

Supporting Information

Ruthenium-Catalyzed Pyrrole Synthesis via Oxidative Annulation of Enamides and Alkynes

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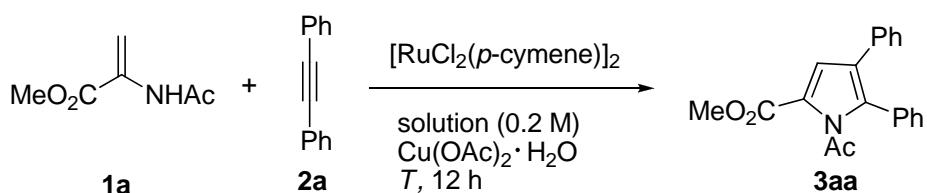
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General Experimental Section:

Analytic methods. All the reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk technique. ^1H NMR (300 MHz or 400 MHz), ^{19}F (282 or 376 M) and ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz or 100MHz) were recorded on Bruker AV300 and AV400 NMR spectrometer with CDCl_3 as solvent. Chemical shifts of ^1H , ^{19}F , and ^{13}C NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm). The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (CDCl_3 : $\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$ ppm; $\delta_{\text{C}} = 77.00$ ppm). All coupling constants (J values) were reported in Hertz (Hz). Multiplicities are reported as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), doublet of doublet of doublets (ddd), doublet of triplets (dt), triplet (t), triplet of doublets (td), quartet (q), and multiplet (m). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 200-300 mesh. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm). IR spectra were recorded as KBr disks on a Nicolet 380 FT-IR spectrometer. EI mass spectra and HRMS were done on Thermo Finnigan TRACE DSQ and Varian 7.0 T FTICR-mass spectrometers, respectively

General preparation for chemicals. $[\{\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene)}\}]_2$ was prepared from $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ following a literature procedure.^[1] All other reagents were used is from commercial sources. Unless otherwise noted below, all other compounds have been reported in the literature or are commercially available from Alfa Aesar China (Tianjin) Chemical Co., Ltd. without any further purification. The substrates methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**1a**),^[1] (*Z*)-N-(1-cyanoprop-1-en-2-yl)acetamide (**4**),^[2] 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyne (**2b**),^[3] 1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethyne (**2c**),^[3] 1,2-bis(4-bromophenyl)ethyne (**2d**),^[3] diethyl 4,4'-(ethyne-1,2-diyl)dibenzoate (**2e**),^[3] 1,2-di-p-tolylethyne (**2f**),^[3] 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyne (**2g**)^[3] were prepared according to the known procedure.

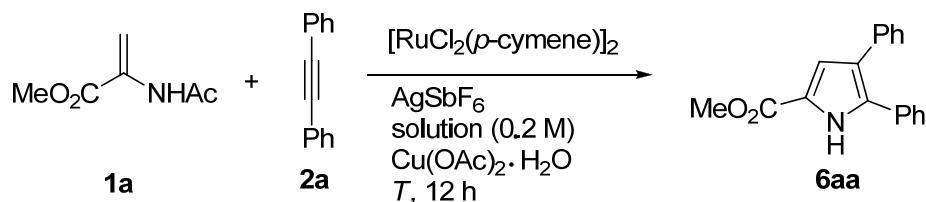
Table S1. Optimization studies for tetrasubstituted pyrroles **3**^a



entry	catalyst loading (x mol%)	solution	oxidant loading (equiv)	T (°C)	conversion (%) ^b
1	5.0	<i>t</i> -AmOH	2.2	110	100 (84) ^c
2	4.0	<i>t</i> -AmOH	2.2	110	91
3	3.0	<i>t</i> -AmOH	2.2	110	85
4	5.0	Dioxane	2.2	110	100 (83) ^c
5	5.0	CH ₃ CN	2.2	110	93
6	5.0	DCE	2.2	110	100 (88) ^c
7	5.0	H ₂ O	2.2	110	100 (55) ^c
8	5.0	DCE	2.2	100	100 (89) ^c
9	5.0	DCE	2.2	90	90
10	5.0	DCE	2.2	80	82
11	5.0	DCE	1.5	100	100
12	5.0	DCE	1.0	100	100
13	5.0	DCE	0.5	100	100 (90) ^c
14	0.0	DCE	0.5	100	0

^a Reaction condition: **1a** (1.0 equiv), **2a** (1.1 equiv), $\{[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})]_2\}$ (x mol%), solution (0.2M), *T*, 12 h. ^b determined by GC. ^c isolated yields.

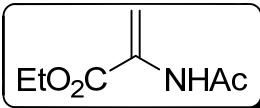
Table S2. Optimization studies for trisubstituted pyrroles **6**^a



entry	additive loading (x mol%)	solution	oxidant loading (equiv)	T (°C)	conversion (%) ^b
1	0.0	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	2.2	110	35
2	0.0	MeOH	2.2	110	53 (20) ^c
3	0.0	t-BuOH	2.2	110	20
4	20.0	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	2.2	110	38
5	20.0	MeOH	2.2	110	60 (43) ^c
6	20.0	MeOH/t-AmOH (2:1)	2.2	100	55
7	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	2.2	100	100 (93) ^c
8	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	2.2	100	100 (89) ^c
9	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	2.0	100	100 (91) ^c
10	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	1.0	100	100 (80) ^c
11	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	0.5	100	100 (70) ^c
12	0.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	2.0	100	75 (40) ^c

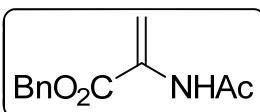
^a Reaction condition: **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (0.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})]_2$ (5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (x mmol%), solution (0.2M), T, 12 h. ^b determined by GC. ^c isolated yields.

Preparation and Characterization of Substrates **1b** and **1c**



ethyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (1b).

A round-bottom flask equipped with a Dean-Stark trap was charged successively with acetamide (1.5 g, 25.4 mmol), ethyl pyruvate (2.7 g, 22.9 mmol, 0.9 equiv), a catalytic amount of *p*-TsOH, 4-methoxyphenol (4 mg, 25.4 mmol, 0.001 equiv) and toluene (50 mL). The stirred mixture was heated under reflux for 26 h then concentrated in vacuo. The resulting yellow oil was taken up in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL), washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (100 mL) and H₂O (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give ethyl 2-acetamidoacrylate. R_f = .25 (5:1, Hexanes/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CHCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.59 (1H, br s), 6.47 (1H, s), 4.40 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.28 (3H, s), 1.41 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CHCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 168.8, 164.0, 131.0, 108.3, 62.1, 24.5, 14.0; IR (cm⁻¹): ν 3362, 2986, 1693, 1188, 731, 584.

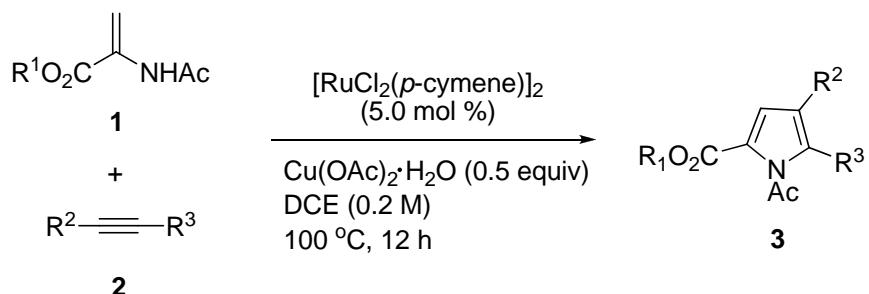


benzyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (1c).

A round-bottom flask equipped with a Dean-Stark trap was charged successively with acetamide (1.5 g, 25.4 mmol), benzyl pyruvate (4.1 g, 22.9 mmol, 0.9 equiv), a catalytic amount of *p*-TsOH, 4-methoxyphenol (4 mg, 25.4 mmol, 0.001 equiv) and toluene (50 mL). The stirred mixture was heated under reflux for 26 h then concentrated in vacuo. The resulting yellow oil was taken up in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL), washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (100 mL) and H₂O (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to give benzyl 2-acetamidoacrylate. R_f = .28 (5:1, Hexanes/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (CHCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.73 (1H, br s), 7.38 (5H, br s), 6.62 (1H, s), 5.94 (1H, s), 5.27 (2H, s), 2.12 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (CHCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 168.8, 164.0, 135.0, 130.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 108.9, 67.7, 24.6; IR (cm⁻¹): ν 3365, 1712, 1518, 1193, 742, 691.

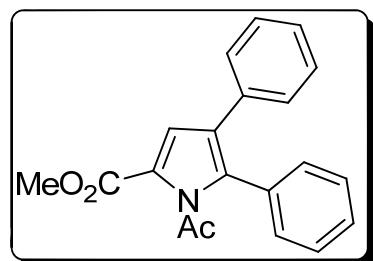
Preparation and Characterization of Products 3 and 5

General procedure A: Ruthenium catalyzed tetrasubstituted pyrroles (3) synthesis



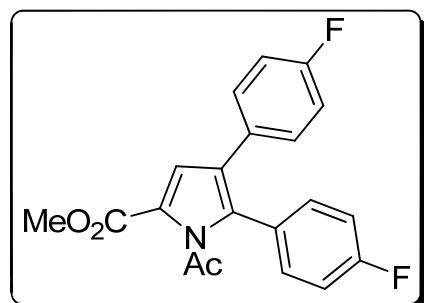
A mixture of the enamide (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), the alkyne (**2**) (if solid) (0.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})]_2$ (9.2 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5.0 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (30.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCE (1.5 mL) was added (followed immediately by the alkyne if it is a liquid) and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and transferred to a round bottom flask. Silica was added to the flask and volatiles were evaporated under reduced pressure. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

Analytical data of Pyrroles 3



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3aa).^[4]

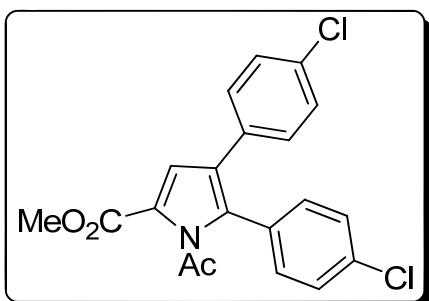
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 89% yield (87 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .45 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.39-7.33 (3H, m), 7.31-7.29 (2H, m), 7.20-7.16 (4H, m), 7.14-7.12(2H, m), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.31 (1H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.8, 161.1, 134.5, 133.9, 130.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 126.4, 124.8, 122.9, 118.3, 51.8, 28.8 (one signal missing due to overlap); **MS (EI)**: Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇NO₃ [M⁺] 319.12, Found: 319.



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ab).

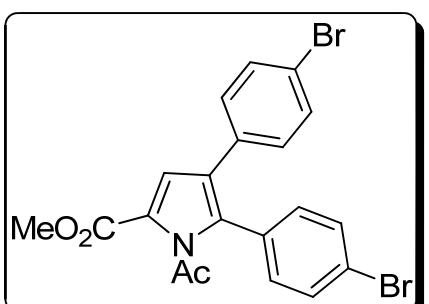
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 91% yield (97 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 94-96 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.42-7.39 (3H, m), 7.22-7.18 (4H, m), 7.07-7.02 (2H, m), 4.03 (3H, s), 2.48 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.6, 162.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 249.8 Hz), 161.6 (d, J_{C-F} = 246.2 Hz), 160.9, 133.4, 132.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 8.3 Hz), 129.8 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 129.5 (d, J_{C-F} = 7.8 Hz), 126.3 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.5 Hz), 124.2, 123.0, 118.2, 115.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.7 Hz), 115.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.5 Hz), 51.9, 28.9; **¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz)**: δ -111.34 (s), -115.59 (s); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for

$C_{20}H_{15}F_2NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 378.0912, Found: 378.0910; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2955, 1766, 1700, 840, 532.



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ac).

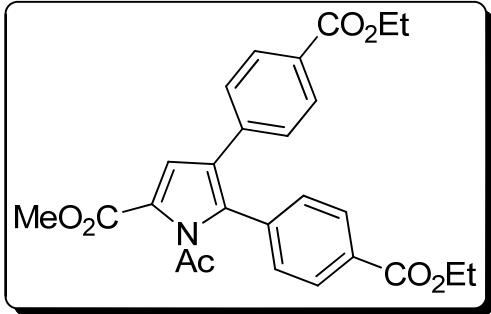
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as an off-white solid in 89% yield (104 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .46 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 96-98 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.34 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.22 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.19 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.13 (1H, br s), 7.03 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.35(3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.5, 160.9, 135.2, 133.3, 132.5, 132.1, 132.0, 129.2, 128.9, 128.64, 128.56, 124.0, 123.3, 118.1, 52.0, 28.9; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $C_{20}H_{15}Cl_2NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 410.0321, Found: 410.0322; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2951, 1756, 1705, 763, 649.



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(4-bromophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ad).

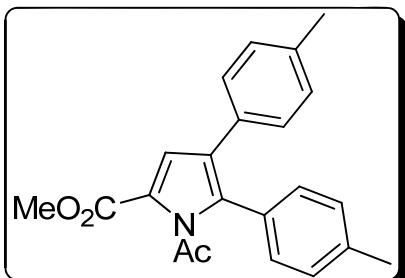
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 88% yield (126 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .48 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.50 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.34 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.12 (1H, br s), 7.00 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.35 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.4,

160.9, 133.3, 132.6, 132.3, 131.9, 131.5, 129.6, 129.1, 124.0, 123.6, 123.3, 120.7, 118.1, 52.0, 29.0; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{20}H_{15}Br_2NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 497.9311, Found: 497.9314; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 2949, 1757, 1705, 761, 648.



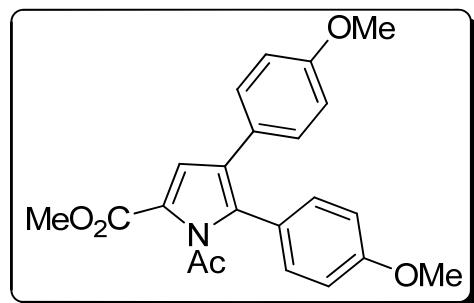
dimethyl 4,4'-(1-acetyl-5-(methoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,3-diyl)dibenzoate (3ae).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 90% yield (125 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .30 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 101-104 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 8.04 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.87 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.36 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.21 (1H, br s), 7.15 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.39 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 4.34 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.36 (3H, s), 1.40 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.36 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.2, 166.1, 165.7, 160.7, 138.1, 134.6, 133.8, 130.8, 130.5, 129.7, 129.5, 128.4, 127.7, 124.3, 123.6, 118.1, 61.1, 60.7, 51.9, 28.8, 14.1 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{26}H_{25}NNaO_7$ [M+Na]⁺ 486.1523, Found: 486.1524; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 2984, 1757, 1712, 760, 705.



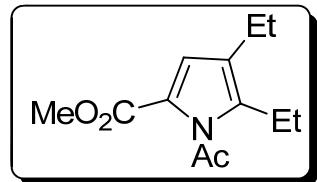
methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-di-p-tolyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3af).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 94% yield (98 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .49 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.19-7.15 (5H, m), 7.05-7.00 (5H, m), 3.87 (3H, s), 2.37 (3H, s), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.29 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 174.0, 161.1, 138.7, 135.9, 134.5, 131.0, 130.4, 129.2, 128.9, 127.8, 127.7, 124.6, 122.6, 118.3, 51.7, 28.8, 21.3, 21.0; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 370.1414, Found: 370.1419; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2946, 1752, 1704, 762, 731.



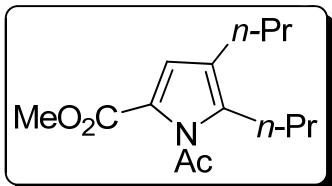
methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ag).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/15 to 1/5) as a clear oil in 75% yield (85 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .25 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.22 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.12 (1H, br s), 7.06 (2H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.75 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 3.87 (3H, s), 3.83 (3H, s), 3.76 (3H, s), 2.30 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 174.0, 161.0, 159.8, 158.1, 134.1, 132.0, 128.9, 126.4, 124.3, 122.7, 122.4, 118.2, 113.9, 113.6, 55.1, 55.0, 51.7, 28.8; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NNaO₅ [M+Na]⁺ 402.1312, Found: 402.1309; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2955, 1753, 1705, 834, 544.



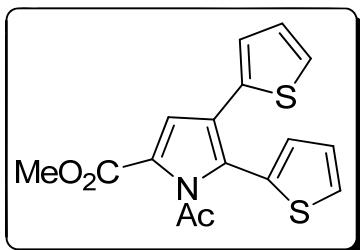
methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-diethyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ah).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a clear oil in 72% yield (48 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .65 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 6.86 (1H, br s), 3.81 (3H, s), 2.63 (2H, q, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.52 (3H, s), 2.39 (2H, q, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.16 (3H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.13 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.9, 161.0, 139.4, 124.4, 121.4, 121.0, 51.5, 28.4, 18.43, 18.36, 14.9, 14.7; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₁₂H₁₇NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 246.1101, Found: 246.1103; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2969, 1742, 1483, 763, 677.



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-dipropyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ai).^[4]

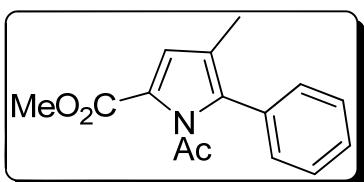
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a clear oil in 62% yield (47 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .65 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 6.83 (1H, br s), 3.81 (3H, s), 2.58 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.51 (3H, s), 2.32 (2H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.60-1.47 (4H, m), 0.94 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 0.92 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 174.0, 161.1, 138.4, 123.3, 121.5, 121.4, 51.5, 28.5, 27.4, 27.0, 23.6, 13.9 (two signals missing due to overlap); **MS (EI)**: Calcd for C₁₄H₂₁NO₃ [M⁺] 251.15, Found: 251.



methyl 1-acetyl-4,5-di(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3aj)

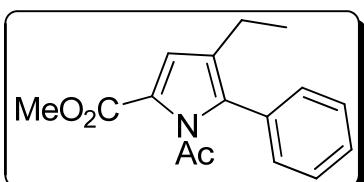
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a white solid in 65% yield (64 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .65 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 101-103 °C;

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.52 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.0, 0.8 Hz), 7.18 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.4, 0.8 Hz), 7.16 (1H, br s), 7.14-7.12 (2H, m), 6.93-6.91 (1H, m), 6.88 (1H, dd, *J* = 3.5, 0.8 Hz), 3.89 (3H, s), 2.37 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 172.9, 160.9, 135.6, 131.8, 129.6, 129.2, 127.4, 127.0, 125.8, 124.5, 124.1, 121.4, 117.1, 52.1, 28.4 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NNaO₃S₂ [M+Na]⁺ 354.0229, Found: 354.0231; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 2944, 1757, 1245, 755, 718.



methyl 1-acetyl-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ak).^[4]

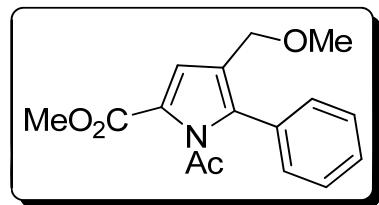
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a white solid in 93% yield (72 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .60 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.45-7.38 (3H, m), 7.30-7.28 (2H, m), 6.86 (1H, br s), 3.84 (3H, s), 2.27 (3H, s), 1.99 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.5, 161.1, 135.6, 131.0, 129.8, 128.40, 128.37, 122.5, 120.4, 119.5, 51.7, 28.4, 11.1; **MS (EI):** Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₃ [M⁺] 257.11, Found: 257.



methyl 1-acetyl-4-ethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3al).^[5]

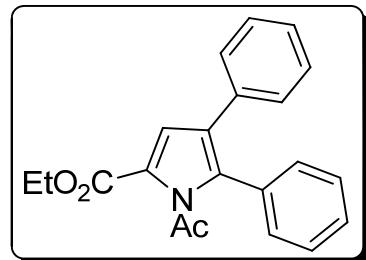
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a clear oil in 74% yield (60 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .60 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.43-7.39 (3H, m), 7.30-7.28 (2H, m), 6.92 (1H, br s), 3.84 (3H, s), 2.34 (2H, q, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.11 (3H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.5, 161.2, 135.1, 131.0, 130.0, 128.5, 128.4, 126.4, 122.8, 118.9, 51.7, 28.5, 18.7, 15.1; **MS (EI):** Calcd

for $C_{16}H_{17}NO_3$ [M⁺] 271.12, Found: 271.



methyl 1-acetyl-4-(2-methoxyethyl)-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3am).

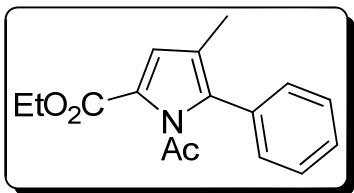
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/10) as a clear oil in 68% yield (59 mg) from **1a** (0.30 mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .30 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.44-7.41 (3H, m), 7.38-7.35 (2H, m), 7.06 (1H, br s), 4.15 (2H, s), 3.85 (3H, s), 3.31 (3H, s), 2.28 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.6, 161.0, 137.0, 129.9, 128.8, 128.4, 123.0, 120.8, 119.5, 66.2, 57.7, 51.8, 28.5 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $C_{16}H_{17}NNaO_4$ [M+Na]⁺ 310.1050, Found: 310.1047; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2953, 1761, 1716, 773, 702.



ethyl 1-acetyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ba).

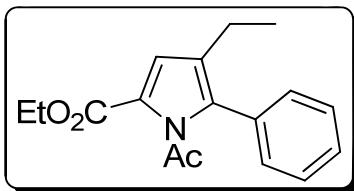
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as an off-white solid in 85% yield (85 mg) from **1b** (0.30 mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 75-77 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.39-7.33 (3H, m), 7.32-7.29 (2H, m), 7.22-7.17 (4H, m), 7.16-7.12 (2H, m), 4.35 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.31 (3H, s), 1.38 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.8, 160.6, 134.4, 133.9, 130.7, 130.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0,

126.3, 124.7, 123.3, 118.2, 60.8, 28.9, 14.2; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{21}H_{19}NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 356.1257, Found: 356.1255; **IR (cm^{-1}):** ν 2980, 1757, 1699, 761, 697.



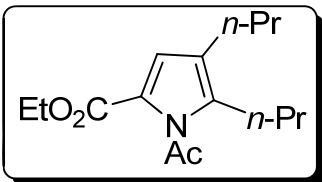
ethyl 1-acetyl-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3bk).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as an off-white solid in 70% yield (57 mg) from **1b** (0.30 mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .60$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.44-7.38 (3H, m), 7.30-7.27 (2H, m), 6.86 (1H, br s), 4.30 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.27 (3H, s), 1.99 (3H, s), 1.35 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.6, 160.8, 135.5, 131.1, 129.9, 128.41, 128.36, 123.0, 120.3, 119.5, 60.6, 28.5, 14.2, 11.1; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{16}H_{17}NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 294.1101, Found: 294.1102; **IR (cm^{-1}):** ν 2981, 1750, 1705, 765, 699.



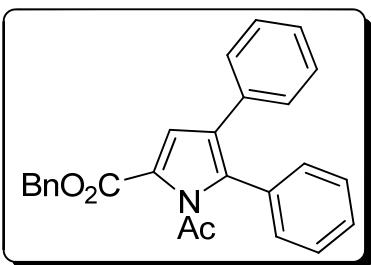
ethyl 1-acetyl-4-ethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3bl).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as an off-white solid in 69% yield (59 mg) from **1b** (0.30 mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .60$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.42-7.39 (3H, m), 7.29-7.27 (2H, m), 6.92 (1H, br s), 4.31 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.34 (2H, q, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.36 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 1.11 (3H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 173.5, 160.8, 134.9, 131.1, 130.0, 128.42, 128.38, 126.4, 123.2, 118.7, 60.7, 28.5, 18.7, 15.1, 14.2; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{17}H_{19}NNaO_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 308.1257, Found: 308.1255; **IR (cm^{-1}):** ν 2973, 1748, 1716, 762, 701.



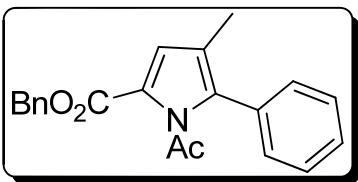
ethyl 1-acetyl-4,5-dipropyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3bi).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/30 to 1/20) as a clear oil in 54% yield (43 mg) from **1b** (0.30 mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .61 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 6.83 (1H, br s), 4.27 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.58 (2H, t, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.51 (3H, s), 2.32 (2H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.59-1.49 (4H, m), 1.34 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 0.95 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz), 0.92 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 174.1, 160.7, 138.2, 123.3, 121.9, 121.2, 60.5, 28.6, 27.4, 27.0, 23.61, 23.58, 14.3, 13.9 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₁₅H₂₃NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 288.1570, Found: 288.1572; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2962, 1761, 1716, 773, 702.



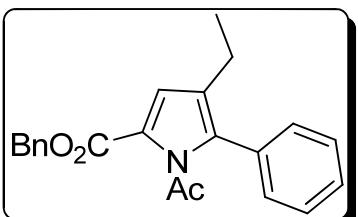
benzyl 1-acetyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ca).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as an off-white solid in 75% yield (89 mg) from **1c** (0.30 mmol, 65.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. R_f = .50 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 100-105 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.45-7.33 (8H, m), 7.31-7.28 (2H, m), 7.22 (1H, br s), 7.19-7.15 (3H, m), 7.13-7.11 (2H, m), 5.33 (2H, s), 2.28 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.8, 160.4, 135.8, 134.7, 133.9, 130.7, 130.6, 128.9, 128.6, 128.28, 128.25, 128.22, 128.20, 128.0, 126.4, 124.9, 122.9, 118.7, 66.5, 28.9; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₂₆H₂₁NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 418.1414, Found: 418.1413; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2957, 1753, 1702, 748, 696.



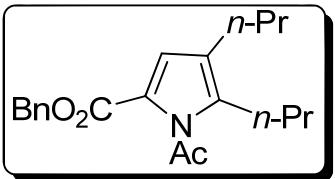
benzyl 1-acetyl-4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ck).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 61% yield (61 mg) from **1c** (0.30 mmol, 65.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .60$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.43-7.33 (8H, m), 7.29-7.27 (2H, m), 6.91 (1H, br s), 5.29 (2H, s), 2.25 (3H, s), 1.98 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.5, 160.5, 135.92, 135.87, 131.0, 129.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 122.5, 120.8, 119.6, 66.3, 28.5, 11.1 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 356.1257, Found: 356.1259; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2925, 1753, 1706, 761, 697.



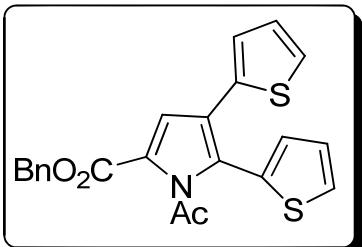
benzyl 1-acetyl-4-ethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3cl).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 84% yield (87 mg) from **1c** (0.30 mmol, 65.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .62$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 7.44-7.34 (8H, m), 7.29-7.27 (2H, m), 6.96 (1H, br s), 5.29 (2H, s), 2.33 (2H, q, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 1.09 (3H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 173.4, 160.4, 135.9, 135.2, 130.9, 129.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 126.4, 122.7, 119.1, 66.3, 28.4, 18.6, 15.1 (two signals missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_3$ [M+Na]⁺ 370.1414, Found: 370.1412; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 2966, 1751, 1705, 758, 699.



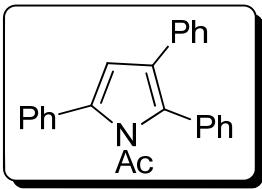
benzyl 1-acetyl-4,5-dipropyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3ci).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 54% yield (53 mg) from **1c** (0.30 mmol, 65.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .65$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **$^1\text{H NMR (CDCl}_3, 400 \text{ MHz)}$** : δ 7.42-7.33 (5H, m), 6.87 (1H, br s), 5.26 (2H, s), 2.58 (2H, t, $J = 7.7$ Hz), 2.49 (3H, s), 2.32 (2H, t, $J = 7.7$ Hz), 1.57-1.49 (4H, m), 0.95-0.90 (6H, m); **$^{13}\text{C NMR (CDCl}_3, 100 \text{ MHz)}$** : δ 174.0, 160.4, 138.6, 136.0, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 123.4, 121.6, 121.5, 66.1, 28.6, 27.4, 27.0, 23.61, 23.57, 13.9 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 350.1727, Found: 350.1726; **IR (cm^{-1})**: ν 2961, 1742, 1702, 756, 699.



benzyl 1-acetyl-4,5-di(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (3cj).

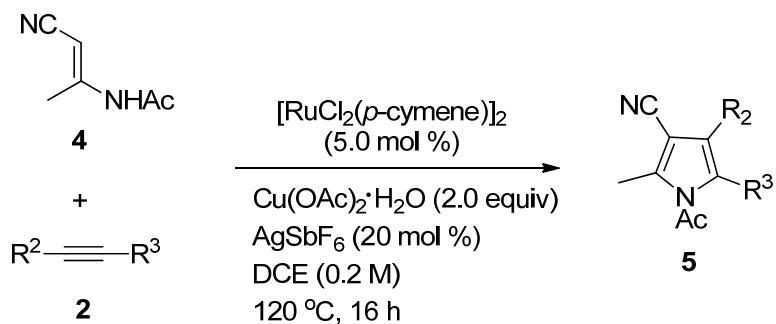
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 75% yield (92 mg) from **1c** (0.30 mmol, 65.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A. $R_f = .65$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 103-105 °C; **$^1\text{H NMR (CDCl}_3, 400 \text{ MHz)}$** : δ 7.52 (1H, dd, $J = 5.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.45-7.36 (5H, m), 7.19 (1H, br s), 7.17 (1H, dd, $J = 3.5, 1.1$ Hz), 7.13-7.11 (2H, m), 6.92-6.90 (1H, m), 6.88 (1H, $J = 3.5, 1.0$ Hz), 5.33 (2H, s), 2.35 (3H, s); **$^{13}\text{C NMR (CDCl}_3, 100 \text{ MHz)}$** : δ 172.8, 160.1, 135.50, 135.45, 131.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 127.0, 125.9, 124.6, 124.5, 124.0, 121.3, 117.3, 66.7, 28.4; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_3\text{S}_2$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 430.0542, Found: 430.0544; **IR (cm^{-1})**: ν 2954, 1762, 1248, 767, 698.



1-(2,3,5-triphenyl-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethanone (3da).^[6]

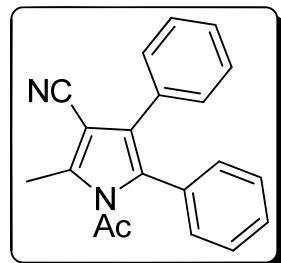
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 30% yield (30 mg) from **1d** (0.30 mmol, 48.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure A, but adding AgSbF₆ (21 mg, 0.060 mmol, 20.0 mmol %) and using CH₃CN as solvent. R_f = .65 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 123-128 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.45-7.40 (4H, m), 7.36 (6H, br s), 7.22-7.15 (5H, m), 6.54 (1H, s), 2.03 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 172.8, 134.80, 134.76, 133.4, 132.8, 131.0, 130.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.37, 128.14, 128.06, 127.6, 126.2, 125.5, 113.6, 28.6 (one signal missing due to overlap); **MS (EI):** Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO [M⁺] 337.14, Found: 337.

General procedure B: Ruthenium catalyzed pentasubstituted pyrroles (5) synthesis



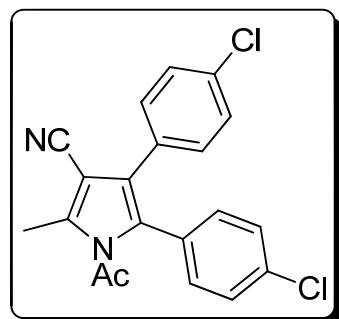
A mixture of the enamide (**4**) (0.39 mmol, 1.3 equiv.), the alkyne (**2**) (if solid) (0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})]_2$ (9.2 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF_6 (21 mg, 0.060 mmol, 20.0 mmol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (120.0 mg, 0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCE (1.5 mL) was added (followed immediately by the alkyne if it is a liquid) and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 16 hours under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and transferred to a round bottom flask. Silica was added to the flask and volatiles were evaporated under reduced pressure. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

Analytical data of Pyrroles 5



1-acetyl-2-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (5a).^[2]

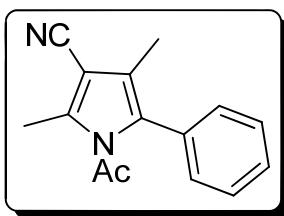
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/10) as a white solid in 55% yield (49 mg) from **4** (0.39mmol, 48.3 mg, 1.3 equiv.) following the general procedure B. R_f = .25 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.39-7.36 (3H, m), 7.28-7.23 (5H, m), 7.21-7.18 (2H,m), 2.66 (3H, s), 1.97 (3H, s); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 172.2, 140.9, 131.5, 131.4, 130.2, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 127.4, 125.4, 115.6, 97.2, 28.0, 14.2; **MS (EI):** Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M⁺] 300.13, Found: 300.



1-acetyl-4,5-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (5c).

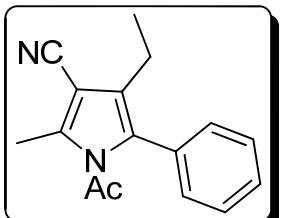
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/10) as a white solid in 57% yield (63 mg) from **4** (0.39mmol, 48.3 mg, 1.3 equiv.) following the general procedure B. R_f = .23 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 139-143 °C; **¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.36 (2H, dd, J = 2.0, 6.6 Hz), 7.25 (2H, dd, J = 2.0, 6.5 Hz), 7.14 (2H, dd, J = 2.0, 6.6 Hz), 7.08 (2H, dd, J = 2.0, 6.6 Hz), 2.62 (3H, s), 2.00 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 171.7, 141.2, 135.3, 133.7, 131.3, 130.4, 129.7, 129.5, 128.8, 128.5, 124.8, 115.1, 97.2, 28.1, 14.2 (one signal missing due to overlap); **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for

$C_{20}H_{14}Cl_2N_2NaO$ [M+Na]⁺ 391.0375, Found: 391.0372; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 2925, 1749, 1577, 734, 692.



1-acetyl-2,4-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (5k).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/10) as a white solid in 58% yield (41 mg) from **4** (0.39mmol, 48.3 mg, 1.3 equiv.) following the general procedure B. R_f = .30 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 106-108 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.48-7.40 (3H, m), 7.27-7.24 (2H, m), 2.57 (3H, s), 2.05 (3H, s), 1.92 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 171.9, 140.3, 132.0, 129.9, 129.6, 129.0, 128.5, 121.3, 115.5, 98.3, 27.7, 14.4, 10.2; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}N_2NaO$ [M+Na]⁺ 261.0998, Found: 261.0997; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 2924, 1736, 1376, 762, 731.

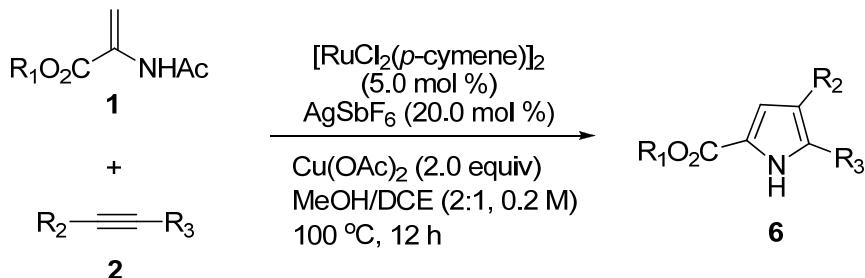


1-acetyl-4-ethyl-2-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (5l).^[2]

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/10) as a white solid in 61% yield (46 mg) from **4** (0.39mmol, 48.3 mg, 1.3 equiv.) following the general procedure B. R_f = .30 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 7.48-7.42 (3H, m), 7.27-7.25 (2H, m), 2.58 (3H, s), 2.41 (2H, q, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.90 (3H, s), 1.14 (3H, t, J = 7.6 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 171.8, 140.8, 131.9, 129.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 127.6, 115.5, 97.1, 27.7, 18.2, 15.0, 14.4; **MS (EI):** Calcd for $C_{16}H_{16}N_2O$ [M⁺] 252.13, Found: 252.

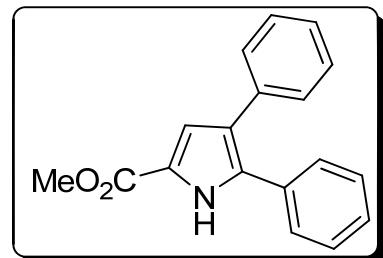
Preparation and Characterization of Products 6

General procedure C: Ruthenium catalyzed trisubstituted pyrroles (6) synthesis



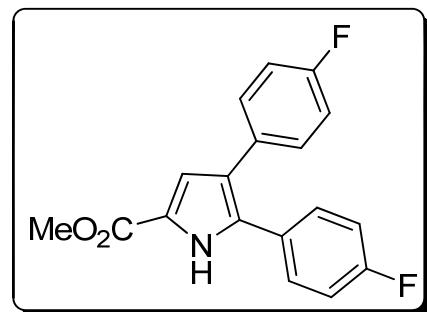
A mixture of the enamide (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), the alkyne (**2**) (if solid) (0.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})]_2$ (9.2 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5.0 mol %), AgSbF_6 (0.060 mmol, 20.0 mol%) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (30.0 mg, 0.50 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. A mixture solution of dry MeOH and DCE (MeOH/DCE , 2:1, 1.5 mL) was added (followed immediately by the alkyne if it is a liquid) and the mixture was stirred at 100°C for 12 hours under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and transferred to a round bottom flask. Silica was added to the flask and volatiles were evaporated under reduced pressure. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

Analytical data of trisubstituted pyrroles 6



methyl 4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6aa).^[5]

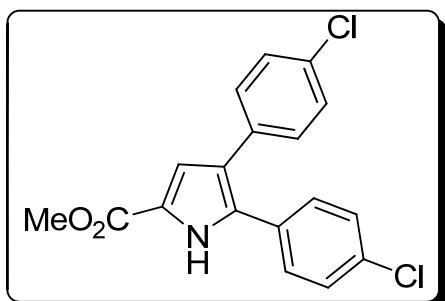
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 91% yield (76 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 9.22 (1H, br s), 7.39-7.26 (10H, m), 7.25-7.21 (1H, m), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 3.88 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 161.8, 135.4, 133.5, 131.9, 128.6, 128.44, 128.35, 128.0, 127.9, 126.3, 124.1, 122.0, 116.8, 51.6; **MS (EI)**: Calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₂ [M⁺] 277.11, Found: 277.



methyl 4,5-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ab).

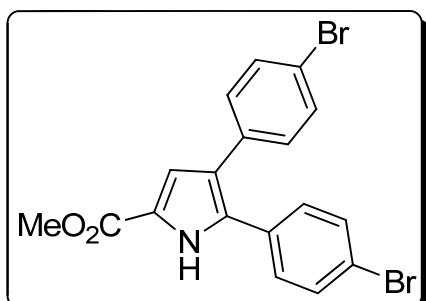
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 89% yield (83 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .39 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 9.13 (1H, br s), 7.33-7.30 (2H, m), 7.24-7.21 (2H, m), 7.06-7.02 (2H, m), 7.01-6.96 (3H, m), 3.88 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 162.5 (d, J_{C-F} = 248.4 Hz), 161.9, 161.7 (d, J_{C-F} = 245.6 Hz), 132.6, 131.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.3 Hz), 130.0, 129.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 1.3 Hz), 127.9 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.2 Hz), 123.1, 122.1, 116.8, 115.8 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.7 Hz), 115.4 (d, J_{C-F} = 21.2 Hz), 51.7; **¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz)**: δ -112.93 (s), -116.12 (s); **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₁₈H₁₂F₂NO₂

[M-H]⁻ 312.0842, Found: 312.0843; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 3302, 1689, 1453, 767, 523.



methyl 4,5-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ac).

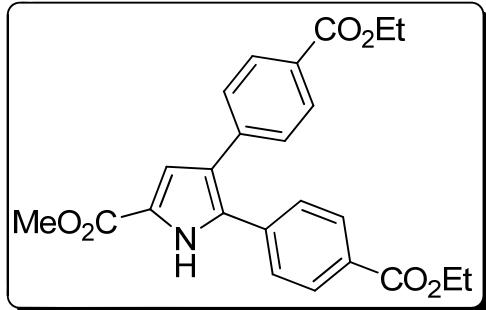
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 80% yield (78 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 9.09 (1H, br s), 7.34-7.32 (2H, m), 7.29-7.27 (2H, m), 7.27-7.25 (2H, m), 7.21-7.19 (2H, m), 7.01 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 3.89 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 161.9, 134.0, 133.6, 132.5, 132.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.4, 128.9, 128.6, 123.2, 122.4, 116.8, 51.7; **HRMS (ESI)**: Calcd for C₁₈H₁₂Cl₂NO₂ [M-H]⁻ 344.0251, Found: 344.0250; **IR (cm⁻¹)**: ν 3302, 2981, 1757, 1699, 761.



methyl 4,5-bis(4-bromophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ad).

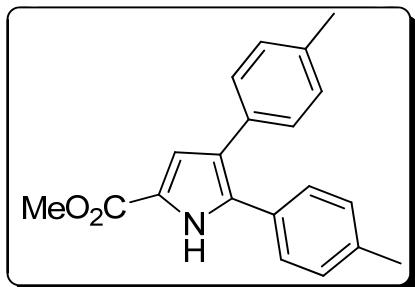
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 77% yield (100 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .42 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 222-224 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 9.11 (1H, br s), 7.48 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.41 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.21 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.14 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.01 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 3.89 (3H,

s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 161.7, 134.0, 132.3, 132.0, 131.7, 130.4, 130.0, 129.5, 123.2, 122.6, 122.3, 120.5, 116.7, 51.8; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C₁₈H₁₂Br₂NO₂ [M-H]⁻ 431.9240, Found: 431.9242; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3299, 2948, 1757, 1699, 761.



diethyl 4,4'-(5-(methoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2,3-diyl)dibenzoate (6ae).

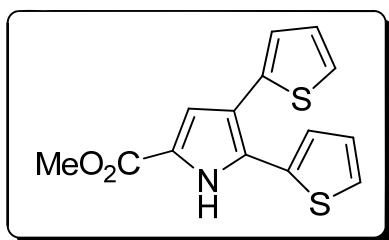
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 98% yield (124 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .35 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 161-163 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 9.37 (1H, br s), 8.01 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.96 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.42 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.35 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.09 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz), 4.41-4.35 (4H, m), 3.89 (3H, s), 1.40 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.39 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 166.4, 166.0, 161.7, 139.7, 135.7, 132.9, 129.81, 129.78, 129.73, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 124.1, 123.1, 116.9, 61.0, 60.8, 51.8, 14.23, 14.21; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C₂₄H₂₂NO₆ [M-H]⁻ 420.1453, Found: 420.1454; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3288, 2981, 1757, 1699, 761.



methyl 4,5-di-p-tolyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6af).

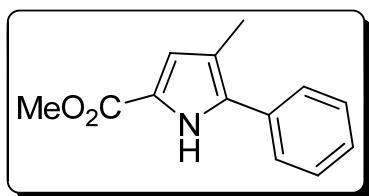
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 72% yield (65 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0

equiv.) following the general procedure C. $R_f = .40$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 185-187 °C; **$^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz):** δ 9.02 (1H, br s), 7.26 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.20 (2H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz), 7.14 (2H, d, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 7.09 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.03 (1H, d, $J = 2.7$ Hz), 3.88 (3H, s), 2.36 (3H, s), 2.34 (3H, s); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz):** δ 161.9, 137.7, 135.8, 133.6, 132.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.3, 127.8, 123.7, 121.6, 116.8, 51.5, 21.2, 21.1; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 328.1308, Found: 328.1311; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3317, 3020, 2059, 1691, 765.



methyl 4-ethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6aj).

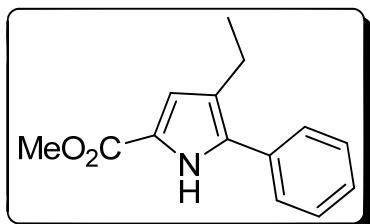
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a off-white solid in 41% yield (36 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. $R_f = .45$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 113-115 °C; **$^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz):** δ 9.18 (1H, br s), 7.33 (1H, d, $J = 5.1$ Hz), 7.23 (1H, dd, $J = 5.0, 0.8$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, $J = 3.6, 0.6$ Hz), 7.06-6.99 (4H, m), 3.88 (3H, s); **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz):** δ 161.4, 136.4, 132.4, 127.5, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.4, 125.6, 124.7, 122.1, 118.0, 116.9, 51.7; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 312.0123, Found: 312.0121; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3285, 2924, 1684, 770, 704.



methyl 4-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ak).^[4]

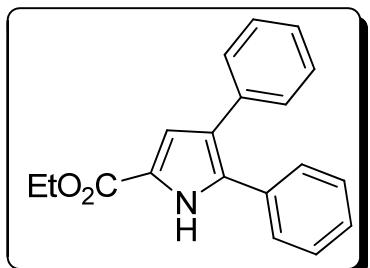
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 87% yield (56 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. $R_f = .44$ (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **$^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz):** δ 8.97 (1H, br s), 7.49-7.42 (4H, m), 7.35-7.31 (1H, m), 6.81 (1H, d, $J = 2.6$ Hz),

3.86 (3H, s), 2.26 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 161.8, 133.9, 132.2, 128.7, 127.3, 127.0, 121.0, 118.3, 118.2, 51.4, 12.4; **MS (EI)**: Calcd for C₁₃H₁₃NO₂ [M⁺] 215.09, Found: 215.



methyl 4-ethyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6al).^[5]

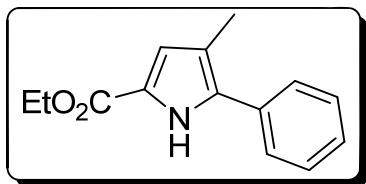
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a clear oil in 66% yield (45 mg) from **1a** (0.30mmol, 42.9 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .45 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 8.94 (1H, br s), 7.47-7.42 (4H, m), 7.36-7.32 (1H, m), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 3.86 (3H, s), 2.64 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.23 (3H, t, J = 7.6 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 161.8, 133.4, 132.3, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 125.3, 121.3, 116.1, 51.4, 19.5, 15.1; **MS (EI)**: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO₂ [M⁺] 229.27, Found: 229.



ethyl 4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ba).^[7]

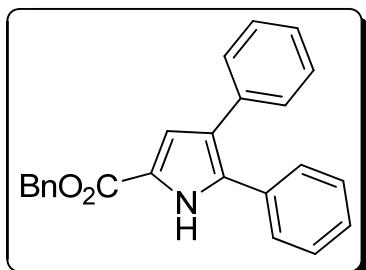
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 94% yield (82 mg) from **1b** (0.30mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 140-142 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)**: δ 9.20 (1H, br s), 7.39-7.37 (2H, m), 7.35-7.28 (7H, m), 7.24-7.21 (1H, m), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 4.34 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.38 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)**: δ 161.5, 135.4, 133.5, 131.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 126.2,

124.0, 122.4, 116.7, 60.5, 14.4; **MS (EI):** Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₂ [M⁺] 291.13, Found: 291.



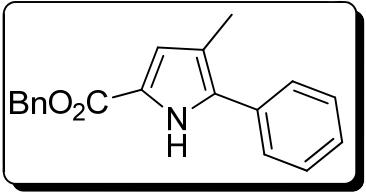
ethyl 4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6bk).^[8]

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 85% yield (58 mg) from **1b** (0.30mmol, 47.1 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .45 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 104-106 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 9.00 (1H, br s), 7.49-7.42 (4H, m), 7.35-7.31 (1H, m), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 2.5 Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.36 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 161.5, 133.8, 132.3, 128.6, 127.2, 127.1, 121.4, 118.2, 118.0, 60.2, 14.4, 12.4; **MS (EI):** Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO₂ [M⁺] 229.11, Found: 229.



benzyl 4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ca).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 92% yield (97 mg) from **1c** (0.30mmol, 58.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .40 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 171-173 °C; **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz):** δ 9.27 (1H, br s), 7.45-7.36 (7H, m), 7.35-7.28 (7H, m), 7.24-7.21 (1H, m), 7.13 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz), 5.33 (2H, s), ; **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 161.2, 136.0, 135.3, 133.8, 131.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.08, 128.06, 127.9, 126.3, 124.1, 122.0, 117.2, 66.1; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 376.1308, Found: 376.1305; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3294, 2953, 1681, 1454, 764.



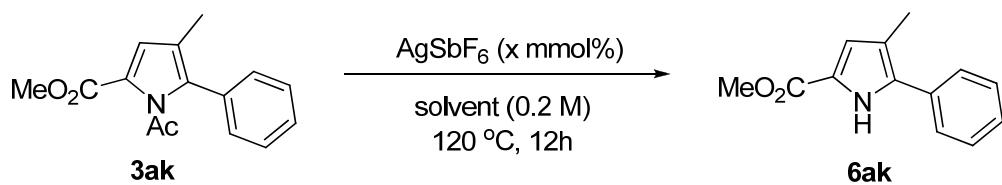
benzyl 4-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (6ck).

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/20 to 1/15) as a white solid in 67% yield (58 mg) from **1c** (0.30mmol, 58.8 mg, 1.0 equiv.) following the general procedure C. R_f = .47 (10:1 Hexanes/EtOAc); m.p.: 141-143 °C;

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.96 (1H, br s), 7.49-7.31 (10H, m), 6.86 (1H, d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 5.32 (2H, s), 2.25 (3H, s); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz):** δ 161.1, 136.2, 134.1, 132.2, 128.7, 128.5, 128.11, 128.05, 127.4, 127.0, 121.0, 118.5, 118.4, 65.9, 12.4; **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 314.1152, Found: 314.1152; **IR (cm⁻¹):** ν 3309, 2951, 1690, 1462, 766.

