

# Supporting Information

## Addition of Indoles to Oxyallyl Cations for Facile Access to $\alpha$ -Indole Carbonyl Compounds

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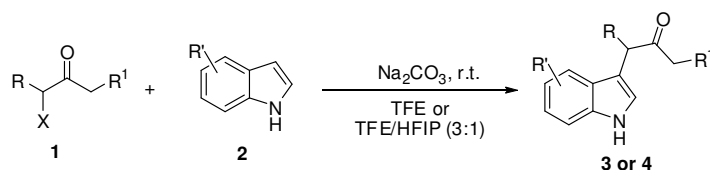
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## I. General Information.

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) were recorded on a JEOL ECA400 (400 MHz), Bruker AV300 (300 MHz), AV400 (400 MHz), AV500 (500 MHz) or BBFO400 (400 MHz) spectrometers.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$ ) relative to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  0.00) or DMSO ( $\delta$  = 2.50, singlet), and the splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), dd (doublet of doublets); m (multiplets), and etc. All first-order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted are designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). High resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) was performed on Finnigan MAT 95 XP mass spectrometer (Thermo Electron Corporation). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck 60 F254 pre-coated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness). Visualization was performed using a UV lamp or chemical stains like  $\text{KMnO}_4$  and 2,4-dinitrophenyl hydrazine solutions.

Commercially available materials purchased from Alfa Aesar or Aldrich were used as received, except  $\alpha$ -haloketones that were further purified *via* distillation or column chromatography over silica gel prior to use. Some of the  $\alpha$ -chloroketones (manuscript Table 2, **1c**,<sup>1</sup> **1d**,<sup>2</sup> **1e**,<sup>3</sup> **1h**<sup>4</sup>) and bromoketones (manuscript Table 2, **1g**, **1i**, **1j**, **1l**, **1o**, **1p**)<sup>5</sup> were prepared using literature method.

## II-A. General procedure for addition of indoles to $\alpha$ -haloketones (for Scheme 1 and Table 2 in the manuscript).

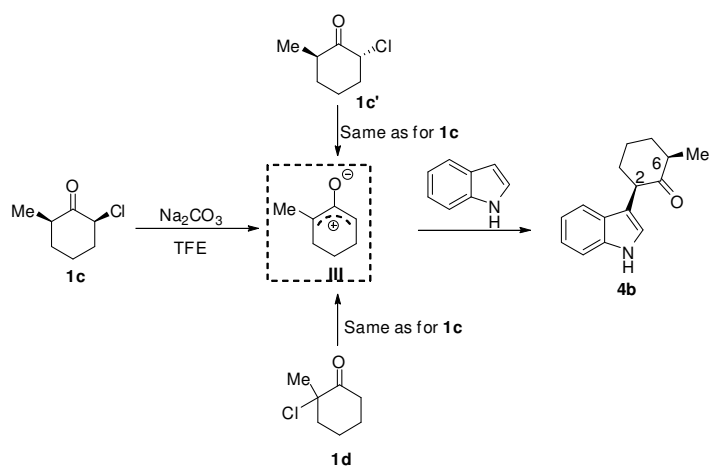


A 4 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with freshly distilled  $\alpha$ -haloketone **1** (0.5 mmol), indole **2** (0.5 mmol) and TFE (1.0 mL) or TFE/HFIP (3:1). Anhydrous  $Na_2CO_3$  (0.6 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred at r.t. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC and crude  $^1H$  NMR analysis), the reaction mixture was filtered through a celite pad using  $Et_2O$  or  $CH_2Cl_2$  and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography using  $EtOAc$ /hexanes as eluent to give pure product **3** or **4**. In some cases, analytically pure products could be obtained merely by simple filtration and evaporation under reduced pressure.

## II-B. Studies of the reaction mechanism.

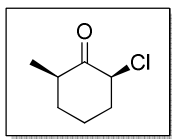
The three isomers of chloro methyl cyclohexanone (two diastereomers **1c** and **1c'**, and one regiomers **1d**) were subjected to identical reaction conditions in presence of  $Na_2CO_3$  in TFE. After completion of the reaction, they all produced the same product *cis*-**4b** in same d.r. These results suggest the formation of common oxyallyl intermediate **III** and accordingly, the  $S_N1$  pathway for the reactions (Scheme S1). The relative *cis*-configuration of **4b** was confirmed by NOE experiment. Irradiation of the multiplet peak at 3.94 ppm (corresponding to H-2) resulted in the observation of strong NOEs with the multiplet peak at 2.69 ppm (corresponding to H-6). Similar observations were obtained for the two regiomers of dichloroacetones (manuscript Table 2, **1m** and **1n**) also, as described in equation 1 in the manuscript, further supporting our postulated mechanism.

| Entry | Chloroketone <b>1</b>                                       | Time (d) | <b>4b</b>            |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 1     | <i>cis</i> -2-Chloro-6-methylcyclohexanone ( <b>1c</b> )    | 3.0      | 73% yield, 10:1 d.r. |
| 2     | <i>trans</i> -2-Chloro-6-methylcyclohexanone ( <b>1c'</b> ) | 3.0      | 76% yield, 10:1 d.r. |
| 3     | 2-Chloro-2-methylcyclohexanone ( <b>1d</b> )                | 1.5      | 88% yield, 10:1 d.r. |

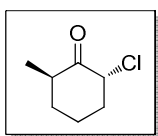


**Scheme S1.** Studies of the reaction mechanism.

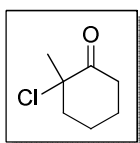
### III. Characterizations of substrates and products:



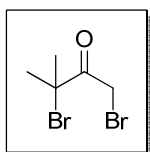
**cis-2-Chloro-6-methylcyclohexanone (1c):** Colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.62 – 4.39 (m, 1H), 2.67 – 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.49 (dt,  $J = 13.0, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.12 (dtd,  $J = 8.5, 5.7, 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.42 (qd,  $J = 13.0, 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H).



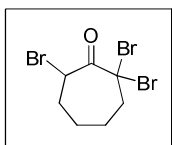
**trans-2-Chloro-6-methylcyclohexanone (1c'):** Colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.30 (t,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.21 – 3.07 (m, 1H), 2.39 – 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 2.00 (m, 3H), 1.78 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3H).



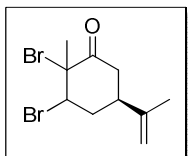
**2-Chloro-2-methylcyclohexanone (1d):** Colorless liquid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  3.12 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.40 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.15 – 1.97 (m, 2H), 1.86 (ddd,  $J = 14.7, 12.2, 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.77 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.68 – 1.54 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  70.47, 42.96, 36.95, 27.05, 26.59, 21.39.



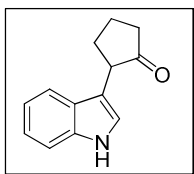
**1,3-Dibromo-3-methylbutan-2-one (1j):** Prepared using 2.2 equivalents of bromine as per the literature method in described in reference 5; Brown oil, 51% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.44 (s, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.7, 62.6, 29.9, 29.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_9\text{Br}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 241.8942, Found: 241.8944.



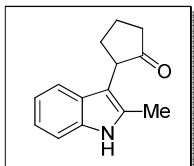
**2,2,7-Tribromocycloheptanone (1p):** Prepared using 3.5 equivalents of bromine as per the literature method described in reference 5; Brown solid, 48% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.01 (dd,  $J = 11.5, 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd,  $J = 16.1, 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd,  $J = 16.0, 10.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 – 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.04 (qdd,  $J = 11.5, 4.1, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.99 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.51 – 1.32 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  191.7, 67.3, 47.6, 46.9, 36.9, 28.09, 25.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}_3\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 346.8282, Found: 346.8290.



**(5R)-2,3-Dibromo-2-methyl-5-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohexanone (1q):**<sup>6</sup> Brown oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.86 (s, 1H), 4.85 – 4.81 (m, 2H), 3.27 (t,  $J = 14.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.09 (t,  $J = 13.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.85 (t,  $J = 13.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d,  $J = 14.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.23 (dd,  $J = 14.8, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  201.5, 145.6, 111.1, 63.0, 59.7, 40.4, 40.2, 35.7, 28.1, 20.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{15}\text{Br}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 308.9490, Found: 308.9495.

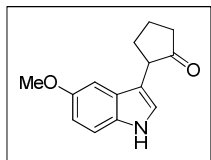


**2-(1H-Indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3a):** White solid, >95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.07 (brs, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.62 (t,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.44 – 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.26 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 2.08 – 1.89 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  218.9, 136.5, 126.8, 122.1, 121.7, 119.5, 119.3, 113.0, 111.3, 47.1, 38.1, 31.5, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 200.1075, Found: 200.1074.

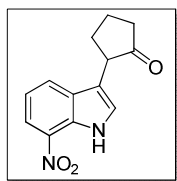


**2-(2-Methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3b):** White solid, >95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86 (brs, 1H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.71 – 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.53 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.26 – 2.14

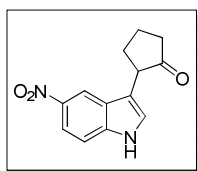
(m, 2H), 2.04 – 1.93 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  219.9, 135.5, 132.6, 127.1, 121.0, 119.2, 118.1, 110.7, 108.5, 47.4, 38.6, 31.3, 21.4, 11.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 214.1232, Found: 214.1231.



**2-(5-Methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3c):** White solid, 92% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.00 (brs, 1H), 7.24 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.58 (t,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (ddd,  $J$  = 14.9, 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.3, 7.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.44 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.29 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 1.87 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  218.8, 154.0, 131.6, 127.3, 122.4, 112.8, 112.3, 111.9, 101.4, 55.9, 47.1, 38.1, 31.3, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 230.1181, Found: 230.1178.

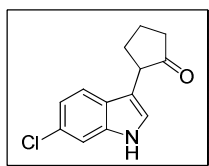


**2-(7-Nitro-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3d):** Yellow solid, 81% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.84 (brs, 1H), 8.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (t,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 – 2.46 (m, 2H), 2.46 – 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.31 – 2.10 (m, 2H), 2.11 – 1.87 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  217.6, 132.9, 130.8, 129.8, 127.8, 123.8, 119.5, 118.9, 114.7, 46.7, 37.9, 31.1, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 245.0926, Found: 245.0928.

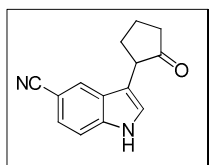


**2-(5-Nitro-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3e):** Yellow solid, 84% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.70 (brs, 1H), 8.51 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2.2, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd,  $J$  = 10.6, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.47 – 2.21 (m, 3H), 2.22 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.98 (d,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  217.7, 140.7, 139.9, 126.79,

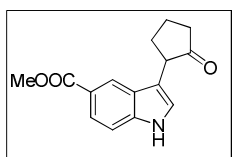
126.72, 117.1, 116.9, 115.5, 112.3, 46.5, 37.8, 30.7, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{13}N_2O_3$  ( $M+1$ )<sup>+</sup>: 245.0926, Found: 245.0930.



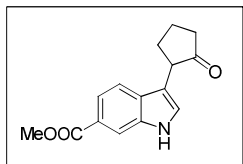
**2-(6-Chloro-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3f):** Light red solid, 94% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.41 (brs, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dt,  $J$  = 8.6, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd,  $J$  = 10.1, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.3, 7.4, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 2.42 – 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.22 – 1.79 (m, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  219.5, 134.8, 127.7, 125.0, 123.5, 122.3, 118.6, 112.5, 112.3, 47.2, 38.1, 31.3, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{13}ClNO$  ( $M+1$ )<sup>+</sup>: 234.0686, Found: 234.0681.



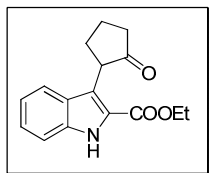
**3-(2-Oxocyclopentyl)-1H-indole-5-carbonitrile (3g):** White solid, 95% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.43 (brs, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.40 (q,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.73 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.47 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.29 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 2.17 – 1.88 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  218.3, 138.1, 126.6, 125.2, 125.0, 123.9, 120.7, 113.9, 112.2, 102.5, 46.9, 38.0, 31.2, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{14}H_{13}N_2O$  ( $M+1$ )<sup>+</sup>: 225.1028, Found: 225.1025.



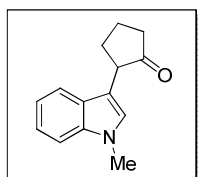
**Methyl 3-(2-oxocyclopentyl)-1H-indole-5-carboxylate (3h):** White solid, 90% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  8.31 (s, 1H), 8.29 (brs, 1H), 7.90 (dd,  $J$  = 8.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.66 (dd,  $J$  = 11.0, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.73 – 2.59 (m, 1H), 2.61 – 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.39 (ddd,  $J$  = 18.9, 10.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.95 (m, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  219.1, 168.3, 139.1, 126.4, 123.39, 123.35, 122.1, 121.3, 114.1, 111.1, 51.9, 47.1, 38.1, 31.6, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{16}NO_3$  ( $M+1$ )<sup>+</sup>: 258.1130, Found: 258.1128.



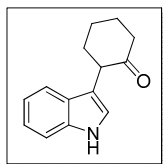
**Methyl 3-(2-oxocyclopentyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylate (3i):** White solid, 89% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.66 (brs, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.76 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.60 (t,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.67 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.38 (ddd,  $J = 18.9, 10.3, 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.17 (dddd,  $J = 23.3, 18.0, 9.1, 4.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 1.93 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  218.8, 168.1, 135.7, 130.3, 125.3, 123.7, 120.5, 118.8, 113.8, 113.2, 51.9, 47.1, 38.1, 31.4, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 258.1130, Found: 258.1130.



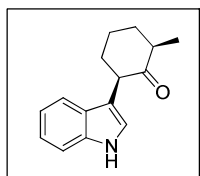
**Ethyl 3-(2-oxocyclopentyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (3j):** Colorless oil, 91% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.91 (brs, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.43 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 4.26 – 4.16 (m, 1H), 2.62 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.50 – 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.37 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 2.01 (ddd,  $J = 18.4, 9.3, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.38 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  218.5, 161.3, 135.9, 127.1, 125.6, 123.6, 121.0, 120.4, 120.3, 112.2, 60.7, 47.4, 38.2, 31.5, 21.5, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 272.1287, Found: 272.1289.



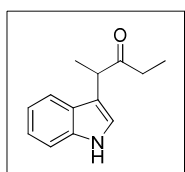
**2-(1-Methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclopentanone (3k):** White solid, 90% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t,  $J = 7.2$ , 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.61 (t,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.45 – 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.26 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 2.08 – 1.85 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  219.0, 137.3, 127.2, 126.5, 121.8, 119.4, 119.1, 111.5, 109.5, 47.2, 38.2, 32.8, 31.9, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 214.1232, Found: 214.1233.



