

Supporting Information

DBU-promoted Decomposition of Difluorocarbene and the Subsequent Trifluoromethylation*

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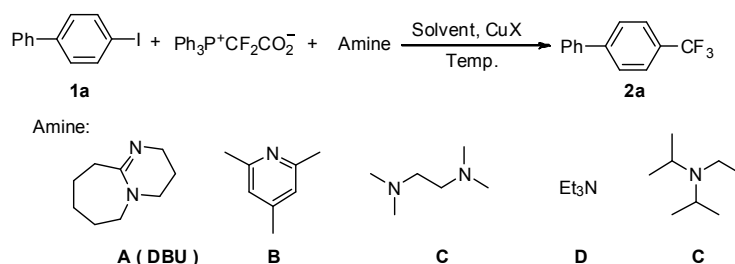
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1. General information:

Solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra were detected on a 500 MHz, 400 MHz or 300 MHz NMR spectrometer. Data for ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR were recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet, coupling constant (s) in Hz). Mass spectra were obtained on a GC-MS. High resolution mass data were recorded on a high resolution mass spectrometer in the EI or ESI mode.

2. Screening of reaction conditions with the use of PDFA

Table 1. Screening of reaction conditions with the use of PDFA^a



Entry	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	CuX	Amine	Molar Ratio ^b	Yield(%) ^c
1	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	29
2	80	DMSO	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	0
3	80	1,4-Dioxane	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	12
4	80	DCE	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	13
5	80	<i>p</i> -Xylene	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	17
6	80	NMP	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	23
7	80	DMA	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	25
8	80	EA	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	14
9	80	THF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	10
10	80	Methyl benzoate	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	15
11	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	A	1:1.5:1:1	21
12	80	DMF	CuOAc	A	1:1.5:1:1	3
13	50	DMF	CuI	A	1:1.5:1:1	8
14 ^d	50	DMF	CuI	--	1:1.5:1:--	0
15	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	B	1:1.5:1:1	trace
16	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	C	1:1.5:1:1	3
17	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	D	1:1.5:1:1	8
18	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	E	1:1.5:1:1	2
19	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:3:3:3	82
20	80	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:3.5:3.5:4	89

21 ^e	55	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₄	A	1:3.5:3.5:4	94
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^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), Ph₃P⁺CF₂CO₂⁻, CuX and amine in solvent (1 mL) for 3.5 h. ^bMolar ratio of **1a**:Ph₃P⁺CF₂CO₂⁻:CuX:base. ^cDetermined by ¹⁹F NMR. ^dThe reaction was conducted for 4 h without the addition of DBU. ^eThe reaction system was stirred for 36 h in 3 mL of DMF.

3. Screening of reaction conditions with the use of HCF₂Cl.

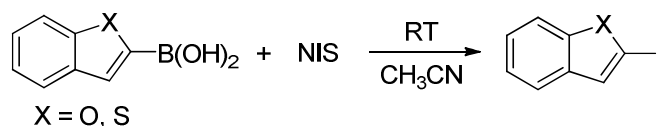
Table 2. Screening of reaction conditions with the use of HCF₂Cl^a

c1ccc(I)cc1 + HCF₂Cl $\xrightarrow[\text{DBU, DMF}]{\text{CuX}}$ c1ccc(C(F)(F)F)cc1
1a **2a**

Entry	Solv.	CuX	DBU (eq.)	T (°C)	T (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₆	2	80	3	13
2	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	2	80	3	20
3	DMF	CuBr	2	80	3	<1
4	DMF	CuI	2	80	3	3
5	DMF	CuOAc	2	80	3	<1
6	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	2	40	3	5
7	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	2	100	3	37
8	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	3	100	3	0
9	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	1.5	100	3	3
10	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄	2	100	5	48
11	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	7	100	5	80
12	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	7	110	5	89
13	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	7	120	5	93
14	<i>p</i> -xylene	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	7	120	5	38
15	1,4-dioxane	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	7	120	5	46
16	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	DBN(7) ^d	120	5	33
17	DMF	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]BF ₄ ^c	PO ^e	120	5	0

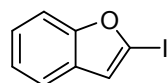
^aReaction conditions: into the solution of HCF₂Cl in DMF (2.43 M, 1.5 mL) was added 4-phenyl iodobenzene (0.2 mmol), CuX (1 equiv.) and DBU. ^bDetermined by ¹⁹F NMR with the addition of trifluoromethylbenzene as an internal standard. ^c3.5 equiv. of [Cu(MeCN)₄]BF₄ was used. ^dDBN = 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene. ^eThe system composed of ⁿBu₄NCl (0.2 eq), PO (abbreviate for propylene epoxide, 7 eq) and 4 Å MS (75 mg) was used as base.

4. Synthesis of 2-iodobenzofuran and 2-iodobenzo[b]thiophene^[1].

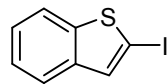


Into the solution of arylboronic acid (1 mmol) in dry acetonitrile (5 mL) was added *N*-iodosuccinimide (1.0 mmol, 225 mg). The mixture was stirred at room temperature protected from air and light until the completion of the reaction, as monitored by TLC. The solvent was removed by concentration. And the residue was further purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether) to afford the pure product.

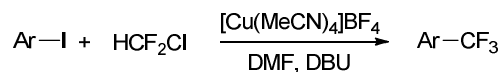
2-iodobenzofuran: yellow oil, 240 mg, 98%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₈H₅IO [M]⁺ 243.9; found 243.9.



2-iodobenzo[b]thiophene: white solid, 227 mg, 87%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₈H₅IS [M]⁺ 259.9; found 259.9.

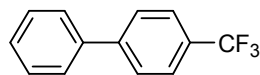


5. Trifluoromethylation of aromatic iodide with HCF₂Cl.

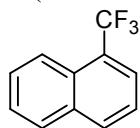


Into a 5 mL sealed tube were added aromatic iodide (0.2 mmol), [Cu(MeCN)₄]BF₄ (220.2 mg, 0.7 mmol), DBU (213.1 mg, 1.4 mmol) and the solution of HCF₂Cl in DMF (2.43 M, 1.5 mL) under N₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 5 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was subjected to flash column chromatography to give the desired product. For the cases that the substrates (aromatic iodide) can't be completely consumed (**2a-2e**, **2j-2k**), the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with DCM to remove the solid. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in AcOH (1 mL). Into this solution was added *m*-CPBA (68 mg, 0.4 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred 50 °C for 5 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the solution was subjected to flash column chromatography (petroleum ether:EA = 6:1, or petroleum ether) to afford the pure product.

