

# **Spirocyclic dihydropyridines by electrophile-induced dearomatizing cyclization of *N*-alkenyl pyridinecarboxamides**

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## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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## **General Information**

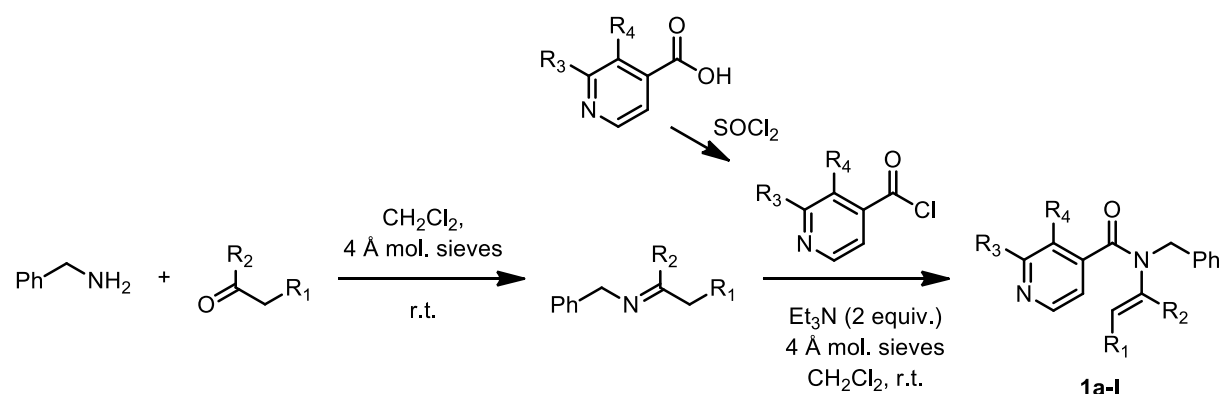
NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Ultrashield 300, 400 or 500 MHz spectrometer. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm downfield of trimethylsilane and coupling constants ( $J$ ) reported in hertz and rounded to 0.5 Hz. Splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (qn), septet (sept), multiplet (m), broad (br) and apparent (ap) or a combination of these. Aromatic protons (Ar) are assigned where possible using the following abbreviations: Phenyl (Ph), pyridine (Py) and quinoline (Qu). Where mixtures of diastereomers or rotamers have been observed, they are described as major (maj) or minor (min) where possible and as A and B where diastereomeric/ rotamer ratios are 1:1. Solvents were used as an internal standard when assigning NMR spectra ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$  7.26 ppm;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ :  $\text{CDCl}_3$  77.16 ppm;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ :  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  3.31  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ :  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  49.00 and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ :  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  2.50 ppm;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ :  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  39.4 ppm). Coupling constants were calculated using MestReNova LITE 5.2.5 or by ACDLabs 9.0 1D NMR processor software.

Low and high resolution mass spectra were recorded by staff at the University of Manchester. ES spectra were recorded on a Micromass Platform II spectrometer and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Kratos Concept-IS mass spectrometer, and are accurate to  $\pm 0.001$ . Infrared spectra were recorded as on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum RX 1 FTIR or a on a Thermo Scientific iD5 ATR spectrometer. Only absorption maxima of interest are reported. Melting points (m.p.) were determined on a GallenKamp apparatus.

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using commercially available pre-coated plates (Macherey-Nagel alugram. Sil G/ $\text{UV}_{254}$ ) was visualised with UV light at 254nm or a phosphomolybdic acid dip (5% in ethanol). Flash chromatography was carried out using Fluorochem Davisil 40-63u 60 Å.

All reactions were conducted under a nitrogen atmosphere unless otherwise stated. Where a nitrogen atmosphere was employed, oven or flame dried glassware was used. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and diethyl ether were distilled under nitrogen from sodium, using a benzophenone indicator. Dichloromethane and THF were obtained by distillation from calcium hydride under nitrogen. Toluene was obtained from the Innovative Technology Puresolve P5-mp-5 solvent purification system. Petrol refers to the fraction of light petroleum ether boiling between 40 and 65 °C. All other solvents and commercially obtained reagents were used as received or purified using standard procedures.

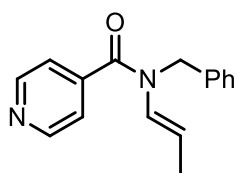
### General Procedure A for Imine Acylations



Thionyl chloride (5 eq) was added to a flask containing the pyridyl carboxylic acid. The reaction was stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere for 2 hours until a clear solution was obtained. Excess thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure and dried under vacuum.

Aldehyde or ketone was added to a flame-dried flask under a nitrogen atmosphere containing dry dichloromethane (2.0 mL) and molecular sieves (4 Å). Benzylamine (1 eq) was added dropwise and the reaction was left to stir at room temperature. Acyl chloride (1.1 eq) was suspended in dry dichloromethane in a flame-dried flask containing molecular sieves (4 Å). The suspension was cooled to 0 °C, triethylamine (2.2 eq) was added dropwise and the solution was stirred for 2 minutes. Imine (1.0 eq) was added dropwise to the solution. The ice bath was removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to heat to room temperature. After stirring for 3-6 hours, saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (20 mL) was added and the solution extracted with dichloromethane (2 × 20 mL), dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:3) to yield the enamide.

#### *N*-Benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide (1a)

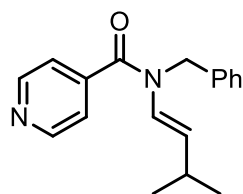


Following general procedure A, (*E*)-1-phenyl-*N*-propylidenemethanamine (2.0 mmol) (from benzylamine (0.22 mL) and propionaldehyde (0.13 mL)) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (311 mg). After purification the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (72% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.29 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1641 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (3:1)) δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, Py), 8.60 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Py), 7.46-7.10 (m, 7H, Ar), 6.28 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH), 5.09 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH=CH), 5.01 (s, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.60 (s, 2H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>) 1.70 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 3H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.8 (CO), 150.3 (Py), 143.2 (Py), 136.6 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 136.0 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 129.0 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 128.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 127.3 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 126.9

(Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 125.9 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 125.7 (NCH=CH), 125.6 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 122.0 (Py<sub>maj</sub>), 120.6 (Py<sub>min</sub>), 110.8 (NCH=CH<sub>min</sub>), 110.1 (NCH=CH<sub>maj</sub>), 50.8 (PhCH<sub>2min</sub>) 47.4 (PhCH<sub>2maj</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>3min</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3maj</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 253.1 (20%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 275.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 275.1151 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Na requires 275.1155.

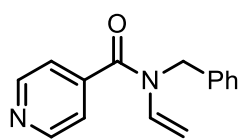
### ***N*-Benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-3-methyl-but-1-enyl)-isonicotinamide (1b)**



Following general procedure A, (*E*)-*N*-(3-methylbutylidene)-1-phenylmethanamine (1.0 mmol) (from 3-methyl-butraldehyde (0.11 mL) and benzylamine (0.11 mL)) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (155 mg). After purification, the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (72% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.21 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1641 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (3:1))  $\delta$  8.73 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, Py), 8.58 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Py), 7.40-7.09 (m, 7H, Ar), 6.23 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H, NCH), 5.07 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.00 (s, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.66 (s, 2H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.36 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 2.11 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.81 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (400 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.1 (CO), 150.4 (Py), 143.4 (Py), 136.6 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 136.0 (Ph<sub>min</sub>) 128.8 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 128.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>) 127.4 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 127.2 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 126.1 (NCH), 125.7 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 123.7 (NCH=CH), 123.4 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 122.0 (Py<sub>maj</sub>), 120.7 (Py<sub>min</sub>), 50.8 (PhCH<sub>2min</sub>), 47.6 (PhCH<sub>2maj</sub>), 29.7 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2min</sub>), 29.4 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2maj</sub>), 23.0 (CH<sub>3min</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>3maj</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 303.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>-</sup>): 279.8 (100%, M<sup>-</sup>), **HRMS**: found 303.1471 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa requires 303.1473.

### ***N*-Benzyl-*N*-vinylisonicotinamide (1c)**



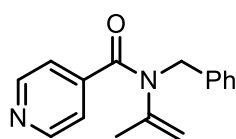
Following general procedure B, but using 2.5 eq of pyridine rather than triethylamine, *N*-benzyl-2-chloroethanamine hydrochloride<sup>1</sup> (3.0 mmol) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (3.3 mmol). Saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution was added (10 mL) and the solution extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 10 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; EtOAc-petrol 1:3) to yield the amide, as colourless oil (0.664 g, 81%).

Potassium *tert*-butoxide (1.0 mmol) was added to stirred solution of *N*-benzyl-*N*-(2-chloroethyl)isonicotinamide (0.274 g, 1.0 mmol) in *tert*-butanol (5 mL) at room temperature. The solution was stirred for 60 hours then water (15 mL) was added and the solution extracted with EtOAc (3 x 15 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; EtOAc-hexane 2:3 to EtOAc) to yield the title compound as a white waxy solid (0.040 g, 17%).

<sup>1</sup> Mansour, A.; Portnoy, M. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. I* **2001**, 952 - 954.

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.28 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.75 (br s, 2H, Py), 7.28-7.45 (m, 7H, Ph, Py), 6.59 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H, NCH), 5.06 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.57 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, CH=CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 4.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (400 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.4 (C=O), 150.4 (Py), 142.7 (Py), 136.2 (Ph), 133.9 (NCH), 128.5 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 126.9 (Ph), 121.9 (Py), 96.5 (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 239.1 (18%, MH<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 239.1180 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O requires 239.1179.

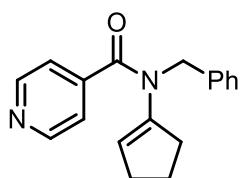
#### ***N*-Benzyl-*N*-isopropenyl-isonicotinamide (1d)**



Following general procedure A, benzyl-isopropylidene-amine (2.1 mmol) from benzylamine (0.23 mL) and acetone (0.16 mmol) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (288 mg). After purification, the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (65% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.30 (EtOAc:petrol 2:1); **IR**: (*ν*<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1636 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.35-7.26 (m, 7H, Ar), 4.84 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.80 (s, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (s, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 168.1 (CO), 150.1 (Py), 144.3 (NC=CH<sub>2</sub> or Py), 143.5 (NCCH<sub>2</sub> or Py), 137.1 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 121.7 (Py), 116.6 (NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 50.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 275.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 275.1161 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Na requires 275.1155.

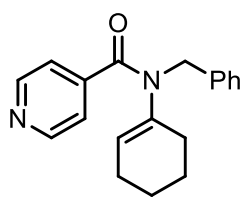
#### ***N*-Benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide (1e)**



Following general procedure A, *N*-cyclopentylidene-1-phenylmethanamine (6.5 mmol) from cyclopentanone (0.42 mL) and benzylamine (0.71 mL) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (1.00 g). After purification, the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (78% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.38 (2:1 EtOAc:petrol); **IR**: (*ν*<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1643 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.38-7.26 (m, 7H, Ar), 5.13 (br s, 1H, NC=CH), 4.84 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.29 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.09 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.74 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.2 (C=O), 149.9 (Py), 144.5 (NC=CH or Py), 142.2 (NC=CH or Py), 137.2 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 127.6 (NC=CH), 127.5 (Ph), 121.6 (Py), 50.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 301.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 301.1315 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Na requires 301.1311.

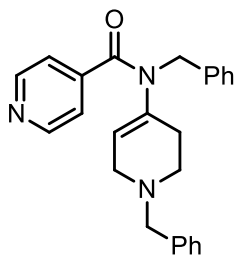
### *N*-Benzyl-*N*-cyclohex-1-enyl-isonicotinamide (1f)



Following general procedure A, *N*-cyclohexylidene-1-phenylmethanamine (1.1 mmol) from cyclohexanone (0.11 mL) and benzylamine (0.12 mL) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (163 mg). After purification the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (89% over 2 steps).

***R<sub>f</sub>***: 0.26 (EtOAc:petrol 3:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1640 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.35-7.26 (m, 7H, Ar), 5.21 (m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.80 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.93 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.77 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.2 (CO), 149.7 (Py), 144.8 (NC=CH or Py), 137.8 (NC=CH or Py), 137.2 (Ph), 129.9 (NC=CH), 128.7 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 121.6 (Py), 50.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 28.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>); ***m/z* (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 293.1 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 315.1477 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Na requires 315.1468.

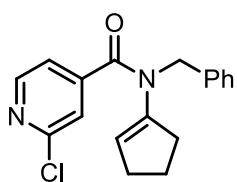
### *N*-benzyl-*N*-(1-benzyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)isonicotinamide (1g)



Following general procedure A, *N*-(1-benzylpiperidin-4-ylidene)-1-phenylmethanamine (2.5 mmol) from 1-benzylpiperidin-4-one (0.44 mL) and benzylamine (0.27 mL) was acylated with isonicotinoyl chloride (388 mg). After purification, the title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (42% over 2 steps).

***R<sub>f</sub>***: 0.11 (EtOAc:petrol 2:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1645 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.57 (dd,  $J$  = 4.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.30 (dd,  $J$  4.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H, Py), 7.27-7.12 (m, 10H, Ph), 5.10 (br s, 1H, NC=CH), 4.75 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.35 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.67 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.36 (m,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.02 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.1 (C=O), 149.8 (Py or NC=CH), 144.4 (Py or NC=CH), 140.5 (Py), 138.0 (Ph), 137.2 (Ph), 136.5 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 127.2 (NC=CH), 121.6 (Py), 61.6 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 51.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 49.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 29.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>); ***m/z* (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 40% (M<sup>+</sup> 384), 100% (MNa<sup>+</sup> 406); **HRMS**: found 384.2078 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O requires 384.2071.

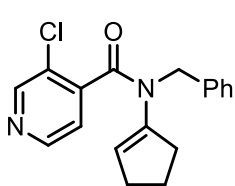
### *N*-benzyl-2-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide (1h)



Following general procedure A, *N*-cyclopentylidene-1-phenylmethanamine (2.2 mmol) from cyclopentanone (0.18 mL) and benzylamine (0.31 mL) was acylated with 2-chloroisonicotinoyl chloride (432 mg). The title compound was yielded as a colourless gum after purification (546 mg, 78% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.47 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1648 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.40 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.43 (s, 1H, Py), 7.36-7.28 (m, 6H, Ar), 5.15 (m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.83 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.22 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.13 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.78 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.7 (C=O), 151.7 (Py), 149.7 (Py), 147.3 (Py or NC=CH), 141.9 (Py or NC=CH), 136.8 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph or NC=CH), 127.7 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph or NC=CH), 122.5 (Py), 120.4 (Py), 50.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 313 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)<sup>+</sup>), 315 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)<sup>+</sup>), 335 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 337 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 335.0923 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>N<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>35</sup>ClNa requires 335.0923.

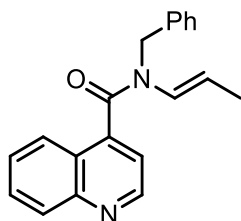
### ***N*-benzyl-3-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide (1i)**



Following general procedure A, *N*-cyclopentylidene-1-phenylmethanamine (1.6 mmol) (from cyclopentanone (0.13 mL) and benzylamine (0.23 mL)) was acylated with 3-chloroisonicotinoyl chloride (300 mg). The title compound was yielded as a colourless gum after purification (394 mg, 81% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.28 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1646 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 (s, 1H, Py), 8.34 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.22 – 7.12 (m, 5H, Ar), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 5.06 (t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CH), 4.72 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.05 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.86 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.54 (m,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.2 (C=O), 149.8 (Py), 147.6 (Py), 144.3 (Py), 140.8 (Py or NC=CH), 136.8 (Ph), 128.6 (Py or NC=CH), 128.3 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph or NC=CH), 128.1 (Ph or NC=CH), 127.6 (Ph), 121.7 (Py), 49.2 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 335 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 337 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 313.1104 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>35</sup>Cl requires 313.1103.

### ***(E)*-2-Benzyl-1-quinolin-4-yl-pent-3-en-1-one (1j)**

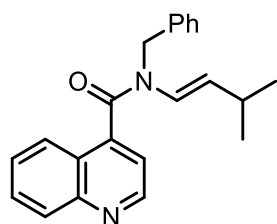


Following general procedure A, benzyl-prop-(*E*)-ylidene amine (1.5 mmol) (from benzylamine (0.17 mL) and propionaldehyde (0.10 mL)) was acylated with quinolone-4-carbonyl chloride (315 mg). The title compound was yielded as a colourless gum after purification (286 mg, 63% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.42 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1643 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (3:1))  $\delta$  9.02 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 8.80 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 8.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 8.14 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.85-7.75 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.63-7.58 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.44-7.22 (m, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, 4H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.04-7.03 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 6.09 (dd,  $J$  = 14.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.21 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.17 (s, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.12 (dq,  $J$  = 14.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 1.77 (dd,  $J$  = 6.5, 1.5 Hz, 3H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 (dd,  $J$  = 6.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5 (C=O<sub>maj</sub>), 167.2 (C=O<sub>min</sub>), 150.0 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 149.8 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 148.6 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 148.3 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 141.9 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 141.8 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 136.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 136.0

(Ph<sub>min</sub>) 130.2 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 130.2 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 130.1 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 130.1 (Qu<sub>min</sub>) 128.8 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 128.8 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 128.1 (NCH=CH), 127.9 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 127.8 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 127.4 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 127.2 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 125.7 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 125.6 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 124.9 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 124.7 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 124.2 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 124.0 (Qu<sub>min</sub>) 118.7 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 117.5 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 110.9 (NCH=CH<sub>min</sub>), 109.6 (NCH=CH<sub>maj</sub>), 50.6 (PhCH<sub>2min</sub>), 46.7 (PhCH<sub>2maj</sub>), 15.6 (CH<sub>3min</sub>), 15.3 (CH<sub>3maj</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 303 (20%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 325 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 303.1468 (MH<sup>+</sup>) and 325.1315 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> requires 303.1468 and C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Na requires 325.1311.

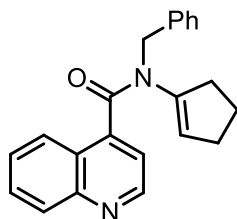
### (*E*)-2-Benzyl-5-methyl-1-quinolin-4-yl-hex-3-en-1-one (1k)



Following general procedure A, benzyl-[3-methyl-but-(*E*)-ylidene]-amine (1.6 mmol) from 3-methyl-butraldehyde (0.18 mL) and benzylamine (0.18 mL), was acylated with quinolone-4-carbonyl chloride (336 mg). The title compound was isolated as a by-product as a pale yellow gum (322 mg, 61% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.43 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1643 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (3:1)) δ 9.0 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 8.78 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.85-7.75 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.62-7.57 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.41-7.23 (m, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, 4H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.12 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.02-7.03 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 6.02 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.15 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.11 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 2.43 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.94 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.67 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6 (C=O<sub>maj</sub>), 167.4 (C=O<sub>min</sub>), 149.9 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 149.8 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 148.5 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 148.3 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 142.0 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 141.9 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 136.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 136.0 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 130.2 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>) 130.1 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 30.1 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 128.7 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 128.7 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 127.9 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 127.8 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 127.4 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 127.4 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 125.8 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 125.5 (NCH=CH), 125.0 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 124.7 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 124.2 (Ar<sub>maj</sub>), 124.0 (Ar<sub>min</sub>), 123.5 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 123.4 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 122.9 ((C)CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 118.8 (Qu<sub>maj</sub>), 117.5 (Qu<sub>min</sub>), 50.5 (PhCH<sub>2min</sub>), 47.0 (PhCH<sub>2maj</sub>), 29.7 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 29.2 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 22.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 331 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 331.1808 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O requires 331.1805.

### *N*-Benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-2-((1*Z*,3*Z*)-penta-1,3,1,3-dienyl)-isonicotinamide (1l)

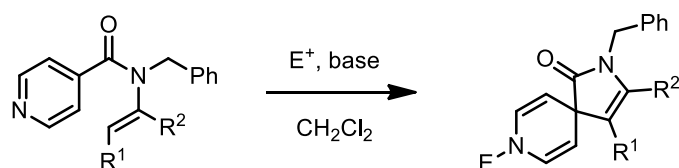


Following general procedure A, benzyl-cyclopentylidene-amine (1.7 mmol) (from cyclopentanone (0.14 mL) and benzylamine (0.24 mL)) was acylated with quinolone-4-carbonyl chloride (357 mg, 1.9 mmol). The title compound was isolated as a by-product as a colourless gum (354 mg, 63%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.39 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1644 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (8:1)) δ 8.89 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 8.84 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 8.12 (d, *J* =

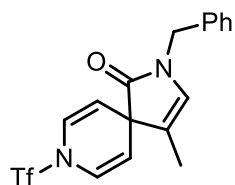
8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 7.91 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, 4H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.23 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.03 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 5.74 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NC=CH), 5.02 (s, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NC=CH), 4.99 (s, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.87 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.40 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.07 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.98 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.84 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, only 1 rotamer observed): 167.7 (C=O), 149.5 (Qu), 148.3 (NC=CH), 143.4 (Qu), 141.5 (Qu), 137.3 (Ph), 129.9 (Qu), 129.8 (Qu), 128.6 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 127.6 (Qu), 127.6 (NC=CH), 127.4 (Ar), 125.2 (Qu), 124.9 (Qu), 117.8 (Qu), 49.7 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>):** 351 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS:** found 329.1657 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> requires 329.1649.

## General Procedure B for Dearomatising Cyclisations



Cyclisation precursor was dissolved in dichloromethane (0.05M). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and 2,6-lutidine *or* 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (1-3 equiv.) and triflic anhydride *or* methylchloroformate *or* 2,2,2-trichloroethylchloroformate *or* (1*R*)-(-)-menthyl chloroformate (1 equiv.) were added sequentially. After 30 minutes the solution was quenched by saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (0.2M) and extracted twice using dichloromethane (0.2M). Organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:19) to yield the spirocyclic dihydropyridine.

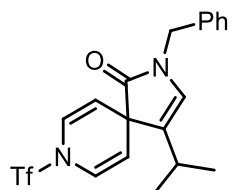
### 2-Benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro [4.5] deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid trifluoro-methyl ester (2a)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide **1a** (0.41 mmol) using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (1.23 mmol) after purification as an amorphous solid (59%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.68 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1701 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 5.96 (s, 1H, NCH), 4.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 4.58 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.66 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.5 (CO), 136.2 (Ph), 132.9 ((C)CH<sub>3</sub>), 128.9 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 124.8 (NCH), 124.3 (NCH=CH), 108.3 (NCH=CH), 52.2 (C), 46.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 10.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 385.1 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 407.1 (30%, HNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 407.0648 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SNa requires 407.0647.

### 2-Benzyl-4-isopropyl-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid trifluoro-methyl ester (2b)

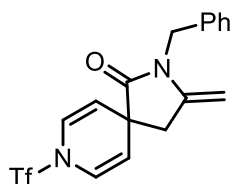


Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-3-methyl-but-1-enyl)-isonicotinamide **1b** (0.41 mmol) using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (1.23 mmol) as white amorphous solid after purification (49%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.70 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1698 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32-7.14 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 5.88 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 4.50 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.30 (dq,

$J = 7.0, 1.5$  Hz 1H, CH), 0.98 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.1 (C=O), 136.2 (Ph), 134.1 ((C)CH<sub>3</sub>), 128.9 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 124.4 (NCH), 123.8 (NCH=CH), 109.4 (NCH=CH), 52.4 (C), 46.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 22.5 (2  $\times$  CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 413.4 (5%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 435.2 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 453.0934 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SF<sub>3</sub>Na requires 453.0936.

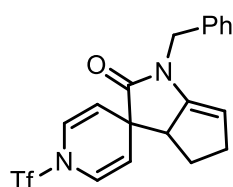
### 3-Methylene-8-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-1,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-6,9-diene-2-one (2d)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-isopropenyl-isonicotinamide **1d** (0.55 mmol), using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (0.55 mmol), as a white amorphous solid after purification (74%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.89 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1685 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29-7.13 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.62 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 4.98 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H, NCH=CH), 4.63 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.26 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.14 (m, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.65 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.2 (C=O), 141.8 (N(C)=CH<sub>2</sub>), 135.7 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 127.3 (Ph), 124.3, 122.7 (NCH=CH), 110.8 (NCH=CH), 87.6 (NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.4 (C), 43.8 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 407.2 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 407.0641 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaS requires 407.0648.

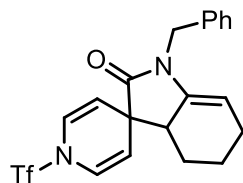
### 1-Benzyl-1'-(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H,1'Hspiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole - 3,4'-pyridin]-2(3aH)-one (2e)



Following procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.47 mmol), using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (1.41 mmol), as a white amorphous solid after purification (77%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.75 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1676 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.69 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.63 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.01 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.82 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.66 (dd,  $J = 3.0, 1.5$  Hz, 1H, NC=CH), 4.57 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.53 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.83 (dt,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.50-2.35 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.56 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.4 (C=O), 143.4 (N(C)=CH), 135.9 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 123.7 (NCH=CH), 123.4 (NCH=CH), 111.7 (NCH=CH), 107.3 (NCH=CH), 98.8 (N(C)=CH), 55.4 (C), 48.7 (CH), 45.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 433.3 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 433.0811 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaS requires 433.0804.

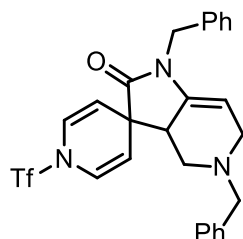
**1-Benzyl-1'-((trifluoromethylsulfonyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H,1'Hspiro[cyclohexa[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridin]-2(3aH)-one (2f)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclohex-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1f** (0.77 mmol), using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (0.77 mmol), as a white amorphous solid after purification (81%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.85 (EtOAc: petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1678 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27-7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.72 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.59 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.98 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.95 (dt,  $J$  = 5.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NC=CH), 4.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.60 (d  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.36 (m, 1H, CH), 2.04-1.97 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.85 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.68 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.31 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.0 (C=O), 137.5 (N(C)=CH), 136.3 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 124.2 (NCH=CH), 123.1 (NCH=CH), 110.8 (NCH=CH), 108.2 (NCH=CH), 101.0 (N(C)=CH), 48.4 (C), 47.4 (CH), 44.2 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 23.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 447.0 (20%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 447.0972 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SNa requires 447.0961.

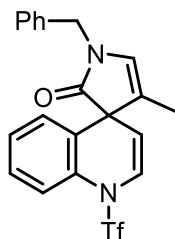
**1',5'-Dibenzyl-1-((trifluoromethylsulfonyl)-3a',4',5',6'-tetrahydro-1H-spiro[pyridine-4,3'-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridin]-2'(1'H)-one (2g)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-(1-benzyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)isonicotinamide **1g** (0.27 mmol), using 2,6-lutidine (0.27 mmol), as a white amorphous solid after purification (38%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: (EtOAc:Petrol 1:1): 0.90; **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1699 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33-7.21 (m, 10H, Ph), 6.75 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.61 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.05 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.93 (ap t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CH), 4.88 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.67 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.66 (d,  $J$  = 13.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.58 (d,  $J$  = 13.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.34 (ap dt,  $J$  = 15.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CHCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.90 (dd,  $J$  = 10.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.82 (ap dt,  $J$  = 15.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CHCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.74 (m, 1H, CHCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.23 (t,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 1H, CH); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.8 (C=O), 137.6 (NC=CH), 136.5 (Ph), 136.0 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 124.4 (NCH=CH), 123.1 (NCH=CH), 110.6 (NCH=CH), 107.5 (NCH=CH), 99.0 (NC=CH), 62.4 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 51.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 49.4 (C), 47.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 47.0 (CH), 44.5 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 550 (50% M<sup>35</sup>Cl<sup>+</sup>). Mass cannot be seen in ES<sup>+</sup>.

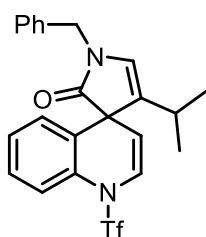
**1-Benzyl-4-methyl-1'-(trifluoromethane)sulfonyl-1,2-dihydro-1'H-spiro{pyrrole-3,4'-quinoline]-2-one (2j)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from (*E*)-2-benzyl-1-quinolin-4-yl-pent-3-en-1-one **1j** (0.36 mmol) using 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (0.36 mmol), as a pale yellow gum after purification (87 mg, 56%).

**$R_f$** : 0.81 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1706 (C=O);  **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** : (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.42-7.18 (m, 7H, Ph), 7.09 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.86 (dd,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.14 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, NCH), 5.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.69 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 1.58 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** : (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  178.3 (C=O), 136.4 (Ph), 133.9 (NCH=(C)Me), 129.0 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 127.3 (Ph), 127.2 (NCH=CH), 126.0 (Ph), 125.2 (NCH), 123.9 (Ph), 120.3 (Ph), 111.3 (NCH=CH), 55.8 (C), 46.0 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 10.7 ( $\text{CH}_3$ );  **$m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ )**: 435 (20%,  $\text{MH}^+$ ), 457 (100%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ ); **HRMS**: found 435.0972 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ),  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{F}_3\text{S}$  requires 435.0985.

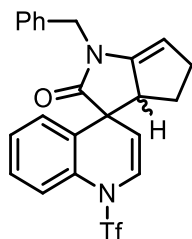
**1-Benzyl-4-(propan-2-yl)-1'-(trifluoromethane)sulfonyl-1,2-dihydro-1'H-spiro{pyrrole-3,4'-quinoline]-2-one (2k)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from (*E*)-2-benzyl-5-methyl-1-quinolin-4-yl-hex-3-en-1-one **1k** (0.23 mmol) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (0.23 mmol), as an orange gum after purification (58 mg, 53%).

**$R_f$** : 0.72 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1710 (C=O);  **$^1\text{H-NMR}$** : (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.40-7.27 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.18 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, Ph), 7.07 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.85 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.15 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, NCH), 5.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.70 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 2.23 (dq,  $J$  = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 0.94 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.73 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$** : (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 178.3 (C=O), 136.4 (Ph), 135.2 (Ph or (C)CH( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>), 133.6 (Ph or (C)CH( $\text{CH}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>), 129.0 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 127.0 (Ph), 126.4 (NCH=CH), 125.4 (Ph), 125.3 (NCH), 120.1 (Ph), 111.3 (NCH=CH), 55.8 (C), 46.1 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 26.1 ( $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 22.7 ( $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 22.1 ( $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ );  **$m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ )**: 463 (80%,  $\text{MH}^+$ ), 480 (100%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ ); **HRMS**: found 463.1288 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ),  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{F}_3\text{S}$  requires 463.1298.

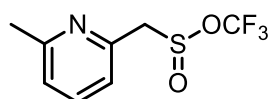
### 3-Benzyl-1'-(trifluoromethane)sulfonyl-1,2-dihydro-1'H,2H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-1,4'-quinoline]-2-one (2l)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-2-((*1Z,3Z*)-penta-1,3-1,3-dienyl)-isonicotinamide **1l** (0.37 mmol) (using and 2,6-lutidine (0.37 mmol) as an unstable orange gum, containing 2 diastereoisomers (122 mg, 72%, d.r. 3:2).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.92 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1673 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, tentatively assigned due to compound's instability)  $\delta$  7.87 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 7.84 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.38-7.31 (m, 9H<sub>maj</sub>, 7H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.19 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Qu), 7.17 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 7.08 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.58 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Qu), 5.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.09 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.89 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH), 4.83 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.81 (m, 1H, CH), 4.79 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.75 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.68 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.35 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NC=CH), 3.16 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NC=CH), 2.50 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.33 (m, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.85 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.76-1.58 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 177.8 (C=O), 143.5 (Ar), 136.0 (Ar), 133.9 (Ar), 128.8 (Ar), 128.8 (Ar), 128.7 (Ar), 128.3 (Ar), 127.9 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 126.6 (NCH=CH), 120.0 (Ar), 111.0 (NCH=CH), 98.7 (CH), 57.5 (NC=CH), 52.8 (C), 46.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 943 (100%, 2MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 483.0967 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaS requires 483.0961.

### Trifluoro-methanesulfonic acid-6-methyl pyridine-2-ylmethyl ester (5)

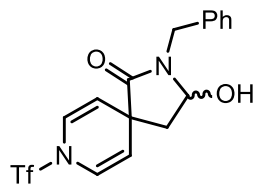


Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide **1a** (0.45 mmol), using 2,6-lutidine (0.45 mmol), as a by-product. The yield was not calculated.

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.72 (EtOAc: petrol 1:2); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.57 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Py), 5.34 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.10 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.52 (s, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.6 (Ar), 153.11 (Ar), 137.4 (Ar), 123.4 (Ar), 119.1 (Ar), 70.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>OSOCF<sub>3</sub>), 24.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES)**: 262.0 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>), 501.1 (10%, M<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 262.0129 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>SNa requires 262.0126. All data is in accordance with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Binkley, R. W.; Ambrose, M. G., *J. Org. Chem.*, **1983**, 48, 1776.

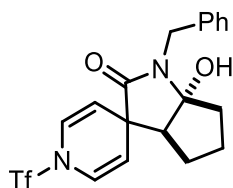
**2-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-8-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-6,9-dien-1-one (6c)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-vinylisonicotinamide **1c** (0.18 mmol) (using 2,6-lutidine (0.18 mmol)) compound as a colourless oil (0.034 g, 49%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.56 (EtOAc:hexane 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3356 (OH), 1674 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25-7.36 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.67 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.58 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.27 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.08 (dd,  $J$  = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H, CHOH), 4.87 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.79 (d,  $J$  15.0, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.26 (d,  $J$  15.0, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.29 (1H, br s, OH), 2.17 (1H, dd, 14.0, 6.0, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.03 (1H, dd, 14.0, 2.0, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.0 (C=O), 136.0 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 128.0 (Ph), 123.1 (NCH=CH), 121.7 (NCH=CH), 112.6 (NCH=CH), 111.3 (NCH=CH), 79.6 (NCHOH), 46.1, (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.4 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 44.1 (C); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 389.0 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 389.0769 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>S requires 389.0777.

**1-Benzyl-6a-hydroxy-1'-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-4,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridin]-2(3aH)-one (6e)**



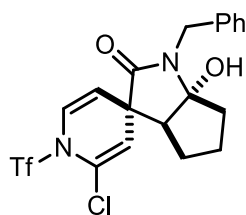
Following procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.53 mmol), using 2, *tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (0.53 mmol), as a white solid after purification (76%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.37 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **m.p**: 167-169 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3350 (O-H), 1667 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36-7.29 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.77 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.58 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.23 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.98 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.66 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.46 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.30 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.25 (s, 1H, OH), 1.90 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.77 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.57 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.2 (C=O), 137.8 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 123.7 (NCH=CH), 121.1 (NCH=CH), 113.7 (NCH=CH), 108.7 (NCH=CH), 99.2 (C), 59.7 (COH), 46.3 (CH), 43.7 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 429 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 451 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 429.1097 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>S requires 429.1091.

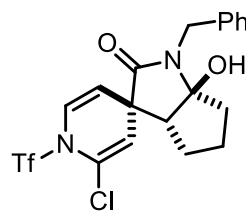
**1-Benzyl-2'-chloro-6a-hydroxy-1'-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-4,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridin]-2(3aH)-one (6h)**

Following general procedure B, the triene compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-2-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide **1h** (0.65 mmol) using 2,6-lutidine (0.76 mL, 0.65 mmol). The resultant gum (after removal of the solvent) was stirred in 1M HCl/diethylether

(3.25 mL). The title compound was yielded as a mixture of diastereoisomers (A:B) and isolated as a white solid (217 mg, 73% combined yield, d.r. 1:1).



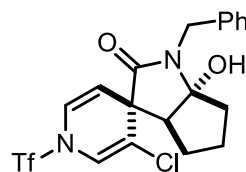
**Diastereoisomer A (6h):**  $R_f$  : 0.44 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR:** ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3338 (O-H), 1668 (C=O);  **$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35-7.29 (m, 5H, Ar), 6.81 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 5.59 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 5.21 (d,  $J = 7.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.60 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.46 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 2.60 (s, 1H, OH), 2.36 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 7.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{CHCOH}$ ), 1.93 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.74 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.53 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  173.5 (C=O), 137.5 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.9 ( $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 127.6 (Ph), 123.6 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 118.5 ( $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 112.4 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 99.4 (C), 58.2 (COH), 49.3 (CH), 43.7 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 38.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 26.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 24.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  **$m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ ):** 485 ( $\text{M}^{(35}\text{Cl})\text{Na}^+$ ), 487 ( $\text{M}^{(37}\text{Cl})\text{Na}^+$ ); **HRMS:** found 463.0694 ( $\text{M}^{(35}\text{Cl})\text{H}^+$ ),  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{F}_3^{35}\text{ClS}$  requires 463.0701.



**Diastereoisomer B (6h'):**  $R_f$  : 0.36 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR:** ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3338 (O-H), 1669 (C=O);  **$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34-7.28 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.64 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 5.48 (dd,  $J = 7.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 5.40 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.66 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.43 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 2.33 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 7.0$  Hz, 1H, CH), 2.29 (s, 1H, OH), 1.94 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.76 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.53 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$**  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  173.4 (C=O), 137.5 (Ph), 129.0 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 125.4 ( $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 125.1 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 117.5 ( $\text{NCCl}=\text{CH}$ ), 114.6 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 99.4 (C), 58.4 (COH), 49.5 (CH), 43.7 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 38.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 27.0 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 24.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  **$m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ ):** 485 ( $\text{M}^{(35}\text{Cl})\text{Na}^+$ ), 487 ( $\text{M}^{(37}\text{Cl})\text{Na}^+$ ); **HRMS:** found 463.0694 ( $\text{M}^{(35}\text{Cl})\text{H}^+$ ),  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{F}_3^{35}\text{ClS}$  requires 463.0701.

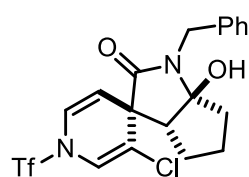
### 1-Benzyl-3'-chloro-6a-hydroxy-1'-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-4,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridin]-2(3aH)-one (6i)

Following general procedure B, the triene compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-3-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide **1i** (1.6 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (1.6 mmol). The resultant gum (after removal of the solvent) was stirred in 1M HCl/diethylether (4.80 mL). The title compound was yielded as a mixture of diastereoisomers (A:B) and isolated as a white solid (495 mg, 67% combined yield, d.r. 3:2).



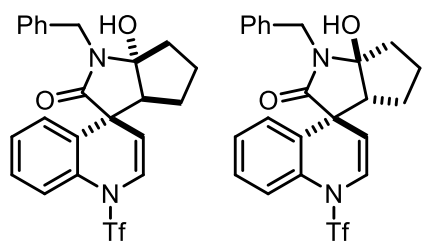
**Diastereoisomer A (6i):**  $R_f$  : 0.56 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR:** ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3324 (O-H), 1675 (C=O);  **$^1\text{H-NMR}$ :** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.37-7.27 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.90 (s, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CCl}$ ), 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.97 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.62 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.54 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 2.62 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 4.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{CHCOH}$ ), 2.50 (s, 1H, COH), 1.82 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.75-1.63 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.30 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  **$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$**  (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  171.8 (CO), 137.9 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 122.4 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CCl}$ ), 120.5 ( $\text{NCH}=\text{CH}$  or  $\text{NCH}=\text{CCl}$ ), 120.3

(NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 108.8 (NCH=CH), 99.2 (C), 56.1 (CH), 52.3 (COH), 44.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES)**: 485 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 487 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 463.0696 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)H<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>ClS requires 463.0701.



**Diastereoisomer B (6i')**: (Characterised contaminated with diastereoisomer A) **R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.52 (EtOAc:petrol 2:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3348 (O-H), 1672 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.39-7.27 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.01 (s, 1H, NCHCCl), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCHCH), 5.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, NCHCH), 4.77 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.75 (s, 1H, COH), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 1.99-1.65 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 171.7 (CO), 137.3 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 122.9 (NCH=CCl), 120.5 (NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 120.3 (NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 109.0 (NCH=CH), 99.3 (C), 61.0 (CH), 52.7 (COH), 44.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 38.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES)**: 485 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 487 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 463.0696 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)H<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>ClS requires 463.0701.

### 1-Benzyl-6a-hydroxy-1'-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-4,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-quinolin]-2(3aH)-one (6l)



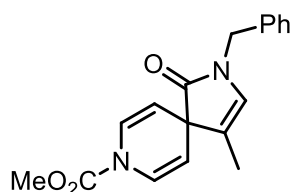
Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-2-((1*Z*,3*Z*)-penta-1,3-1,3-dienyl)-isonicotinamide **1l** (0.54 mmol) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methyl-pyridine (0.54 mmol), as a mixture of two diastereoisomers and a clear gum (197 mg, 76%, d.r. 1.3:1).

The two diastereoisomers could not be separated by flash chromatography.

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.28 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3360 (O-H), 1667 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ph), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Ph), 7.49-7.47 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, Ph), 7.40-7.19 (m, 5H<sub>maj</sub>, 5H<sub>min</sub>, Ph), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, Ph), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ph), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.53 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.75 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.68 (s, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.46-2.42 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH), 2.31 (s, 1H, OH), 2.25 (s, 1H, OH), 1.96-1.12 (m, 6H<sub>maj</sub>, 6H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.9 (C=O<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 174.8 (C=O<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 138.0 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 137.8 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 134.8 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 133.3 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 133.2 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 129.6 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.9 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.9 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.5 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.4 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 128.1 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 127.9 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 127.9 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 127.9 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 127.8 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 126.8 (NCH=CH<sub>maj</sub>), 126.7 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 126.5 (Ph<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 124.8 (NCH=CH<sub>min</sub>), 122.2 (NCH=CH<sub>min</sub>), 121.4 (Ph<sub>min</sub>), 121.3 (Ph<sub>maj</sub>), 116.3 (NCH=CH<sub>maj</sub>), 100.0 (C<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 99.6 (C<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 59.7 (CH<sub>maj</sub>), 59.7 (CH<sub>min</sub>), 50.9 (COH<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 49.9 (COH<sub>maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 44.2 (PhCH<sub>2min</sub>), 44.0 (PhCH<sub>2maj</sub>), 39.0 (CH<sub>2maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 38.3 (CH<sub>2maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>2maj</sub> or <sub>min</sub>).

min), 28.3 (CH<sub>2</sub><sub>maj or min</sub>), 24.4 (CH<sub>2</sub><sub>maj or min</sub>), 24.3 (CH<sub>2</sub><sub>maj or min</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 479 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 501 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 479.1234 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>S requires 479.1247.

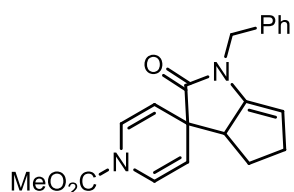
## 2-Benzyl-4-isopropyl-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7a)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide **1a** (0.44 mmol) using 2,6-lutidine (0.44 mmol) and methyl chloroformate (0.44 mmol), as a colourless oil after purification (69%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.26 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1729 (C=O), 1699 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.36-7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.20 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.11 (br d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.86 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, NCH), 4.58 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.56 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.63 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 180.0 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 136.6 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 125.8 (NCH=CH), 125.6 (NCH=CH), 124.4 (Ph), 123.6 (NCH), 104.7 (NCH=CH), 104.2 (NCH=CH), 53.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 53.4 (C), 45.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 11.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 311 (20%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 333 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 311.1393 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 311.1391.

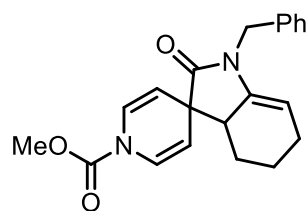
## Methyl-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'carboxylate (7e)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained as the major isomer from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.42 mmol), using methyl chloroformate (0.42 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.42 mmol), as a colourless oil after purification (67% (84% with minor isomer)).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.81 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1721 (C=O), 1668 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.33-7.24 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.66 (m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.62 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 3.82 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.84 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.39 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 178.9 (C=O), 144.1 (C=O), 140.4 (NC=CH), 136.2 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 125.0 (NCH=CH), 124.1 (NCH=CH), 107.6 (NCH=CH), 103.3 (NCH=CH), 98.0 (NC=CH), 55.7 (CH), 53.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 49.5 (C), 45.8 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 337.1 (10%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 359.2 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 359.1354 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na requires 359.1366.

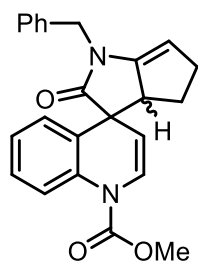
**Methyl 1-benzyl-2-oxo-1,2,3a,4,5,6-hexahydro-1'H-spiro[indole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (7f)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained as the major isomer from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclohex-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1f** (0.79 mmol) using methyl chloroformate (0.79 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.79 mmol), as a clear gum after purification (198 mg, 72% (91% with minor isomer)).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.40 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1721 (C=O), 1677 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.33-7.22 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.21 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.08 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, 1H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.94 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.90 (m, 1H, N(C)=CH), 4.82 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.74 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.70 (d,  $J$  = 15.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.64 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.58 (d,  $J$  = 15.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.37 (m, 1H, CH), 2.12 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.03 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.89 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.51 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.46 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.4 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 138.3 (NC=CH), 136.7 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 127.3 (Ph), 125.6 (NCH=CH), 124.4 (NCH=CH), 107.2 (NCH=CH), 106.8 (NCH=CH), 100.2 (N(C)=CH), 53.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 49.1 (C), 47.8 (CH), 44.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 23.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 351 (80%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 373 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 351.1706 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 351.1706.

**Methyl 1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-quinoline]-1'-carboxylate (7l)**



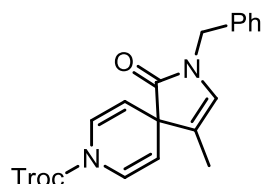
Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-2-((1*Z*,3*Z*)-penta-1,3-1,3-dienyl)-isonicotinamide **1l** (0.43 mmol) (using methyl chloroformate (0.43 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.43 mmol)) as a colourless gum containing 2 diastereoisomers (132 mg, 79%, d.r 1:1).

**Diastereoisomer A**: **R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.60 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1716 (C=O), 1641 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 2 rotamers (9:1))  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  8.5, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 8.09 (d,  $J$  8.0, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.41-7.16 (m, 9H<sub>maj</sub>, 7H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 7.00 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 6.56 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, Ar), 5.44 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.90 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.83 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.82 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.79 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.74 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH), 4.69 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.67 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.26 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, NC=CH), 3.04 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, NC=CH), 2.49-2.40 (m, 2H<sub>maj</sub>, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.26 (m, 1H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75-1.62 (m, 1H<sub>maj</sub>, 2H<sub>min</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  152.8 (CO), 144.1 (CO), 136.3 (Ar), 136.1 (Ar), 128.7 (Ar), 128.3 (Ar), 128.0 (Ar), 127.9 (Ar), 127.7 (Ar), 127.5 (Ar), 127.4 (Ar), 125.4 (Ar), 120.8 (NCH=CH), 105.9 (NCH=CH), 97.8 (CH), 57.4 (NC=CH),

53.5 (OMe), 52.9 (C), 45.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 387 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 409 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>);

**Diastereoisomer B:** Could not be separated from diastereoisomer A.

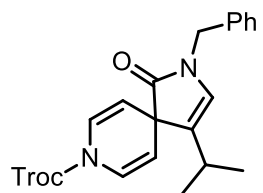
**2-Benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid 2,2,2-trichloro-ethyl ester (8a)**



Following procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide **1a** (0.40 mmol), using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.40 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.40 mmol) as a colourless oil after purification (69%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.70 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1736 (C=O), 1690 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.36-7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.36-7.21 (m, 2H<sub>A</sub>, 2H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.90 (s, 1H, NCH), 4.85 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.62 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.57 (s, 2H, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.65 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.5 (C=O), 149.6 (C=O), 136.5 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 125.6 (NCH=CH), 125.1 (NCH=CH), 124.0 (Ph or NCH), 123.9 (Ph or NCH), 106.2 (NCH=CH), 105.6 (NCH=CH), 94.5 ((C)CH<sub>3</sub>), 76.8 (CCl<sub>3</sub>), 75.7 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 53.4 (C), 45.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 11.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 449 (100%, M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 451 (80%, M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 449.0205 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub>Na requires 449.197.

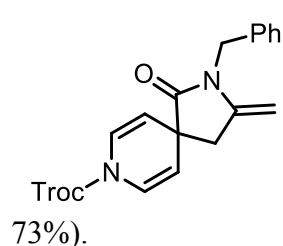
**2-Benzyl-4-isopropyl-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid 2,2,2-trichloro-ethyl ester (8b)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-3-methyl-but-1-enyl)-isonicotinamide **1b** (0.46 mmol), using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.46 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.46 mmol), as a white amorphous solid after purification (44%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.70 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1735 (C=O), 1688 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.29-7.13 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.29-7.13 (m, 2H<sub>A</sub>, 2H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.85 (s, 1H, NCH), 4.78 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.59 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.51 (s, 2H, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.34 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.99 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.5 (C=O), 149.5 (C=O), 136.5 (Ph), 135.0 ((C)CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 128.9 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 125.1 (NCH=CH), 124.6 (NCH), 123.7 (NCH=CH), 107.3 (NCH=CH), 106.7 (NCH=CH), 77.1 (CCl<sub>3</sub>), 75.7 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 53.4 (C), 46.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 22.7 (2 × CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 477 (100%, M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 477.0513 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub>Na requires 477.0515.

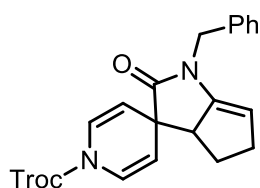
## 2-Benzyl-3-methylene-1-oxo-2,8-diaza-spiro[4.5]deca-6,9-diene-8-carboxylic acid 2,2,2-trichloro-ethyl ester (8d)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained as the major isomer from *N*-benzyl-*N*-isopropenyl-isonicotinamide **1d** (0.49 mmol) (using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.49 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.49 mmol)) as an unstable colourless oil which was tentatively assigned as the title compound after purification (152 mg, 73%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.89 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1733 (C=O), 1691 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.28-7.12 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.87 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.82 (d,  $J$  = 12.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.78 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.74 (d,  $J$  = 12.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.63 (s, 2H, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.22 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.12 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, NC=CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.63 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H, N(C)CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.62 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, N(C)CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.0 (C=O), 149.5 (C=O), 142.4 (N(C)=CH<sub>2</sub>), 135.8 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 127.3 (Ph), 124.0 (NCH=CH), 123.5 (NCH=CH), 108.7 (NCH=CH), 108.1 (NCH=CH), 87.2 (N(C)=CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.3 (Cl<sub>3</sub>C), 75.6 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 44.6 (C), 44.3 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 43.3 (N(C)CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 449.2 (100%, M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 451.2 (80%, M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 449.0197(M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub>Na requires 449.0197.

