

Supporting Information

Selective synthesis of THF-derived amines from biomass-derived carbonyl compounds

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Experimental Section

Chemicals

Pd(5%)/Al₂O₃ (Johnson Matthey), Pd(5%)/C (Johnson Matthey), Ru(5%)/Al₂O₃ (Alfa Aesar), Pt(5%)/Al₂O₃ (Johnson Matthey), Rh(5%)/Al₂O₃ (Johnson Matthey), Amberlyst® A26 hydroxide form (Moisture 66-75%, Sigma-Aldrich), Furfural (99%, Sigma-Aldrich), Methyl isobutyl ketone (\geq 99%, Sigma-Aldrich), EtOH (99.5%, J&K), 2-Pentanone (\geq 99%, Sigma-Aldrich), 2-Heptanone (\geq 98%, Sigma-Aldrich), Butylamine (\geq 99.5%, Sigma-Aldrich), Ethylenediamine (\geq 99.5%, Sigma-Aldrich)

Analysis

The analysis of reactants and products was carried out by gas chromatography on a Varian Bruker 450 GC equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID) and a HP-5MS column (L = 30m, \varnothing = 0.25mm, e = 0.25 μ m, temperature from 80 °C to 250 °C). The analytical methods were adjusted for the different mixtures depending on the boiling point and polarity of the different compounds. In all the methods, the injector temperature was set at 250 °C, the detector temperature was 300 °C and the sample injection volume was 2 μ L. The calibration was performed using n-dodecane as internal standard.

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) is a technique for determining the structure of organic compounds. Each compound can be characterized using several descriptors including the chemical shift, spin multiplicity, coupling constants, and integration. In this study, liquid NMR analysis was used to identify the structure of the products generated in the different reactions. The NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz or 400 MHz Bruker spectrometers.

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations

The free energy of reaction, ΔG at 120 °C, was calculated at the CCSD (T)/cc-pVTZ level and was implemented in Turbomole v7.1. The structures were optimized with the B3LYP/def2-TZVP approach, and the ethanol solvent effect was corrected with COSMO model (ϵ =24.3). The optimized structures were characterized by the absence of imaginary frequency.

X-Ray Diffraction analysis

X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded on a PanAlytical Empyrean X-ray diffractometer, Bragg Bentano configuration, with CuK α radiation (λ = 1.54184 Å) as X-ray source. The data were collected in the 2 θ range from 10° to 80° with a step of 0.05° (step time of 120 s).

X-Ray Photoelectron spectrometry

X-ray photoelectron spectrometry (XPS) was performed by Thermo Fisher ESCALAB 250Xi photoelectron spectrometer with Al K α radiation ($h\nu = 1486.7$ eV).

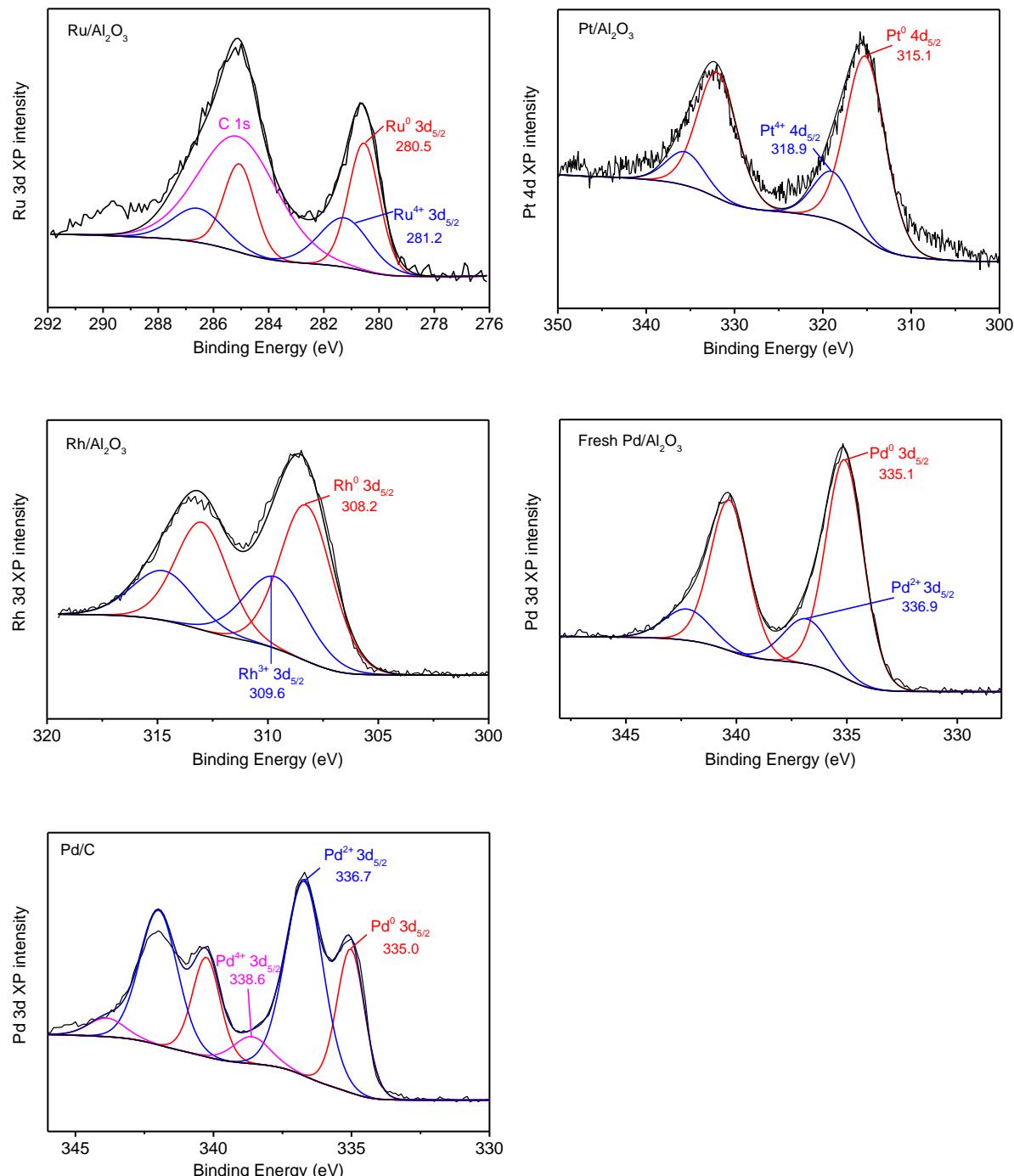


Figure S1. Normalized XPS spectra of Ru/Al₂O₃, Pt/Al₂O₃, Rh/Al₂O₃, Pd/Al₂O₃ and Pd/C before reaction.

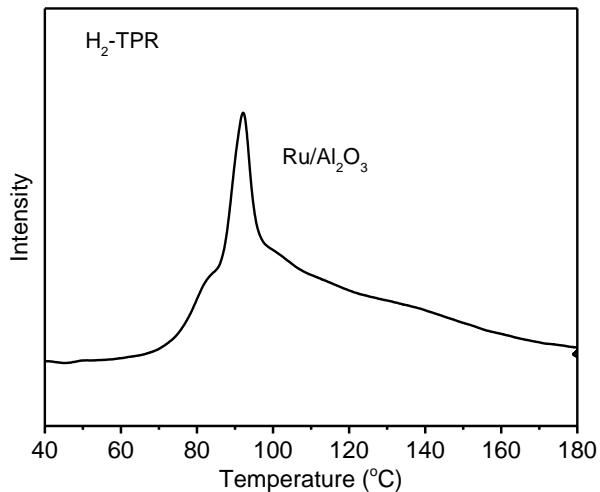


Figure S2. H₂-TPR profile of Ru on Al₂O₃.

Specific area measurement (BET)

The measurement of the specific surface area by gas adsorption involves the determination of the volume of an inert gas (typically N₂) adsorbed on a solid surface at low temperature as a function of pressure. When the pressure is reduced back to zero, a possible hysteresis can be revealed by comparing the values of desorption and adsorption. N₂ adsorption/desorption isotherms were obtained at -196 °C (77.2 K) using a Micromeritics TriStar instrument after degassing the sample overnight at 100 °C. The specific area was calculated using the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) equation in the P/P₀ range 0.05-0.25, while the pore size distribution was measured from the desorption branch using the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) method using the following equation

$$\frac{1}{[V_a \left(\frac{P_0}{P} - 1 \right)]} = \frac{C - 1}{V_m C} * \frac{P}{P_0} + \frac{1}{V_m C}$$

where P is the partial pressure of the gas in equilibrium with the surface (Pa), P₀ is the saturation pressure (Pa), V_a is the volume of gas adsorbed at standard temperature and pressure (mL), V_m is the volume of gas adsorbed at STP producing an apparent monolayer (mL), and C is the dimensionless constant that is related to the enthalpy of adsorption of the adsorbate gas on the powder sample.

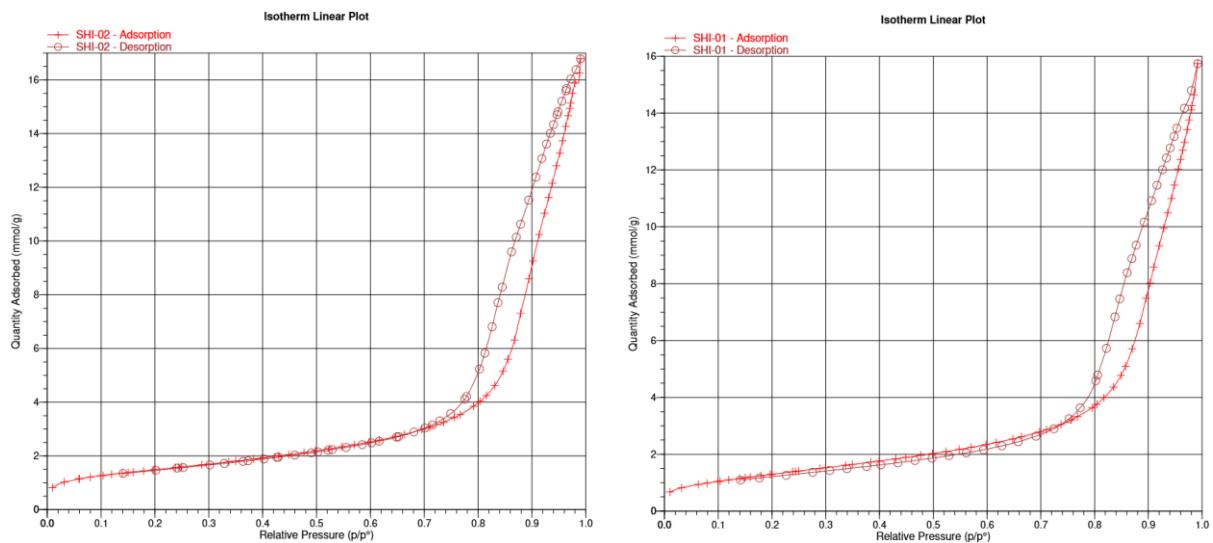


Figure S3. N_2 adsorption/desorption isotherm at 77 K of the fresh (left) and spent (right) $\text{Pd}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)

A JEOL 2100 instrument with Filament LaB6 having an acceleration voltage of 200 kV equipped with a Gatan 832 CCD camera was used for visualizing the catalyst surface. Prior to characterization, the samples were dispersed in ethanol with in an ultrasound bath for 5 min, and then dropped onto a carbon film on a copper grid. The particle size distribution was measured by manual analysis of micrographs using ImageJ software.