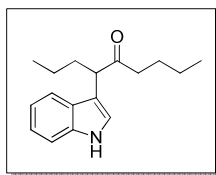
**2-(1H-Indol-3-yl)cyclohexanone (4a):** Yellow solid, 95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 (brs, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.92 (dd,  $J = 11.3, 5.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.68 – 2.48 (m, 2H), 2.48 – 2.30 (m, 1H), 2.27 – 1.98 (m, 3H), 1.98 – 1.73 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.6, 136.1, 126.9, 122.0, 121.8, 119.4, 119.1, 113.9, 111.2, 48.7, 41.9, 35.0, 28.1, 25.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 214.1232, Found: 214.1228.



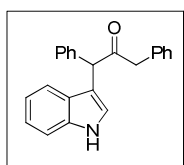
**cis-2-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-6-methylcyclohexanone (4b):** White solid, 73% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (brs, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.00 – 3.81 (m, 1H), 2.67 (dt,  $J = 12.9, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.42 (ddd,  $J = 11.7, 4.9, 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.65 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  211.9, 136.1, 127.0, 122.2, 121.7, 119.2, 118.8, 113.6, 111.3, 48.8, 45.8, 37.5, 36.5, 26.0, 14.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 228.1388, Found: 228.1386.



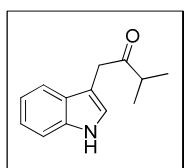
**2-(1H-Indol-3-yl)pentan-3-one (4c):** Yellow oil, >95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (brs, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.04 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 1.50 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  212.5, 136.3, 126.5, 122.3, 121.7, 119.8, 118.9, 115.9, 111.2, 43.8, 33.4, 16.8, 8.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 202.1232, Found: 202.1231.



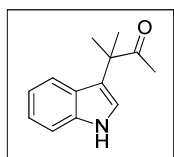
**4-(1H-Indol-3-yl)nonan-5-one (4d):** Yellow oil, 95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.26 (brs, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.93 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.12 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.52 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.29 (dt,  $J = 14.6, 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.24 – 1.09 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H), 0.78 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  211.8, 136.3, 126.8, 122.27, 122.23, 119.7, 119.0, 114.1, 111.3, 49.7, 40.9, 33.7, 26.0, 22.2, 21.0, 14.1, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 258.1858, Found: 258.1856.



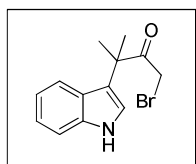
**1-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-2-one (4e):** Brown solid, 92% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (brs, 1H), 7.42 – 7.21 (m, 10H), 7.22 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 7.04 (dd,  $J = 9.8, 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 138.2, 136.2, 134.3, 129.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 127.1, 127.0, 126.7, 123.5, 122.3, 119.8, 118.8, 113.2, 111.2, 54.4, 49.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 326.1545, Found: 326.1544.



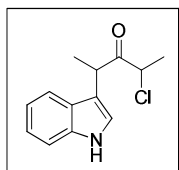
**1-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-3-methylbutan-2-one (4f):** White solid, 56% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (brs, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 2H), 2.80 (dt,  $J = 13.8, 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  212.7, 136.1, 127.4, 123.0, 122.2, 119.7, 118.6, 111.1, 108.9, 39.5, 37.5, 18.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 202.1232, Found: 202.1231.



**3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-3-methylbutan-2-one (4f', the regiomere of 4f):** White solid, 19% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (brs, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  212.6, 136.9, 125.7, 122.2, 120.7, 120.6, 119.9, 119.8, 111.2, 48.0, 30.9, 24.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 202.1232, Found: 202.1229.

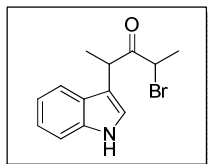


**1-Bromo-3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-methylbutan-2-one (4g):** Yellow solid, >95% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.20 (brs, 1H), 7.40 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 3.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 2H), 1.66 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.1, 136.9, 125.4, 122.6, 121.0, 120.2, 119.5, 119.0, 111.5, 47.6, 32.6, 25.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 280.0337, Found: 280.0338.



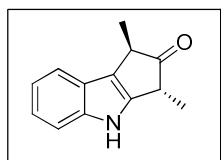
**2-Chloro-4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)pentan-3-one (4h)** (The less polar major isomer): yellow oil, 46% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.20 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.60 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.42 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.3, 136.4, 126.1, 122.6, 122.5, 120.1, 118.7, 114.3, 111.4, 54.9, 40.1, 19.3, 17.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 236.0842, Found: 236.0850.

**2-Chloro-4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)pentan-3-one (4h', more polar minor diastereomer of 4h):** yellow oil, 47% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (brs, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 7.2, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 7.2, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.54 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.56 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.56 – 1.45 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  206.0, 136.3, 126.2, 122.5, 122.3, 120.1, 118.7, 114.4, 111.4, 57.2, 40.3, 21.3, 17.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 236.0842, Found: 236.0848.

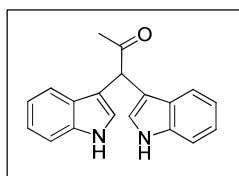


**2-Bromo-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)pentan-3-one (4i)** (the less polar major isomer): yellow solid, 46% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.16 (brs, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.66 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.57 (q,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.59 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 7.5$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  203.5, 136.3, 126.1, 122.6, 122.3, 120.1, 118.7, 114.7, 111.4, 44.9, 40.2, 19.7, 17.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 280.0337, Found: 280.0345.

**2-Bromo-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)pentan-3-one (4i')** (the more polar minor diastereomer of **4i**): yellow solid, 45% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (brs, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 4.59 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.72 – 1.47 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.5, 136.2, 126.3, 122.5, 122.2, 119.9, 118.7, 114.6, 111.35, 46.2, 40.8, 21.3, 18.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 280.0337, Found: 280.0341.

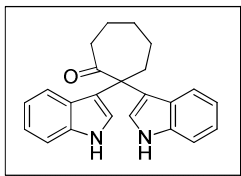


**trans-1,3-Dimethyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b]indol-2(1H)-one (4j)**: Yellow solid, 68% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 6.89 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 4.53 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.62 (qd,  $J = 7.2, 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.97 (d,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 3H), 1.34 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  208.5, 168.6, 156.2, 132.8, 127.1, 124.9, 122.7, 120.2, 112.2, 72.8, 51.6, 13.4, 8.58; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 200.1075, Found: 200.1080.

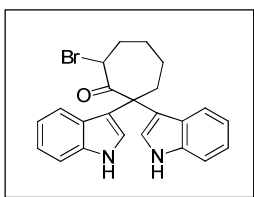


**1,1-Di(1H-indol-3-yl)propan-2-one (4k)**: Yellow solid, 72% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 (brs, 2H), 7.50 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t,  $J =$

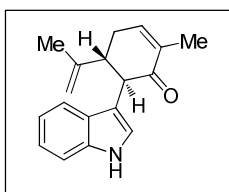
7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 2H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  207.7, 136.4, 126.7, 123.6, 122.2, 119.7, 119.0, 113.2, 111.4, 48.1, 28.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 289.1341, Found: 289.1346.



**2,2-Di(1*H*-indol-3-yl)cycloheptanone (4l):** White solid, 70% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (brs, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.79 – 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.69 – 2.59 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.61 (dd,  $J = 10.2, 5.5$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  210.5, 136.6, 126.5, 123.3, 121.6, 121.2, 119.1, 117.8, 110.8, 56.1, 40.0, 36.3, 30.4, 26.8, 24.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 342.1732, Found: 342.1733.

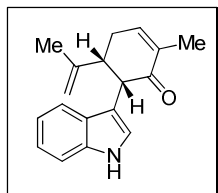


**7-Bromo-2,2-di(1*H*-indol-3-yl)cycloheptanone (4m):** White solid, 82% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.25 (brs, 1H), 8.07 (brs, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (ddd,  $J = 16.9, 9.8, 4.0$  Hz, 3H), 6.80 (ddd,  $J = 17.6, 11.6, 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 5.16 (dd,  $J = 12.3, 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd,  $J = 14.6, 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd,  $J = 14.6, 9.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.44 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.12 (ddd,  $J = 25.9, 12.3, 4.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.92 (d,  $J = 14.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.82 (dd,  $J = 14.7, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.76 – 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.53 – 1.37 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  203.0, 136.8, 136.3, 126.3, 126.1, 123.9, 122.3, 122.2, 121.38, 121.34, 120.6, 119.8, 118.9, 117.1, 116.7, 111.05, 111.01, 55.1, 52.4, 37.9, 36.0, 29.5, 23.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 342.1732, Found: 342.1733.



**(5*R*,6*R*)-6-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-2-methyl-5-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-2-enone (5):**<sup>7</sup> White solid, 57% yield;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +58^\circ$  ( $c = 0.011$  g/mL,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.00 (brs, 1H), 7.42 (d,

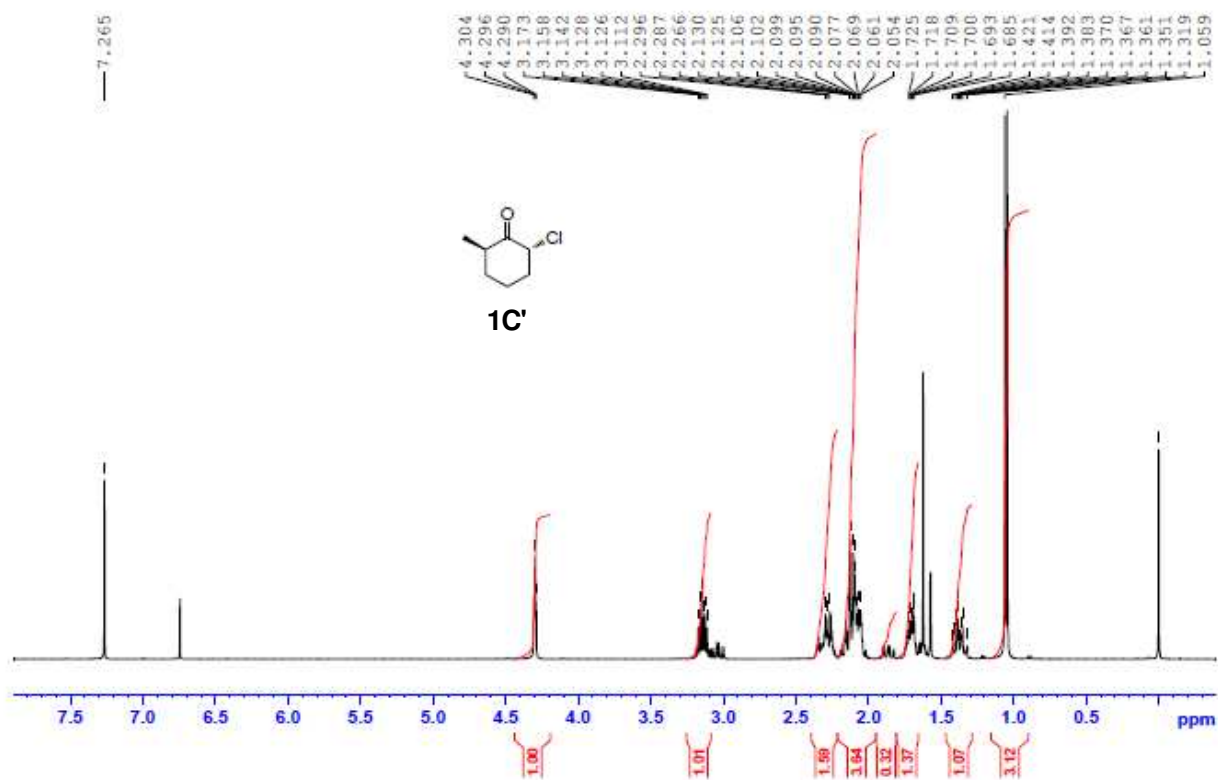
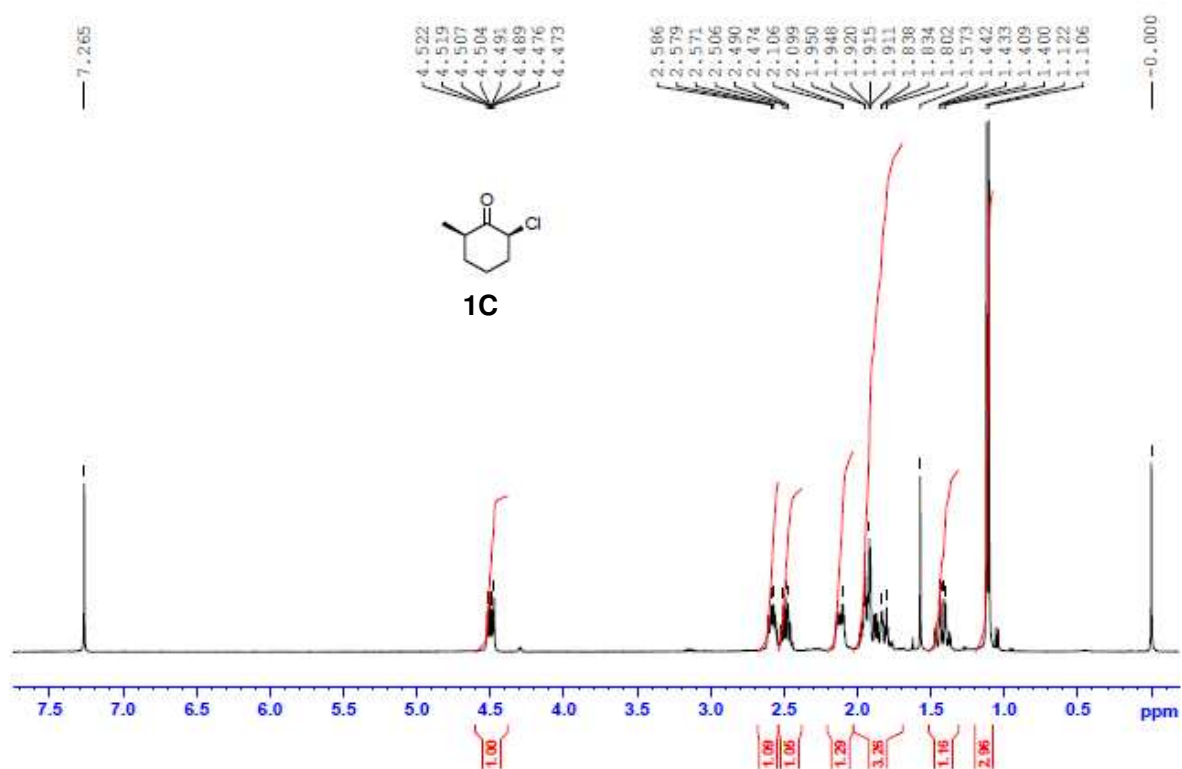
$J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dt,  $J = 8.0, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dt,  $J = 7.5, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1 H), 4.63 (s, 1 H), 3.91 (d,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.31 – 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.68 – 2.40 (m, 2H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.2, 145.9, 143.5, 136.2, 135.4, 127.1, 122.5, 121.8, 119.3, 119.2, 112.9, 112.8, 111.2, 49.0, 48.3, 30.9, 19.3, 16.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 266.1545, Found: 266.1547.

