

Supporting Information

Cage-Catalyzed Knoevenagel Condensation under Neutral Conditions in Water

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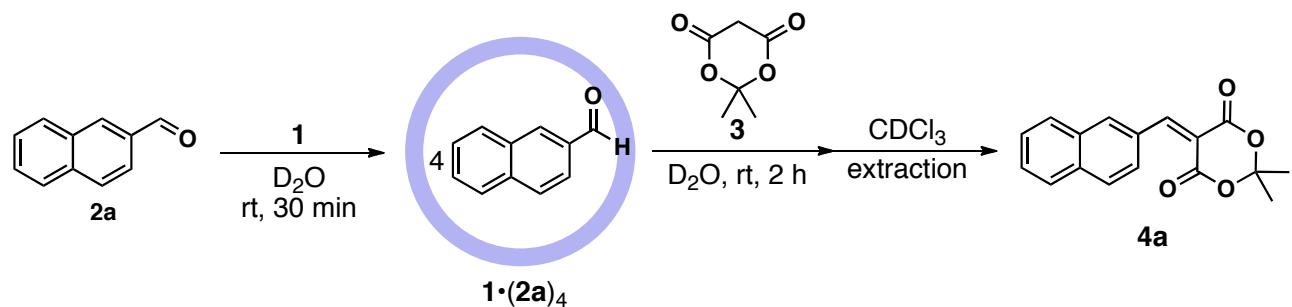
Materials and instrumentations: ^1H , ^{13}C , and other 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-500 (500 MHz) or Bruker AV-500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. TMS (CDCl_3 solution) in a capillary served as an external standard ($\delta = 0$ ppm). IR measurements were carried out using a DIGILAB Scimitar FTS-2000 instrument. GC-MS spectra were measured on Agilent Technologies 5973N spectrometer. Melting points were determined with a Yanaco MF-500 V micro melting point apparatus.

Solvents and reagents were purchased from TCI Co., Ltd., WAKO Pure Chemical Industries Ltd., KANTO Chemical Co. and Sigma-Aldrich Co. All the chemicals were of reagent grade and used without any further purification. Deuterated H_2O (D_2O) was acquired from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. and used as supplied for the complexation reactions and NMR measurements. 6-Dimethylamino-2-naphthaldehyde (**2f**) was prepared according to the previously established method.¹

Reference

- (1) Okamoto, A.; Tainaka, K.; Saito. I.; Takahashi, N. Preparation, fluorescence analysis, and detection of gene polymorphism of PRODAN-containing DNA. U.S. Patent 20,060,142, 311, Jun 29, 2006.

Reaction procedure for the Knoevenagel condensation of aldehyde **2a in cage **1** with Meldrum's Acid **3****



An excess amount of 2-naphthaldehyde (**2a**, 6.25 mg; 0.040 mmol) was suspended in a D_2O solution (1.0 mL) of cage **1** (5.0×10^{-3} mmol; 5.0 mM), and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. After filtration, the quantitative formation of inclusion complex **1•(2a)₄** was confirmed by ^1H NMR. Meldrum's acid **3** (2.88 mg, 0.020 mmol) was added to the solution, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h. After extraction with CDCl_3 , condensation product **4a** was obtained in 92% yield, as determined by NMR analysis.

Physical data of **1•(2a)₄:** 9.34 (d, 24H, $J = 6.5$ Hz, PyH_b, **1**), 8.56 (d, 24H, $J = 6.5$ Hz, PyH_a, **1**), 8.36 (s, 1H, CHO, **2a**), 6.38 (d, 24H, $J = 8.0$ Hz, Ar, **2a**), 6.31 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz, Ar, **2a**), 5.80 (br, 1H, Ar, **2a**), 5.34 (br, 1H, Ar, **2a**), 5.23 (br, 1H, Ar, **2a**), 5.16 (br, 1H, Ar, **2a**), 5.00 (br, 1H, Ar, **2a**), 3.01 (s, 24H, **1**).

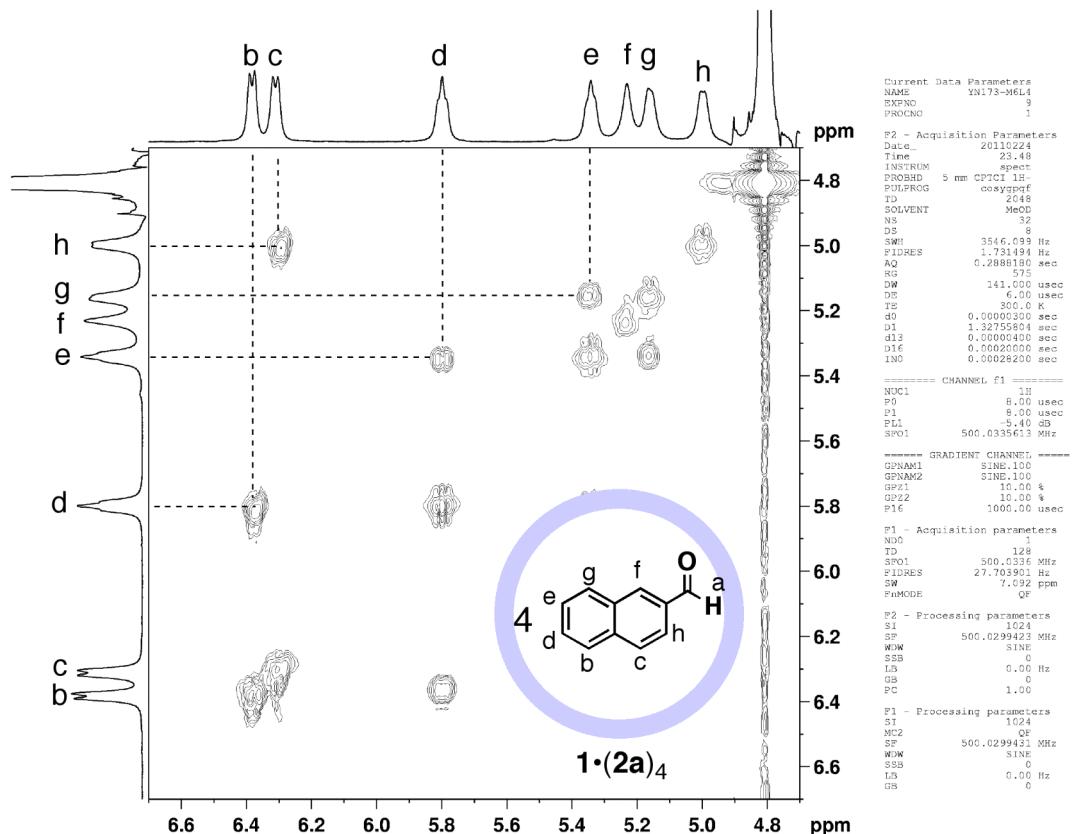


Figure S1. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of **1•(2a)₄**.

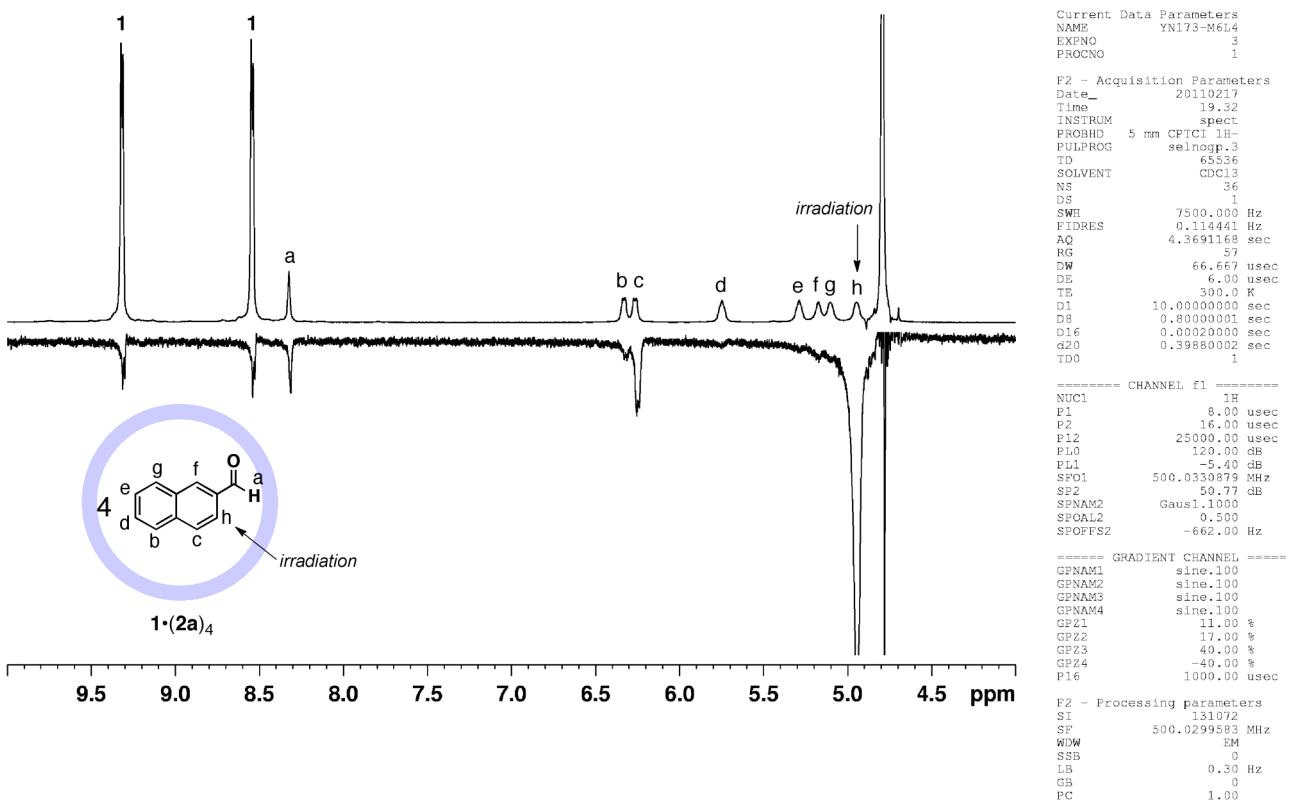


Figure S2. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{1}\bullet(\mathbf{2a})_4$.

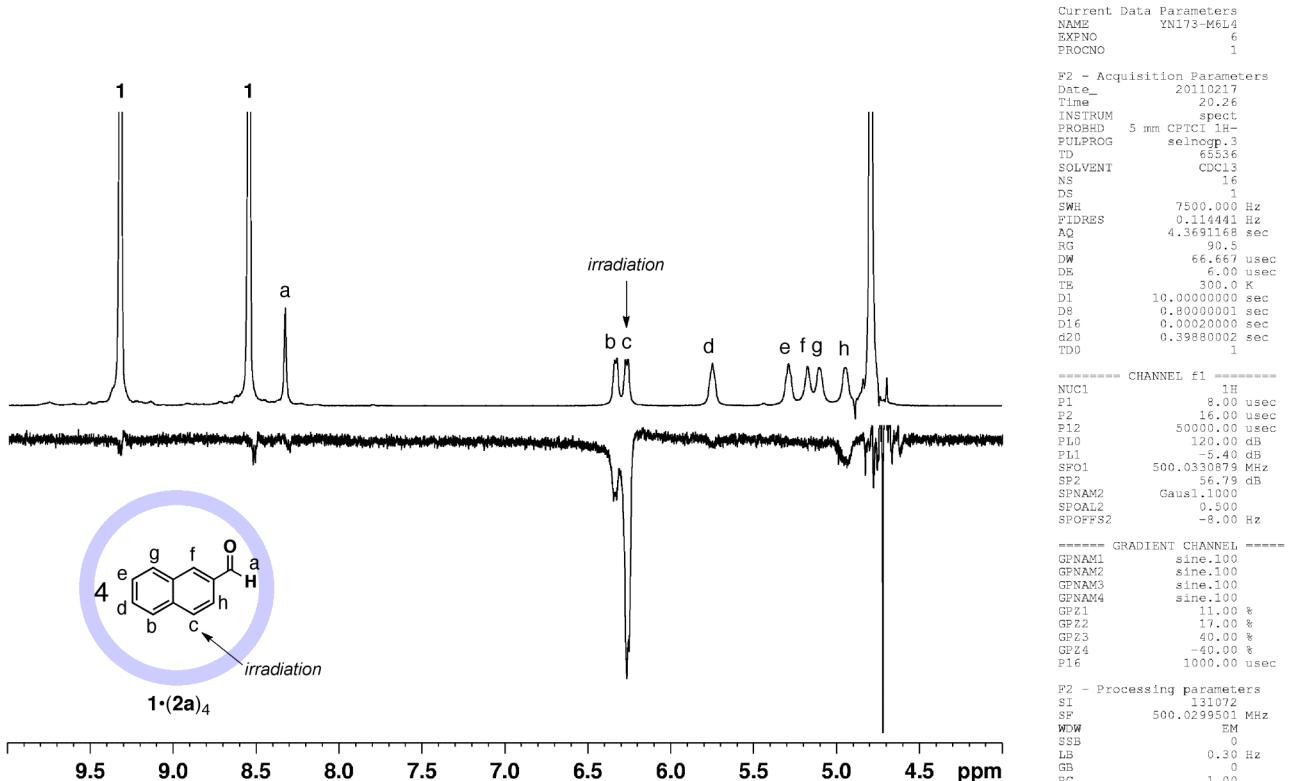
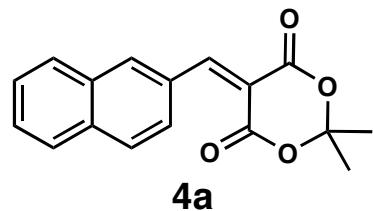


Figure S3. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{1}\bullet(\mathbf{2a})_4$.

2,2-Dimethyl-5-(naphthalene-2-ylmethylene)-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4a).



Physical data: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.60 (1H, s, H_a), 8.56 (1H, s, H_b), 8.14 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H_c), 7.96 (1H, d, J = 8 Hz, H_d), 7.89 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H_e), 7.88 (1H, d, J = 6.5 Hz, H_f), 7.64 (1H, dd, J = 7.5, 7.0 Hz, H_g), 7.57 (1H, dd, J = 7.5, 8.0 Hz, H_h), 1.85 (6H, s, H_i); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 163.9 (C), 160.4 (C), 158.6 (CH), 137.5 (CH), 136.0 (C), 133.0 (C), 130.2 (CH), 129.9 (CH), 129.8 (C), 128.7 (CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 114.8 (C), 105.0 (C), 28.1 (CH_3); GC-MS: m/z = 282 [M] $^+$; IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3016, 2999, 2976, 1767, 1737, 1606, 1390, 1379, 1294, 1273, 1205, 1172, 1139, 1027; m.p. 150.8–151.5 °C; E.A. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$ C, 72.33; H, 5.00; Found: C, 72.05; H, 5.05.

