10.1071/CH09517_AC CSIRO 2010 Australian Journal of Chemistry, 2010, 63(6), 946-957 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Synthesis and Preliminary Pharmacological Evaluation of Aryl Dithiolethiones with Cyclooxygenase-2 Selective Inhibitory Activity and Hydrogen-Sulfide-Releasing Properties

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Representative procedure for the MOM protection of phenols

Acetyl chloride (5.00 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of dimethoxymethane (5 mmol), and ZnCl_2 (0.02 mmol) in toluene (6 mL). The reaction was stirred at rt for 4 h, and then the phenol (1.00 mmol) was added followed by *N*-ethyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropylamine (1.50 mmol). The reaction was then stirred at rt overnight. Water was added and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (× 2) and the combined organic extracts washed with 1 M NaOH (× 3), sat. NaHCO₃ (× 1), water (× 2), brine (× 1), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated.

1-[4-(Methoxymethoxy)-3,5-dimethylphenyl]ethanone 5b

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone^[1] (**4b**). Flash chromatography (10% EtOAc/petrol) afforded **5b** as a yellow oil (427 mg, 68%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 2.25 (s, 6H, ArC*H*₃ × 2), 2.46 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.52 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.92 (s, 2H, CH₂), 7.56 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 16.7 (Ar*C*H₃), 26.1 (COCH₃), 57.1 (OCH₃), 98.8 (CH₂), 129.1, 131.1, 133.0, 158.9 (6C, Ar), 197.0 ppm (CO); IR v 2925, 1677, 1596, 1155, 959, 769 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ Calc. for C₁₂H₁₇O₃: 209.1172, found: 209.1170.

1-[3,5-Diethyl-4-(methoxymethoxy)phenyl]ethanone 5*c*

The title compound was prepared the representative procedure starting from 1-(3,5-diethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethanone^[2] (**4c**). Flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol) afforded **5c** as a yellow oil (691 mg, 46%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H, CH₂CH₃ × 2), 2.56 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.71 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, CH₂CH₃ × 2), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.97 (s, 2H, OCH₂O), 7.68 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.5 (CH₂CH₃), 23.3 (CH₂CH₃), 26.5 (COCH₃), 57.3 (OCH₃), 99.7 (OCH₂O), 127.5, 133.5, 137.4, 158.3 (6C, Ar), 197.6 ppm (CO); IR v 2968, 1679, 1357, 1288, 1157, 1072, 882 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₄H₂₁O₃: 237.1485, found 237.1485.

1-[3,5-Diisopropyl-4-(methoxymethoxy)phenyl]ethanone 5d

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-[4-hydroxy-3,5-diisopropyl)phenyl]ethanone^[3] (**4d**). Flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol) afforded **5d** as a yellow oil (206 mg, 37%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.26 (d, J = 7 Hz, 12H, CH(CH₃)₂× 2), 2.59 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.36 (septet, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, (CH₃)₂CH × 2) 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH₃),

4.96 (s, 2H, CH₂), 7.73 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 23.8 (CH(*C*H₃)₂) 26.5 (CO*C*H₃), 26.6 (*C*H(CH₃)₂), 62.1 (OCH₃), 99.1 (CH₂), 124.7, 133.6, 142.0, 158.9 (6C, Ar), 197.5 ppm (CO); IR v 2963, 1680, 1300, 1192, 1006, 798 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₆H₂₅O₃: 256.1798, found 265.1798.

1-[3,5-di-(tert-Butyl)-4-(methoxymethoxy)phenyl]ethanone 5e

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-[3,5-di-(*tert*-butyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]ethanone^[4] (**4e**). Flash chromatography (10% EtOAc/petrol) and recrystallisation from EtOH/water afforded **5e** as a colourless solid (1.67 g, 71%). mp 60-61 °C; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 0.88 (s, 18H, (C(CH₃)₃)× 2), 1.98 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.06 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.33 (s, 2H, CH₂), 7.32 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 26.4 (COCH₃), 31.8 (*C*(CH₃)₃), 35.8 (C(*C*H₃)₃), 57.4 (CH₃), 100.7 (CH₂), 127.0, 132.1, 144.7, 159.0 (6C, Ar), 197.8 ppm (CO); IR v 2956, 2873, 1762, 1676, 1589, 1227, 881 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ Calc. for C₁₈H₂₈NaO₃: 315.1931, found 315.1931; Anal. Calc. for C₁₈H₂₈O₃: C 73.93, H 9.65. Found: C 73.92, H 9.70%.

Representative procedure for the etherification of phenols

Iodoalkane (2.50 mmol) was added to a mixture of anhydrous potassium carbonate (1.70 mmol) and the phenol (1.00 mmol). The mixture was heated at reflux for 18 h. Diethyl ether was then added to the cooled solution and the organic phase washed with water (\times 2), brine (\times 1), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated.

1-(4-Methoxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone **9b2**^[5]

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone^[1] (**4b**) and iodomethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol), **9b2** was obtained as a yellow oil (1.19 g, 70%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 2.21 (s, 6H, ArC*H*₃ × 2), 2.44 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.65 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.53 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 15.9 (ArCH₃), 26.1 (COCH₃), 59.2 (OCH₃), 129.0, 130.7, 132.5, 160.9 (6C, Ar), 197.1 ppm (CO); IR v 2940, 1674, 1591, 1482, 1092, 874 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₁H₁₅O₂: 179.1067, found 179.1066.

1-(4-Ethoxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone 9b3^[6]

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone^[1] (**4b**) and iodoethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol), **9b3** was obtained as a yellow oil (94% 1.08 g). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.30 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃), 2.27 (s, 6H, ArCH₃ × 2), 2.50 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.84 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 7.59 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 15.6, 16.3 (ArCH₃,CH₂CH₃), 26.3 (COCH₃), 67.8 (CH₂), 129.1, 131.0, 132.5, 160.3 (6C. Ar), 197.4 ppm (CO); IR v 2980, 2929, 1677, 1306, 1030, 900, 777 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ m/z [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₂H₁₇O₂: 193.1223, found 193.1223.

1-(3,5-Diethyl-4-methoxyphenyl)ethanone 9c2

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(3,5-diethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethanone^[2] (**4c**) and iodomethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol), **9c2** was obtained as a yellow oil (59%, 505 mg). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H, CH₂CH₃), 2.56 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.70 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, CH₂), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.62 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.7 (CH₂CH₃), 22.8 (CH₂), 26.4 (COCH₃), 61.0 (OCH₃), 127.6, 133.3, 137.2, 160.5 (6C, Ar), 197.6 ppm (CO); IR v 2968, 1679, 1595, 1356, 1191, 1164 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+Na]⁺ Calc. for C₁₃H₁₉NaO₂: 229.1199, found 229.1199.

1-[3,5-Diisopropyl-4-methoxyphenyl]ethanone 9d2

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-diisopropylphenyl)ethanone^[3] (**4d**) and iodomethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol), **9d2** was obtained as a yellow oil (46%, 836 mg). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 12H, (CH₃)₂CH × 2), 2.57 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.33 (septet, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H, (CH₃)₂CH × 2), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 7.72 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 23.8 (CH(*C*H₃)₂), 26.4 (COCH₃), 26.5 (*C*H(CH₃)₂), 62.1 (OCH₃), 124.7, 133.6, 142.0, 158.9 (6C, Ar), 197.5 ppm (CO); IR v 2963, 1680, 1300, 1192, 1006, 798 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₅H₂₃O₂: 235.1693, found 235.1693.

