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Supporting Information

Structure-Activity Studies Reveal Scope for Optimisation of Ebselen-Type Inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease

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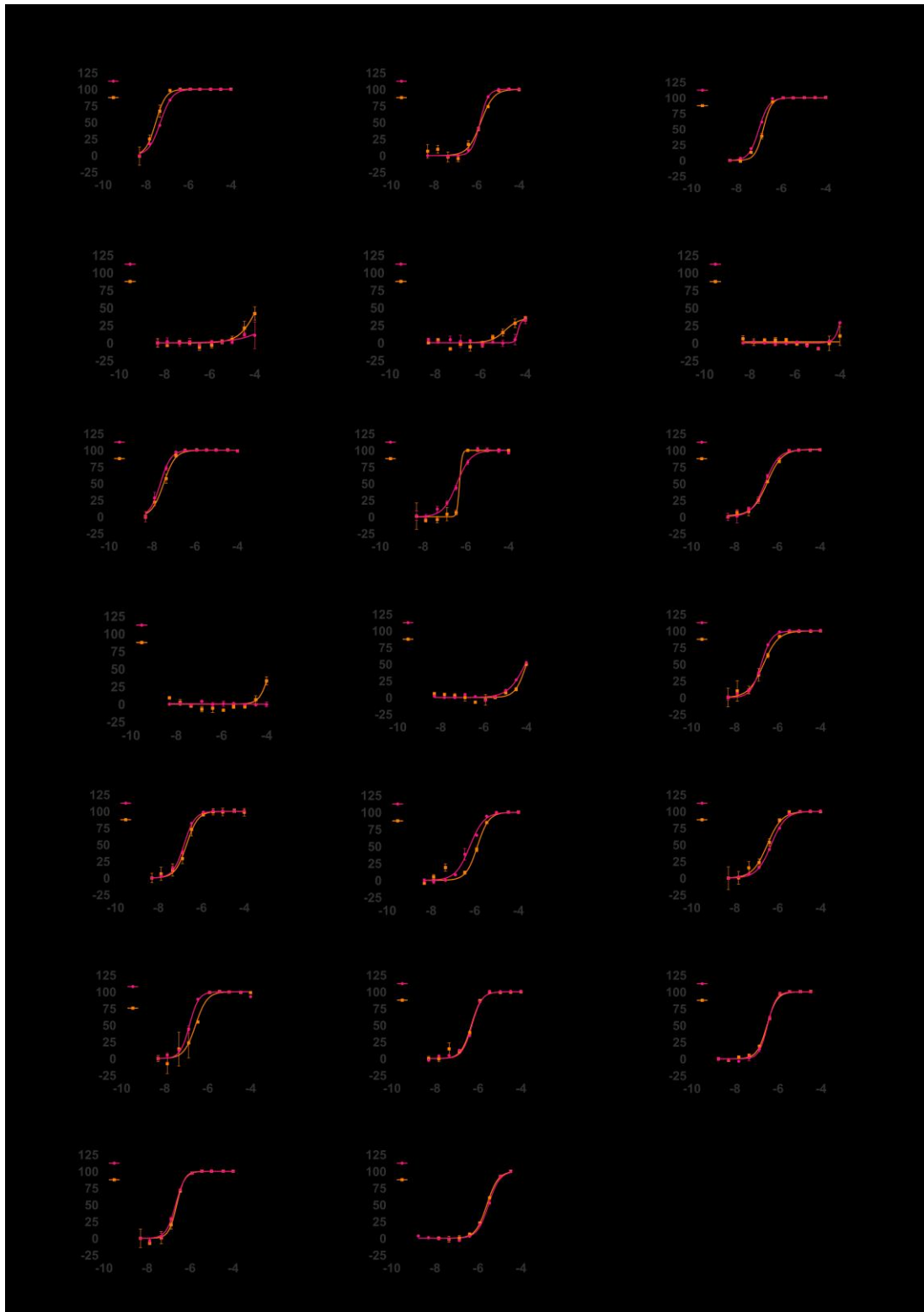


Figure S 1 – Dose response curves obtained using the FRET assay for compounds 1-12. A) 1 (ebselen). B) 2. C) 3a. D) 3b. E) 3c. F) 3d. G) 3e. H) 3f. I) 4a. J) 4b. K) 4C. L) 4d. M) 5. N) 6. O) 7. P) 8. Q) 9. R) 10. S) 11. T) 12. (a) and (b) represent independent repeats each composed of technical duplicates for dose response curves. See page S26 for assay conditions.

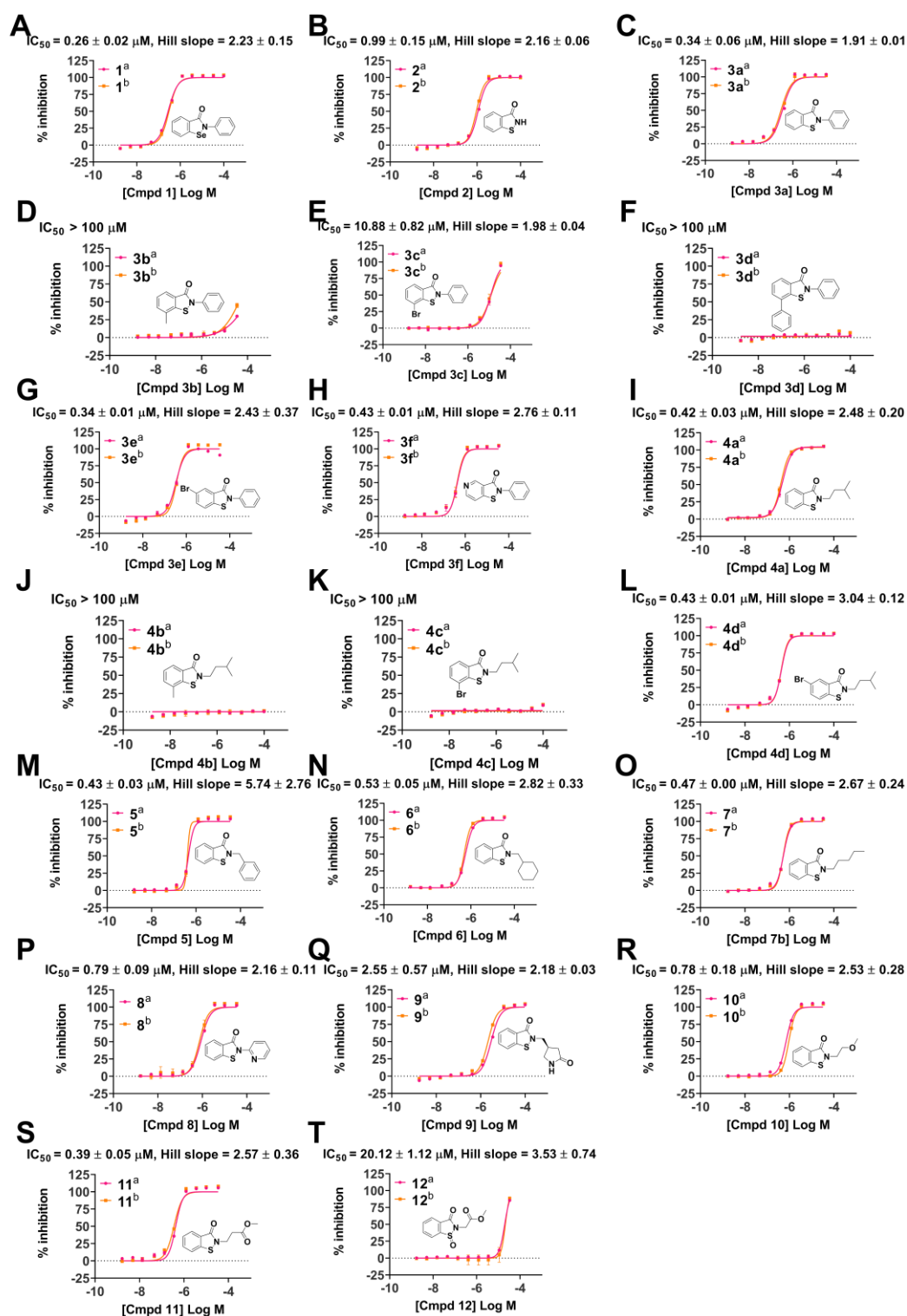


Figure S 2 – Dose response curves obtained using the SPE-MS assay for compounds 1-12. A) 1 (ebselen). B) 2. C) 3a. D) 3b. E) 3c. F) 3d. G) 3e. H) 3f. I) 4a. J) 4b. K) 4c. L) 4d. M) 5. N) 6. O) 7. P) 8. Q) 9. R) 10. S) 11. T) 12. (a) and (b) represent independent repeats each composed of technical duplicates for dose response curves. See Supplementary page S26 for assay conditions.

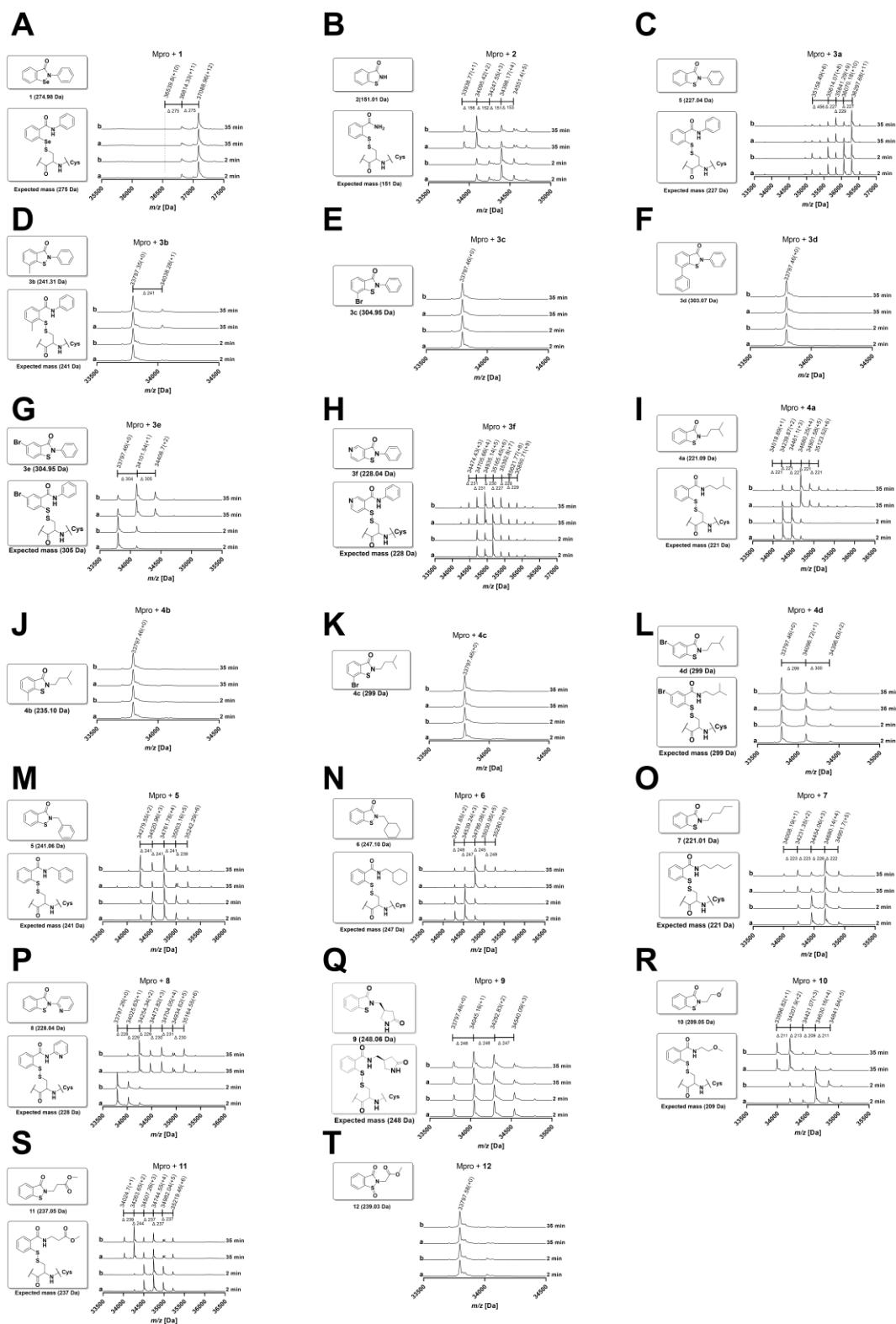


Figure S 3 - Protein-Observed mass spectrometry for compounds 1-12. A) 1 (ebselen). B) 2. C) 3a. D) 3b. E) 3c. F) 3d. G) 3e. H) 3f. I) 4a. J) 4b. K) 4c. L) 4d. M) 5. N) 6. O) 7. P) 8. Q) 9. R) 10. S) 11. T) 12. Protein mass spectrometry conditions: 40 μ M compound, 2 μ M M^{Pro}, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl. (a) and (b) represent independent repeats each composed of technical duplicates for protein observed mass spectrometry data. See page S26 for assay conditions.

Compound Synthesis

General information

Commercially available reagents and solvents were from Merck, Fluorochem, or Activate Scientific, and were used as received. All manipulations with air- and moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out under a positive pressure of argon in flame-dried glassware.

Chromatographic separation/purifications were performed using a Biotage Isolera system. Unless otherwise specified, the solvent system employed a 0 to 40% (v/v, EtOAc/Cyclohexane) gradient using Biotage Sfär[®] HC Duo cartridges. Reactions were monitored by TLC on Merck aluminium backed sheets coated with Merck Kieselgel 60 F254 (230-400 mesh) fluorescent treated silica, and visualised under ultra-violet light (254 nm or 365 nm) and/or stained with ninhydrin.

Melting points were taken on a Stuart[®] SMP40 automatic melting point instrument. NMR-spectra were acquired using a 2-channel Bruker AVIIIHD 400 machine equipped with a 5 mm BBFO probe. Chemical shifts were referenced to residual protio- and perdeuterio-solvent resonances (δ_{H} 7.26 and δ_{C} 77.16 for CDCl_3 ; δ_{H} 2.50 and δ_{C} 39.52 for $\text{DMSO-}d_6$; δ_{H} 3.31 and δ_{C} 49.00 for CD_3OD) as internal standards for ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra, respectively. All NMR spectra were processed using MestReNova software v. 14.1.

LC-MS (liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry) data were obtained using an Agilent 1200 series LC machine connected to an Agilent 6120 Quadrupole MS using electrospray ionization (ESI) machine. LC was performed on a C18 reversed-phase column (Acquity UPLC BEH C18, 2.1 mm \times 50 mm, 1.7 μm) operated at 30°C, using a linear gradient of the binary solvent system of buffer A (H_2O :formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) to buffer B (MeCN:formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) from 0 to 100% B in 8.5 min, then 1 min at 100% B, maintaining a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. HR-MS (high resolution mass spectrometry) were obtained using a Bruker μTOF (ESI) spectrometer.

Specific rotations were measured using a Schmidt-Haensch UniPol polarimeter. Values are expressed in 10^{-1} deg $\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$; concentrations (c) are quoted in g/100 mL; D refers to the D-line of sodium (589 nm).

Synthesis and characterization of compounds

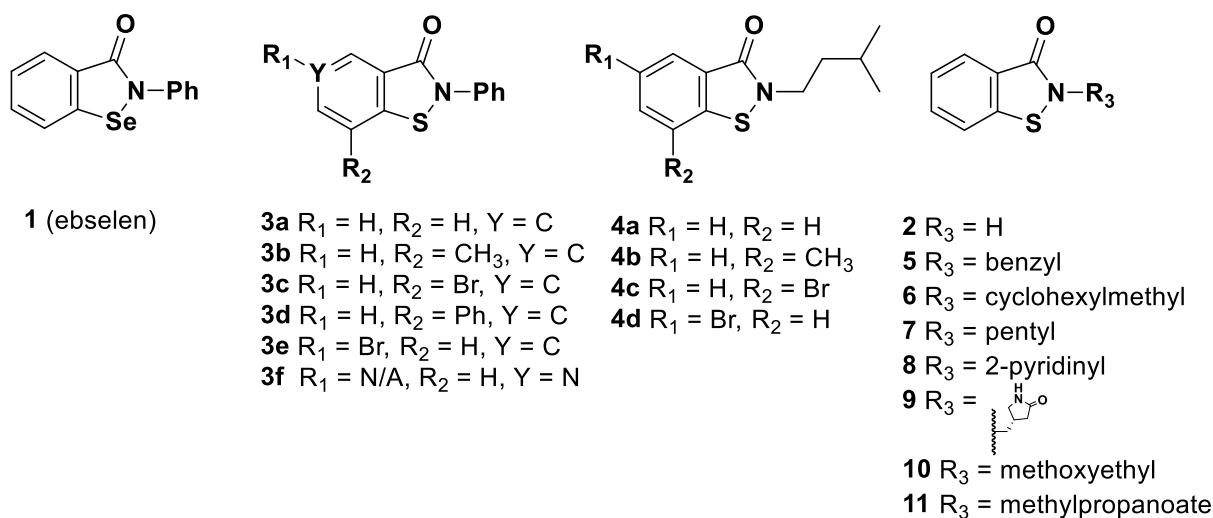


Figure S4. Compounds tested as M^{Pro} inhibitors. Ebselen **1**, benzoisothiazolinone (BIT) **2**, Ebsulfur derivatives **3a-f**, **4a-d**, **5-12**.

General Procedure A – Formation of acyl chlorides (14-17, 19-21)

Oxalyl chloride (1.1 equiv) was added slowly to a solution (or suspension) of the requisite aryl carboxylic acid (1 equiv) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (0.3 M) at 0 °C, followed by addition of 1 drop of anhydrous DMF. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. The cooling bath was then removed and the mixture was stirred for a further 2 h at room temperature (rt) (consumption of the starting aryl carboxylic acid was monitored by TLC and LCMS). The solution was carried forward to the next step without purification.

General Procedure B – Amide coupling (13-29)

Triethylamine (2 equiv) was either added to the requisite acyl chloride (1 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.3 M) (**13**, **18**, **22-29**), or acyl chloride solution using General Procedure A (**14-17**, **19-21**), followed by addition of the requisite primary amine (1.1 equiv). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight (consumption of the starting acyl chloride was monitored by TLC and/or LCMS). The reaction was then diluted with EtOAc; the resultant solution was washed with 1 M HCl, then brine. The organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 , then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was achieved using flash chromatography to yield the desired compound.

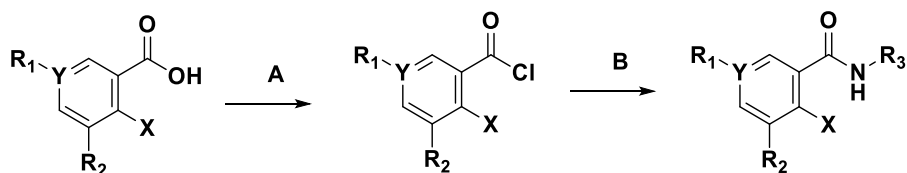
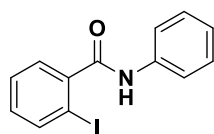


Figure S5. Synthesis of the secondary amide intermediates 13-29. Conditions; A:

(COCl)₂, DMF, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C; B: R₃-NH₂, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, rt.

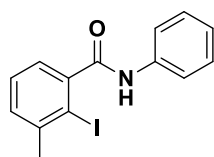
2-Iodo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**13**)^[1]



Application of General Procedure B using 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (267 mg, 1 mmol) and aniline (100 μL, 1.1 mmol) yielded 250 mg (74%) of **13** as a white solid.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3058, 2921, 1655, 1619, 1540, 1440, 1325; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.23 – 7.11 ppm (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.18, 142.15, 140.08, 137.51, 131.54, 129.17, 128.58, 128.39, 124.95, 120.10, 92.35 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₃H₁₀INO+Na]⁺: 345.9699, found: 345.9699. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[1]

2-Iodo-3-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**14**)^[2]



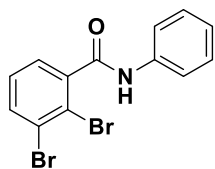
Application of General Procedure A using 2-iodo-3-methylbenzoic acid (262 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride, which was used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (167 μL, 1.2 mmol) and aniline (104 μL, 1.1 mmol) yielded 193 mg (57%) of **14** as a beige solid.

Mp 149-150 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3196, 3076, 3017, 2919, 2850, 1647, 1596, 1490, 1335, 1013; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 2.51 ppm (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.36, 143.96, 143.23, 137.78, 130.94, 129.29, 128.44, 125.39, 125.00, 120.23, 99.36, 29.33

ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{14}H_{12}INO+H]^+$: 338.0036, found: 338.0038. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[2]

2,3-Dibromo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**15**)

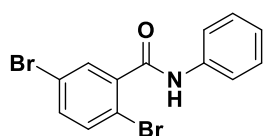


Application of General Procedure A using 2,3-dibromobenzoic acid (280 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and aniline (104 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 180 mg (51%) of **15** as a beige solid.

Mp 152-153 $^{\circ}$ C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm^{-1}) 3201, 3138, 3065, 2962, 2850, 1605, 1578, 1439, 1334; **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.47 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.15 ppm (m, 1H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.46, 140.94, 137.45, 135.29, 129.35, 128.92, 127.74, 126.90, 125.26, 122.08, 120.26 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{13}H_9Br_2NO+H]^+$: 355.9103, found: 355.9105.

2,5-Dibromo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**16**)^[3]

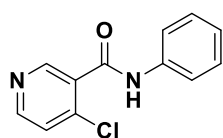


Application of General Procedure A using 2,5-dibromobenzoic acid (625 mg, 2.23 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was used in the next step without purification.

General Procedure B was followed with triethylamine (370 μ L, 2.68 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and aniline (232 μ L, 2.46 mmol). Purification by reverse-phase chromatography using a Biotage Sfär[®] C18 Duo (30 g) cartridge with a solvent system of buffer A (H_2O :formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) to buffer B (MeCN:formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) from 0 to 100% B over 29 column volumes, then 7 column volumes at 100% B. Concentration *in vacuo* yielded 553 mg (70%) of **16** as a beige solid.

Mp 149-150 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3088, 2960, 2921, 1655, 1548, 1444, 1327, 1029; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.22 – 7.16 ppm (m, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.11, 139.46, 137.32, 135.07, 134.77, 132.82, 129.35, 125.33, 121.91, 120.32, 118.06 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₃H₉Br₂NO+H]⁺: 353.9123, found 353.9125. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[3]

4-Chloro-*N*-phenylpyridine-3-carboxamide (**17**)

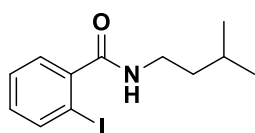


Application of General Procedure A using 4-chloro-nicotinic acid (201 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and aniline (104 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 80 mg (34%) of **17** as an orange wax.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3017, 2981, 2900, 1635, 1558, 1419, 1305, 1083; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.20 ppm (m, 1H) **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.27, 152.03, 150.94, 141.07, 137.31, 131.32, 129.37, 125.45, 125.20, 120.42 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₂H₉ClN₂O+H]⁺: 233.0476, found: 233.0477.

2-Iodo-*N*-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**18**)^[4]

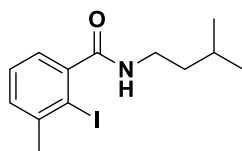


Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (91 μ L, 0.65 mmol, 0.65 equiv), 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (266 mg, 1 mmol) and 3-methylbutylamine (126 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 206 mg (65%) of **18** as a beige solid.

Mp 74-75 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3031, 2920, 2850, 1647, 1586, 1300, 1016; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 – 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 3.46 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.4, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 0.95 ppm (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.45, 142.68, 139.93, 131.12, 128.39, 128.29, 92.55, 38.56,

38.34, 26.04, 22.58 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{12}H_{16}INO+H]^+$: 318.0349, found: 318.0350. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[4]

2-Iodo-3-methyl-N-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**19**)

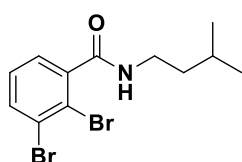


Application of General Procedure A using 2-iodo-3-methylbenzoic acid (262 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and 3-methylbutylamine (126 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 230 mg (69%) of **19** as a white solid.

Mp 103-104 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm^{-1}) 3267, 3085, 2951, 1633, 1555, 1442, 1338, 1012; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 3.52 – 3.42 (m, 2H), 2.48 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.79 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.47 (m, 1H), 0.96 ppm (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.50, 144.39, 142.97, 130.45, 128.24, 125.12, 99.47, 38.52, 38.32, 29.30, 26.05, 22.59 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{13}H_{18}INO+H]^+$: 332.0505, found 332.0504.

2,3-Dibromo-N-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**20**)



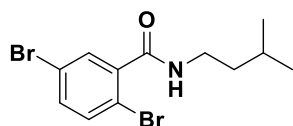
Application of General Procedure A using 2,3-dibromobenzoic acid (280 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B was followed using triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 3-methylbutylamine (126 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 149 mg (43%) of **20** as a white solid.

Mp 104-106 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm^{-1}) 3262, 3052, 2954, 2868, 1640, 1444, 1309, 1230, 1055; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 3.52 – 3.42 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 0.96 ppm (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.64, 141.24, 134.84, 128.74,

127.55, 126.66, 122.01, 38.66, 38.29, 26.05, 22.57 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{12}H_{15}Br_2NO+H]^+$: 347.9593, found 347.9595. The spectroscopic data matches those reported in the literature.^[4]

2,5-Dibromo-*N*-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**21**)



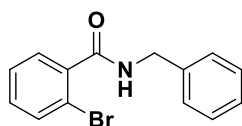
Application of General Procedure A using 2,5-dibromobenzoic acid (280 mg, 1 mmol), gave the crude acyl chloride solution, which was

used in the next step without purification.

Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and 3-methylbutylamine (126 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 166 mg (48%) of **21** as a beige solid.

Mp 117-118 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm^{-1}) 3264, 3077, 2957, 2851, 1649, 1548, 1369, 1155, 1085; **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.64 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 3.51 – 3.42 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.56 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 0.96 ppm (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 166.12, 139.78, 134.88, 134.25, 132.63, 121.69, 118.01, 38.69, 38.34, 26.05, 22.57 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{12}H_{15}Br_2NO+H]^+$: 347.9593, found 347.9596.

N-Benzyl-2-bromobenzamide (**22**)^[5]

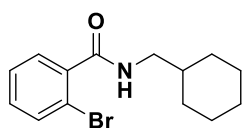


Application of General Procedure B with 2-bromobenzoyl chloride (219 mg, 1 mmol), triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol), and benzylamine (120

μ l, 1.1 mmol) yielded 184 mg (63%) of **22** as a beige solid.

Mp 115-116 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm^{-1}) 3065, 2923, 1639, 1539, 1360. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.09 (m, 8H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 4.58 ppm (d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.59, 137.77, 137.61, 133.54, 131.45, 129.79, 128.91, 128.15, 127.84, 127.70, 119.44, 44.39 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{14}H_{12}BrNO+H]^+$: 290.0715, found 290.0717. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[5]

***N*-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2-bromobenzamide (23)**

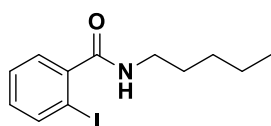


Application of General Procedure B with 2-bromobenzoyl chloride (219 mg, 1 mmol), triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol), and

cyclohexylmethylamine (143 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 180 mg (61%) of **23** as a yellow oil.

IR (neat): ν (cm^{-1}) 3068, 2921, 2850, 1641, 1541, 1367; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.34 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 3.30 (dd, $J = 6.5, 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.01 – 1.52 (m, 6H), 1.42 – 1.11 (m, 4H), 1.02 ppm (m, 3H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.73, 138.30, 133.47, 131.25, 129.81, 127.68, 119.31, 46.49, 38.00, 31.07, 26.51, 25.96 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNO}+\text{H}]^+$: 296.0645, found 296.0646.

2-Iodo-*N*-pentylbenzamide (24)^[6]

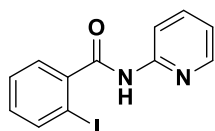


Application of General Procedure B with 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (267 mg, 1 mmol), triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol), and pentylamine (128

μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 203 mg (64%) of **24** as a white solid.

Mp 98-100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; **IR (neat):** ν (cm^{-1}) 3066, 2926, 1634, 1546; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.88 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.08 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 6.5, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 3.44 (td, $J = 7.0, 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.70 – 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.30 (m, 5H), 1.30 – 1.17 (m, 3H), 0.99 – 0.82 (m, 4H) ppm; **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.34, 142.59, 139.83, 130.99, 128.27, 128.16, 92.42, 40.12, 29.16, 29.09, 22.36, 14.01 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{INO}+\text{H}]^+$: 318.0349, found 318.0349. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[6]

2-Iodo-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)benzamide (25)^[7]



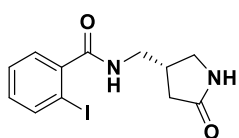
A modified General Procedure B was followed using triethylamine (502 μ L, 3.6 mmol), 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (800 mg, 3 mmol) and 2-aminopyridine

(310 mg, 3.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 minutes, then diluted in EtOAc and washed with HCl (1 M). The aqueous layer was neutralised using NaOH

(12 M), extracted with EtOAc, and dried over Na₂SO₄. Purification yielded 130 mg (13%) of **25** as a white solid.

Mp 176-177 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm⁻¹) 3077, 2956, 1680, 1533, 1434, 1309; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.46 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J = 5.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (ddd, J = 8.8, 7.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (td, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 ppm (ddd, J = 7.4, 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.85, 151.44, 147.31, 141.78, 140.33, 139.06, 131.78, 128.51, 128.45, 120.23, 114.80, 92.65 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₂H₉IN₂O+H]⁺: 324.9843, found 324.9831. The spectroscopic data match those found in the literature.^[7]

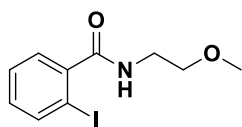
2-Iodo-*N*-([(3*S*)-5-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl]methyl)benzamide (**26**)



General Procedure B was followed using triethylamine (73.3 μ L, 0.53 mmol, 1.3 equiv), 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (106 mg, 0.4 mmol) and (4*R*)-4-(aminomethyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (50 mg, 0.44 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The mixture was stirred for 36 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified with flash chromatography. A solvent system of (0 \rightarrow 20% CH₂Cl₂ – MeOH gradient) over 15 column volumes was run to yield 45 mg (33%) of **26** as a beige solid.

Mp 175-176 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -8.1 (c = 0.5, DMSO-*d*₆); **IR (neat)**: ν (cm⁻¹) 3284, 3095, 2998, 2964, 1697, 1640, 1560, 1368, 1046; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.51 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.44 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (td, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.42 – 3.29 (m, 2H), 3.29 – 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.10 – 3.03 (m, 1H), 2.63 (ddd, J = 12.1, 9.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 16.7, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.00 ppm (dd, J = 16.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 176.08, 169.20, 143.26, 138.96, 130.65, 127.99, 127.88, 93.40, 44.97, 42.34, 34.38, 33.88 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₃IN₂O₂+H]⁺: 345.0094, found 345.0095.

2-Iodo-*N*-(2-methoxyethyl)benzamide (**27**)

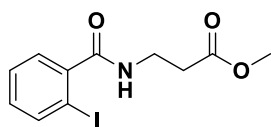


Application of General Procedure B with 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (267 mg, 1 mmol), triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol), and 2-methoxyethan-1-

amine (96 μ L, 1.1 mmol) yielded 105 mg (34%) of **27** as a white wax.

IR (neat): ν (cm^{-1}) 3058, 2924, 1647, 1537, 1360, 1120, 1014. **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 3.70 – 3.62 (m, 2H), 3.59 (m, 2H), 3.39 ppm (s, 3H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.54, 142.41, 140.00, 131.23, 128.39, 128.30, 92.58, 71.05, 58.94, 39.84 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{INO}_2+\text{Na}]^+$: 327.9805, found 327.9804.

Methyl 3-[(2-iodophenyl)formamido]propanoate (**28**)^[8]

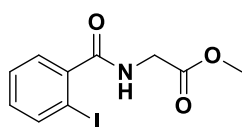


Application of General Procedure B using triethylamine (169 μ L, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (267 mg, 1 mmol), and

methyl 3-aminopropanoate (153 mg, 1.1 mmol) yielded 197 mg (59%) of **28** as a white solid.

Mp 89-91 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; **IR (neat):** ν (cm^{-1}) 3031, 2949, 2919, 1731, 1635, 1537, 1330, 1206, 1053; **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 3.77 – 3.68 (m, 6H), 2.70 ppm (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H); **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.18, 169.54, 142.21, 139.95, 131.26, 128.32, 128.27, 92.51, 52.08, 35.46, 33.73 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for $[\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{INO}_3+\text{H}]^+$: 333.9935, found 333.9935. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[8]

Methyl 2-[(2-iodophenyl)formamido]acetate (**29**)^[9]



Application of General Procedure B with 2-iodobenzoyl chloride (267 mg, 1 mmol), triethylamine (167 μ L, 1.2 mmol), and methyl 2-

aminoacetate hydrochloride (138 mg, 1.1 mmol) yielded 231 mg (71%) of **29** as a white solid.

Mp 96-98 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3058, 2920, 1749, 1654, 1532, 1211, 1017; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (dd, $J = 7.9, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 4.25 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 ppm (s, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.03, 169.16, 141.33, 140.08, 131.43, 128.46, 128.18, 92.38, 52.52, 41.69 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₀H₁₀INO₃+Na]⁺: 341.9598, found 341.9598. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[9]

General procedure C – Sulfur insertion and ring closure reaction to give 3a-c, 3e-f, 4a-d, 5-11

Following a modified literature procedure,^[10] a reaction vial was charged with CuI (0.3 equiv.) and 1,10-phenanthroline (0.3 equiv). The atmosphere was purged with argon and anhydrous DMF (0.4 M) was added. The suspension was stirred at rt for 15 min, then the appropriate benzamide (1 equiv), S₈ (1.3 equiv), and K₂CO₃ (1.3 equiv) were added. The suspension was stirred for a further 15 min at rt, then heated to 110°C until TLC showed full conversion of the starting material (TLC, MS). The reaction was cooled to rt and diluted in brine. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash chromatography yielded the desired compound.

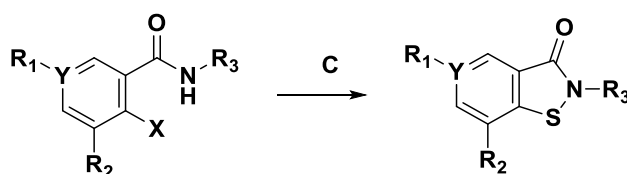
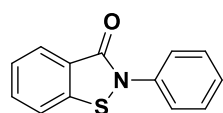


Figure S6. Sulfur insertion and ring closure (3a-c, 3e-f, 4a-d, 5-11). Conditions; C: 1,10-phenanthroline/CuI, S₈, K₂CO₃, DMF, 110 °C.

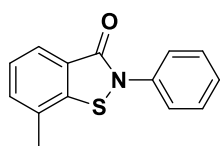
2-Phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (3a)^[10]



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (29 mg, 0.15 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (27 mg, 0.15 mmol), 2-iodo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**13**) (239 mg, 0.74 mmol), S₈ (22 mg, 0.65 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (89 mg, 0.65 mmol) yielded 117 mg (70%) of **3a** as a white solid.