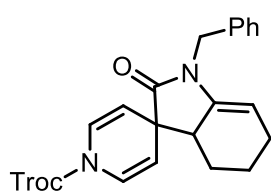
## 2,2,2-Trichloroethyl-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole -3,4'-pyridine]-1'carboxylate (8e)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.42 mmol) (using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.42 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.42 mmol)) as a colourless oil after purification (138 mg, 73%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.88 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1731 (C=O), 1671 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.35-7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.97 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.88 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.84 (s, 2H, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.71 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.70 (br m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.64 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.63 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 2.89 (m, 1H, CH), 1.53-1.42 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.86 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.68 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  178.6 (C=O), 149.5 (C=O), 144.0 (NC=CH), 136.1 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 125.1 (NCH=CH), 124.8 (NCH=CH), 124.6 (NCH=CH), 124.3 (NCH=CH), 109.5 (NCH=CH), 108.9 (NCH=CH), 104.8 (NCH=CH), 104.2 (NCH=CH), 98.2 (NC=CH), 94.5 (C), 77.2 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 75.7 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 55.6 (NC=CH), 49.5 (C), 45.8 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 453 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 455 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 453.0529 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)H<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub> requires 453.0535.

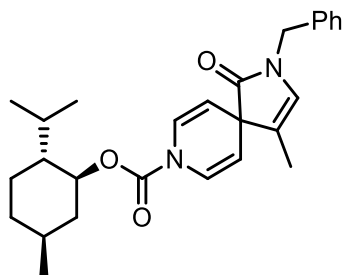
**2,2,2-Trichloroethyl-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclohexa[b]pyrrole -3,4'-pyridine]-1'carboxylate (8f)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclohex-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1f** (.52 mmol) (using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.52 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.52 mmol)) as a white amorphous solid after purification (191 mg, 79%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.85 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1732 (C=O), 1672 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.27-7.10 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.27-7.10 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, 1H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.94 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.93 (m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.88-4.83 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.84 (s, 2H, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.76 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.71 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.67 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.57 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.15-2.07 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.77 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.53 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.1 (C=O), 149.5 (C=O), 138.1 (NC=CH), 136.5 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 125.6 (NCH=CH), 125.1 (NCH=CH), 124.4 (NCH=CH), 123.9 (NCH=CH), 108.7 (NCH=CH), 108.1 (NCH=CH), 105.8 (NCH=CH), 105.2 (NCH=CH), 100.6 (NC=CH), 76.3 (Cl<sub>3</sub>C), 75.6 (Cl<sub>3</sub>CCH<sub>2</sub>), 49.2 (CH), 47.7 (C), 44.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 23.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 489.3 (60%, M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 491.3 (100%, M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 489.0518 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)H<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>3</sub>Na requires 489.0510.

**(1R,2S,5R)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylate (9a)**

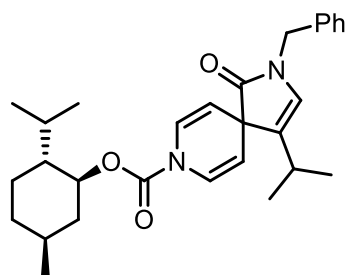


Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-propenyl)-isonicotinamide **1a** (0.53 mmol) (using (*1R*)-(-)-menthylchloroformate (0.53 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.53 mmol)) as a colourless oil after purification (87 mg, 38%).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.52 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1716 (C=O); 1693 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.36-7.22 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.36-7.22 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.86 (s, 1H, NCH), 4.72 (dt, *J* = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, OCH), 4.59 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.55 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.48 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 2.11 (br m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92 (br m, 1H, CH), 1.71-1.69 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.65 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (br m, 1H, CH), 1.44 (br m, 1H, CH), 1.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.06 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.93 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.80 (br s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  180.1 (C=O), 150.8 (C=O), 136.7 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 126.0 (NCH=CH), 125.7 (NCH=CH), 124.6 (Ph), 123.4 (NCH), 104.3 (NCH=CH), 103.8 (NCH=CH), 77.1 (OCH), 53.6 (C), 47.3 (C), 45.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (CH), 23.5 (CH), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 16.2 (CH), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>),

11.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 457 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 435.2646 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 435.2643.

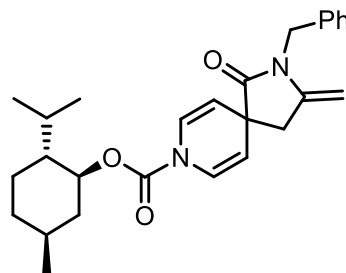
**(1R,2S,5R)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 2-benzyl-4-isopropyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylate (9b)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-((*E*)-3-methyl-but-1-enyl)-isonicotinamide **1b** (0.51 mmol) (using (*IR*)-(-)-menthylchloroformate (0.51 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.51 mmol)) as a colourless oil after purification (58%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.55 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.30-7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.30-7.19 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.02 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.81 (s, 1H, NCH), 4.65 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H, OCH), 4.65 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.51 (m, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.46 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 2.35 (m, 1H, CH), 2.05 (br m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.86 (br m, 1H, CH), 1.64-1.06 (m, 6H, 3 × CH<sub>2</sub>, 3 × CH), 0.98 (m, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.80 (br s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 485 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>).

**(1R,2S,5R)-5-methyl-2-(propan-2-yl)cyclohexyl-2-benzyl-3-methylened-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-6,9-diene-8-carboxylate (9d)**

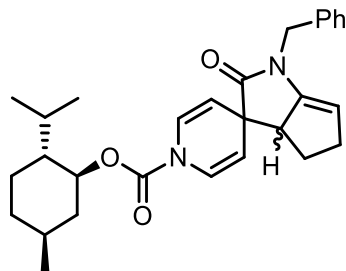


Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained as the major double bond regioisomer from *N*-benzyl-*N*-isopropenyl-isonicotinamide **1d** (0.56 mmol) (using (*IR*)-(-)-menthyl chloroformate (0.56 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.56 mmol)) as a colourless oil after purification (177 mg, 73% (80% with minor isomer)).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.68 (EtOAc:petrol 1:4); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1716 (C=O), 1683 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.34-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.65 (m, 1H, OCH), 4.66-4.61 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.70 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.27 (s, 1H, C=CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.16 (s, 1H, C=CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.68 (s, 2H, NCCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.08 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91 (m, 1H, CH), 1.71-1.69 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.50-1.41 (m, 2H, 2 × CH), 1.09-1.00 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.93 (d, *J* 6.5, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.92 (d, *J* 6.5, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79 (br s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 180.3 (C=O), 149.7 (C=O), 136.5 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 126.4 (Ph), 125.8 (Ph), 123.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 103.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 103.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 86.5 (N(C)=CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.7 (OCH), 49.1 (C), 46.1 (CH), 43.2 (N(C)CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.5 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 40.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.4 (CH), 25.0 (CH), 21.7

(CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 12.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 457 (20%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 435.2645 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 435.2643.

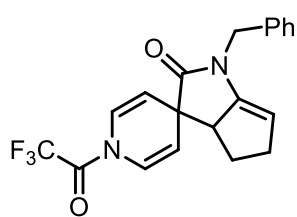
**(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-5-methyl-2-(propan-2-yl)cyclohexyl-3-benzyl-2-oxo-3,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1'*H*,2*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-1,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (9e)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained as the major double bond regioisomers from *N*-benzylcyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.49 mmol) (using (*1R*)-(-)-menthyl chloroformate (0.49 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.057 mL, 0.49 mmol)) as a colourless oil after purification (169 mg, 75% (92% with minor isomer).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.50 (EtOAc:petrol 1:5); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\max}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1715 (C=O), 1683 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.35-7.25 (5H, m, Ph), 7.20 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.13 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.07 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.00 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.83 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.77 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.71 (dt, *J* 11.0, 4.5, 1H, OCH), 4.67 (s, 1H, NC=CH), 4.64 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.57 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.49 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 2.85 (m, 1H, CH), 2.47 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.08 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.89-1.83 (m, 2H, CH, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.73-1.64 (m, 3H, 3  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (m, 2H, 2  $\times$  CH), 1.14-1.01 (m, 2H, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.92 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.91 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.1 (C=O), 150.7 (C=O), 144.2 (NC=CH), 136.3 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 125.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 125.2 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 125.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 107.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 107.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 102.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 102.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 97.8 (NC=CH), 77.2 (OCH), 55.9 (CH), 49.6 (C), 47.2 (CH), 45.8 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH), 26.1 (CH), 24.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 16.3 (CH<sub>3A or B</sub>), 16.2 (CH<sub>3A or B</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 501 (MCH<sub>3</sub>CN<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 461.2815 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 461.2809.

**1-Benzyl-1'-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridin]-2(3*aH*)-one (10e).**

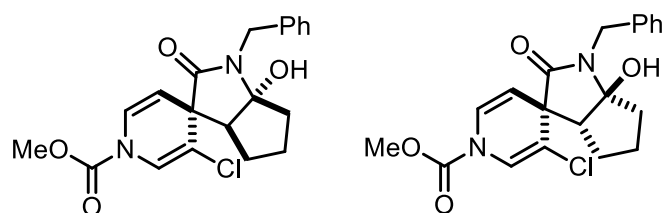


Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-*N*-cyclohex-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (0.40 mmol) (using trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.80 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.40 mmol)) as a white amorphous solid after purification (67 mg, 45%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.81 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.44 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>,

NCH=CH), 7.32-7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.04 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 5.37 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.31 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 5.22 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 5.03 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.97 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.78 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 3.05, (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>, CH), 2.93 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.98 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.78 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 375 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 397 (60%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>-</sup>): 373 (40%, M<sup>-</sup>); **HRMS**: found 375.1314 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> requires 375.1315.

**(3aS,6aR)-Methyl-1-benzyl-3'-chloro-6a-hydroxy-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (11i)**

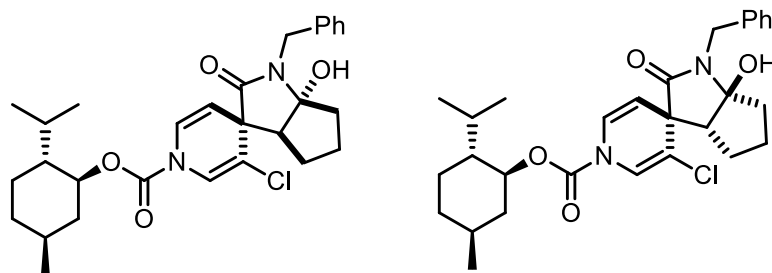


Following general procedure B, the triene compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-3-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide **1i** (0.57 mmol) using methyl chloroformate (0.57 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.57 mmol). The resultant gum (after removal of the solvent) was stirred in 1M HCl/diethylether (2.85 mL). The title compound was yielded as a mixture of diastereoisomers (A:B) and isolated as a white solid (141 mg, 64% combined yield, d.r. 1:1).

**Diastereoisomer A (11i):** *R<sub>f</sub>*: 0.23 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3331 (O-H), 1728 (C=O), 1672 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.38-7.25 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.33 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 7.20 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 7.21 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 7.05 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH or NCH=CCl), 4.76 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.68 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.62 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.55 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.57 (m, 1H, CH), 2.50 (br s, 1H, OH), 1.91-1.67 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.2 (C=O), 150.8 (C=O), 138.3 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 104.9 (NCH=CH (*A* or *B*)), 104.4 (NCH=CH (*A* or *B*)), 99.0 (C), 56.5 (CH), 54.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.8 (COH), 44.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 411 ((M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>), 413 (M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>).

**Diastereoisomer B (11i')**: Could not be purified.

**(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-1-benzyl-3'-chloro-2-oxo-2,3*a*,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (12i)**

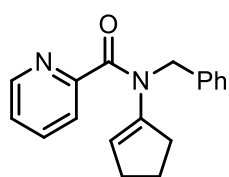


Following general procedure B, the triene compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-3-chloro-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)isonicotinamide **1j** (0.37 mmol) using (1*R*)-(□)-menthyl chloroformate (0.37 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.37 mmol). The resultant gum (after removal of the solvent) was stirred in 1M HCl/diethylether (1.85 mL). The title compound was yielded as a mixture of diastereoisomers (A:B) and isolated as a white solid (125 mg, 66% combined yield, d.r. 1:1).

The two diastereoisomers could not be separated by flash chromatography.

***R<sub>f</sub>***: 0.81 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3398 (O-H), 1722 (C=O), 1684 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 2 rotamers (rot A:rot B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.38 (br s, 1H<sub>rotA</sub>, 1H<sub>rotB</sub>, NCH=CCl), 7.36 (m, 1H, Ph), 7.34 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.33-7.23 (m, 4H, Ph), 7.21 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.18 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.07 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or rotB</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.73 (m, 1H<sub>diaA</sub>, 1H<sub>diaB</sub>, OCH), 4.70 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.66 (m, 1H<sub>rotA or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.63 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>diaA or B</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.61 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>diaA or B</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.56 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>diaA or B</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.54 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H<sub>diaA or B</sub>, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.58-2.52 (m, 2H<sub>diaA</sub>, 2H<sub>diaB</sub>, CH, OH), 2.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91-1.63 (m, 8H, 7  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>, CH), 1.56-1.41 (m, 2H, 2  $\times$  CH), 1.34 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.13-1.00 (m, 2H<sub>A</sub>, 2  $\times$  CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.92 (br. d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.4 (C=O), 149.9 (C=O), 138.3 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 124.0 (NCH=CCl), 123.7 (NCH=CCl), 122.5 (NCH=CH), 122.2 (NCH=CH), 106.5 (NCH=CCl), 105.8 (NCH=CCl), (104.5 (NCH=CH), 104.2 (NCH=CH), 99.0 (C), 78.0 (OCH), 56.5 (CH), 52.9 (C), 47.1 (CH), 43.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 40.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (CH), 34.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 16.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 535 (100%, M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)Na<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 513.2509 (M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)H<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl requires 513.2515.

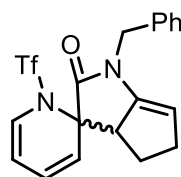
### Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-amide (**13**)



Following general procedure A, benzyl-cyclopentylidene-amine (2.0 mmol) (from cyclopentanone (0.13 mL) and benzylamine (0.22 mL)) was acylated using picolinoyl chloride (341 mg, 2.2 mmol). The title compound was yielded as a yellow/brown gum after purification (261 mg, 47% over 2 steps).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.62 (EtOAc:petrol 3:1); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1668; **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.49 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.66 (dt,  $J$  = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.53 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H, Py), 7.30 - 7.16 (m, 6H, Ph and Py), 5.02 (br s, 1H, NC=CH), 4.84 (s, 2H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.16 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.97 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.66 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.7 (C=O), 154.9 (N(C)=CH), 148.5 (Py), 137.5 (Ph), 136.5 (Py), 128.7 (Ph), 128.4 (Ph), 127.9 (Ph), 127.2 (Py or N(C)=CH), 124.4 (Py or N(C)=CH), 123.1 (Py), 122.4 (Py), 50.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 279.1 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 301.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 279.1493 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O requires 279.1492.

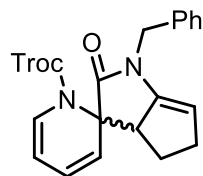
### 3-Benzyl-1'-(trifluoromethane)sulfonyl-3,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1'H,2H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-1,2'-pyridine]-2-one (**14a**)



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-amide **13** (0.48 mmol), (using triflic anhydride (0.48 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.48 mmol)) as a yellow gum and a mixture of diastereomers after purification (64 mg, 33%, d.r. 5:1).

**R<sub>f</sub>** : 0.90 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31-7.10 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.45 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>major</sub>, NCH=CHCH=CH), 6.35 (m, 1H<sub>minor</sub>, NCH=CHCH=CH), 6.13 (m, 1H<sub>minor</sub>, NCH=CHCH=CH), 6.02 (dd,  $J$  = 9.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H<sub>major</sub>, NCH=CHCH=CH), 5.29 (br m, 1H, NCH=CHCH=CH), 5.31-4.65 (m, 3H<sub>major</sub>, 3H<sub>minor</sub>, NCH=CHCH=CH, NCH=CHCH=CH, NC=CH), 4.99 (d,  $J$  = 9.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CHCH=CH), 4.70 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.61 (m, 1H, NC=CH), 4.50 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.49 (br m, 1H, CH), 2.39 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.89 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.69 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.0 (C=O), 141.3 (NC=CH), 137.6 (Ph), 135.5 (NCH), 128.8 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 124.8 (CH=CH), 122.5 (CH=CH), 117.8 (CH), 107.2 (C), 98.9 (CH), 72.0 (NC=CH), 46.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 411 (30%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 433 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>). No further characterisation was performed on this compound due to its instability.

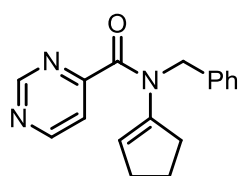
**[2,2,2-trichloroethyl-3-benzyl-2-oxo-3,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1'H,2H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole - 1,2'-pyridine]-2-one (14b)**



Following general procedure B, the title compound was obtained from pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-amide **13** (0.52 mmol) (using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.52 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine) as yellow oil and a mixture of diastereoisomers (186 mg, 79%, d.r. 9:1).

$R_f$ : 0.92 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ : (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33-7.06 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.85 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $1\text{H}_{\text{maj}}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 6.79 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $1\text{H}_{\text{min}}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 6.08 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 7.0$  Hz,  $1\text{H}_{\text{min}}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 6.03 (dd,  $J = 9.5, 7.0$  Hz,  $1\text{H}_{\text{maj}}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ), 5.21-4.54 (m,  $3\text{H}_{\text{maj}}$ ,  $3\text{H}_{\text{min}}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ,  $\text{NCH}=\text{CHCH}=\text{CH}$ ,  $\text{NC}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.78 (s, 2H,  $\text{Cl}_3\text{CCH}_2$ ), 4.70 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 4.46 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 3.58 (m, 1H, CH), 2.40 (m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.89 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.70 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ ): 493 (100%,  $\text{MCH}_3\text{CN}^+$ ). No further characterisation was performed on this compound due to its instability.

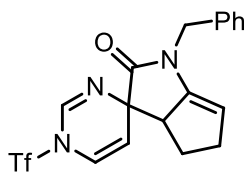
**N-Benzyl-N-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)pyrimidine-4-carboxamide (15)**



Following general procedure A, benzyl-cyclopentylidene-amine (1.9 mmol) (from cyclopentanone (0.12 mL) and benzylamine (0.21 mL)) was acylated with pyrimidine-4-carbonyl chloride (298 mg, 2.1 mmol). The title compound was yielded as a yellow gum after purification (352 mg, 61%).

$R_f$ : 0.34 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1);  $\text{IR}$ : ( $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{film})/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 1646 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ );  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ : (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.20 (s, 1H, Py), 8.82 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H, Py), 7.56 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H, Py), 7.35-7.27 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.00 (br m, 1H,  $\text{NC}=\text{CH}$ ), 4.86 (s, 2H,  $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 2.36 (br m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.02 (br m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.79 (br m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ : (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.5 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 161.9 (Py), 158.0 (Py), 157.9 (Py), 142.4 ( $\text{NC}=\text{CH}$ ), 136.8 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.8 (Py), 127.5 (Ph), 119.7 ( $\text{NC}=\text{CH}$ ), 49.8 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ ), 32.5 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 30.1 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.4 ( $\text{CH}_2$ );  $m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ ): 280 (50%,  $\text{MH}^+$ ), 202 (30%,  $\text{MNa}^+$ );  $\text{HRMS}$ : found 280.1439 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ),  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}$  requires 280.1145.

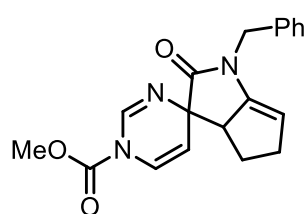
**1-Benzyl-1'-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-4,5-dihydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyrimidin]-2(3aH)-one (16a)**



Following general procedure B, from *N*-benzyl-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)pyrimidine-4-carboxamide **15** (0.40 mmol), triflic anhydride (0.40 mmol) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine, the resulting colourless gum was tentatively assigned as the title compound in approximately 30% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 8.02 (m, 1H, NCH), 7.23-7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.97 (m, 1H, NCHCH), 4.74 (d, 1H, *J* = 14.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.45 (d, 1H, *J* = 14.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>).

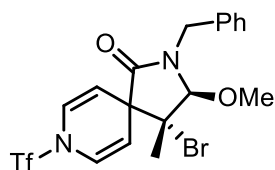
**Methyl 1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5-tetrahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyrimidine]-1'-carboxylate (16b).**



Following general procedure B, from *N*-benzyl-*N*-(cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)pyrimidine-4-carboxamide **15** (0.34 mmol), methyl chloroformate (0.34 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.34 mmol), the resulting colourless gum was tentatively assigned as the title compound in approximately 55% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz): 7.36-7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.76 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 15.0 Hz, PhCH<sub>2</sub>).

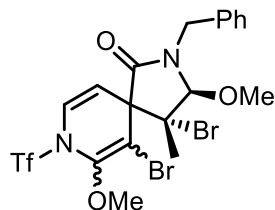
**2-Benzyl-4-bromo-3-methoxy-4-methyl-8-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]deca-6,9-dien-1-one (17)**



*N*-Bromosuccinimide (0.005 g, 0.3 mmol) was added in one portion to a solution of 2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5] deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid tri-fluoro-methyl ester **2a** (0.010 g, 0.026 mmol) in methanol (0.50 mL) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 minutes at 0 °C then concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; EtOAc:petrol) to yield the title compound (5 mg, 39%).

***R<sub>f</sub>*:** 0.46 (EtOAc:petrol 1:4); **IR:** (*ν*<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1718 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.29-7.37 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.40 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.28 (dd, *J* 8.5, 2.5, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.02 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.71 (s, 1H, CHOMe), 4.12 (d, *J* 15.0, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.43 (s, 3H, OMe), 1.77 (s, 3H, Me); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.3 (C=O), 134.9 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 124.7 (NCH=CH), 123.2 (NCH=CH), 119.4 (q, *J* = 324 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 109.9 (NCH=CH), 108.9 (NCH=CH), 97.4 (COMe), 72.0 (CMeBr), 59.5 (OMe), 53.3 (C), 45.4 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); ***m/z* (ES<sup>+</sup>):** 517.0 (90% MNa<sup>+</sup>), 519.1 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>). **HRMS:** found 517.0041 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>S requires 517.0026.

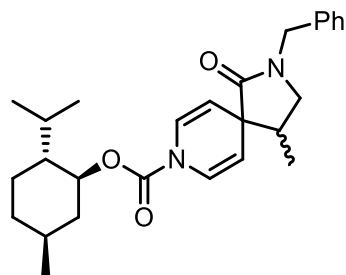
**2-Benzyl-4,10-dibromo-3,9-dimethoxy-4-methyl-8-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]dec-6-en-1-one (18)**



*N*-Bromosuccinimide (0.039 g, 0.22 mmol) was added in one portion to a solution of 2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5] deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylic acid tri-fluoro-methyl ester **2a** (0.077 g, 0.20 mmol) in methanol (2 mL) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 2 ½ hours at 0 °C and *N*-bromosuccinimide (0.005 g, 0.03 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred for a further 2 hours then a final portion of *N*-bromosuccinimide (0.010 g, 0.06 mmol) was added and the solution stirred at room temperature for 16 hours and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (3 mL), washed with water (5 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resultant oil was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; EtOAc:petrol 1:9) to yield the title compound as white prisms (72 mg, 59%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.68 (EtOAc:petrol 1:4); **m.p.**: 149-152 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1725 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.30-7.39 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.58 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.52 (br s, 1H, CHBr), 5.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.96 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, CHOCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.77 (br s, 1H, CHOCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.14 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.64 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.45 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.95 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  170.3 (C=O), 134.7 (Ph), 129.1 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 124.0 (NCH=CH), 119.3 (q, *J* = 323 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 107.8 (NCH=CH), 98.0 (CHOCH<sub>3</sub>), 90.4 (CHOCH<sub>3</sub>), 59.9 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 58.1 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 55.2 (C), 46.8 (CHBr), 45.6 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 23.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 628.9 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>). **HRMS**: found 628.9381 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub>S requires 626.9382.

**(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5]deca-6,9-diene-8-carboxylate (19)**

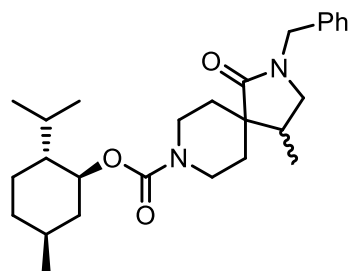


(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5]deca-3,6,9-triene-8-carboxylate **9a** (460 mg, 1.06 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (10 mL) and passed through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 40 bar pressure, 30 °C and a flow rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:5). The title compound was yielded as a colourless gum (440 mg, 95%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.55 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1715 (C=O), 1688 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.36-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.70 (td, *J* = 11.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H, OCH), 4.70-4.62 (m, 2H<sub>A</sub>, 2H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.53 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.38 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz,

1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.20 (ap t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.84 (ap t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.09-1.88 (m, 3H, 2 × CH, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.72-1.68 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.53-1.40 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.11-1.00 (m, 2H, 2 × CH), 0.96 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 0.87 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.77 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.4 (C=O), 150.8 (C=O), 136.4 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 125.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 125.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 125.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 125.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 106.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 105.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 102.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 102.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 77.2 (OCH), 49.9 (NCH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 49.8 (NCH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 47.3 (CH), 47.1 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.1 (CH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 40.8 (CH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 34.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH), 26.4 (CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 26.1 (CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 23.5 (CH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 23.3 (CH<sub>2A or B</sub>), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 16.5 (CH<sub>3A or B</sub>), 16.3 (CH<sub>3A or B</sub>), 12.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 437 (50%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 459 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 437.2790 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 437.2799.

**(1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5]decane-8-carboxylate (20)**

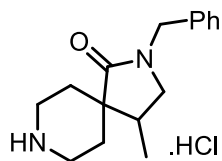


(1R,2S,5R)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro [4.5]deca-6,9-diene-8-carboxylate **9a** (73 mg, 0.18 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (2 mL) and run through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 90 bar, 30 °C and a flow rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc: petrol 1:5). The

title compound was yielded as an amorphous white solid (72 mg, 91%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.50 (EtOAc:Petrol 1:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1673 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.33-7.21 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.58 (dt, *J* = 11.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H, OCH), 4.46 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.41 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.90-3.63 (m, 4H<sub>A</sub>, 4H<sub>B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.28 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.12-2.07 (m, 2H, CH, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.92 (m, 1H, CH), 1.68-1.51 (m, 7H, 6 × CH<sub>2</sub>, CH), 1.34 (m, 1H, CH), 1.11-1.00 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.94 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.90 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.8 (C=O), 155.5 (C=O), 136.6 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 75.0 (OCH), 50.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 47.4 (CH), 46.5 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 44.4 (C), 41.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.3 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.0 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.5 (CH), 34.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.8 (CH), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.5 (CH), 23.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 16.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 441 (10%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 463 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 441.3116 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires 441.3112.

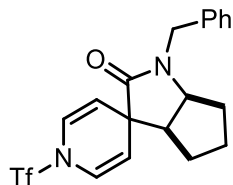
## 2-Benzyl-4-methyl-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]decan-1-one hydrochloride (21)



Following Liebeskind,<sup>3</sup> (*1R,2S,5R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 2-benzyl-4-methyl-1-oxo-2,8-diazaspiro[4.5]decane-8-carboxylate **20** (45 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (1 mL) in a reusable sealed tube. KOH (2.0 M solution in EtOH, 1.5 mL) was added. The tube was sealed and the reaction mixture was stirred at 150 °C for 24 hours, and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (2 × 25 mL) and the organic layers were combined. The combined organics were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The free amine was acidified with 1M HCl in diethylether (5 mL) for 5 minutes and concentrated to give the title compound as a white solid (19 mg, 63%).

**IR:** ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1637 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Tentatively assigned crude product)  $\delta$  9.49 (m, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>N<sup>+</sup>), 7.35-7.18 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.42 (br m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.96 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.66 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.38 (br m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.28 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.80 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.20-1.38 (m, CH, 5H, 4 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.81 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>):** 259 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS:** found 259.1817 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O requires 259.1805.

## 3-Benzyl-1'-(trifluoromethane)sulfonyl-3,3<sup>a</sup>,4,5,6,6<sup>a</sup>-hexahydro-1'H,2H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-1,4'-pyridine]-2-one (22)

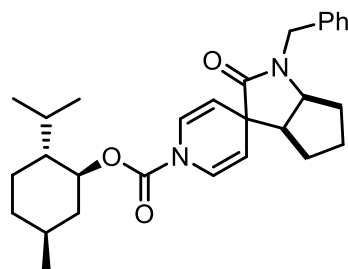


*N*-Benzyl-*N*-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **2e** (130 mg, 0.47 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (5 mL) and run through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 50 bar pressure, 30 °C at a flow rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. The residue was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:5) yielding a colourless oil (107 mg, 55%).

**R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.42 (EtOAc:petrol 1:2); **IR:** ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1672; **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.26-7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.69 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 6.51 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 5.15 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.91 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.40 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.31 (br m, 1H, NCH), 2.22 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 7.0 Hz, (1H, C)CH), 1.81 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.68 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR:** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.5 (C=O), 137.7 (Ph), 128.9 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.8 (Ph), 123.7 (NCH=CH), 121.1 (NCH=CH), 113.7 (NCH=CH), 108.7 (NCH=CH), 99.2 (CH), 59.6 (CH), 46.3 (C), 43.6 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>):** 413 (100%, MH<sup>+</sup>).

<sup>3</sup> Shu, C.; Liebeskind, L. S. *J. Am. Chem.* **2003**, *125*, 2878.

**(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3*a*,4,5,6,6*a*-hexahydro-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (23)**

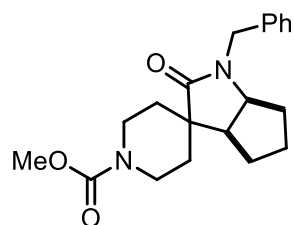


(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-5-Methyl-2-(propan-2-yl)cyclohexyl-3-benzyl-2-oxo-3,5,6,6*a*-tetrahydro-1'*H*,2*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-1,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate **9e** (396 mg, 0.86 mmol), was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (9 mL) and run through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 75 bar, 30 °C and a flow

rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:5). The title compound was yielded as an amorphous white solid (346 mg, 87%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.41 (EtOAc:petrol 1:3); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.34-7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.20 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.02 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.84 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.76 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.73 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.69 (dt, *J* = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, OCH), 4.63 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 3.90 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.81 (m, 1H, NCH), 2.34 (m, 1H, NCHCH), 2.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91 (m, 1H, CH), 1.73 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.70 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.68 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.62 (m, 2H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55 (m, 1H, CH), 1.51 (m, 1H, CH), 1.43 (m, 1H, CH), 1.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.00 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H<sub>A or B</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H<sub>A or B</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.86 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.78 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 175.5 (C=O), 150.8 (C=O), 136.5 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.3 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 125.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 109.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 108.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 105.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 76.8 (OCH), 58.9 (NCH), 51.7 (NCHCH), 47.8 (C), 47.1 (CH), 44.9 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH), 30.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (CH), 23.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 20.8 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 16.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>)**: 485 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>).

**Methyl 1-benzyl-2-oxohexahydro-1*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3,4'-piperidine]-1'-carboxylate (24)**

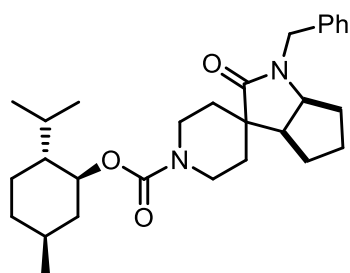


Methyl-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3*a*,4,5-tetrahydro-1*H*,1'*H*-spiro[cyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate **7e** (228 mg, 0.68 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (7 mL) and run through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 60 bar, 30 °C and a flow rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:5). The title compound was yielded as an amorphous white solid (213 mg, 91%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.33 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1688 (C=O), 1676 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.33-7.17 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.03 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H,

PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.09 (br m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.94 (br m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.81 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.71 (m, 1H, NCH) 3.70 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.18 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.08 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.38 (m, 1H, NCHCH), 2.00 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.71-1.43 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.27 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.2 (C=O), 156.0 (C=O), 136.5 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.6 (Ph), 58.9 (NCH), 52.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 45.2 (C), 45.1 (NCHCH), 44.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 40.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 40.4 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 33.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 343 (80%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 365 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>).

**(1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-1-benzyl-2-oxohexahydro-1H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-piperidine]-1'-carboxylate (25)**

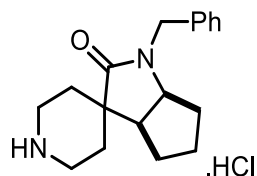


(1R,2S,5R)-5-Methyl-2-(propan-2-yl)cyclohexyl-3-benzyl-2-oxo-3,5,6,6a-tetrahydro-1'H,2H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-1,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate **9e** (104 mg, 0.23 mmol) was dissolved in 2:1 EtOH:EtOAc (3 mL) and run through the H-Cube (CatCart Pd/C 10% cartridge) at 90 bar, 30 °C and at a flow rate of 0.8 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>. A flow system was set up. After 3 hours, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>,

EtOAc:petrol 1:5) to yield the title compound as a white solid (95 mg, 90%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.28 (EtOAc:petrol 1:3); **m.p.**: 100 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: (ν<sub>max</sub>(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1717 (C=O), 1686 (C=O); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1)) δ 7.34-7.18 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.06 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.58 (m, 1H, OCH), 4.11 (br m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.98 (br m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.80 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.72 (m, 1H, NCH), 3.15 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 10.5, 3.0 Hz, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.04 (m, 2H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.40 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, NCHCH), 2.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.99 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.91 (m, 1H, CH), 1.77-1.47 (m, 10H, CH, 9 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34 (m, 2H, CH, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.07 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.90 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.89 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.80 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 177.3 (C=O), 157.5 (C=O), 135.0 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 75.1 (OCH), 58.9 (NCH), 47.4 (CH), 45.0 (NCHCH), 44.0 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.6 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.4 (CH), 29.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.5 (CH), 25.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 20.8 (2 × CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)), 16.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 489 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 489.3085 (MNa<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na requires 489.3088.

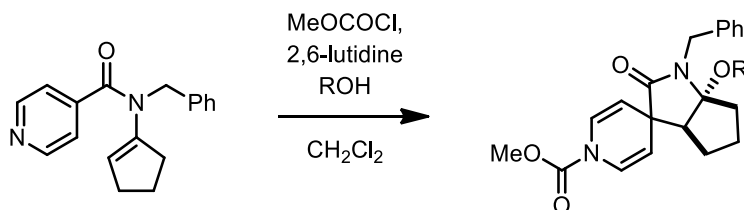
**1-Benzyltetrahydro-1H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-piperidin]-2(3aH)-one hydrochloride (26)**



Following Liebeskind,<sup>3</sup> (*1R,2S,5R*)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl-1-benzyl-2-oxohexahydro-1H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-piperidine]-1'-carboxylate **25** (104 mg, 0.23 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (2 mL) in a reusable sealed tube. KOH in ethanol (2.0 M, 3 mL) was added. The tube was sealed and the reaction mixture was stirred at 150 °C for 24 hours, and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (2 × 25 mL) and the organic layers were combined. The combined organics were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The free amine was acidified with 1M HCl in diethylether (5 mL) for 5 minutes and concentrated to give the title compound as a white solid (52 mg, 71%).

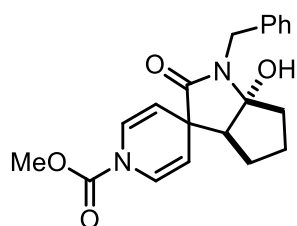
**IR:** ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1626 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR:** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.56 (br d, m, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>N<sup>+</sup>), 7.33-7.16 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.98 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.02 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.76 (br m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.51 (m, 1H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.27 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>, NCH), 2.26 (m, 11H, CH, 10 × CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>):** 100% (MH<sup>+</sup> 285); **HRMS:** found 285.1958 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O requires 285.1962.

### General Procedure C for Dearomatising Cyclisations (with the addition of a nucleophile)



Cyclisation precursor was dissolved in dichloromethane (0.05M). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and 2,6-lutidine (1 equiv.), ROH (1-3 equiv.) and methyl chloroformate (1 equiv.) were added sequentially. After 30 minutes the solution was quenched by saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (0.2M) and extracted twice using dichloromethane (0.2M). Organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc:petrol 1:19) to yield the spirocyclic dihydropyridine.

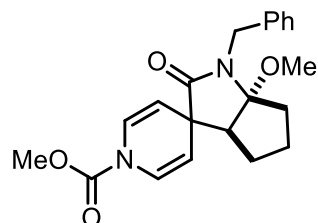
### Methyl-1-benzyl-6a-hydroxy-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[penta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (27a) [cyclo-



Following general procedure C, the racemic title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (212 mg, 0.76 mmol) (using methylchloroformate (0.76 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.76 mmol) and distilled water (2.28 mmol) in dichloromethane: acetone (1:1 rather than dichloromethane)) as a white solid after purification (242 mg, 90%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.32 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **m.p.**: 143-145 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3339 (O-H), 1726 (C=O), 1687 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.34-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.04 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.84 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.00 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.90 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.74 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.65 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.55 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.50 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 (m, 1H, OH), 2.25 (m, 1H, CH), 1.87-1.64 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.46 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.8 (C=O), 151.7 (C=O), 138.2 (Ph), 128.7 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 125.2 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.6 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 110.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 110.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 105.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.6 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 99.2 (C), 60.1 (CH), 53.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 47.0 (COH), 43.5 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z (ES)**: 377 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 355.1657 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires 355.1653.

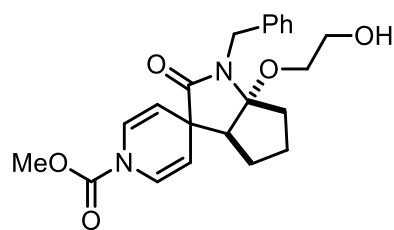
**Methyl-1-benzyl-6a-methoxy-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (27b)**



Following procedure C, the racemic title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (115 mg, 0.41 mmol), (using methyl chloroformate (0.41 mmol), 2,6-lutidine (0.41 mmol) and methanol (0.017 mL)) as a white solid after purification (113 mg, 75%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.61 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **m.p.**: 164-166 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1728 (C=O), 1690 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.36-7.24 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.23 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.14 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, 1H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.01 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.87 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.80 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.70 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.69 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.64 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.16 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.84 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.02 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.27 (m, 1H, CH), 1.88-1.58 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.34 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.7 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 137.9 (Ph), 128.5 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 124.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.6 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.2 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 108.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 108.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 105.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 105.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.1 (C), 53.7 (COOCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.3 (CH or OCH<sub>3</sub>), 50.2 (CH or OCH<sub>3</sub>), 47.1 (COH), 43.6 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 369 (10%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 391 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 369.1806 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires 369.1806.

**Methyl-1-benzyl-6a-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (27c)**

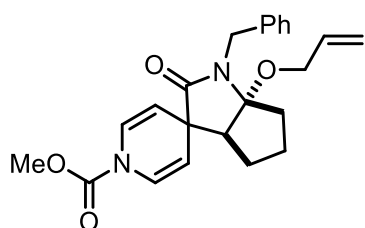


Following general procedure C, the racemic title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (133 mg, 0.48 mmol) (using methyl chloroformate (0.48 mmol), 2,6-lutidine (0.48 mmol) and ethylene glycol (0.48 mmol)) as a white solid after purification (172 mg, 76%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.24 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **m.p.**: 113-115 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3445 (O-H), 1727 (C=O), 1688 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.34-7.26 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.24 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.15 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, 1H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.01 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.95 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.85 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.68 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.62 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.61 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.29 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.85 (s, 1H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.63 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.36 (dt, *J* = 5.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, OCH), 3.13 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, OCH), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 1.85-1.72 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.64 (dd, ap q, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H, OH), 1.35 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.7 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 138.0 (Ph), 128.6 (Ph), 128.1 (Ph), 127.5 (Ph), 124.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 108.2 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 107.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>).

*B*), 103.9 (C), 64.0 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 53.8 (COOCH<sub>3</sub>), 53.2 (CH), 47.0 (COCH<sub>2</sub>), 43.7 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 399 (10%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 421 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 399.1913 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires 399.1915.

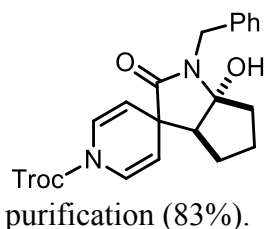
**Methyl-6a-(allyloxy)-1-benzyl-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (27d)**



Following general procedure C, the racemic title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (106 mg, 0.38 mmol) (using methyl chloroformate (0.38 mmol) 2,6-lutidine (0.38 mmol) and allyl alcohol (0.38 mmol)) as a white solid after purification (112 mg, 63%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.56 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **m.p.**: 83-86 °C (EtOAc); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 1728 (C=O), 1690 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.35-7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.20 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.15 (m, 1H<sub>A</sub>, 1H<sub>B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.01 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.81 (ddt, *J* = 17.0, 10.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.26 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CH<sub>2</sub><sup>trans</sup>), 5.17 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H, CH=CH<sub>2</sub><sup>cis</sup>), 4.95 (m 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.88 (m, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.68 (m, 1H, NCH=CH), 4.66 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.63 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 4.20 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 1.86-1.62 (m, 5H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.35 (m, 1H, CH<sub>2</sub>); **<sup>13</sup>C-NMR**: (100 MHz: CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  176.6 (C=O), 151.6 (C=O), 137.9 (Ph), 133.8 (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 128.5 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.4 (Ph), 124.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.9 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 123.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 117.0 (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 108.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 107.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.8 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 104.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 103.9 (C), 63.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 53.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH), 47.2 (COCH<sub>2</sub>), 43.7 (PhCH<sub>2</sub>), 37.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 395 (30%, MH<sup>+</sup>), 417 (100%, MNa<sup>+</sup>); **HRMS**: found 395.1975 (MH<sup>+</sup>), C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires 395.1966.

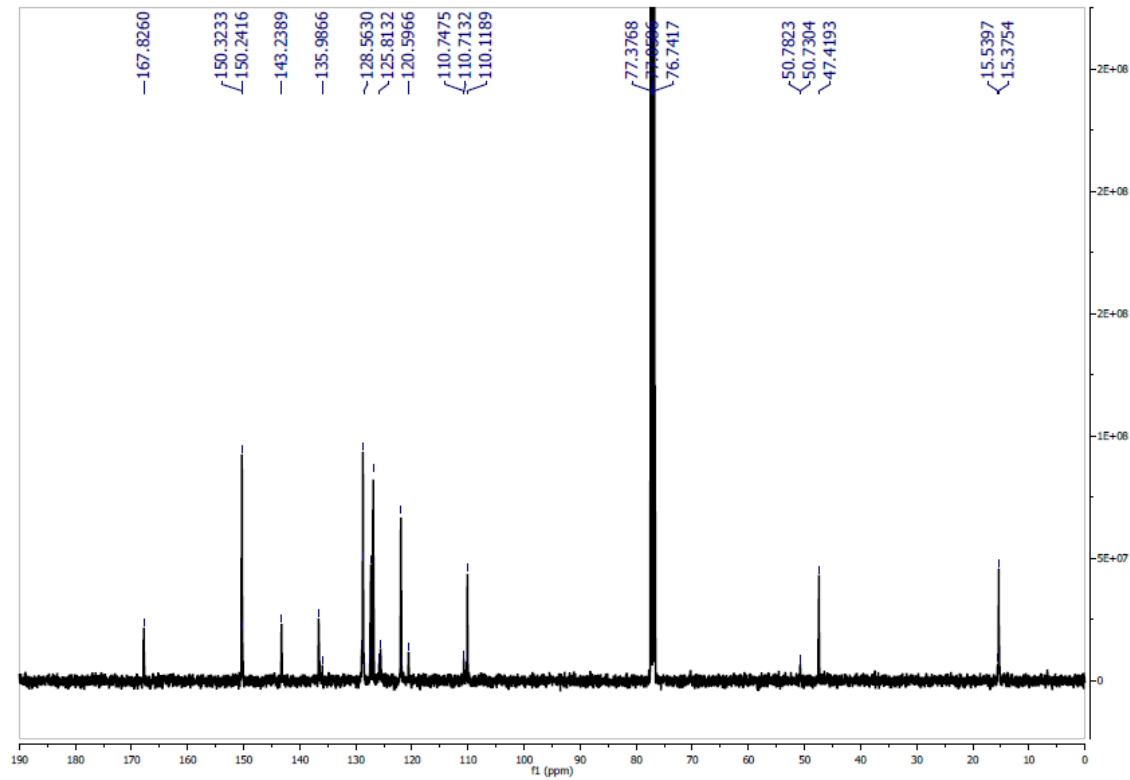
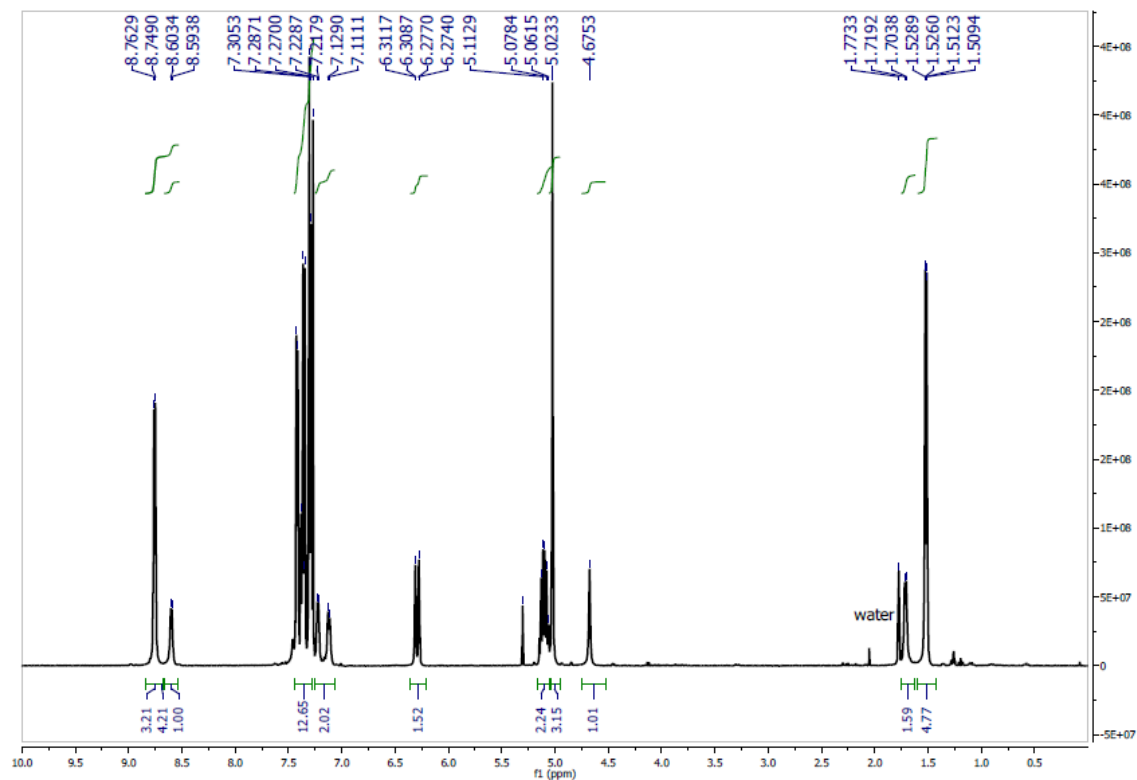
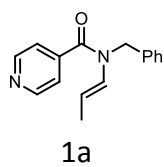
**2,2,2-Trichloroethyl 1-benzyl-6a-hydroxy-2-oxo-2,3a,4,5,6,6a-hexahydro-1H,1'H-spiro[cyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3,4'-pyridine]-1'-carboxylate (27e)**

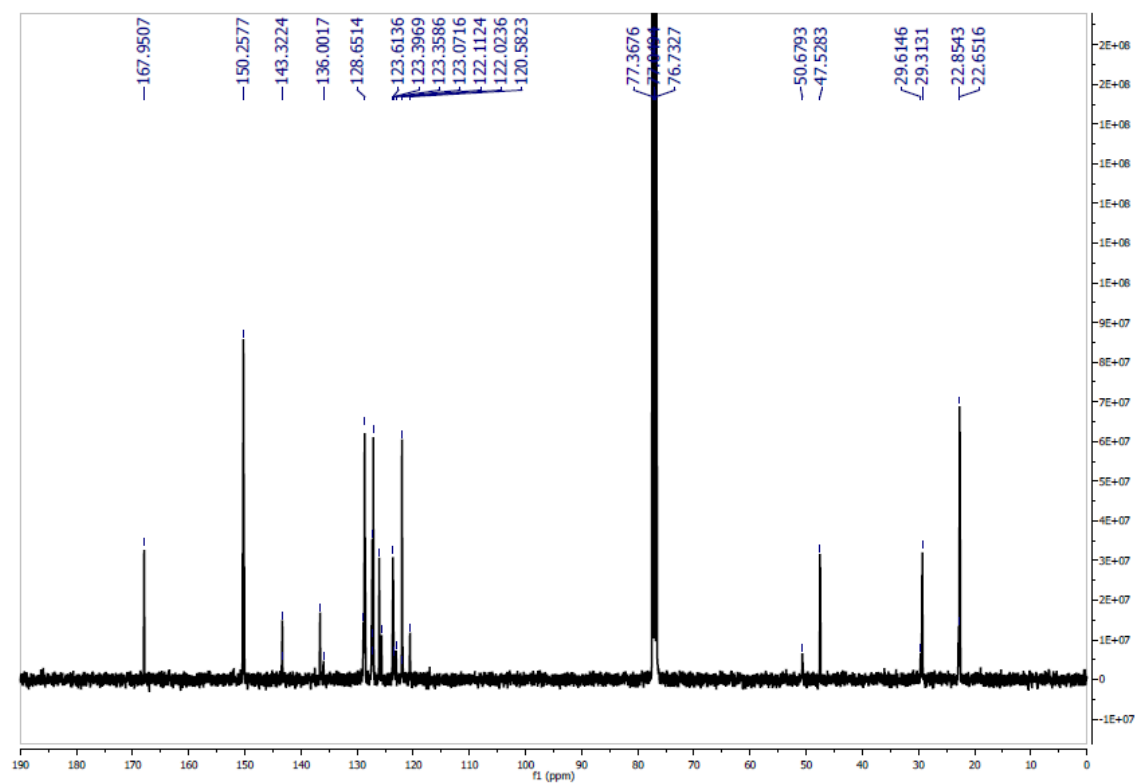
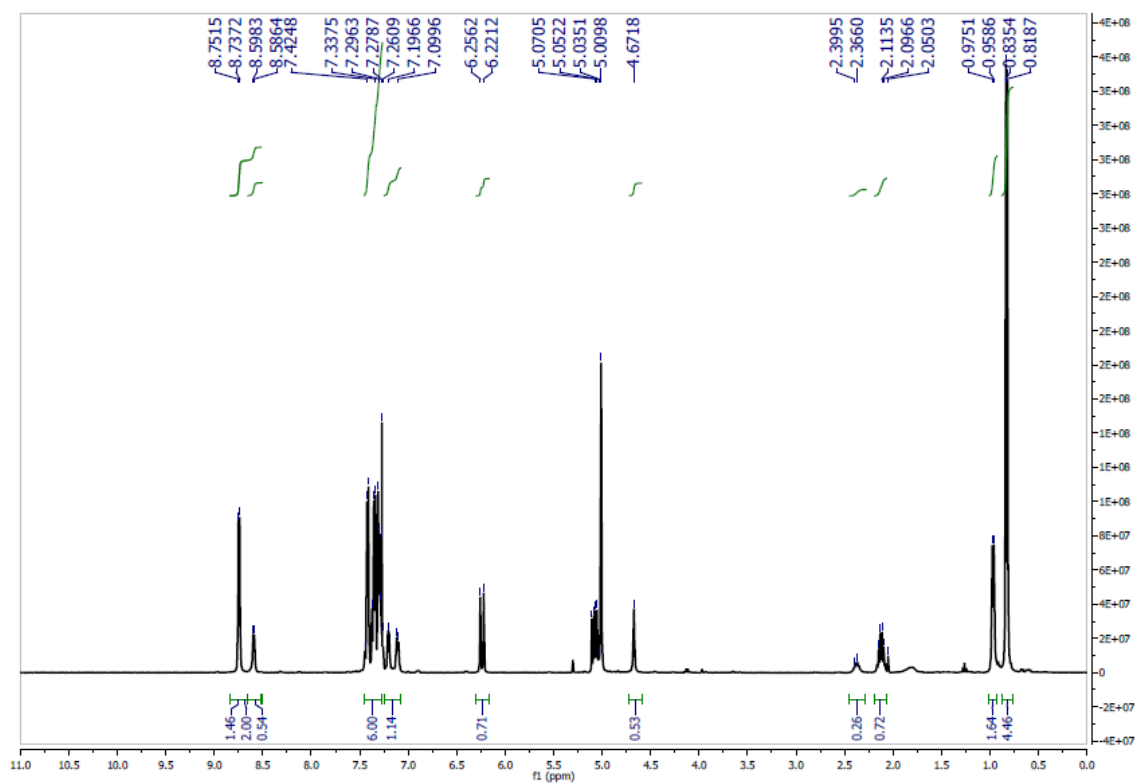
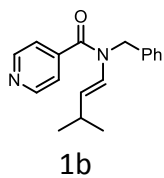


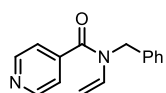
Following general procedure B, the racemic title compound was obtained from *N*-benzyl-cyclopent-1-enyl-isonicotinamide **1e** (123 mg, 0.44 mmol), using 2,2,2-trichloroethyl chloroformate (0.44 mmol) 2,6-lutidine (0.44 mmol) and distilled water (0.023 mL, 1.32 mmol) and dichloromethane:acetone (1:1) (12 mL), as a white solid after purification (83%).