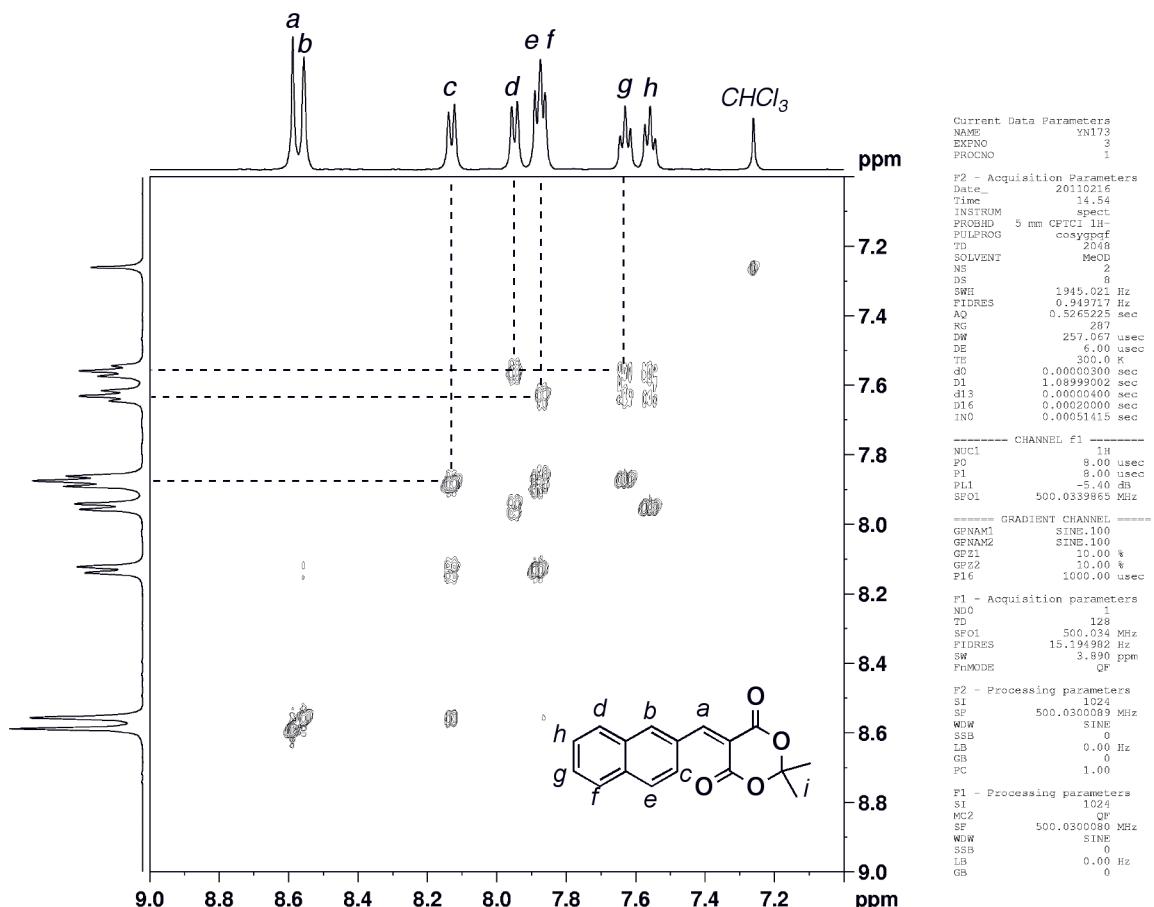


Figure S4. H–H COSY spectrum of 4a.

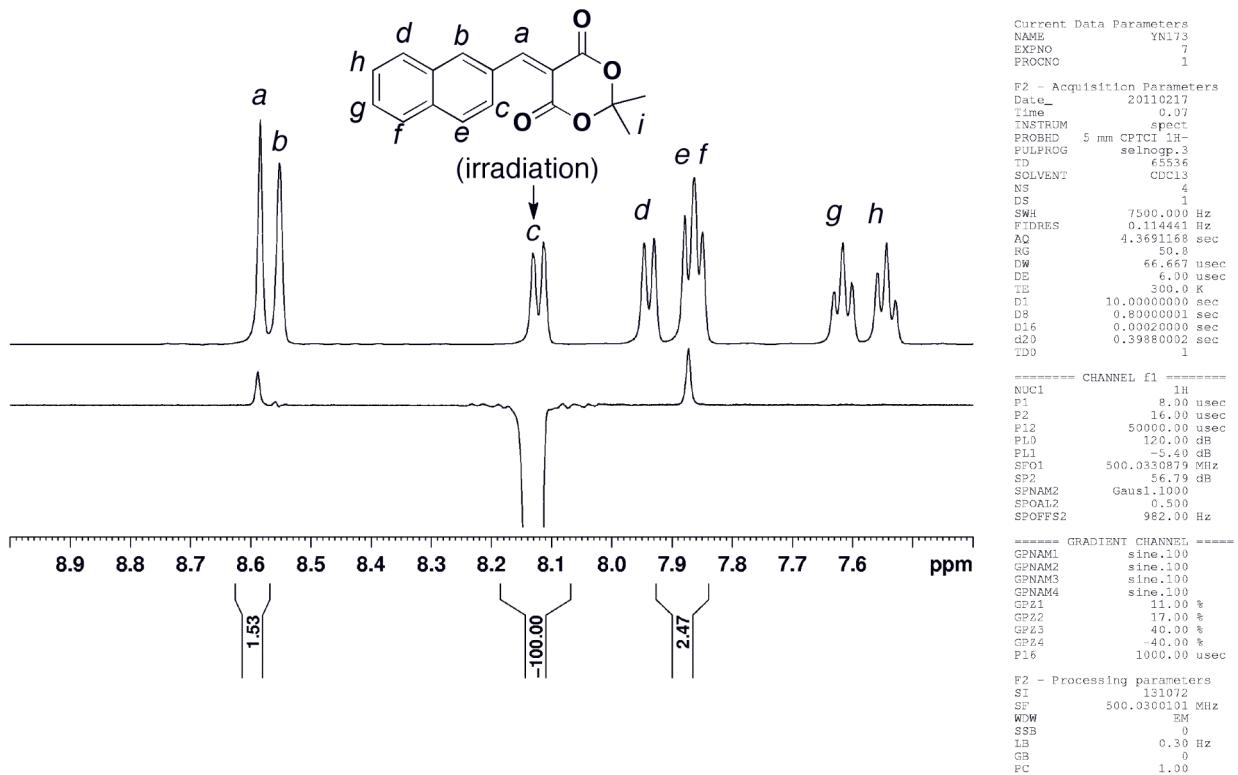


Figure S5. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of 4a.

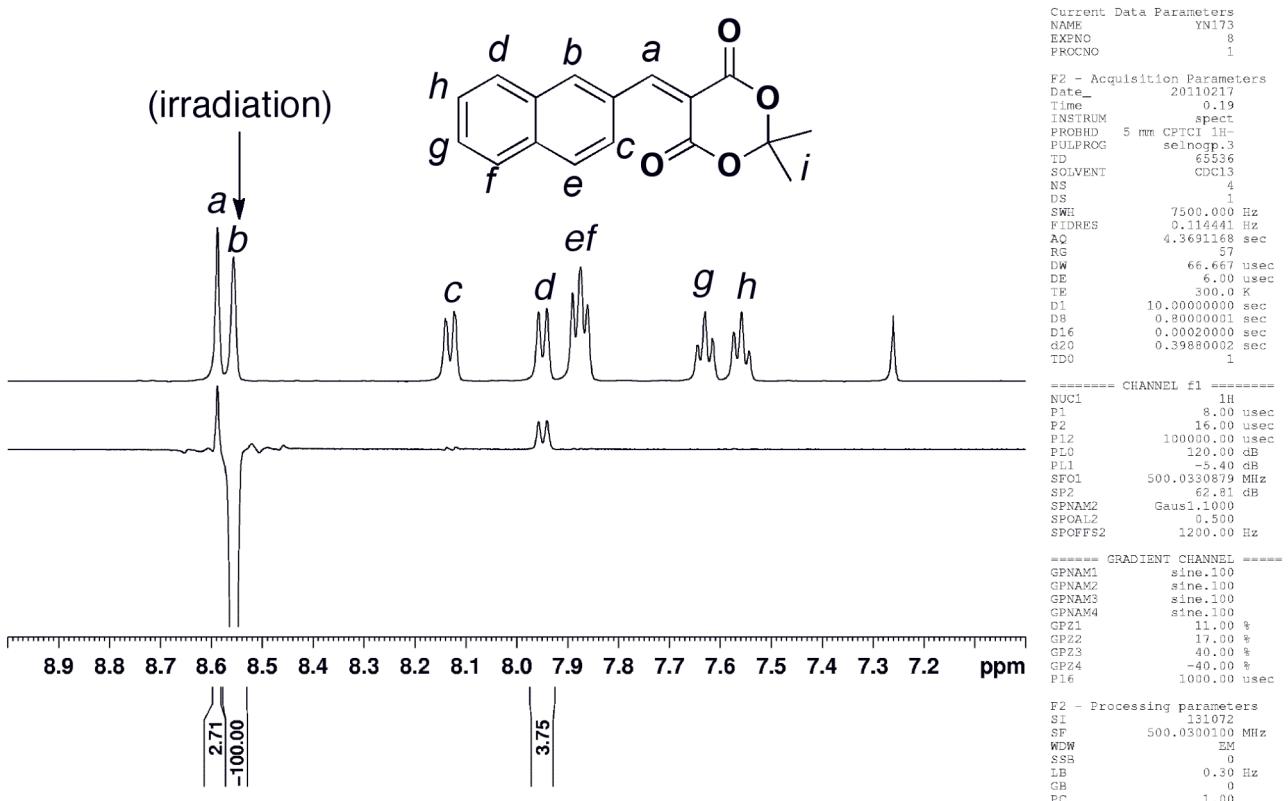


Figure S6. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of 4a.

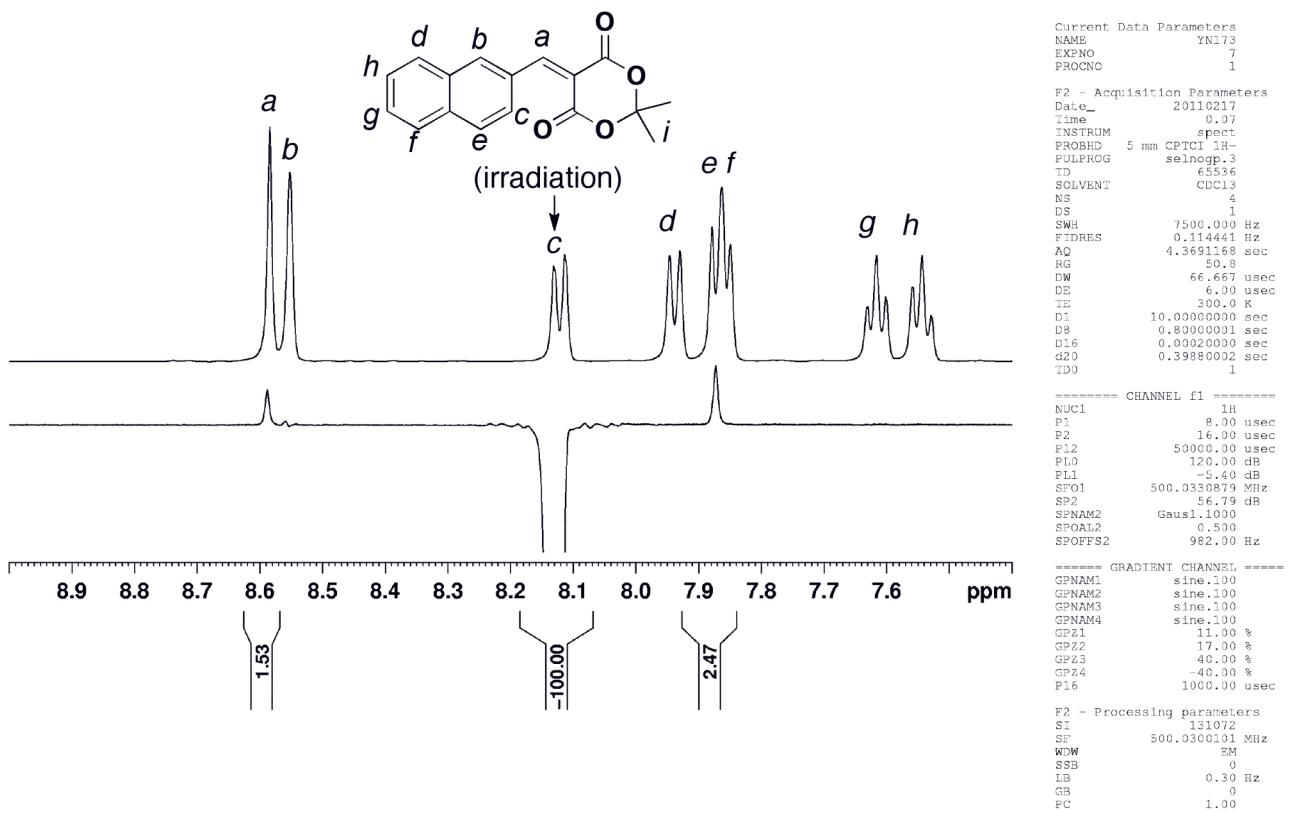


Figure S7. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of **4a**.

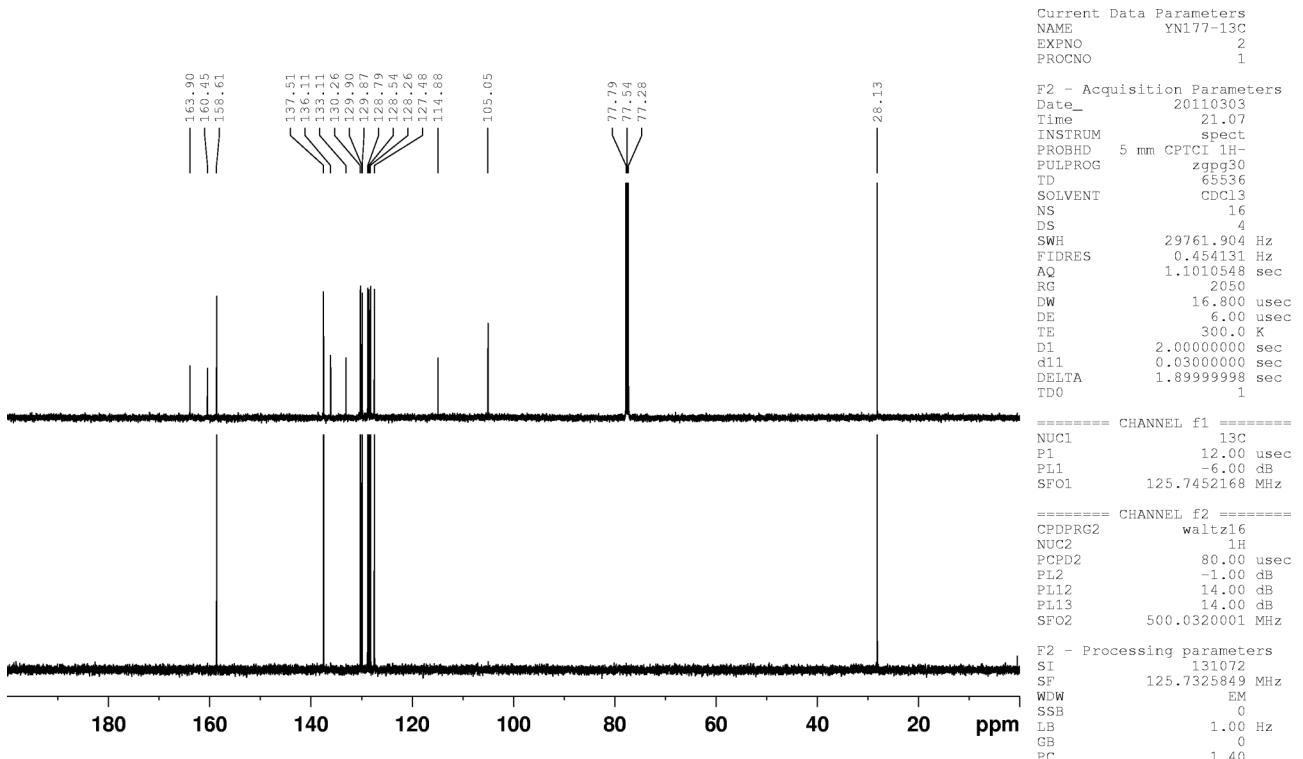


Figure S8. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4a**.

