

# Cyanomethylation of Substituted Fluorenes and Oxindoles with Alkyl Nitriles

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## Supporting Information

### Contents

Experimental Section .....	S2
1.1 General Experimental Procedures .....	S2
1.2 Optimization of the Reaction Conditions .....	S3
1.3 Mechanistic Probes .....	S5
1.4 Characterization Data of Products .....	S11
1.5 Derivatization of Product <b>3aa</b> .....	S29
References .....	S30
Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR and <sup>19</sup> F NMR .....	S31

## Experimental Section

**Caution:** Di-*tert*-butyl peroxide is a strong oxidizer and can be explosive. Exposure inhalation or skin contact is harmful. All experiments involving peroxy compounds should be carried out behind a safety shield and in a fume hood.<sup>1</sup>

All non-aqueous reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon unless otherwise noted. Commercial reagents were used as received without additional purification unless otherwise noted. 3-Substituted oxindoles used in this study were prepared according to the literature.<sup>2</sup> 9-Substituted fluorenes were prepared according to the literature.<sup>3</sup> Reaction mixtures were heated in vials on thermostatted metal blocks using Ika plates. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using Silicycle glass-backed TLC plates with 250  $\mu\text{m}$  silica and F254 indicator. Visualization was accomplished by UV light.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a AM-500 Fourier transform NMR spectrometer at 500 MHz, 125 MHz, 376 MHz respectively. Chemical shifts are reported relative to the solvent resonance peak  $\delta$  7.26 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for <sup>1</sup>H and  $\delta$  77.16 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for <sup>13</sup>C. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, b = broad singlet, m = multiplet), coupling constants, and number of protons. High resolution mass spectra were obtained using a VG autospec with an ionization mode of EI or ESI-TOF. Infrared spectra are reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (50-63  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh particle size).

### 1.1 General Experimental Procedures

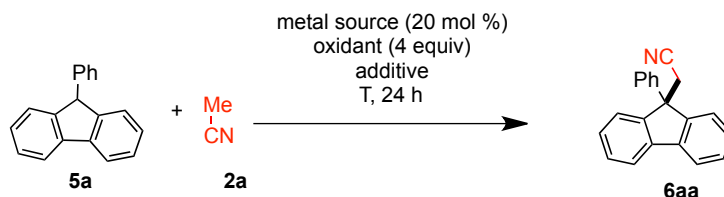
**General procedure A – cyanomethylation of 3-substituted oxindoles in acetonitrile.** Oxindole **1** (0.15 mmol) was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with stir bar and was

brought into the glovebox. Acetonitrile **2a** (0.10 M, 1.5 mL) and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu$ L, 4.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a 130 °C oil bath. After 24 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and was concentrated. The residue was chromatographed (EtOAc/hexanes) to afford the product **3**.

### General procedure B – cyanomethylation of 9-substituted fluorenes in neat alkyl nitriles.

Fluorene **5** (0.15 mmol) was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with stir bar and was brought into the glovebox. PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), alkyl nitrile **2** (0.10 M, 1.5 mL) and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a 125 °C oil bath. After 23 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and was concentrated. The residue was chromatographed (EtOAc/hexanes) to afford the desired product **6**.

### 1.2 Optimization of the Reaction Conditions

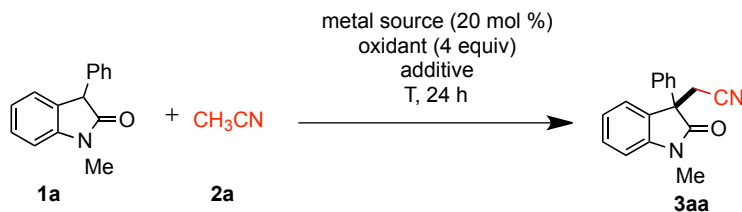


**Table S1.**

Entry	Metal source	Oxidant <sup>a</sup>	Additive (equiv)	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	CuBr	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.2)	130	0
2	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.2)/Na <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (2)	130	23
3	CuI	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.2)	130	0
4	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.2)/PivOH (2)	130	0
5	CuCl	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	26
6	CuCN	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	46
7	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	48
8	Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	36
9	Mn(OAc) <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	0
10	Ferrocene	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	28
11	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (2)		130	13

12	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (2)	130	53 <sup>c</sup>
13	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> O (2)		130	15
14		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (0.2)	130	49 <sup>c</sup>
15		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	54 <sup>c</sup>
16		DCP		130	9
17		BzOOBz		130	46
18		TBPB		130	25
19		<i>t</i> -BuOOH		130	41
20		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	KO <sup>t</sup> Bu (1)	130	0
21		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (2)	130	0
22		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	DBU (2)	130	trace
23		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	PivOH (2)	130	60 <sup>c</sup>
24		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	HOAc (1)	130	45
25		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	TsOH (2)	130	11
26		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	KI (0.3)	130	33
27		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	TBAI (0.2)	130	48
28		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	PivOH (1)	130	56 <sup>c</sup>
<b>29</b>		<b><i>t</i>-BuOO<i>t</i>-Bu (6)</b>	<b>PivOH (2)</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>65<sup>c,d</sup></b>
30		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu (6)	PivOH (2)	125	46 <sup>e</sup> (67) <sup>c,f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>CHP = cumene hydroperoxide, TBPB = *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate, DCP = dicumylperoxide. <sup>b</sup>Reaction on 0.15 mmol scale and yields analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis using 4,4'-dimethoxybenzil as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>d</sup>23 h. <sup>e</sup>16 h. <sup>f</sup>36 h



**Table S2.**

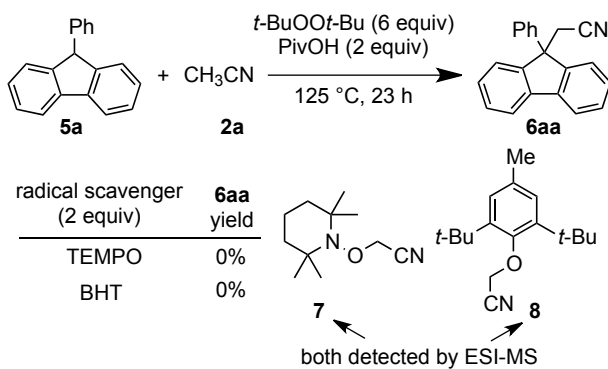
Entry	Metal source	Oxidant <sup>a</sup>	Additive (equiv)	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.5)/Na <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (2)	120	16
2	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Phen (0.5)	120	20
3	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	16
4	Cu	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	22
5	Cu <sub>2</sub> O	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	17
6	CuBr (1)	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	30
7	CuCl	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	23
8	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>		120	34 <sup>b</sup>
9	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	12
10	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	trace
11	Ferrocene	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	33
12	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> O (2)		120	30
13	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		120	12

14	Zn(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	trace	
15	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	34 <sup>b</sup>	
16	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	22	
17	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	120	0	
18	CoCl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	27	
19	Ni(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	8	
20	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	0	
21		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	120	40 <sup>c</sup>	
22		TBPB	120	38	
23		<i>t</i> -BuOOH	120	trace	
24		CHP	120	0	
25		BzOOBz	120	30	
26		DCP	120	38	
<b>27</b>		<b><i>t</i>-BuOO<i>t</i>-Bu</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>48<sup>c</sup></b>	
28		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	100	14	
29		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu (2)	130	25	
30		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu (6)	130	41	
31		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	130	46 <sup>c,d</sup>	
32		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	130	35 <sup>e</sup> (47) <sup>f</sup>	
33		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	KOH (1)	130	0
34		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Na <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (2)	130	9
35		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	DBU (1)	130	0
36		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (2)	130	0
37		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	PivOH (2)	130	29
38		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	AcOH (2)	130	33
39		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	TsOH (2)	130	0
40		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	TBAI (0.2)	130	39
41		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu	I <sub>2</sub> (0.25)	130	0
42		<i>t</i> -BuOO <i>t</i> -Bu		130	27 <sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup>CHP = cumene hydroperoxide, TBPB = *tert*-butyl peroxybenzoate, DCP = dicumylperoxide. <sup>b</sup>Reaction on 0.15 mmol scale and yields analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis using 4,4'-dimethoxybenzil as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>d</sup>*t*-BuOO*t*-Bu was added in two portions. <sup>e</sup>16 h. <sup>f</sup>36 h. <sup>g</sup>5 mL CH<sub>3</sub>CN

### 1.3 Mechanistic Probes

#### Radical inhibitor/trap experiments.



Compound **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol) was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stir bar and was brought into the glovebox. TEMPO (47 mg, 2.0 equiv), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), acetonitrile (0.10 M, 1.5 mL), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a 125  $^\circ$ C oil bath. After 23 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature. Part of the mixture was analyzed by UPLC-MS, and the TEMPO-adduct was observed.

Figure S1.

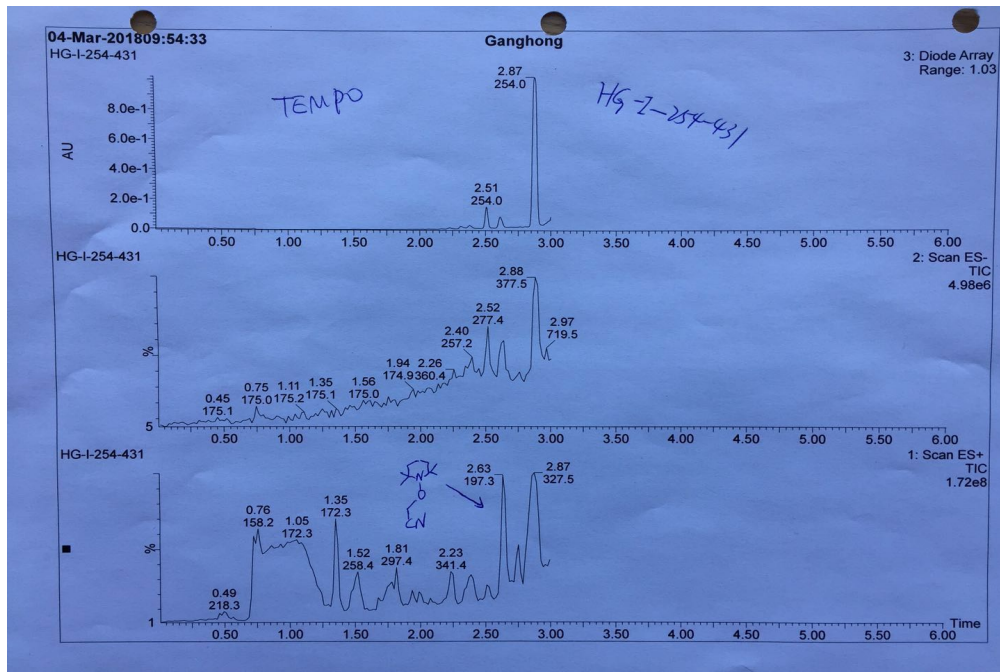
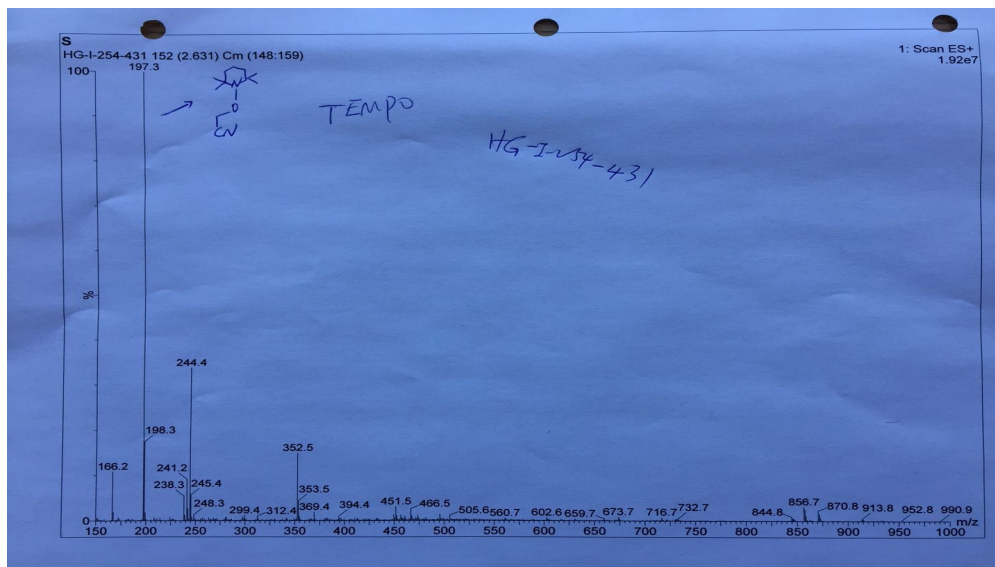


Figure S2.



When the BHT (66 mg, 2.0 equiv) was added to the reaction of **5a** with **2a** under the standard conditions, no desired product **6aa** was detected, and the BHT-adduct was also observed.

Figure S3.

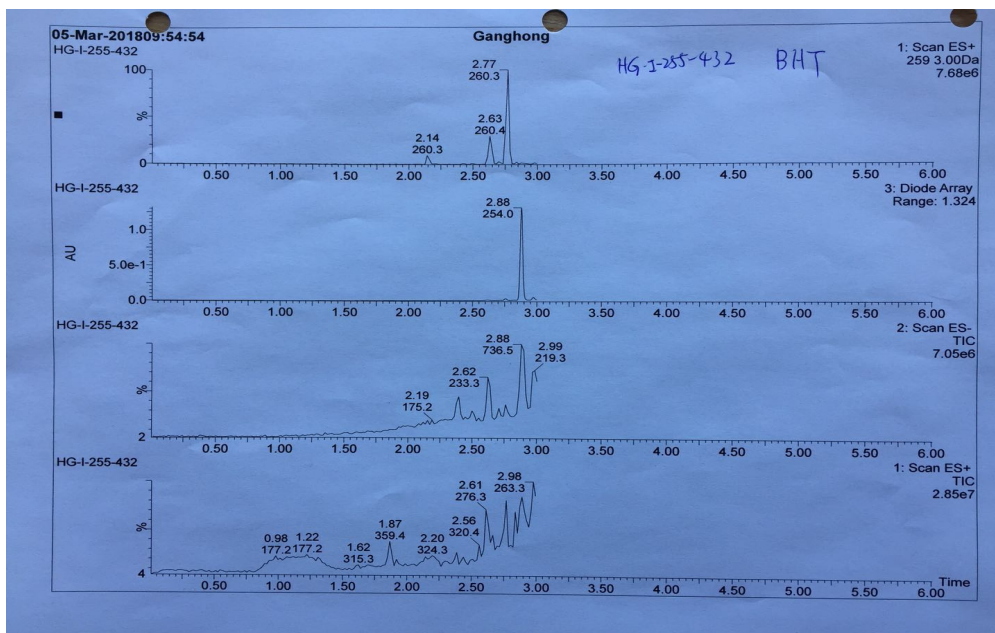
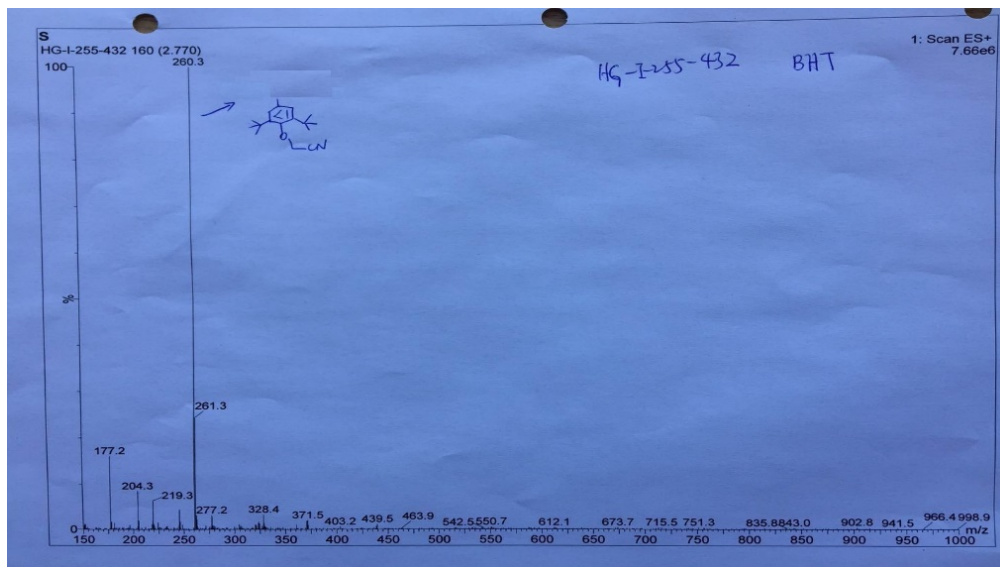
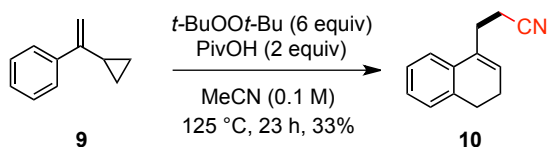


Figure S4.



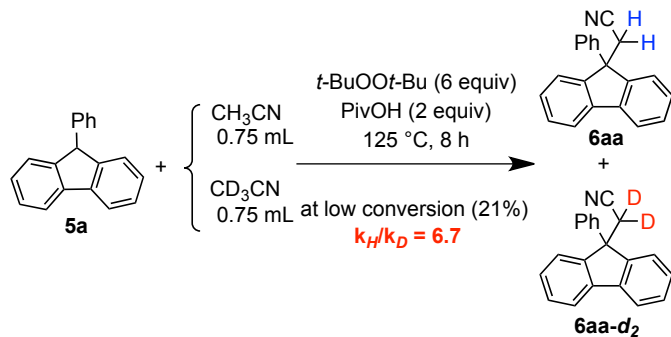
### Radical clock experiment.



Starting material **9** was synthesized according to literature procedure.<sup>4</sup> Alkene **9** (22 mg, 0.15 mmol) was submitted to the general procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (100:7 hexane/EtOAc) afforded compound **10** in 33% yield (9.1 mg) as a pale yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.24-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.76 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.32-2.27 (m, 2H). Spectral data match those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>



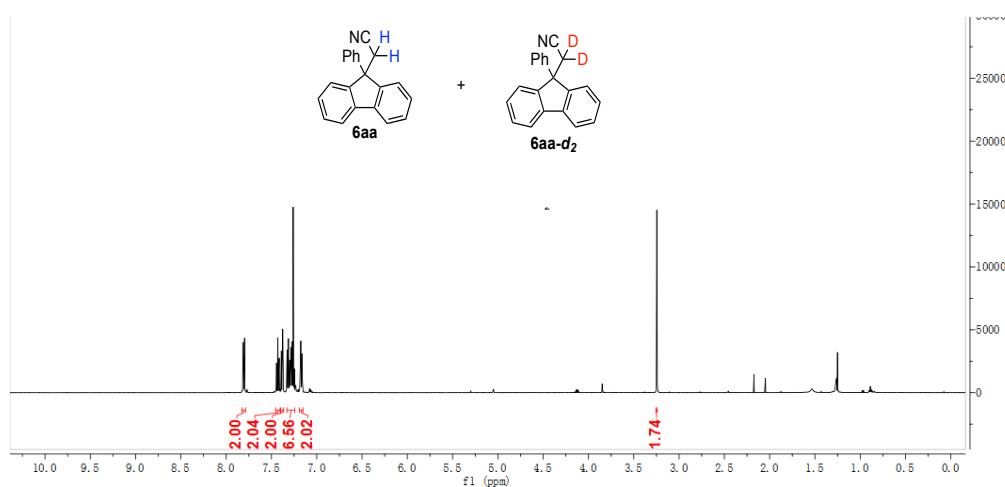
## Competitive KIE experiment.



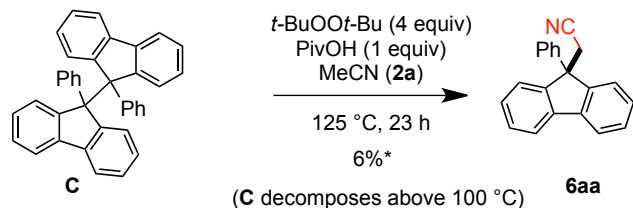
$\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (99.9%) was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and was used without further purification. Compound **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol) was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with stir bar and was brought into the glovebox.  $\text{PivOH}$  (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), acetonitrile/ $\text{D}_3$ -acetonitrile (1:1, 1.5 mL), and  $t\text{-BuOO}t\text{-Bu}$  (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a  $125\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  oil bath. After 8 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature, diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (1 mL), and concentrated. The residue was chromatographed (EtOAc/hexanes) to afford the corresponding product in 21% yield (8.8 mg).

The product was analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Figure S5):

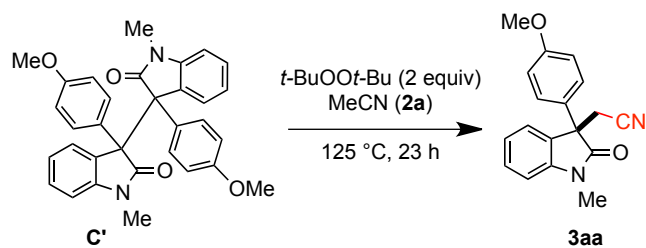
Figure S5.



### Using dimer intermediates as substrates.



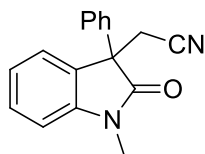
The dimer (**C**) of fluorene **5a** (34 mg, 0.07 mmol)<sup>5</sup> was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with stir bar and was brought into the glovebox. PivOH (7.0 mg, 0.07 mmol, 1.0 equiv), acetonitrile **2a** (0.05 M, 1.5 mL) and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (39  $\mu$ L, 0.28 mmol, 4.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a 125 °C oil bath. After 23 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and was concentrated. The mixture was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy use CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as an internal standard: 6% yield. Dimer **C** decomposed above 100 °C accounting for the low yield.



The dimer (**C'**) of oxindole **1a** (35 mg, 0.070 mmol)<sup>6</sup> was added to a flame-dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with stir bar and was brought into the glovebox. Acetonitrile **2a** (0.10 M, 0.7 mL) and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (26  $\mu$ L, 0.14 mmol, 2.00 equiv) were added to the mixture sequentially. The microwave vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a 130 °C oil bath. After 24 h, the mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and was concentrated. The mixture was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy use CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as an internal standard: 20% yield.

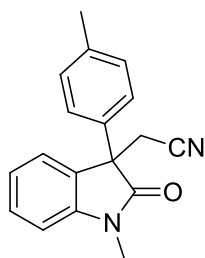
## 1.4 Characterization Data of Products

### 2-(1-Methyl-2-oxo-3-phenylindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (**3aa**)



General procedure A was followed using **1a** (34 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu$ L, 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3aa** in 48% yield (19 mg) as an amorphous brown solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td,  $J = 8.0, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.05 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.6, 143.5, 136.4, 129.6, 129.3, 128.9, 128.3, 126.7, 125.2, 123.3, 116.3, 108.9, 52.6, 26.7, 26.3; IR (film) 2925, 2250, 1714, 1611, 1471, 1371, 755, 696  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 262.1106$ ; found 262.1098.

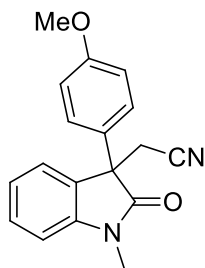
### 2-(1-Methyl-2-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)indolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (**3ba**)



General procedure A was followed using **1b** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu$ L, 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3ba** in 38% yield (16 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.02 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H),

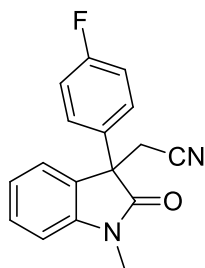
2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.0, 143.7, 138.4, 133.6, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 126.8, 125.3, 123.5, 116.7, 109.1, 52.5, 26.9, 26.5, 21.1; IR (film) 2924, 2249, 1713, 1611, 1470, 1371, 754,  $690\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 276.1263$ ; found 276.1261.

### 2-(3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3ca)



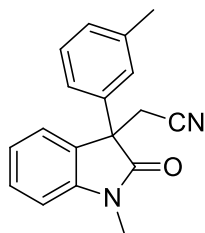
General procedure A was followed using **1c** (38 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at  $130\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. Chromatography (16% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3ca** in 46% yield (20 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.98 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.1, 159.7, 143.7, 129.8, 129.7, 128.5, 128.2, 125.4, 123.5, 116.6, 114.5, 109.1, 55.4, 52.2, 26.8, 26.7; IR (film) 2958, 2249, 1713, 1610, 1470, 1371, 1254,  $754\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 292.1212$ ; found 292.1209.

### 2-(3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-2-oxindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3da)



General procedure A was followed using **1d** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu$ L, 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3da** in 40% yield (17 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td,  $J = 8.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.35 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 2.98 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.9, 163.1 (d,  $J = 247$  Hz), 143.9, 132.5 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz), 130.3, 129.5, 129.1 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 125.6, 123.9, 116.6, 116.3 (d,  $J = 21.6$  Hz), 109.5, 52.4, 27.2, 27.1;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -113.5; IR (film) 2925, 2250, 1713, 1612, 1471, 1371, 1235, 754  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{FN}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 280.1012$ ; found 280.1021.

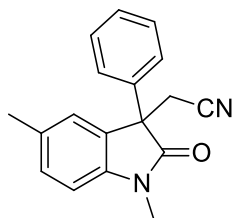
### 2-(1-Methyl-2-oxo-3-(*m*-tolyl)indolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (**3ea**)



General procedure A was followed using **1e** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu$ L, 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3ea** in 47% yield (20 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.04 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.0, 143.7, 138.9, 136.6, 129.7, 129.3, 128.9, 127.4, 125.3, 123.9, 123.5, 118.0, 116.6, 109.1, 52.8, 26.9, 26.5, 21.7; IR (film) 2932, 2250,

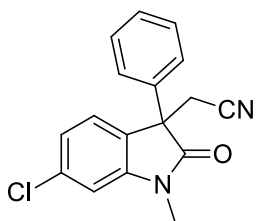
1713, 1611, 1470, 1370, 754, 732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 276.1263$ ; found 276.1279.

### 2-(1,5-Dimethyl-2-oxo-3-phenylindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3fa)



General procedure A was followed using **4f** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3fa** in 40% yield (17 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.03 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 141.4, 136.8, 133.2, 130.1, 129.7, 129.1, 128.4, 126.9, 126.0, 116.6, 108.8, 52.9, 26.9, 26.5, 21.4; IR (film) 2923, 2250, 1712, 1619, 1499, 1355, 734, 697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 276.1263$ ; found 276.1265.

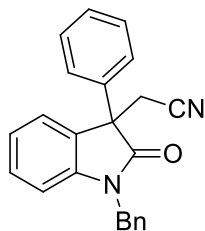
### 2-(6-Chloro-1-methyl-2-oxo-3-phenylindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3ga)



General procedure A was followed using **1g** (39 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. Chromatography (11% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3ga** in 63% yield (28 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.20 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.98

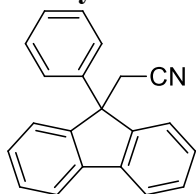
(d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.05 (d,  $J = 17.0$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  175.8, 144.9, 136.1, 135.9, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 126.7, 126.3, 123.4, 116.3, 109.9, 52.6, 27.0, 26.5; IR (film) 2948, 2250, 1719, 1608, 1494, 1367, 729, 695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 296.0716$ ; found 296.0719.

### 2-(1-Benzyl-2-oxo-3-phenylindolin-3-yl)acetonitrile (3ha)



General procedure A was followed using **1h** (45 mg, 0.15 mmol), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (110  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.00 equiv) in acetonitrile **2a** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 130  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h. Chromatography (13% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **3ha** in 52% yield (26 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.50 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 11H), 7.17 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.92 (d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.1, 142.9, 136.8, 135.3, 129.7 (2C), 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.9, 127.3, 126.8, 125.3, 123.6, 116.5, 110.2, 52.9, 44.4, 26.4; IR (film) 3032, 2925, 2250, 1713, 1612, 1487, 1362, 732, 696  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 338.1419$ ; found 338.1433.

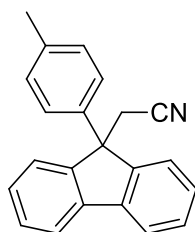
### 2-(9-Phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (6aa)



General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h.

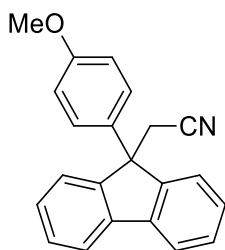
Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6aa** (27 mg) in 65% yield as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.4, 140.9, 140.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.3, 127.6, 126.4, 124.6, 120.7, 117.7, 55.5, 27.7; IR (film) 3061, 2926, 2250, 1698, 1449, 754, 733  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 281.1204$ ; found 281.1195.

### 2-(9-(*p*-Tolyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ba**)



General procedure B was followed using **5b** (38.5 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ba** in 61% yield (27.0 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.31 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.5, 140.1, 137.9, 137.3, 129.7, 128.6, 128.3, 126.3, 124.5, 120.6, 117.7, 55.3, 27.8, 21.1; IR (film) 3024, 2922, 2248, 1512, 1448, 748, 734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 295.1361$ ; found 295.1364.

