Supporting Information for

N-Methoxy-N-methylcyanoformamide, a Highly Reactive Reagent for the Formation of β-Keto-Weinreb Amides and Unsymmetrical Ketones.

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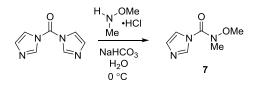
Contents	Page
General Experimental Procedures	S2
Specific Experimental Procedures and Product Characterization	S2–S15
Half-life determination of 4	S15
References	S16
¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra Derived from Compounds 4 , 6 , 9a-9m and 10a-10h	S17–S60

General Experimental Procedures

Unless otherwise specified, proton (1H) and carbon (13C) NMR spectra were recorded at 18 °C in base-filtered CDCl₃ on a Varian spectrometer operating at 400 or 500 MHz for proton and 100 or 125 MHz for carbon nuclei. For ¹H NMR spectra, signals arising from the residual protio-forms of the solvent were used as the internal standards. ¹H NMR data are recorded as follows: chemical shift (d) [multiplicity, coupling constant(s) J (Hz), relative integral] where multiplicity is defined as: s = singlet; d = doublet; t = triplet; q = quartet; m = multiplet; b = broad or combinations of the above. The signal due to residual CHCl₃ appearing at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.26 and the central resonance of the CDCl₃ "triplet" appearing at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.0 were used to reference ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, respectively. Low-resolution ESI mass spectra were recorded on a single quadrupole liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer, while high-resolution measurements were conducted on a time-of-flight instrument. Low- and highresolution EI mass spectra were recorded on a magnetic-sector machine. Melting points were measured on an automated melting point system and are uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on aluminum-backed 0.2 mm thick silica gel 60 F_{254} plates. Eluted plates were visualized using a 254 nm UV lamp and/or by treatment with a suitable dip followed by heating. These dips included phosphomolybdic acid : ceric sulfate : sulfuric acid (conc.) : water (37.5 g : 7.5 g : 37.5 g : 720 mL) or potassium permanganate : potassium carbonate : 5% sodium hydroxide aqueous solution : water (3 g : 20 g: 5 mL : 300 mL). Flash chromatographic separations were carried out following protocols defined by Still *et al.*¹ with silica gel 60 (40-63 mm) as the stationary phase and using the AR- or HPLC-grade solvents indicated. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), methanol and dichloromethane (DCM) were dried using a Glass Contour solvent purification system that is based upon a technology originally described by Grubbs et al.¹ Where necessary, reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere.

Specific Experimental Procedures and Product Characterization

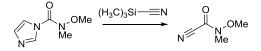
N-Methoxy-N-methylcarbamoyl imidazole 7.



A magnetically stirred solution of *N*,*O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (20.0 g, 205 mmol), ice (100 g) and NaHCO₃ (100 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) in water (100 mL) in a 1L conical flask was maintained at 0 °C (ice/water) then treated, portionwise over a period of 2 minutes, with *N*,*N'*-carbonyldiimidazole (43.2 g, 267 mmol). The resultant mixture was maintained at 0 °C for 0.33 h then extracted with DCM (4×50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (25 mL) then dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give compound **7** (29.6 g, 93%) as a pale yellow oil which was then held under high vacuum (1 mmHg, 18 °C) for 5 h and used without further purification.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H).

Spectra were consistent with those previously reported.²



This reaction should be carried out in a well maintained and fully functioning fume-hood, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Magnetically stirred N-methoxy-Nmethylcarbamoylimidazole 7 (15.5 g, 100 mmol) at 0 °C (ice/water bath) was treated dropwise via a pressure equalising dropping addition funnel, under an atmosphere of nitrogen, with trimethylsilyl cyanide (13.1 mL, 105 mmol CAUTION!). The cold bath was removed and replaced with an empty glass evaporating dish and the reaction stirred for 18 h. The solution was then poured onto a mixture of aqueous sodium bicarbonate (50 mL satd. solution) and ice (50 g), stirred for 0.10 h and then extracted with DCM (5 \times 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated by rotary evaporation (415 mmHg, water bath at 35 °C) and then the residue was dissolved in ether (20 mL) and loaded onto a pad of silica (55 g, pre-wetted with ether), in a sintered vacuum funnel (60 mm I.D.) and washed through with ether (~400 mL, monitored by TLC analysis). The ethereal solution was then concentrated by rotary evaporation (415 mmHg, water bath at 35 °C), then held at 10 mmHg at 18 °C for 0.5 h to afford N-methoxy-N-methylcyanoformamide 4 as a pale yellow, clear, free flowing oil (10.6 g, 93%) and can be used without further purification to undertake the described transformations. A portion of the product (4.36 g) was distilled by short-path (b.p. 81-84 °C, 19 mmHg) to afford 4 (3.61 g, 83%) as a colorless oil (m.p. 8-11 °C). Distillation typically leads to approximately 5% impurity of the symmetrical urea, 1,3-dimethoxy-1,3dimethylurea.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 144.1, 110.0, 63.2, 32.3. ¹**H** NMR (C₆D₆, 400 MHz) δ 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (C₆D₆, 100 MHz) δ 144.3, 110.9, 62.4, 31.4. MS (EI): m/z (%) 114 (M⁺⁺, 47%), 99 (9), 88 (18), 84 (68), 83 (19), 71 (19), 60 (77), 57 (31), 54 (100). HRMS (EI) m/z M⁺⁺ calcd for [C₄H₆N₂O₂]⁺⁺: 114.0424; found, 114.0430. IR (KBr) v_{max} 2946, 2238 1687, 1460, 1395, 1199, 987, 710 cm⁻¹.

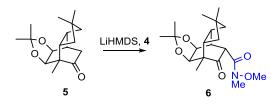
N-Methoxy-N-methylcyanoformamide 4. Preparation at 100 °C / 10 minutes

This reaction should be carried out in a well maintained and fully functioning fume-hood, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Magnetically stirred *N*-methoxy-*N*-methyl carbamoyl imidazole **7** (15.5 g, 100 mmol) in a two necked round-bottomed flask (free from any scratches or imperfections) at 0 °C (ice/water bath) fitted with dry ice / acetone condenser, was treated dropwise via a pressure equalising dropping addition funnel, under an atmosphere of nitrogen, with trimethylsilyl cyanide (13.2 mL, 105 mmol **CAUTION!**). The cold bath was removed and replaced with an oil bath and heated to 100 °C and maintained, with stirring at this temperature for 0.2 h. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and the reaction worked up as above for the preparation at room temperature (10.5 g, 92%).

N-Methoxy-N-methyl cyanoformamide **4**. *Preparation from N-methoxy-N-methylcarbamoyl chloride* **2**.

Following a procedure analogous to that used by Weber³ for isobutyl cyanoformate: A magnetically stirred solution of *N*-methoxy-*N*-methylcarbamoyl chloride⁴ (9.40 g, 76.1 mmol) in DCM (40 mL) at 0 °C (ice/water bath) under an atmosphere of nitrogen was treated with potassium cyanide (5.45 g, 84.0 mmol, **CAUTION!**) portion-wise over 1 minute followed by 18-crown-6 (100 mg). The reaction was warmed to 18 °C over 48 h and then the mixture was vacuum filtered through a 1 cm pad of sand and concentrated by distillation at atmospheric pressure. The crude oil was then distilled through a 10 cm vigreux (b.p. 81-84 °C, 19 mmHg) to afford **4** (4.77 g, 55%) as a colorless oil.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **6**



A magnetically stirred solution of ketone 5^5 (200 mg, 0.72 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated dropwise with LiHMDS [generated from *n*-butyllithium (675 µL of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 1.08 mmol) and hexamethyldisilazane (233 µL, 1.11 mmol) in THF (10 mL)]. The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 0.5 h then warmed to to 0 °C for 0.08 h then recooled to -78 °C and treated with 4 (106 mg, 0.94 mmol). After 0.5 h at -78 °C the mixture was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 to 1:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound 6 (205 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.81 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.98 (dddd, *J* = 11.8, 10.2, 8.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (td, *J* = 11.8, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (ddd, *J* = 6.2, 2.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (ddd, *J* = 12.6, 8.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 3H), 1.46 (ddd, *J* = 12.6, 7.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.27 – 1.16 (m, 1H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 0.96 (s, 3H), 0.70 (dd, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H)

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 210.3, 170.0, 109.6, 76.8, 73.3, 61.3, 53.0, 48.1, 43.6, 42.5, 38.1 (2C), 37.5, 31.7, 30.9, 28.6, 27.0, 25.5, 24.0, 15.2.

MS (EI): *m*/*z* (%) 365 (M⁺⁺, 3), 350 (22), 279 (100), 219 (60), 218 (55), 217 (45), 161 (38).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M⁺ calcd for [C₂₀H₃₁NO₅]⁺: 365.2197; found, 365.2194;

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2942, 1733, 1660, 1382, 1208. 1065, 1001, 886.

General procedure for enolisation with LiHMDS and addition of 4:

A magnetically stirred solution of the appropriate ketone or ester (1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with LiHMDS (1.10 mL of a 1 M solution in THF, 1.10 mmol). The resultant mixture was maintained at this temperature for 1 h then treated with cyanoformamide **4** (125 mg, 1.10 mmol). After 15 minutes at -78 °C the reaction was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with Et₂O (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic phases were

washed with brine $(1 \times 5 \text{ mL})$ then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions, the required Weinreb amide.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**a

Compound **9a** was prepared from 6-methoxy-1-tetralone according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 1:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9a** (227 mg, 86%) as a white solid, mp. 95 - 100 °C.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.06 - 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.51 (m, 1H), 2.24 (m, 1H).

¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 193.1, 171.4, 163.8, 146.4, 130.1, 125.8, 113.3, 112.5, 61.4, 55.4, 50.9, 32.0, 28.7, 26.2.

MS (+LRESI) *m*/*z* (%) 264 (30) [M+H]⁺, 286 (100) [M+Na]⁺

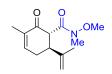
HRMS (+ESI) *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₁₄H₁₇NNaO₄]⁺: 286.1050; found, 286.1048; **IR** (KBr) *v*_{max} 1667, 1643, 1596, 1423, 1356, 1251, 1237, 987, 814 cm⁻¹.

β-Keto-Weinreb amide **9b**

Compound **9b** was prepared from (1R)-(+)-camphor according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 3:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9b** (208 mg, 87%, *dr* 95:5) as a colorless oil.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.60 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.38 (dd, J = 4.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.84 – 1.75 (complex m, 1H), 1.69 – 1.55 (complex m, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 213.1, 170.7, 61.5, 58.4, 53.7, 47.0, 46.0, 32.0, 29.4, 22.2, 19.6, 18.9, 9.6. MS (+LRESI) m/z (%) 262 (100) [M+Na]⁺, 501 (30) [2M+Na]⁺ HRMS (+ESI) m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₁₃H₂₁NNaO₃]⁺: 262.1414; found, 262.1411; IR (KBr) v_{max} 2963m 1750, 1656, 1447, 1379, 1176, 1102, 730 cm⁻¹. [**α**]_{**p**} = + 76.7 (*c* 0.6, CDCl₃)

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**c



Compound **9c** was prepared from (S)-(+)-carvone according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 1:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9c** (197 mg, 83%, dr > 99:1) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.78 (m, 1H), 4.81 (m, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.32-3.20 (complex m, 4H), 2.51 (dt, J = 18.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (m, 1H), 1.80 (dt, J = 2.6, 1.3 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 170.8, 145.4, 144.6, 135.1, 112.0, 61.4, 54.0, 44.9, 32.0, 31.1,

20.4, 15.8.

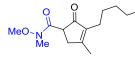
MS (EI) m/z (%) = 237 (M⁺, 3), 177 (60), 149 (100).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M^{+•} calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₃: 237.1365. Found: 237.1354.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2973, 2923, 1673, 1650, 1380 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{D}} = +88.9 (c \ 1.0, \text{CHCl}_3).$

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9d**



Compound **9d** was prepared from dihydrojasmone according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 1:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9d** (208 mg, 82%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.75 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, J = 18.1, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.26(m, 2H), 1.16 (m, 4H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.0, 170.7, 170.4, 139.0, 139.0, 61.8, 47.5, 32.1, 31.6, 27.8, 23.2, 22.4, 17.1, 13.9.

MS (EI): m/z (%) = 253 (M^{+•}, 42), 193 (100), 149 (100).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M^{+•} calcd for C₁₄H₂₃NO₃: 253.1672. Found: 253.1671.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2951, 2930, 2856, 1700, 1659, 1640, 1383 cm⁻¹.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**e

Compound **9e** was prepared from (*R*)-(+)-pulegone according to double the scale of the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9e** (42 mg, 93%, *dr* 95:5) as a colorless oil.

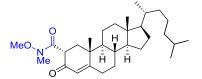
¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.72 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.99 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.94 (ddt, *J* = 13.2, 4.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.42 (qd, *J* = 12.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 199.6, 171.5, 144.0, 130.9, 61.5, 61.3, 33.9, 31.9, 31.7, 28.3, 23.1, 22.3, 20.8.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2929, 1651, 1444, 1380, 1290, 1170, 974, 765 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{D} = -16.38 (c \ 1.7, \text{CDCl}_3)$

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**f



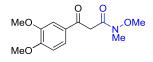
Compound **9f** was prepared from (+)-4-cholesten-3-one according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 1:10 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9f** (400 mg, 85%, *dr* 97:3) as a white solid, mp. 147 - 149 °C.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 5.74 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dd, J = 13.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.27 (ddd, J = 14.6, 4.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (dd, J = 13.9, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.06 – 1.96 (complex m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.76 (complex m, 2H), 1.63 – 1.43 (complex m, 4H), 1.43 – 1.19 (complex m, 5H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.18 – 0.94 (m, 10H), 0.89 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.69 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 194.9, 171.4, 171.2, 123.1, 61.4, 55.9, 55.7, 53.9, 45.9, 42.3, 39.5, 39.4, 38.7, 38.5, 36.1, 35.7, 35.5, 32.7, 32.0, 31.9, 28.1, 28.0, 24.1, 23.7, 22.8, 22.5, 20.8, 18.6, 17.7, 11.9.

MS (+LRESI) *m*/*z* (%) 472 (100) [M+H]⁺, 494 (50) [M+Na]⁺. HRMS (+ESI) *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₃₀H₄₉NNaO₃]⁺: 494.3605; found, 494.3604. IR (KBr) v_{max} 2934, 2866, 1668, 1651, 1451, 1384, 1173, 966 cm⁻¹. [α]_D = + 94.5 (*c* 1.0, CDCl₃)

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide 9g



Compound **9g** was prepared from 3',4'-dimethoxyacetophenone according to double the scale of the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 5:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9g** (356 mg, 67%) as an 87:13 mixture of keto and enol tautomers as a cream solid, mp. 60 – 65 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) *Keto tautomer* δ 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 3H).
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) *Enol tautomer* δ 7.42 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H).

¹³**C NMR** (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) 87:13 Mixture of keto and enol tautomers δ 191.8, 172.8, 171.4, 168.6, 153.6, 151.3, 149.0, 148.7, 129.5, 123.3, 119.3, 110.6, 110.3, 110.0, 109.0, 83.0, 61.2, 60.2, 55.9, 55.9, 55.8, 44.0, 32.1.

MS (+LRESI) *m*/*z* (%) 290 (100) [M+Na]⁺.

HRMS (+ESI) *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₁₃H₁₇NNaO₅]⁺: 290.0933; found, 290.0999. **IR** (KBr) *v*_{max} 2972, 1667, 1634, 1584, 1512, 1417, 1321, 1268, 1152, 1025, 1008, 884, 796 cm⁻¹.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9h**

Compound **9h** was prepared from 1-indanone according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 2:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9h** (182 mg, 83%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.27 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.4, 170.2, 154.1, 135.5, 135.0, 127.4, 126.4, 124.2, 61.6, 50.1, 32.2, 30.6. **MS** (EI): *m*/*z* (%) = 219 (M⁺⁺, 33), 159 (100), 131 (80).

HRMS (EI) m/z M⁺⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₃NO₃: 219.0890. Found: 219.0895. **IR** (KBr) v_{max} 2973, 2935, 1713, 1649 cm⁻¹.

β-Carbonyl-Weinreb amide 9i

MeŃ_、OMe

Compound **9i** was prepared from 3,4-dihydrocoumarin according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 2:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9i** (204 mg, 87%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28-7.19 (complex m, 2H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.04 (m, 1H), 4.18 (dd, J = 12.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.49 (dd, J = 16.1, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.1, 6.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 165.6, 151.2, 128.3, 128.0, 124.6, 121.7, 116.5, 61.5, 42.2, 32.1, 26.7.

MS (EI): m/z (%) = 235 (M^{+•}, 20), 175 (39), 147 (100).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₃NO₄: 235.0839. Found: 235.0846.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2976, 2943, 1760, 1659, 1138 cm⁻¹.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9***j*



Compound **9j** was prepared from cyclohexanone according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9j** (140 mg, 76%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.79 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.24-1.92 (complex m, 4H), 1.88-1.62 (complex m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.0, 170.8, 61.2, 53.7, 41.9, 32.0, 29.7, 27.2, 23.7. **MS** (EI): m/z (%) = 185 (M⁺⁺, 20), 125 (100). **HRMS** (EI) m/z M⁺⁺ calcd for C₉H₁₅NO₃: 185.1046. Found: 185.1055. **IR** (KBr) v_{max} 2939, 2865, 1711, 1653, 1385 cm⁻¹.