Mechanistic Experiments

Transformation of pyrroles 3 to decarboxylated pyrroles 6



entry	AgSbF ₆ (x mmol%)	solvent	yield (%)
1	0.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	55
2	20.0	DCE	34
3	20.0	MeOH/DCE (2:1)	98

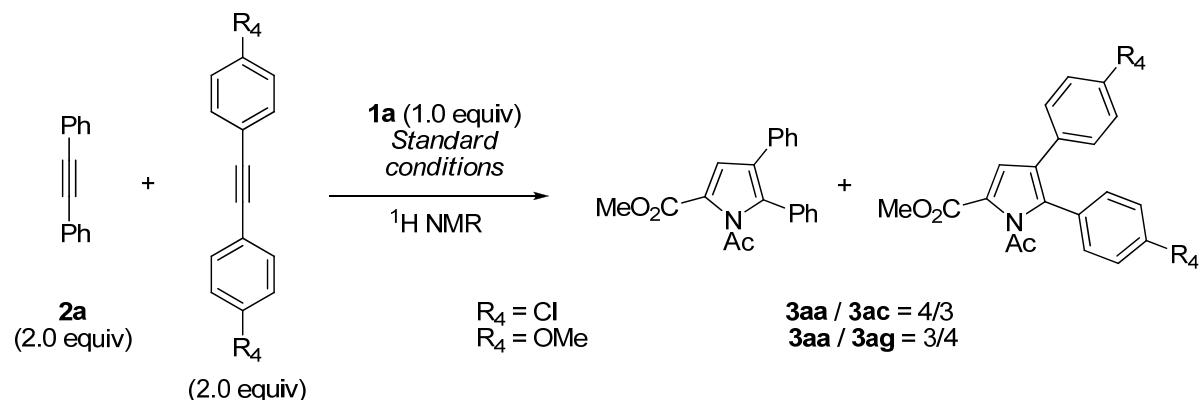
The pyrrole (**3ak**) (0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and AgSbF₆ (14.0 mg, 0.04 mmol, 20 mmol %) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. A mixture solution of dry MeOH and DCE (MeOH/DCE, 2:1, 1.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours under Ar atmosphere, which afforded the **6ak** with 98 % yield by column chromatography.

When reaction was operated under the same reaction condition without AgSbF₆ only afforded **6ak** in 55 % yield.

When reaction was operated in DCE afforded **6ak** in 34 % yield.

These experiments suggest that both AgSbF₆ and MeOH play key factors during pyrrole decarboxylation.

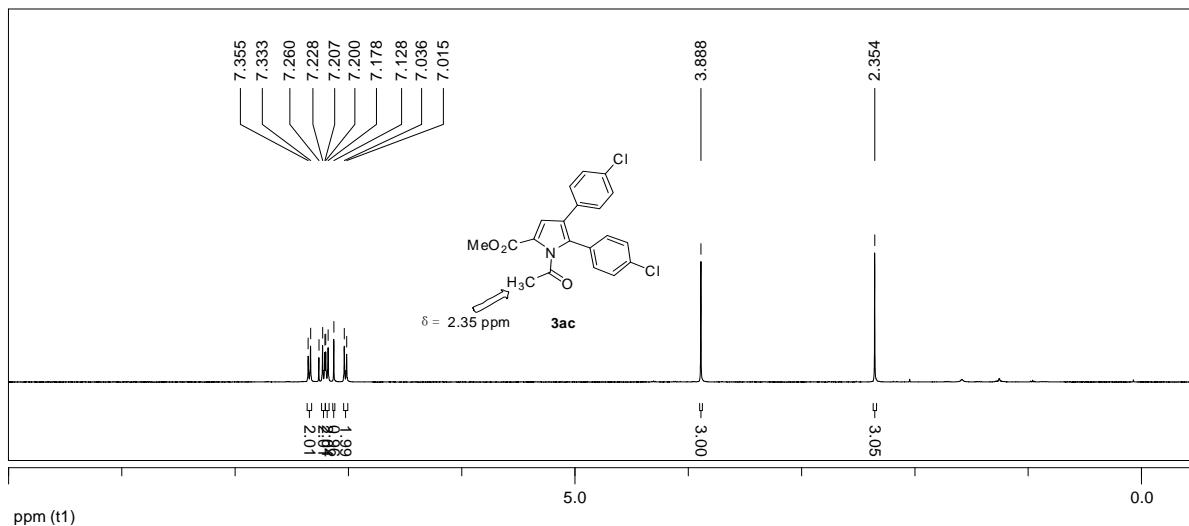
Competition Experiments: with electronically different Alkynes



A mixture of the enamide (**1a**) (28.7 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), diphenyl acetylene (**2a**) (71.2 mg, 0.40 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), another alkyne (0.40 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (6.1 mg, 0.010 mmol, 5.0 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (20.0 mg, 0.10 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCE (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and filtered through a short pad of silica. The solid was washed with CH_2Cl_2 , the combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure. The mixture was dissolved in CDCl_3 carefully and measured ^1H NMR.

A) Using bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-ethyne (**2c**) as another alkyne:

Bis-(4-chlorophenyl)-ethyne (**2c**) was added (98.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) (Figure 1).



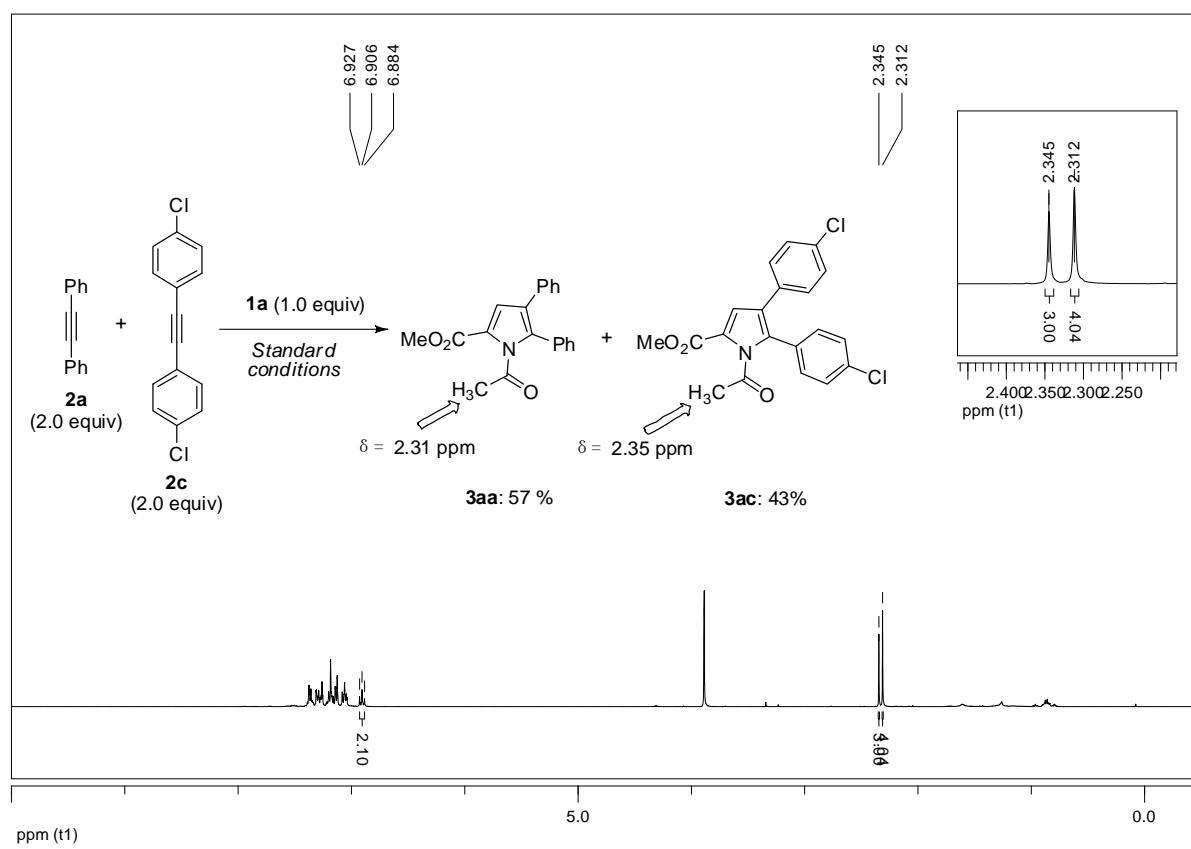
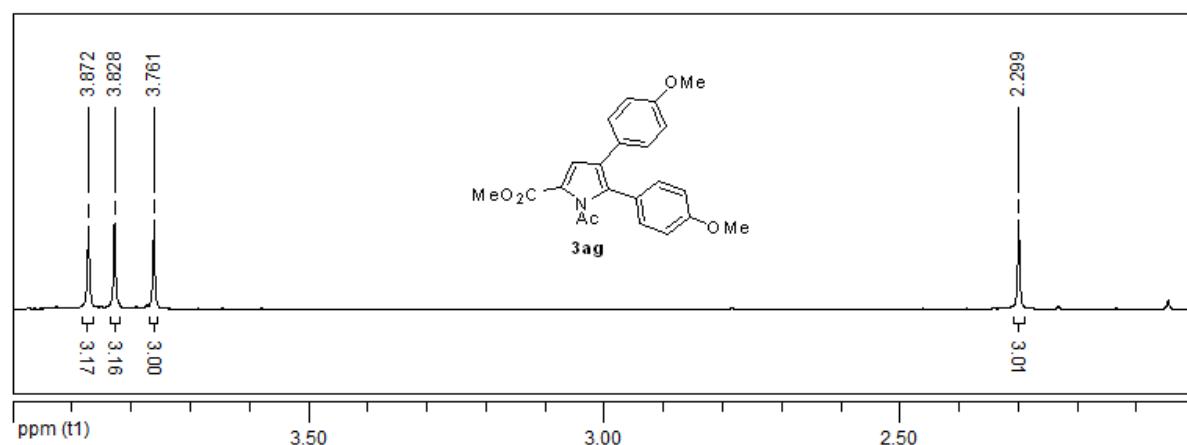


Figure 1: Competition reaction between **2a** and **2b** keeping limiting amount of **1a**

B) Using bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-ethyne (**2g**) as another alkyne:

Bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)-ethyne (**2g**) was added (95.2 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) (Figure 2).



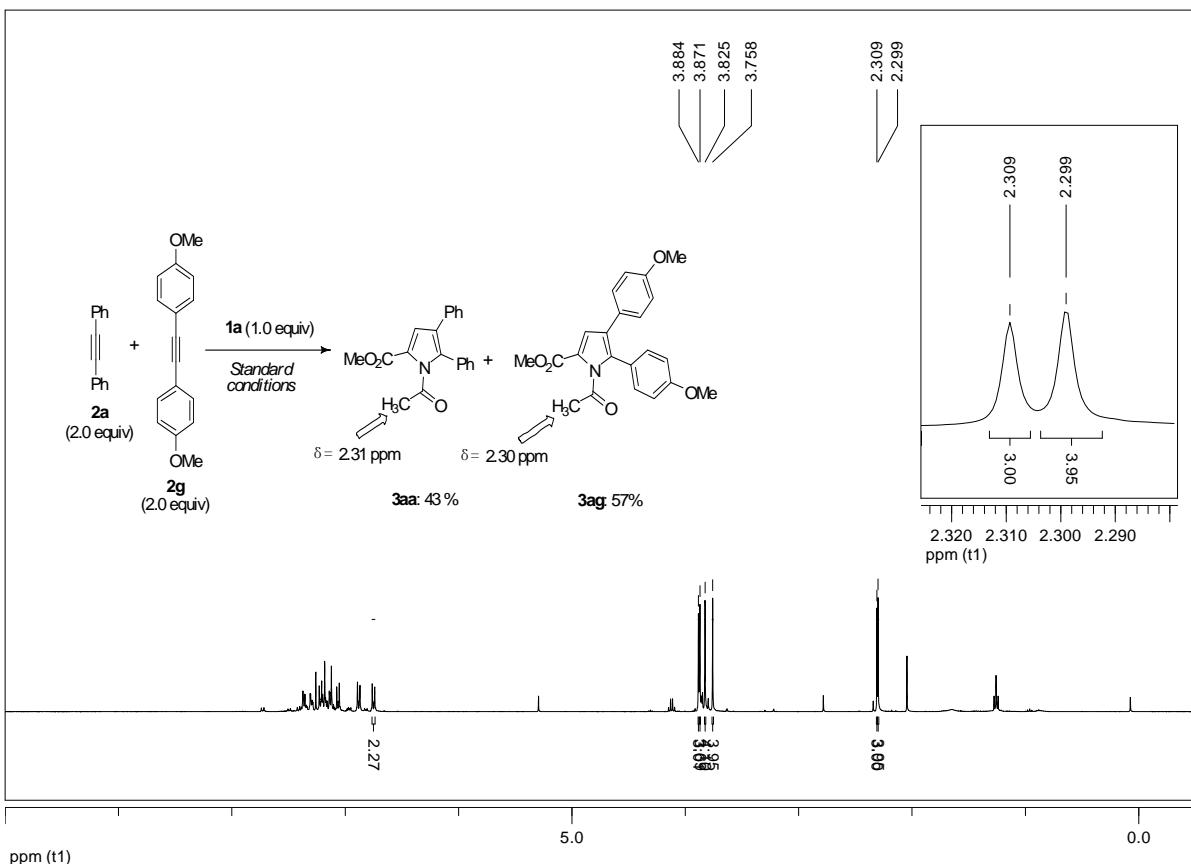


Figure 2: Competition reaction between **2a** and **2g** keeping limiting amount of **1a**

Reaction with and without oxidant:

A) General Procedure D (reaction without $\text{Cu(OAc)}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$)

A mixture of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**1a**) (42.9 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), diphenyl acetylene (**2a**) (58.8 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), NaOAc, and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCE (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 hours under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and transferred to a round bottom flask, then was concentrated under reduced pressure. The mixture was dissolved in CDCl_3 carefully and measured ^1H NMR.

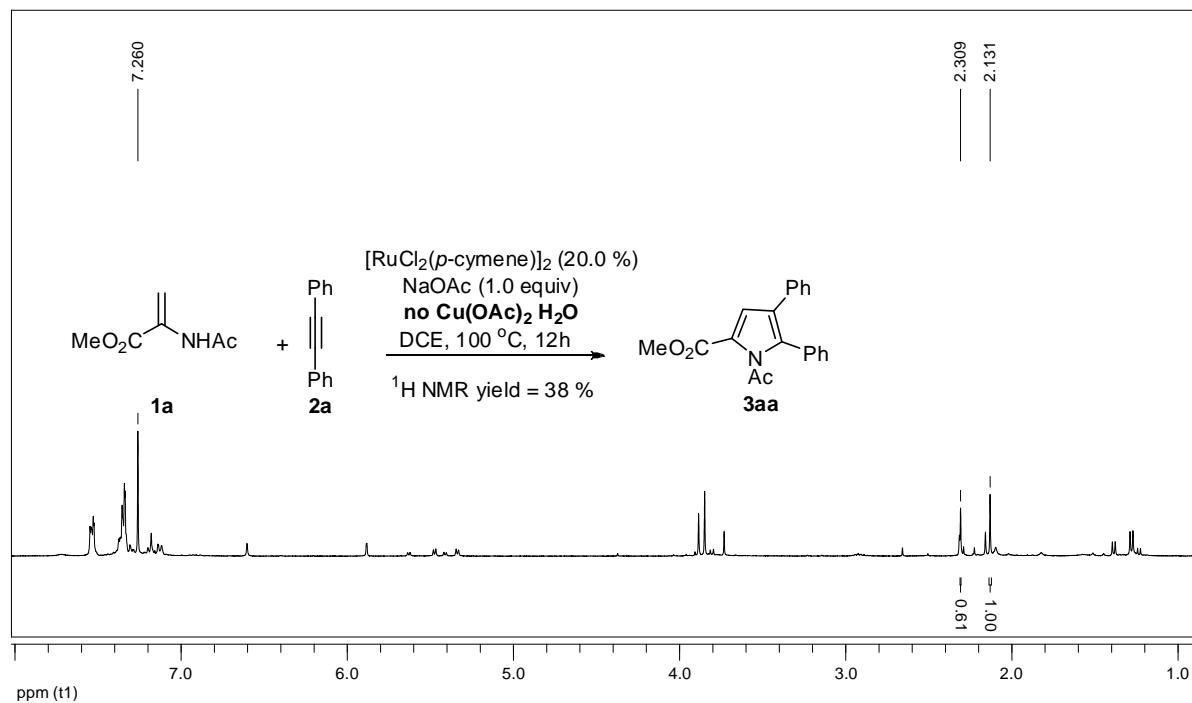
B) General Procedure E: for reaction with $\text{Cu(OAc)}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

A mixture of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (**1a**) (42.9 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), diphenyl acetylene (**2a**) (58.8 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), NaOAc, and $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCE (1.5 mL) was added and

the mixture was stirred at 100 °C under Ar atmosphere. After 12 hours the solution was cooled to approx. 80 °C and Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (30mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) was added under a stream of argon. The solution was again dipped into a preheated oil bath at 100 °C and stirred. After 10 hours, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and transferred to a round bottom flask, then was concentrated under reduced pressure. The mixture was dissolved in CDCl₃ carefully and measured ¹H NMR.

I) Using 20 % [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂:

By following general procedure D, using NaOAc (24.6 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (36.8 mg, 0.060 mmol, 20.0 mol %), we have observed 38% ¹H NMR yield. But the same set up using 0.5 equiv. of Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (by following general procedure E) we have observed 100 % ¹H NMR yield (Figure 3).



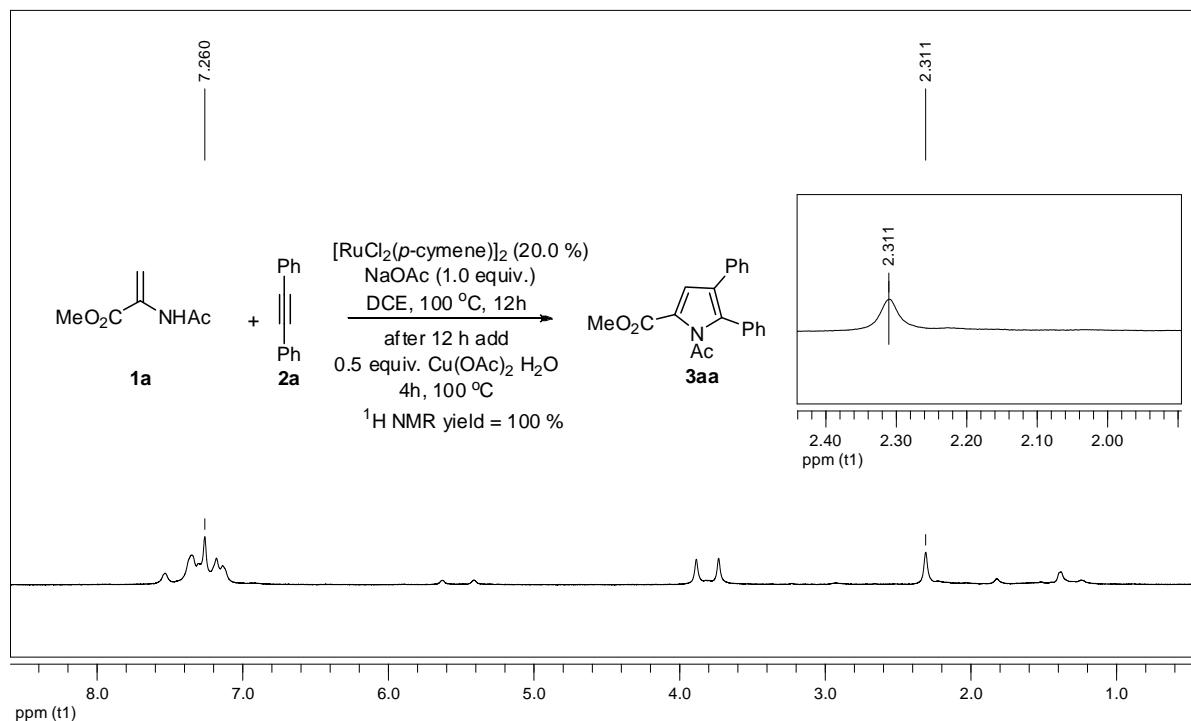
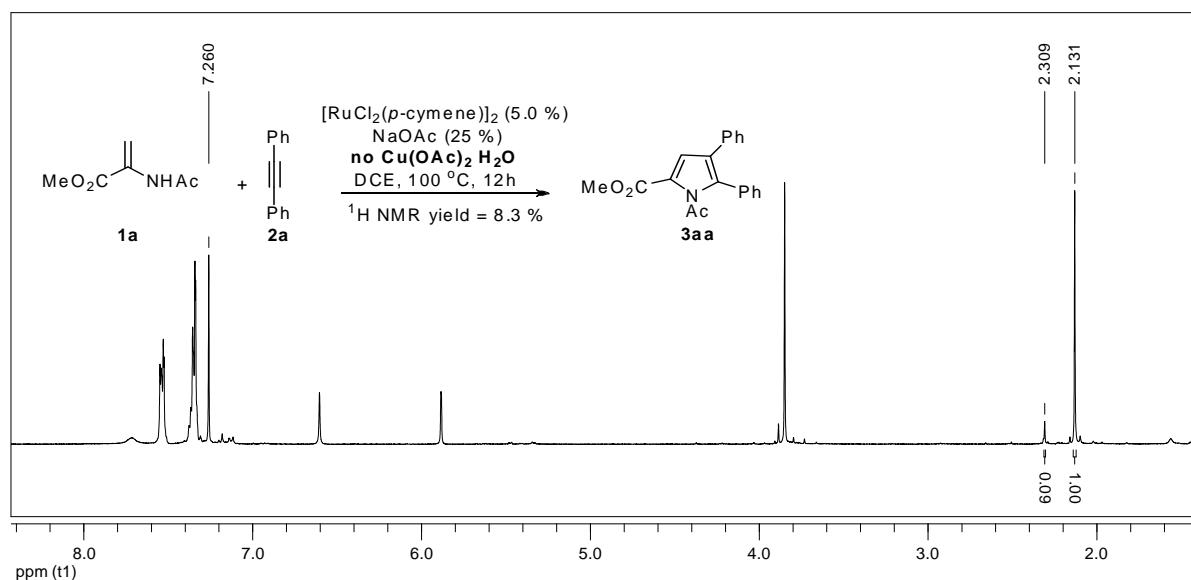


Figure 3: ¹H NMR spectra of crude reaction mixture comparison with SM (**1a**) and product (**3aa**)

II) Using 5.0 mol% [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂:

By following general procedure D, using NaOAc (6.2 mg, 0.075 mmol, 20 mol %) and [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (9.1 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5.0 mol %), we have observed 8% ¹H NMR yield. But the same set up using 0.5 equiv. of Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (by following general procedure E) we have observed 100% ¹H NMR yield (Figure 4).



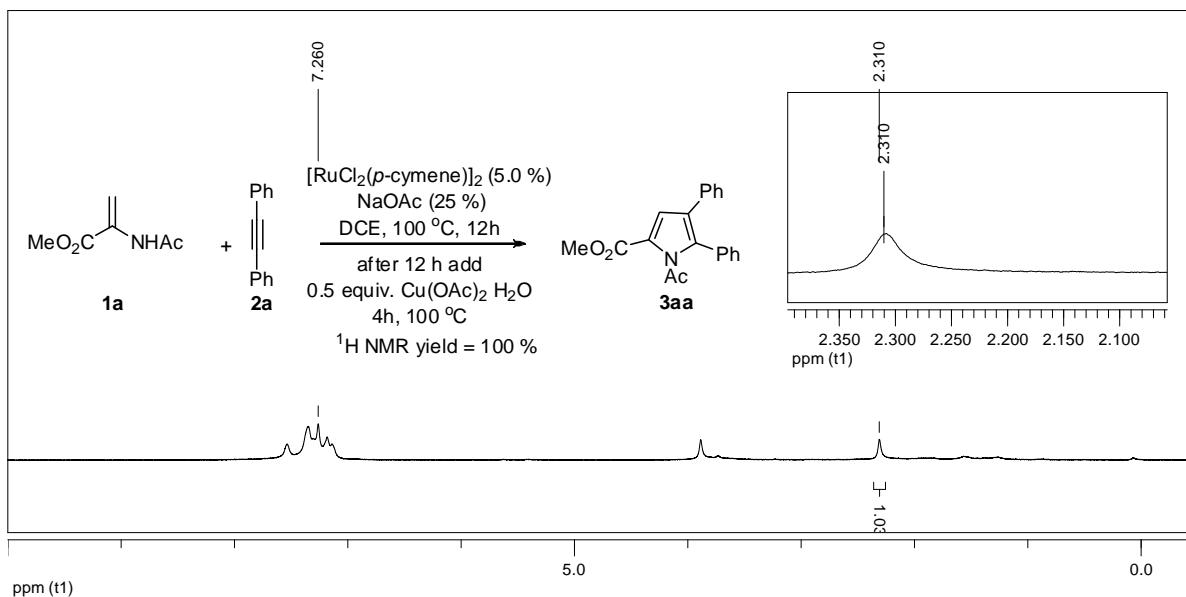


Figure 4: ¹H NMR spectra of crude reaction mixture comparison with SM (**1a**) and product (**3aa**)

These two experiments suggest that Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O does not play any role to form the product. Cu(OAc)₂ just acts as reoxidant for Ru(I) to achieve turn over in catalytic cycle (Figure 5).

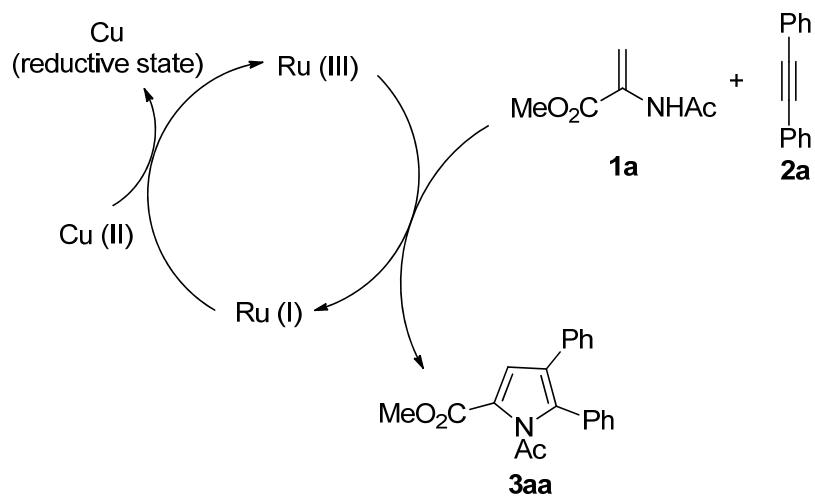


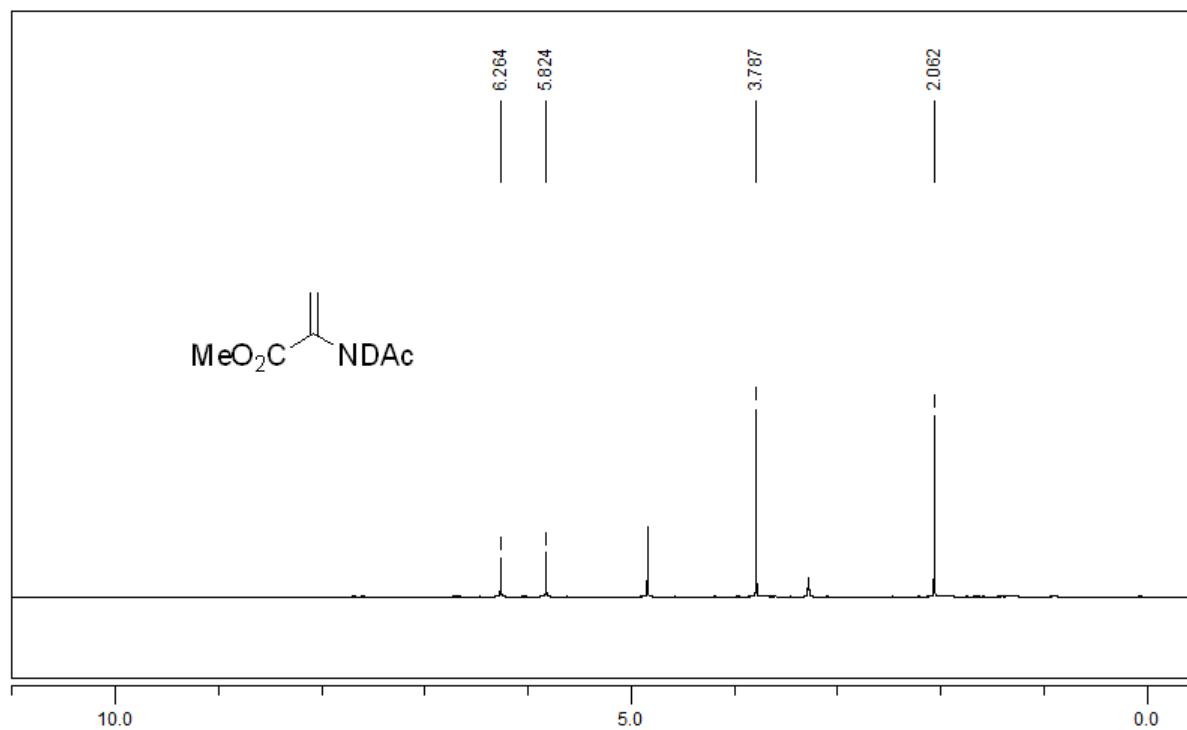
Figure 5: Role of Cu(II)-salt

Deuterium Experiments :

I) Deuteration Experiments without Ru catalyst

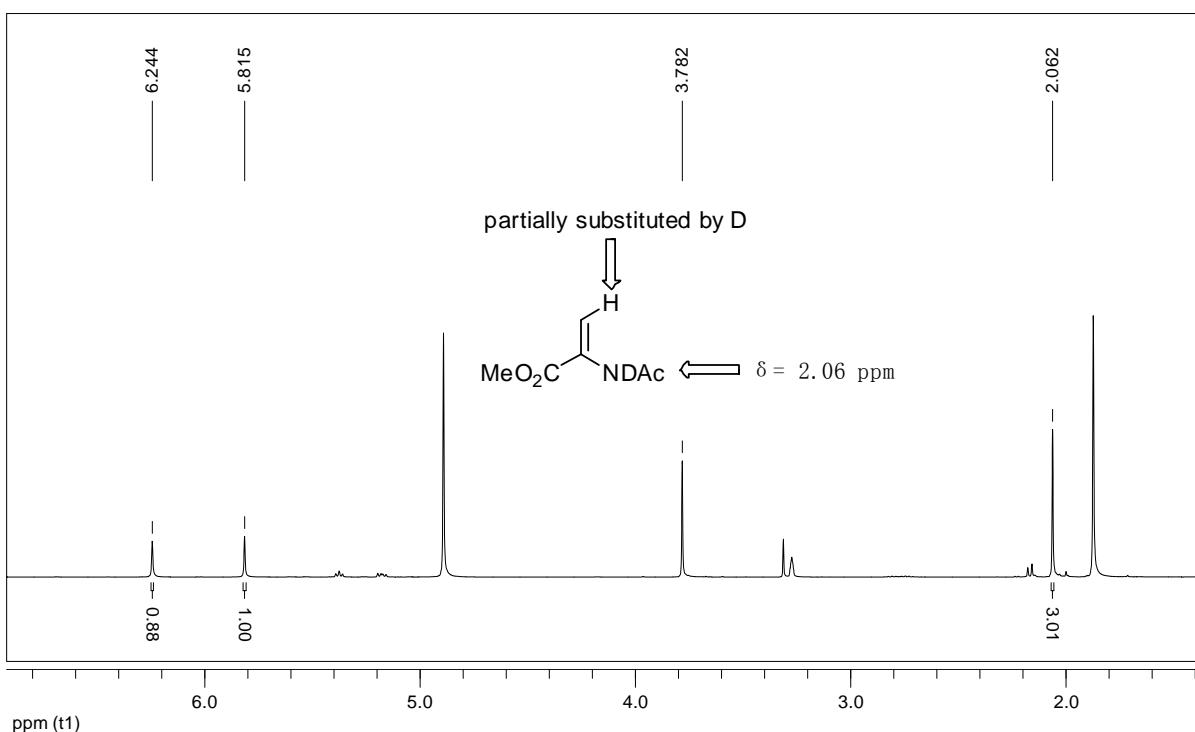
Enamine (**1a**) (22.8 mg, 0.1591 mmol) was submitted to 1 ml dry CD₃OD. The solution was

then stirred at 70 °C for 12 hours. The crude mixture was transferred to the NMR tube under argon atmosphere. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ = 6.26 (1H, s, CH_{olefin}), 5.82 (1H, s, CH_{olefin}), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.06 (3H, s, Ac). Note: the NH signal is absent due to deuteration.

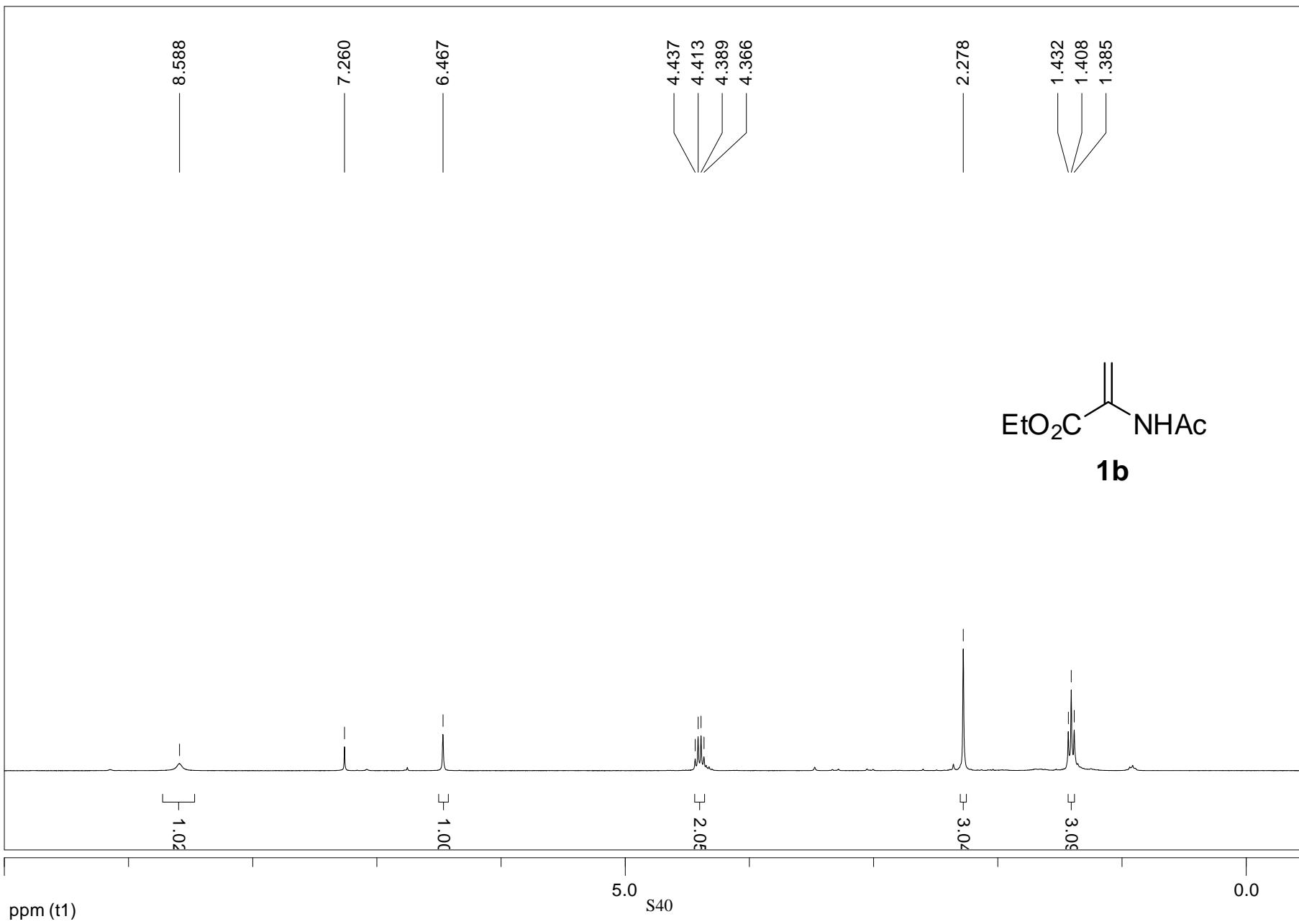


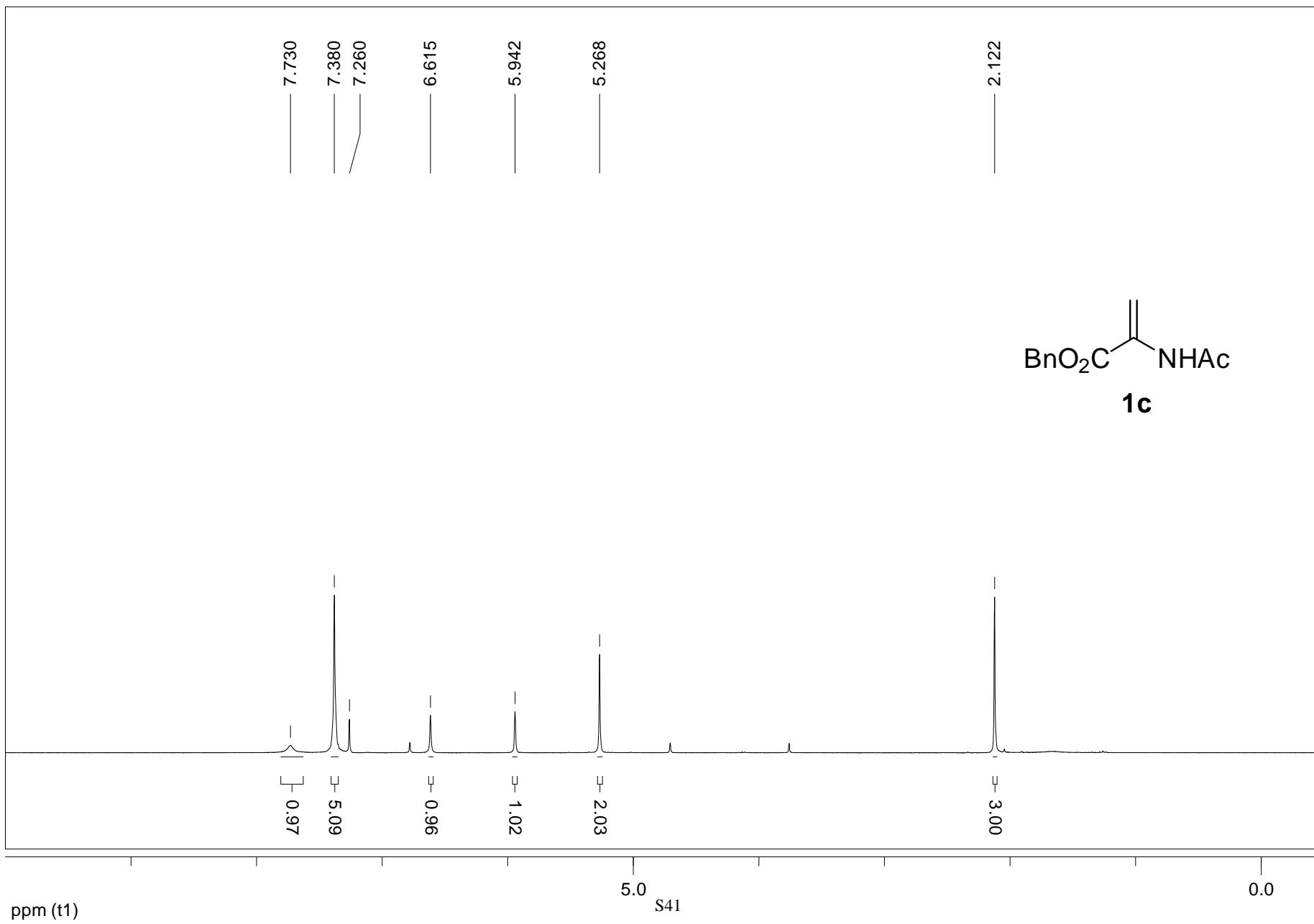
II) Deuteration Experiments with Ru catalyst:

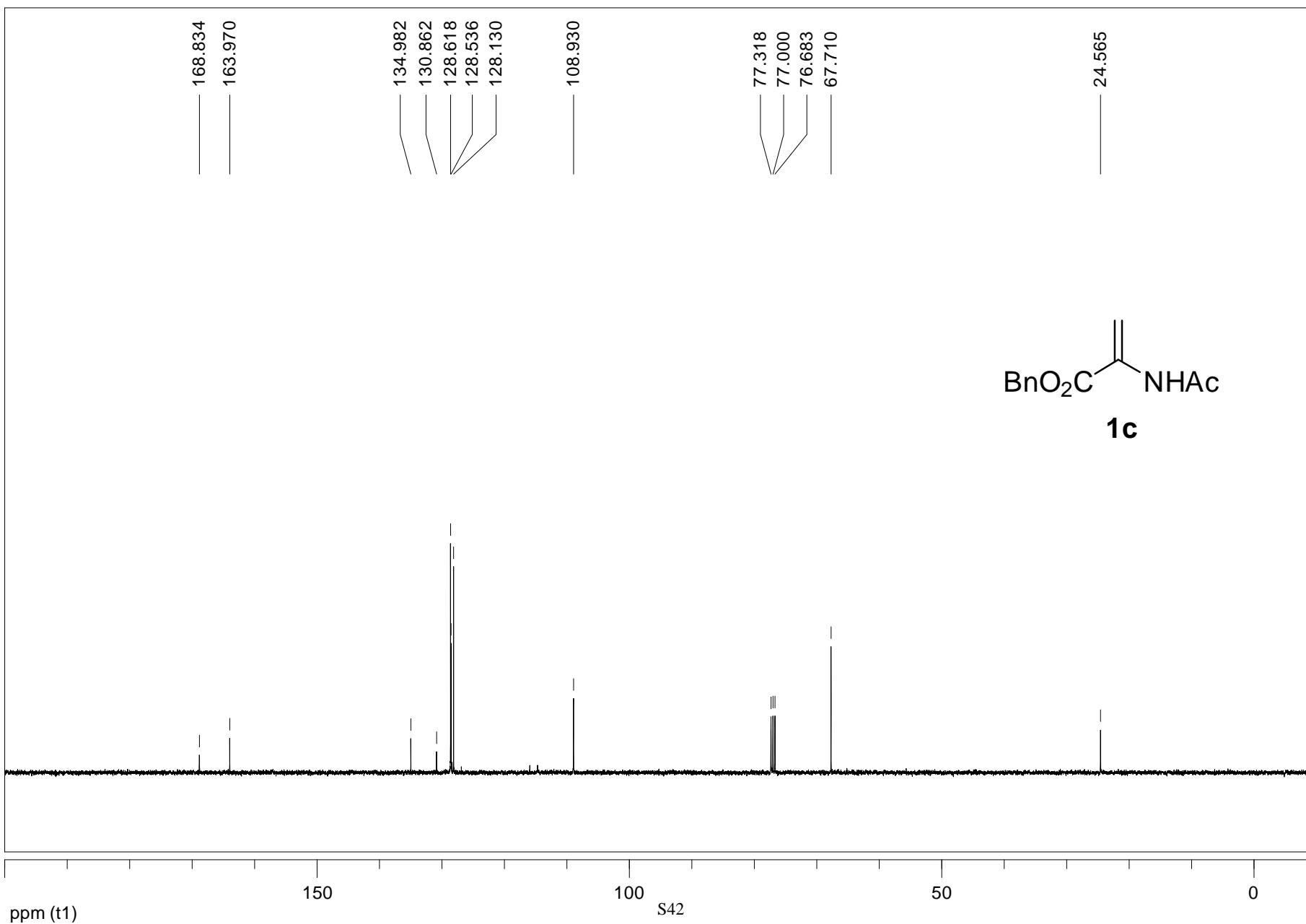
Enamine (**1a**) (22.8 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (9.8 mg, 0.008 mmol, 5.0 mol %) and NaOAc (13.1 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar and dry CD₃OD (1.0 mL) was then added. The solution was then stirred at 70 °C for 12 hours. The crude mixture was transferred to the NMR tube under argon atmosphere. **We found 12% deuterium incorporation at the CH_{olefin}** (see below). **This experiment suggests that under the reaction conditions C-H insertion is probably irreversible.**

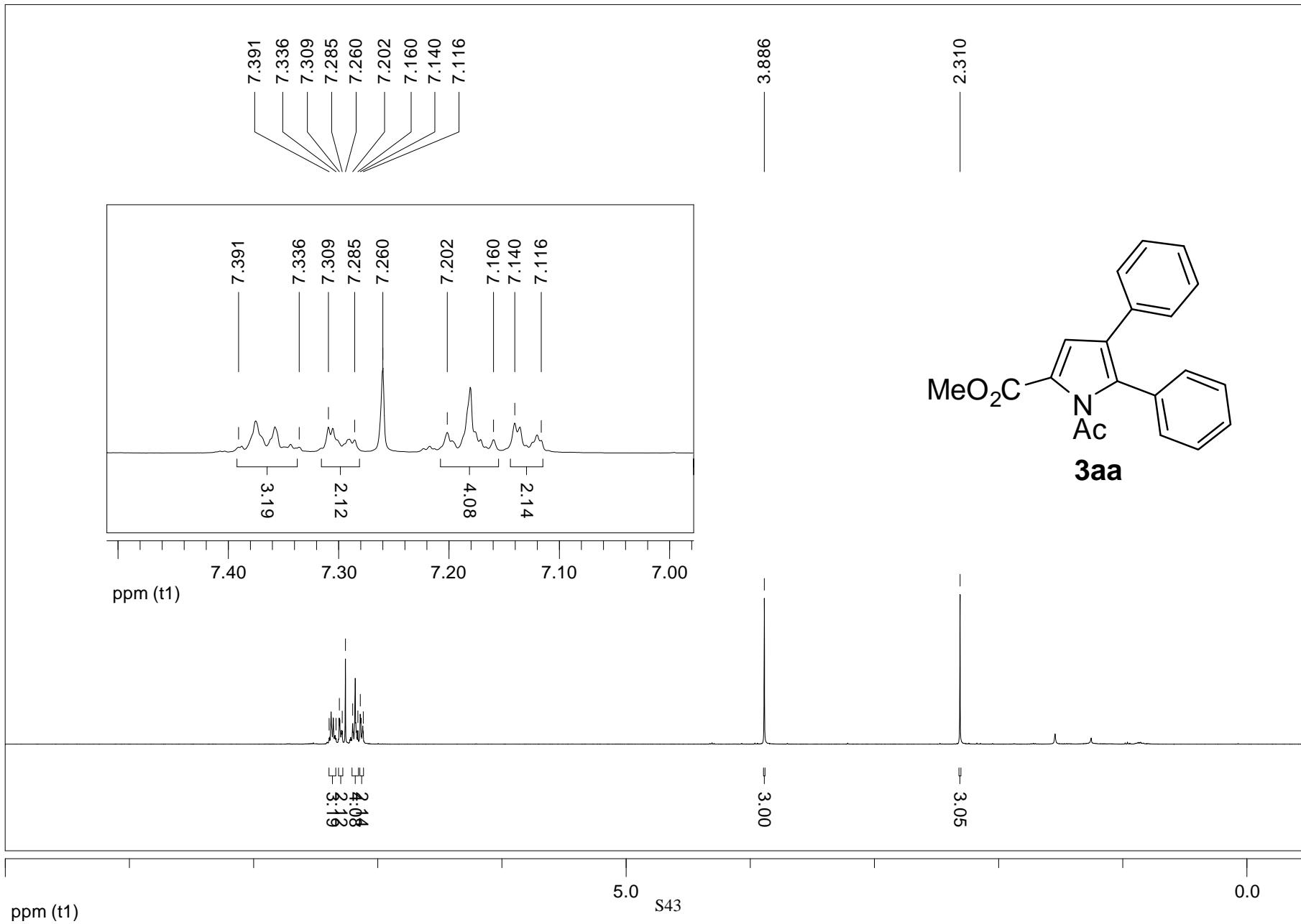


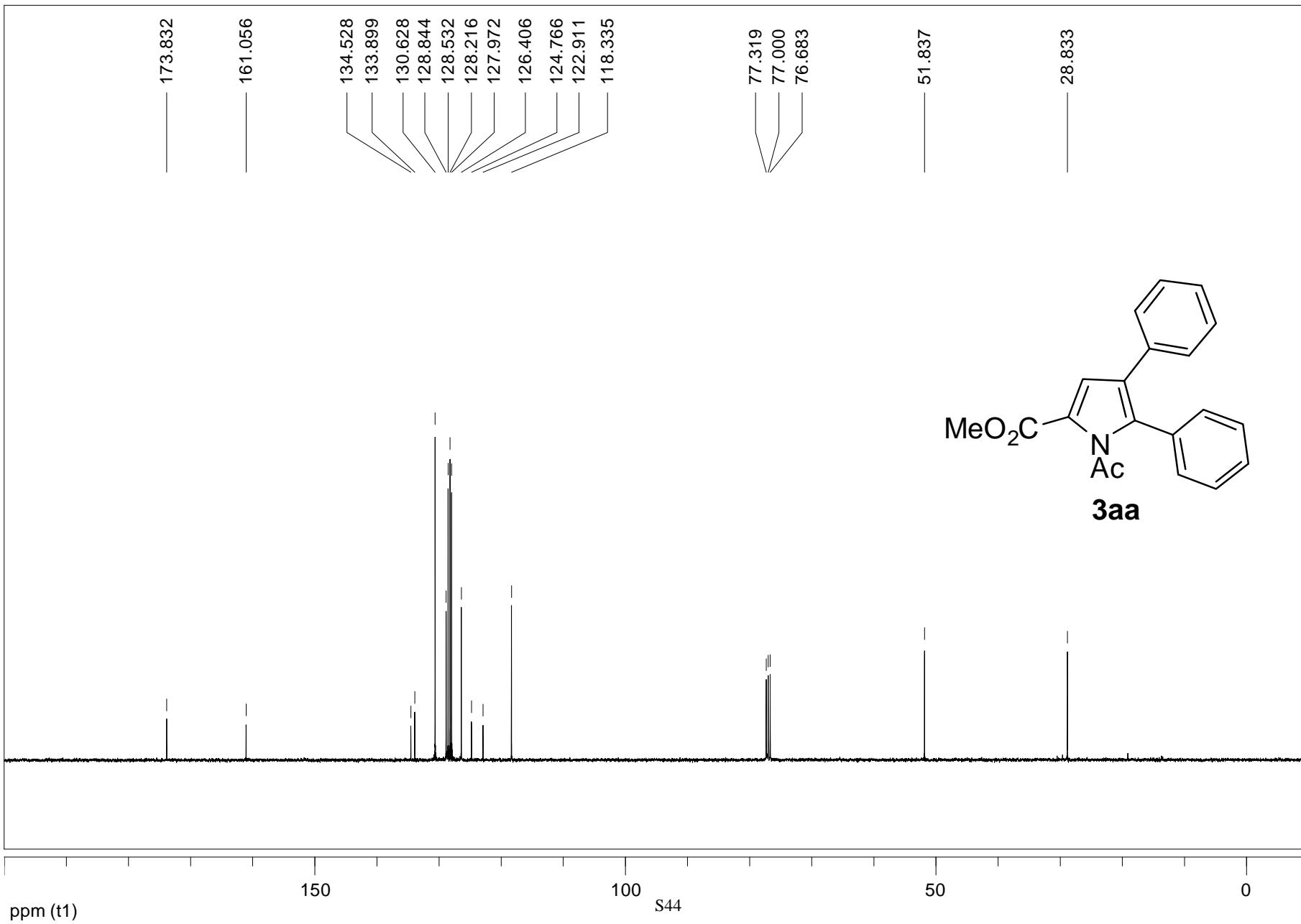
Spectral Copies of ^1H , ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F of Compounds Obtained in this Study