**R<sub>f</sub>**: 0.42 (EtOAc:petrol 1:1); **m.p.**: 162-164 °C (CHCl<sub>3</sub>); **IR**: ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3342 (O-H), 1733 (C=O); 1690 (C=O); **<sup>1</sup>H-NMR**: (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 2 rotamers (A:B 1:1))  $\delta$  7.37-7.27 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 7.00 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 6.99 (m, 1H<sub>A or B</sub>, NCH=CH), 5.08 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.5

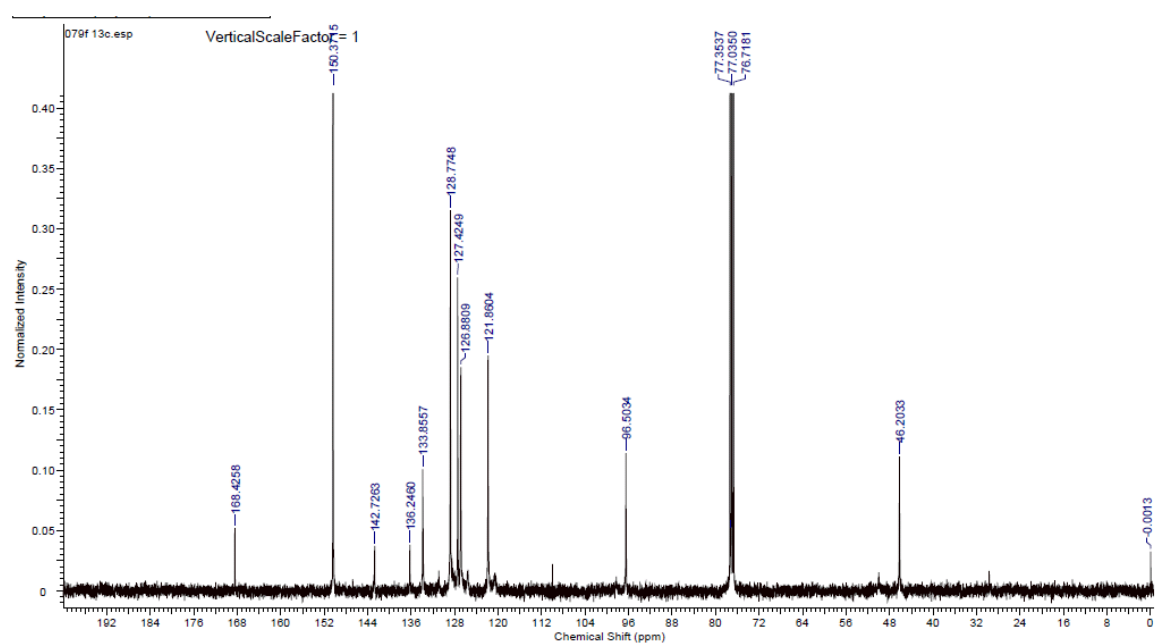
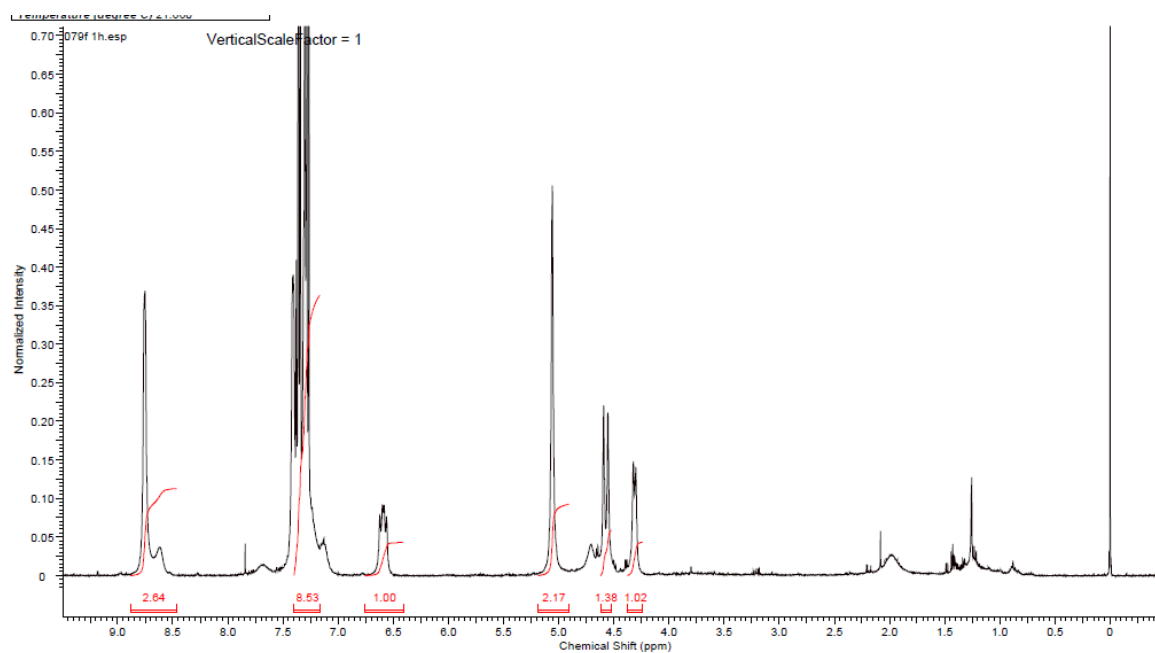
Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 5.01 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 1.5$  Hz,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.86 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.82 (s, 2H,  $Cl_3CCH_2$ ), 4.79 (m,  $1H_{A \text{ or } B}$ , NCH=CH), 4.66 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $PhCH_2$ ), 4.46 (d,  $J = 15.0$  Hz, 1H,  $PhCH_2$ ), 2.28-2.25 (m, 2H, CH, COH), 1.88 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.77 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.65 (m, 1H,  $CH_2$ ), 1.53 (m, 1H,  $CH_2$ );  $^{13}C$ -NMR: (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  175.3 (C=O), 153.8 (C=O), 138.1 (Ph), 128.8 (Ph), 128.2 (Ph), 127.7 (Ph), 125.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 124.5 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.4 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 122.0 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 111.7 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 111.1 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 106.3 (NCH=CH<sub>A or B</sub>), 99.2 (C), 77.2 ( $Cl_3C$ ), 75.6 ( $Cl_3CCH_2$ ), 60.0 (CH), 47.0 (COH), 43.6 ( $PhCH_2$ ), 38.4 ( $CH_2$ ), 26.3 ( $CH_2$ ), 24.7 ( $CH_2$ ); **m/z** (**ES**<sup>+</sup>): 493 (50%,  $MNa^+$ ).

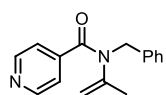




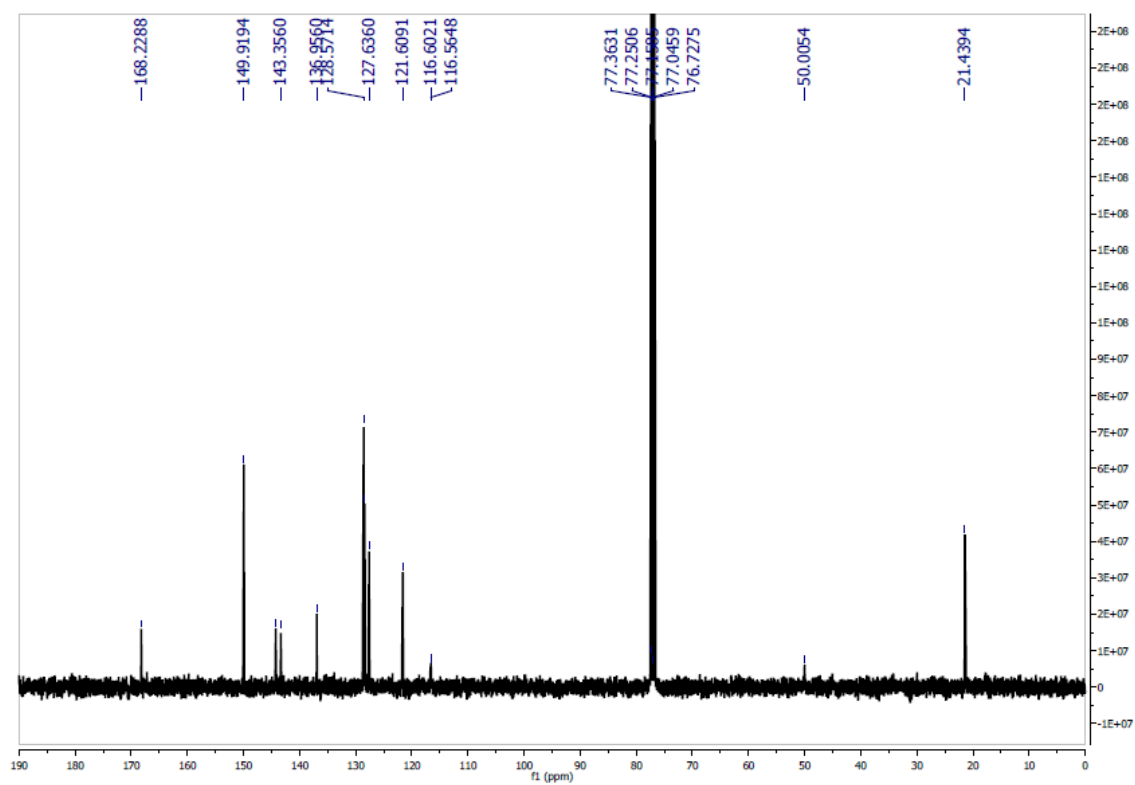
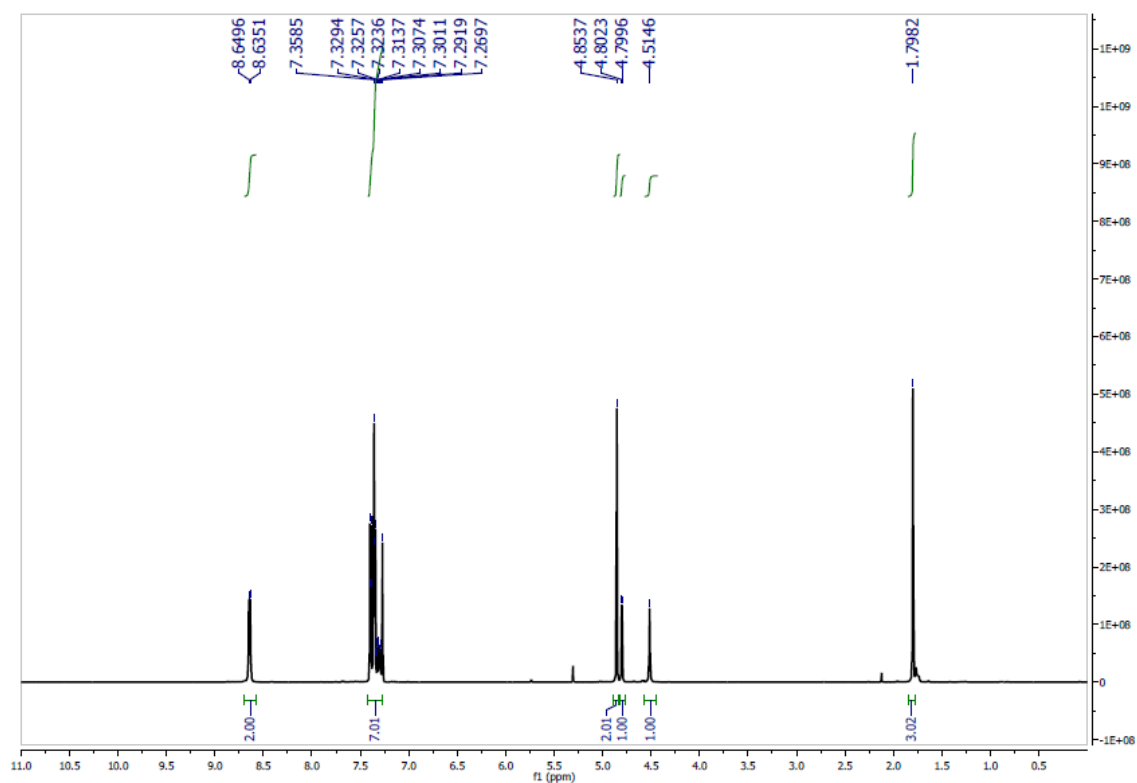


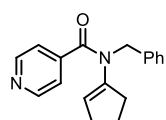
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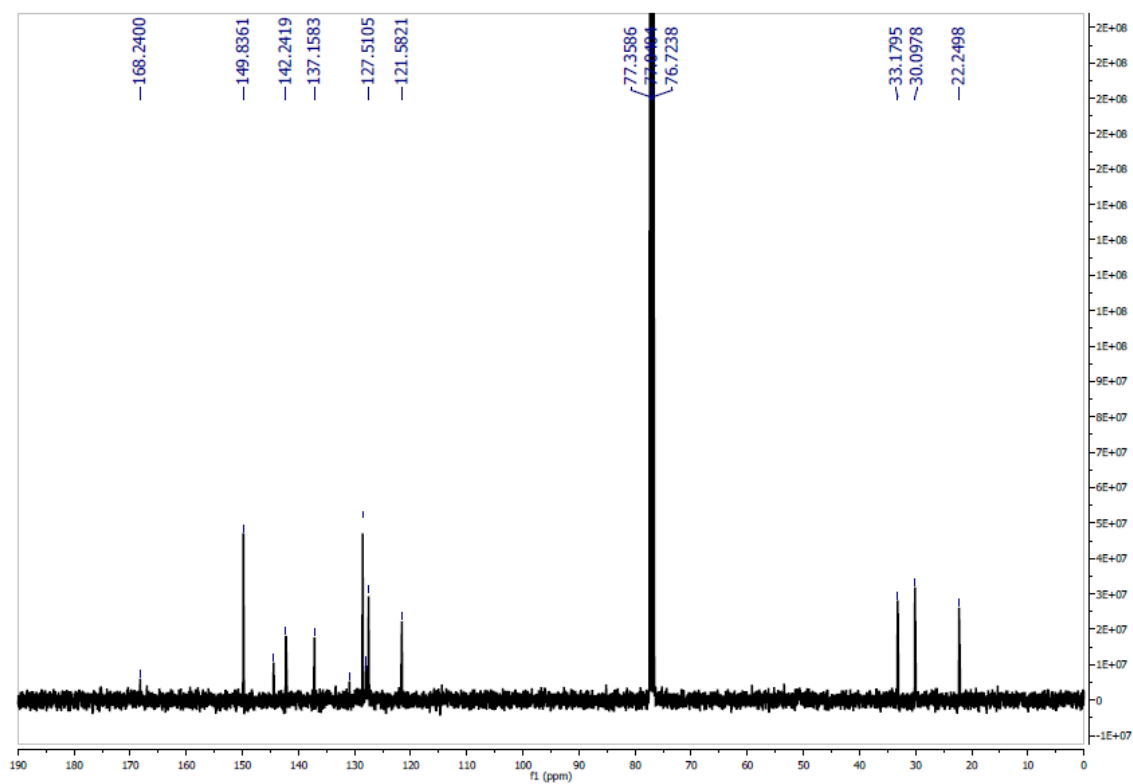
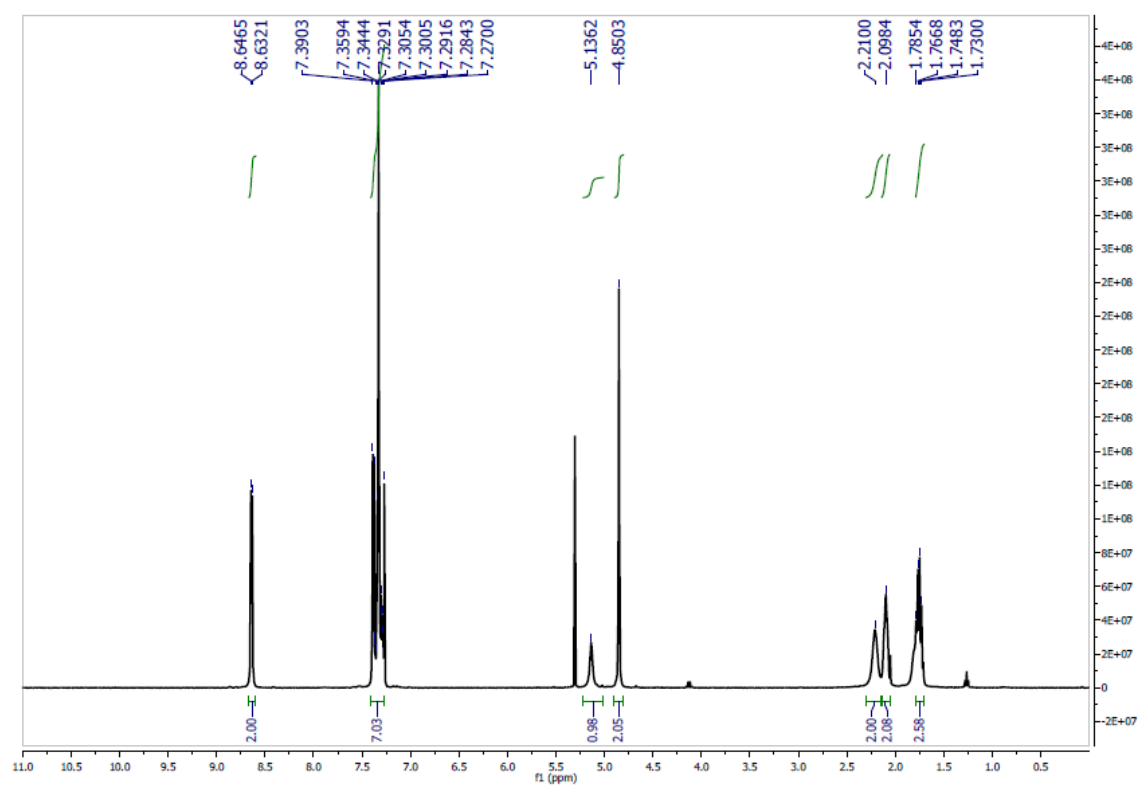


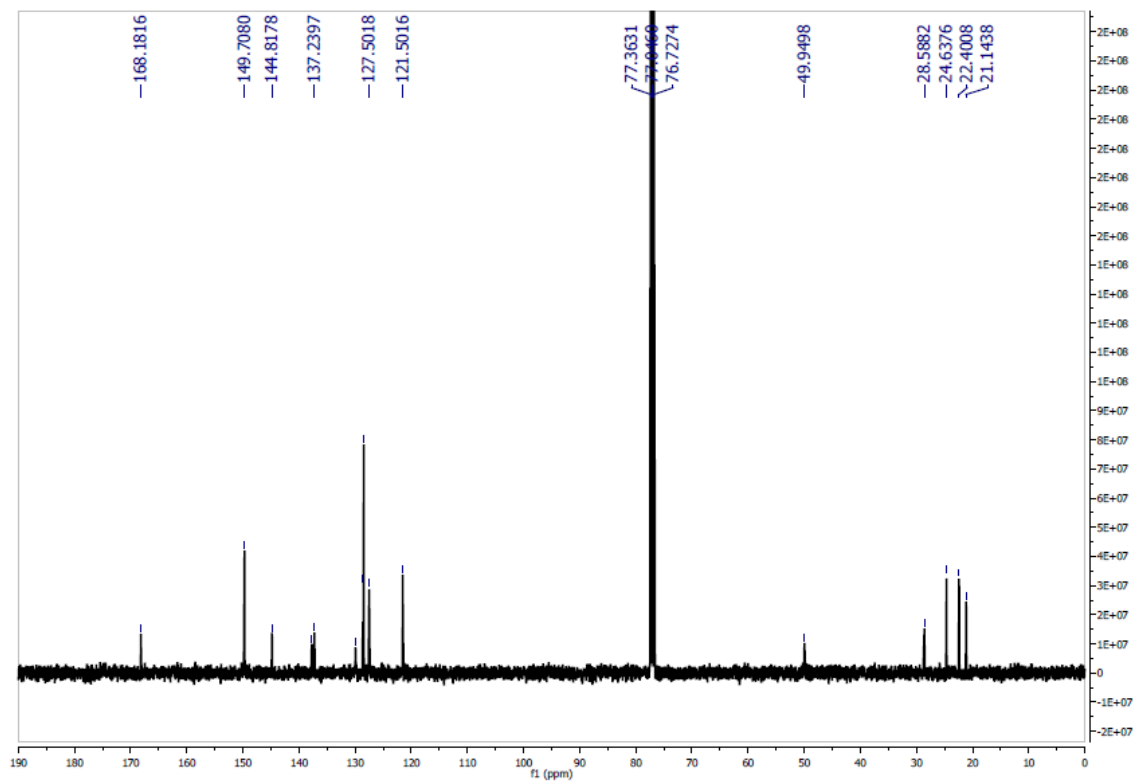
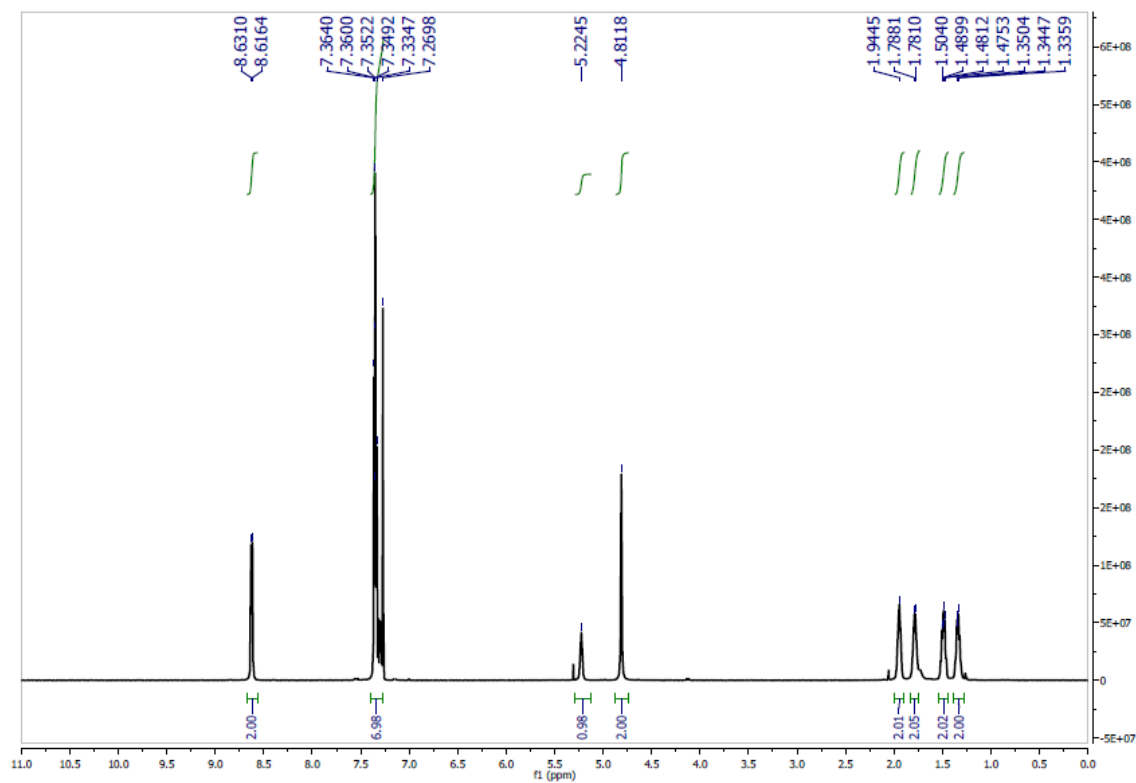
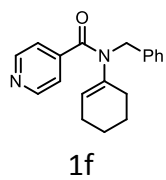
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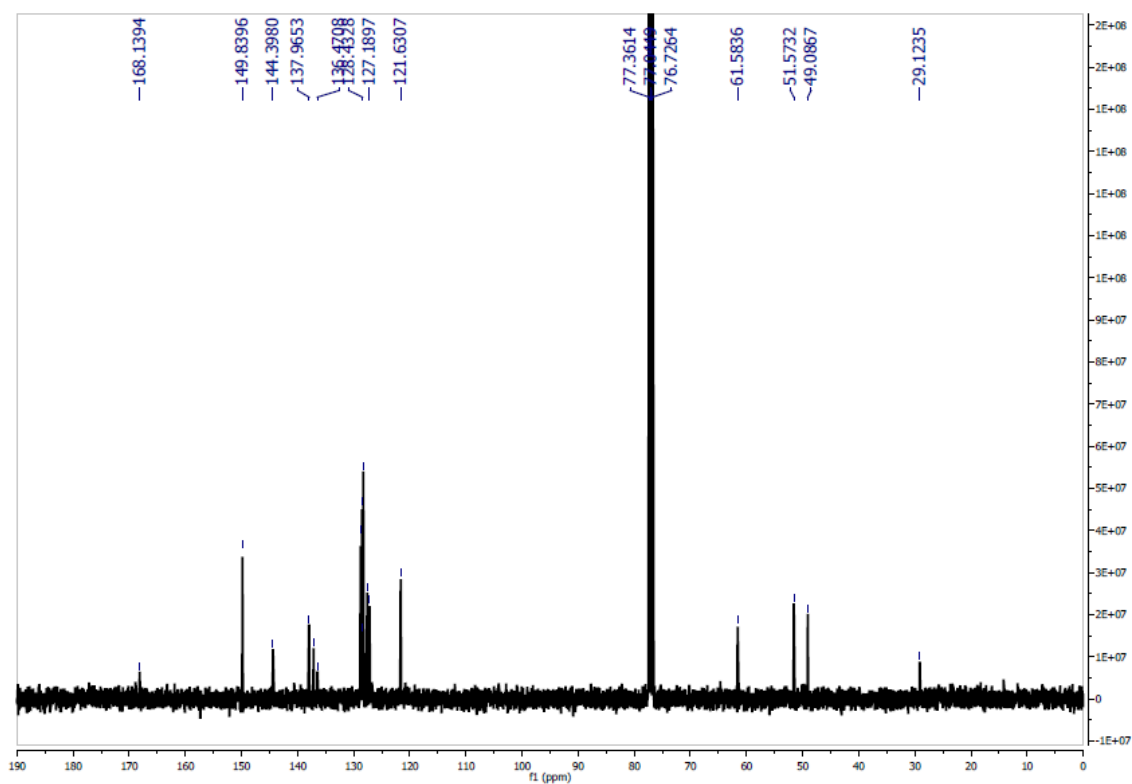
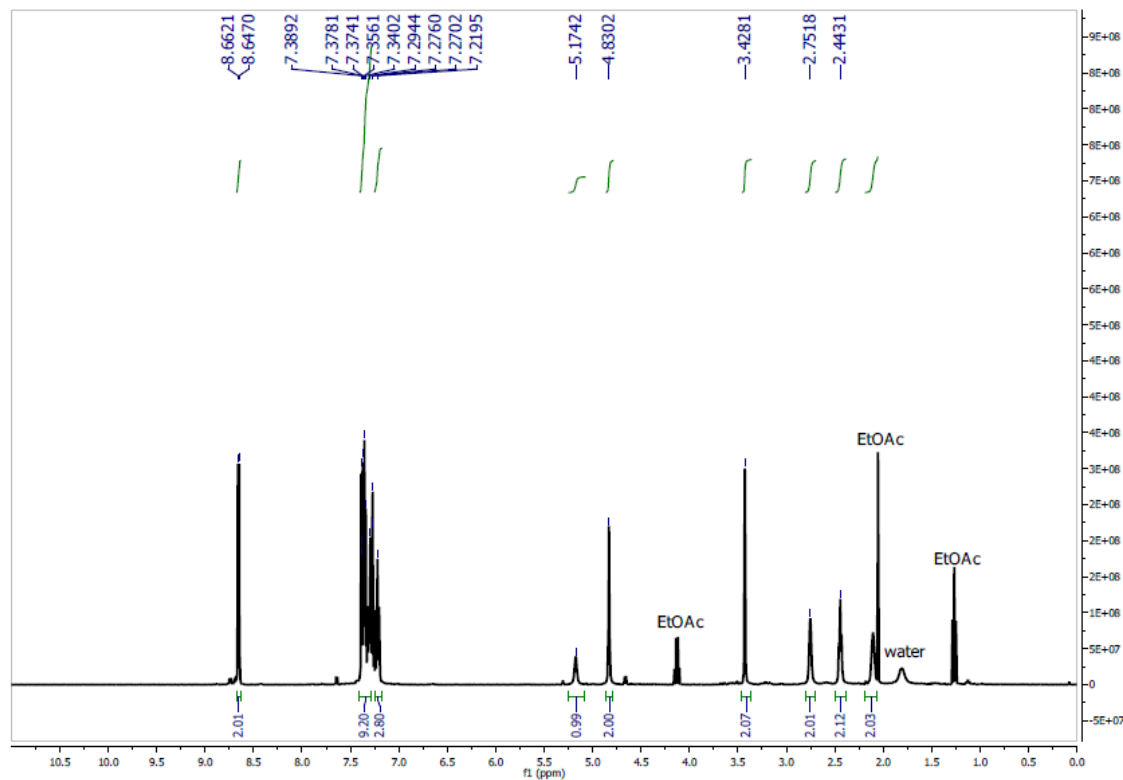
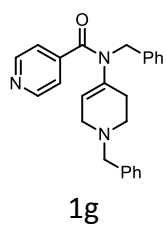


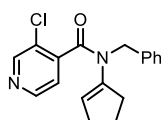


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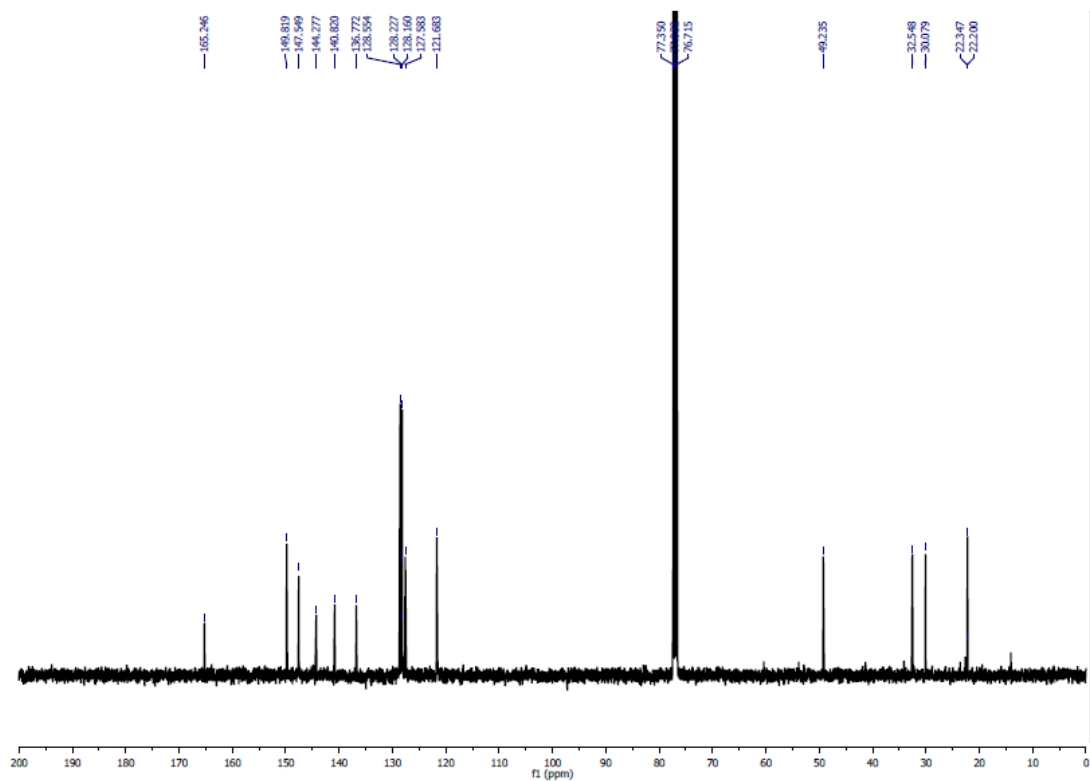
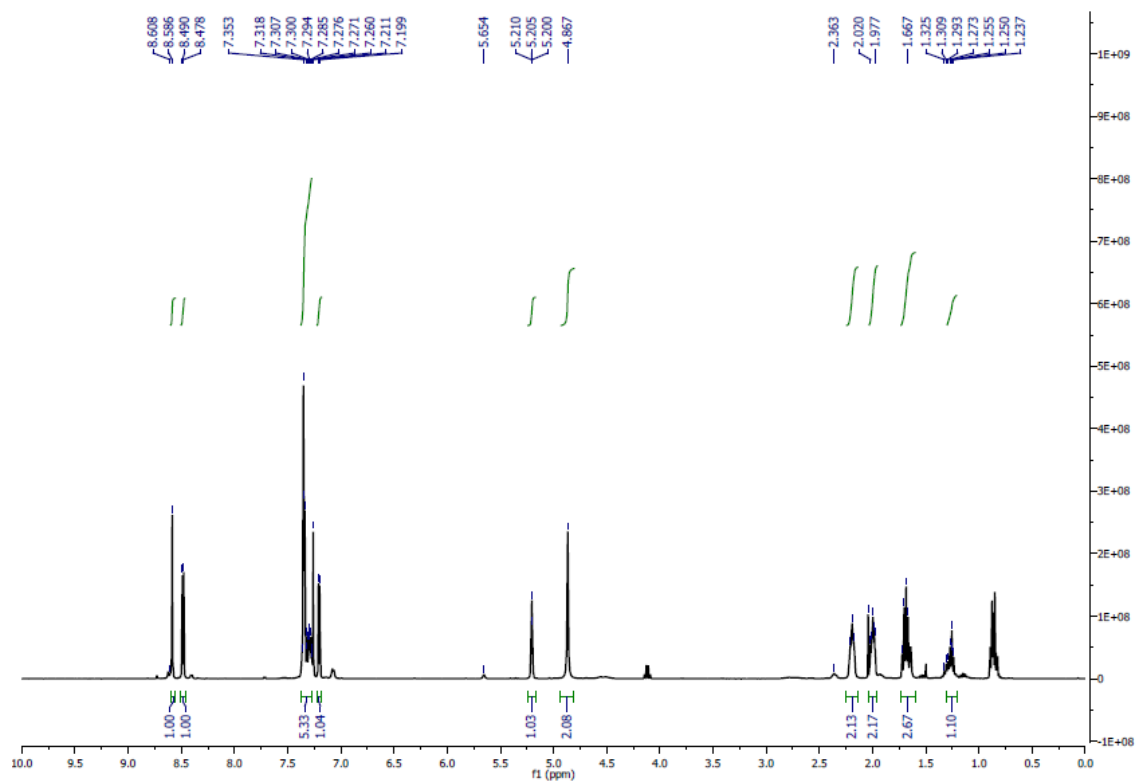


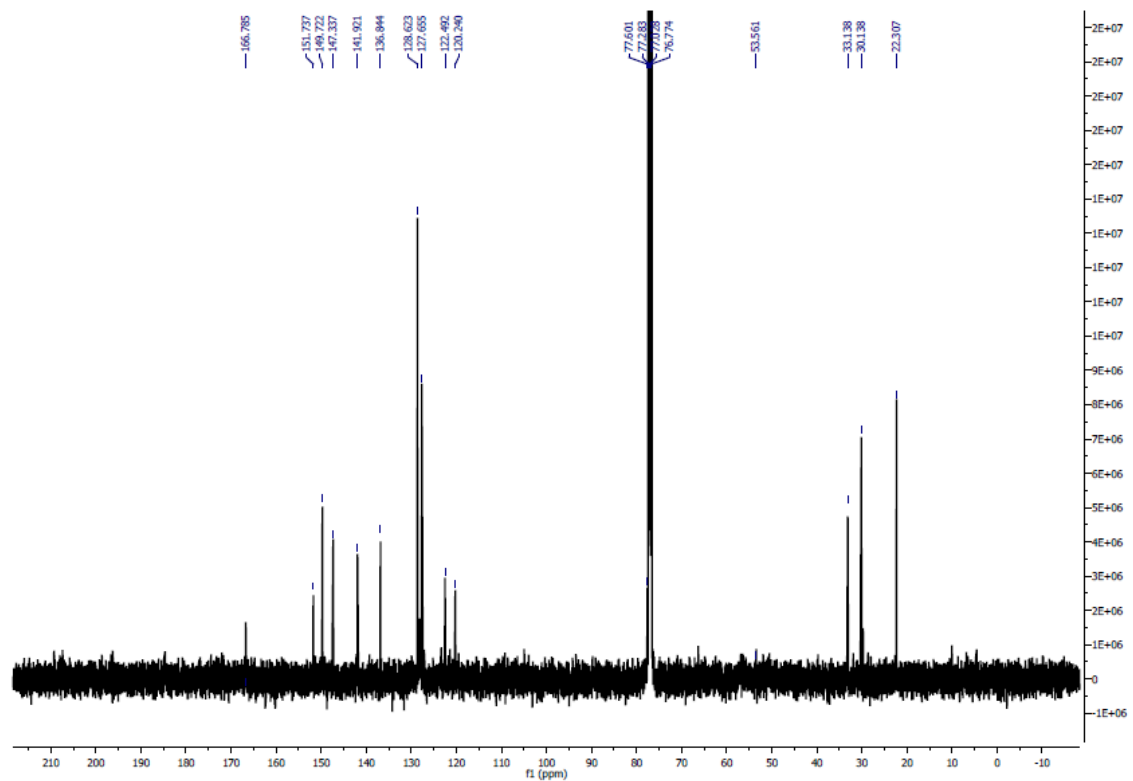
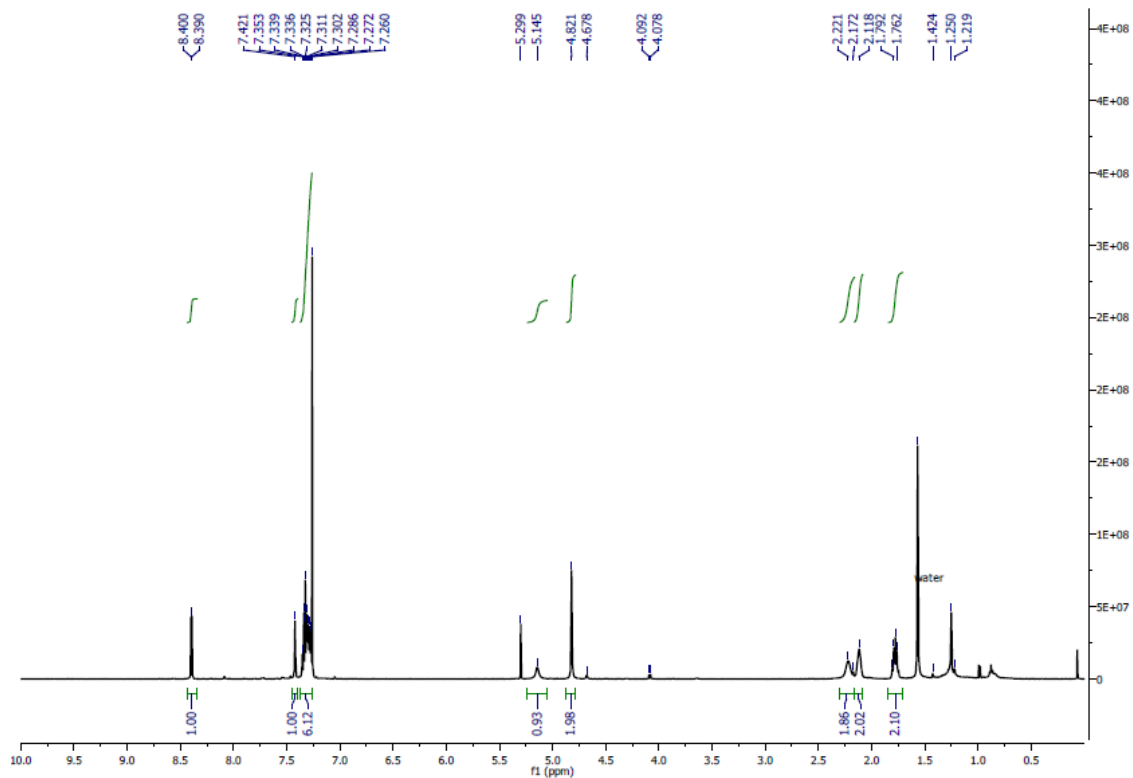
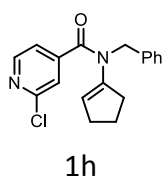


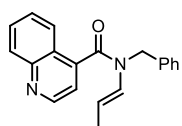




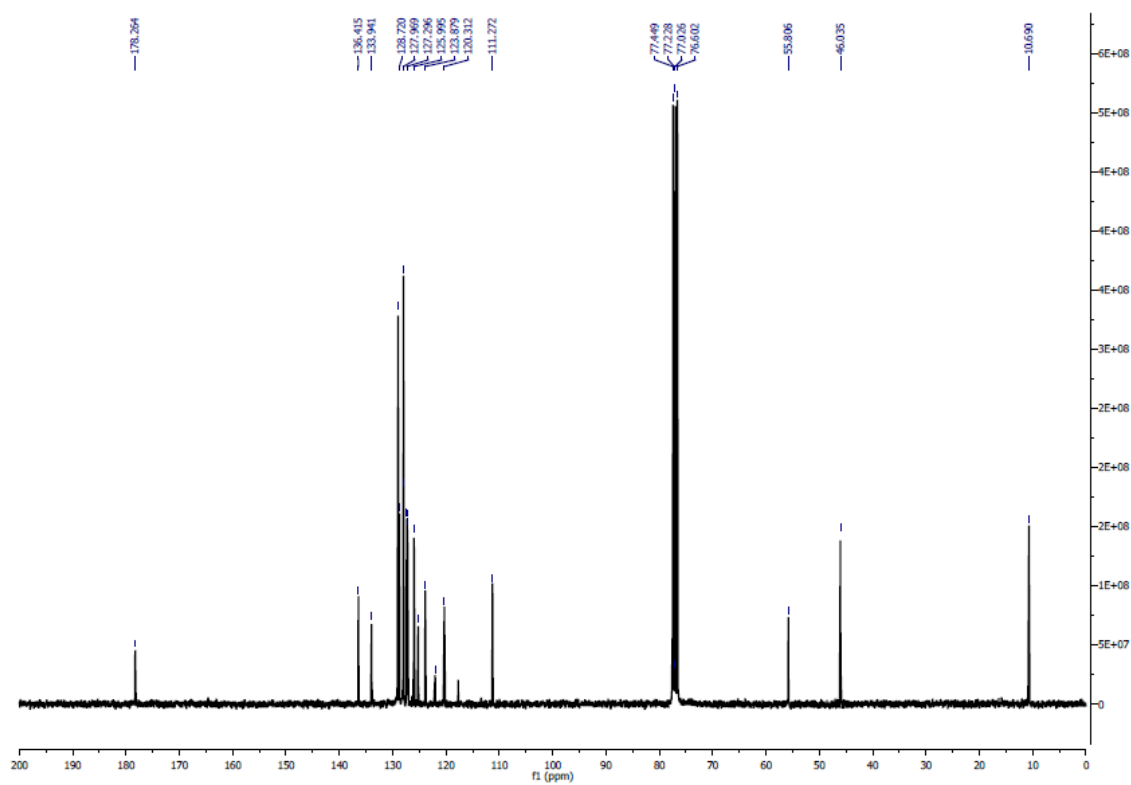
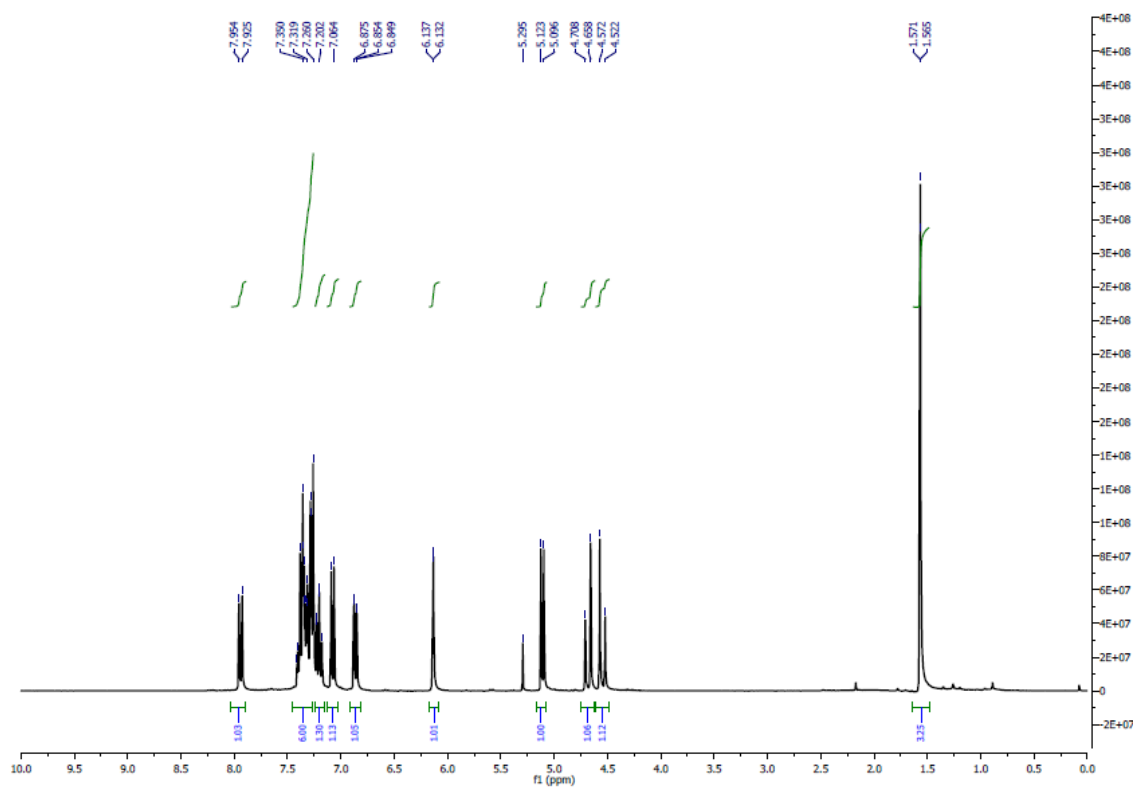
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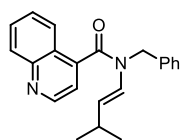