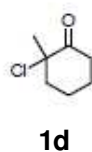
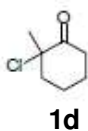


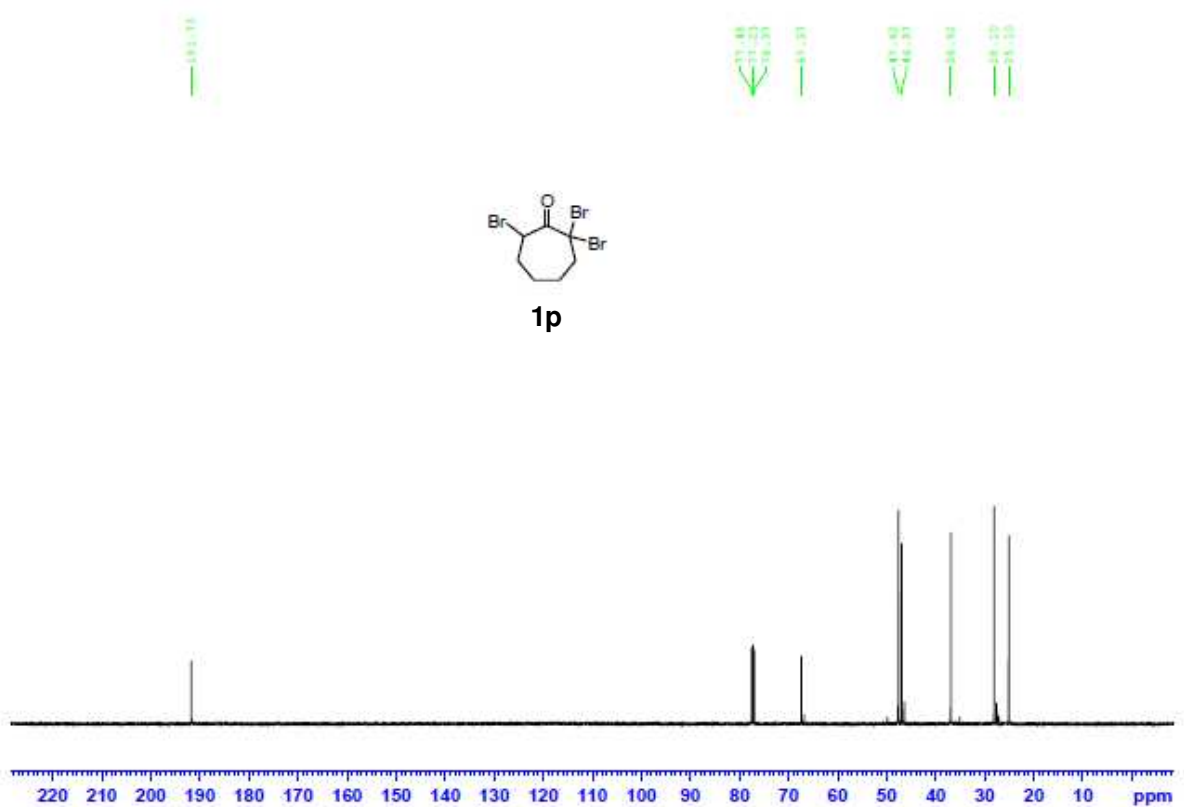
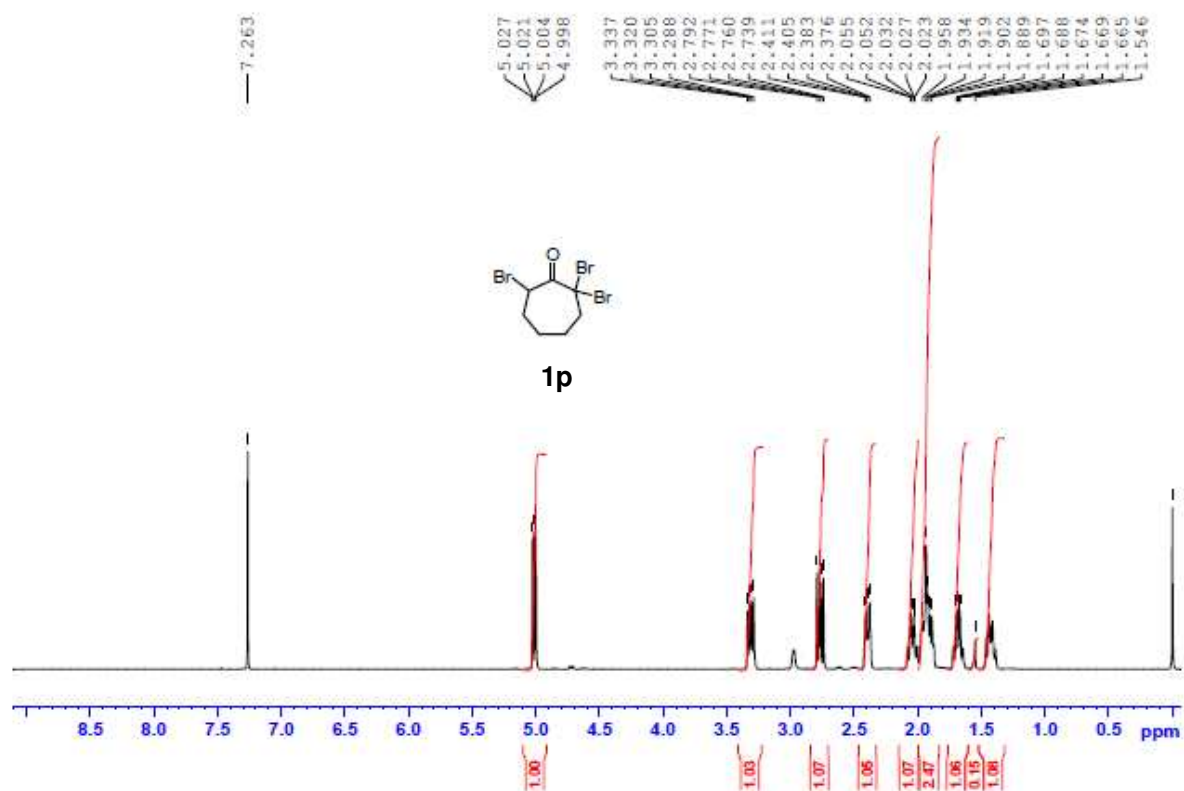
**(5R,6S)-6-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-2-methyl-5-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-2-enone (5')**: White solid, 11% yield;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -31^\circ$  ( $c = 0.008$  g/mL,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ );  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.03 (brs, 1H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd,  $J = 18.6, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dd,  $J = 3.1, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.70 (d,  $J = 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 4.29 (d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.08-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.38 (m, 1H), 1.86 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  199.1, 145.2, 144.6, 135.7, 135.2, 128.1, 122.1, 121.5, 119.6, 119.4, 112.0, 110.8, 109.7, 47.5, 45.5, 27.8, 22.0, 16.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$  ( $\text{M}+1$ ) $^+$ : 266.1545, Found: 266.1548.

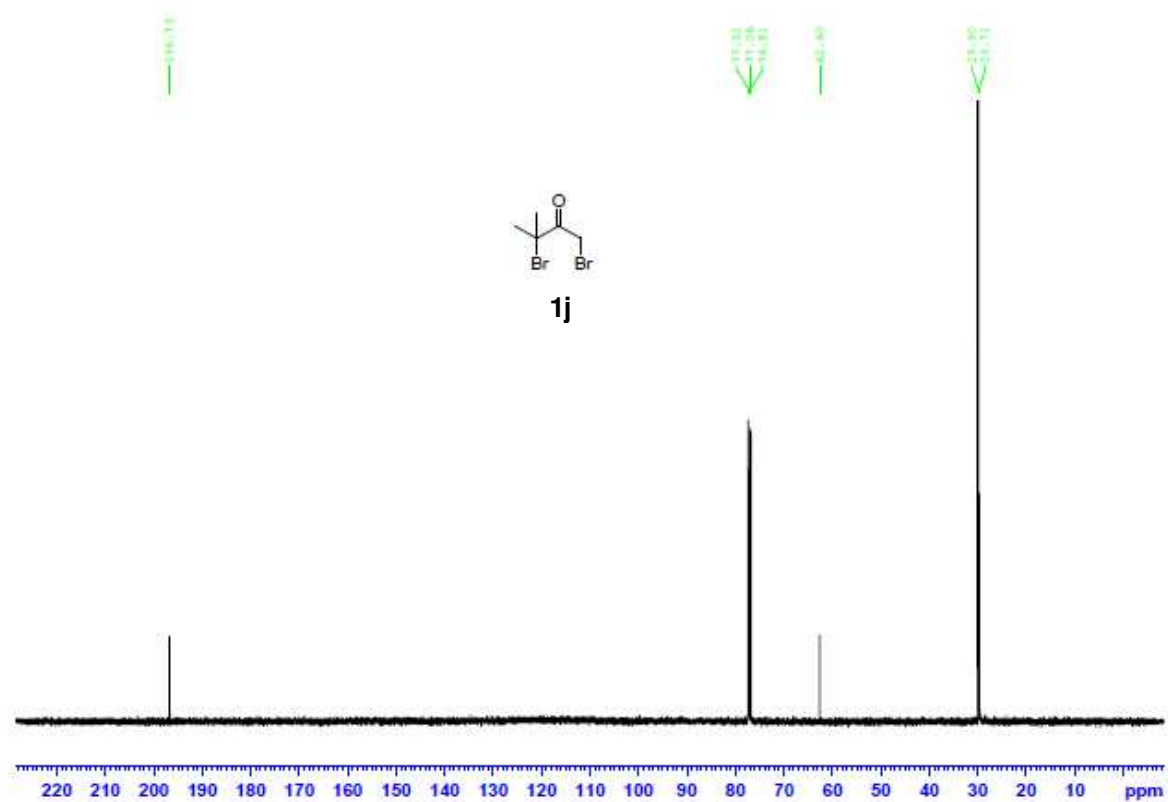
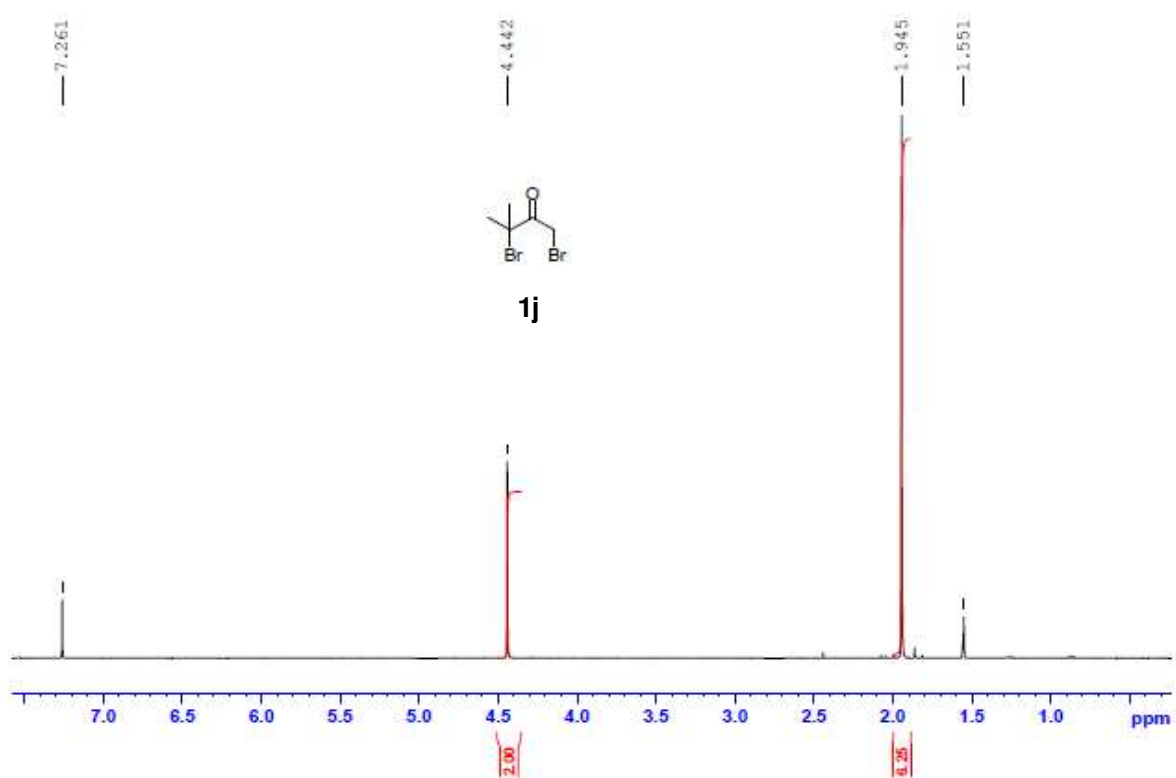
#### IV. References

