

Supporting Information

A Practical Method for Transforming Alkynes into α -Diketones

*Zhonghui Wan**, Chauncey D. Jones, David Mitchell, John Y. Pu, and Tony Y. Zhang

Chemical Process R & D, Eli Lilly and Company, Lilly Corporate Cente, Indianapolis, IN 46285, USA

wanzh@lilly.com

List of Contents

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| A. General | S2 |
| B. Experimental | S2 |
| C. References | S9 |
| D. NMR Spectra | S10 |

General Consideration: All reactions were carried out under nitrogen unless otherwise noted. Solvents and chemicals were used from vendors without further purification. Flash chromatography¹ was performed on silica gel 60 (Merck, 230-400). ¹H NMR were recorded on 500 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CHCl₃: δ 7.27 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 125 MHz spectrometers with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ 77.23 ppm). HRMS was recorded on LCT-TOF mass spec using APcI (+) ionization.

Experimental

General Procedure for Oxidation of Alkynes to α -Dicarbonyl Compounds: The alkyne substrate 2.0 mmol was mixed with 2.0 mL of 88% formic acid, 2.0 mmol (4.0 mmol if there is a basic N in the molecule) of methanesulfonic acid, 12.0 mmol of DMSO, and 0.20 mmol of 48% HBr in a 10 mL flask. The reactions were heated at 105~110 °C using a short path to distill off the volatiles (mostly dimethyl sulfide generated from the reaction, and some solvents) until complete conversion (usually 5-10 hours). After completion, the reaction was cooled down to room temperature. The crude product was extracted into ethyl acetate after aqueous workup. Flash chromatography on silica gel afforded the pure product.

Benzil (2a):² General procedure was followed employing 355 mg (2.0 mmol) of diphenylacetylene. Purification by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 318.2 mg (82%) of the title compound.

1-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-2-p-tolyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2b): General procedure was followed employing 470 mg (2.2 mmol) of 1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-2-p-tolyl-ethyne. Purification by flash chromatography (50% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 320 mg (56%) of the title compound. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.9, 55.6, 114.3, 126.2, 129.9, 130.8, 132.3, 146.0, 164.9, 193.4, 194.6. HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₅O₃ 255.1021, found 255.1028. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1670, 1665, 1600.

1-(6-Methoxy-2-naphthyl)-2-p-tolyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2c): General procedure was followed employing 550 mg (2.0 mmol) of 1-(6-methoxy-naphthyl)-2-p-tolyl-ethyne. Purification by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 405 mg (66%) of the title compound. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.9, 55.5, 106.0, 120.0, 124.6, 127.7, 127.76, 128.570, 129.7 (2C), 130.1 (2C), 130.8, 131.5, 133.2, 138.3, 146.1, 160.6, 194.6 (2C). HRMS (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₇O₃ 305.1178, found 305.1188. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1660, 1625, 1603.

2-Bromo-3,3-dimethyl-1-p-tolyl-butan-1-one (2d): General procedure was initially followed employing 505 mg (2.9 mmol) of 1-(3,3-Dimethyl-but-1-ynyl)-4-methylbenzene, but the reaction stopped after formation of about 10% of bromoketone as indicated by LC-MS. Another 3.0 mmol of 48% HBr and 3 mL of DMSO were added. The reaction was continued until complete conversion. Purification by flash chromatography (5% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 590 mg (75%) of the title compound. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.21 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.7, 27.4, 35.1, 57.7, 128.7, 129.5, 133.6, 144.4, 193.8. **HRMS** ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrO}$ 269.0541, found 269.0523. **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1669, 1604.

3,3-Dimethyl-1-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-butane-1,2-dione (2e): General procedure was followed employing 501 mg (2.2 mmol) of 1-(3,3-Dimethyl-but-1-ynyl)-4-trifluoromethylbenzene. Purification by flash chromatography (5% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 450 mg (79%) of the title compound. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.30 (s, 9H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 26.0, 42.7, 122.2, 124.4, 125.9 (d), 129.8, 135.5 (t), 193.8, 209.7. **HRMS** ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ 259.0946, found 259.0942. **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1690, 1686.

1-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethane-1,2-dione (2f): General procedure was followed employing 499 mg (1.81 mmol) of 4-(4-trifluoromethylphenylethynyl)-anisole. Purification by flash chromatography (45% dichloromethane in

hexane) gave 320 mg (57%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.9 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 55.6, 114.5, 122.3, 124.5, 125.6, 125.9, 130.2, 132.5, 135.8, 165.3, 191.9, 193.3. **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₂F₃O₃ 309.0739, found 309.0746. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1680, 1654, 1601.

1-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2g):³ General procedure was followed employing 497 mg (2.3 mmol) of 1-chloro-4-phenylethynyl-benzene. Purification by flash chromatography (45% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 458 mg (80%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 129.1, 129.4, 129.9, 131.2, 131.4, 132.8, 135.1, 141.5, 193.0, 193.8. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1668, 1587.

1-(4-Methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2h): General procedure was followed employing 255 mg (1.0 mmol) of 1-methanesulfonyl-4-phenylethynyl-benzene. Purification by flash chromatography (60% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 190 mg (66%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.07 (s, 3H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 44.2, 128.1, 129.2, 130.0,

130.7, 132.4, 135.4, 136.8, 145.6, 192.5, 193.1. **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₄S 289.0534, found 289.0522. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1683, 1675, 1596.

1-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethane-1,2-dione (2i): General procedure was followed employing 530 mg (2.0 mmol) of (4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethynyl-4-trifluoromethyl-benzene. Purification by flash chromatography (15% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 552 mg (93%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (m, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 116.5(d), 126.1, 130.3, 132.8, 132.9, 135.5, 166.0, 168.0, 191.5, 192.5, **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₉F₄O₂ 297.0539, found 297.0547. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1670, 1664, 1598.

1-(Pyridin-3-yl)-2-*p*-tolyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2j): General procedure was followed employing 200.0 mg (1.03 mmol) of 1-(3-pyridinyl)-2-*p*-tolyl-ethyne. Purification by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 178.0 mg (76%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.40 (s, 3H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.9, 123.8, 128.7, 129.8, 130.0, 130.1, 136.8, 146.7, 151.3, 154.7, 192.6, 193.0. **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₂NO₂ 226.0868, found 226.0871. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1666, 1604, 1582.

1-(Isoquinolin-7-yl)-2-*p*-tolyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2k): General procedure was followed employing 490 mg (2.0 mmol) of 7-(*p*-tolyl-ethynyl)-isoquinoline. Purification by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 458 mg (83%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.46 (s, 3H); 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.68 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 22.0, 120.4, 127.7, 127.8, 128.1, 129.8, 130.2, 130.4, 131.7, 132.8, 138.6, 146.2, 146.6, 154.2, 193.5, 193.6. **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₄NO₂, 276.0124, found 276.0124. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1672, 1628, 1603.

1-Isoquinolin-7-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethane-1,2-dione (2l): General procedure was followed employing 498 mg (1.68 mmol) of 7-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenylethynyl)-isoquinoline. Purification by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 291 mg (53%) of the title compound. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 9.39 (s, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 20.9, 120.4, 126.1, 126.1, 127.6, 128.0, 128.1, 130.4, 131.2, 133.09, 135.5, 138.8, 146.4, 154.2, 192.1, 192.3. **HRMS** (M+H)⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₁F₃NO₂, 330.0742, found 330.0744. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹): 1678, 1656, 1626.

1-(3-Amino-phenyl)-2-p-tolyl-ethane-1,2-dione (2m): General procedure was followed employing 497 mg (2.4 mmol) of 3-*p*-tolylethynyl-phenylamine. Purification by flash chromatography (10% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 340 mg (59%) of the title compound. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.39 (s, 3H), 3.89 (brs, 2H), 6.88 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 21.9, 114.7, 120.3, 121.4, 129.7, 129.8, 129.9, 130.6, 133.9, 146.2, 147.3, 194.8, 195.4. **HRMS** ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ 240.1024, found 240.1017. **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3463, 3376, 1666, 1603.

4-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-acetyl]-benzoic acid (2n): General procedure was initially followed employing 515 mg (2.0 mmol) of 4-(2-chloro-phenylethynyl)-benzoic acid. Purification by flash chromatography (5% dichloromethane in hexane) gave 435 mg (75%) of the title compound. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.60 (ddd, $J = 7.5, 7.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, $J = 7.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (ddd, $J = 7.5, 7.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, $J = 7.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 13.48 (br, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 128.7, 130.5, 130.6, 131.2, 132.7, 133.0, 133.4, 135.2, 136.4, 136.6, 166.8, 191.9, 193.4. **HRMS** ($\text{M}-\text{H}$) $^-$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClO}_4$ 287.0117, found 287.0122. **IR** (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1685, 1680, 1583.

