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Oxidative Dearomatization of Indoles via Pd-Catalyzed C–H Oxygenation: An Entry to C2-Quaternary Indolin-3-ones

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Contents

1. General Information.....	5
2. Mechanistic Investigation	5
2.1 Isolation of products (6) and (7) generated from the intermediate 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3 <i>H</i> -indol-3-one.....	5
2.2 ESI-MS of crude mixtures after 15 min of the onset of reaction for identifying the possible intermediates	6
2.2.1 For a reaction of Indole.....	6
2.2.2 For a reaction of 5-Methoxyindole	7
2.2.3 For a reaction of 2-Phenylindole with 5-Nitroindole.....	8
2.2.4 For a reaction of 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1 <i>H</i> -indole with 5-Nitroindole	9
2.3 Synthesis of 2-Phenyl-3 <i>H</i> -indol-3-one (8) for using as substrate in the optimized reaction conditions.....	10
2.4 ^1H NMR study.....	11
2.4.1 ^1H NMR studies of crude reaction mixtures at different time intervals	11
After 15 min	11
After 30 min	12
After 1.5 h	13
2.4.2 For a reaction of indole (1 eq) and PdCl_2 (1 eq):.....	14
2.4.3 For a reaction of indole (1 eq) and PdCl_2 (1 eq) (without filtration):	15
2.4.4 For the reaction of Indole (1 eq), PdCl_2 (1 eq) and TBHP (2.2 eq):.....	16
2.4.5 For the reaction of Indole (1 eq), PdCl_2 (1 eq) and TBHP (2.2 eq) (without filtration):	17
3. General procedure for synthesis of 2,2-bis(1 <i>H</i> -Indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one derivatives (2)	18
4. Spectral data of the synthesized compounds:	18
5a: ^1H NMR	25
5a: ^{13}C NMR	26
5b: ^1H NMR	27
5b: ^{13}C NMR	28

5c: ^1H NMR	29
5c: ^{13}C NMR	30
5d: ^1H NMR	31
5d: ^{13}C NMR	32
5e: ^1H NMR	33
5e: ^{13}C NMR	34
5f: ^1H NMR.....	35
5f: ^{13}C NMR.....	36
5g: ^1H NMR	37
5g: ^{13}C NMR	38
5h: ^1H NMR	39
5h: ^{13}C NMR	40
5i: ^1H NMR	41
5i: ^{13}C NMR	42
5j: ^1H NMR	43
5j: ^{13}C NMR	44
5k: ^1H NMR	45
5k: ^{13}C NMR	46
5l: ^1H NMR	47
5l: ^{13}C NMR	48
5m: ^1H NMR	49
5m: ^{13}C NMR	50
2a: ^1H NMR	51
2a: ^{13}C NMR	52
2b: ^1H NMR	53

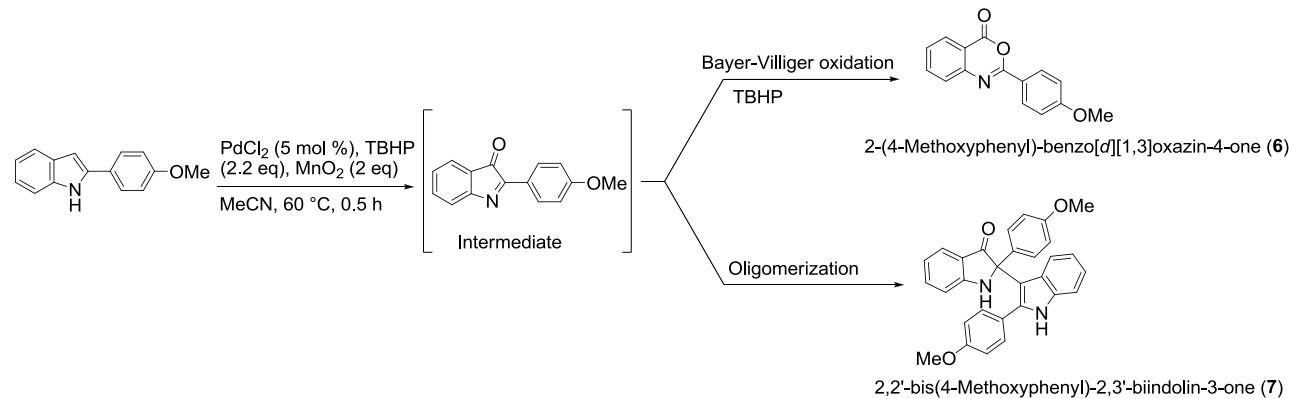
2b: ^{13}C NMR	54
2c: ^1H NMR	55
2c: ^{13}C NMR	56
2d: ^1H NMR	57
2d: ^{13}C NMR	58
2e: ^1H NMR	59
2e: ^{13}C NMR	60
2f: ^1H NMR.....	61
2f: ^{13}C NMR.....	62
3: ^1H NMR	63
3: ^{13}C NMR.....	64
6: ^1H NMR	65
6: ^{13}C NMR	66
7: ^1H NMR	67
7: ^{13}C NMR	68
8: ^1H NMR	69
8: ^{13}C NMR	70
References:.....	70

1. General Information

All reactants and reagents were obtained from the commercial source and used without further purification. 2-arylindole precursors (**4**) were prepared according to the literature known method.¹ The NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance DPX 400 MHz spectrometer in CDCl₃/DMSO-d₆/CD₃OD solvents using TMS as an internal standard. *J* values are given in Hz. HRMS (ESI) were recorded with Bruker-Maxis mass spectrometers. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet FT-IR Impact 410 instrument as thin film (neat). The reactions were monitored by TLC (Merck®, Silica gel 60 F254). Column chromatography was carried out through silica gel (60-120 mesh) using EtOAc/hexane as an eluent.

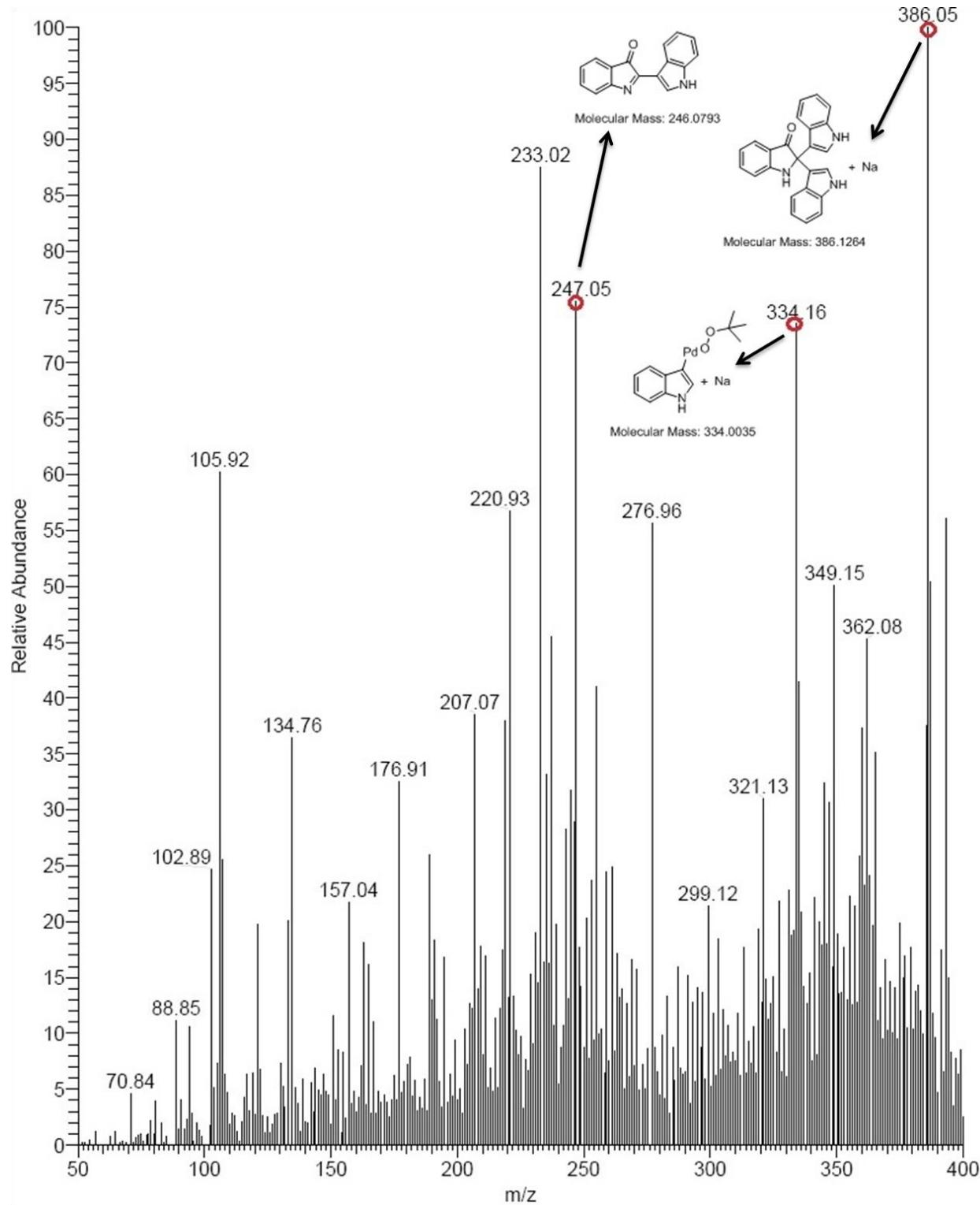
2. Mechanistic Investigation

2.1 Isolation of products (**6**) and (**7**) generated from the intermediate 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3*H*-indol-3-one

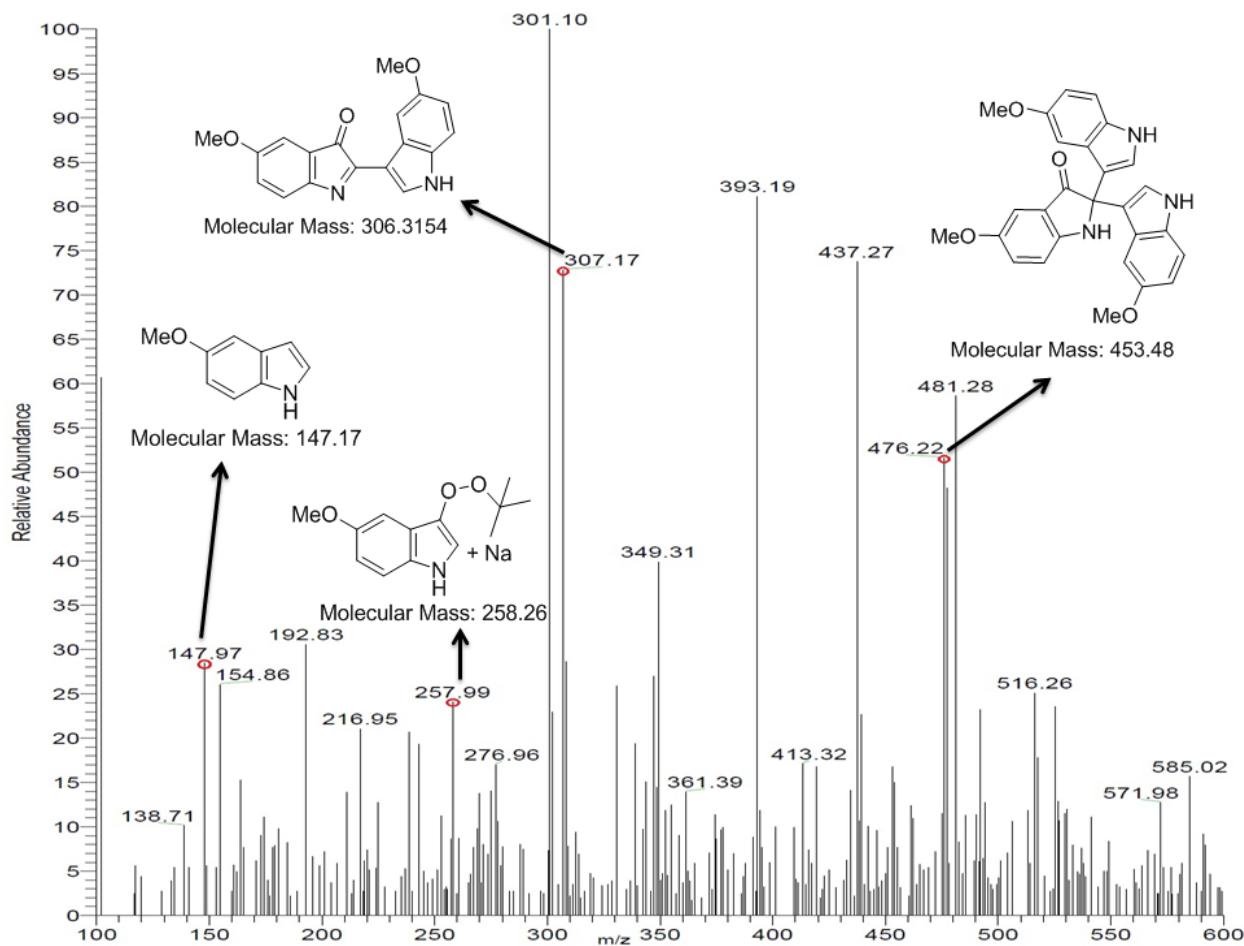


2.2 ESI-MS of crude mixtures after 15 min of the onset of reaction for identifying the possible intermediates

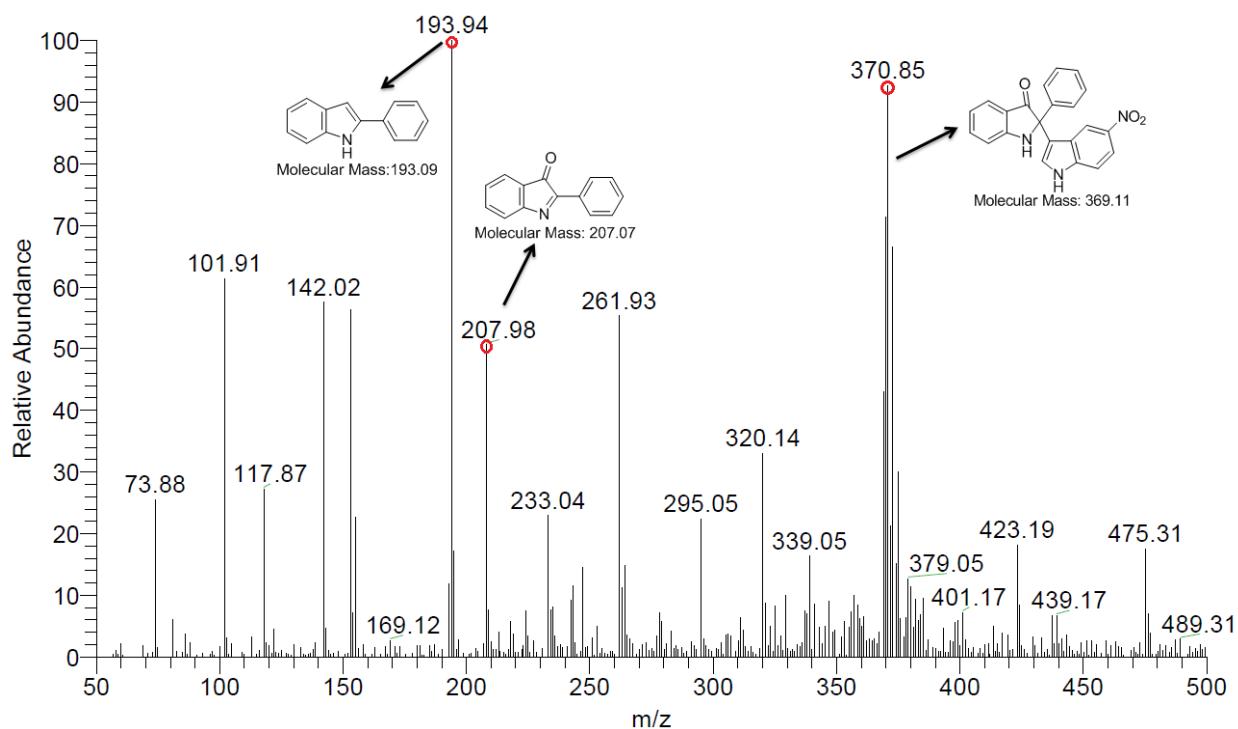
2.2.1 For a reaction of Indole



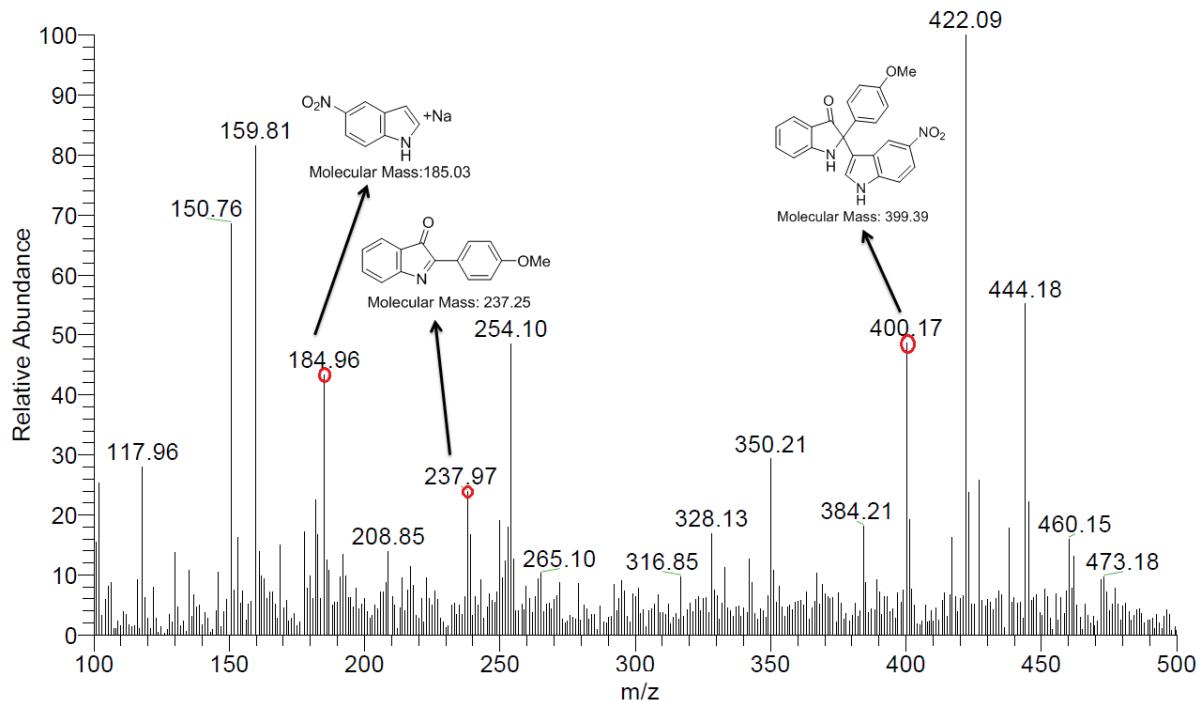
2.2.2 For a reaction of 5-Methoxyindole



2.2.3 For a reaction of 2-Phenylindole with 5-Nitroindole



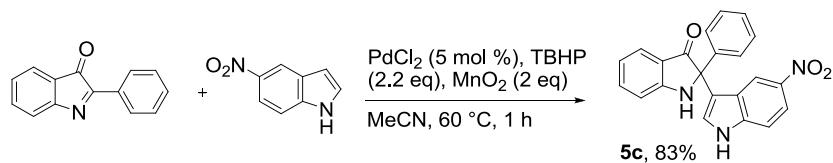
2.2.4 For a reaction of 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole with 5-Nitroindole



2.3 Synthesis of 2-Phenyl-3*H*-indol-3-one (8**) for using as substrate in the optimized reaction conditions:** It was synthesized following literature reported method.²

Red solid, m.p. 98-100 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 1761, 1725, 1540, 1263 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.38-8.35 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.46 (m, 5H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.5, 161.2, 159.8, 136.8, 132.2, 130.0, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 124.7, 123.1, 122.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: calcd. for C₁₄H₁₀NO [M+H]⁺ 208.0764, found: 208.0783.

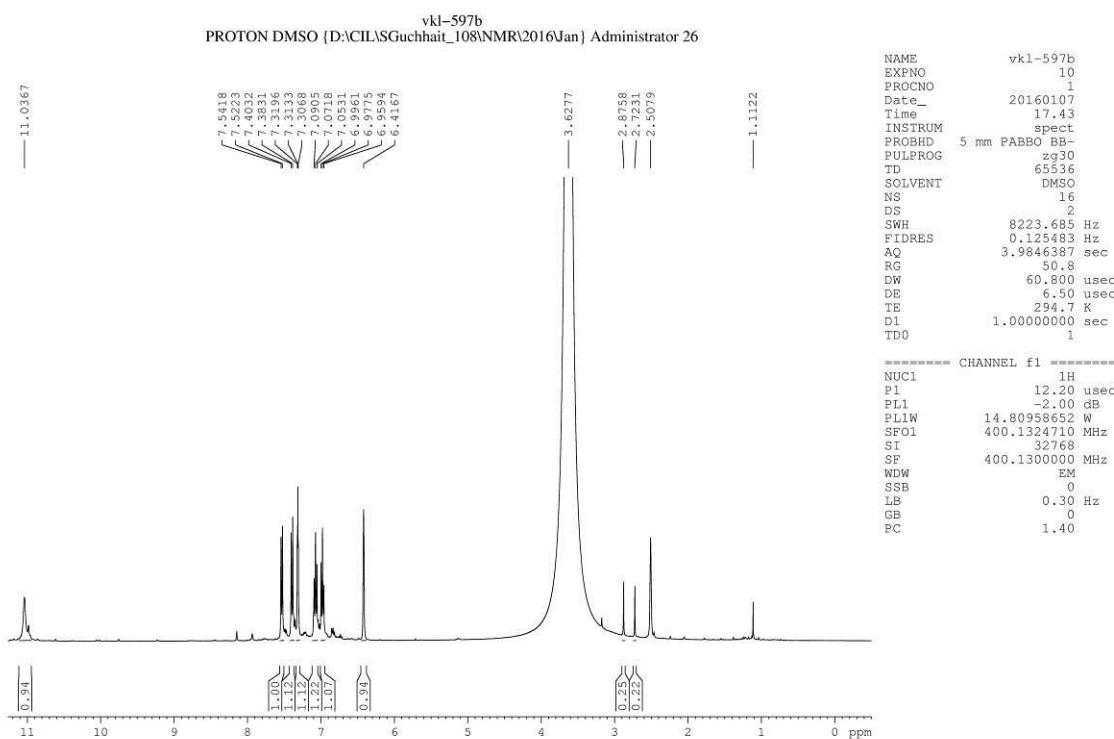
It was reacted with 5-nitroindole under optimized conditions to give the product **5c** in 83% isolated yield.



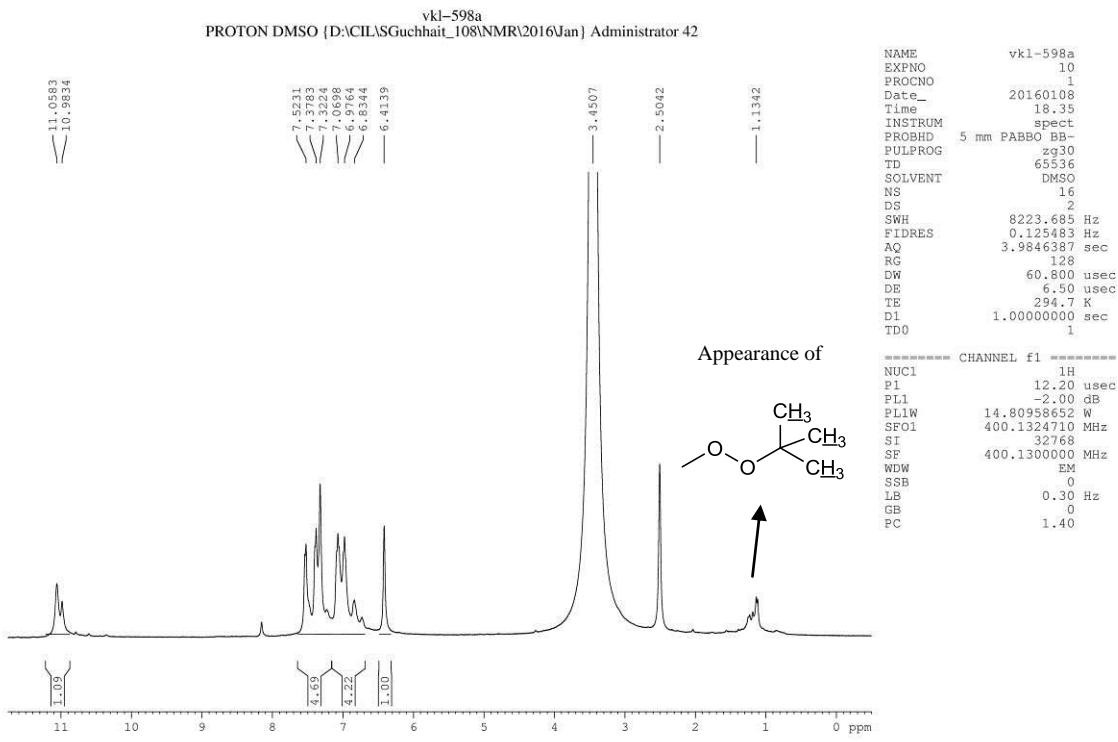
2.4 ^1H NMR study

2.4.1 ^1H NMR studies of crude reaction mixtures at different time intervals from the onset of reaction for identifying the possible intermediates: Indole (**1**, 1 mmol), PdCl_2 (8.8 mg, 0.05 mmol) and MnO_2 (174 mg, 2 equiv) were loaded in a sealed tube under air. MeCN (1 mL, as received from commercial source) and then TBHP (70% aq. solution, 0.29 mL, 2.2 equiv) were added to the mixture. The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60°C. Aliquots were withdrawn after 15 min, 30 min and 1.5 h and filtered through celite bed. The solvent and volatiles were completely evaporated under rotary evaporator and NMR spectra were recorded.

