

Enantioselective Nickel-Catalyzed Michael Additions of 2-Acetylazaarenes to Nitroalkenes

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Supporting Information

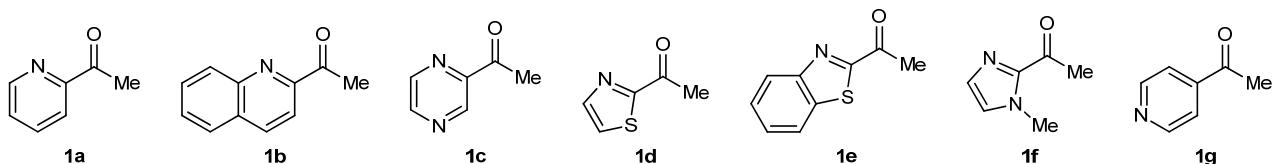
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General Information

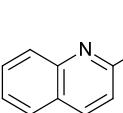
Unless specified otherwise, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen using oven-dried glassware. Solvents were dried and purified by passage through activated alumina columns using a solvent purification system. Unless specified otherwise, all other commercially available reagents were used as received. Microwave-assisted reactions were carried out in thick-walled glass vials using a Biotage Initiator. TLC analyses were performed on pre-coated Merck DF-Alufoilien 60F₂₅₄ 0.2 mm plates, visualized by UV light at 254 nm, and subsequently developed

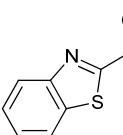
using potassium permanganate, vanillin, *p*-anisaldehyde, or ceric ammonium molybdate solution as appropriate. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (Fisher Scientific 60 Å, particle size 35–70 µm) according to the method of Still and co-workers.¹ Melting points were recorded on a Gallenkamp or Griffin melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IRAffinity-1 spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz or 500 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) downfield of tetramethylsilane, using residual protonated solvent as internal standard (CHCl_3 at 7.27 ppm, CD_3OD at 3.31 ppm, or DMSO-d_6 at 2.50 ppm).² Abbreviations used in the description of resonances are: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q, (quartet), quin (quintet), sept (septet), app (apparent), br (broad), m (multiplet). Coupling constants (J) are quoted to the nearest 0.1 Hz. Proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz or 500 MHz spectrometer. Assignments were made using the DEPT sequence with secondary pulses at 90° and 135°. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) downfield of tetramethylsilane, using deuterated solvent as internal standard (CDCl_3 at 77.0 ppm, CD_3OD at 49.0 ppm, or DMSO-d_6 at 39.5 ppm).² Proton-decoupled ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) downfield of CFCl_3 , using residual protonated solvent as internal standard (CFCl_3 at 376.38 MHz with respect to tetramethylsilane at 400.00 MHz).³ Low resolution mass spectra were obtained by electrospray ionization (ESI) or electron impact (EI) of MeOH or CH_2Cl_2 solutions (*ca.* 1 mg/mL) with detection in the positive or negative ion mode as appropriate. High resolution mass spectra were recorded using nanoelectrospray ionization (NSI) or atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) techniques on a Finnigan MAT 900 XLT spectrometer, a Finnigan MAT 95XP spectrometer, or a Thermo Fisher LTQ Orbitrap XL spectrometer at the EPSRC National Mass Spectrometry Service Centre, University of Wales, Swansea, or using electrospray ionization (ESI) or electron impact (EI) techniques on a Finnigan MAT 900 XLT spectrometer at the School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh. Optical rotations were recorded on an Optical Activity POLAAR 20 polarimeter. Enantiomeric excesses were determined by chiral HPLC analysis performed on an Agilent 1100 or 1200 instrument using 4.6 × 250 mm columns. X-ray diffraction data were collected at 120 K on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer using Mo K α radiation at 0.71 Å and refined in SHELLXTL.

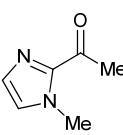
Synthesis of 2-Acetylazaarenes



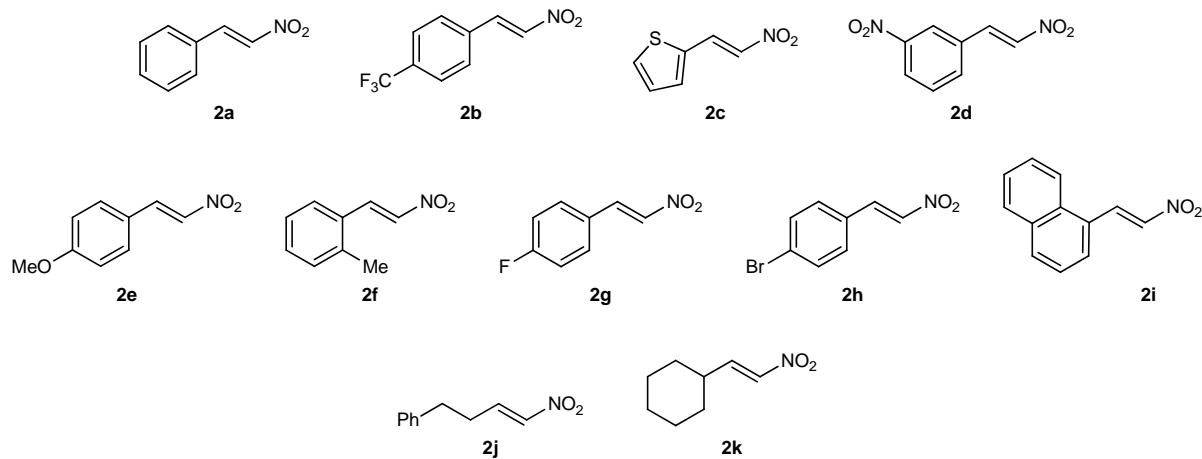
2-Acetylpyridine (**1a**) was purchased from Acros. 2-Acetylpyrazine (**1c**) and 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) were purchased from Fluorochem. 4-Acetylpyridine (**1g**) was purchased from Fluka.

 2-Acetylquinoline (**1b**) was prepared according to a previously reported procedure.⁴ $R_f = 0.52$ (2:1 hexane/Et₂O). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.⁵

 2-Acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) was prepared according to a previously reported procedure.⁶ $R_f = 0.52$ (2:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1682 (C=O), 1481, 1321, 1258, 1242, 932, 766, 735, 704, 621 cm^{-1} ; LRMS (EI) $m/z = 177.1$ (M^+). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.⁶

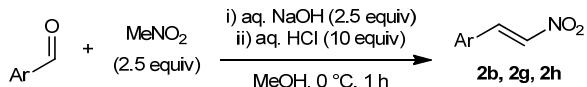
 2-Acetyl-1-methylimidazole (**1f**) was prepared according to a previously reported procedure.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.14 (1H, s, ArH), 7.02 (1H, s, ArH), 4.00 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.66 (3H, s, O=CCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.6 (C), 143.2 (C), 129.0 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 36.2 (CH₃), 27.1 (CH₃). ¹H NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.⁷

Synthesis of Nitroalkenes

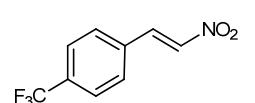


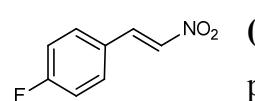
(*E*)- β -Nitrostyrene (**2a**) and 4'-methoxynitrostyrene (**2e**) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Nitroalkenes **2c**,⁸ **2d**,⁹ **2f**,¹⁰ and **2i**¹¹ were prepared according to previously reported procedures.

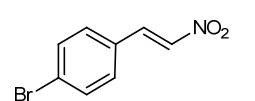
Synthesis of Aromatic Nitroalkenes: General Procedure A



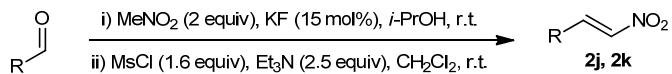
In a modification of a previously reported procedure for the synthesis of β -nitrostyrene (**2a**),¹² aqueous NaOH (10 M, 2.5 mL, 25 mmol) was added to a solution of the appropriate aldehyde (10.0 mmol) and MeNO₂ (1.34 mL, 25.0 mmol) in MeOH (100 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. Crushed ice was added until complete dissolution of any precipitate, and the mixture was poured into vigorously stirring aqueous HCl (5 M, 20 mL, 100 mmol) at 0 °C. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with H₂O (2 × 100 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford the nitroalkenes **2**.

 **(E)-1-(2-Nitroethenyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (2b).**¹³ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A from 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (1.74 g, 9.99 mmol) to afford a yellow solid which required no further purification (1.19 g, 55%). R_f = 0.66 (4:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (solid) 1639, 1522 (NO₂), 1341, 1319, 1161, 1109, 1067, 966, 953, 824, 731 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (1H, d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, CH=CHNO₂), 7.74–7.67 (4H, m, ArH), 7.64 (1H, d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, CH=CHNO₂); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8 (CH), 137.1 (CH), 133.5 (C), 133.3 (C, q, ²J_{CF} = 33.0 Hz), 129.2 (2 × CH), 126.3 (2 × CH, q, ³J_{CF} = 3.8 Hz), 123.5 (C, q, ¹J_{CF} = 272.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376.3 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -63.2 (3F, s, CF₃); LRMS (EI) *m/z* = 217.0 (M⁺). ¹H NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.¹³

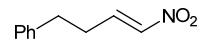
 **(E)-1-Fluoro-4-(2-nitroethenyl)benzene (2g).**¹⁴ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A from 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (1.24 g, 10.0 mmol) to afford short, fine yellow needles which required no further purification (1.20 g, 70%). R_f = 0.48 (4:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1636, 1593 (NO₂), 1499, 1339, 1263, 1229, 1163, 964, 826, 797 cm⁻¹; ¹⁹F NMR (376.3 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -105.8 (1F, tt, ³J_{HF} = 8.5, ⁴J_{HF} = 5.5 Hz, ArF). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁴

 **(E)-1-Bromo-4-(2-nitroethenyl)benzene (2h).**¹⁵ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A from 4-bromobenzaldehyde (1.85 g, 10.0 mmol) to afford a yellow solid which required no further purification (1.82 g, 73%). R_f = 0.52 (4:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1634, 1516 (NO₂), 1499, 1485, 1331, 1260, 1070, 966, 812, 743 cm⁻¹; LRMS (EI) *m/z* = 226.9 (M⁺). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁵

Synthesis of Aliphatic Nitroalkenes: General Procedure B

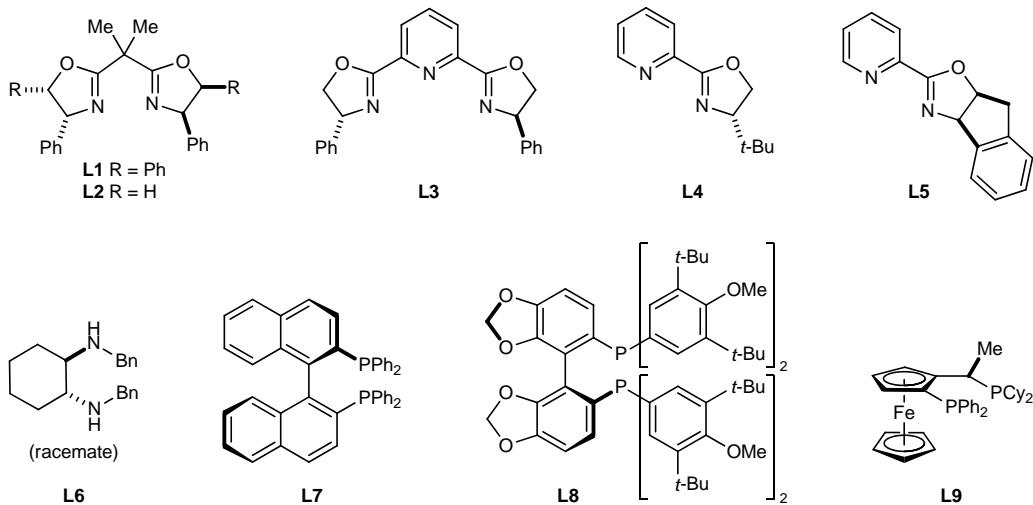


In a modification of a reported procedure,¹⁶ KF (436 mg, 7.35 mmol) was added to a solution of the appropriate aldehyde (50 mmol) and MeNO₂ (5.4 mL, 101 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (30 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 24 h, then diluted with H₂O (30 mL). The resulting solution was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 30 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with H₂O (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the intermediate nitroaldols in quantitative yield.¹⁷ In a modification of a second reported procedure,¹⁸ Et₃N (17.5 mL, 125 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of the crude nitroaldol (theoretically 50 mmol) and MsCl (5.8 mL, 75 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) at 0 °C over 1 min. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 18 h. H₂O (100 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (2 × 100 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded the nitroalkenes **2**.

 **(E)-(4-Nitrobut-3-en-1-yl)benzene (2j).**¹⁸ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure B from hydrocinnamaldehyde (6.9 mL, 49.8 mmol) and purified by column chromatography (8:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a yellow oil (5.91 g, 65%). *R*_f = 0.44 (8:1 hexane/Et₂O). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁸

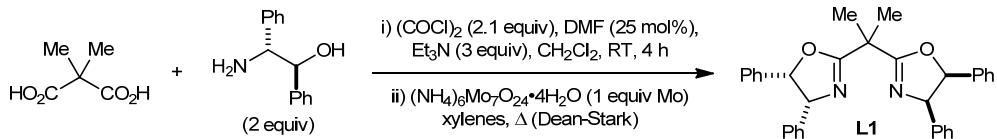
 **(E)-(2-Nitroethenyl)cyclohexane (2k).**¹⁶ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure B from cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde (6.1 mL, 50.4 mmol) for a reaction time of 18 h and purified by column chromatography (10:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a yellow oil (6.43 g, 82%). *R*_f = 0.72 (4:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (film) 2928, 2855, 1645, 1520 (NO₂), 1449, 1348, 959, 835, 731, 596 cm⁻¹; LRMS (EI) *m/z* = 156 ([M+H]⁺). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁶

Synthesis of Ligands and Catalysts



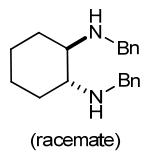
Ligands **L2** and **L3** were purchased from Aldrich. (*R*)-BINAP (**L7**) was purchased from Acros. (*S*)-DTBM-Segphos (**L8**) was obtained from Takasago. (*R*)-Josiphos SL-J001-1 (**L9**) was obtained from Solvias. Ligands **L4**¹⁹ and **L5**²⁰ were prepared according to previously reported procedures.

2,2-Bis[(4*R*,5*S*)-4,5-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1,3-oxazol-2-yl]propane (L1)²¹



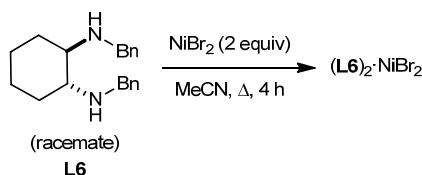
In a modification of a previously reported procedure,²¹ a suspension of dimethylmalonic acid (661 mg, 5.00 mmol) and DMF (0.1 mL, 1.3 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) at 0 °C was treated with oxalyl chloride (1.1 mL, 11 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 2 h, then added by cannula transfer to a vigorously stirred mixture of (1*S*,2*R*)-2-amino-1,2-diphenylethanol (2.13 g, 9.99 mmol) and Et_3N (2.1 mL, 15 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 18 h, then diluted with EtOAc (80 mL), washed with 1:1 brine/aqueous HCl (1 M) (3 × 50 mL) and brine (80 mL), dried ($MgSO_4$) and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the intermediate *bis*-amide in quantitative yield.²¹ In a modification of a second previously reported procedure,²² this *bis*-amide (theoretically 5 mmol) was suspended in xylanes (150 mL) and $(NH_4)_6Mo_7O_{24} \cdot 4H_2O$ (884 mg, 0.715 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated at reflux using a Dean-Stark apparatus for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated to approximately 25 mL *in vacuo*, adsorbed onto silica (ca. 10 g) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography (0–16% acetone/hexane) followed by recrystallization from heptane afforded the title compound as fine white needles (1.28 g, 52%); R_f = 0.61 (3:2 hexane/acetone); IR (solid) 1674, 1689, 1450, 1319, 1140, 1119, 984, 741, 698, 567 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.05–7.00

(10H, m, ArH), 6.99–6.95 (10 H, m, ArH), 5.98 (2H, d, J = 10.1 Hz, 2 \times OCH), 5.61 (2H, d, J = 10.2 Hz, 2 \times NCH), 1.93 (6H, s, 2 \times CH₃); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4 (2 \times C), 137.5 (2 \times C), 136.2 (2 \times C), 127.8 (4 \times CH), 127.6 (4 \times CH), 127.6 (4 \times CH), 127.4 (2 \times CH), 126.9 (2 \times CH), 126.5 (4 \times CH), 86.3 (2 \times CH), 73.8 (2 \times CH), 39.6 (C), 24.8 (2 \times CH₃); LRMS (ESI) m/z = 487 ([M+H]⁺). ¹H NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²¹



(\pm)-*Trans*-*N,N'*-dibenzylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine (**L6**) was prepared according to a previously reported procedure.²³ R_f = 0.17 (4:1 hexane/EtOAc, plate pre-doped with 5% Et₃N/CH₂Cl₂). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²³

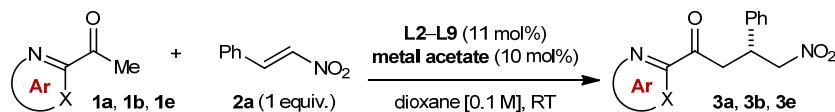
Bis-(*trans*-(*N,N'*-dibenzyl)cyclohexane-1,2-diamine)nickel (II) bromide [(L6**)₂·NiBr₂]²⁴**



According to a previously reported procedure for *bis*-[(*R,R*)-(*N,N'*-dibenzyl)cyclohexane-1,2-diamine]nickel (II) bromide,²⁴ a solution of NiBr₂ (1.09 g, 4.99 mmol) and (\pm)-*trans*-*N,N'*-dibenzylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine **L6** (3.68 g, 12.5 mmol) in MeCN (100 mL) was stirred at reflux for 4 h, allowed to cool to room temperature, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) and filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was recrystallized from 1:1 MeCN/CH₂Cl₂ to afford the title compound as a pale blue powder (2.25 g, 56%). m.p (decomp.) 175–180 °C (1:1 MeCN/CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.36–7.28 (16H, m, ArH), 7.28–7.23 (4H, m, ArH), 3.90 (4H, d, J = 13.0 Hz, 4 \times NCH₂), 3.70 (4H, d, J = 13.0 Hz, 4 \times NCH₂), 2.41–2.32 (4H, m, 4 \times CH₂CHN), 2.19 (4H, dd, J = 10.6, 2.4 Hz, CH₂CHN), 1.81–1.71 (4H, m, 4 \times CH₂CHN), 1.32–1.20 (4H, m, 2 \times CH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.20–1.09 (4H, m, 2 \times CH₂CH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 137.3 (4 \times C), 129.62 (8 \times CH), 129.60 (8 \times CH), 128.5 (4 \times CH), 61.1 (4 \times CH), 50.8 (4 \times CH₂), 31.1 (4 \times CH₂), 25.8 (4 \times CH₂); LRMS (ESI) m/z = 807 ([M+H]⁺).

Screening and Optimization

Initial Catalyst Screening: General Procedure C

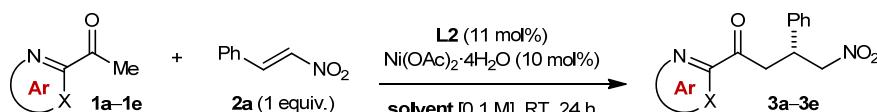


A 1 mL vial was charged with metal salt (0.010 mmol) and 3 Å molecular sieves (50 mg). A solution of the appropriate ligand (0.011 mmol) in dioxane (0.5 mL), a solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.10 mmol) in dioxane (0.25 mL) and a solution of (*E*)-β-nitrostyrene (**2a**) (15 mg, 0.10 mmol) in dioxane (0.25 mL) were added, and the vial was sealed. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, then filtered through a plug of silica gel (*ca.* 1 cm), eluting with EtOAc (2 × 5 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo*.

Results

Each of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, AgOAc , $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$, $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc}) \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Zn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Mg}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was screened against each of ligands **L2–L5** and **L7–L9**. The only combinations that exhibited good catalytic activity (as determined by TLC analysis) were those of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with **L2** (81–89% ee), **L3** (0–31% ee), **L4** (10–42% ee), or **L5** (2–40% ee). The crude products of the reactions with **L2** were analysed by ^1H NMR spectroscopy, which indicated 84–98% conversion into the desired products.

Solvent Screening: General Procedure D



A solution of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2.5 mg, 0.010 mmol), **L2** (3.7 mg, 0.011 mmol), the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.10 mmol) and (*E*)-β-nitrostyrene (**2a**) (15 mg, 0.10 mmol) in the appropriate solvent (1 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, then filtered through a plug of silica gel (*ca.* 1 cm), eluting with EtOAc (2 × 5 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo*.

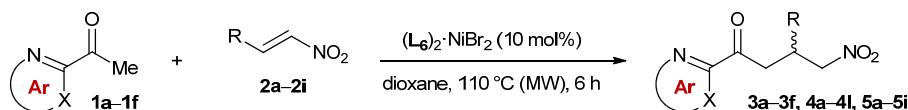
Results

i-PrOH gave the highest enantioselectivity (88–96% ee) and high conversion (90–98%). Other alcohols (MeOH, *n*-BuOH) and ethers (THF, Et_2O , *t*-BuOMe) gave comparable conversion (84–99%), but with generally lower levels of enantioselectivity (74–96% ee) which were highly variable across the substrate range. MeCN, toluene and chlorinated solvents (CH_2Cl_2 , CHCl_3) gave lower conversion (64–75%).

Further Ligand Evaluation

On subsequent scaling up of the reaction, significant proportions of an undesired side product (not detected in screening) were observed. Based on NMR and LRMS analysis of isolated material, this was tentatively identified as a mixture of diastereomers and/or regioisomers corresponding to a 2:1 adduct of nitroalkene and azaarene. Attempts to suppress the second addition by varying the reaction temperature and/or concentration were unsuccessful. It was found that the more sterically congested ligand **L1**, when used in conjunction with a slight excess of the azaarene, gave much cleaner reactions with minimal side product formation (<5%). A significant acceleration of the reaction was also noted under these conditions, with no loss of enantioselectivity.

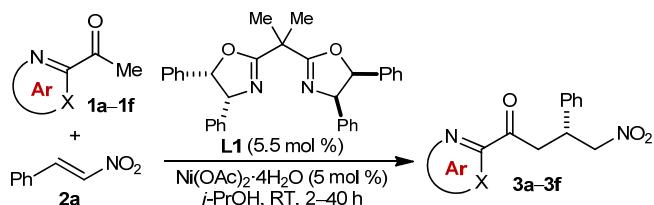
Racemic Conjugate Addition of 2-Acetylazaarenes to Nitroalkenes: General Procedure E



A solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.12 mmol), the appropriate nitroalkene **2** (0.10 mmol) and $(\text{L6})_2\cdot\text{NiBr}_2$ (8 mg, 0.010 mmol) in dioxane (1 mL) was stirred under microwave irradiation at 110 °C for 6 h, then allowed to cool to room temperature. A small aliquot of the reaction mixture was purified by preparative TLC (hexane/EtOAc, hexane/Et₂O or Et₂O as appropriate) to afford an authentic racemic sample for HPLC analysis.

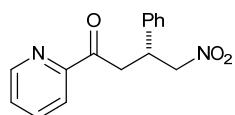
Enantioselective Ni-Catalyzed Michael Addition of 2-Acetylazaarenes to Nitroalkenes

Figure 1: General Procedure F

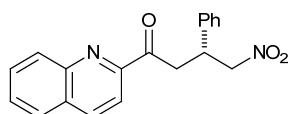


A suspension of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (6.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and ligand **L1** (13.4 mg, 0.0275 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (1 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. To the resulting solution was added a solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.60 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (2 mL) followed by a solution of (*E*)-β-nitrostyrene (**2a**) (75 mg, 0.50 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (2 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until complete consumption of the nitroalkene as indicated by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and washed with brine (2 × 5 mL). The aqueous layers were extracted with EtOAc (5 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried

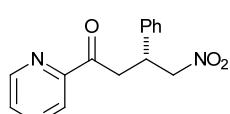
(MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded the nitroalkane **3**.



(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3a).²⁵ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetylpyridine (**1a**) (67 μ L, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 2 h and purified by column chromatography (1:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a white solid (116 mg, 86%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +21.9$ (*c* 0.53, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.23 (1:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 2922, 1701 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1435, 1366, 993, 766, 704, 631, 615, 557 cm⁻¹; HPLC (Chiralpak AS-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (minor) = 31.0 min, *t*_r (major) = 36.7 min, 96% ee. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²⁵

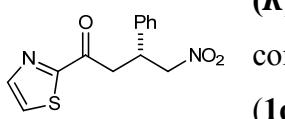


(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3b). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (103 mg, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 21 h and purified by column chromatography (3:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (150 mg, 94%). m.p. 168–170 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +57.5$ (*c* 0.53, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.31 (3:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (solid) 1693 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1385, 1368, 1202, 974, 826, 754, 700, 561 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.21 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.07 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.40–7.31 (4H, m, ArH), 7.30–7.23 (1H, m, ArH), 4.86 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.8 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.74 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 8.2 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.33 (1H, app dq, *J* = 8.0, 7.0 Hz, CH₂CH), 4.03 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 7.1 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.0 (C), 152.3 (C), 147.1 (C), 139.3 (C), 137.1 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.7 (C), 129.0 (2 \times CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.73 (CH), 127.68 (CH), 127.6 (2 \times CH), 118.0 (CH), 79.9 (CH₂), 40.6 (CH₂), 39.6 (CH); HRMS (APCI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 321.1234, found 321.1234; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (minor) = 25.7 min, *t*_r (major) = 31.3 min, 94% ee.

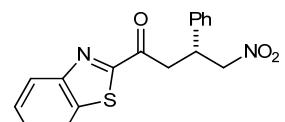


(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3c). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (79 mg, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 2 h and purified by column chromatography (3:1 Et₂O/hexane) to afford a white solid (113 mg, 83%). m.p. 137–139 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +11.0$ (*c* 0.50, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.33 (3:1 Et₂O/hexane); IR (solid) 1703 (C=O), 1543

(NO₂), 1396, 1369, 1047, 1018, 989, 772, 704, 559 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.19 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.78 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.64 (1H, br s, ArH), 7.38–7.22 (5H, m, ArH), 4.79 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.2 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.7 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.25 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 7.3 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.61 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 6.8 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1 (C), 148.2 (CH), 146.9 (C), 143.7 (CH), 143.5 (CH), 138.8 (C), 129.0 (2 × CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.5 (2 × CH), 79.7 (CH₂), 40.8 (CH₂), 39.0 (CH); HRMS (APCI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₁₄N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 272.1030, found 272.1028; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r(minor) = 42.5 min, *t*_r (major) = 44.7 min, 99% ee.



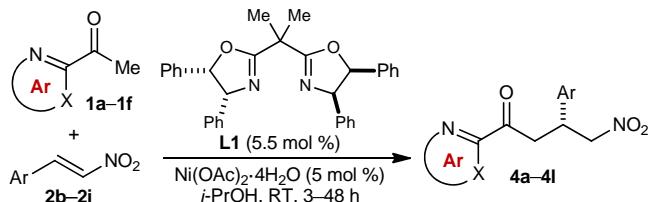
(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (3d).²⁶ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (62 μL, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 21 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford an off-white oil (118 mg, 75%). [α]_D²⁰ +9.1 (c 0.50, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.25 (1:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (film) 2922, 1686 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1479, 1379, 1347, 783, 762, 700, 554 cm⁻¹; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r(minor) = 21.5 min, *t*_r (major) = 23.7 min, 97% ee. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²⁶



(R)-1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-yl)-4-nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-one (3e). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) (106 mg, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 40 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a white solid (105 mg, 64%). m.p. 159–161 °C (hexane); [α]_D²⁰ +30.3 (c 0.55, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.27 (2:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 2924, 1697 (C=O), 1543 (NO₂), 1476, 943, 762, 733, 718, 700, 554 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, ArH), 7.98 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5, 0.7 Hz, ArH), 7.62–7.58 (1H, m, ArH), 7.57–7.53 (1H, m, ArH), 7.36–7.31 (4H, m, ArH), 7.30–7.25 (1H, m, ArH), 4.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.0 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.73 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.9 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.31 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.91 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 7.3 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 7.0 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.1 (C), 165.4 (C), 153.4 (C), 138.5 (C), 137.3 (C), 129.1 (2 × CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.99 (CH), 127.5 (2 × CH), 127.2 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 79.6 (CH₂), 41.6 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH); HRMS (APCI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₇H₁₅N₂O₃S [M+H]⁺: 327.0798, found 327.0795; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r(minor) = 34.7 min, *t*_r (major) = 38.4 min, 97% ee.

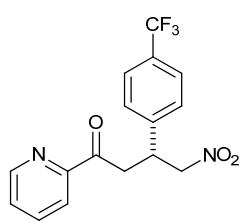
(R)-1-(1-Methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)-4-nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-one (3f).²⁷ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F from 2-acetyl-1-methylimidazole (**1f**) (75 mg, 0.60 mmol) for a reaction time of 40 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O) to afford a white oil (122 mg, 85%). $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +17.8 (*c* 0.51, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.53 (2:1 CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O); IR (film) 2924, 1678 (C=O), 1541 (NO₂), 1408, 1155, 972, 781, 766, 702, 556 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR 500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35–7.28 (4H, m, ArH), 7.27–7.22 (1H, m, ArH), 7.13 (1H, d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, ArH), 7.03 (1H, s, ArH), 4.75 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.8 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.3 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.22 (1H, app dq, *J* = 8.3, 7.1 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.95 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.74 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.1 (C), 142.6 (C), 139.0 (C), 129.3 (CH), 128.9 (2 \times CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.6 (2 \times CH), 127.3 (CH), 79.9 (CH₂), 41.9 (CH₂), 39.3 (CH), 36.1 (CH₃); HRMS (APCI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 274.1186, found 274.1187; HPLC (Chiracel OD-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (major) = 21.5 min, *t*_r (minor) = 24.5 min, 97% ee. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²⁷

Figure 2: General Procedure G



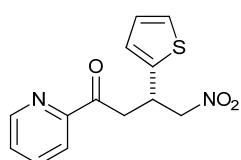
A suspension of Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O (6.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and ligand **L1** (13.4 mg, 0.0275 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (1 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. To the resulting solution was added a solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.60 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (2 mL) followed by a solution of the appropriate nitroalkene **2** in *i*-PrOH (2 mL)* and the mixture was stirred at room temperature until complete consumption of the nitroalkene as indicated by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and washed with brine (2 \times 5 mL). The aqueous layers were extracted with EtOAc (5 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded the nitroalkane **4**.

* (Poorly soluble 2-acetylazaarenes and nitroalkenes were added solid or neat and rinsed in with the equivalent volume of *i*-PrOH.)



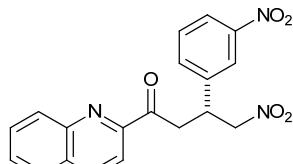
(R)-4-Nitro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butan-1-one (4a).

The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 4-acetylpyridine (**1a**) (67 μ L, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-1-(2-nitroethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2b**) (109 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 18 h and purified by column chromatography (0–20% EtOAc/hexane) to afford a white solid (161 mg, 73%); m.p. 87–89 °C (9:1 hexane/EtOH); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +34.0$ (*c* 1.24, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.46 (1:1 EtOAc/hexane); IR (solid) 1697 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1321, 1157, 1113, 1065, 991, 841, 772, 606 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (1H, ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6, 0.9 Hz, ArH), 8.00 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 7.85 (1H, td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.51 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, ArH), 7.46 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 4.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.5 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.7, 8.6 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.33 (1H, dq, *J* = 8.1, 6.9 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.86 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 7.3 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 6.9 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1 (C), 152.5 (C), 149.0 (CH), 143.3 (C), 137.2 (CH), 131.1 (C, q, ²J_{CF} = 33.7 Hz), 128.1 (2 \times CH), 127.7 (CH), 125.9 (2 \times CH, q, ³J_{CF} = 3.8 Hz), 123.9 (C, ¹J_{CF} = 272.0 Hz), 122.0 (CH), 79.3 (CH₂), 40.5 (CH₂), 39.0 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₆H₁₃F₃N₂O₃ [M]⁺: 338.0873, found 338.0871; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 254 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 18.6 min, t_r (major) = 23.2 min, 92% ee.



(S)-4-Nitro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (4b).²⁵

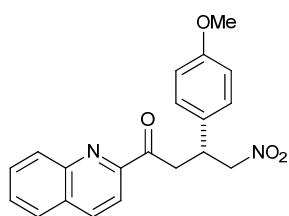
The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylpyridine (**1a**) (67 μ L, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)- β -(2-thienyl)nitroethene (**2c**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 5 h and purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) to afford a white solid (70 mg, 51%). m.p. 54–58 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +29.7$ (*c* 0.56, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.35 (CH₂Cl₂); IR (solid) 1701 (C=O), 1547 (NO₂), 1435, 1362, 1275, 1252, 1053, 1032, 993, 772 cm⁻¹; HPLC (Chiralpak AS-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 39.0 min, t_r (major) = 44.3 min, 93% ee. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²⁵



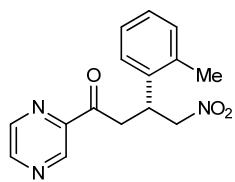
(R)-4-Nitro-3-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (4c).

The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (103 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-3,β-dinitrostyrene (**2d**) (97 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (0–30% Et₂O/hexane) to afford a yellow oil (113 mg, 62%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +52.1$ (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.31 (1:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1697 (C=O), 1549, 1531 (NO₂), 1350,

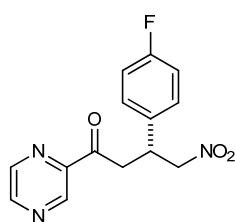
1204, 827, 804, 731, 689 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.29 (1H, t, J = 2.1 Hz, ArH), 8.28 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.21 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.13 (1H, ddd, J = 8.3, 2.1, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 8.06 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.88 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (1H, ddd, J = 8.5, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.74 (1H, dt, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.68 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (1H, app t, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 4.92 (1H, dd, J = 12.9, 6.2 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.80 (1H, dd, J = 12.9, 8.9 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.45 (1H, dq, J = 8.7, 6.9 Hz, CH_2CH), 4.08 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 7.4 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$), 3.83 (1H, dd, J = 18.0, 6.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3 (C), 151.9 (C), 147.1 (C), 141.5 (C), 137.3 (CH), 134.3 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.4 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.8 (C), 129.0 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 117.9 (CH), 79.2 (CH₂), 40.3 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$ [M+H]⁺: 365.1006, found 365.1017; HPLC (Chiralpak IA-3, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 1.5 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 26.5 min, t_r (major) = 29.5 min, 99% ee.



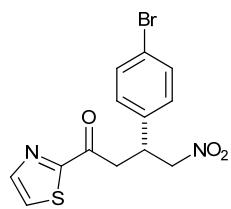
(R)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-nitro-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (4d). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (103 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-methoxy-β-nitrostyrene (**2e**) (90 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 48 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a white solid (172 mg, >95%). m.p. 146–148 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +59.1 (*c* 0.97, CHCl_3); R_f = 0.26 (2:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1694 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1514, 1254, 1179, 1036, 833, 787, 756, 565 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.21 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.07 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.88 (1H, dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (1H, ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.67 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.30–7.25 (2H, m, ArH), 6.87–6.84 (2H, m, ArH), 4.83 (1H, dd, J = 12.3, 6.8 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.70 (1H, dd, J = 12.3, 8.3 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.28 (1H, app dq, J = 7.8, 6.9 Hz, CH_2CH), 4.00 (1H, dd, J = 17.7, 7.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$), 3.78 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.76 (1H, dd, J = 17.7, 7.1 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.1 (C), 159.0 (C), 152.3 (C), 147.1 (C), 137.1 (CH), 131.2 (C), 130.5 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.7 (C), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (2 × CH), 127.7 (CH), 118.0 (CH), 114.3 (2 × CH), 80.2 (CH₂), 55.2 (CH₃), 40.7 (CH₂), 38.9 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ [M+H]⁺: 373.1159, found 373.1158; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 20.6 min, t_r (major) = 24.9 min, 95% ee.



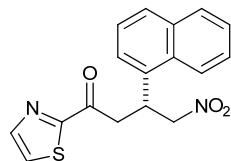
(R)-3-(2-Methylphenyl)-4-nitro-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)butan-1-one (4e). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (73 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-2-methyl- β -nitrostyrene (**2f**) (82 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 48 h and purified by column chromatography (1:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford off-white oil (113 mg, 79%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +30.6$ (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.17$ (1:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (film) 1695 (C=O), 1543 (NO₂), 1377, 1360, 1271, 1016, 978, 768, 756, 731 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.17 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.77 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.63 (1H, br s, ArH), 7.23–7.18 (2H, m, ArH), 7.17–7.14 (2H, m, ArH), 4.73 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.7 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.3 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.55 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.86 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 7.5 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.56 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.1, 6.6 Hz, CH₂C=O), 2.51 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.2 (C), 148.2 (CH), 146.9 (CH), 143.6 (CH), 143.5 (C), 137.0 (C), 136.5 (C), 131.1 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 79.2 (CH₂), 40.8 (CH₂), 34.2 (CH), 19.5 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₃O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 308.1006, found 308.1008; HPLC (Chiralpak AS-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 30.7 min, t_r (major) = 50.8 min, 98% ee.



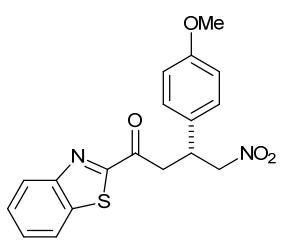
(R)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-nitro-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)butan-1-one (4f). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (73 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-fluoro- β -nitrostyrene (**2g**) (84 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 3 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 Et₂O/hexane) to afford a white solid (144 mg, 91%).
 m.p. 118–119 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +33.7$ (*c* 0.80, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.15$ (2:1 Et₂O/hexane); IR (solid) 1695 (C=O), 1541 (NO₂), 1512, 1377, 1238, 1163, 1018, 862, 833, 772 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.19 (1H, d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, ArH), 8.79 (1H, d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, ArH), 8.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 2.3, 1.5 Hz, ArH), 7.33–7.26 (2H, m, ArH), 7.08–6.99 (2H, m, ArH), 4.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.9 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.0 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.25 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.2 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.80 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 7.5 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.58 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 6.8 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9 (C), 162.2 (C, d, ¹J_{CF} = 246.9 Hz), 148.3 (CH), 146.8 (C), 143.7 (CH), 143.5 (CH), 134.5 (C, d, ⁴J_{CF} = 3.3 Hz), 129.2 (2 \times CH, d, ³J_{CF} = 8.1 Hz), 116.0 (2 \times CH, d, ²J_{CF} = 21.5 Hz), 79.7 (CH₂), 40.8 (CH₂), 38.4 (CH); ¹⁹F NMR (376.3 Hz, CDCl₃) δ -114.0 (1F, tt, ³J_{HF} = 8.5, ⁴J_{HF} = 5.2 Hz, ArF); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₁₂FN₃O₃ [M]⁺: 289.0857, found 289.0858; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 20.1 min, t_r (major) = 23.6 min, 97% ee.



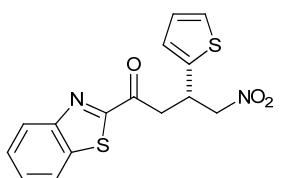
(R)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-nitro-1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (4g). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (62 μL , 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-bromo- β -nitrostyrene (**2h**) (114 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 4 h and purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane/acetone) to afford a colorless glass (156 mg, 88%); m.p. 52–54 °C (1:1 MeOH/hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} -12.1$ (c 1.00, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.24$ (1:1 hexane/ Et_2O); IR (solid) 1682 (C=O), 1543 (NO₂), 1479, 1377, 1011, 951, 826, 762, 750, 714 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.01 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 7.48–7.45 (2H, m, ArH), 7.22–7.17 (2H, m, ArH), 4.77 (1H, dd, J = 12.6, 6.6 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.67 (1H, dd, J = 12.6, 8.2 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.24 (1H, app quin, J = 7.3 Hz, CH_2CH), 3.75 (1H, dd, J = 17.7, 7.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.55 (1H, dd, J = 17.7, 6.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.2 (C), 166.0 (C), 144.9 (CH), 137.5 (C), 132.2 (2 \times CH), 129.2 (2 \times CH), 127.0 (CH), 121.9 (C), 79.2 (CH₂), 41.2 (CH₂), 38.7 (CH); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M]⁺: 353.9668, found 353.9669; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 30.1 min, t_r (major) = 32.4 min, 97% ee.



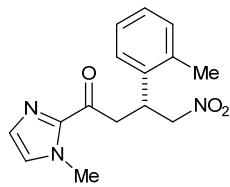
(R)-3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-4-nitro-1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (4h). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (62 μL , 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-1-(2-nitroethenyl)naphthalene (**2i**) (100 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (4:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford an off-white oil (116 mg, 71%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +31.8$ (c 0.96, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.12$ (4:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (film) 1684 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1479, 1379, 1231, 1063, 945, 878, 777, 752 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.28 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.02 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 7.88 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 7.63 (1H, ddd, J = 8.5, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.54 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 7.47 (1H, dd, J = 7.1, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.44 (1H, app q, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 5.22 (1H, app quin, J = 7.0 Hz, CH_2CH), 4.89 (1H, dd, J = 12.7, 6.6 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.86 (1H, dd, J = 12.7, 7.7 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.96 (1H, dd, J = 17.8, 6.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.78 (1H, dd, J = 17.8, 7.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.8 (C), 166.2 (C), 144.9 (CH), 134.6 (C), 134.2 (C), 131.0 (C), 129.2 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 123.8 (br, CH), 122.4 (CH), 79.0 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 33.6 (br, CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M+H]⁺: 327.0798, found 327.0797; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 22.5 min, t_r (minor) = 25.4 min, 97% ee.



(R)-1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-yl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-one (4i). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) (106 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-methoxy- β -nitrostyrene (**2e**) (90 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (0–20% EtOAc/hexane) to afford an off-white solid (157 mg, 88%). m.p. 126–127 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +36.4$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.37$ (3:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (solid) 1694 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1514, 1476, 1252, 1177, 1032, 945, 840, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.98 (1H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.4, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.4, 1.0 Hz, ArH), 7.25 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, ArH), 6.86 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, ArH), 4.79 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.9 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 8.0 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.26 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.87 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.8, 7.6 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.77 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.8, 6.8 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.2 (C), 165.5 (C), 159.2 (C), 153.4 (C), 137.3 (C), 130.4 (C), 128.6 (2 \times CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 114.4 (2 \times CH), 79.8 (CH₂), 55.2 (CH₃), 41.7 (CH₂), 38.6 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₁₆N₂O₄Na [M+H]⁺: 379.0723, found 379.0728; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r(minor) = 51.6 min, *t*_r(major) = 54.3 min, 97% ee.

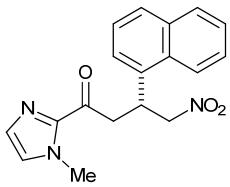


(S)-1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-yl)-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (4j). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) (106 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)- β -(2-thienyl)nitroethene (**2c**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 48 h and purified by column chromatography (2:1 hexane/Et₂O) to afford a white solid (146 mg, 88%). m.p. 102–105 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +33.0$ (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.28$ (2:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 1690 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1477, 1385, 1215, 1180, 393, 762, 718, 602 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, ArH), 8.00 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, ArH), 7.62 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.3, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.23 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.03 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 6.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.5 Hz, ArH), 4.86 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.7, 6.8 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.7, 7.6 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.65 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.1 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 6.7 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.7 (C), 165.2 (C), 153.3 (C), 141.2 (C), 137.3 (C), 128.0 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 125.6 (CH), 124.9 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 79.8 (CH₂), 42.4 (CH₂), 34.6 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₂O₃S₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 355.0182, found 355.0190; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r(minor) = 21.1 min, *t*_r(major) = 23.8 min, 97% ee.