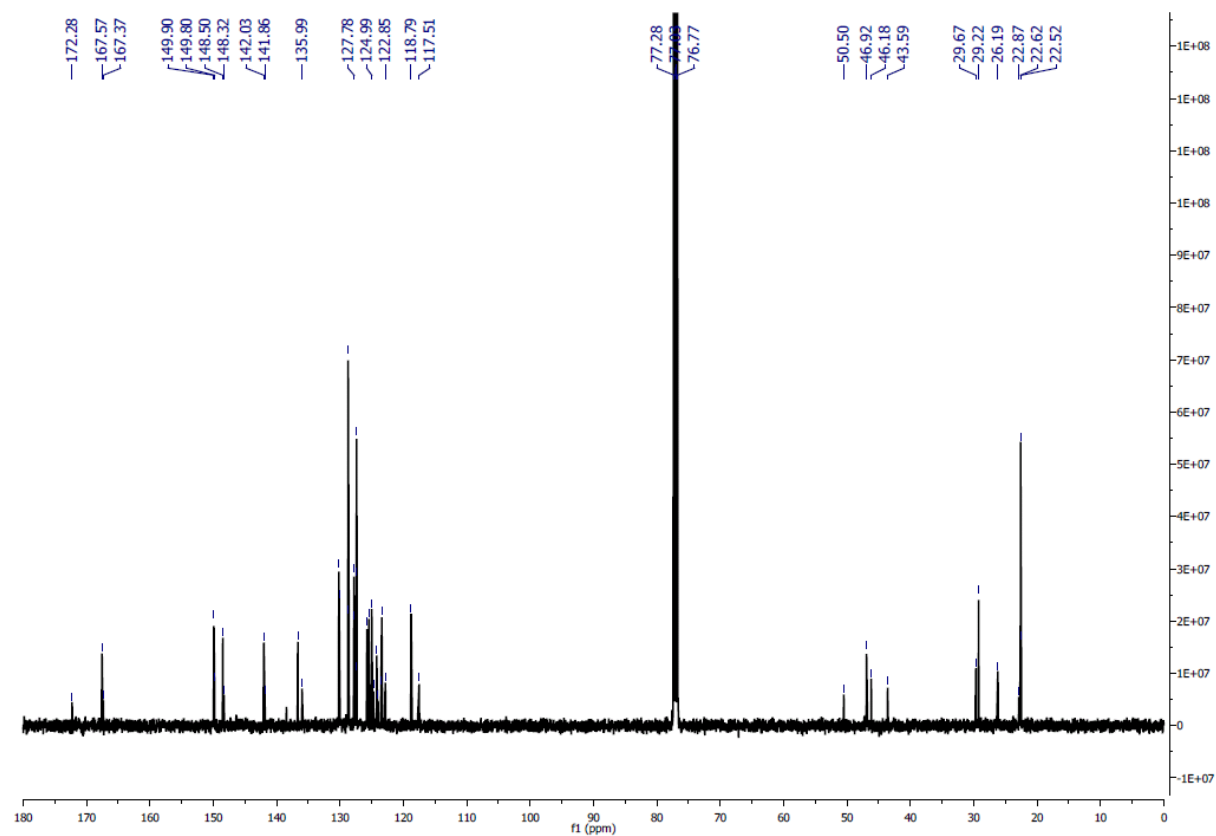
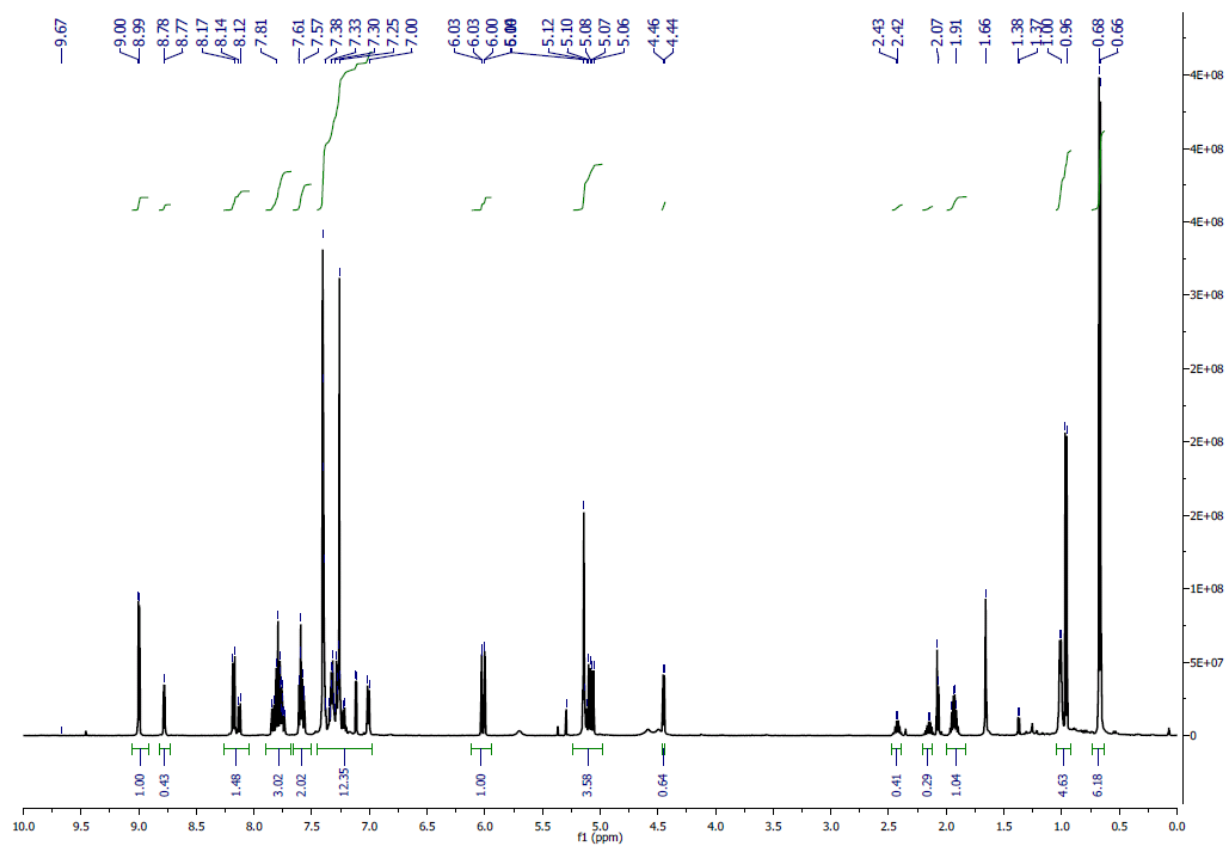


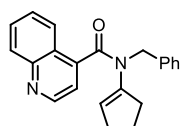
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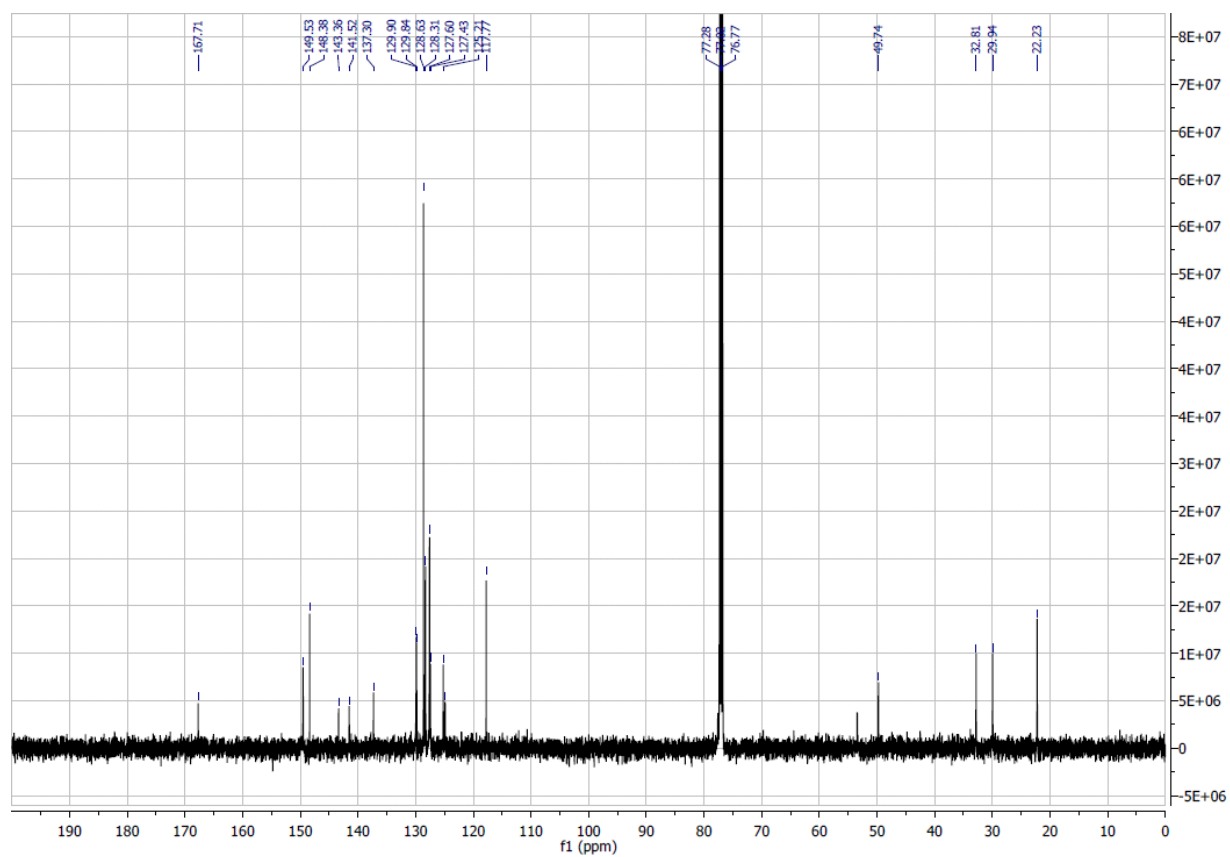
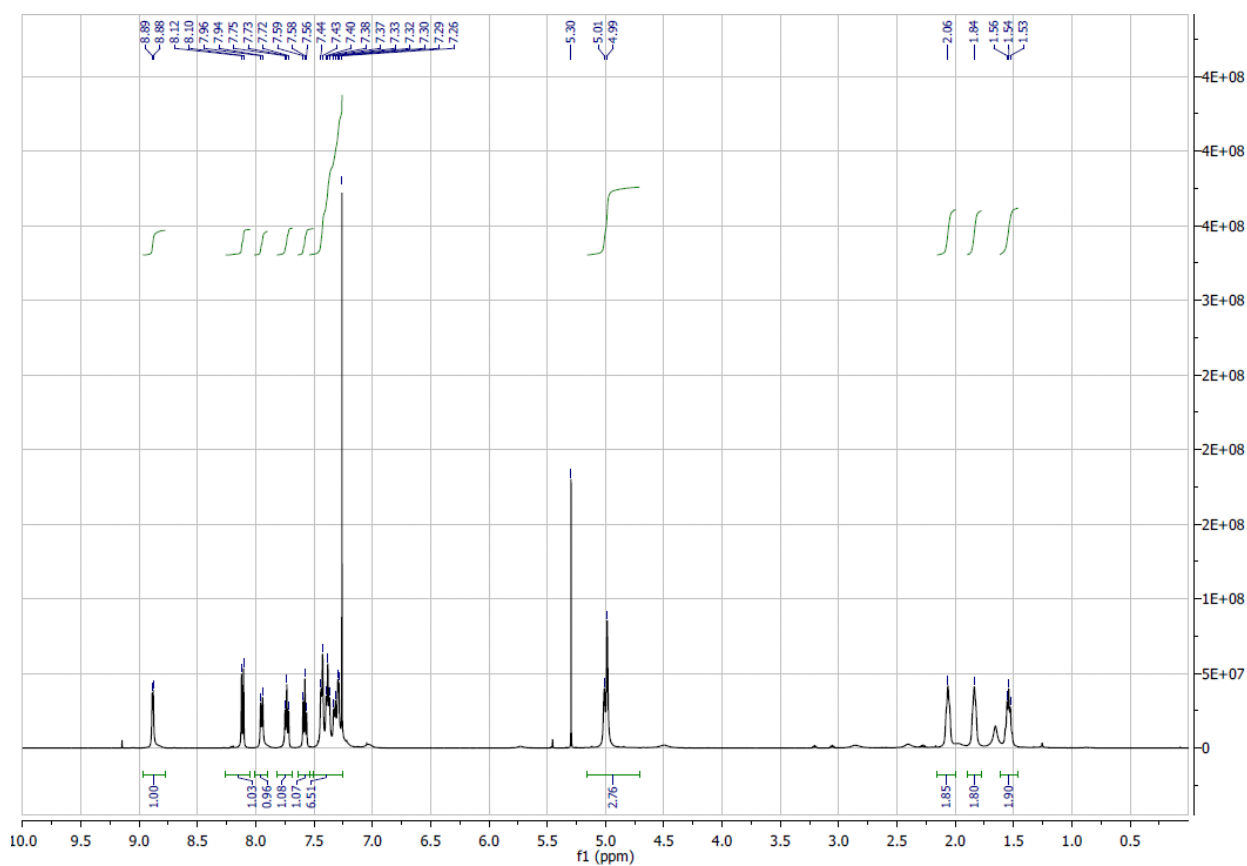


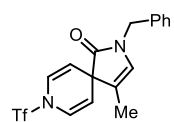
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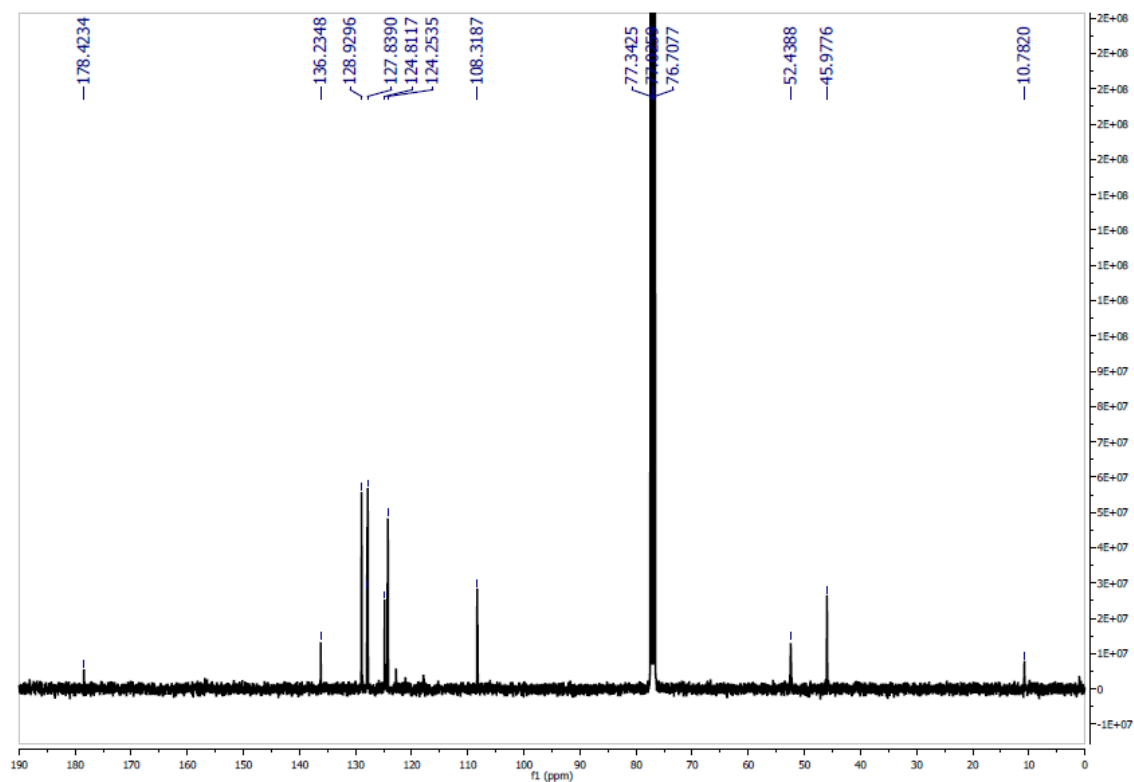
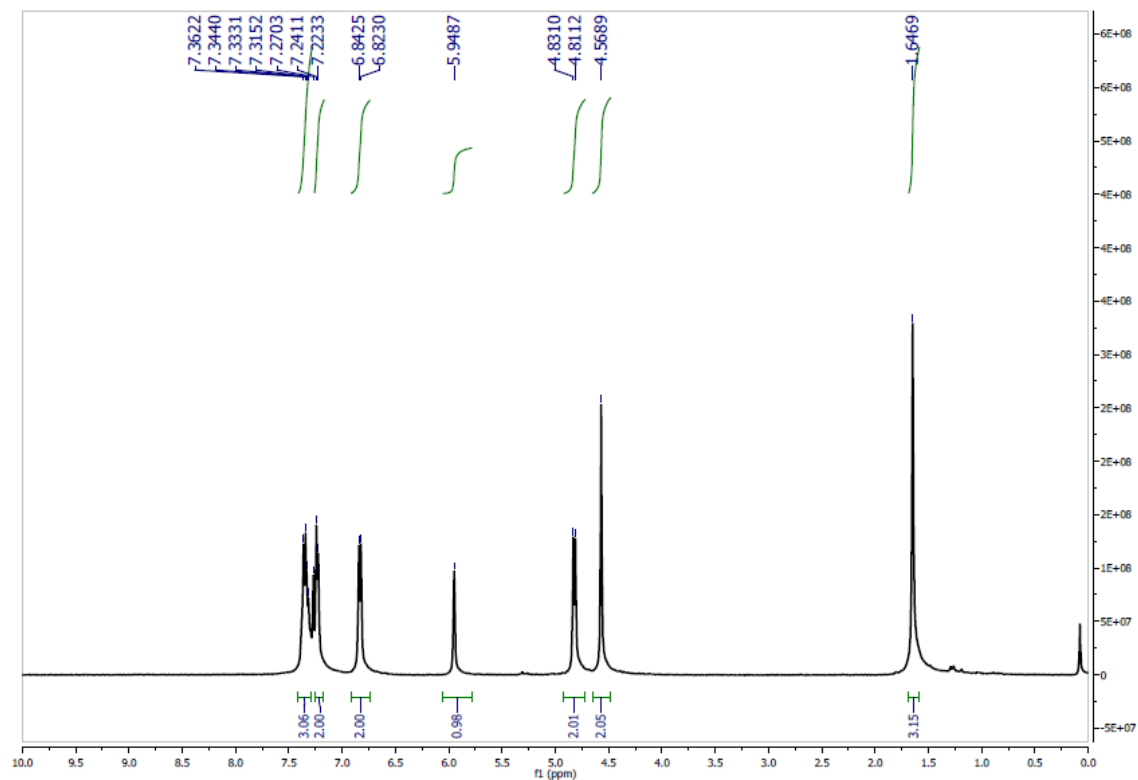


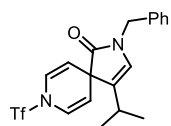
1l



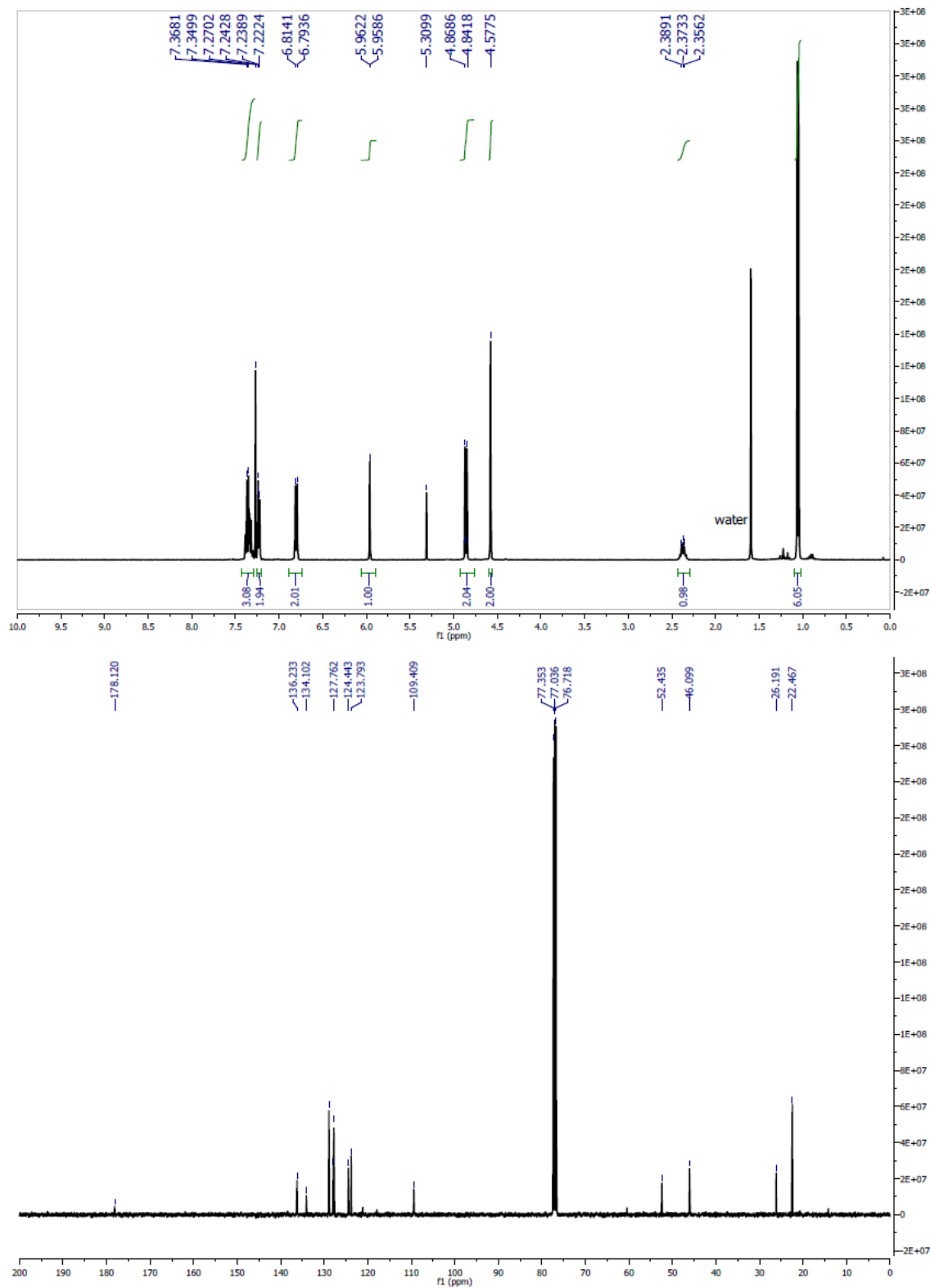


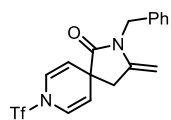
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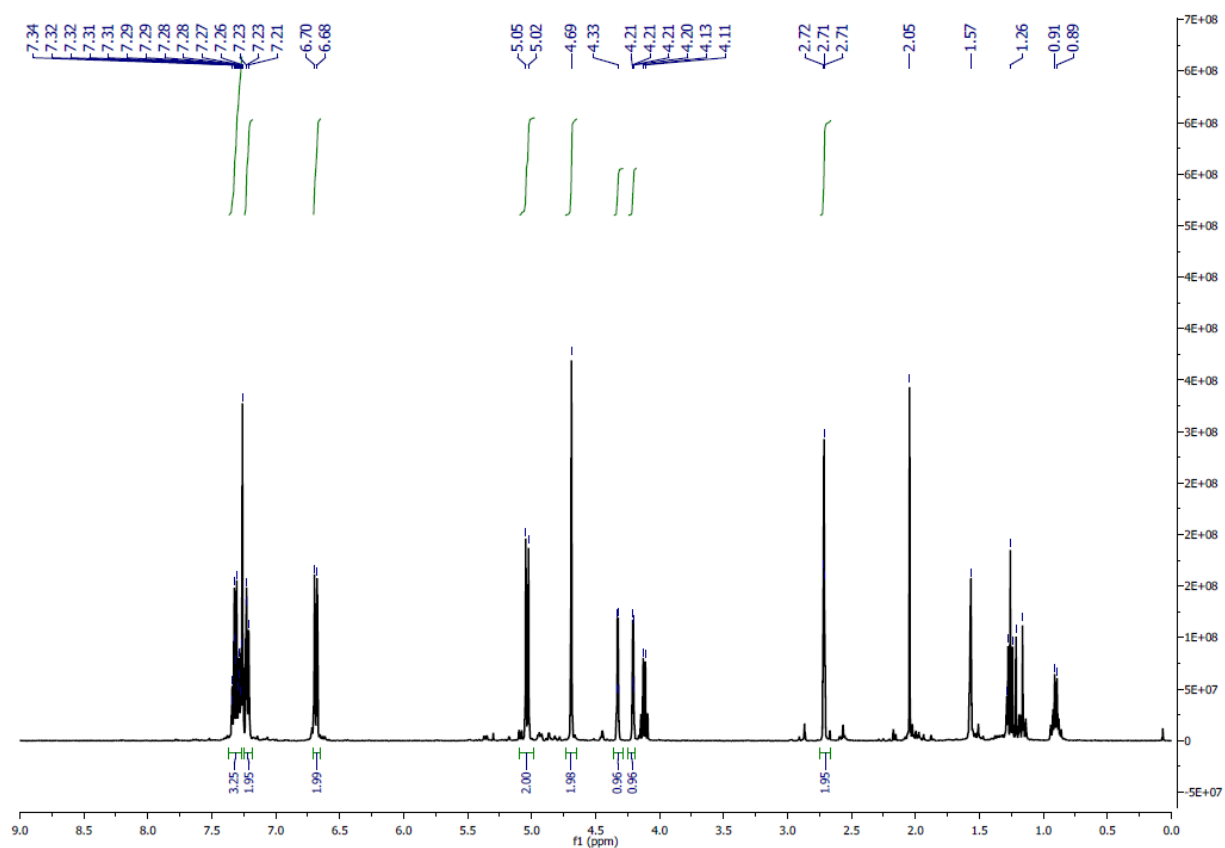


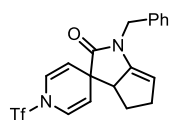
2b



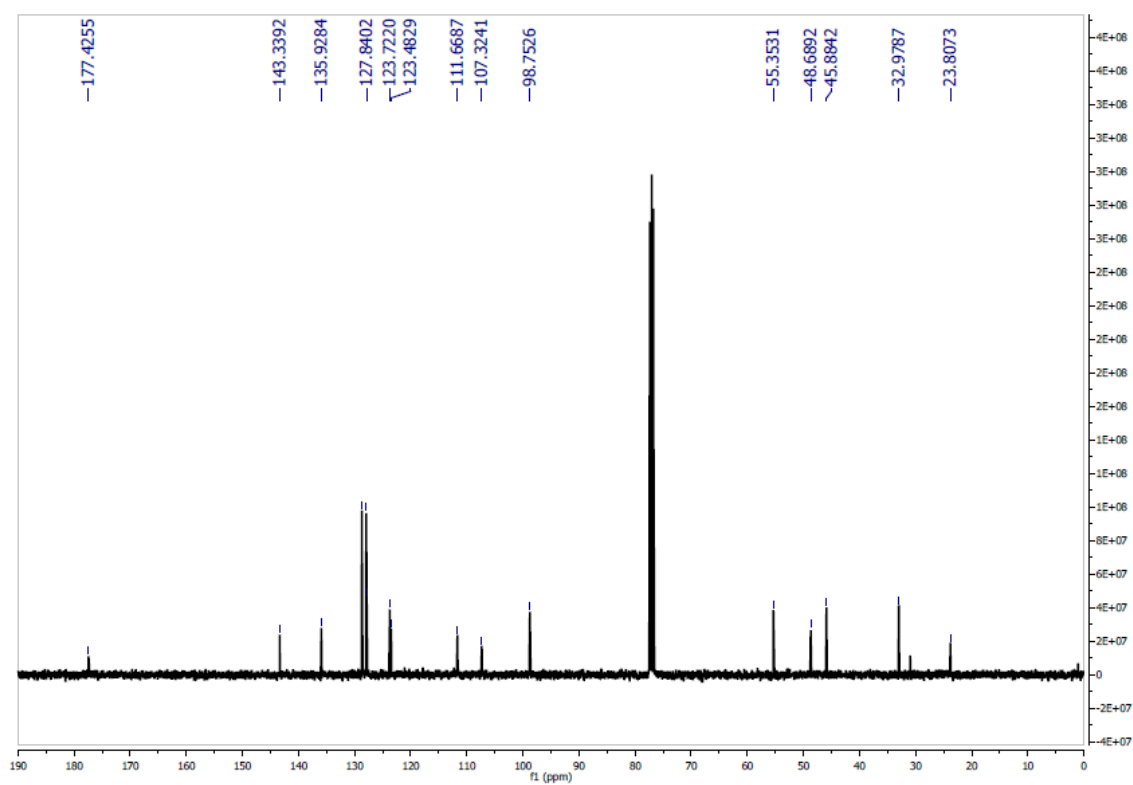
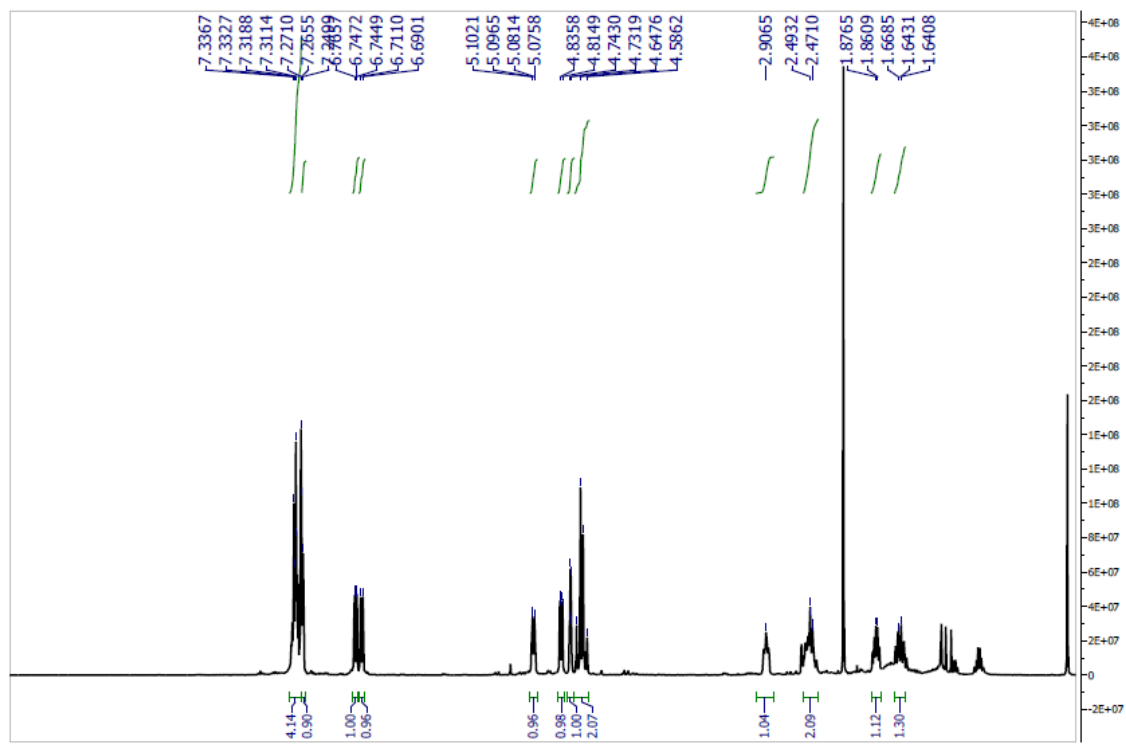


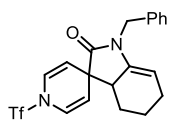
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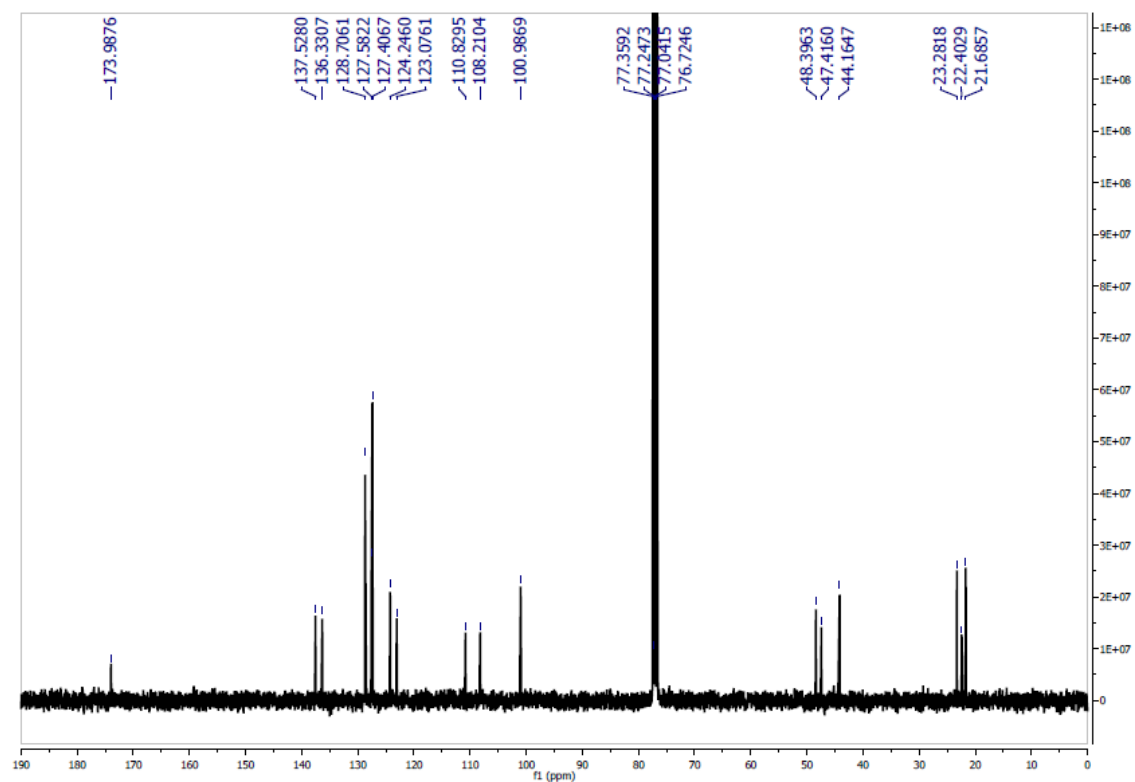
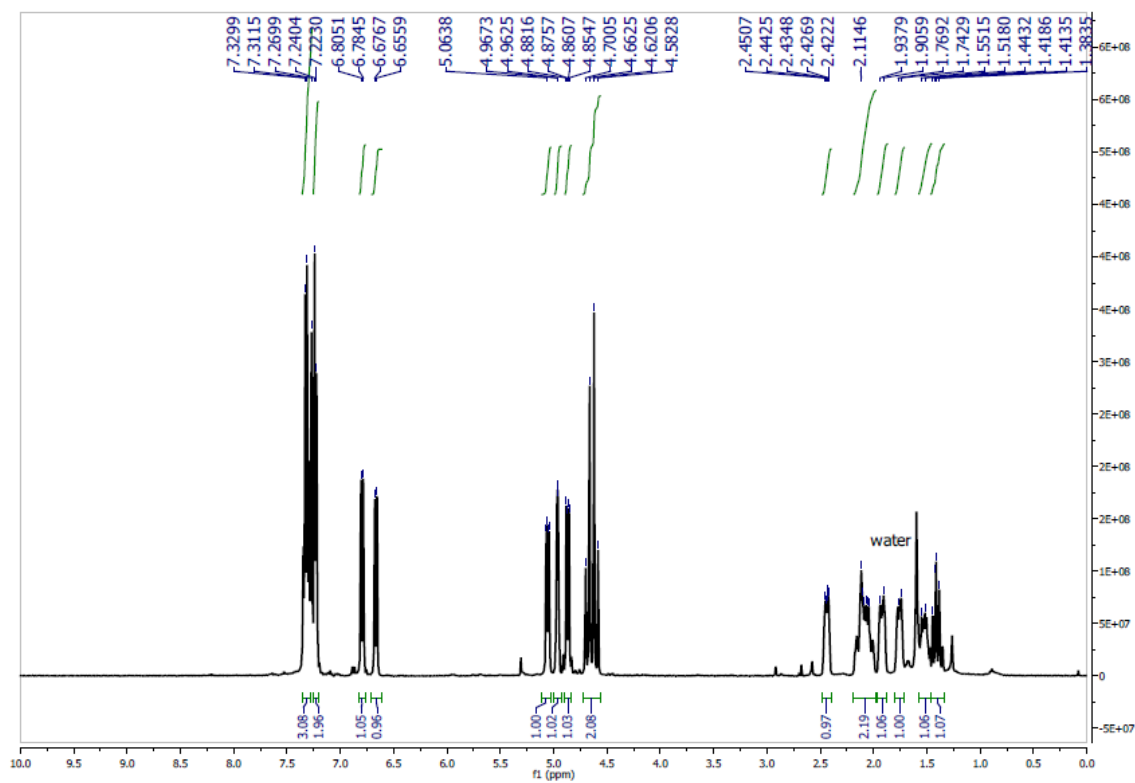


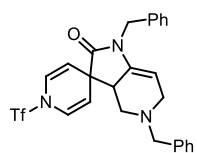
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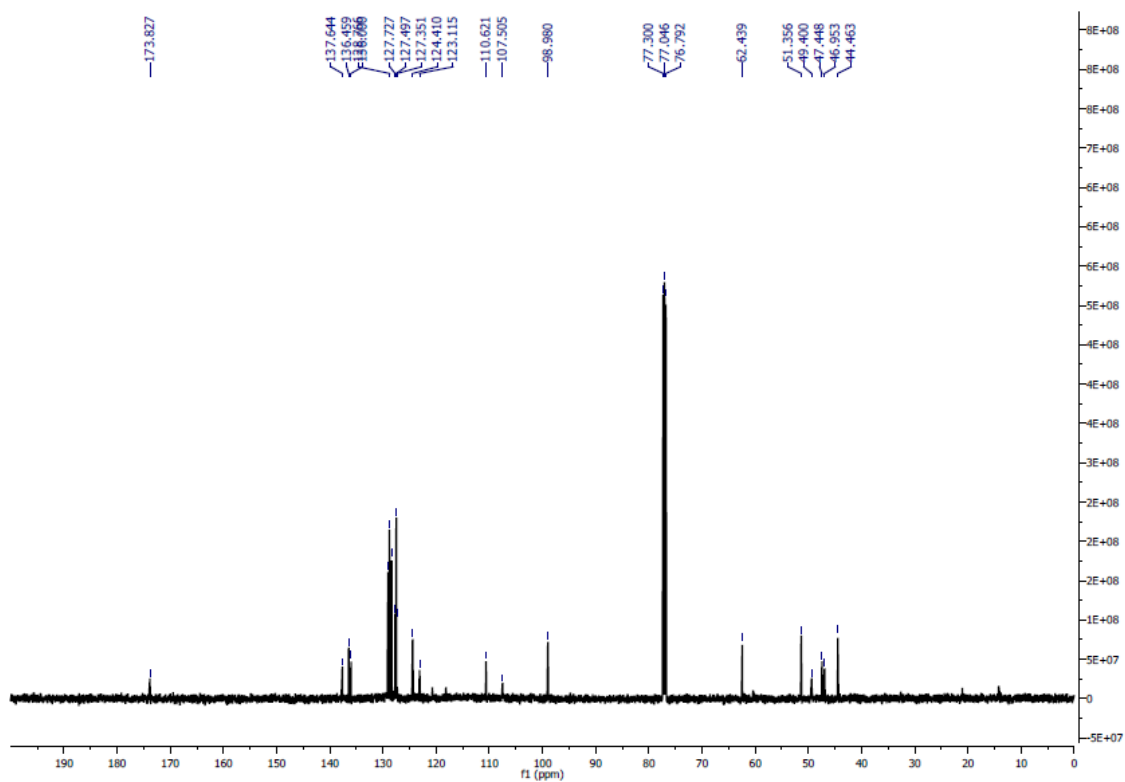
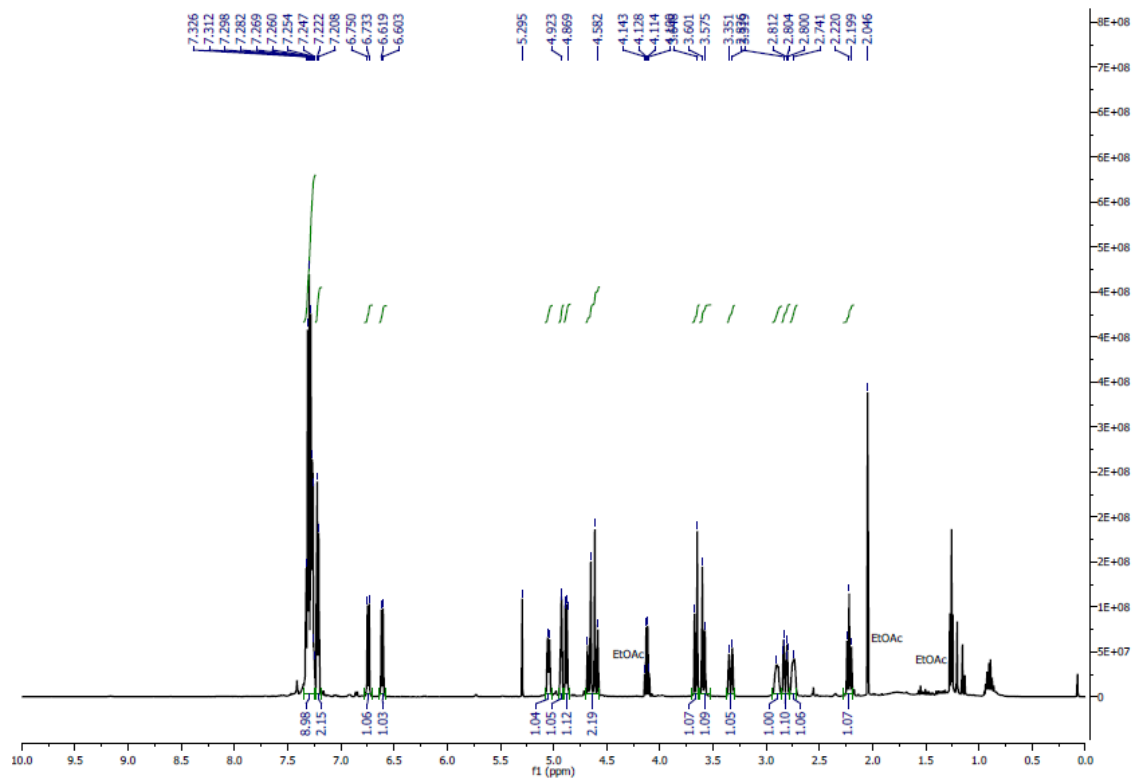


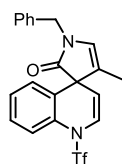
2f



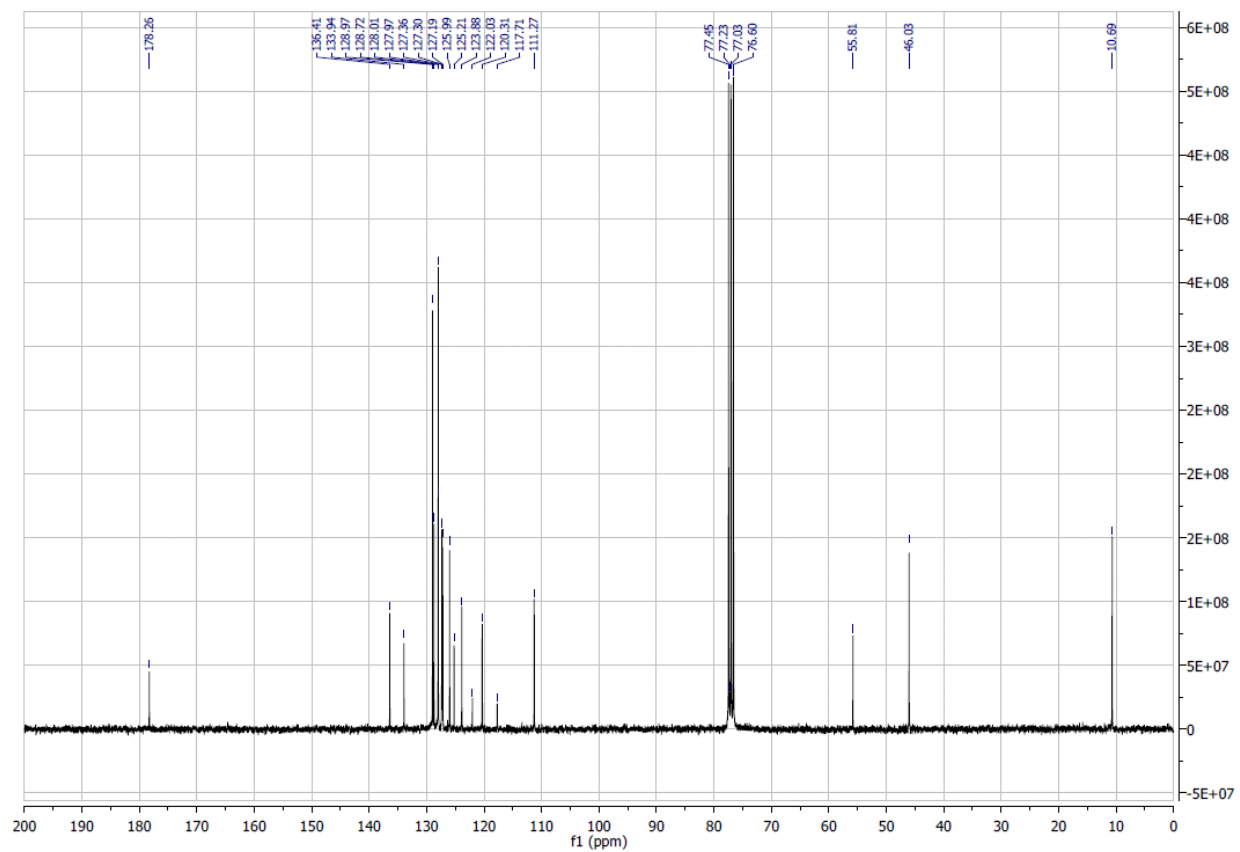
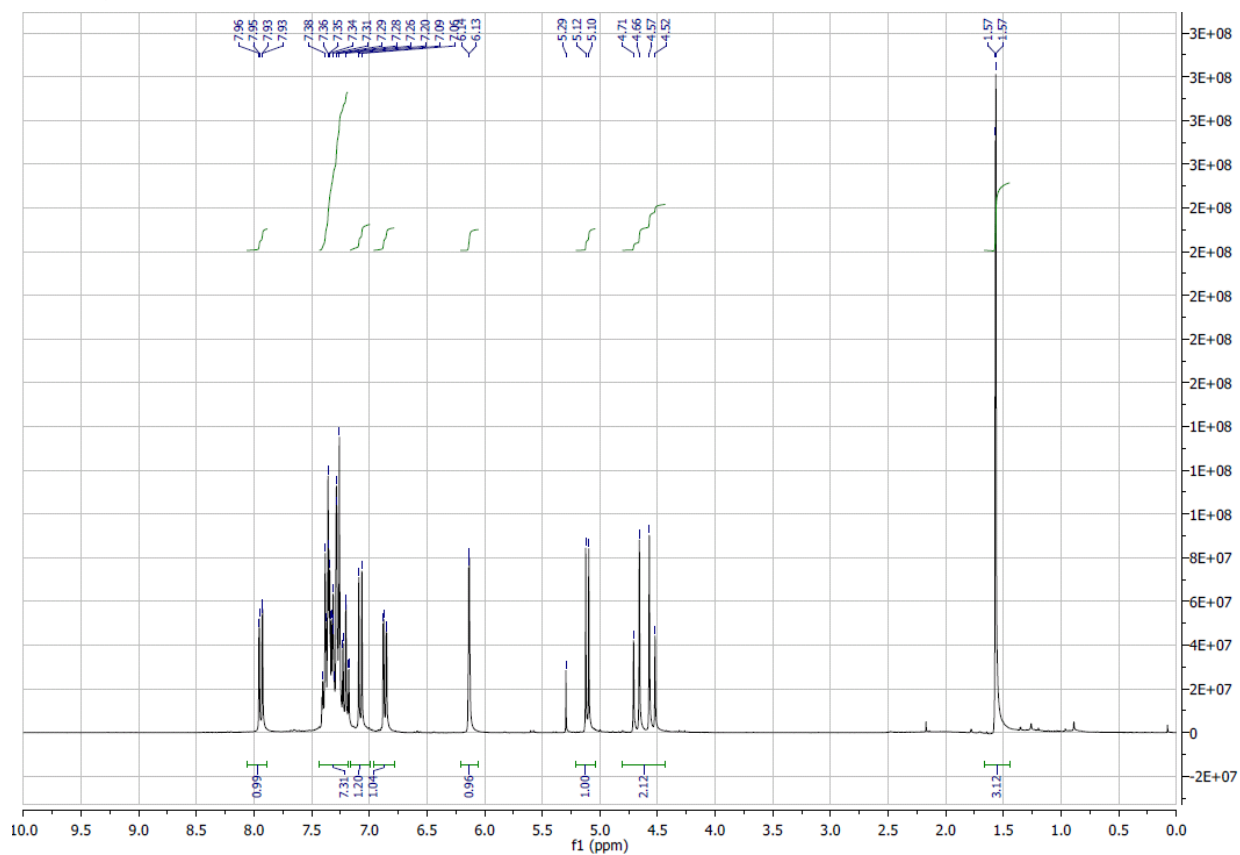


