

Exploring the Catalytic Radical Reactivity of Diazaphospholenes

by

Robert D. Riley

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Abstract

A subset of *N*-heterocyclic phosphines known as 1,3,2 diazaphosphetenes (DAPs) have amassed significant attention over recent years. DAPs are excellent reduction catalysts for carbonyls, imines, pyridines, and enoates by virtue of being a strong hydride donors. *N*-heterocyclic phosphines are also known to engage in radical reactions such as carbon-carbon bond formation, hydrodehalogenations, and deoxygenation chemistry by hydrogen atom transfer. This thesis will present the first catalytic C-C bond forming intramolecular cyclization by diazaphosphetene hydrides (DAP-H) generated in-situ from diazaphosphetene bromides (DAP-Br). The catalysis is done without requiring a radical initiator, at room temperature, with 10% catalyst loading, and with the use of LED lights. A substrate scope examined using this chemistry showed that product formations were tolerant of some common functional groups. This work was followed by attempts at intermolecular alkylation chemistry, using the same conditions as in the former.

List of Abbreviations and Symbols Used

σ	Sigma (bonding orbital)
σ^*	Sigma star (anti-bonding orbital)
Δ	Delta (heat)
δ	Delta (chemical shift)
λ	Lambda (wavelength)
Å	Angstrom
°C	Degrees Celsius
Ac	Acyl
ACN	Acetonitrile
Ad	Adamantyl
AIBN	Azobisisobutyronitrile
aq	Aqueous
Ar	Aryl
br	Broad
calc'd	Calculated
cm	Centimetre
d	Doublet
DAP	Diazaphospholene
DCM	Dichloromethane
dd	Doublet of doublets
DMF	N,N-Dimethylformamide
dq	Doublet of quartets
dt	Doublet of triplets
eq	Equivalent
ESI	Electrospray ionization

g	Grams
H	Hours
HB(pin)	Pinacol borane
HRMS	High resolution mass spectrometry
Hz	Hertz
iPr	Isopropyl
<i>J</i>	Coupling constant
K	Kelvin
LED	Light emitting diode
m	Multiplet
Me	Methyl
mL	Millilitre
mol	Molar
Mp	Melting point
NHP	<i>N</i> -heterocyclic phosphine
nm	Nanometre
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
OMe	Methoxy
P	Pentet
Ph	Phenyl
ppm	Parts per million
Red-Al	Sodium bis(2-methoxyethoxy)aluminium hydride
RT	Room temperature
s	Singlet
T	Triplet
t-Bu	<i>Tert</i> -butyl
td	Triplet of doublets

THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TMS	Trimethylsilane
X	Halogen

Acknowledgements

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Diazaphospholenes, Synthesis and Applications

N-heterocyclic phosphines (NHPs), phosphorus analogues of the heavily utilized *N*-heterocyclic carbenes, are used as ligands in organometallic chemistry.¹ Most recently they have been used as metal-free catalysts for a number of reductive transformations.^{2,3} Diazaphospholenes (DAPs) are a sub-class of *N*-heterocyclic phosphine catalysts, increasingly studied for their ability to catalyze organic transformations. DAPs have a five membered cyclic structure with a N-P-N bonded framework, and an unsaturated carbon backbone. The groups bonded on the nitrogen can be alkyl or aryl substituents, and these influence the reactivity of DAPs (Figure 1.1).

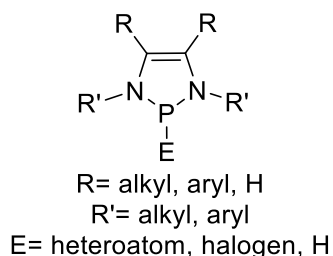
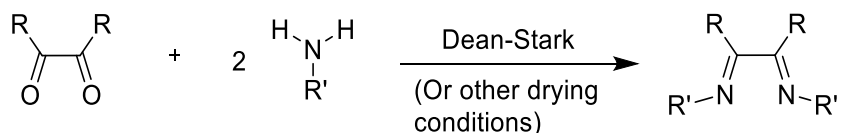


Figure 1.1: General structure of a diazaphospholene, a substituted five membered NHP with an unsaturated backbone.

A bulky N substituent creates steric hinderance, potentially slowing reactions, while conversely an electron withdrawing/donating substituent can be added to alter the electronics of the DAP. Chiral substituents that produce an enantiopure DAP have been added to control enantioselectivity in DAP reductions.^{4,5} Although NHPs with a saturated backbone

(diazaphospholidines) exist, unsaturation of the carbon backbone of the DAP enhances the hydride donor properties. When the backbone is saturated, the NHP halides tend to be more soluble in organic solvents, indicating that they have greater covalent character. The carbon backbone can also be altered by adding a wide range of substituents to change the reactivity.⁶ The phosphorus atom of the cyclic catalyst is in oxidation state III, and it is usually bonded to an exocyclic halogen when initially prepared.

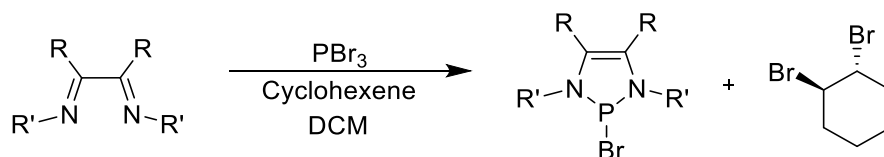
Diazaphospholenes are conveniently prepared from diimines. There are several methods in the literature for synthesizing the diimine precursor. One of the more effective syntheses begins from a functionalized 1,2-diketone or dialdehyde (glyoxal) species, to which is added two equivalents of a primary amine under drying conditions (Scheme 1.1). Sodium sulfate is commonly used as the drying agent for the glyoxal/amine condensation reactions. The R' substituent may be an alkyl or aryl group.⁷



Scheme 1.1: General synthesis of the diimine precursor for diazaphospholenes.

There are several possible pathways to transform the diimine to a DAP product. The most convenient method to form DAPs involves cyclization of the diimine with a phosphorus halide species. When PI_3 is used, the cyclization occurs spontaneously, with elimination of the triiodide anion, while use of PBr_3 requires a halogen scavenger. The Macdonald Cyclization is a convenient synthesis to form DAP bromides from the diimine, phosphorus (III) bromide and cyclohexene,

added as the bromine scavenger, providing clean product formation in good yields (Scheme 1.2).⁸ However, applying these cyclizations to the formation of DAPs with small alkyl R' groups on the nitrogen is not very clean, potentially due to further intermolecular reactions that are blocked in the case of larger alkyl or aryl groups. In addition, other researchers in the Speed group have found that these conditions result in decomposition when both the R' and R groups are alkyl groups, due to enamine formation at the R groups. The cyclization is successful when the R groups are alkyl groups, and the R' groups are aryl groups.

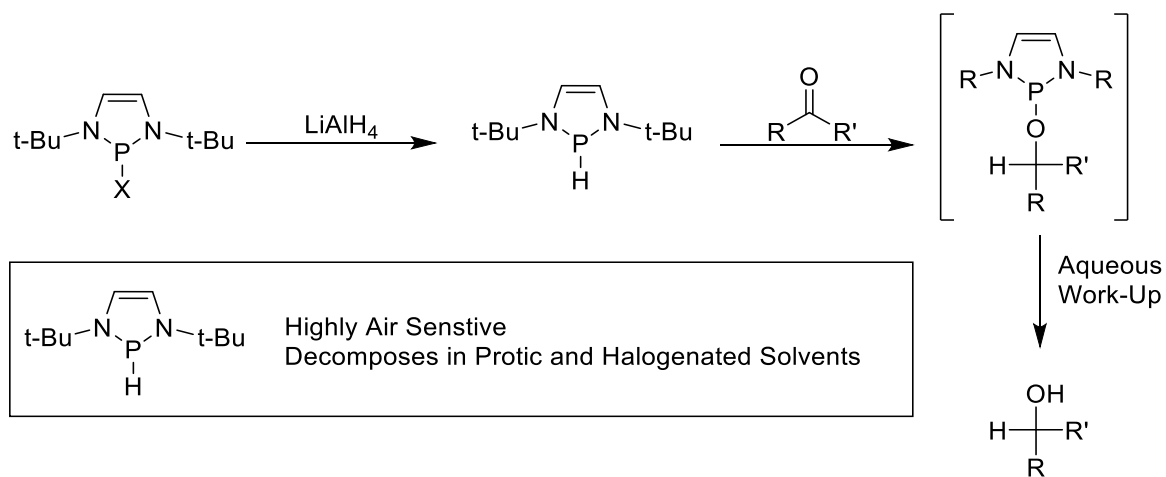


Scheme 1.2: The general reaction scheme of the MacDonald Cyclization using a diimine, phosphorus (III) bromide, and cyclohexene.

The phosphorus halide bond on the DAP is prone to nucleophilic attack, enabling synthesis of several P-bond substituted DAPs, each of which has its own application.

The P-X environment of DAPs has been studied by Gudat and his colleagues using a combination of computational and experimental methods.⁹ In their work it was found that the P-X bond of the diazaphospholene compounds is unusually long (1.51 Å for the DAP-Cl bearing mesityl N substituents). This lengthening is due to stereo-electronic effects experienced on the σ^* orbital of the P-X bond. The carbon nitrogen backbone of the diazaphospholene donates electron density (by hyperconjugation) to the σ^* orbital. This in turn increases the ionic character of the

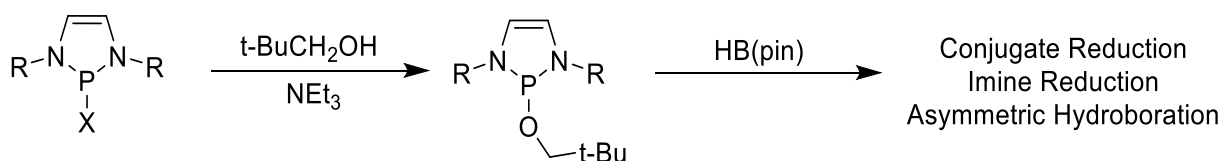
P-X bond due to the energy increase from the accepting P-X σ^* orbital polarizing the bond between the phosphorus atom and its substituent. The aromaticity of the phosphonium stabilizes the partially cationic phosphorus. These factors in turn lower the P-X bond heterolytic dissociation energy, meaning that DAP halides have significant ionic character.



Scheme 1.3: Synthesis of the DAP hydride followed by its application in reduction chemistry to afford the alcohol after aqueous work-up.

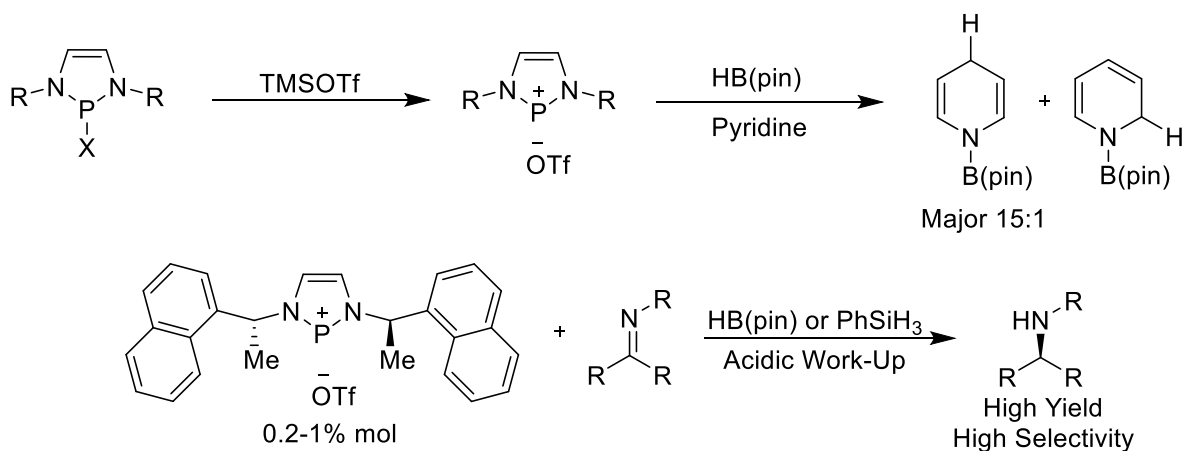
This bond polarization is also observed when there are other substituents on the DAP phosphorus, including the P-H of the DAP hydride. The same rationale of electron donation into the P-X antibonding orbital is used to explain why DAP hydrides are very strong hydride donors. This is very intriguing reactivity due to the similar electronegativity exhibited by phosphorus (2.19) and hydrogen (2.20). Most common hydride reductants such as boron hydrides or aluminum hydrides have the hydride bound to a more electropositive metal. DAP hydrides are synthesized from DAP halides by reduction using a metal hydride donating reducing reagent such as lithium aluminum hydride. Gudat subsequently found that the complex hydride Red-Al (Sodium bis(2-methoxyethoxy)aluminum hydride) gave cleaner formation of the P-H compound.

Applications of DAP hydrides were first shown in Gudat and Burck's work, where aldehydes and ketones were reduced upon addition of DAP-H followed by an aqueous work-up (Scheme 1.3).¹⁰ This is noteworthy, because typically secondary phosphines would add to aldehydes or ketones in a reversed manner, where the phosphorus would be the most nucleophilic site.



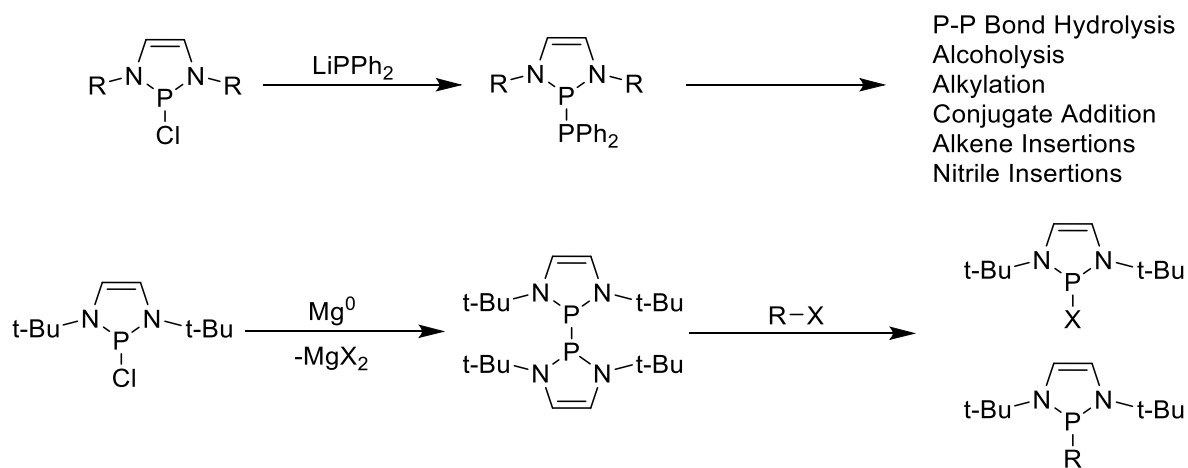
Scheme 1.4: DAP alkoxide synthesis and utilization in conjugate reductions, imine reductions, and asymmetric hydroborations.

Kinjo et al. discovered that the DAP alkoxide intermediate originally generated by Gudat could react with HB(pin) to re-form DAP-H, showing the potential for catalytic turnover in reduction chemistry. The catalytic activity and isolation of DAP alkoxides was originally discovered by the Speed group, where reaction of the alkoxide with HB(pin) generated the DAP hydride in situ; further catalytic activity was then observed. This DAP alkoxide variant has been used as an air-stable pre-catalyst for imine reductions, conjugate reductions, and asymmetric hydroborations (Scheme 1.4).^{7, 11, 12, 13} These methods of using DAP alkoxides proved to be excellent alternatives to the previously utilized platinum group complexes required for similar imine reductions and to the tin complexes used for conjugate reductions.^{14,15}



Scheme 1.5: Synthesis of the diazaphosphenium triflate salt, followed by its use in the hydroboration of pyridines.

DAP phosphonium triflates had not been utilized in catalysis before 2018, but their electronic and structural properties were subjects of interest in the 1980s and 90s along with those of similar cyclic diazaphosphonium compounds.^{16, 17} DAP alkoxides were shown to be promisingly robust pre-catalysts in work published in 2017 and 2018. The Kinjo group then developed an alternative system using a DAP phosphonium triflate salt catalyst for pyridine reduction. This DAP phosphonium catalyst was shown to be more active in reducing pyridines than the neutral catalyst developed in the Speed group, which was applied to pyridine reduction in the same time frame.¹⁸ In mid 2019, the Speed group published work with chiral DAP phosphonium triflate catalysts, which were shown to selectively reduce imines with high yield and high enantioselectivity when applied to a large scope of cyclic imines (Scheme 1.5).¹⁹



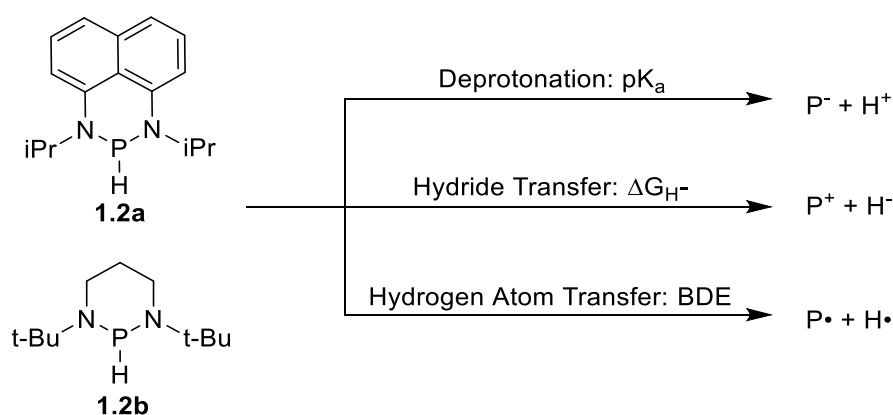
Scheme 1.6: Top - Synthesis of P-P DAP diphenylphosphine followed by its application in synthesis (P-P bond hydrolysis, alcoholysis, alkylation, conjugate addition, alkene insertions). Bottom - Synthesis of bis-diazaphospholene followed by its application of self-functionalization with electrophiles.

The addition of nucleophiles other than H have been explored at the phosphorus. Phosphorus-phosphorus bonded species involving DAPs were first isolated by reaction of DAP chlorides with lithiated phosphanides and phospholides. These compounds later showed activity towards conjugate addition, alkylation, insertion reactions and more due to the intense nucleophilicity of the phosphorus.²⁰ Despite this interesting reactivity, no catalytic reactions have yet been reported for phosphorus nucleophile addition from a DAP.

A distinct class of DAPs bearing P-substituents on the P are DAP dimers. These dimers are formed by reduction of DAP chlorides or bromides with magnesium dust. The tert-butyl DAP dimer variant has been shown to react with a variety of electrophiles to form functionalized diazaphospholenes (scheme 1.6).²¹

1.2 NHP Radical Reactivity

In 2020, the group of Yang and Cheng published a series of papers exploring the radical activity of diazaphospholanes, and few diazaphospholenes, focusing on hydrogen atom transfers. In their first paper, the reactivity of the P-H bond in the *N*-heterocyclic diazaphospholanes **1.2a** and **1.2b** were investigated in three fashions: deprotonation, hydride transfer, and hydrogen atom transfer (Scheme 1.7).

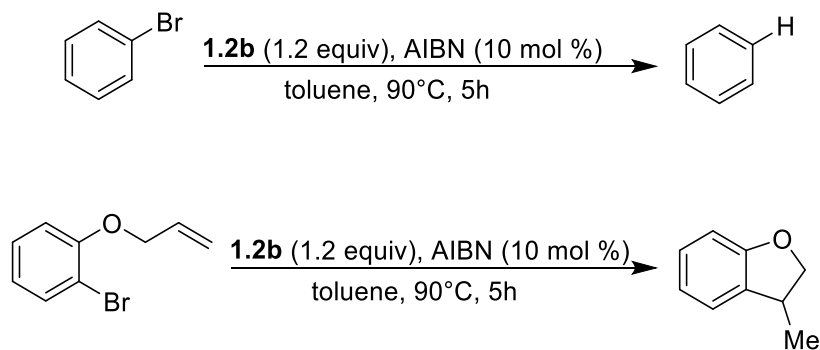


Scheme 1.7: Diazaphospholanes **1.2a** and **1.2b** used in Yang and Cheng's work on the release of hydrogen.

Hydrogen donor abilities were quantified using oxidation potentials from cyclic voltammetry results, and from a series of deprotonation reactions used to measure acidity. It was concluded that hydride donation in diazaphospholanes was effective and limiting results from the deprotonation experiments led them to determine that diazaphospholanes are not very acidic. What was surprising, given the strong hydricity of the DAPS, was that their investigation into compounds **1.2a** and **1.2b** also showed their ability to donate a hydrogen atom. Yang and Cheng demonstrated this hydrogen atom donor ability by reacting the diazaphospholanes with

the stable oxygen-centred 2,4,6-tri-butyl-phenoxy radical O[•], generating the corresponding phenol, and the aryloxy diazaphospholene.²²

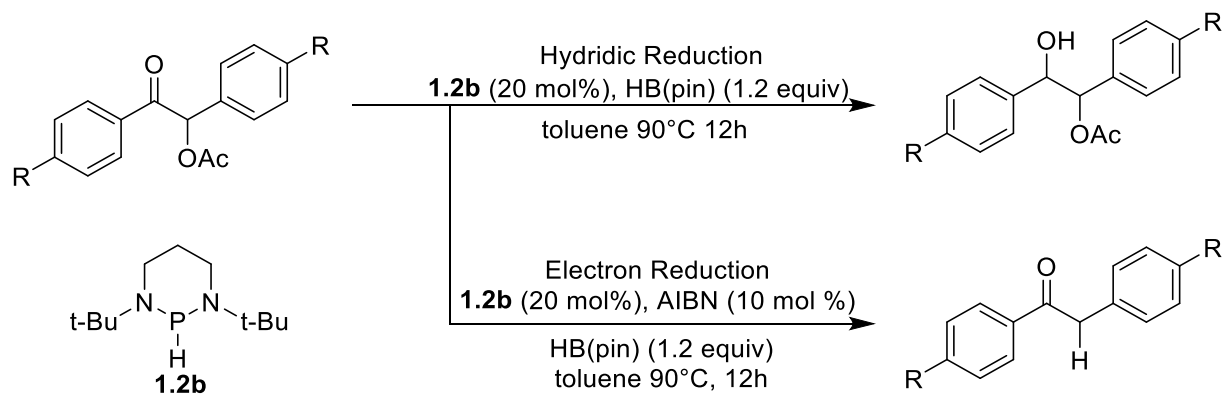
After finding out that these classes of *N*-heterocyclic phosphine hydrides were capable of participating in radical chemistry via donation of a hydrogen atom or an electron, they were subsequently applied in hydrodehalogenations, and intramolecular cyclizations, reactions known to occur by radical mechanisms. Several *N*-heterocyclic phosphines were tested in this work, including diazaphospholenes, though the DAP results were not superior to the saturated diazaphosphanes. Using 1.2 eq of diazaphospholane catalyst **1.2b**, with a 10 mol % of radical initiator AIBN with heating, a series of halogenated compounds, mostly aromatic, were hydrodehalogenated (Scheme 1.8). Using the same conditions, aryl halide ether substrates were also found to undergo intramolecular cyclization with several substrates (Scheme 1.8).



Scheme 1.8: Hydrodehalogenation (top) and intramolecular cyclization (bottom) using a stoichiometric amount of **1.2b** and a catalytic amount of AIBN.²³

The last project in Yang and Cheng's radical *N*-heterocyclic phosphine series involved deoxygenation of α -acyloxy ketones that undergo deoxygenation at the position alpha to the ketone through a radical mechanism (Scheme 1.9). The same method and reagents mentioned

in the previous project were used to perform the cleavage. The versatility of catalyst **1.2b** was also demonstrated, since the hydric reductions could be performed using only a terminal reductant and diazaphosphinane, without the radical initiator. These conditions reduced the carbonyl group of the substrate, instead of cleaving the acetyl function.²⁴



Scheme 1.9: Diazaphospholane **1.2b** used in hydric reductions (top), and electron-transfer reduction (bottom).²⁴

1.3 Overview of Thesis

The following chapters in this thesis present the two main projects that I worked on during my MSc program at Dalhousie University under the supervision of Professor Alex Speed. The completed first project focuses on screening experiments leading to the optimal reaction conditions for the intramolecular radical cyclization reactions of aryl ether and thioether alkenyl substrates, catalyzed by diazaphospholene bromides. Screening of reaction conditions and substrate scope results are discussed. The incomplete second project focuses on intermolecular alkylation reactions, where conditions similar to those used in the intramolecular cyclization reactions were applied to form carbon-carbon bonds from aryl halides and alkene radical acceptors.

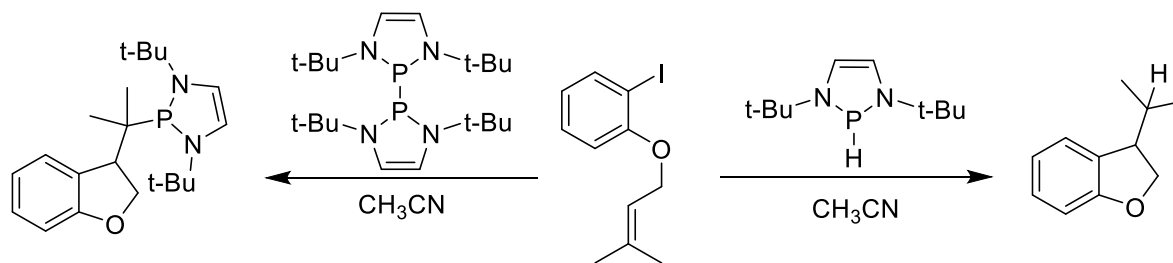
Chapter 2 : Intramolecular Cyclizations Catalyzed by Diazaphospholenes

2.1 Contributions

Dr. Alex Speed is thanked for the synthesis of compound **2.2e**. Dr. Blake Huchenski is thanked for the synthesis of compound **2.2F**. Mr. Xiao Feng is also thanked for acquiring the HRMS data for this project.

2.2 Introduction

The work presented in this chapter was inspired by a recent publication from the Speed group disclosing the previously mentioned functionalization of diazaphospholene dimers.²¹ During the substrate scope of the functionalization, an aryl iodide ether containing a prenyl group was reacted with the diazaphospholene dimer system as a probe for the intermediacy of radicals. The result obtained showed that the substrate cyclized, along with the functionalization of the alkene with a DAP group. The unexpectedly observed cyclization had already been reported in the literature, with the 5-exo-trig process known as a radical clock reaction.²⁵ Separately, a DAP hydride was reacted with this substrate, and an intramolecular cyclization was observed, where the radical addition terminated with the donation of an H atom. In both cases, a DAP iodide was the other product formed (Scheme 2.1).



Scheme 2.1: An aryl iodide ether prenyl substrate reacted under the DAP dimer functionalization protocol. The product from the dimer reaction shows functionalization and intramolecular cyclization from the substrate (left). The product from the hydride reaction shows intramolecular cyclization alone (right).

Since the reactions occurred without a radical initiator, and without heating, we saw the potential to make the reaction catalytic in phosphorus. The DAP halide product is a precursor to the P-H compound, however existing conditions for the conversion required the use of harsh aluminum-based reductants. The inspired project envisioned the creation of a cost effective, safe, and synthetically simpler way of producing these intramolecular cyclization products under the catalytic action of DAPs. Metal free catalysts such as DAPs have proven to be competitive compared to metal catalysts. Since metal-free organocatalysts are finding increasing use in industry, discovery of these radical processes adds to the toolbox of such reactions. Previously reported methods of achieving carbon-carbon bond formation in this class of substrate, via 5-exo-trig intramolecular cyclization, require expensive and/or toxic reagents, often used in excess.^{26, 27} On top of using metal catalysts, the reaction conditions with these reagents require energy-intensive processes involving heating at high temperatures. Previously mentioned models have been applied to study DAPs' catalytic ability in radical deoxygenation reactions by Yang and Cheng. However, they have not yet studied catalytic transformations on aryl halides, other than fluoride. A model for such transformations is presented in this thesis; it requires only a small catalyst loading of the DAP hydride donor, short reaction times, and can be done without the use of heat and without a radical initiator.

It is known that diazaphospholene halides are precursors to diazaphospholene hydrides since they can be reduced with reagents such as LiAlH_4 and Red-Al. These are harsh reductants, and in excess will reduce the DAP halides to phosphine (PH_3), so we recognized we needed to employ milder terminal reductants. With the use of a nucleophilic activator and a terminal reductant, to ideally turn over the catalyst making it catalytic, a potential cycle was proposed for these radical reactions. (Figure 2.1)

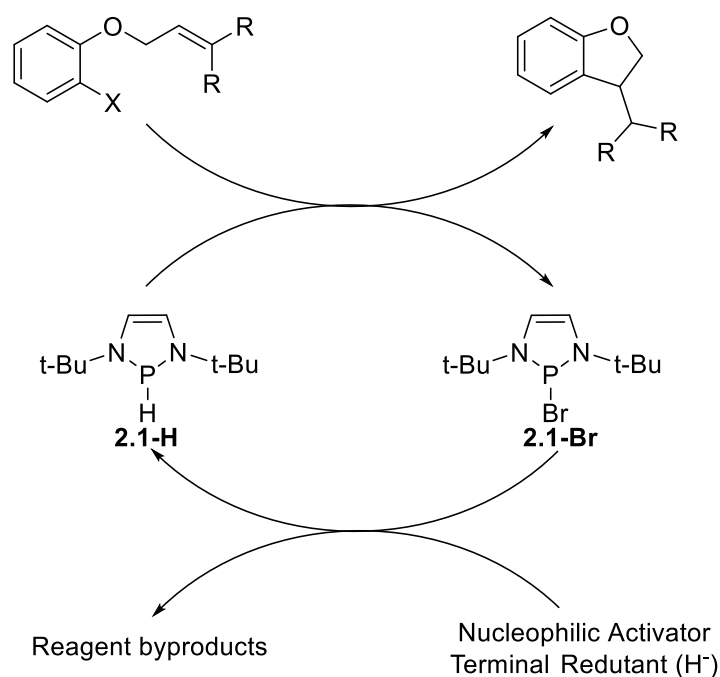


Figure 2.1: The proposed catalytic cycle for the intramolecular cyclization catalyzed by **2.1-H**.

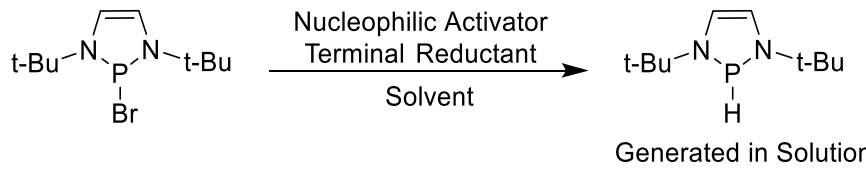
Starting with the DAP bromide bearing tert-butyl N-substituents (**2.1-Br**), the nucleophilic activator could potentially bind to the phosphorus catalyst displacing a bromide anion. This would make the substituent on the phosphorus atom more nucleophilic than the halide to promote hydride donation from the reductant. The activated DAP would then be reduced by the reductant forming the DAP-H (**2.1-H**), which would then react with the key substrate, under the

same reaction that was already disclosed as being stoichiometric. The cyclization might begin with an electron transfer from the DAP, resulting in cleavage of the Ar-X bond of the substrate, forming a halide ion, and aryl radical. The aryl radical could then add to the least substituted end of the alkene, generating another radical in the more substituted environment. The DAP-H would then donate a hydrogen atom to quench the final radical and to complete the formation of the bicyclic product. The resultant phosphonium cation could then recombine with the halide ion formed in the earlier step.

2.3: Results and Discussion

A base set of conditions was explored to observe formation of the DAP hydride (**2.1-H**) in situ from the DAP bromide precatalyst (**2.1-Br**). A nucleophilic activator, a terminal reductant, and a suitable solvent are needed for the DAP hydride intermediate to form. The chosen conditions must also produce an appropriate catalyst lifespan. DAP compounds are susceptible to over reduction, resulting in decomposition to PH_3 , and also hydrolysis. In considering the activating reagent, we sought compounds that were dry, or could be readily dried, and that were relatively soluble in THF or acetonitrile, two common solvents for DAP chemistry. For practical reasons, we used commercially available salts as activators, and while we bought materials that were advertised as anhydrous, we did not take special care to dry these substances. Acetates were chosen because they are sufficiently nucleophilic to react with DAPs, but also mild, to maximize substrate compatibility. Table 2.1 shows the screening results for the formation of the DAP P-H intermediate from the bromide after 30 minutes of stirring at room temperature.

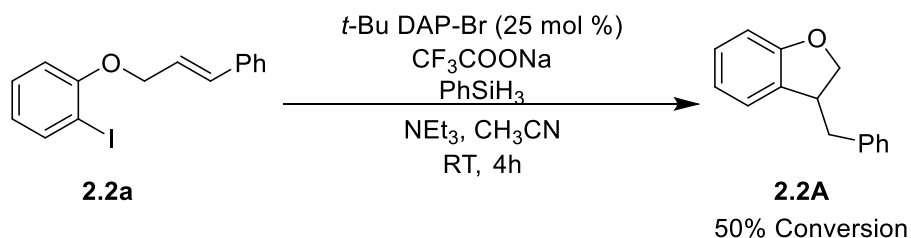
Table 2.1: Optimization screening for the generation of DAP hydride **2.1-H** from **2.1-Br**.

		
Entry	Conditions	Result of Phosphorus Environment (³¹ P NMR)
1	1 (1 eq), THF, HB(pin), CF ₃ COONa	Generation of P-H
2	1 (1 eq), THF, PhSiH ₃ , CF ₃ COONa	Generation of P-H
3	1 (1 eq), ACN, HB(pin), CF ₃ COONa	Generation of P-H
4	1 (1 eq), ACN, PhSiH ₃ , CF ₃ COONa	Generation of P-H
5	1 (1 eq), THF, HB(pin), AcONa	No Reaction (P-Br)
6	1 (1 eq), THF, HB(pin), AcON(Bu) ₄	Decomposition of Catalyst
7	1 (1 eq), THF, HB(pin), (t-Bu)COOCs.	Decomposition of Catalyst

The status of the catalyst was monitored using ³¹P NMR spectroscopy, focusing on the single phosphorus environment of the DAP. P-H catalyst generation was followed by monitoring the characteristic doublet (57 ppm in THF and 58 ppm in acetonitrile) in the proton coupled ³¹P NMR spectra. The addition of sodium trifluoroacetate and phenylsilane in acetonitrile (Entry 1 of Table 2.1), showed the best catalyst conversion and the longest catalyst lifespan (1 h) before decomposition. Entries 2, 3 and 4 using HB(pin) or phenylsilane with sodium trifluoroacetate in either THF or acetonitrile generated the target P-H catalysts, but their corresponding spectra were not as clean, as they contained either a mixture of decomposition products and/or starting materials. Entries 5-7 were unsuccessful, leading either to catalyst decomposition or showing no activity. These entries involved the use of different nucleophilic activators such as sodium acetate, tetrabutyl ammonium acetate, and cesium pivalate with HB(pin) in THF. We speculate that the lack of reaction with sodium acetate was due to poor solubility, while the decomposition

with tetrabutylammonium acetate or cesium pivalate may have been due to the presence of water in these reagents.

With the conditions to make the DAP hydride catalyst from the bromide optimized, an aryl halide ether substrate (**2.2a**) containing radical donor (aryl halide) and acceptor (alkenyl ether) sites was tested to observe formation of the cyclized product **2.2A** (compounds numbered with lower case lettering, are the starting material substrates, and compounds numbered with upper case lettering are the corresponding products.). The latter transformation was successful using the compounds from the best screening for the generation of **2.1-H**. To track the conversion of the substrate to product, reactivity was observed by acquiring NMR spectra of crude product mixtures using ^1H NMR, and measuring by integration (no internal standard or deuterated solvent) the ratio of a starting material signal to a product signal. While this presumes clean conversion, it was a convenient and relatively accurate way to assess the reaction efficiency. Scheme 2.2 shows the optimized conditions, where **2.2a** can be converted into the bicyclic product **2.2A** using 25 mol % of the *tert*-butyl DAP bromide **2.1-Br** as the precatalyst, sodium trifluoroacetate as the nucleophilic activator, triethylamine as a catalyst stabilizer, and acetonitrile as the solvent. The DAP hydride is prone to decomposition in mild acidic environments, and triethylamine had previously been observed to stabilize the DAP hydride by creating a basic medium (discovered in work by Blake Huchenski).



Scheme 2.2: The intramolecular cyclization of **2.2a** to **2.2A**.

The reaction showed a conversion to 50 % product after 4 hours of stirring at room temperature. The diazaphospholene catalyst **2.1-H** which was formed in situ showed decomposition at the end of this time frame by ^{31}P NMR. Formation of PH_3 was observed, leading to the conclusion that longer stir times would not lead to higher conversions in the reaction.

This transformation is known to occur by a radical mechanism, which inspired the thought that exposure to an LED light might enhance reactivity by lowering the activation barrier of initiation (that being, the promotion of electron donation from the DAP hydride to the aryl halide C-X bond). To set up an experiment to effectively expose the reaction to LED irradiation, the sealed reaction vessel was set on a stir plate, and an LED system was initially set 3 cm away from it (Figure 2.2). Blake Huchenski's previous work on functionalization of DAP dimers with aryl halides had shown the importance of irradiation for reactivity in certain solvents.²¹

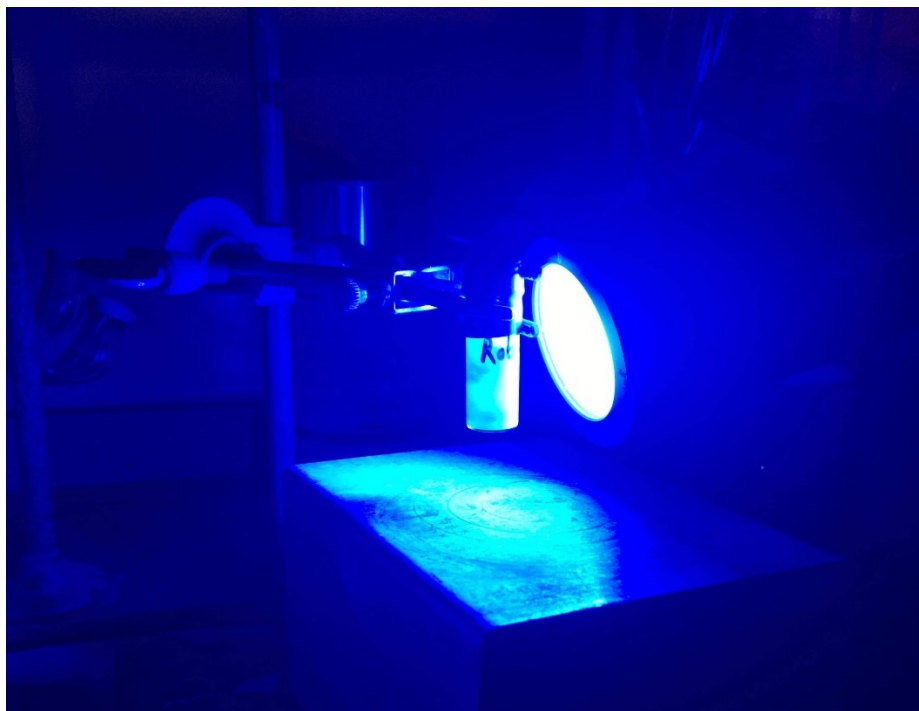


Figure 2.2: The experimental set up for the LED reactions described in this work. The reaction vial is clamped above a stir plate, and the LED light is placed at a certain distance from the reaction vial.

When the same base reaction was attempted again using a 456 nm blue LED, the reaction conversion to product increased from the previous 50% to 85%, without decomposition of the **2.1-H**. A reaction time of 4 hours was enough to give peak conversion. Times below 4 hours led to incomplete reaction, and times above 4 hours typically led to decomposition of the desired product and catalyst.

Although 85% conversion was adequate for this reaction, the goal was to achieve full conversion to the bicyclic product **2.2A**, as separation of the halogenated aryl ether from the bicyclic product could not be achieved by column chromatography and filtration methods. To find the optimal conditions for this reaction, reagents (solvent, terminal reductant, and

nucleophilic activator) were re-screened in efforts to achieve a higher conversion. Table 2.2 summarizes the results.

Table 2.2: The screening of reagents to optimize the cyclization.

Entry	Conditions	Catalyst Status (³¹ P NMR)	Product Conversion
1	ACN, PhSiH ₃ , Cs ₂ CO ₃	No decomposition, P-H remaining	100%
2	THF, PhSiH ₃ , Cs ₂ CO ₃	Decomposition of catalyst	--
3	ACN, PhSiH ₃ , CF ₃ COONa	Decomposition of catalyst	85%
4	THF, PhSiH ₃ , CF ₃ COONa	DAP-Br only	--
5	ACN, HB(pin), Cs ₂ CO ₃	Decomposition of catalyst	30%
6	THF, HB(pin), Cs ₂ CO ₃	DAP-Br + Decomposition of catalyst	--
7	ACN, HB(pin), CF ₃ COONa	DAP-Br only	--
8	THF, HB(pin), CF ₃ COONa	No signal	--
9	ACN, Hantzsch ester, Cs ₂ CO ₃	Decomposition of catalyst	--
10	ACN, ammonia borate, Cs ₂ CO ₃	Decomposition of catalyst	--

Switching the activator to cesium carbonate, which is likely more basic than the sodium trifluoroacetate, proved fruitful. The first entry, showing use of cesium carbonate as the nucleophilic activator, phenylsilane as the terminal reductant, and acetonitrile as the solvent was the only combination of reagents that gave complete conversion to the bicyclic product. In fact, the results for this entry were so good that the pre-catalyst loading of **2.1-Br** could be reduced from 25 mol % to 10 mol %. A loading of 10 mol % was then used in the rest of the screenings. Use of THF, any terminal reductant, and sodium trifluoroacetate showed promising results in the P-H catalyst generation, but these conditions were not efficient in cyclization of the aryl-ether

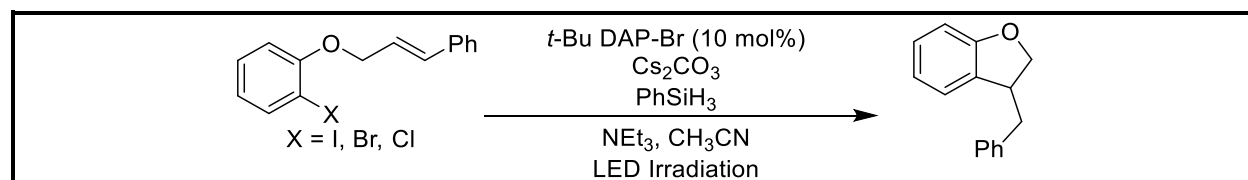
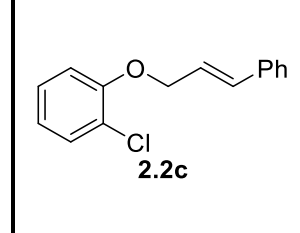
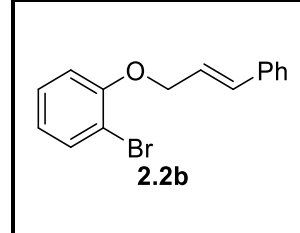
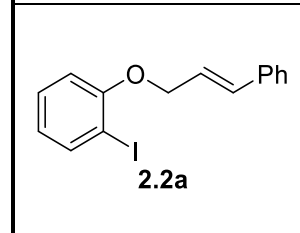
substrate. Entries involving HB(pin) also gave inferior results, with only 30% conversion at best. It is possible that HB(pin) promotes catalyst decomposition to PH_3 more readily than PhSiH_3 .⁷ Keeping the best conditions but changing the terminal reductant to Hantzsch ester or ammonia borane did not provide any conversion, showing that phenylsilane was the only suitable reductant.

After the optimal set of conditions was established to provide full conversion, the crude products were worked up by aqueous extraction using ether. This was followed by filtration with hexanes to give a yellow oil corresponding to the pure bicyclic product **2.2A** after removal of volatiles. The catalyst residues, salts, and phenylsilane halides were poorly soluble in the hexanes, allowing separation.

Before a larger substrate scope was examined, we investigated the use of other aryl halides. It was discovered that the brominated and chlorinated substrates did not give the same results as the iodide substrate. Aryl ethers **2.2b** and **2.2c** were reacted using the best previous set of conditions, and these bromide and chloride substrates did not show consistent clean conversions, as had been observed with the iodide substrate **2.2a**.

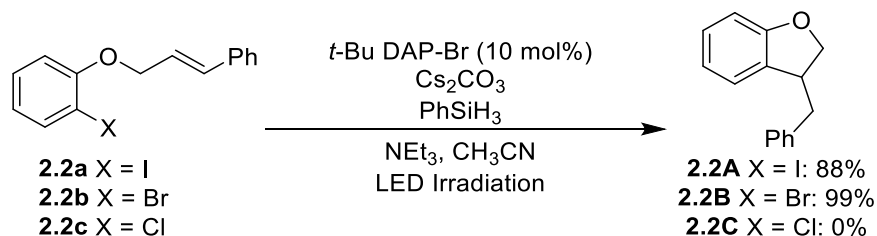
Changing the reagents was not yet taken into consideration, but instead the previous reaction conditions were screened using sources of light of differing wavelength. We speculated that shorter wavelengths might increase the energy available to the system. We screened a 456 nm blue LED, a 427 nm violet LED, and the shortest wavelength 370 nm violet LED. Results of this screening are shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Results from the optimization of the intramolecular cyclization of **2.2a**, **2.2b**, and **2.2c** using LED lights of differing wavelengths. Temperature of these screenings were not monitored.

				
Substrate	LED used in Experiment	Reaction Time	Light Travel Distance	Result
 2.2c	456 nm (Blue)	24 h	Point blank	No Reaction, starting material
	427 nm (Violet)	24 h	Point blank	No Reaction, starting material
	370 nm (Violet)	24 h	Point blank	No Reaction, starting material
 2.2b	456 nm (Blue)	24 h	7 cm	90% conversion, clean spectrum
	427 nm (Violet)	24 h	11 cm	Full conversion, clean spectrum
	370 nm (Violet)	24 h	7 cm	Full conversion, messy spectrum
 2.2a	456 nm (Blue)	4 h	3 cm	Full conversion, clean spectrum
	427 nm (Violet)	4 h	3 cm	Full conversion, clean spectrum
	370 nm (Violet)	4 h	3 cm	Decomposition of substrate

The chlorinated aryl ether substrate **2.2c** showed no reactivity in all sources of light, and did not show any reactivity even in an ultra-violet photobox. Aryl chlorides are generally less reactive in radical reactions, so work with this substrate was stopped. Unlike the aryl iodide, preliminary work showed that the aryl bromide substrate **2.2b** was not fully converted to product after 4 hours, regardless of the wavelength of light used. Though conversion was only 15%, the presence of P-H catalyst **2.1-H** could still be observed in the ³¹P NMR spectrum, suggesting that

longer reaction times might result in completion of the reaction. It was found that 24 hours was sufficient for the reaction to reach complete conversion without decomposition. Irradiation of **2.2b** with the 370 nm LED to complete conversion of the aryl ether substrate to the bicyclic product. However, the spectrum was messy, containing small minor decomposition signals. A light travel distance (from the LED source to the reaction) of 11 cm was suitable for the bromide cyclizations, whereas any distance above 11 cm often led to discrepancies and variability in the conversion results. Substrate **2.2a** showed complete conversions when irradiated with the 427 nm LED or the 456 nm LED. However, the lower energy 456 nm LED was used in later reactions due to its more consistent conversion results. A light travel distance of 3 cm was also found to be the most suitable for the latter reactions. With a similar theme to the bromide cyclizations, any distance above 3 cm for the iodide substrates often led to discrepancies in the conversion results. Irradiation of **2.2a** with the 370 nm LED simply led to decomposition of the substrate. Isolation yields of these substrates after work up are shown in Scheme 2.3.



Scheme 2.3: The optimized substrate scope results for the isolation of compounds **2.2A-2.2C**.

With the intramolecular cyclization reaction optimized for iodide and bromide substrates, a substrate scope was examined.