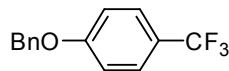
4-(Trifluoromethyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (**2a**): white solid, 40.2 mg, 91%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.65 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41 (m, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.43 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₁₃H₉F₃ [M]⁺ 222.1; found 222.1.



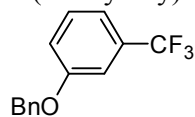
1-(Trifluoromethyl)naphthalene (**2b**): colorless oil, 36.7 mg, 94%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -59.71 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₁₁H₇F₃ [M]⁺ 196.0; found 196.1.



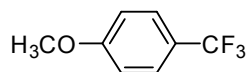
1-(Benzyloxy)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2c**): white solid, 40.2 mg, 80%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.51 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₁F₃O [M]⁺ 252.1; found 252.1.



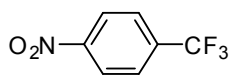
1-(Benzyloxy)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2d**): white solid, 42.1 mg, 83%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.73 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₁₄H₁₁F₃O [M]⁺ 252.1; found 252.1.



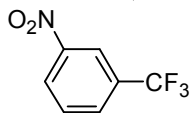
1-Methoxy-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2e**): colorless oil, 28.2 mg, 80%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.49 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₈H₇F₃O [M]⁺ 176.0; found 176.1.



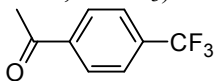
1-Nitro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2f**): white solid, 95%; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.21 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 191.0; found 191.0.



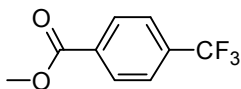
1-Nitro-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2g**): yellow oil, 37.5 mg, 98%; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.00 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 191.0; found 191.0.



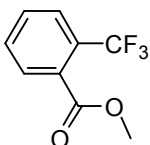
1-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanone (**2h**): yellow oil, 34.2 mg, 91%; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.55 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 188.0; found 188.0.



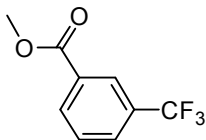
Methyl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (**2i**): yellow oil, 36.9 mg, 90%; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.14 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 204.0; found 204.0.



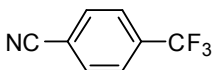
Methyl 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (**2j**): colorless oil, 30.7 mg, 75%; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -59.76 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 204.0; found 204.0.



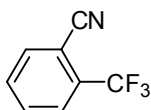
Methyl 3-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (**2k**): colorless oil, 35.2 mg, 86%; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H). ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.85 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 204.0; found 204.0.



4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (**2l**): white solid, 24.4 mg, 71%; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.54 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_4\text{F}_3\text{N}$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 171.0; found 171.0.



2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (**2m**): yellow oil, 23.9 mg, 70%; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.91 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.76 – 7.64 (m, 2H). ^{19}F NMR (282



MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.97 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₈H₄F₃N [M]⁺ 171.0; found 171.1.

6-(Trifluoromethyl)quinoline (**2n**): white solid, 36.3 mg, 92%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.01 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 8.32 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.2 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.40 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₁₀H₆F₃N [M]⁺ 197.0; found 197.1.

2-Chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (**2o**): colorless oil, 32.8 mg, 90%; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.80 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₆H₃ClF₃N [M]⁺ 181.0; found 181.0.

2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzofuran (**2p**): colorless oil, 30.2 mg, 81%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -64.85 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₉H₅F₃O [M]⁺ 186.0; found 186.0.

2-(Trifluoromethyl)benzo[b]thiophene (**2q**): white solid, 32.7 mg, 81%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.52 – 7.39 (m, 2H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -56.31 (s, 3F). GC-MS (EI) calcd. for C₉H₅F₃S [M]⁺ 186.0; found 186.0.

References:

- [1] C. Thiebes, C. Thiebes, G. K. S. Prakash, N. A. Petasis, G. A. Olah, *Synlett* **1998**, 1998, 141-142.

6. Investigation of the mechanism of the trifluoromethylation with HCF_2Cl .

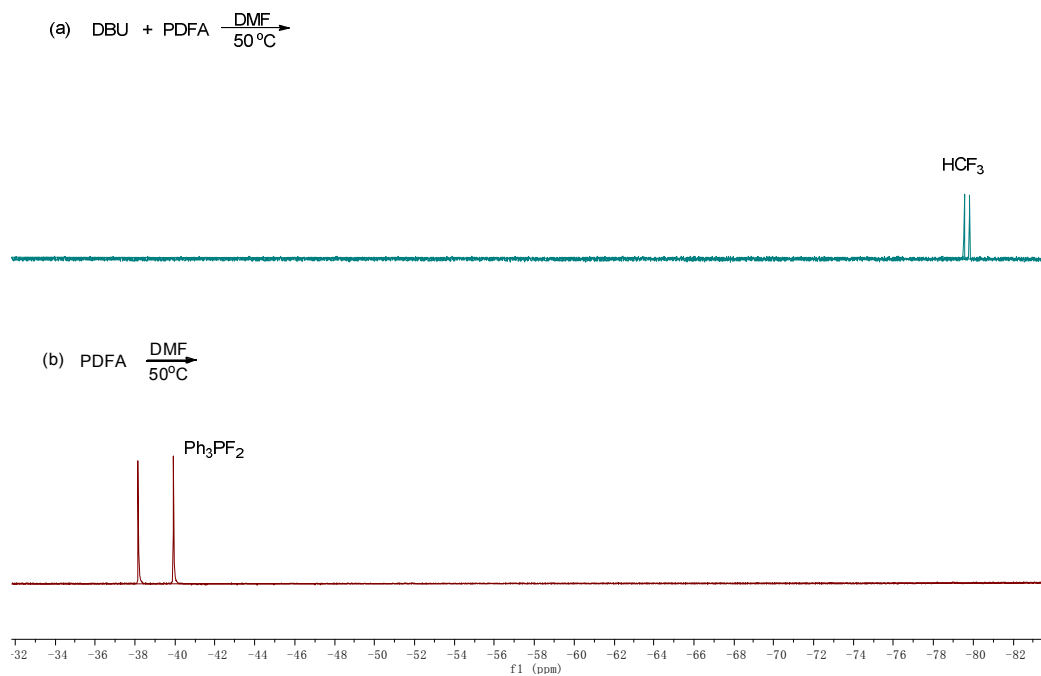


Figure 1. ^{19}F NMR measurement of the reaction of PDFA with DBU.