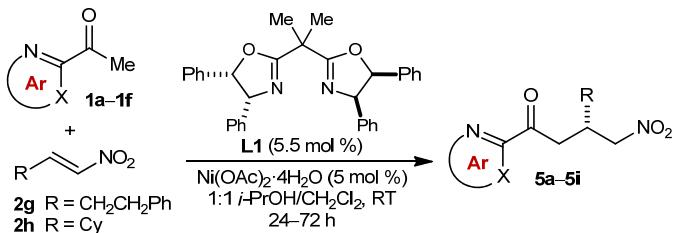
(R)-1-(1-Methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-(2-methylphenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-one (4k).

The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetyl-1-methylimidazole (**1f**) (75 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-2-methyl- β -nitrostyrene (**2f**) (82 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (0–10% EtOAc/CH₂Cl₂) to afford an off-white oil (109 mg, 76%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +24.3$ (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.34$ (3:1 Et₂O/hexane); IR (film) 1672 (C=O), 1548 (NO₂), 1464, 1406, 1377, 1290, 997, 914, 764, 727 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26–7.24 (1H, m, ArH), 7.19–7.14 (4H, m, ArH), 7.03 (1H, s, ArH), 4.72 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.4 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.6, 7.7 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.52 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.3 Hz, CH₂CH), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.74 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.3 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.50 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.3, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 2.49 (3H, s, ArCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.1 (C), 142.3 (C), 137.2 (C), 136.4 (C), 131.0 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 79.3 (CH₂), 42.3 (CH₂), 36.2 (CH₃), 34.5 (CH), 19.5 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₁₇N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 288.1343, found 288.1350; HPLC (Chiracel OD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 38.7 min, t_r (minor) = 50.6 min, 95% ee.

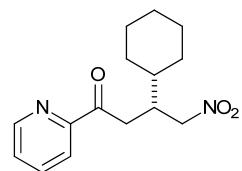


(R)-1-(1-Methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-one (4l).

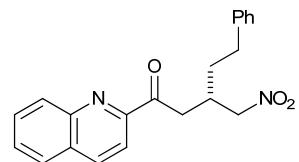
The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G from 2-acetyl-1-methylimidazole (**1f**) (75 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-1-(2-nitroethenyl)naphthalene (**2i**) (100 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 16 h and purified by column chromatography (0–20% acetone/hexane) to afford a colorless oil (133 mg, 82%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +94.3$ (*c* 1.30, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.40$ (Et₂O); IR (film) 1672 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1408, 1377, 914, 799, 777, 752, 704, 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.88 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.78 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.61 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.53 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.0, 0.8 Hz, ArH), 7.49 (1H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, ArH), 7.43 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 7.4 Hz, ArH), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, ArH), 7.02 (1H, s, ArH), 5.18 (1H, app quin, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH₂CH), 4.85 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.8, 6.7 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.8, 7.9 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 3.93 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.8 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.91 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.70 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.4 Hz, CH₂C=O); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.2 (C), 142.6 (C), 134.9 (C), 134.1 (C), 131.1 (C), 129.3 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 125.3 (2 \times CH), 122.5 (CH), 79.3 (CH₂), 42.0 (CH₂), 36.1 (CH₃), 33.7 (br, CH); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₁₈N₃O₃ [M]⁺: 323.1264, found 323.1262; HPLC (Chiraldpak IC, 20% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 17.0 min, t_r (minor) = 19.7 min, 97% ee.

Figure 3: General Procedure H

A solution of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (6.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and ligand **L1** (13.4 mg, 0.0275 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (0.5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To the resulting solution was added a solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (0.60 mmol) and the appropriate nitroalkene **2** (0.50 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred until complete consumption of the nitroalkene as indicated by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) and washed with brine (2 \times 5 mL), dried (MgSO_4), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded the nitroalkane **4**.

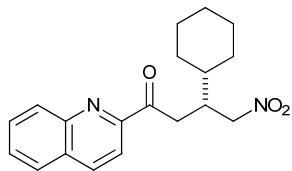


(R)-3-Cyclohexyl-4-nitro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (5a). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylpyridine (**1a**) (67 μL , 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (5% acetone/hexane) to afford a colorless oil (95 mg, 69%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -3.9$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.34$ (4:1 hexane/acetone); IR (film) 2920, 2851, 1699 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1435, 1377, 1215, 995, 768, 687, 619 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.68 (1H, ddd, *J* = 4.7, 1.6, 0.9 Hz, ArH), 8.05 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.86 (1H, td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, ArH), 7.50 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.5, 4.8, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 4.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.6 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.7 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.48 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 5.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.3, 7.9 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 2.90–2.83 (1H, m, CHCH_2NO_2), 1.81–1.72 (4H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.71–1.64 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.56–1.48 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.30–1.19 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.19–1.11 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.11–1.03 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.0 (C), 153.0 (C), 148.9 (CH), 137.0 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 121.9 (CH), 77.3 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH), 38.3 (CH), 36.6 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.4 (CH₂), 26.4 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ [M]⁺: 276.1468, found 276.1469; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 230 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 21.4 min, t_r (minor) = 24.9 min, 65% ee.

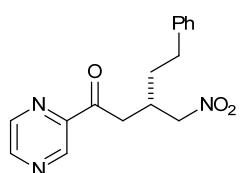


(S)-3-(Nitromethyl)-5-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)pentan-1-one (5b). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (103 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-(nitrobut-3-en-1-

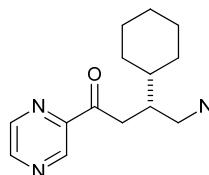
yl)benzene (**2j**) (89 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (0–10% Et₂O/hexane) to afford an off-white oil (121 mg, 68%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +32.1$ (*c* 1.40, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.31 (4:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (film) 1697 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂), 1369, 1204, 1113, 999, 831, 791, 748, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, ArH), 8.22 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 8.13 (1H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, ArH), 7.90 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.82 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.68 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.32–7.25 (2H, m, ArH), 7.23–7.16 (3H, m, ArH), 4.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.60 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.1, 6.2 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 3.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 6.1 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.61 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.9, 6.8 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.01 (1H, app sept, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CHCH₂NO₂), 2.80 (2H, td, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, PhCH₂), 1.94–1.86 (2H, m, PhCH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.2 (C), 152.5 (C), 147.1 (C), 141.0 (C), 137.1 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.7 (C), 128.8 (CH), 128.5 (2 \times CH), 128.3 (2 \times CH), 127.7 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 118.0 (CH), 78.8 (CH₂), 38.7 (CH₂), 33.6 (CH₂), 33.4 (CH), 32.9 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O₃ [M]⁺: 348.1468, found 348.1464; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (minor) = 18.0 min, *t*_r (major) = 20.6 min, 80% ee.



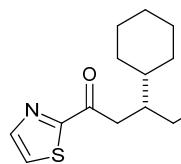
(R)-3-Cyclohexyl-4-nitro-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (5c). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (103 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (5% acetone/hexane) to afford a white solid (124 mg, 76%). m.p. 94–97 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +17.9$ (*c* 0.60, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.30 (4:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (solid) 2924, 2855, 1697 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1375, 982, 943, 827, 781, 770, 750 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.28 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, ArH), 8.14 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.91 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.83 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 4.58 (2H, app d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 3.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.8, 5.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.8, 7.6 Hz, CH₂C=O), 2.94 (1H, app dtd, *J* = 7.6, 6.8, 5.2 Hz, CHCH₂NO₂), 1.86–1.76 (4H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.74–1.51 (2H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.34–1.07 (5H, m, CH(CH₂)₅); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.6 (C), 152.5 (C), 147.1 (C), 137.1 (CH), 130.5 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 129.7 (C), 128.7 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 77.4 (CH₂), 39.3 (CH), 38.7 (CH), 36.5 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₂), 29.4 (CH₂), 26.4 (CH₂), 26.4 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₂O₃ [M]⁺: 326.1625, found 326.1623; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 5% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (minor) = 14.9 min, *t*_r (major) = 16.8 min, 78% ee.



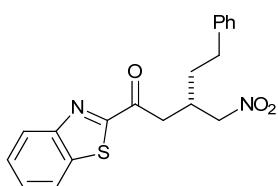
(S)-3-(Nitromethyl)-5-phenyl-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)pentan-1-one (5d). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (73 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-(nitrobut-3-en-1-yl)benzene (**2j**) (89 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (0–20% Et₂O/hexane) to afford an off-white oil (136 mg, 86%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +5.4$ (c 1.10, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.19$ (1:1 hexane/Et₂O); IR (film) 2924, 1695 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂) 1381, 1364, 1053, 1018, 997, 837, 745, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.80 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.65 (1H, br s, ArH), 7.35–7.26 (2H, m, ArH), 7.25–7.18 (3H, m, ArH), 4.61 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.1, 5.8 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 3.46 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.6, 7.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.39 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.6, 5.7 Hz, CH₂C=O), 2.94 (1H, app dq, *J* = 12.1, 6.1 Hz, CHCH₂NO₂), 2.75 (2H, app dd, *J* = 9.3, 6.8 Hz, PhCH₂), 1.86 (2H, app dtd, *J* = 9.3, 6.8, 0.7 Hz, PhCH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.2 (C), 148.2 (CH), 147.1 (C), 143.60 (CH), 143.56 (CH), 140.7 (C), 128.6 (2 \times CH), 128.3 (2 \times CH), 126.2 (CH), 78.4 (CH₂), 39.1 (CH₂), 33.4 (CH₂), 32.9 (CH₂), 32.8 (CH); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₆H₁₇N₃O₃ [M]⁺: 299.1264, found 299.1262; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 29.1 min, t_r (major) = 34.8 min, 69% ee.



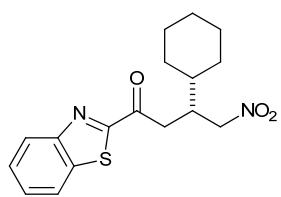
(R)-3-Cyclohexyl-4-nitro-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)butan-1-one (5e). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (74 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethenyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (0–10% acetone/hexane) to afford a yellow oil (86 mg, 62%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} -28.3$ (c 1.00, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.36$ (3:1 hexane/acetone); IR (film) 2920, 2851, 1697 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1398, 1373, 1350, 1167, 1016, 999, 839, 716 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.80 (1H, br s, ArH), 8.66 (1H, br s, ArH), 4.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.2 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.9 Hz, CH₂NO₂), 3.44 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.4, 5.2 Hz, CH₂C=O), 3.27 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.4, 7.6 Hz, CH₂C=O), 2.90–2.80 (1H, m, CHCH₂NO₂), 1.82–1.74 (4H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.74–1.65 (1H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.56–1.48 (1H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.32–1.18 (2H, m, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.14 (1H, dt, *J* = 12.1, 3.1 Hz, CH(CH₂)₅), 1.11–1.00 (2H, m, CH(CH₂)₅); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.5 (C), 148.1 (C), 147.2 (C), 143.7 (CH), 143.5 (CH), 77.3 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH), 38.1 (CH), 36.8 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.5 (CH₂), 26.29 (CH₂), 26.26 (CH₂), 26.20 (CH₂); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₂₀N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 278.1499, found 278.1503; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 17.0 min, t_r (major) = 20.0 min, 67% ee.



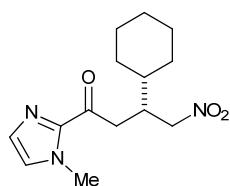
(R)-3-Cyclohexyl-4-nitro-1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (5f). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (62 μ L, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (0–5% acetone/hexane) to afford a colorless oil (126 mg, 89%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +4.5$ (*c* 0.90, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.33$ (4:1: hexane/acetone); IR (film) 2924, 2853, 1684 (C=O), 1547 (NO₂), 1385, 1225, 962, 945, 772, 750 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.02 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 7.71 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, ArH), 4.55 (1H, *J* = 12.4, 6.5 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.8 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.42 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 5.1 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.23 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 7.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 2.90–2.82 (1H, m, CHCH_2NO_2), 1.81–1.71 (4H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.71–1.64 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.56–1.48 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.30–1.18 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.19–1.11 (1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.11–1.02 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.1 (C), 166.6 (C), 144.8 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 77.1 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH), 38.3 (CH), 37.4 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.4 (CH₂), 26.29 (CH₂), 26.25 (CH₂), 26.20 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M]⁺: 282.1033, found 282.1032; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (major) = 21.1 min, *t*_r (minor) = 27.7 min, 70% ee.



(S)-1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-yl)-3-(nitromethyl)-5-phenylpentan-1-one (5g). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) (106 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-4-(nitrobut-3-en-1-yl)benzene (**2j**) (89 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 24 h and purified by column chromatography (0–10% Et_2O /hexane) to afford a white solid (86 mg, 51%). m.p. 109–111 °C (hexane); $[\alpha]_D^{20} +28.0$ (*c* 0.90, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.29$ (4:1 hexane/ Et_2O); IR (solid) 1686 (C=O), 1545 (NO₂), 1483, 1204, 932, 901, 758, 743, 731, 702 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 8.01 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.61 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.33–7.24 (2H, m, ArH), 7.23–7.17 (3H, m, ArH), 4.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.1 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.0 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 7.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 6.0 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 2.97 (1H, m, CHCH_2NO_2), 2.80–2.75 (2H, m, PhCH₂), 1.92–1.85 (2H, m, PhCH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.3 (C), 165.6 (C), 153.4 (C), 140.6 (C), 137.3 (C), 128.6 (2 \times CH), 128.3 (2 \times CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.2 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 125.6 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 78.3 (CH₂), 39.8 (CH₂), 33.3 (CH₂), 33.0 (CH), 32.8 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M]⁺: 354.1033, found 354.1033; HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) *t*_r (minor) = 18.0 min, *t*_r (major) = 21.1 min, 82% ee.

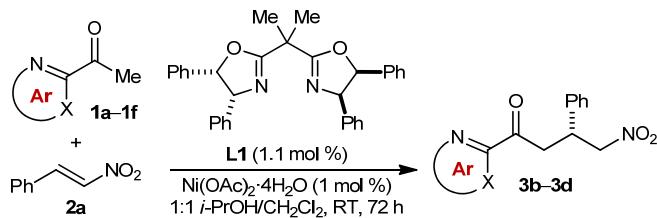


(R)-1-(1,3-Benzothiazol-2-yl)-3-cyclohexyl-4-nitrobutan-1-one (5h). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylbenzothiazole (**1e**) (106 mg, 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethenyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (0-3% acetone/hexane) to afford a colorless oil (80 mg, 48%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +8.6$ (*c* 0.90, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.34$ (4:1 hexane/ Et_2O); IR (solid) 2922, 1694 (C=O), 1549 (NO₂) 1479, 1375, 1211, 937, 874, 758, 731 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, ArH), 8.00 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.55 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 4.58 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.1, 6.6 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.1, 6.6 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 5.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.36 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.2, 7.6 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 2.91 (1H, app qt, *J* = 6.6, 5.5 Hz, CHCH_2NO_2), 1.86–1.73 (4H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.72–1.65 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.55 (1H, tdt, *J* = 11.5, 5.3, 3.0 Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.32–1.20 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.20–1.13 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.13–1.03 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.6 (C), 165.8 (C), 153.4 (C), 137.3 (C), 127.9 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 77.1 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH), 38.3 (CH), 37.6 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.5 (CH₂), 26.29 (CH₂), 26.26 (CH₂), 26.19 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$ [M]⁺: 332.1189, found 332.1130; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 19.9 min, t_r (minor) = 23.6 min, 78% ee.

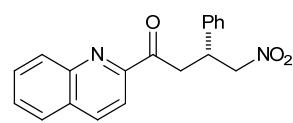


(R)-3-Cyclohexyl-1-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-one (5i). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure H from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (62 μL , 0.60 mmol) and (*E*)-(2-nitroethenyl)cyclohexane (**2k**) (78 mg, 0.50 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (4:1 Et_2O /hexane) to afford a colorless oil (75 mg, 54%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} +8.2$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl_3); $R_f = 0.35$ (4:1 Et_2O /hexane); IR (film) 2924, 2853, 1672 (C=O), 1547 (NO₂), 1406, 1383, 997, 914, 773, 692 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.14 (1H, d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, ArH), 7.05 (1H, br s, ArH), 4.50 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.8 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.47 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.4, 6.8 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.00 (3H, s, CH_3), 3.37 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.6, 4.8 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 3.14 (1H, dd, *J* = 17.6, 8.3 Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{C=O}$), 2.88–2.80 (1H, m, CHCH_2NO_2), 1.80–1.70 (4H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.69–1.65 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.53–1.44 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.29–1.17 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.13 (1H, dt, *J* = 12.6, 3.1 Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$), 1.07 (2H, ddd, *J* = 15.7, 11.2, 3.4 Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_5$); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.8 (C), 142.7 (C), 129.2 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 77.4 (CH₂), 39.4 (CH), 38.3 (CH), 37.9 (CH₂), 36.2 (CH₃), 30.0 (CH₂), 29.1 (CH₂), 26.4 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₂), 26.2 (CH₂); HRMS (EI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ [M]⁺: 279.1577, found 279.1575; HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (major) = 26.9 min, t_r (minor) = 36.4 min, 67% ee.

Larger-Scale Enantioselective Michael Addition of 2-Acetylazaarenes to Nitroalkenes: General Procedure I

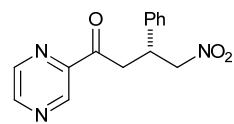


A solution of $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (24.8 mg, 0.100 mmol) and ligand **L1** (53.5 mg, 0.110 mmol) in *i*-PrOH (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To the resulting solution was added a solution of the appropriate 2-acetylazaarene **1** (12.0 mmol) and (*E*)- β -nitrostyrene (**2a**) (1.49 g, 9.99 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until complete consumption of the nitroalkene as indicated by TLC analysis, and then concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by column chromatography afforded the nitroalkane **3**.

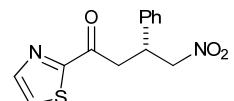


(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3b). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure I from 2-acetylquinoline (**1b**) (2.05 g, 12.0 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h.

After concentration *in vacuo*, the crude residue was washed with Et_2O (3×25 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford short, fine white needles which required no further purification (2.59 g, 81%). HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = *ca.* 21.8 min, t_r (major) = 26.0 min, 99% ee. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data were consistent with those reported above.



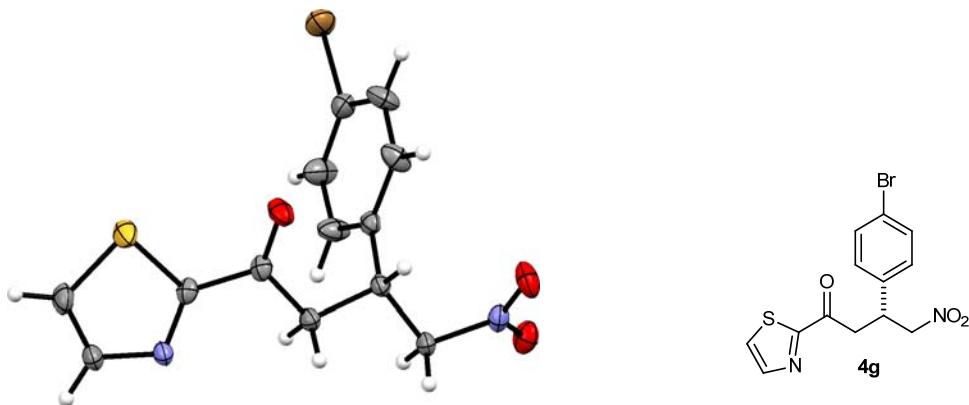
(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3c). The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure I from 2-acetylpyrazine (**1c**) (1.47 g, 12.0 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (hexane \rightarrow Et_2O) to afford a white solid (1.80 g, 66%). HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C), t_r (minor) = 36.2 min, t_r (major) = 39.4 min, 95% ee. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data were consistent with those reported above.



(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)butan-1-one (3d).²⁶ The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure I from 2-acetylthiazole (**1d**) (1.24 mL, 12.0 mmol) for a reaction time of 72 h and purified by column chromatography (0–20% acetone/hexane) to afford a pale yellow oil (2.20 g, 77%). HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 10% *i*-PrOH/hexane, 0.8 mL/min, 280 nm, 25 °C) t_r (minor) = 18.0 min, t_r (major) = 19.5 min, 96% ee. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data were consistent with those reported in the literature.²⁶

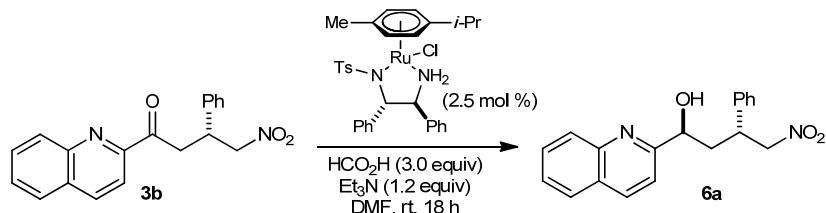
Determination of Absolute Configurations

Recrystallization of **4g** from 1:1 hexane/MeOH afforded large, colorless cuboidal crystals (>99% ee) suitable for X-ray crystallography, which allowed determination of the absolute configuration (displacement ellipsoids shown at the 50% probability level). The absolute configurations of the remaining Michael addition products were assigned by analogy.



Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation of Michael Product **3b**

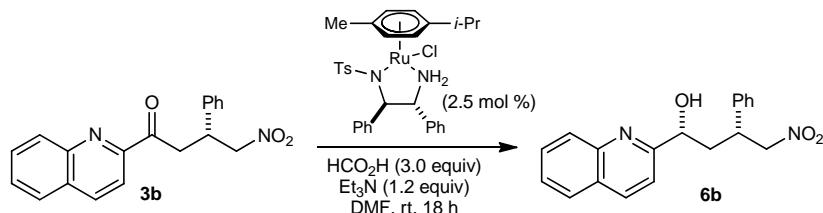
(1*S*,3*R*)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-ol (**6a**)



In a modification of a previously reported procedure for the reduction of other acylazaarenes,²⁸ to a solution of (*R*)-4-nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (**3b**) (160 mg, 0.50 mmol) and RuCl[(*S,S*)-TsDPEN](*p*-cymene)²⁹ (8.0 mg, 0.013 mmol) in DMF (2.5 mL) was added a mixture of HCO₂H (108 μ L, 1.51 mmol) and Et₃N (84 μ L, 0.60 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, open to the air, for 18 h, then quenched carefully with MeOH (0.25 mL) and stirred for 5 min. The mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2 \times 10 mL), H₂O (5 \times 10 mL), and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to leave the alcohol **6a** as a yellow solid which required no further purification (154 mg, >95%, >19:1 dr by ¹H NMR spectroscopy). m.p. 133–135 °C (EtOAc/hexane); [α]_D²⁰ +18.5 (c 1.08, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.50 (1:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (solid) 3370 (OH), 2922, 1547 (NO₂), 1414, 1377, 1177, 1074, 1012, 833, 762, 706 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 8.09 (1H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 7.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.0, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, ArH),

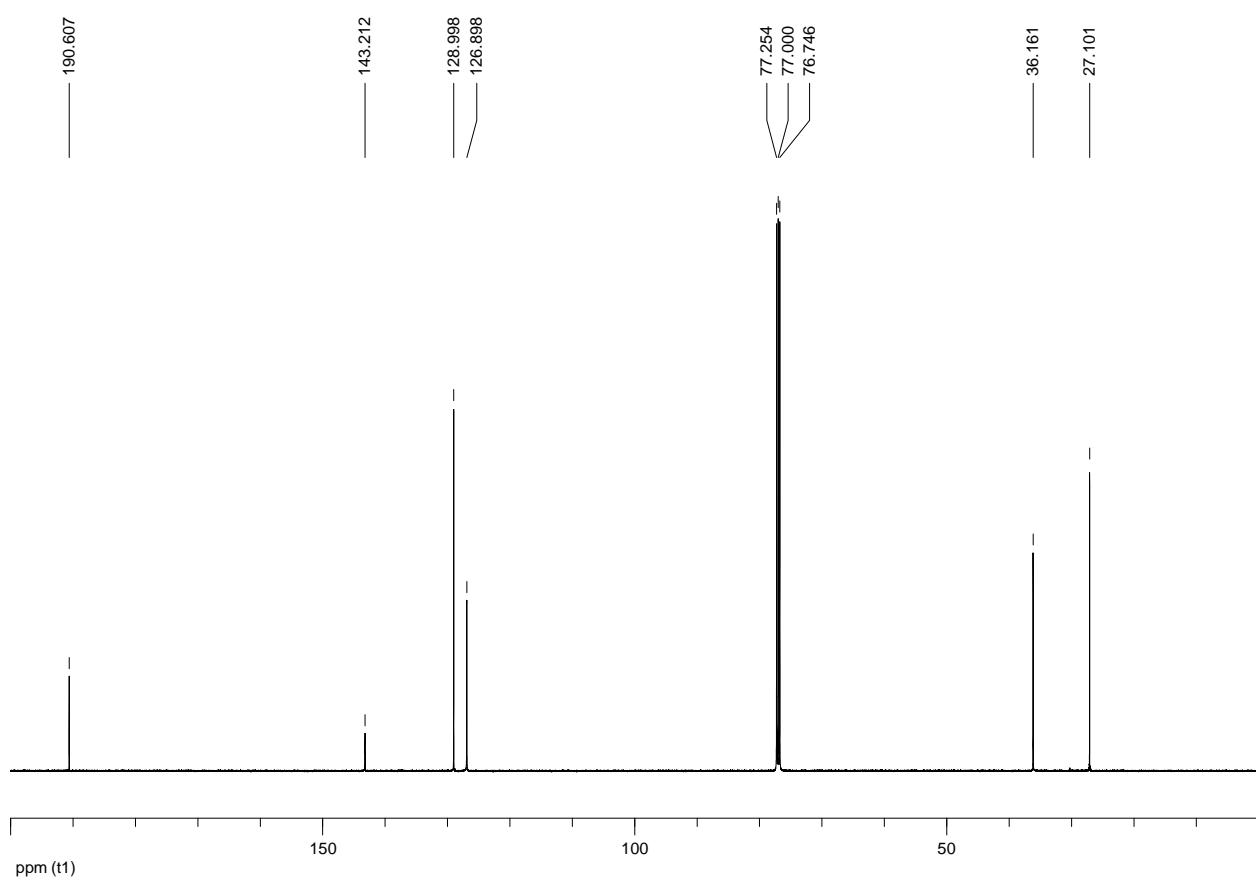
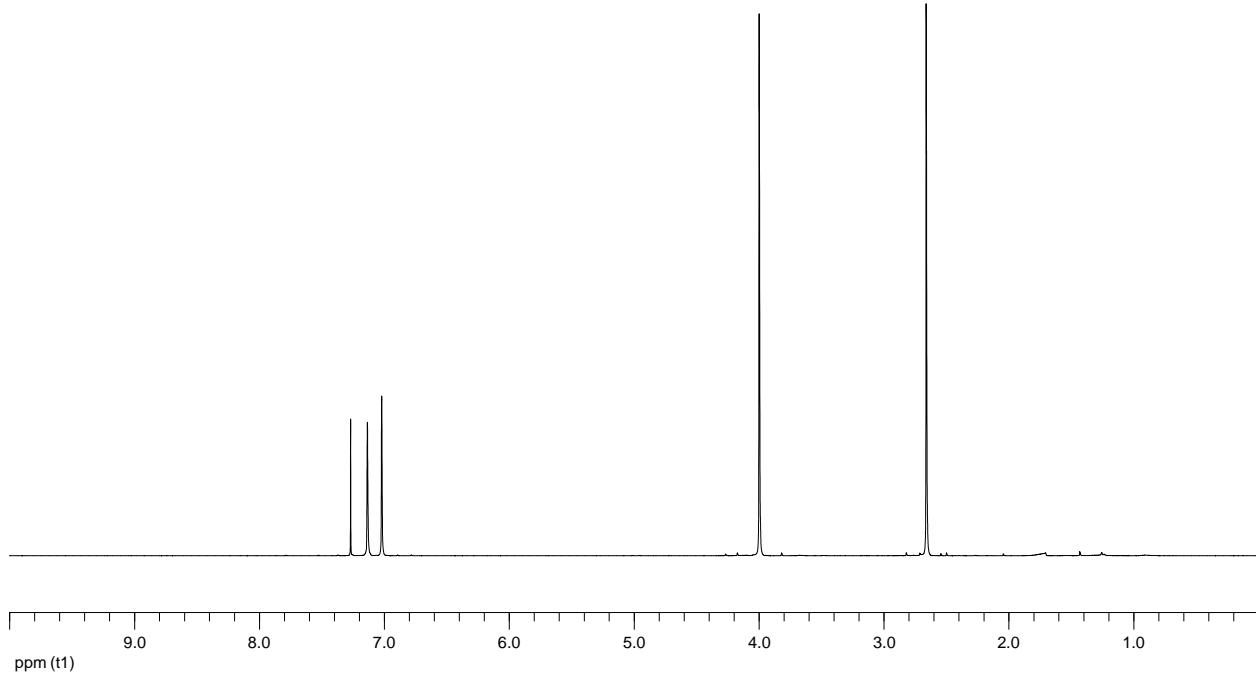
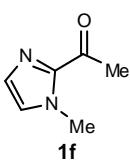
7.46–7.36 (4H, m, ArH), 7.36–7.29 (1H, m, ArH), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, ArH), 5.00 (1H, br s, OH), 4.81 (1H, dd, J = 12.4, 7.0 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.66 (2H, app dd, J = 12.4, 8.7 Hz, CH_2NO_2 and CHOH), 4.10 (1H, dddd, J = 9.9, 8.7, 7.0, 4.9 Hz, CHCH_2NO_2), 2.25 (1H, ddd, J = 13.8, 9.9, 2.3 Hz, CH_2CHOH), 1.95 (1H, ddd, J = 13.8, 10.6, 4.9 Hz, CH_2CHOH); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.0 (C), 146.1 (C), 139.1 (C), 137.5 (CH), 130.2 (CH), 129.1 (2 \times CH), 128.5 (CH), 127.85 (CH), 127.81 (2 \times CH), 127.63 (CH), 127.55 (C), 126.8 (CH), 118.0 (CH), 80.8 (CH₂), 70.1 (CH), 42.5 (CH₂), 41.8 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2$ [M+H]⁺: 323.1390, found 323.1392.

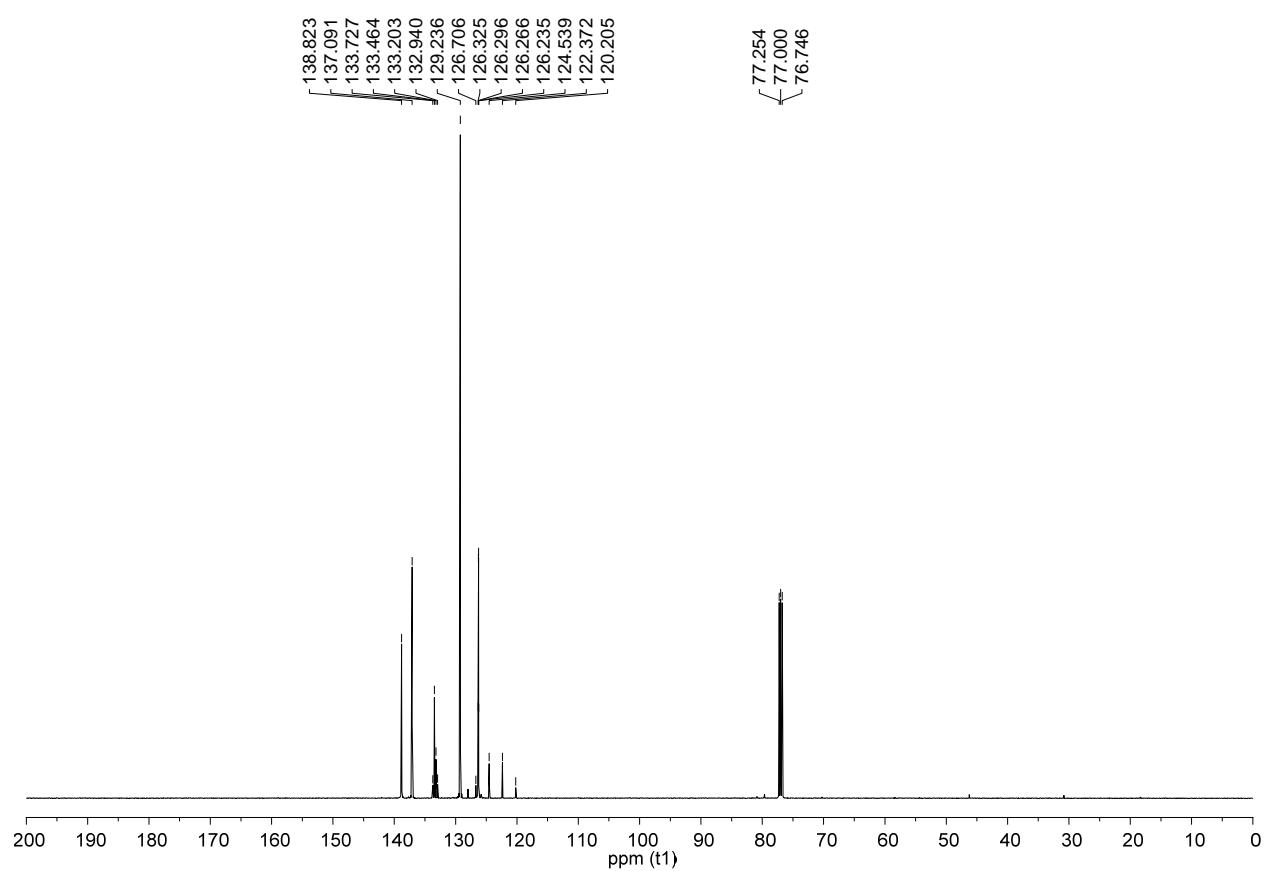
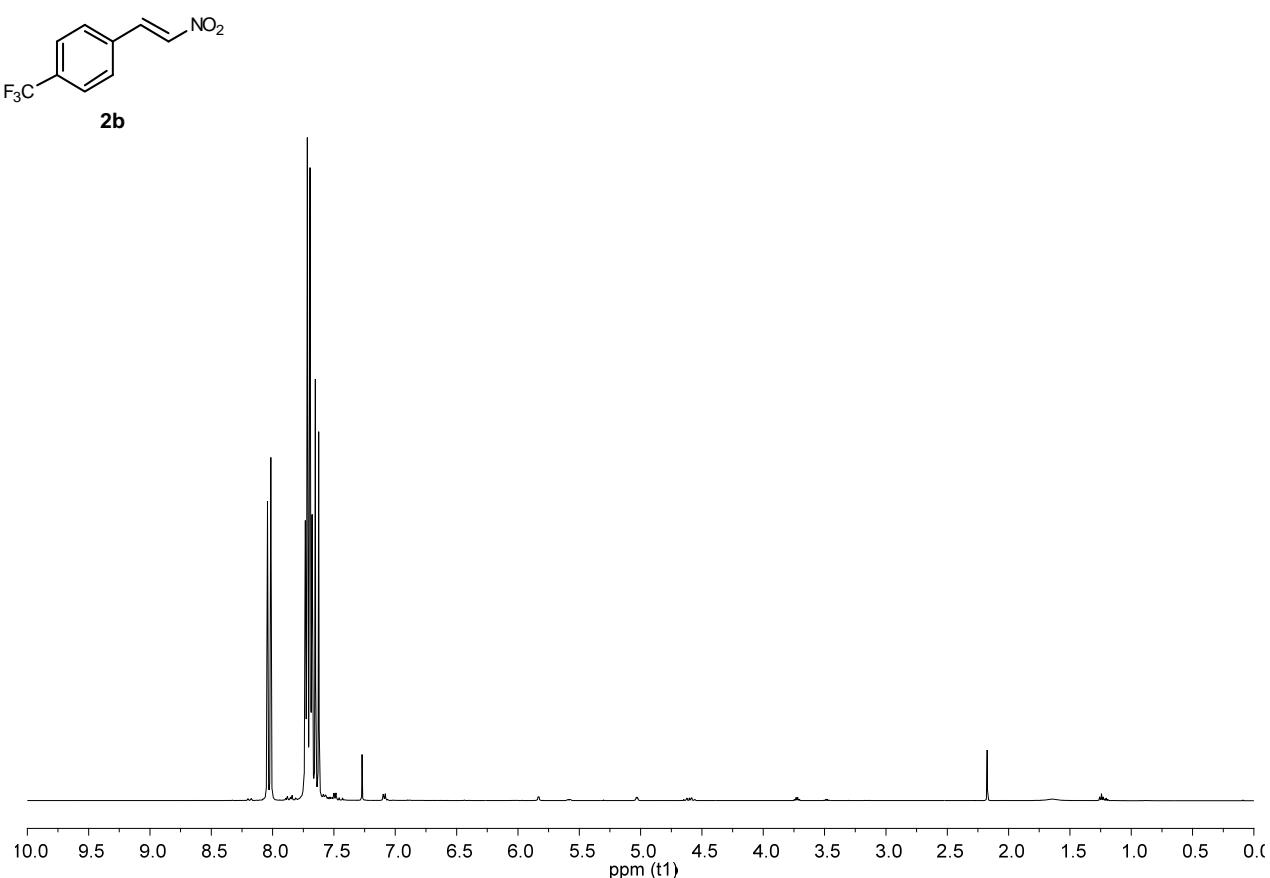
(1*R*,3*R*)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-ol (6b)

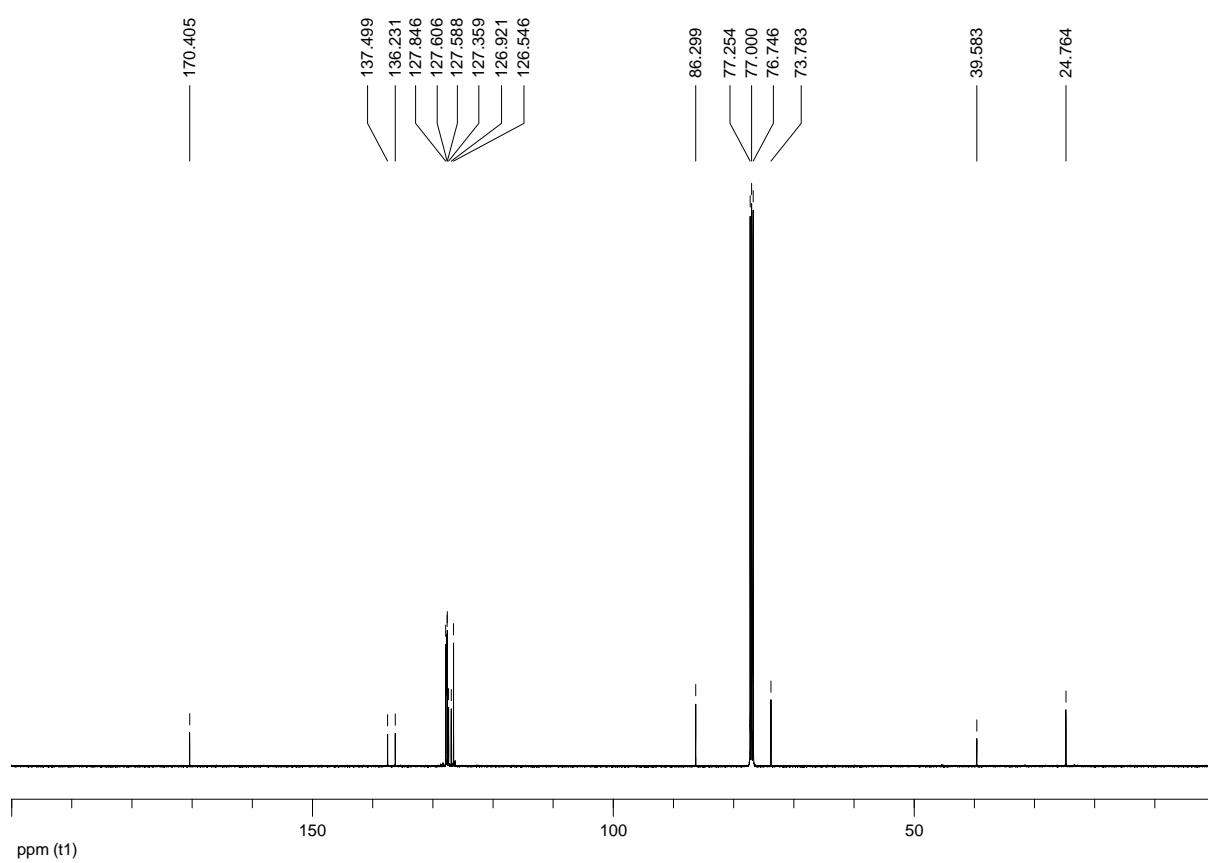
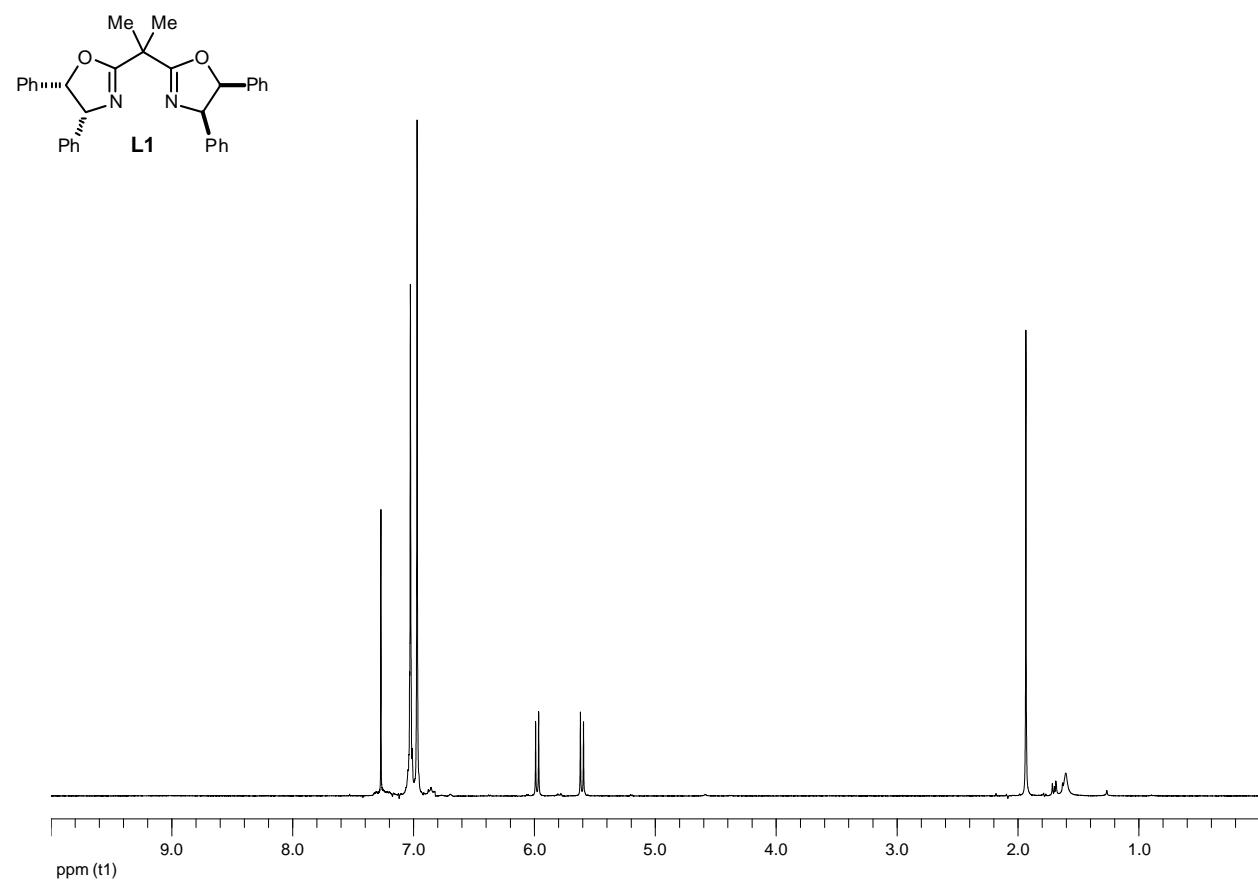