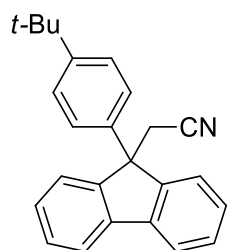
### 2-(9-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ca**)





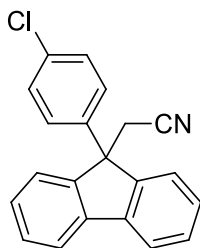
General procedure B was followed using **5c** (41 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ca** in 55% yield (26 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.31 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.9, 149.6, 140.0, 132.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.5, 124.5, 120.6, 117.7, 114.3, 55.4, 54.9, 27.9; IR (film) 3031, 2932, 2249, 1580, 1448, 1185, 749, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 311.1310$ ; found 311.1310.

### 2-(9-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6da**)



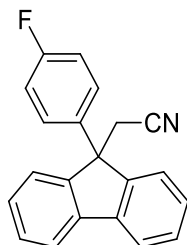
General procedure B was followed using **5d** (45 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6da** in 62% yield (31 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 1.27 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.4, 149.4, 140.1, 137.7, 128.6, 128.2, 126.0, 125.9, 124.6, 120.6, 117.7, 55.2, 34.5, 31.4, 27.8; IR (film) 3025, 2962, 2248, 1448, 758, 734  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 337.1830$ ; found 337.1830.

### 2-(9-(4-Chlorophenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ea**)



General procedure B was followed using **5e** (42 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ea** in 55% yield (26 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.20 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.9, 140.0, 139.5, 133.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 127.9, 124.4, 120.8, 117.4, 55.1, 27.7; IR (film) 3065, 2925, 2250, 1492, 1448, 1094, 758, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 315.0815$ ; found 315.0796.

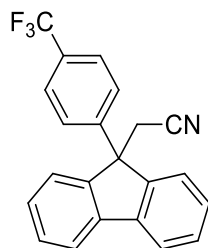
### 2-(9-(4-Fluorophenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6fa**)



General procedure B was followed using **5f** (39 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6fa** in 45% yield (20 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.95 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.19 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.9 (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 148.9, 139.8, 136.5 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz), 128.6, 128.2, 127.9 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 124.2, 120.5, 117.2, 115.6 (d,  $J = 21.4$  Hz), 54.8, 27.7;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,

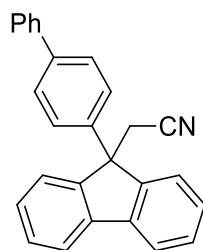
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.9; IR (film) 3065, 2923, 2249, 1508, 1449, 750, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FN [M]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 299.1110; found 299.1115.

### 2-(9-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ga**)



General procedure B was followed using **5g** (46 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125 °C for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ga** in 46% yield (24 mg) as a white solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (td, *J* = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.5, 145.1, 139.9, 129.9 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 128.9, 128.4, 126.8, 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.9 (q, *J* = 27.1 Hz), 124.3, 120.7, 117.2, 55.3, 27.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.7; IR (film) 3066, 2926, 2249, 1618, 1328, 1119, 750, 733 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N [M]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 349.1078; found 349.1093.

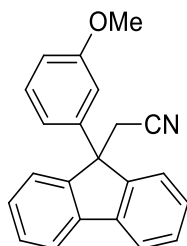
### 2-(9-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ha**)



General procedure B was followed using **5h** (48 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125 °C for 23 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ha** in 47% yield (25 mg) as a white solid: <sup>1</sup>H

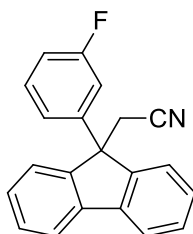
NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.1, 140.3, 140.2, 139.9, 137.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 126.6, 124.4, 120.5, 117.4, 55.1, 27.6; IR (film) 3030, 2924, 2248, 1486, 1448, 762, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N [M]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  = 357.1517; found 357.1502.

### 2-(9-(3-methoxyphenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ia**)



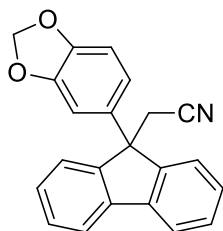
General procedure B was followed using **5i** (41 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125 °C for 23 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ia** in 51% yield (24 mg) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.31 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (td,  $J$  = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.9, 149.1, 142.6, 140.1, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 124.5, 120.6, 118.7, 117.6, 113.3, 112.0, 55.5, 55.3, 27.8; IR (film) 3067, 2948, 2247, 1490, 1449, 766, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO [M]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  = 311.1310; found 311.1298.

### 2-(9-(3-Fluorophenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**5ja**)



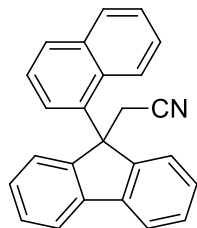
General procedure B was followed using **5j** (39 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125 °C for 23 h. Chromatography (3% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **5ja** in 61% yield (27 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.81 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.45 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.80 (dt,  $J = 10.0, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.22 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.1 (d,  $J = 245$  Hz), 148.7, 143.6 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz), 140.1, 130.5 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 128.9, 128.5, 124.5, 121.9 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz), 120.8, 117.3, 114.6 (d,  $J = 21.0$  Hz), 113.8 (d,  $J = 22.8$  Hz), 55.3 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz), 28.8 (d,  $J = 269$  Hz);  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -111.7; IR (film) 2923, 2852, 2249, 1588, 1449, 764, 748  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 299.1110$ ; found 299.1118.

#### 2-(9-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ka**)



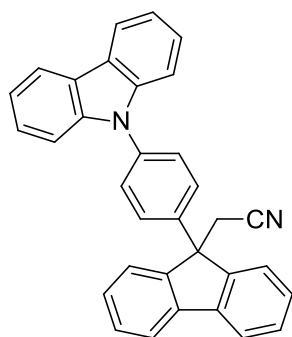
General procedure B was followed using **5k** (43 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125 °C for 23 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ka** in 34% yield (17 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.31 (td,  $J = 8.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.82 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 3.17 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.3, 148.3, 147.1, 139.9, 134.7, 128.7, 128.3, 124.4, 120.7, 119.3, 117.6, 108.4, 107.4, 101.3, 55.3, 27.9; IR (film) 3062, 2919, 2249, 1488, 1448, 1240, 1040, 752, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 325.1103$ ; found 325.1122.

#### 2-(9-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6la**)



General procedure B was followed using **5l** (44 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6la** in 36% yield (18 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.99 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.84 (t,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.5, 139.5, 134.8, 130.8, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.5, 125.9, 125.8, 125.5, 125.3, 124.9, 124.1, 121.3, 56.3, 31.9; IR (film) 3051, 2923, 2249, 1448, 775, 736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 331.1361$ ; found 331.1367.

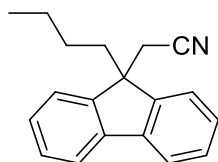
### 2-(9-(4-(9H-Carbazol-9-yl)phenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**5ma**)



General procedure B was followed using **5m** (61 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **5ma** in 49% yield (33 mg) an amorphous white

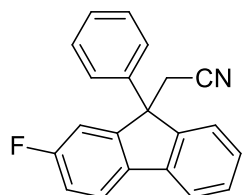
solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 8H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 3.32 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  149.1, 140.8, 140.2, 140.1, 137.2, 128.9, 128.5, 127.9, 127.4, 126.1, 124.6, 123.6, 120.8, 120.4, 120.2, 117.5, 109.9, 55.4, 27.9; IR (film) 3061, 2925, 2249, 1514, 1451, 1229, 750, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 446.1783$ ; found 446.1793.

### 2-(9-Butyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (6na)



General procedure B was followed using **5n** (33 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6na** in 51% yield (20 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 (td,  $J = 7.5$ , 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (td,  $J = 7.5$ , 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 2H), 2.23-2.19 (m, 2H), 1.14 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 0.70 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 0.67-0.60 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.5, 140.5, 128.4, 127.9, 123.1, 120.4, 117.9, 51.0, 37.2, 29.3, 26.0, 22.8, 13.8; IR (film) 2956, 2930, 2860, 2247, 1449, 761, 736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 261.1517$ ; found 261.1542.

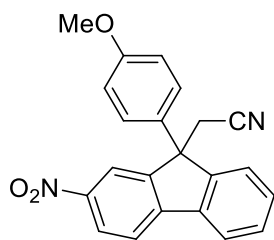
### 2-(2-Fluoro-9-phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (6oa)



General procedure B was followed using **5o** (39 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h.

Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **60a** in 34% yield (15 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.0 (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 151.5 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 149.3, 140.3, 139.3, 136.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.0, 127.8, 126.3, 124.5, 121.8 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 120.4, 117.2, 116.0 (d,  $J = 23.0$  Hz), 112.1 (d,  $J = 23.3$  Hz), 55.6, 27.6;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -112.4; IR (film) 3052, 2248, 1592, 1454, 1265, 757, 732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 299.1110$ ; found 299.1120.

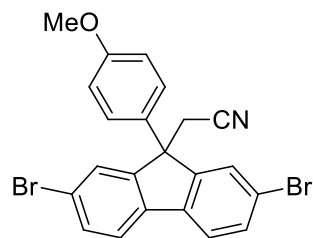
### 2-(9-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-nitro-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6pa**)



General procedure B was followed using **5p** (48 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (12% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6pa** in 55% yield (29 mg) an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.33 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d,  $J = 16.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.5, 150.8, 150.7, 147.8, 146.4, 137.9, 131.1, 130.5, 129.3, 127.4, 124.9, 124.8, 122.1, 120.9, 119.9, 116.7, 114.8, 55.4, 55.4, 27.7; IR (film) 3062, 2250, 1592, 1454, 1265, 757, 732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 356.1161$ ; found 356.1176.

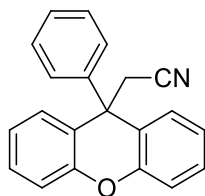
### 2-(2,7-Dibromo-9-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6qa**)





General procedure B was followed using **5q** (64 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6qa** in 64% yield (45 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.62 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.4, 151.2, 138.1, 132.2, 131.2, 127.8, 127.4, 122.5, 122.1, 116.8, 114.7, 55.4, 55.2, 27.7; IR (film) 2931, 2836, 2249, 1512, 1253, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z$  = 466.9520; found 466.9534.

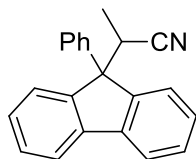
### 2-(9-Phenyl-9H-xanthen-9-yl)acetonitrile (**6ra**)



General procedure B was followed using **5r** (39 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in acetonitrile (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ra** in 20% yield (8.9 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.19 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  150.9, 144.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 127.4, 125.8, 123.7, 117.2, 116.9, 45.8, 33.1; IR (film)

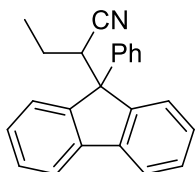
3051, 3025, 2249, 1600, 1479, 1443, 1276, 1255, 753, 699  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 297.1154$ ; found 297.1140.

### 2-(9-Phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (**6ab**)



General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in propionitrile **2b** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ab** in 66% yield (29 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.49 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.18 (m, 7H), 4.00 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 0.78 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.2, 146.6, 141.9, 141.5, 140.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 126.6, 125.8, 123.7, 121.9, 120.4, 120.3, 59.8, 32.9, 13.4; IR (film) 3061, 2940, 2239, 1450, 754, 732, 697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 295.1361$ ; found 295.1363.

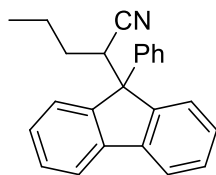
### 2-(9-Phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)butanenitrile (**6ac**)



General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in butyronitrile **2c** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ac** in 75% yield (35 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 3.5$  Hz, 2H),

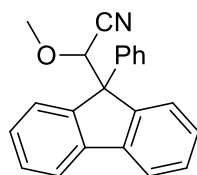
7.48 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 7H), 3.74 (t,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.05-0.92 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.5, 147.1, 141.7, 140.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 126.5, 125.7, 123.7, 120.9, 120.4, 120.3, 119.8, 59.7, 41.7, 20.9, 12.4; IR (film) 3061, 2969, 2240, 1450, 747, 734, 697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 309.1517$ ; found 309.1523.

### 2-(9-Phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)pentanenitrile (6ad)



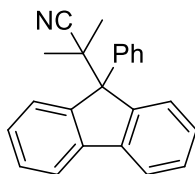
General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu\text{L}$ , 6.00 equiv) in pentanenitrile **2d** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 23 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ad** in 72% yield (35 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 4.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.21 (m, 7H), 3.85 (dd,  $J = 11.5, 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.58-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.27 (m, 1H), 1.09-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.87-0.80 (m, 1H), 0.75 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.4, 147.1, 141.7, 141.6, 140.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.5, 126.6, 125.7, 123.7, 121.2, 120.4, 120.3, 59.6, 39.4, 29.2, 21.0, 13.5; IR (film) 3060, 2960, 2245, 1450, 755, 733, 697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 323.1674$ ; found 323.1685.

### 2-Methoxy-2-(9-phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)acetonitrile (6ae)



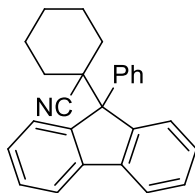
General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in 2-methoxyacetonitrile **2e** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ae** in 42% yield (20 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (td,  $J = 7.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td,  $J = 7.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td,  $J = 8.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 6H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  146.9, 146.4, 141.4, 140.8, 139.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.0, 127.9, 127.5, 127.1, 126.9, 125.5, 120.6, 120.4, 116.5, 76.5, 61.1, 59.1; IR (film) 3061, 2930, 2250, 1450, 1099, 756, 736  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 311.1310$ ; found 311.1310 (masses identical).

### 2-Methyl-2-(9-phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (**6af**)



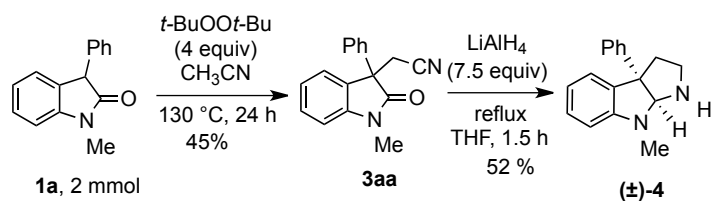
General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in isobutyronitrile **2f** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6af** in 42% yield (20 mg) as a colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.76 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 5H), 1.27 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.9, 141.4, 140.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 127.1, 126.5, 126.4, 120.1, 63.0, 38.2, 24.7; IR (film) 3060, 2229, 1448, 744, 728  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 309.1517$ ; found 309.1529.

### 1-(9-Phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)cyclohexanecarbonitrile (**6ag**)



General procedure B was followed using **5a** (36 mg, 0.15 mmol), PivOH (31 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *t*-BuOO*t*-Bu (165  $\mu$ L, 6.00 equiv) in cyclohexanecarbonitrile **2g** (1.5 mL, 0.10 M) at 125  $^{\circ}$ C for 23 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) afforded **6ag** in 61% yield (32 mg) as an amorphous white solid:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.75 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (td,  $J = 7.5, 1.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.39 (m, 7H), 1.30-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.97-0.88 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  148.1, 141.6, 140.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 127.1, 126.9, 123.7, 119.9, 63.7, 45.9, 31.3, 25.1, 22.9; IR (film) 3058, 2937, 2227, 1449, 743, 699  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}$   $[\text{M}]^+$   $m/z = 349.1830$ ; found 349.1831.

### 1.5 Derivatization of Product 3aa



**Large scale cyanomethylation and derivatization to 8-methyl-3a-phenyl-1,2,3,3a,8,8a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,3-b]indole (4).** Oxindole **1a** (446 mg, 2.00 mmol) was submitted to the General procedure A. Purification by chromatography (100:12 hexane/EtOAc) afforded compound **3aa** in 45% yield (236 mg) as a brown solid. To a precooled (5  $^{\circ}$ C) stirred suspension of  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  (256 mg, 6.75 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) and under argon atmosphere was added the oxindole **3aa** (236 mg, 0.900 mmol) in THF (10 mL), and the mixture was heated at

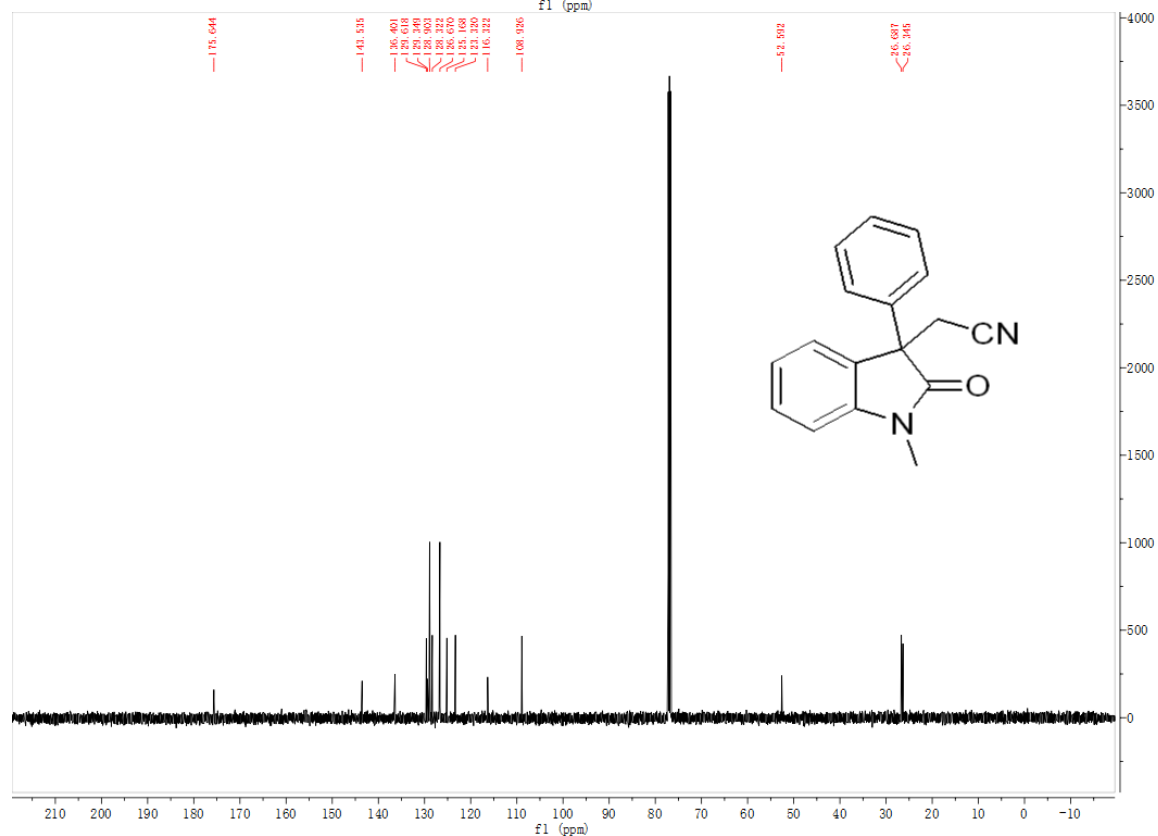
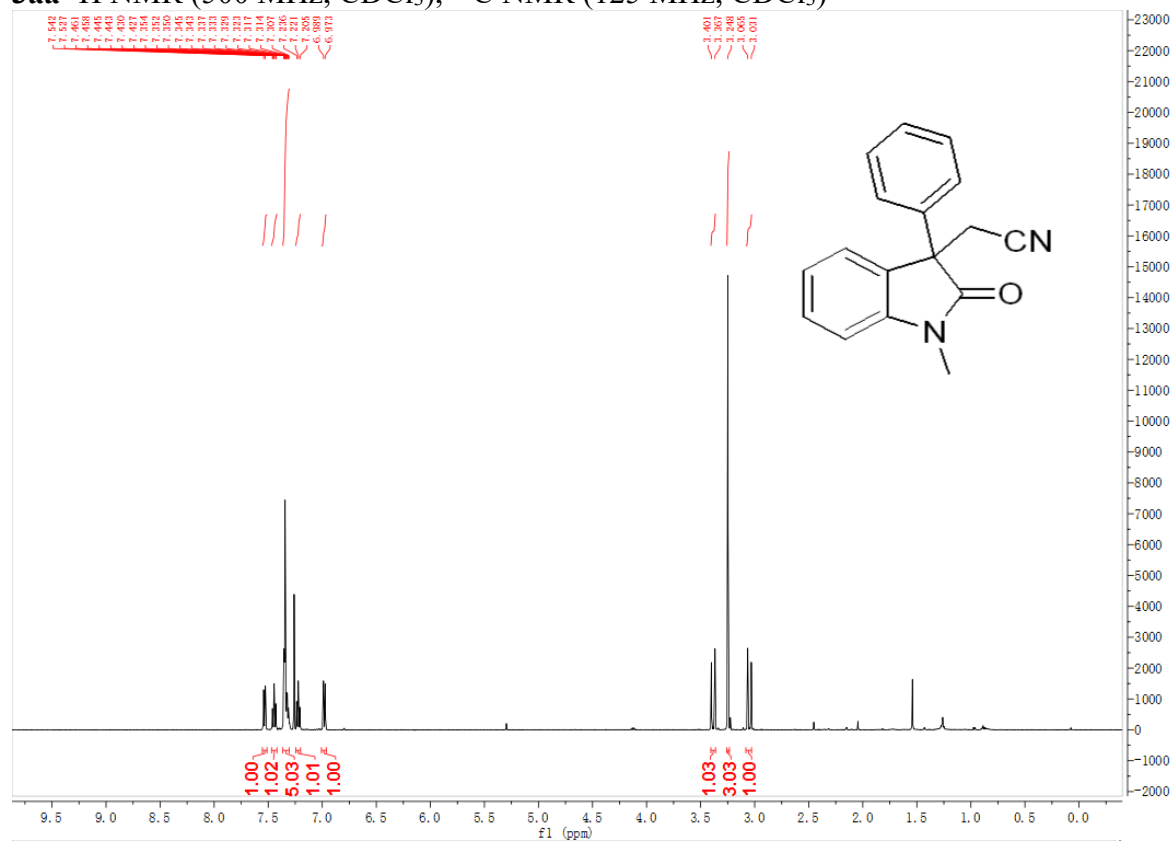
reflux for 1.5 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture in an ice/water bath, the reaction was quenched by adding, in sequence, EtOAc (10 mL) and water (5 mL). The solids were removed by filtration and washed with EtOAc (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting pyrroloindoline was purified by chromatography on silica gel (100:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH) affording compound **4** in 52% yield (117 mg) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 3.24-3.19 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.79-2.72 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 151.3, 146.2, 134.2, 128.4, 128.1, 126.3, 126.2, 124.2, 116.8, 105.1, 92.9, 61.3, 46.8, 41.8, 31.3; IR (film) 2933, 2875, 1603, 1492, 1296, 738, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* = 250.1470; found 250.1482.

## References

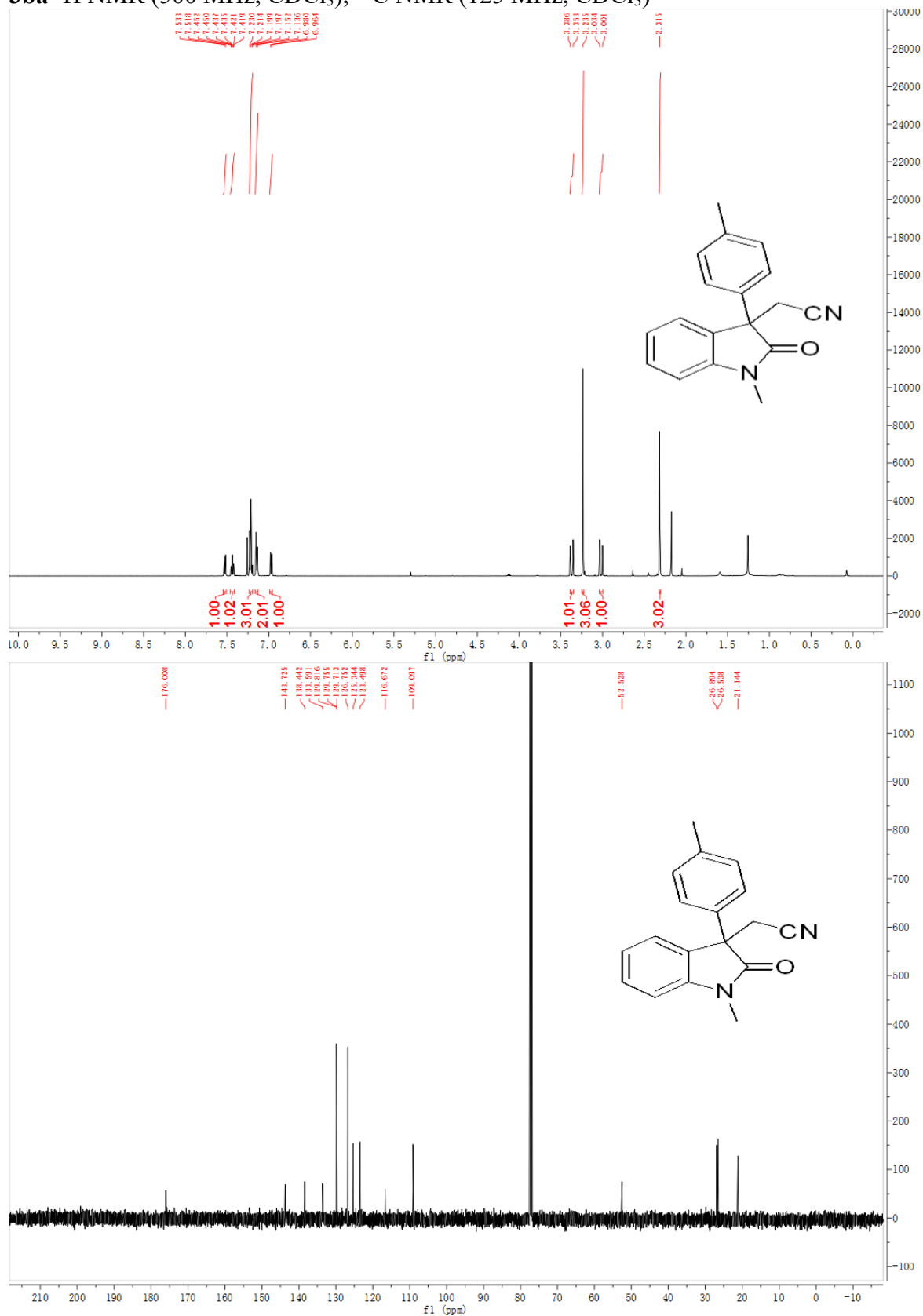
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# Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR

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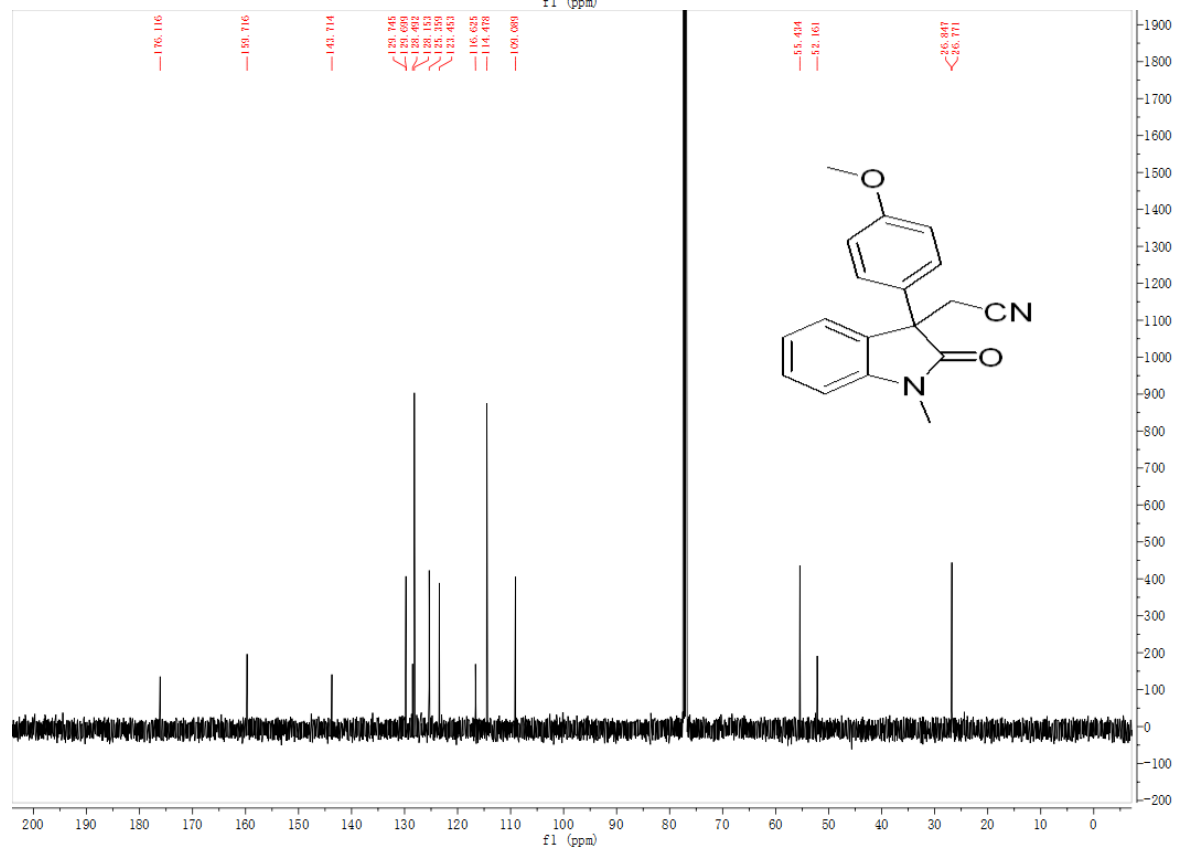
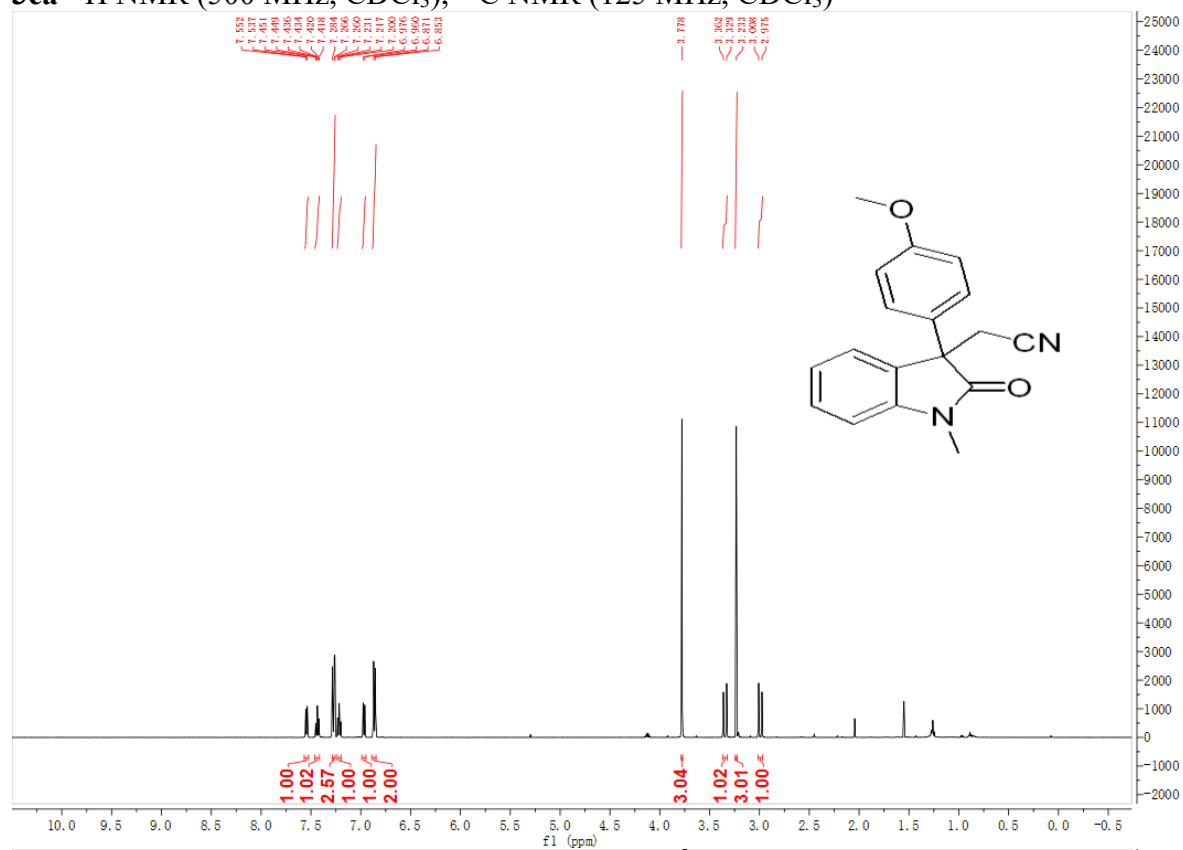


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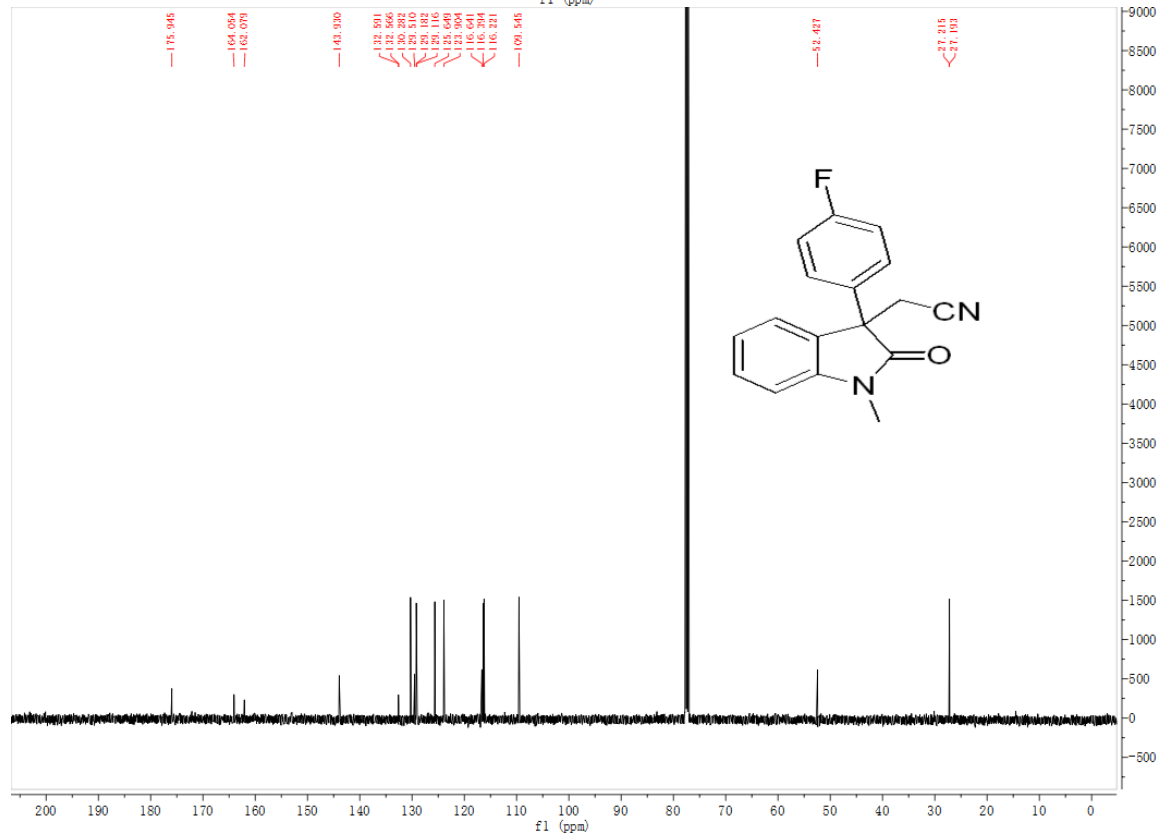
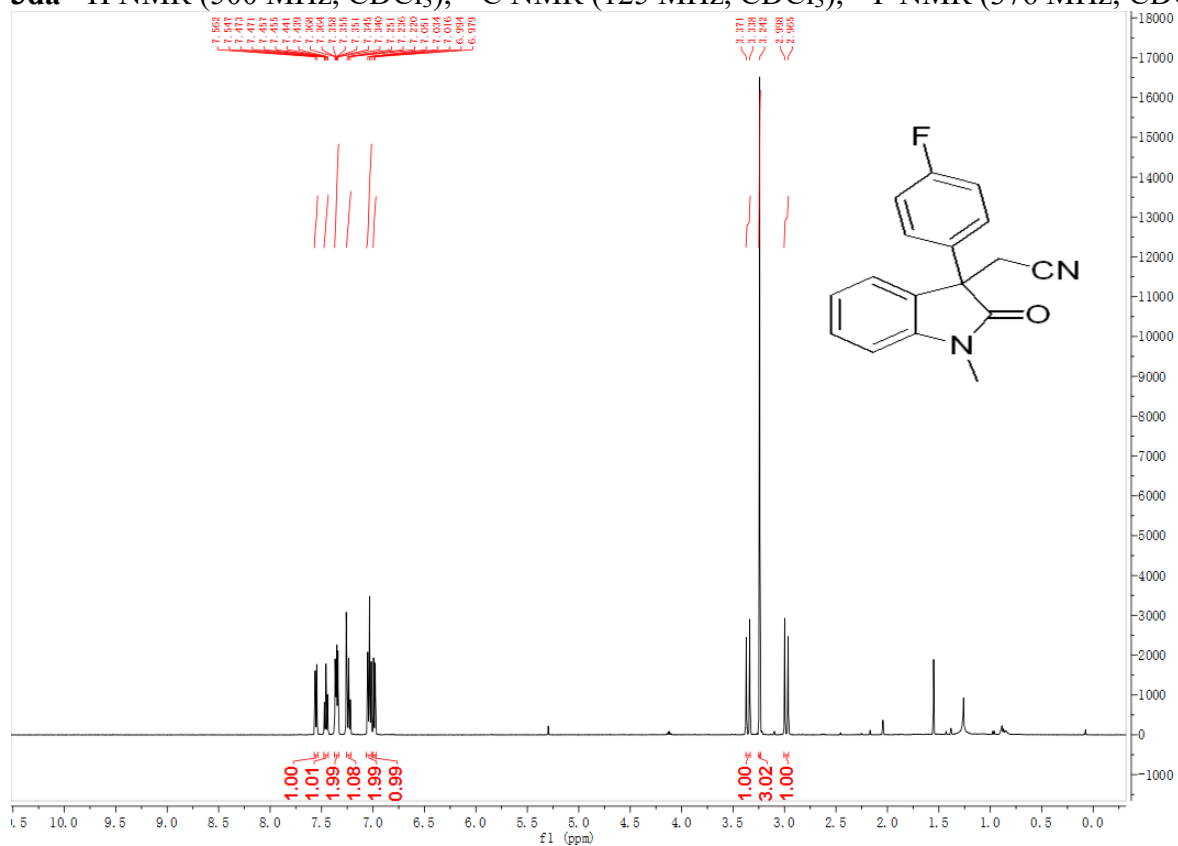


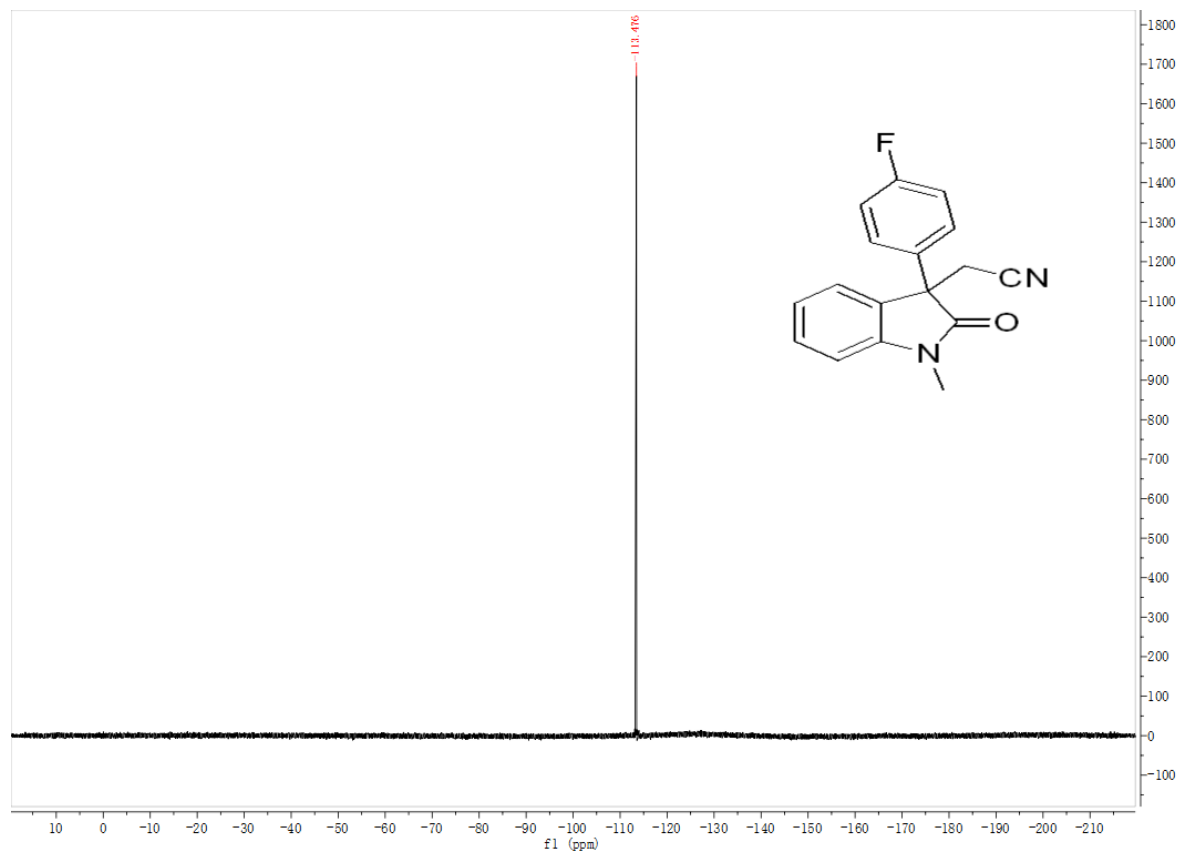


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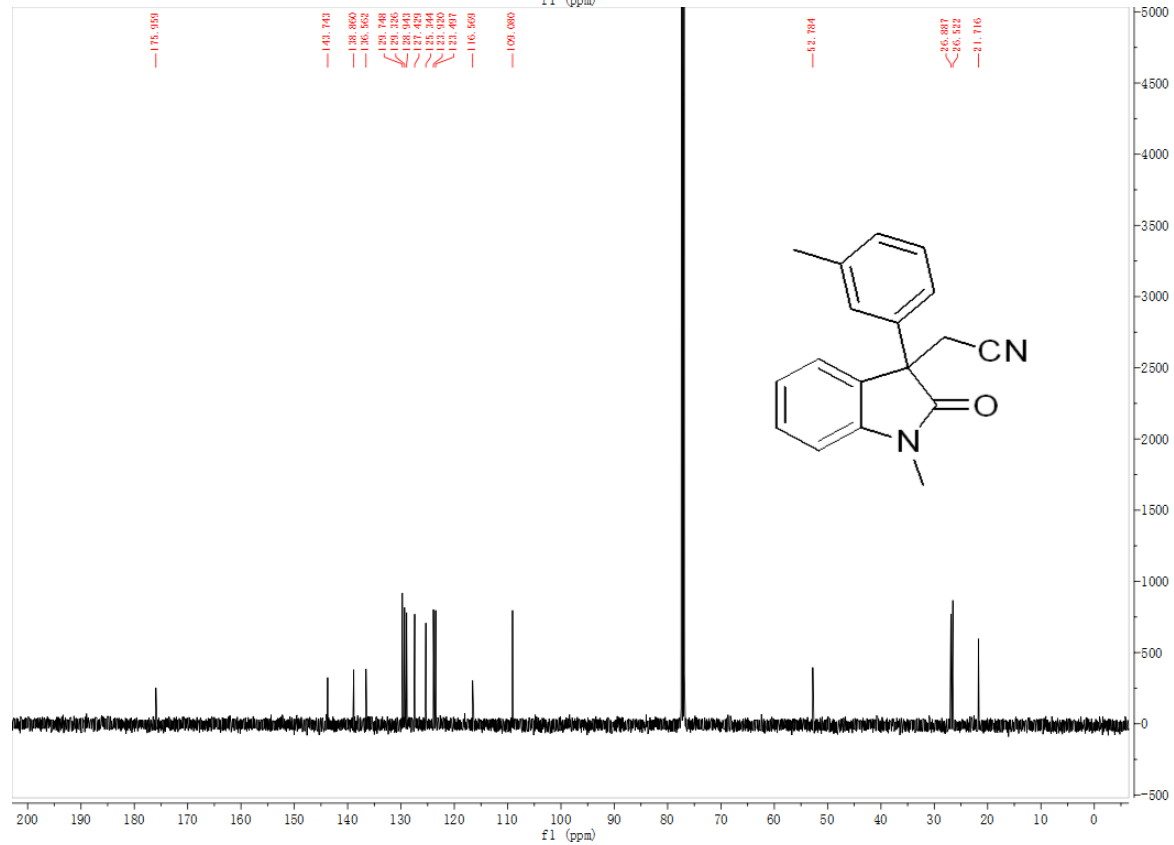
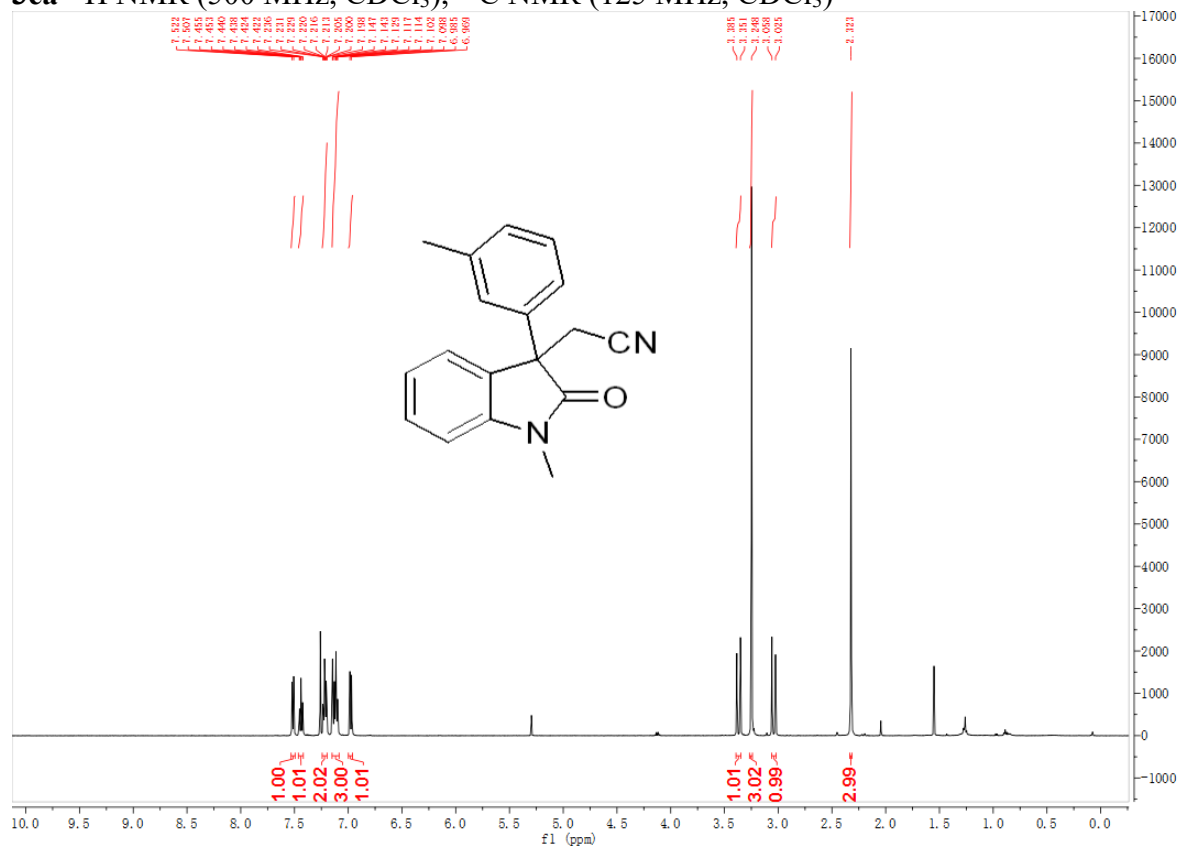


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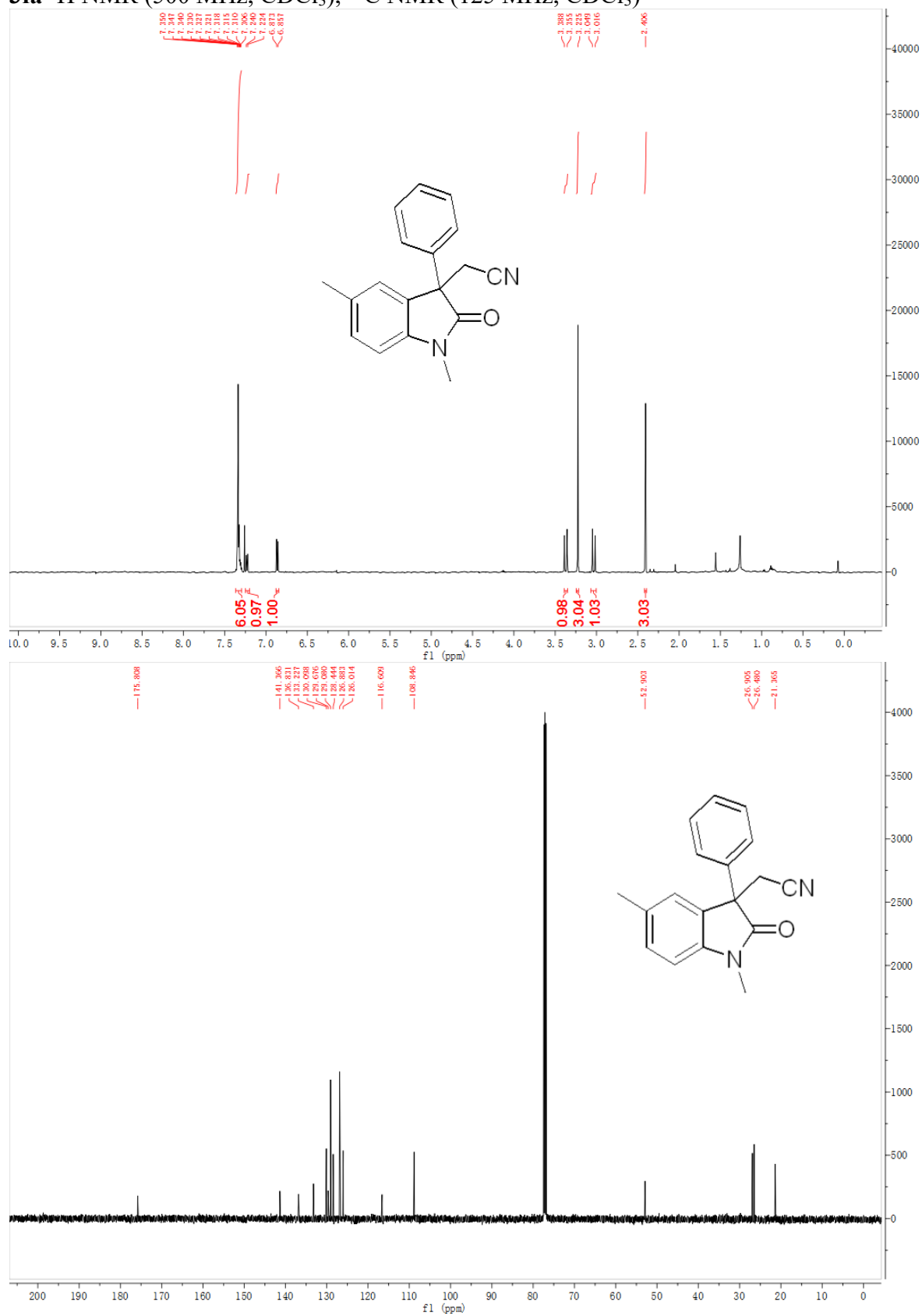