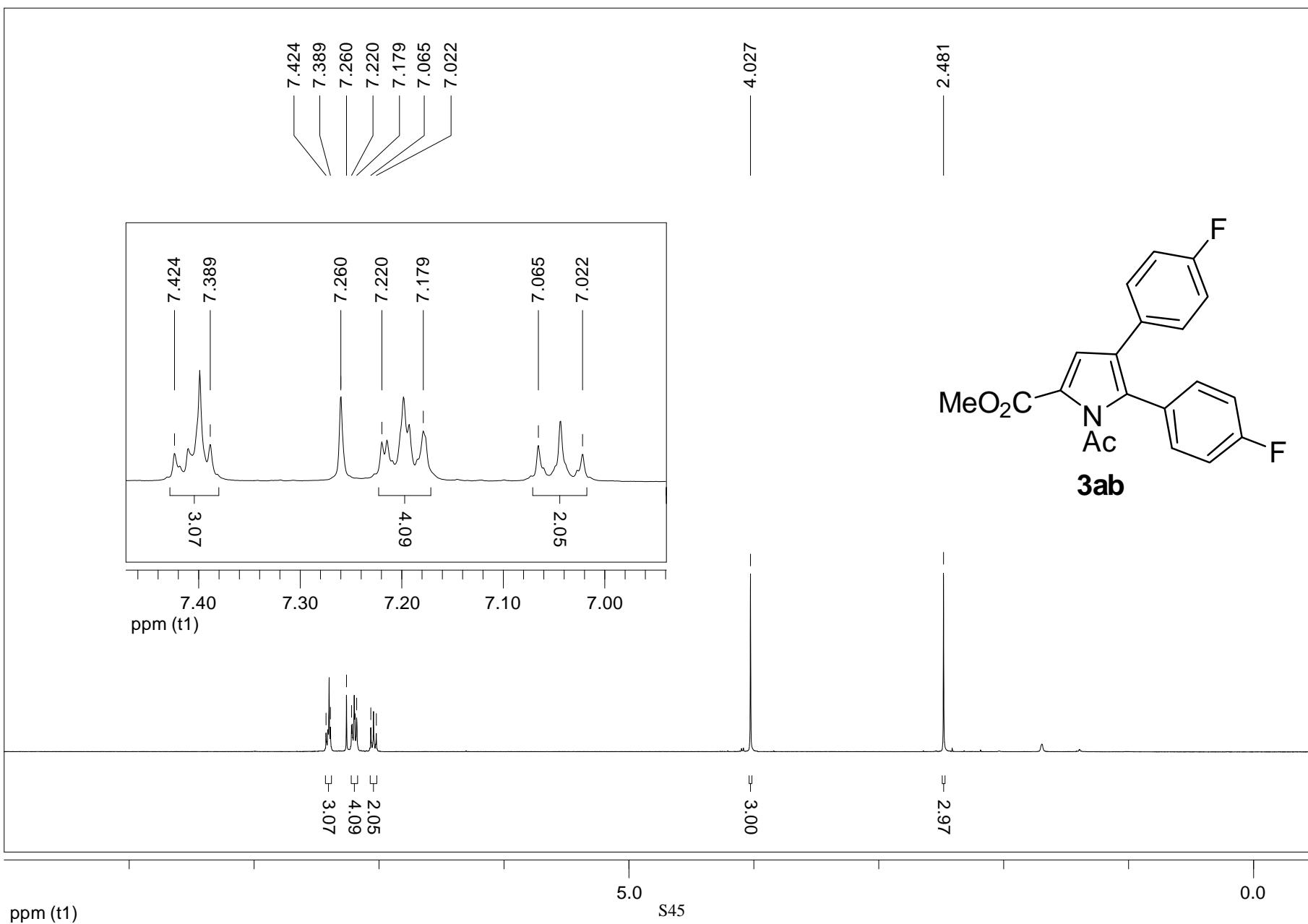


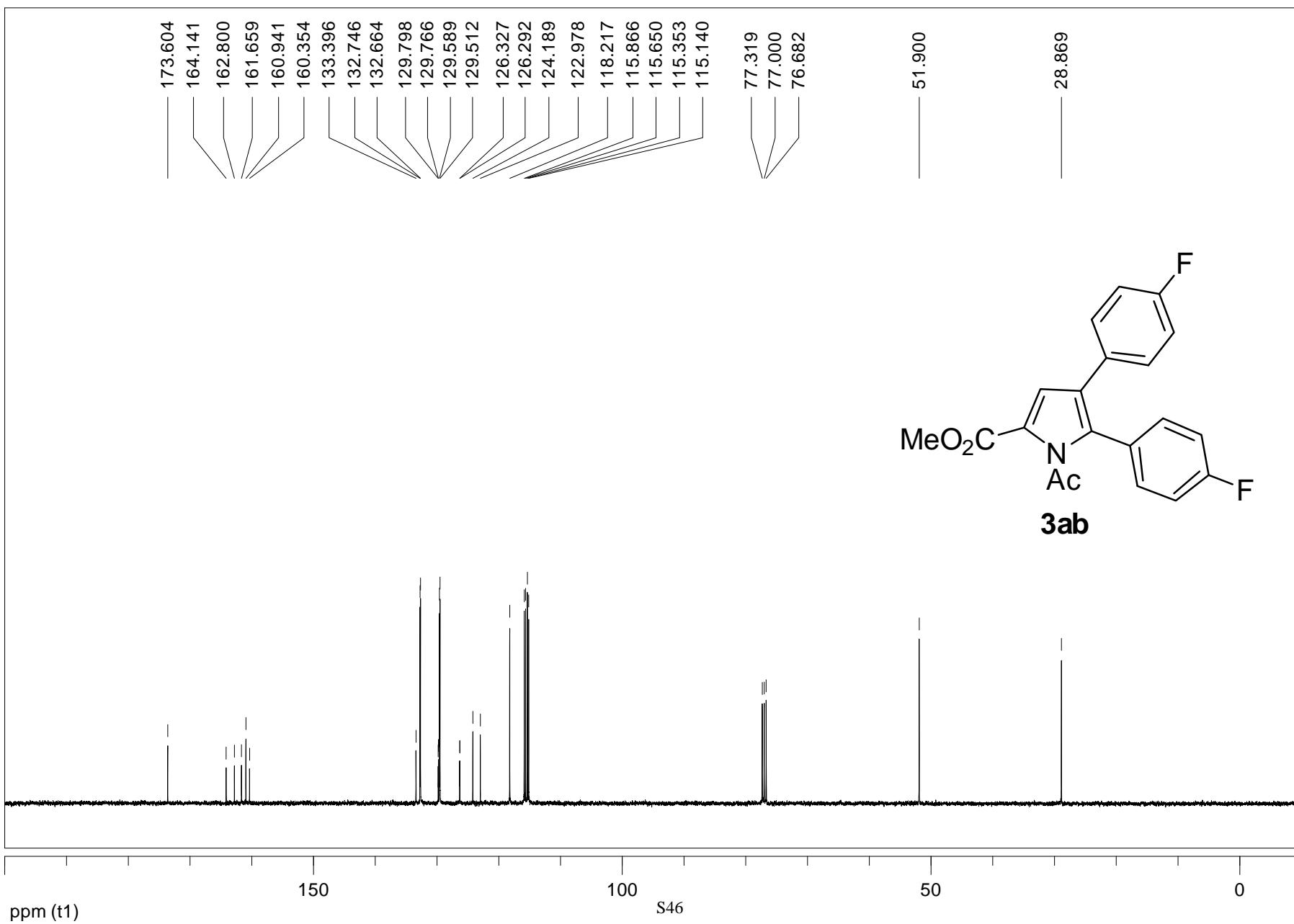


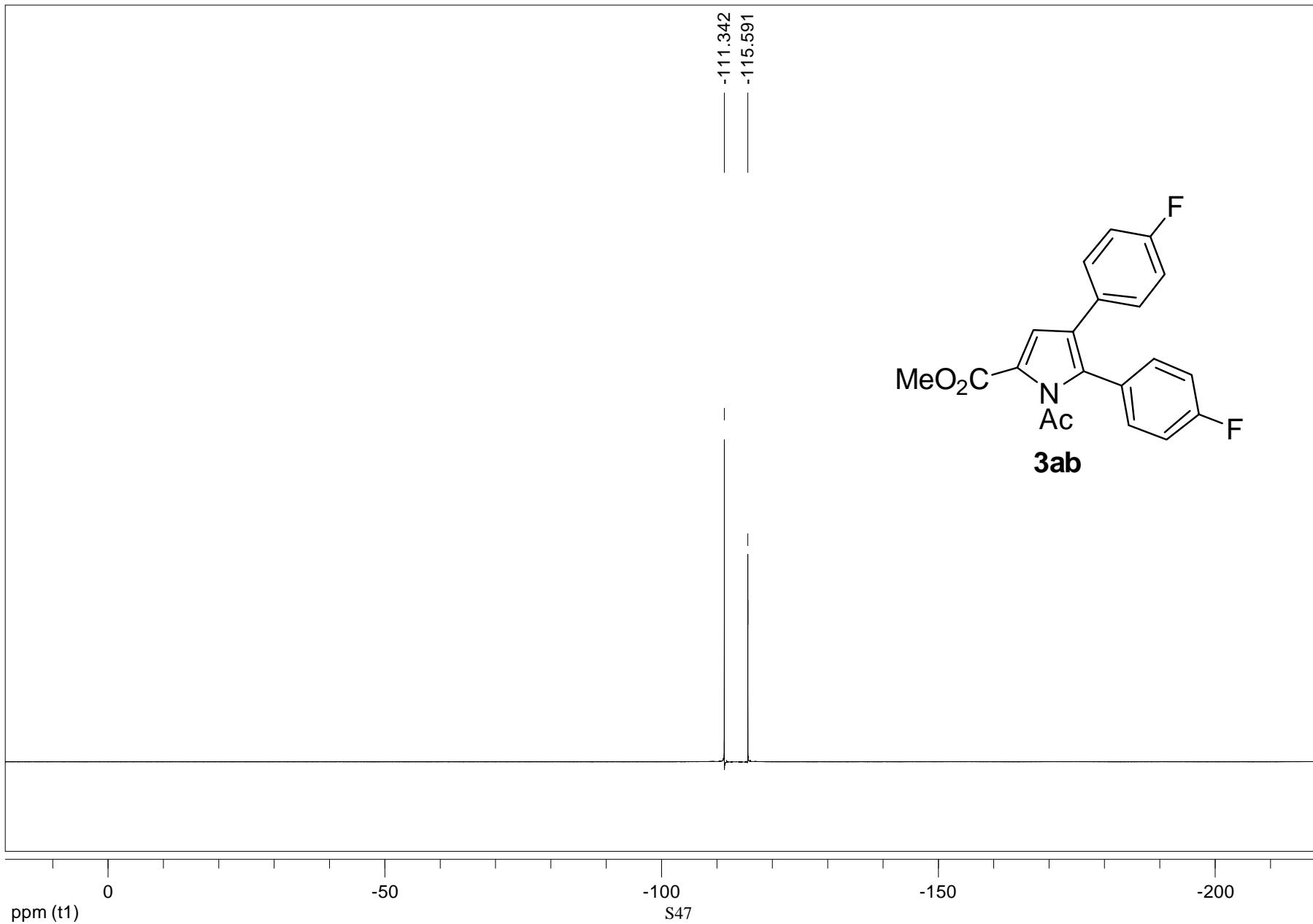


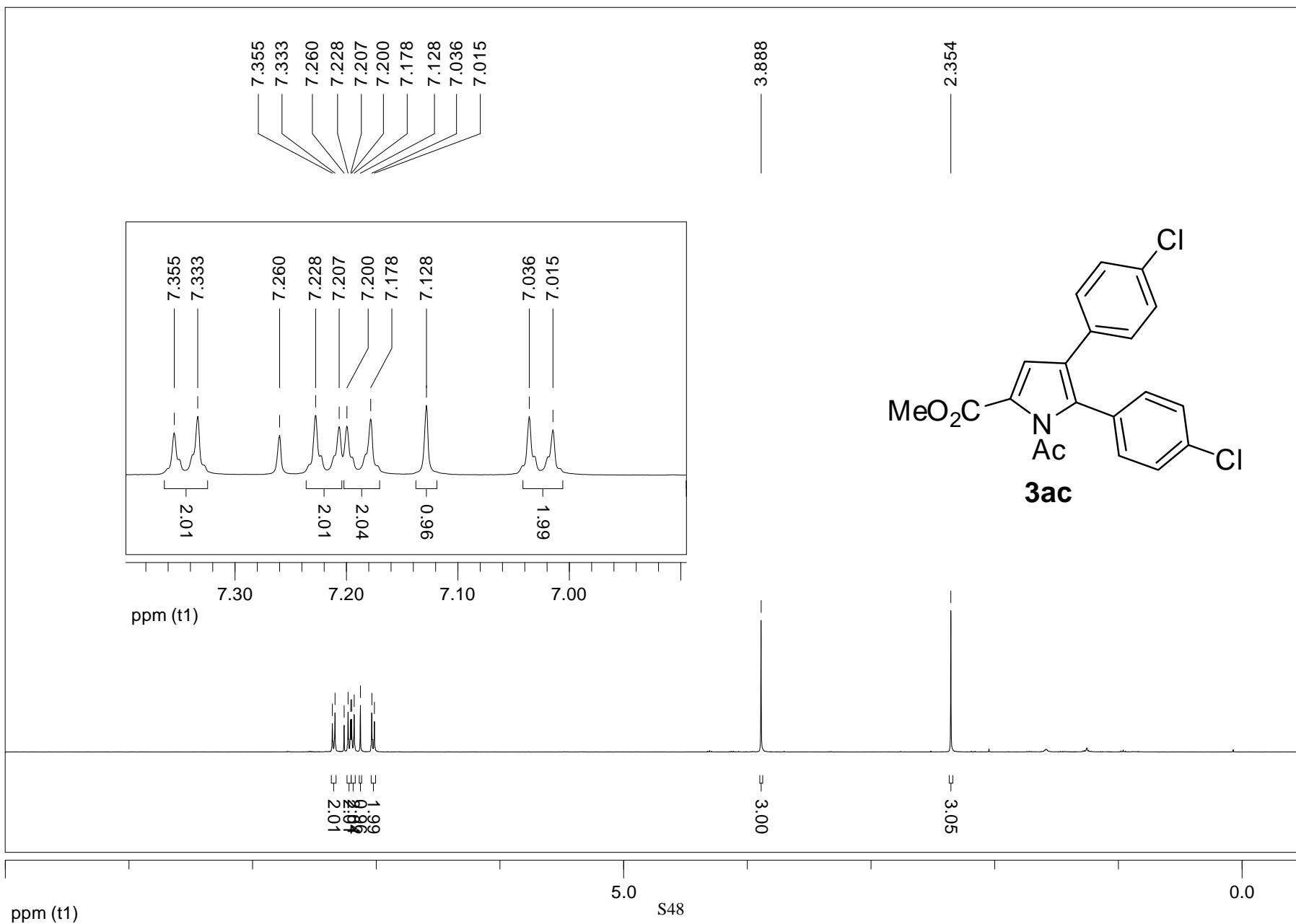


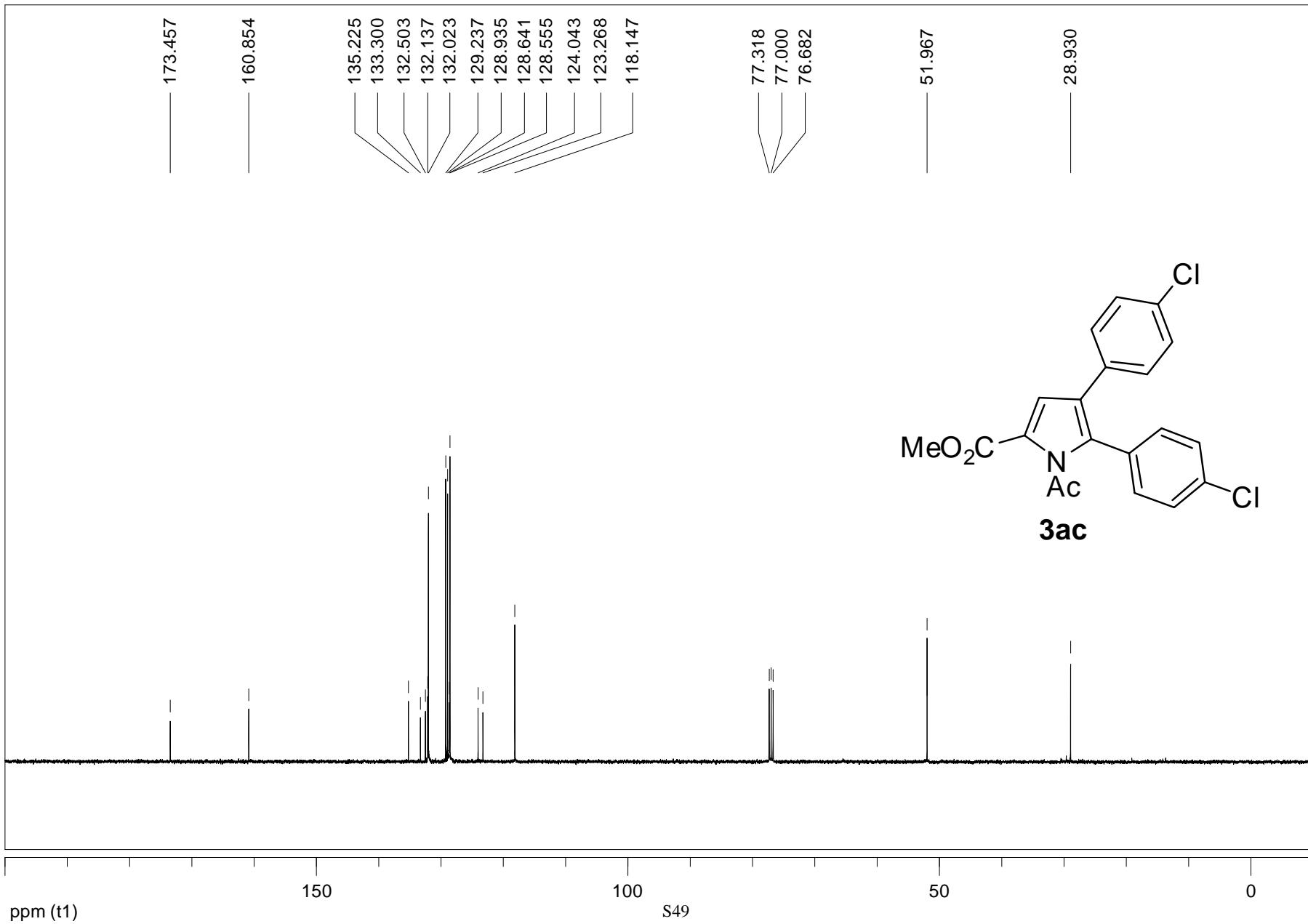


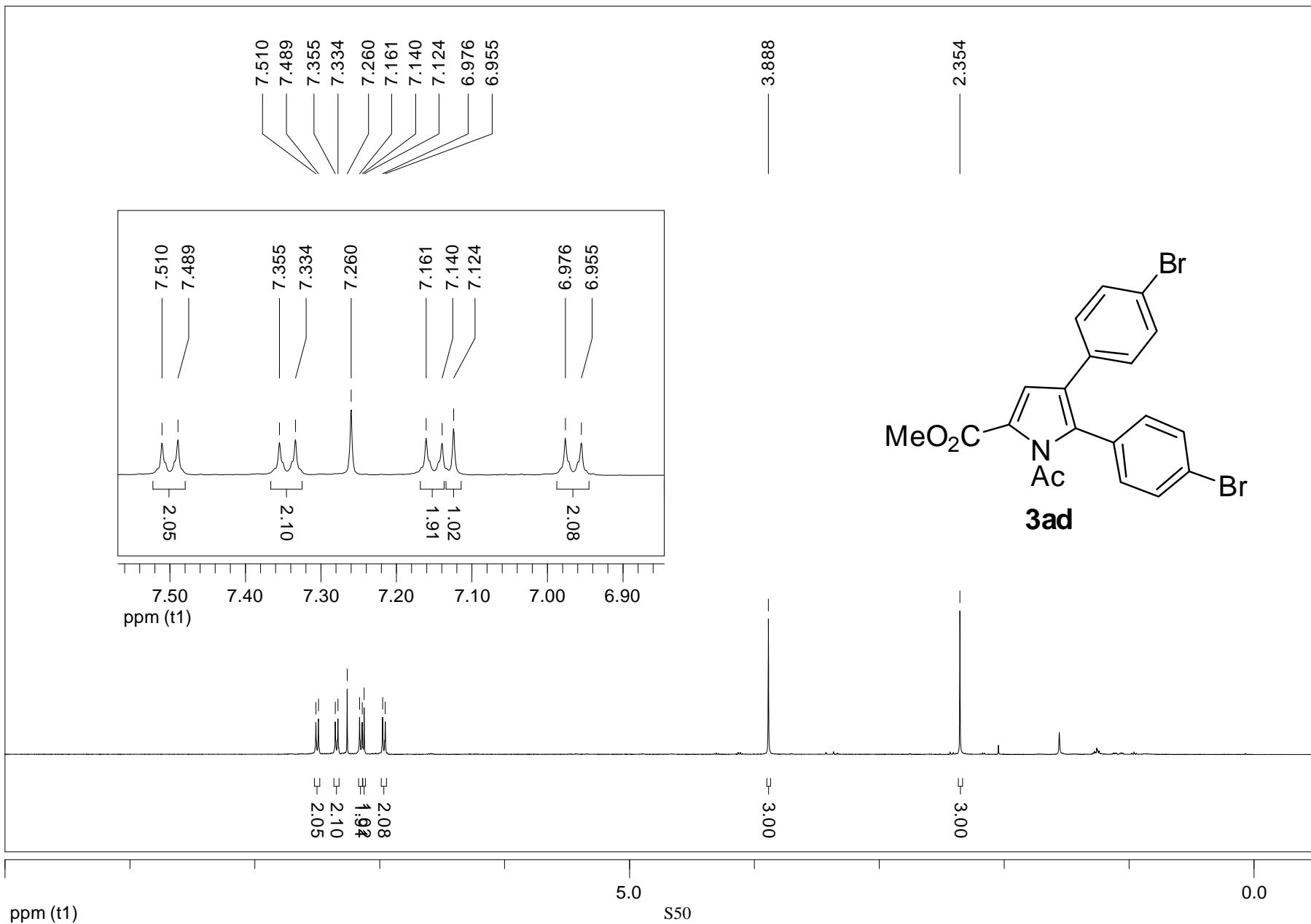


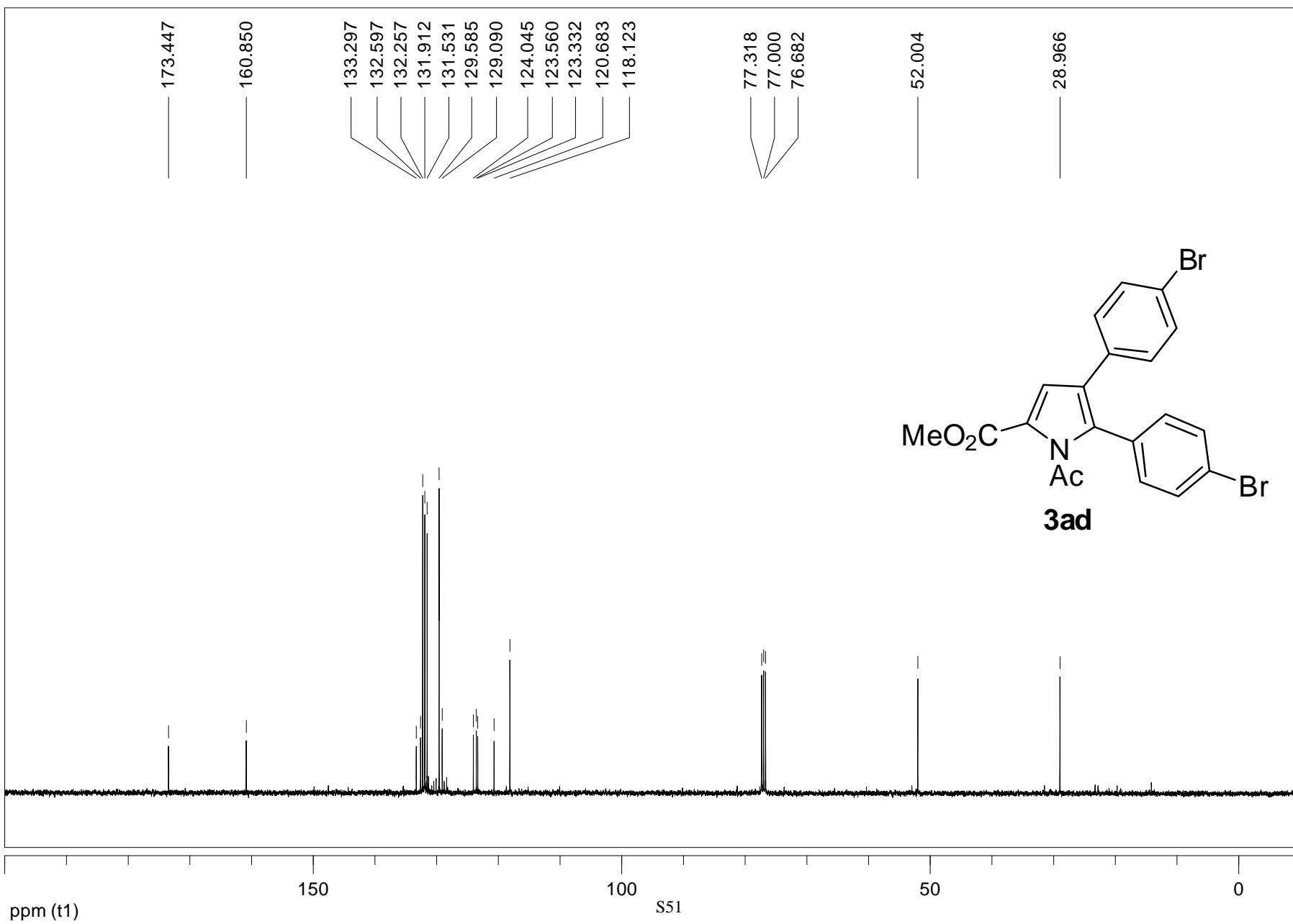


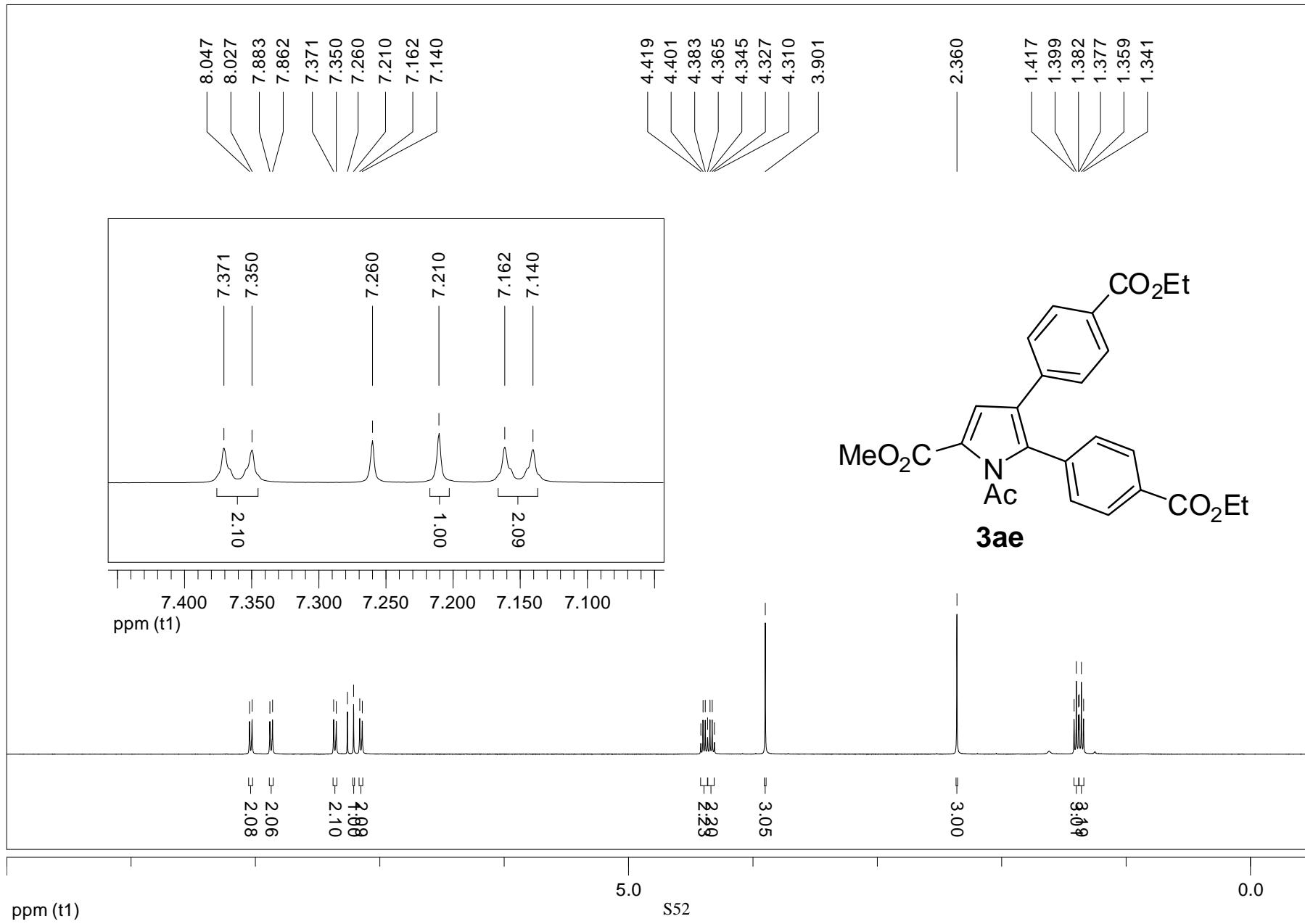


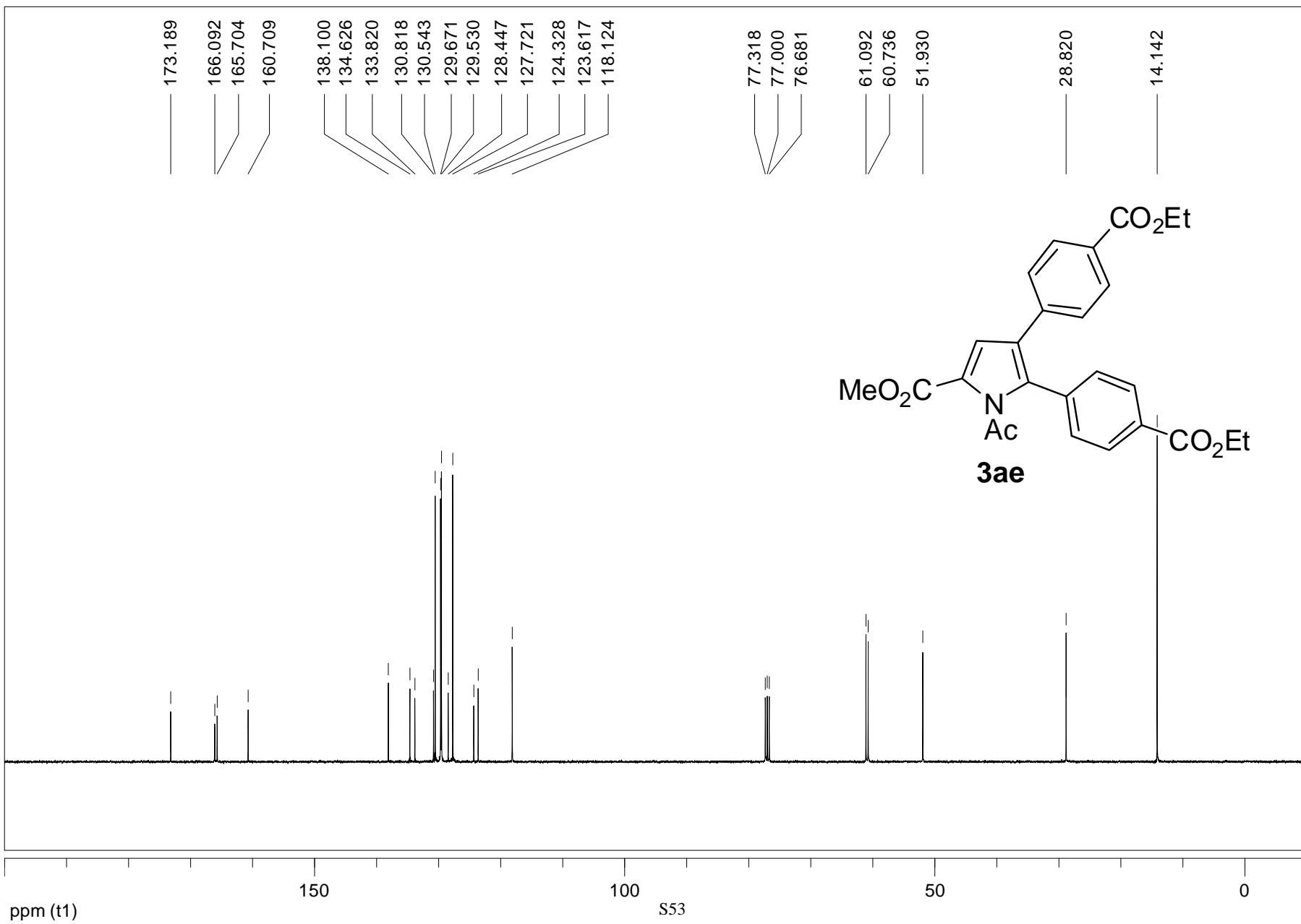


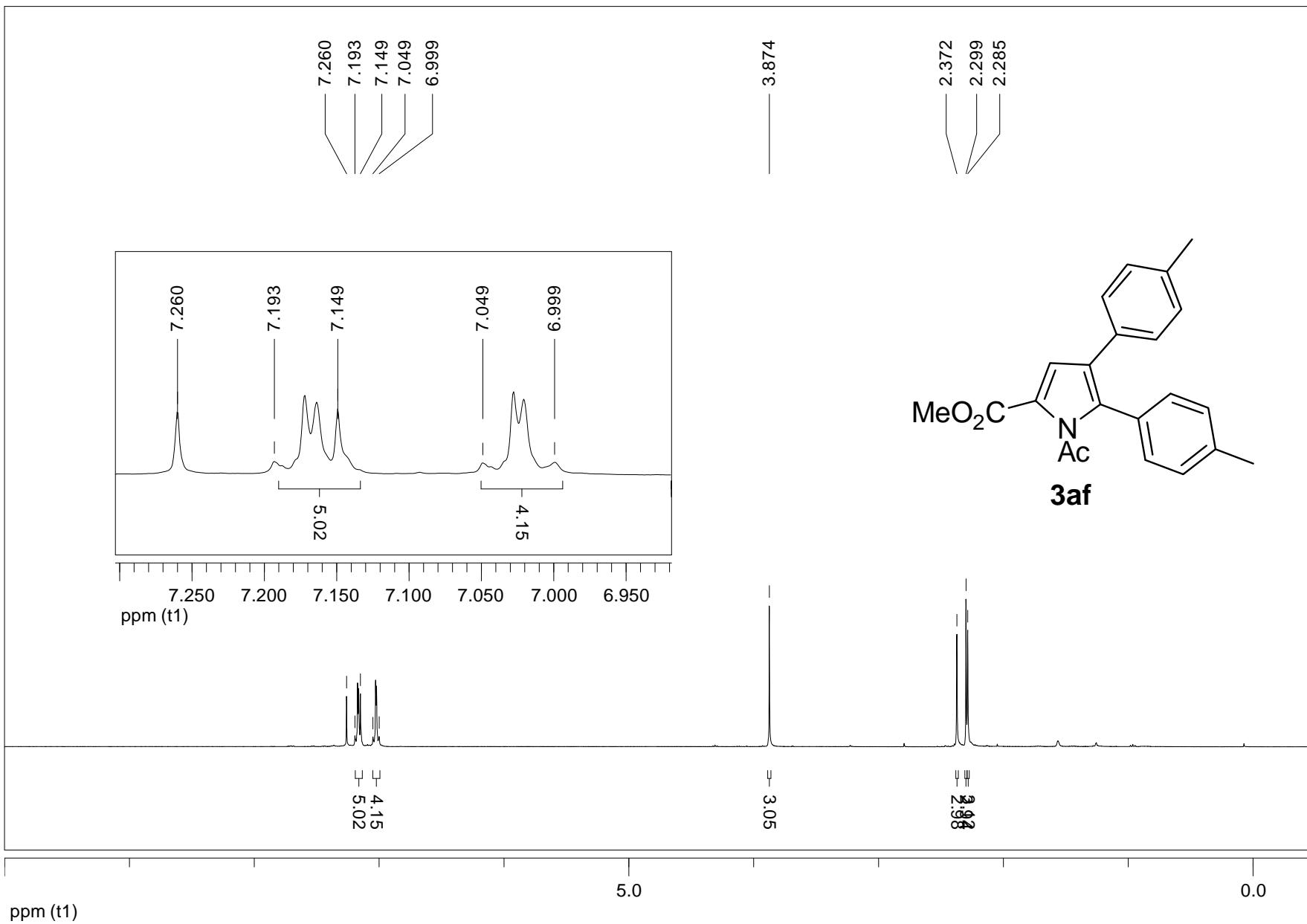


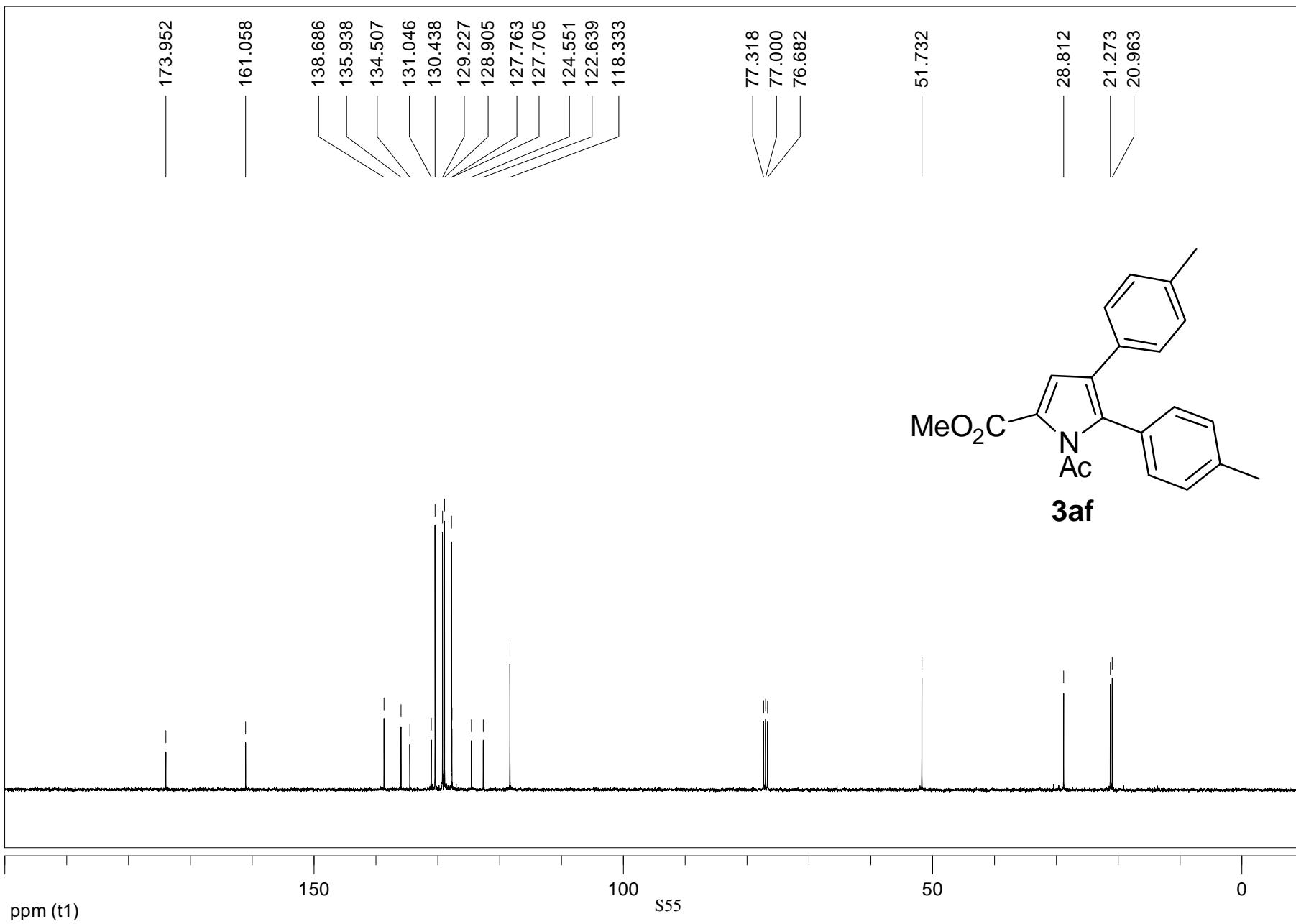


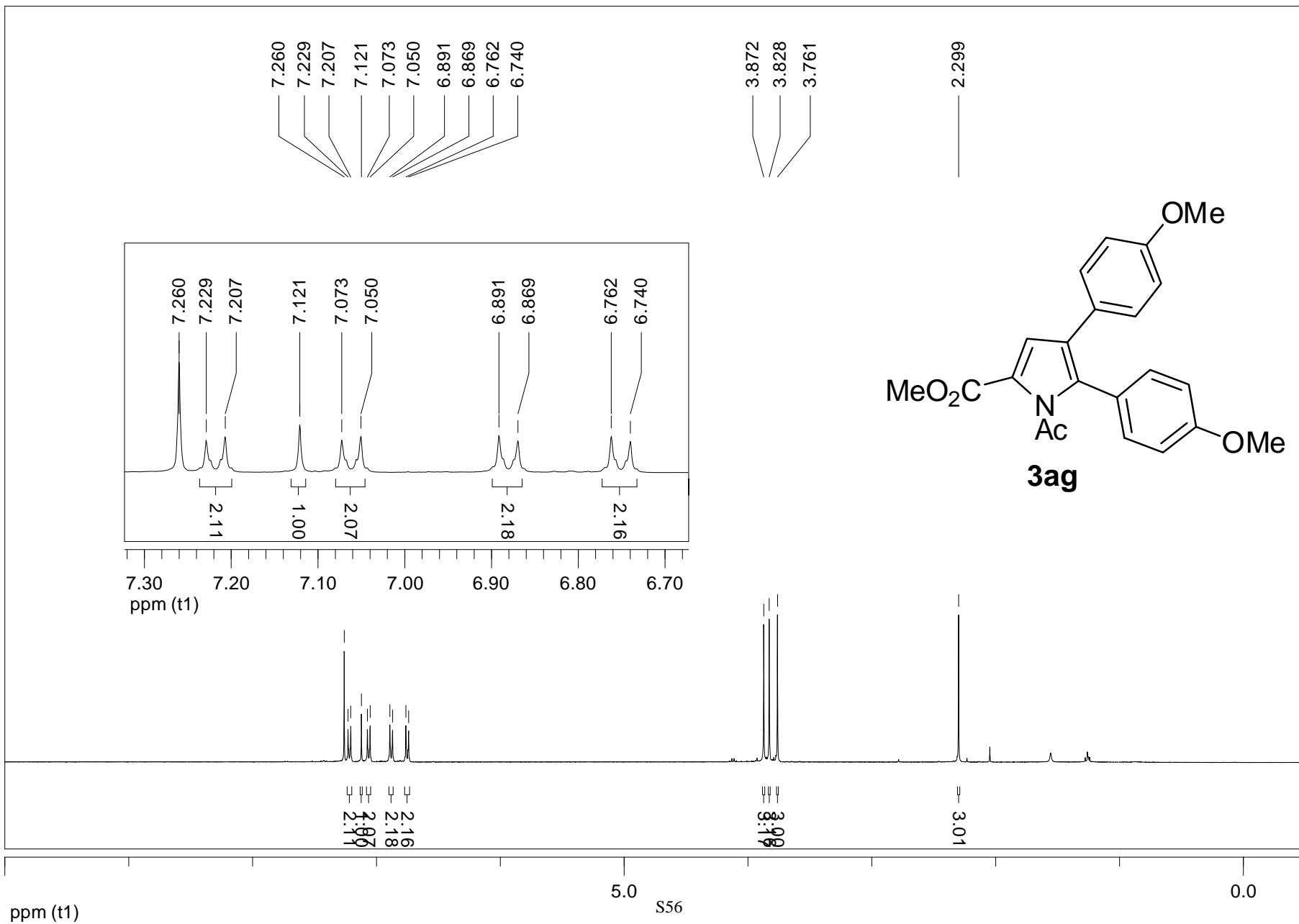


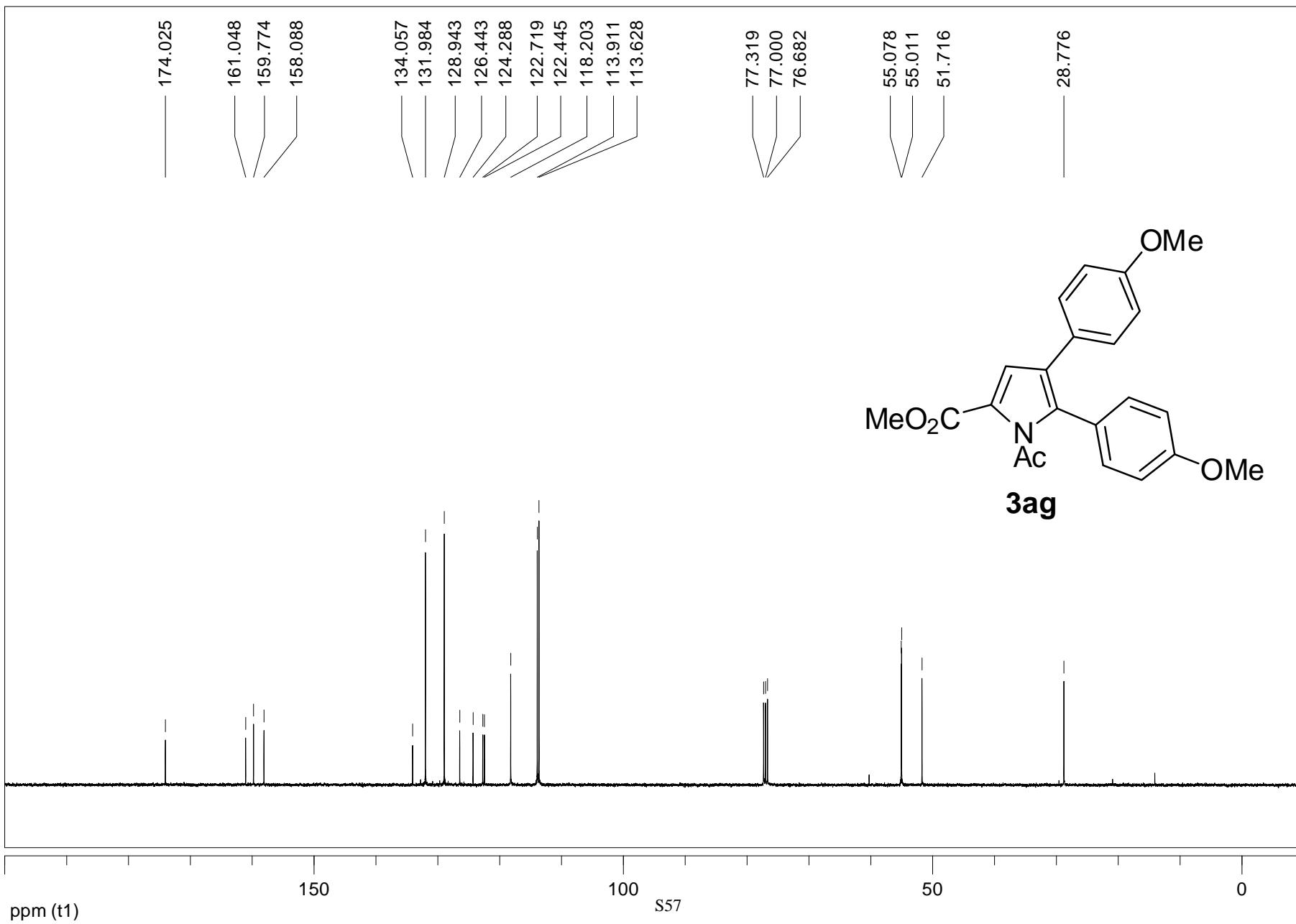


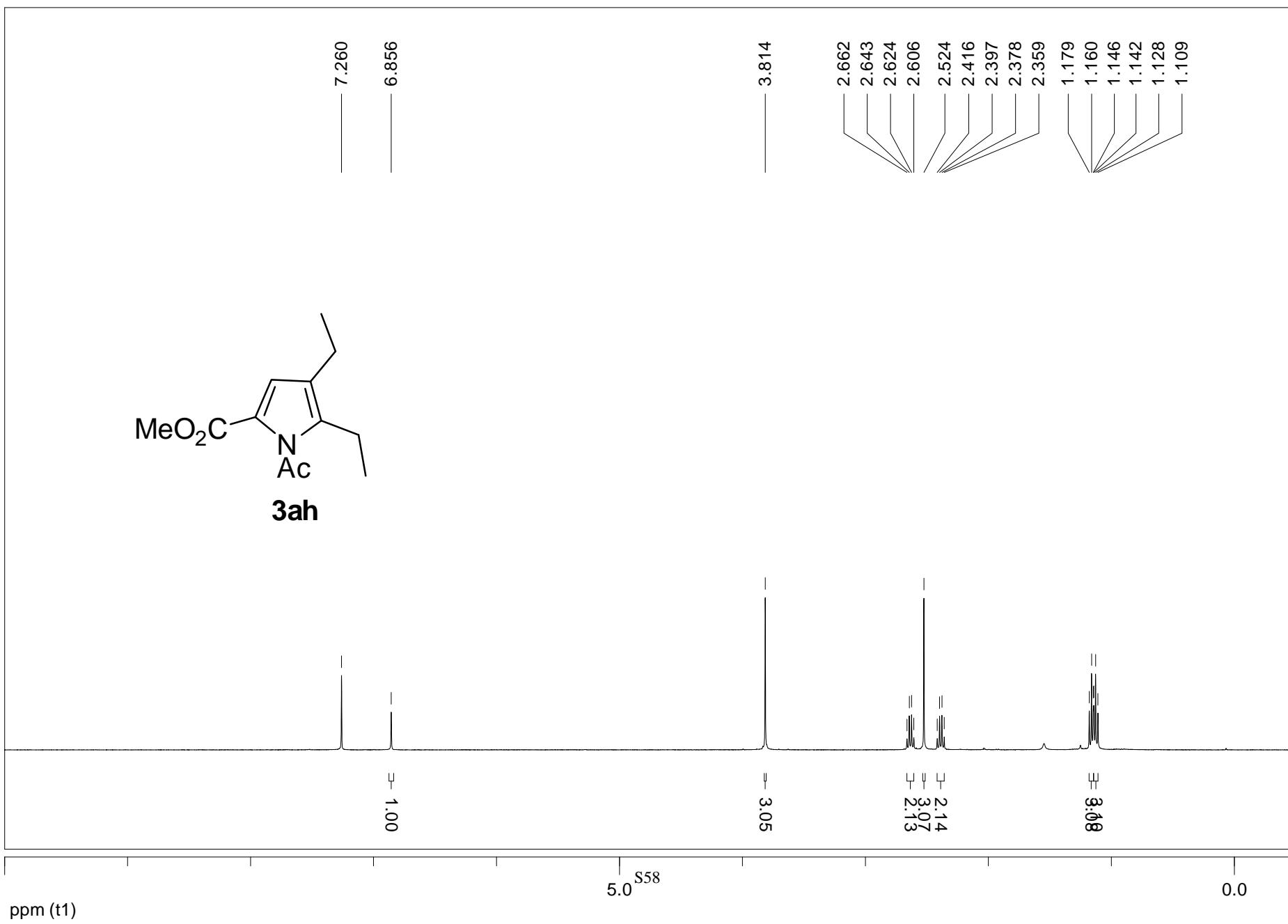