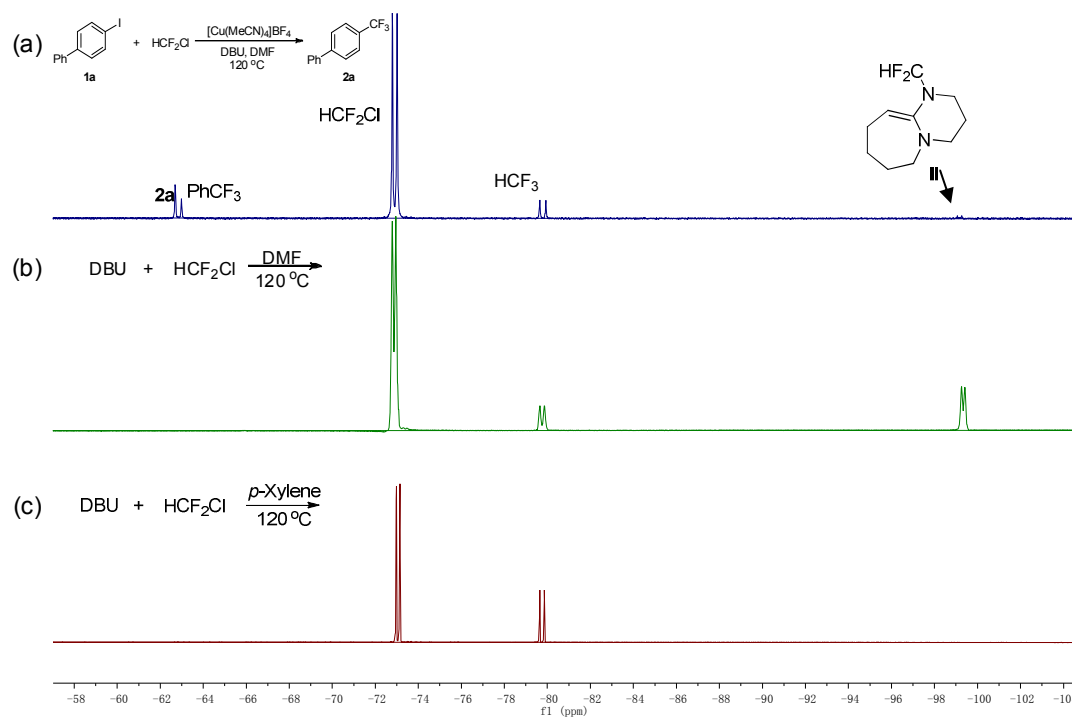


Figure 2. ^{19}F NMR measurement of the reaction of HCF_2Cl with DBU.

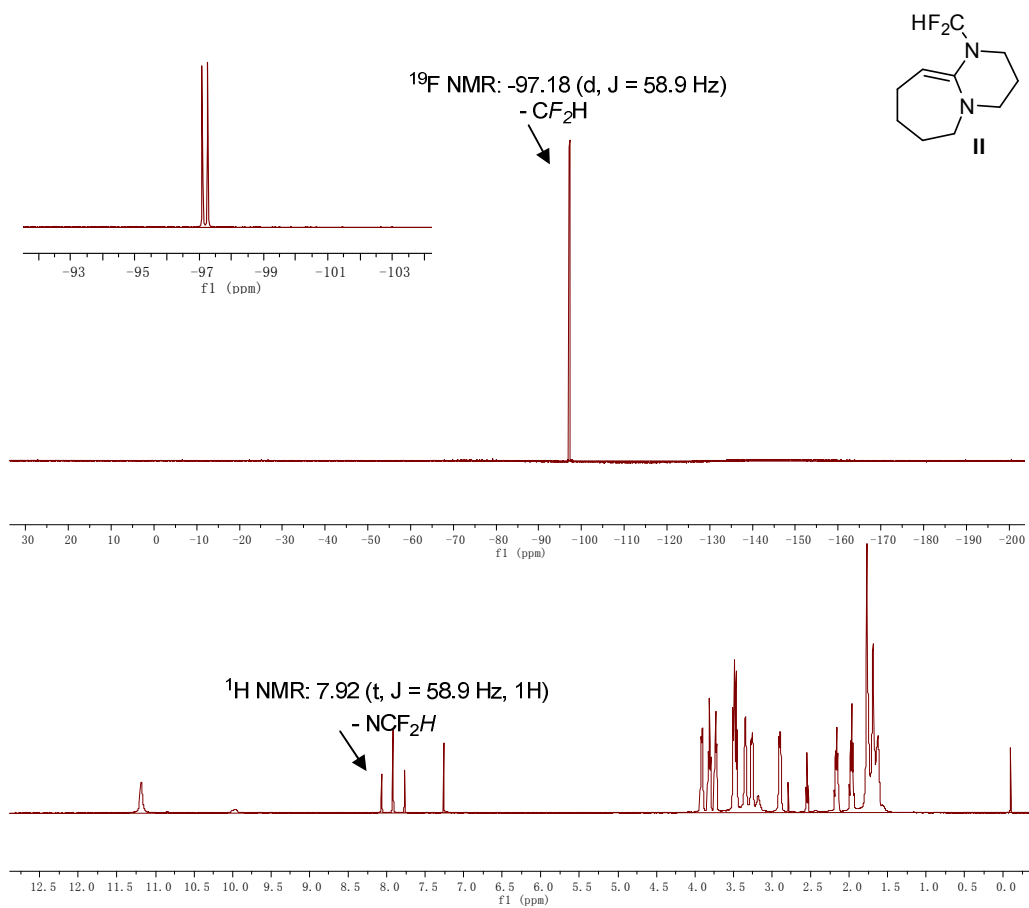


Figure 3. ^{19}F NMR and ^1H NMR of the impure intermediate **II** after flash column chromatography.

Shanghai Mass Spectrometry Center
 Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry
 Chinese Academy of Sciences
 High Resolution MS Data Report



Instrument



Bruker Daltonics, Inc. APEXIII 7.0 TESLA FTMS

Card Serial Number E140034
 Analysis Name D:\Data\zjf\2013\20131225_000046.d
 Sample Name 2011167-54-HR
 Acquisition Date 4/26/2013 1:57:25 PM
 Operator: zjf
 Ionization Mode ESI-Positive
 Ion Mass (Measured) 203.1358

Sum Formula	Sigma	m/z	Err (ppm)	Mean Err (ppm)	Err (mDa)	rdb	N Rule	e ⁻
C ₁₀ H ₁₇ F ₂ N ₂	0.007	203.1354	-1.93	-2.02	-0.39	2.50	ok	even
C ₆ H ₂₁ N ₁ O ₆	0.022	203.1363	2.54	2.57	0.52	-3.00	ok	odd

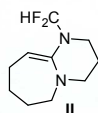


Figure 4. HRMS-ESI of intermediate II.

