0293	$p_N, \sigma_{CS} \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	90

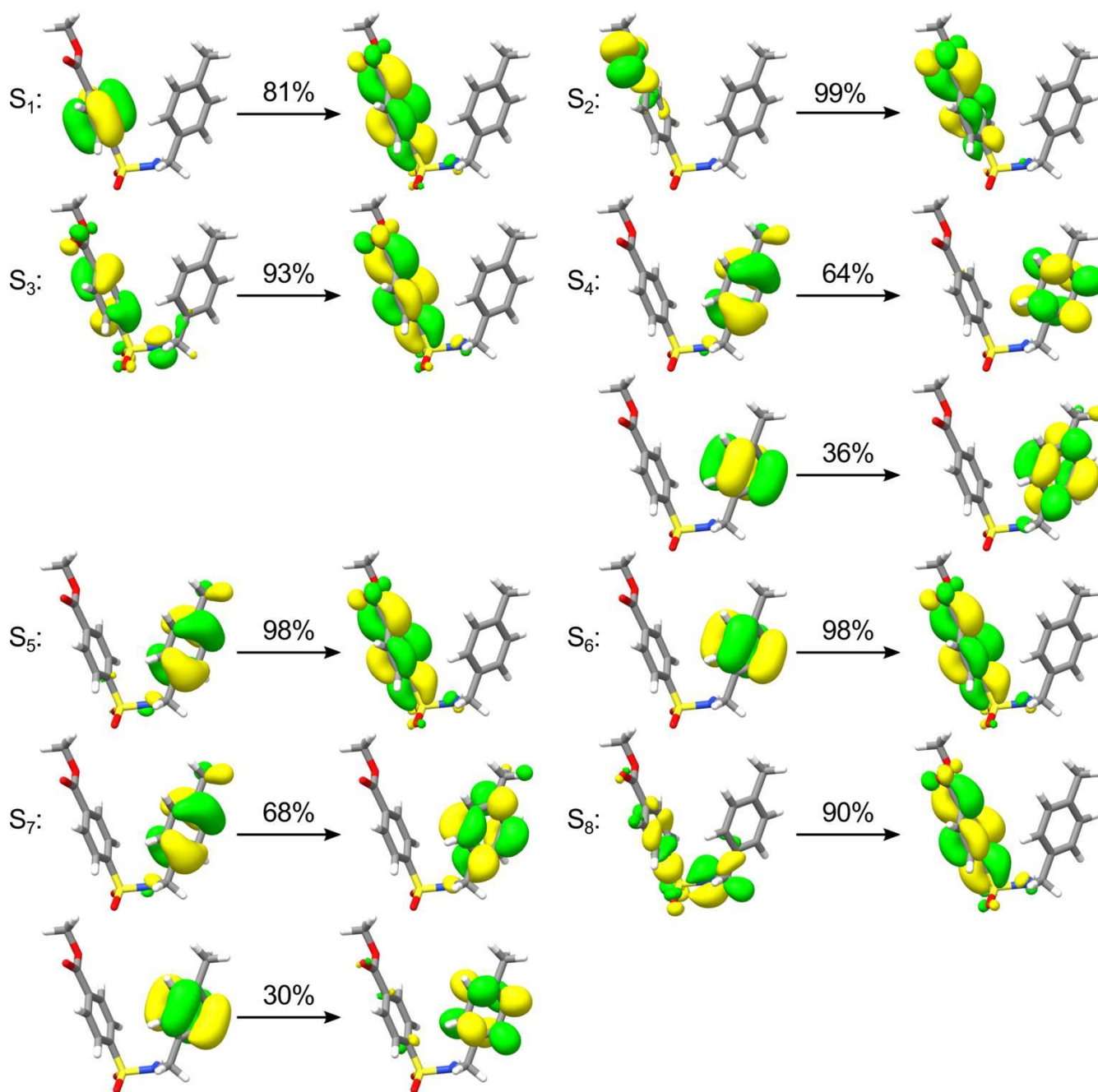


Figure S24: Leading NTO pairs for the horseshoe conformation of 1aa.

TDDFT spectrum of **1aa**, linear

Table S8: Calculated low-lying excited singlet states, excitation wavelengths (λ /nm), excitation energies (ΔE /eV), oscillator strengths and leading NTO pairs of **1aa** for a linear conformation (linear minimum of the relaxed scan) obtained at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-TZVP/CPCM (acetonitrile) level of theory.

State	λ /nm	ΔE /eV	f	Transition	Weight/%
S ₁	245.4	5.05	0.0405	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	81
S ₂	235.3	5.27	0.0049	$n_O \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	99
S ₃	232.2	5.34	0.4409	$\pi_S \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	76
S ₄	230.0	5.39	0.1631	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$ $\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$	50 28
S ₅	211.0	5.88	0.0347	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_S$	95
S ₆	207.8	5.97	0.0959	$\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$ $\pi_N \rightarrow \pi^*_N$	72 26

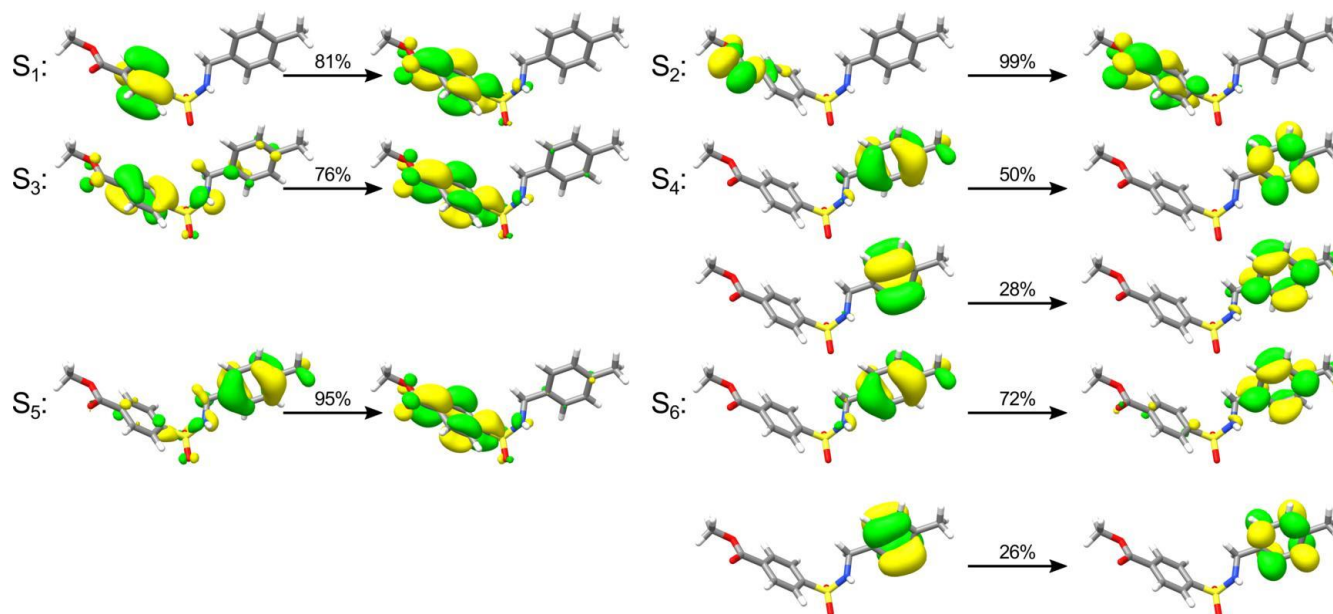


Figure S25: Leading NTO pairs for the linear form of **1aa**.

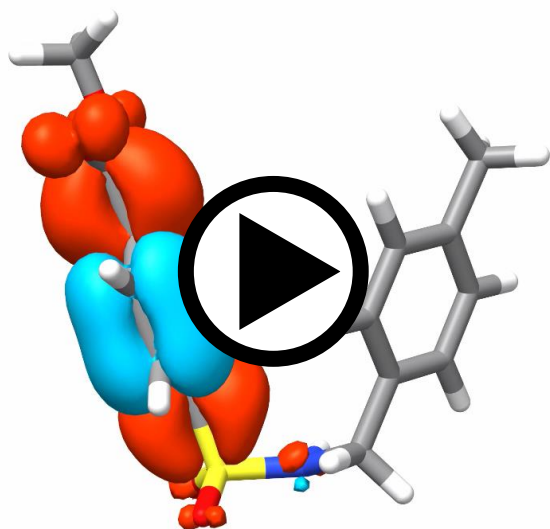


Figure S26: Video of charge density difference in the S_1 along the calculated IRC of **1aa**. Blue isosurfaces denote regions of charge density decrease, whereas red isosurfaces denote regions of charge density increase.

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¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra

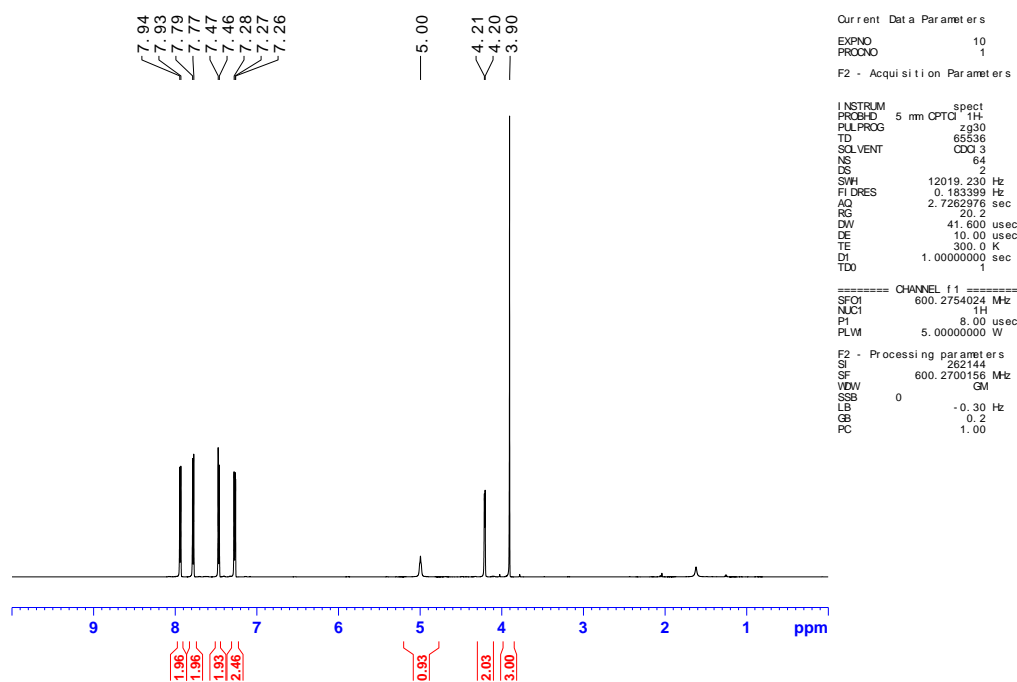


Figure S27: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1d.

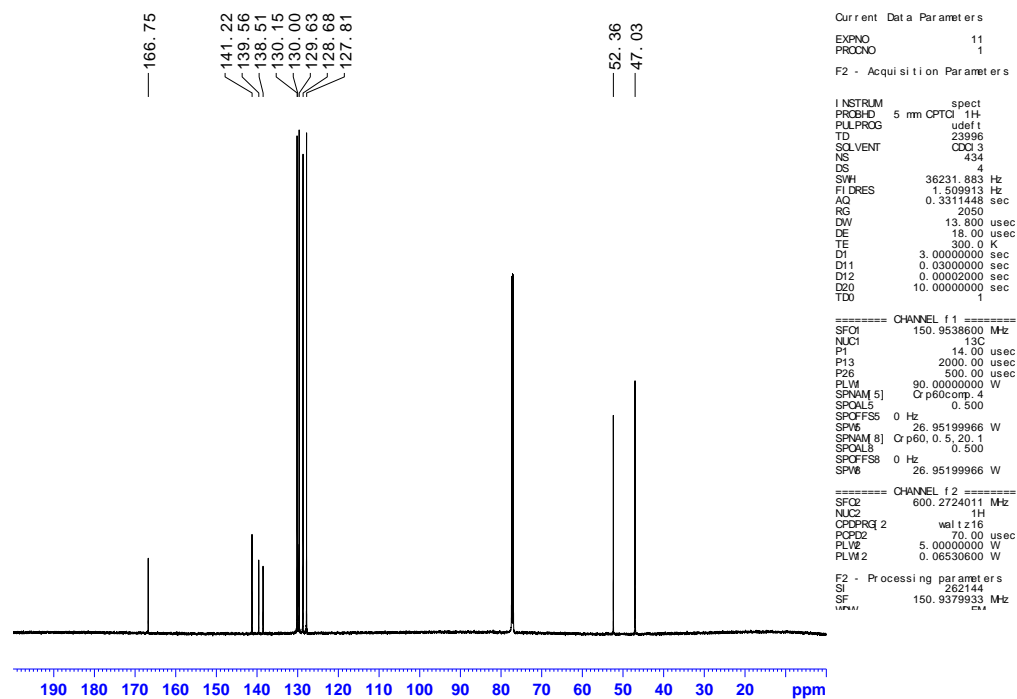


Figure S28: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1d.

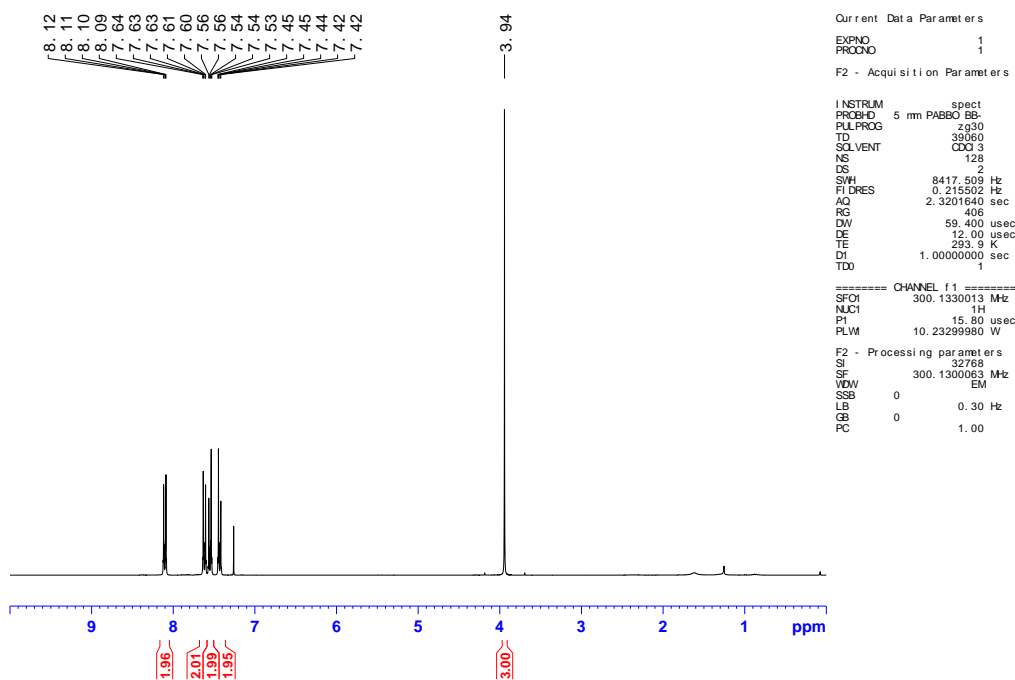


Figure S29: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2d.

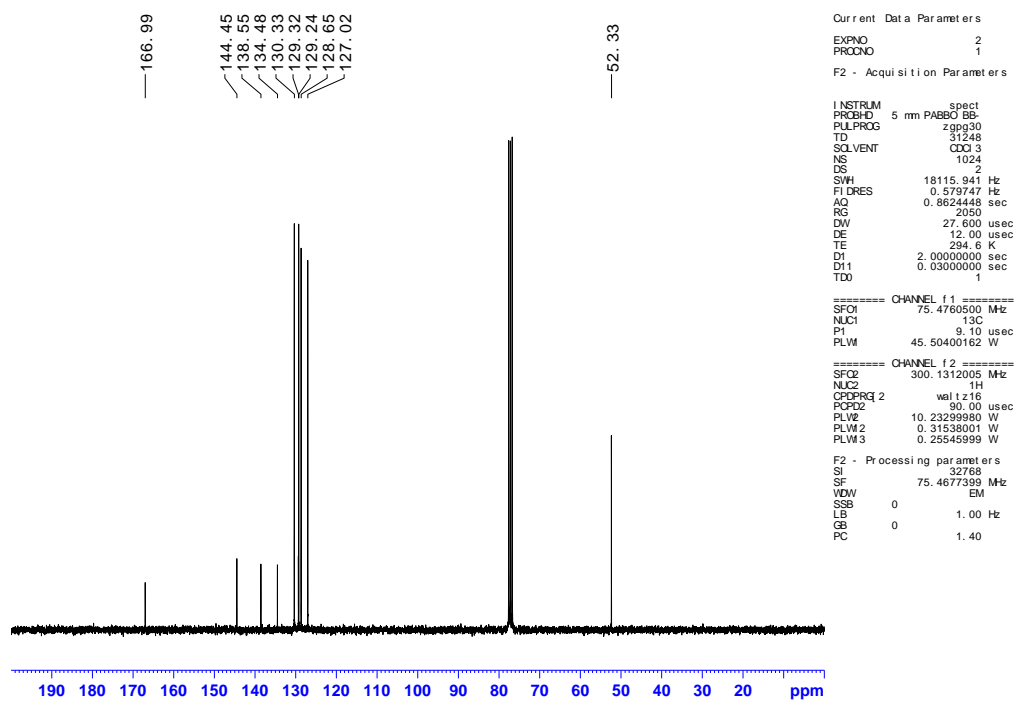


Figure S30: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2d.

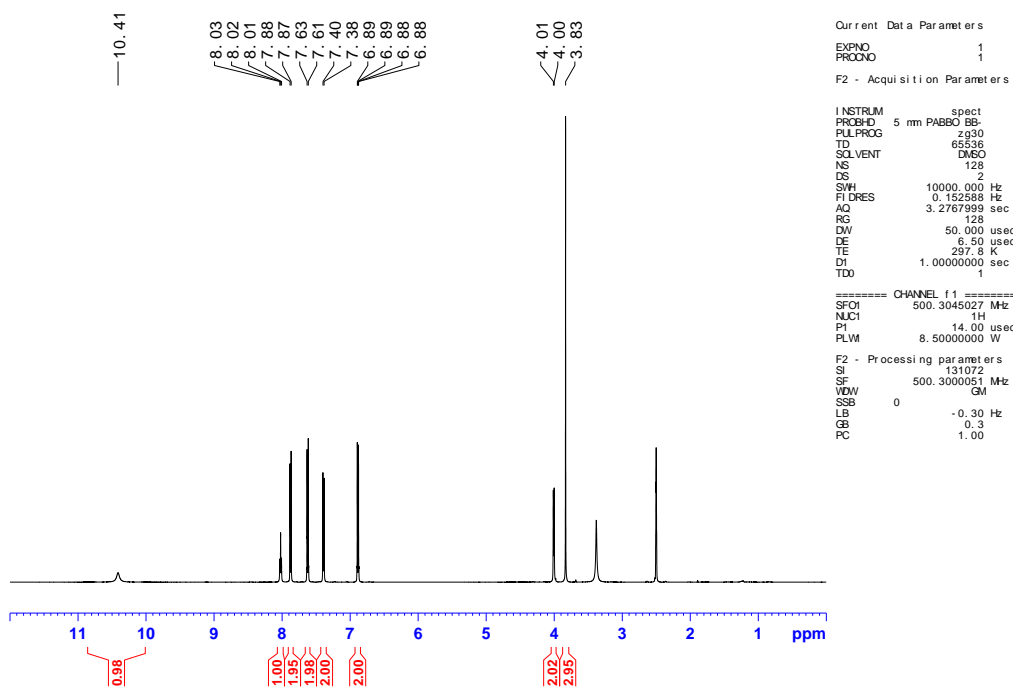


Figure S31: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1e.

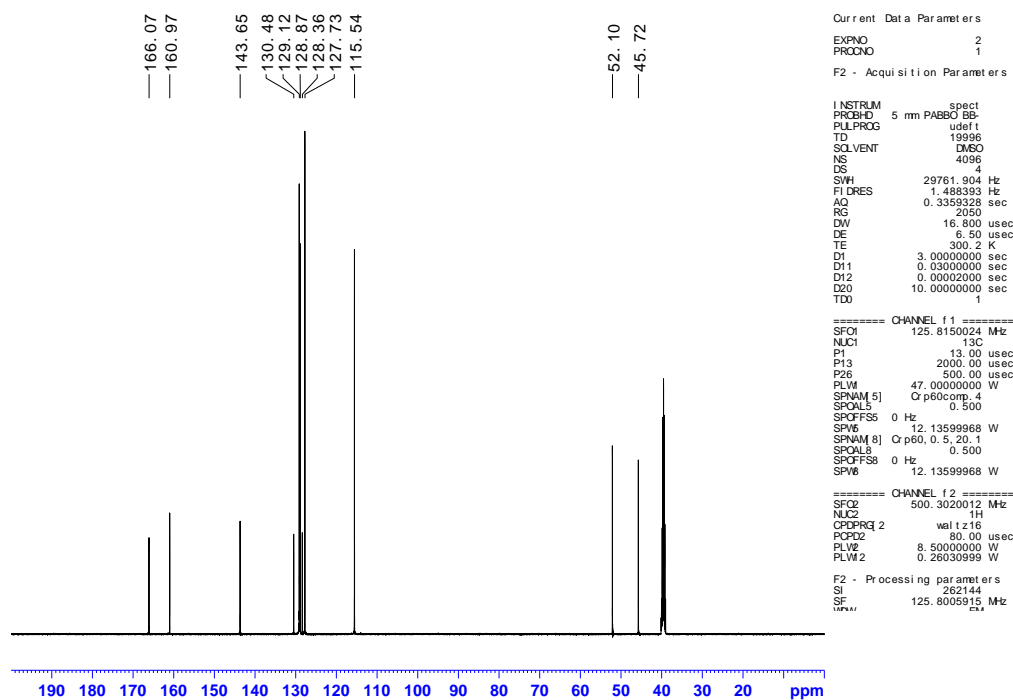


Figure S32: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1e.

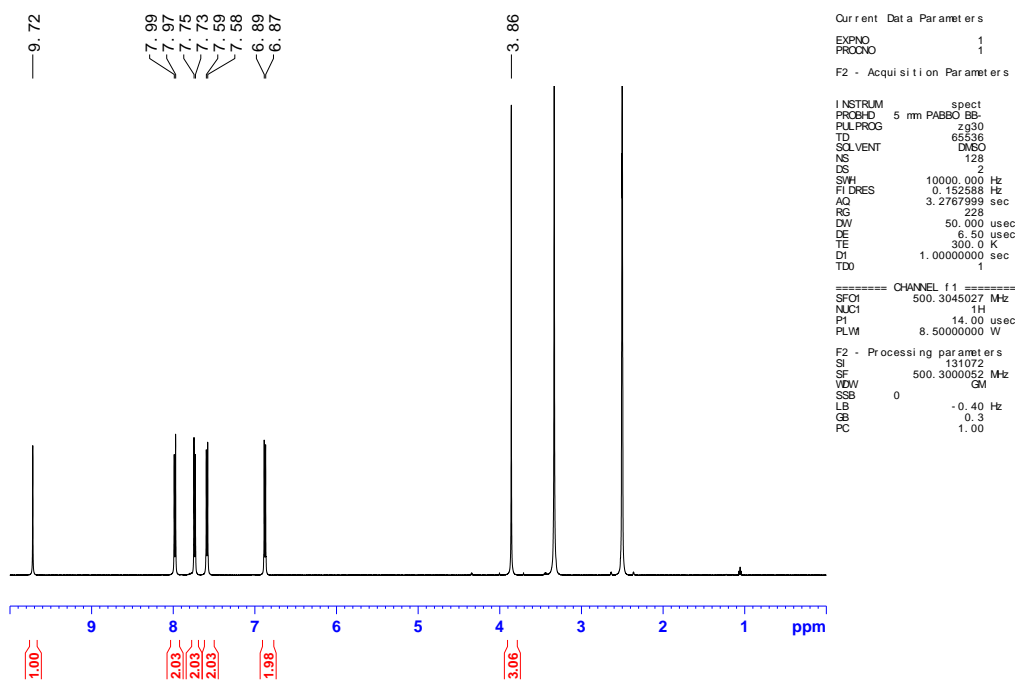


Figure S33: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2e.

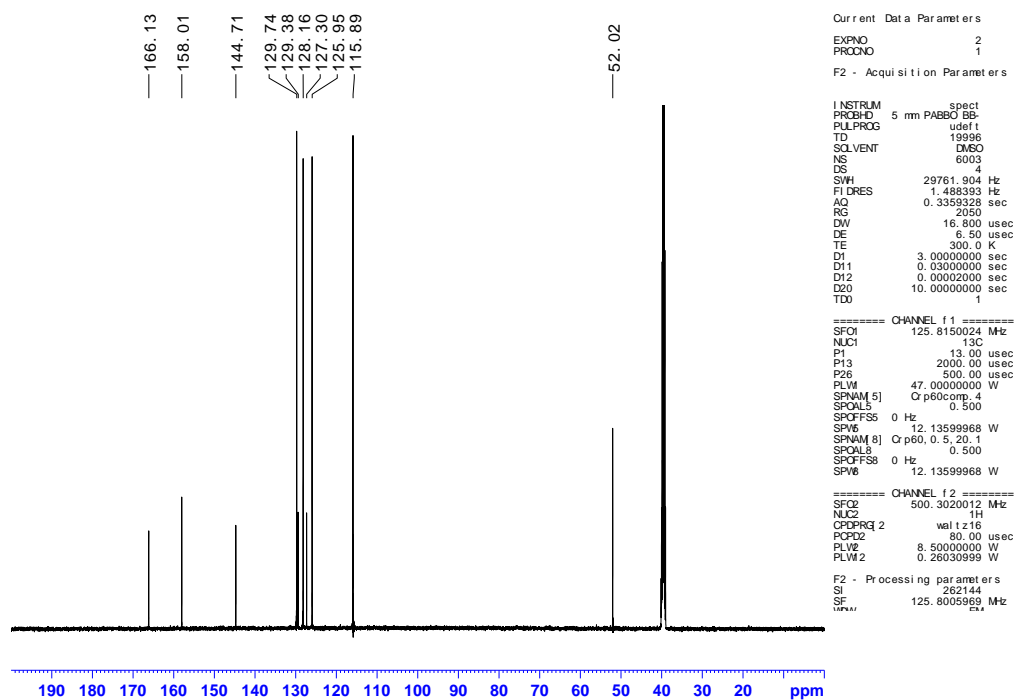


Figure S34: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2e.

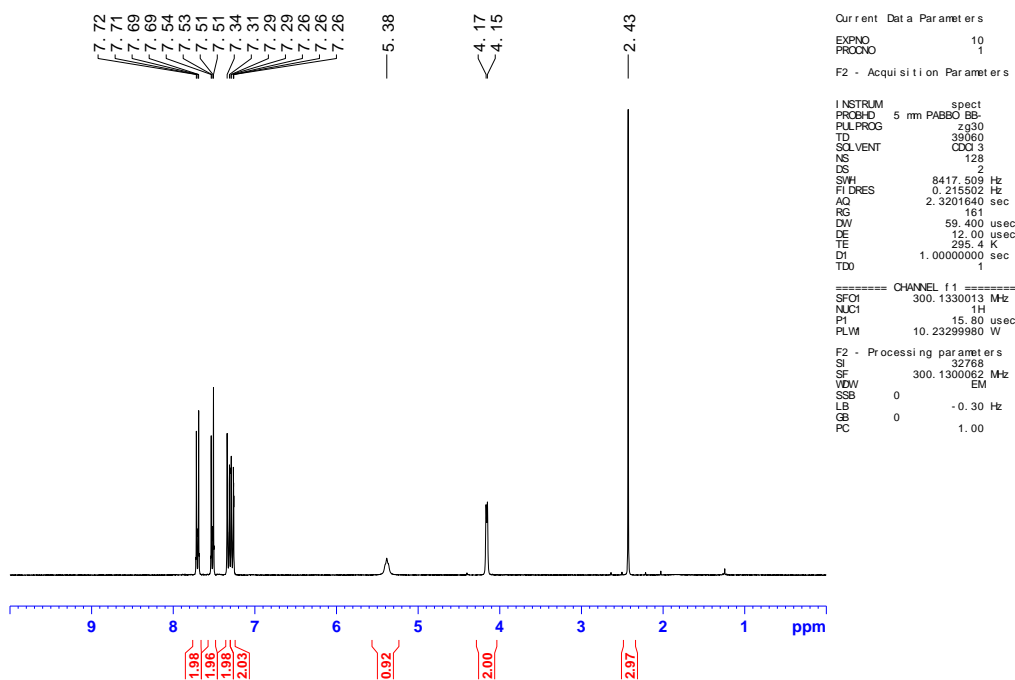


Figure S35: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1f.

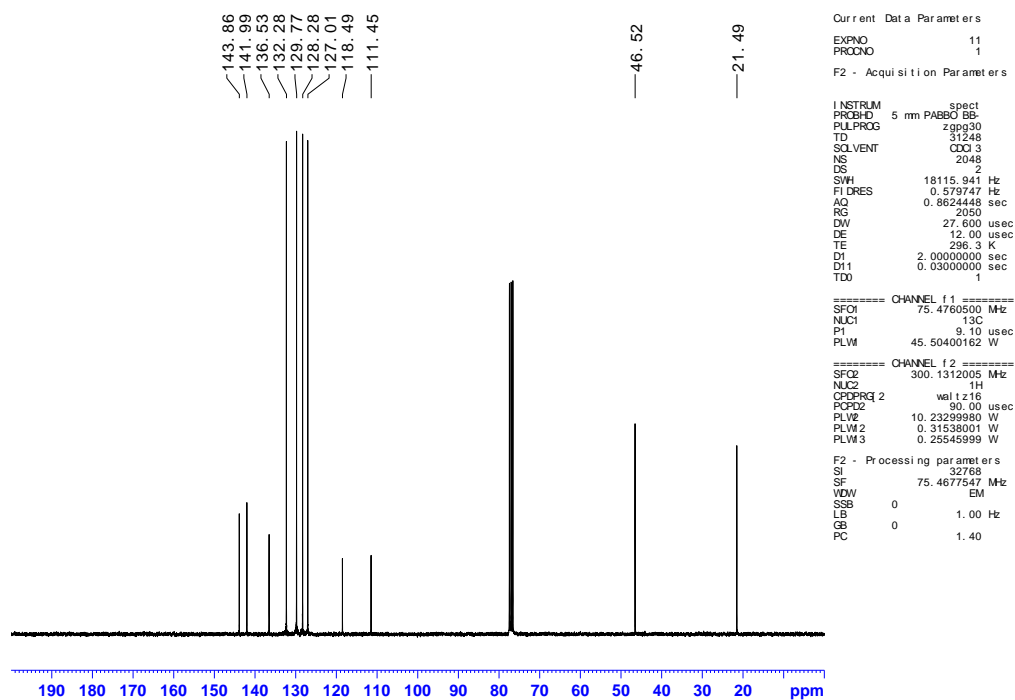


Figure S36: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1f.

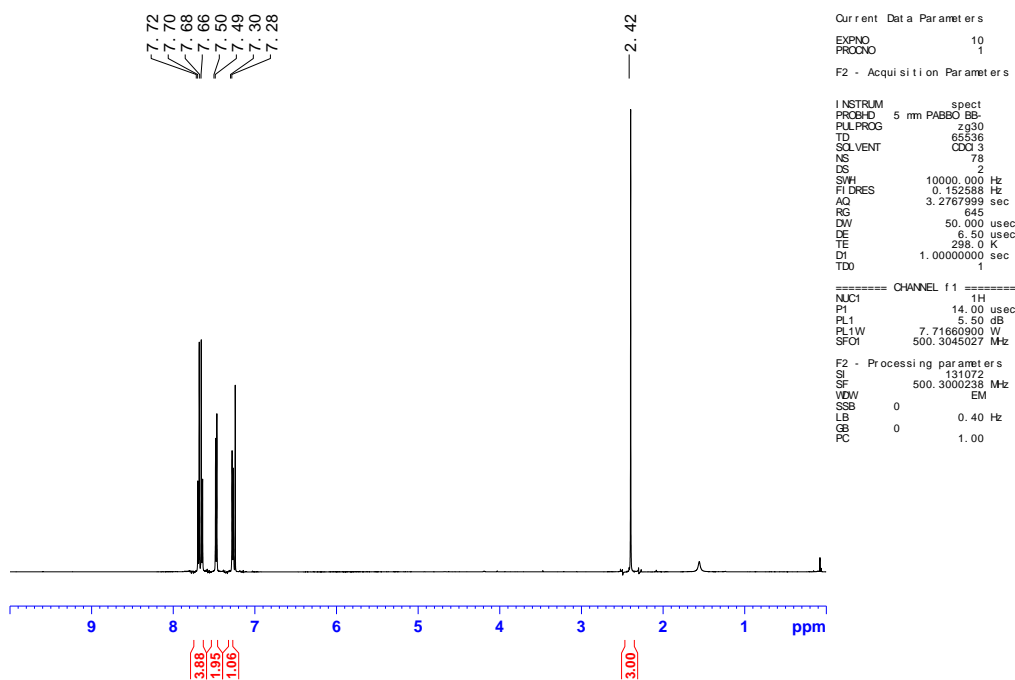


Figure S37: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2f.