Mp 140-142 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3064, 2921, 1663, 1593, 1488, 1448, 1299; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (dd, $J = 7.9, 1.2$, 1H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.67 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dt, $J = 8.1, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37 – 7.28 ppm (m, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.26, 140.02, 137.40, 132.48, 129.50, 127.35, 127.19, 125.94, 125.01, 124.73, 120.22 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₃H₉NOS+H]⁺: 228.0480, found: 228.0478. The spectroscopic data correspond to those reported in the literature.^[10]

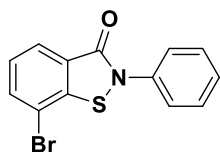
2-Phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (3b)



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (23 mg, 0.12 mmol) and 1,10-phenanthroline (22 mg, 0.12 mmol), 2-iodo-3-methyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**14**) (136 mg, 0.4 mmol), S₈ (17 mg, 0.52 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (72 mg, 0.52 mmol) yielded 7 mg (7%) of **3b** as a beige solid.

Mp 113-115 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 2999, 2956, 2917, 1665, 1541, 1377, 1133, 1024; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (ddd, $J = 7.6, 1.3, 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 2.39 ppm (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.91, 140.11, 137.61, 132.65, 129.83, 129.49, 127.14, 126.49, 124.91, 124.75, 18.75 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₄H₁₁NOS+H]⁺: 242.0634, found: 242.0636.

7-Bromo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (3c)

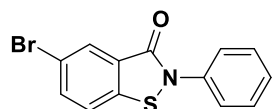


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (27 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 1,10-phenanthroline (26 mg, 0.14 mmol), 2,3-dibromo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**15**) (169 mg, 0.48 mmol), S₈ (21 mg, 0.62 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (85 mg, 0.62 mmol) yielded 76 mg (52%) of **3c** as an orange solid.

Mp 149-150 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 2961, 2918, 2849, 1669, 1488, 1403, 1298, 1072; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.31 ppm (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.06,

142.42, 137.07, 134.75, 129.62, 127.55, 127.51, 127.21, 126.09, 124.87, 113.97 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{13}H_8BrNOS+H]^+$: 305.9583, found: 305.9583.

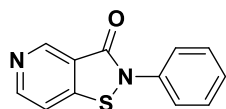
5-Bromo-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**3e**)



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (89 mg, 0.47 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (84 mg, 0.47 mmol), 2,5-dibromo-*N*-phenylbenzamide (**16**) (553 mg, 1.56 mmol), S₈ (67 mg, 2.03 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (280 mg, 2.03 mmol) yielded 412 mg (86%) of **3e** as a beige solid.

Mp 188-189 °C; **IR** (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3092, 2981, 2884, 1642, 1493, 1444, 1337; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.34 ppm (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.93, 138.69, 137.02, 135.57, 130.13, 129.61, 127.56, 124.78, 121.71, 119.79 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{13}H_8BrNOS+H]^+$: 305.9582, found 305.9584.

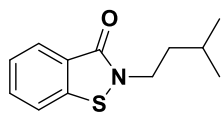
2-Phenyl-2*H*,3*H*-[1,2]thiazolo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-3-one (**3f**)



General Procedure C was followed using CuI (5.7 mg, 0.03 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (5.7 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4-chloro-*N*-phenylpyridine-3-carboxamide (**25**) (38.8 mg, 0.11 mmol), S₈ (4.8 mg, 0.14 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (19.7 mg, 0.14 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography (0 to 45%, v/v EtOAc/cyclohexane) yielded 15 mg (58%) of **3f** as a yellow solid.

Mp 145-147 °C; **IR** (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 2922, 2846, 1670, 1584, 1440, 1287, 1031; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.33 ppm (m, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.84, 149.87, 149.27, 149.06, 136.40, 129.77, 127.96, 125.00, 120.97, 115.24 ppm. **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for $[C_{12}H_8N_2OS+H]^+$: 229.0430, found: 229.0432.

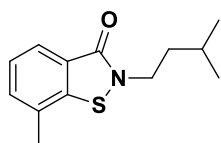
2-(3-Methylbutyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (4a)^[11]



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (28.9 mg, 0.15 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (27.4 mg, 0.15 mmol), 2-iodo-*N*-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**18**) (160 mg, 0.51 mmol), S₈ (21.9 mg, 0.66 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (90.7 mg, 0.66 mmol) yielded 32 mg (28%) of **4a** as an orange solid.

Mp 128-129 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3075, 2956, 2583, 1647, 1597, 1442, 1347, 1291, 1072; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.39 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00 – 3.83 (m, 2H), 1.69 – 1.62 (m, 4H), 0.98 ppm (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.40, 140.28, 131.74, 126.79, 125.55, 125.05, 120.43, 42.47, 38.46, 25.79, 22.55 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₅NOS+H]⁺: 222.0947, found: 222.0950. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[11]

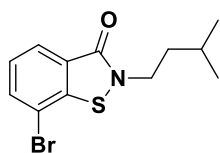
7-Methyl-2-(3-methylbutyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (4b)



General Procedure C was followed using CuI (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (35 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2-iodo-3-methyl-*N*-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**19**) (215 mg, 0.65 mmol), S₈ (28.2 mg, 0.85 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (117 mg, 0.85 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography (0 to 40%, v/v EtOAc/cyclohexane) yielded 94 mg (61%) of **4b** as a colourless oil.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3066, 2957, 1662, 1478, 1385, 1211; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 3.96 – 3.90 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.67 (m, 3H), 1.03 – 0.93 ppm (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.05, 140.38, 131.88, 129.95, 126.07, 124.89, 124.18, 42.54, 38.51, 25.77, 22.55, 18.80 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₃H₁₇NOS+H]⁺: 236.1104, found: 236.1105.

5-Bromo-2-(3-methylbutyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (4c)

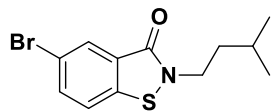


General Procedure C was followed using CuI (21.8 mg, 0.12 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (20.7 mg, 0.12 mmol), 2,3-dibromo-*N*-(3-methylbutyl)benzamide (**20**) (133.5 mg, 0.38 mmol), S₈ (16.6 mg, 0.5

mmol), and K₂CO₃ (68.6 mg, 0.5 mmol). Purification by reverse-phase chromatography using a Biotage Sfär[®] C18 Duo cartridge (buffer A (H₂O:formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) to buffer B (MeCN:formic acid, 100:0.1 v/v) from 0 to 100% B over 16 column volumes, then 4 column volumes at 100% B) gave 33 mg (29%) of **4c** as an orange oil.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 2962, 2917, 2849, 1669, 1488, 1328, 1089; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.97 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.64 – 1.48 (m, 3H), 0.97 – 0.87 ppm (m, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.12, 141.60, 134.40, 127.87, 126.35, 125.11, 113.70, 41.63, 37.68, 24.97, 22.18 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₄BrNOS+H]⁺: 300.0052, found: 300.0054.

7-Bromo-2-(3-methylbutyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**4d**)

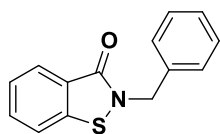


General Procedure C was followed using CuI (25.8 mg, 0.14 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (24.5 mg, 0.14 mmol), 2,5-dibromo-*N*-(3-

methylbutyl)benzamide (**21**) (157.7 mg, 0.45 mmol), S₈ (19.6 mg, 0.59 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (81.1 mg, 0.59 mmol). Purification by flash chromatography (0 to 40%, v/v EtOAc/cyclohexane) yielded 20 mg (15%) of **4d** as a beige solid.

Mp 107-108 °C; **IR** (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3093, 2947, 2849, 1650, 1453, 1308, 1078; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 – 3.86 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 3H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.07, 138.91, 134.83, 129.61, 126.75, 121.89, 119.41, 42.70, 38.39, 29.84, 25.79, 22.51 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₄BrNOS+H]⁺: 300.0052, found 300.0053.

2-Benzyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**5**)^[10]

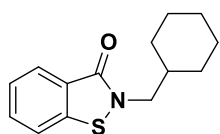


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (29 mg, 0.15 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (27 mg, 0.15 mmol), *N*-benzyl-2-bromobenzamide (**22**)

(145 mg, 0.5 mmol), S₈ (22 mg, 0.65 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (89 mg, 0.65 mmol) yielded 59 mg (49%) of **5** as a beige solid.

Mp 140-142 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3063, 2920, 1654, 1447, 1333; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dt, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.06 ppm (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.50, 140.55, 136.33, 131.98, 128.98, 128.59, 128.43, 126.98, 125.65, 124.65, 120.53, 47.73 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₄H₁₁NOS+Na]⁺: 264.0454, found: 264.0454. The spectroscopic data correspond to those reported in the literature.^[10]

2-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**6**)

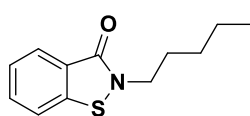


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (29 mg, 0.15 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (27 mg, 0.15 mmol), *N*-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2-

bromobenzamide (**23**) (129 mg, 0.44 mmol), S₈ (22 mg, 0.65 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (89 mg, 0.65 mmol) yielded 22 mg (20%) of **6** as a colourless oil.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3065, 2922, 1652, 1447, 1330; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.39 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.88 – 1.61 (m, 6H), 1.29 – 1.14 (m, 3H), 1.11 – 0.99 ppm (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.71, 140.35, 131.75, 126.87, 125.51, 124.89, 120.33, 50.17, 38.30, 30.68, 26.41, 25.79 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₄H₁₇NOS+H]⁺: 248.1104, found: 248.1104.

2-Pentyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**7**)^[11]

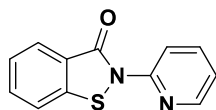


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (32 mg, 0.18 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (34 mg, 0.18 mmol), 2-iodo-*N*-pentylbenzamide (**24**)

(190 mg, 0.6 mmol), S₈ (26 mg, 0.78 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (108 mg, 0.78 mmol) yielded 108 mg (81%) of **7** as a colourless oil.

IR (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3066, 2955, 1650, 1446, 1336; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.39 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93 – 3.85 (m, 2H), 1.82 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.40 – 1.33 (m, 4H), 0.94 – 0.87 ppm (m, 3H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.44, 140.29, 131.74, 126.80, 125.54, 125.03, 120.43, 44.08, 29.37, 28.84, 22.41, 14.05 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₅NOS+H]⁺: 222.0947, found: 222.0949. The spectroscopic data correspond to those reported in the literature.^[11]

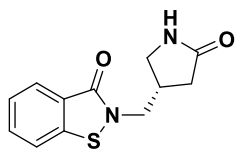
2-(Pyridin-2-yl)benzo[*d*]isothiazol-3(2*H*)-one (**8**)^[12]



General Procedure C was followed using CuI (21.47 mg, 0.11 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (20.34 mg, 0.11 mmol), 2-Iodo-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)benzamide (**25**) (123 mg, 0.38 mmol), S₈ (16.5 mg, 0.49 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (68.1 mg, 0.49 mmol). The reaction mixture diluted with HCl (1M) and extracted with EtOAc. Purification by flash chromatography (0 to 45%, v/v EtOAc/cyclohexane) yielded 57 mg (65%) mg of **8** as a pink solid.

Mp 191-192 °C; **IR (neat):** ν (cm⁻¹) 3070, 2917, 2849, 1672, 1583, 1450, 1259, 1119; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.75 (dt, J = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (ddd, J = 5.0, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (ddd, J = 8.5, 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, J = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 ppm (ddd, J = 7.3, 4.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.19, 150.56, 147.75, 141.16, 138.55, 132.96, 126.95, 126.76, 125.66, 120.83, 120.45, 114.62 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₂H₈N₂OS+H]⁺: 229.0430, found 229.0433. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[12]

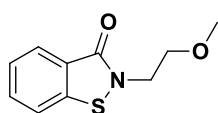
(*S*)-2-((5-Oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl)benzo[*d*]isothiazol-3(2*H*)-one (**9**)



General Procedure C was followed with CuI (24.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (23.5 mg, 0.03 mmol), 2-Iodo-*N*-([(3*S*)-5-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl]methyl)benzamide (**26**) (34.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), S₈ (4.4 mg, 0.13 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (18 mg, 0.13 mmol). The reaction mixture was filtered through cotton wool and purified using flash chromatography (0→20% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to give 4 mg (17%) of **9** as an orange wax.

[α]_D²⁵ = +8.8 (c = 1, CDCl₃); **IR** (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 3276, 2927, 1685, 1645, 1447, 1104; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.11 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24 ppm (dd, *J* = 17.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.99, 165.87, 140.22, 132.30, 126.97, 125.94, 124.25, 120.53, 47.15, 45.60, 35.12, 34.68 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₂N₂O₂S+H]⁺ 249.0692, found 249.0692. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[5]

2-(2-Methoxyethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (**10**)^[13]

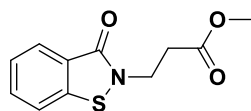


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (17 mg, 0.09 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (16 mg, 0.09 mmol), 2-iodo-*N*-(2-methoxyethyl)benzamide (**27**) (95 mg, 0.31 mmol), S₈ (13 mg, 0.4 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (55 mg, 0.4 mmol) yielded 40 mg (62%) of **10** as a white solid.

Mp 136-138 °C; **IR** (neat): ν (cm⁻¹) 2961, 2923, 2852, 1653, 1558, 1541, 1458, 1260, 1090; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.40 ppm (s, 3H) **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.67, 141.23, 131.86, 126.74, 125.44, 124.34, 120.28, 71.25, 59.04, 43.96 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for

[C₁₀H₁₁NO₂S+H]⁺: 210.0583 found 210.0584. The spectroscopic data is consistent with those reported in the literature.^[13]

Methyl 3-(3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-2-yl)propanoate (**11**)^[14]



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (32.1 mg, 0.17 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (30.6 mg, 0.17 mmol), Methyl 3-[(2-iodophenyl)formamido]propanoate (**28**) (188.6 mg, 0.57 mmol), S₈ (24.5 mg, 0.74 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (101.6 mg, 0.74 mmol) yielded 108 mg (80%) of **11** as a pale yellow solid.

Mp 97-98 °C; **IR (neat)**: ν (cm⁻¹) 3066, 2951, 2858, 1727, 1649, 1423, 1371, 1176; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dt, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.80 ppm (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.68, 165.56, 140.72, 132.03, 126.75, 125.64, 124.39, 120.44, 52.15, 40.01, 33.97 ppm; **ESI HR-MS**: calcd. for [C₁₁H₁₁NO₃S+H]⁺: 238.0532 found 238.0534. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[14]

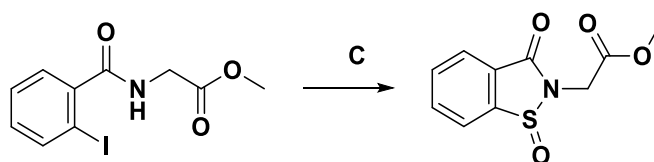
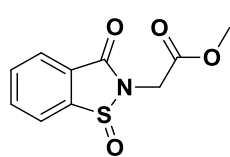


Figure S7. Synthesis of the sulfoxide derivative 12. Conditions; C: 1,10-phenanthroline/CuI, S₈, K₂CO₃, ambient atmosphere, DMF, 110 °C.

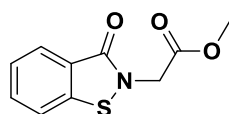
Methyl 2-(1-oxido-3-oxobenzo[d]isothiazol-2(3H)-yl)acetate (**12**)



Application of General Procedure C using CuI (36 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (39 mg, 0.2 mmol), Methyl 2-[(2-iodophenyl)formamido]acetate (**29**) (217 mg, 0.68 mmol), S₈ (29 mg, 0.88 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (122 mg, 0.88 mmol) yielded 25 mg (15%) of **12** as a colourless wax on one occasion.

IR (neat): ν (cm^{-1}) 3058, 2921, 1751, 1649, 1530, 1465, 1209; **$^1\text{H NMR}$** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.34 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 6.95 (m, 1H), 4.28 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 ppm (s, 3H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.15, 165.76, 140.84, 132.32, 127.03, 125.66, 123.44, 120.40, 52.68, 44.52 ppm. **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. For $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_4\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$: 240.0324, found 240.0325.

Methyl 2-(3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-2-yl)acetate (**12i**)^[15]

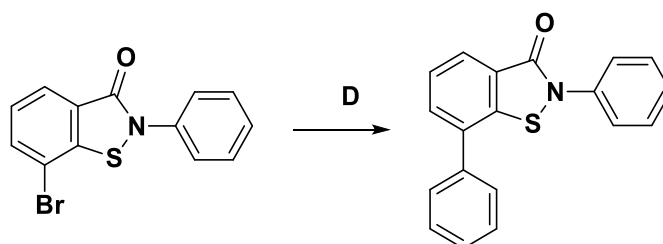


Application of General Procedure C using CuI (36 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (39 mg, 0.2 mmol), methyl-(2-iodobenzoyl)glycinate (**29**) (217 mg, 0.68 mmol), S_8 (29 mg, 0.88 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (122 mg, 0.88 mmol) yielded 13 mg (29%) of **12** as a colourless oil.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.63 (s, 2 H), 3.79 ppm (s, 3H); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$** (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.38, 166.12, 140.78, 132.67, 127.02, 125.93, 123.51, 120.58, 52.89, 44.78 ppm. **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. For $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}_3\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$: 224.0376, found 224.0375. The spectroscopic data match those reported in the literature.^[15]

General Procedure D – Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction

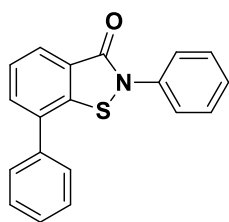
A reaction vial was charged with 7-bromo-2-phenylbenzo[d]isothiazol-3(2H)-one (52.6 mg, 0.17 mmol, 1 equiv), phenylboronic acid (41.9 mg, 0.34 mmol, 2 equiv), K_2CO_3 (118.5 mg, 0.86 mmol, 5 equiv), and $\text{Pd}(\text{dppf})\text{Cl}_2$ (18.84 mg, 0.026 mmol, 0.15 equiv). The atmosphere was purged with nitrogen and anhydrous, degassed dioxane (11.6 mL, 0.015 M) was transferred to the reaction vial. The vial was sealed and stirred at 80 °C until full conversion of the starting material (TLC, MS). The reaction mixture was filtered using diatomaceous earth, concentrated



in vacuo, and purified using flash chromatography (0→20% diethyl ether in n-pentane) to yield the desired compound.

Figure S8. Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction (3d). Conditions; D: phenylboronic acid, K₂CO₃, PdCl₂(dppf), 1,4-dioxane, 80 °C.

2,7-Diphenyl-2,3-dihydro-1,2-benzothiazol-3-one (3d)



Application of General Procedure D using 7-Bromo-2-phenylbenzo[*d*]isothiazol-3(2*H*)-one (52.6 mg, 0.17 mmol), phenylboronic acid (41.9 mg, 0.34 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (118.5 mg, 0.86 mmol) yielded 10 mg (19%) of **3d** as a white solid.

Mp 153-154 °C; **IR (neat):** $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{cm}^{-1})$ 3055, 2918, 2850, 1675, 1495, 1327, 1174; **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.68 (m, 3H), 7.62 – 7.43 (m, 8H), 7.31 ppm (m, 1H); **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.57, 139.17, 138.41, 137.41, 134.53, 131.93, 129.64, 129.49, 129.01, 127.24, 127.20, 126.98, 126.14, 126.02, 124.73 ppm; **ESI HR-MS:** calcd. for [C₁₉H₁₃NOS+H]⁺: 304.0791, found: 304.0792.

Biochemical Assays

General Information

M^{pro} assays were performed exclusively using freshly purified recombinant M^{pro} solution, prepared as reported.^[16] Refrozen M^{pro} samples exhibited reduced activity and were not used. LCMS (Merck, Supelco) grade solvents were used for MS analyses and to prepare buffers. The peptide substrate and M^{pro} solution were diluted in freshly prepared reaction buffer (defined below) to prepare stock solutions. Compound stock solutions were prepared to 10mM in DMSO and diluted using the reaction buffer.

Fluorescence Assays

The inhibitory activities of compounds **1-12** against M^{pro} were investigated using a spectroscopic assay, monitoring M^{pro} catalysed hydrolysis of the fluorogenic substrate ([5-FAM]-AVLQSGFR-[Lys(Dabcyl)]-K-amide) as reported.^[17] In brief, assays were conducted at room temperature in clear-bottomed Greiner 384 black well microplates using a ClarioStar or PHERAstar FS microplate reader (BMG LabTech). Compound dilutions were transferred in

quadruplicate from a 96 well plate to a 384 well plate (5 μL /well) using a CyBio Liquid Handler (Analytik Jena AG). M^{pro} (5 μl /well) and substrate (10 μL /well) were dispensed across 384 well plates using a Multidrop Combi dispenser (Thermo Scientific), the plates were then centrifuged (500 g, 15 s, Axygen Plate Spinner Centrifuge, Corning). Final reaction concentrations were 50 nM M^{pro} , 375 nM substrate, 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.3, 50 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1% DMSO, 0.01% v/v Triton X-100. The initial rates of reaction (measured after 15 min pre-incubation of the inhibitor with the enzyme) were assessed by monitoring the fluorescence intensity at $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 485$ nm and $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 520$ nm. Following the determination of initial rates of reaction, data were fitted using a four-parameter function: log (inhibitor) vs. response, variable slope in GraphPad Prism 5 to obtain IC_{50} values.

Solid-Phase Extraction Coupled to MS Assays

The inhibitory activity of compounds **1-12** against M^{pro} was also investigated using a RapidFire (RF) 365 high-throughput sampling robot (Agilent) connected to an iFunnel Agilent 6550 accurate mass quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) mass spectrometer as reported.^[16] In brief, compounds **1-12** were dispensed in an 11-point, 3-fold dilution series (100 μM top concentration) across 384-well plates using an acoustic Echo Dispenser (LabCyte). Ebselen and DMSO were used as positive and negative controls, respectively. M^{pro} (0.3 μM) was dispensed across 384-well plates (25 μL /well) using a Multidrop Combi dispenser (Thermo Scientific) and incubated for 15 min at rt. TSAVLQ/SGFRK-NH₂ peptide solution (4 μM) was then dispensed to the mixture (25 μL /well). Reactions were incubated (10 minutes), then quenched by addition of 10% (v/v) aqueous formic acid (5 μL /well). Data was extracted and processed as reported.^[16]

Protein Observed Mass Spectrometry

The reactions of compounds **1-12** with recombinant M^{pro} were investigated using protein observed mass spectrometry coupled to solid phase extraction purification as reported.^[16] In brief, the compounds were dispensed across 384 well plates using an acoustic Echo Dispenser (LabCyte). M^{pro} was dispensed across 384-well plates using a Multidrop Combi dispenser (Thermo Scientific). The plates were then centrifuged (500 g, 15 s, Axygen Plate Spinner Centrifuge, Corning). Final reaction conditions: 40 μM compound, 2 μM M^{pro} , 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 50 μL final volume/well. The mass spectrometer was operated in positive ion mode with the following parameters: drying gas temperature (225 $^{\circ}\text{C}$), drying gas flow rate

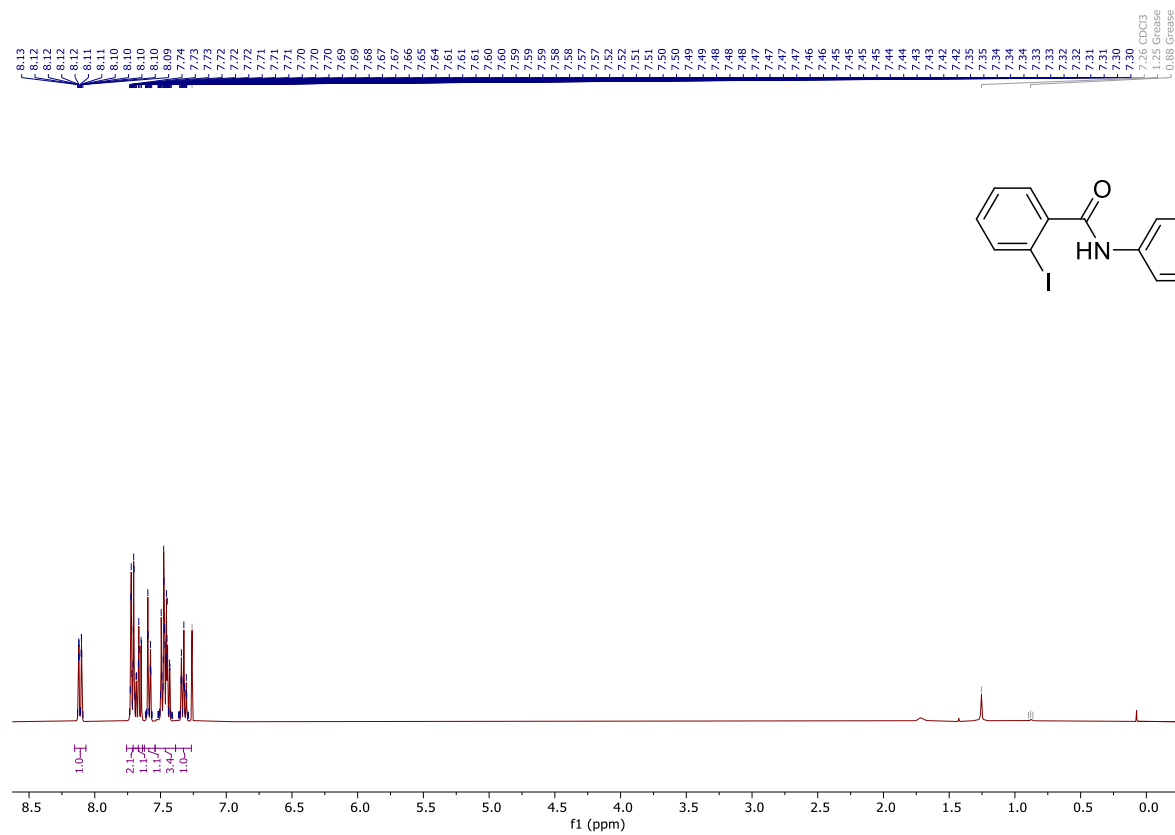
(13 L/min), nebulizer pressure (40 psig), sheath gas temperature (350 °C), sheath gas flow rate (12 L/min), capillary voltage (4000 V), nozzle voltage (1000 V).

References

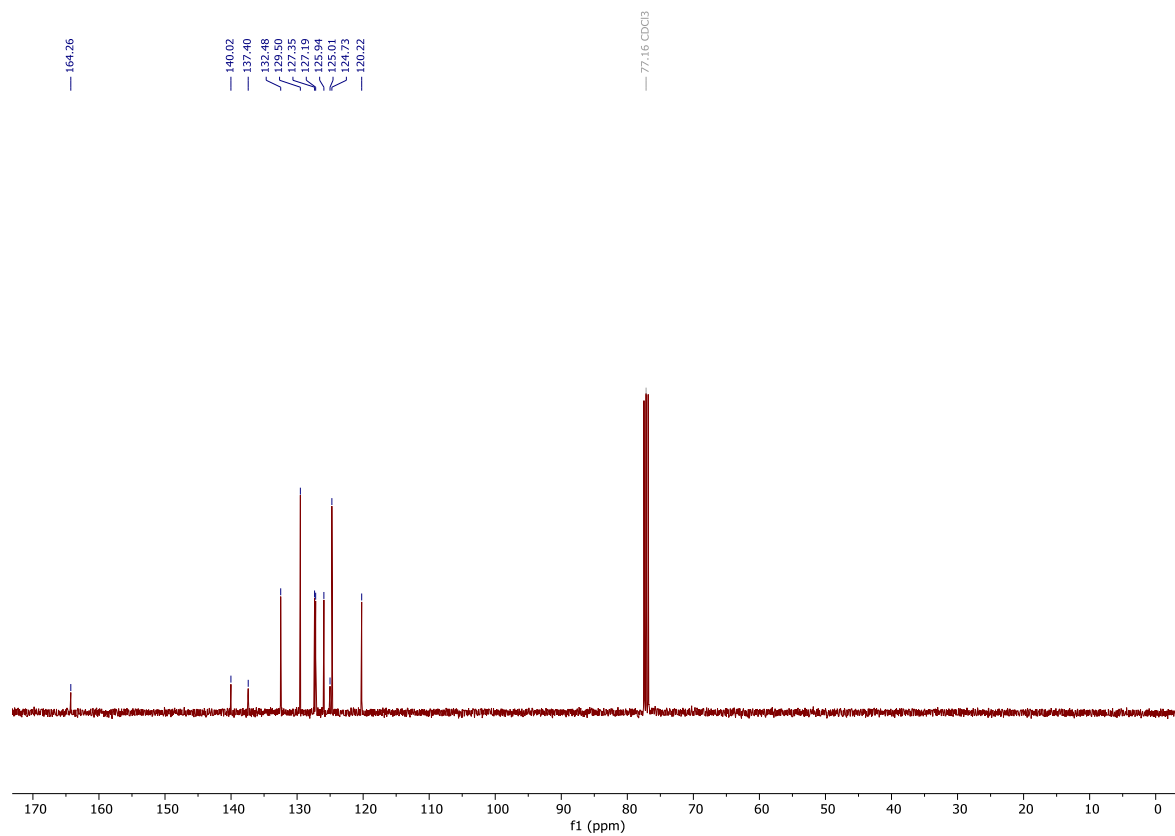
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NMR Spectra

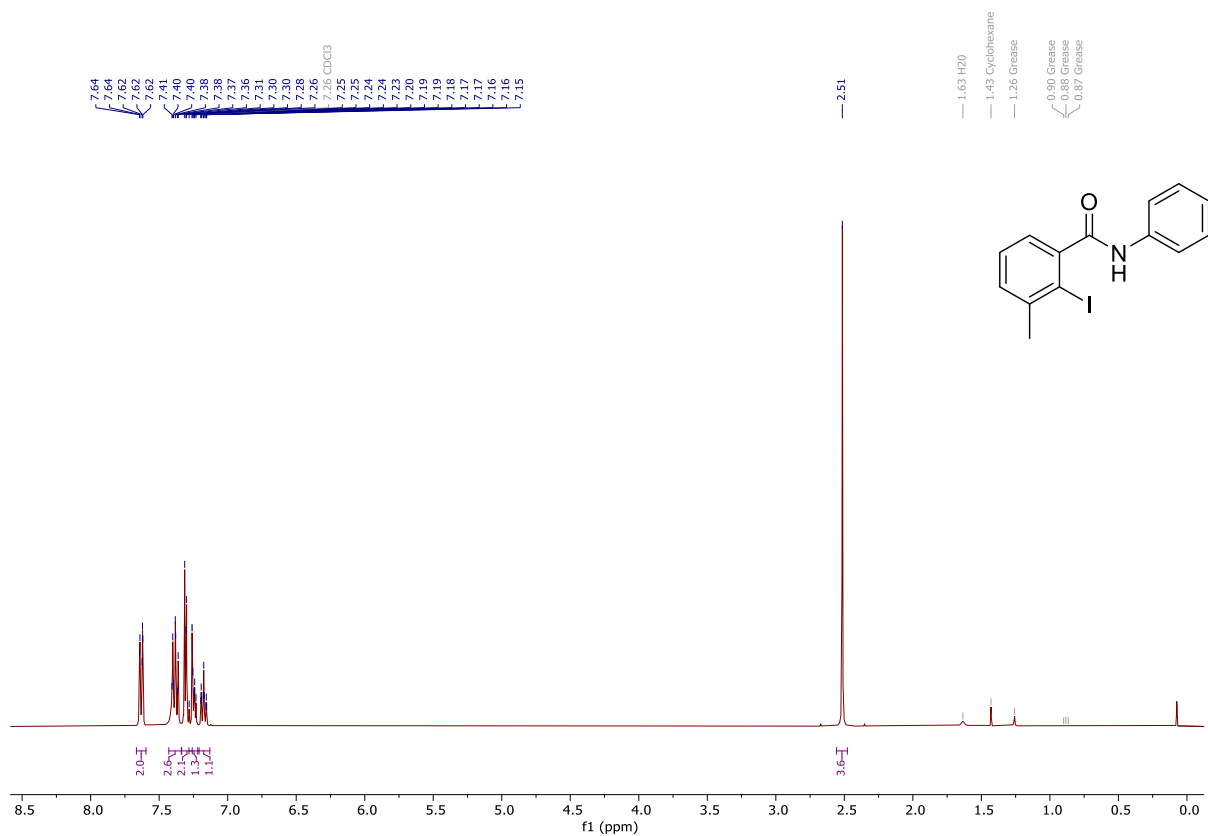
^1H NMR of **13** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



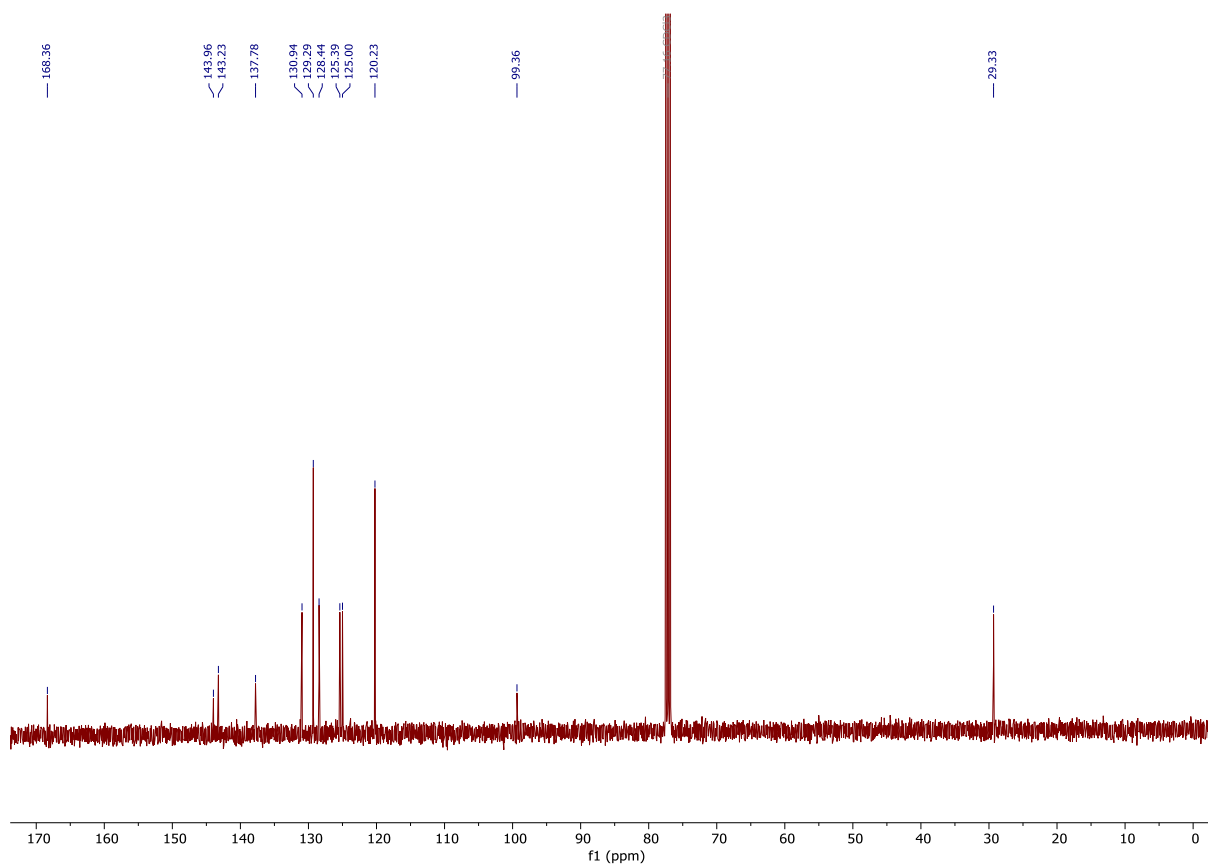
^{13}C NMR of **13** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