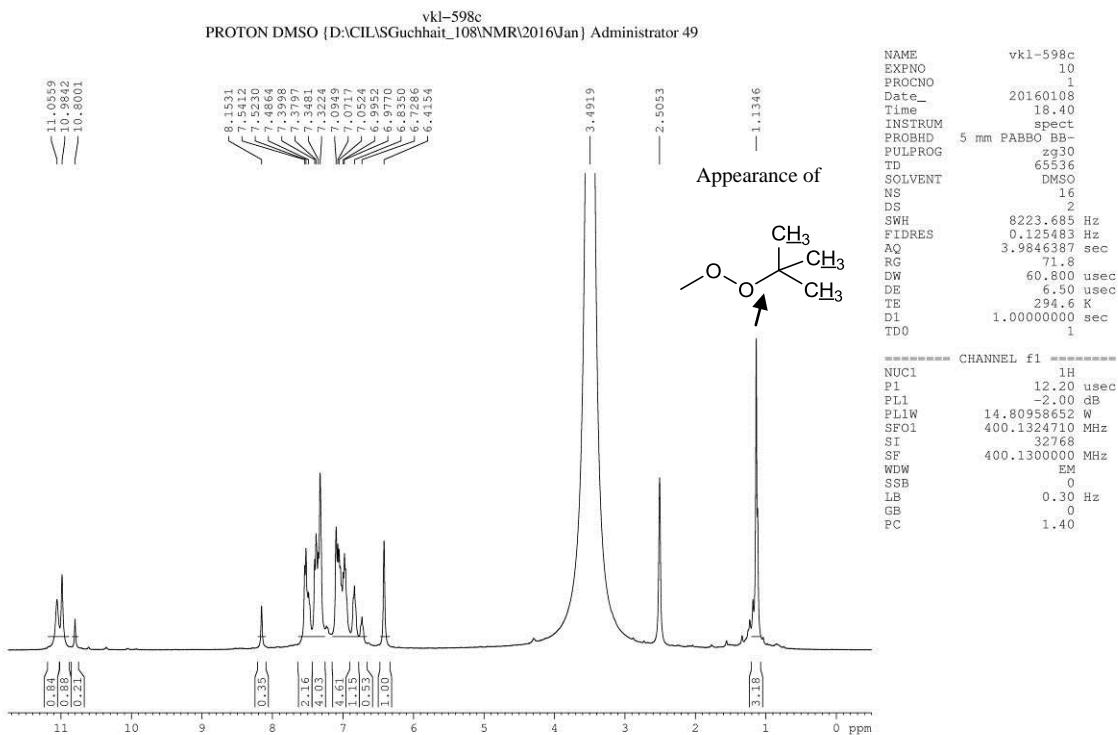
After 15 min



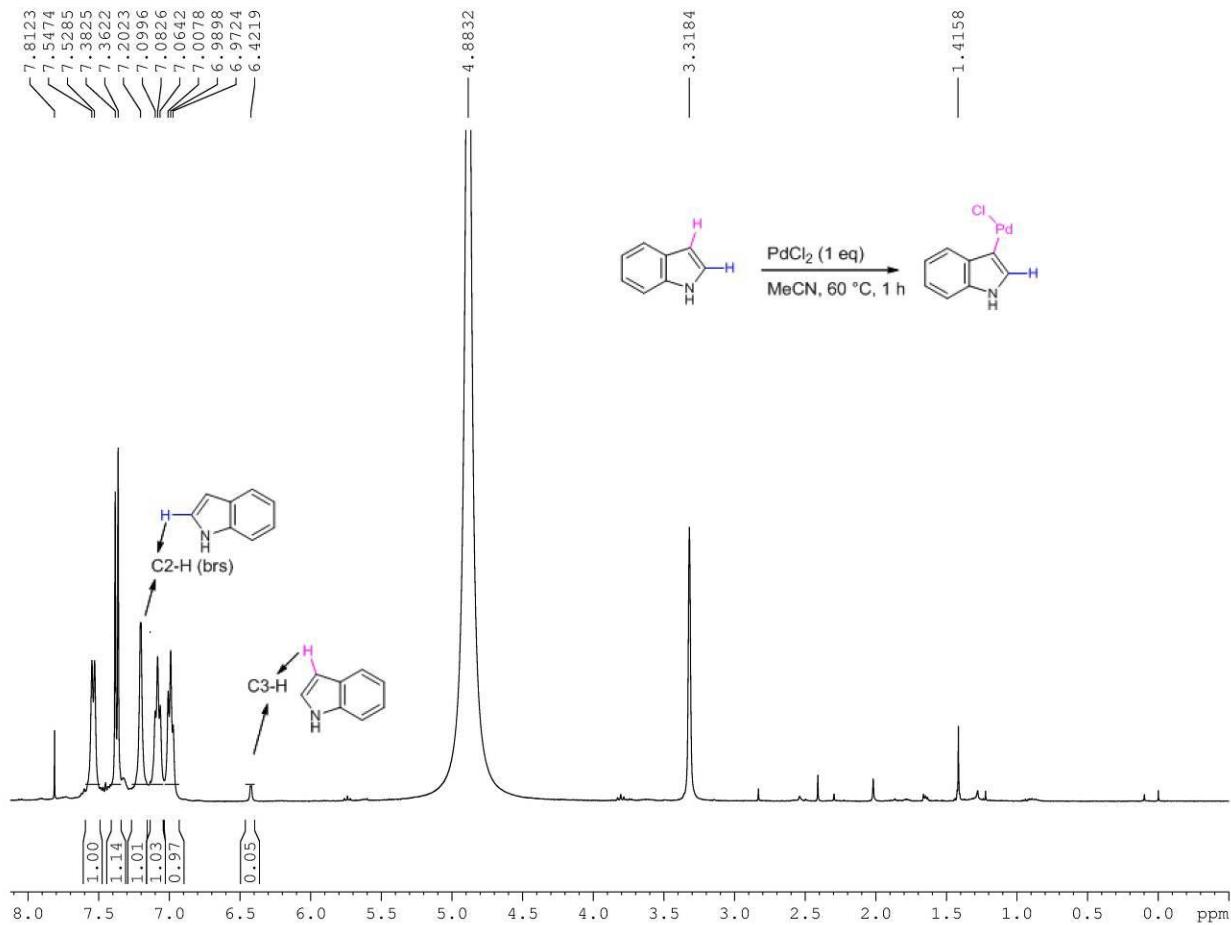
After 30 min



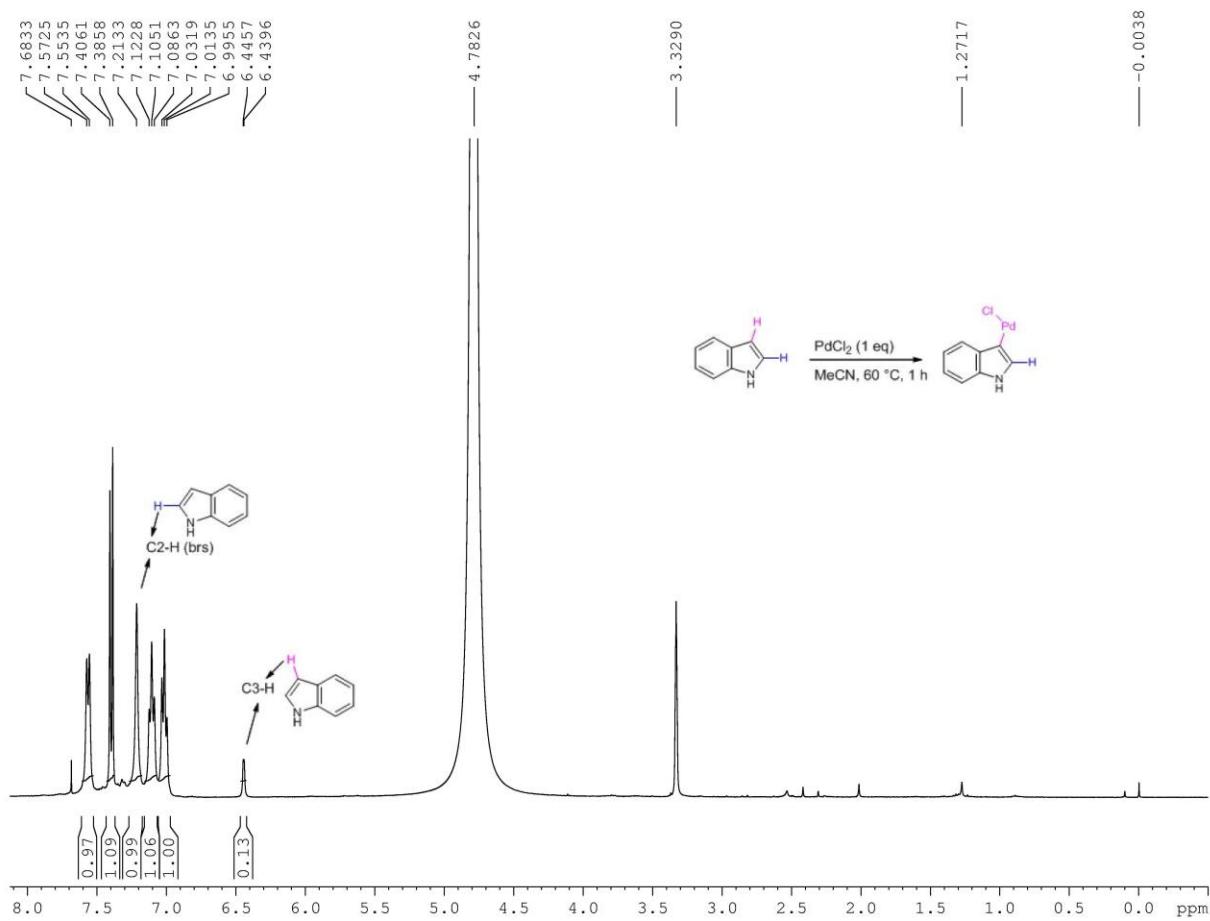
After 1.5 h



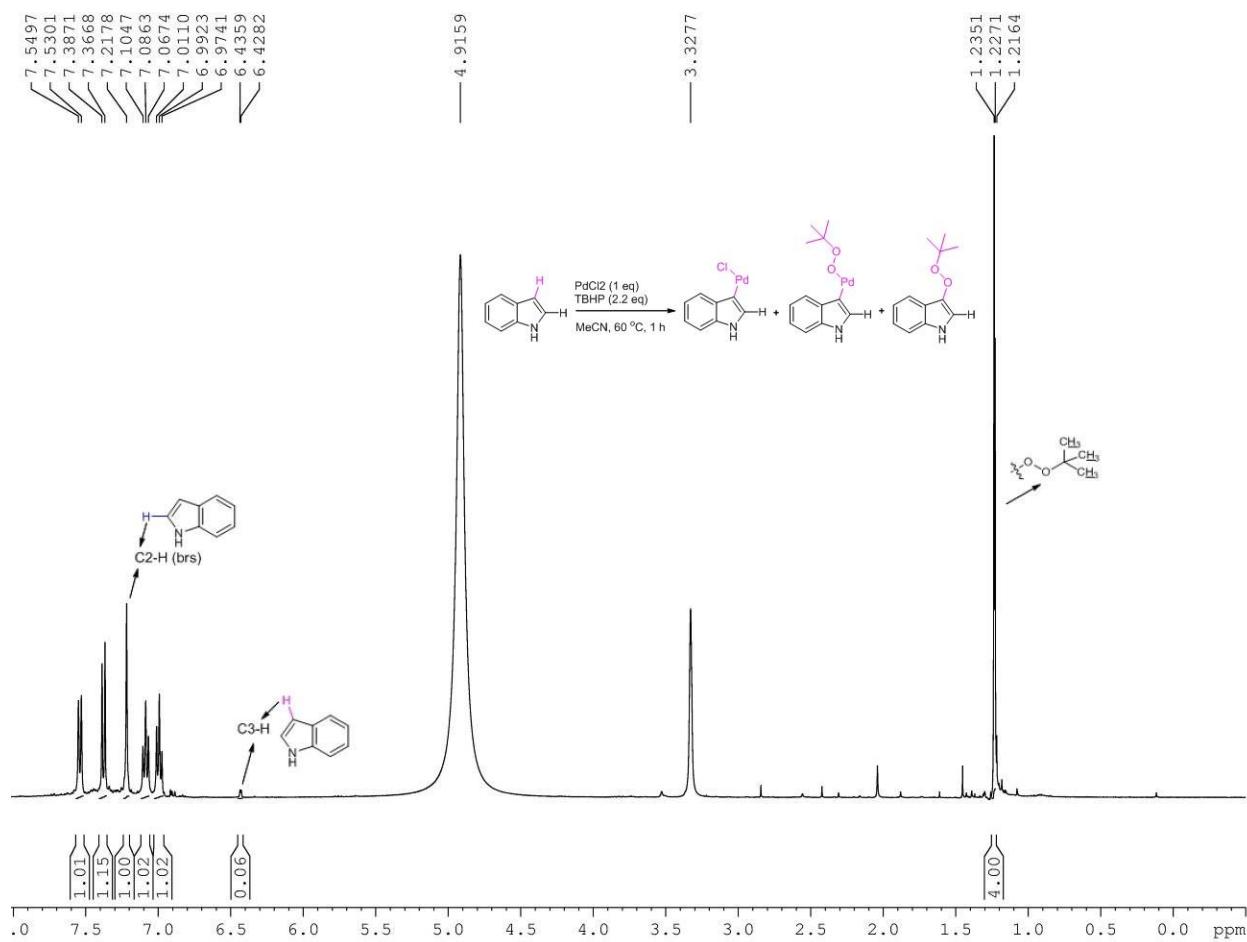
2.4.2 For a reaction of indole (1 eq) and PdCl_2 (1 eq): Indole (117 mg, 1 eq) and PdCl_2 (177 mg, 1 eq) were loaded under air in a sealed tube in MeCN (1 mL). The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60 °C for 1 h. It was filtered through celite bed without water workup. The solvent and volatiles were completely evaporated under rotary evaporator and NMR spectrum was recorded. After 1 h of the onset of reaction, the ^1H NMR spectrum showed signal for C-3 H in trace while the signal for C-2 H shows broad singlet suggesting C-3 electropalladation³ of indole. ^1H NMR spectrum is appended below.



2.4.3 For a reaction of indole (1 eq) and PdCl₂ (1 eq) (without filtration): Indole (117 mg, 1 eq) and PdCl₂ (177 mg, 1 eq) were loaded under air in a sealed tube in MeCN (1 mL). The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was directly subjected for evaporation of solvent and volatiles completely under rotary evaporator, without water workup and filtration, and NMR spectrum was recorded. After 1 h of the onset of reaction, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed signal for C-3 H in trace while the signal for C-2 H shows broad singlet suggesting C-3 electropalladation of indole. ¹H NMR spectrum is appended below.

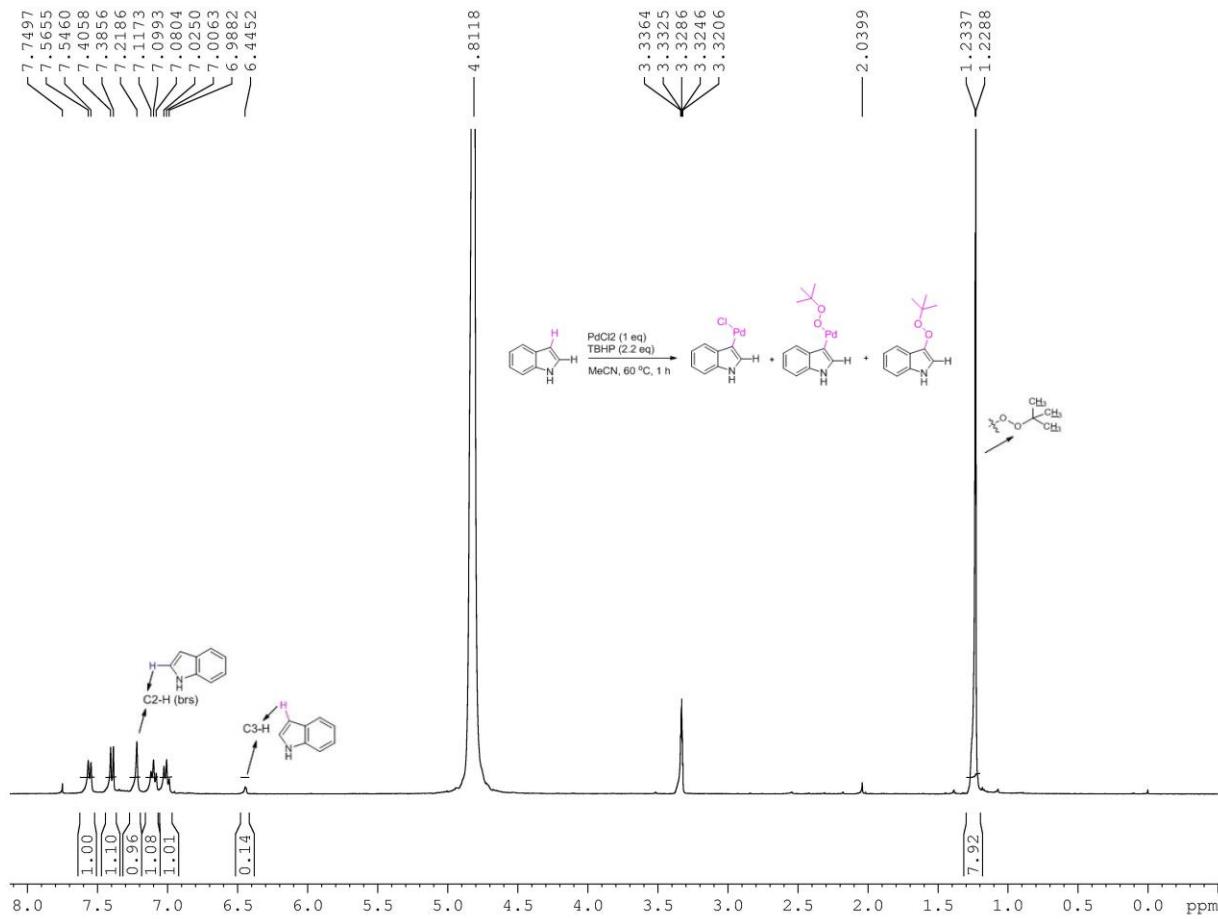


2.4.4 For the reaction of Indole (1 eq), PdCl₂ (1 eq) and TBHP (2.2 eq): Indole (117 mg, 1 eq) and PdCl₂ (177 mg, 1 eq) and TBHP (70% aq. solution, 0.29 mL, 2.2 equiv.) were loaded in a sealed tube under air in MeCN (1 mL). The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60 °C for 1 h. It was filtered through celite bed without water workup. The solvent and volatiles were completely evaporated under rotary evaporated and NMR spectra were recorded. After 1 h of the onset of reaction, the ¹H NMR spectra showed signal for C-3 H in trace while the signal for C-2 H shows broad singlet as well as signal for *tert*-butyl peroxide side chain. This indicates C-3 electropalladation of indole followed by nucleophilic displacement of chloride of C-3 palladated indole by *tert*-butylperoxide moiety. This intermediate with *tert*-butyl peroxide moiety attached to the Pd also supported by mass spectrum. ¹H NMR spectrum is appended below.



2.4.5 For the reaction of Indole (1 eq), PdCl₂ (1 eq) and TBHP (2.2 eq) (without filtration):

Indole (117 mg, 1 eq) and PdCl₂ (177 mg, 1 eq) and TBHP (70% aq. solution, 0.29 mL, 2.2 equiv.) were loaded in a sealed tube under air in MeCN (1 mL). The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was directly subjected for evaporation of solvent and volatiles completely under rotary evaporator, without water workup and filtration, and NMR spectra were recorded. After 1 h of the onset of reaction, the ¹H NMR spectra showed signal for C-3 H in trace while the signal for C-2 H shows singlet as well as signal for tert-butyl peroxide side chain. This indicates C-3 electropalladation of indole followed by nucleophilic displacement of chloride of C-3 palladated indole by tert-butylperoxide moiety. This intermediate with tert-butyl peroxide moiety attached to the Pd also supported by mass spectrum. ¹H NMR spectrum is appended below.



3. General procedure for synthesis of 2,2-bis(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one derivatives (2**)**

Indole derivative (**1**, 1 mmol), PdCl₂ (8.8 mg, 0.05 mmol) and MnO₂ (174 mg, 2 equiv.) were loaded in a sealed tube under air. MeCN (1 mL, as received from commercial source) and then TBHP (70% aq. solution, 0.29 mL, 2.2 equiv.) were added to the mixture. The tube was sealed and placed into a preheated oil bath at 60°C and stirred for 4-5 hours. After completion of reaction as indicated by TLC, the reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with 60 mL of EtOAc. The diluted solution was filtered through celite. The organic layer was washed with water (3 × 10 mL) and then with brine (1 × 10 mL), dried over anhyd. Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The column chromatographic purification of crude mass was performed on silica gel (60-120 mesh) using EtOAc-hexane (25-40%) as eluting solvent to provide the products (**2a-f**, Table 3). Utilizing this general procedure, products (**5a-m**, Table 2) were also prepared. Both 2-aryl indole (1 mmol, **4**) and indole derivative (1 eq, **1**) were added from the beginning of the reaction.

4. Spectral data of the synthesized compounds:

2-(5-Bromo-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (5a**)⁴**

Yellow solid, 257 mg, 64%, m.p. 130-132 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3343, 2925, 1684, 1615, 734, 699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.35 (s, NH), 7.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 7.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, NH) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.4, 160.5, 139.2, 137.7, 135.6, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 126.7, 125.6, 125.5, 124.9, 122.3, 119.8, 119.4, 115.2, 113.3, 113.1, 112.9, 71.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅⁷⁹BrN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 425.0260, found: 425.0266 and calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅⁸¹BrN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 427.0245, found 427.0243.

2-(5-Methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (5b**)**

Yellow solid; 234 mg, 66%; mp: 91-93°C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3336, 2925, 1687, 1616, 1485, 1089 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (s, NH), 7.71 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (dt, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 7.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, NH), 3.62 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.9, 160.6, 154.0, 139.4, 137.6, 132.0, 128.5, 127.8, 126.9, 126.1, 125.6, 124.5, 119.8, 119.7,

115.4, 112.9, 112.35, 112.31, 101.9, 71.3, 55.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₃H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 355.1446, found 355.1445.

2-(5-Nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (5c)

Yellow solid, 314 mg, 85%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3414, 3308, 2924, 1673, 1622, 1465, 1314, 1278 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.85 (s, NH), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 200.4, 161.5, 140.8, 140.6, 140.1, 138.5, 128.9, 128.2, 126.9, 125.25, 125.18, 118.4, 117.8, 117.5, 117.3, 112.9, 112.5, 70.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅N₃O₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 392.1011, found: 392.1004.

2-(5-Fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylindolin-3-one (5d)⁴

Yellow solid, 209 mg, 61%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3328, 2925, 1682, 1614, 1484, 1466 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.27 (s, NH), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.94-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.5, 160.4, 157.7 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 235 Hz), 139.2, 137.7, 133.4, 128.6, 127.9, 126.8, 125.9 (d, *J*_{C-C-C-F} = 10 Hz), 125.6, 125.5, 119.7 (d, *J*_{C-C-F} = 21 Hz), 115.9 (d, *J*_{C-C-C-C-F} = 5 Hz), 112.9, 112.3 (d, *J*_{C-C-C-F} = 10 Hz), 111.2, 110.9, 104.9 (d, *J*_{C-C-F} = 24 Hz), 71.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅FN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 365.1066, found: 365.1061.

3-(3-Oxo-2-phenylindolin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile (5e)

Yellow solid, 202 mg, 58%, m.p. >200°C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3258, 2224, 1678, 1618 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.71 (s, NH), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.29 (m, 7H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 200.3, 161.4, 140.1, 139.2, 138.5, 128.9, 128.2, 127.0, 126.9, 126.1, 125.7, 125.3, 124.5, 121.1, 118.3, 117.5, 115.7, 113.7, 112.4, 101.2, 70.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₃H₁₅N₃ONa [M+Na]⁺ 372.1113, found: 372.1109.

2-(5-Bromo-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolin-3-one (5f)

Yellow solid, 259 mg, 60%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3446, 3342, 1683, 1611, 1464, 1250, 1030, 758 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.29 (s, NH), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dt, *J* = 8.2,

1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (dd, J = 7.2, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 200.8, 161.3, 159.2, 138.3, 136.1, 132.1, 128.2, 127.8, 125.9, 125.1, 124.3, 122.7, 118.0, 117.7, 114.7, 114.3, 114.1, 112.3, 111.8, 70.4, 55.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}^{79}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{Na} [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 455.0371, found: 455.0405.

3-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3-oxoindolin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile (5g)

Yellow solid, 231 mg, 61%, m.p. 125-127 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3325, 2926, 2221, 1679, 1608, 1466, 1247, 1032 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.57-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (dd, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 202.5, 161.5, 159.5, 139.2, 138.1, 131.4, 127.8, 126.0, 125.9, 125.6, 124.6, 124.0, 120.3, 118.1, 117.7, 116.2, 113.5, 112.4, 111.9, 101.2, 70.6, 54.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2 [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 380.1401, found: 380.1398.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (5h)

Yellow solid, 283 mg, 71%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3363, 2925, 1683, 1617, 1467, 1332, 1250 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.81 (s, NH), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (dd, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 200.8, 161.3, 159.3, 140.8, 140.6, 138.6, 131.8, 128.2, 128.1, 125.2, 125.1, 118.4, 117.85, 117.80, 117.5, 117.4, 114.3, 112.8, 112.4, 70.3, 55.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{Na} [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 422.1117, found: 422.1107.

3-(2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-oxoindolin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile (5i)

Yellow solid, 241 mg, 63%, m.p. 132-134 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3325, 2924, 2222, 1680, 1615, 1487, 736 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.47-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 7.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 201.5, 161.6, 139.2, 138.5, 138.2, 133.5, 128.2, 126.2, 125.5, 125.4, 124.6, 124.2, 120.2, 118.4, 117.6, 115.6, 112.6, 112.1, 101.5, 70.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{14}^{35}\text{ClN}_3\text{ONa} [\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 406.0723, found: 406.0733.

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (5j**)**

Yellow solid, 282 mg, 70%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3313, 2922, 1678, 1615, 1465, 1323, 737 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.90 (s, NH), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 199.9, 161.5, 140.9, 140.6, 139.1, 138.7, 133.0, 128.97, 128.88, 128.4, 125.3, 124.9, 118.6, 117.5, 117.45, 117.40, 117.1, 112.9, 112.6, 70.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₂H₁₄³⁵ClN₃O₃Na[M+Na]⁺ 426.0622, found: 426.0600.

2-(5-Nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolin-3-one (5k**)**

Yellow solid, 271 mg, 62%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3343, 2924, 1683, 1615, 1466, 1322 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 7.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 202.4, 163.1, 145.6, 142.6, 141.8, 139.7, 131.1 (q, *J*_{C-C-F} = 32 Hz), 128.7, 126.4 (q, *J*_{C-C-C-F} = 4 Hz), 126.2, 126.1, 125.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 269 Hz), 120.0, 119.0, 118.45, 118.40, 118.3, 113.7, 112.9, 71.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₃H₁₄F₃N₃O₃Na[M+Na]⁺ 438.1067, found: 438.1052.

3-(3-Oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)indolin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile (5l**)**

Yellow solid, 229 mg, 53%, m.p. 114-116 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3326, 2222, 1683, 1615, 1467, 1256, 1160 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.60-7.52 (m, 6H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 202.8, 163.0, 150.2, 140.6, 140.3, 139.6, 129.8, 127.7, 126.9, 126.8, 126.1, 125.7, 121.95, 121.92 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 254 Hz), 121.6, 119.9, 119.0, 117.0, 114.0, 113.5, 102.9, 71.8 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₄H₁₄F₃N₃O₂Na[M+Na]⁺ 456.0936, found: 456.0921.

2-Methyl-2-(5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (5m**)**

Yellow solid, 92 mg, 30%, m.p. >200 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3383, 2931, 1685, 1610, 1467, 1323 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.79 (s, NH), 8.25 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz,

1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 203.4, 161.2, 140.8, 140.4, 138.5, 127.7, 125.1, 124.4, 118.3, 117.9, 117.8, 117.3, 117.1, 112.70, 112.66, 65.4, 23.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 308.1037, found: 308.1034.

2,2-Bis(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2a)⁵

Yellow solid; 109 mg, 90%; mp: >200 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3369, 2923, 1674, 1610, 1456 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.97 (s, 2NH), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (dd, J = 7.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 7.8, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (dd, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 200.8, 160.5, 137.4, 136.9, 125.6, 124.4, 123.9, 121.0, 120.5, 118.3, 117.7, 117.1, 113.9, 111.8, 111.6, 67.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{ONa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 386.1270, found 386.1274.

5-Methoxy-2,2-bis(5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2b)⁵

Yellow solid; 130 mg, 86%; mp: >200 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3390, 2924, 1644, 1489, 1213, 1028 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 10.80 (s, NH), 10.79 (s, NH), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.99-6.95 (m, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 6H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 201.7, 157.3, 153.0, 152.2, 132.6, 128.2, 126.5, 125.2, 118.5, 114.1, 113.9, 112.6, 111.0, 104.9, 103.5, 68.9, 56.0, 55.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 476.1587, found 476.1587.

5-Fluoro-2,2-bis(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2c)⁵

Yellow solid; 116 mg, 83%; mp: 91-93 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3406, 2924, 1687, 1627, 1487 cm⁻¹; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 11.16 (s, NH), 11.15 (s, NH), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, J = 9.0, 9.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, J = 8.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94-6.86 (m, 4H) ppm; $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): δ 200.9, 158.1, 156.8 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 229$ Hz), 155.5 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 234$ Hz), 134.1, 126.5, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 11$ Hz), 117.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 7$ Hz), 114.1 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 5$ Hz), 113.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 8$ Hz), 113.2 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 10$ Hz), 109.9 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 26$ Hz), 109.5 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 22$ Hz), 105.3 (d, $J_{\text{C}-\text{F}} = 24$ Hz), 68.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z : calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 418.1169, found 418.1170.

5-Nitro-2,2-bis(5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2d)⁵

Yellow solid; 135 mg, 81%; mp: >200 °C, IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3324, 2923, 1694, 1618, 1467, 1322 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.99 (s, 2NH), 9.97 (s, 1H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 198.6, 162.9, 140.9, 140.7, 138.8, 133.8, 128.4, 124.7, 122.8, 117.5, 117.4, 116.7, 115.1, 113.1, 112.3, 68.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₄H₁₄N₆O₇Na [M+Na]⁺ 521.0822, found 521.0819.

5-Phenyl-2,2-bis(5-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2e)

Yellow solid; 166 mg, 84%; mp: >200°C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3300, 2924, 1687, 1621 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.13 (s, NH), 11.10 (s, NH), 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 7H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 7H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 201.6, 160.7, 142.2, 140.2, 137.2, 137.1, 131.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 127.9, 127.1, 126.9, 126.6, 126.4, 125.3, 122.3, 120.9, 119.2, 119.0, 114.7, 112.9, 112.6, 68.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₄₂H₃₀N₃O [M+H]⁺ 592.2391, found 592.2384.

5-Cyano-2,2-bis(5-cyano-1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-3-one (2f)⁵

Yellow solid; 116 mg, 79%; mp: 147-149 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3309, 2923, 2221, 1699, 1621, 1495 cm⁻¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.79 (s, 2NH), 9.43 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 198.5, 161.7, 141.1, 139.3, 131.3, 127.1, 125.8, 125.4, 124.6, 120.9, 119.7, 117.5, 113.9, 113.8, 113.0, 101.4, 99.4, 67.9 ppm;; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₂₇H₁₄N₆O [M+H]⁺ 439.1309, found 439.1307.