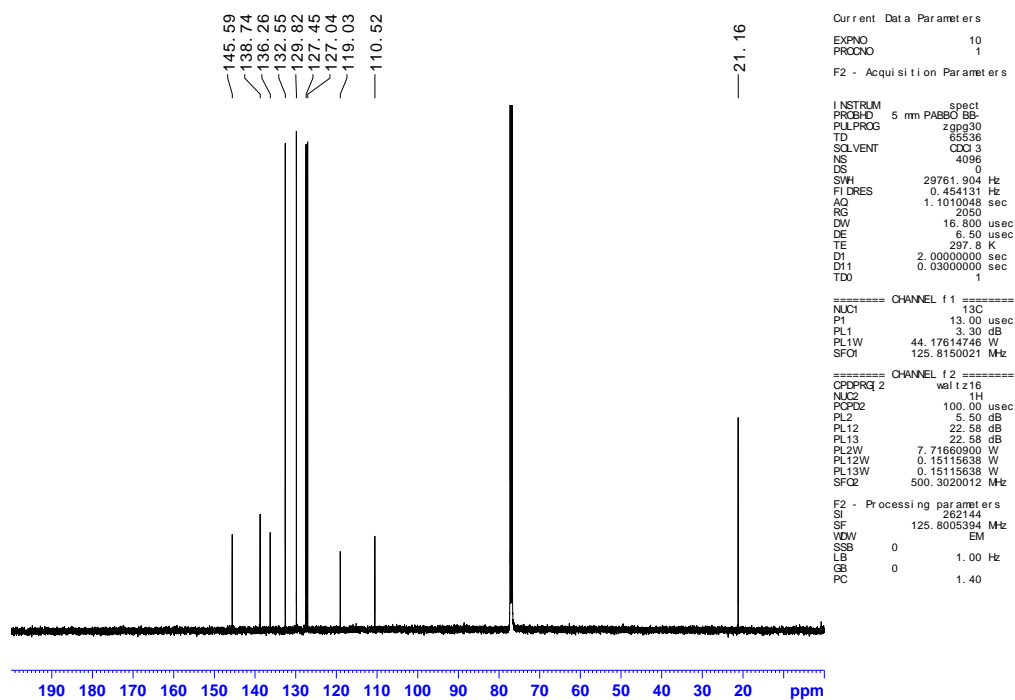


Figure S38: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2f.

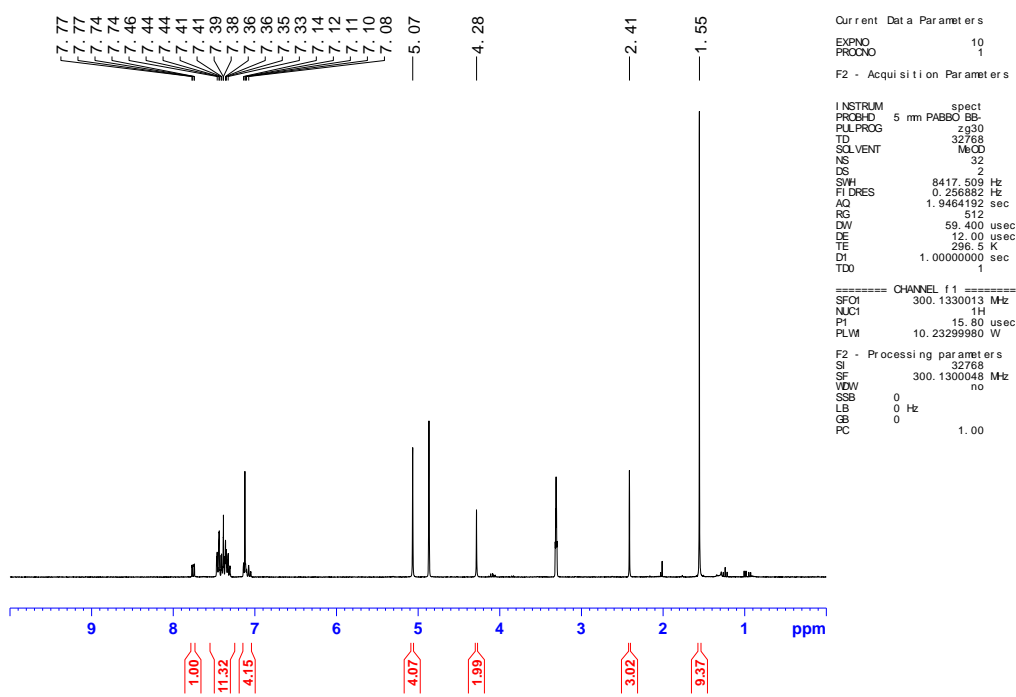


Figure S39: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1g.

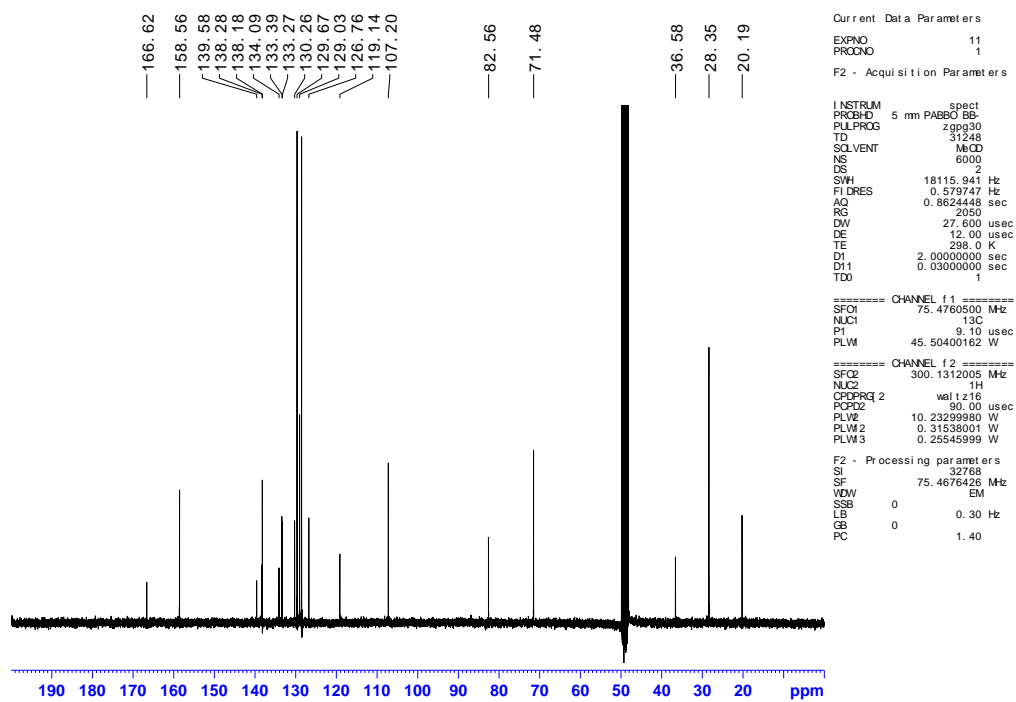


Figure S40: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1g.

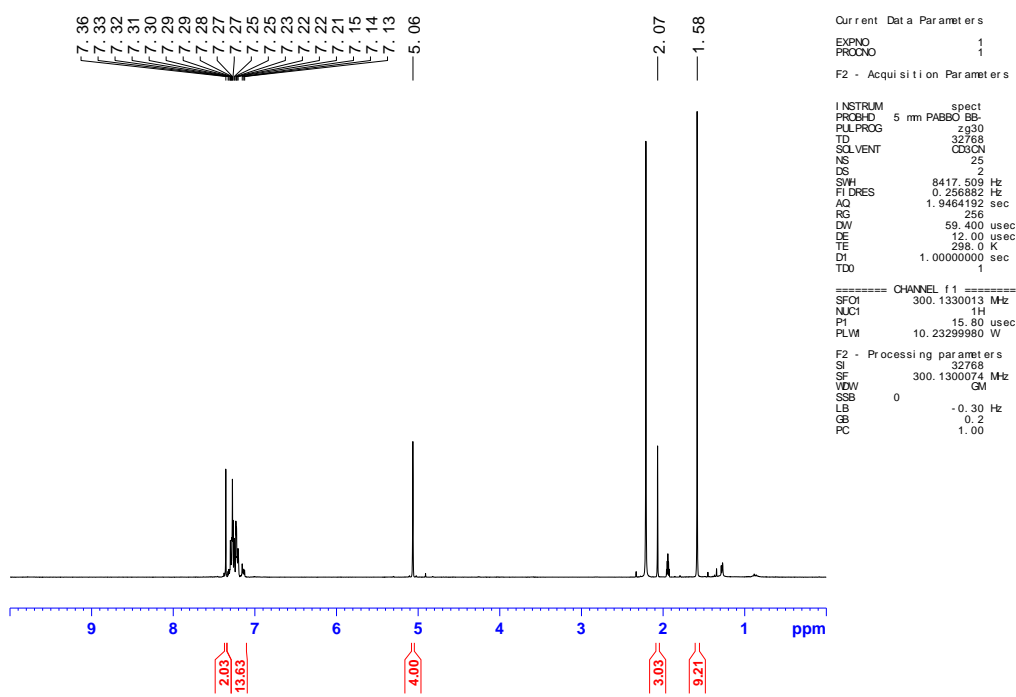


Figure S41: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2g.

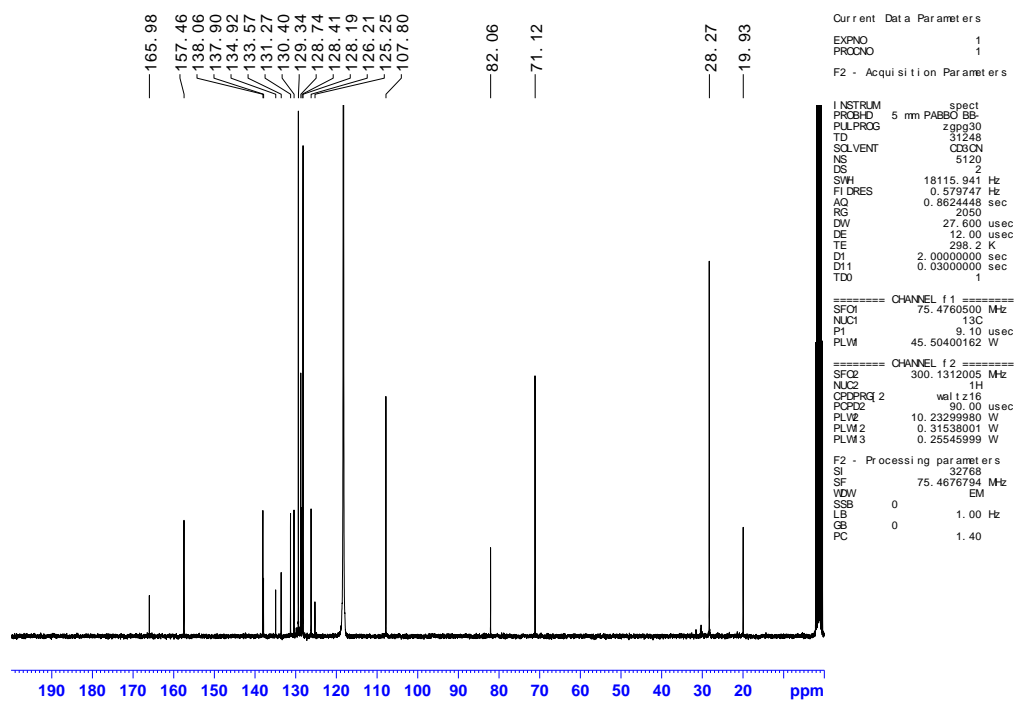


Figure S42: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2g.

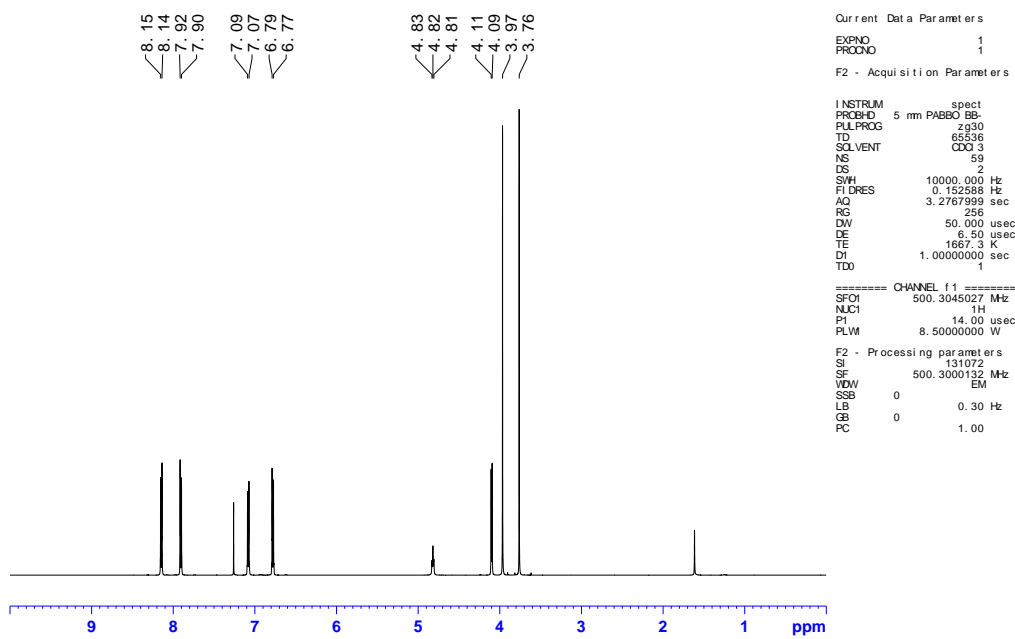


Figure S43: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1i.

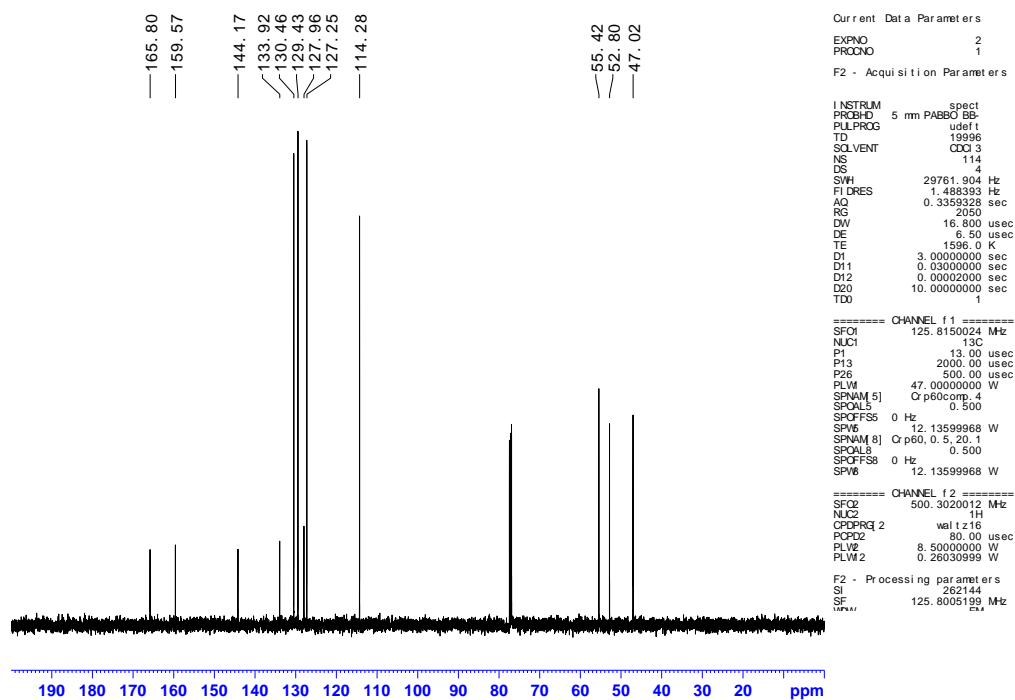


Figure S44: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1i.

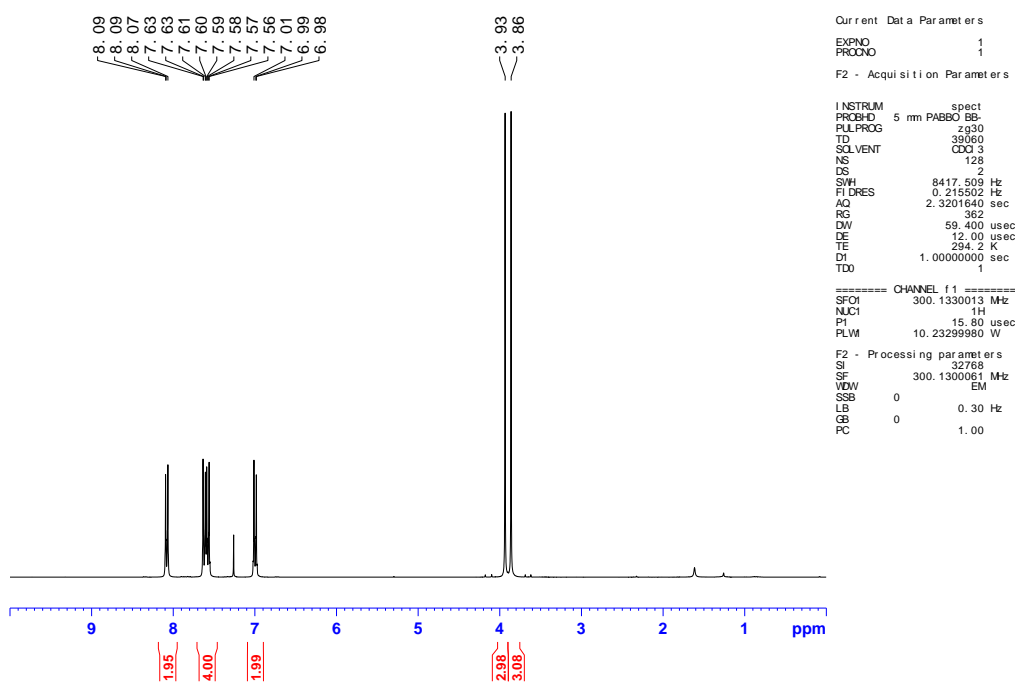


Figure S45: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2i.

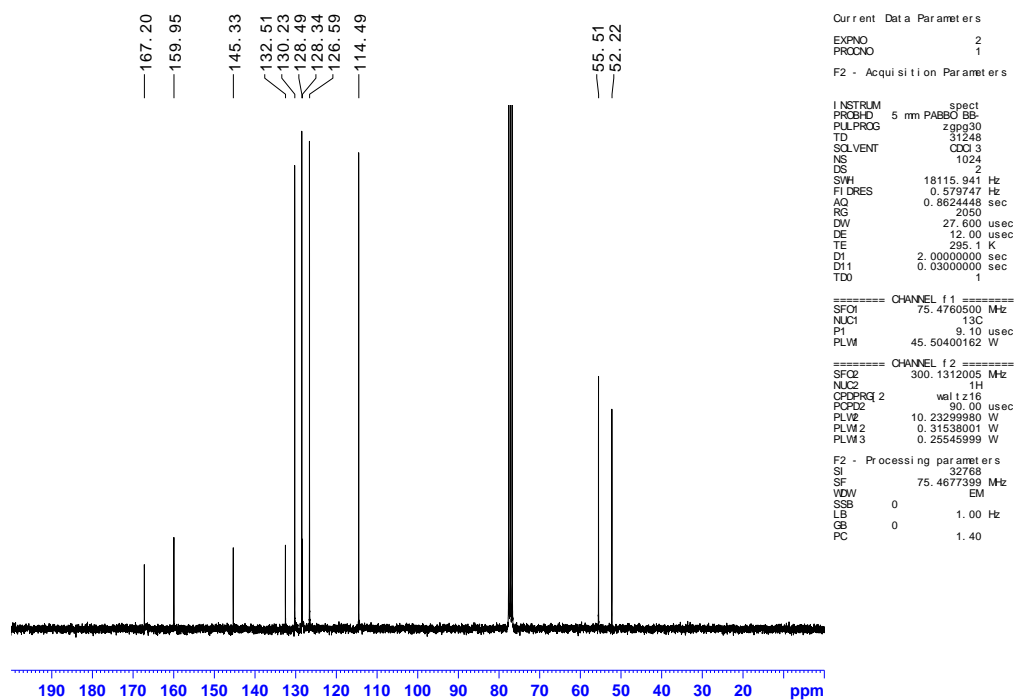


Figure S46: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2i.

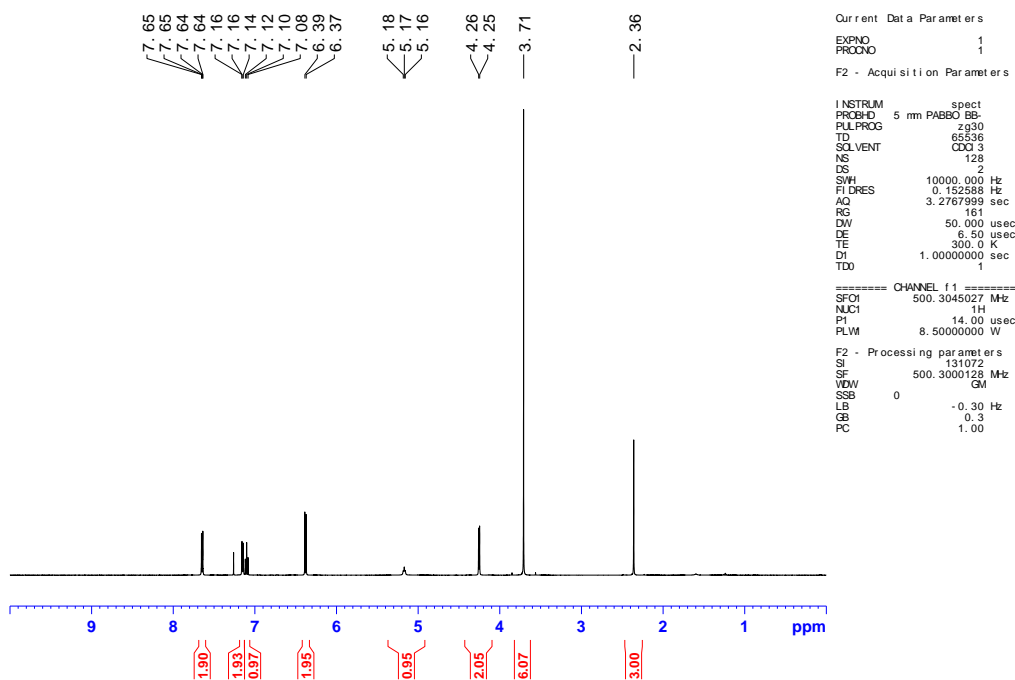


Figure S47: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1j.

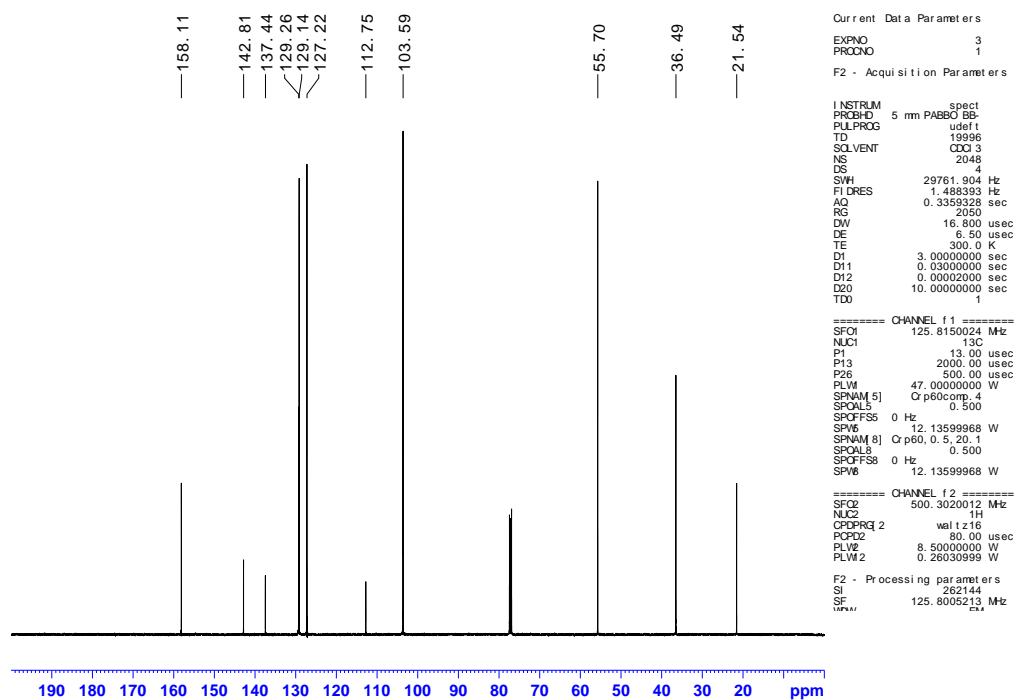


Figure S48: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1j.

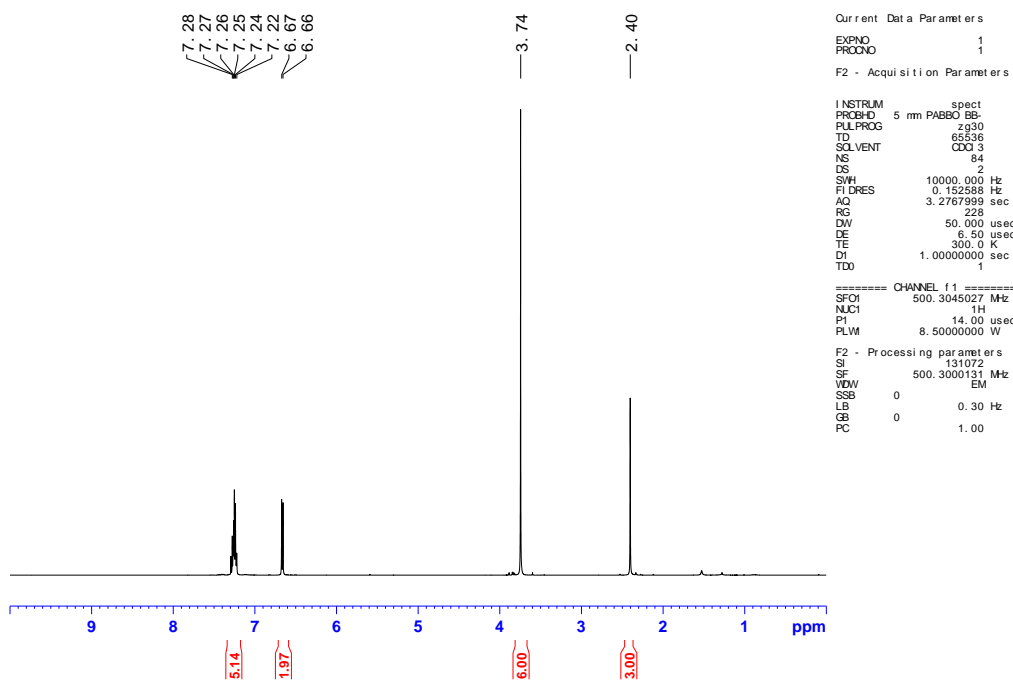


Figure S49: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2j.

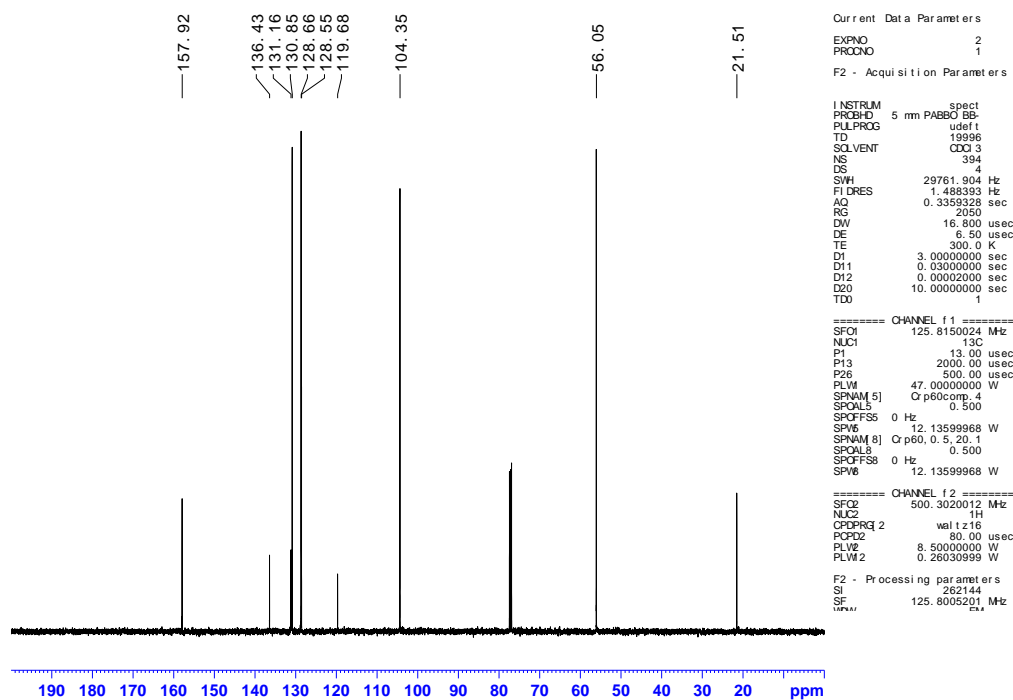


Figure S50: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2j.

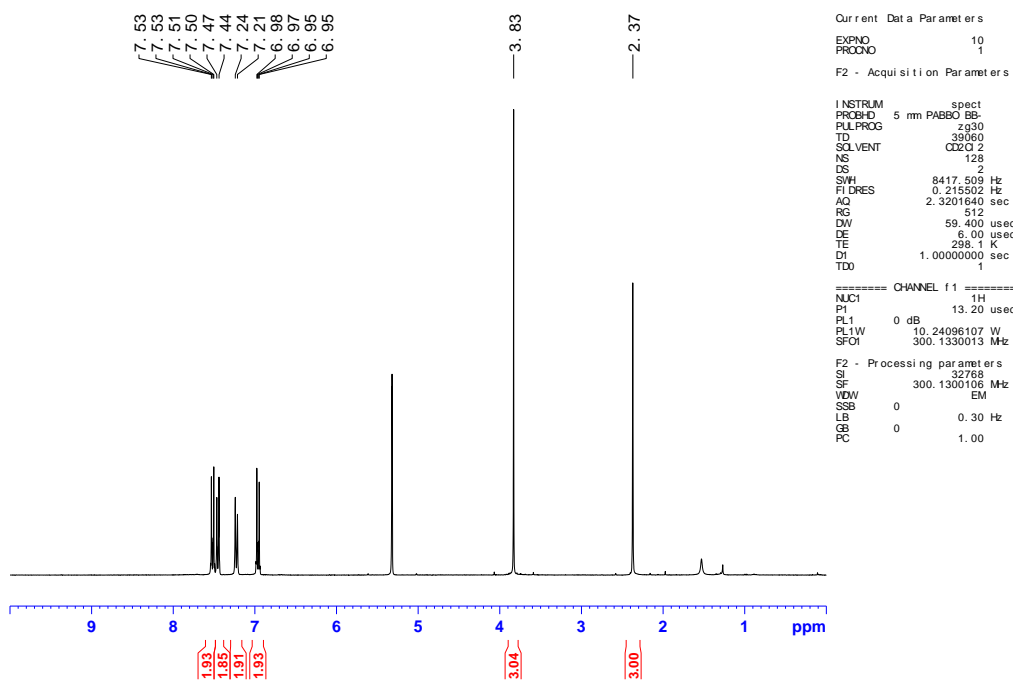


Figure S51: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2k.