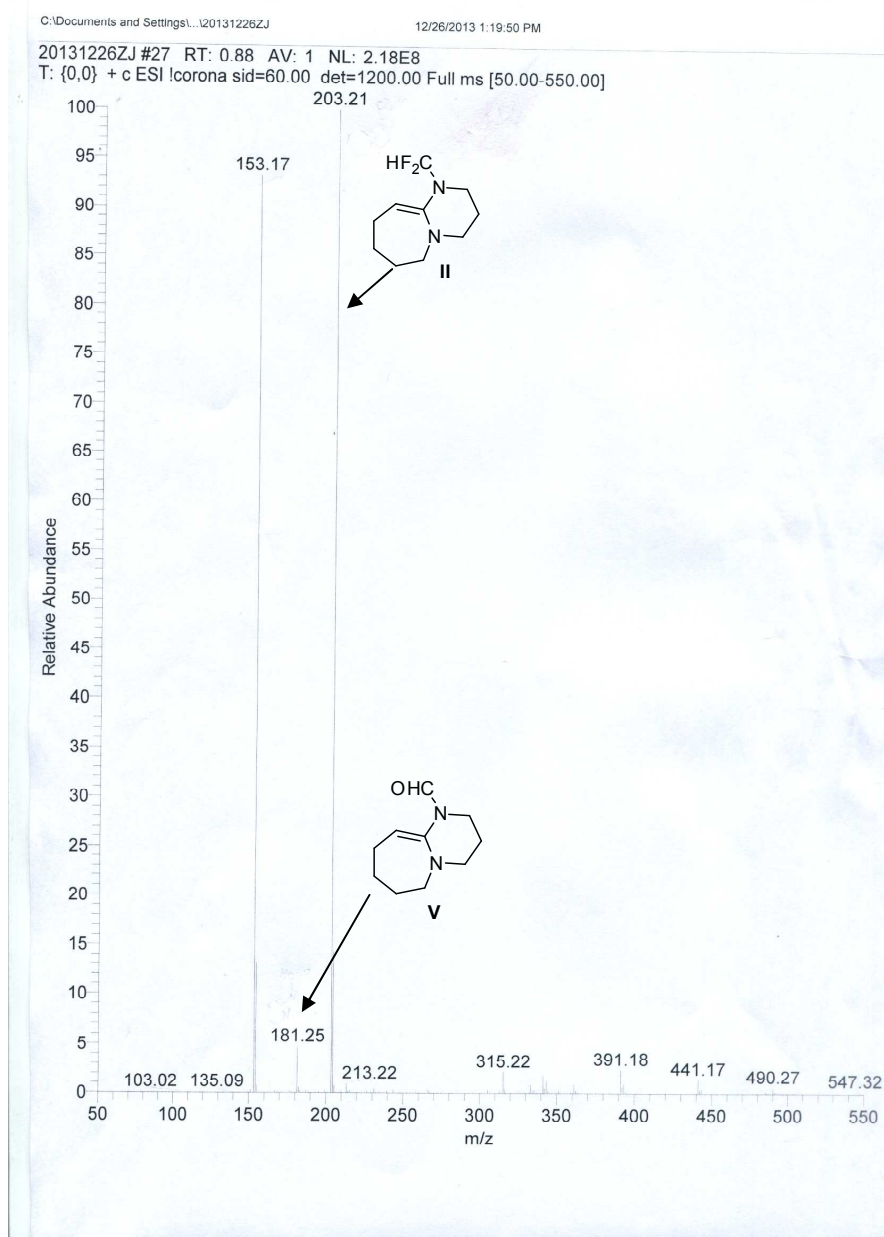


Figure 5. LRMS-ESI of intermediate **II** and **V**.