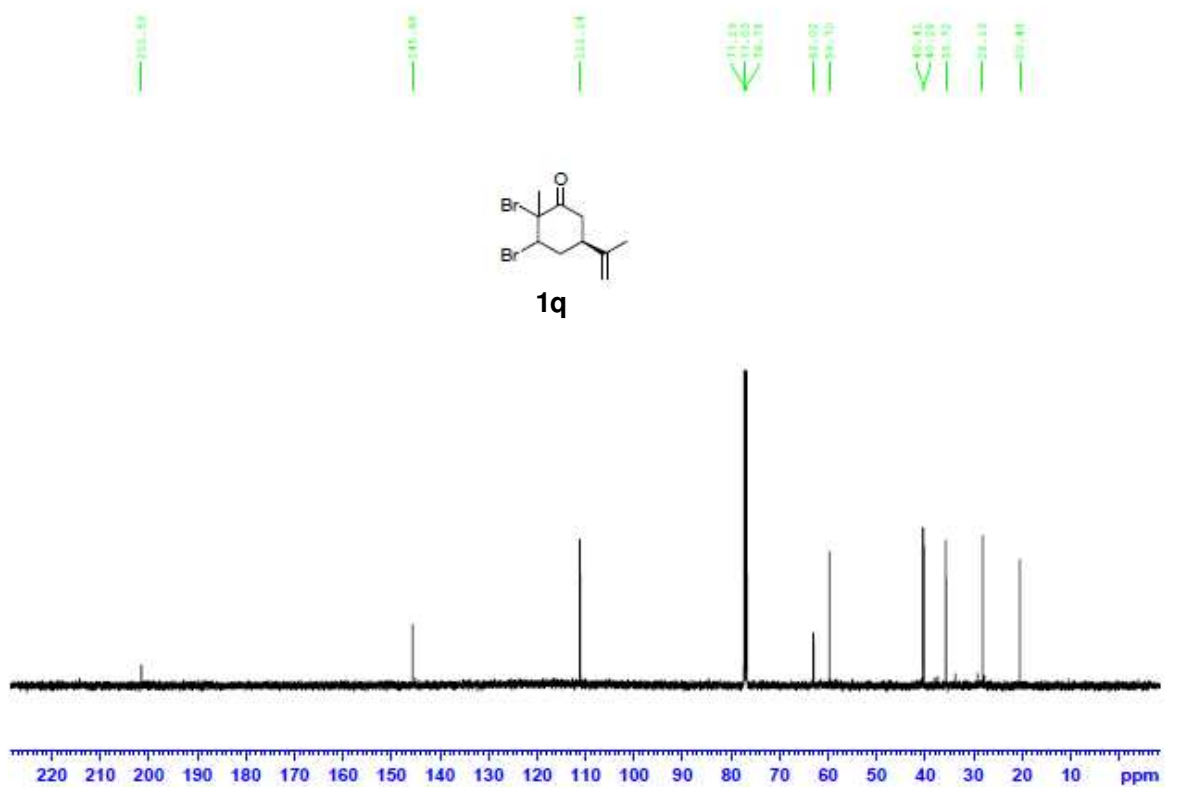
- (1) (a) Laskovics, F. M.; Schulman, E. M., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1977**, *99*, 6672. (b) Laskovics, F. M.; Schulman, E. M., *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1977**, *18*, 759.
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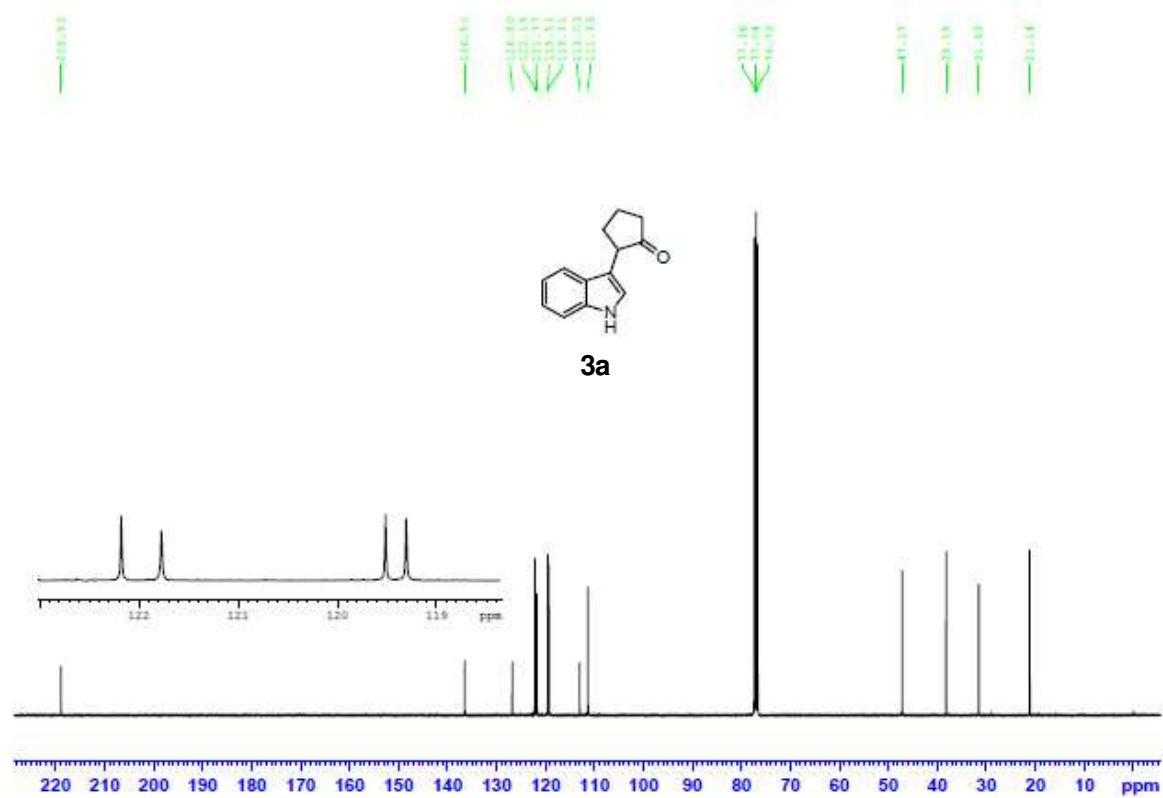
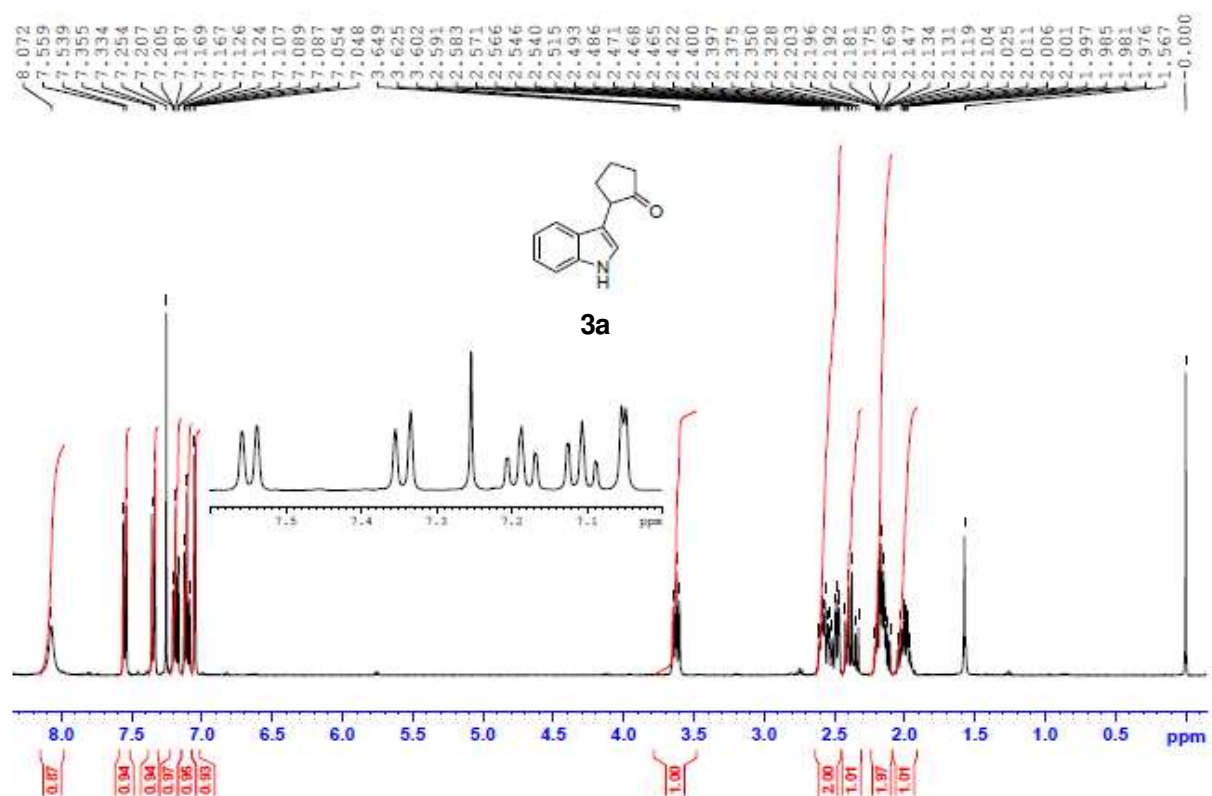


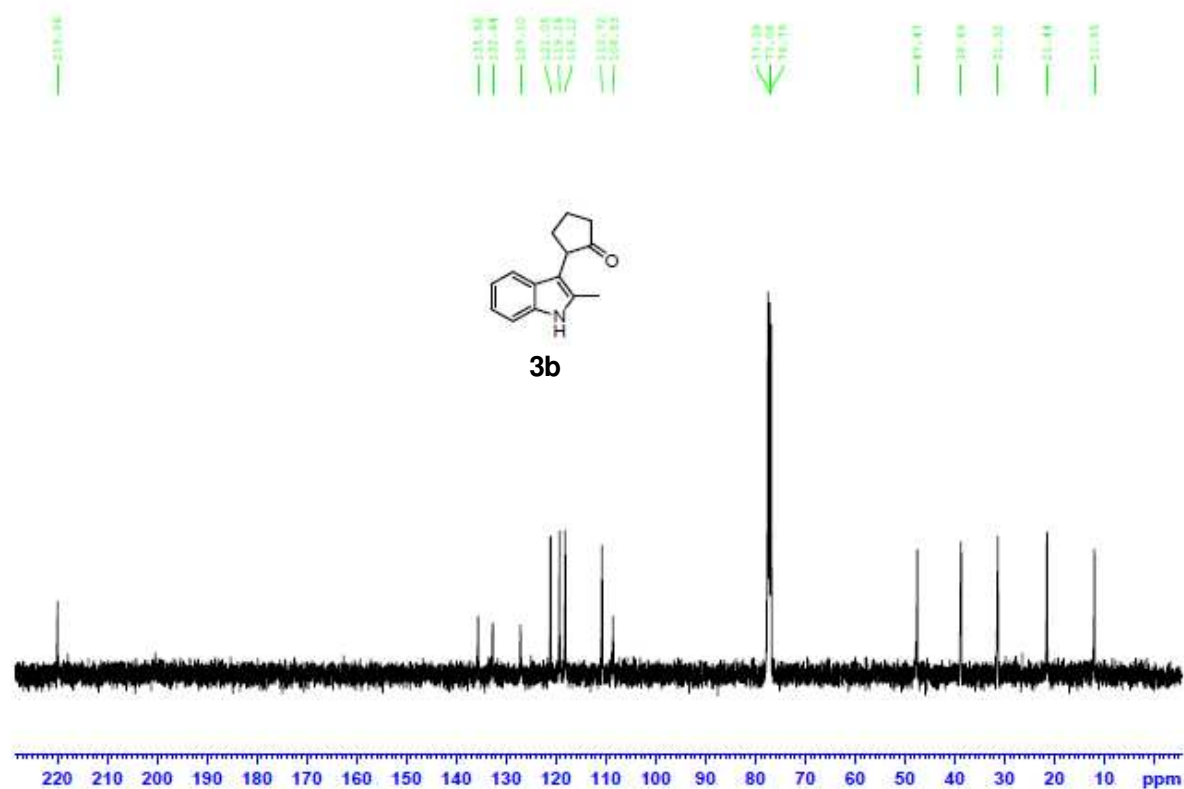
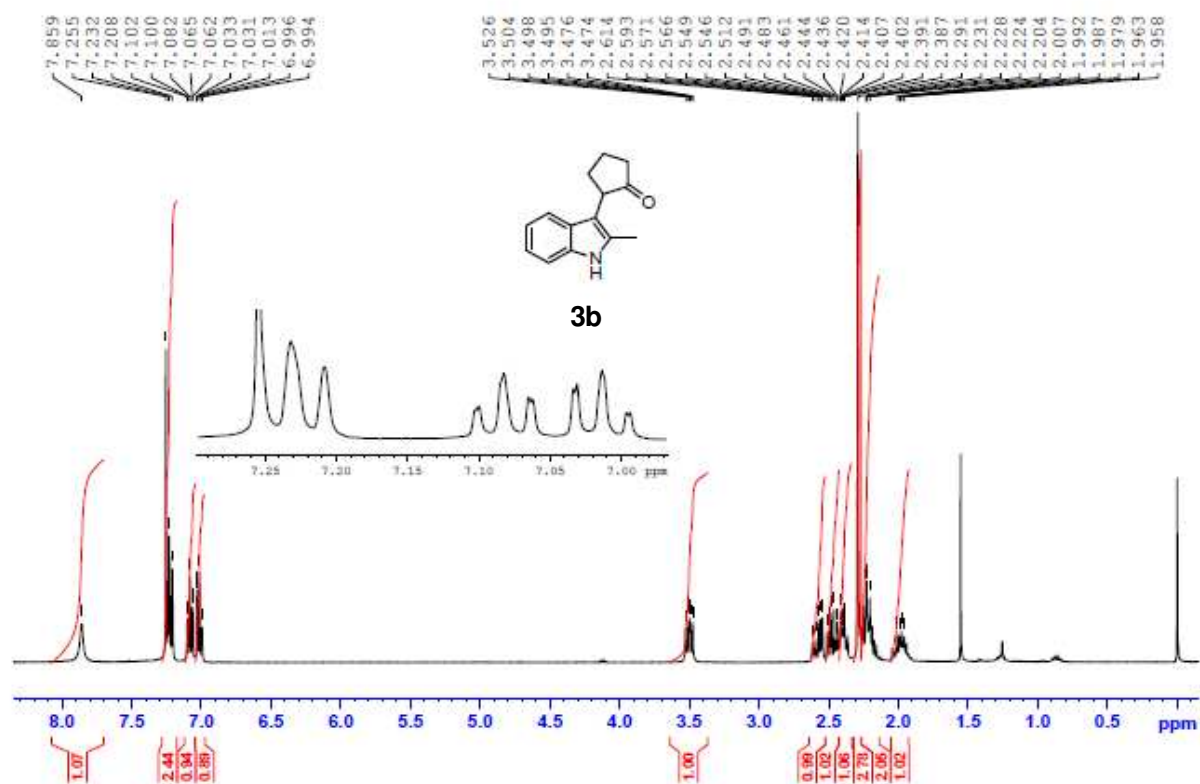