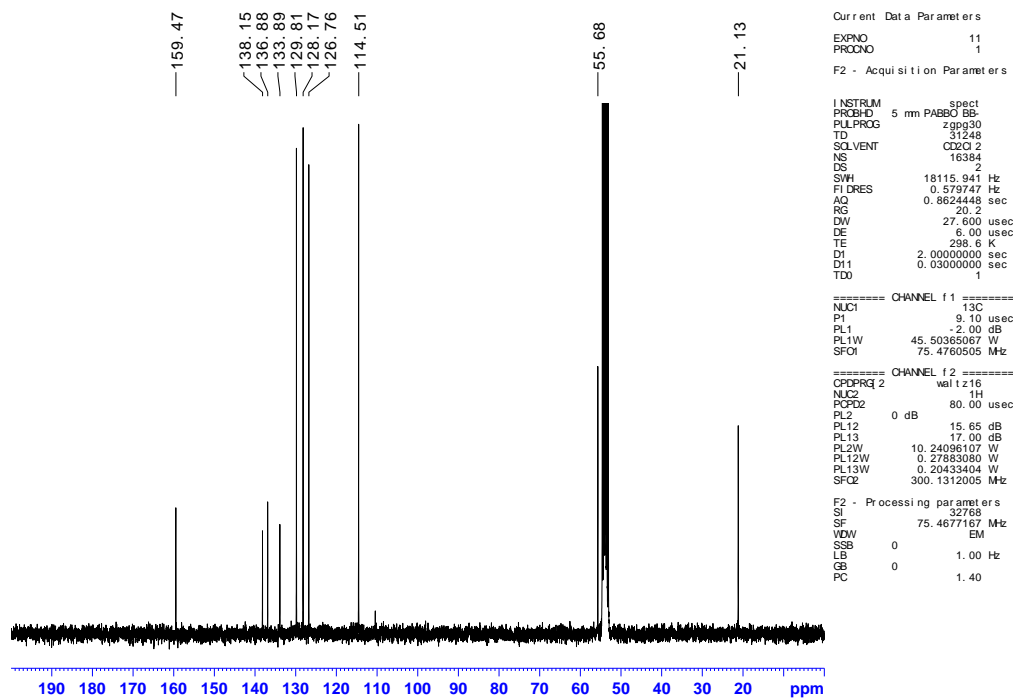


Figure S52: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2k.

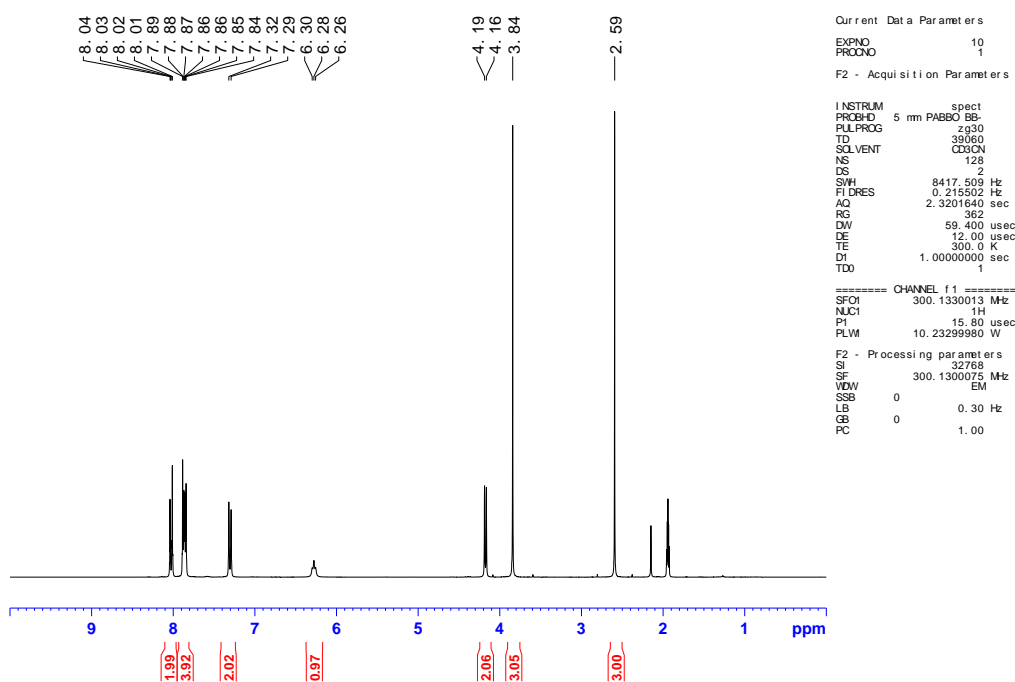


Figure S53: ¹H NMR spectrum of 11.

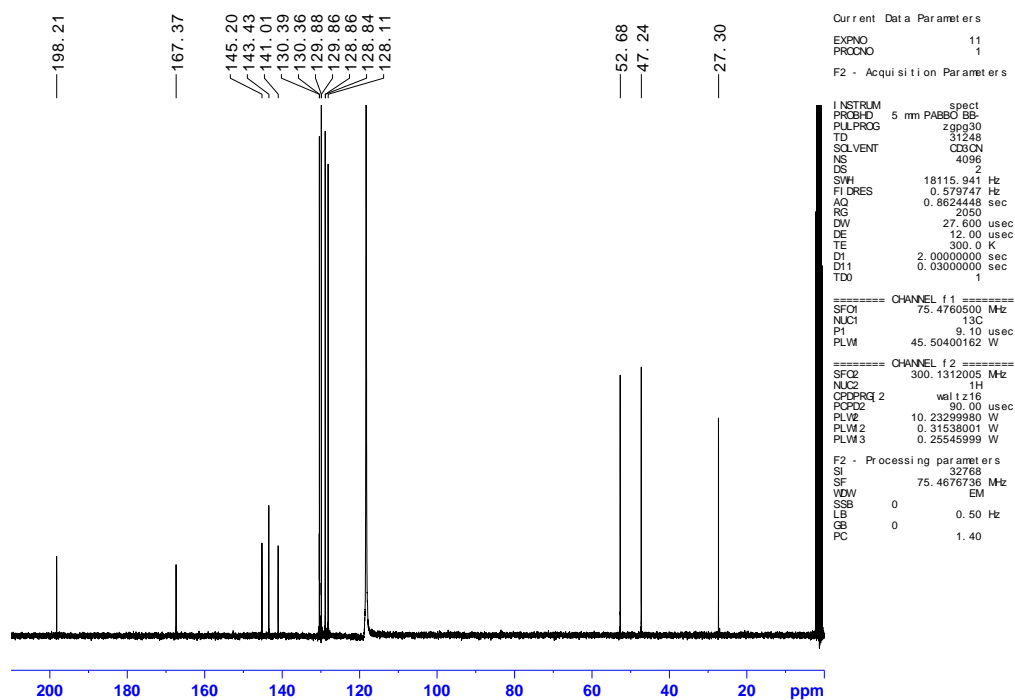


Figure S54: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 11.

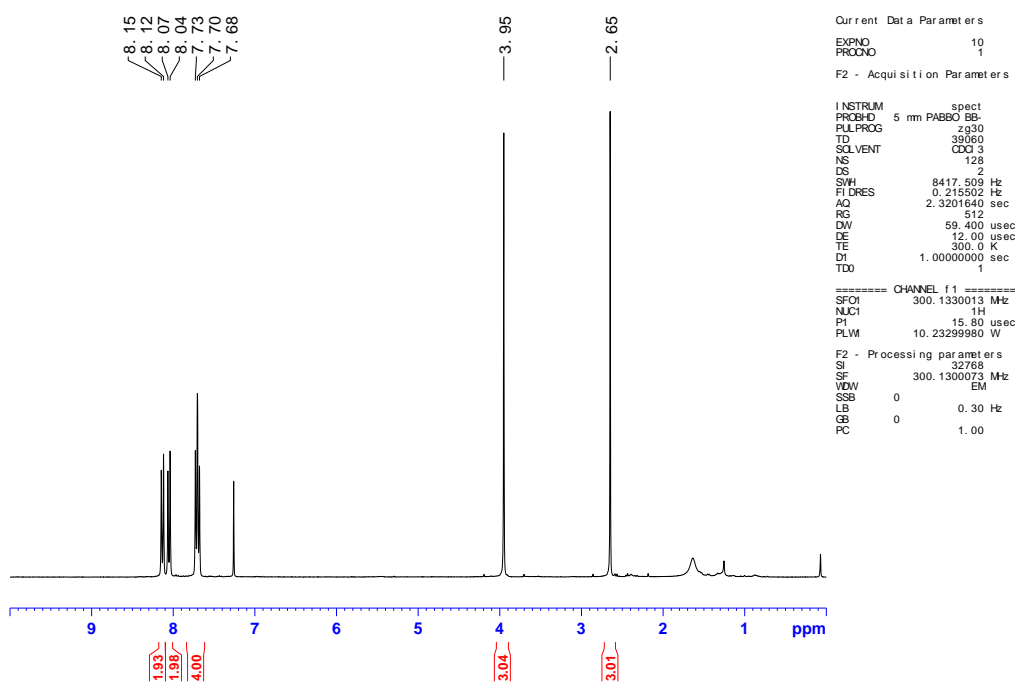


Figure S55: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2l.

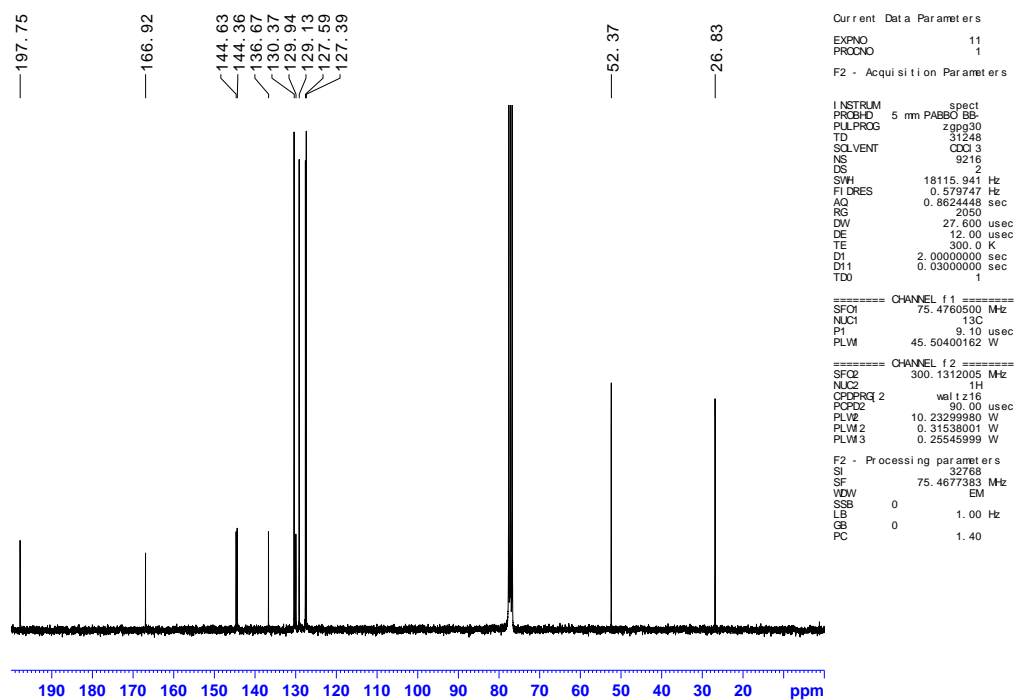


Figure S56: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2l.

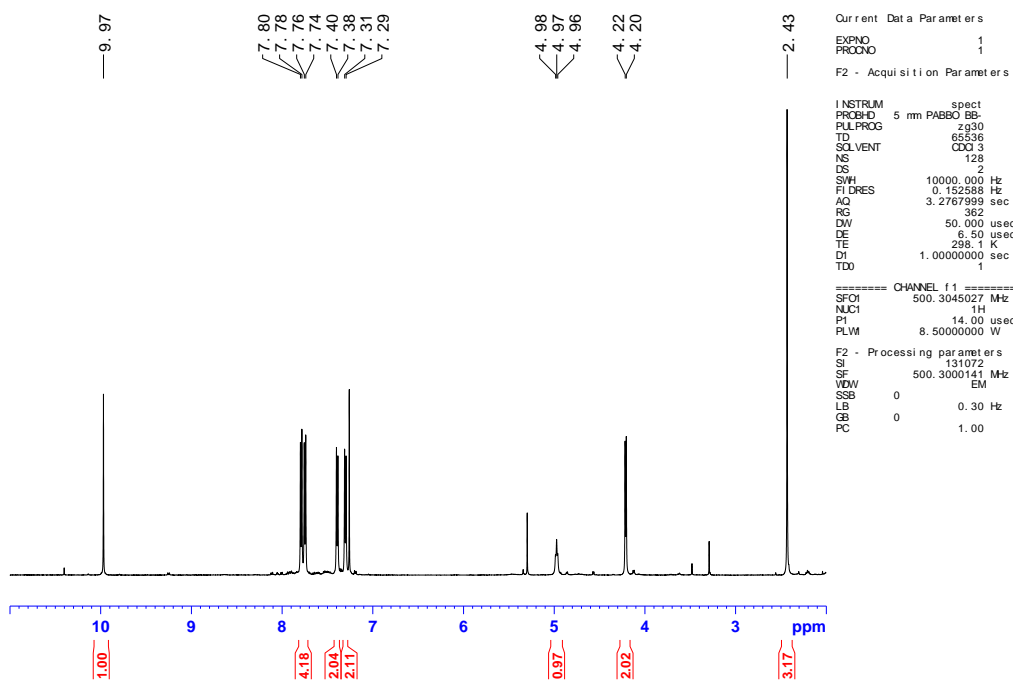


Figure S57: ^1H NMR spectrum of 1m.

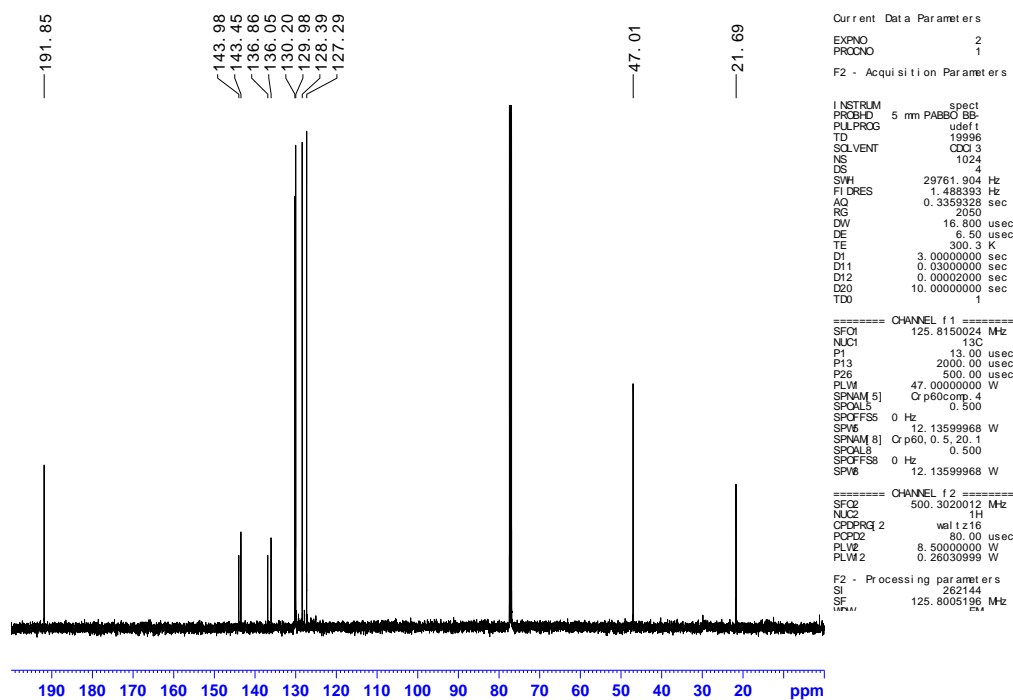


Figure S58: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 1m.

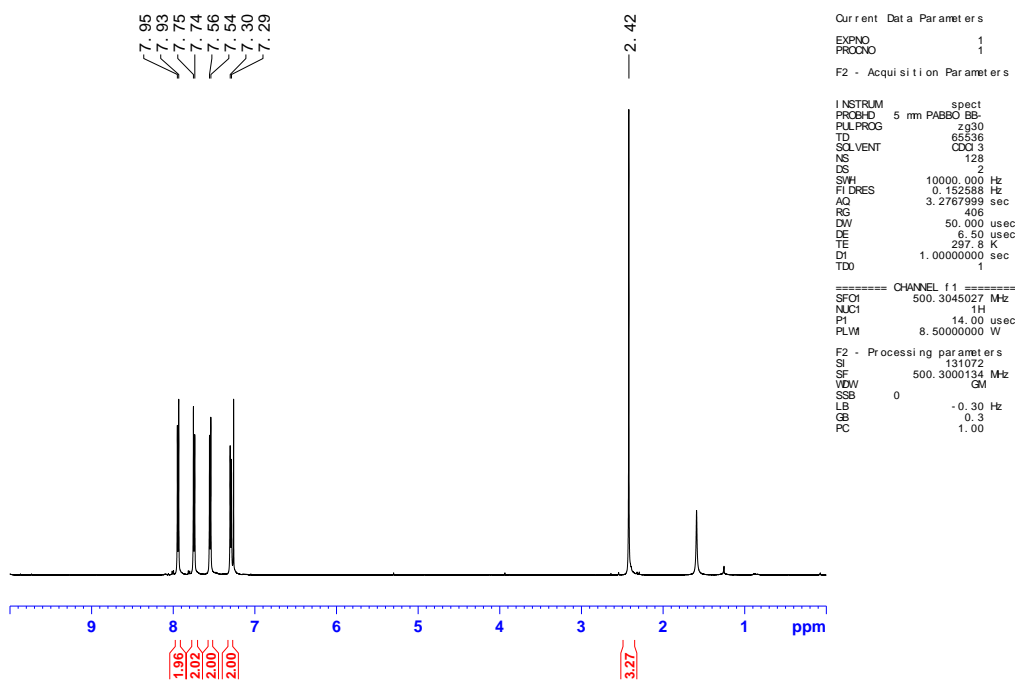


Figure S59: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2m.

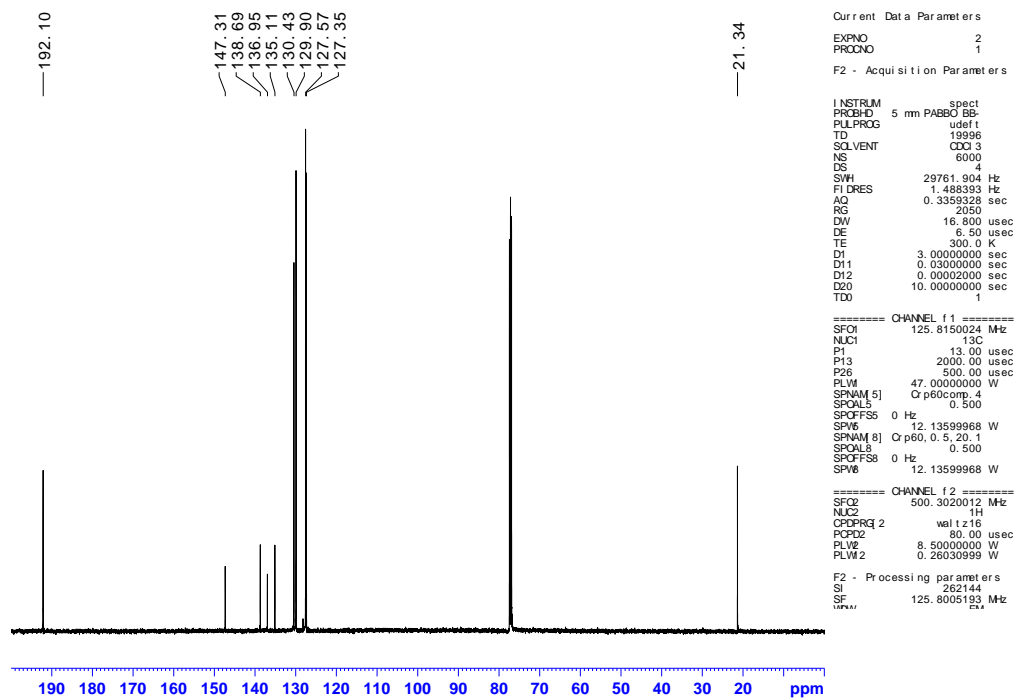


Figure S60: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2m.

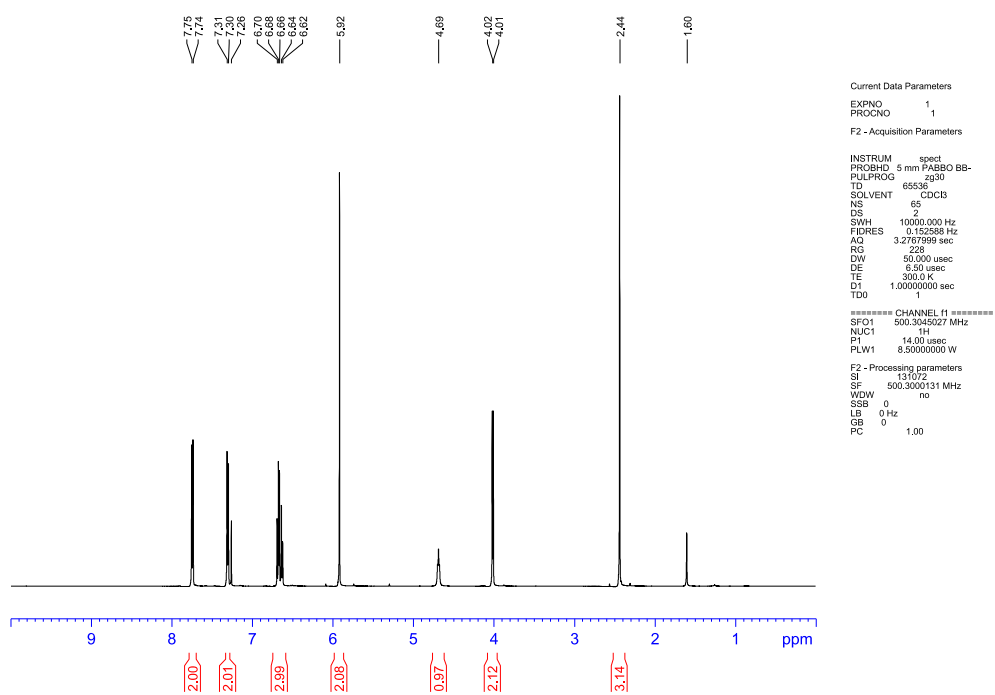


Figure S61: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1n**.

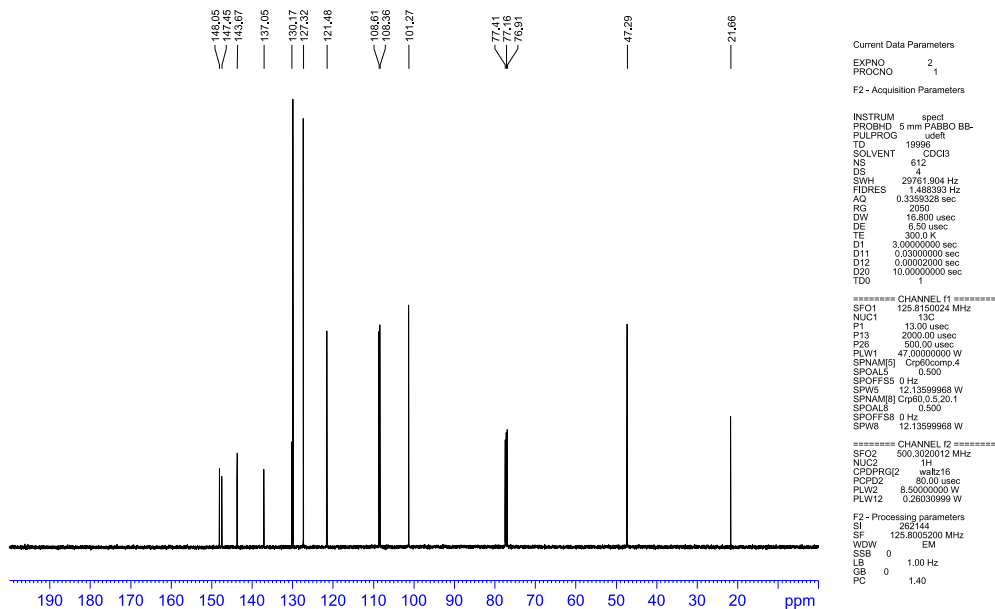


Figure S62: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1n**.

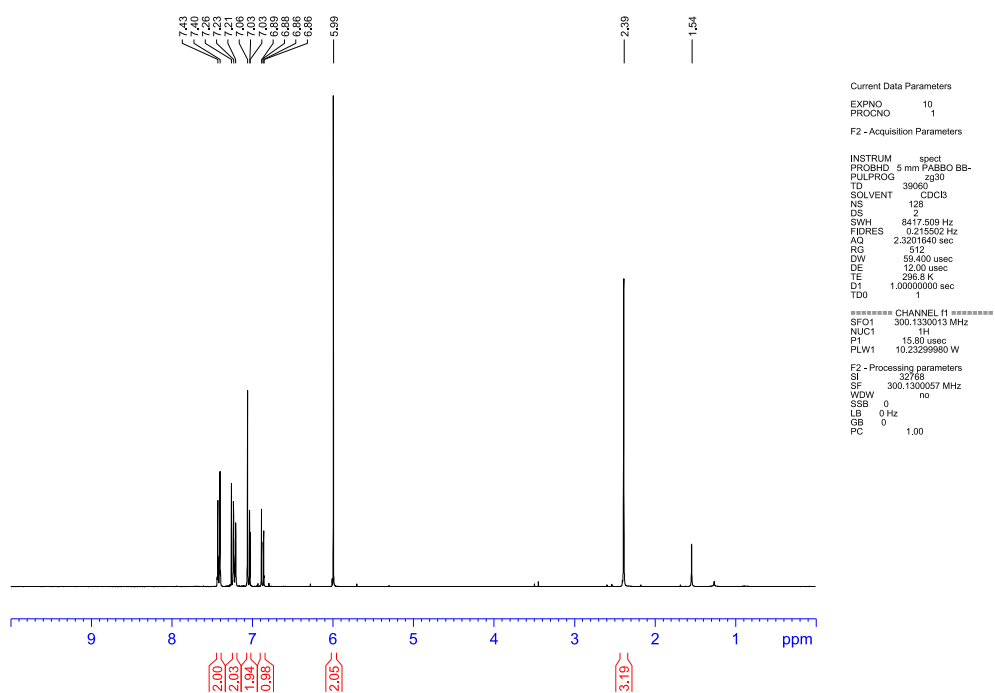


Figure S63: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2n.

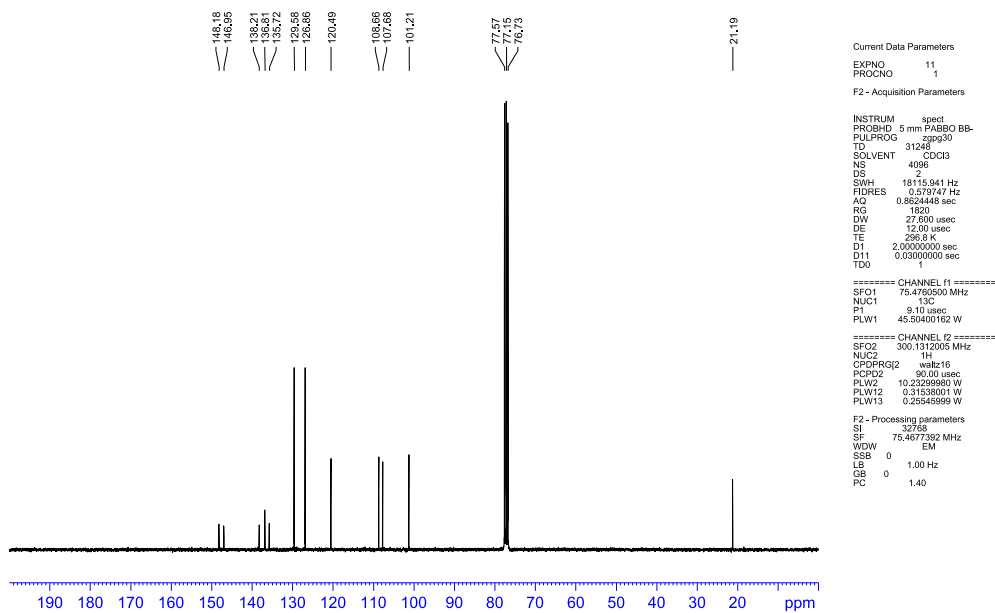


Figure S64: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2n.

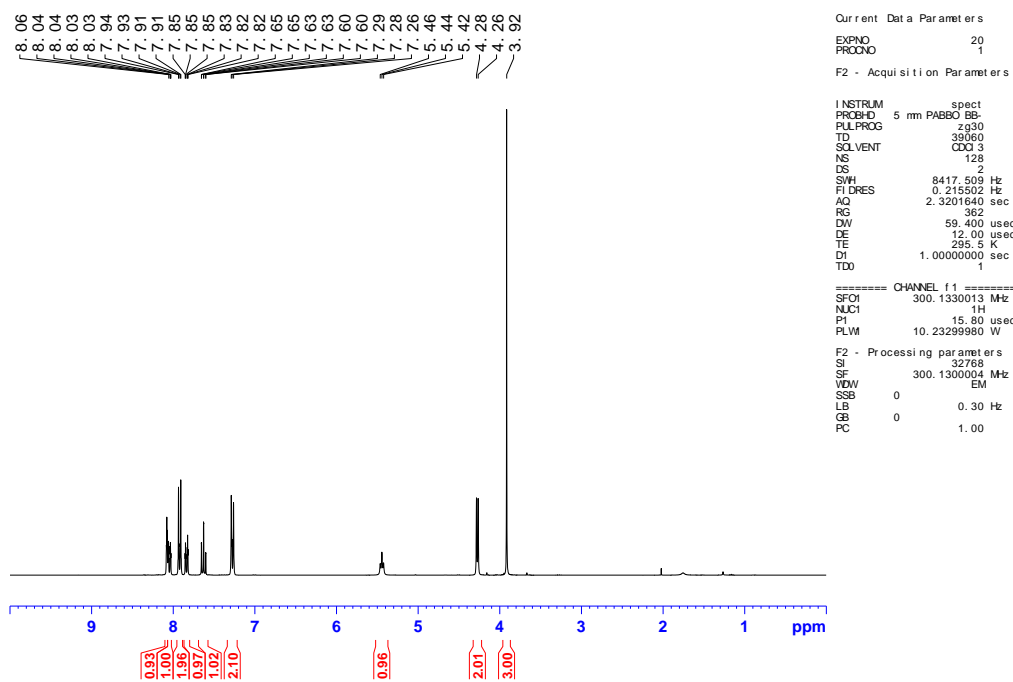


Figure S65: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1o.

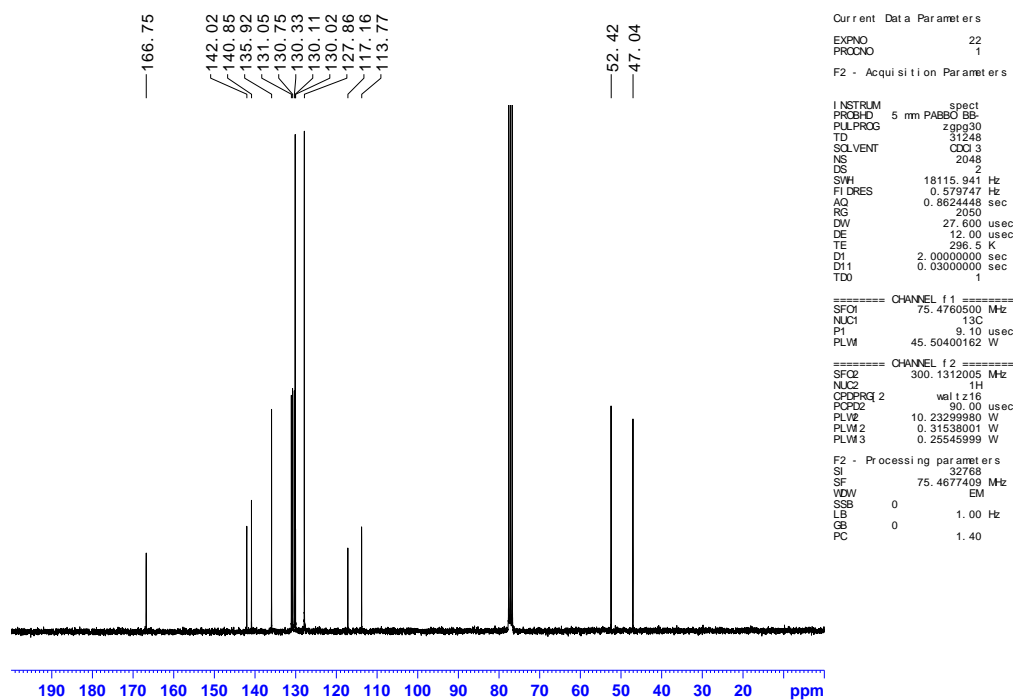


Figure S66: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1o.