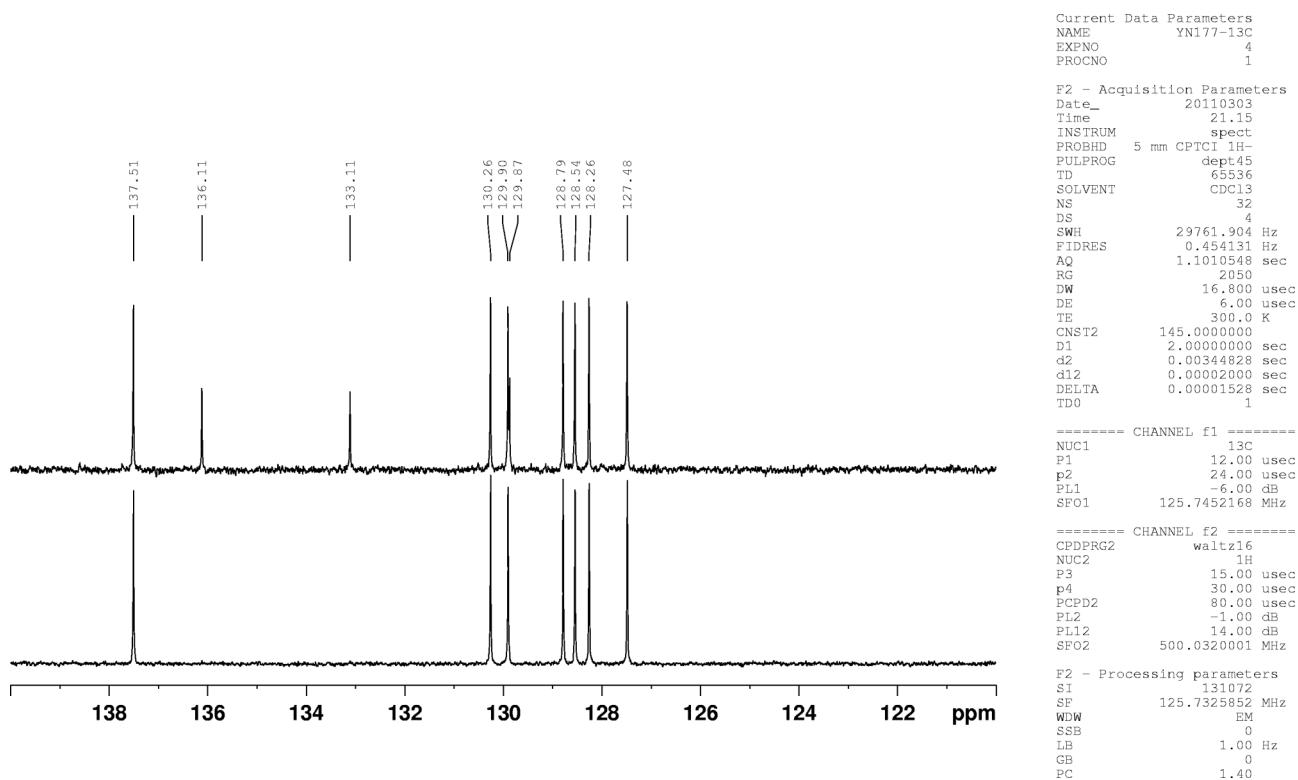


Figure S9. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4a**.

Knoevenagel condensation in the absence of cage 1

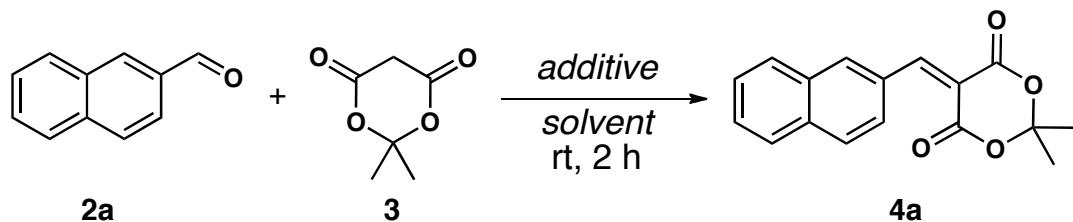


Table S1. Yields of Condensation Product **4a**.

Entry	Cage	Additive	Solvent	Yield ^a (%)
1	1	–	D_2O	92
2	–	–	D_2O	2
3	–	–	MeOH	8
4	–	–	DMSO	1
5	–	(en)Pd(NO_3) ₂	D_2O	3
6	–	TPT ^b	D_2O	8

^a Determined by ^1H NMR

^b TPT:2,4,6-tri(4-pyridyl)-1,3,5-triazine

Encapsulation of Knoevenagel condensation product **4a within cage **1****

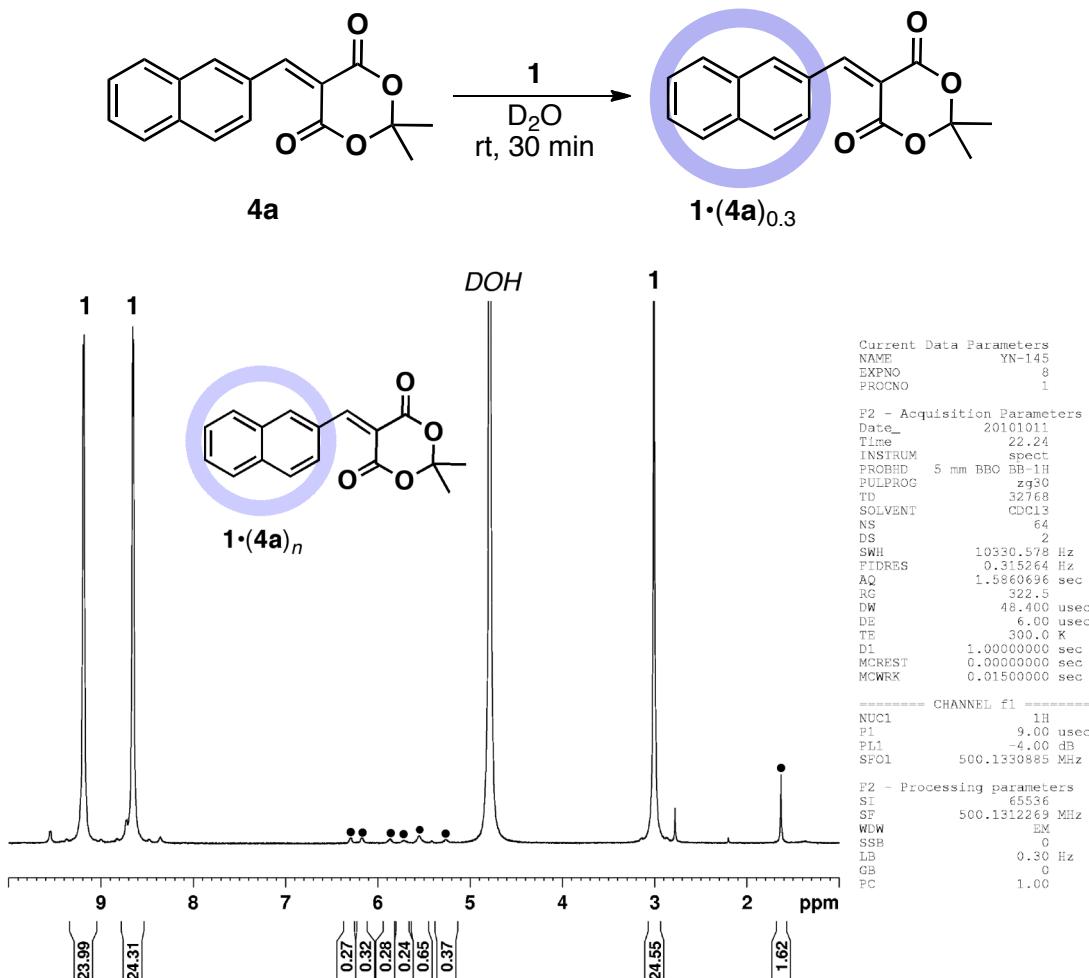
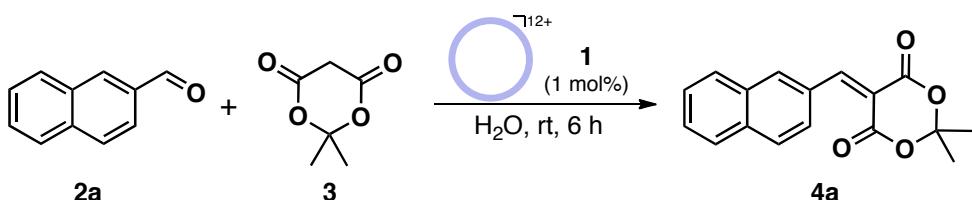


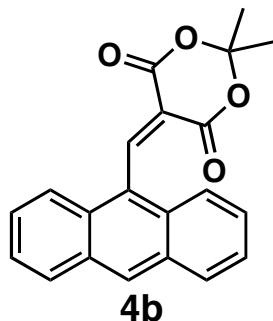
Figure S10. Encapsulation of condensation product **4a** within cage **1**. Only 0.3 molecule of product **4a** was encapsulated in cage **1** on average. Compared with aldehyde **2a** (encapsulation number: 4 molecules), product **4a** was a poor guest for cage **1**.

Typical procedure for the Knoevenagel condensation of aldehyde **2 with Meldrum's Acid **3** in the presence of a catalytic amount of cage **1****



Aldehyde **2a** (0.500 mmol, 78.1 mg) and compound **3** (0.500 mmol, 72.1 mg) were added to an aqueous solution (5 mL) of cage **1** (15.0 mg, 5.00×10^{-3} mmol; 1 mol%), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The product was extracted with CHCl₃ (2 \times 5 mL), and the organic layer was evaporated *in vacuo* to give condensation product **4a** in 96% NMR yield. The obtained product **4a** was purified by recrystallization from refluxing ethanol to afford a pale yellow solid (121 mg, 86%).

5-(anthracen-9-ylmethylene)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4b)



Reaction condition: Reaction time 96 h

Yield: 63% (NMR)

Physical data: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 9.47 (1H, s, H_a), 8.55 (1H, s, H_b), 8.06 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H_c), 7.84 (2H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, H_d), 7.52 (1H, t, J = 9.1, H_e), 7.50 (1H, t, J = 8.8 Hz, H_f), 1.90 (6H, s, H_g); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 161.91 (C), 157.89 (C), 157.75 (CH), 130.94 (C), 130.29 (CH), 129.34 (CH), 128.63 (C), 127.09 (CH), 126.80 (C), 125.58 (CH), 124.52 (CH), 121.02 (C), 104.97 (C), 28.17 (CH_3); GC-MS (EI): m/z = 332 [M] $^+$; IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3049, 3031, 3013, 2925, 2854, 1764, 1737, 1631, 1446, 1396, 1385, 1365, 1334, 1292, 1218, 1202, 1123, 1067, 1028; m.p. 193.6–194.3 °C; E.A. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$: C, 75.89; H, 4.85; Found: C, 75.66; H, 5.03.

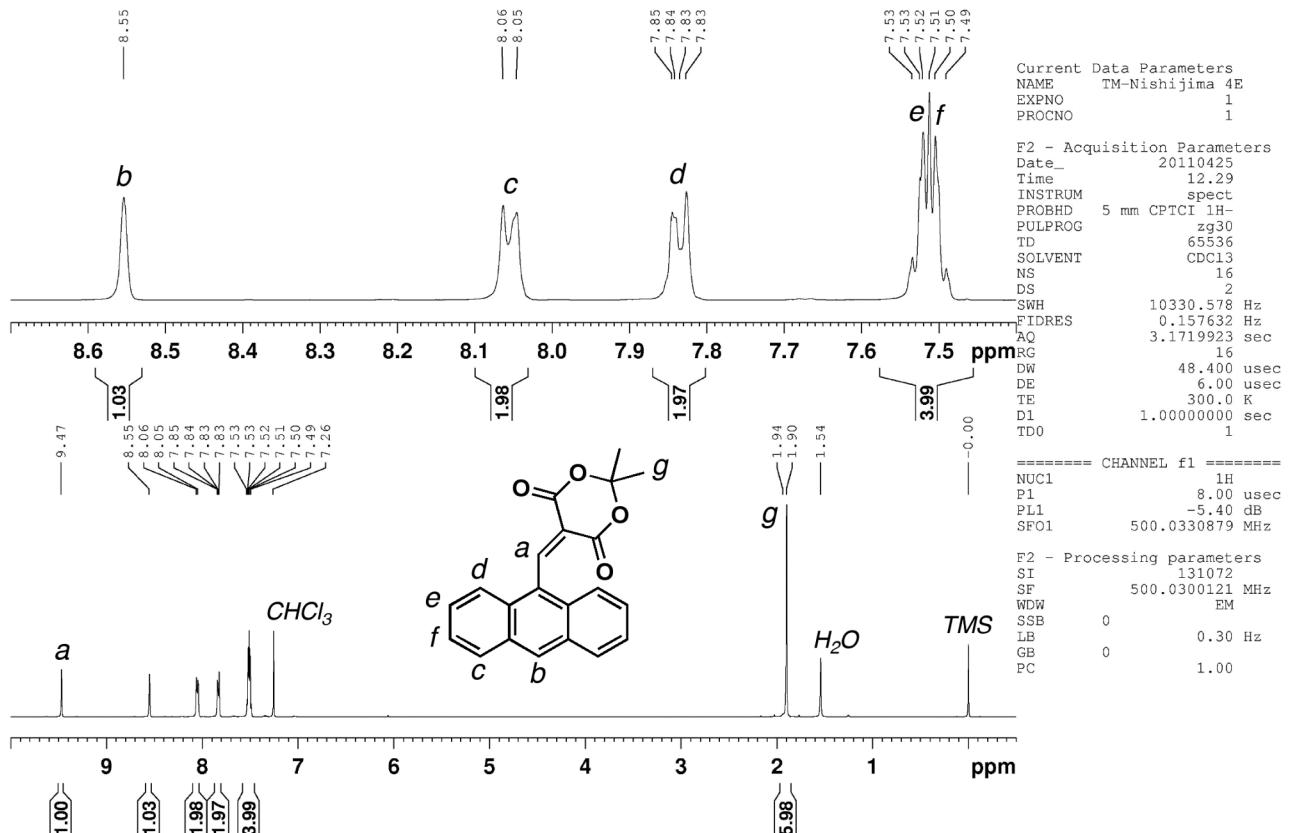


Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4b**.