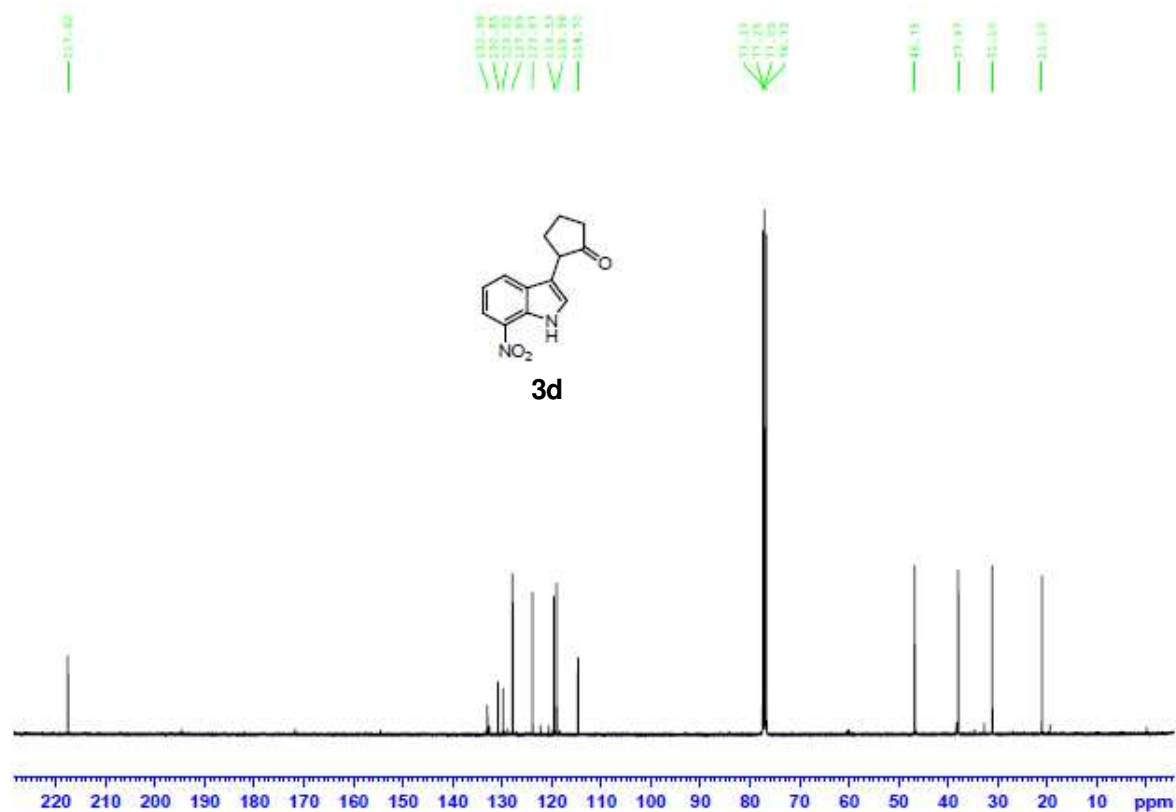
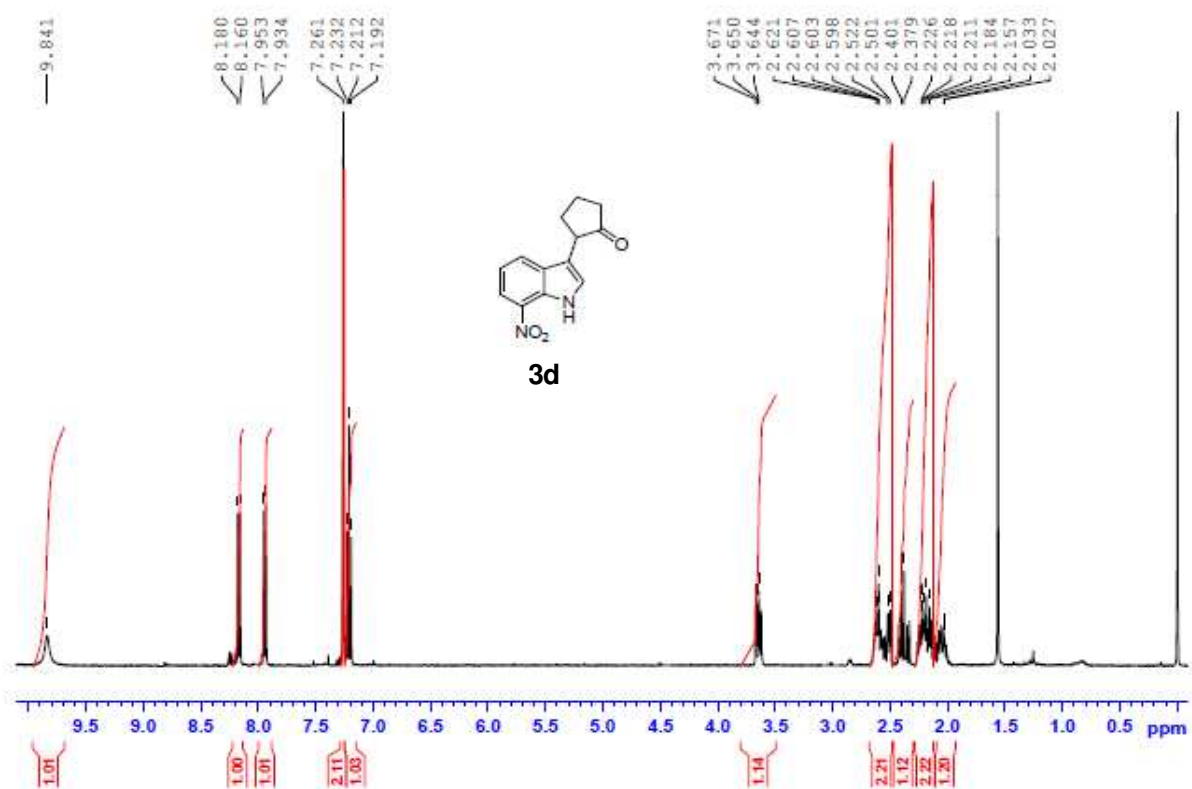




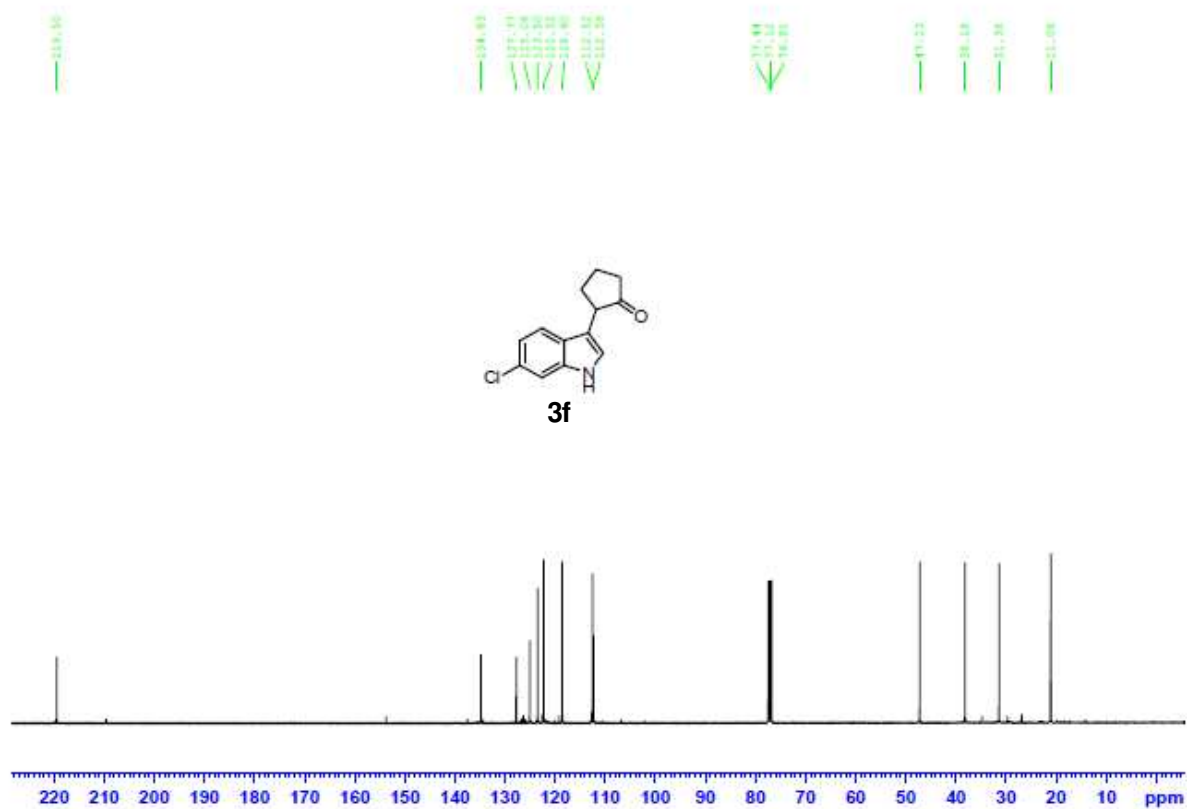
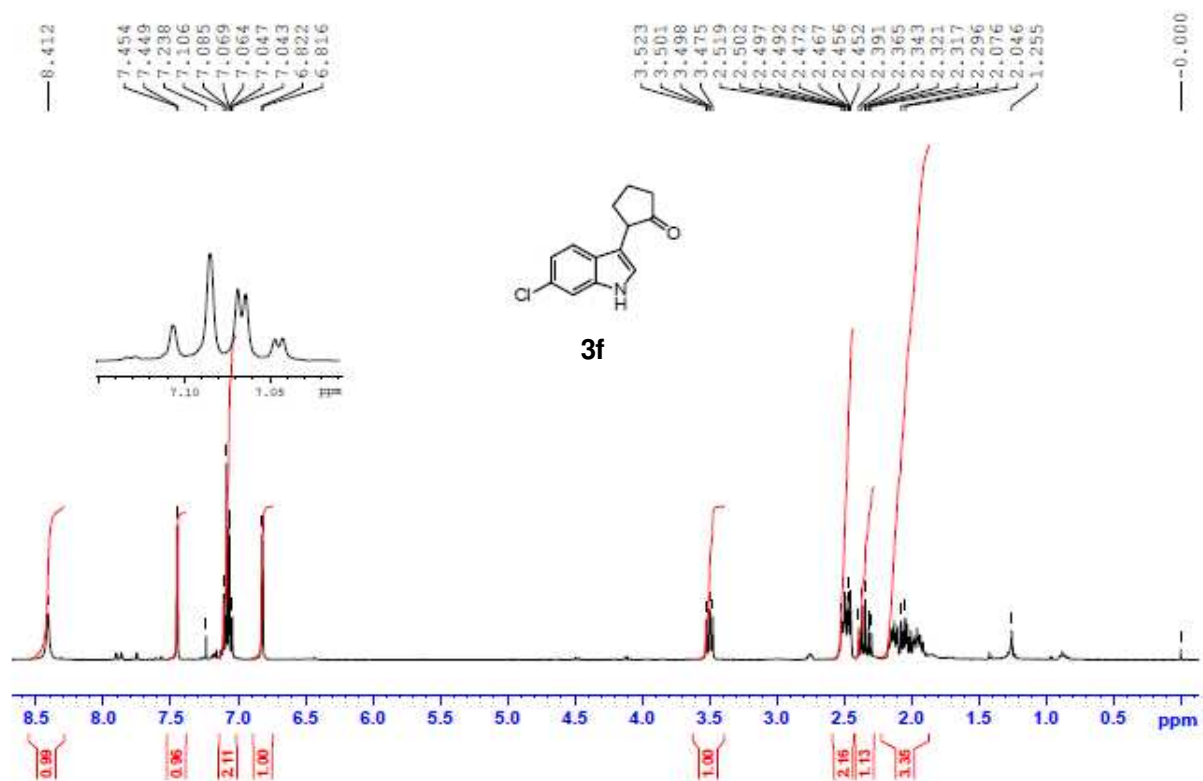




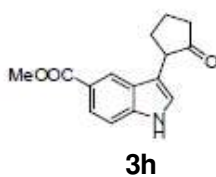
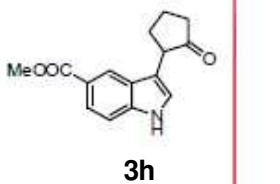




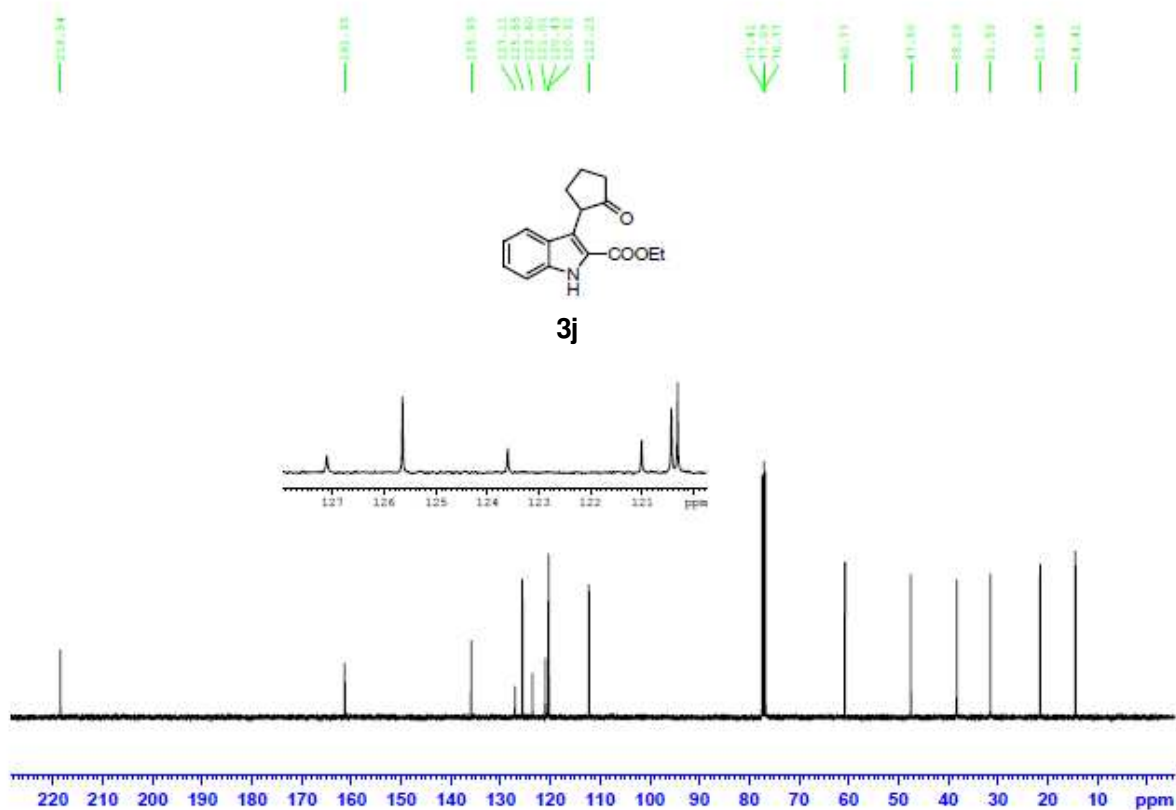
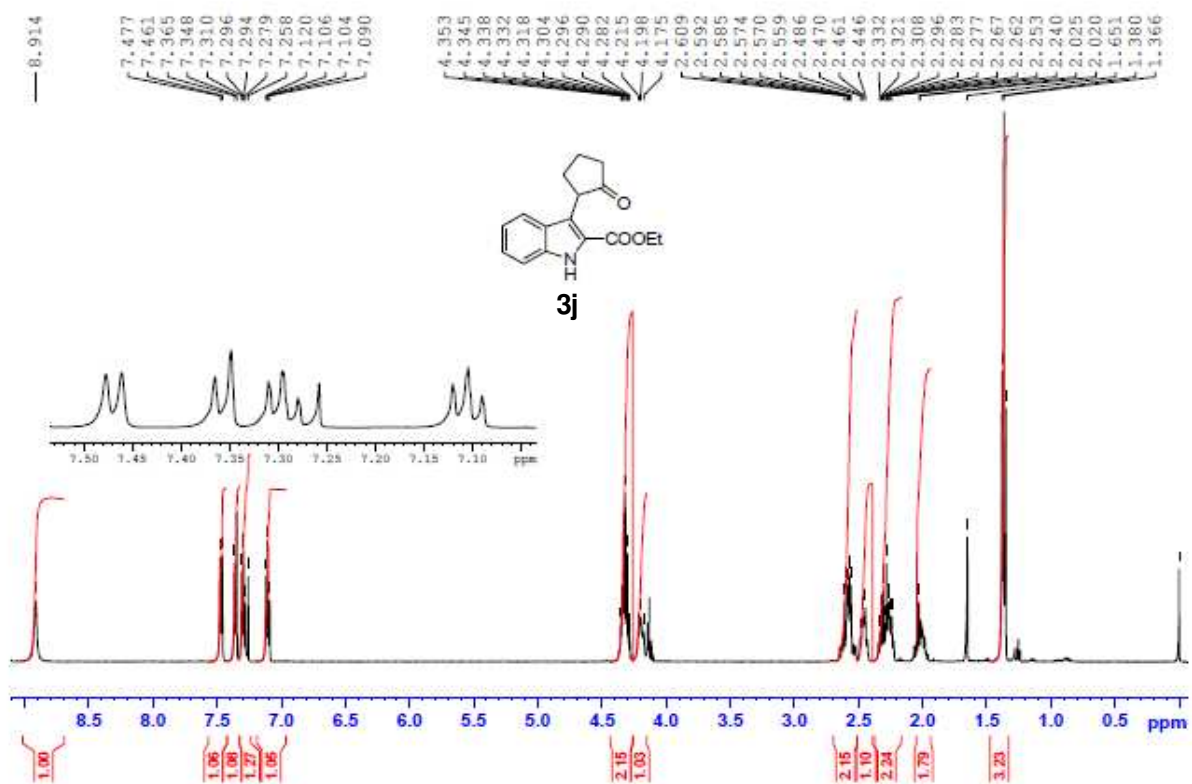