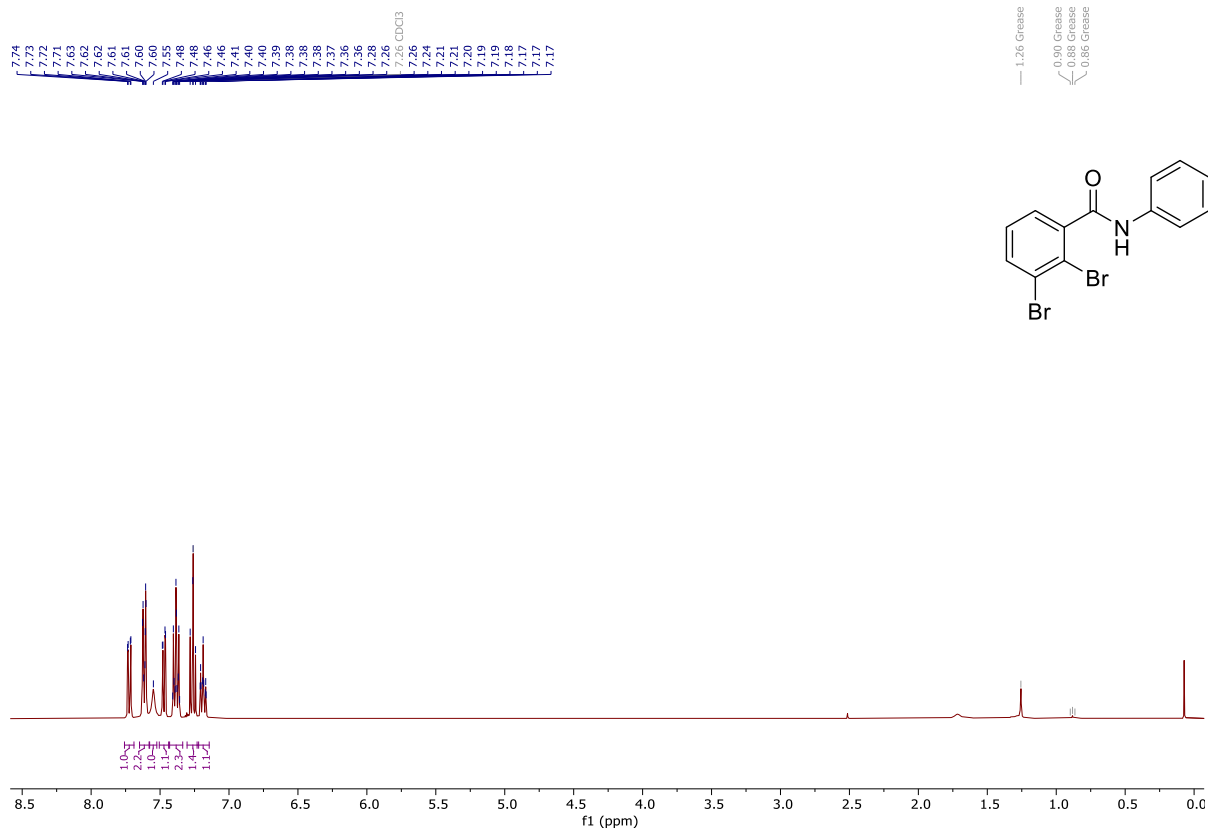
¹H NMR of **14** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



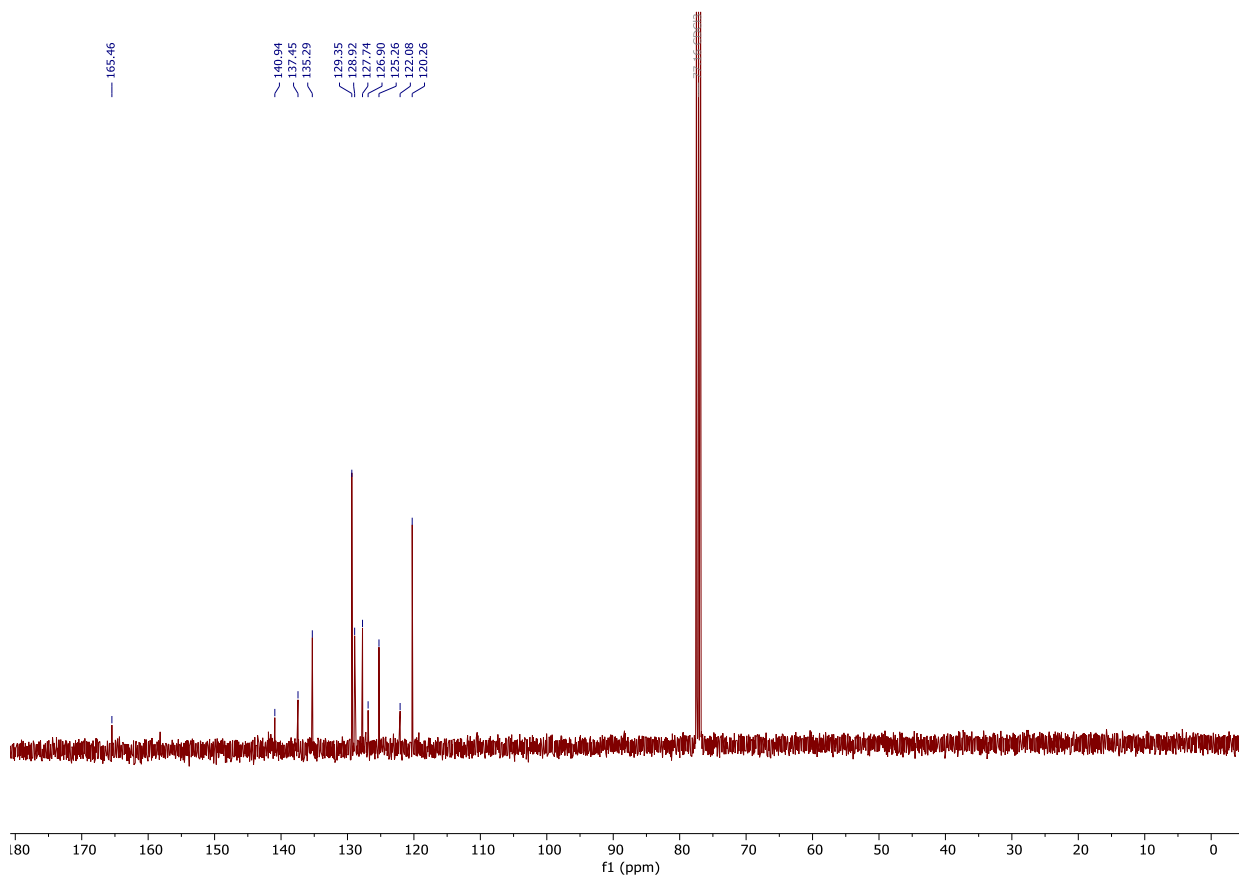
¹³C NMR of **14** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



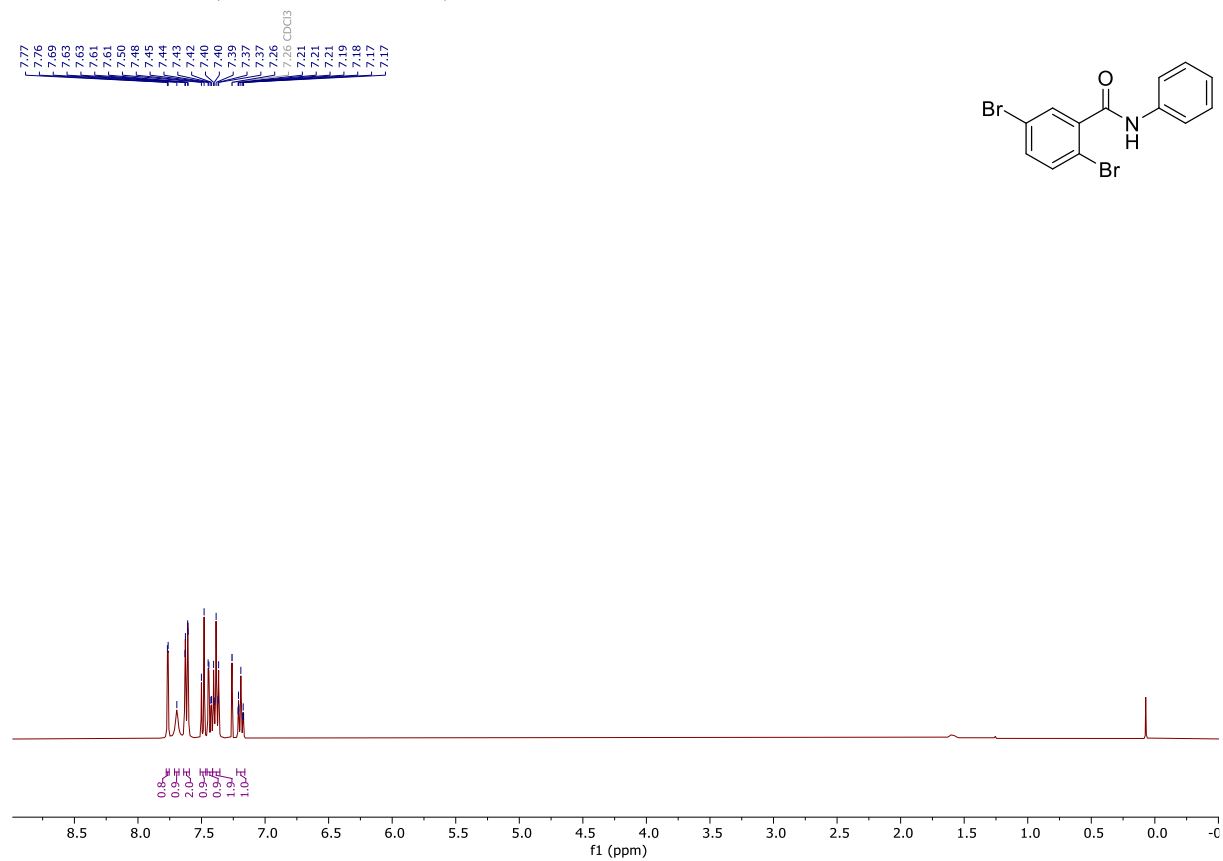
^1H NMR of **15** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



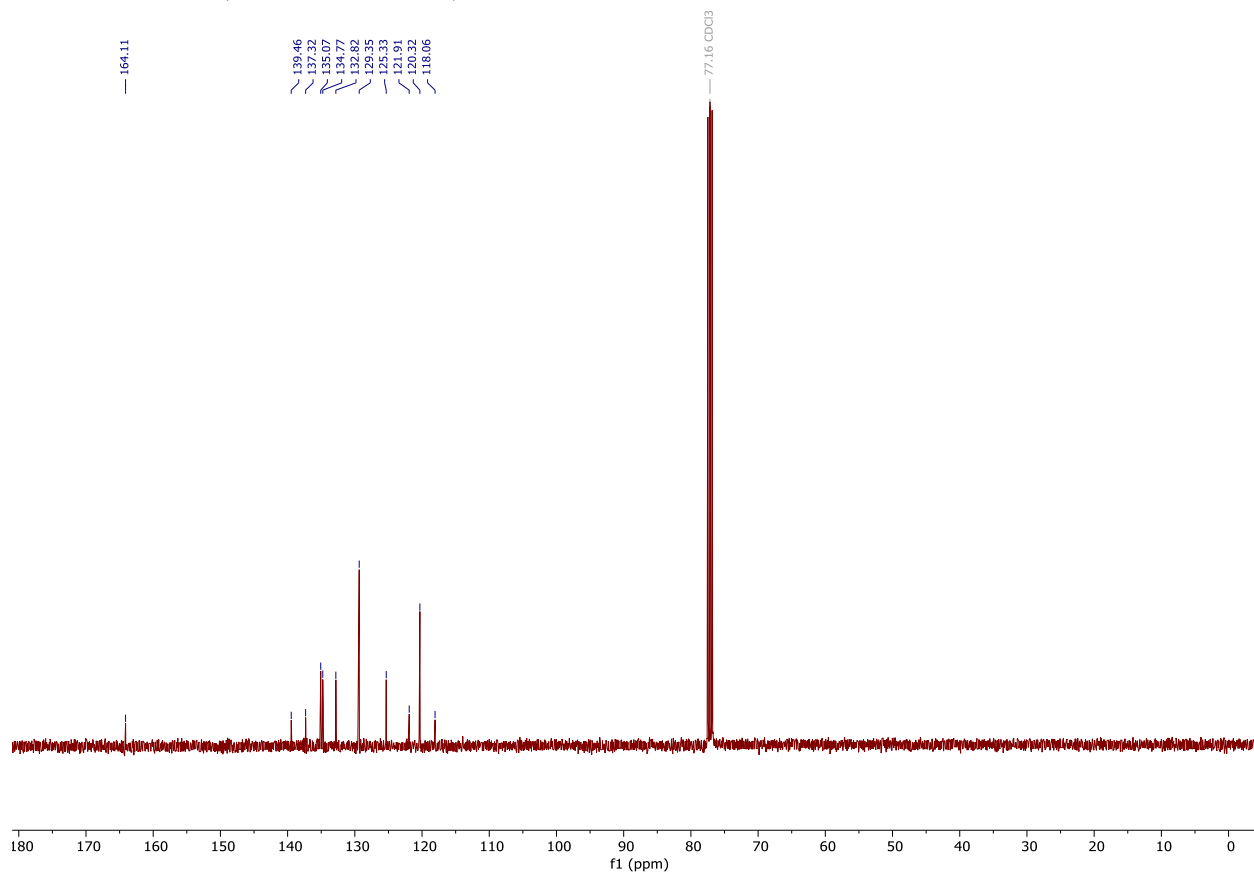
^{13}C NMR of **15** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



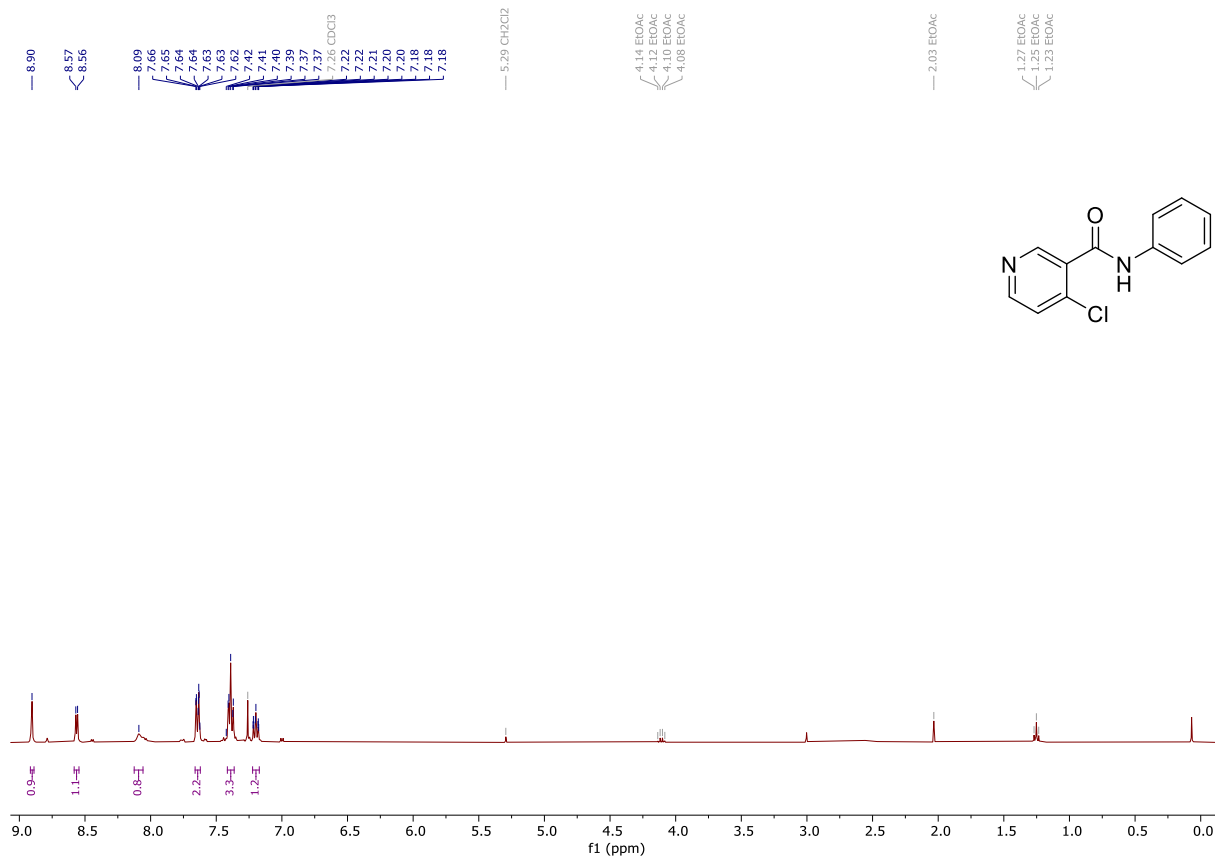
^1H NMR of **16** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



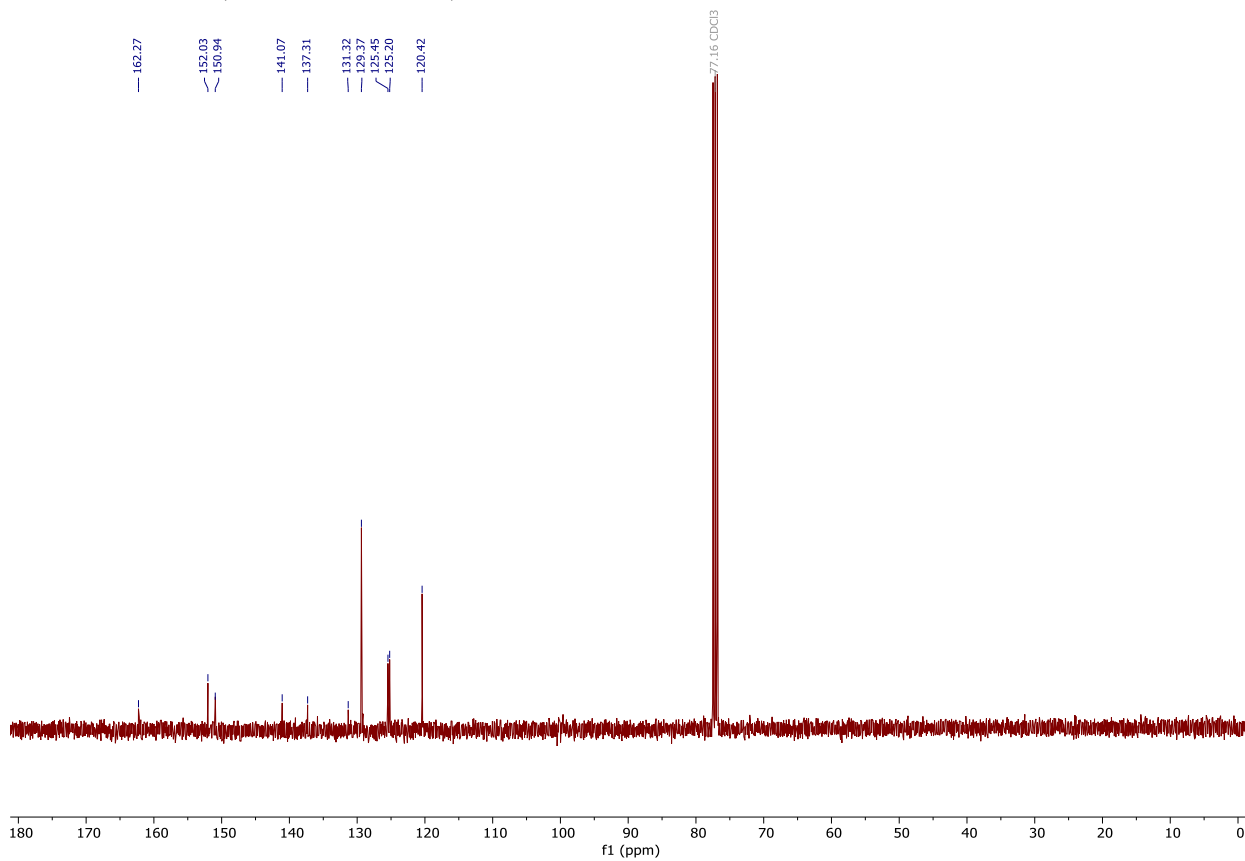
^{13}C NMR of **16** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



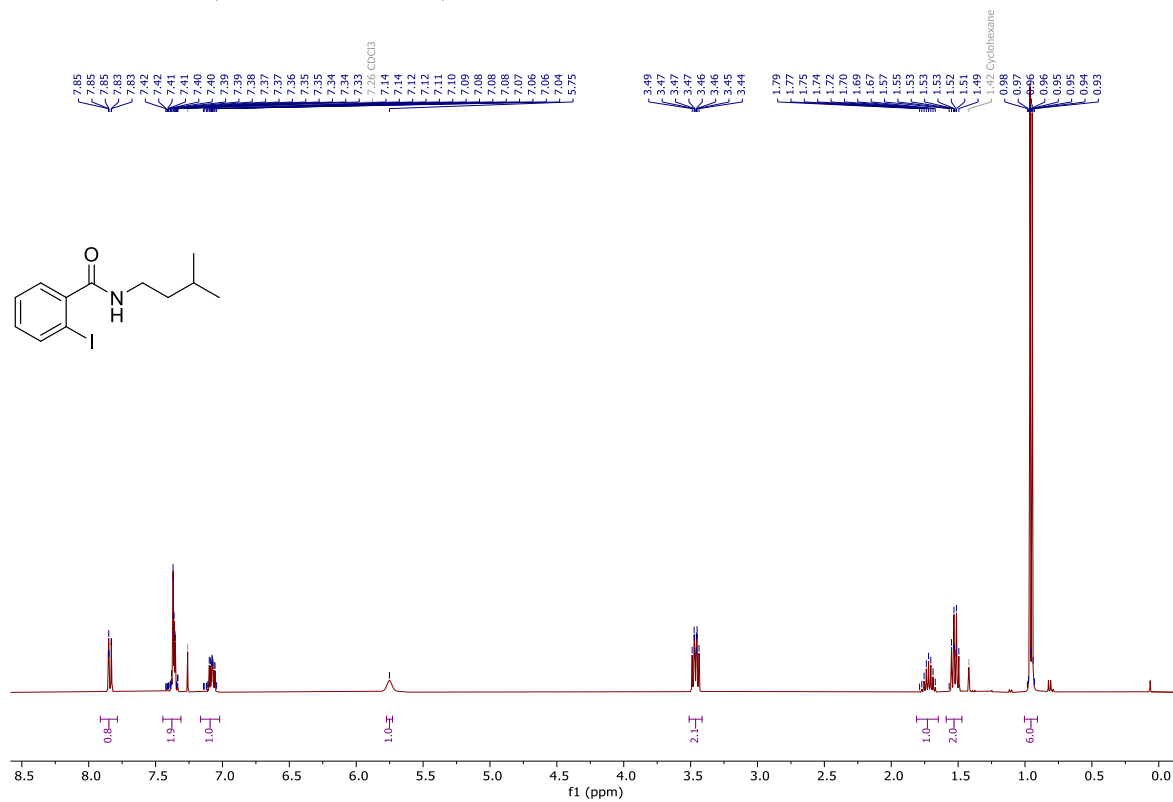
¹H NMR of **17** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



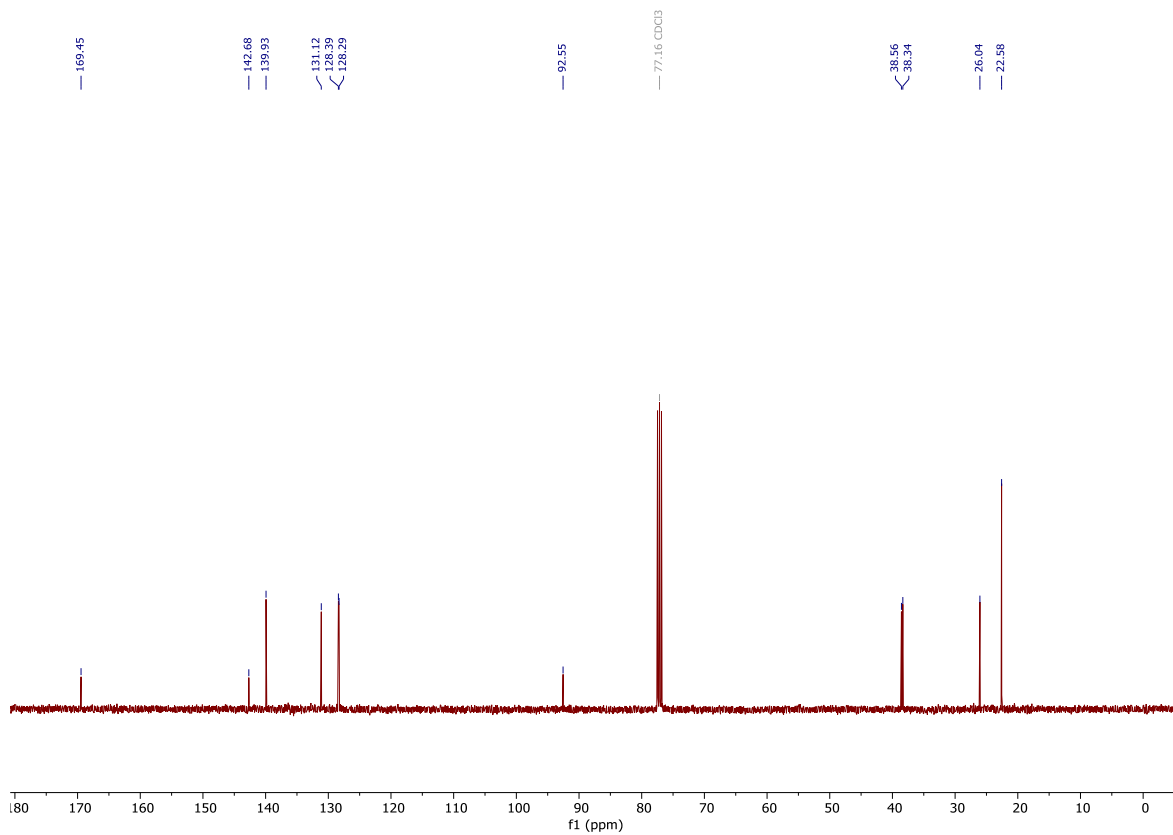
¹³C NMR of **17** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



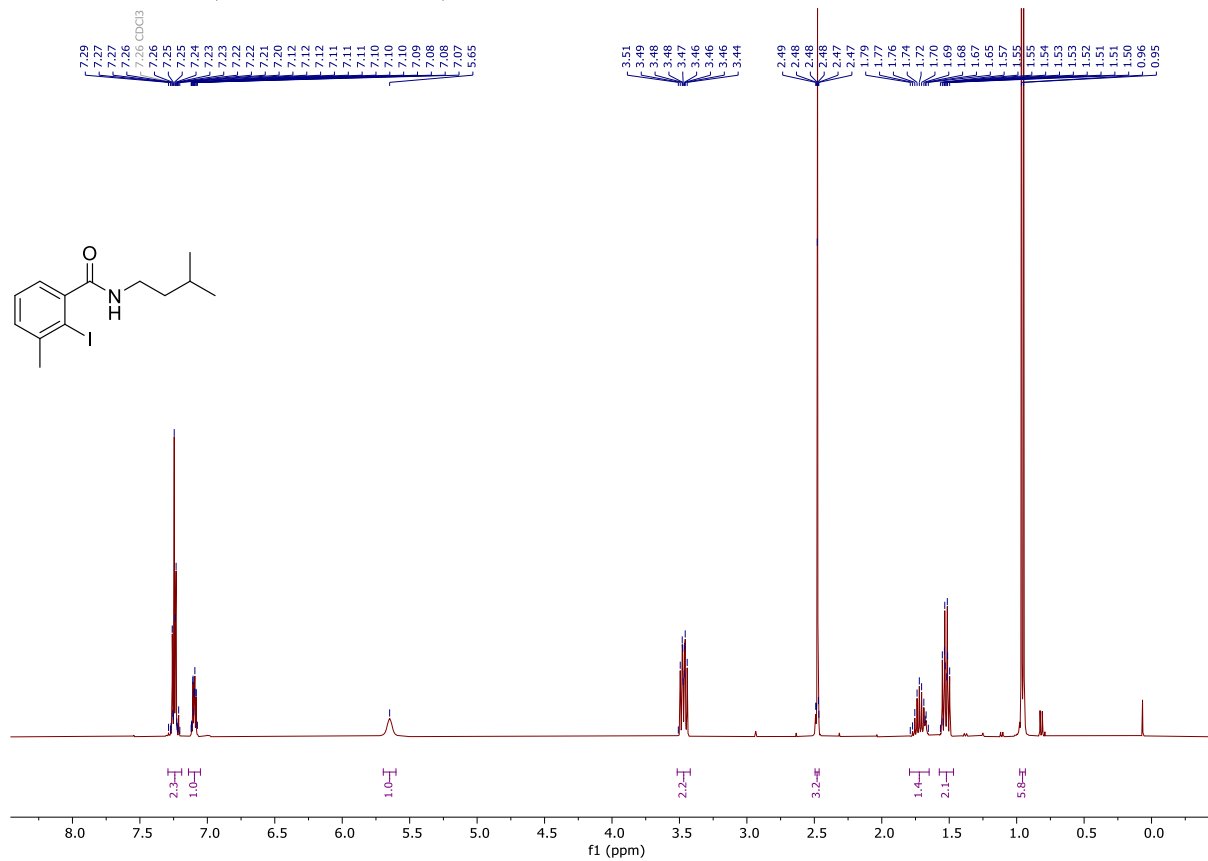
¹H NMR of **18** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



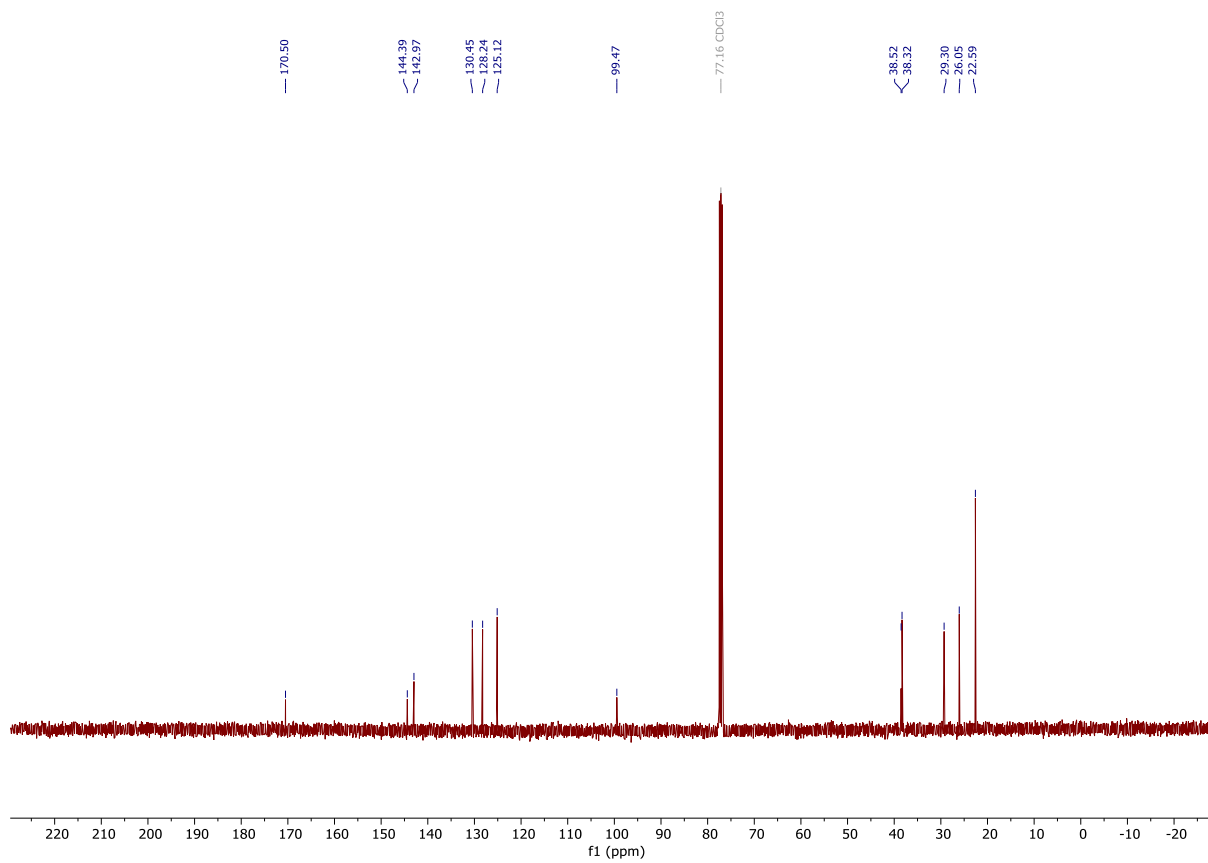
¹³C NMR of **18** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



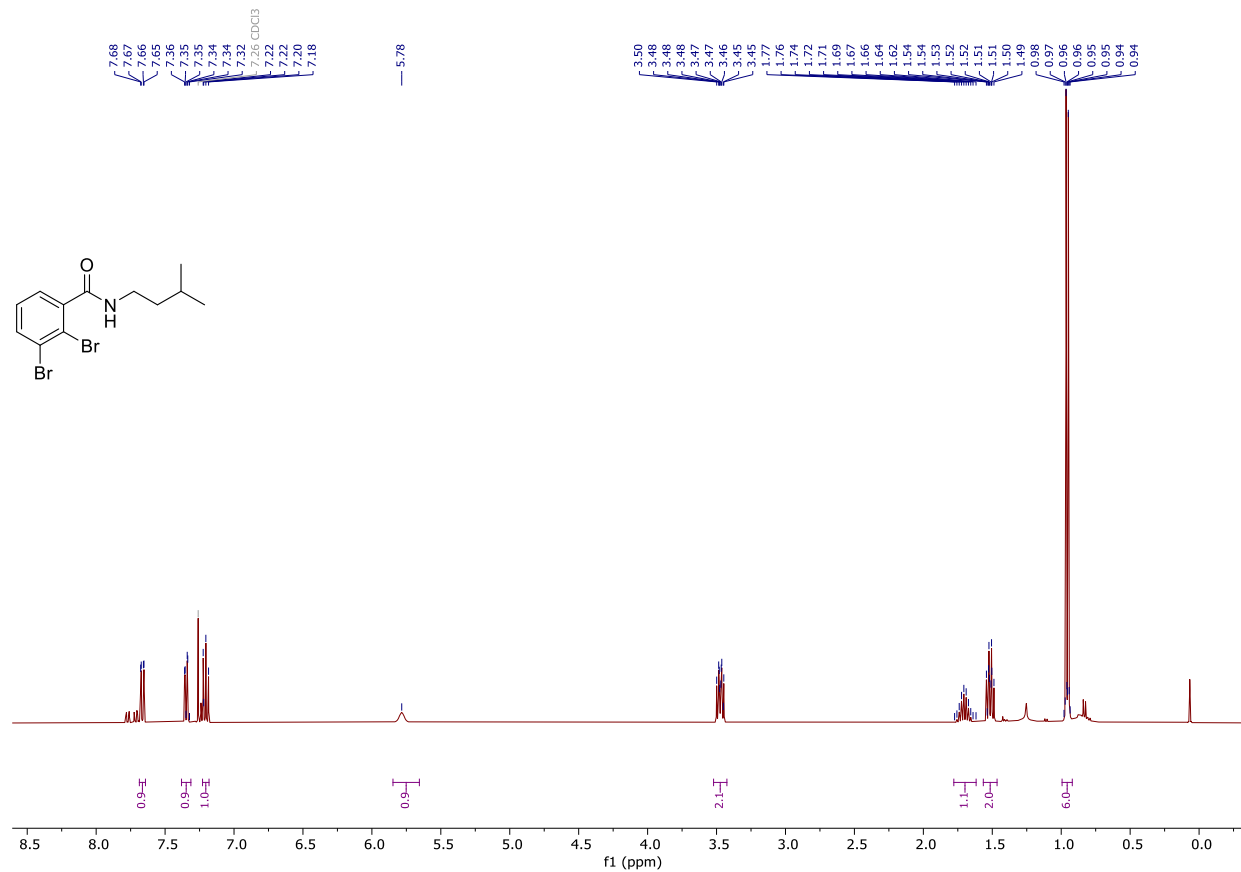
¹H NMR of **19** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



