# **Supporting Information**

# Titanium-Catalyzed Cyano-Borrowing Reaction for the Direct Amination of Cyanohydrins with Ammonia

Qing-Hua Li,\*, $^{\dagger}$  Zhao-Feng Li, $^{\dagger}$  Jing Tao, $^{\dagger}$  Wan-Fang Li, $^{\ddagger}$  Li-Qing Ren, Qian Li, $^{\dagger}$  Yun-Gui Peng $^{\dagger}$  Tang-Lin Liu, $^{\star,\dagger}$ 

<sup>†</sup>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, China.

<sup>‡</sup>College of Science, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai 200093, China.

Email: liuschop@swu.edu.cn, liqinghua@swu.edu.cn

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#### I. General information

 $^{1}$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 600 MHZ instruments. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: proton (chloroform δ 7.26), carbon (chloroform δ 7.00) or tetramethylsilane (TMS δ 0.00) was used as a reference. Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), bs (broad singlet). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). All high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Bruker Apex-2. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), Qingdao Haiyang Chemical were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm. Further visualization was achieved by staining with iodine, or potassium permanganate solution followed by heating using a heat gun. Flash chromatography separations were performed on Qingdao Haiyang Chemical 300-400 mesh silica gel. All commercially available reagents were used as received for the reactions without any purification. All solvents were dried on alumina columns using a solvent dispensing system.

# II. General procedure for the Titanium-Catalyzed Cyano-Borrowing Reaction for the Direct Amination of Cyanohydrins with Ammonia.

**Method A:** To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added ammonia (7.0 M solution in MeOH) 0.2 mL, ketone cyanohydrins (0.4 mmol),  $Ti(O^{i-}Pr)_4$  (10 mol%), benzoic acid (40 mol%), TBME (0.8 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox after stirring fried mixed evenly. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products. All ketone cyanohydrins used method A.

**Method B:** To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added 0.2 mL ammonia (7.0 M solution in MeOH), aldehyde cyanohydrins (0.4 mmol),  $Ti(O^{i-}Pr)_4$  (10 mol%), MeOH (0.8 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox after stirring fried mixed evenly. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (10 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give pure products. All aldehyde cyanohydrins used method B.

#### III. General Procedure for the Gram Scale reaction.

Scheme 5(1): To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added ammonia (7.0 M solution in MeOH) 5.0 mL, ketone cyanohydrins (10.0 mmol), Ti(O<sup>i</sup>·Pr)<sub>4</sub> (10 mol%), benzoic acid (40 mol%), TBME (15 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox after stirring fried mixed evenly. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (30 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 25 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give 0.83 g of product 2a with 57% isolated yield.

**Scheme 5(2):** To a vial equipped with a dried stir bar was added 10.0 mL ammonia (7.0 M solution in MeOH), aldehyde cyanohydrins (20 mmol),  $Ti(O^{i-}Pr)_4$  (10 mol%), MeOH (20 mL) in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox after stirring fried mixed evenly. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at the settle temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was added to water (30 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 25 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. And the residue was purified by column chromatography with silica gel to give 2.30 g of product **6a** with 87% isolated yield.

#### IV The analytical and spectral characterization data

## 2-amino-2-phenylpropanenitrile (2a)<sup>[1]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 37.4 mg of Colorless oil product 2a with 64% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 2H), 1.73 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.23, 128.85, 128.65, 124.94, 124.17, 53.64, 31.79.

## 2-amino-2-(4-fluorophenyl)propanenitrile (2b)<sup>[2]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 42.6 mg of Colorless oil product **2b** with 65% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.57 (dd, J = 8.2 Hz, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 2H), 1.67 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.53, 161.89, 137.08, 126.88 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 123.97, 115.70 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 53.14, 31.92.

# $\hbox{\bf 2-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)} propanenitrile~(2c)^{[3]}$

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 46.1 mg of Colorless oil product 2c with 64% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.15 (s, 1H), 1.76 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.86, 134.59, 128.99, 126.48, 123.76, 53.22, 31.81.

## 2-amino-2-(4-bromophenyl)propanenitrile (2d)<sup>[2]</sup>

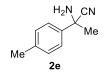
The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 57.3 mg of yellow oil product **2d** with 65% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74-7.44 (m, 4H), 2.18 (s, 2H), 1.77 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.40, 131.97, 126.80, 123.68, 122.71, 53.28, 31.78.

## 2-amino-2-(p-tolyl)propanenitrile (2e)[3]



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 39.7 mg of Colorless oil product 2e with 62% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.51, 129.47, 128.44, 124.83, 124.29, 53.41, 31.73, 21.00.

# ${\bf 2\hbox{-}amino\hbox{-}2\hbox{-}(4\hbox{-}methoxyphenyl)} propanenitrile~(2f)^{[4]}$

H<sub>2</sub>N CN Me

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 42.2 mg of Colorless oil product **2f** with 60% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 2H), 1.67 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.76, 133.33, 126.20, 124.34, 114.12, 55.36, 53.12, 31.75.

## 2-amino-2-(2-chlorophenyl)propanenitrile (2g)

2g

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 50.4 mg of Colorless oil product 2g with 70% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68 (dd, J = 7.3 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 2H), 1.86 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.06, 132.47, 131.60, 129.98, 127.39, 126.63, 123.11, 51.52, 27.88.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 181.0527; Found: 181.0530.

### 2-amino-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)propanenitrile (2h)



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 42.9 mg of Colorless oil product 2h with 61% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 2H), 1.80 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.11, 130.02, 128.60, 125.37, 124.22, 120.94, 112.00, 55.73, 49.91, 27.51.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{10}H_{12}N_2O, M+H]^+$ : 177.1022; Found: 177.1018.

#### 2-amino-2-(3-chlorophenyl)propanenitrile (2i)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 51.1 mg of Colorless oil product 2i with 71% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2H), 2.06 (s, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 143.32, 134.90, 130.13, 128.89, 125.33, 123.60, 123.34,

53.29, 31.78.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 181.0527; Found: 181.0523.

### 2-amino-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)propanenitrile (2j)

MeO H<sub>2</sub>N CN Me

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 48.6 mg of Colorless oil product 2j with 69% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.24 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.99, 142.90, 129.91, 124.14, 117.25, 114.05, 110.77, 55.36, 53.57, 31.75.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{10}H_{12}N_2O, M+H]^+$ : 177.1022; Found: 177.1017.

#### 2-amino-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanenitrile (2k)

H<sub>2</sub>N CN Me

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 42.3 mg of yellow solid product **2k** with 54% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.06 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 2H), 2.13 (s, 2H), 1.76 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.43, 133.23, 133.02, 128.91, 128.31, 127.64, 126.70, 126.69, 124.17, 122.69, 53.81, 31.63.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{13}H_{12}N_2, M+H]^+$ : 197.1073; Found: 197.1067.

## 2-amino-2-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)propanenitrile (2l)

H<sub>2</sub>N CN Me

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 41.2 mg of yellow solid product 21 with 51% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.80 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.30 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 2H), 1.92 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 146.47, 139.38, 138.93, 125.02, 124.75, 123.98, 122.77, 122.47, 121.39, 51.34, 32.10.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{11}H_{10}N_2S, M+H]^+$ : 203.0637; Found: 203.0639.

## 2-amino-2-phenylbutanenitrile (2m)<sup>[1]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 43.5 mg of colorless oil product **2m** with 68% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 2H), 1.95-1.83 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.95, 128.68, 128.61, 125.60, 123.27, 58.79, 37.25, 9.02.

## 2-amino-2-methylbutanenitrile (2n)<sup>[5]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 18.0 mg of colorless oil product 2n with 46% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.73 (s, 2H), 1.69 (dd, J = 14.0 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 124.32, 50.51, 34.86, 27.14, 8.86.

# ${\bf 2\text{-}amino\text{-}2\text{-}cyclopropylpropanenitrile} \ ({\bf 2o})^{[6]}$

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 18.9 mg of colorless oil product **20** with 43% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.91 (s, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.02 (m, 1H), 0.56-0.44 (m, 4H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 120.62, 50.57, 26.01, 18.70, 8.75.

#### 2-amino-3-chloro-2-methylpropanenitrile (2p)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 22.2 mg of colorless oil product 2p with 47% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.65 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 121.89, 51.47, 51.42, 25.70.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for [C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 119.0371; Found: 119.0371.