3,3-Bis(1*H*-indol-3-yl)indolin-2-one (3)⁶

Yellow solid; 102 mg, 28%; mp: >200 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3429, 2923, 1706, 1614, 1468 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 10.96 (s, 1NH), 10.95 (s, 1NH), 10.59 (s, NH), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.03-6.98 (m, 3H), 6.93 (ddd, *J* = 7.5, 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 2H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): 179.2, 141.8, 137.4, 135.1, 128.3, 126.2, 125.4, 124.7, 121.9, 121.4, 121.2, 118.7, 114.8, 112.0, 110.0, 53.0 ppm; ESI-MS, *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ 386.09.

2-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-benzo[*d*][1,3]oxazin-4-one (6)⁷

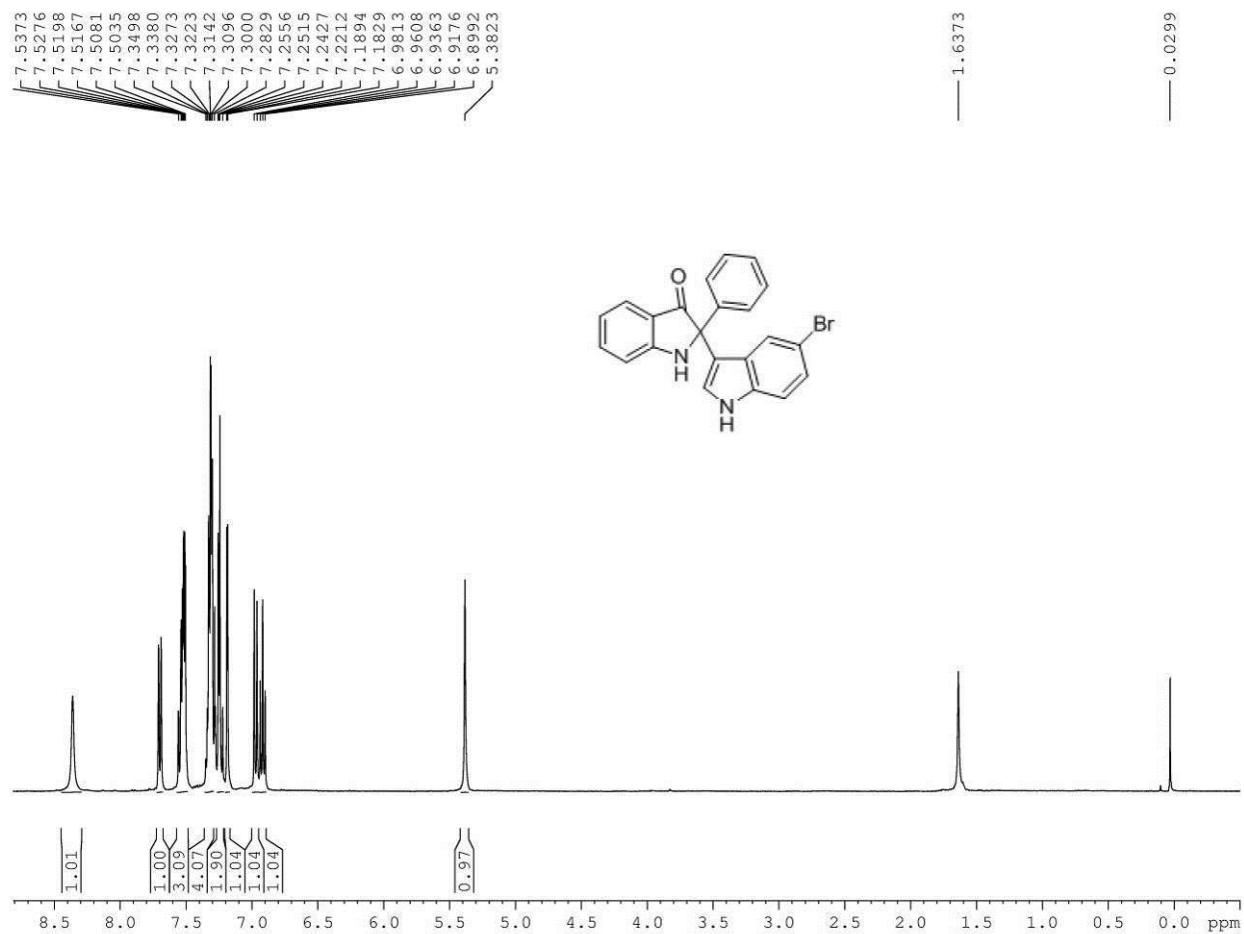
White solid; 30 mg, 12%; mp: 142-144 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 2922, 1755, 1605, 1259, 1172, 768 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 163.3, 159.8, 157.2, 147.4, 136.5, 130.3, 128.6, 127.7, 126.9, 122.6, 116.7, 114.2, 55.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 254.0819, found 254.0826.

2,2'-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-biindolin-3-one (7)

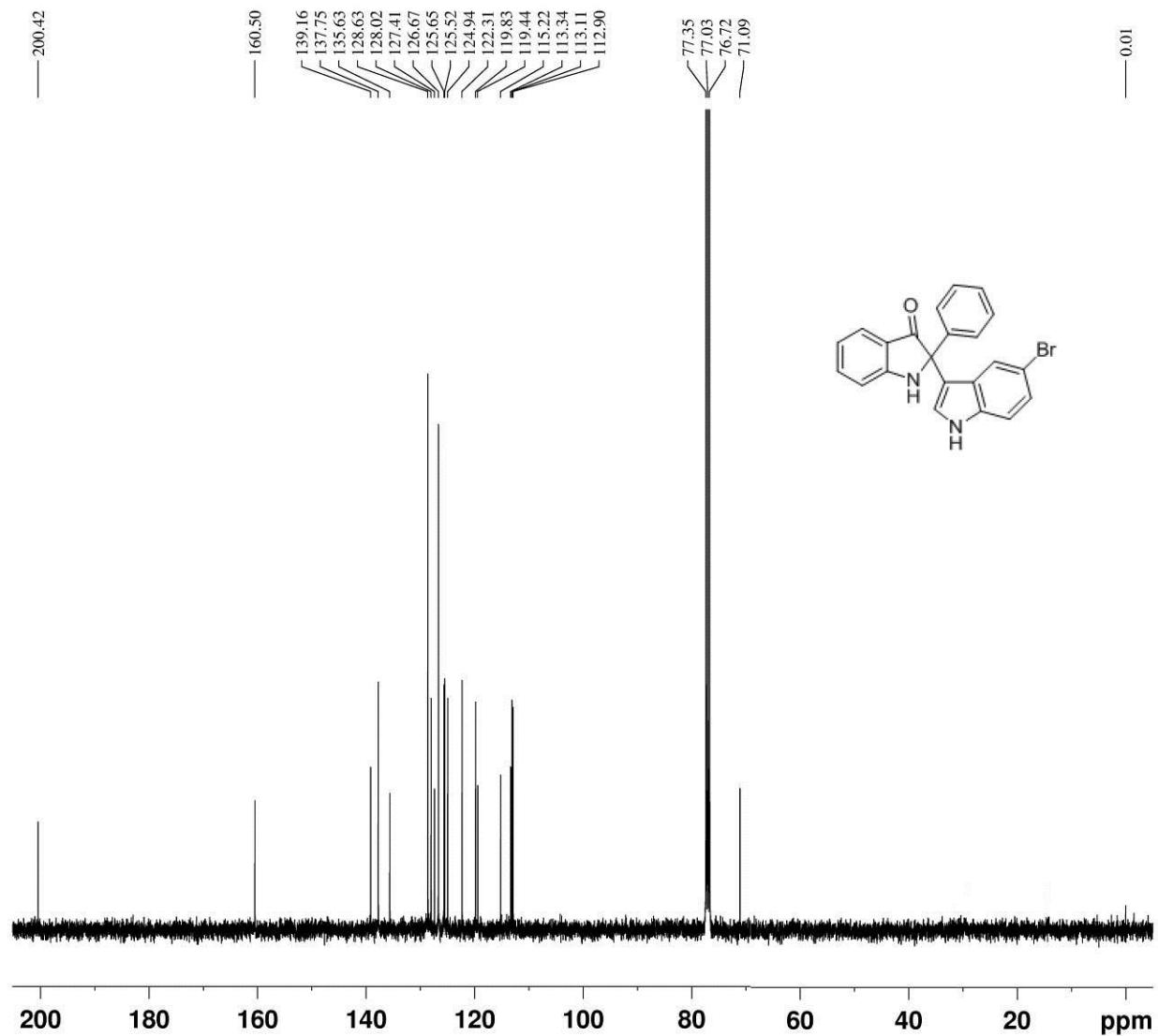
Yellow solid, 64 mg, 14%; m.p. 102-104 °C; IR (ATR): ν_{max} 3339, 2917, 1708, 1617, 1505, 1248 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (s, NH), 7.45 (m, 4H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05-6.99 (m, 3H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76-6.73 (m, 3H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, NH), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H}NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.7, 159.5, 159.2, 159.1, 137.0, 136.9, 135.5, 132.5, 130.9, 128.4, 127.5, 125.5, 125.4, 122.1, 121.5, 120.5, 119.9, 119.0, 113.7, 113.1, 112.23, 112.20, 110.6, 71.67, 55.3, 55.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calcd. for C₃₀H₂₅N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺ 461.1867, found: 461.1864.