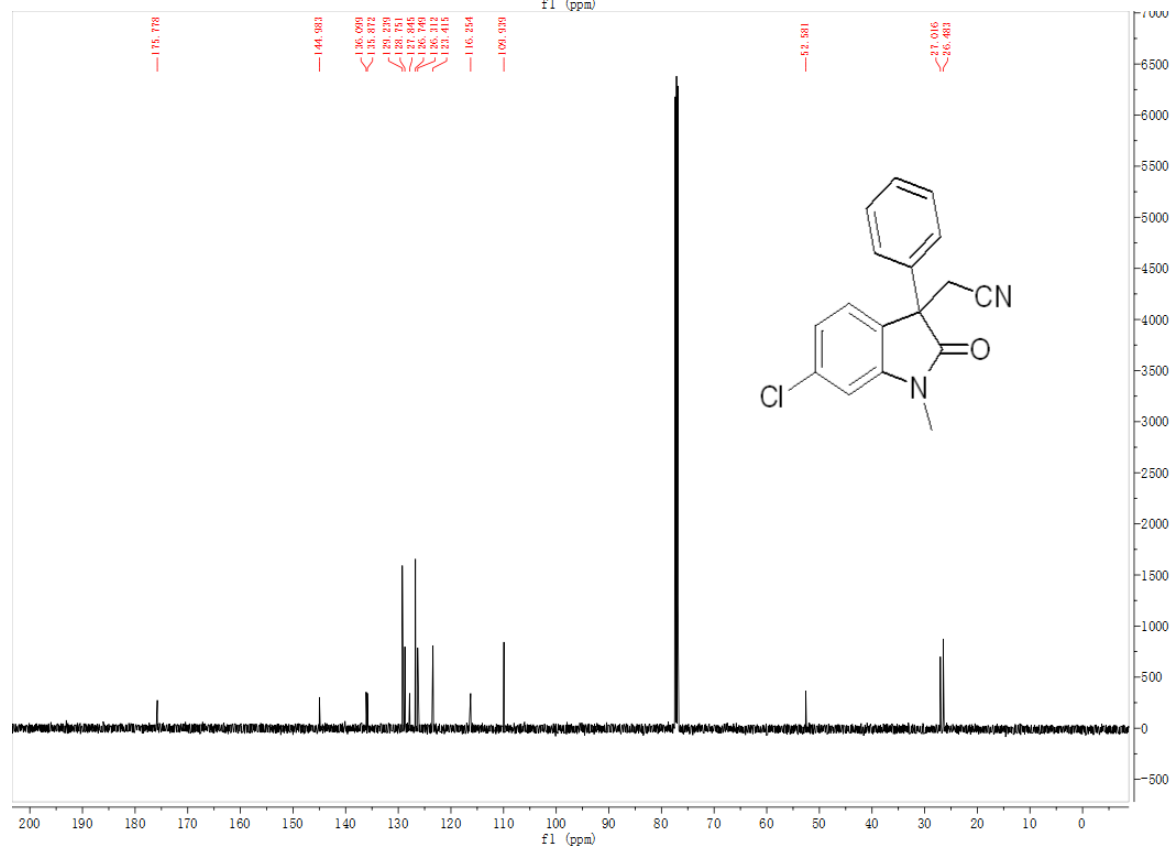
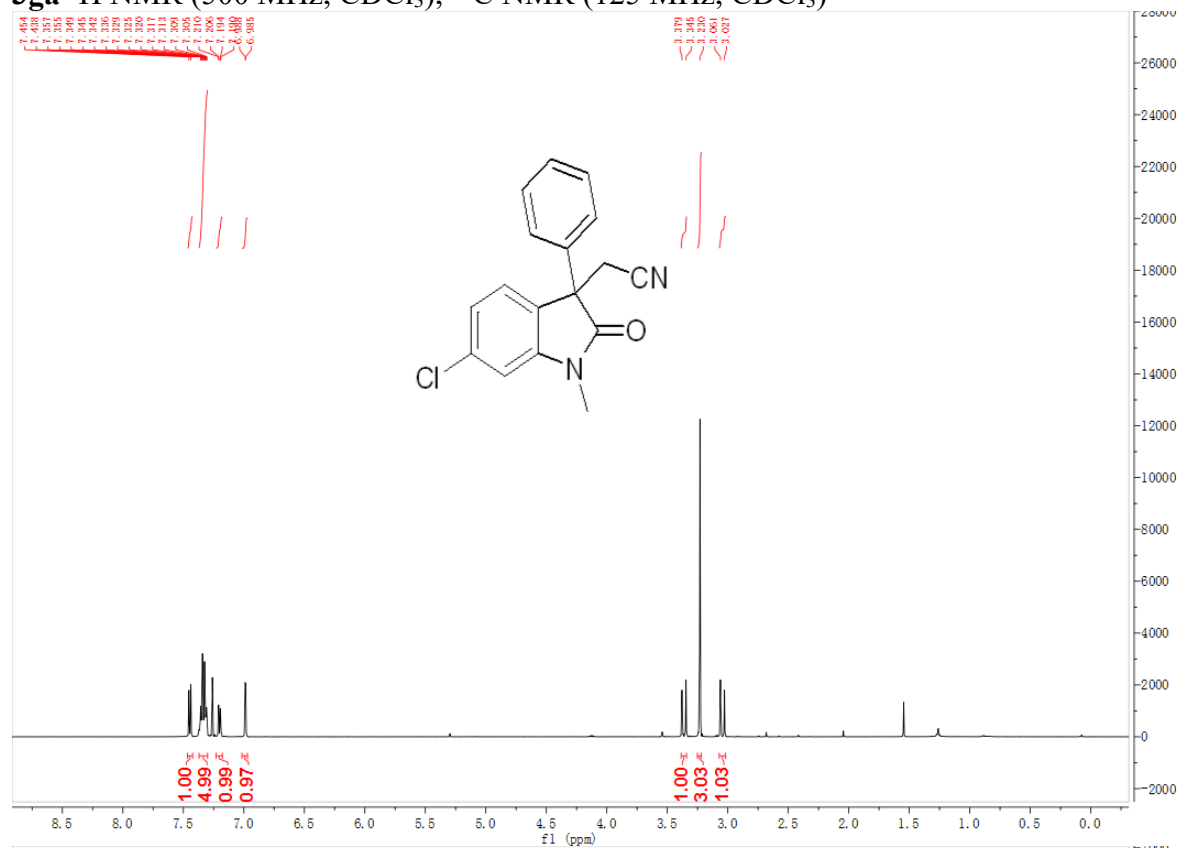
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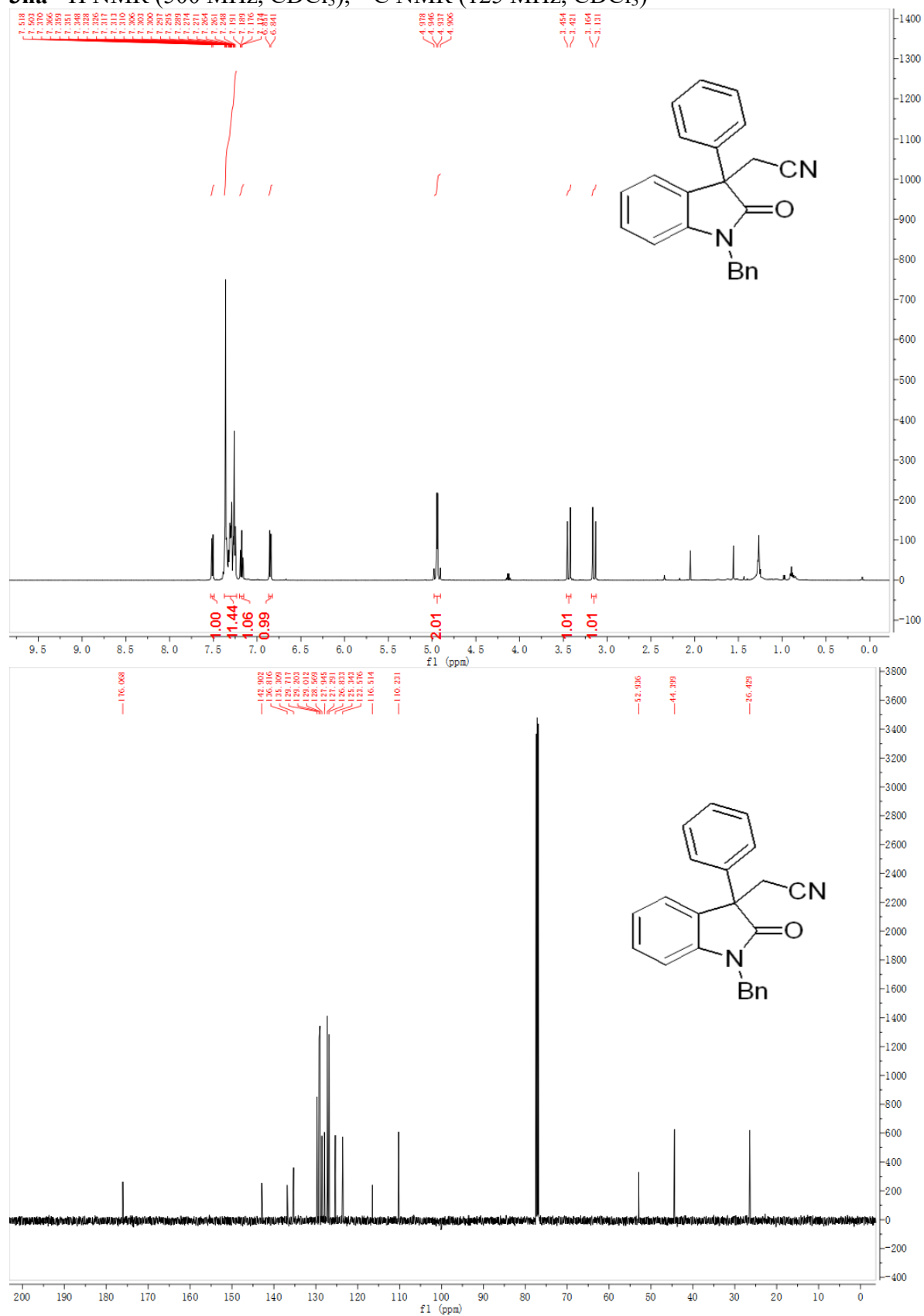
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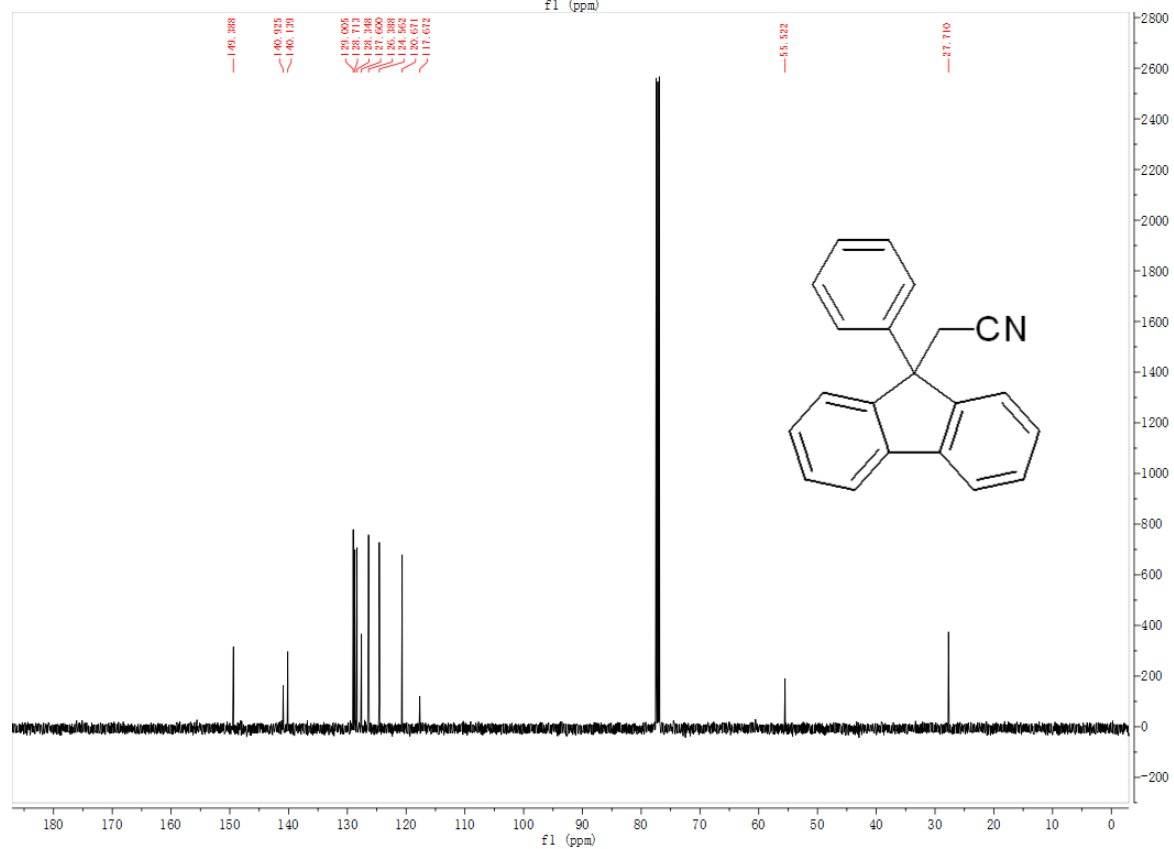
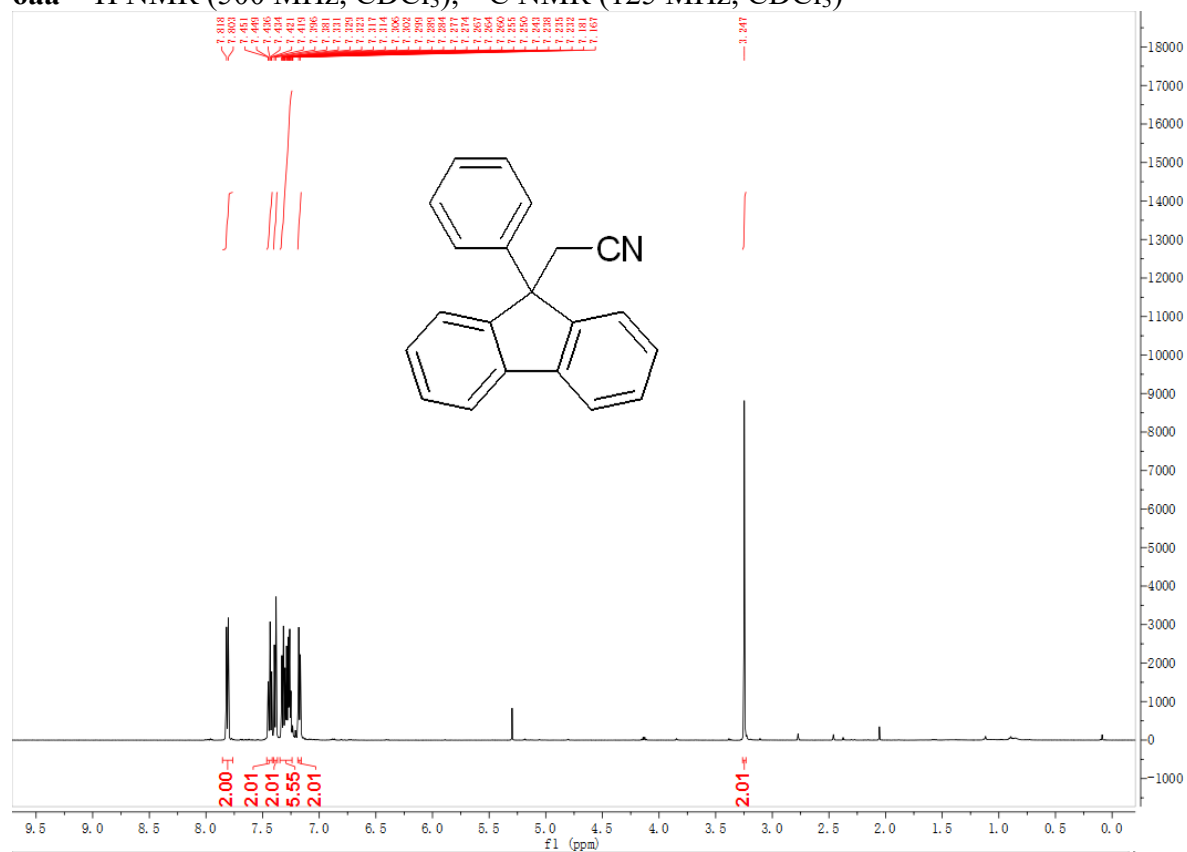
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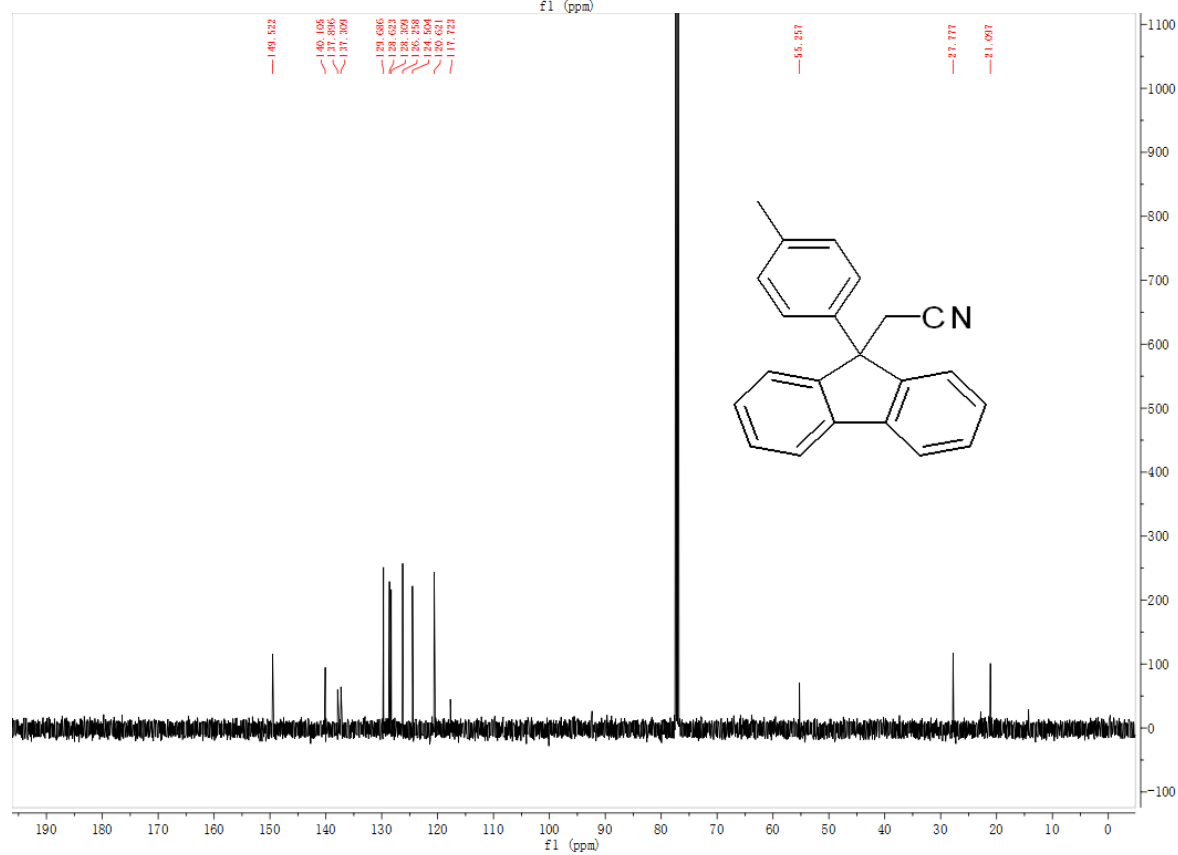
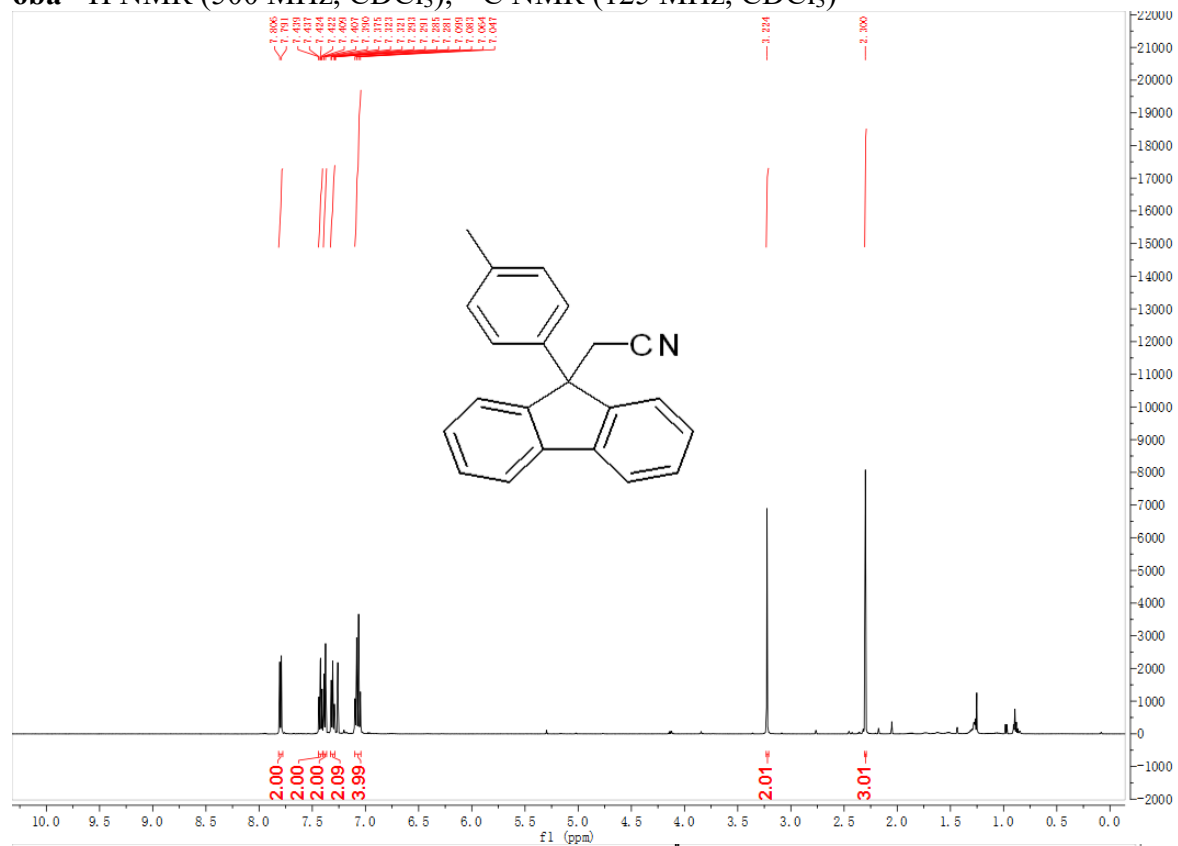


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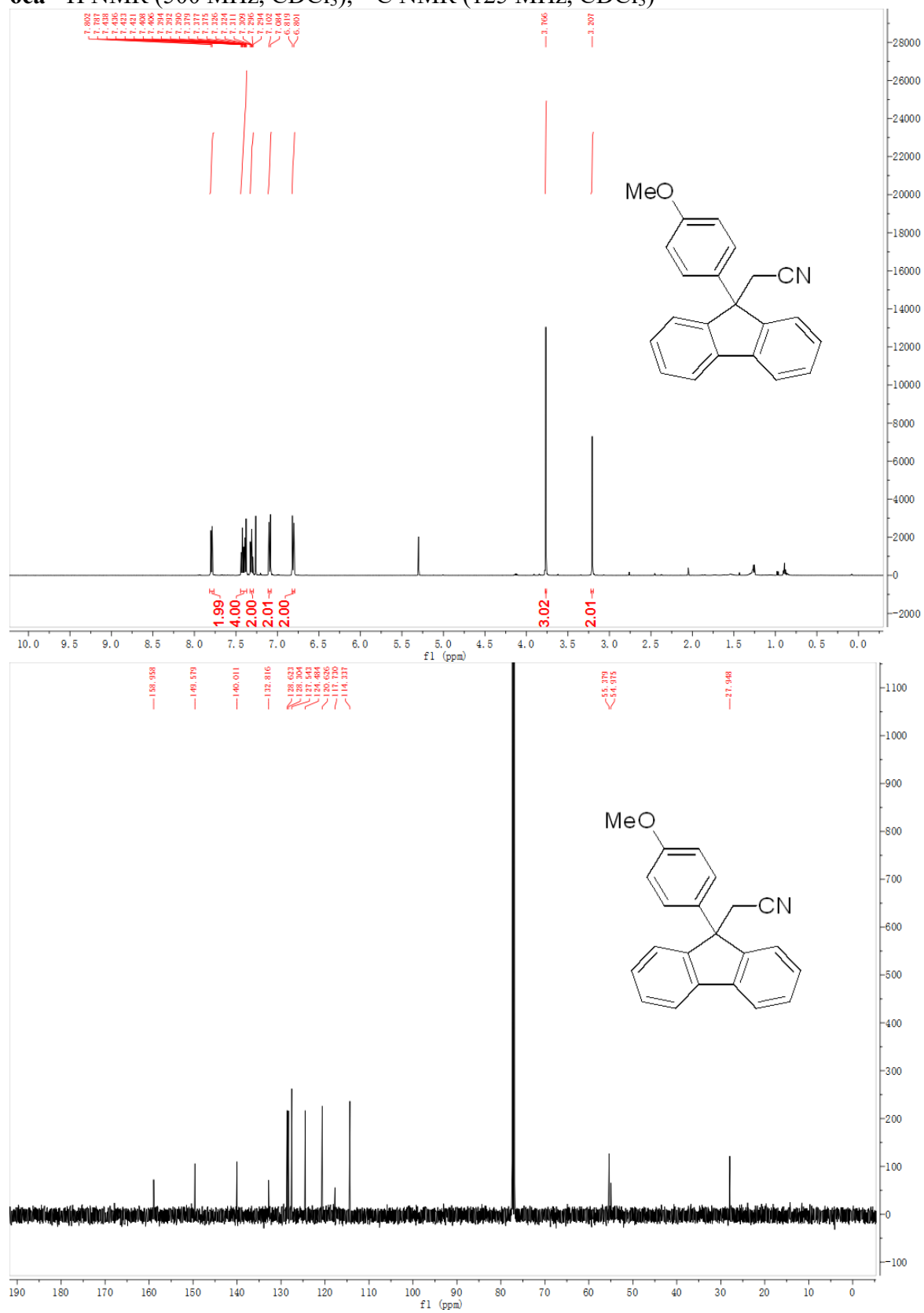




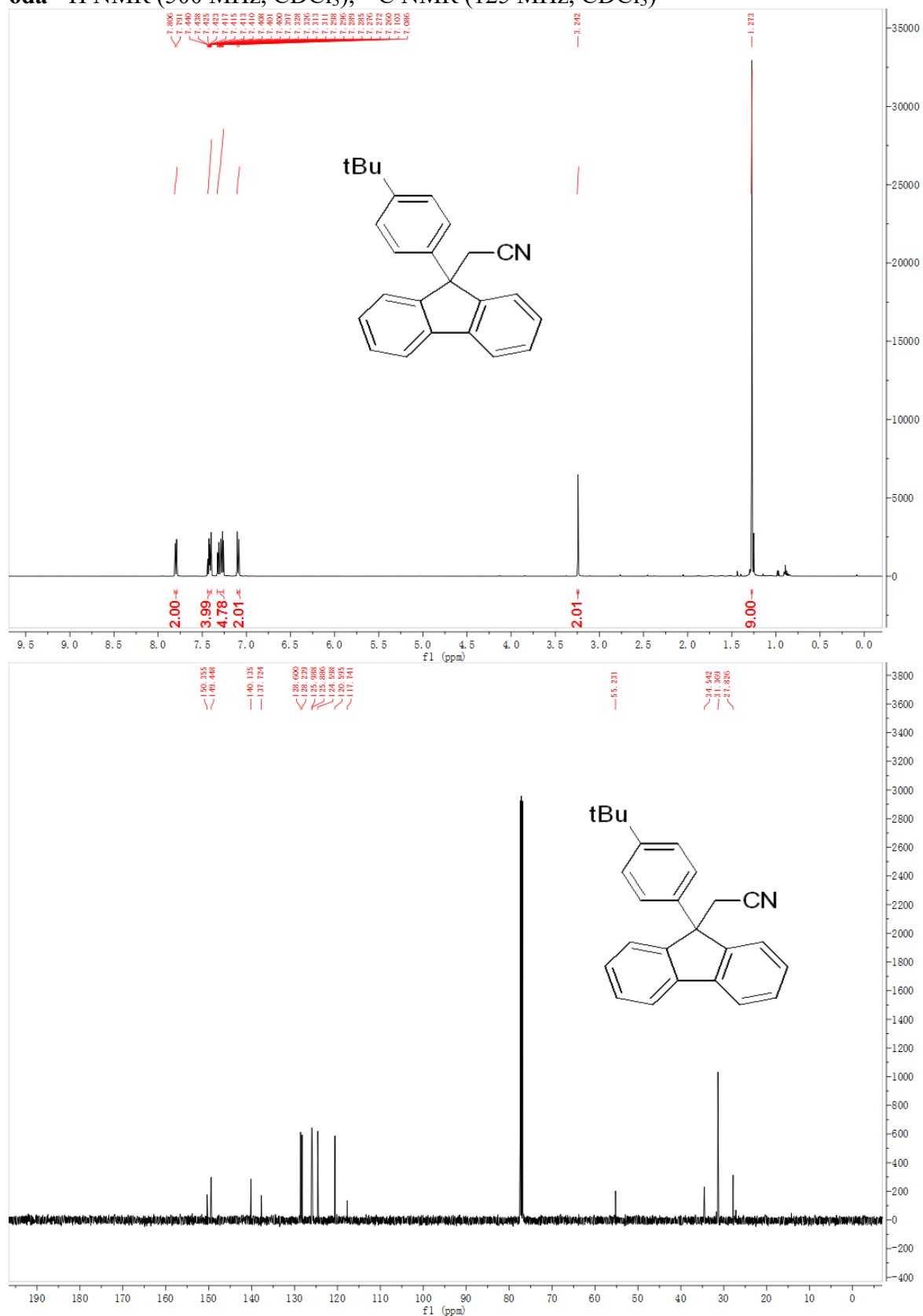
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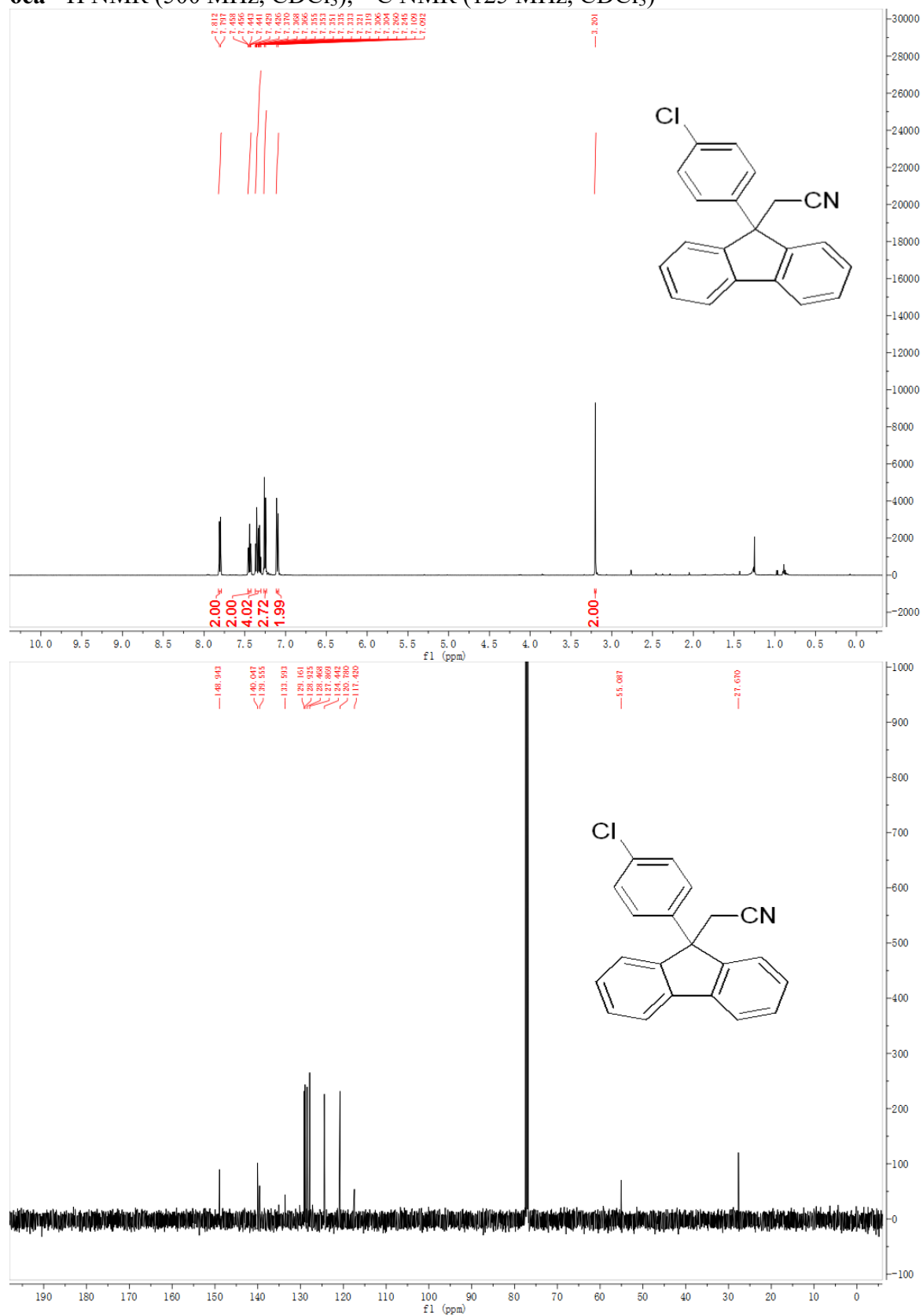
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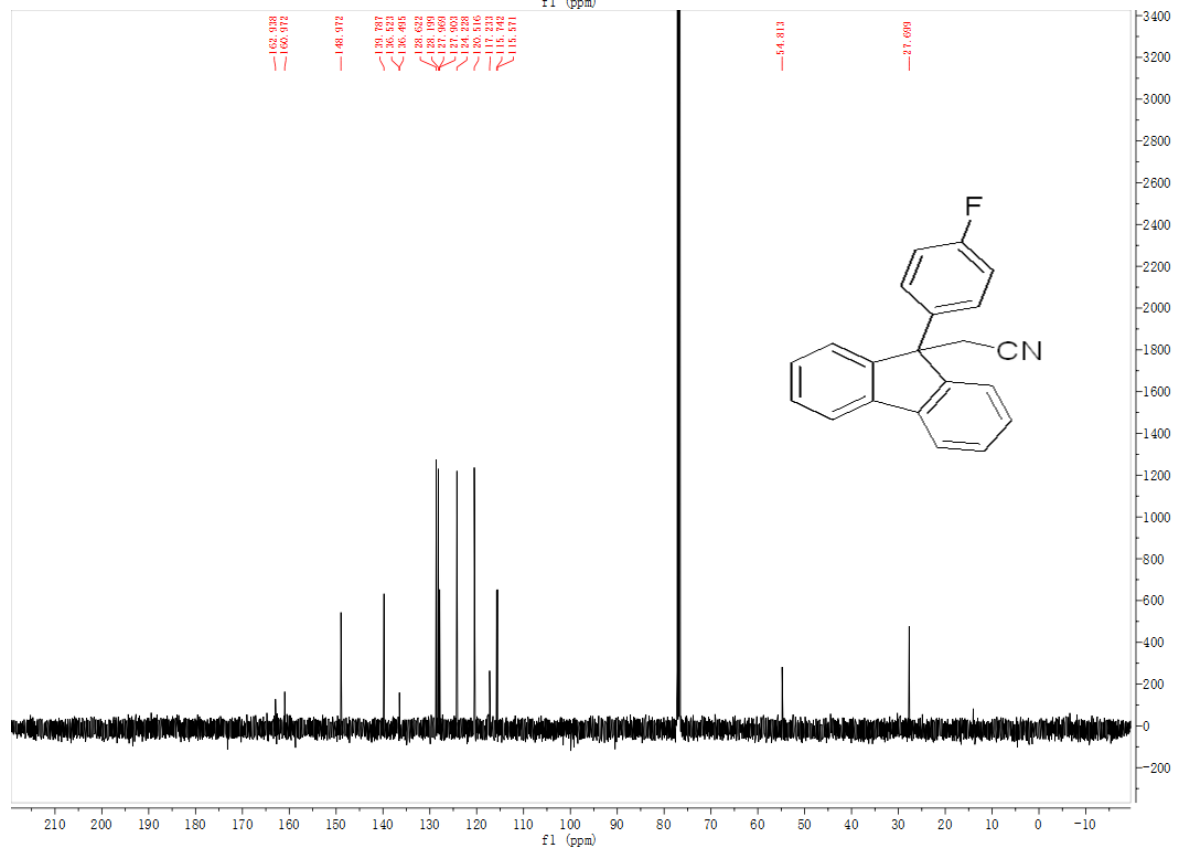
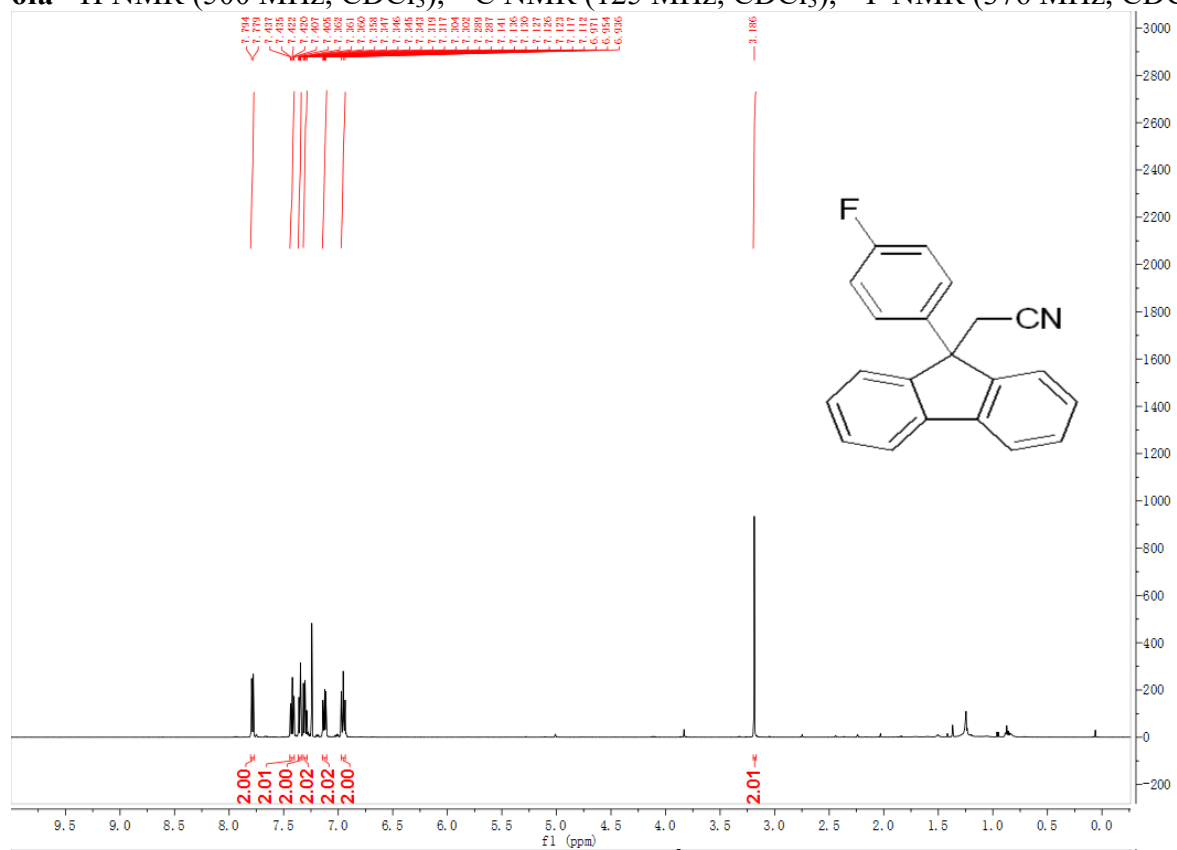
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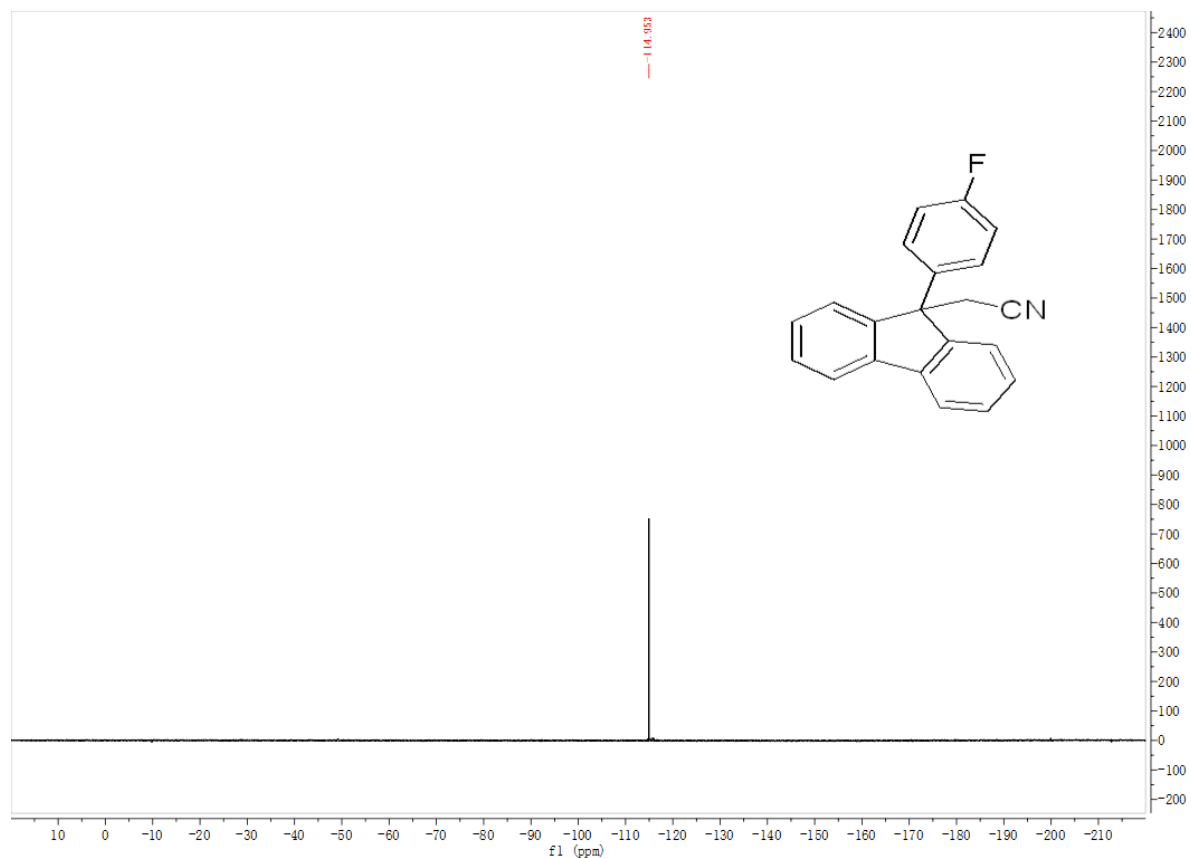