## 2-amino-2-ethylbutanenitrile (2q)<sup>[3]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane: ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 25.5 mg of colorless oil product **2q** with 57% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.86 (s, 2H), 1.70 (dt, J = 14.8 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.57 (dt, J = 14.6 Hz, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 123.55, 54.98, 32.75, 8.44.

#### 1-aminocyclopentane-1-carbonitrile (2r)[7]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 27.7 mg of colorless oil product 2r with 63% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.06 (s, 2H), 1.81 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.73 (m, 4H), 1.70 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 125.12, 54.57, 40.87, 23.63.

## 2-amino-2-phenylacetonitrile (6a)[8]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 47.0 mg of white solid product **6a** with 89% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.45 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dt, J = 23.6 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 1.89 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.36, 129.12, 129.05, 126.66, 120.92, 47.32.

## 2-amino-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetonitrile (6b) [9]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 53.4 mg of yellow solid product **6b** with 89% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55 (dd, J = 7.3, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 1.96 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.82, 162.17, 128.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 120.72, 116.05 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 46.64.

# ${\bf 2\text{-}amino\text{-}2\text{-}(4\text{-}chlorophenyl)acetonitrile}~(6c)^{[10]}$

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 57.8 mg of yellow solid product **6c** with 87% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 1.88 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 135.07, 134.79, 129.26, 128.07, 120.54, 46.69.

## 2-amino-2-(4-bromophenyl)acetonitrile (6d)<sup>[10]</sup>

 $\mathsf{Br} \overset{\mathsf{NH}_2}{\longleftarrow} \mathsf{CN}$ 

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 69.7 mg of yellow solid product 6d with 83% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 1.85 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 135.30, 132.23, 128.36, 123.19, 120.45, 46.75.

## 2-amino-2-(p-tolyl)acetonitrile (6e)[10]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 53.1

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.95, 133.57, 129.74, 126.55, 121.09, 47.08, 21.11.

# ${\bf 2\text{-}amino\text{-}2\text{-}(4\text{-}methoxyphenyl}) acetonitrile~(6f)^{[10]}}$

mg of yellow solid product 6e with 91% isolated yield.

NH<sub>2</sub> CN The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 24.6 mg of yellow solid product 6f with 38% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.37 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.13, 128.52, 127.94, 121.07, 114.46, 55.38, 46.77.

# $\hbox{\bf 4-(amino(cyano)methyl)} benzon itrile\ (6g)^{[11]}$

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 36.4 mg of yellow solid product 6g with 58% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.65 (q, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 1.94 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.13, 132.83, 127.55, 119.91, 118.06, 113.16, 46.85.

## methyl 4-(amino(cyano)methyl)benzoate (6h)[11]



The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate

= 2:1) resulting in 40.3 mg of yellow solid product **6h** with 53% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.35, 140.89, 130.90, 130.32, 126.73, 120.38, 52.29, 47.03.

# 2-amino-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetonitrile (6i)[12]

F<sub>3</sub>C 6i

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 64.8 mg of yellow solid product 6i with 81% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.51-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 1.83 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 163.81, 162.17, 132.18, 128.55 (q, J = 8.4 Hz), 120.74, 116.04 (q, J = 21.9 Hz), 46.63.

## 2-amino-2-(2-chlorophenyl)acetonitrile (6j)[10]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 44.5 mg of yellow solid product 6j with 67% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 2H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 2.04 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.45, 132.82, 130.48, 130.32, 128.17, 127.78, 119.83, 45.19.

## 2-amino-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)acetonitrile (6k)<sup>[13]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 48.0 mg of yellow solid product 6k with 74% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dt, J = 8.2 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dt, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.64, 130.43, 127.74, 125.27, 121.06, 120.74, 111.23, 55.65, 43.51.

# 2-amino-2-(3-chlorophenyl)acetonitrile (61)[11]

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 59.1 mg of yellow solid product 61 with 89% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 1.85 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.16, 135.09, 130.35, 129.28, 126.96, 124.82, 120.35, 46.76.

#### 2-amino-2-(m-tolyl)acetonitrile (6m)[10]

Me NH<sub>2</sub> CN

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 42.0 mg of yellow solid product 6m with 72% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.03, 136.30, 129.78, 129.01, 127.30, 123.68, 120.99, 47.30, 21.36.

## 2-amino-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)acetonitrile (6n)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 51.0 mg of white solid product **6n** with 70% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.93 (s, 1H), 7.82-7.78 (m, 3H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 5.6 Hz, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 1.89 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 133.63, 133.37, 133.14, 129.17, 128.17, 127.75, 126.87, 126.80, 125.73, 124.17, 120.89, 47.49.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{12}H_{10}N_2, M+H]^+$ :183.0917; Found: 183.0912.

## 2-amino-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)acetonitrile (60)[14]

NH<sub>2</sub> CN The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.4 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 52.4 mg of white solid product  $\mathbf{6o}$  with 72% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.16 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 2.01 (s, 2H).

 $^{13}C\ NMR\ (151\ MHz,CDCl_{3})\ \delta\ 134.12,\ 131.74,\ 130.09,\ 130.03,\ 129.12,\ 127.12,\ 126.34,$ 

## 2-amino-2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)acetonitrile (6p)<sup>[15]</sup>

NH<sub>2</sub> CN The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 57.7 mg of yellow solid product 6p with 82% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.79 (m, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 1.89 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 148.31, 148.19, 130.28, 120.96, 120.23, 108.49, 107.23, 101.51, 47.02.

#### 2-amino-2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)acetonitrile (6q)

NH<sub>2</sub> CN CI 6q The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.2 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 72.8 mg of yellow solid product  $\mathbf{6q}$  with 91% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 1.92 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.38, 135.76, 129.28, 125.34, 119.86, 46.33.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_8H_6Cl_2N_2, M+H]^+$ : 200.9981; Found: 200.9975.

# 2-amino-2-(thiophen-2-yl)acetonitrile (6r)<sup>[10]</sup>

NH<sub>2</sub>
CN

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 50.2 mg of yellow solid product 6r with 58% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (dd, J = 2.4 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, J = 5.0 Hz, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (s, 1H), 1.97 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.82, 127.01, 126.62, 125.94, 120.08, 43.38.

#### 2-amino-4-phenylbut-3-enenitrile (6s)

NH<sub>2</sub> CN The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 34.1 mg of white solid product 6s with 54% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, J = 12.4 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.28 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.07, 128.84, 128.21, 126.75, 117.79, 117.47, 116.67, 43.45.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_{10}H_{10}N_2, M+H]^+$ : 159.0917; Found: 159.0920.

#### 2-aminoheptanenitrile (6t)

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 43.8 mg of Colorless oil product **6t** with 87% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.68 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.74 (dd, J = 15.1 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (s, 2H), 1.55-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.34 (dd, J = 6.8 Hz, 3.3 Hz, 4H), 0.91 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 122.23, 43.44, 35.33, 31.13, 25.11, 22.38, 13.89.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z Calcd. for  $[C_7H_{14}N_2, M+H]^+$ : 127.1230; Found: 127.1231.

# 2-amino-2-cyclohexylacetonitrile (6u)<sup>[16]</sup>

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1)

resulting in 46.9 mg of Colorless oil product 6u with 85% isolated yield.

 $^{1}$ H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.52 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.71 (m,

1H), 1.63 (s, 2H), 1.34 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 2H), 1.22-1.10 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  121.42, 49.02, 42.14, 29.28, 28.27, 25.98.

# 2-amino-4-(methylthio)butanenitrile $(6v)^{[17]}$

The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure as described, silica gel flash column chromatography was performed using hexanes and ethyl acetate (4:1) (Rf = 0.3 in hexane:ethyl acetate = 2:1) resulting in 19.2 mg of yellow oil product **6v** with 37% isolated yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.93 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 1H), 2.68-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.84 (s, 2H).

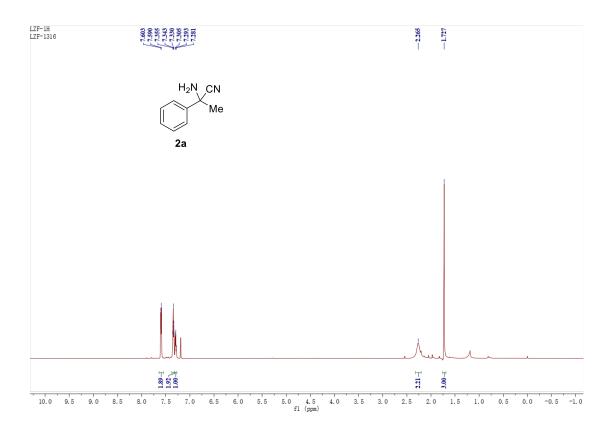
 $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  121.79, 41.99, 34.42, 29.89, 15.45.