1-[4-Ethoxy-3,5-diisopropylphenyl]ethanone 9d3

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-(4-hydroxy-3,5-diisopropylphenyl)ethanone (**4d**) and iodoethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol) and recrystallisation from EtOH/water, **9d3** was obtained as a yellow oil (72%, 772 mg). mp 81-82 °C; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.26 (d, J = 7 Hz, 12H, CH(CH₃)₂× 2), 1.47 (t, J = 7 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 2.59 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.34 (septet, J = 7 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂× 2), 3.84 (q, J = 7 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 7.73 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 15.8 (CH₂CH₃), 24.0 (CH(CH₃)₂), 26.5 (COCH₃), 26.7 (CH(CH₃)₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 133.6, 142.3, 144.7, 158.0 (6C, Ar), 197.8 ppm (CO); IR v 2963, 1680, 1462, 1192, 1007, 973, 816, 730 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₆H₂₅O₂: 249.1849, found 249.1850.

1-[3,5-di-(tert-Butyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]ethanone 9e2

The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-[3,5-di-(*tert*-butyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]ethanone^[4] (**4e**) and iodomethane. After flash chromatography (10% EtOAc/petrol) and recrystallisation from EtOH/water, **9e3** was obtained as a colourless solid (2.68 g, 82%). mp 52-53 °C (lit.^[7] mp 49-50 °C). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.45 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃× 2), 2.57 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.71 (s, 1H, OCH₃), 7.88 ppm (s, 2H, Ar).

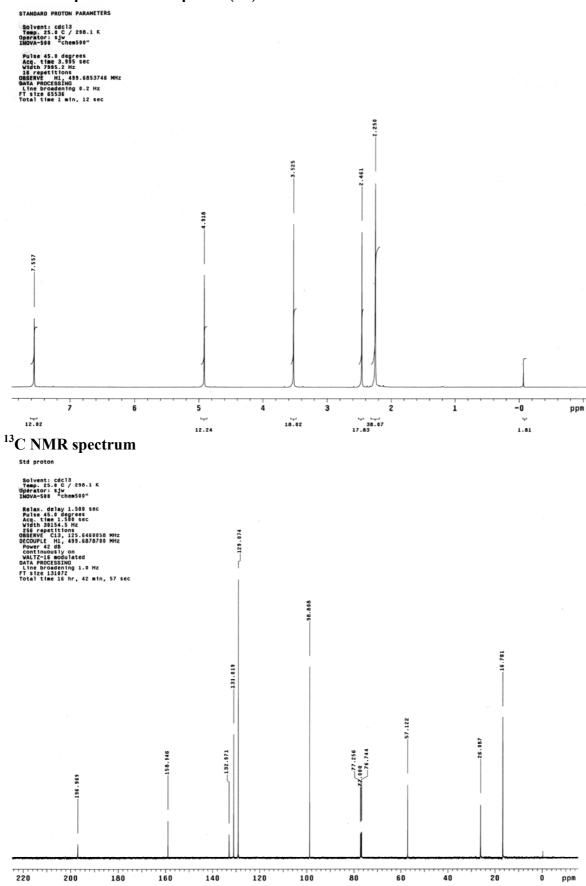
1-[3,5-di-(tert-Butyl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]ethanone 9e3

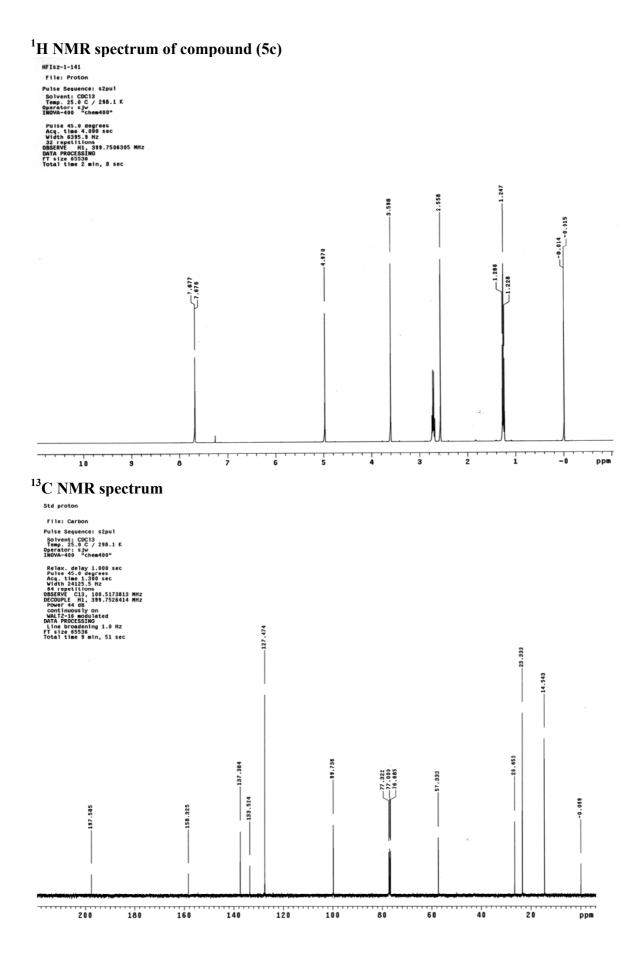
The title compound was prepared by the representative procedure starting from 1-[3,5-di-(*tert*-butyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]ethanone (**4e**) and iodoethane. After flash chromatography (5% EtOAc/petrol), **9e3** was obtained as a yellow oil (171 mg, 65%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.43 (t, 3H, J = 7 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 1.44 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃× 2), 2.57 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 3.77 (t, 2H, J = 7 Hz, CH₂), 7.78 ppm (s, 2H, Ar); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.8 (CH₂CH₃), 26.4 (COCH₃), 31.8 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.9 (*C*(CH₃)₃), 72.0 (CH₂), 127.1, 131.7, 144.0, 162.6 (6C, Ar), 197.8 ppm (CO); IR v 2963, 1682, 1590, 1298, 1105, 971, 887 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI⁺ *m/z* [M+H]⁺ Calc. for C₁₈H₂₉O₂: 277.2162, found 277.2162; Anal. Calc. for C₁₈H₂₈O₂: C 78.21, H 10.21. Found C 78.24, H 10.20%.