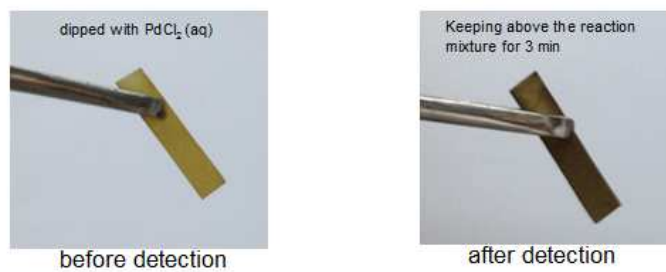
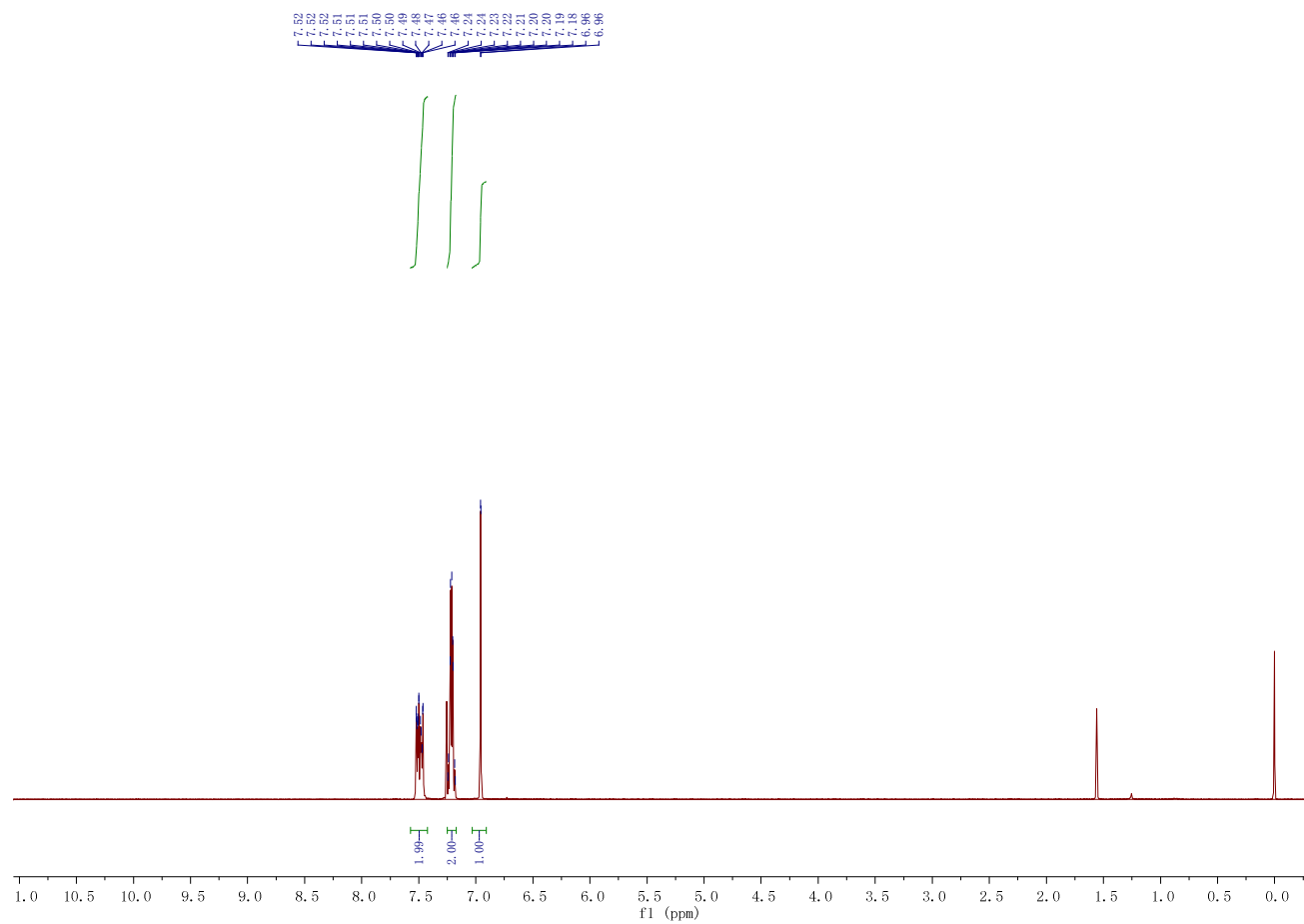
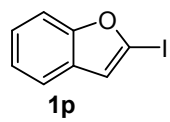
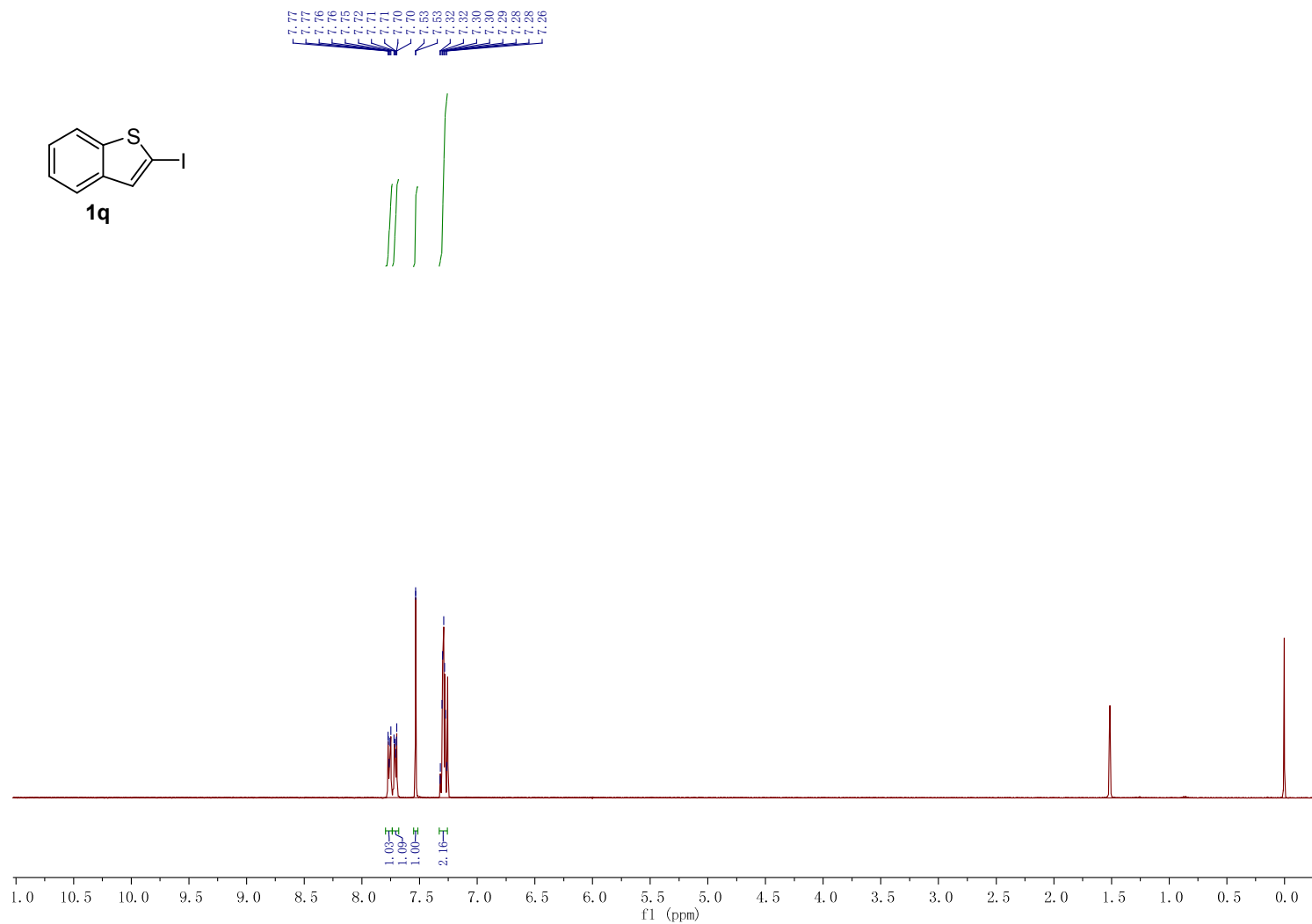
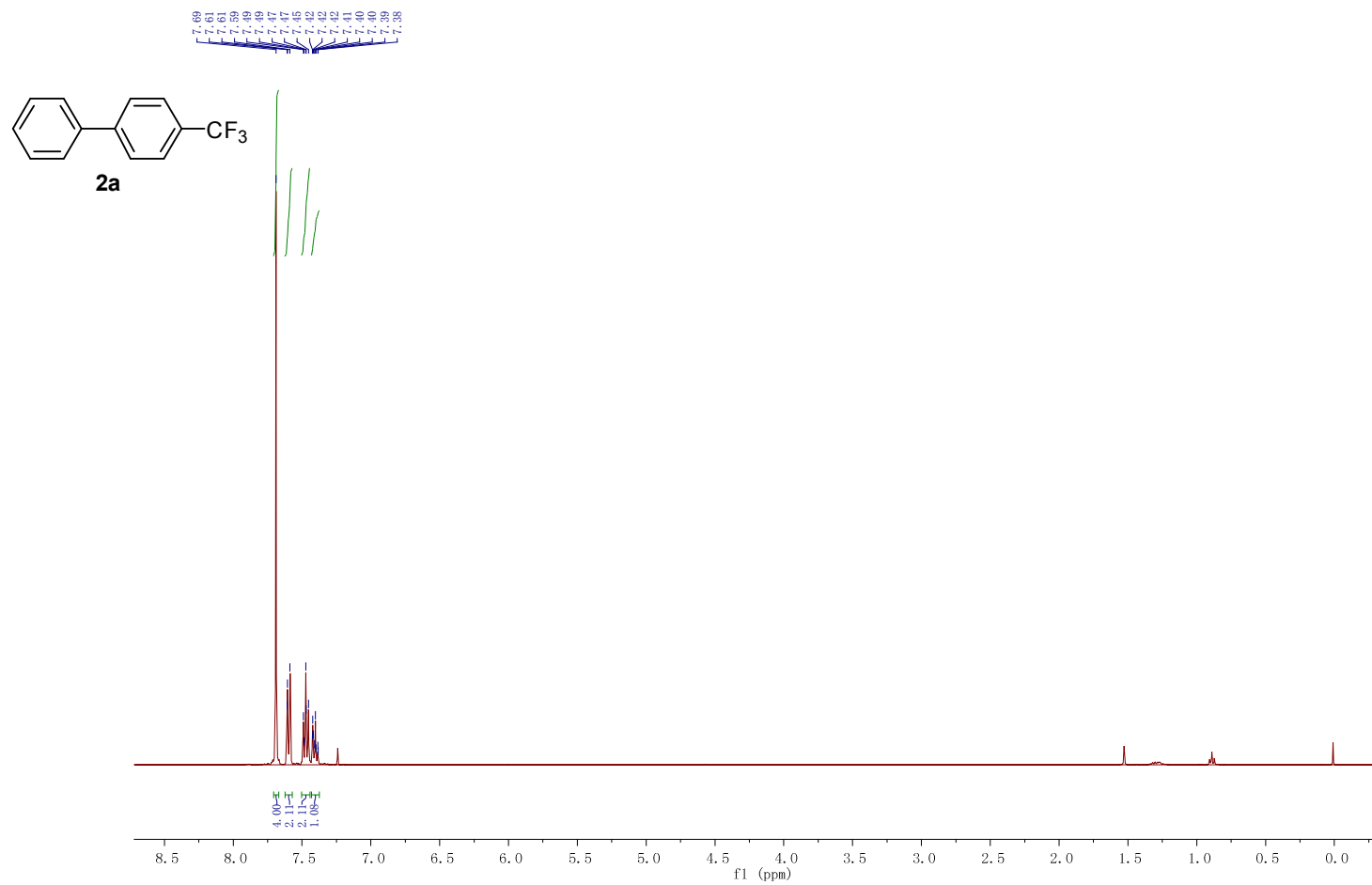