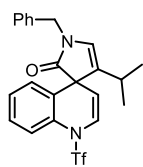
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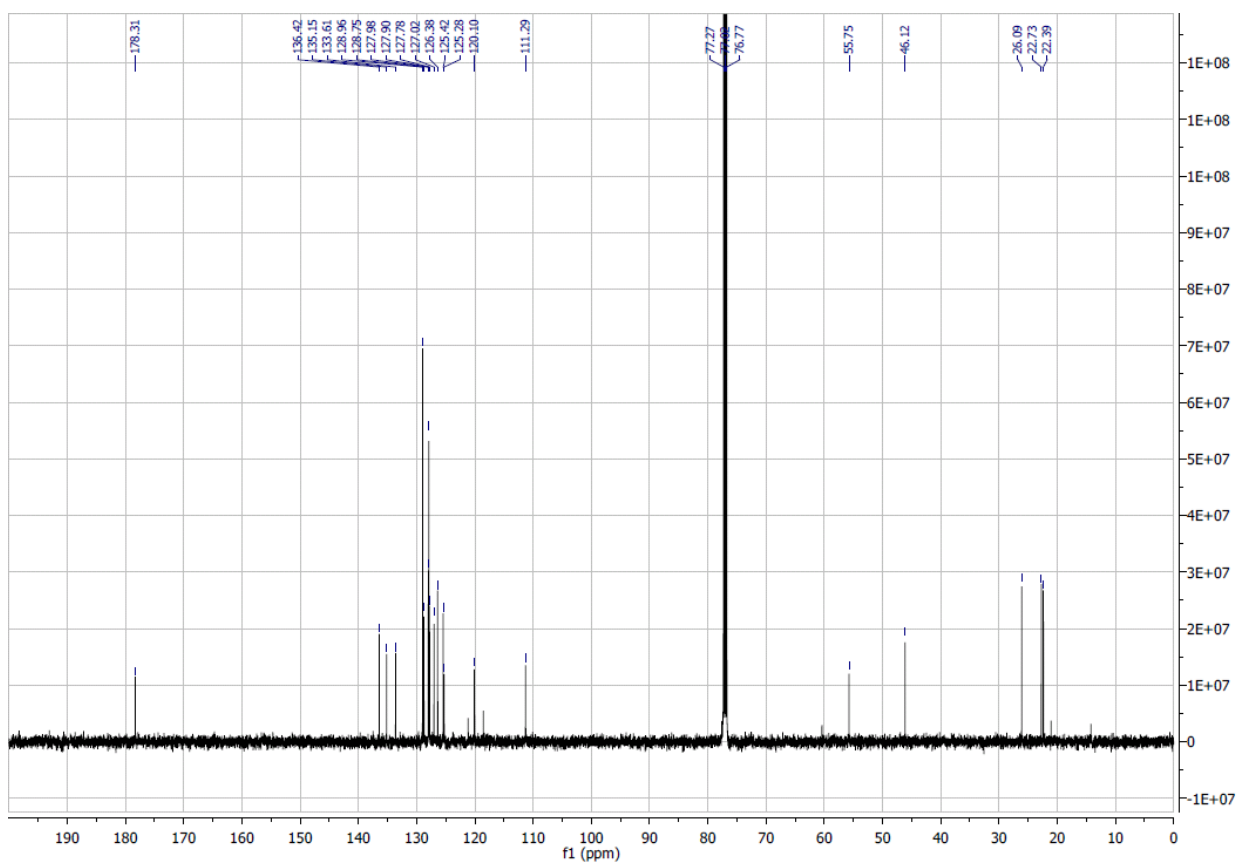
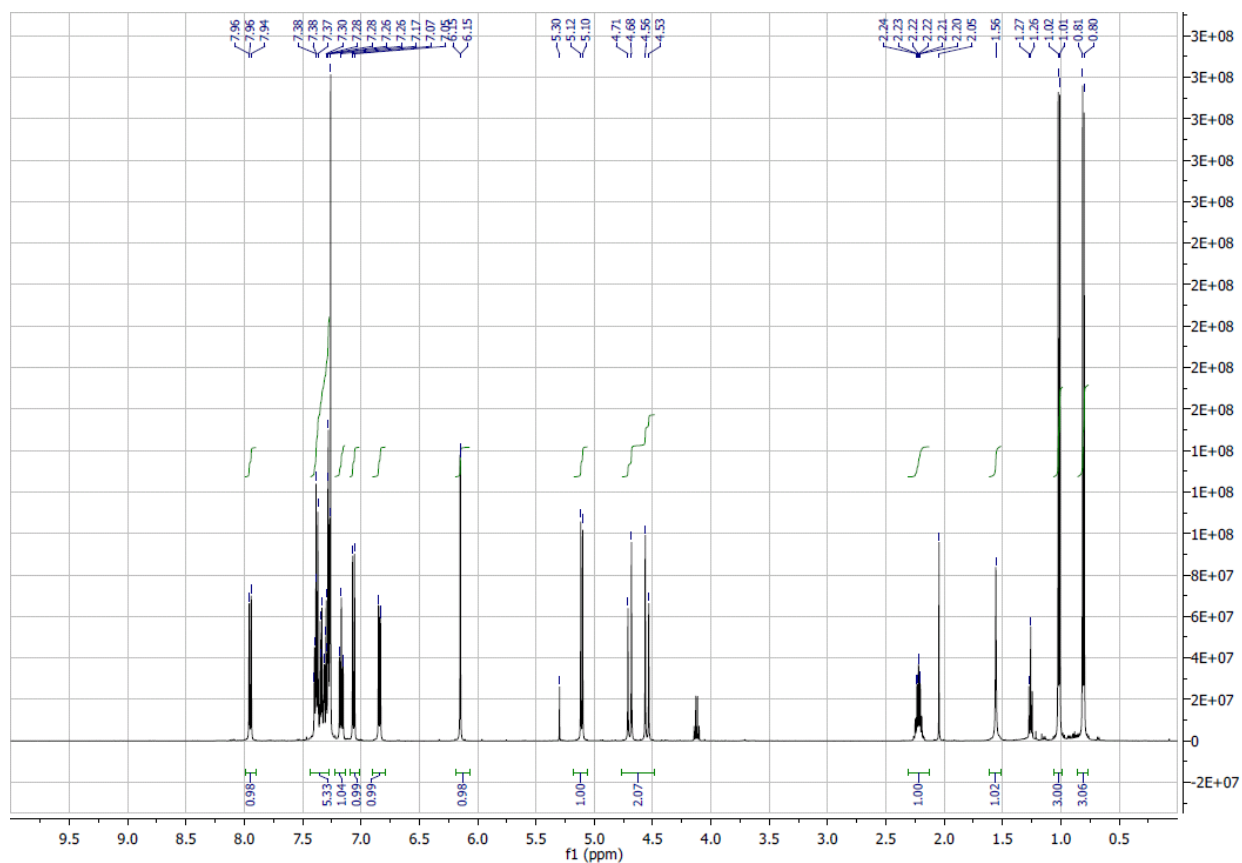


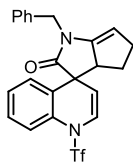
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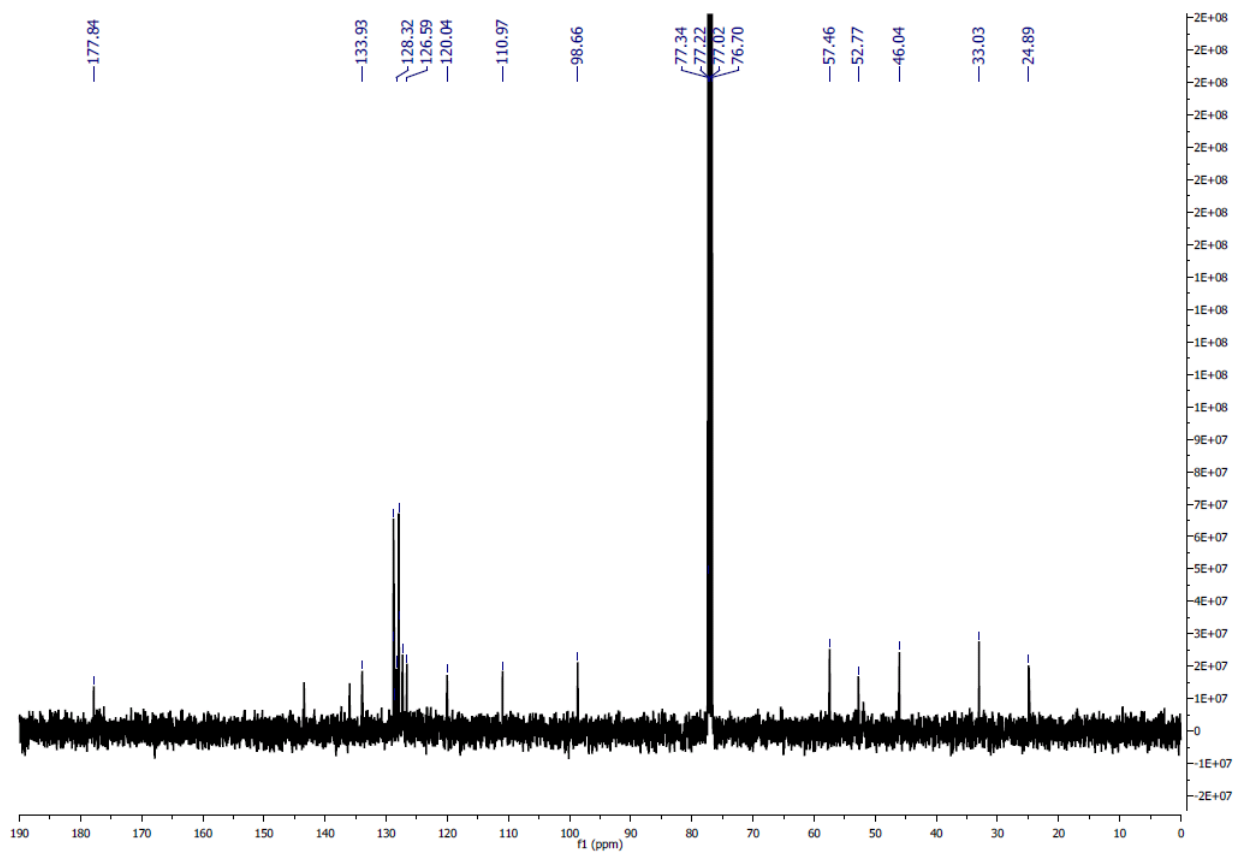
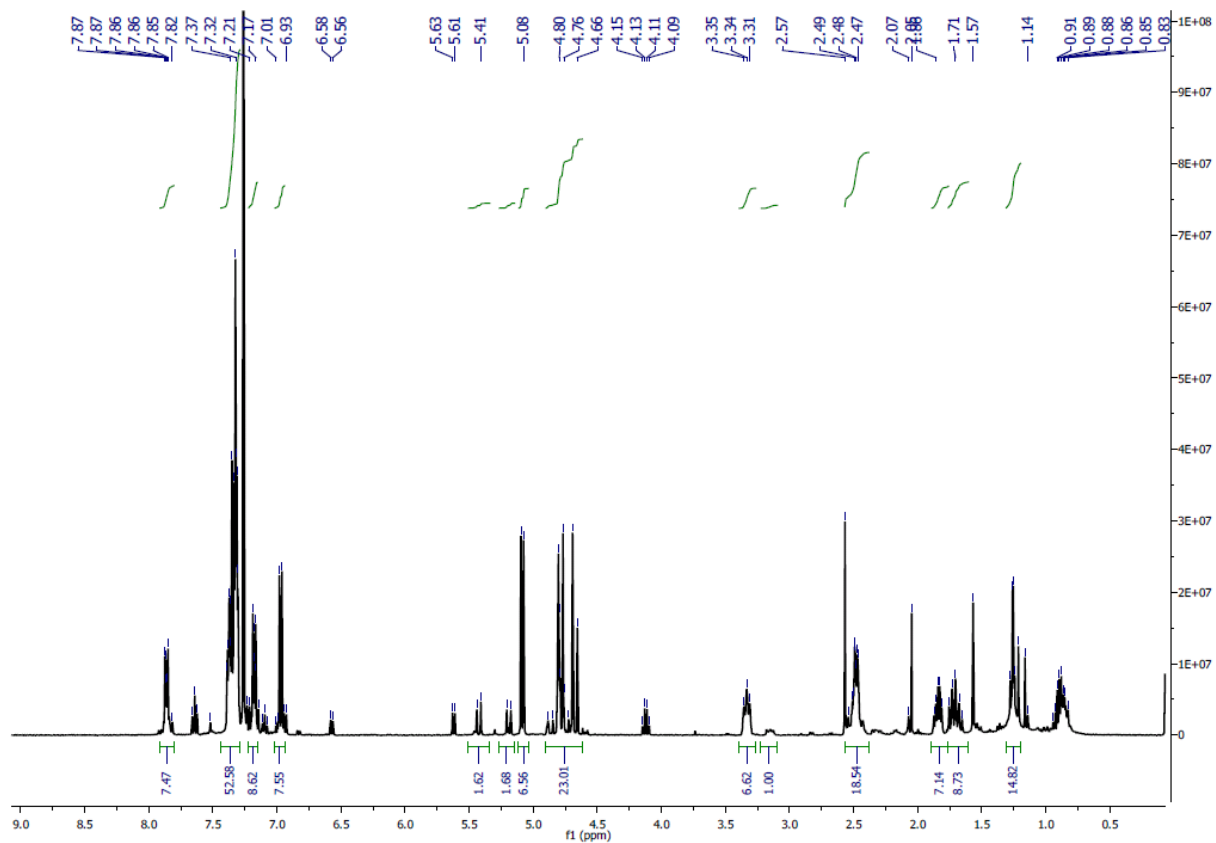


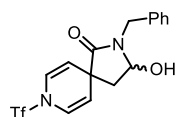
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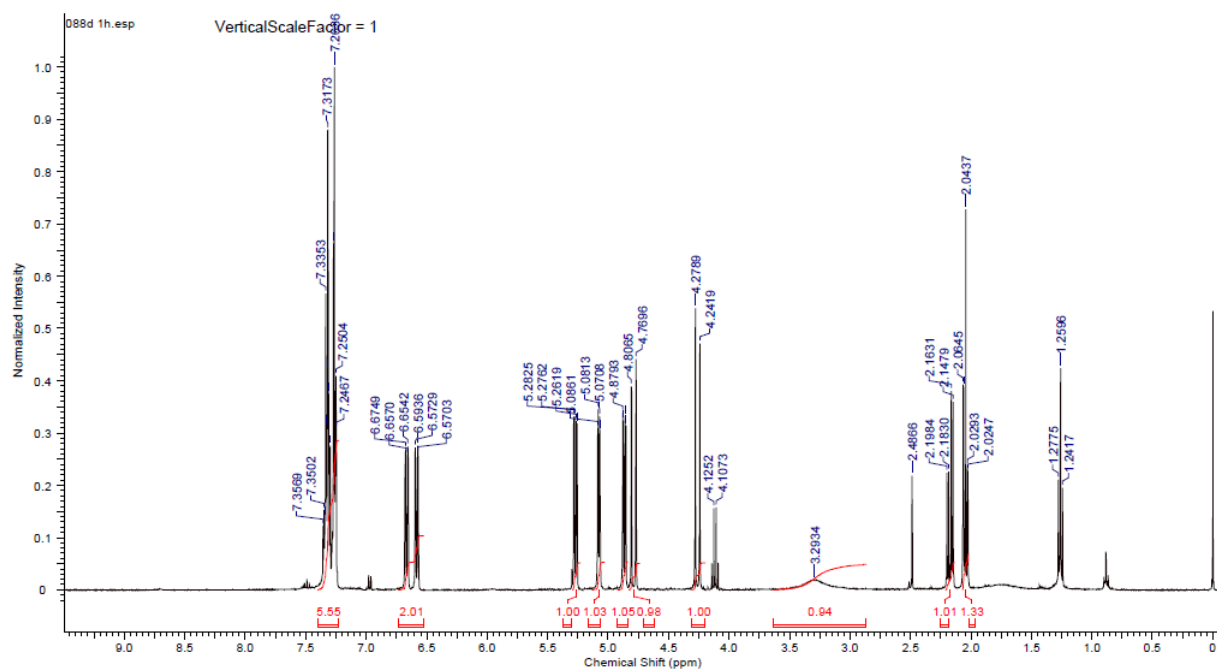


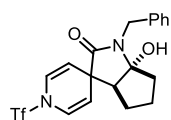
2l



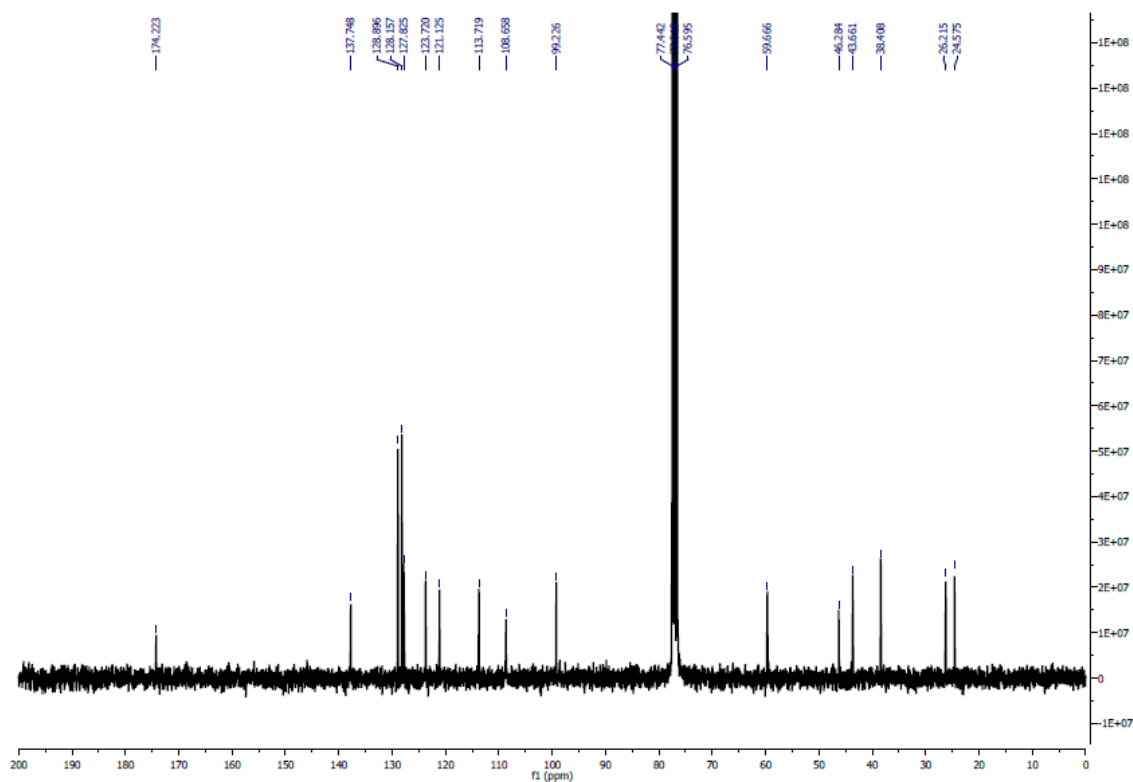
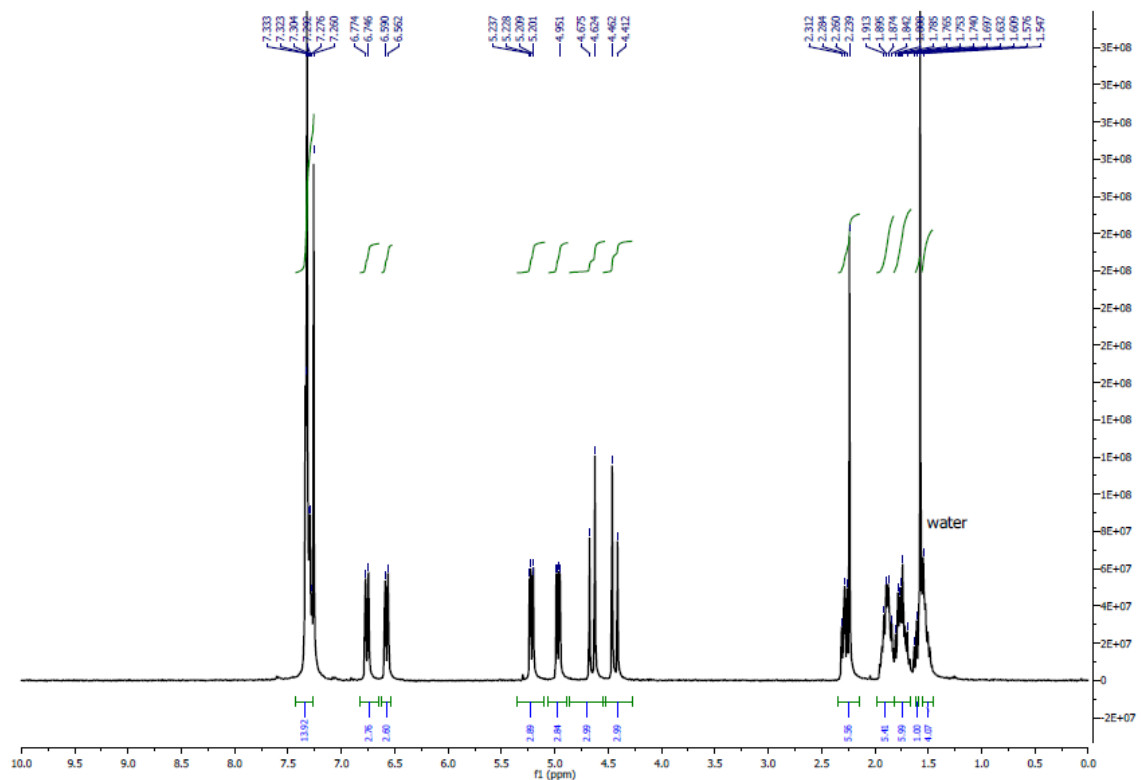


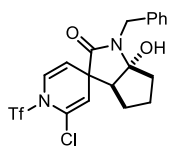
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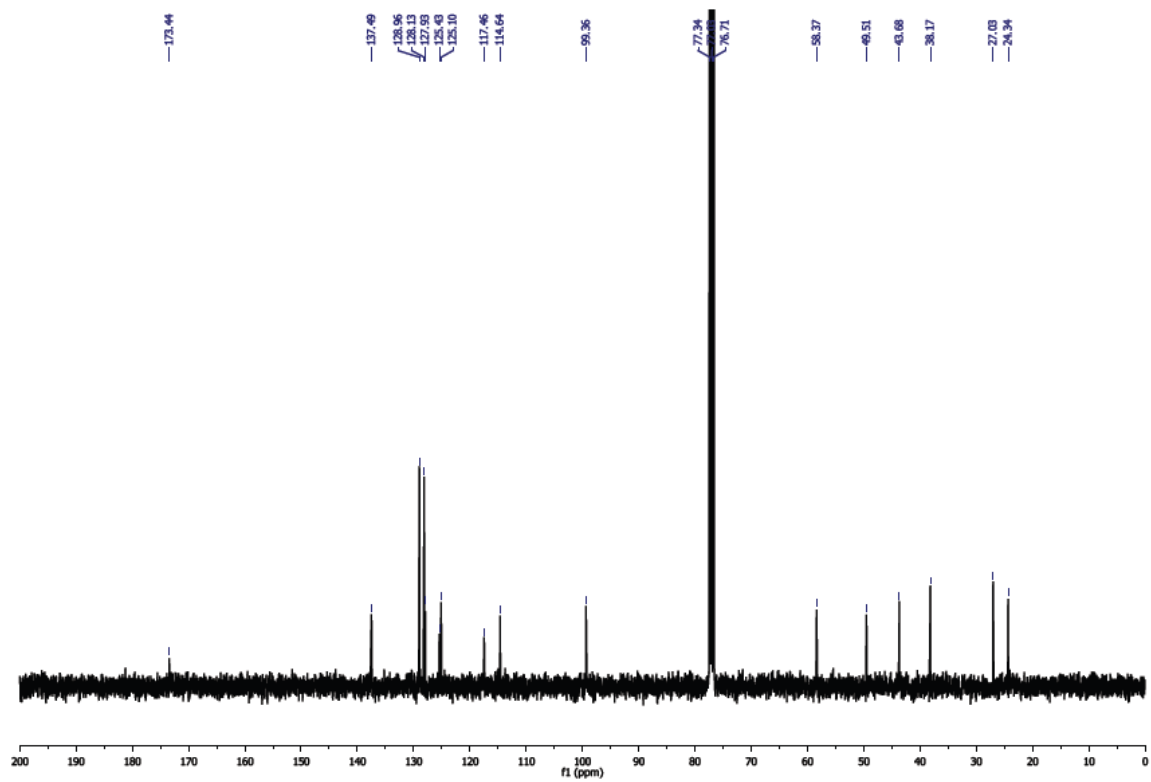
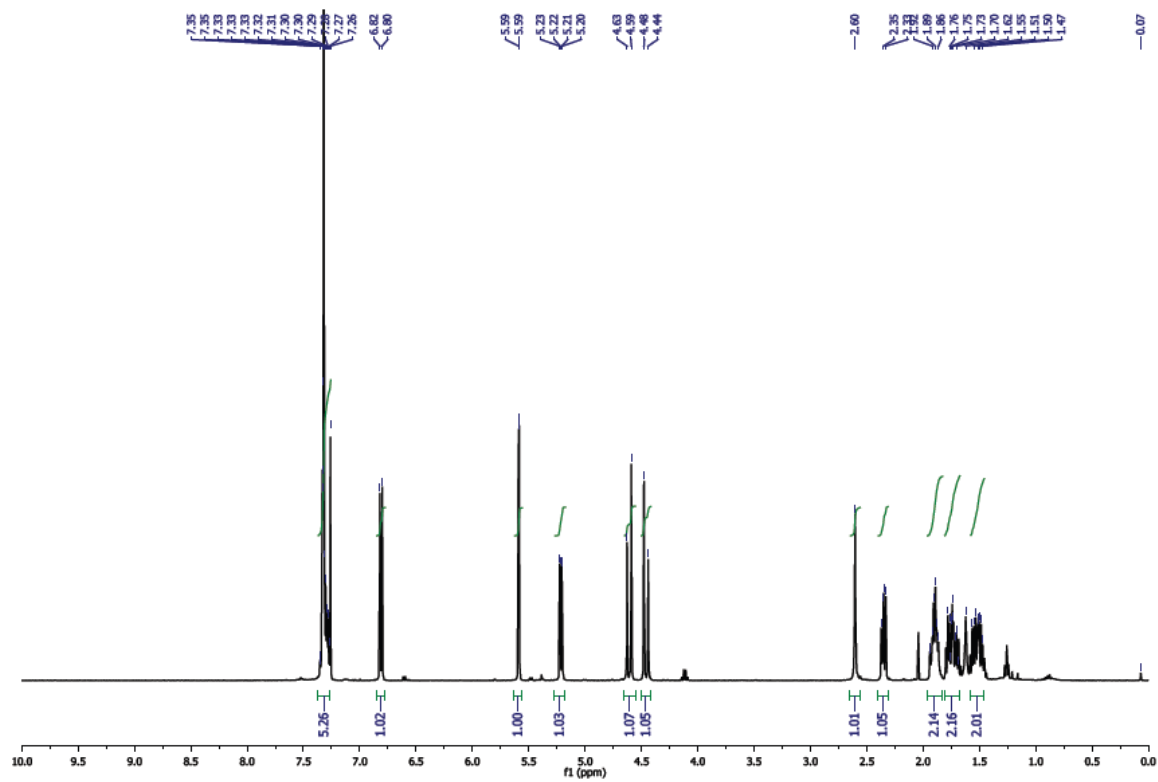


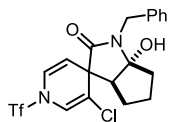
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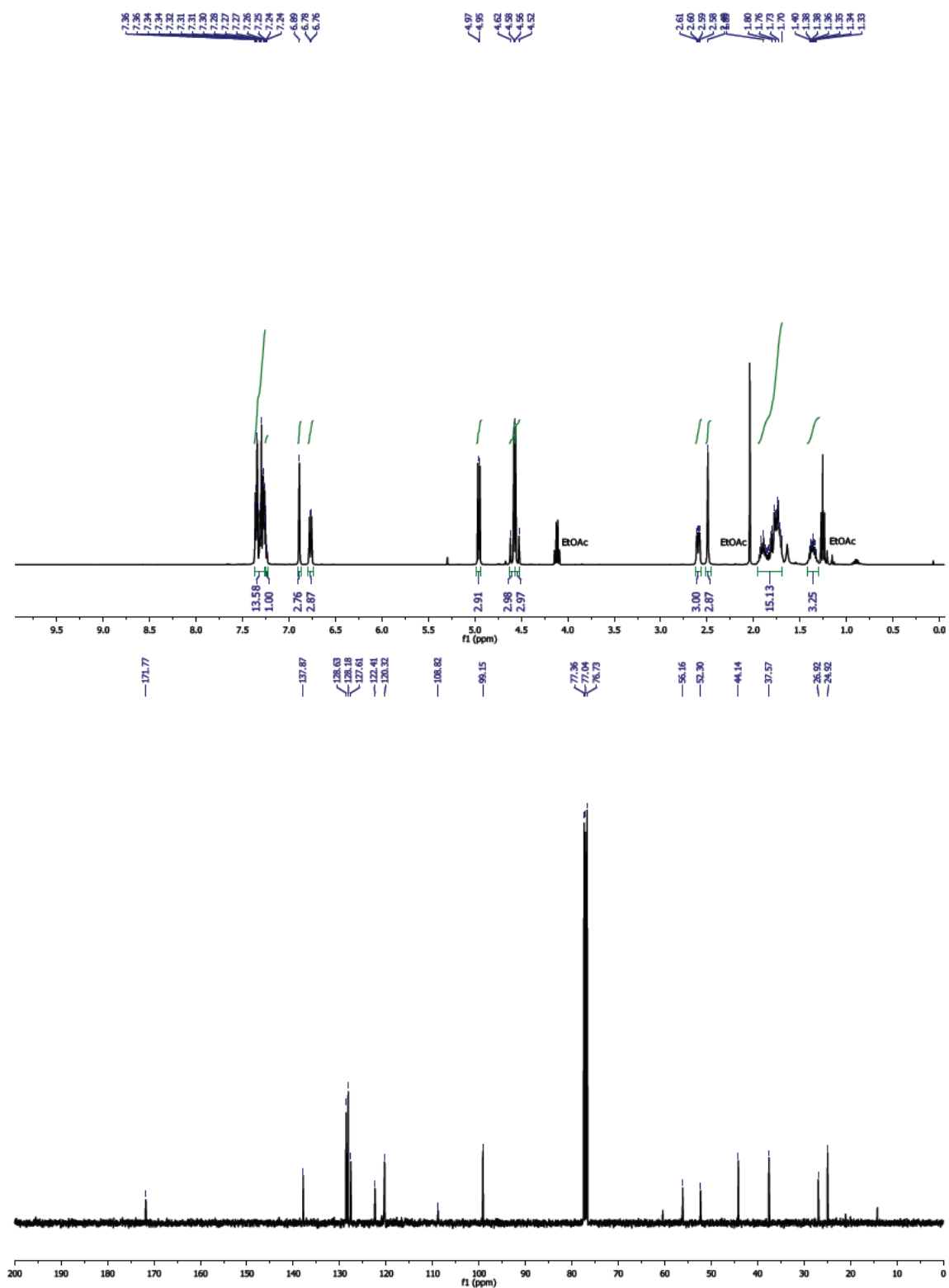


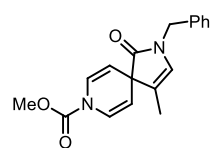
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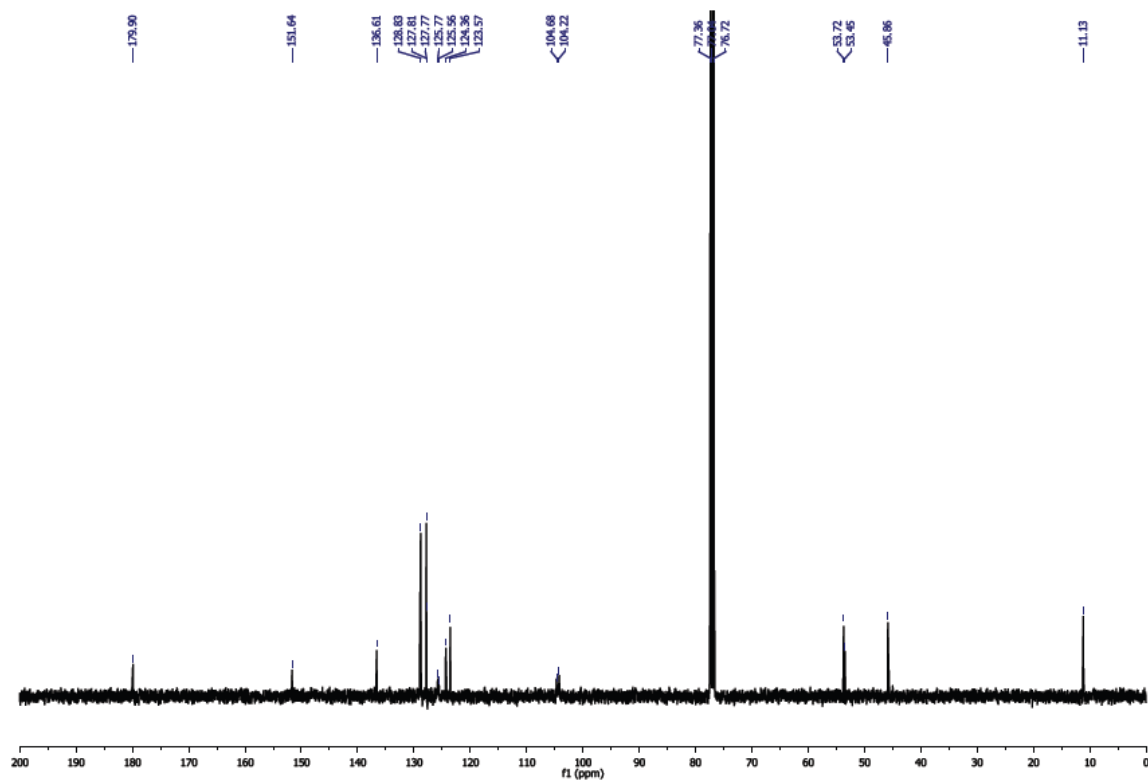
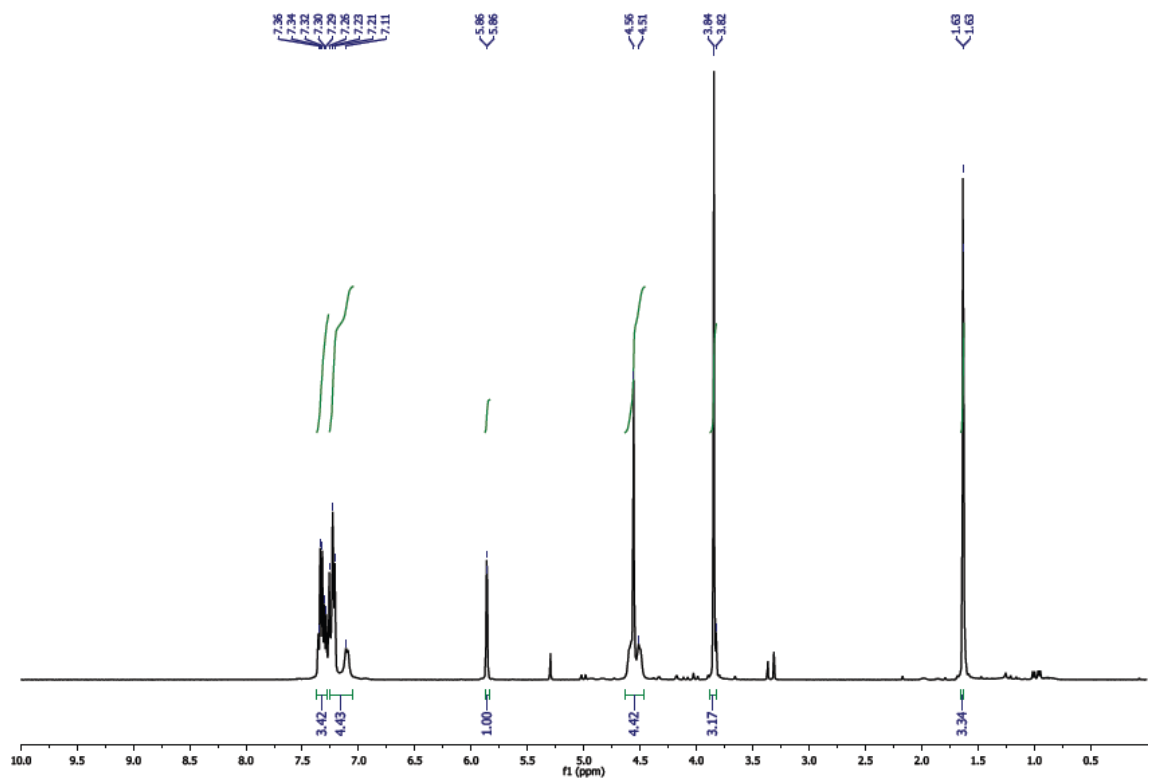


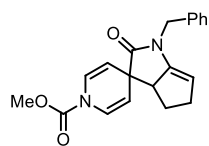
6i



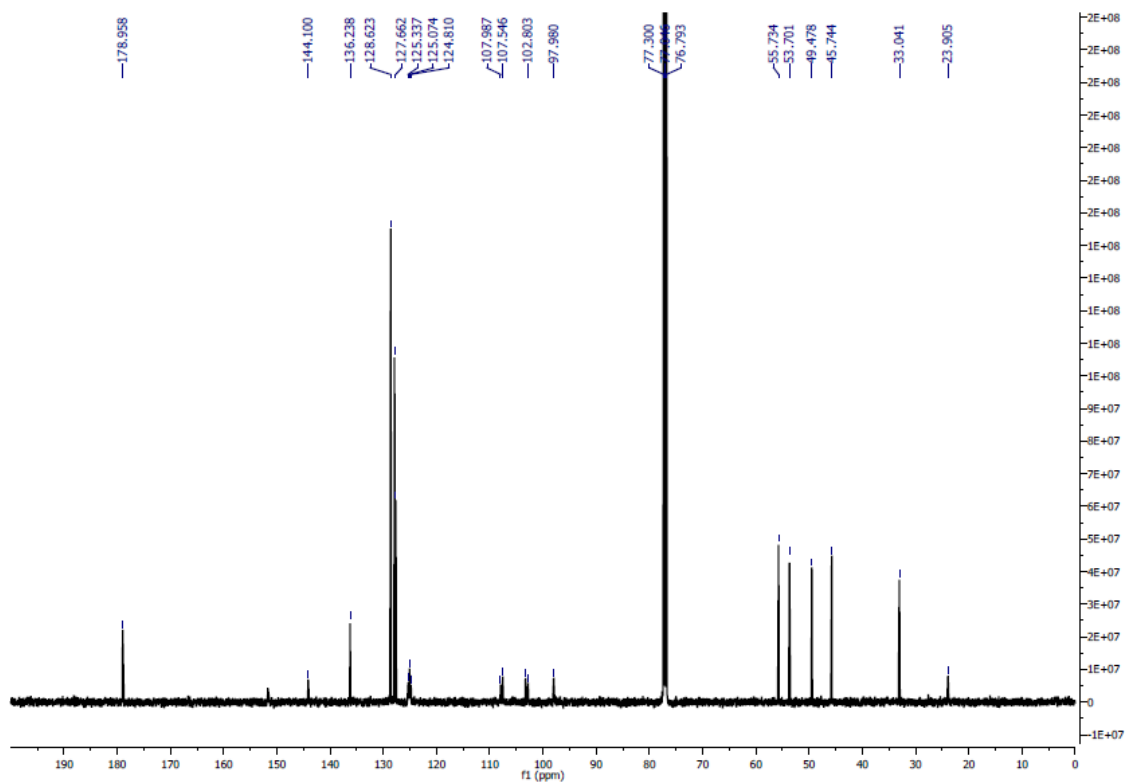
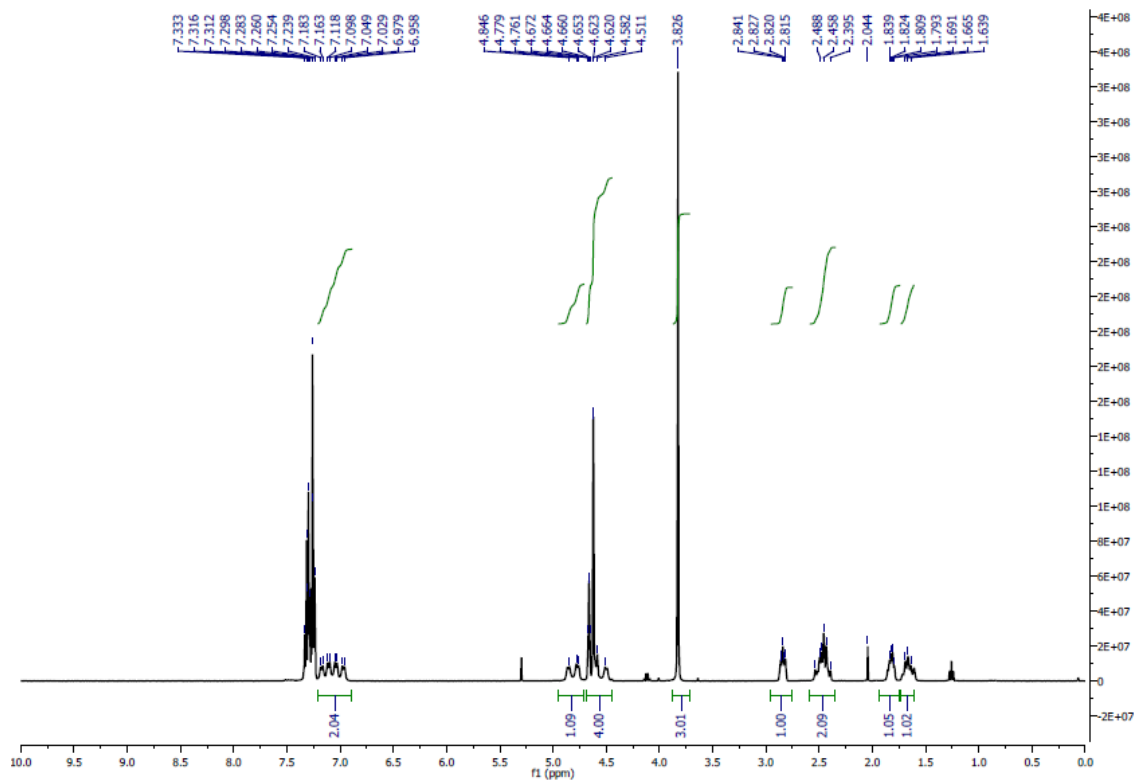


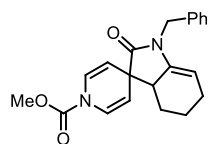
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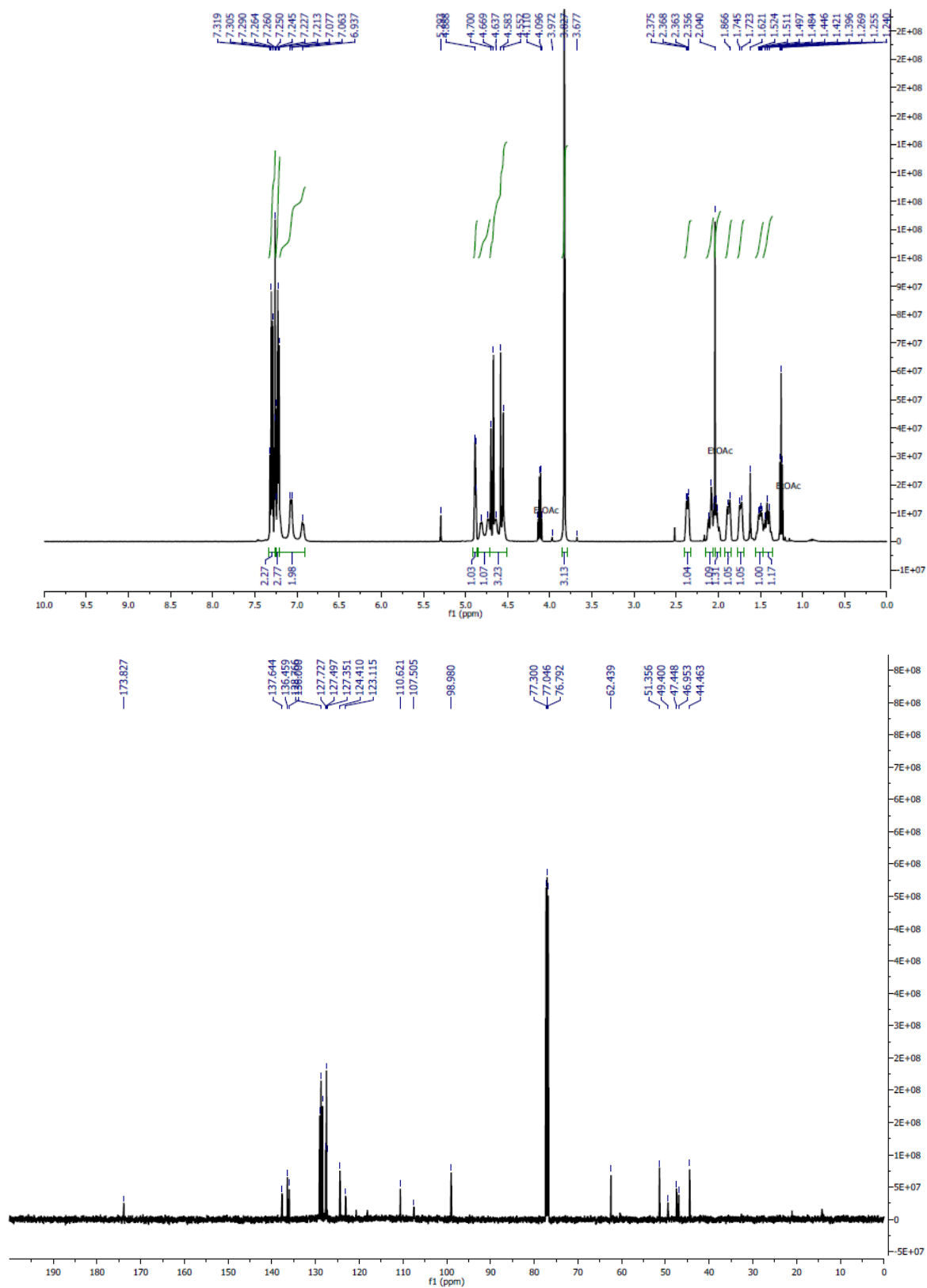


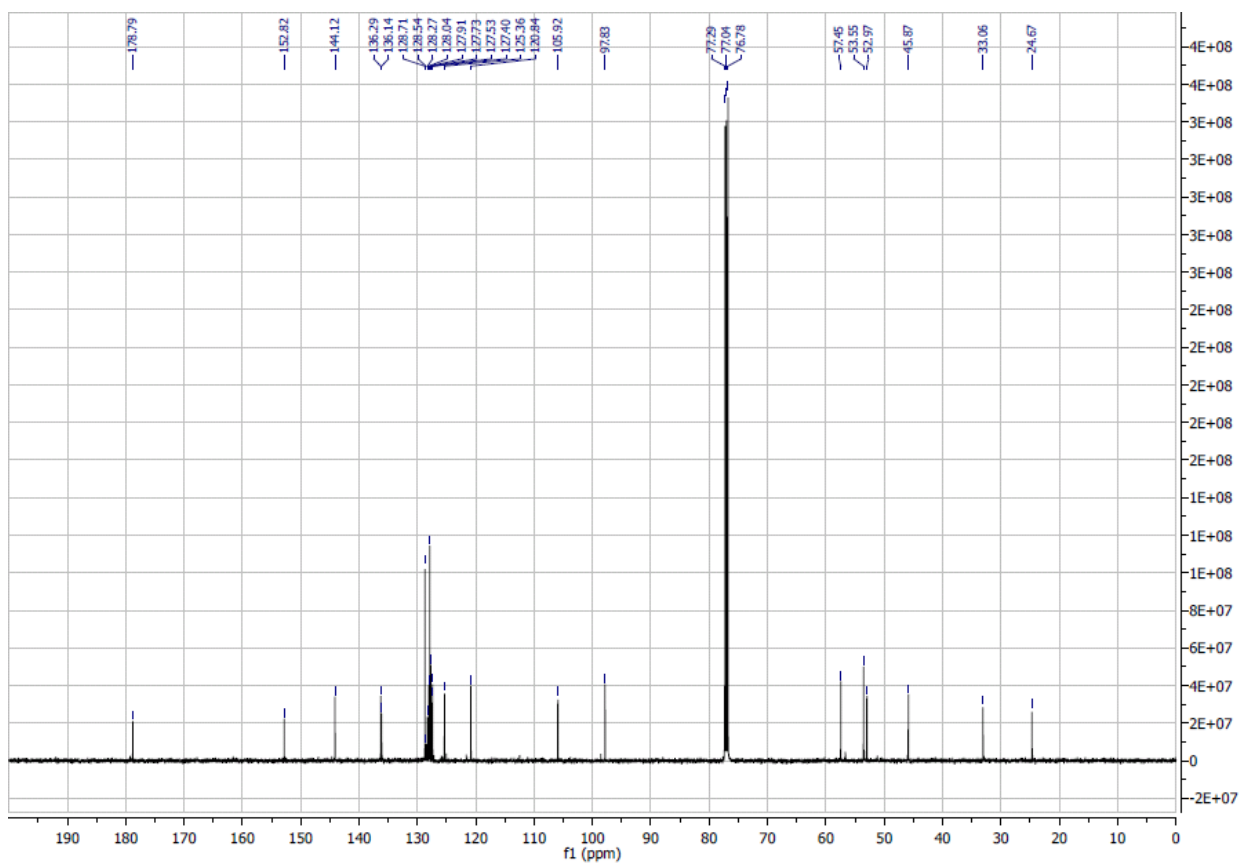
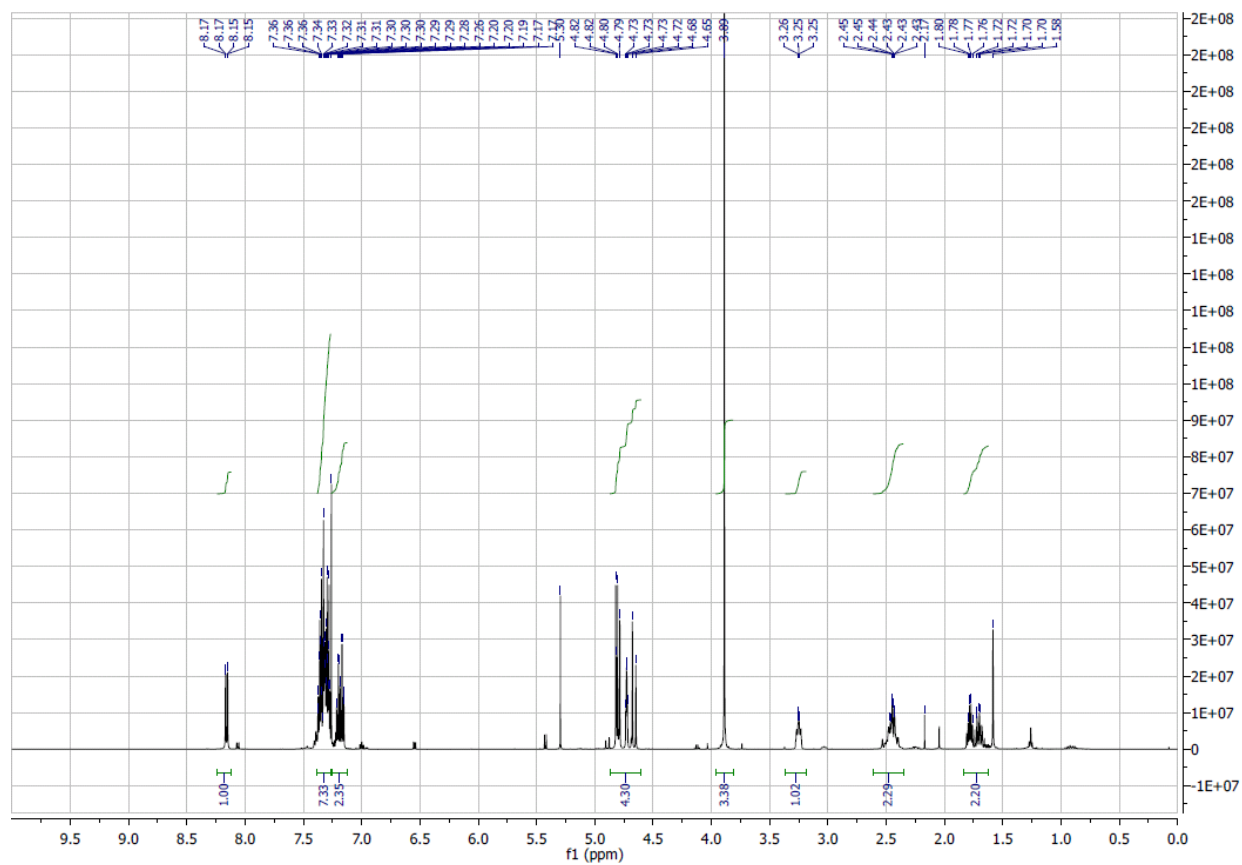
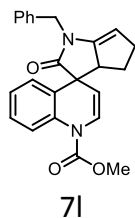
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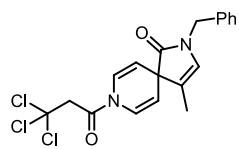