5. NMR spectra of compounds (5a-m, 2a-f, 3, 6, 7 and 8)

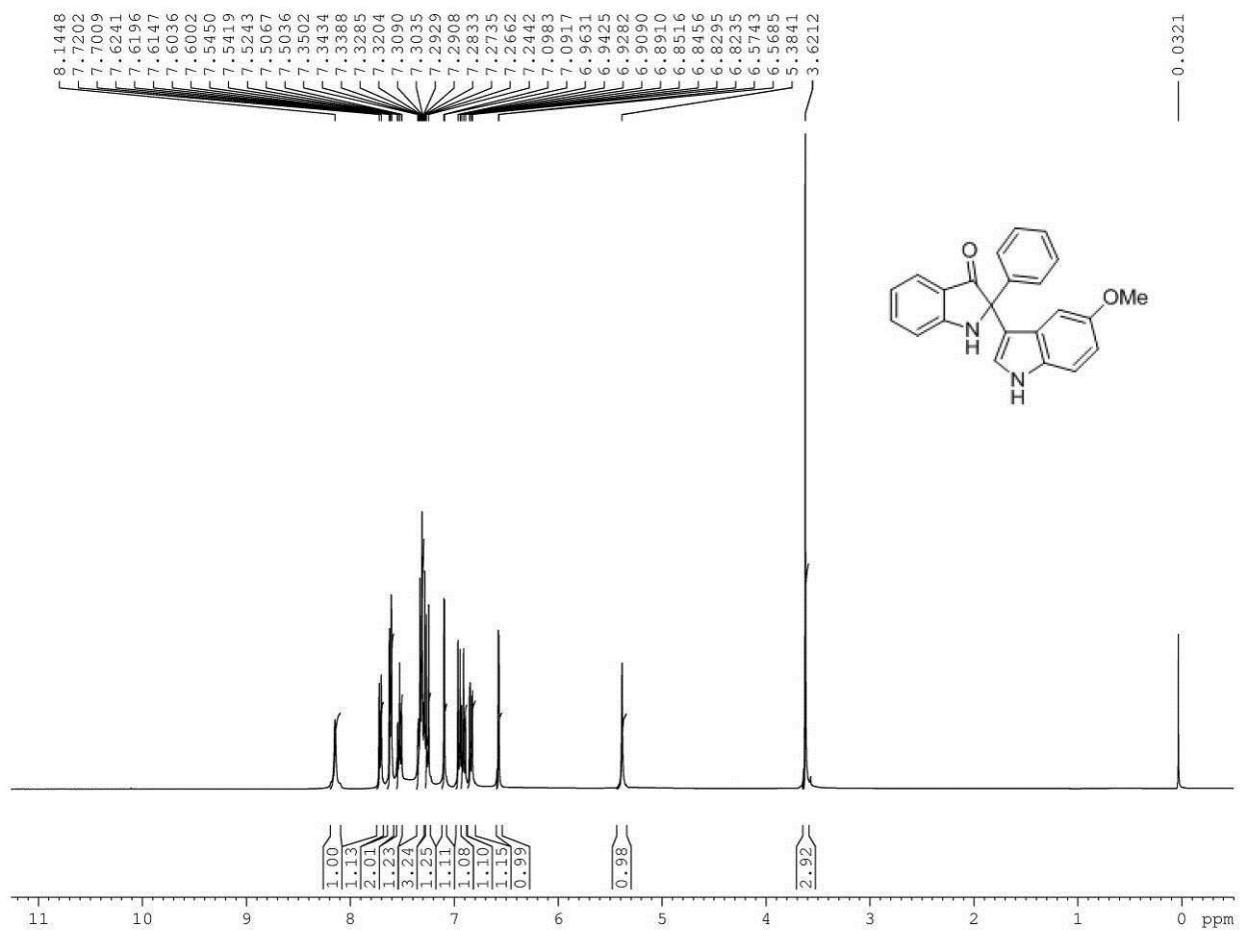
5a: ^1H NMR



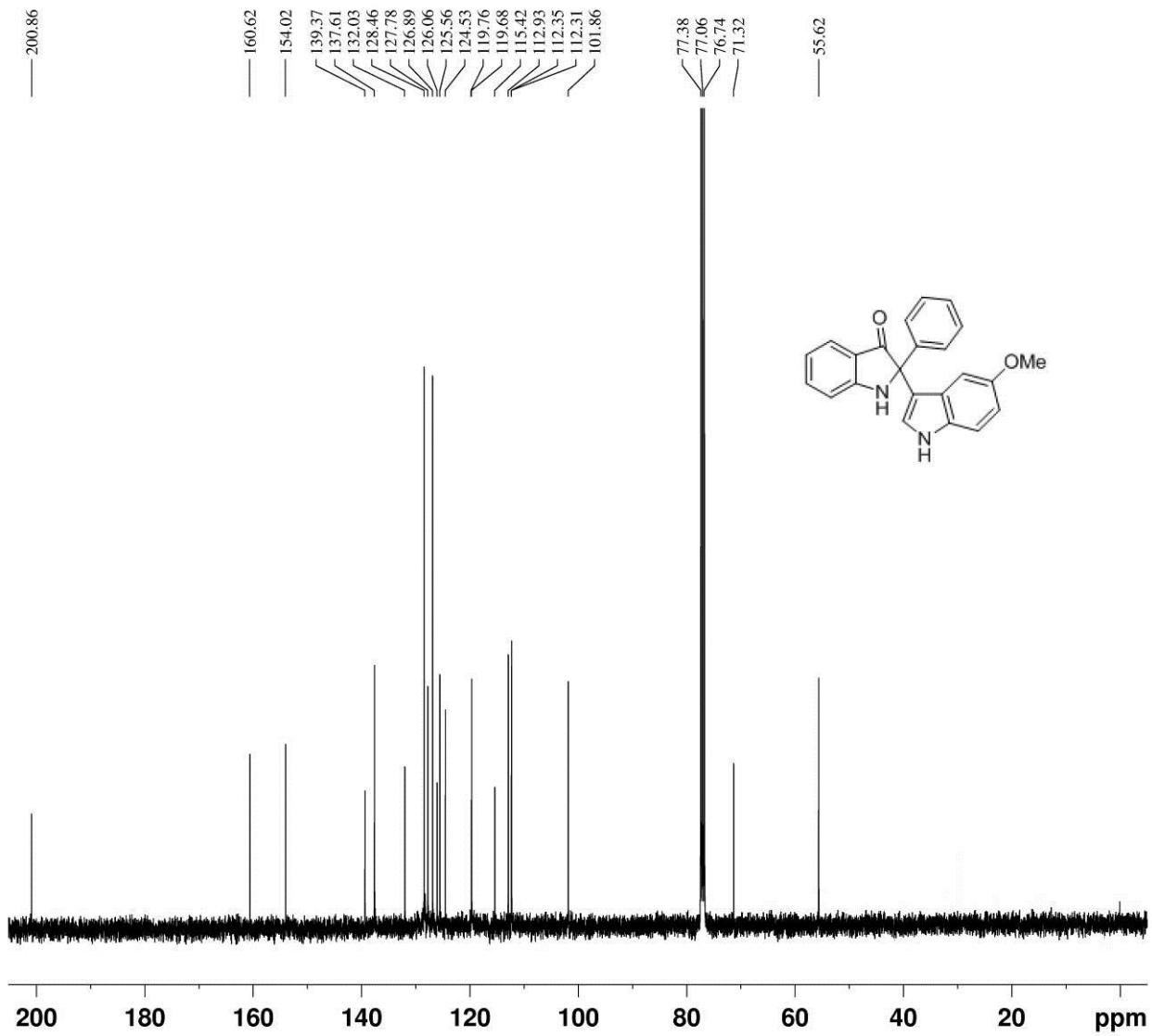
5a: ^{13}C NMR



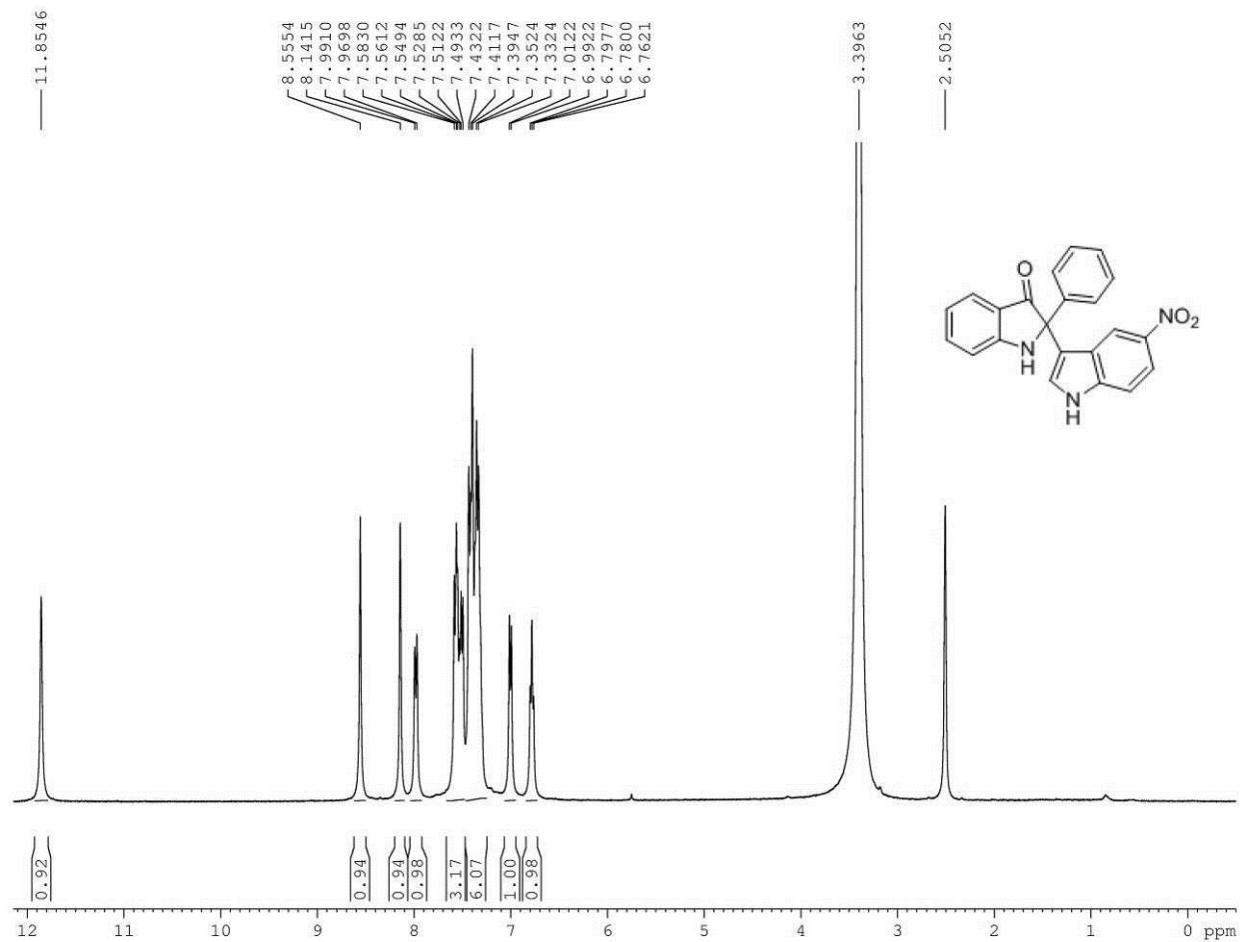
5b: ^1H NMR



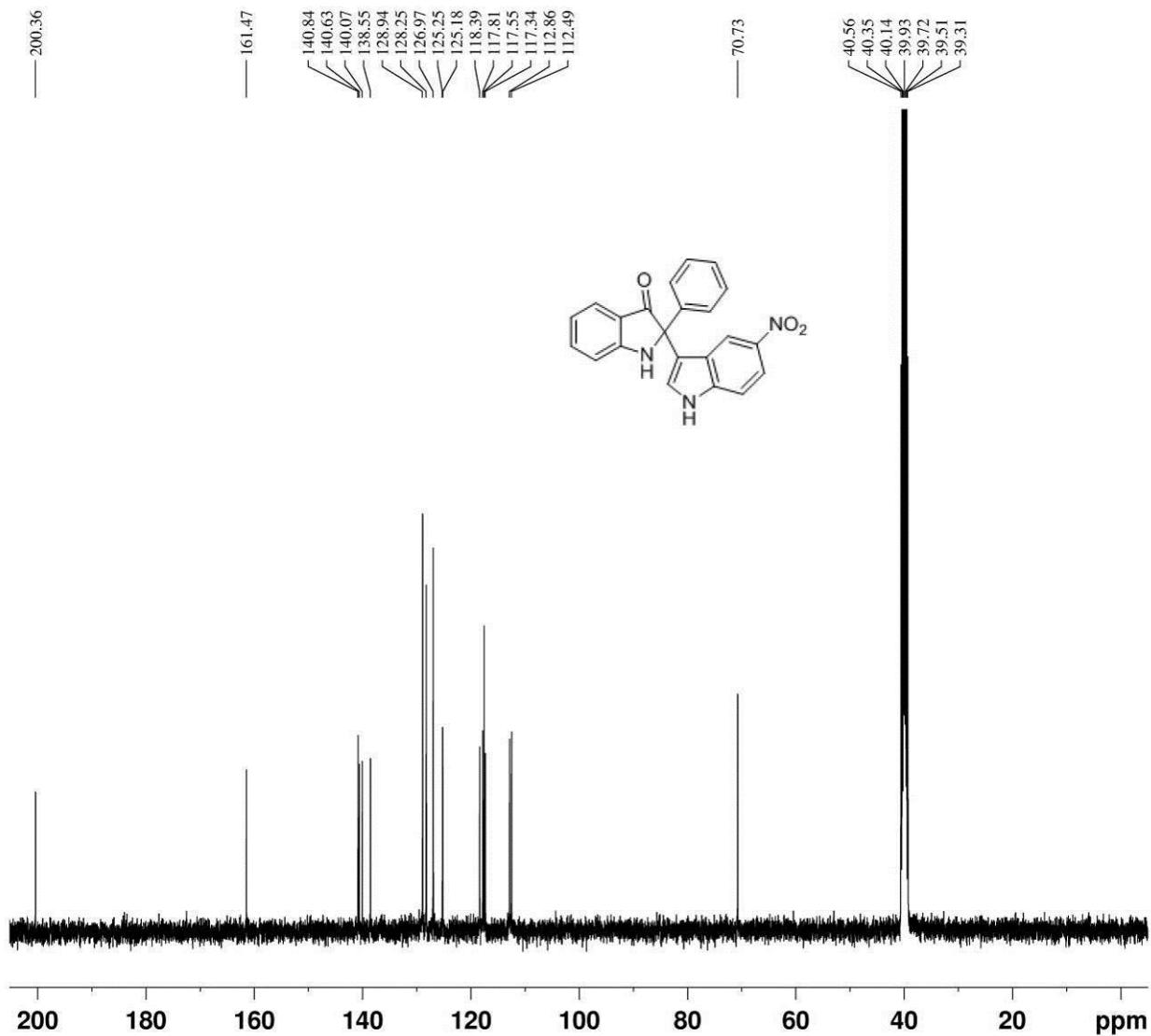
5b: ^{13}C NMR



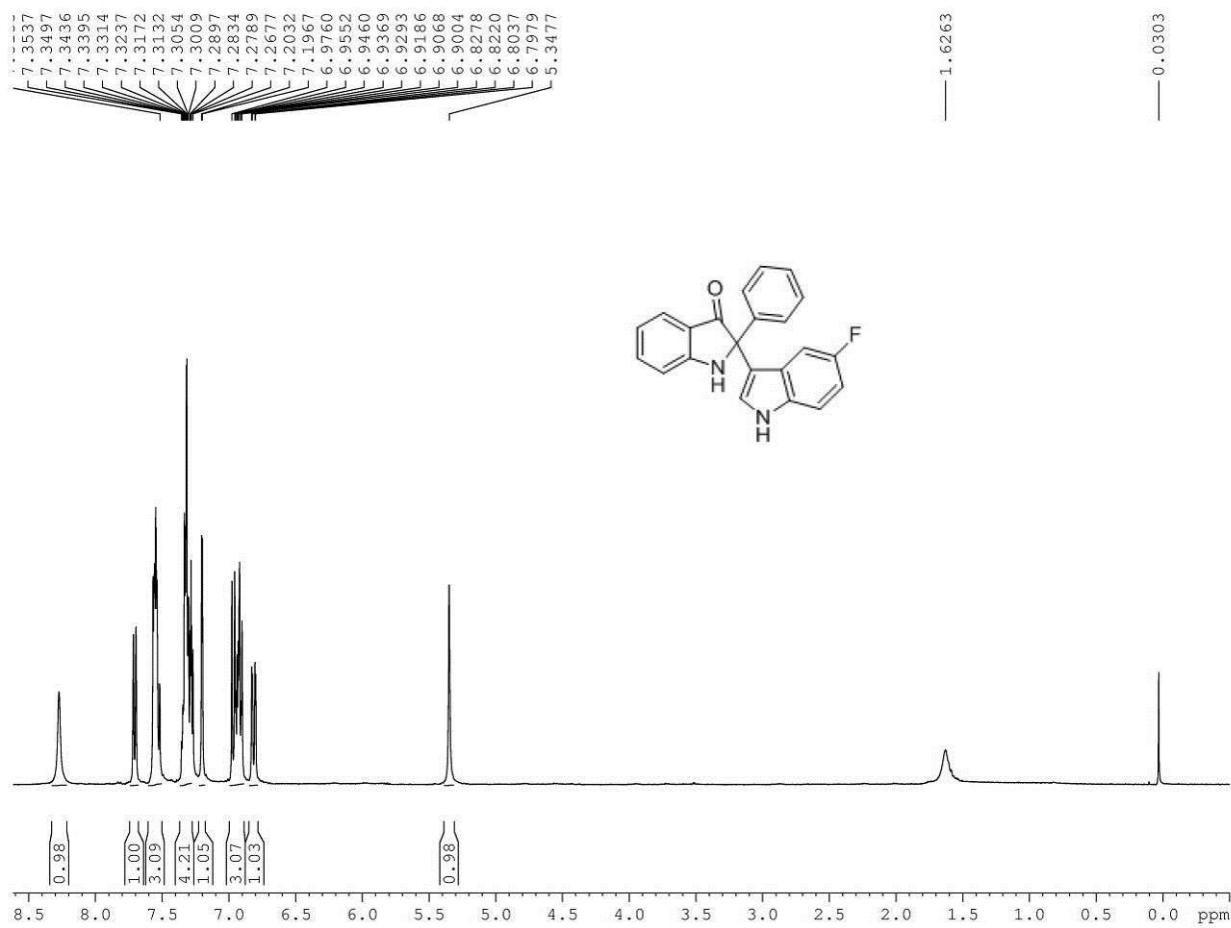
5c: ^1H NMR



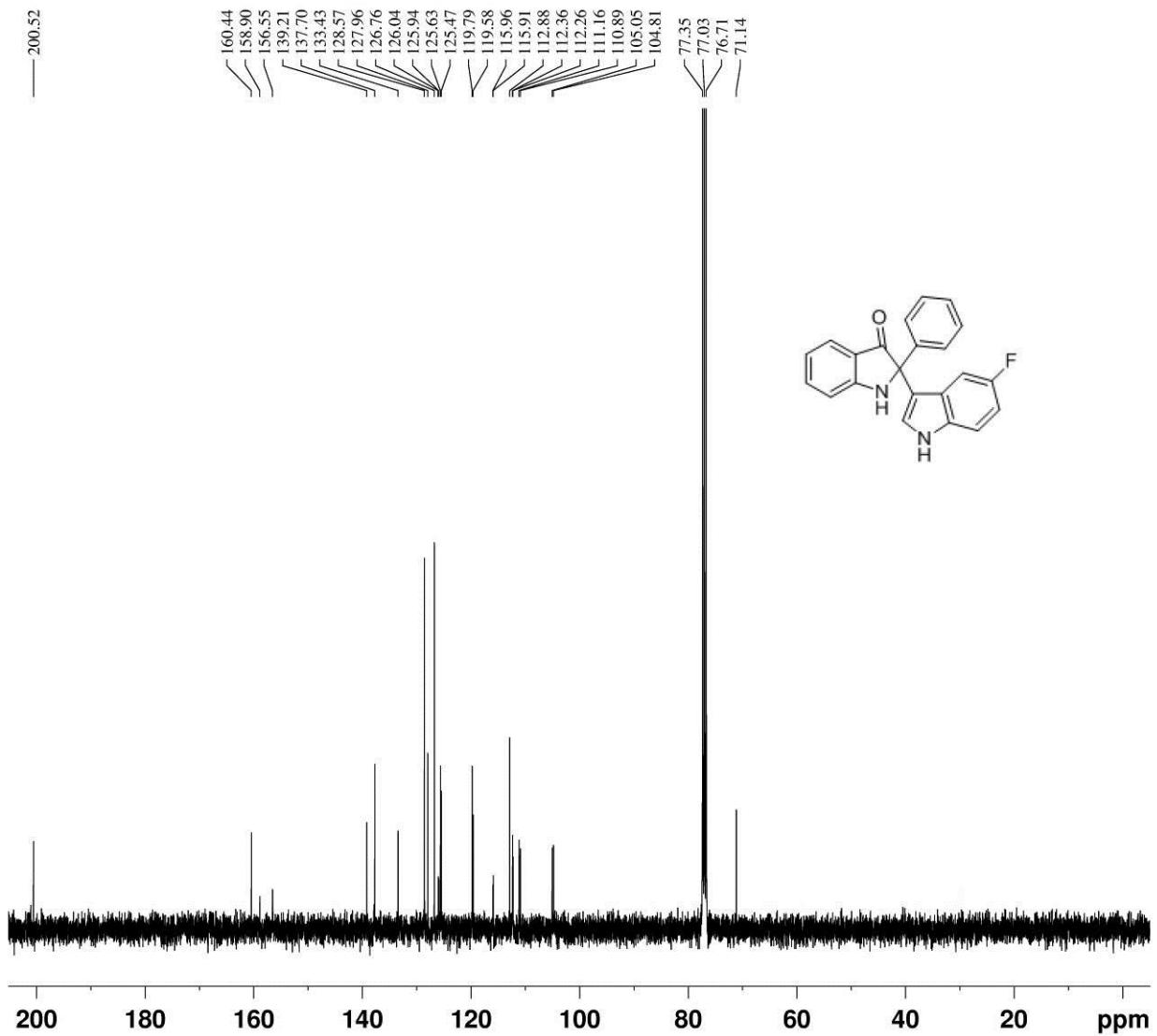
5c: ^{13}C NMR



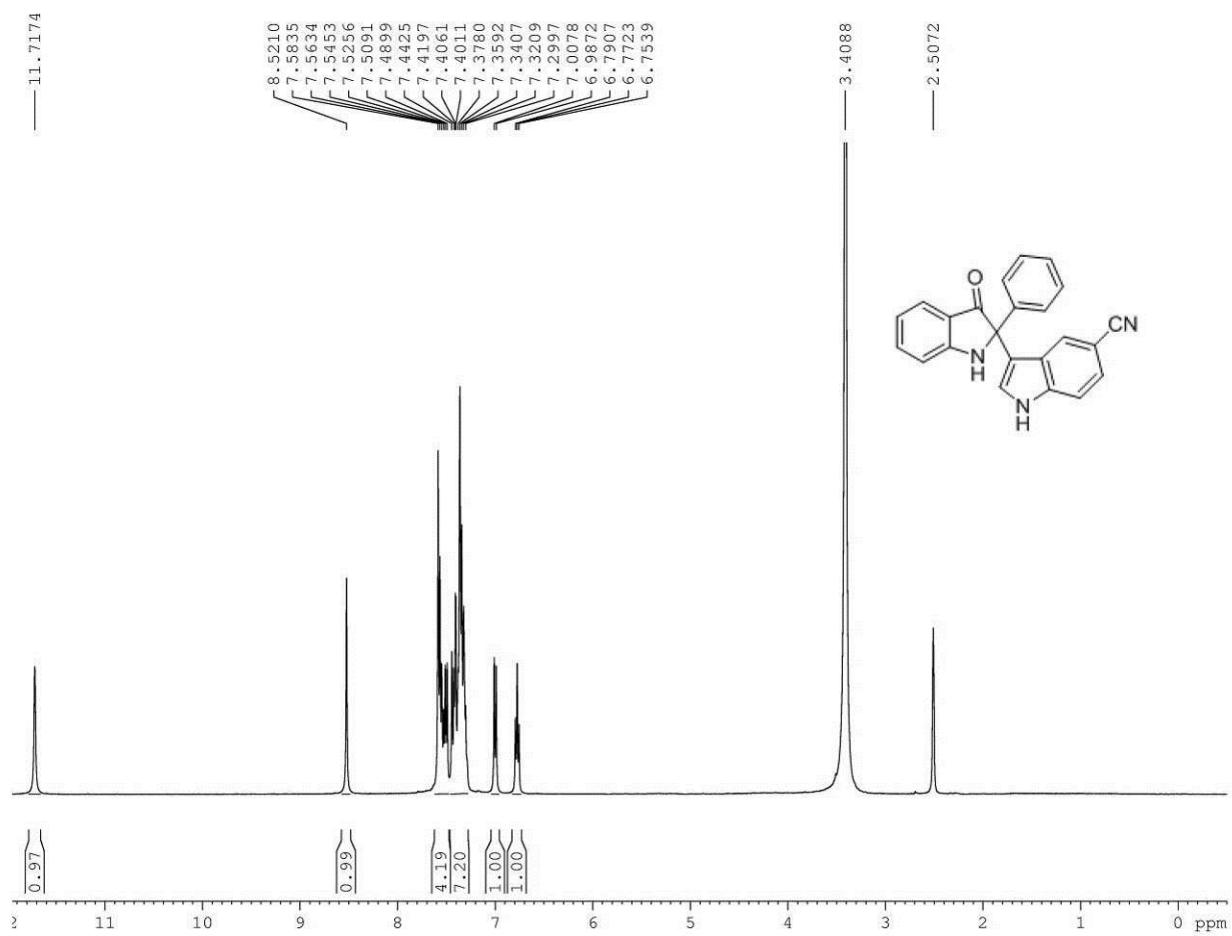
5d: ^1H NMR



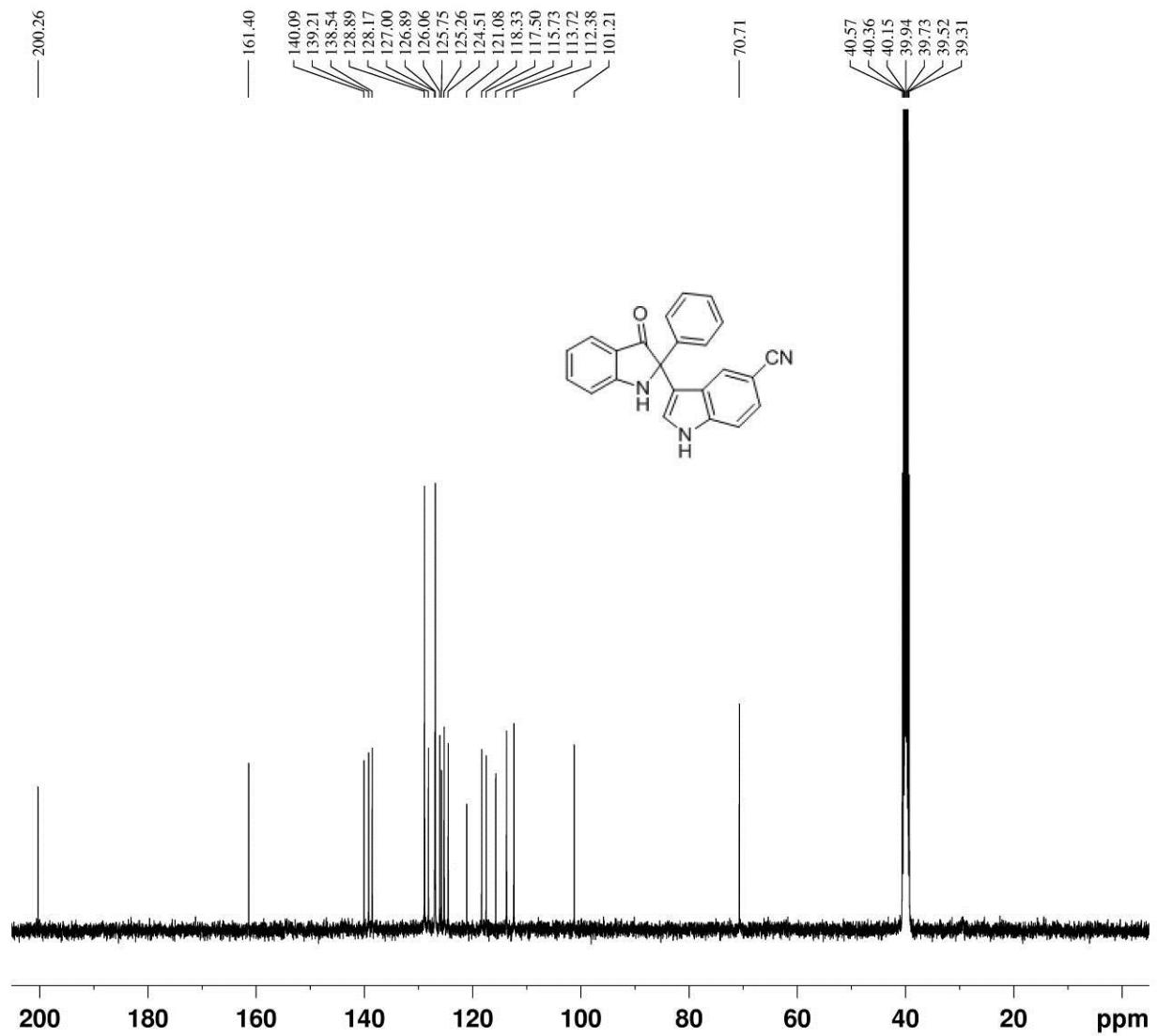
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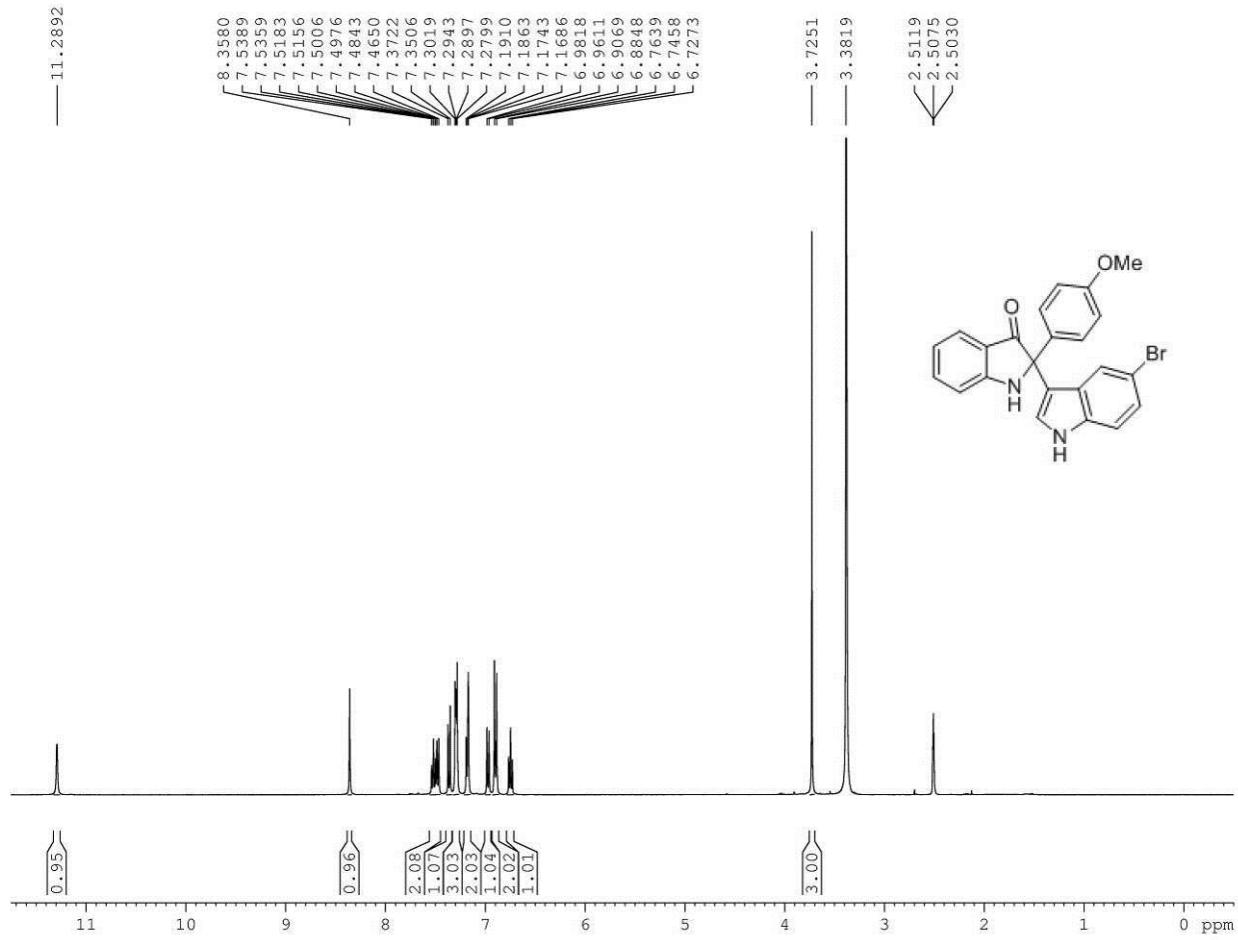
5e: ^1H NMR