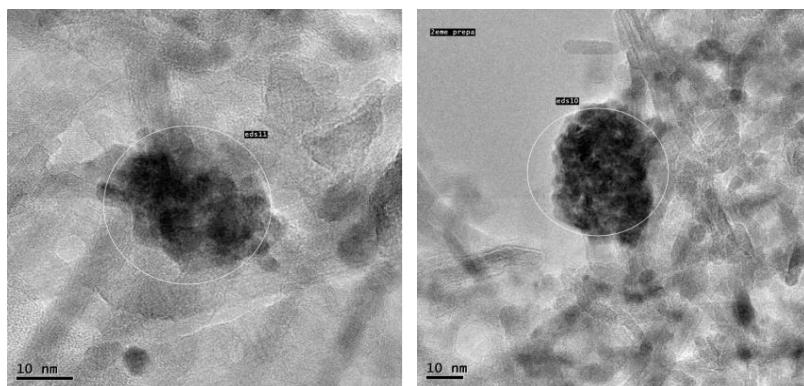


Figure S4. TEM micrographs of the recycled $\text{Pd}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$.

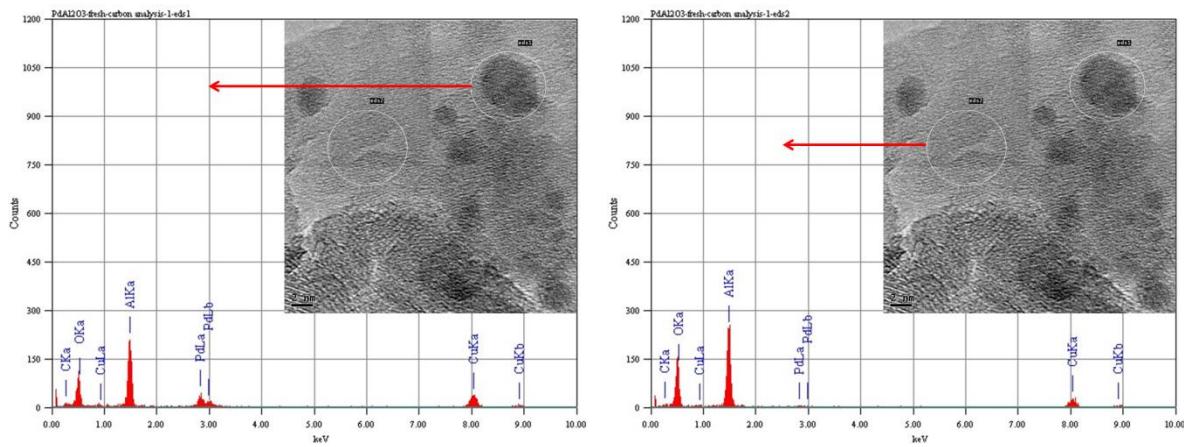


Figure S5. Element distribution in the fresh Pd/Al₂O₃ measured by EDS.

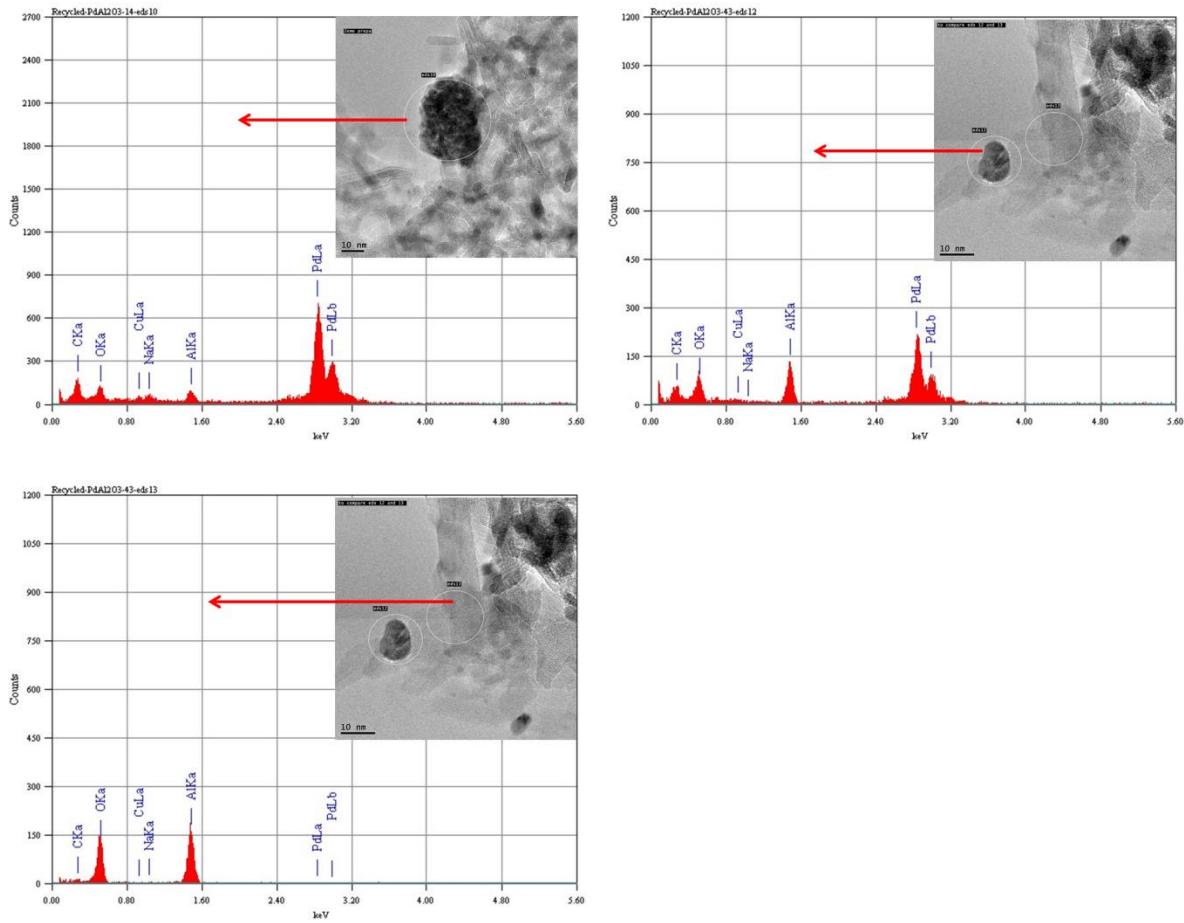
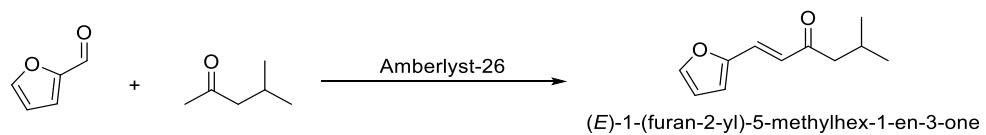


Figure S6. Element distribution in the recycled Pd/Al₂O₃ measured by EDS.

General procedure for aldol condensation reactions



The catalytic reaction was performed in a 30-mL tubular glass reactor with a sealable arrangement on top. The reaction was performed using 1 g of furfural and 10 g of MIBK in the presence of 0.2 g Amberlyst-26 in a glass tube placed in a preheated oil bath (120 °C) for 2 h at 600 rpm. The solvent was evaporated and a brown liquid was obtained with 96% yield. The product was analyzed and quantified on an Agilent 7890 GC equipped with a HP-5 capillary column with 5 wt% phenyl groups using n-dodecane as internal standard, a FID detector, and a split/splitless injection. ^1H & ^{13}C NMR and GCMS analysis were also performed. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 7.82 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.11-1.97 (m, 1H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 199.59, 151.04, 146.39, 129.18, 123.97, 116.87, 113.36, 49.28, 25.14, 22.84.

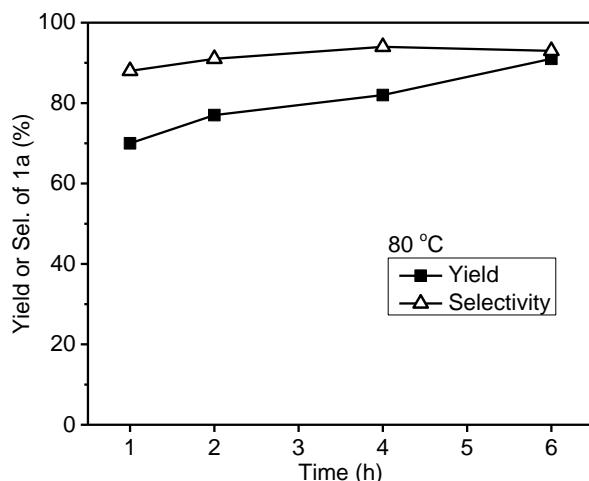
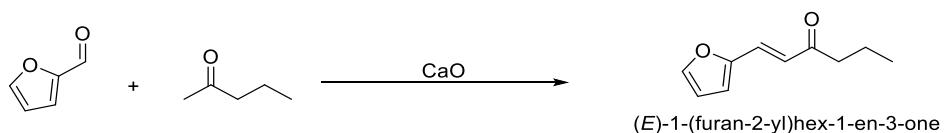
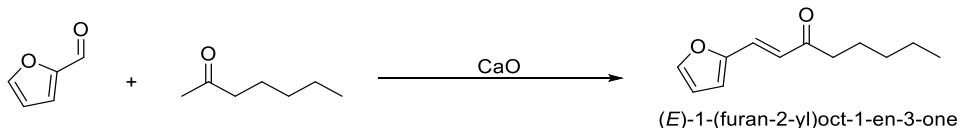


Figure S7: Kinetic profiles of aldol condensation between furfural and MIBK over Amberlyst-26 at 80 °C; Reaction conditions: furfural (108 mg, 1.125 mmol), MIBK (112.5 mg, 1.125 mmol), ethanol (2 g) and catalyst (43 mg); After 6 h, the conversion of furfural was over 98%.



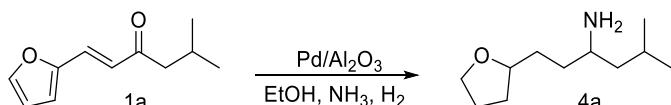
The aldol condensation of furfural with 2-pentanone was carried out in a closed reactor. Typically, 0.96 g (10 mmol) furfural, 15 mmol 2-pentanone, 10 g EtOH and 0.384 g CaO were put into the reactor. Before the reaction, the reactor was purged with Ar. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 6 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the liquid was filtered /evaporated under vacuum and 95% yield

of **(E)-1-(furan-2-yl)hex-1-en-3-one** was obtained. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.60-1.48 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 199.87, 151.02, 146.40, 129.09, 123.70, 116.82, 113.38, 42.23, 17.75, 14.09.



Following the same procedure of **(E)-1-(furan-2-yl)hex-1-en-3-one**, furfural and 2-heptanone gave **(E)-1-(furan-2-yl)oct-1-en-3-one** product as a brown solid with a yield of 95%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.56-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.16 (m, 4H), 0.83 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 199.94, 151.02, 146.40, 129.07, 123.66, 116.83, 113.37, 40.30, 31.34, 23.99, 22.44, 14.32.