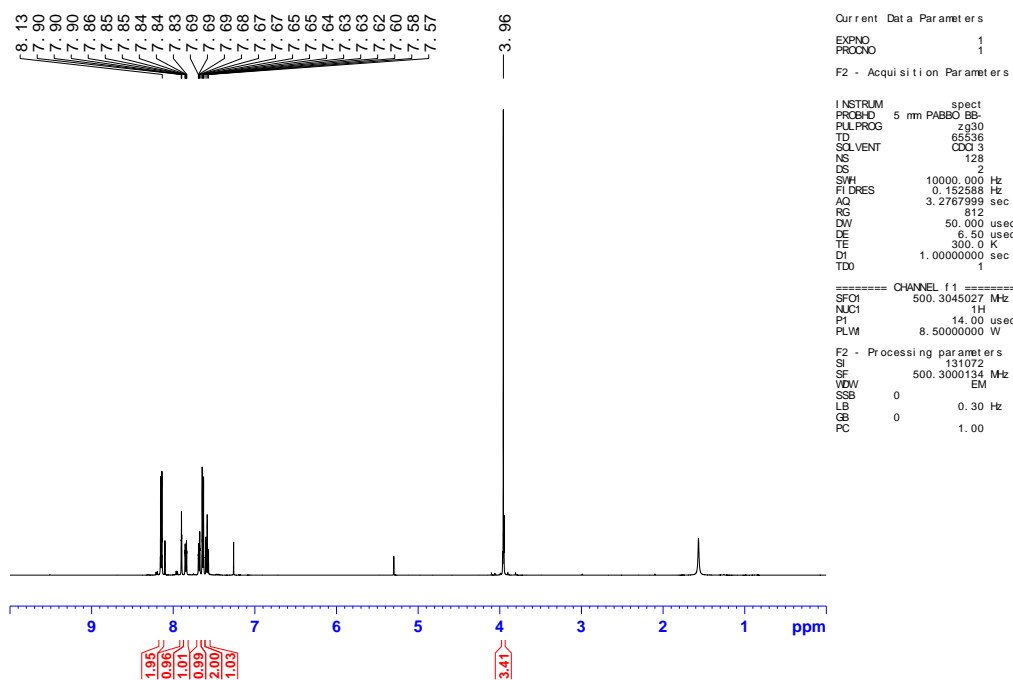


Figure S67: ^1H NMR spectrum of **2o**.

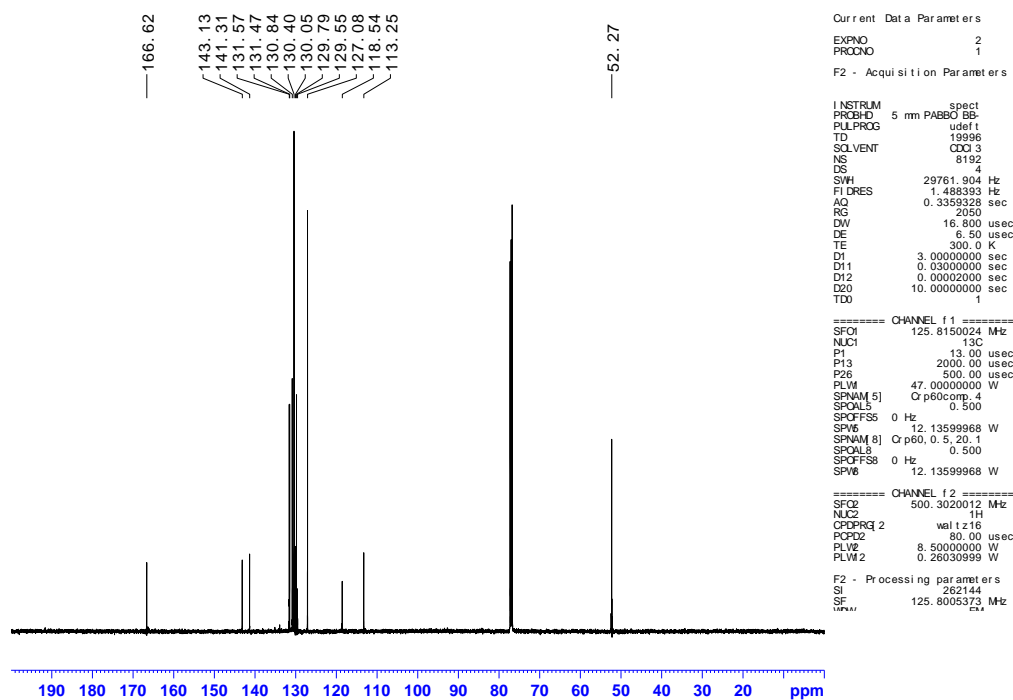


Figure S68: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2o**.

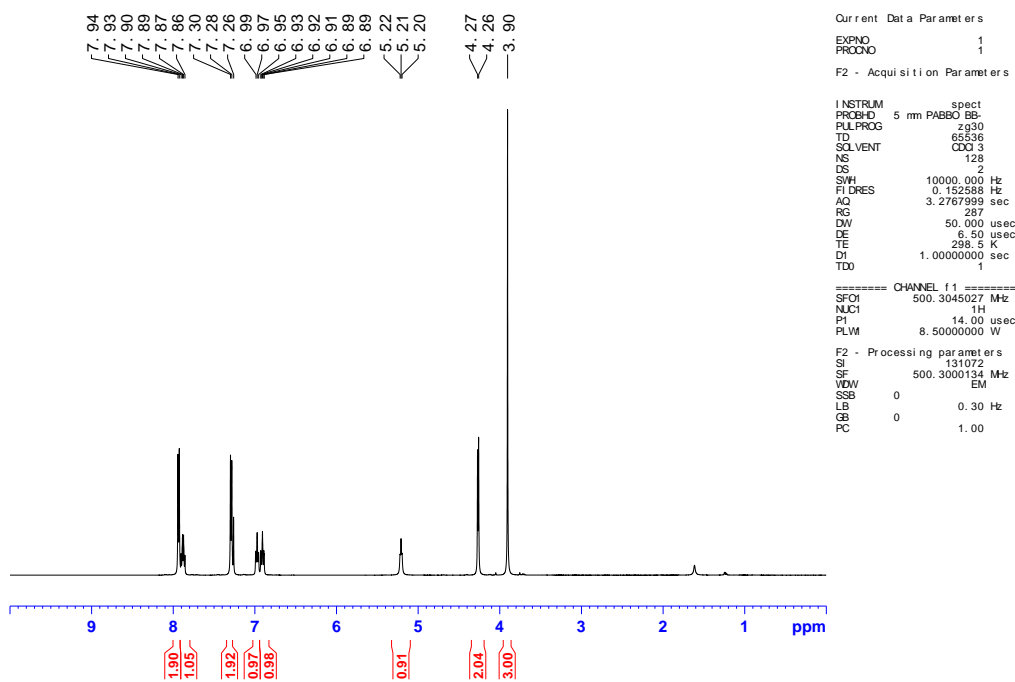


Figure S69: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1r.

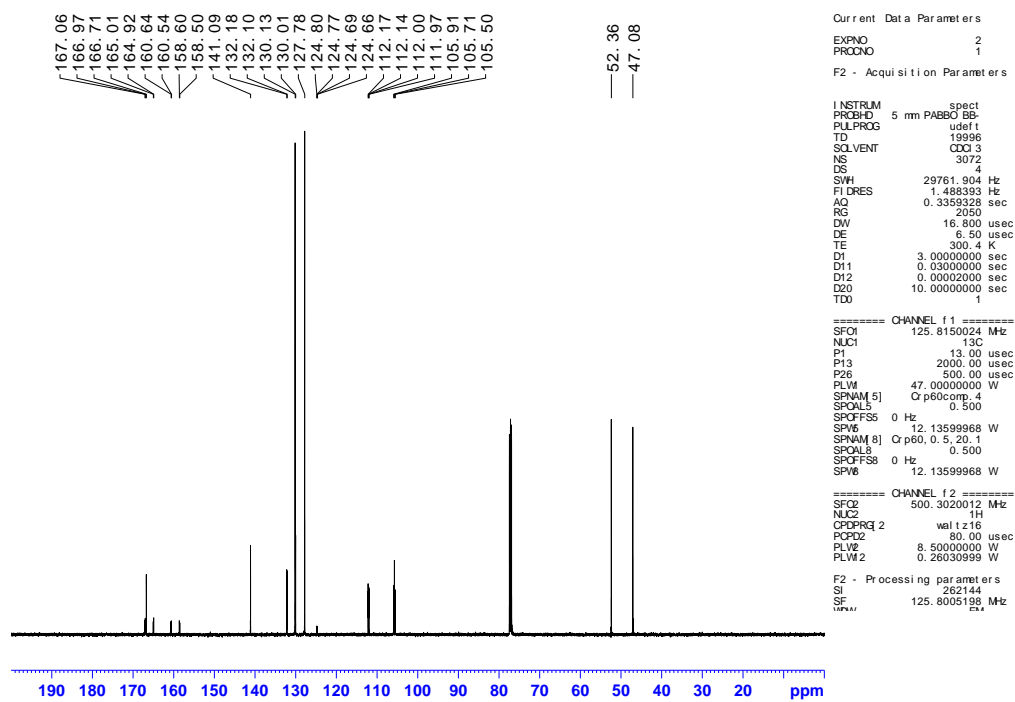


Figure S70: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1r.

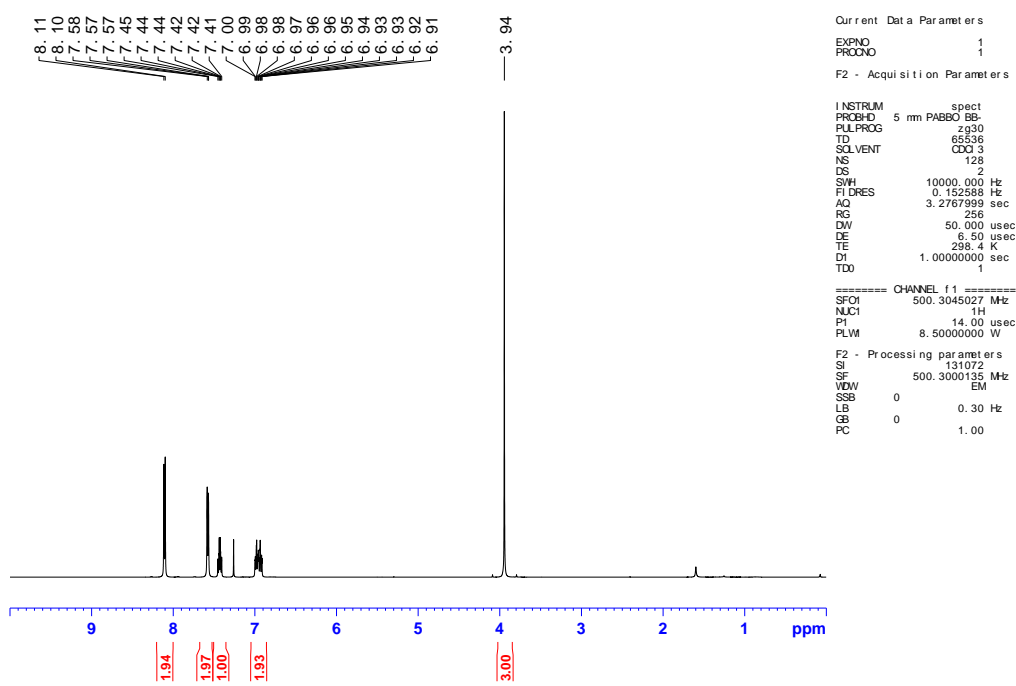


Figure S71: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2r.

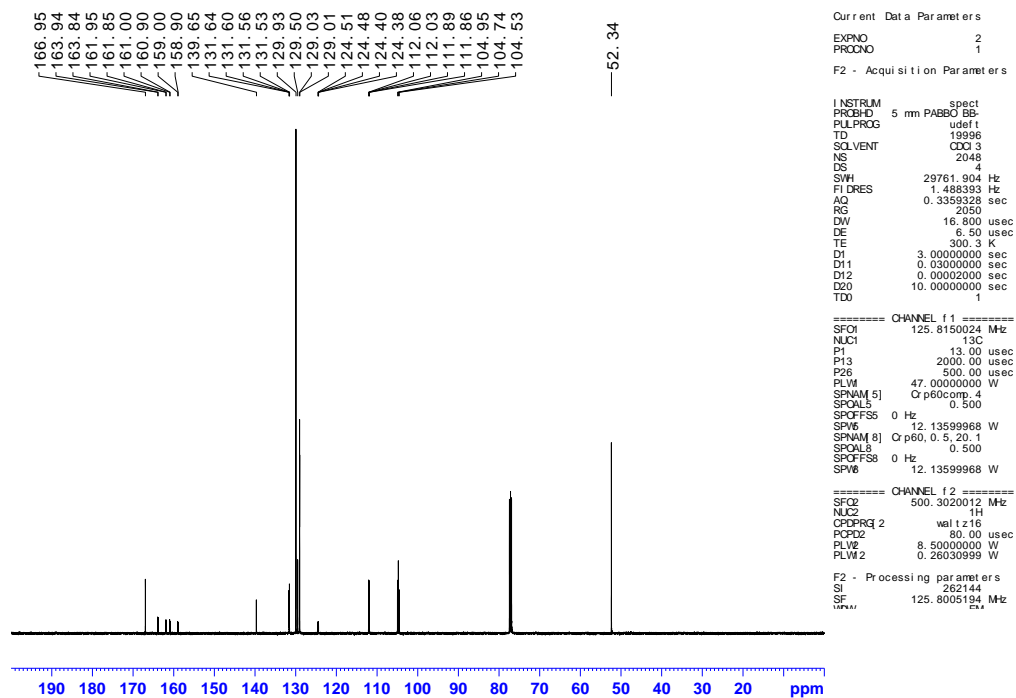


Figure S72: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2r.

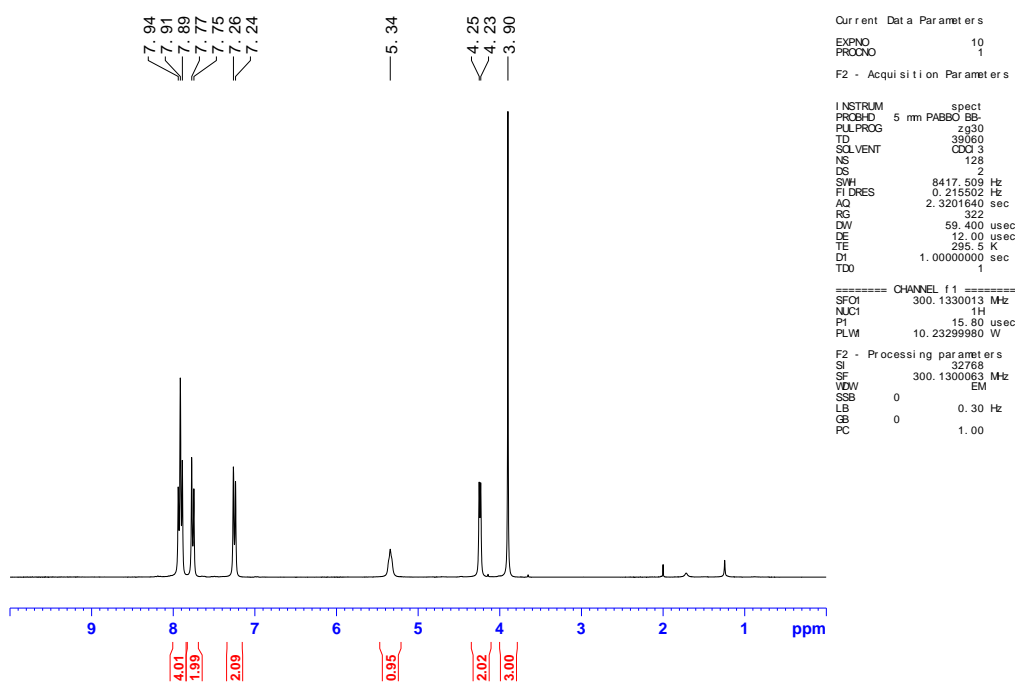


Figure S73: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1v.

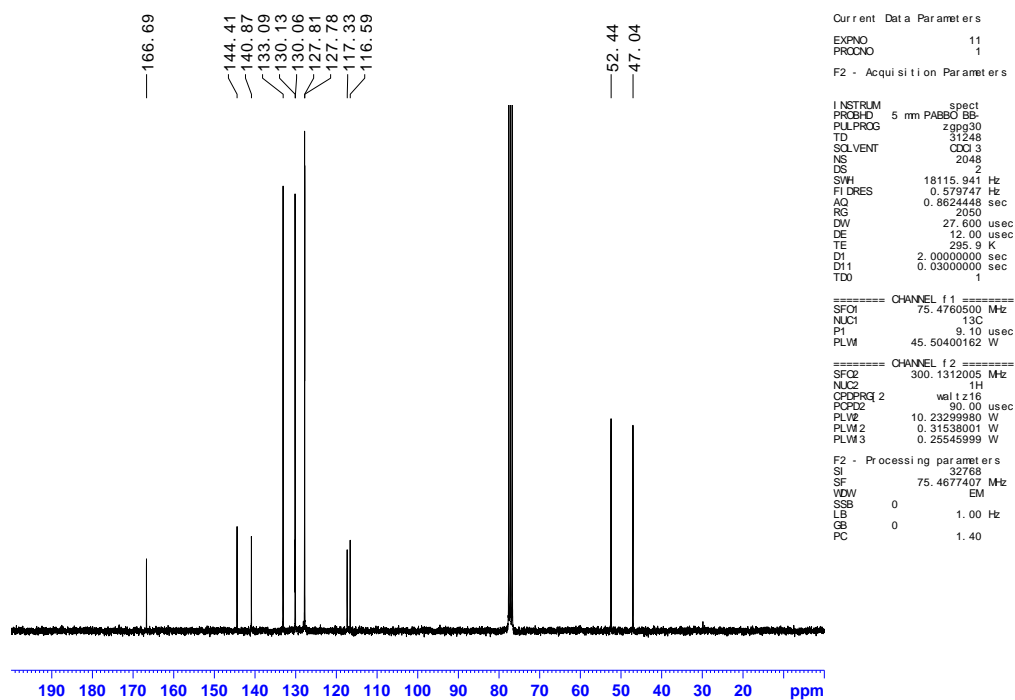


Figure S74: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1v.

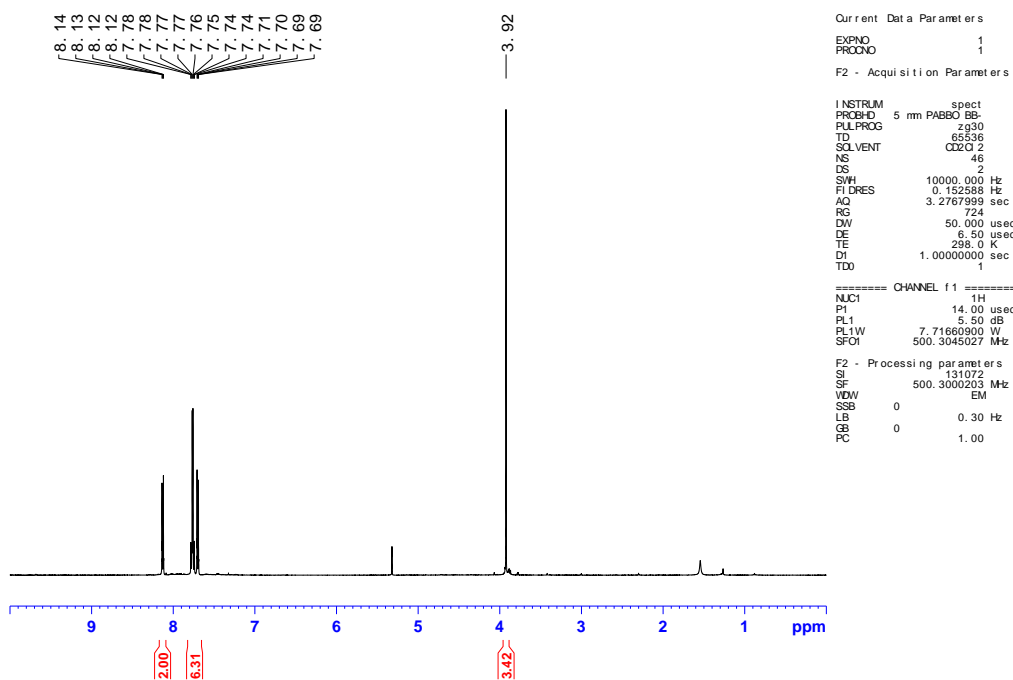


Figure S75: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2v.

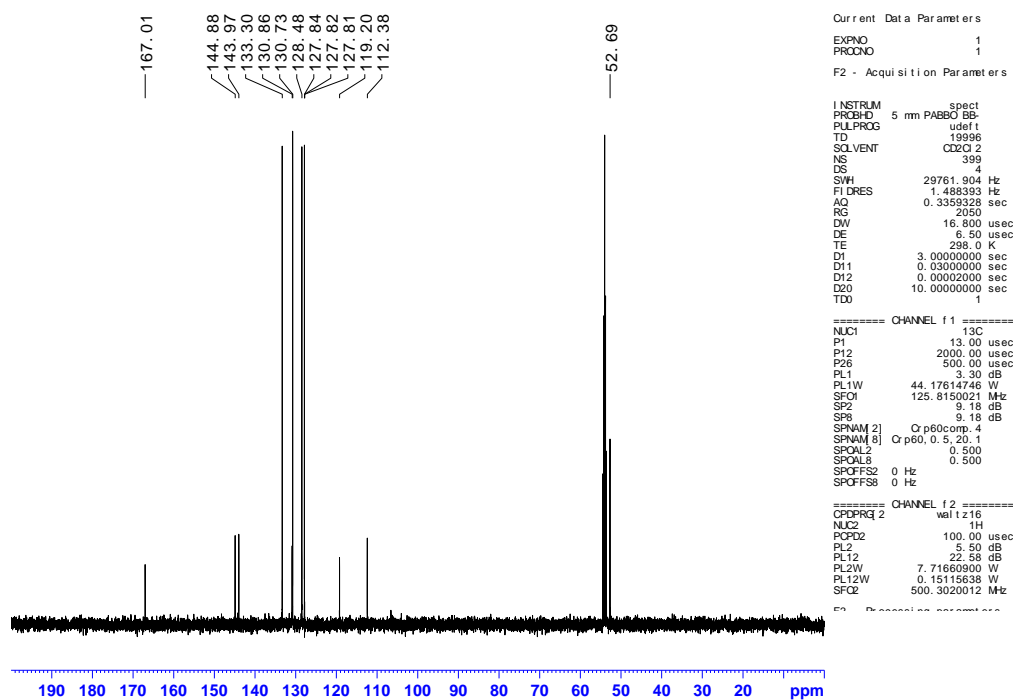


Figure S76: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2v.

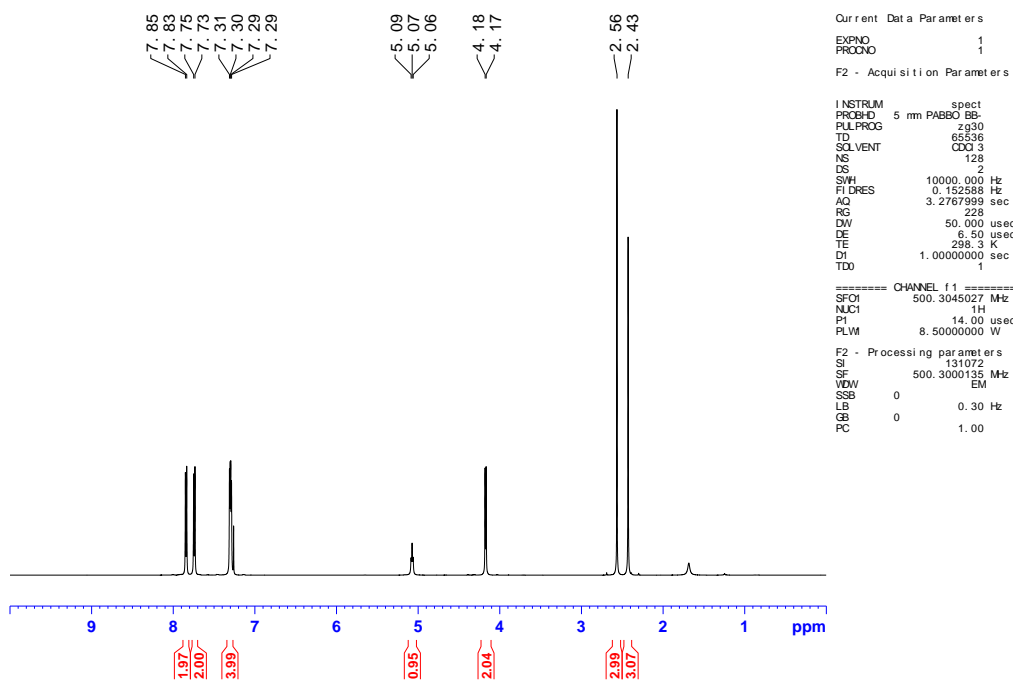


Figure S77: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1w.

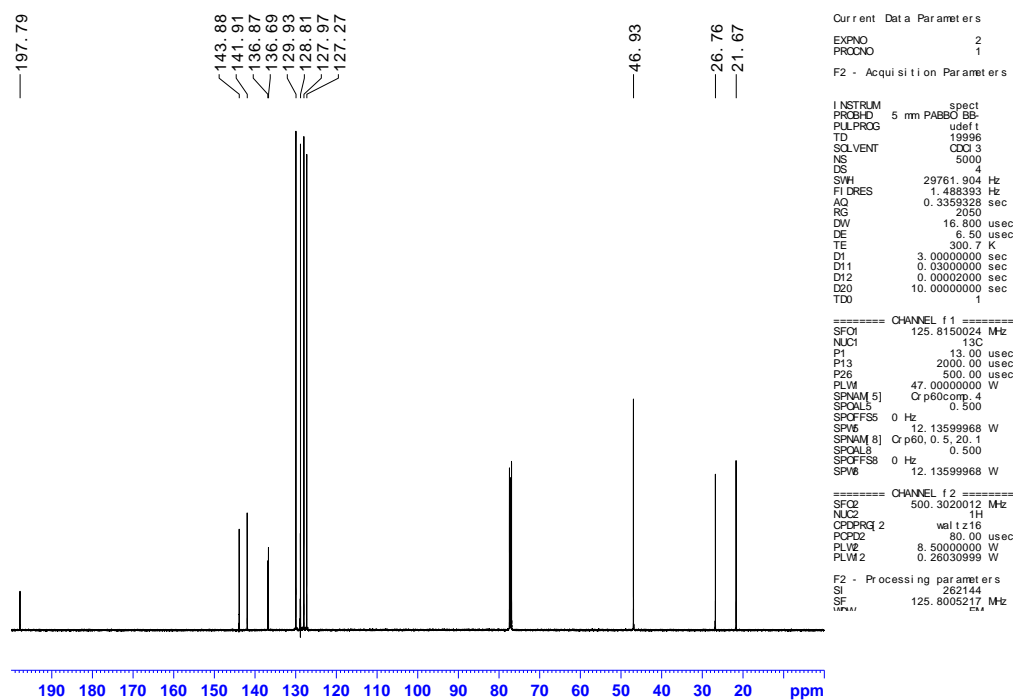


Figure S78: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1w.

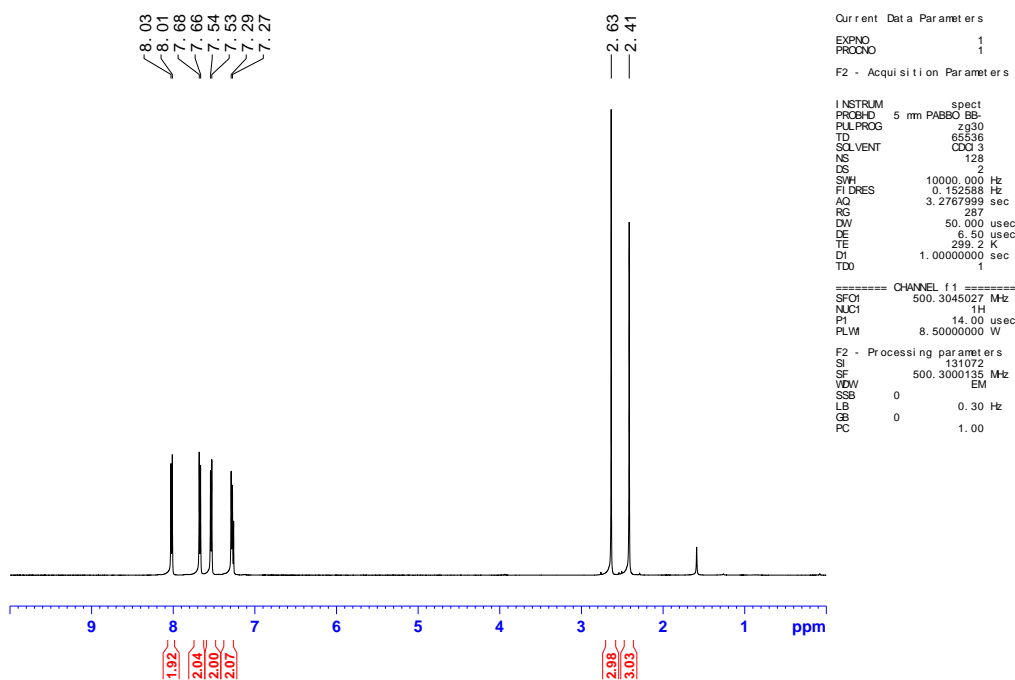


Figure S79: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2w.

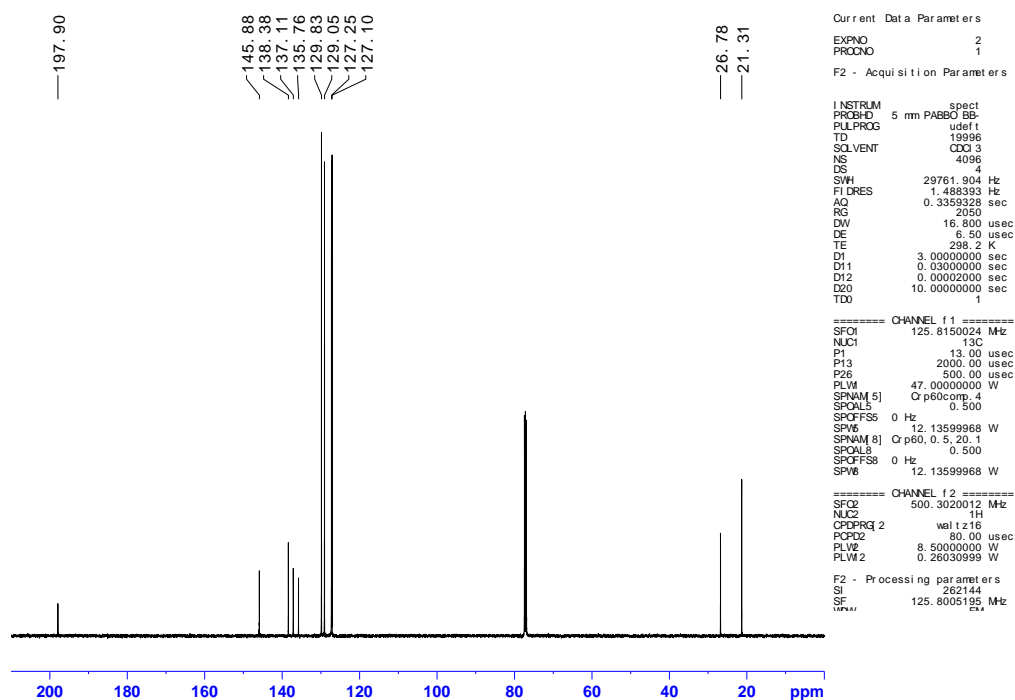


Figure S80: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2w.