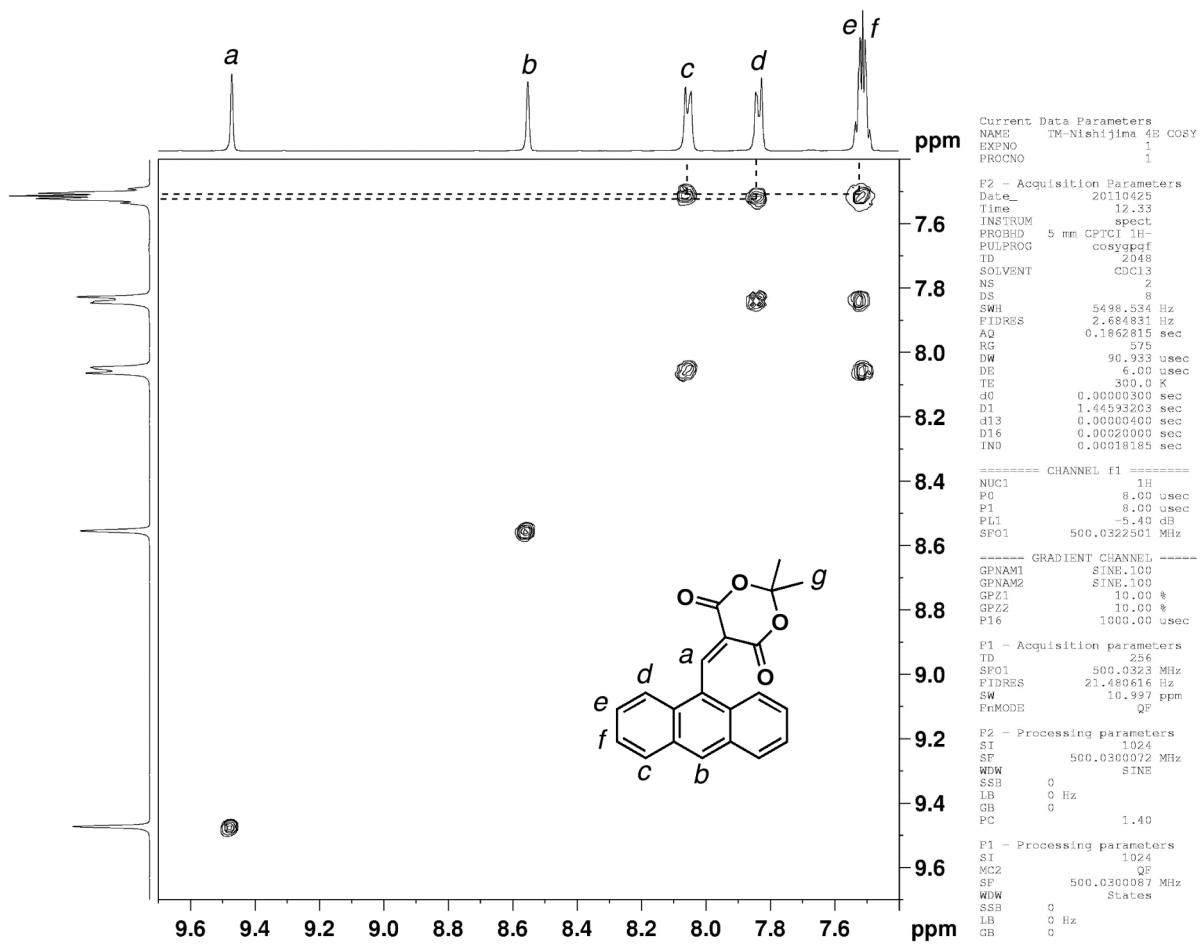


Figure S12. H–H COSY spectrum of 4b.

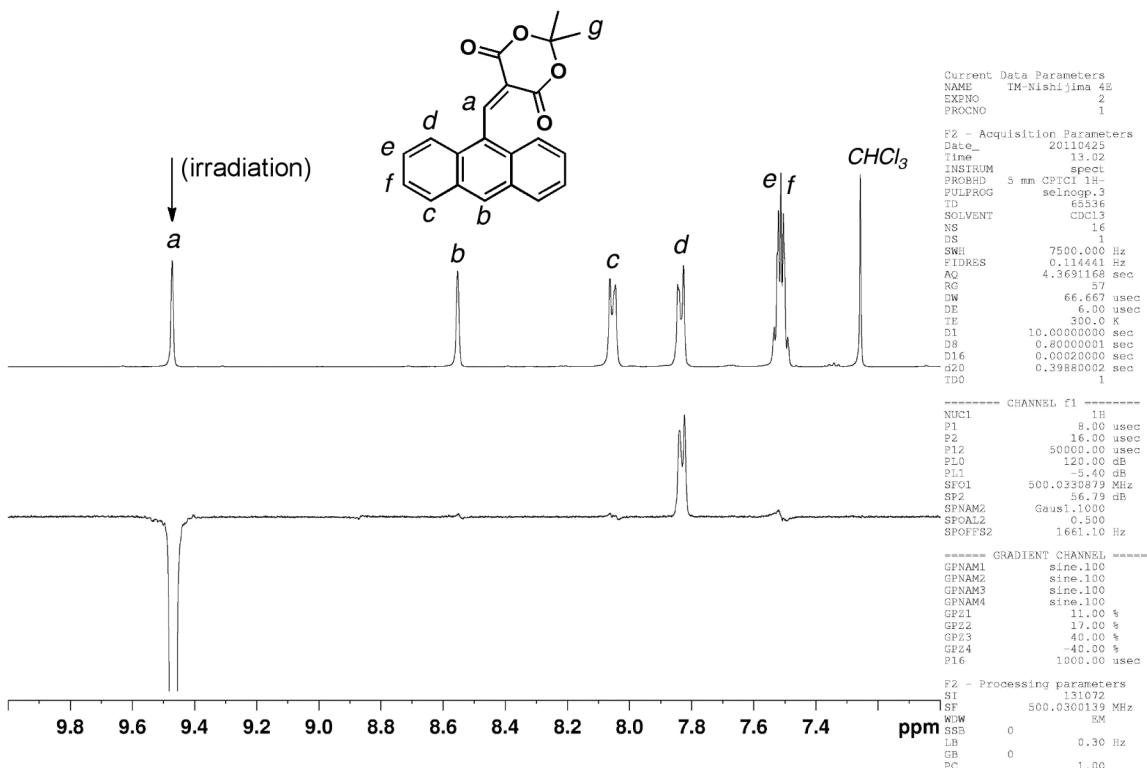


Figure S13. ¹H nOe NMR spectrum of 4b.

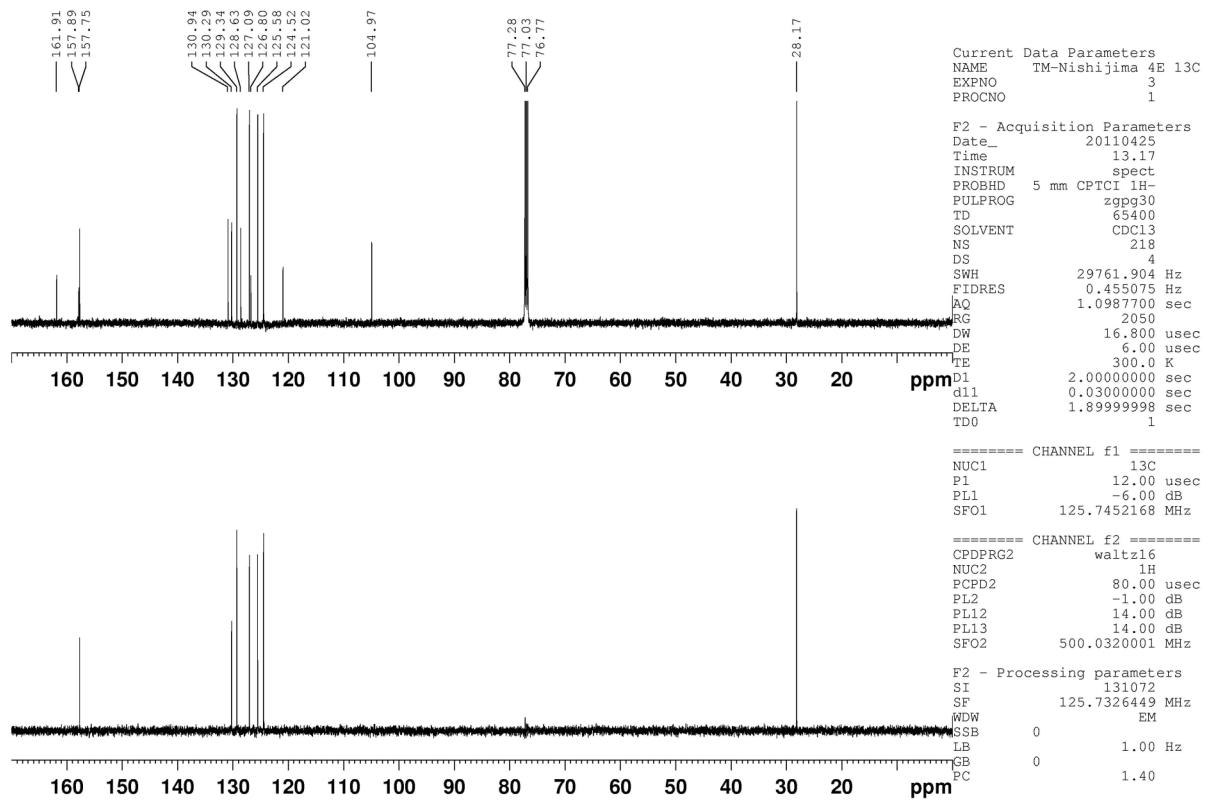


Figure S14. ¹³C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4b**.

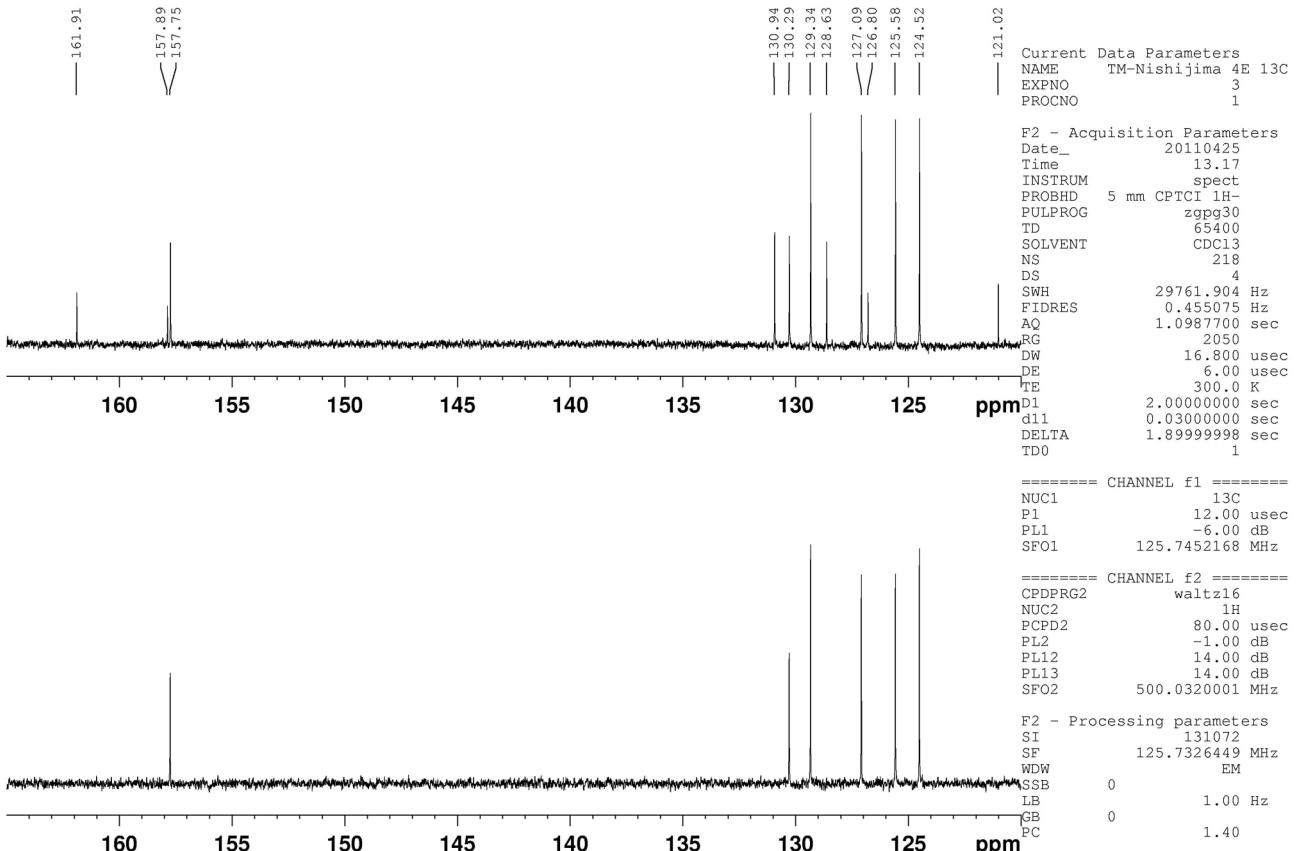
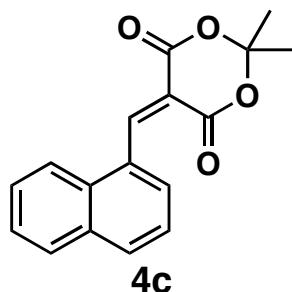


Figure S15. ¹³C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4b**.

2,2-Dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-1-ylmethylene)-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4c)



Reaction condition: 24 h

Yield: 67% (NMR)

Physical data: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.22 (1H, s, H_a), 8.02 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H_b and H_c), 7.98 (1H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, H_d), 7.92 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8, H_e), 7.62 (1H, t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, H_f), 7.58 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H_g), 7.54 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, H_h), 1.87 (6H, s, H_i); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 162.78 (C), 159.41 (C), 156.48 (CH), 133.32 (C), 133.23 (CH), 131.75 (C), 129.97 (CH), 129.17 (CH), 129.02 (C), 127.80 (CH), 126.68 (CH), 124.94 (CH), 123.60 (CH), 117.01 (C), 104.81 (C), 27.84 (CH₃); GC-MS (EI): *m/z* = 282 [M]⁺; IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 3016, 2997, 2989, 1762, 1732, 1624, 1394, 1381, 1358, 1284, 1212, 1198, 1118, 1025; m.p. 144.9–145.4 °C; E.A. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄O₄: C, 72.33; H, 5.00; Found: C, 72.26; H, 5.09.

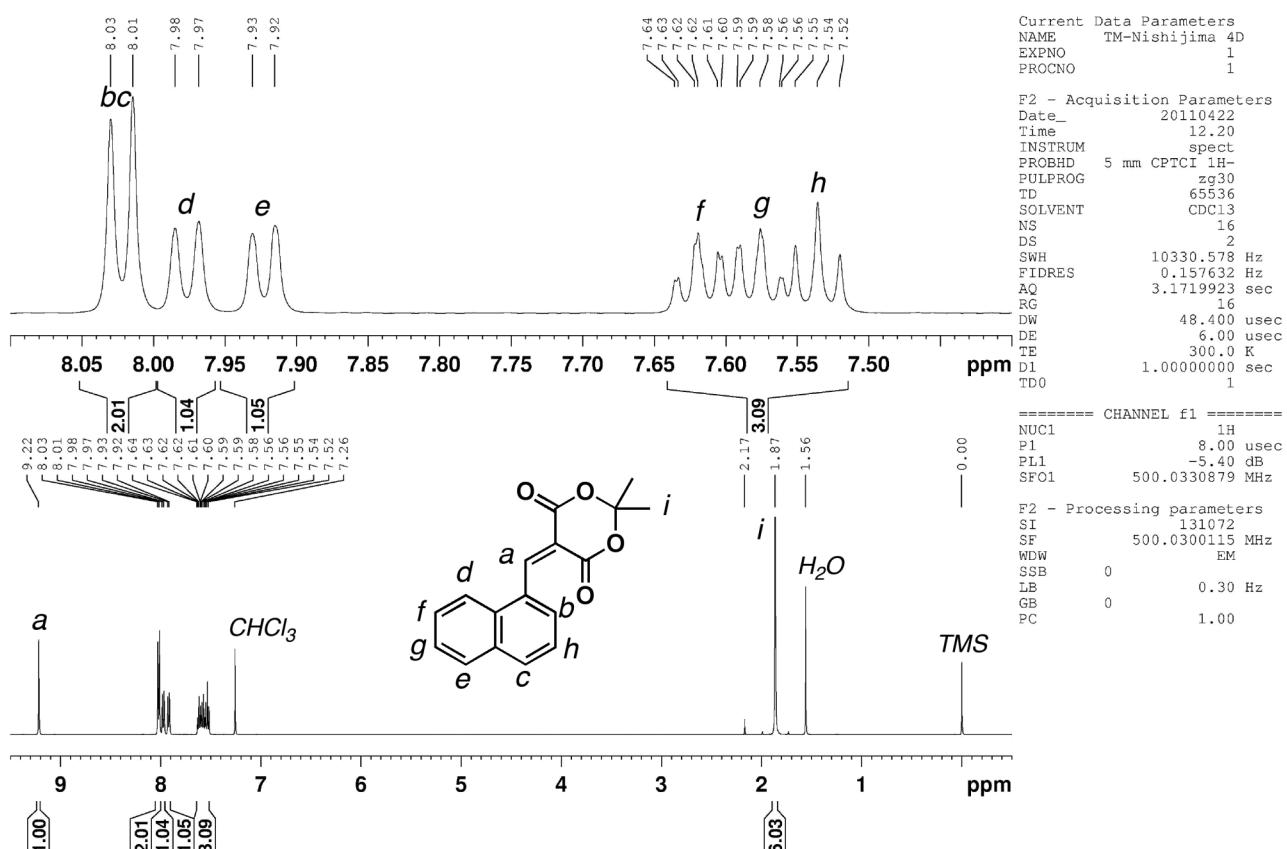


Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of **4c**.