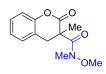
 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**k

. N^{_OMe}

Compound **9k** was prepared according to the general procedure. Purified by flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 hexane/EtOAc) to afford **9k** (130 mg, 77%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.50 (m, 2H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.1, 171.9, 61.1, 49.8, 33.6, 32.4, 13.1, 7.5. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) = 173 (M⁺⁺, 3), 113 (42). HRMS (EI) *m/z* M⁺⁺ calcd for C₈H₁₅NO₃: 173.1046. Found: 173.1048. IR (KBr) v_{max} 2980, 2941, 1719, 1661, 1460, 1381 cm⁻¹.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9**l



A magnetically stirred solution of 3-methylchroman-2-one (168 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to 0 °C then treated with LiHMDS (1.1 mL of a 1 M solution in THF, 1.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 0.5 h then cooled to -78 °C and treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol). After 0.1 h at -78 °C the mixture was warmed to -40 °C and maintained at this temperature for 0.5 h before being treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate)

to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound 91 (230 mg, 92%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.78 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (m, 3H).

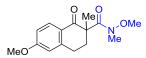
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 168.9, 151.1, 128.4, 128.2, 124.5, 121.4, 116.2, 60.4, 47.9, 35.0, 33.0, 21.6.

MS (EI): m/z (%) = 249 (M⁺⁺, 20), 234 (39), 161 (100).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M^{+•} calcd for C₁₃H₁₅NO₄: 249.1001. Found: 249.1003.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2985, 2939, 1759, 1655, 1457, 1231 cm⁻¹.

 β -Keto-Weinreb amide **9m**



A magnetically stirred solution of 6-methoxy-2-methyl-1-tetralone (190 mg, 1.00 mmol) in dry ether (3 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated dropwise with lithium diisopropylamide (1.29 mL, 1.05 mmol, 0.81 M solution in ether [generated from *n*-butyllithium (7.00 mL of a 1.5 M solution in hexanes) and diisopropylamine (1.60 mL, 11.5 mmol) in ether (4.3 mL)]. The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 1 h then warmed to 0 °C for 0.25 h then recooled to -78 °C and treated with **4** (125 mg, 1.10 mmol) followed by hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) (179 µL, 1.00 mmol) After 0.5 h at -78 °C the mixture was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with lithium chloride (10 mL, 5% w/v), brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **9m** (174 mg, 63%) as white crystals, m.p. 89 – 92 °C. The reaction was carried out in duplicate with 1,3-dimethyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2(1*H*)-pyrimidinone (DMPU) (250 µL) in place of HMPA to afford **9m** (173 mg, 63%) as white crystals, m.p. 89 – 92 °C.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.96 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.96 (ddd, J = 16.6, 11.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (ddd, J = 16.6, 4.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (ddd, J = 13.0, 11.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (dt, J = 13.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H).

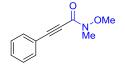
¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 194.3, 174.3, 163.3, 144.8, 129.8, 125.1, 113.3, 112.2, 59.0, 55.3, 52.7, 32.7, 31.9, 25.7, 20.1.

MS (EI): *m*/*z* (%) 277 (M⁺, 8), 217 (9), 189 (30), 161 (100), 91 (10).

HRMS (EI) *m/z* M⁺ calcd for [C₁₅H₁₉NO₄]⁺: 277.1309; found, 277.1316;

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 1653, 1598, 1457, 1374, 1346, 1262, 1230, 1093, 999, 858 cm⁻¹.

Weinreb amide 10a – Prepared from lithium phenyl acetylide

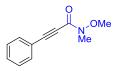


A magnetically stirred solution of phenyl acetylene (102 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with LiHMDS (1.1 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 20 minutes then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at -78 °C for 15 minutes then treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10a** (174 mg, 92%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.29 (br m, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.⁶

Weinreb amide 10a – Prepared from magnesium phenyl acetylide



A magnetically stirred solution of phenyl acetylene (102 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to 0 °C then treated with MeMgBr (0.33 mL of a 3M solution in Et₂O, 1.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 1 h then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol). After 0.25 h at 0 °C the reaction was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1×5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10a** (144 mg, 76%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.29 (br m, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.⁶

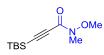
Weinreb amide 10b

A magnetically stirred solution of 2-bromopyridine (158 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with *n*-butyllithium (0.8 mL of a 1.45 M solution in hexanes, 1.1 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol) and warmed to 0 °C over 20 minutes. The reaction was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 1:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10b** (125 mg, 75%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (td, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (broad s, 1H), 7.35 (dd, J = 7.7, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.⁷

Weinreb amide 10c



A magnetically stirred solution of tert-butyl(ethynyl)dimethylsilane (228 mg, 2.0 mmol) in dry THF (8 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with *n*-Butyl lithium (1.0 mL of a 2.05 M solution in hexanes, 2.05 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 0.25 h then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (228 mg, 2.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at -78 °C for 0.1 h then treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10c** (399 mg, 88%) as a colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.19 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 153.7, 109.9, 95.8, 62.0, 32.2, 25.9 (3C), 16.4, -5.3 (2C).

MS (+LRESI) *m*/*z* (%) 228 (100) [M+H]⁺.

HRMS (+ESI) *m*/*z* [M+Na]⁺ calcd for [C₁₁H₂₁NNaO₂Si]⁺: 250.1234; found, 250.1236.

IR (KBr) *v*_{max} 2955, 2932, 1647, 1472, 1463, 1410, 1381, 1252, 1118, 1007, 940, 842, 828, 779, 724 cm⁻¹.

Weinreb amide 10d

A magnetically stirred solution of cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was treated, dropwise, with a solution of phenylmagnesium bromide (1.0 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 15 minutes then treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1×5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10d** (152 mg, 92%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.41 (m, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H). All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.⁸

Weinreb amide 10e

A magnetically stirred solution of 4-bromoanisole (0.126 mL, 1.0 mmol), magnesium turnings (26 mg, 1.0 mmol) and a crystal of iodine in dry THF (5 mL) was heated at 50 °C for 30 minutes. The resulting suspension was cooled to 0 °C and treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol). After 15 minutes at this temperature the mixture was treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1×5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10e** (171 mg, 88%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.⁸⁸

Ketone 10f

A magnetically stirred solution of phenyl acetylene (102 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with LiHMDS (1.1 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.1 mmol). The

resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 0.33 h then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at -78 °C for 15 minutes then warmed to 0 °C and treated with PhMgBr (1.5 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.5 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 30 minutes then treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10f** (184 mg, 89%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (m, 2H), 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.47 (complex m, 3H), 7.43 (m, 2H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.9

Ketone 10g

A magnetically stirred solution of cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was treated, dropwise, with a solution of phenylmagnesium bromide (1.0 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 0.25 h then cooled to -78 °C and treated with *n*-butyllithium (1 mL of a 1.5 M solution in hexanes, 1.5 mmol). The reaction was maintained at this temperature for 20 minutes then treated with NaHCO₃ (5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10g** (140 mg, 86%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 2.97 (dd, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.42 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.¹⁰

Ketone 10h

A magnetically stirred solution of 2-bromopyridine (158 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dry THF (5 mL) was cooled to -78 °C then treated with *n*-butyllithium (0.8 mL of a 1.45 M solution in hexanes, 1.1 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h then treated with cyanoformamide 4 (125 mg, 1.1 mmol) and warmed to 0 °C over 0.33 h then treated with PhMgBr (1.5 mL of a 1M solution in THF, 1.5 mmol). The reaction was maintained at this temperature for 20 minutes then treated with NaHCO₃

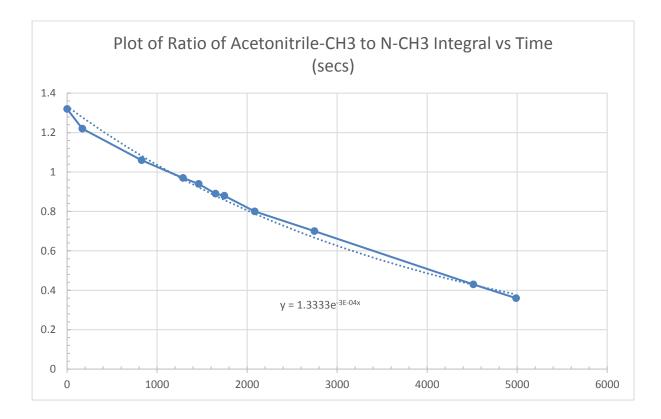
(5 mL of a saturated aqueous solution) and extracted with diethyl ether (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1×5 mL) then dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue thus obtained was subjected to flash chromatography (silica, 4:1 v/v hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford, after concentration of the appropriate fractions compound **10h** (159 mg, 86%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (dt, *J* = 4.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (m, 3H), 7.91 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 3H).

All spectra were consistent with those previously reported.¹¹

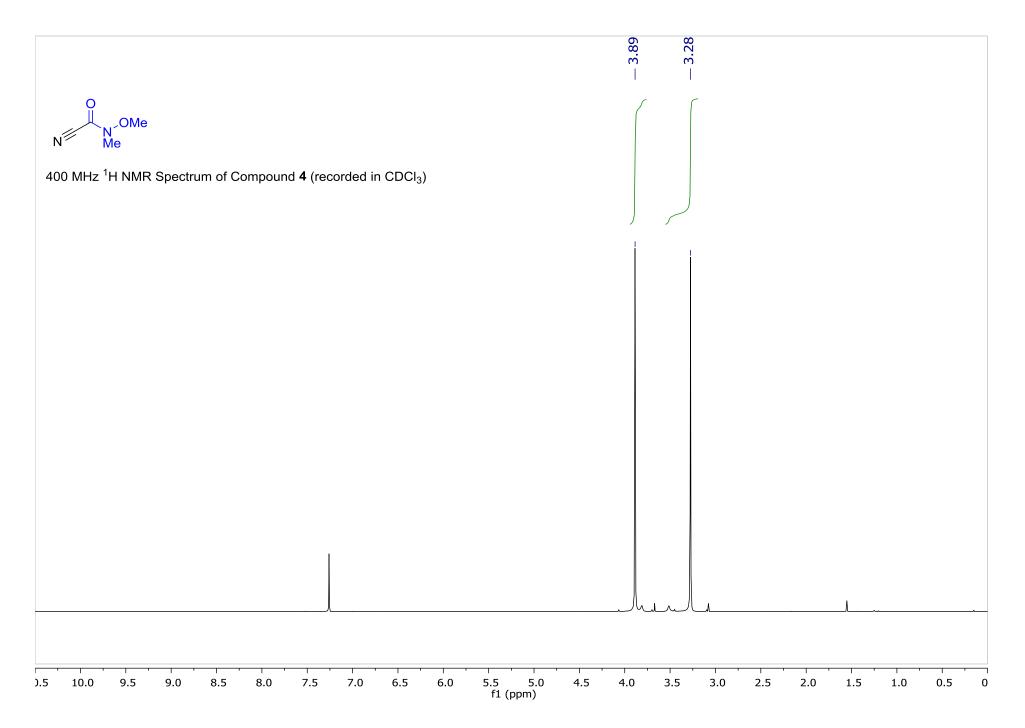
Half-life determination experiment.

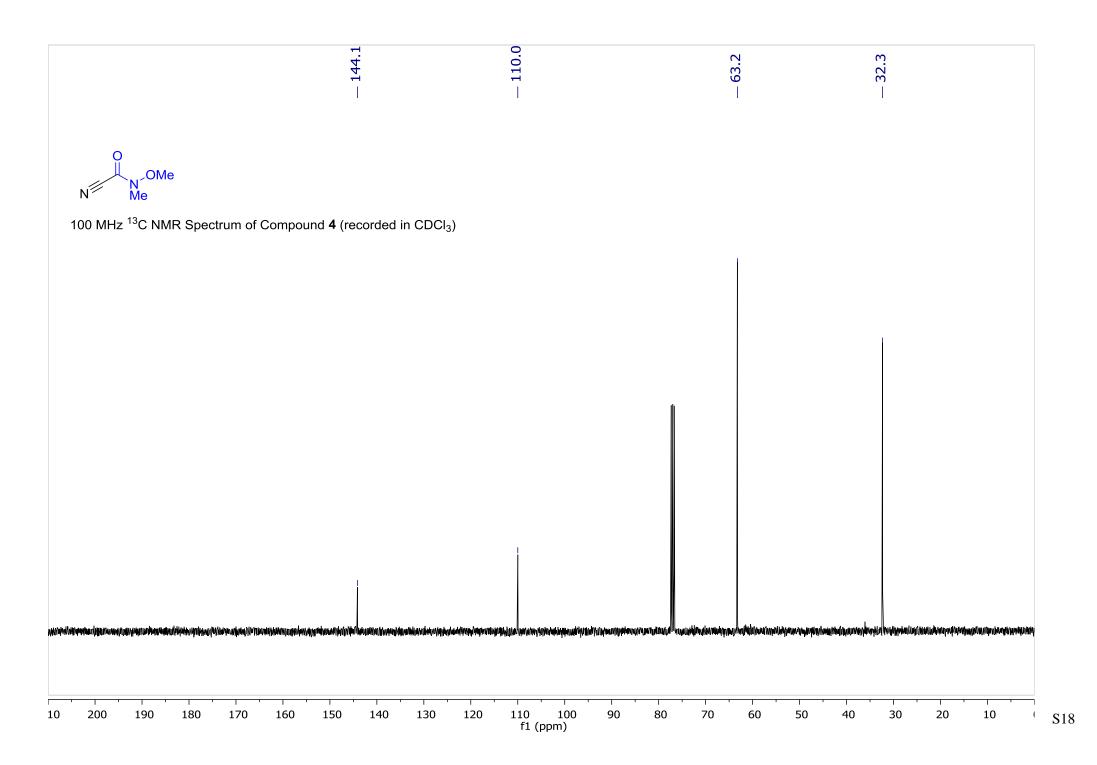
An NMR tube was charged with cyanoformamide 4 (5 μ L), acetonitrile (2 μ L) and D₂O (0.5 mL) and shaken vigorously for 30 seconds. The ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded at regular intervals and the ratio of the N<u>CH₃</u> to <u>CH₃</u>CN integral was recorded. The t_{1/2} was calculated to be 2344 minutes (39 h).