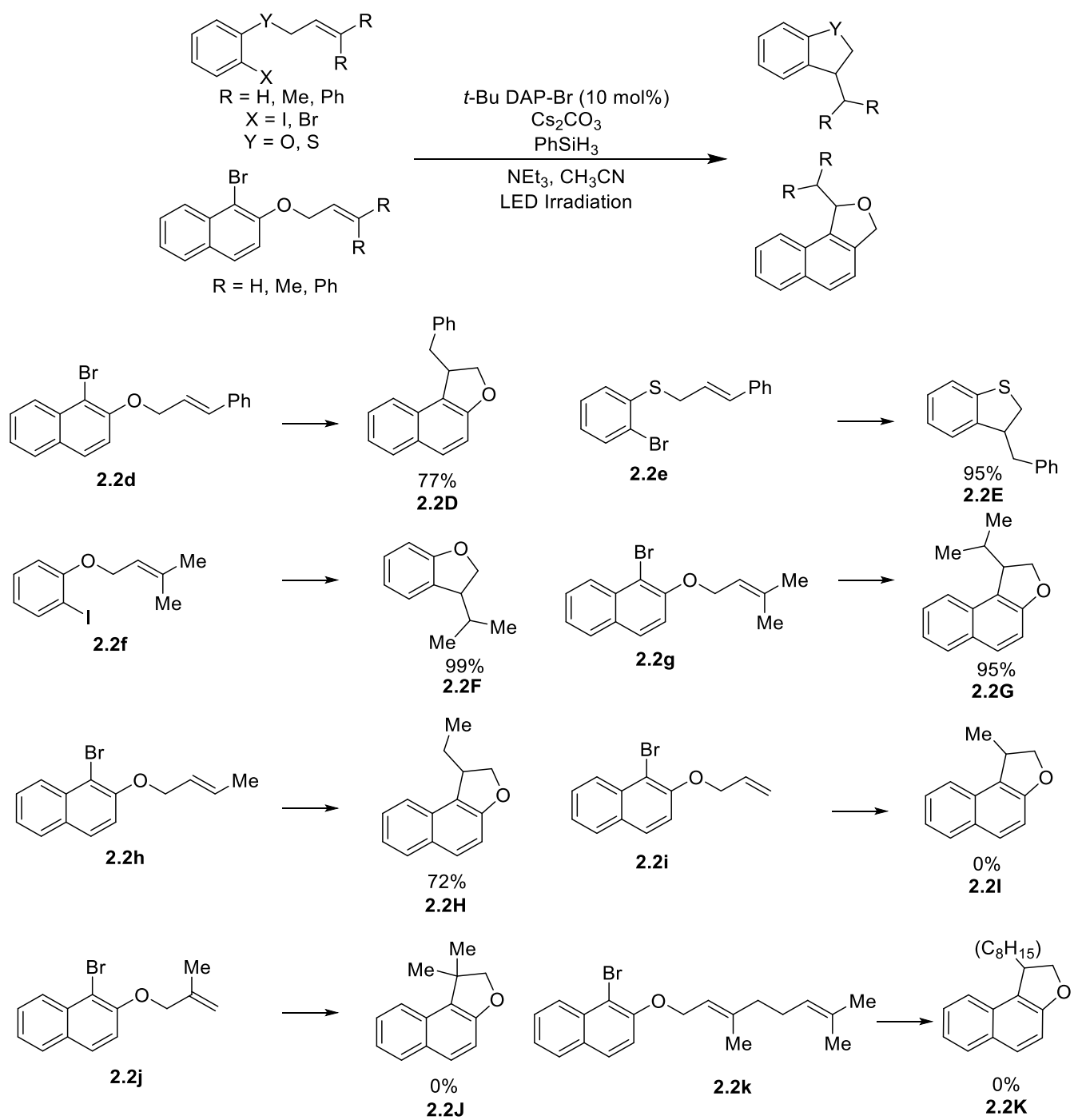


Figure 2.3: Substrate scope results for the product compounds (2.2D-2.2K).

The beginning of this scope used simple functionalized aryl ethers differing by one or both groups on the sides of the ether (Figure 2.3). Naphthyl cinnamyl ether **2.2d**, and naphthyl crotyl ether **2.2h**

cyclized to give their bicyclic products **2.2D** and **2.2H** at 77% and 72% yields, respectively. Phenyl cinnamyl thioether **2.2e**, and phenyl prenyl ether **2.2f** all cyclized to give their respective products in high yield. **2.2g** successfully converted to product **2.2G** under the set conditions. Naphthyl allyl ether **2.2i** showed signs of activity, with evidence of the polycyclic product **2.2I** in the crude NMR, but it also showed evidence of many side products that could not be separated from the target product. Naphthyl ether alkene **2.2j** also showed signs of activity, but in the end no product could be observed. The geranyl functionalized substrate **2.2k** did show reactivity forming side products, but clean conversion to product was not observed.

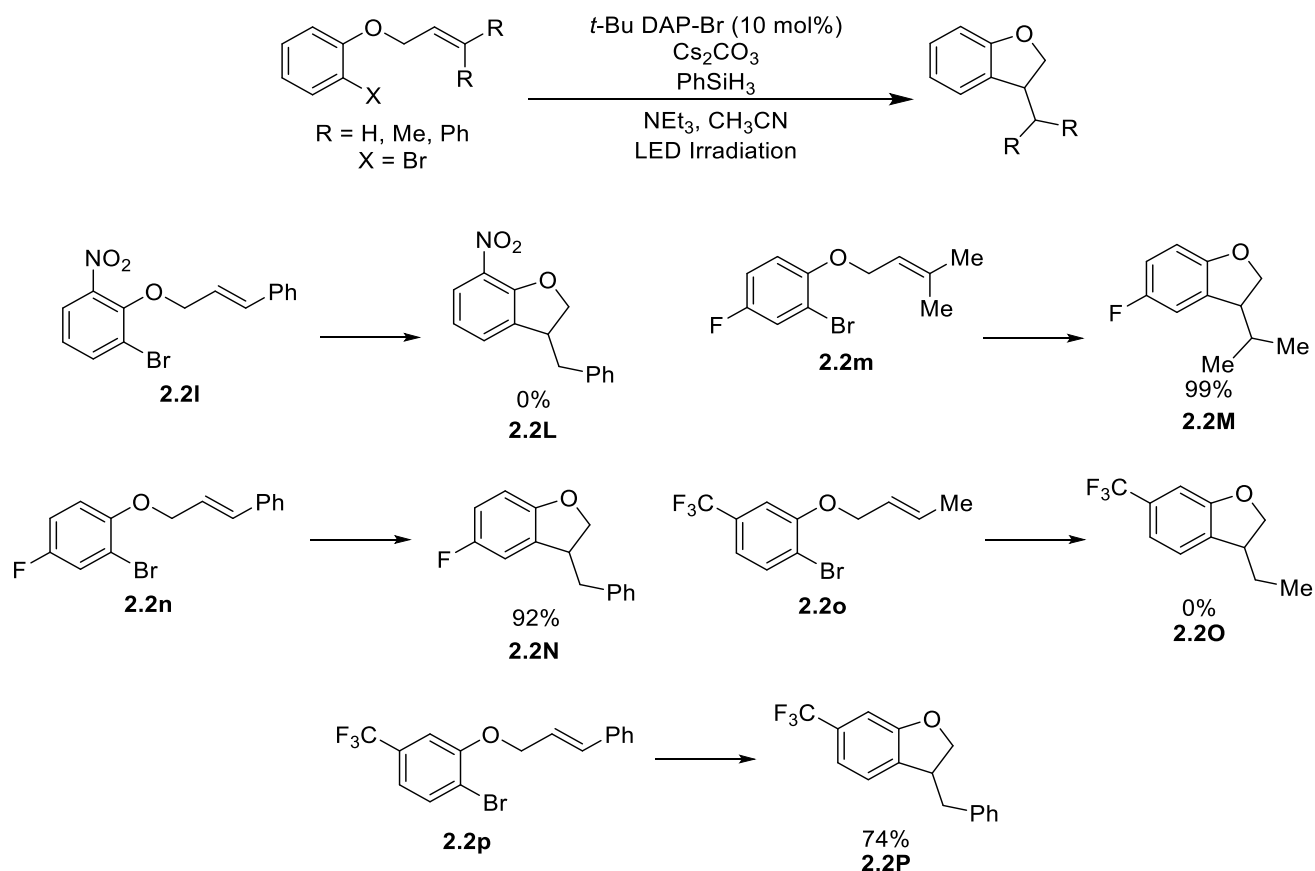


Figure 2.4: Substrate scope results for the functionalized aryl ethers (**2.2L-2.2P**)

Figure 2.4 continues the scope, focusing on aryl substrates with substituents on the ring. Formation of the nitro functionalized bicyclic compound **2.2L** was unsuccessful, and the substrate showed no reactivity under the established conditions. The fluoro substituted aryl ethers, both prenyl **2.2m** and cinnamyl **2.2n**, gave high yields of product. Crotyl aryl ether **2.2o**, with a CF₃ group in the 5 position, did not lead to the cyclic product **2.2O**, unlike the similar naphthyl crotyl substrate conversion of **2.2h**. It appears that the addition of such an electron withdrawing group inhibits the cyclization with the crotyl group, but not with a prenyl or cinnamyl group. Switching the crotyl group for a cinnamyl **2.2p** gave a satisfactory 74% yield.

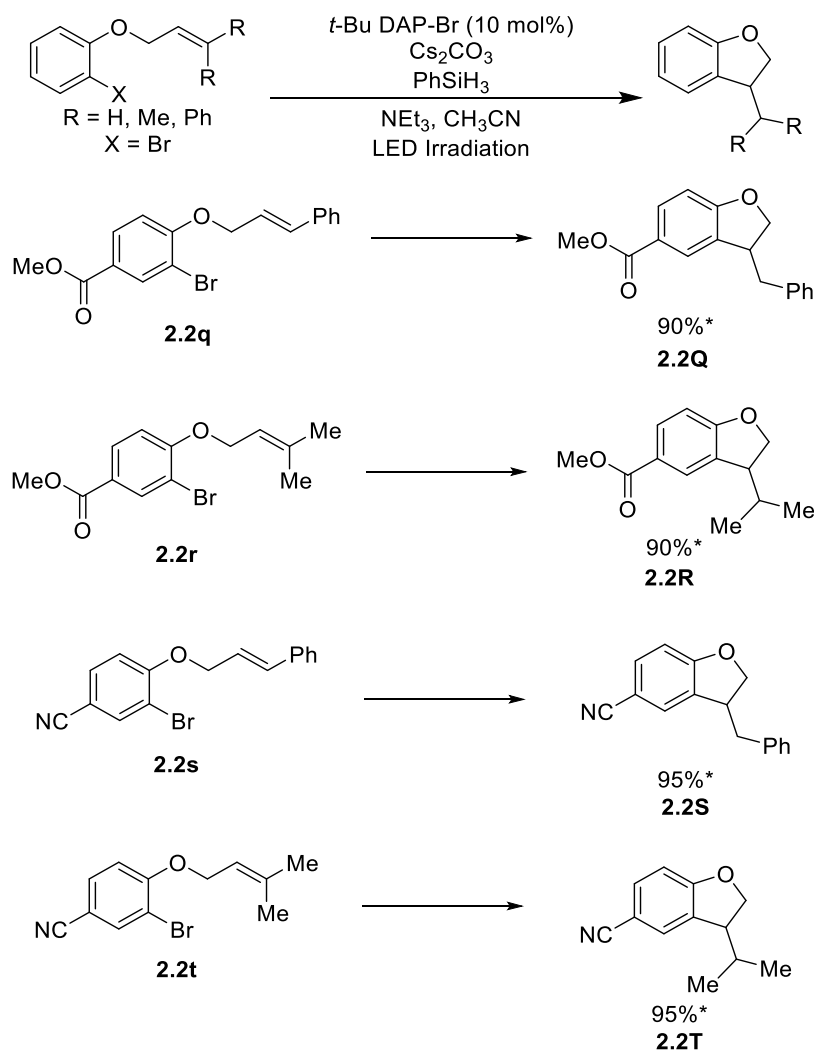


Figure 2.5: Substrate scope results for the functionalized aryl ethers (**2.2Q-2.2T**). * These are not isolated yields, but are conversion percentages observed by ¹H NMR.

Figure 2.5 shows substrate products containing esters (**2.2Q**, **2.2R**), or containing the cyano functional group (**2.2S**, **2.2T**). With these substrates conversions between 90% and 95% were obtained, but these products could not be separated from other materials in the reaction mixture. Analysis of the corresponding ³¹P NMR spectra after these reactions gave evidence of P-C bond formation. This suggests that the DAP is interacting with the electrophilic carbon atoms of the functional groups in this series which may remove it from the catalytic cycle.

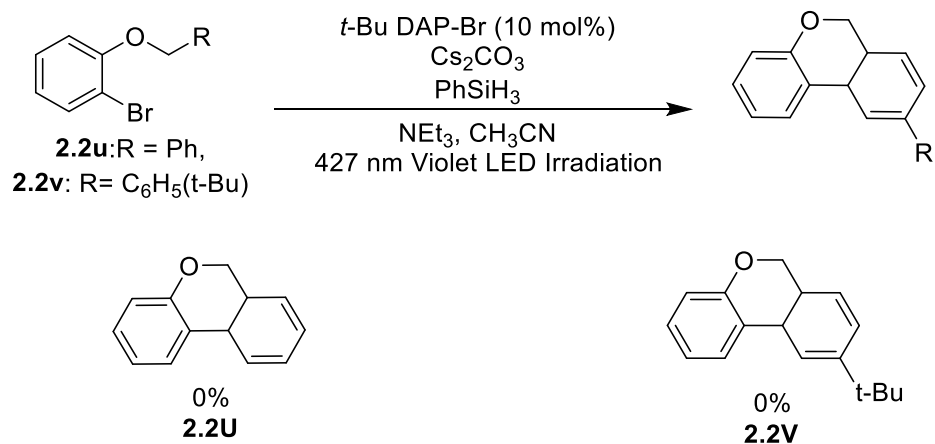


Figure 2.6: Substrate scope results for the aryl ether benzyl substrates **2.2U** and **2.2V**.

It was thought that an aryl radical formed from the homolyzed halogen might be reactive enough to dearomatize another aryl group that would act as the radical acceptor. This was attempted with substrates **2.2u** and **2.2v** as shown in Figure 2.6. However, no reactivity was observed, even with removal of the sterically demanding *tert*-butyl group.

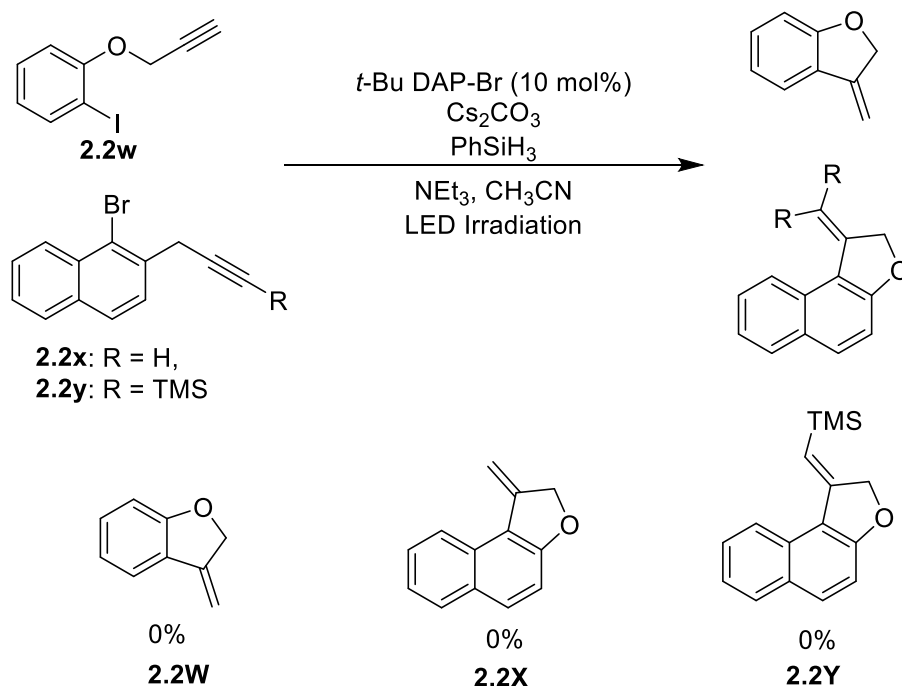


Figure 2.7: Substrate scope results for the alkyne aryl ethers (**2.2W-2.2Y**).

Attempted cyclizations with alkynes did not show any signs of conversion to the desired products but did show reactivity, as observed by the consumption of starting materials (Figure 2.7). First, alkyne **2.2w** was reacted under the best conditions, showing activity, but not to the desired product **2.2W**. Using a similar substrate with a naphthyl aryl group **2.2x** instead of the phenyl also did not lead to any of the desired product **2.2X**. It was thought that the aryl ether alkyne reactivity could be stabilized and improved by capping the alkyne with a trimethylsilyl group (**2.2y**), but reaction of **2.2y** did not lead to isolation of any product. The reactions with all of these alkyne substrates led to multiple side products. During these alkyne reactions, it is unclear if the desired alkenyl product is formed. If so, it is likely that alkenyl radicals (which are less stable than alkyl radicals) will form. Thus, alkenyl radical formation could be the culprit to the observed side reactions.

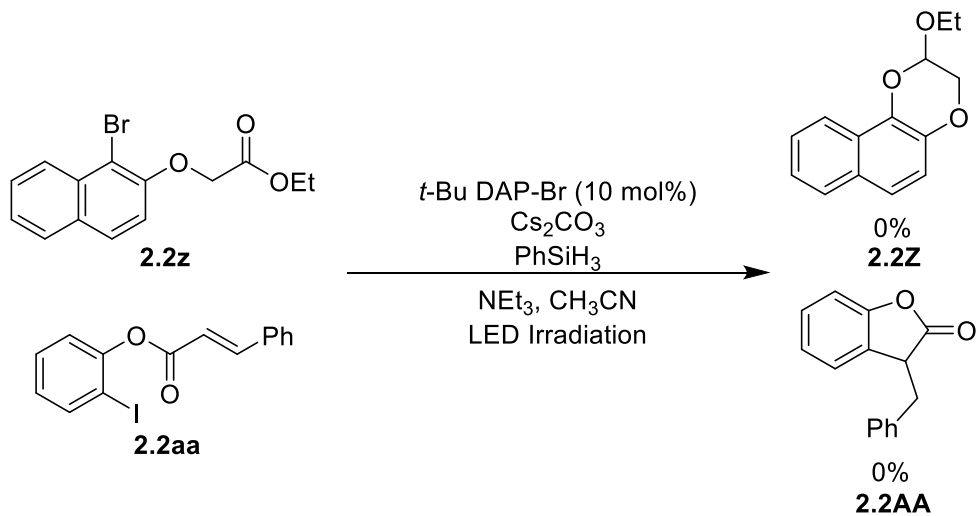


Figure 2.8: Substrate scope results for substrates (**2.2Z** and **2.2AA**).

A substrate with a terminal ester and one with an aryl ester substrate were reacted under the above conditions in hope of obtaining the heterocyclic products **2.2Z** and **2.2AA** (Figure 2.8). Both reactions did not show any signs of product formation, and unidentifiable side products were observed in their ^1H NMR spectra.

2.4 Conclusions and Future Work

An ideal set of conditions was determined to effectively generate **2.1-H** in situ. To study the conversion of aryl ethers containing a radical donor halide and a radical acceptor alkene, a scope of functionalized substrates was tested and completed. Many substrates in the scope could not be converted to their bicyclic products, however a number of the substrates did react. Future work of this project will focus on finding a way to intramolecularly cyclize substrates that were not active during catalysis or that did not provide clean conversions. Increasing the yield percentages would be a secondary future objective, where initial yields could have varied due to lab errors and lab technique.

2.5 Experimental Section

General Considerations

All reagents and solvents were dispensed in a 2001 issue IT Glovebox (H₂O levels varied between 2-6 ppm) unless otherwise stated. The intramolecular cyclization and related reactions were carried out in 1-dram vials equipped with magnetic stir bars. All reactions were conducted at ambient temperature unless otherwise stated. The material selected to prepare NMR samples gave homogeneous solutions unless otherwise stated. ¹H, ³¹P, ¹³C NMR data were collected at 300K on either a Bruker AV-300 or AV-500 spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra are referenced to residual non-deuterated solvent from the sample (CDCl₃ = 7.24 ppm). ¹³C NMR spectra are referenced as follows (CDCl₃ ¹³C signal = 77.16 ppm). LED irradiation was conducted using a Kessil H150-Blue lamp centered at a wavelength of approximately 456 nm (50 W max), and a Kessil H150-Violet lamp with a maximum emission centered at a wavelength of approximately 427 nm (45 W max), and a Kessil H150-Violet lamp with a maximum emission centered at a wavelength of approximately 370 nm (52 W max). The melting points of isolated products were measured using a Fischer-Johns melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

Solvents

Acetonitrile was purchased as anhydrous >99% ACS grade from Sigma Aldrich and used without purification but stored over 3Å molecular sieves under nitrogen.

Toluene was purchased as ACS grade from Fisher and was passed through a double column purification system (activated alumina and activated Q-5) from MBraun Inc. and stored over 3Å molecular sieves under nitrogen.

Tetrahydrofuran was purchased as anhydrous >99% ACS grade from Sigma Aldrich, free from BHT stabilizer, and stored over 3Å molecular sieves under nitrogen.

Hexanes was purchased as ACS grade from Fisher and was used as is.

Ethyl acetate was purchased as ACS grade from Fisher and was used as is.

Dimethylformamide (anhydrous) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and was used as received.

Reagents

Potassium carbonate was purchased from ACP and was used as received.

Cesium carbonate was purchased from Sigma Aldrich, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Diphenylsilane was purchased from Oakwood Chemical, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Phenylsilane was purchased from Oakwood Chemical, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Pinacolborane was purchased from Oakwood Chemical, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Diazaphospholene (**2.1-Br**) was prepared according to literature procedures.⁷

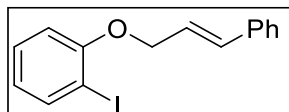
2-iodophenol, 2-bromophenol, 2-chlorophenol, 2-bromo-4-fluorophenol, 2-bromo-5-trifluoromethylphenol, 2-bromothiophenol, 1-bromo-2-naphthol, 2-bromo-4-cyanophenol, 3-bromo-4-hydroxybenzoate, 6-bromo-2-nitrophenol, 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene, propargyl bromide, 3-bromo-2-methyl-2-propene (prenyl bromide), 3-bromo-1-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propyne, 3-bromo-2-methylprop-1-ene, allyl bromide, ethyl bromoacetate, cinnamoyl chloride, geranyl bromide, 4-*tert*-butylbenzyl bromide, benzyl bromide, and crotyl bromide were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used as received.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Aryl Ethers

In a 250 mL round bottom flask, the specified quantity of aryl alcohol was added followed by the addition of potassium carbonate and 10 mL of N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF). If solid, the alkyl halide was put into a separate stock solution with 10 mL of DMF and was added slowly to the reaction mixture. If liquid, the required amount of alkyl halide was added dropwise from a syringe. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature unless otherwise stated in the procedure. The mixture was then diluted with water (10 mL), followed by an addition of 2M NaOH (30 mL), and everything was then transferred into a separatory funnel. The product was extracted with hexanes (50 mL) from the aqueous layer. The aqueous layer was extracted once more using hexanes (50 mL), and then the extracted organic portions were combined. The combined layers were washed with a concentrated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (30 mL), followed by a concentrated aqueous brine solution (30 mL). Volatiles were removed under vacuum to give the product.

Synthesis and Characterization

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2a**



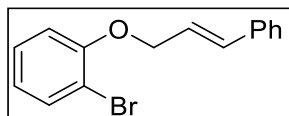
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-iodophenol (4.00 g, 18.28 mmol), potassium carbonate (7.52 g, 54.8 mol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (3.60 g, 18.28 mol). A pale-yellow oil was obtained (6.00 g, 17.8 mmol, 97% yield), Mp = oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.79-7.77 (m, Ph-H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, Ph-H) 7.31(t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.28-7.21 (m, Ph-H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.81 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H) 6.70 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.39 (dt, $J = 5.4, 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd, $J = 1.4, 5.4$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.40, 139.74, 136.62, 133.06, 129.60, 128.77, 128.07, 126.79, 124.11, 122.95, 112.95, 87.05, 69.90 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{INaO}$ [M^+] 358.990334; Found: 358.990167.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2b**



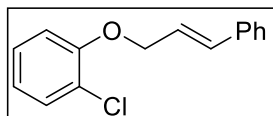
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromophenol (4.00 g, 23.12 mmol), potassium carbonate (7.52 g, 69.36 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (4.56 g, 23.12 mmol). A bright yellow solid was obtained (6.14 g, 21.2 mmol, 92% yield), Mp = 79-80 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.58-7.54 (m, Ph-H), 7.35-7.30 (m, Ph-H), 7.28-7.22 (m, Ph-H), 6.96-6.93 (m, Ph-H), 6.87-6.76 (m, Ph-H), 6.43-6.38 (m, H), 4.77-4.76 (m, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 155.25, 136.63, 133.70, 133.27, 128.81, 128.65, 128.16, 126.87, 124.16, 122.33, 114.11, 112.71, 69.92 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaO}$ [M^+] 311.004198; Found: 311.003848.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2c**



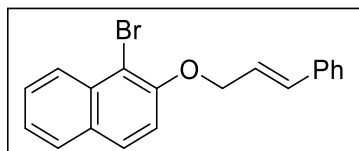
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-chlorophenol (1.00 g, 7.78 mmol), potassium carbonate (3.23 g, 23.34 mmol, 3 eq) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (1.53 g, 7.78 mmol). A pale-yellow solid was obtained (1.43 g, 5.84 mmol, 75% yield). Mp = 45-46 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.46 (d, $J = 7.95$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.43-7.41 (m, Ph-H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz Ph-H), 7.31-7.28 (m, Ph-H), 7.26-7.23 (m, Ph-H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.96-6.93 (m, Ph-H), 6.82 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dt, $J = 5.9, 16.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.83-4.82 (m, 2H).

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 154.4, 136.6, 133.4, 130.6, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 126.9, 124.2, 121.9, 114.3, 69.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClNaO}$ [M^+] 243.058216; Found: 243.057896.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2d**



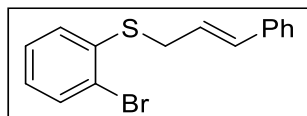
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.50 mmol, 3 eq) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (0.89 g, 4.50 mmol). A yellow solid was obtained (0.83 g, 2.45 mmol, 54% yield), Mp = 76-78 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.24 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.79-7.77 (m, Ar-H), 7.58-7.55 (m, Ar-H), 7.42-7.38 (m, Ar-H), 7.33-7.28 (m, Ar-H), 7.26-7.23 (m, Ar-H), 6.81 (d, $J = 16$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dt, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 16Hz, 1H), 4.92 (dd, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 5.8 Hz, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.27, 136.62, 133.43, 130.33, 129.07, 128.82, 128.25, 128.18, 127.91, 126.56, 124.76, 124.41, 115.99, 110.26, 71.07 ppm. Note, these should be 2 signals on singlet 133.43 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNaO}$ $[\text{M}^+]$ 361.019848; Found: 361.019635.

Synthesis of aryl thioether **2.2e**



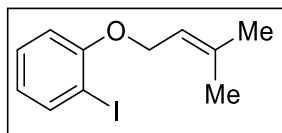
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromothiophenol (0.5 mL, 4.15 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.14 g, 8.30 mmol, 2 eq), and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (0.901 g, 4.56 mmol). A yellow solid was obtained (1.18 g, 3.87 mmol, 93% yield), Mp = 43-44 °C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.34 (dd, $J = 1.3, 8.0$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.32-7.25 (m, Ph-H), 7.24-7.19 (m, Ph-H), 7.01 (td, $J = 1.6, 7.9$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.51 (d, $J = 15.6$, 1H), 6.25 (dt, $J = 7.3, 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, $J = 1.2, 7.1$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 137.54, 136.75, 133.71, 133.19, 129.66, 128.73, 127.89, 127.87, 127.24, 126.57, 124.53, 124.14, 36.27 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaS}$ [M^+] 326.981354; Found: 326.981658.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2f**



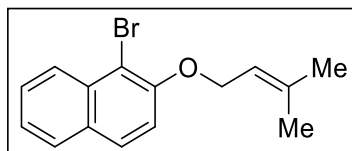
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-iodophenol (1.00g, 4.50 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.87 g, 13.6 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-2-methyl-2-propene (0.52 mL, 4.50 mmol 1 eq). A clear yellow oil was obtained (1.17 g, 4.05 mmol, 90% yield), Mp = oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.83 (dd, $J = 1.4, 7.8$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.34-7.30 (m, Ph-H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.76-6.73 (m, Ph-H) 5.58-5.55 (m, 1H), 4.64 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.92, 139.89, 138.27, 129.74, 122.86, 119.99, 113.17, 87.41, 66.71, 26.19, 18.80 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{INaO}$ [M^+] 310.990334; Found: 310.990275.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2g**



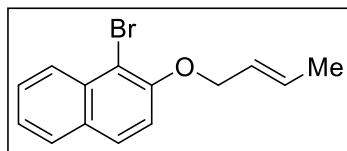
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (2.00 g, 9.00 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (3.73 g, 27.0 mmol, 3 eq), and prenyl bromide (1.04 mL, 9.00 mmol). A light brown solid was obtained (2.35 g, 8.10 mmol, 90% yield), Mp = 46-47°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.28 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.83-7.81 (m, Ph-H), 7.62-7.58 (m, Ph-H), 7.45-7.41 (m, Ph-H), 7.31-7.30 (m, Ph-H), 5.63 (tt, $J = 1.3, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.26, 138.31, 133.20, 129.94, 128.64, 127.94, 127.53, 126.25, 124.31, 119.66, 115.87, 109.92, 67.20, 25.77, 18.30 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNaO}$ [M^+]: 313.0198; Found: 313.0203.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2h**



The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.87 g, 13.5 mmol, 3 eq), and crotyl bromide (0.46 mL, 4.50 mmol, 1 eq). A clear olive-green oil was obtained. Material was then flash purified using 99:1 hexanes: ethylacetate. (0.95 g, 3.42 mmol, 76% yield). Mp = oil.

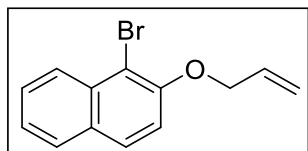
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.23 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.77-7.75 (m, Ar-H), 7.56-7.75 (m, Ar-H), 7.40-7.36 (m, Ar-H) 7.25-7.21 (m, Ar-H), 5.94-5.87 (m, 1H), 5.81-5.75 (m, 1H), 4.67 (dt, $J = 1.2, 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.76 (dd, $J = 1.1, 6.3$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.32, 139.05, 133.41, 130.69, 130.37, 130.20, 130.15, 129.21, 128.65, 127.70, 126.63, 126.06, 125.69, 124.73, 118.06, 116.44, 109.96, 78.02, 70.99, 66.24, 21.62, 18.05, 13.65 ppm.

Minor signals in the ^{13}C NMR most likely arise from E/Z isomers.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for molecular formula $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrO}[\text{M}^+]$: 277.223; Found: 277.0219.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2i**



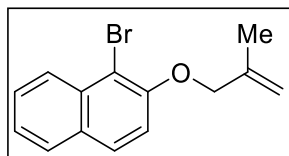
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using, bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.5 mmol, 3 eq) and allyl bromide (0.42 mL, 4.50 mmol). A brown crystalline solid was obtained (1.14 g, 4.37 mmol, 97% yield), Mp = 38-40°C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, Ar-H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, Ar-H), 7.62-7.59 (m, Ar-H), 7.46-7.42 (m, Ar-H), 7.31-7.28 (m, Ar-H), 6.20 (dq, *J* = 5.0, 20.9 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (m, 5.58-5.36, 2H), 4.81-4.79 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.16, 133.42, 133.13, 130.22, 128.98, 128.21, 127.87, 126.49, 124.68, 118.08, 115.66, 109.98, 70.94 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₃H₁₁BrNaO [M⁺]: 284.9885; Found: 284.9873.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2j**



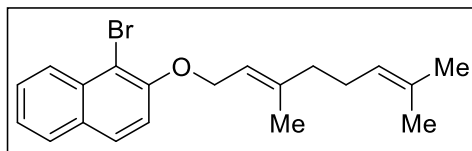
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.50 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-2-methylprop-1-ene (0.50 mL, 4.95 mmol). A brown hard solid was obtained (1.17 g, 4.22 mmol, 93% yield), Mp = 47-48°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.22 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, Ar-H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.56-7.53 (m, Ar-H), 7.39-7.36 (m, Ar-H), 7.23-7.20 (m, Ar-H), 5.10 (d, J = 87.1 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 1.89 (s, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.21, 140.73, 133.43, 130.14, 128.93, 128.21, 127.85, 126.44, 124.59, 155.35, 133.32, 109.68, 73.63, 19.61 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaO}$ [M^+] 299.004198; Found: 299.003858.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2k**



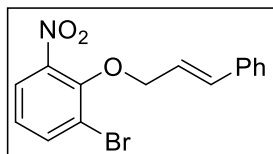
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (2.00 g, 9.00 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (3.73 g, 27.0 mmol, 3 eq), and geranyl bromide (1.73 mL, 9.00 mmol 1 eq). A brown oil was obtained (1.48 g, 4.32 mmol, 48% yield), Mp = oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.24 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.56 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.26-7.24 (m, Ar-H), 5.58-5.55 (m, 1H), 5.08-5.07 (m, 1H), 4.77 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.14-2.09 (m, 4H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.23, 141.40, 133.18, 131.72, 129.91, 128.59, 127.92, 127.49, 126.22, 124.28, 123.71, 119.52, 115.90, 109.91, 67.21, 39.46, 26.22, 25.60, 17.65, 16.71 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{BrNaO}$ [M^+]: 381.0824; Found: 381.0617.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2I**



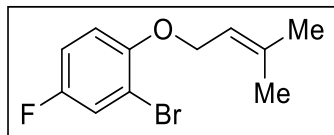
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 6-bromo-2-nitrophenol (2.00 g, 9.20 mmol 1 eq), potassium carbonate (3.80 g, 27.5 mmol, 3 eq) and 3-chloro-1-phenyl-1-propene (1.40 g, 9.20 mmol 1 eq). The contents were stirred for one week. A dark orange crystalline solid was obtained (2.50 g, 7.45 mmol, 81% yield), Mp = 72-73°C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85-7.79 (m, Ph-H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, Ph-H), 7.39-7.36 (m, Ph-H), 7.18-7.14 (m, Ph-H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.54-6.49 (m, 1H), 4.89-4.87 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.41, 145.82, 137.70, 136.10, 135.16, 128.55, 128.15, 126.76, 125.08, 124.26, 123.11, 120.18, 75.86 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₅H₁₂BrNNaO₃ [M⁺]: 355.9893; Found: 355.9882.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2m**

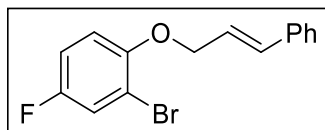


The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-4-fluorophenol (1.00 g, 5.00 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (2.07 g, 15.00 mmol, 3 eq), and prenyl bromide (0.58 mL, 5.00 mmol, 1 eq). A viscous bright yellow oil was obtained (1.16 g, 4.45 mmol, 89% yield), Mp = oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.28 (dd, $J = 3.1, 7.8$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.96-6.92 (m, Ph-H), 6.84 (dd, $J = 4.7, 9.0$ Hz, Ph-H), 5.48 (tt, $J = 1.4, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.83, 155.90, 152.13, 138.61, 120.68 (d, $J = 27.04$ Hz), 119.50, 114.85-114.65 (m), 112.93 (d, $J = 15$ Hz), 67.20, 25.97, 18.48 ppm.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2n**



The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-4-fluorophenol (1.00 g, 5.24 mmol), potassium carbonate (2.16 g, 15.72 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (1.03 g, 5.24 mmol). A white solid was obtained (1.25 g, 4.07 mmol, 78% yield), Mp = 75-76°C.

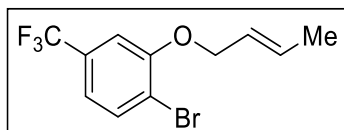
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.41-7.39 (m, Ph-H), 7.33-7.29 (m, Ph-H), 7.27-7.23 (m, Ph-H), 6.98-6.94 (m, P-H), 6.88 (dd, J = 4.8, 9.0 Hz, Ph-H), 6.74 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dt, J = 5.7 Hz, 16.0 Hz), 4.71 (dd, J = 1.2, 5.7 Hz) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.99, 156.06, 151.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 136.49, 133.50, 128.82, 128.23, 123.94, 120.72 (d, J = 25.7 Hz), 114.88 (dd, J = 14.3 Hz, 5.9 Hz), 112.93 (d, J = 9.9 Hz), 70.80 ppm.

^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -121.30 (dt, J = 4.9 Hz, 7.91 Hz, 12.6 Hz) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrFNaO}$ [M^+] 328.994776; Found: 328.995404.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2o**



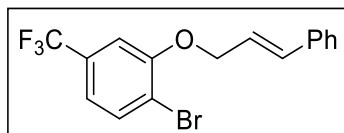
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-5-trifluoromethylphenol (1.00 mL, 4.20 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.74 g, 12.6 mmol, 3 eq), and crotyl bromide (0.43 mL, 4.2 mmol, 1 eq). A bright lime green solid was obtained. Material was then flash purified using 99:1 hexanes: ethyl acetate (0.867 g, 2.94 mmol, 70% yield), Mp = 39-41°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.78 (d, J = 1.91 Hz, Ph-H), 7.50 (dd, J = 1.7, 8.5 Hz, Ph-H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, Ph-H), 5.93-5.85 (m, 1H), 5.74-5.67 (m, 1H), 4.58 (dt, J = 1.2, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.77-1.75 (m, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.65, 137.81, 131.11, 130.55 (q), 129.60, 126.75, 125.71 (q), 124.75, 124.59 (q), 122.43, 120.27, 116.43, 114.66, 112.79, 112.70, 112.31, 69.89, 65.21, 17.78, 13.41 ppm.

Minor signals in the ^{13}C NMR arise from E/Z isomers and short/long C-F coupling.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2p**



The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-5-trifluoromethylphenol (0.89 g, 3.86 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.60 g, 11.58 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (3.60 g, 18.28 mmol). A white fluffy solid was obtained (0.61 g, 1.71 mmol, 44% yield), Mp = 75-77°C.

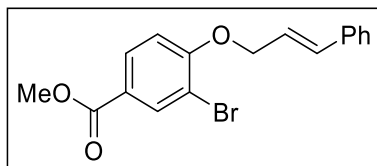
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ph-H), 7.42-7.40 (m, Ph-H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Ph-H), 7.28-7.24 (m, Ph-H), 7.14 (s, Ph-H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 6.80 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dt, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.54, 136.38, 134.11, 131.10 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 128.86, 128.38, 126.90, 124.99, 123.13, 122.82, 118.90-118.88 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 116.75, 110.40 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 70.24 ppm.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.65 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₂BrF₃NaO [M⁺] 378.991582; Found: 378.992525.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2q**



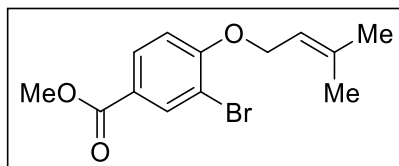
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using methyl-3-bromo-4-hydroxybenzoate (1.00 g, 4.30 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.78 g, 12.9 mmol, 3 eq) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (0.85 g, 4.30 mmol). A white solid was obtained (0.785 g, 2.26 mmol, 53% yield), Mp = 103-104°C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, Ph-H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 8.6 Hz, Ph-H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, Ph-H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Ph-H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, Ph-H), 6.90-6.88 (m, Ph-H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dt, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.91, 158.84, 136.34, 135.17, 133.92, 130.69, 128.86, 128.37, 126.88, 124.15, 123.20, 122.65, 122.23, 70.01, 52.34 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₇H₁₅BrNaO₃ [M⁺] 369.0009677; Found: 369.009689.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2r**

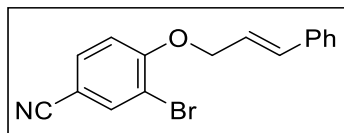


The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using methyl-3-bromo-4-hydroxybenzoate (1.00 g, 4.30 mmol 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.78 g, 12.9 mmol, 3 eq) and prenyl bromide (0.50 mL, 4.30 mmol 1 eq). A white snowflake solid was obtained (1.13 g, 3.74 mmol, 87% yield), Mp = 48-49°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.27-8.26 (m, Ph-H), 8.00-7.97 (m, Ph-H), 6.94-6.92 (m, Ph-H), 5.54-5.51 (m, 1H), 4.70-4.69 (m, 2H), 3.93-3.92 (m, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNaO}_3$ [M^+]: 321.0097; Found: 321.0094.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2s**



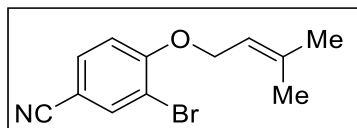
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-4-cyanophenol (1.00 g, 5.00 mmol), potassium carbonate (2.07 g, 15.00 mmol, 3 eq) and 3-bromo-1-phenyl-1-propene (0.99, 5.00 mmol). A fluffy, pale yellow solid was obtained (0.856 g, 2.72 mmol, 54%), Mp = 115-116°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.83 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, Ar-H), 7.56 (dd, J = 2.2, 8.9 Hz, Ar-H), 7.41-7.39 (m, Ar-H), 7.34-7.31 (m, Ar-H), 7.28-7.25 (m, Ar-H), 6.96 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, Ar-H), 6.77 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (dt, J = 5.3, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (dd, J = 1.4, 5.7 Hz, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.8, 137.1, 136.1, 134.4, 133.2, 128.9, 128.6, 126.9, 122.6, 177.9, 133.5, 133.1, 105.7, 70.2 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNNaO}$ $[\text{M}^+]$ 335.999447; Found: 335.999159.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2t**

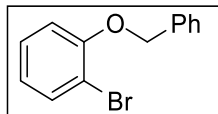


The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromo-4-cyanophenol (1.00 g, 5.0 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (2.07 g, 15 mmol, 3 eq) and prenyl bromide (0.54 mL, 5.0 mmol). A white crystalline solid was obtained (1.18 g, 4.45 mmol, 89% yield), Mp = 45-47°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86-7.85 (m, Ph-H), 7.61-7.56 (m, Ph-H), 6.97-6.94 (m, Ph-H), 5.51-5.50 (m, 1H), 4.72-4.69 (m, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNNaO}$ [M^+]: 287.9994; Found: 287.9983.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2u**

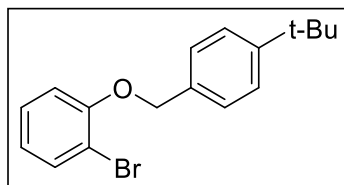


The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromophenol (0.67 mL, 5.78 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (2.40 g, 17.34 mmol, 3 eq), and benzyl bromide (0.69 mL, 5.78 mmol, 1 eq). A yellow oil was obtained (1.47 g, 5.60 mmol, 97% yield), Mp = oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.63 (dd, $J = 7.9$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.54 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.46 (t, 7.6 Hz, Ph-H), 7.39-7.36 (m, Ph-H), 7.28-7.27 (m, Ph-H), 7.00 (dd, $J = 1.0, 8.1$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.92 (td, $J = 1.2, 7.7$ Hz, Ph-H). 5.21 (s, 2H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 155.26, 136.77, 133.63, 128.77, 128.64, 128.12, 127.20, 122.37, 114.14, 112.75, 70.94 ppm.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2v**



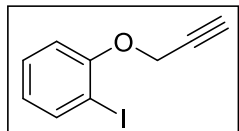
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-bromophenol (0.67 mL, 5.78 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (2.40 g, 17.34 mmol, 3 eq), and 4-*tert*-butylbenzyl bromide (1.06 mL, 5.78 mmol, 1 eq). A white solid was obtained (1.75 g, 2.28 mmol, 95% yield), Mp = 44-45°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56-7.54 (m, Ph-H), 7.40 (s, Ph-H), 7.23-7.21 (m, Ph-H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.85-6.82 (m, Ph-H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 155.18, 150.90, 133.50, 133.38, 128.35, 126.85, 125.46, 122.03, 113.92, 112.54, 70.69, 34.54, 31.32 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrNaO}$ [M^+]: 341.0511; Found: 341.0503.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2w**



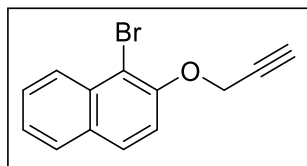
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 2-iodophenol (1.00 g, 4.57 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.90 g, 13.71 mmol, 3 eq) and propargyl bromide in a 20% toluene solution (0.49 mL, 5.48 mmol). A viscous yellow oil was obtained (1.00 g, 3.98 mmol, 85% yield), Mp = oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, Ph-H), 7.30 (td, *J* = 1.5, 8.2 Hz, Ph-H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, Ph-H), 6.74 (td, *J* = 1.2, 7.7 Hz, Ph-H), 4.74-4.73 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.52 (m, 1H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.39, 140.78, 130.46, 124.56, 114.20, 87.72, 79.14, 77.25, 58.08 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₉H₇INaO [M⁺] 280.943384; Found: 280.943342.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2x**



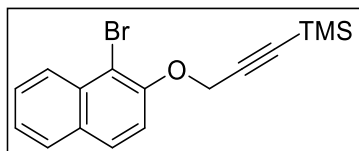
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 1-bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol), potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.50 mmol, 3 eq), and propargyl bromide in a 20% toluene solution (0.60 mL excess, 4.95 mmol). A light brown solid was obtained (1.00 g, 3.98 mmol, 85% yield), Mp = 53-54°C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, Ar-H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, Ar-H), 7.62-7.60 (m, Ar-H), 7.48-7.45 (m, Ar-H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, Ar-H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.3, 133.3, 130.7, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 126.6, 125.0, 116.1, 110.7, 78.6, 76.4, 58.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₃H₉BrNaO [M⁺] 282.972898; Found: 282.972756.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2y**



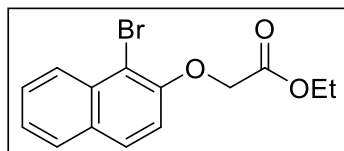
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using 1-bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol, potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.50 mmol, 3 eq), and 3-bromo-1-(trimethylsilyl)-1-propyne (0.81 mL, 4.96 mmol). The crude material was a brown solid (1.23 g, 3.70 mmol, 82% yield), Mp = 40-43 °C. Material was flash purified using 99:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate. Most column fractions coeluted, but some pure material was obtained (20% product recovery).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, Naph-H), 7.61 (dd, J = 3.9 Hz, 8.8 Hz, Naph-H), 7.39-7.37 (m, Naph-H), 7.24-7.22 (m, Naph-H), 4.70 (s, 2H) ppm, 0.00 (s, 9H, TMS) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 152.71, 133.41, 130.75, 128.93, 128.34, 127.96, 126.71, 125.09, 116.73, 110.27, 93.97, 59.20, 0.00 (TMS) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrNaOSi}$ [M^+] 355.012424; Found: 355.012268.

Synthesis of aryl ether **2.2z**



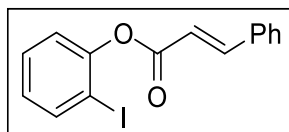
The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using bromo-2-naphthol (1.00 g, 4.50 mmol, 1 eq), potassium carbonate (1.86 g, 13.50 mmol, 3 eq), and ethyl bromoacetate (0.50 mL, 4.50 mmol). A brown solid was obtained (1.30 g, 4.23 mmol, 94% yield), Mp = 60-61°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.30 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.64 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.23 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.35 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.81, 152.73, 133.37, 130.67, 129.13, 128.24, 128.02, 126.66, 125.13, 115.52, 110.58, 67.53, 61.68, 14.34 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNaO}_3$ [M^+]: 330.9940; Found: 330.9939.

Synthesis of cinnamoyl **2.2aa**



The general procedure for the synthesis of aryl ethers was followed using iodophenol (1.00 g, 4.57 mmol, 1 eq), triethylamine (0.64 mL, 4.57 mmol, 1 eq), a catalytic amount of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.028 g, 0.23 mmol, 0.05 eq), and cinnamoyl chloride (0.76 g, 4.57 mmol, 1 eq) in 20 mL of methylene chloride. A pale pink crystalline solid was obtained (0.75 g, 2.10 mmol, 46% yield), Mp = 53-55°C.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.03-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, Ph-H), 7.67-7.66 (m, Ph-H), 7.49-7.48 (m, Ph-H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, Ph-H), 7.27-7.24 (m, Ph-H), 7.06 (dt, J = 1.1, 7.3 Hz, Ph-H), 6.75-6.71 (m, 1H) ppm.

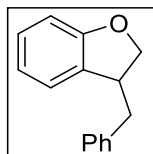
$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.39, 134.03, 130.80, 123.37, 129.37, 128.96, 128.38, 127.50, 123.07, 116.81, 90.48 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{INaO}_2$ [M^+]: 372.9701; Found: 372.9685.

General Procedure for the Radical Aryl Furan Formation Reactions

In a 1 dram vial, aryl ether (0.5 mmol, 1 eq) was added to a mixture of *t*-Bu-DAP-Br (0.014 g, 0.05 mmol, 0.1 eq) and Cs₂CO₃ (0.163 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). 1 mL of acetonitrile (0.5 mL) was then added. Phenylsilane (0.05 mL, 0.45 mmol, 0.7 eq) was added followed by triethylamine (0.7 mL, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). This was allowed to stir while being irradiated by LED light at room temperature (If the light wavelength was centered at 427 nm, stirring was overnight at a distance of 7 centimetres. If the light wavelength was centered at 456 nm, stirring was for only 5 hours at a distance of 3 centimetres.). The resulting mixture was extracted using an aqueous hexane-ethyl acetate work up, extracting the organic layer (3x20 mL). Volatiles were removed to obtain an oil. The oil was then dissolved with minimal ethyl acetate, and then 20 mL of hexane was added crashing out a white solid. The white solid was filtered from the solution using a C frit filter, and volatiles were removed to yield the final product.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2A**



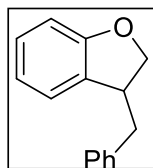
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2a** (0.168 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 456 nm blue LED. A yellow oil was obtained (0.185 g, 0.88 mmol, 88% yield), Mp= oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, Ph-H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, Ph-H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, Ph-H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ph-H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Ph-H), 6.70 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Ph-H), 4.40 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.64-3.58 (m, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 13.8 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.92, 140.13, 131.23, 129.93, 129.49, 129.30, 127.39, 125.48, 121.21, 110.56, 77.23, 44.35, 41.98 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₅H₁₄NaO [M⁺] 233.0937; Found: 233.9345.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2B**



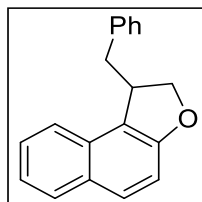
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed **2.2b** (0.145 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained (0.208 g, 0.99 mmol, 99% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.25-7.22 (m, Ph-H), 7.18-7.15 (m, Ph-H), 7.12-7.10 (m, Ph-H), 7.07-7.04 (m, Ph-H), 6.90 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.76-6.71 (m, Ph-H), 4.47 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, $J = 6.0, 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.71-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.01 (dd, $J = 6.3, 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, $J = 8.8, 14.2$ Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.18, 139.41, 130.51, 129.21, 128.77, 128.57, 126.68, 124.75, 120.49, 109.84, 76.52, 43.65, 41.27 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}$ [M^+] 233.0937; Found: 233.0932.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2D**



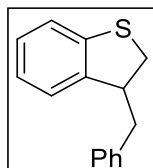
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2d** (0.167 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427nm LED for 24 hours. Product was then flash purified with 99:1 hexanes:ethyl acetate. Clear oil was obtained (0.087 g, 0.385 mmol, 77 % yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.67 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.33-7.29 (m, Ar-H), 7.17-7.13 (m, Ar-H), 7.09-7.06 (m, Ar-H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, Ar-H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 4.40-4.33 (m, 2H), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dd, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 14.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 14.2 Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.47, 140.51, 131.49, 130.61, 130.59, 130.11, 130.08, 129.59, 127.73, 127.42, 123.78, 123.32, 122.90, 113.32, 77.23, 44.30, 41.04 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}$ [M^+] 283.1093; Found: 283.1084.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2E**



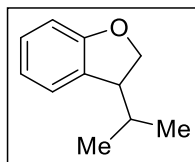
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2e** (0.305 g, 1 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained (0.107 g, 0.48 mmol, 95% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42 (t, $J = 7$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.35-7.29 (m, Ph-H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.12 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, Ph-H), 3.82-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.45 (dd, $J = 7.43, 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.21 (ddd, $J = 5.5, 13.6, 25.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.96 (dd, $J = 9.7, 13.7$ Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 142.98, 141.54, 139.74, 129.28, 128.68, 127.91, 126.55, 124.46, 124.25, 122.62, 49.80, 39.84, 38.37 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{S}$ [M^+]: 227.0889; Found: 227.0893.