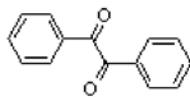
Phenylglyoxal (2o):⁴ General procedure was initially followed employing 1.0 g (10.0 mmol) of phenylacetylene. The crude product was extracted into dichloromethane, purified by chromatography using 15~20% ethyl acetate in hexanes afforded the title compound 740 mg, 48% yield. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz,

2H), 7.62 (dt, $J = 1.0, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, $J = 7.5, 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.67 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.6, 134.1, 133.7, 129.8, 128.9, 89.6. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3406, 1697, 1597.

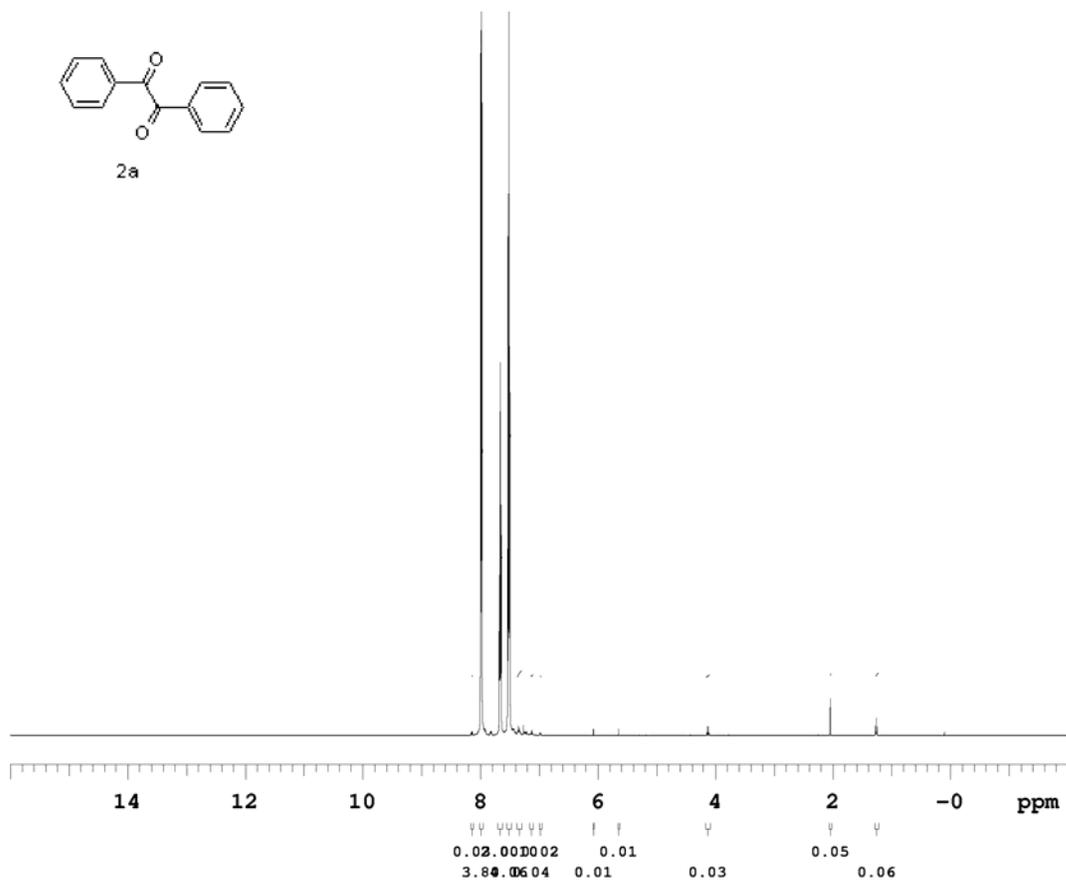
References

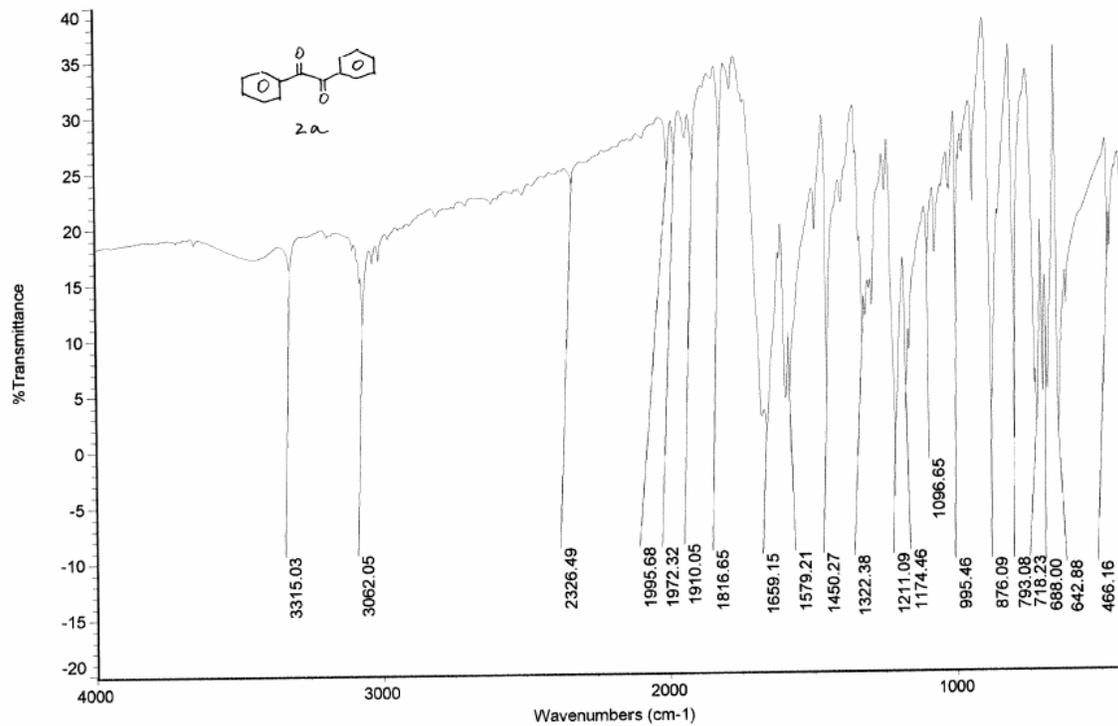
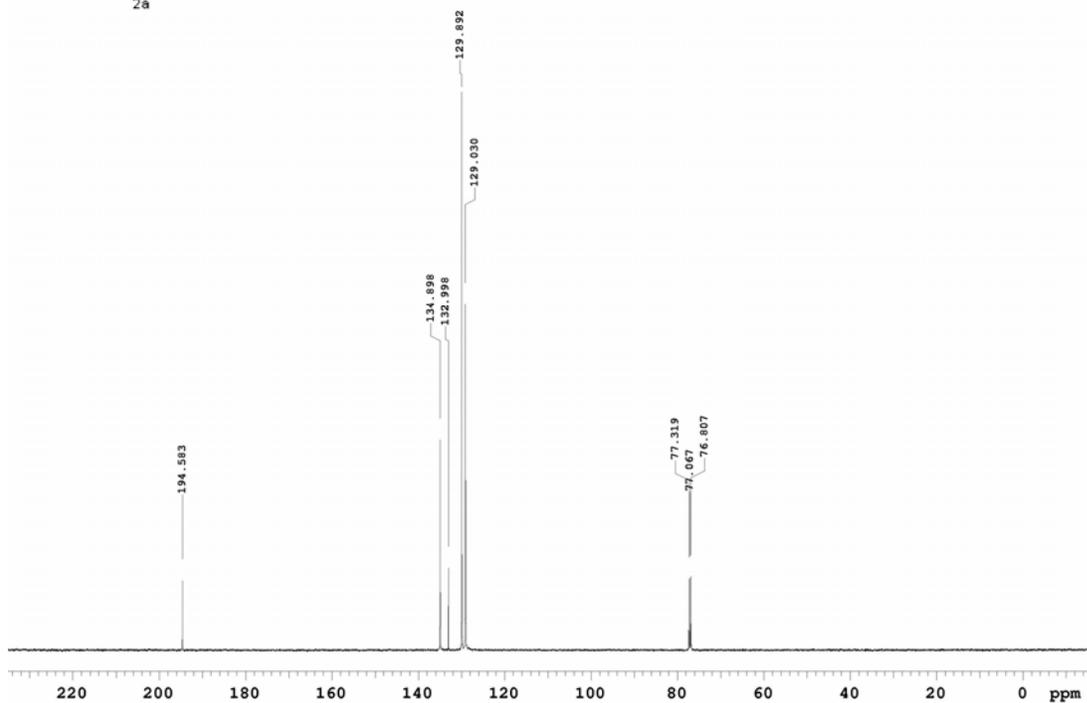
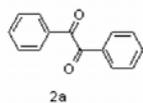
1. Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 2923-2925.
2. Olah, George A.; Grant, James L.; Westerman, Philip W. *J. Org. Chem.* **1975**, *40*, 2102-2108.
3. Clennan, Edward L.; Speth, David R.; Bartlett, Paul D. *J. Org. Chem.* *48*, 1246-1250.
4. Meester, Johan W. G. De; Plas, Henk C. van der; Middelhoven, Wouter J.; *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1987**, *24*, 441-451.