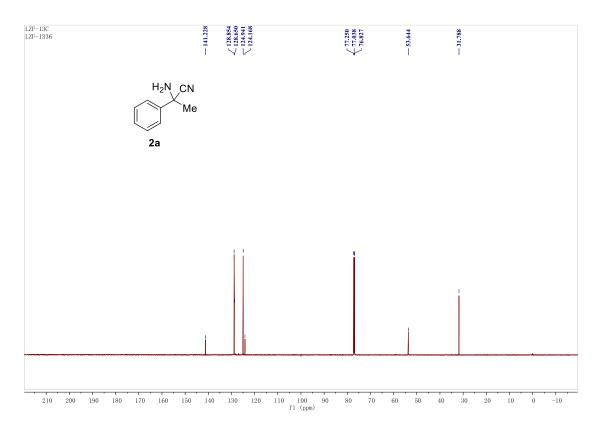
#### **V** References

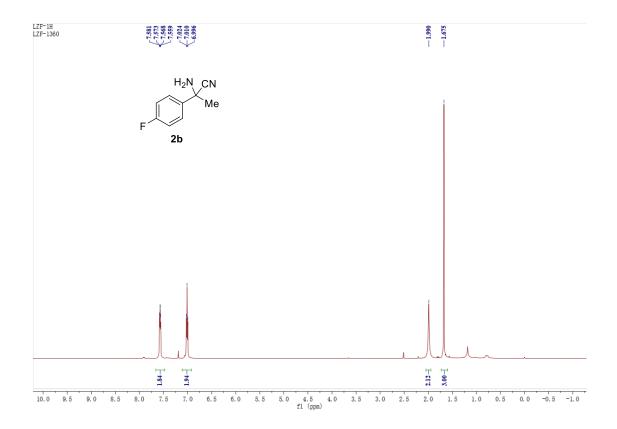
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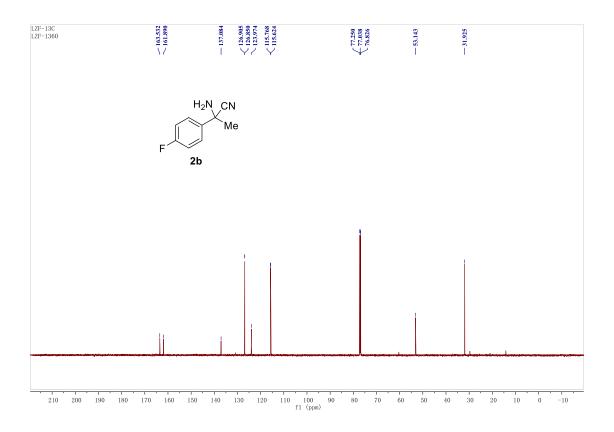
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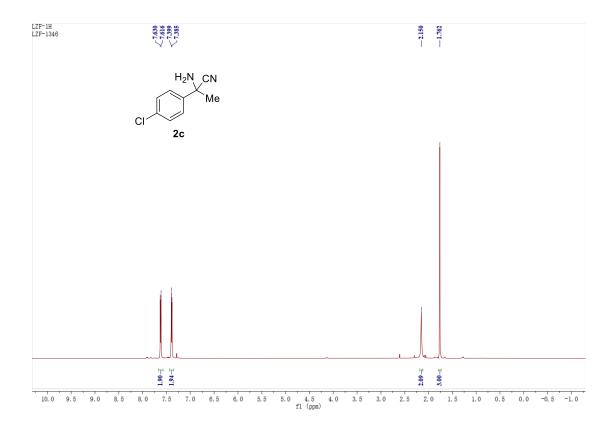
## VI NMR spectra of the products