Synthesis of compound **2.2F**



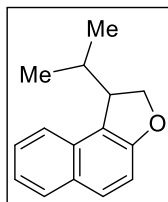
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2f** (0.144 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 456 nm LED. A clear colourless oil was obtained (0.080 g, 0.50 mmol, 99% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.19 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, Ph-H), 7.13-7.10 (m, Ph-H), 6.86 (td, $J = 0.9, 7.4$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.78 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.53 (t, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (dd, $J = 4.8, 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dt, $J = 5.1, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.99-1.93 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 160.86, 129.85, 128.56, 125.49, 120.48, 109.76, 74.25, 48.60, 32.13, 20.23, 18.86 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}$ [M^+]: 163.1117; Found: 163.1115.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2G**



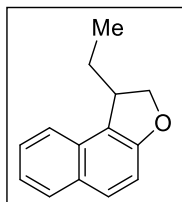
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2g** (0.146 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained (0.101 g, 0.48 mmol, 95% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.84 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.48-7.45 (m, Ph-H), 7.32-7.29 (m, Ph-H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.70 (dd, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.83 (dt, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.40 (m, Ph-H), 1.09 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 0.73 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.86, 131.00, 129.74, 129.54, 129.18, 126.58, 122.85, 122.76, 121.38, 112.27, 73.01, 47.90, 30.37, 21.39, 16.43 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}$ [M^+]: 211.1128; Found: 211.1133.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2H**



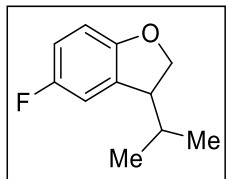
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2h** (0.139 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A clear yellow oil was obtained (0.071 g, 0.36 mmol, 72% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.47-7.43 (m, Ar-H), 7.31-7.27 (m, Ar-H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, Ar-H), 4.72 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.55 (dd, $J = 3.5, 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (sept, $J = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.92(m, 1H), 1.79-1.70 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 157.85, 131.14, 129.98, 129.71, 129.43, 126.94, 123.08, 122.86, 122.38, 112.58, 77.12, 43.41, 27.30, 11.41 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}$ [M^+]: 199.1117; Found: 199.1113.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2M**



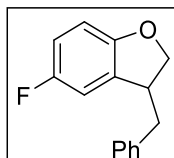
The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2m** (0.130 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm LED. A yellow oil was obtained (0.088 g, 0.49 mmol, 99% yield), Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 6.94 (ddd, $J = 0.6, 2.7, 8.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 6.86-6.82 (m, Ph-H), 6.72 (dd, $J = 4.1, 8.6$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.60 (t, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.44 (dd, $J = 5.1, 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.37-3.33 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.01 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.41, 156.56, 156.53, 134.42-134.24 (m), 131.11 (d), 128.08-127.61 (m), 144.49 (d), 112.37 (d), 109.53 (d), 74.60, 48.65, 31.77, 19.88 (d) ppm.

Note: Impurity signals in the aromatic region most likely arise from phenylsilane by-product.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2N**



The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2n** (0.153 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm LED. A colourless oil was obtained (0.105 g, 0.41 mmol, 92% yield), Mp= oil.

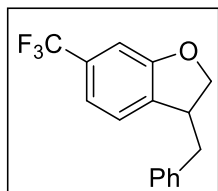
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.35-7.32 (m, Ph-H), 7.28-7.24 (m, Ph-H), 7.19-7.18 (m, Ph-H), 6.83 (td, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 9.0 Hz, Ph-H), 6.71 (dd, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 8.4 Hz, Ph-H), 6.65 (dd, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, Ph-H), 4.57 (t, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.76-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.04 (dd, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 14.0 Hz, 1H) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.56, 156.68 (d, $J = 54.4$ Hz), 139.024, 132.04 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 129.30, 128.97, 126.98, 114.86(d, $J = 24.8$ Hz), 112.12 (d, $J = 24.8$ Hz), 110.00 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 77.62 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz) 44.03, 41.07 ppm.

^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -124.41– -124.46 (m) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}$ [M^+]: 229.1023; Found: 229.1020.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2P**



The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2p** (0.357 g, 1.0 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A red oil was obtained (0.270 g, 0.97 mmol, 97% yield), Mp= oil. Product oil was flash purified using 99:1 hexanes and ethyl acetate eluent (74% recovery).

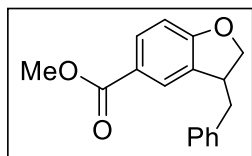
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, Ph-H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, Ph-H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, Ph-H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ph-H), 6.92 (s, Ph-H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ph-H), 4.51 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (quin, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 13.9 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³C{H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.54, 138.75, 134.68, 131.59 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz, CF₃), 129.24, 128.93, 126.98, 125.49, 125.08, 123.32, 117.70 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz, Ph), 106.93 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz, Ph), 43.43, 41.07 ppm.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.26 ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₄F₃O [M⁺]: 279.0991; Found: 279.0990.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2Q**

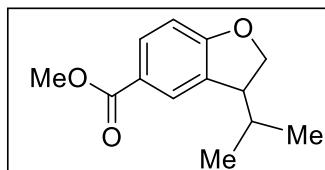


The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2q** (0.173 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained containing an inseparable contaminant. Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.97 (dd, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 8.5 Hz, Ph-H), 7.81 (s, Ph-H), 7.38-7.31 (m, Ph-H), 7.29-7.26 (m, Ph-H), 7.21 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz Ph-H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.62 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 (dd, $J = 6.0, 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.83-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.17 (dd, $J = 5.5, 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, $J = 9.5, 13.5$ Hz, 1H) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_3$ [M^+]: 291.0992; Found: 291.0995.

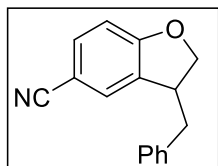
Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2R**



The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2r** (0.150 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained containing an inseparable contaminant. Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86-7.84 (m, Ph-H), 6.75 (d, $J = 8.51$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.58 (t, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dd, $J = 5.2, 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.35 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.93 (m, 1H), 0.93 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

Synthesis of benzofuran **2.2s**

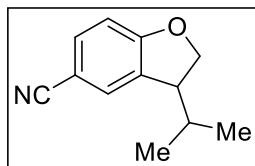


The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2s**. The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained containing an inseparable contaminant. Mp= oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 8.3 Hz, Ph-H), 7.34-7.31 (m, Ph-H), 7.28-7.24 (m, Ph-H), 7.15-7.13 (m, Ph-H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, Ph-H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (quin, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 13.9 Hz, 1H) ppm.

HRMS (ESI): calc'd for C₁₆H₁₃NNaO [M⁺]: 258.0889; Found: 258.0886.

Synthesis of aryl furan **2.2T**



The general procedure for the radical aryl furan formation reactions was followed using **2.2t** (0.133 g, 0.5 mmol, 1 eq). The reaction was irradiated using a 427 nm violet LED. A yellow oil was obtained containing an inseparable contaminant. Mp= oil.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42-7.41 (m, Ph-H), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, Ph-H), 4.60 (t, $J = 8.52$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, $J = 5.2, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.36-3.32 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.91 (m, 1H), 0.93 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H) ppm.

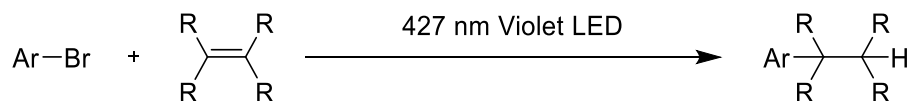
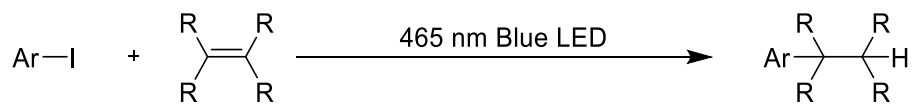
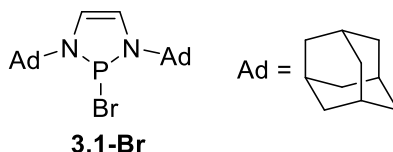
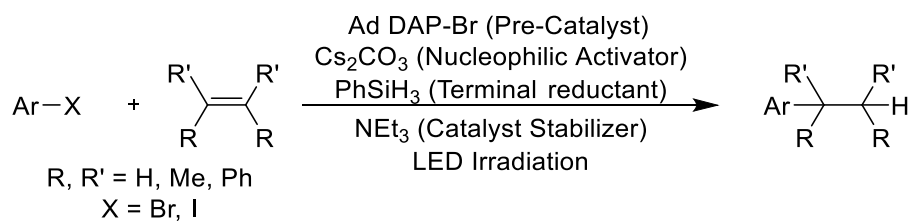
Chapter 3: Catalytic Intermolecular Alkylations

3.1 Contributions

There are no contributions to add in this section.

3.2 Introduction

The success we had with the intramolecular cyclizations inspired the thought of performing carbon-carbon bond synthesis intermolecularly. Instead of using a radical donor and an acceptor on the same substrate, the reactivity studied in this section will explore a select few alkylation reactions from one separate radical donor, and another separate radical acceptor (Scheme 3.1). This is a more challenging reaction, because in the intermolecular reaction the effective concentration of the radical trap is lower, giving the radical more time to engage in undesired reactivity.



Scheme 3.1: General reaction conditions for the intermolecular alkylation reactions. Reactions that involved use of an aryl iodide were done under the irradiation of a 456 nm blue LED. Reactions that involved use of an aryl bromide were done under the irradiation of a 427 nm violet LED.

The same radical mechanism applies in this chemistry from the intramolecular cyclizations, and the reaction reagents utilized are the same. The logic of using the 456 nm blue LED for iodide substrates, and the 427 nm violet LED for bromide substrates were applied in this chemistry as well. Intermolecular alkylations are much more challenging to achieve compared to intramolecular cyclizations. Since the active reactants in the carbon-carbon bond formation are not on the same molecule, it is much easier for the radical donor to perform side reactions, such

as dimerization, reaction with the solvent, or H atom transfer from the diazaphospholene, than to find and react with its corresponding radical acceptor in solution.

With this concept in mind, other criteria of a successful radical intermolecular alkylation can be relied on for radical carbon-carbon bond synthesis. If the C-X bond is relatively weak, the activation barrier will be lowered making the initiation of the reaction faster. For example, if the radical acceptor alkene is electrophilic, the nucleophilic radical donor will have more of an affinity to interact with the acceptor as opposed to performing a side reaction. Also, if the radical acceptor is added in excess, it will be much more likely that radical donor will react with it²⁸. These three factors were considered when attempting to perform this chemistry.

3.3 Results and Discussion

A set of substrates consisting of alkene radical acceptors and aryl halide radical donors were reacted using the previously optimized conditions. Unfortunately, there was a general lack of success, which could be attributed to the nature of the chemistry, and the difficulties stated previously. Not only the radical intermediates are more likely to perform side reactions, but the diazaphospholene catalyst had an affinity to react with the radical acceptor, shutting down the catalytic cycle (Figure 3.1).

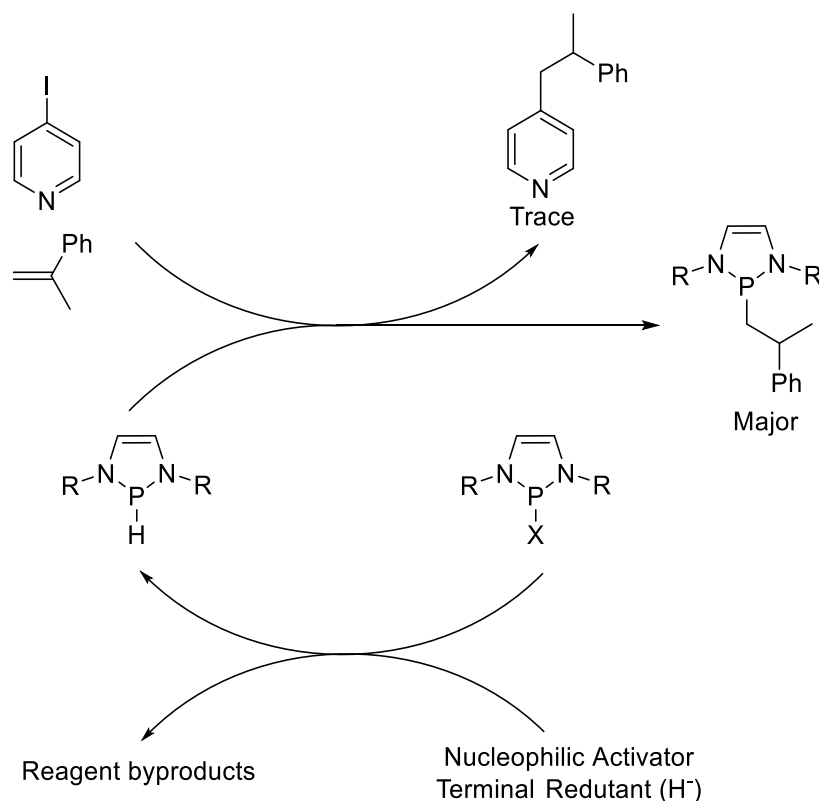
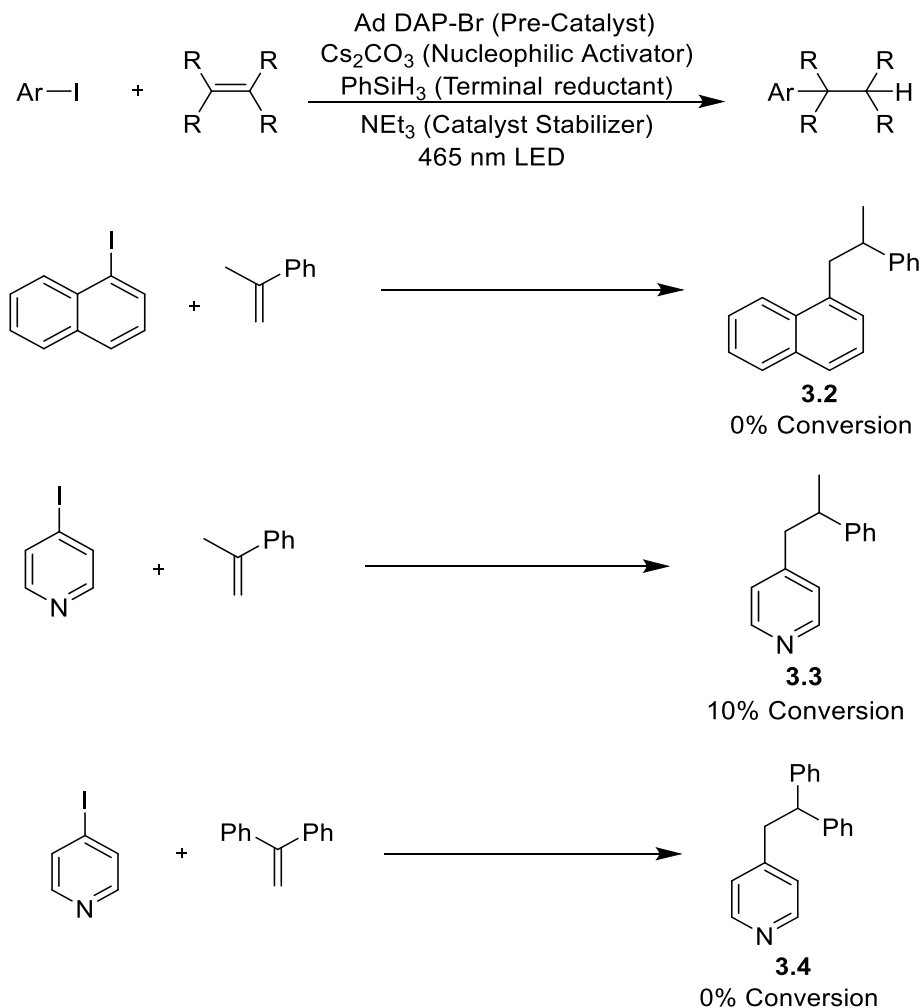


Figure 3.1: The proposed mechanism for the intermolecular alkylation.

It was later found that catalytic use of a diazaphospholene bromide bearing adamantyl substituents on the nitrogen atoms (**3.1-Br**) gave overall higher conversions than the *tert*-butyl

DAP-H. This was explained by the additional steric hinderance of the adamantyl groups slowing down the DAP reactivity of the radical acceptor.

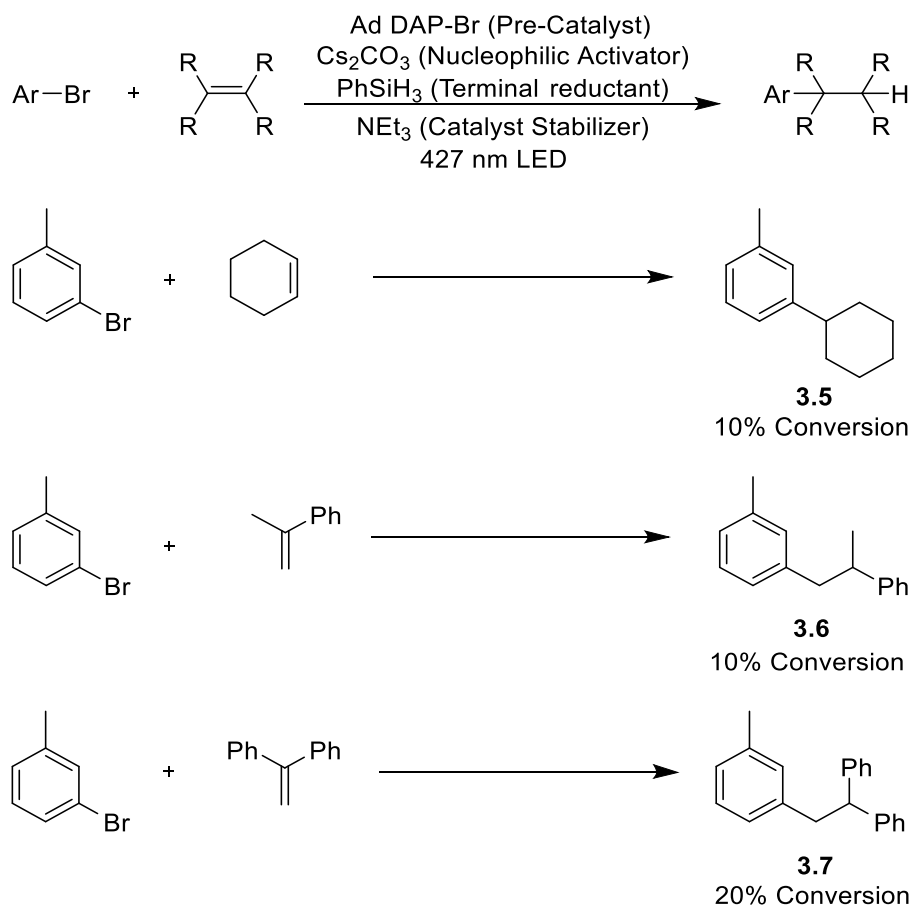
Conversions were determined by comparing ^1H NMR peak integration ratios of target product to starting material or undesired product.



Scheme 3.2: Intermolecular alkylations with iodide donors, showing conversion percentage by integrations of product and starting material.

Alkylation reactions using aryl iodides showed little promise, where attempted synthesis of compound **3.2** using 1-iodonaphthalene and methyl styrene, and attempted synthesis of

compound **3.4** using 4-iodopyridine and diphenylethylene were not successful. These failed reactions did show activity, with major signals in their ^{31}P NMR indicating P-C bond forming reactions between the diazaphospholene and the alkene acceptor. Only a fraction of conversion to the alkylated product **3.3** was shown to occur upon a reaction with 4-iodopyridine and methyl styrene, giving a 12% conversion. However, alkylated product **3.3** was isolated upon aqueous workup with ethyl acetate, followed by column chromatography using 99:1 hexanes-ethyl acetate eluent. Although some of **3.3** was isolated, the yield was low (< 10%) and included a minor impurity.



Scheme 3.3: Intermolecular alkylations with bromide donors, showing conversion percentage by integration of the product and starting material.

Reactions carried out with aryl bromide radical donors delivered miniscule conversion percentages but were more successful than aryl iodide radical donors (Scheme 3.3). Compound **3.5** using 1,3-bromotoluene and cyclohexene showed a trace conversion of 10%. The same conversion was observed for the generation of compound **3.6**, from 1,3-bromotoluene and methyl styrene. The best results were obtained for the generation of compound **3.7**, using diphenyl ethylene with 1,3-bromotoluene, which gave an increased alkylation conversion to 20%. The result of these bromo substrate alkylation reactions were similar to those of the iodo substrates. After the reaction was complete, the formation of P-C environments were evident in the ^{31}P NMR spectra, indicating again that some diazaphospholene functionalization had occurred. Potential radical donors **3a**, **3b**, **3c**, and **3d** (figure 3.2) were reacted with methyl styrene under the previous conditions but were shown to be inert during reaction trials.

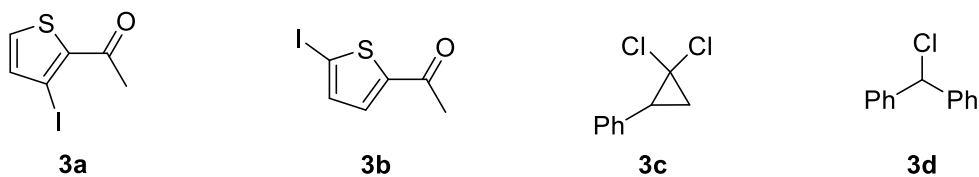


Figure 3.2: Unsuccessful intermolecular radical donors that were also reacted in this work.

Methyl-3-iodothiophene (**3a**), 2-acetyl-5-iodothiophene (**3b**), cyclopropyldichlorophenyl (**3c**), chlorodiphenylmethane (**3d**).

3.4 Conclusions and Future Work

Alkylating aryl halides and radical accepting alkenes intermolecularly using **3.1-Br** is an incomplete project but one that has potential for success with more optimizing and screening of conditions. The conditions used in this work still shows some promise however, with indications of some reactivity; higher conversion could potentially be achieved for one of the substrate pairs. The testing of new substrate pairs and the optimization experiments should be investigated in the future. If higher yields were obtained, use of chiral diazaphospholenes might reveal if enantioselectivity is feasible in these radical reactions.

3.5 Experimental Section

All reagents and solvents were dispensed in a 2001 issue IT Glovebox (H_2O levels may vary between 2-6 ppm) unless otherwise stated. The intermolecular alkylation reactions and related reactions were prepared in a 1-dram vials equipped with magnetic stir bars. All reactions were conducted at ambient temperature unless otherwise stated. The material selected to prepare NMR samples gave homogeneous solutions unless otherwise stated. ^1H , ^{31}P , ^{13}C NMR data were collected at 300K on either a Bruker AV-300 or AV-500 spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectra are referenced to residual non-deuterated NMR solvent from the sample ($\text{CDCl}_3 = 7.24$ ppm). ^{13}C NMR spectra are referenced to as follows ($\text{CHCl}_3 = 77.16$ ppm). LED irradiation was conducted using a Kessil H150-Blue lamp centered at a wavelength approximately 456 nm (50 W max), and a Kessil H150-Violet lamp with a maximum emission centered at a wavelength approximately 427 nm (45 W max). The melting points of isolated products were observed using a Fischer-Johns melting point apparatus.

Solvents

Acetonitrile was purchased as anhydrous >99% ACS grade from Sigma Aldrich and used without purification.

Hexanes was purchased in a drum ACS grade from Fisher and used as is.

Ethyl acetate was purchased in a drum ACS grade from Fisher and used as is.

Reagents

Potassium carbonate was purchased from ACP and used as received.

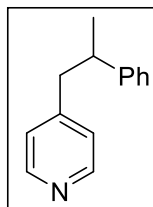
Cesium carbonate was purchased from Sigma Aldrich, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Phenylsilane was purchased from Oakwood Chemical, stored at ambient temperature in the glovebox, and used as received.

Diazaphospholene (**3.1-Br**) was prepared according to literature methods⁷.

Synthesis and Characterization

Synthesis of compound **3.3**



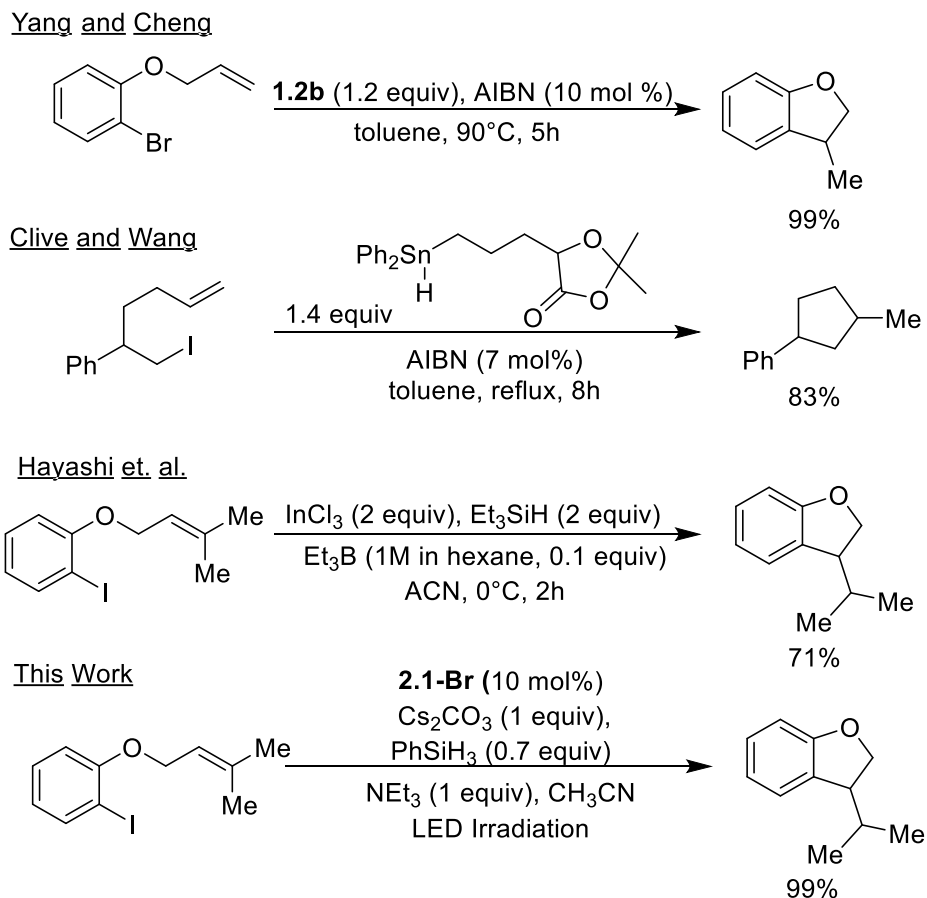
In a 1 dram vial, 4-iodopyridine (0.039 g, 0.144 mmol, 1 eq) was added to a mixture of **3.1-Br** (0.015 g, 0.036 mmol, 0.15 eq) and cesium carbonate (0.047 g, 0.114 mmol, 1 eq). Methyl styrene (0.04 mL, 0.288 mmol, 2 eq) was then added to the mixture followed by phenylsilane (0.03 mL, 0.243 mmol, 1.7 eq) and triethylamine (0.02 mL, 0.144 mmol, 1 eq). This mixture was allowed to stir for 4 hours while being irradiated by a 456 nm LED. The resulting mixture was extracted using an aqueous hexane-ethyl acetate work up, extracting the organic layer (3x 20 mL). Volatiles were removed to obtain an oil. The oil was purified using column chromatography with the eluent consisting of a 1:1 ratio of ethyl acetate and hexane. Volatiles were removed by rotatory evaporation, and the ^1H NMR spectra was obtained corresponding to the oil.

Note: The oil contained excess ethyl acetate which overlapped with the CH_3 signal.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.42 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, Ar-H), 7.28-7.25 (m, Ar-H), 7.20-7.16 (m, Ar-H), 7.14- 7.12 (m, Ar-H), 6.96 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz, Ar-H), 3.73 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, Impurity), 3.05 (sextet, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 13.4 Hz, 1H) ppm.

Chapter 4: Conclusions

The work presented in this thesis expands on existing diazaphospholene radical chemistry that was done in a stoichiometric manner, by allowing it to be made catalytic. This work will also open more doors for diazaphospholene radical chemistry with the use of LED lights (Scheme 4.1). Known diazaphospholene **2.2-Br** was synthesized, and a system was successfully developed to generate catalyst **2.2-H** in situ while remaining stable under the reaction conditions for a considerable amount of time. This system was then applied to cyclizing aryl ether substrates and was successful in doing this chemistry catalytically. The metal free cyclization method is superior to previous literature systems, and even superior to similar organometallic catalysis that are stoichiometric for these substrate classes. Most aryl ether substrates reacted in this scope were not successful, most having to do with the radical acceptor groups deviating from an alkene. Substrates with radical acceptors such as alkynes, and aryl groups will need more screening (potentially more aggressive reacting systems for non-reacting substrates such as aryl bearing acceptors and chloride substrates, and more mild systems for overly reactive substrates such as alkynes). Yields of these products have room for improvement as well with improved purification techniques.



Scheme 4.1: Comparison of previous intramolecular cyclization chemistry in the literature, followed by the improved method for aryl ether class substrate cyclization developed by the Speed group.

These reactions create a stereocenter, and with asymmetric chemistry being an area of expertise of the Speed group, another future objective would involve synthesizing stereochemically pure bicyclic products. This might be achieved by using a different chiral diazaphospholene catalyst, or by using a chiral auxiliary.

Developing intermolecular alkylation reactions using **3.1-Br** was a much more challenging task. It is more difficult for the radical acceptor and the radical donor to react with each other in

solution, given the limited lifetimes of aryl radicals. Only a highlight reel of this work was presented in this thesis even though results were incomplete and modest, showing conversions up to 20% at best. This incomplete project still has potential for success. Much more screening is required than previously done, with some but not all variables including reaction time, catalyst variants, catalyst loading, LED irradiation screening, and new reactants. With optimal conditions established, product conversions are sure to increase to more satisfactory values. Isolation of compound **3.3** showed that it is possible by aqueous work up and column chromatography. Other future work on this project will be doing these alkylating reactions asymmetrically with chiral DAPs. An alternate strategy to achieve asymmetric product formation could use a chiral auxiliary to aid in stereo-control.

References

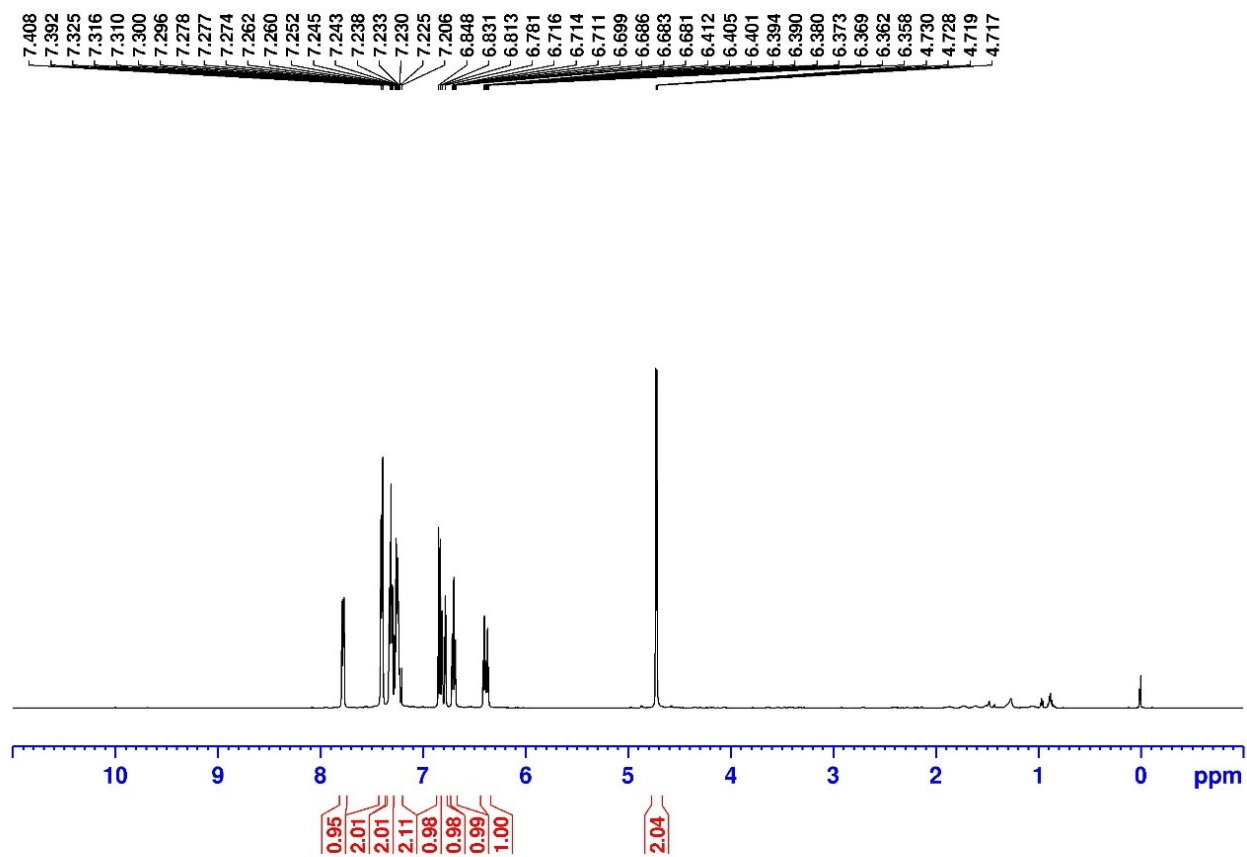
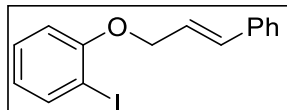
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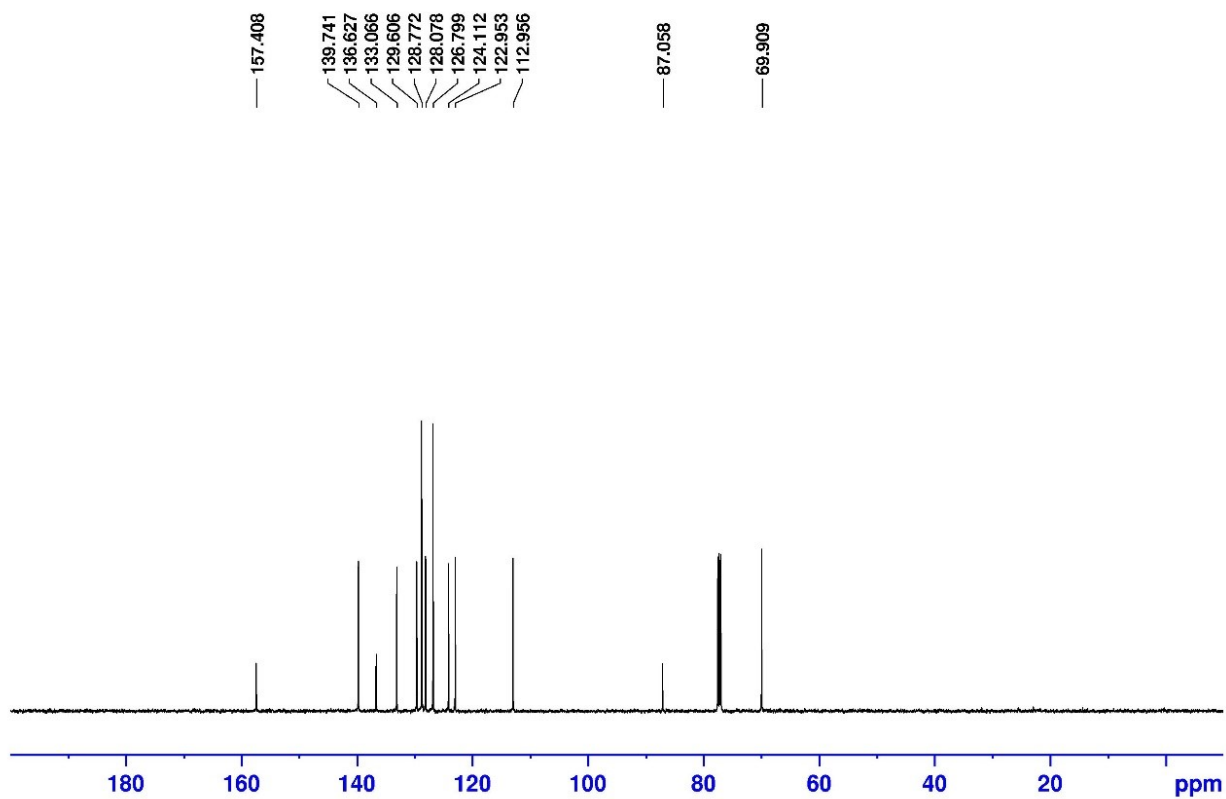
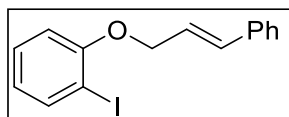
Appendix A: NMR Spectra for Chapter 2

(2.2a)

^1H NMR

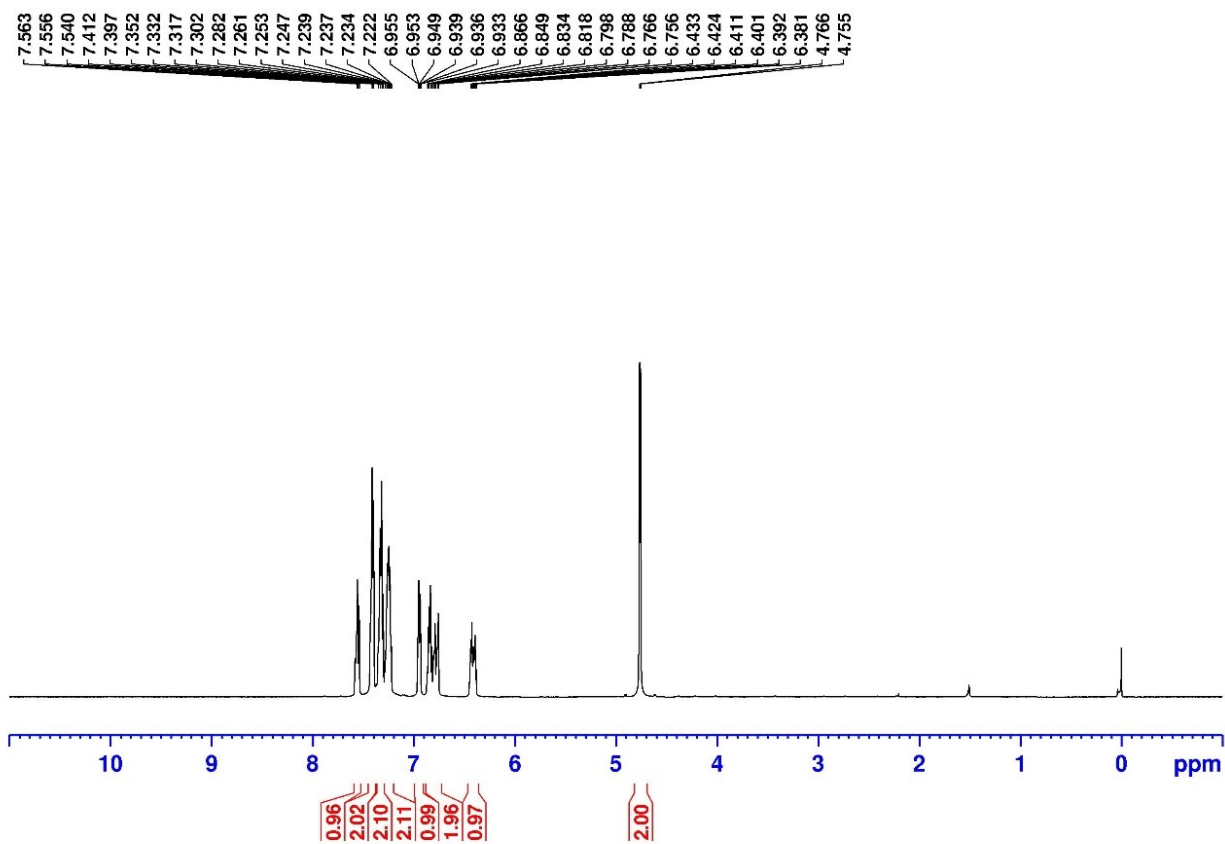
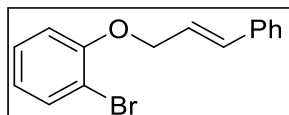


¹³C NMR

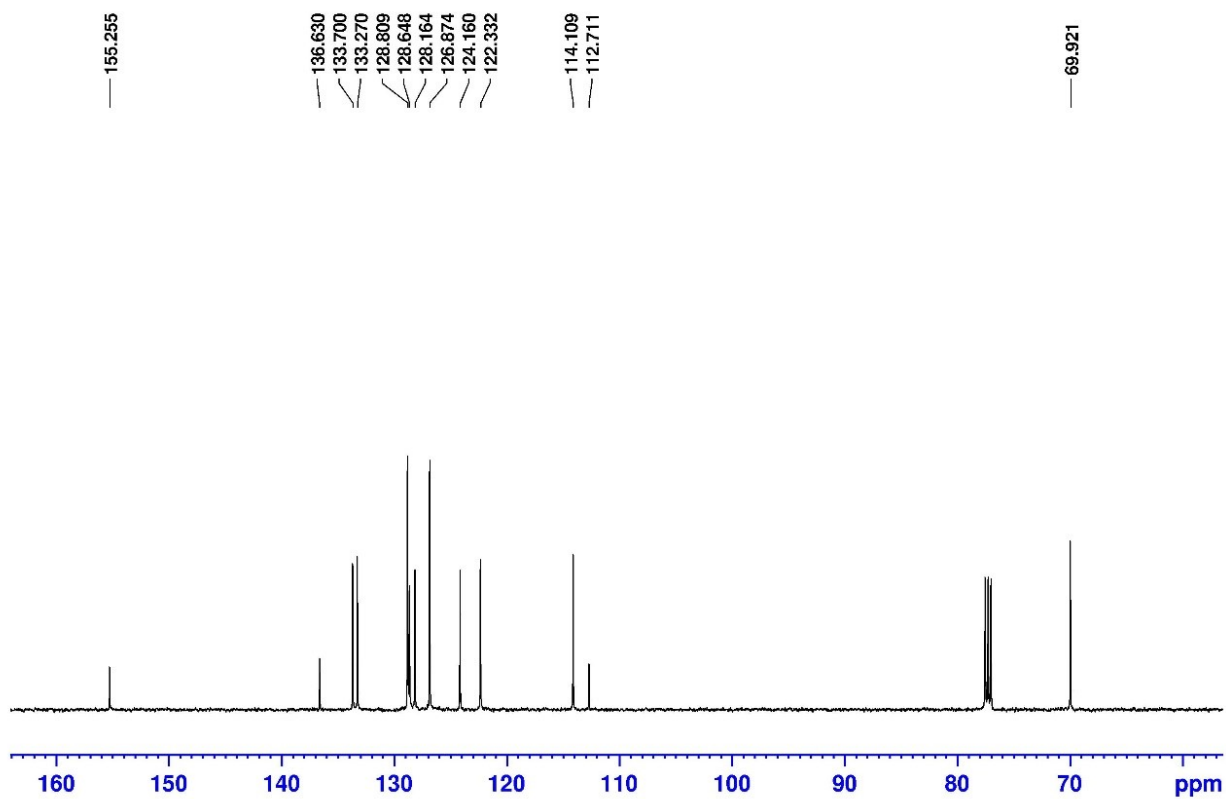
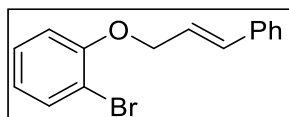


(2.2b)

^1H NMR

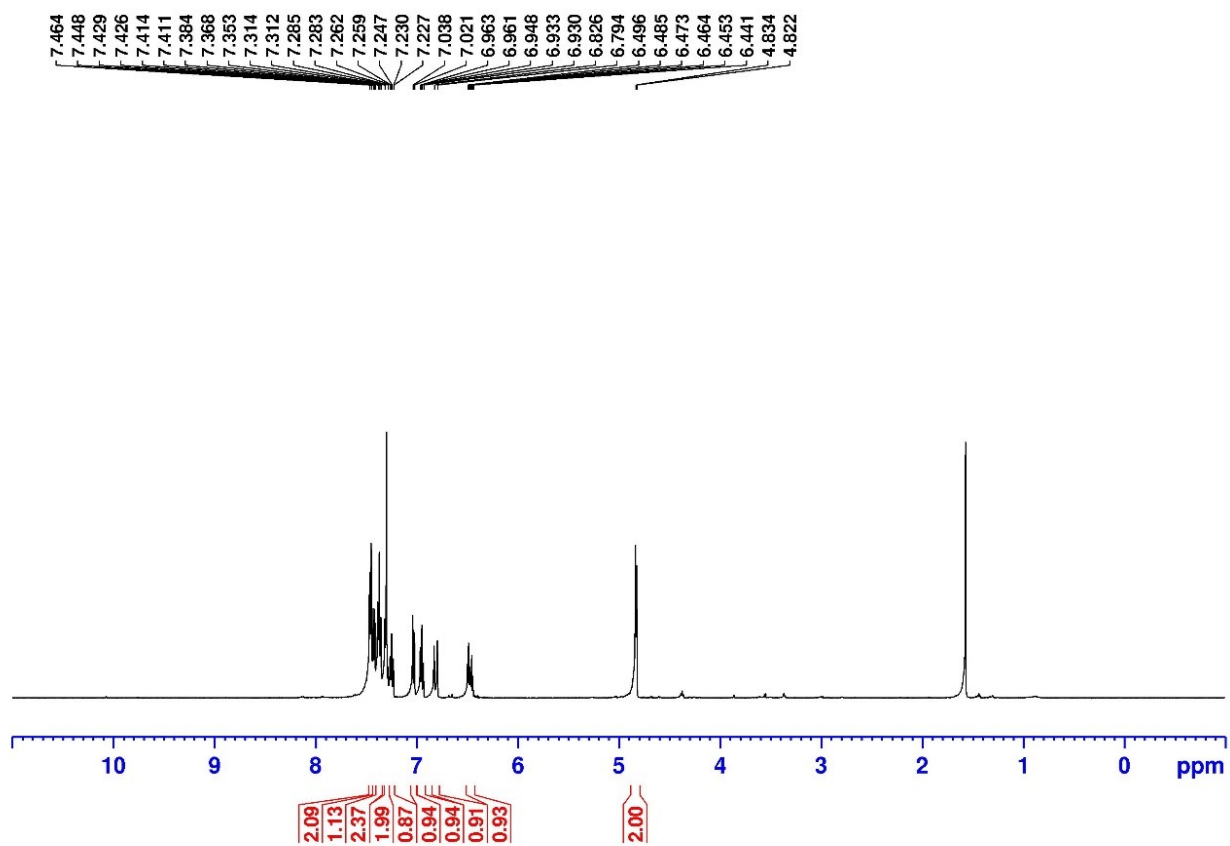
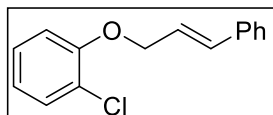