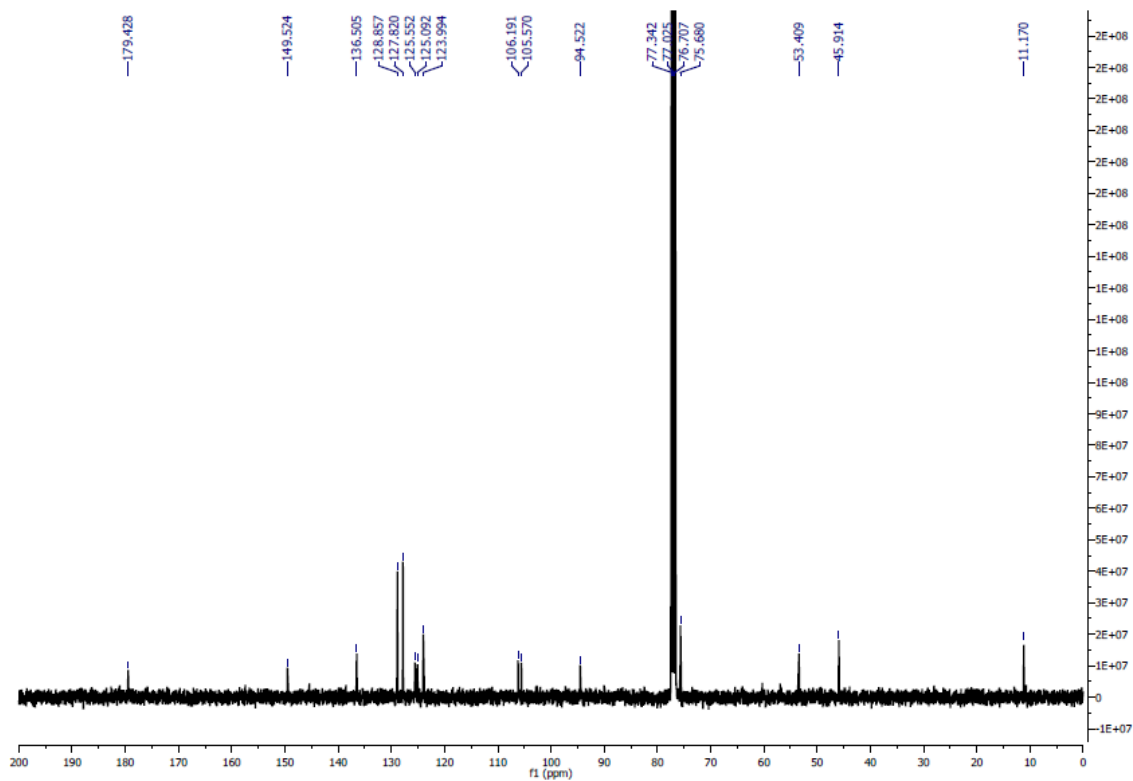
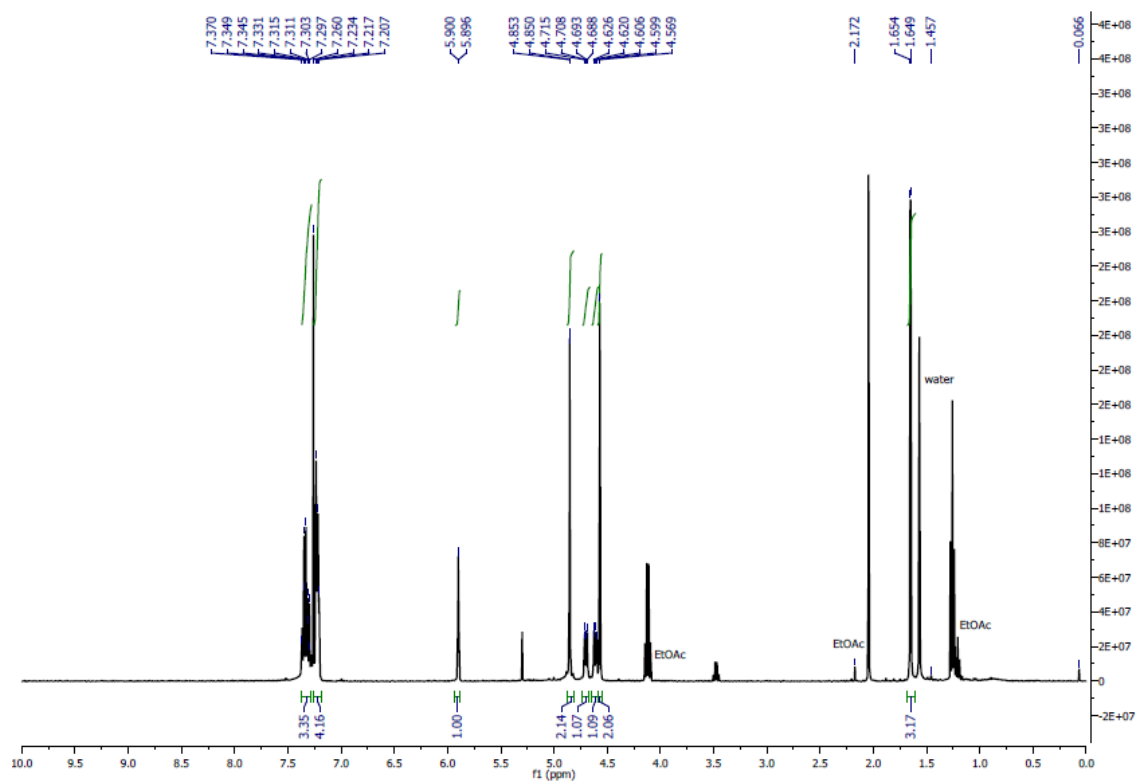
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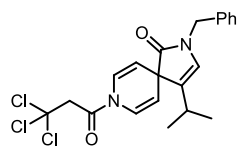




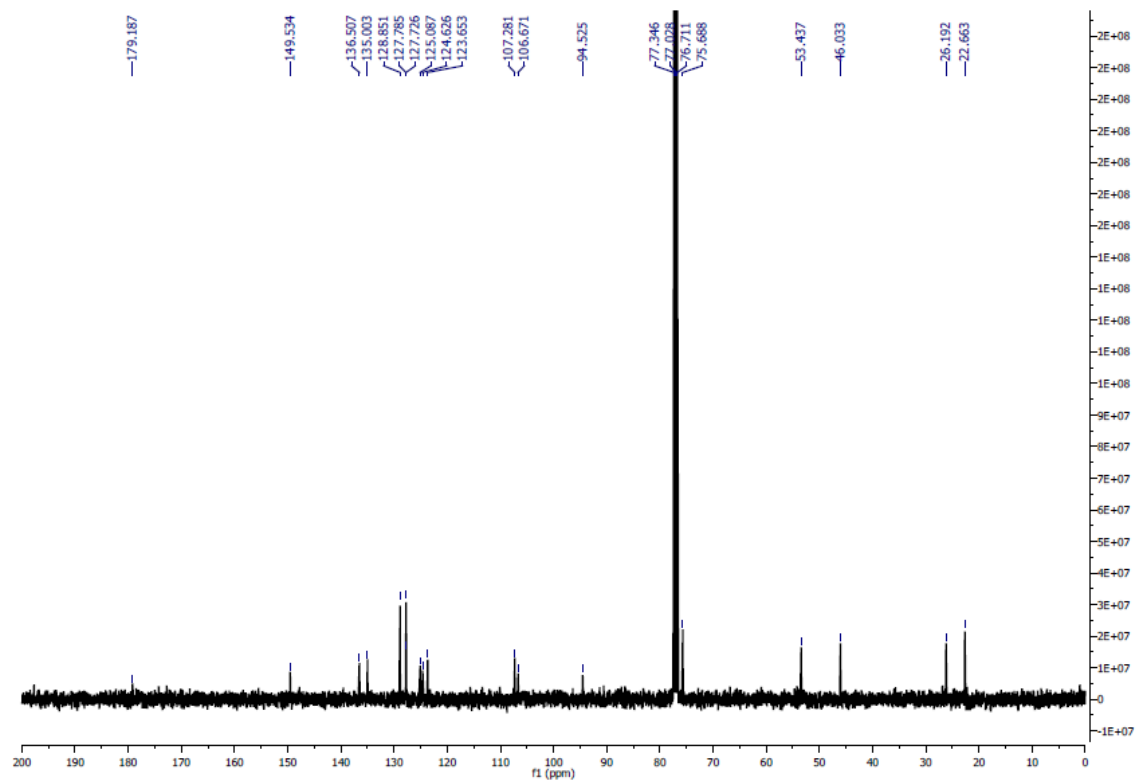
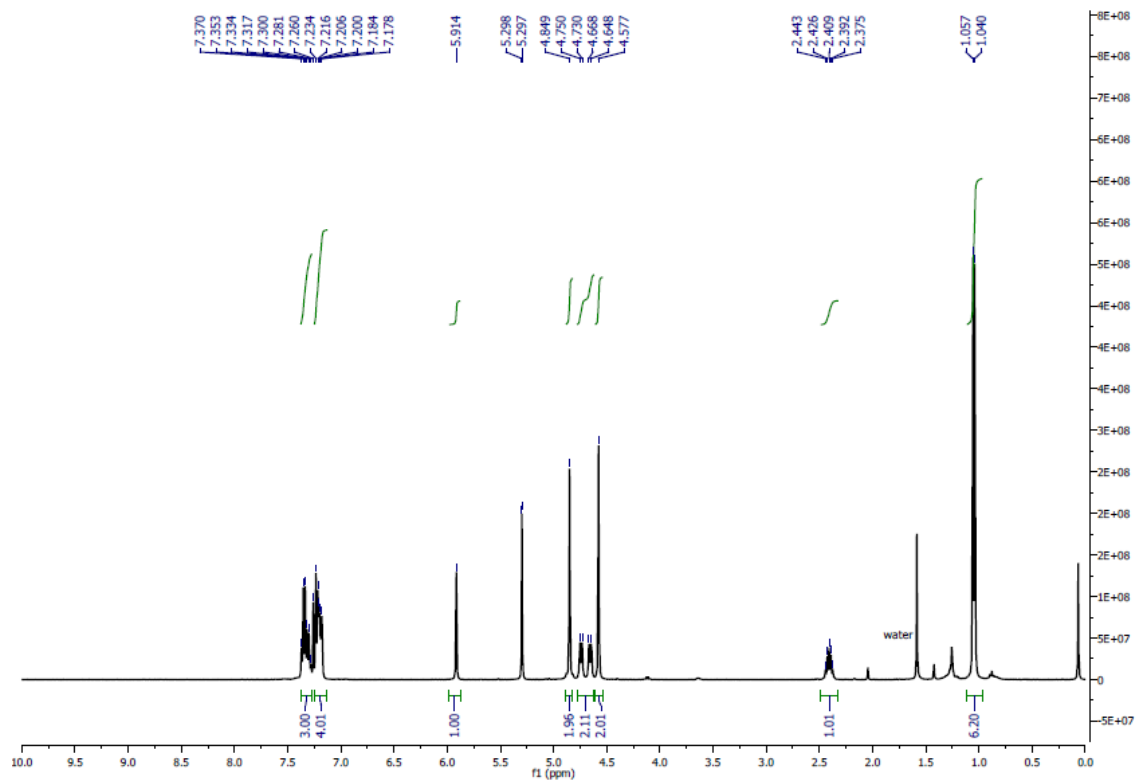


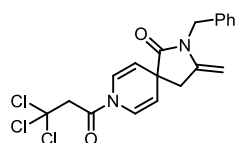
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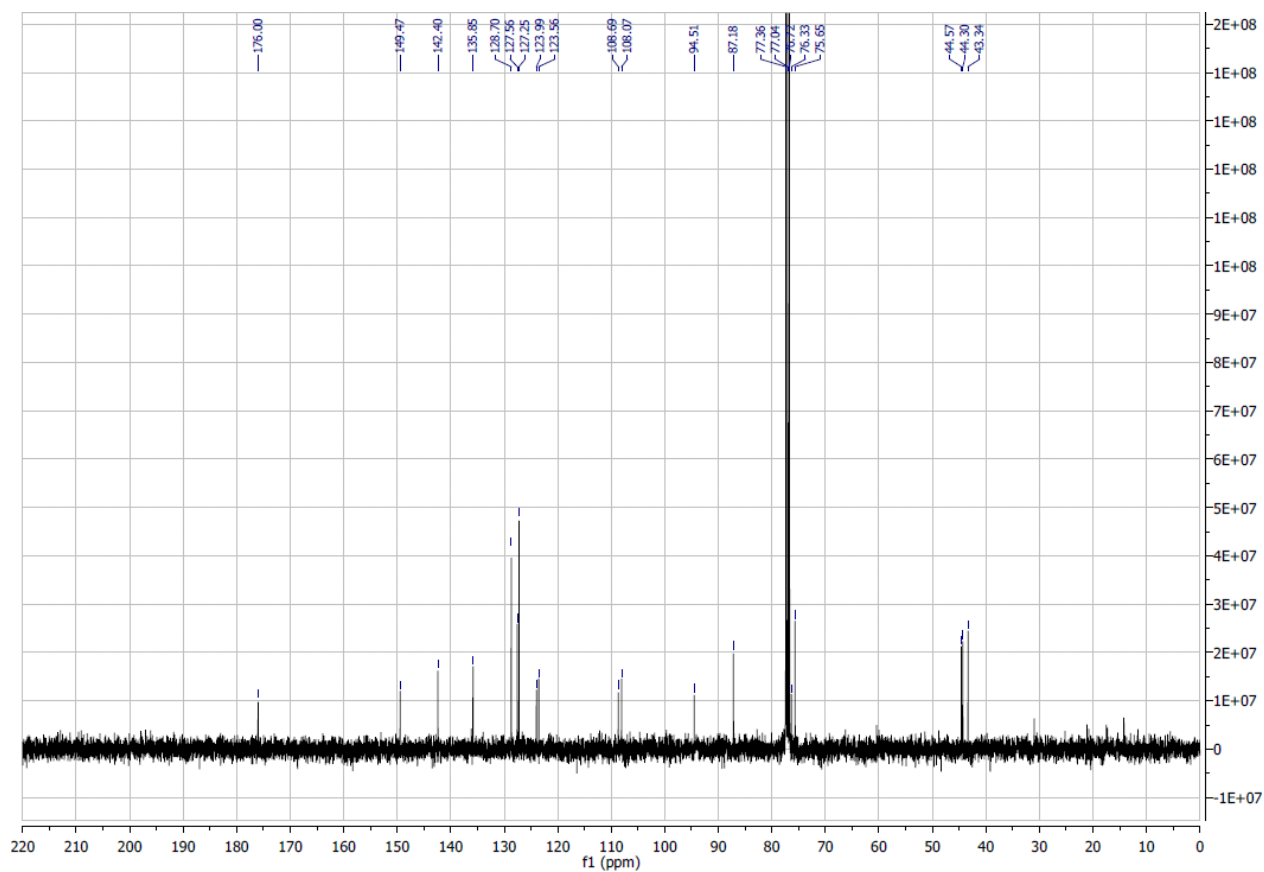
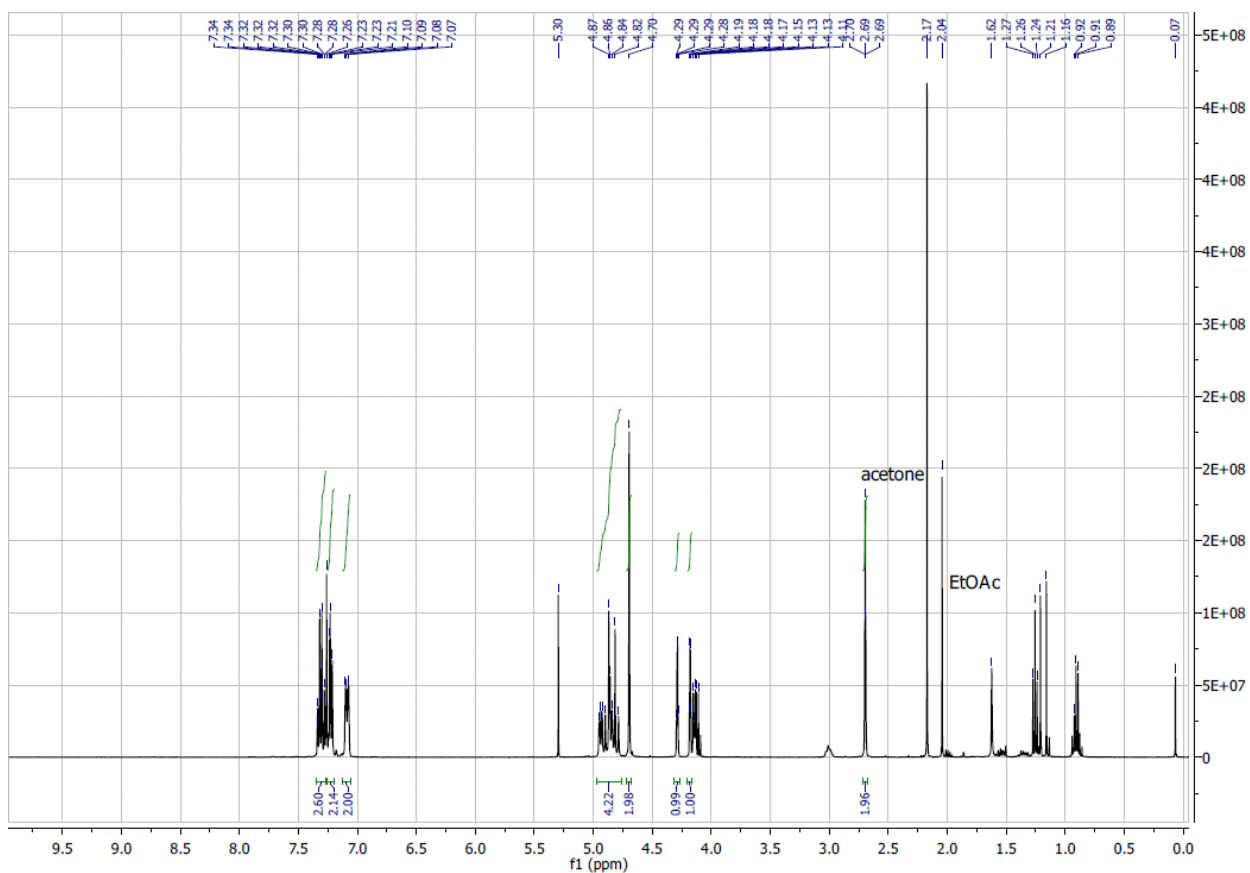


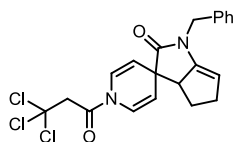
8b





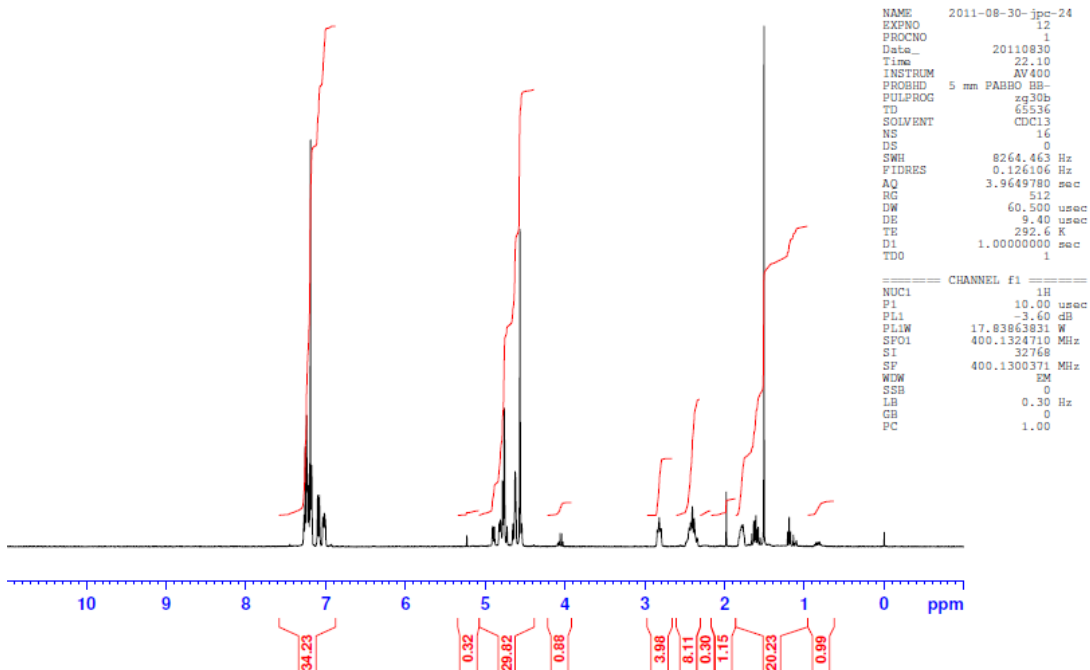
8d



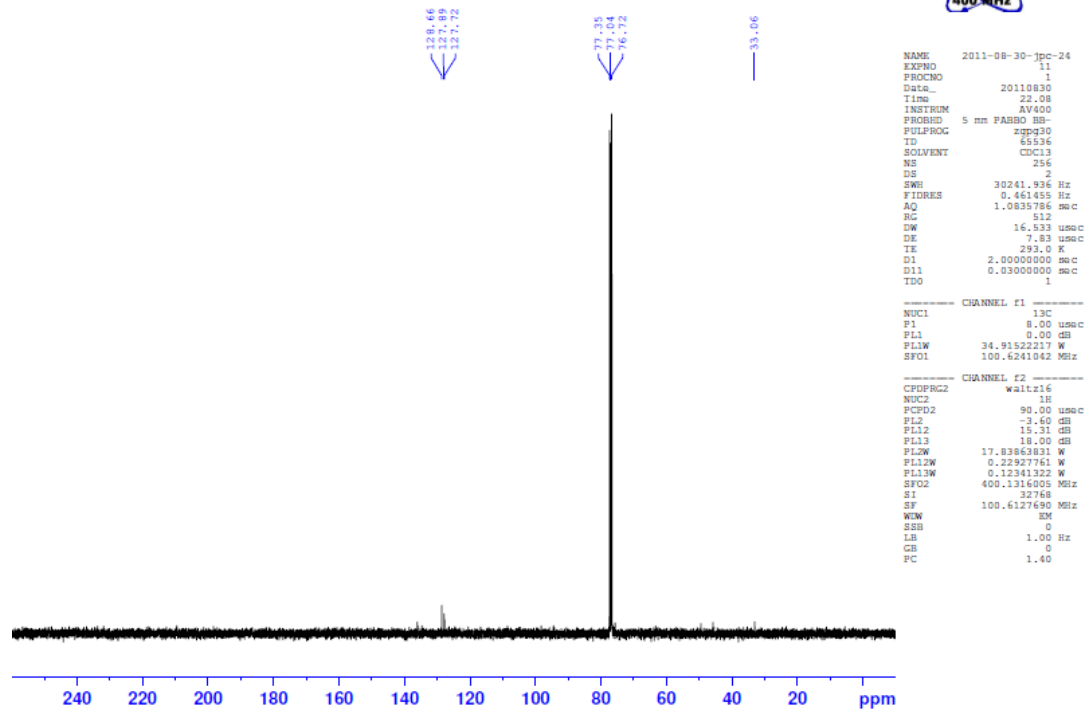


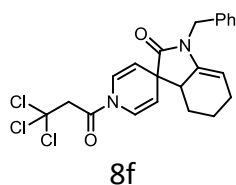
8e

jls3d  
mPROTONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2011\Aug} jpc 24

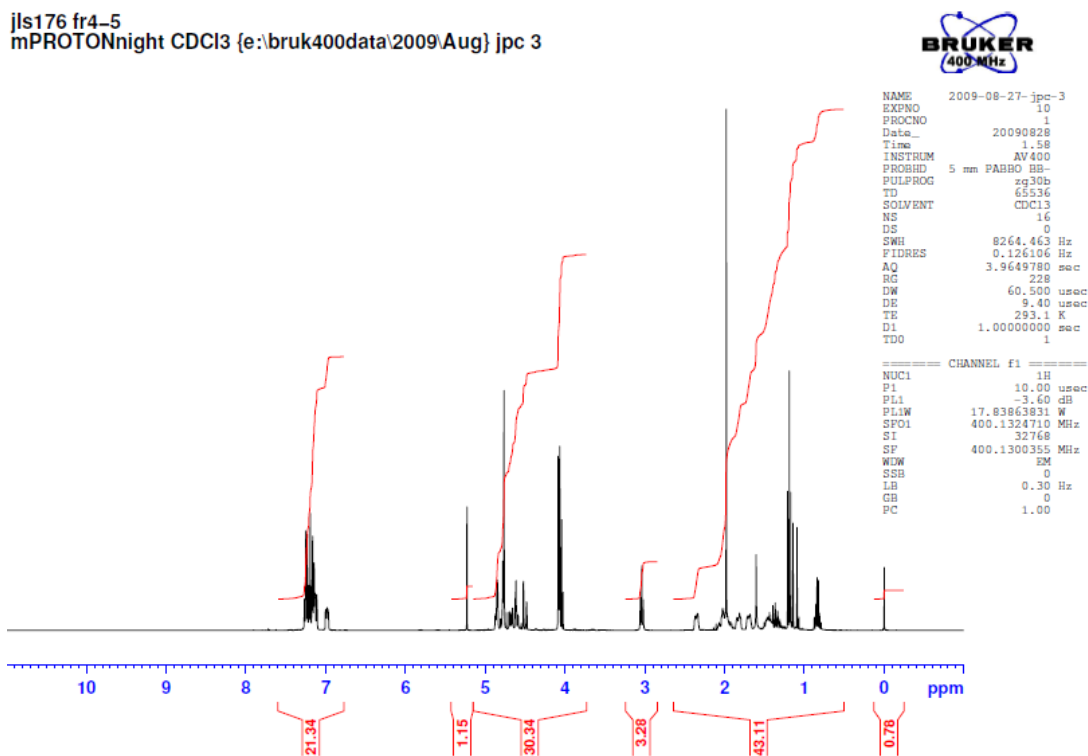


jls3d  
mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2011\Aug} jpc 24

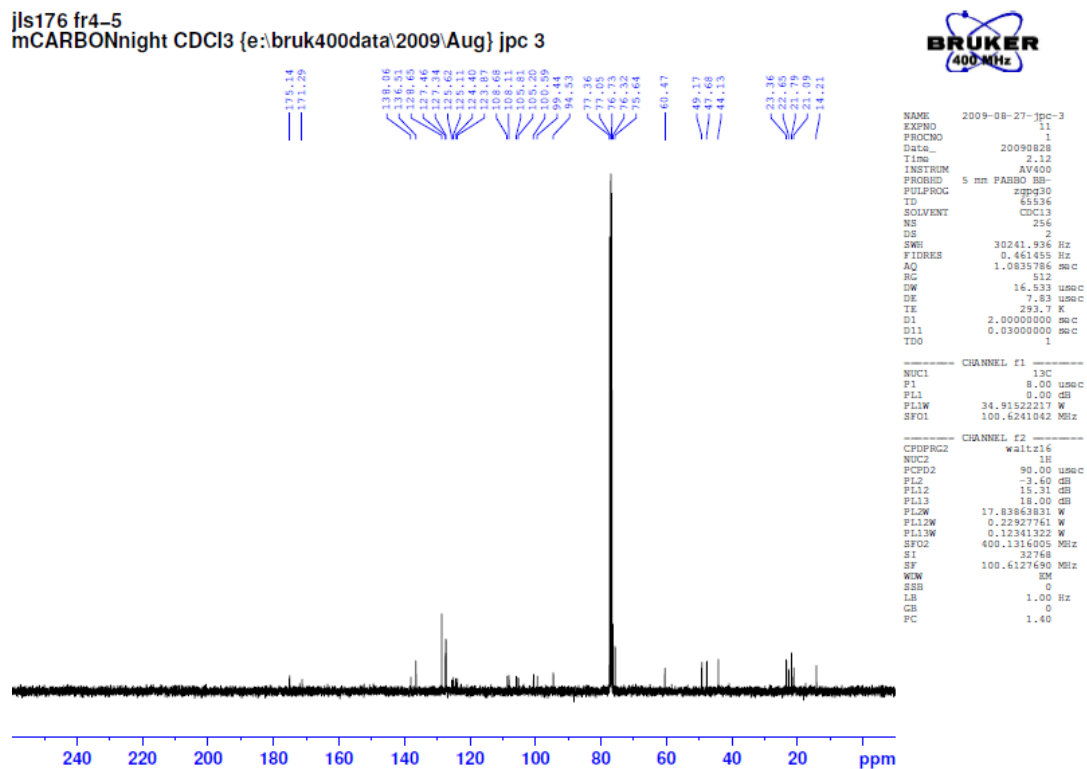


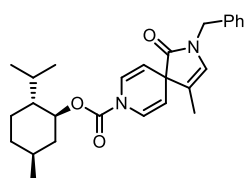


jls176 fr4-5  
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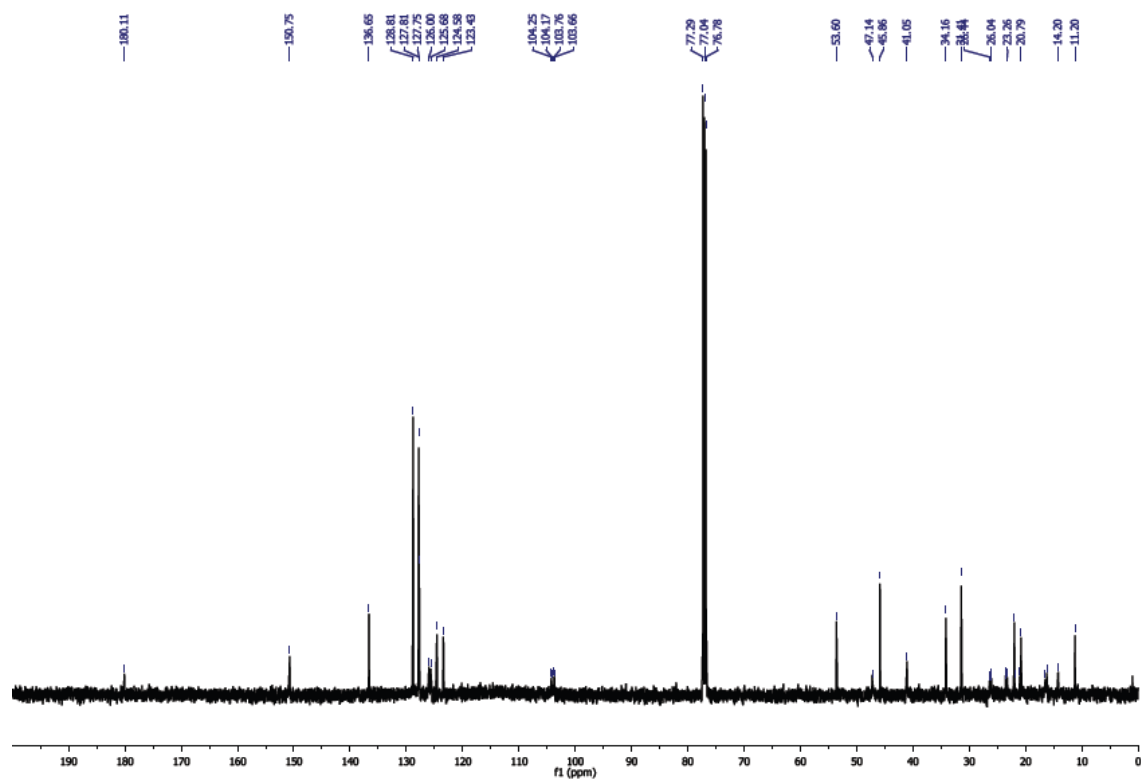
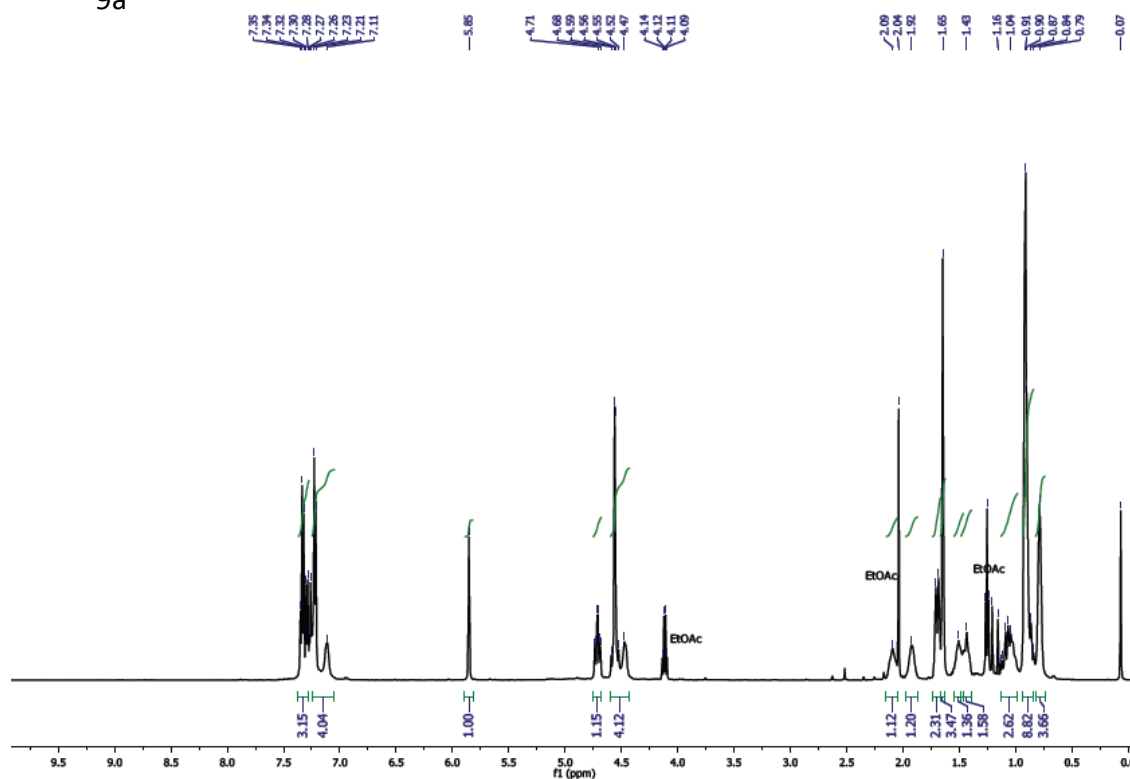


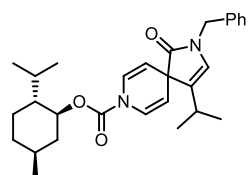
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mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2009\Aug} jpc 3



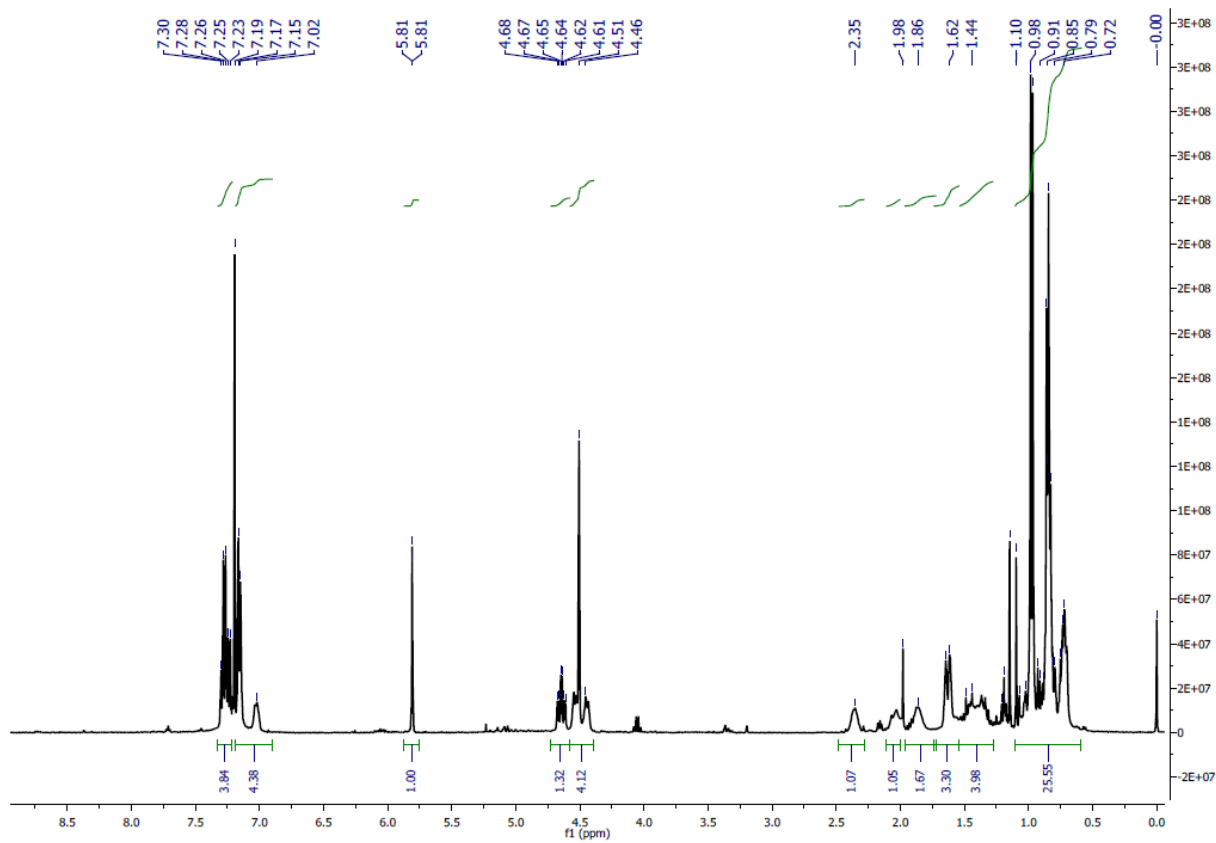


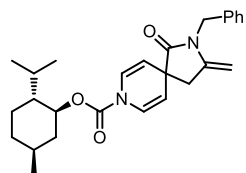
9a



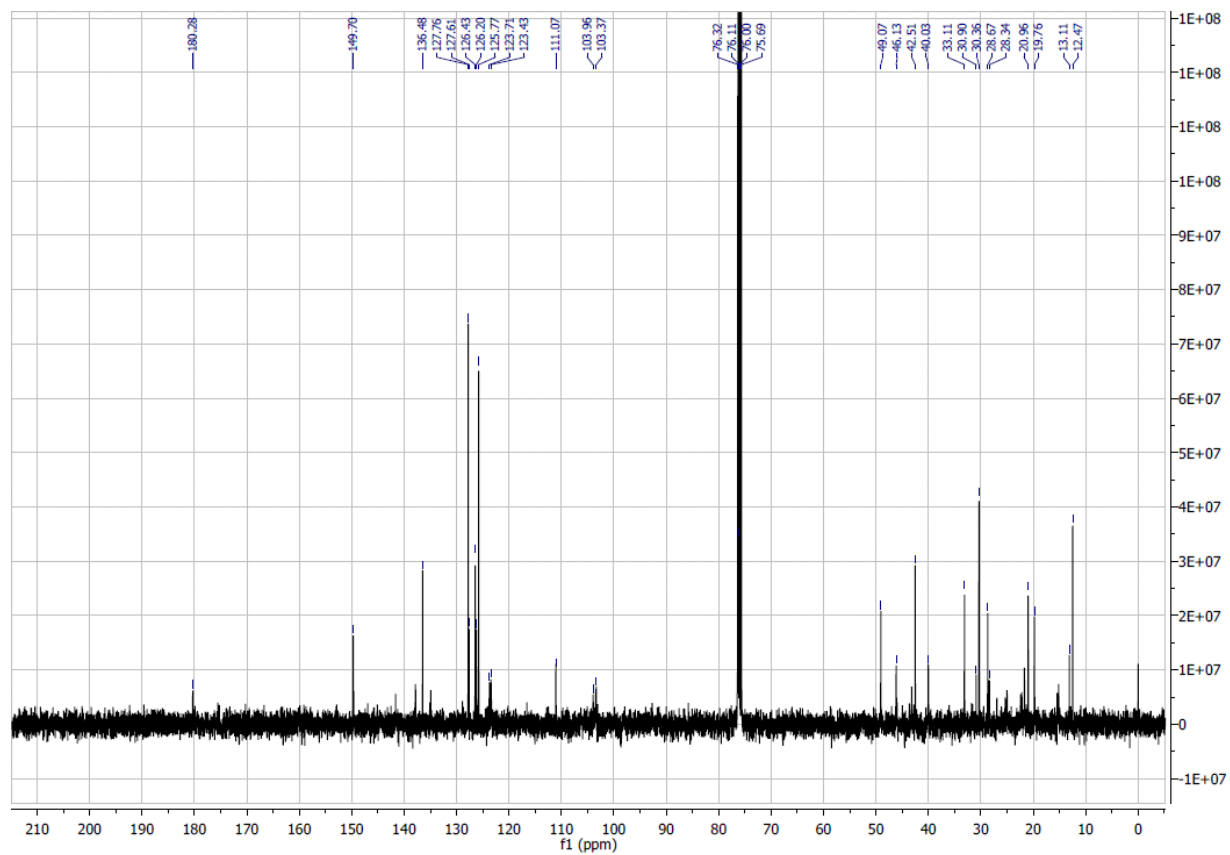
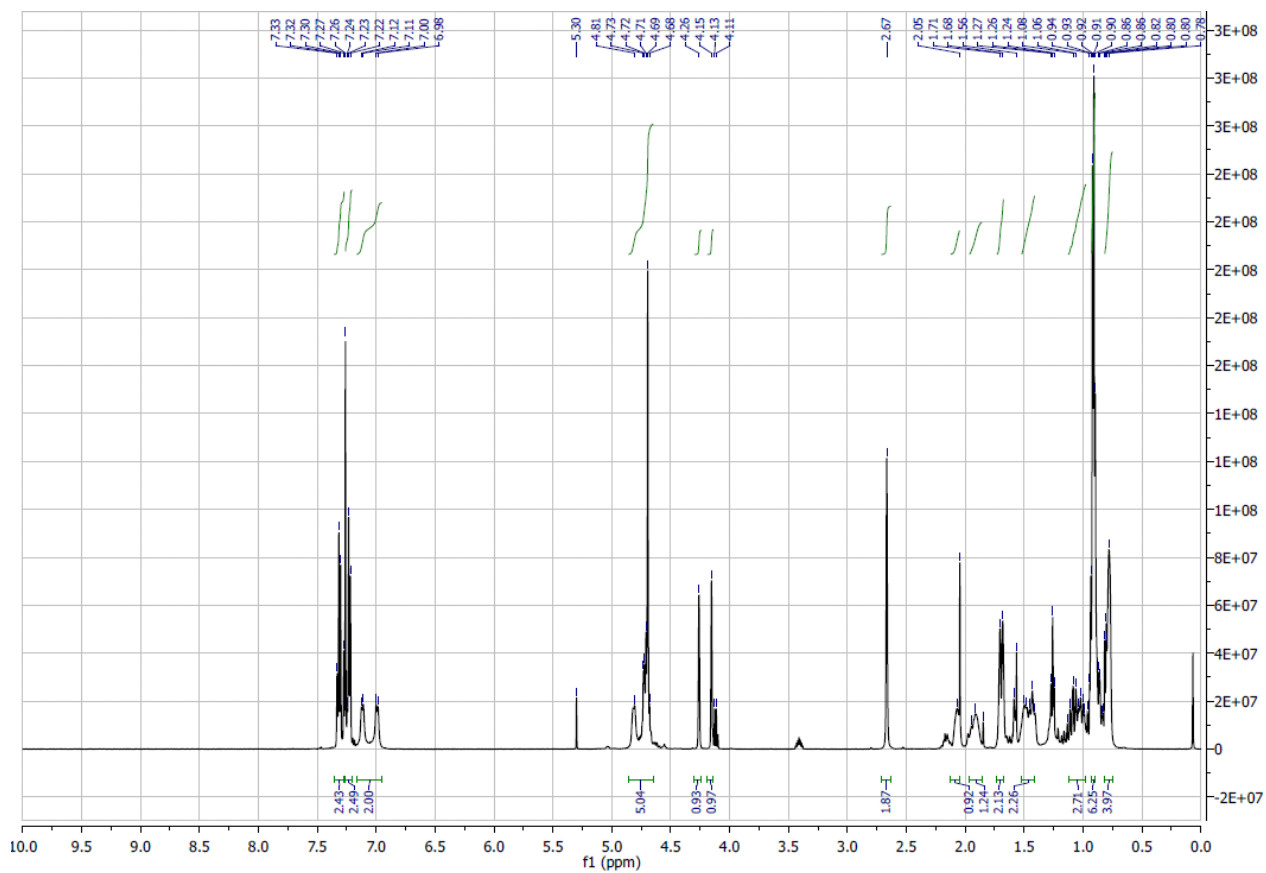


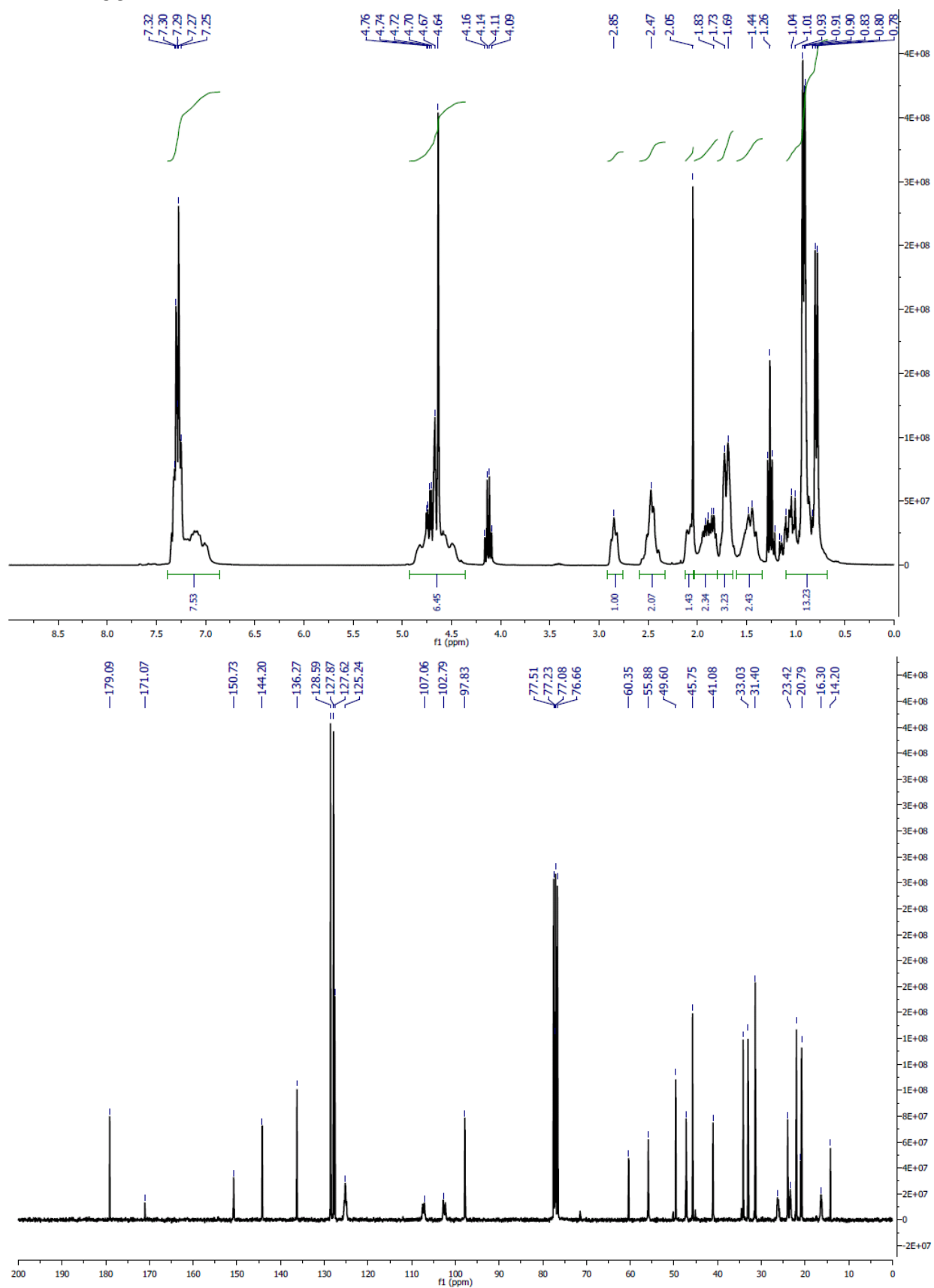
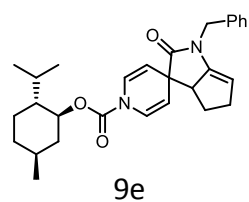
9b

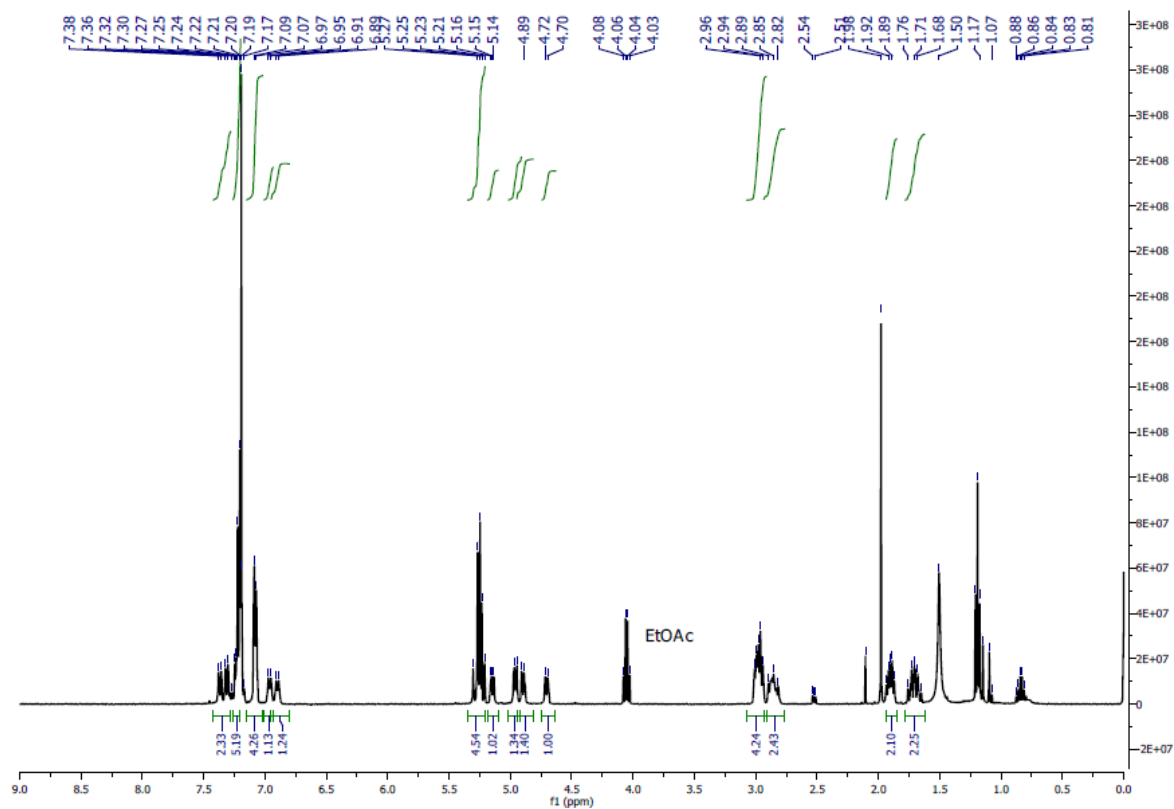
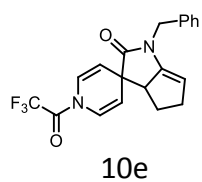


