

Oxalic/ Malonic Acids as Carbon Building Block for Benzazoles, Quinazoline and Quinazolinones Synthesis

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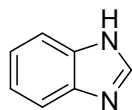
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A. Methods and Materials

Reagents for synthesis were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and Loba-chemie, CDH, TCI, Silica gel (60-120) for column chromatography purchased from Sd Fine-chem Ltd. All solvents were used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography was performed using pre-coated silica gel plates 60 F254 (Merck) in UV light detector. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded using a BrukerAvance 300 and 600 spectrometer operating at 300 MHz (^1H) and 75 MHz (^{13}C)/ 600 MHz (^1H) and 150 MHz (^{13}C) respectively. Spectra were recorded at 25 °C in CDCl_3 [residual CHCl_3 (δ_{H} 7.26 ppm) or CDCl_3 (δ_{C} 77.00 ppm), $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ (δ_{H} 2.50 and 2.80 ppm) or (δ_{C} 39.5 ppm) and CD_3OD (δ_{H} 3.33 and 4.88 ppm) or CD_3OD (δ_{C} 48.00 ppm) as international standard] with TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts were recorded in δ (ppm) relative to the TMS and NMR solvent signal, coupling constants (J) are given in Hz and multiplicities of signals are reported as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; m, multiplet. ESI-MS spectra were analysed using micromass Q-TOF ultima spectrometer.

General procedure for the formation of derivatives of 1*H*-Benzimidazole

1*H*-Benzoimidazole^{1a} (2a)



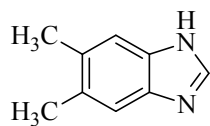
1,2-Phenylenediamine (100 mg, 0.9259 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (583, 4.6295 mmol) and 1, 4-dioxane (2 mL) as a solvent were taken in a reaction tube and heated at 120 °C on magnetic stirrer for 6 hours. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. On completion of the reaction, saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (1 mL) was added in reaction mixture and organic part extracted with ethyl acetate (3x3 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After evaporation of the combined organic layer, organic part was washed with EtOA:Hexane (50:50) (6 mL) solution afforded 1*H*-benzimidazole (2a) as white solid (107 mg, 98%) and NMR data compared with literature.

^1H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl_3 ; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 6.62-6.65 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H)

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl_3 ; $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 120.48, 139.89.

ESI-MS (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd. for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{N}_2$ is 119.0609 obsd. = 119.0609.

5,6-Dimethyl-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{1a} (2b) (Table 2, entry 1)



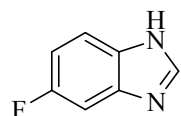
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 4,5-dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7352 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (463 mg, 3.676 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2b**) as yellow solid (99 mg, 92%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.36 (s, 6H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 8.01 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 19.18, 114.95, 131.74, 136.18, 140.36.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₉H₁₁N₂ is 147.0922 obsd. = 147.0925.

5-Fluoro-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{1a} (2c) (Table 2, entry 2)

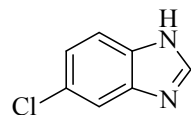


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 4-fluorobenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7936 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (600 mg, 4.7616 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 2 hours, after purification by column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (40:60) solution to afford the product (**2c**) as yellow solid (100 mg, 93%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 7.03-7.09 (t, *J* = 9.10 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.44 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (m, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 101.27 (*J* = 26.25 Hz), 111.42 (*J* = 25.5 Hz), 116.27 (*J* = 11.25 Hz), 134.24, 137.53, 141.49, 158.25, 161.42.

5-Chloro-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{1a} (2d) (Table 2, entry 3)



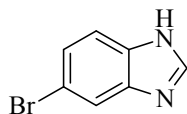
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 4-chlorobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7017 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (354 mg, 2.8068 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2d**) as yellow solid (102 mg, 95%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.64 (m, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.89 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 115.33, 116.34, 123.61, 128.68, 136.35, 138.30, 141.67.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₇H₆ClN₂ is 153.0220 obsd. = 153.0469.

5-Bromo-1*H*-benzimidazole^{1a} (2e) (Table 2, entry 4)



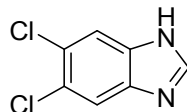
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure for **2a** starting from 4-bromobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.5347 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (269 mg, 2.1388 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2e**) as brown solid (89 mg, 85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 116.18, 126.35, 141.10.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₇H₆BrN₂ is 196.9714 obsd. = 196.9443.

5,6-Dichloro-1*H*-benzimidazole^{1a} (2f) (Table 2, entry 5)



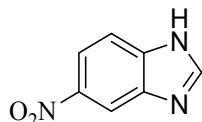
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 4,5-dichlorobenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.5649 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (427 mg, 3.3894 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2f**) as yellow solid (95 mg, 90%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.87 (s, 2H), 8.34 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 125.80, 126.60, 144.15, 163.86.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₇H₅Cl₂N₂ is 186.9830 obsd. = 186.9820.

5-Nitro-1*H*-benzimidazole^{1a} (2g) (Table 2, entry 6)



The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 4-nitrobenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.6535 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate

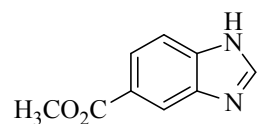
(329 mg, 2.614mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 8 hours, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (60:40) solution to afford the product (**2g**) as yellow solid (90 mg,85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.88 Hz, 1H), 8.13-8.14 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.88 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 118.30, 144.08, 146.07.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₇H₆N₃O₂is 164.0460 obsd. = 164.0458.

5-Methylester-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{1a} (**2h**) (Table 2, entry 7)



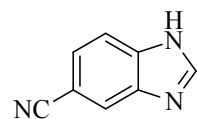
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from methyl 3,4-diaminobenzoate (100 mg, 0.6024mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (304 mg, 2.4096mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (10:90) solution to afford the product (**2h**) as yellow solid (90 mg,85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 3.92 (s, 3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.52 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.52 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 51.60, 124.11, 124.87, 144.12, 167.98.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₉H₉N₂O₂is 177.0664 obsd. 177.0659.

1*H*-Benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile^{1b} (**2i**) (Table 2, entry 8)



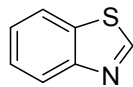
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 5-cyanobenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7519 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (379 mg, 3.0076 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 8 hours, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2h**) as yellow solid (93 mg, 87%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*6) δ 7.58-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.28 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*6) δ 103.96, 120.06, 125.48, 145.31.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₆N₃ is 144.0562 obsd. 144.0562.

1*H*-Benzothiazole^{1a} (2j) (Table 2, entry 9)

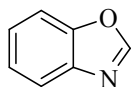


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-amino benzothiazole (100 mg, 0.800 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (403 mg, 3.2 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc/Hexane (10:90) solution to afford the product (**2j**) as white solid (86mg,80%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 7.43-7.45 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.53 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 121.83, 123.59, 125.49, 126.12, 133.65, 153.20, 153.84.

1*H*-Benzoxazole^{1a} (2k) (Table 2, entry 10)

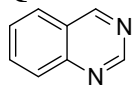


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-aminophenol (100 mg, 0.9174 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (462 mg, 3.6696 mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2j**) as yellow solid (85 mg, 78%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 6.74-7.77 (m, 1H), 6.86-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.93 (m, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.04 Hz, 1 H), 8.28 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 115.08, 118.95, 120.80, 124.16, 125.95, 146.71, 159.98.

Quinazoline^{1c} (2l) (Table 2, entry 11)

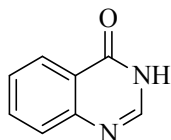


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-aminobenzylamine (100 mg, 0.8197 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (413 mg, 3.2788mmol) gave, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) solution to afford the product (**2k**) as yellow solid (90 mg, 85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 7.66-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.95 (m, 2H), 8.05-8.06 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H), 9.41 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 125.13, 127.22, 127.95, 128.44, 134.21, 150.05, 155.30, 160.24.

Quinazolin-4(3*H*)-one^{2a} (**4a**) (Table 3, entry 1)

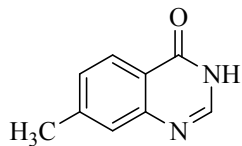


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-aminobenzamide (100 mg, 0.7352 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (371 mg, 2.9408 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 14 hours, after washing the organic part with EtOAc:Hexane (10:90) solution to afford the product (**4a**) as white solid (91 mg, 85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 7.54-7.57 (t, *J* = 7.56 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.16 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.83 (t, *J* = 8.34 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 7.98 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 122.77, 126.26, 126.83, 127.47, 134.95, 145.43, 148.71, 162.32.

7-Methylquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one^{2a} (**4b**) (Table 3, entry 2)



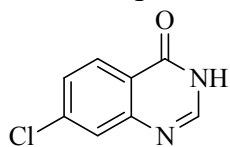
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-amino-4-methylbenzamide (100 mg, 0.6667 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (336 mg, 2.6668 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 16 hours, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (30:70) solution to afford the product (**4b**) as white solid (95 mg, 89%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.54 (s, 3H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 20.92, 120.21, 126.03, 126.42, 128.79, 145.11, 146.21, 148.64.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₉H₉N₂O is 161.0715 obsd. 161.0720.

7-Chloroquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one^{2b} (**4c**) (Table 3, entry 3)



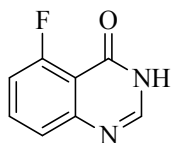
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-amino-4-chlorobenzamide (100 mg, 0.5861 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (295 mg, 2.3444 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 14 hours, after column

chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (30:70) solution to afford the product (**4c**) as white solid (88 mg, 83%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 7.52-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 1.98 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.58 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 121.55, 126.42, 127.78, 128.07, 140.82, 146.76, 149.97, 161.56.

5-Fluoroquinazolin-4(3*H*)-one^{2a} (**4d**) (Table 3, entry 4)



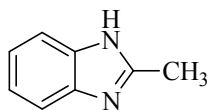
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** starting from 2-amino-6-fluorobenzamide (100 mg, 0.6494 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (327 mg, 2.5964 mmol) and heated at 120 °C for 20 hours, after column chromatography with EtOAc/Hexane (30:70) solution to afford the product(**4d**) as white solid (87 mg, 82%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 7.20-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 112.36 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 113.63 (d, *J* = 21.00 Hz), 122.96, 135.44 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 146.35, 150.91, 160.64, 162.38.

General procedure for the formation of derivatives of 2-methyl-1*H* benzimidazole

2-Methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole^{3a}(**5a**) (Table 4, entry 1)



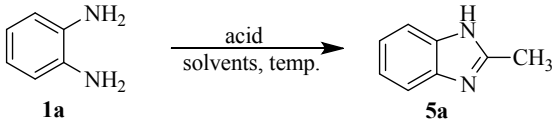
Mixture of 1,2-phenylenediamine (100 mg, 0.9259), malonic acid (578 mg, 5.5554 mmol) and 1, 4-dioxane (2 mL) as a solvent were taken in a reaction tube and heated at 120 °C on magnetic stirrer for 6 hours. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. On completion of the reaction, saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (2 mL) was added in reaction mixture and organic part extracted with ethyl acetate (3x3 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After evaporation of the combined organic layer, organic part was washed with solution of EtOAc:Hexane (50:50) (6 mL) and afforded 2-methyl-1*H*benzimidazole (**5a**) as white solid (116 mg, 95%) NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 2.67 (s, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 14.93, 114.50, 122.15, 138.75, 151.49.

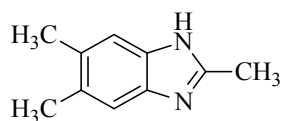
ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₉N₂ is 133.0766 obsd. 133.0755.

Table S1 Screening for the synthesis of 2-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole

<div><div></div><div>1a 5a</div></div>				
Entry	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^b (%)
1	1,4-dioxane	80	6	40
2	1,4-dioxane	100	6	60
3	1,4-dioxane	120	6	80
4	1,4-dioxane	120	6	95
5	1,4-dioxane	120	8	97
6	PEG-400	120	6	85
7	ACN	120	6	87

^aReaction conditions: 1,2-phenylenediamine (1 equiv.) malonic acid (6 equiv.), 1,4-dioxane (2 ml) and time 6 hours. ^bisolated yields.

2,5,6-Trimethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole^{3a} (**5b**) (Table 4, entry 2)



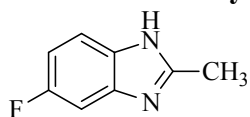
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4,5-dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7352mmol), malonic acid (382 mg, 3.676mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5b**) as yellow solid (96 mg, 82%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.30 (s, 6H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 7.21 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 13.21, 19.33, 114.31, 130.94, 137.14, 150.90.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. For C₁₀H₁₃N₂ is 161.1079 obsd. 161.1072.

5-Fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-benzoimidazole (**5c**) (Table 4, entry 3)



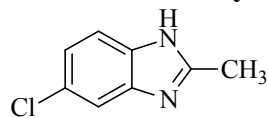
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4-fluorobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7936 mmol), malonic acid (495 mg, 4.7616 mmol) gave, after column chromatography EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5c**) as yellow solid (109 mg, 92%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.51 (s, 3H), 6.88-6.94 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz 1H), 7.12-7.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 1H)

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 13.33, 100.12 (d, *J* = 45 Hz), 108.63, 109.78 (d, *J* = 51 Hz), 114.67 (d, *J* = 19.5 Hz), 135.09, 138.91 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 153.37, 158.10, 161.23.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₈FN₂ is 151.0672 obsd. 151.0679.

5-Chloro-2-methyl-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{3a} (**5d**) (Table 4, entry 4)



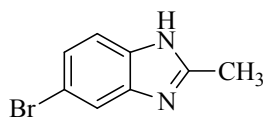
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4-chlorobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7017 mmol), malonic acid (438 mg, 4.2102 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc/Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5d**) as yellow solid (110 mg, 94%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.54 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 14.61, 114.53, 114.78, 121.20, 125.42, 152.95.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₈ClN₂ is 167.0376 obsd. 167.0380.

5-Bromo-2-methyl-1*H*-benzoimidazole (**5e**) (Table 4, entry 5)



The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4-bromobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.5347 mmol), malonic acid (278 mg, 2.6735 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30)

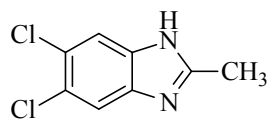
solution to afford the product (**5e**) as yellow solid(94 mg,83%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.55 (s, 3H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 13.32, 114.87, 115.39, 117.29, 125.13, 137.43, 140.21, 153.36.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₈BrN₂ is 210.9871 obsd. 210.9870.

5,6-Dichloro-2-methyl-1*H*-benzoimidazole (5f**) (Table 4, entry 6)**



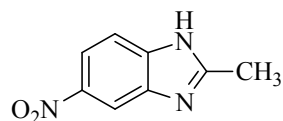
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4,5-dichlorobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.5650 mmol), malonic acid (352 mg, 3.390 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5f**) as yellow solid (96 mg, 85%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*6) δ 2.49 (s, 3H), 7.70 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*6) δ 14.61, 115.34, 115.68, 123.44, 138.36, 154.39.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₇Cl₂N₂is 200.9986, obsd.200.9980.

2-Methyl-5-nitro-1*H*-benzoimidazole^{3a} (5g**) (Table 4, entry 7)**

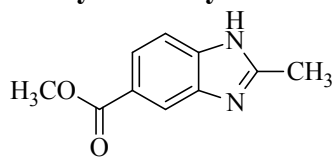


The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4-nitrobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.6535 mmol), malonic acid (408 mg, 3.9210 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5g**) as yellow solid (95 mg, 82%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.60 (s, 3H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 13.91, 113.71, 117.47, 122.88-123.31, 143.21-143.73, 145.69, 156.68.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₈N₃O₂is 178.0617, obsd. 178.0610.

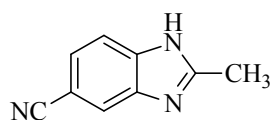
Methyl 2-methyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate (5h) (Table 4, entry 8)

The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from methyl-3,4-diaminobenzoate (100 mg, 0.6024 mmol), malonic acid (376 mg, 3.6144 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) solution to afford the product (**5h**) as yellow solid (105 mg, 92%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.53 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.37 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 14.64, 51.78, 122.26, 122.43, 142.56, 154.20, 154.69, 166.83

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₁₀H₁₁N₂O₂ is 191.0821, obsd. 191.0815.

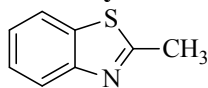
2-Methyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile (5i) (Table 4, entry 9)

The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from 4-nitrobenzene-1, 2-diamine (100 mg, 0.7518 mmol), malonic acid (469 mg, 4.5108 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) the product (**5i**) as white solid (106 mg, 90%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 2.53 (s, 3H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.22 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.28 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 14.67, 102.82, 114.91, 119.62, 120.21, 124.67, 139.46, 141.56, 155.23.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₉H₈N₃ is 158.0718, obsd. 158.0711.

2-Methylbenzothiazole^{3b} (5j) (Table 5, entry 10)

The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from methyl-3,4-diaminobenzoate (100 mg, 0.8000 mmol), malonic

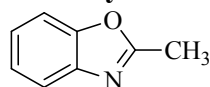
acid (333 mg, 3.2 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) the product (**5j**) as yellow solid (98 mg, 82%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 2.83 (s, 3H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 7.32-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.98 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.16 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 20.03, 121.32, 122.32, 124.62, 125.85, 135.59, 153.32, 166.88.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. For C₈H₈NS is 150.0377, obsd.150.0360.

2-Methylbenzoxazole^{3b} (**5k**) (Table 4, entry 11)



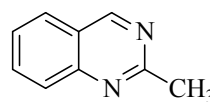
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from methyl-3,4-diaminobenzoate (100 mg, 0.9174 mmol), malonic acid (381 mg, 3.6696 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) the product (**5k**) as yellow solid (98 mg, 80%) and NMR data compared with literature.

¹H NMR (600 MHz; CD₃OD) δ 2.17 (s, 3H), 6.78-6.81 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.98-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 1H)

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; DMSO-*d*₆) δ 23.61, 115.95, 118.98, 122.39, 124.66, 126.42, 147.90, 169.03.

ESI-MS (m/z): [M+H]⁺calcd. for C₈H₈NO is 134.0606, obsd. 134.1182.

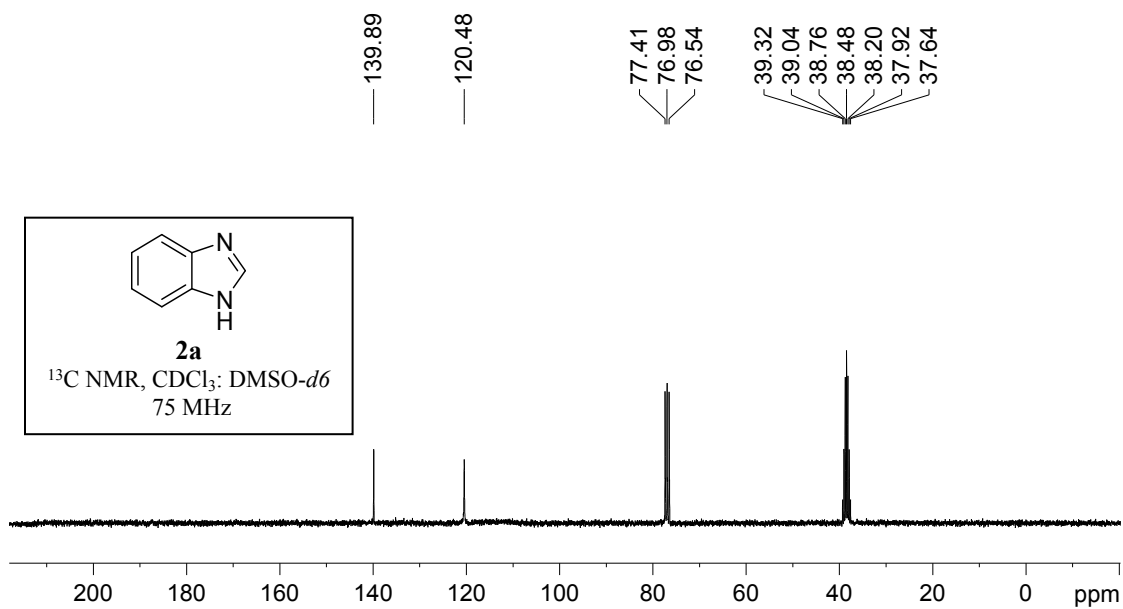
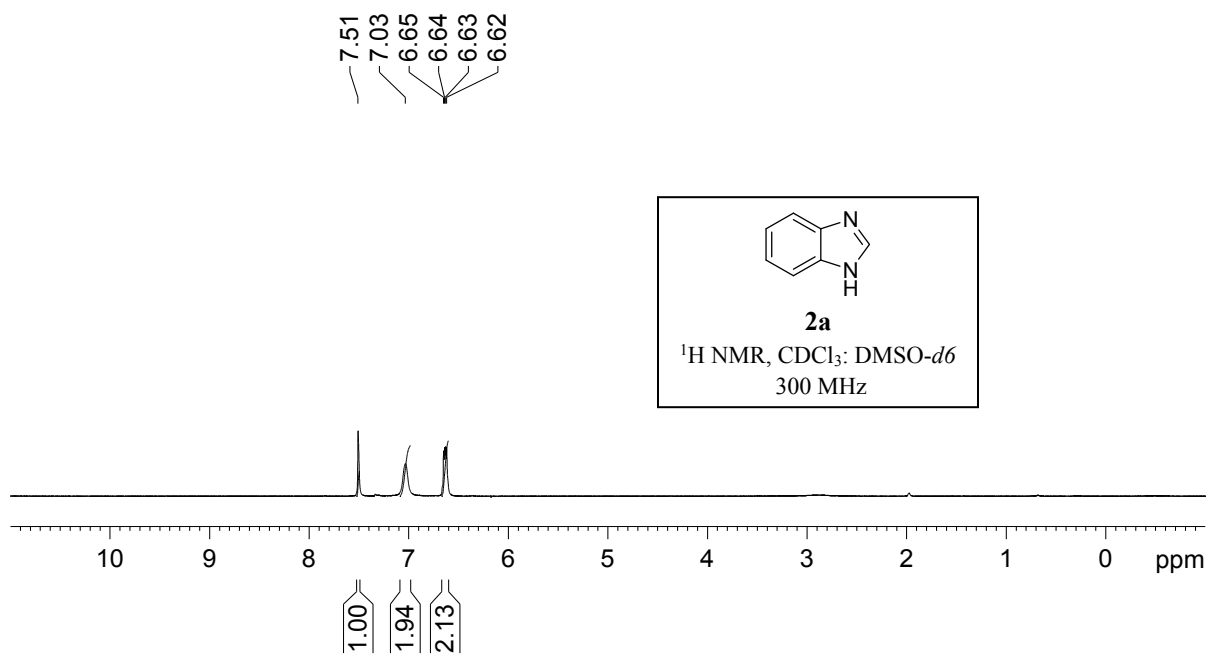
2-Methylquinazoline^{3c} (**5l**) (Table 4, entry 12)