General procedure for synthesis of THF-derived amines

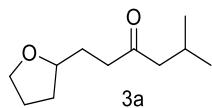


The catalytic tests were carried out in 20-mL stainless steel reactor equipped with pressure gauge and a safety rupture disk. In a given experiment, the reactor was charged with a mixture of **1a** (0.2 g), EtOH (2 g) and the pre-reduced catalyst (10 mg). The reactor was sealed and flushed with N₂ three times, and then NH₃ (5 bar) and H₂ (20 bar) were added to the reactor. The reactor was heated at 120 °C for 20 h under stirring. At the end of the reaction, the reactor was cooled down to room temperature and the reaction mixture was analyzed by a gas chromatography using an Agilent 7890 GC equipped with a HP-5MS capillary column with 5wt% phenyl groups and a FID detector using n-dodecane as internal standard. At the end of the reaction, the reactor was cooled down to room temperature and filtered, dried to give a colorless liquid with a yield of 98%. **5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-amine** ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.93-3.59 (m, 3H), 2.87-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.10-1.79 (m, 3H), 1.78-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.28 (m, 6H), 1.24-1.11 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.58, 79.38), (67.66, 67.64), 48.96, (47.52, 47.48), (35.24, 35.06), (32.28, 32.12), (31.46, 31.37), (25.72, 25.69), (24.77, 24.76), (23.49, 23.48), (22.07, 22.04). HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₁H₂₄NO [M+H]⁺ 186.1852; found 186.1857



¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.66 (m, 4H), 2.32 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.08-1.95 (m, 1H), 0.84 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

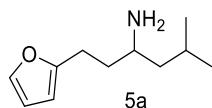
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 209.18, 155.04, 141.67, 110.76, 105.49, 51.24, 40.71, 24.34, 22.77, 21.98.



5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-one

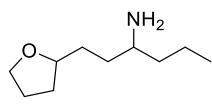
¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 3.75-3.63 (m, 2H), 3.61-3.50 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.41 (m, 2H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.08-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.95-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.68-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.30 (m, 1H), 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 210.26, 78.11, 67.19, 51.34, 39.60, 31.20, 29.52, 25.70, 24.38, 22.80, 22.79.



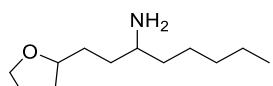
1-(furan-2-yl)-5-methylhexan-3-amine

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.47 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.77-2.53 (m, 3H), 1.83-1.53 (m, 3H), 1.48-1.20 (m, 2H), 1.12 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 0.83 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 156.48, 141.42, 110.64, 105.11, 48.32, 47.88, 37.12, 24.61, 24.60, 23.83, 22.52.



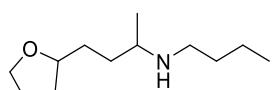
1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-amine

1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-amine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a**. It was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 94%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.98-3.52 (m, 3H), 2.88-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.14-1.04 (m, 14H), 0.99-0.81 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 79.61, 79.39, 67.68, 67.67, 51.03, 51.00, 40.20, 40.19, 34.69, 34.53, 31.47, 31.39, 25.72, 25.69, 19.26, 19.25, 14.19. HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₀H₂₂NO [M+H]⁺ 172.1696; found 172.1705



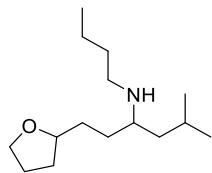
1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-amine

1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-amine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** and it was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 96%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.93-3.60 (m, 3H), 2.81-2.51 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.13 (m, 18H), 0.98-0.80 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.61, 79.39), (67.69, 67.67), (51.36, 51.31), 37.86, (34.60, 34.47), (32.29, 32.22), 31.99, (31.48, 31.40), (25.79, 25.72), 25.69, 22.65, 14.06. HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₂H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺ 200.2009; found 200.2015



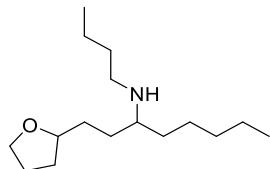
N-(4-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)butan-2-yl)butan-1-amine

N-(4-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)butan-2-yl)butan-1-amine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** (the molar ratio between (*E*)-4-(furan-2-yl)but-3-en-2-one and butylamine was 3/1) and It was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 96%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.90-3.62 (m, 3H), 2.70-2.43 (m, 3H), 2.03-1.73 (m, 3H), 1.67-1.15 (m, 10H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.50, 79.47), 67.62, (53.21, 53.19), (47.00, 46.97), (33.62, 33.59), 32.55, (32.09, 32.05), 31.35, 25.69, 20.55, (20.36, 20.30), 14.00. HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₂H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺ 200.2009; found 200.2012



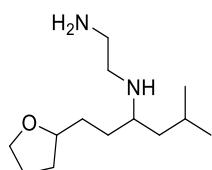
N-butyl-5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-amine

N-butyl-5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-amine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** (the molar ratio between (*E*)-1-(furan-2-yl)-5-methylhex-1-en-3-one and butylamine was 3/1) and It was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 98%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.00-3.59 (m, 3H), 2.71-2.42 (m, 3H), 2.05-1.76 (m, 3H), 1.72-0.95 (m, 13H), 0.93-0.60 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.69, 79.67), 67.62, 55.31, (46.70, 46.64), (44.09, 44.00), 32.68, (31.56, 31.44), 31.39, (30.85, 30.76), 25.69, 24.91, (23.12, 23.05), (22.85, 22.75), 20.56, 14.02. HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₅H₃₂NO [M+H]⁺ 242.2478; found 242.2478



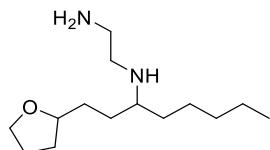
N-butyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-amine

N-butyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-amine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** (the molar ratio between (*E*)-1-(furan-2-yl)oct-1-en-3-one and butylamine was 3/1) and It was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 97%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.05-3.55 (m, 3H), 2.77-2.51 (m, 2H), 2.51-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.13-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.73-1.04 (m, 17H), 0.88 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.68, 79.64), (67.63, 67.61), 57.54, (46.78, 46.73), (34.01, 33.96), 32.62, 32.17, (31.80, 31.69), (31.40, 31.38), (30.60, 30.49), 25.70, 25.42, 22.64, 20.56, 14.06, 14.01. HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₆H₃₄NO [M+H]⁺ 256.2635; found 256.2648



N¹-(5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine

N¹-(5-methyl-1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)hexan-3-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** (the molar ratio between (*E*)-1-(furan-2-yl)-5-methylhex-1-en-3-one and ethylenediamine was 3/1) and it was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 91%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.02-3.51 (m, 3H), 2.90-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.47 (m, 3H), 2.04-1.14 (m, 14H), 0.95-0.83 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.66, 79.63), (67.64, 67.62), (55.15, 55.13), (49.40, 49.32), (44.11, 44.07), (42.26, 42.22), 31.53, (31.43, 31.39), (30.94, 30.85), 25.69, 24.89, (23.11, 23.05), (22.81, 22.74). HRMS (ESI-TOF, m/z): Calcd for C₁₃H₂₉NO [M+H]⁺ 229.2274; found 229.2281



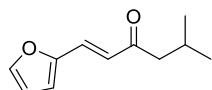
N¹-(1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine

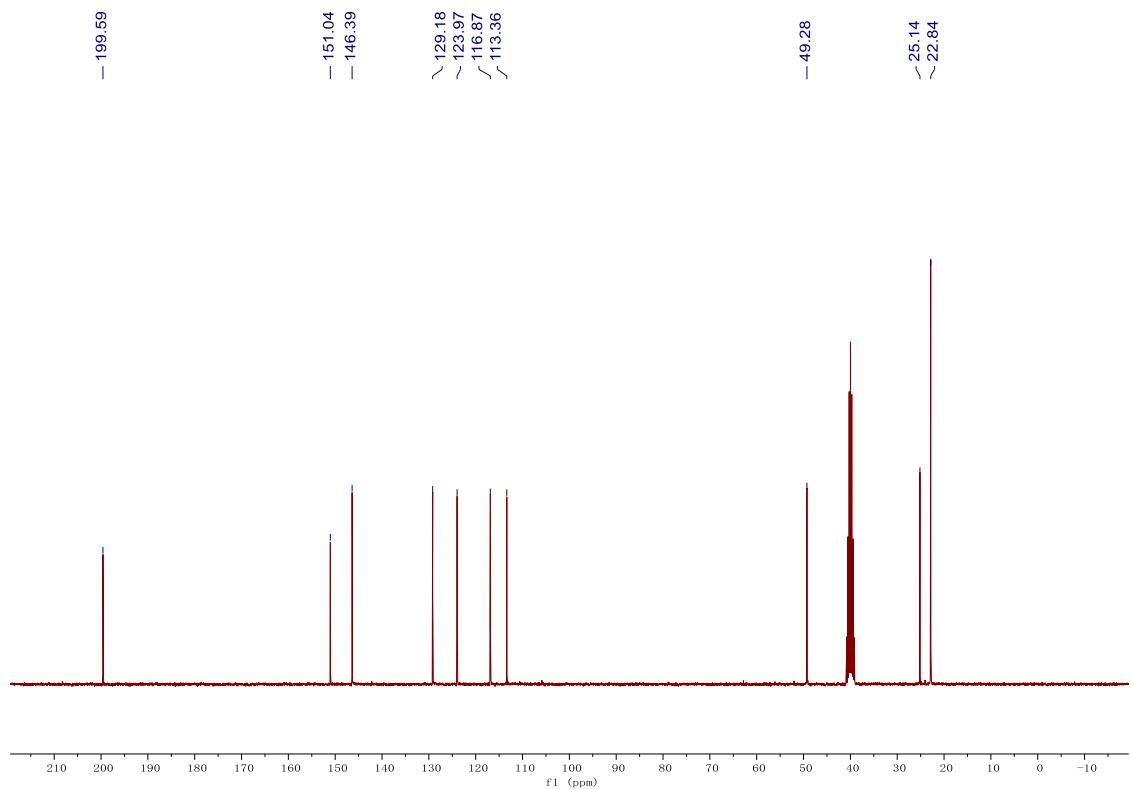
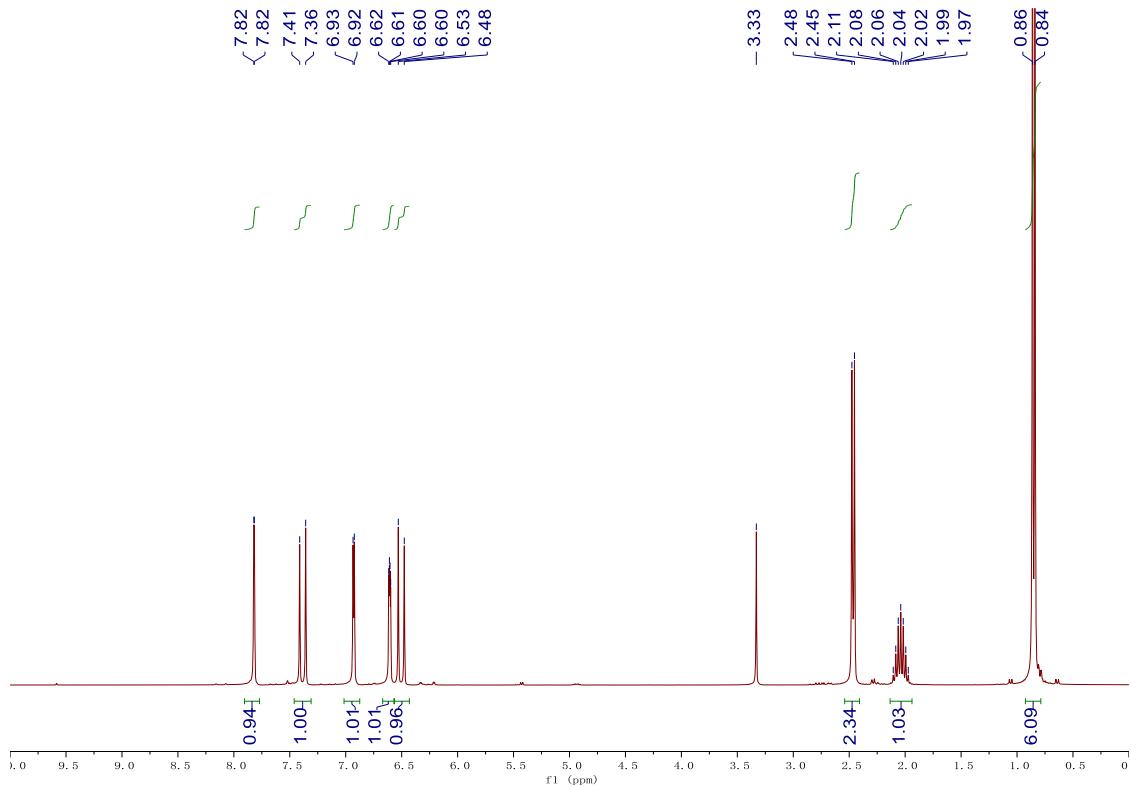
N¹-(1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)octan-3-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine was synthesized by the same procedure of **4a** (the molar ratio between (*E*)-1-(furan-2-yl)oct-1-en-3-one and ethylenediamine was 3/1) and it was obtained as colourless liquid with a yield of 92%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.93-3.54 (m, 3H), 2.93-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.69-2.53 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.01-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.74-1.01 (m, 16H), 0.93-0.77 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (79.60, 79.55), (67.58, 67.57), (57.31, 57.29), (49.50, 49.44), (42.21, 42.19), (34.10, 34.05), 32.10, (31.75, 31.65), (31.38, 31.34), (30.69, 30.58), 25.65, 25.37, 22.59, 14.01.