¹³C NMR

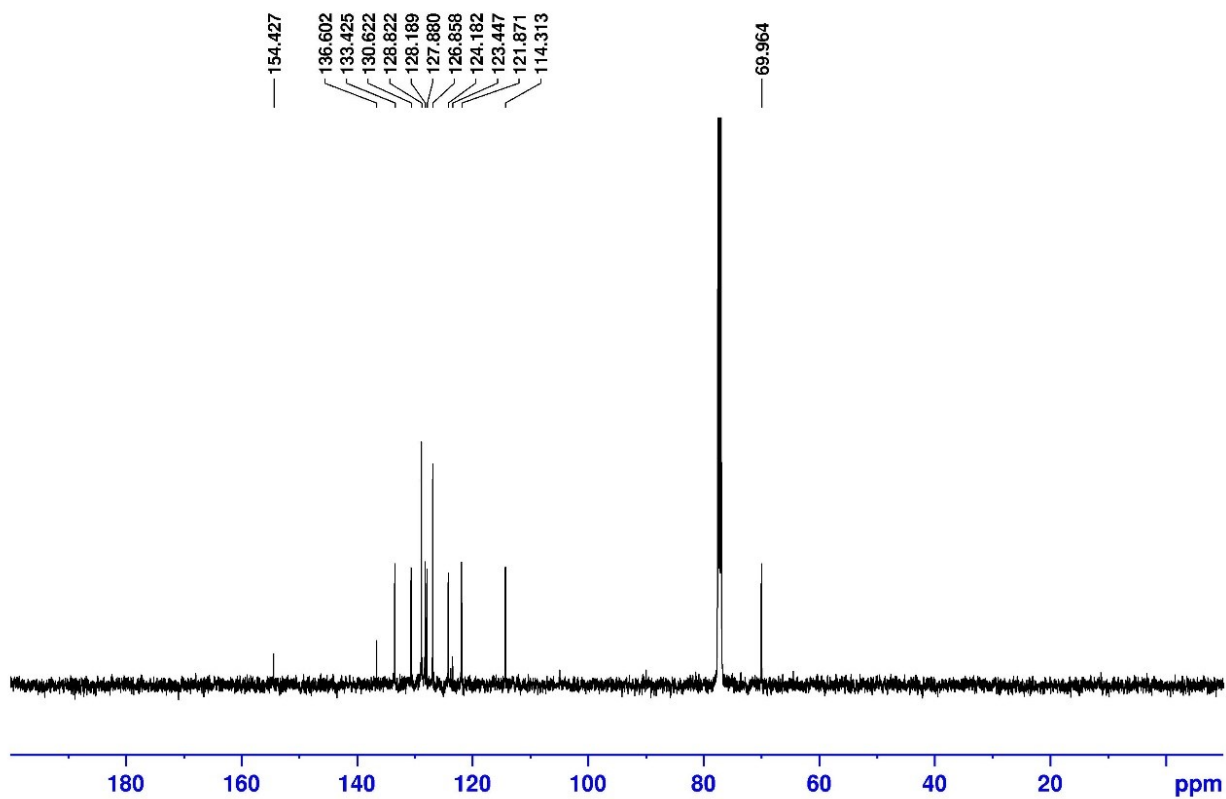
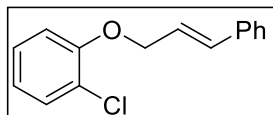


(2.2c)

^1H NMR

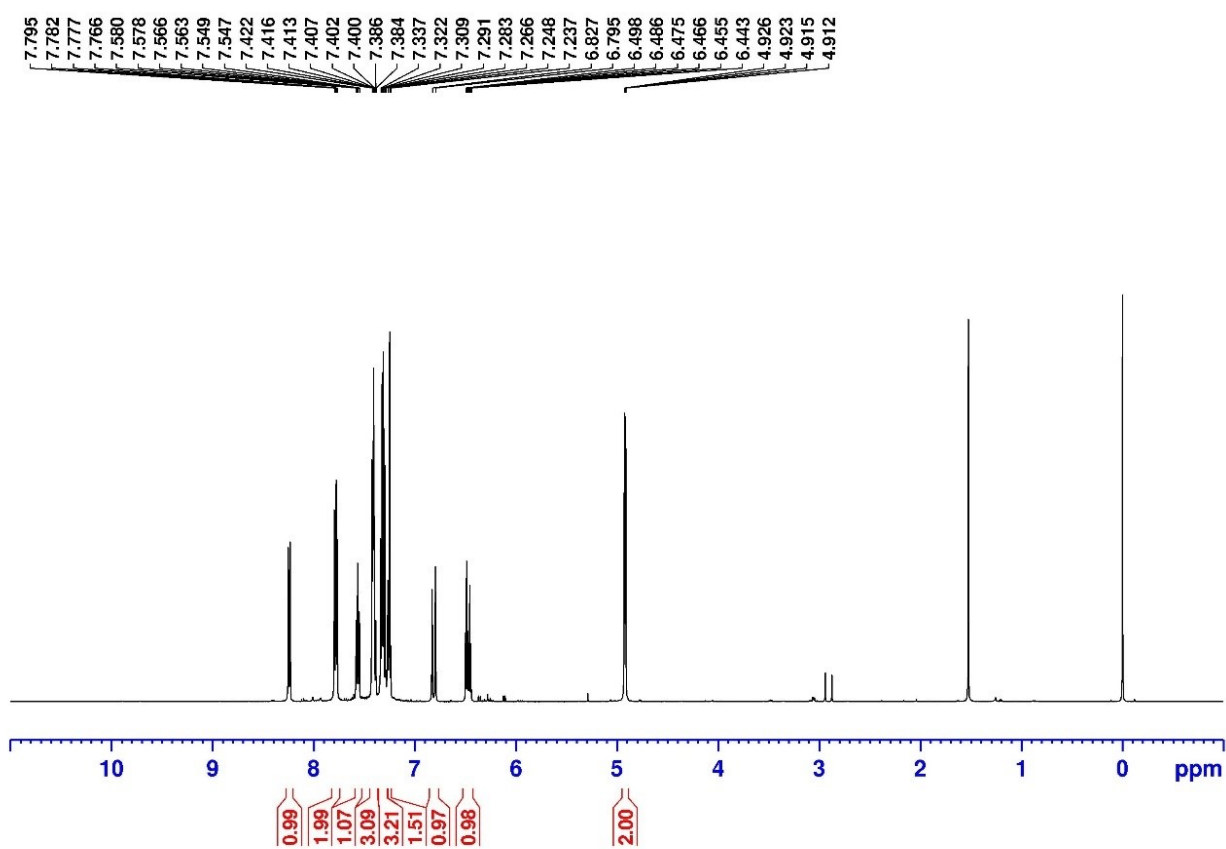
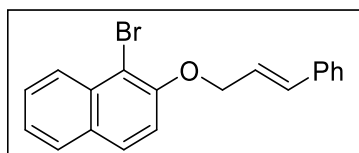


¹³C NMR

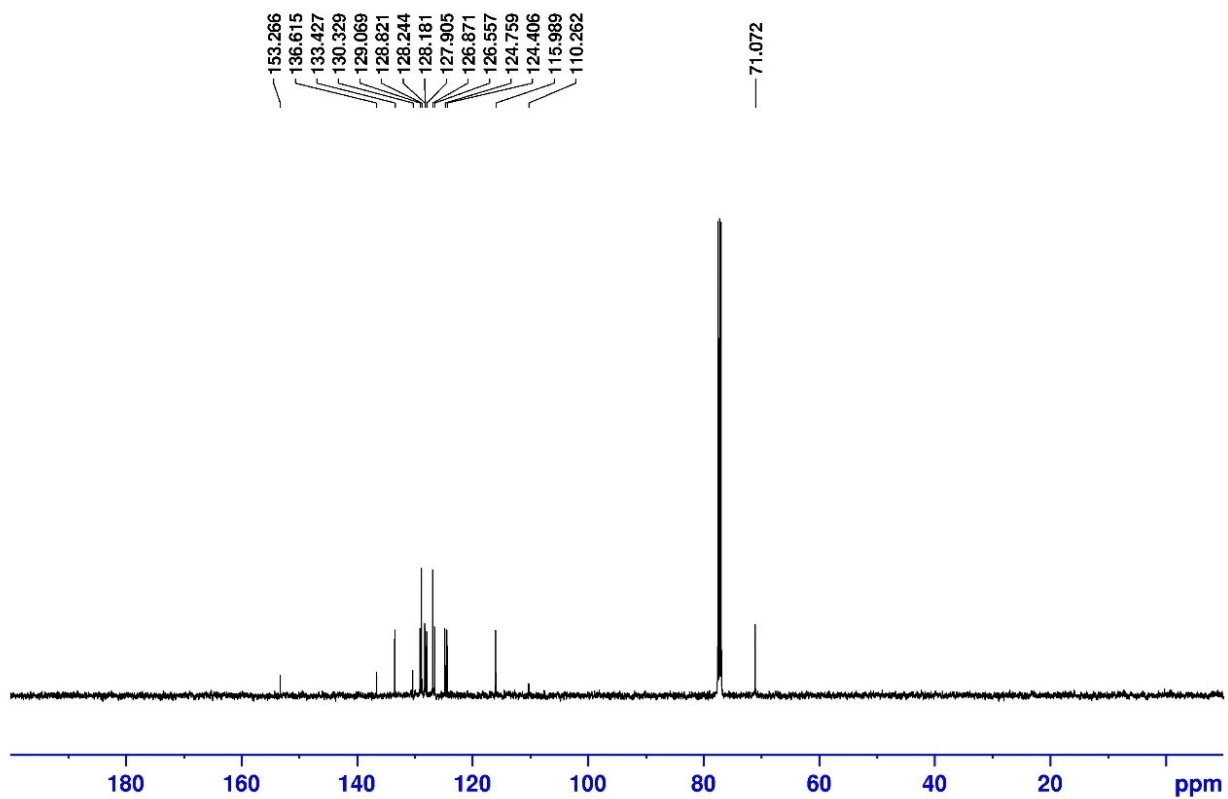
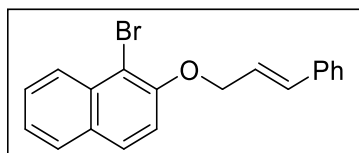


(2.2d)

^1H NMR

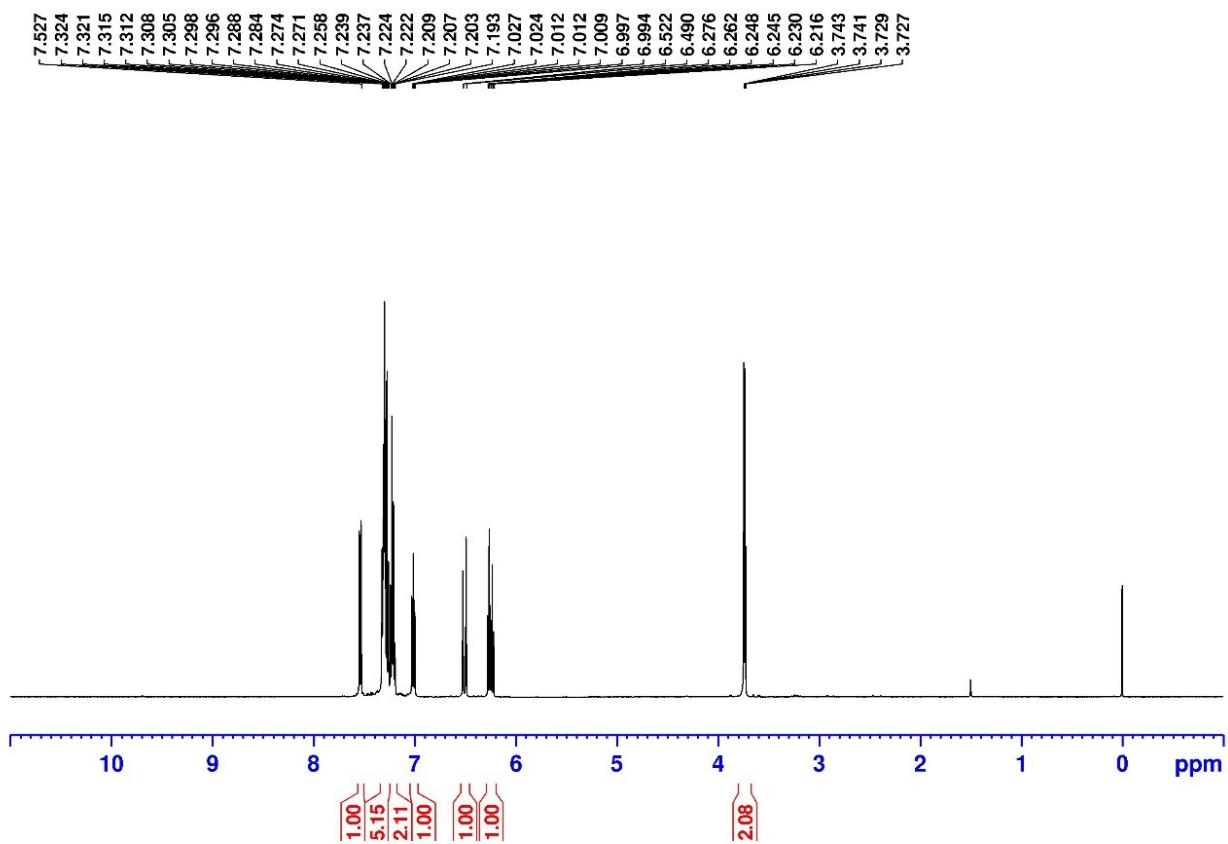
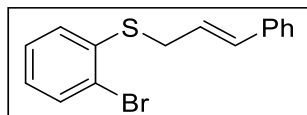


¹³C NMR

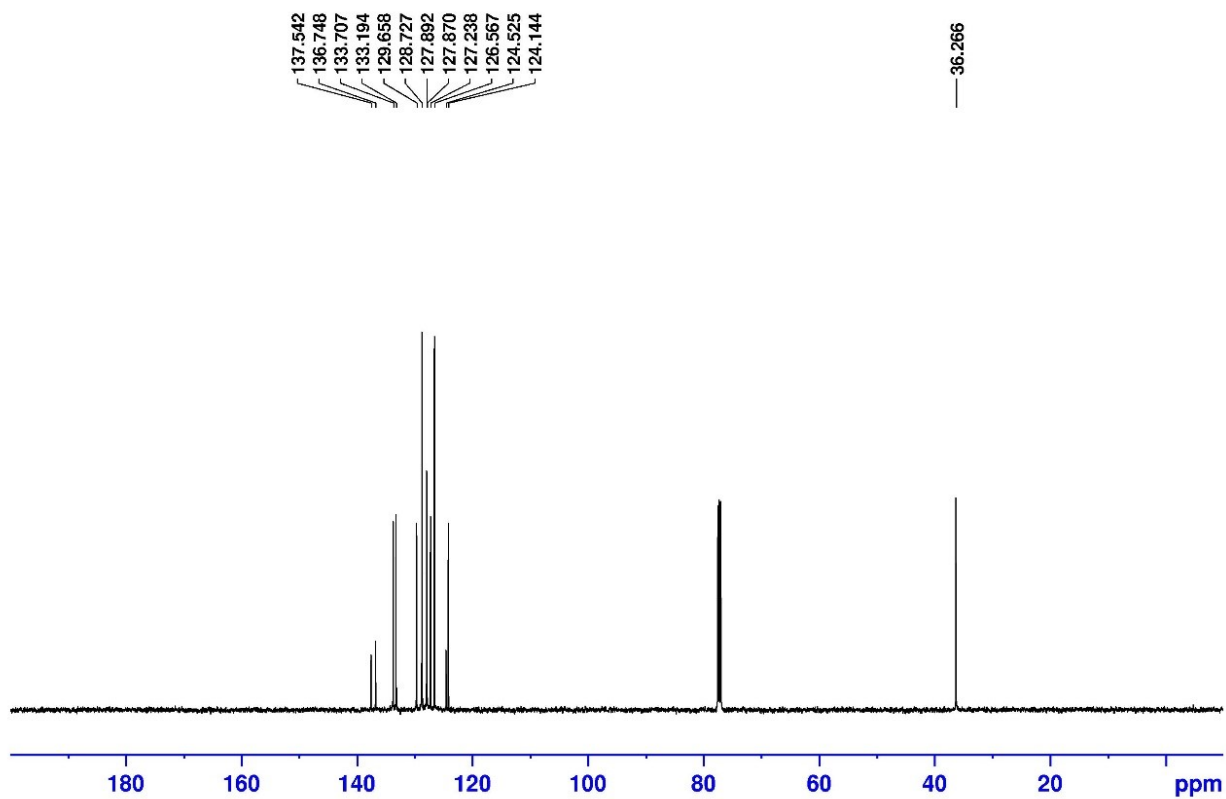
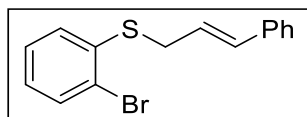


(2.2e)

^1H NMR

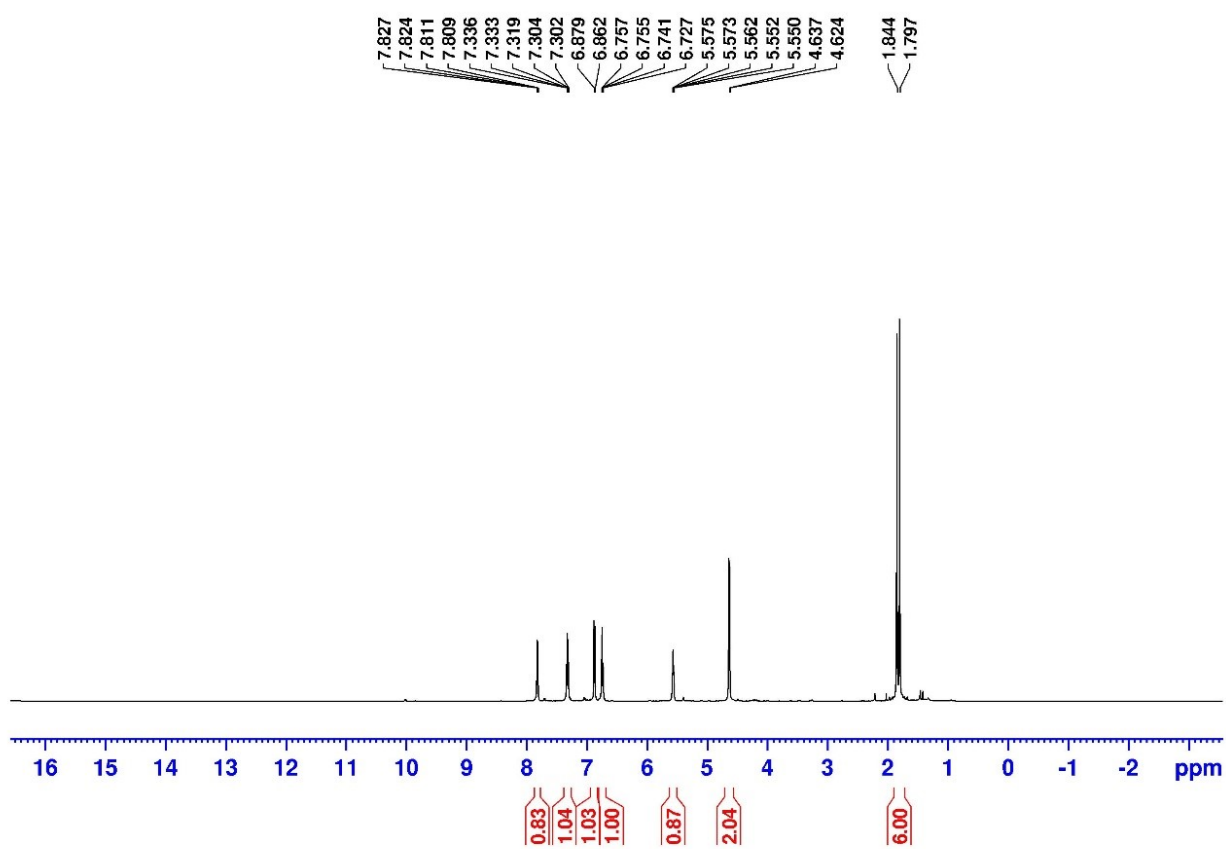
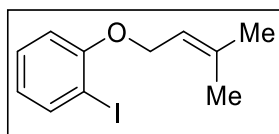


¹³C NMR

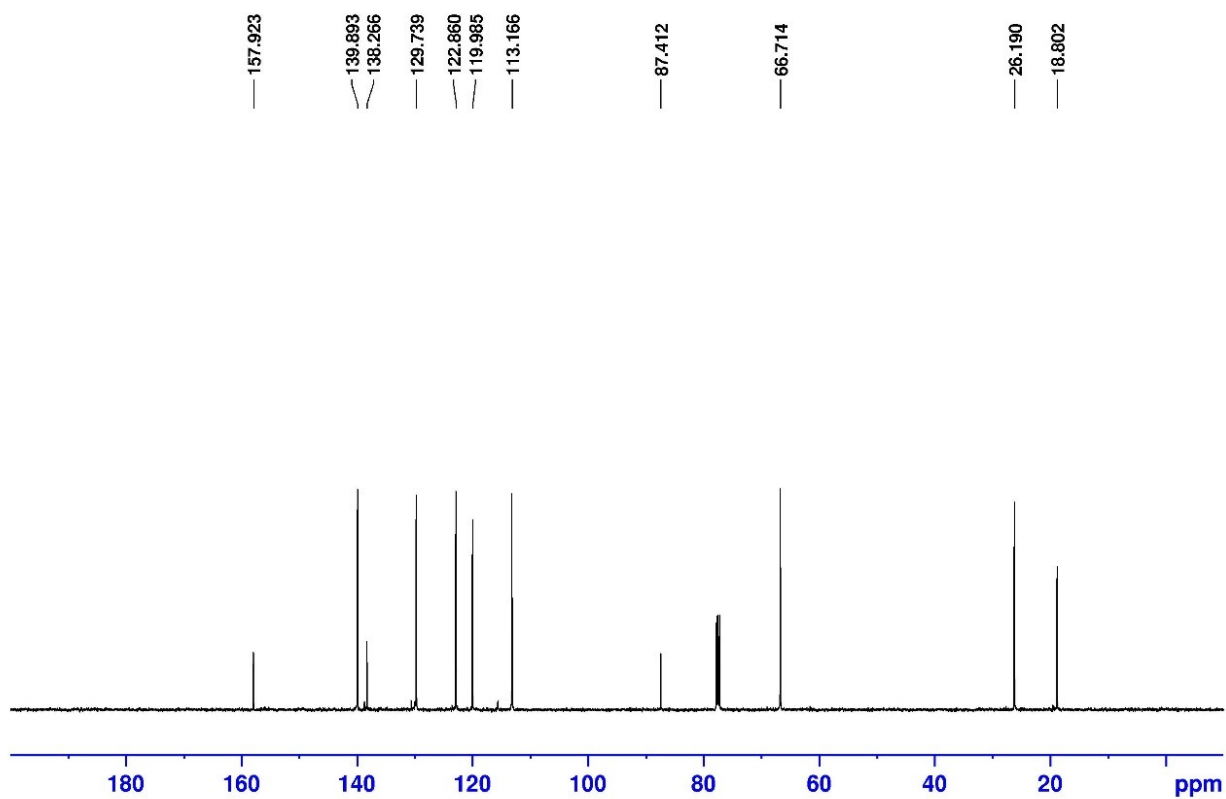
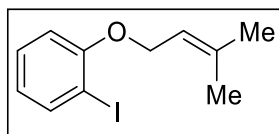


(2.2f)

^1H NMR

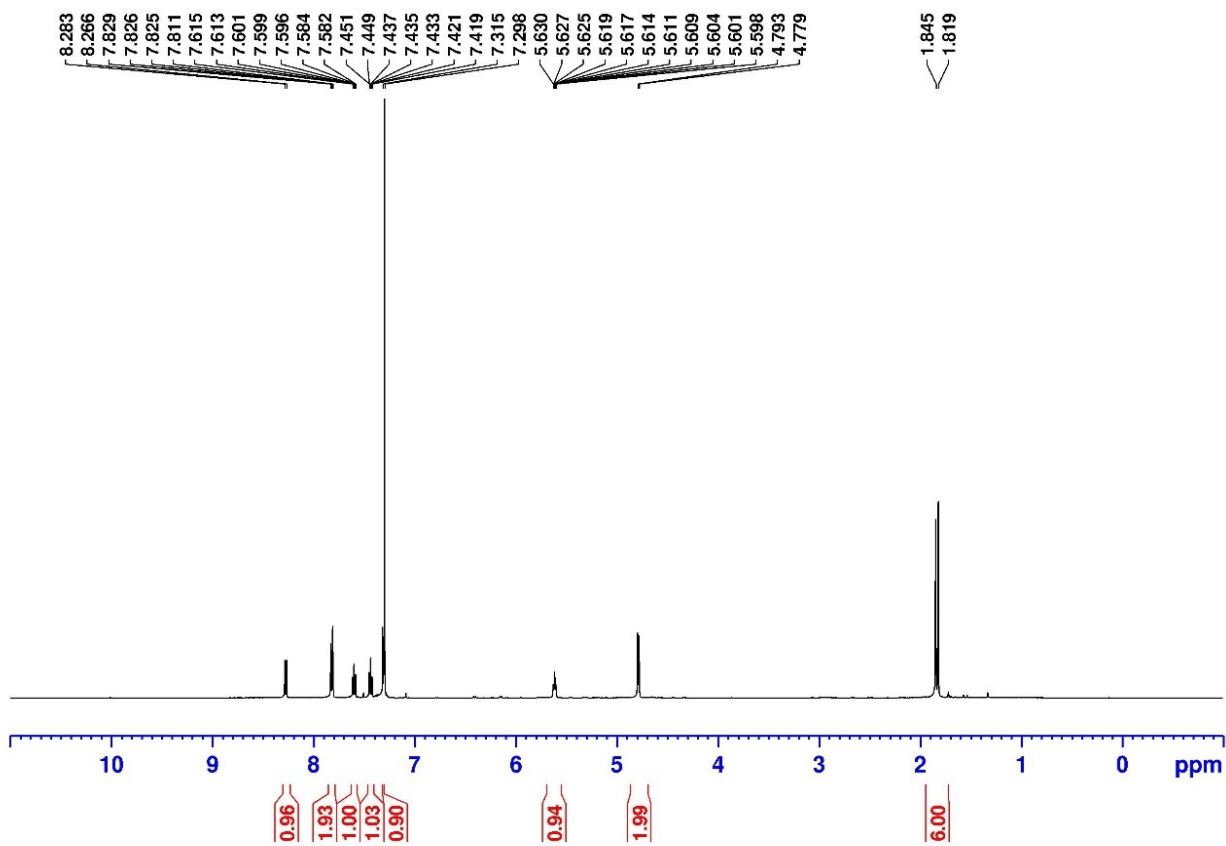
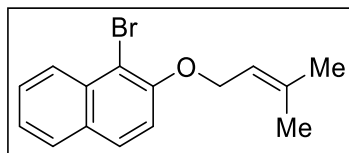


¹³C NMR

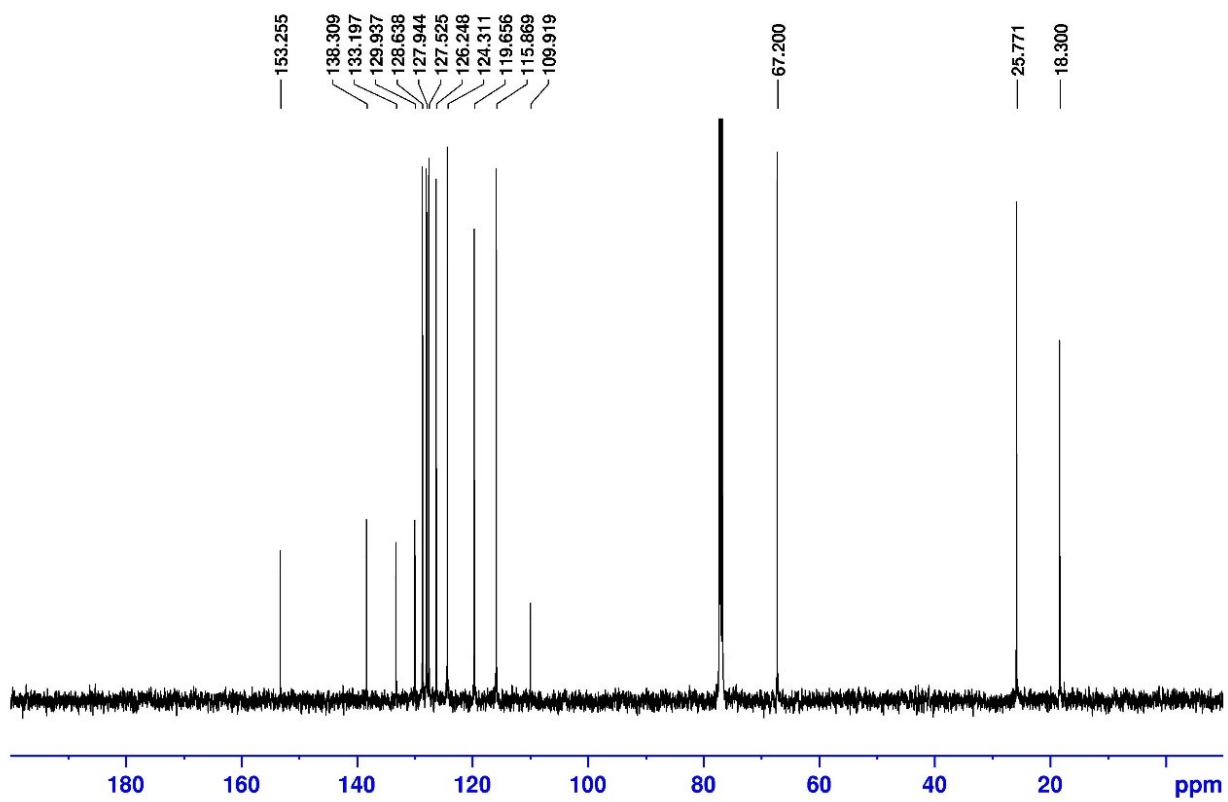
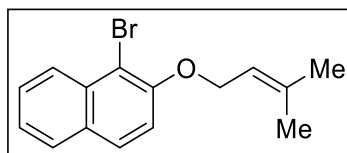


(2.2g)

^1H NMR

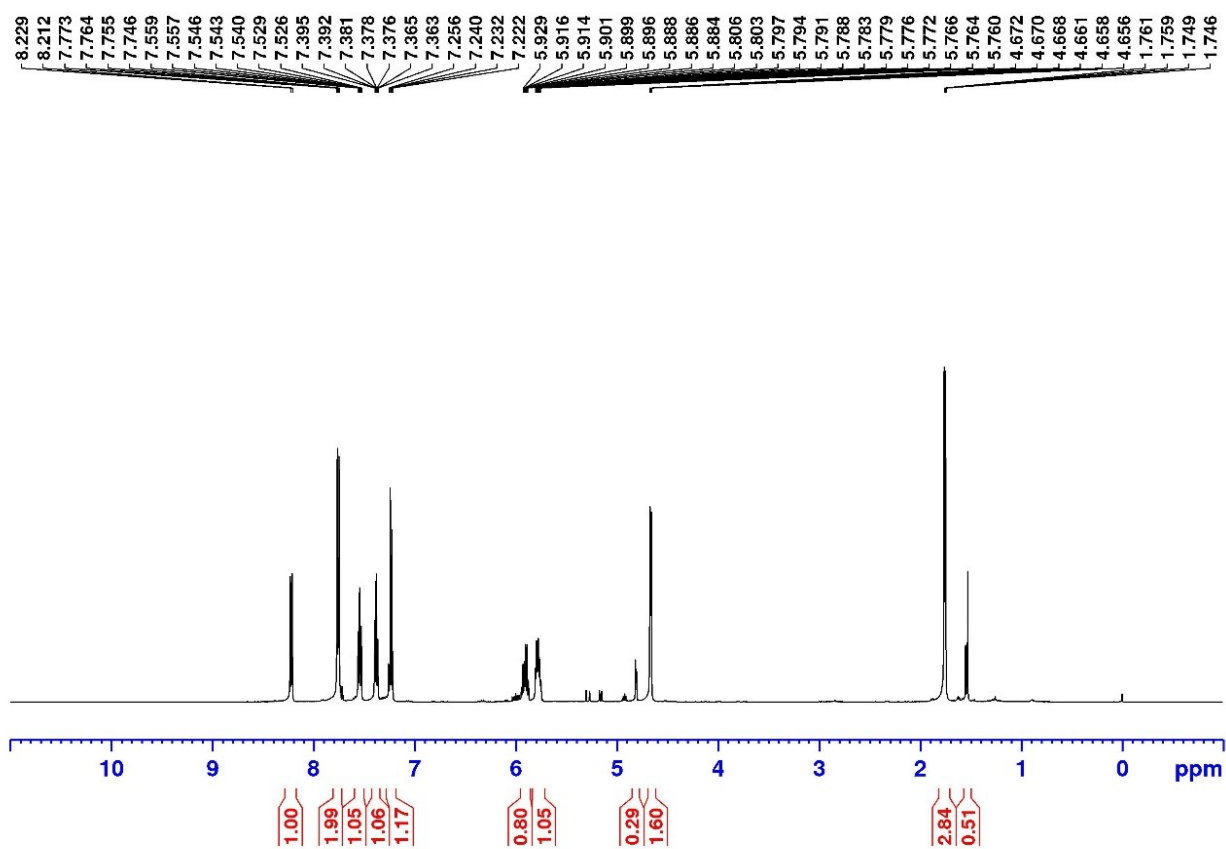
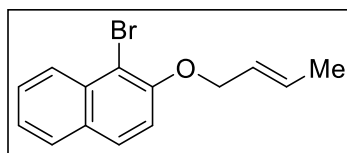


¹³C NMR

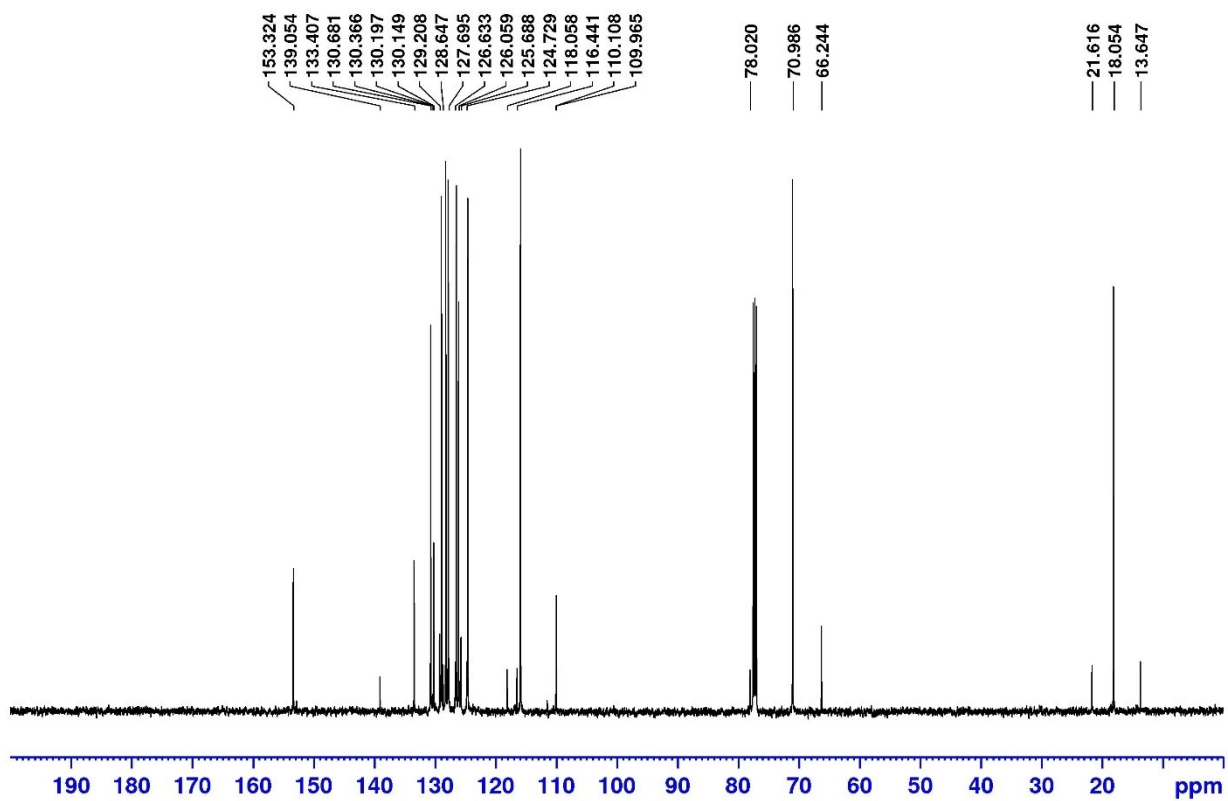
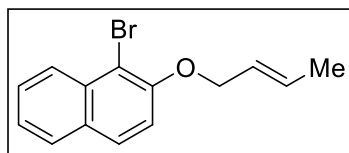


(2.2h)

^1H NMR

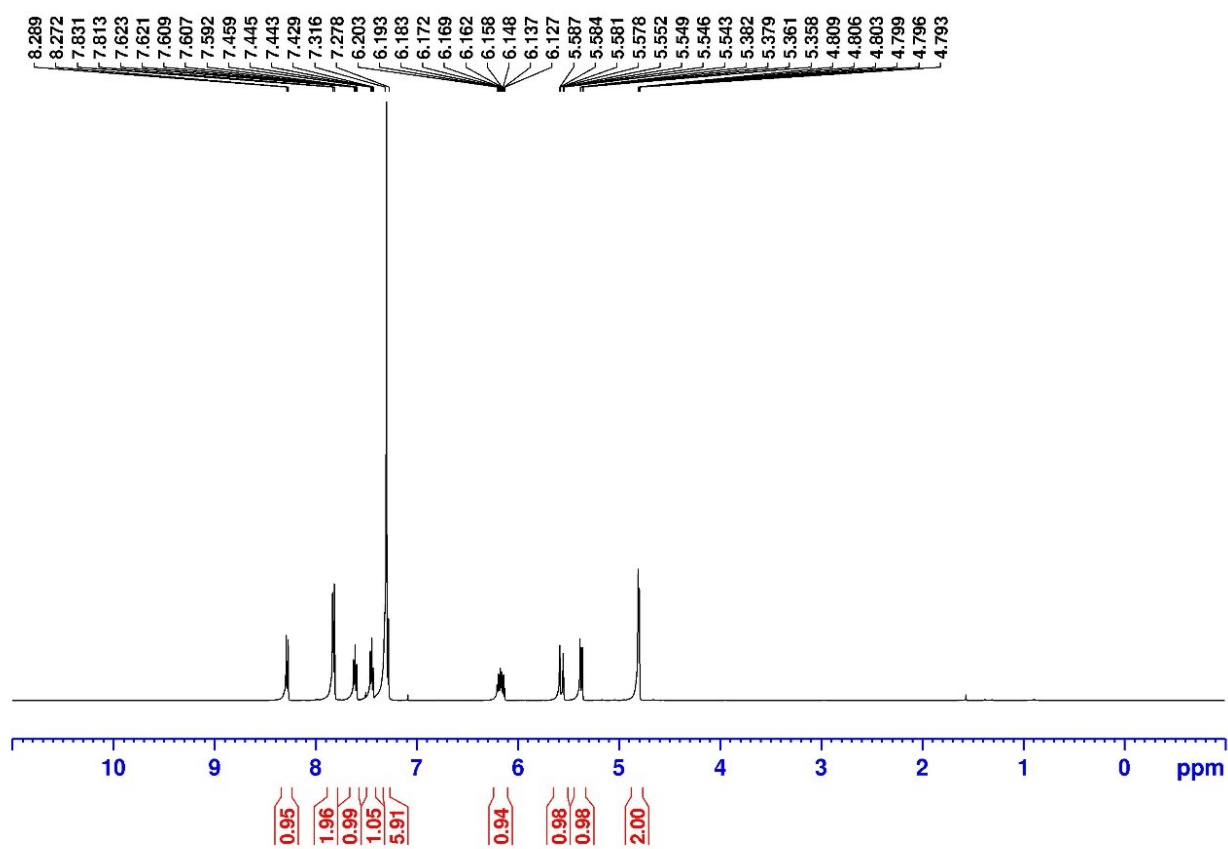
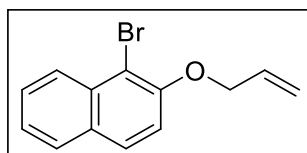


¹³C NMR

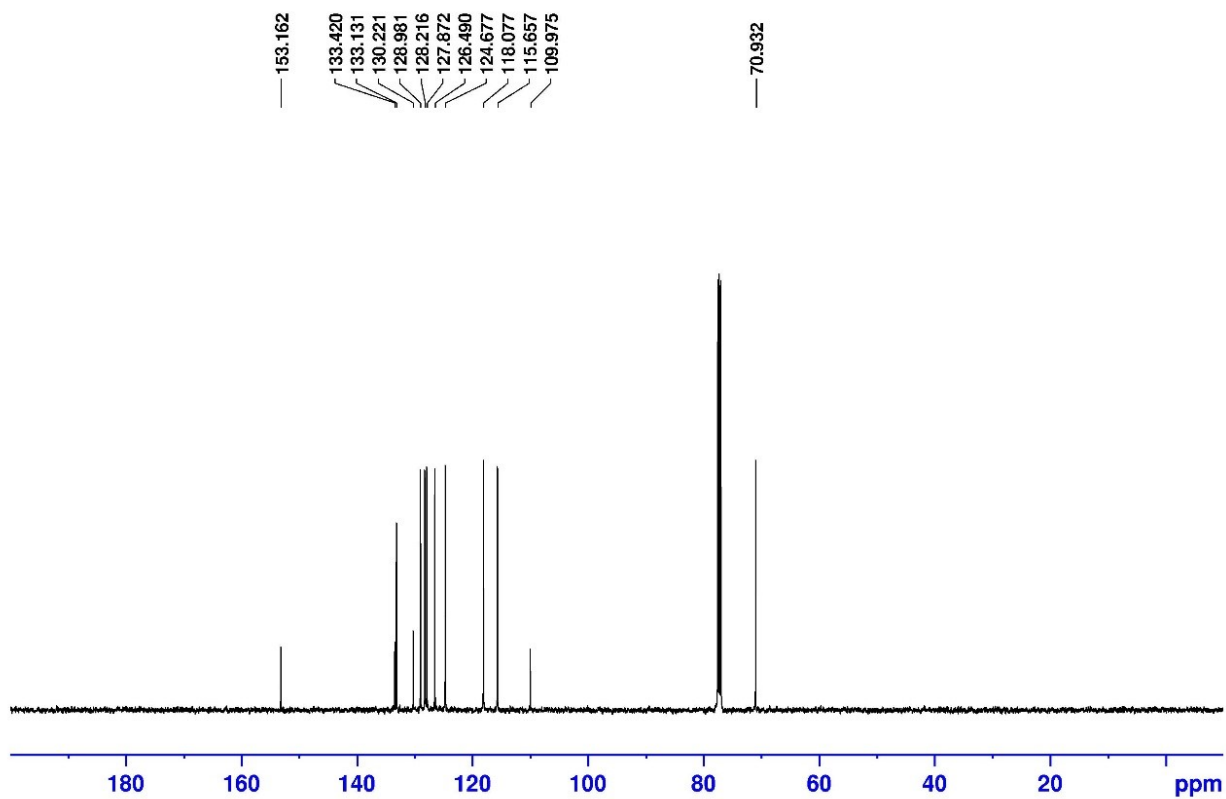
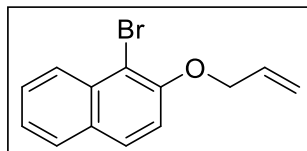


(2.2i)

^1H NMR

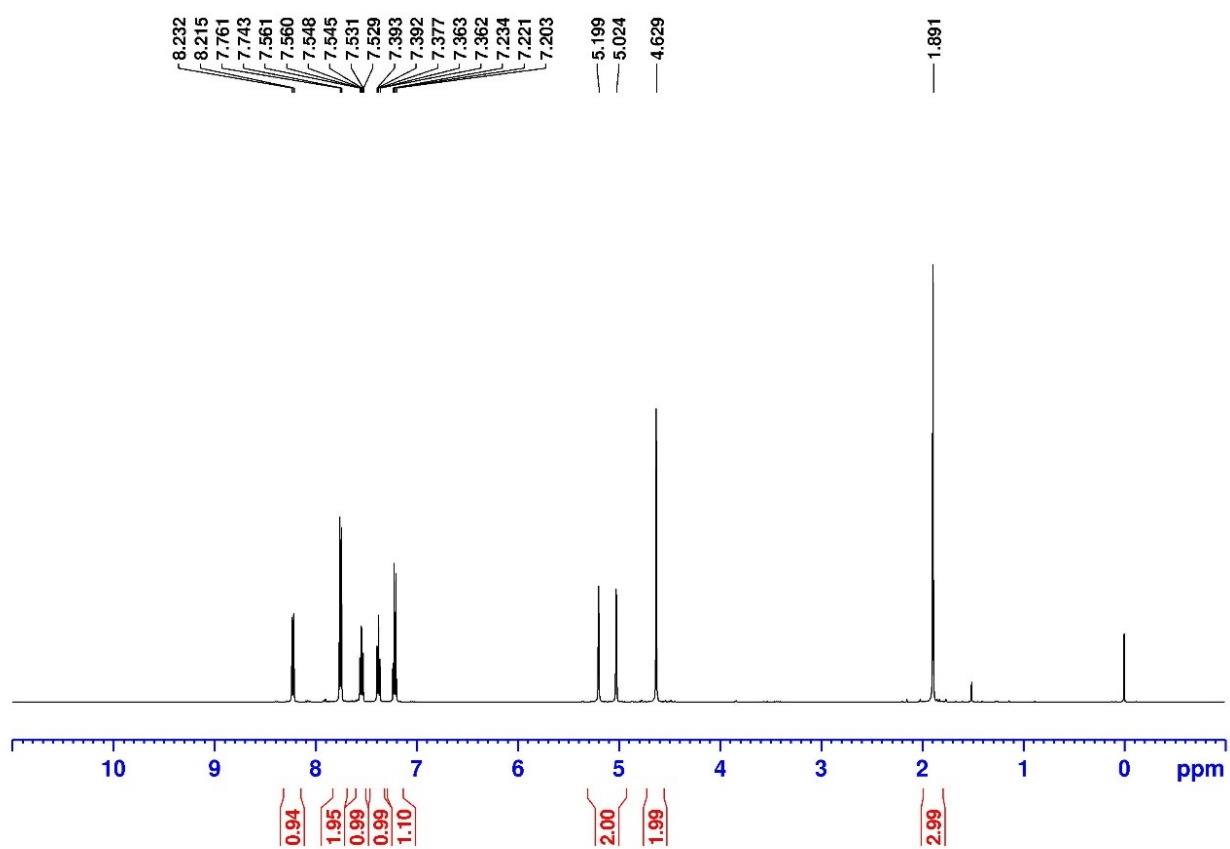
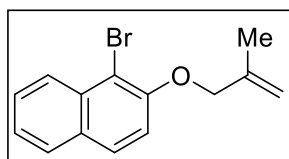


¹³C NMR

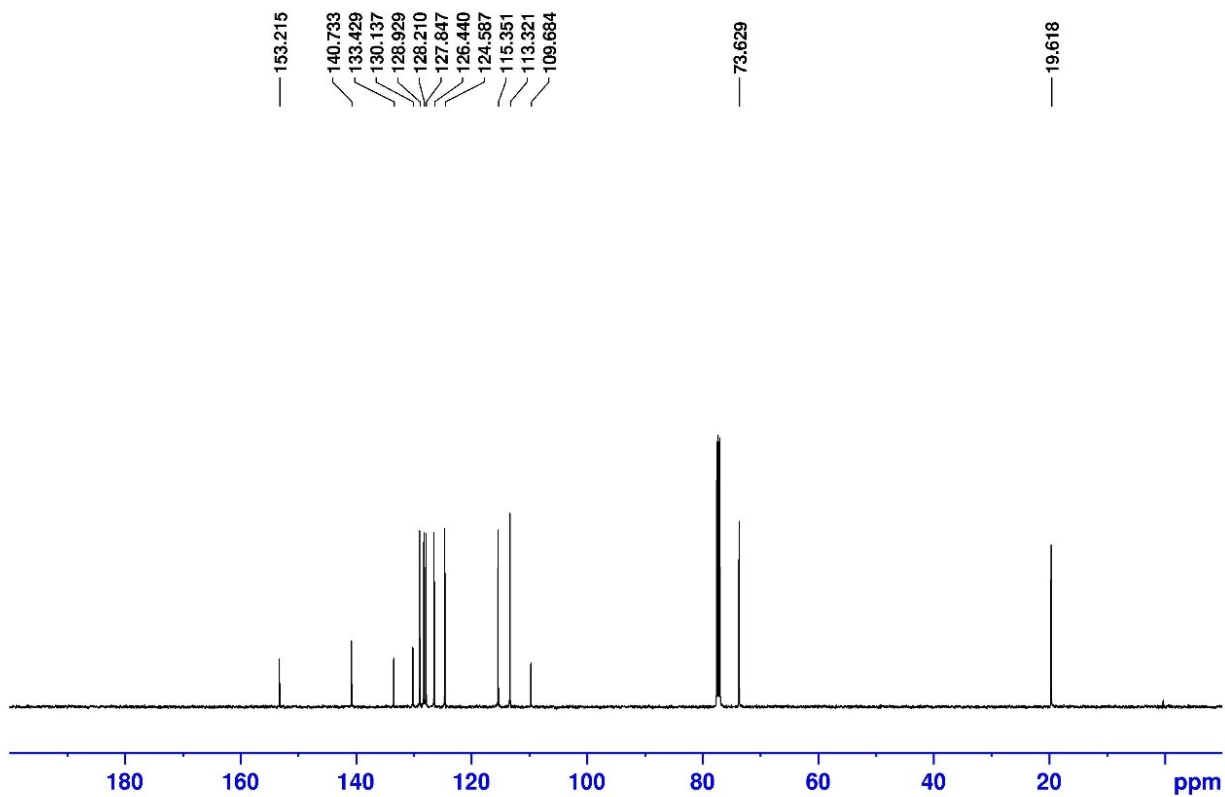
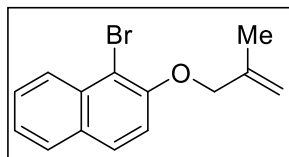