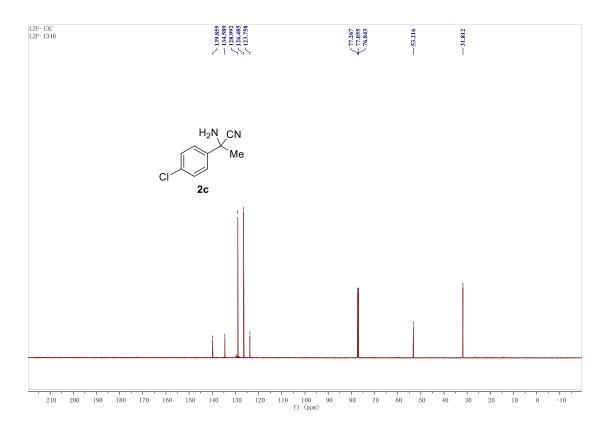


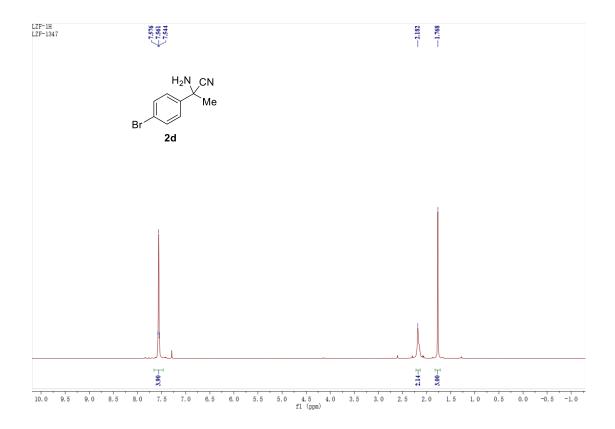


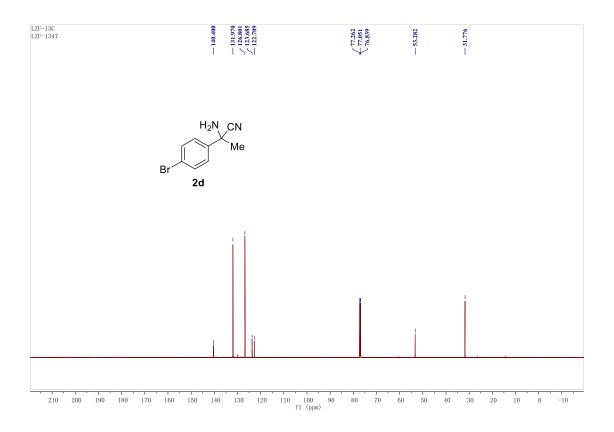


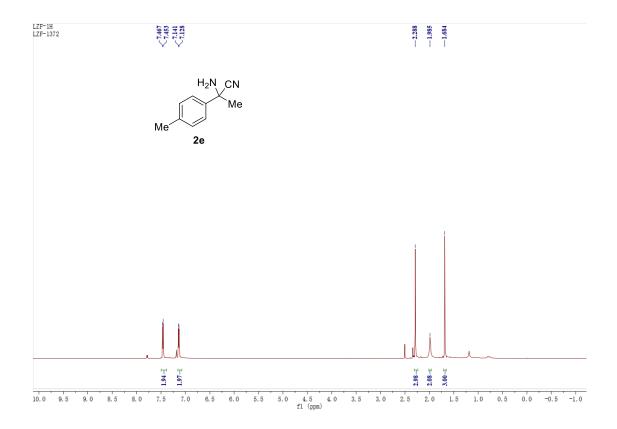


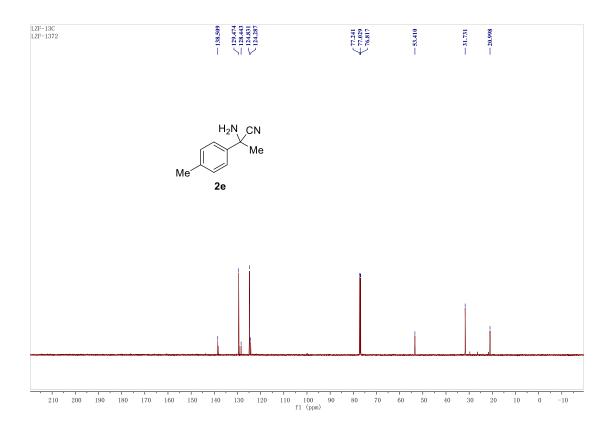


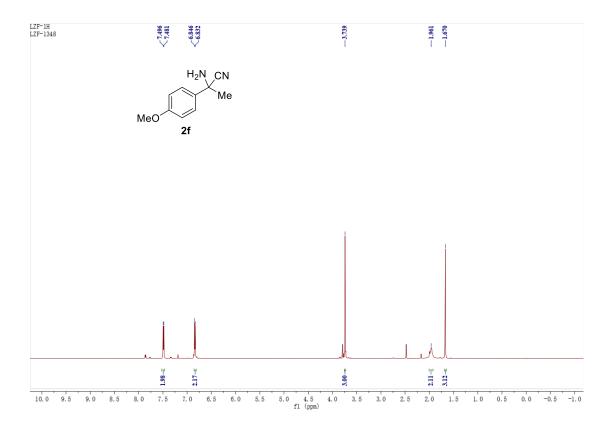


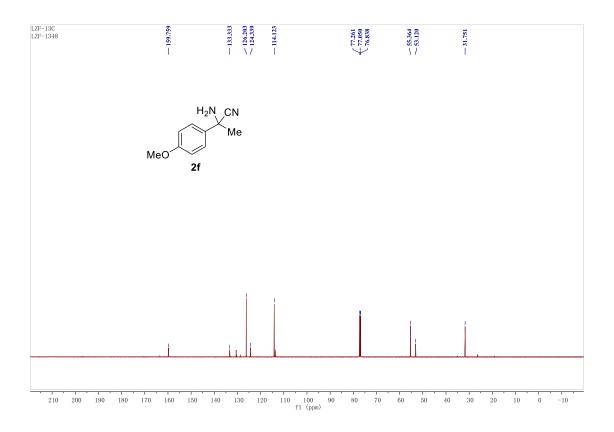


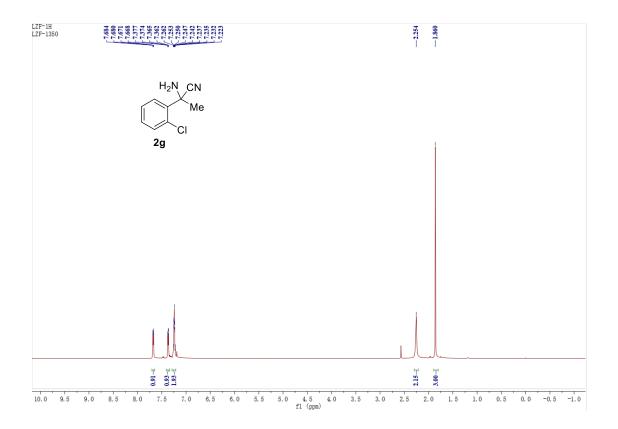


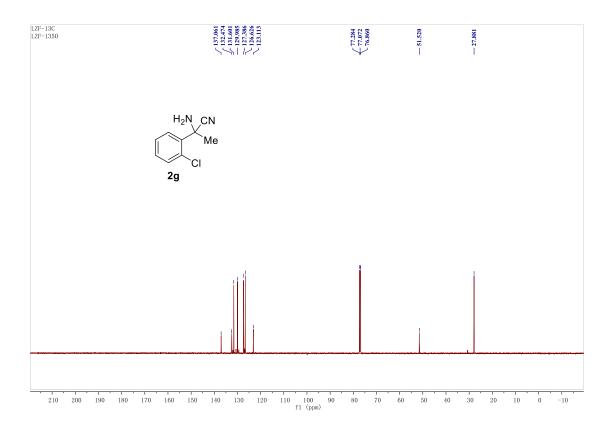


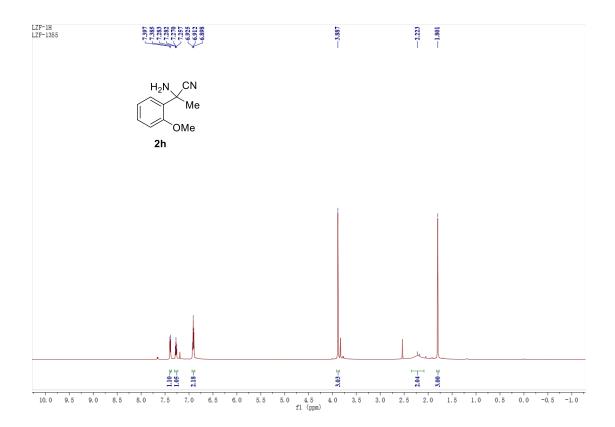


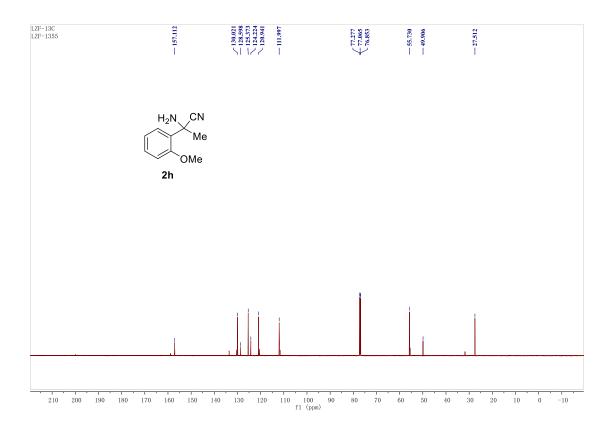