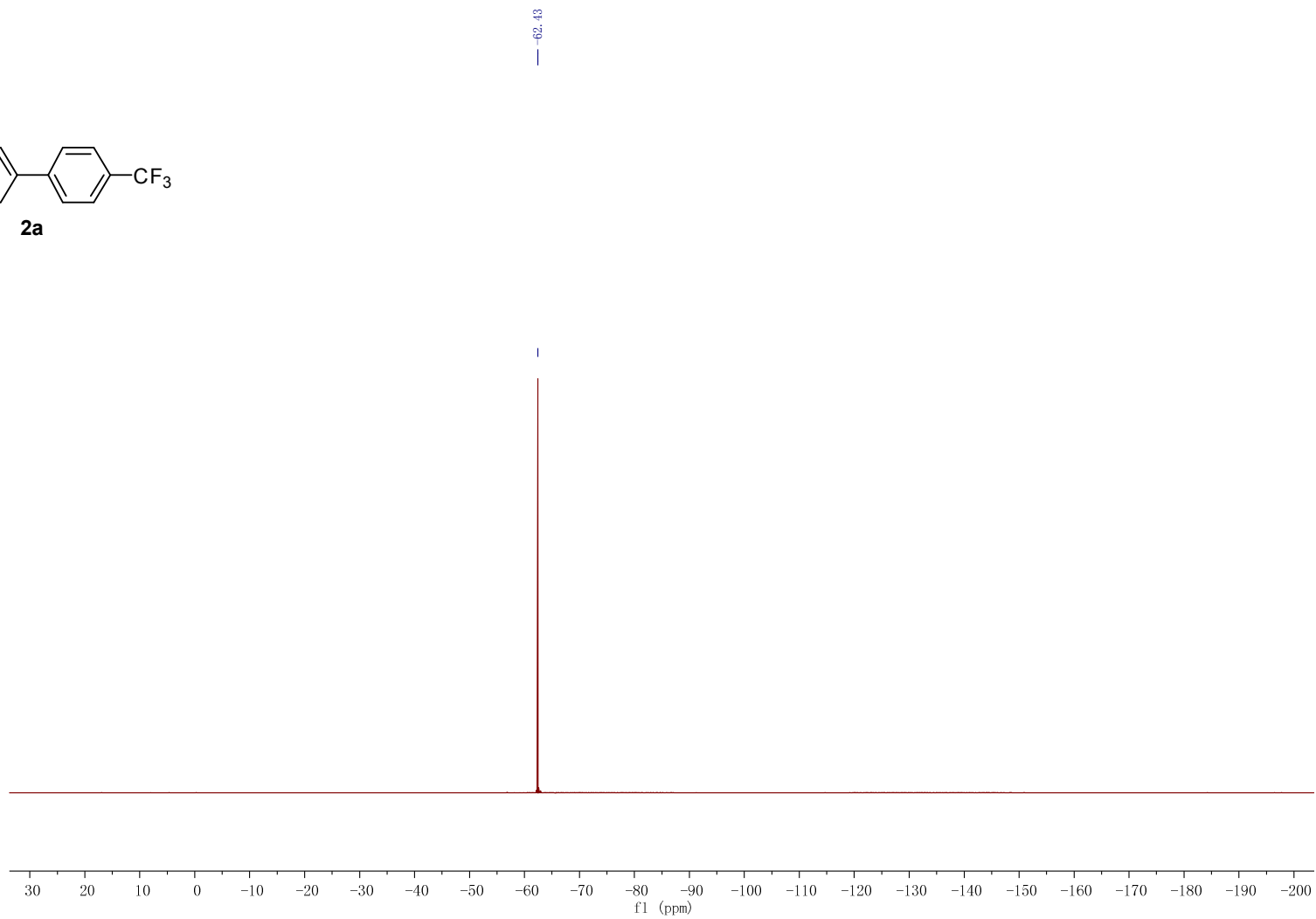
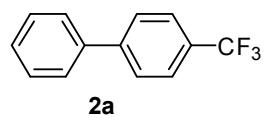
Figure 6. Detection of CO released from the reaction system.