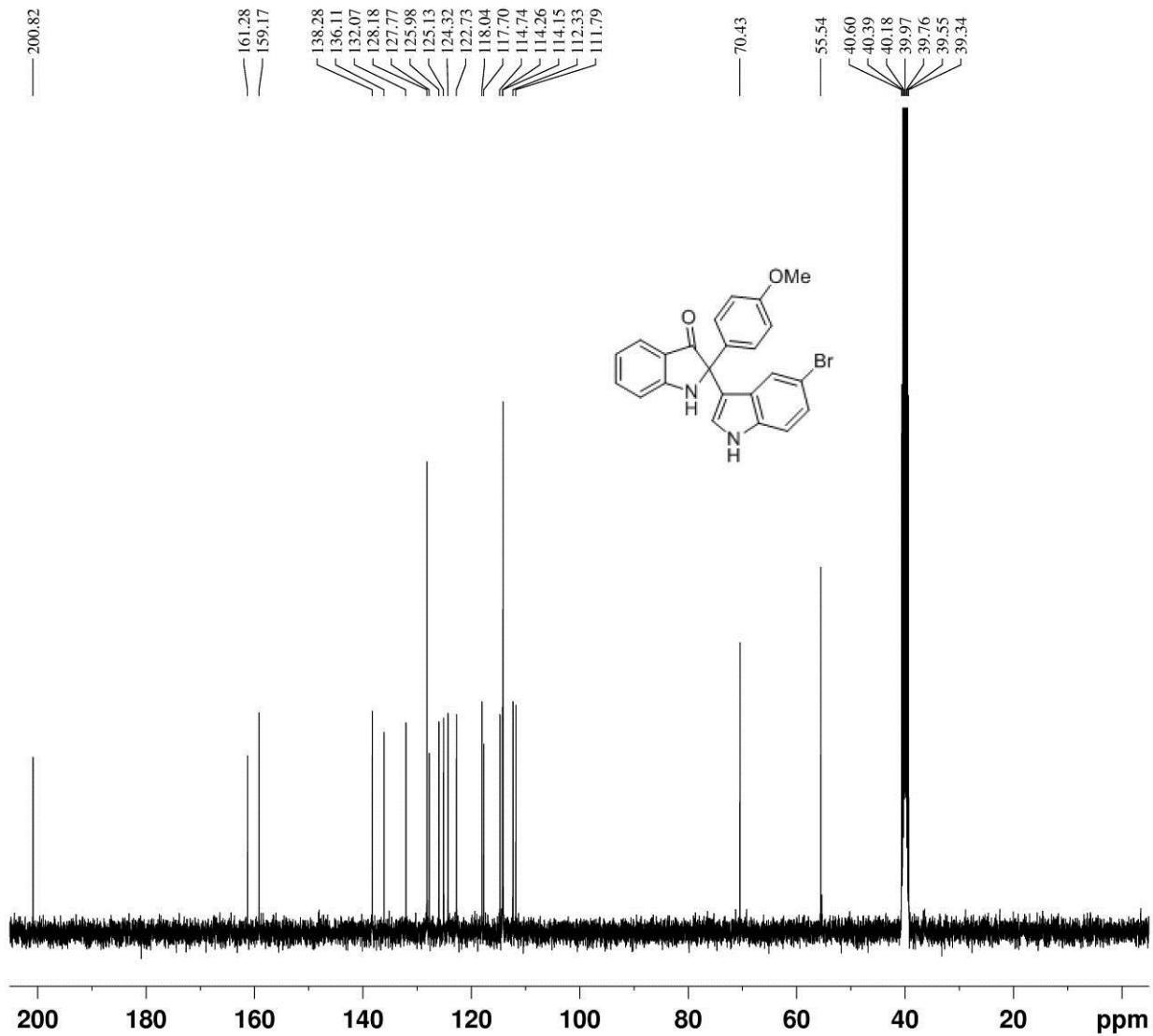
5e: ^{13}C NMR



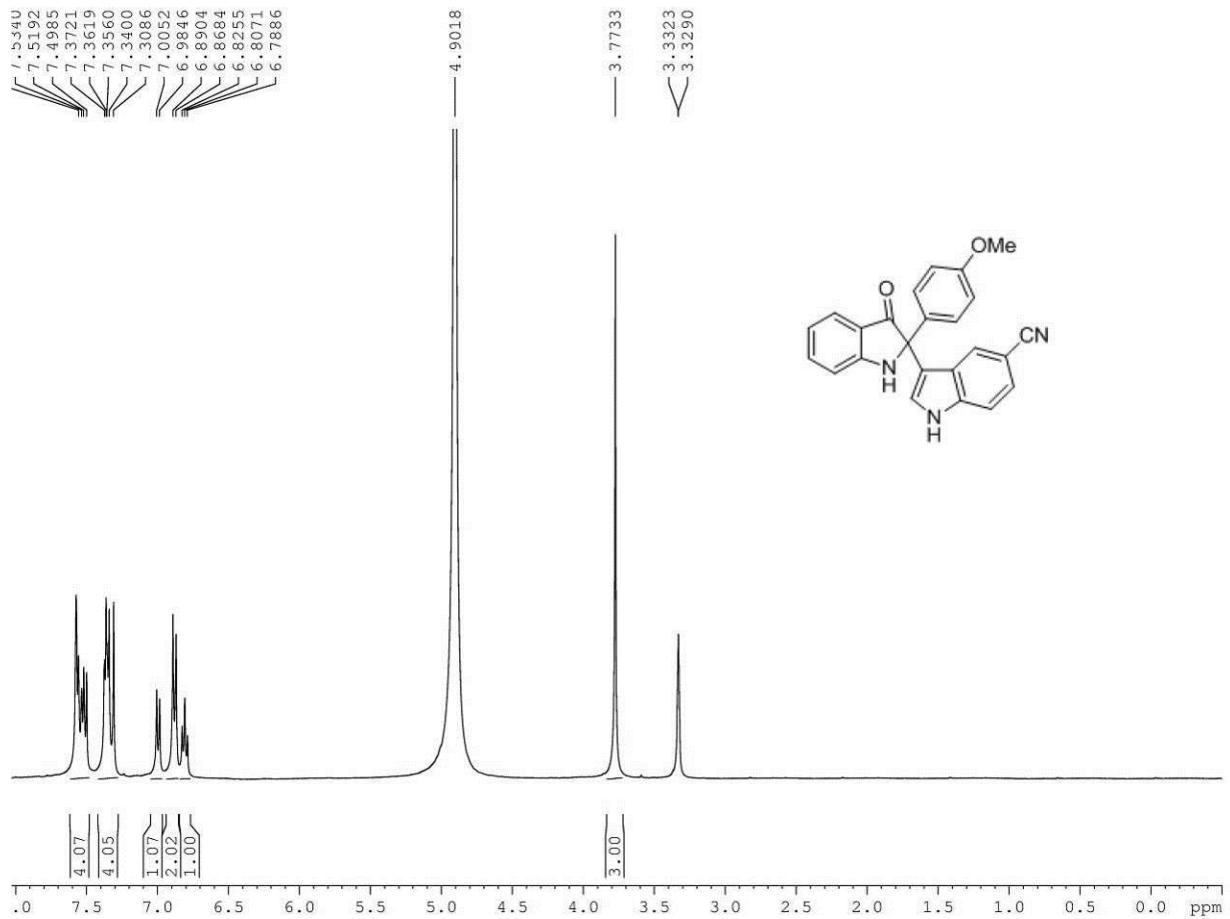
5f: ^1H NMR



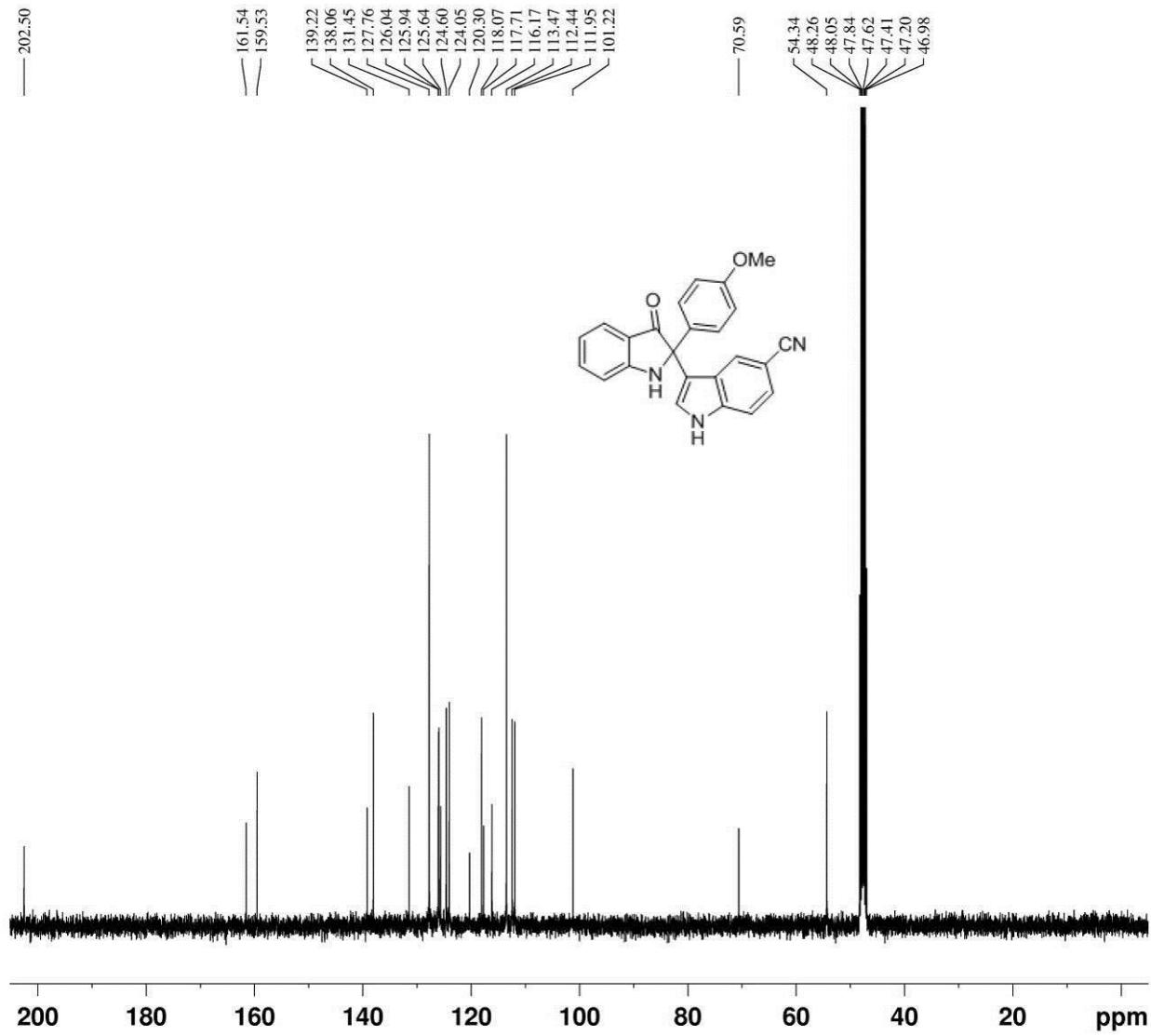
5f: ^{13}C NMR



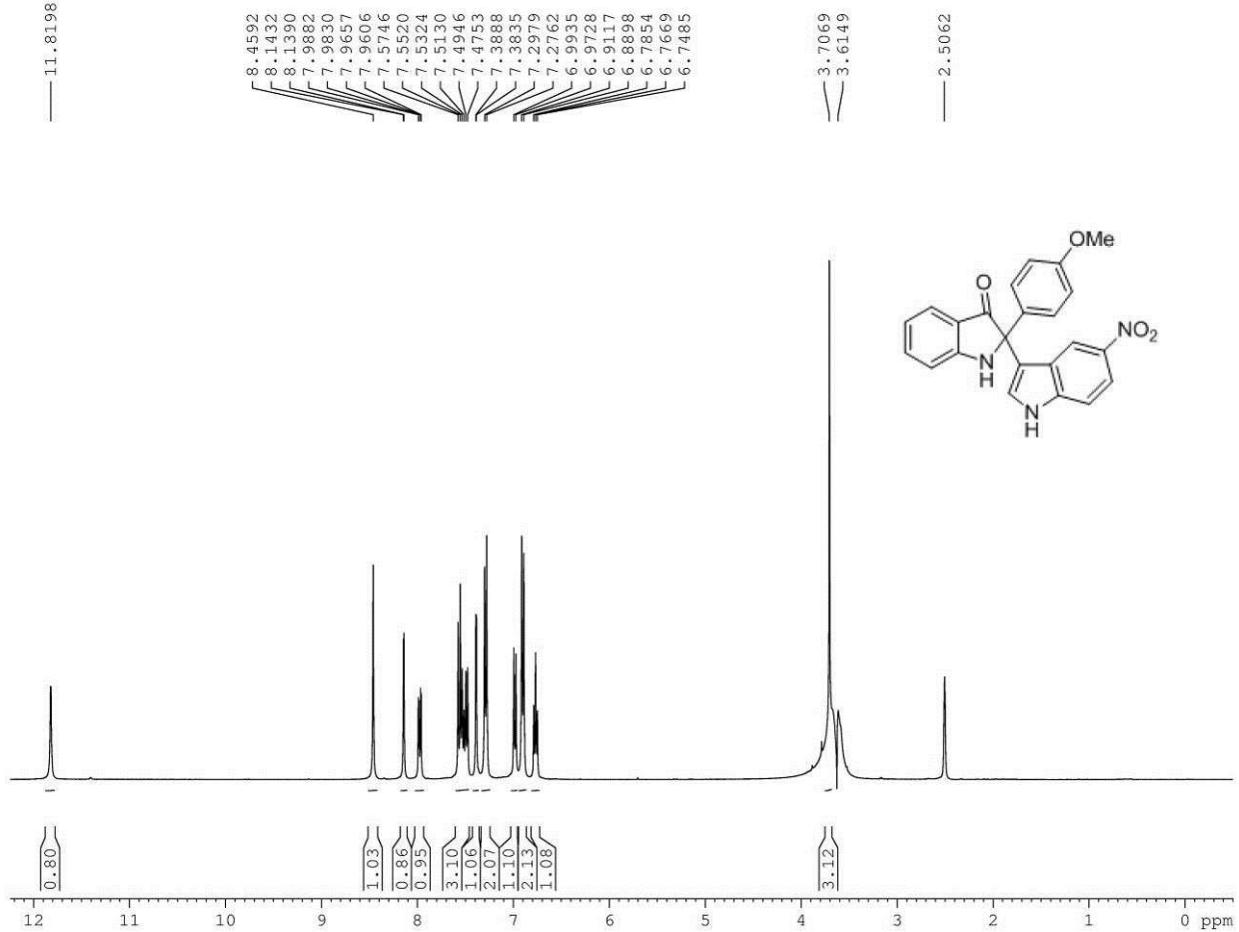
5g: ^1H NMR



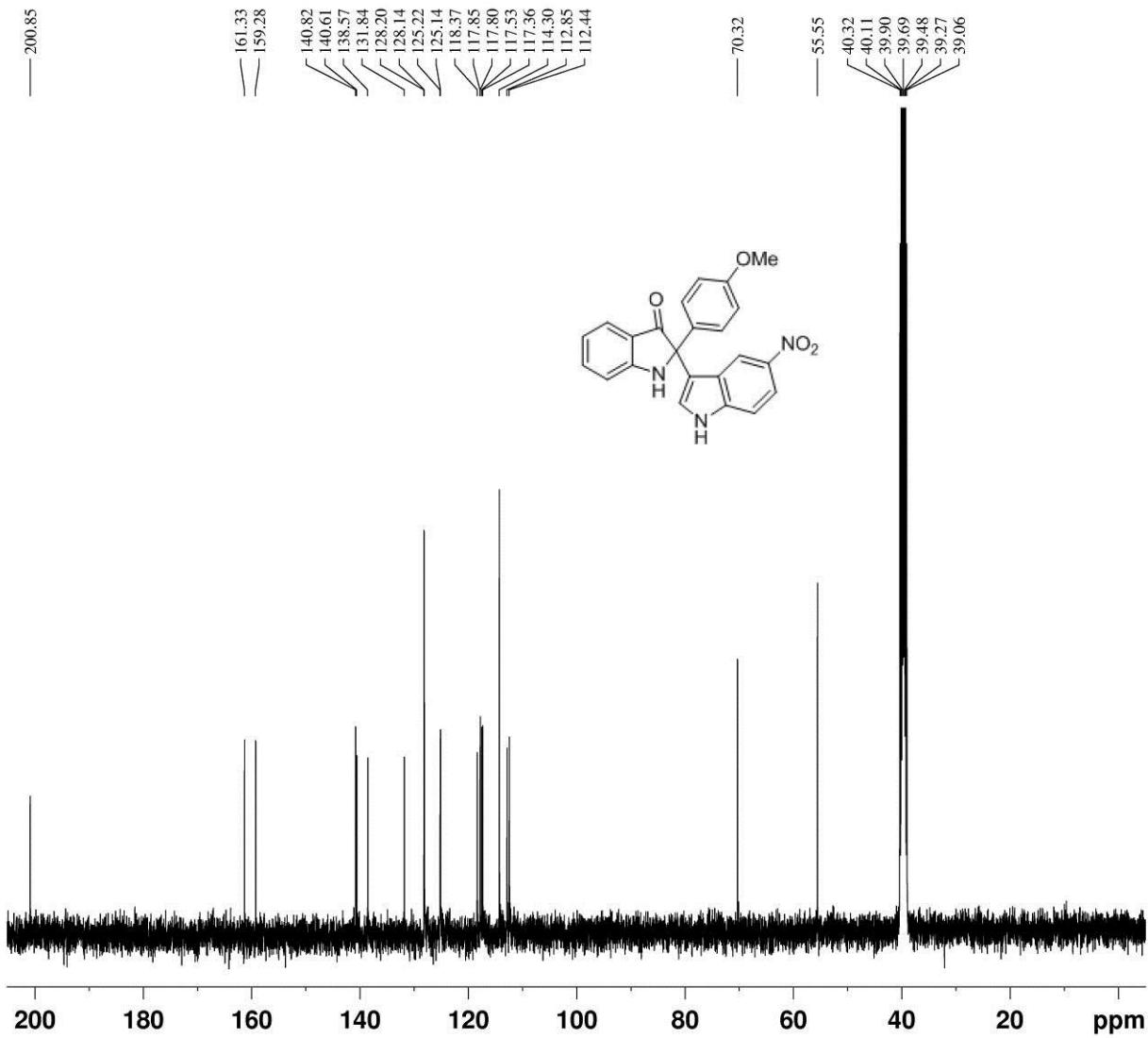
5g: ^{13}C NMR



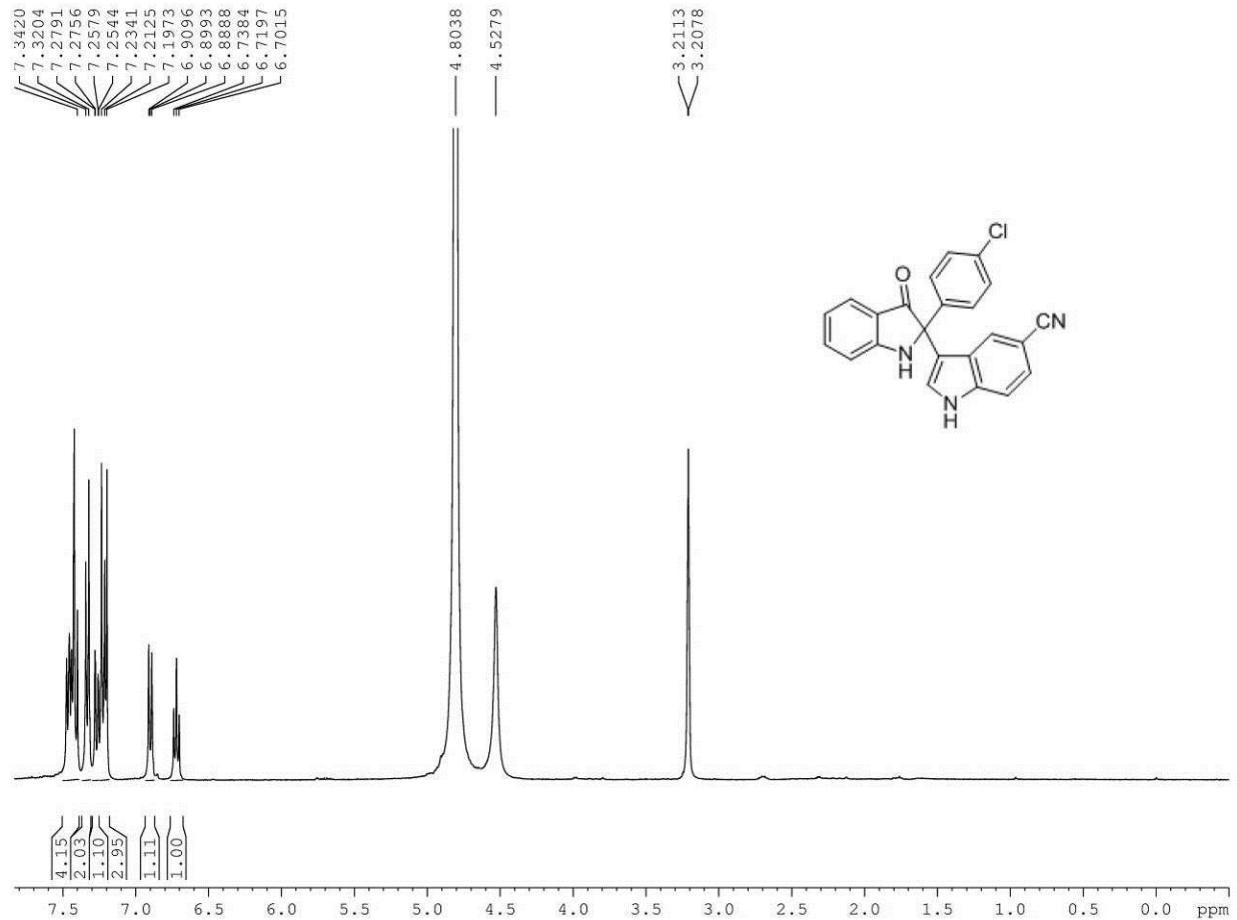
5h: ^1H NMR



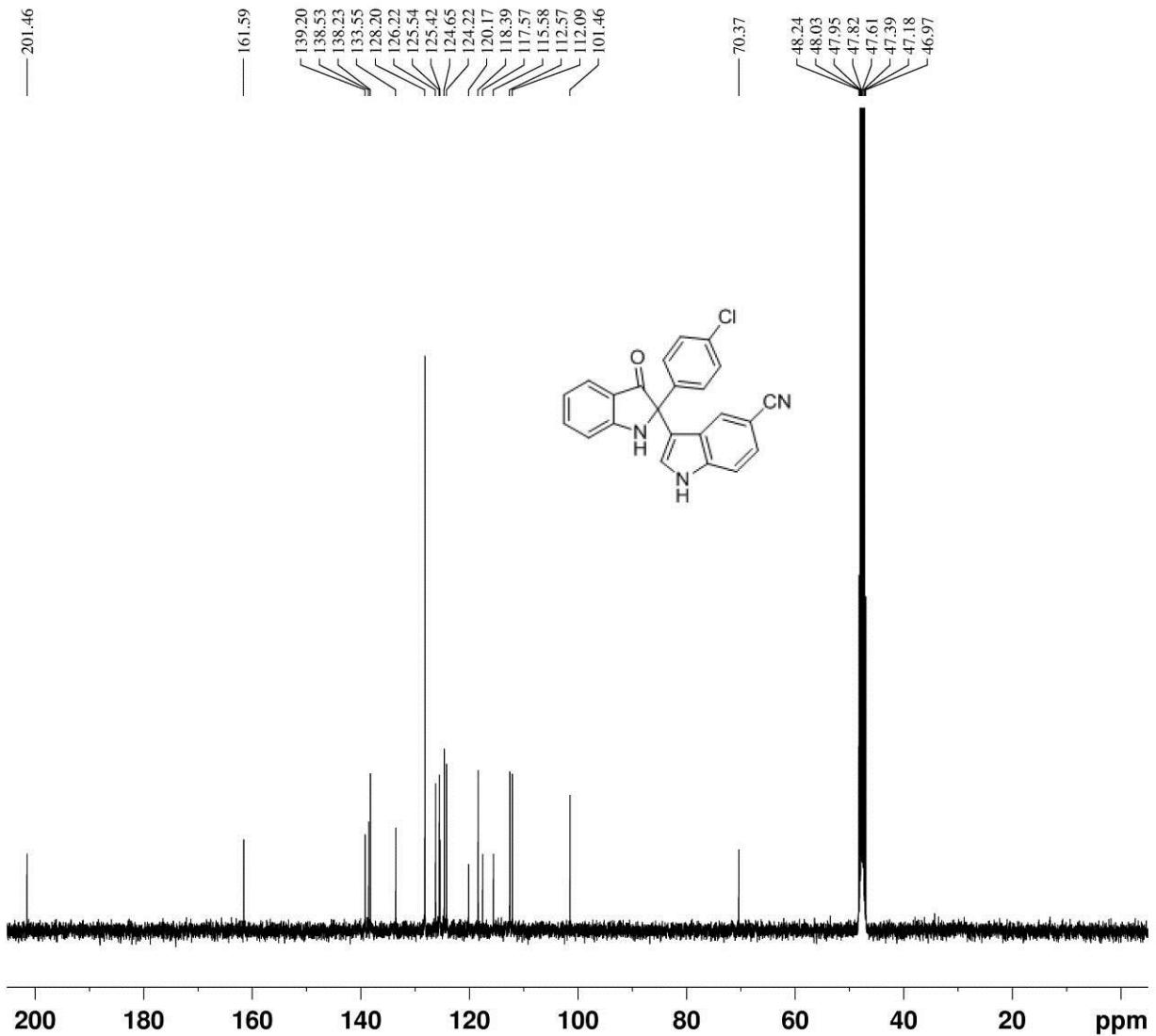
5h: ^{13}C NMR



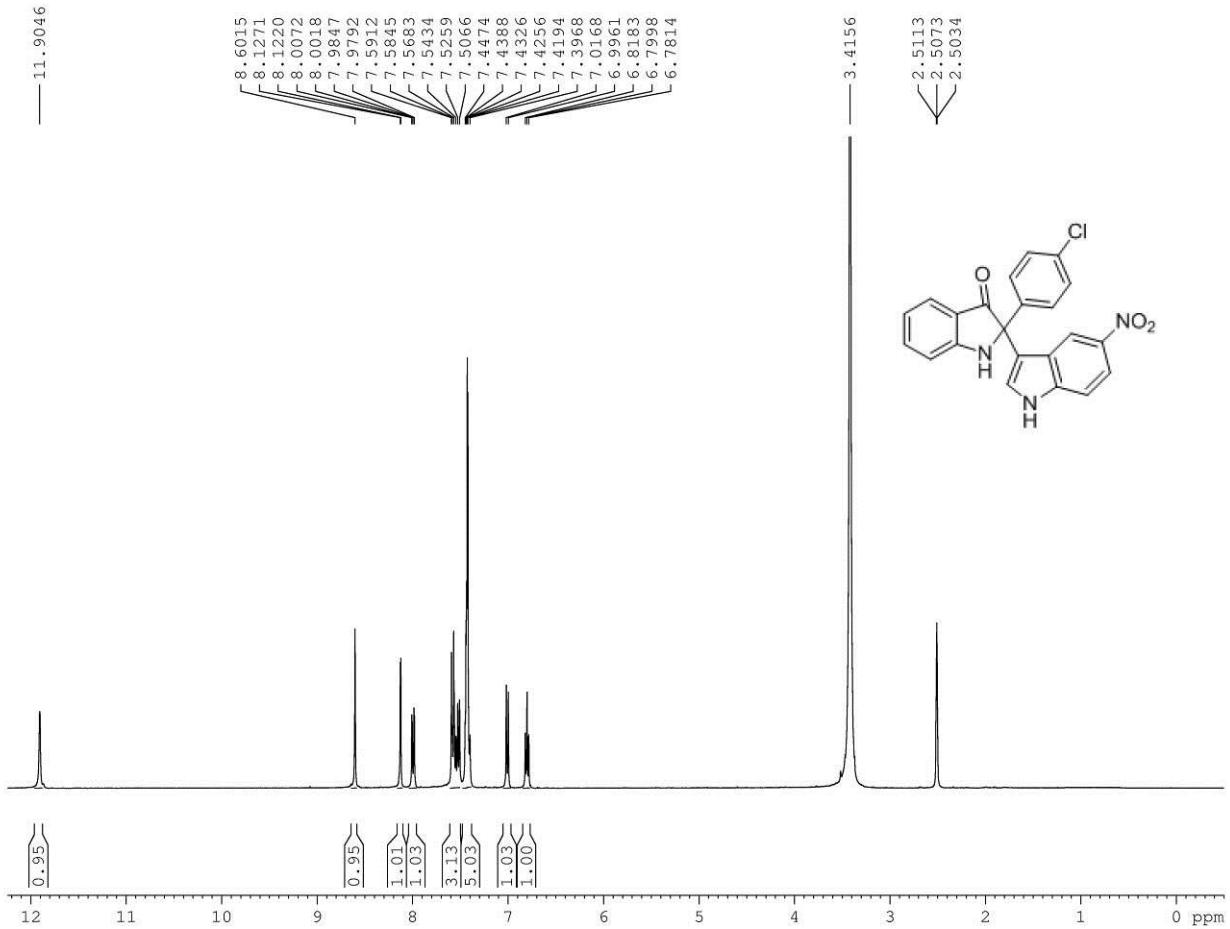
5i: ^1H NMR



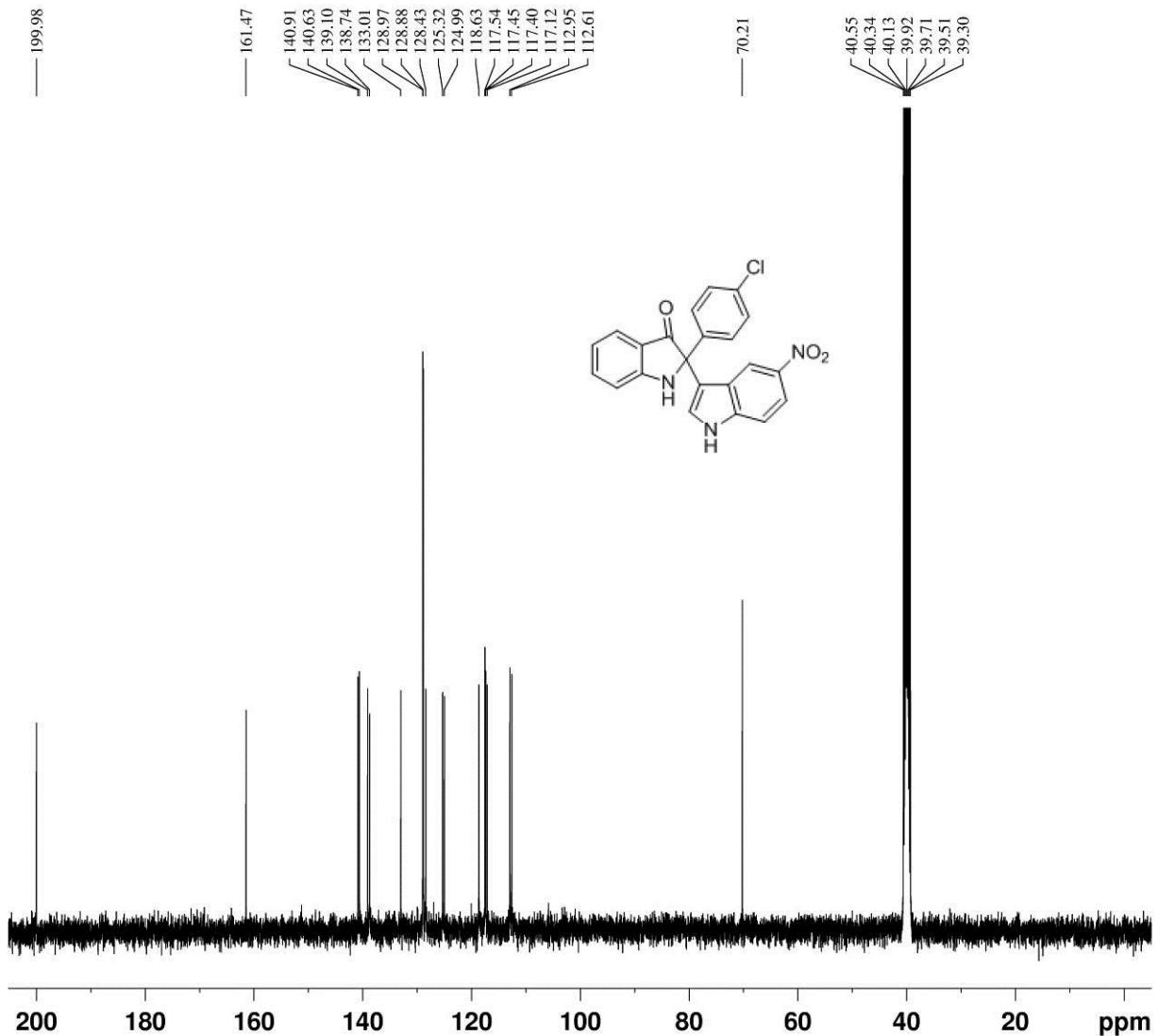
5i: ^{13}C NMR