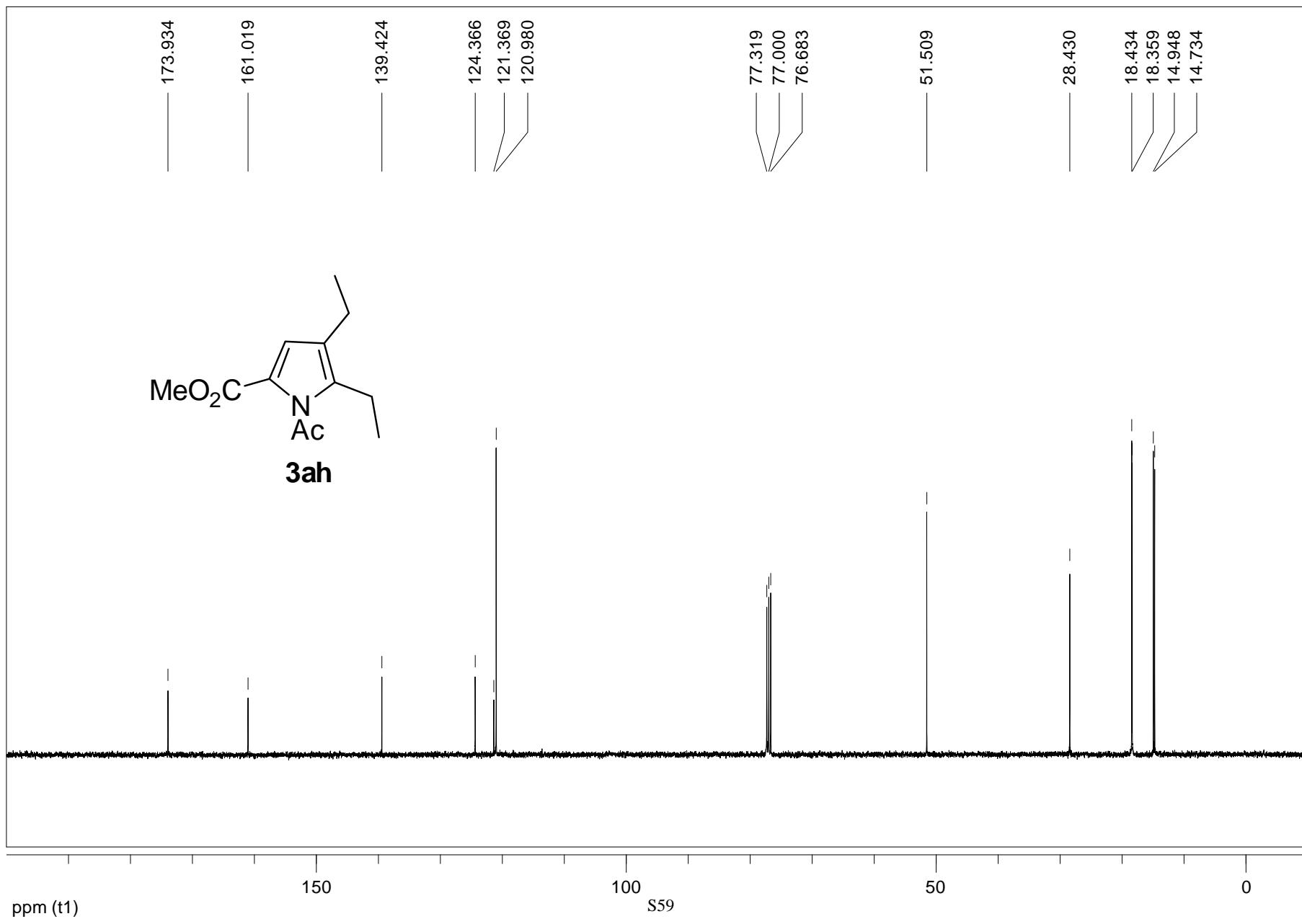


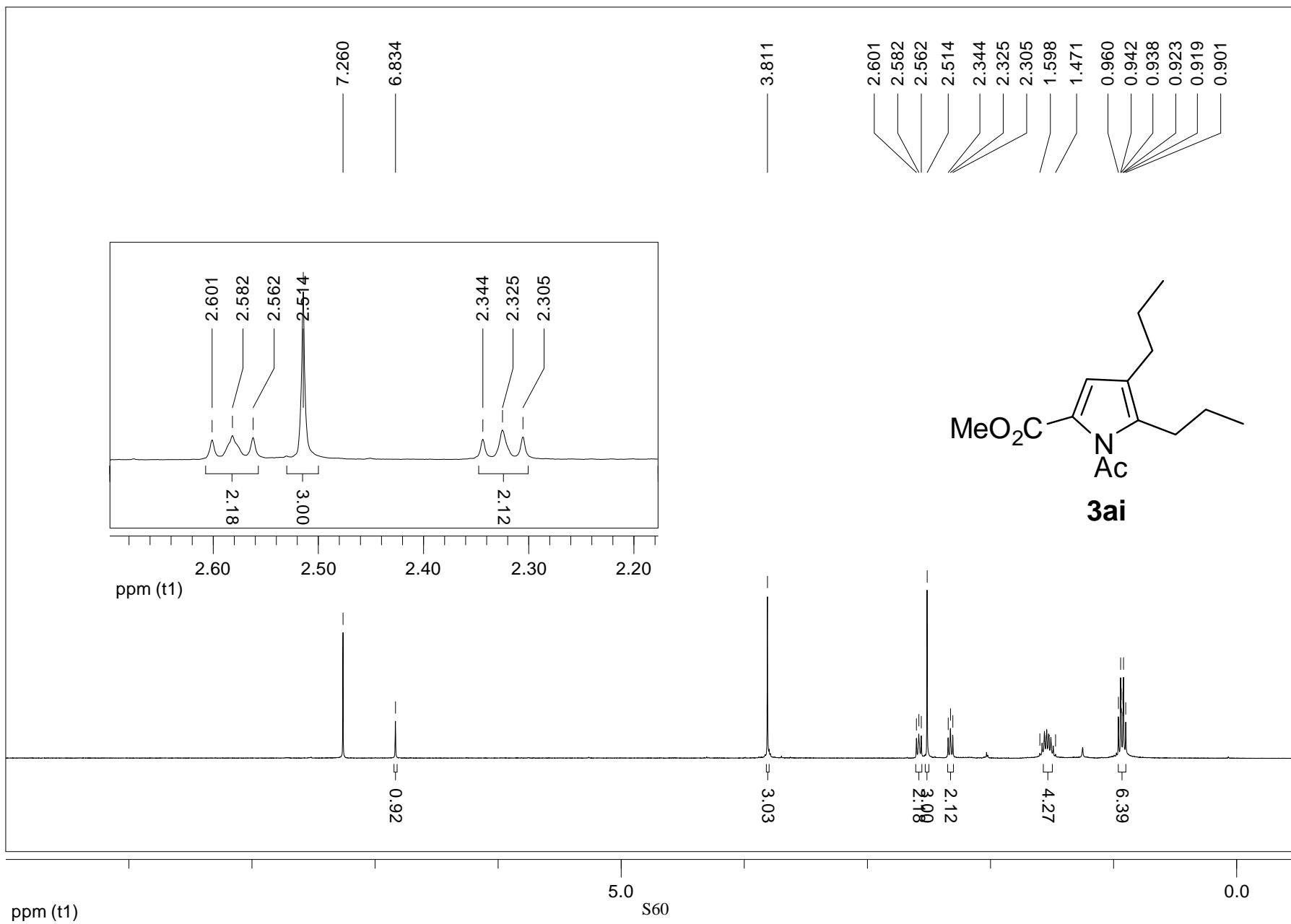


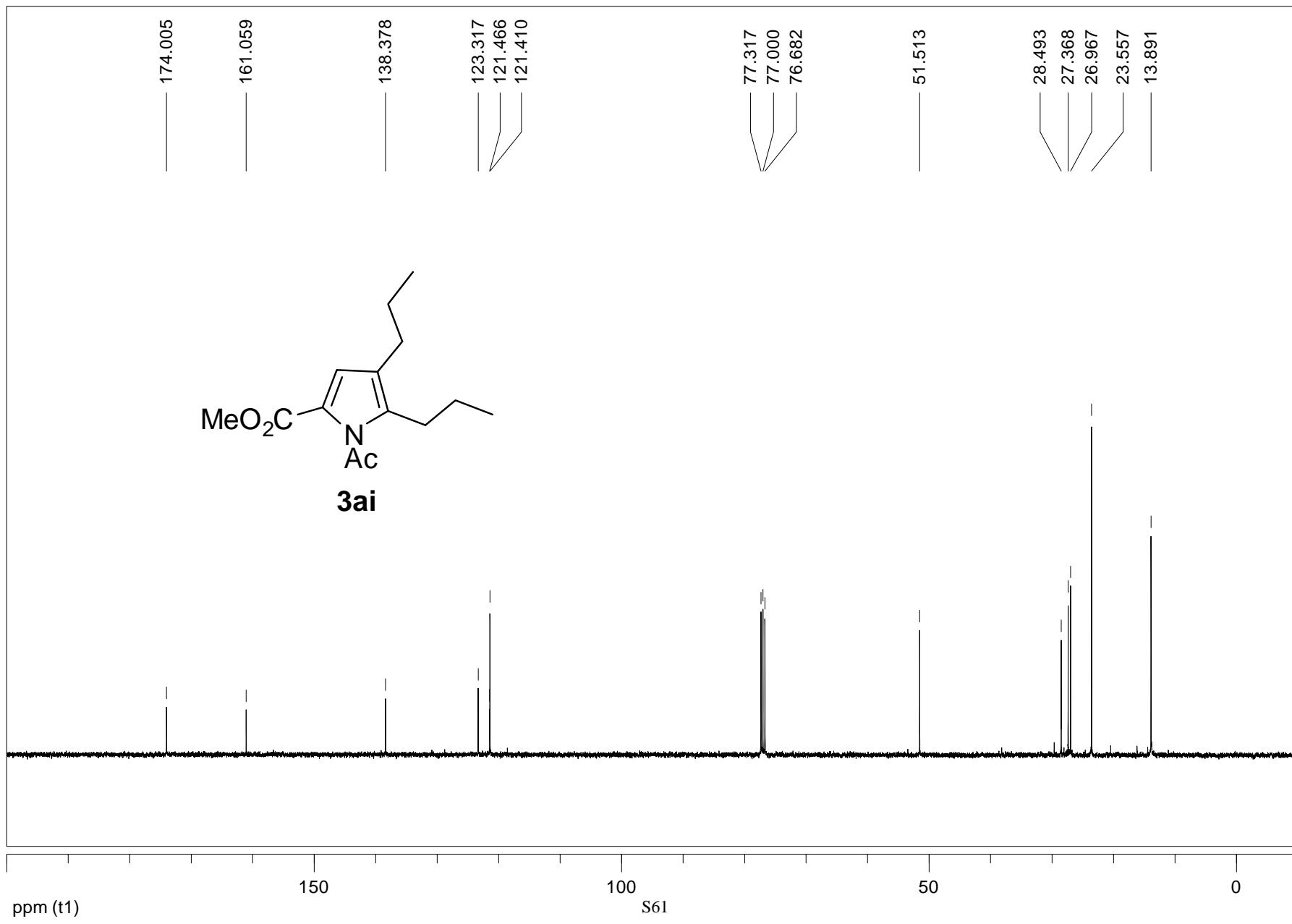


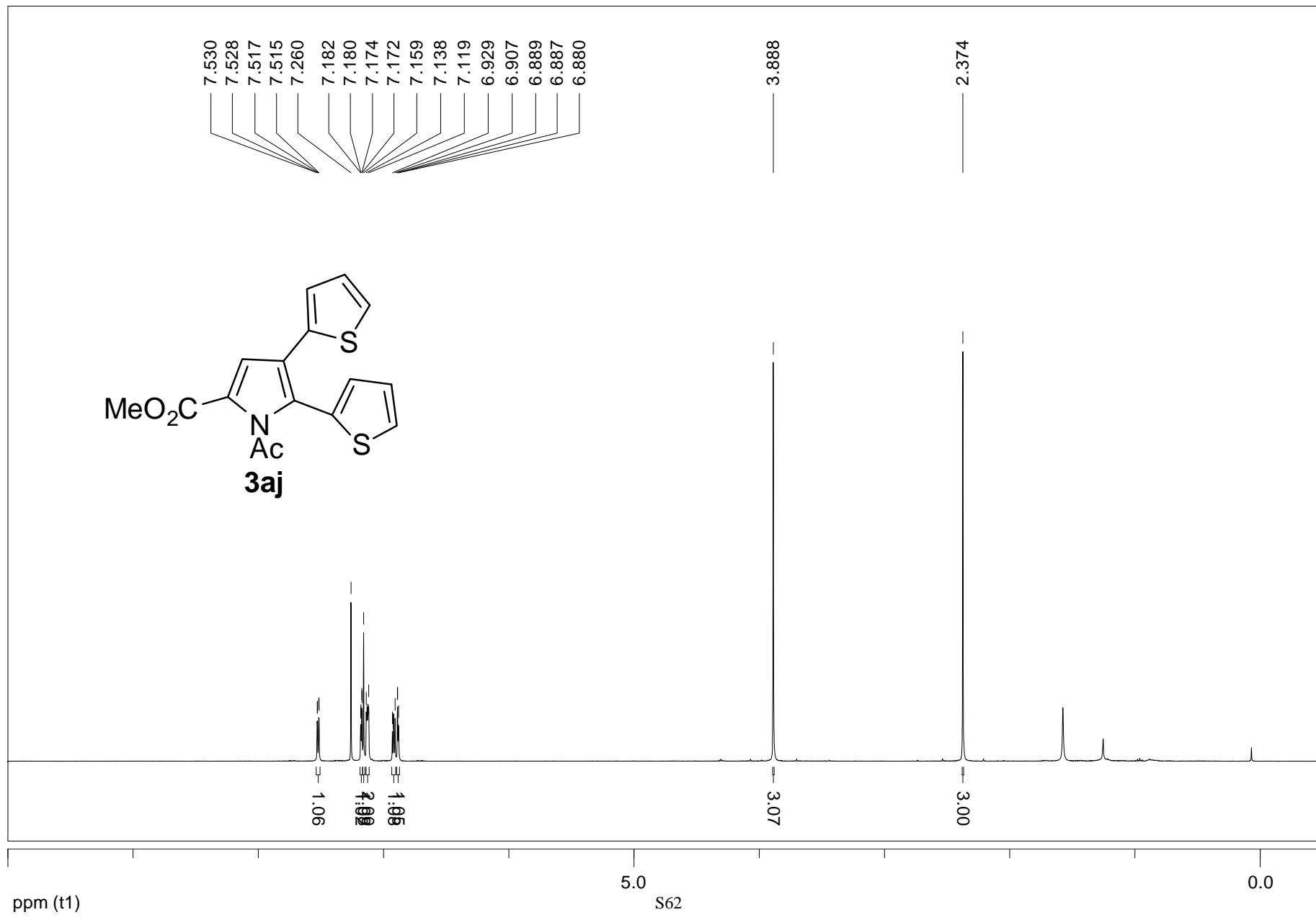


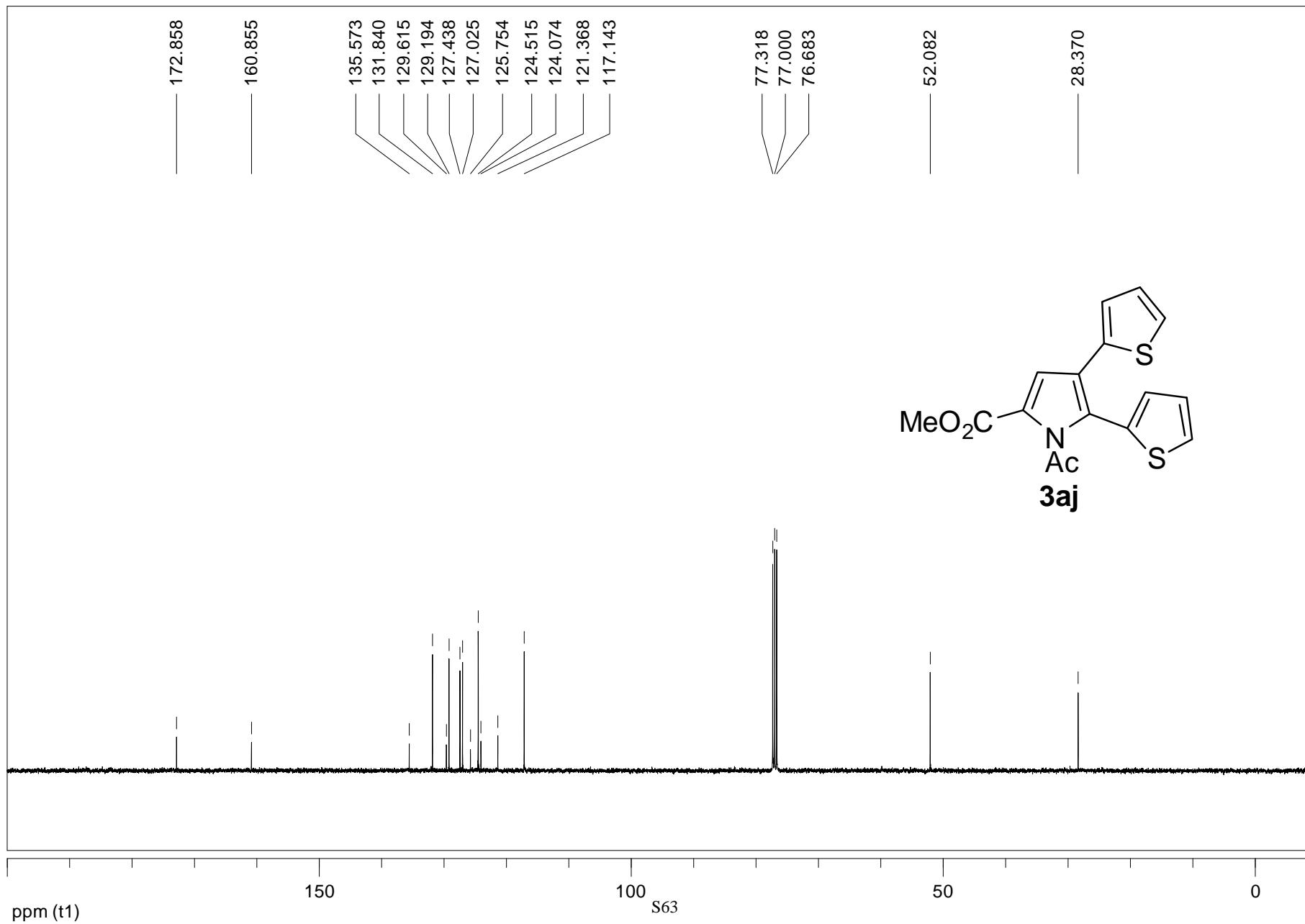


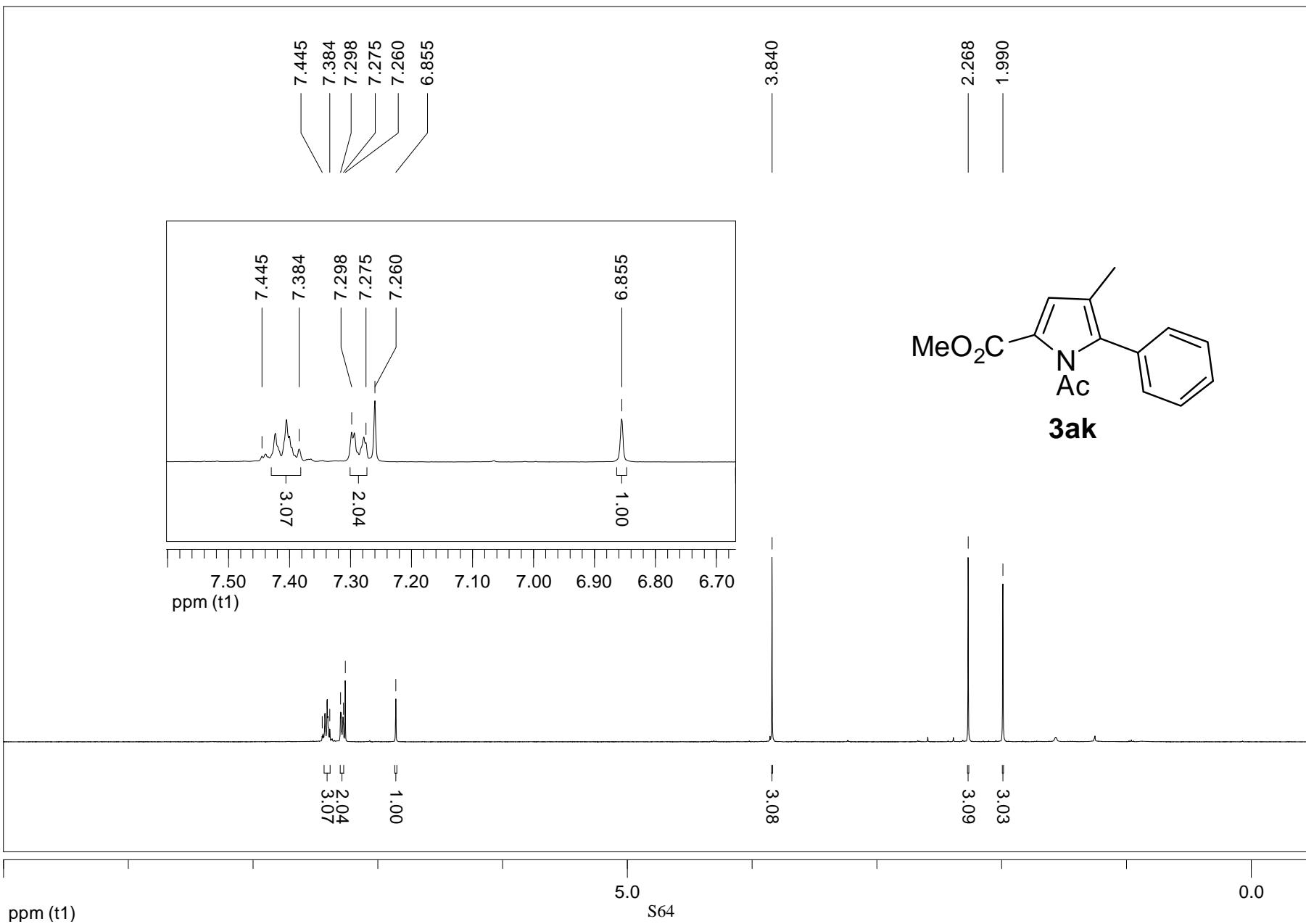


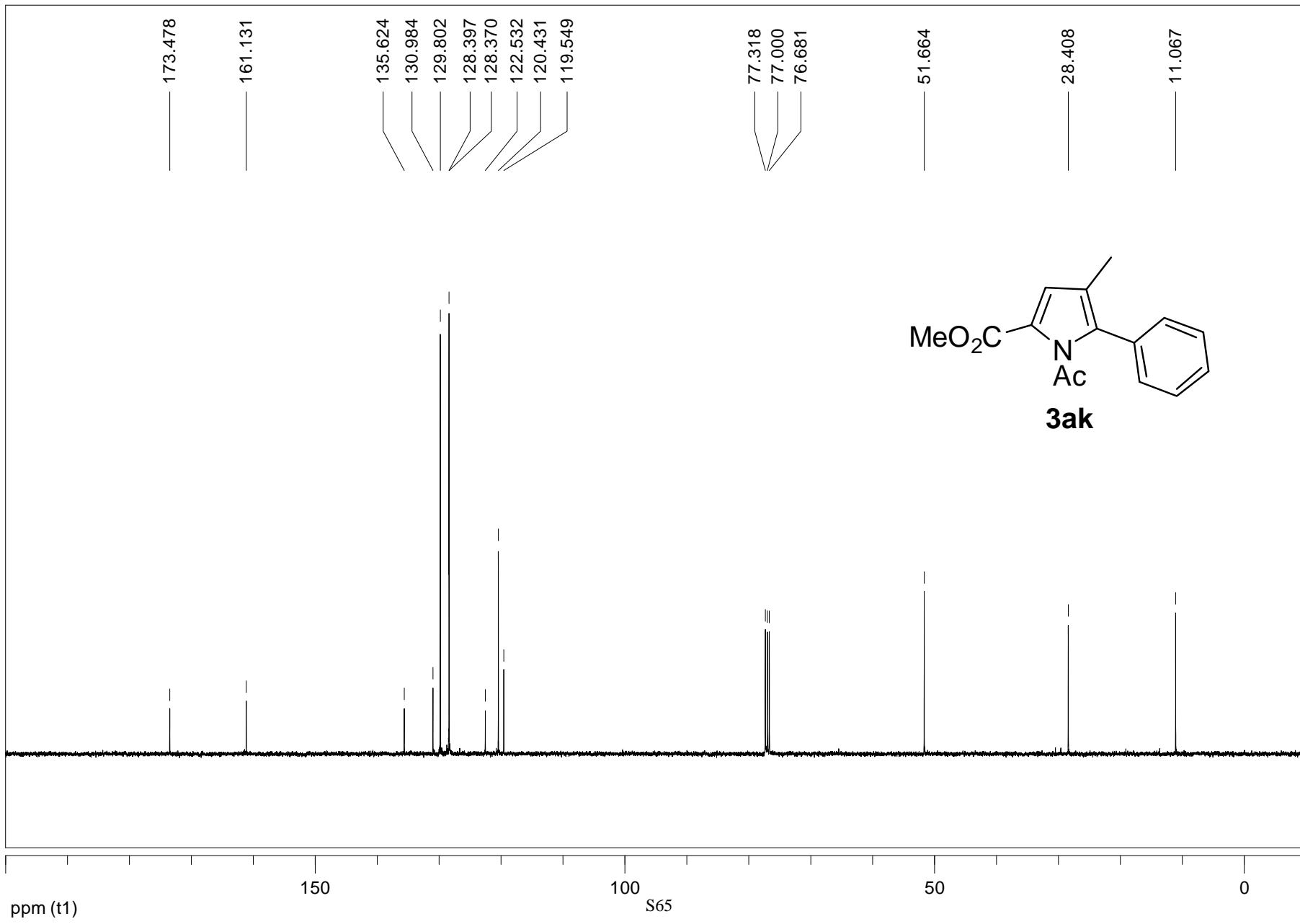


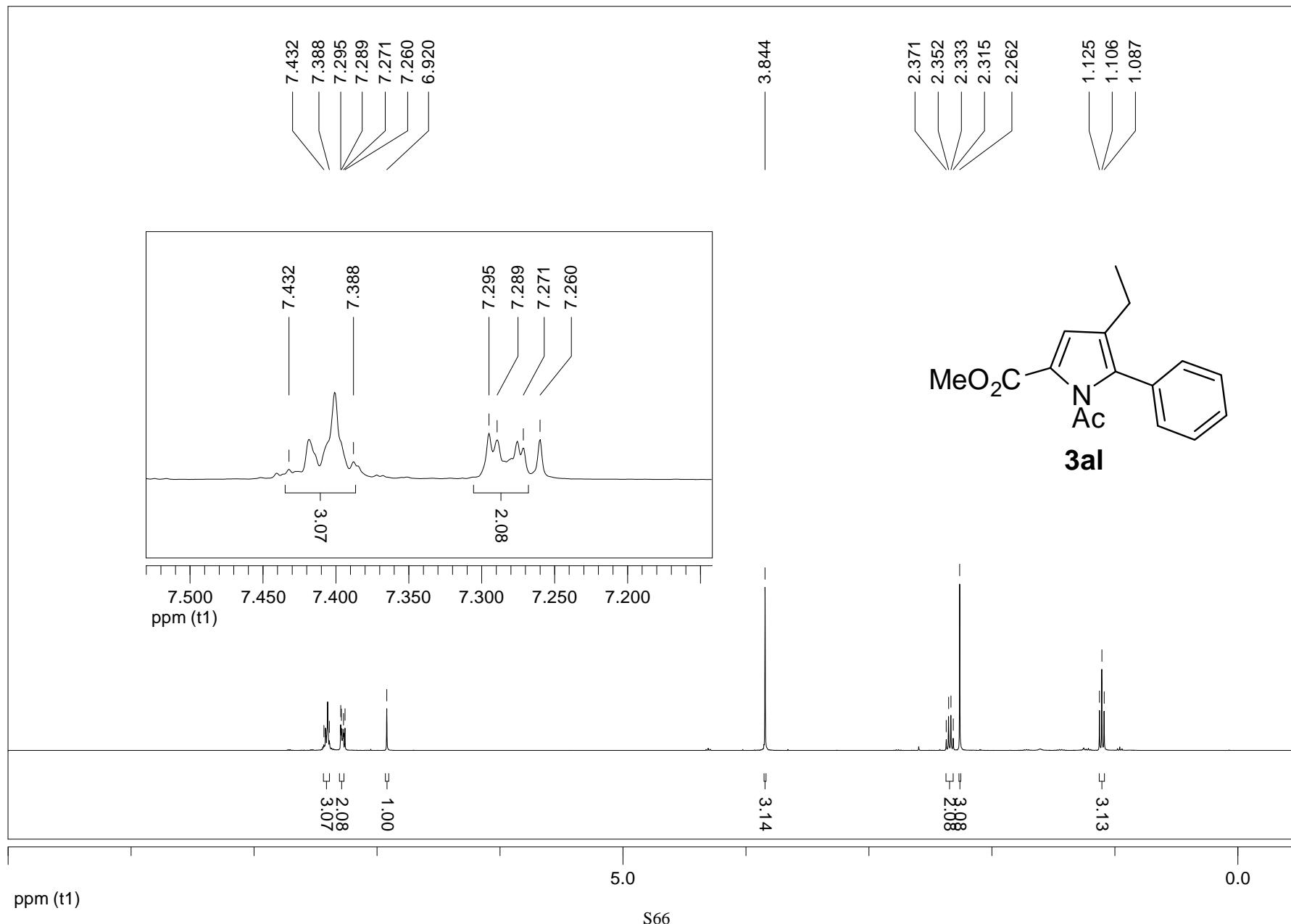


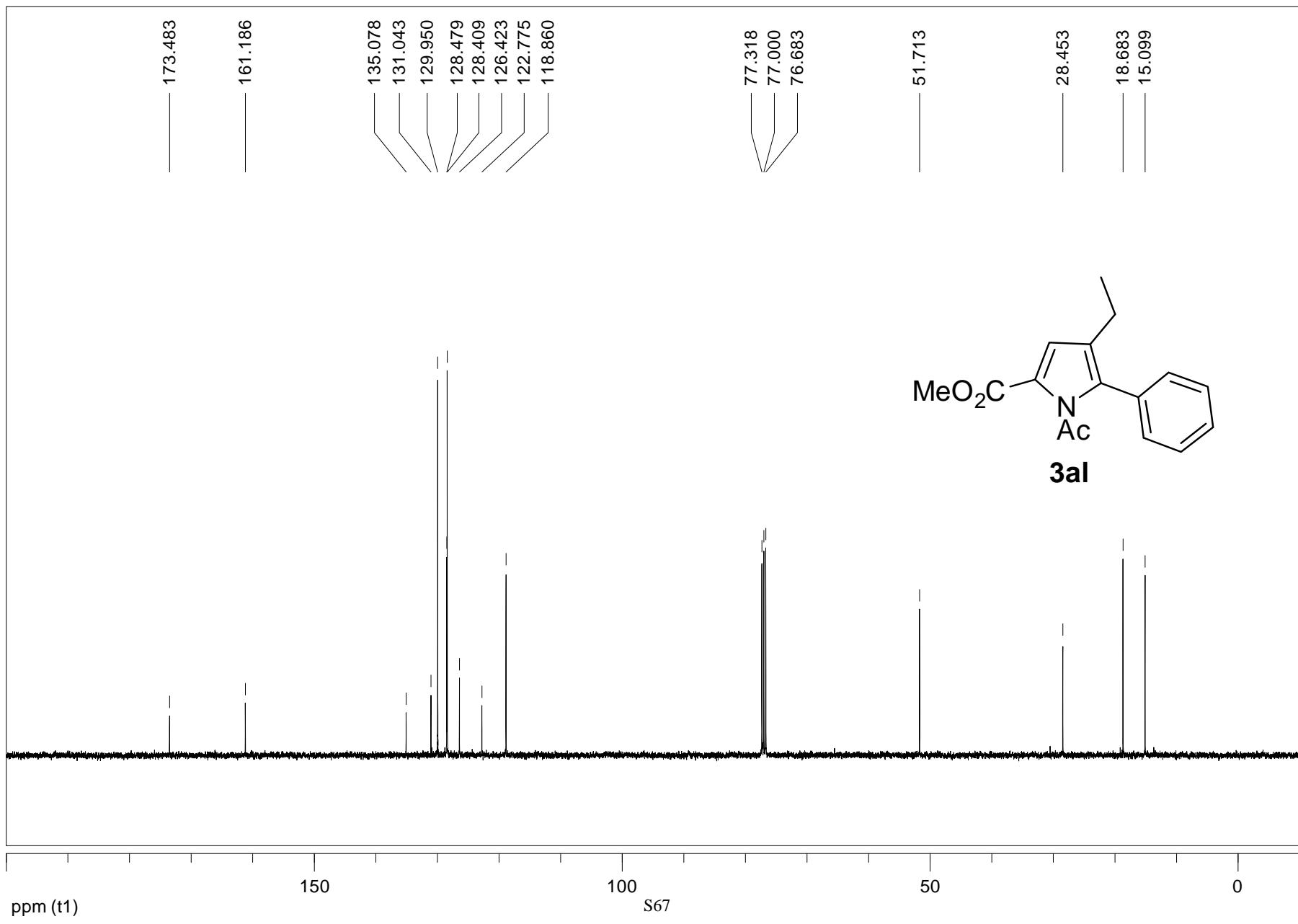


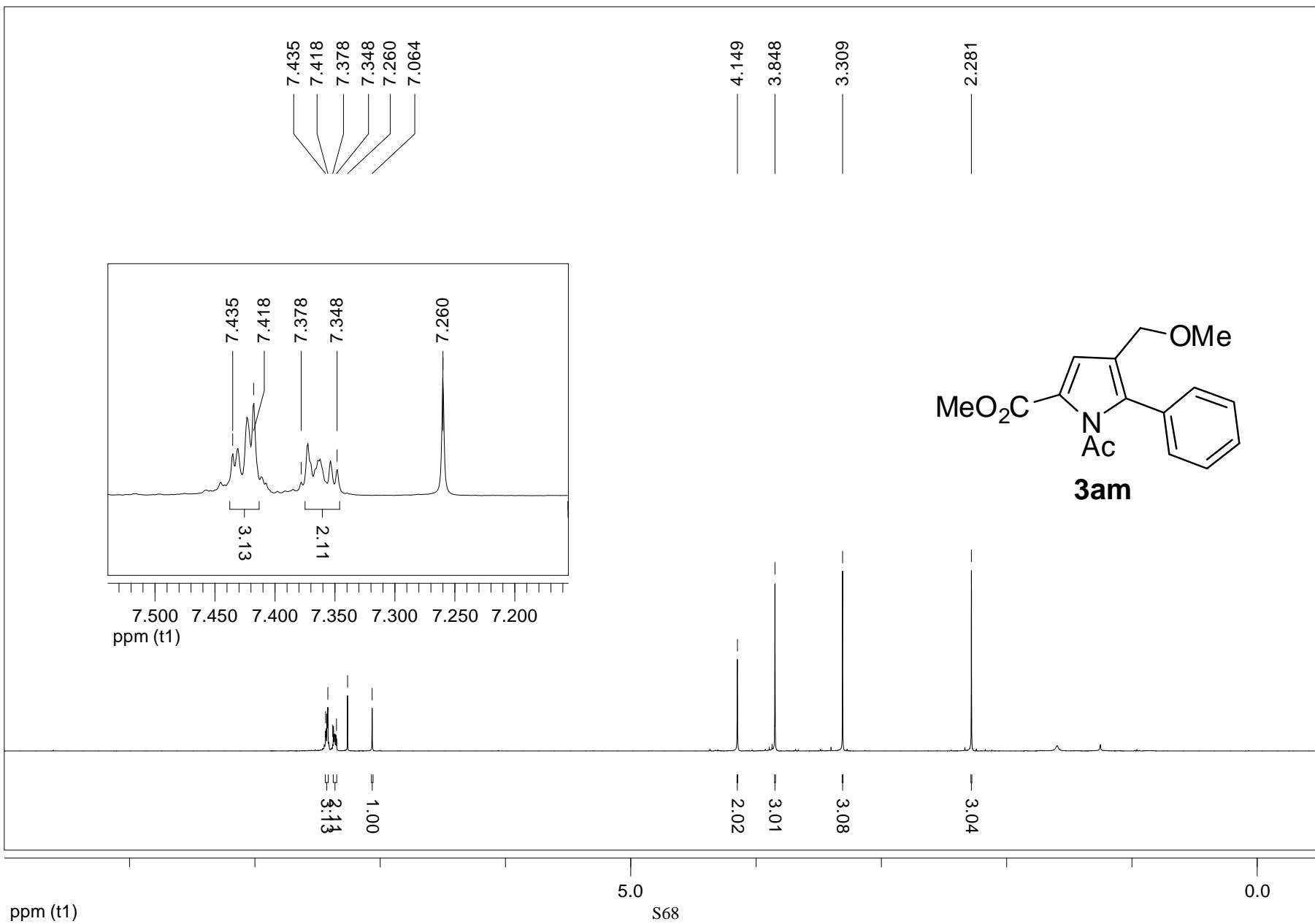


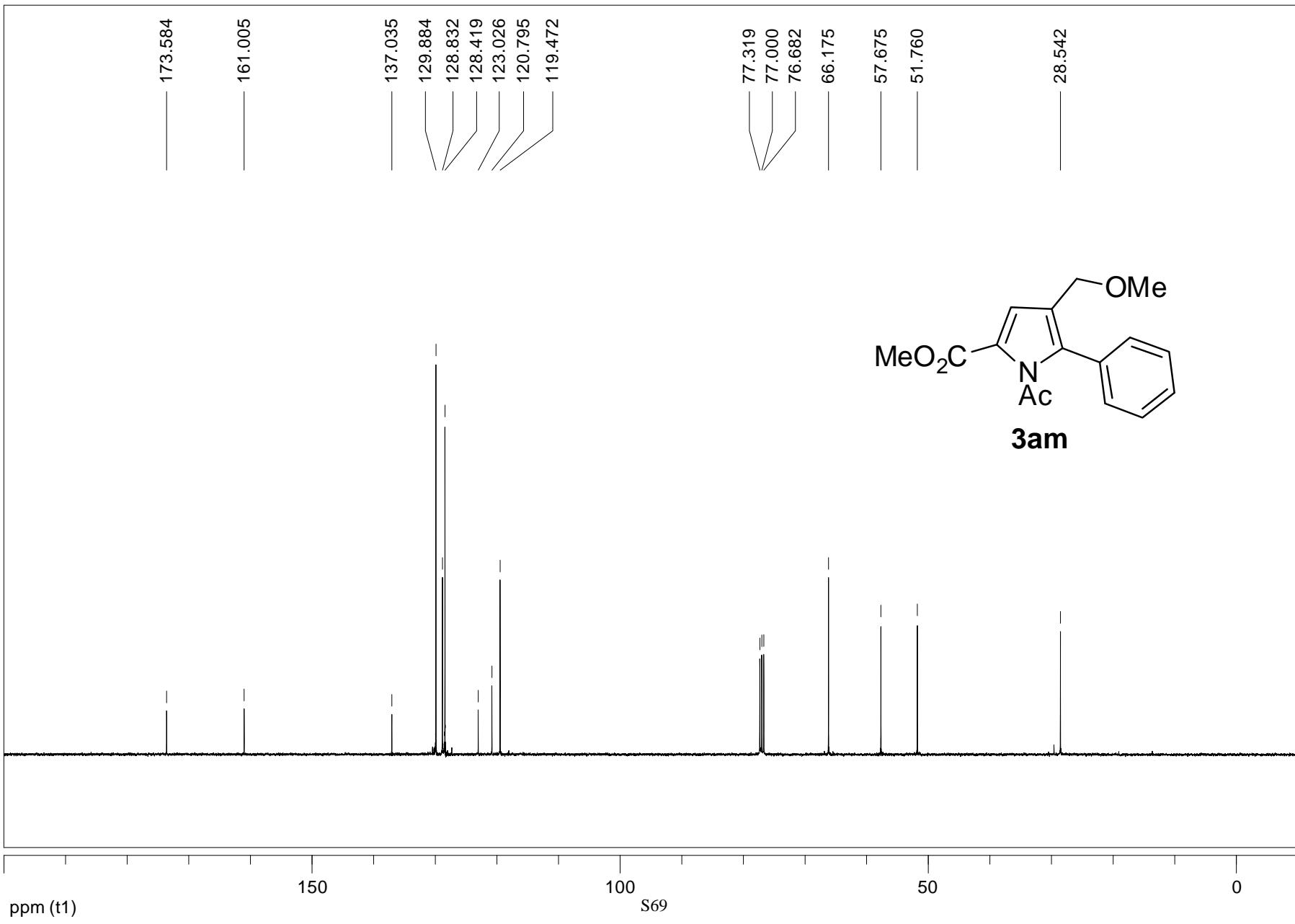


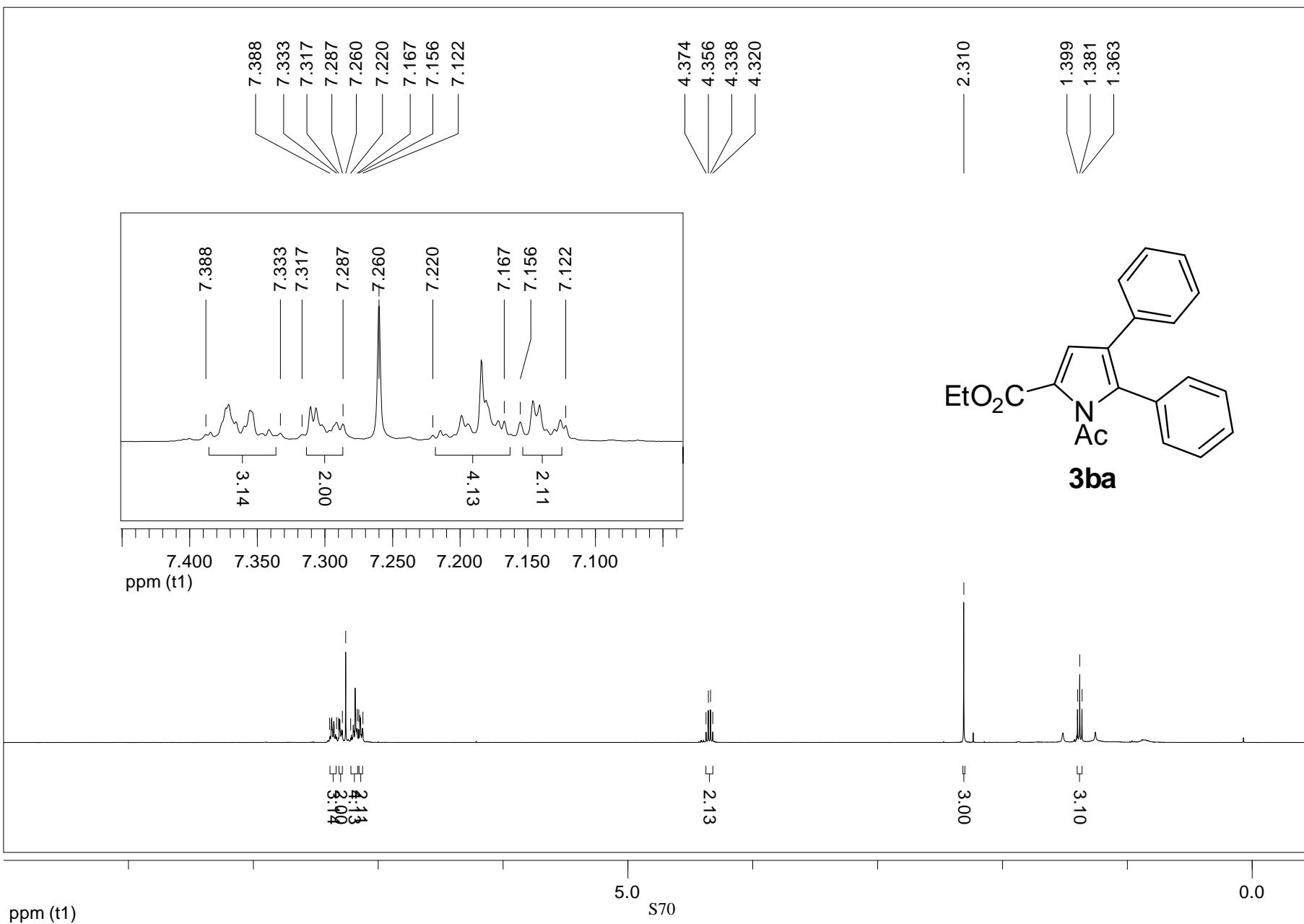


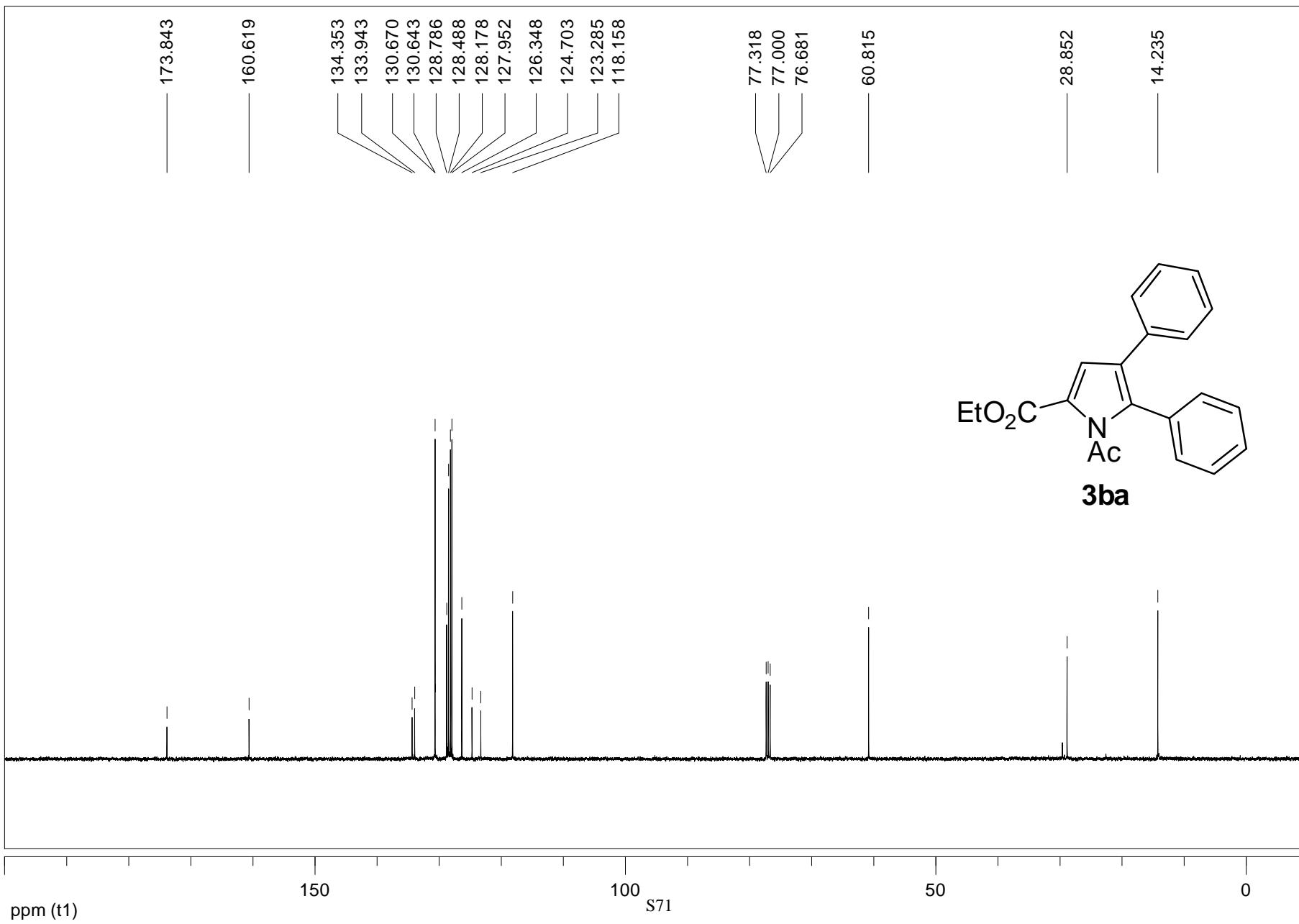


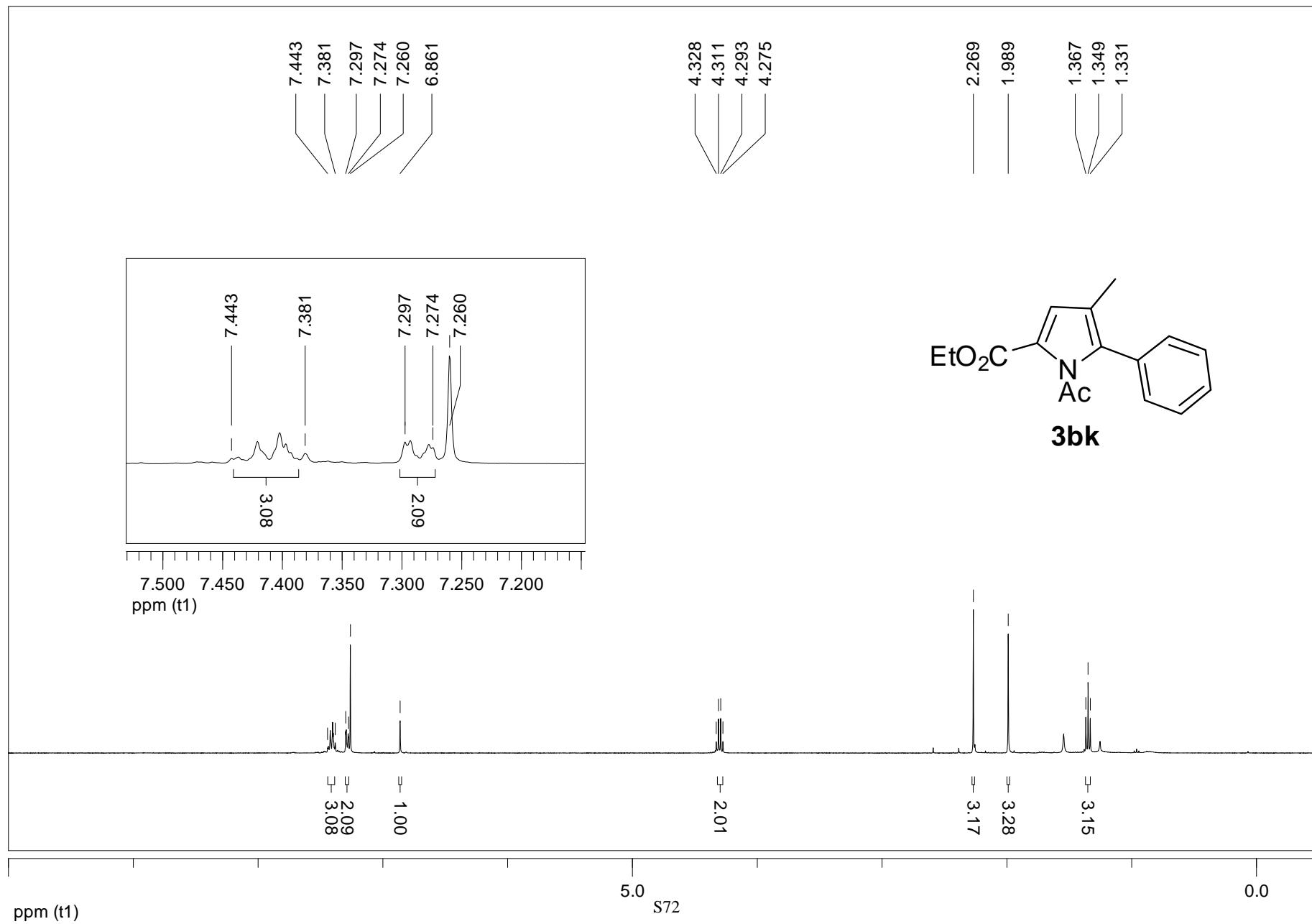