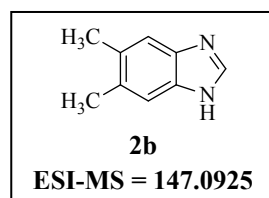
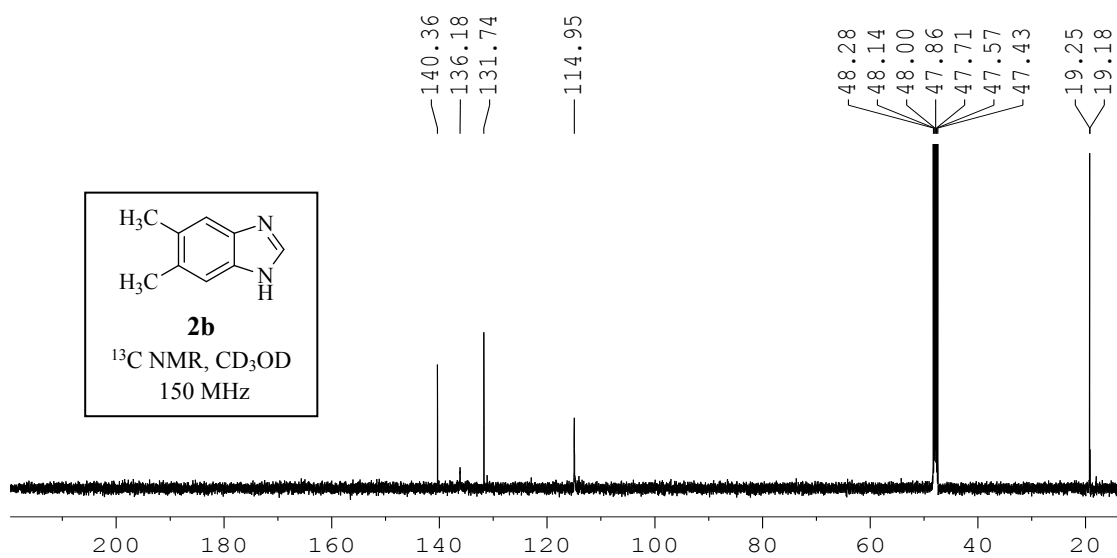
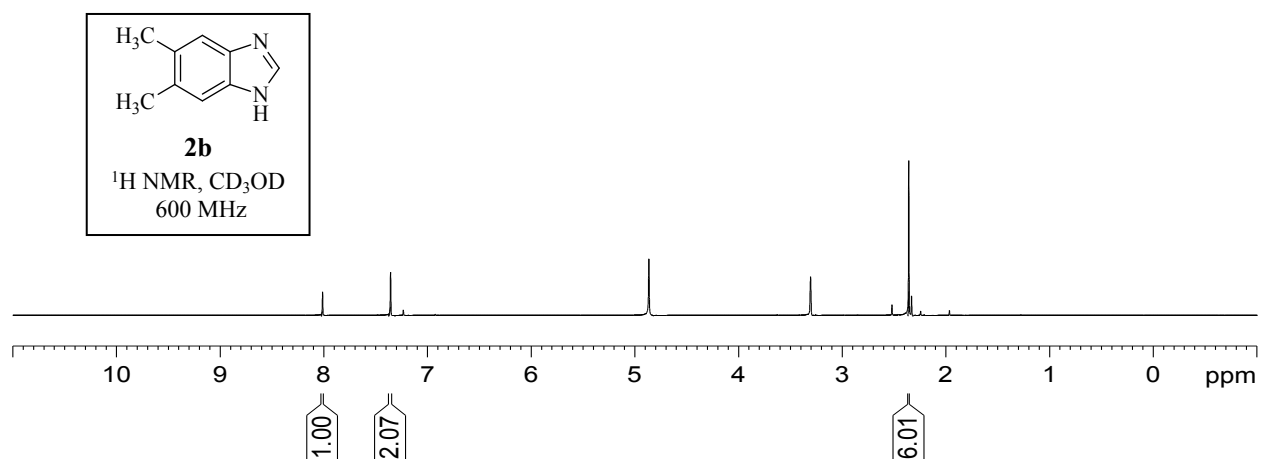
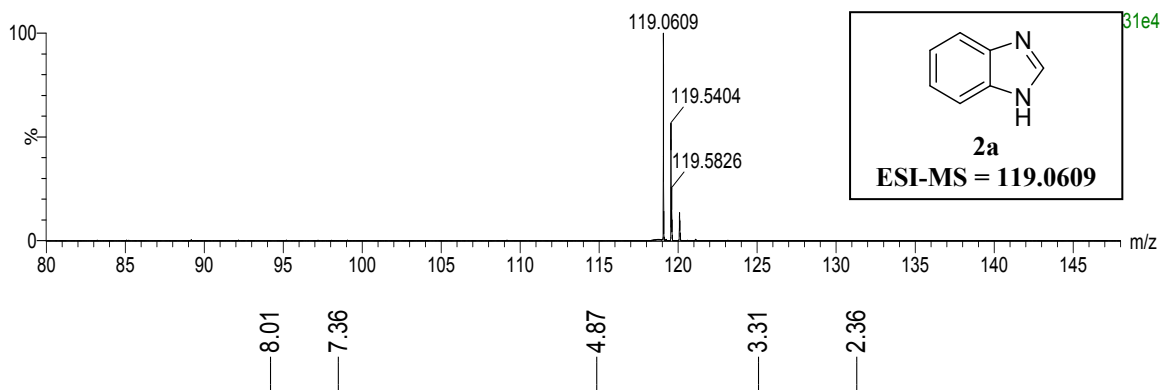


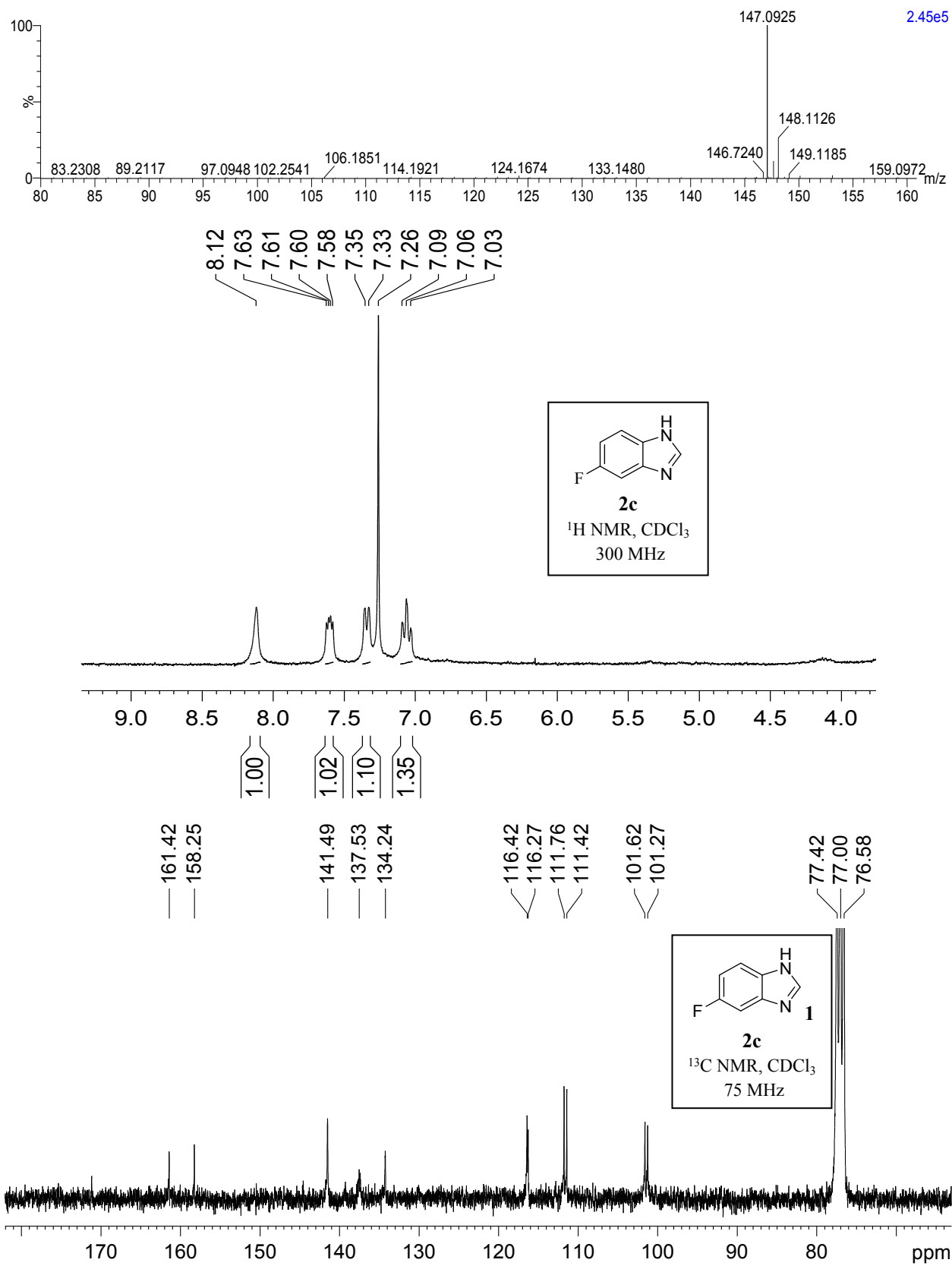
The above compound was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** starting from methyl-3,4-diaminobenzoate (100 mg, 0.8197 mmol), malonic acid (341 mg, 3.2788 mmol) gave, after column chromatography with EtOAc:Hexane (70:30) the product (**5l**) as yellow solid (88 mg, 75%) and NMR data compared with literature.

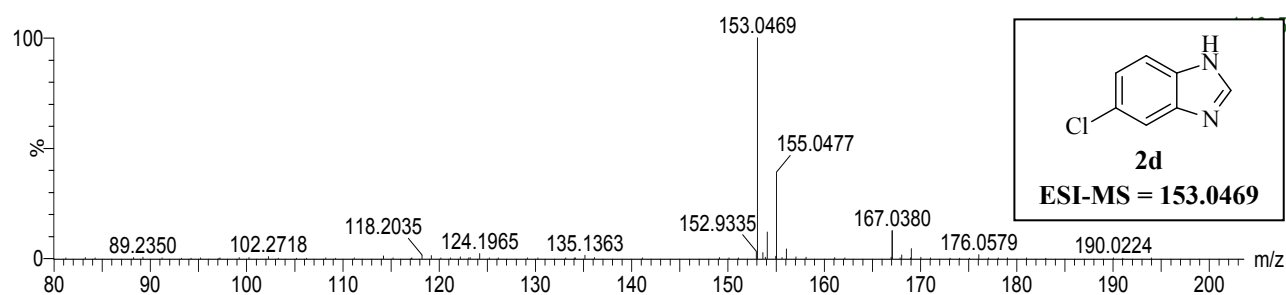
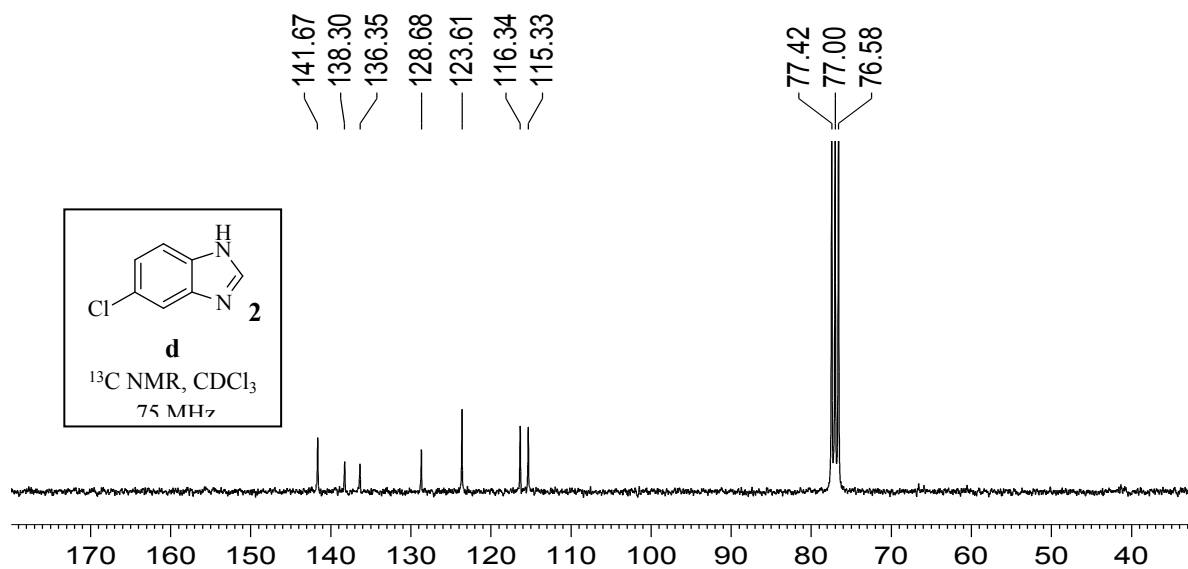
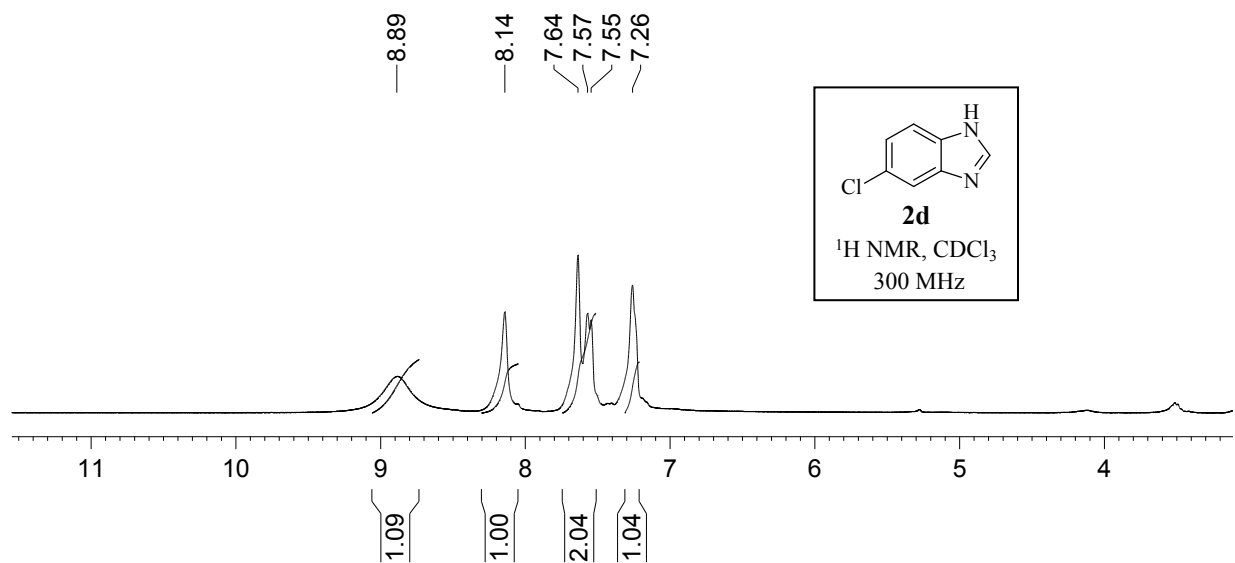
¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 2.69 (s, 3H), 7.16-7.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz 1H), 7.57-7.69 (m, 3H), 8.38 (s, 1H).

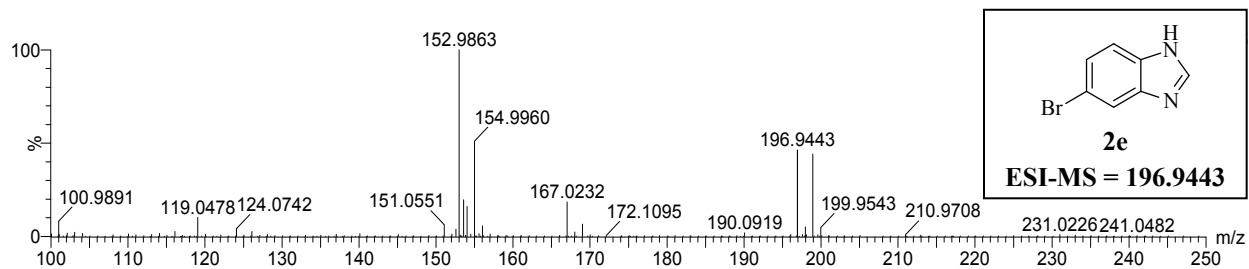
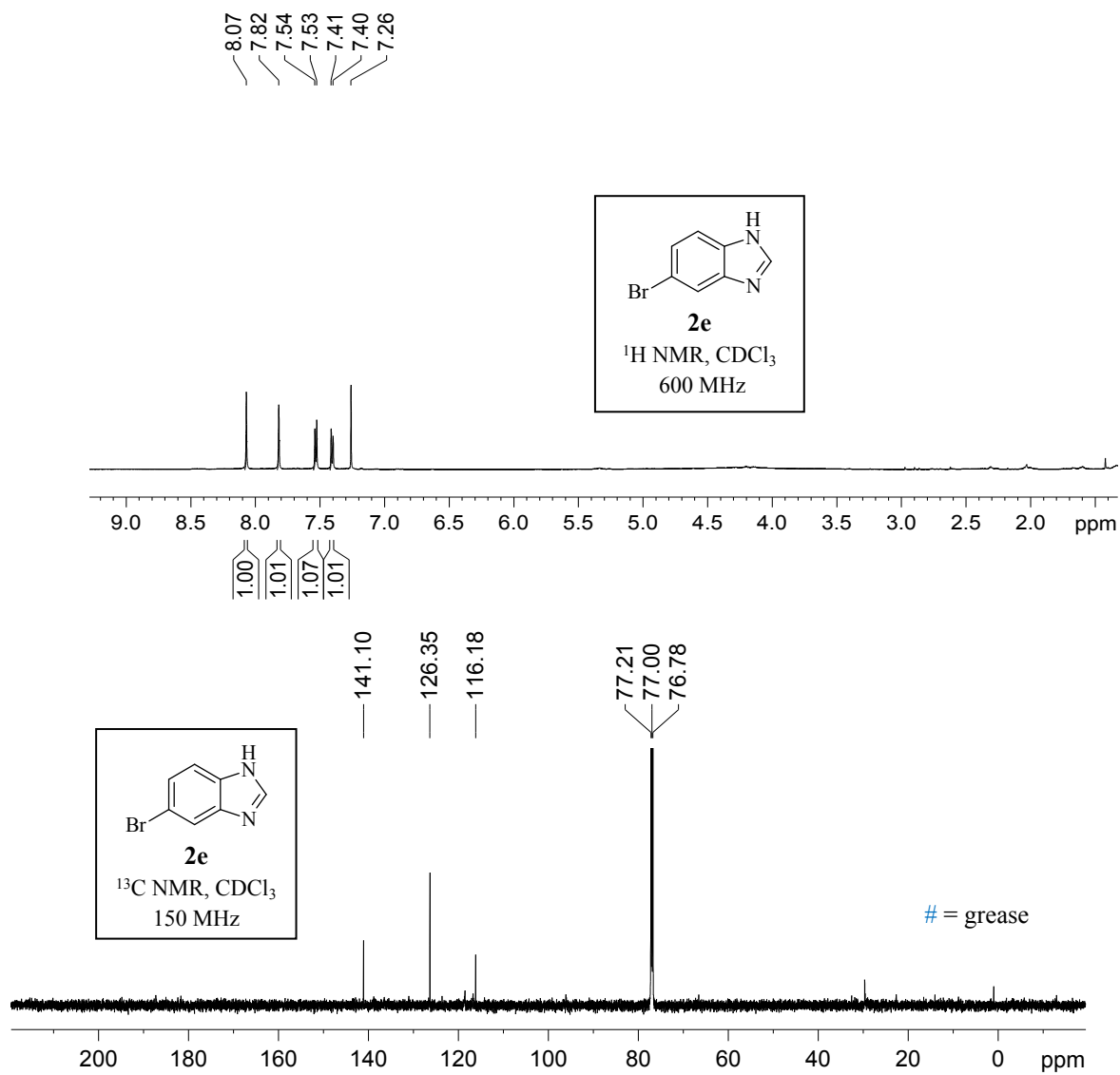
¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 24.71, 101.88, 116.37, 121.37, 124.13, 132.23, 134.19, 140.53, 168.56.

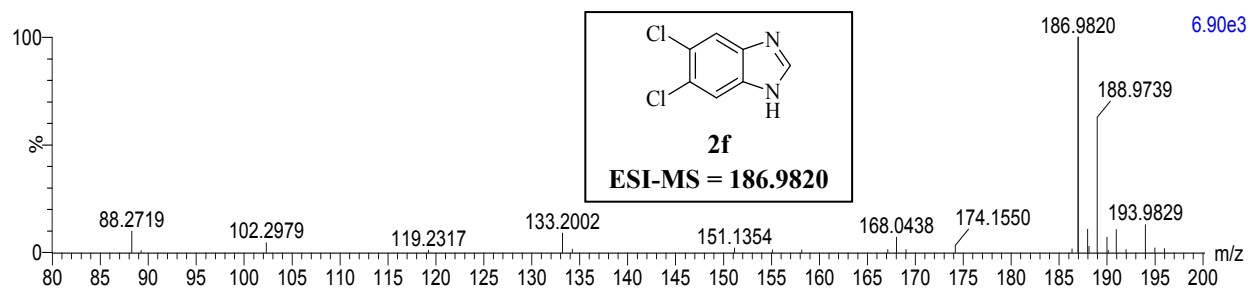
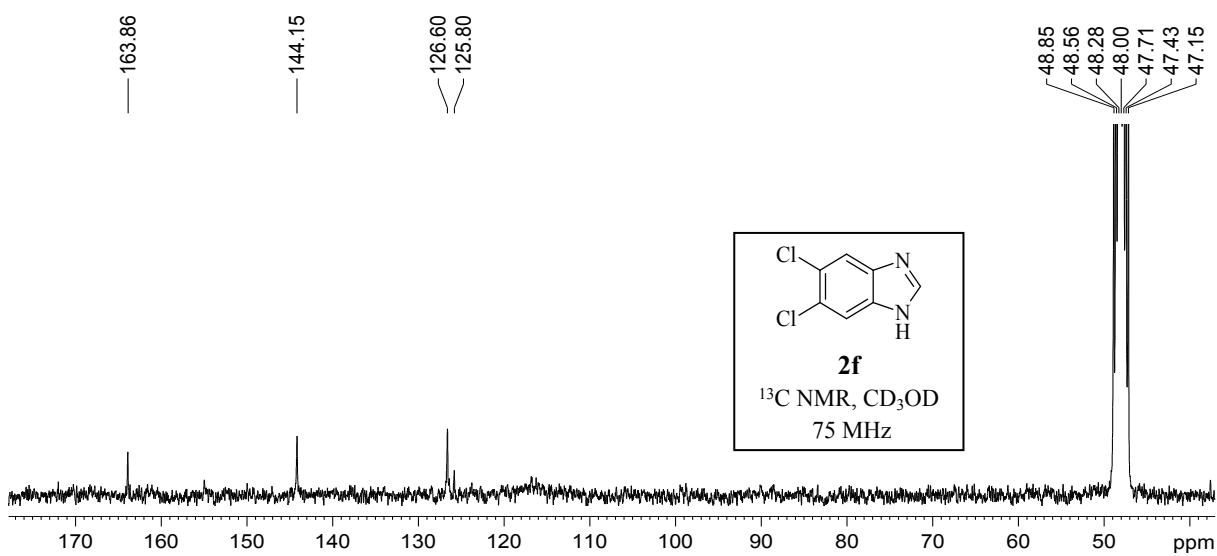
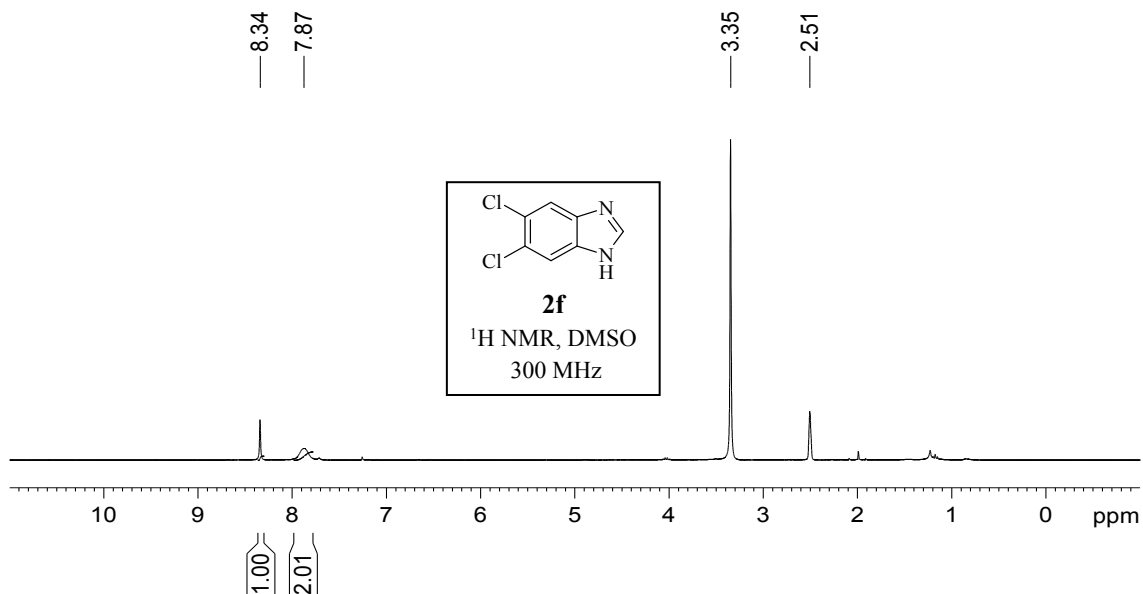