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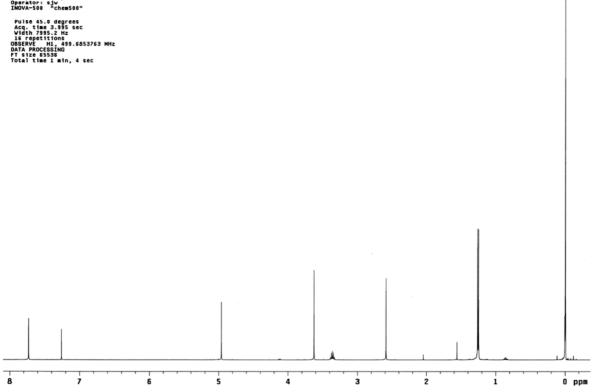
¹H NMR spectrum of compound (5b)



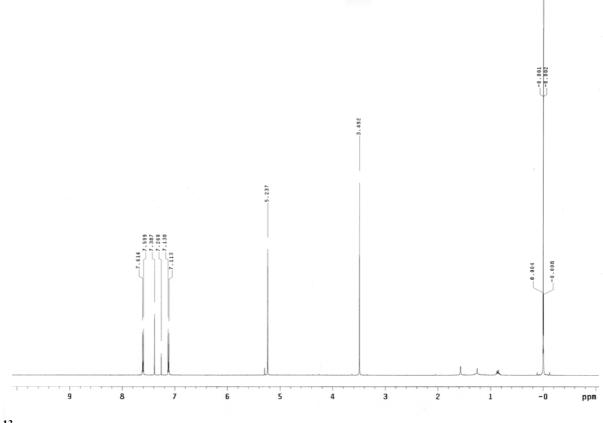


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (5d) standard proton parameters

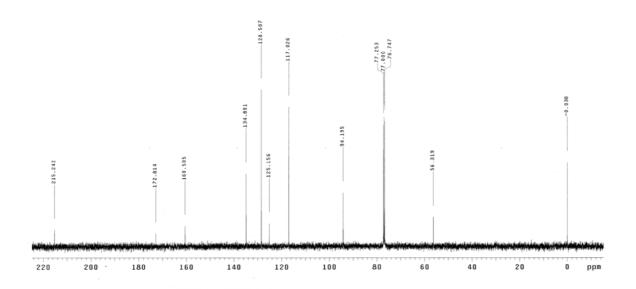
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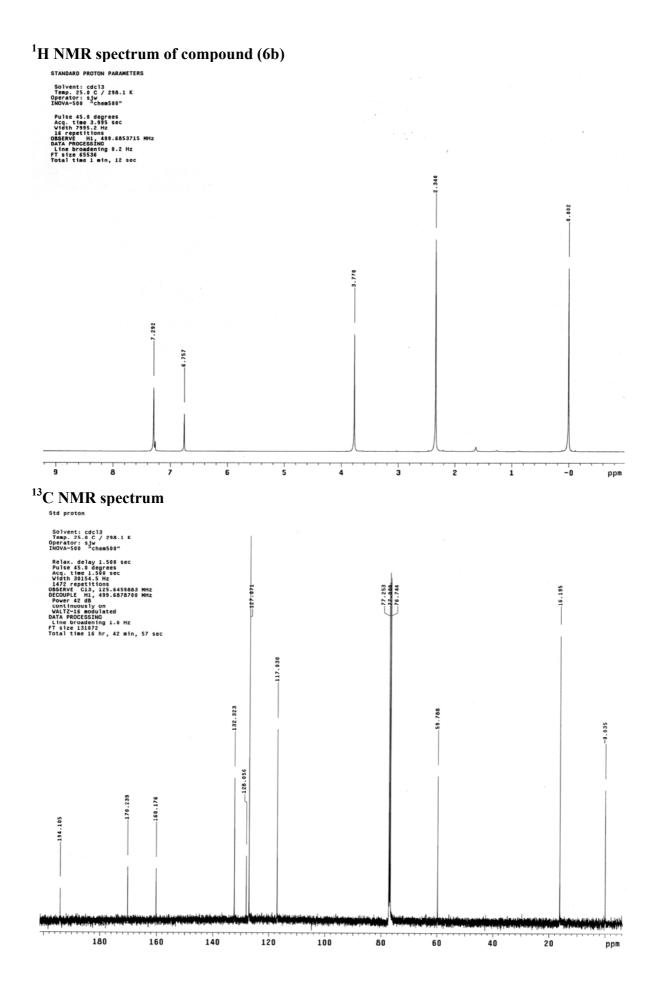


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (6a)

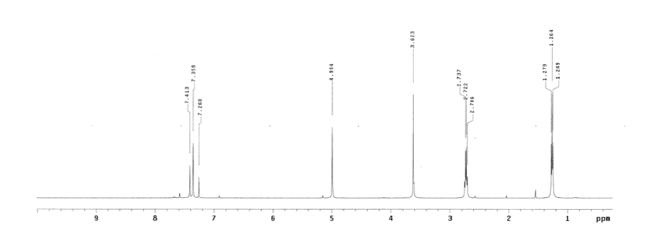




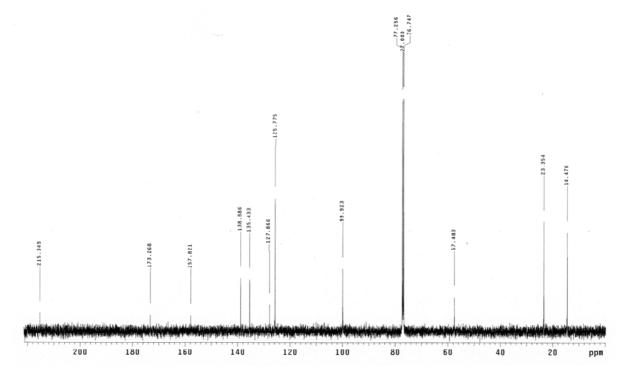


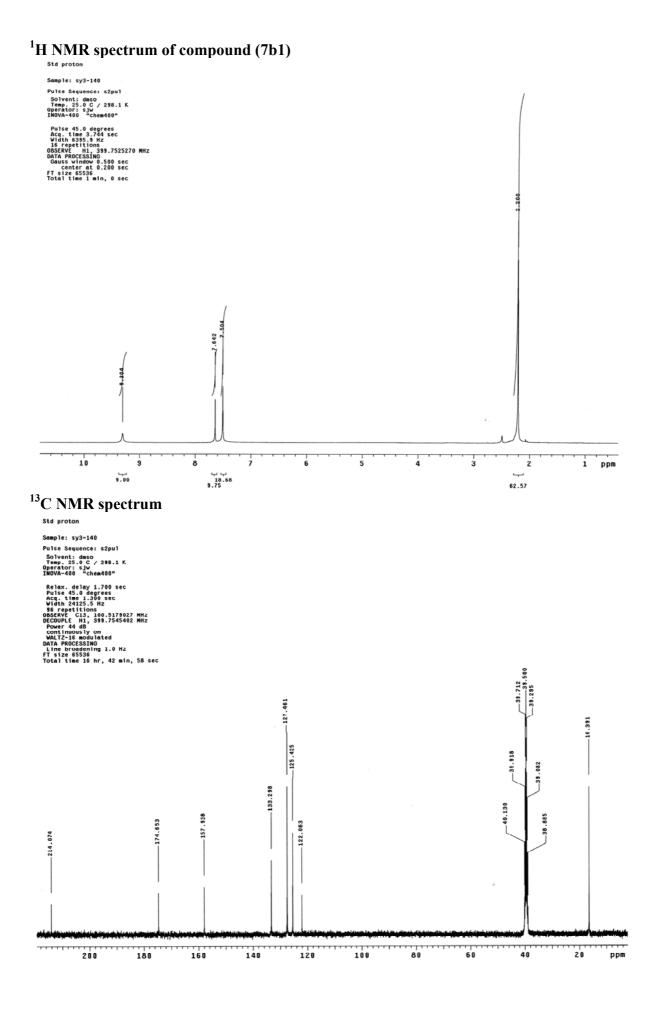


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (6c)