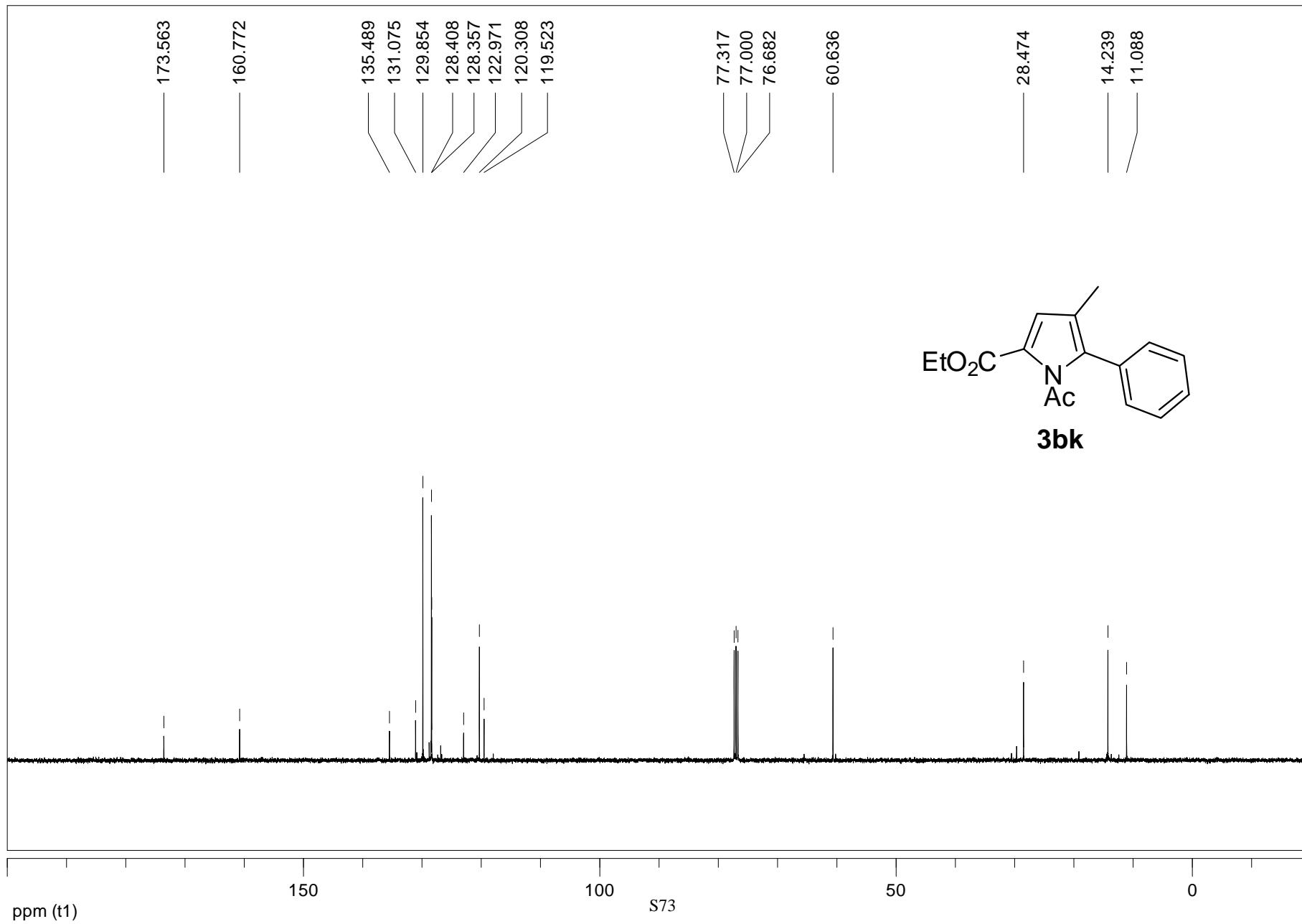


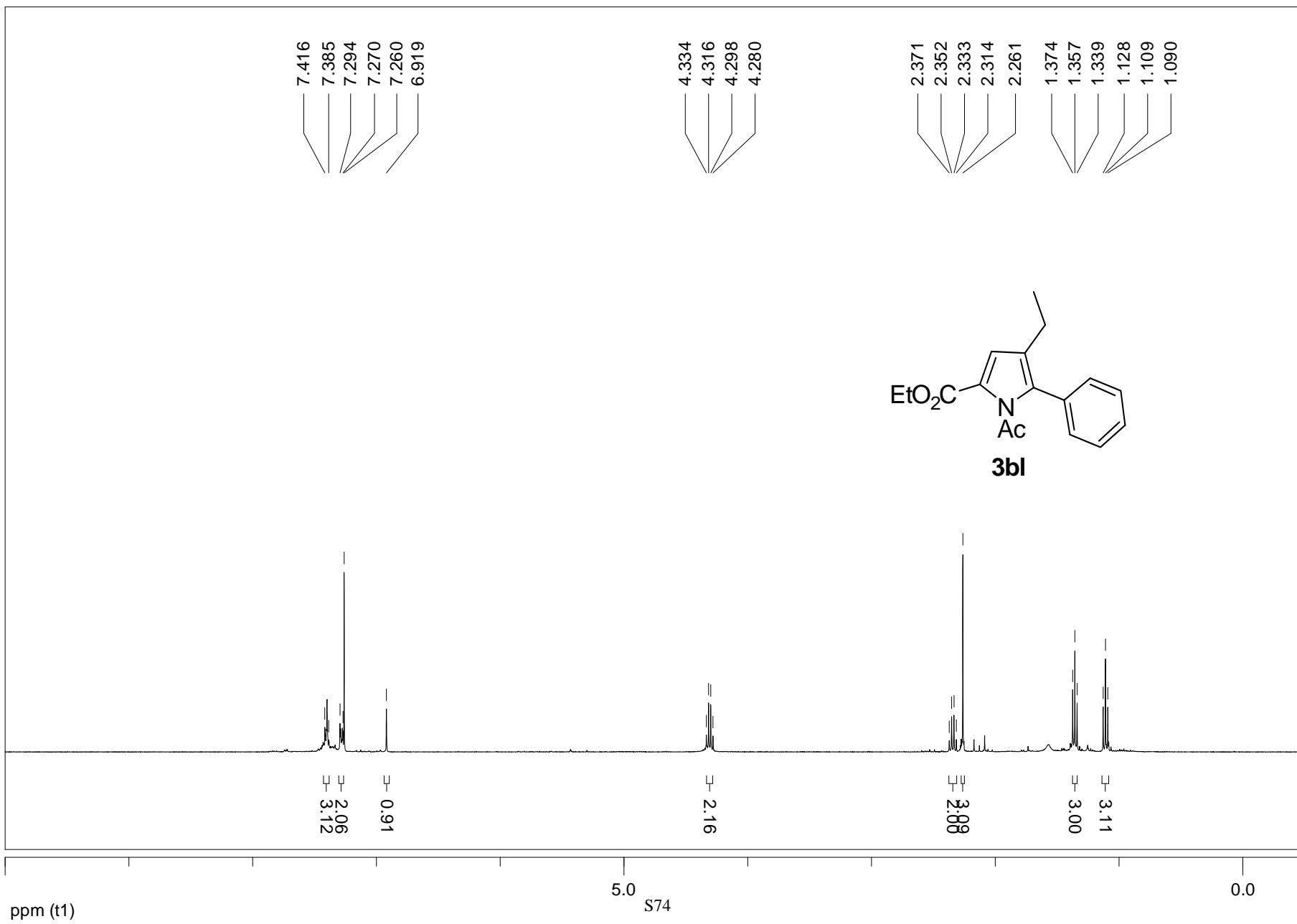


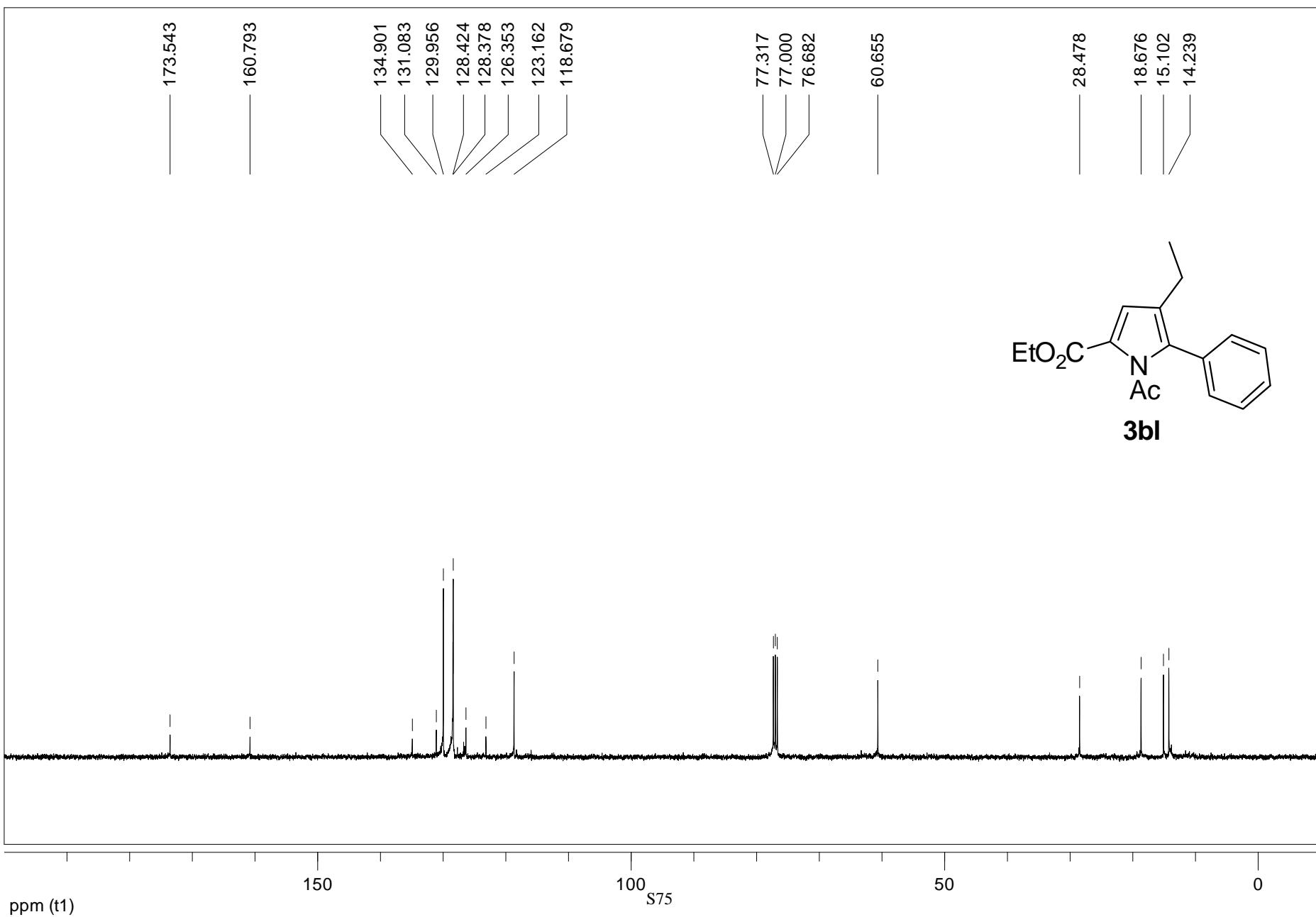


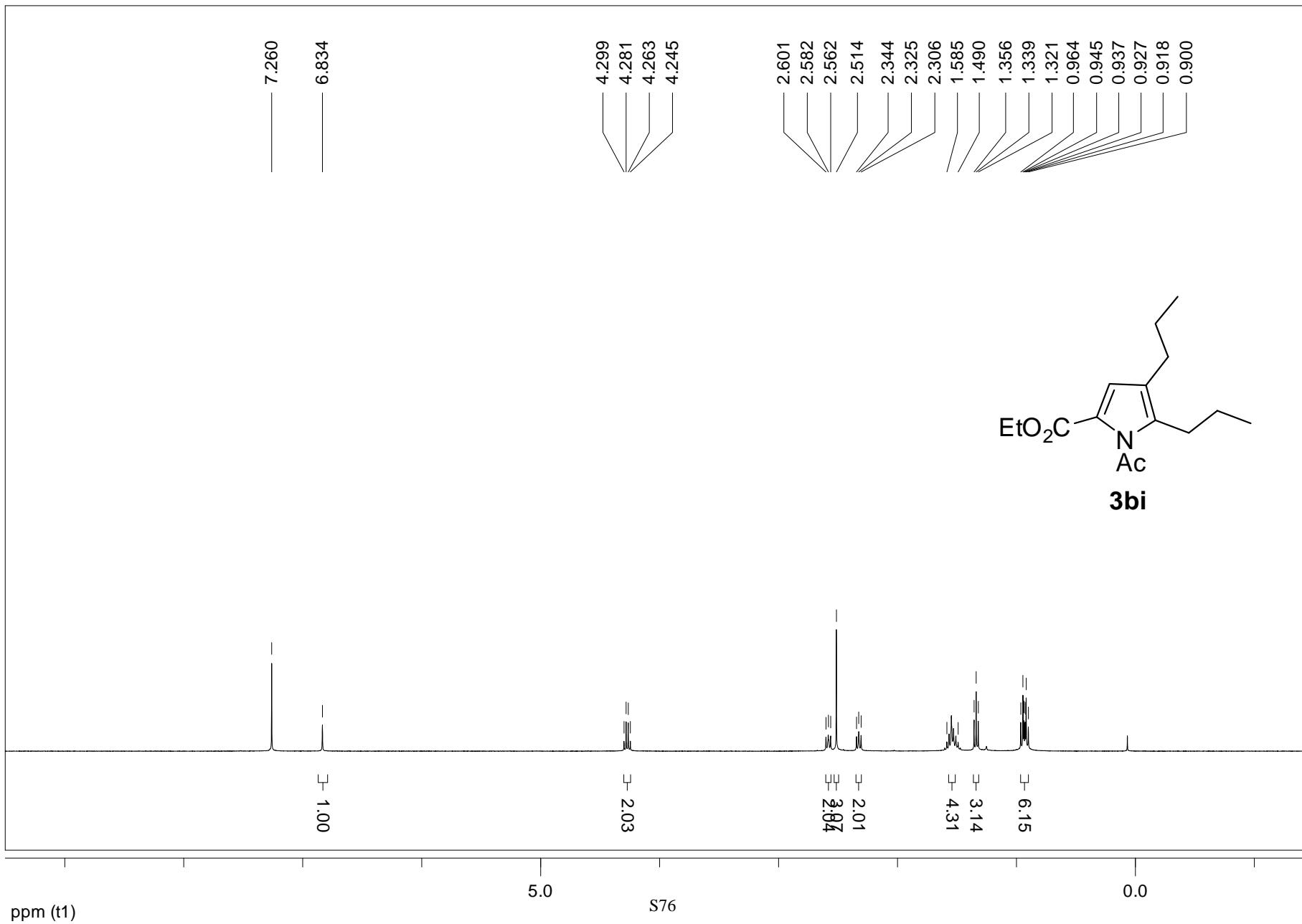


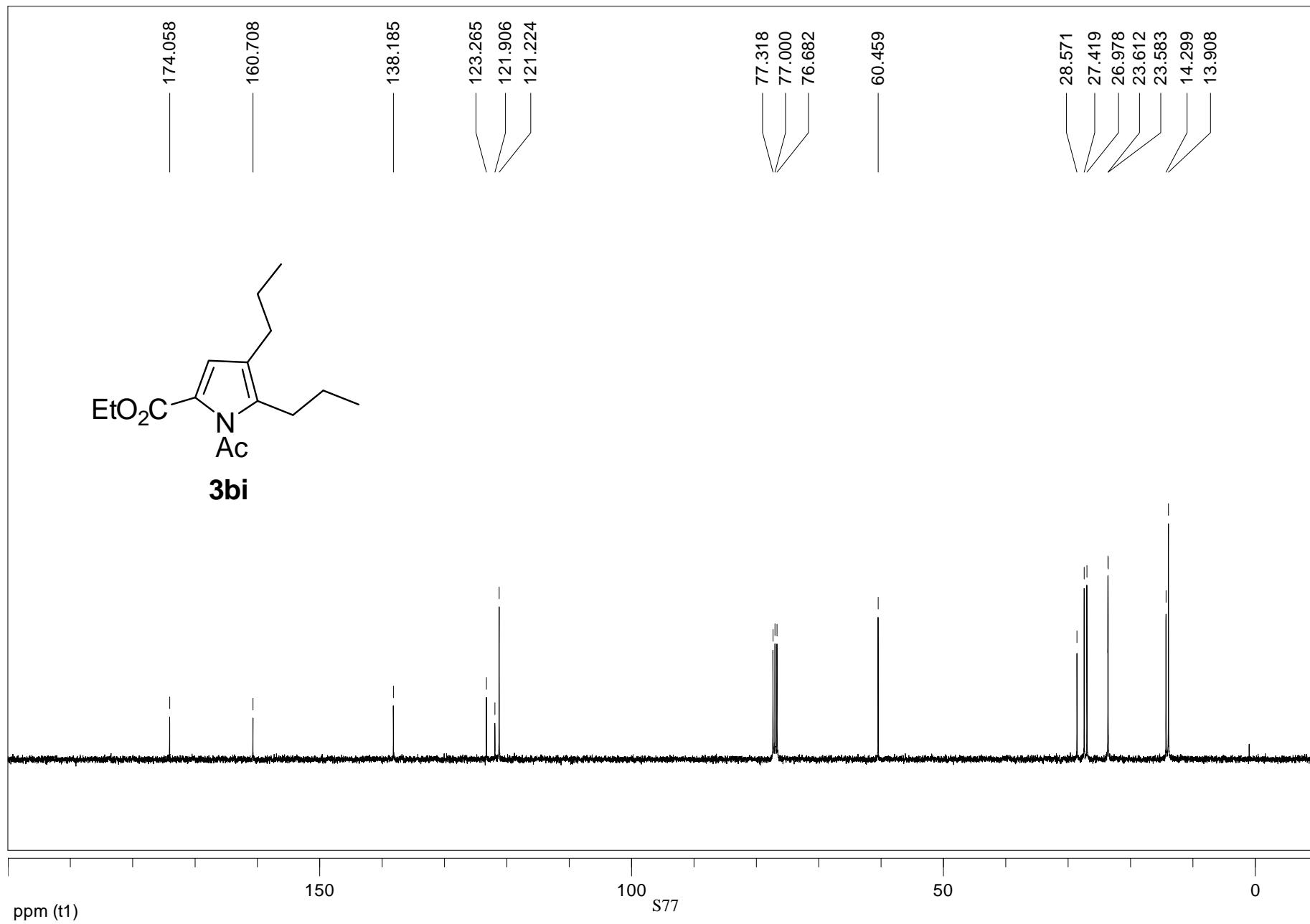


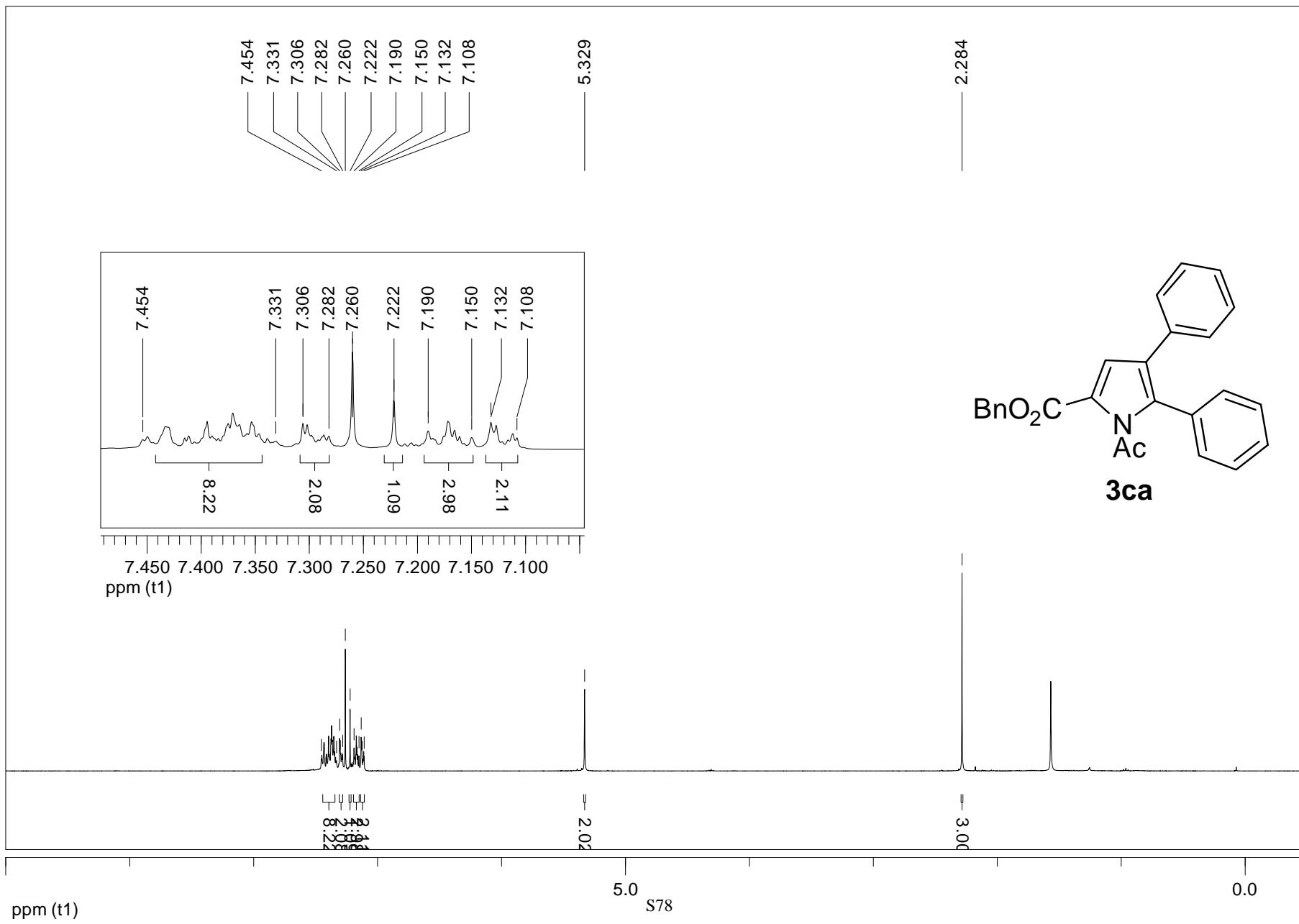


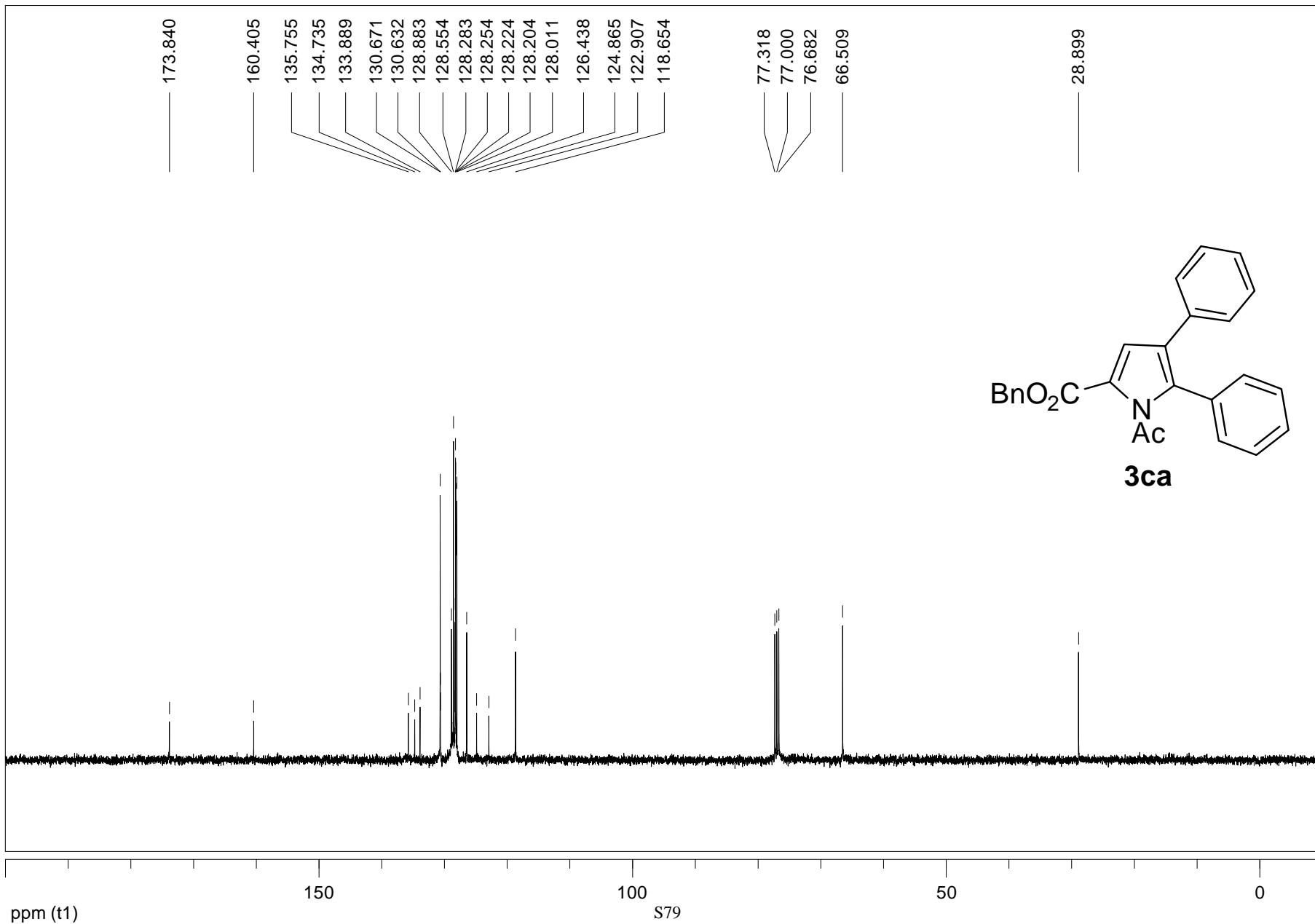


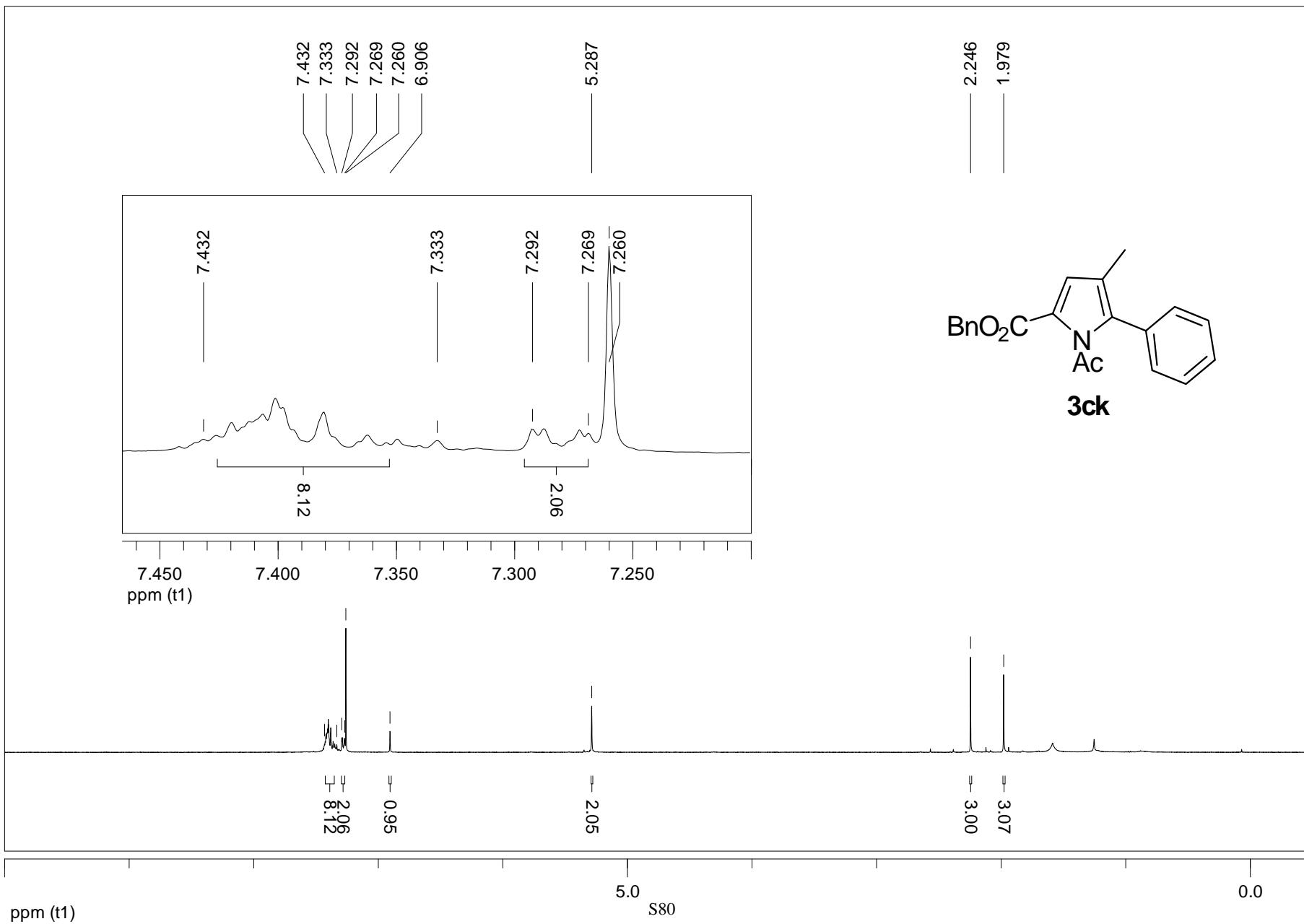


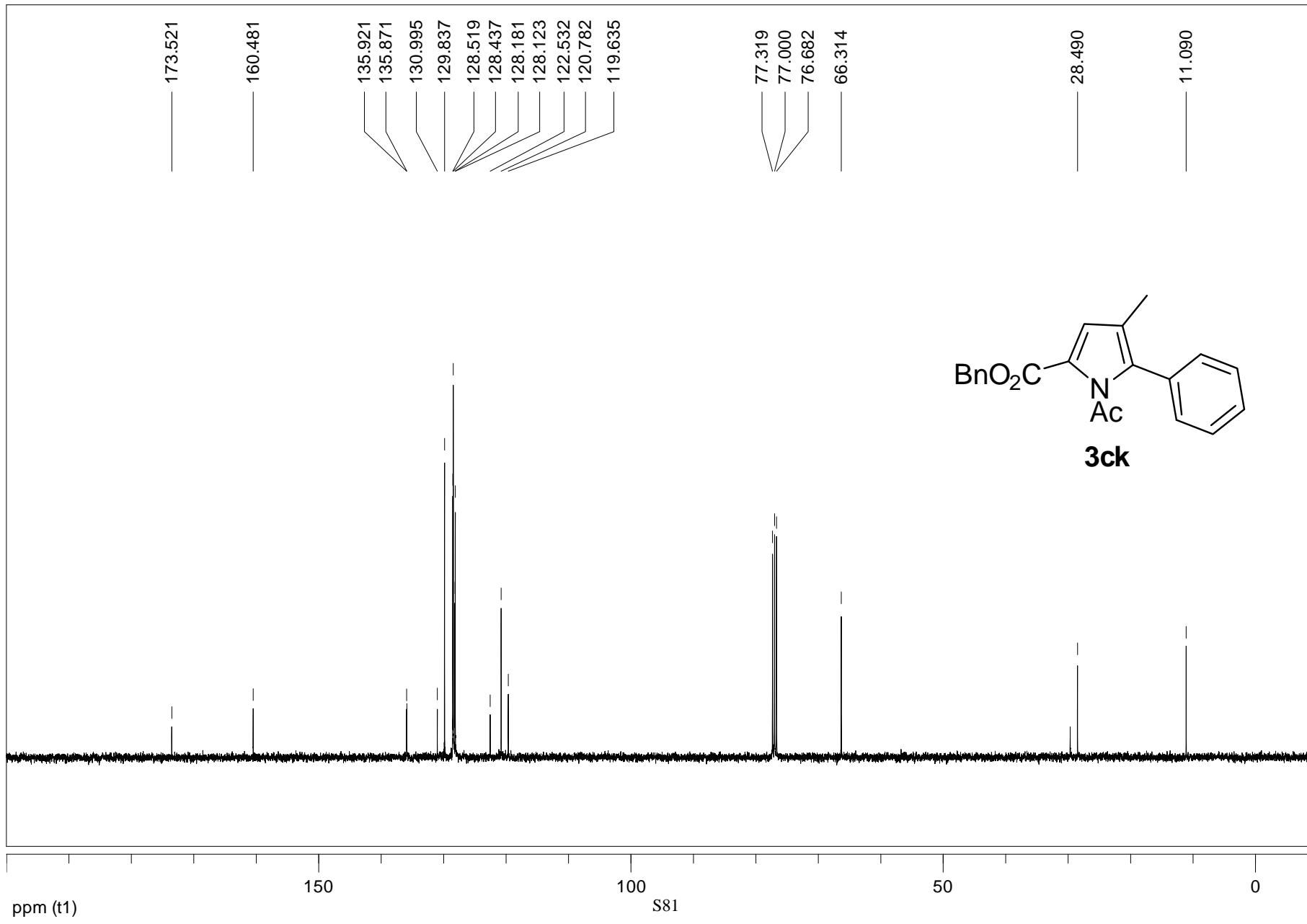


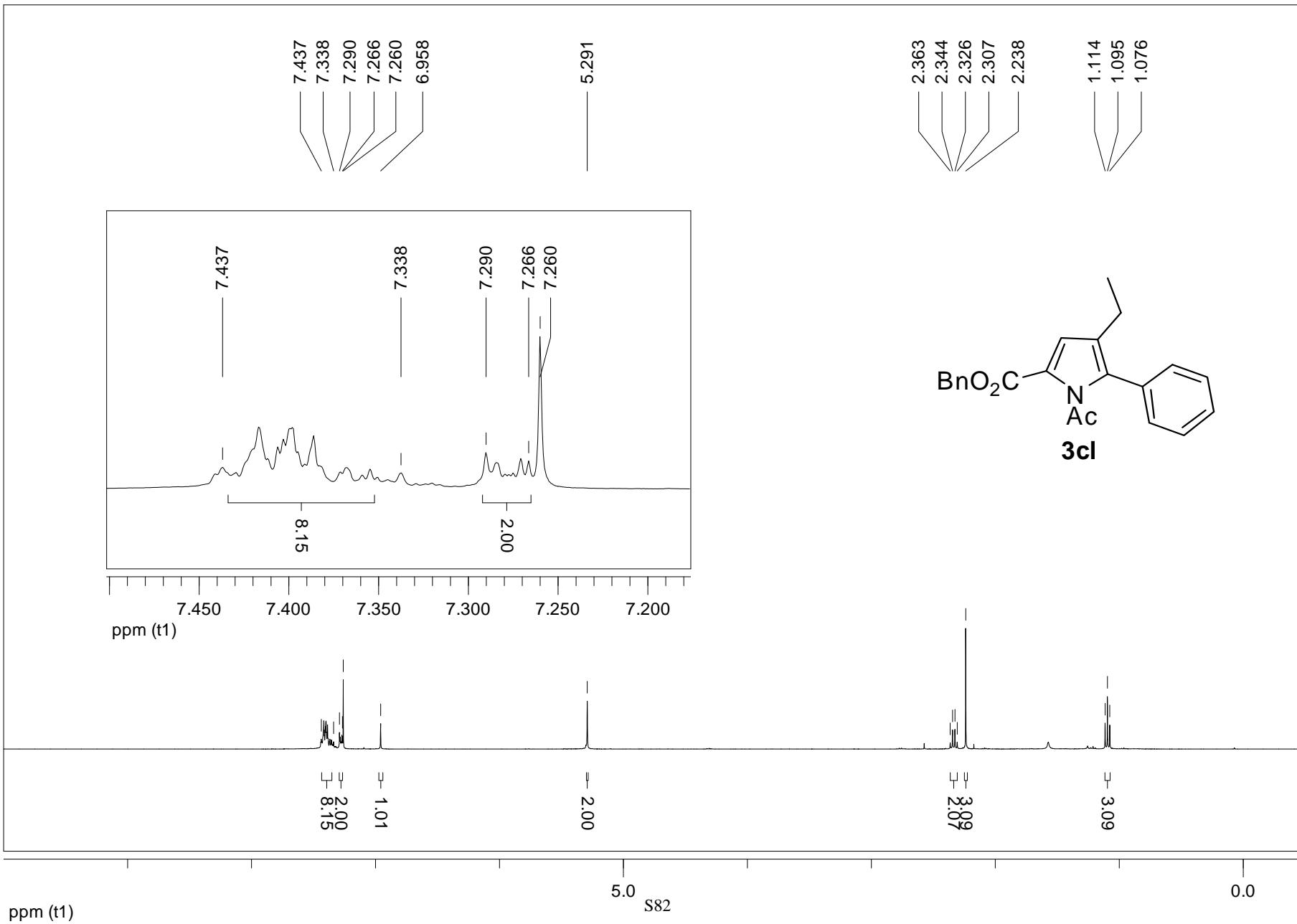


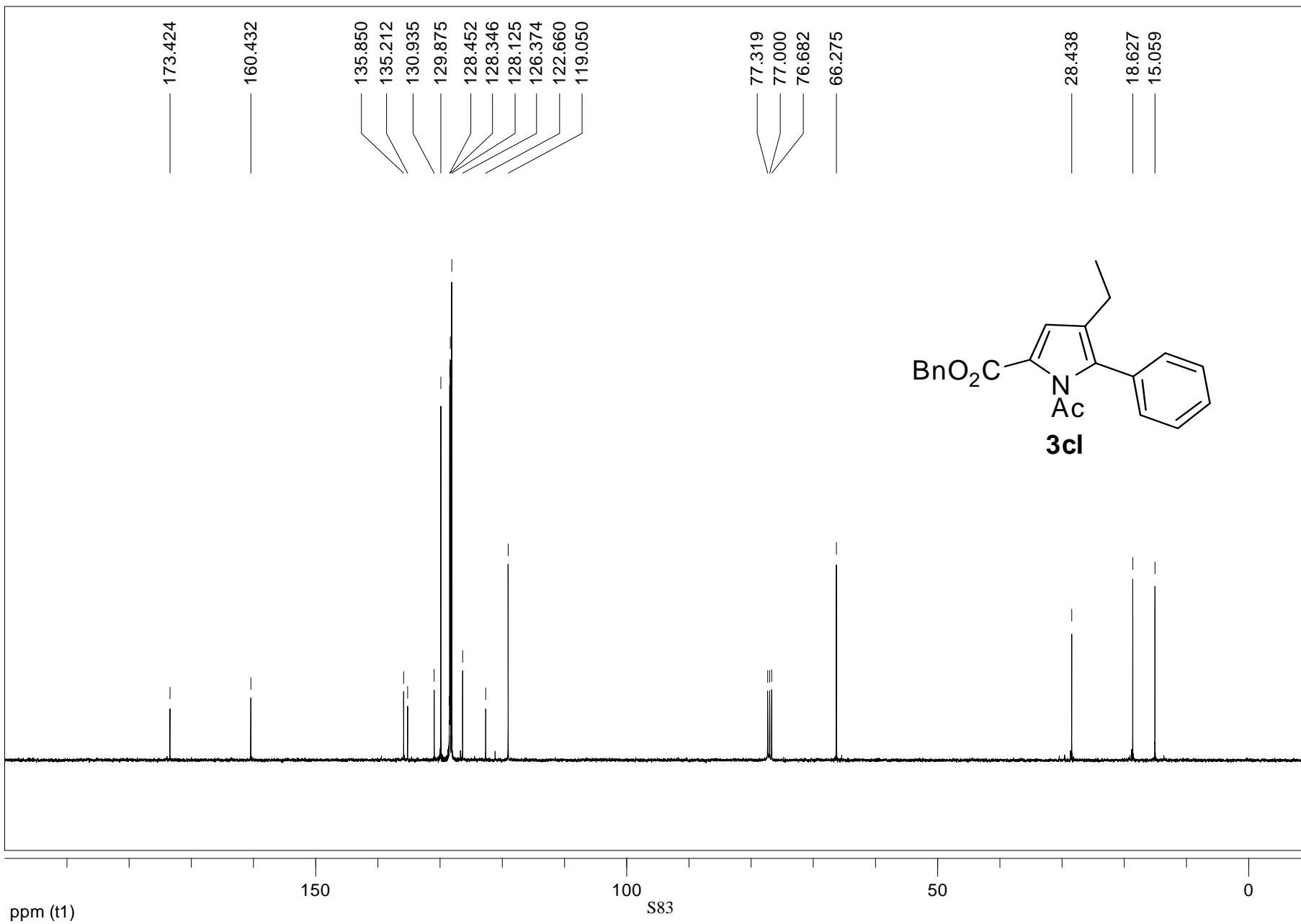


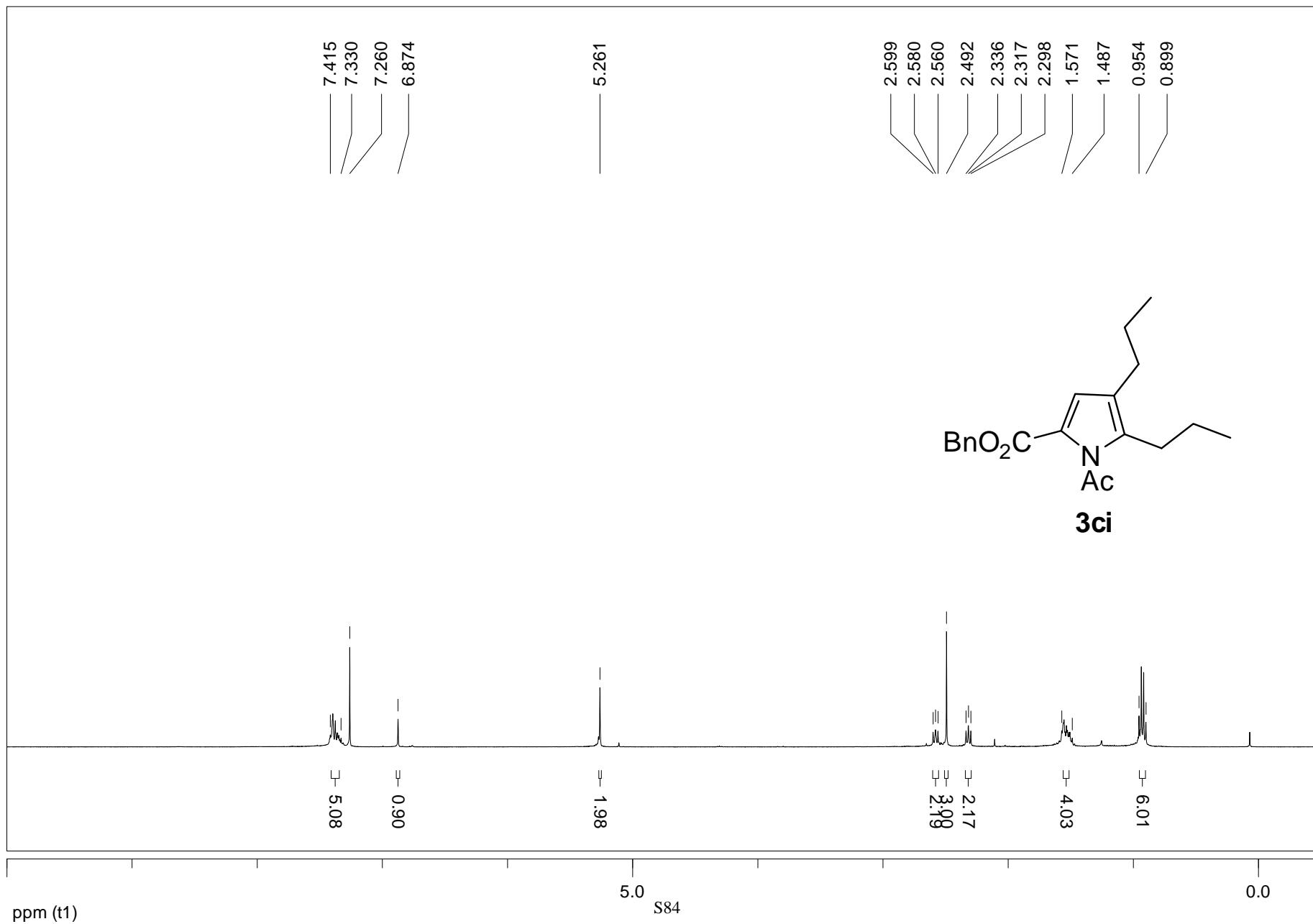


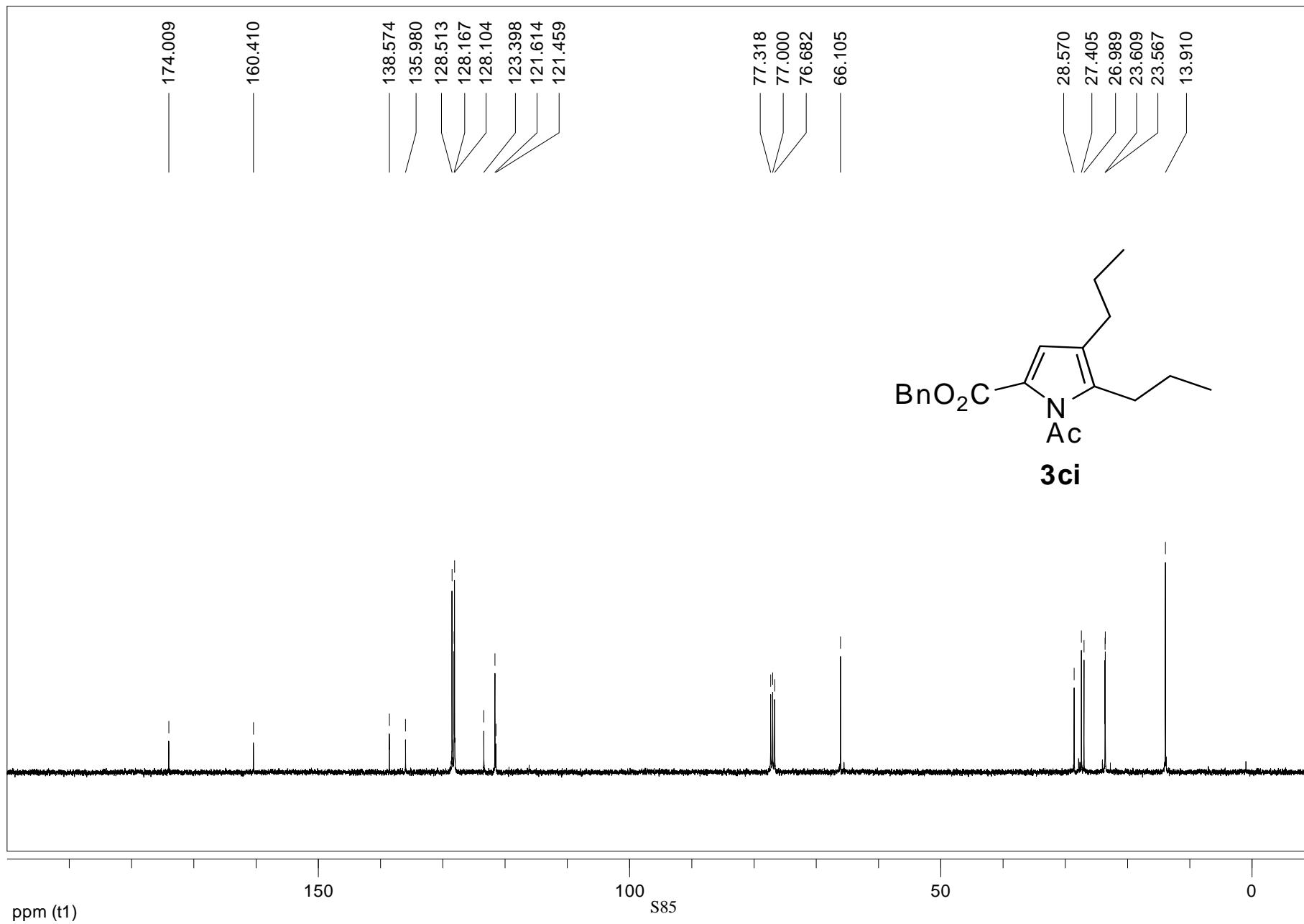


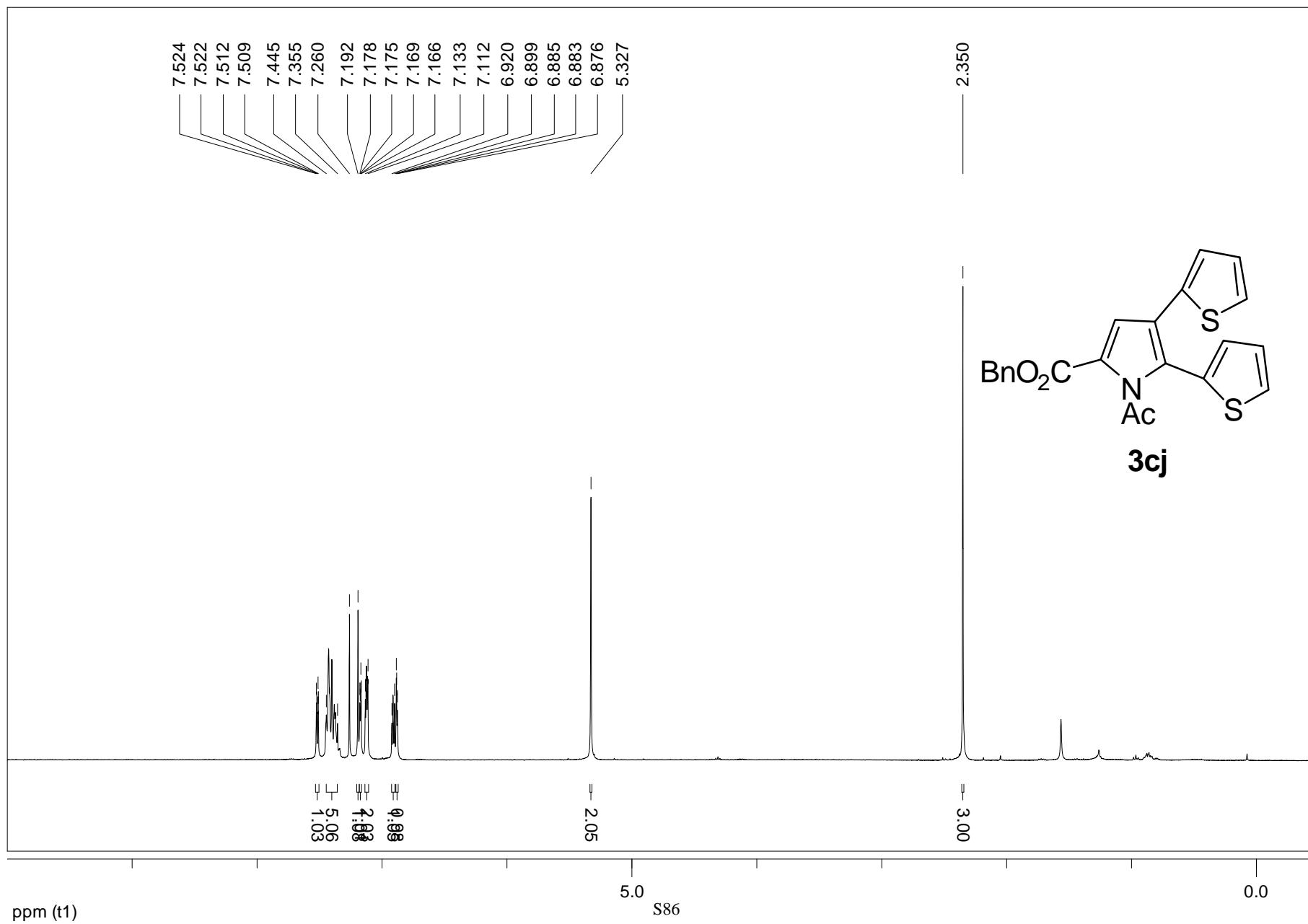


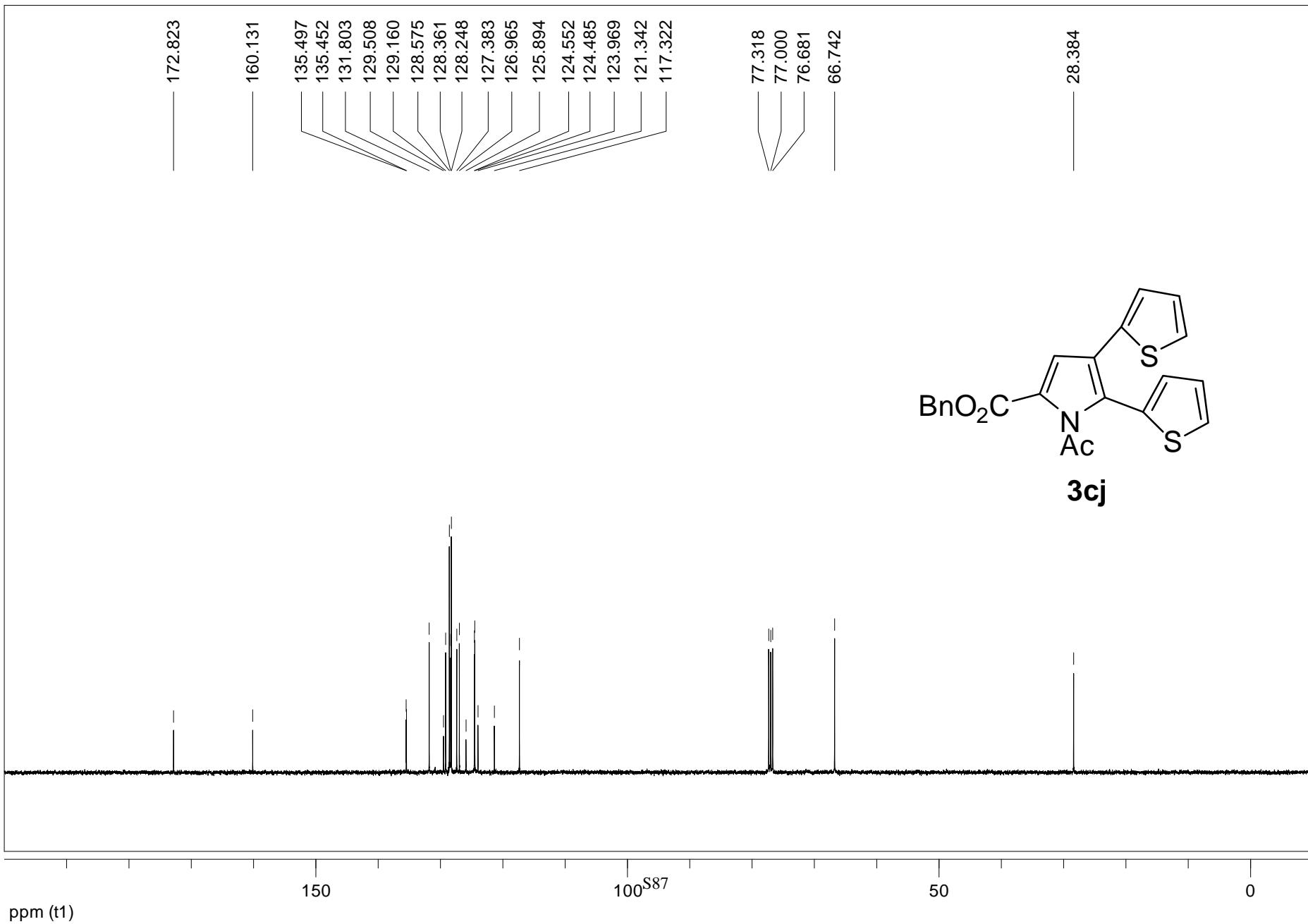