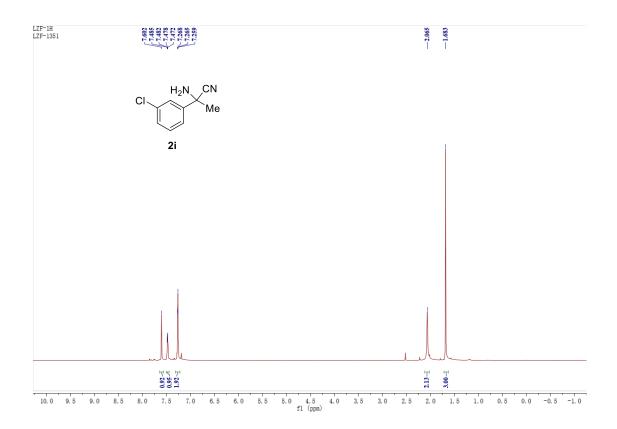


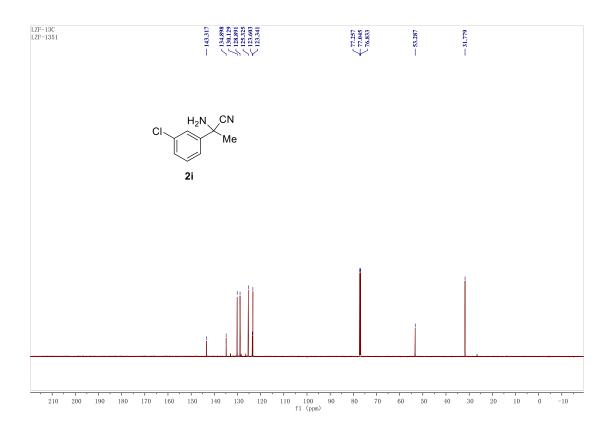


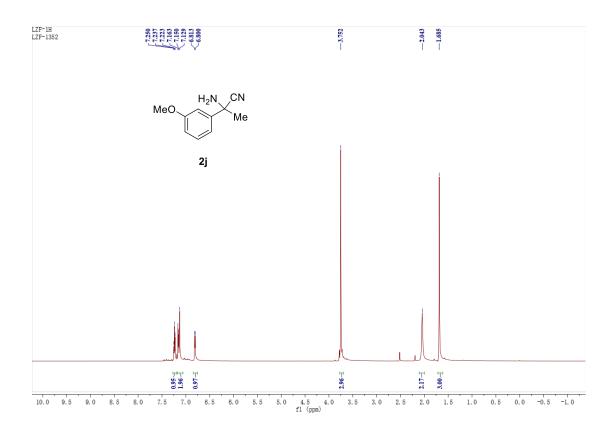


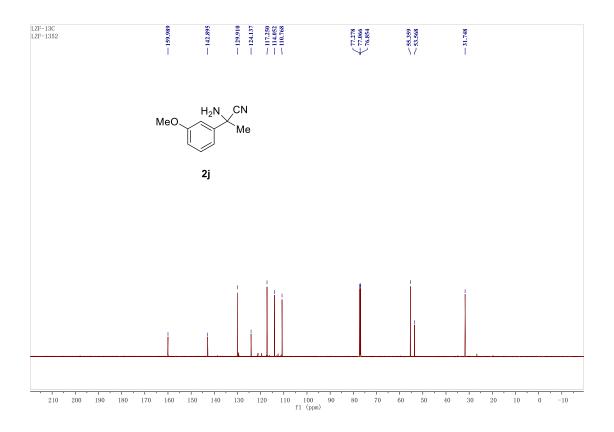


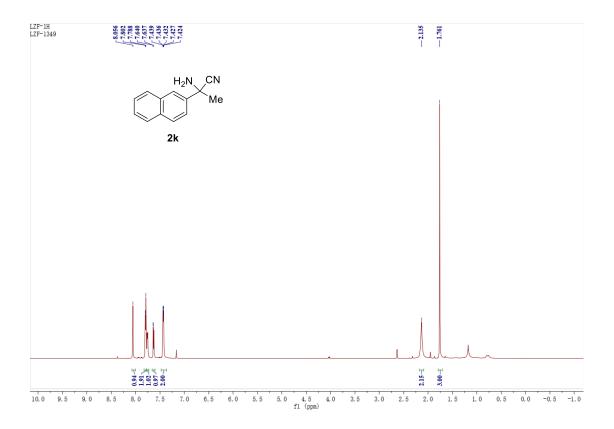


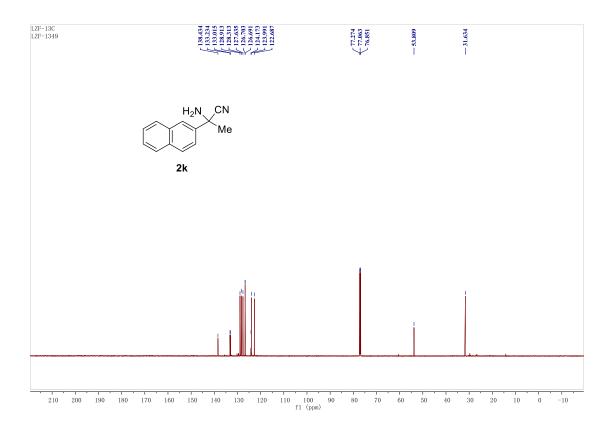


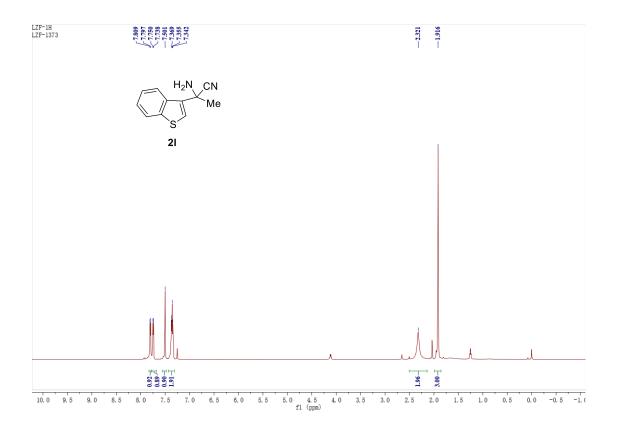


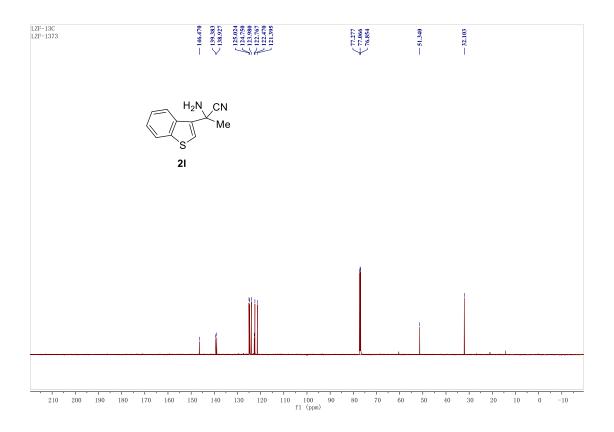


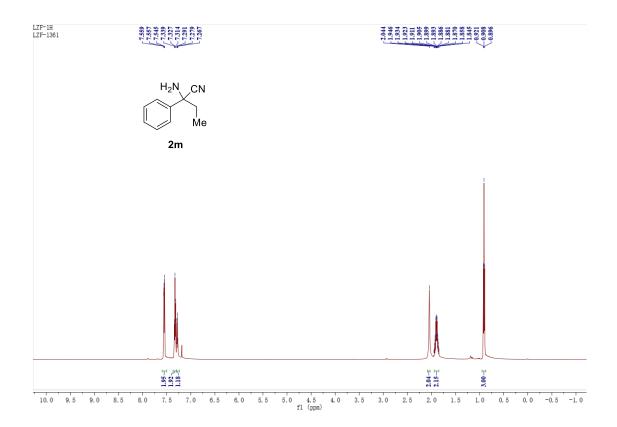


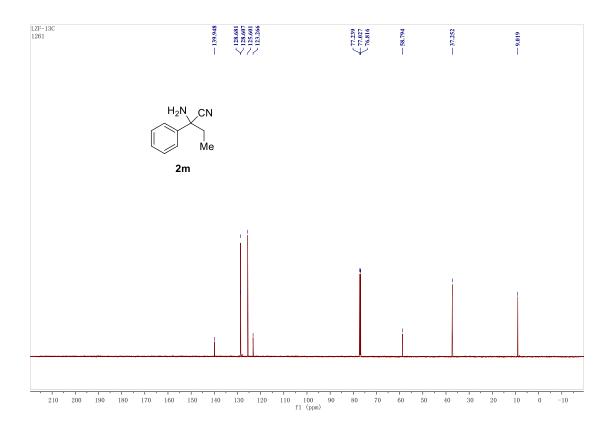


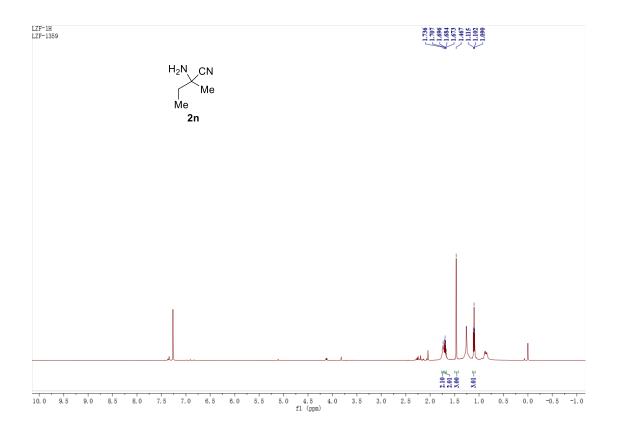