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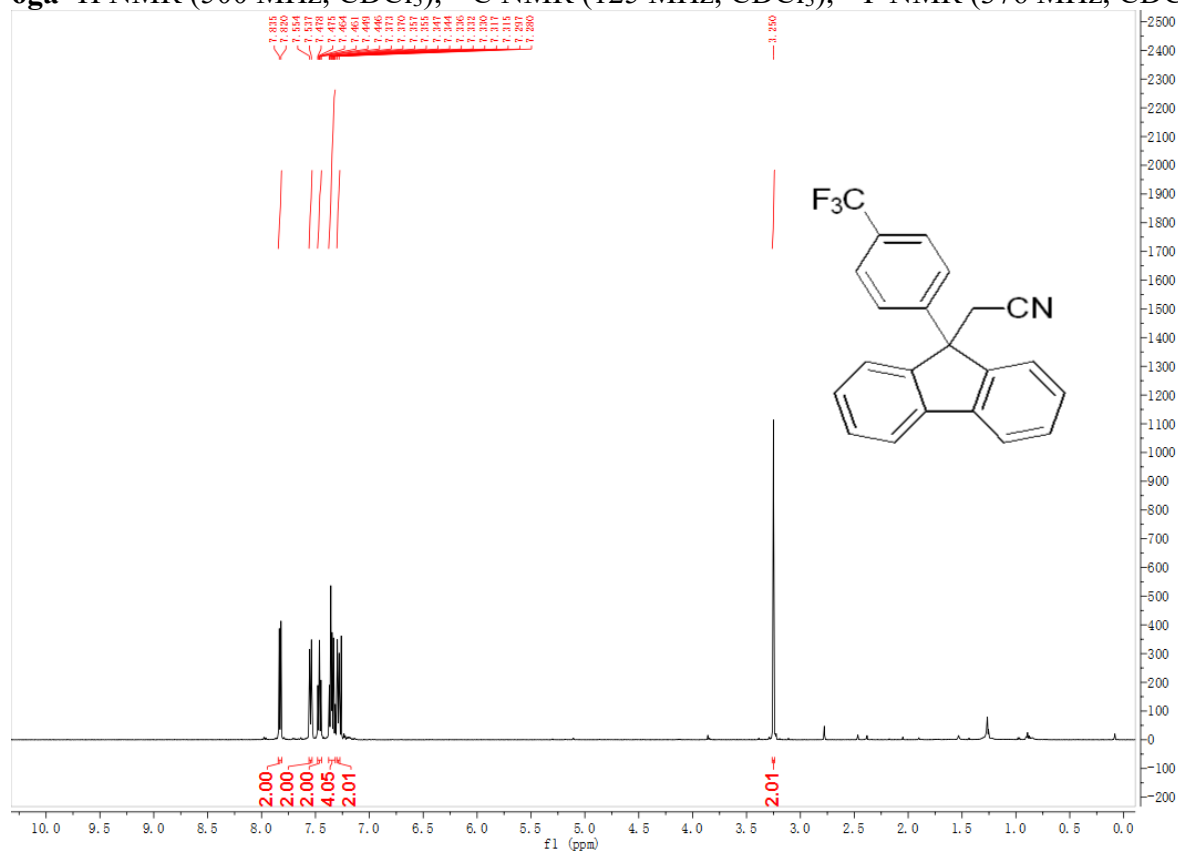


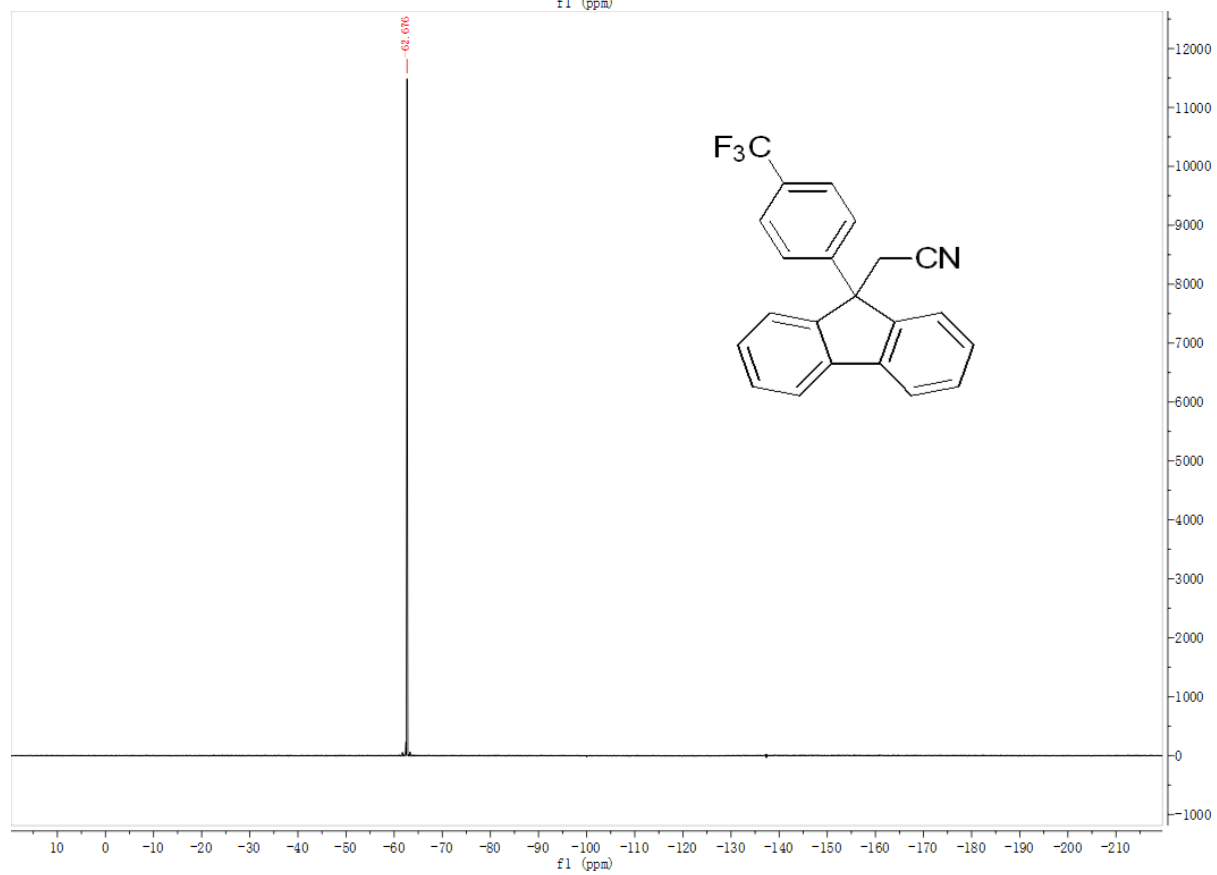
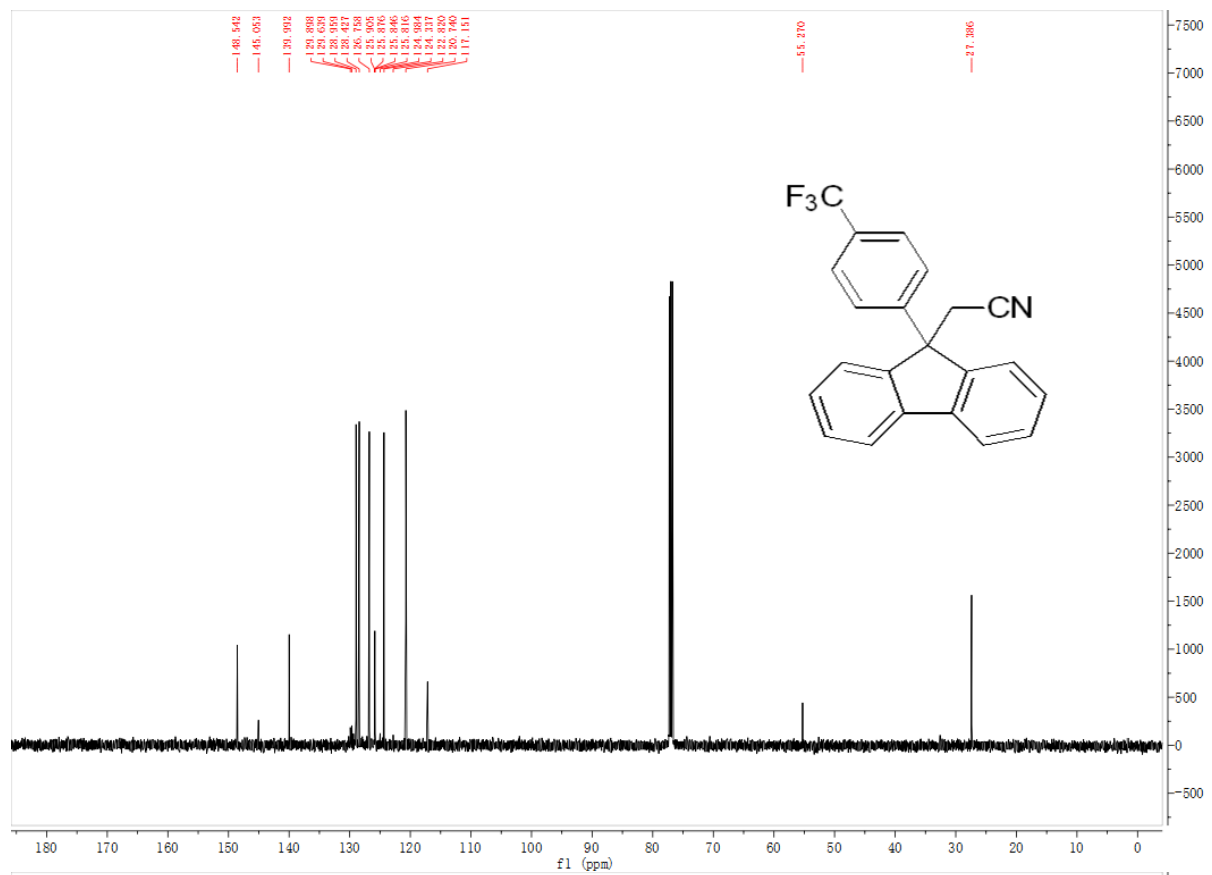
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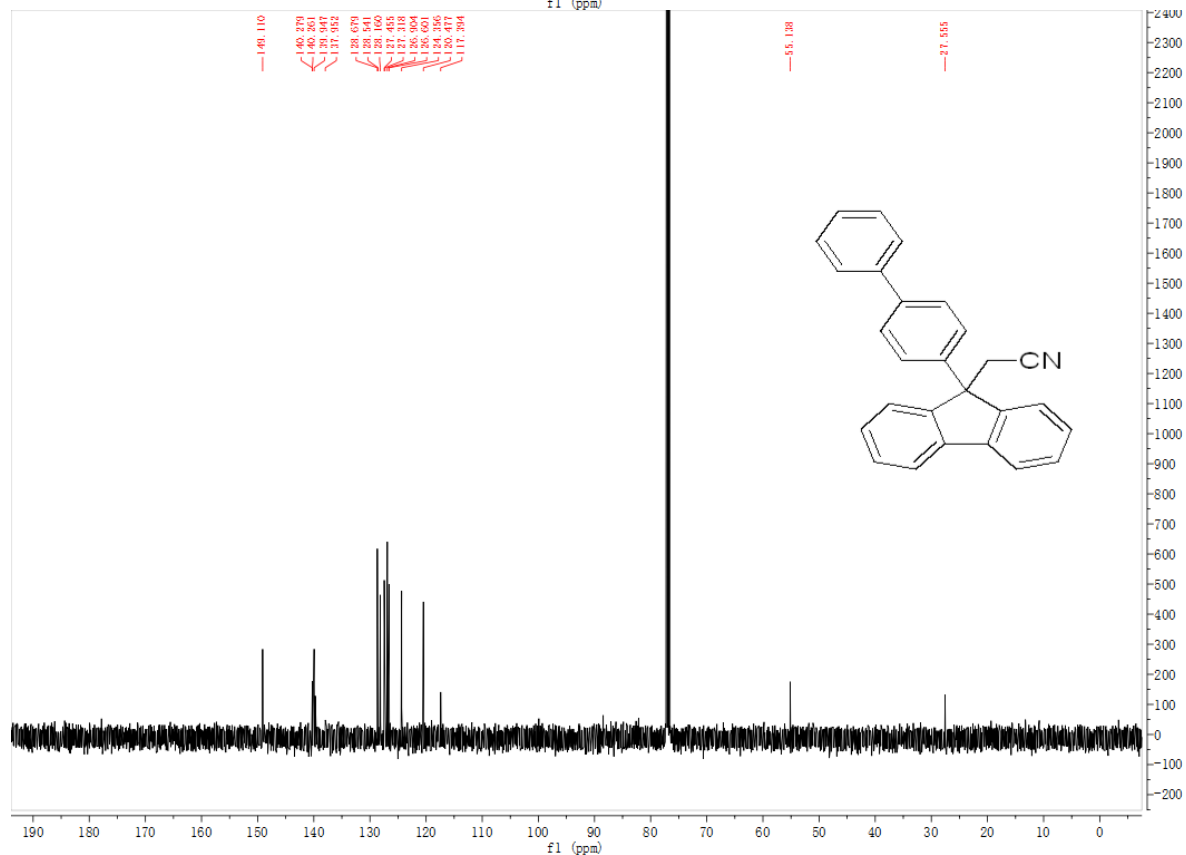
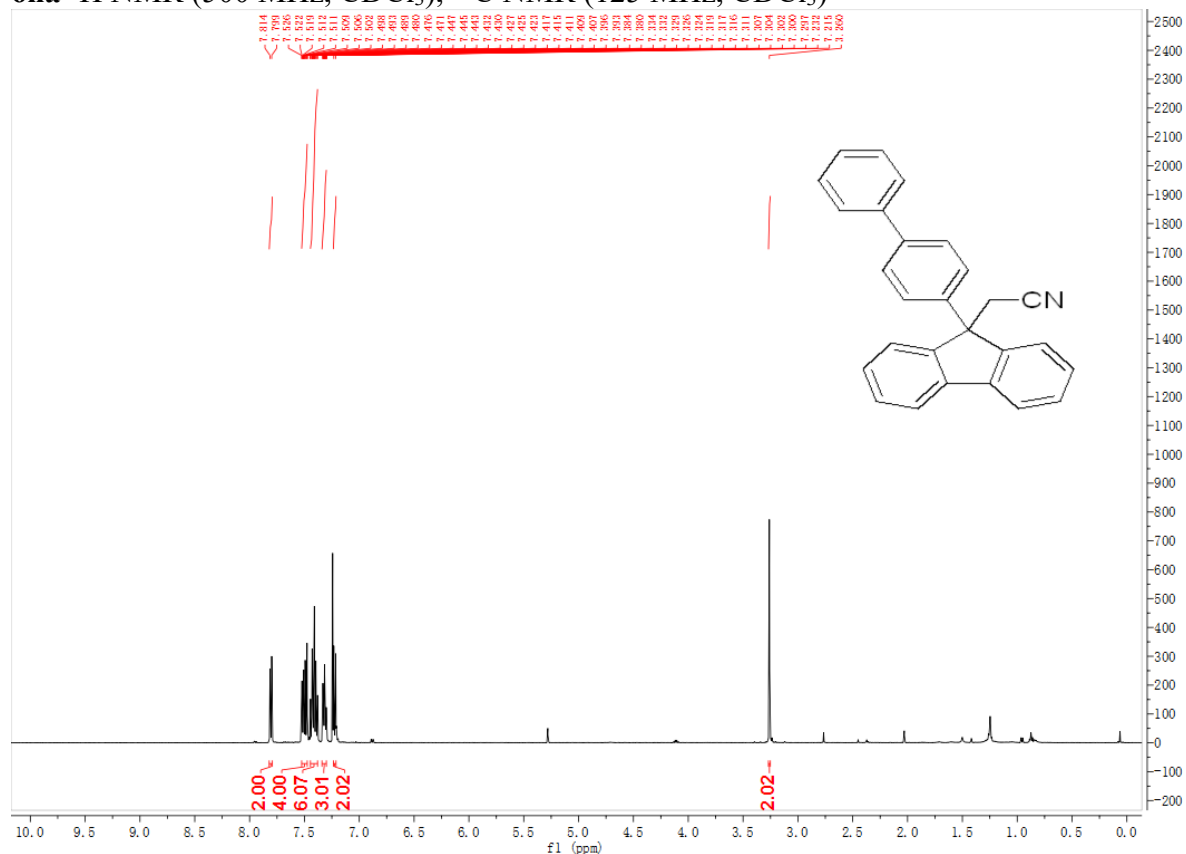


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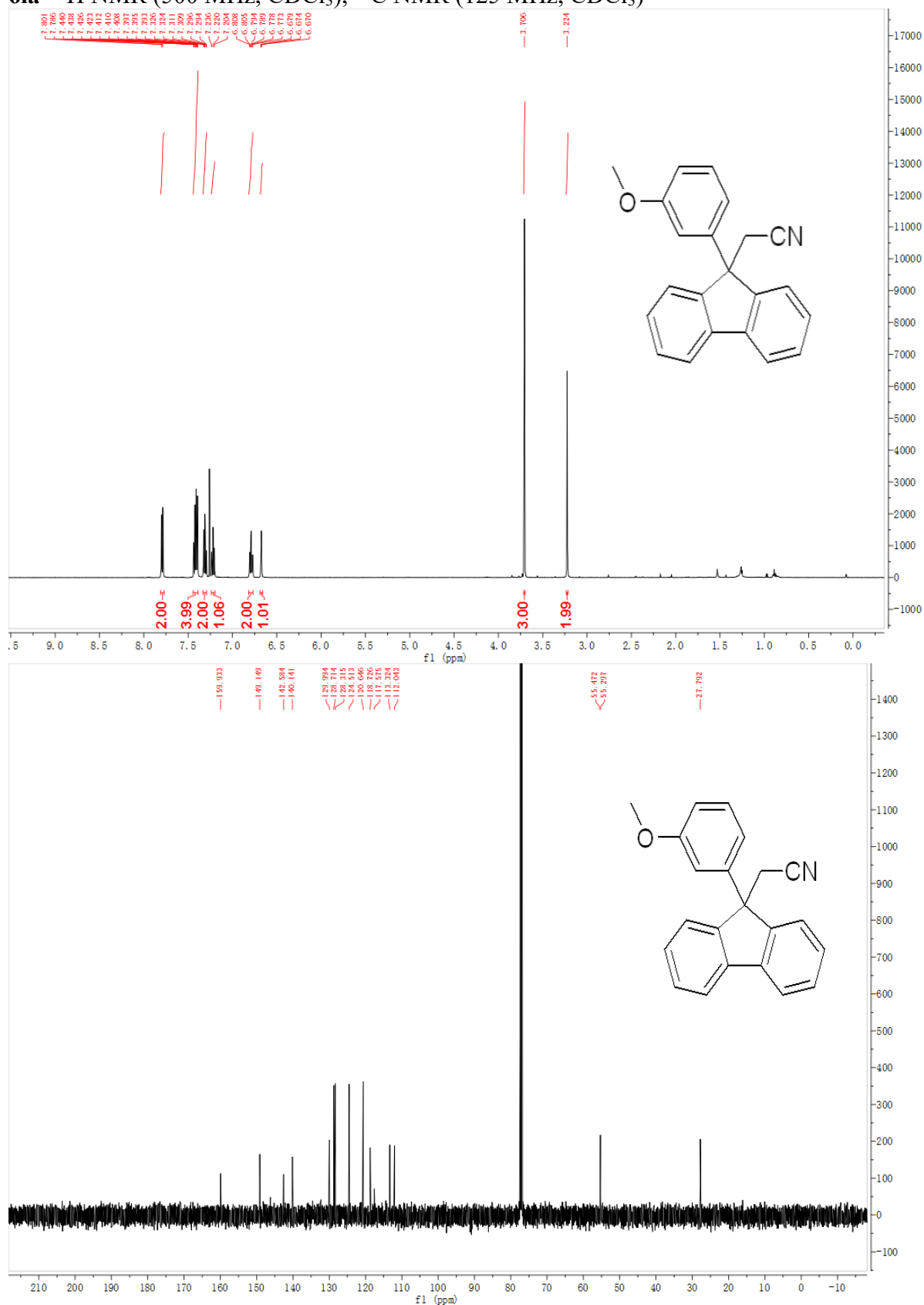