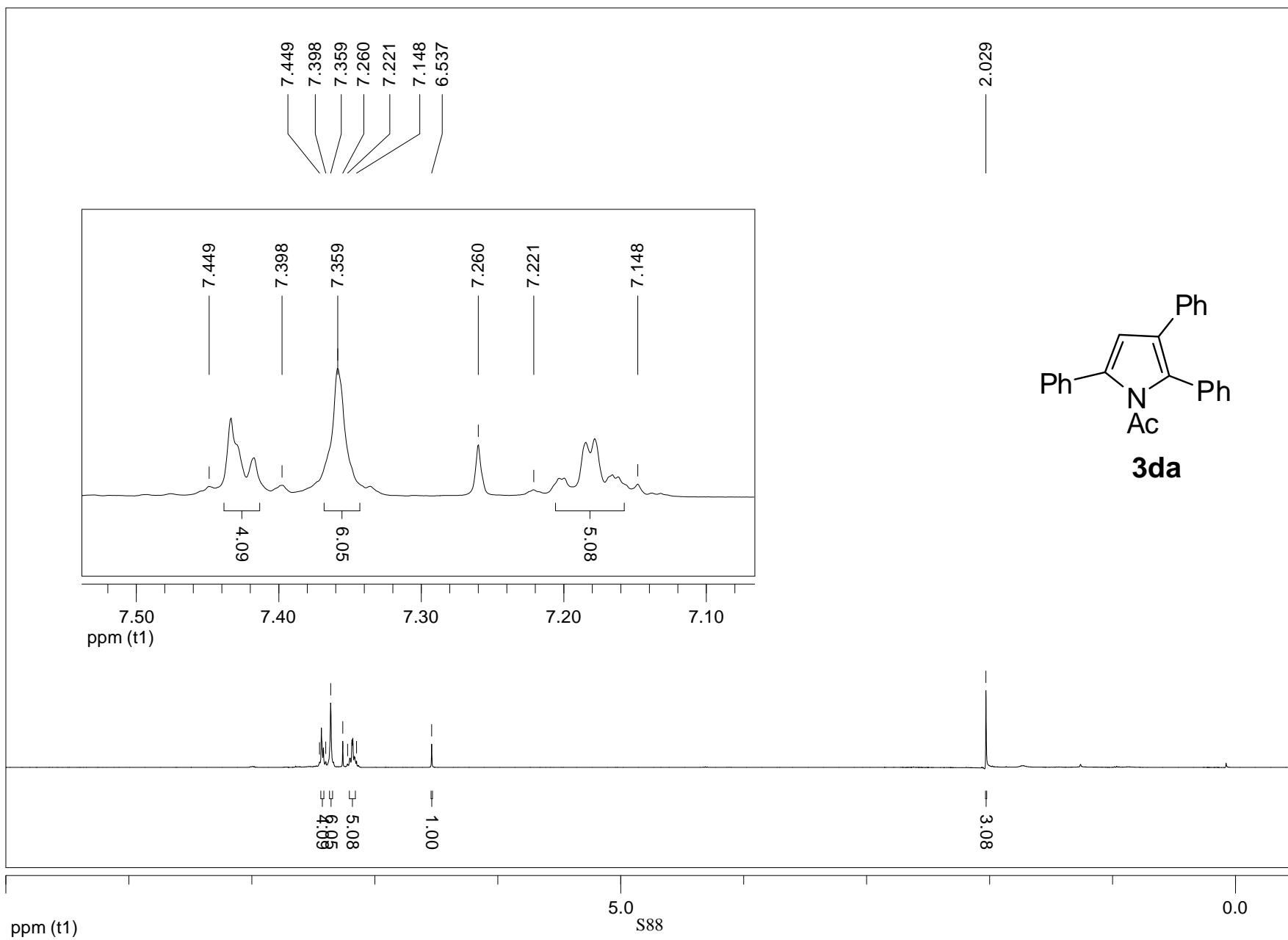


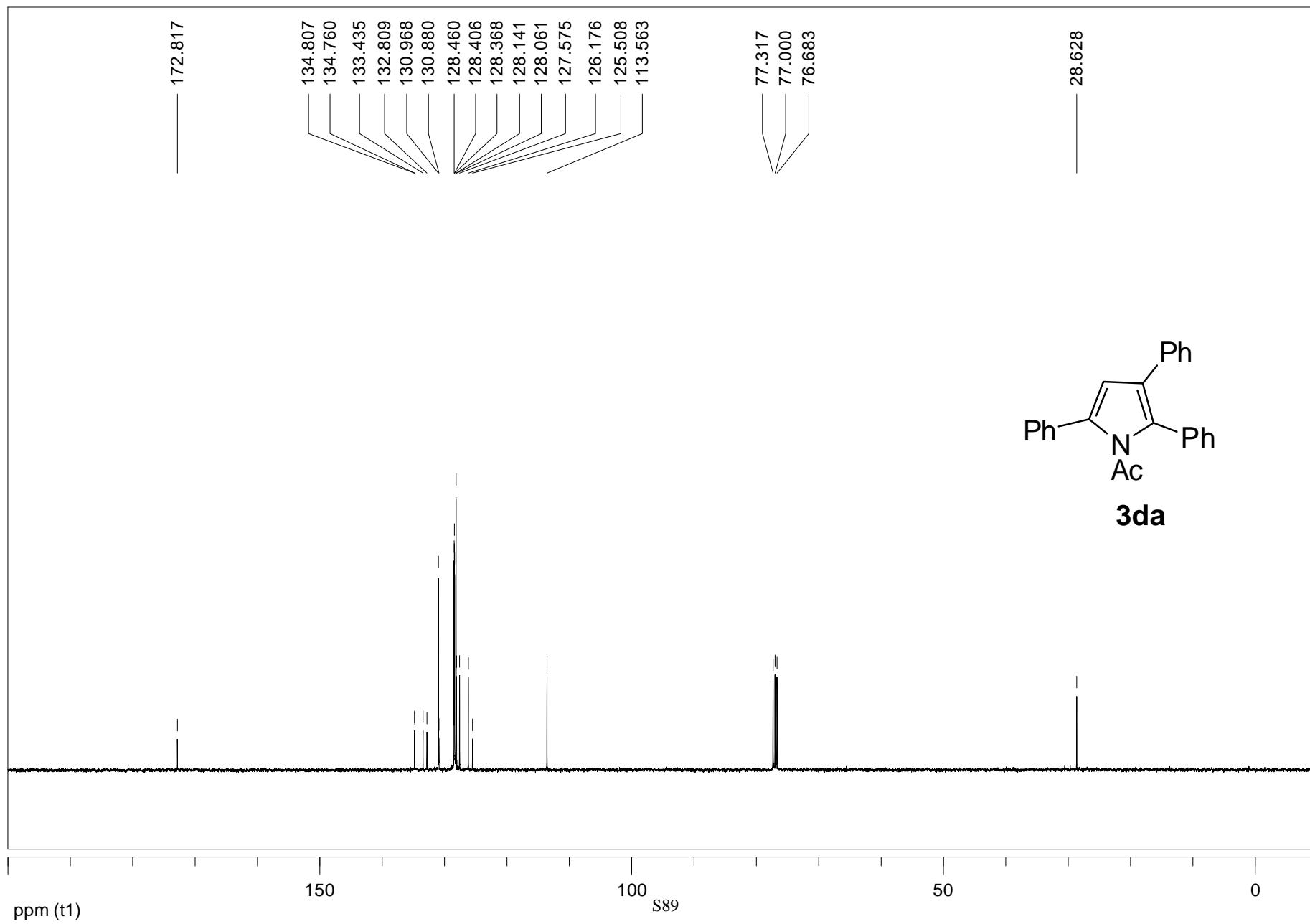


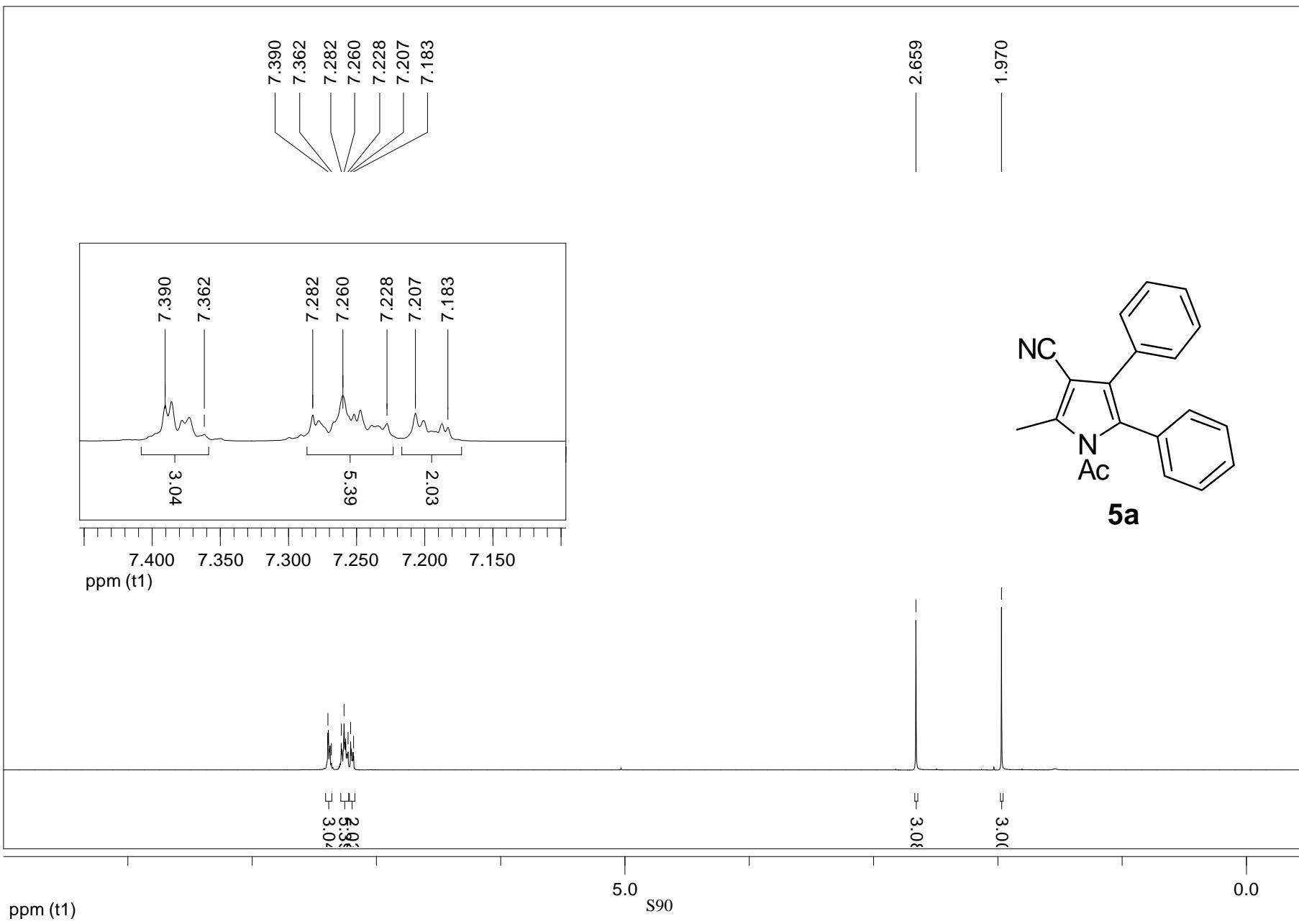


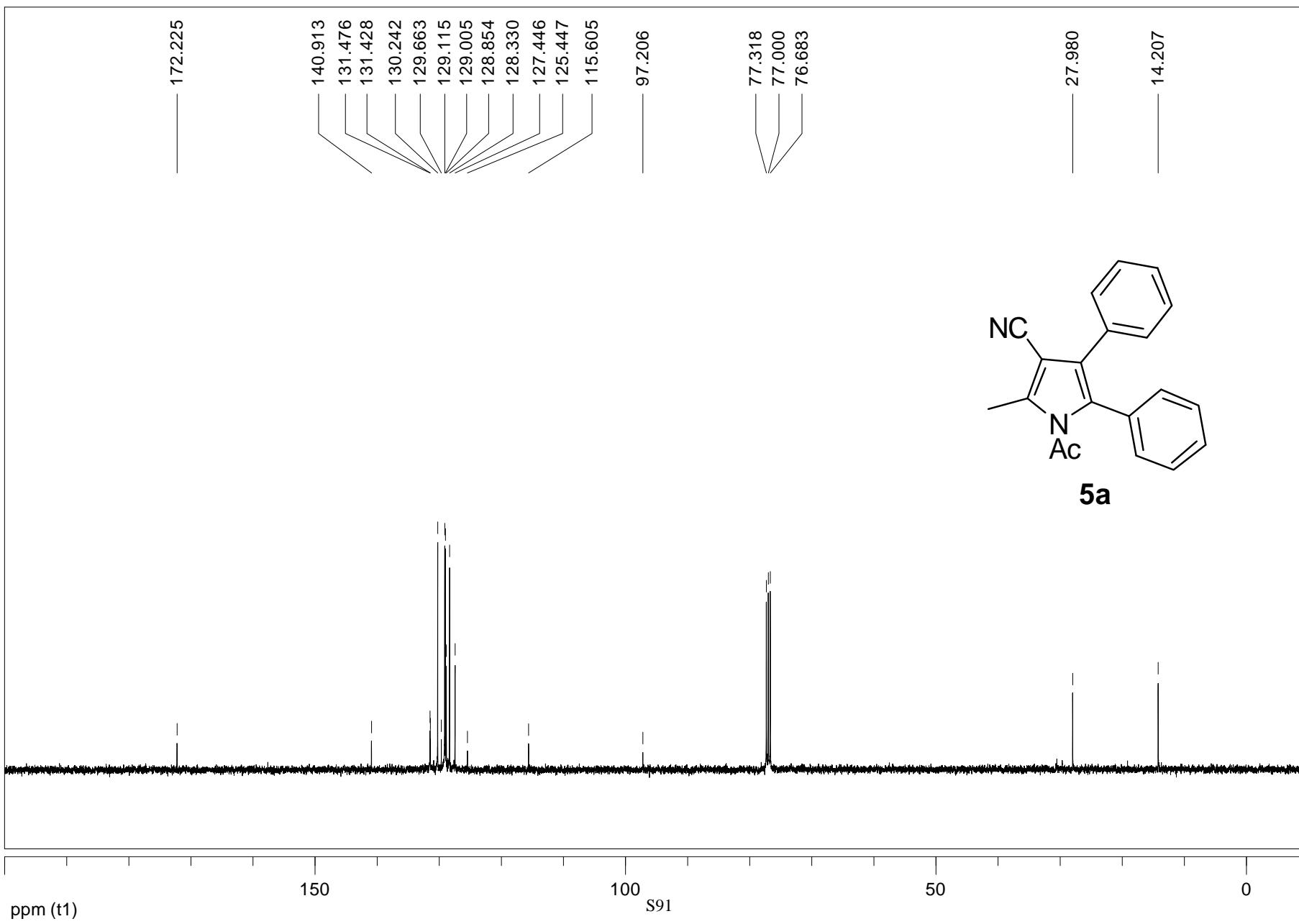


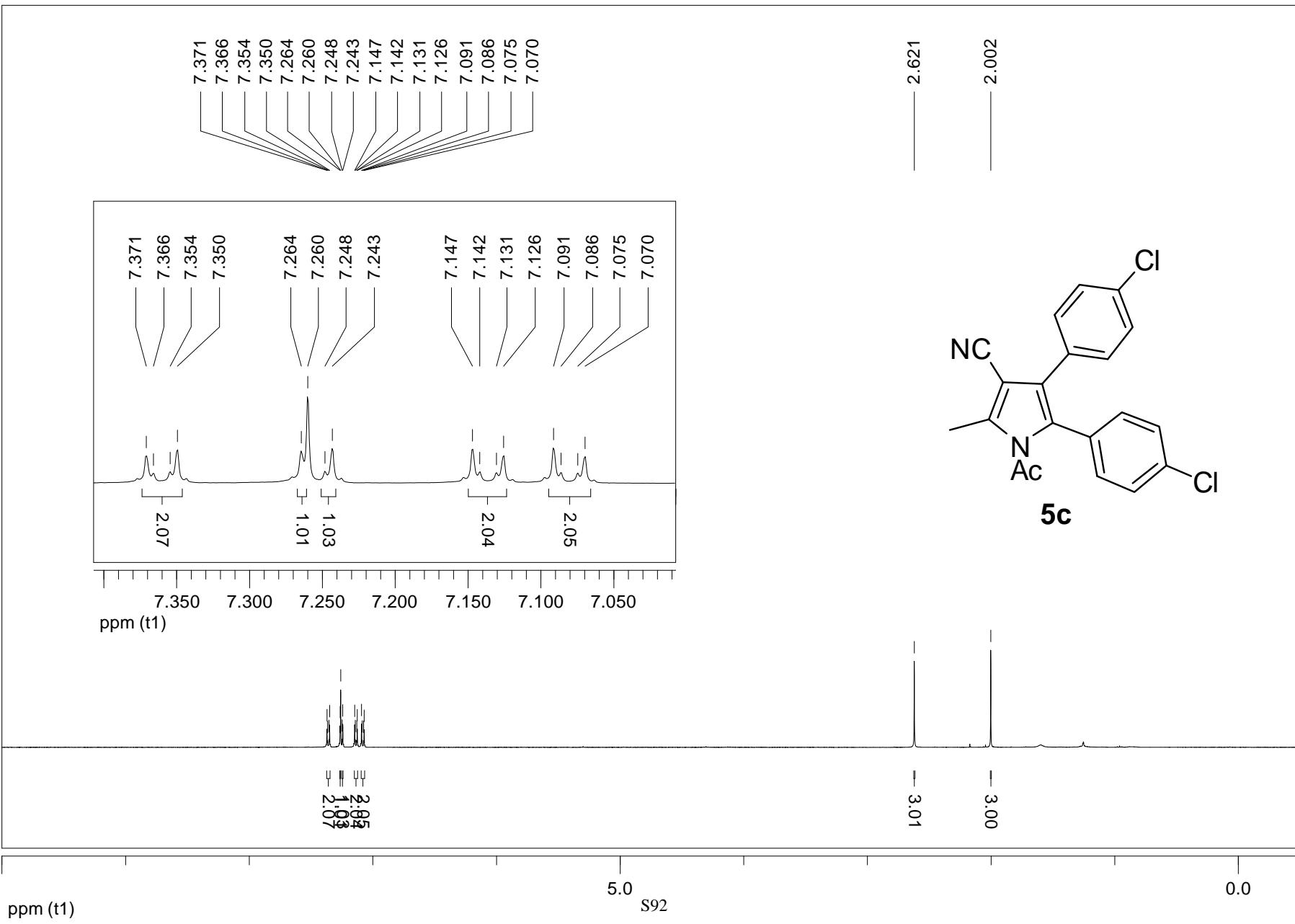


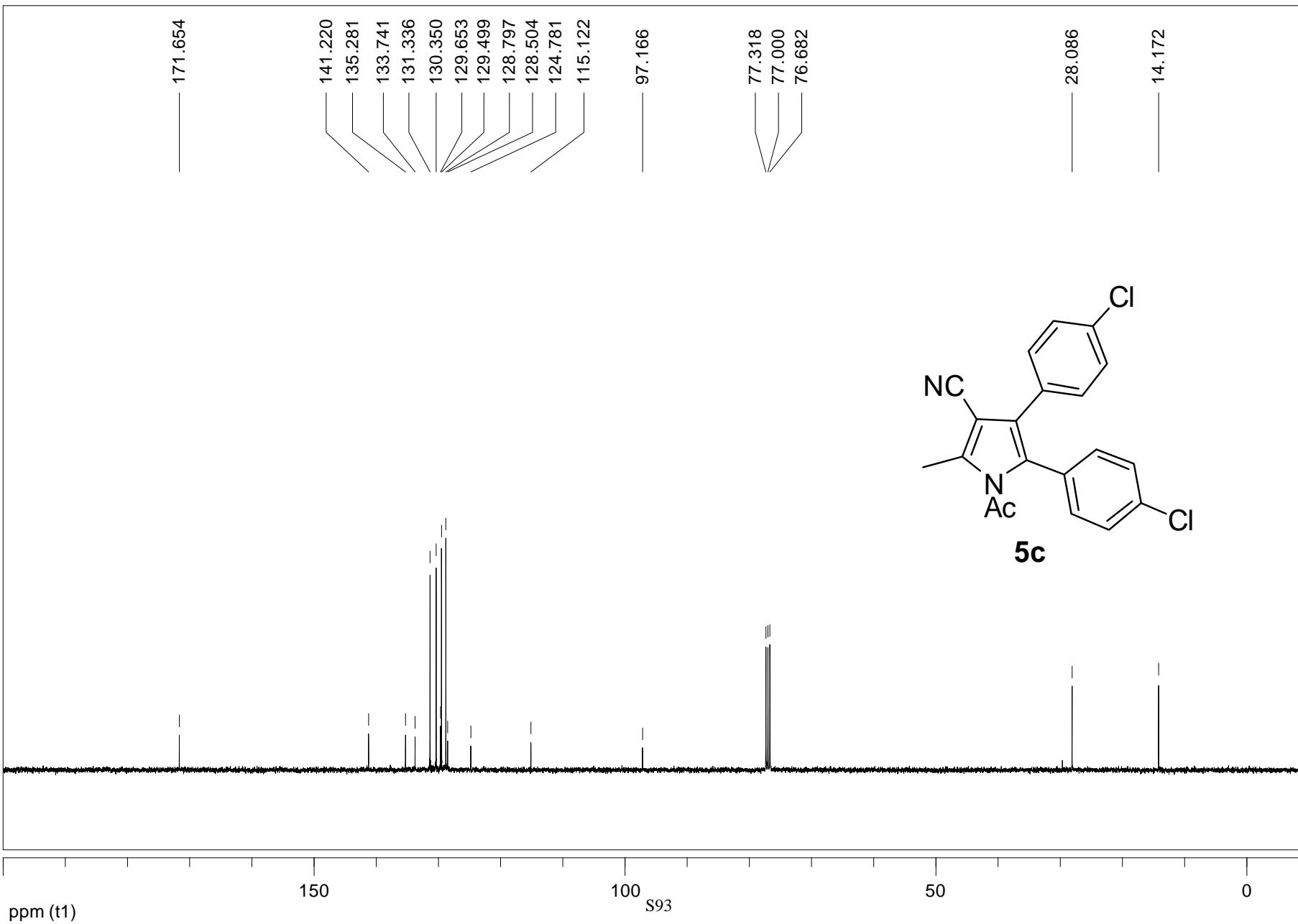


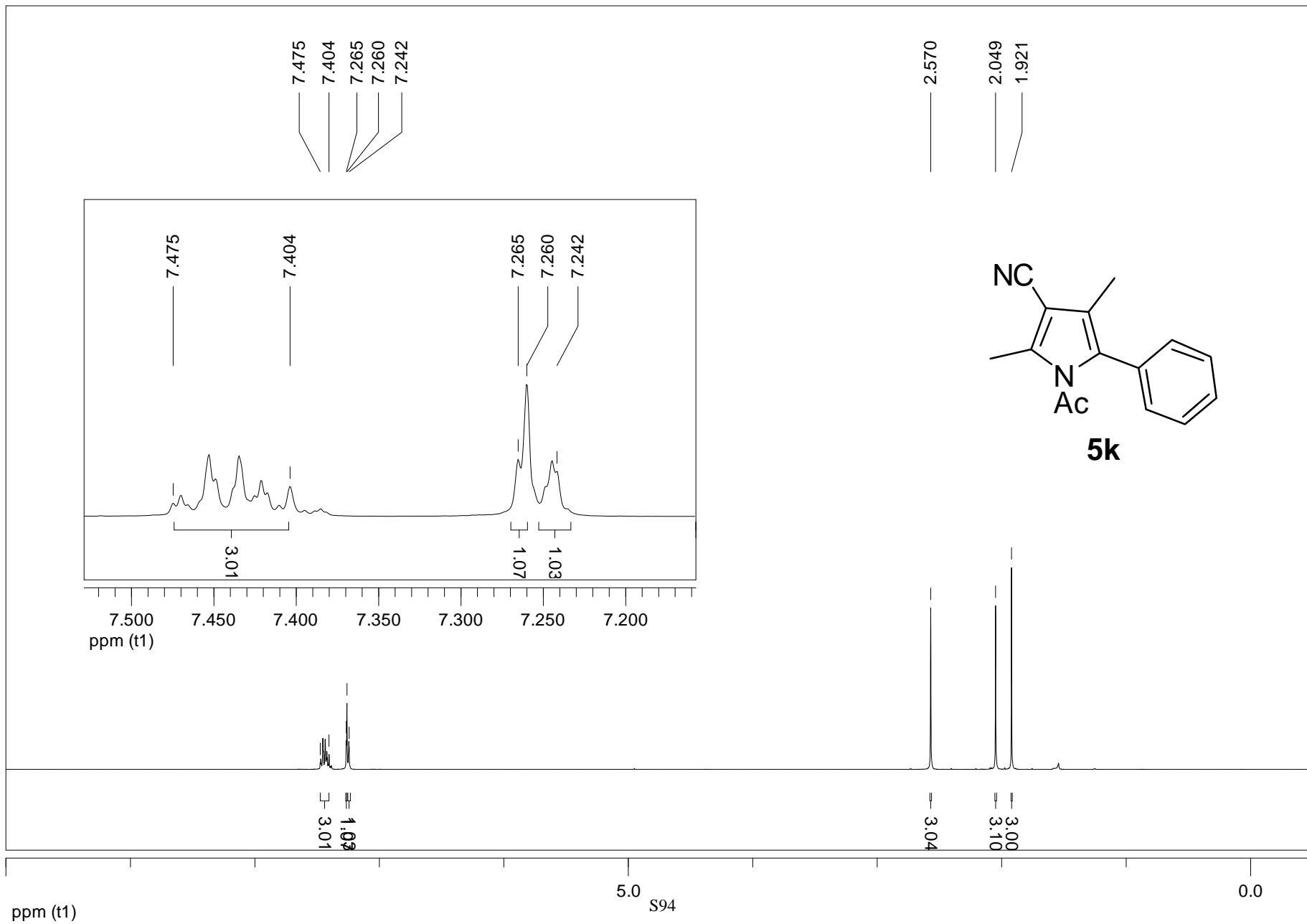


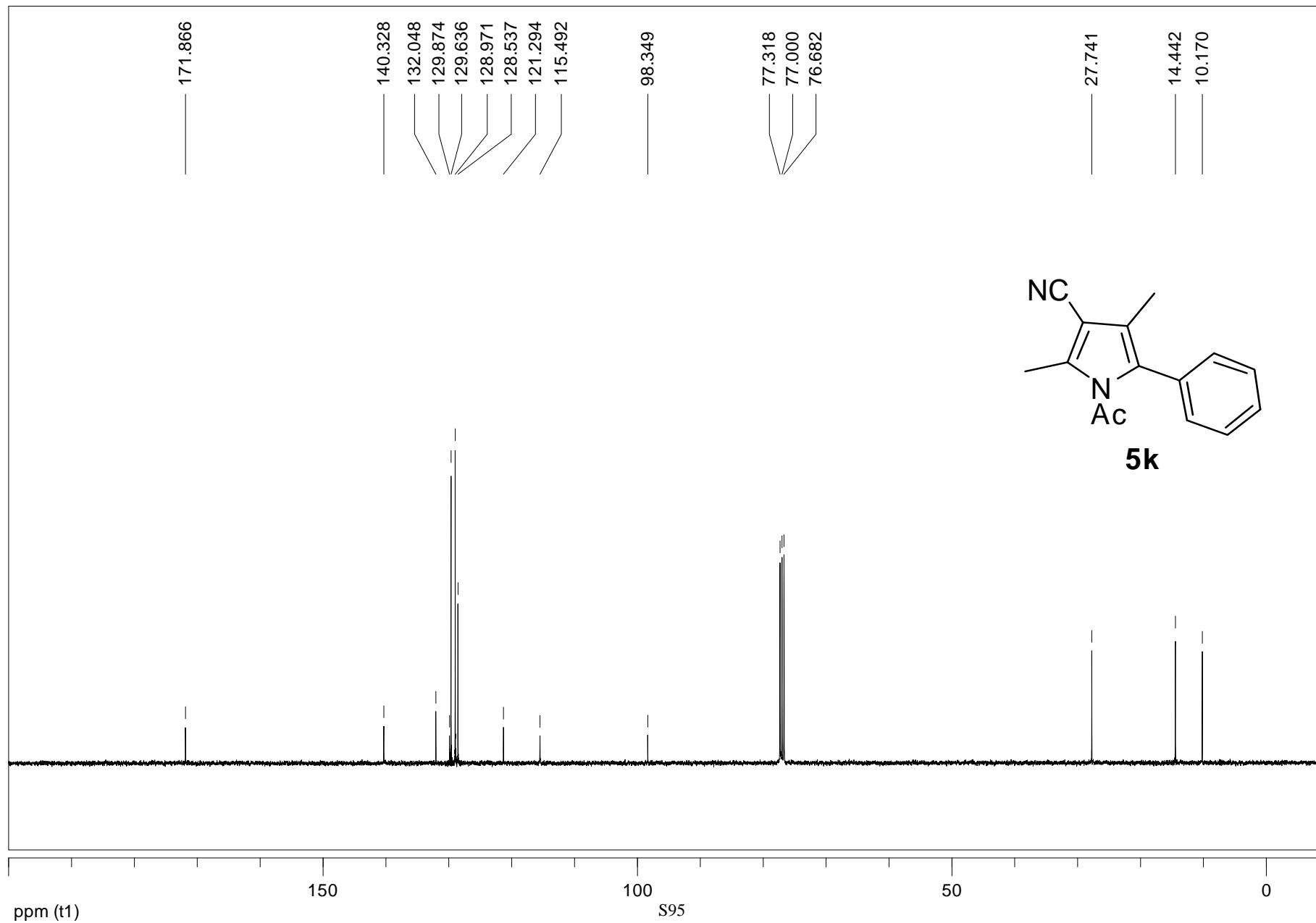


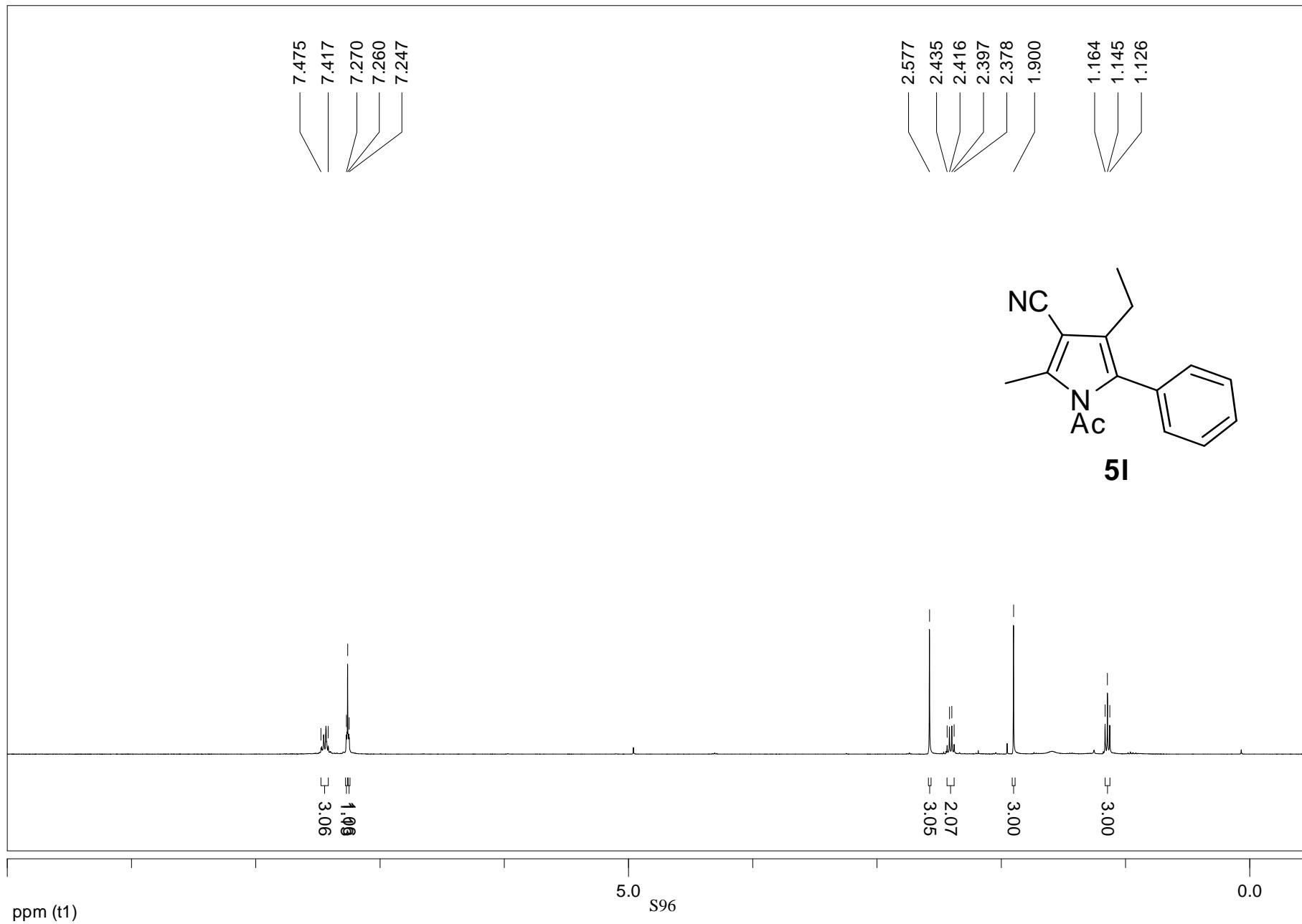


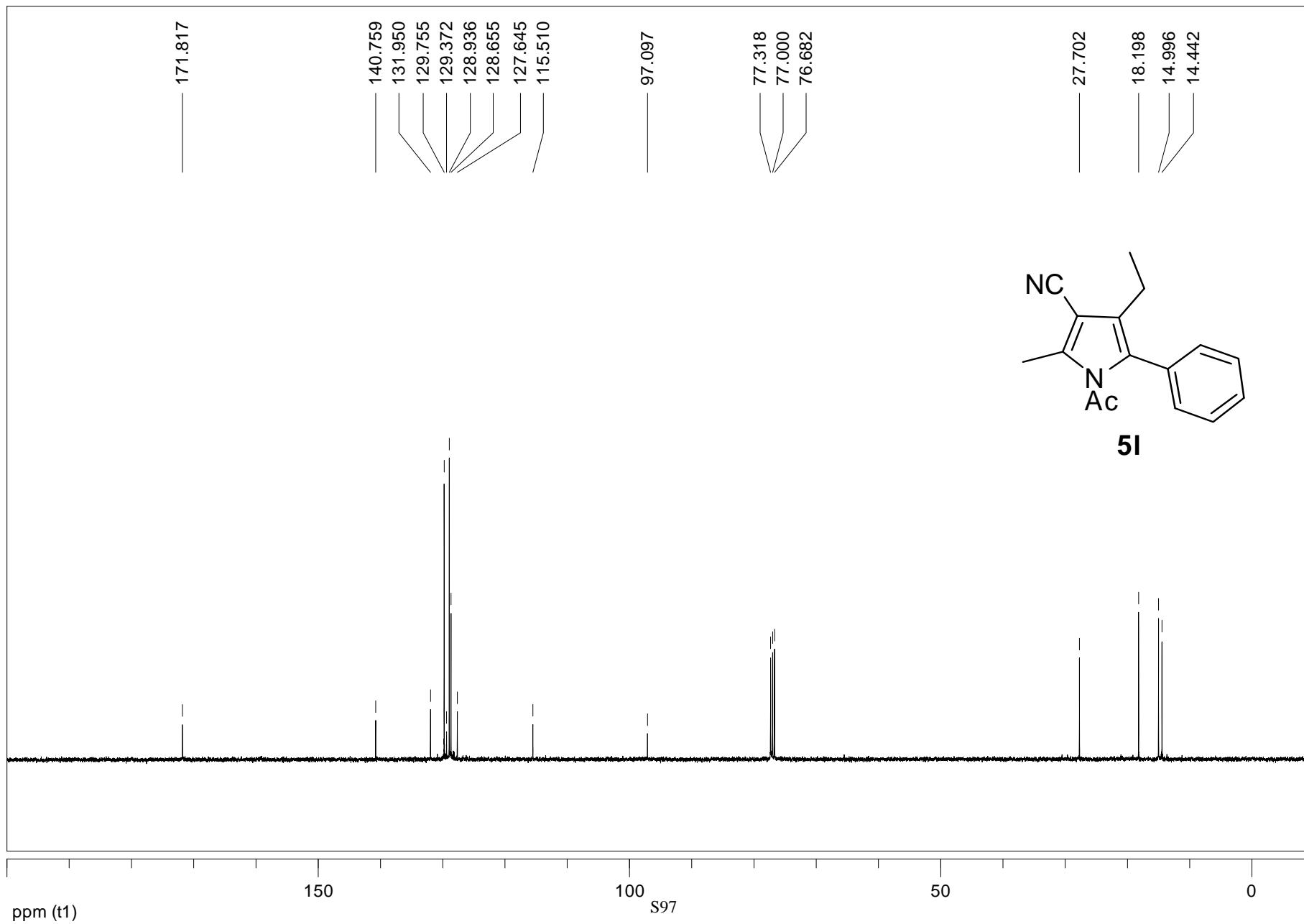


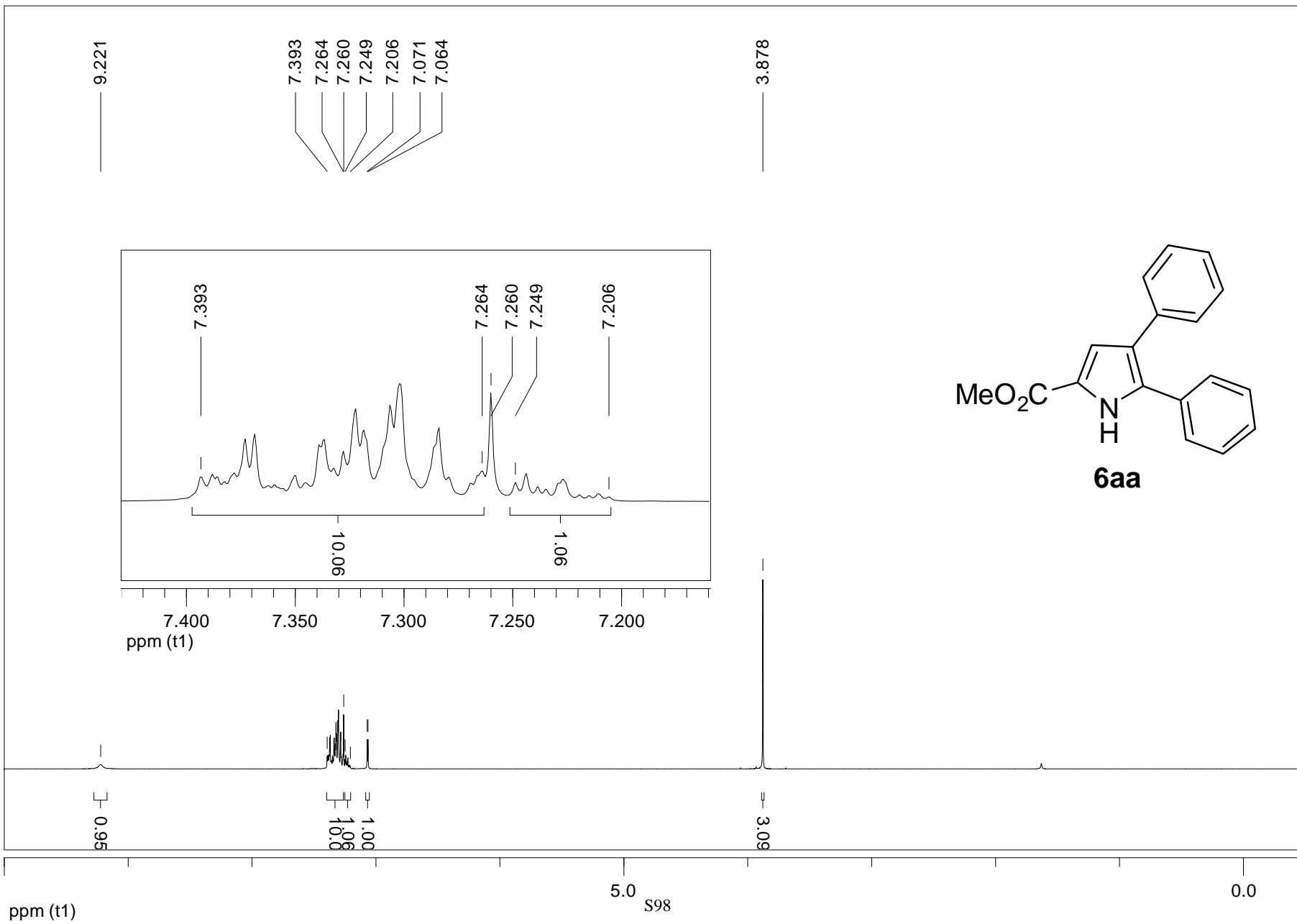


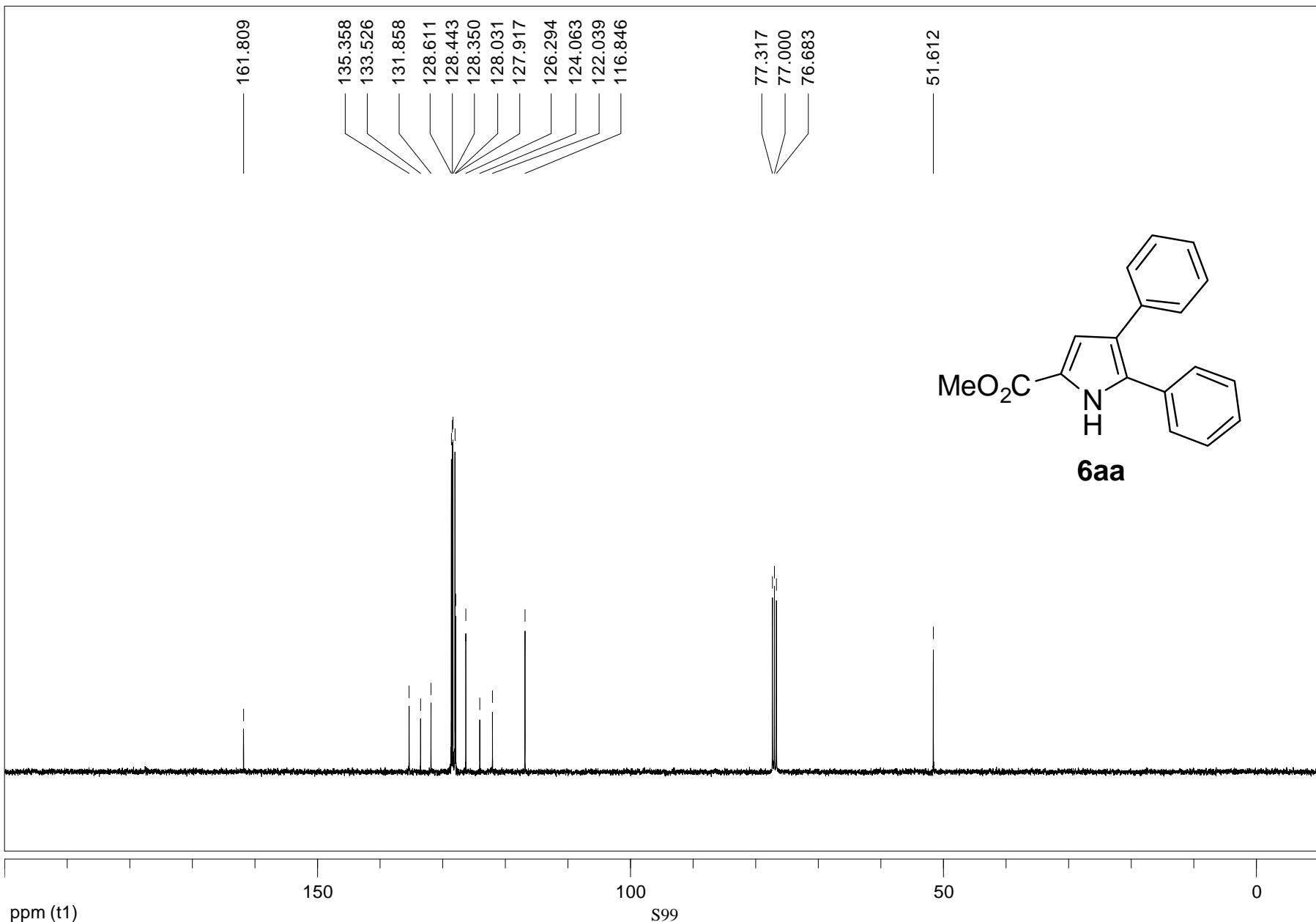


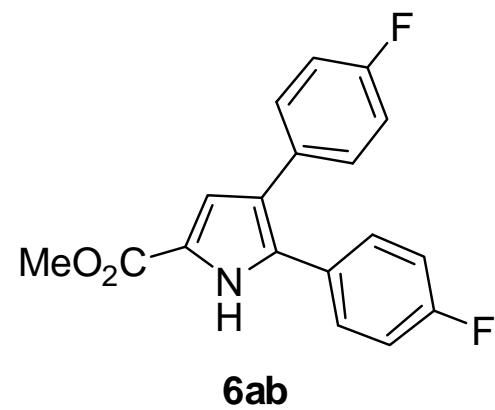
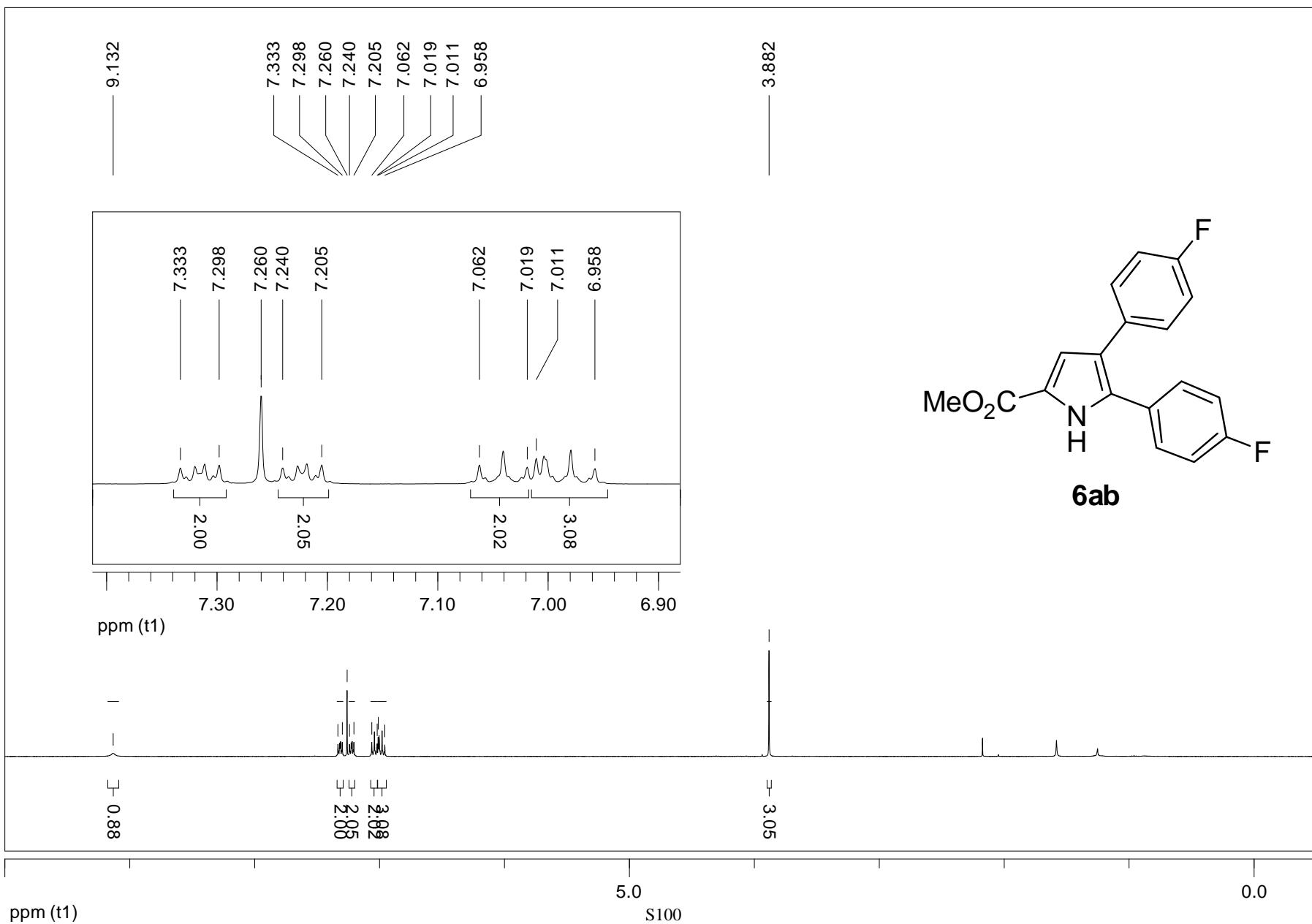