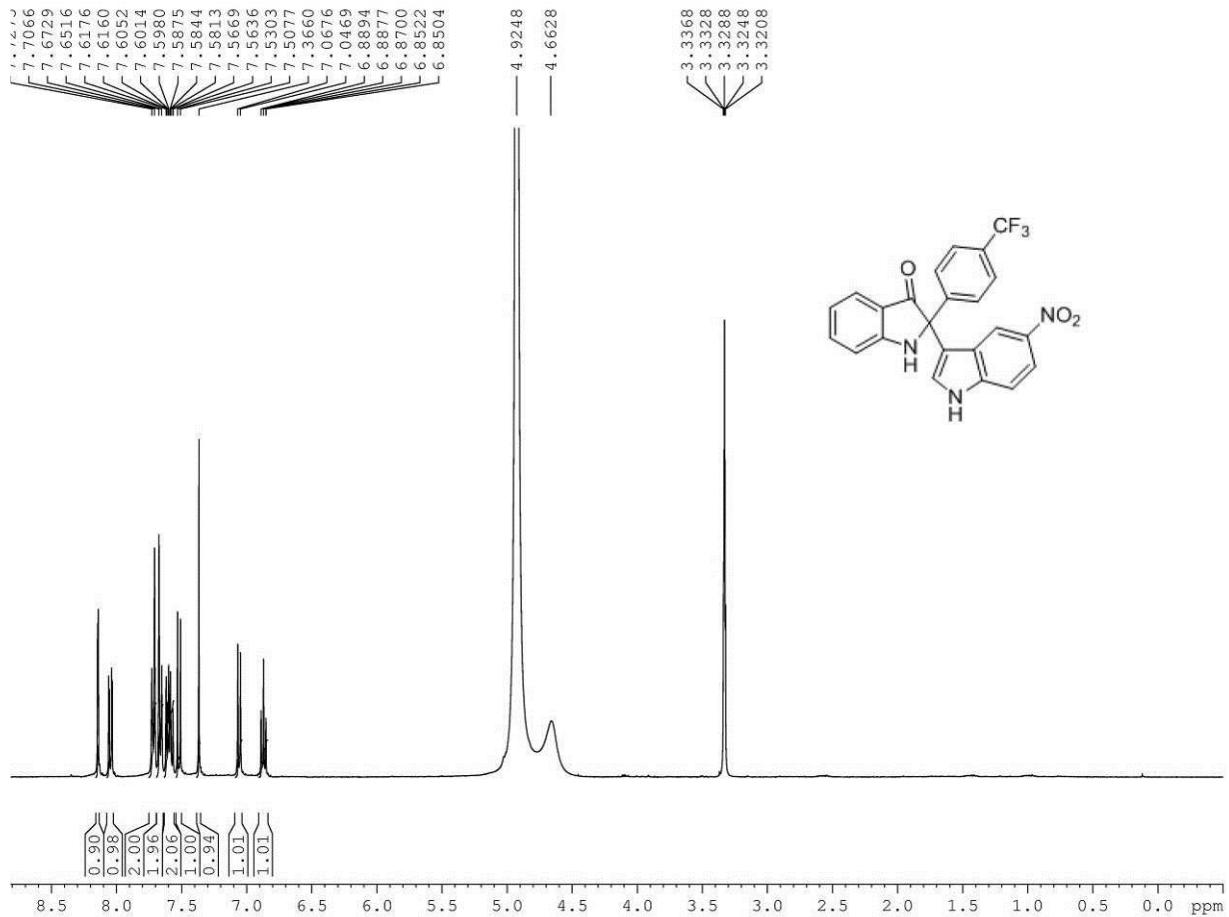
5j: ^1H NMR



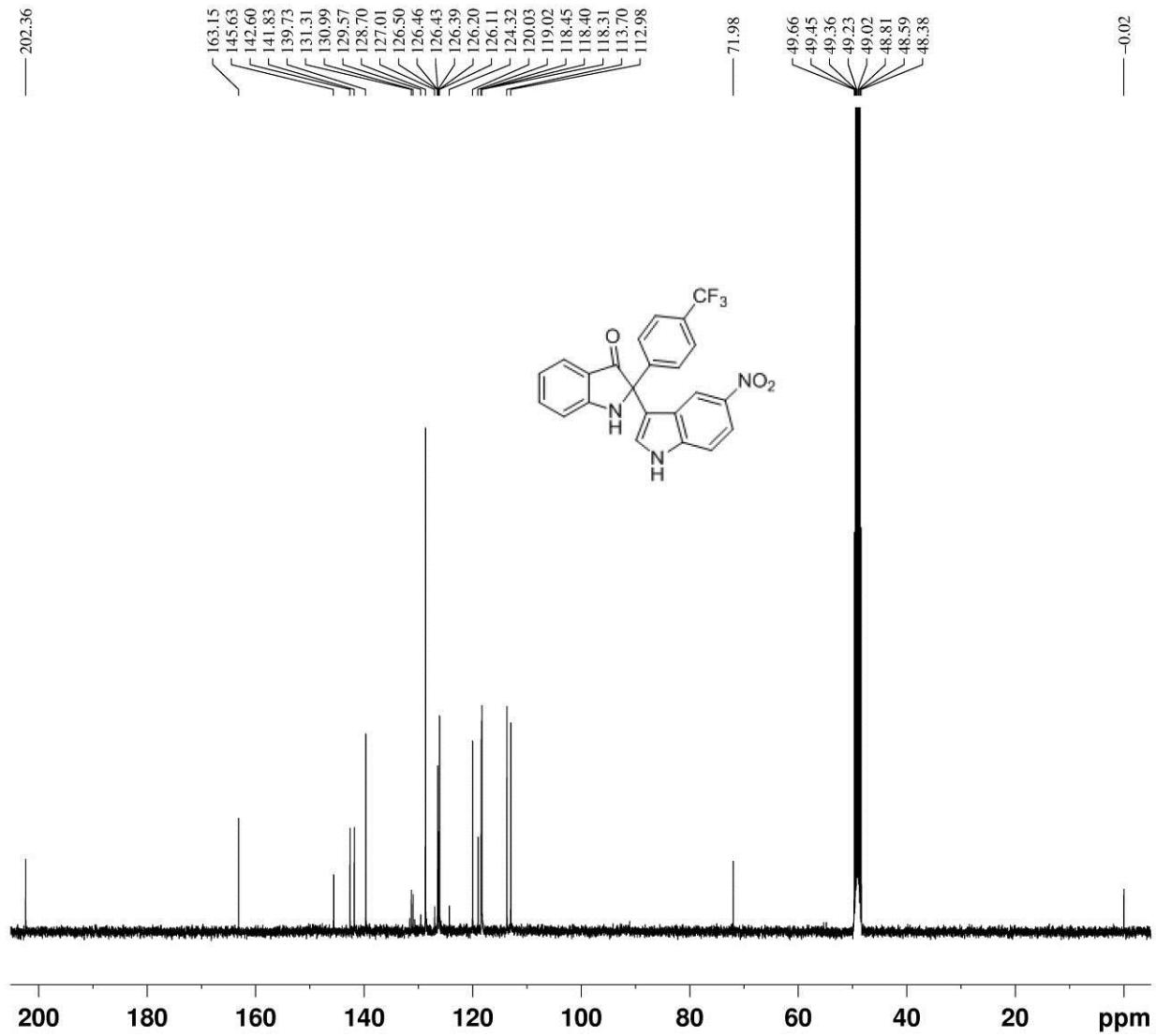
5j: ^{13}C NMR



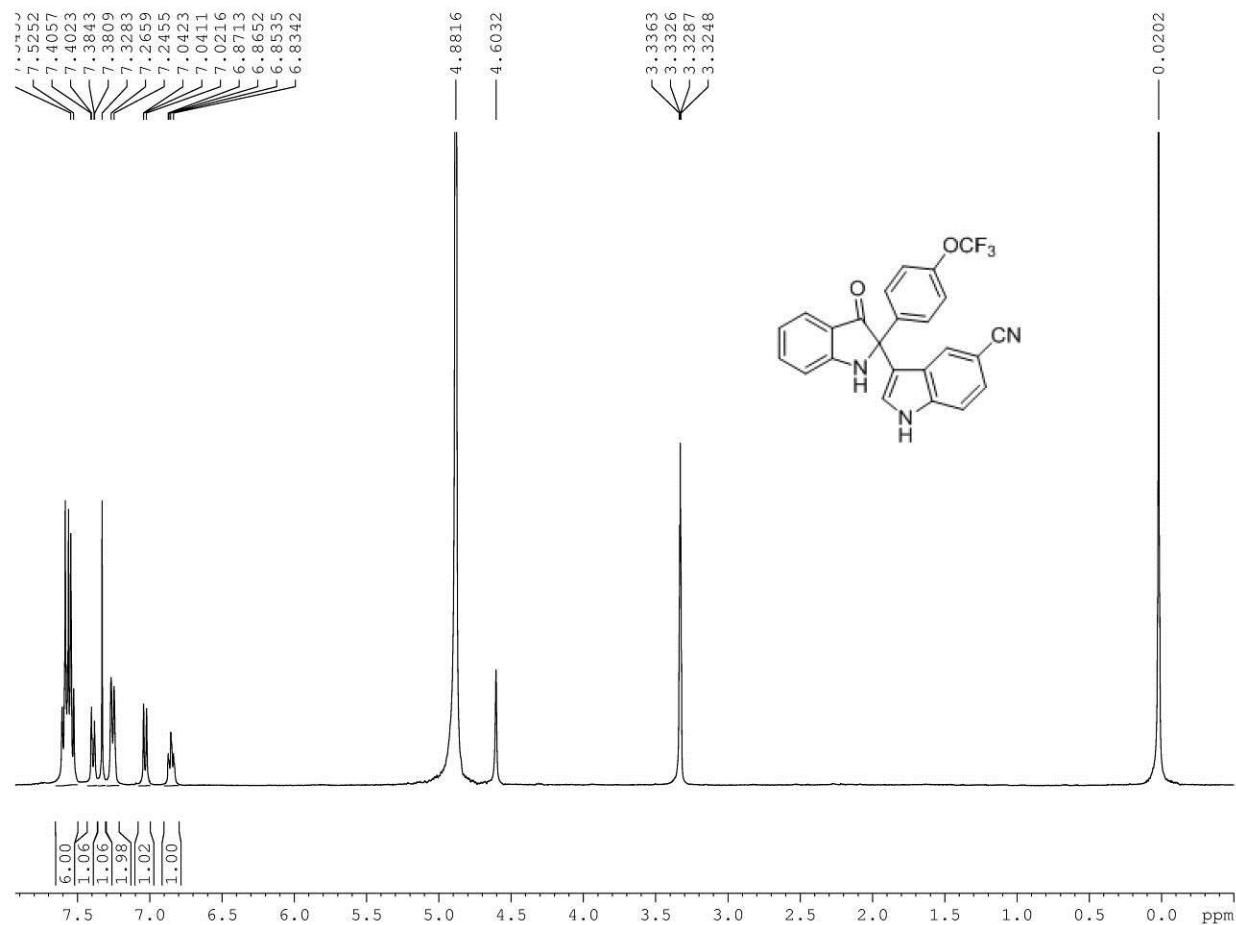
5k: ^1H NMR



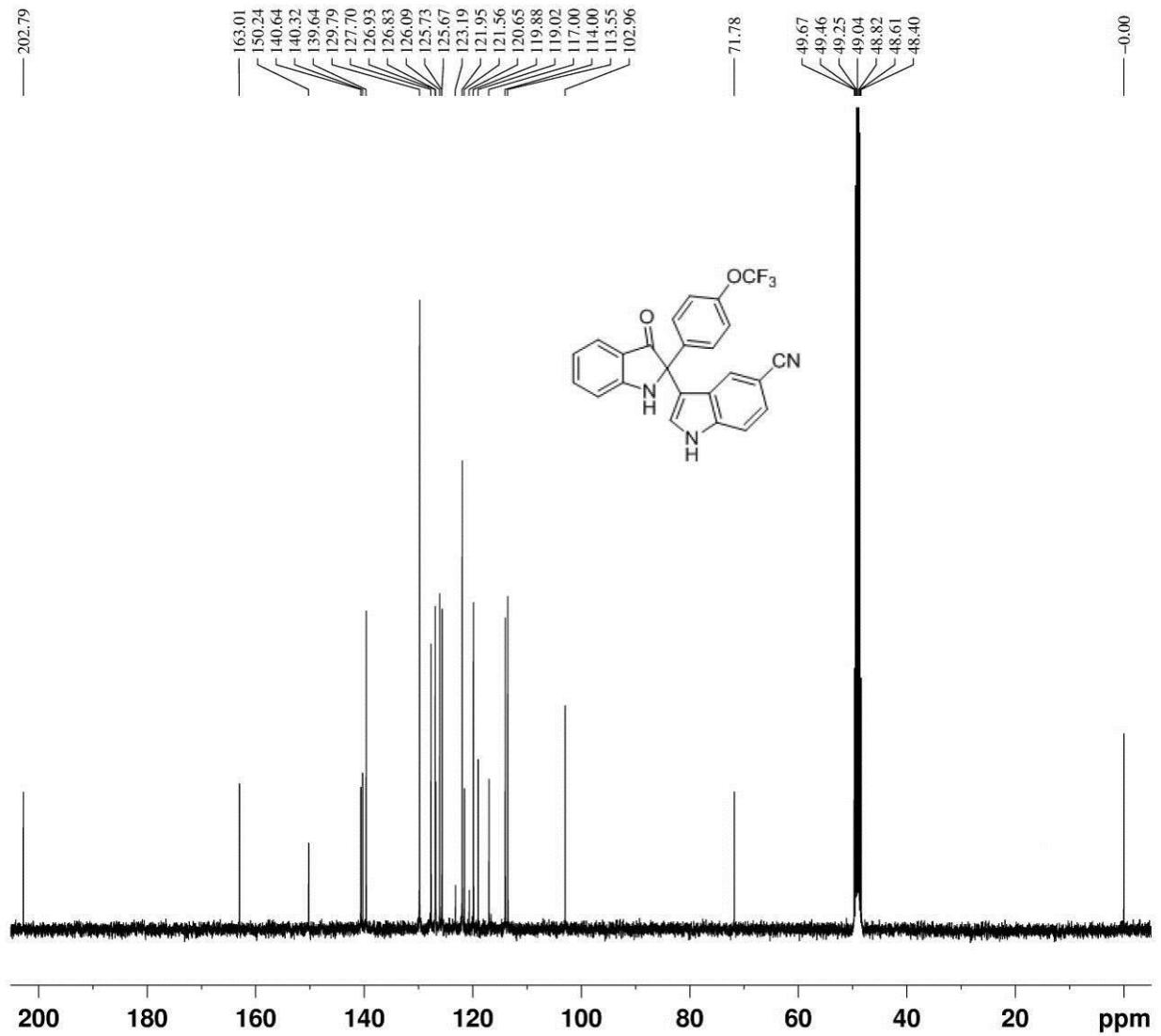
5k: ^{13}C NMR



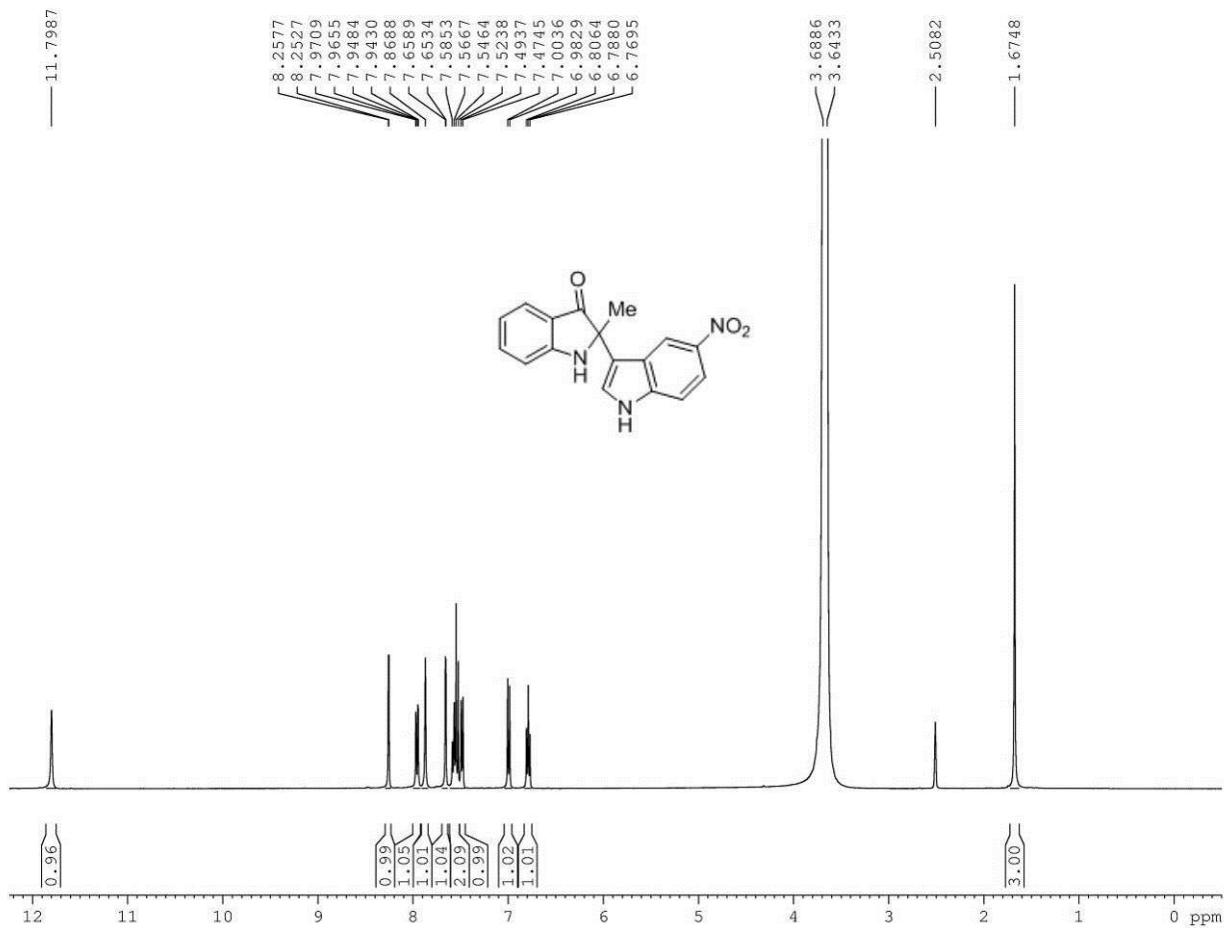
5l: ^1H NMR



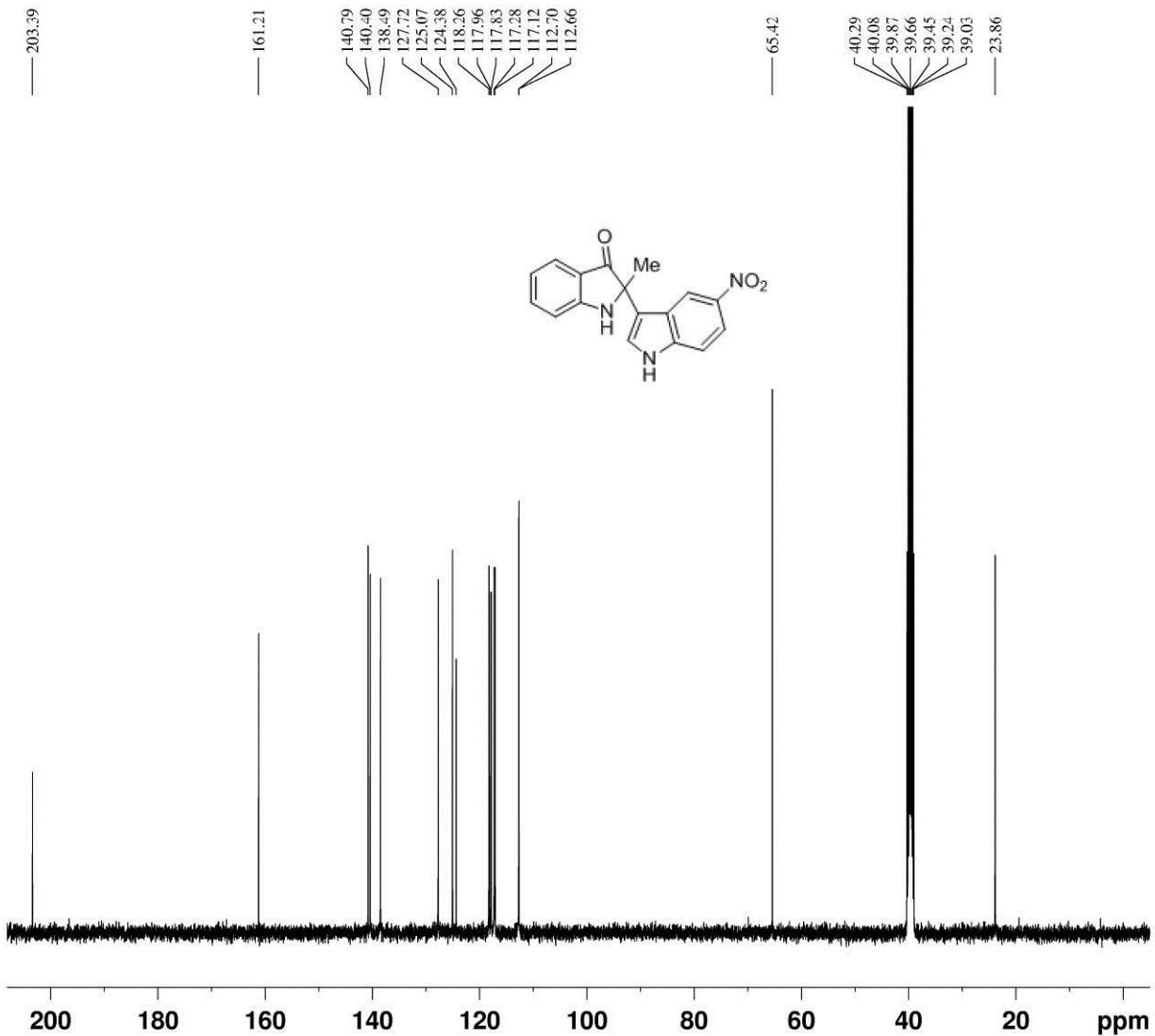
5l: ^{13}C NMR



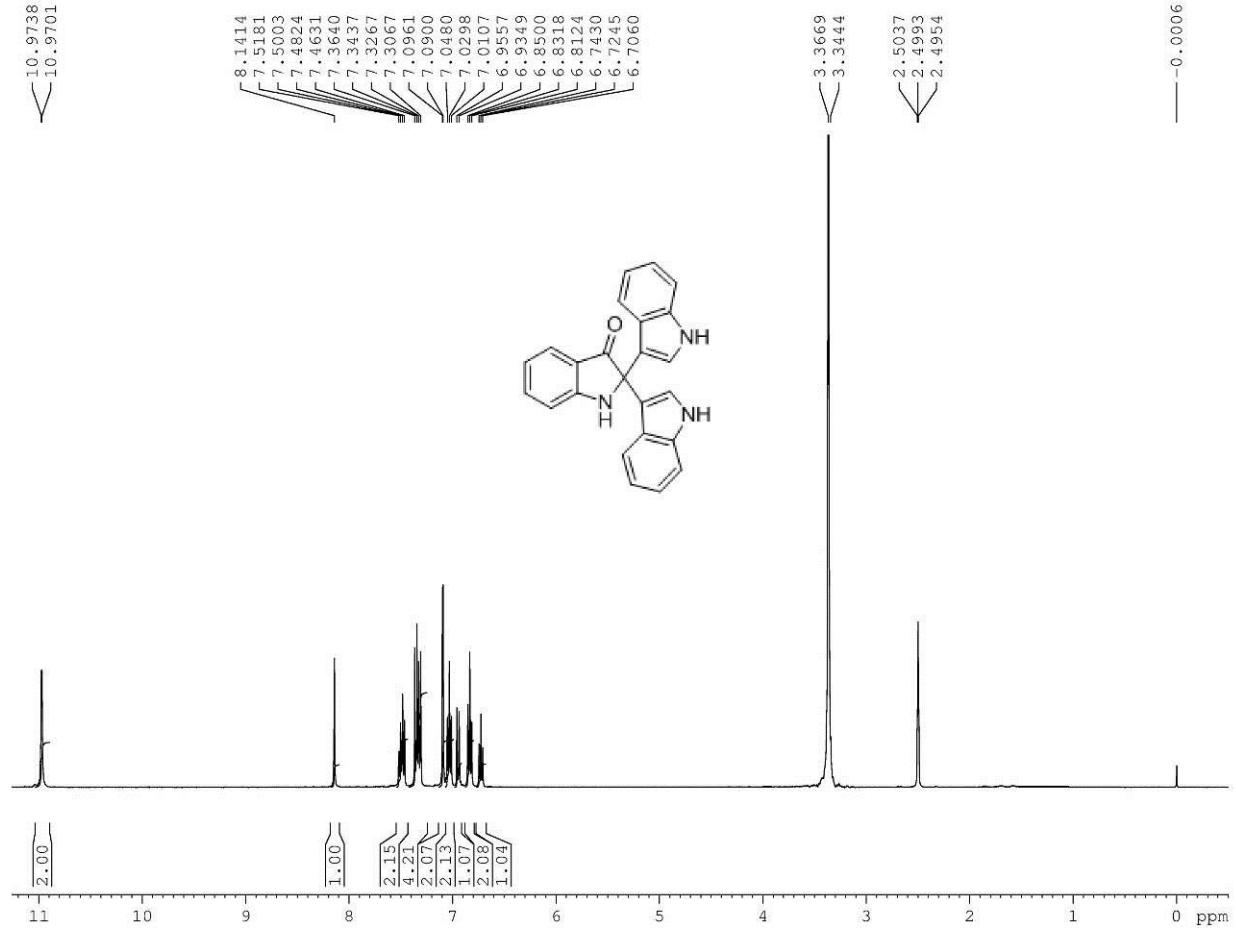
5m: ^1H NMR



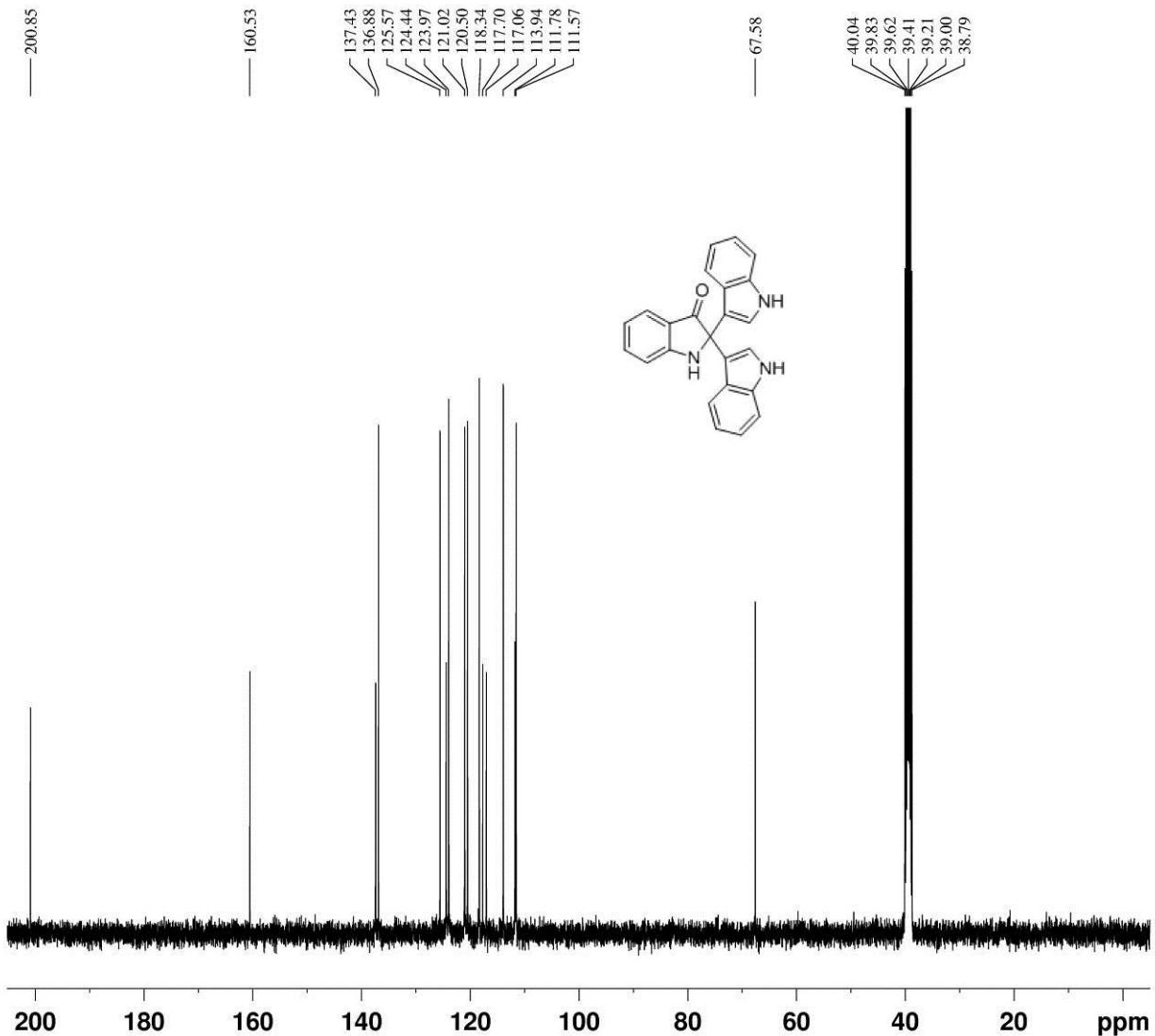
5m: ^{13}C NMR



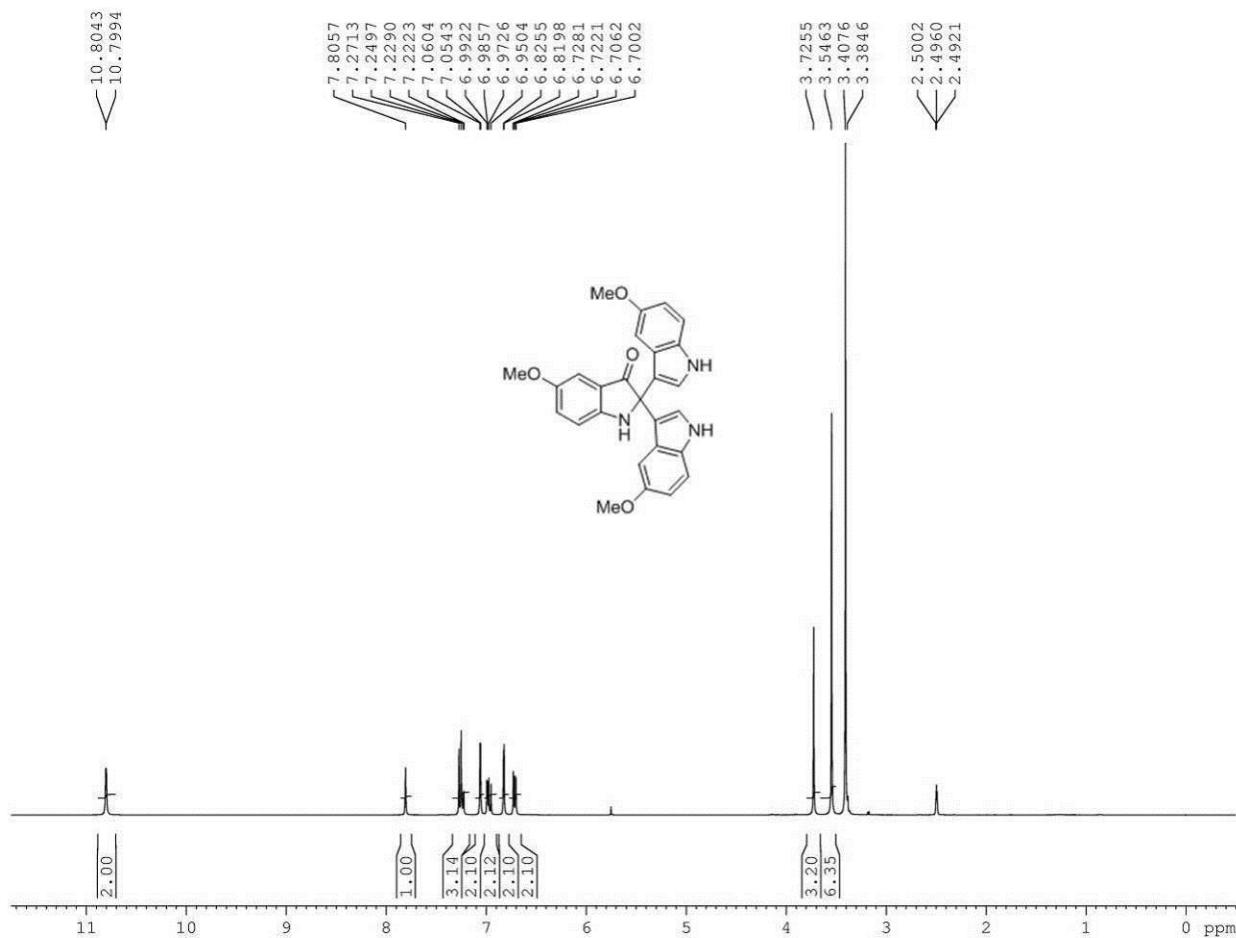
2a: ^1H NMR



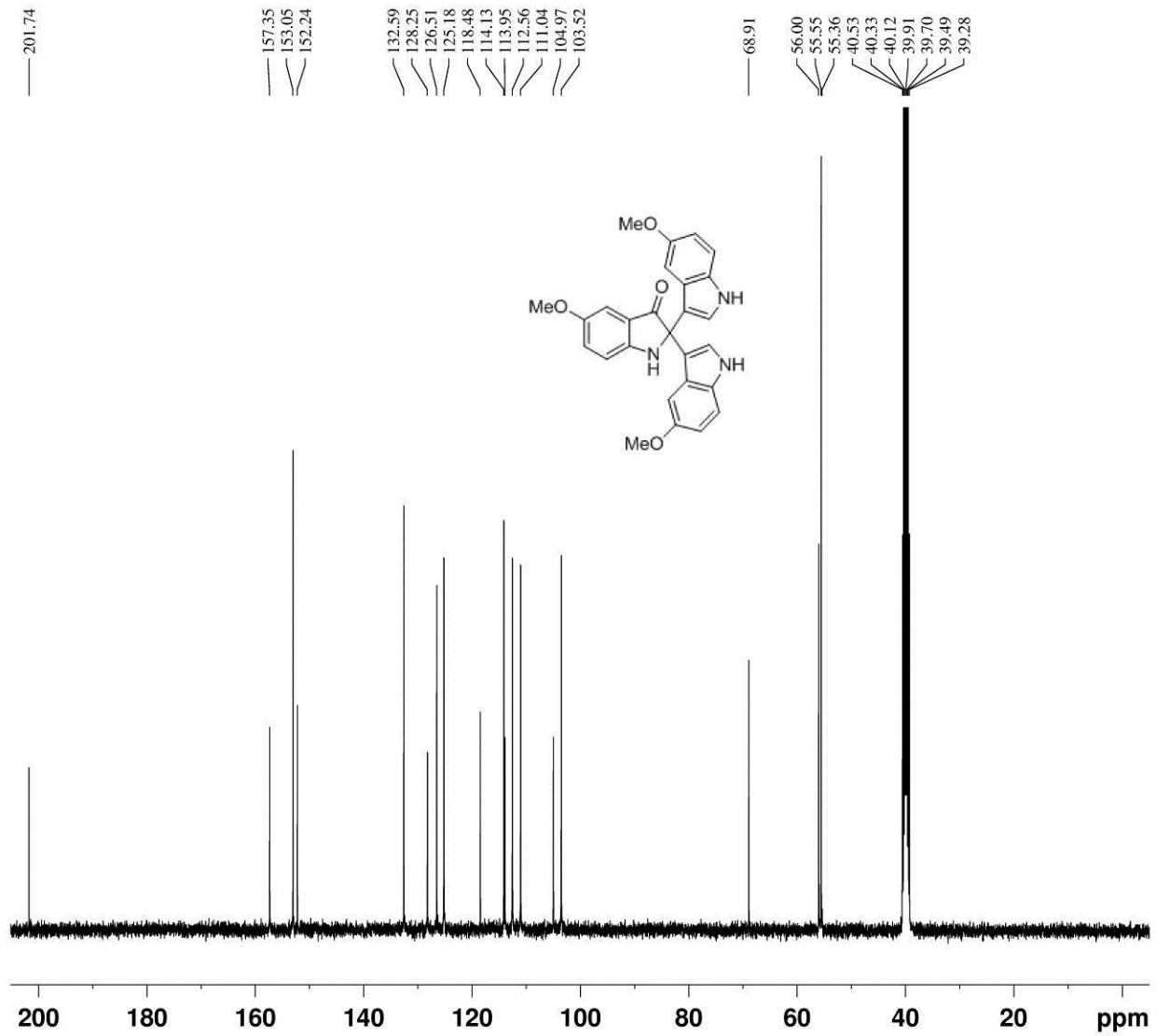