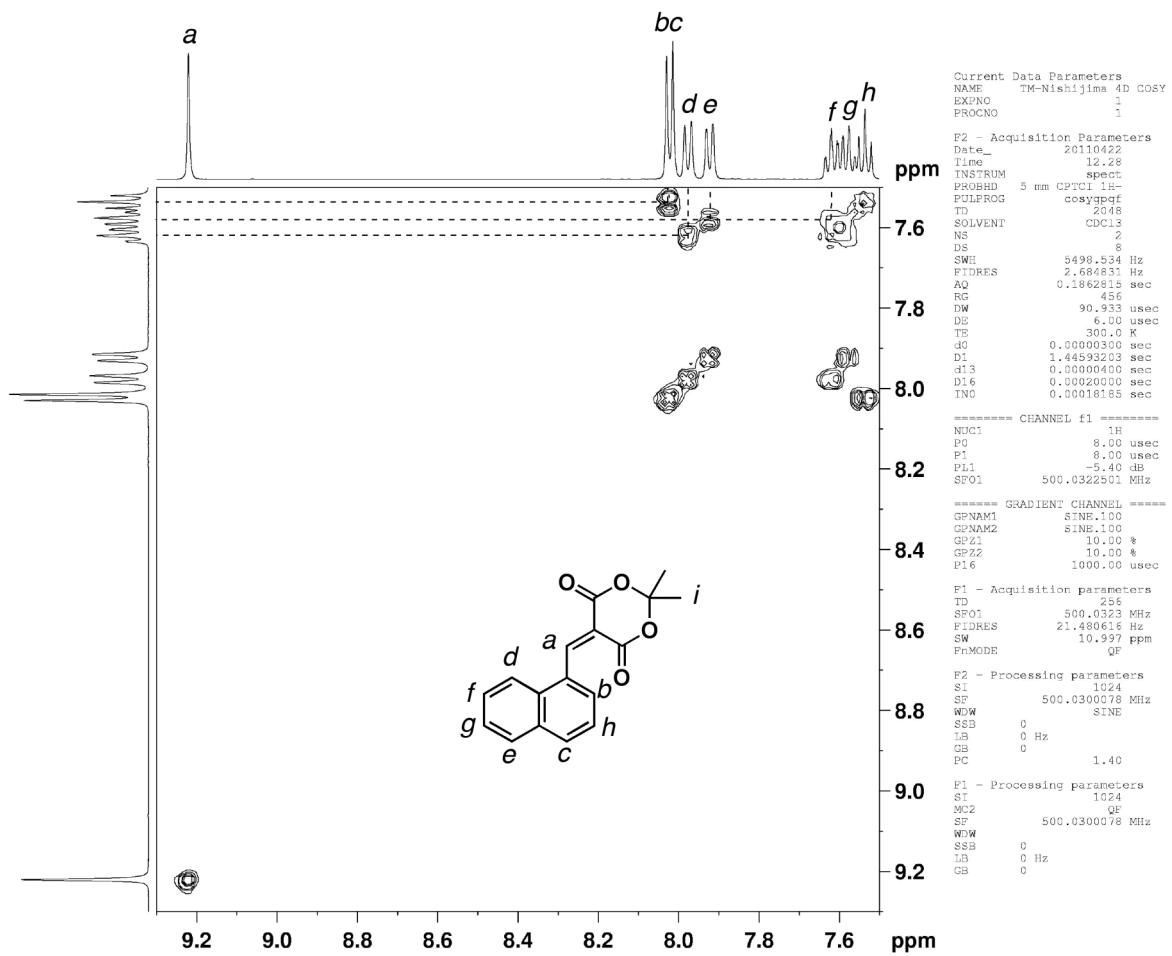


Figure S17. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of **4c**.

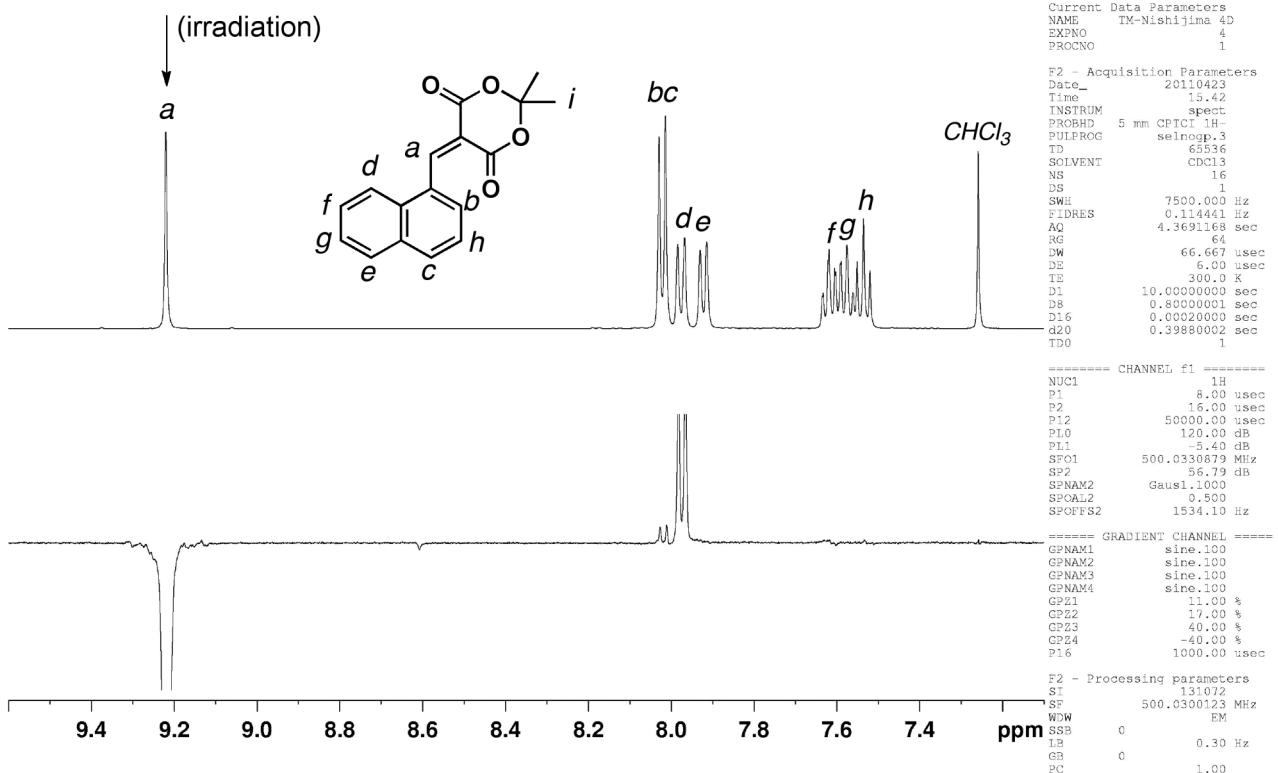


Figure S18. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of **4c**.

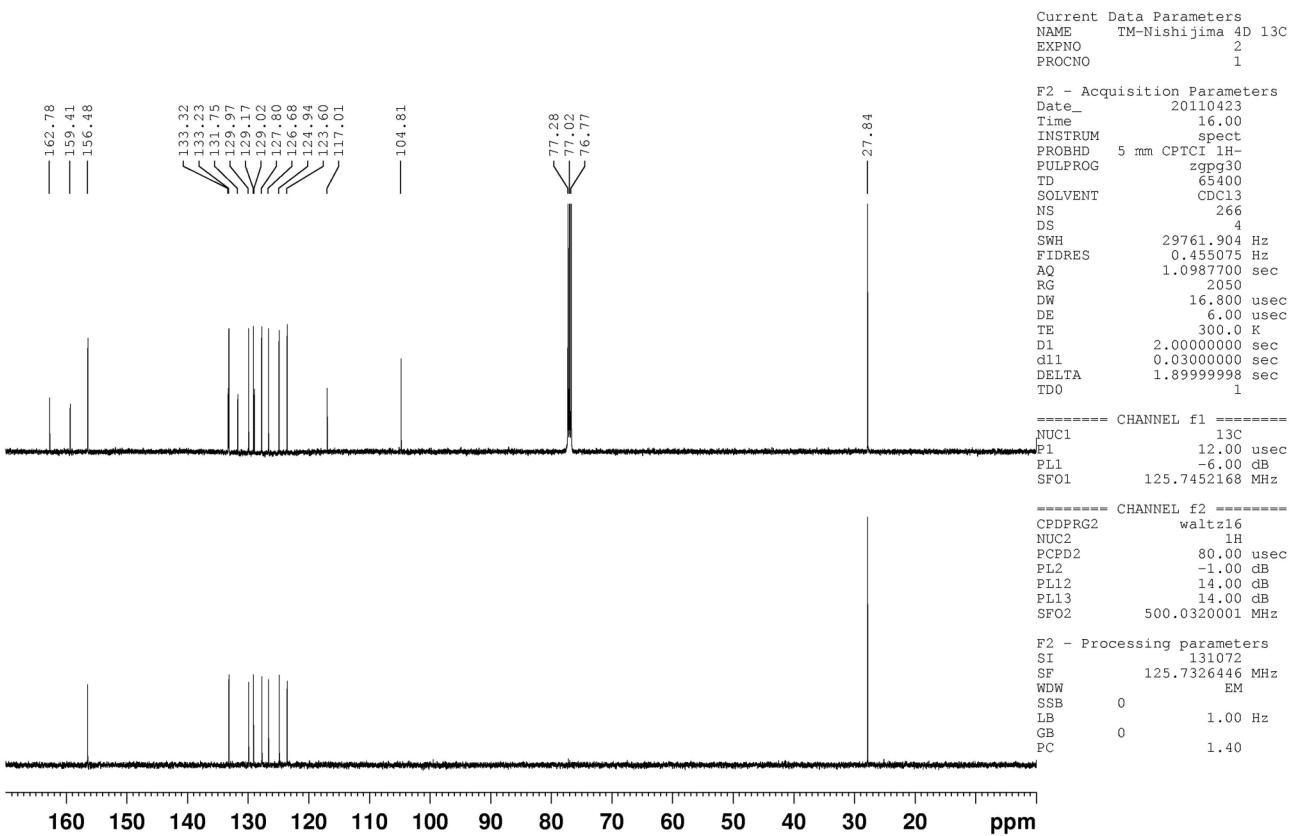


Figure S19. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4c**.

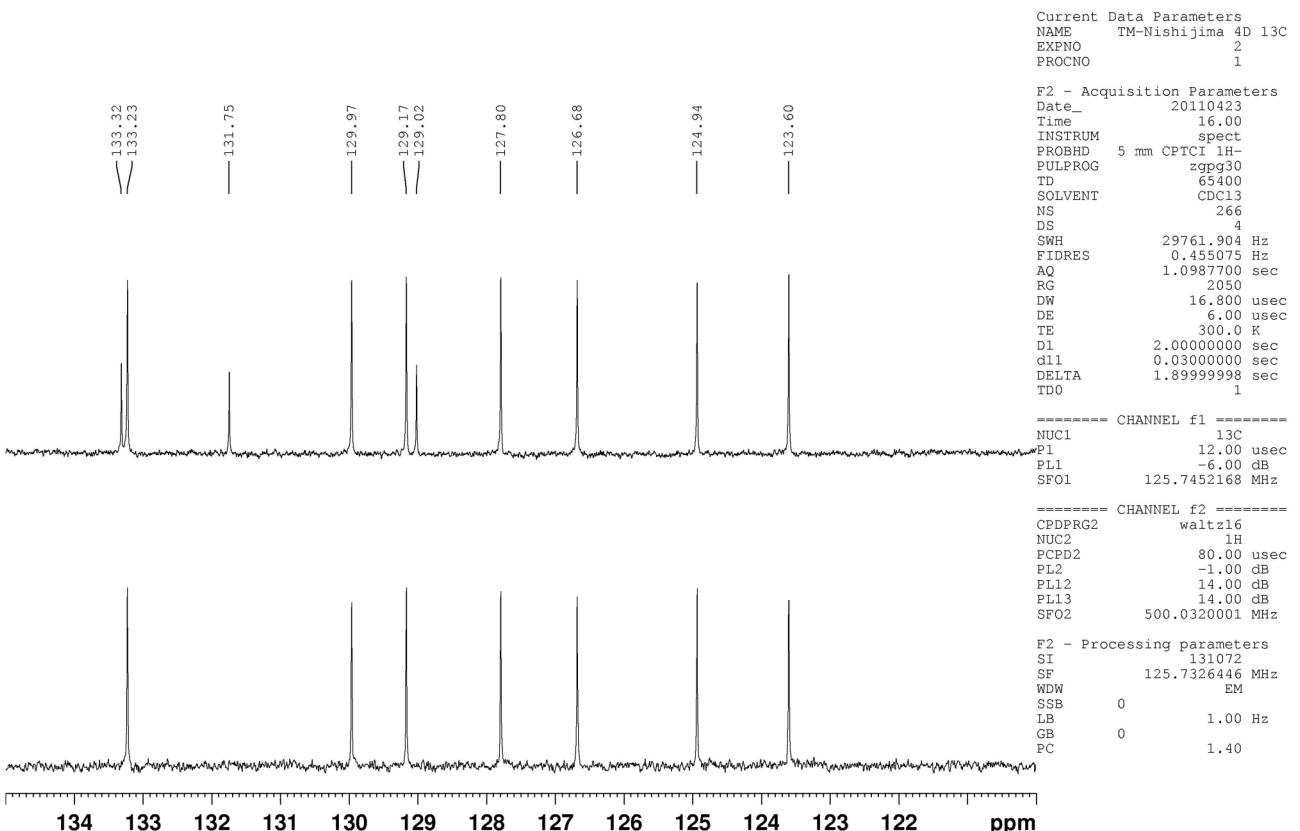
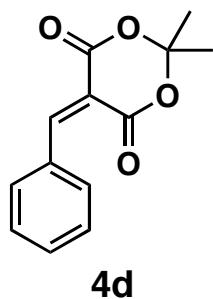


Figure S20. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4c**.