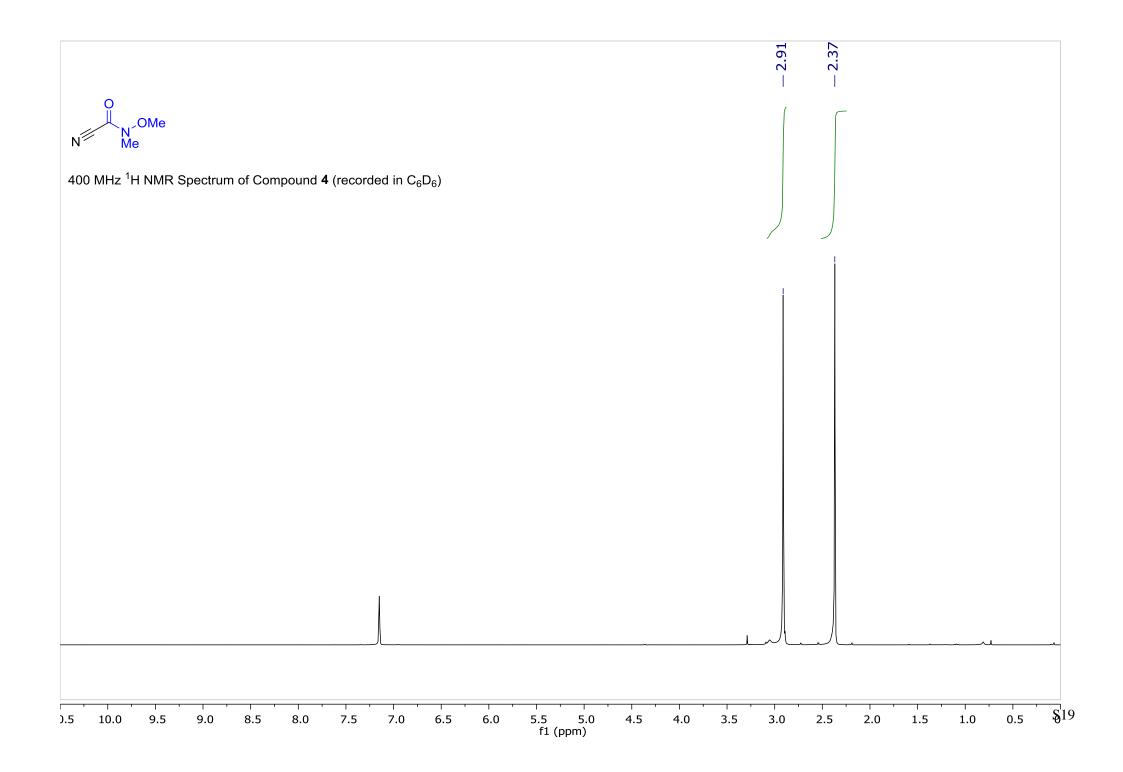


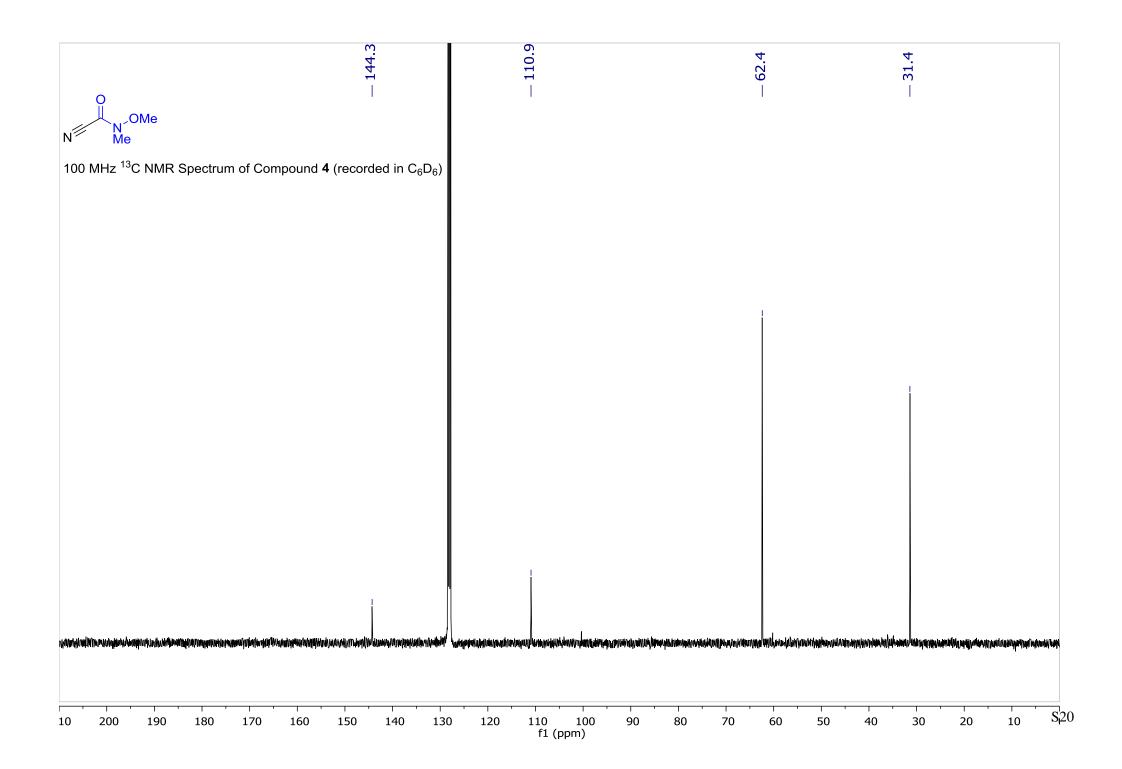
References

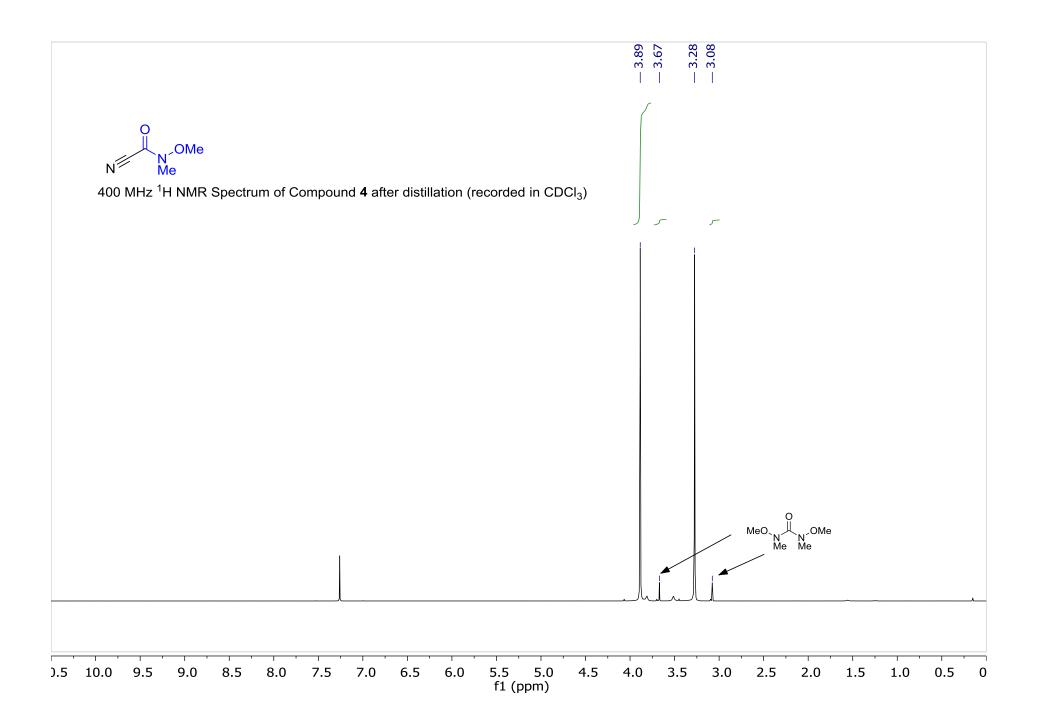
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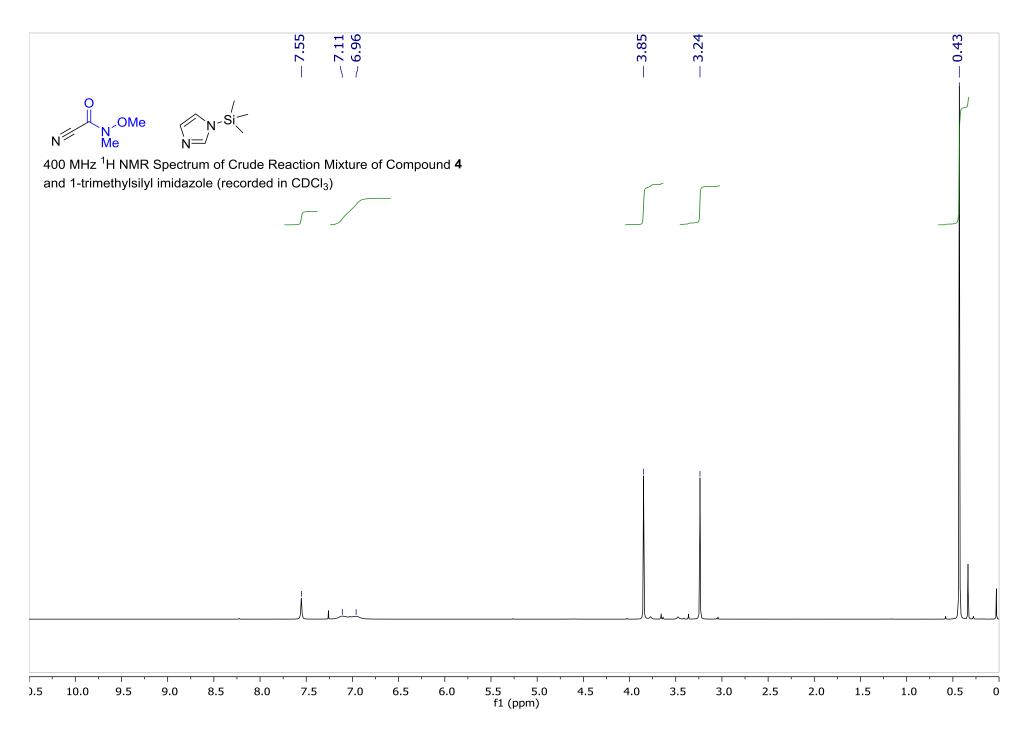