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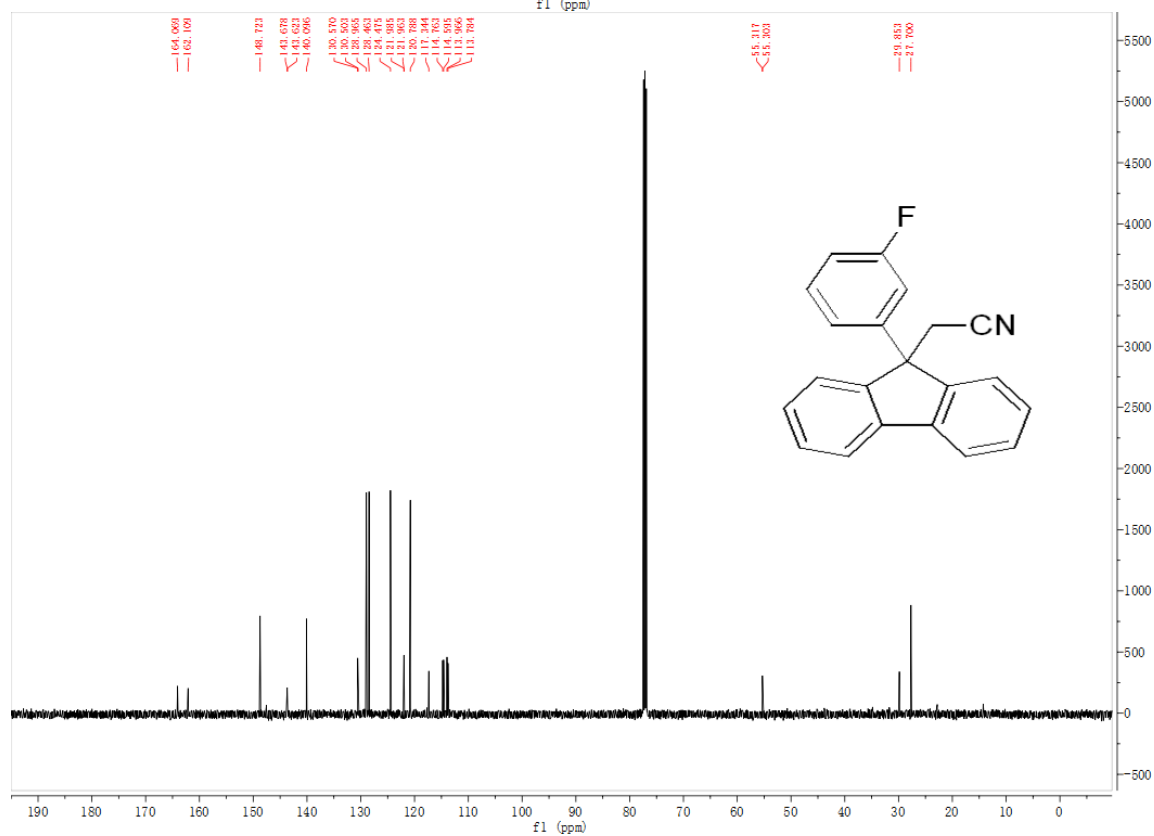
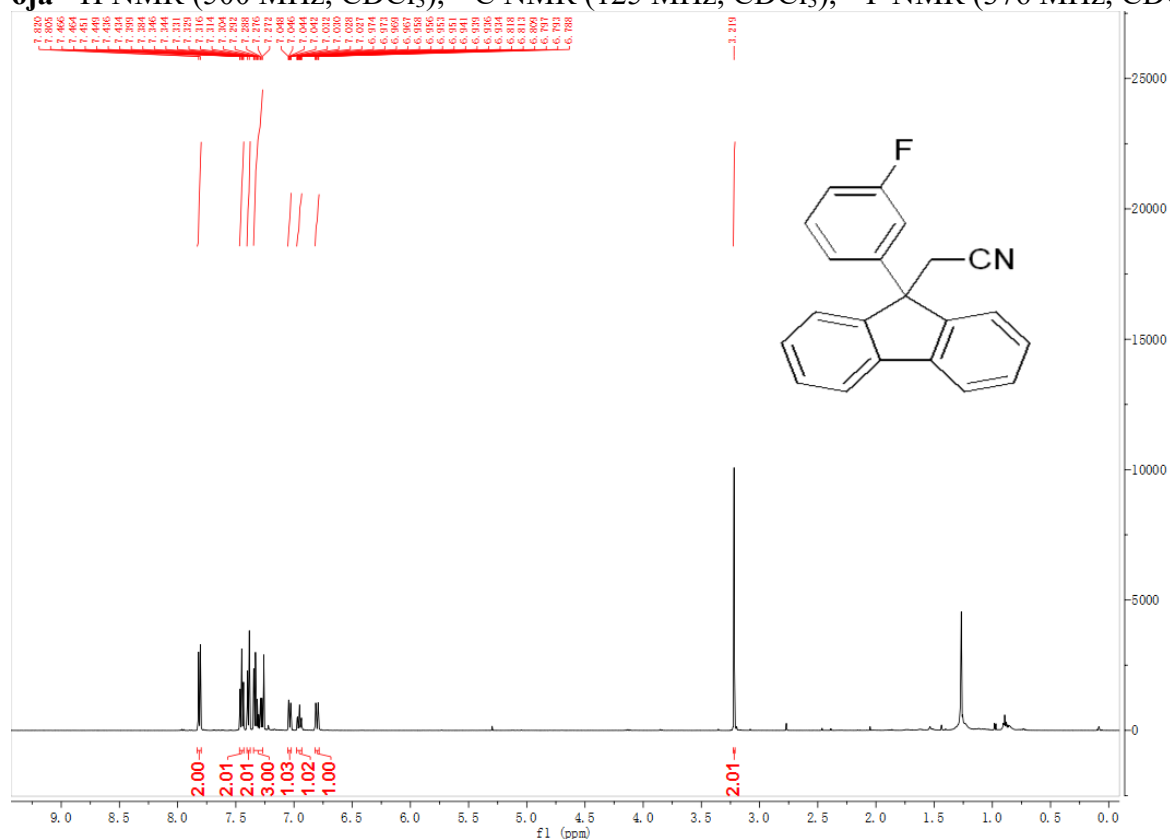


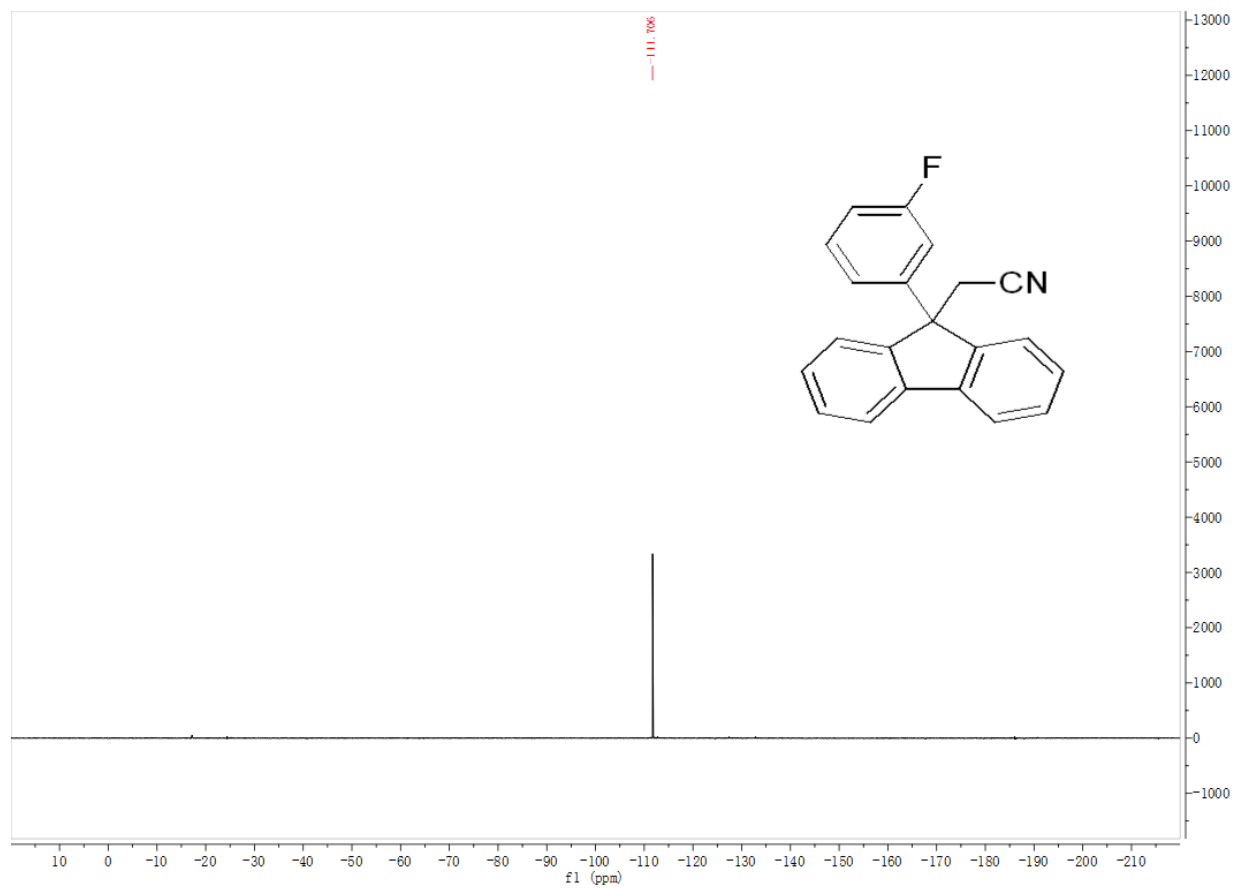


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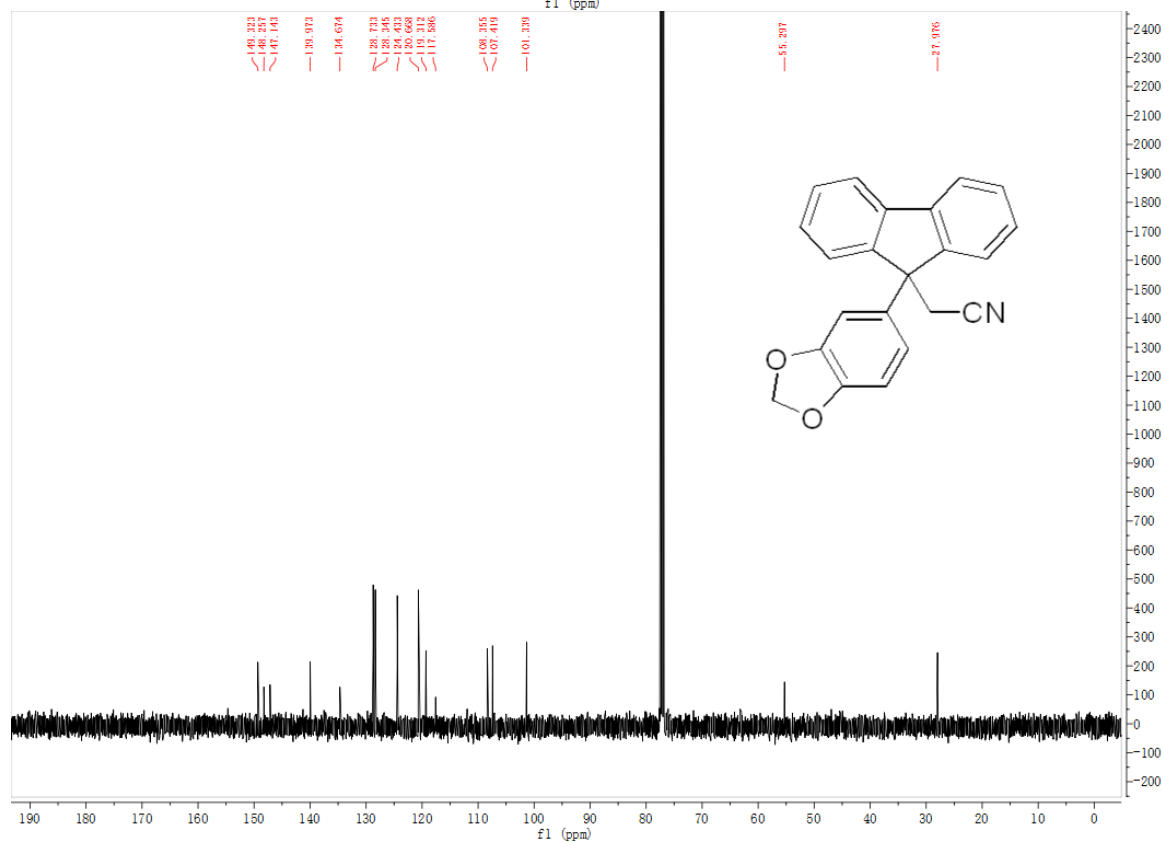
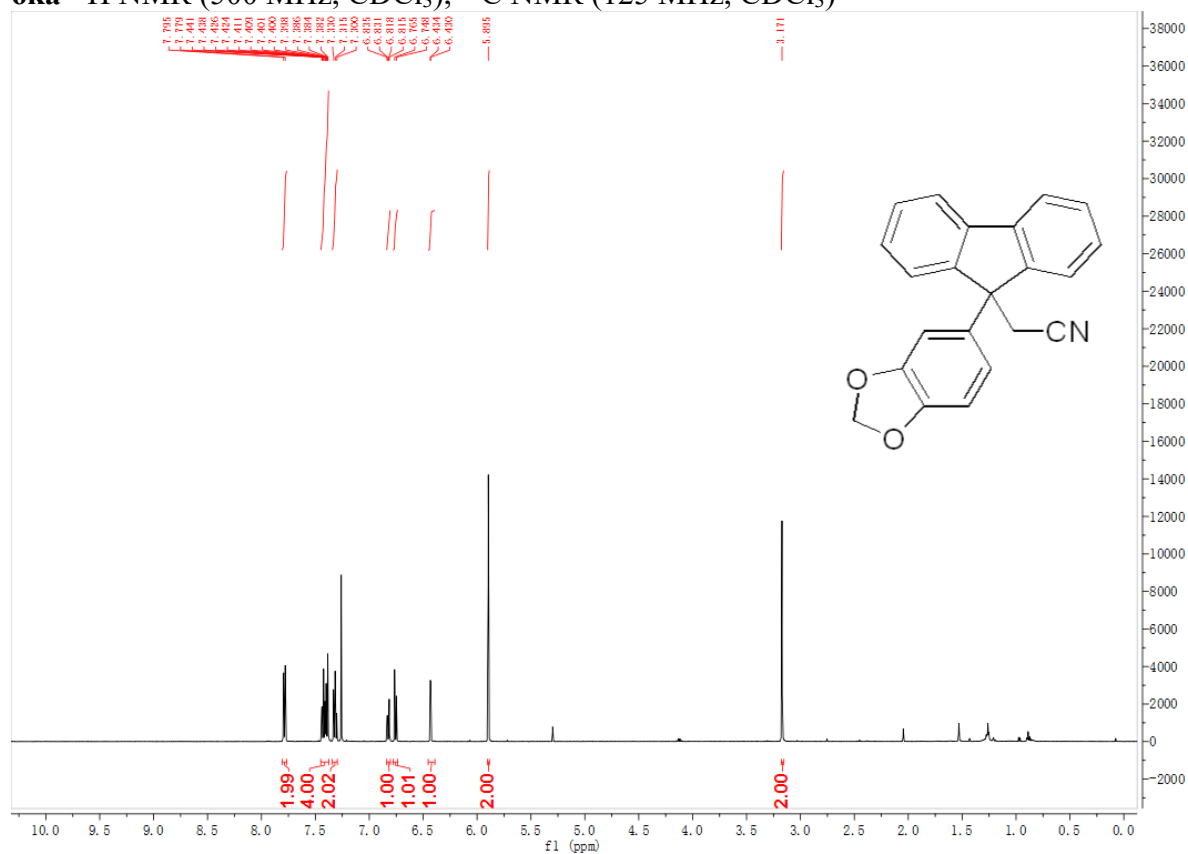


**6ja**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

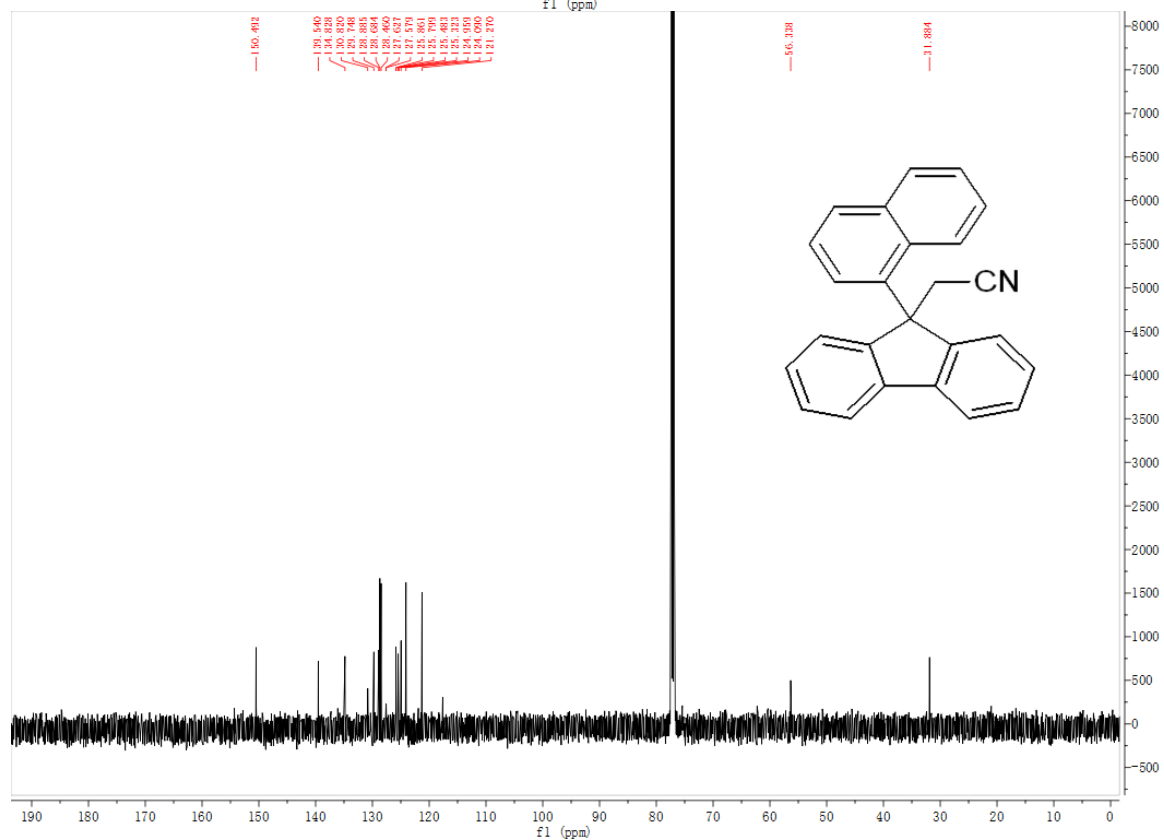
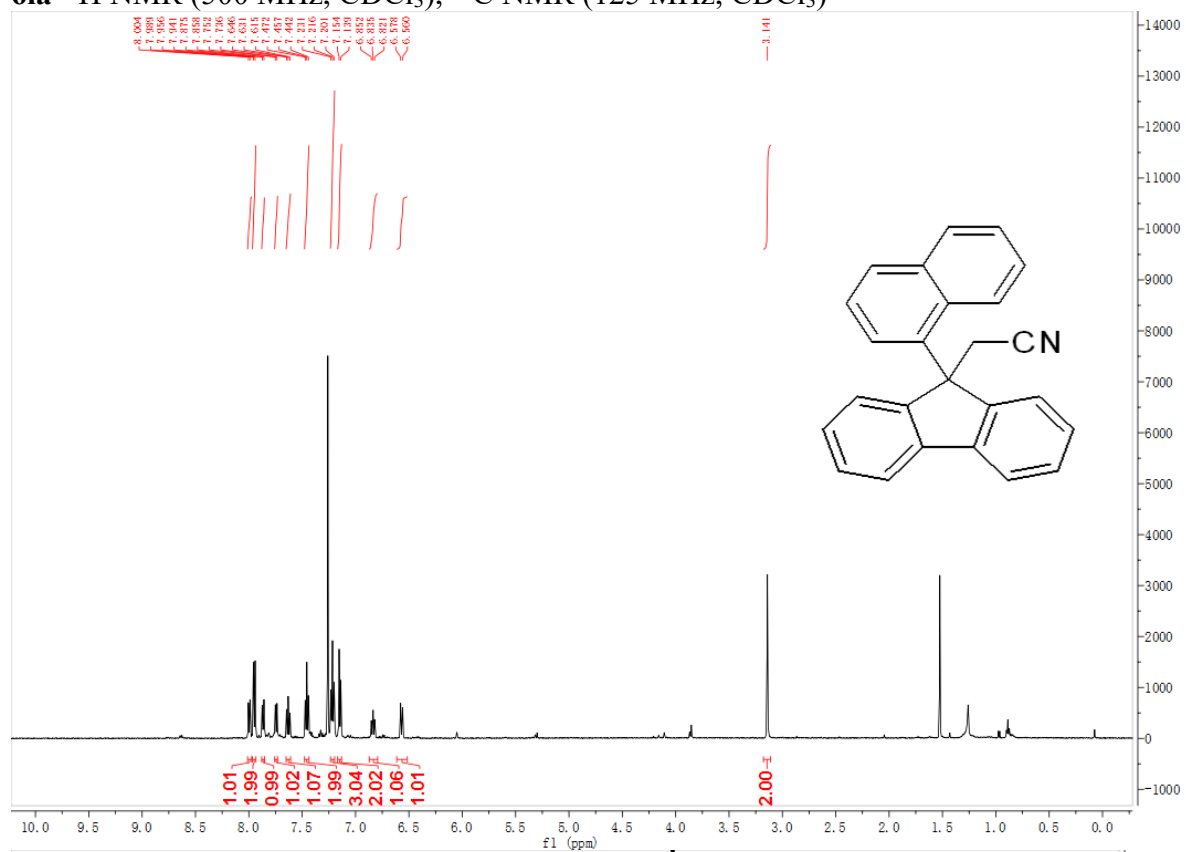




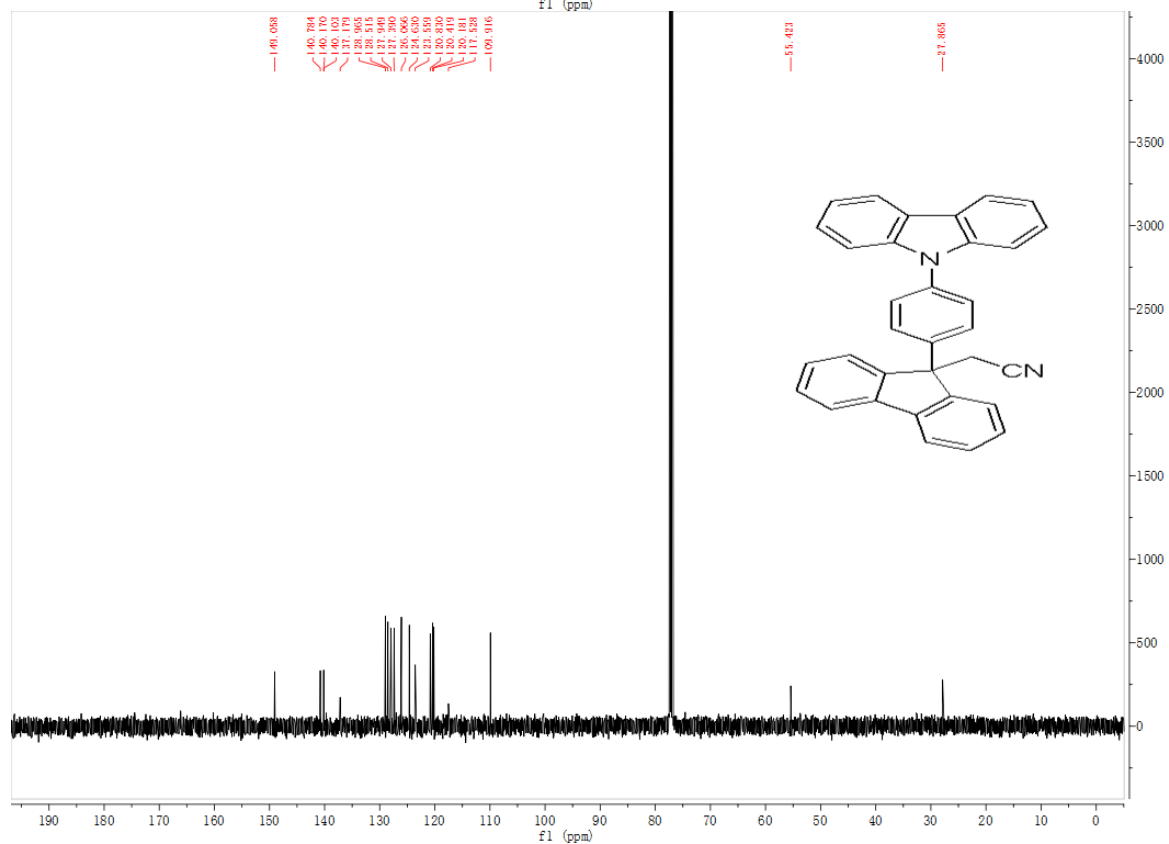
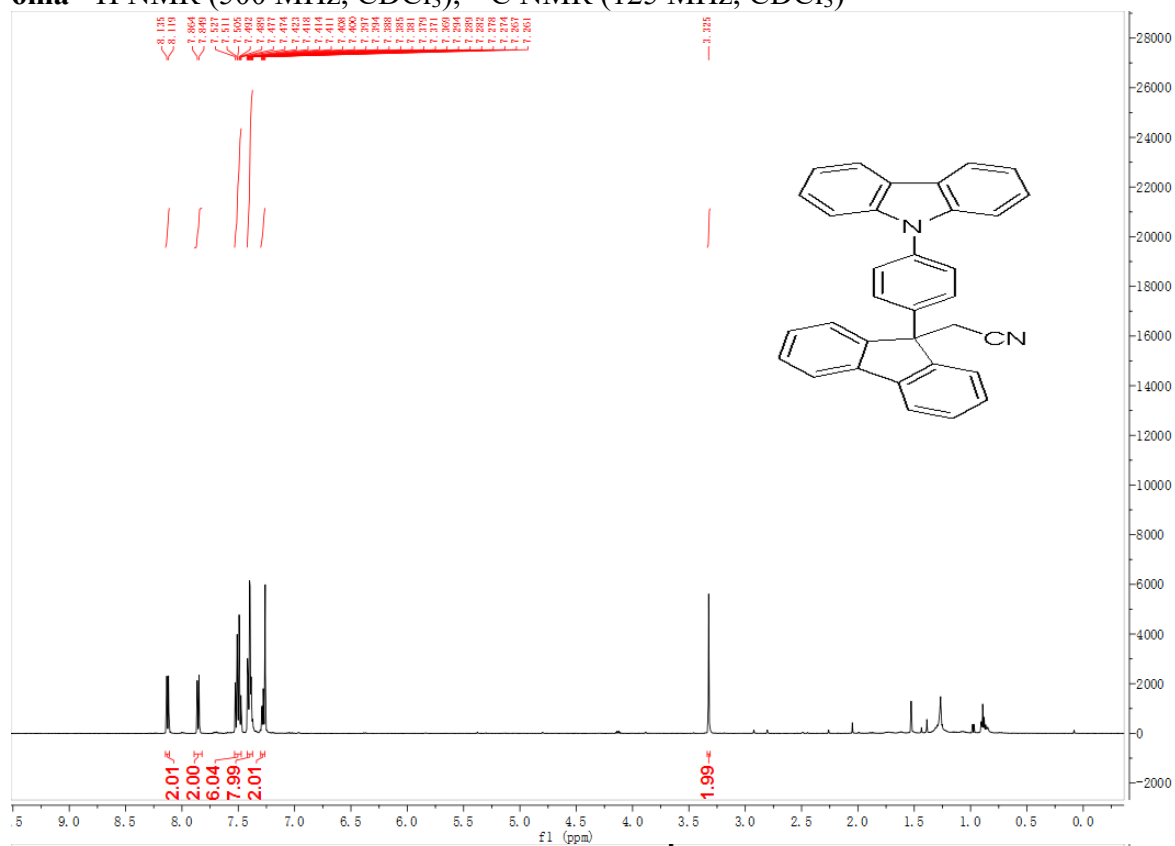
**6ka**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