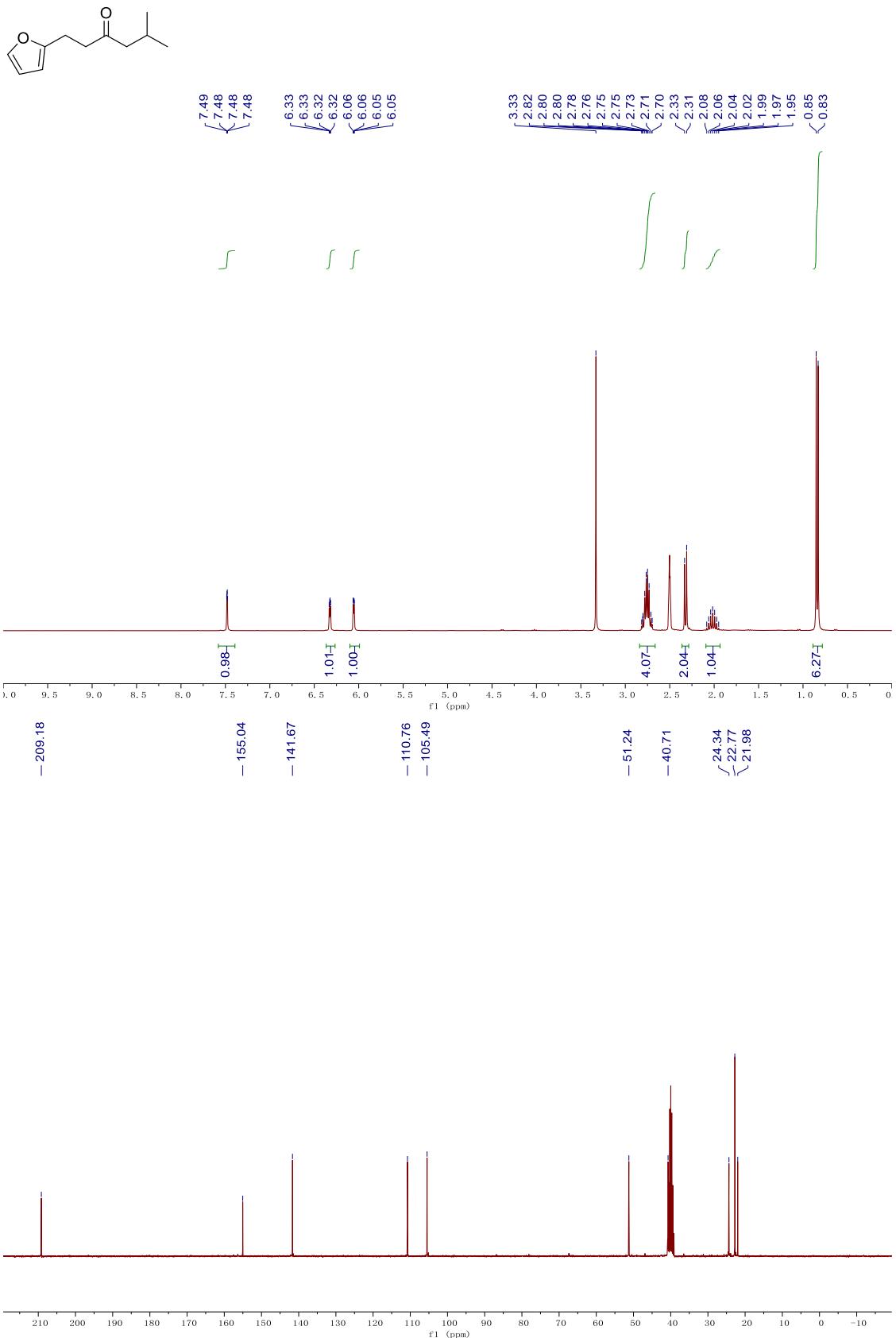
General procedure for catalyst recycling and reuse

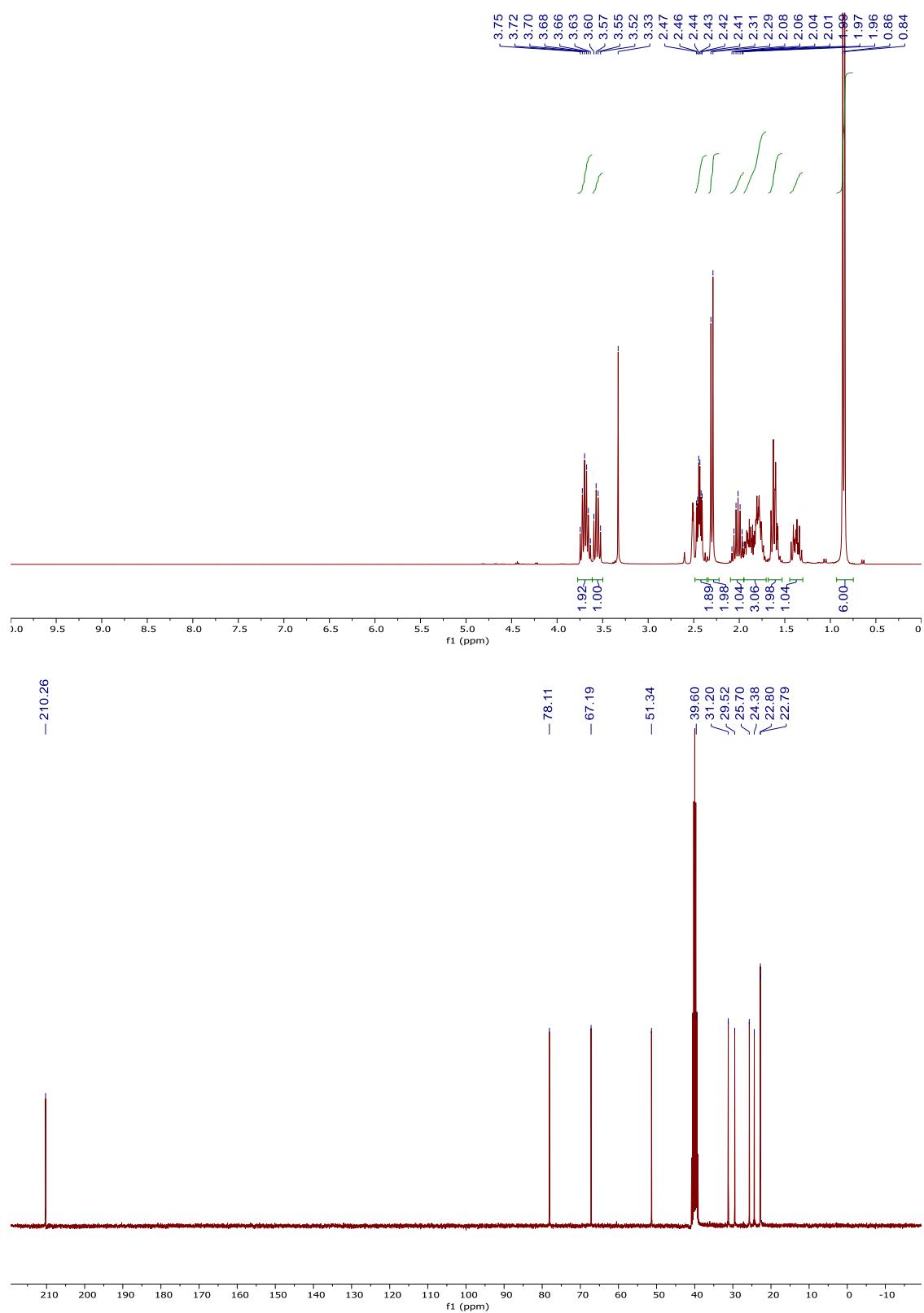
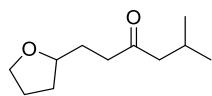
In a typical catalytic test, 0.4 g of the aldol-condensation product (**1a**), 20 mg of Pd/Al₂O₃ and 4 g of EtOH were added to a 20-mL stainless steel reactor. Then, the reactor was sealed and flushed with N₂ three times, NH₃ (5 bar) and H₂ (20 bar) were introduced, and the reactor was heated to 120 °C for 20 h under stirring. The conversion and product yield were measured by GC using *n*-dodecane as internal standard. For the recycling procedure, the catalyst was separated by centrifugation and washed with EtOH three times, the new reagent solution was added, and the reaction procedure was repeated as illustrated above.

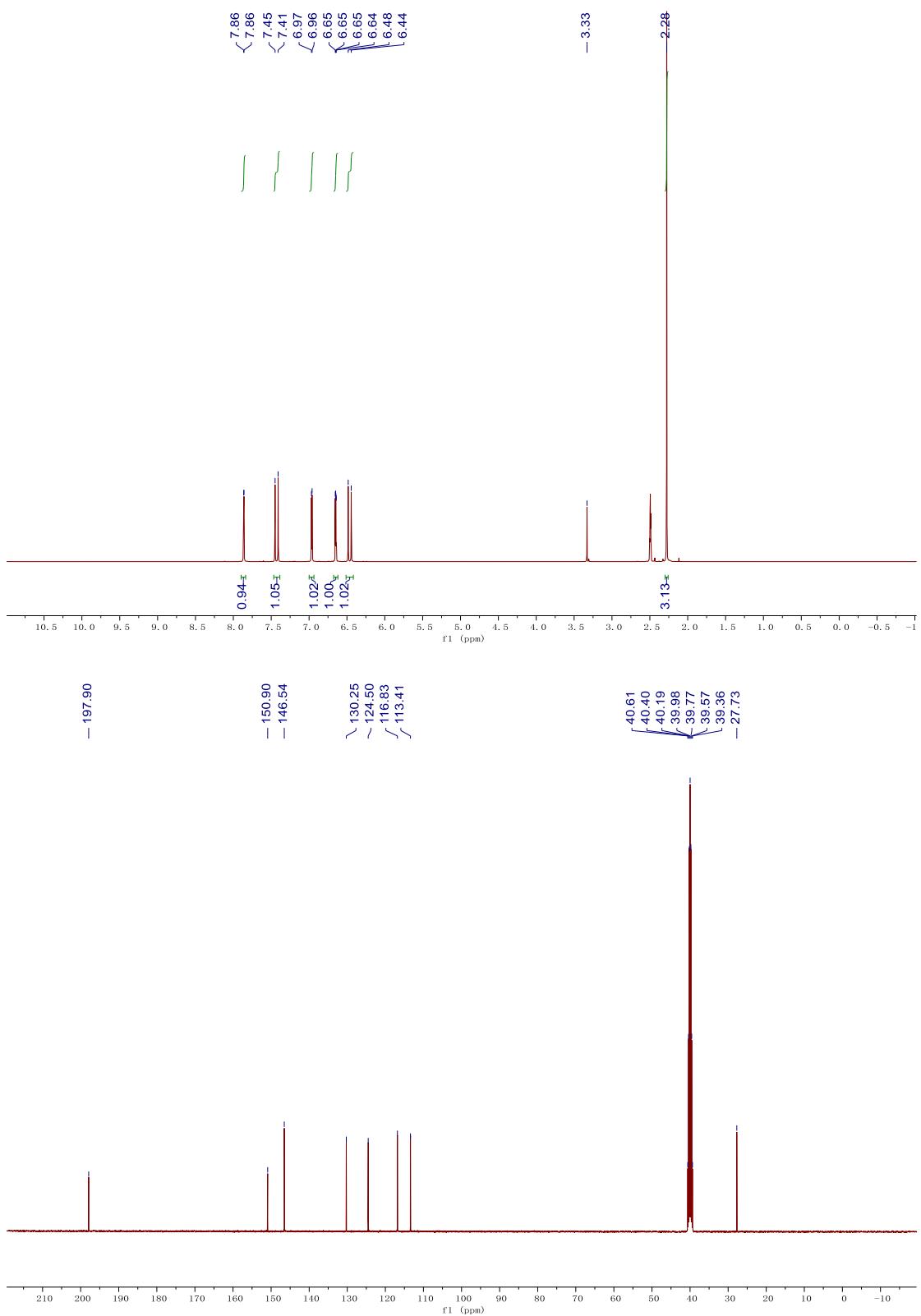
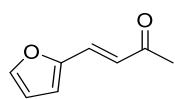
NMR Spectral data of starting materials and products