(2.2j)

^1H NMR

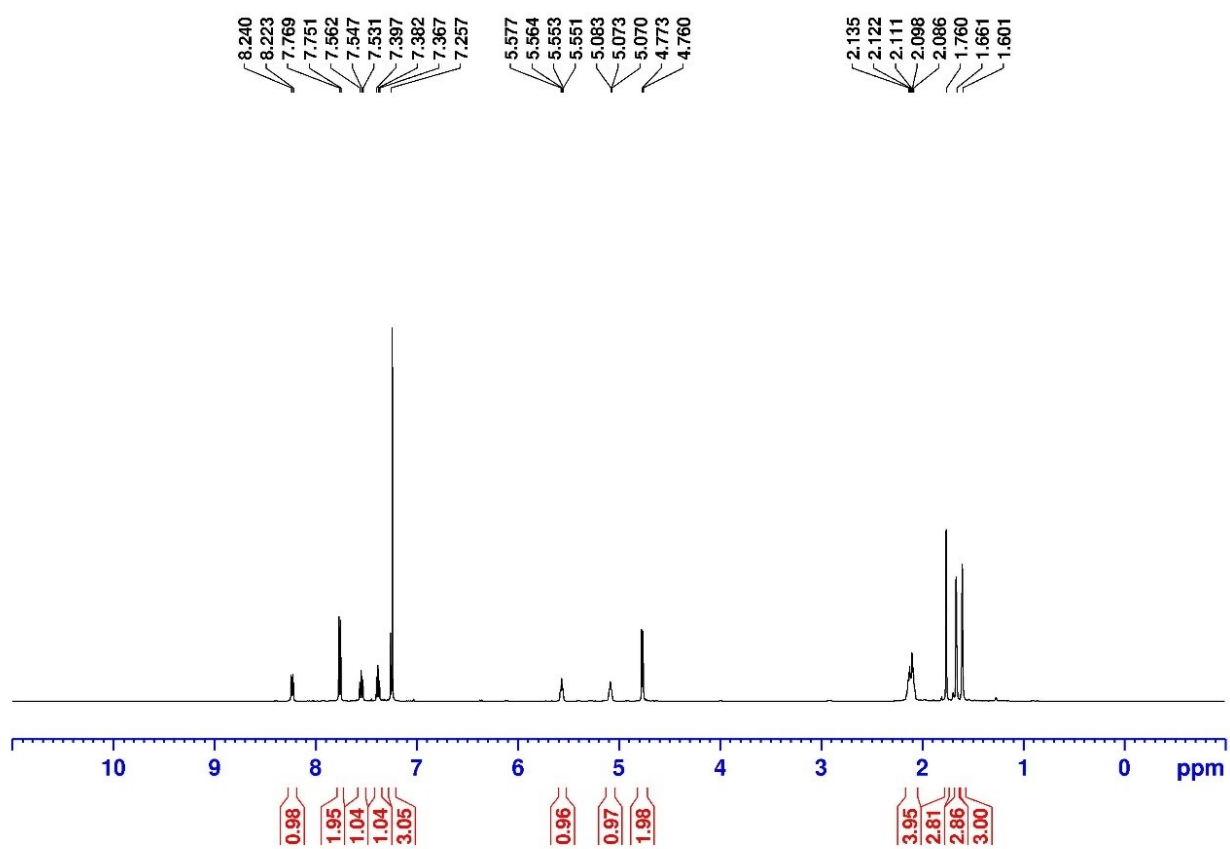
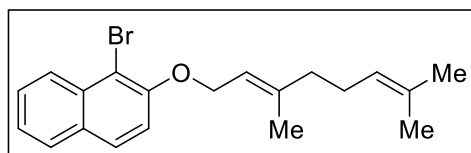


¹³C NMR

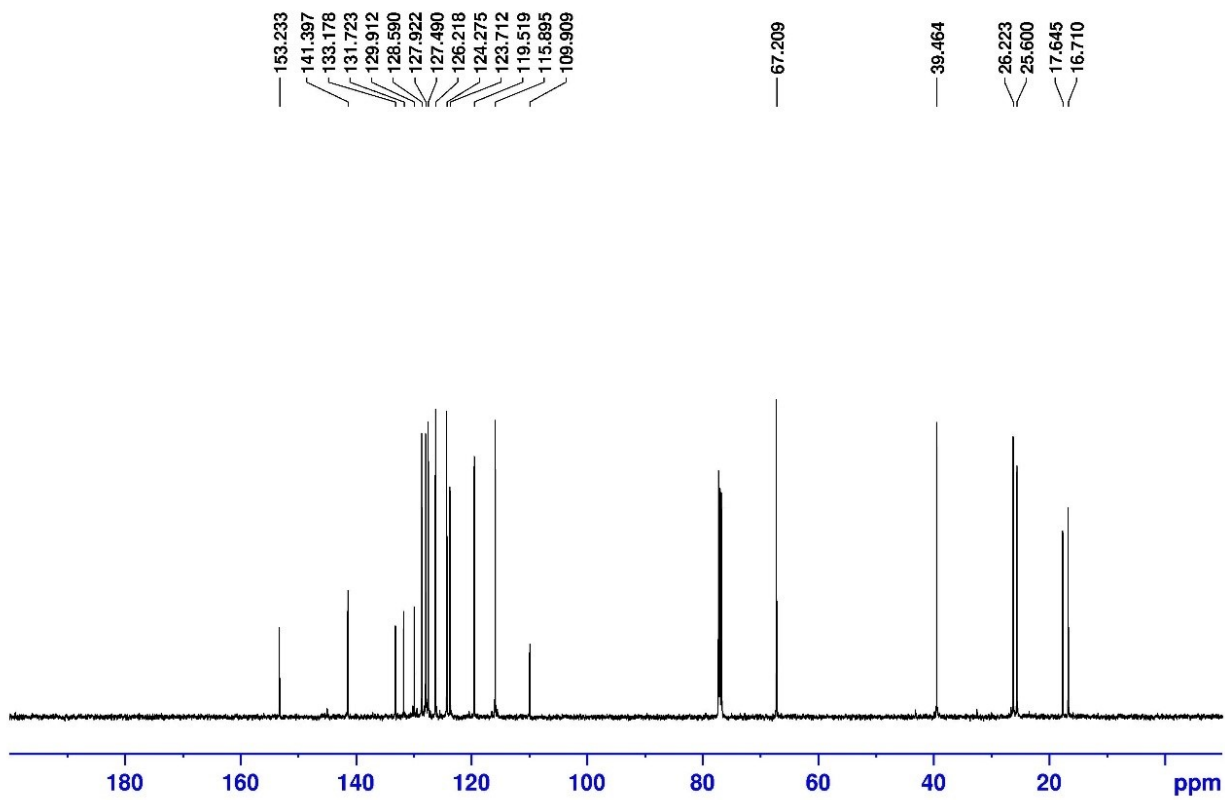
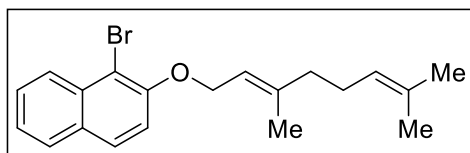


(2.2k)

^1H NMR

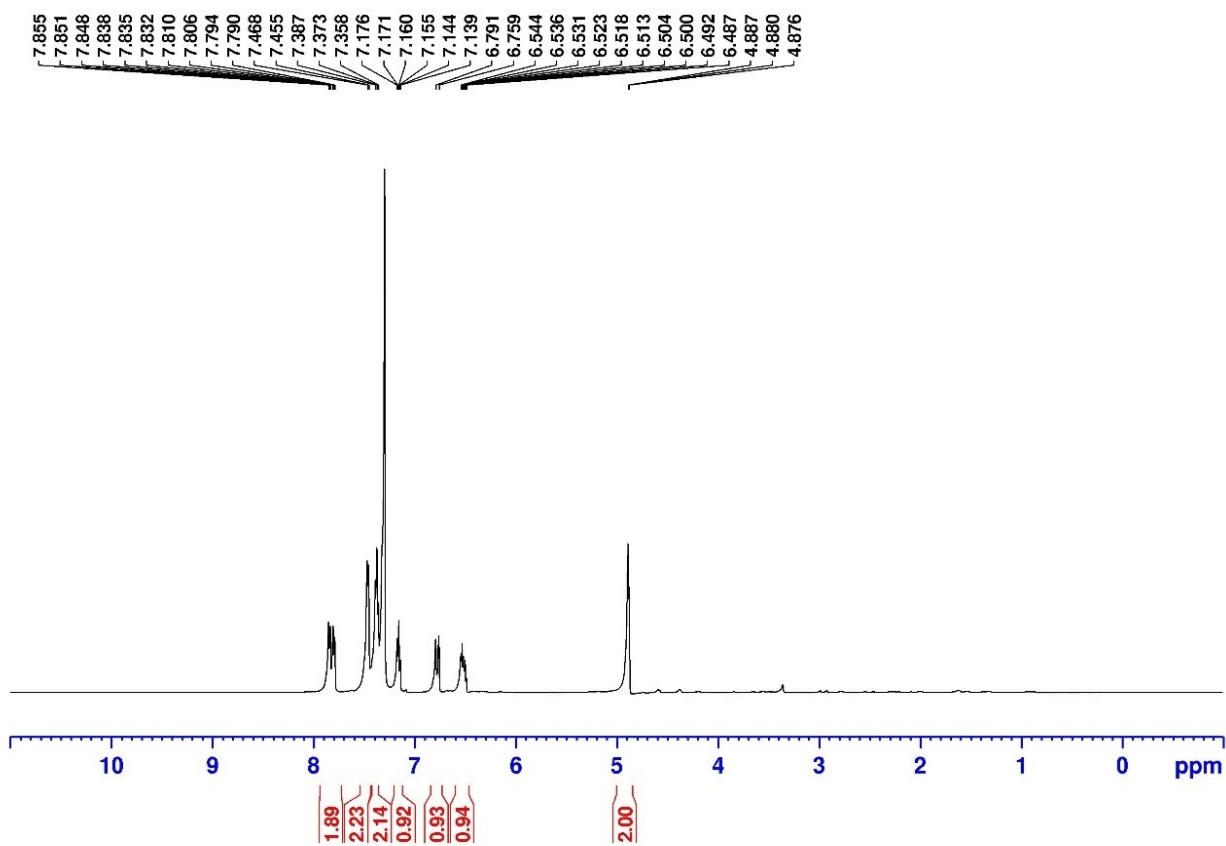
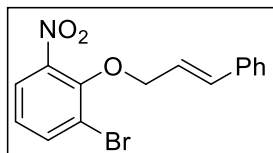


¹³C NMR

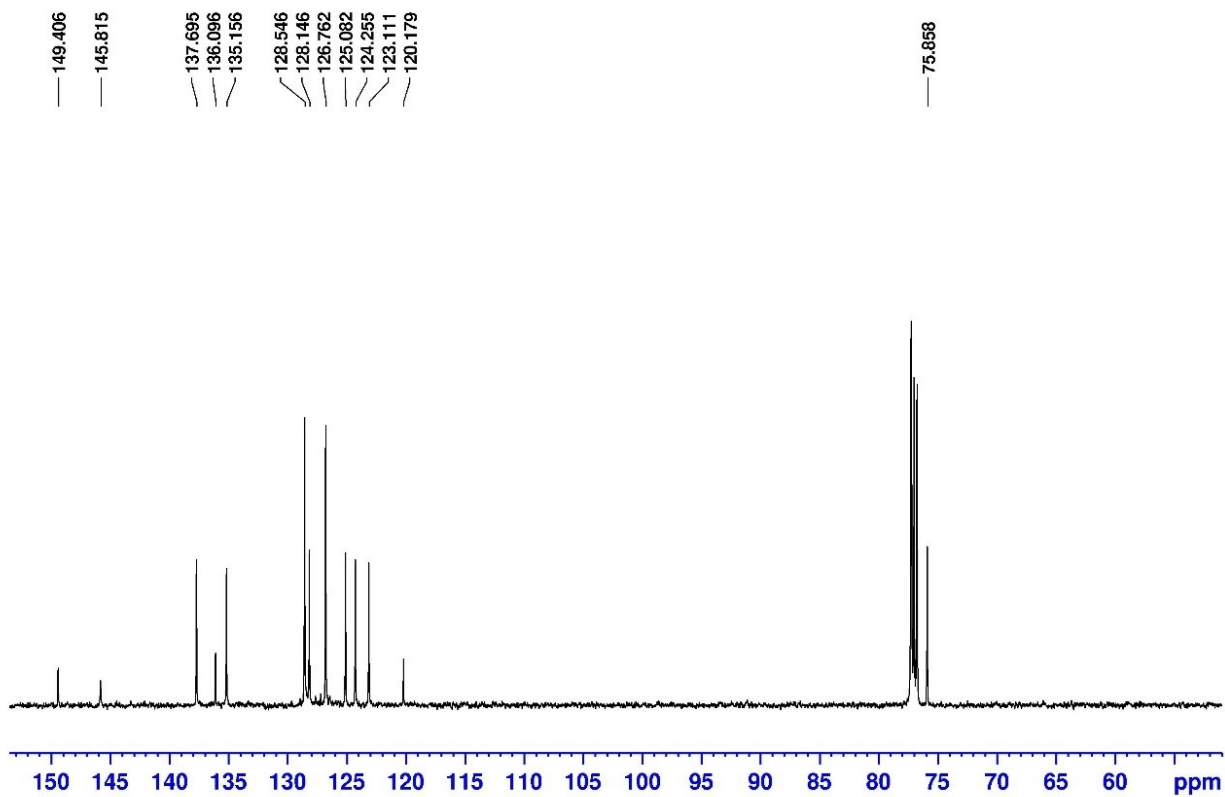
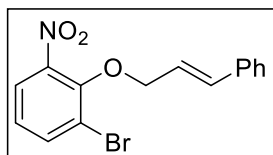


(2.2I)

^1H NMR

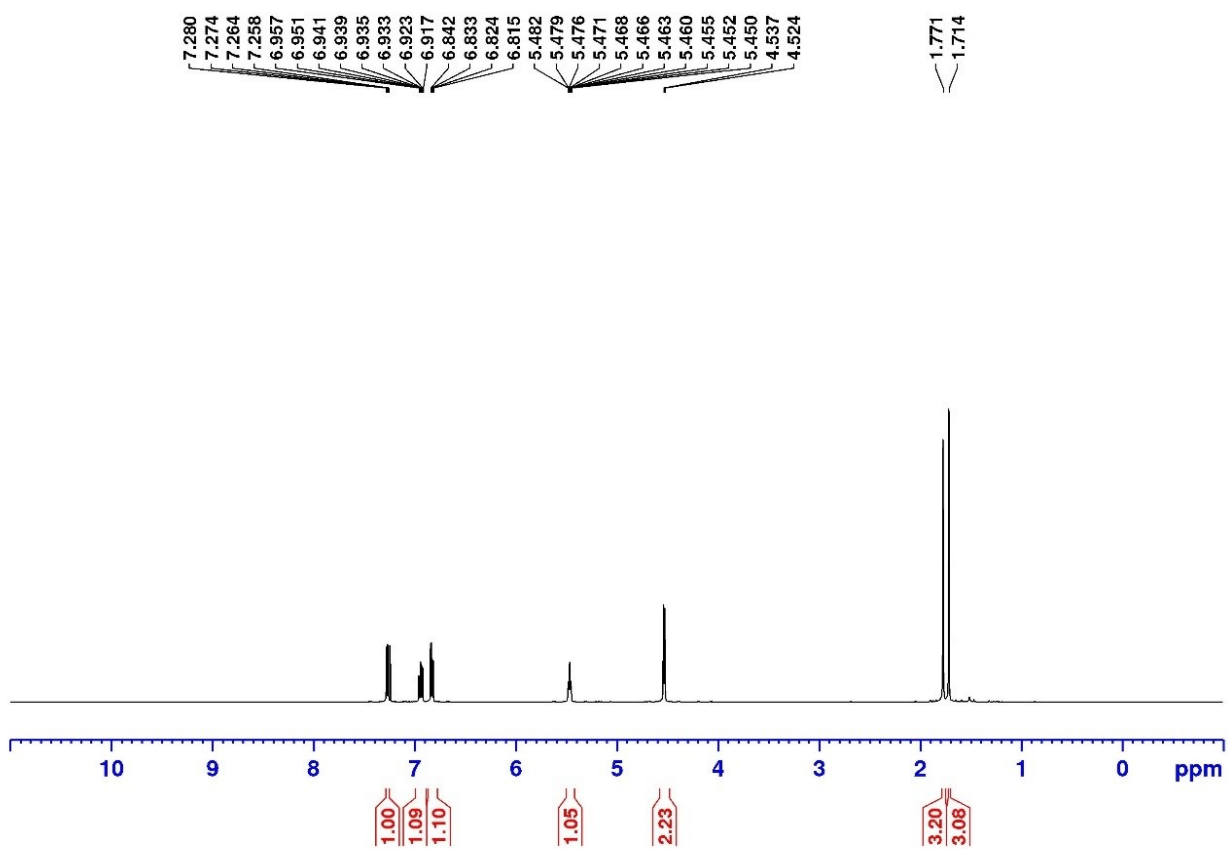
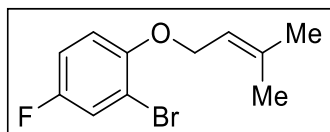


¹³C NMR

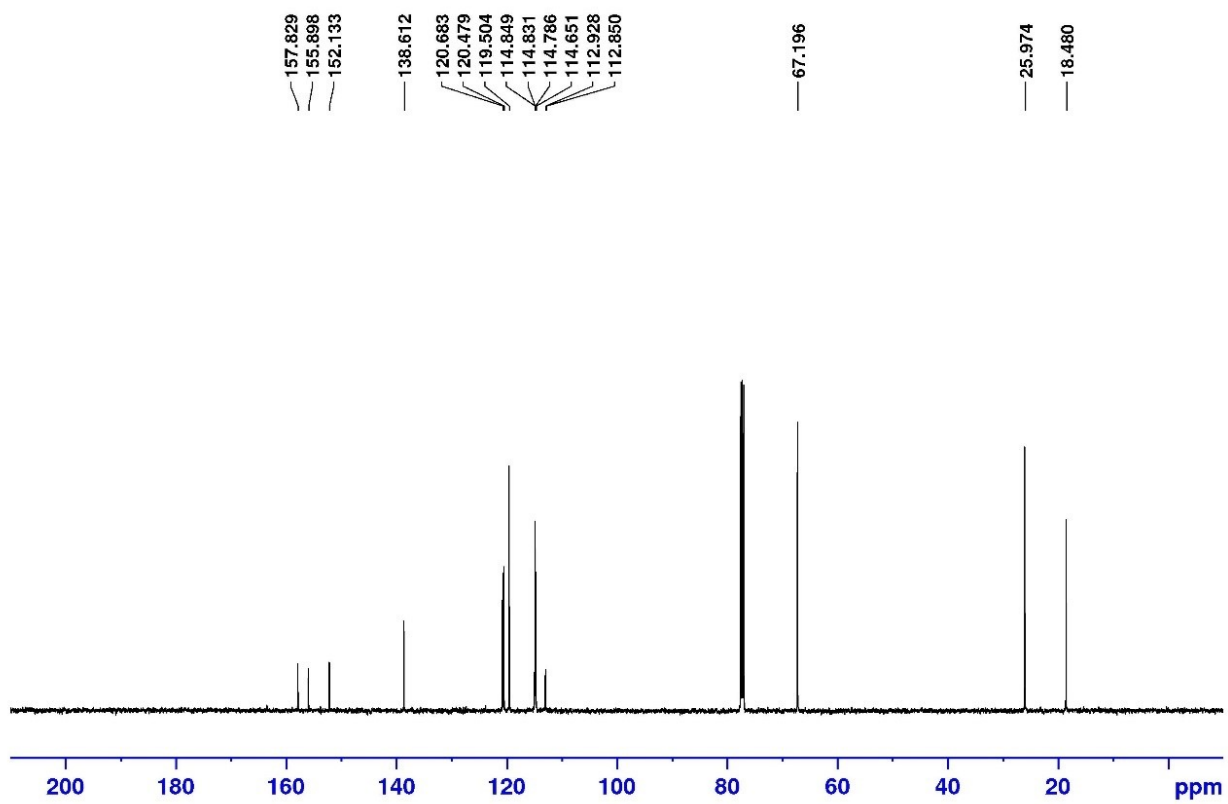
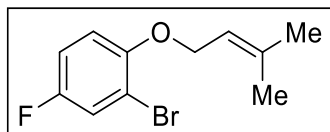


(2.2m)

^1H NMR

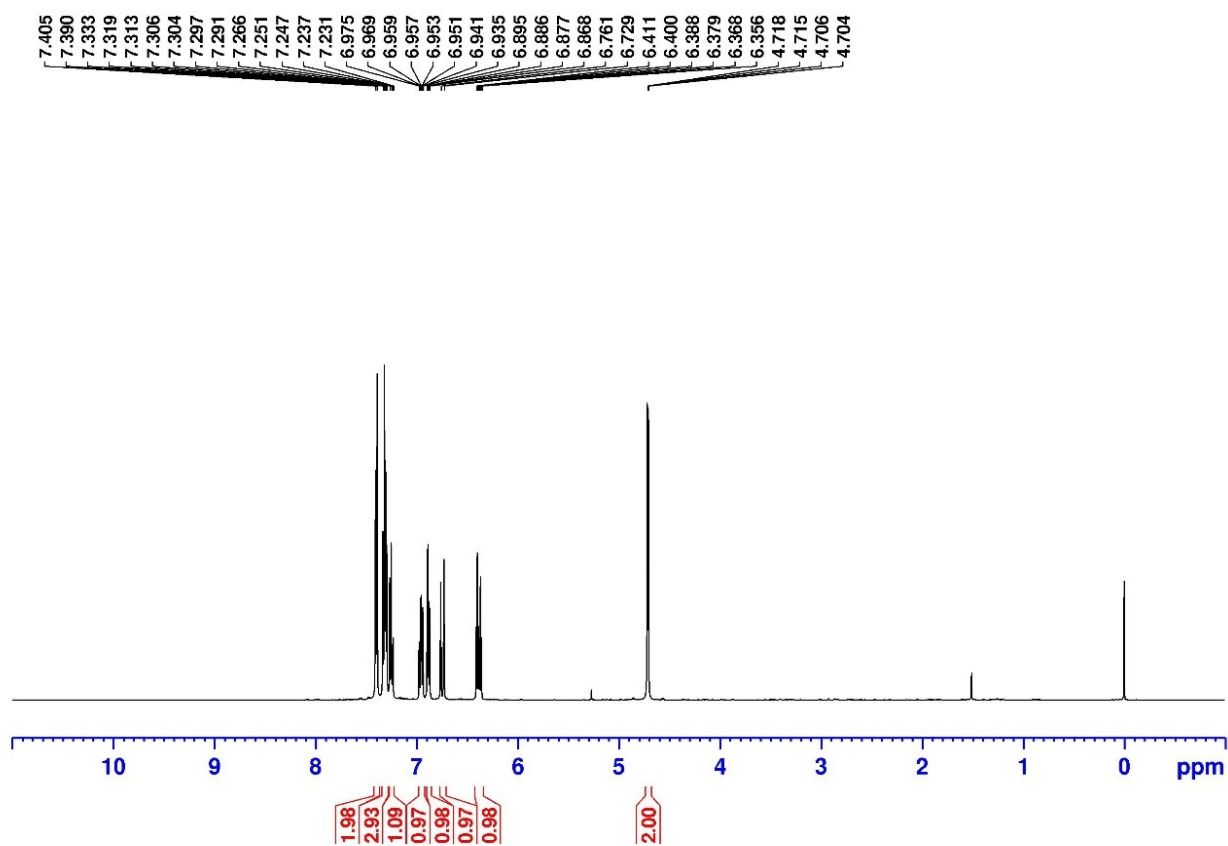
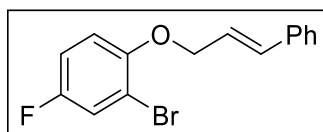


¹³C NMR

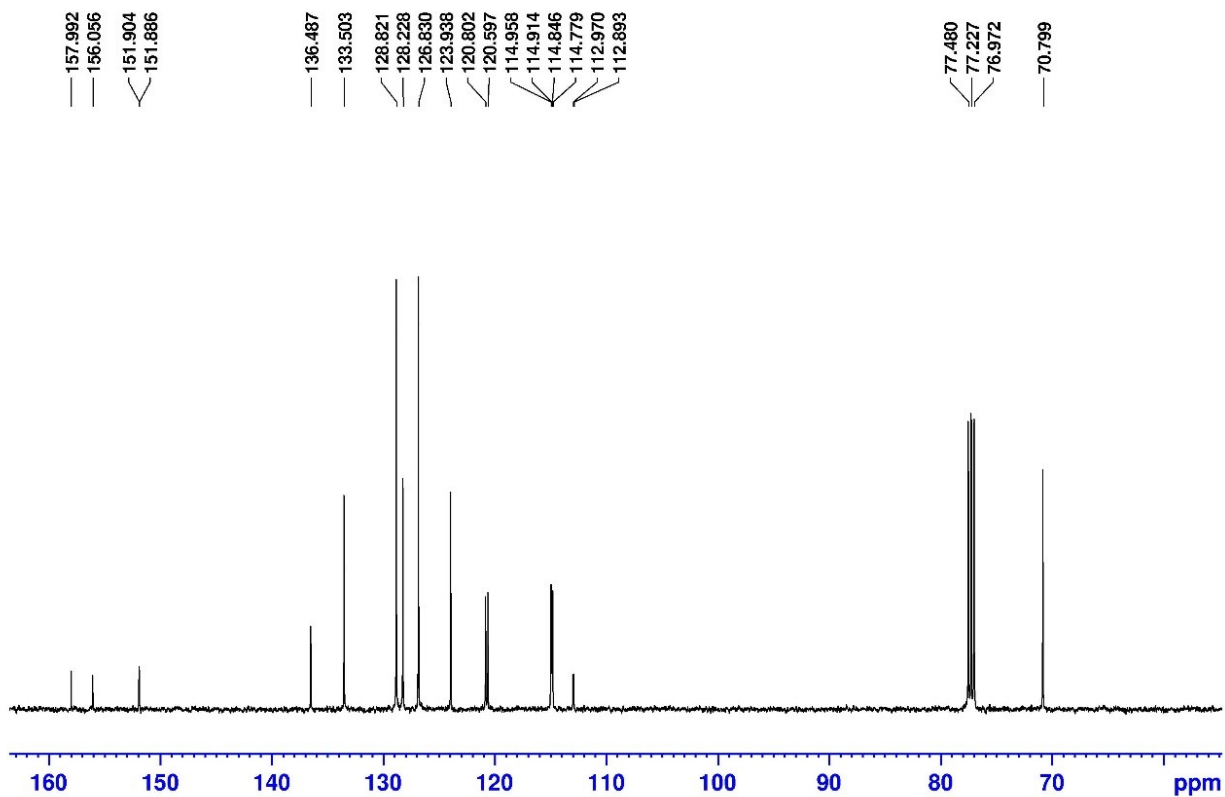
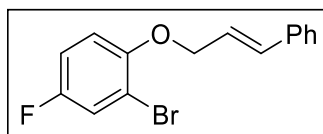


(2.2n)

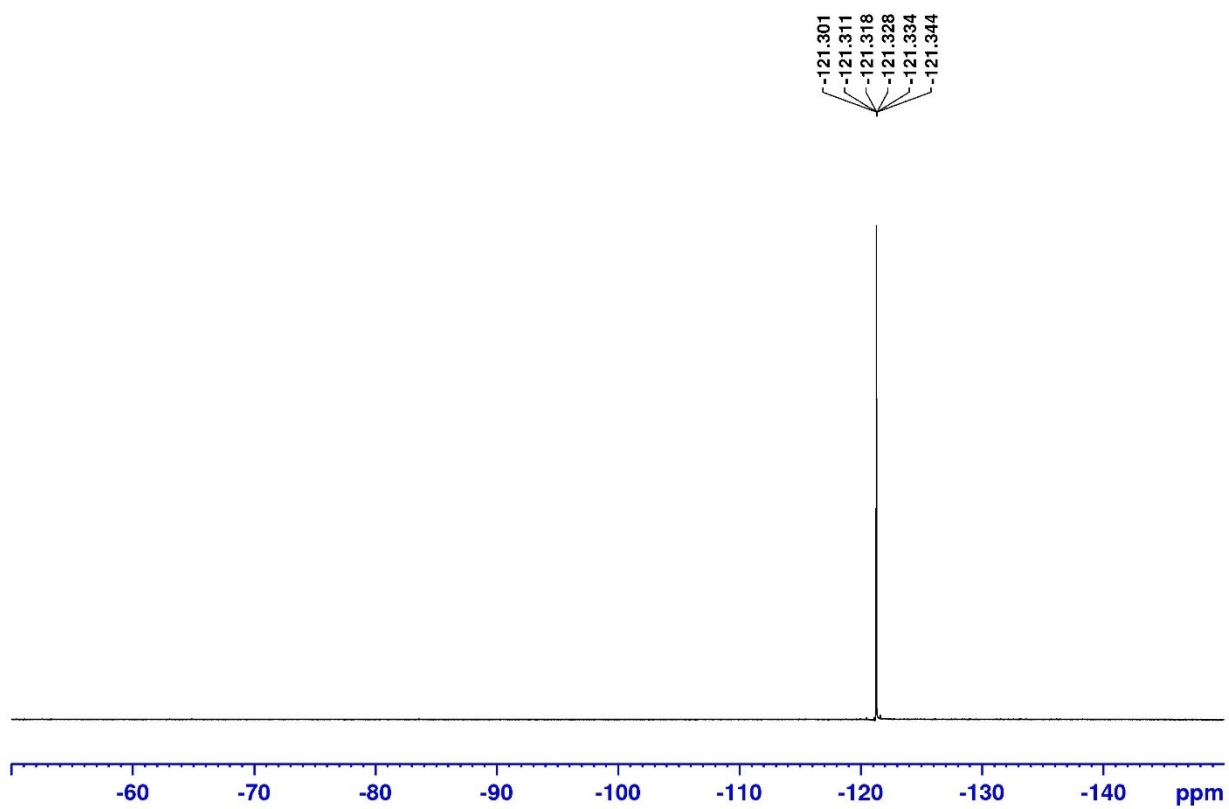
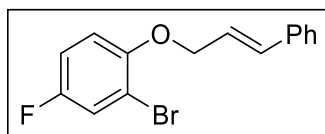
^1H NMR



¹³C NMR

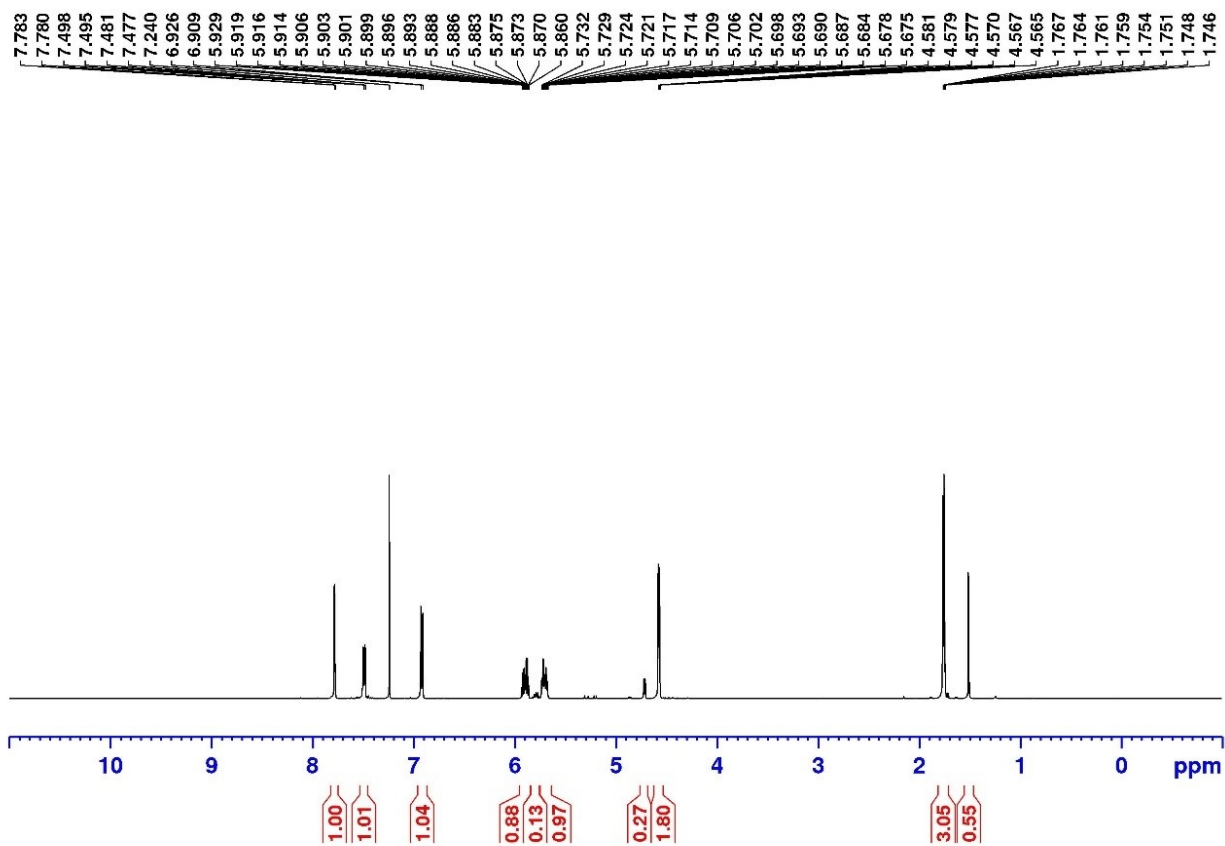
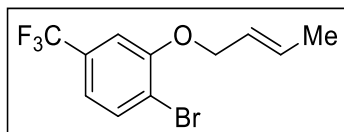


¹⁹F NMR

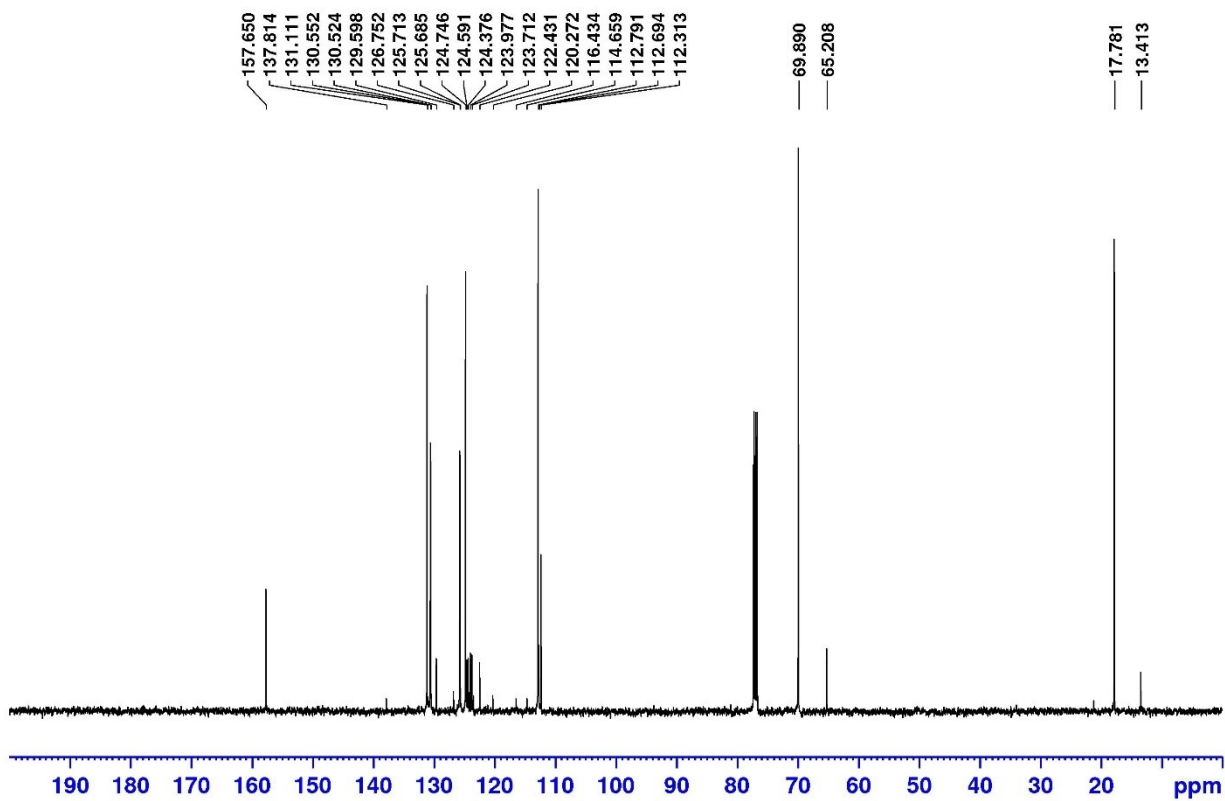
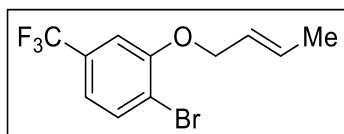


(2.2o)

¹H NMR

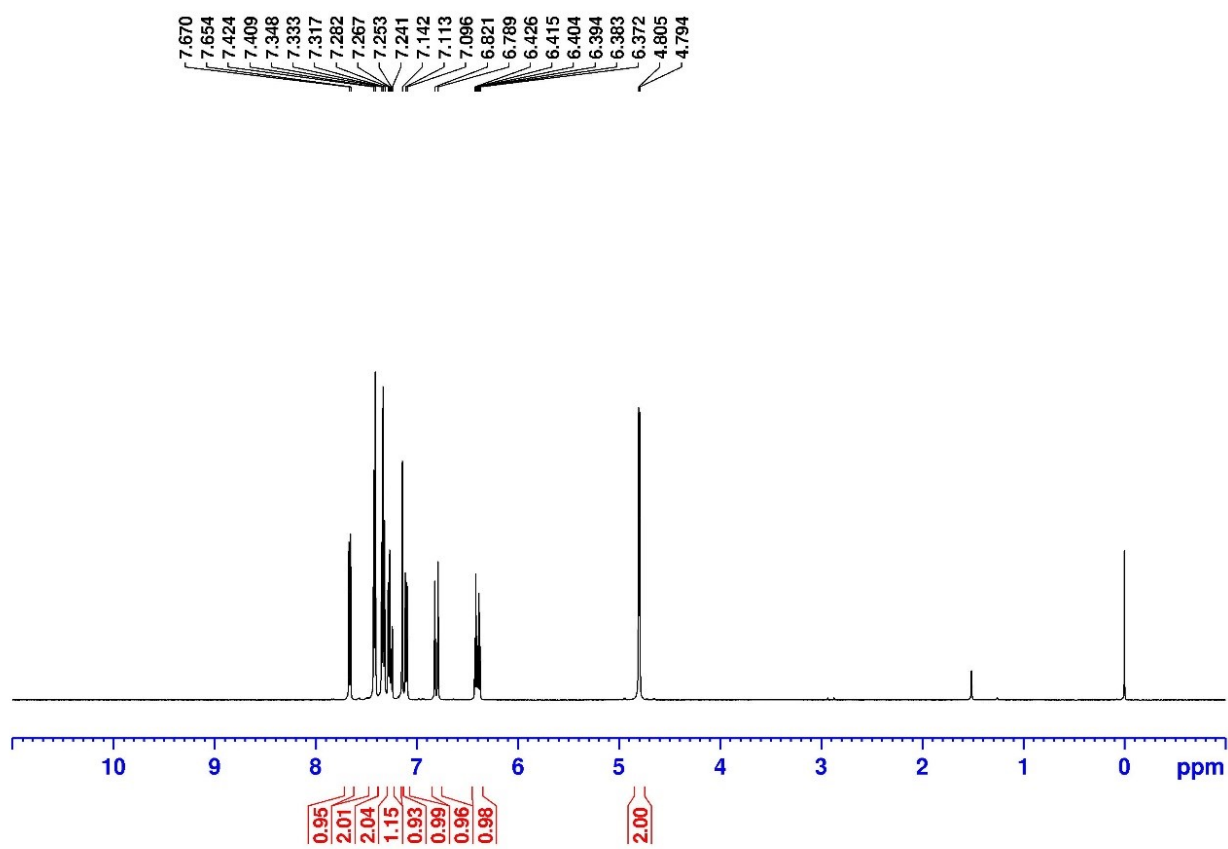
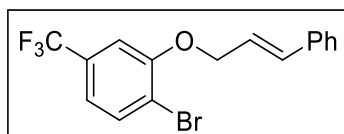


¹³C NMR

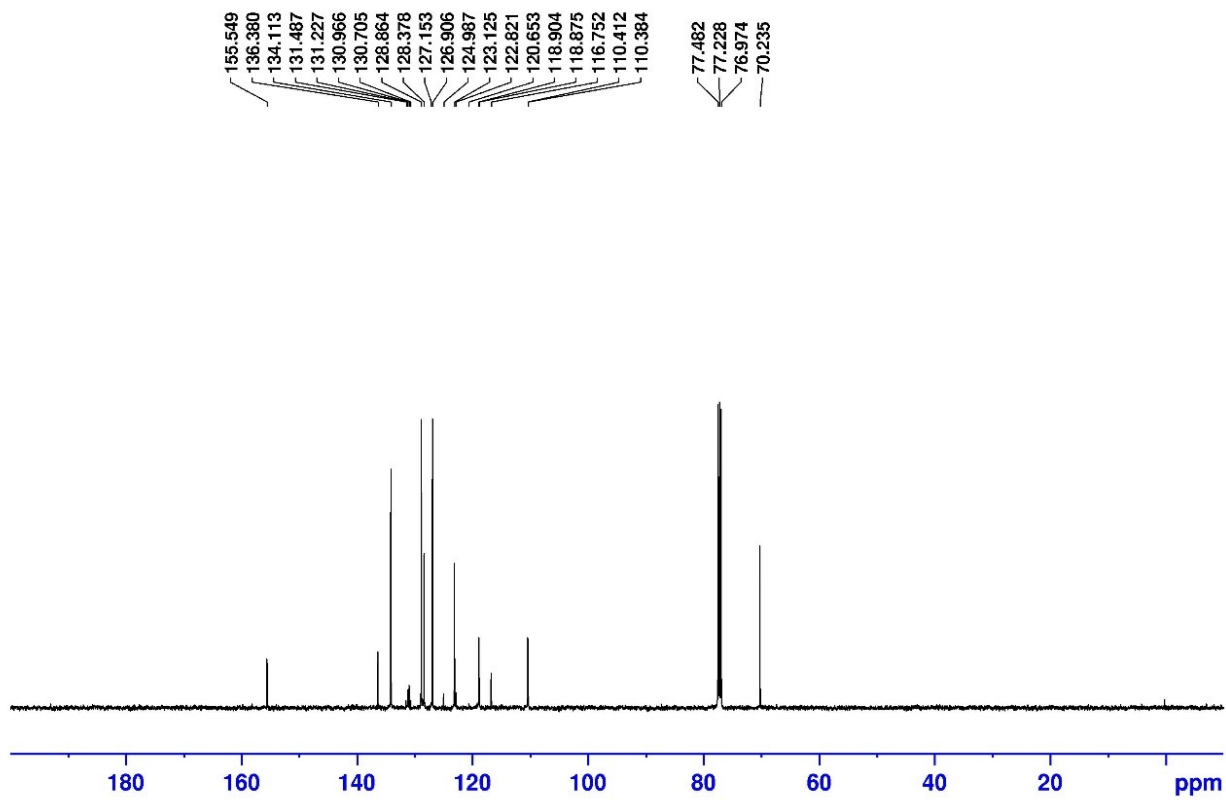
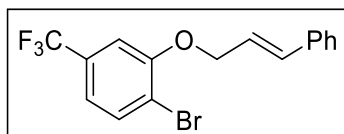


(2.2p)

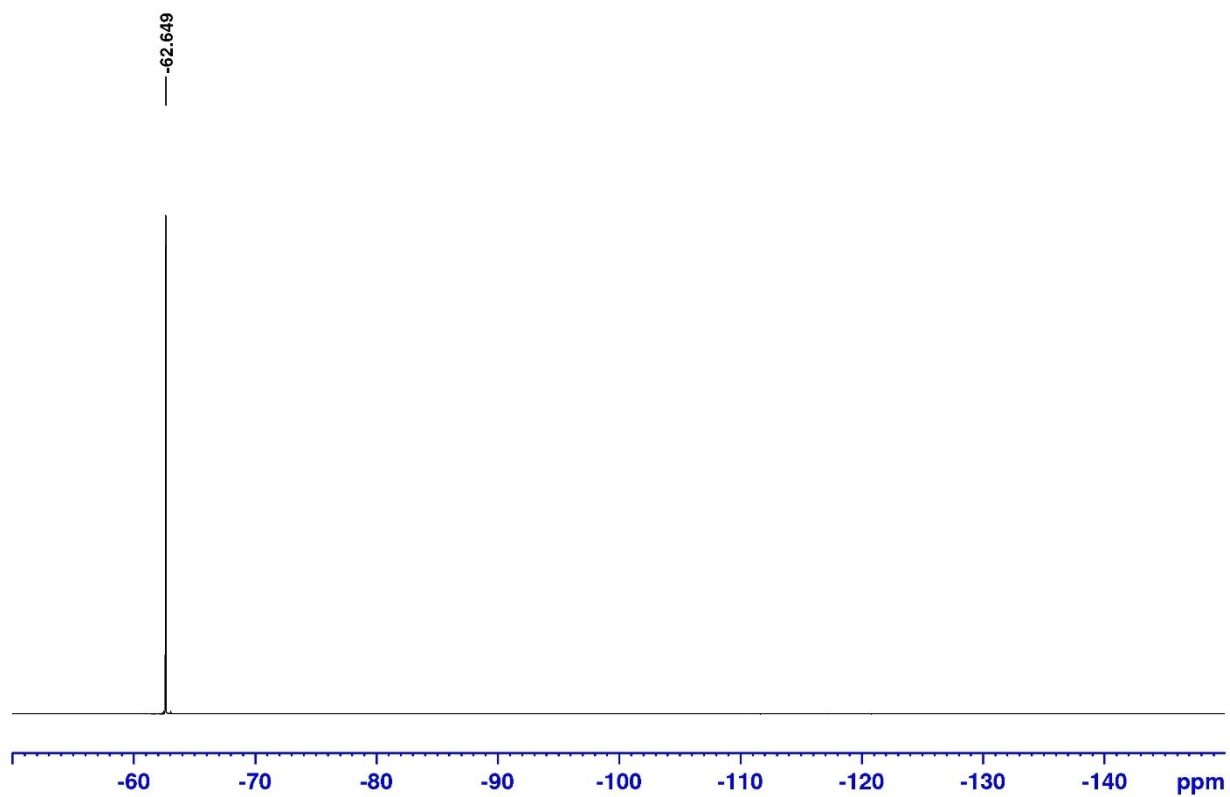
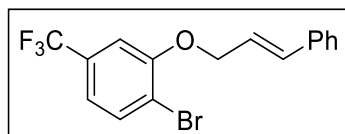
^1H NMR



¹³C NMR

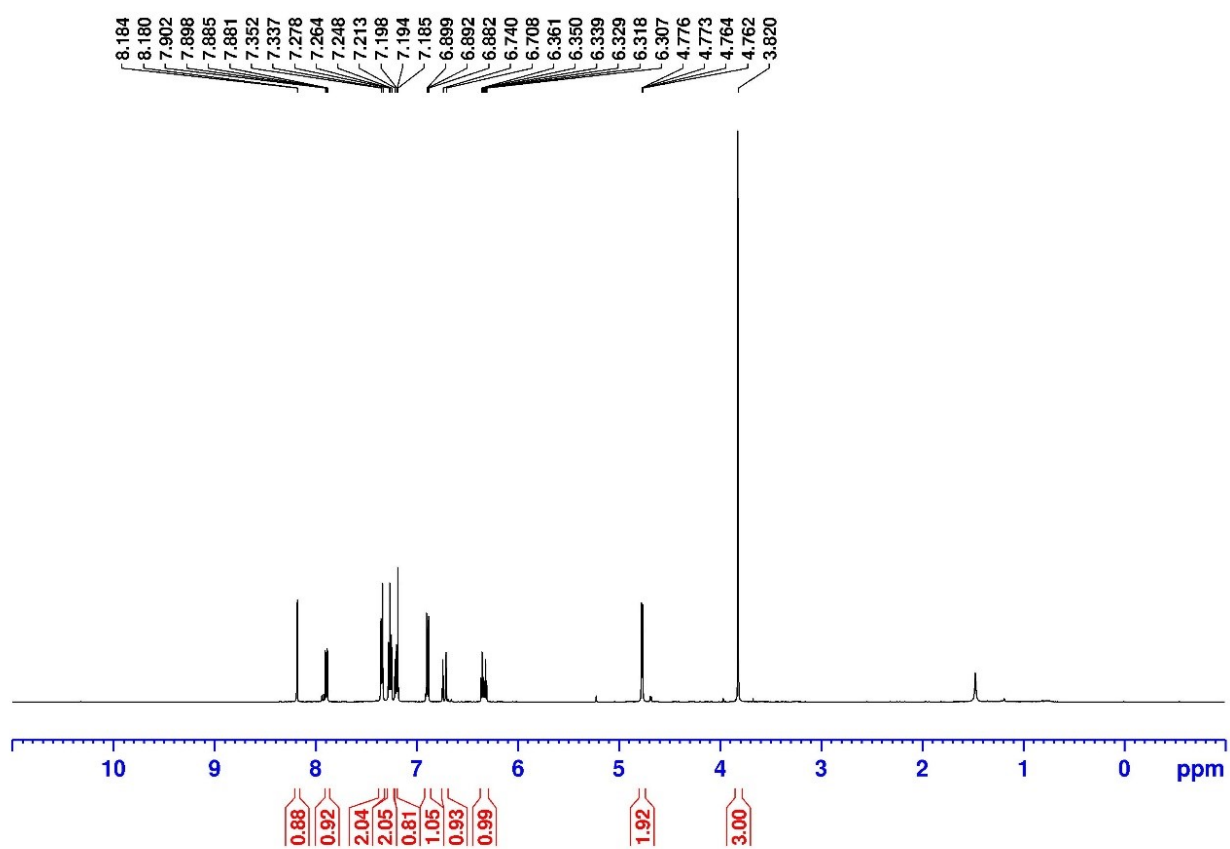
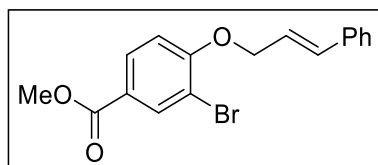