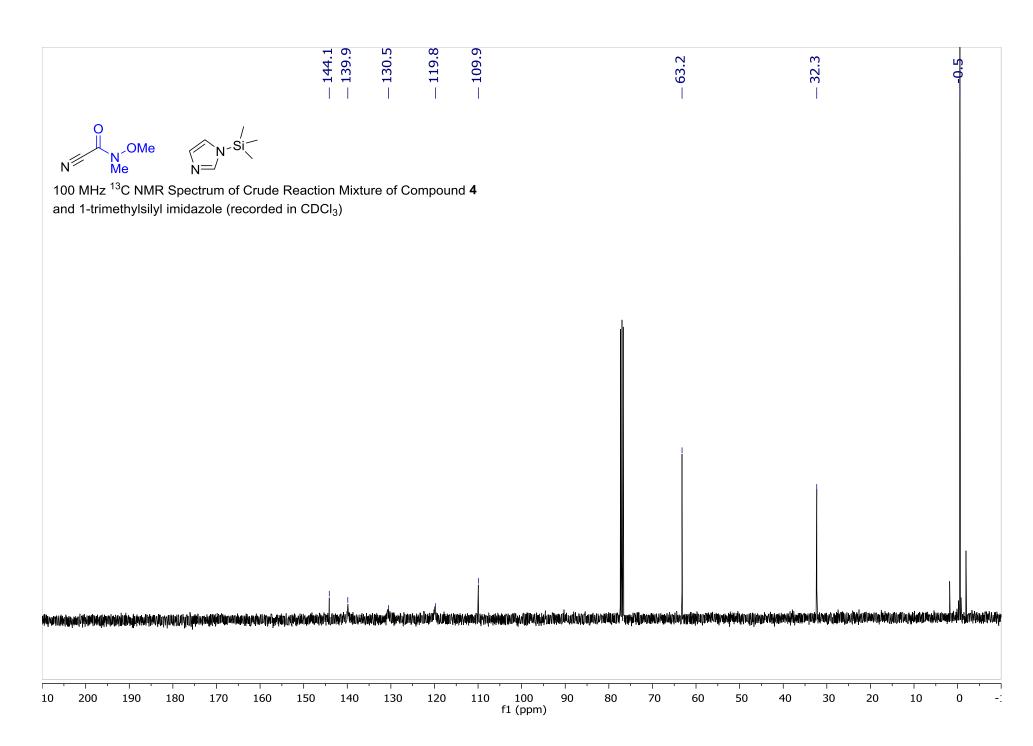


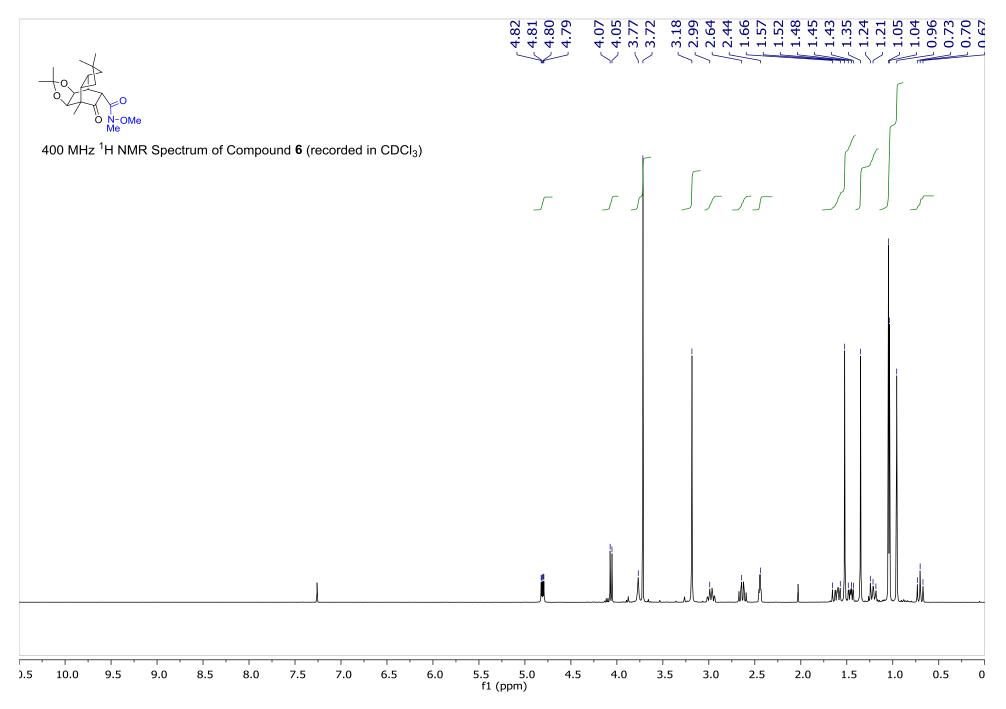


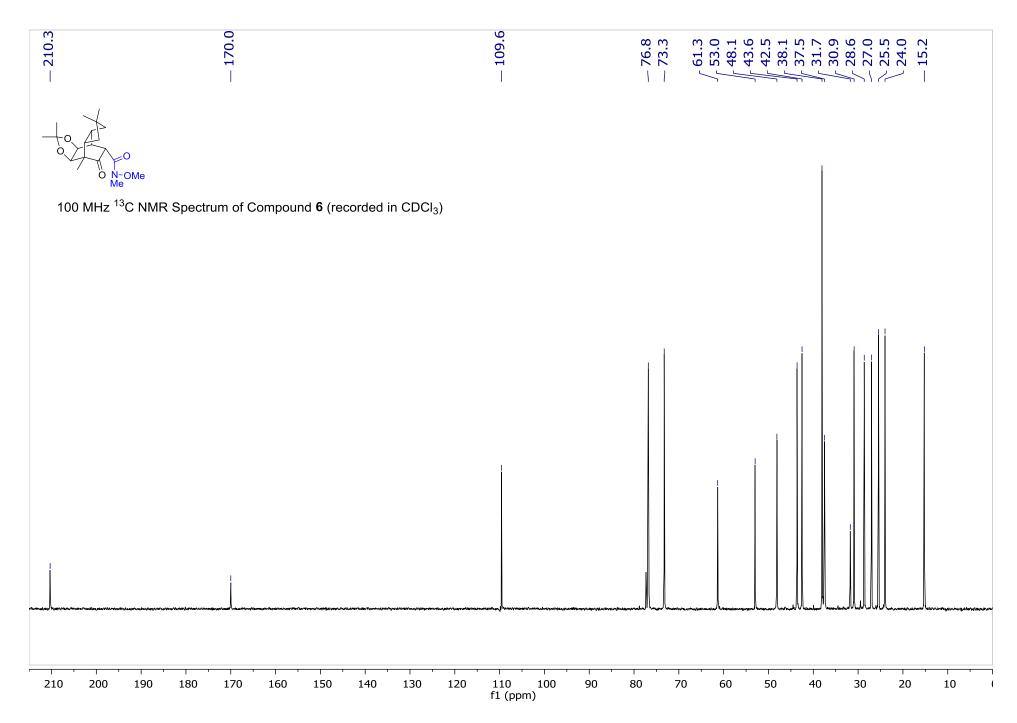


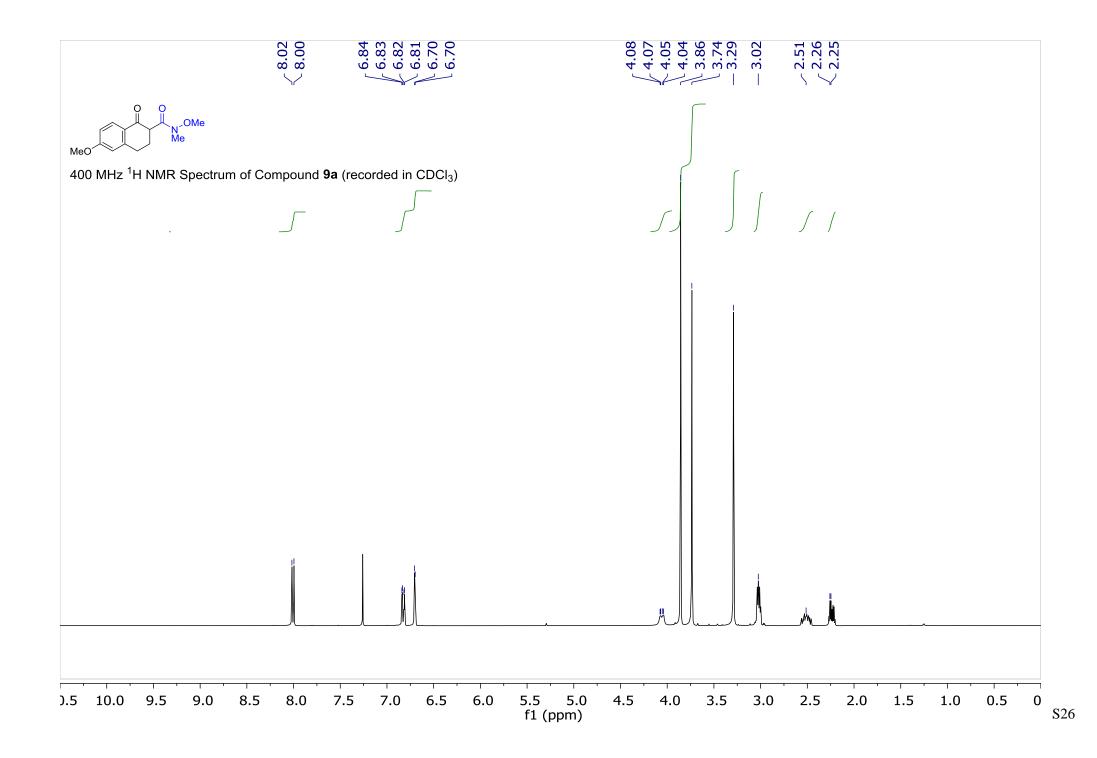


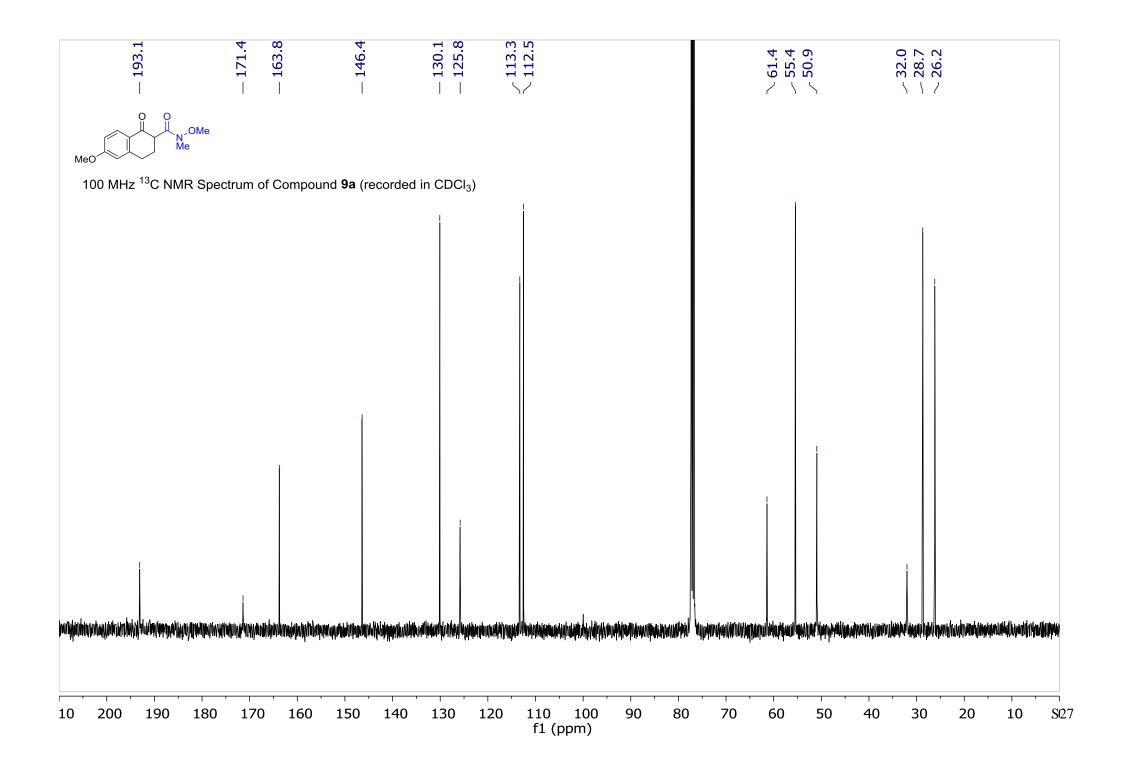


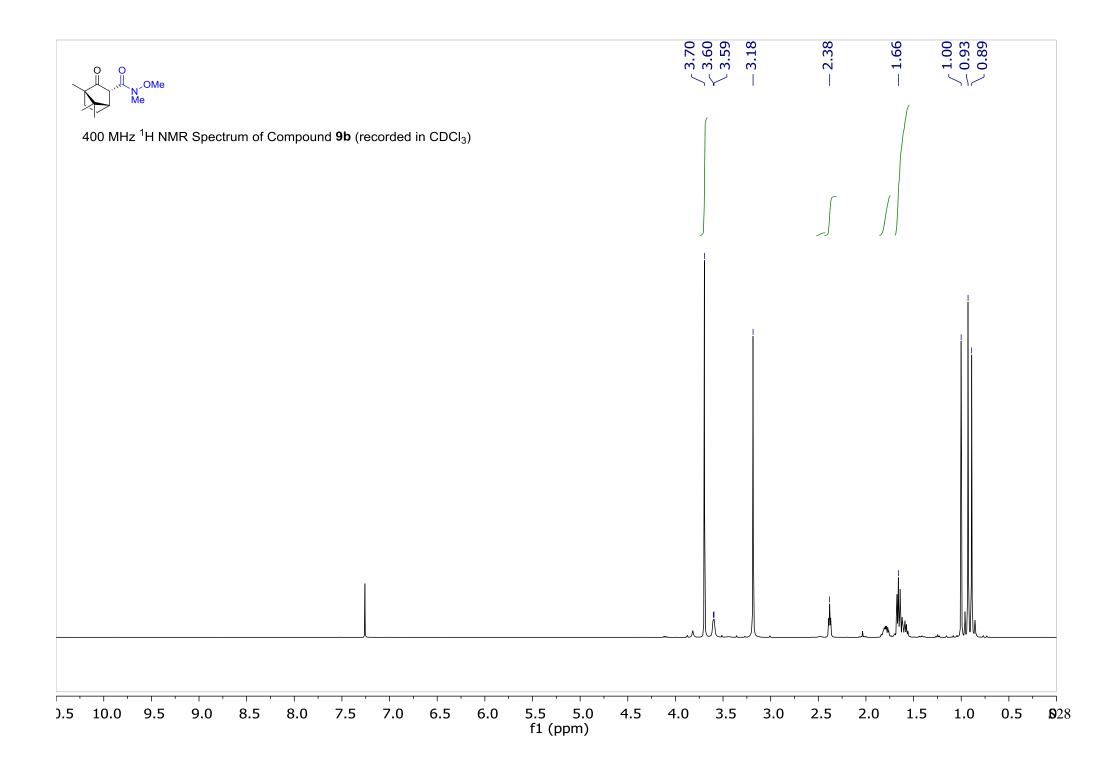


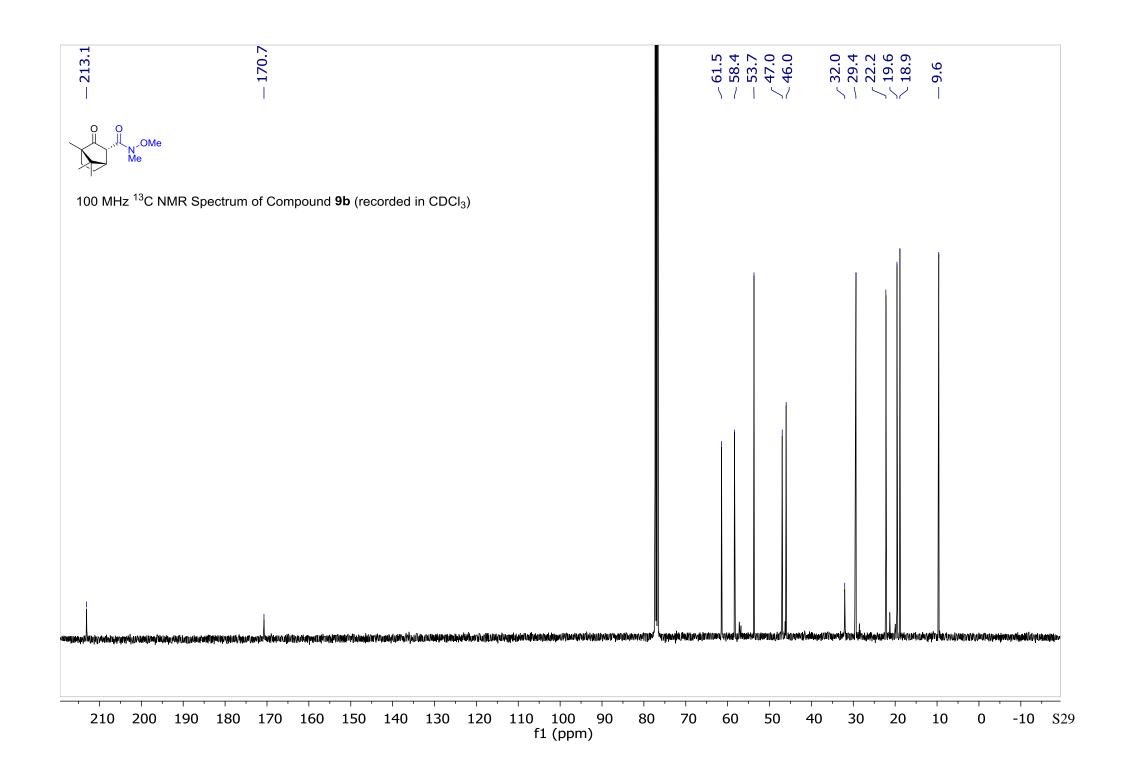