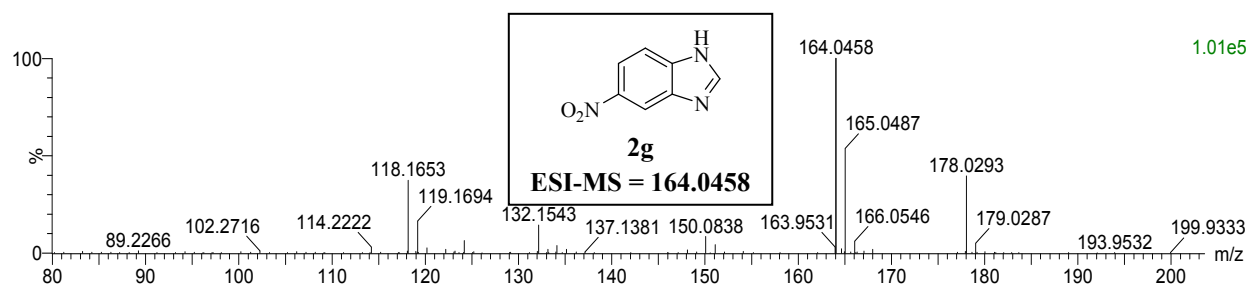
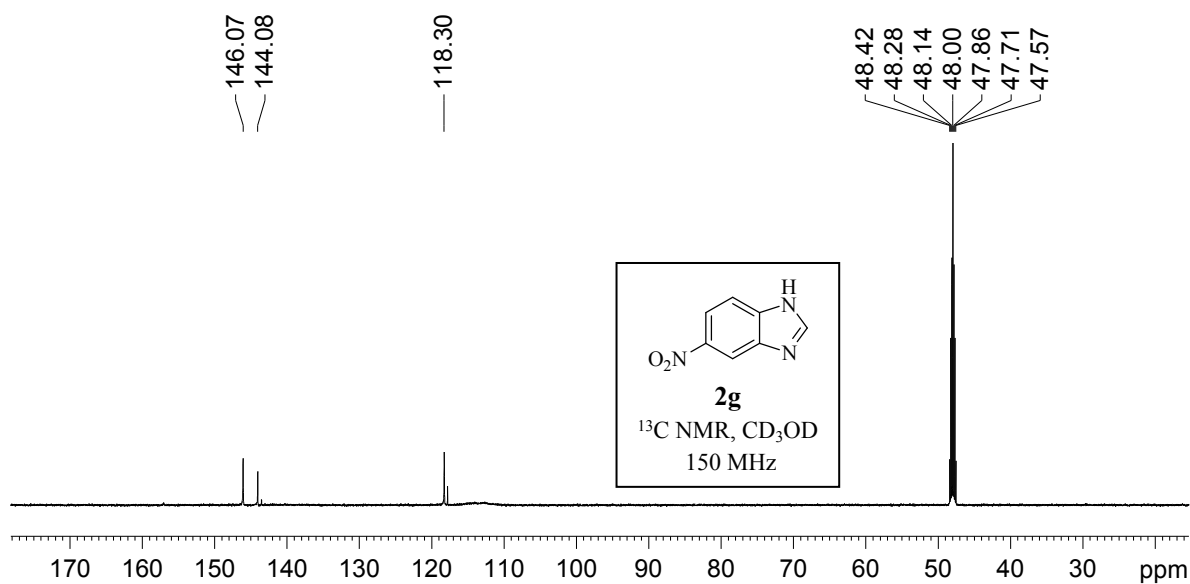
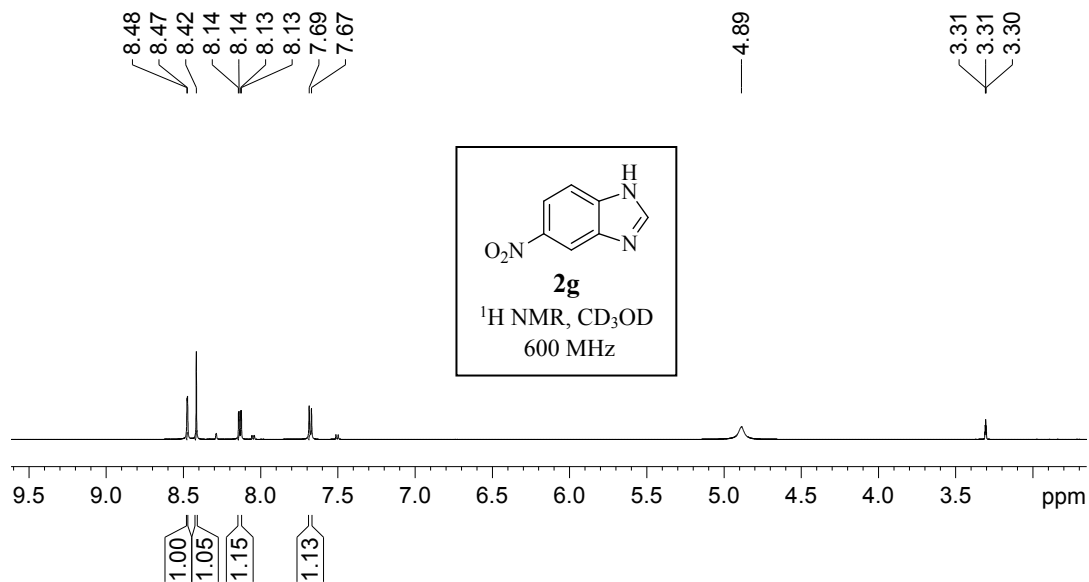


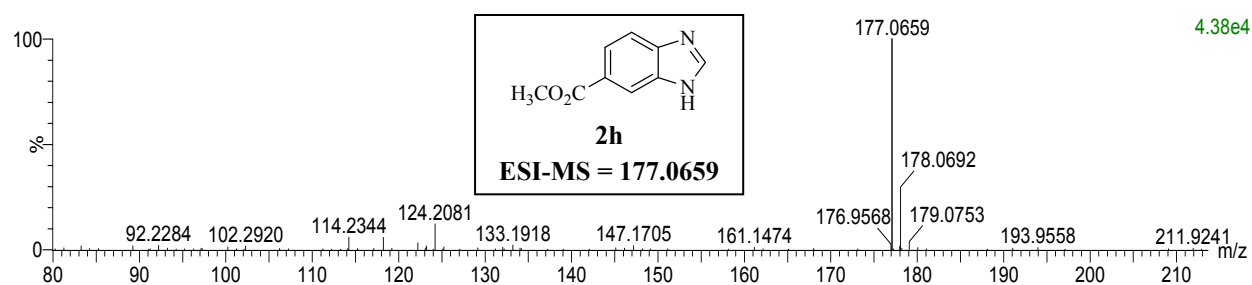
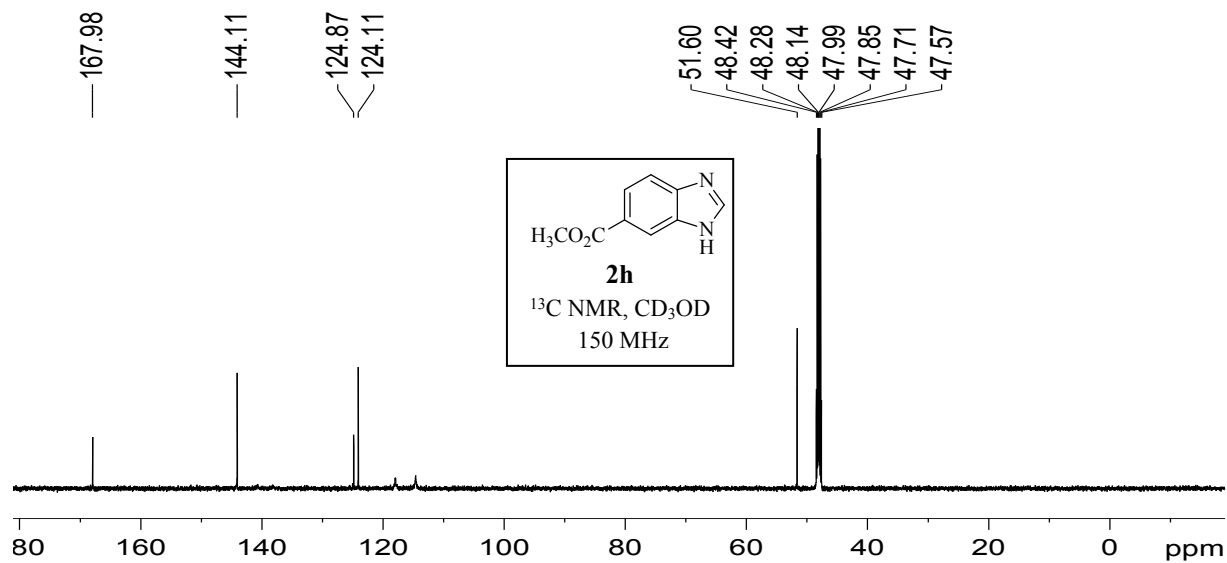
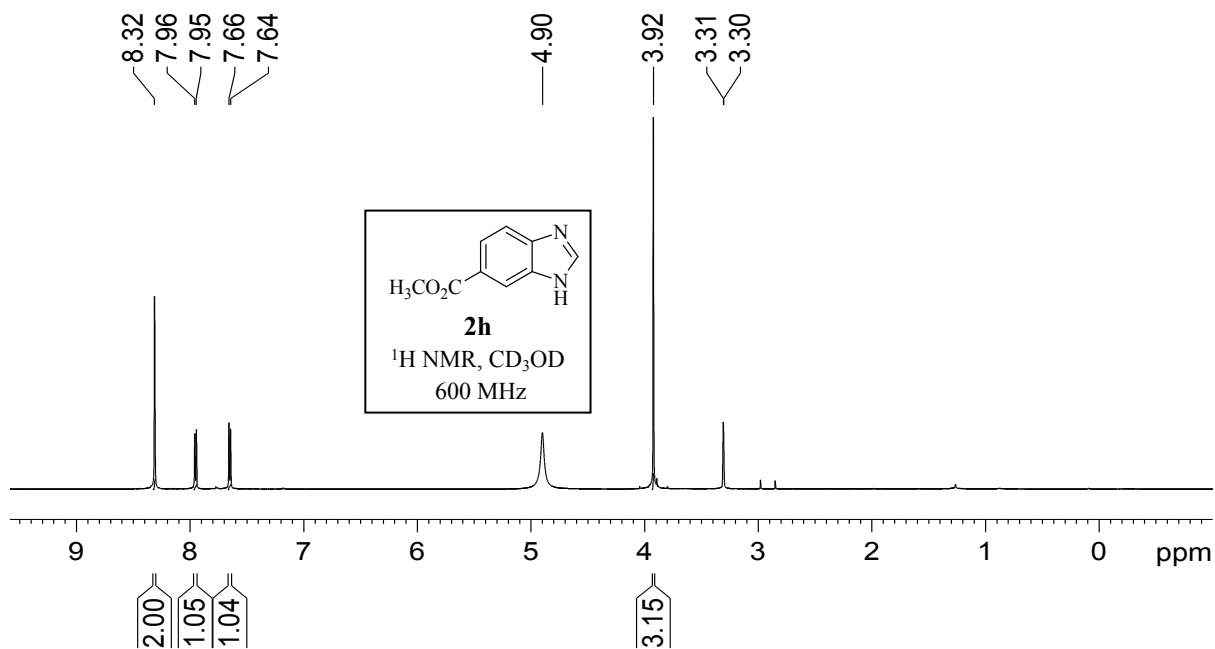


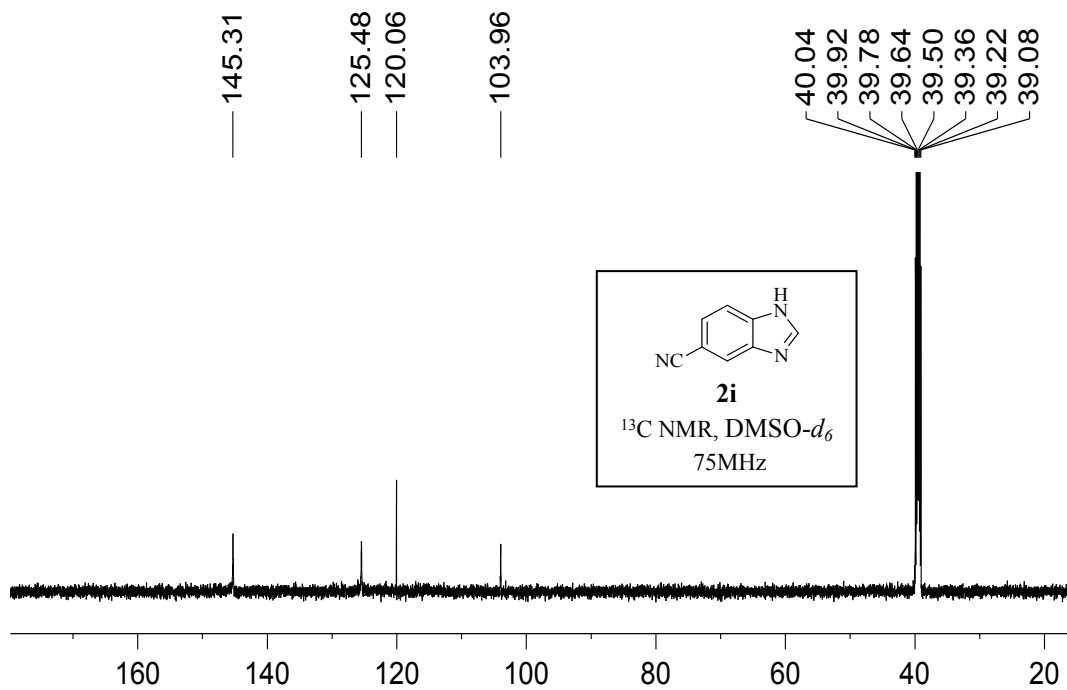
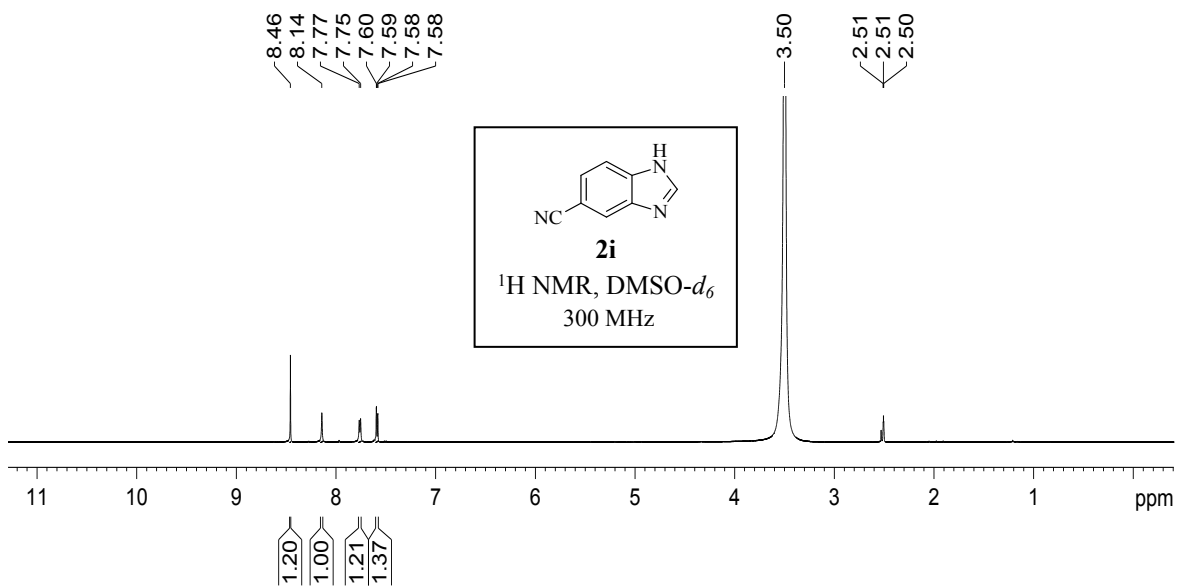


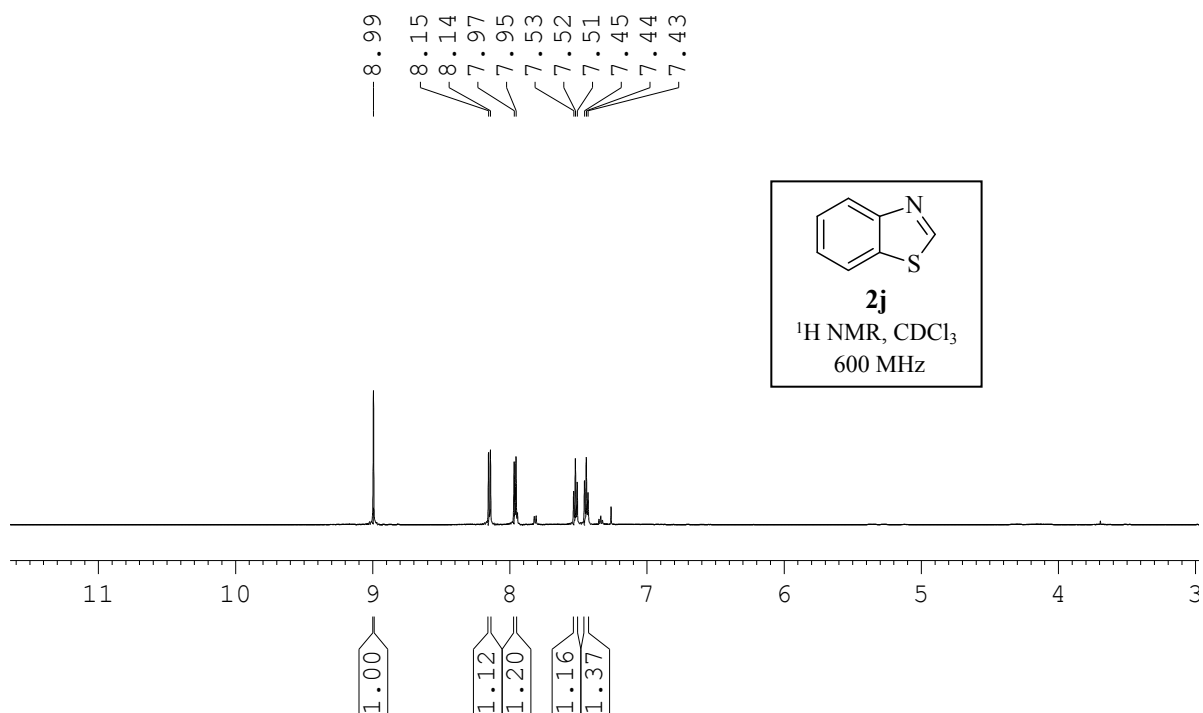
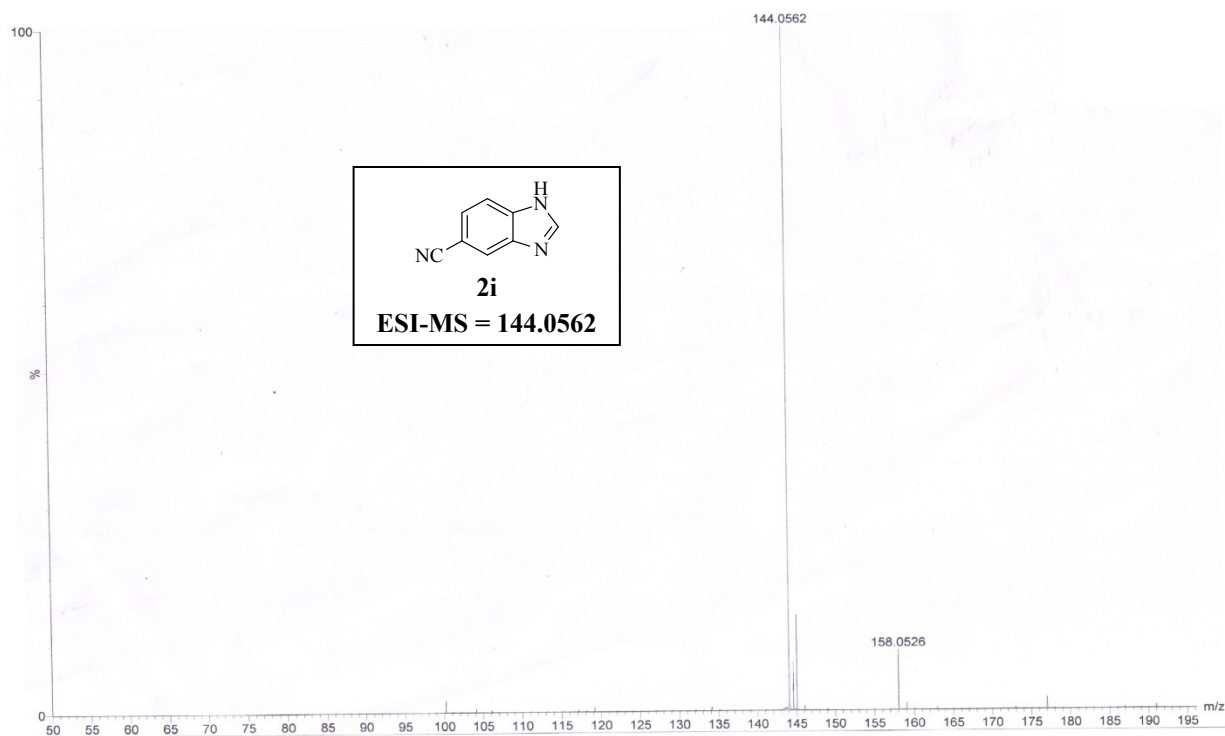


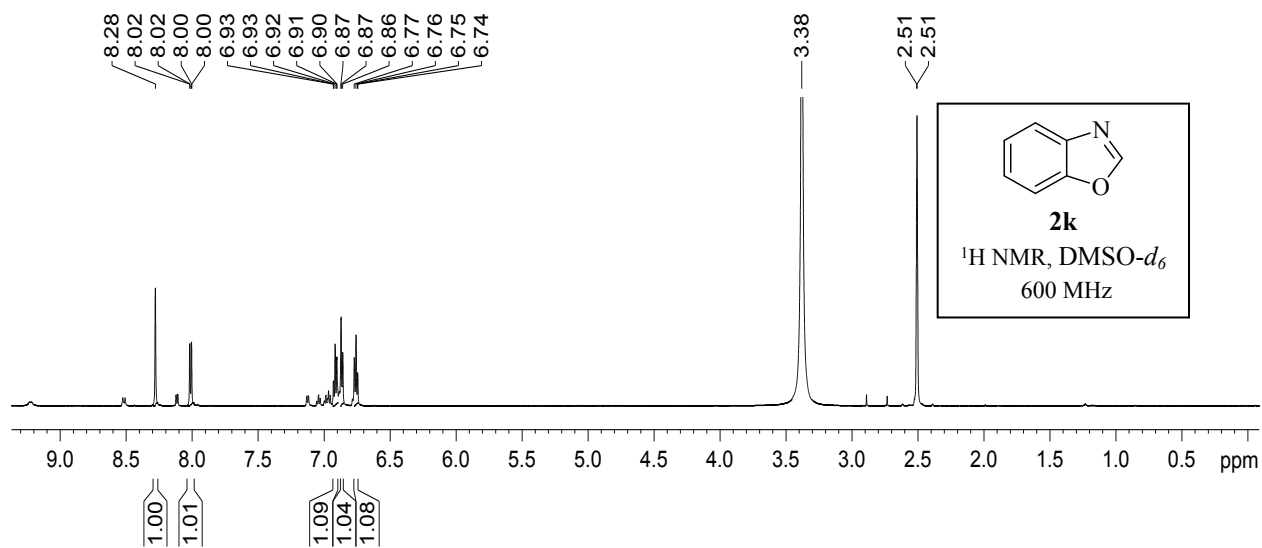
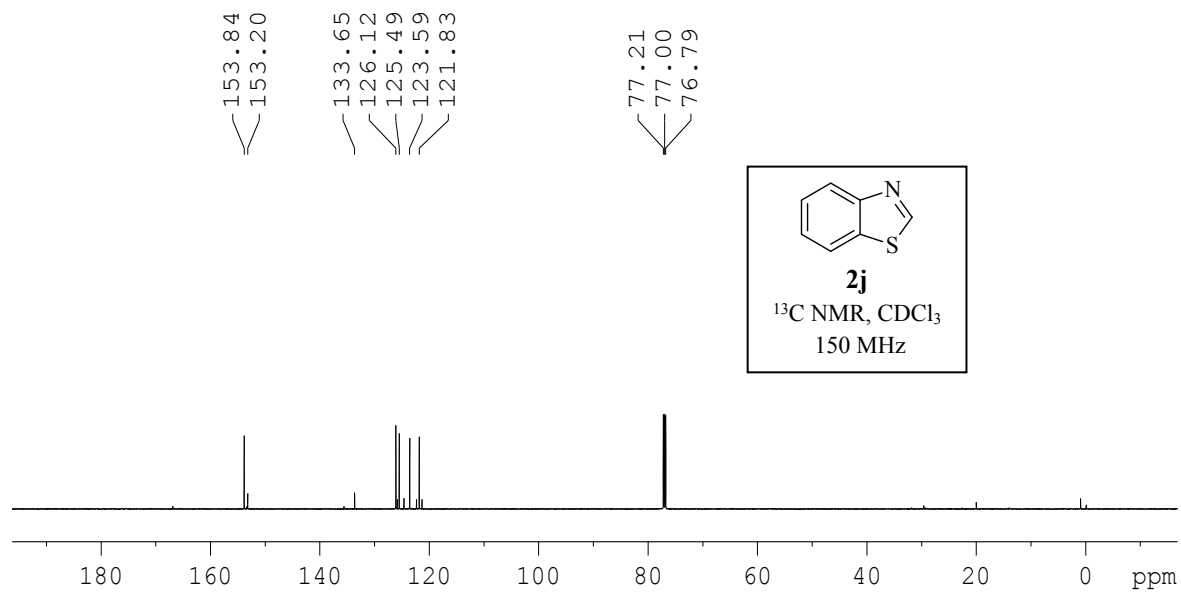