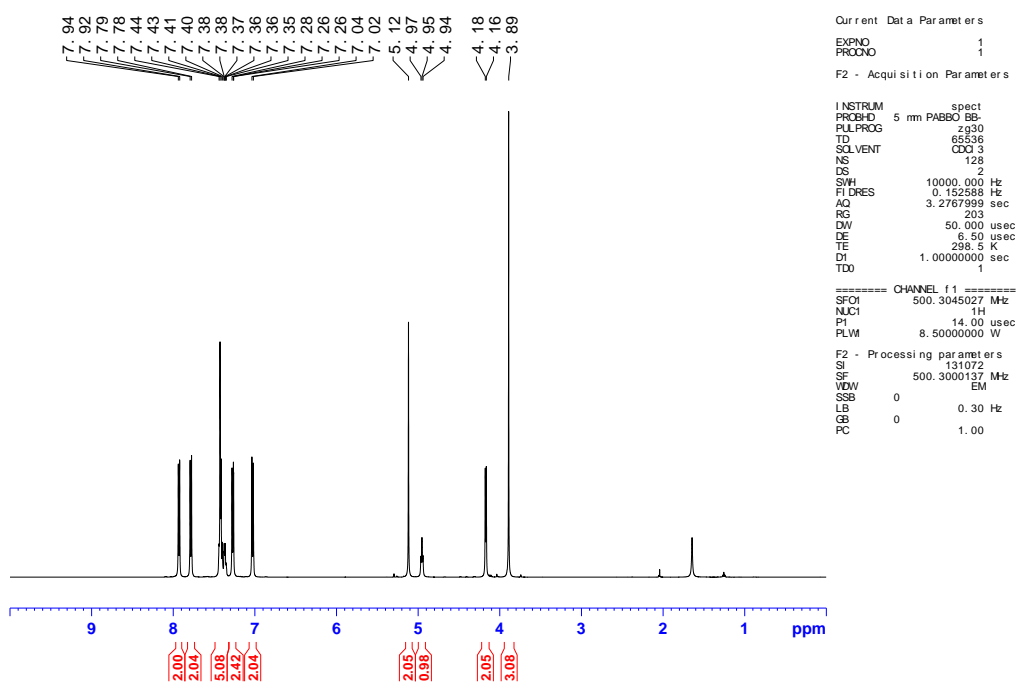


Figure S81: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1x.

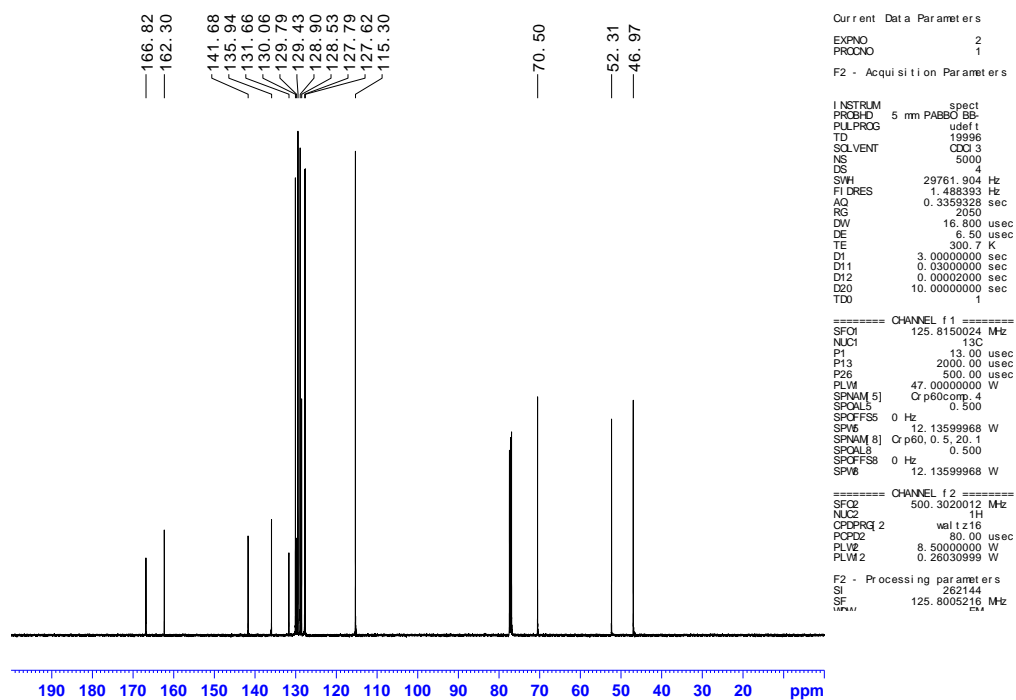


Figure S82: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1x.

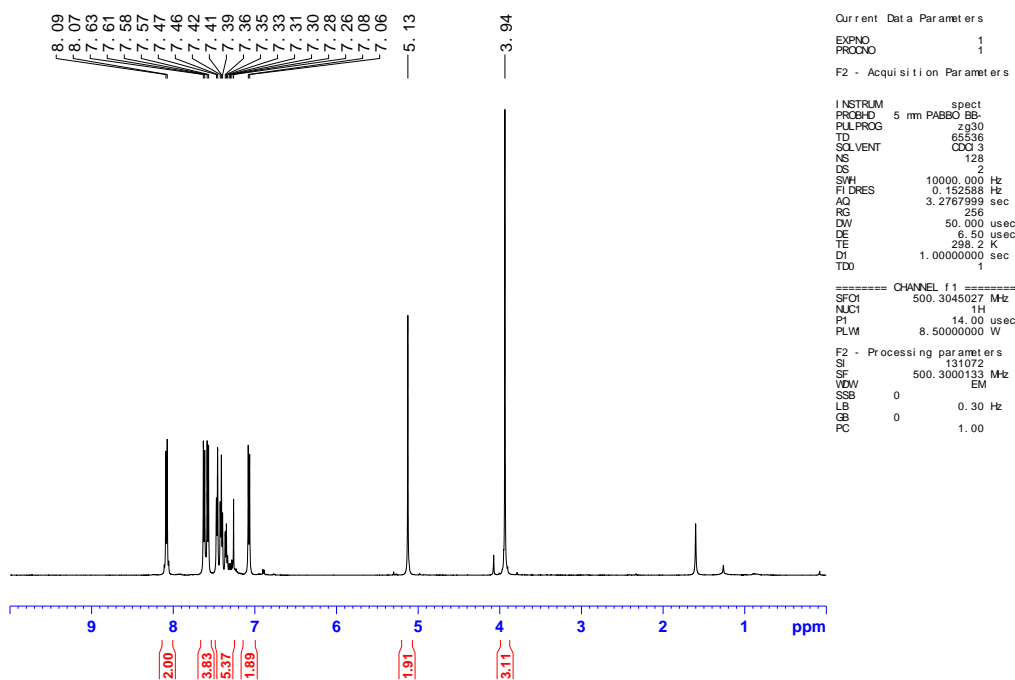


Figure S83: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2x.

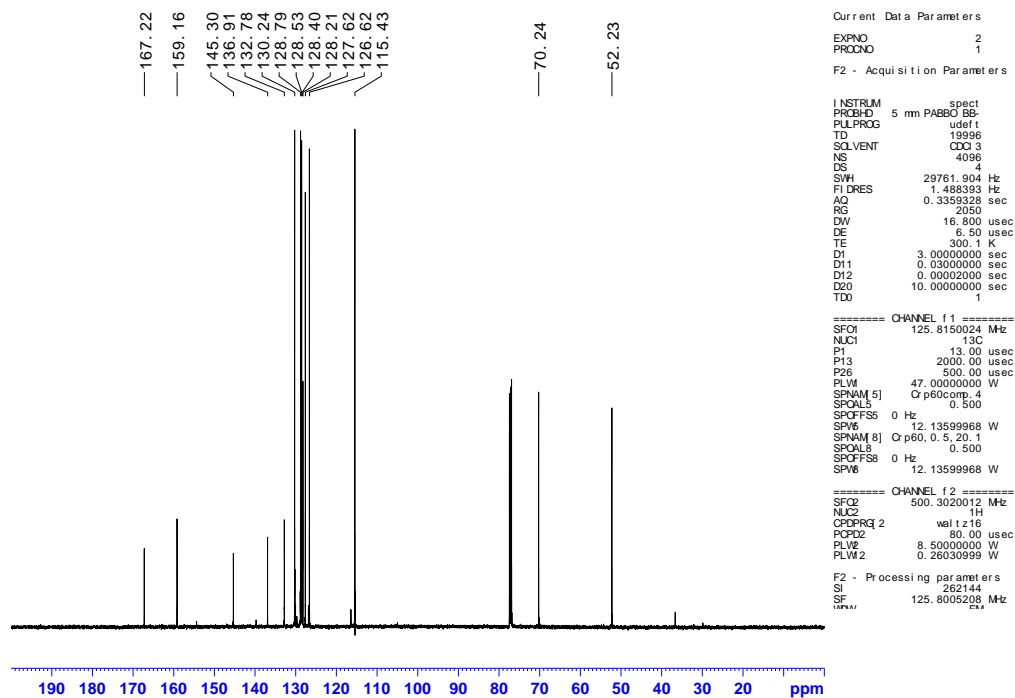


Figure S84: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2x.

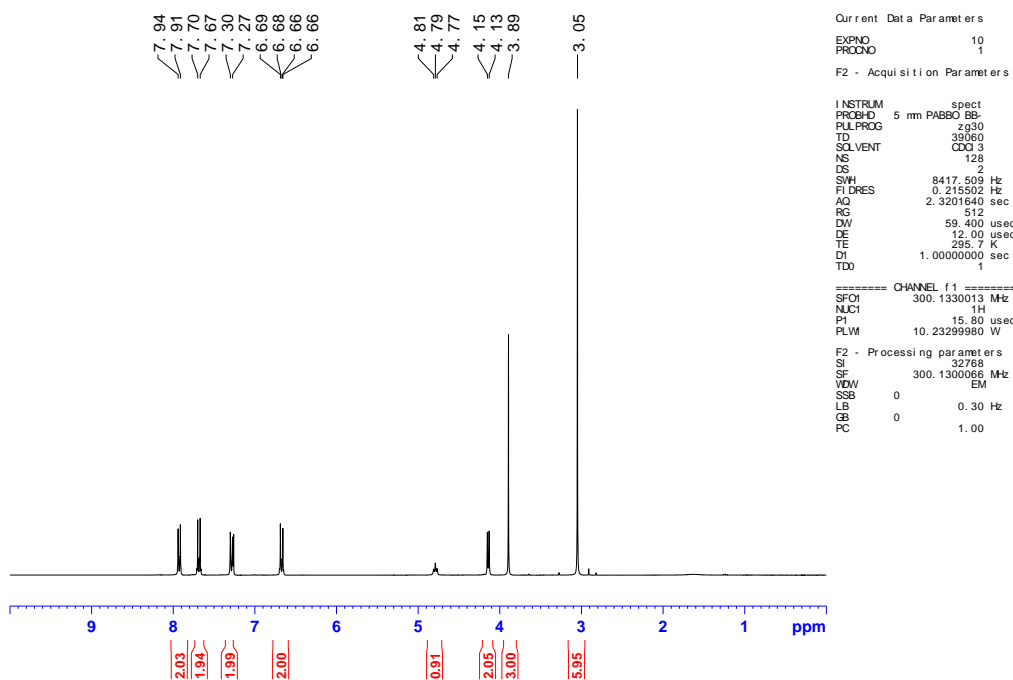


Figure S85: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1y.

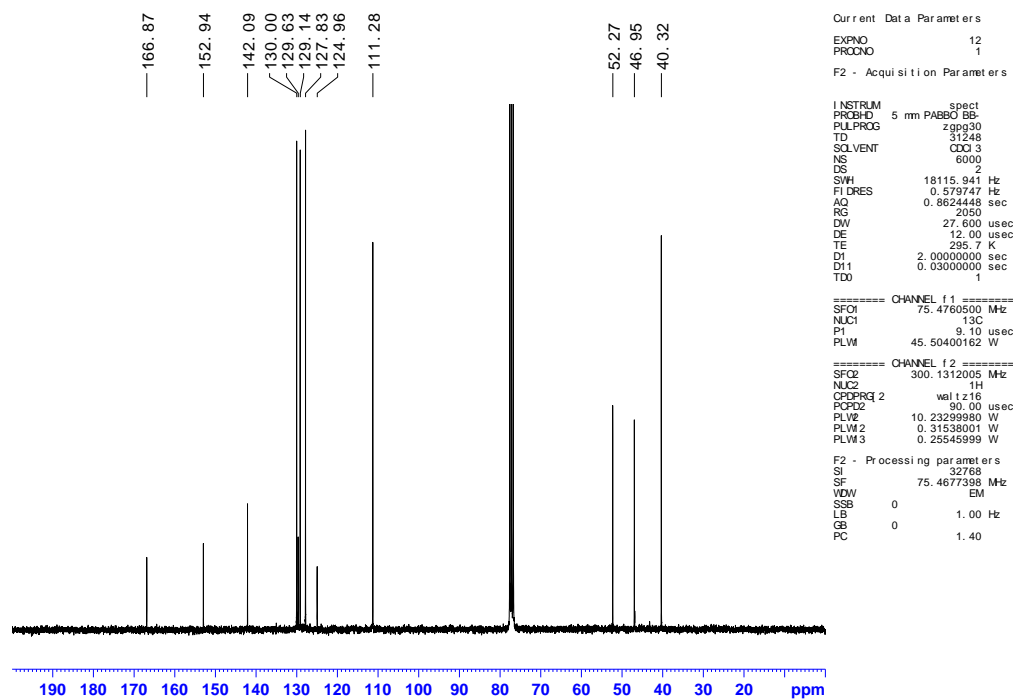


Figure S86: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1y.

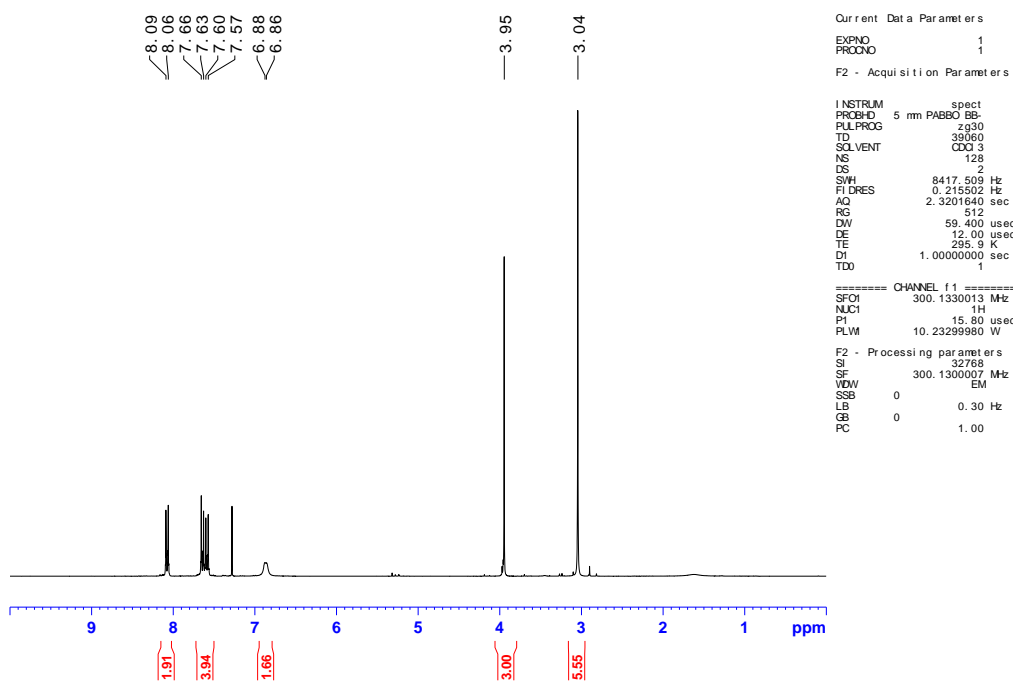


Figure S87: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2y.

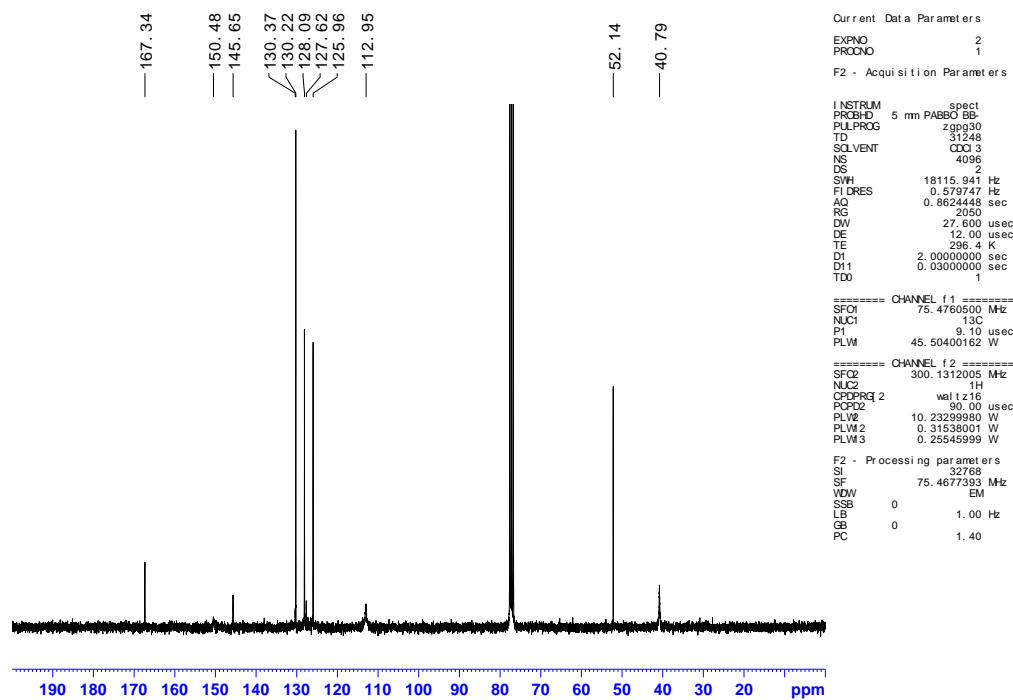


Figure S88: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2y.

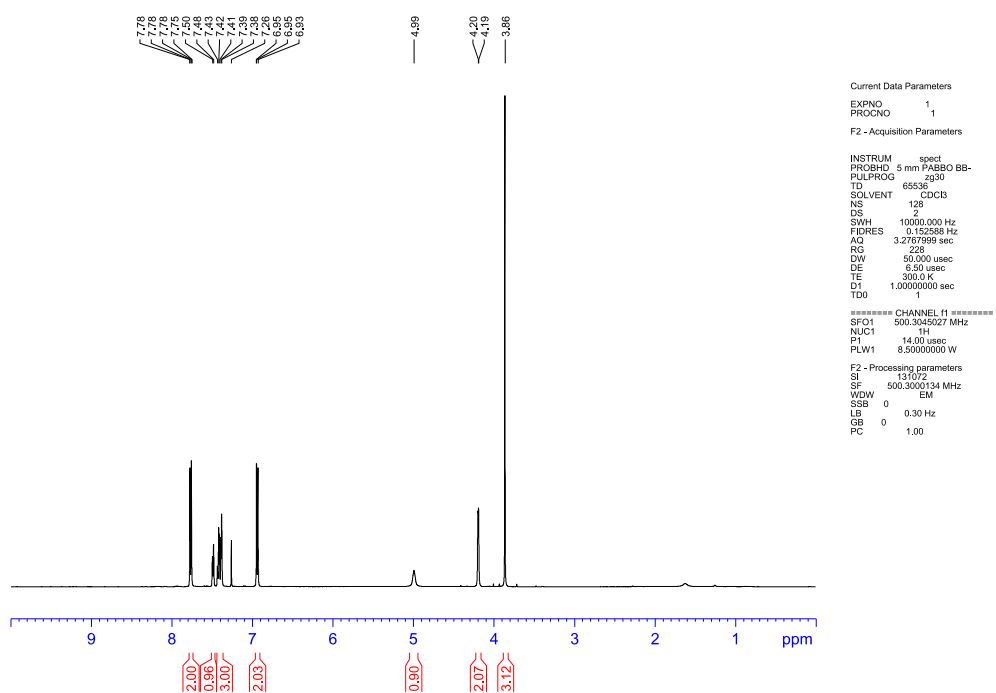


Figure S89: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1z**.

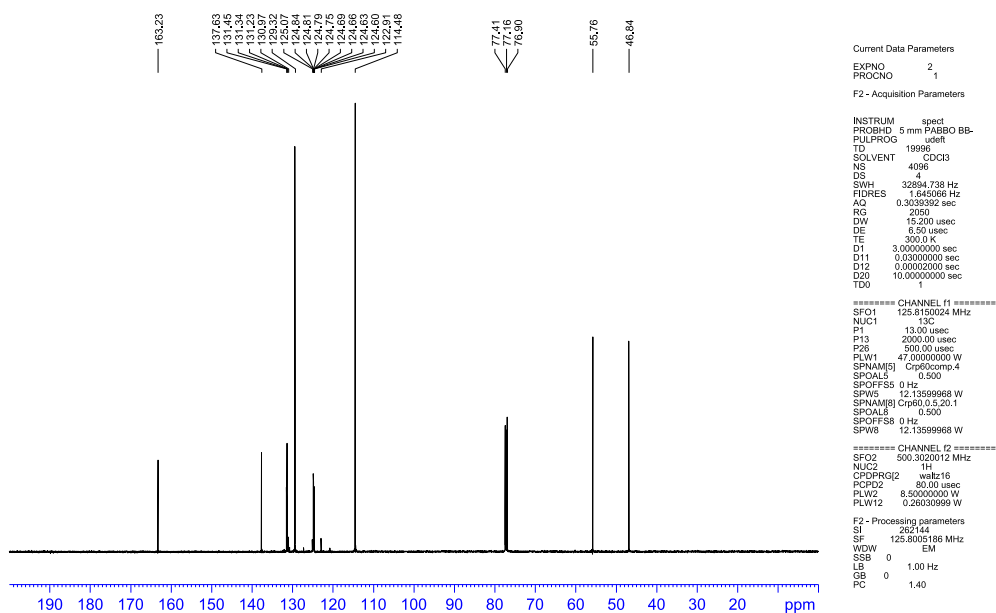


Figure S90: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1z**.

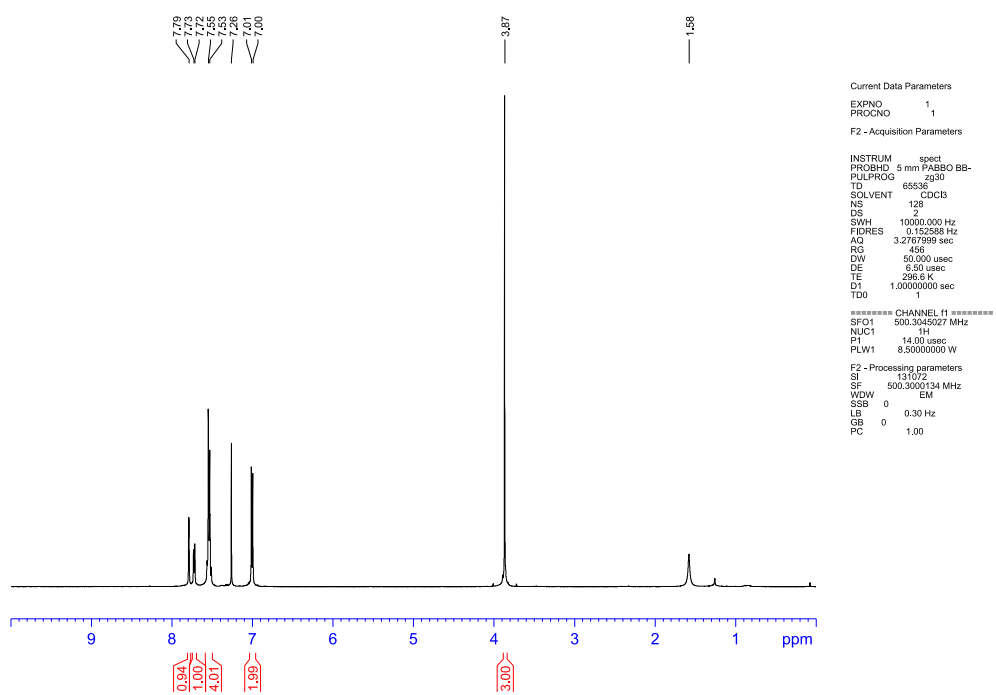


Figure S91: ^1H NMR spectrum of **2z**.

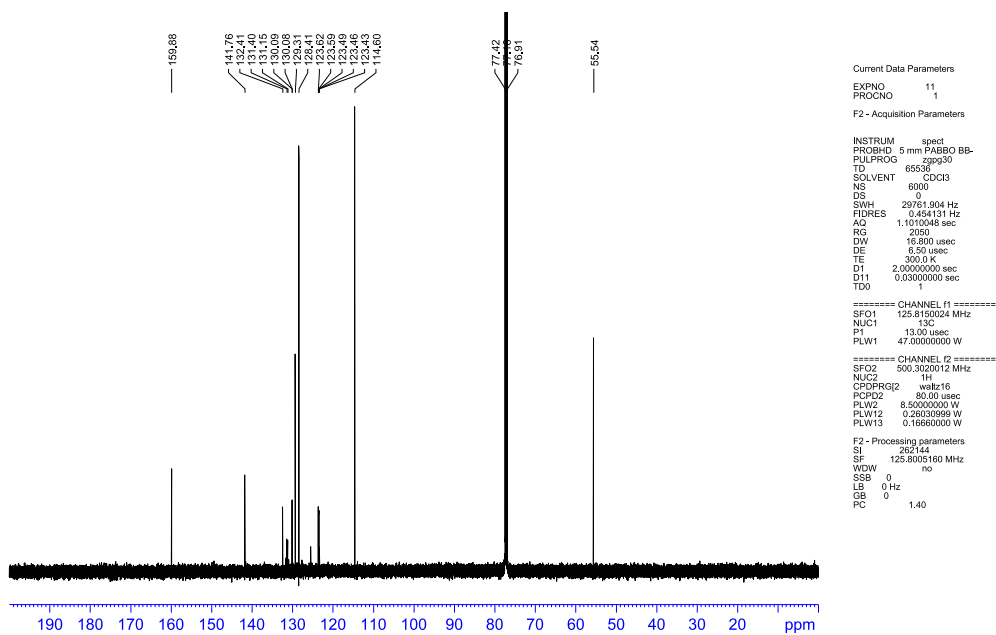


Figure S92: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2z**.

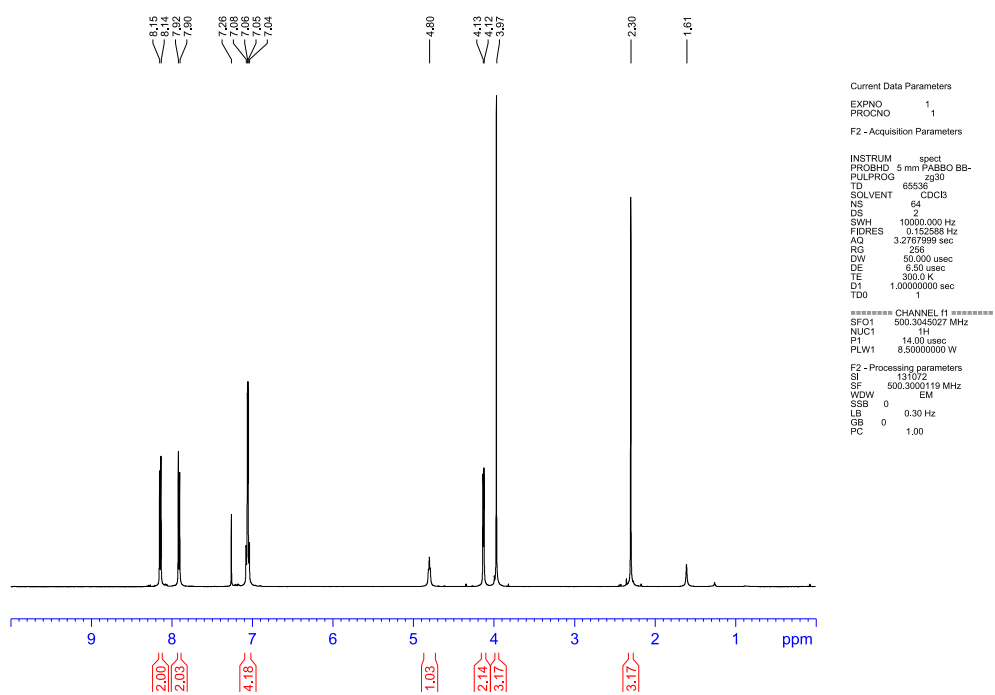


Figure S93: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1a.

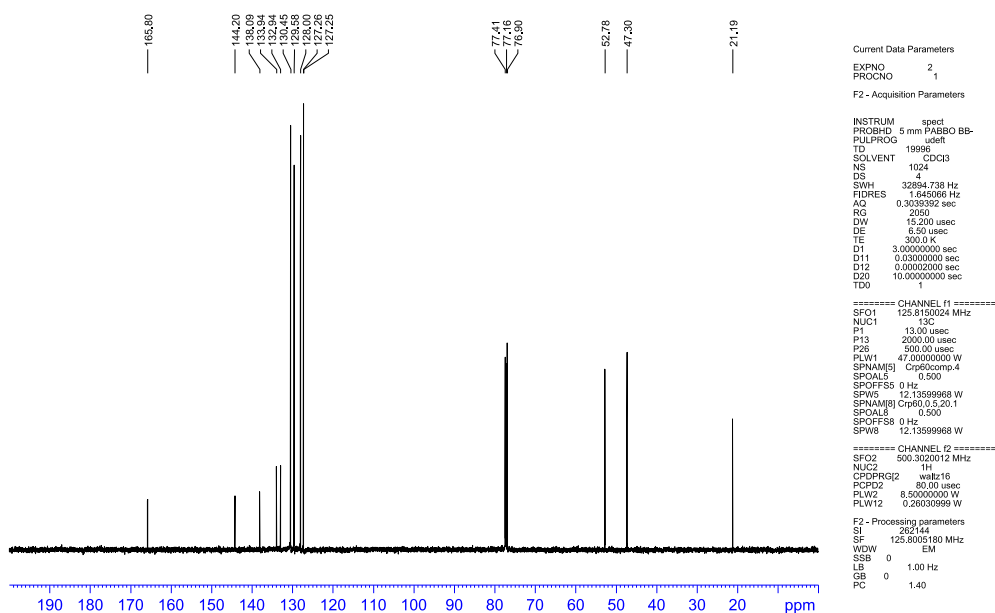


Figure S94: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1a.

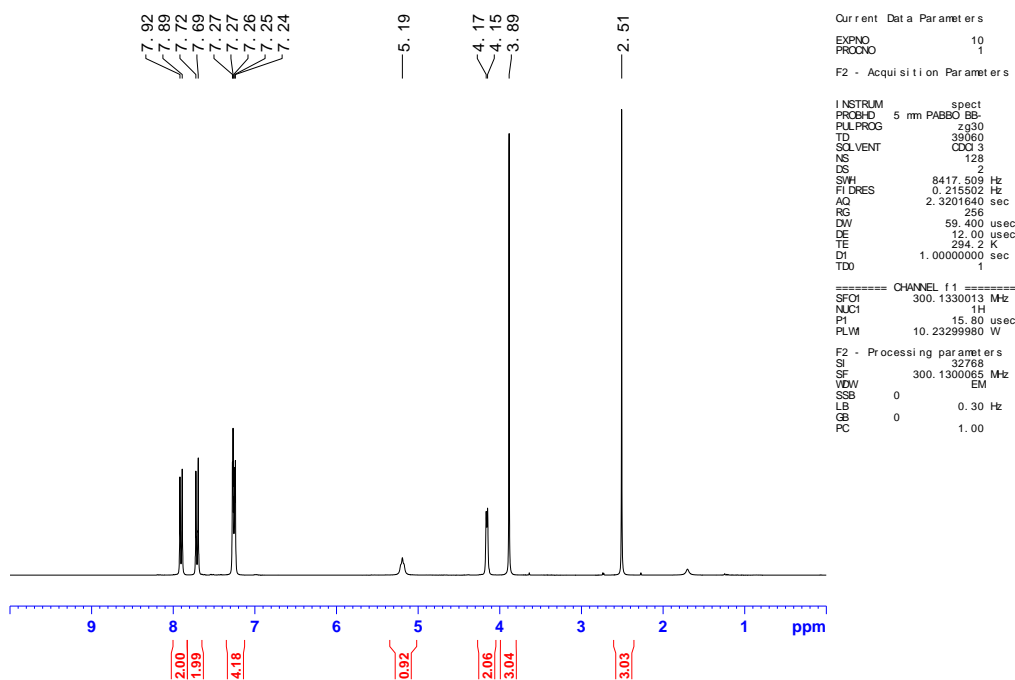


Figure S95: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1ab.