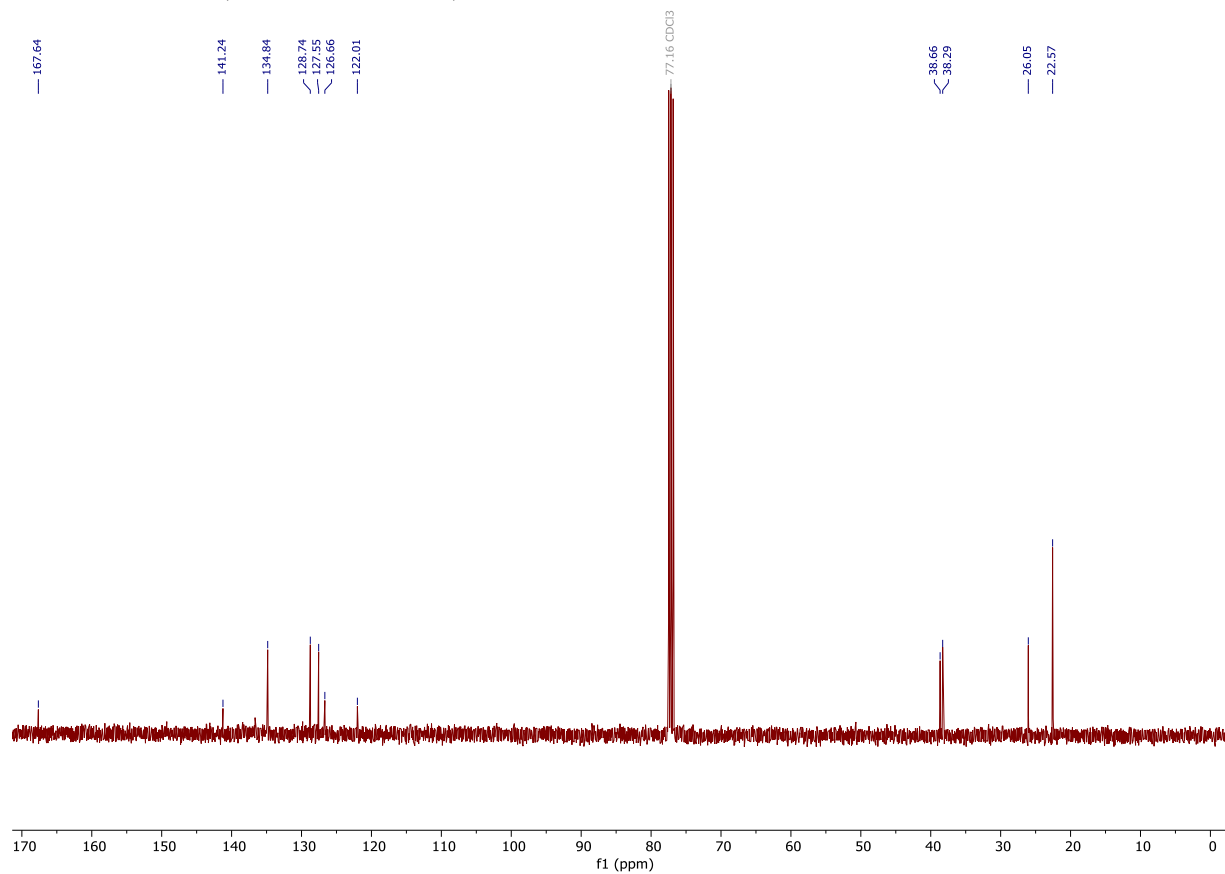
¹³C NMR of **19** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



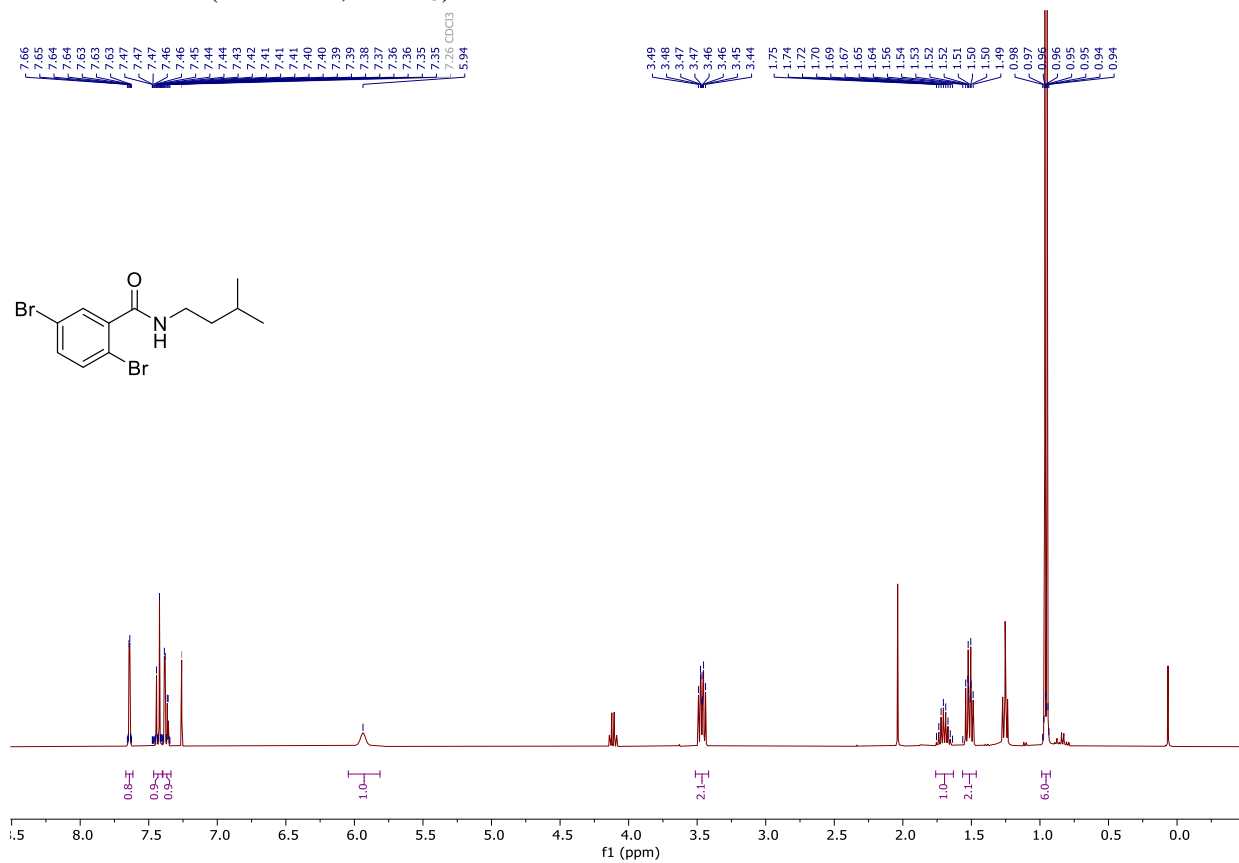
^1H NMR of **20** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



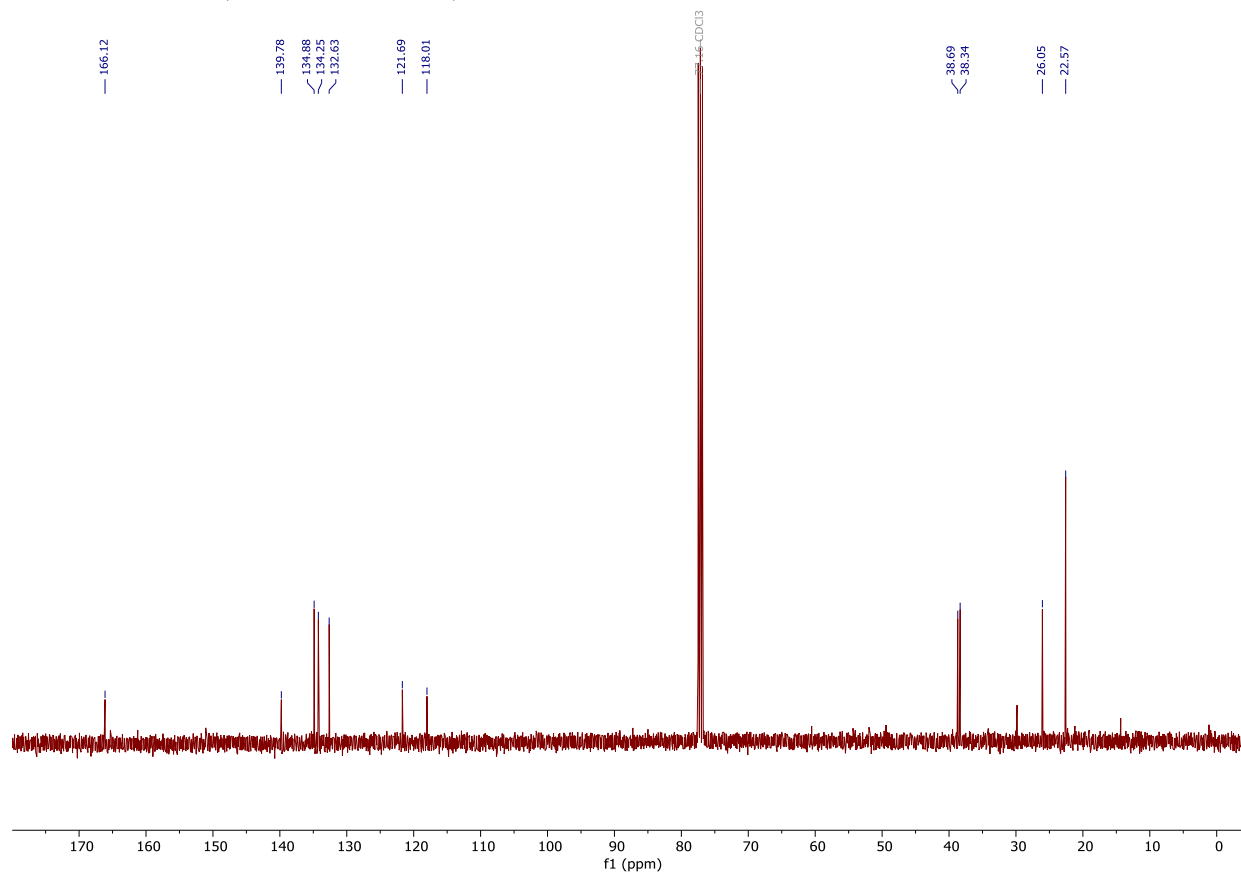
^{13}C NMR of **20** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



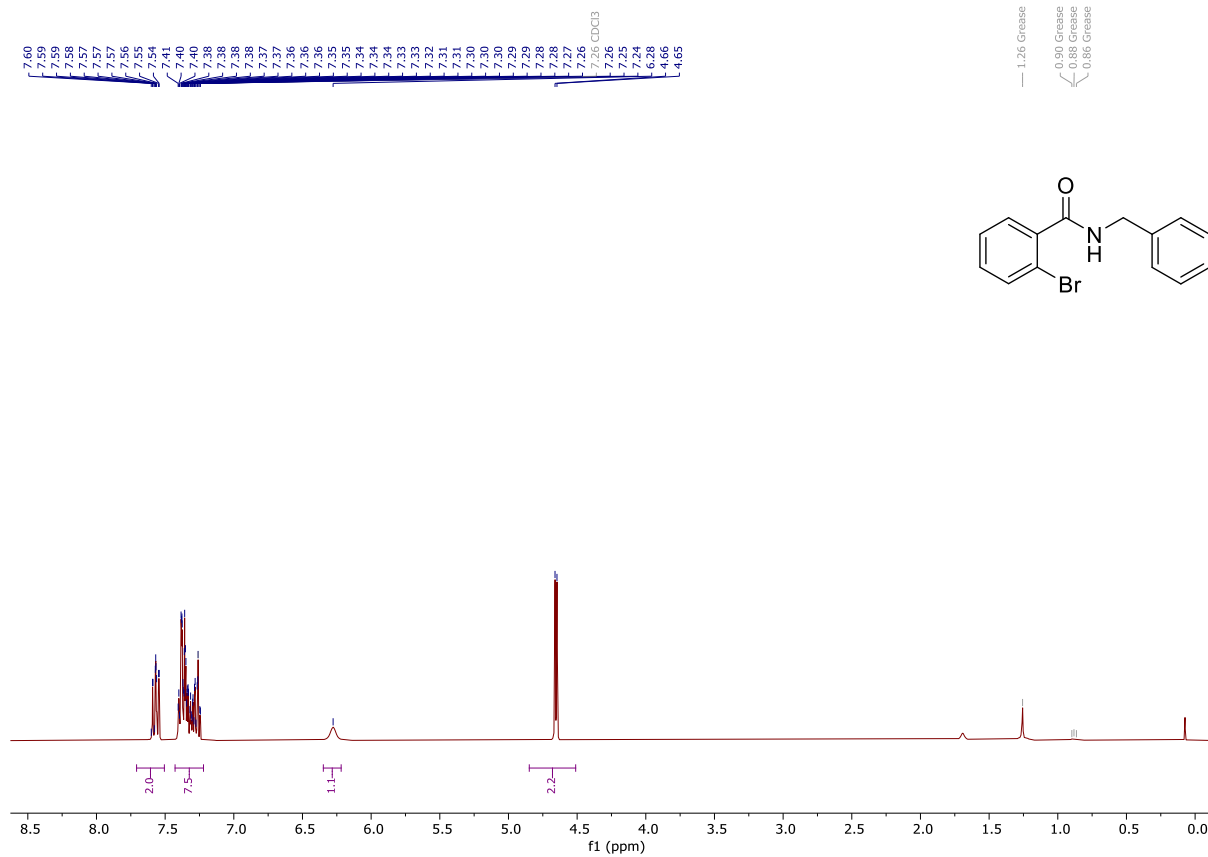
^1H NMR of **21** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



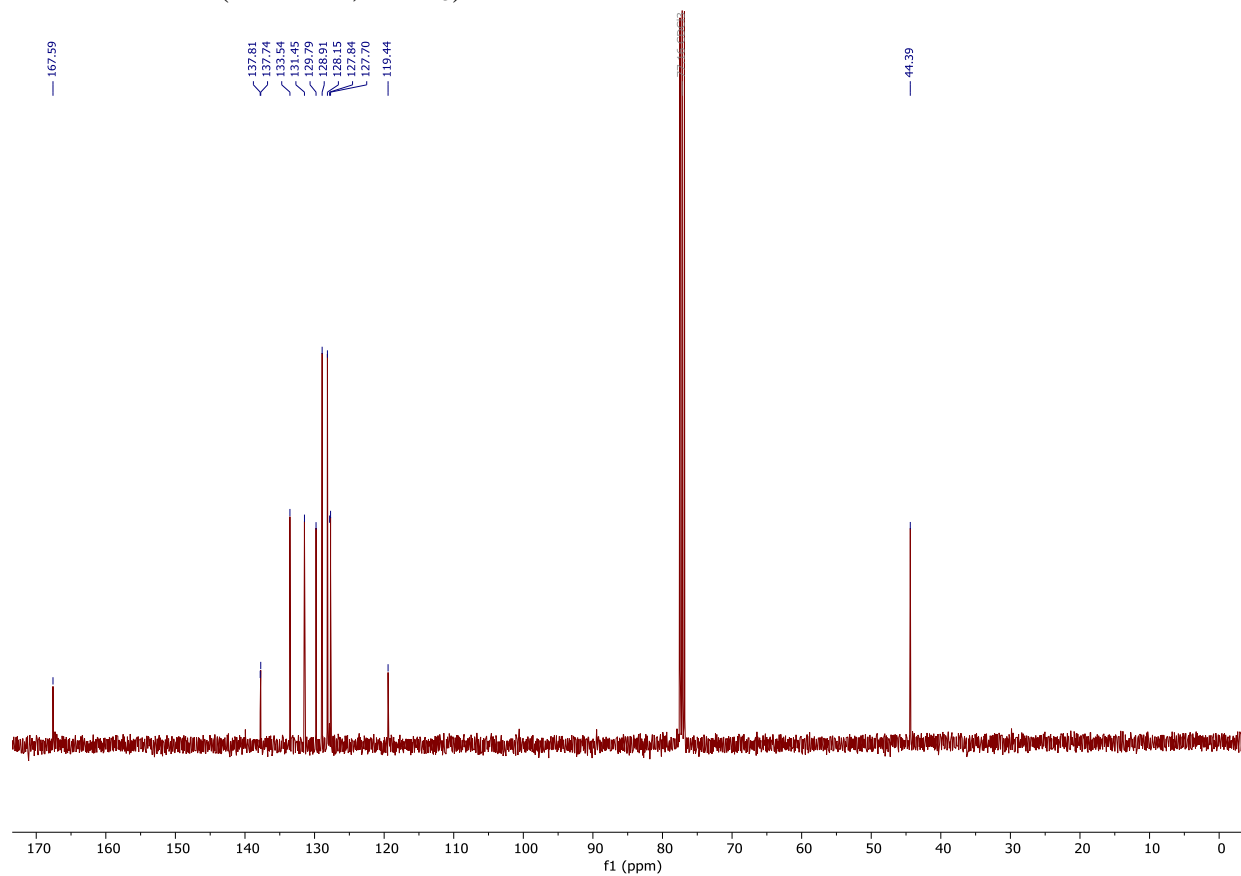
^{13}C NMR of **21** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



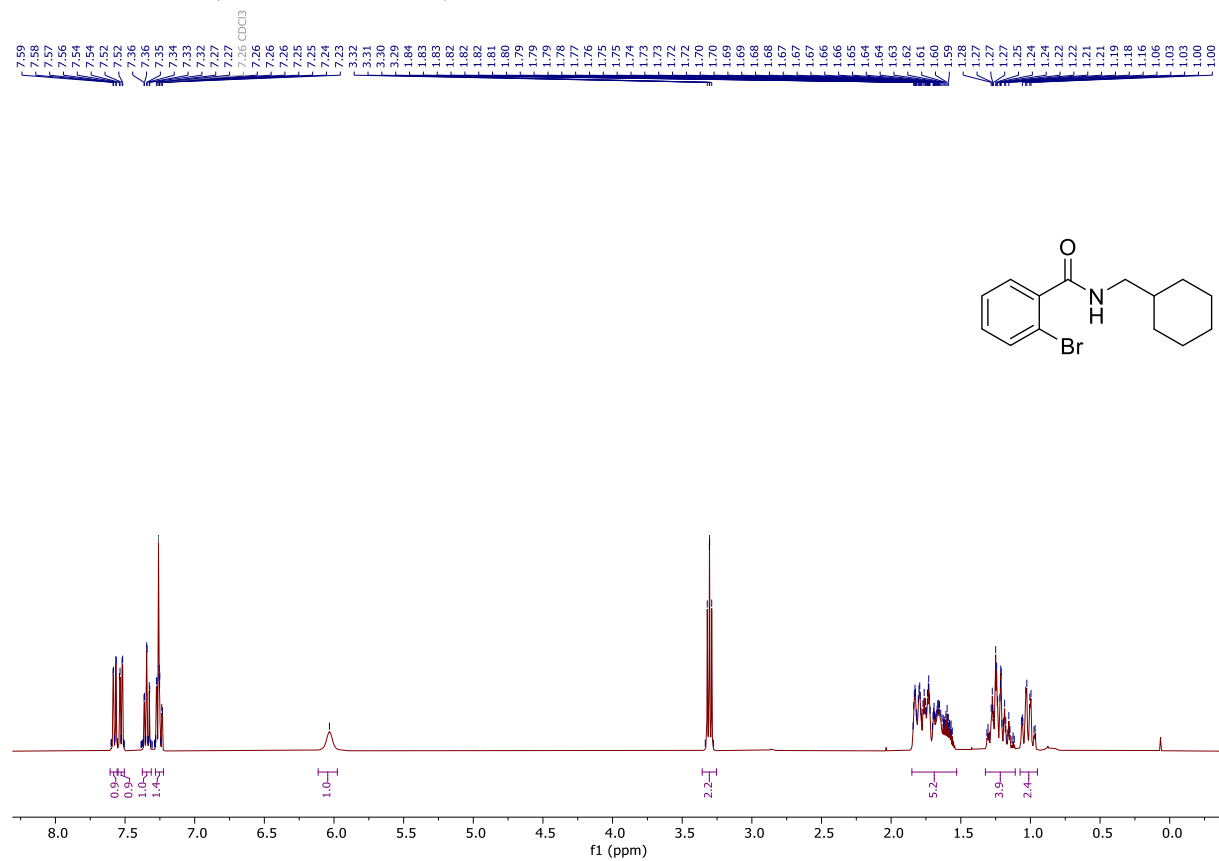
^1H NMR of **22** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



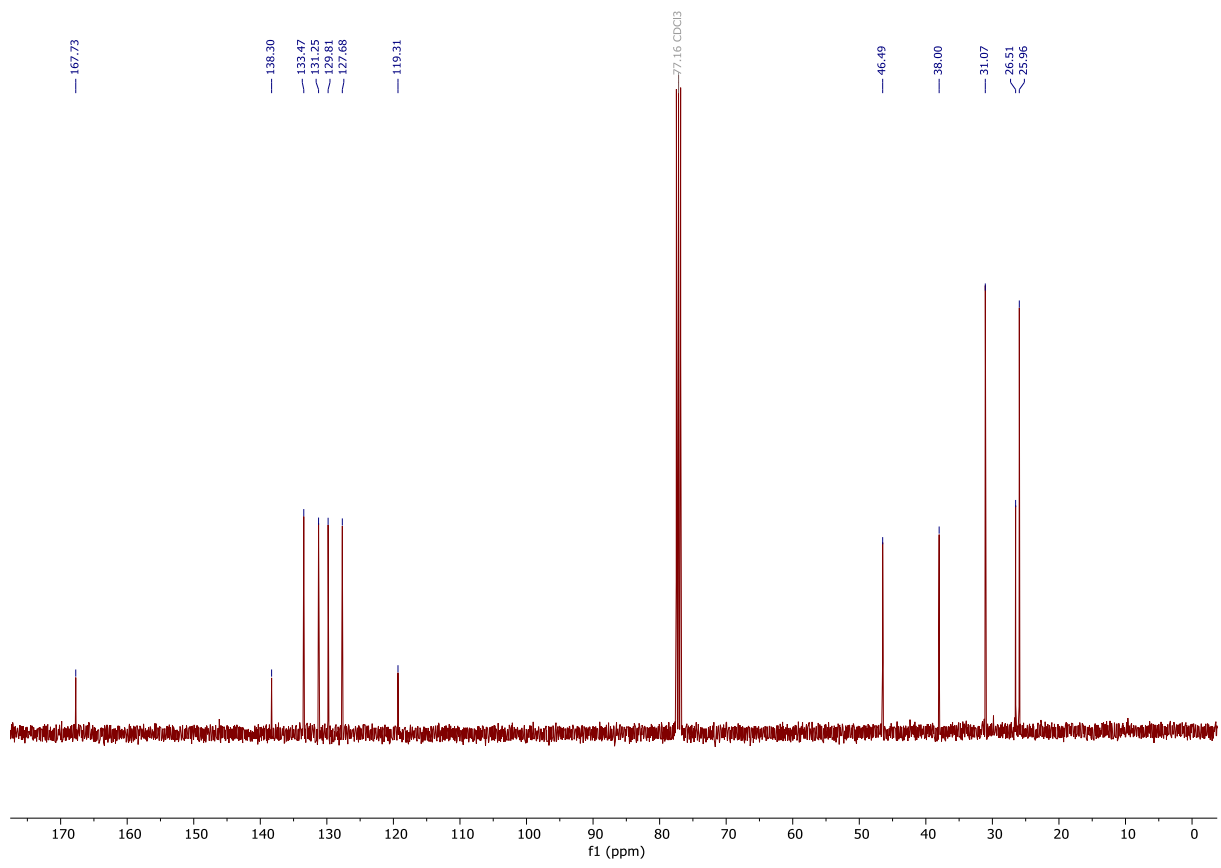
^{13}C NMR of **22** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



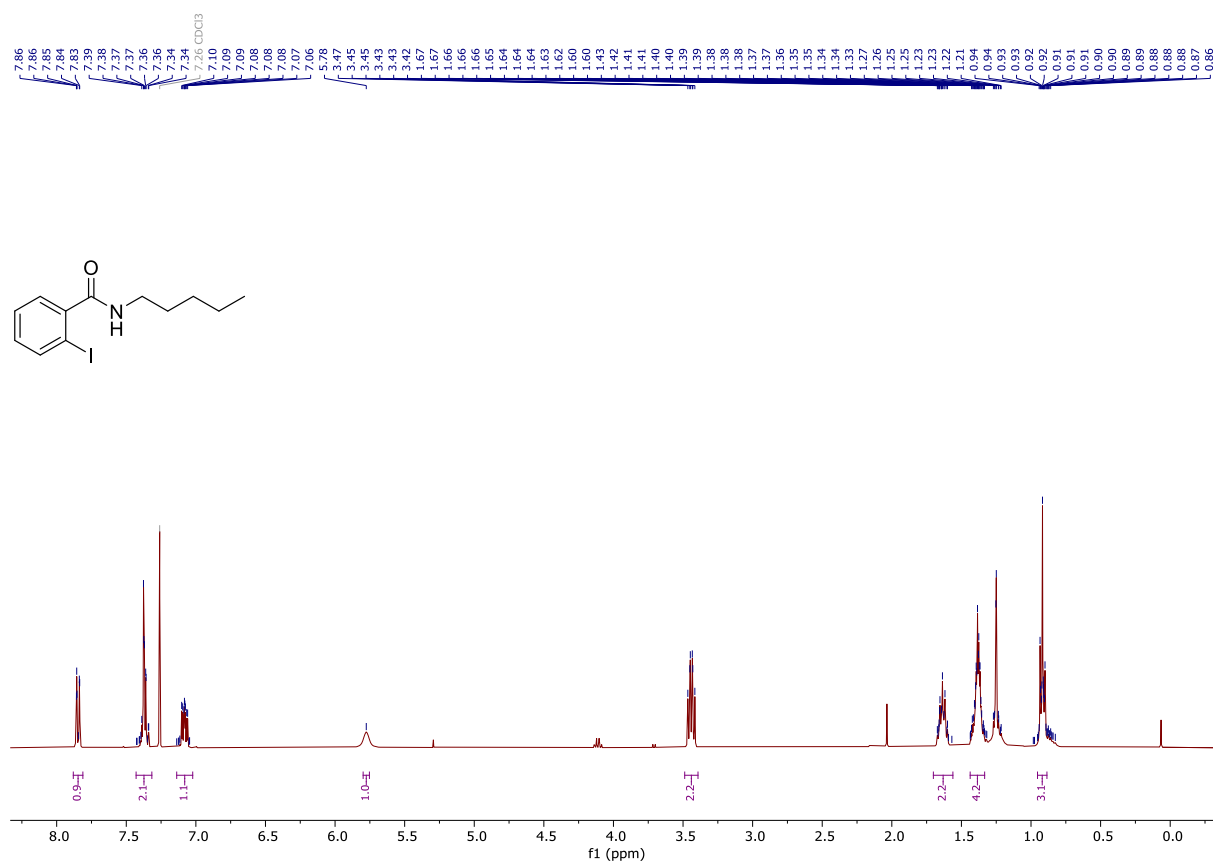
¹H NMR of **23** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



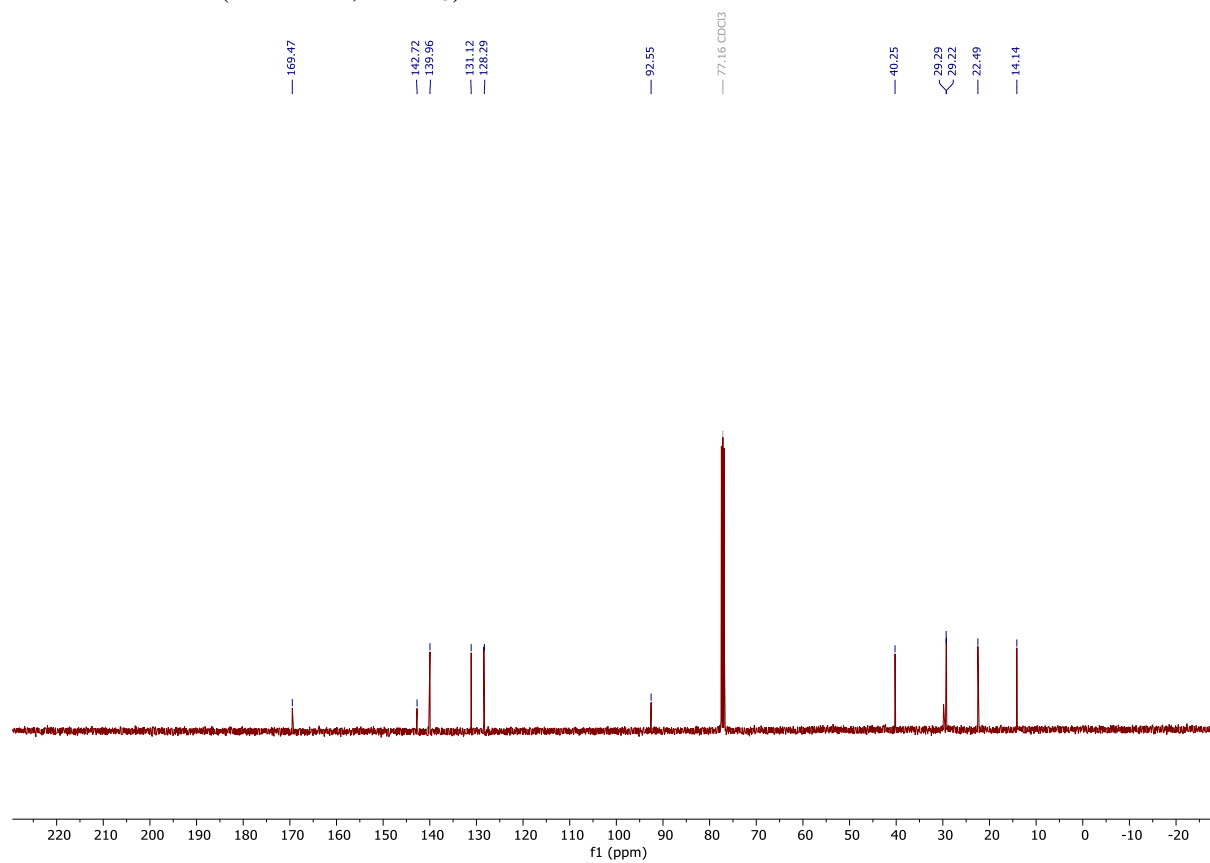
¹³C NMR of **23** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



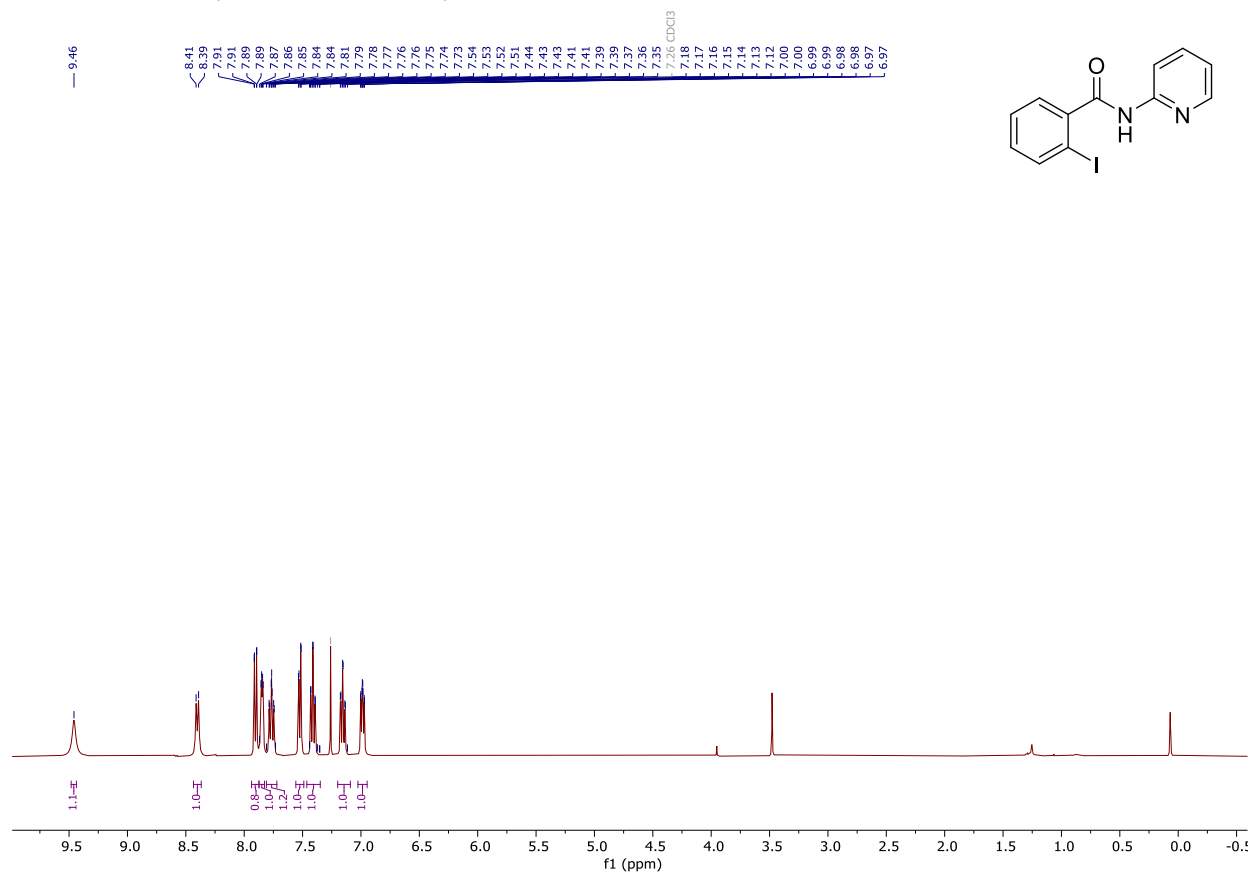
¹H NMR of **24** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