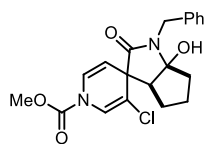


9d

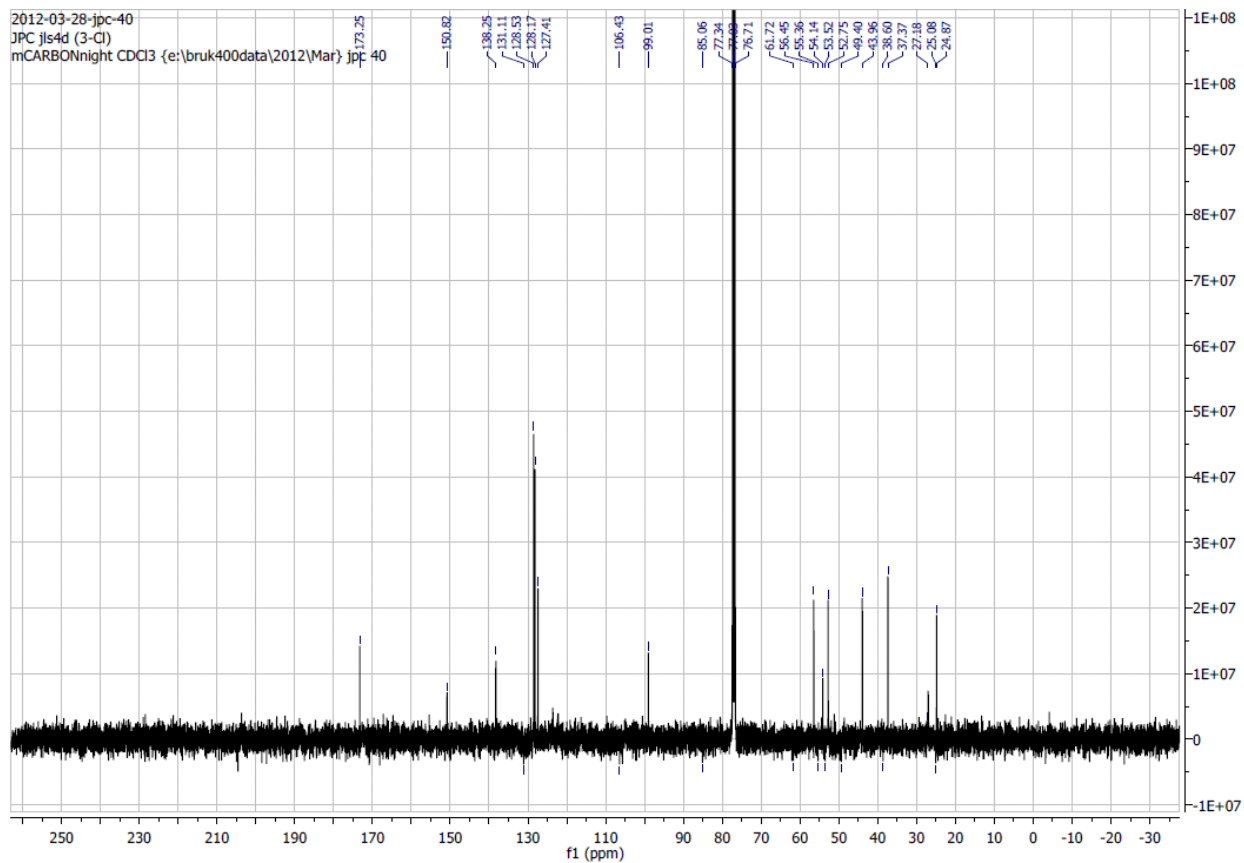
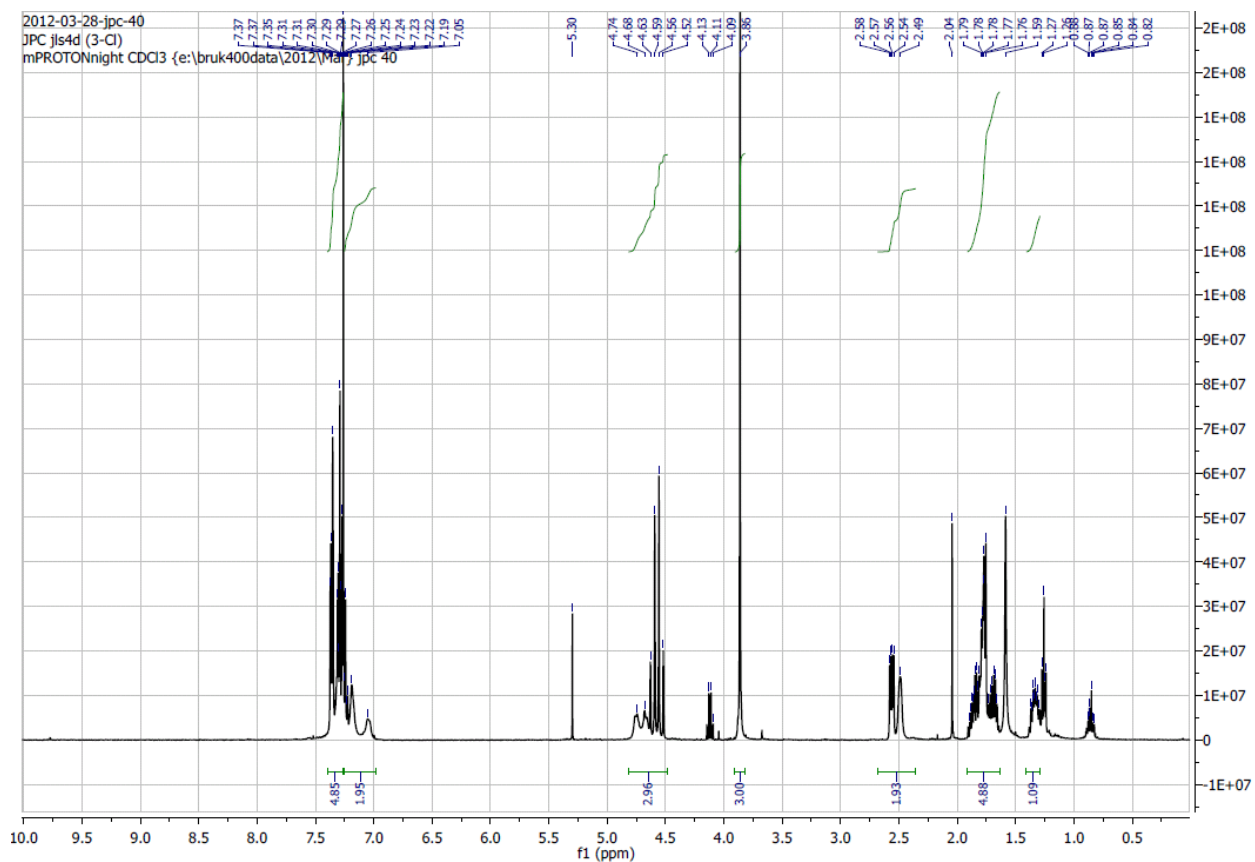


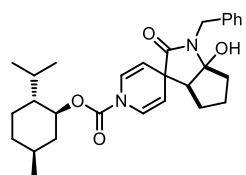




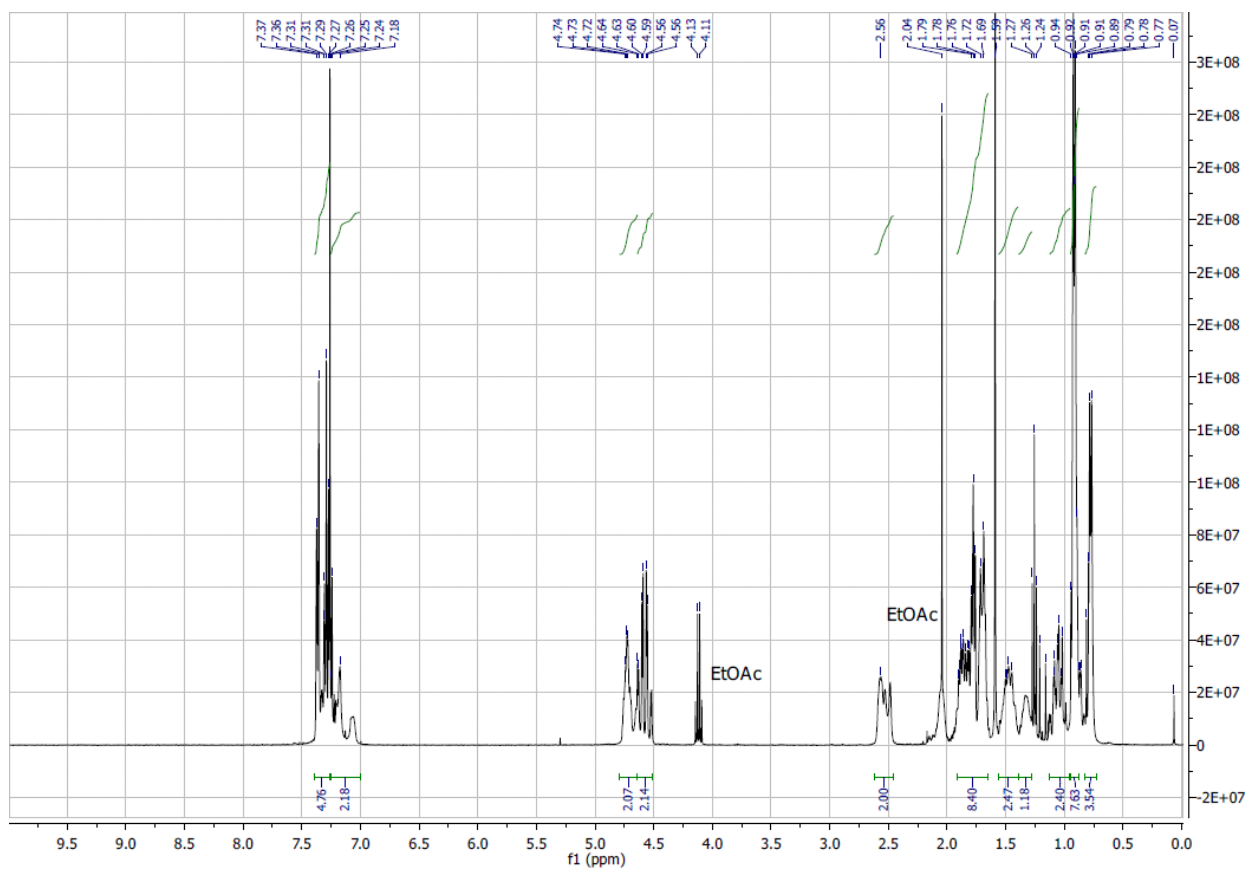


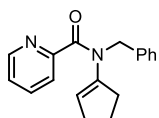
11i





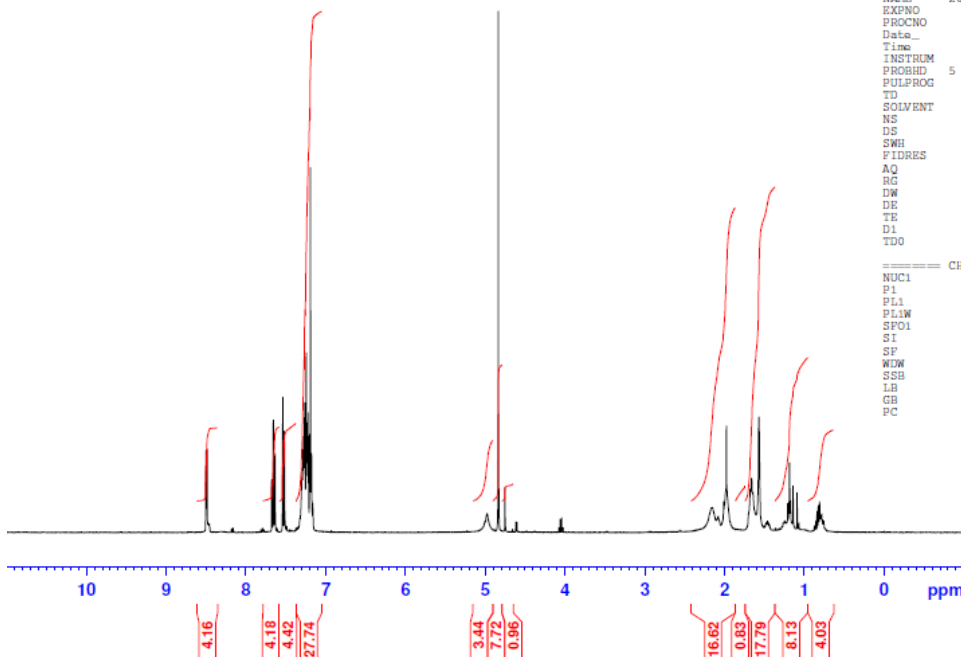
12i





13

jls198  
mPROTON CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2009\Oct} jpc 36



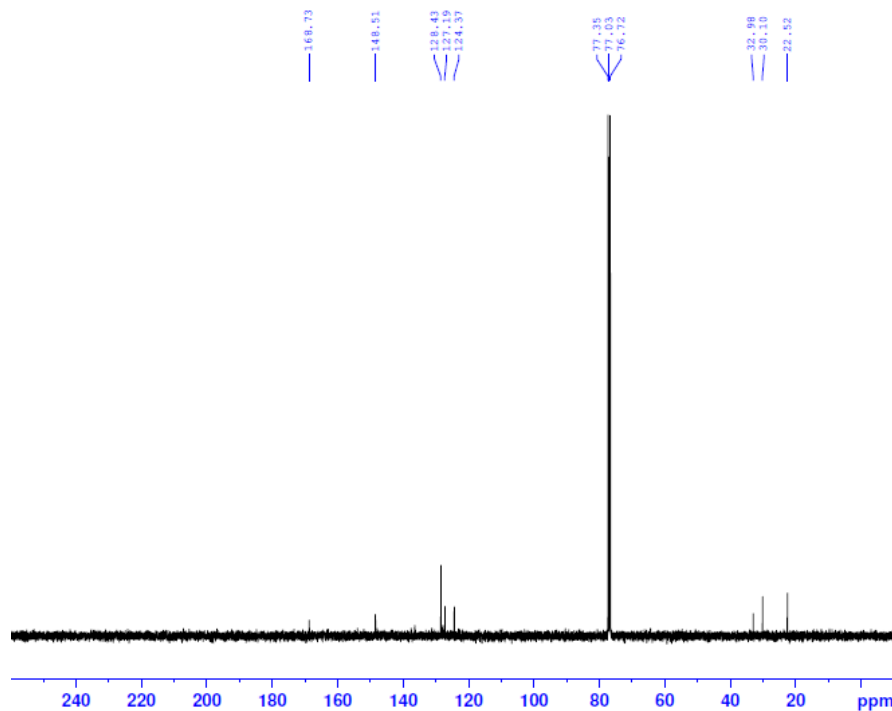
```

NAME      2009-10-20-jpc-36
EXPNO     1
PROCNO     1
Date_      20091020
Time       11.13
INSTRUM    AV400
PROBHD     5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG    zg30b
TD         65536
SOLVENT    CDCl3
NS         16
DS         0
SWH         8264.463 Hz
FIDRES     0.126106 Hz
AQ         3.9649780 sec
RG         287
DW         60.500 usec
DE         9.40 usec
TE         293.0 K
D1         1.00000000 sec
TDO        1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       1H
P1         10.00 usec
PL1        -3.60 dB
PL1W       17.83863831 W
SFO1       400.1324710 MHz
SI         32768
SF         400.1300363 MHz
WDW         EM
SSB         0
LB         0.30 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.00

```

jls198  
mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2009\Oct} jpc 36



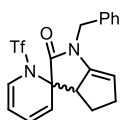
```

NAME      2009-10-20-jpc-36
EXPNO     12
PROCNO     1
Date_      20091021
Time       6.52
INSTRUM    AV400
PROBHD     5 mm PABBO BB-
PULPROG    zgpg30
TD         65536
SOLVENT    CDCl3
NS         256
DS         2
SWH         30241.936 Hz
FIDRES     0.461455 Hz
AQ         1.0835786 sec
RG         512
DW         16.533 usec
DE         7.83 usec
TE         294.6 K
D1         2.00000000 sec
D11        0.03000000 sec
TDO        1

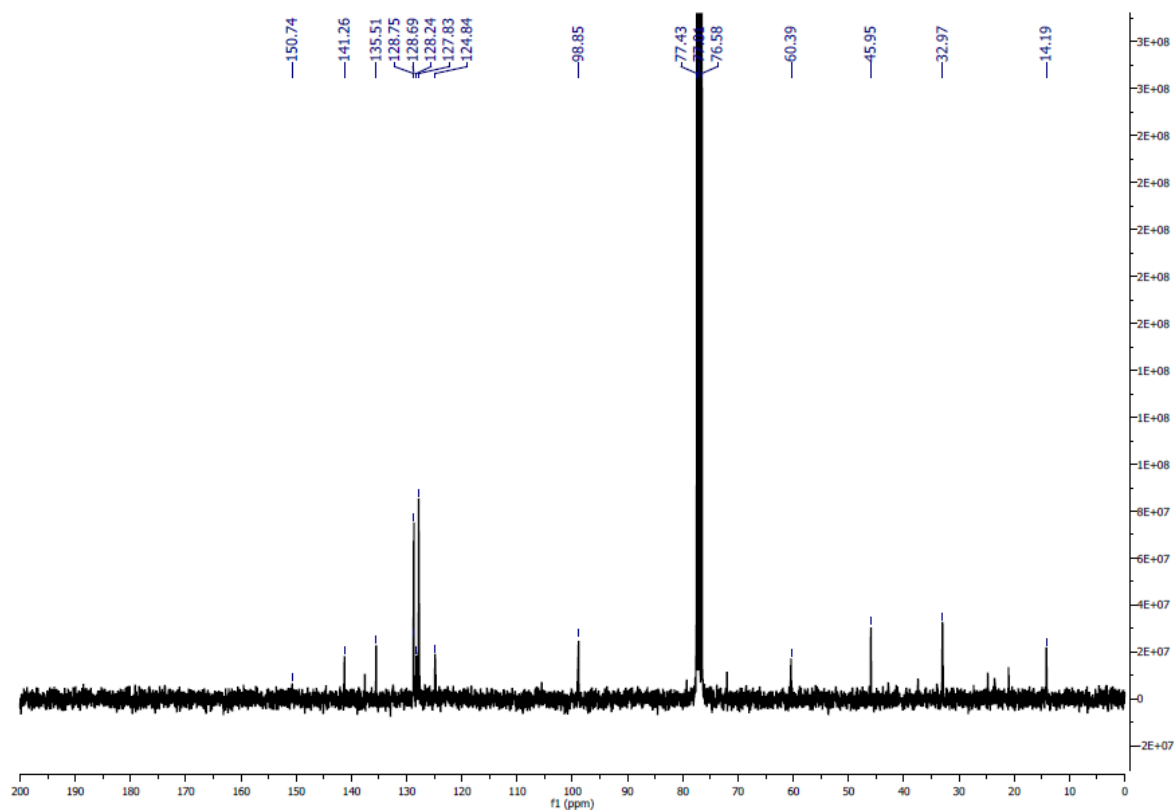
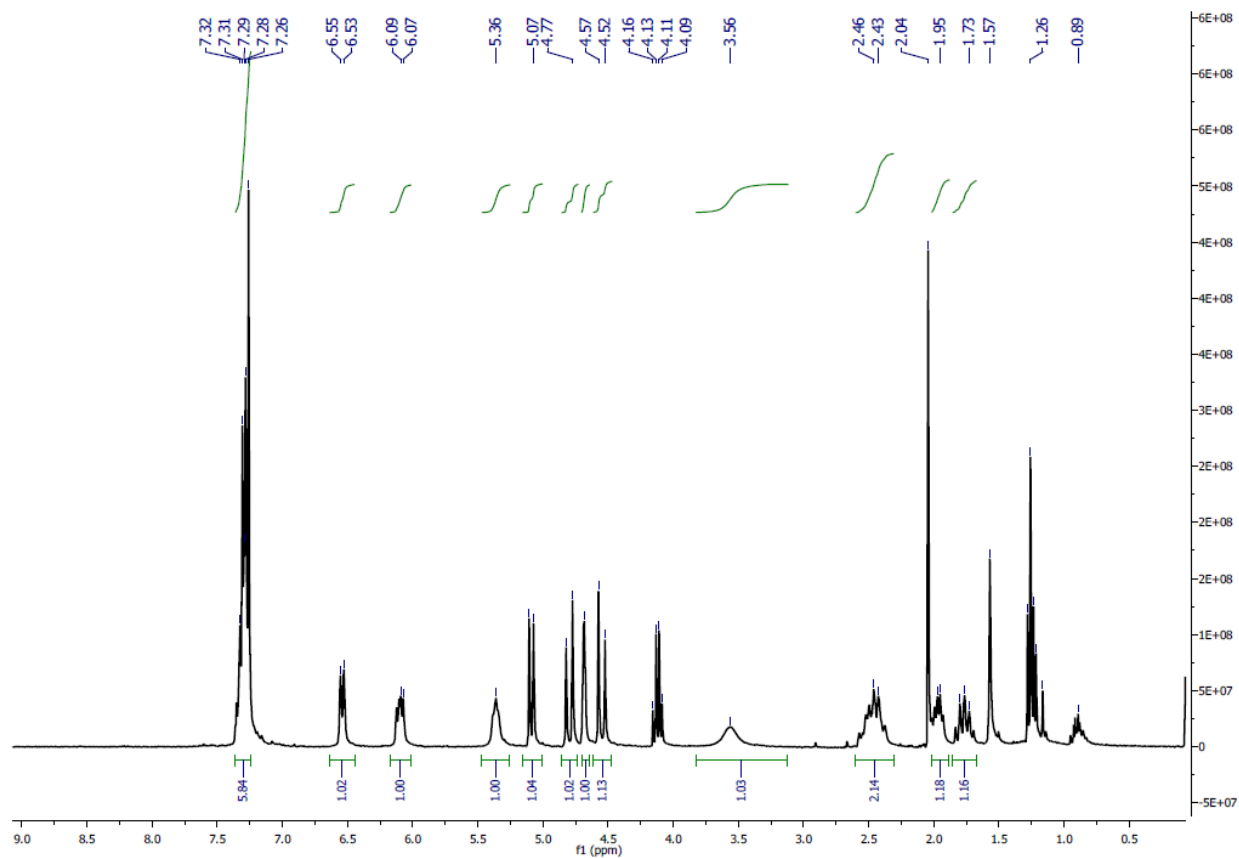
===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1       13C
P1         8.00 usec
PL1         0.00 dB
PL1W       34.9152217 W
SFO1       100.6241042 MHz

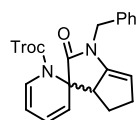
===== CHANNEL f2 =====
CPDPRG2    waltz16
NUC2       1H
PCPD2      90.00 usec
PL2         -3.60 dB
PL12       15.31 dB
PL13       18.00 dB
PL2W       17.83863831 W
PL12W      0.22927761 W
PL13W      0.12341322 W
SFO2       400.1316005 MHz
SI         32768
SF         100.6127690 MHz
WDW         EM
SSB         0
LB         1.00 Hz
GB         0
PC         1.40

```

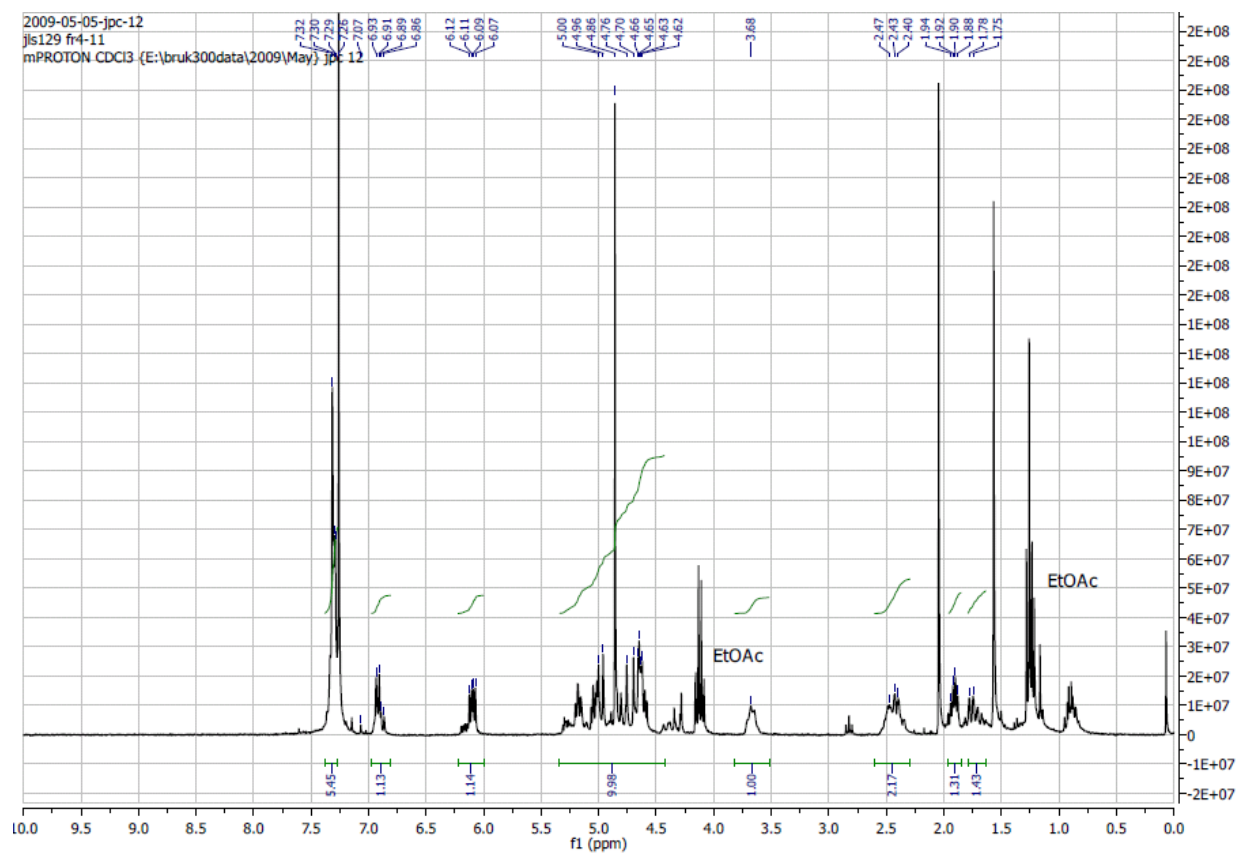


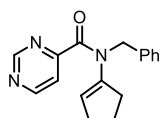
14a





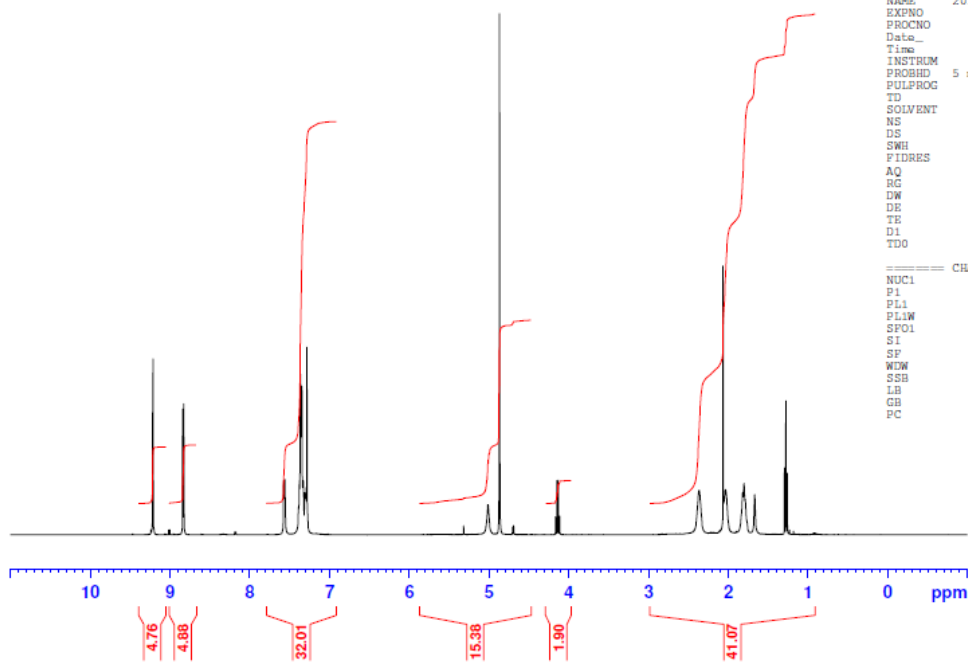
14b





15

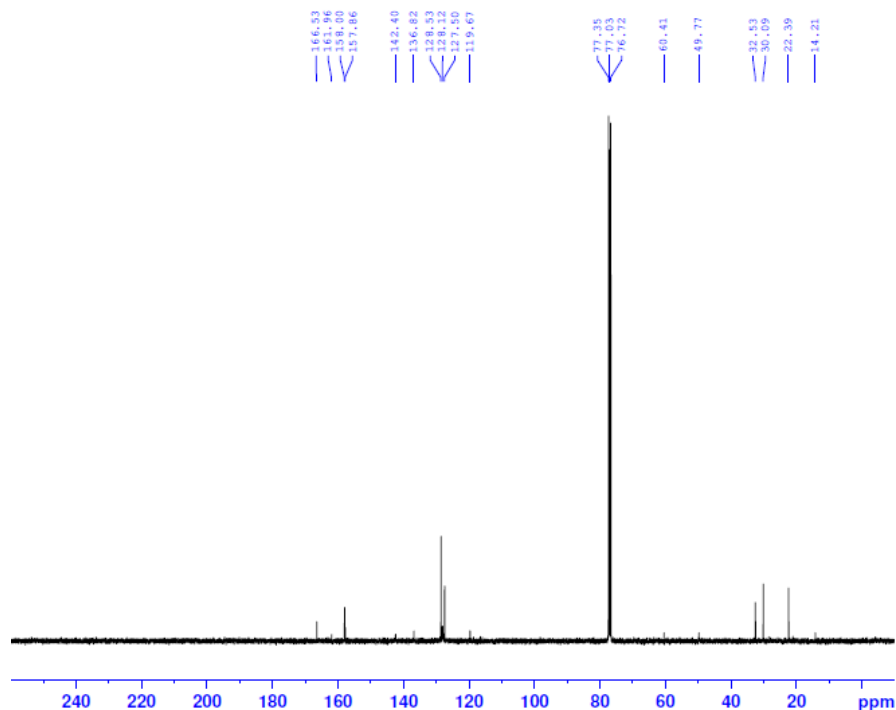
jpc-jls pyrimidine  
mPROTONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2012\Feb} jpc 31



NAME 2012-02-21-jpc-31  
EXPNO 10  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120222  
Time 1.04  
INSTRUM AV400  
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-  
PULPROG zg30b  
TD 65536  
SOLVENT CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
NS 32  
DS 0  
SWH 8264.463 Hz  
FIDRES 0.126106 Hz  
AQ 3.9649780 sec  
RG 287  
DW 60.500 usec  
DE 9.40 usec  
TE 294.2 K  
D1 1.00000000 sec  
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 1H  
P1 10.00 usec  
PL1 3.60 dB  
PL1W 17.83863831 W  
SFO1 400.1324710 MHz  
SI 32768  
SF 400.1300000 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 0.30 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.00

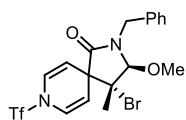
jpc-jls pyrimidine  
mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2012\Feb} jpc 31



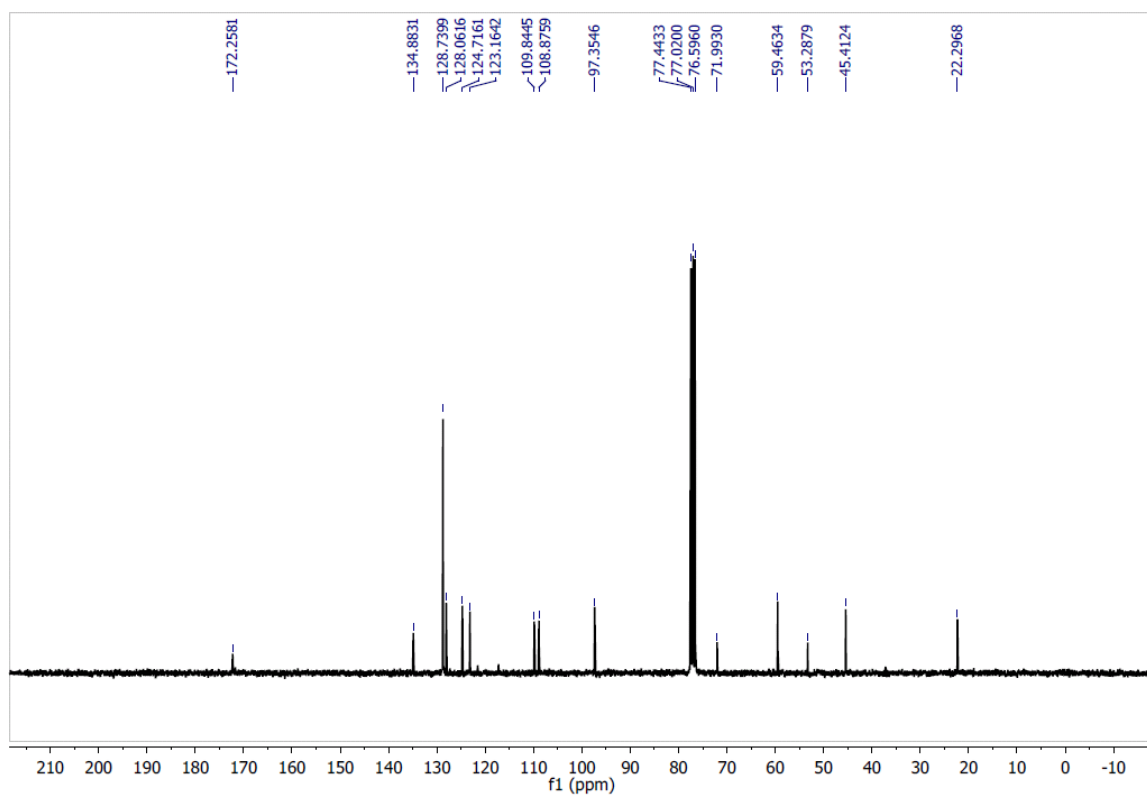
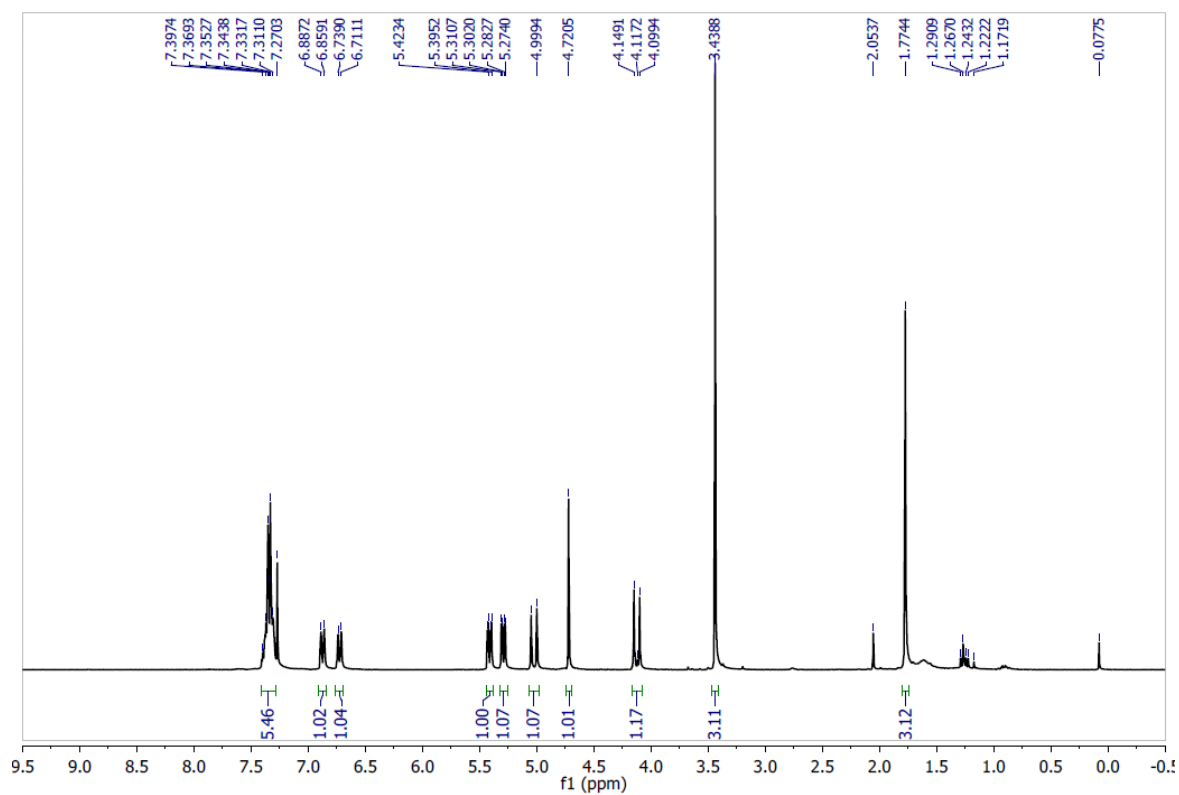
NAME 2012-02-21-jpc-31  
EXPNO 11  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120222  
Time 1.59  
INSTRUM AV400  
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 65536  
SOLVENT CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
NS 1024  
DS 2  
SWH 30241.936 Hz  
FIDRES 0.461455 Hz  
AQ 1.0835786 sec  
RG 512  
DW 16.533 usec  
DE 7.83 usec  
TE 295.6 K  
D1 2.00000000 sec  
D11 0.03000000 sec  
TD0 1

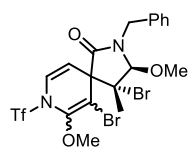
===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 13C  
P1 8.00 usec  
PL1 0.00 dB  
PL1W 34.91522217 W  
SFO1 100.6261942 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====  
CPDPRG2 waltz16  
NUC2 1H  
PCPD2 90.00 usec  
PL2 3.60 dB  
PL12 15.31 dB  
PL13 18.00 dB  
PL2W 17.83863831 W  
PL12W 0.22927761 W  
PL13W 0.12341322 W  
SFO2 400.1316005 MHz  
SI 32768  
SF 100.6127690 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 1.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40

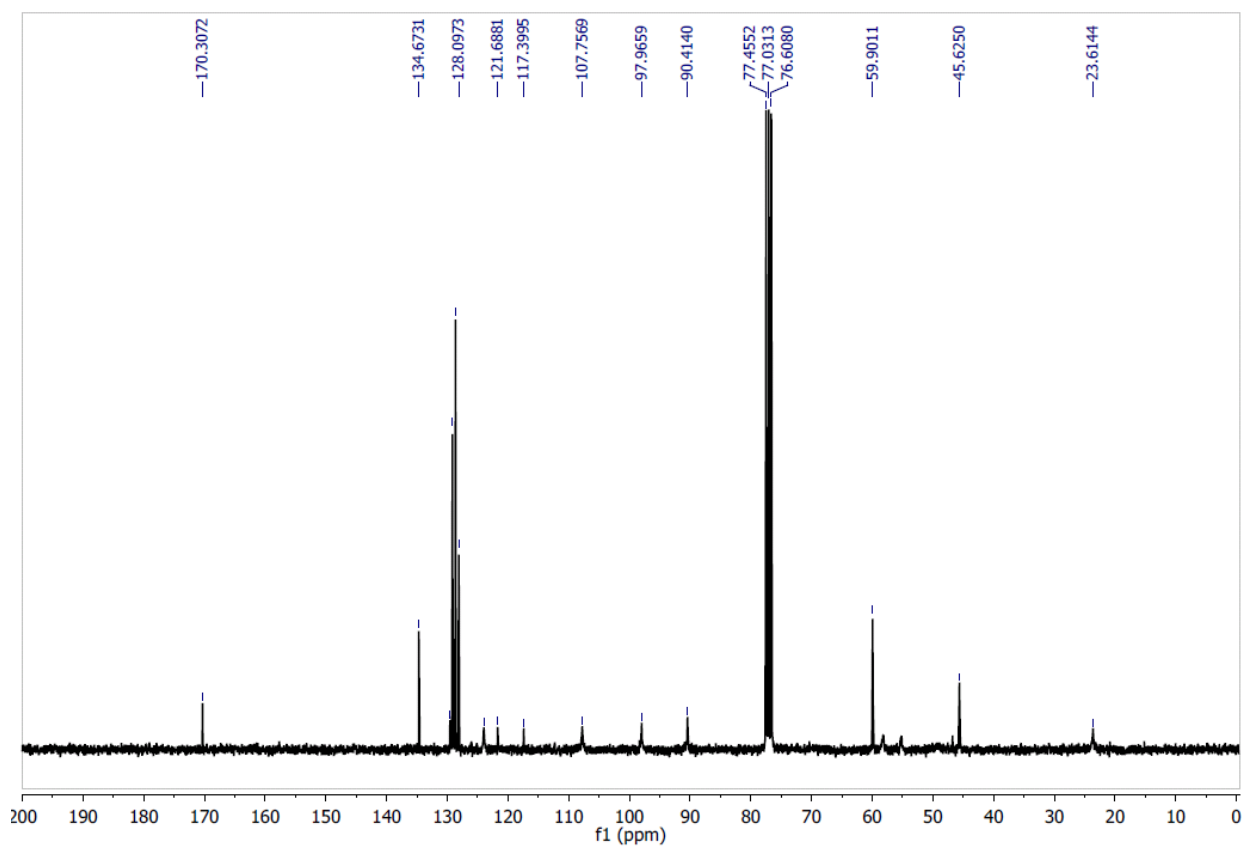
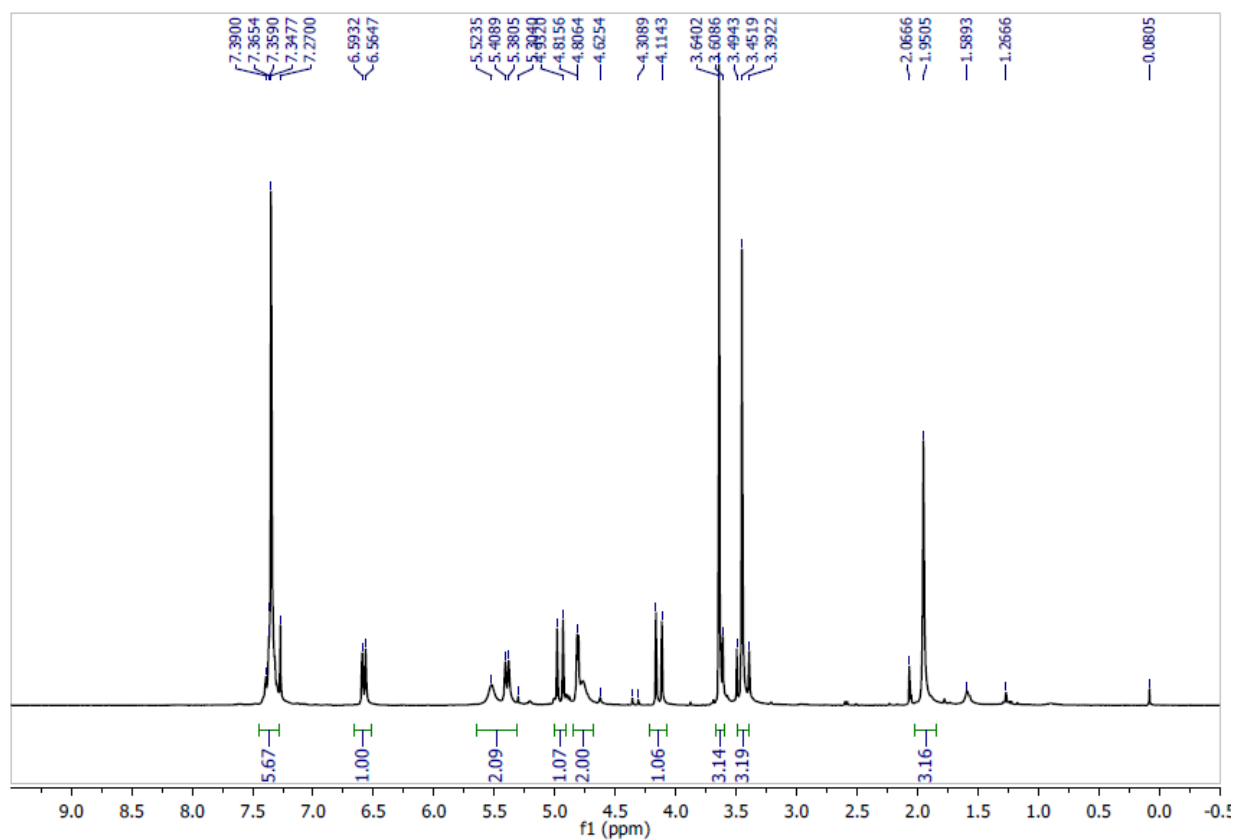


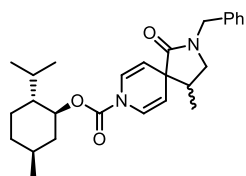
17



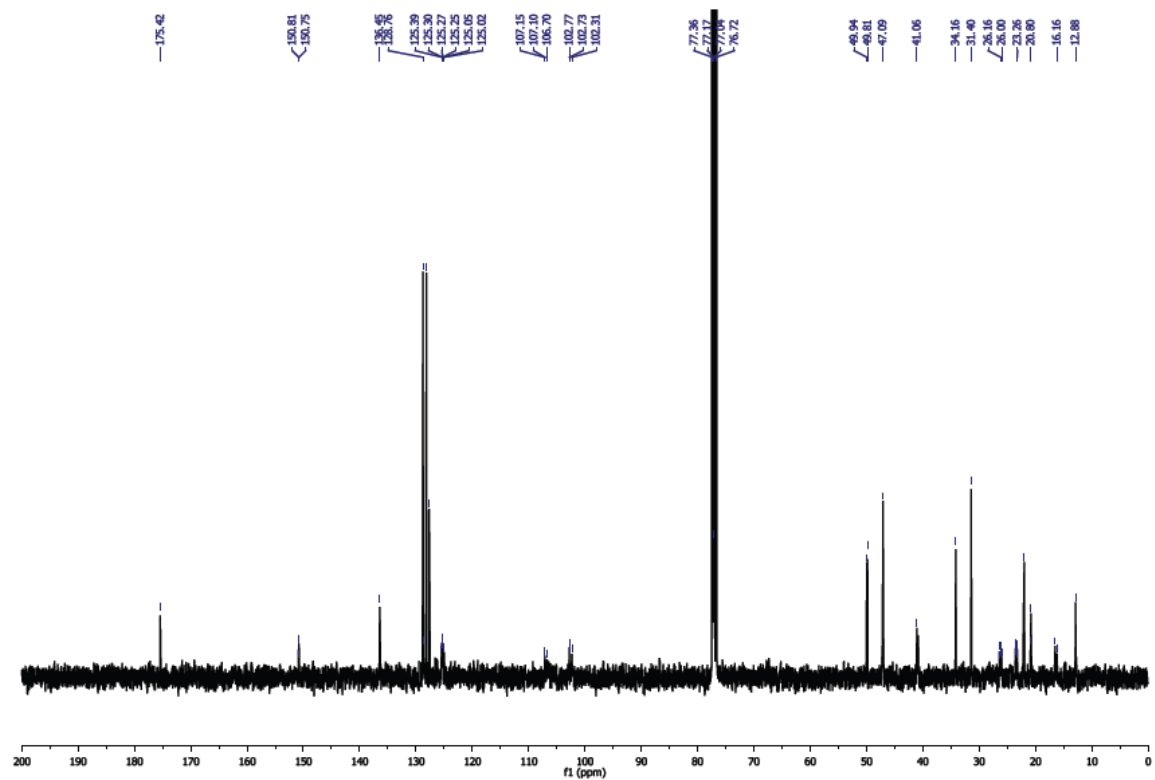
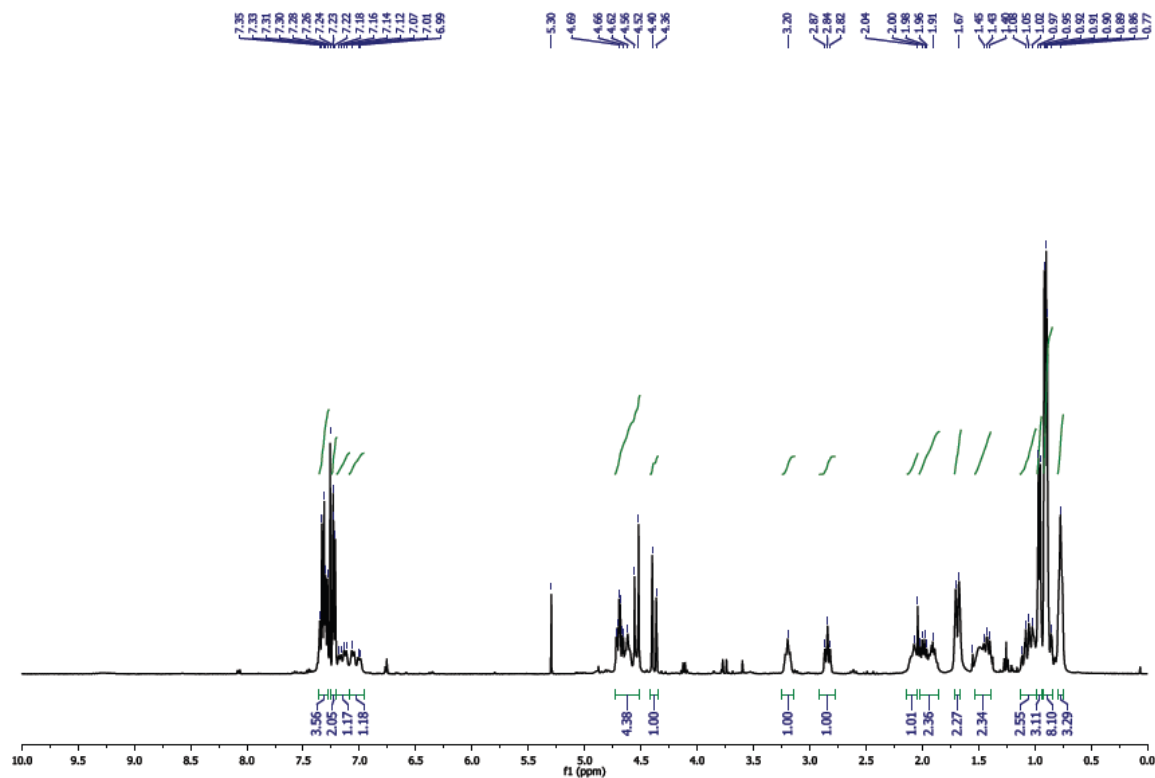