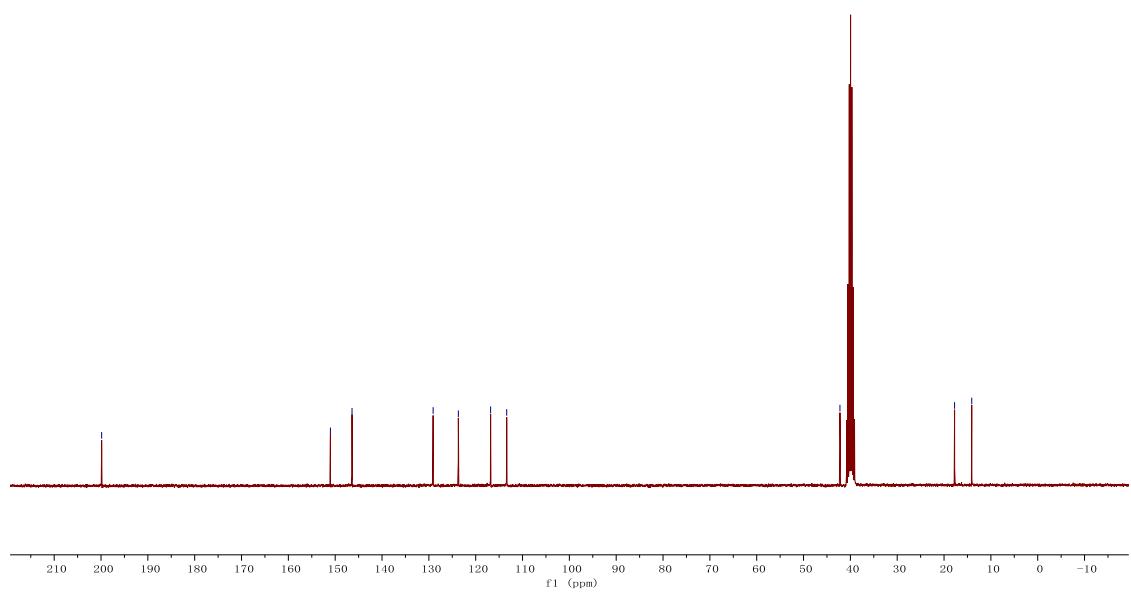
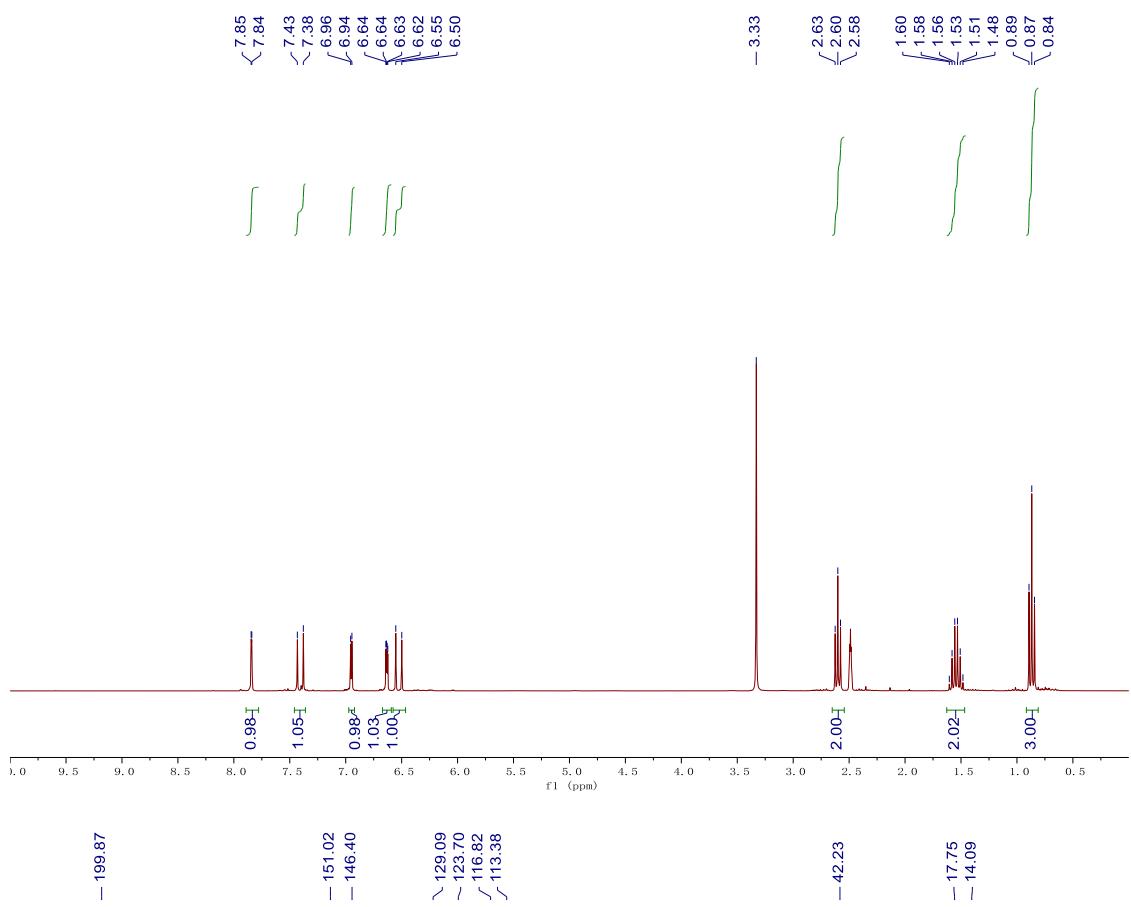
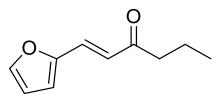