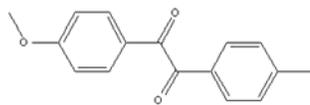
NMR and IR Spectra



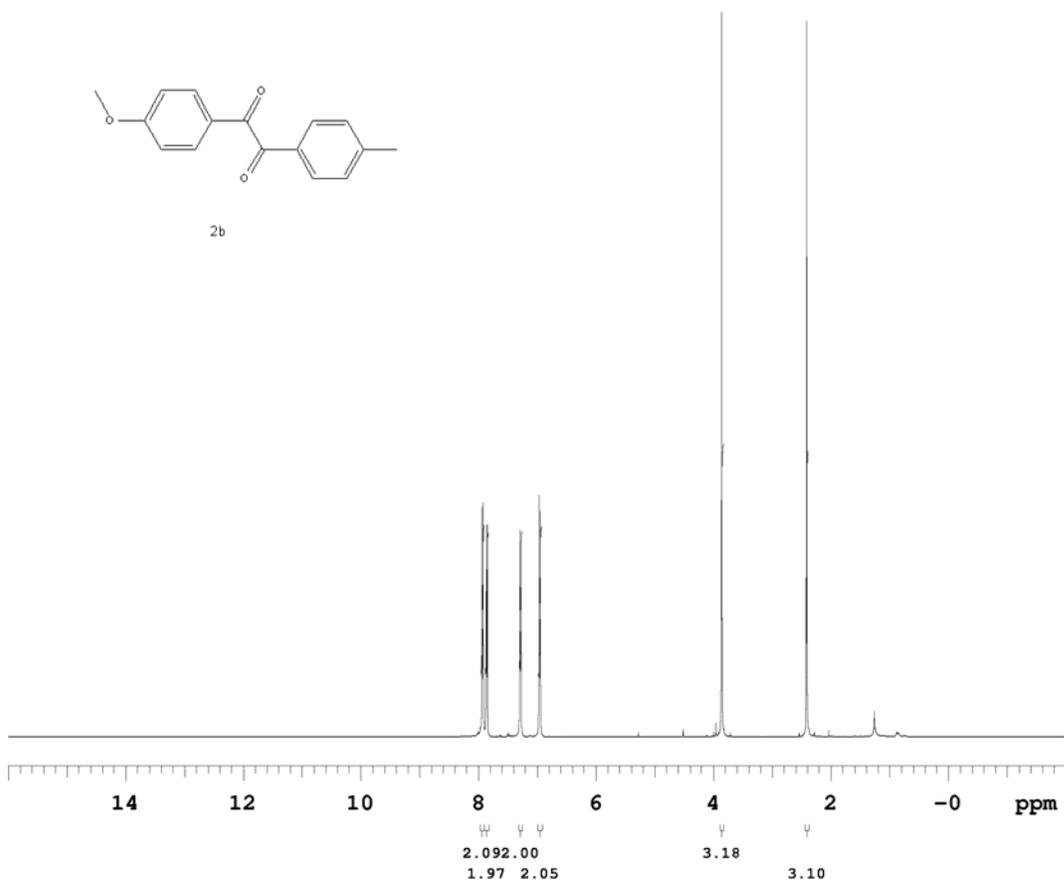
2a

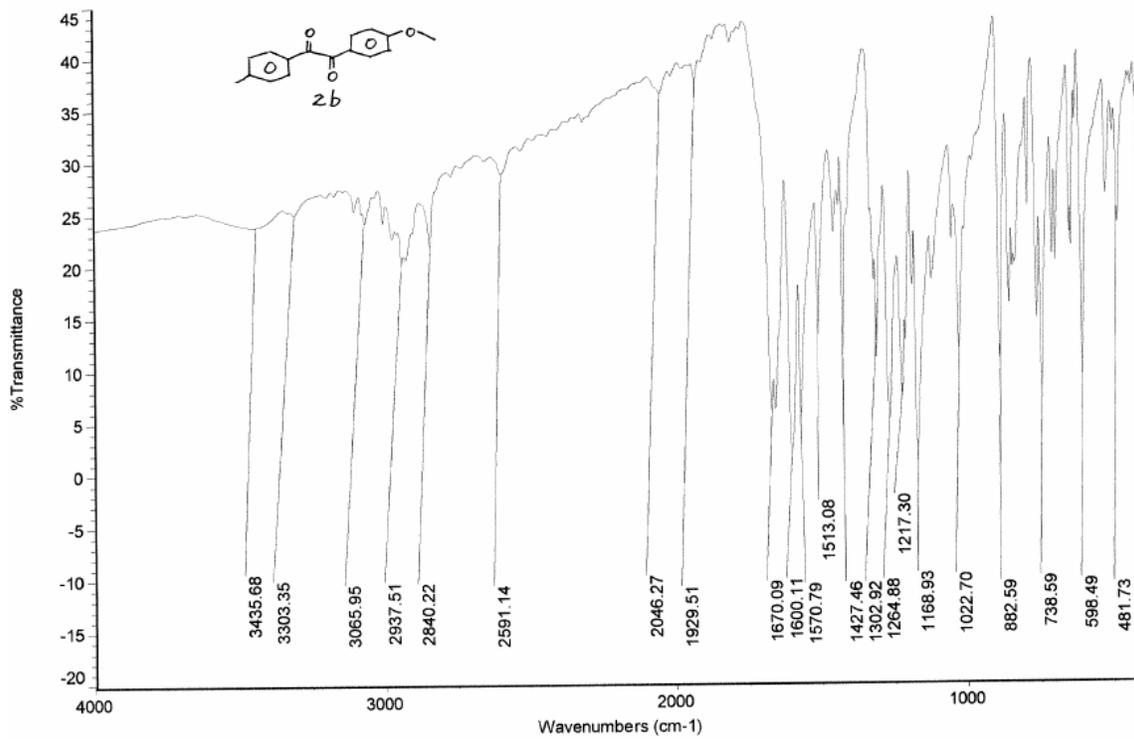
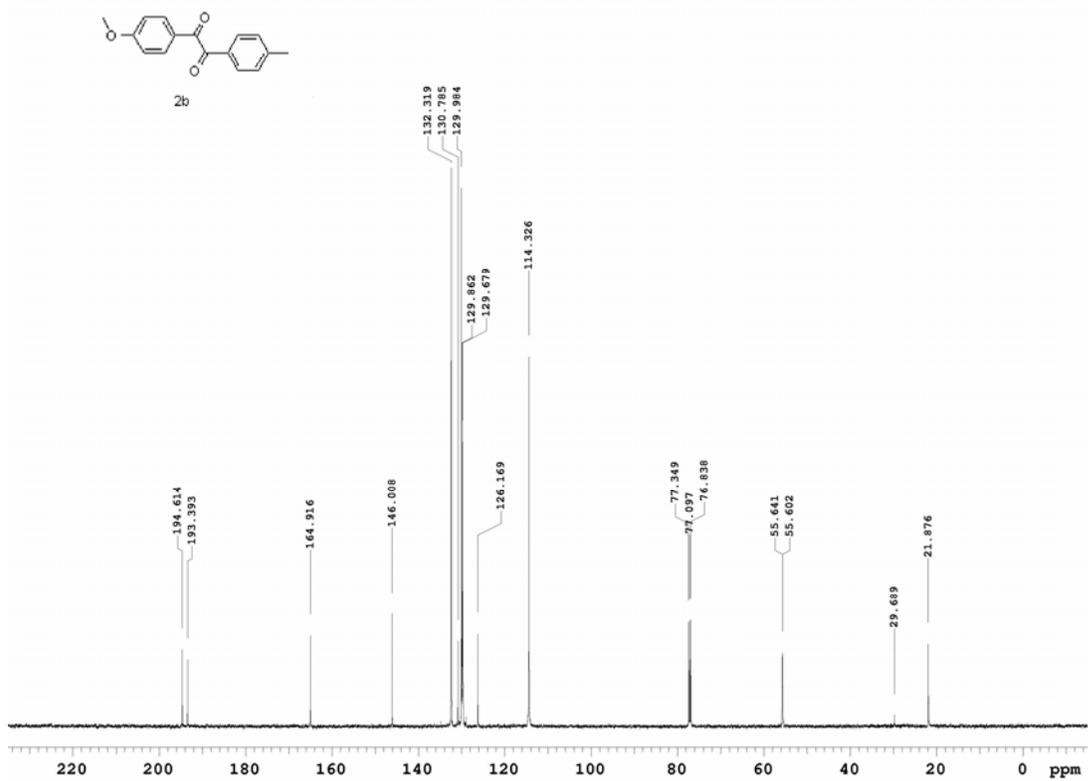