^{19}F NMR

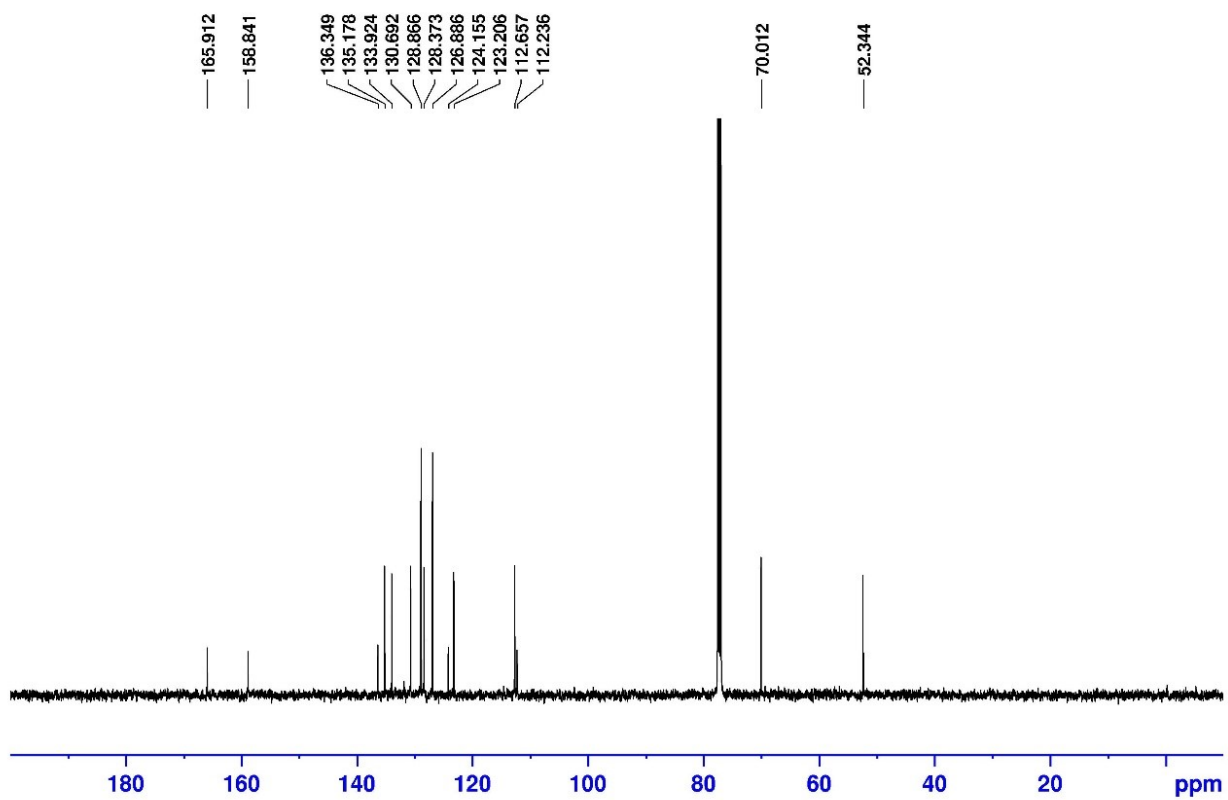
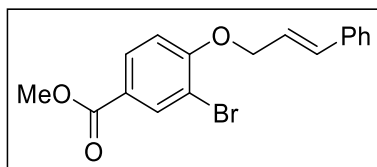


(2.2q)

^1H NMR

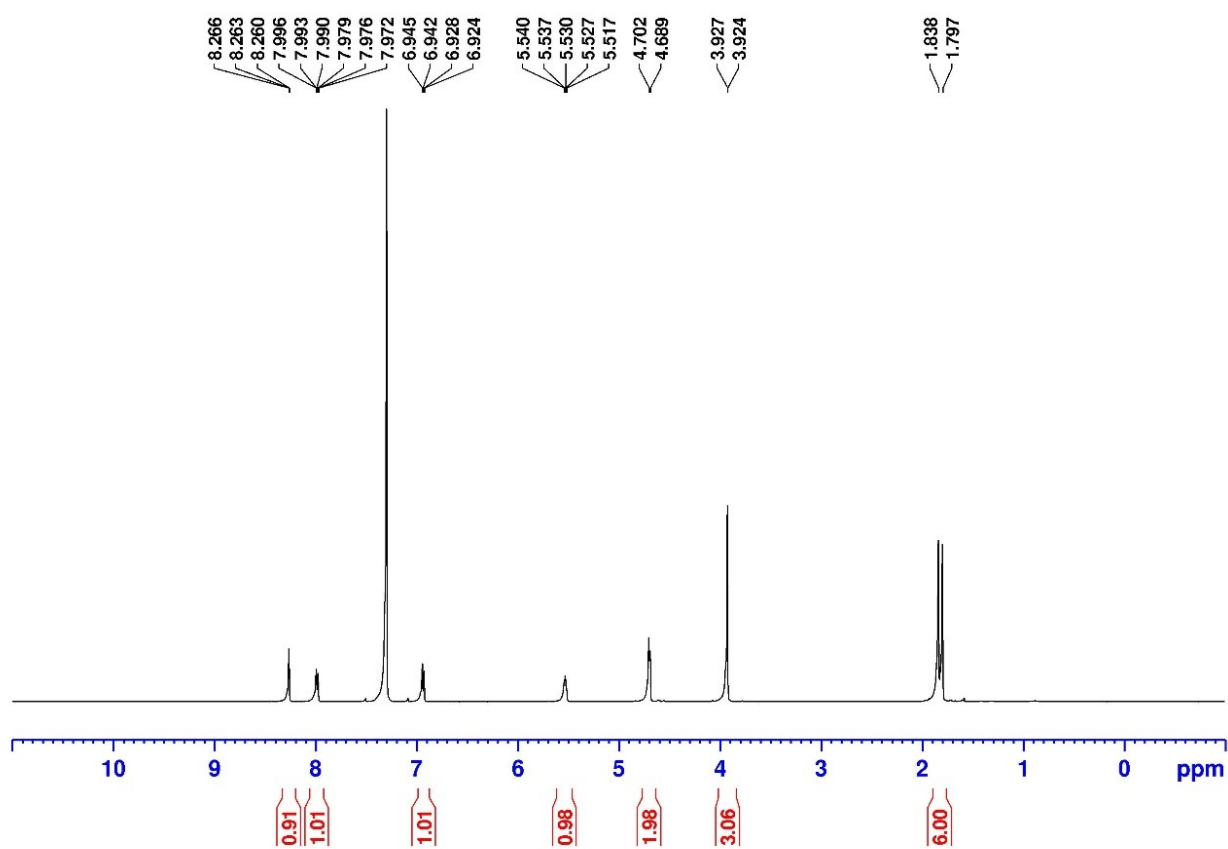
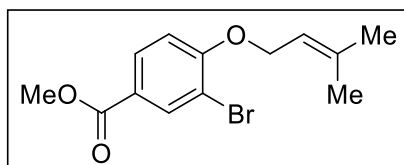


¹³C NMR



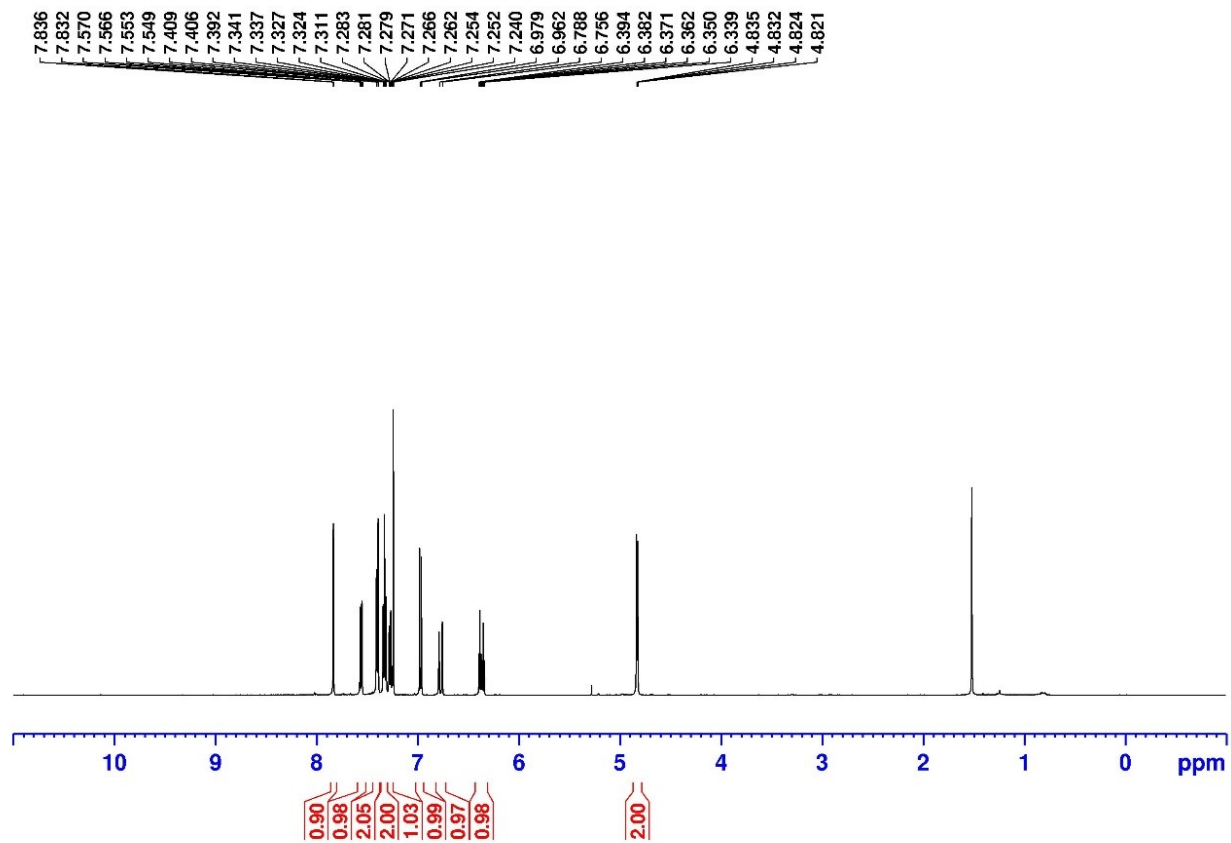
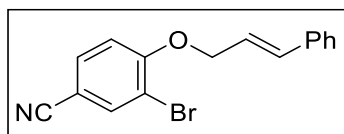
(2.2r)

^1H NMR

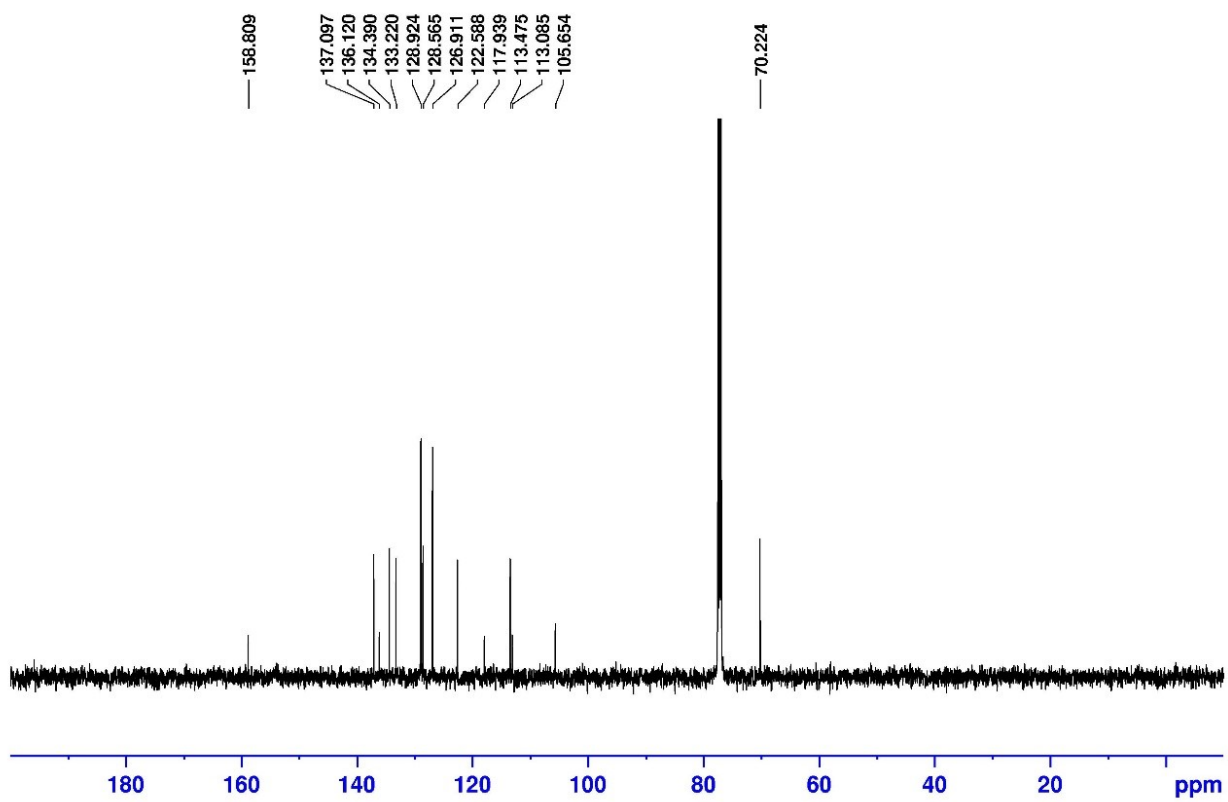
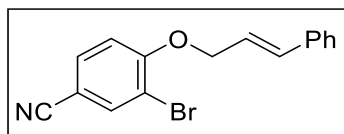


(2.2s)

¹H NMR

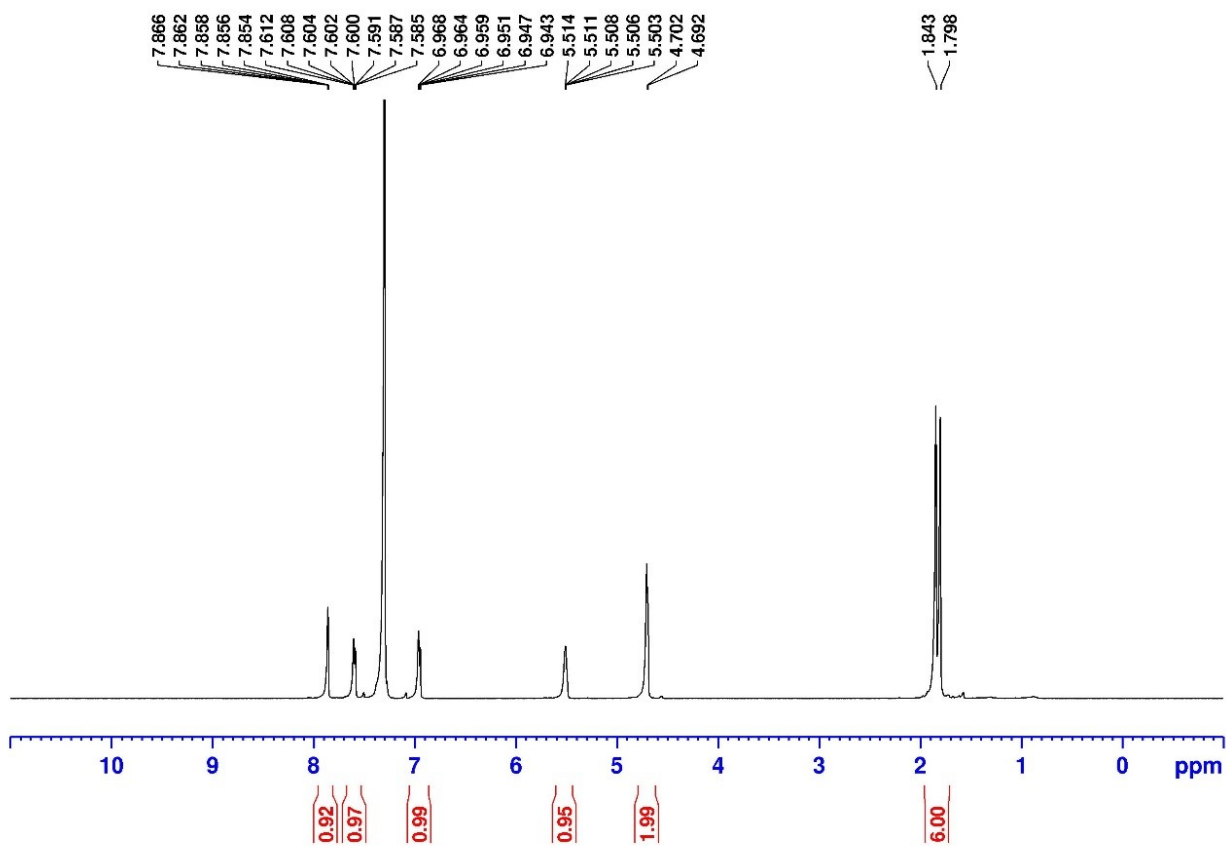
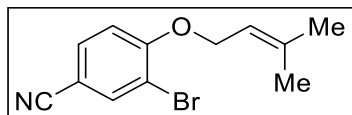


¹³C NMR



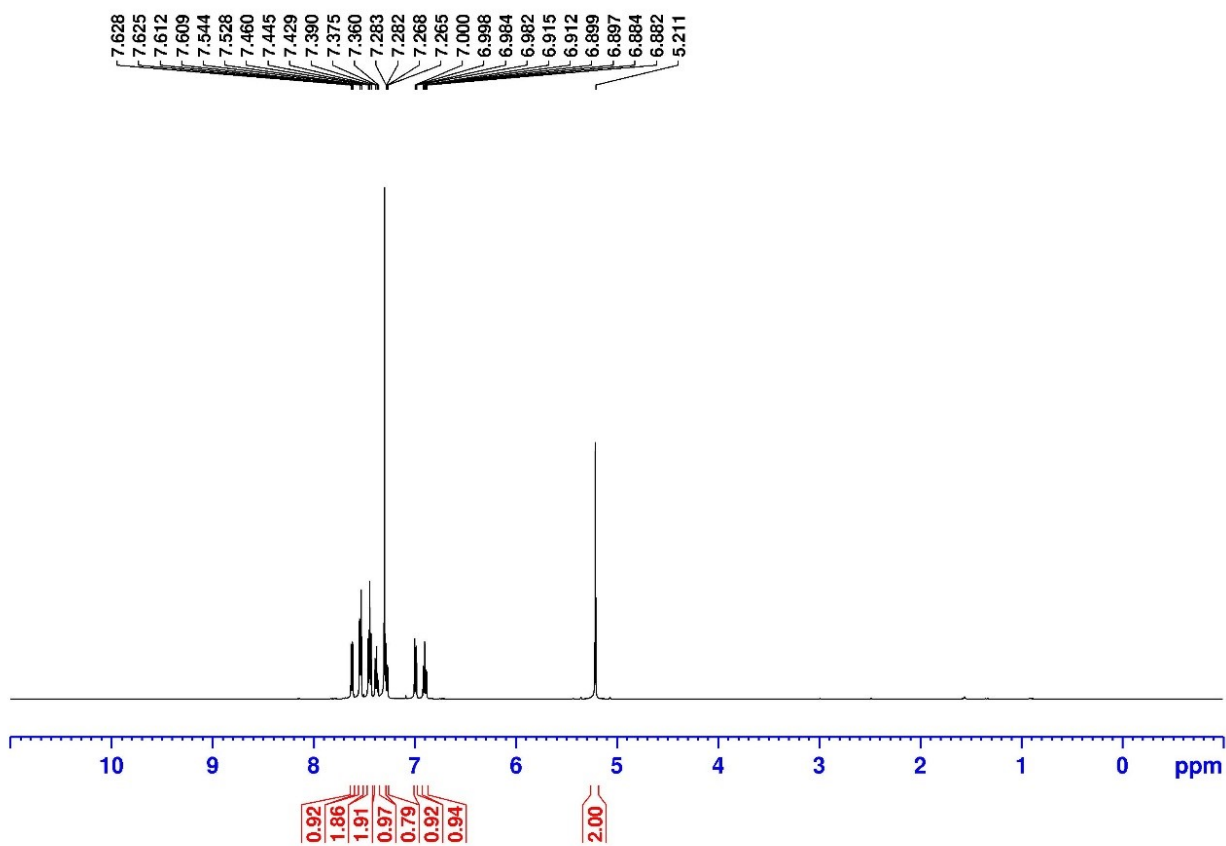
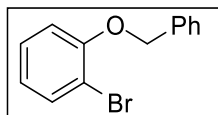
(2.2t)

¹H NMR

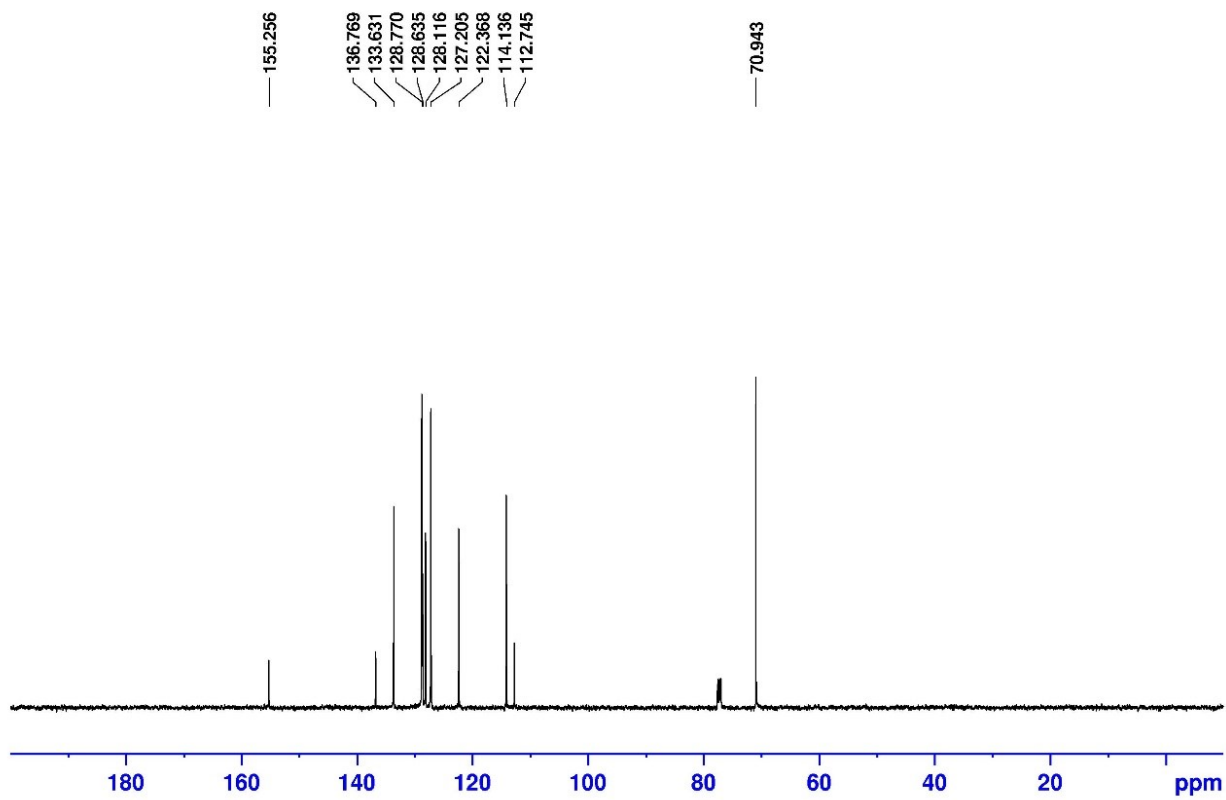
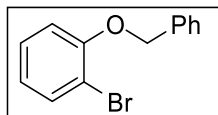


(2.2u)

^1H NMR

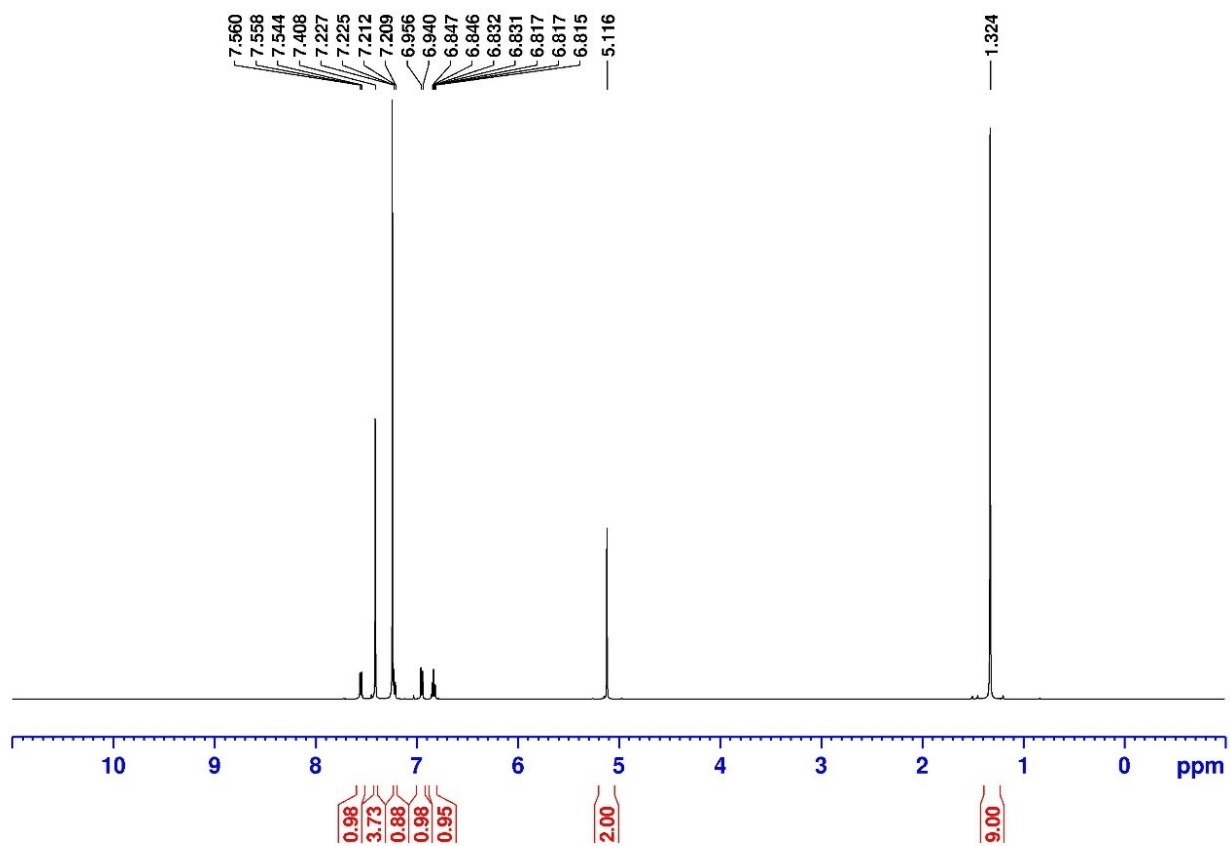
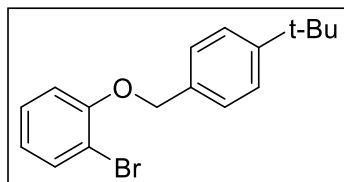


¹³C NMR

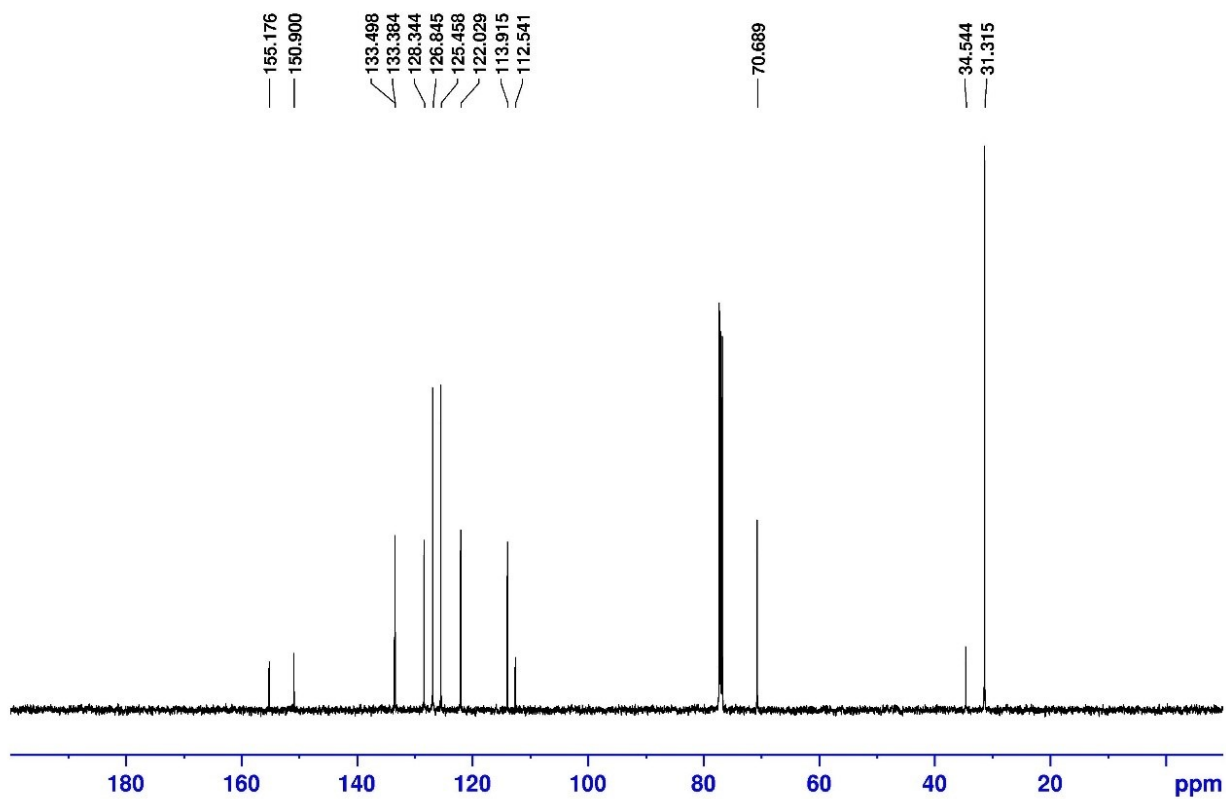
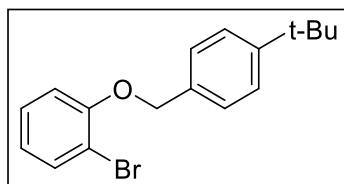


(2.2v)

^1H NMR

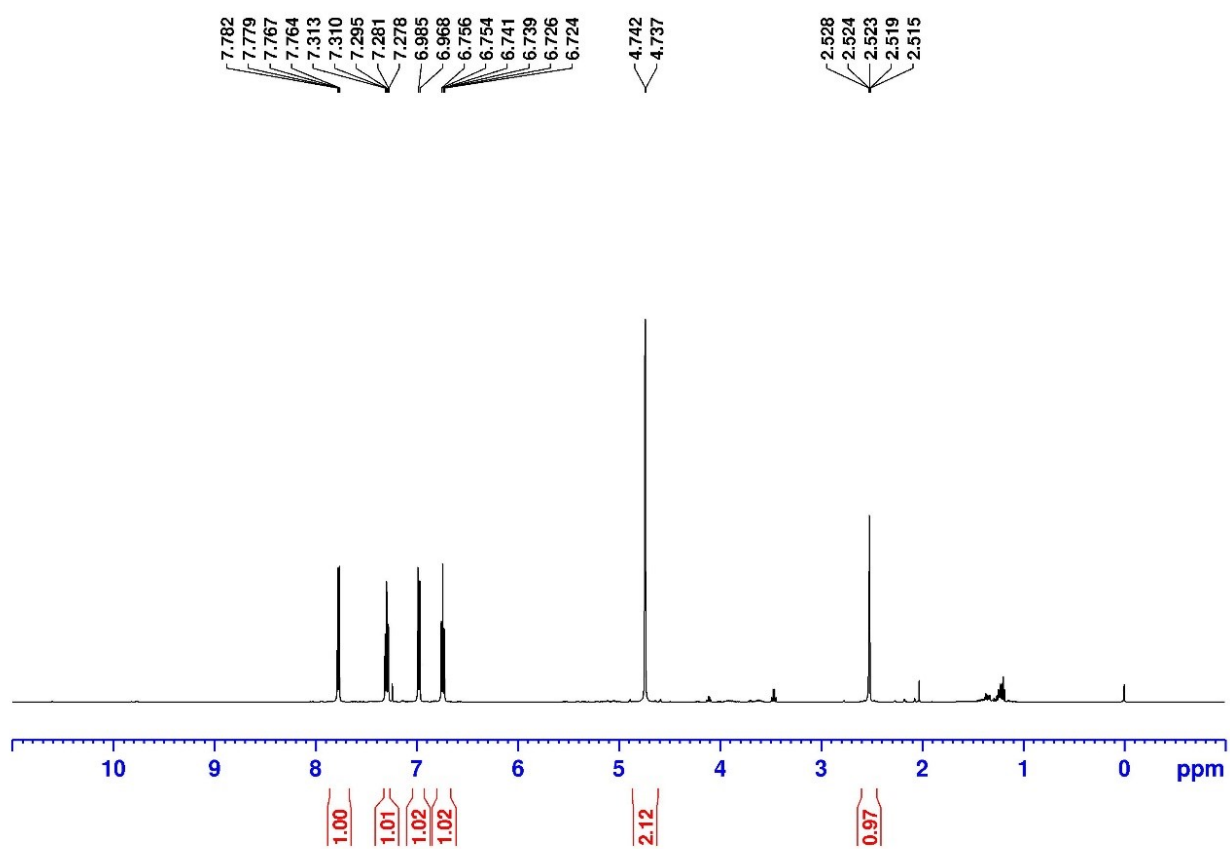
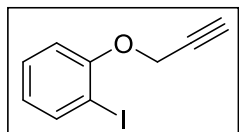


¹³C NMR

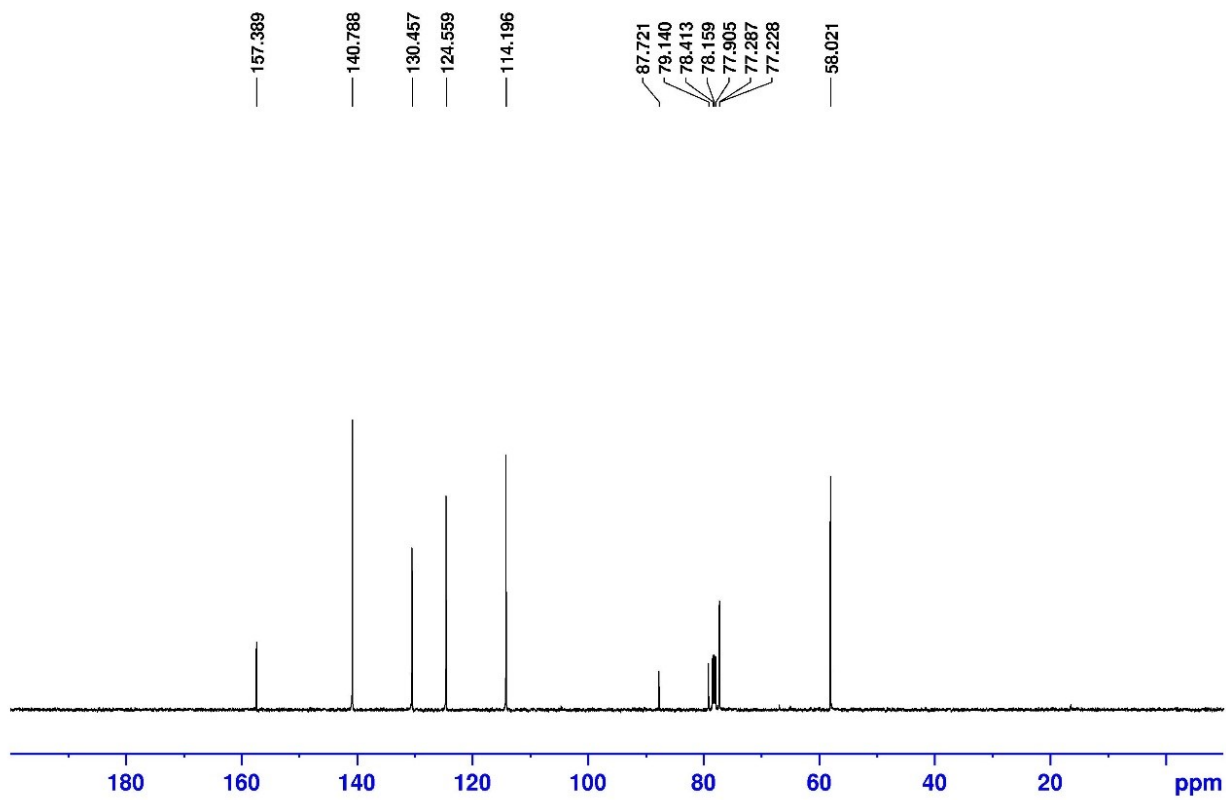
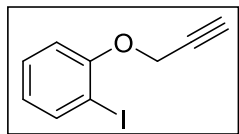


(2.2w)

^1H NMR

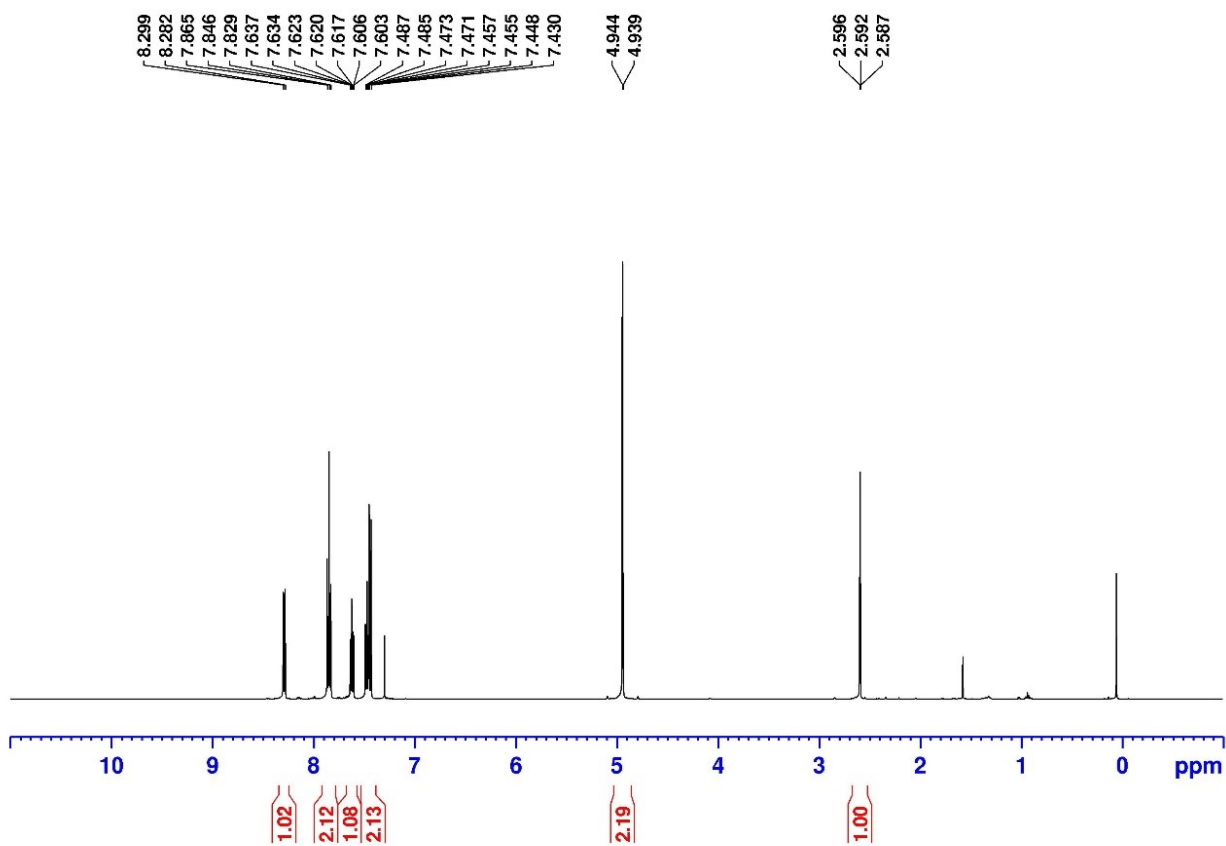
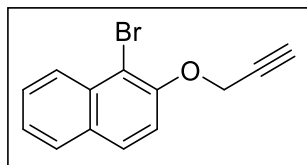


¹³C NMR

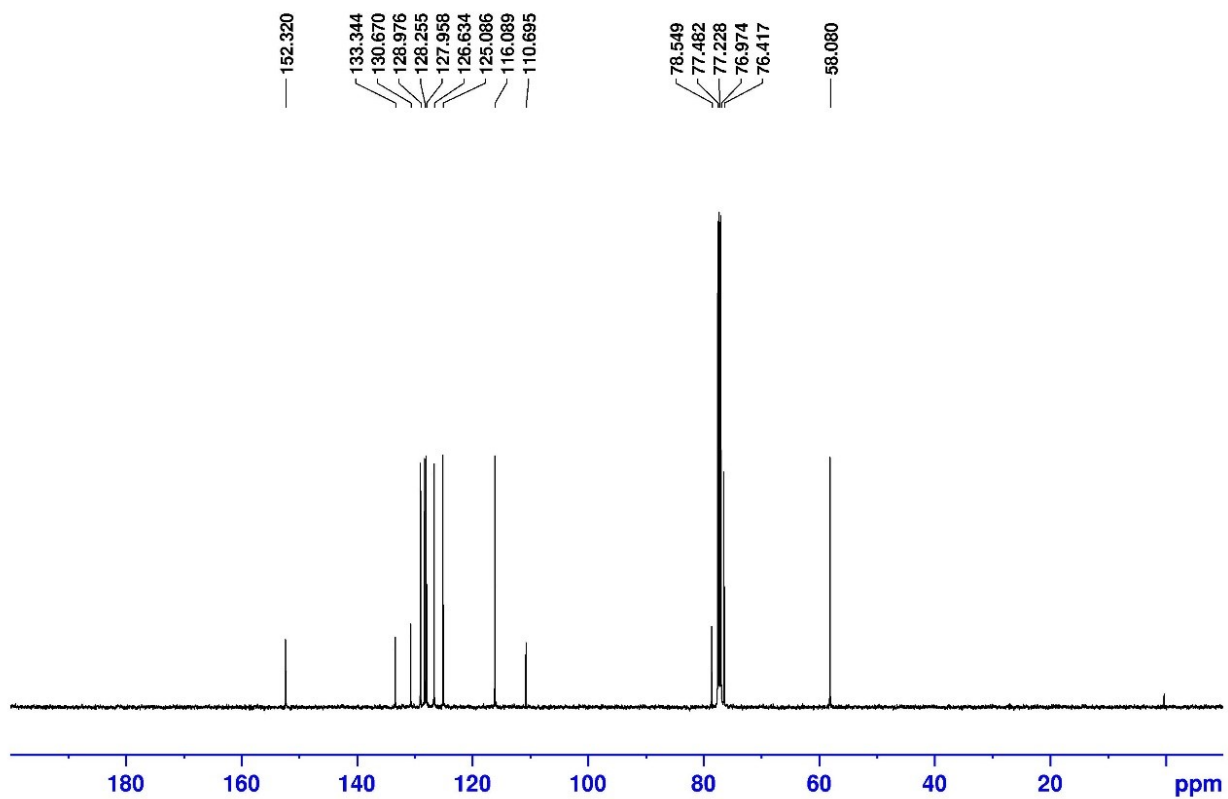
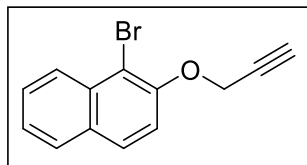


(2.2x)

^1H NMR

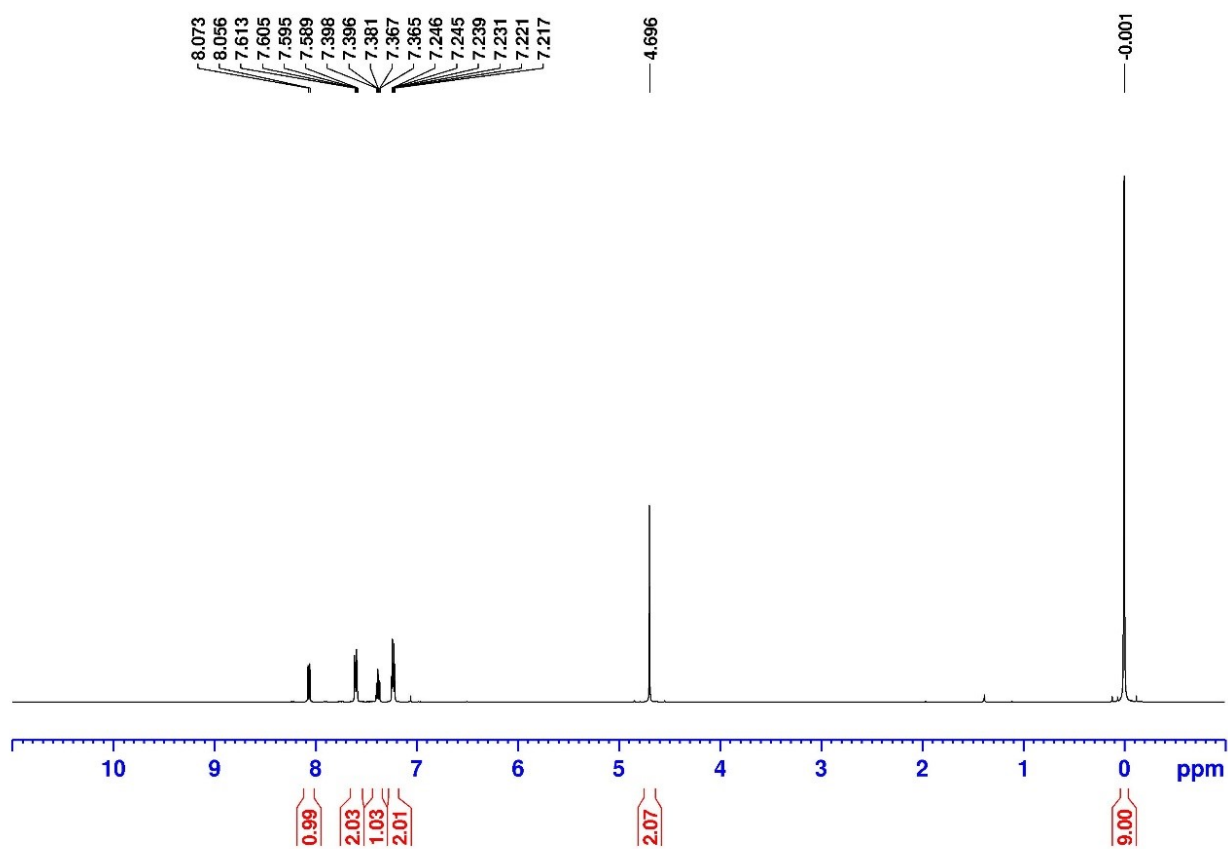
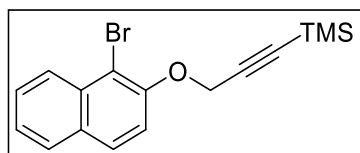