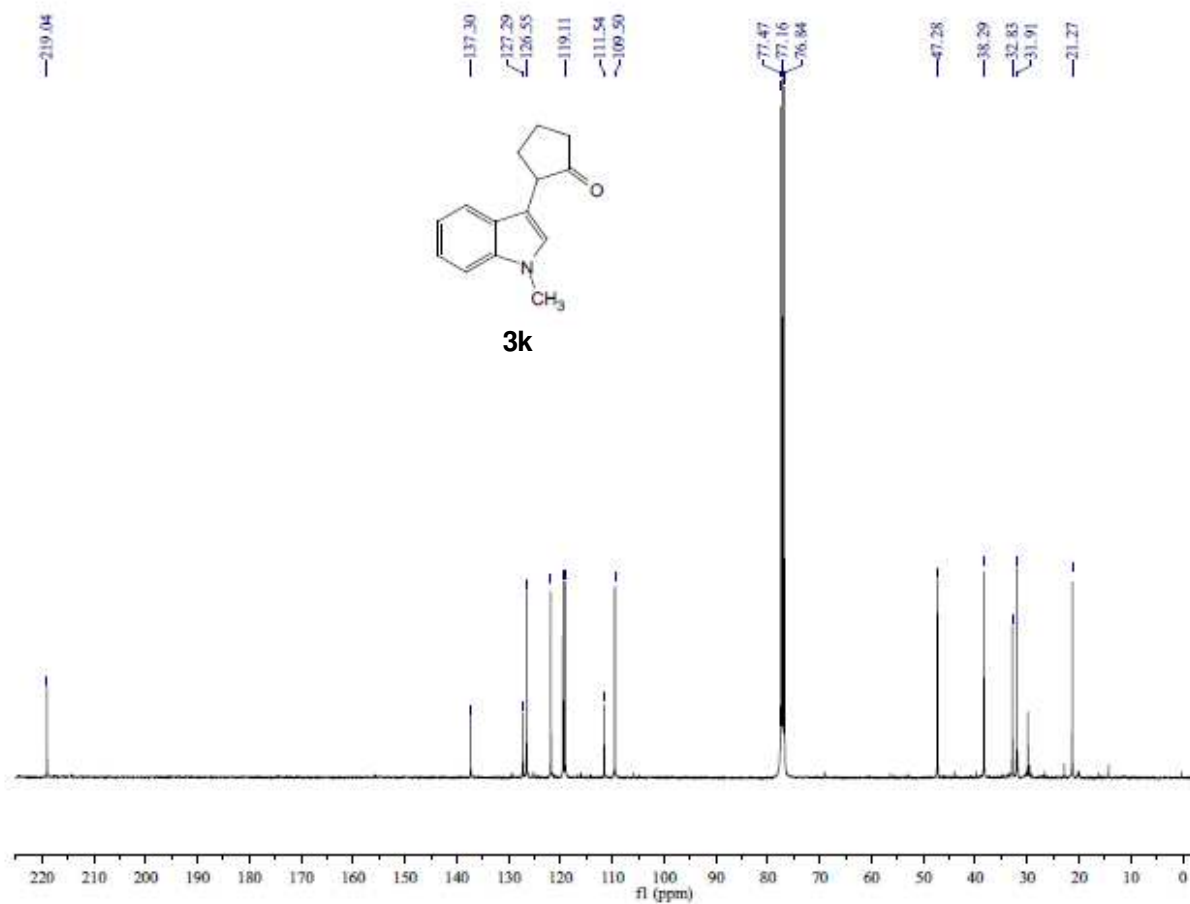
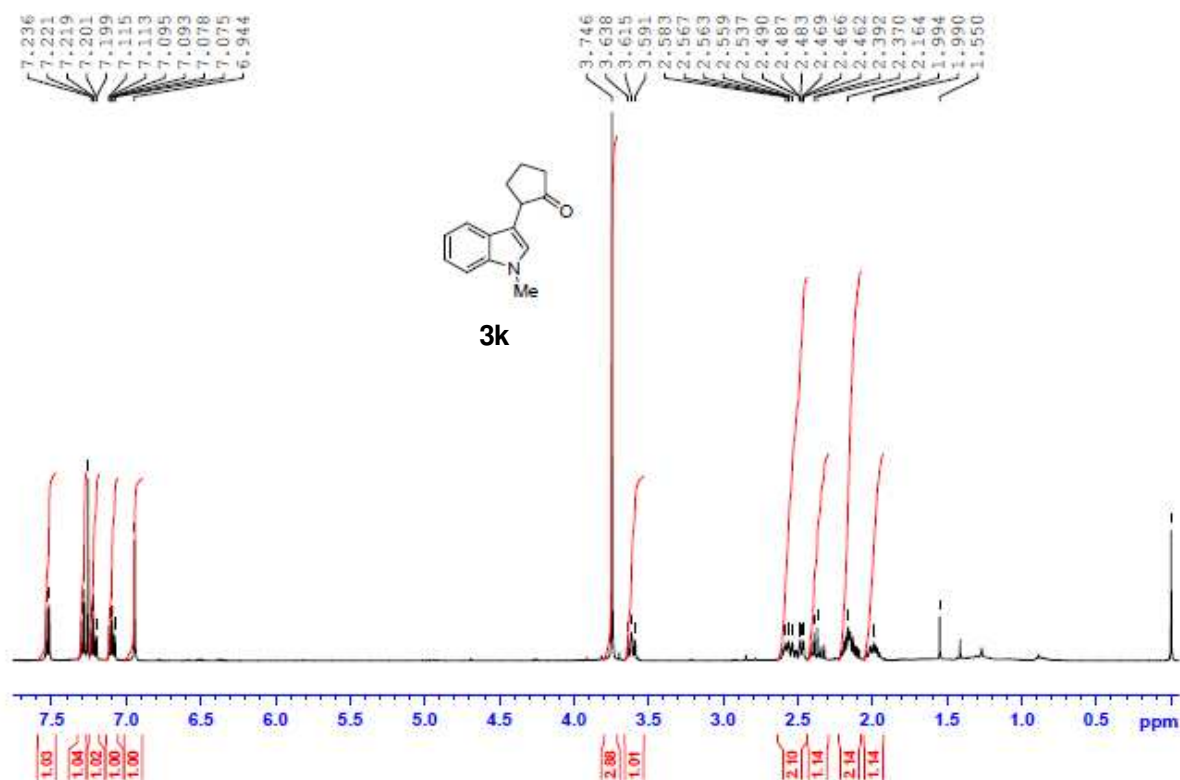


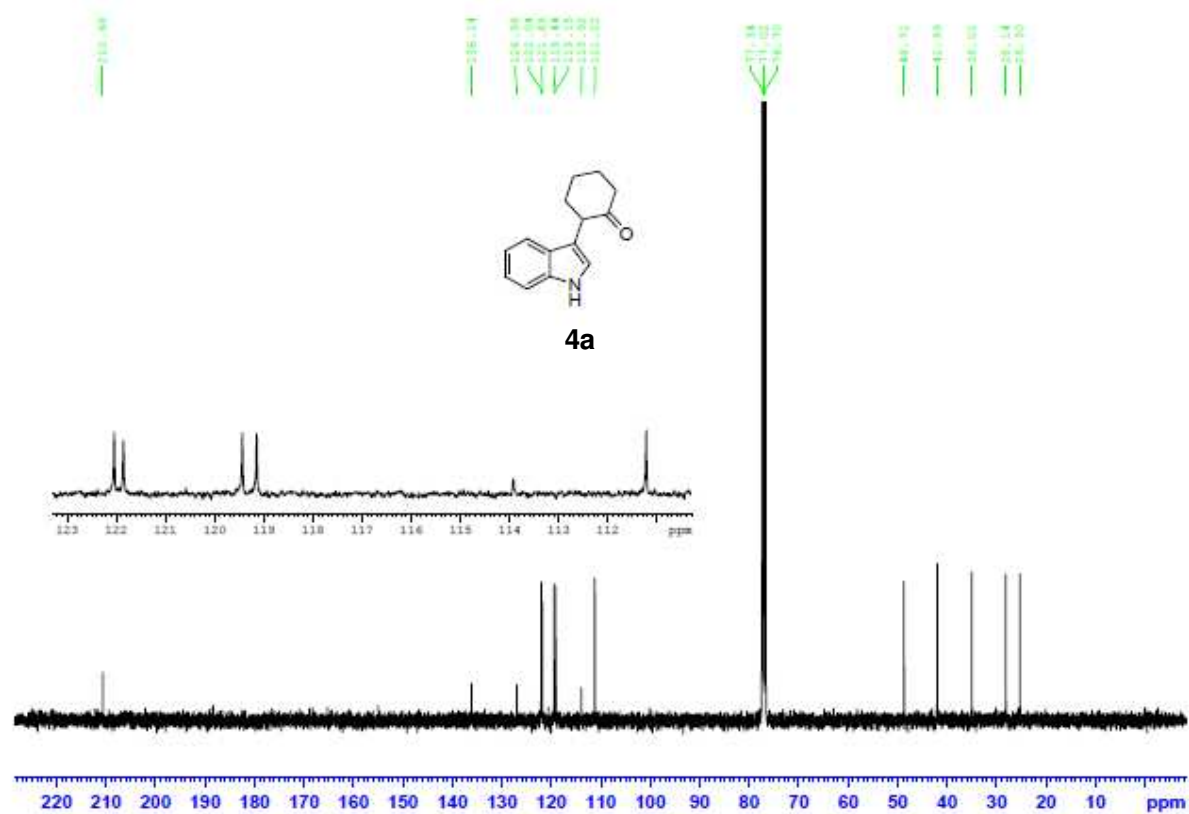
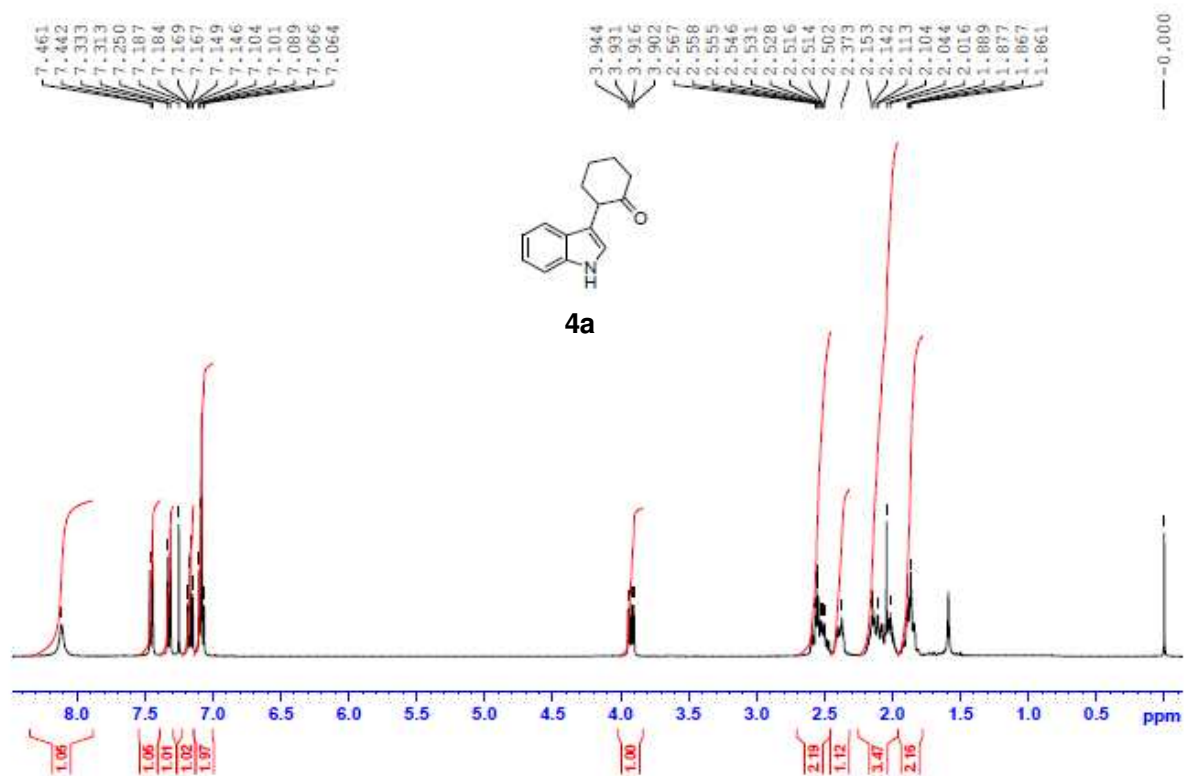