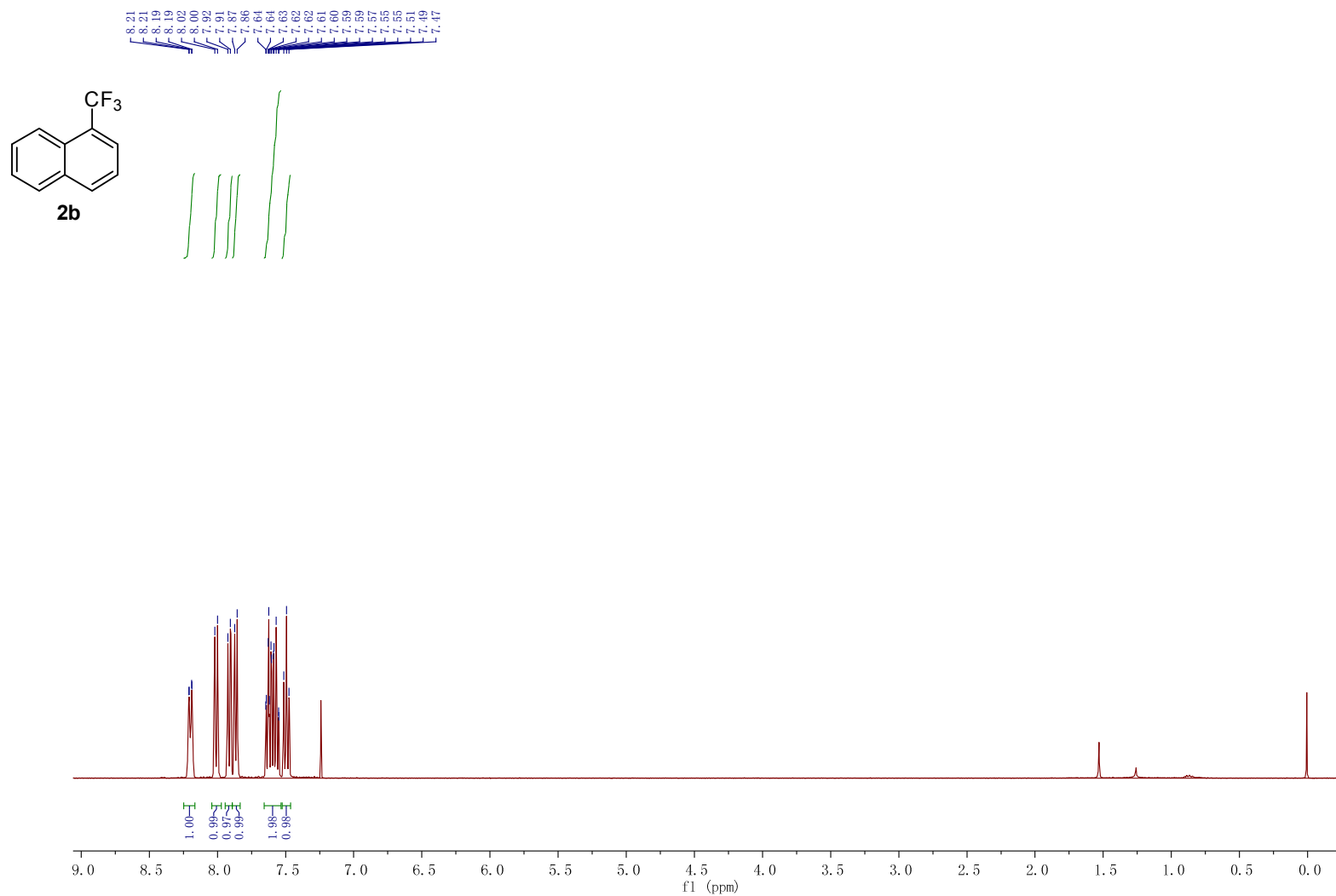
7. Copies of ^1H NMR, ^{19}F NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra.