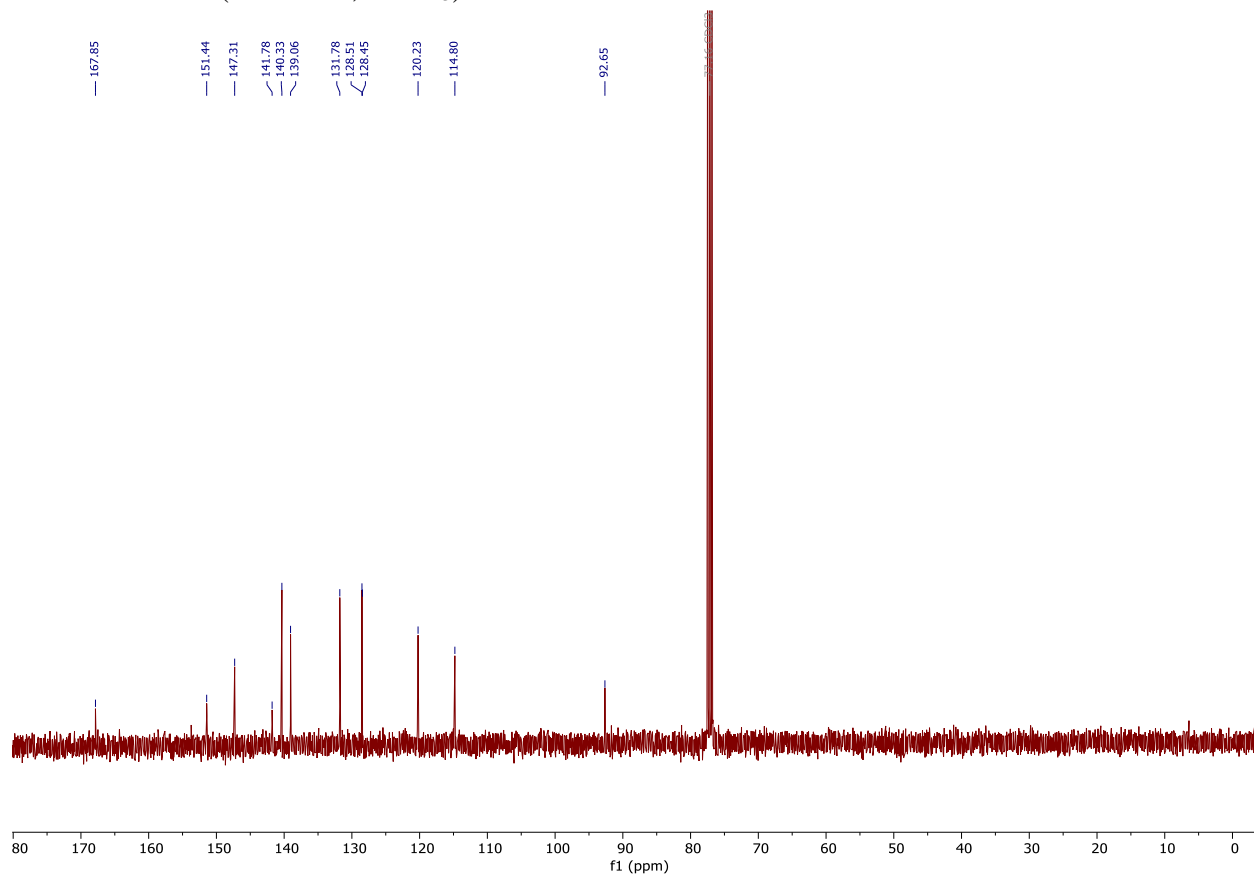
^{13}C NMR of **24** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



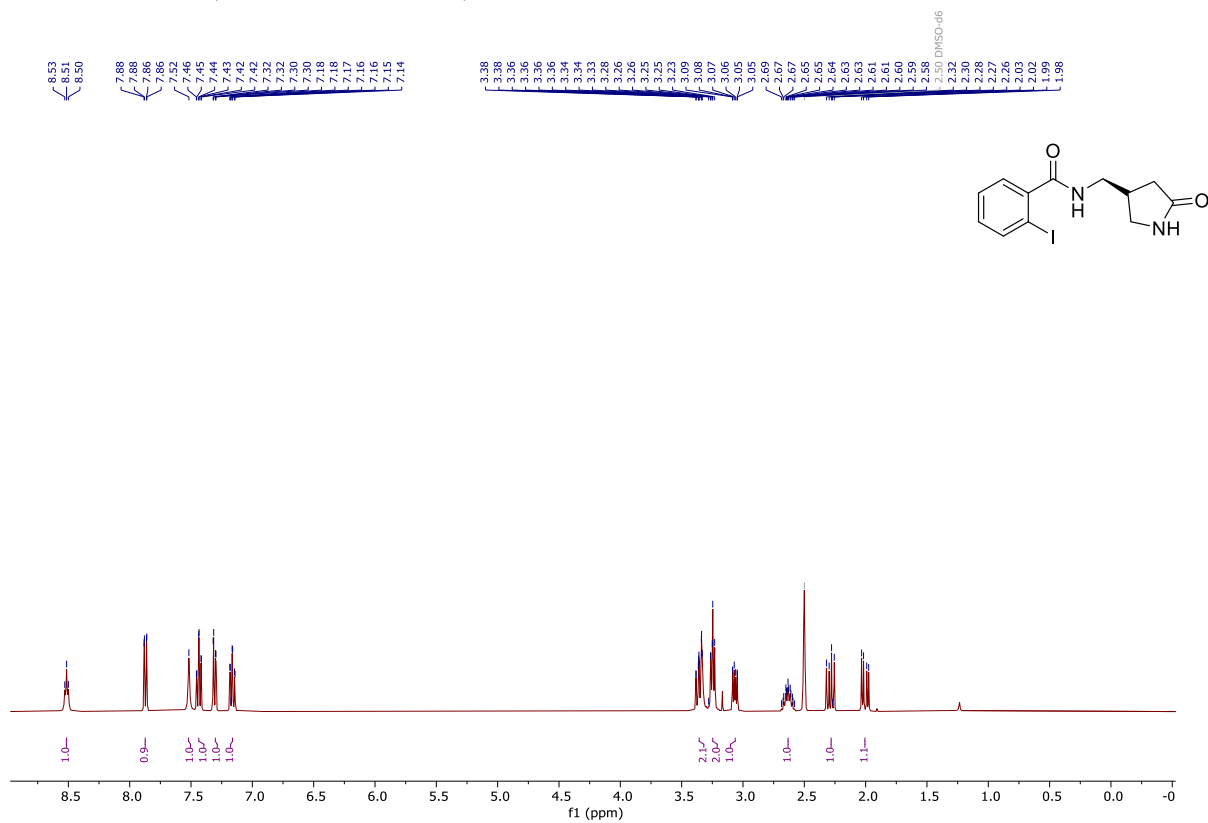
^1H NMR of **25** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



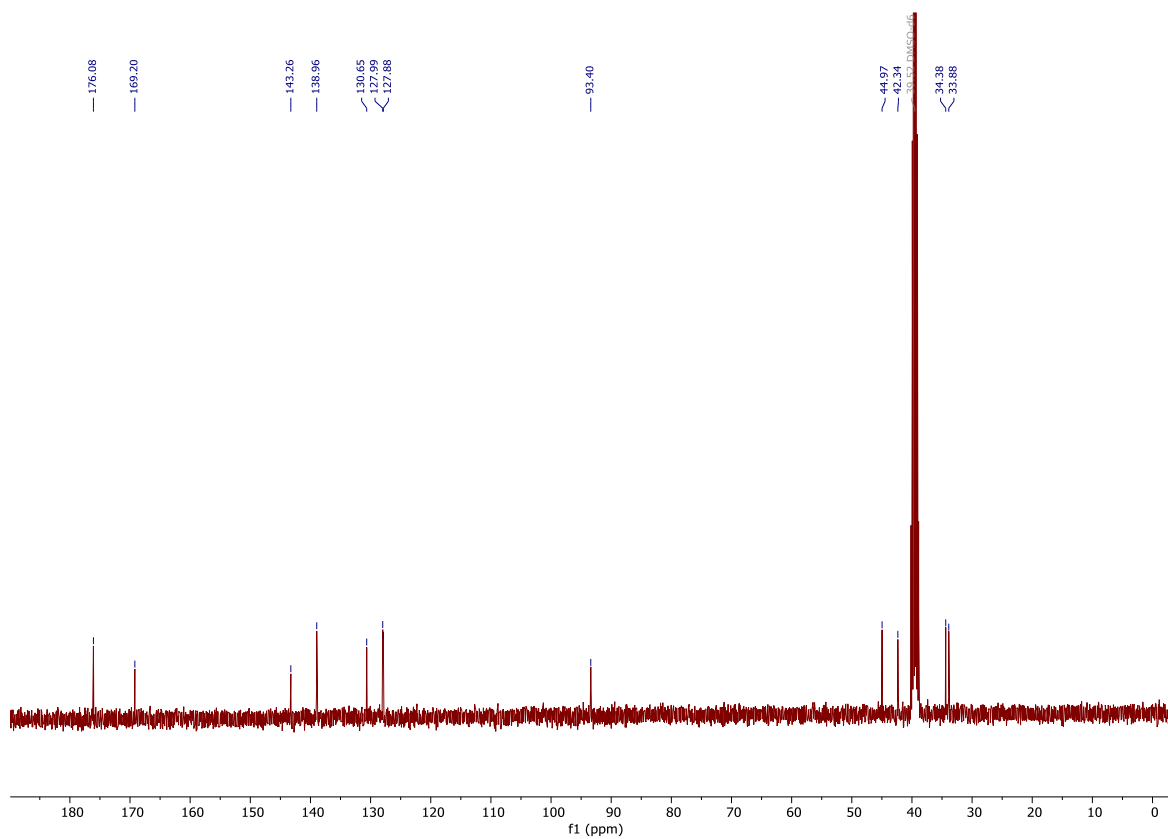
^{13}C NMR of **25** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



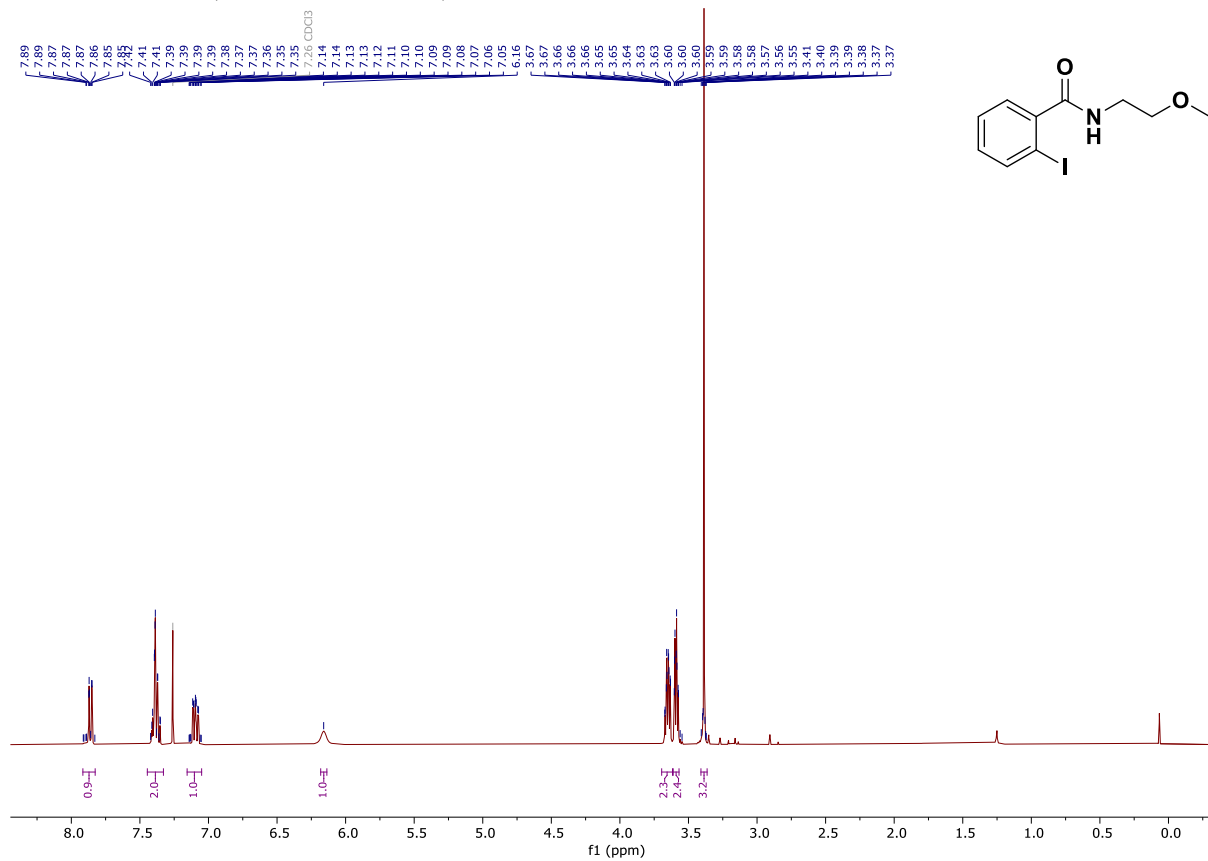
^1H NMR of **26** (400 MHz, $\text{C}_2\text{D}_6\text{OS}$)



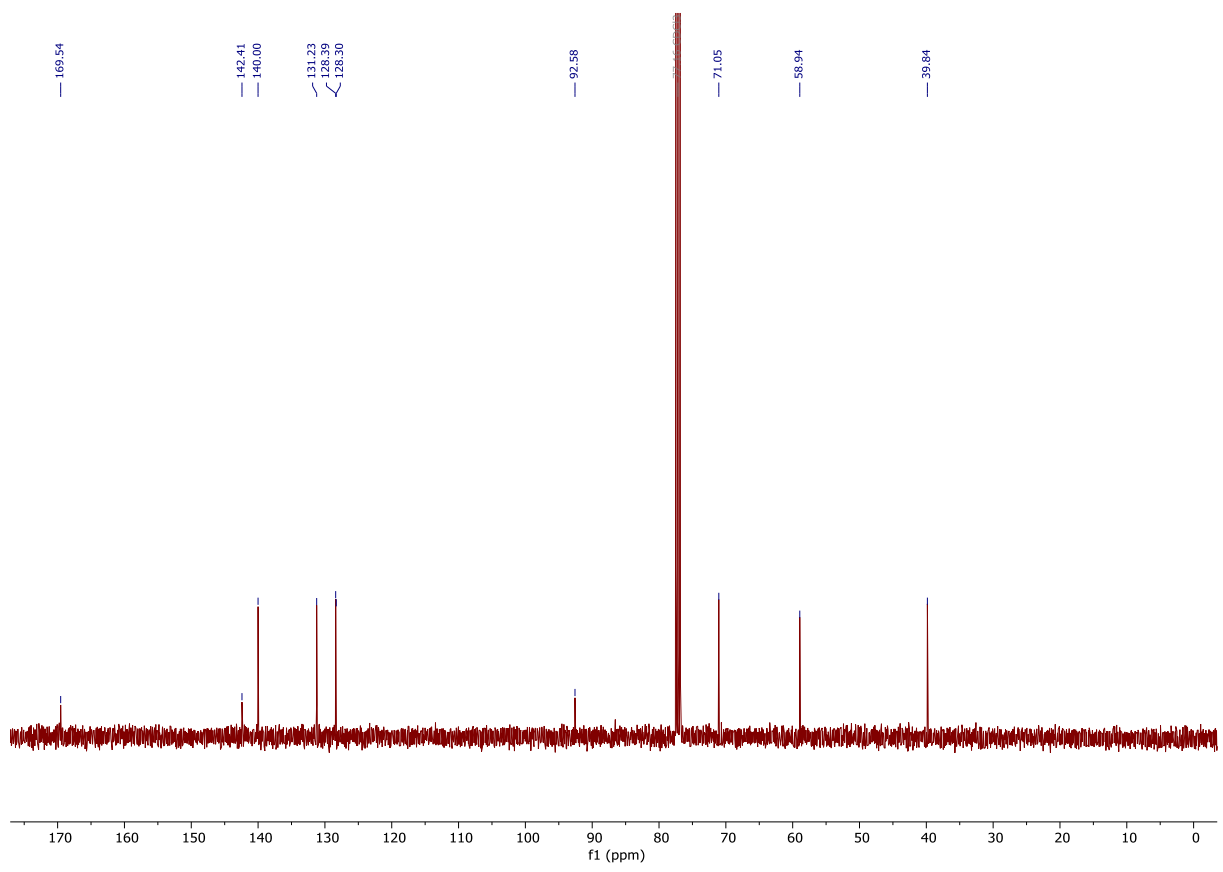
^{13}C NMR of **26** (101 MHz, $\text{C}_2\text{D}_6\text{OS}$)



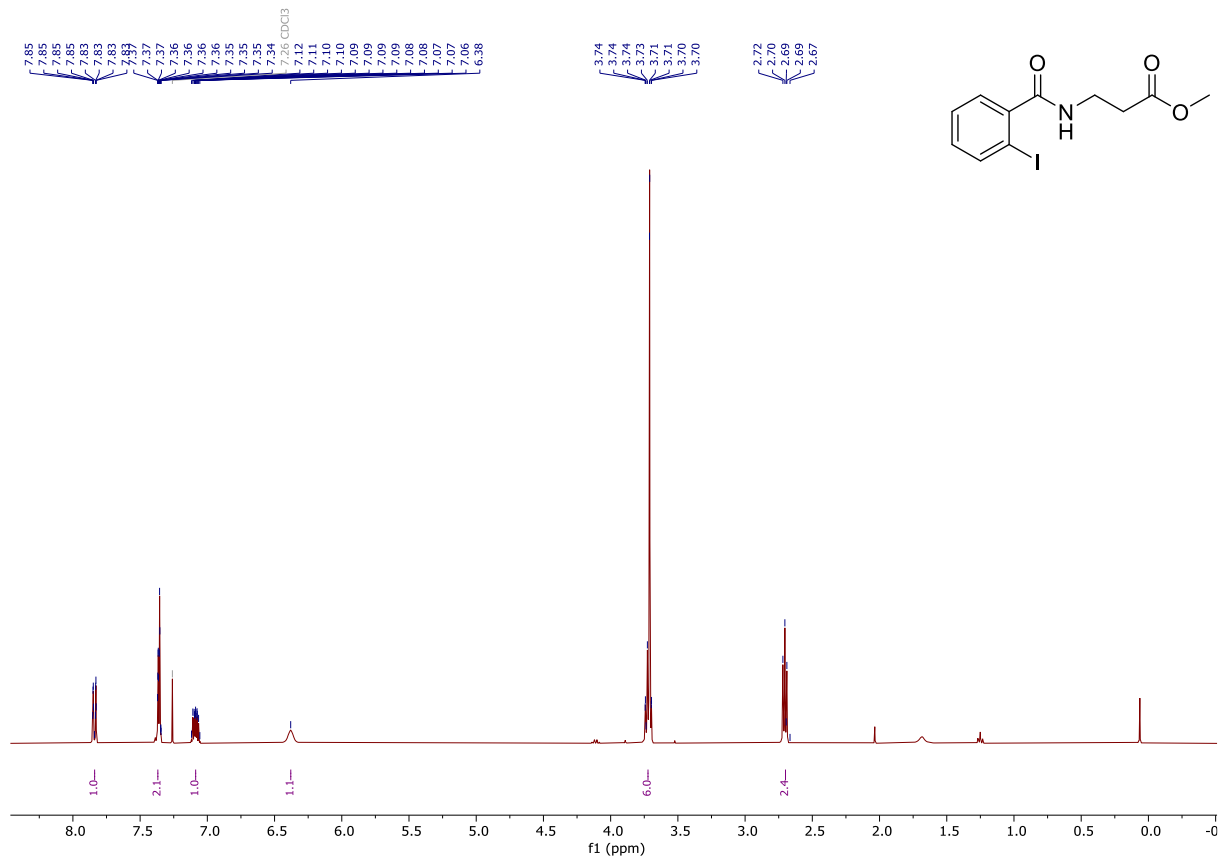
^1H NMR of **27** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



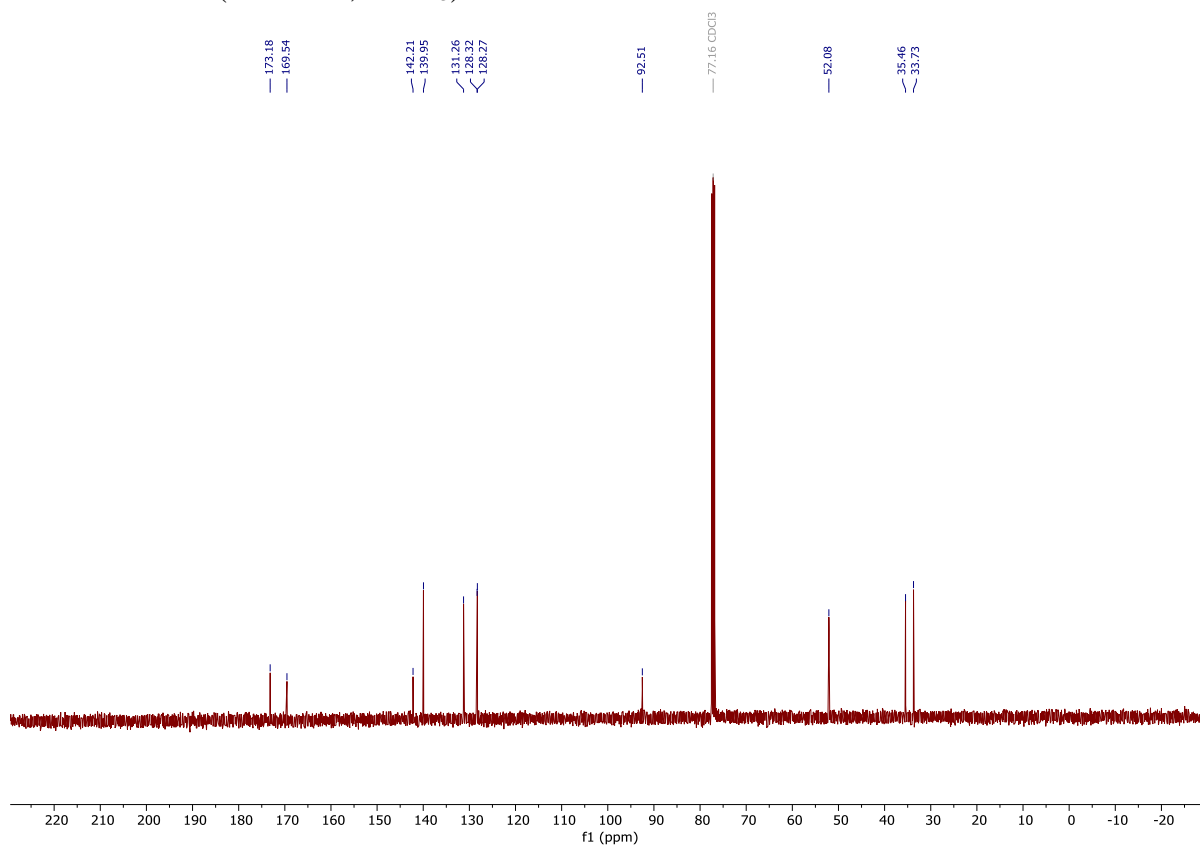
^{13}C NMR of **27** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



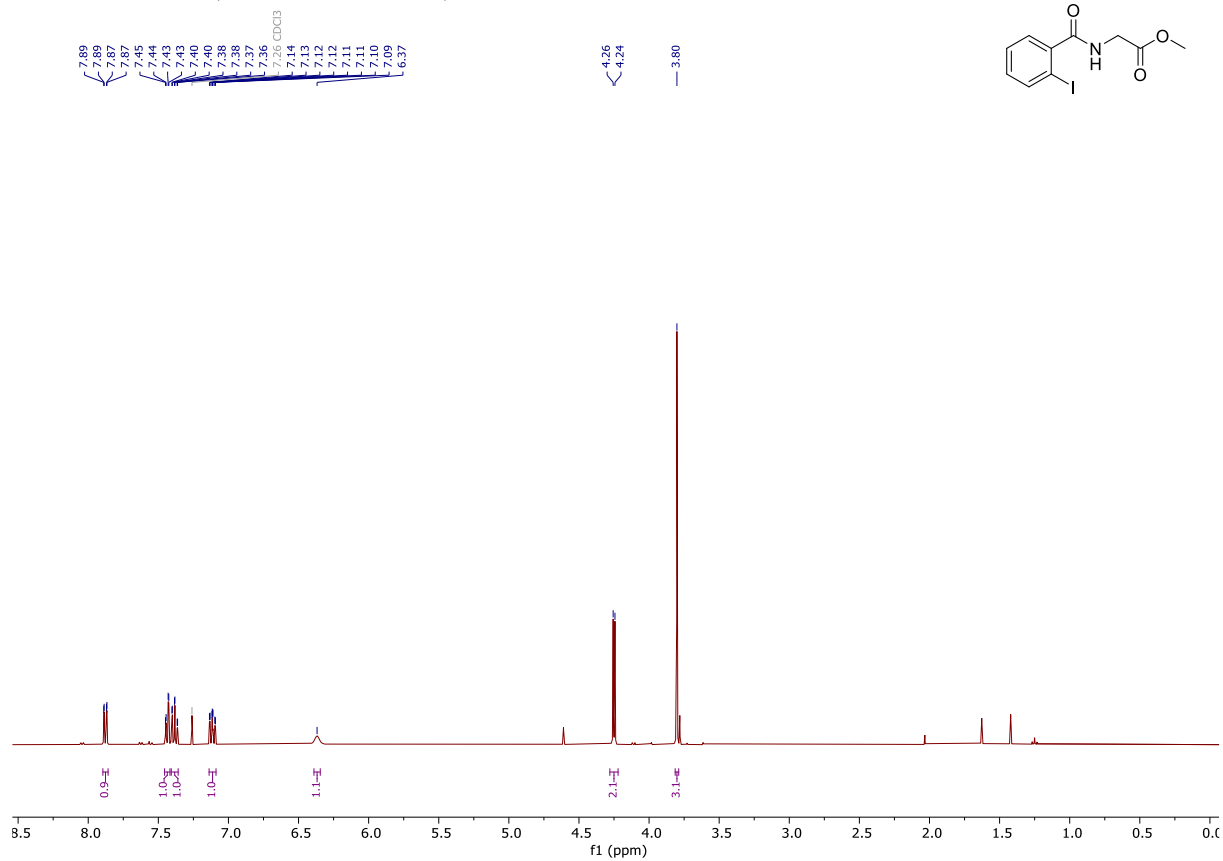
¹H NMR of **28** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



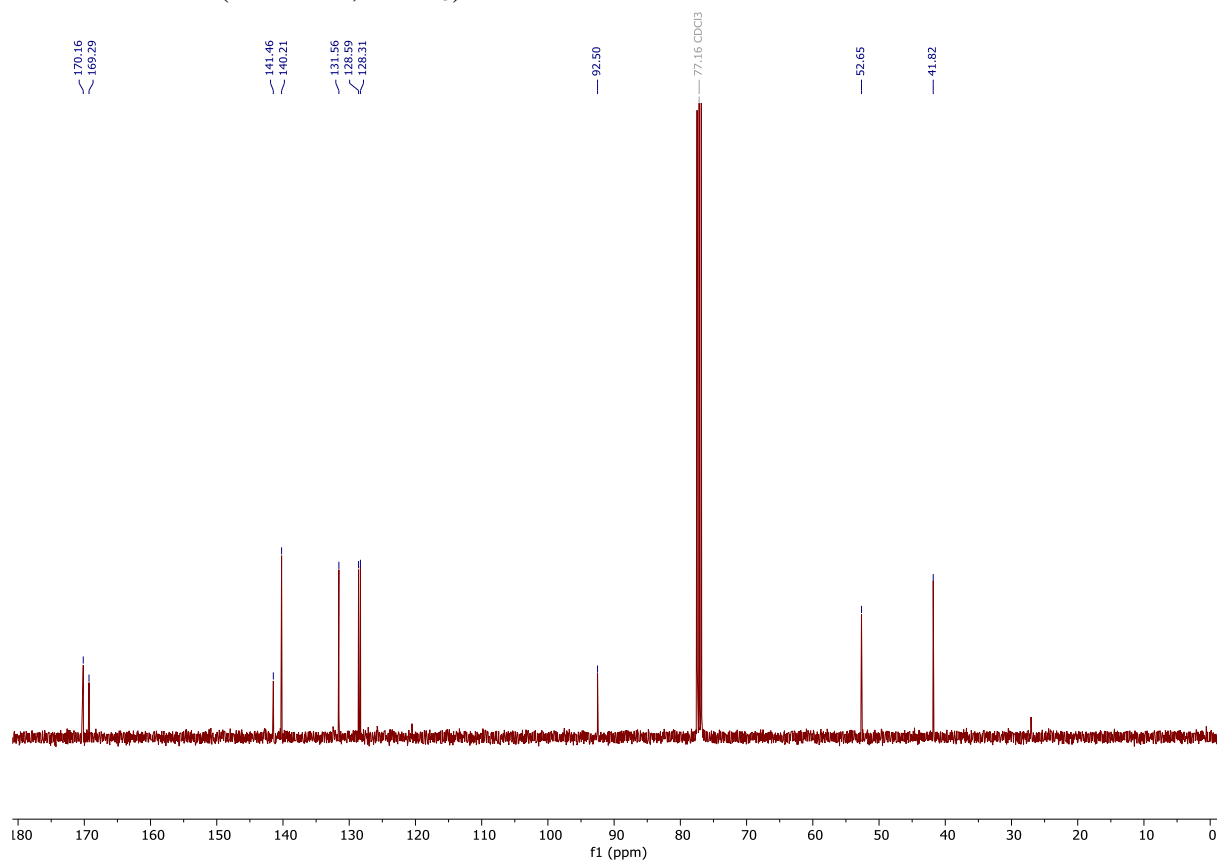
¹³C NMR of **28** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



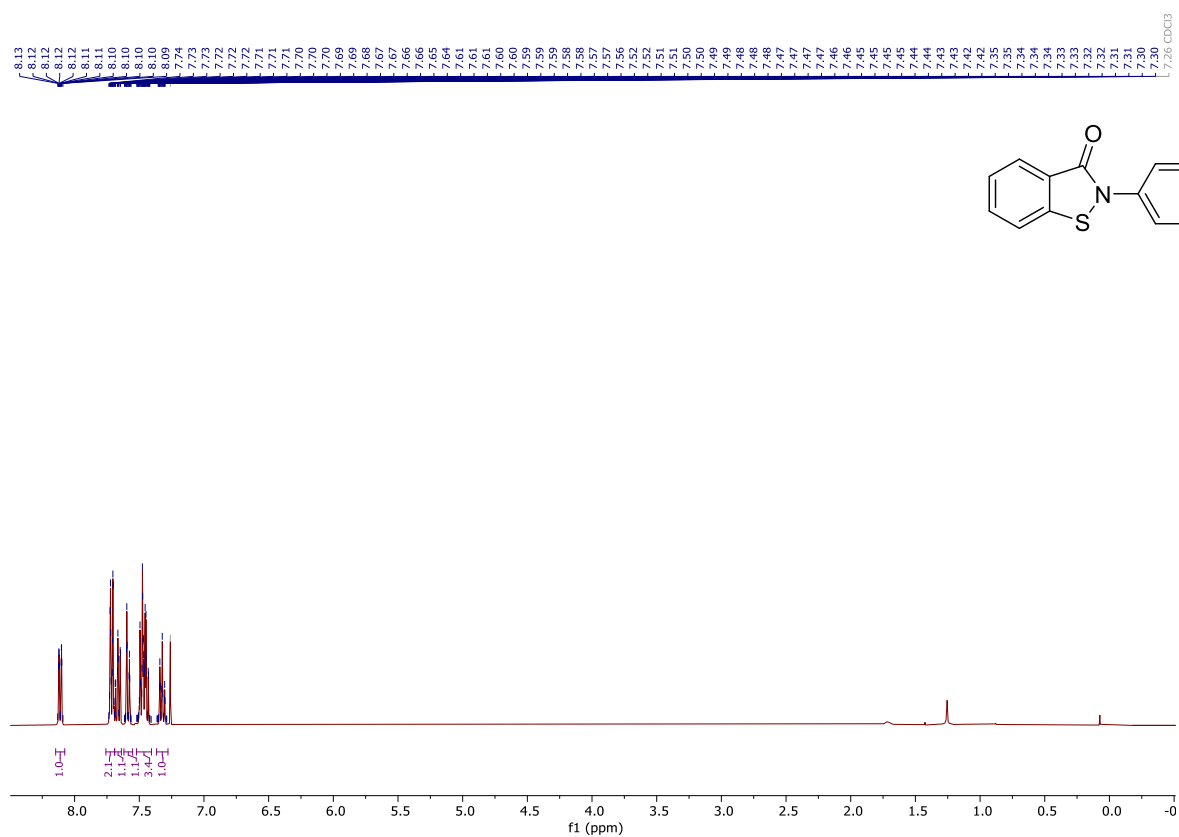
^1H NMR of **29** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



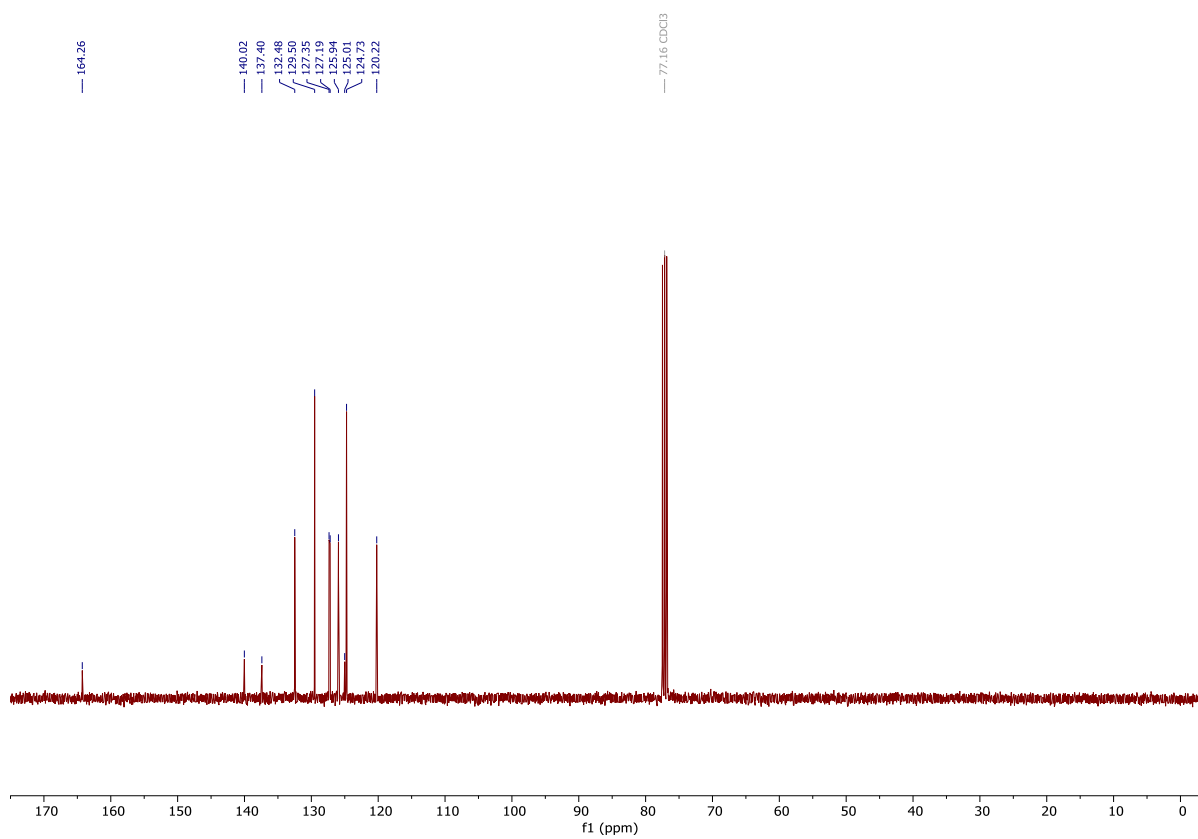
^{13}C NMR of **29** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