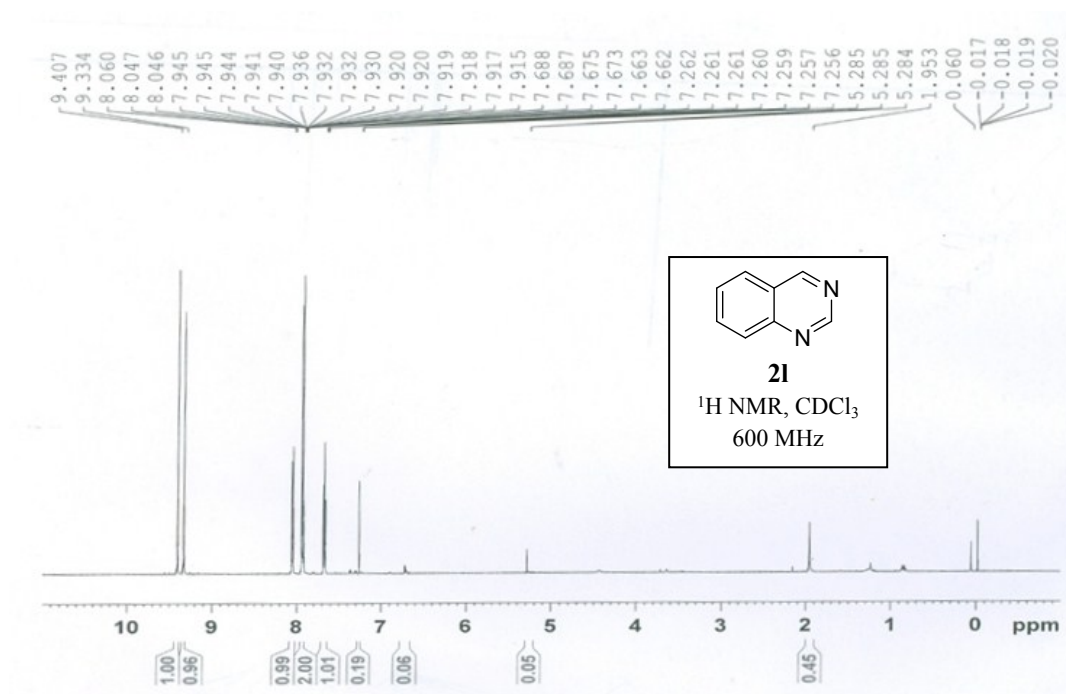
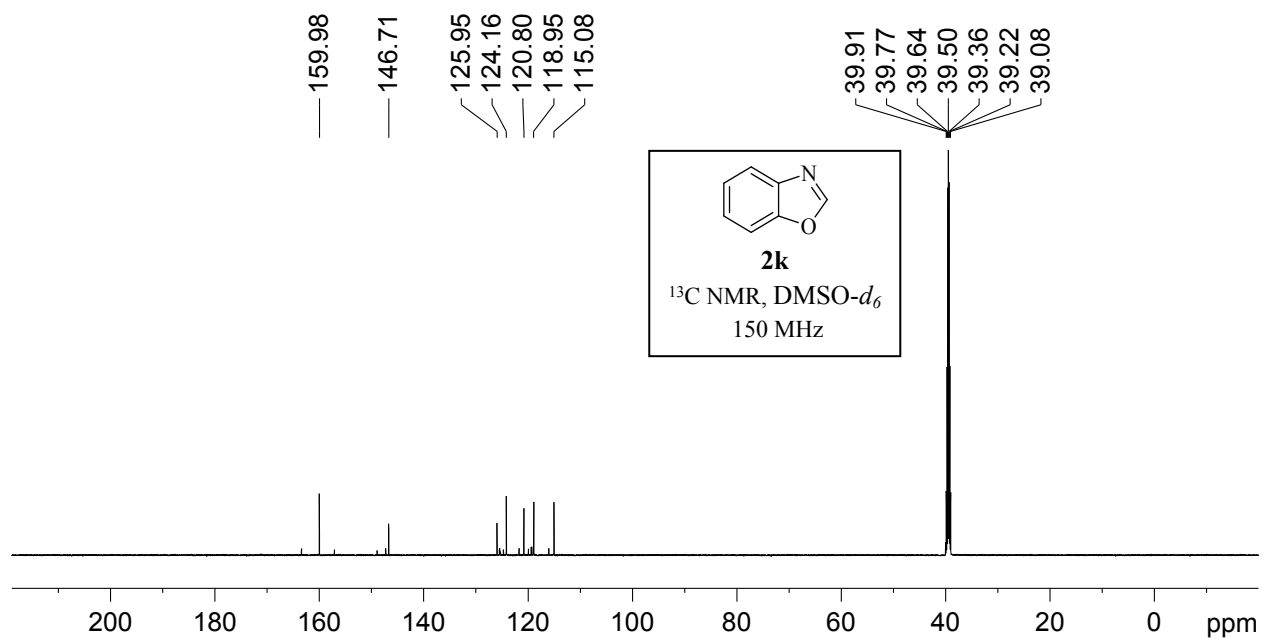


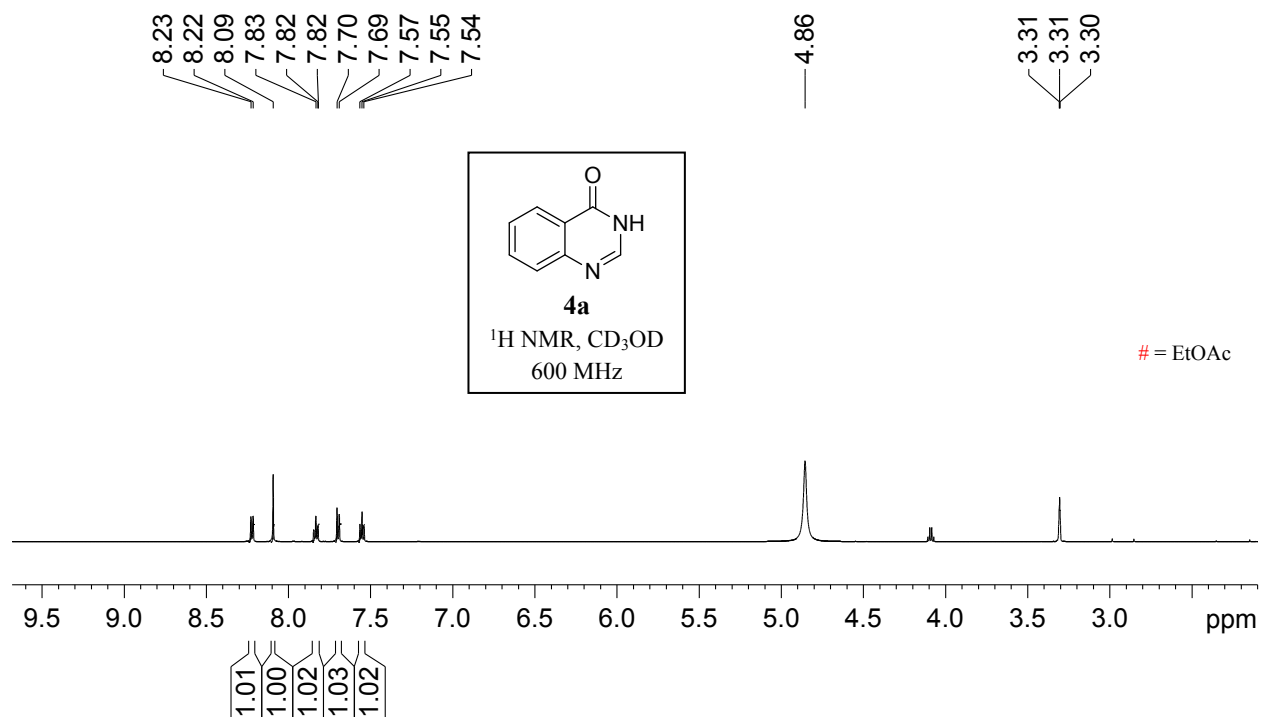
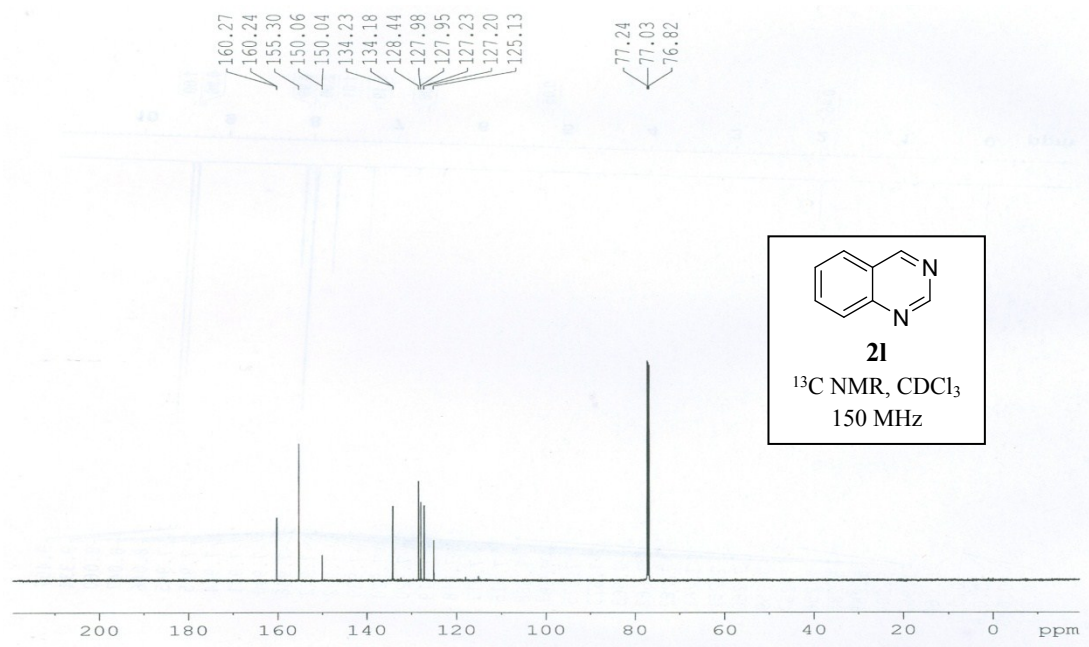


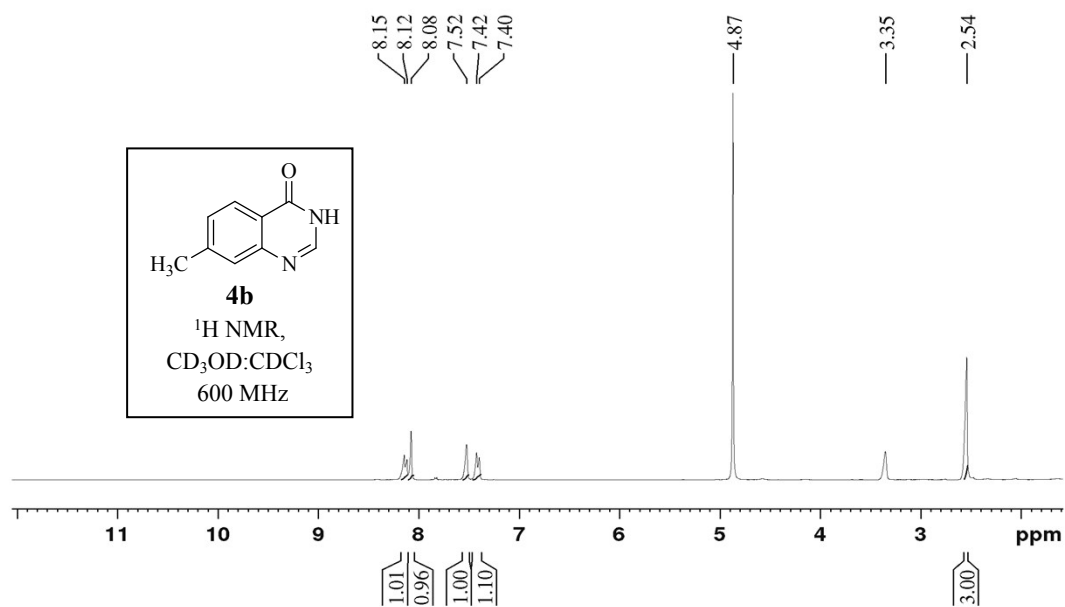
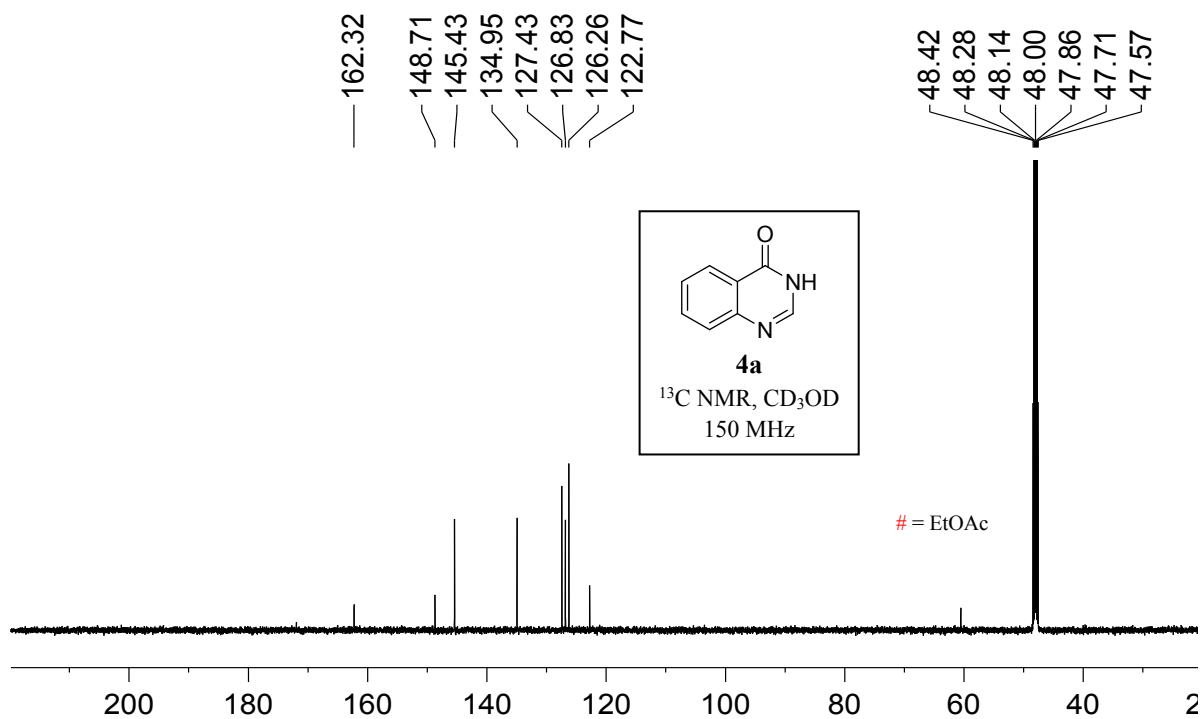


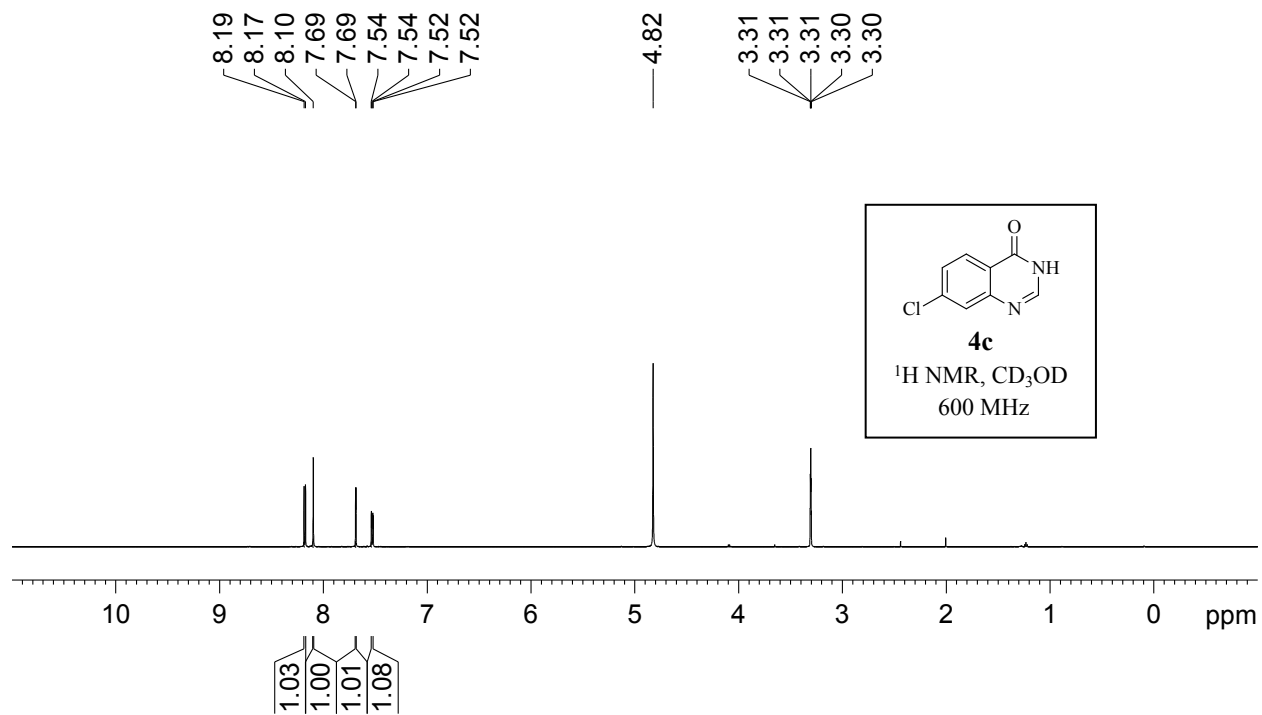
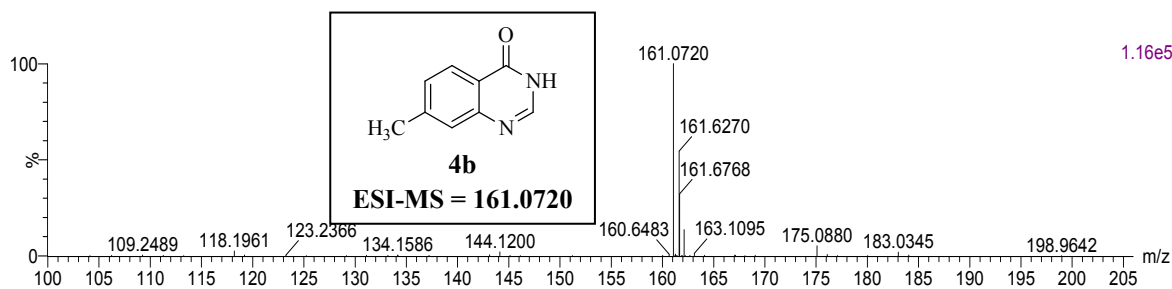
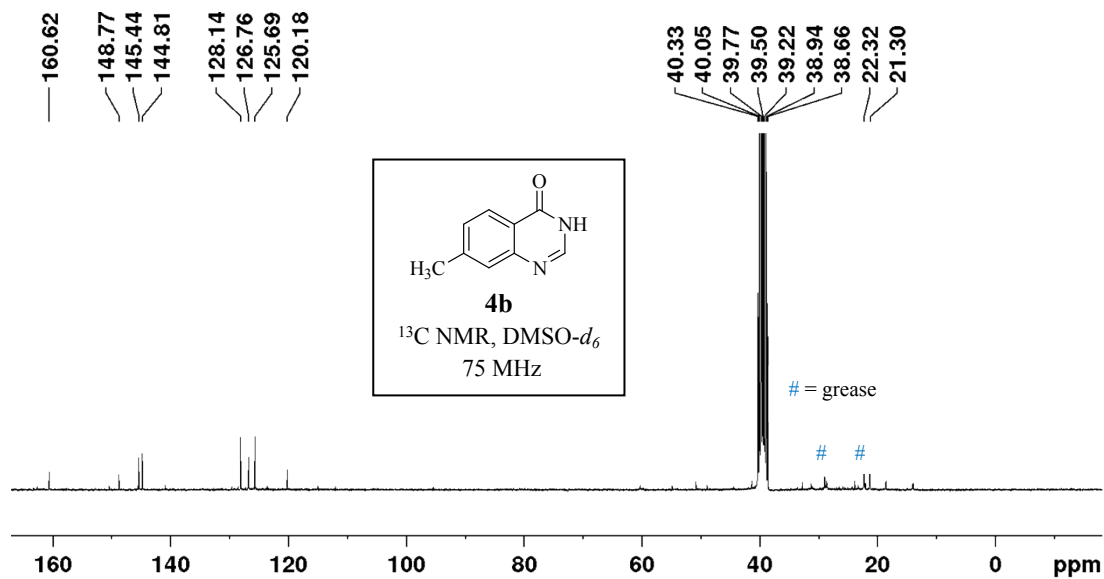


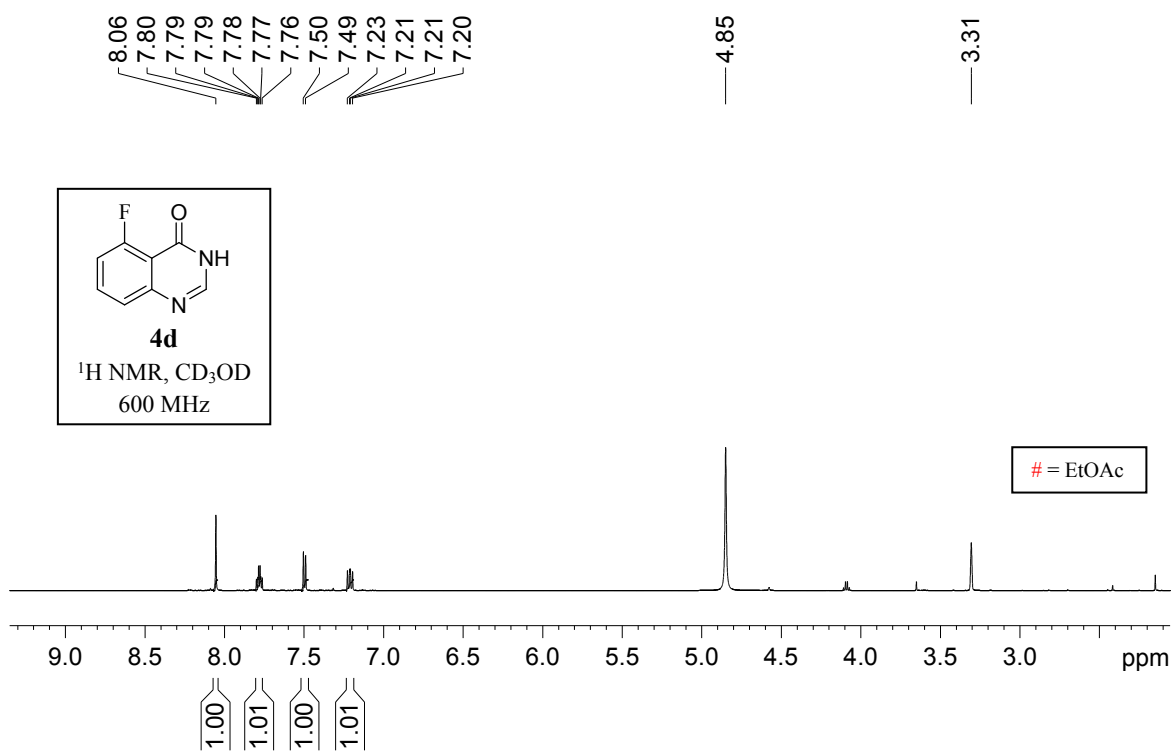
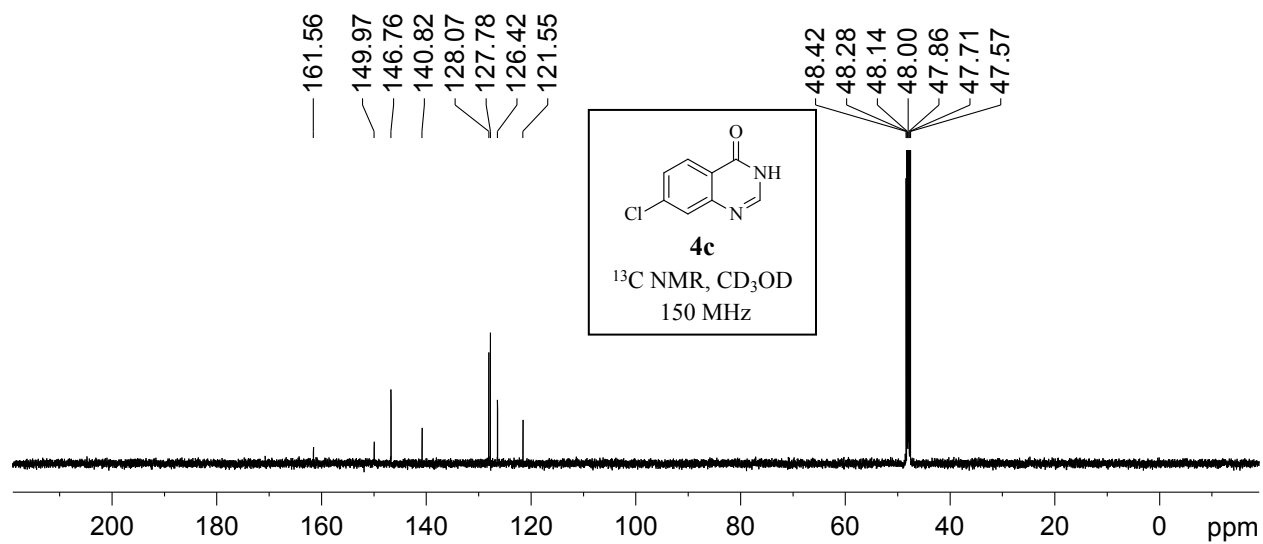