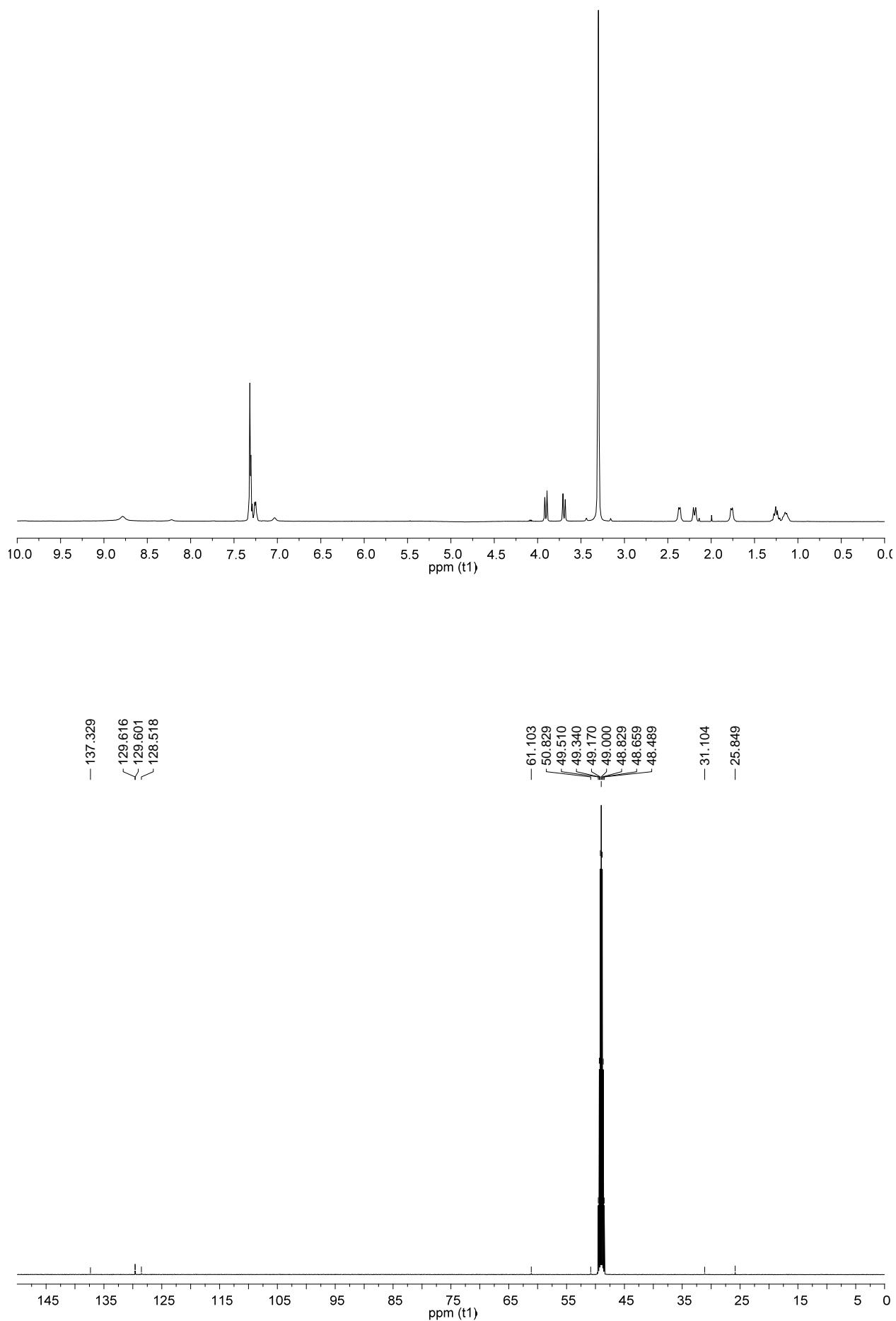
In a modification of a previously reported procedure for the reduction of other acylazaarenes,²⁸ to a solution of (*R*)-4-nitro-3-phenyl-1-(quinolin-2-yl)butan-1-one (**3b**) (160 mg, 0.50 mmol) and $\text{RuCl}[(R,R)\text{-TsDPEN}](p\text{-cymene})$ ²⁹ (8.0 mg, 0.013 mmol) in DMF (2.5 mL) was added a mixture of HCO_2H (108 μL , 1.51 mmol) and Et_3N (84 μL , 0.60 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, open to the air, for 18 h, then quenched carefully with MeOH (0.25 mL) and stirred for 5 min. The mixture was diluted with Et_2O (10 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 solution (2 \times 10 mL), H_2O (5 \times 10 mL), and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to leave *the alcohol* **6a** as a yellow oil which required no further purification (157 mg, >95%, >19:1 dr by ^1H NMR spectroscopy). $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ −82.9 (*c* 1.11, CHCl_3); R_f = 0.42 (1:1 hexane/EtOAc); IR (film) 3063 (br, OH), 2361, 2342, 1545 (NO_2), 1504, 1379, 1063, 831, 754, 698 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.81 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.75 (1H, ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, ArH), 7.56 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, ArH), 7.25–7.20 (2H, m, ArH), 7.20–7.19 (1H, m, ArH), 7.18–7.15 (3H, m, ArH), 5.10 (1H, br s, OH), 4.96 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 4.3 Hz, CHOH), 4.90 (1H, dd, J = 12.6, 6.0 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 4.82 (1H, dd, J = 12.6, 9.0 Hz, CH_2NO_2), 3.78 (1H, app dq, J = 9.0, 6.0 Hz, CHCH_2NO_2), 2.41 (1H, ddd, J = 14.3, 7.2, 4.3 Hz, CH_2CHOH), 2.21 (1H, ddd, J = 14.3, 7.5, 6.0 Hz, CH_2CHOH); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 160.4 (C), 146.4 (C), 139.7 (C), 137.0 (CH), 130.0 (CH), 128.8 (2 \times CH), 128.7 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.5 (C and 2 \times CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 79.9 (CH₂), 70.2 (CH), 41.2 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2$ [M+H]⁺: 323.1390, found 323.1393.

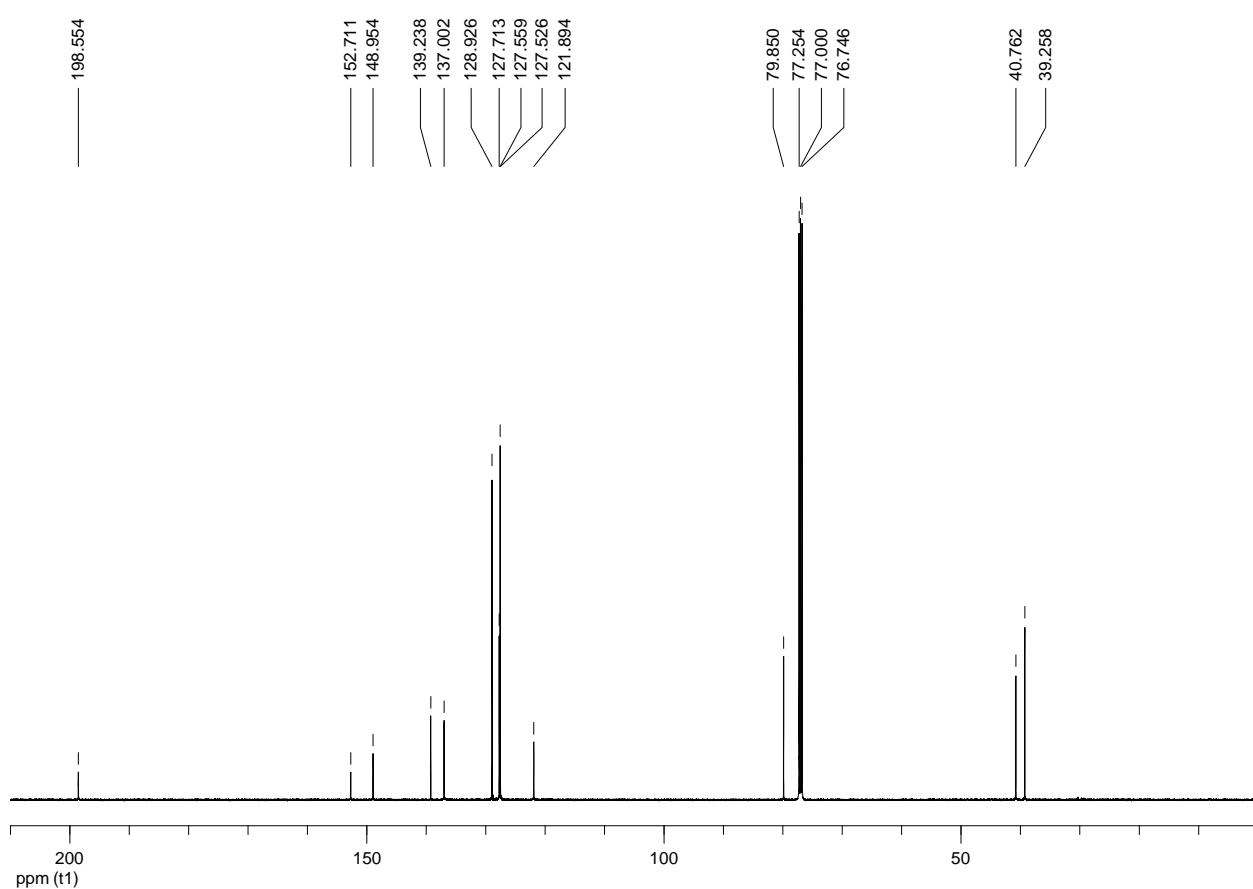
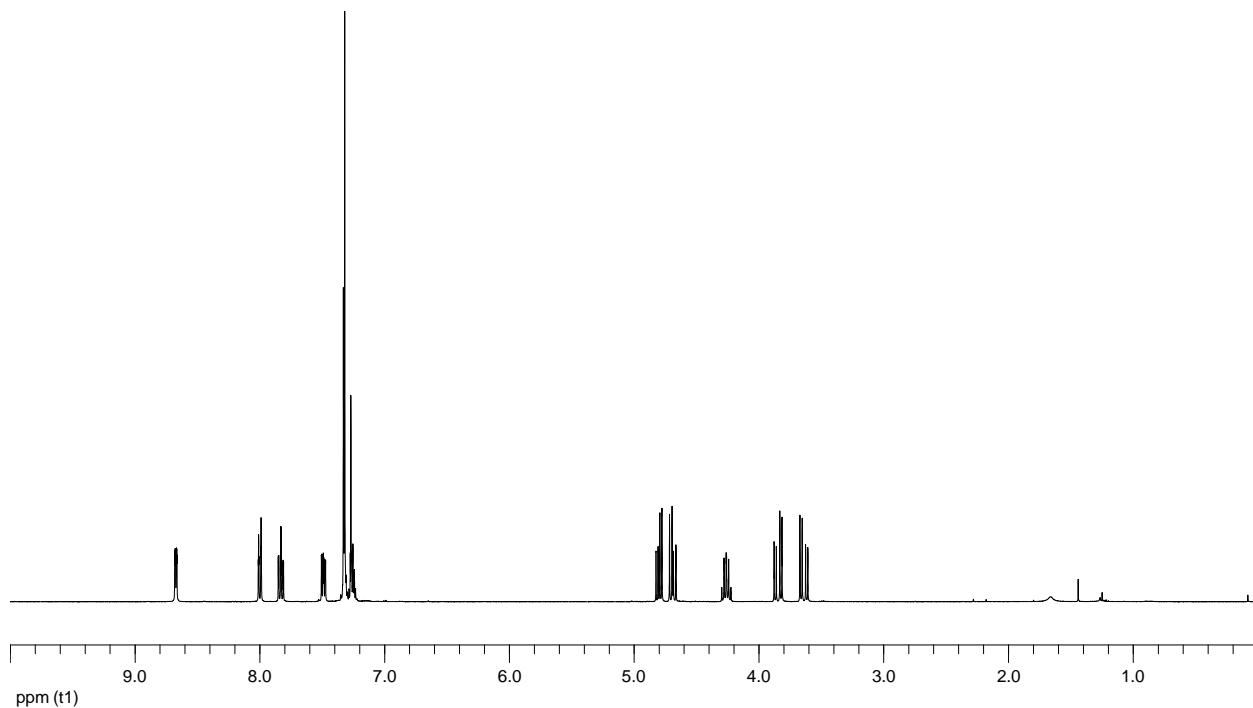
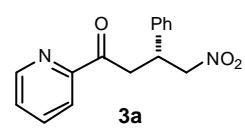
NMR Spectra

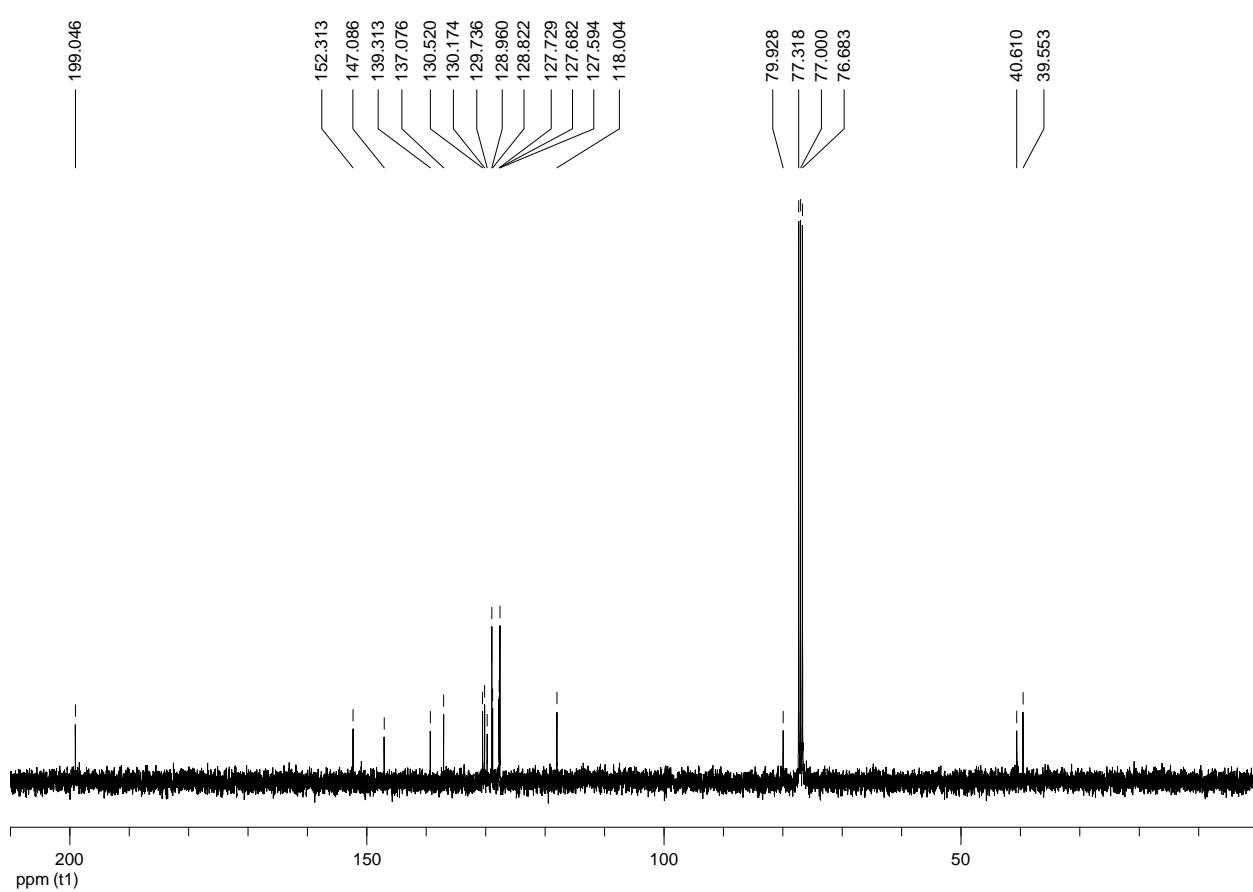
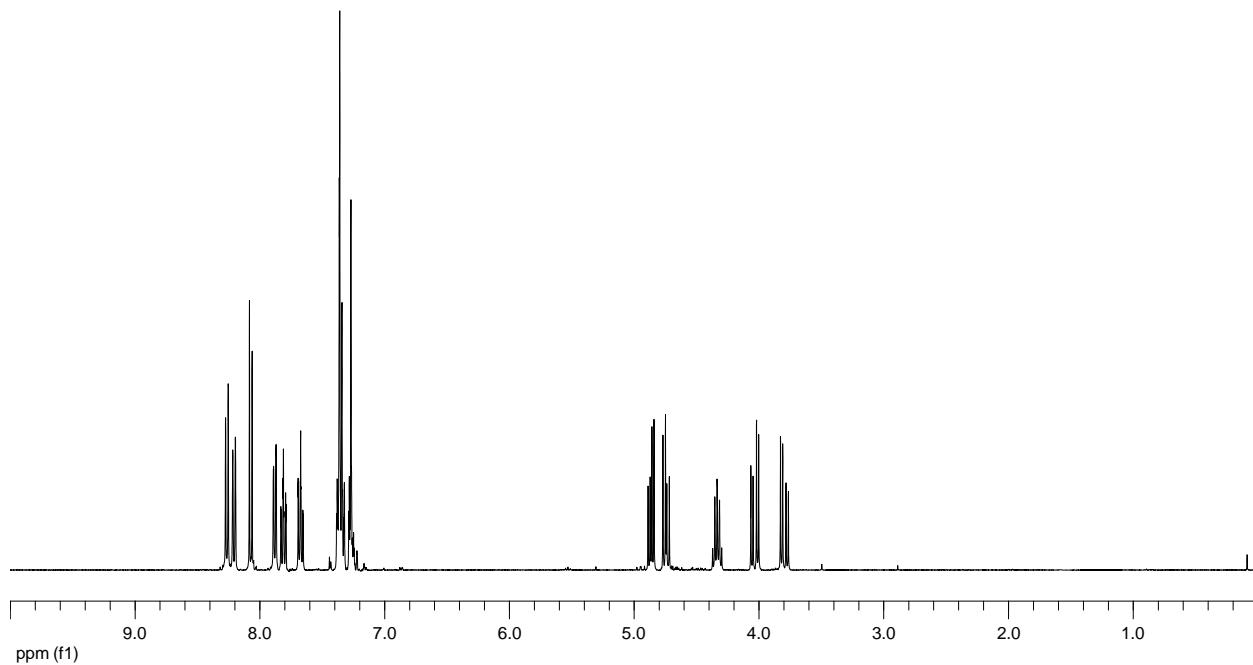
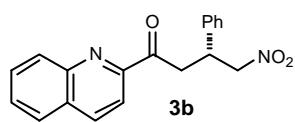


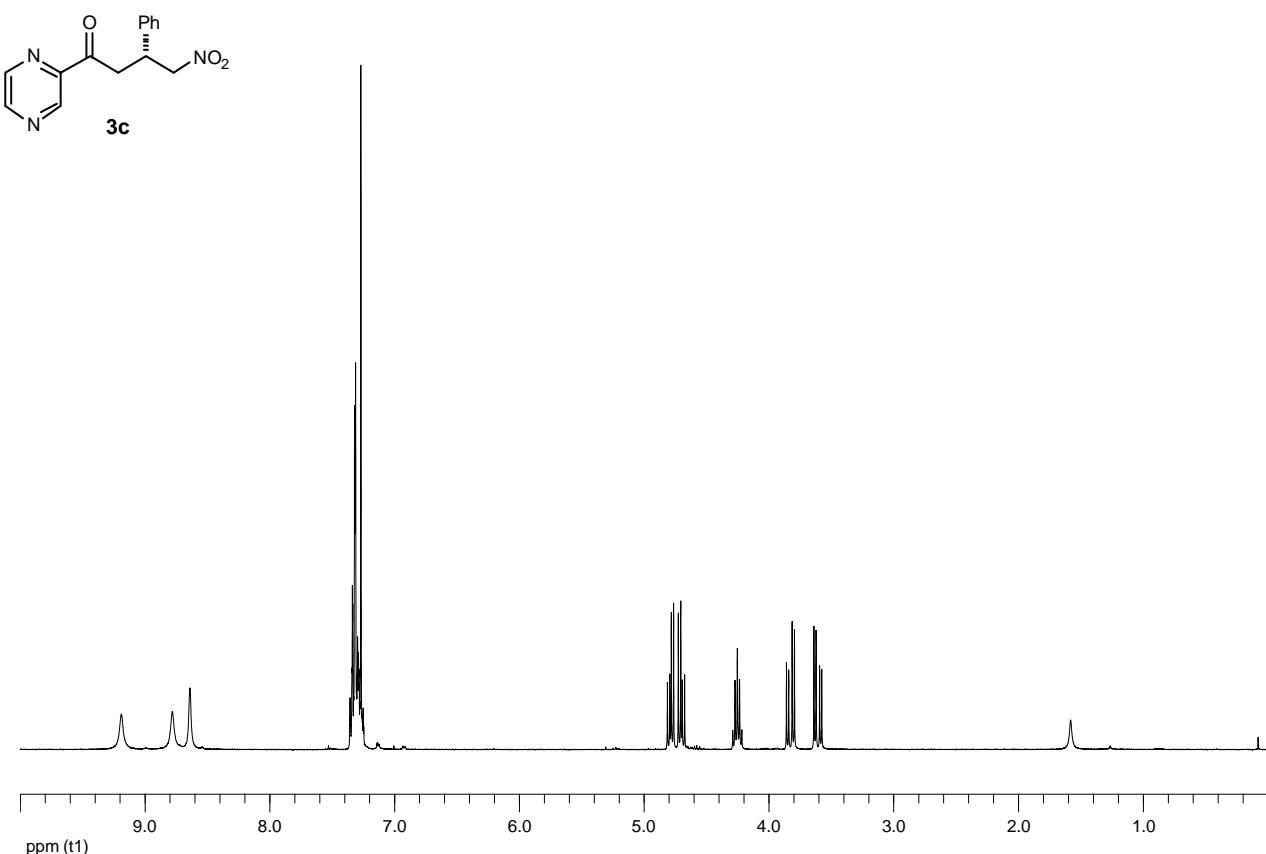


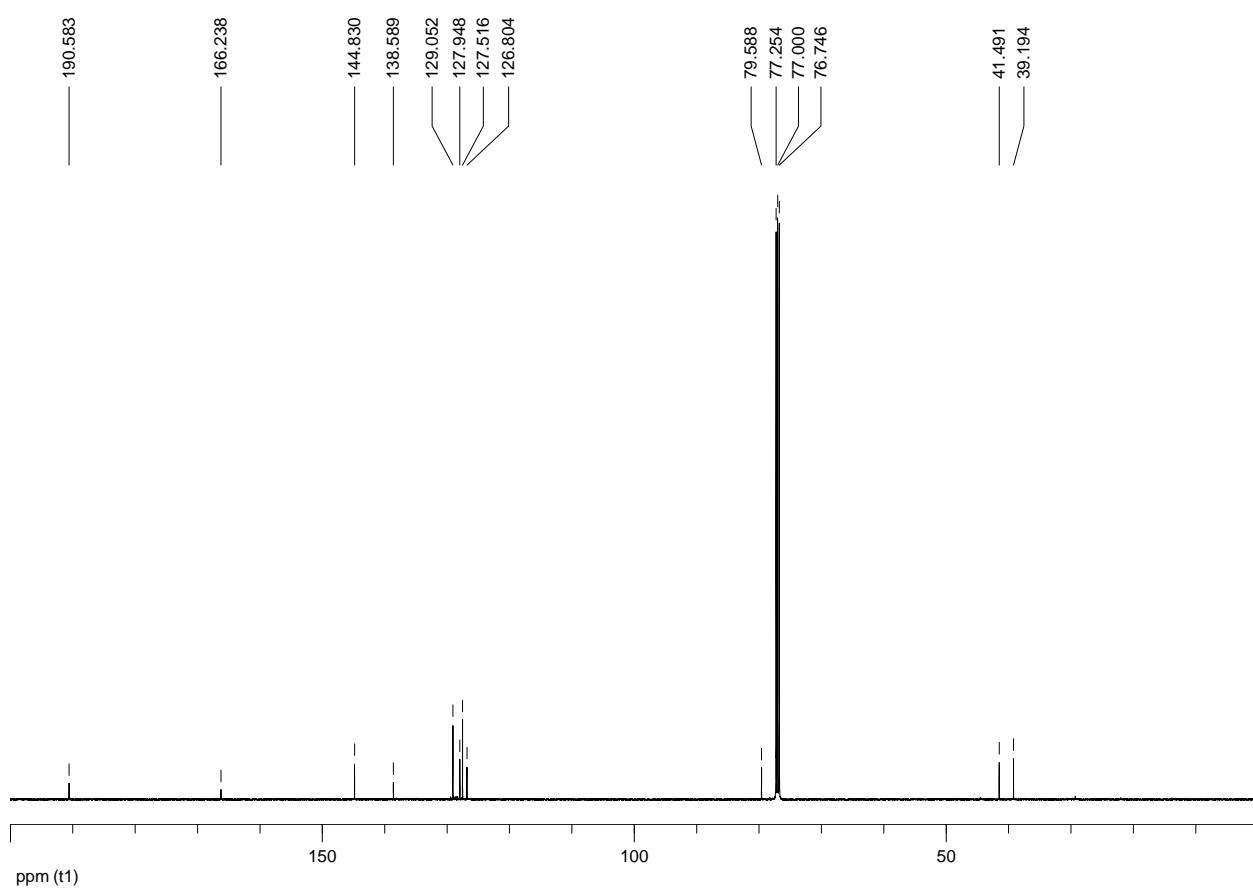
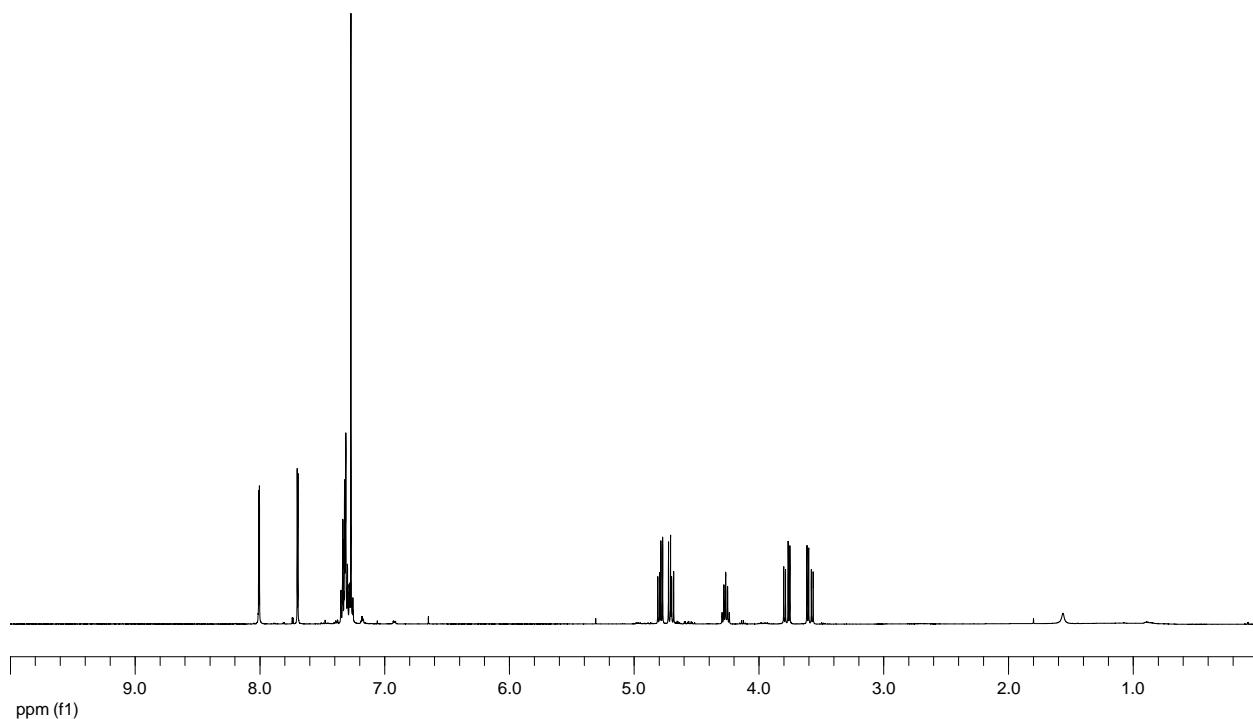
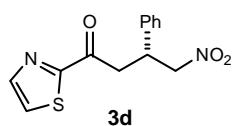


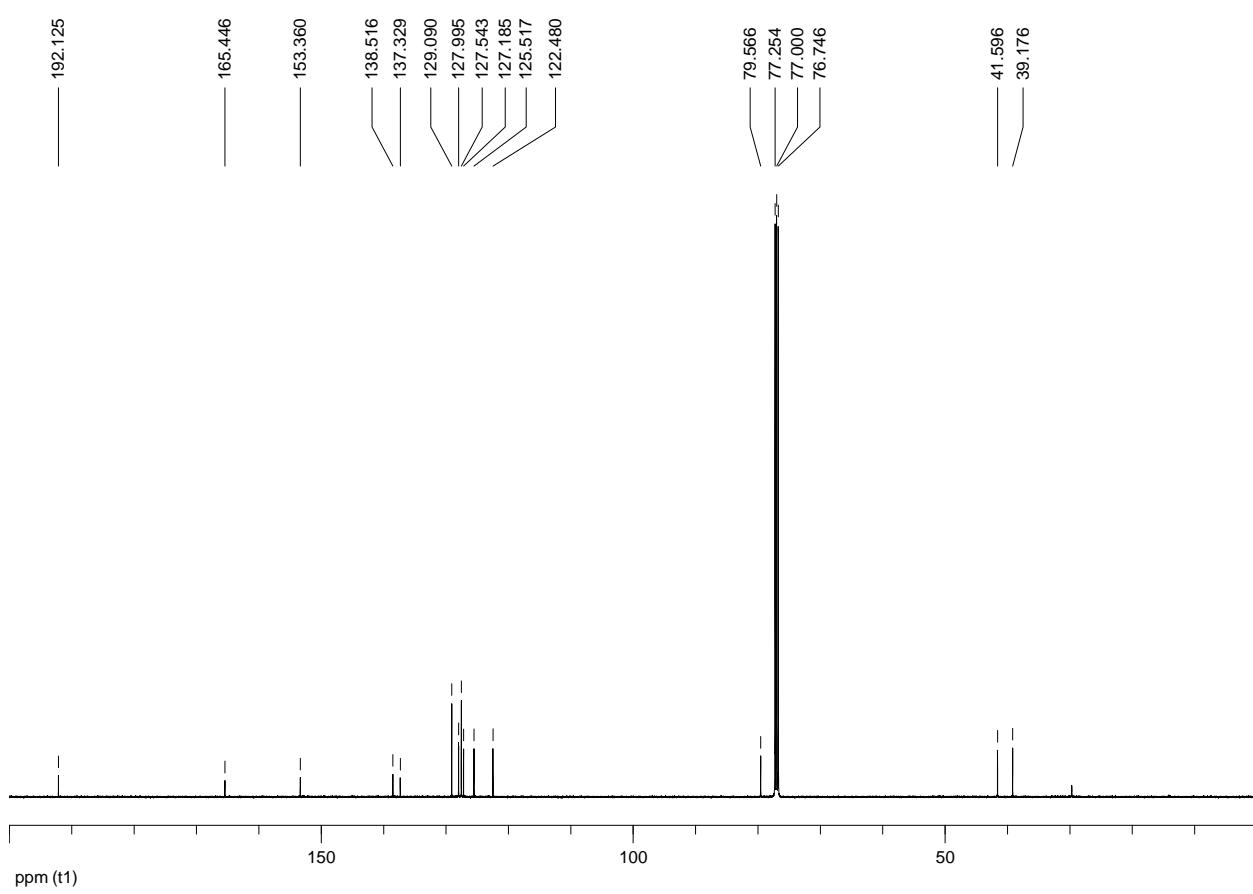
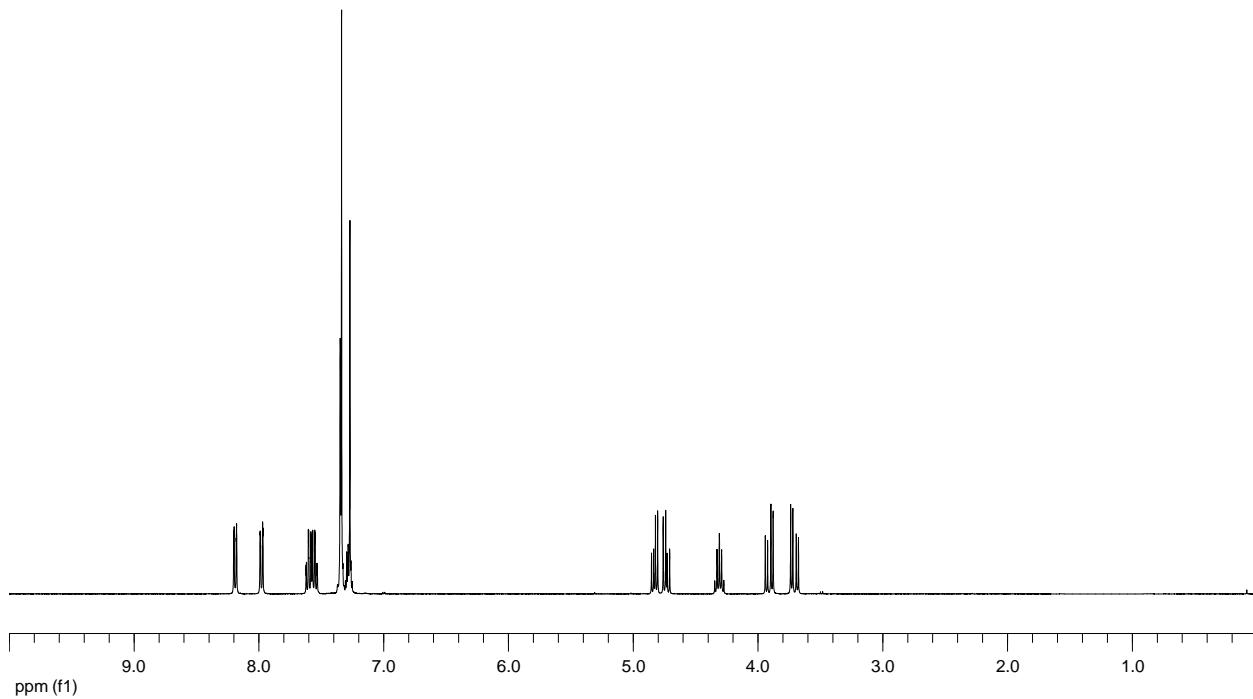
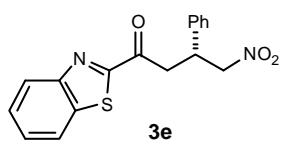
$(\text{L6})_2 \cdot \text{NiBr}_2$ 

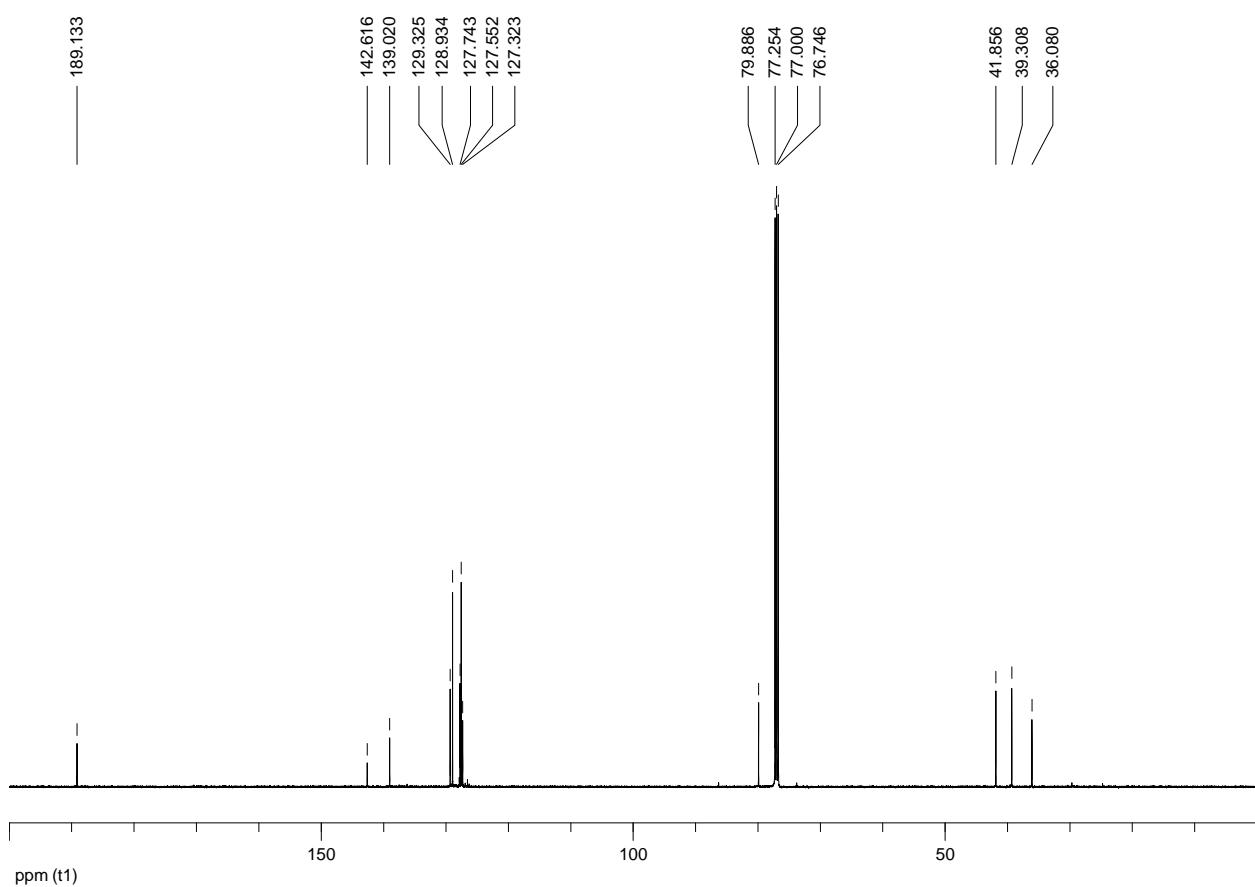
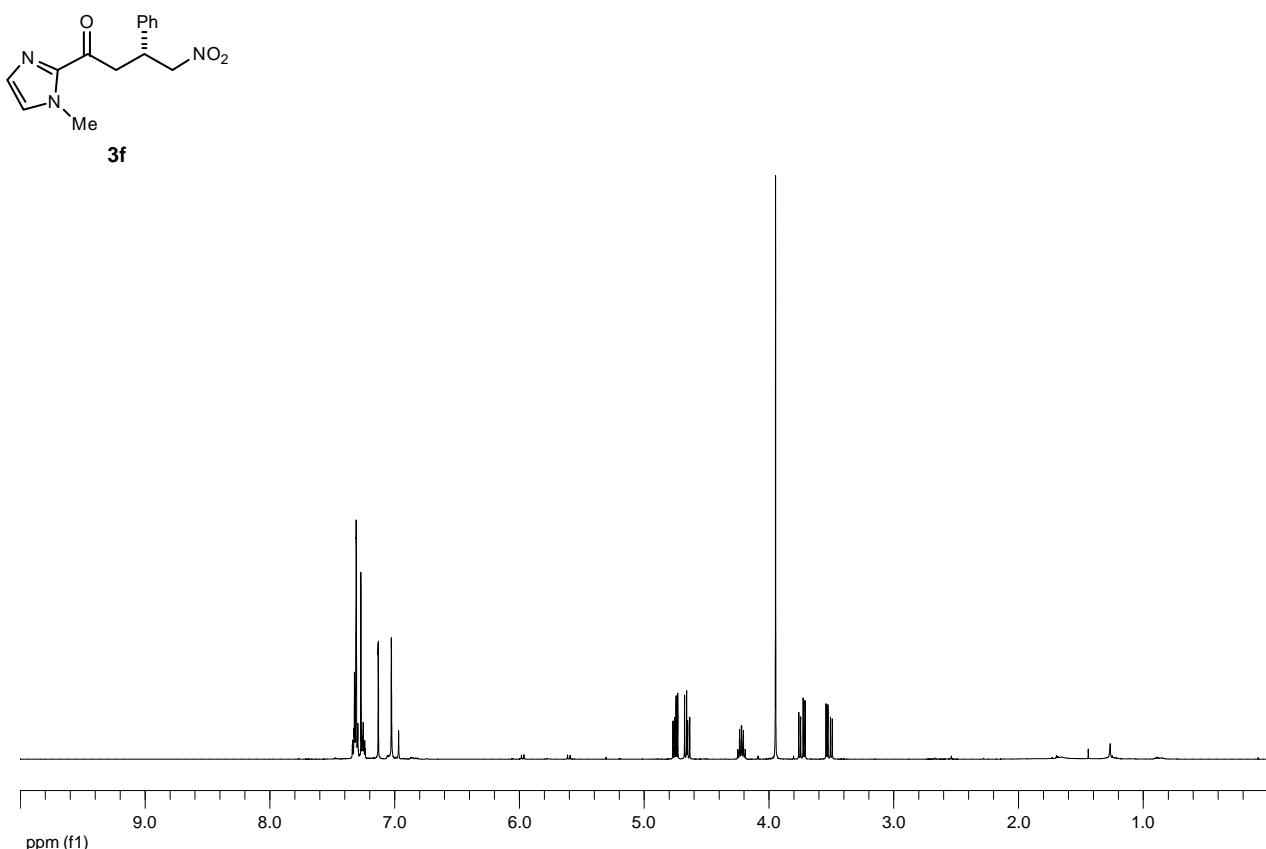