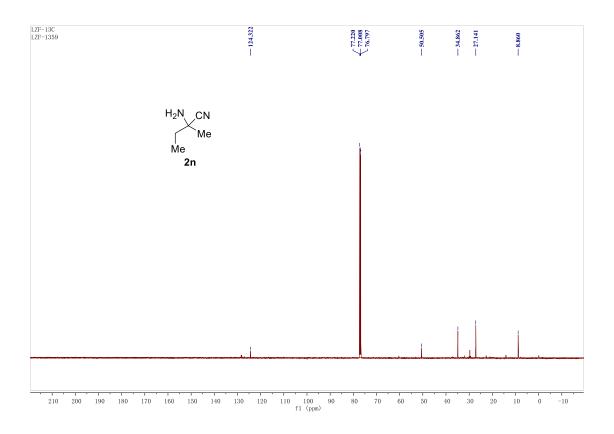


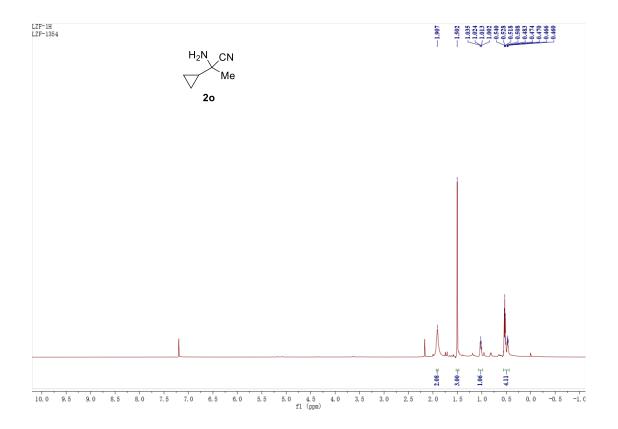


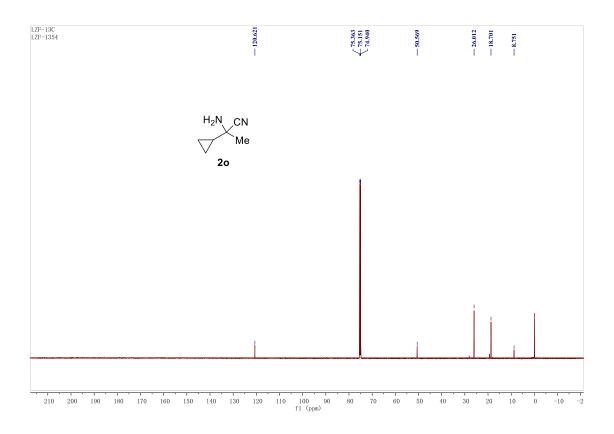


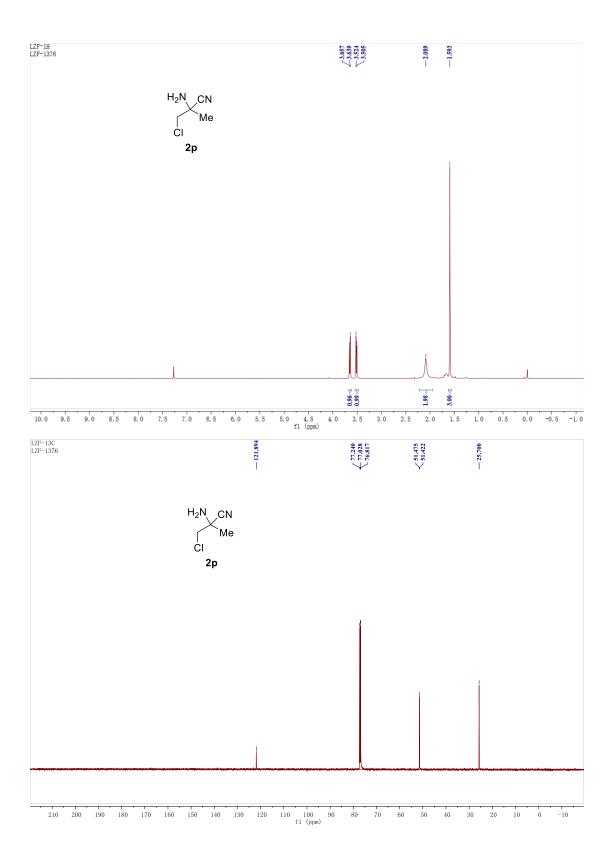


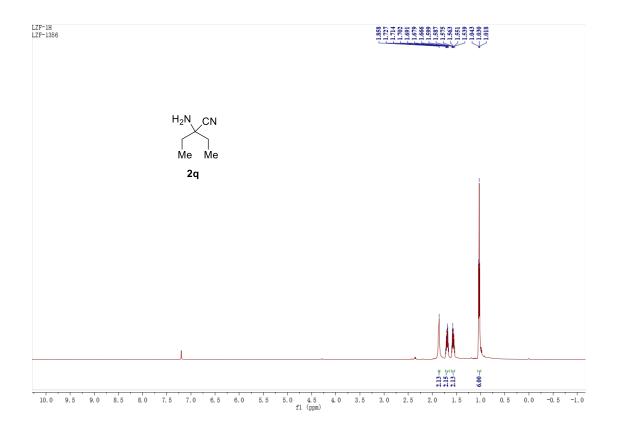


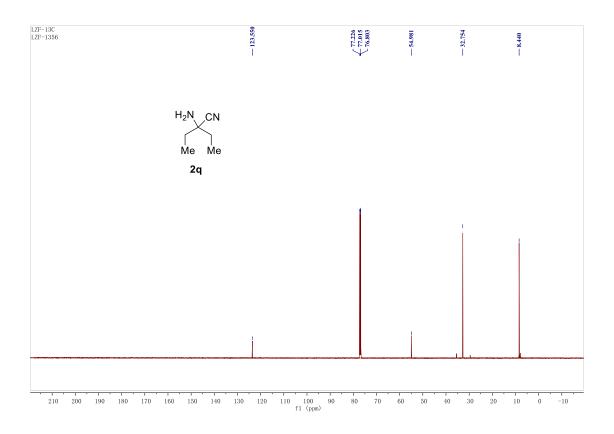


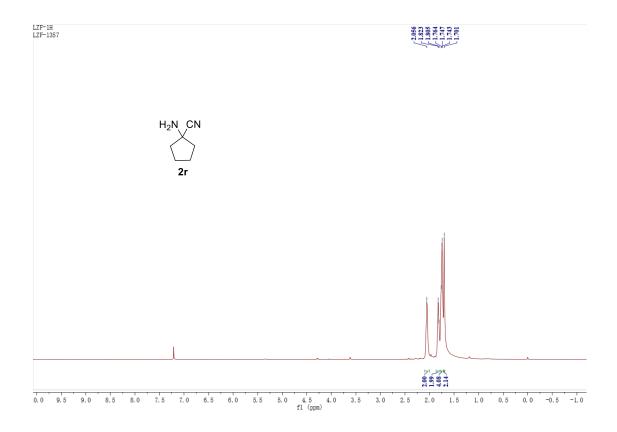


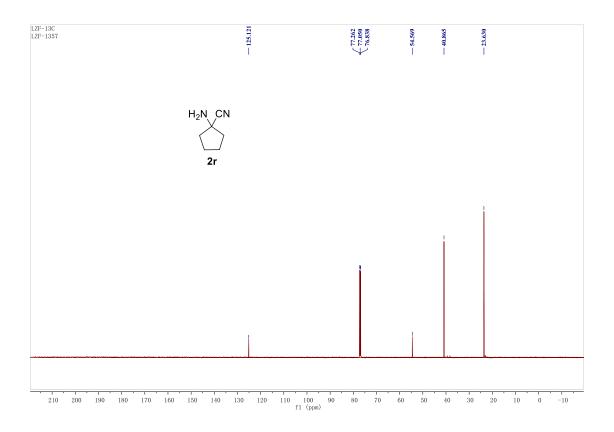


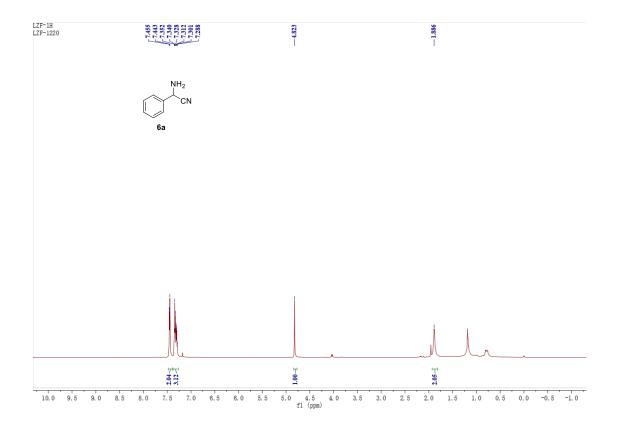


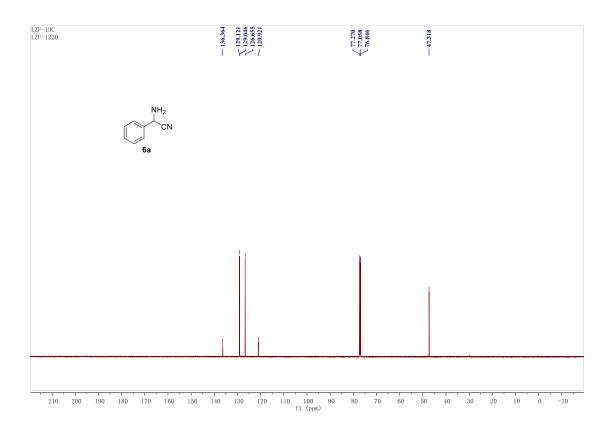