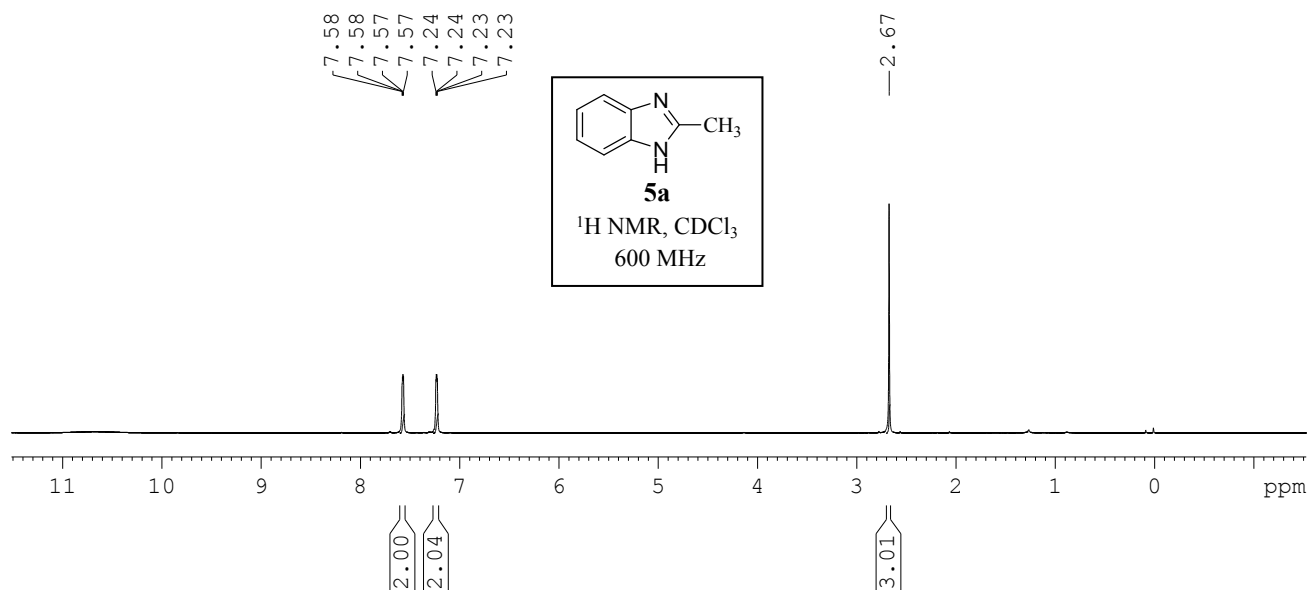
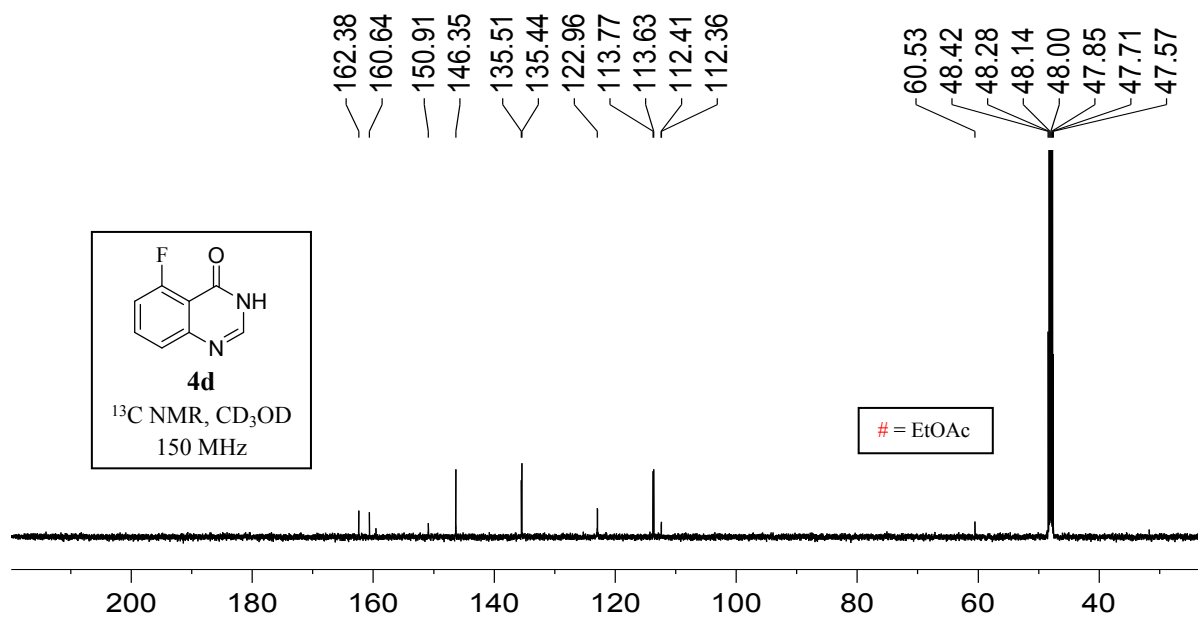


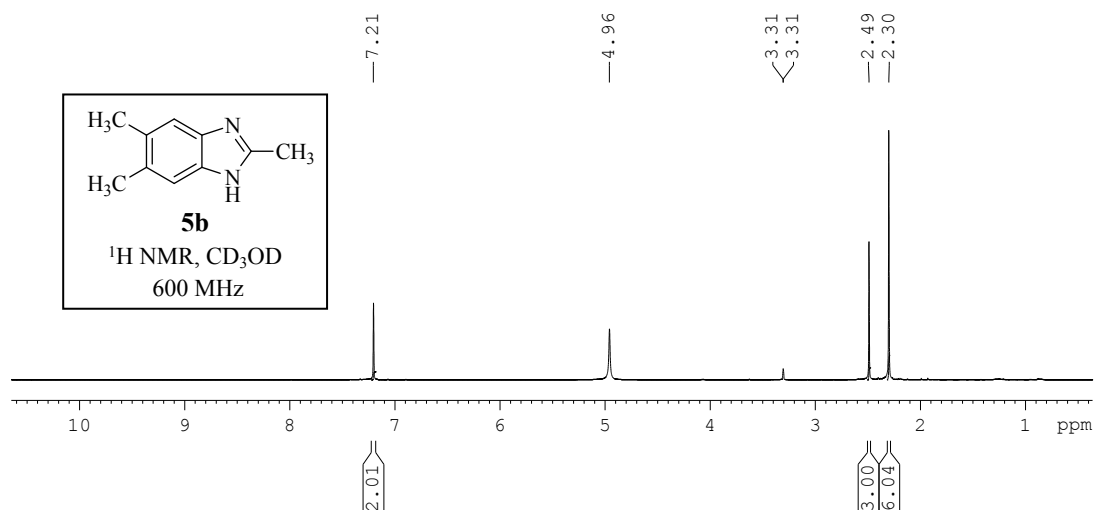
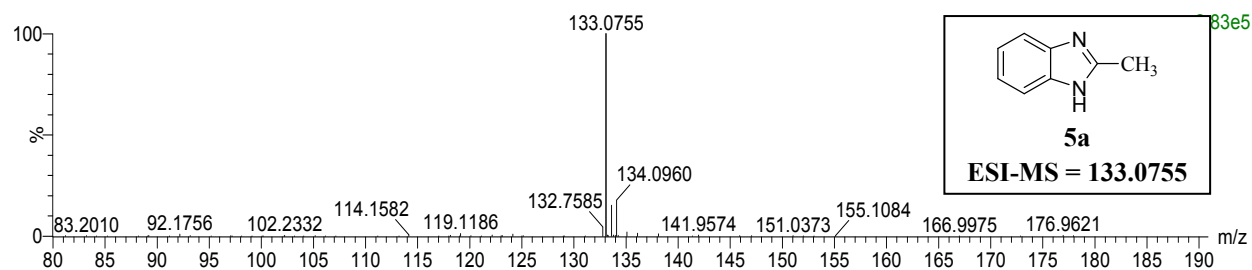
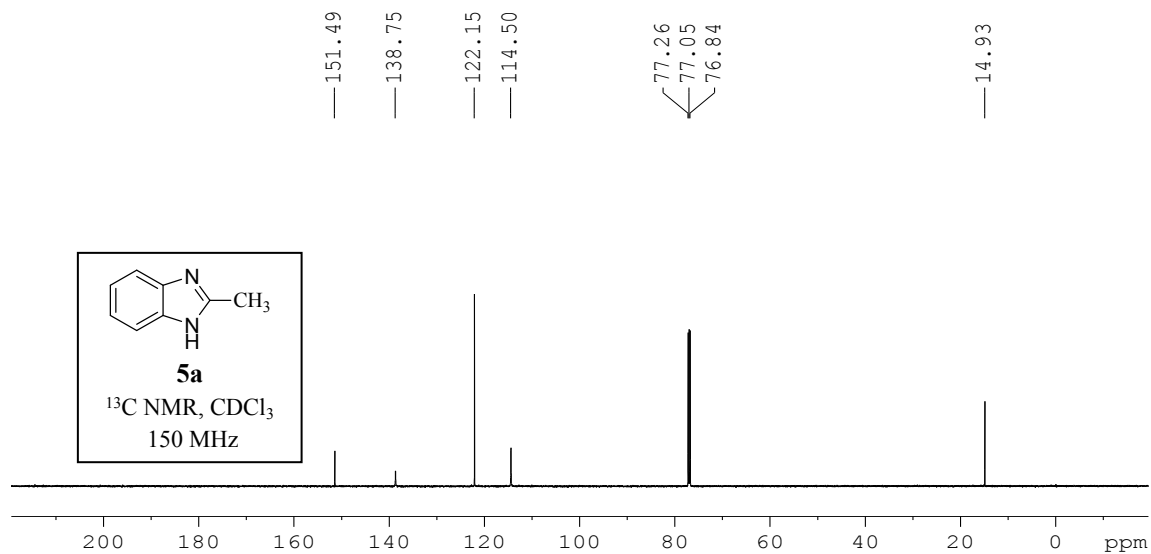


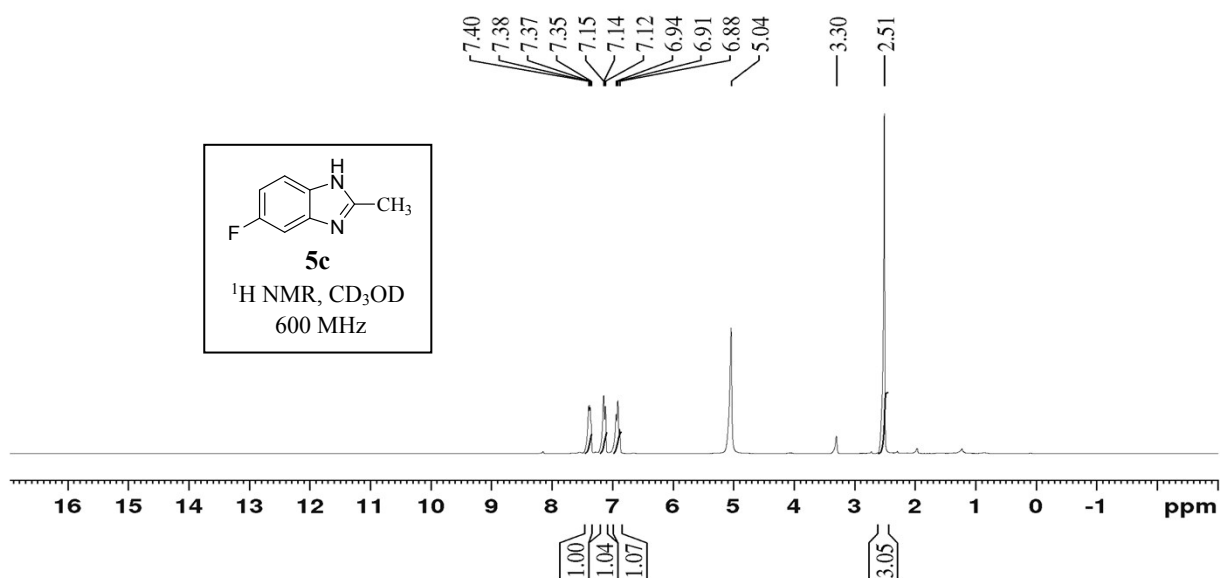
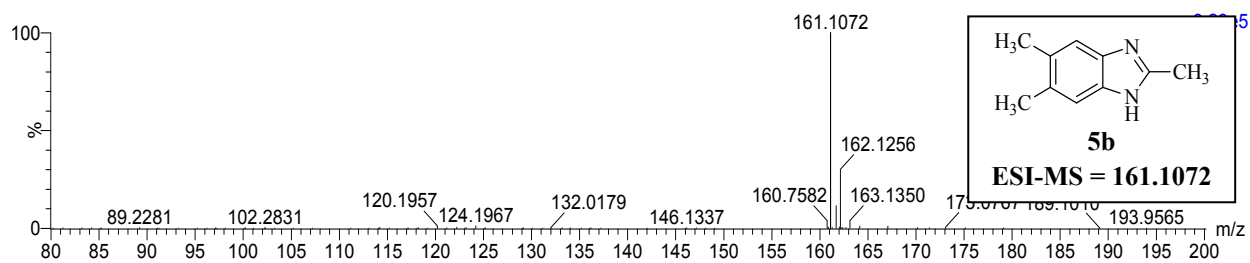
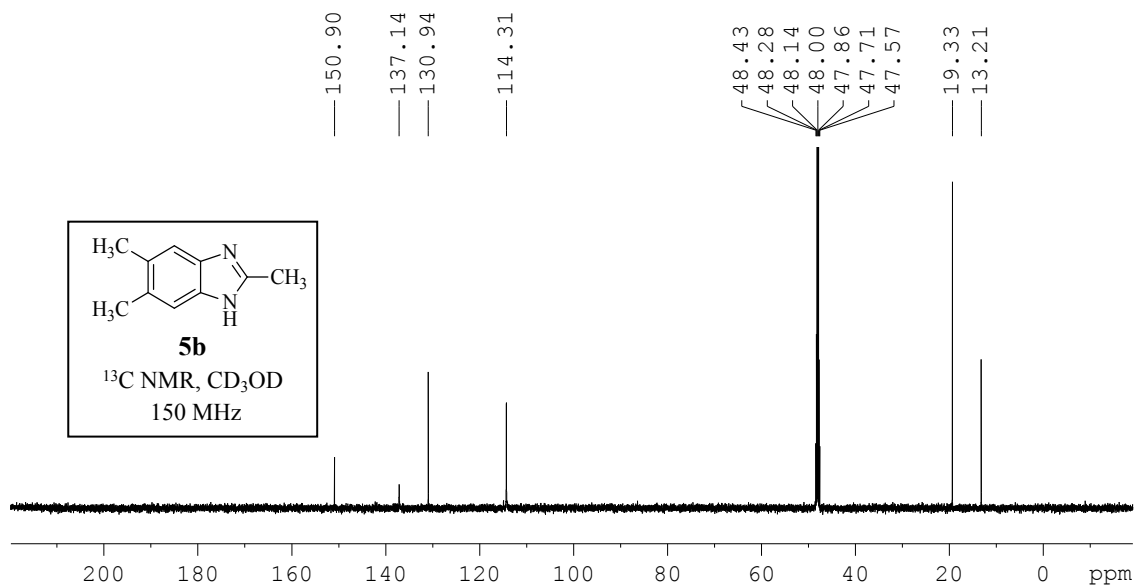


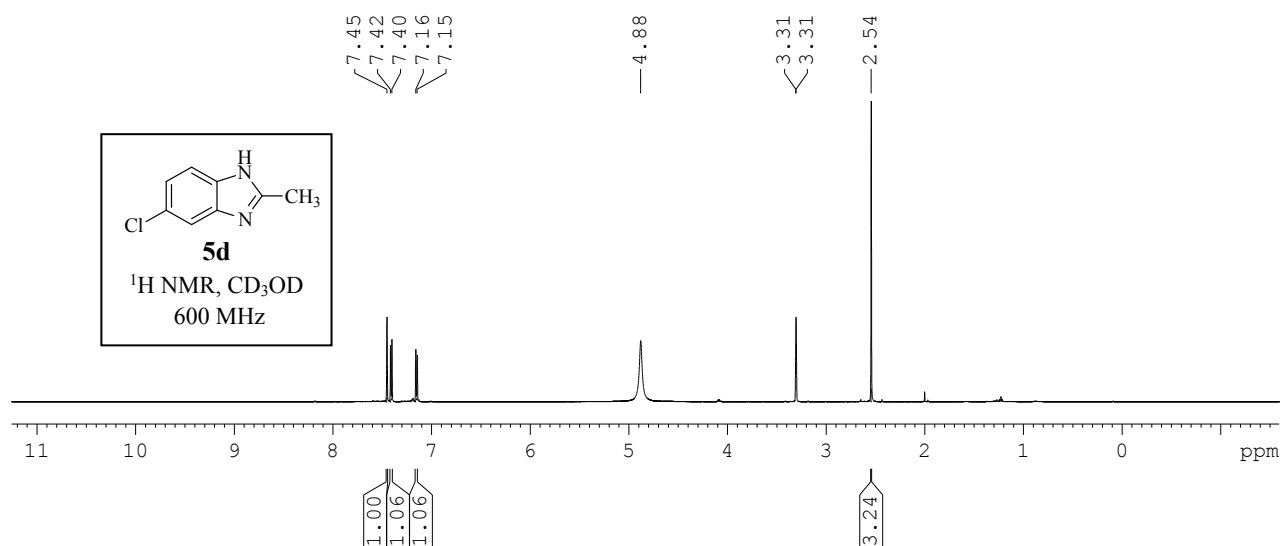
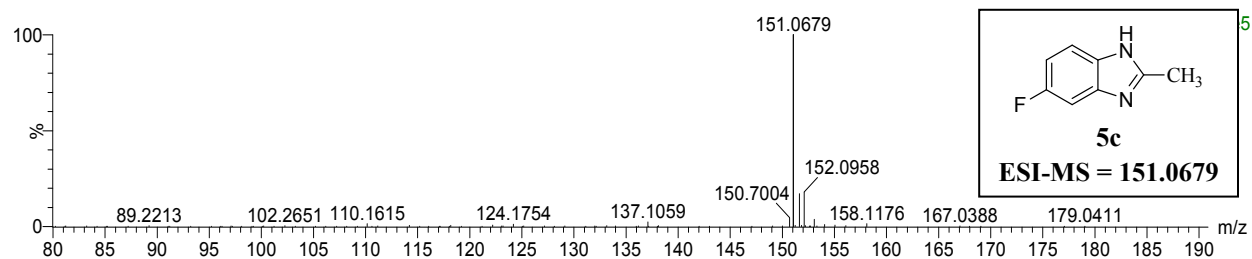
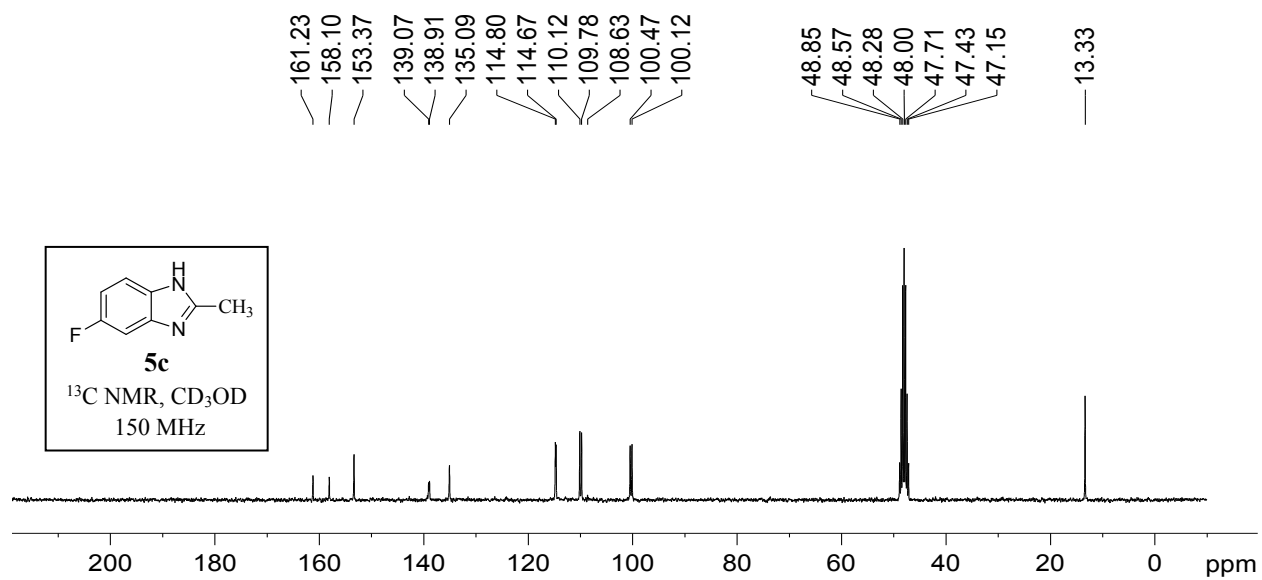