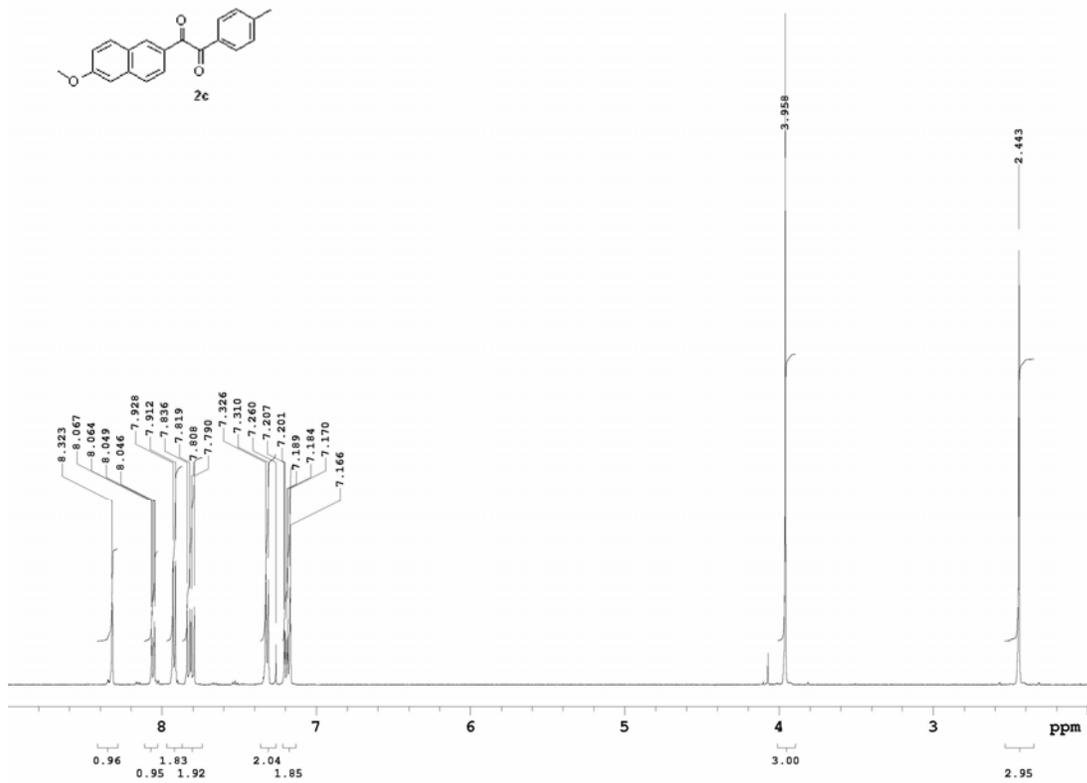
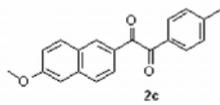


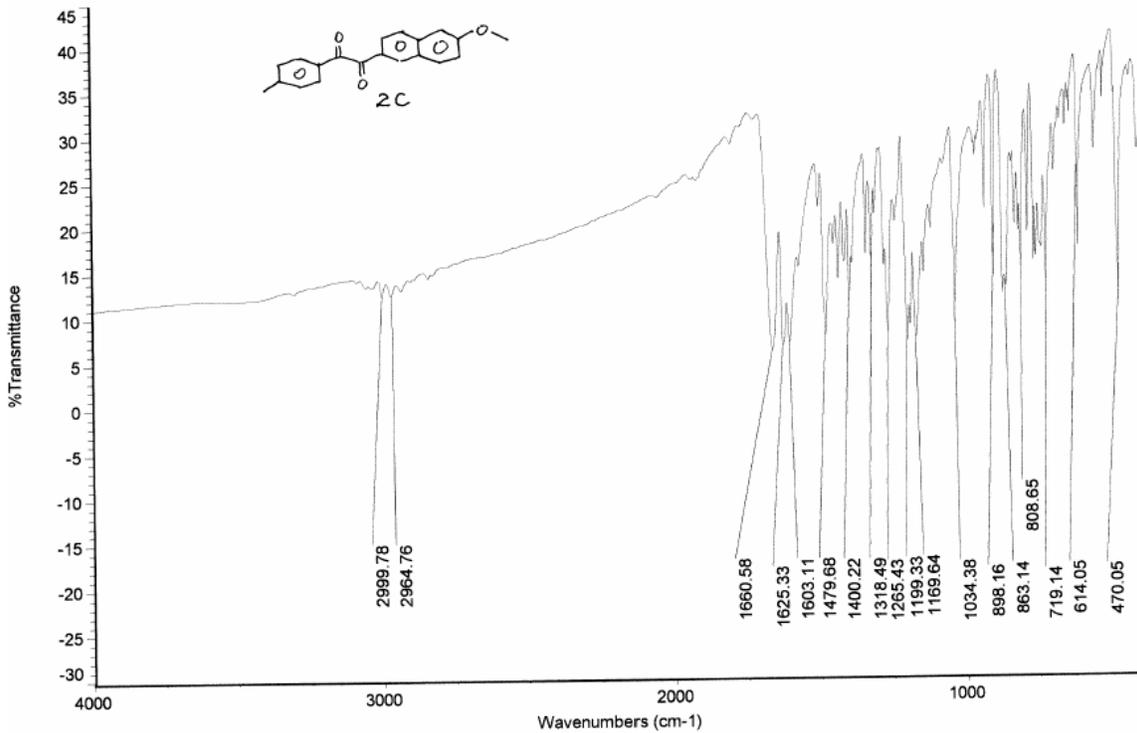
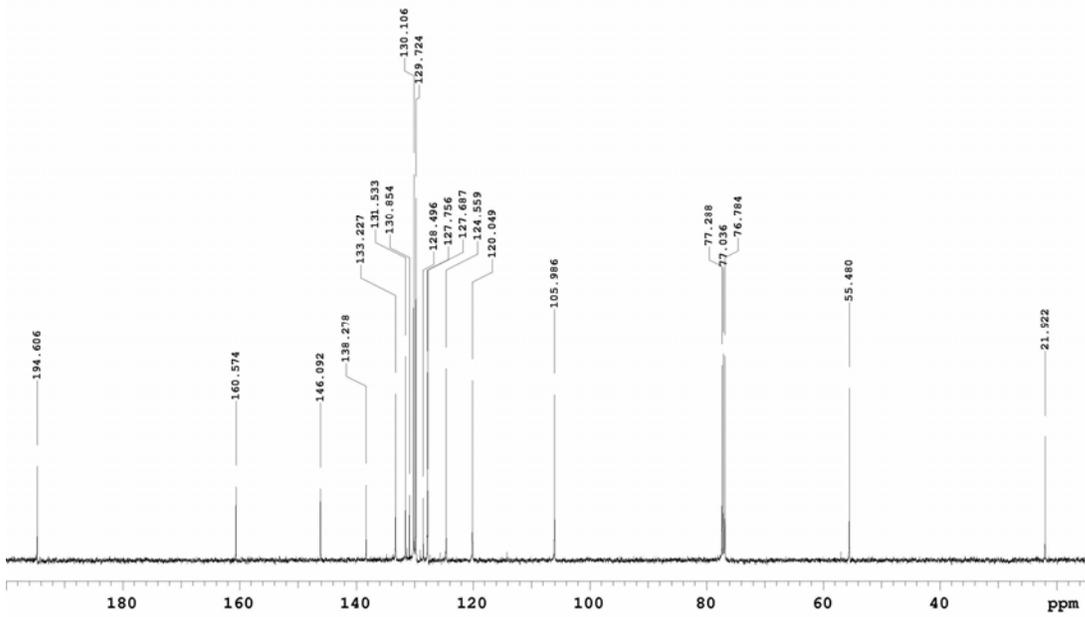
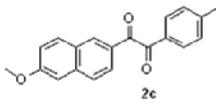