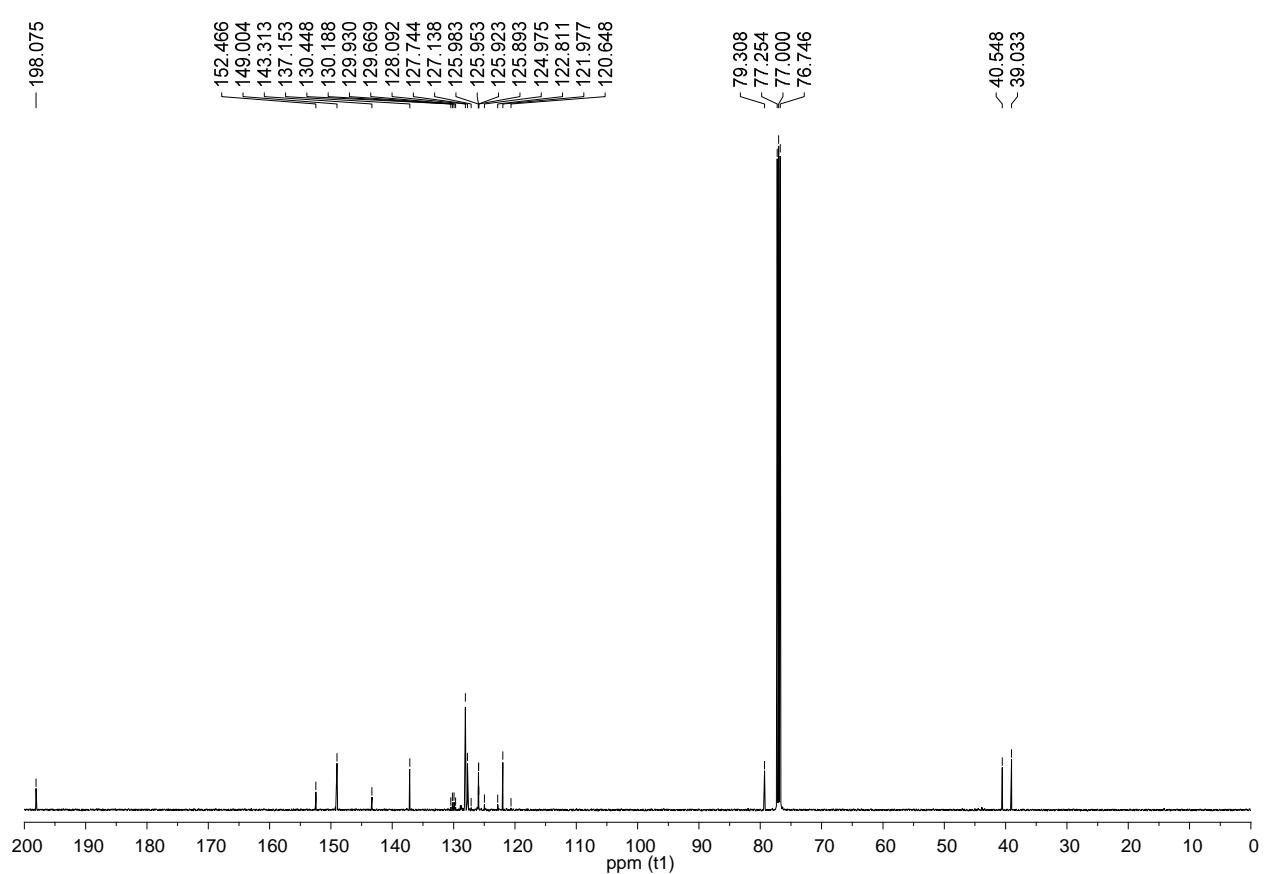
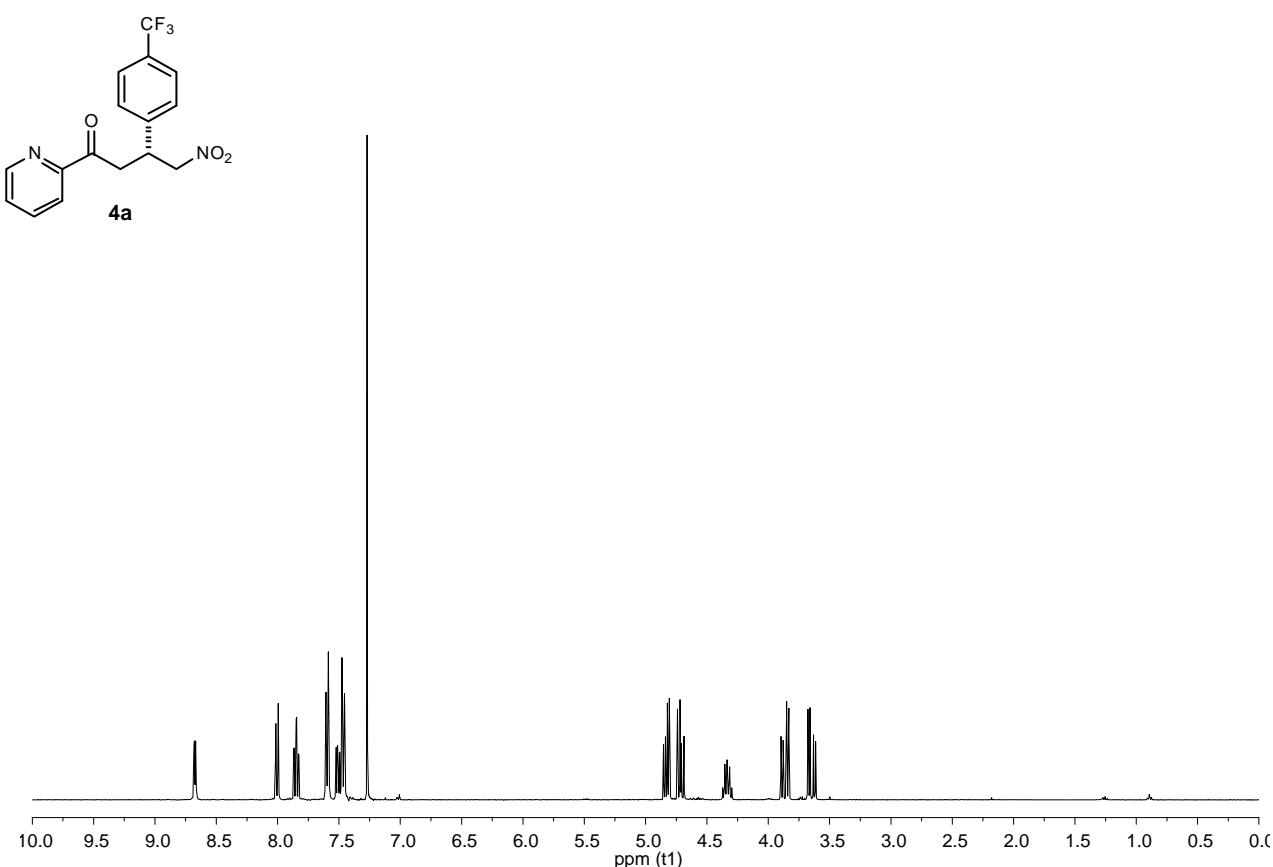


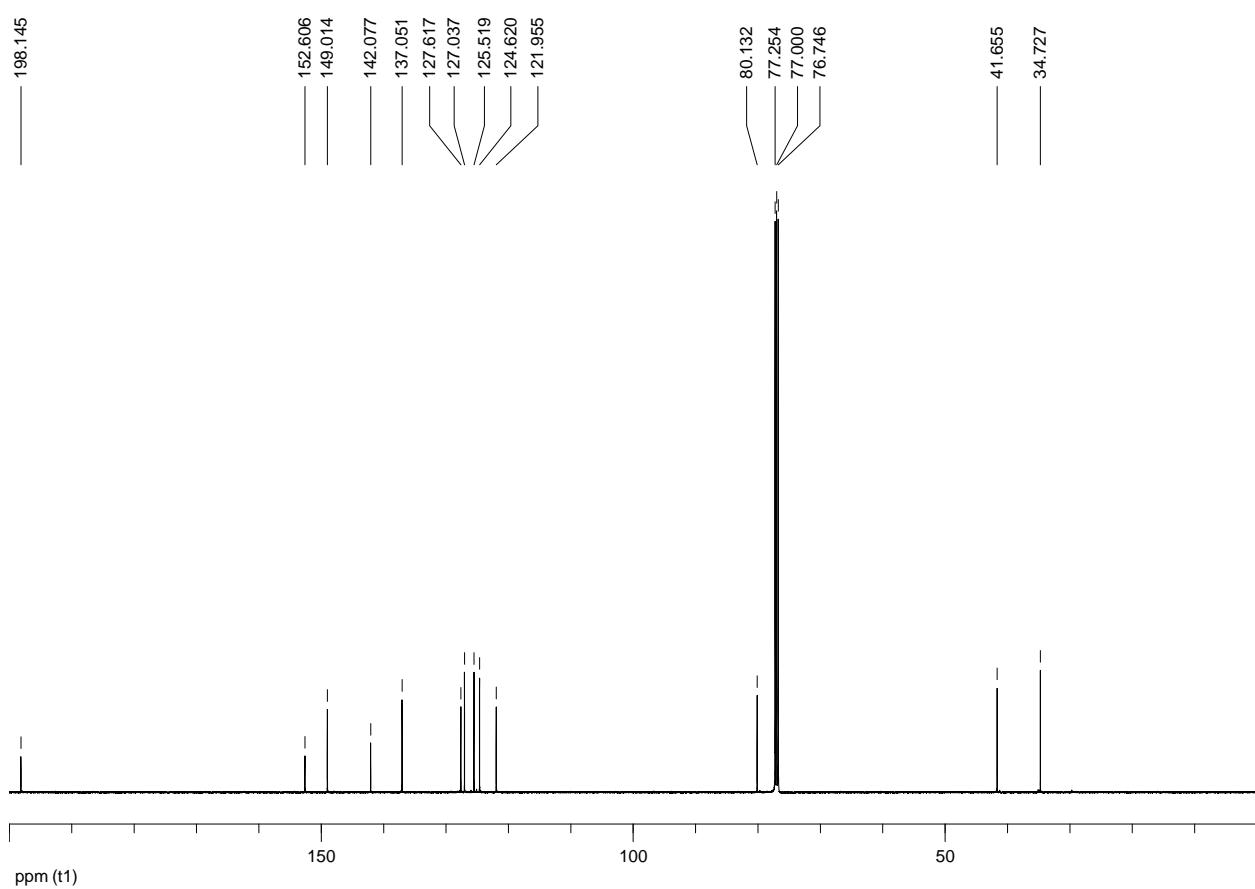
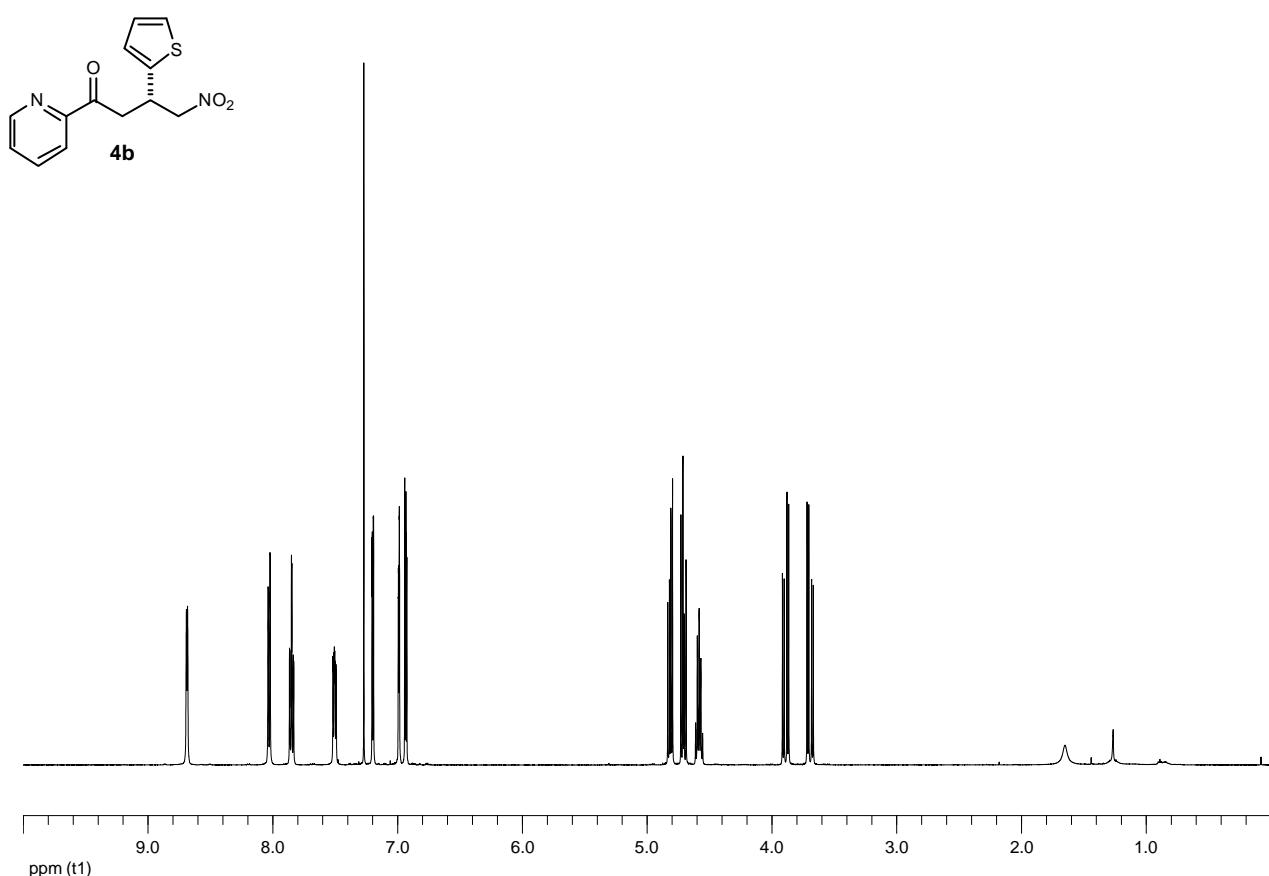


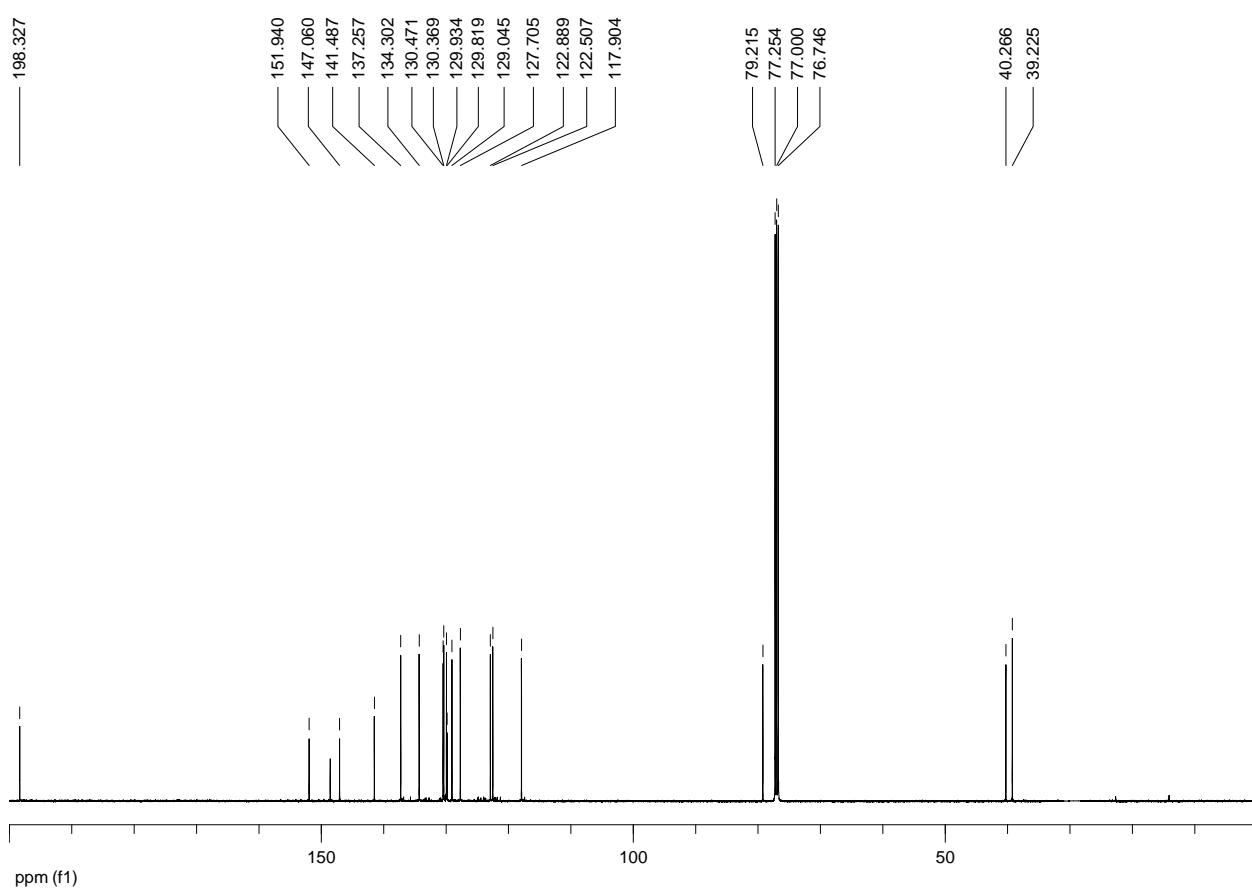
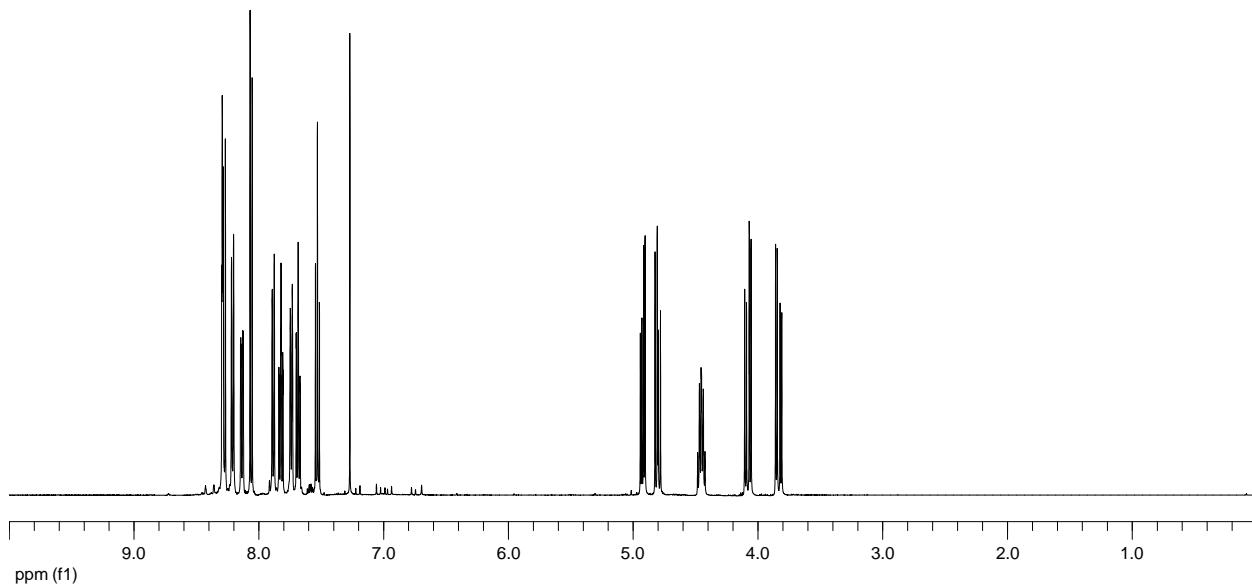
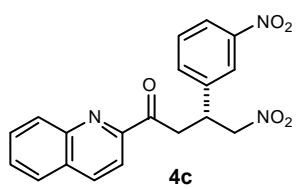


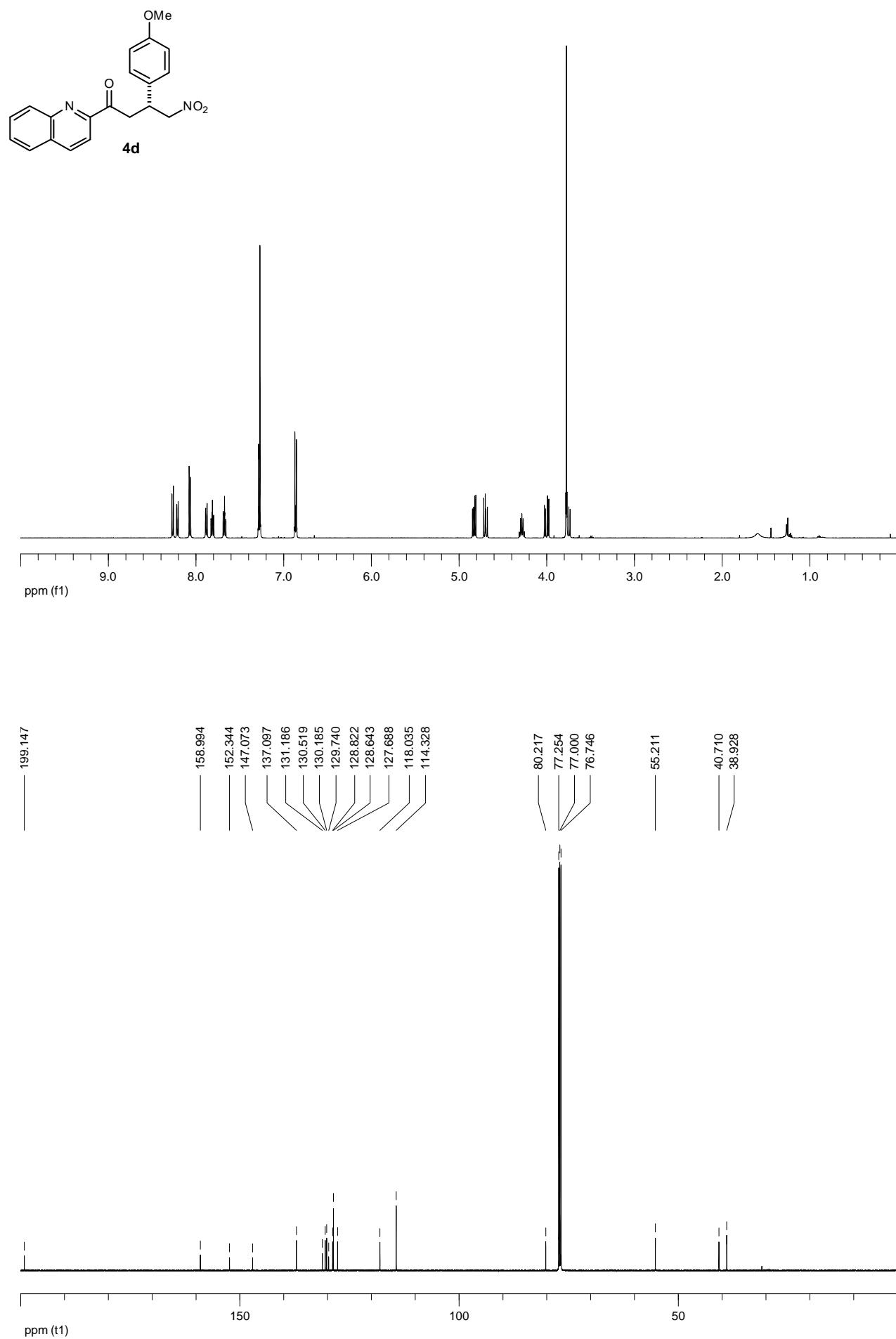


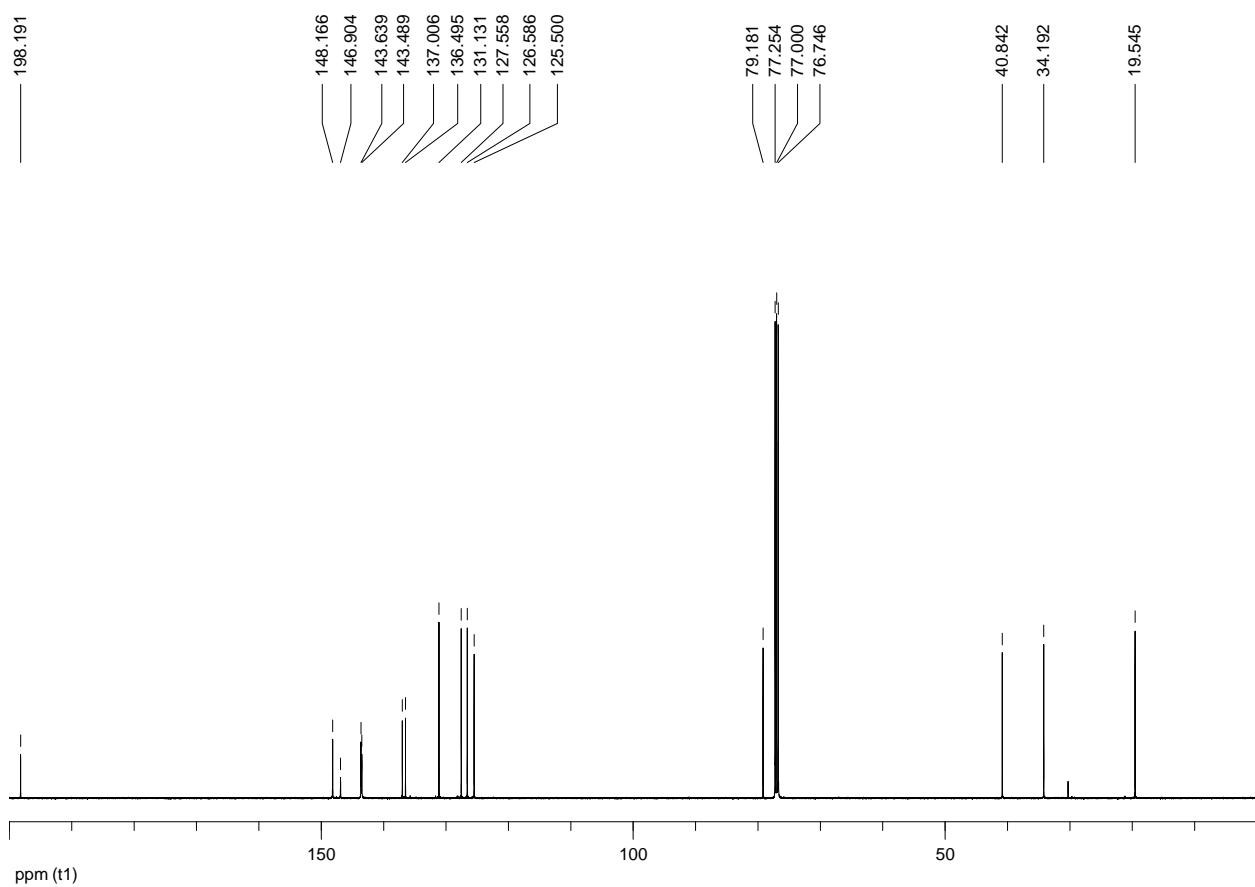
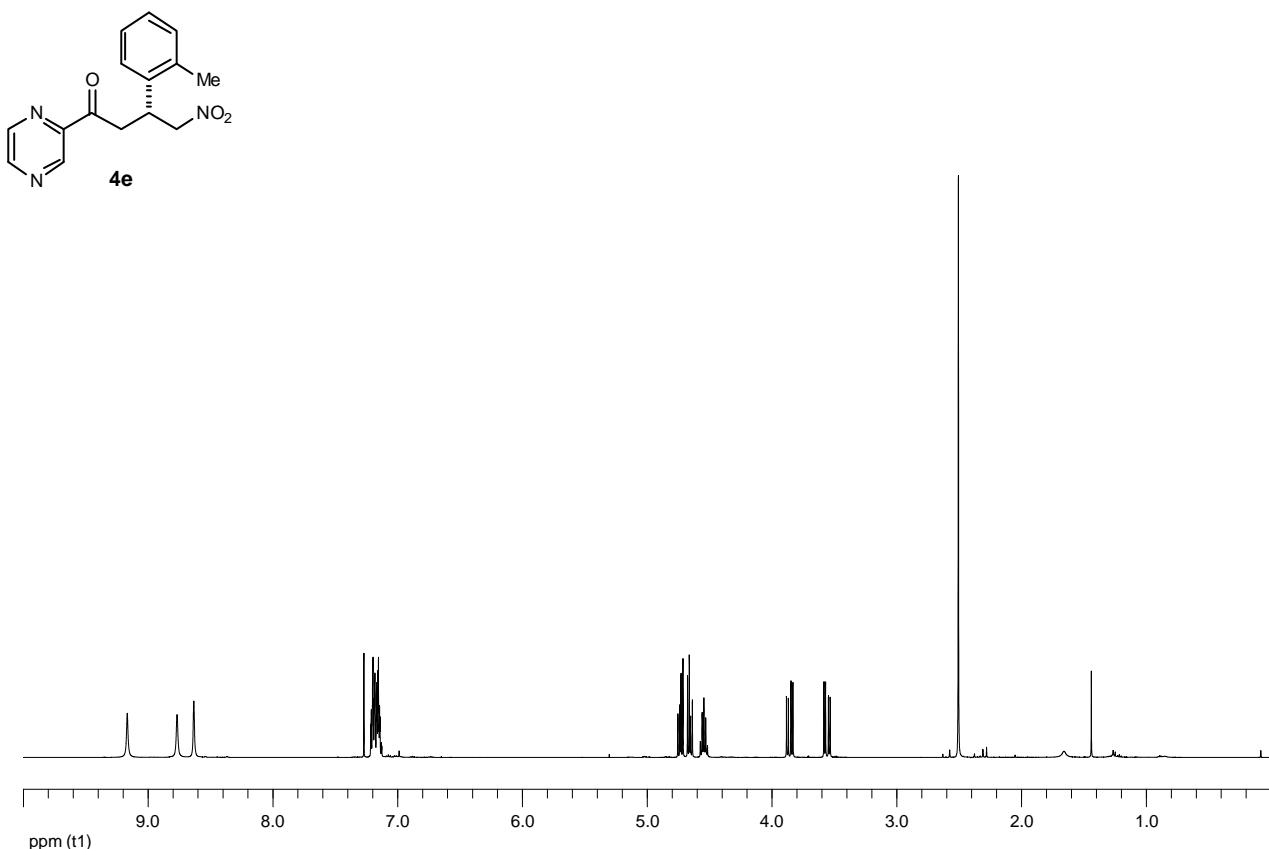


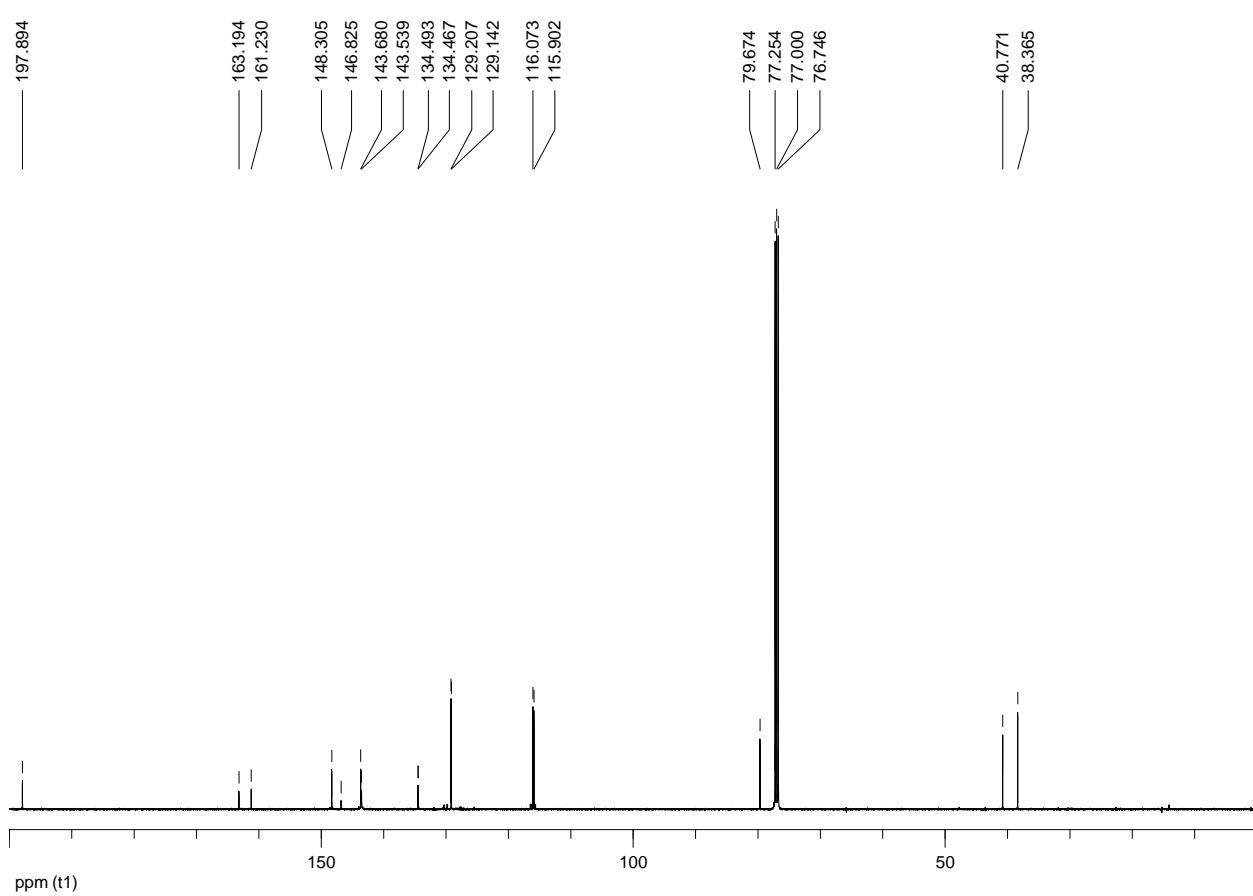
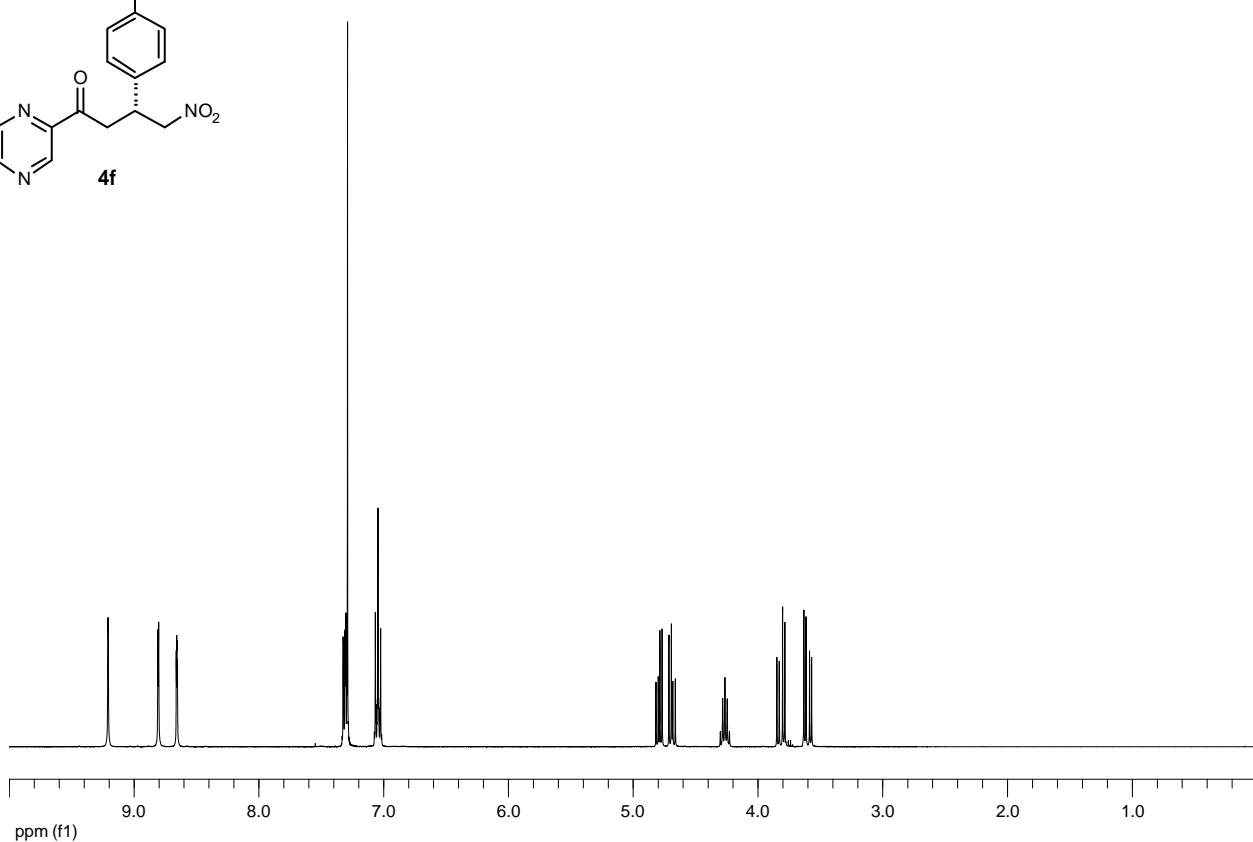
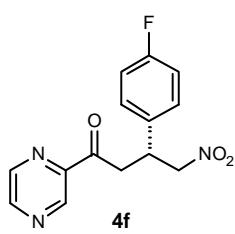


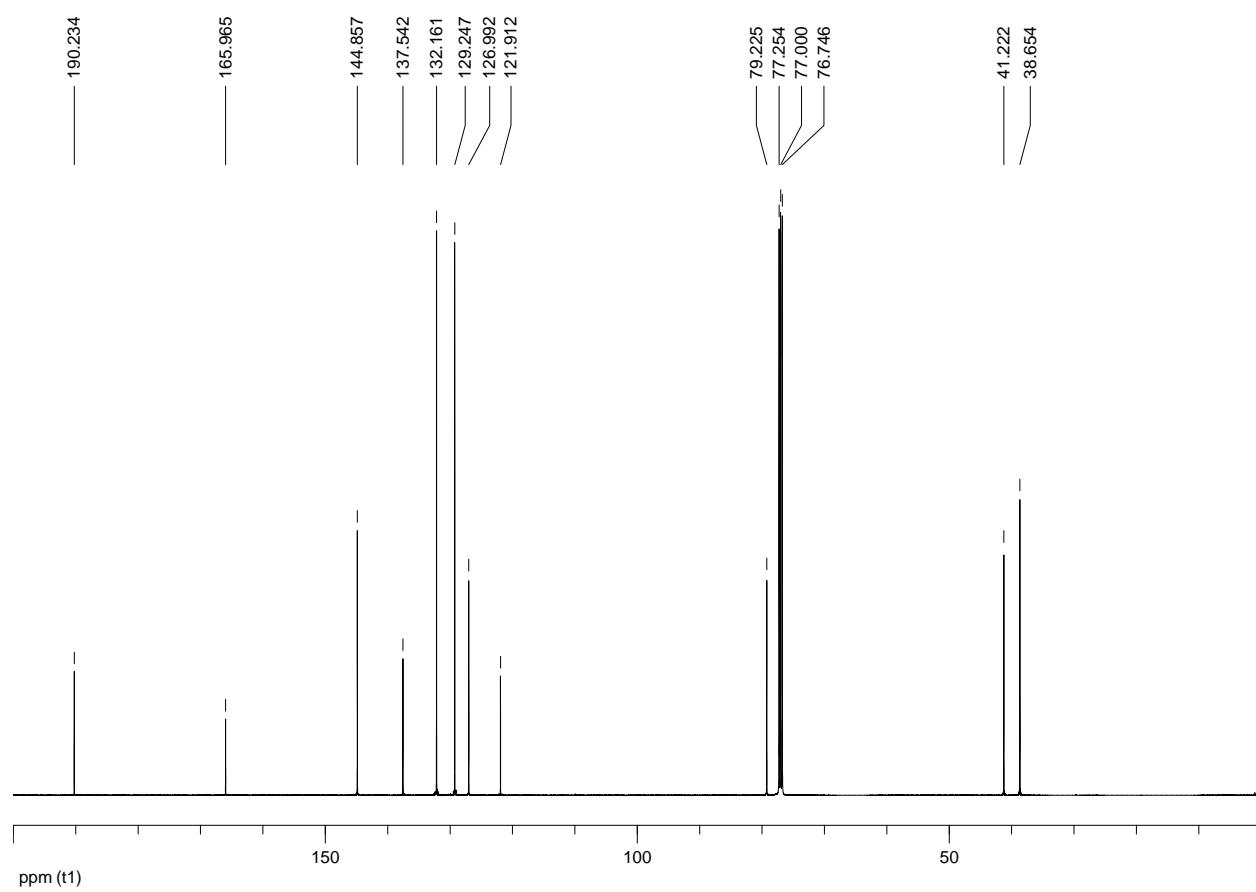
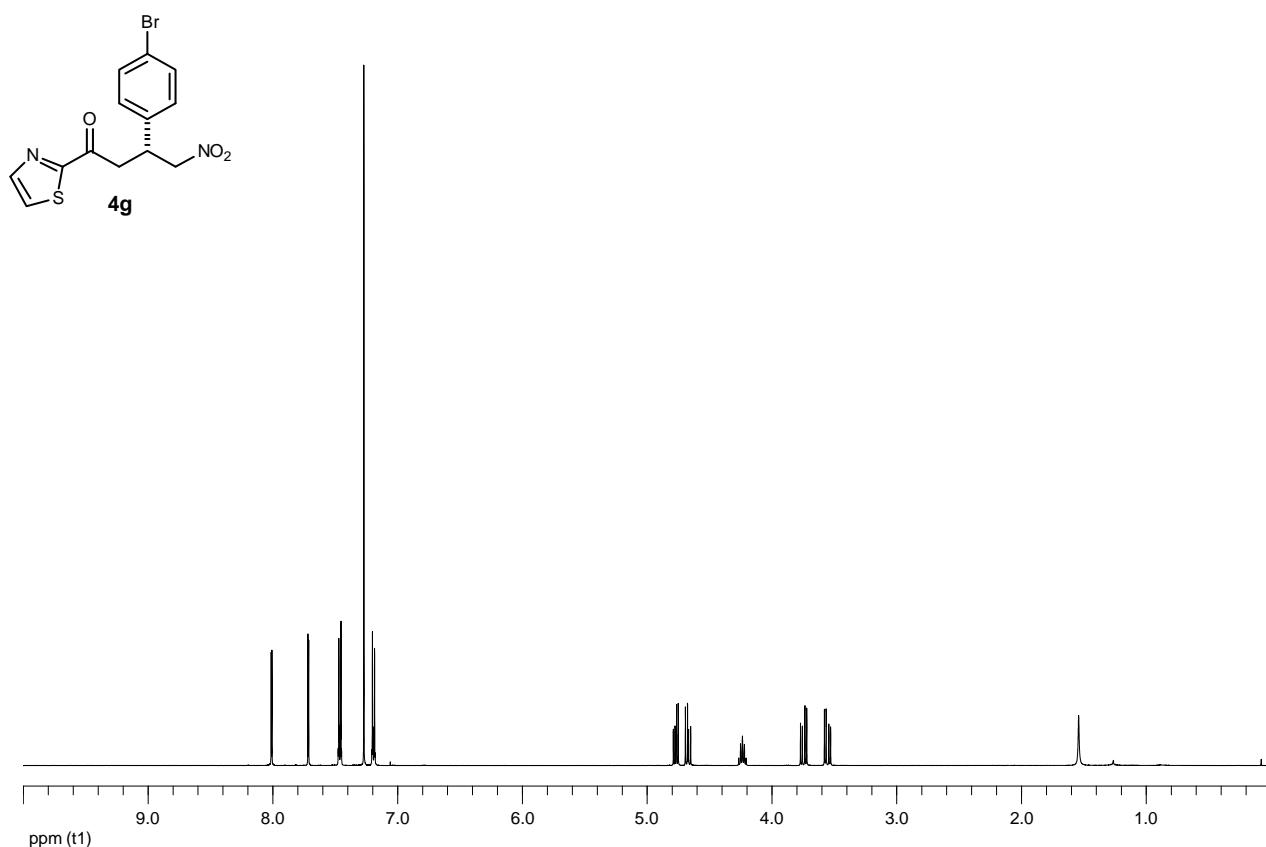