¹³C NMR spectrum

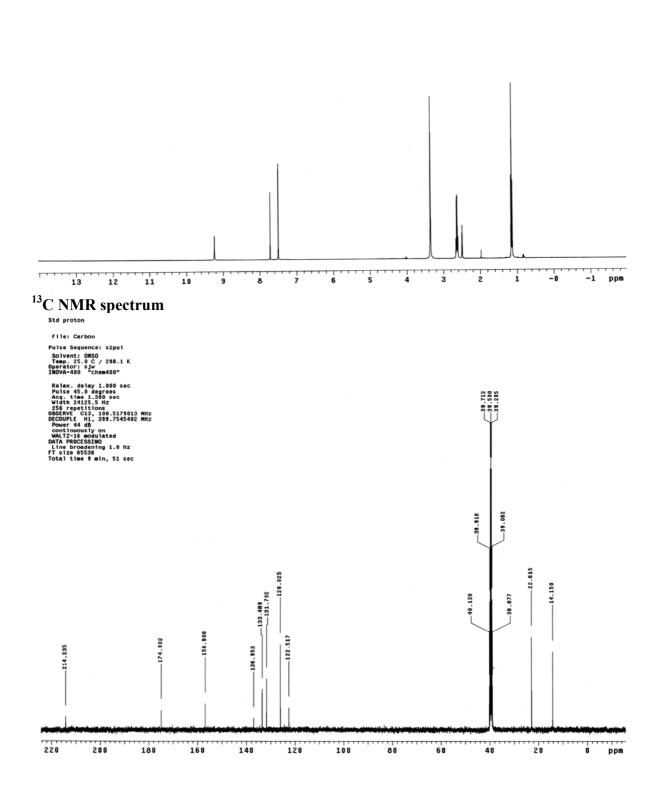




¹H NMR spectrum of compound (7c1)

HFIS2-1-143 File: Proton Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: DMS0 Temp. 25.0 C / 288.1 K Operator: sJW INOVA-400 "chem400"

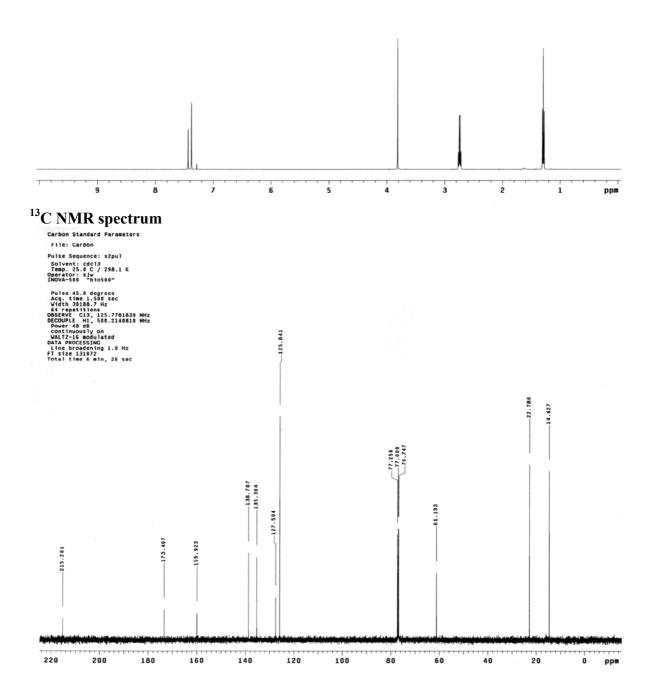
Pulse 45.0 degrees Pulse 45.0 degrees Vieth 635.3 Hz 16 repetitions OBSERVE H1. 338.7525272 HHz DATA PROCESSING FT size 65536 Total time 2 min, 8 sec

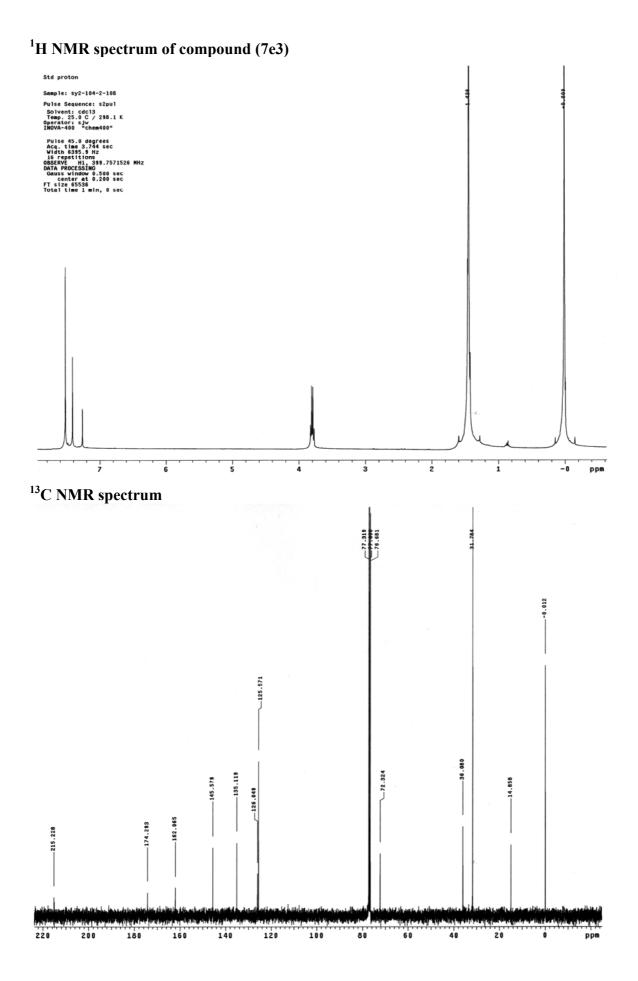


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (7c2)

Proton Standard Parameters File: HFISZ-1-138H1 Pulse Sequence: 22pul Solvent: cdcl3 Temp. 25.0 C / 238.1 K Operator: sJw File: HFISZ-1-138H1 INOVA-508 - blo500°

Pulse 45.0 degrees Acta: the 4.50 sec Vidth 808.2 Hz 32 repetitions 085ERVE H1.500.2110797 MHz DATA PROCESSING FT size 6536 Total time 2 min.8 sec