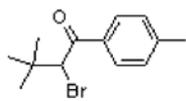
2b



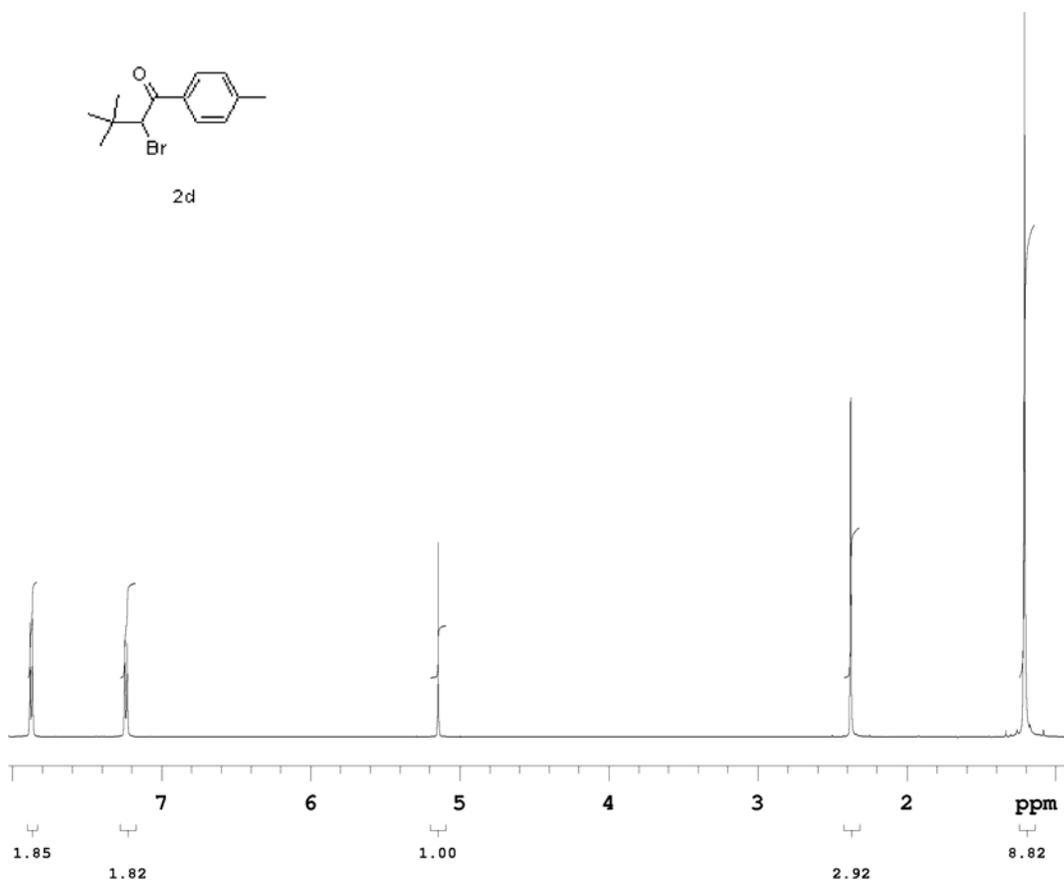


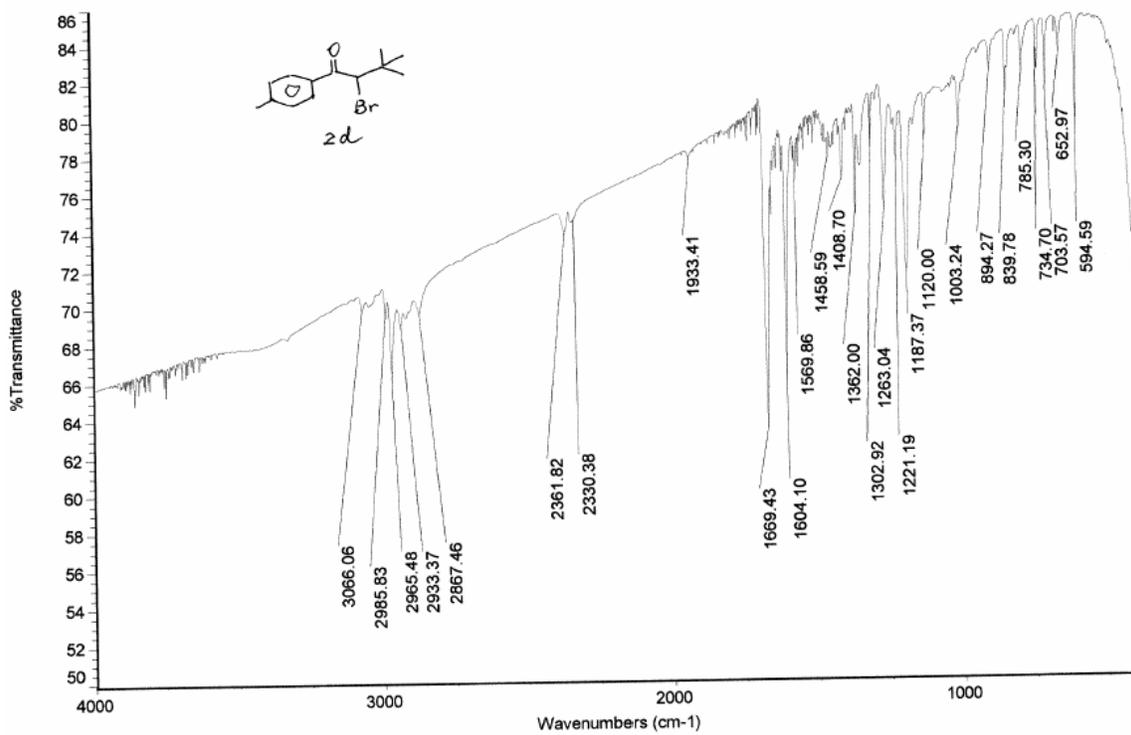
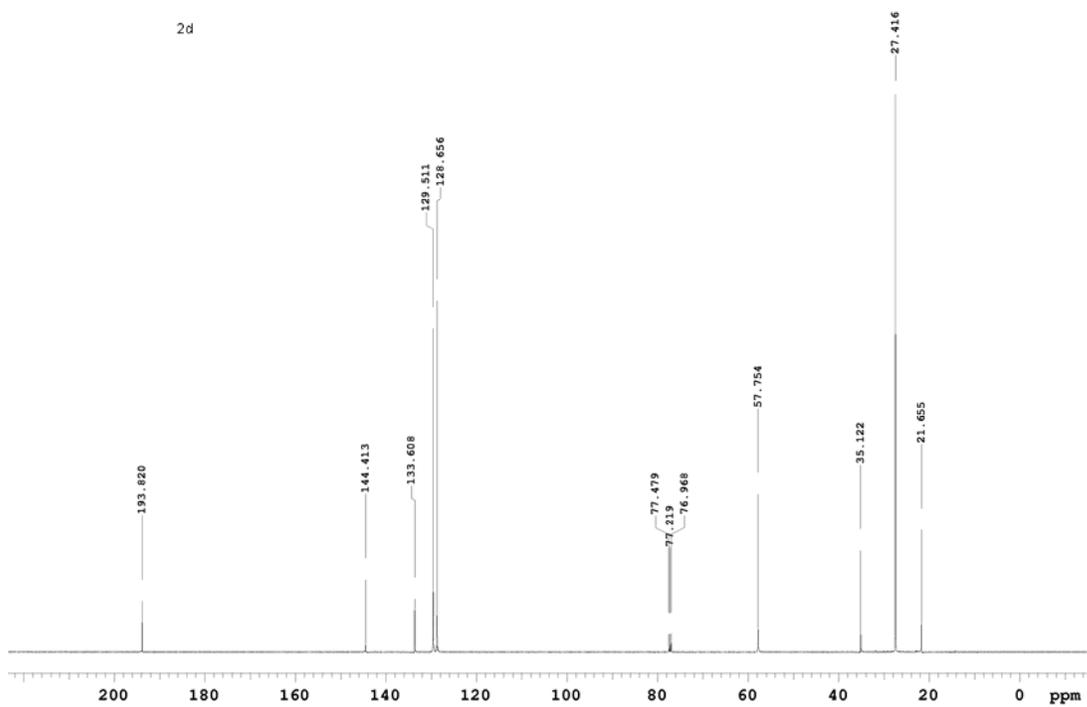
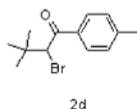