¹³C NMR

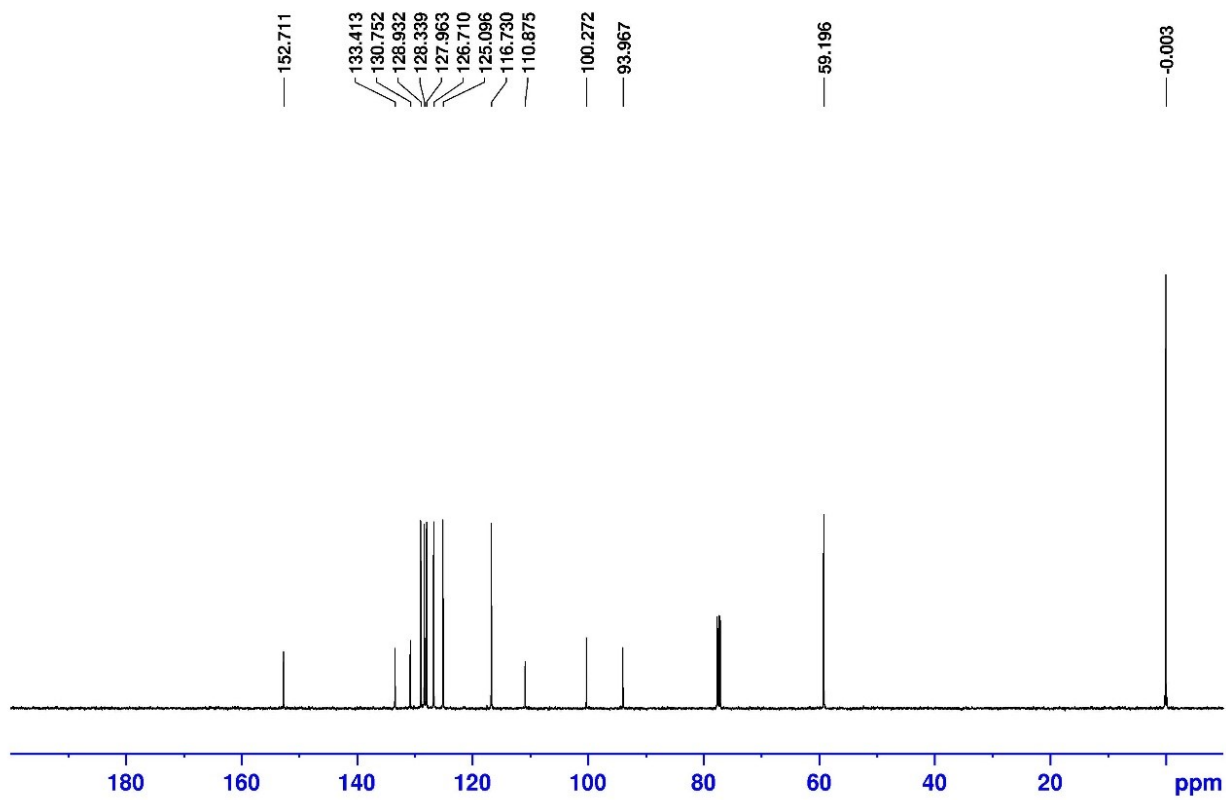
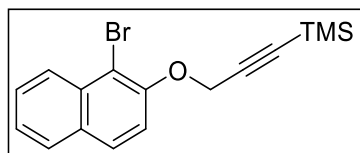


(2.2y)

^1H NMR

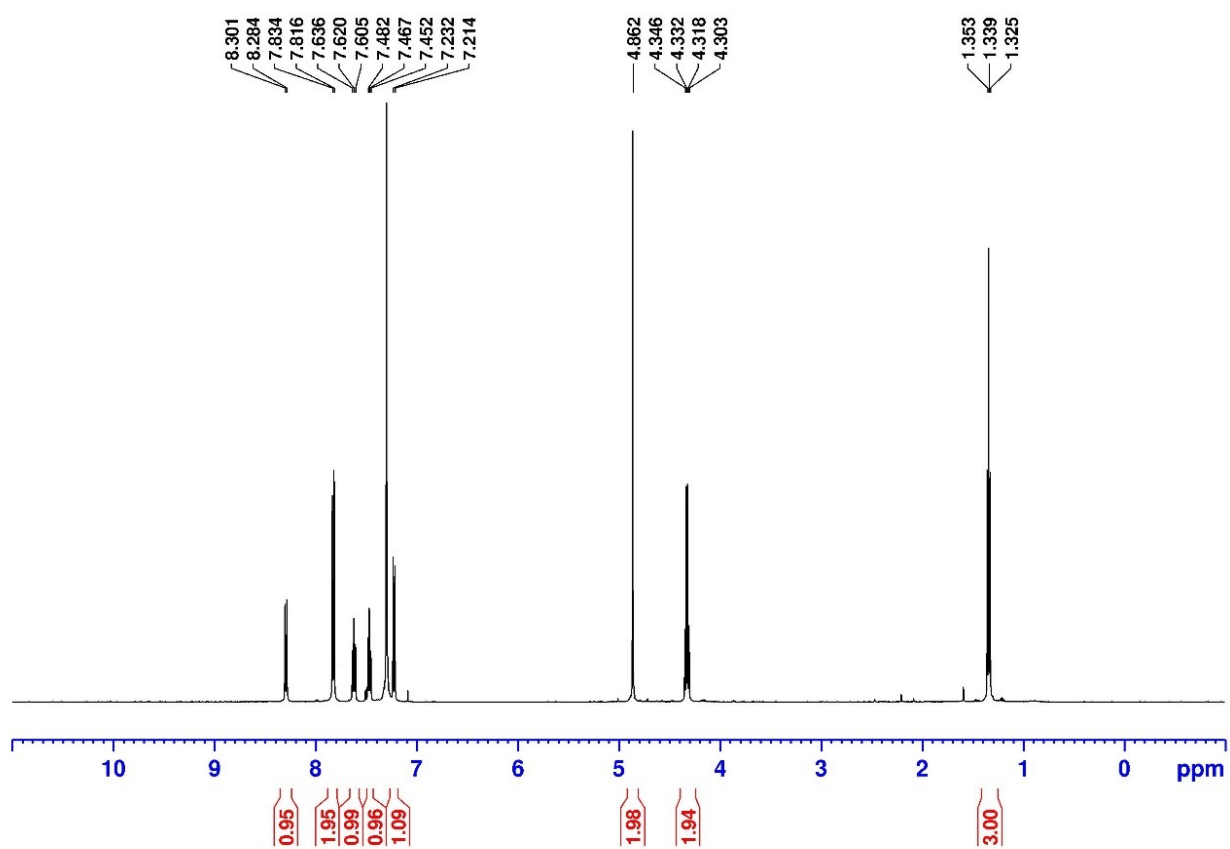
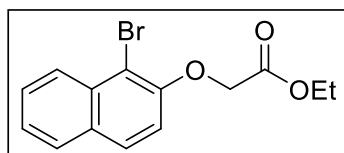


¹³C NMR

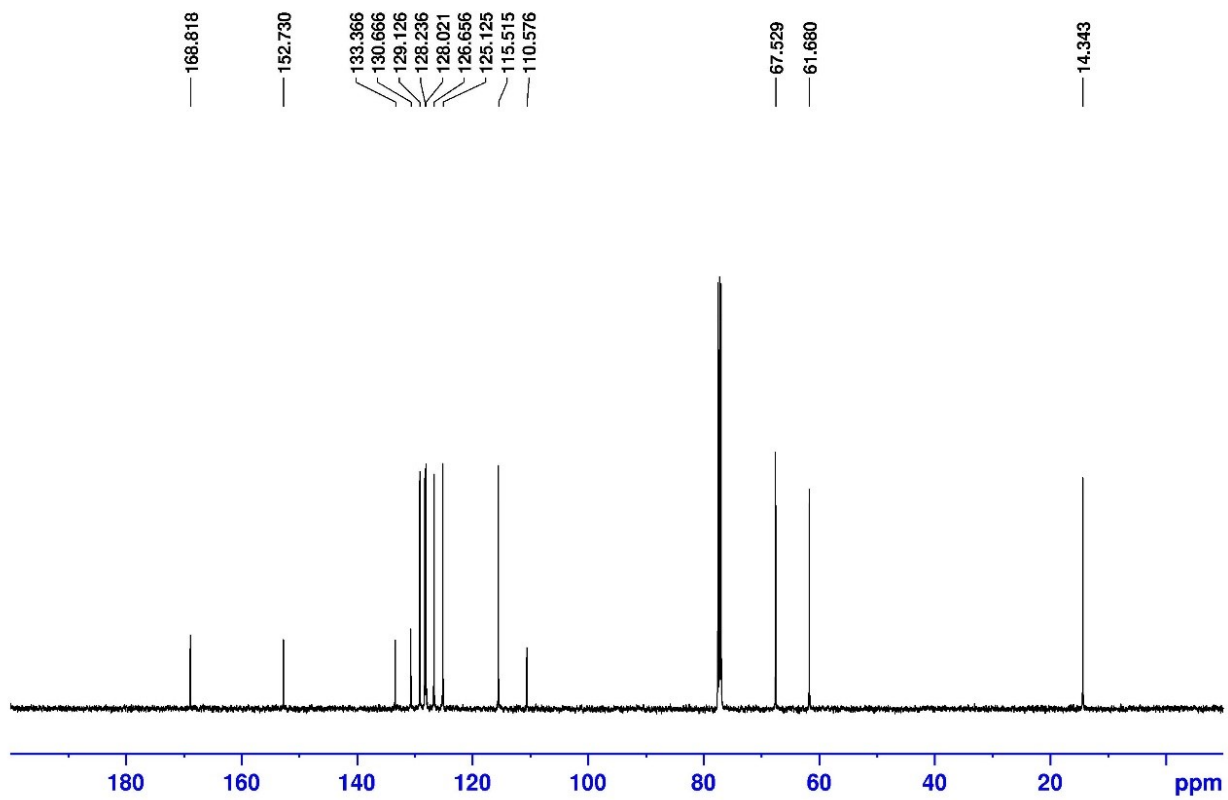
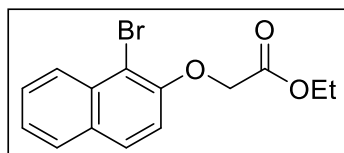


(2.2z)

^1H NMR

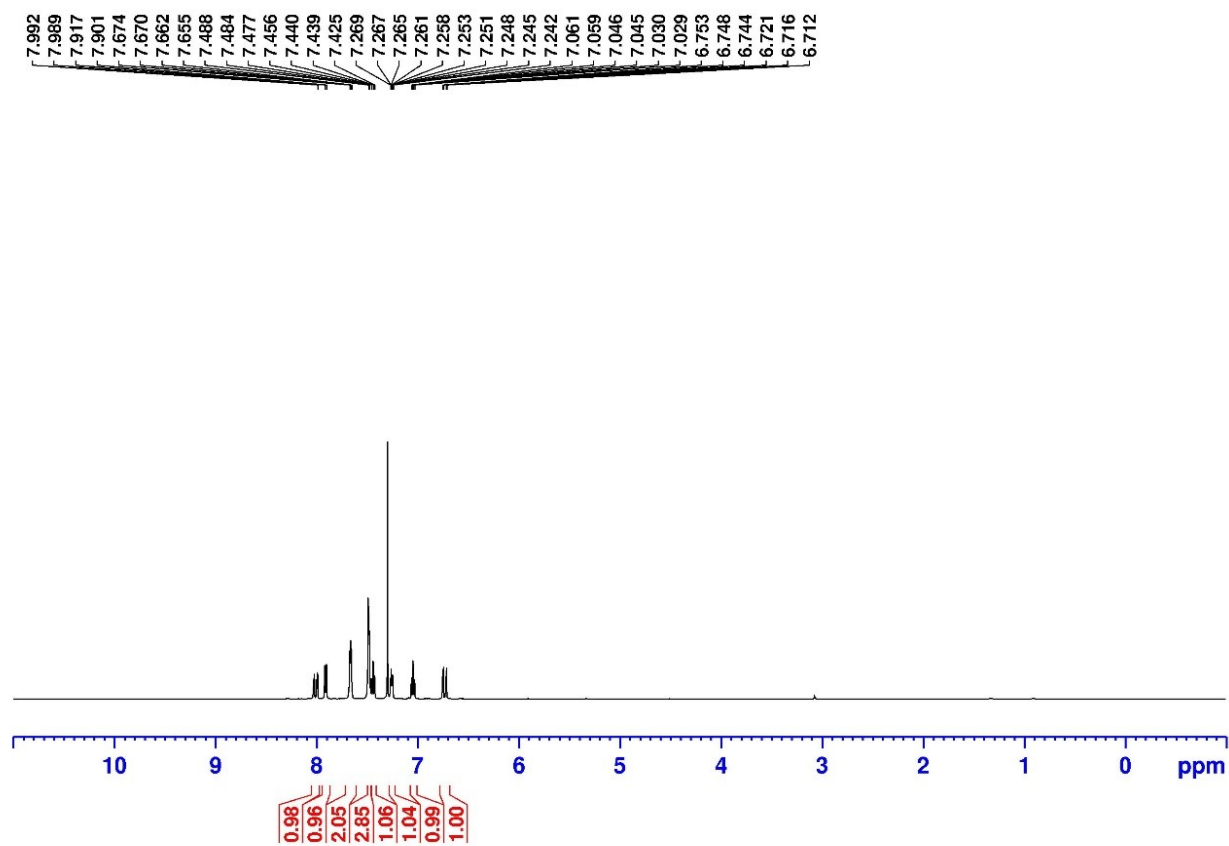
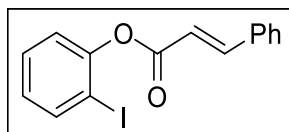


¹³C NMR

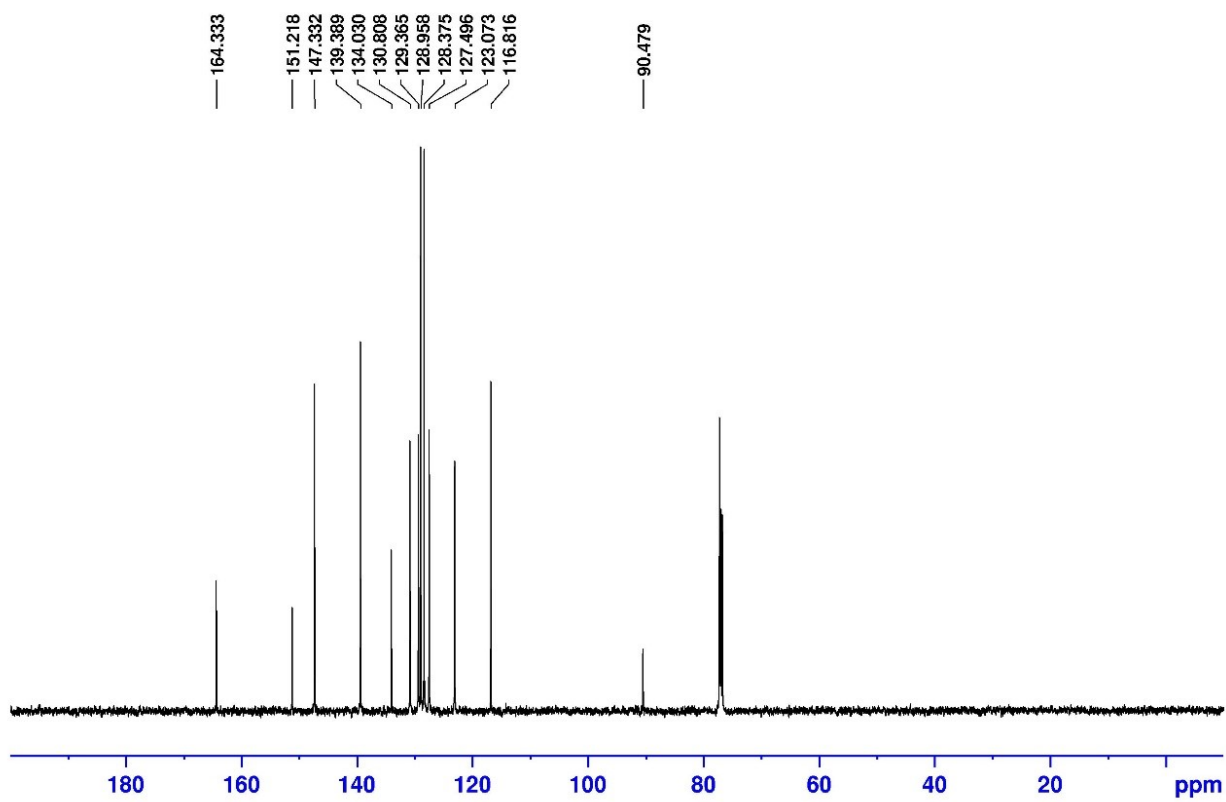
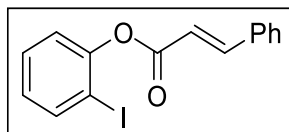


(2.2aa)

^1H NMR

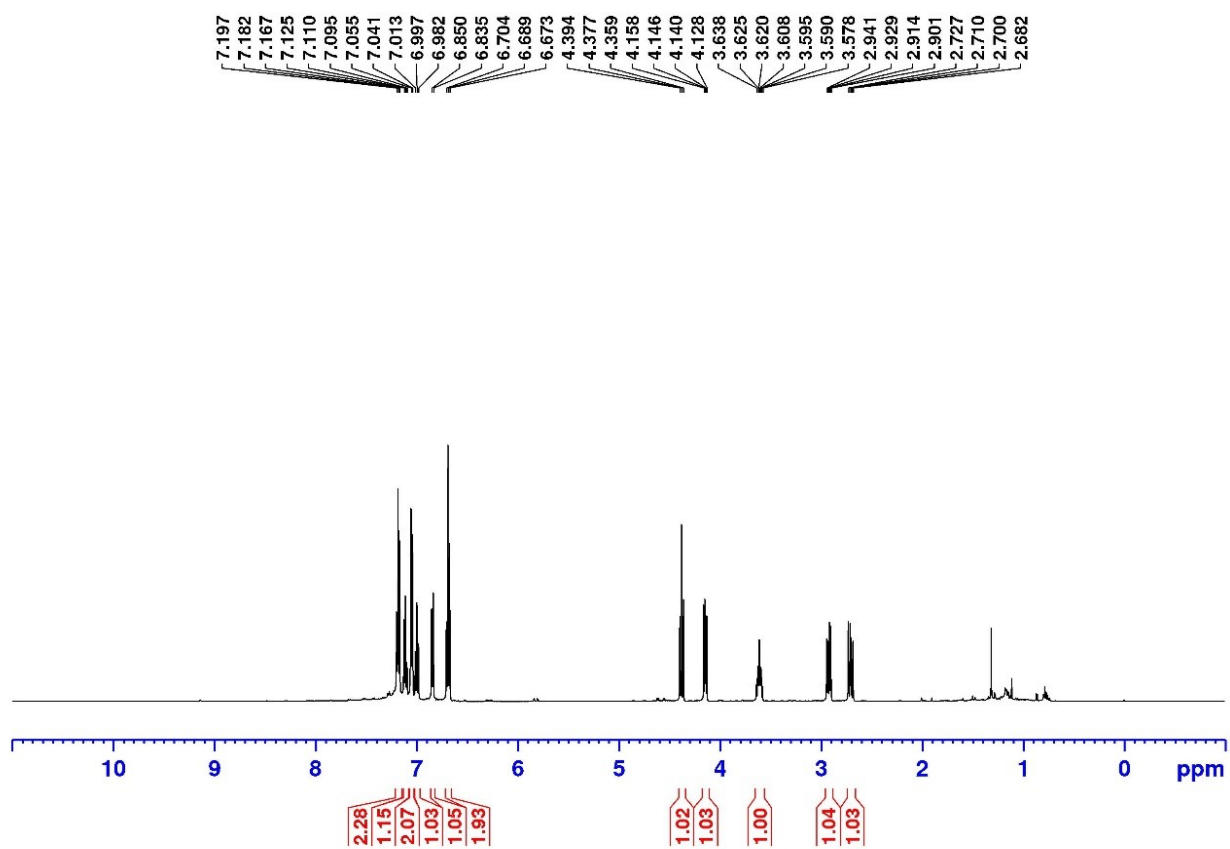
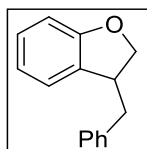


¹³C NMR

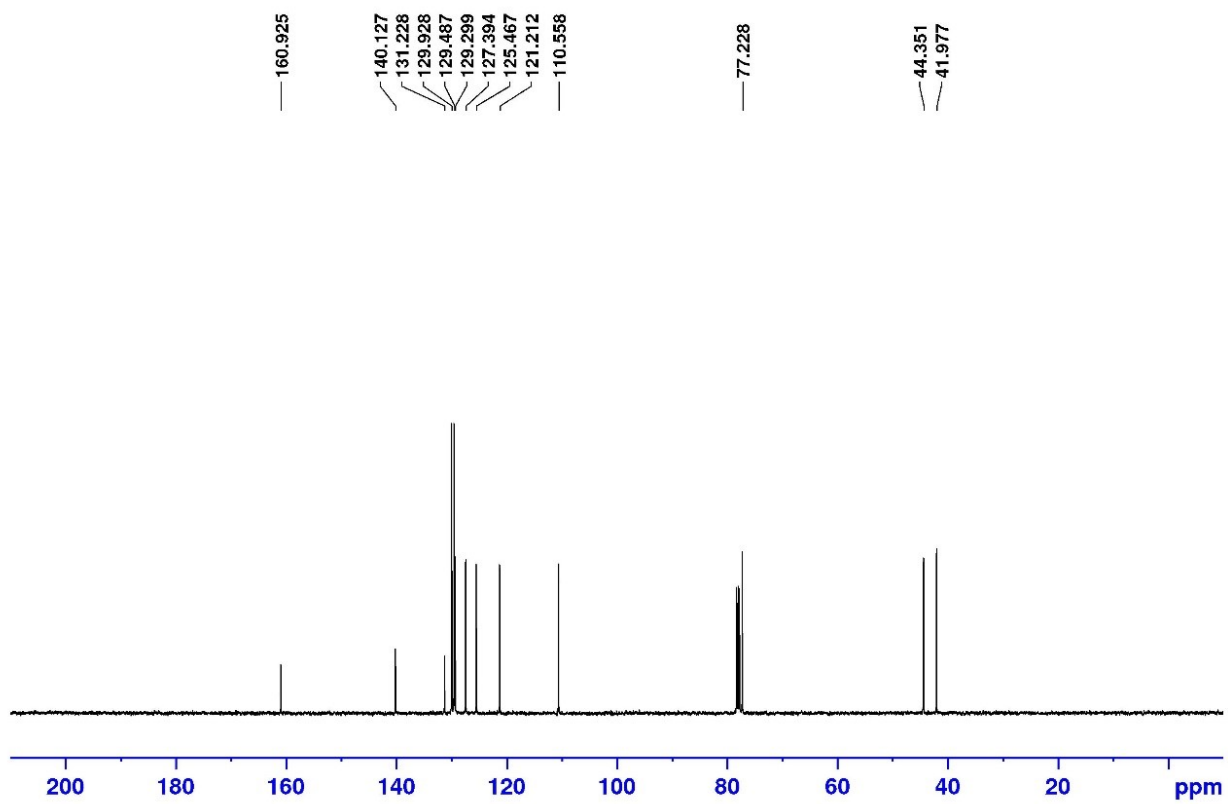
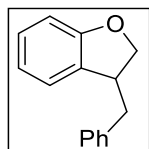


(2.2A)

^1H NMR

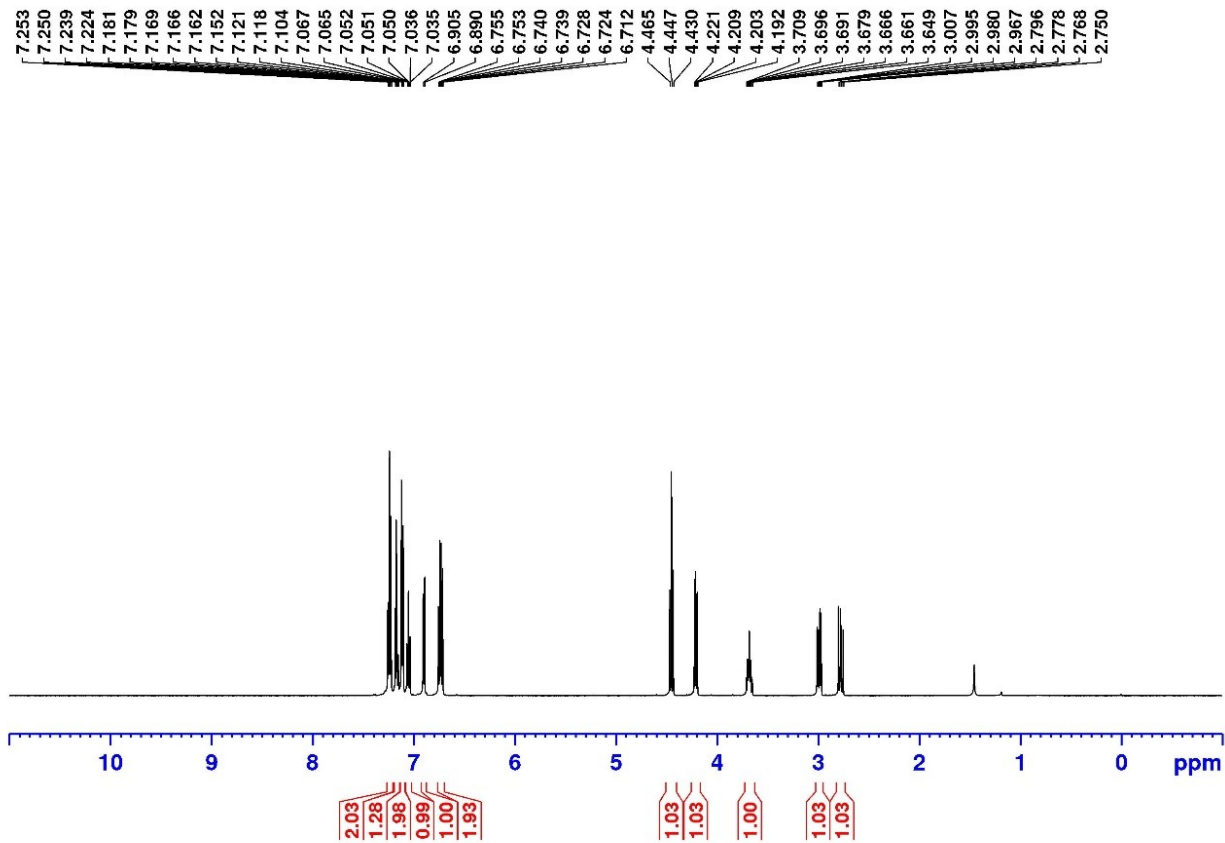
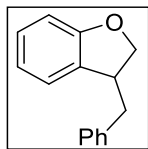


¹³CNMR

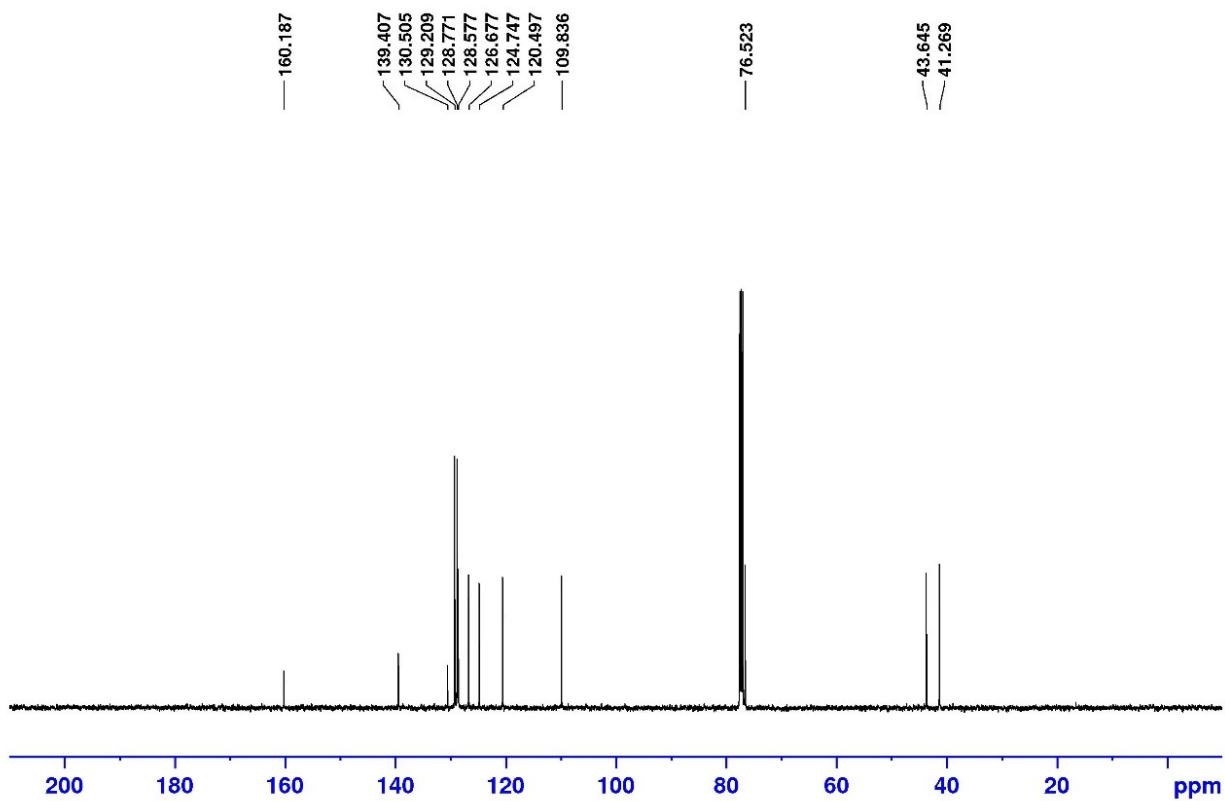
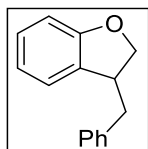


(2.2B)

¹H NMR

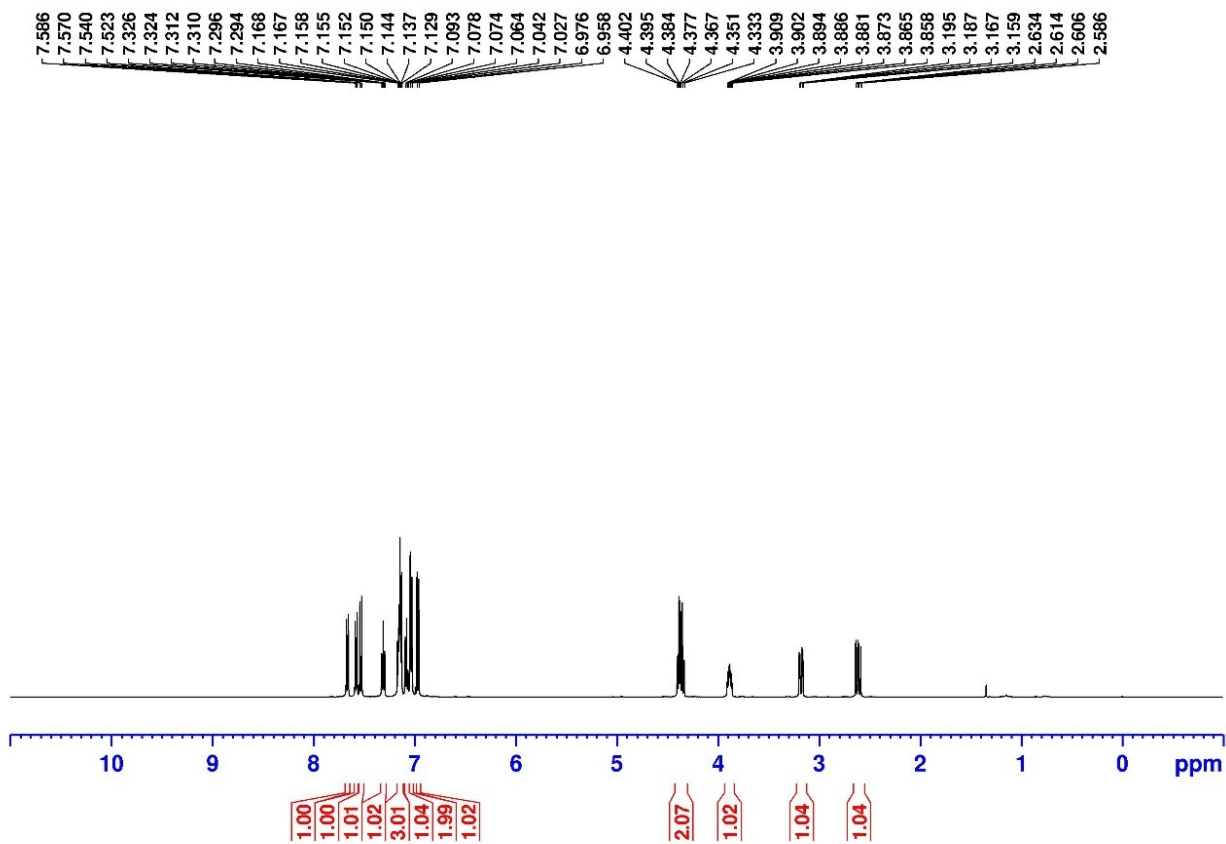
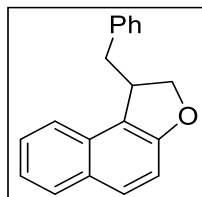


¹³C NMR

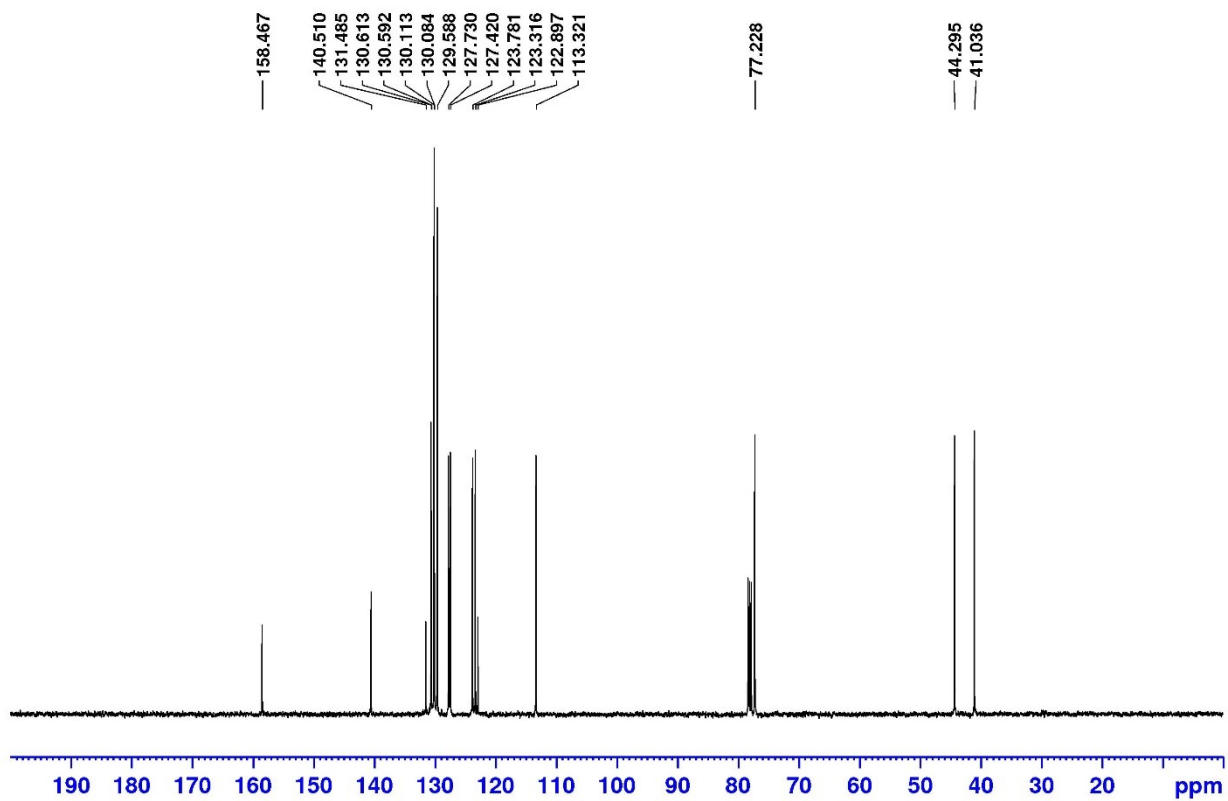
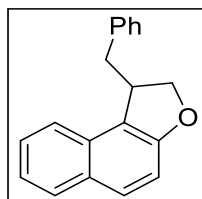


(2.2D)

^1H NMR

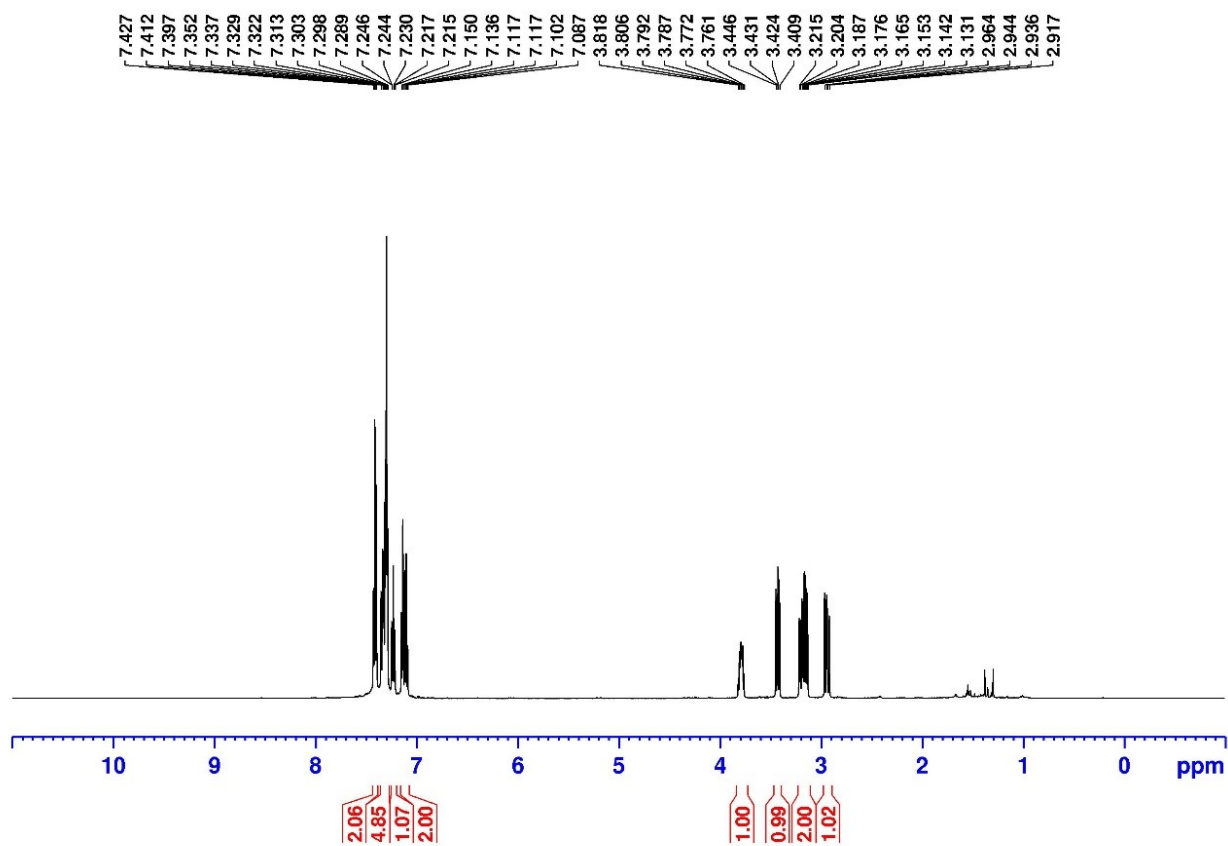
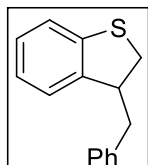


¹³C NMR

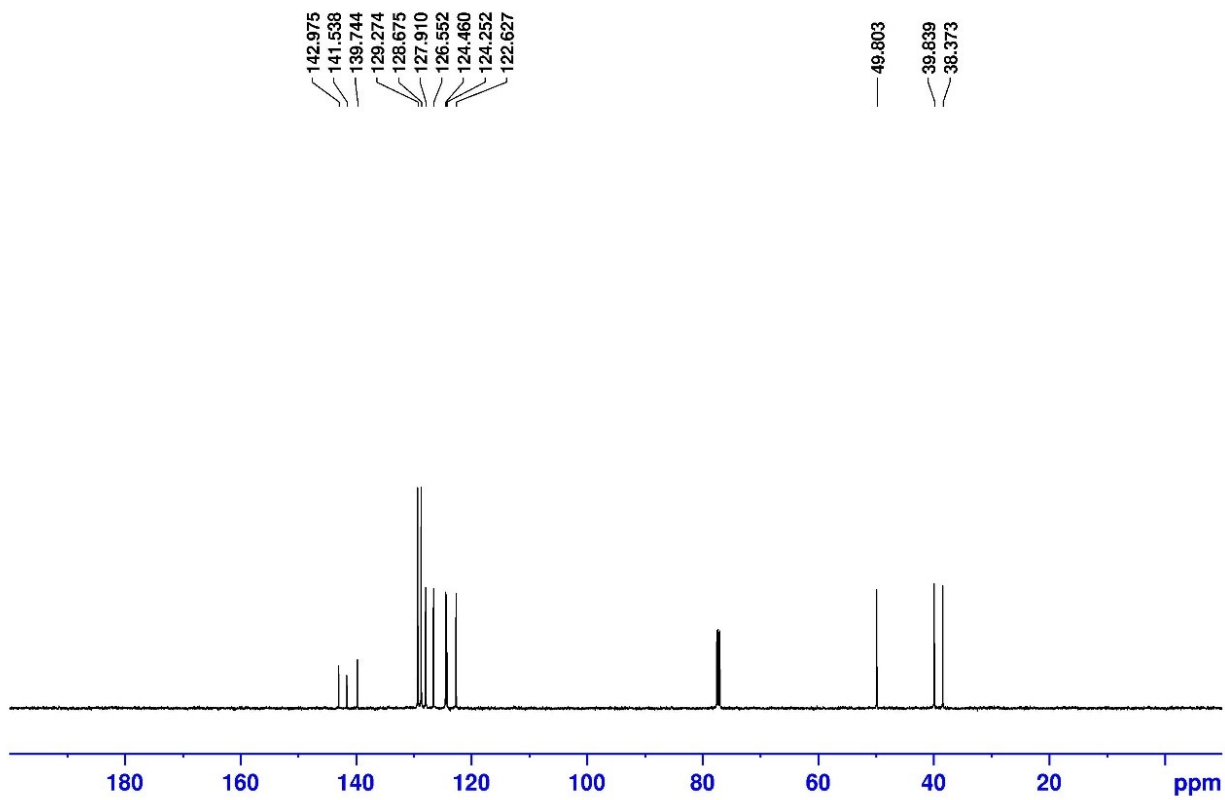
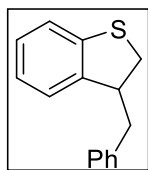


(2.2E)

^1H NMR

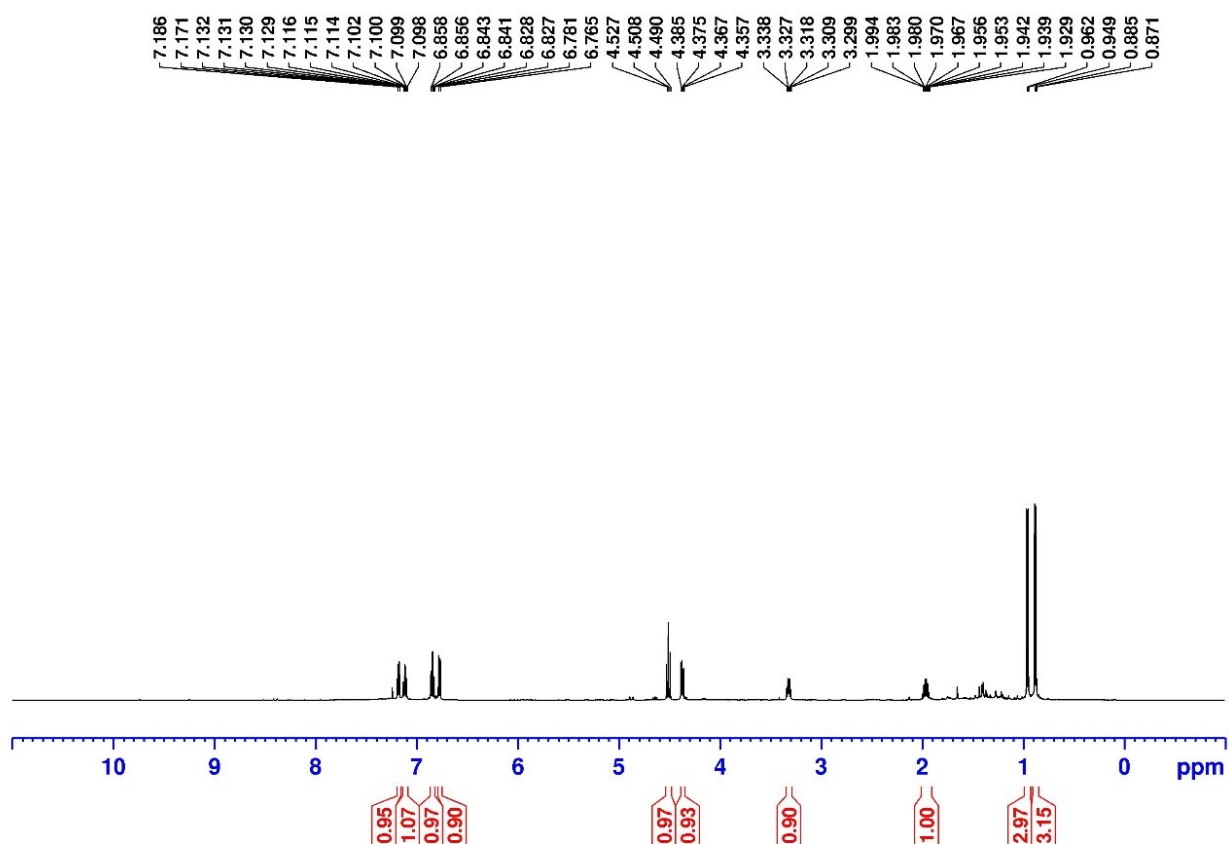
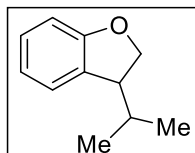


¹³C NMR

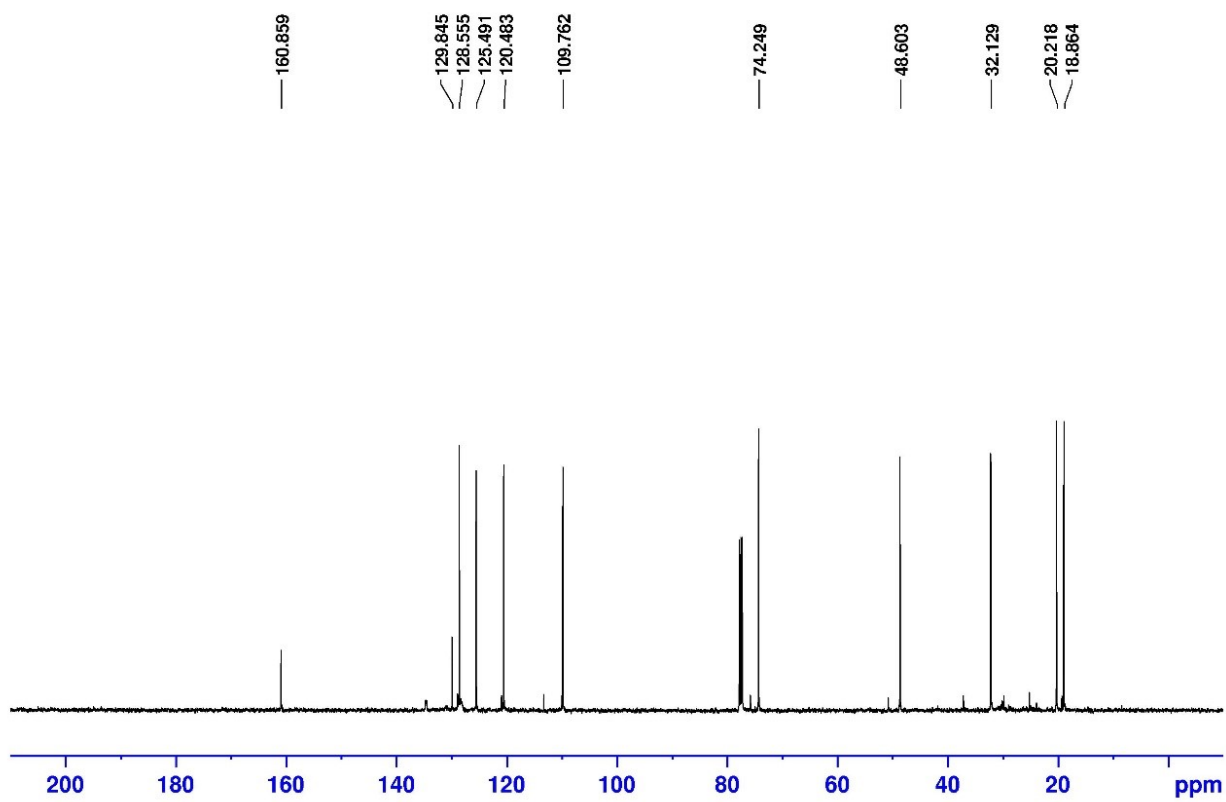
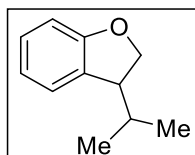


(2.2F)