5-benzylidene-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4d)



4d

Yield : 38% (NMR)

Physical data: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.43 (1H, s, H_a), 8.05 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H_b), 7.57 (1H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, H_c), 7.49 (2H, t, J = 7.4, H_d), 1.81 (6H, s, H_e); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 161.30 (C), 159.76 (C), 158.15 (CH), 133.71 (CH), 133.62 (CH), 131.71 (C), 128.75 (CH), 114.84 (C), 104.60 (C), 27.64 (CH_3); GC-MS (EI): m/z = 232 [M] $^+$, 174 [M-(CH_3) $_2\text{CO}$] $^+$; IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 2999, 2923, 2852, 1767, 1732, 1621, 1394, 1283, 1363, 1299, 1222, 1202, 1029; m.p. 74.5–75.5 °C; E.A. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4$: C, 67.23; H, 5.21; Found: C, 66.96; H, 5.32.

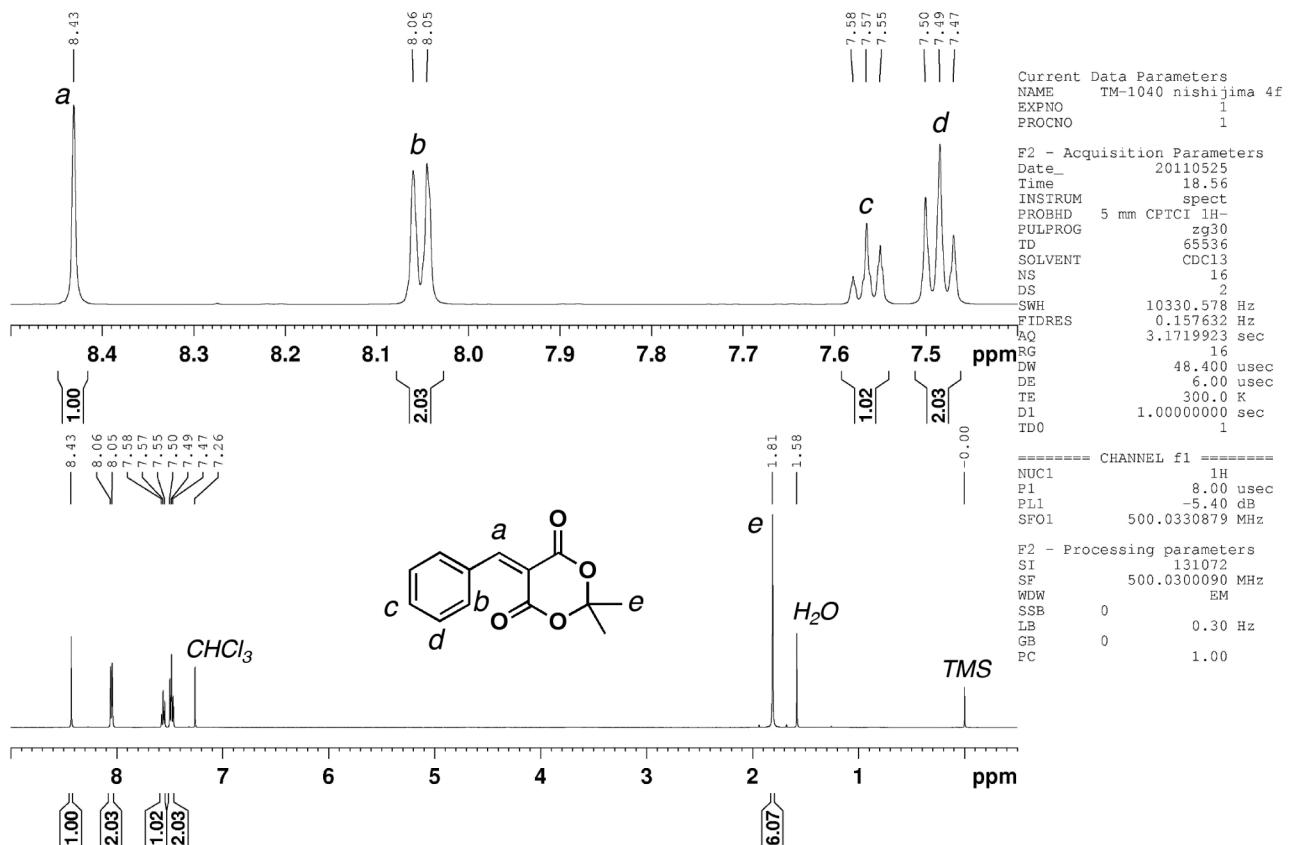


Figure S21. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4d**.

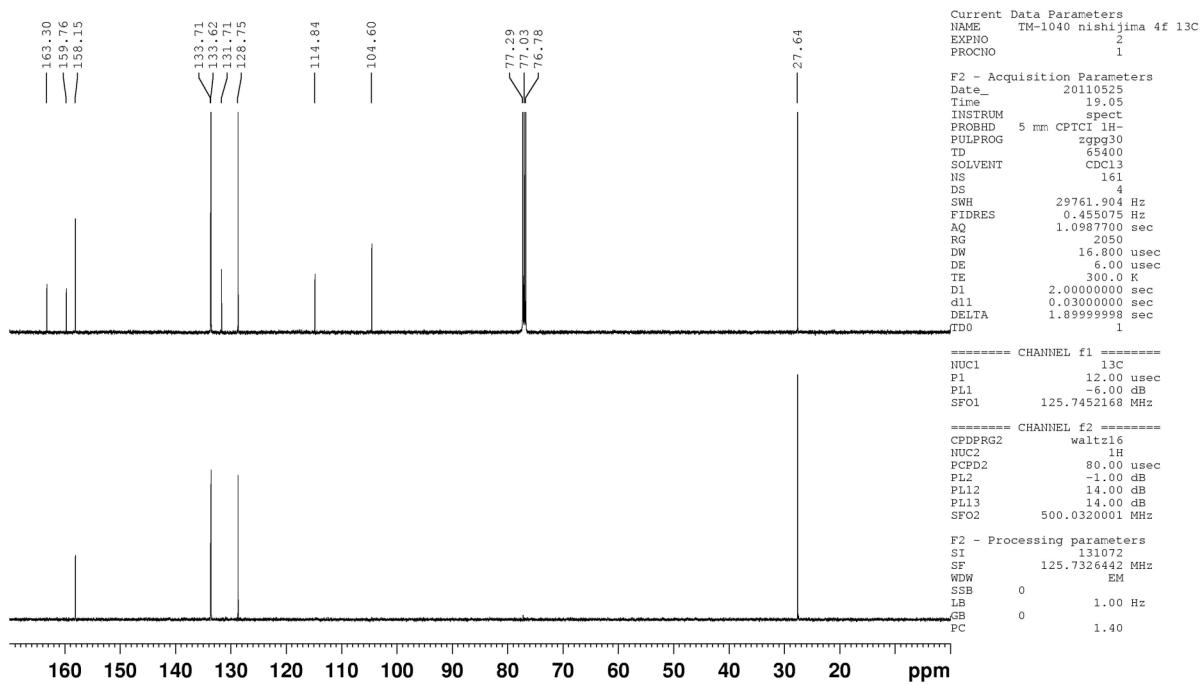


Figure S22. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4d**.

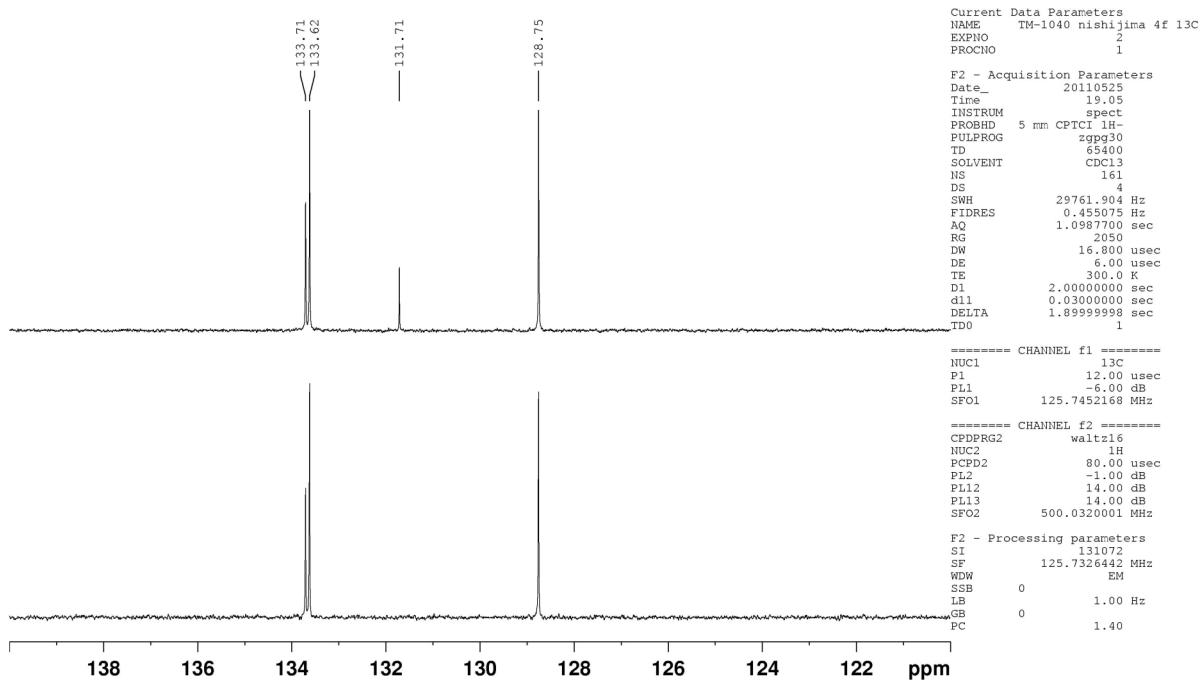
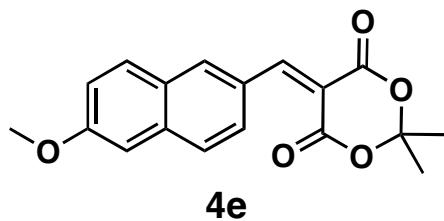


Figure S23. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4d**.

5-((6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)methylene)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4e)



Yield: 96% (NMR), 88% (isolated)

Physical data: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.56 (1H, br s, H_a), 8.55 (1H, s, H_b), 8.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.7 Hz, H_c), 7.85 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H_d), 7.76 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H_e), 7.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, H_f), 7.16 (1H, d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, H_g), 3.97 (3H, s, H_h), 1.83 (6H, s, H_i); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 163.8 (C), 160.9 (C), 160.3 (C), 158.5 (CH), 137.8 (C), 137.7 (CH), 131.7 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 128.1 (C), 127.3 (C), 127.1 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 112.7 (C), 106.0 (CH), 104.4 (C), 55.6 (CH₃), 27.6 (CH₃); GC-MS (EI): *m/z* = 312 [M]⁺; IR (ATR, cm⁻¹): 2992, 2946, 1756, 1725, 1587, 1402, 1341, 1291, 1222, 1158, 1023, 1010; m.p. 191.2–192.2 °C; E.A. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆O₅: C, 69.22; H, 5.16. Found: C, 69.11; H, 5.32.

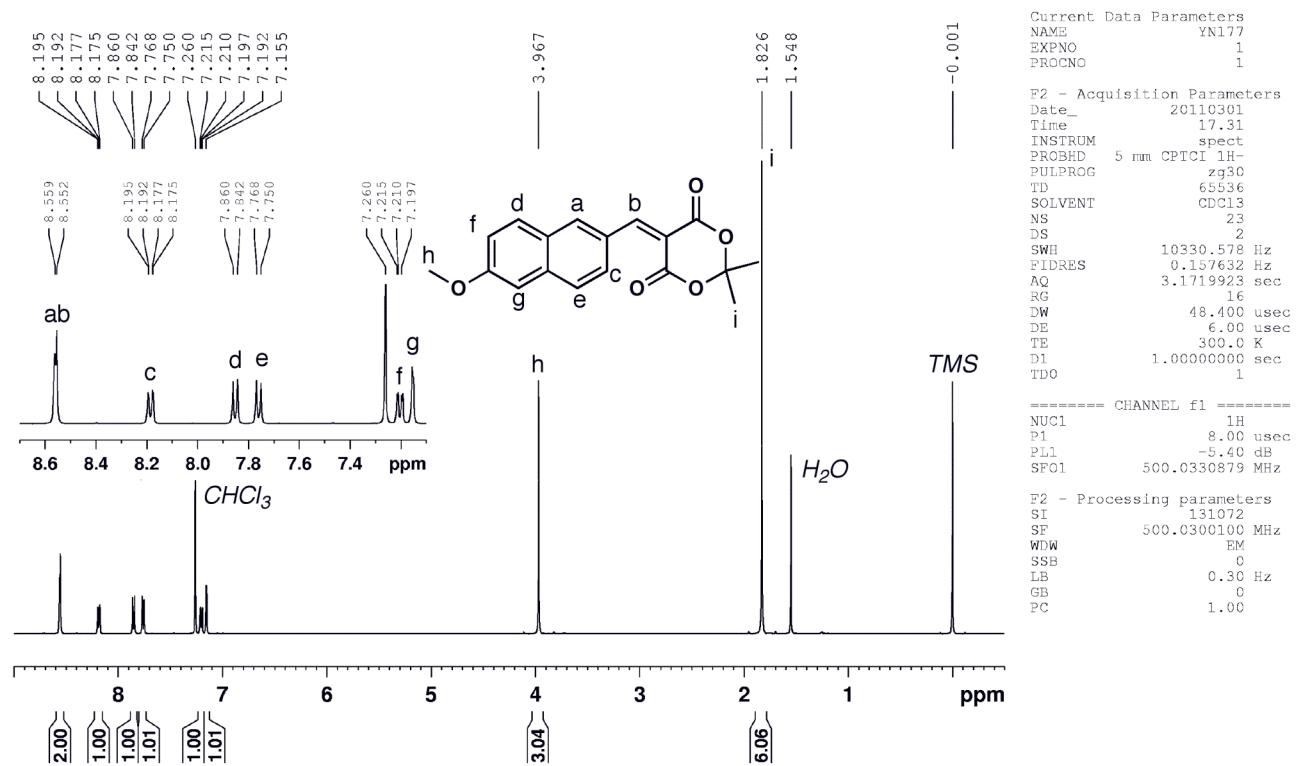


Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum of **4e**.