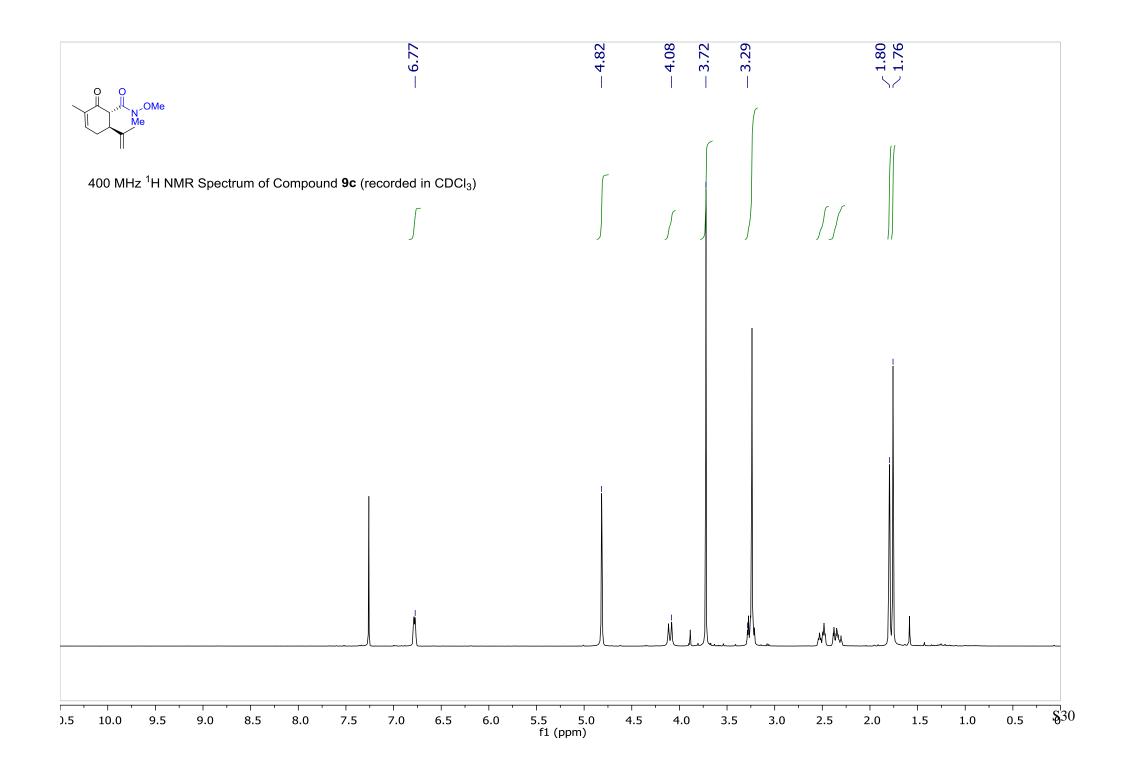


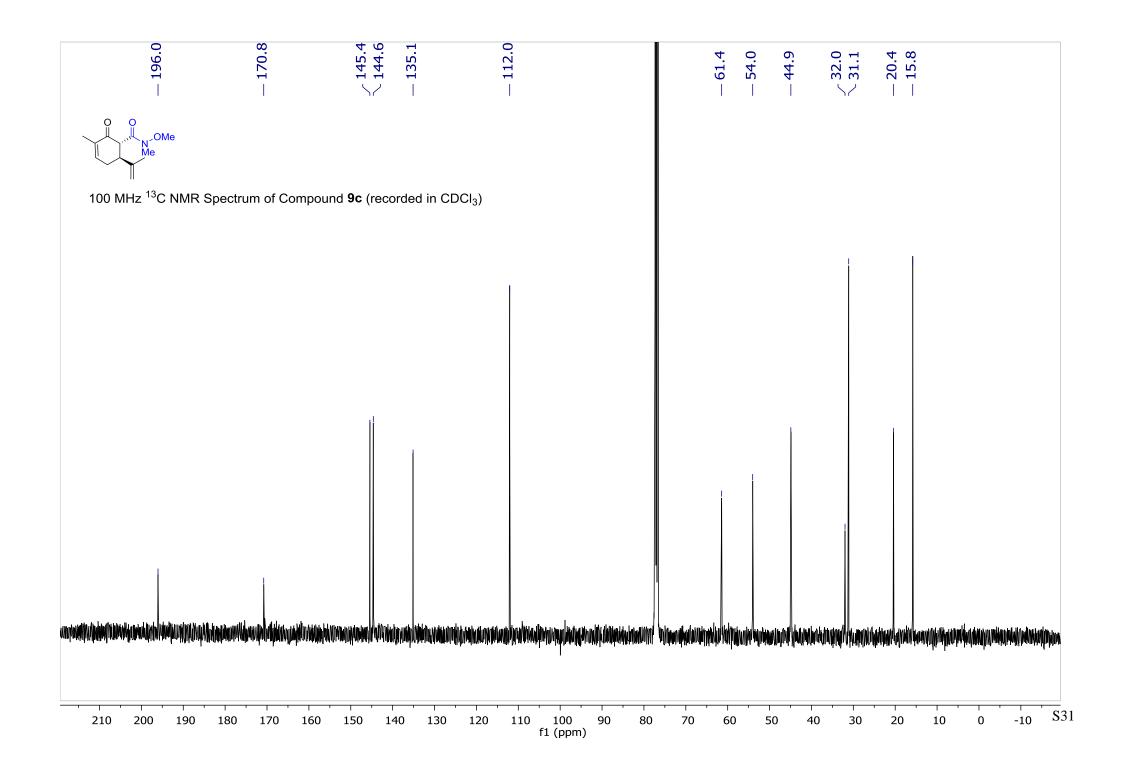


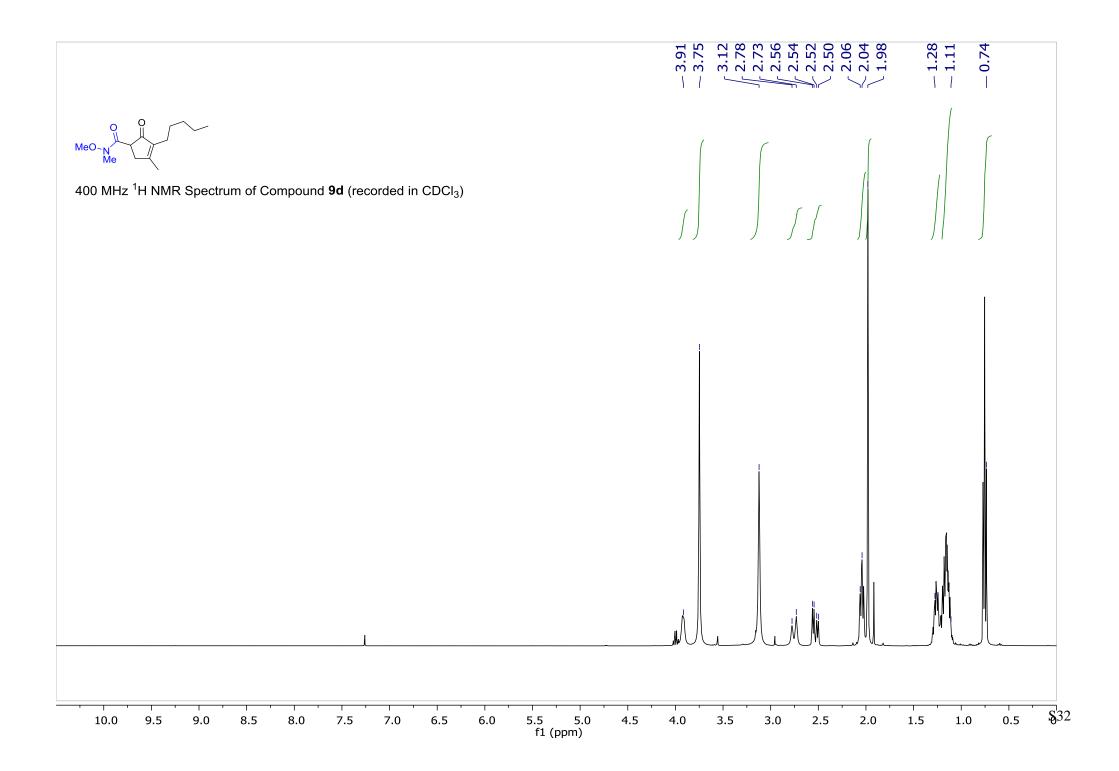


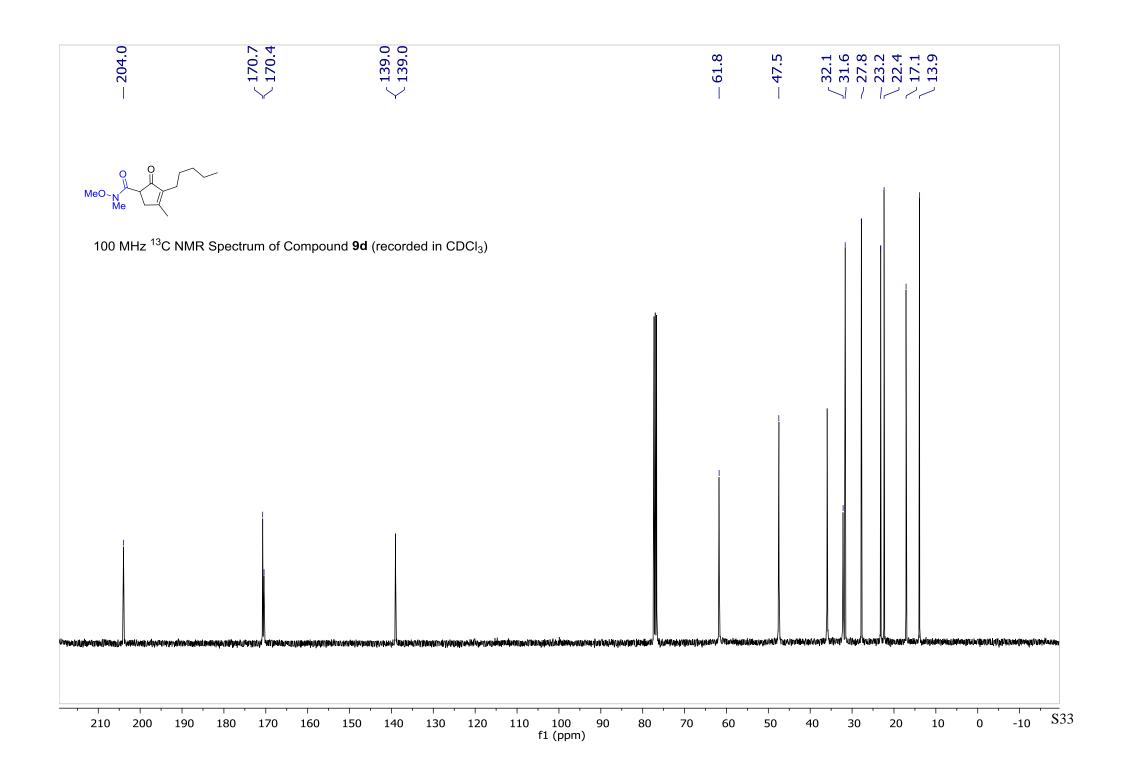


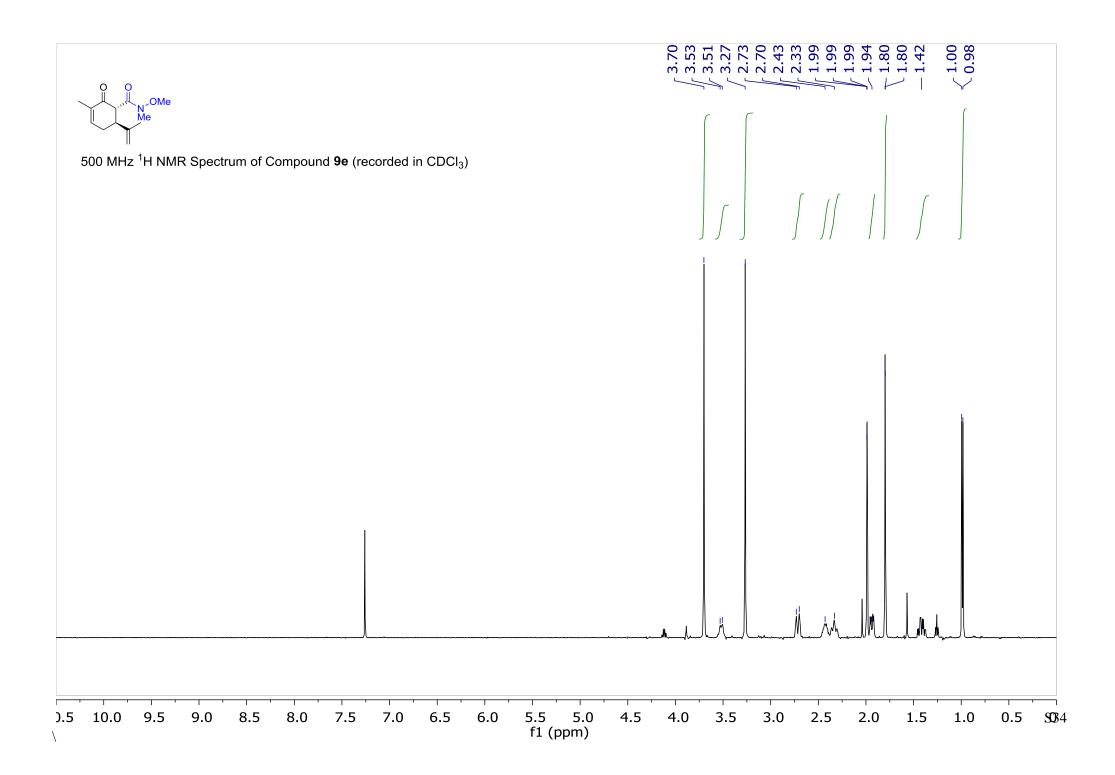


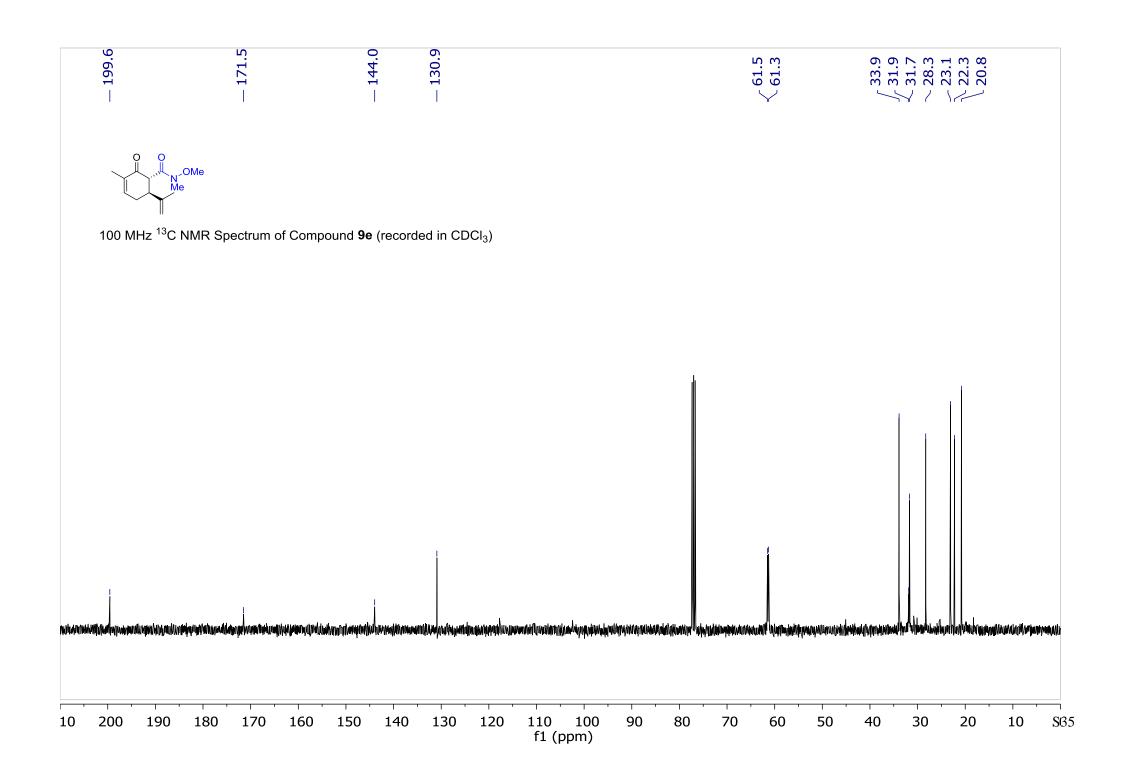


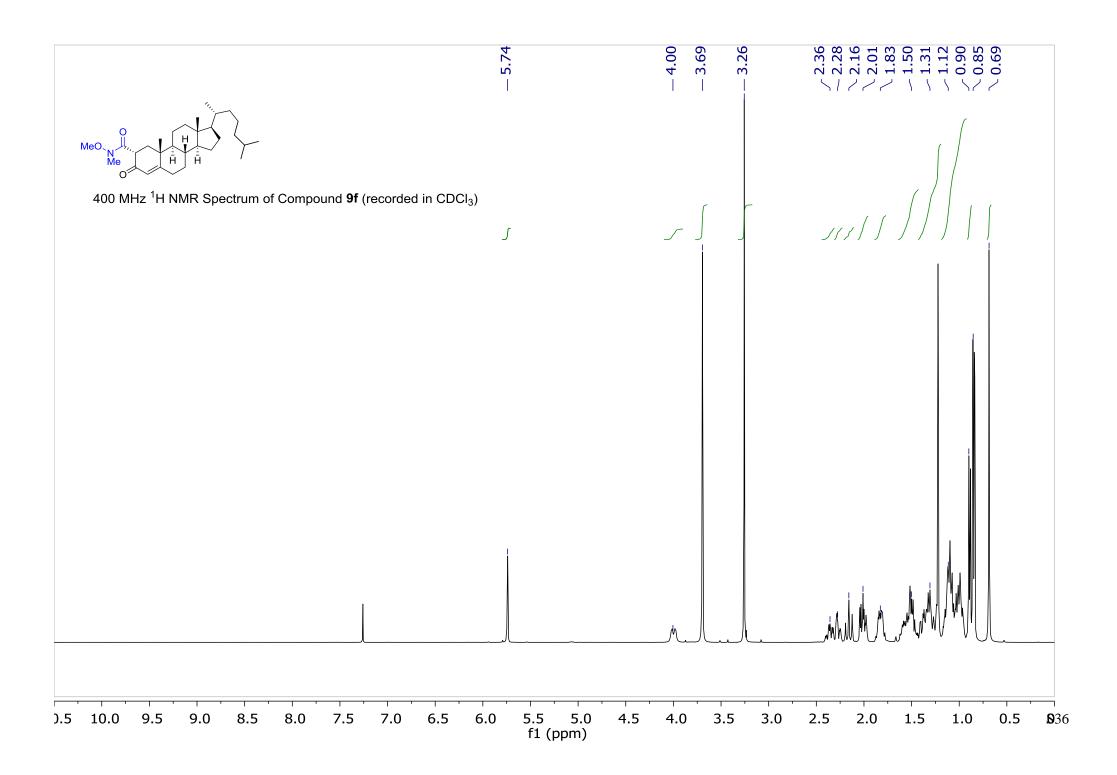


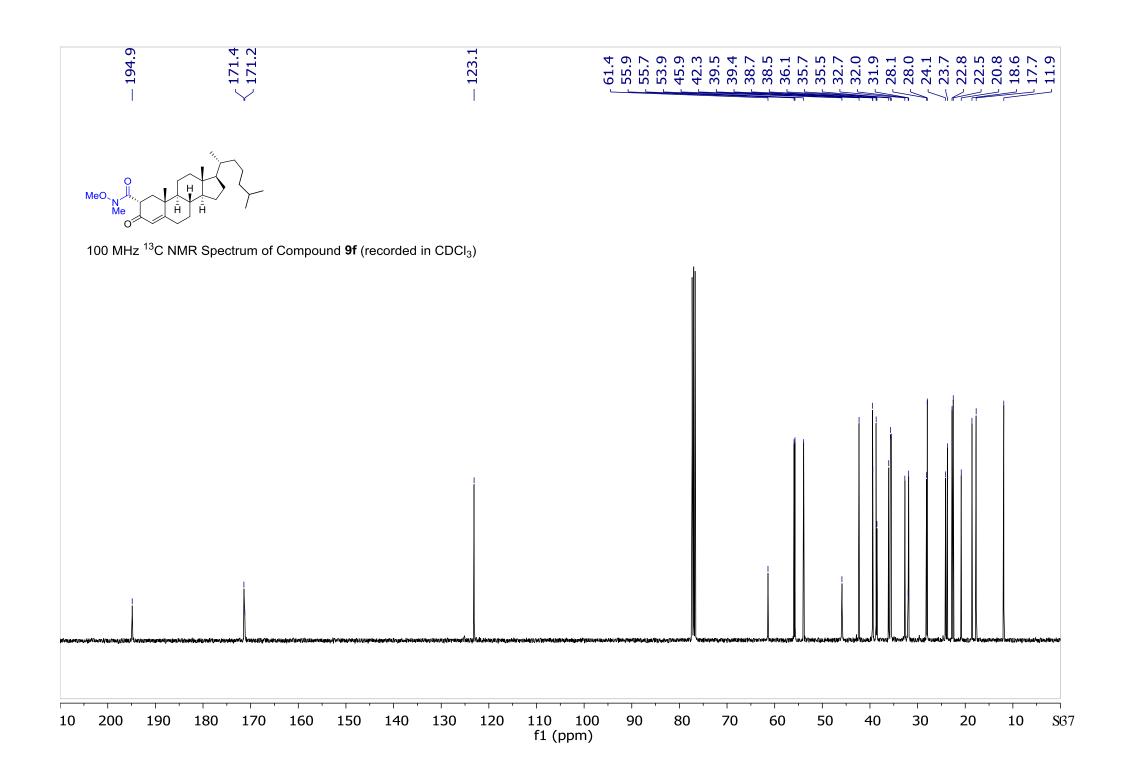