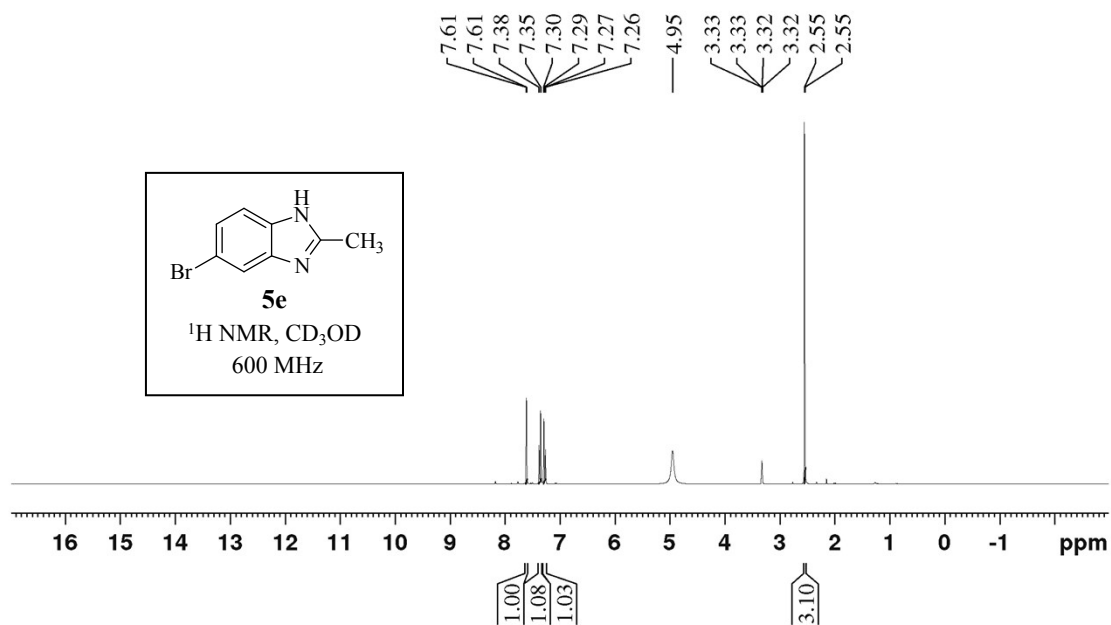
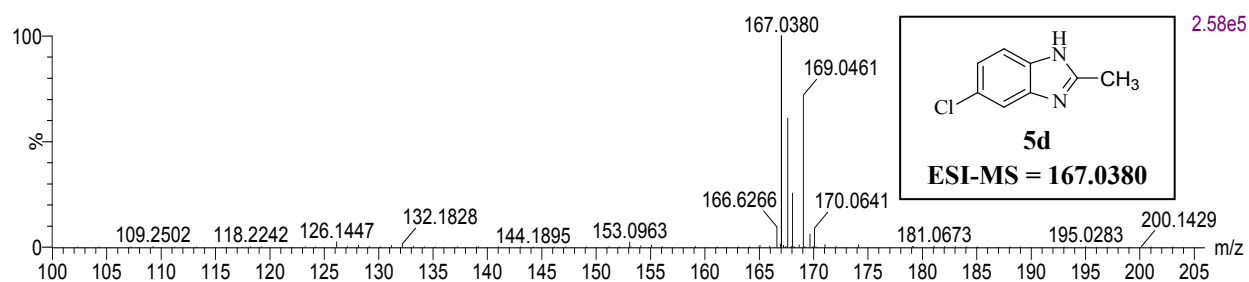
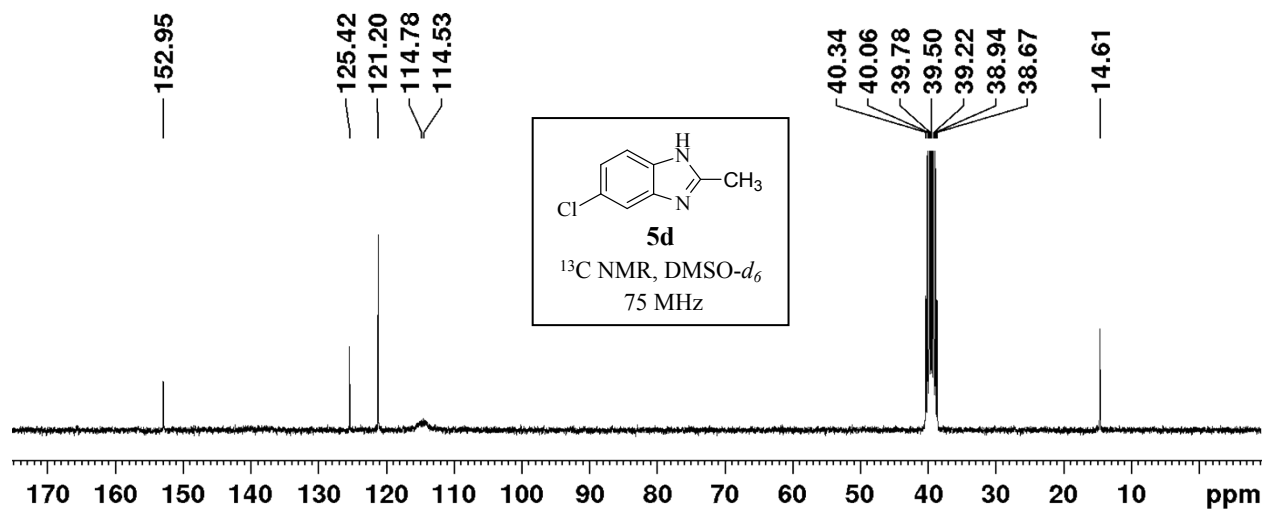


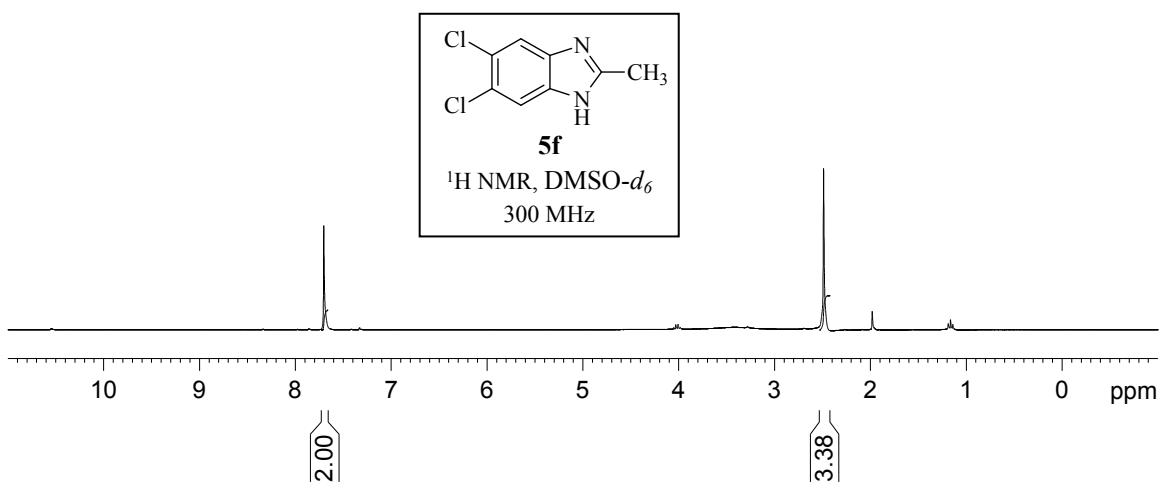
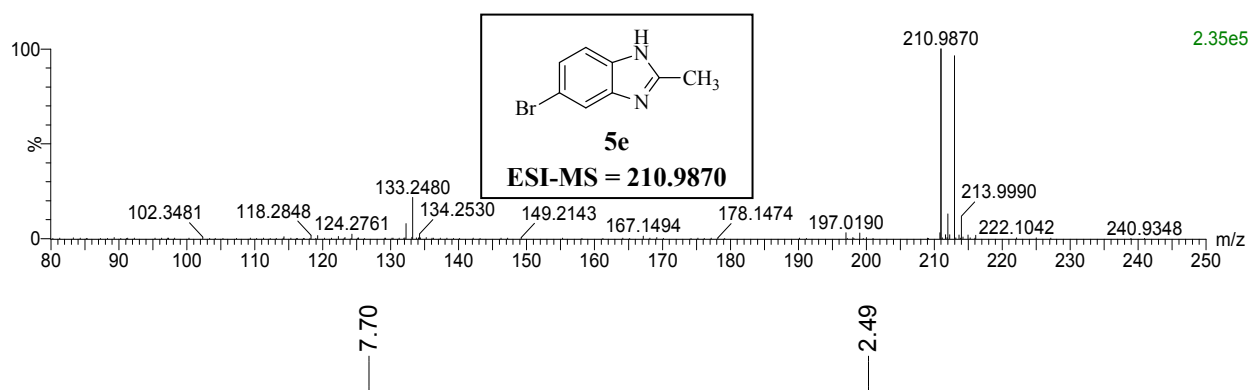
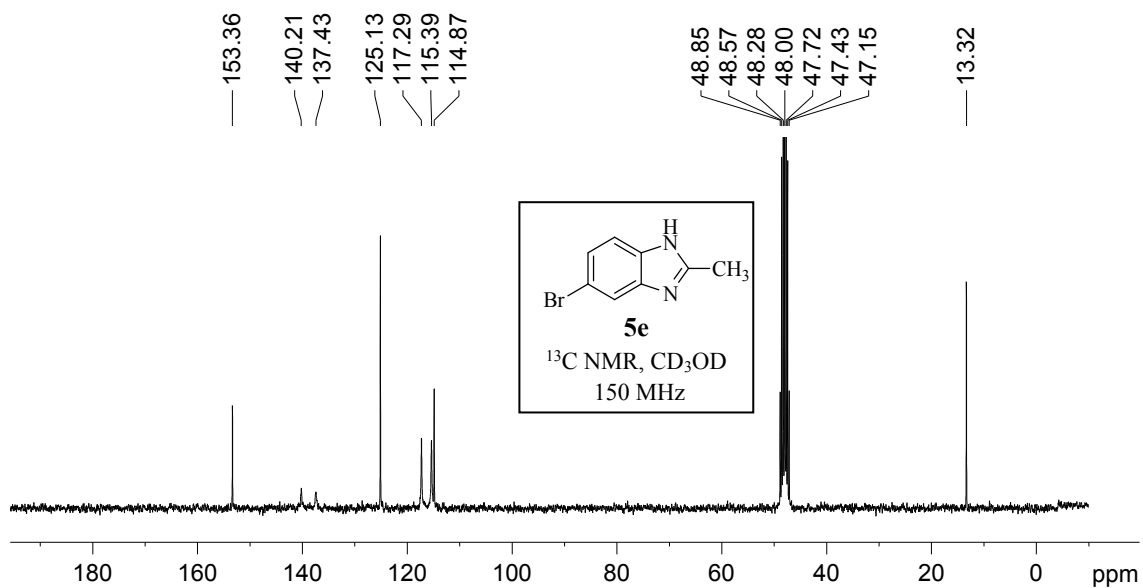


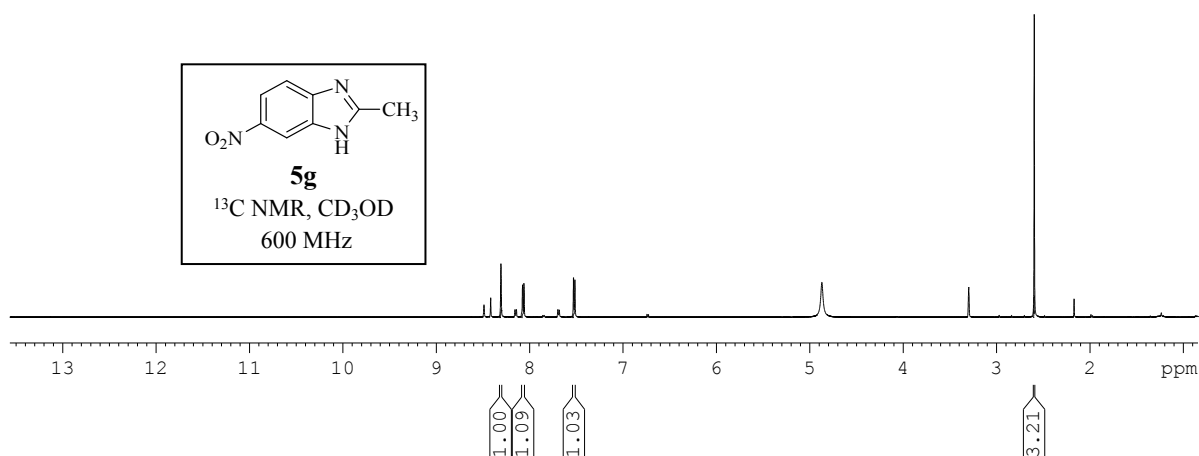
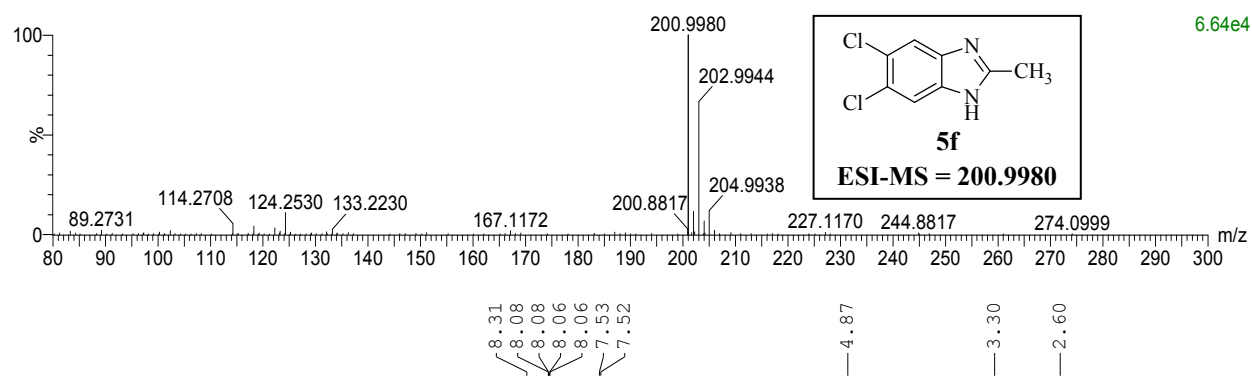
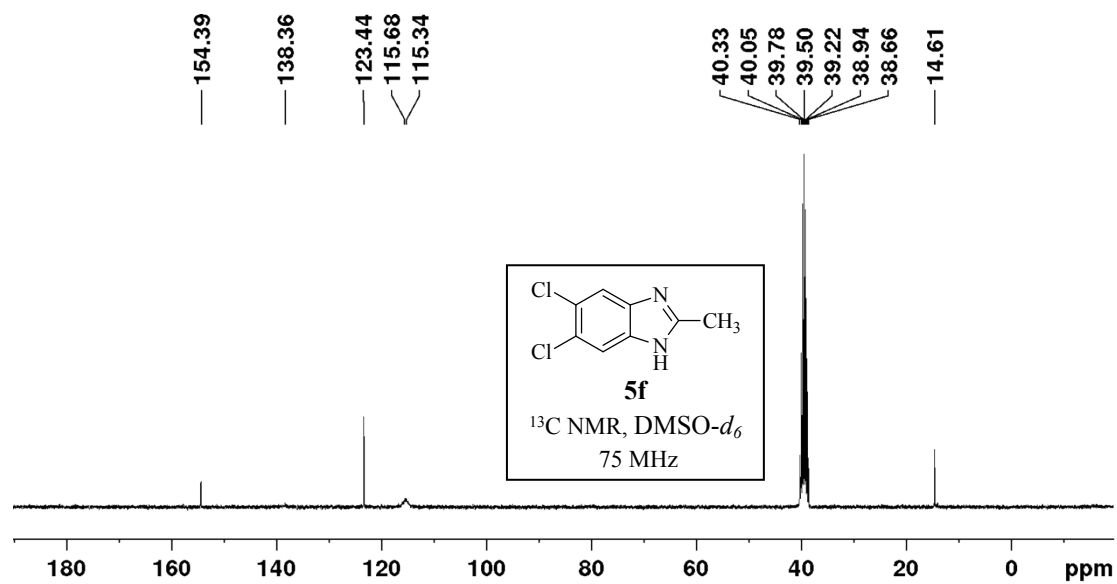


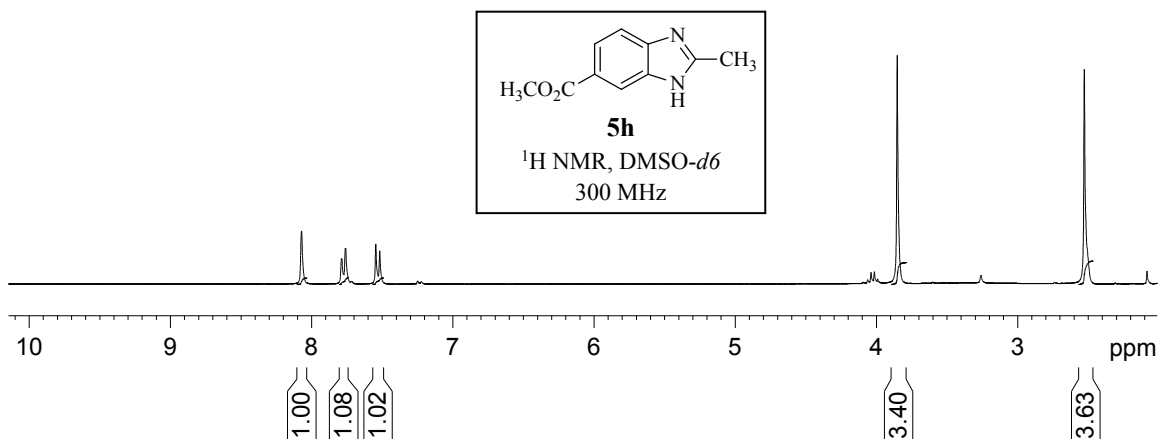
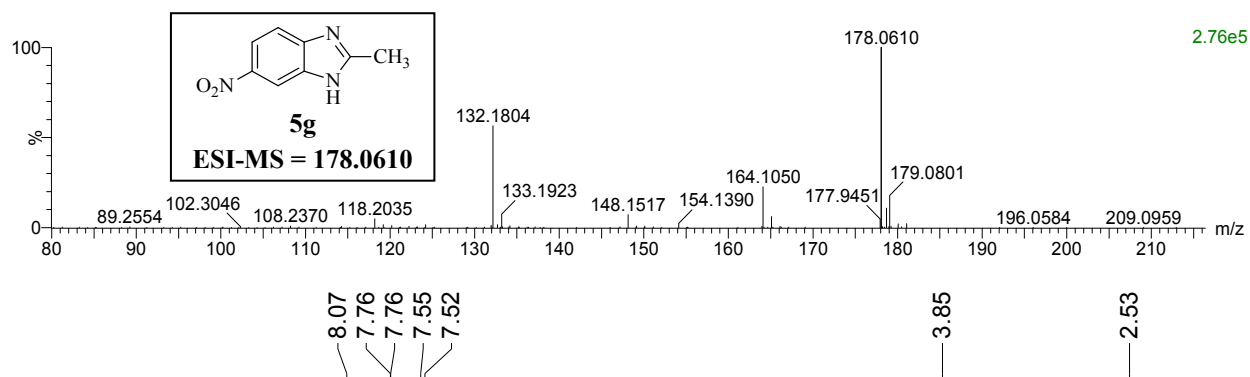
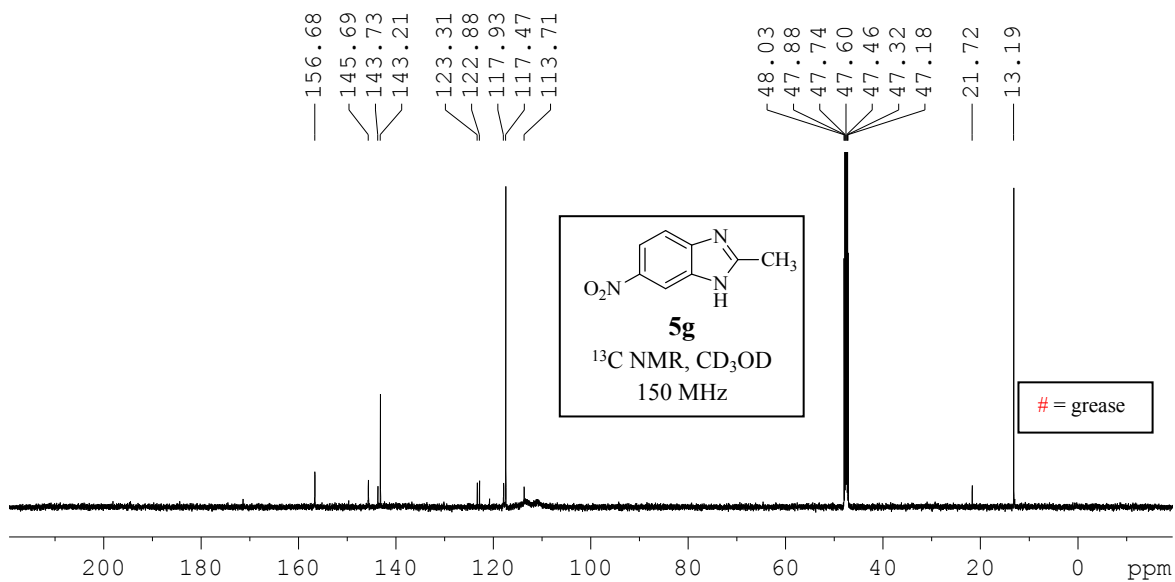


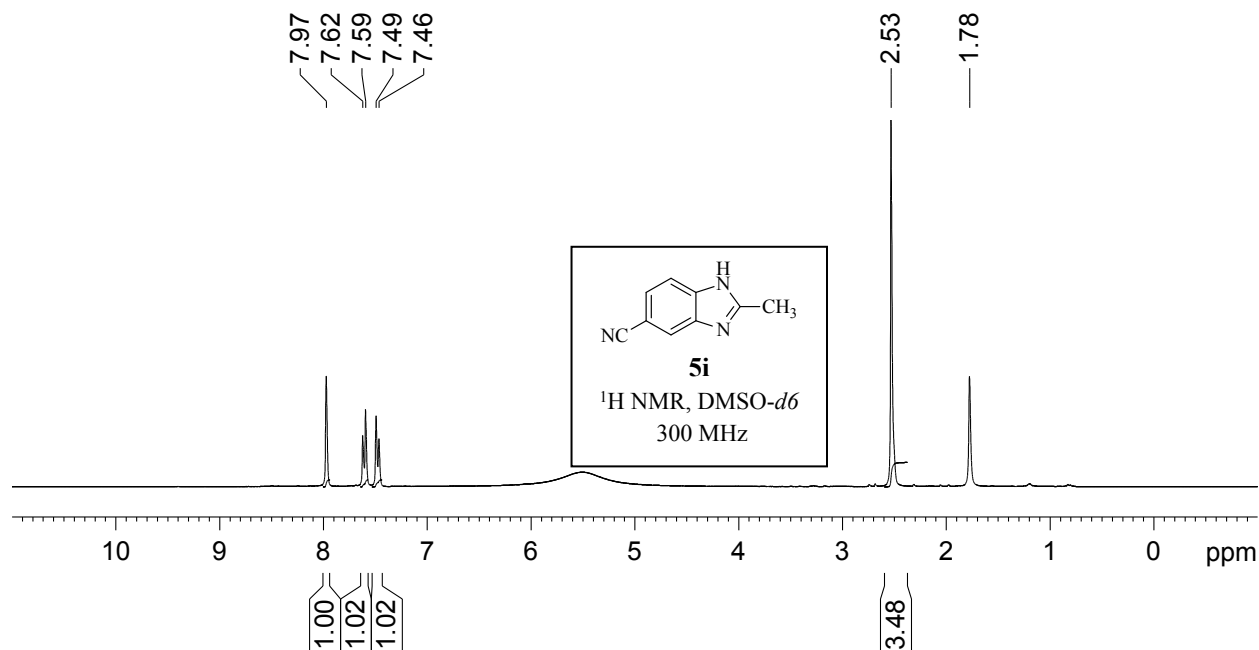
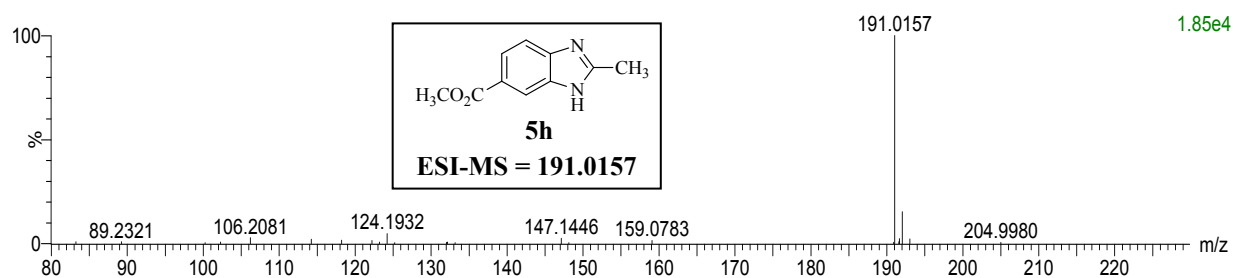
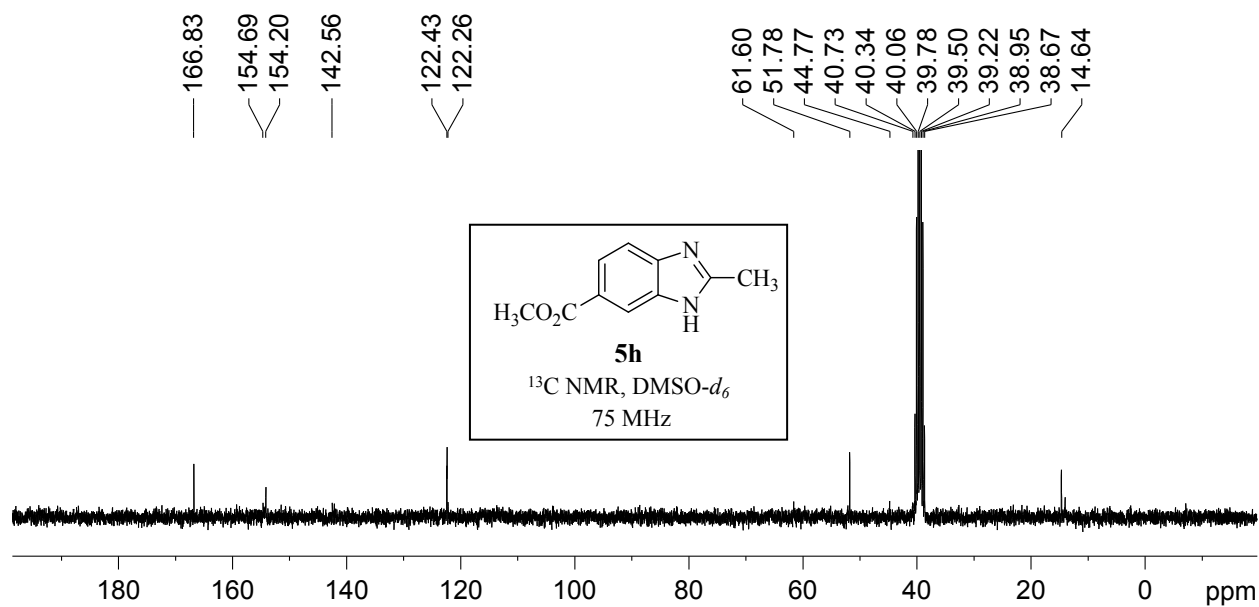