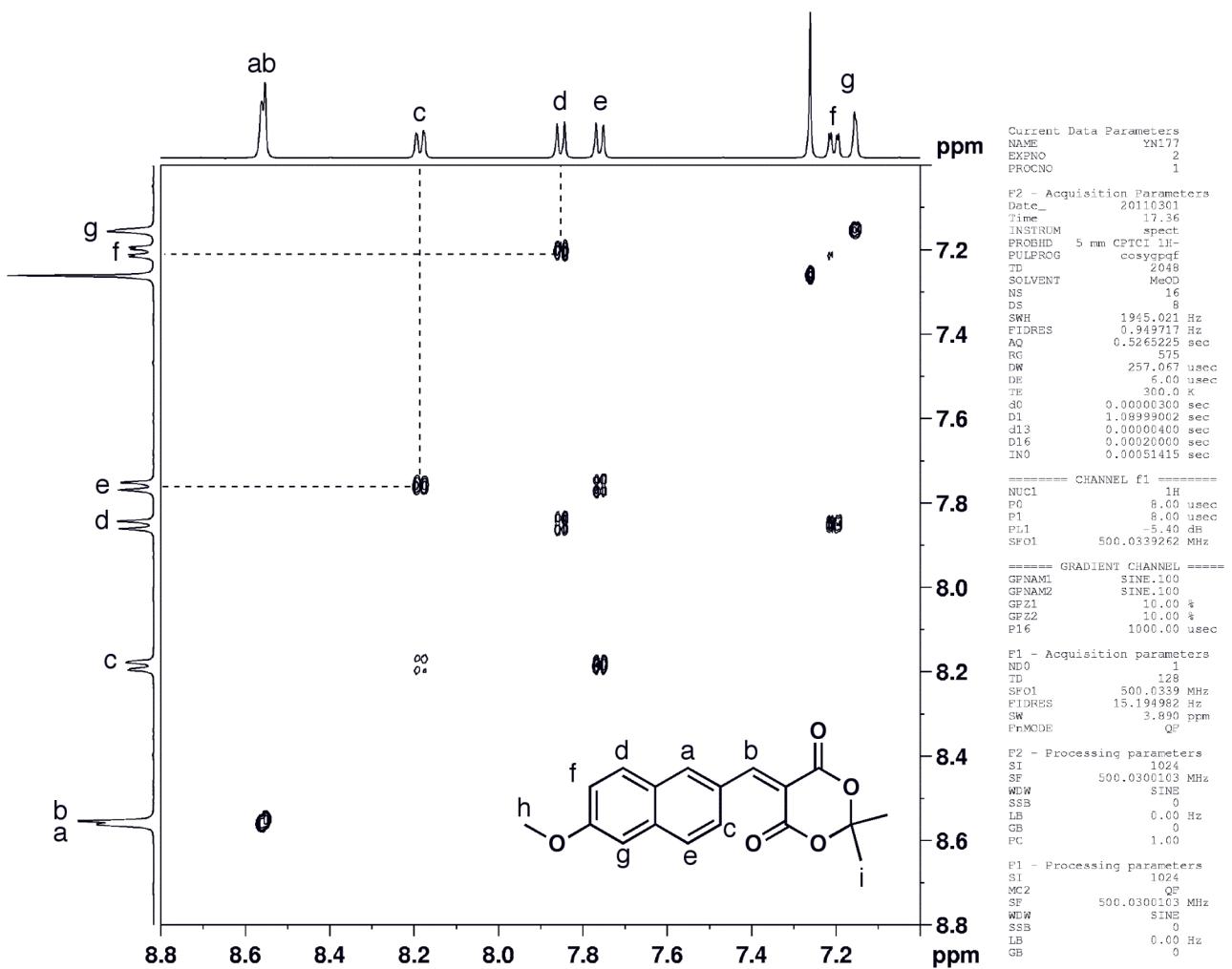


Figure S25. ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum of 4e.

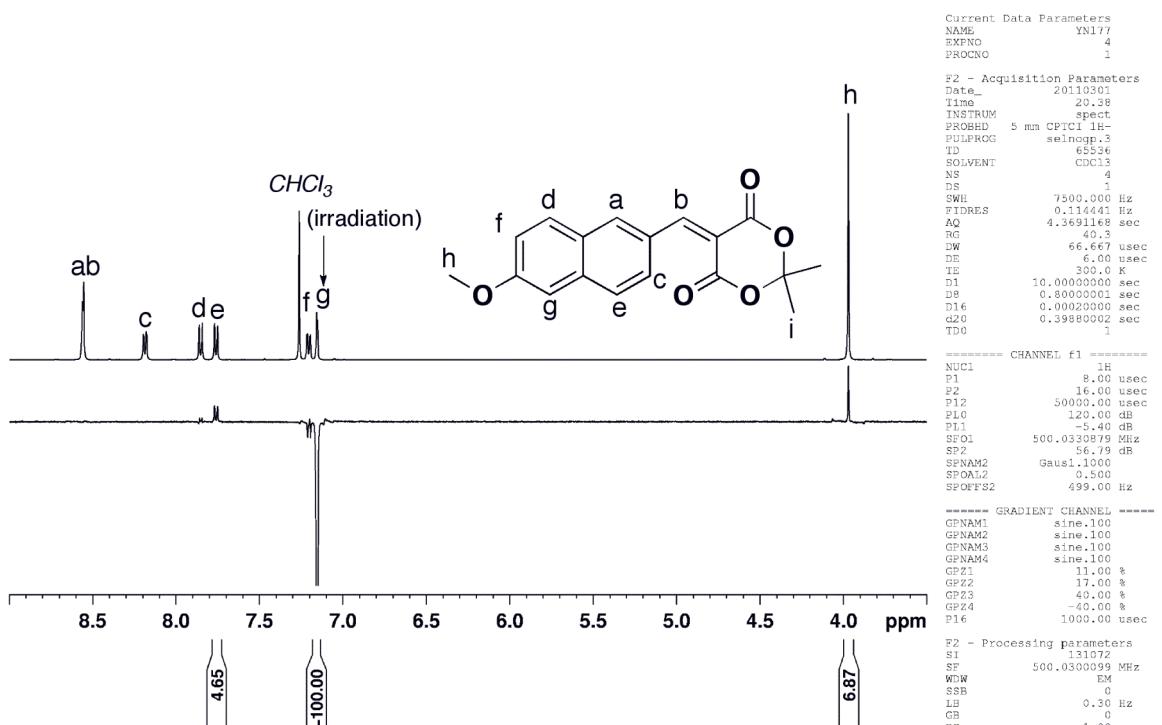


Figure S26. ^1H nOe NMR spectrum of 4e.

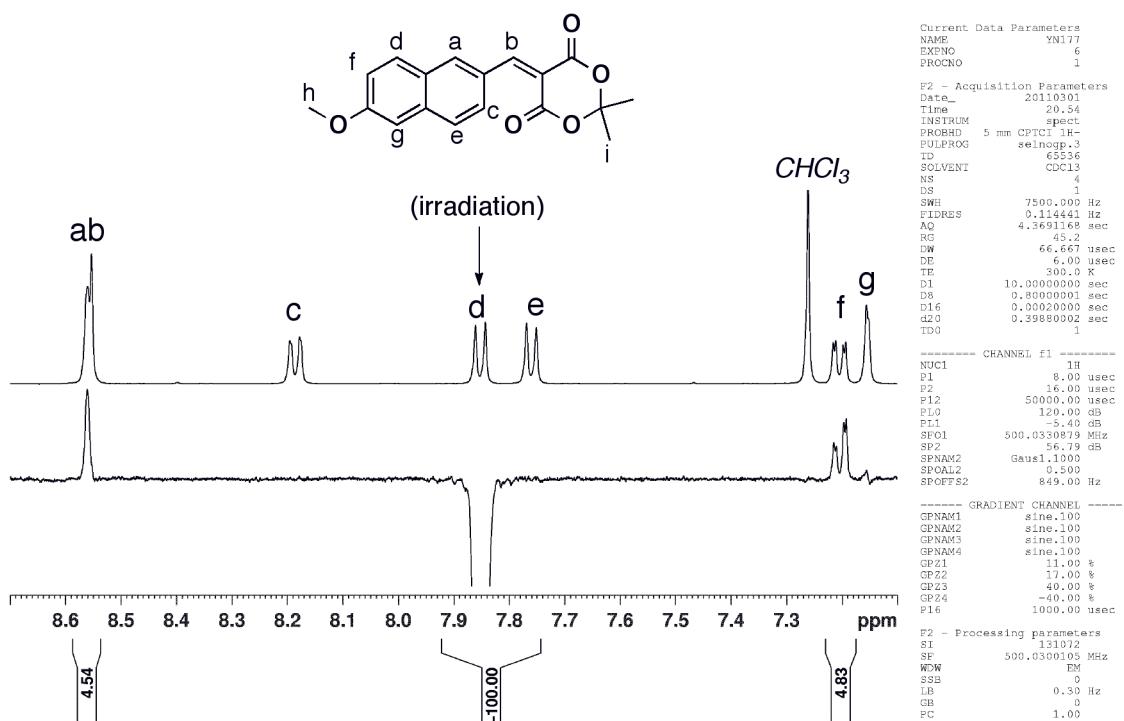


Figure S27. ¹H nOe NMR spectrum of 4e.

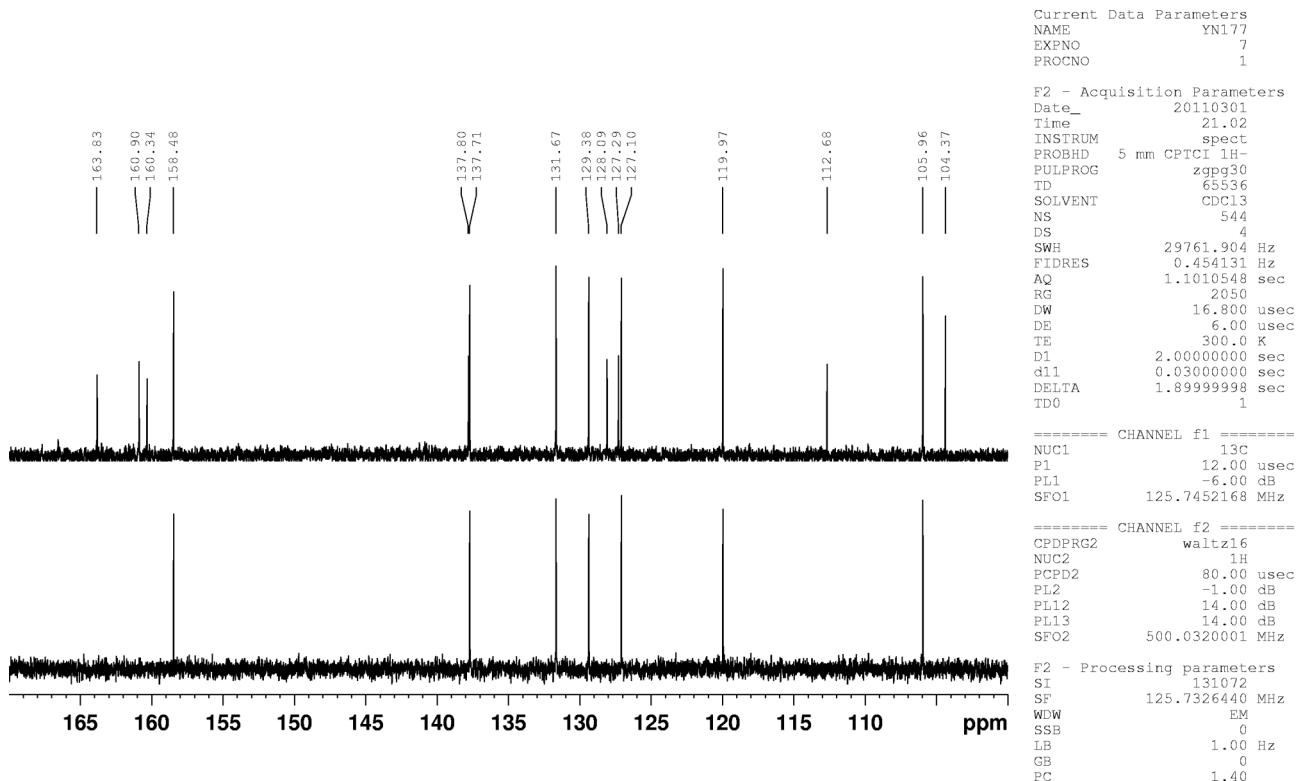


Figure S28. ¹³C and DEPT NMR spectra of 4e.

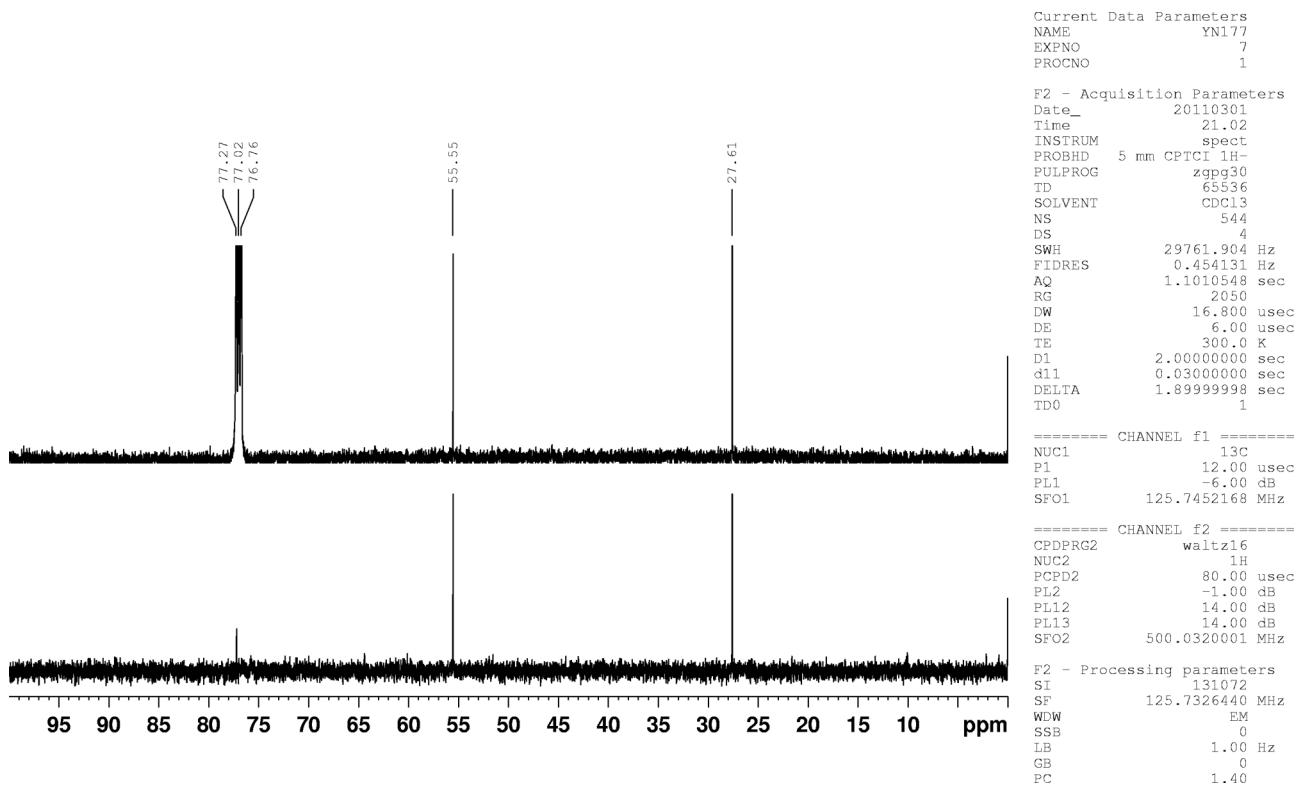
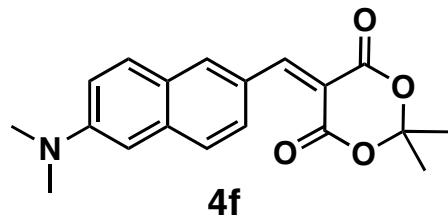


Figure S29. ^{13}C and DEPT NMR spectra of **4e**.

5-((6-(Dimethylamino)naphthalen-2-yl)methylene)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (4f)



Yield: 82% (NMR), 73% (isolated)

Physical data: ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.53 (1H, d, J = 1.6 Hz, H_a), 8.50 (1H, s, H_b), 8.16 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 1.6 Hz, H_c), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 9.2 Hz, H_d), 7.59 (1H, d, J = 8.9 Hz, H_e), 7.13 (1H, dd, J = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, H_f), 6.84 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz, H_g), 3.16 (6H, s, H_h), 1.81 (6H, s, H_i); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 164.49 (C), 160.86 (C), 158.77 (CH), 151.32 (CH), 139.40 (CH), 138.51 (C), 131.80 (CH), 129.87 (CH), 126.10 (CH), 125.40 (C), 125.23 (C), 115.93 (CH), 109.73 (C), 105.18 (CH), 103.97 (C), 40.32 (CH_3), 27.50 (CH_3); GC-MS (EI): m/z = 325 [M] $^+$; IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 3002, 2976, 2925, 1739, 1712, 1630, 1574, 1432, 1402, 1387, 1308, 1273, 1225, 1205, 1175, 1138, 1025, 1004; m.p. 209.5–210.3 °C; E.A. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$: C, 70.14; H, 5.89; N, 4.31; Found: C, 69.75; H, 5.97; N, 4.16.