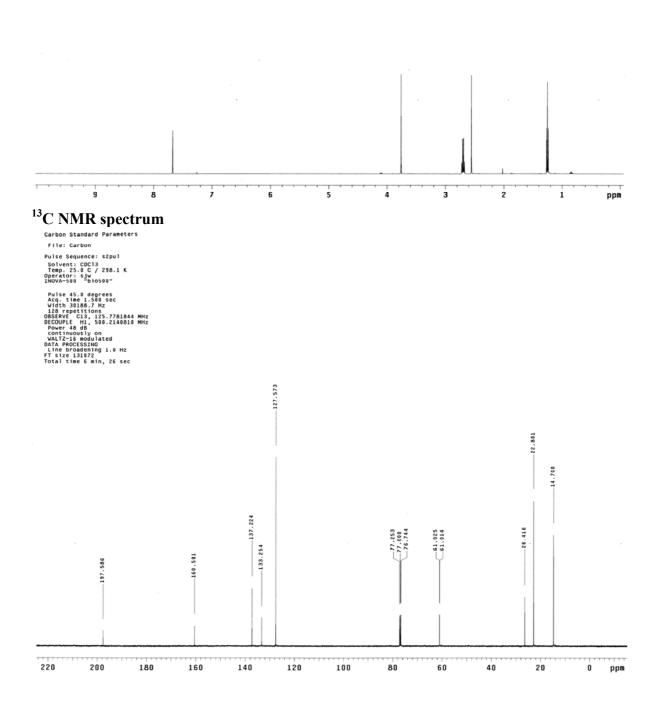


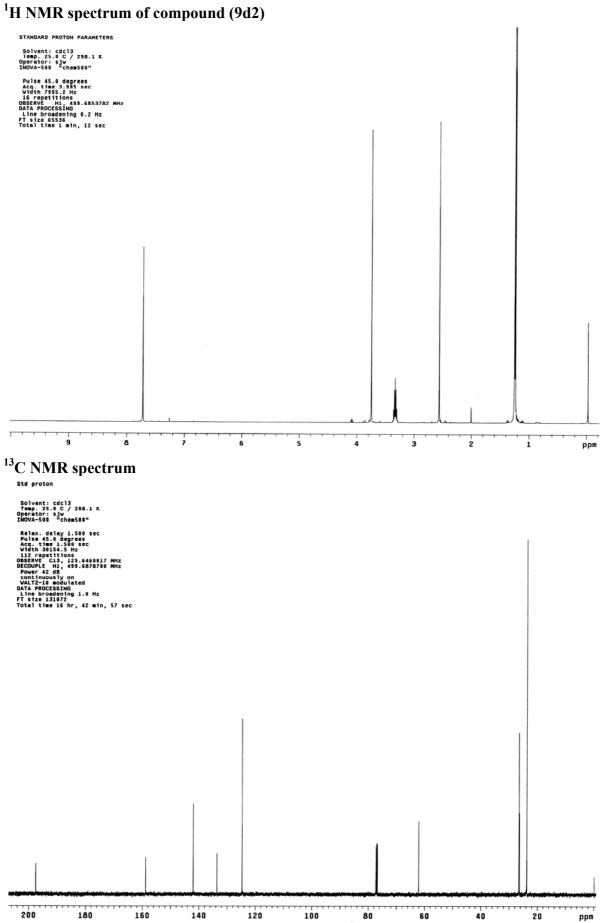


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (9c2)

Proton Standard Parameters File: Proton Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: COC13 Temp. 25.0 C / 298.1 K Operator: sJu INOVA-500 "bio500" Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. ime 4.500 sec

Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 4.000 sec Vidth 808.2 Hz 32 repetitions 085RRVE H1, 500.2110845 MHz DATA PROCESSING FT size 65536 Total time 2 min, 8 sec



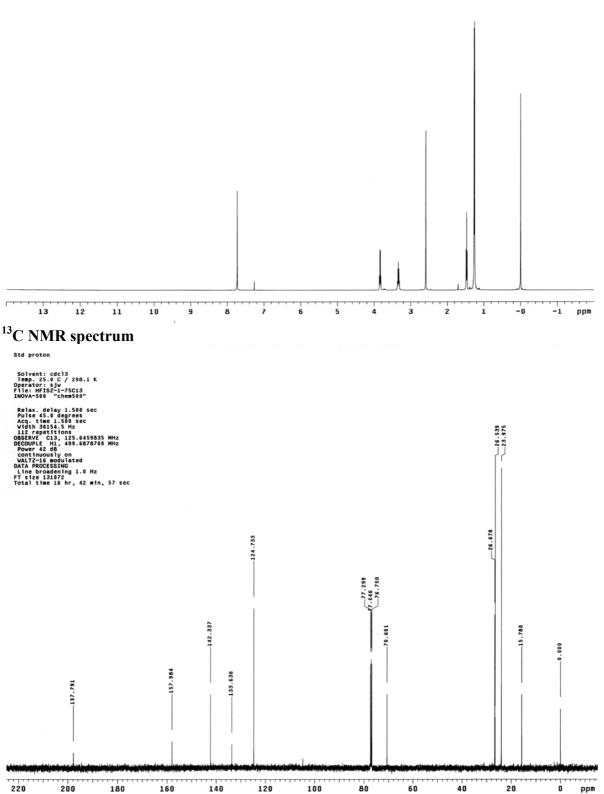


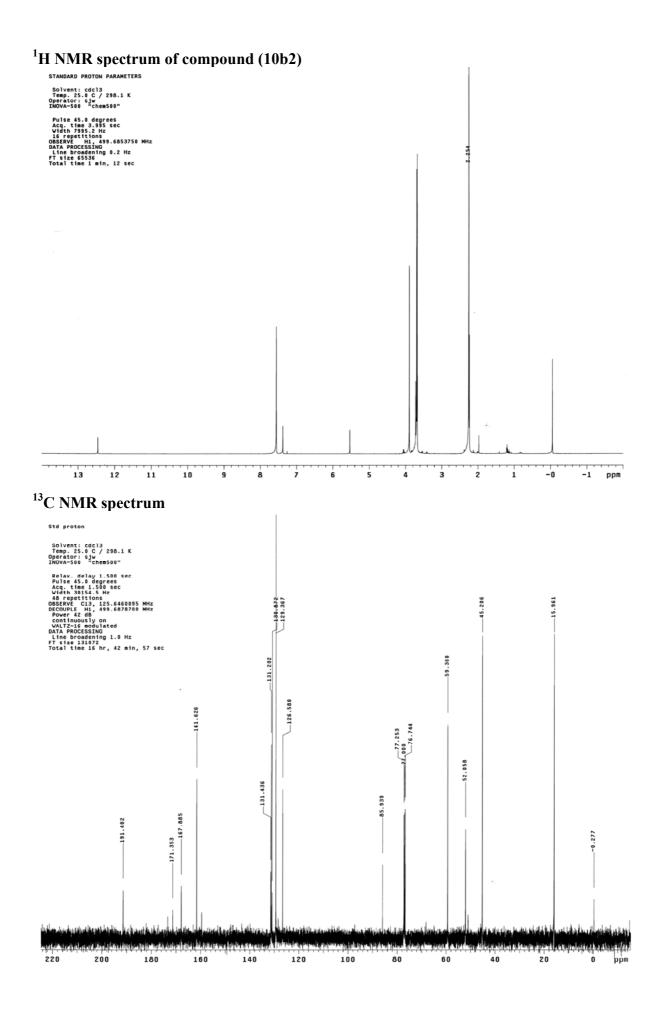
¹H NMR spectrum of compound (9d3)