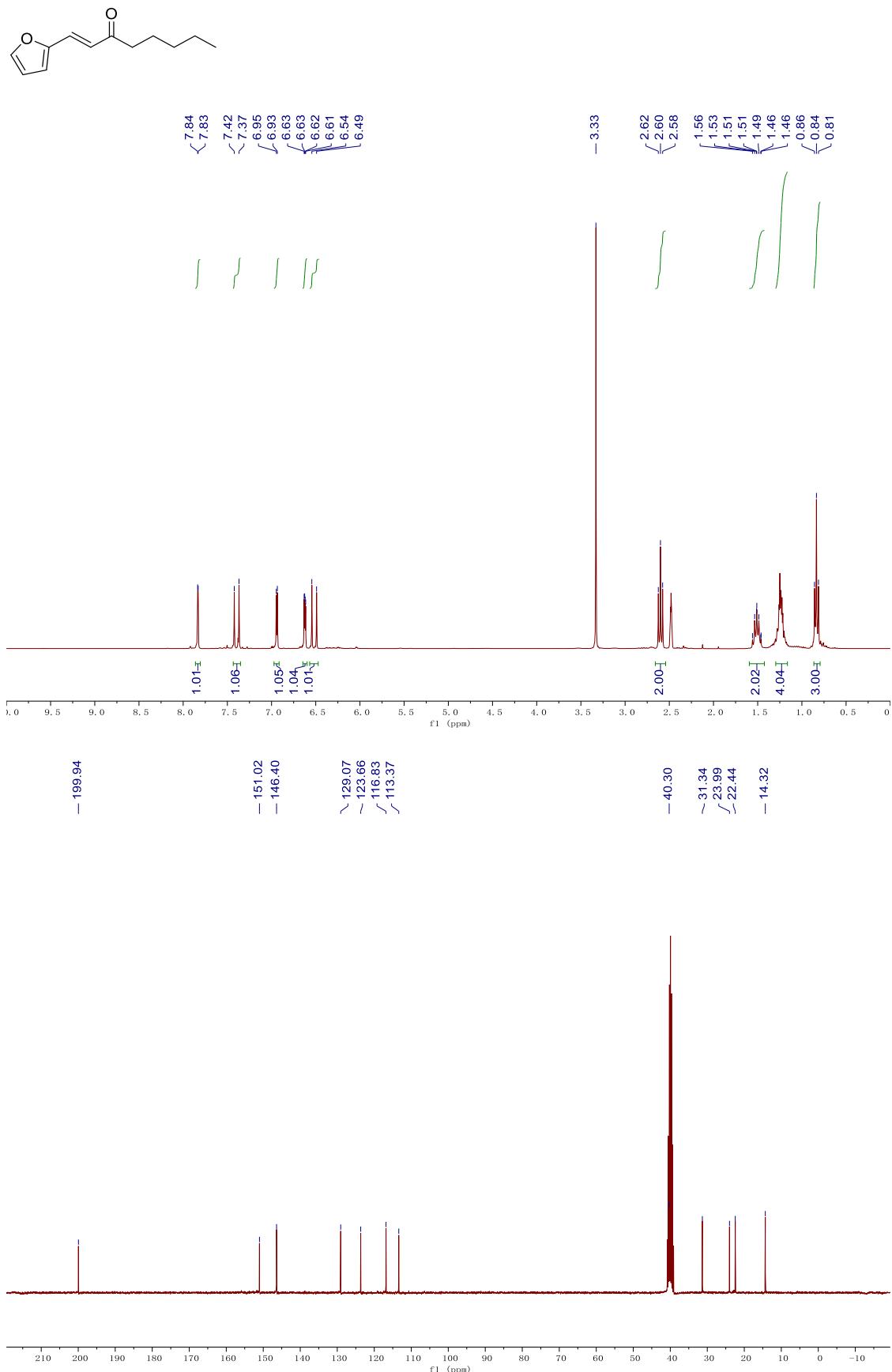


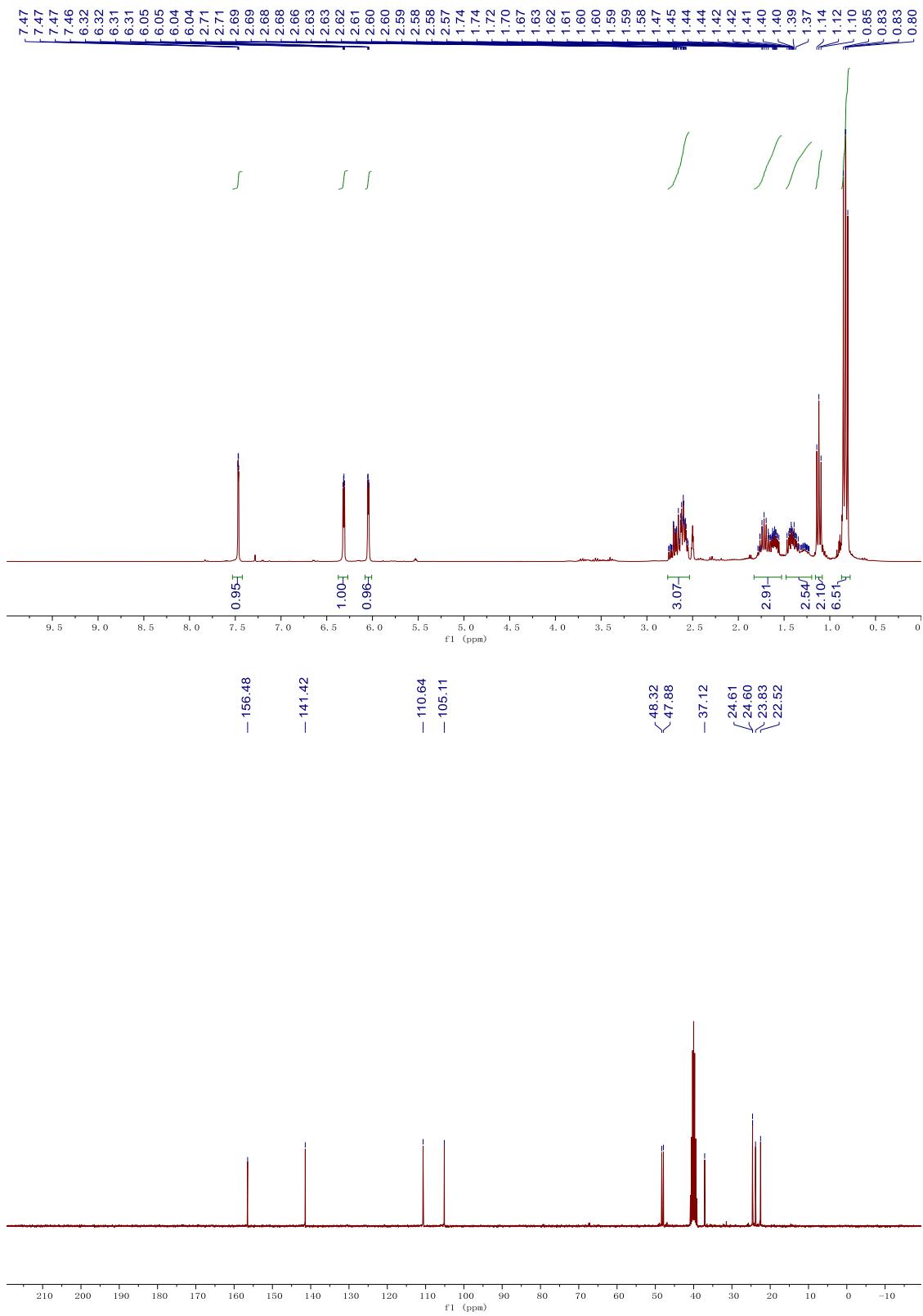
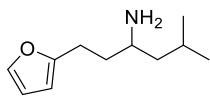


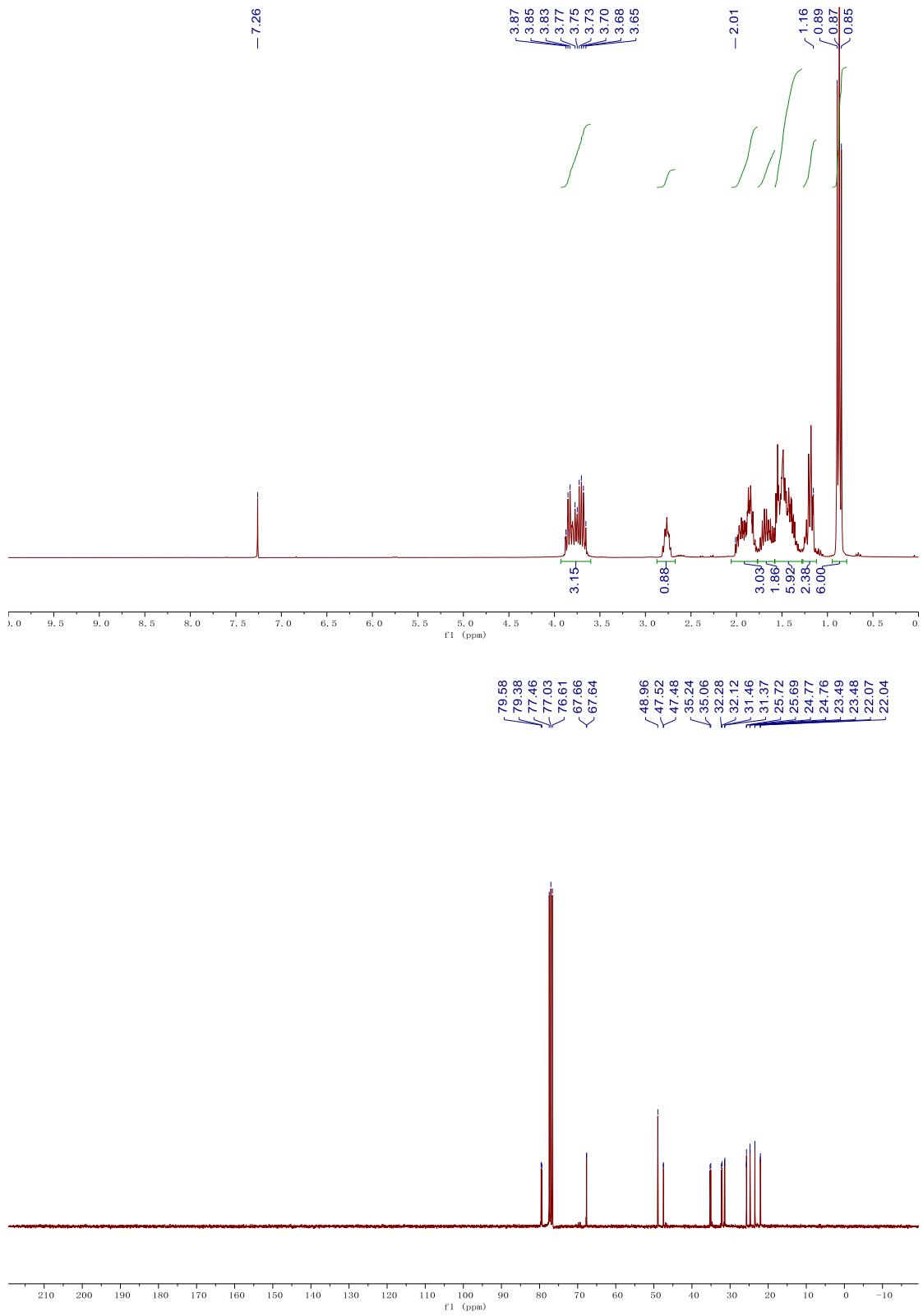
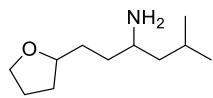


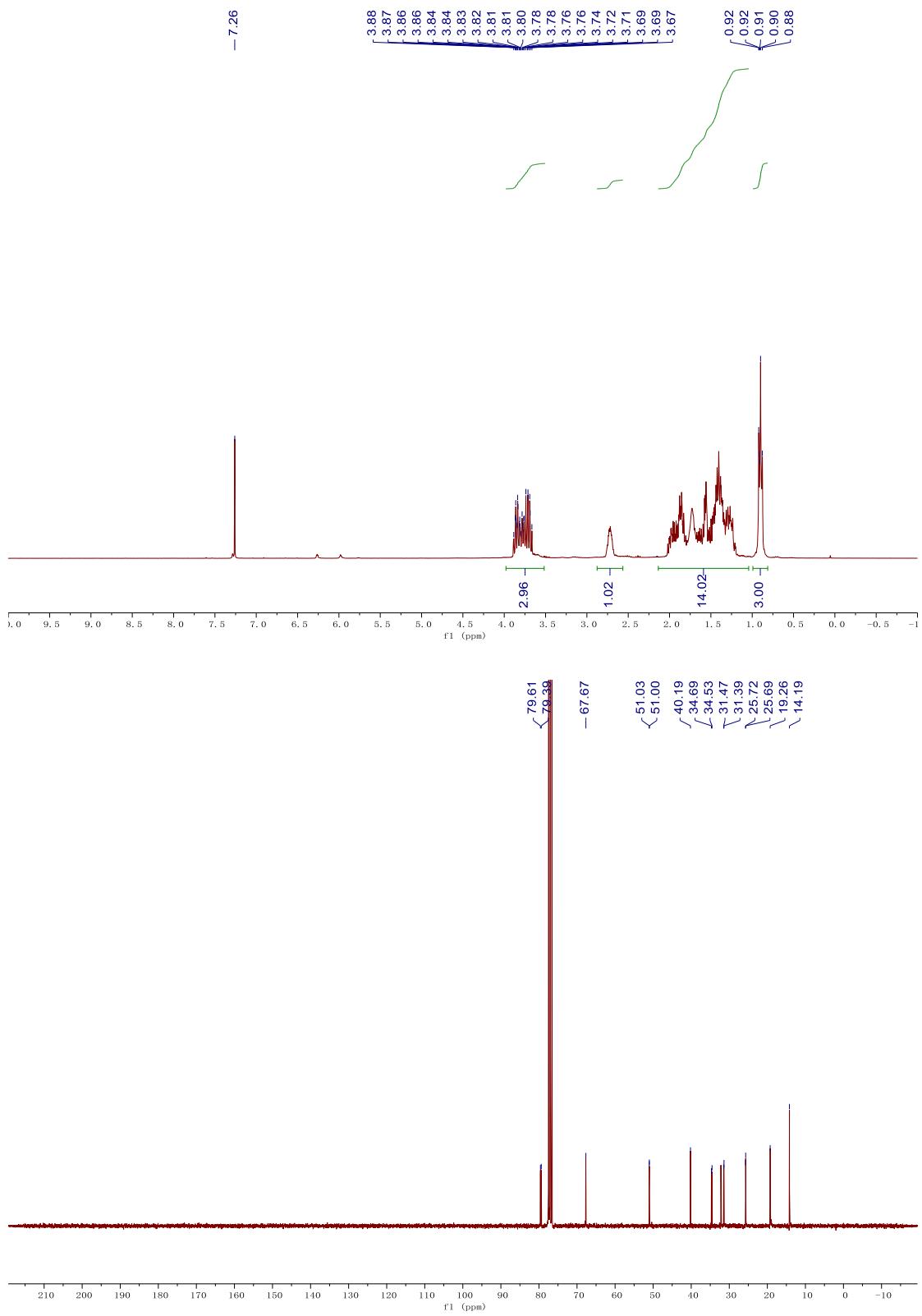
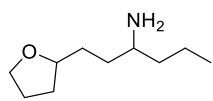