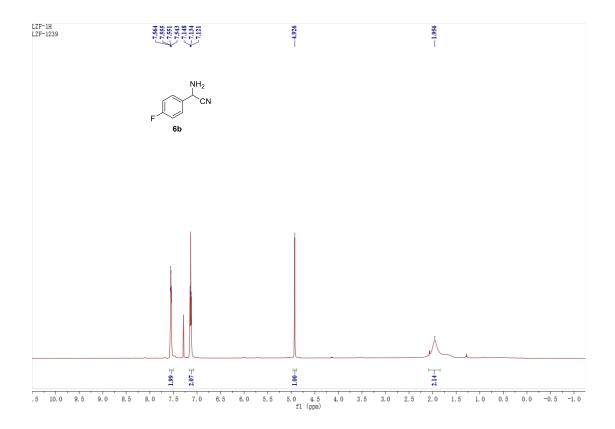


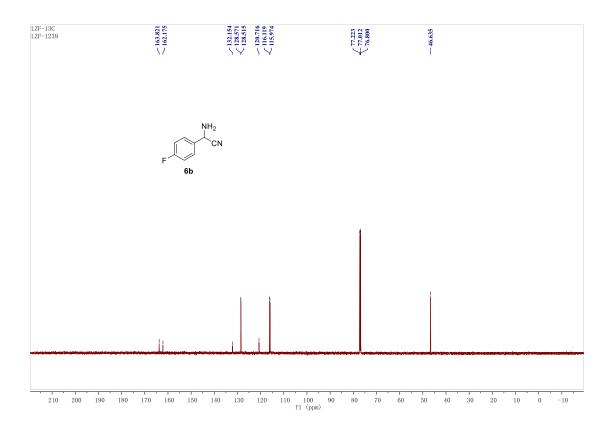


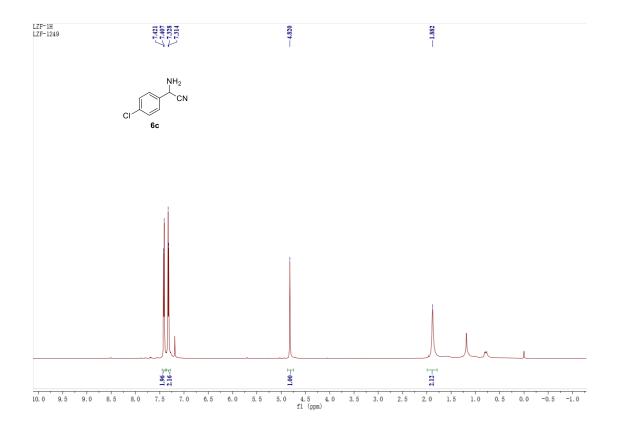


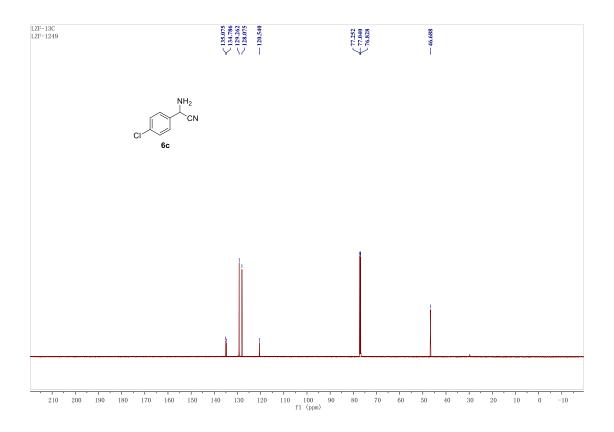


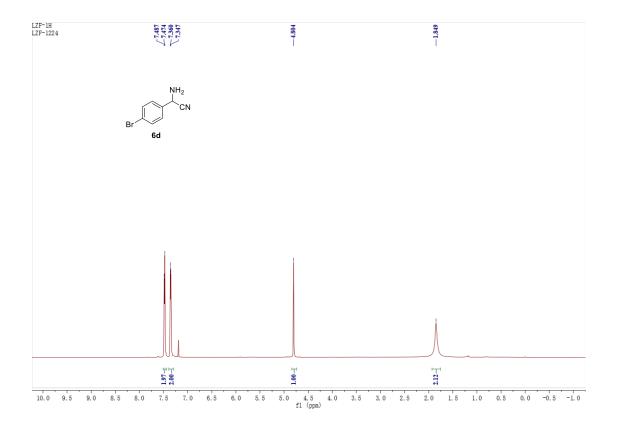


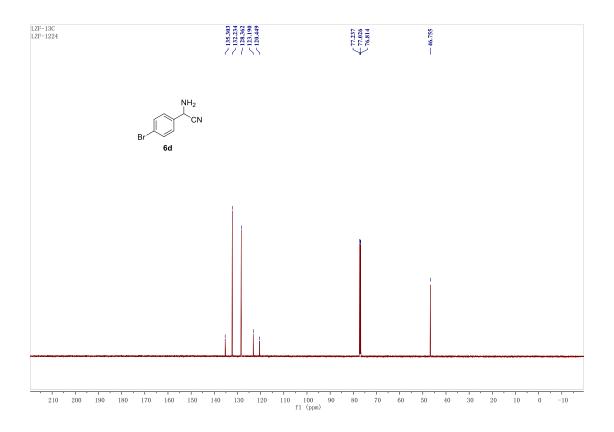


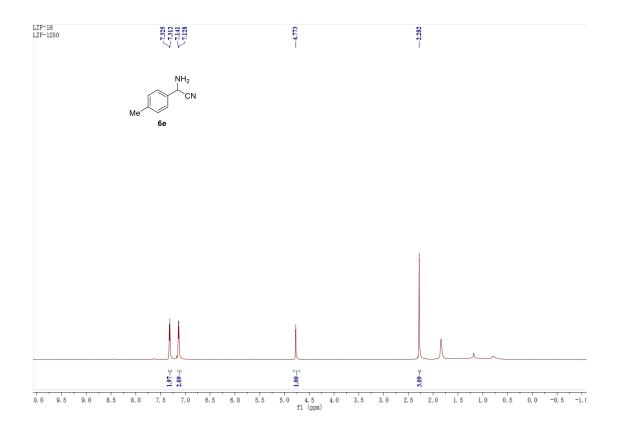


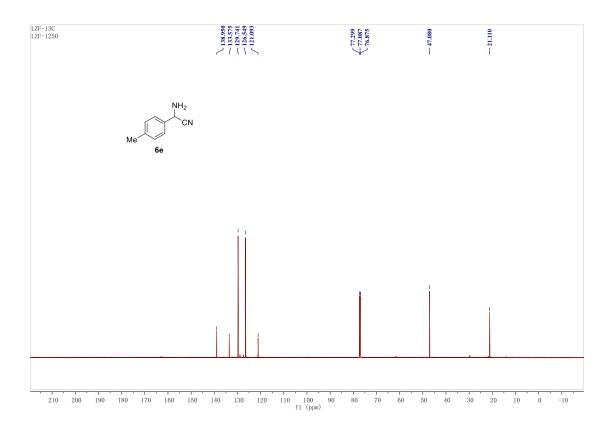


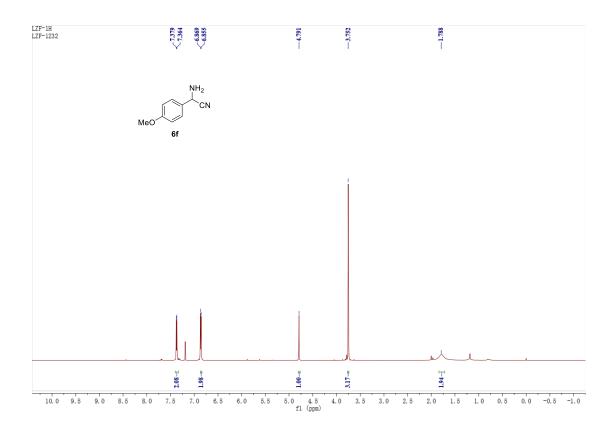


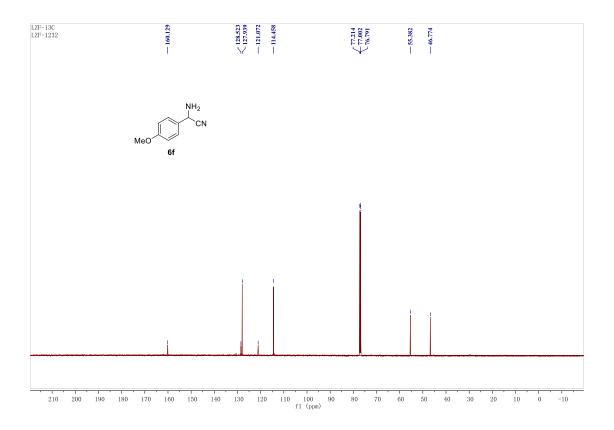


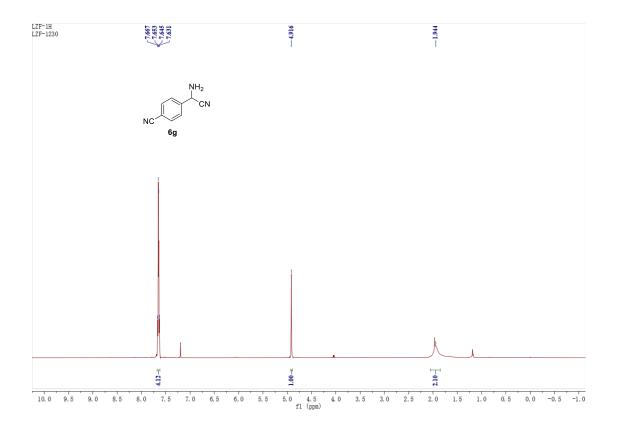