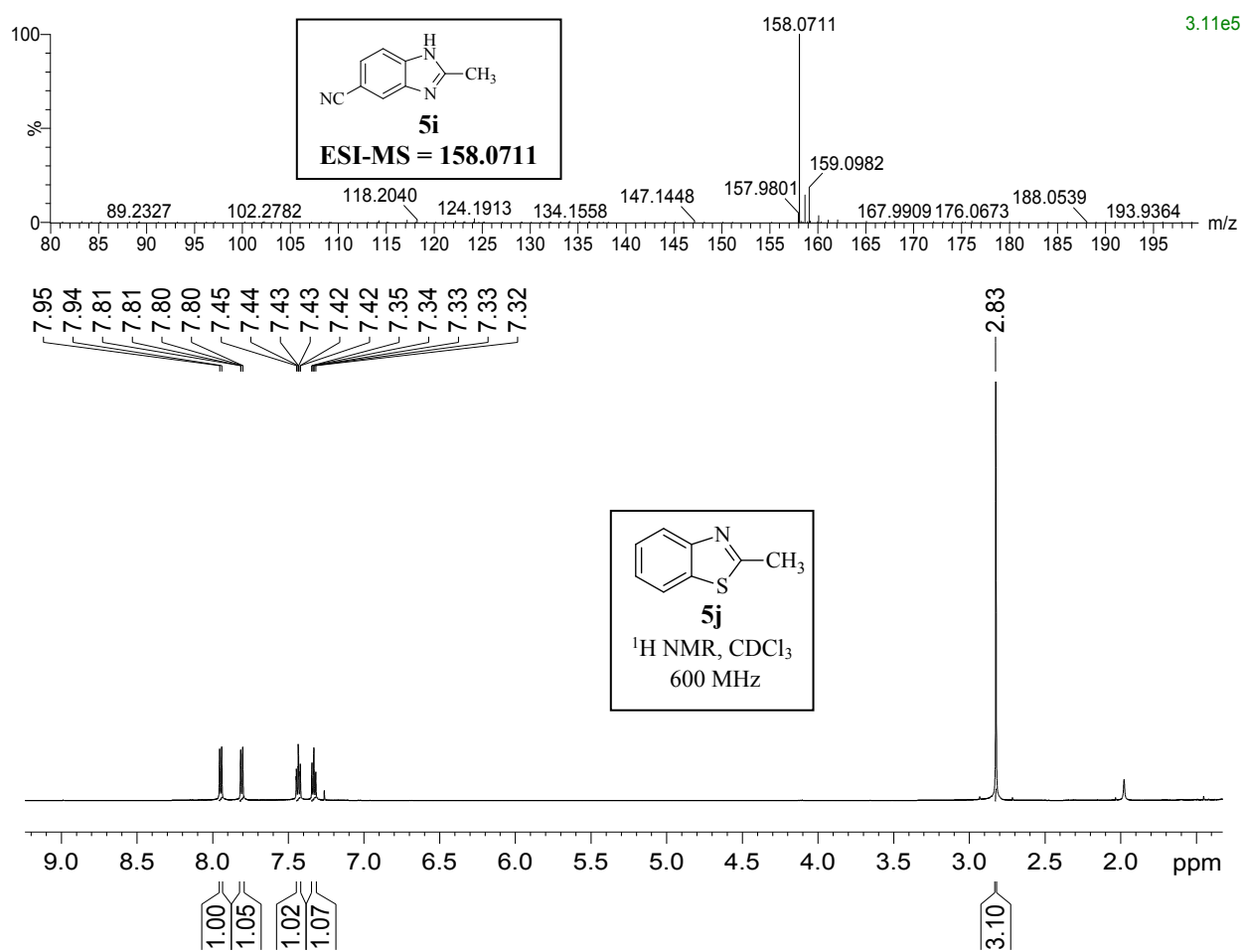
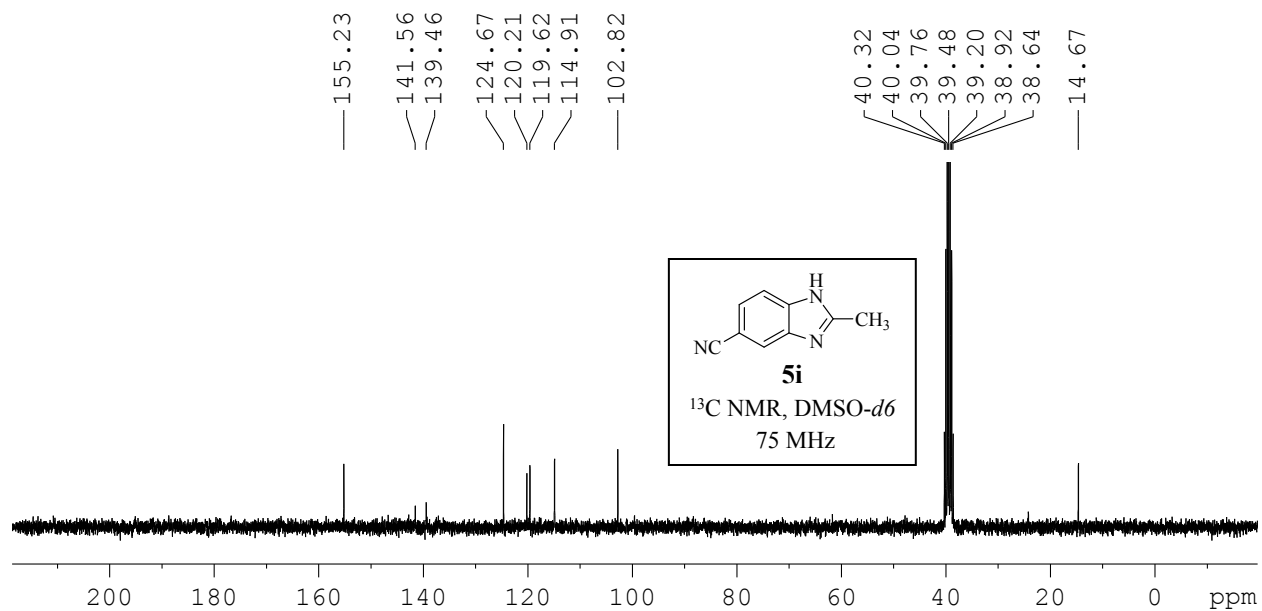


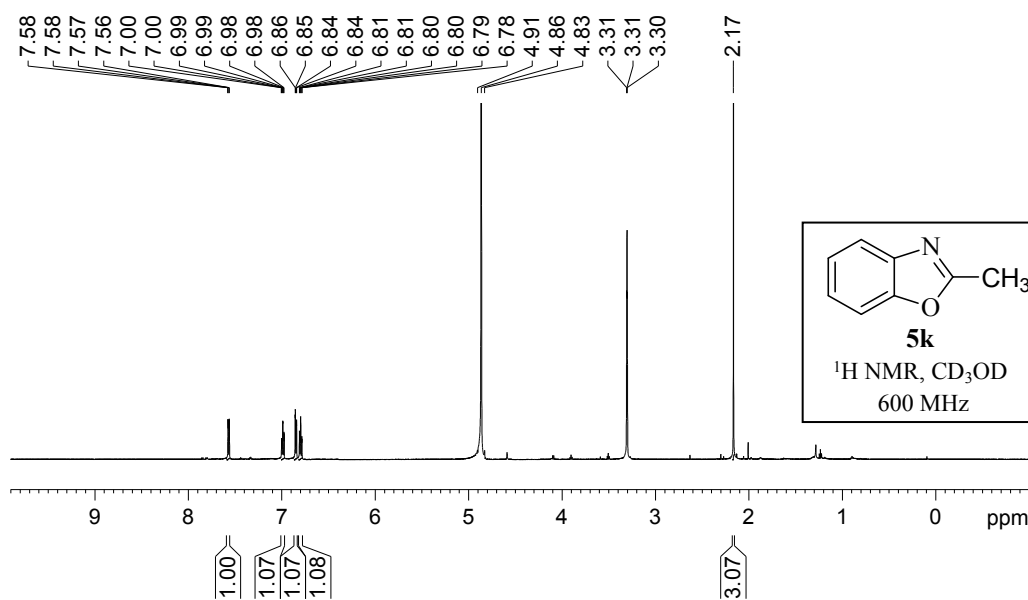
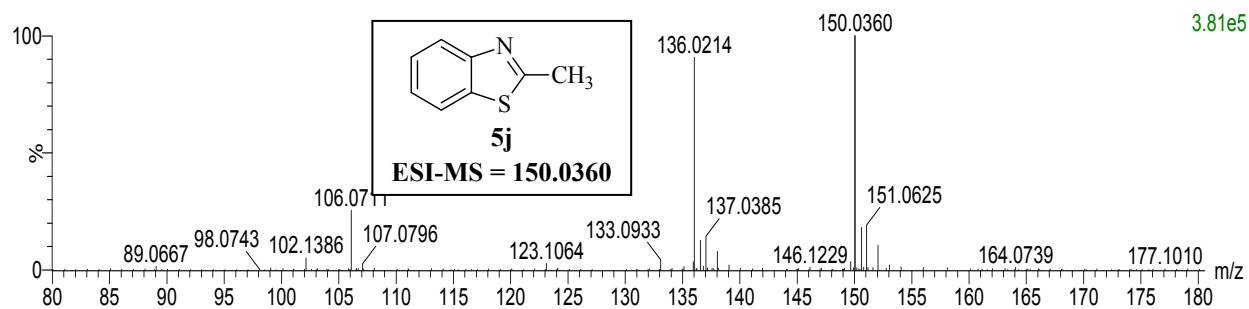
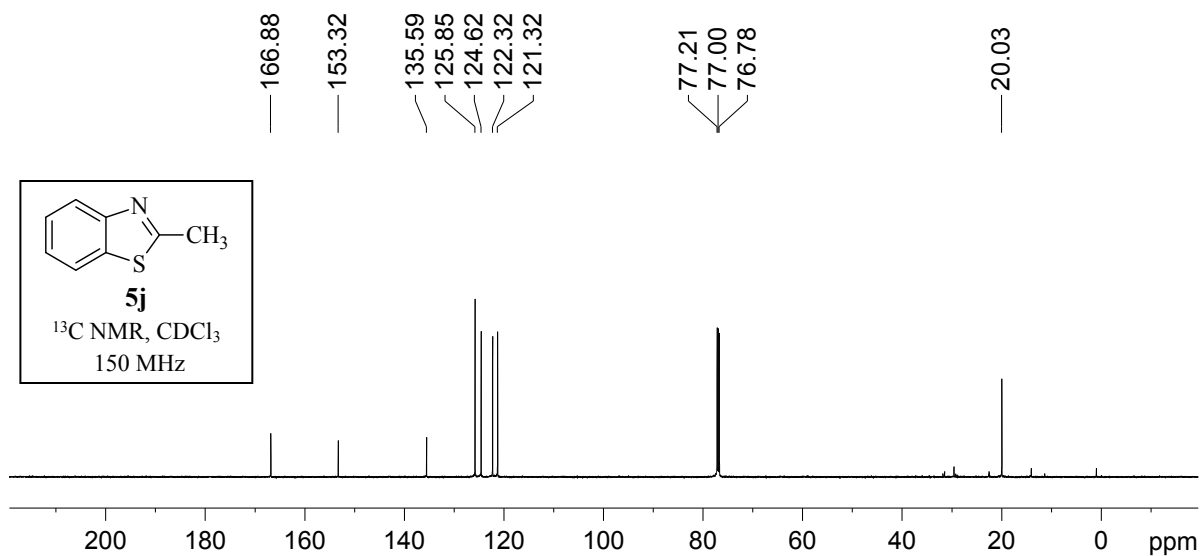


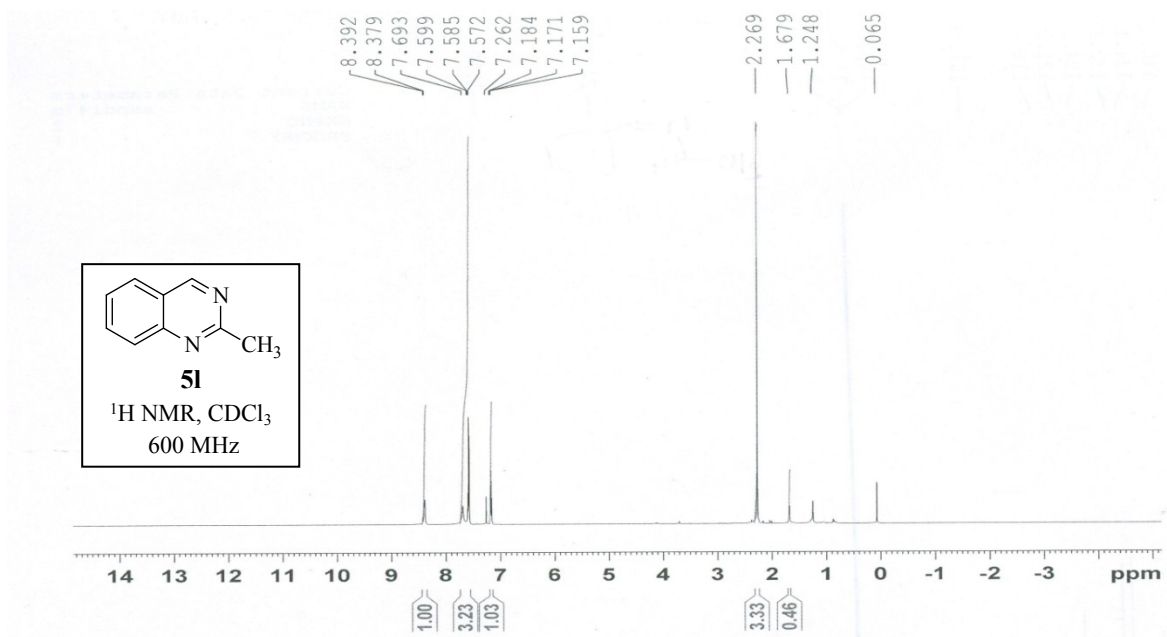
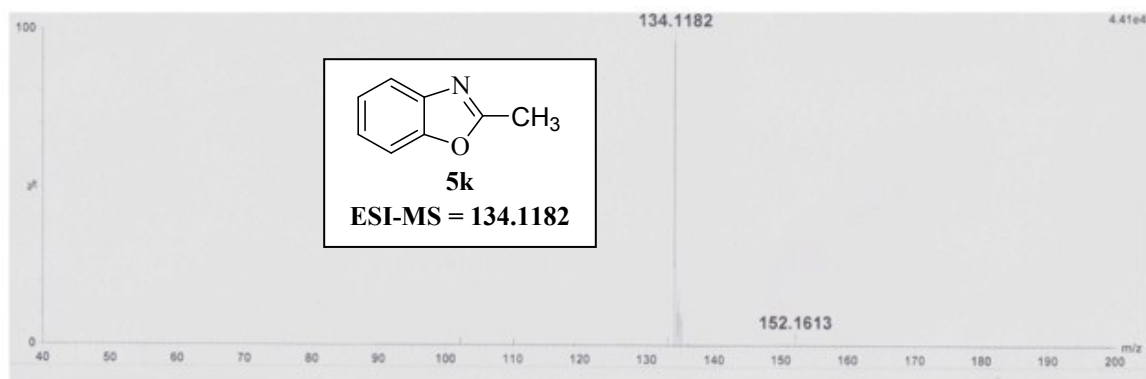
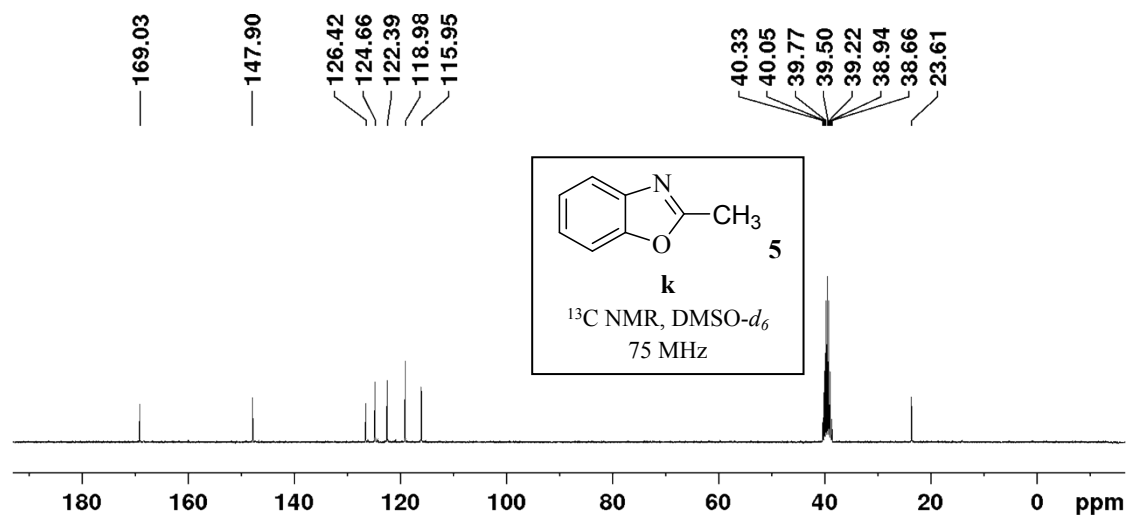


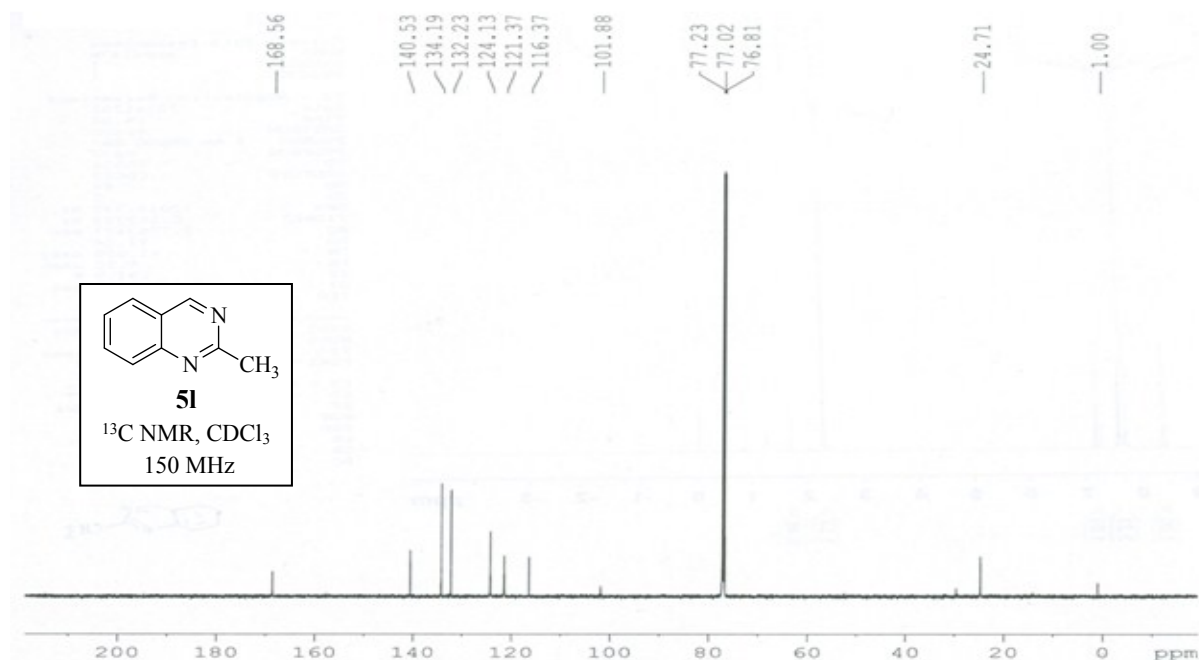












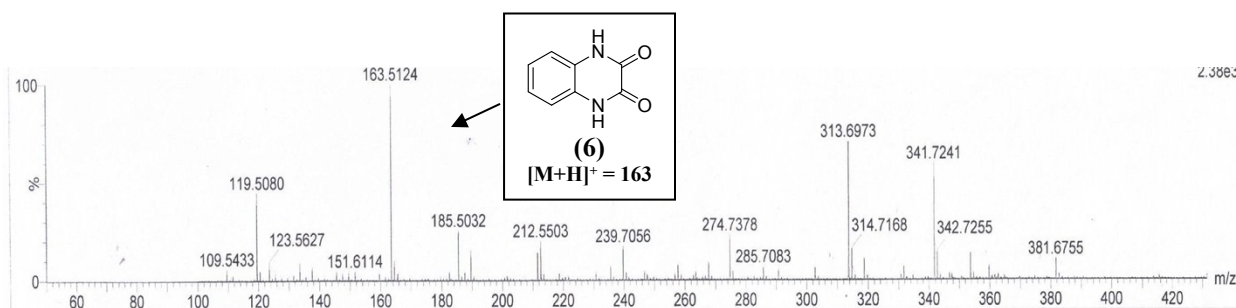
Scheme 2: The compound **2a** at gram scale, was prepared according to the general procedure described for **2a** (small scale) starting from 1,2-Phenylenediamine (1.0 gm, 9.259 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (5.8 gm, 46.295 mmol) and 1, 4-dioxane (10 mL) as a solvent were taken in a round bottom. After completion of the reaction and washing the organic part with EtOA:Hexane (50:50) solution afforded 1*H*-benzimidazole (**2a**) as white solid (874 mg, 80%).

Further synthesis of compound **5a** at gram scale was prepared according to the general procedure described for **5a** (small scale) starting from 1,2-Phenylenediamine (1.0 gm, 9.259 mmol), malonic acid (5.78 gm, 55.554 mmol) and 1, 4-dioxane (10 mL) as a solvent were taken in a round bottom flask. After completion of reaction and washing the organic part with EtOA:Hexane (50:50) solution afforded 2-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (**5a**) as white solid (953 mg, 78%).