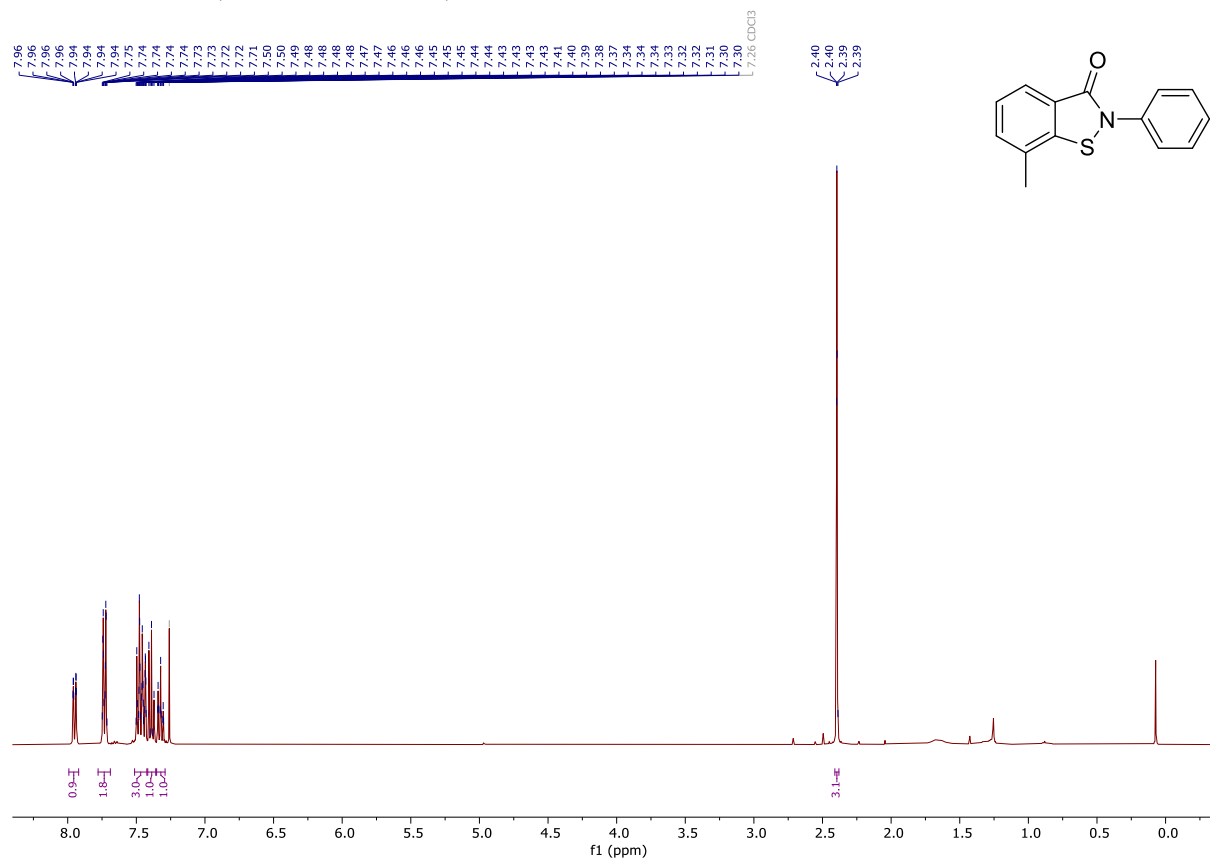
¹H NMR of **3a** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



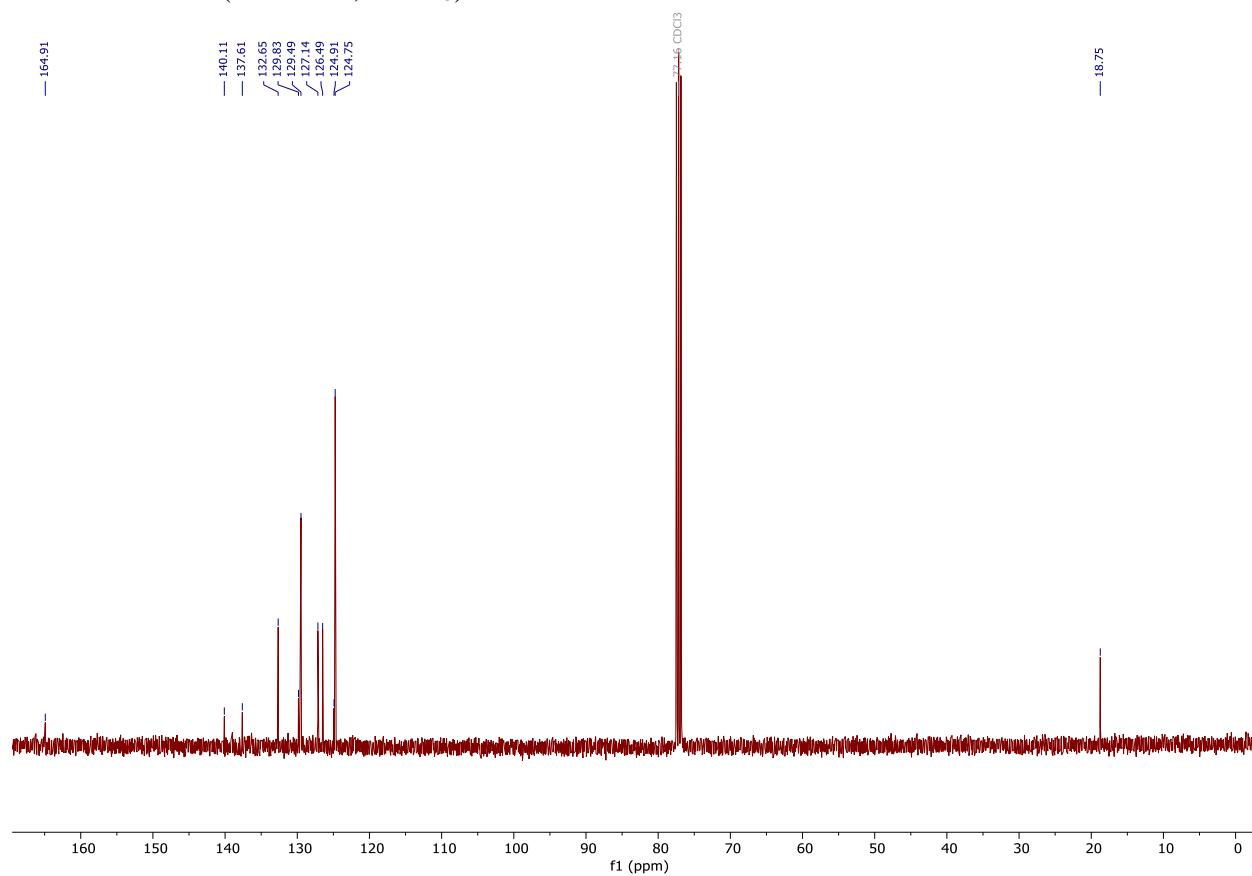
¹³C NMR of **3a** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



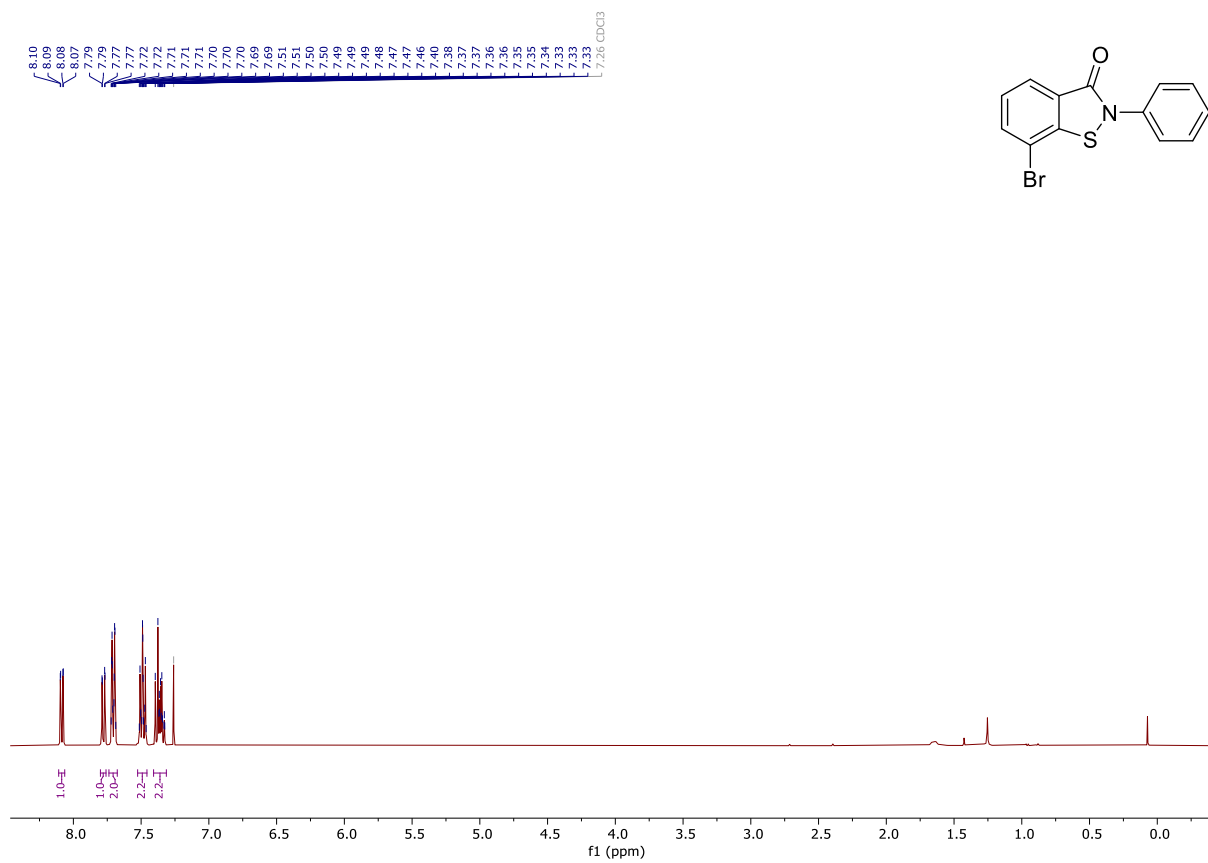
^1H NMR of **3b** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



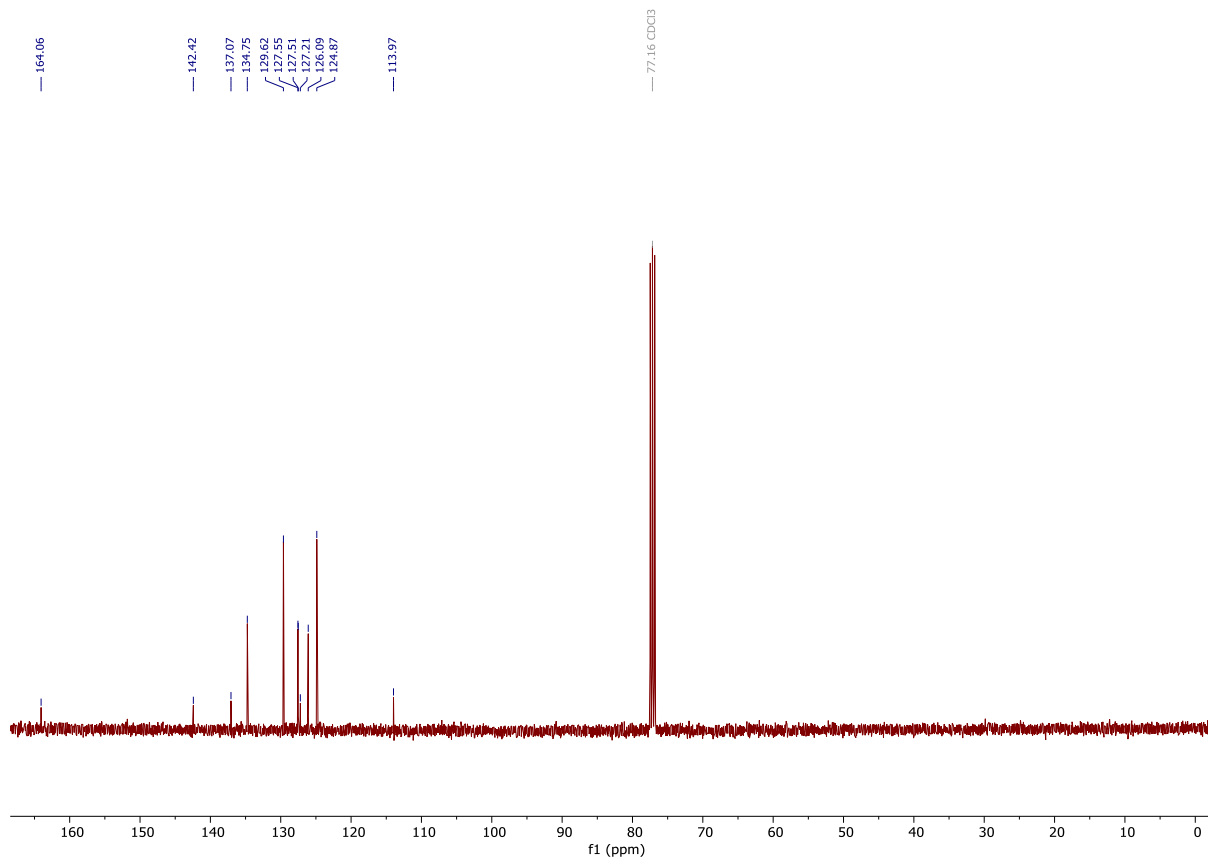
^{13}C NMR of **3b** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



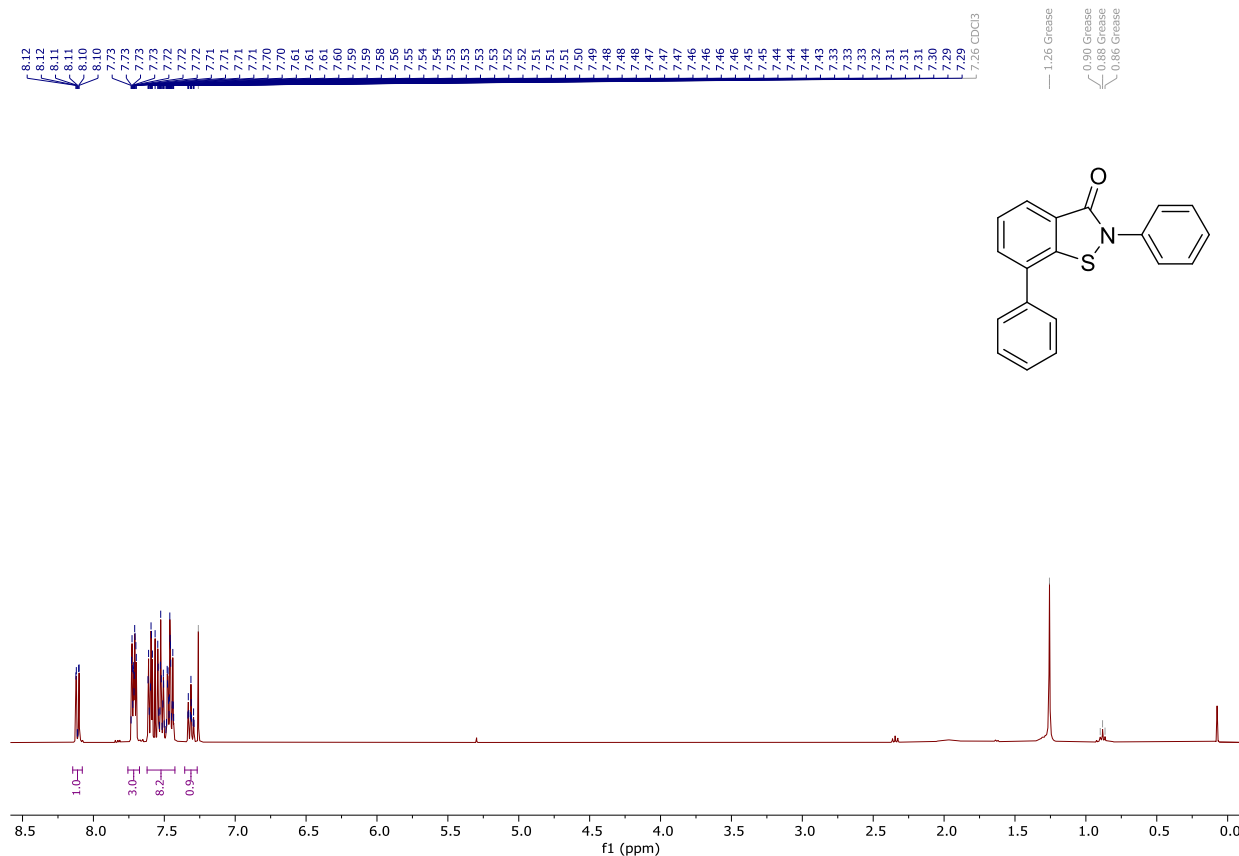
^1H NMR of **3c** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



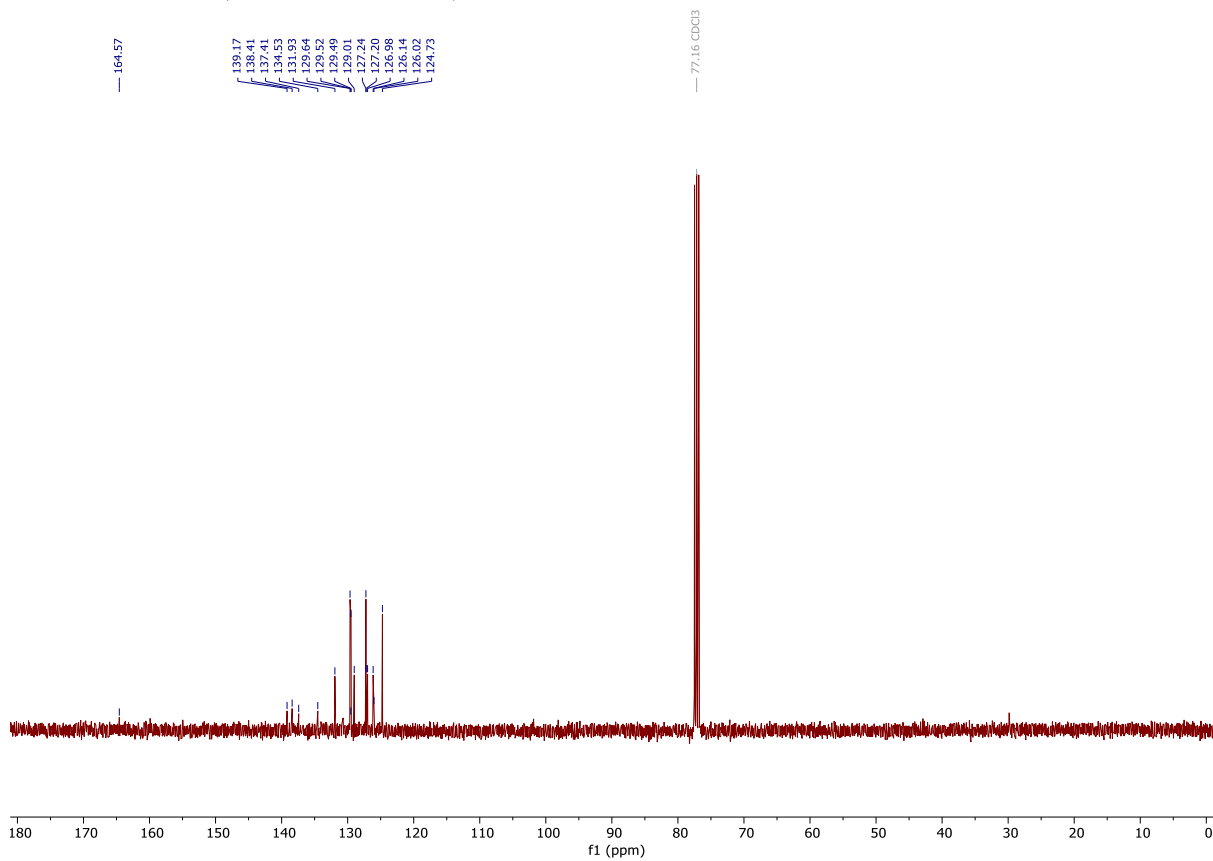
¹³C NMR of **3c** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



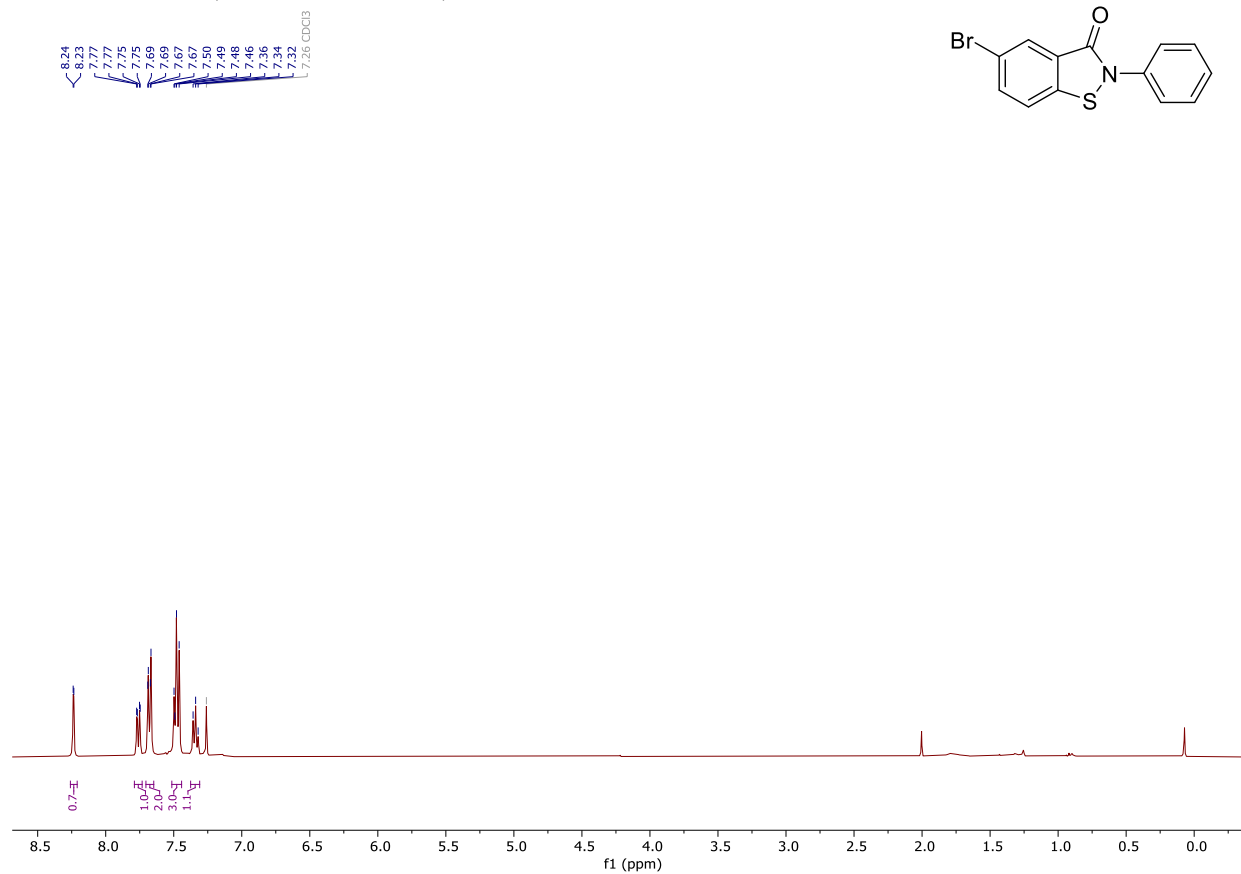
^1H NMR of **3d** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



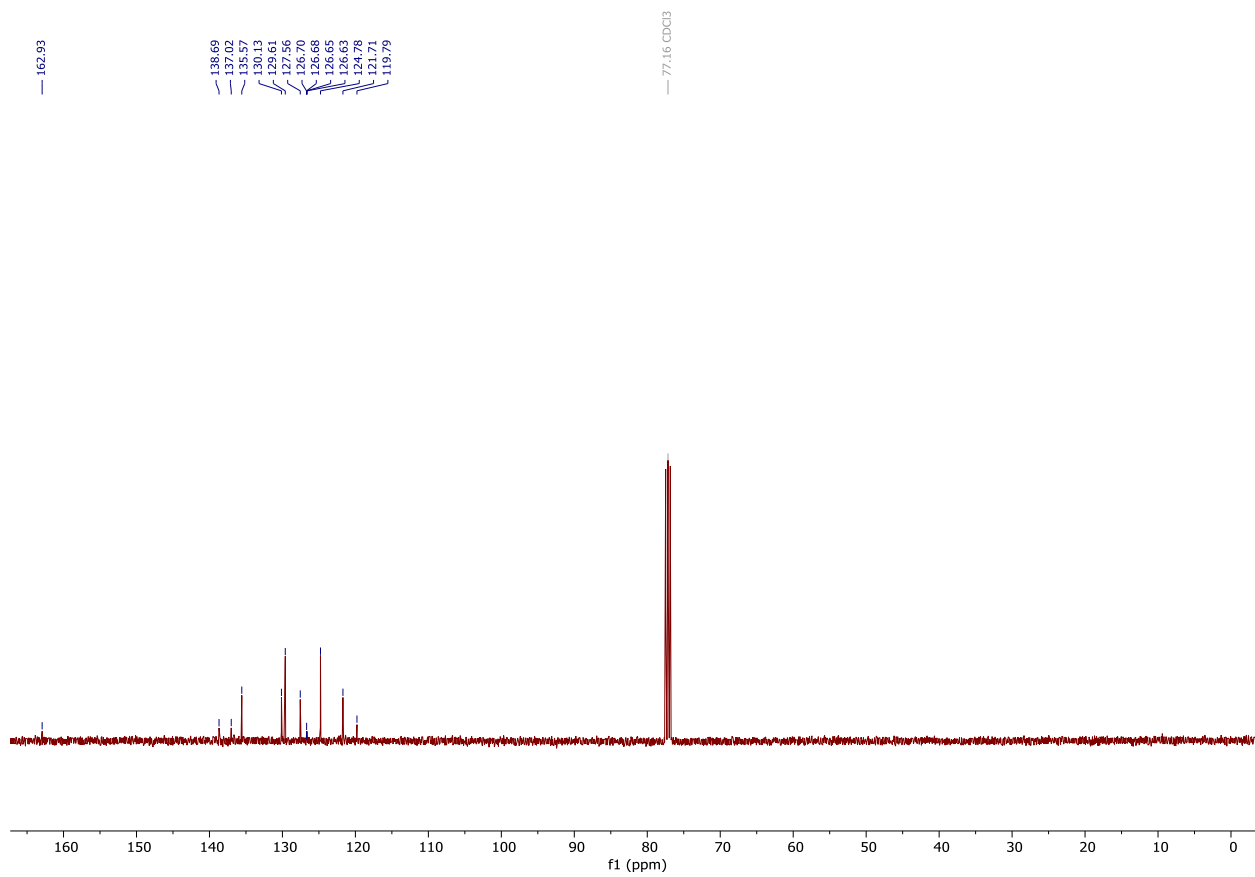
^{13}C NMR of **3d** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



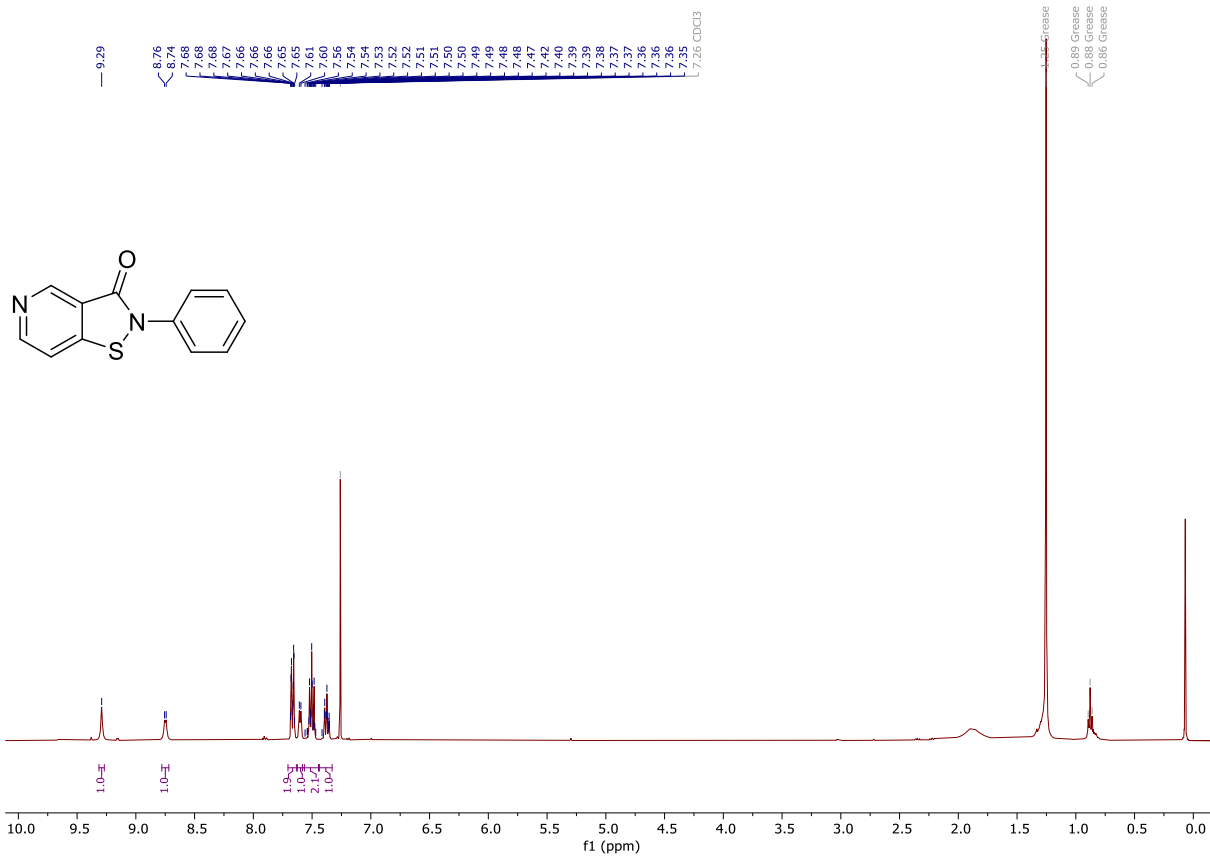
^1H NMR of **3e** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



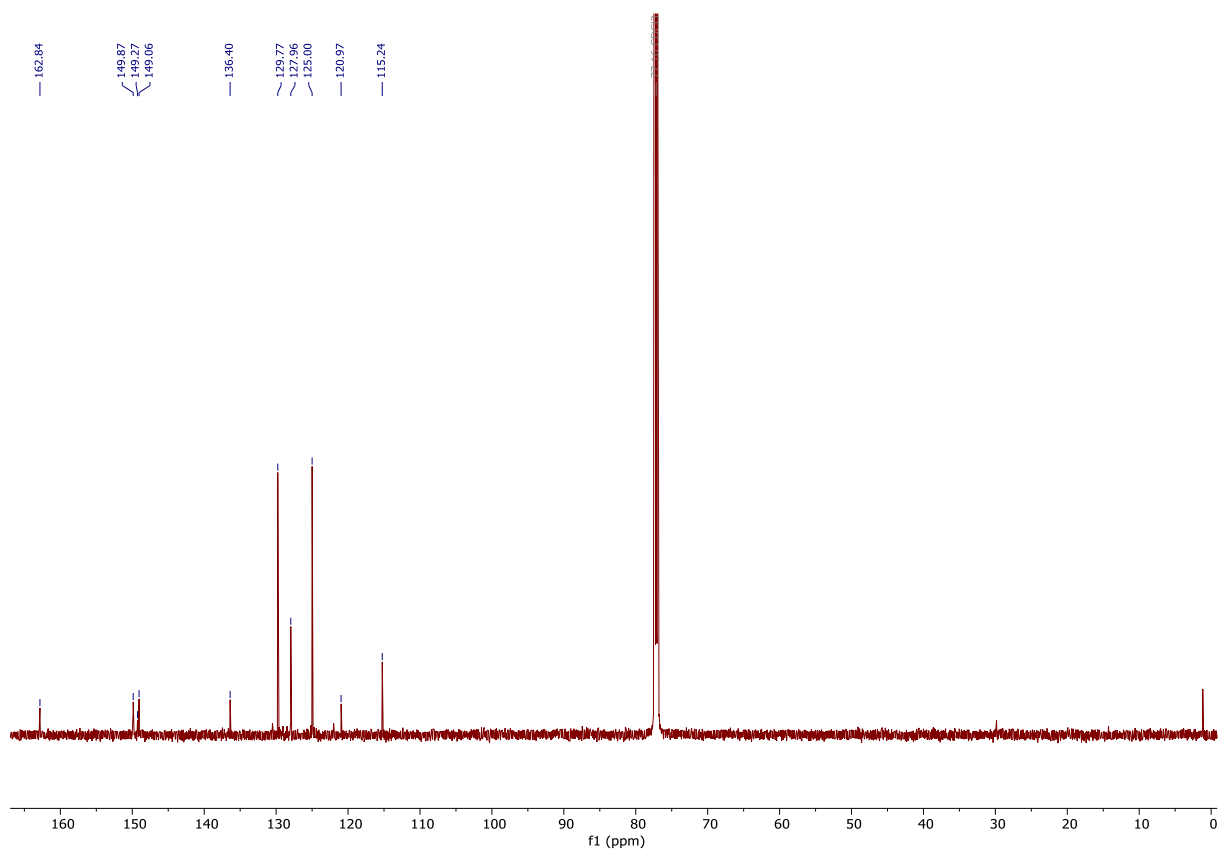
^{13}C NMR of **3e** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