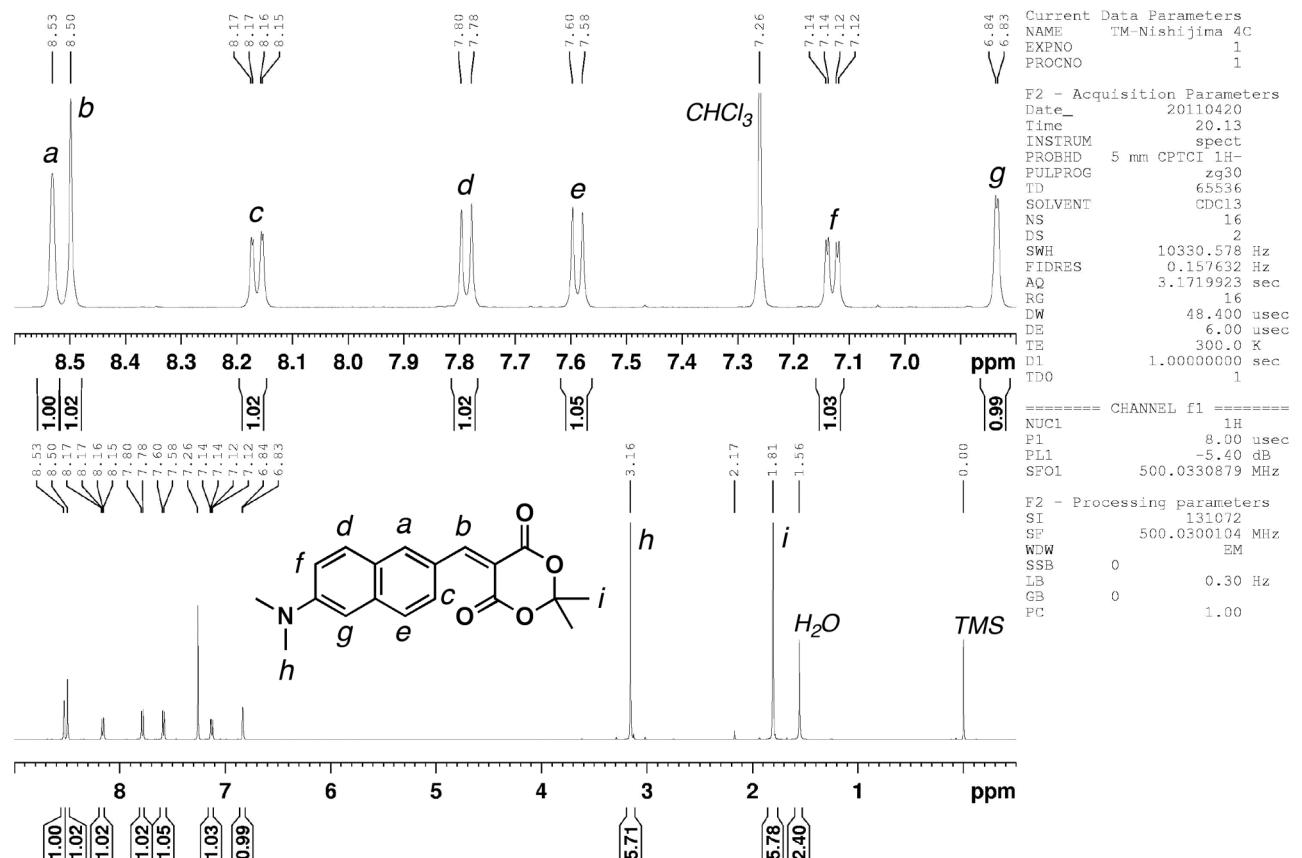


Figure S30. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4f**.

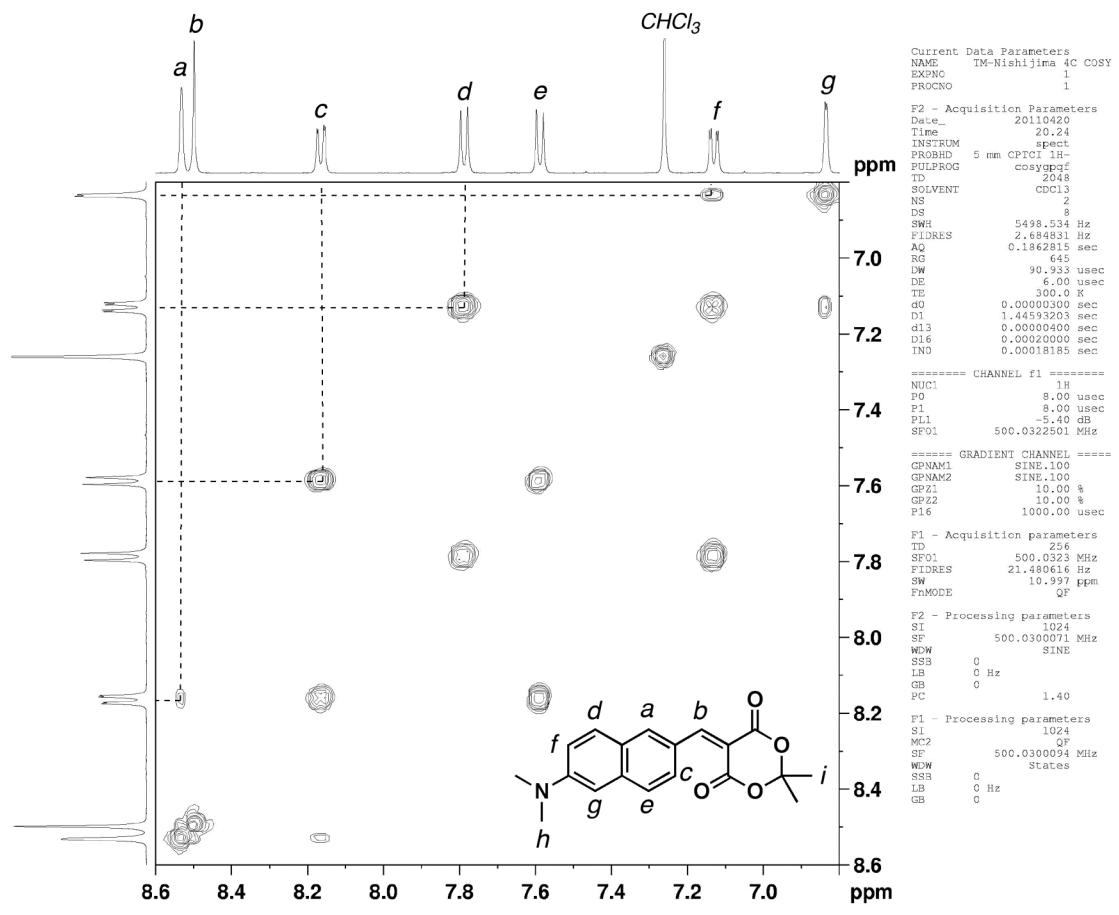
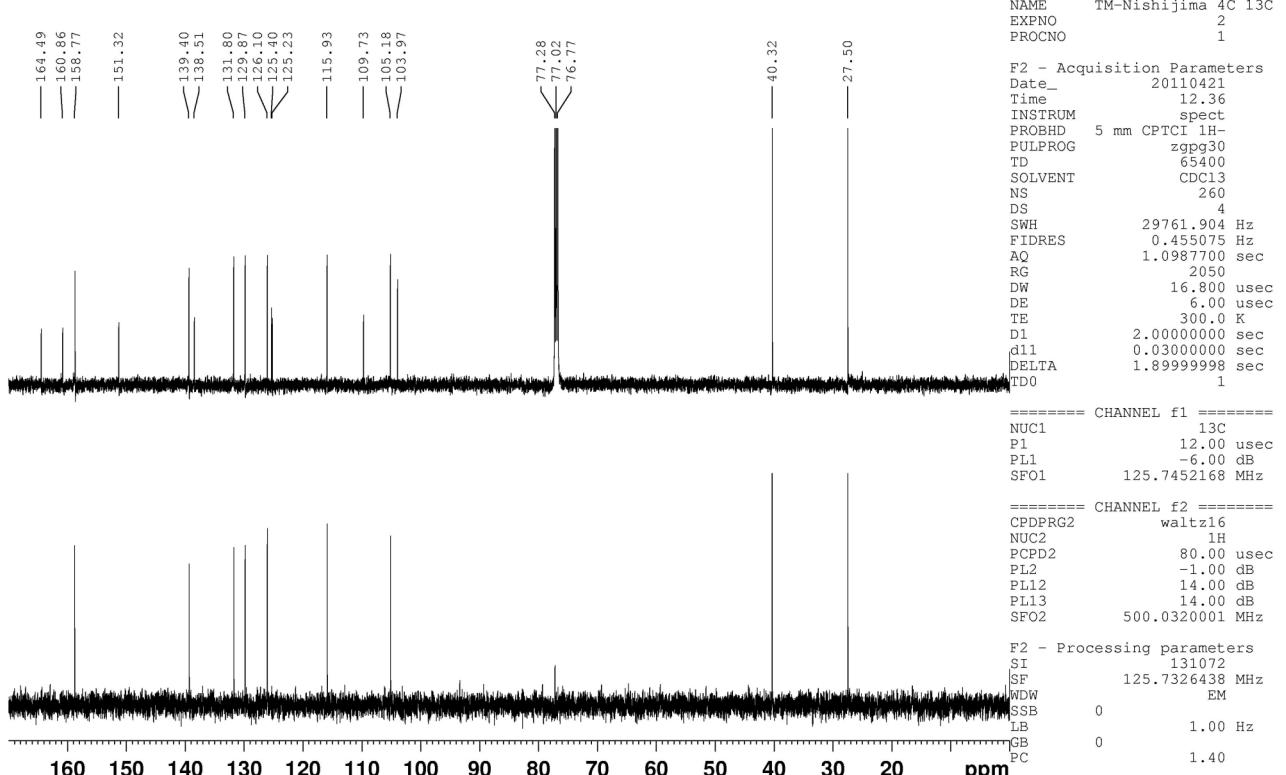


Figure S31. H–H COSY spectrum of 4f.



Molecular modeling of inclusion complex $\mathbf{1}\bullet(\mathbf{2a})_4$

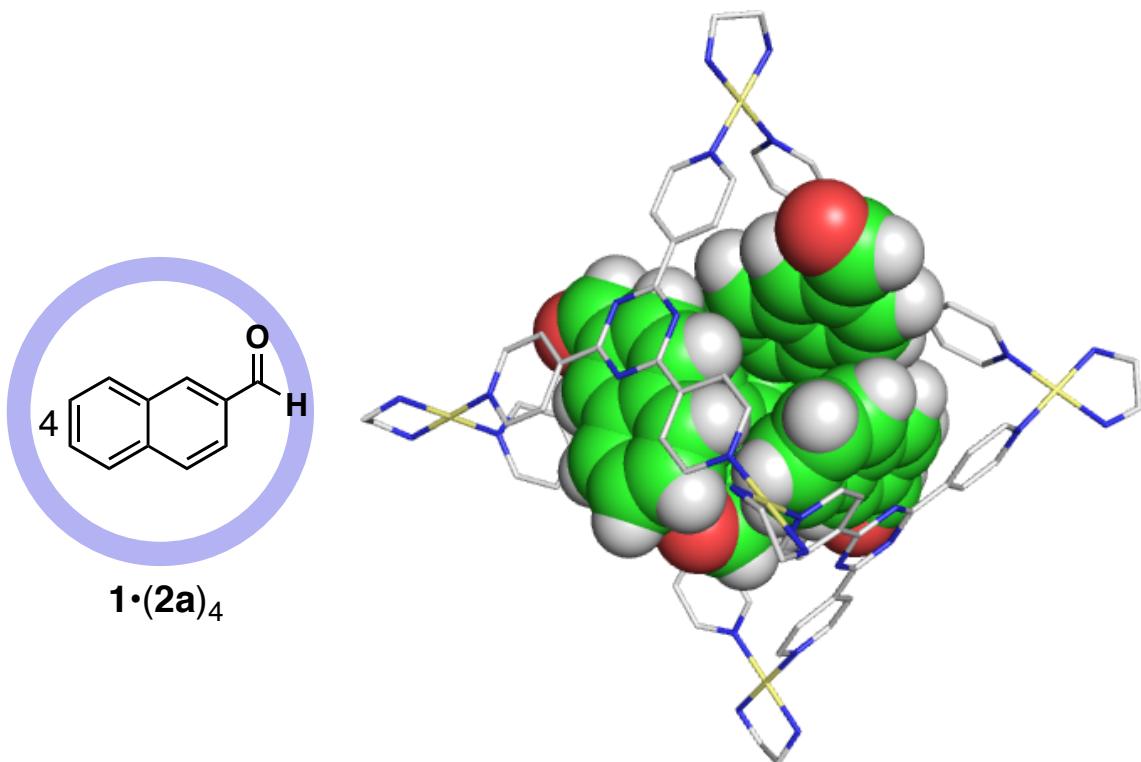
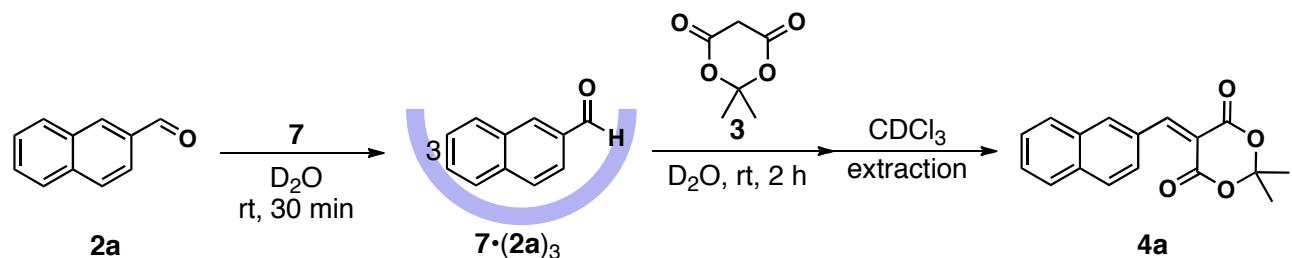


Figure S33. Molecular modeling of inclusion complex $\mathbf{1}\bullet(\mathbf{2a})_4$ optimized by a force-field calculation on MS Modeling 4.4 program. The four molecules of naphthaldehyde $\mathbf{2a}$ completely occupy the vacant space of cage $\mathbf{1}$ but freely rotate within the cage. Aldehyde $\mathbf{2a}$ is shown in the Corey–Pauling–Kolton (CPK) representation (cage $\mathbf{1}$: C gray, N blue, Pd yellow; aldehyde $\mathbf{2a}$: C green, H gray, O red).

Reaction Procedure for the Knoevenagel condensation of aldehyde $\mathbf{2a}$ in bowl-shaped cage $\mathbf{7}$



2-Naphthaldehyde (**2a**, 6.25 mg; 0.040 mmol) was suspended in a D_2O solution (1.0 mL) of cage **7** (5.0×10^{-3} mmol; 5.0 mM), and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. After filtration, inclusion complex $7\bullet(\mathbf{2a})_3$ was obtained in a quantitative yield. Meldrum's acid **3** (2.16mg, 0.015 mmol) was added to the solution, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h. After extraction with CDCl_3 , condensation product **4a** was obtained in 17% yield, as determined by NMR analysis.