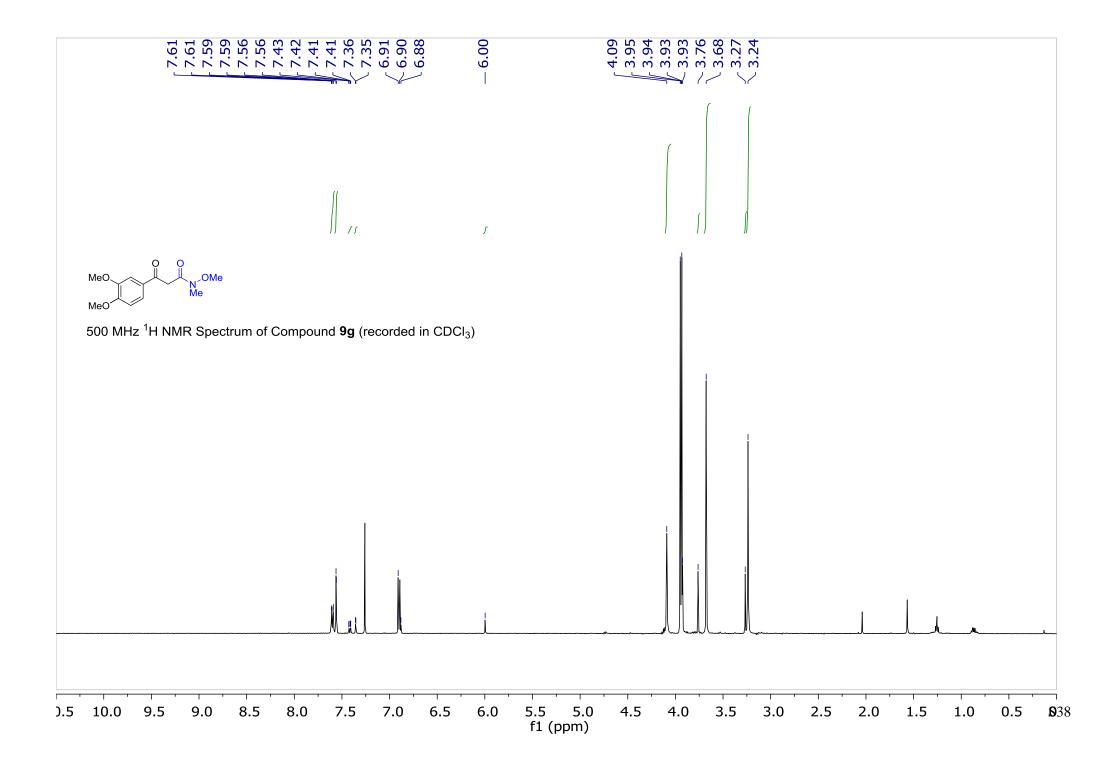


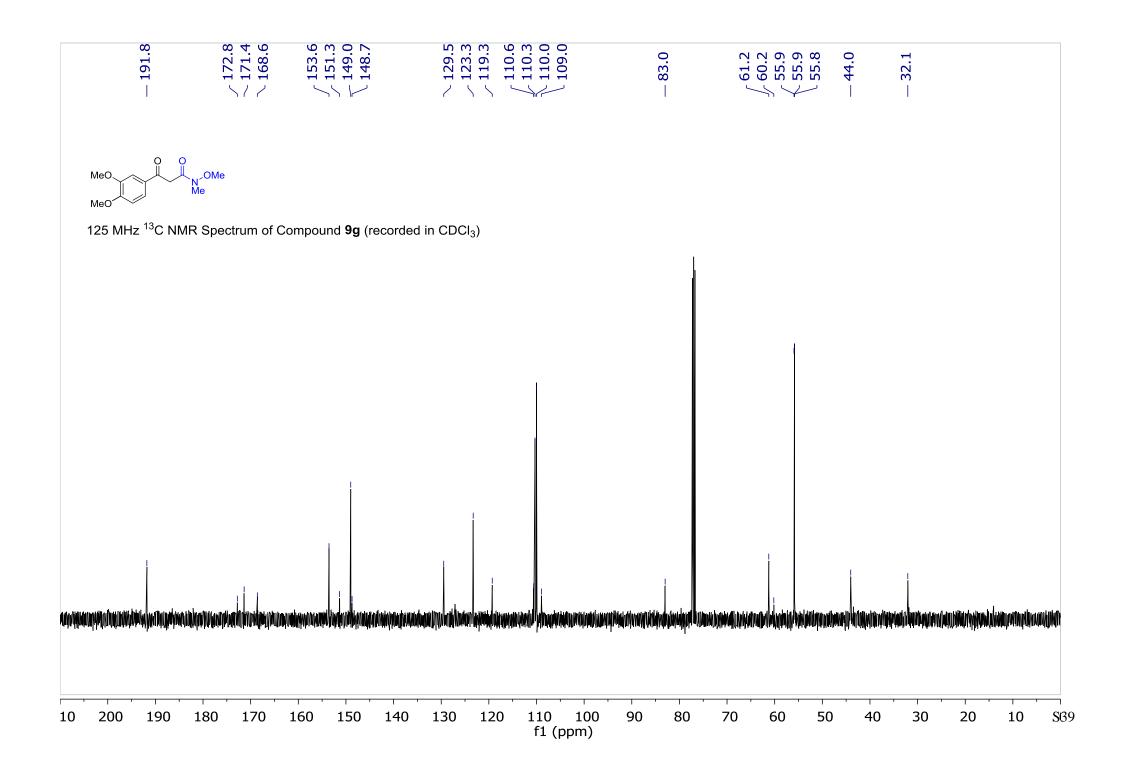


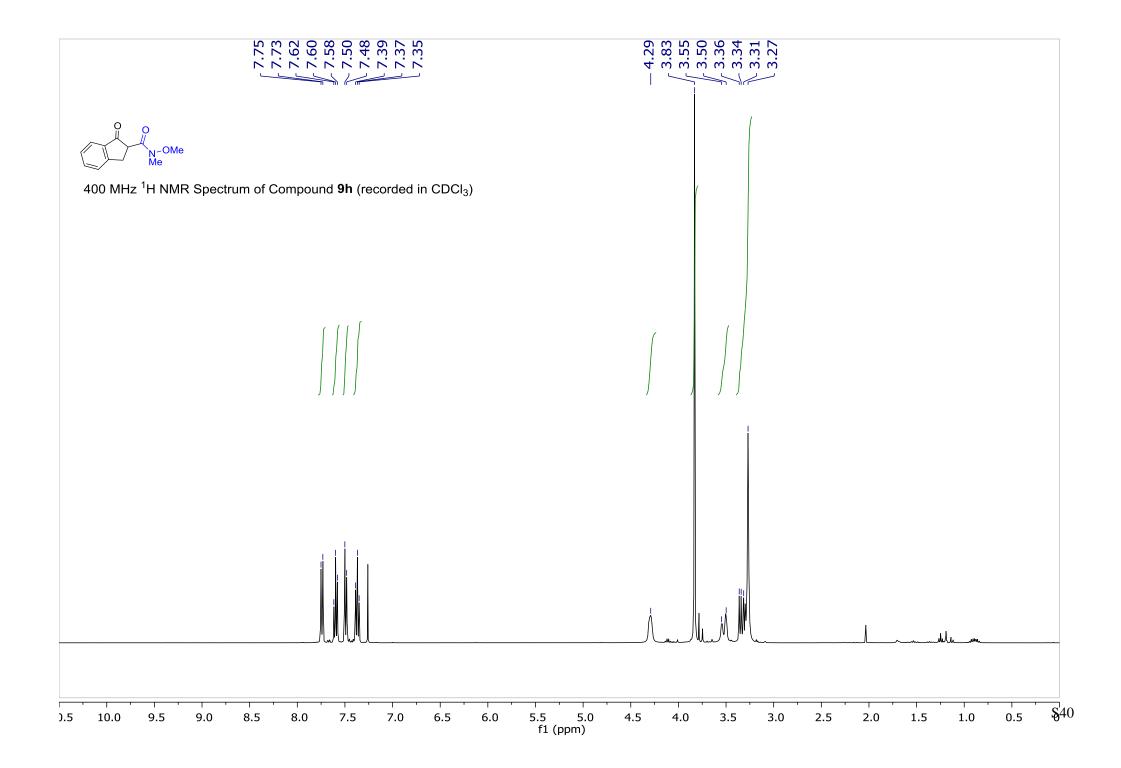


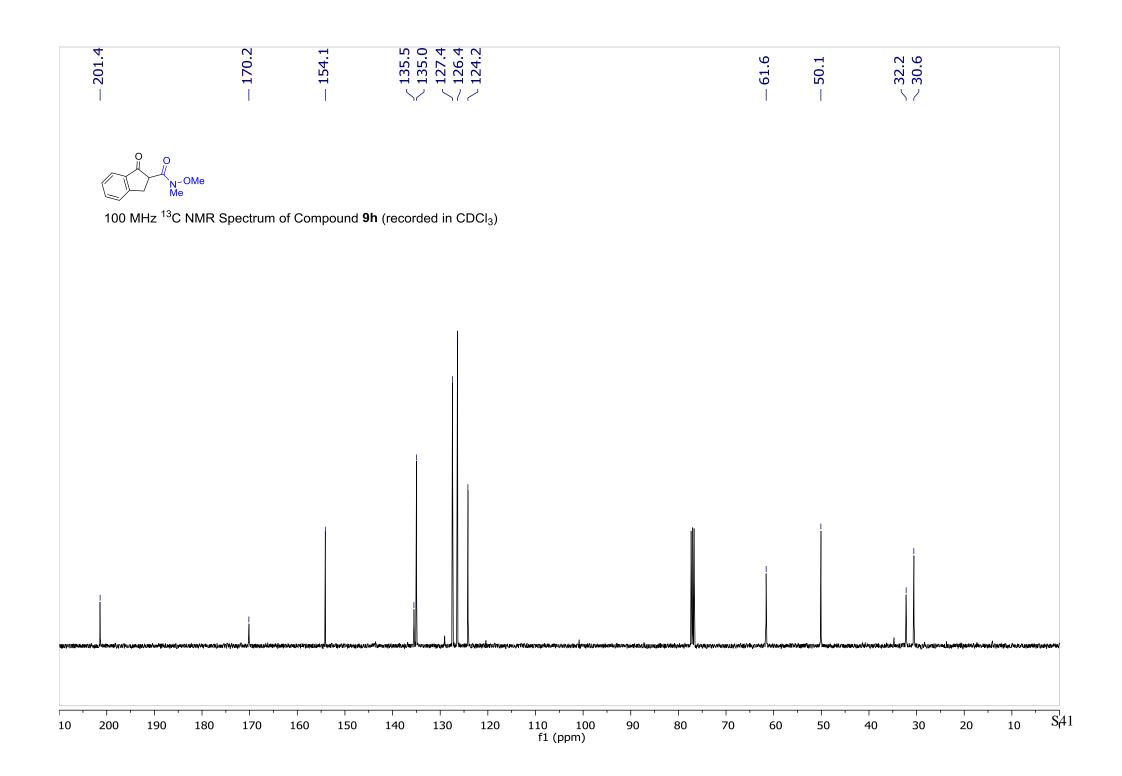


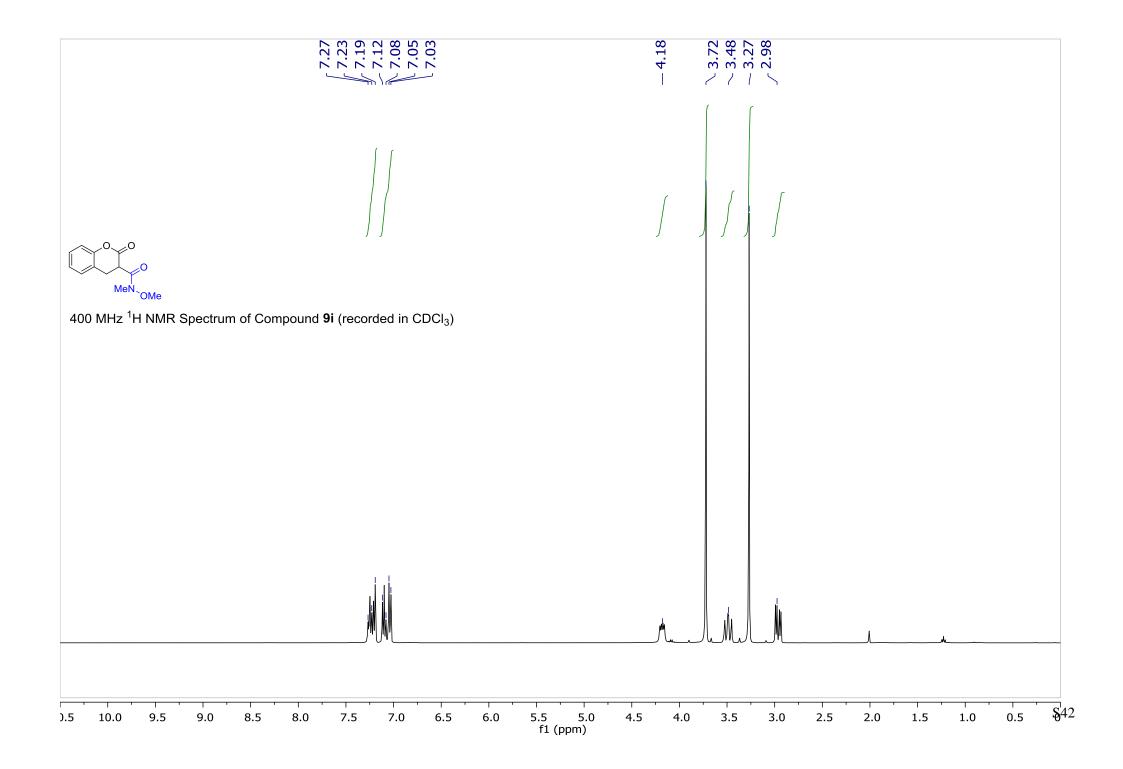


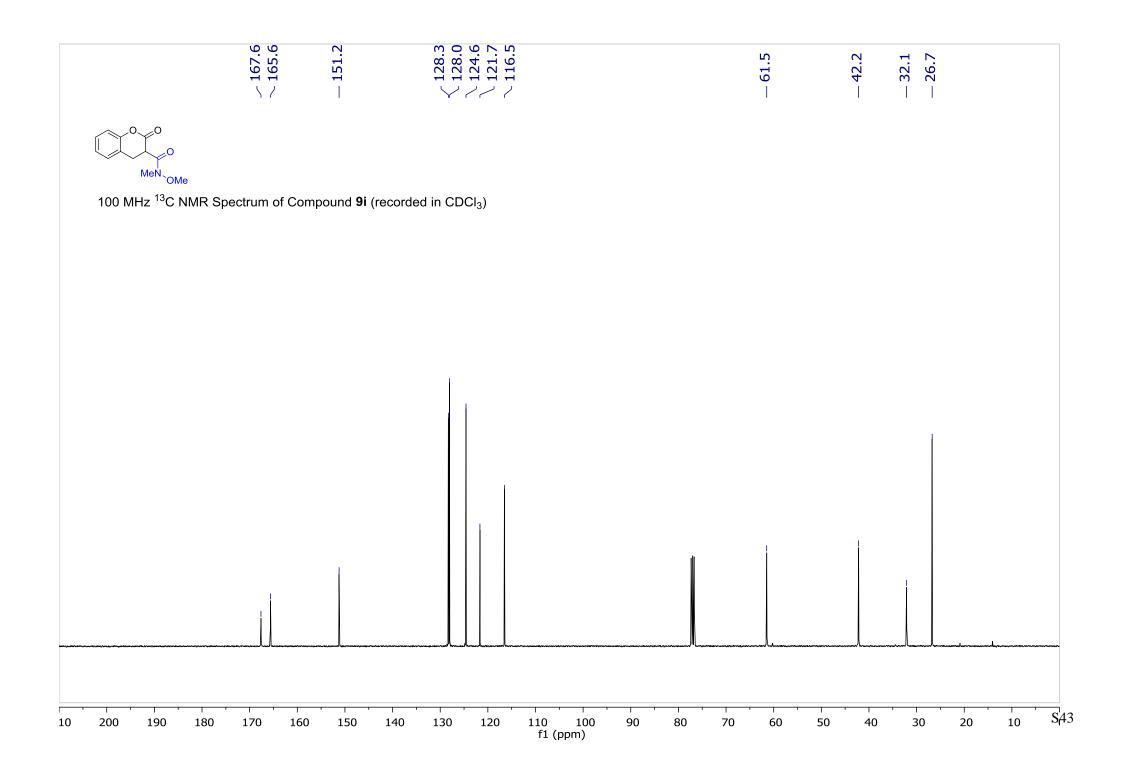


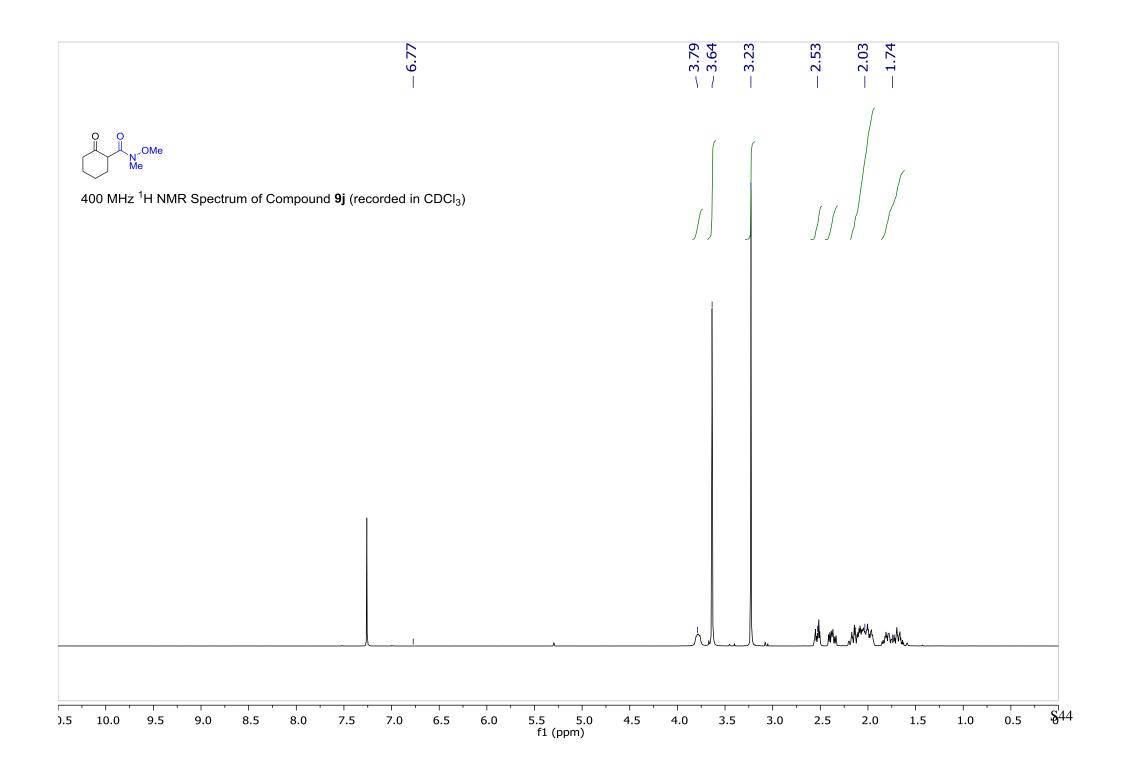