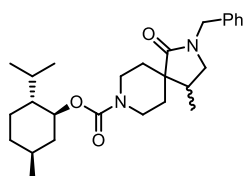
18



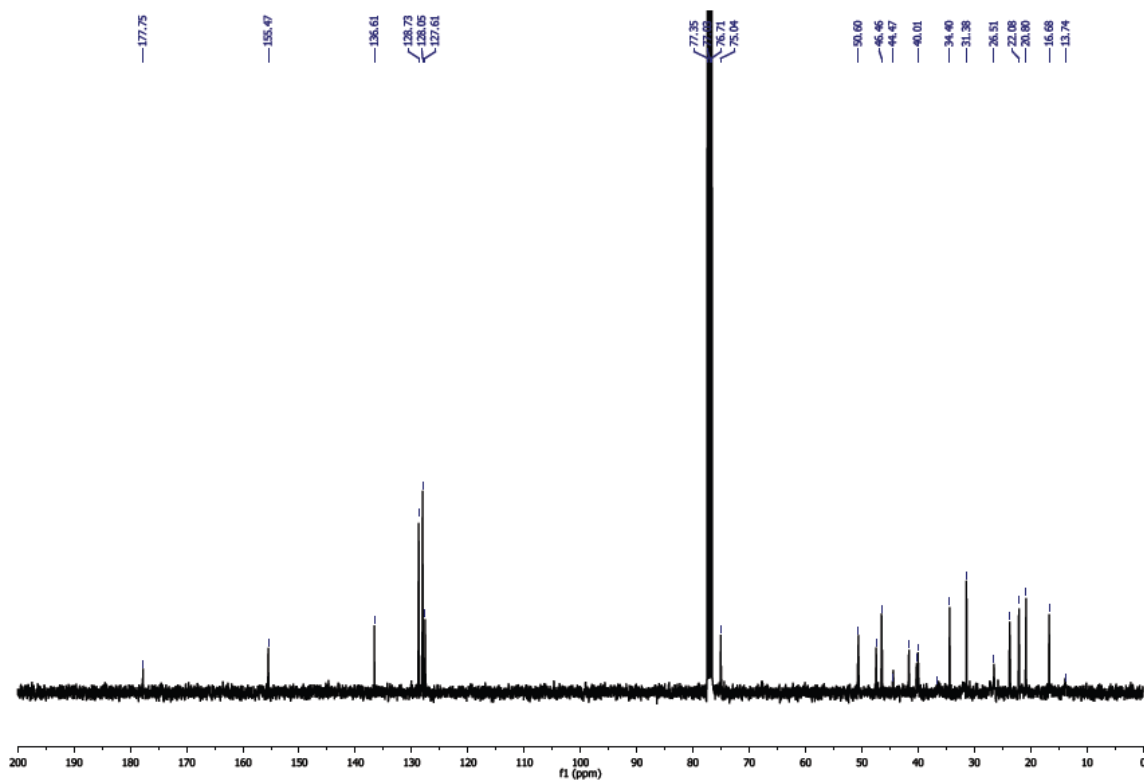
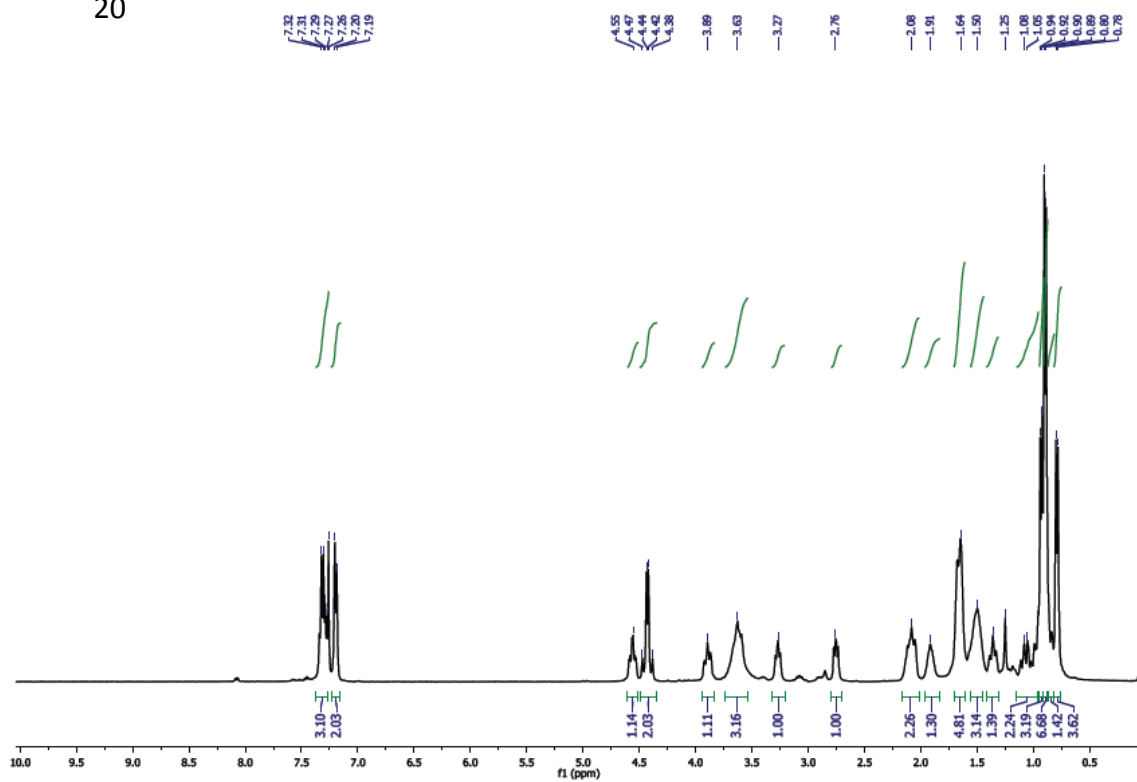


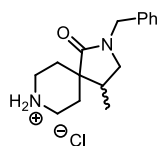
19





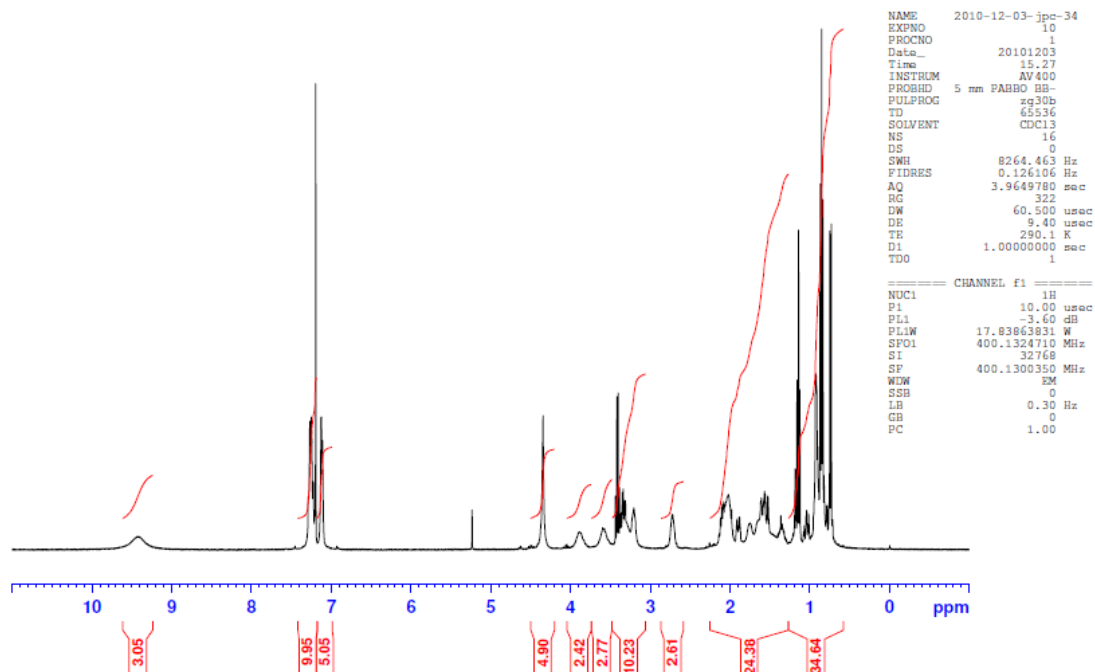
20

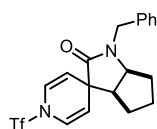




21

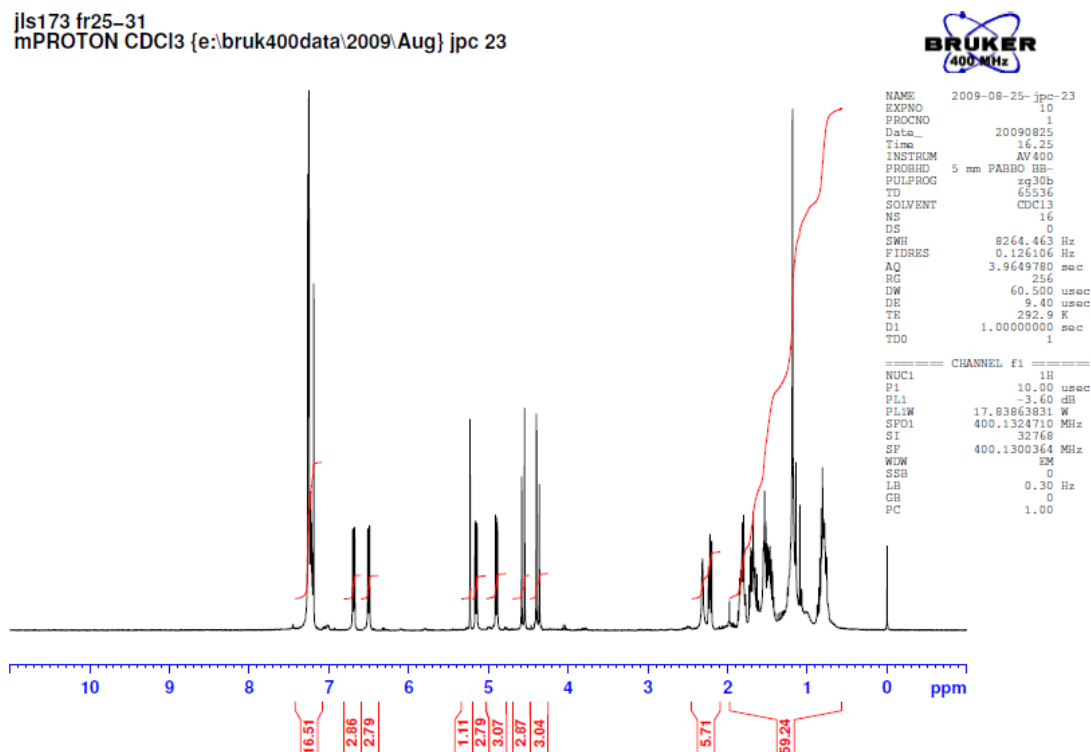
jls437  
mPROTON CDCl3 {e:\bruk400data\2010\Dec} jpc 34



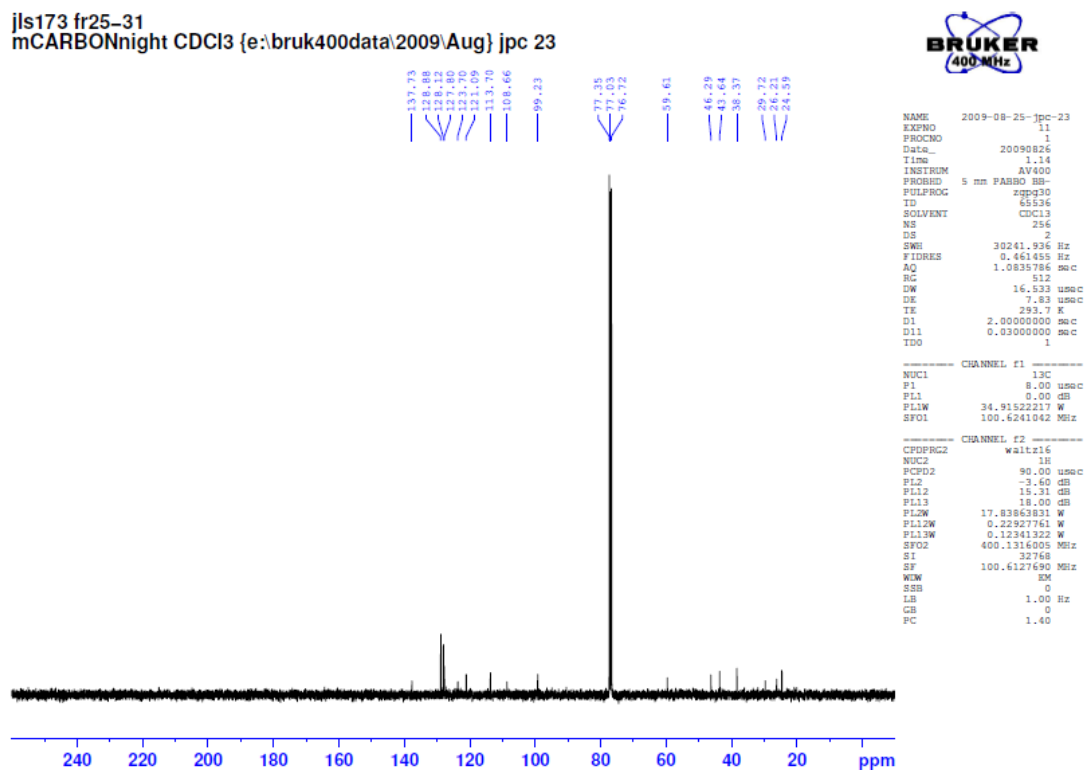


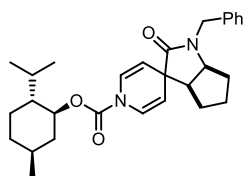
22

jls173 fr25-31  
mPROTON CDC13 {e:\bruk400data\2009\Aug} jpc 23



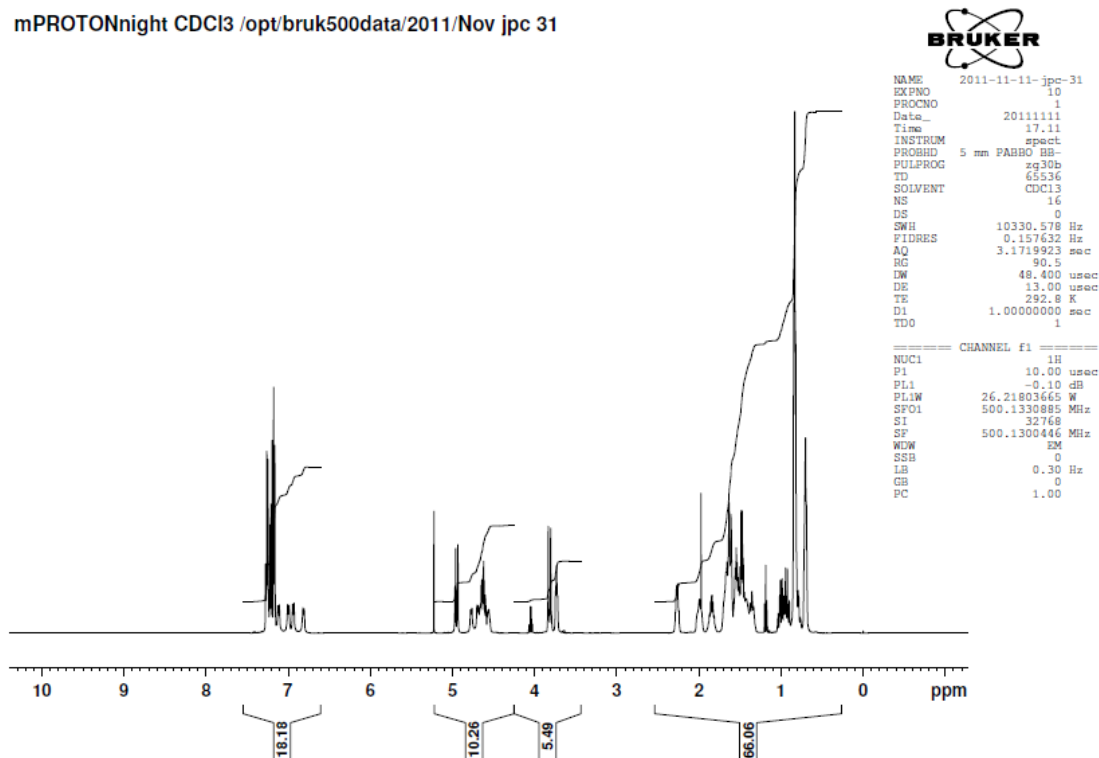
jls173 fr25-31  
mCARBONnight CDC13 {e:\bruk400data\2009\Aug} jpc 23



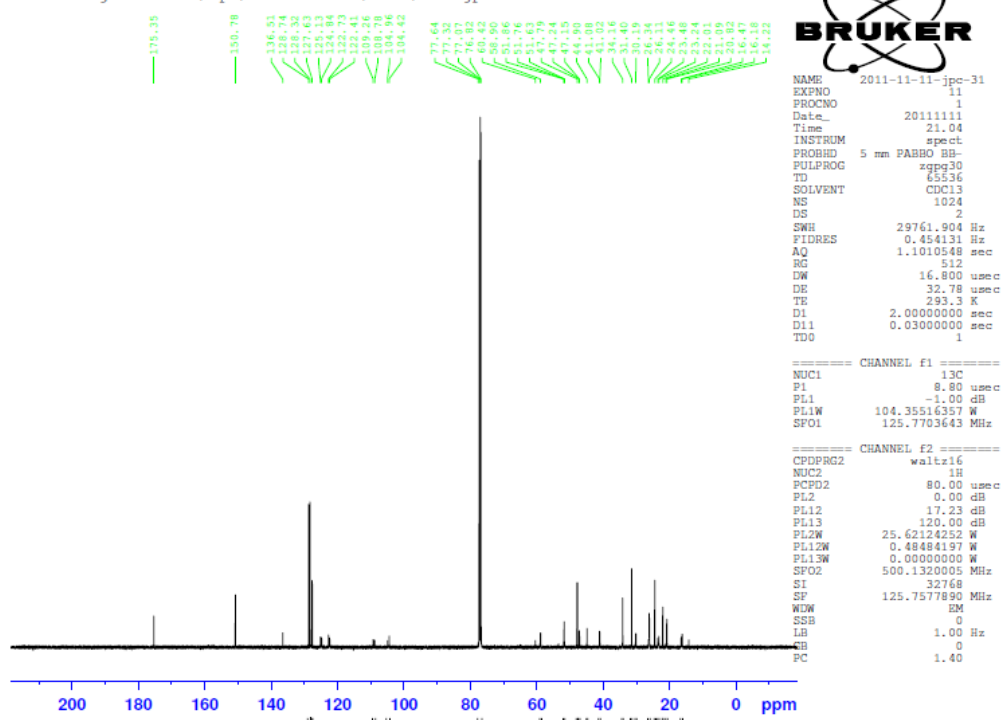


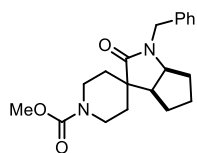
23

mPROTONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/bruk500data/2011/Nov jpc 31



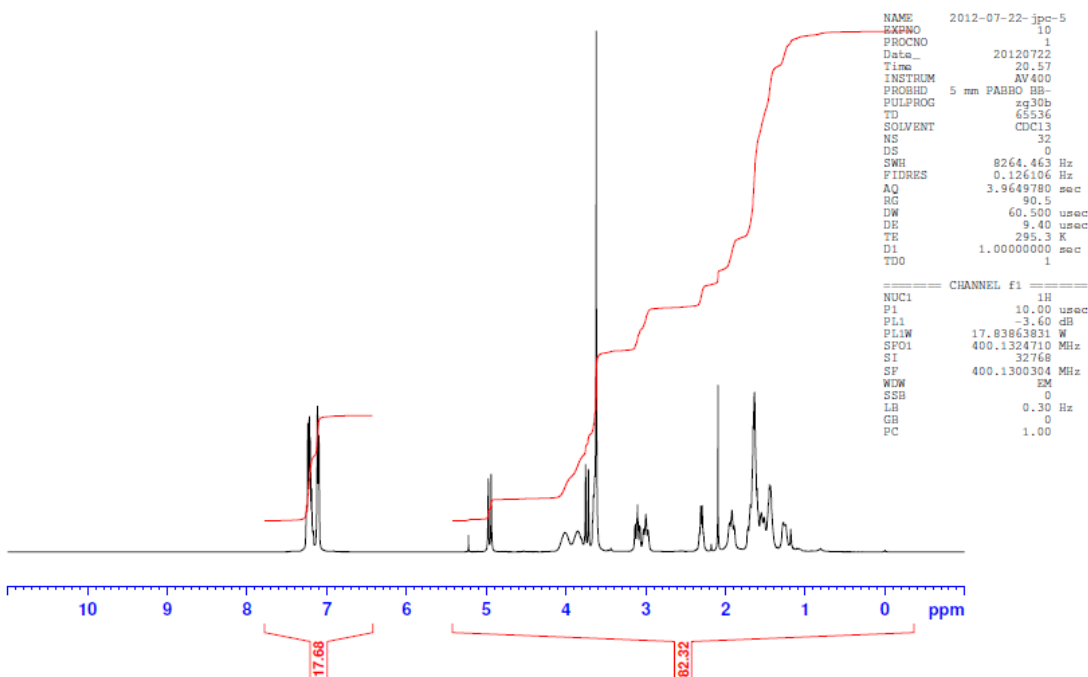
mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> /opt/bruk500data/2011/Nov jpc 31



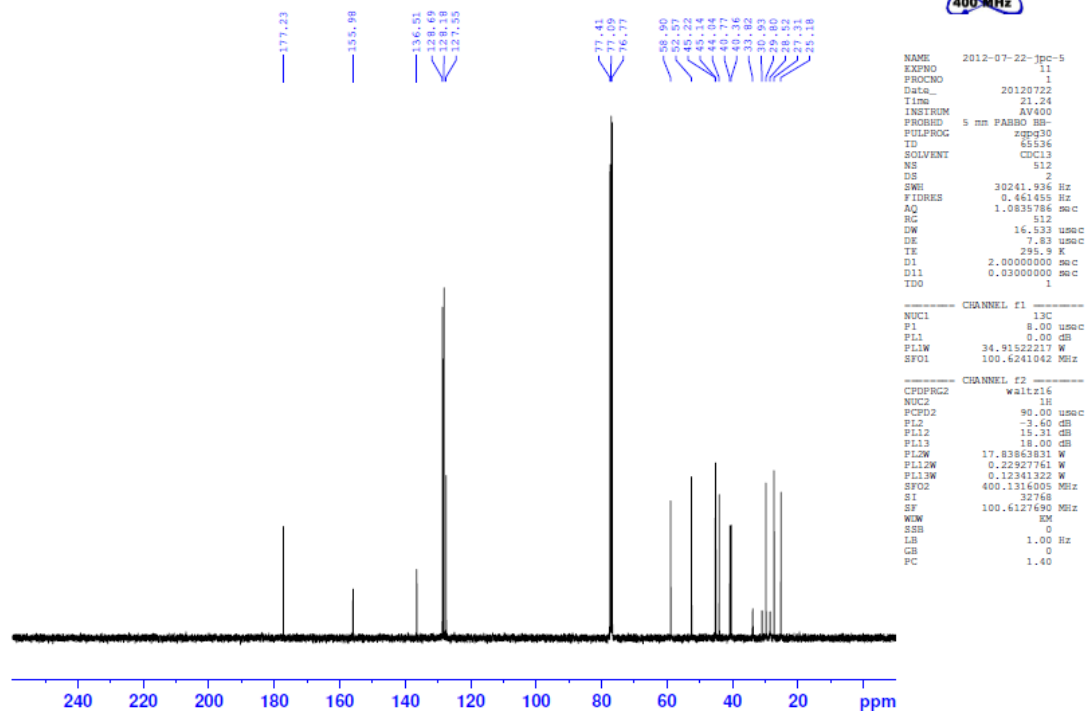


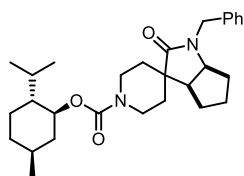
24

JPC jls  
mPROTONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2012\Jul} jpc 5



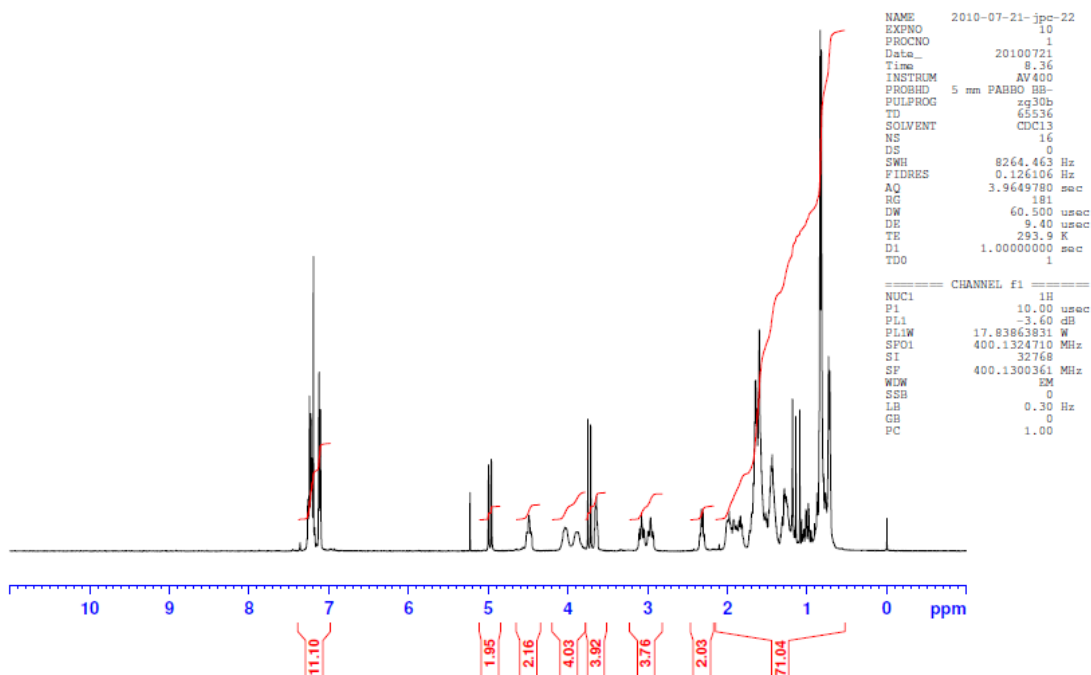
JPC jls  
mCARBONnight CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2012\Jul} jpc 5



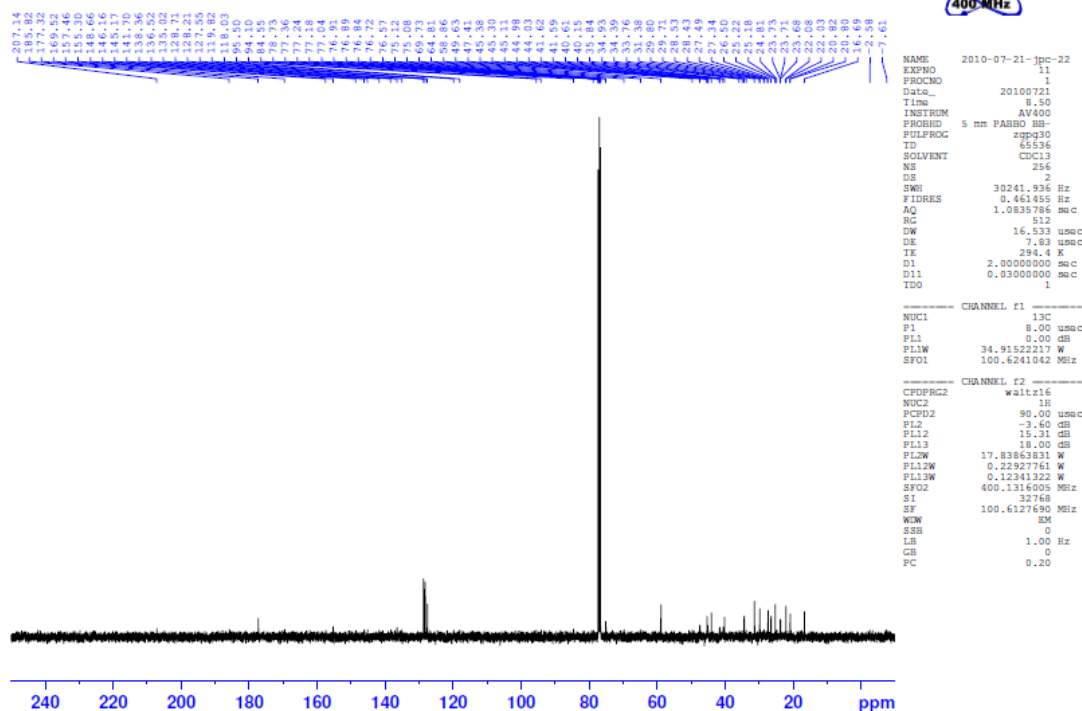


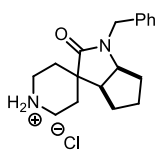
25

jls362 fr49-56  
mPROTON CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2010\Jul} jpc 22



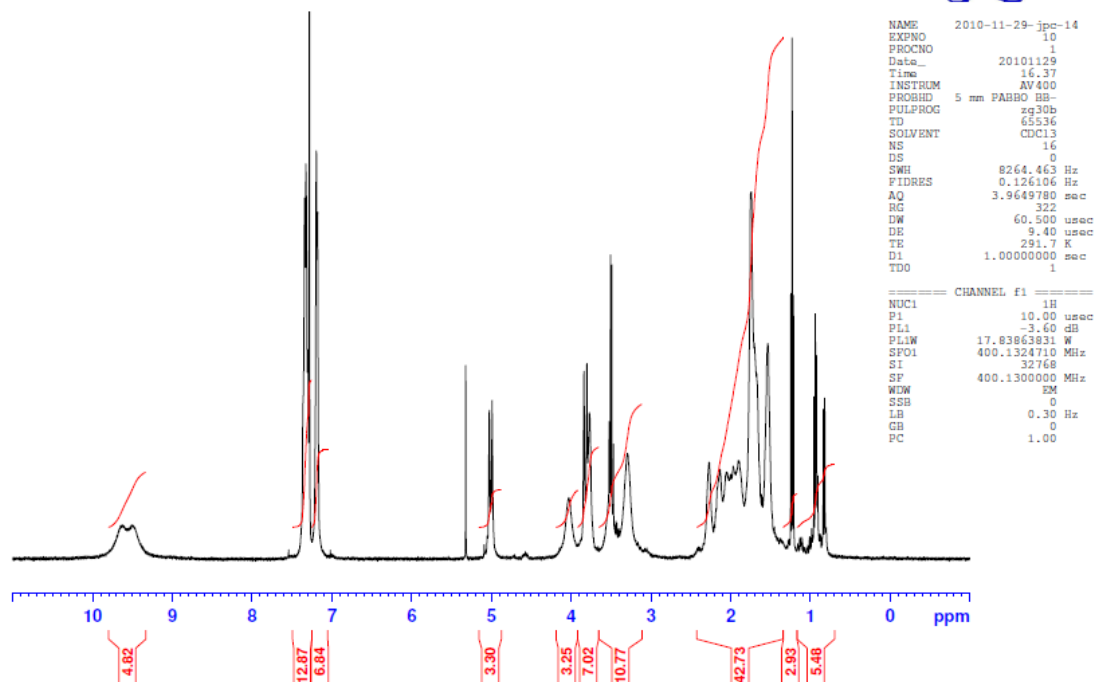
jls362 fr49-56  
mCARBON CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2010\Jul} jpc 22

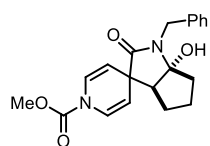




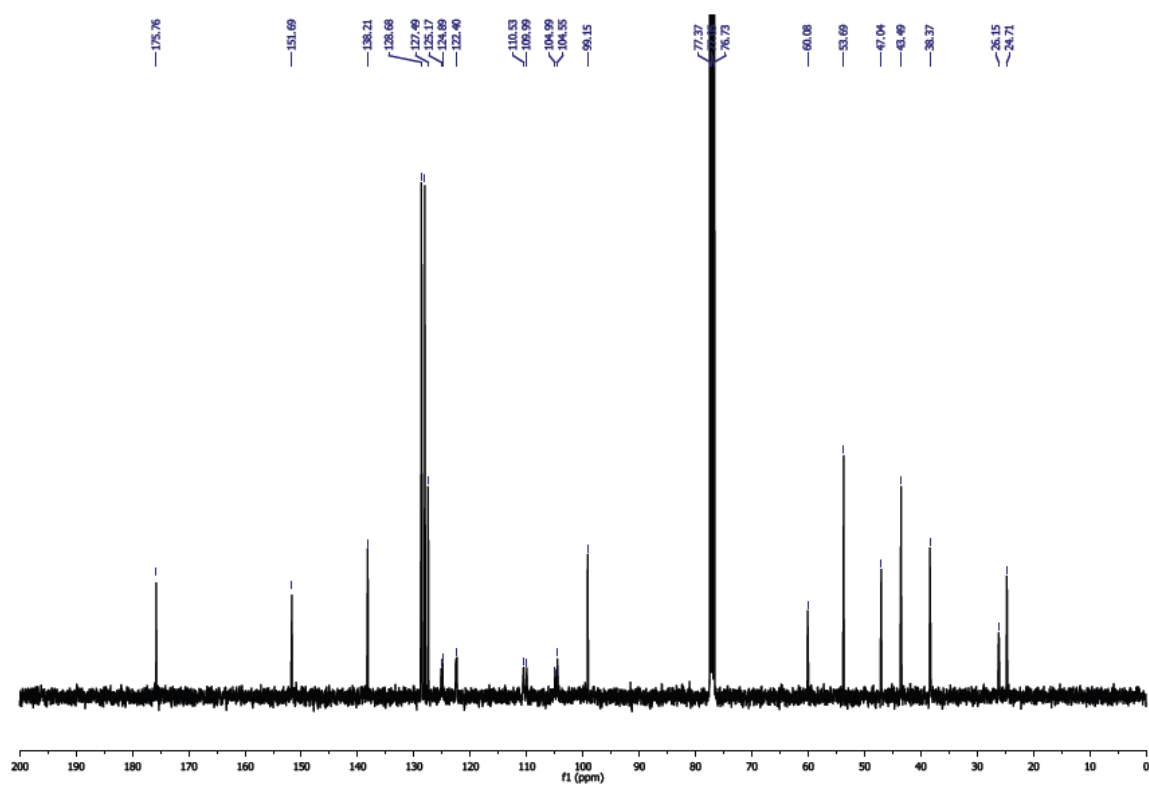
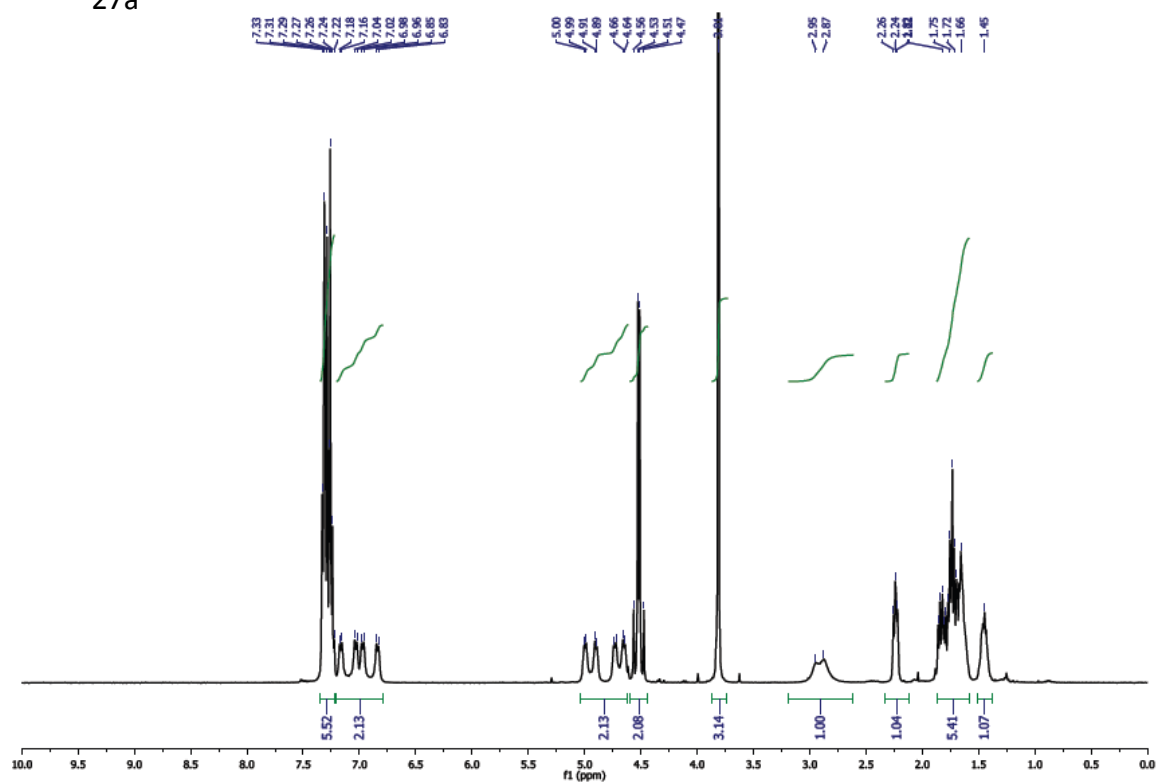
26

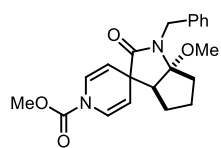
jls434  
mPROTON CDCl<sub>3</sub> {e:\bruk400data\2010\Nov} jpc 14



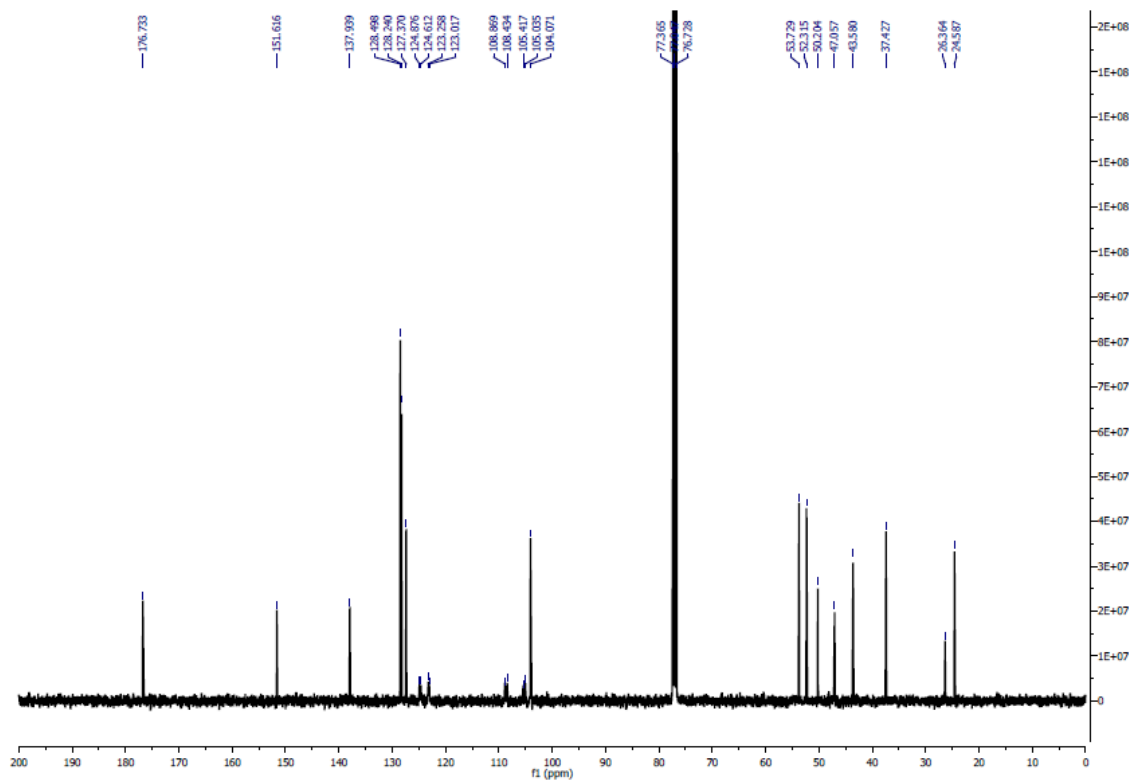
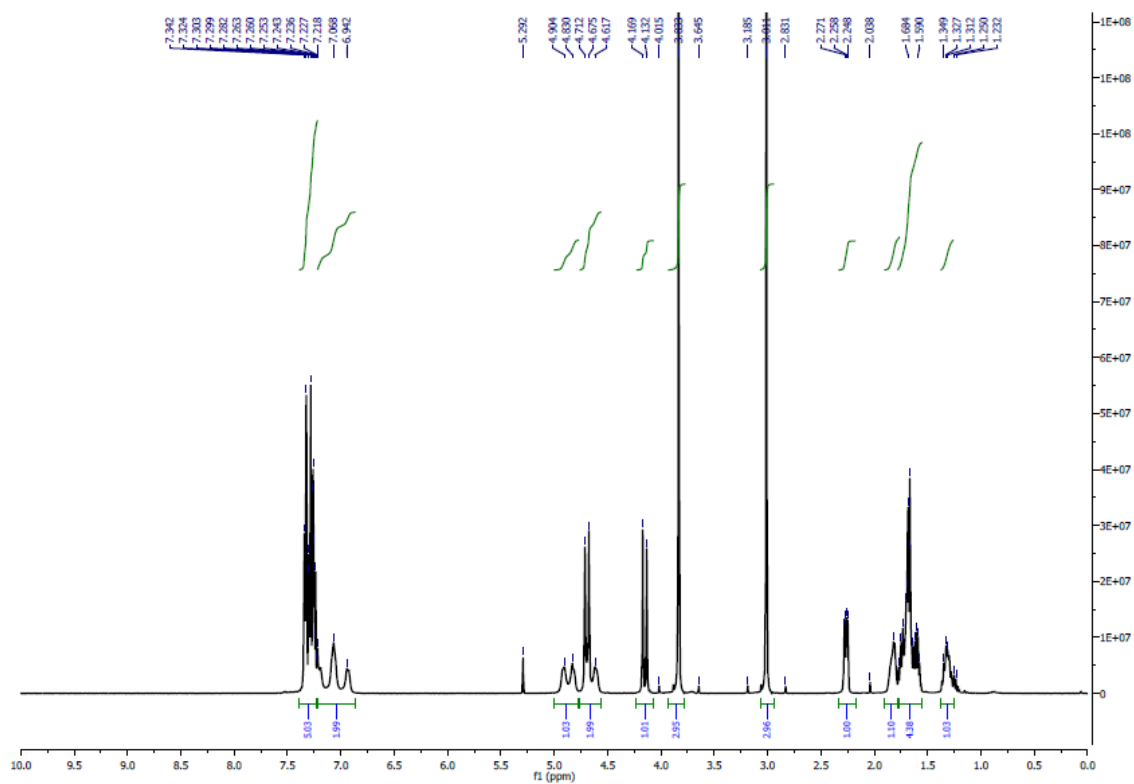


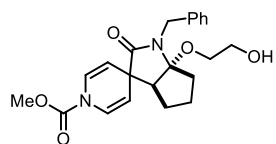
27a



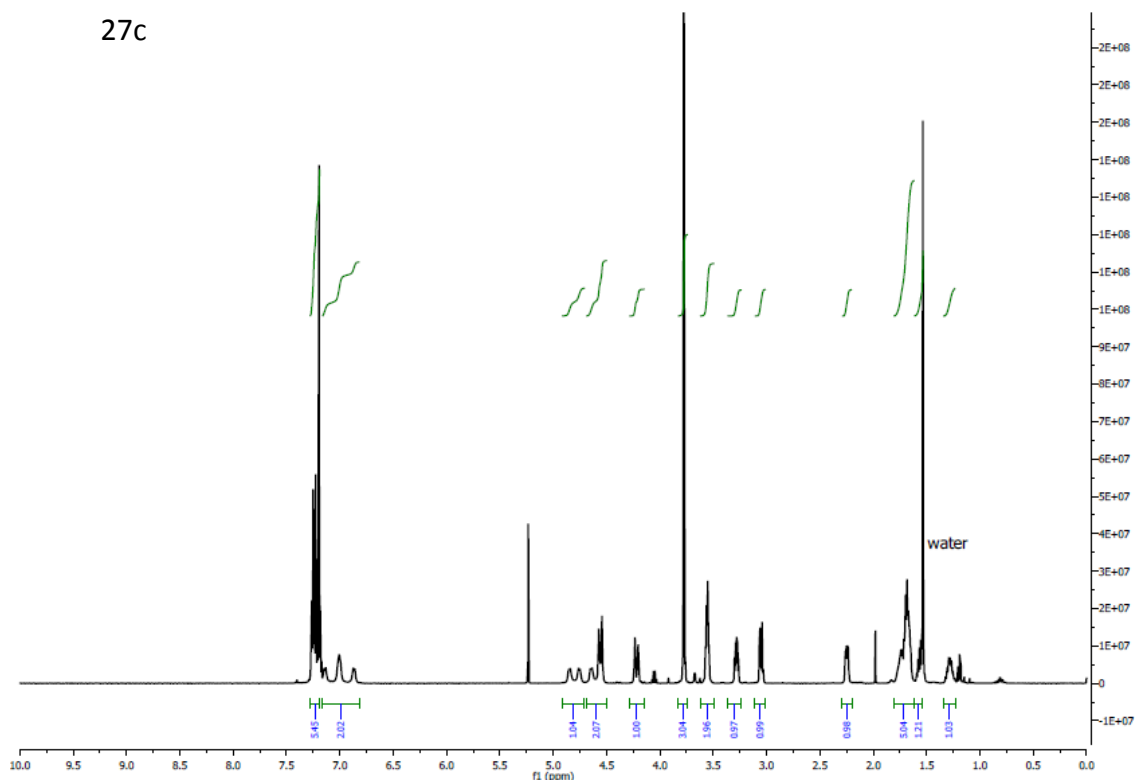


27b

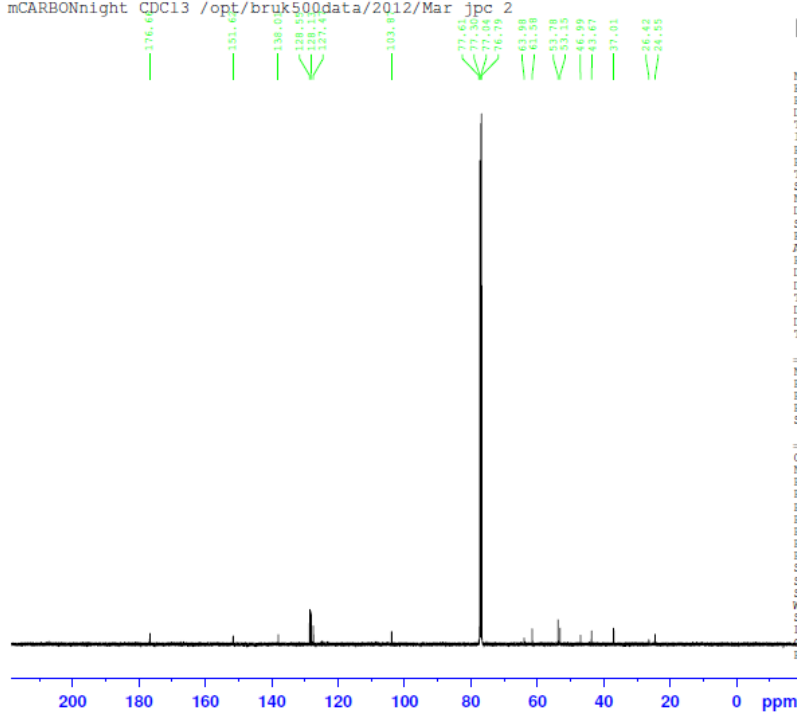




27c



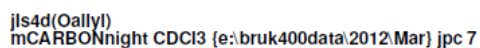
JPC j1s4d(OEtOH)  
mCARBONnight CDC13 /opt/bruk500data/2012/Mar\_jpc 2

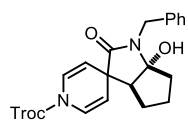


NAME 2012-03-07-jpc-2  
EXPNO 11  
PROCNO 1  
Date\_ 20120307  
Time 22.25  
INSTRUM spect  
PROBHD 5 mm PABBO BB-  
PULPROG zgpg30  
TD 65536  
SOLVENT CDC13  
NS 1024  
DS 2  
SWH 29761.904 Hz  
FIDRES 0.454131 Hz  
AQ 1.1010548 sec  
RG 512  
DW 16.800 usec  
DE 32.78 usec  
TE 292.5 K  
D1 2.0000000 sec  
D11 0.0300000 sec  
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====  
NUC1 13C  
P1 8.80 usec  
PL1 -1.00 dB  
PL1W 104.35516357 W  
SFO1 125.7703643 MHz

===== CHANNEL f2 =====  
CPOPRG2 waltz16  
NUC2 1H  
PCPD2 80.00 usec  
PL2 0.00 dB  
PL12 17.23 dB  
PL13 120.00 dB  
PL2W 25.62124252 W  
PL12W 0.48484197 W  
PL13W 0.00000000 W  
SFO2 500.1320005 MHz  
SI 32768  
SF 125.7577890 MHz  
WDW EM  
SSB 0  
LB 1.00 Hz  
GB 0  
PC 1.40





27e