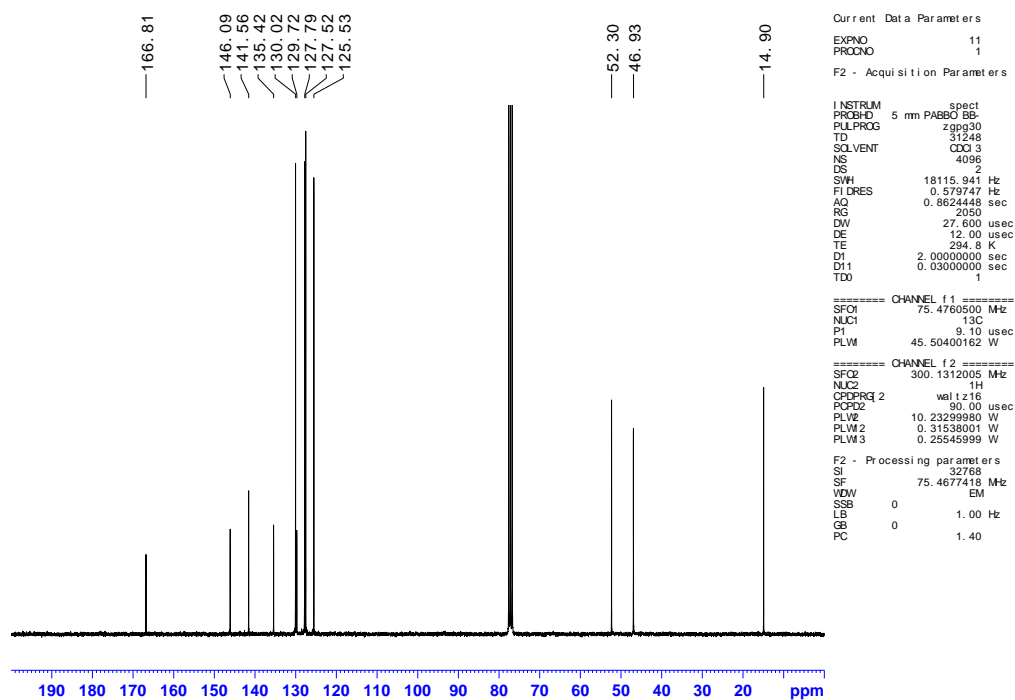


Figure S96: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1ab.

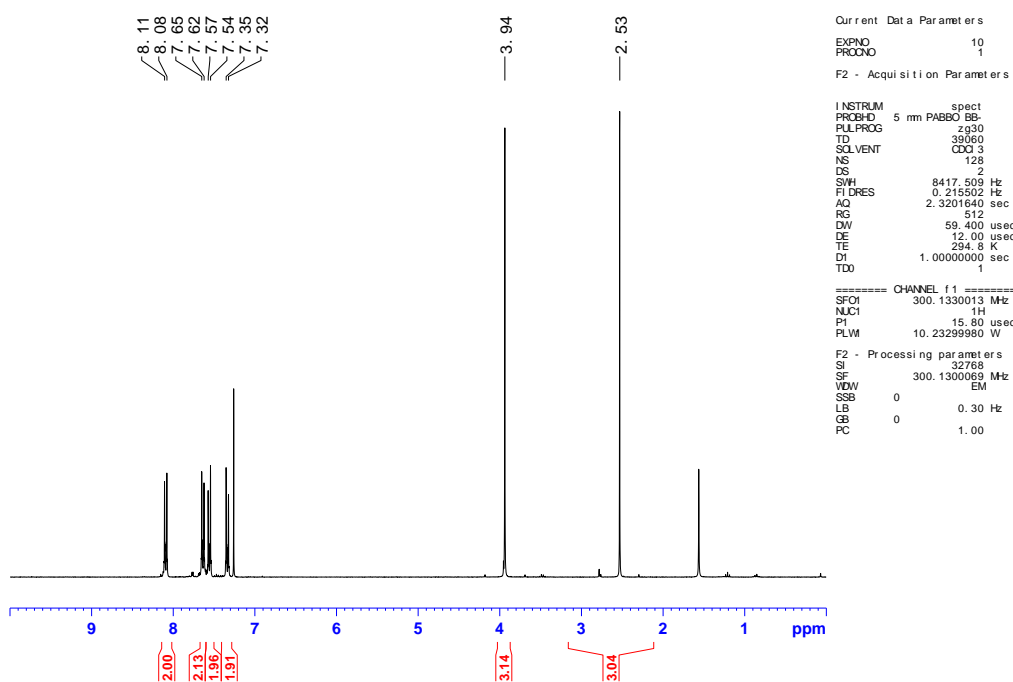


Figure S97: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2ab.

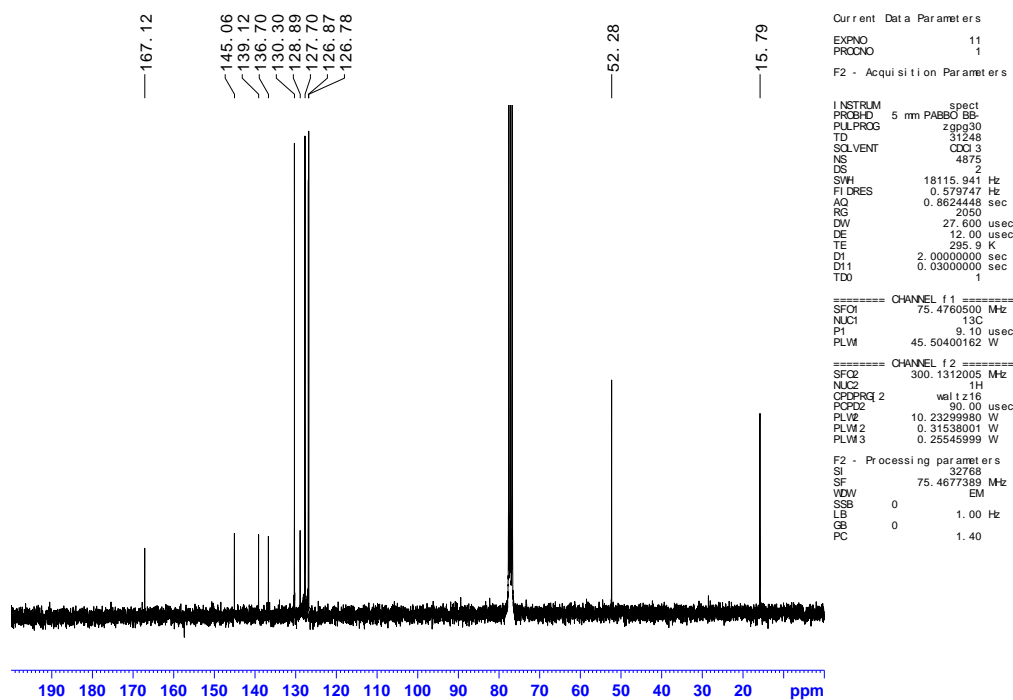


Figure S98: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2ab.

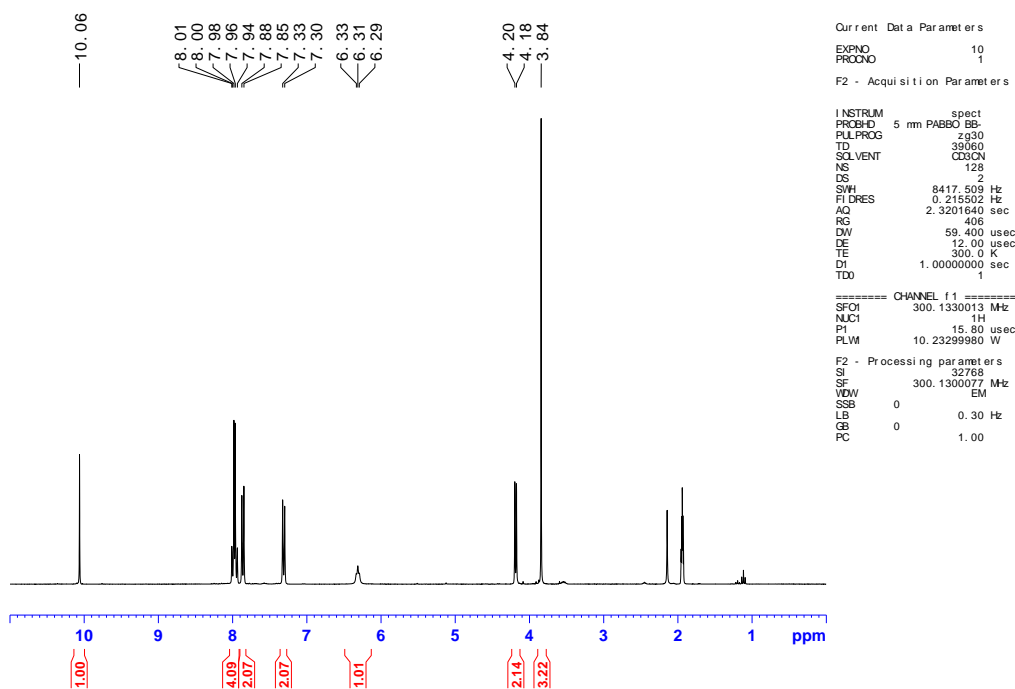


Figure S99: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1ac.

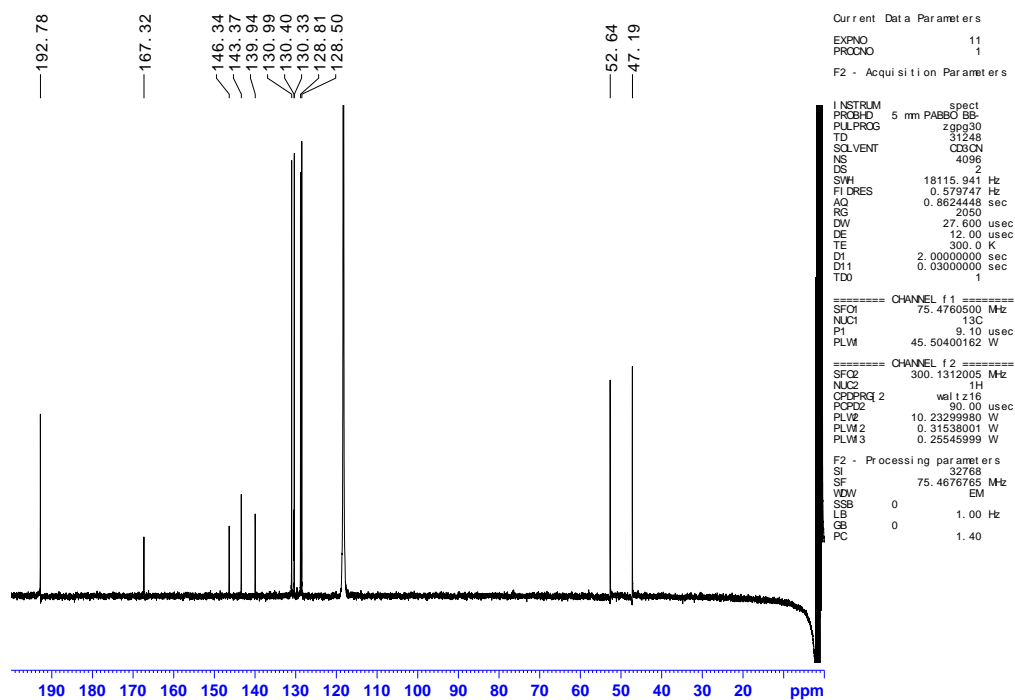


Figure S100: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1ac.

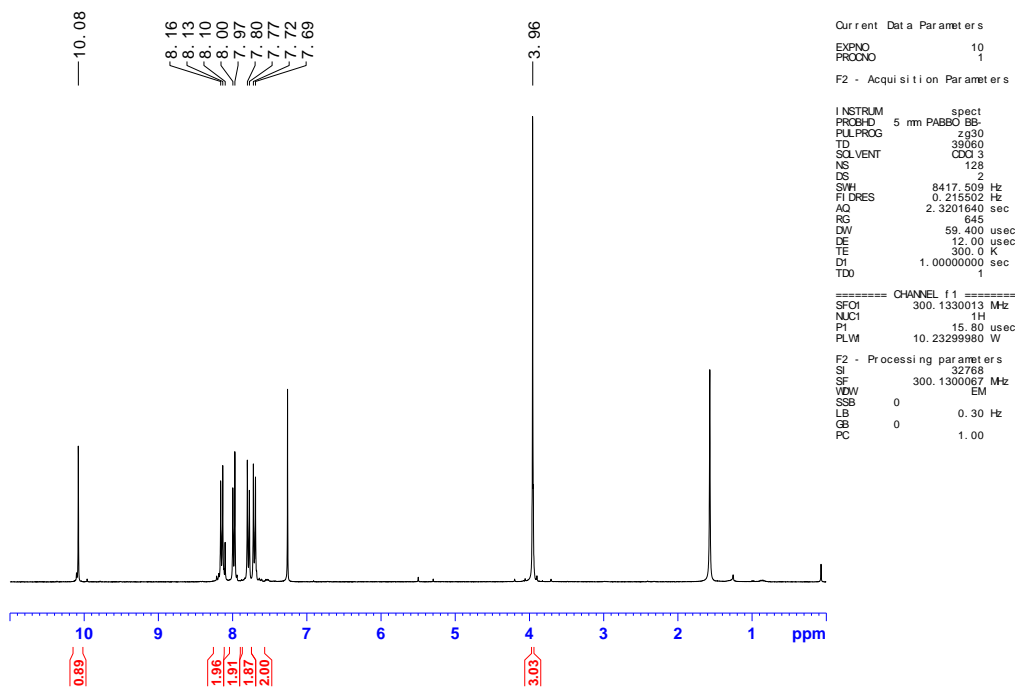


Figure S101: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2ac.

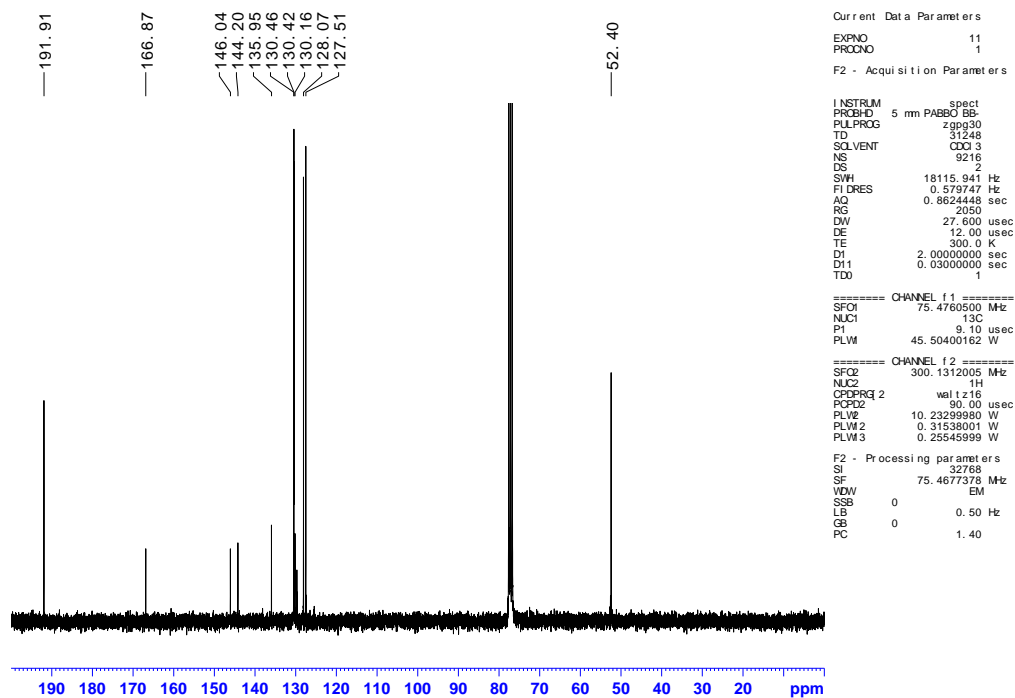


Figure S102: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2ac.

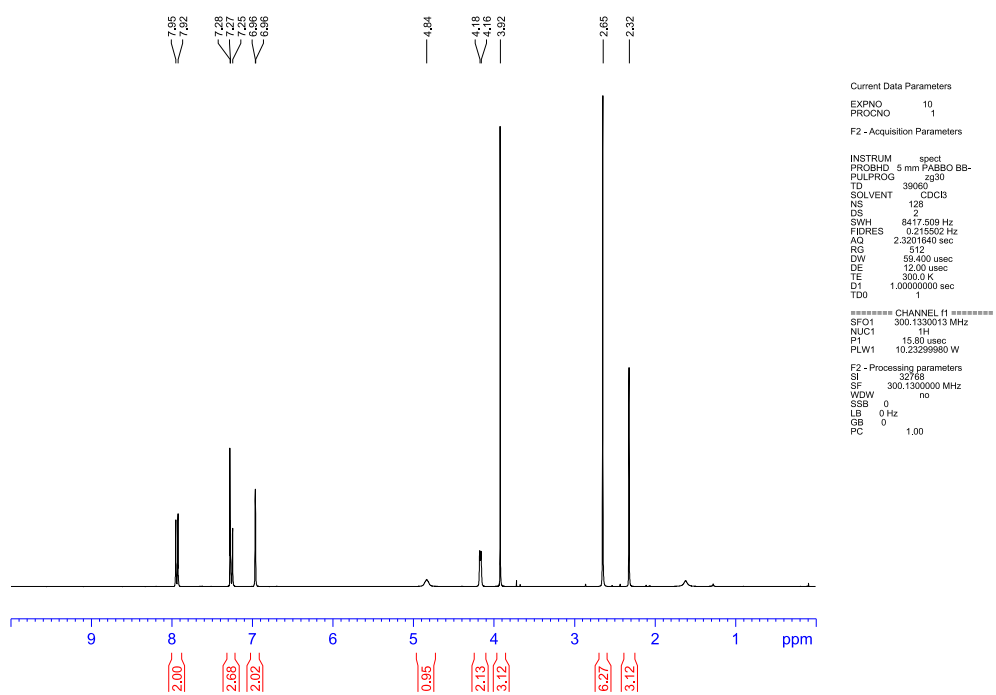


Figure S103: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1ad.

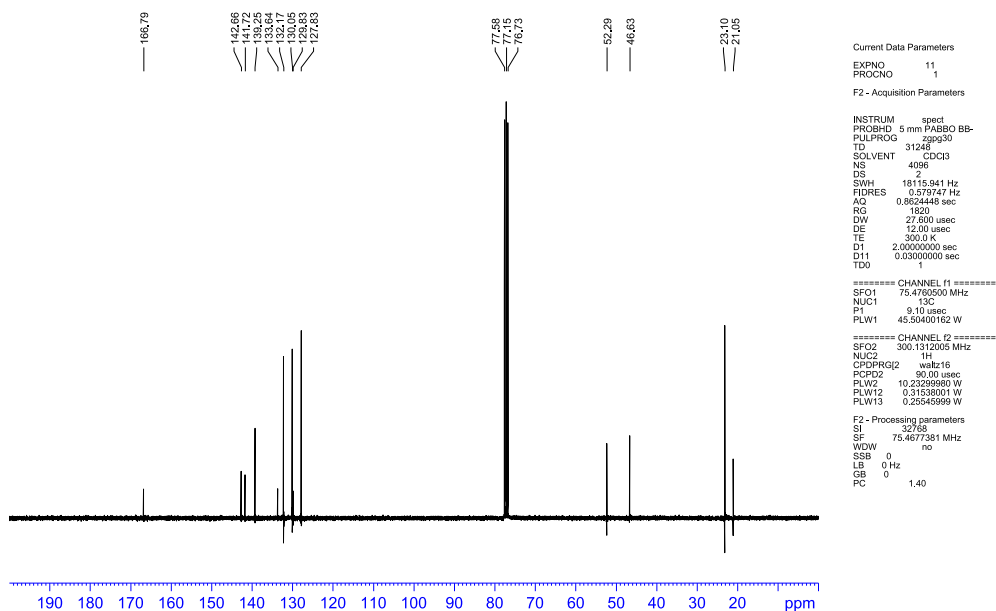


Figure S104: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1ad.

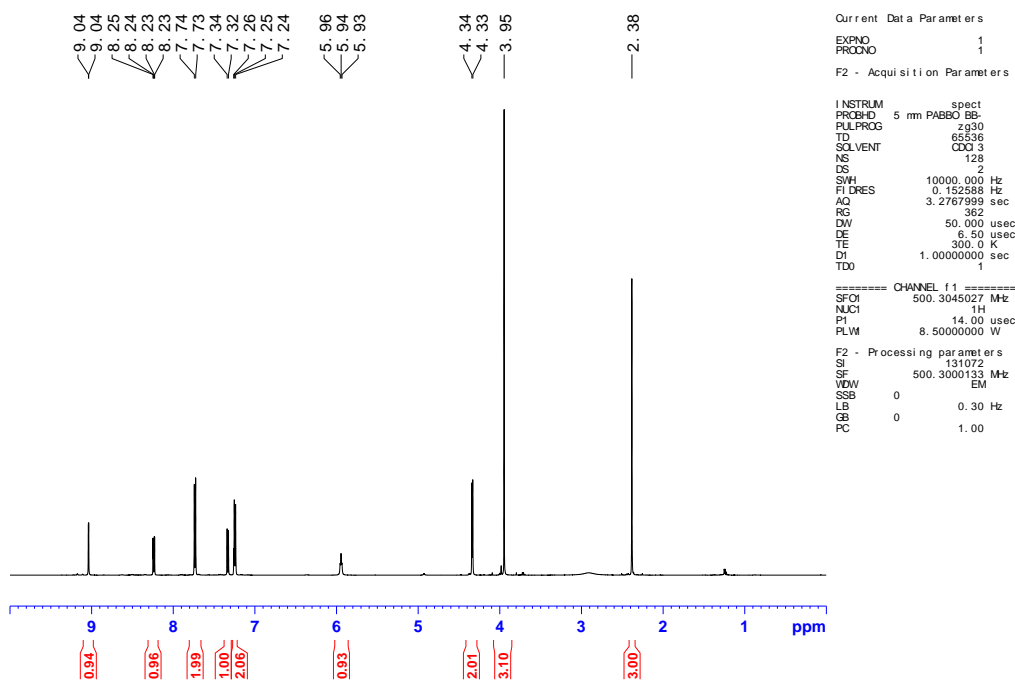


Figure S105: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1ae**.

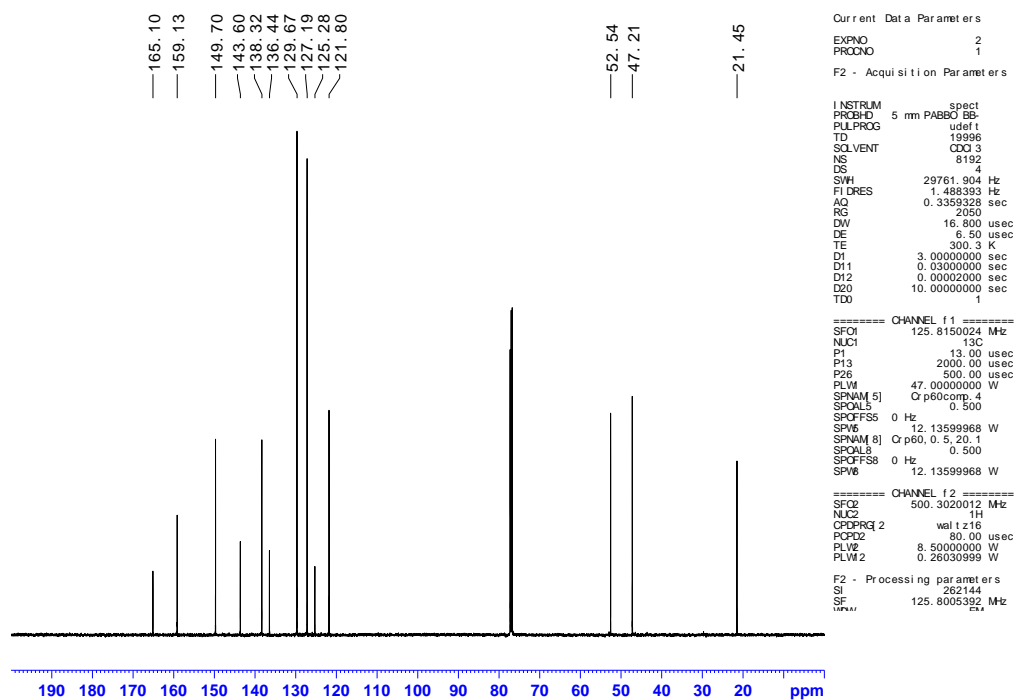


Figure S106: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1ae**.

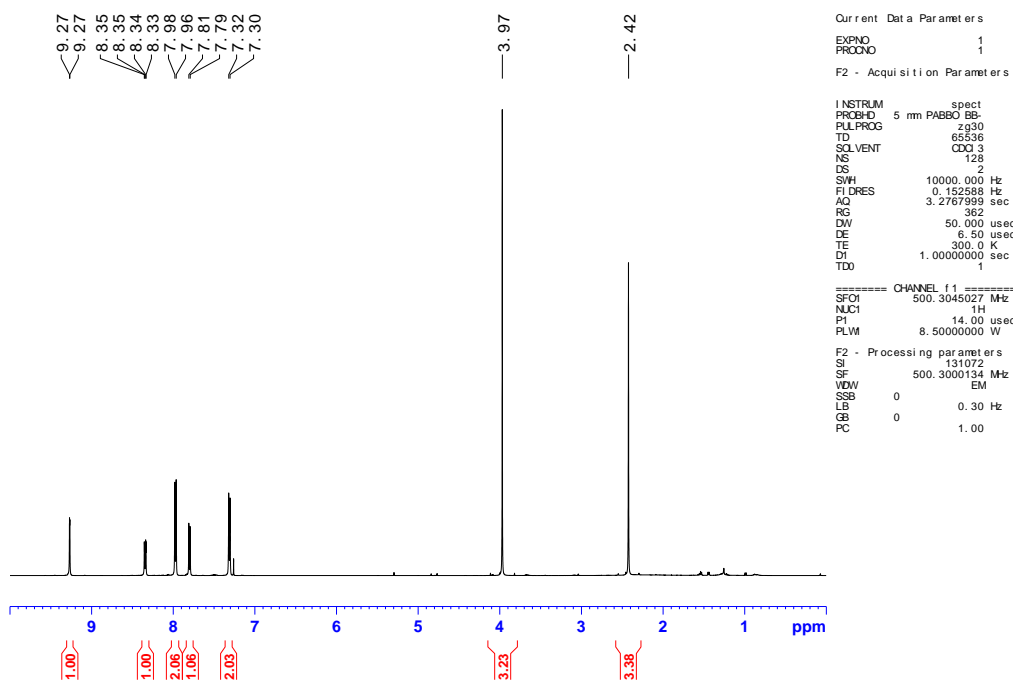


Figure S107: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2ae.

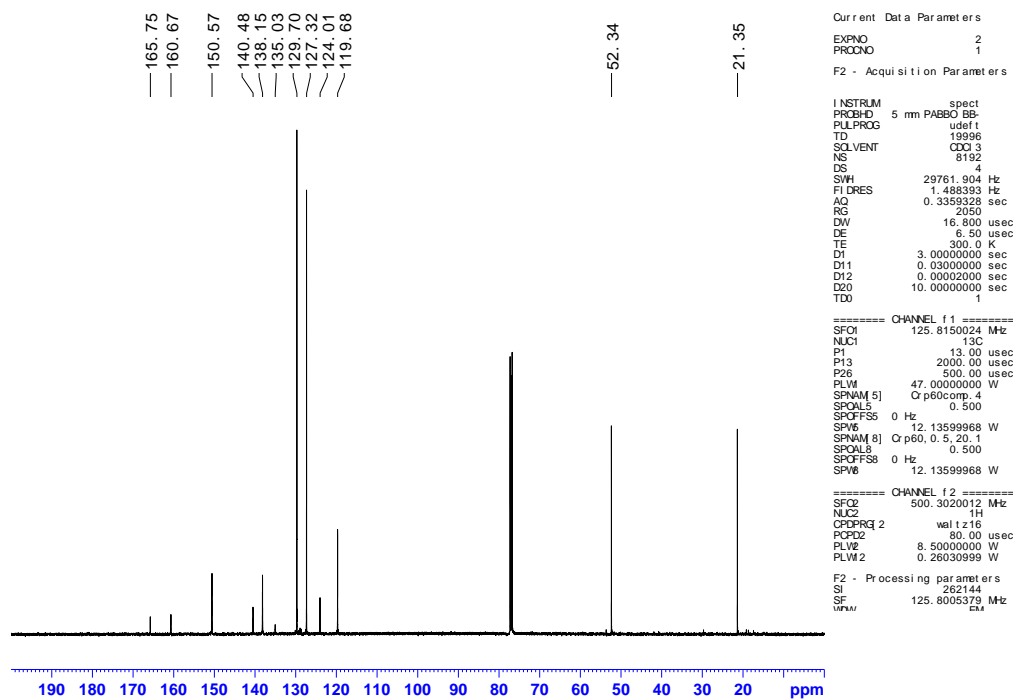


Figure S108: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2ae.

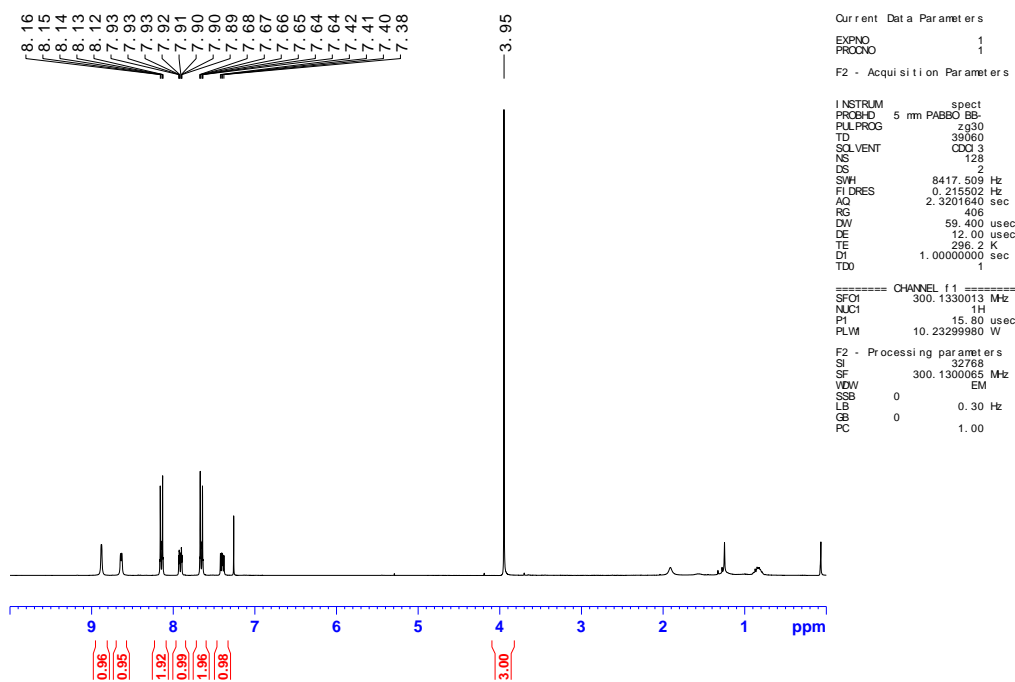


Figure S109: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1af.

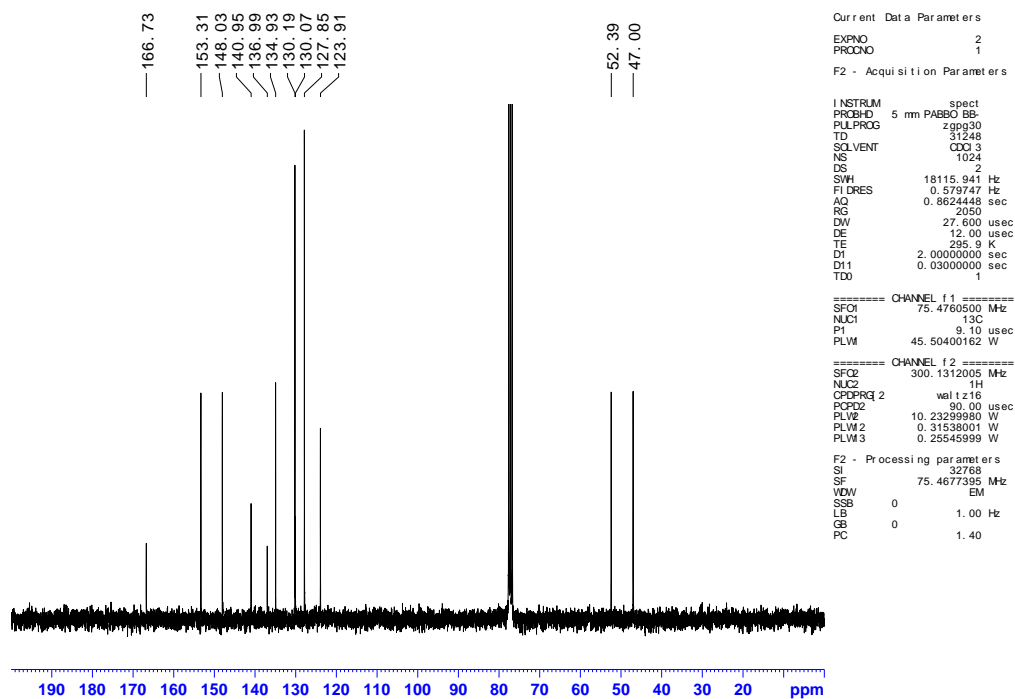


Figure S110: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1af.