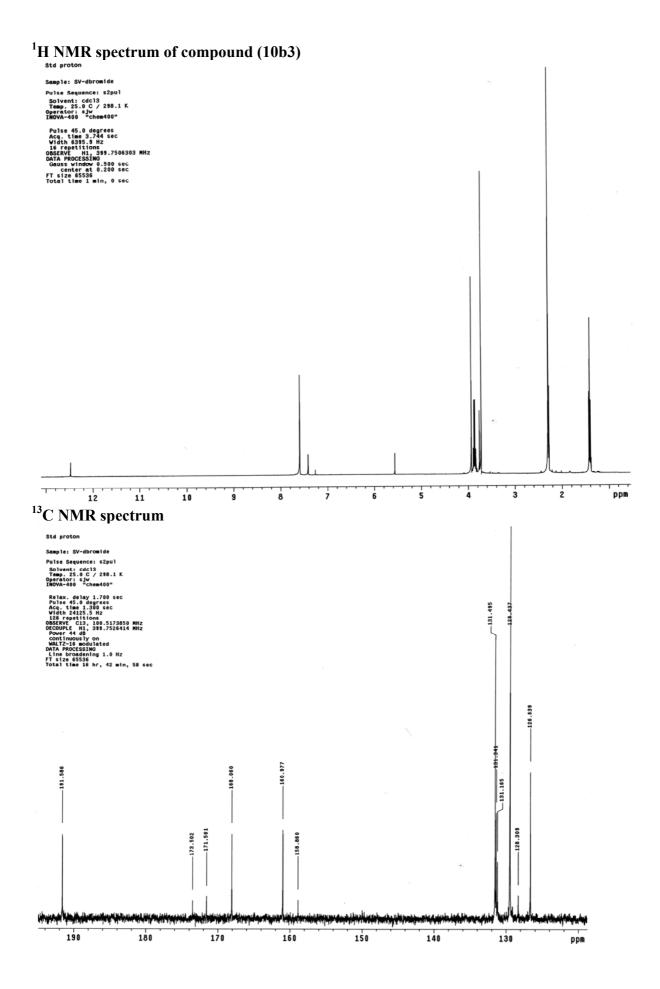
STANDARD PROTON PARAMETERS

Solvent: cdcl3 Temp. 25.0 C / 298.1 K Operator: sjw INOVA-500 "chem500"

Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 3.955 sec Vidth 7955.2 Hz 0 repetitions OBSERVE HI, 459.6853715 HH DLA PROCESSING DLA PROCESSING DLA PROCESSING T size 65536 mg 0.2 Hz FT size 65536 mg 0.2 Hz FT size 6554 mg 0.2 Hz



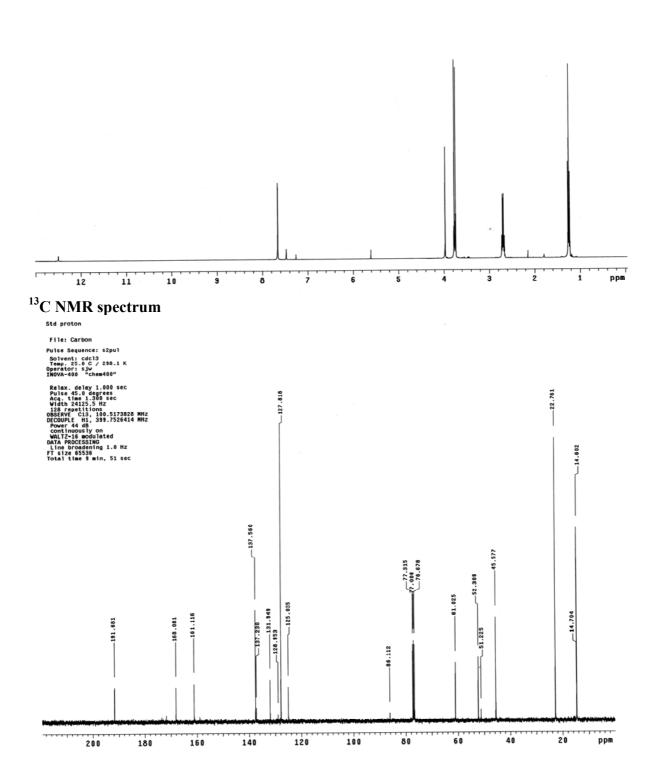


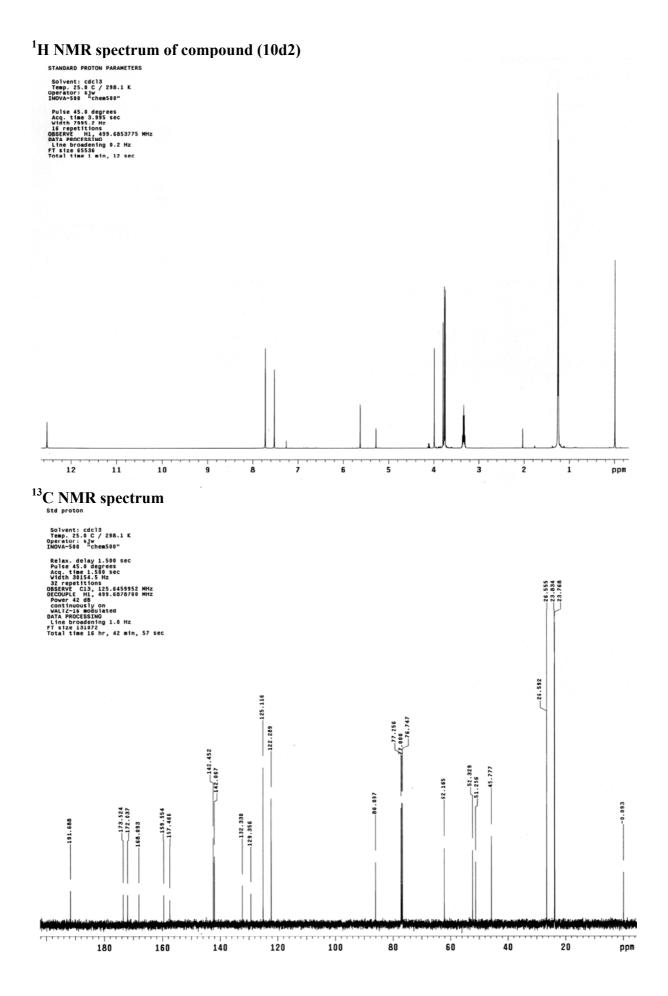


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (10c3)

Std proton File: Proton Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: cdcl3 Temp. 25.0 C / 298.1 K Operator: sju INOVA-400 "chem400"

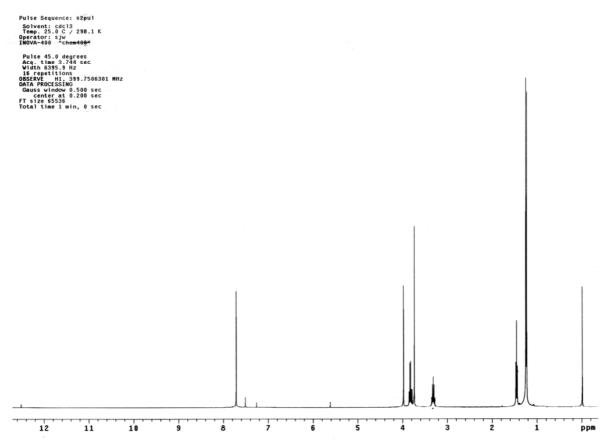
Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 4.000 sec width 635.3 Hz 24 repetitions OBSERVE H1, 398.7506305 NHz DATA PROCESSING FT size 65536 Total time 2 min, 8 sec