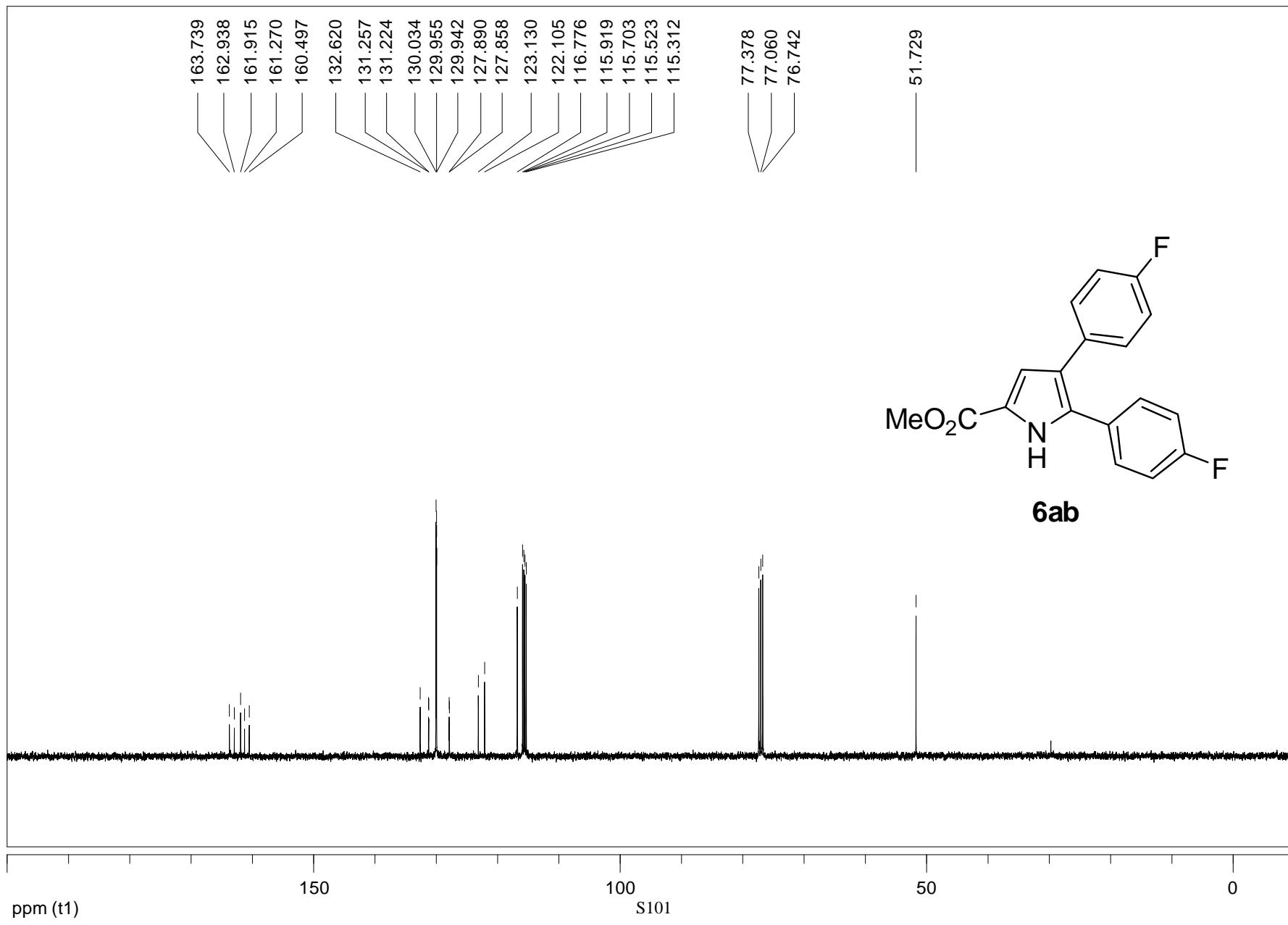


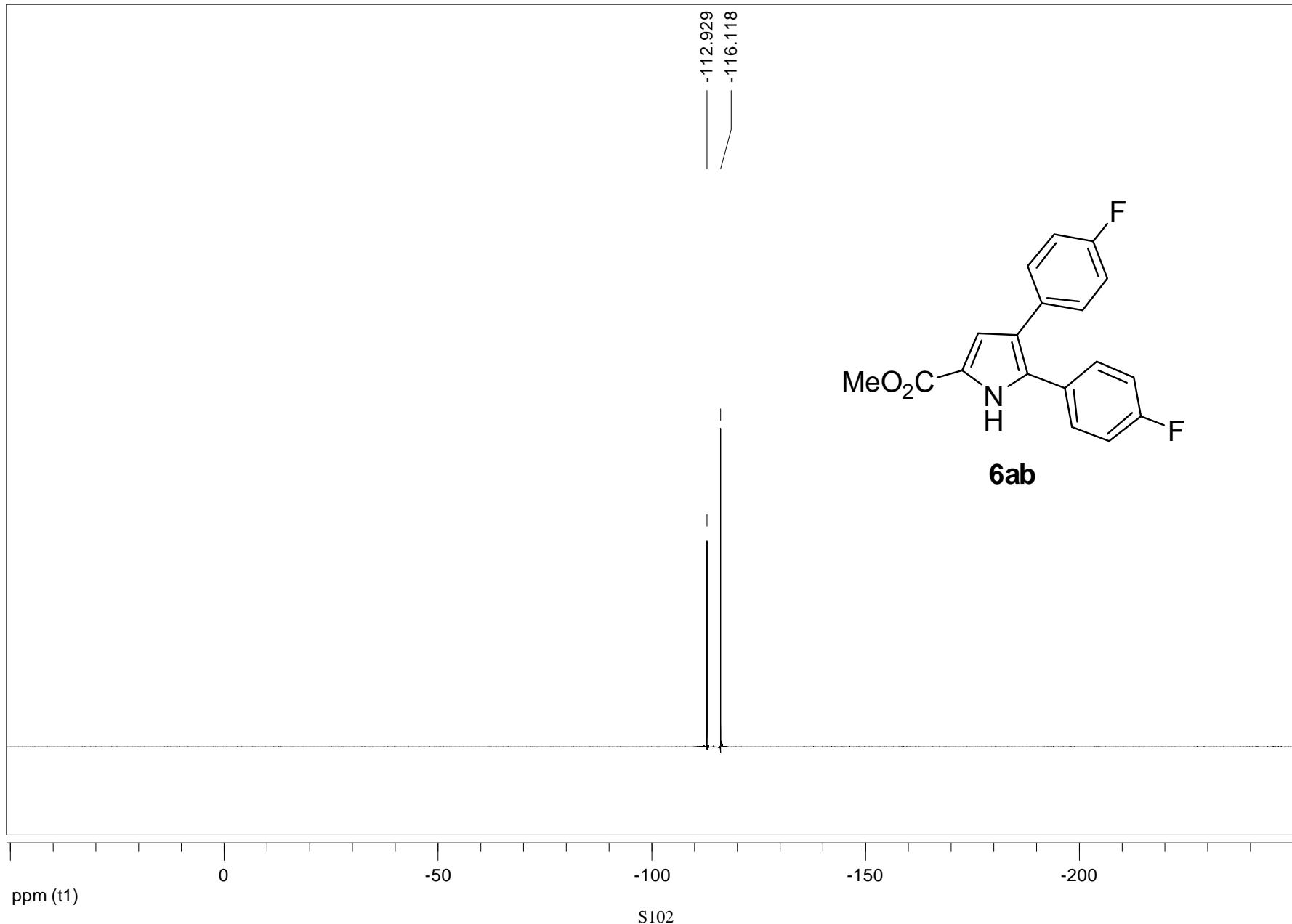


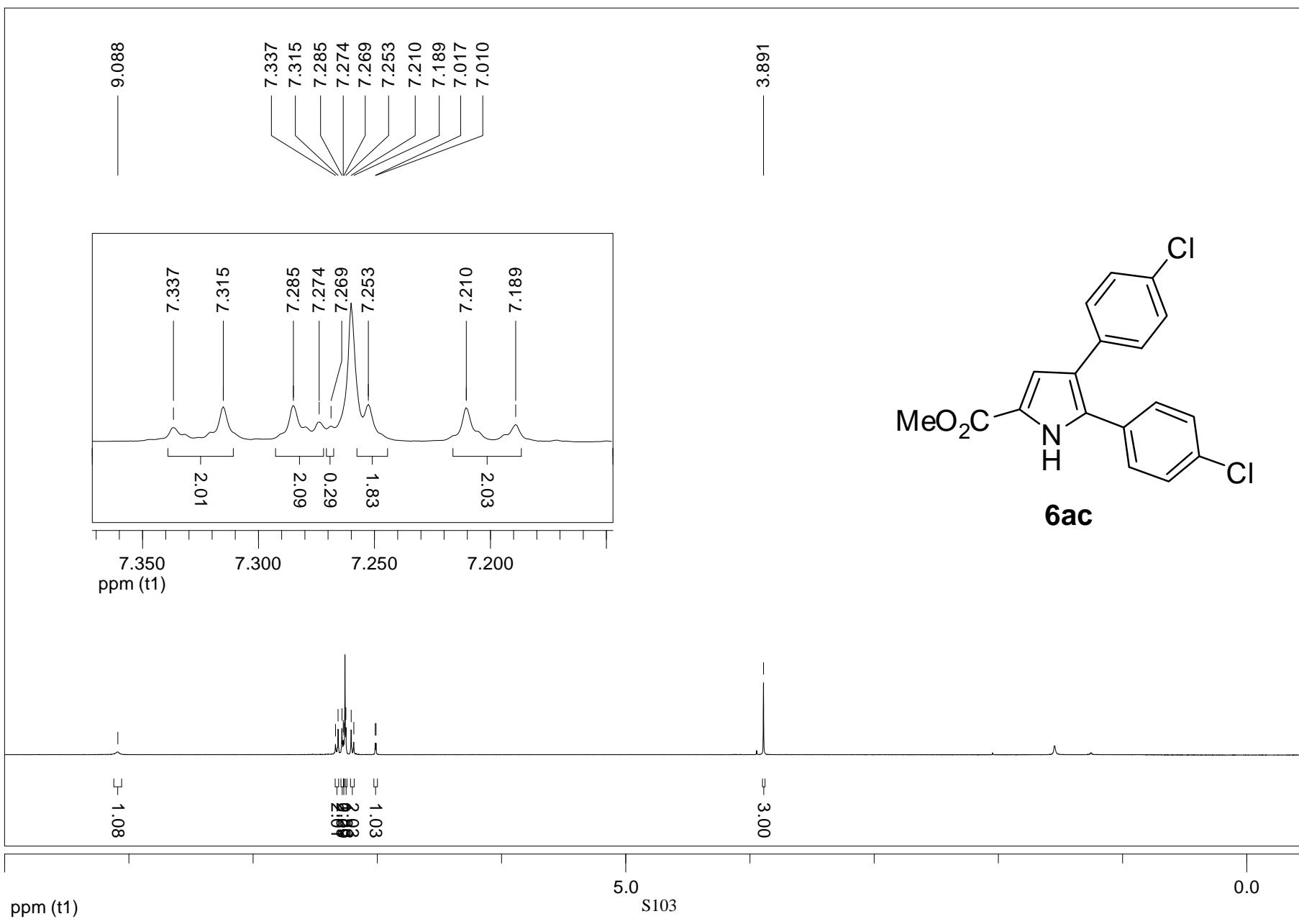


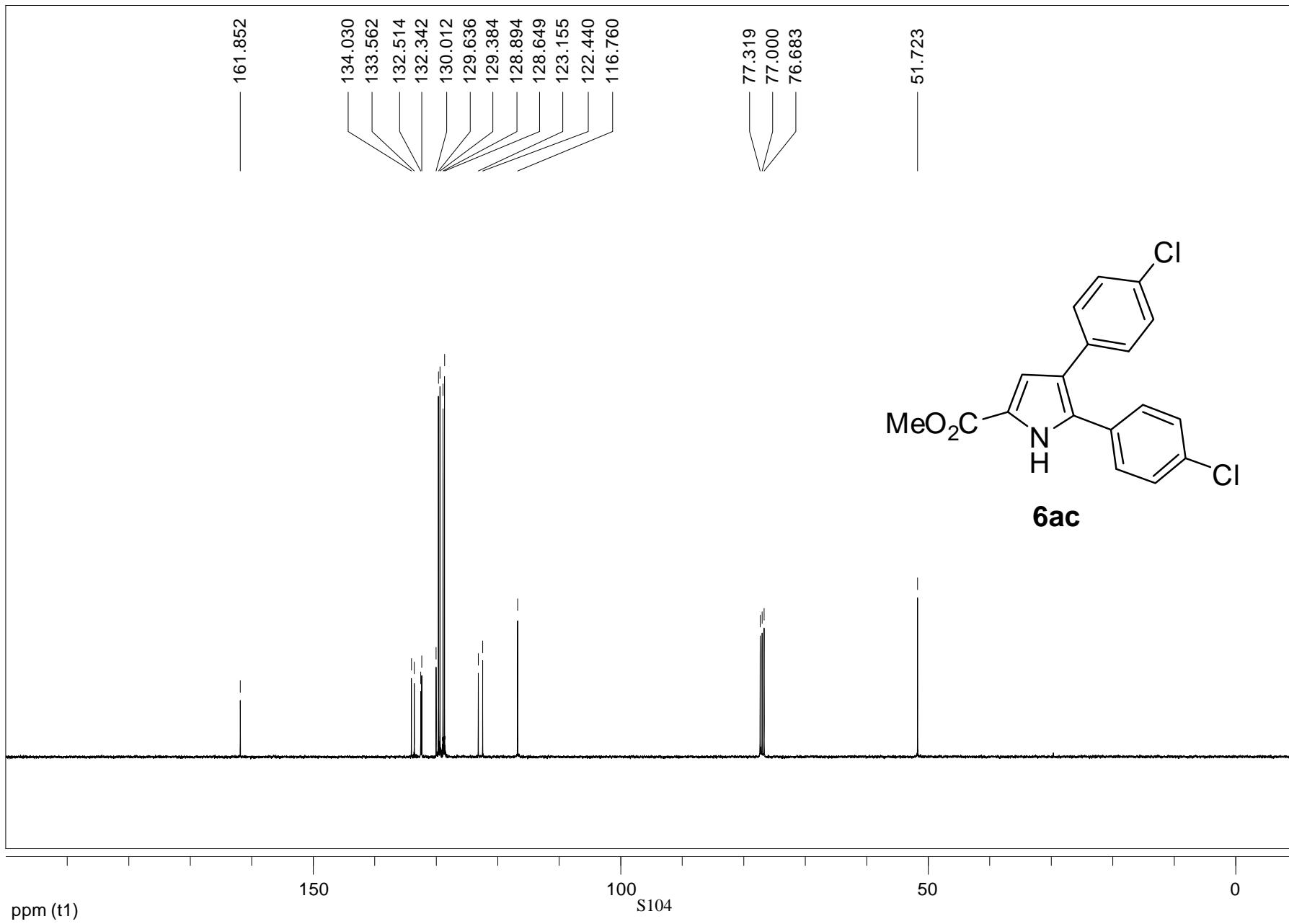


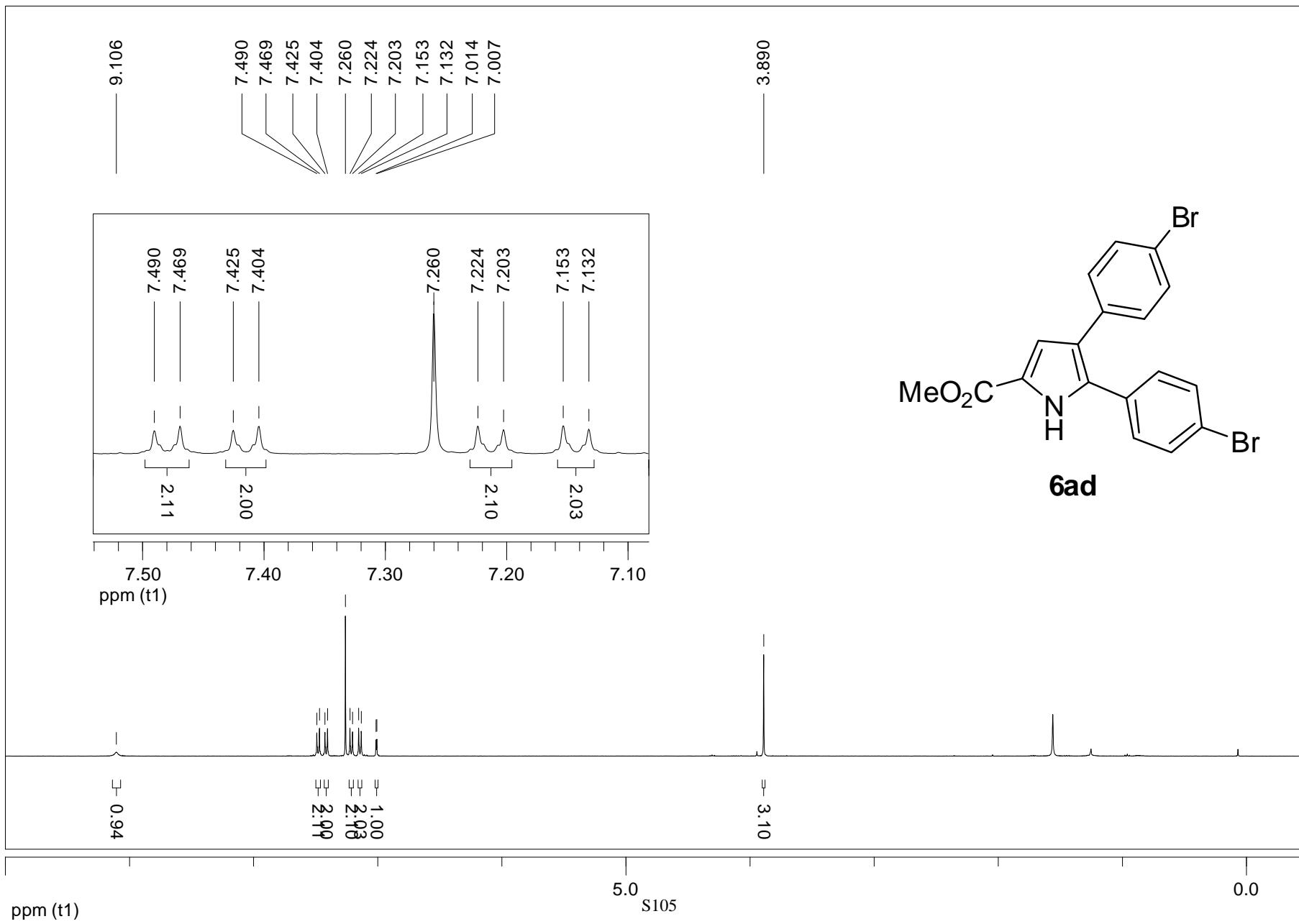


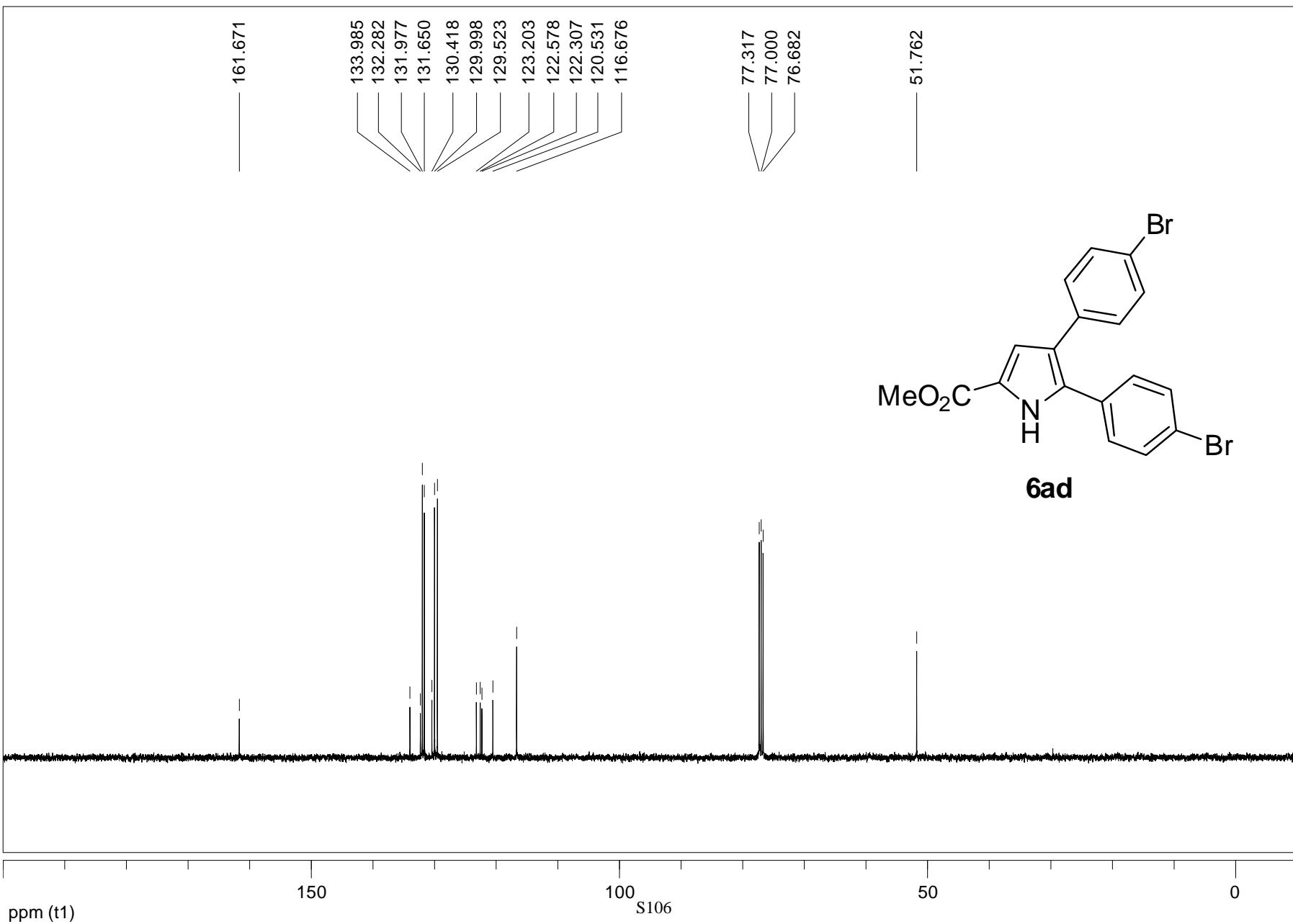


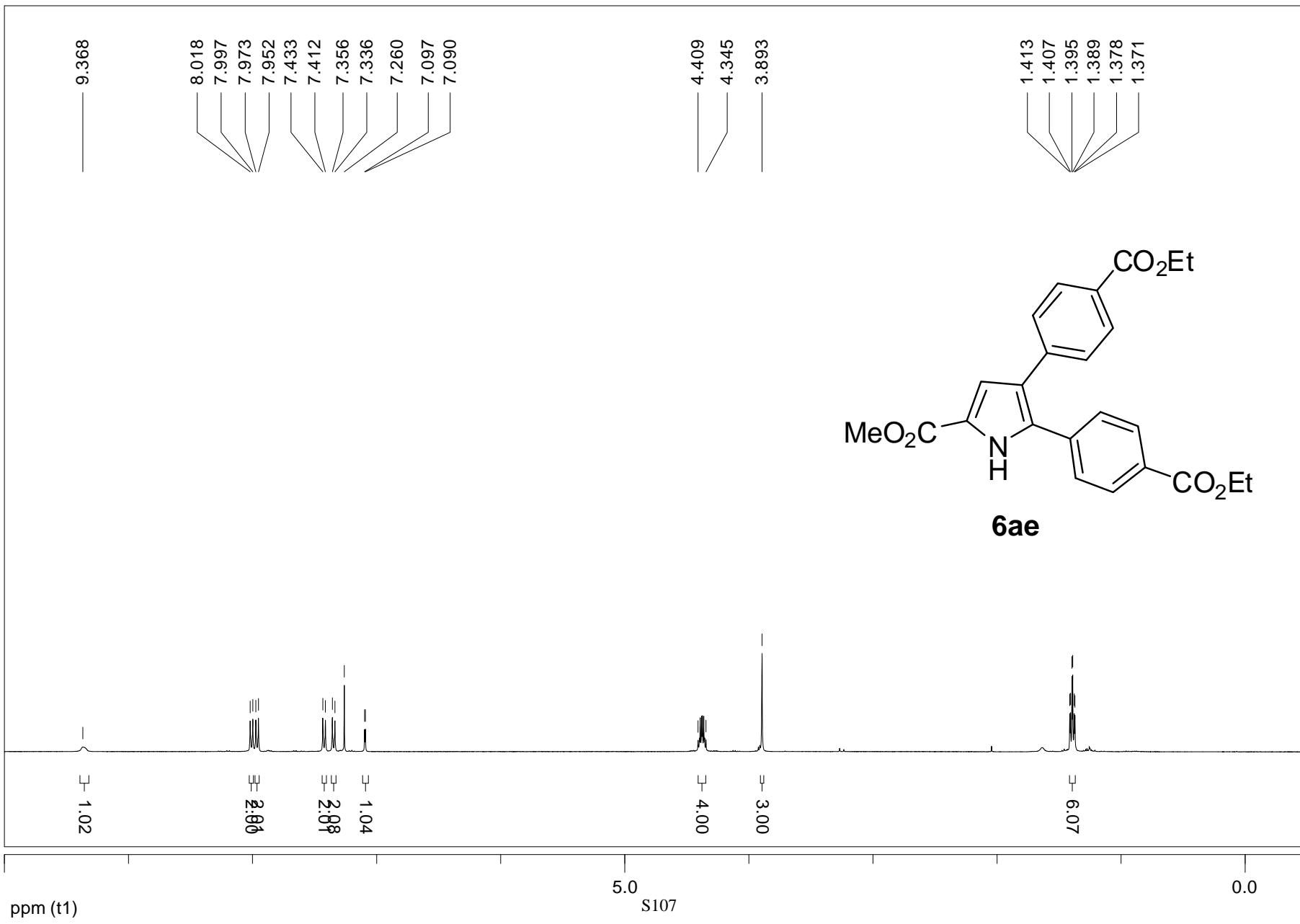


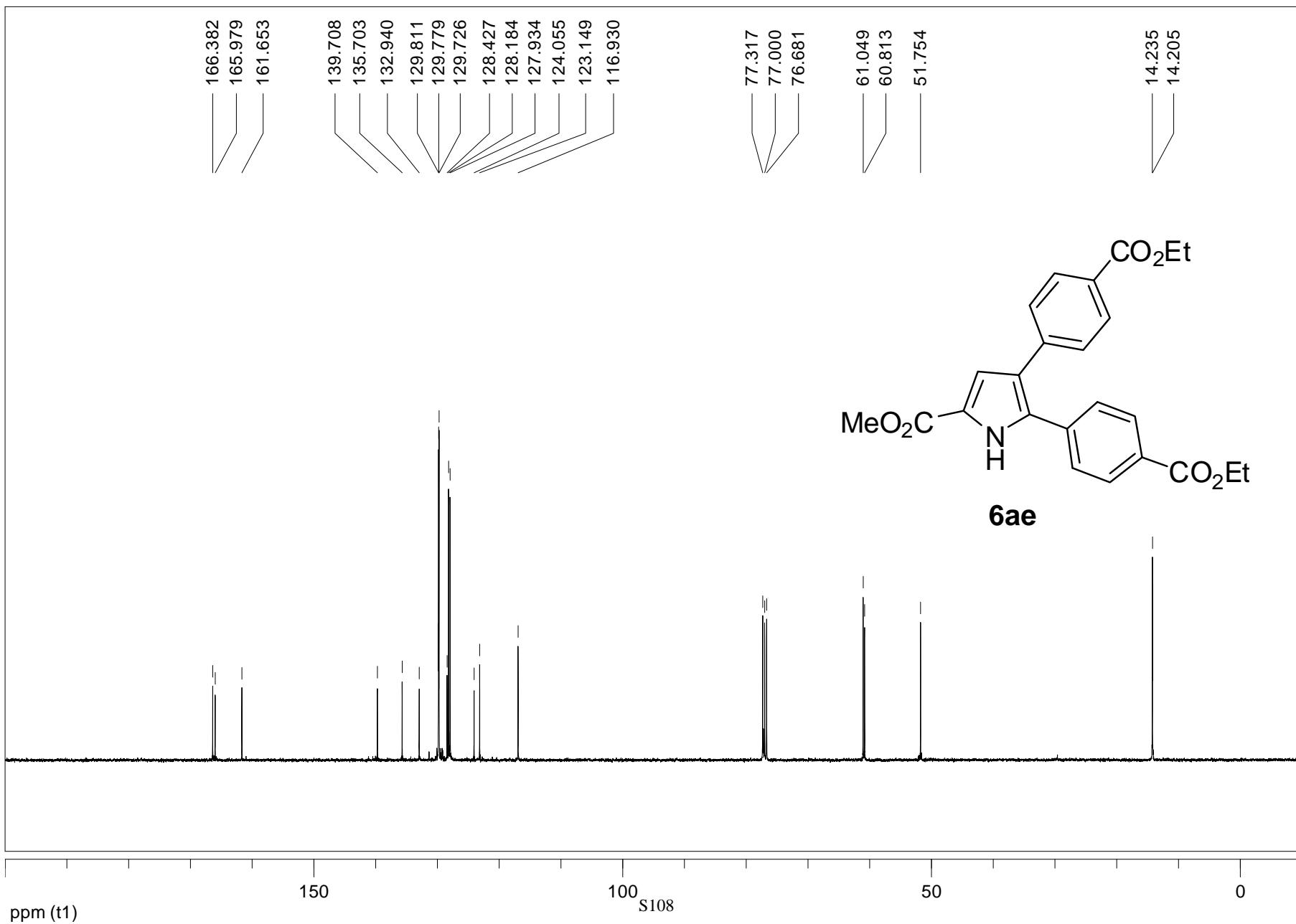


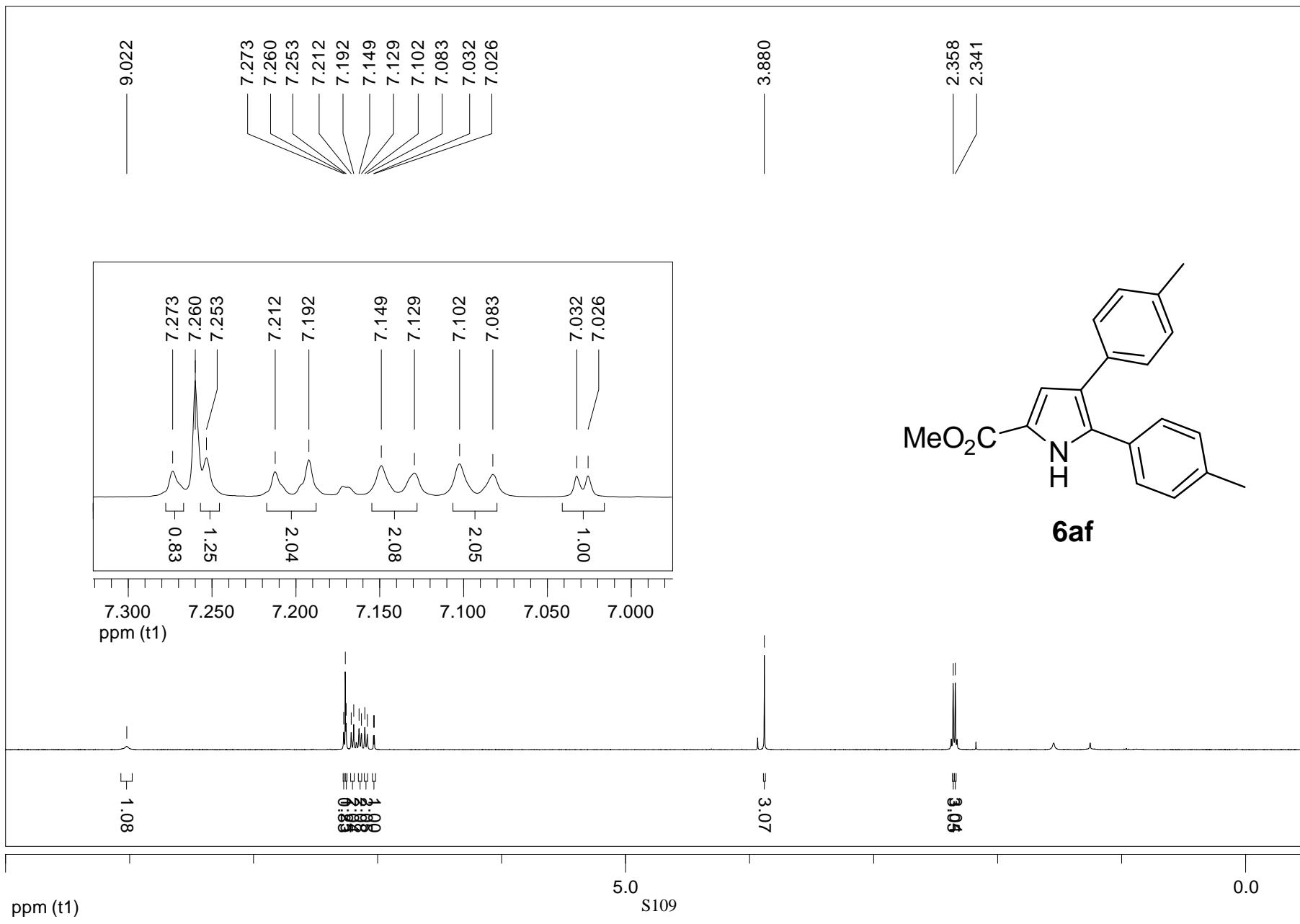


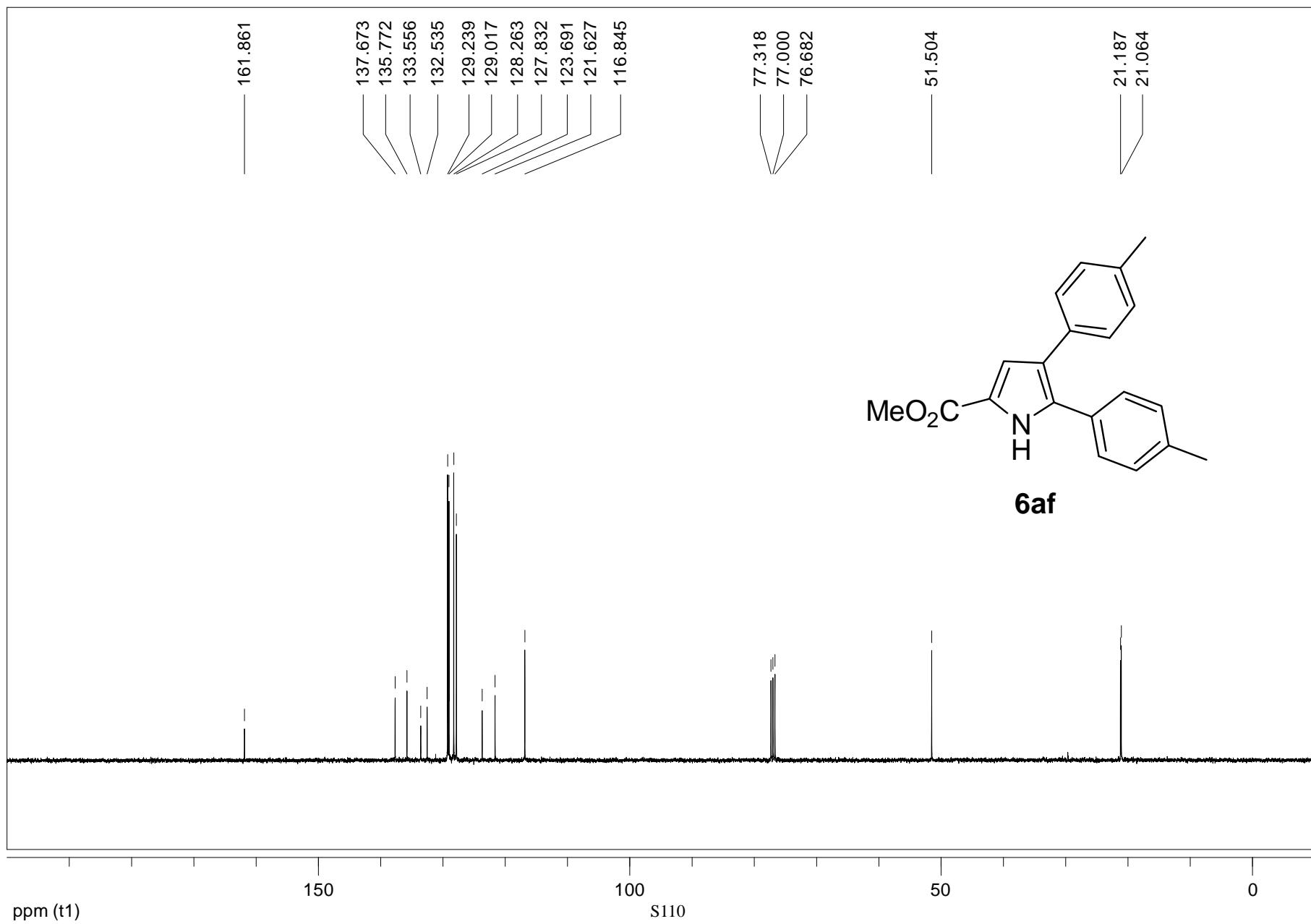


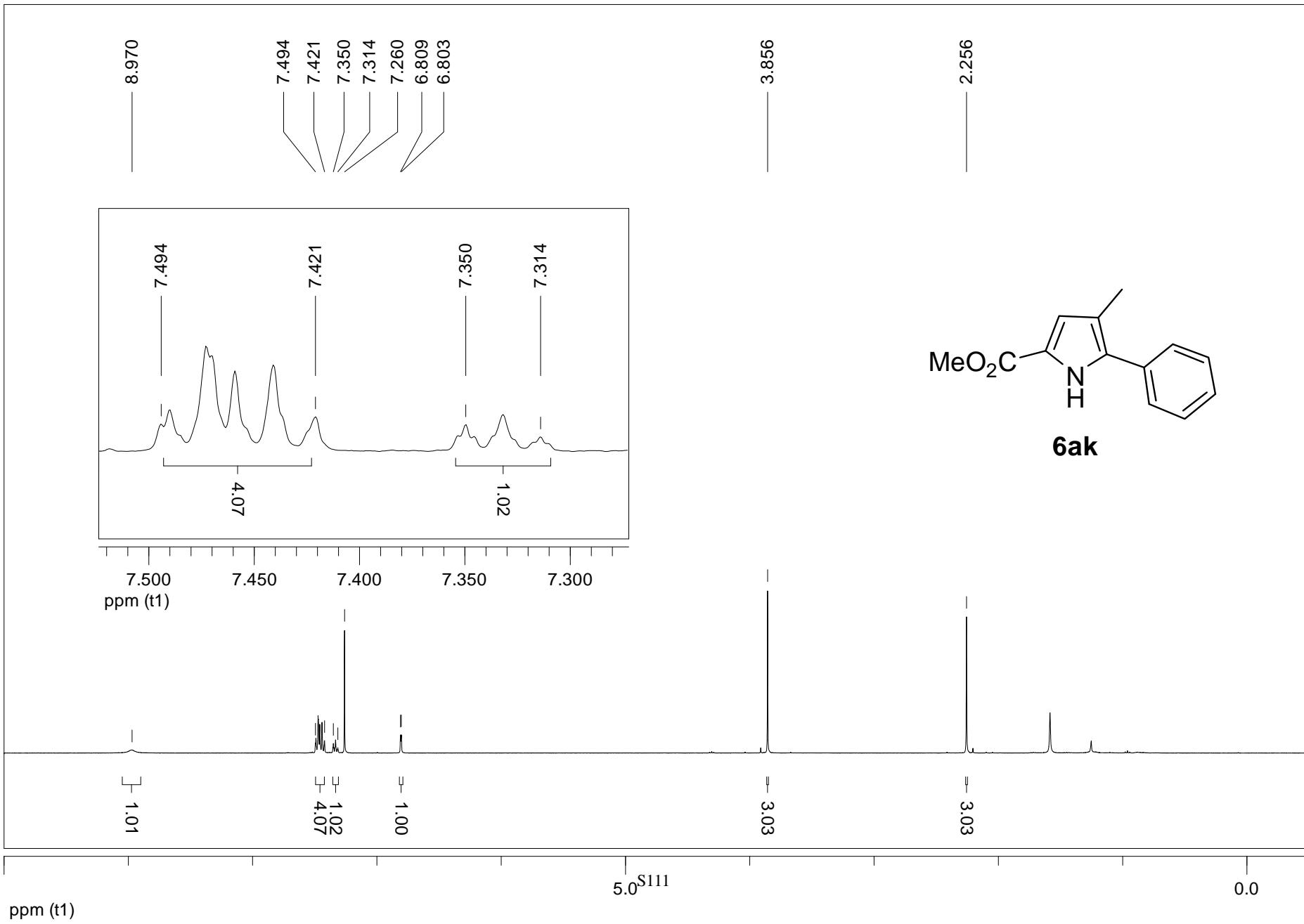


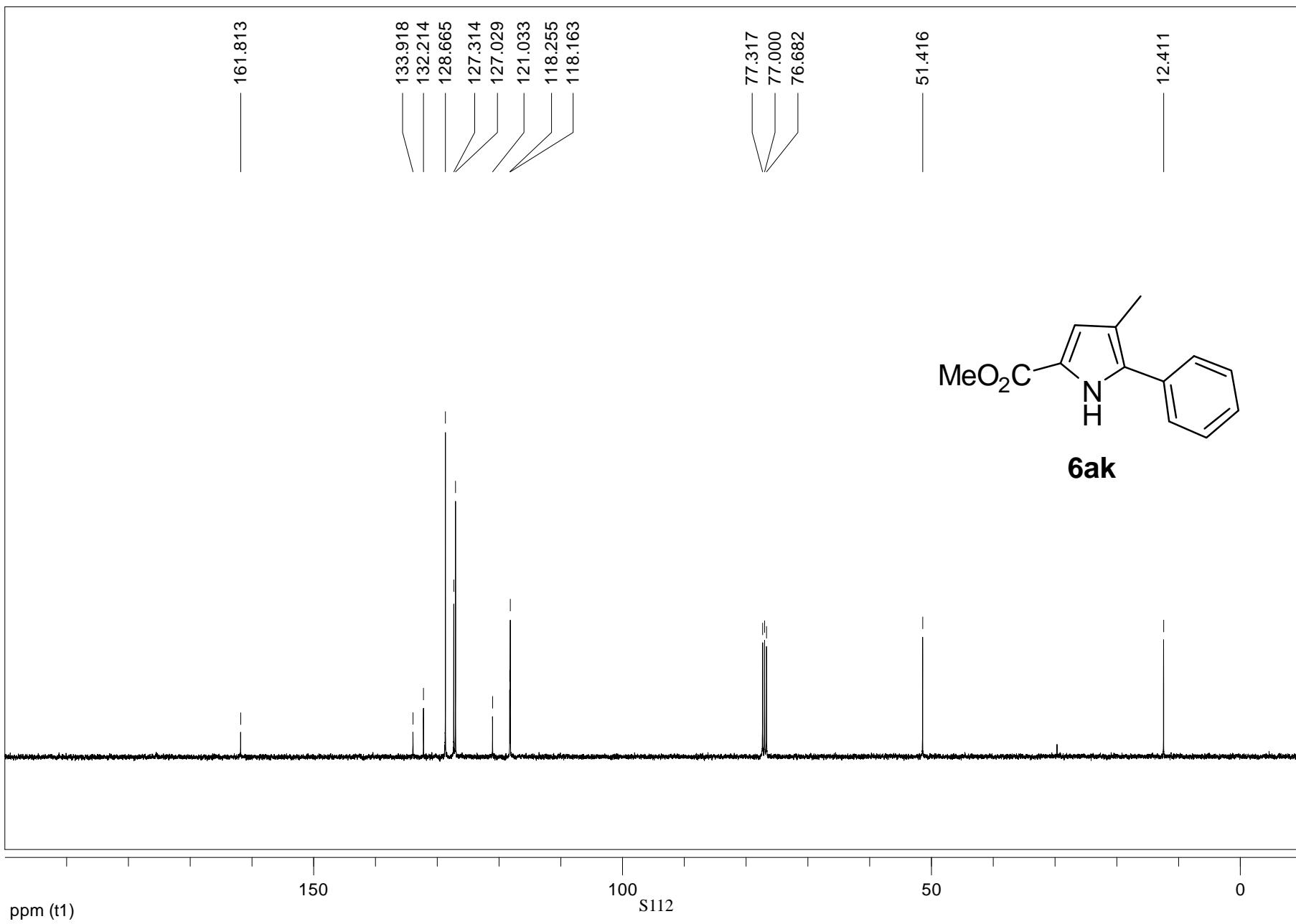


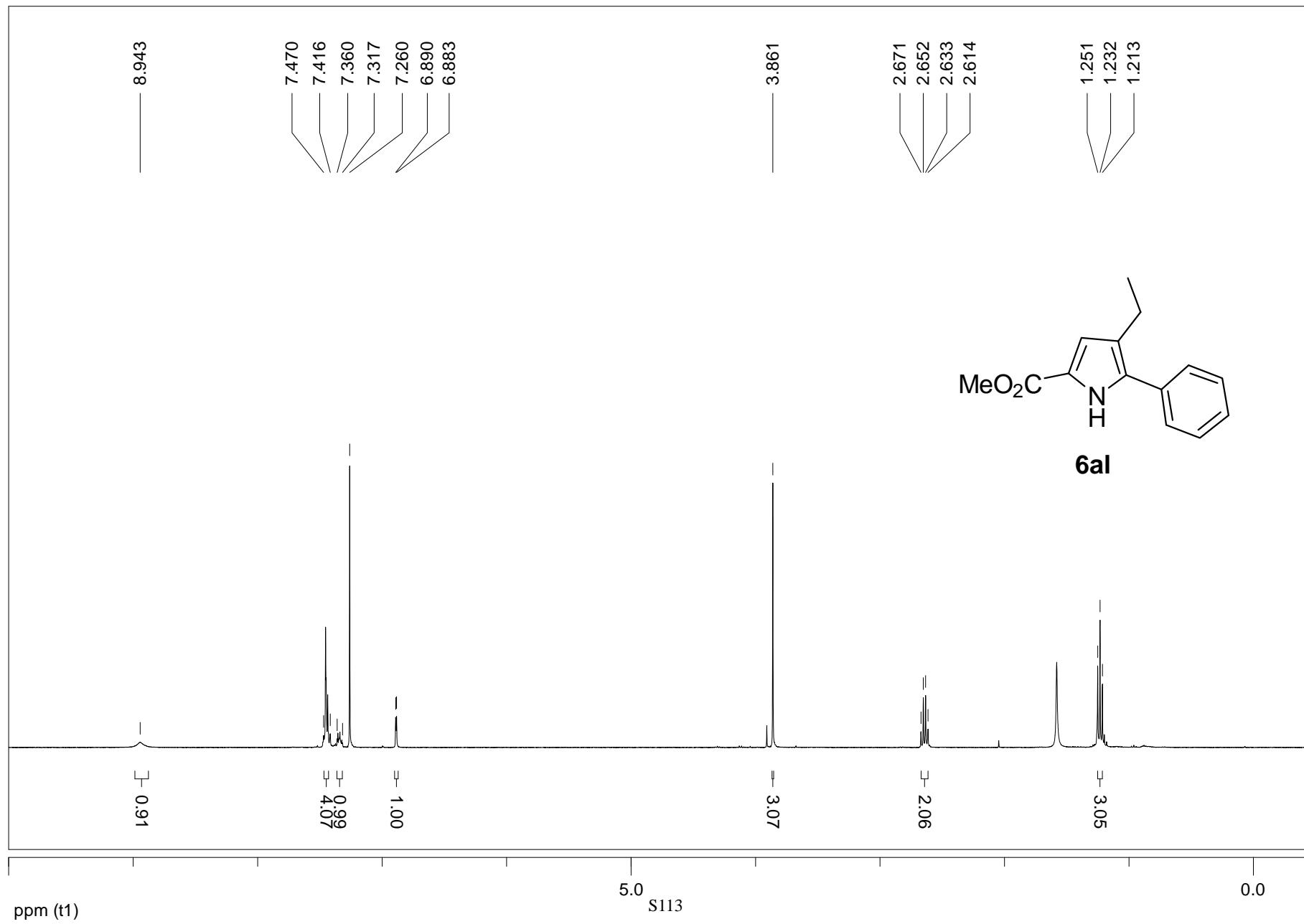