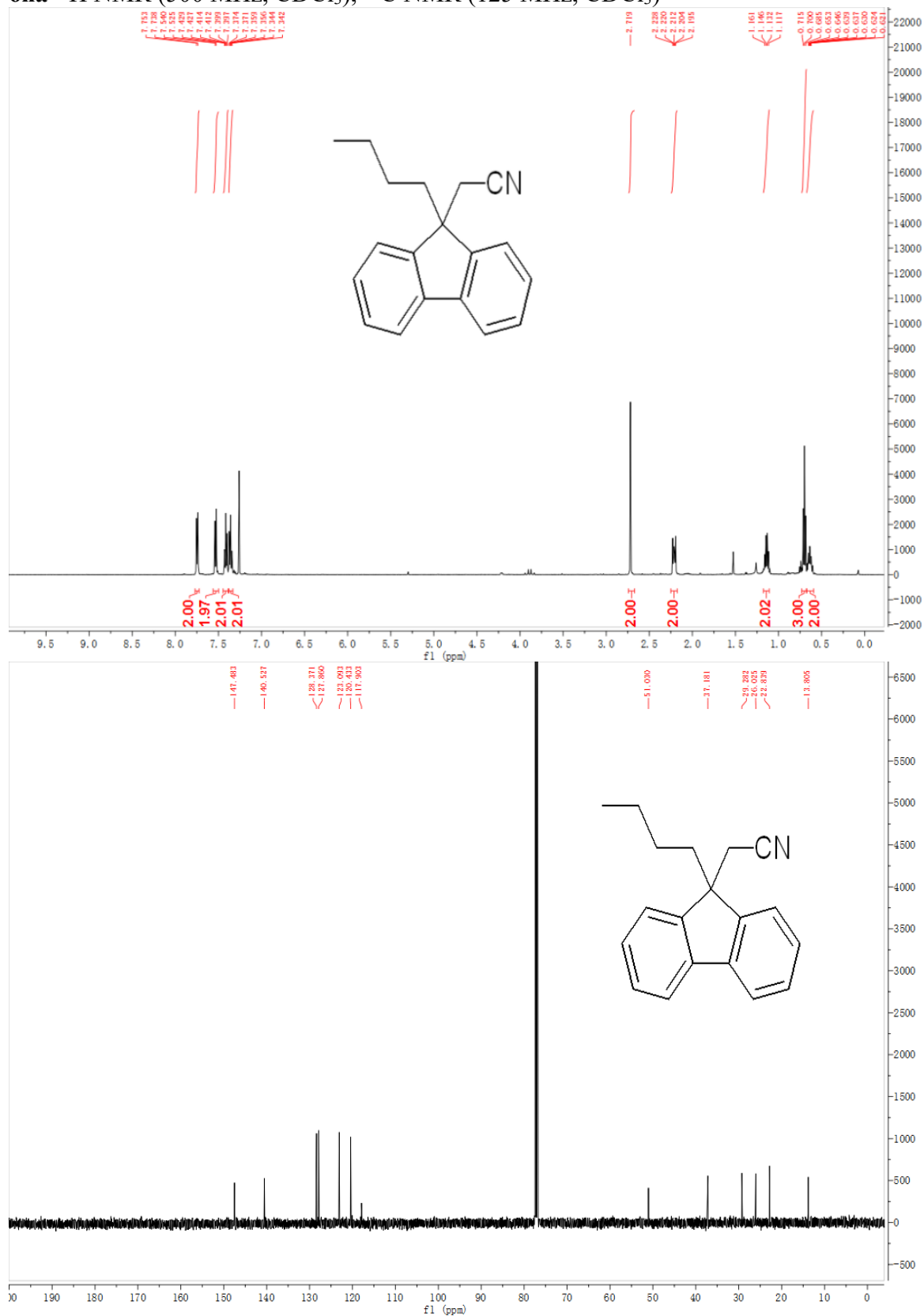
**6la**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



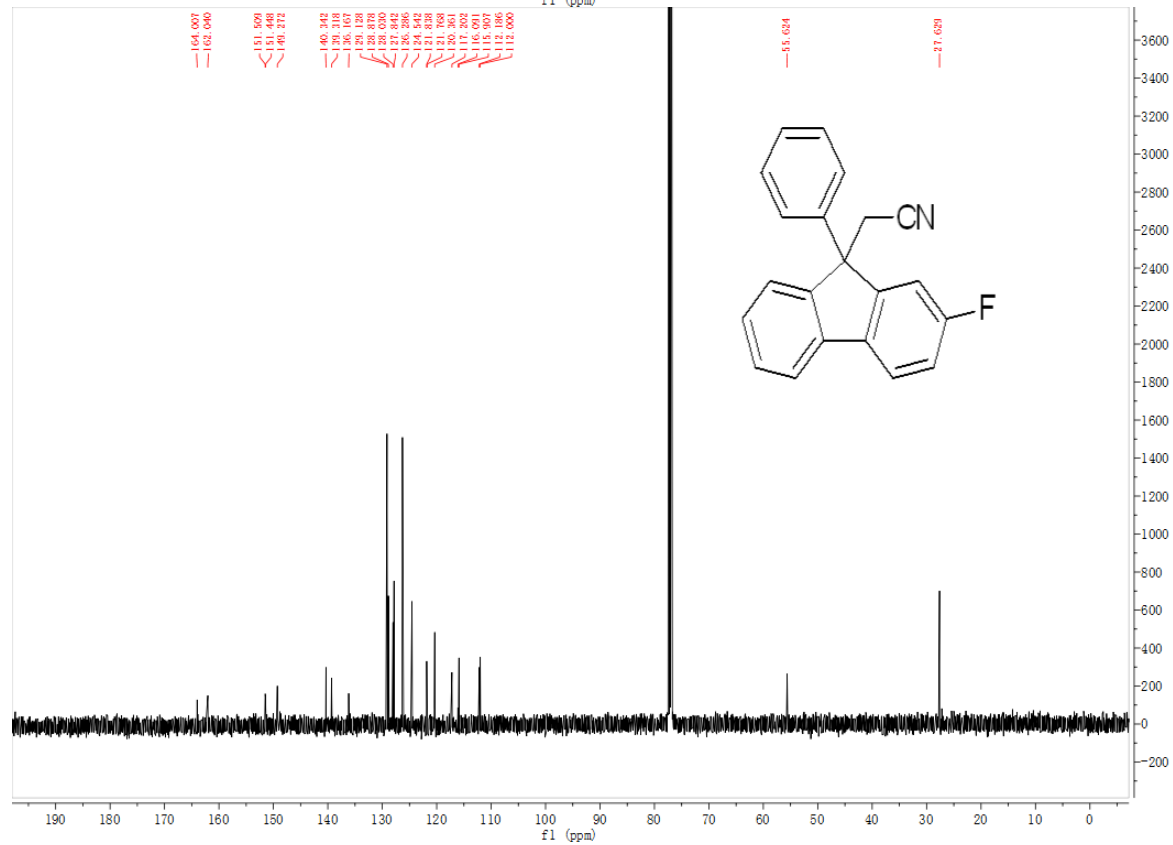
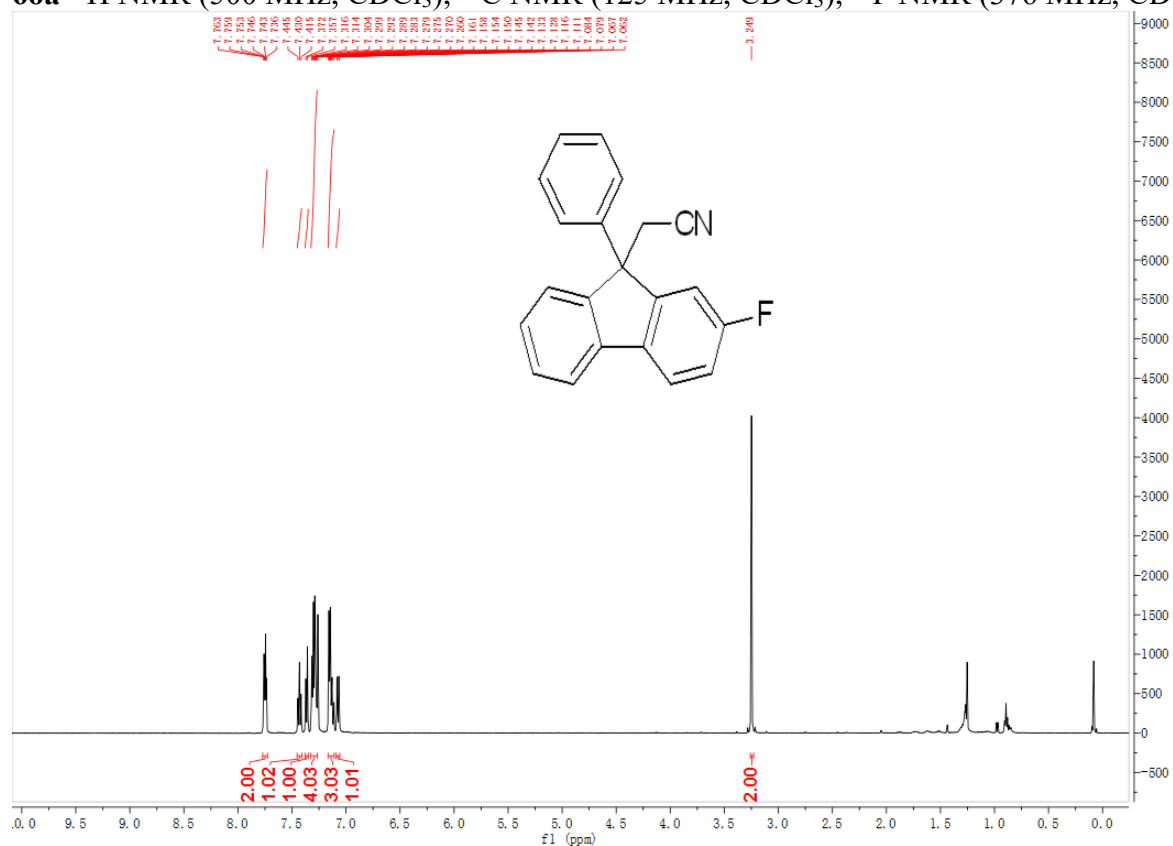
**6ma**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**6na**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



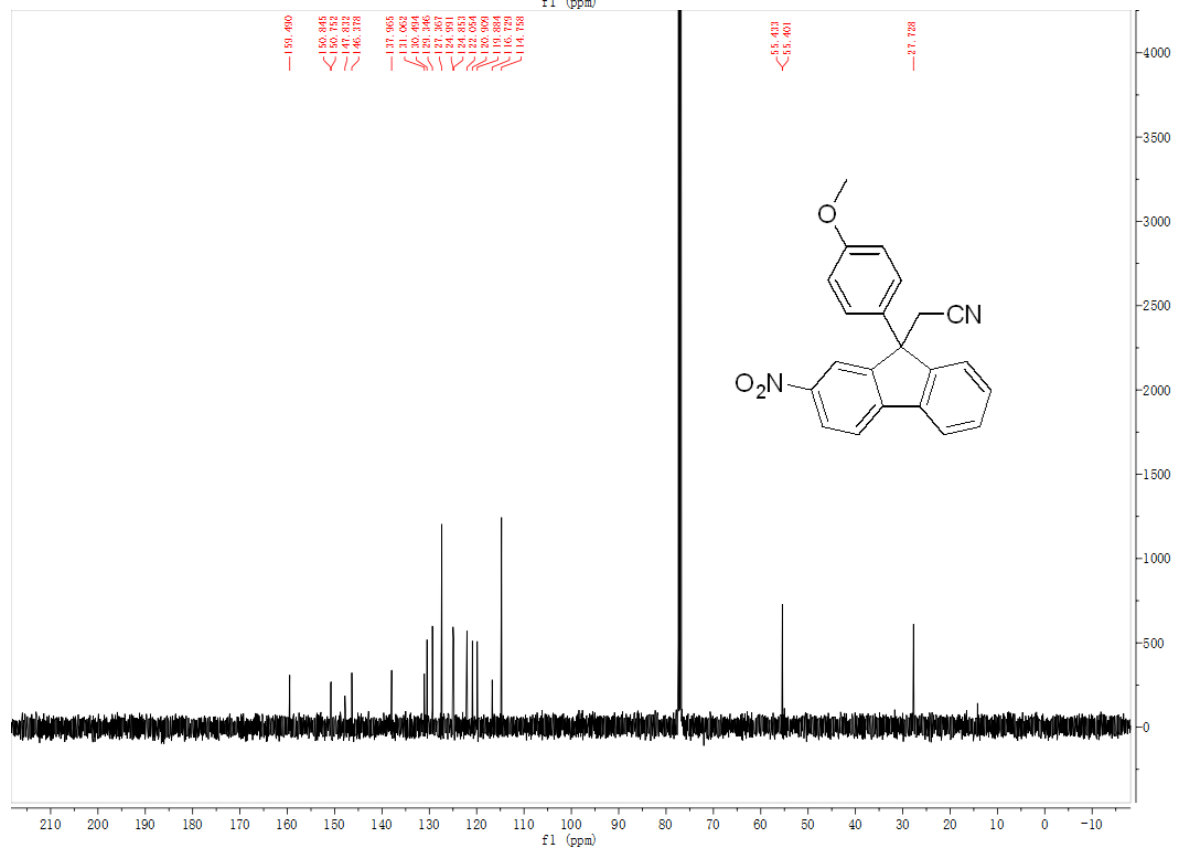
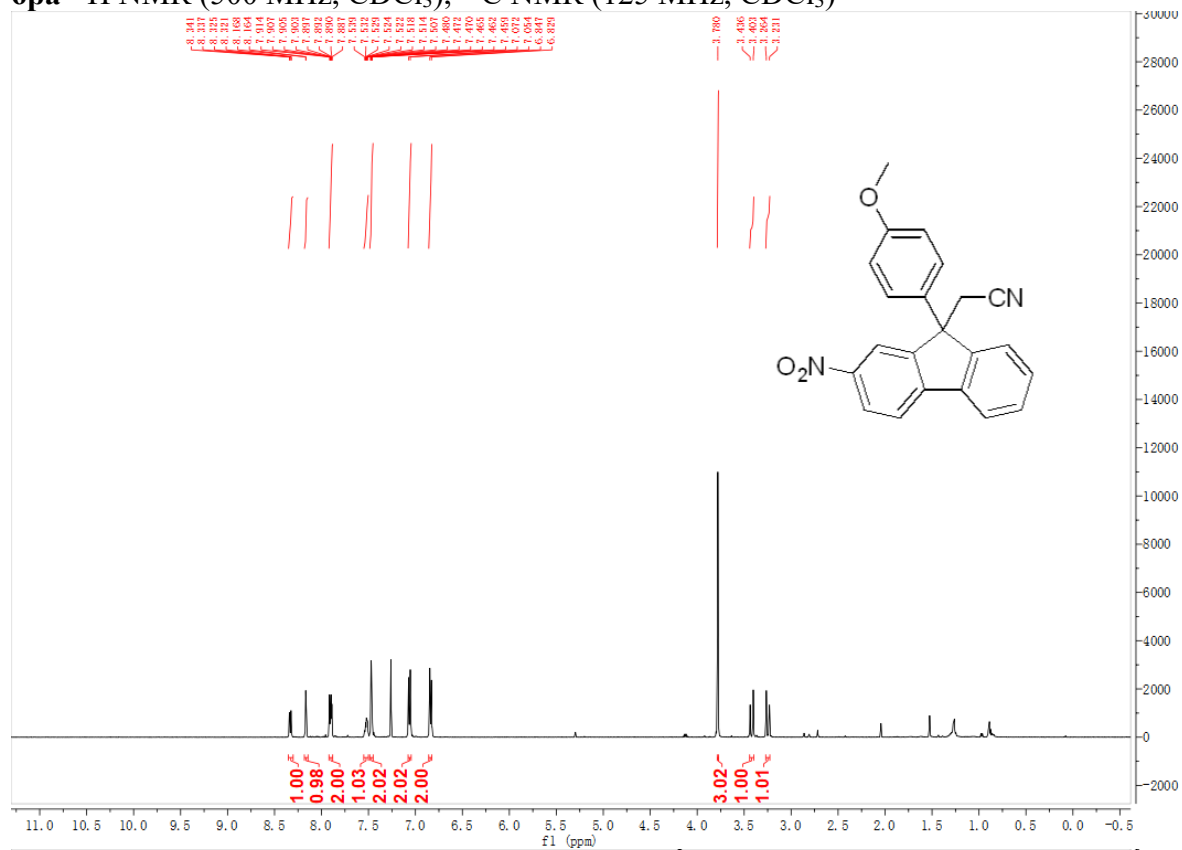
**60a**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



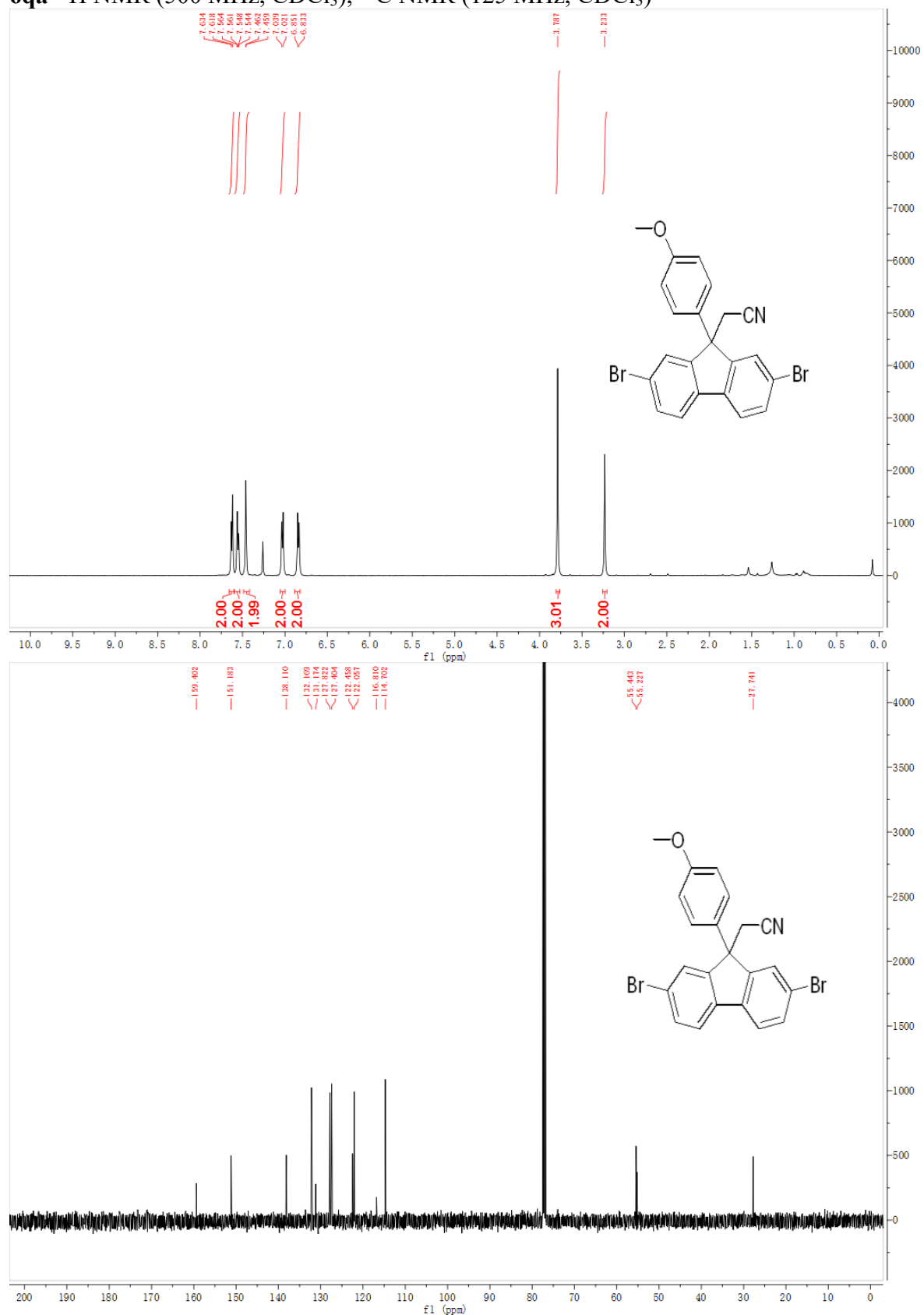




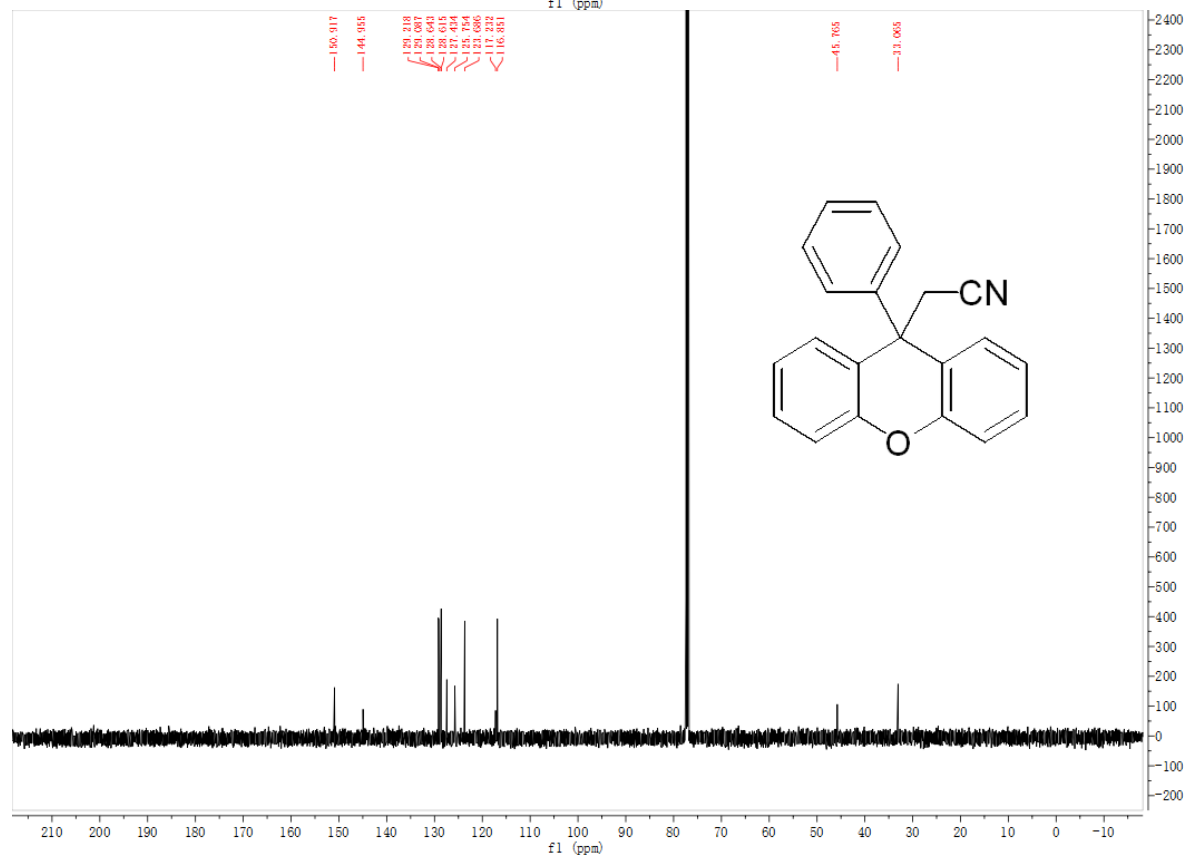
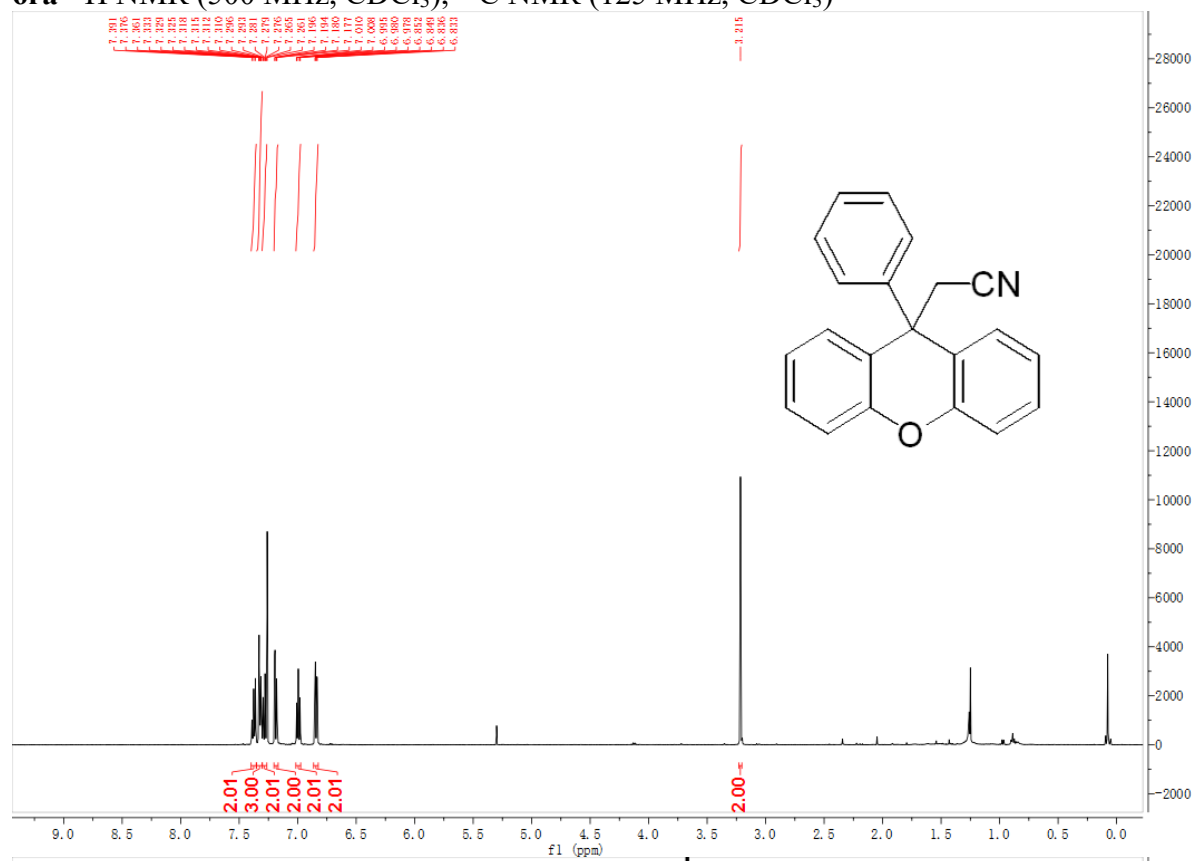
**6pa**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



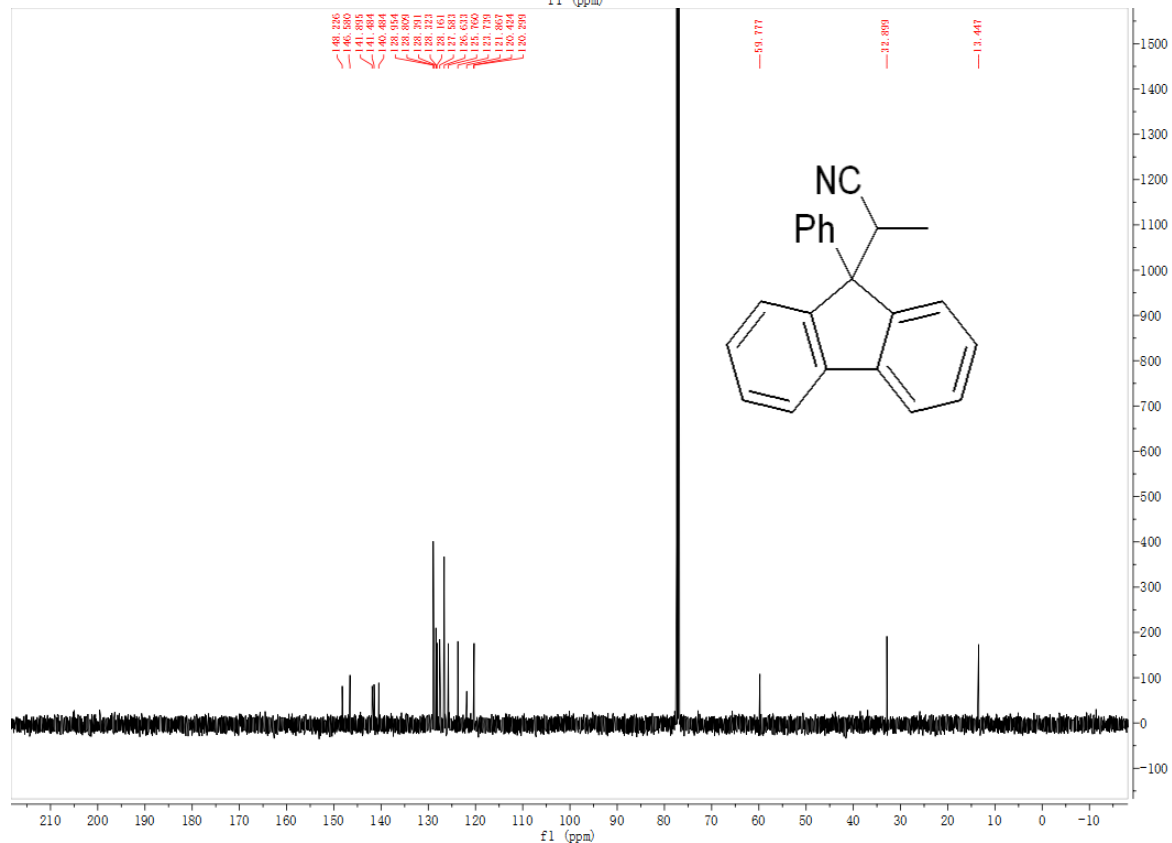
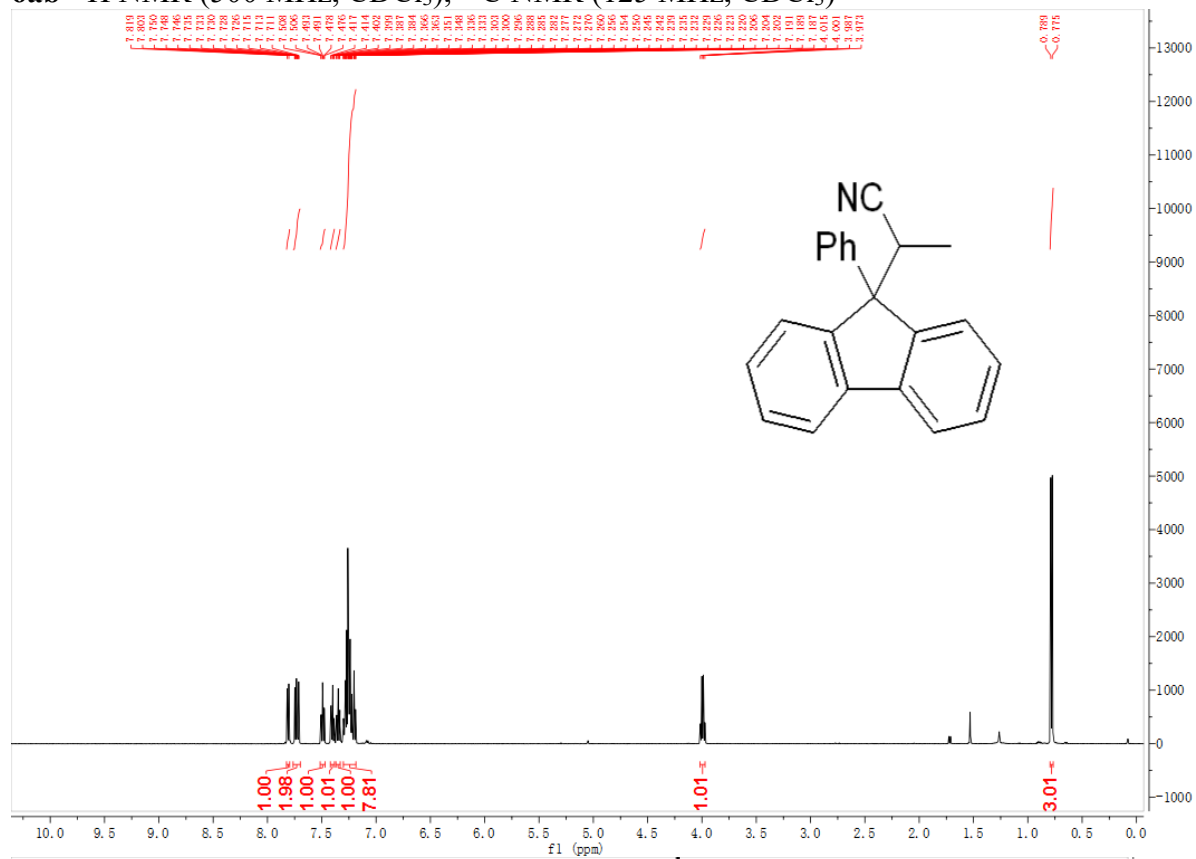
**6qa**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