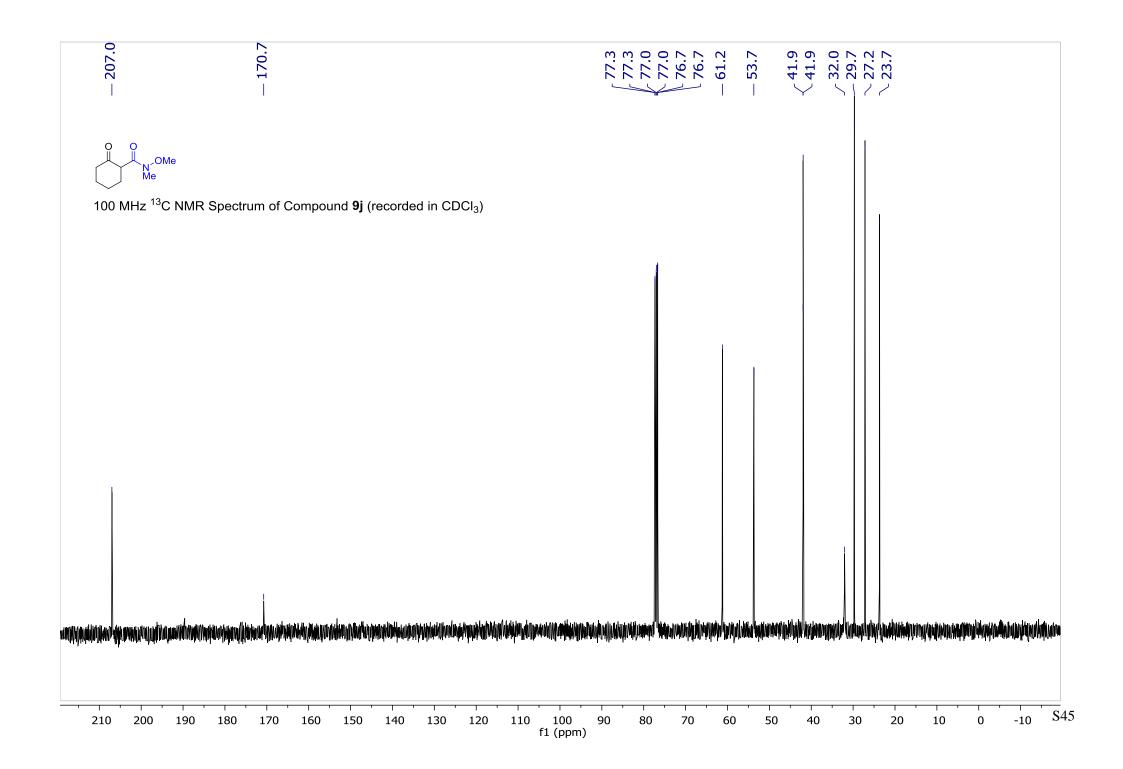


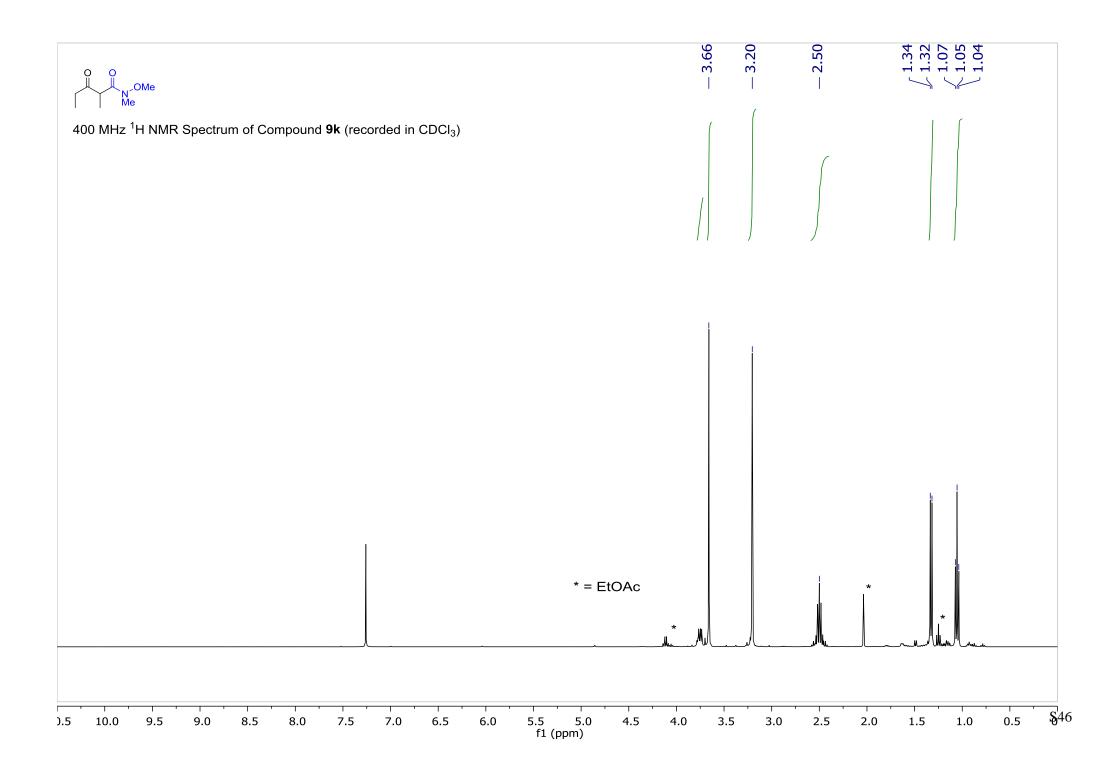


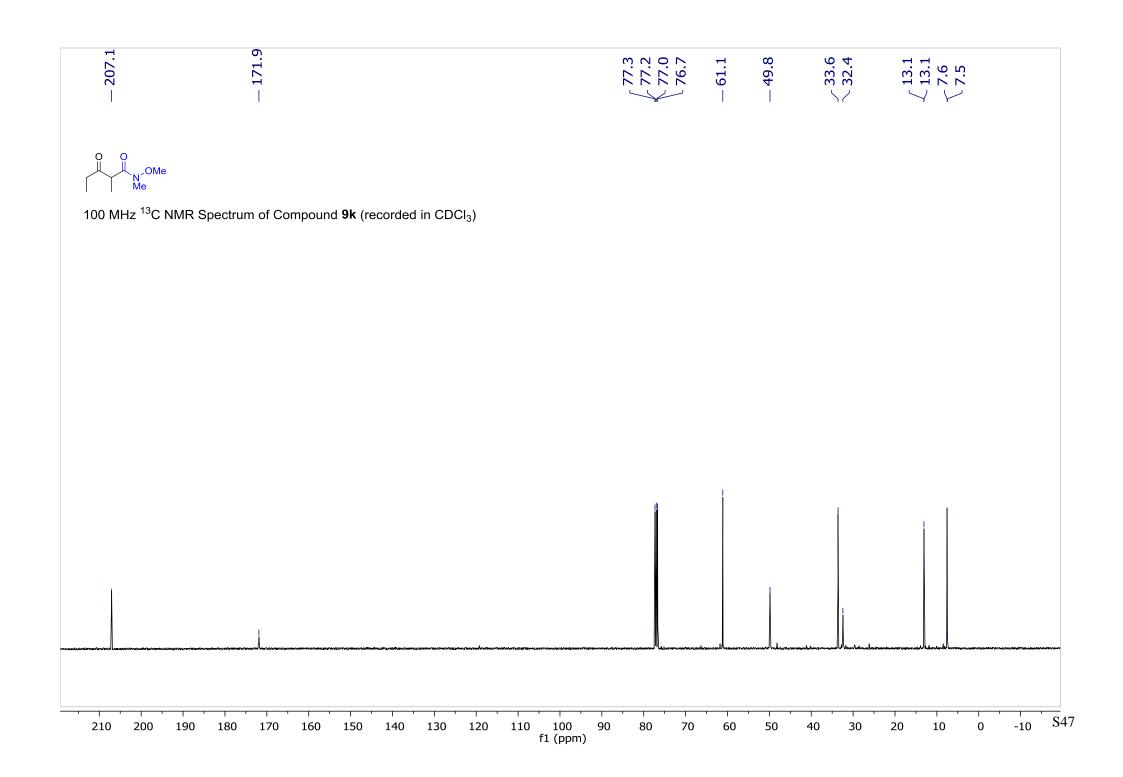


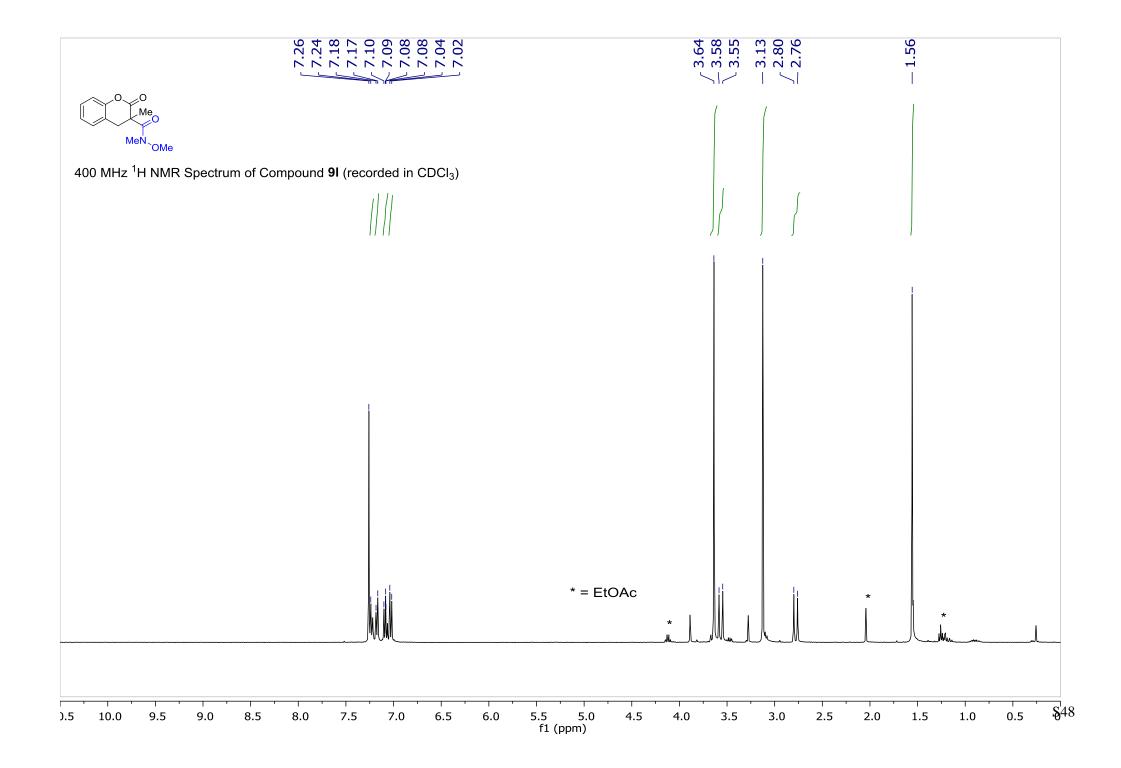


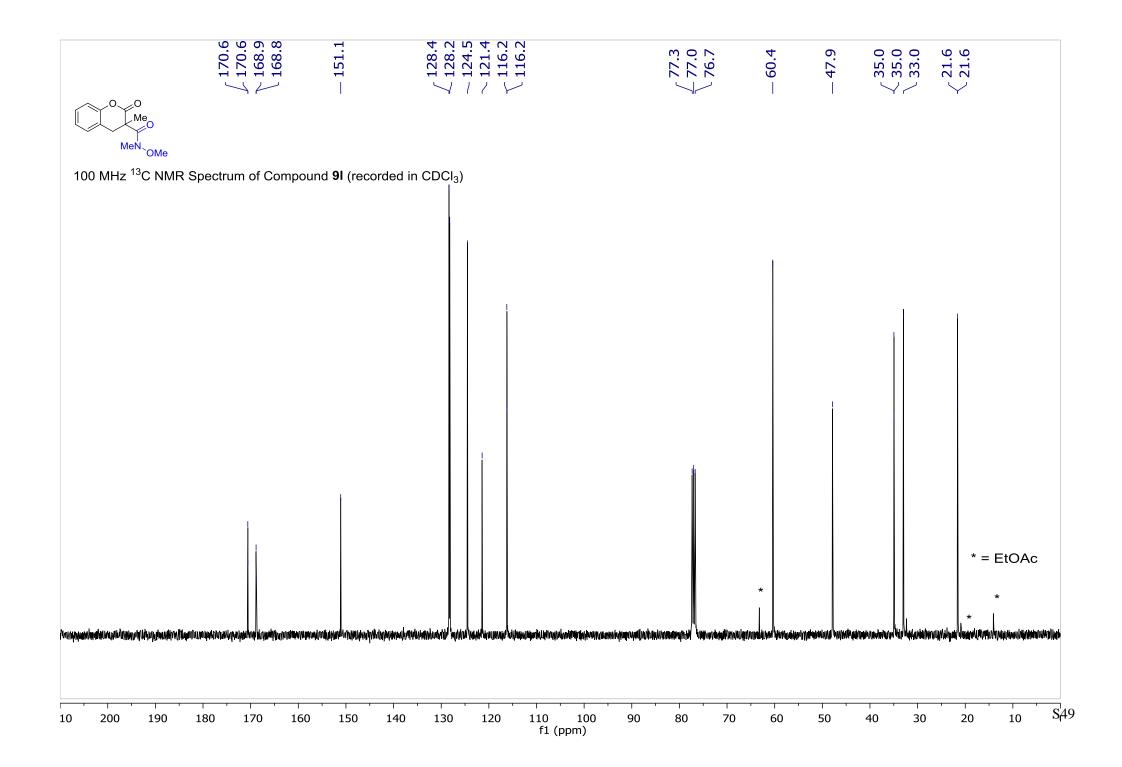


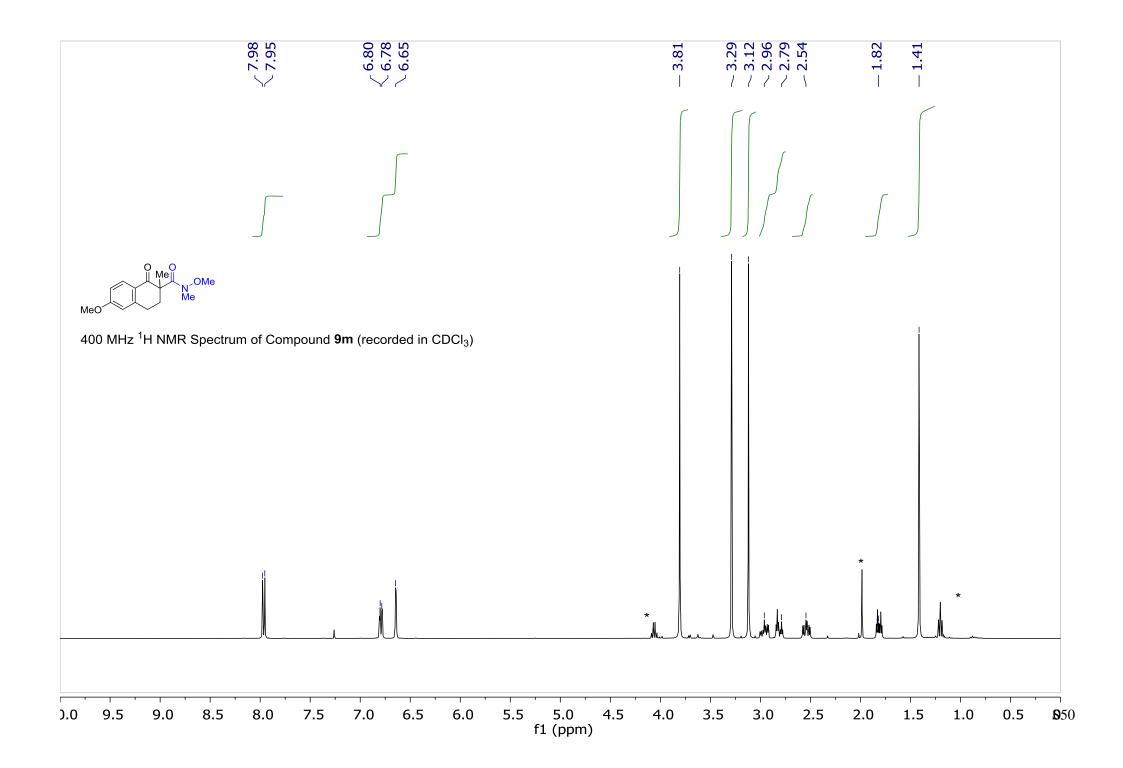


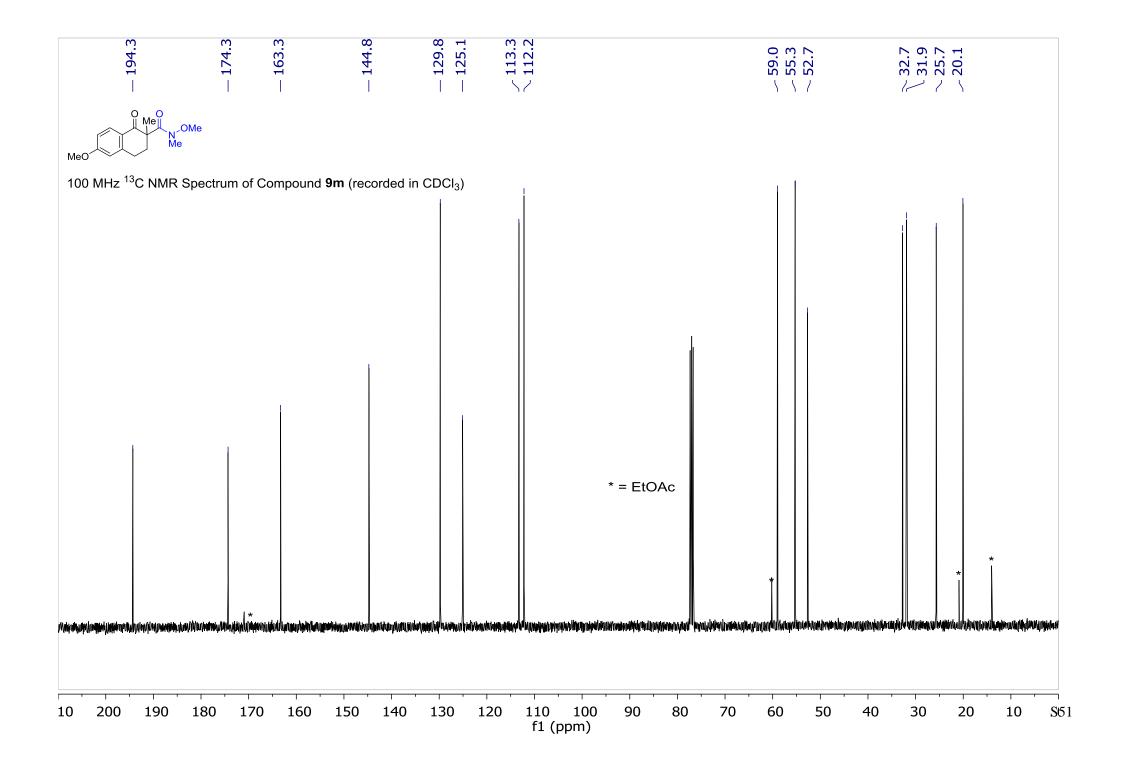