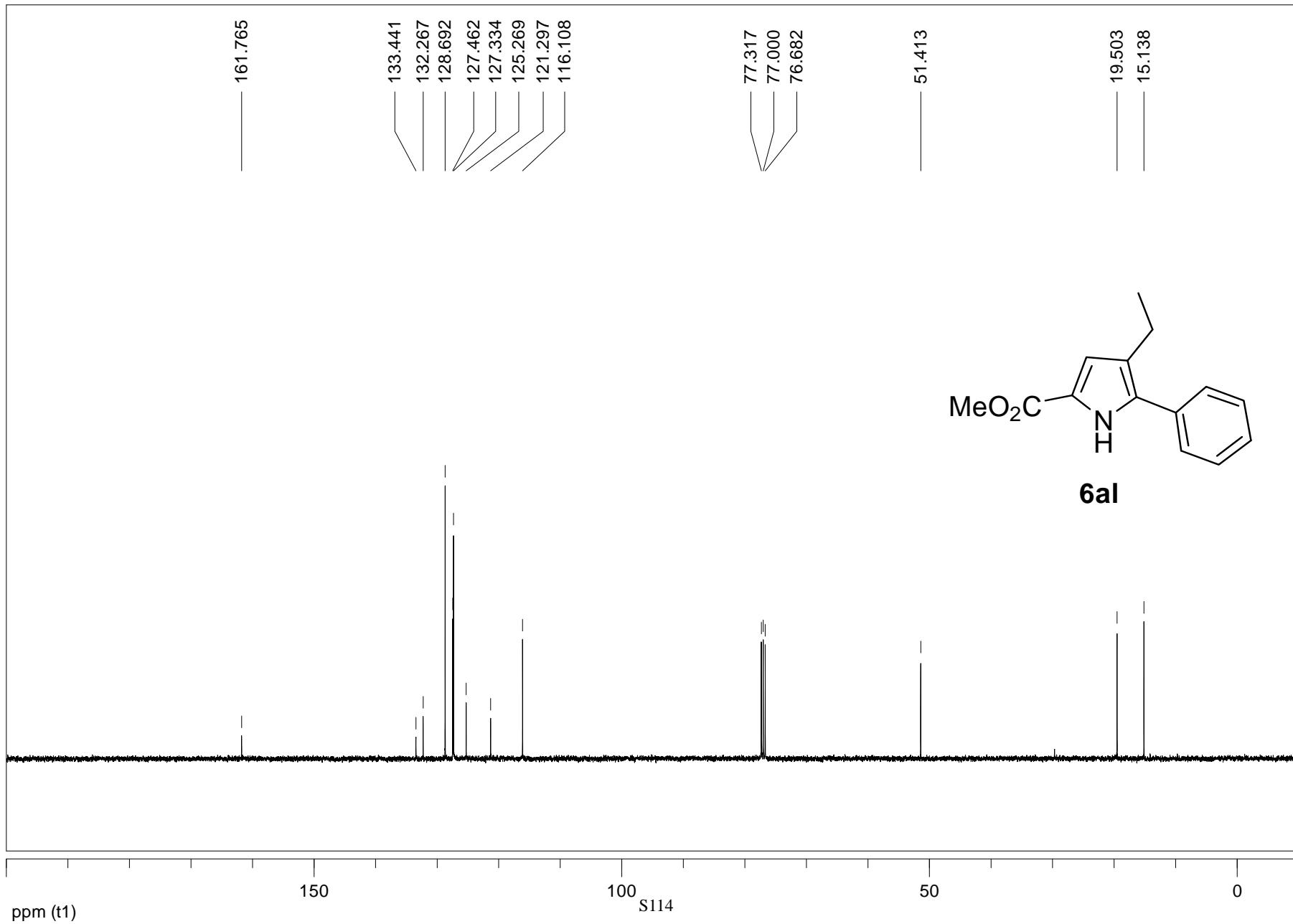


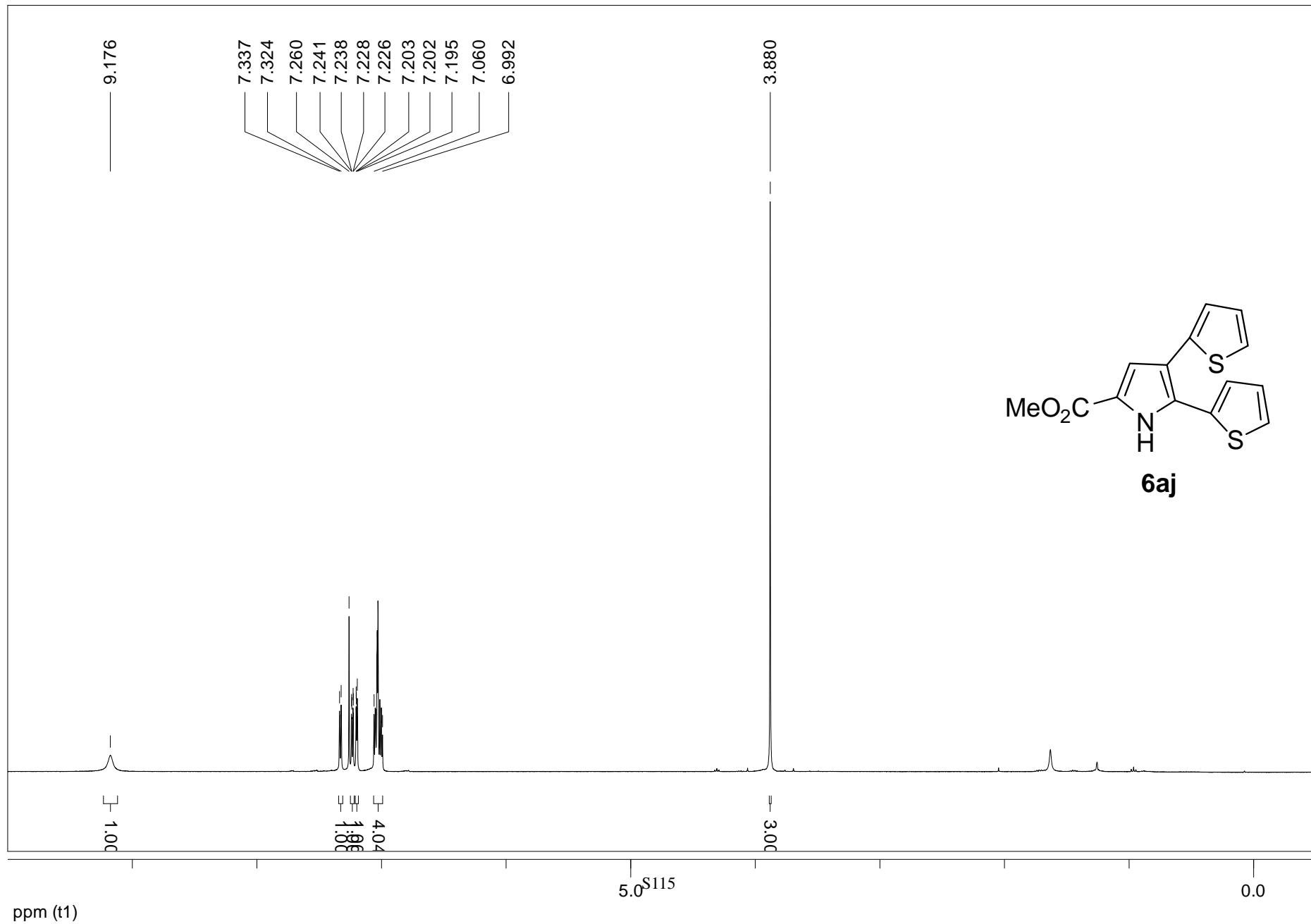


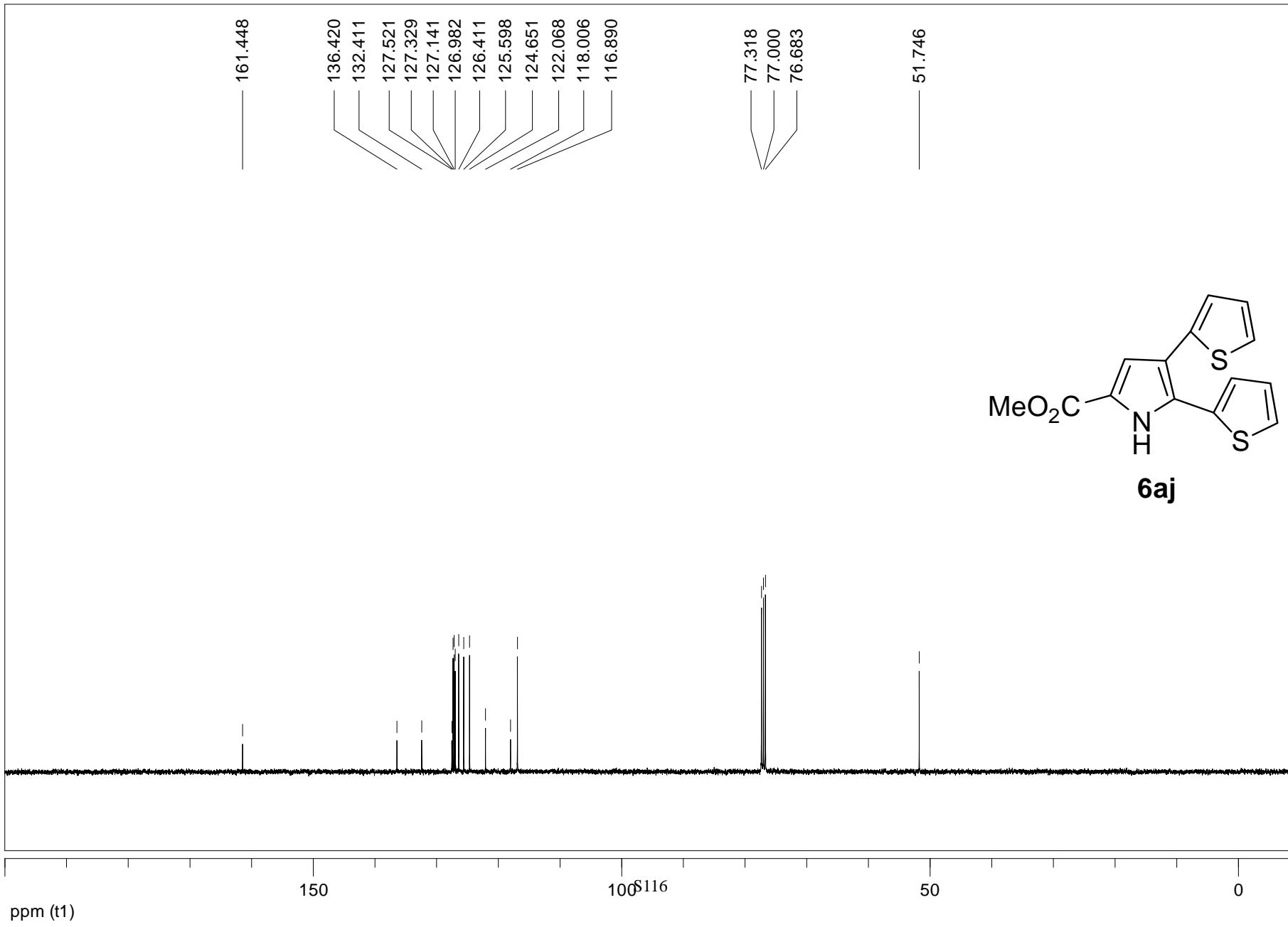


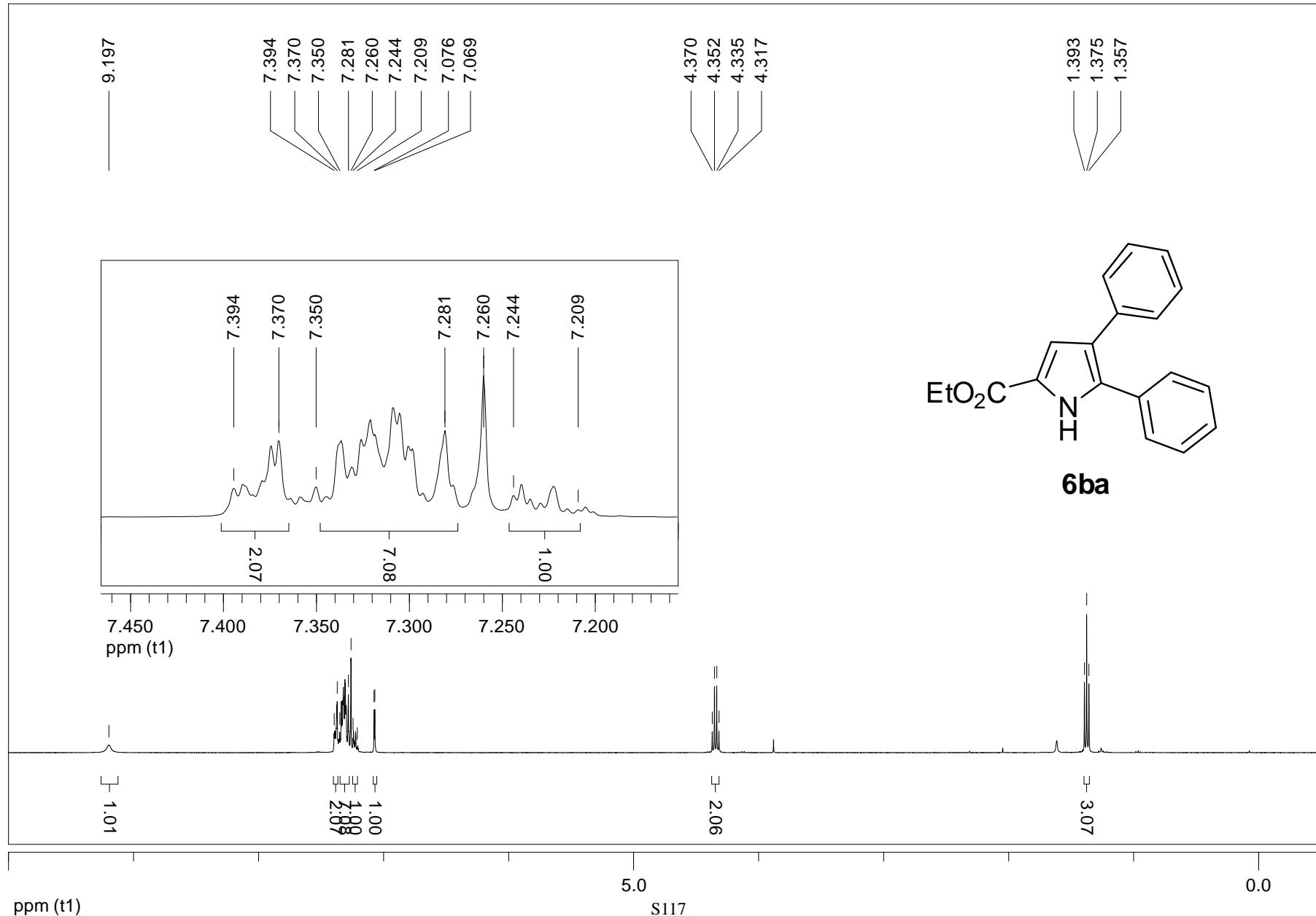


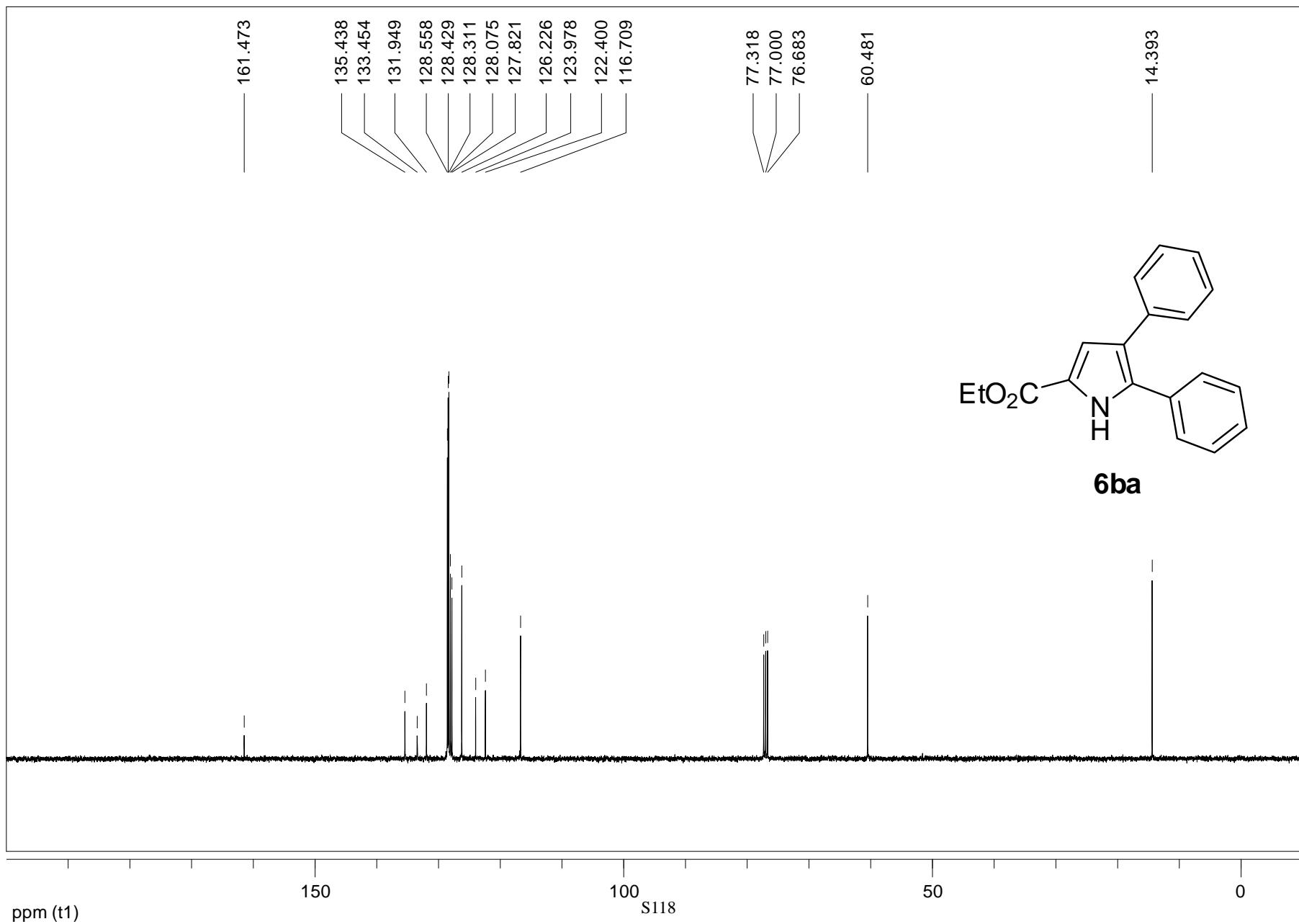


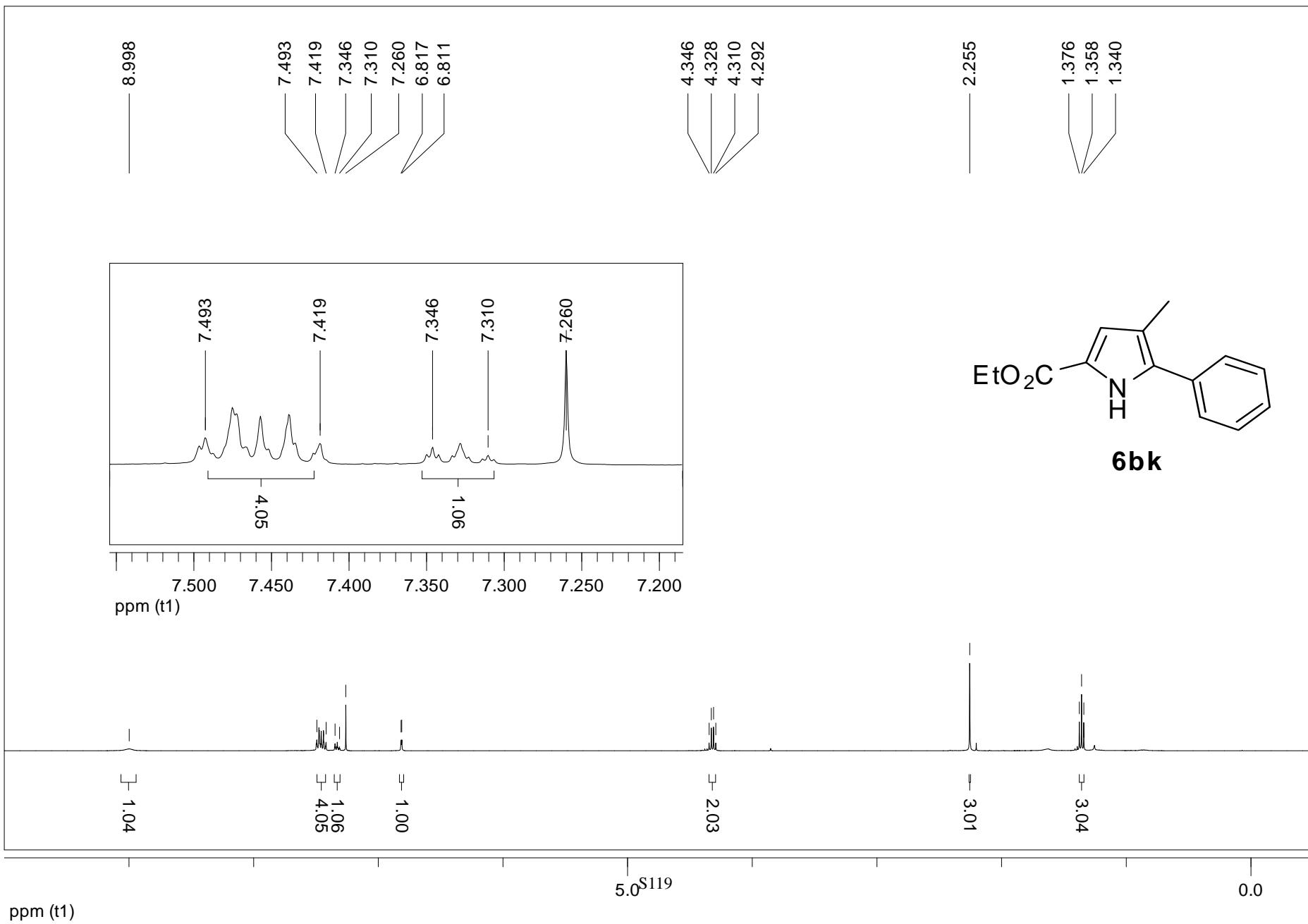


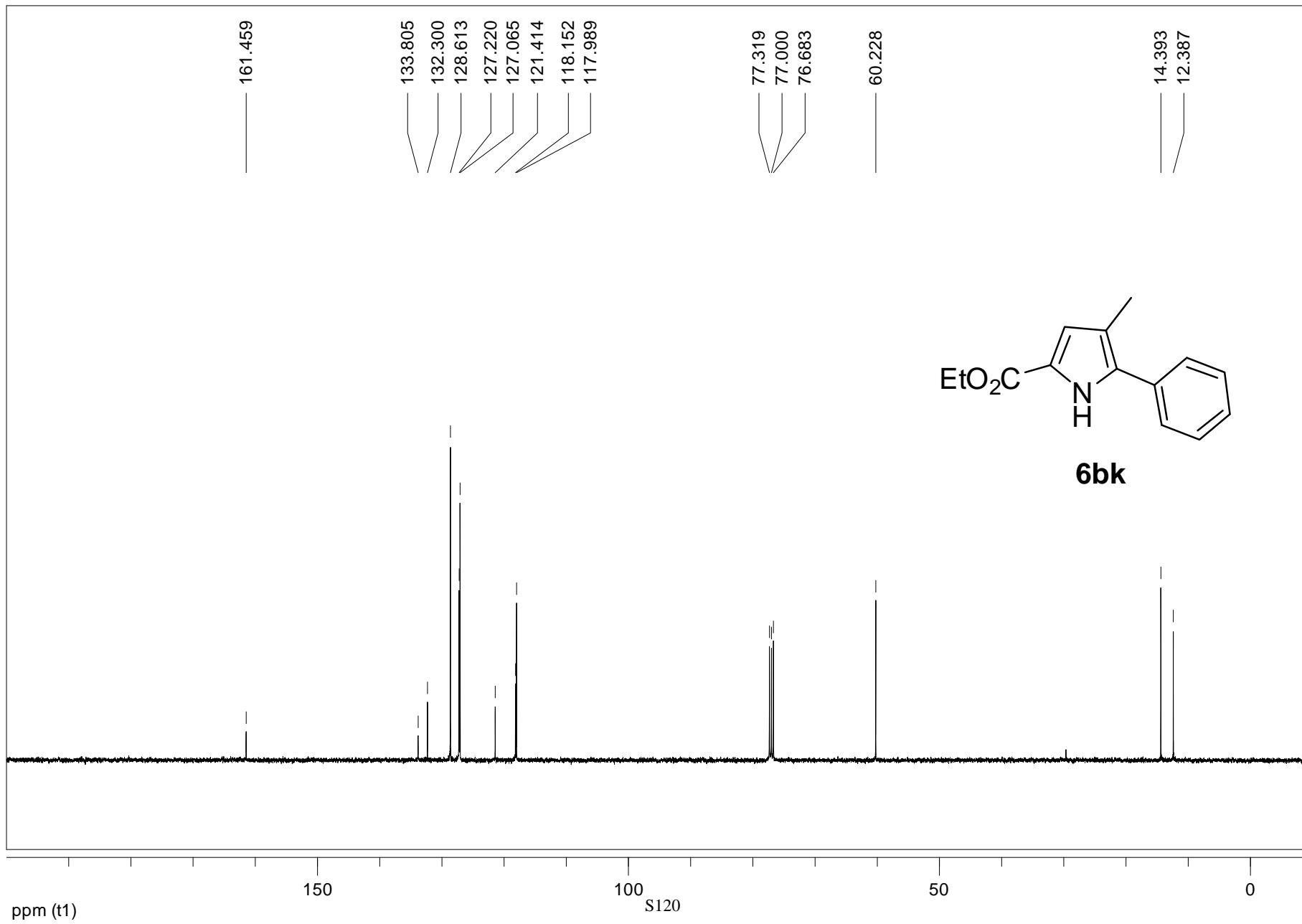


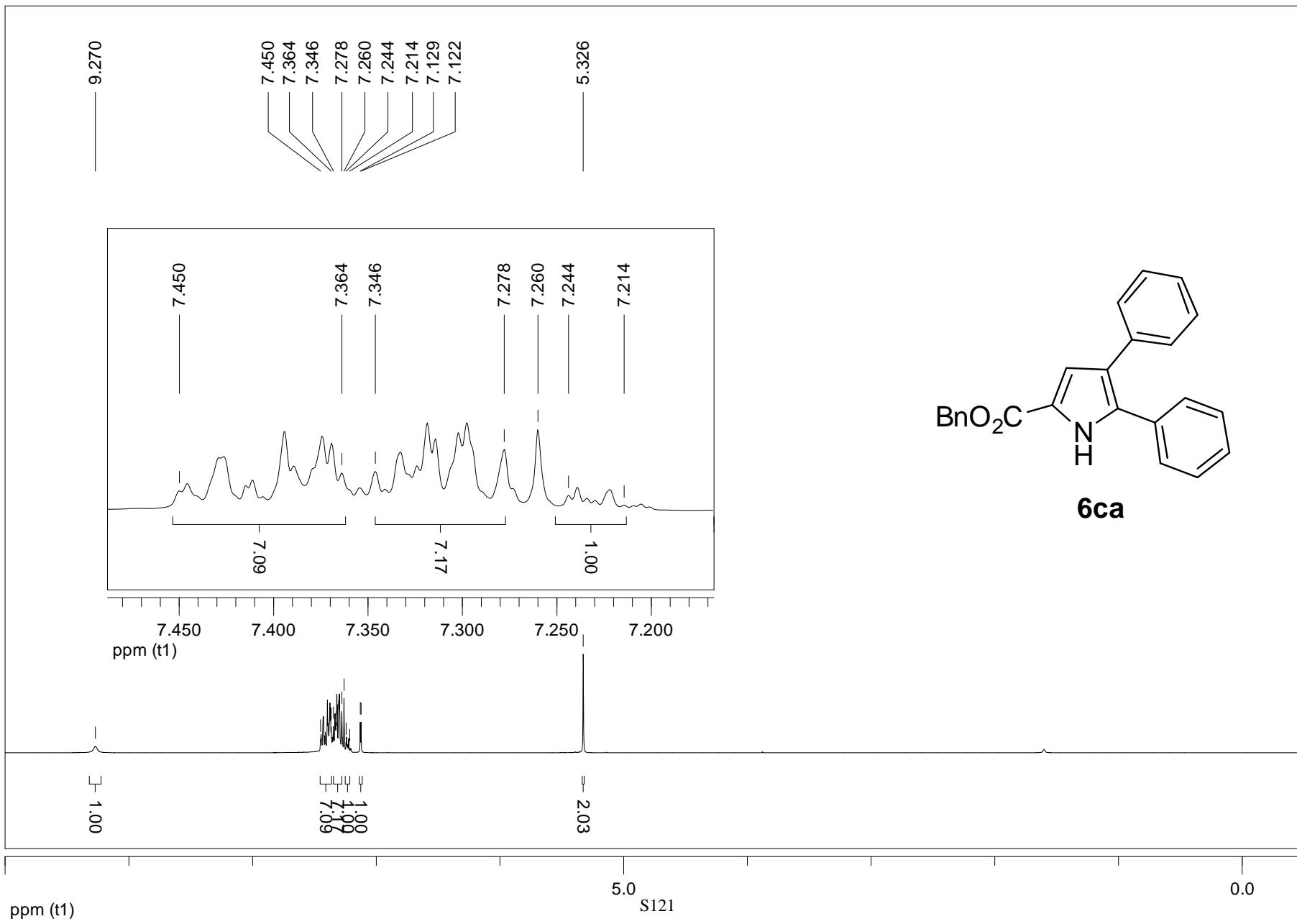


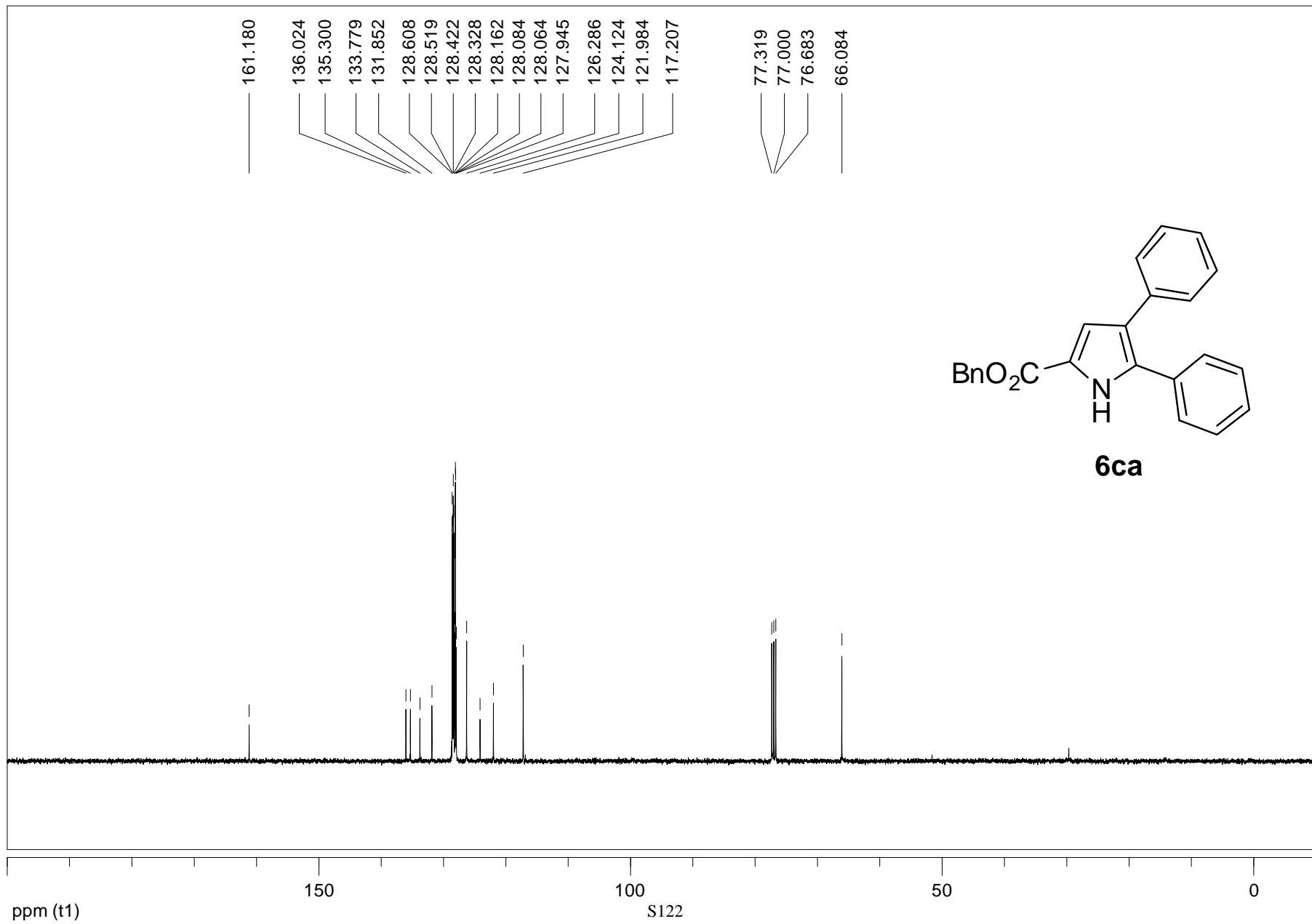


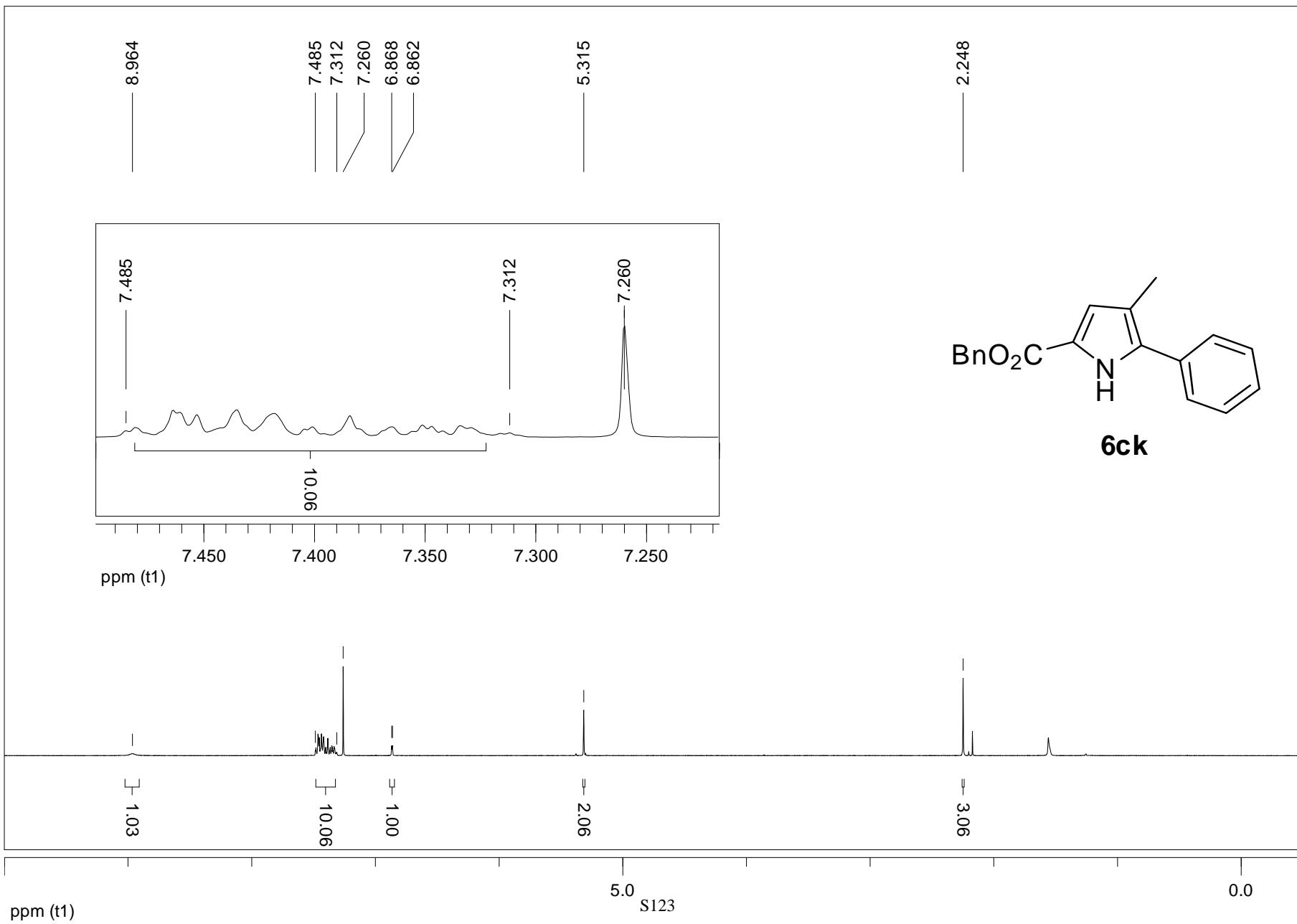


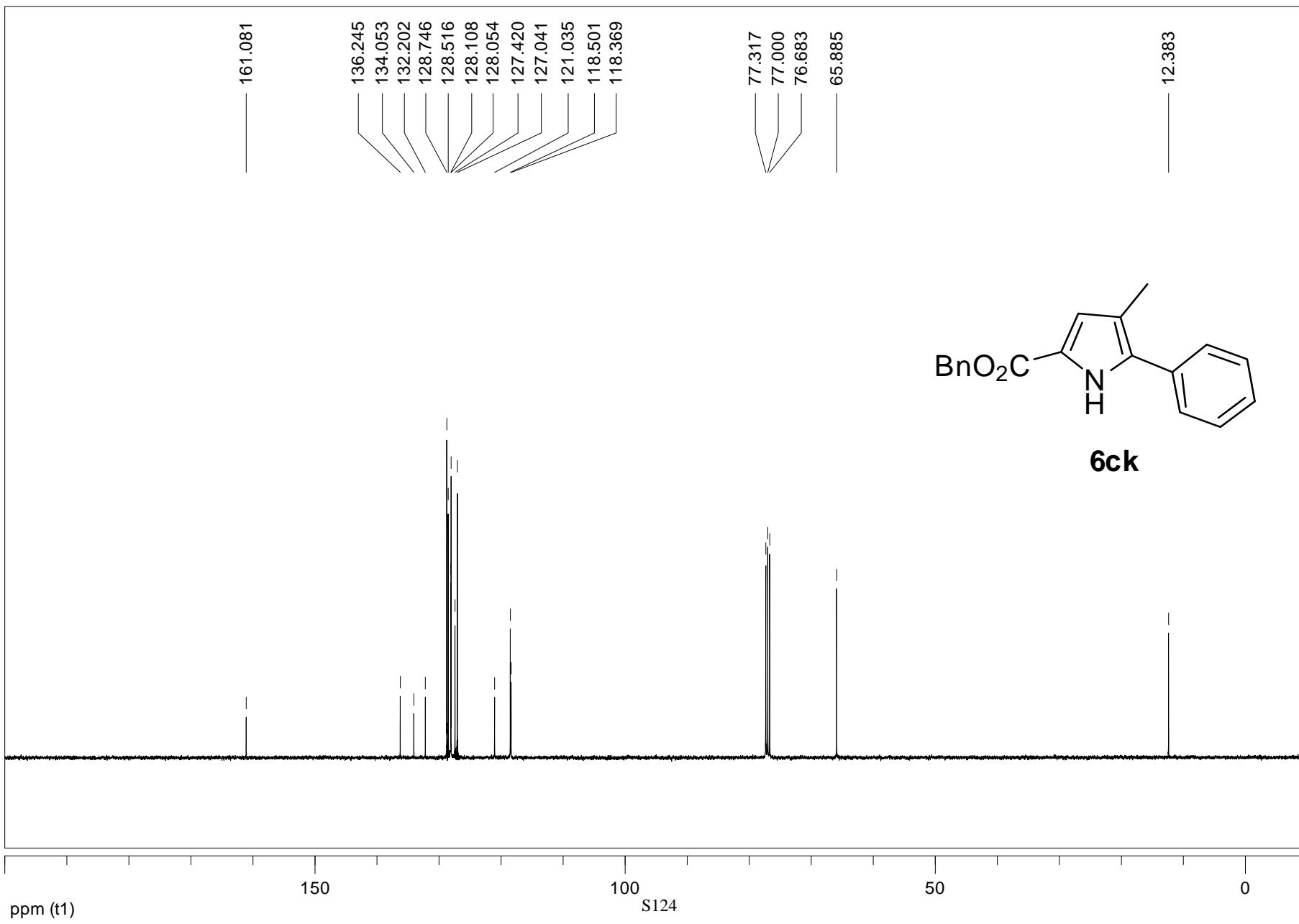












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