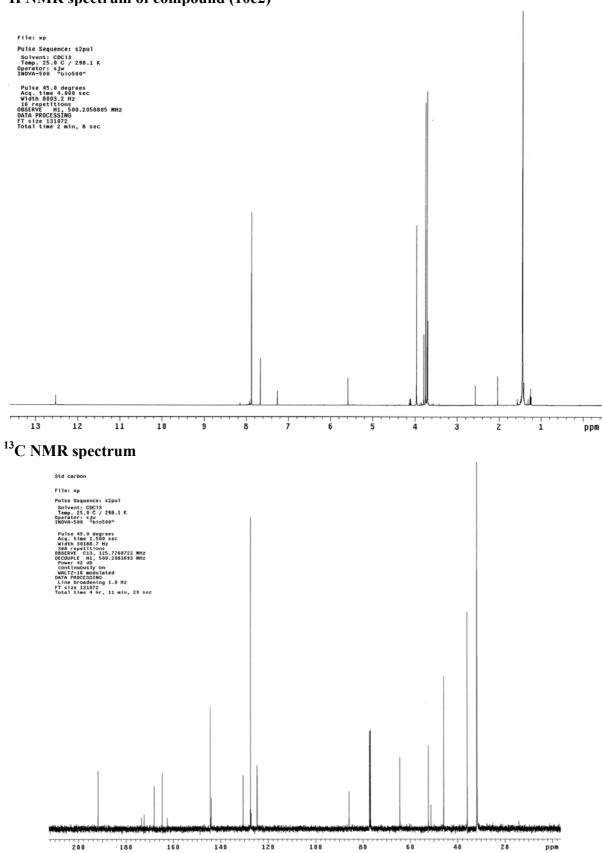




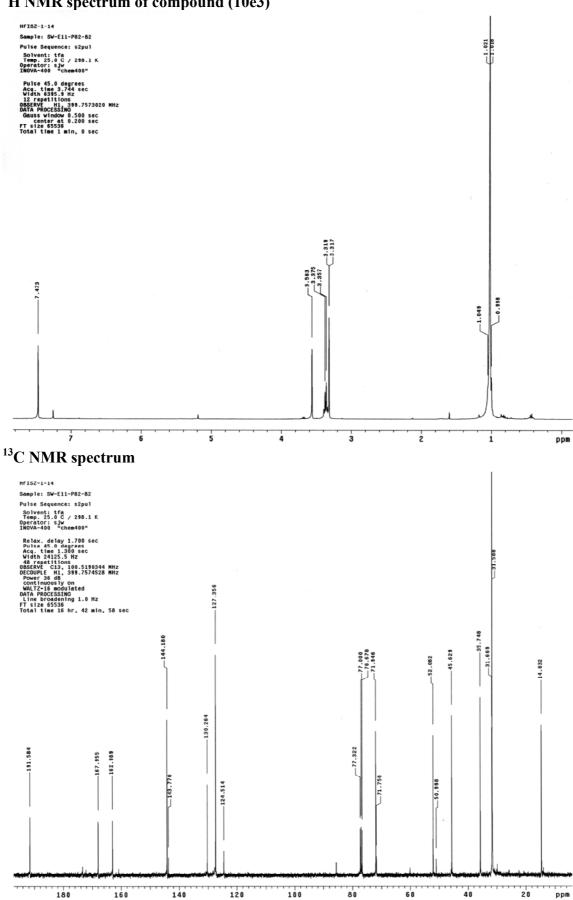
¹H NMR spectrum of compound (10d3)