2a: ^{13}C NMR



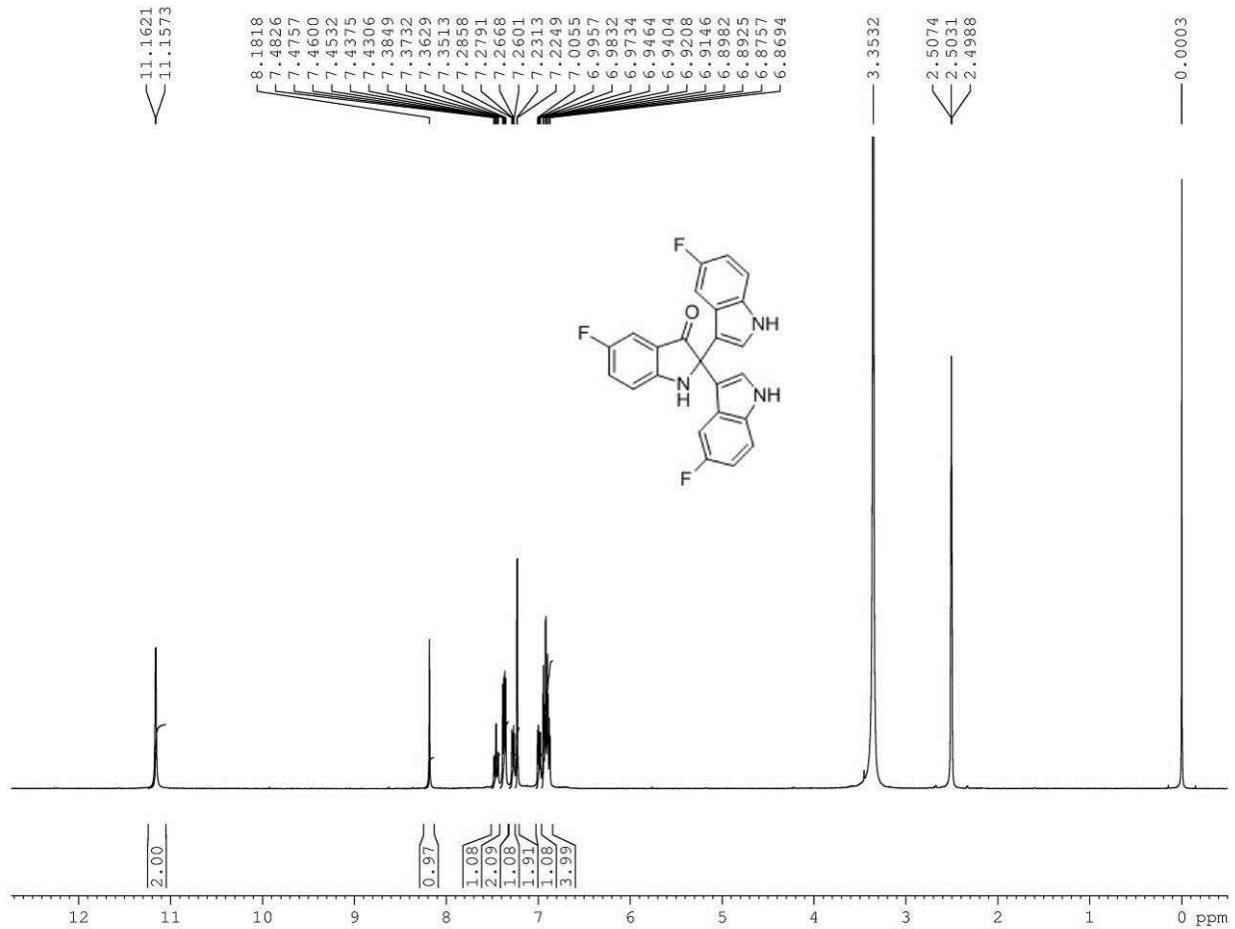
2b: ^1H NMR



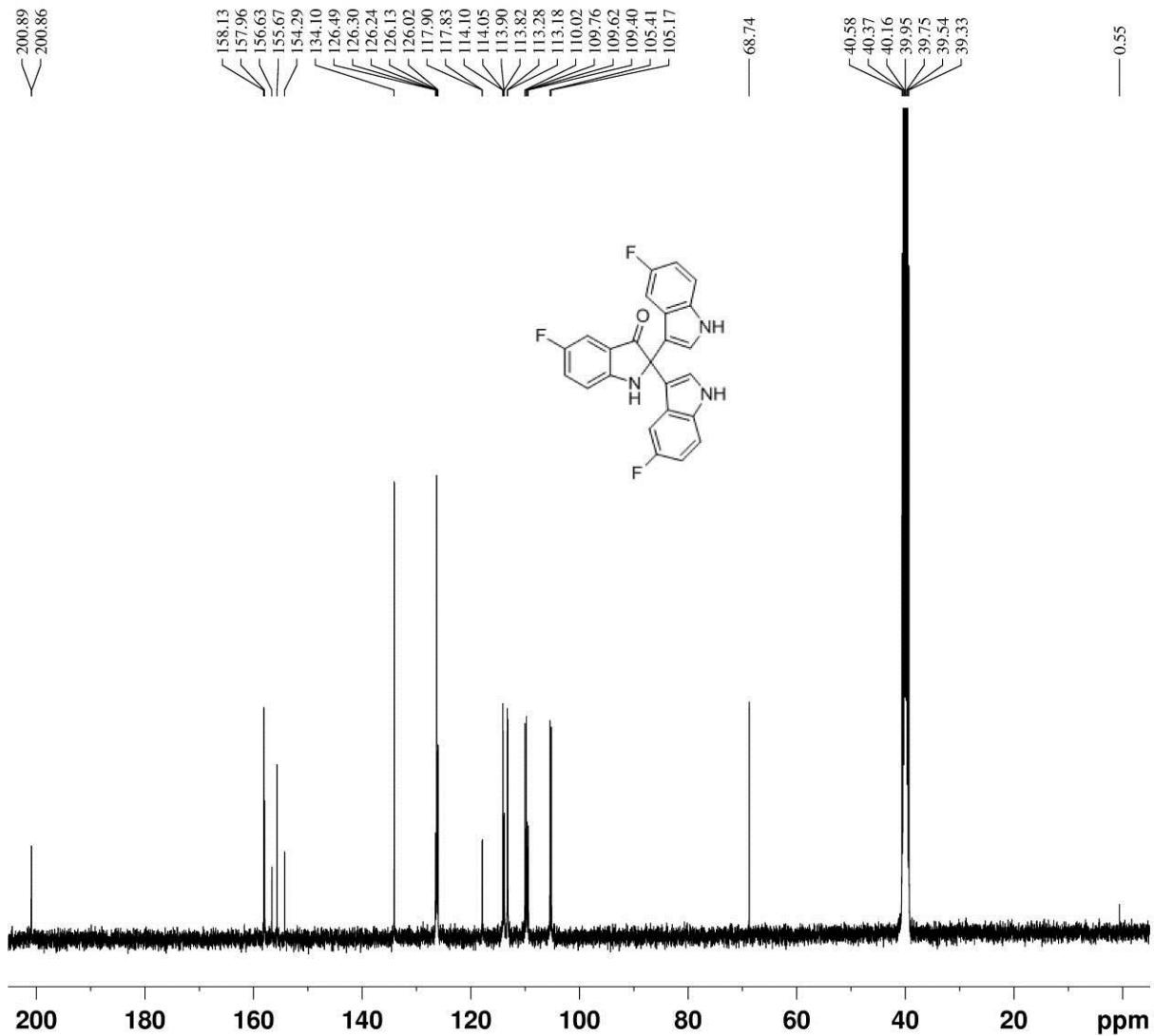
2b: ^{13}C NMR



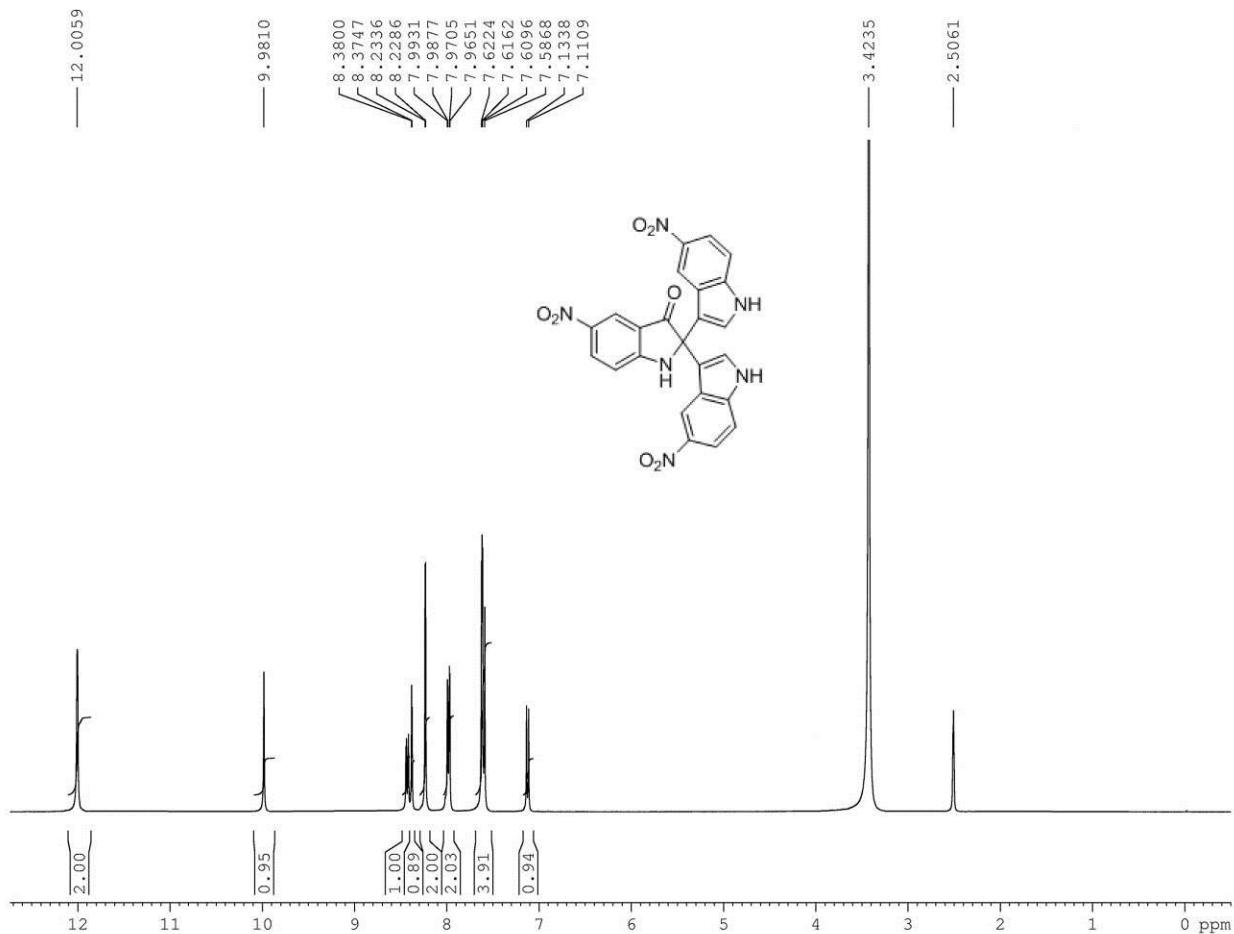
2c: ^1H NMR



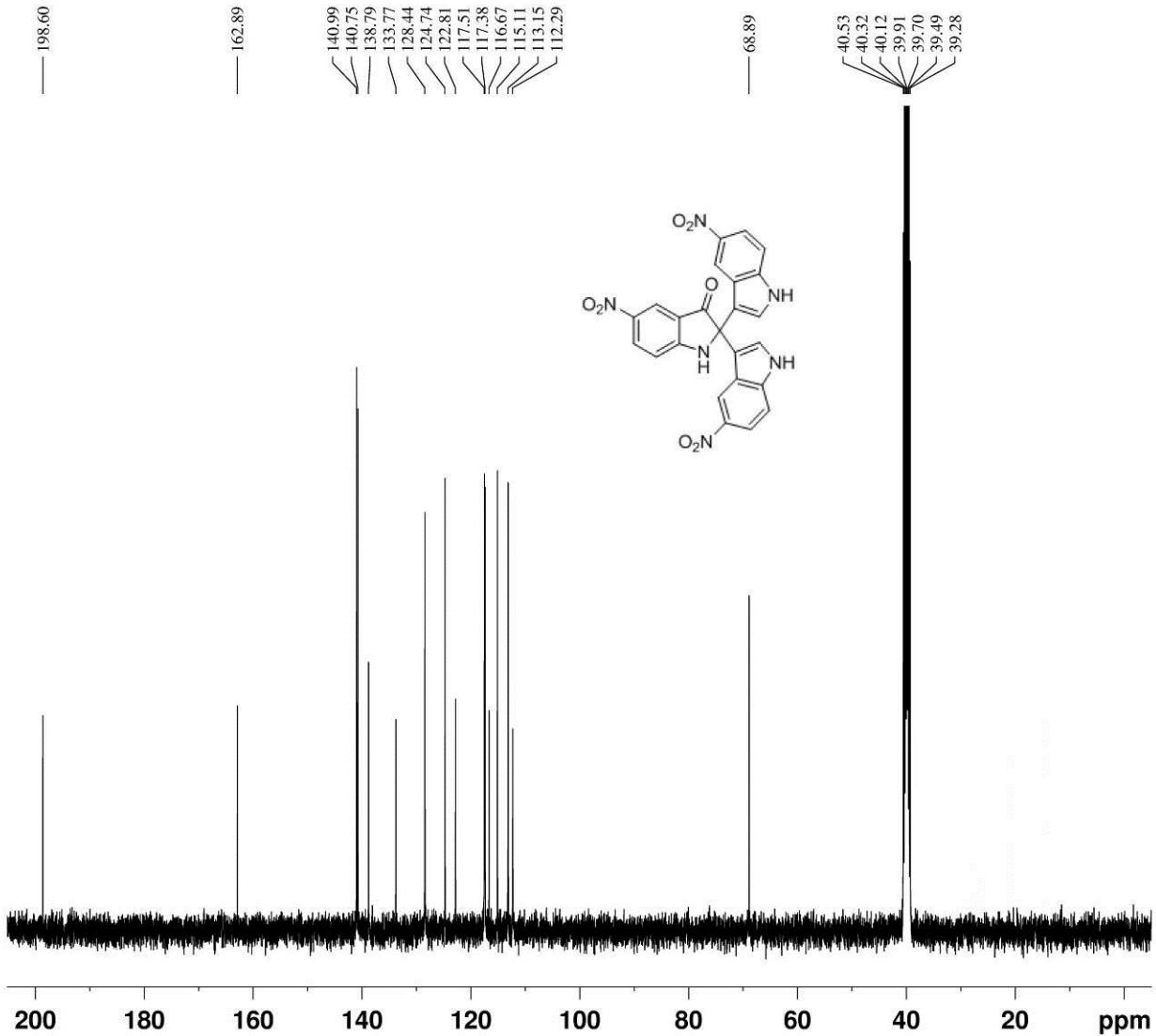
2c: ^{13}C NMR



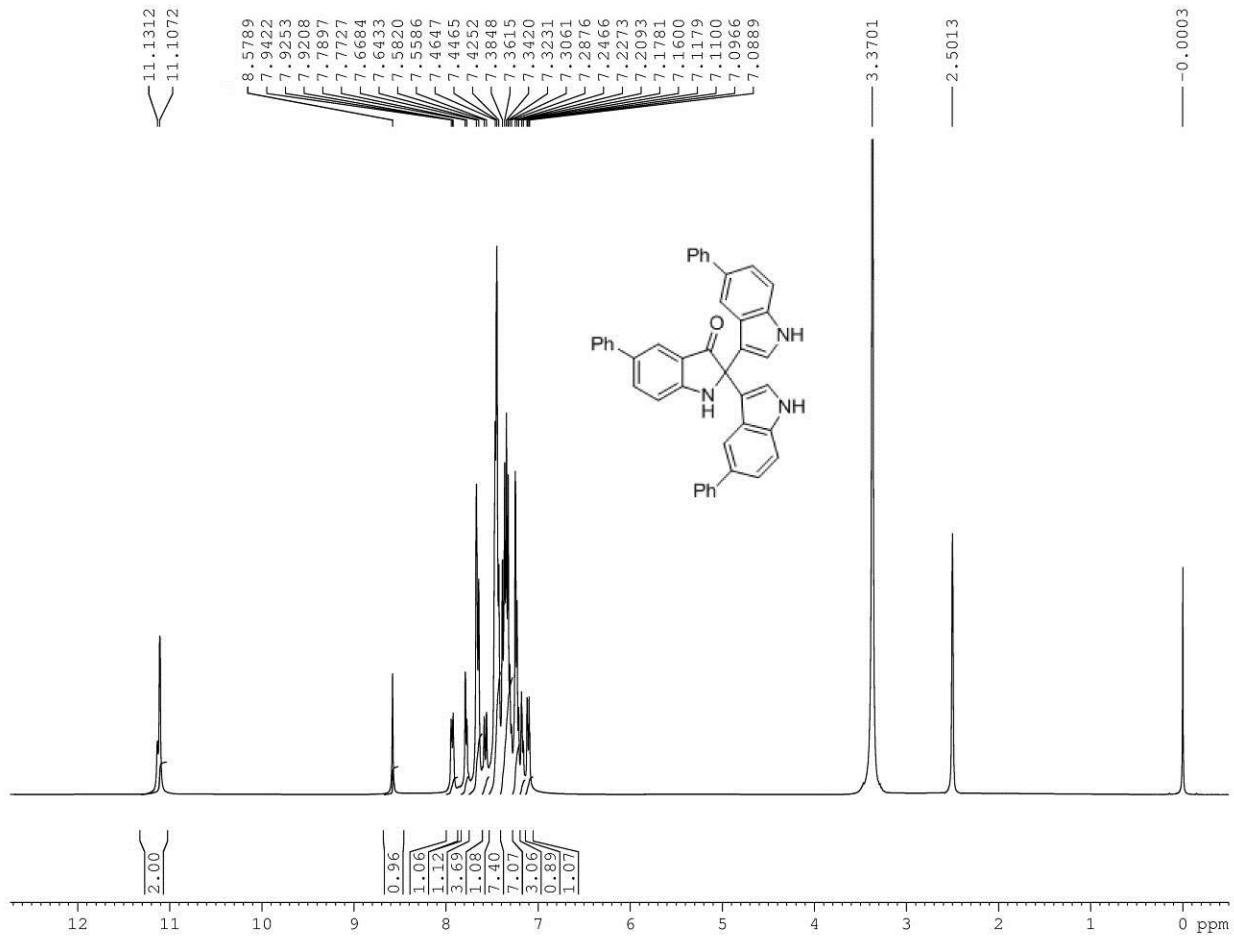
2d: ^1H NMR



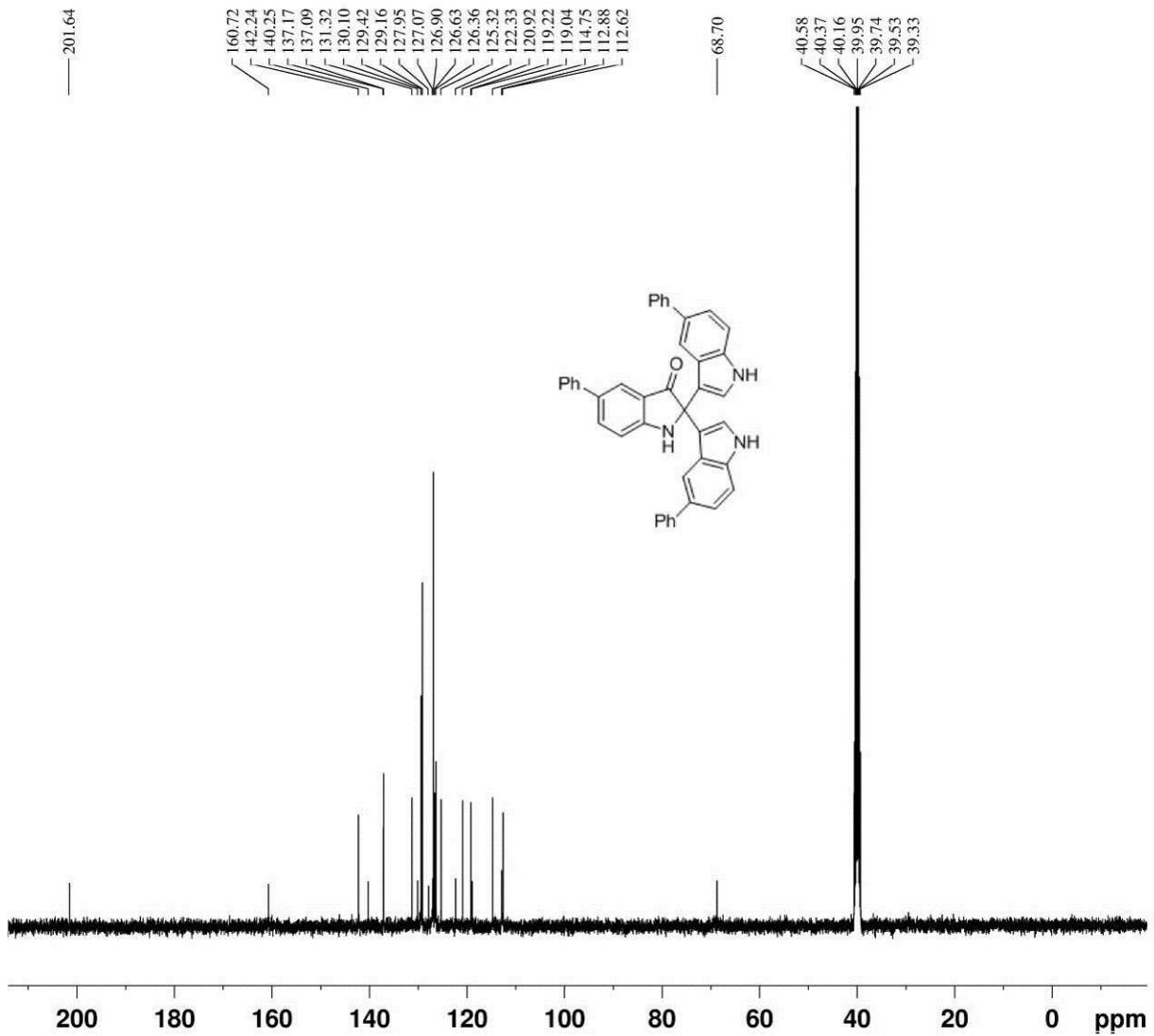
2d: ^{13}C NMR



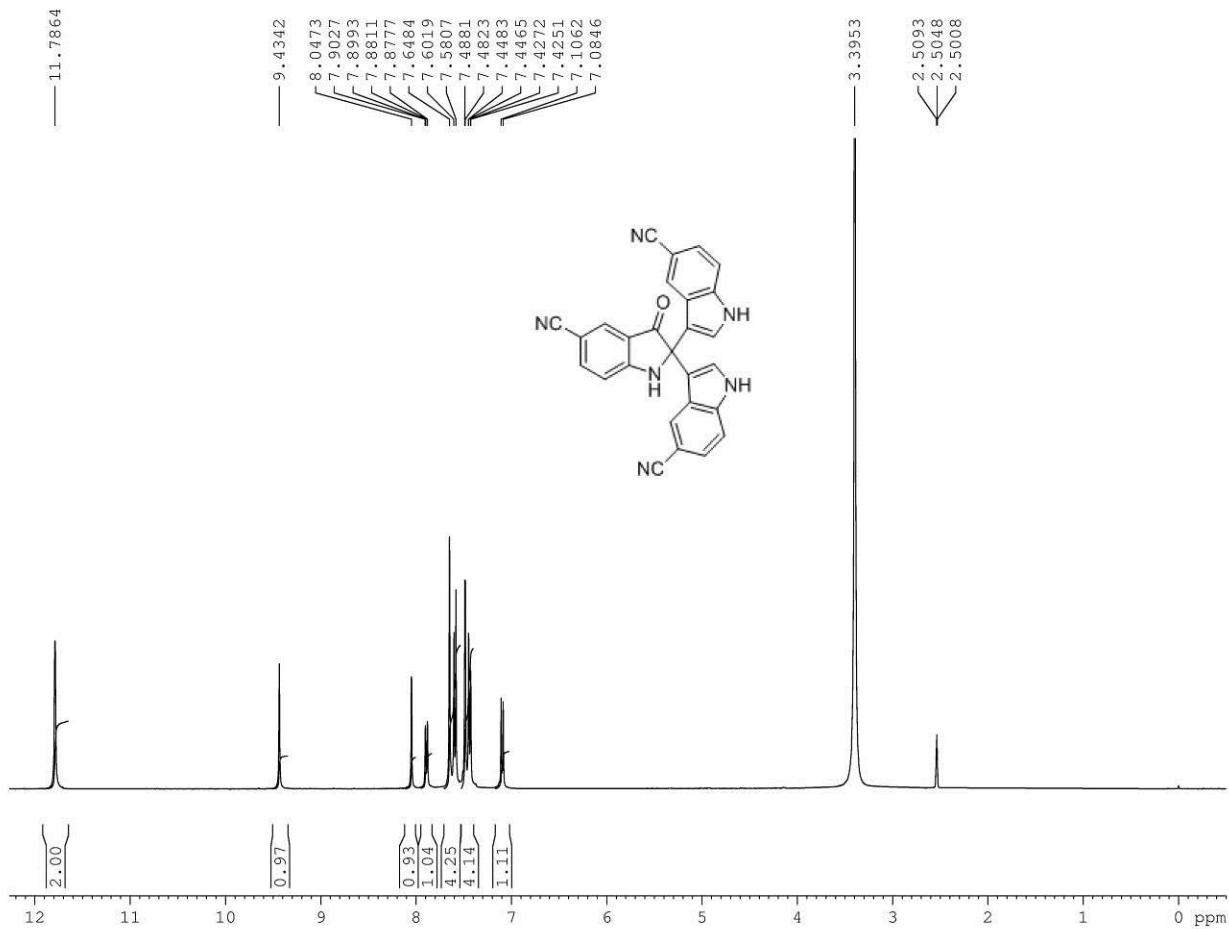
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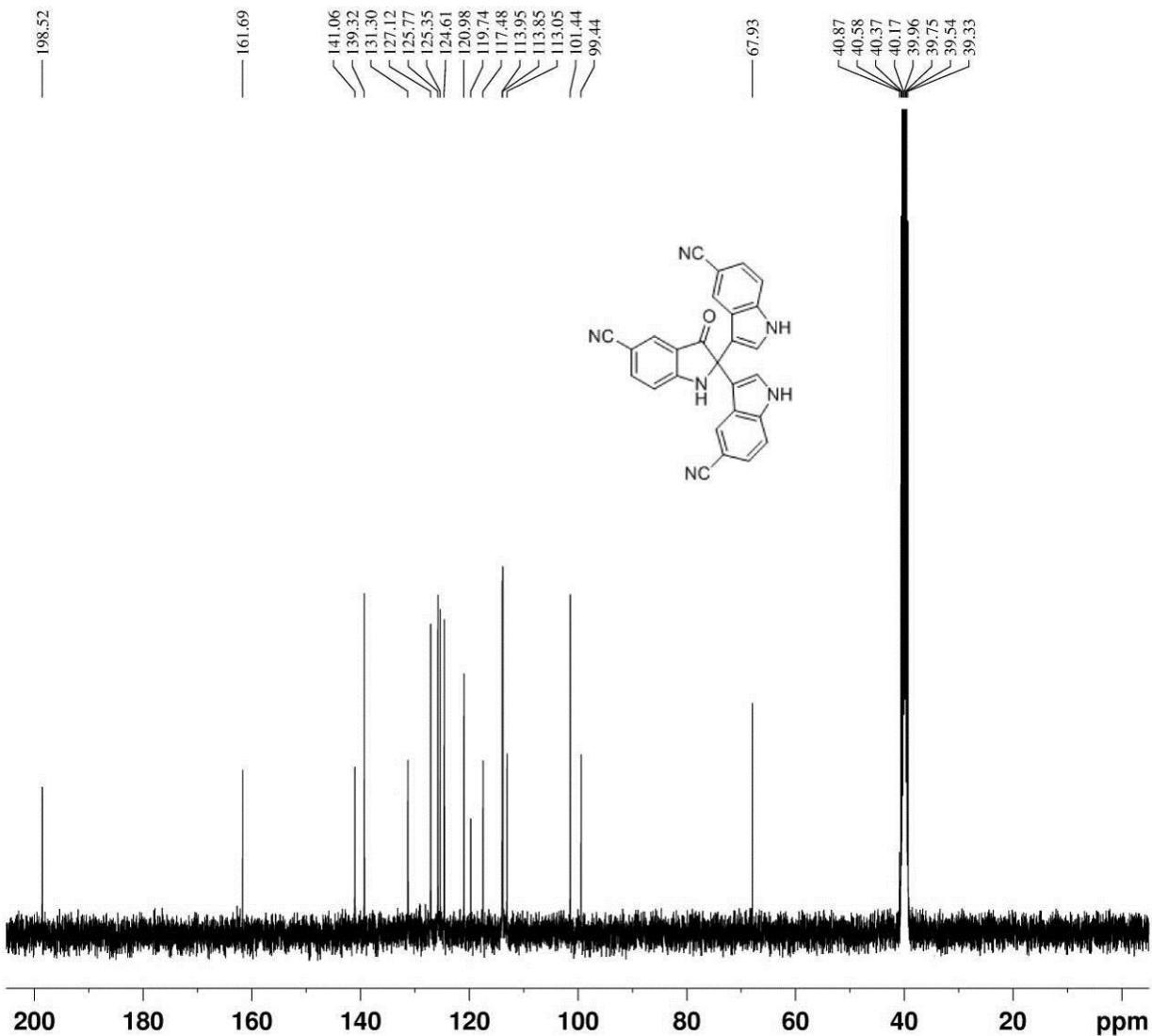
2e: ^{13}C NMR