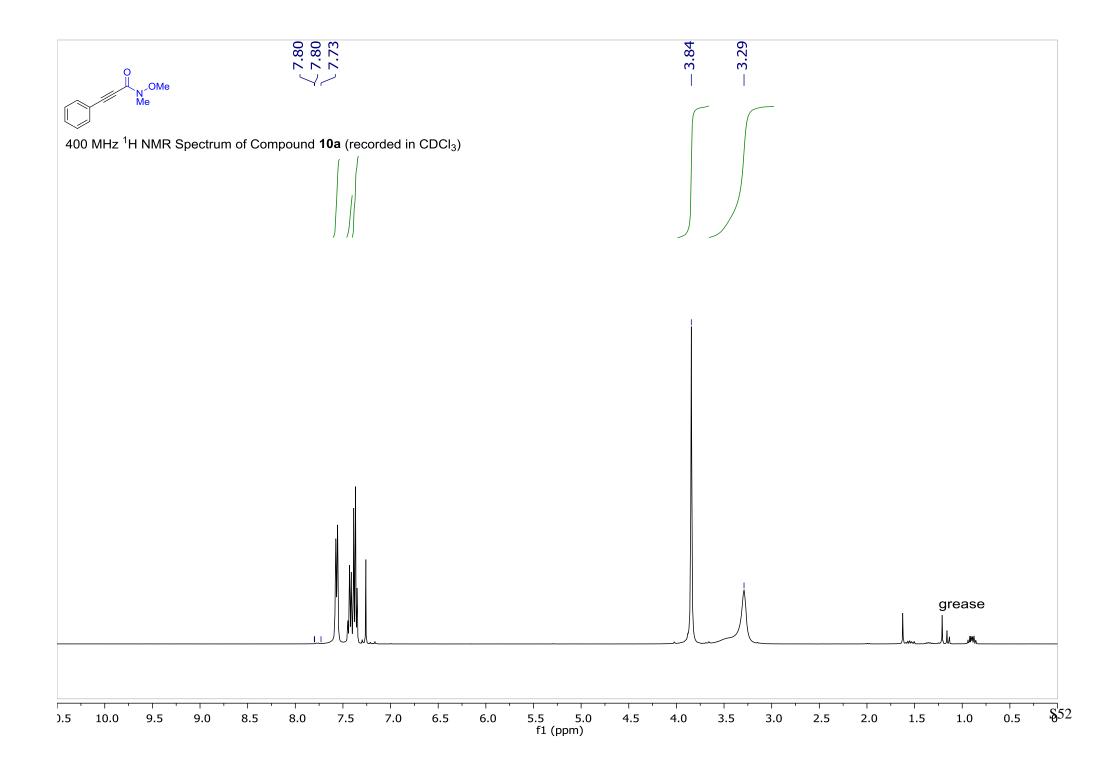


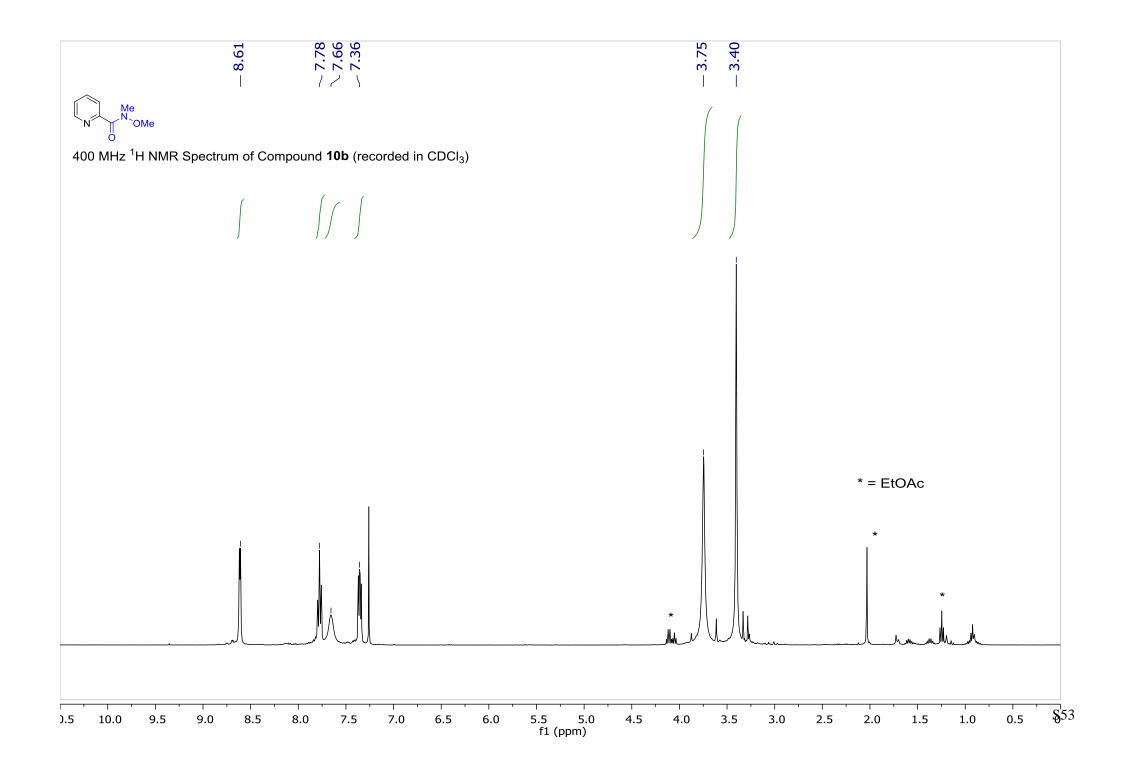


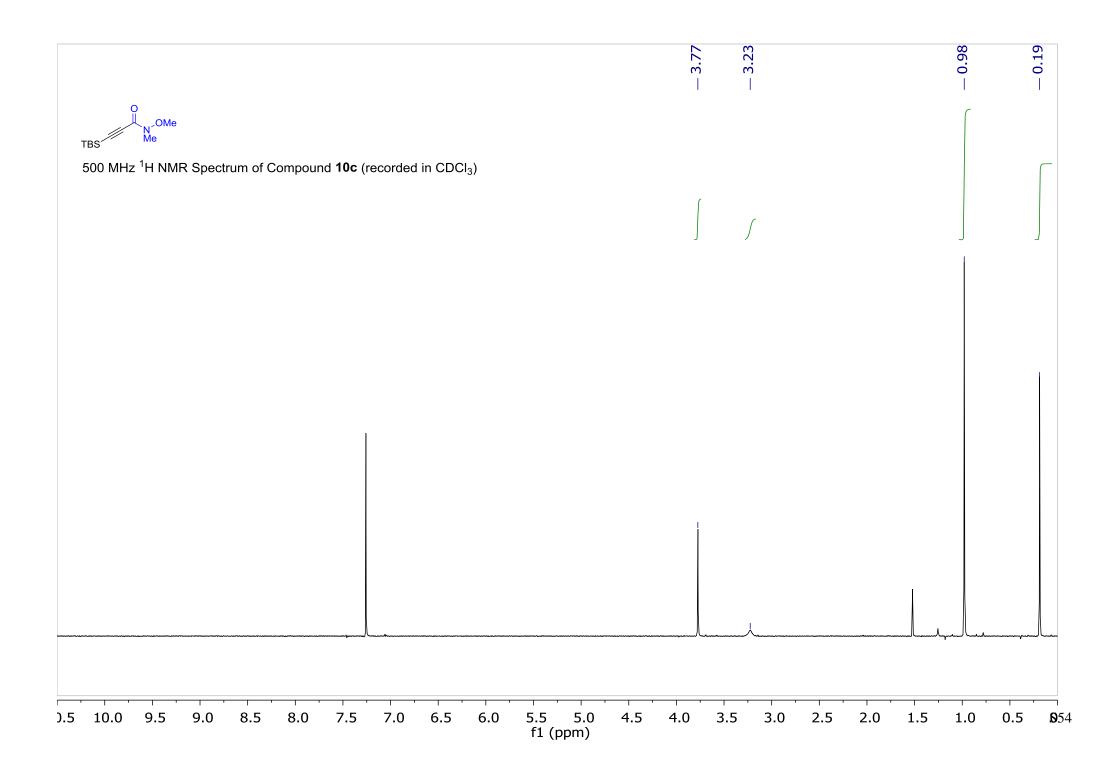


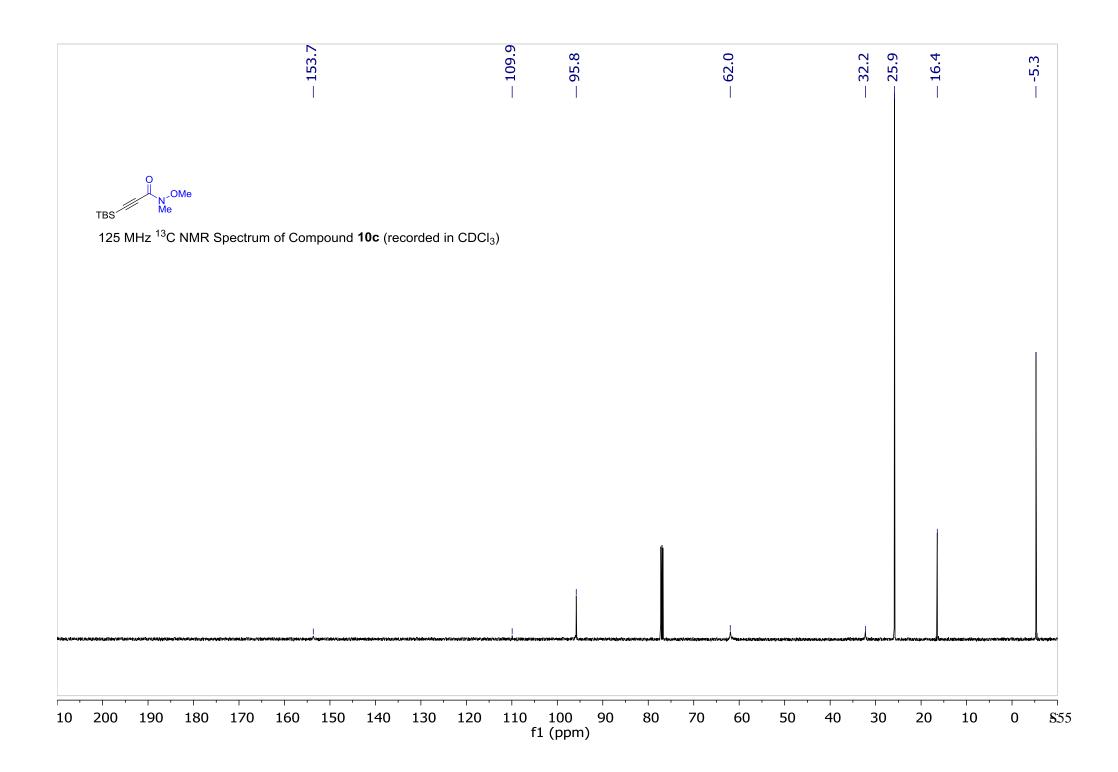


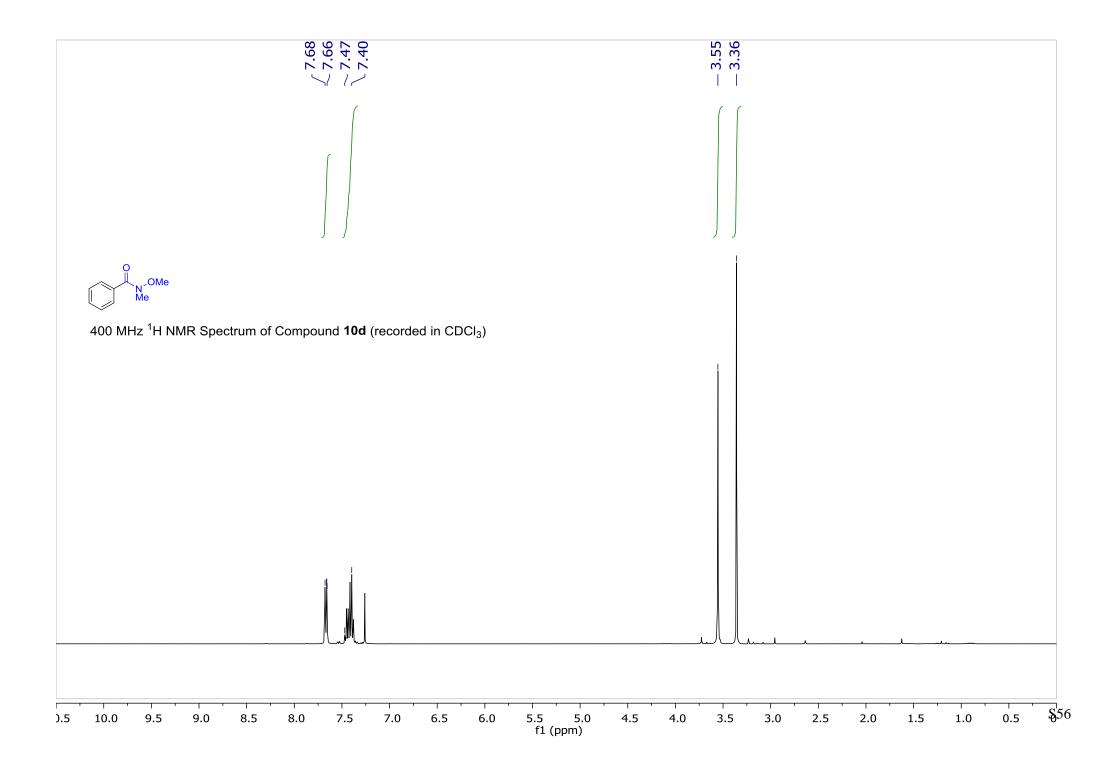


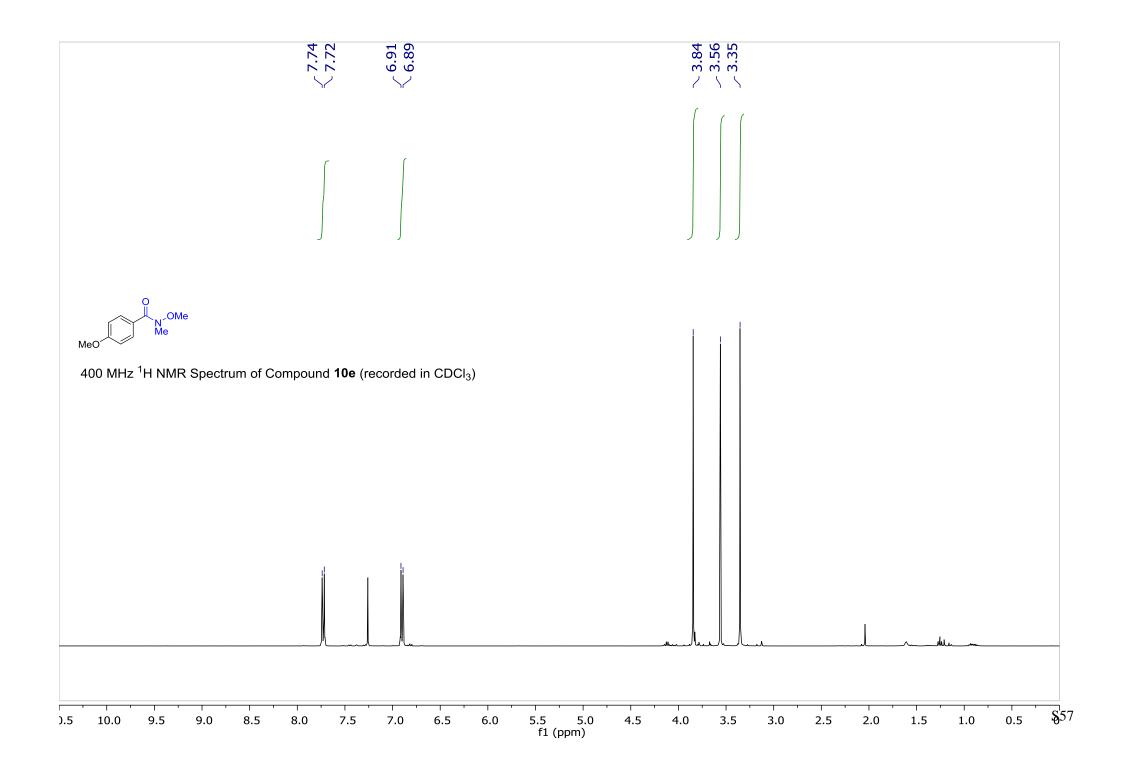


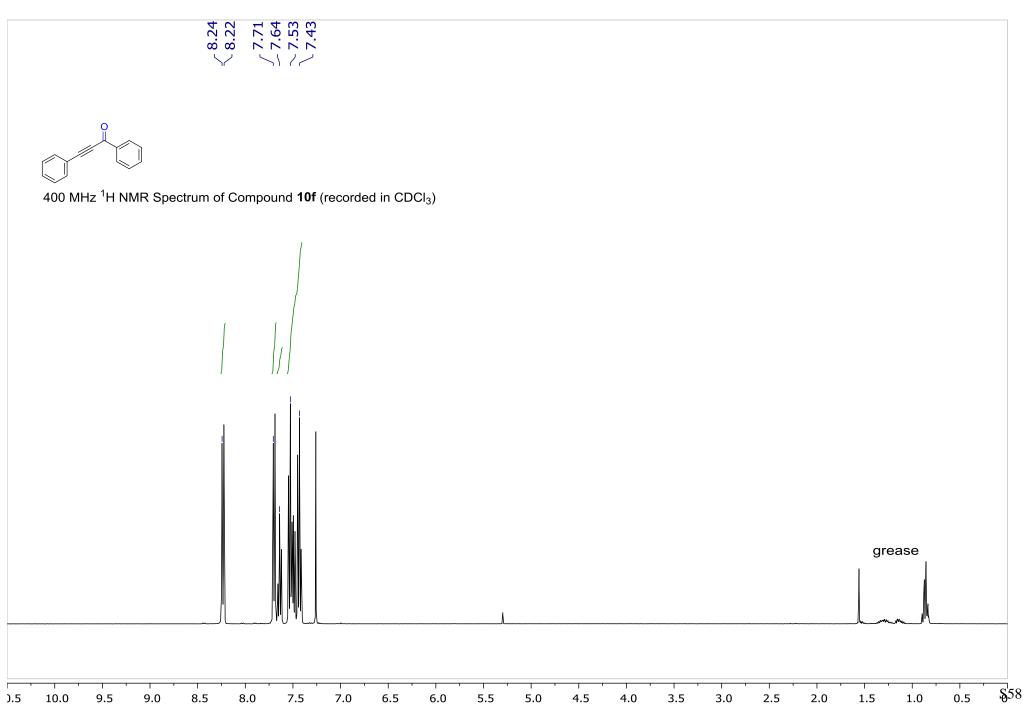












5.5 5.0 f1 (ppm)