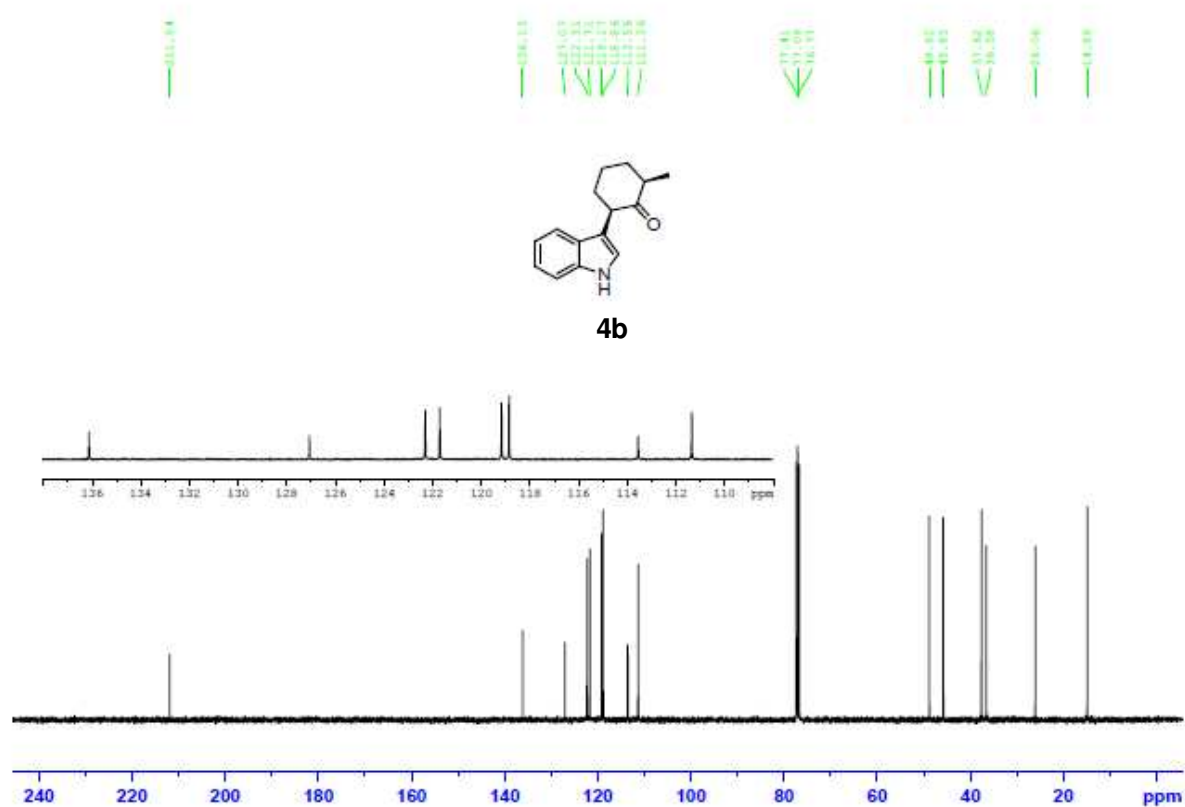
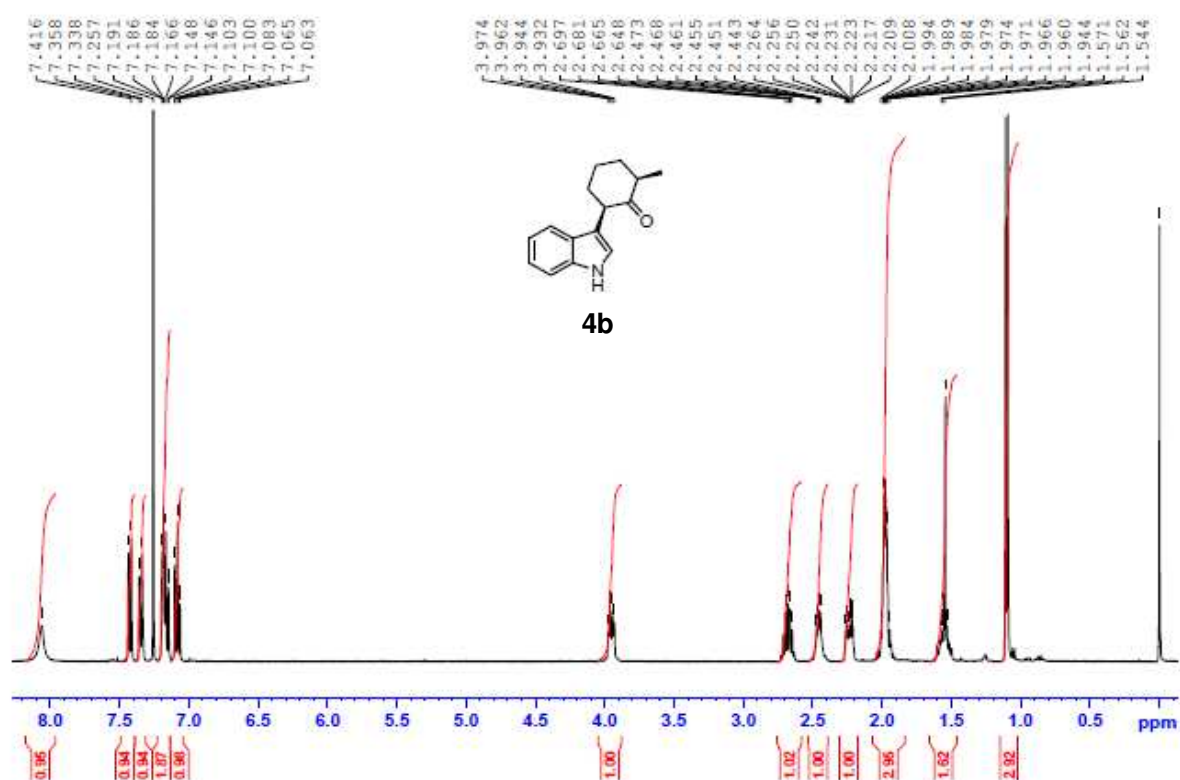


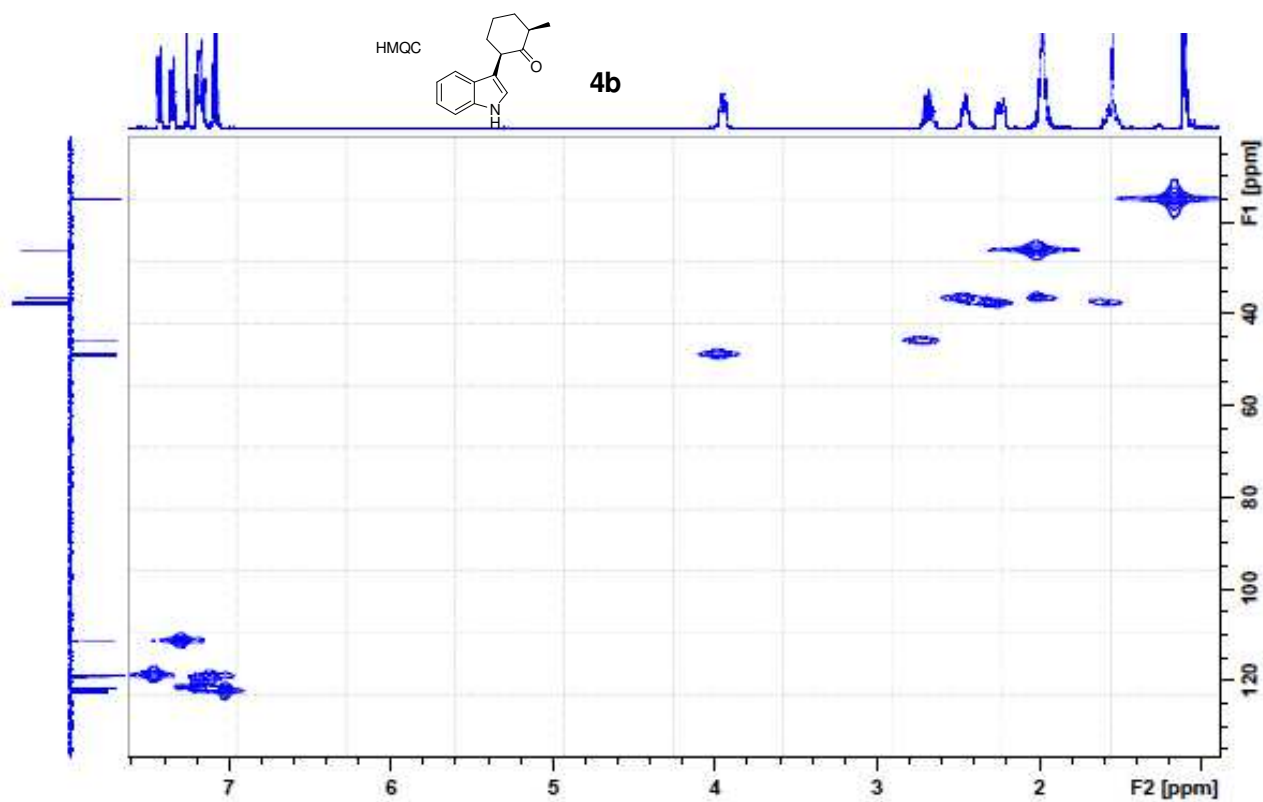
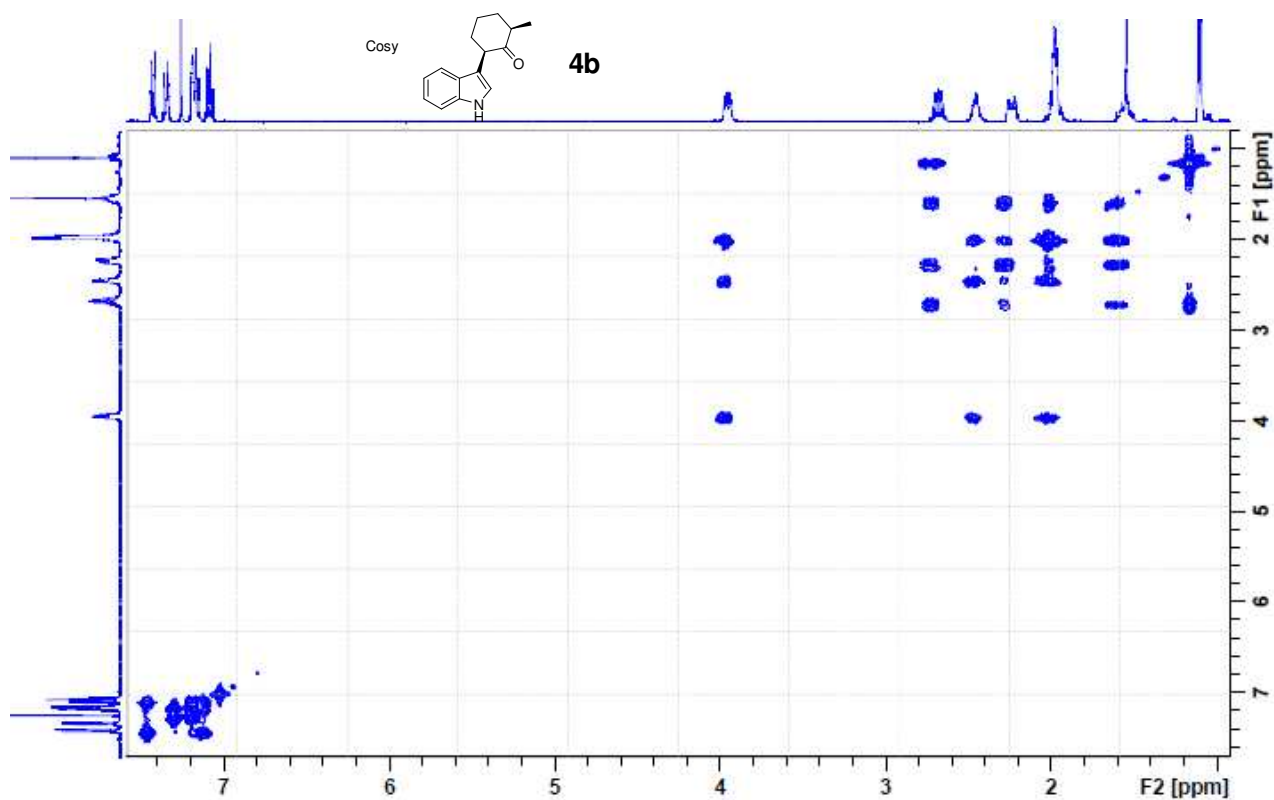




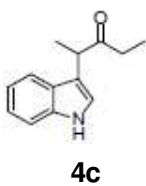
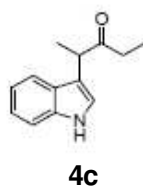




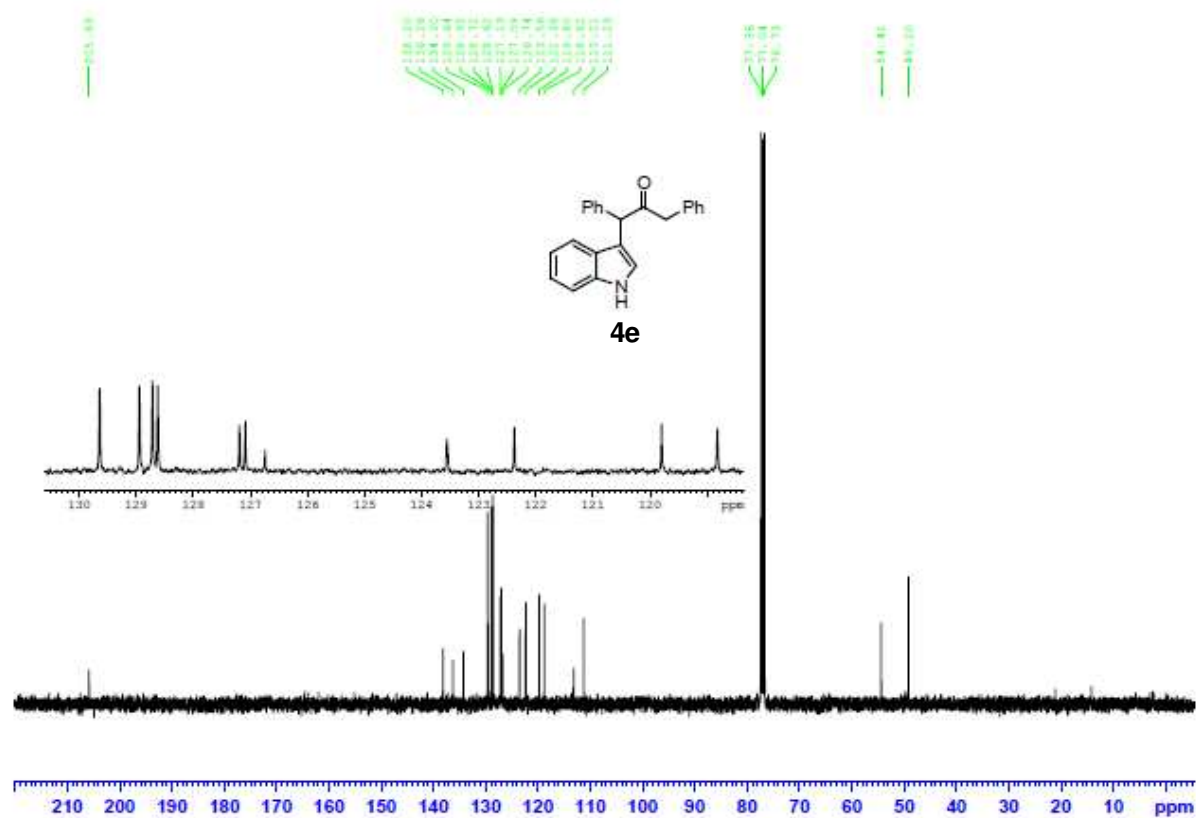
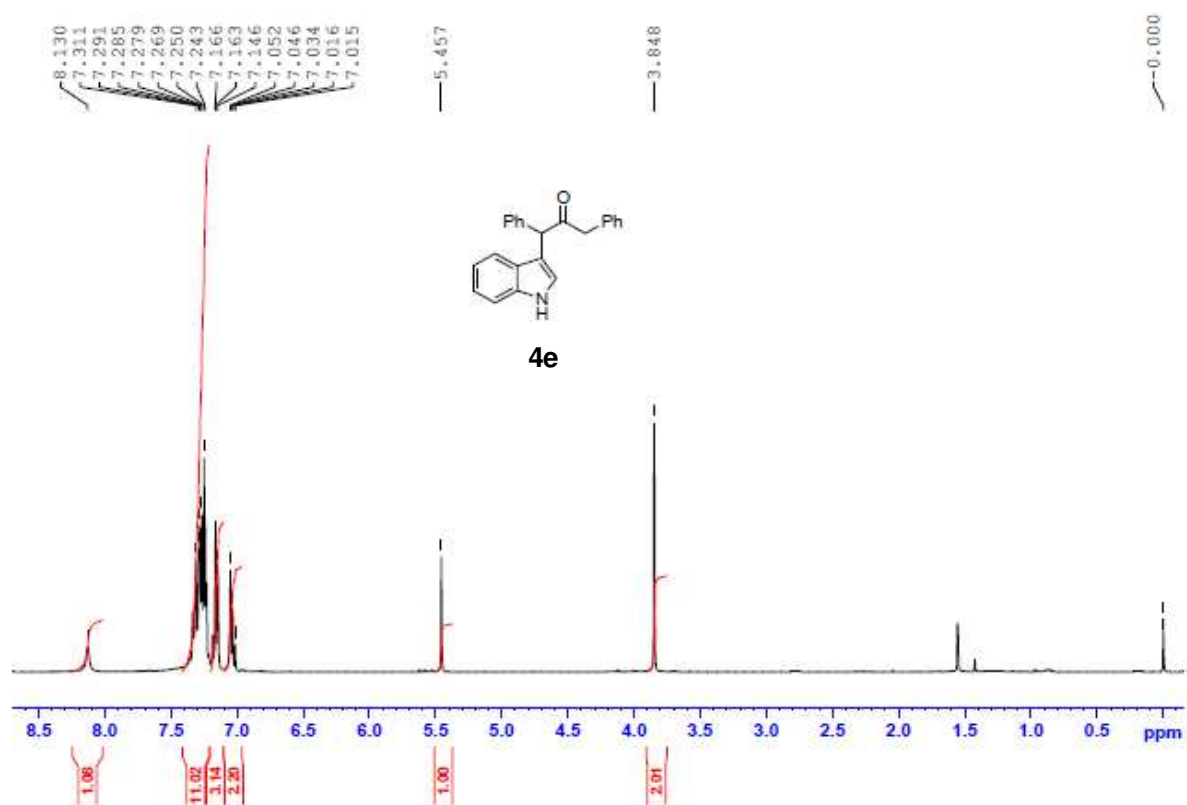