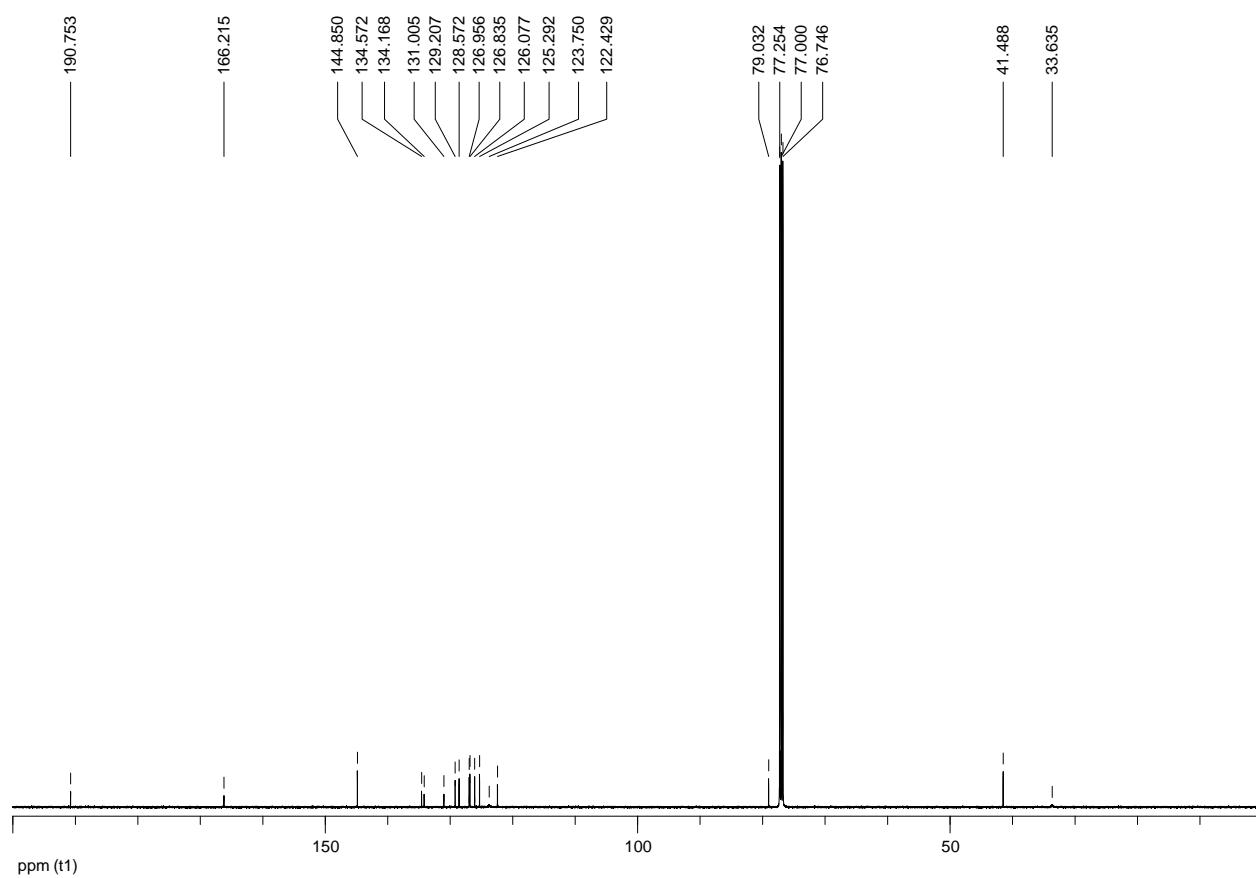
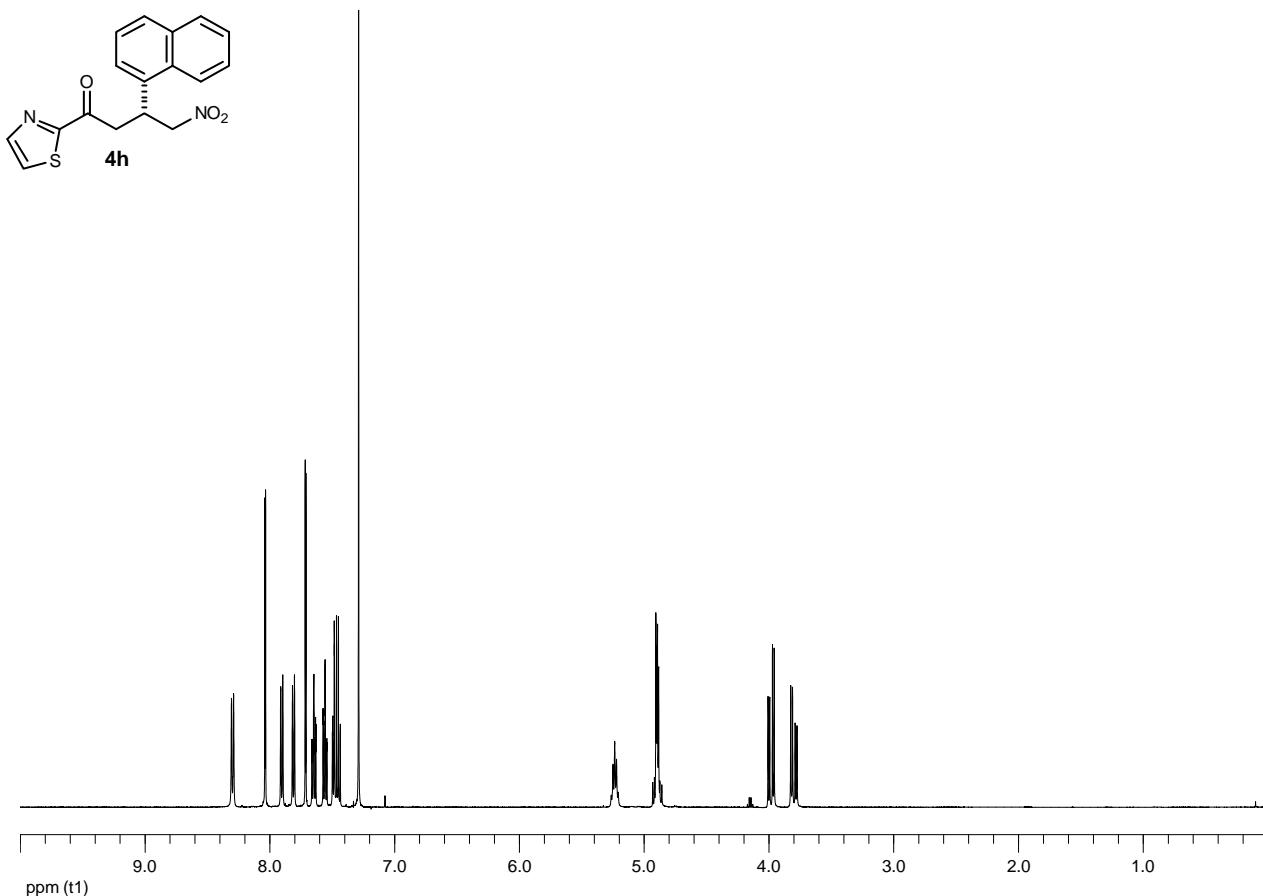


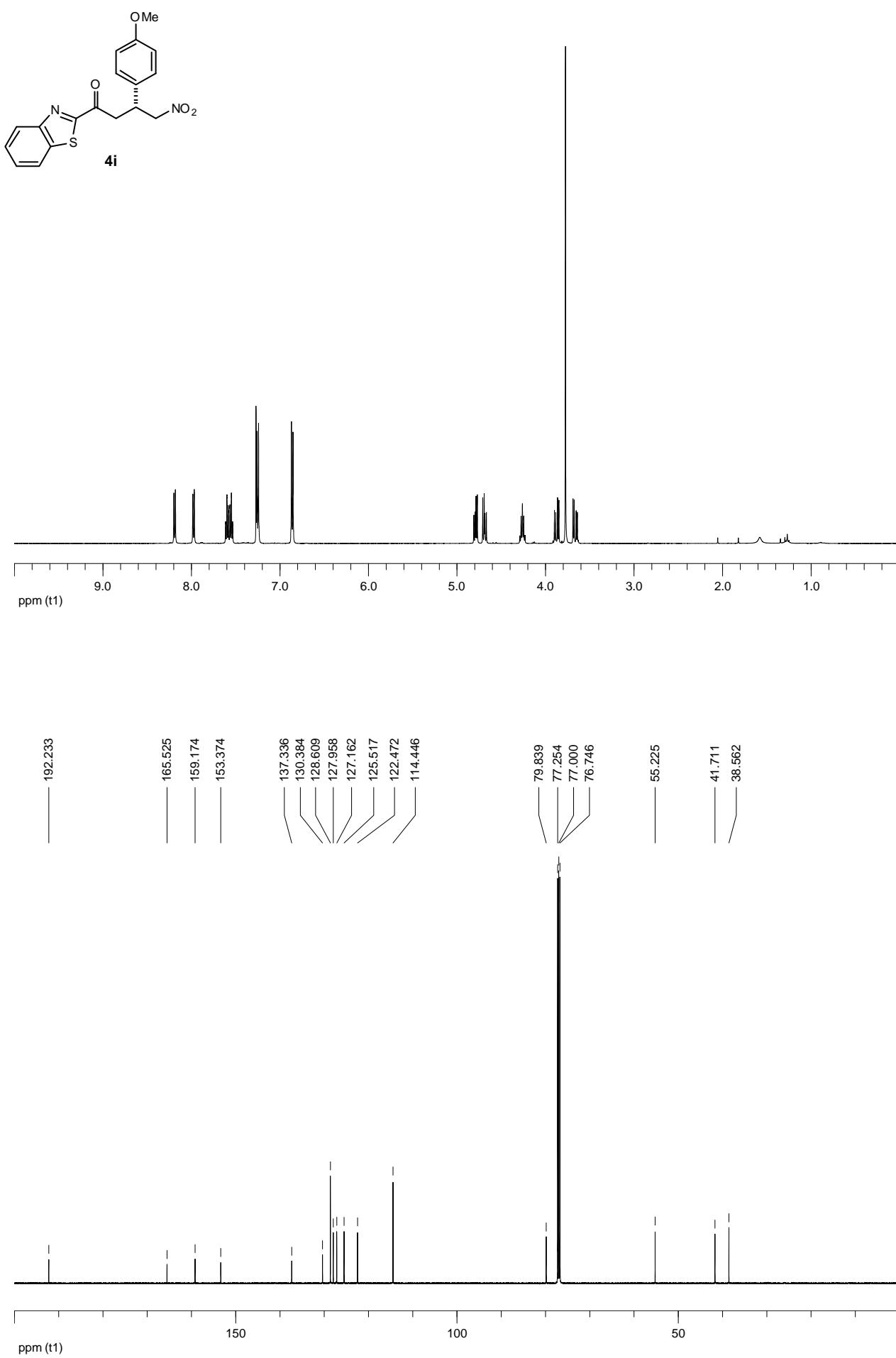


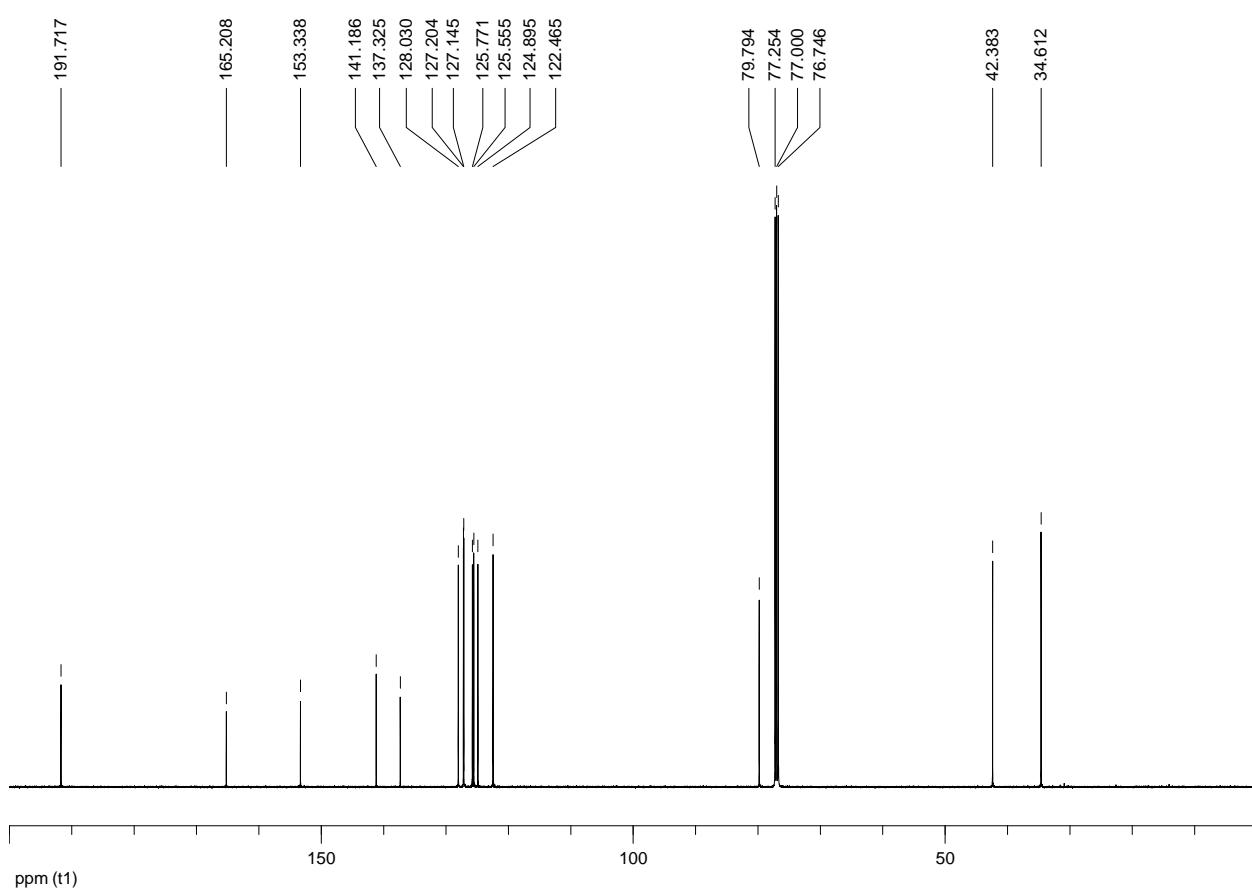
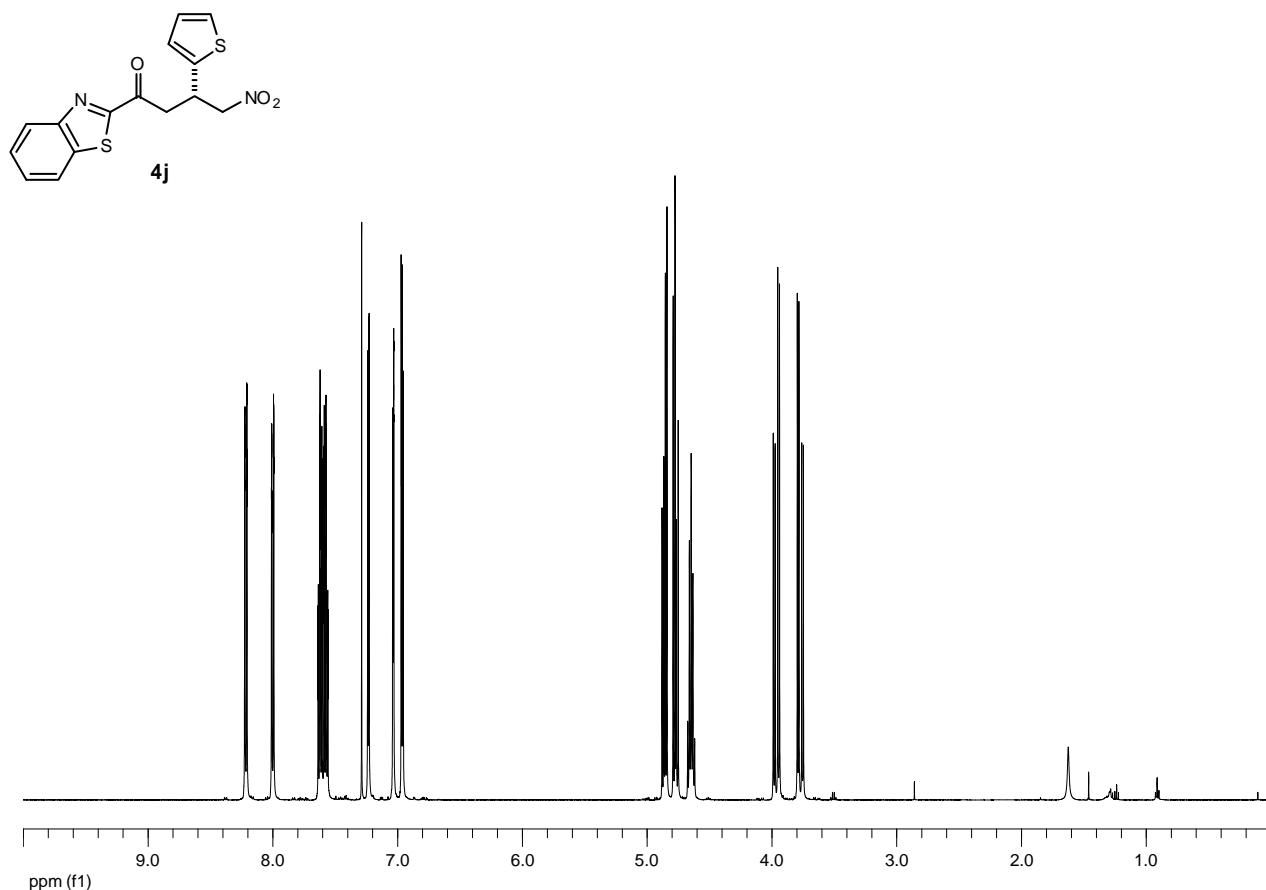


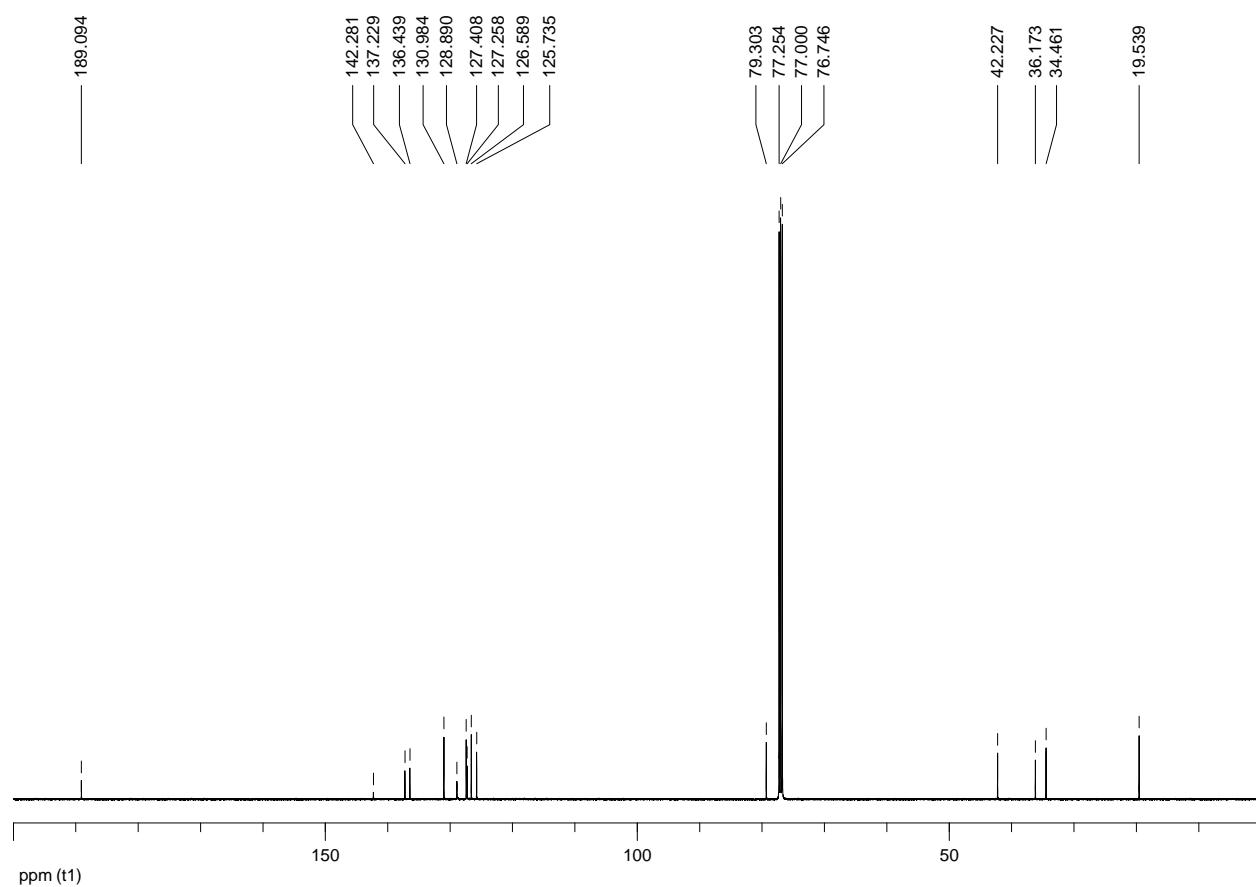
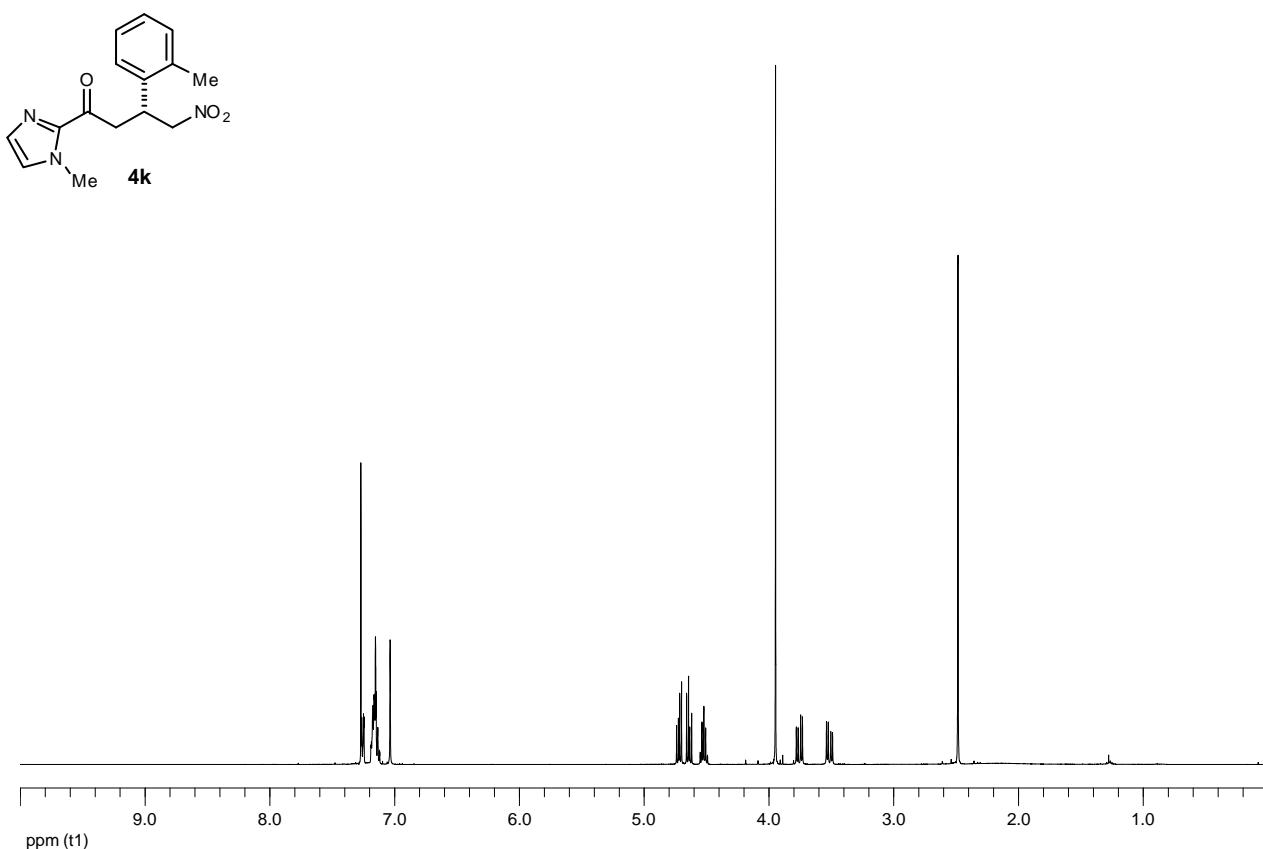


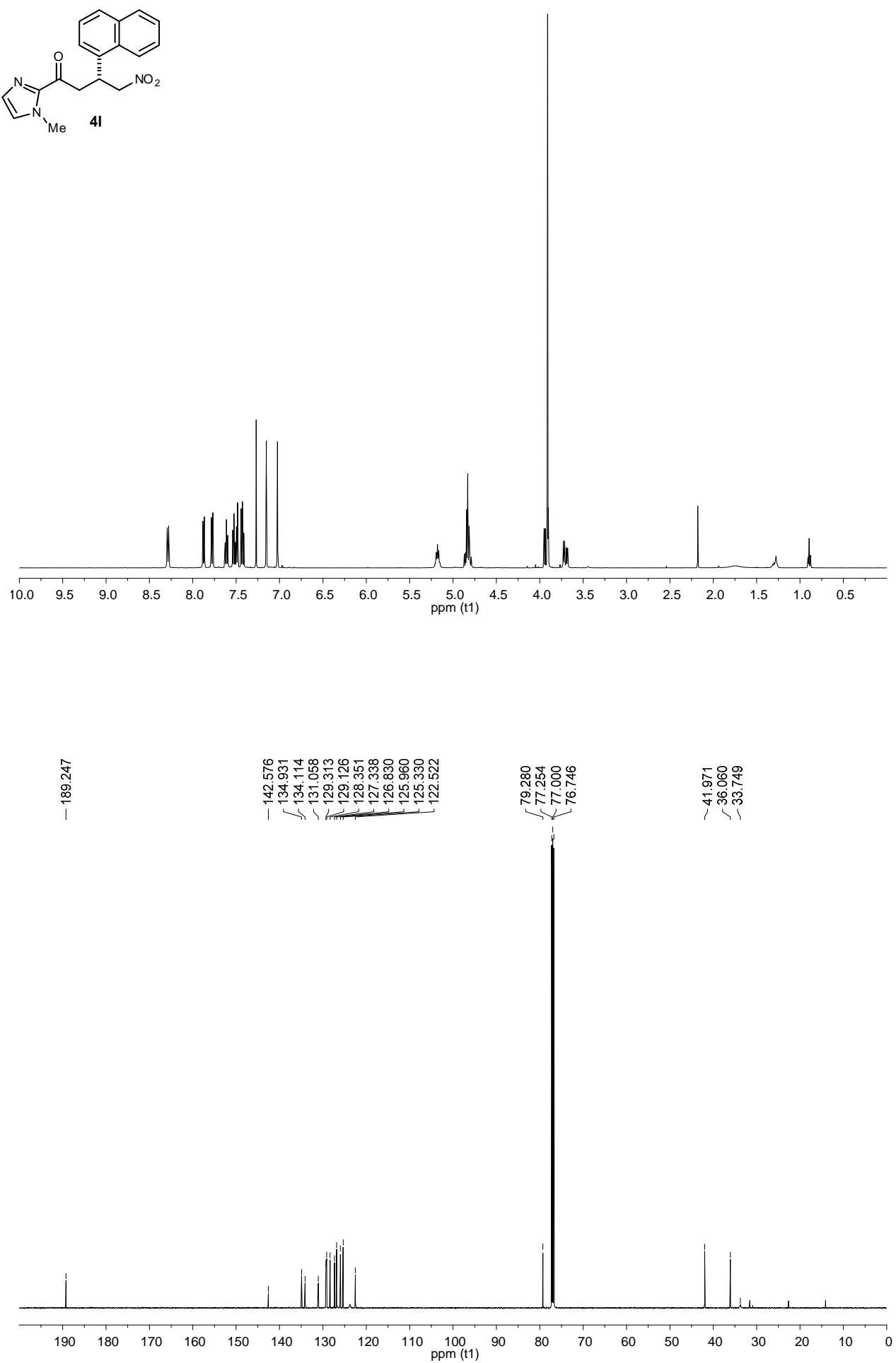


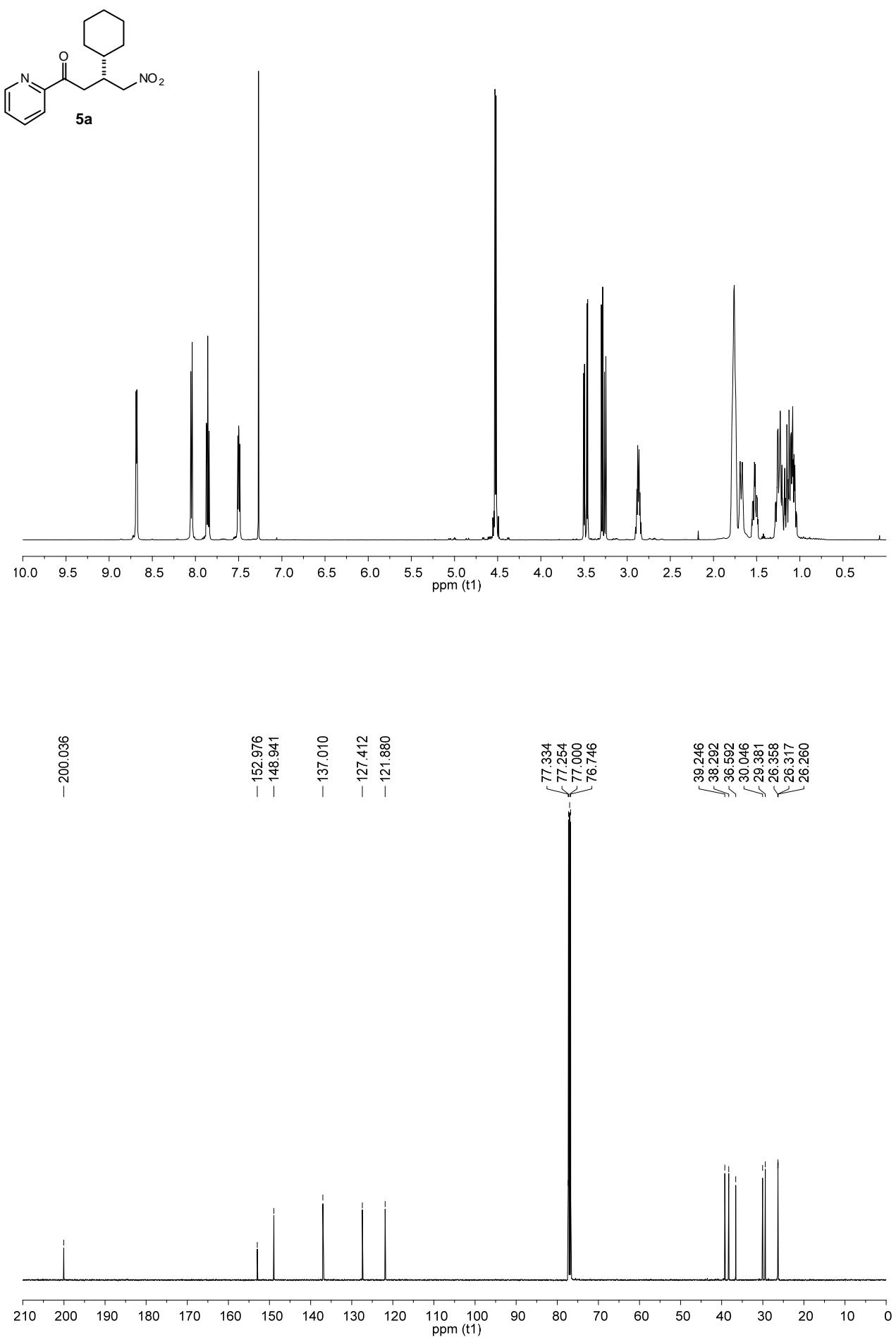


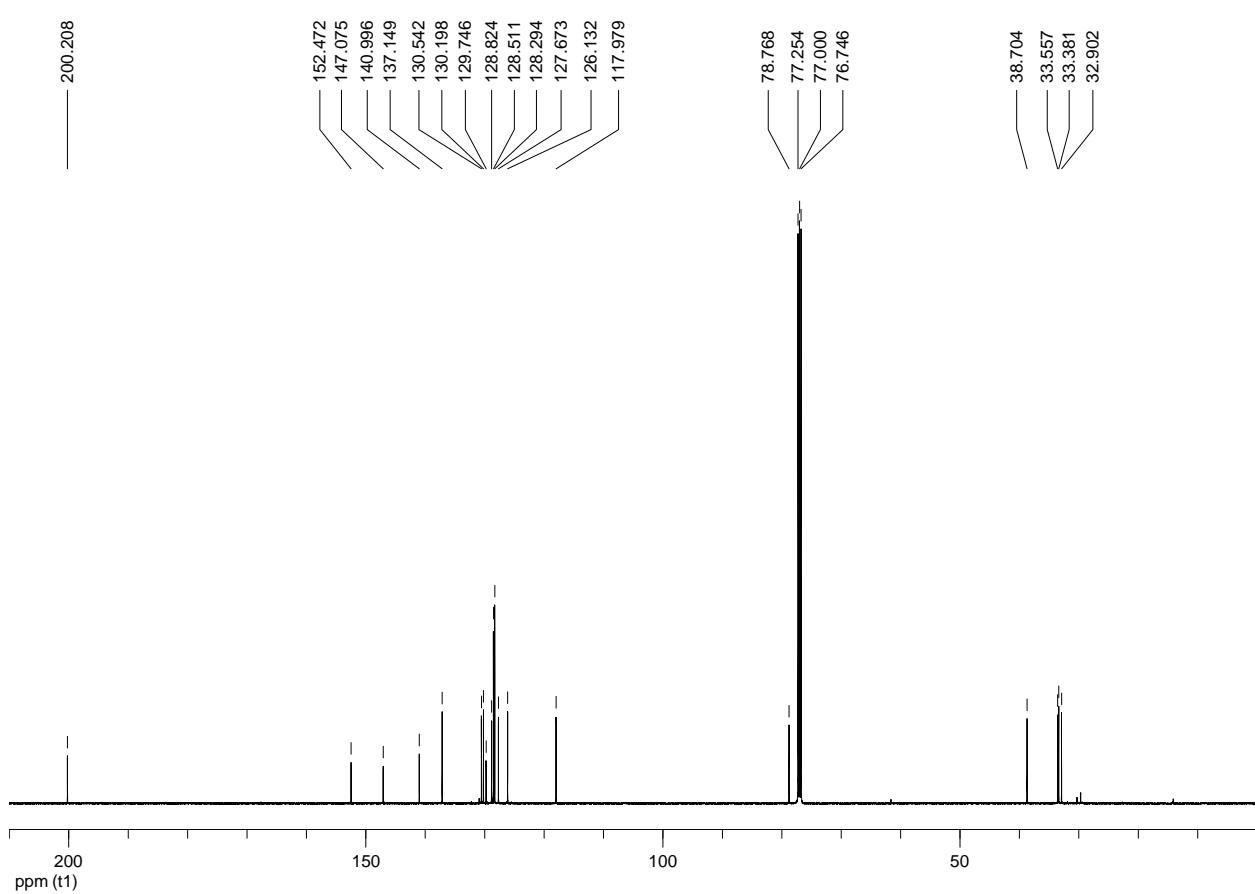
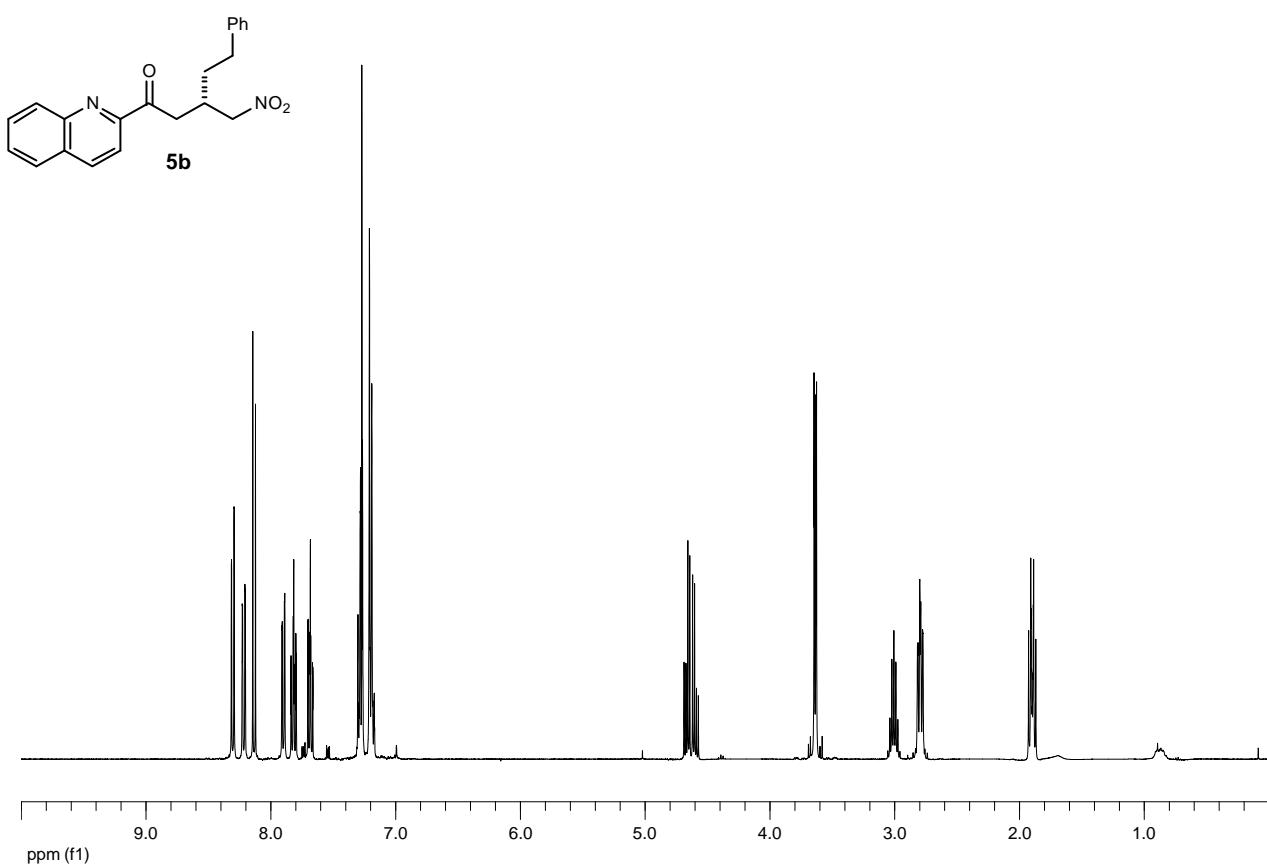


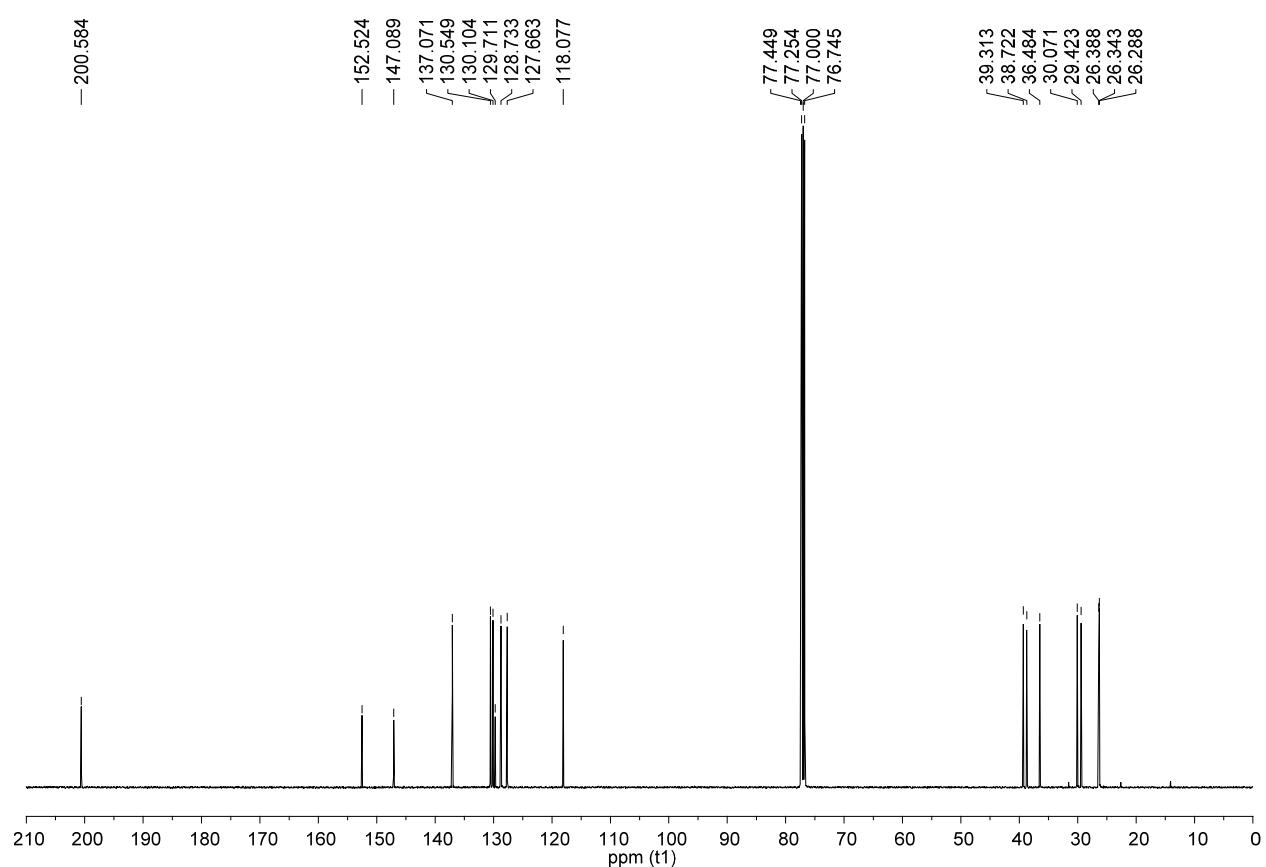
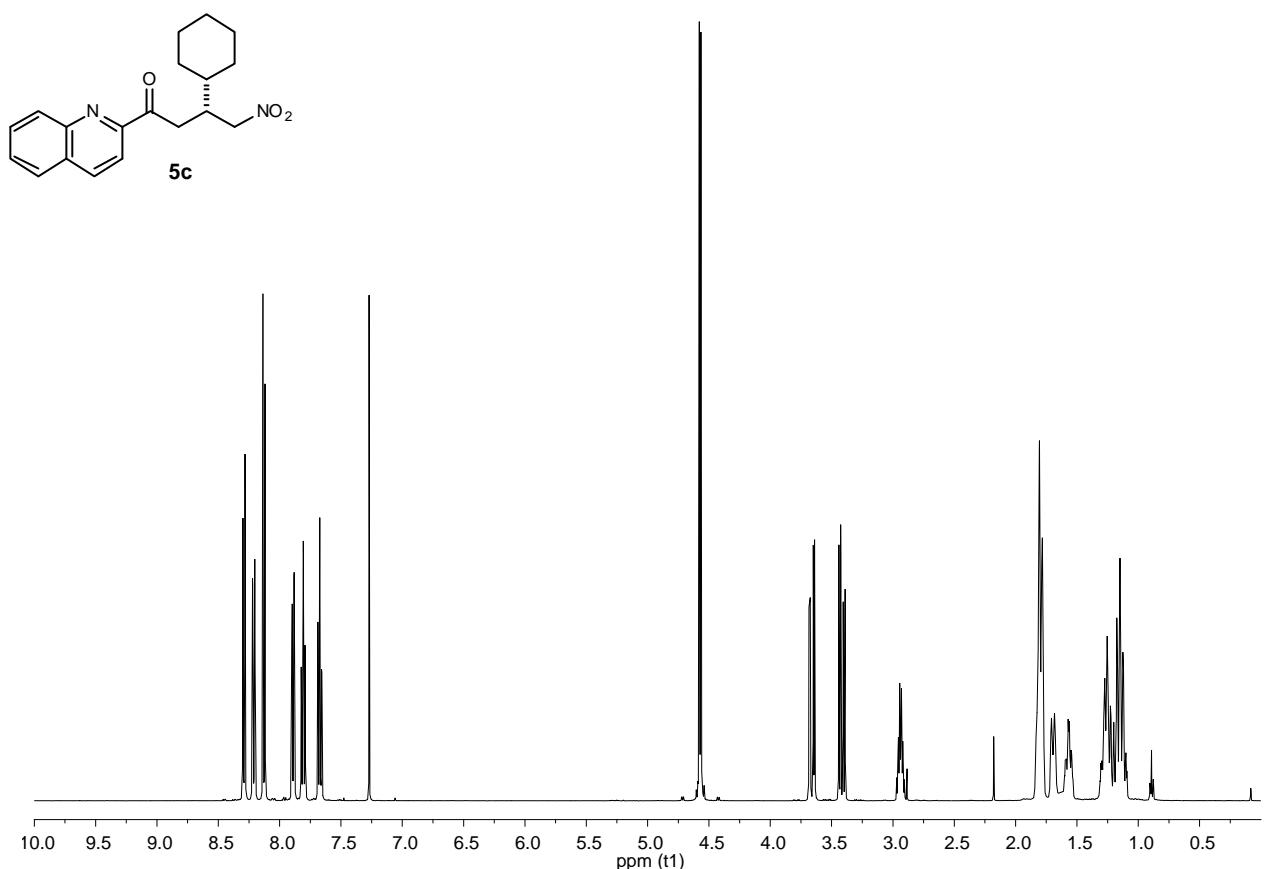