^1H NMR

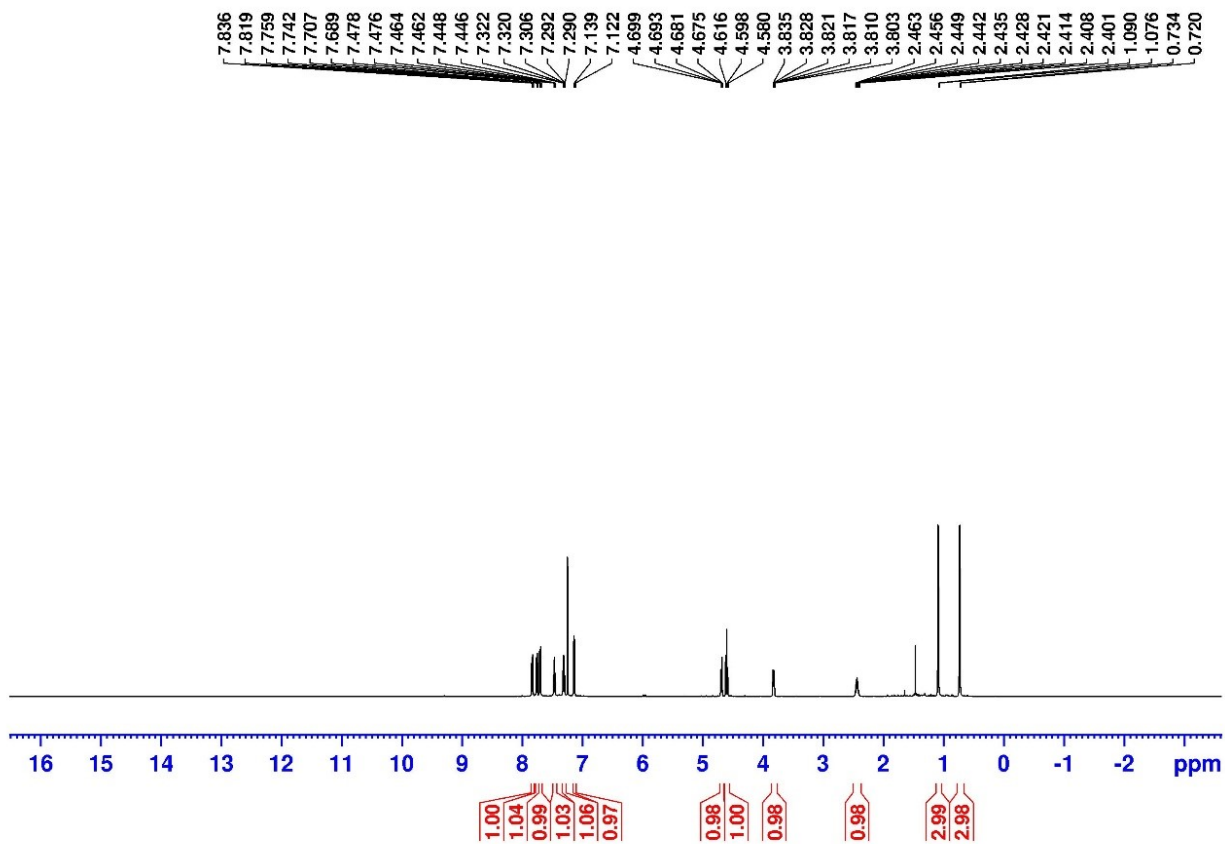
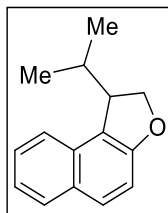


¹³C NMR

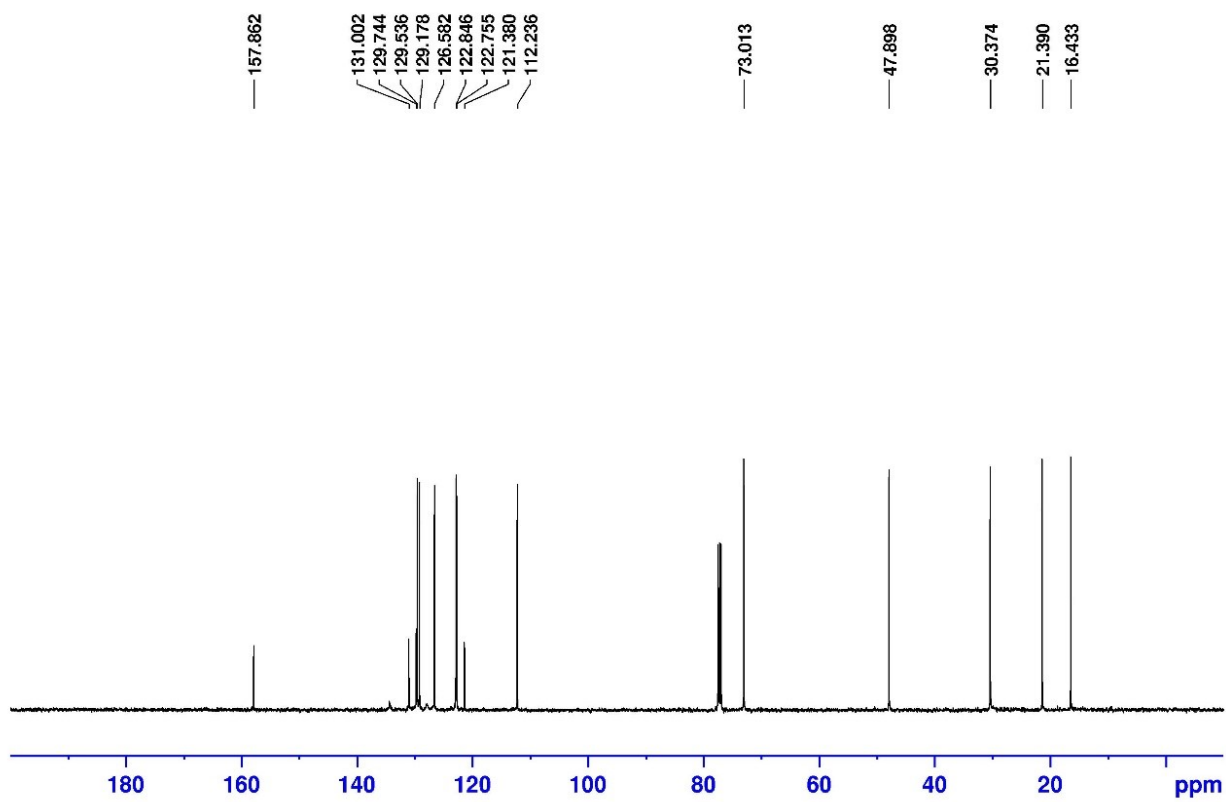
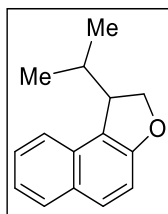


(2.2G)

^1H NMR

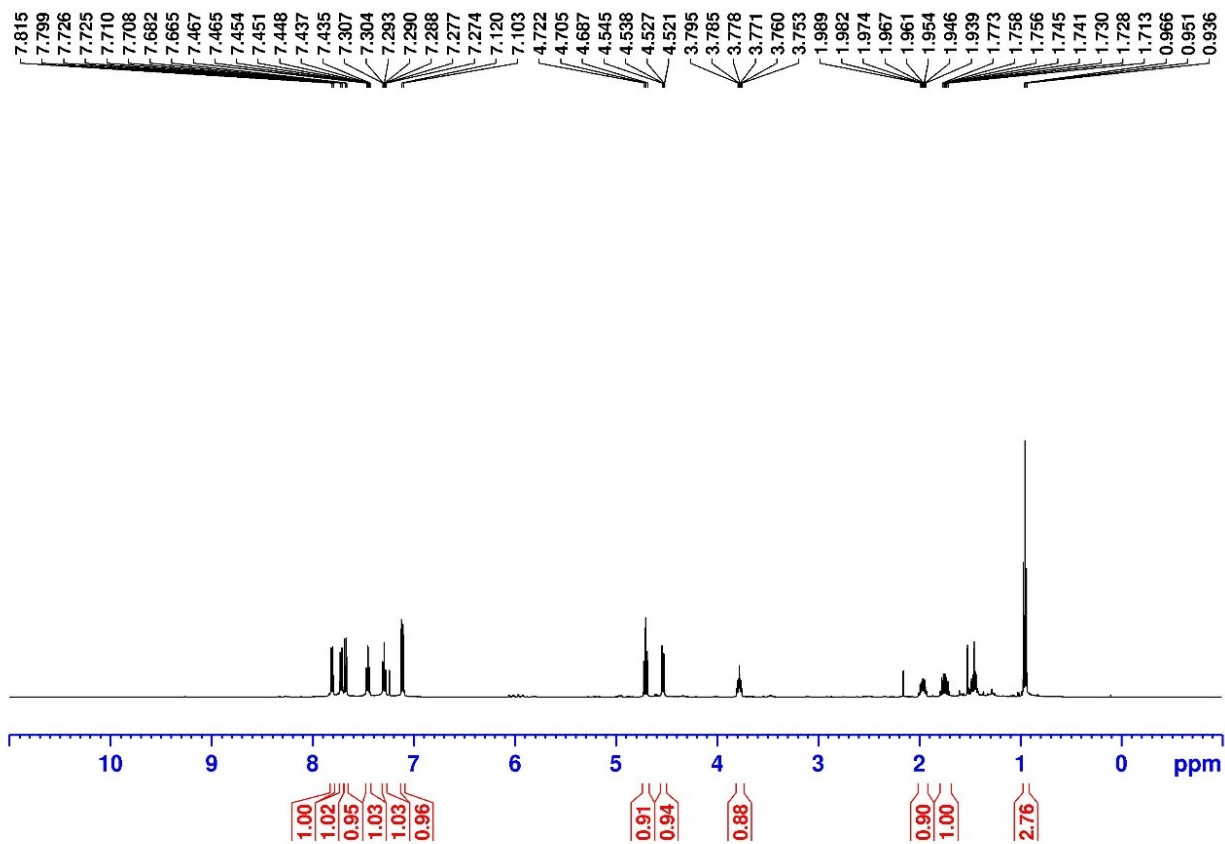
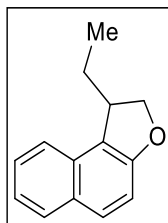


¹³C NMR

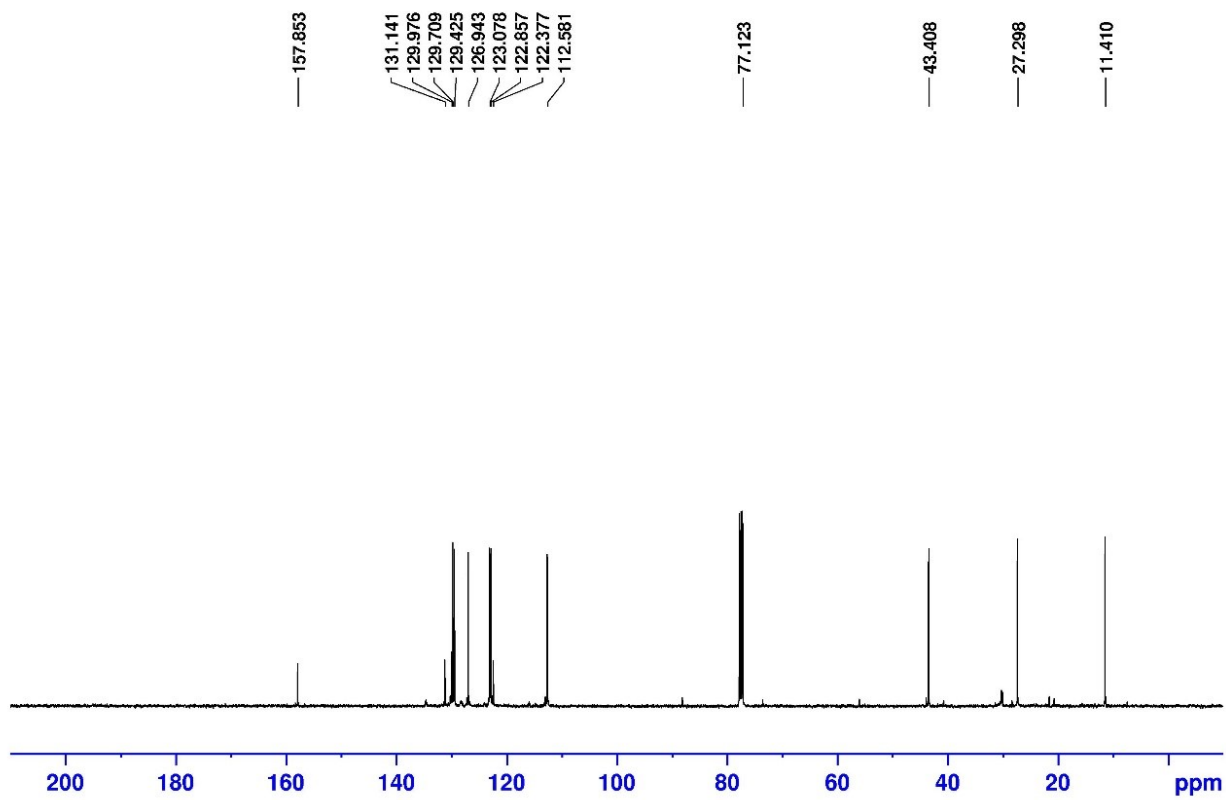
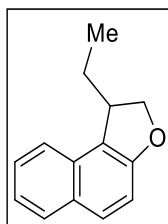


(2.2H)

^1H NMR

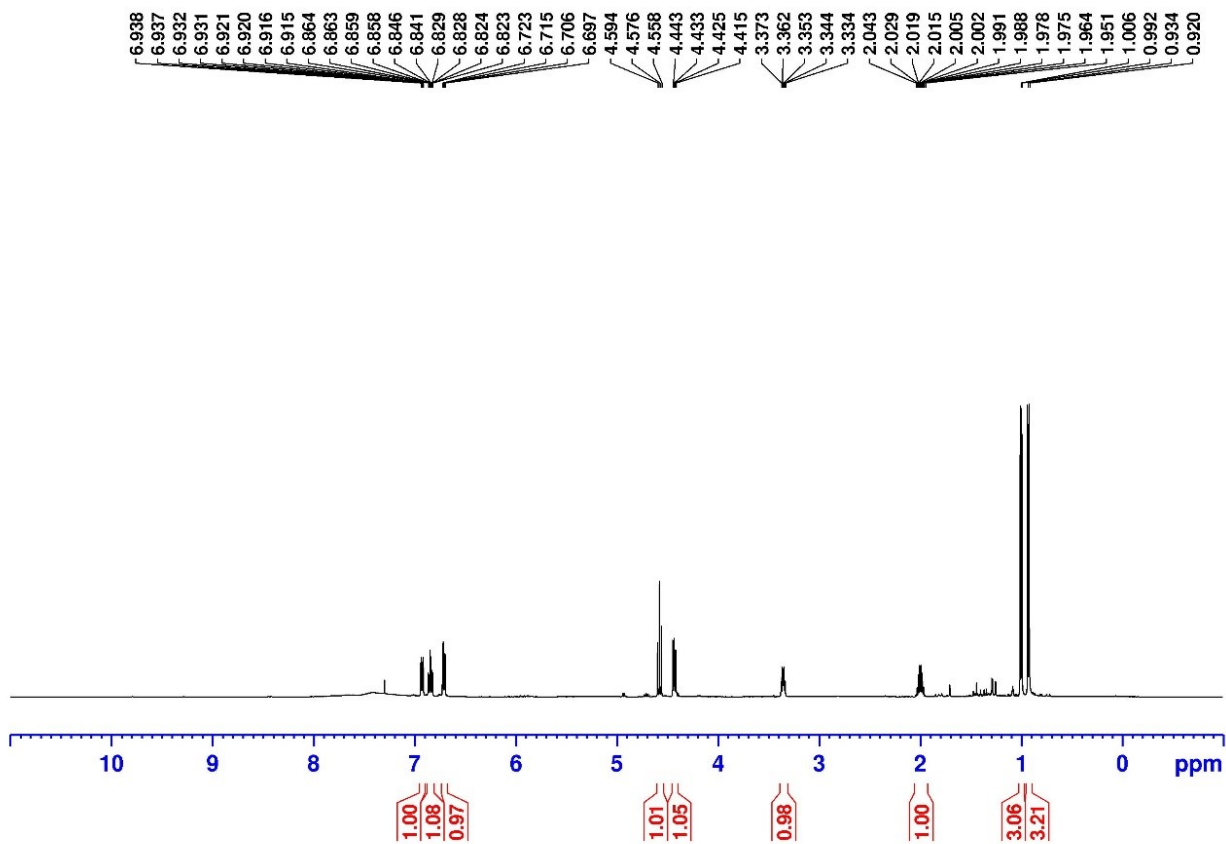
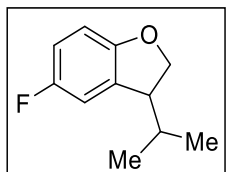


¹³C NMR

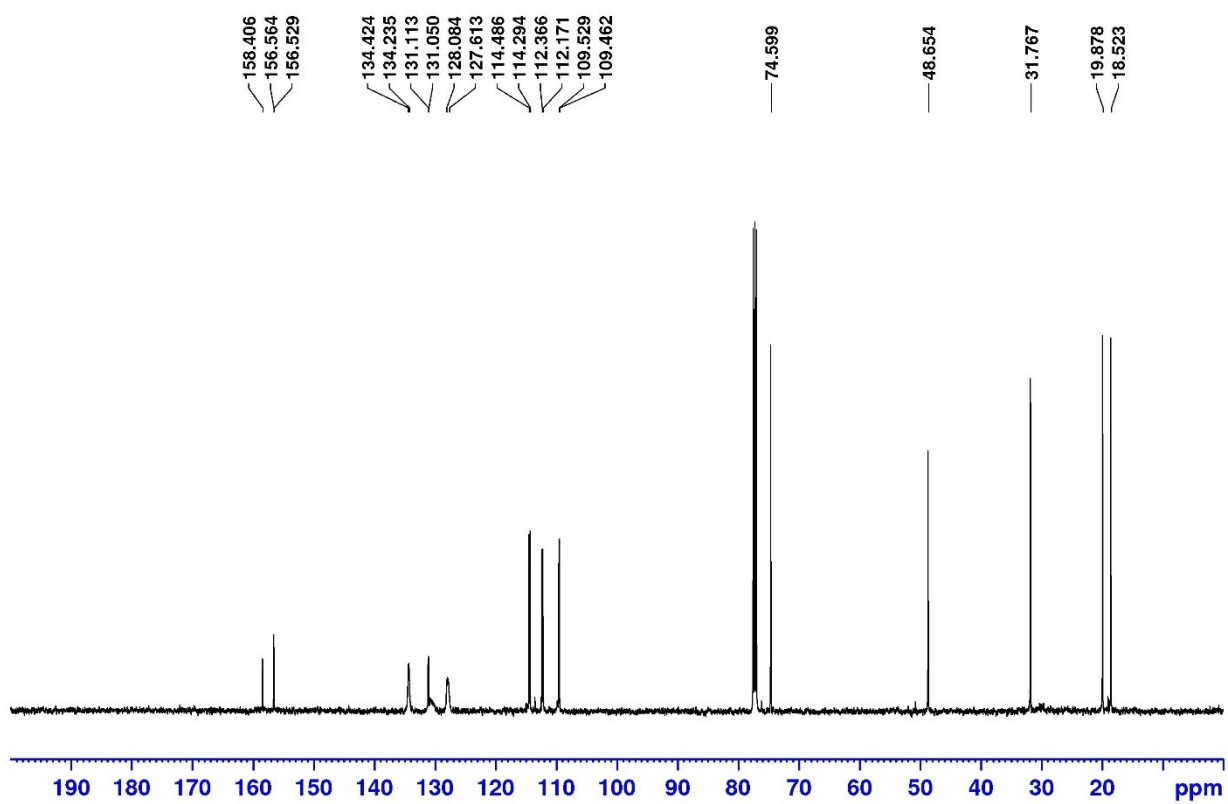
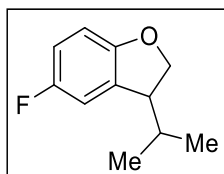


(2.2M)

¹H NMR

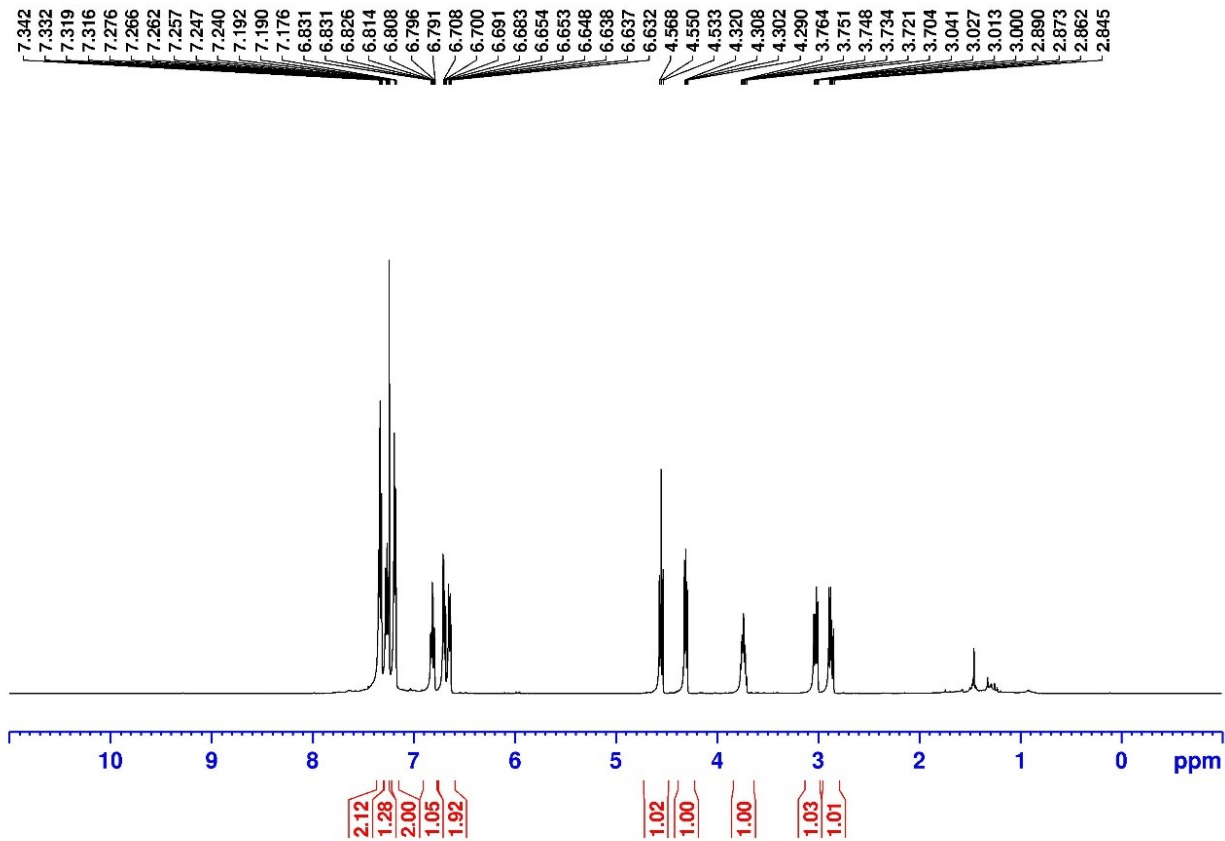
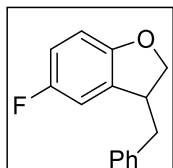


¹³C NMR

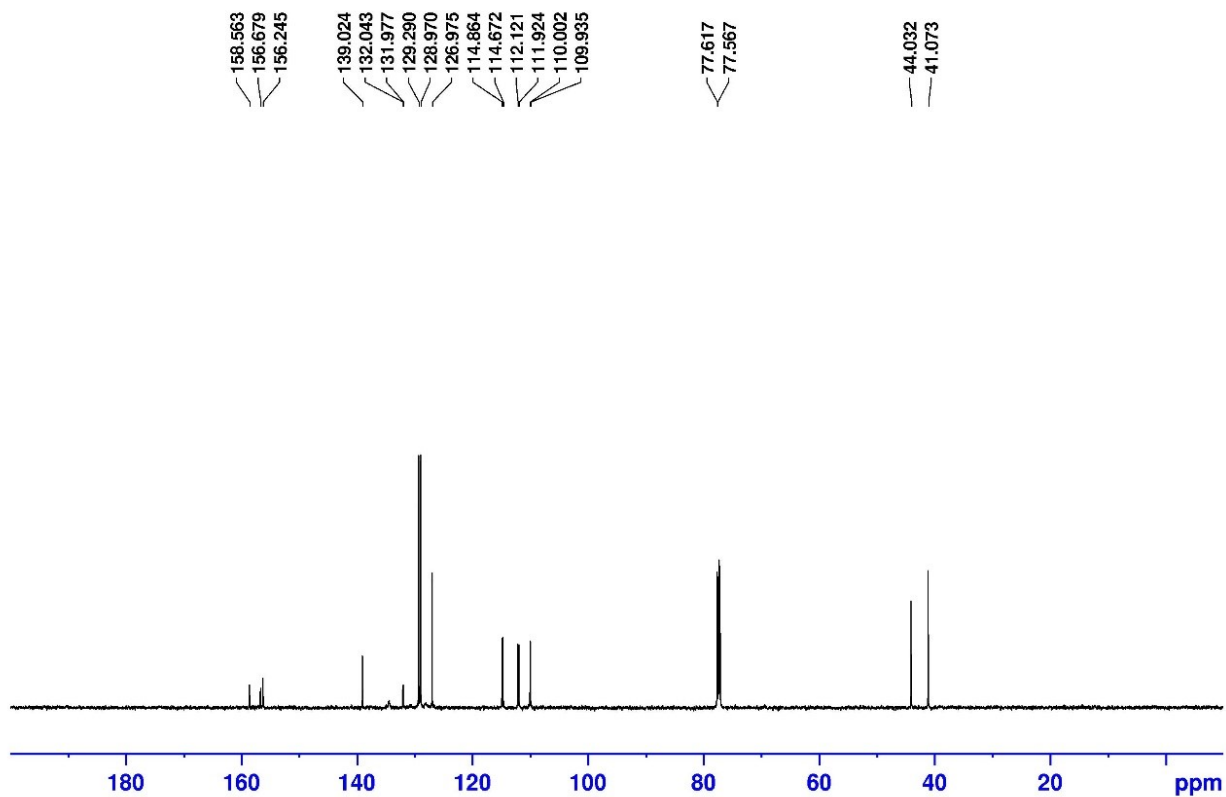
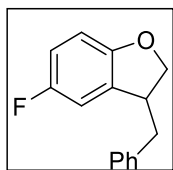


(2.2N)

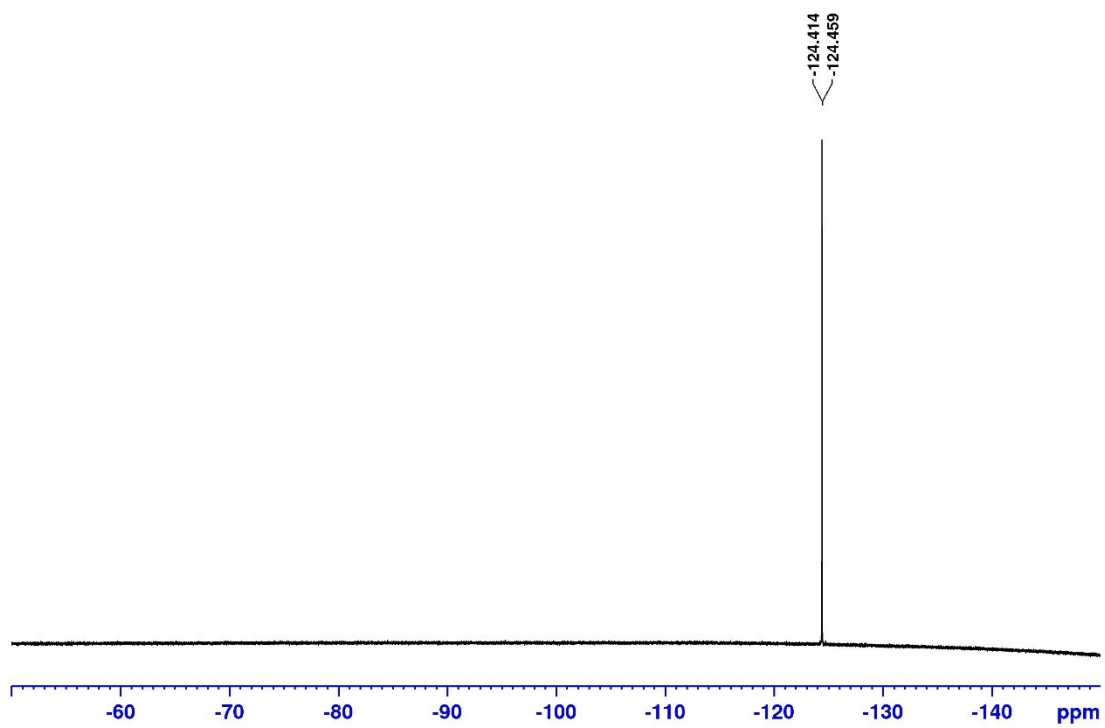
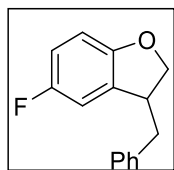
¹H NMR



¹³C NMR

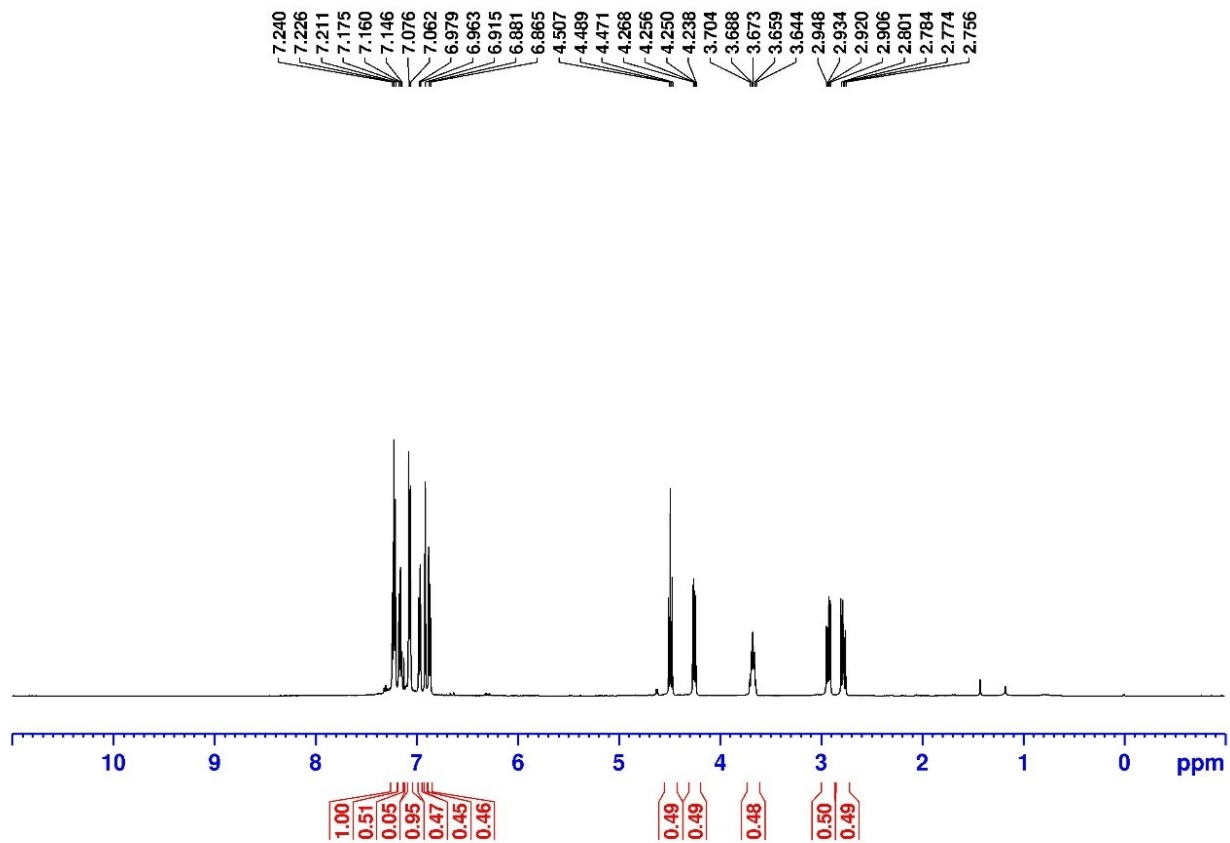
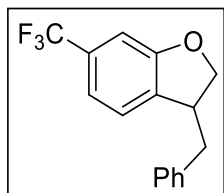


^{19}F NMR

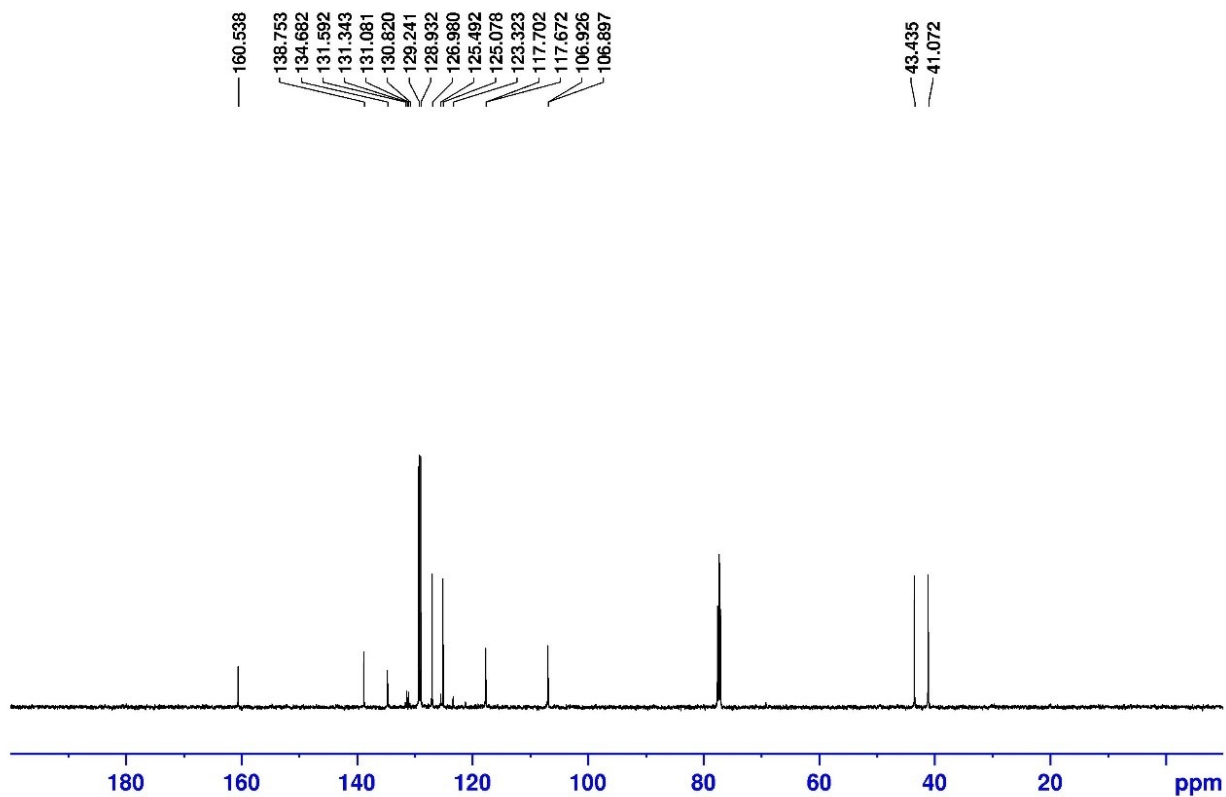
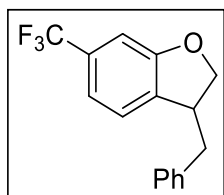


(2.2P)

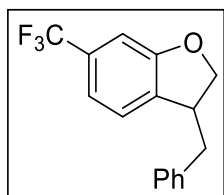
¹H NMR



¹³C NMR

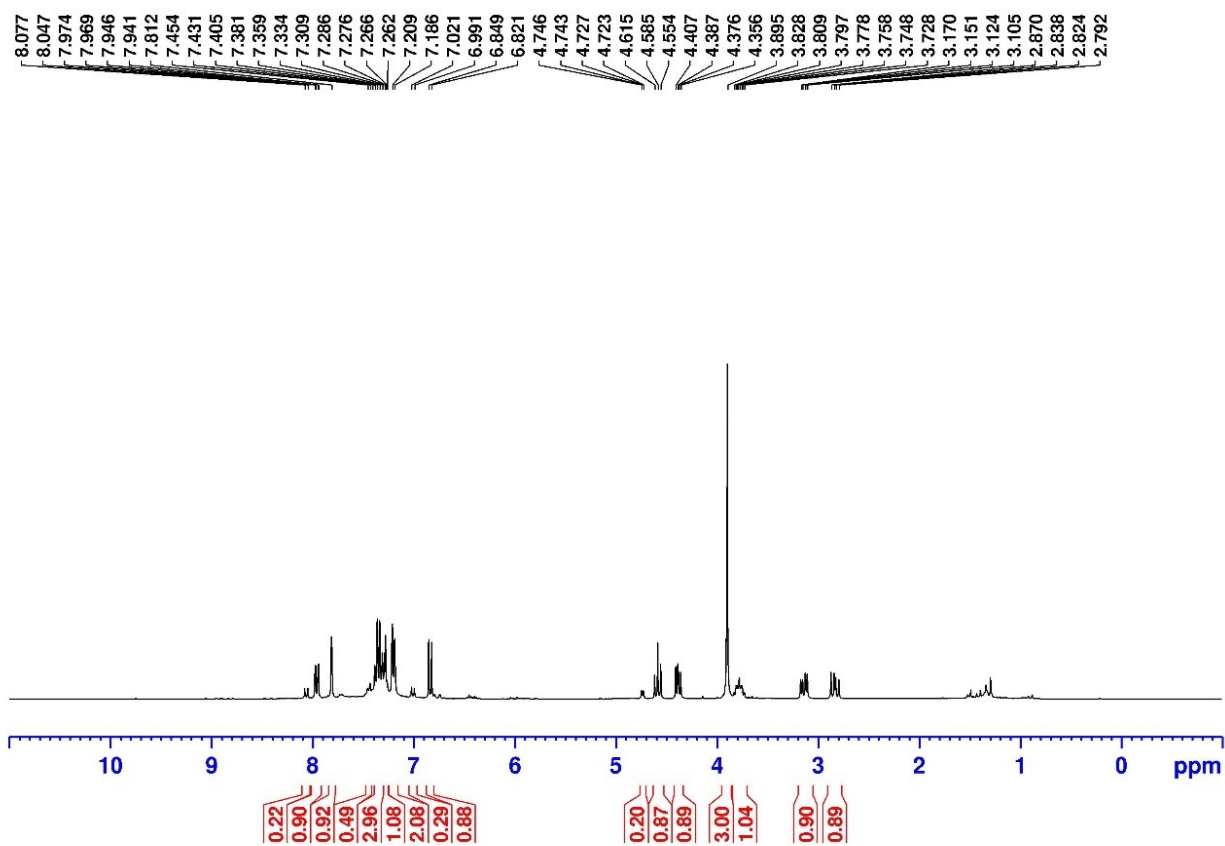
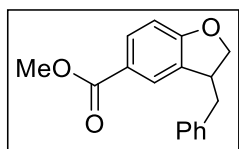


¹⁹F NMR



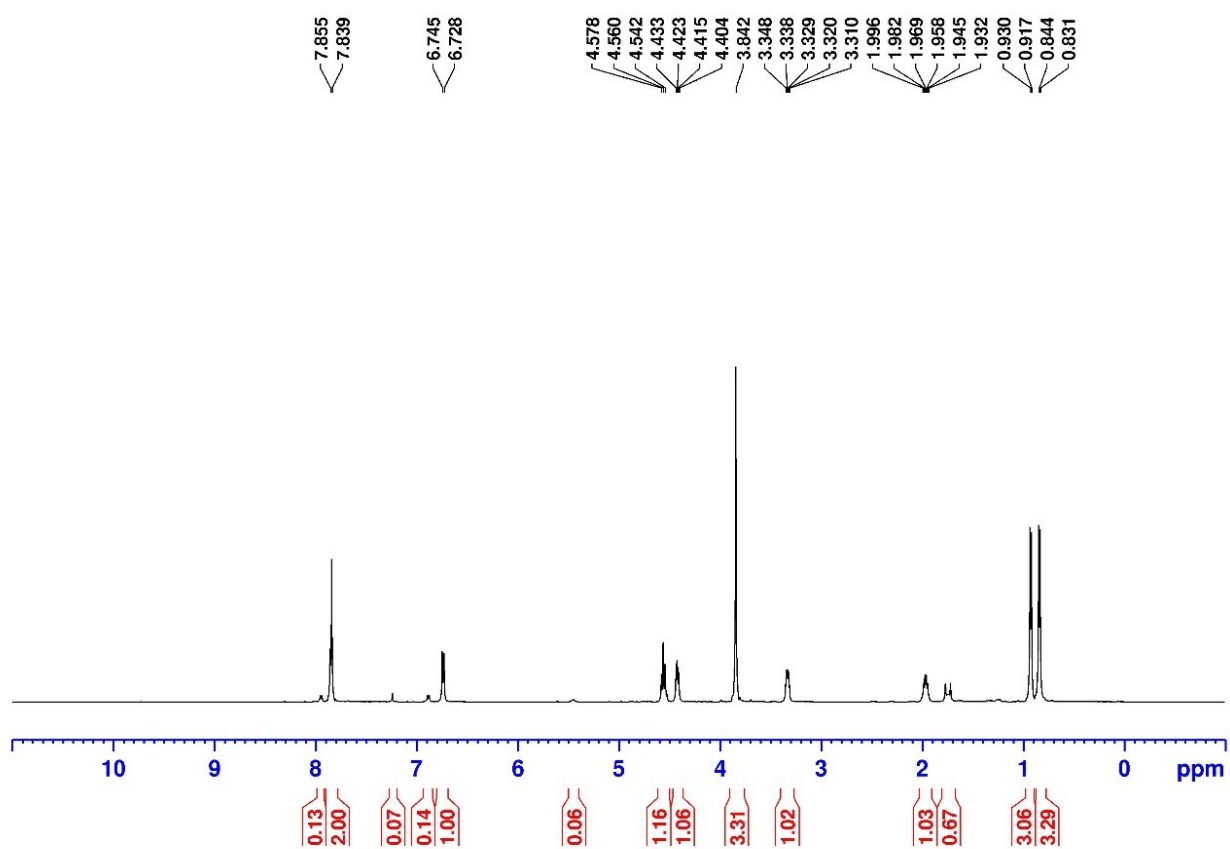
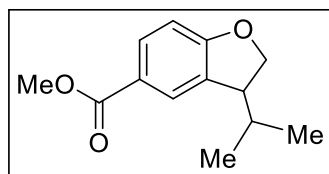
(2.2Q)

^1H NMR



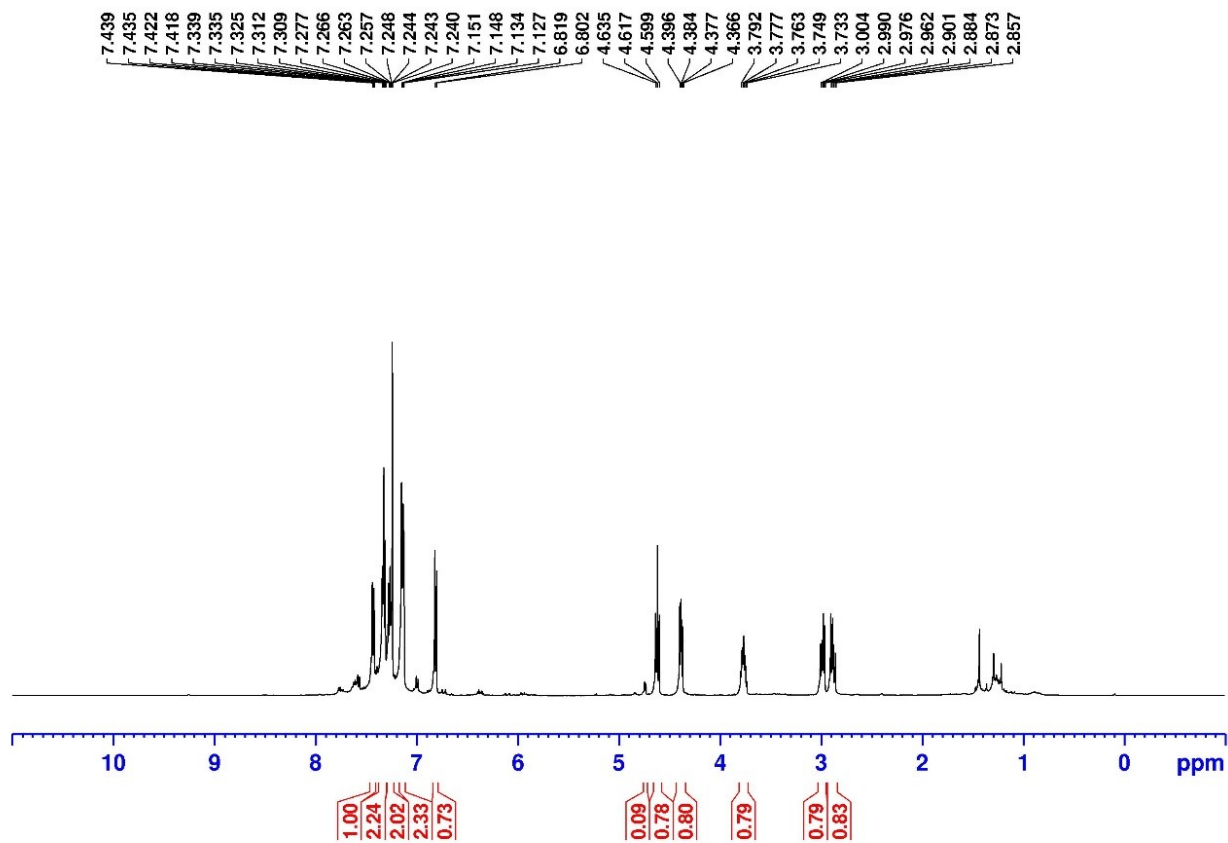
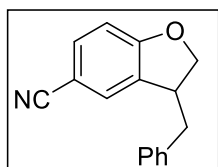
(2.2R)

^1H NMR



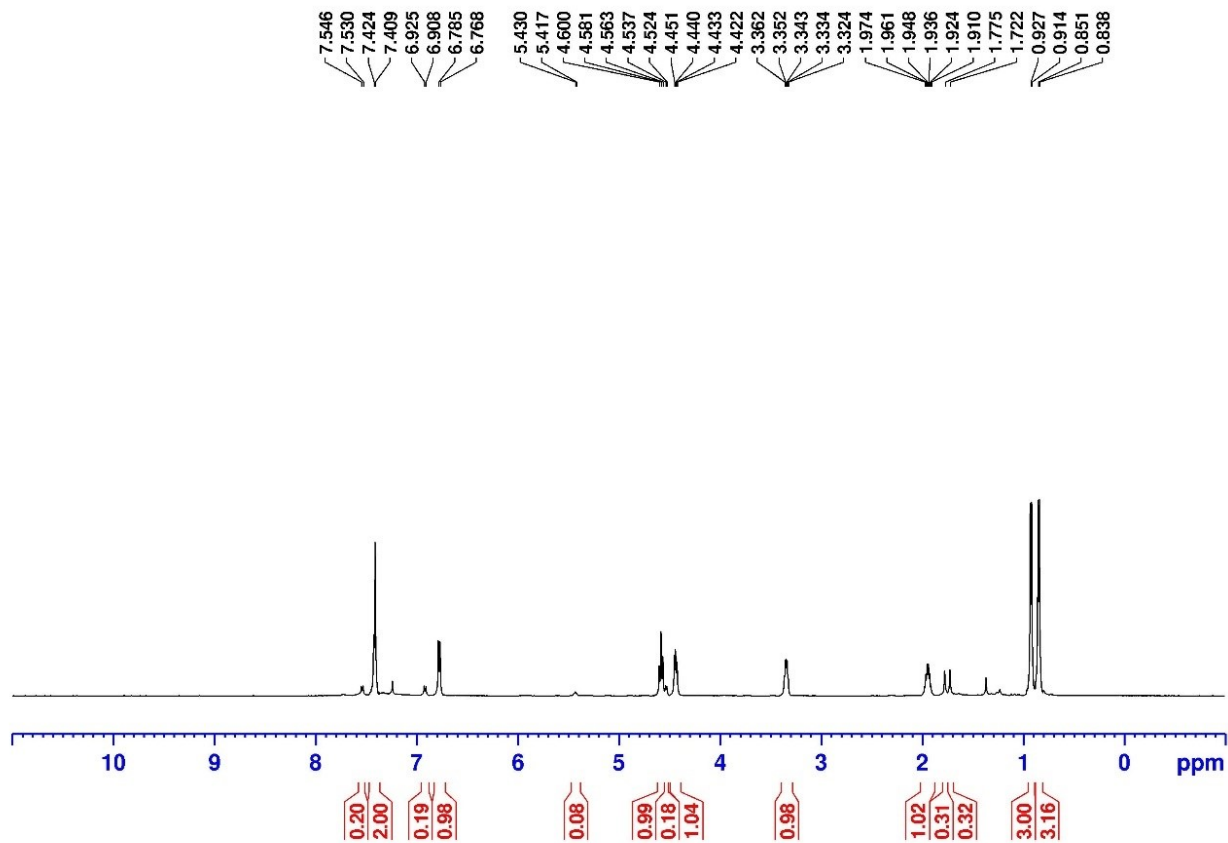
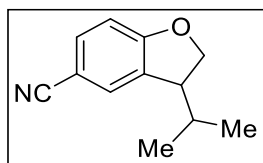
(2.2S)

¹H NMR



(2.2T)

^1H NMR



Appendix B: NMR Spectra for Chapter 3

(3.3)

^1H NMR