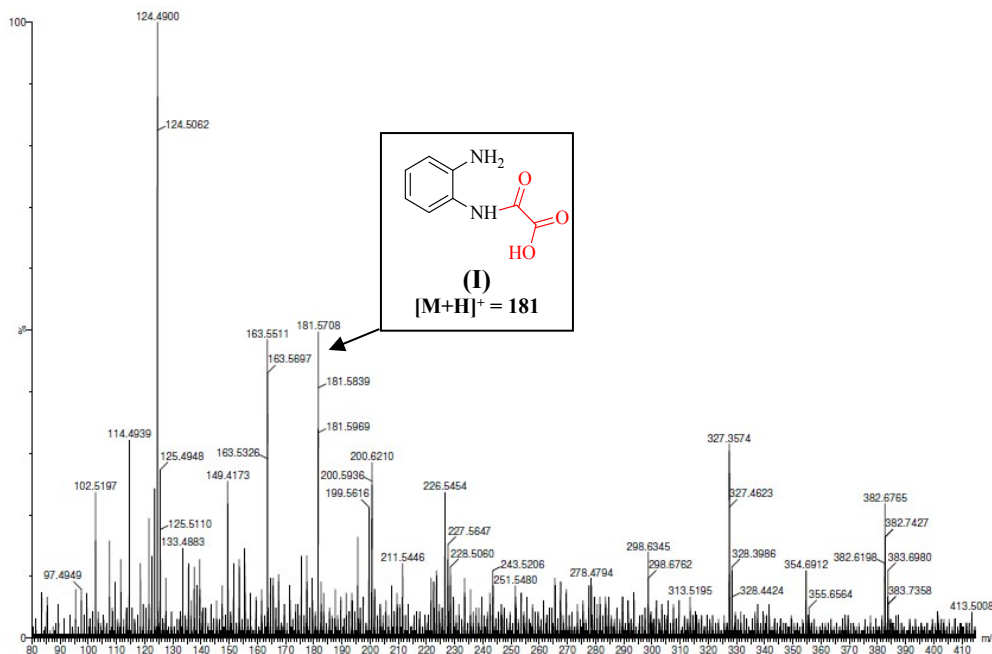
Scheme 3: The compound **6** was synthesised by reported method 1,2-Phenylenediamine (100 mg, 0.9259 mmol), oxalic acid dihydrate (175 mg, 1.3888 mmol) and hydrochloric acid (0.5

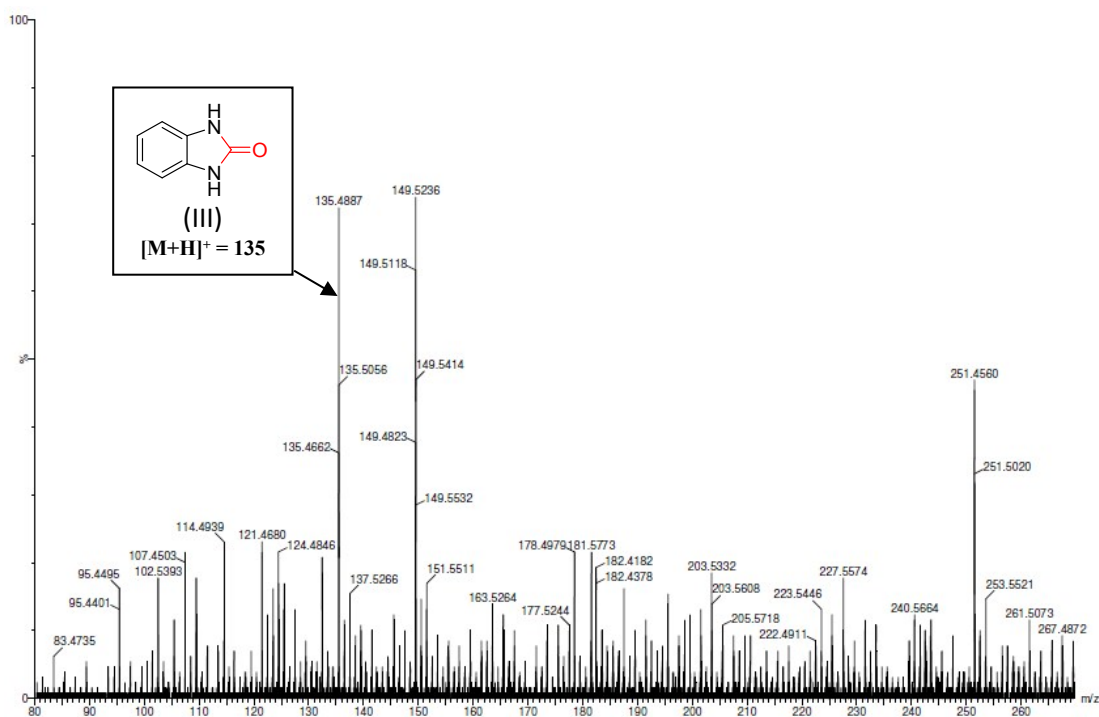
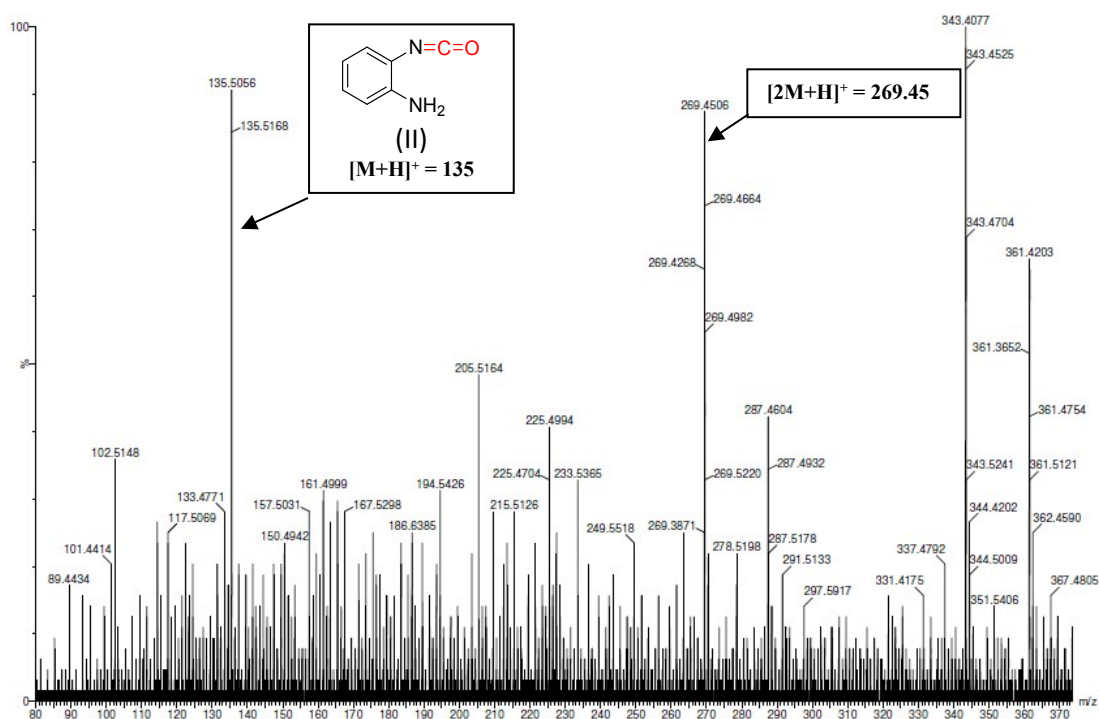
mL) were taken in round bottom flask and refluxed at 100 °C for 8 hrs. After completion of reaction, the brown precipitate was washed with distilled water to afford the product (90%, 135 mg) and confirmed by ESI-MS.

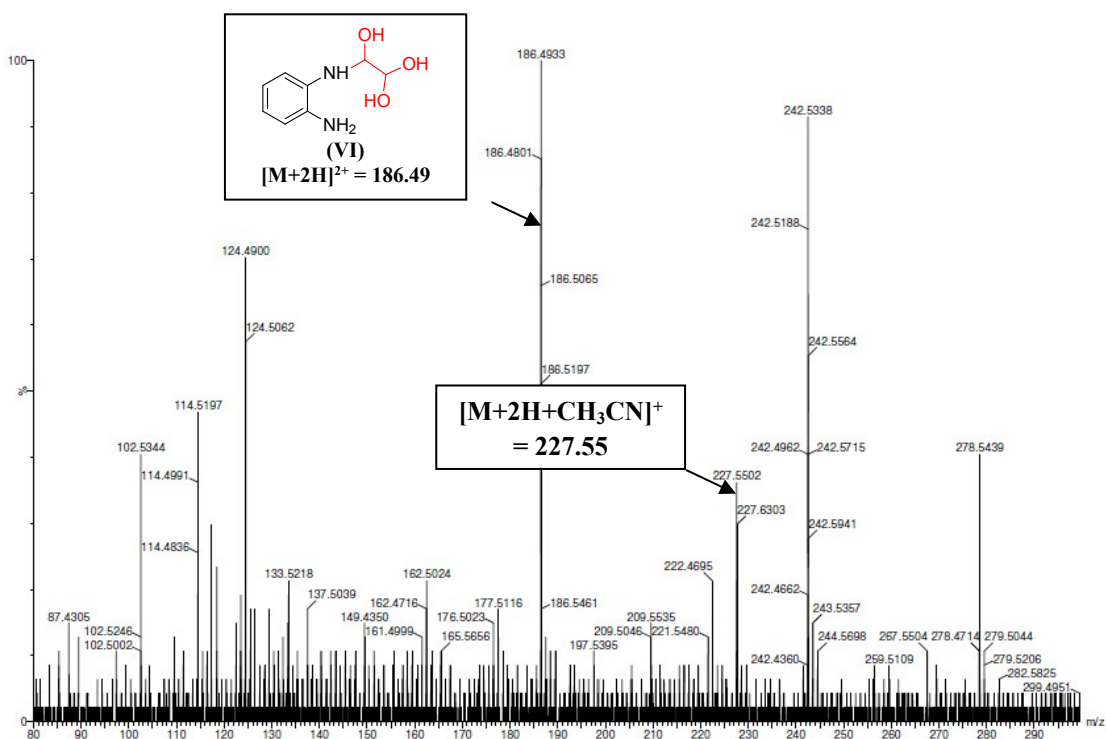
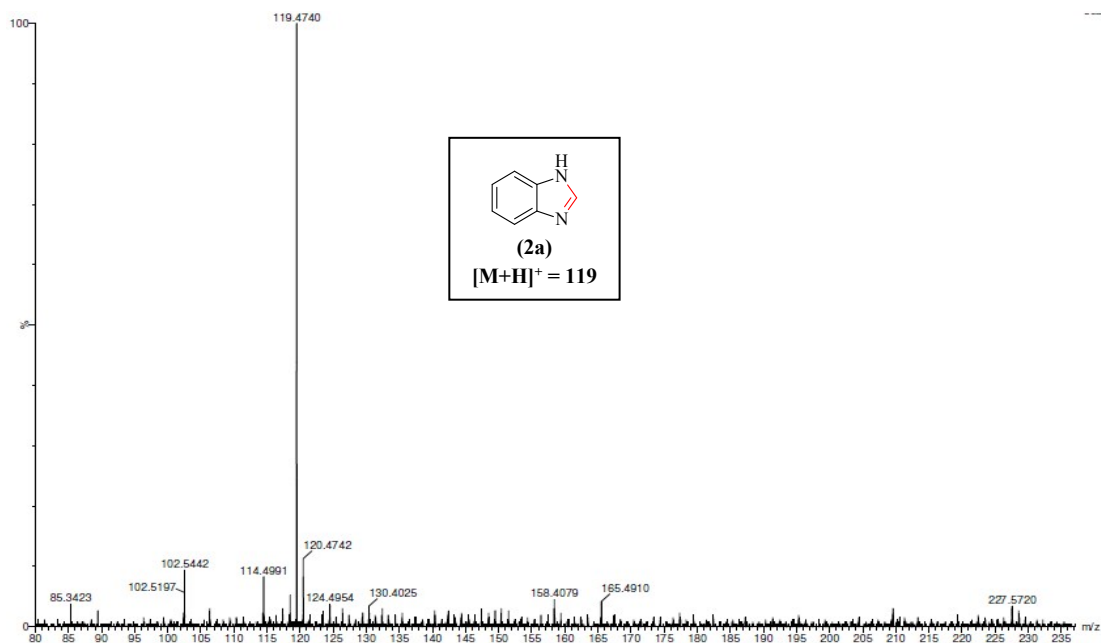
ESI-MS (m/z): $[M+H]^+$ calcd. for $C_8H_7N_2O_2$ is 163.0508 obsd. = 163.5124.

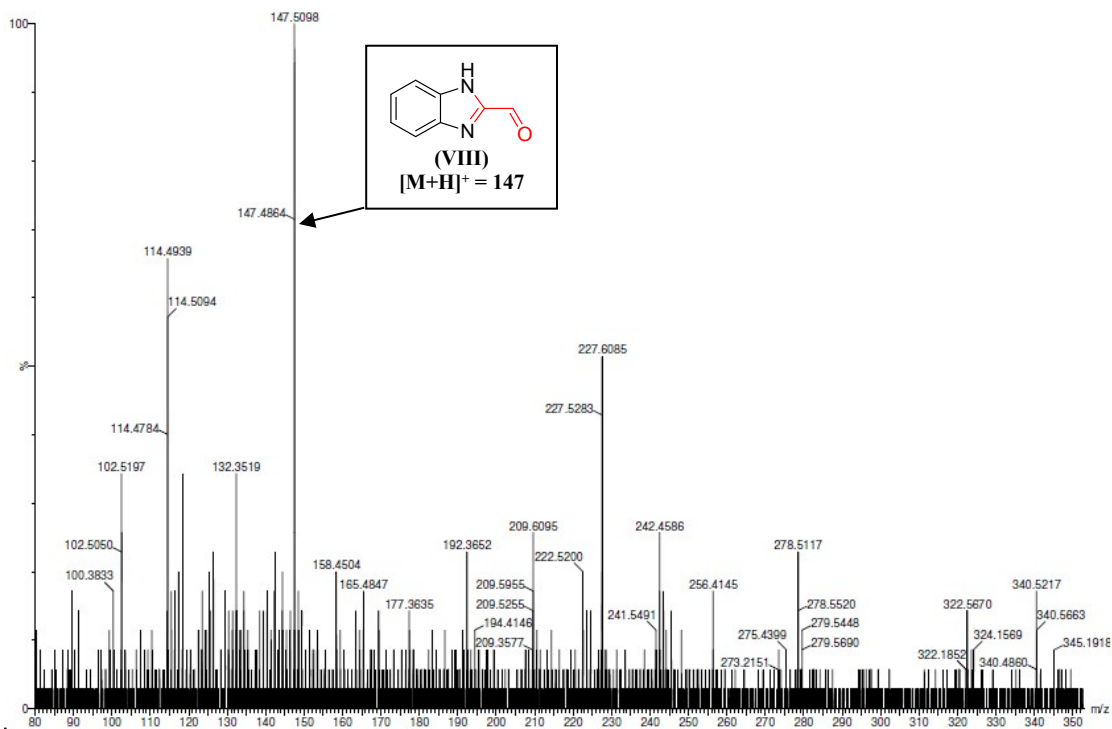
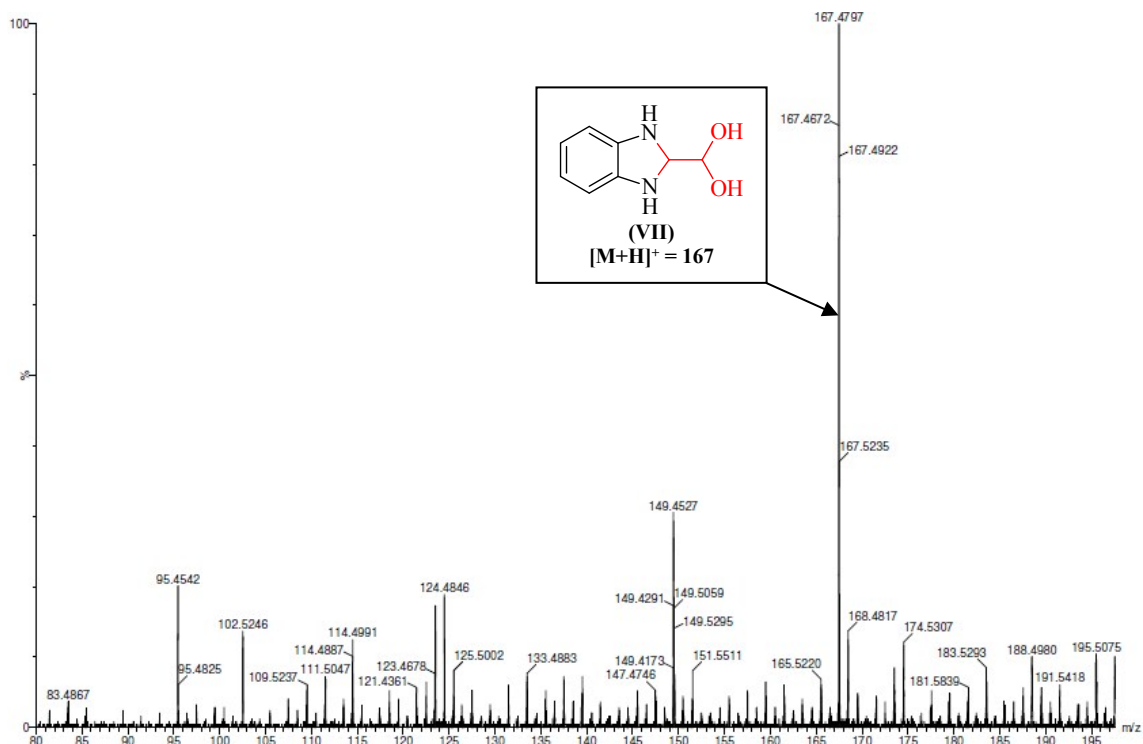


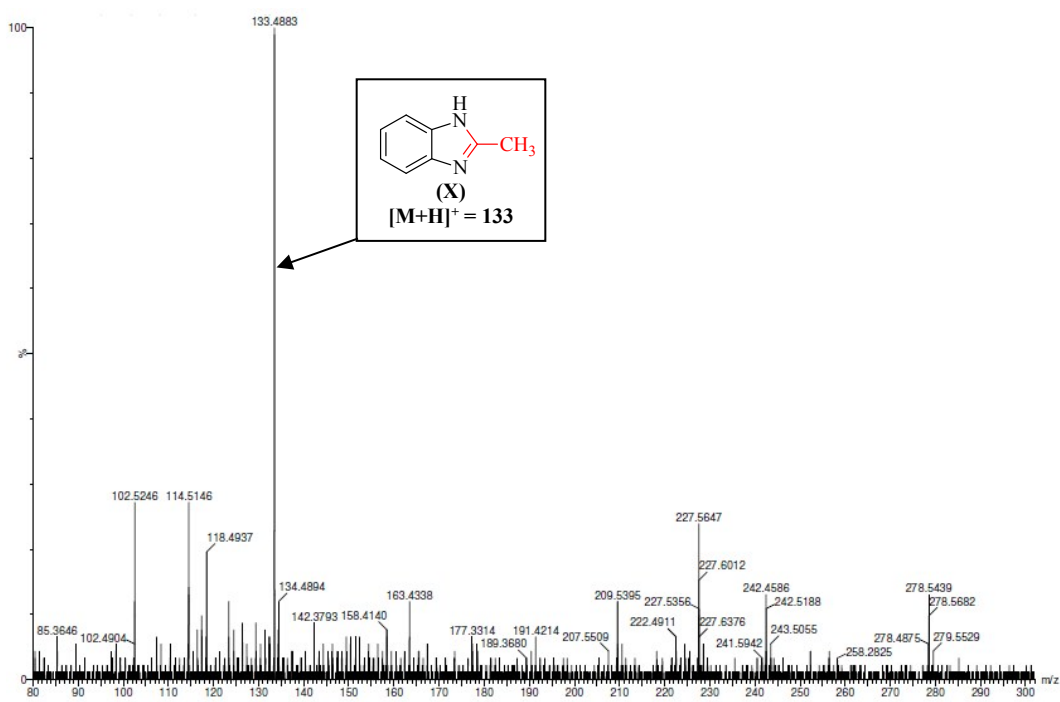
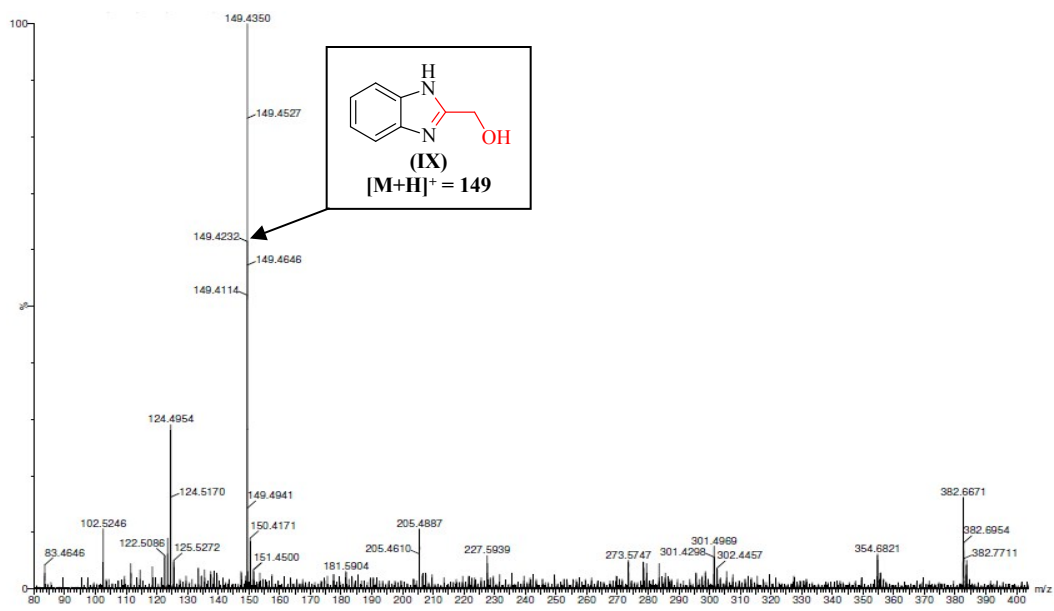
Scheme 4:











We have performed several LC-MS analyses at different interval of time to identify the intermediate and steps involve in the reaction. The LC-MS chromatogram of the reaction mixture in which retention time at 7.20 and 1.44 represent the mass 167 (**VII**) and 119 (**2a**). It was observed that the peak corresponds to retention time 7.20 getting reduced with time and the peak corresponds to retention time 1.44 was formed accordingly. The corresponding mass spectra revealed that the compound **VII** could be a possible intermediate which finally leads to the formation of product **2a** (Figure 1 and 2).

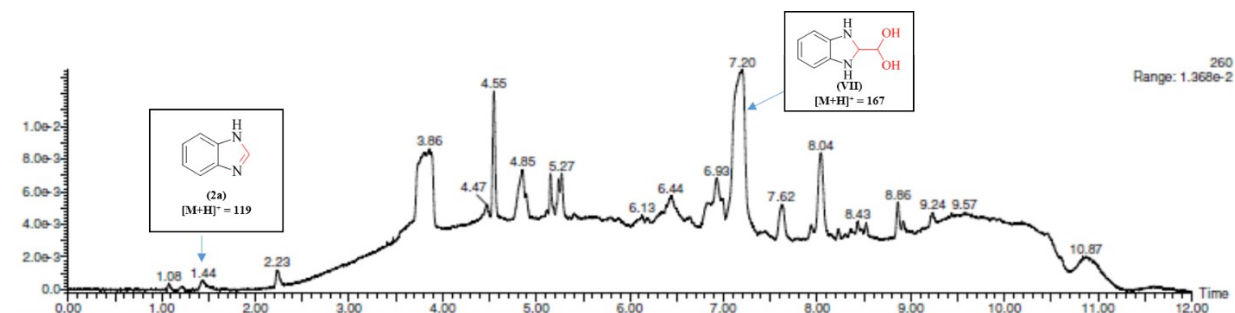


Figure 1.

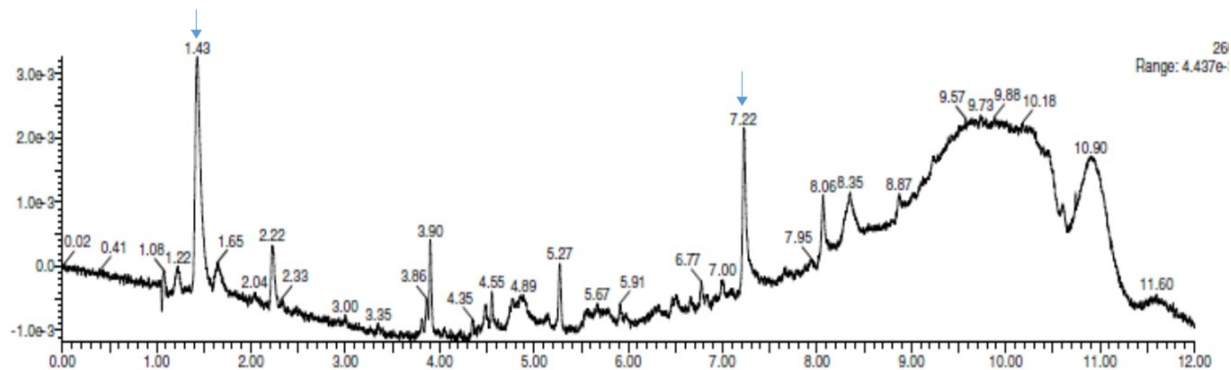


Figure 2.

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