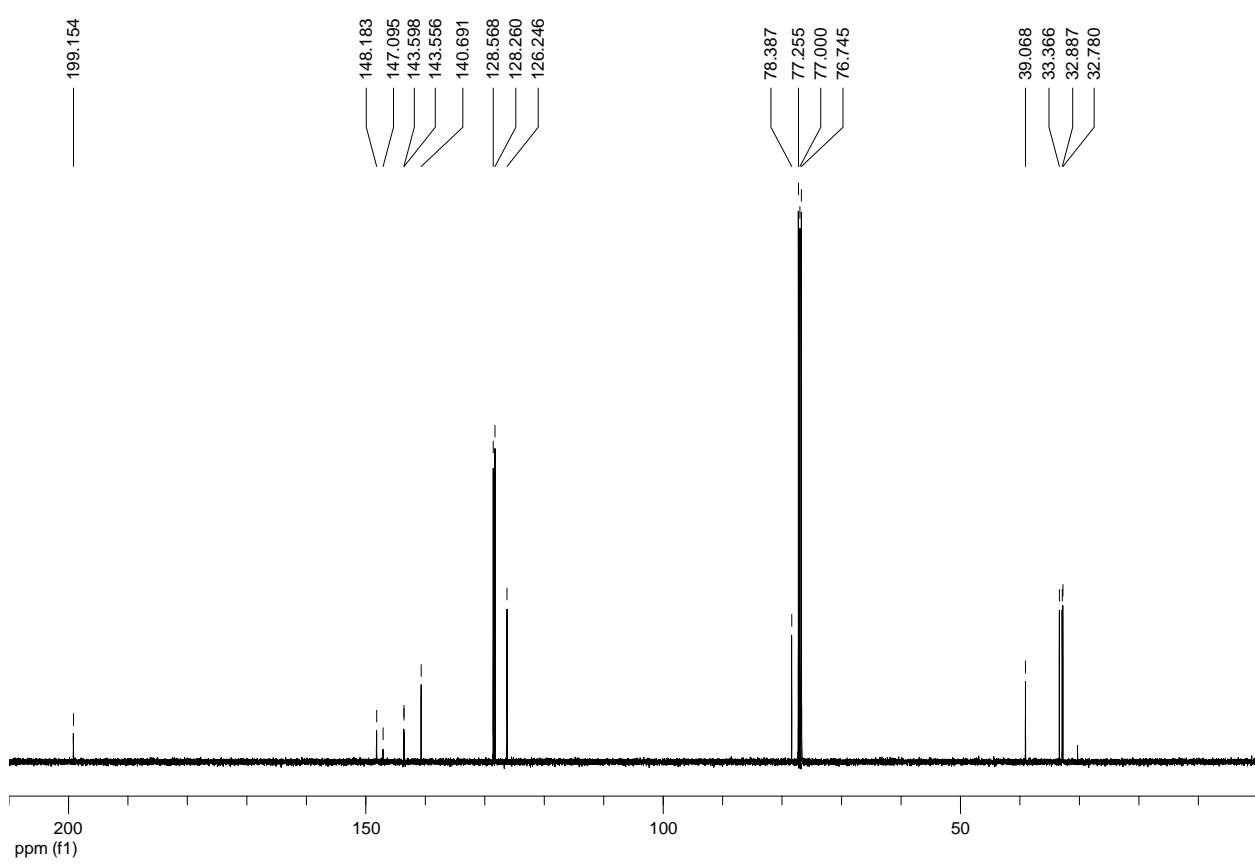
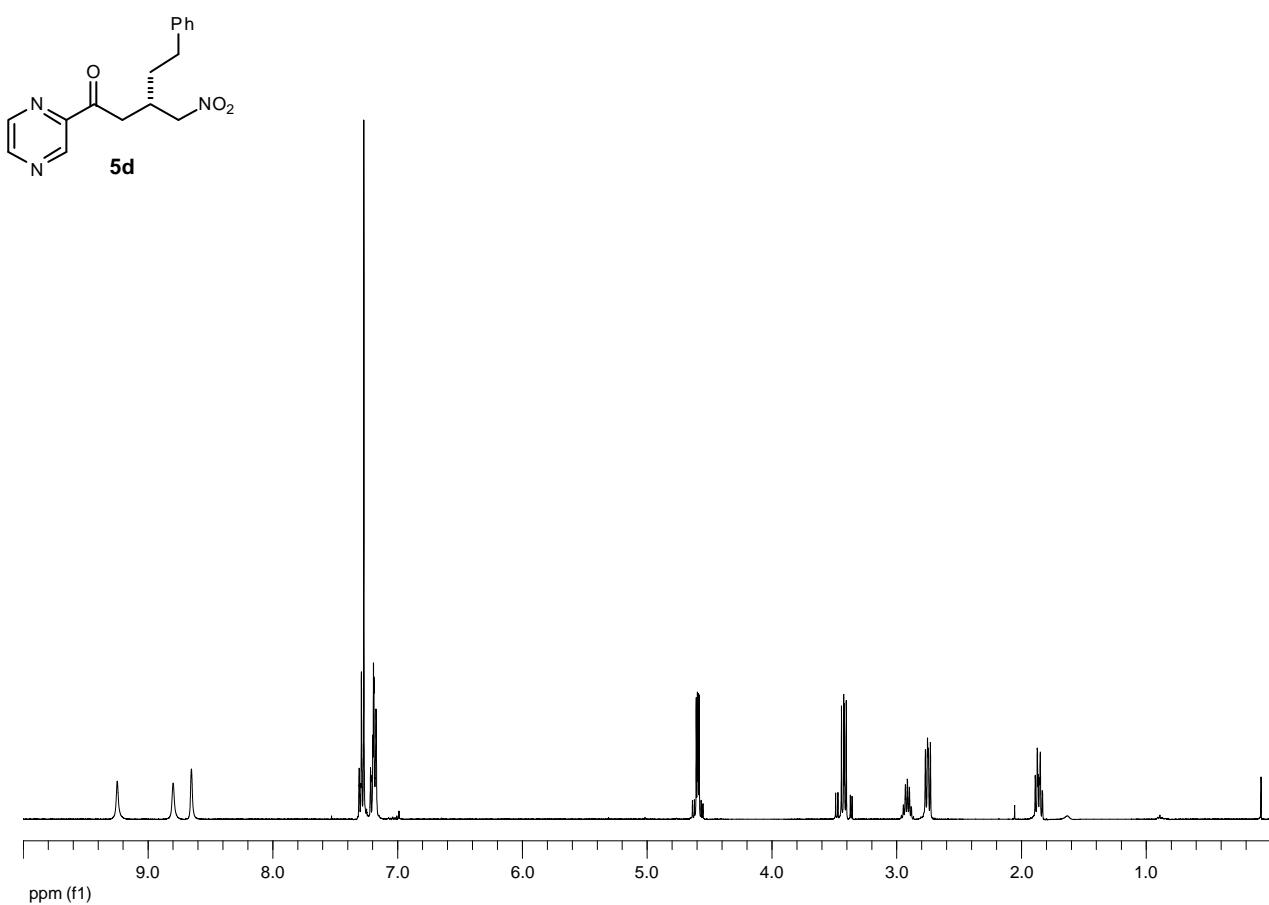


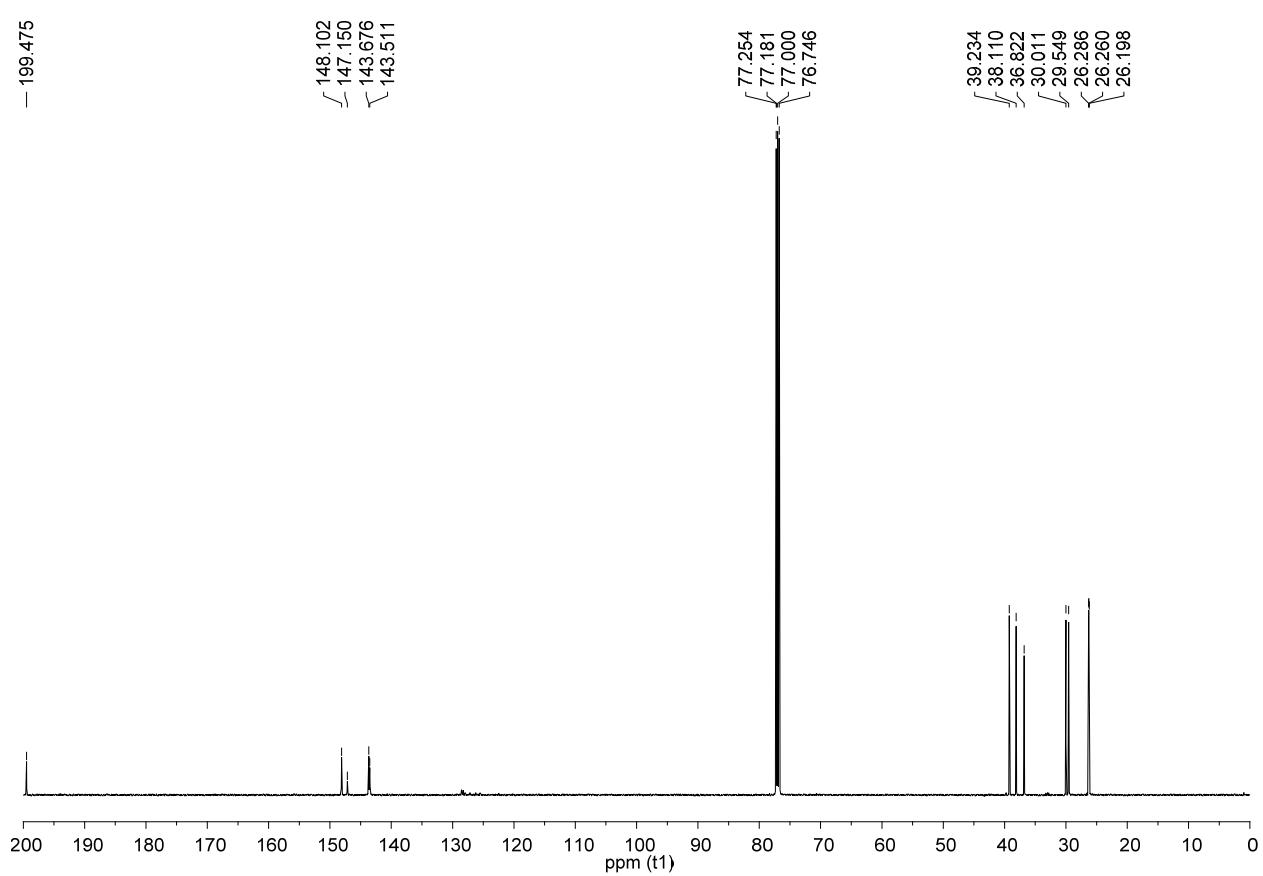
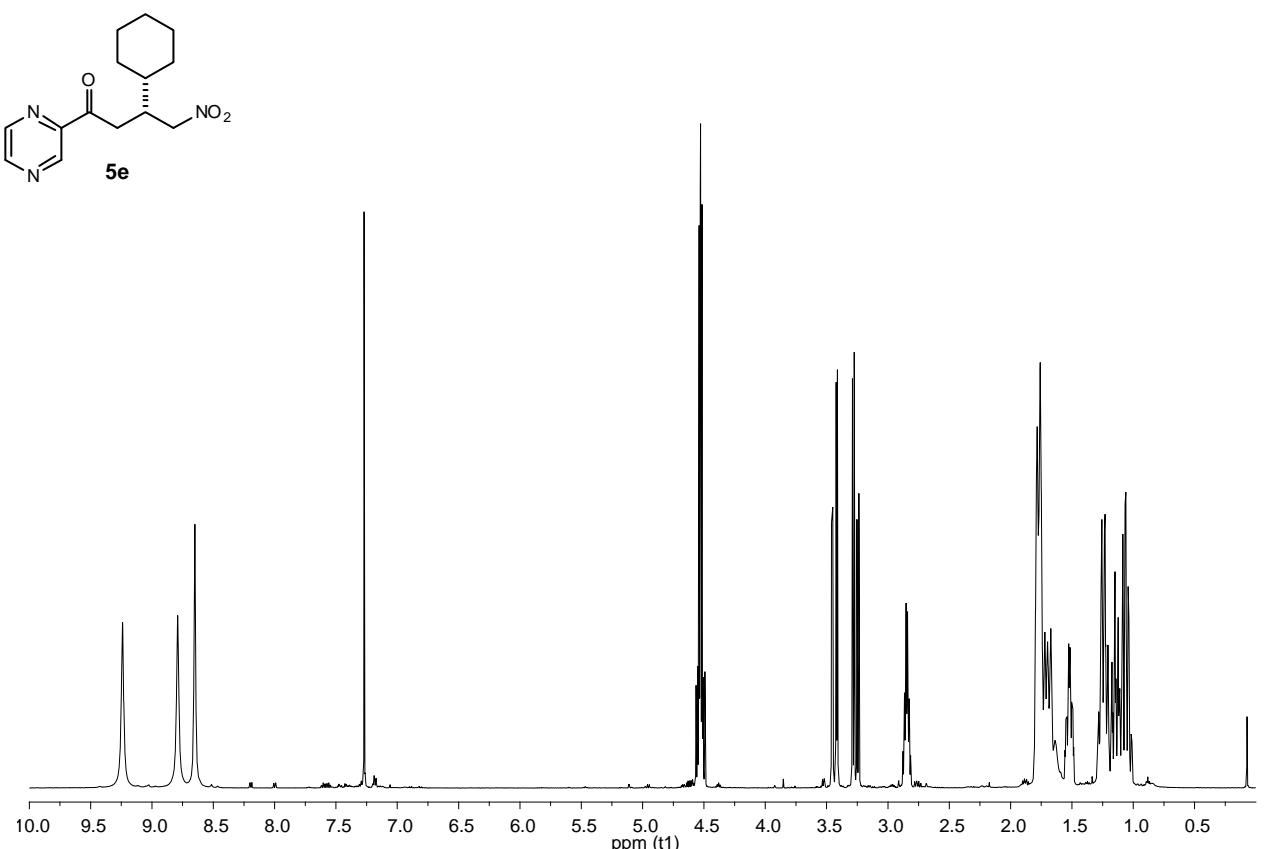


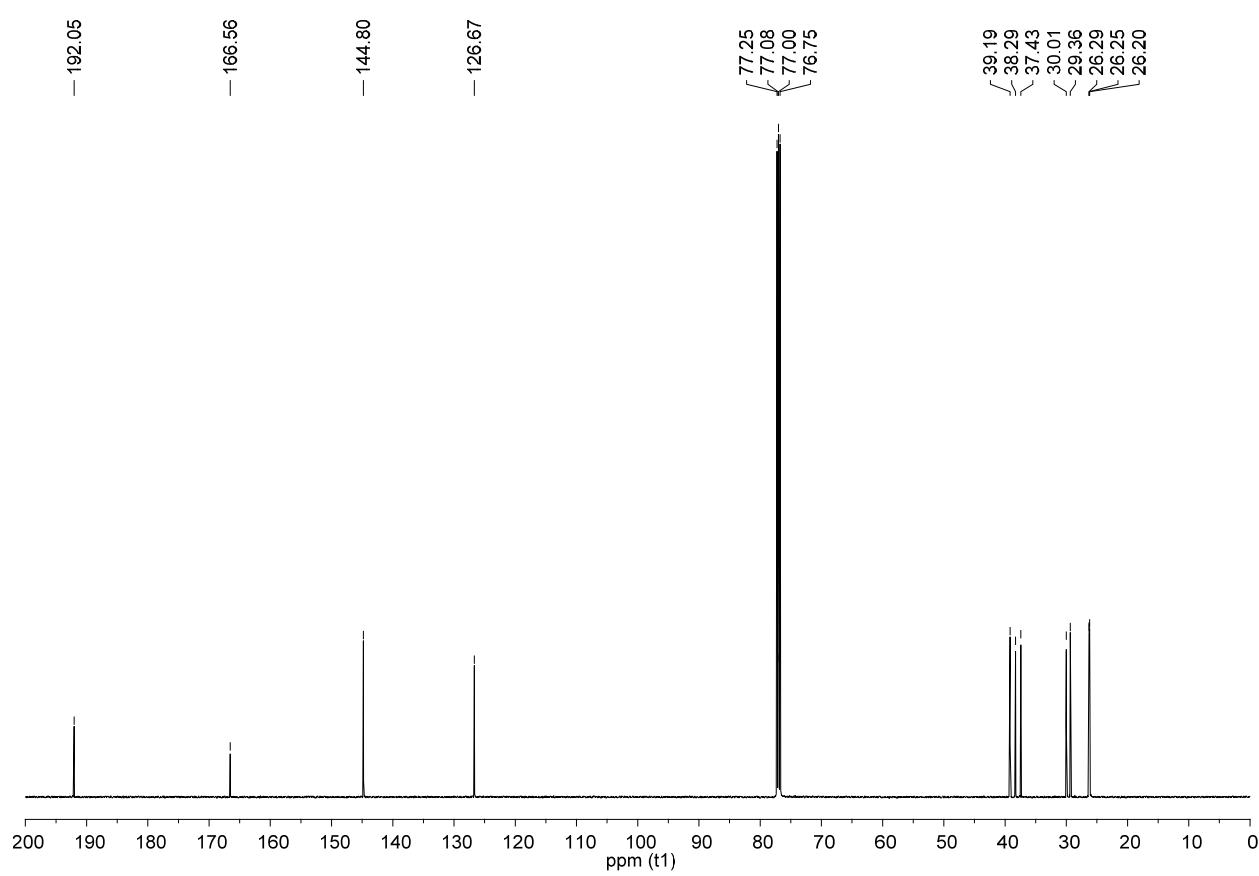
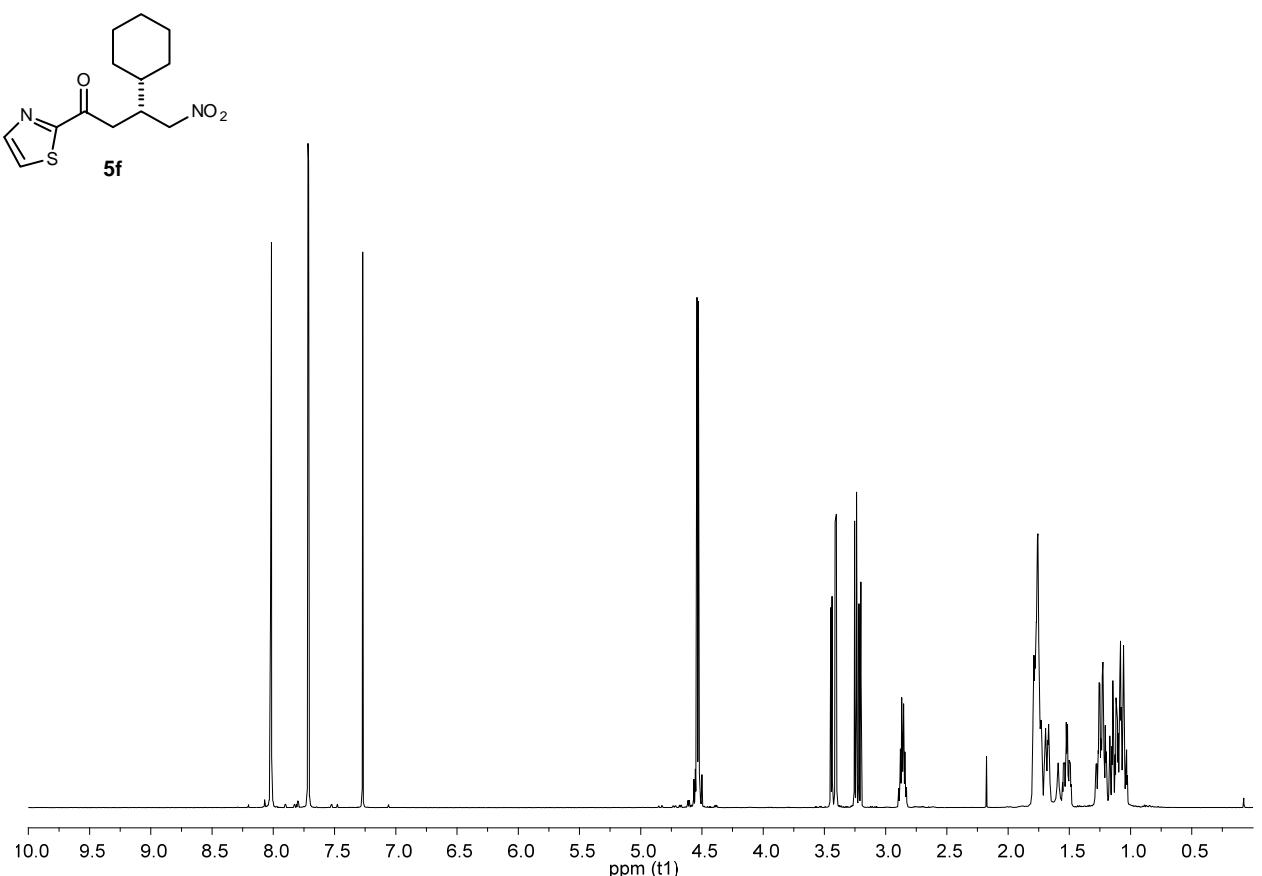


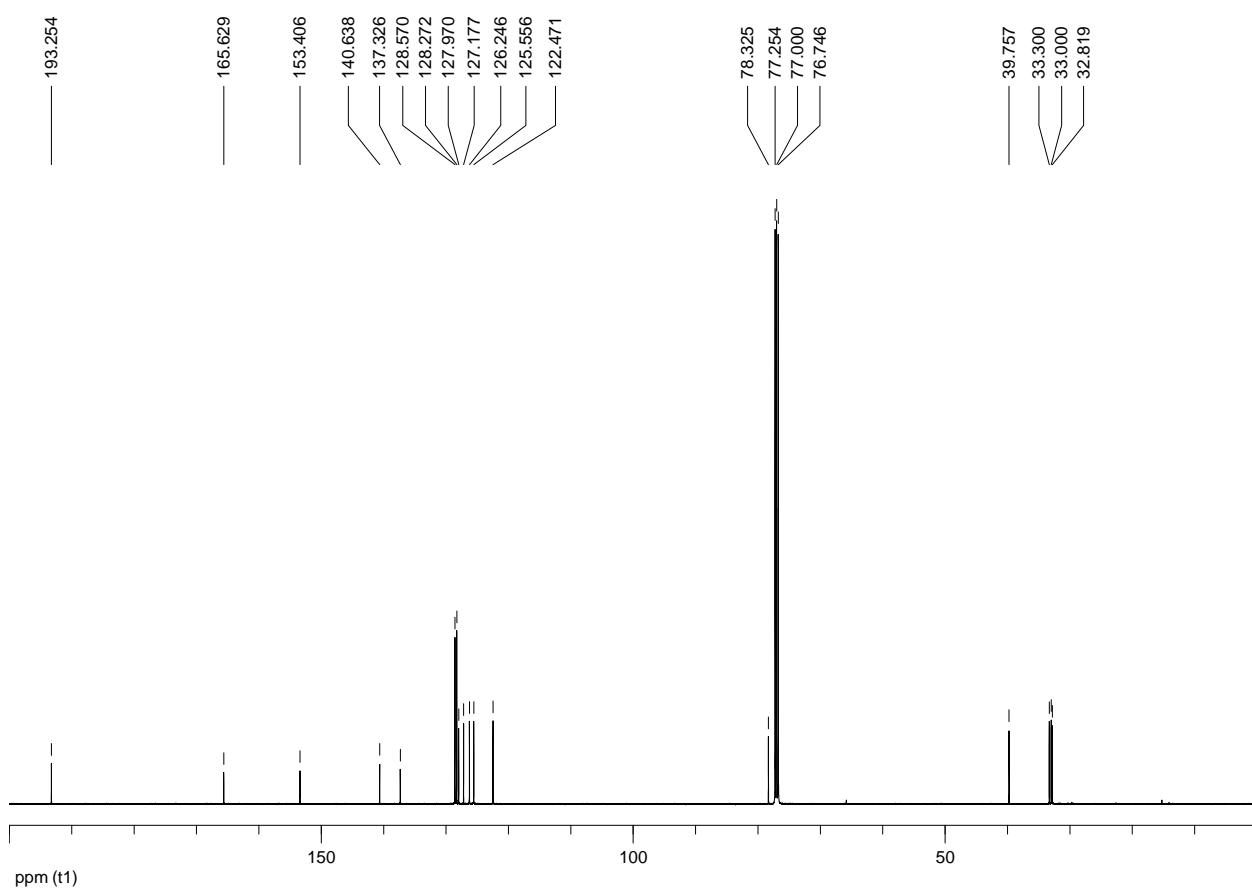
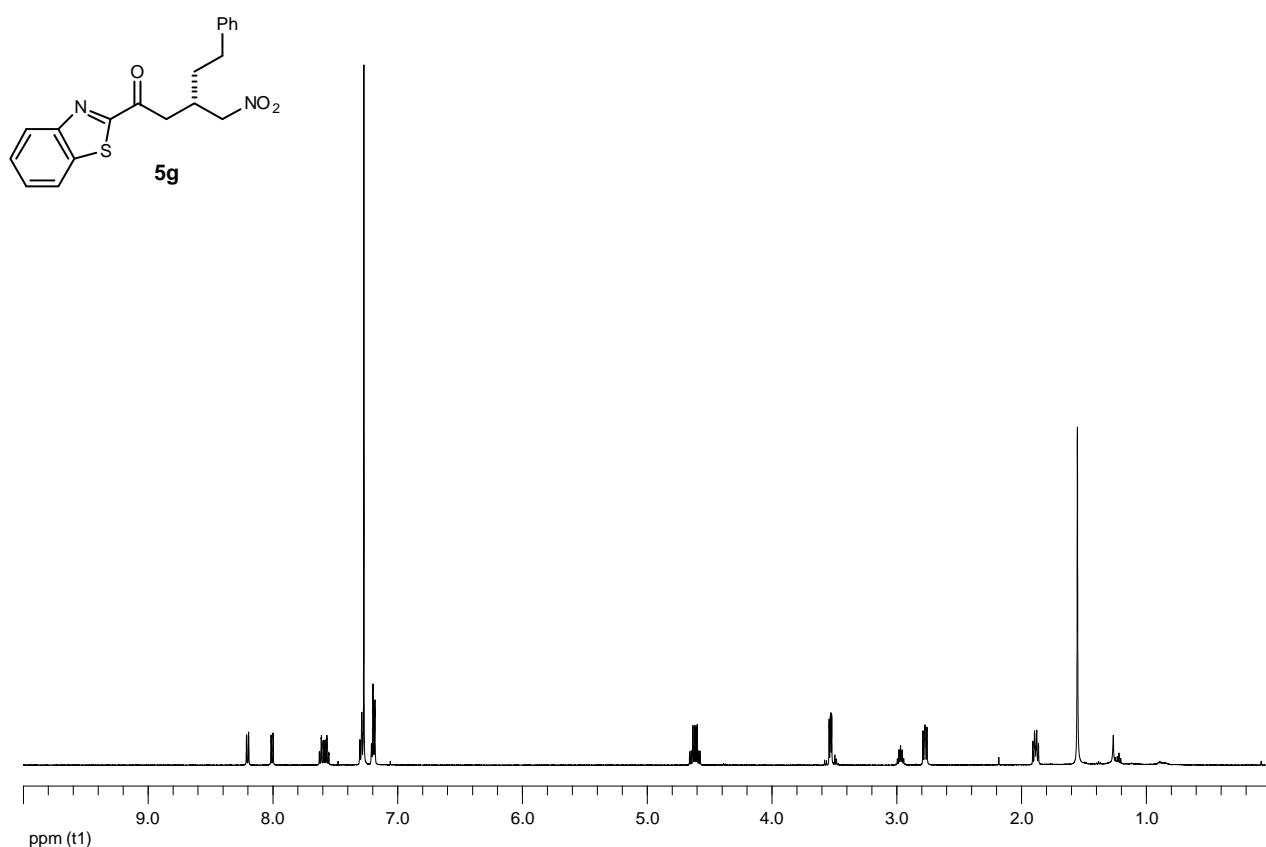


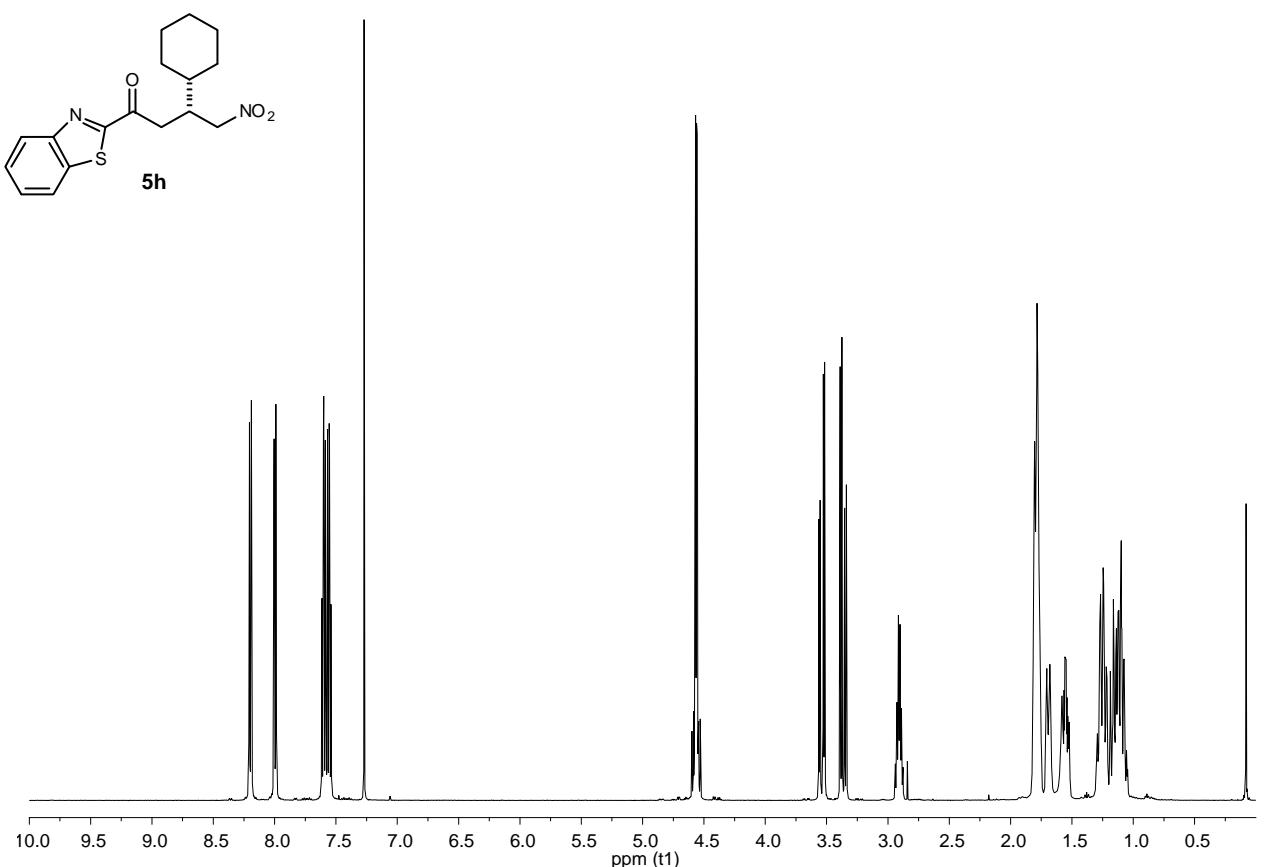


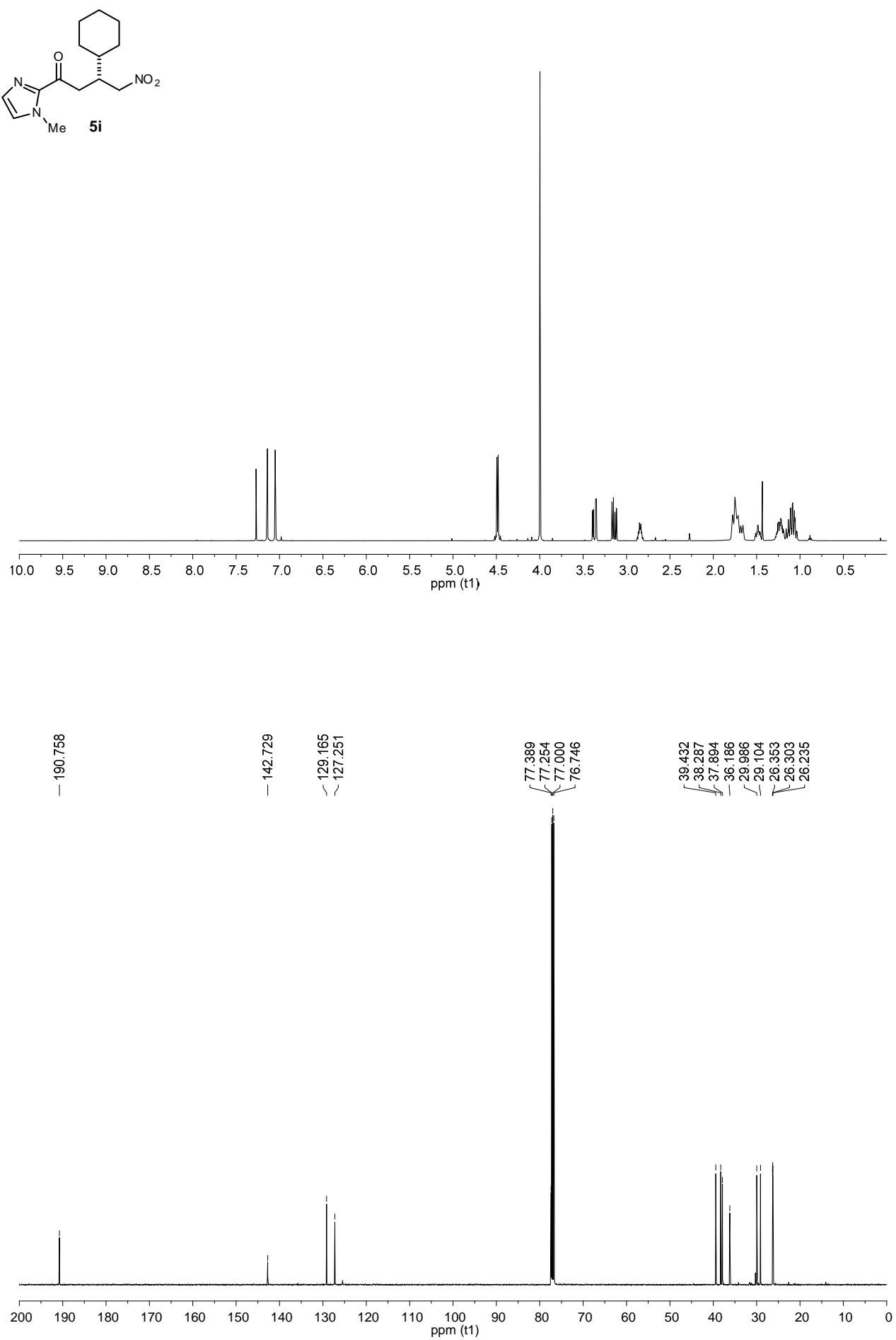


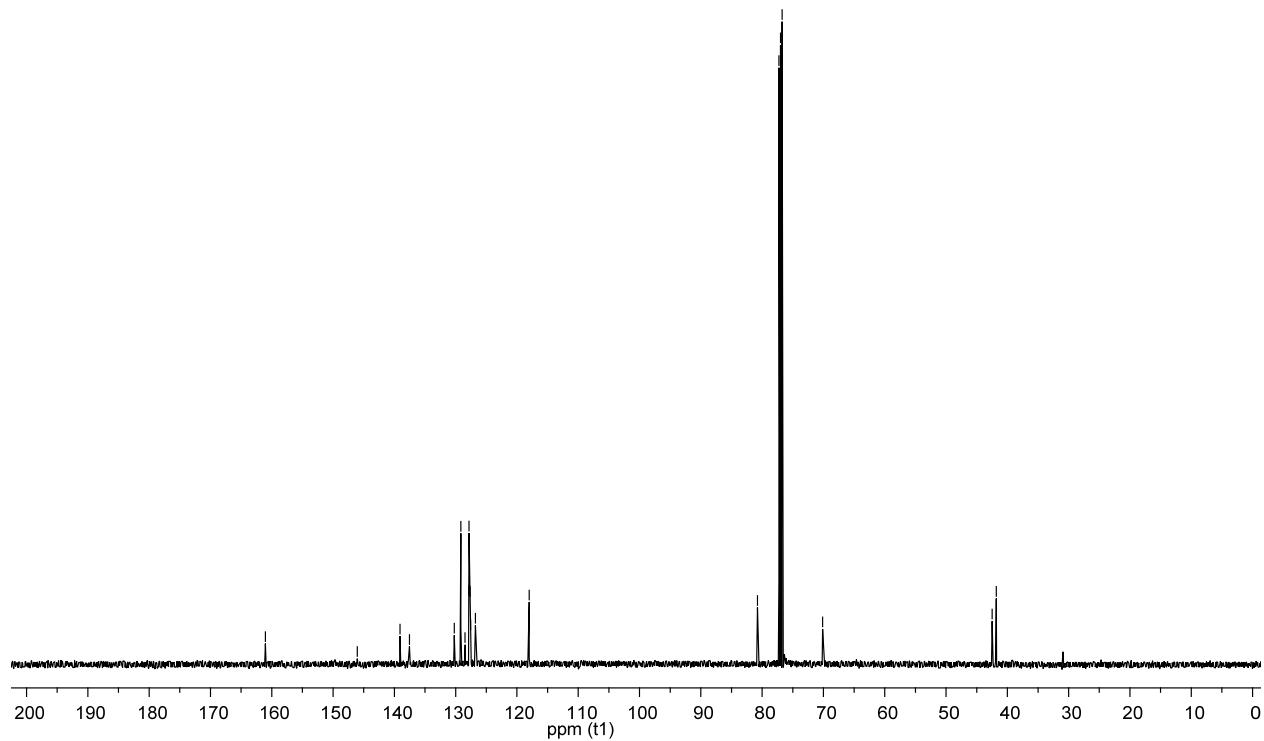
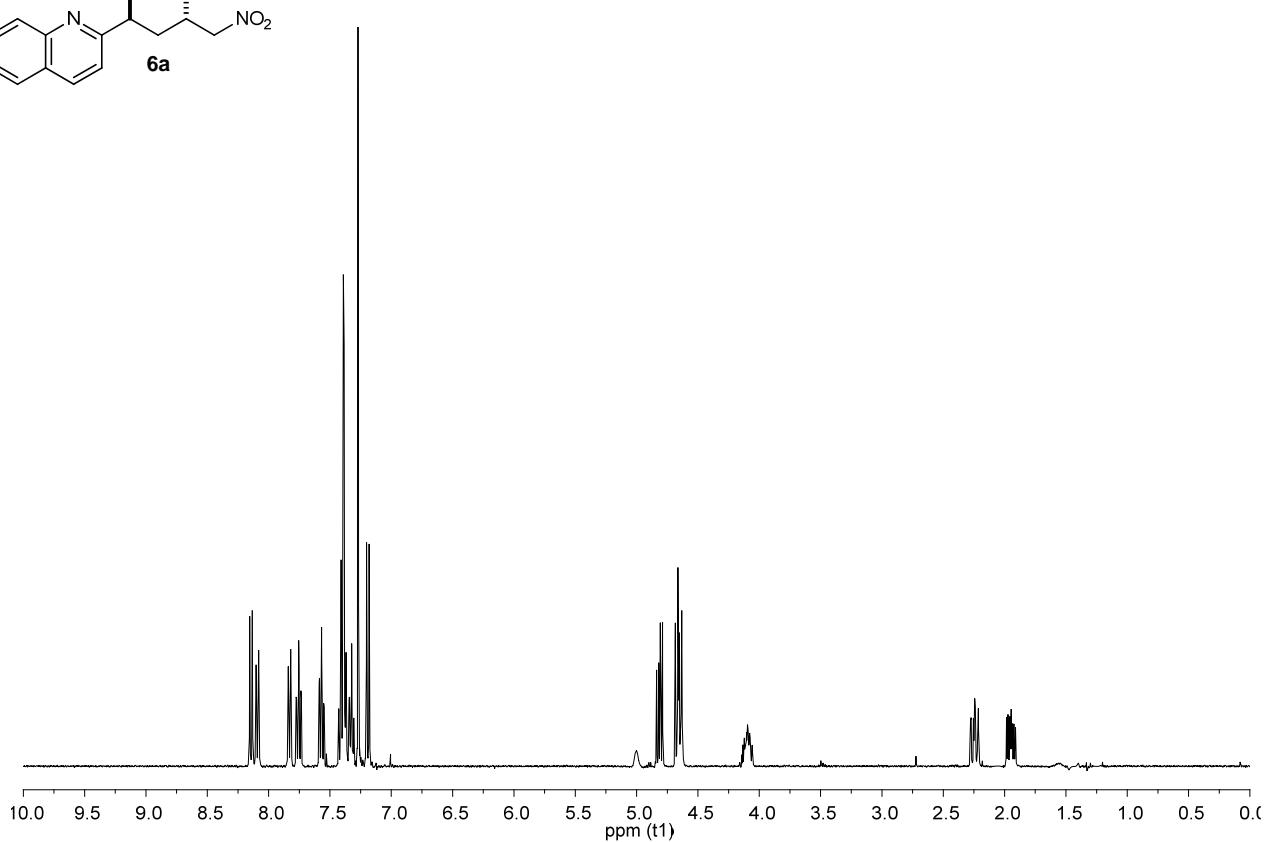
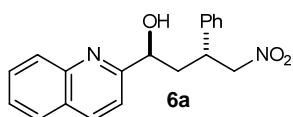