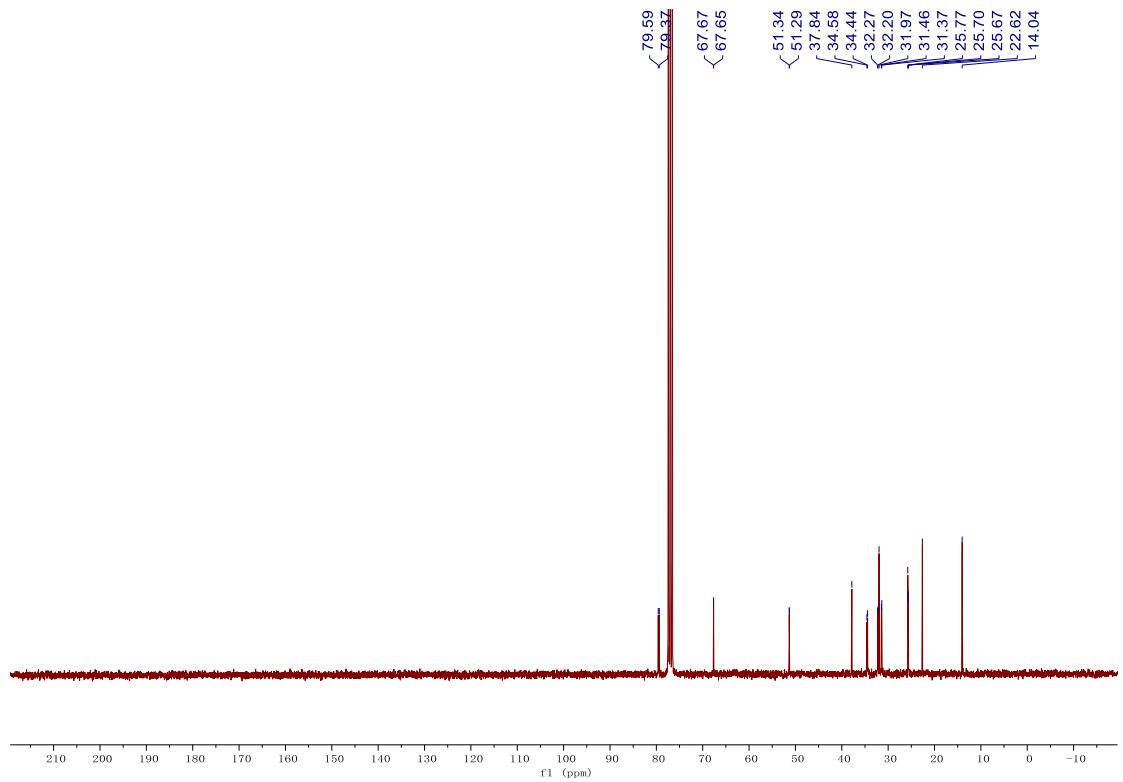
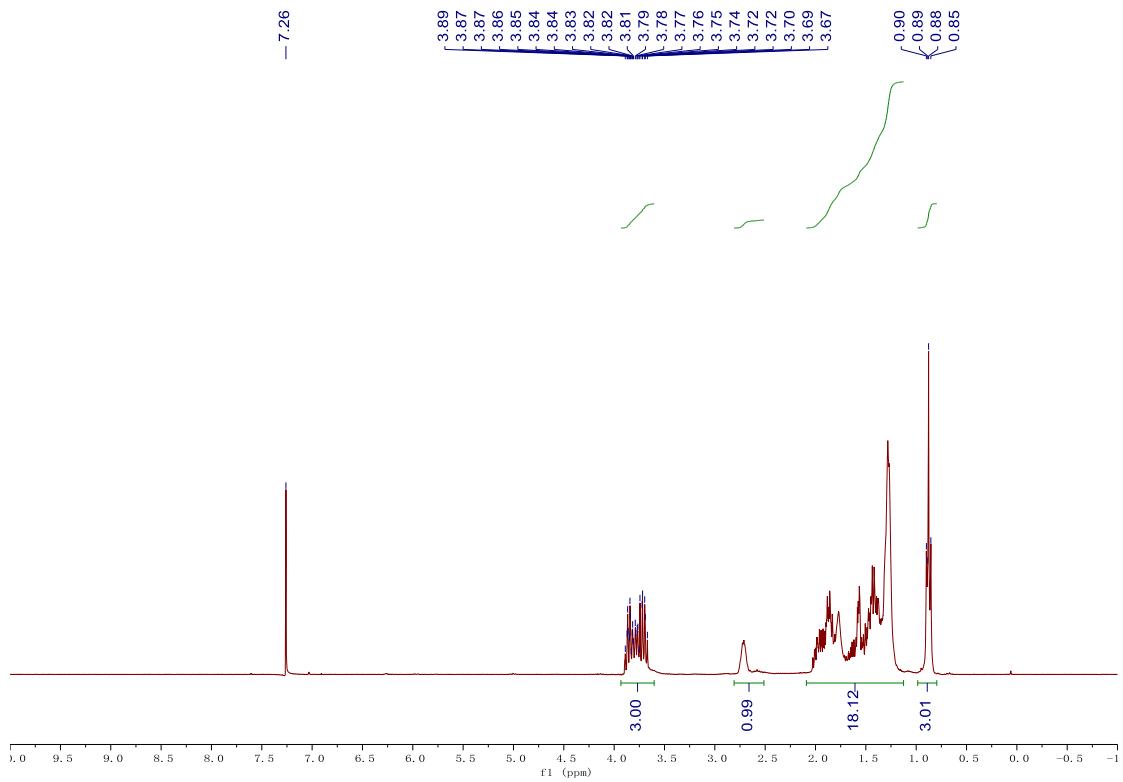
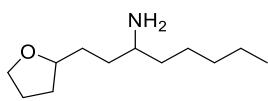


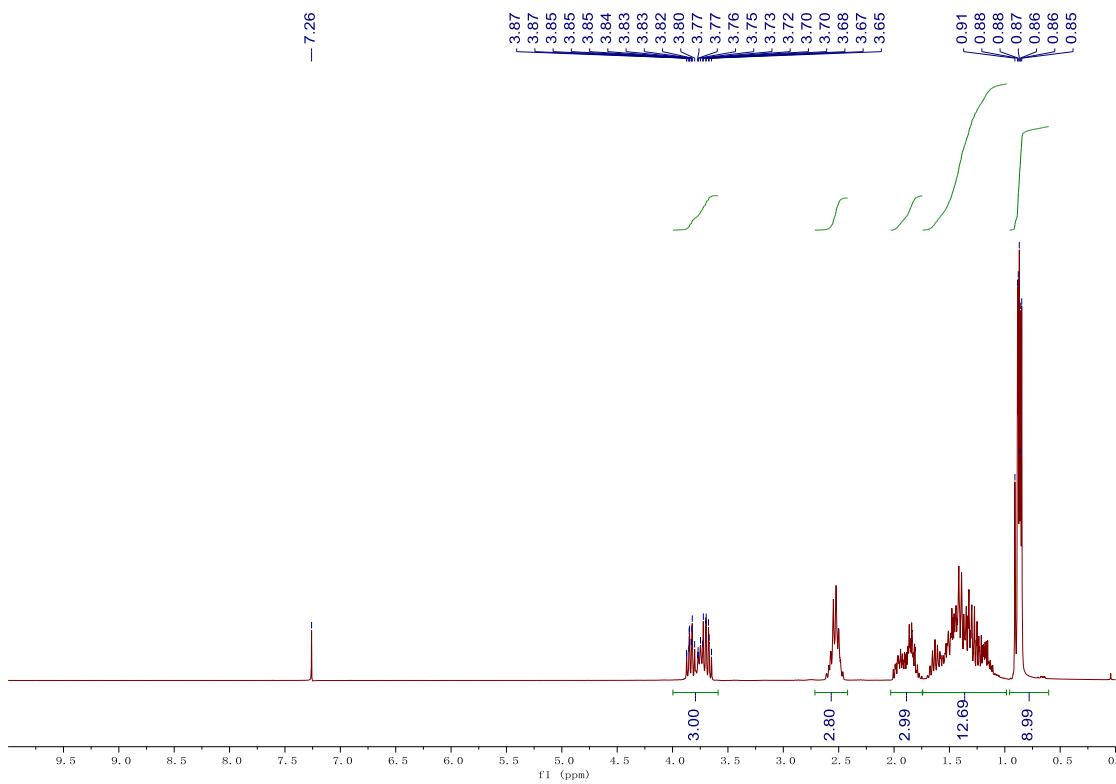
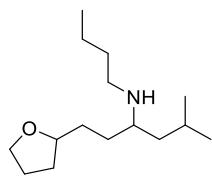