Std proton

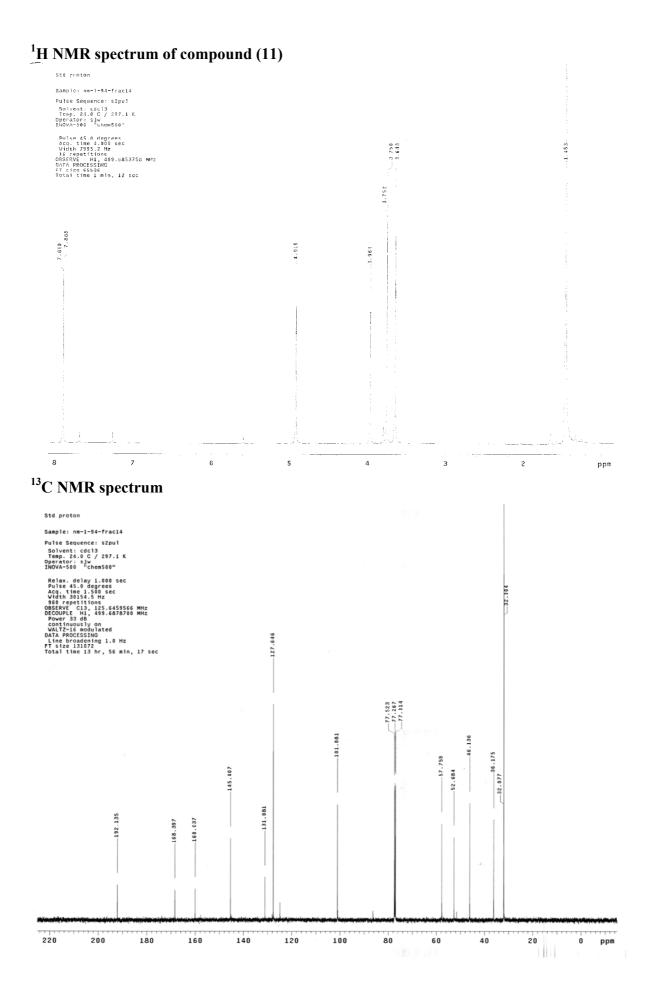


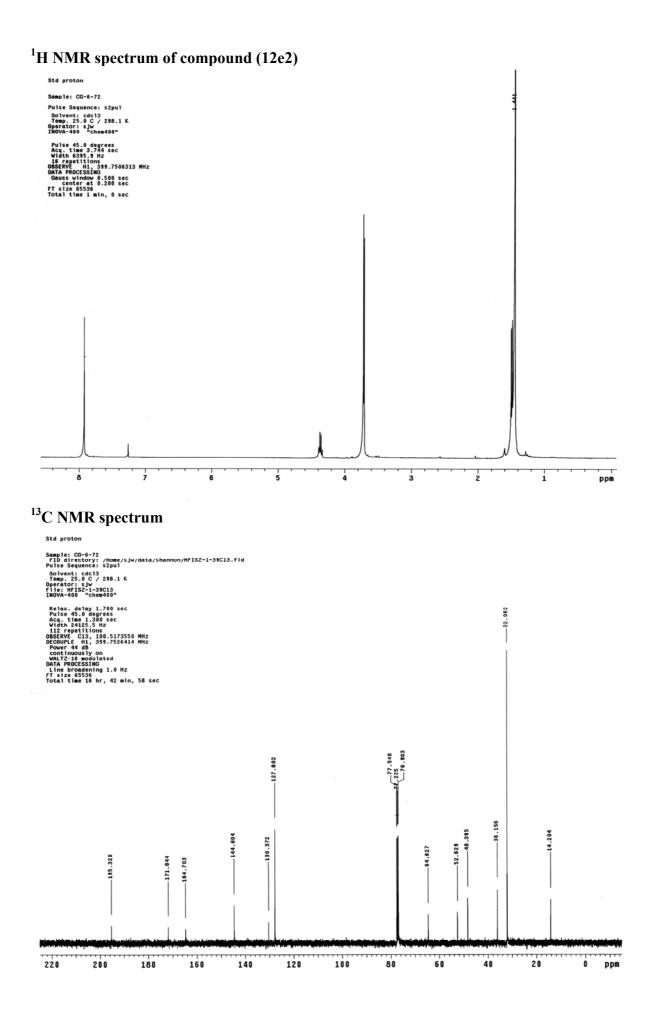


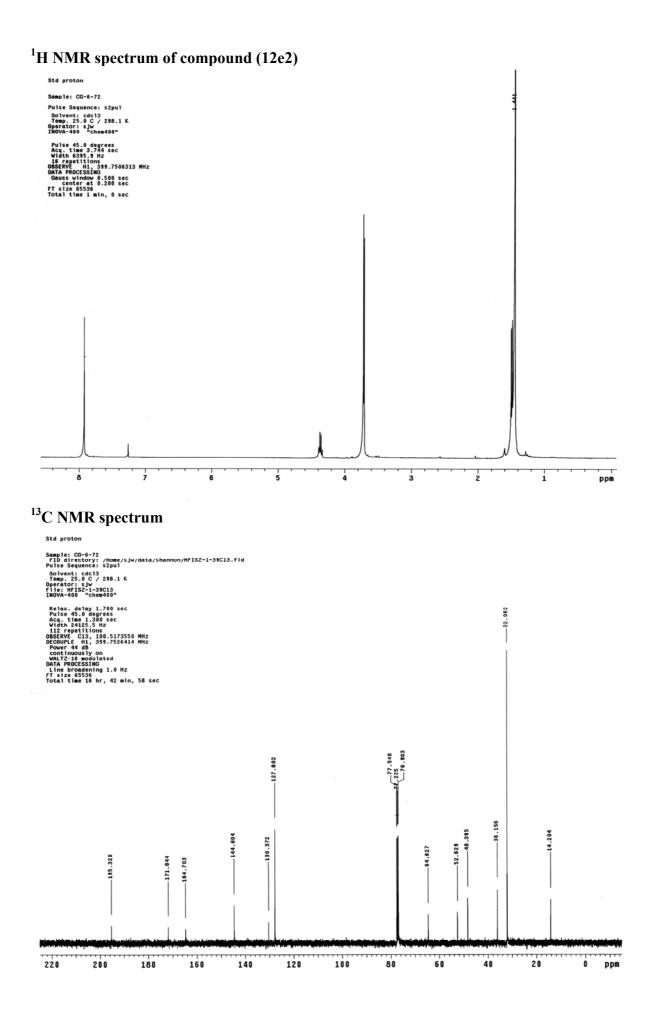
¹H NMR spectrum of compound (10e2)

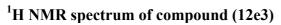


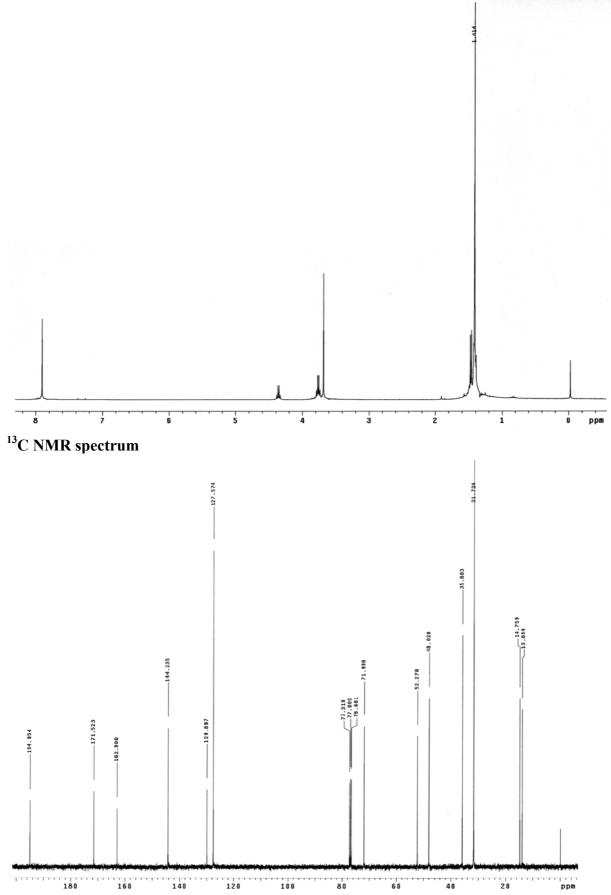
¹H NMR spectrum of compound (10e3)









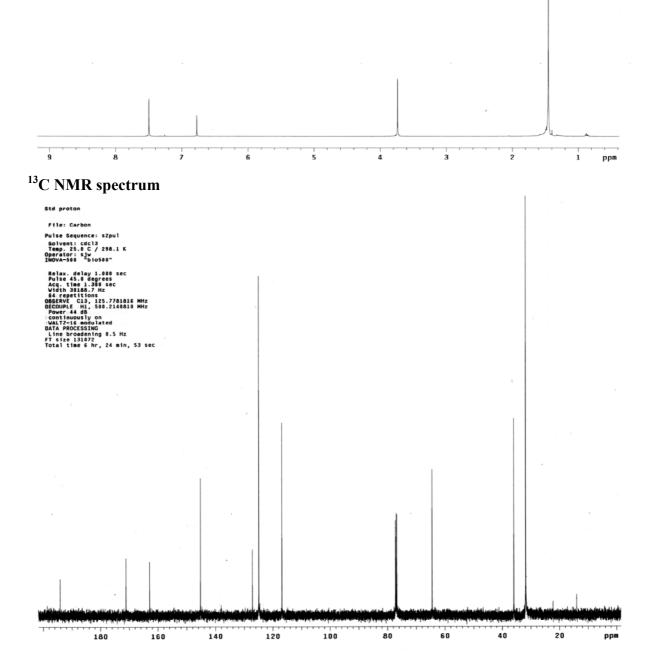


¹H NMR spectrum of compound (14e2)

File: Proton Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: cdcl3 Temp. 25.0 C / 288.1 K Operator: sjw INOVA-S00 "bioS00" Pelav. delav.1 000 sec

Std proton

Relax. delay 1.000 sec Pulse 4.5. degrees Acq. time 2.949 sec Acq. time 2.949 sec Acq. time 2.949 sec Birepetitontz Birepetitontz DATA PROCESSING Line broadening 0.2 Hz FT size 6536 Total time 0 min, 30 sec



¹H NMR spectrum of compound (15e2)

Std proton File: Proton Pulse Sequence: s2pul Solvent: cdcl3 Temp. 25.0 C / 238.1 K Operator: sjw INOVA-S00 "bioS00"

Relax. delay 1.000 sec Pulse 45.0 degrees Acq. time 2.045 sec Vidth 8003.2 Hz 6 repetitions OBSERVE H1, 500.2110835 MHz DATA PROCESSING Line broadening 0.2 Hz FT size 65536 Total time 0 min, 30 sec