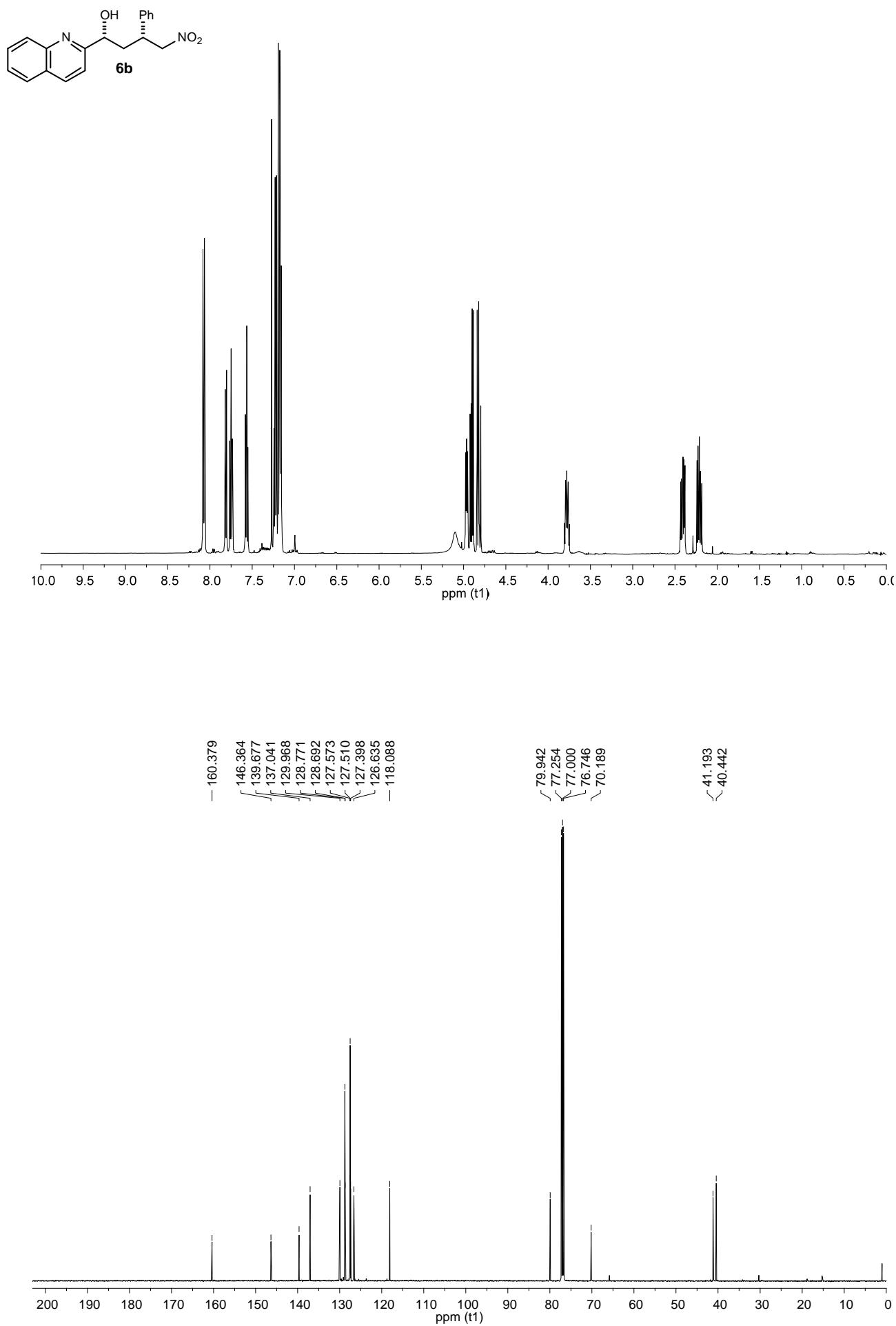




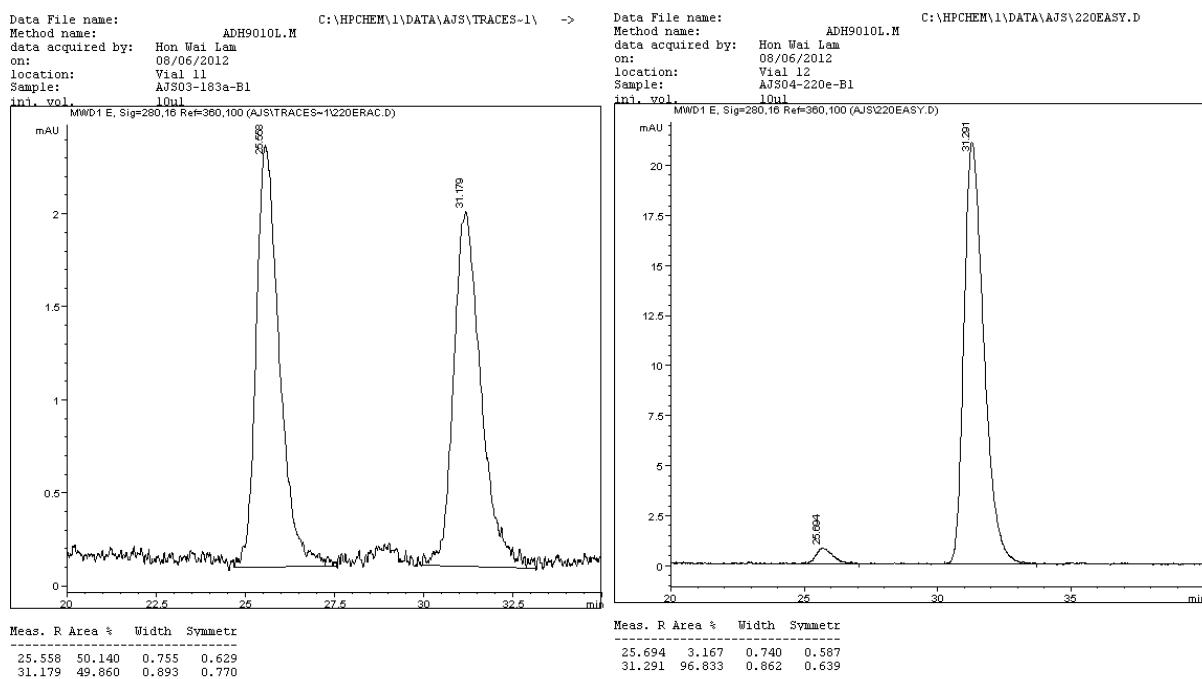
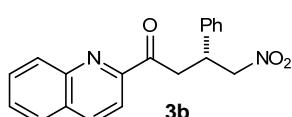
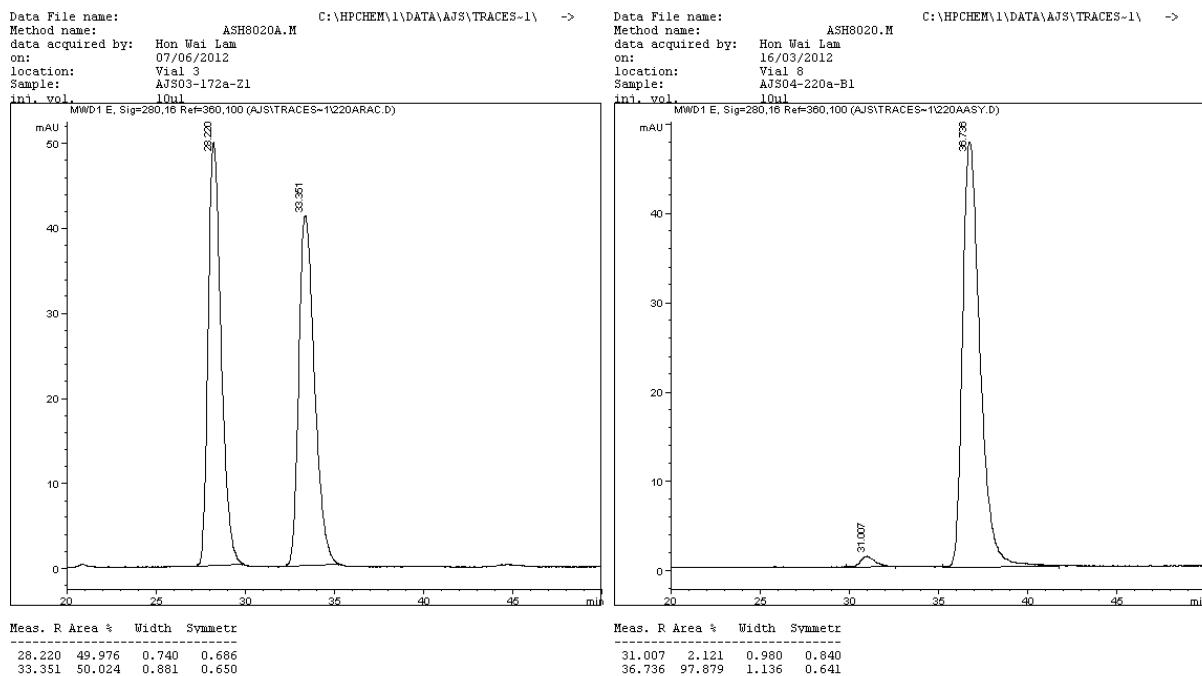
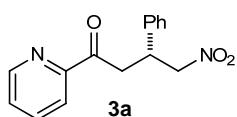


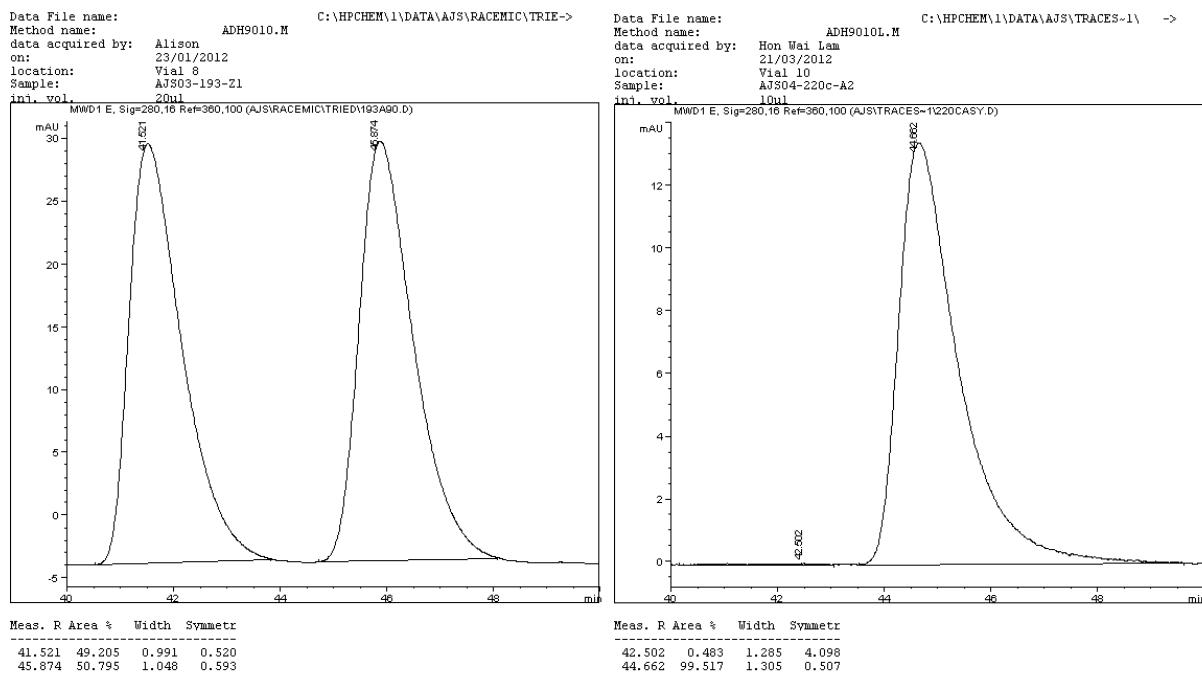
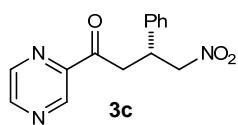
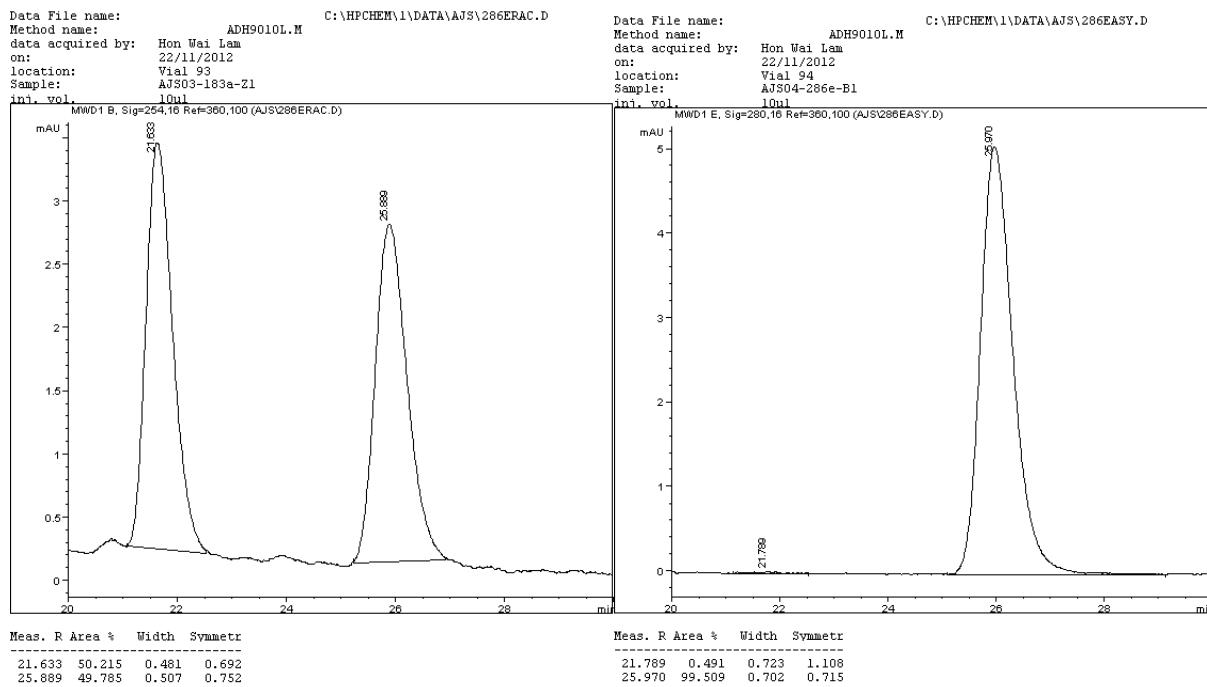
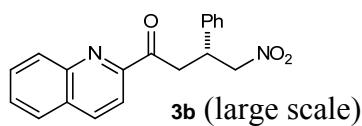


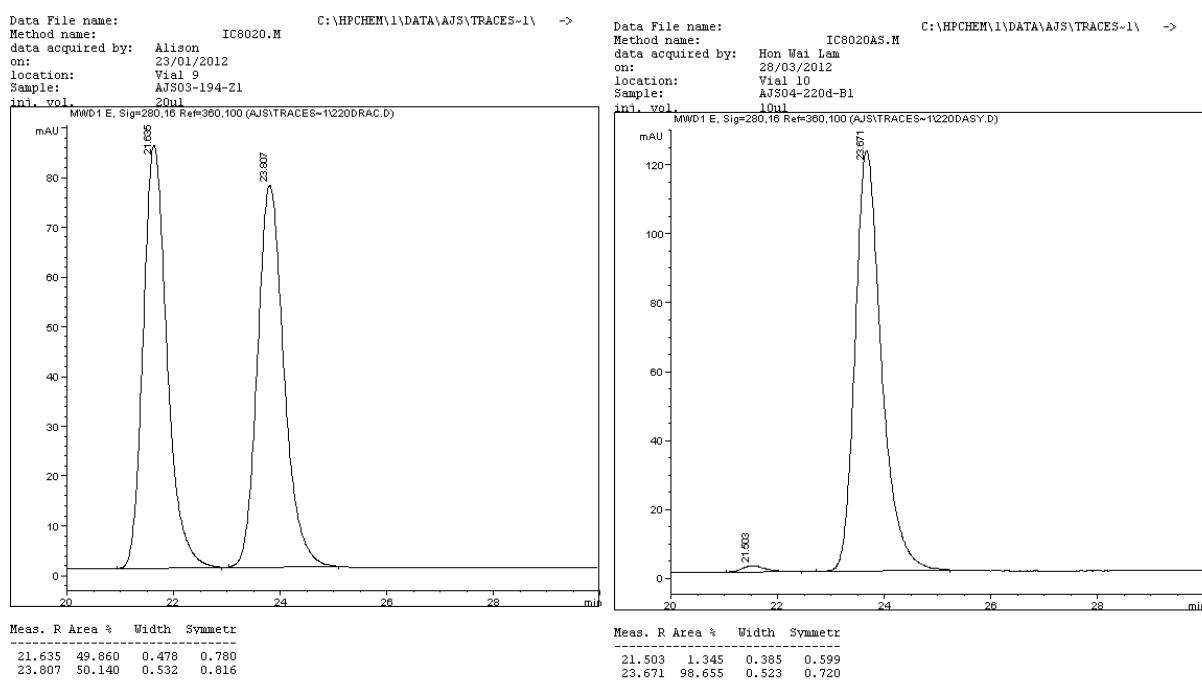
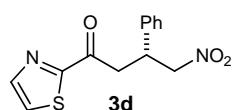
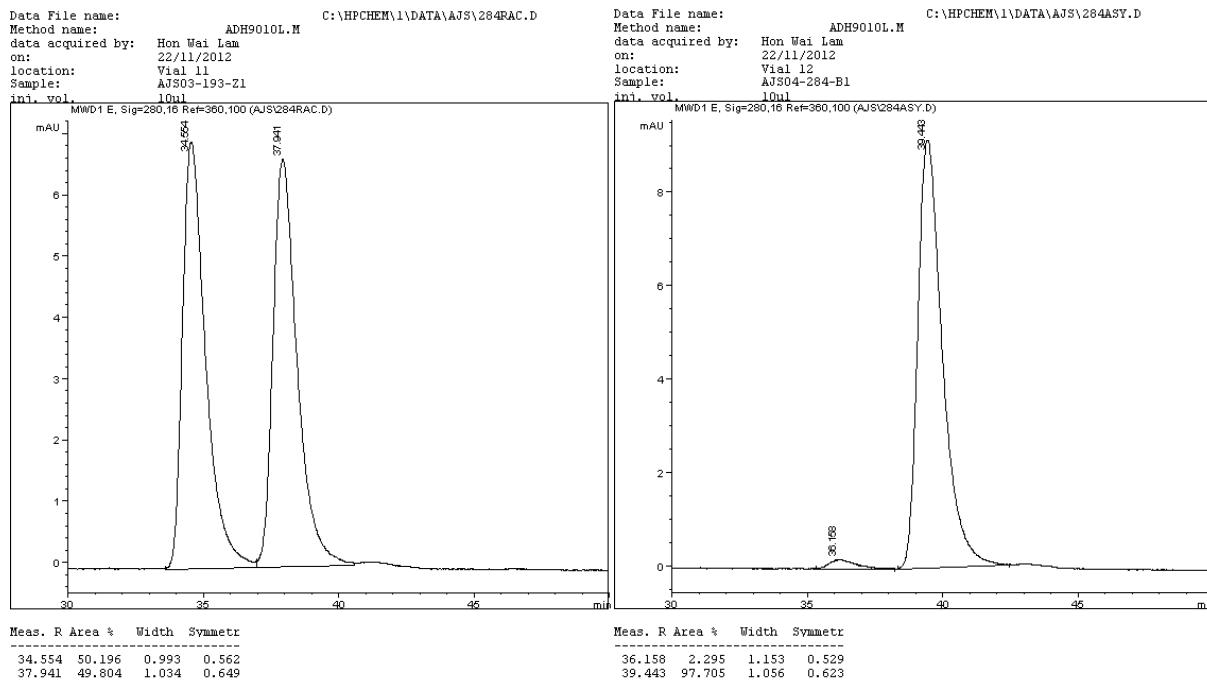
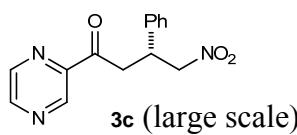


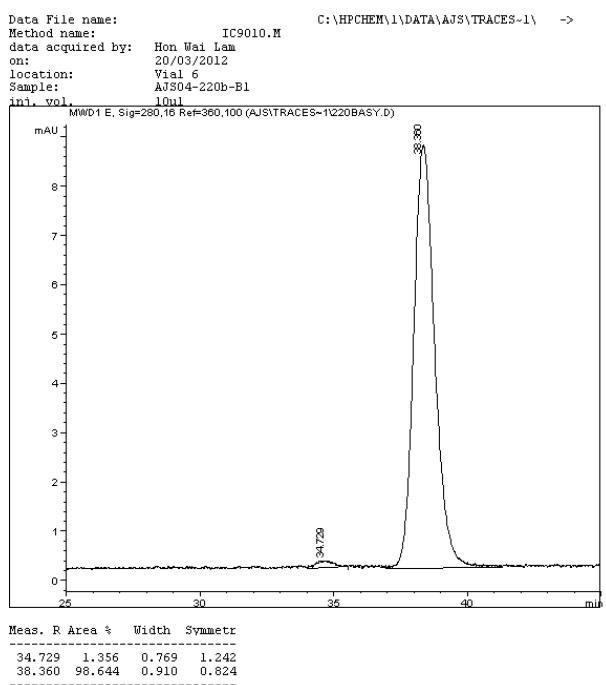
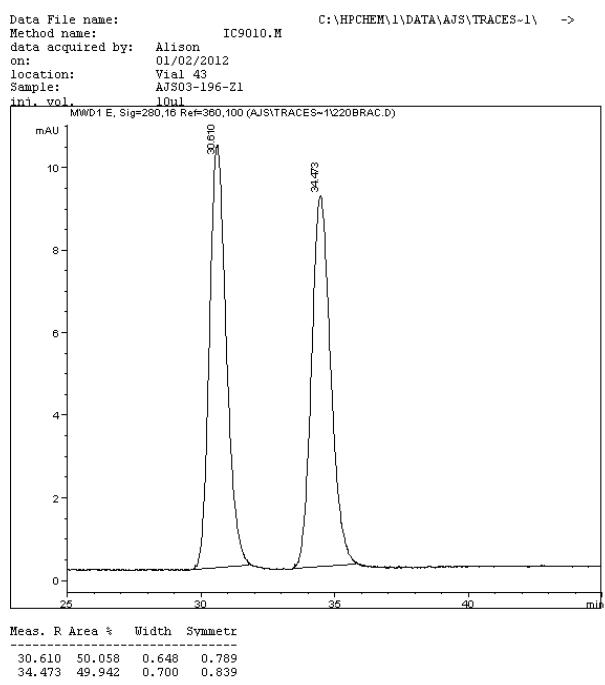
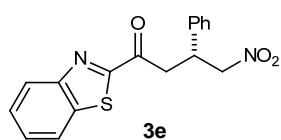
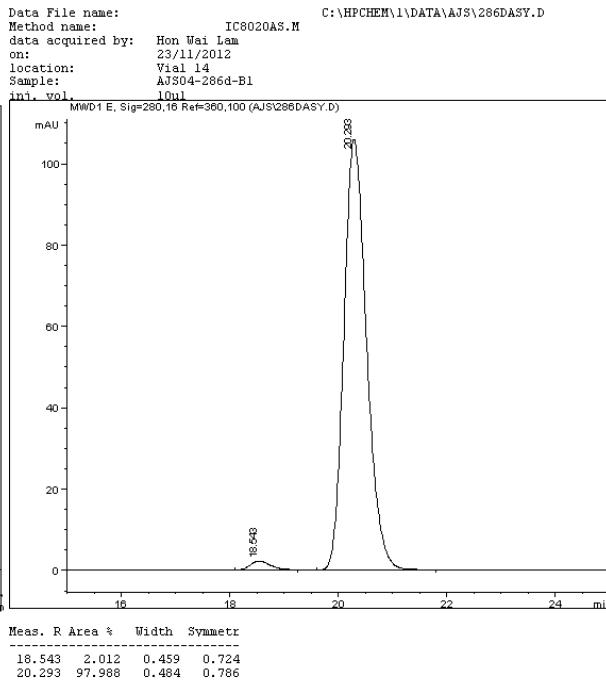
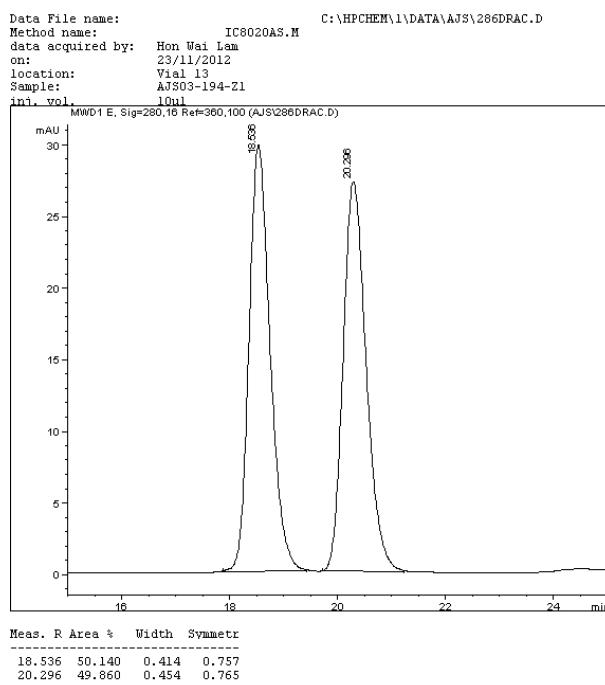
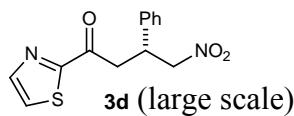


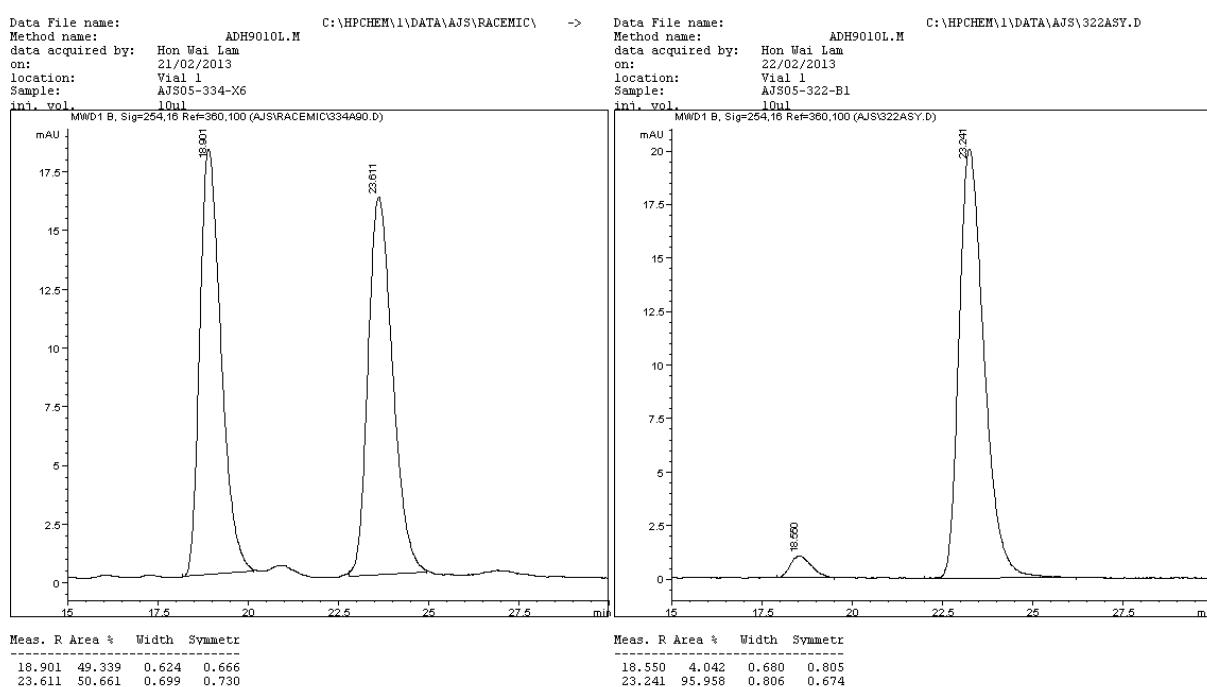
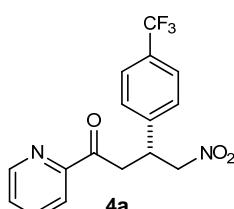
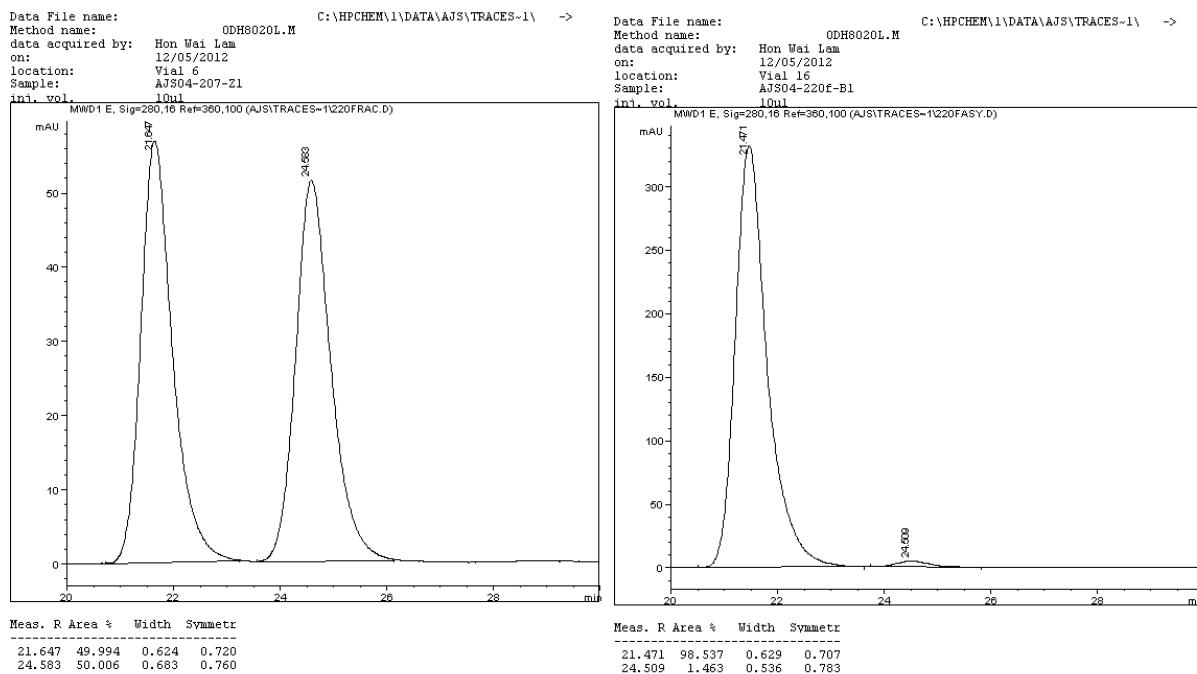
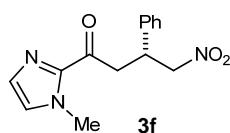
HPLC Traces

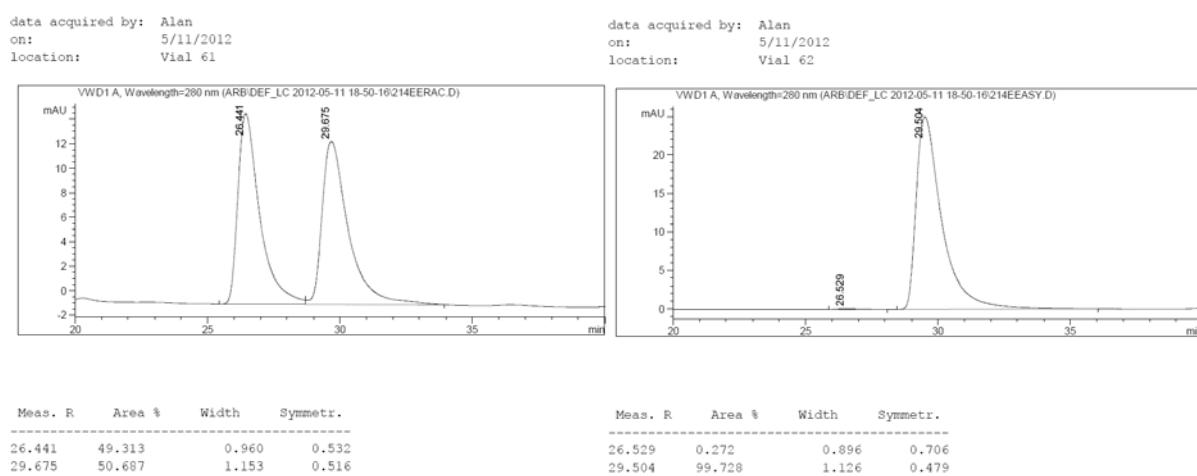
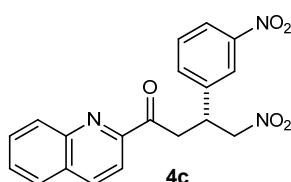
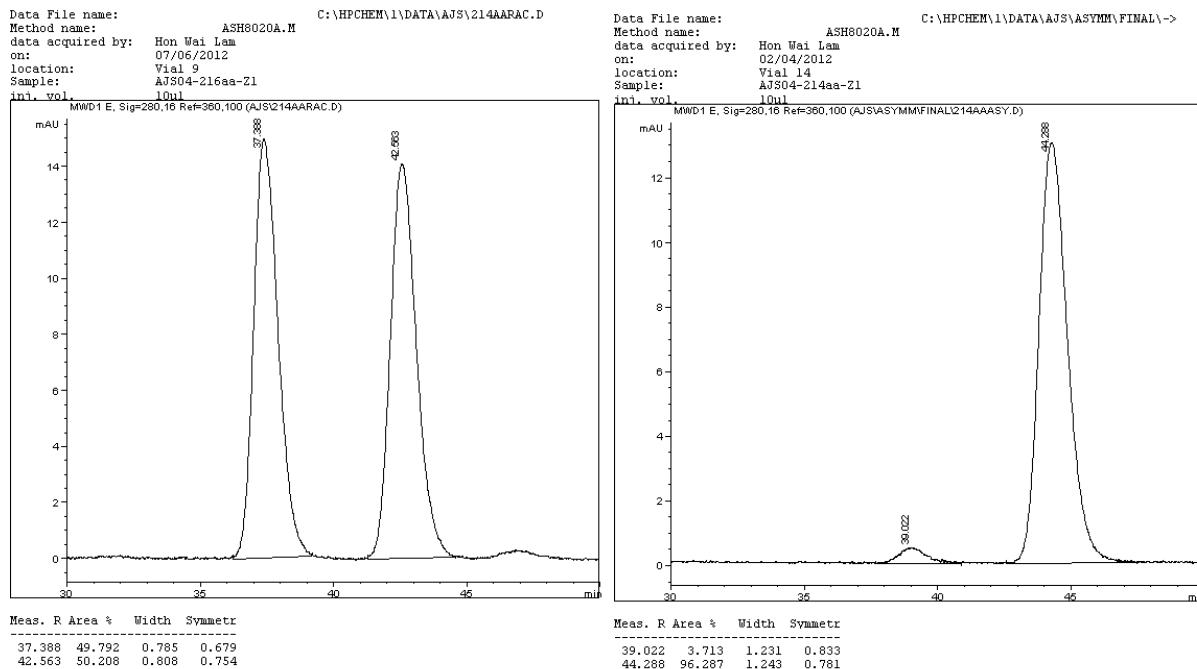
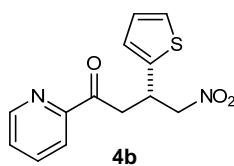


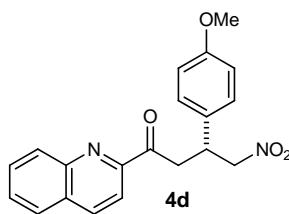




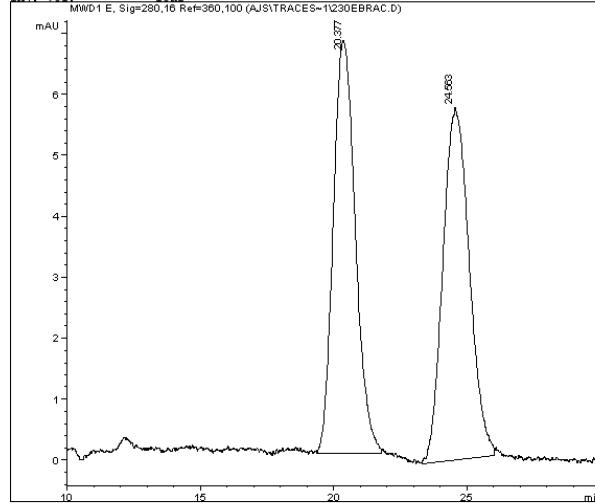








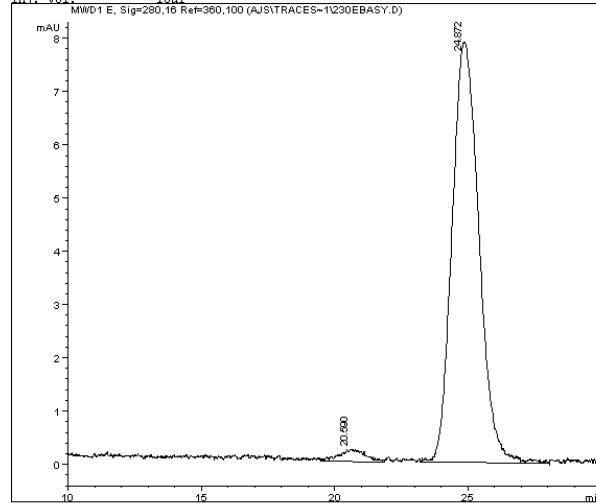
Data File name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\TRACES~1\ ADH8020L.M
 Method name: ADH8020L.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 17/05/2012
 location: Vial 9
 Sample: AJS04-231eb-X16
 in1.vol: 10ul



Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

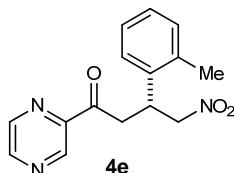
20.377	49.569	0.692	0.821
24.863	50.431	0.813	0.838

Data File name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\TRACES~1\ ADH8020L.M
 Method name: ADH8020L.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 17/05/2012
 location: Vial 3
 Sample: AJS04-230eb-B1
 in1.vol: 10ul

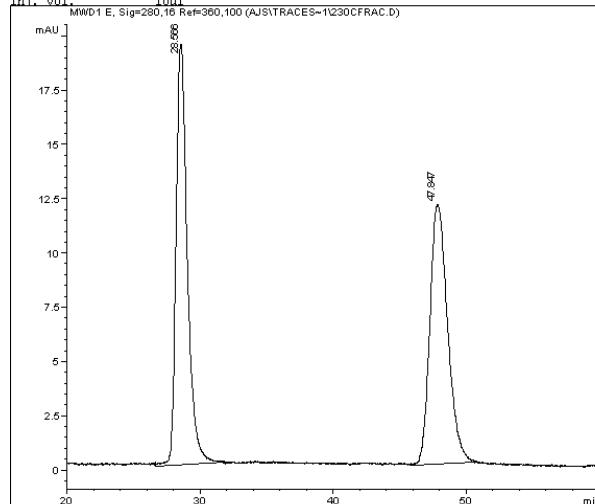


Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

20.590	2.716	1.140	0.746
24.872	97.284	1.170	0.817



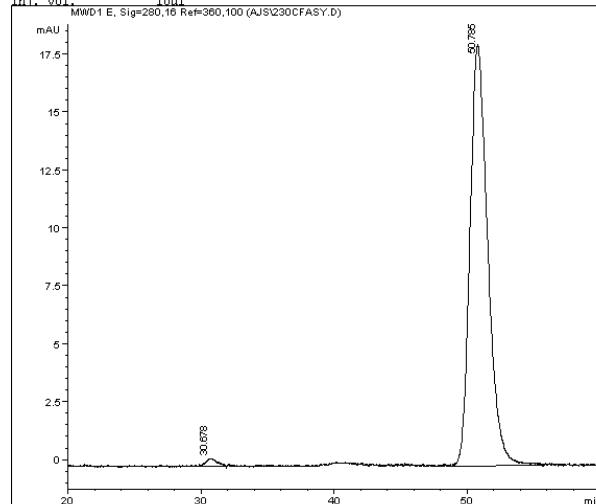
Data File name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\TRACES~1\ ASH8020A.M
 Method name: ASH8020A.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 17/05/2012
 location: Vial 8
 Sample: AJS04-231cf-X48
 in1.vol: 10ul



Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

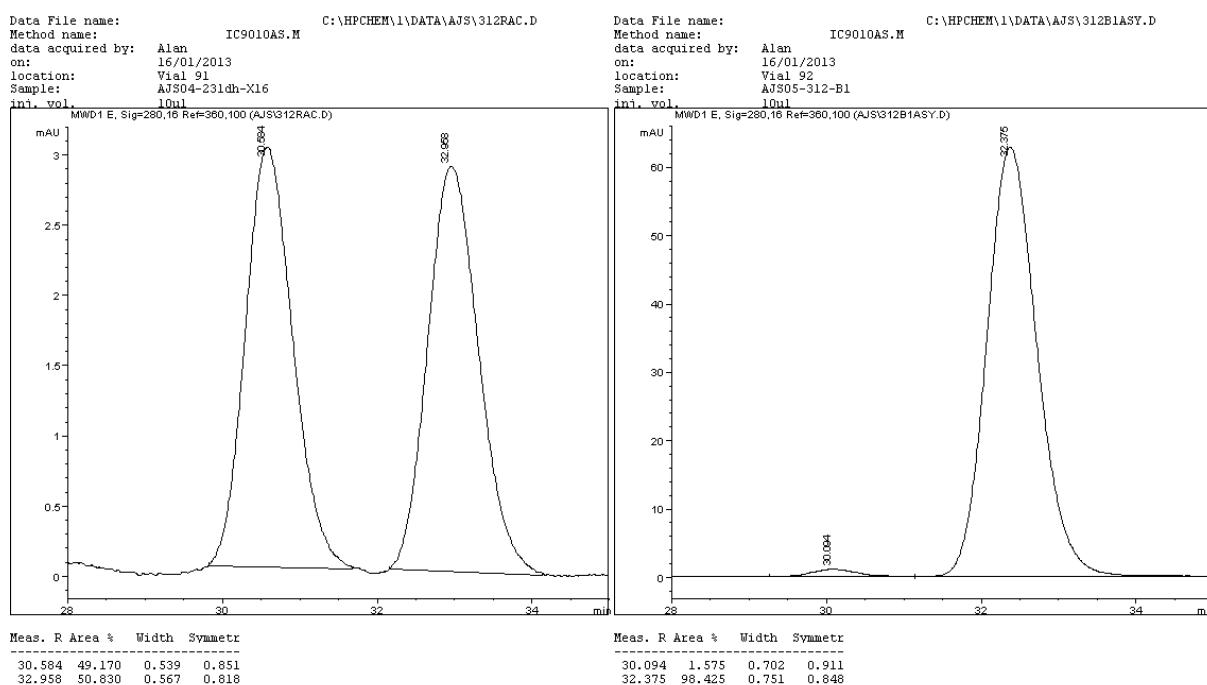
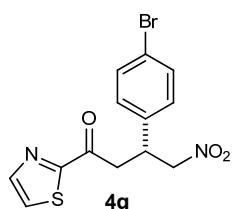
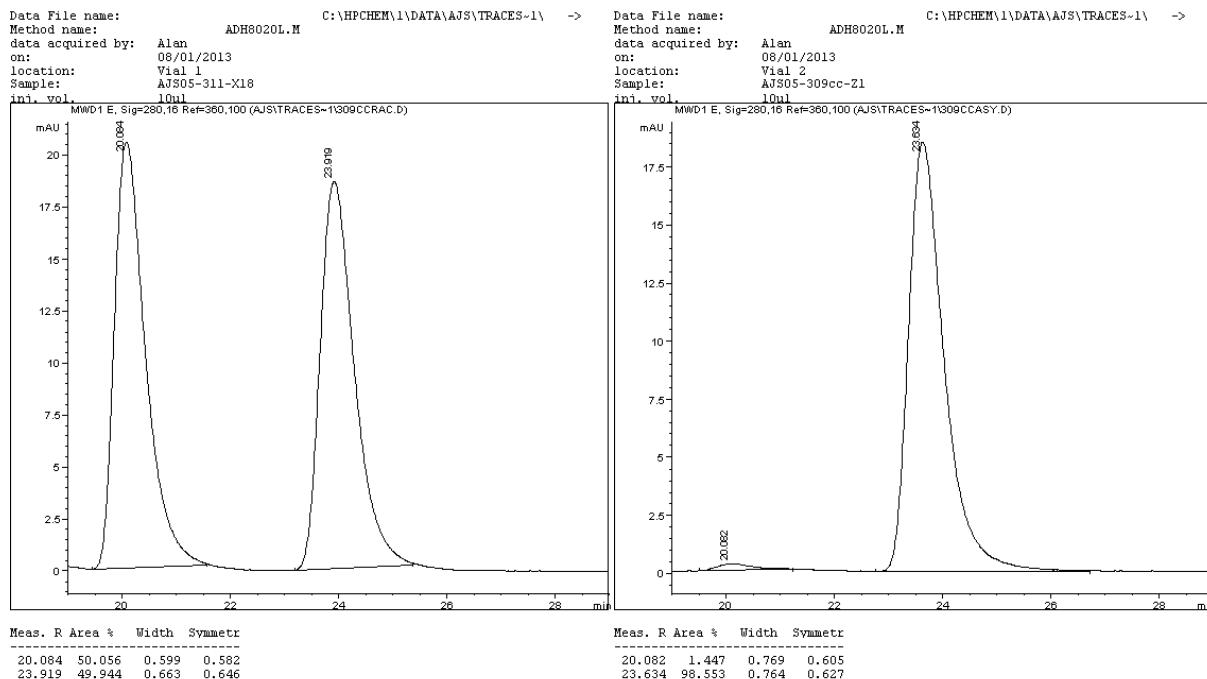
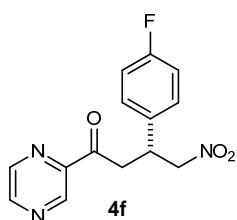
28.566	50.696	0.976	0.678
47.847	49.304	1.094	0.706

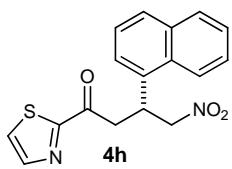
Data File name: C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\230CFASY.D
 Method name: ASH8020A.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 07/06/2012
 location: Vial 2
 Sample: AJS04-230cf-B1
 in1.vol: 10ul



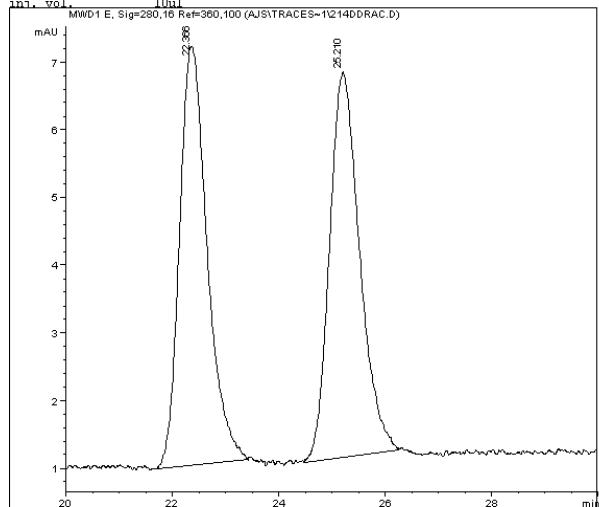
Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

30.678	1.105	0.957	0.535
50.785	98.895	1.546	0.708

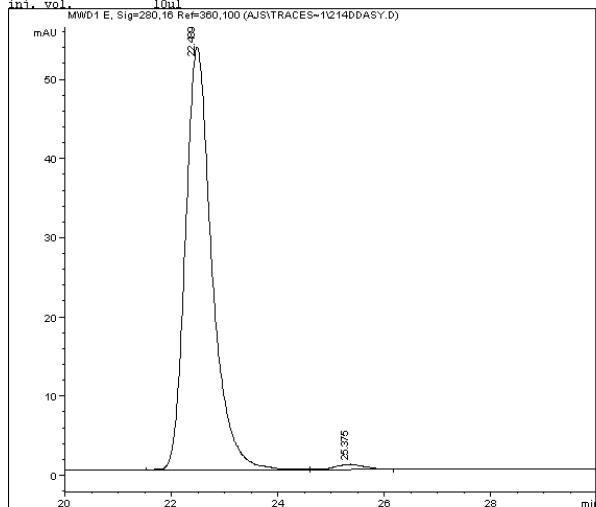




Data File name: IC8020AS.M C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\TRACES-1\ >
 Method name: IC8020AS.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 14/05/2012
 location: Vial 23
 Sample: AJS04-216dd-Z1
 init. vol: 10μl



Data File name: IC8020AS.M C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\TRACES-1\ >
 Method name: IC8020AS.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 14/05/2012
 location: Vial 33
 Sample: AJS04-214dd-C1
 init. vol: 10μl



Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

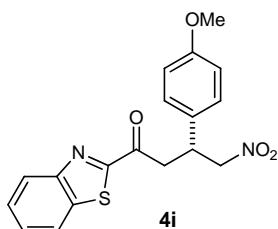
Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

22.366 49.995 0.434 0.767

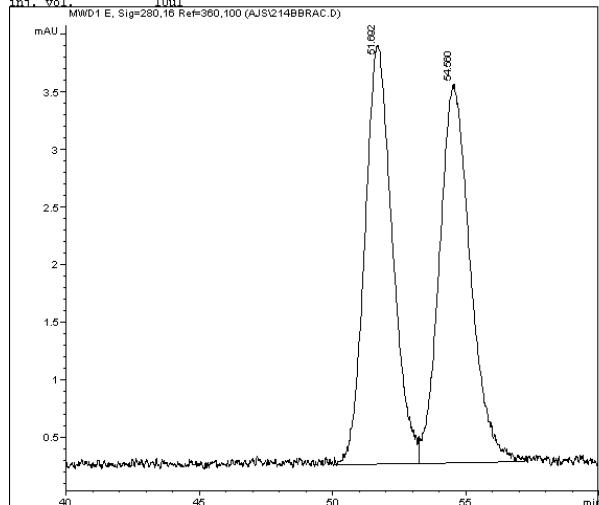
22.489 98.503 0.575 0.761

25.210 50.005 0.473 0.788

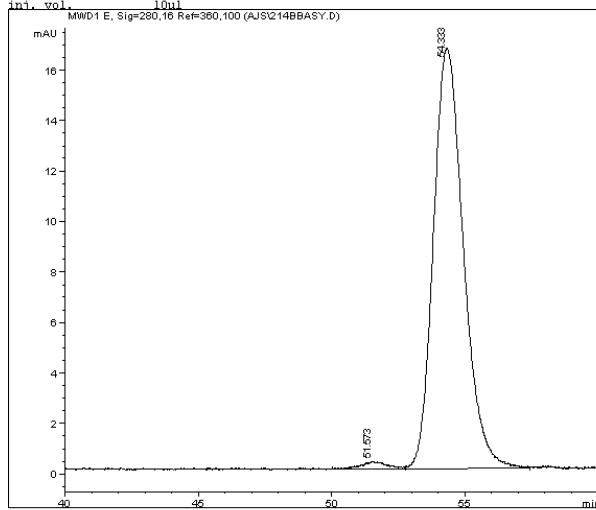
25.375 1.497 0.669 0.989



Data File name: IC9010AS.M C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\214BBRAC.D
 Method name: IC9010AS.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 08/06/2012
 location: Vial 5
 Sample: AJS04-216bb-Z1
 init. vol: 10μl



Data File name: IC9010AS.M C:\HPCHEM\1\DATA\AJS\214BBASY.D
 Method name: IC9010AS.M
 data acquired by: Hon Wai Lam
 on: 08/06/2012
 location: Vial 6
 Sample: AJS04-214bb-B1
 init. vol: 10μl



Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

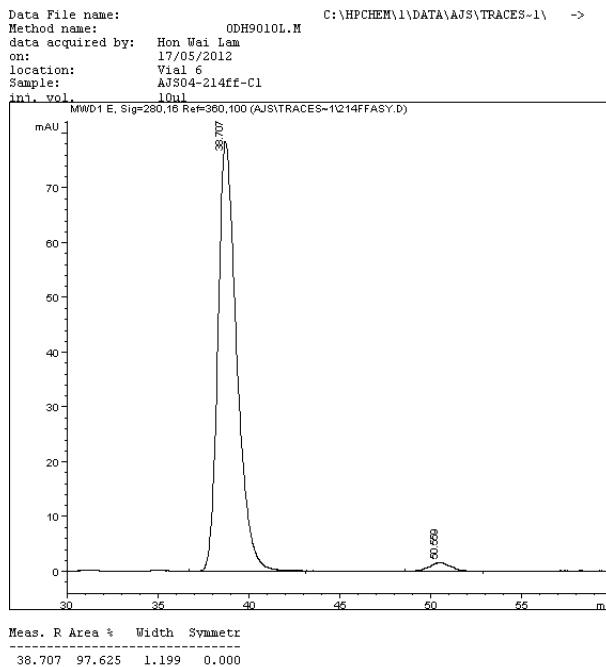
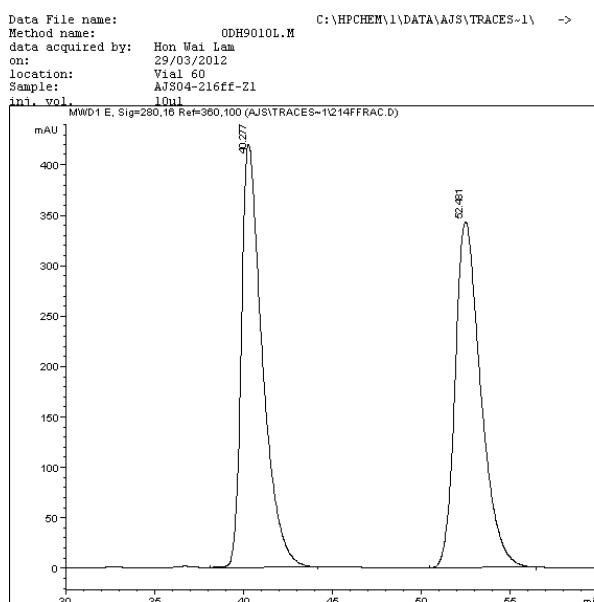
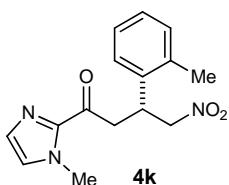
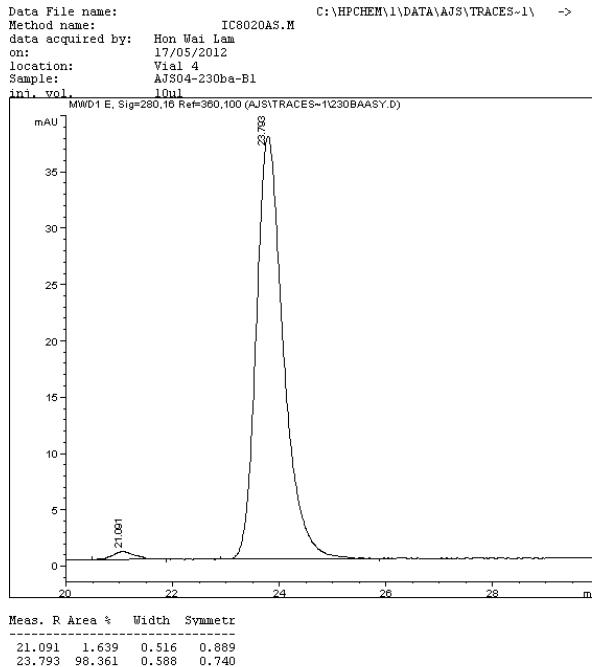
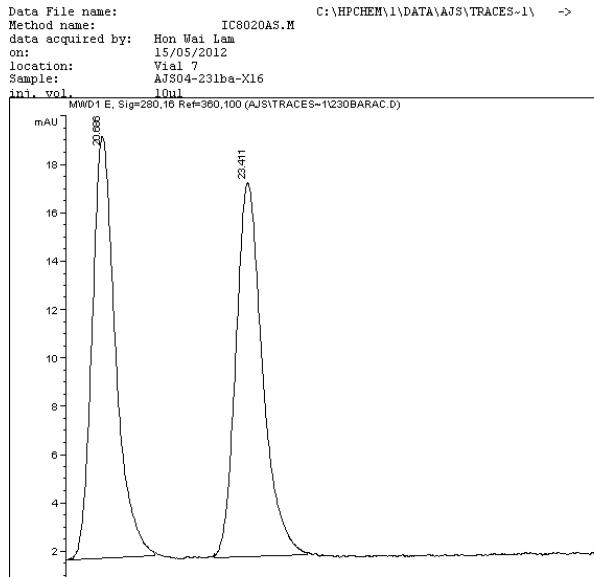
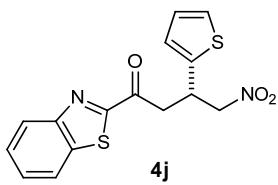
Meas. R Area % Width Symmetr

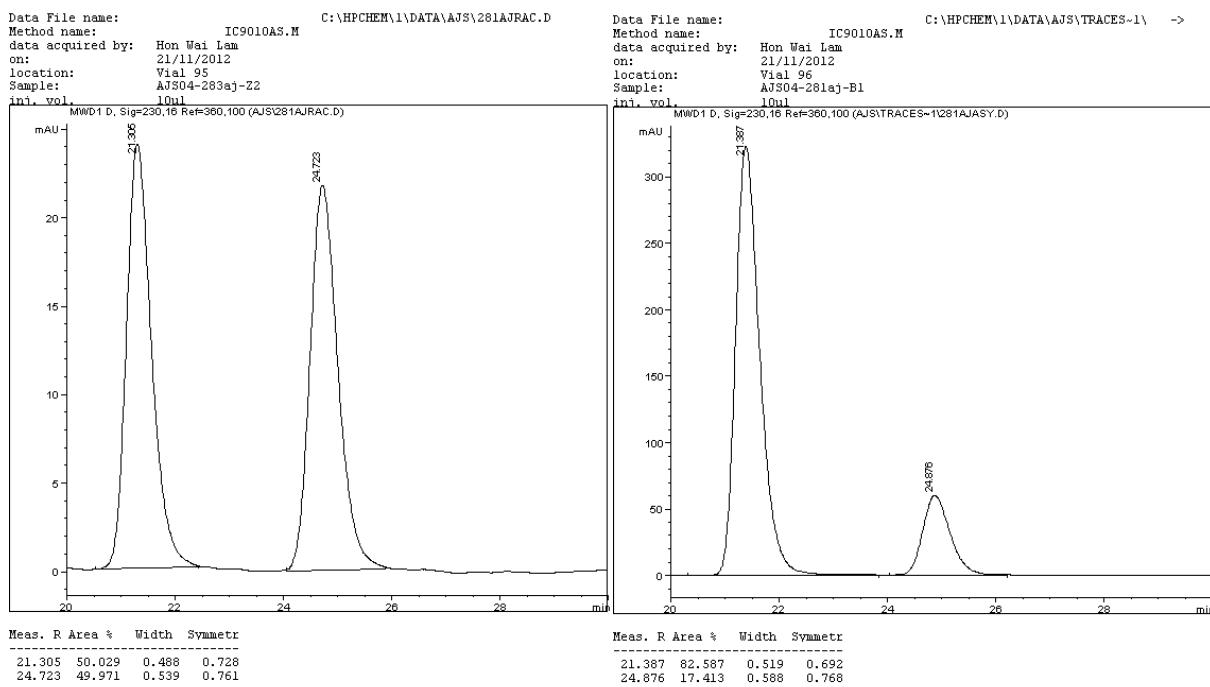
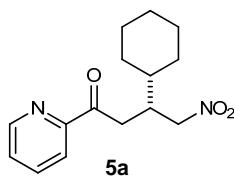
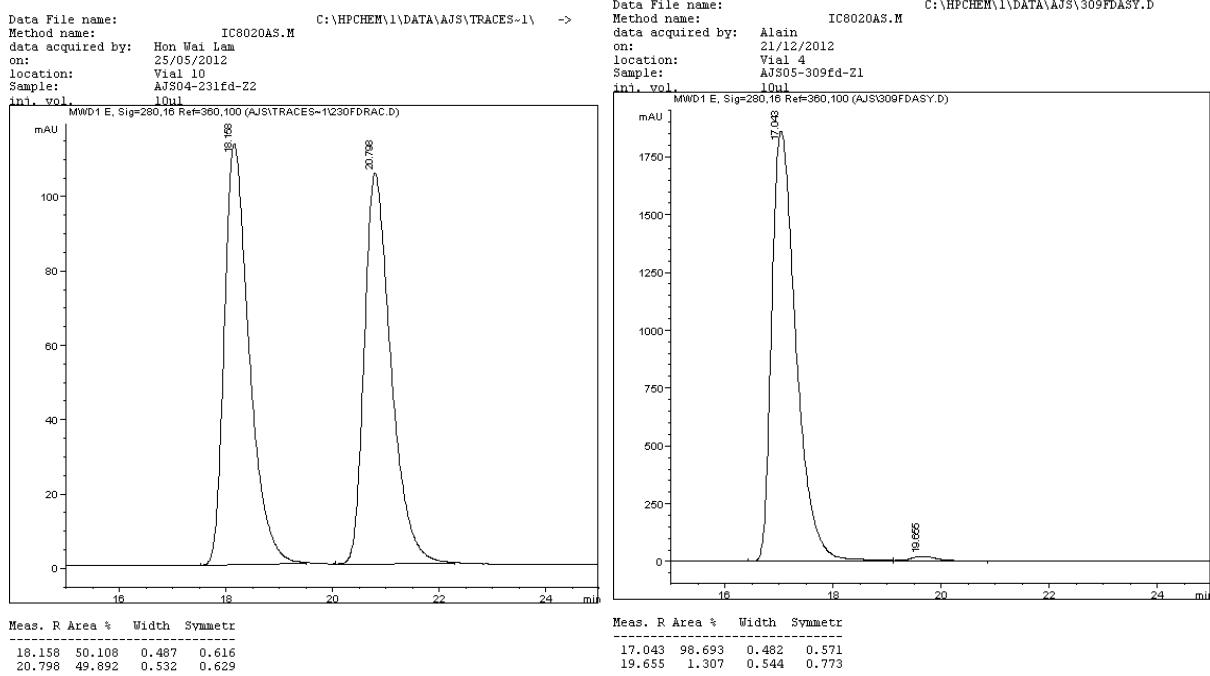
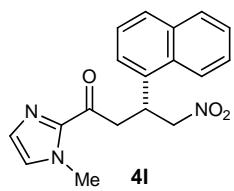
51.692 49.722 1.198 0.837

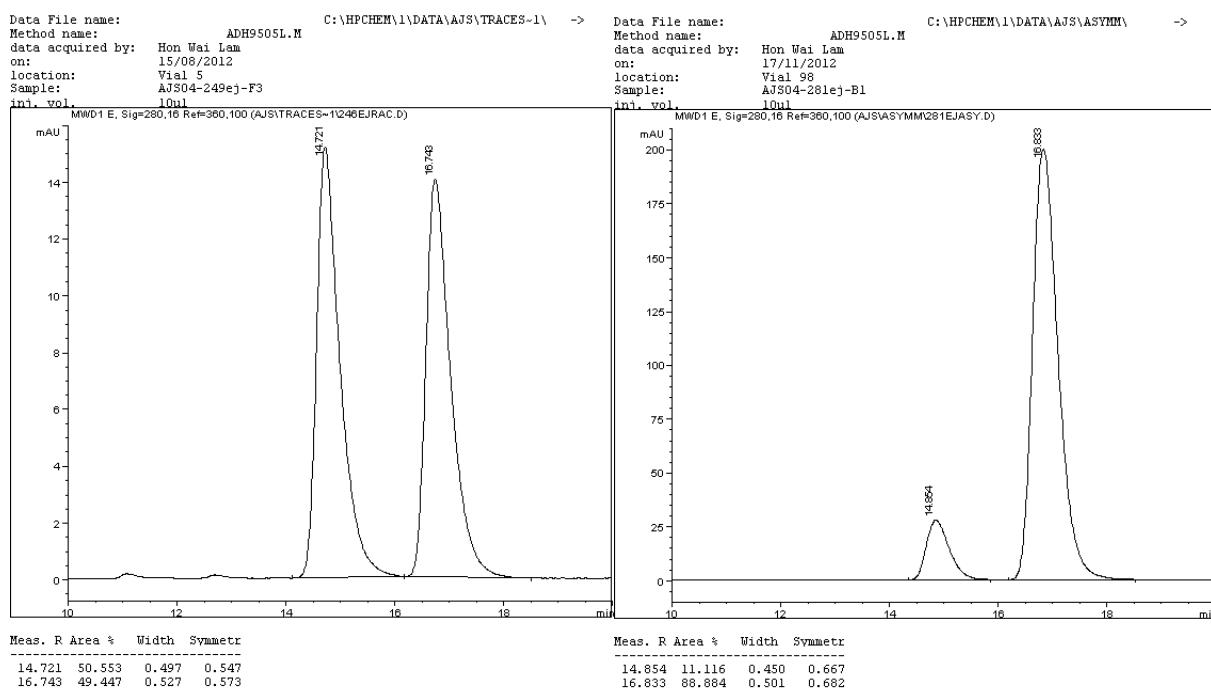
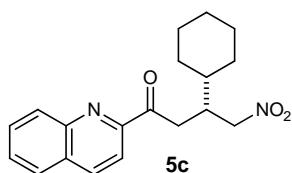
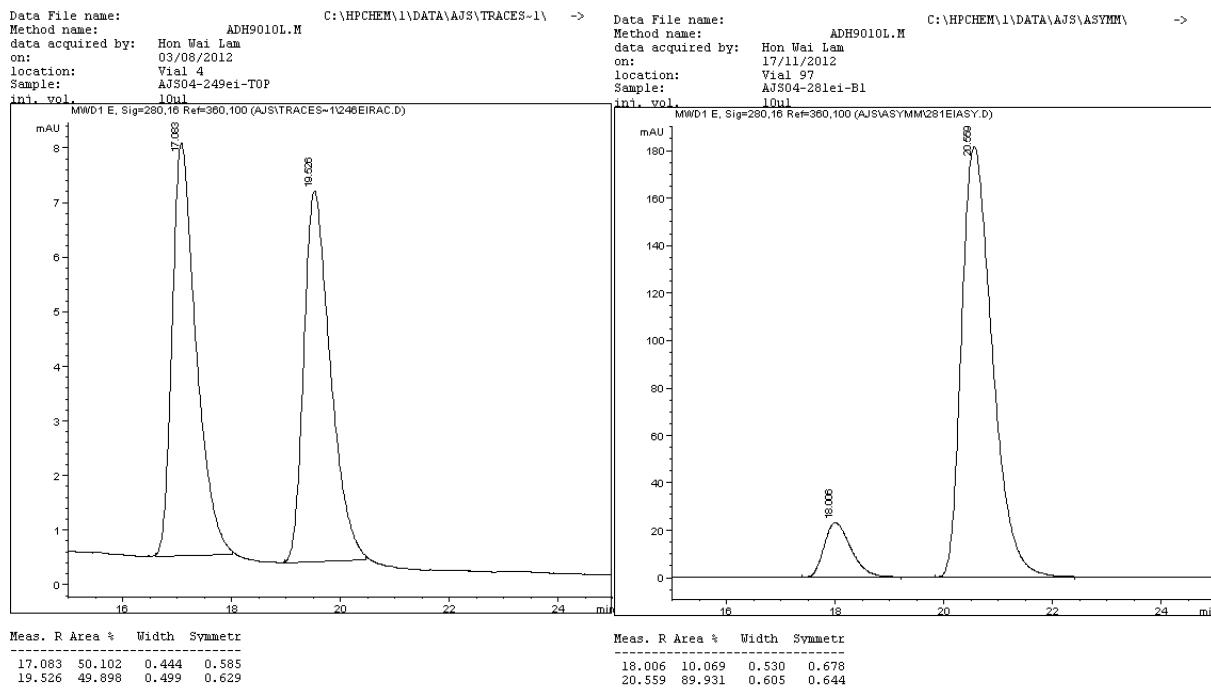
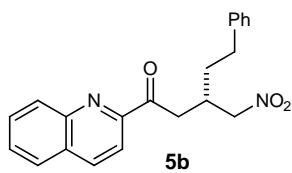
51.573 1.536 1.188 0.959

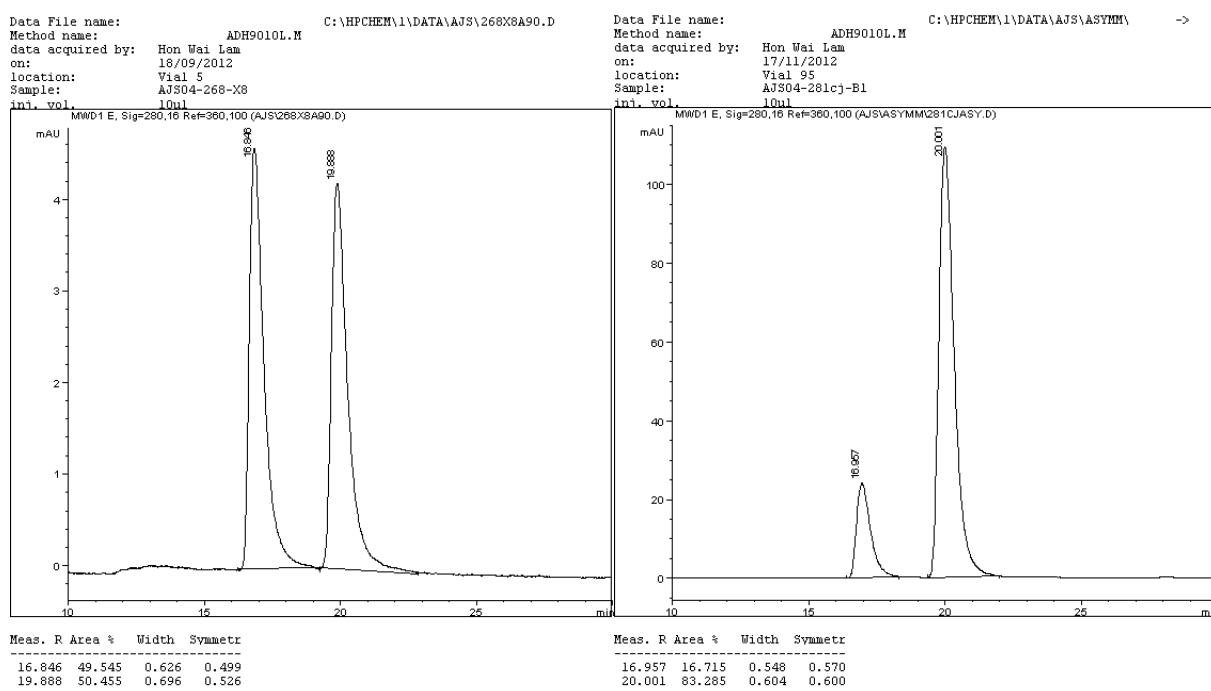
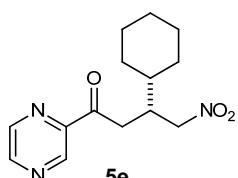
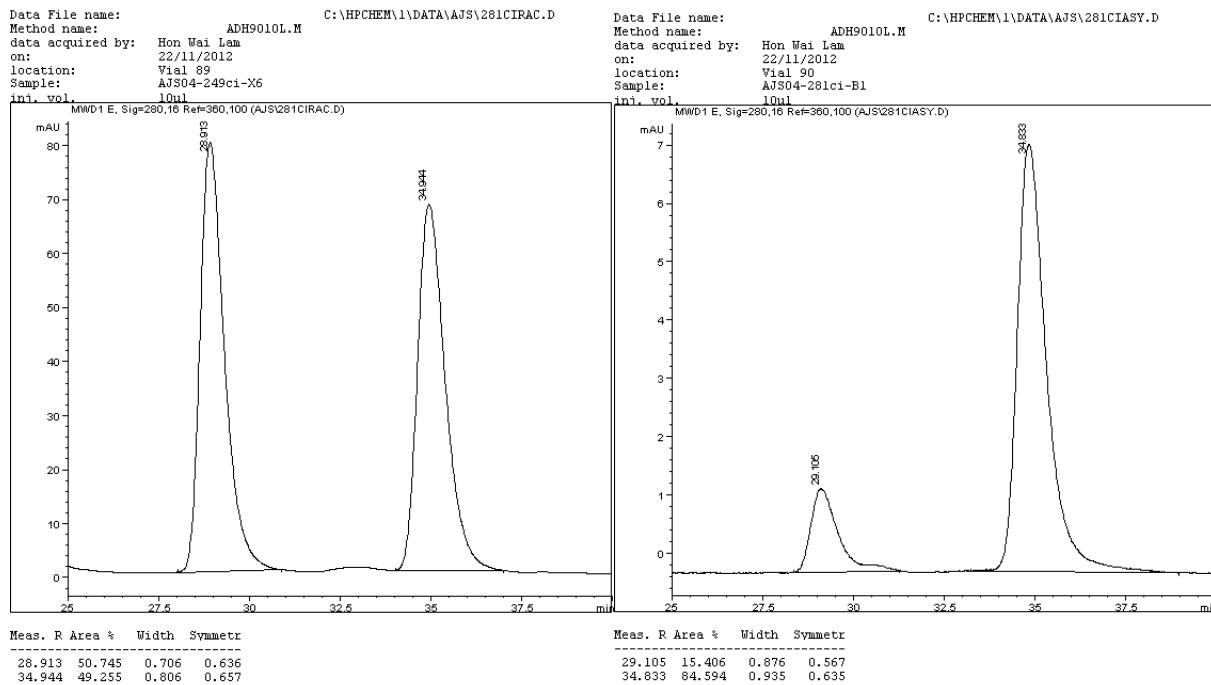
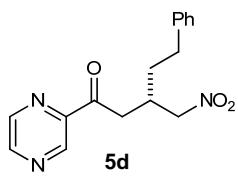
54.560 50.278 1.341 0.858

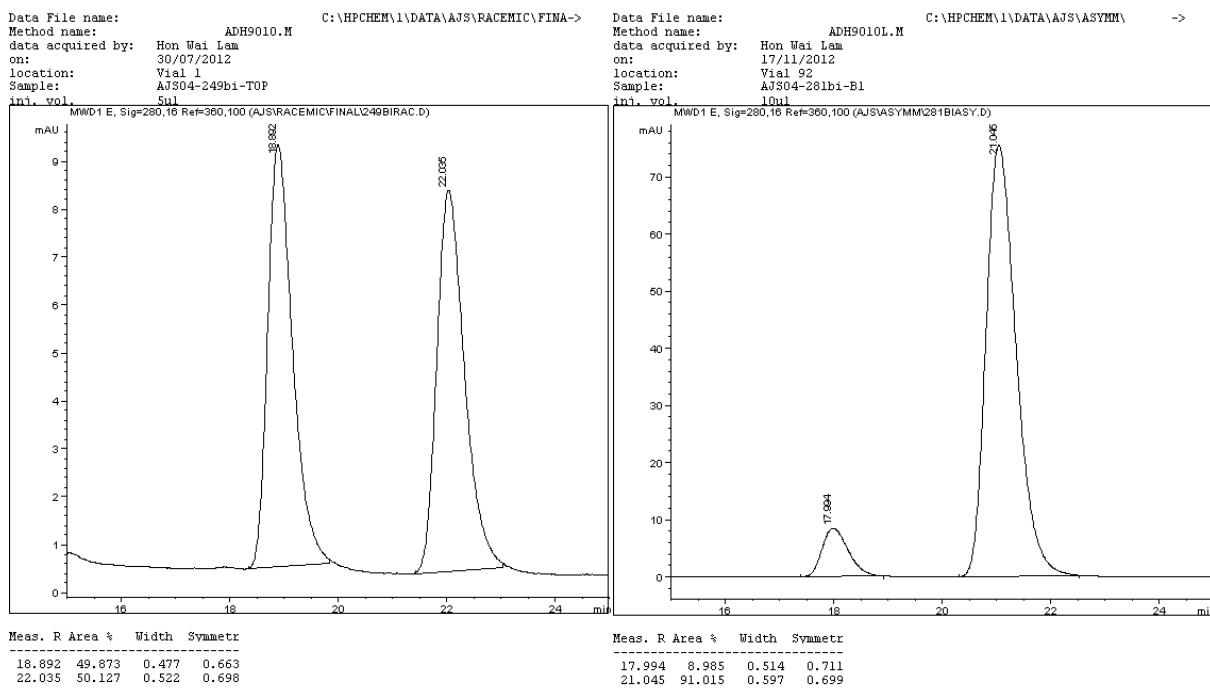
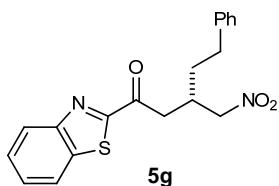
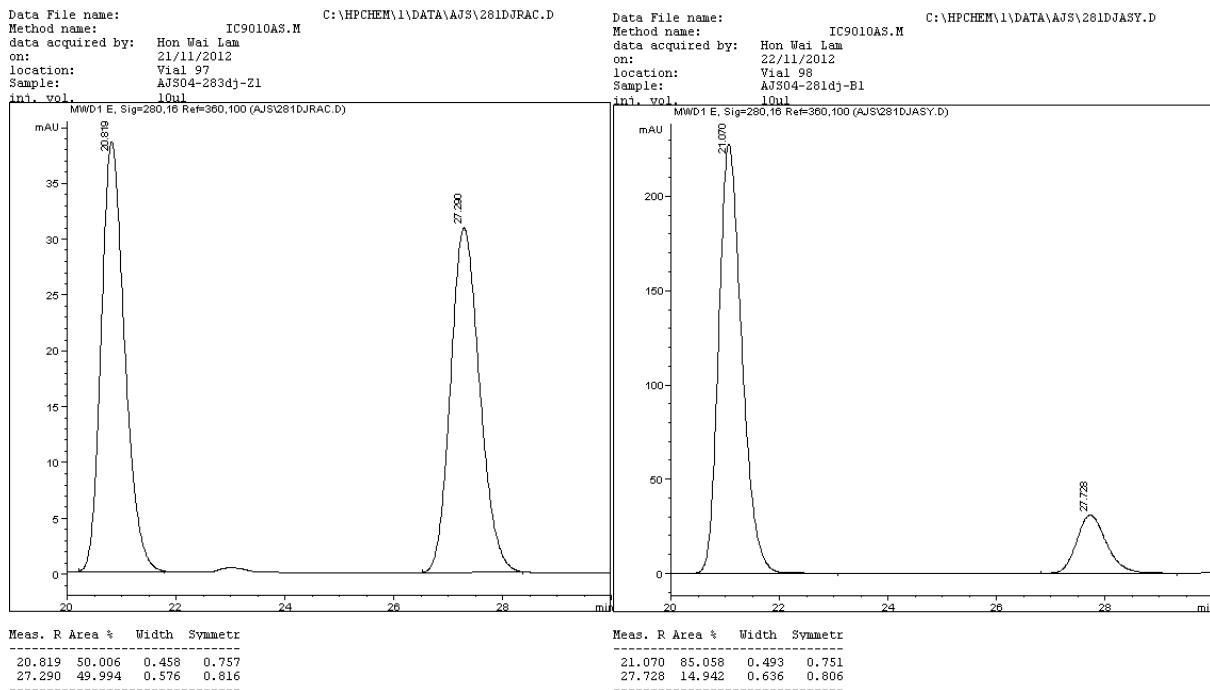
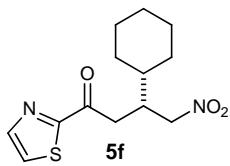
54.333 98.464 1.299 0.800

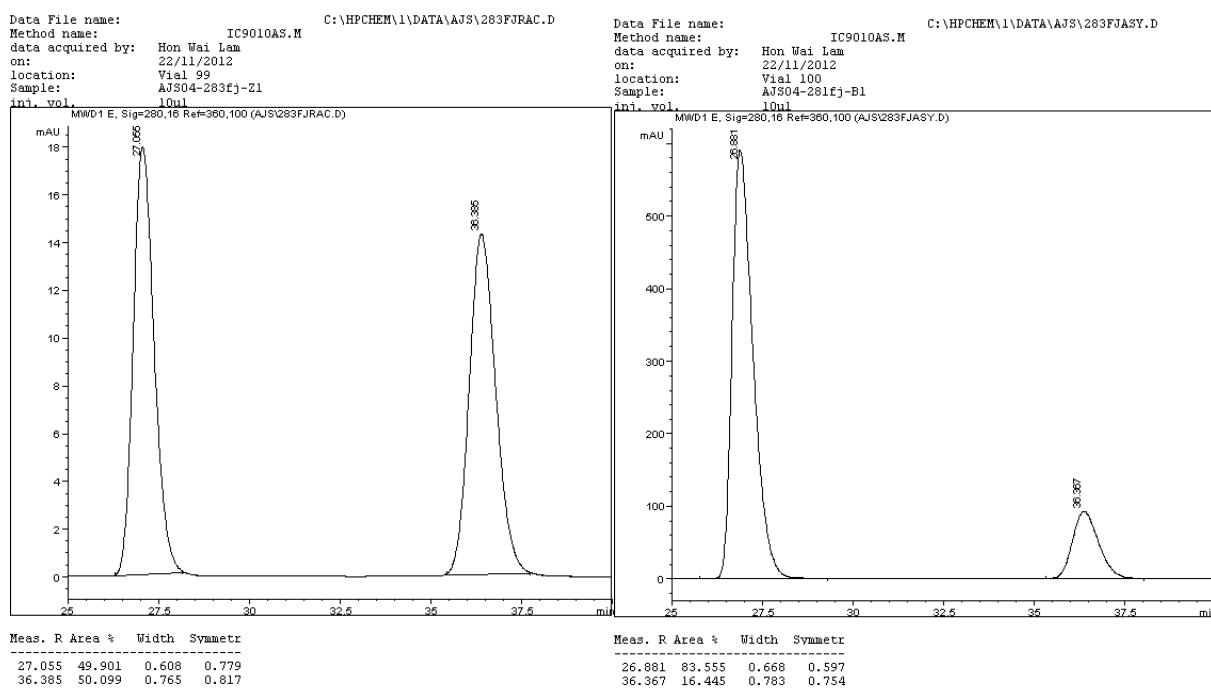
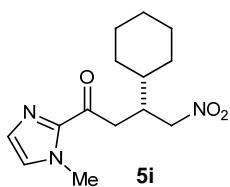
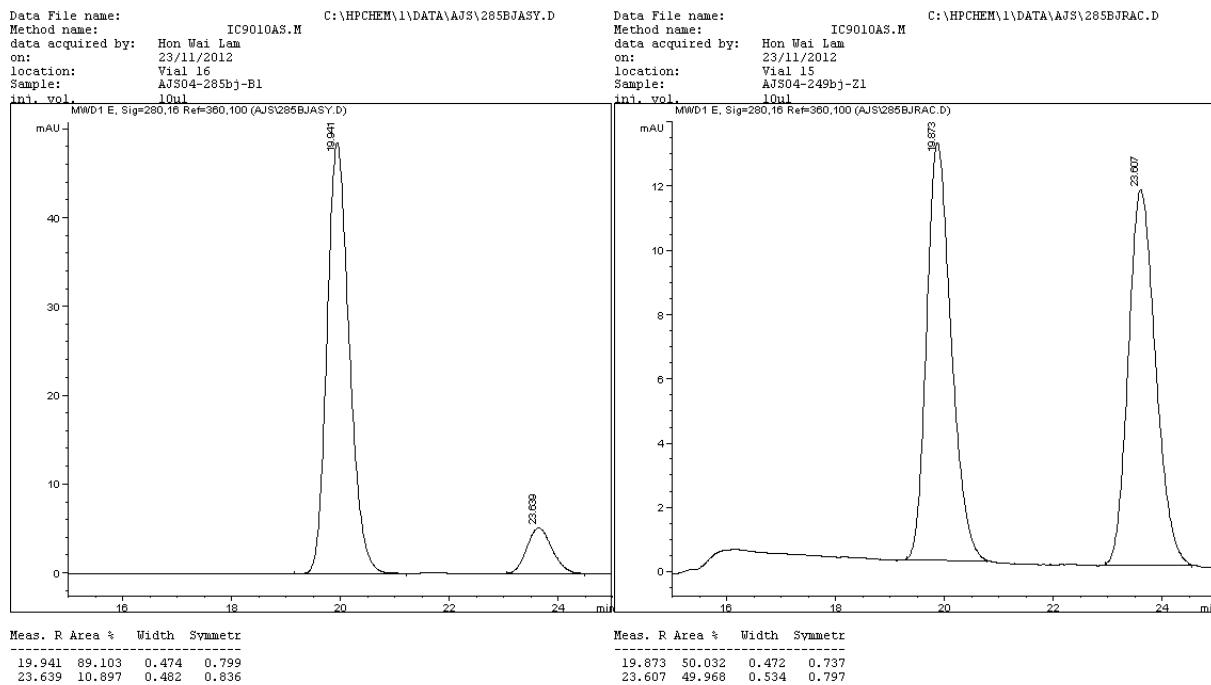
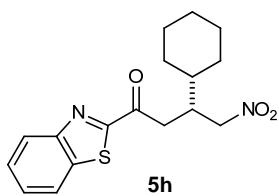












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