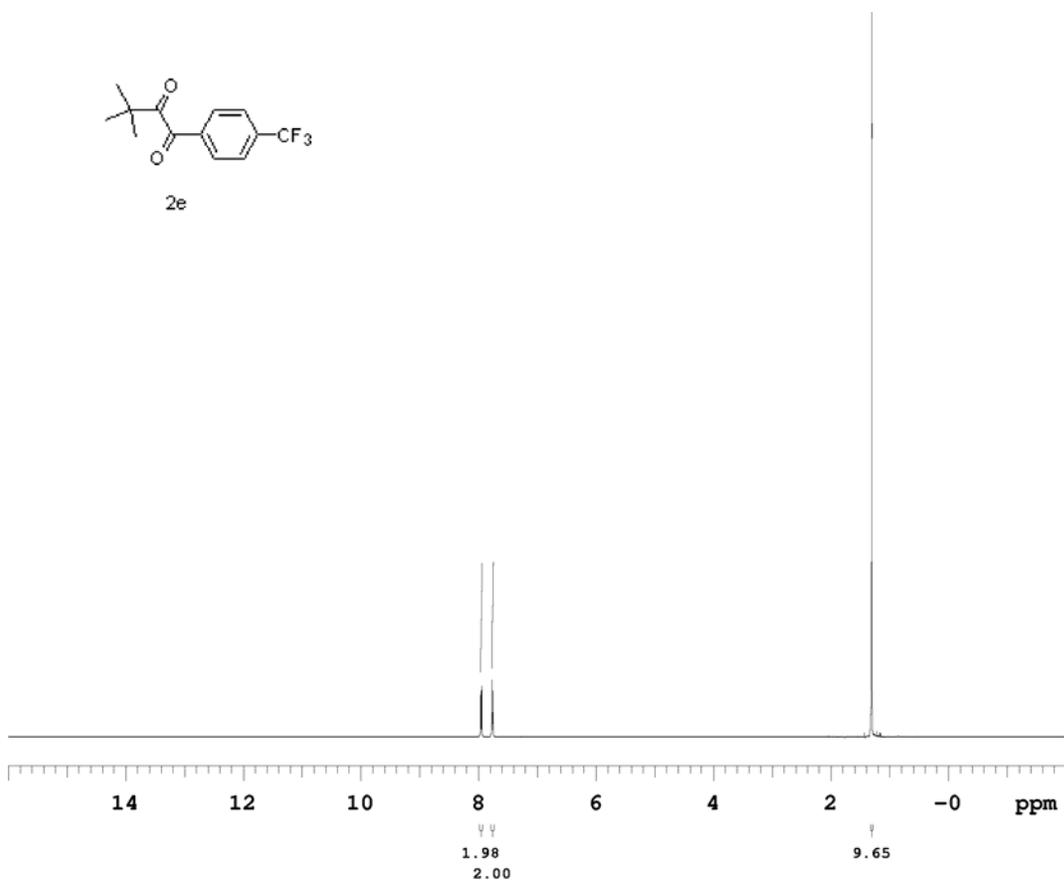
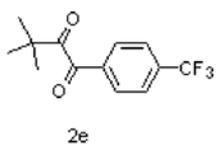


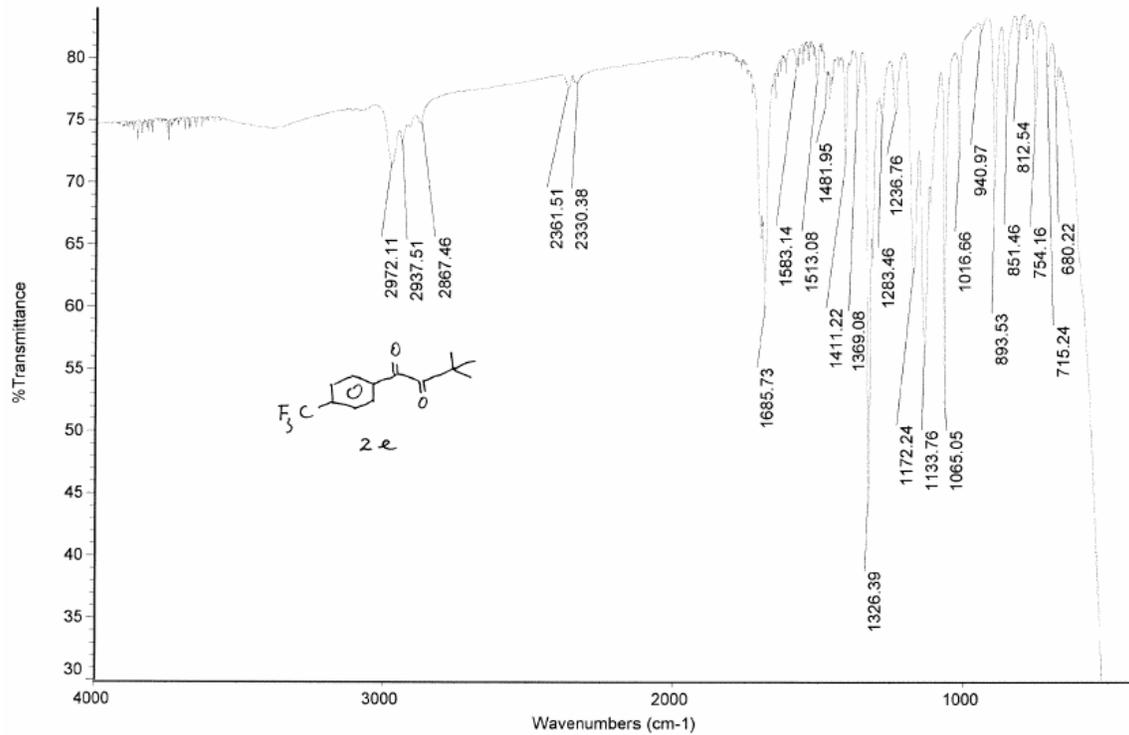
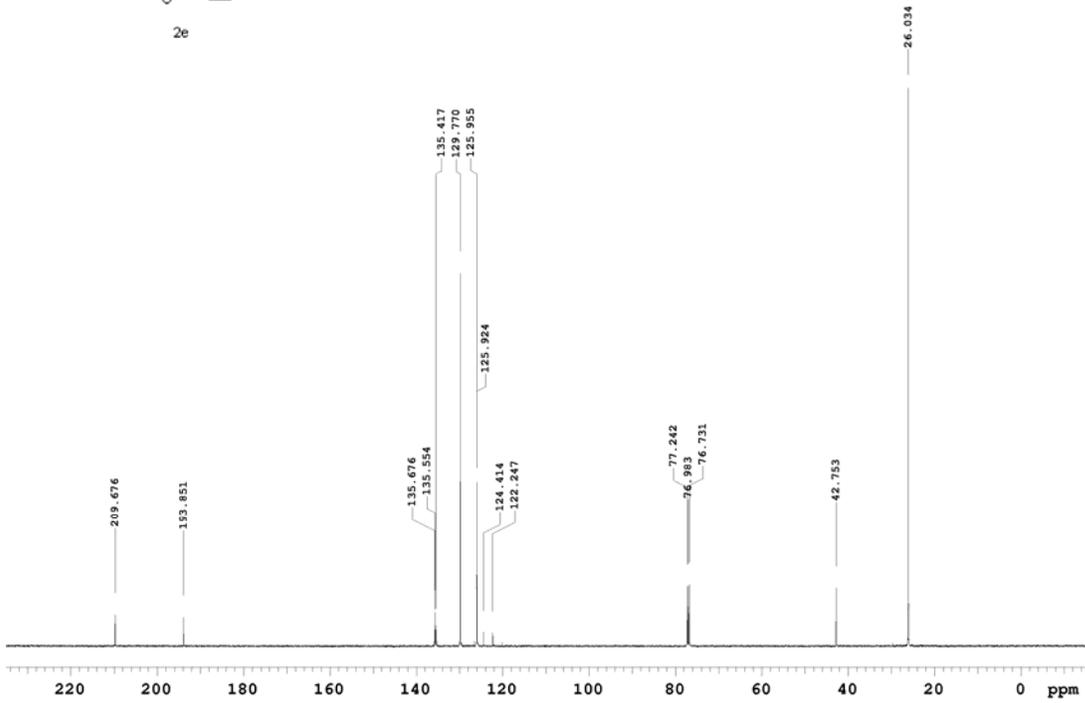
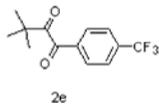