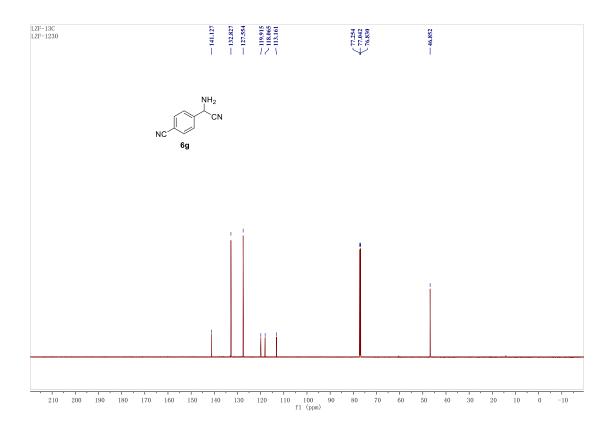


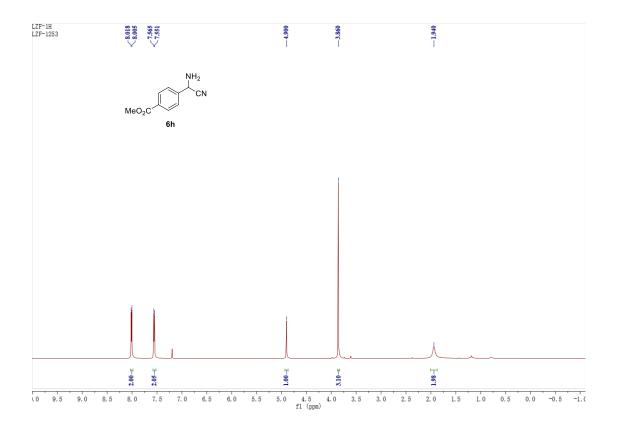


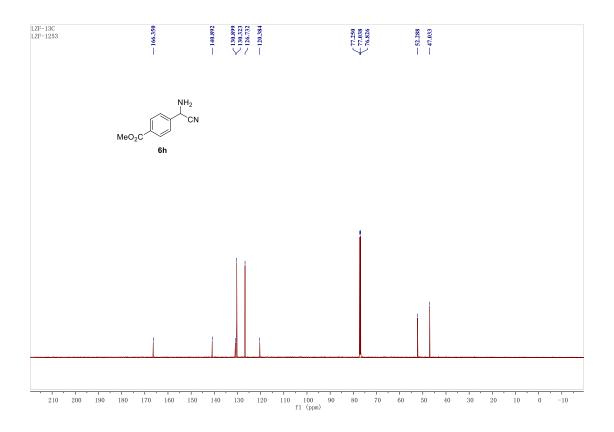


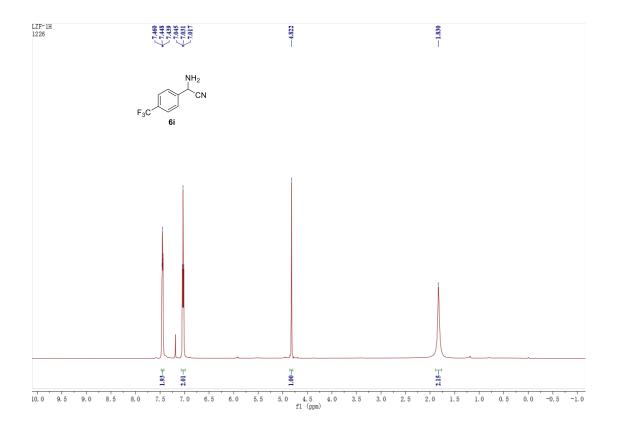


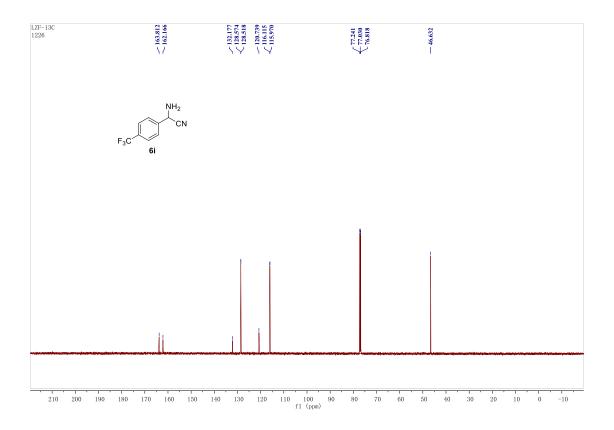


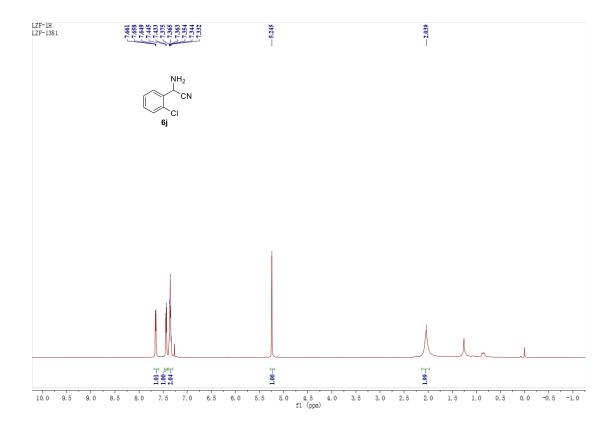


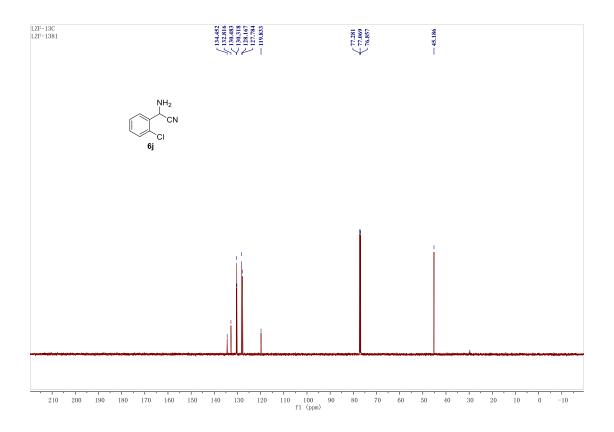


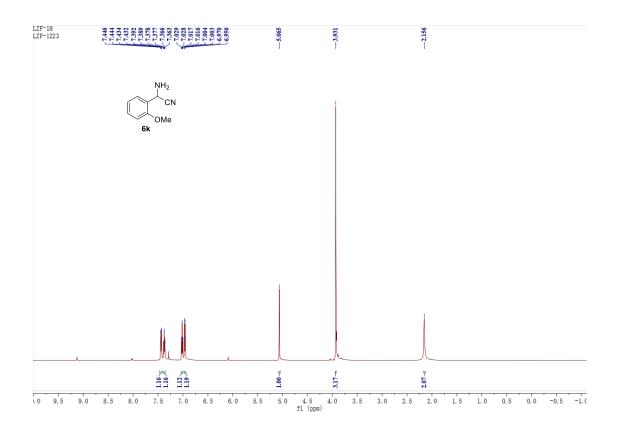












$$\begin{array}{c} -156.62 \\ -156.23 \\ 130.42 \\ 127.73 \\ 125.25 \\ 121.04 \\ 120.73 \\ -111.22 \end{array}$$