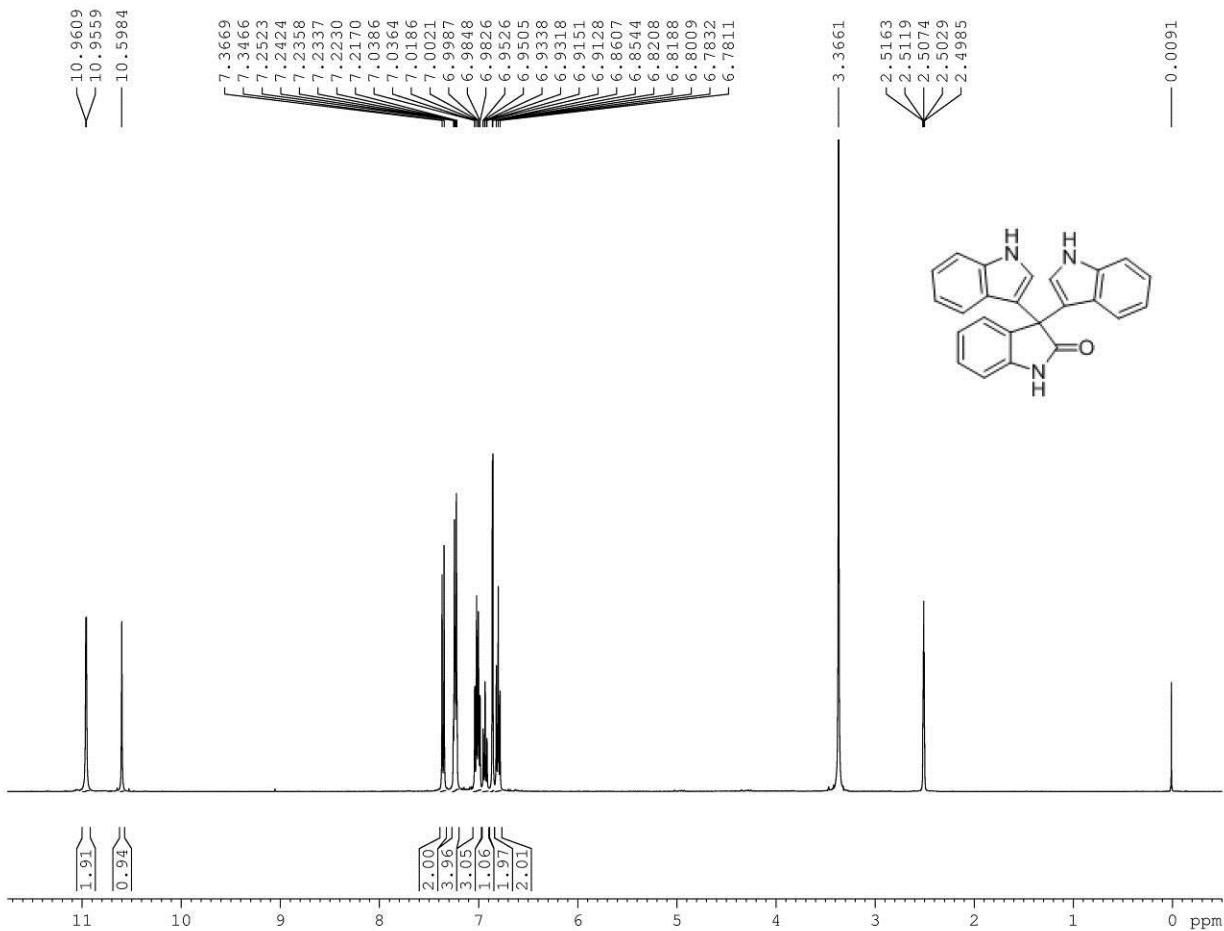
2f: ^1H NMR



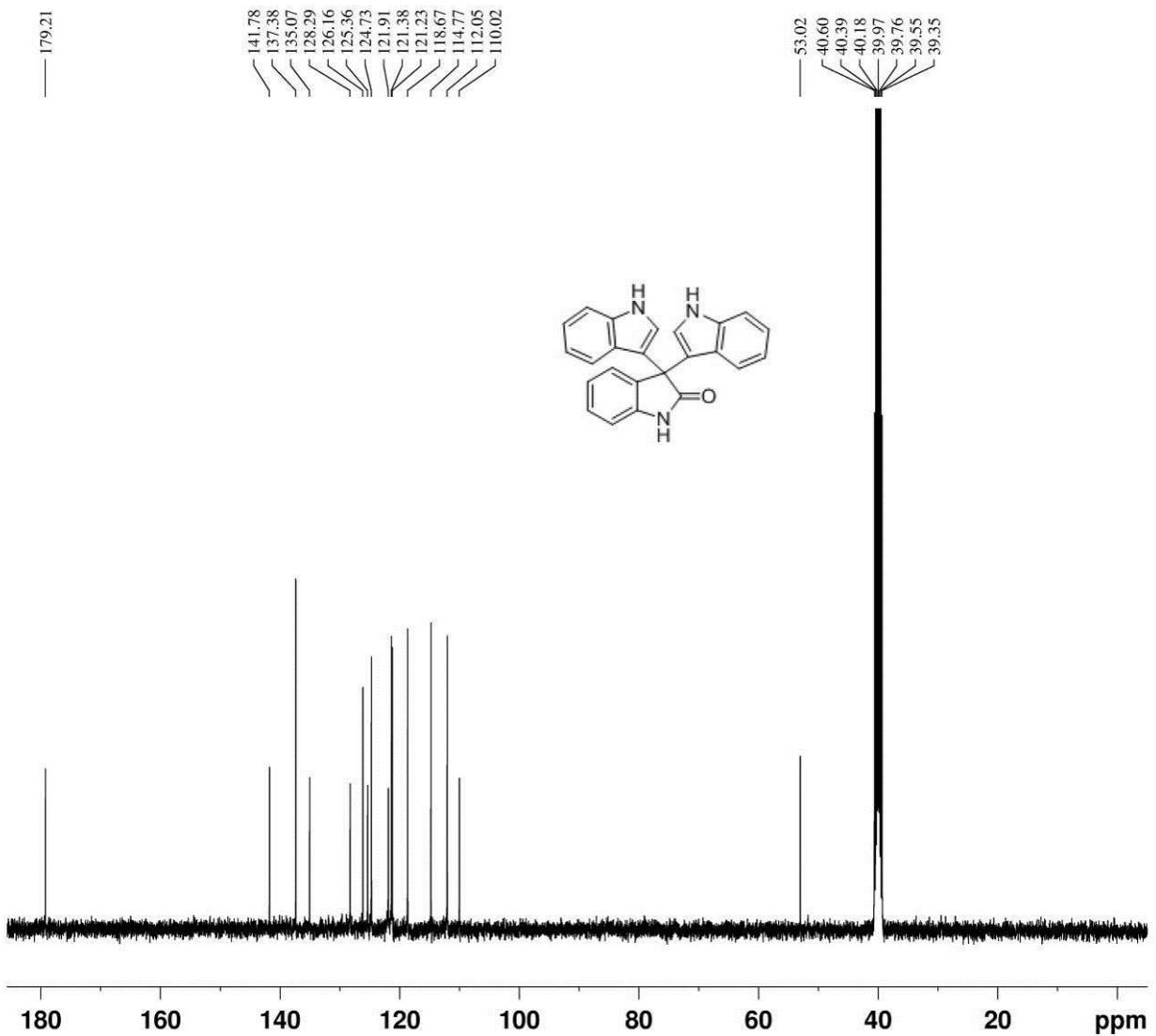
2f: ^{13}C NMR



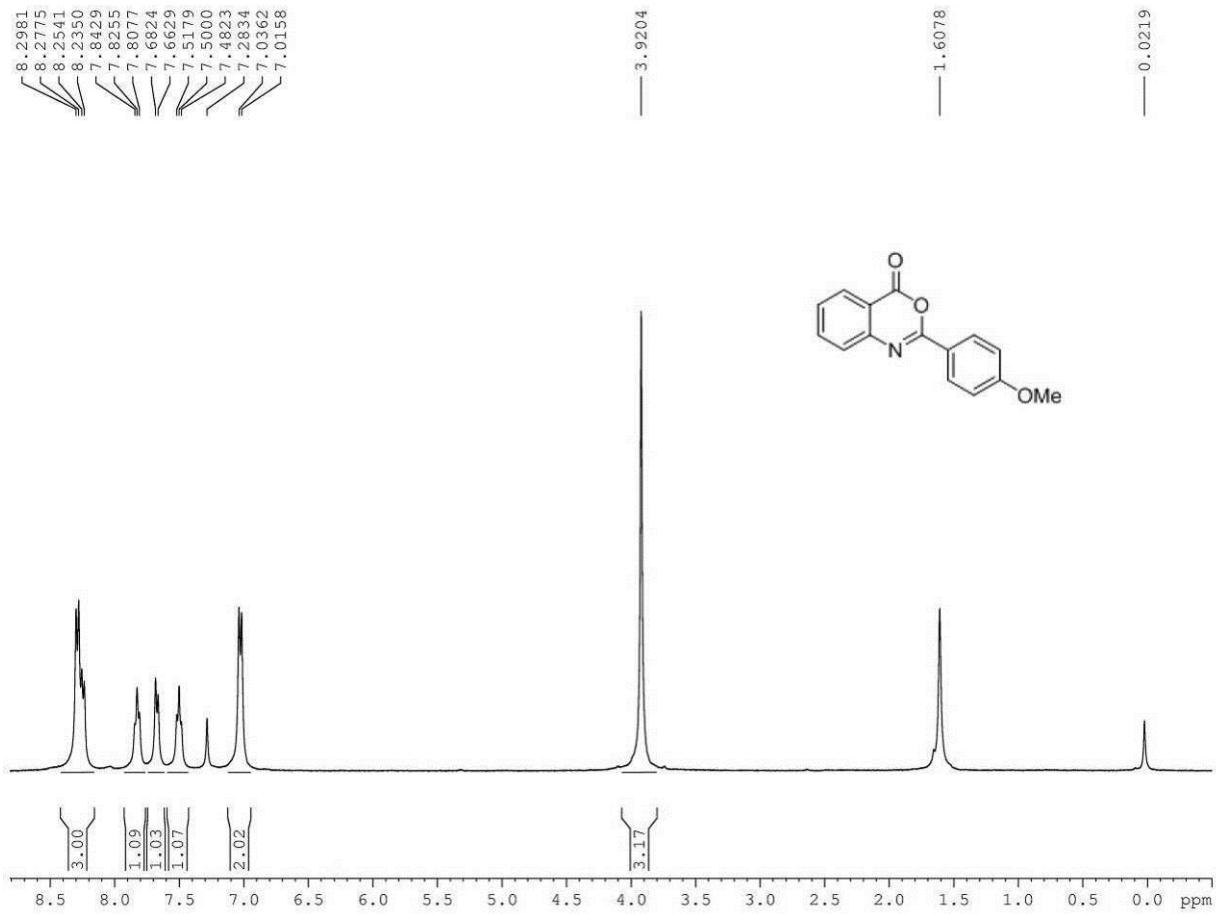
3: ^1H NMR



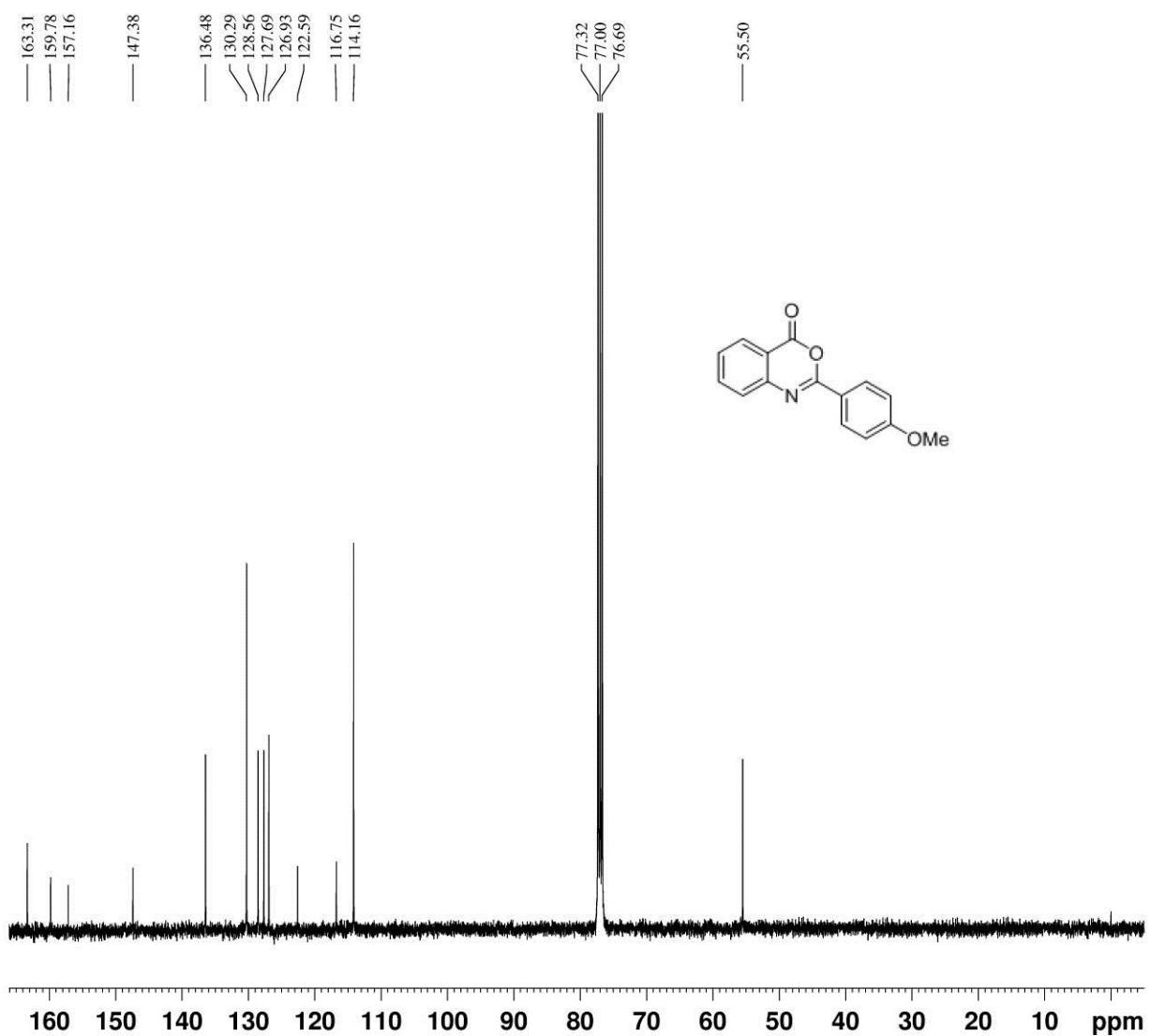
3: ^{13}C NMR



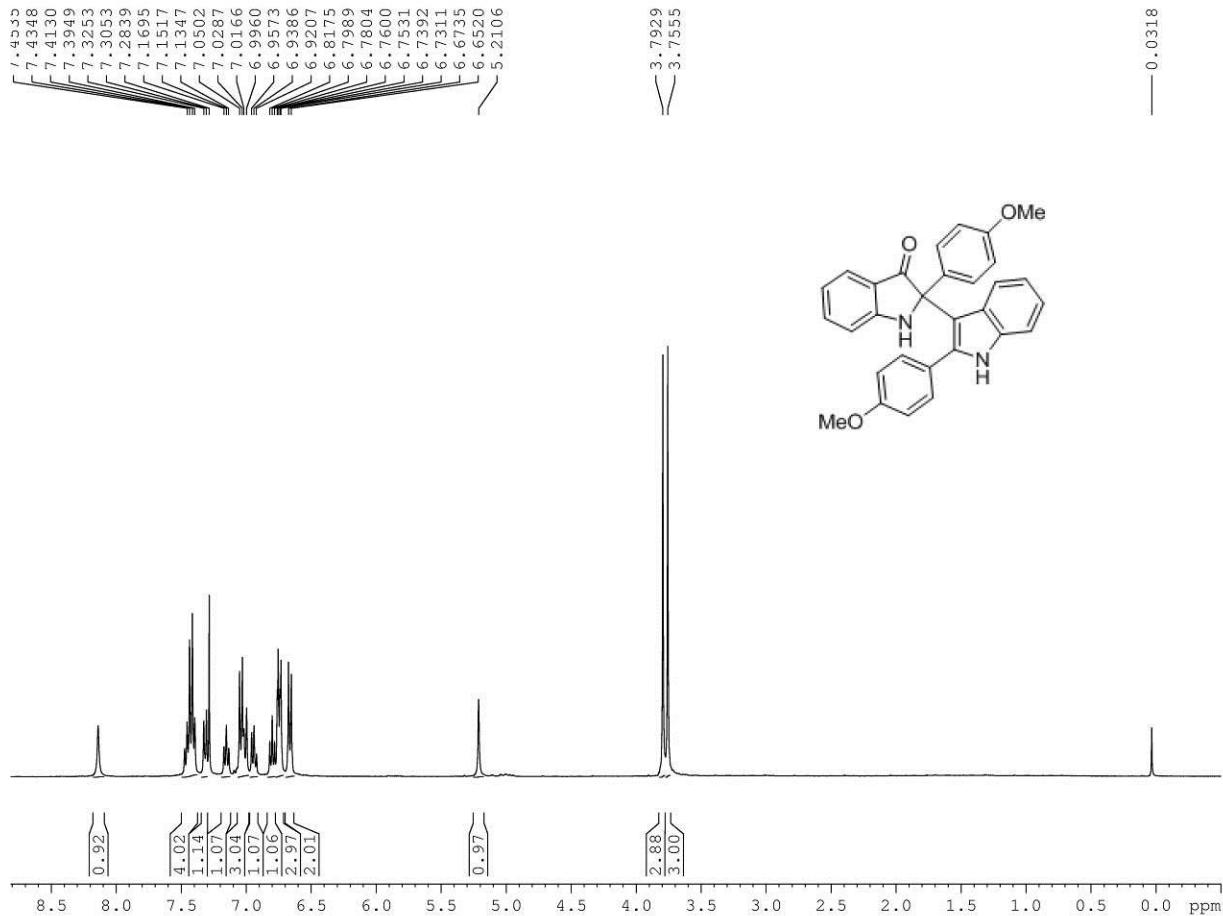
6: ^1H NMR



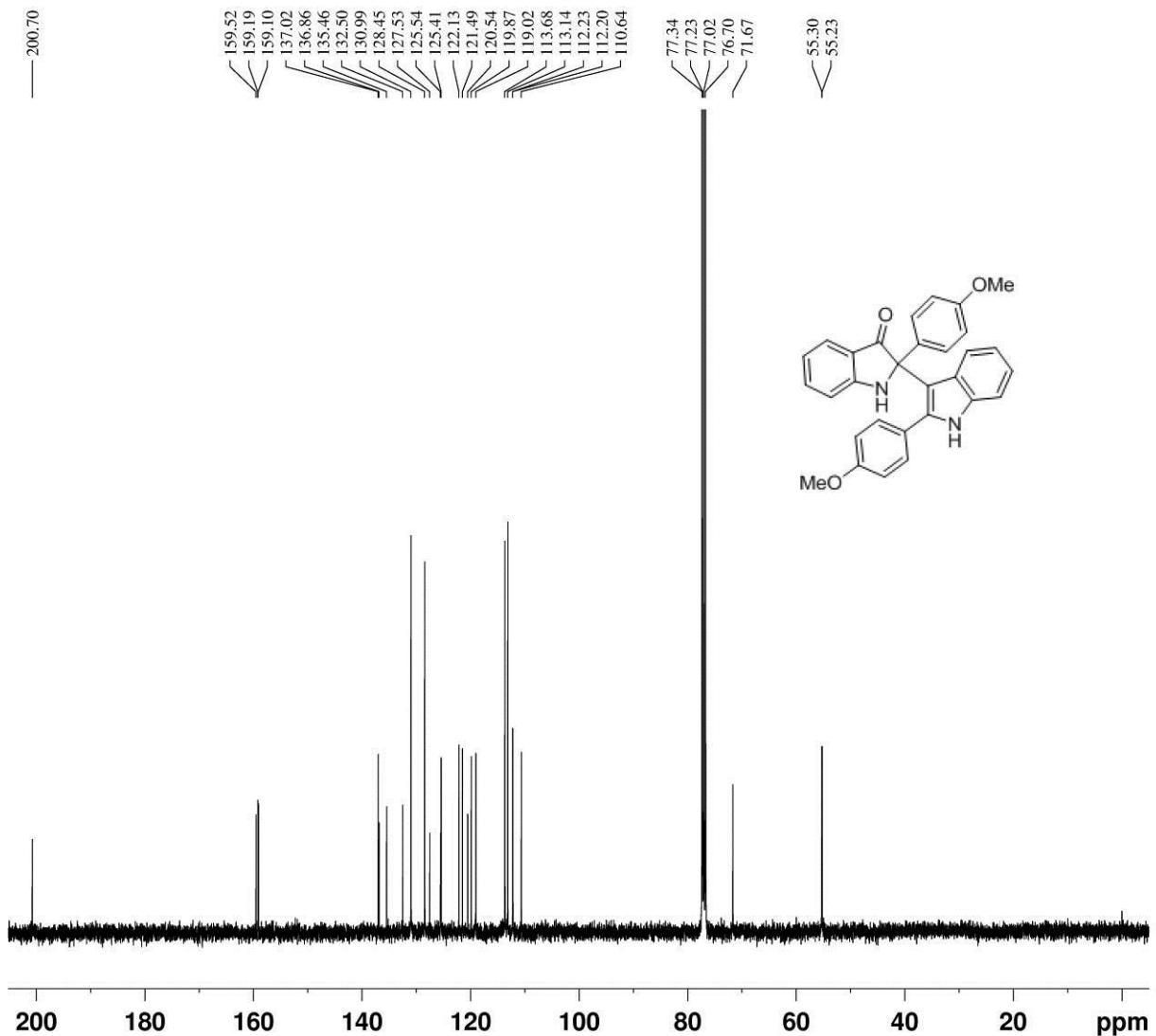
6: ^{13}C NMR



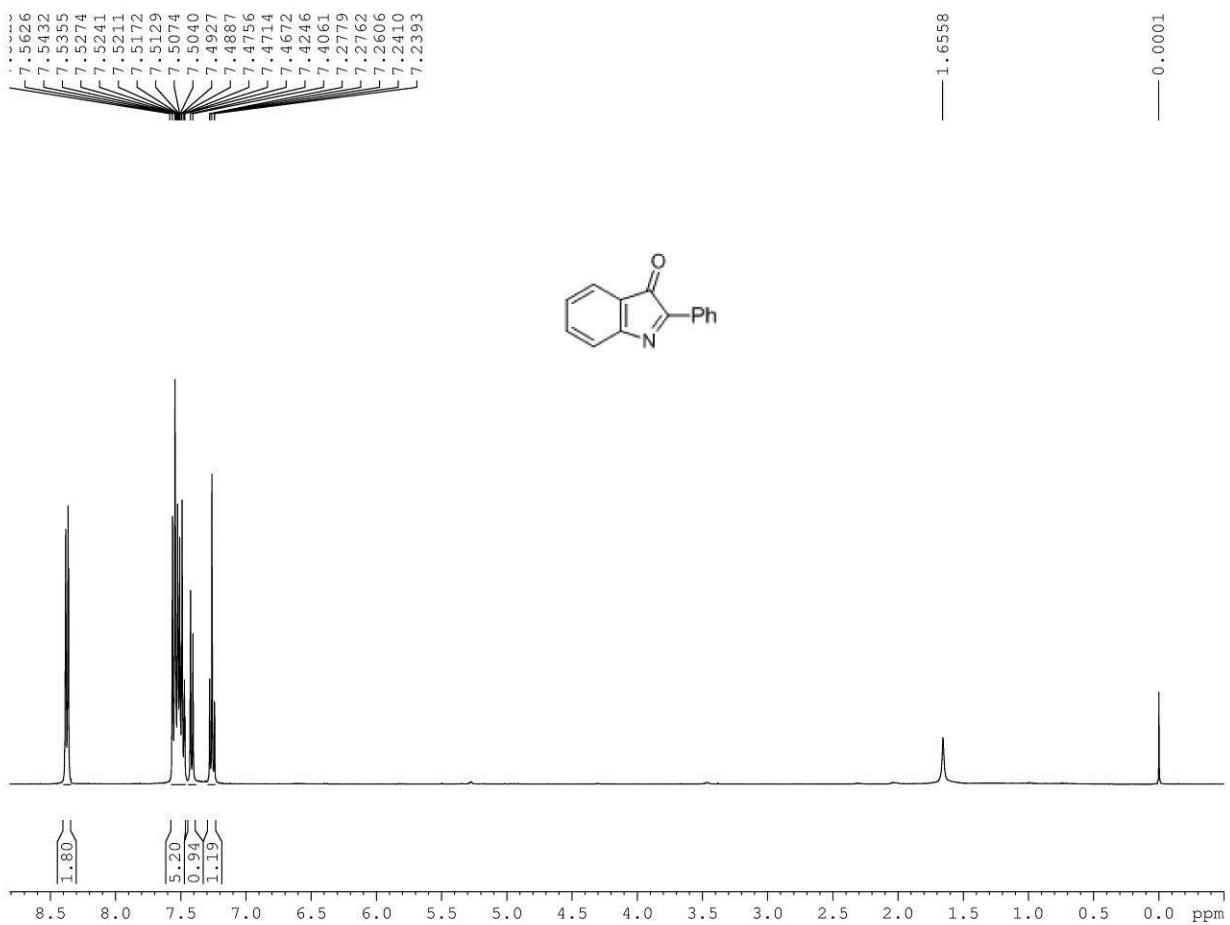
7: ^1H NMR



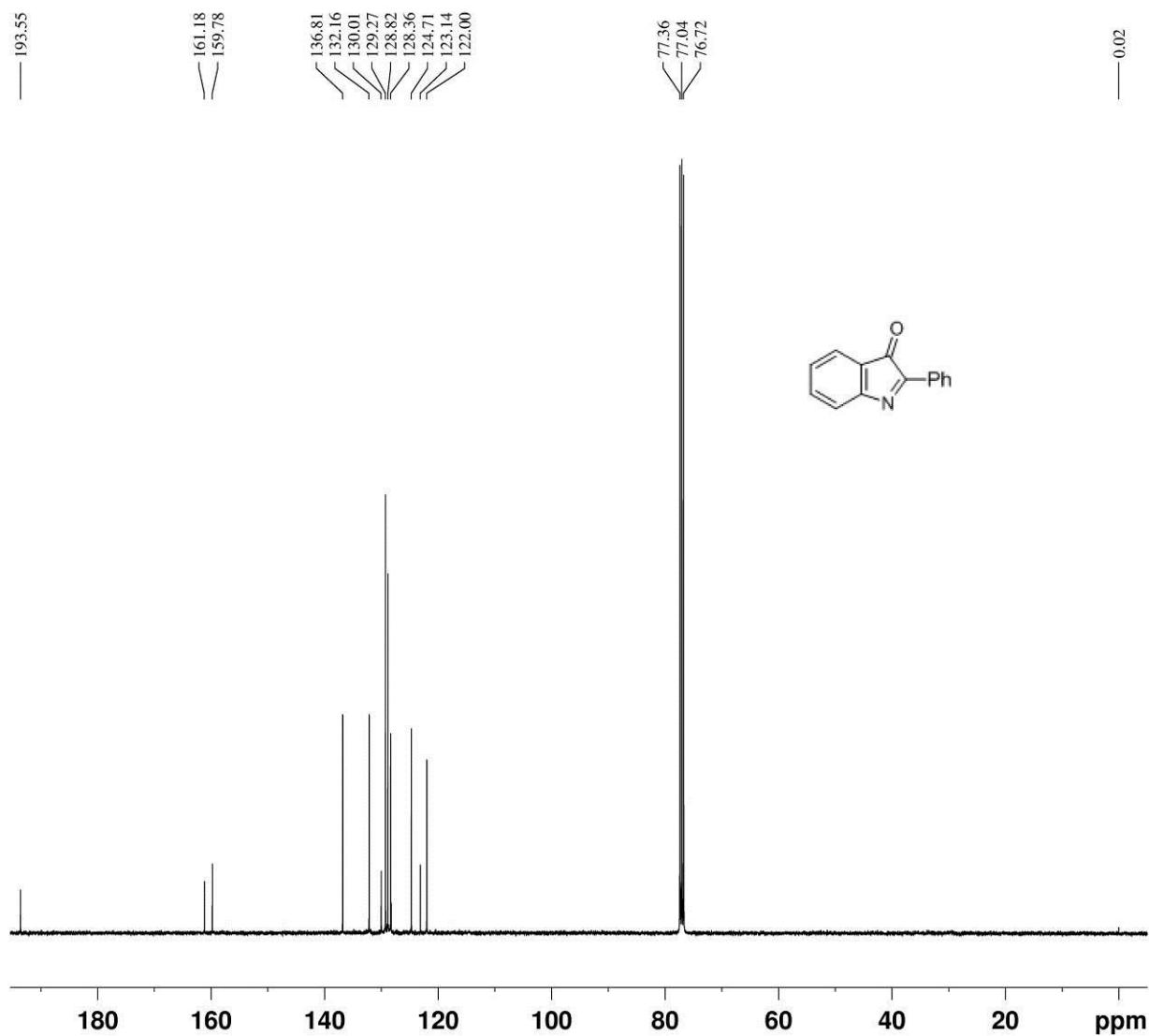
7: ^{13}C NMR



8: ^1H NMR



8: ^{13}C NMR



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