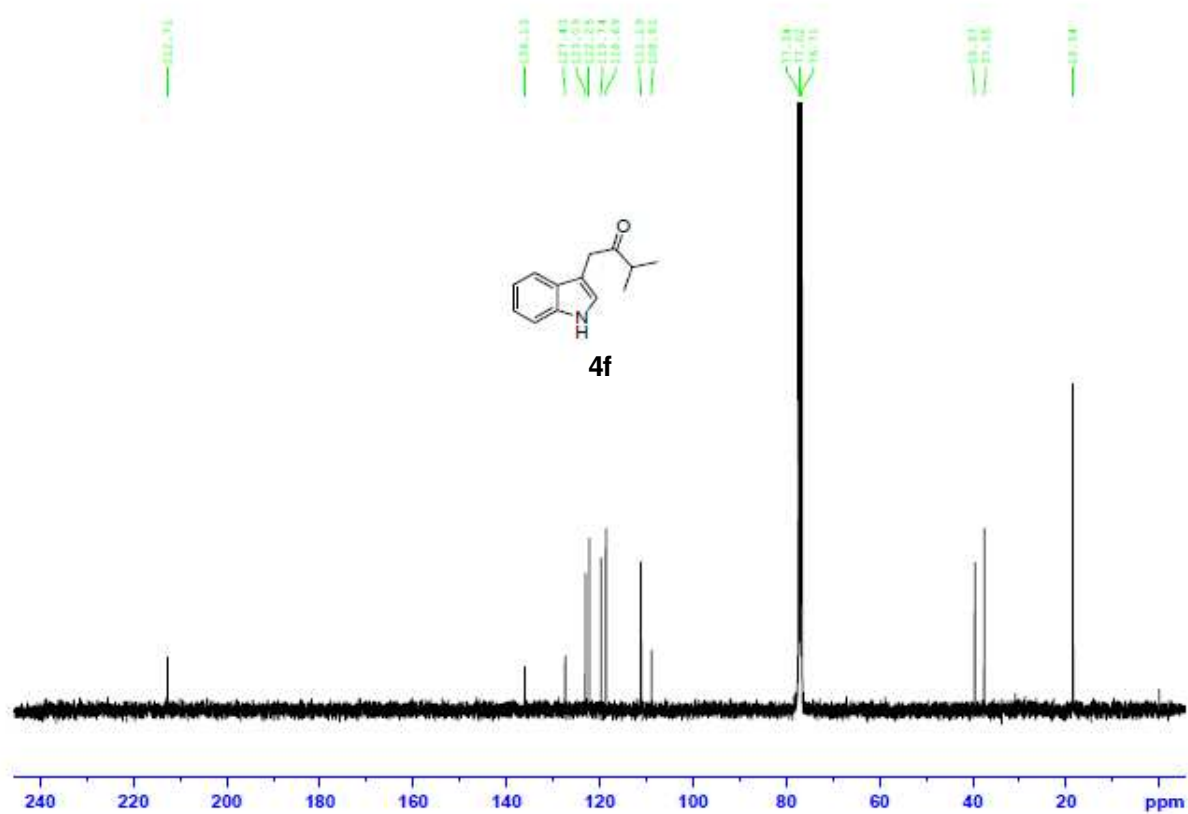
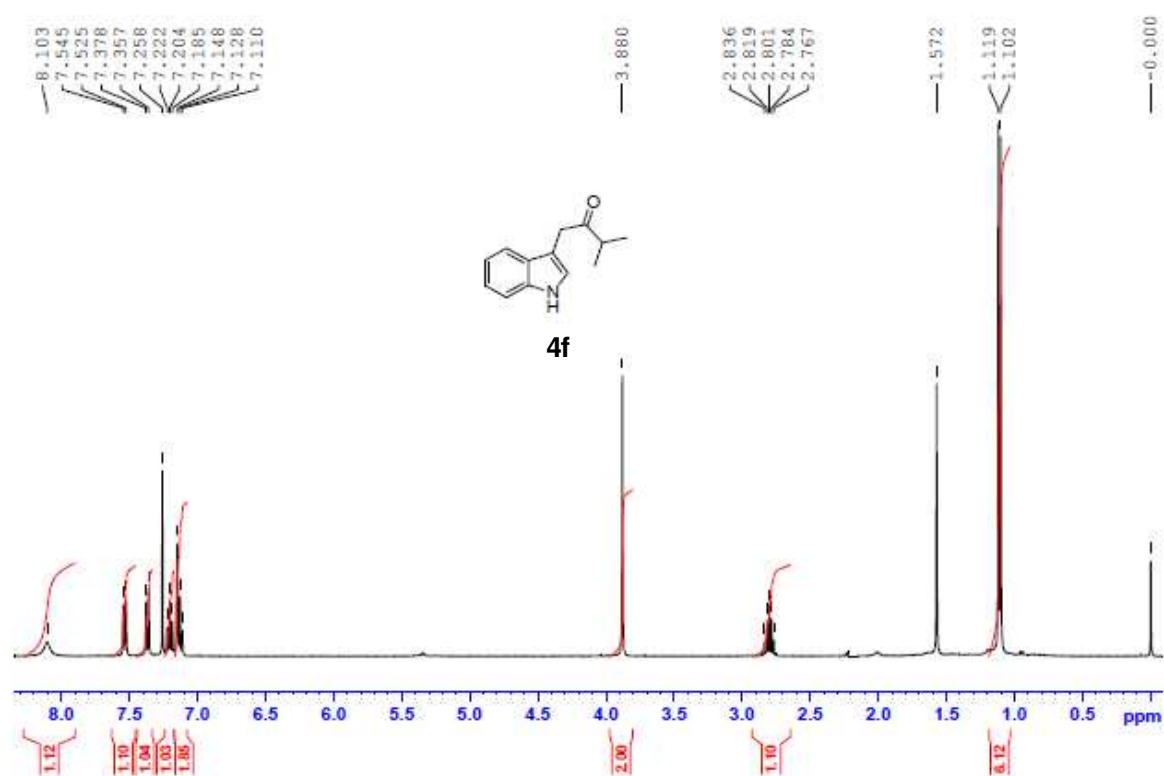


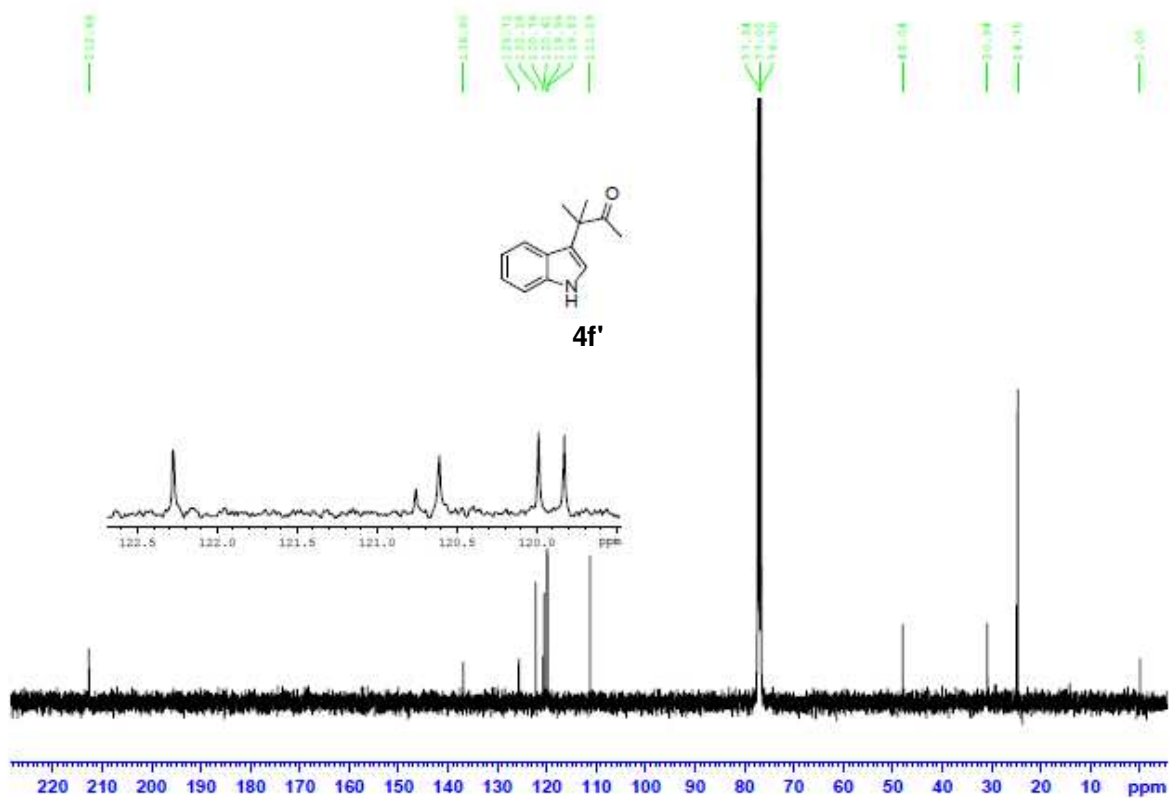
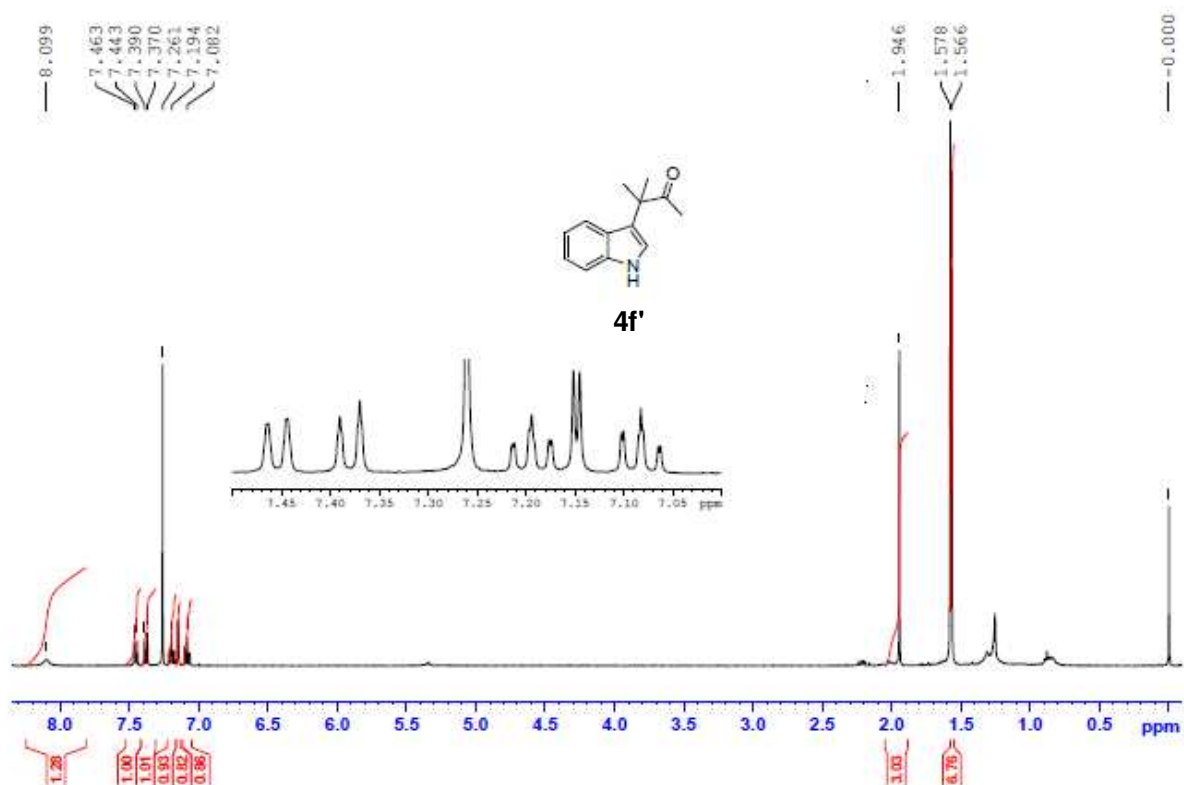


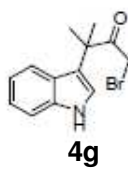
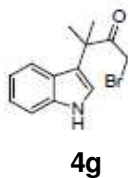




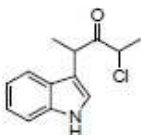




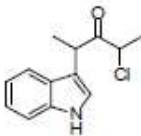








**4h**



**4h**