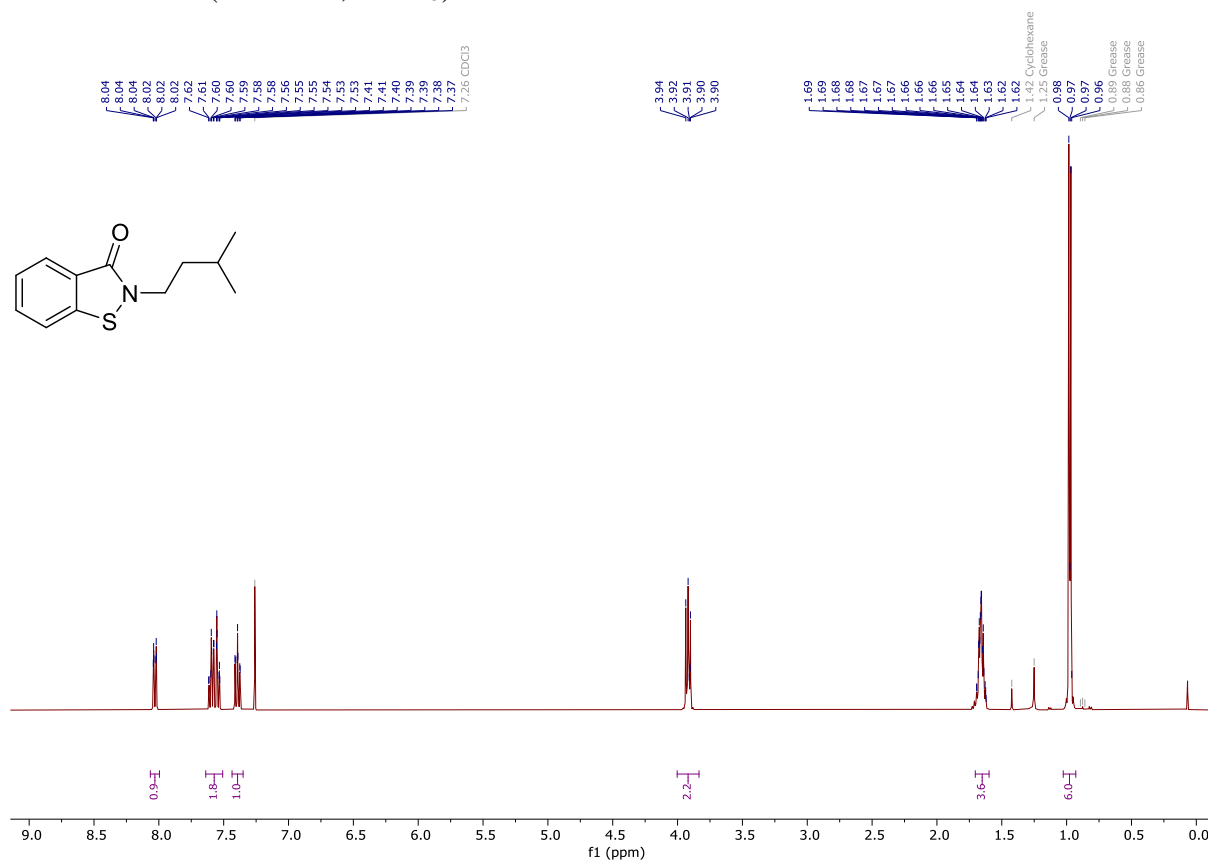
¹H NMR of **3f** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



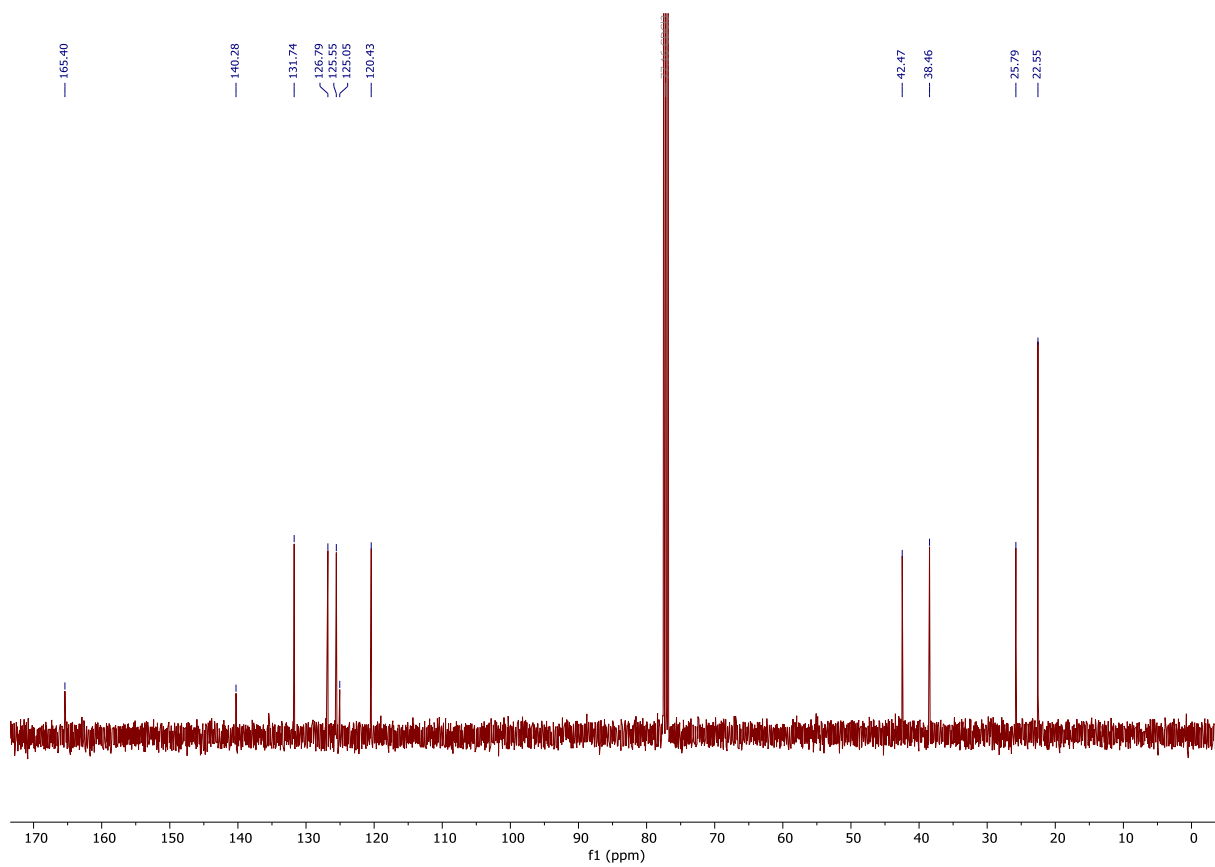
^{13}C NMR of **3f** (151 MHz, CDCl_3)



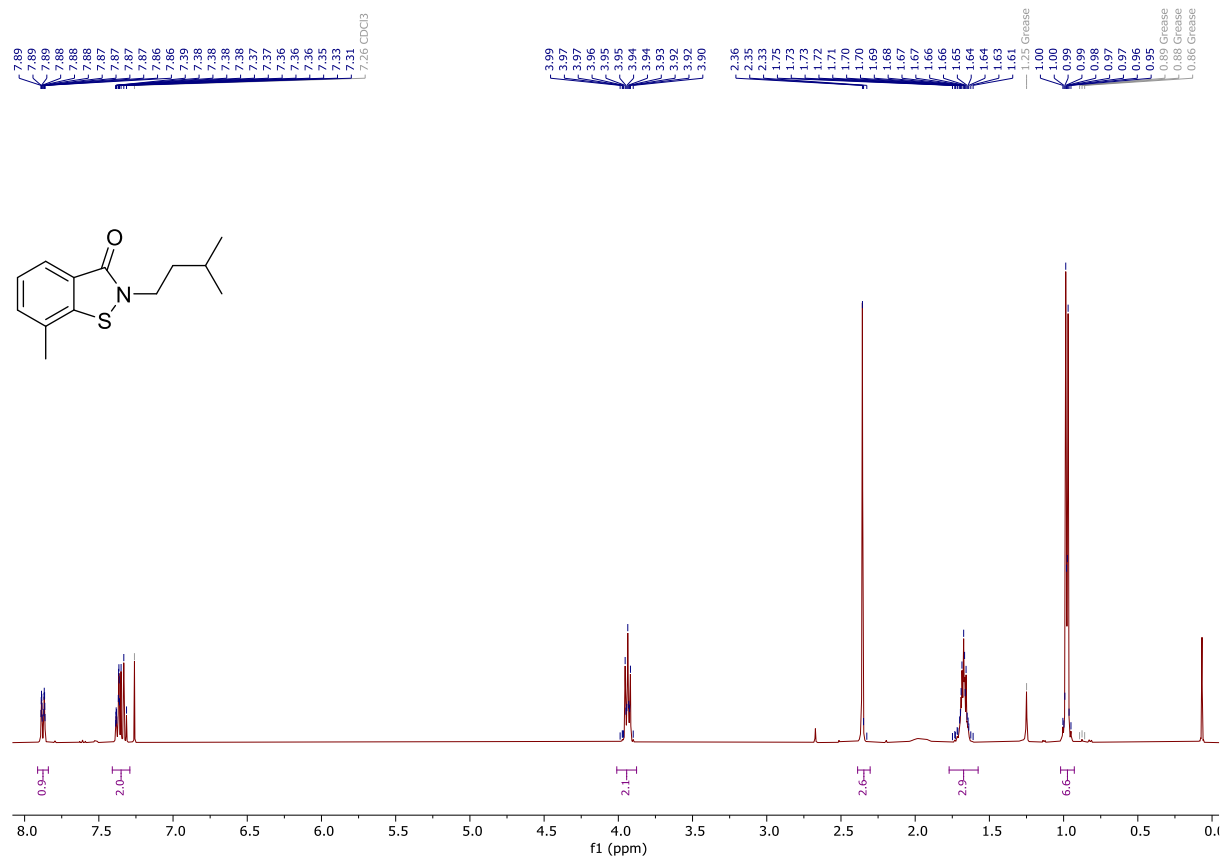
^1H NMR of **4a** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



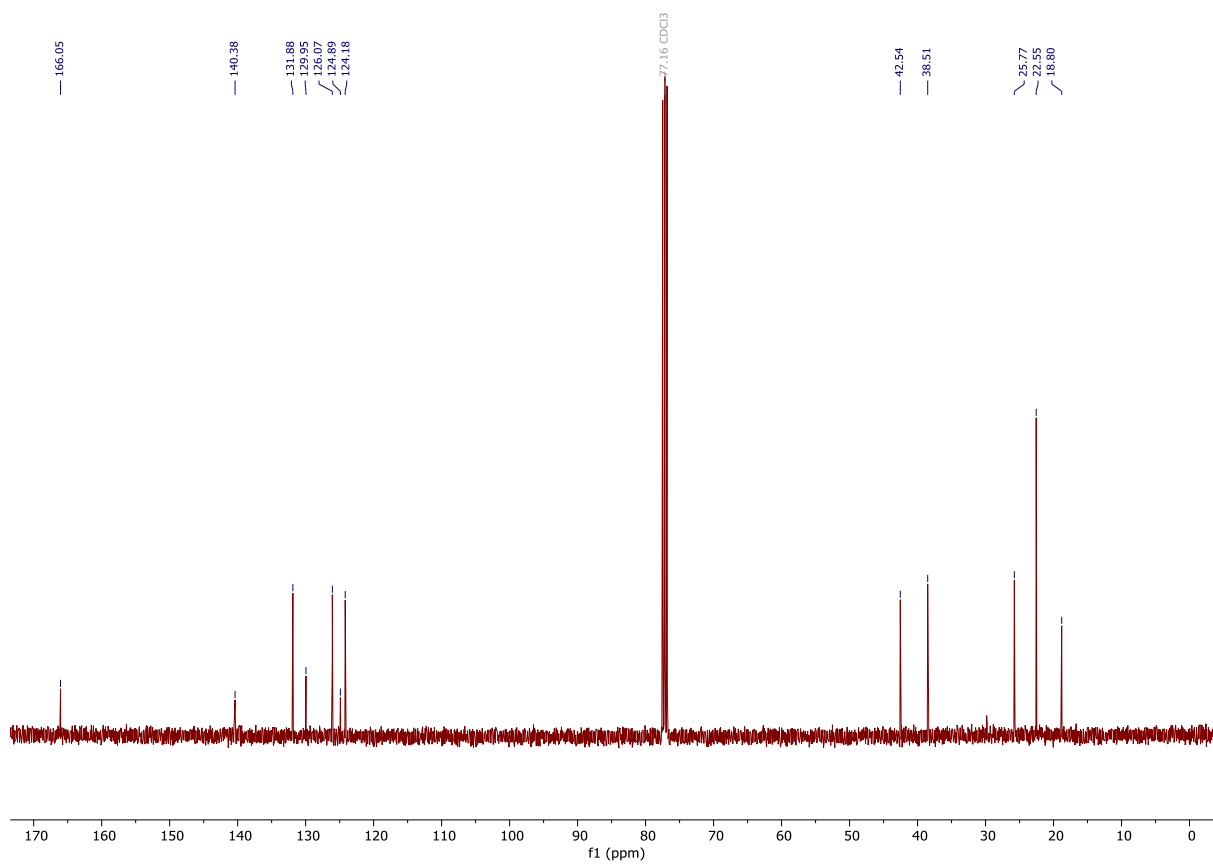
^{13}C NMR of **4a** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



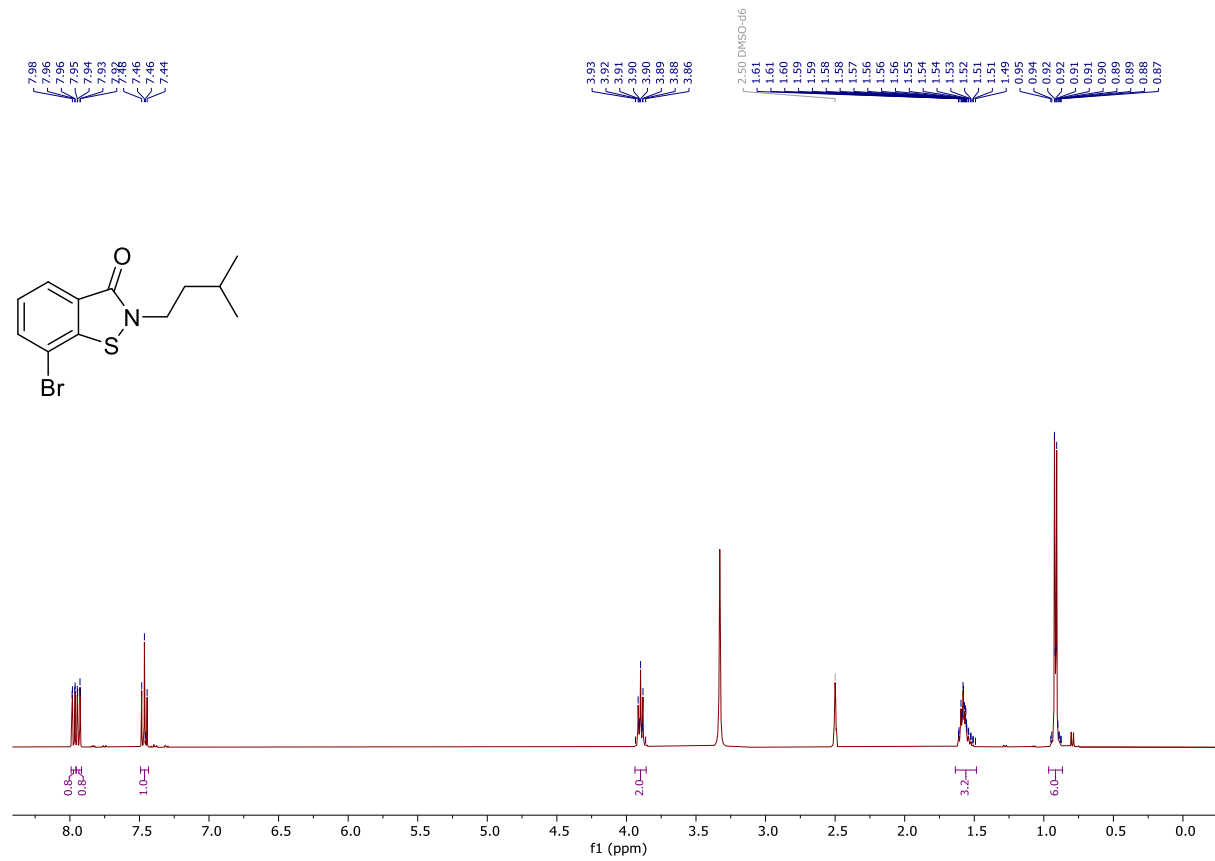
¹H NMR of **4b** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



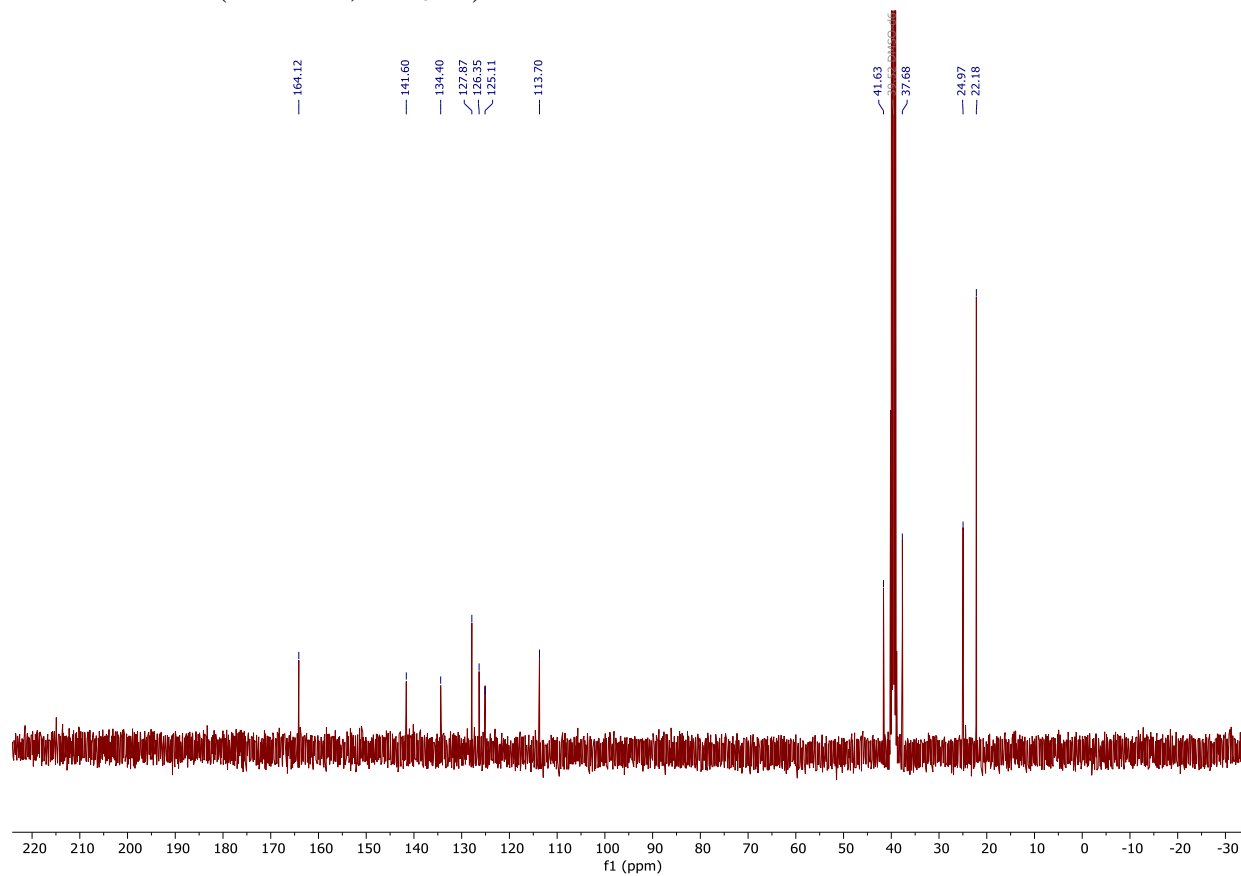
¹³C NMR of **4b** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



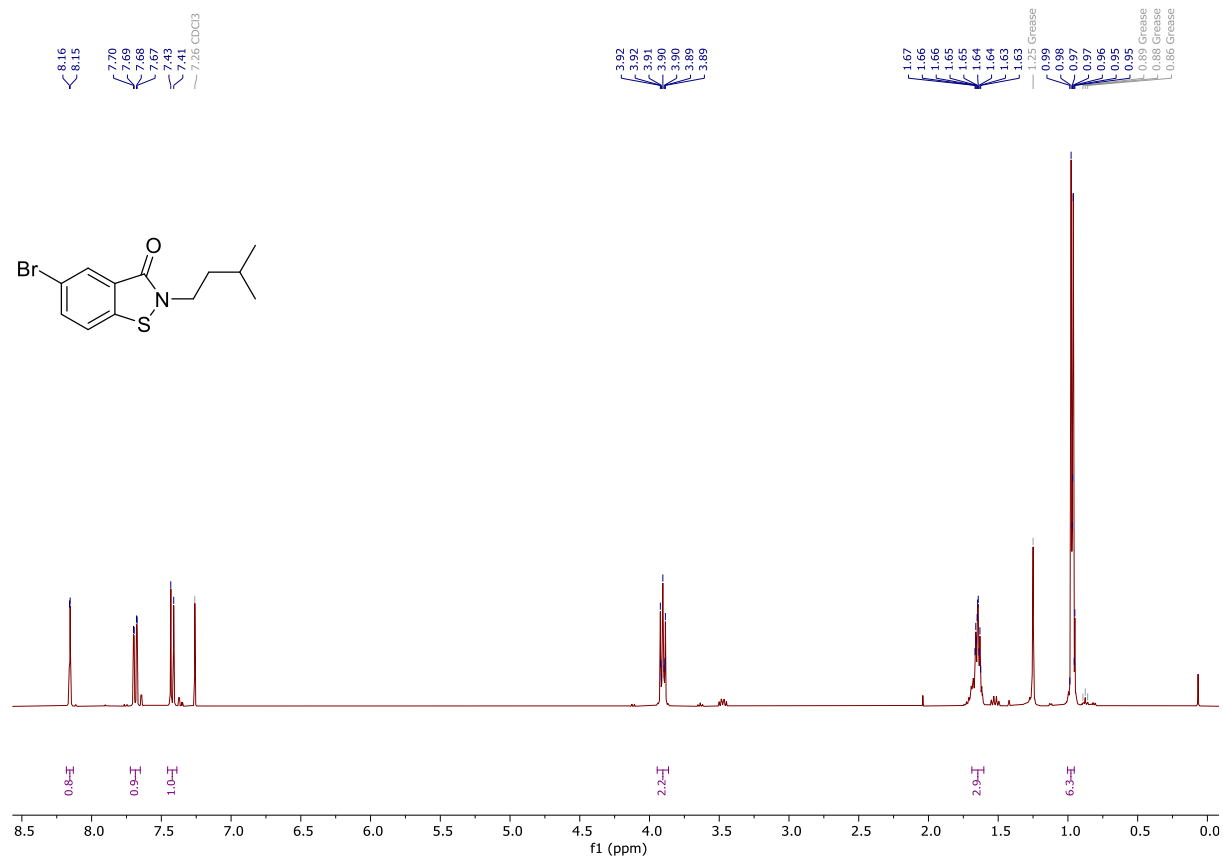
^1H NMR of **4c** (400 MHz, $\text{C}_2\text{D}_6\text{OS}$)



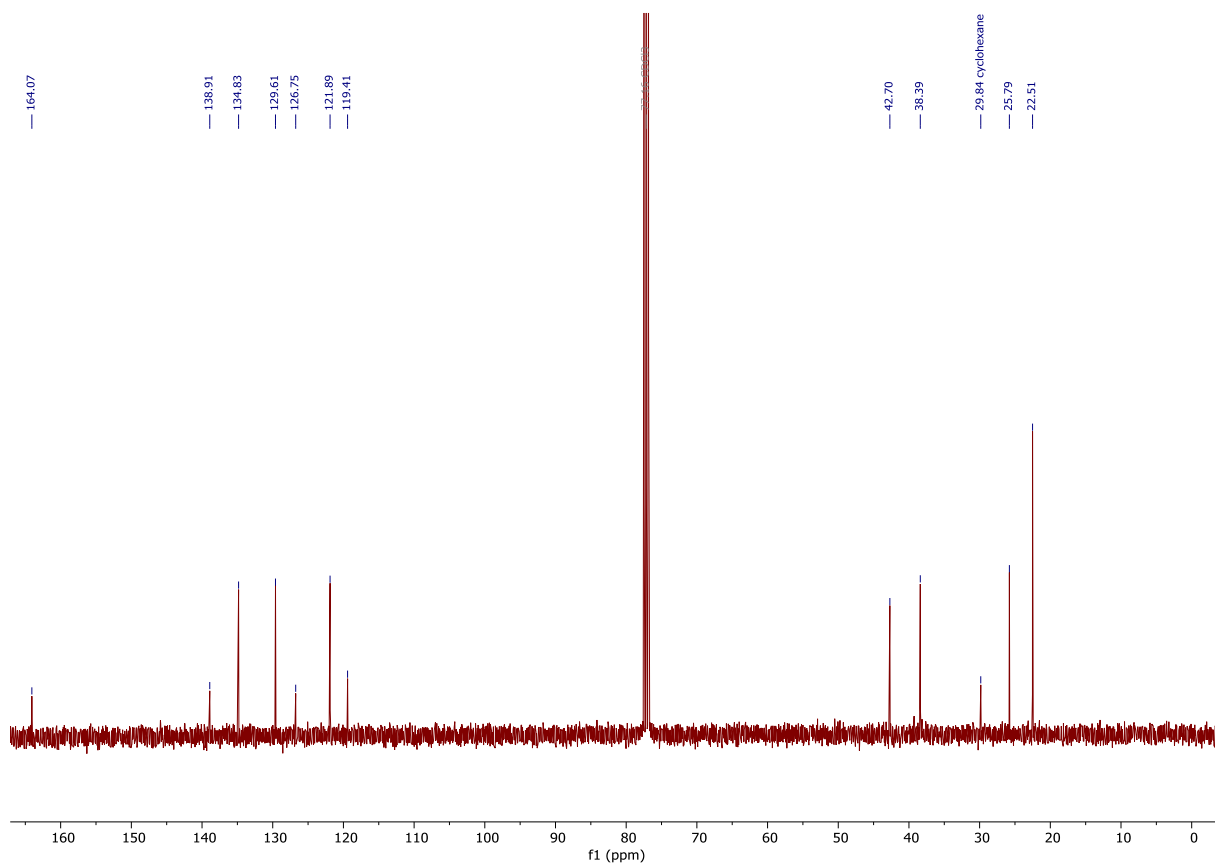
^{13}C NMR of **4c** (101 MHz, $\text{C}_2\text{D}_6\text{OS}$)



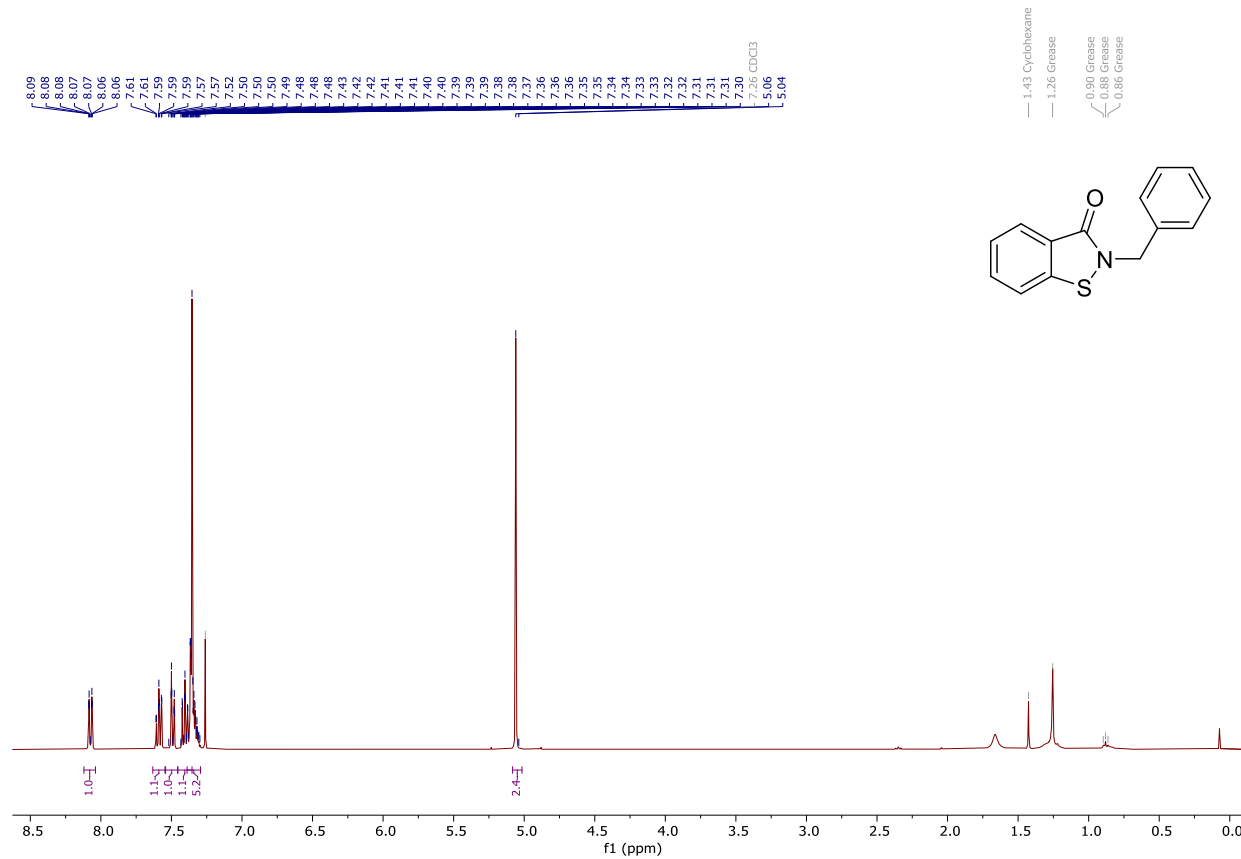
^1H NMR of **4d** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



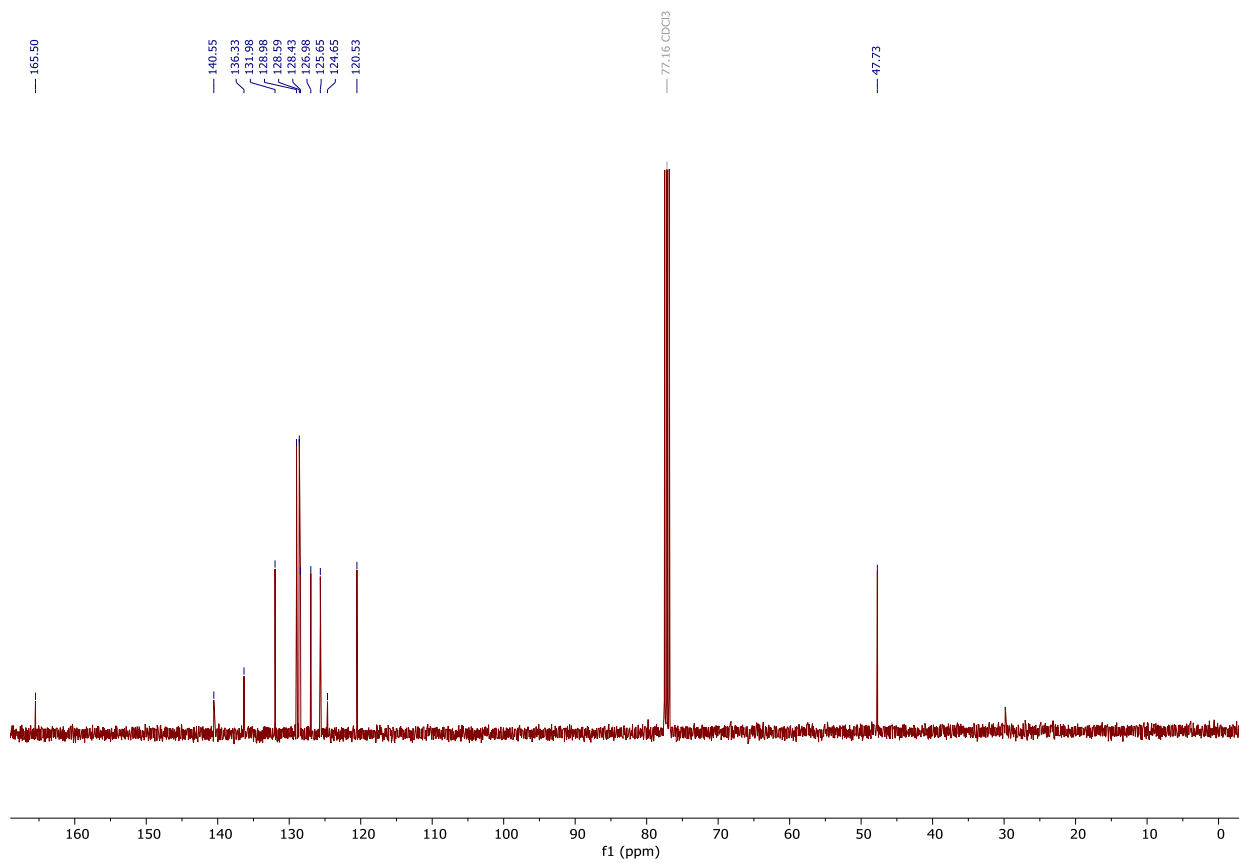
^{13}C NMR of **4d** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