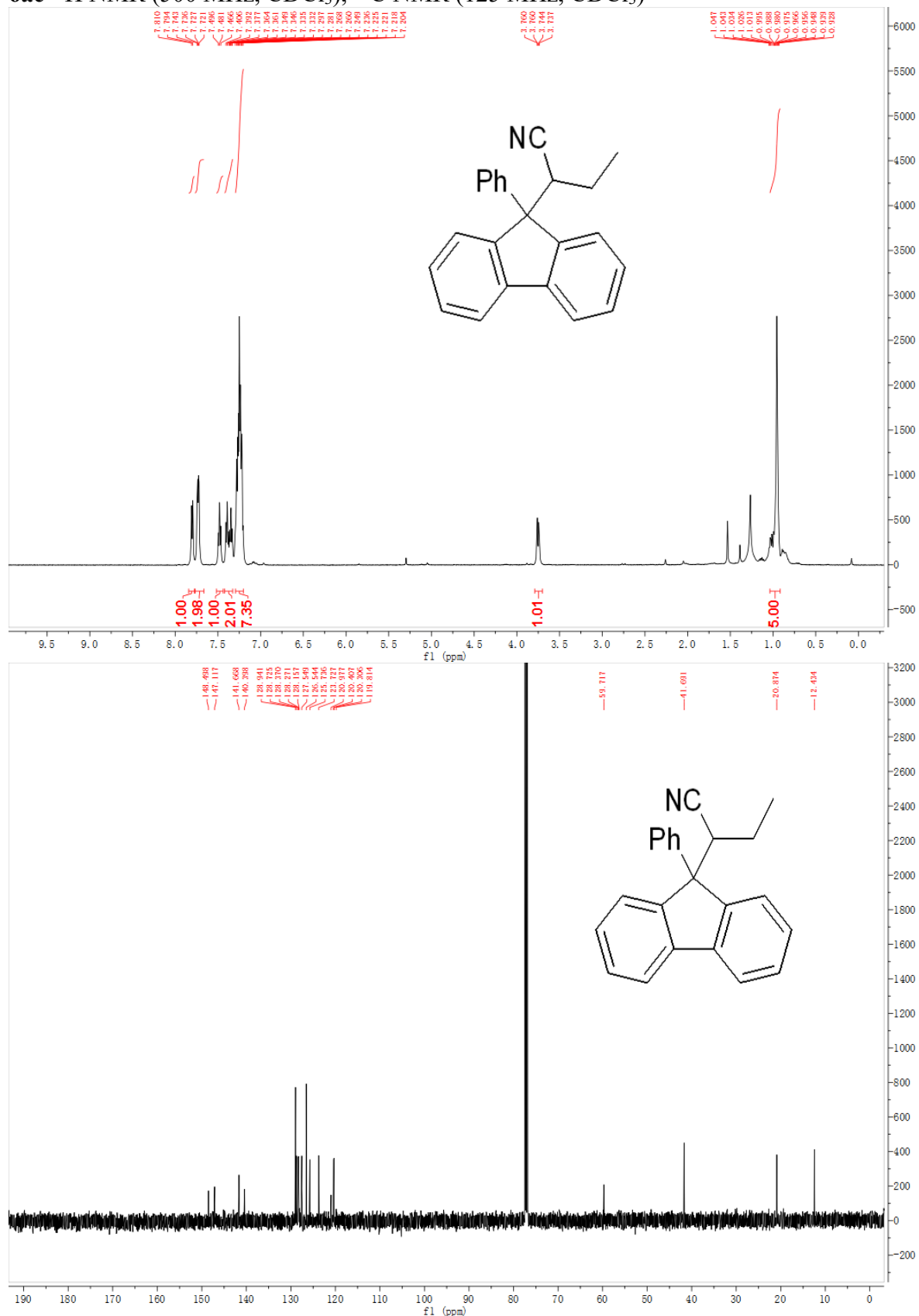
**6ra**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



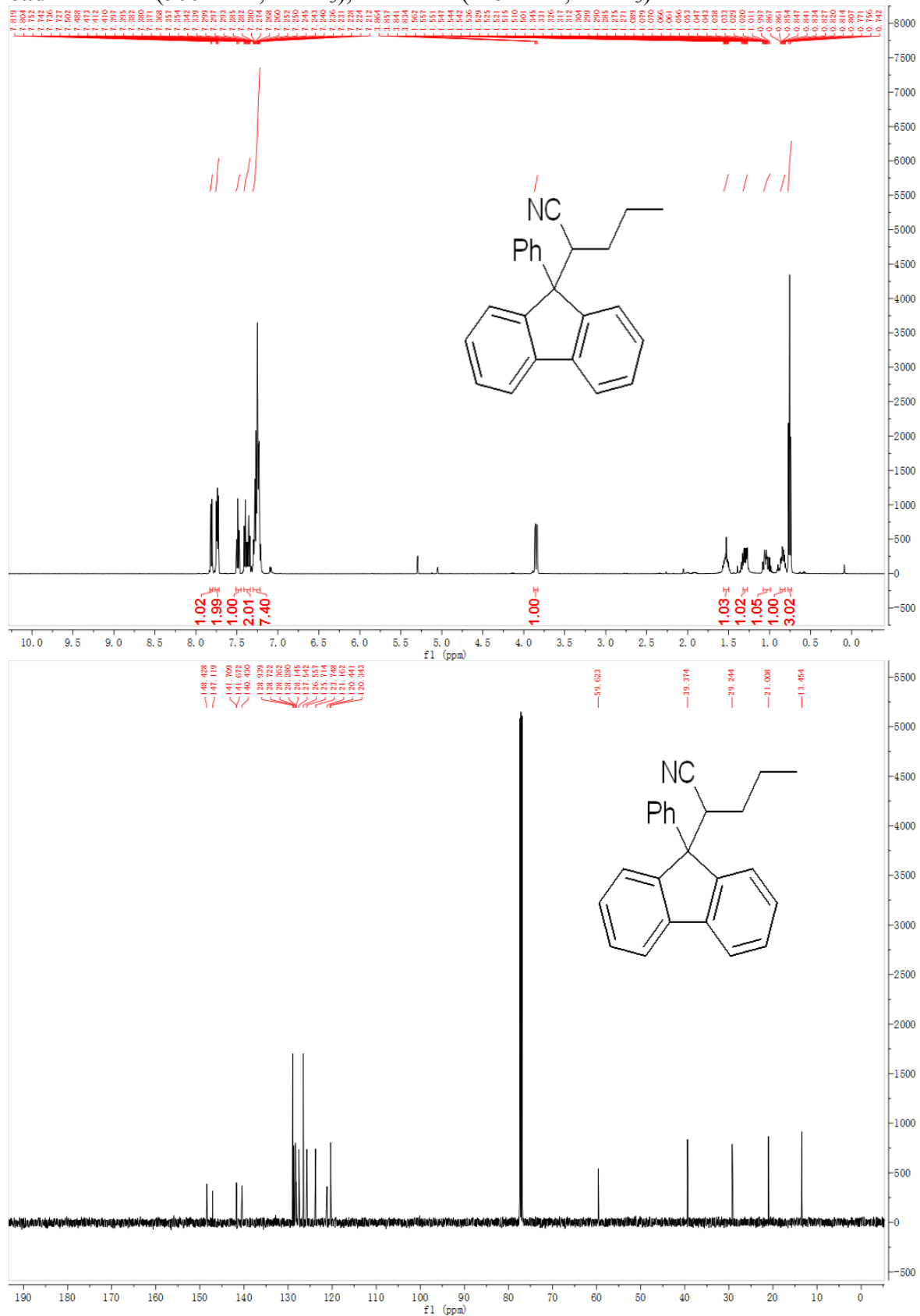
**6ab**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



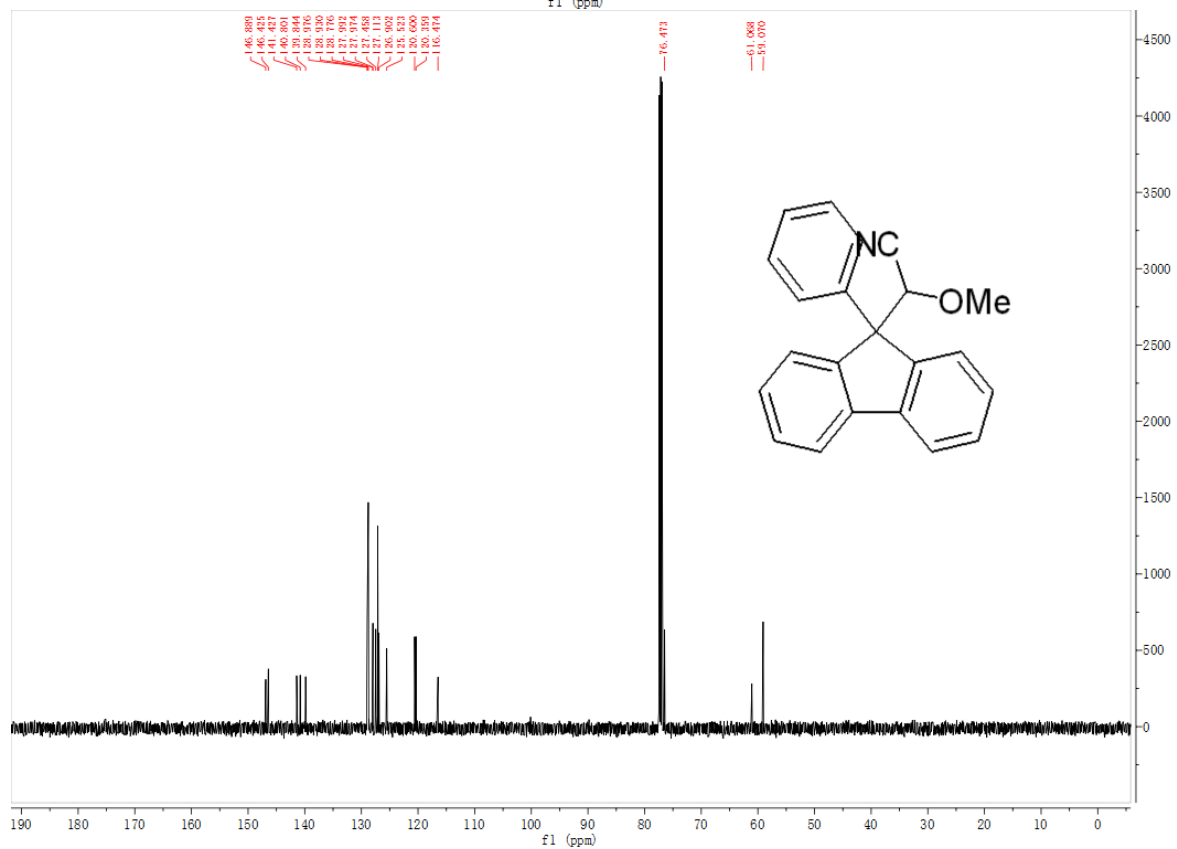
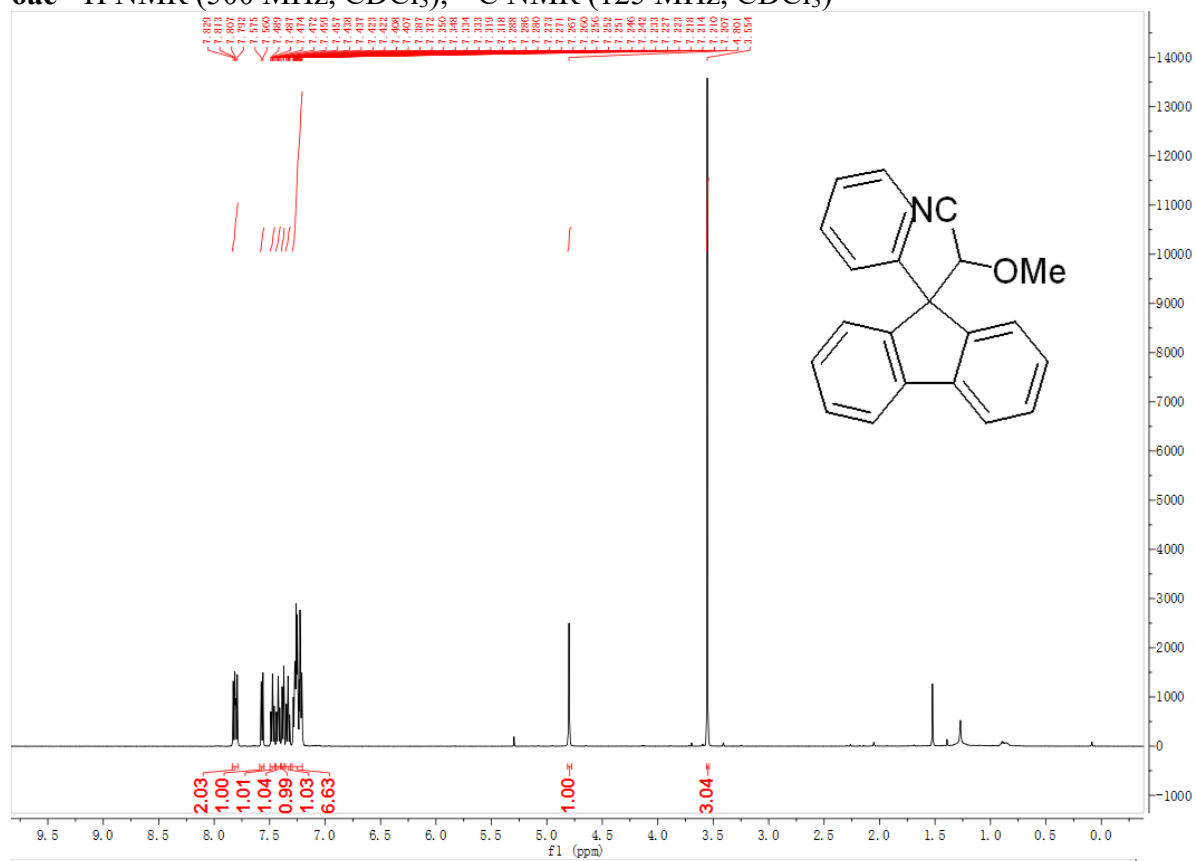
**6ac**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**6ad**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

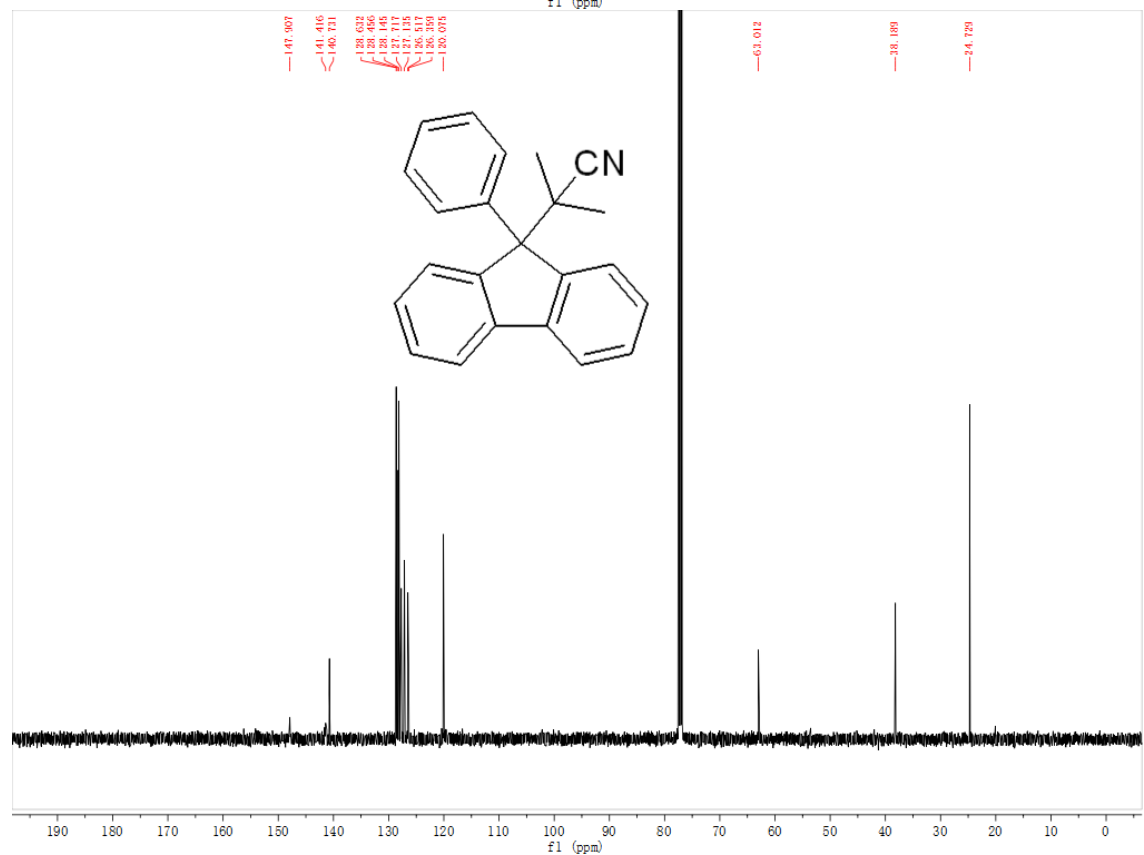
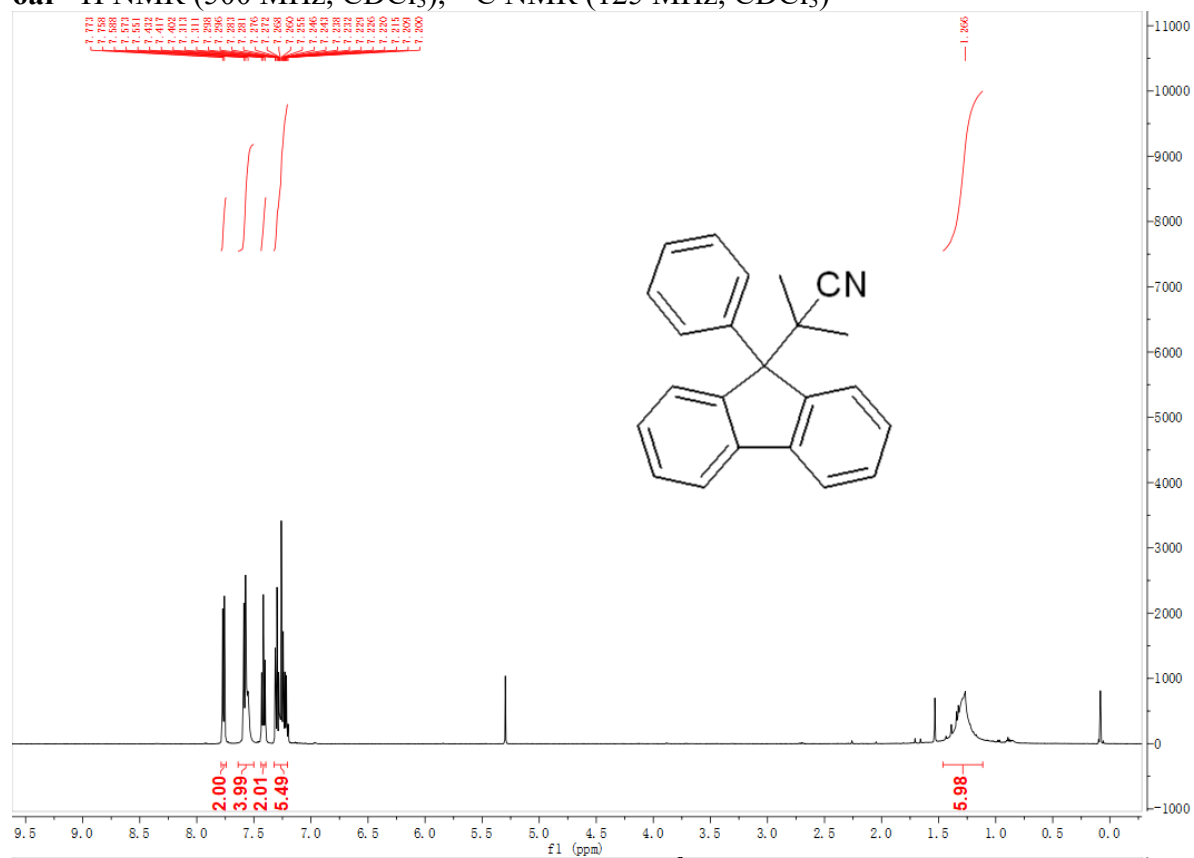


**6ae**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

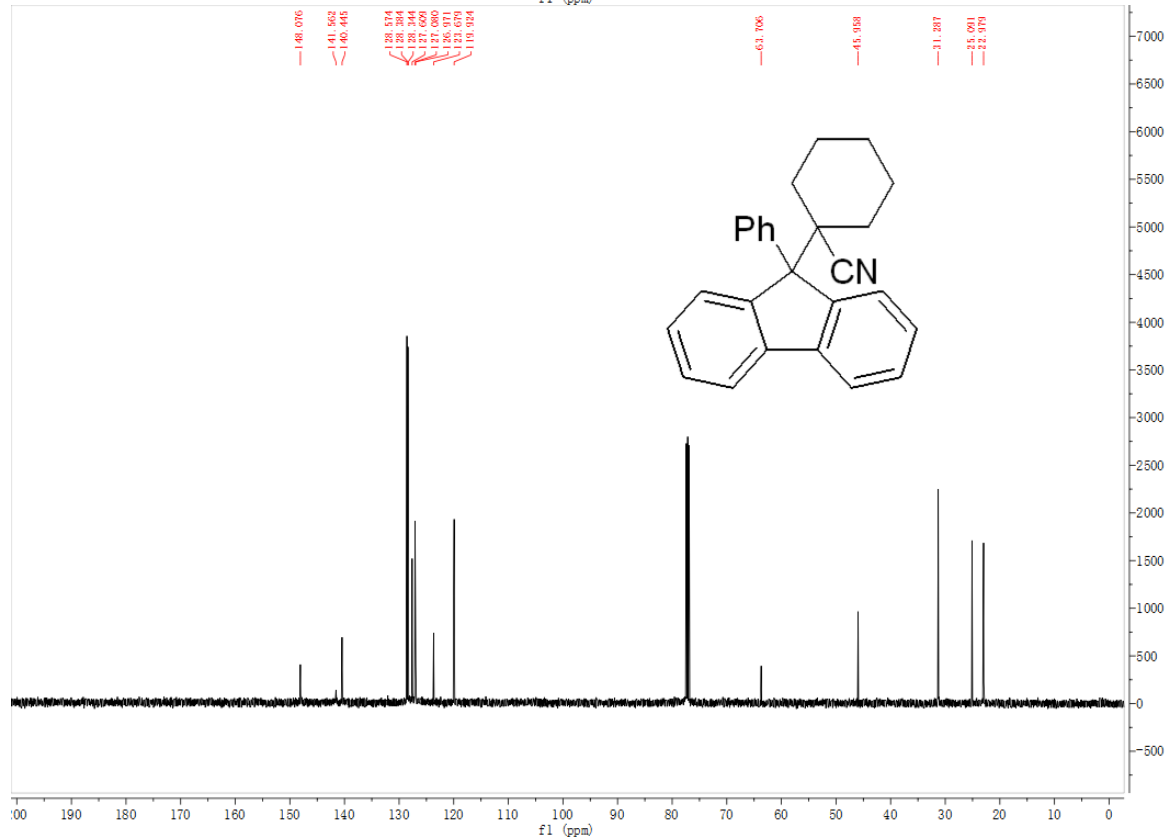
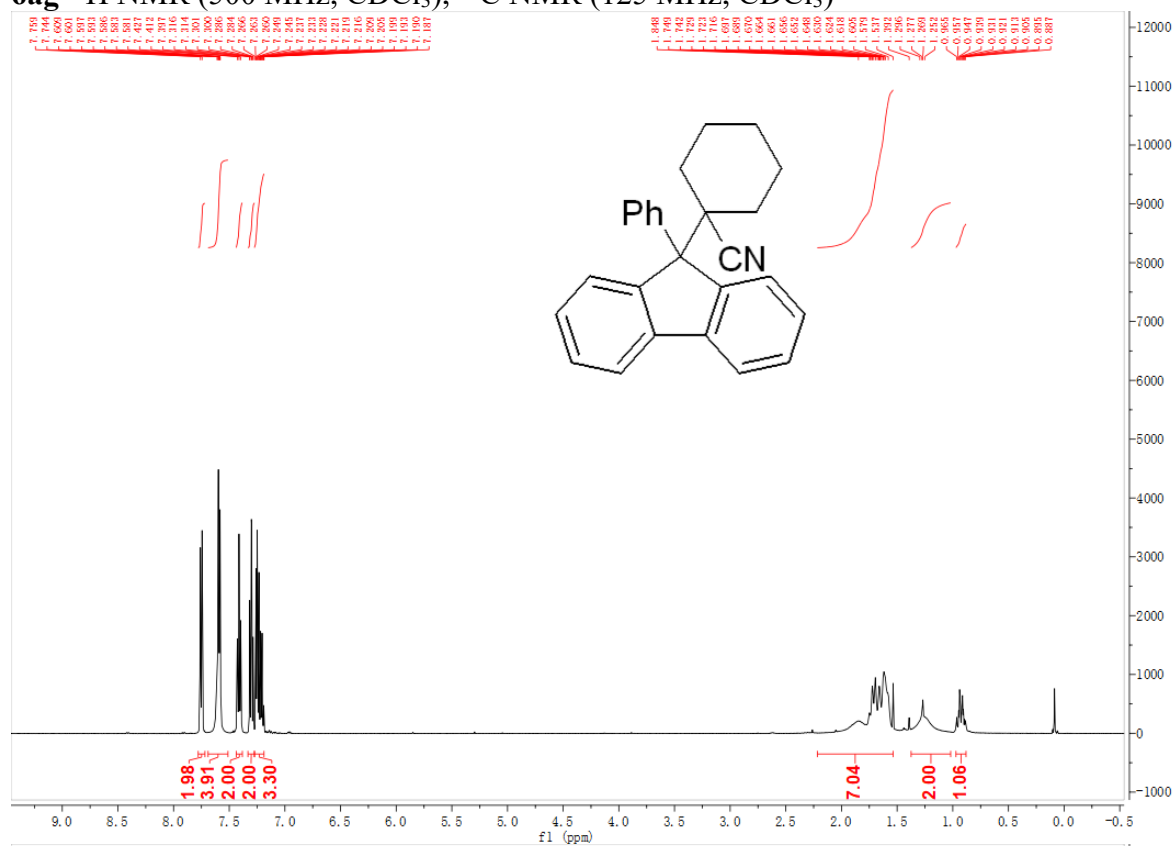




6af  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



**6ag**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



10 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