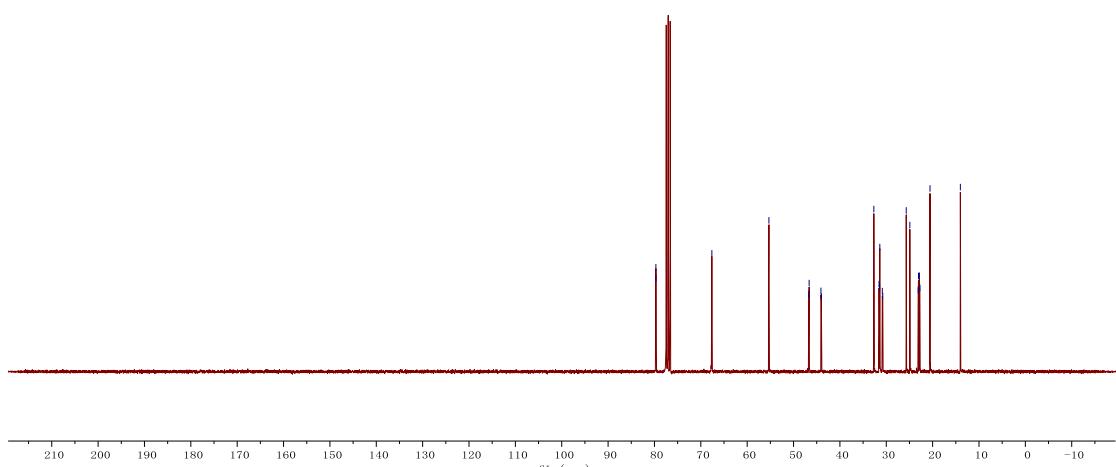


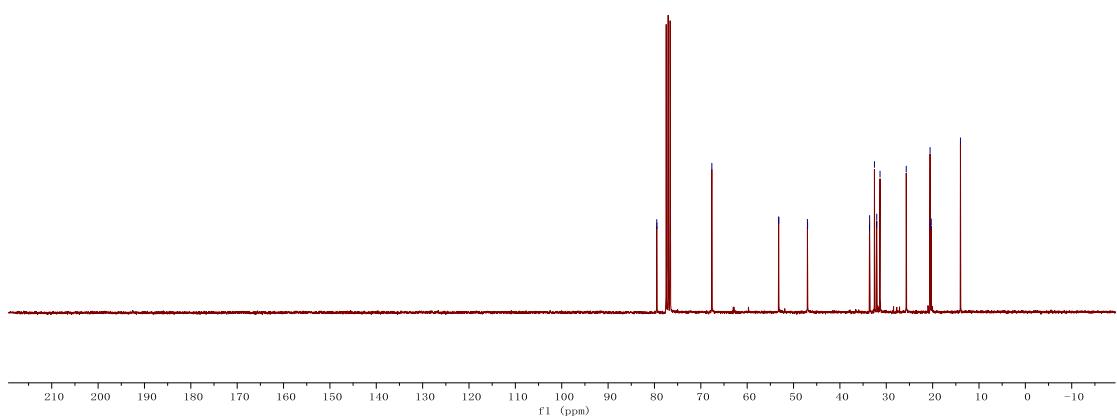
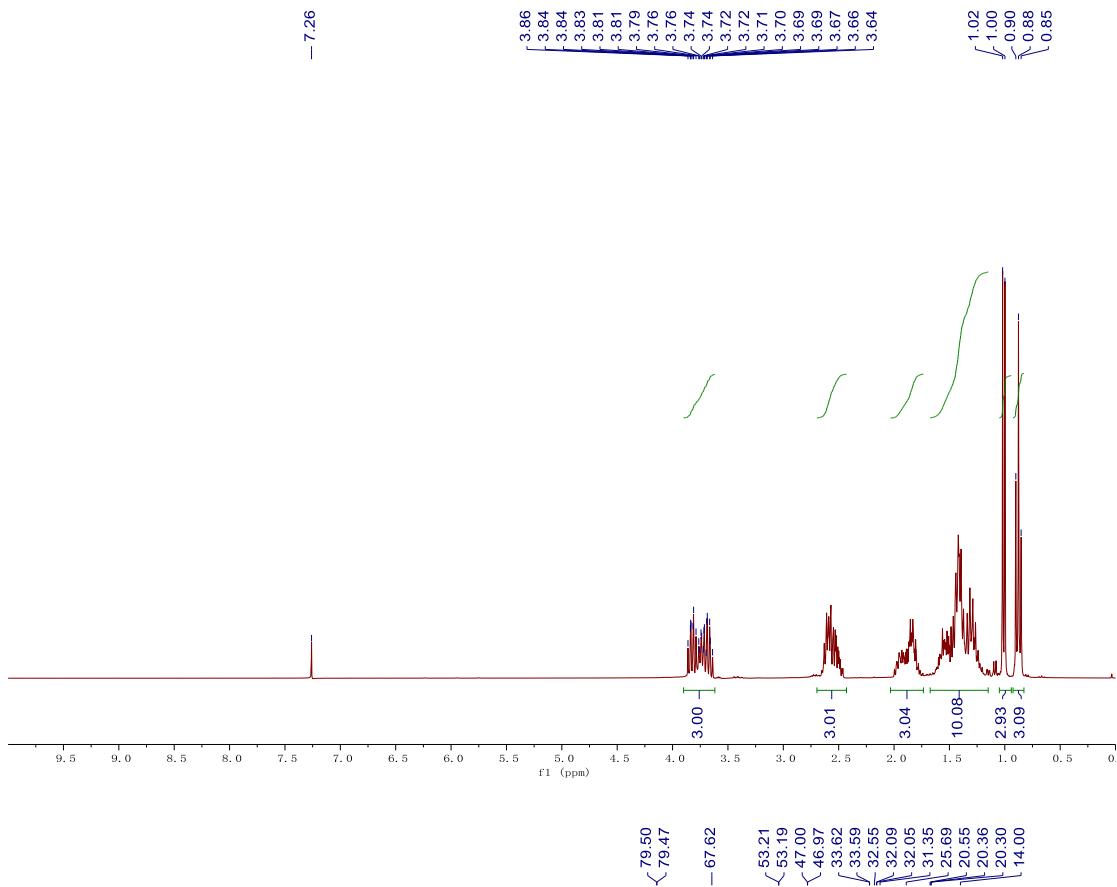
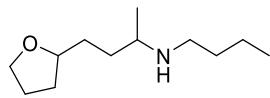


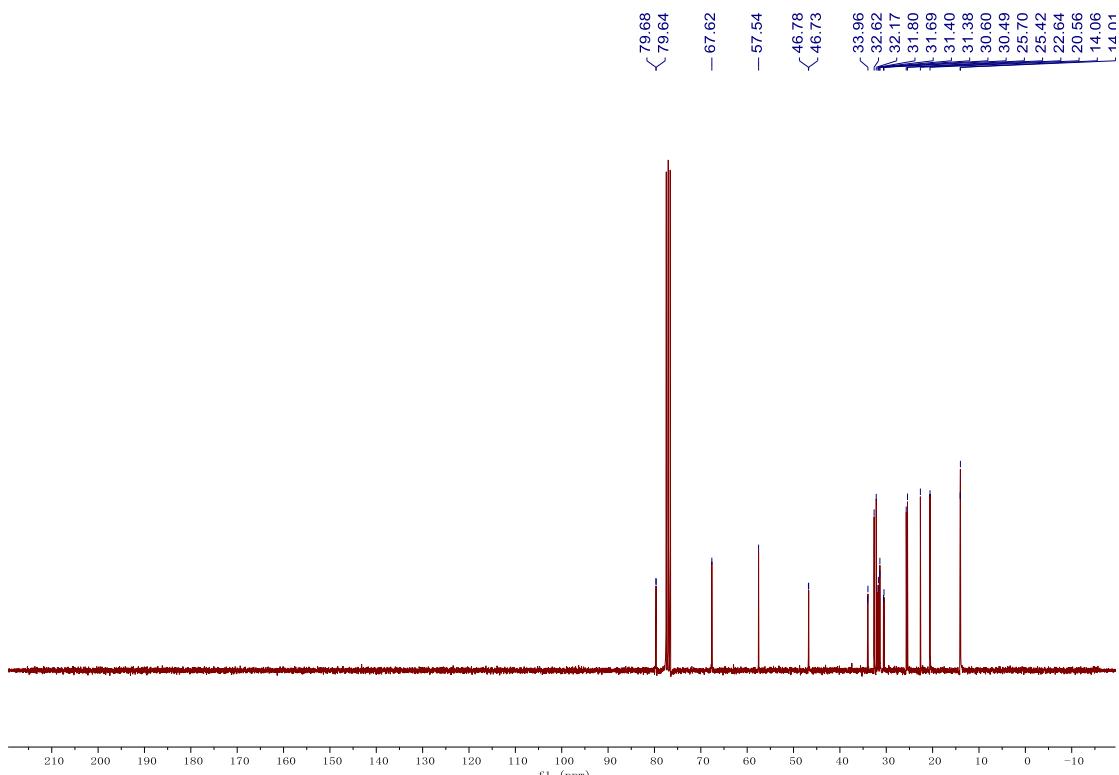
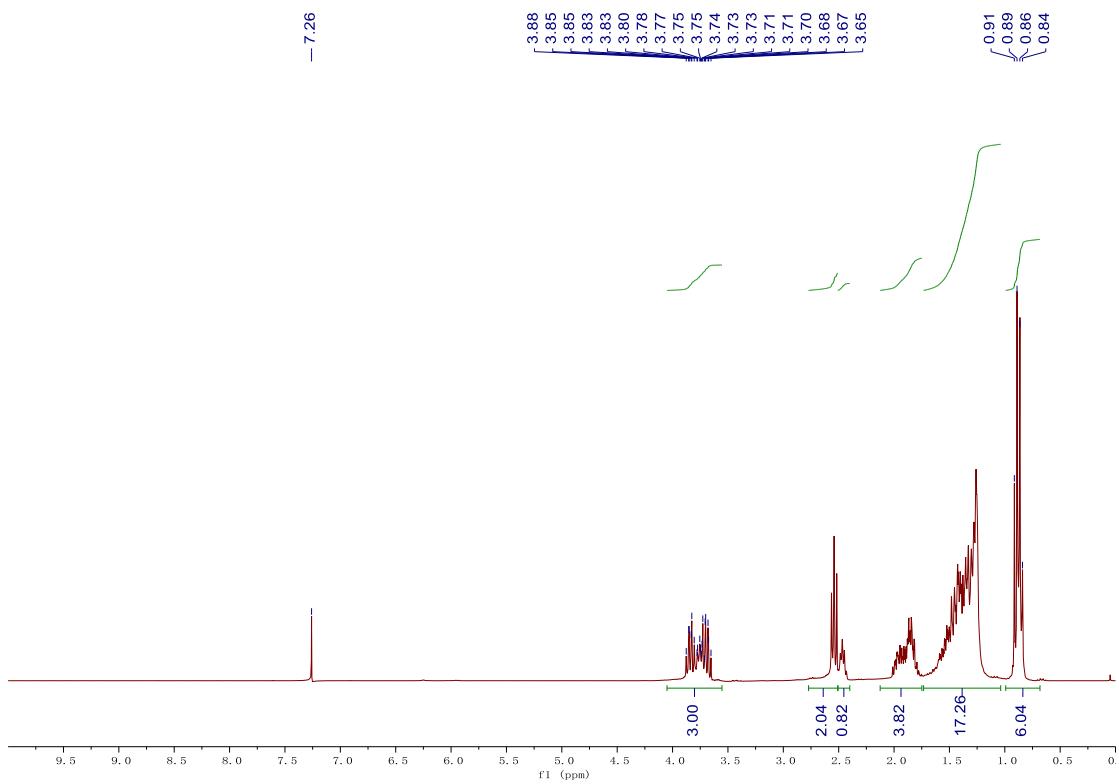
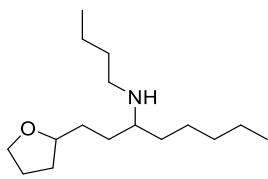


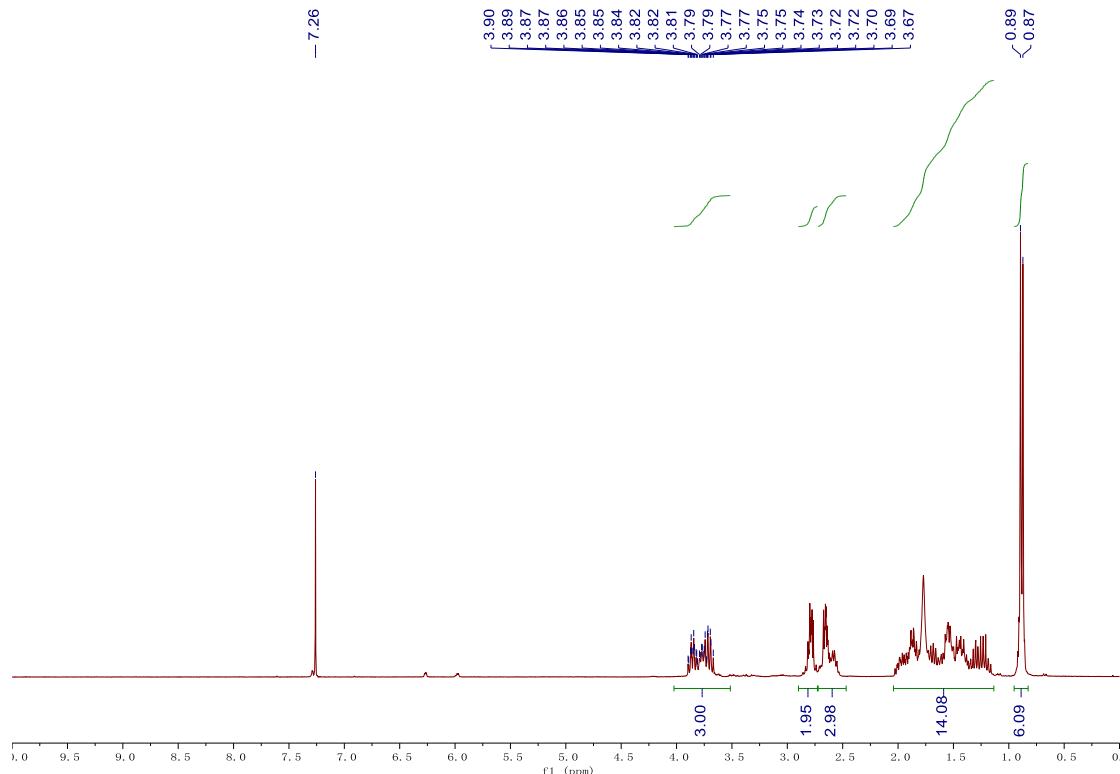
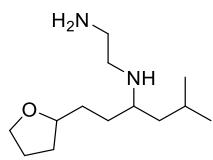


79.69, 79.67, 67.62, 55.31, 46.70, 46.64, 44.09, 44.00, 32.68, 31.56, 31.44, 31.39, 30.85, 30.76, 28.69, 24.91, 23.12, 23.05, 22.85, 22.75, 20.56, 14.02









79.66
75.63
67.64
67.62
56.15
55.13
49.40
49.32
44.11
44.07
42.26
42.22
31.53
31.43
31.39
30.94
30.85
26.69
24.89
23.11
23.05
22.81
22.74