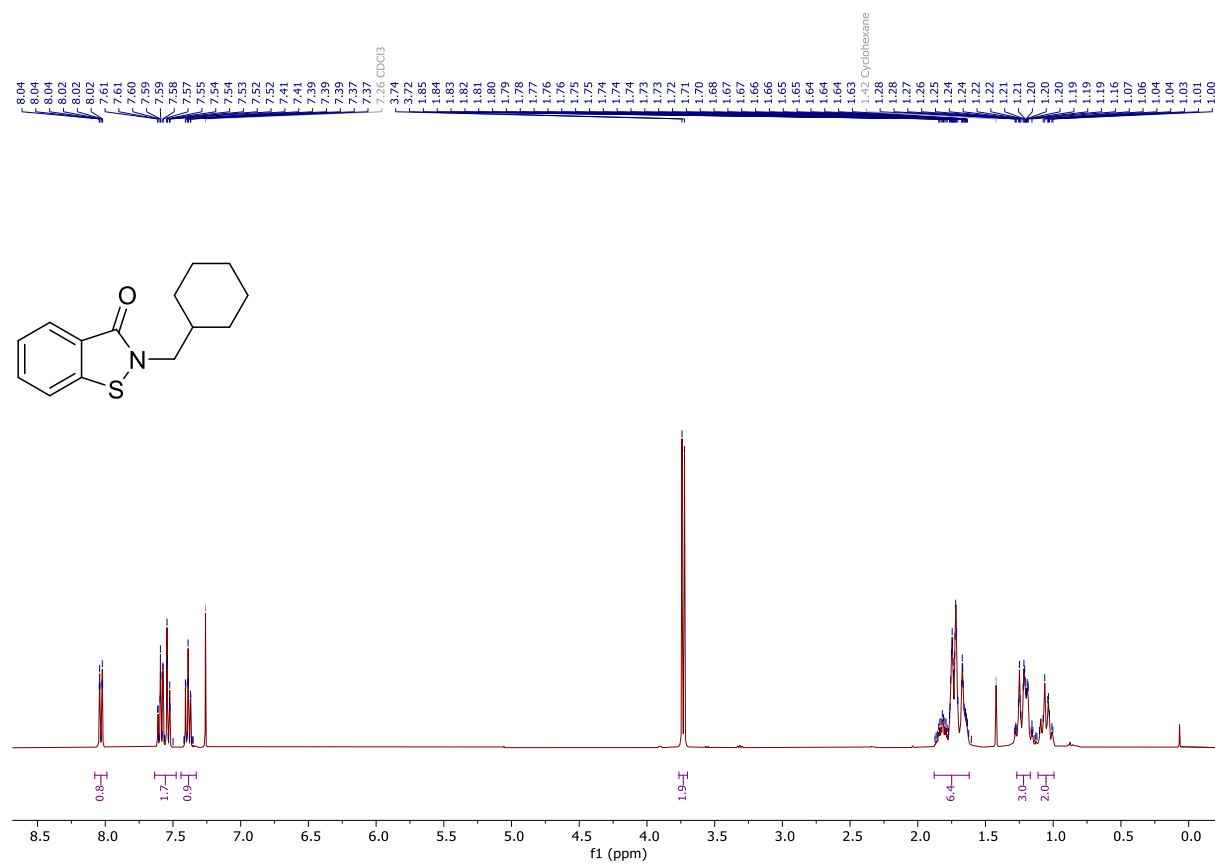
^1H NMR of **5** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



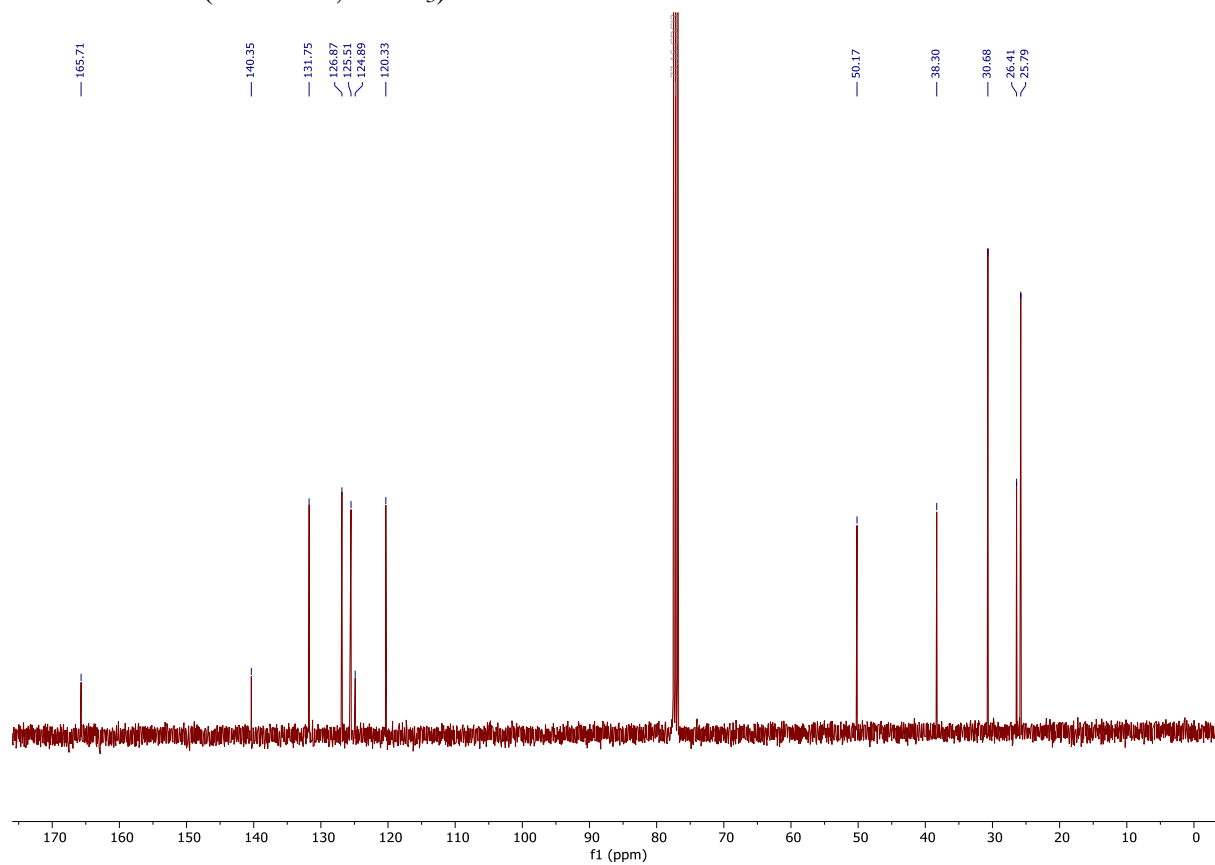
^{13}C NMR of **5** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



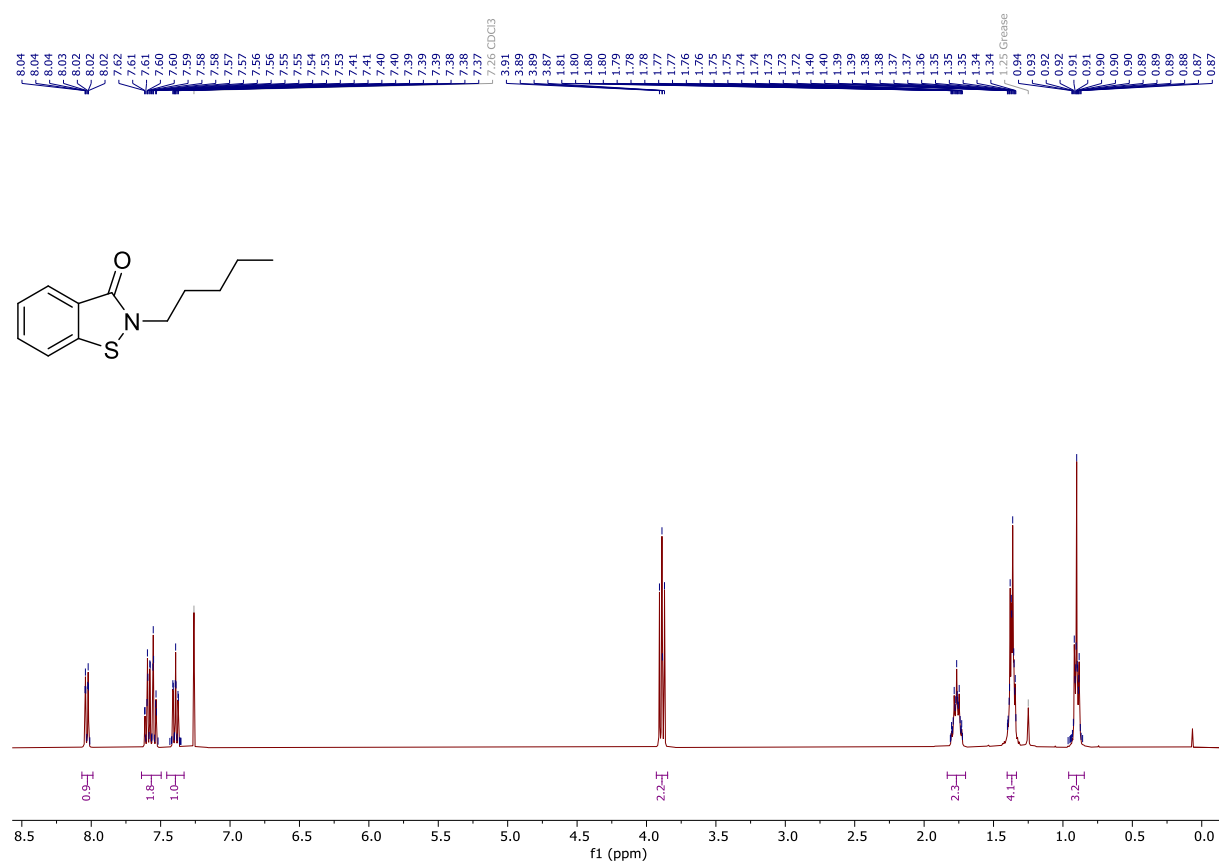
¹H NMR of **6** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



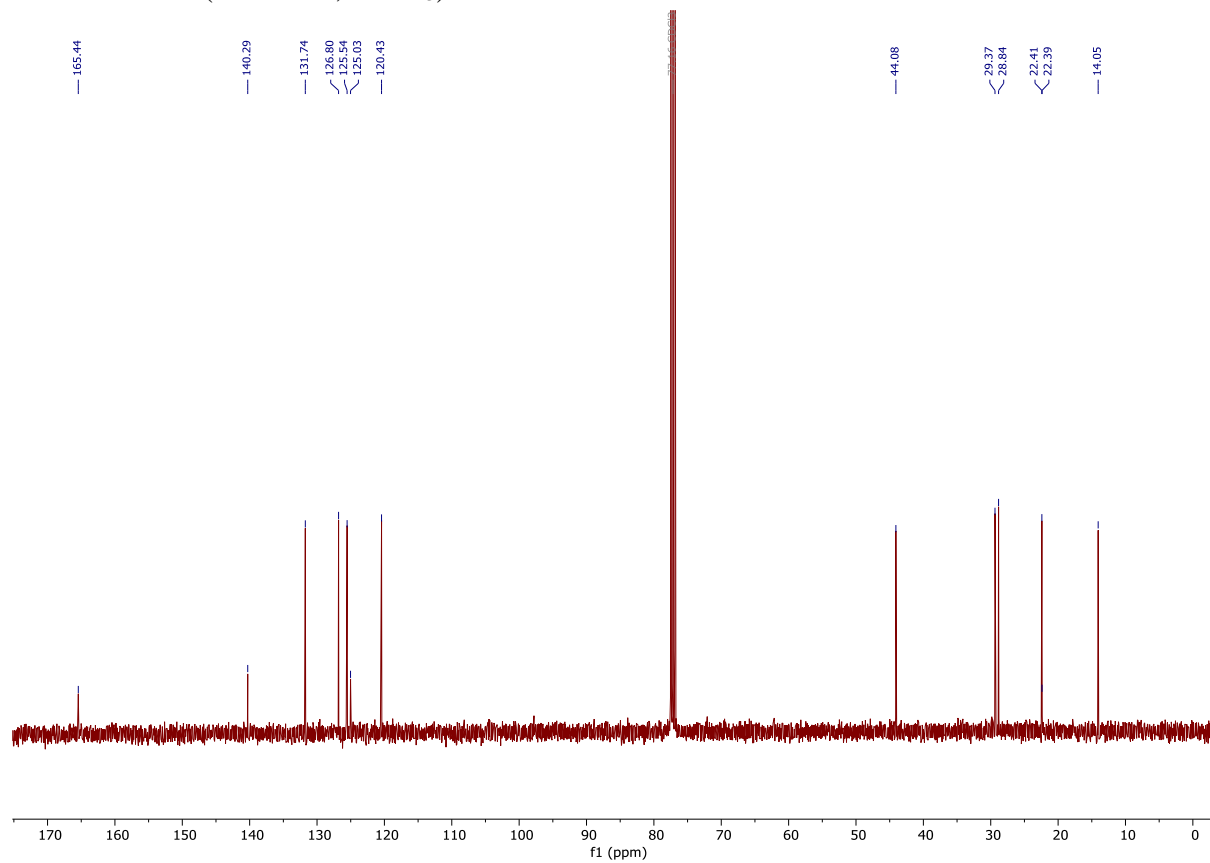
¹³C NMR of **6** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



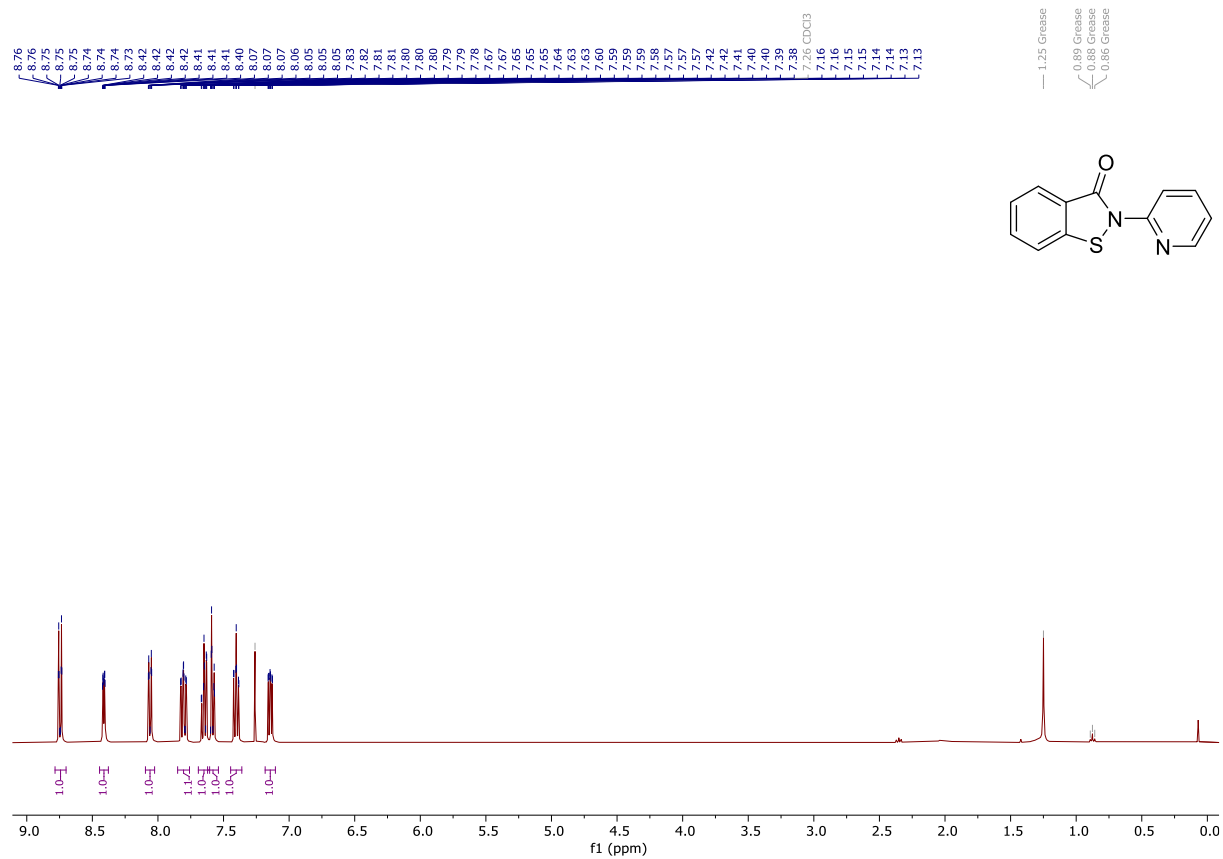
¹H NMR of 7 (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



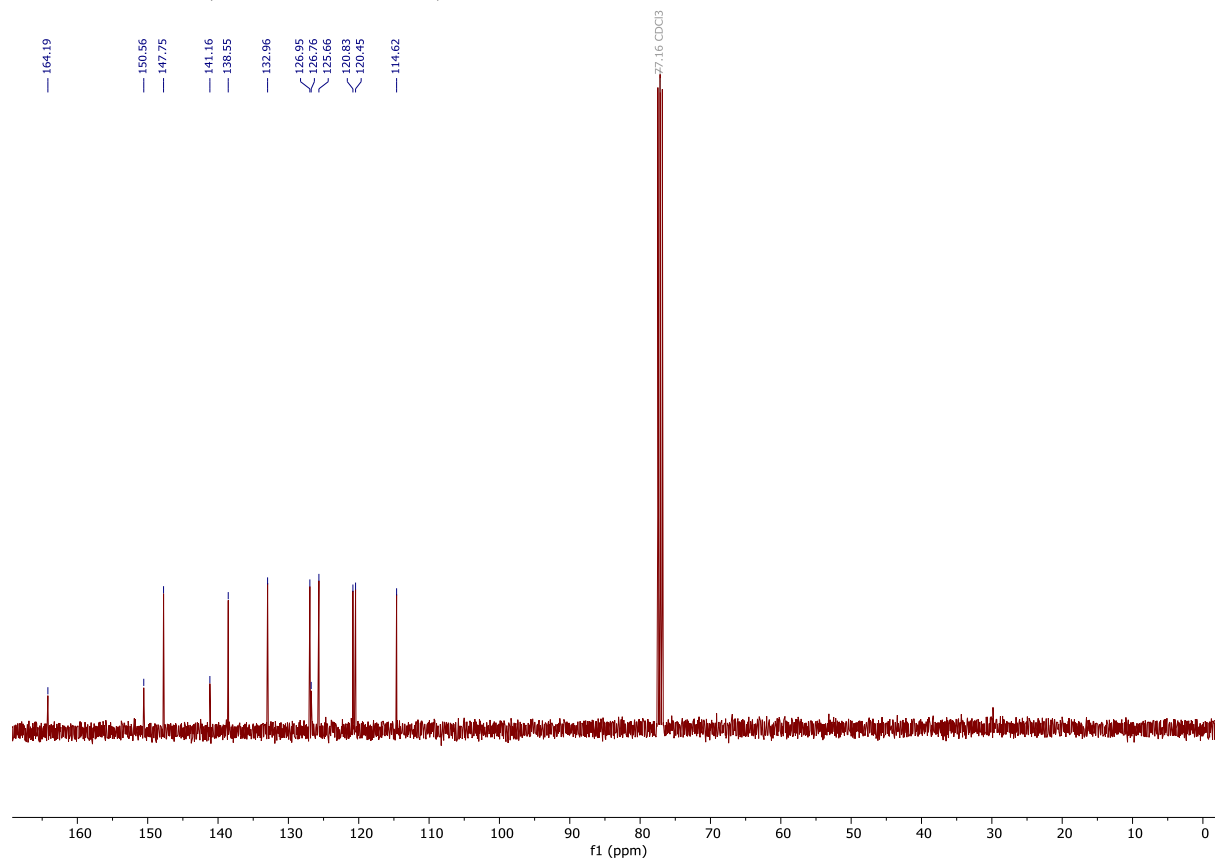
^{13}C NMR of **7** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



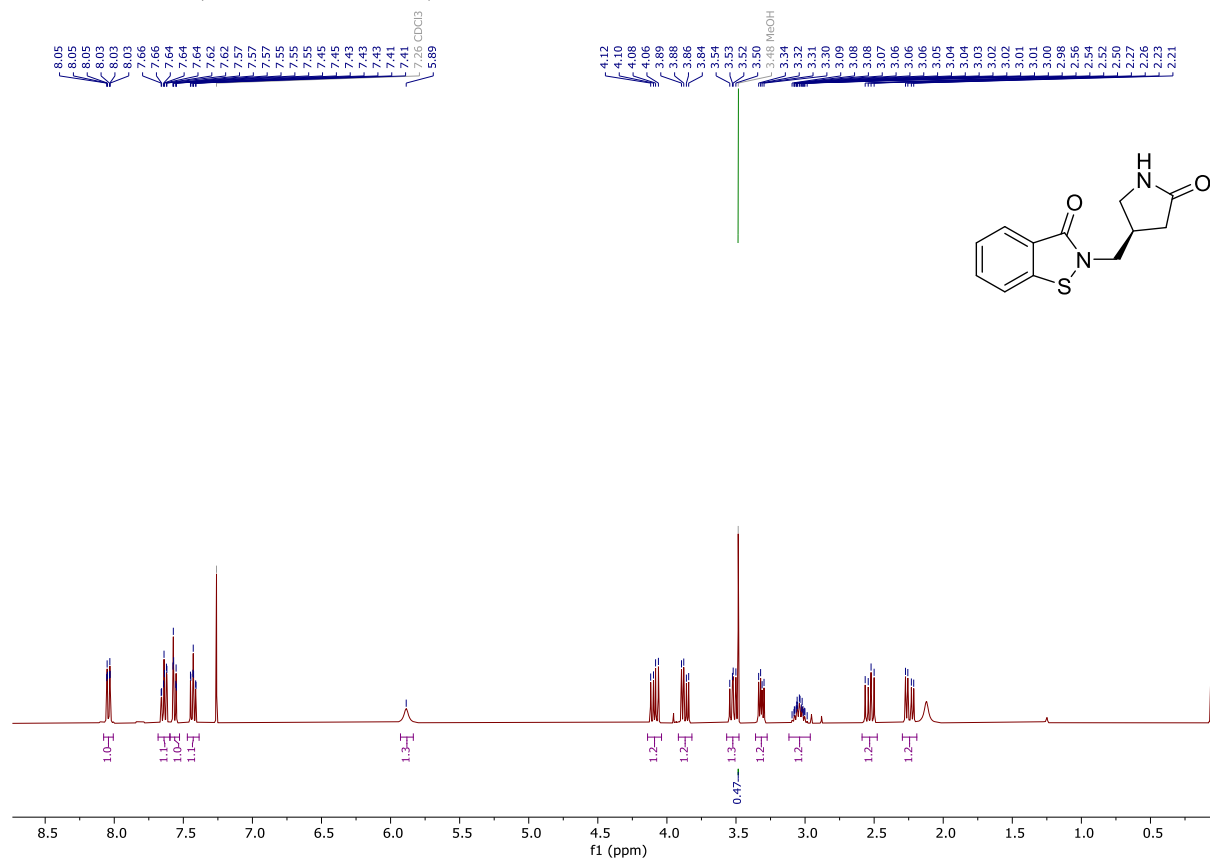
^1H NMR of **8** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



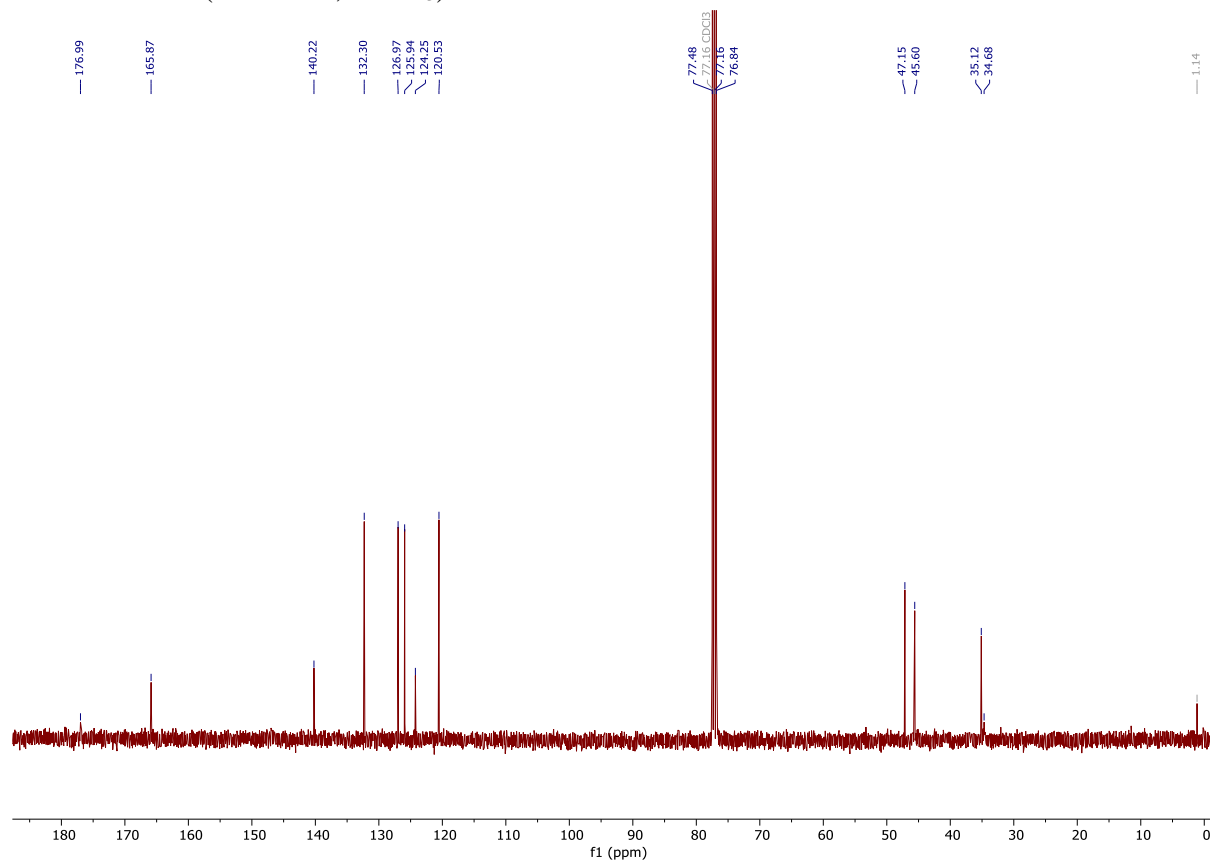
^{13}C NMR of **8** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



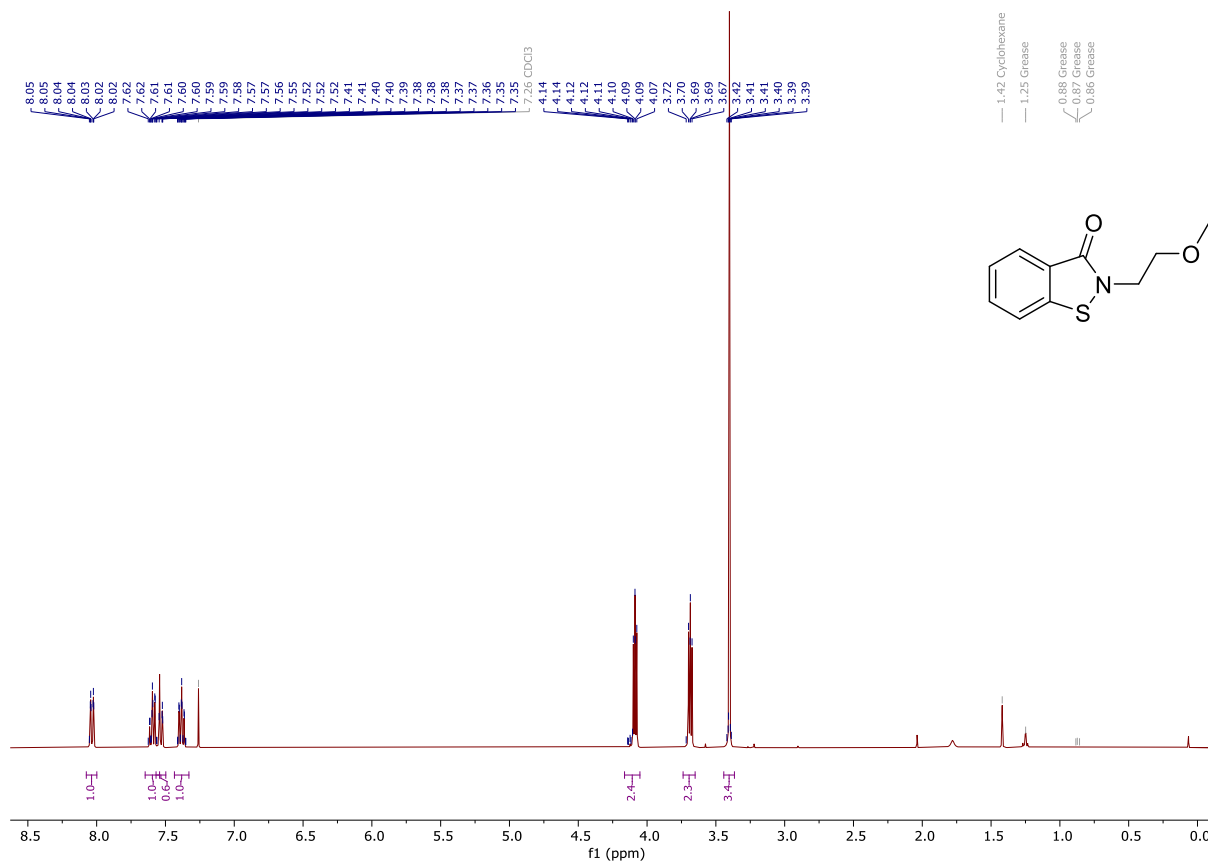
^1H NMR of **9** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



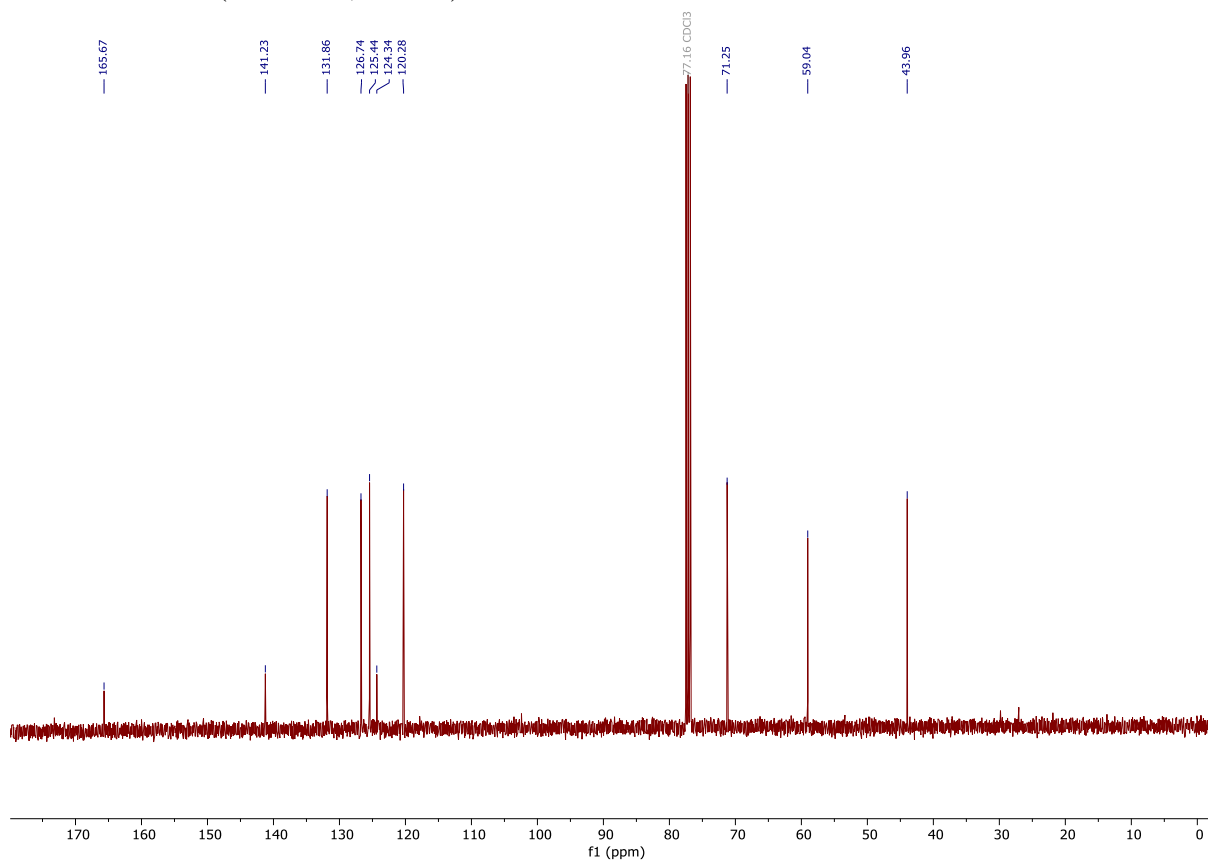
^{13}C NMR of **9** (101 MHz, CDCl_3)



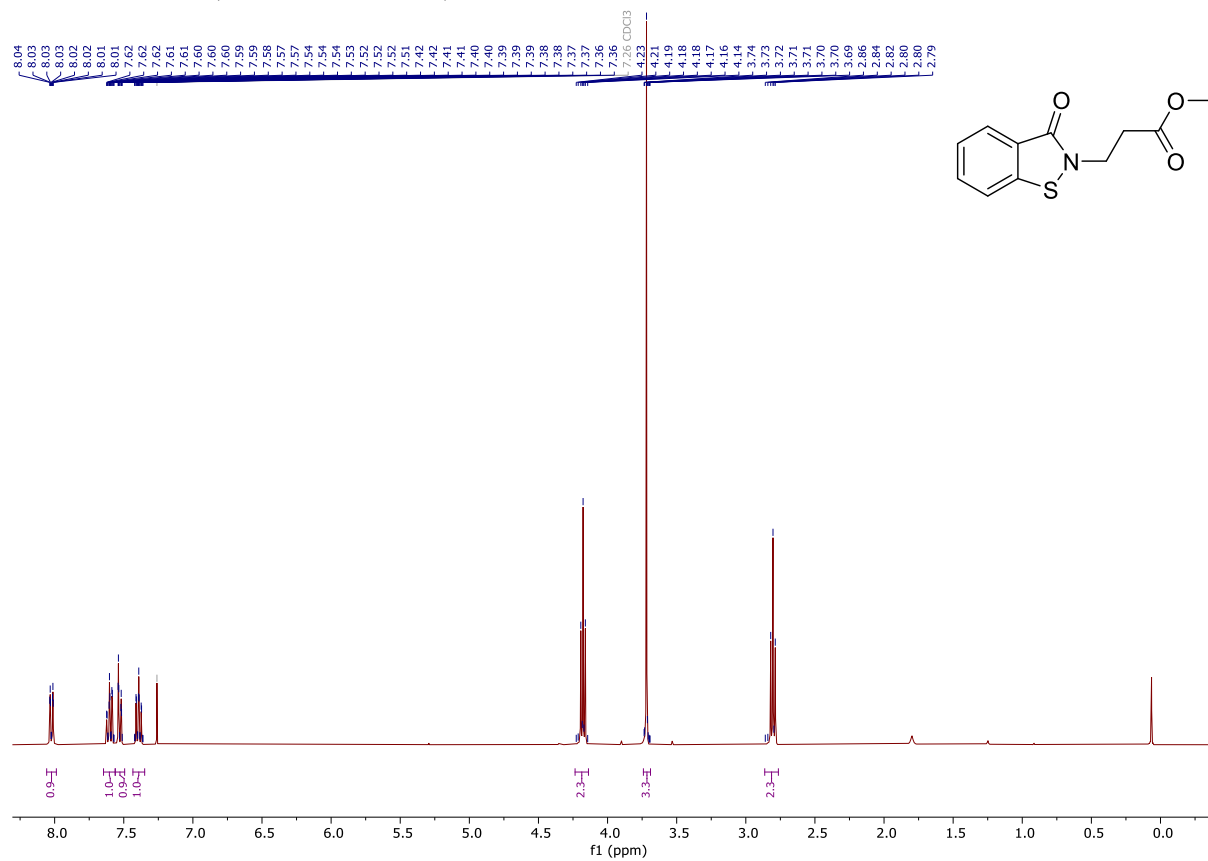
^1H NMR of **10** (400 MHz, CDCl_3)



¹³C NMR of **10** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR of **11** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR of **11** (101 MHz, CDCl₃)