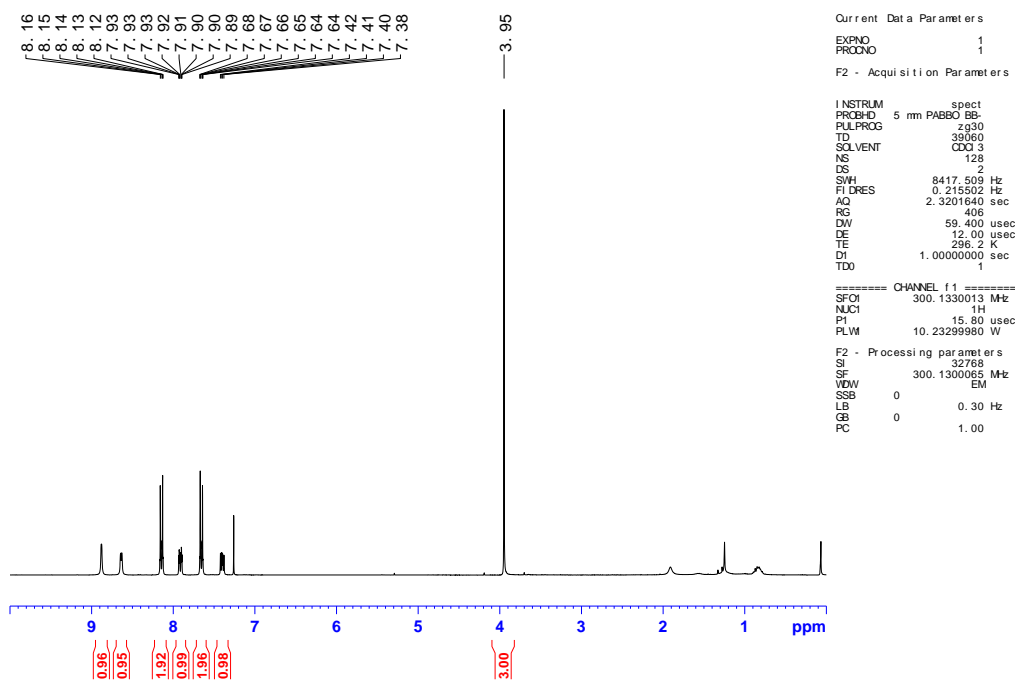


Figure S111: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2af.

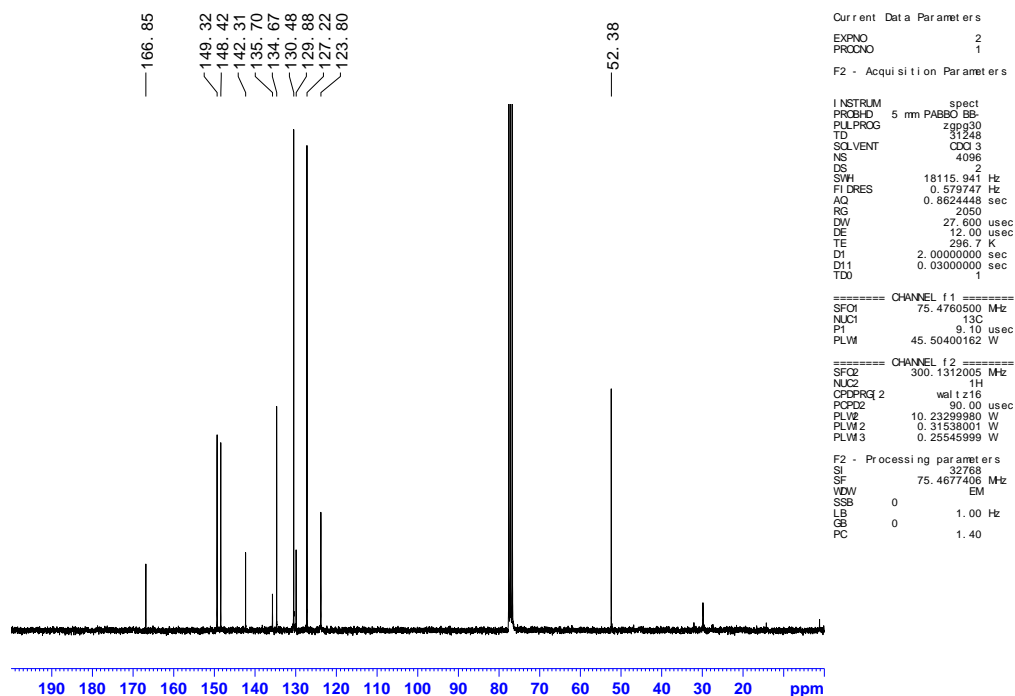


Figure S112: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2af.

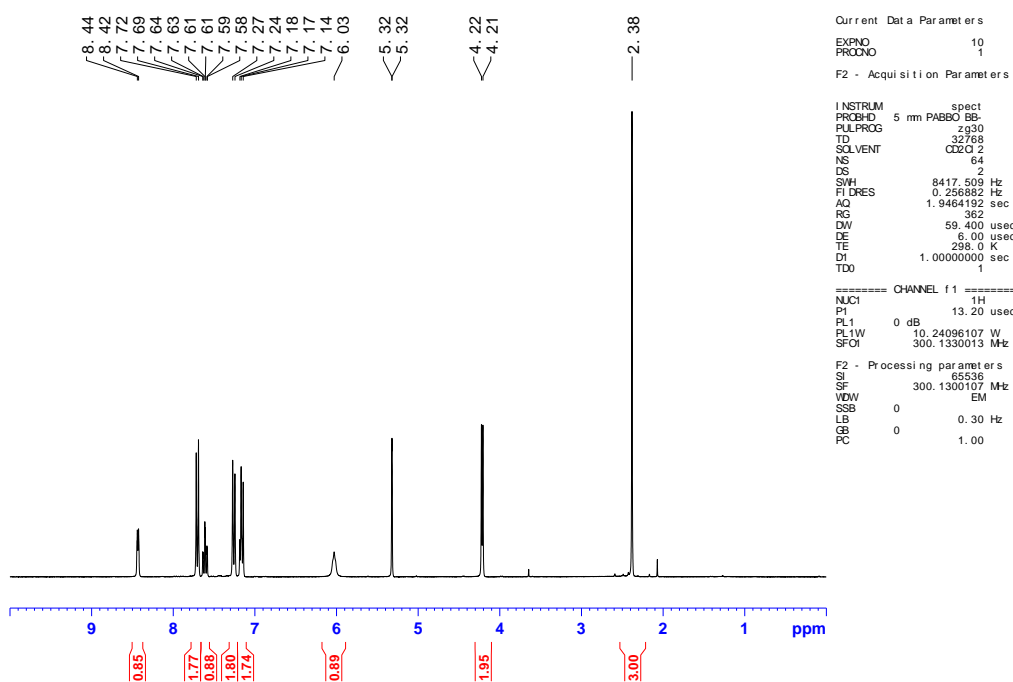


Figure S113: ¹H NMR spectrum of **1ag**.

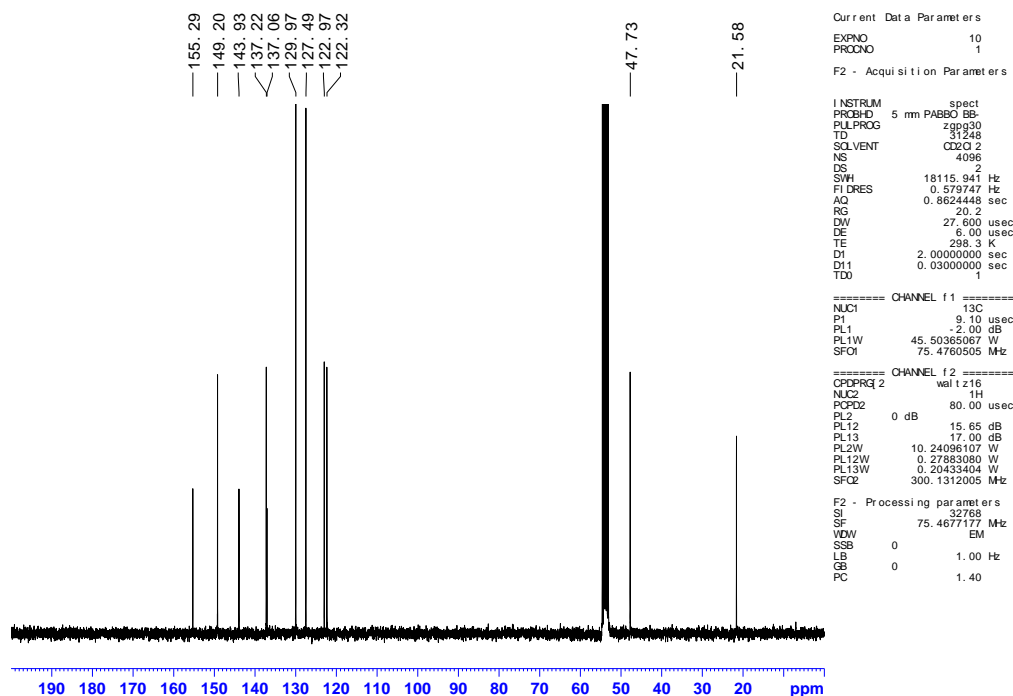


Figure S114: ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1ag**.

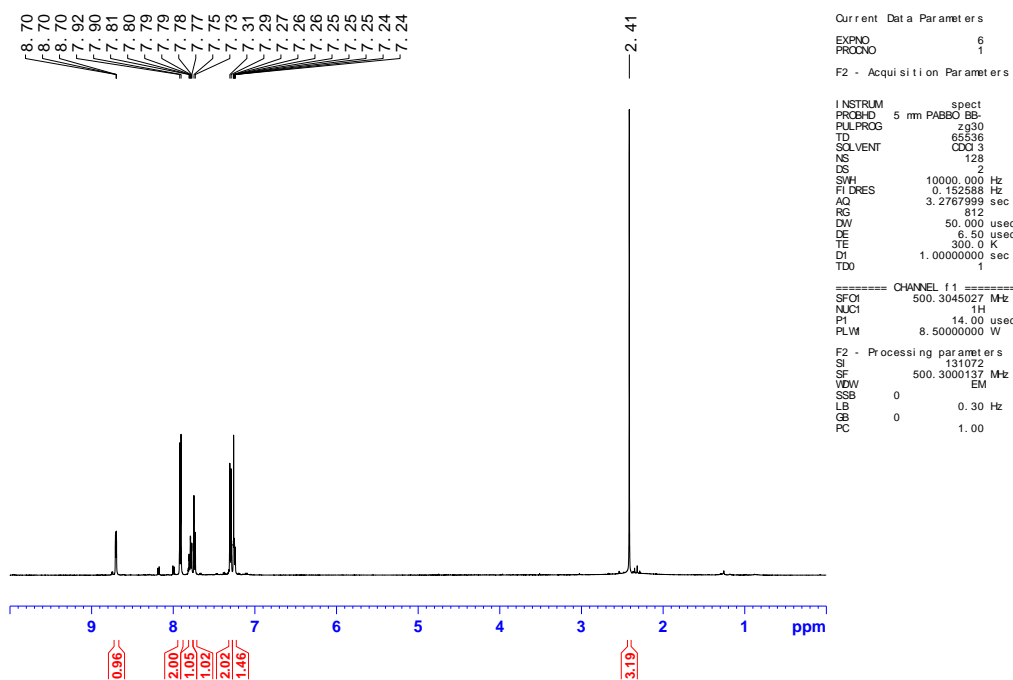


Figure S115: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2ag.

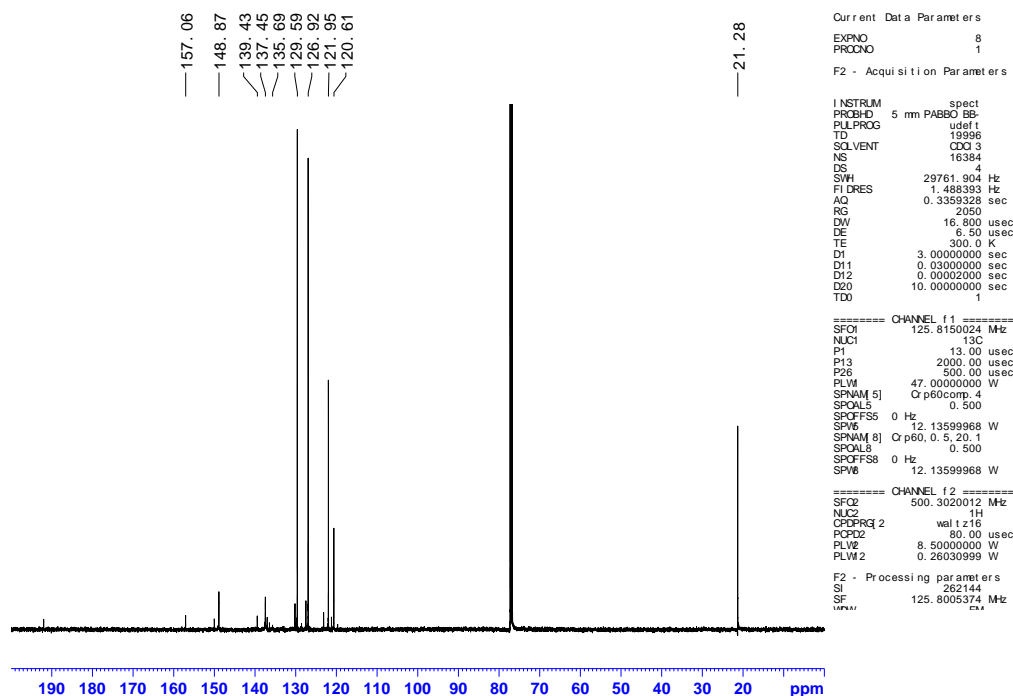


Figure S116: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2ag.

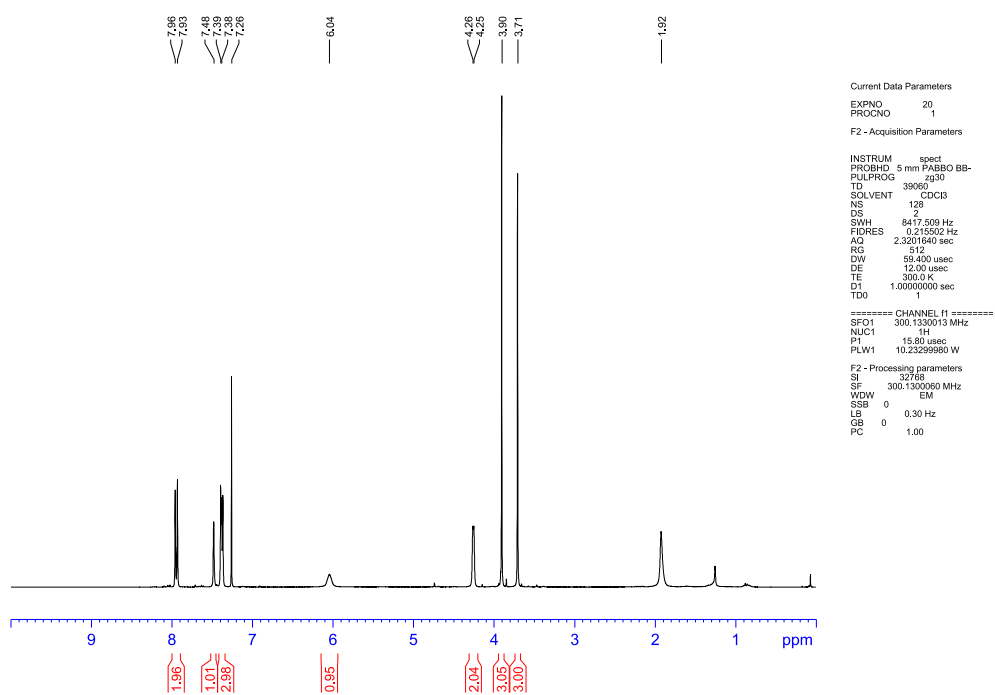


Figure S117: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1ah.

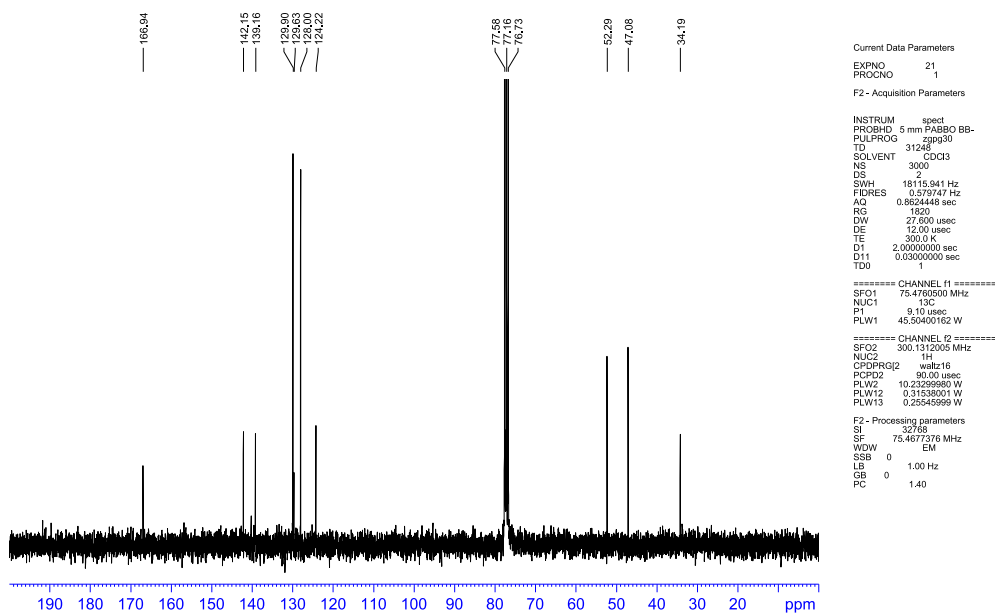


Figure S118: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1ah.

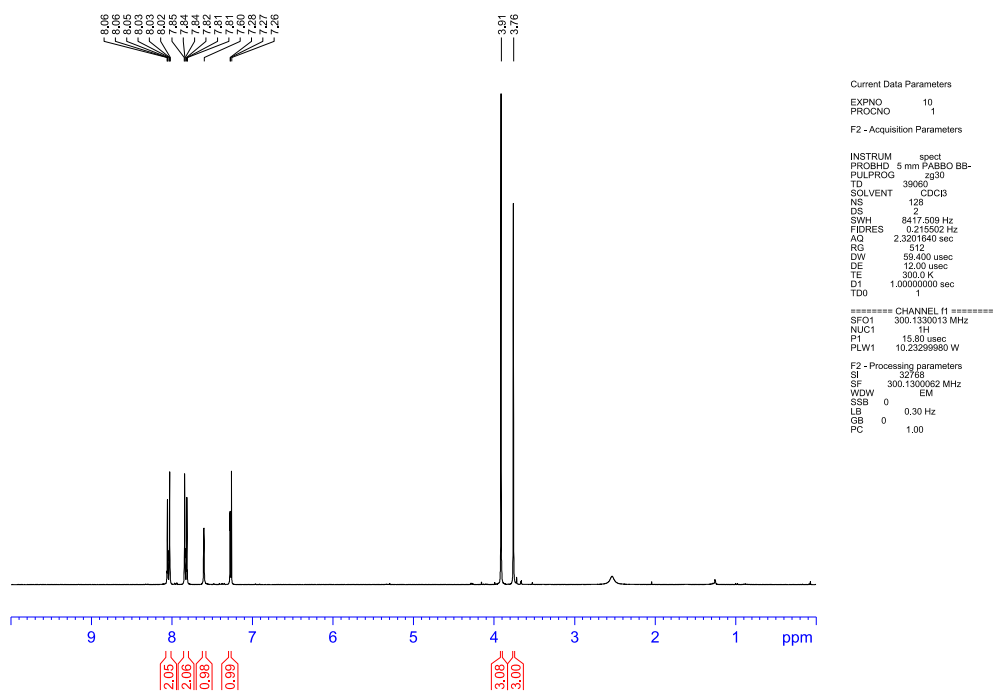


Figure S119: ^1H NMR spectrum of 2ah.

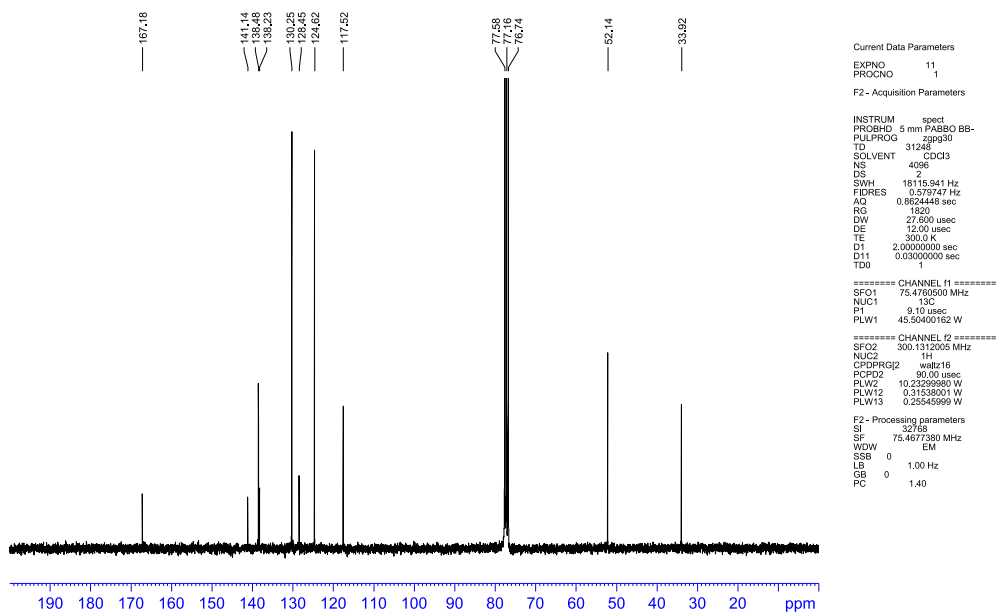


Figure S120: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 2ah.

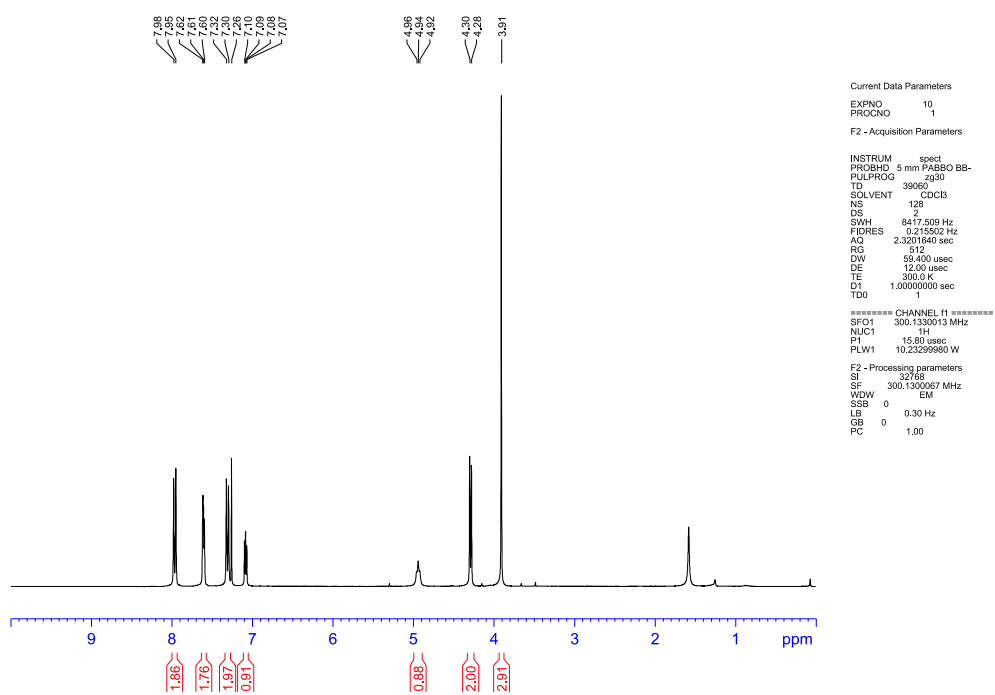


Figure S121: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1a**.

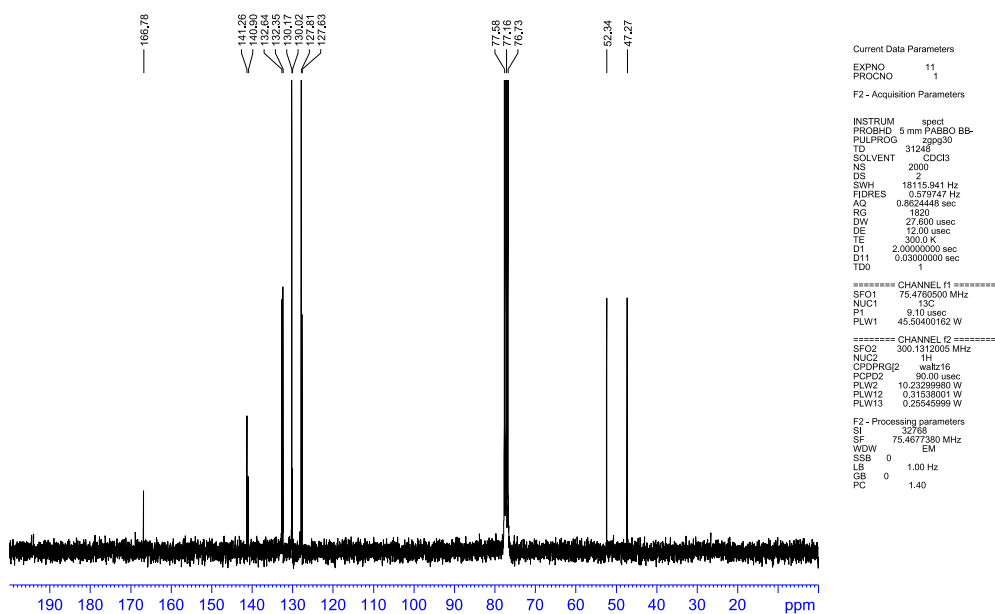


Figure S122: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1a**.

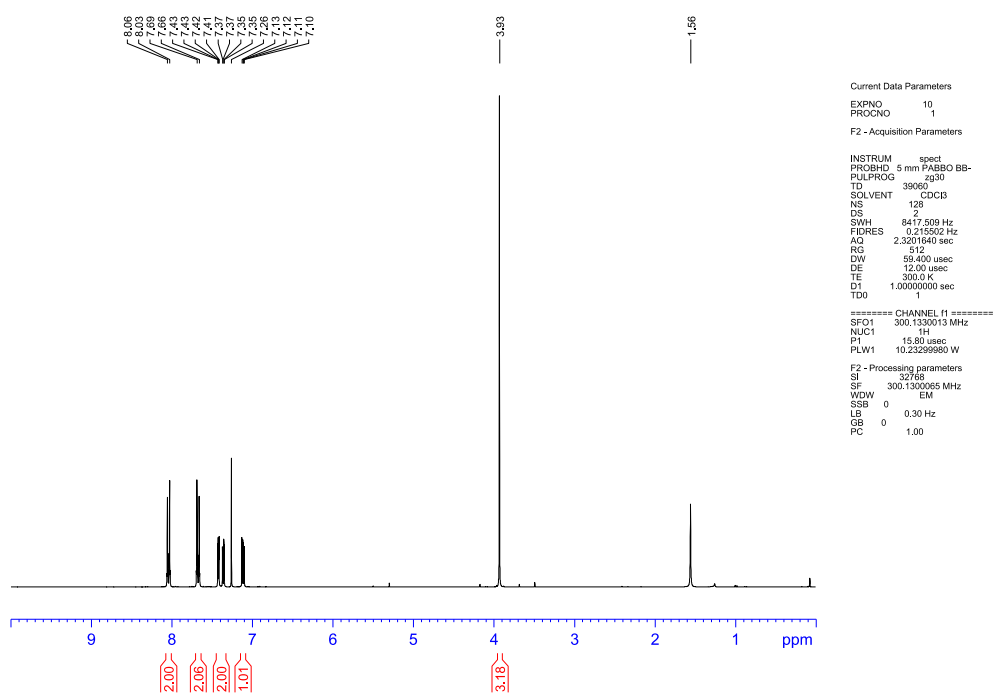


Figure S123: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2ai.

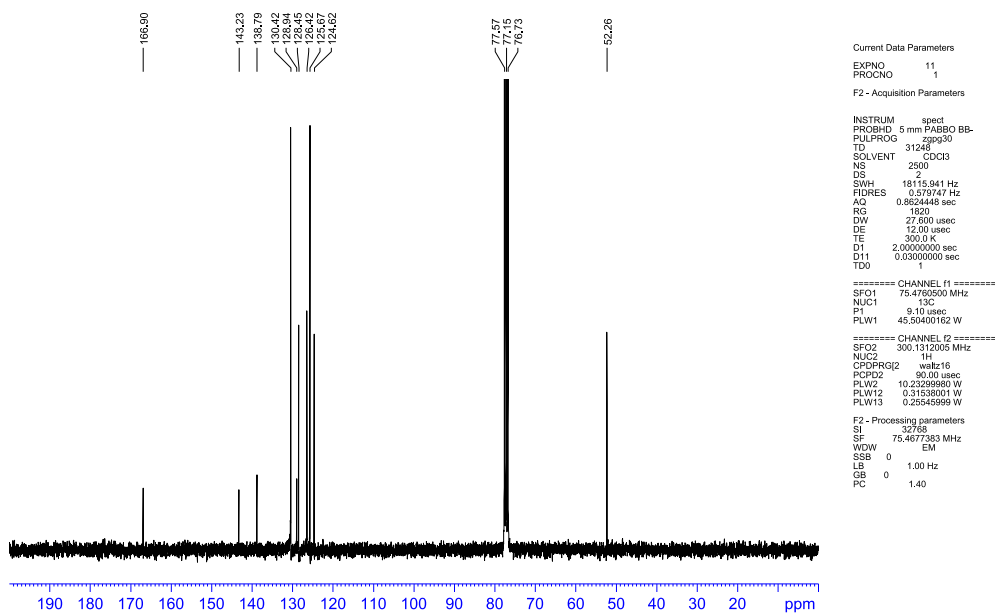


Figure S124: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2ai.

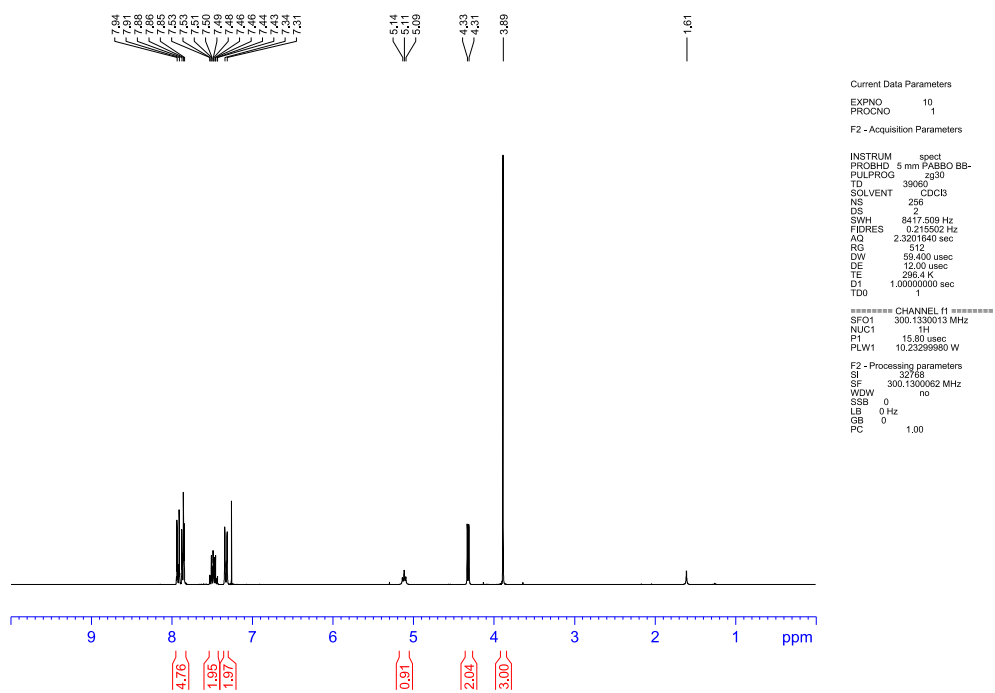


Figure S125: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1aj.