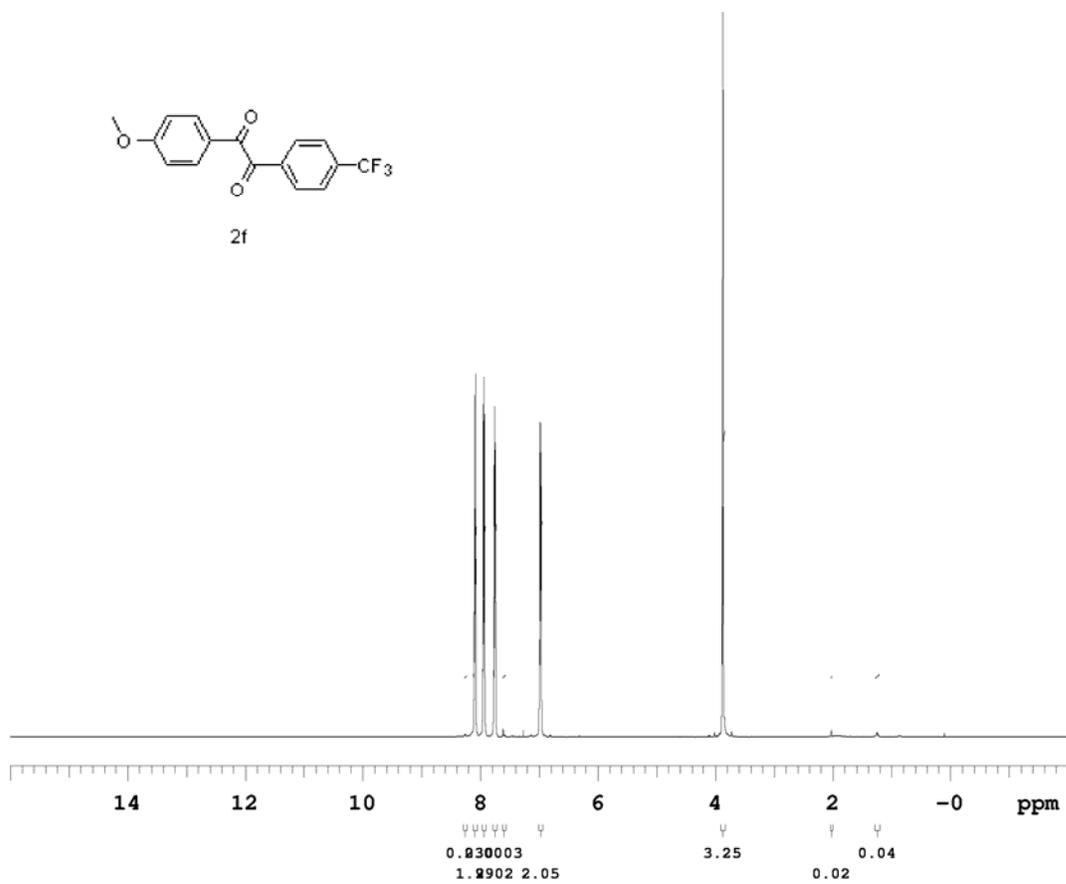
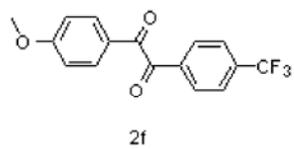
2d

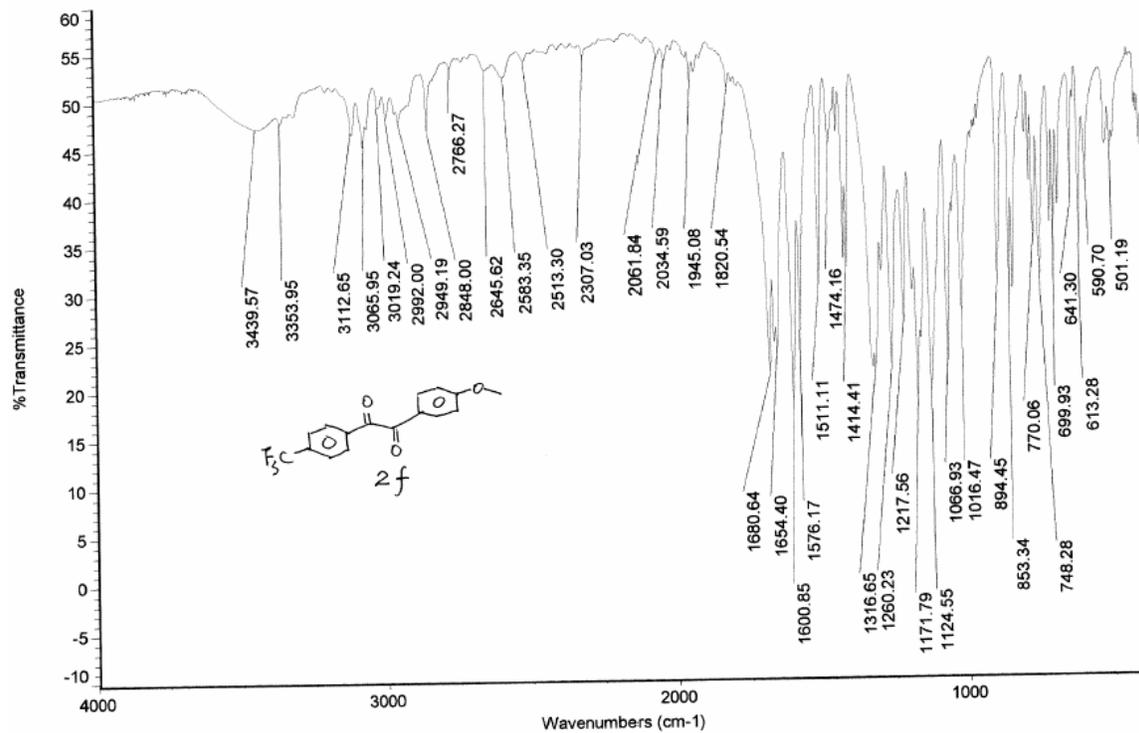
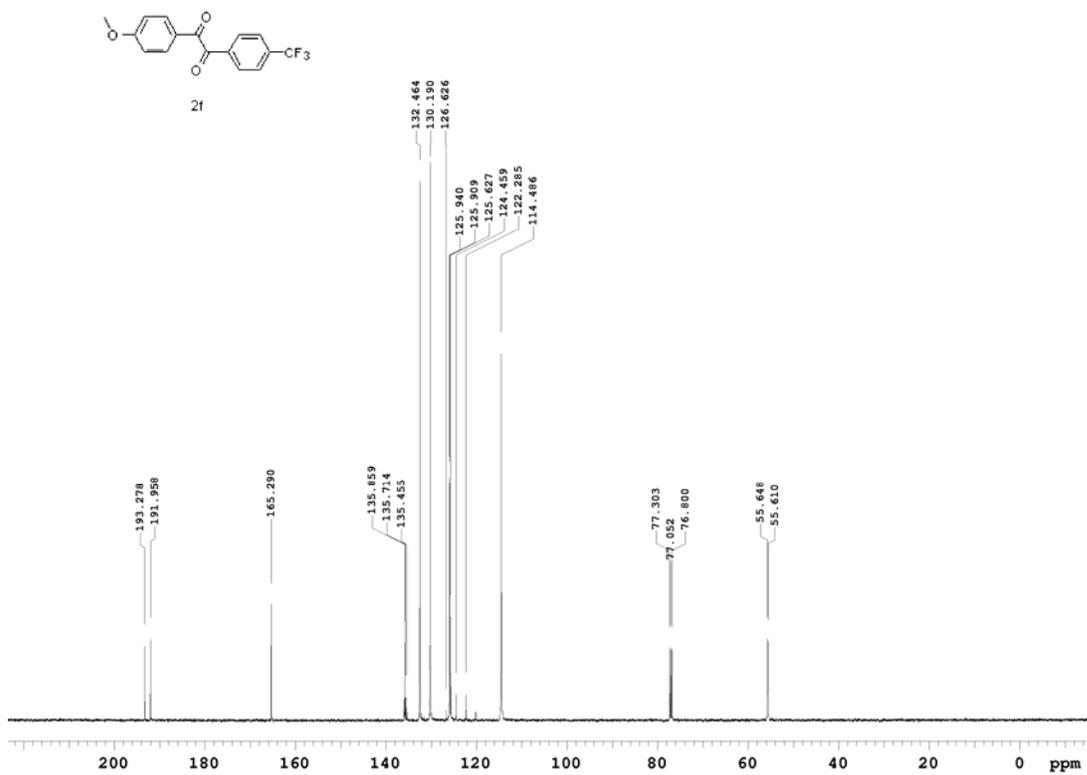