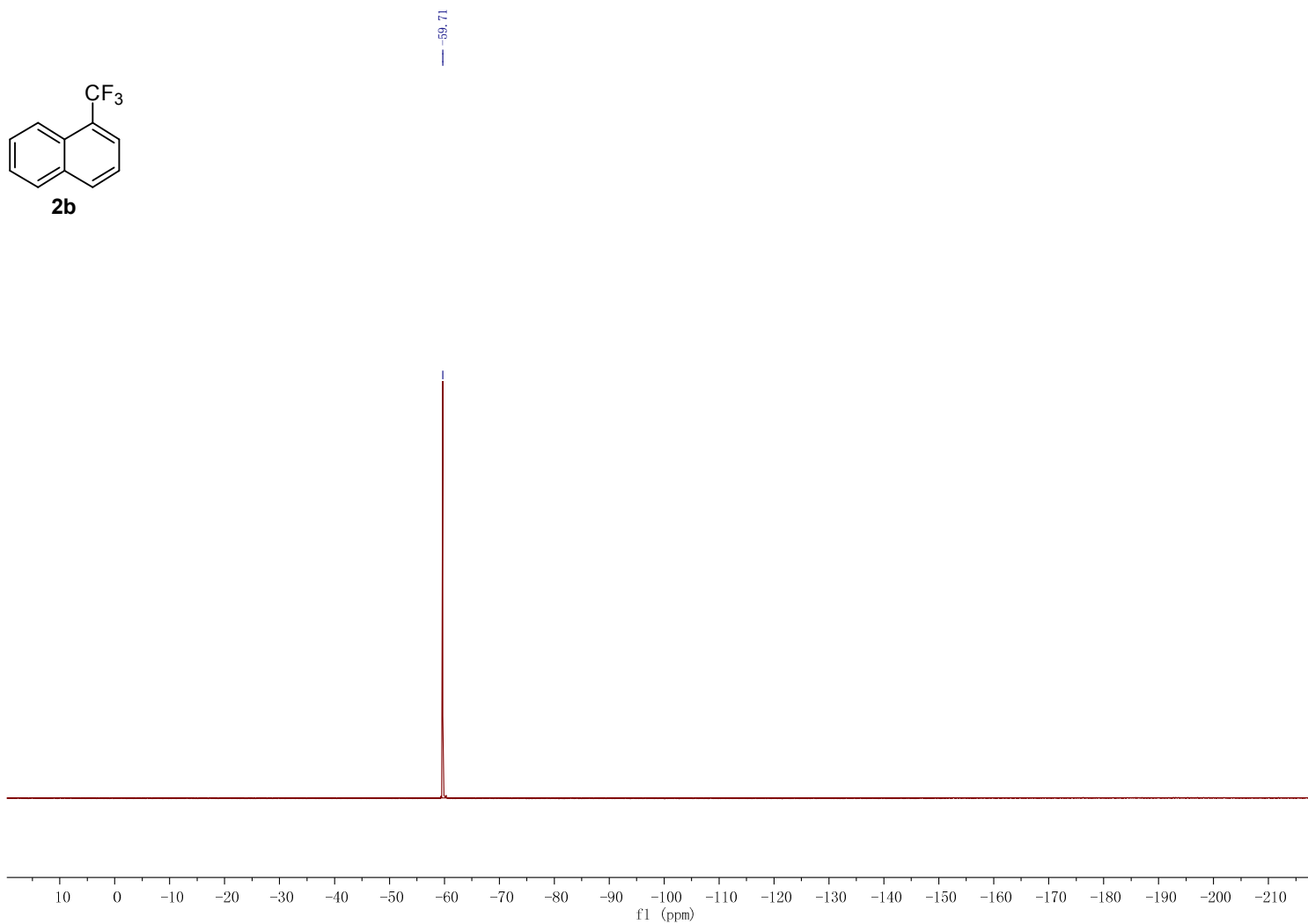


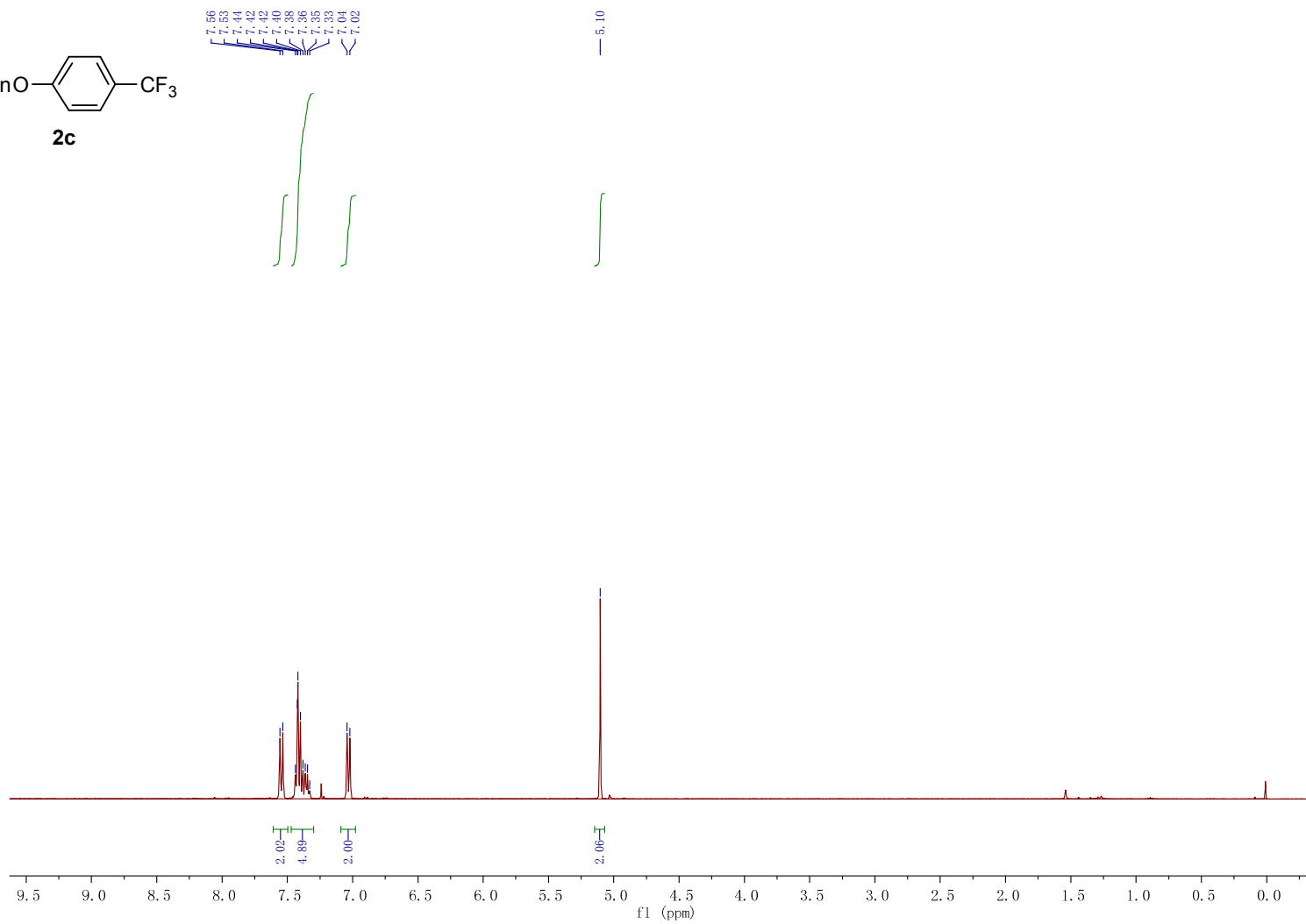
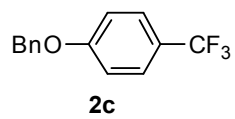


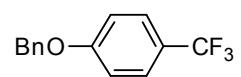












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