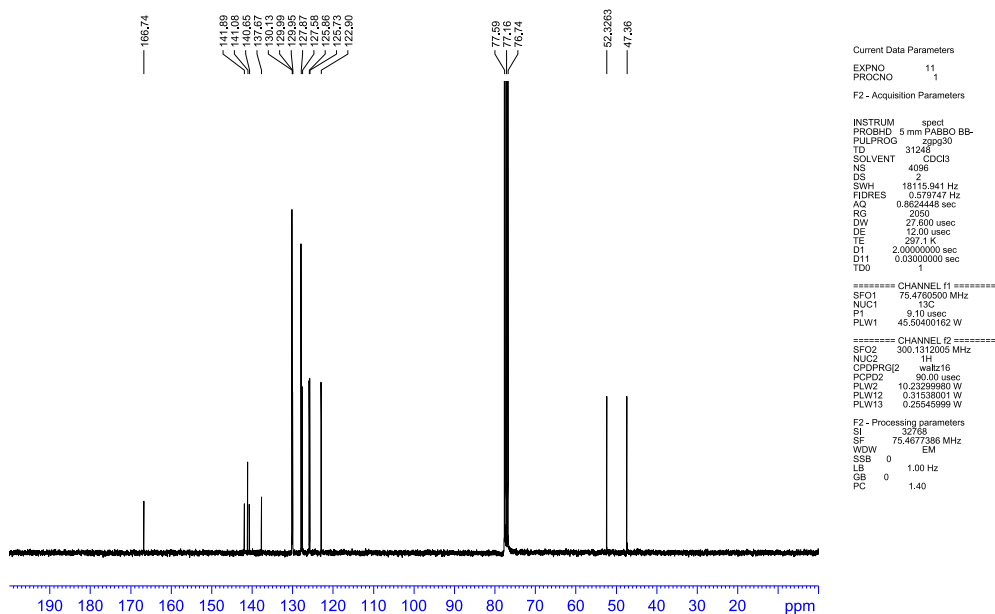


Figure S126: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1aj.

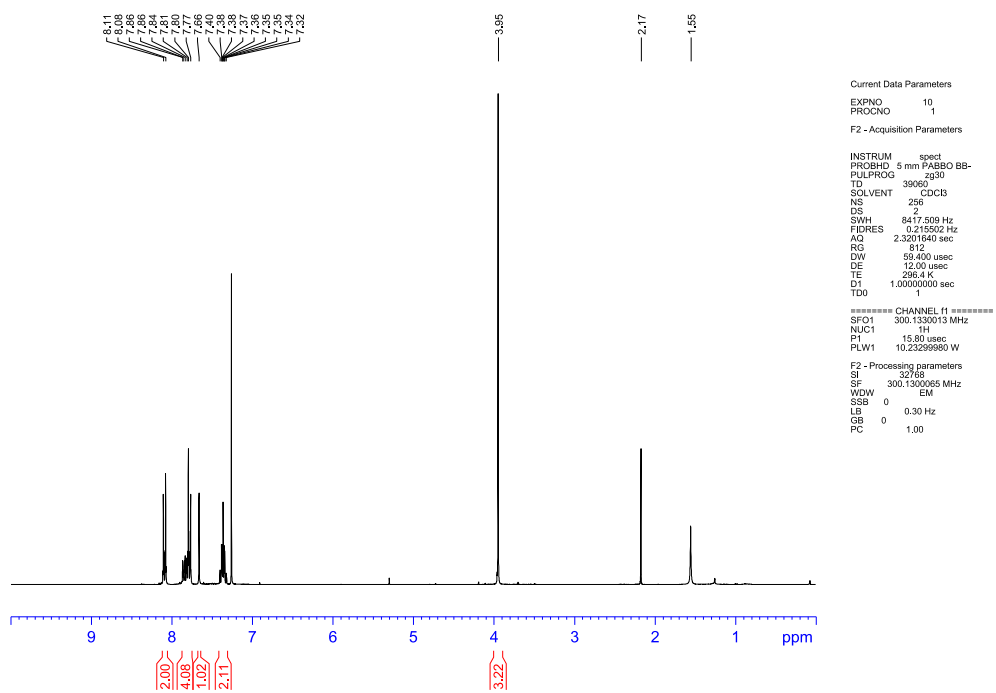


Figure S127: ¹H NMR spectrum of 2aj.

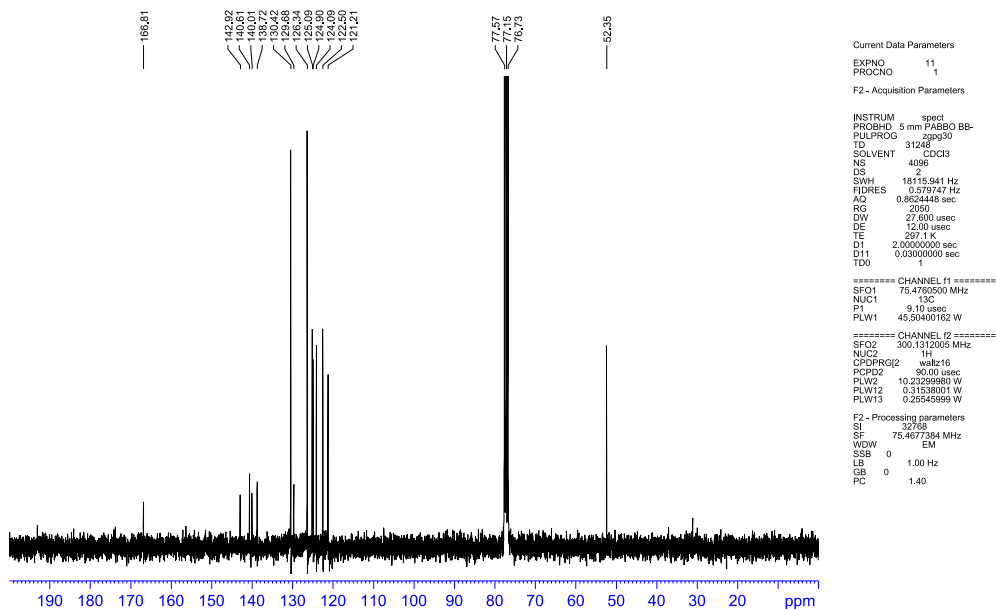


Figure S128: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2aj.

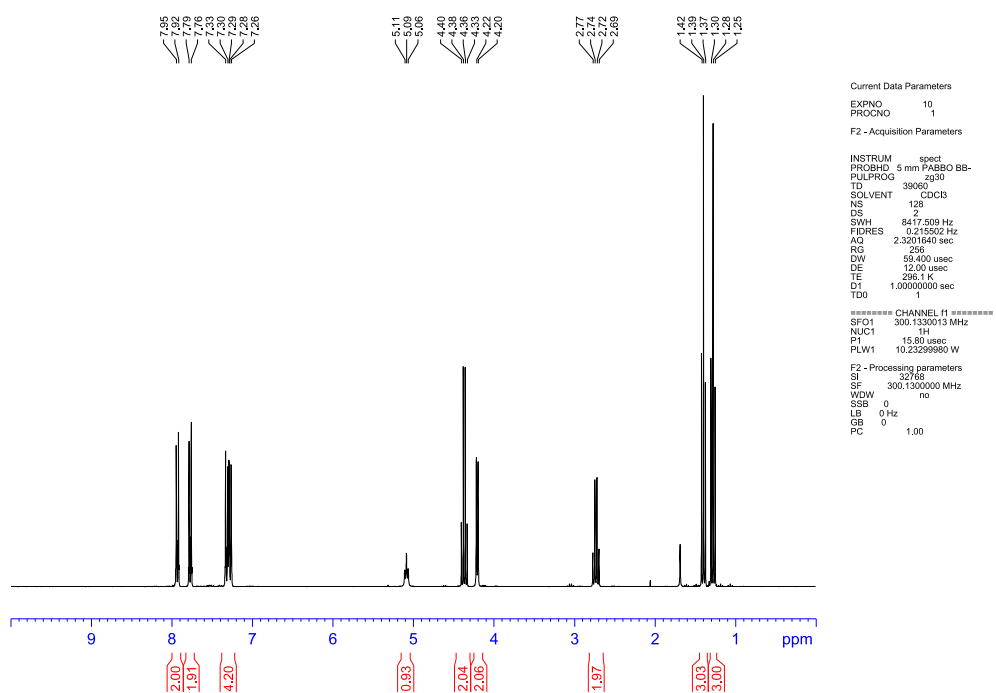


Figure S129: ¹H NMR spectrum of **1ak**.

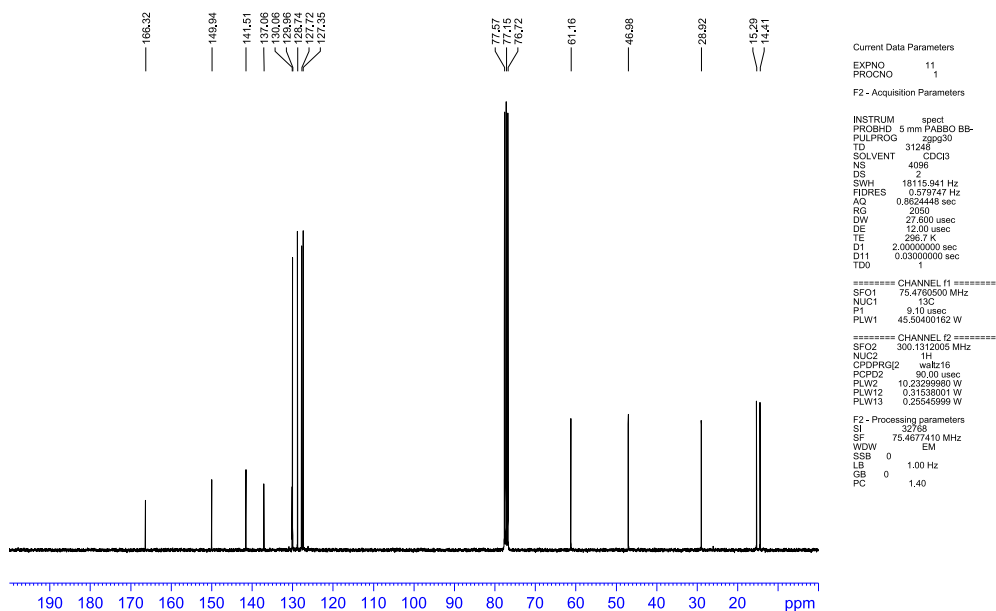


Figure S130: ¹³C NMR spectrum of **1ak**.

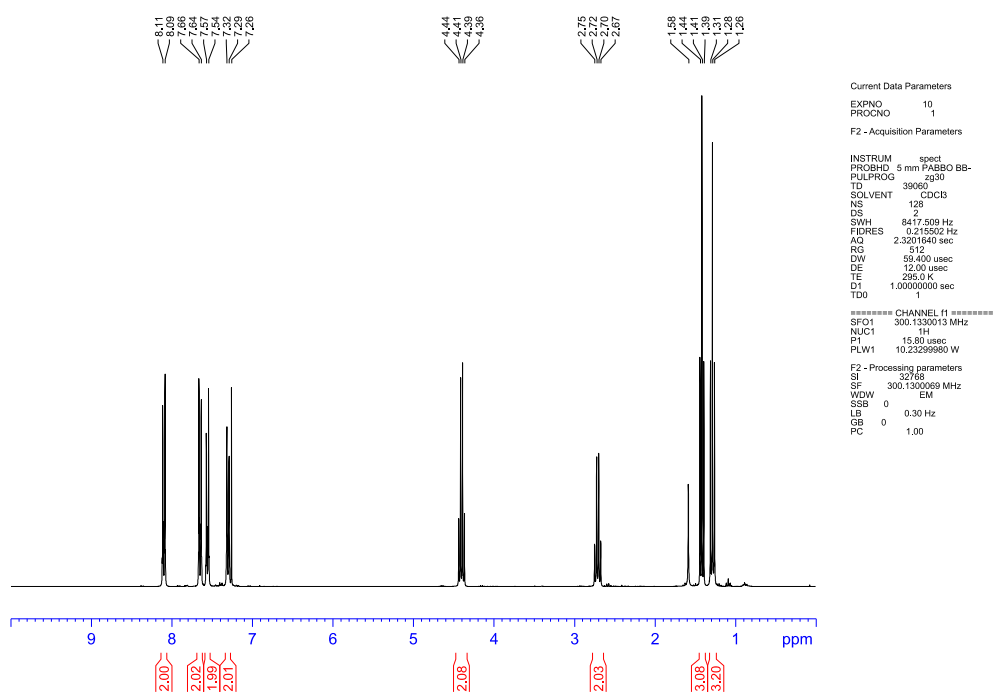


Figure S131: ^1H NMR spectrum of **2ak**.

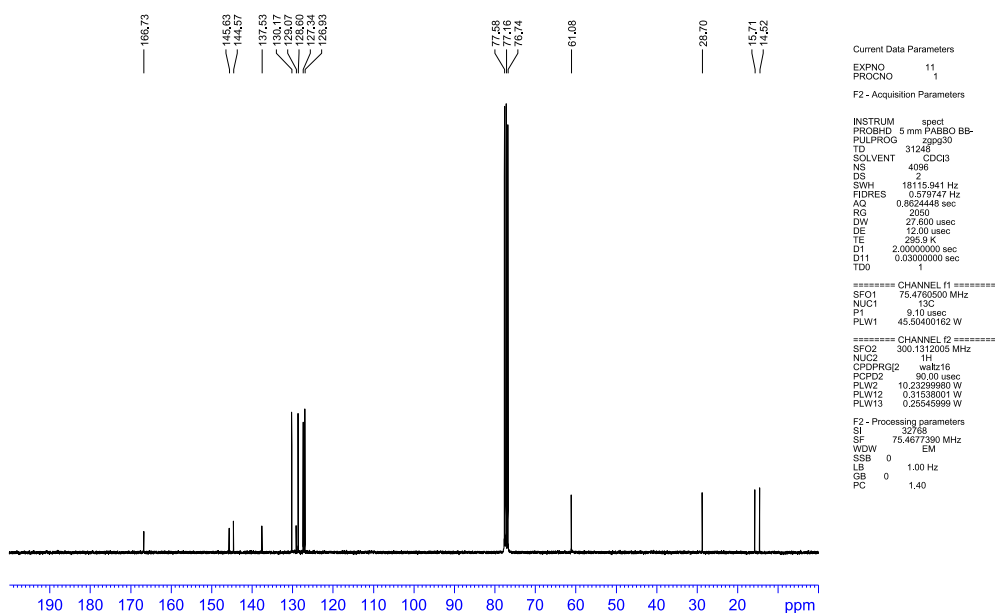


Figure S132: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2ak**.

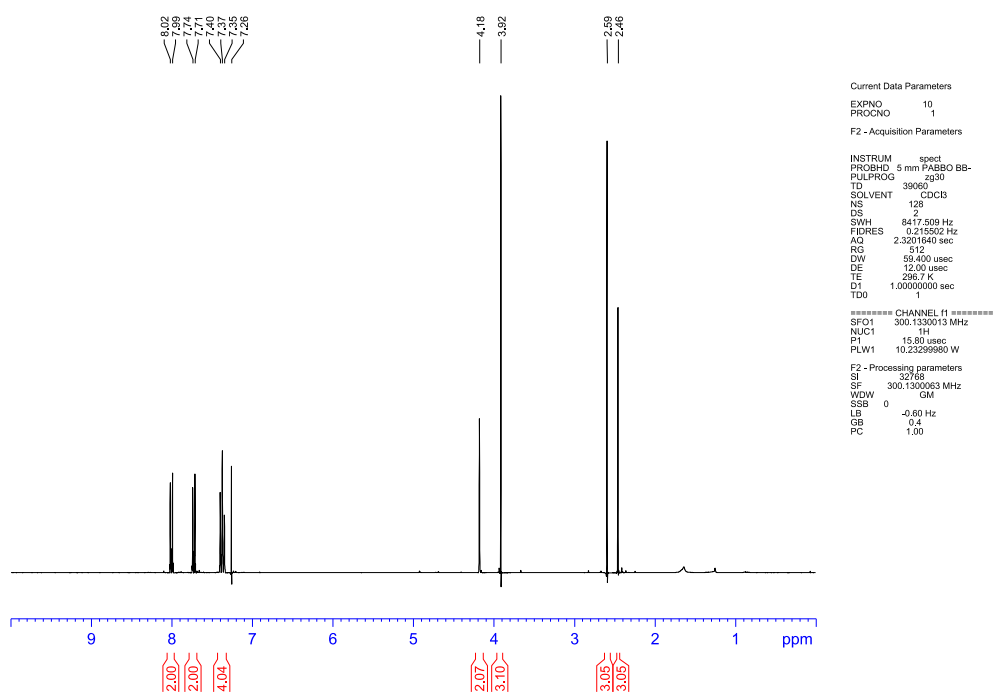


Figure S133: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1a**.

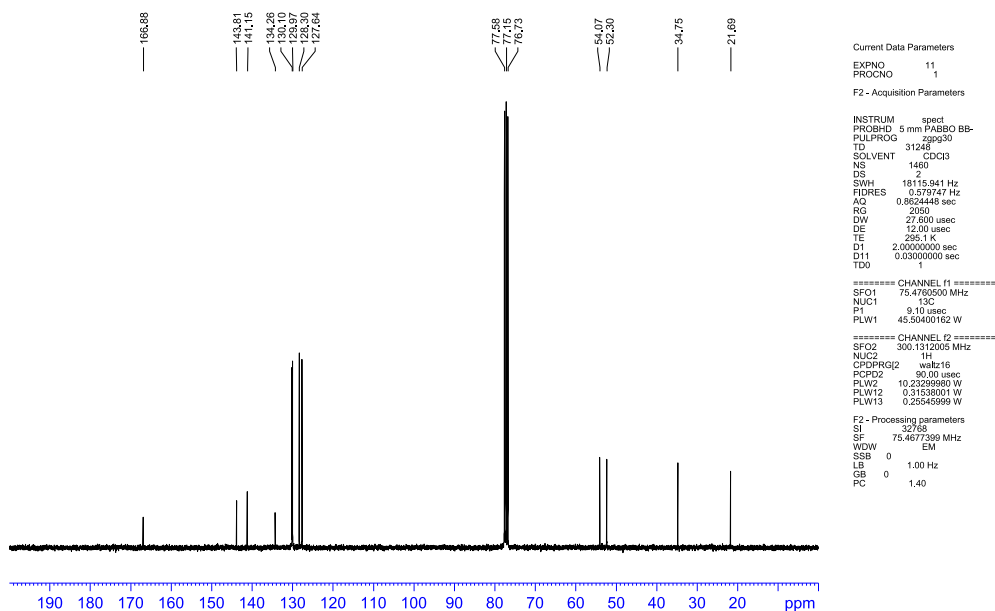


Figure S134: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1a**.

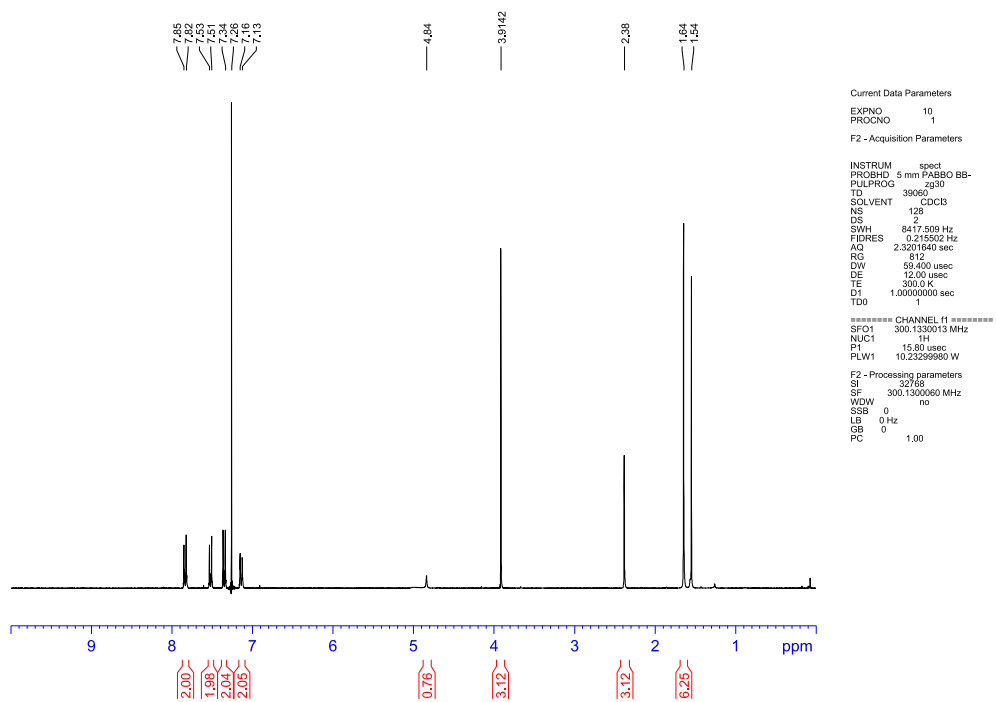


Figure S135: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1am.

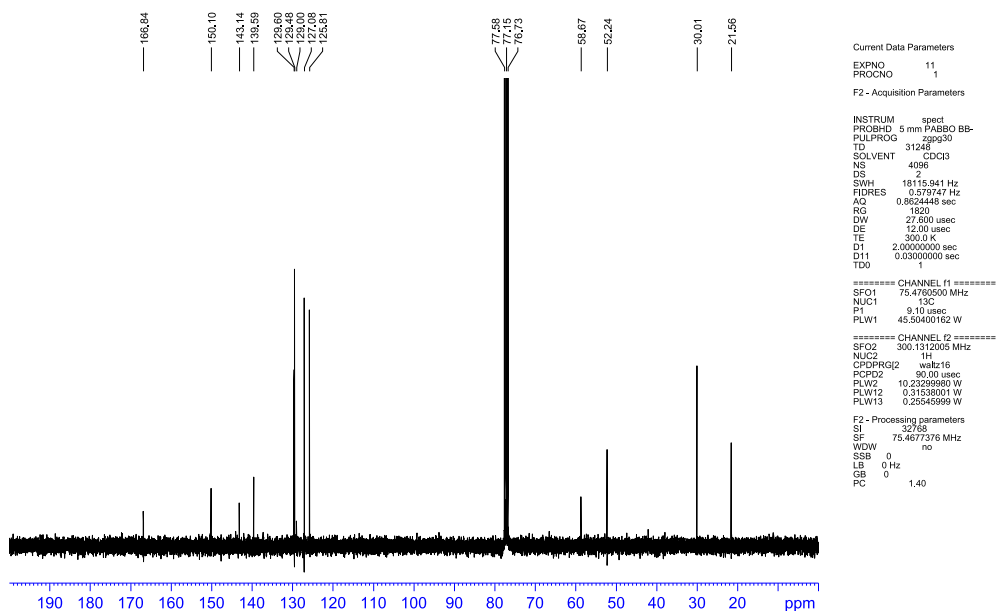


Figure S136: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1am.

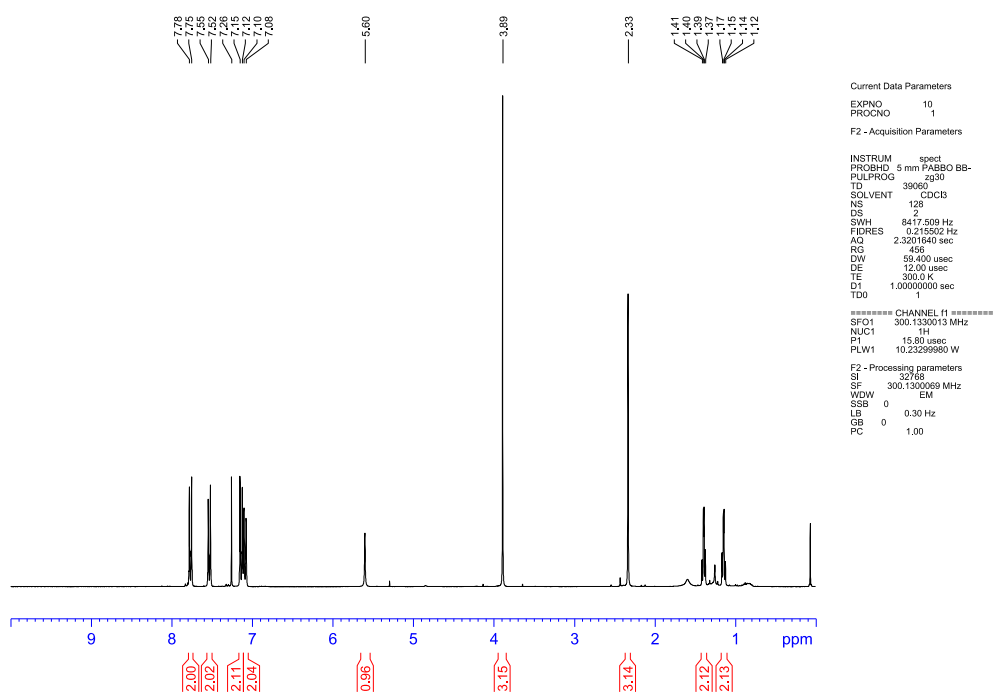


Figure S137: ^1H NMR spectrum of **1a**.

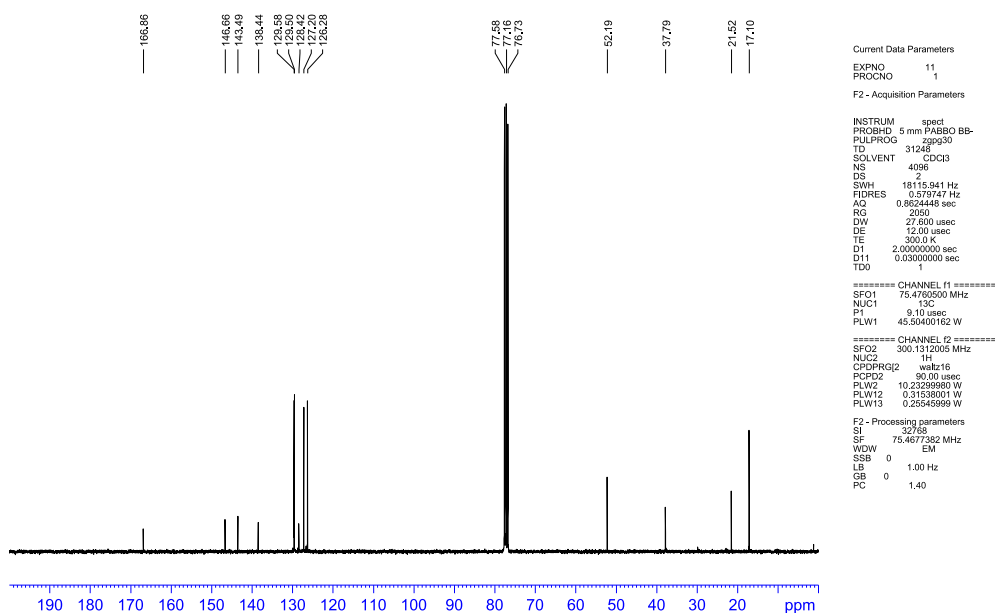


Figure S138: ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1a**.

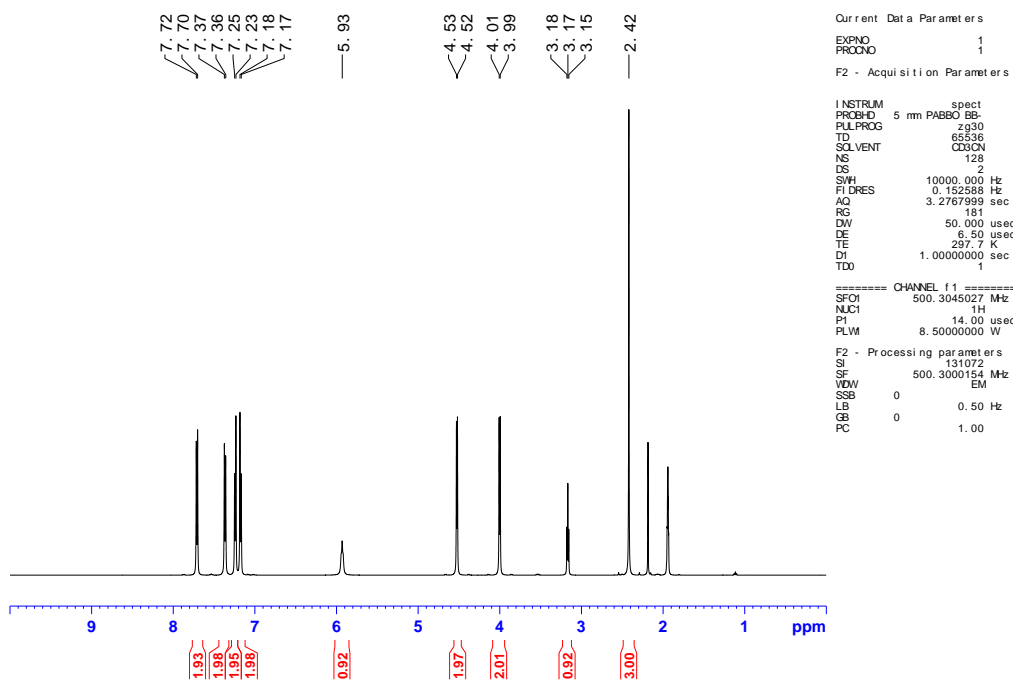


Figure S139: ¹H NMR spectrum of 1ao.

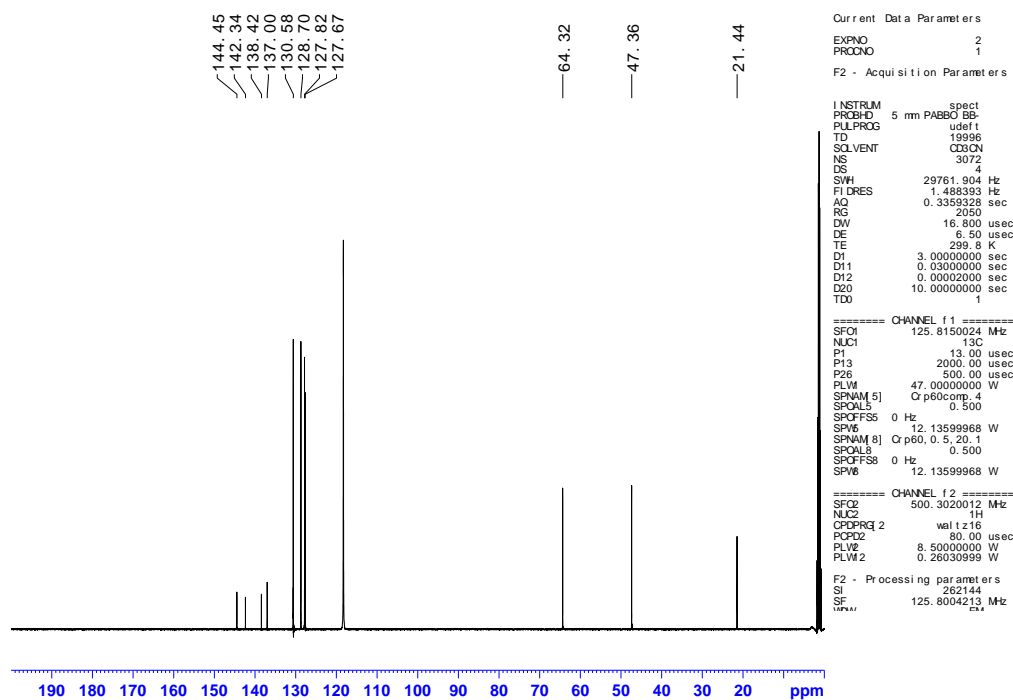


Figure S140: ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1ao.