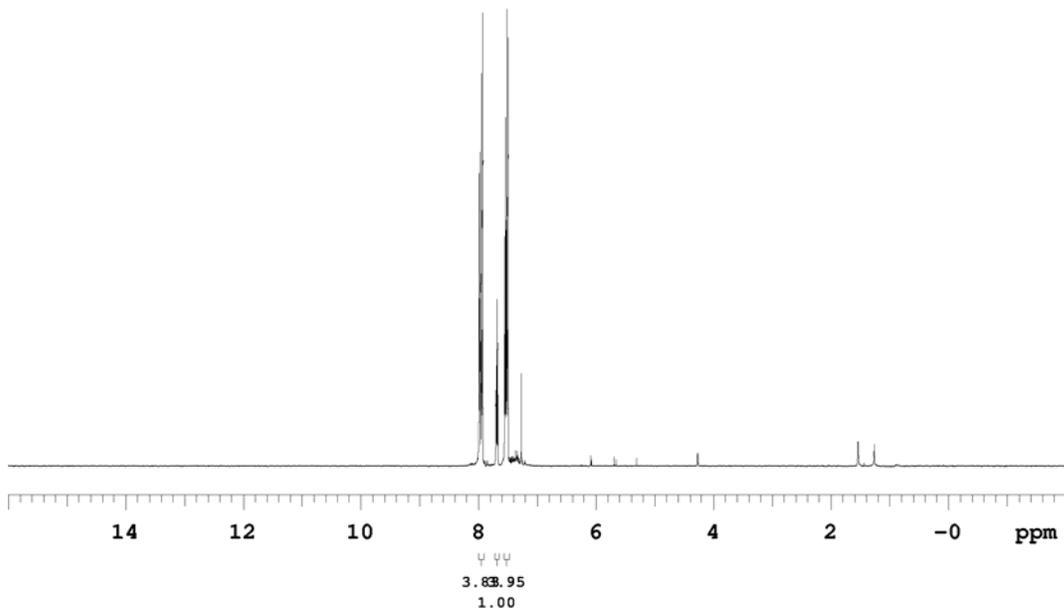
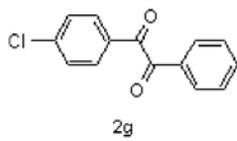


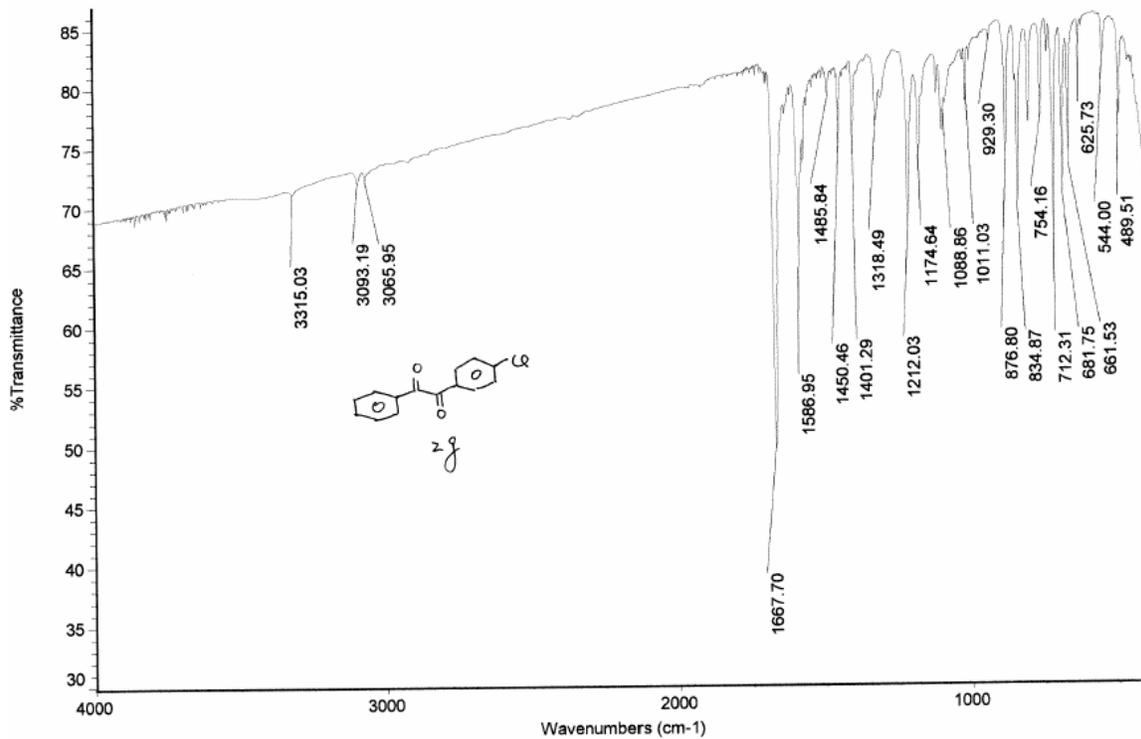
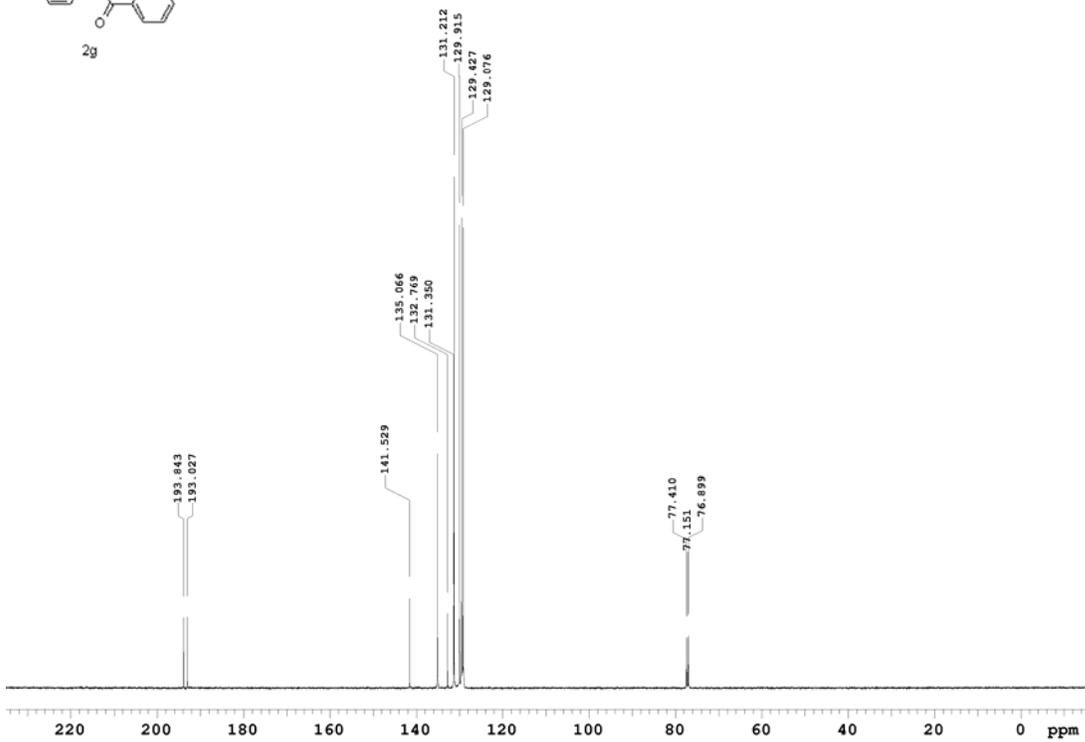
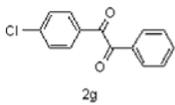


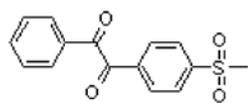












2h

